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Suburban dance squads advance at IHSA finals

DAILY HERALD REPORT

The Geneva High School and Stevenson High School competitive dance squads kept their title defense hopes alive at the 2018 IHSA Competitive Dance championships, which started Friday at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington.

Several suburban schools were among those earning the right to dance another day.

Advancing to today's competition in Division 1A were Montini High School in Lombard, Aurora Central Catholic High School and Immaculate Conception Catholic Prep in Elmhurst.

In Division 2A, Lake Zurich, Geneva, Antioch, Fenton High School in Bensenville, Vernon Hills, St. Francis High School in Wheaton, Maine East High School in Park Ridge and Wauconda advanced

Division 3A qualifiers included York Community High School in Elmhurst, Maine South in Park Ridge., Stevenson, **Bartlett**, Lake Park High School in Roselle, Huntley, Mundelein, Naperville North, Prospect High School in Mount Prospect and Barrington.

For a schedule of today's performance times, visit www.tourneywire.com/cheer/public-order-dance.php?tournid=437&round=F.

SPORTS SECTION

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Boys Basketball: St. Charles North breaks away from Elgin

BY ALLEN OSHINSKI

St. Charles North and Elgin played pretty evenly for about 30 minutes.

But then there was that 2-minute stretch at the beginning of the second quarter. The North Stars' Lucas Heflen drained a 3-pointer from the corner and Brendan Dal Degan hit 2 more on the North Stars' next 2 possessions.

Just like that a 7-7 tie turned into a 16-7 lead for SCN and Elgin never recovered. The Stars wound up winning by that same 9-point margin, 61-52, in Upstate Eight River boys basketball action in St. Charles Friday night.

Erik Larson made three 3-pointers and finished with 14 points and Kyle King grabbed 12 rebounds and dished out 5 assists for St. Charles North (13-7, 6-2).

That 3-point shooting helped overcome some problems in other areas. The Stars frequently looked out of sync, and Elgin's defense deserves much of the credit.

"I thought Elgin played smart, they played hard, and we didn't play real well," said SCN coach Tom Poulin. "That's about as bad as we've played all year, and that's because of Elgin getting after it defensively and attacking us on our offense. We were lethargic, we didn't communicate, we didn't fight through screens. We did enough to get a win, but it's not the level we want to be playing at."

Elgin (6-14, 0-8) fell behind 27-14 at the break by making just 4 of 17 shots. The Maroons picked it up later as Dan Toolsie got hot. He scored 19 of his game-high 21 points after intermission, allowing the Maroons to stay in the game.

"There's things you can control in life and there's things you can't," said Elgin coach Mike Sitter. "You can control your effort and I thought our effort was there for four quarters, so I'm happy about that."

The North Stars opened up a 58-43 lead with 3:34 to go, but Elgin answered with 9 straight points to make it 58-52 with 1:46 to go.

Elgin had a chance to get closer as, on back-to-back possessions, the North Stars' Zach Ludwig missed the second of 2 free throws. But both times, Cade Callaghan grabbed the rebound.

"It hurt us that we couldn't box out twice on free throws," Sitter said. "We cut it down to 6 and got them to miss free throws, and we can't rebound. So that's on us. We didn't reward ourselves for our hard work."

Ludwig added 12 points and Dal Degan, King, and Callaghan scored 8 points each for St. Charles North.

Daz Cooks chipped in 9 points and Trevon Morris 8 for Elgin, while Roy Panthier pulled down 7 rebounds.

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Boys Basketball: Tompson, Vikonis lift Bartlett over South Elgin

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK

Ben's back and Bartlett's in business.

Senior Ben Tompson returned last weekend from an ankle ligament injury that kept the all-area guard sidelined for over six weeks, but he was purposefully limited to 10 minutes per game in a pair of losses against highly regarded West Aurora and Fremd.

With no such restrictions on Bartlett's leading scorer on Friday, he delivered 10 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter of the Hawks' 61-56 Upstate Eight Valley win at rival South Elgin, matching the 22 points scored by teammate Tomas Vikonis.

"It felt good," Tompson said. "Tomas and (Austin Gates) were able to handle a lot of the ballhandling and stuff. I was able to play off them well. I don't think that South Elgin knew I would be pretty much at full strength. I think that definitely helped."

Tompson drove for a left-handed bucket with under six minutes left and teammates Ben Fisher and Vikonis found him for layups twice, the last of which gave Bartlett (11-9, 3-3) a 53-47 lead with 1:22 to play.

"We let them drive at will," South Elgin coach Brett Johnson said. "When you do that against a driving team and they score, there's nothing you can do. Even if you get rebounds, they're still going to keep going at you. We didn't guard the paint like we were supposed to and they all took advantage of it -- Gates, Vikonis and Tompson -- driving hard to the basket."

South Elgin (13-7, 3-3) didn't go away quietly. The Storm drew within 55-54 with 30 seconds left when junior Jace Warrick nailed a 3-pointer from the right wing.

However, South Elgin immediately fouled junior Garrett Jurina in the backcourt and he sank both free throws to restore Bartlett's 3-point lead.

The Storm had a chance to again draw within a point or tie, but Nathan Rohr's fadeaway jumpshot in the lane didn't fall and a putback attempt by Vince Miskiewicz rattled out.

The Hawks got the rebound, Tompson was fouled and sank 2 free throws separated by a South Elgin timeout to give Bartlett a 59-54 lead with 15.1 seconds remaining.

The Storm made it a 3-point game on Drake Montgomery's drive for a layup with 10 seconds left, but Vikonis drained 2 free throws with 8.1 seconds remaining to make it a 2-possession game. The Hawks sank 10 of 12 fourth-quarter free throws and 24 of 29 overall.

The victory was payback for Bartlett, which lost on its home court to South Elgin 71-61 on Dec. 15 while Tompson was sidelined.

"We didn't want to lose another one to our rivals," said Vikonis, who scored 9 of his 22 points in the third quarter. "We wanted to get one back on their court. We started playing like a team, moving the ball around. We all got easy looks."

Senior forward Ben Fisher scored 9 points and grabbed 5 rebounds for Bartlett.

Drake Montgomery led the Storm with 16 points while Miskiewicz had 11 points and 10 rebounds, David Binion added 8 points and 7 rebounds and Nate Rohr finished with 9 points via 3-pointers.

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St. Charles East routs Streamwood

BY CRAIG BRUESKE

After experiencing a pair of heartbreaking defeats as well as a buzzer-beating victory the past three weekends, St. Charles East's boys basketball team enjoyed some breathing room Friday night.

Led by senior guard Zach Robinson's career-high 30 points, the Saints (11-7, 4-4) roared to a 75-43 Upstate Eight Conference River Division triumph over Streamwood (11-14, 0-8) in St. Charles.

"First of all, it's nice to see our team support each other and it's nice getting some other guys on the court," said Saints coach Patrick Woods, who emptied his bench early in the fourth quarter with the Saints leading 66-33.

Robinson caught fire with 13 first-quarter points and never cooled off as he made 10 of 13 shots from the field, including 8 of 10 from 3-point range.

"We shot a lot this week and my shot felt good," said Robinson.

Ironically, Robinson suffered a slight injury moments following the opening tip.

"On the first play of the game, I jammed my finger (right hand) going for the ball," said Robinson. "I was afraid to shoot the ball but my first one swished so I kept shooting. My teammates got me open, too."

"He was feeling it which is great for him," said Woods. "It's all about rhythm. That's what we are -- we're a rhythm team. When we catch in rhythm, we can put a lot of points on the board."

Leading 21-17 after the opening quarter, the Saints outscored the Sabres 19-6 in the second quarter on their way to a 40-23 halftime advantage.

Junior guard Nate Ortiz tallied 9 of his 12 points in a second quarter that included 10-0 and 9-2 runs by the Saints as Streamwood missed its first 7 shots.

"We got into 1 on 1 stuff in the second quarter and they pulled away," said Sabres coach Paul Kowalyszyn. "Honestly, it was just lack of discipline on our part and St. Charles East is good."

Senior forward Justin Hardy finished with 14 points, 9 rebounds and 5 assists while Cody Mitchell added 6 points, 5 rebounds and 3 steals as the Saints recorded their second lopsided win over the Sabres this season (81-50 last month).

"We had tons of respect for them coming in," Woods said of the Sabres, who played St. Charles North tough in a 60-55 loss on Tuesday. "They have 11 wins this year and it's the most they've had since I've been here."

"We're hoping this is sort of a jump-start for us. This is only our second home conference game (of 8) this season."

Robinson punctuated his night with back-to-back 3-pointers off feeds from Hardy in the first minute of the fourth quarter.

Sophomore Aidan Sullivan (3 points, 5 rebounds) capped the night with a thunderous 2-hand dunk with 3:25 remaining.

"It's a great thing for a sophomore to go up and dunk like that," said Woods. "I'm hoping that's his coming-out party as far as what he's going to bring to the table in the future."

Junior Keenon Cole led Streamwood with 12 points.