

Press Clippings 2/3/2018

NOTE: There were no U46-related news stories in the February 3, 2018 newspapers.

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 2/3/18

South Elgin slows it down, beats East Aurora

BY SCOTT MILLER

To get better prepared for the playoffs South Elgin boys basketball coach Brett Johnson has had his team slow down on their typical run and gun style the last couple of games to work more on their half court sets.

On Friday night that suited Vincent Miskiewicz just fine. The 6-foot-6 junior just missed a triple-double with a career-high 31 points to go with 14 rebounds and 8 blocks to lead the Storm to a 74-54 Upstate Eight Conference Valley Division win over visiting East Aurora.

"He is such a tough kid," Johnson said. "He is just constantly active and moving on the floor. He wants every rebound and he is always working hard to get into position to score. The other kids just feed off his energy."

Miskiewicz did all off his damage in the paint connecting 11 of 16 shots on strong moves around the basket, including 3 slam dunks. He was also 9 of 11 from the free throw line.

"I was just taking what the defense gave me," Miskiewicz said. "When they gave me some space my teammates did a great job of finding me. When the defenders came up on me I just took it to the hole. We executed our plays very well tonight and made the extra pass. That was some thing we were doing at the beginning of the year with a lot of success. Then we kind of got away from it. Now we are starting to get our mojo back."

The game was tied 29-29 with just under 3:00 to play in the first half when South Elgin started to pull away with a 10-0 run to go up 39-29 just before the break. Miskiewicz had a 3-point play during the run and David Binion scored 5 points on a 3-pointer and drive to the basket.

The Storm (15-7, 5-4) carried the momentum over into the second half outscoring the Tomcats 23-11 in the third quarter to extend their lead to 62-42. Miskiewicz had 14 points in the third quarter to spearhead the surge.

"We put the petal to the metal," Johnson said. "There have been a few games this year where we had the lead and didn't finish. So it was good to see us finish and leave nothing to chance. I really liked the way we were moving the ball and scoring off our half court sets. We love to get out and run the floor, but we are also going to need to be able to score in the half court if want to go deep in the playoffs. So that is what we have working on the last couple games. The last time out it didn't go so well, but tonight we had a nice flow."

Binion added 18 points for the Storm. Drake Montgomery had 11.

After shooting at a 55 percent clip (12-of-22) from the field in the first half the Tomcats fell on hard times in the second half connecting on just 9 of 24 shots (38 percent) from the field. East (2-12, 2-6) was also plagued by 18 turnovers in the second half.

Jules Williamson led East in scoring with 17 points. Joshua Pryor added 10 points.

---Daily Herald--- 2/3/18

Bartlett girls clinch share of UEC Valley title

BY JOHN RADTKE

The Bartlett girls basketball team knows every opponent it plays will be bringing its best game in an attempt to knock off the top-ranked Hawks.

Friday night was not going to be one of those nights.

Haley Videckis scored 21 points and Kristin Conniff added 16 as Bartlett opened up a big lead, as usual, and then cruised to a 65-51 Upstate Eight Valley win over Lake Park in Bartlett.

The win assures the Hawks (25-1, 11-1) of at least a share of their second straight Valley championship. If Neuqua Valley upsets Waubonsie Valley on Tuesday, Bartlett will win the title outright.

"Our team takes every game as important and we come out knowing every team is going to bring their best," said Conniff, who added 4 steals and 2 blocks. "We've been working really hard on the defensive end and rebounding."

Bartlett coach Denise Sarna knows everyone will come gunning for the Hawks, especially this late in the season.

"We talk about preparing for each game the same way," she said. "I thought we came out with a lot of intensity tonight. It was an overall solid win."

Bartlett jumped out to a 10-2 lead and even though Lake Park (8-15, 2-8) stayed close for a while, the Hawks went on a 12-4 run to end the first half with a 36-21 lead. They led by as many as 23 at 61-38 with 5:15 to play in the game when Sarna emptied the bench.

"They're quick to the ball and they have a lot of weapons," said Lake Park coach Andrea Miller of the Hawks. "They outquicked us and outmuscled us. They came out strong and that got us back on our heels."

Senior Lisa Palmer added 9 points, 10 rebounds, 3 steals and 5 assists for the Hawks, who again played without starting point guard Janessa Baker. Baker was in uniform Friday but didn't play as she's working to return from an ankle injury.

The Hawks got solid contributions from seniors Katie Gutzwiller (6 points) and Ashley Johnson (5 points), as well as several players off the bench, including Nicole Gobbo (3 assists, 3 steals) and Natalia Grodzki, who played solid defense in the fourth quarter in Lake Park's Alexis Hahn, who finished with 10 points. Junior Alyssa Hernandez led the Lancers with 14.

"Our reserves came in and did a nice job," Sarna said. "Hernandez scored 22 on us last time. Lisa Palmer tightened up her defense tonight."

Junior Ruth Garippo added 8 points for the Lancers, who shot just 19 of 47 from the floor and had 20 turnovers.

"We battled but their pressure got to us and we had too many turnovers," said Miller.

---Daily Herald--- 2/3/18

Bartlett takes, protects lead against Glenbard E.

BY ALLEN OSHINSKI

There was no big run this time.

Bartlett's boys basketball team grabbed an early lead against Glenbard East and maintained it, cruising to a 72-60 win in the Upstate Eight Valley matchup in Bartlett on Friday.

The Hawks were well aware of Glenbard's quick-strike capabilities. Coach Jim Wolfsmith and his players scouted a game in which the Rams erased an 18-point fourth-quarter deficit against South Elgin, and the Rams made a late run in the Hawks' 65-64 victory earlier this year.

The Hawks were determined not to let it happen again.

The Rams' Jake Huisman did hit a couple of 3-pointers late as the Rams cut a 20-point deficit to 11 -- but it was too little, too late for Glenbard East.

It was all Hawks early as they raced to a 20-8 lead after one quarter.

"We did a great job going inside to Austin Gates in the first quarter, pounding it down low, using some height mismatches," said Wolfsmith. "We got ourselves a (20-8) lead and really didn't let up from the beginning. We took them out of their man-to-man early, forced them to go to some zone stuff, and then took advantage of some zone breakdowns."

Tomas Vikonis, with 22 points, led four Hawks in double figures. Gates finished with 15. Ben Tompson scored 16 and Ben Fisher had 10 for Bartlett (12-9, 5-2).

"When we play team basketball, we feel like we're at our best," said Vikonis. "Tonight we came out strong, shared the ball. Gates did a great job sealing the smaller guards down low. There really were a lot of good things for us."

Alijah Nelson led Glenbard East with 12 points, while James Peterkin and Korvonte Davis both scored 10.

Vikonis' putback made it 68-48 midway through the fourth quarter. Huisman then went on a personal 8-2 run to cut it to 70-56.

Glenbard East's Antonio Davis scored twice late, but the Hawks made enough free throws to maintain the double-digit lead throughout.

---Daily Herald--- 2/3/18

Batavia bounces back, beats Streamwood

BY CRAIG BRUESKE

Stuck in the midst of its longest losing streak of the season, Batavia's basketball team snapped out of it in a big way Friday night.

Led by Jayden Johnson, Kyle LeFevre and solid support from their bench, the Bulldogs (19-6, 6-3) poured in 51 second-half points to pull away from Streamwood (11-16, 0-10) during their 83-45 Upstate Eight Conference River Division victory in Batavia.

Considering the fact that the Bulldogs suffered half of their season losses the past 2 weeks against St. Charles North, Geneva and St. Joseph, recent times have been a bit trying.

"It was time to get it right," said Batavia coach Jim Nazos. "I think everybody understands how tough the conference is. We played three good teams but at the same time we want to be that type of team."

"It has been awful," added Johnson, who scored 12 of his game-high 23 points during the Bulldogs' 25-12 third-quarter surge that extended their 32-25 halftime lead to 57-37 heading into the final 8 minutes.

Leading 40-35 midway through the third quarter, Batavia finished the period on a 17-2 tear thanks to back-to-back 3-pointers from Johnson and 9 points from LeFevre (14 points, 6 assists).

"My teammates did a great job of finding me," said Johnson, who canned four third-quarter 3-pointers from nearly the same spot on the floor -- left-side corner. "I made the shots but all credit to my teammates."

Johnson connected on 7 of 12 from beyond the arc as the Bulldogs enjoyed a huge 36-point advantage on 3-pointers (42-6) against the Sabres' zone defense.

"The coaches did a great job of telling us to keep going and don't lose confidence -- to keep shooting and it finally clicked," said Johnson. "It feels good to get a win."

Juniors Keenon Cole and DeAngelo Flynn paced Streamwood with 13 points and 12 points, 8 rebounds and 7 assists, respectively.

"Playing a zone -- that's our gamble," said Sabres coach Paul Kowalyszyn. "I thought we did a nice job containing them a little in the beginning but they just shot us out of it."

Nine of the Sabres' 16 turnovers occurred in the second half.

"It's the same stuff," added Kowalyszyn. "You have to be detail-oriented to beat elite programs. Until we do that, we're not going to beat the teams in the upper tier."

Zack Weber (10 points), Seth Blaeser (10 points) and Clayton Deutsch (5 rebounds, 3 assists) provided plenty of life off the bench during the Bulldogs' 26-8 fourth-quarter run.

"I think it's a great win for us right now," said Nazos. "Maybe it was a little bit of a breakthrough in the second half. A lot of good things happened there.

"Everybody in the conference knows but I don't know how many people outside know that's a very good Streamwood team. They have some nice pieces and they've played everybody tough."

Speaking of tough, Batavia hosts UEC River-leading Larkin (15-6, 8-0) Saturday night.

"It's going to be a big game," said Johnson.