

## Press Clippings 2/7/2018

---Courier News--- 2/7/18

### **U46 student fees to stay flat next year**

Families will see small drop in cost of driver's education

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

Student fees will stay the same for School District U46 families in the 2018-19 school year other than a small drop in the cost for driver's ed.

U46 board members unanimously approved student fee rates Monday that are mostly unchanged from the current school year.

The annual fee remains \$96 for full-day kindergarten students, \$116 for students in grades 1 through 6, and \$162 for middle school students.

In high school, the instructional fee stays at \$240 annually for all students. Optional fees include \$100 for a parking permit, a \$150 athletic participation fee, a \$200 football athletic fee, among others.

The only change among the approved fee rates is the reduction in the cost for the driver's education program, which is going down to \$313 for both textbook and behind-the-wheel instruction.

The \$24 decrease is tied to the use of a new textbook that's in line with curriculum changes the school board approved last year, including more emphasis on distracted driving and on what to do during a police stop.

U46 CEO Tony Sanders said this was the fourth consecutive year student fees have largely stayed flat, not including some of the optional fees, such as costs associated with the middle school gifted programs, which have increased over the years.

"In all my years, I don't think I ever heard any (fees) go down — good job," board President Donna Smith said.

## SPORTS SECTION

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### **Elgin wins home finale against East Aurora**

BY ALLEN OSHINSKI

Elgin's seniors went out in style.

The Maroons overcame deficits in both halves, then survived a wild finish for a 59-58 win against East Aurora.

The Tomcats scored the first 10 points of the fourth quarter to take a 50-46 lead, but the Maroons answered with their own 10-point run.

Senior Trevon Morris scored 8 of the points during that spurt. He started it with a bucket, but the final 8 points came from the free-throw line. In fact, Elgin's final 11 points of the game came from the line, as they made 11 of 14 attempts in the fourth quarter.

Morris, who connected on 7 of 8 foul shots, led the Maroons with 14 points. Fellow senior Dan Toolsie added 13 points, as did Trey Yarber.

The win was Elgin's first of the year when coming from behind.

"It's the first time they've fought through adversity to come back and get a win," said Elgin coach Mike Sitter. "We've been through a lot of battles this year and sometimes we folded in those battles. This was one time we decided not to fold.

"We became the more aggressive team in the fourth quarter. We did a lot of small things right. We rebounded out of it and got the win."

The Maroons seniors weren't the only ones saying goodbye to Chesbrough Field House. It was also Sitter's final home game as Elgin coach. He is leaving after the school year to become Hampshire's athletic director and he reflected on his time at Elgin High.

"It's nice to know ahead of time that you're done, because you can appreciate the small things as you go," he said. "So I was able to appreciate that this was my last game on this floor. I really appreciate the opportunity Elgin gave me. I've enjoyed every minute I've coached here."

East Aurora scored the first 8 points of the first quarter, but Elgin had the last 11, going up by 3 on Yarber's 3-pointer.

The Maroons went up by as many as 7 in the period, but the Tomcats retook the lead with a quick 8-0 run, the last 5 points coming from Jules Williamson. Elgin grabbed the lead going into halftime on a 3-point play by Xavier Bonds.

Bonds finished with 8 points for Elgin, while Roy Panthier grabbed 8 rebounds to go with 6 points in his final game at Chesbrough.

Davonta Faulkner scored 17 of his game-high 19 points in the second half for East, while Williamson finished with 12.

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## **Bartlett clinches outright UEC Valley title**

BY JOHN LEMON

Bartlett put the finishing touch on its Upstate Eight Valley championship with its signature style Tuesday night at East Aurora.

The Tomcats were attempting to play spoiler and doing a pretty good job of it, leading 37-33 with two minutes left in the third quarter after a 12-2 run to start the second half.

Bartlett prides itself on the ability to force turnovers, and the Hawks did that over and over again in the final two minutes. East Aurora struggled just to get the ball past half court, and the Hawks turned all those mistakes into quick baskets and an 11-0 run to end the third quarter, then added the first 6 points of the fourth.

Those 17 unanswered points keyed a 29-6 tear to end the game, a 62-43 win that clinched the outright Valley crown.

"In the second half I think we wore them down," first-year Bartlett coach Brad Hunt said. "We can't do that against every team but we did it well enough tonight."

Bartlett (17-10, 9-0) rolled through the Valley schedule. Its closest win was by 8 points over West Chicago.

The Hawks did it with a mix of experience and youth, seniors to freshmen all playing key roles.

"I'm so pleased from where we started in the year to where we are now," Hunt said. "We're a completely different team. The young ones are really starting to come along and make good decisions. I can't be more proud of a team than I am now."

One of those freshman, Justina Hernandez, scored 8 points Tuesday and was active on the diamond press that caused the Tomcats so many problems.

"I think we all played well together," Hernandez said. "For me as a freshman I think it's great.

"Our diamond helped turn the ball over and Kayla made some big shots."

That would be senior Kayla Hare who poured in 31 points including 8-of-8 shooting at the free-throw line in the fourth quarter.

She scored 7 points in a 30-second stretch at the end of the third quarter that put the Hawks ahead to stay.

Hare also was part of a conference championship team her sophomore year.

"We came in (to the season) pretty positive," Hare said. "We knew we had some good freshmen coming in and some girls coming from sophomore stepping up. We were excited."

East Aurora took an early 9-2 lead, and the Tomcats were still up 13-10 after the first quarter.

Hare scored 12 points in the first half as Bartlett battled back to a 31-25 halftime lead.

Hunt credited his bench of Hernandez, Savannah Standefer and Miranda Hedeem with making a big difference in the outcome.

"They all put in some quality minutes today," Hunt said.

Bartlett closes the regular season against West Aurora on Friday, then gets ready for regional play in Schaumburg against Batavia, who defeated the Hawks 54-39 early this season.

The winner of that game likely gets defending state champion Geneva.

"I know the seniors really wanted to win the conference," Hunt said. "The next goal is to win a regional. We have our work cut out for us but we are looking forward to the challenge."

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## **Schaumburg sinks South Elgin**

BY SCOTT MILLER

Wins have been hard to come by for the Schaumburg boys basketball team this year, but on Tuesday night they sure made things look easy.

The Saxons moved the ball with detailed precision and registered an impressive 63-53 nonconference win on the road against a very good South Elgin squad.

The Saxons (9-16) went on a 13-3 run at the end of the first quarter to take control and pull ahead 19-10. They led the rest of the way by at least 5 points and by as many as 14 points.

"The wins may be hard to come by, but we've been right there in a lot of the losses," Schaumburg coach Wade Heisler said. "This team has great resolve and comes ready to play no matter what our record says. I just really liked our focus from the get go tonight. We were running the offense real well, filling the spots against the press, and rubbing off screens. Everybody was in a flow and it became contagious."

Michael Hodges led a balanced attack for Schaumburg with 18 points. The Saxons had 3 other players in double digits. Nick LaBud had 12 points, Domonic Tyler added 11, and Chris Hodges finished with 10 points along with 7 rebounds.

"That's how we play," Heisler said. "We have a lot of guys who can contribute and we just move the ball around."

Michael Hodges had a pair of baskets on drives to spark the 13-3 first quarter run.

"He can really score," Heisler said. "He a very good athlete and puts a lot of work in on continuing to become a better player. He's become a guy that we are looking to get the ball."

Christian Orozco had a pair of 3 pointers in the first quarter and Tyler also had a 3-pointer.

A 3-pointer by Jerry Clark midway through the third gave the Saxons their biggest lead of the game, 43-29.

The Storm made a late push to get to within 56-51 on a Jace Warrick 3-pointer with 3:07 left to play, but the Saxons hit 7 of 8 free throws down the stretch, including 4 straight by Michael Hodges, to seal the win.

"I just let the game come to me," Hodges said. "I was looking to attack the basket when there were openings. We had consistency tonight. That's what we need night in and night out."

The Storm (15-9) struggled offensively early on, shooting just 8 of 22 (36 percent) from the field in the first half. They were also plagued by some defensive breakdowns.

"This is the first game all year where I was disappointed with our effort and intensity," South Elgin coach Brett Johnson said. "We just allowed too many easy baskets. There were a lot of times they didn't have to use a lot of energy on offense and that allowed them to use all the energy on defense to stop us. They did a great job guarding us and playing physical."

Vincent Miskiewicz and Noah Rohr each had 13 points to lead the Storm in scoring. Drake Montgomery added 12 points.

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## **Barrington bests Bartlett again**

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK

Mid-Suburban League West-leader Barrington looked ordinary through the first eight minutes of Tuesday's 57-46 nonconference win at Bartlett.

The Broncos fell behind 20-14 after Bartlett shot 7-of-13 in the opening period, but things changed after a not-so-subtle reminder from coach Bryan Tucker between quarters.

"Coach told us we just need to wake up and play some defense," said Barrington junior guard Jason Boock, who registered 2 steals and a block along with a team-best 14 points. "After that I think we were pretty solid."

Barrington (19-4) held Bartlett (12-10) to 10 points in each of the middle quarters and snuffed the life out of its offense late. The Hawks were limited to 6 fourth-quarter points while shooting 3 of 14 from the field, 0 of 8 from 3-point range.

"Second quarter, I think our kids accepted the challenge of playing better defense and getting after them," Tucker said. "(Bartlett) got in a little foul trouble, too, so they had to change some personnel. That helped us get some momentum and we were able to continue."

It was Barrington's seventh straight victory and its second against Bartlett this season. The Broncos defeated the Hawks 76-70 in a semifinal of the Hinkle Holiday Classic at Jacobs on Dec. 27.

Bartlett was forced to sit leading scorers Ben Tompson and Tomas Vikonis for stretches due to first-half foul trouble and never regained its first-quarter flow. The Hawks shot 54 percent in the first quarter but only 31 percent over the final three (11 of 35)

Barrington led 31-30 at halftime and took control by winning the third quarter 18-10.

"I really thought the third quarter dictated the game," Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said. "I thought we looked slow, we looked tired, we were undisciplined and they took advantage of that. They back cut us and they outrebounded us all game (26-18) because we didn't box out."

Barrington junior forward Mark Johnson led the third-quarter charge with 4 of his 6 points and 3 of his 10 assists.

"Our team moves really well and it makes it really easy for me to find my teammates when we're moving consistently," Johnson said. "I saw them tonight, it worked out well and we got the win."

Barrington senior forward Jack Reinhard finished with 10 points and 3 blocks and senior forward Jake Parson scored 12 points in the first quarter but rolled his ankle and did not return.

Vikonis led Bartlett with 15 points while Tompson was limited to 10 points.