

## Press Clippings 3/9/2018

---Courier News--- 3/9/18

### **U-46 approves purchasing 11,000 laptop**

Computers part of math curriculum upgrade

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



School District U46 is purchasing 11,000 Chromebook computers as part of its upgraded math curriculum. District 300 has already made the transition, providing computers for every student in the district. (Rafael Guerrero/Courier-News )

**School District U46** will buy 11,000 Chromebook computers as part of an update of its high school math curriculum, pushing the district closer to having an electronic device for every student.

The computer purchase approved by the U46 board on Monday is part of a \$5.5 million math curriculum upgrade that replaces outdated material, reconfigures courses and shifts instruction to a more digital setting beginning in the fall.

Each of the Chromebooks costs about \$340, and every student taking Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and Geometry will receive one, according to U46 documents. The district is also purchasing 2,000 graphing calculators so all students can use one when taking the SAT college entrance exam in their junior year, documents said.

The computers are an integral part of the new math curriculum, under which most textbooks used for algebra and geometry will be online and home assignments can be done offline to be uploaded later, officials said. Materials can be accessed in English or Spanish.

U46 math coordinator Amy Ingente told the school board the material is more rigorous than the current textbooks, which were last updated in 2011. The books are not well aligned with current math standards, which have expanded beyond simply solving math equations, she said.

The Chromebook purchase continues the district's push for greater technology access for all students. Earlier in the year, the school board approved the purchase of 2,000 Chromebooks to bolster special education instruction.

Unlike neighboring School District 300, Elgin-area U46 is not yet a one-device-per-student district, sometimes called 1:1. District 300 is in its first year of having enough laptop computers for every student.

Board member Melissa Owens said this curriculum approval gets U46 closer to a 1:1 policy. The changes will also give U46 educators and tech officials a better idea of what other infrastructure they need to support thousands of students online, she said.

“I don’t think we are going to have any amount of progress if we don’t have a little bit of risk” in approving the changes, Owens said Monday.

Other purchases include new resources for precalculus, calculus, finite math and Advanced Placement statistics. Algebra and geometry courses will be renamed as well, with Algebra 1-2 becoming Algebra 1, Algebra 3-4 becoming Algebra 2 and Geometry 1-2 becoming Geometry.

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## **2nd teen arrested for making threat**

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

A 16-year-old student was arrested Tuesday for making an online threat against **Elgin High School**, the second such case in as many days and the third involving a **U46** school since mid-February.

The teen used social media to announce a shooting would occur at the school on Wednesday, Elgin police said.

It was similar to the threat a 15-year-old student made Monday night about **Larkin High School** in Elgin. That teen was also arrested Tuesday.

Police learned of the second threat Tuesday and were able to track down the suspect and make an arrest the same day, police said.

“We appreciate those in the community who are reporting these threats,” Elgin police Chief Jeff Swoboda said in a news release. “Kids really need to understand there are consequences for the disruption and fear they are causing.”

The first threat against a U46 high school occurred at **Streamwood High School** shortly after the Feb. 14 mass shooting at a Parkland, Fla., high school. The threat was unfounded and no arrest had been made of the person responsible for leaving the message on a restroom wall, Streamwood police said.

“To any student considering making a threat on social media to get out of school: You will get caught (trust me ... police will find you); you will be arrested and charged (because it is not funny); you would be dishonoring the lives lost to senseless violence,” **U46 CEO Tony Sanders** wrote in a social media post.

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## **A flair for performing**

Teens to show off their style, tunes, moves at U-46 TalentFest

DAILY HERALD REPORT

Talented high school students throughout Elgin Area School District U-46 will take the stage Tuesday, March 13, in the eighth annual TalentFest.

The competition starts at 7 p.m. at the Hemmens Cultural Center, 45 Symphony Way, Elgin. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at [hemmens.org](http://hemmens.org) or at the door.

"The TalentFest is basically a talent competition featuring two finalists from each of the five U-46 high school talent shows," coordinator Jeff Grosser said.

"Those finalists are chosen either by a preselected group of teachers or staff from their high school, or by audience voting."

After the first-round performances, the audience will vote for their favorites. The top five acts advance to the final round in the second half of the program after intermission.

The traveling TalentFest trophy, according to Grosser, is awarded to the school whose two acts receive the most votes from the audience.

Here's a look at the finalists who will be competing for the trophy...

### **BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL**



The Three Posers (John Raschke, guitar and vocals, George Kostopoulos, bass, and Lukas Munoz, drums) took first place in the Bartlett High School Talent Show on Feb. 3. *COURTESY OF JOHN KONSTANTARAS*



Second-place finishers from Bartlett High School: From left, Neha Shoor, cello; Lizette Pena, violin; and Jelianne, keyboard and vocals. *COURTESY OF JOHN KONSTANTARAS*

## **ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL**



Elgin High School juniors Adan Villa and Rigo Rodriguez performed a Rodrigo y Gabriela classical guitar duet at their school's talent show on March 1. They will move on to TalentFest. They were also one of the top two acts from last year to advance to the U-46 TalentFest. *COURTESY OF DAVE TONGE*



Elgin High School senior Brandon Garcia performs a dance consisting of popping and locking, gliding, waves and robotics. Garcia performed at the districtwide TalentFest last year as well. *COURTESY OF DAVE TONGE*

## **LARKIN HIGH SCHOOL**



Dancers Luz Adrade, Jasmin DeLa Torre, Wendolyn DeLeon, Bernice Gomez, Blanca Lopez, Melanie Martinez and Ariana Morales will represent Larkin High School in TalentFest. *COURTESY OF JOHN KONSTANTARAS*



Jovana Van Teylingen and Jaylen Grant, finalists from Larkin High School, sing a duet of "Sunrise" from the musical "In the Heights." *COURTESY OF JOHN KONSTANTARAS*

## **SOUTH ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL**



Sophomore Juan Carlos Martinez finished first in the South Elgin High School Talent Show Jan. 31 with his magic act. *COURTESY OF JOHN KONSTANTARAS*



Sophomore Kierstan Larsen finished second in the South Elgin High School Talent Show with a vocal performance of "Astonishing" from "Little Women." The top two finishers in each of the five U-46 high school talent shows will compete in the district's TalentFest Tuesday. *COURTESY OF JOHN KONSTANTARAS*

## **STREAMWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**



Streamwood High School's Christian Acevedo of Elgin and Alyssa Perez of Streamwood perform "Good Old Days." *COURTESY OF DAVE TONGE*



India Hall, a sophomore from Streamwood High School, sings "Russian Roulette." She is one of the school's two finalists who will advance to the districtwide TalentFest Tuesday at the Hemmens. *COURTESY OF DAVE TONGE*

## SPORTS SECTION

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### Benet tops Bartlett in sectional

BY BLAKE BAUMGARTNER



Benet's Colin Crothers, left, puts up a shot Wednesday against Bartlett's Ben Fisher in the Class 4A Glenbard East Sectional semis. (Mike Mantucca/Courier-News)

He's only a sophomore for Benet, but center Colin Crothers doesn't want to use that as an excuse.

The 6-foot-8 Crothers scored seven of his nine points in the fourth quarter Wednesday night as the second-seeded Redwings survived 12th-seeded Bartlett for a 47-41 win in the Class 4A Glenbard East Sectional semifinals.

"I was just trying to turn it around," he said. "In past games, I haven't played as well as I wanted to. I knew coming back to it, my teammates weren't going to give up on me. They were just going to keep pushing me to do better."

Crothers was much better during a five-minute stretch of the fourth and finished with nine points, nine rebounds and seven blocked shots for Benet (26-4), which advanced to Friday's sectional final against fifth-seeded Willowbrook (26-5).

The Redwings improved their winning streak to 17 straight, with considerable help from Crothers' late push.

"He had some opportunities around the basket that normally go in, and they didn't go in," Benet coach Gene Heidkamp said. "So he stayed with it. He got some defensive rebounds and made some free throws."

Benet began the game with a 19-4 burst. Will Engels and David Buh set the tone by combining to score 15 points in the first half. Engels ended up with a game-high 15 points.

"I think I was just crashing the glass, getting my hands on the ball," Engels said. "My teammates just did a great job of finding me in open spots, and I was just able to knock down open shots."

Buh wasn't far behind Engels. He added 10 points as seven players scored for the Redwings.

“I thought as a team, we came out pretty well in the first half, and I tried to do as much as I could to obviously help us get off to a good start,” Buh said. “I think we just need to work on closing out games a little bit.”

Bartlett (17-13) finally found its legs after trailing 36-20. The Hawks used an 11-0 run in the fourth to provide a scare. Byron Price’s 3-pointer with 5:19 left finished the run for the Hawks, cutting their deficit to 36-31.

Ben Tompson led the Hawks with 11 points. Austin Gates added 10.

“Well, ideally, you want to get a little better start,” Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said. “I think we started a little bit tight. I think the atmosphere and the experience, Benet’s been here multiple times, and this is the first time these kids have been in the sectional.

“And you see the way it started, our shots were a little bit off, a little bit flat, a little bit long. (The Redwings) had much better rhythm. We kept them close with some good defense, but they found a way to get themselves a nice, solid lead.”

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## **Terrific Trio**

Morris, Lynch, Shaw lead Larking past Auburn in sectional semifinal

BY BOB NARANG



Larkin’s Anthony Lynch dunks Tuesday against Rockford Auburn in a Class 4A Jacobs Sectional semifinal. (Brian O’Mahoney/Courier-News)

Senior point guard Kindrel Morris earned his most important assist without delivering a pass Tuesday night for Larkin.

With his team’s leading scorers — senior guard Anthony Lynch and senior center Jalen Shaw — struggling, Morris pulled both players aside for a quick chat on the court before the start of the third quarter.

“I just told them they’re the catalysts and they make us go,” Morris said. “I told them they had to step up.”

Lynch and Shaw received the message. Lynch scored 26 points and Shaw contributed 19 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Royals to a 60-54 win over Rockford Auburn in a Class 4A Jacobs Sectional semifinal.

**Larkin** (22-8) plays Rockford Jefferson (26-6) at 7 p.m. Friday in the sectional championship game.

Yahmir Muhammad scored 12 points to lead Auburn (20-12).

The 6-foot-10 Shaw, who has 19 scholarship offers, played with a renewed fire in the third quarter.

After totaling six points and four rebounds in the first half, Shaw had seven points and seven rebounds in the third to turn a five-point halftime deficit into a 40-39 lead. He had four defensive rebounds during a five-possession stretch that culminated with a Lynch dunk.

“(Kindrel) said for us to play like it’s our last game, and that helped,” Shaw said.

The 5-7 Morris failed to score a point for first three-plus quarters. Morris, a standout running back, came up big late in the game. He made four free throws in the final 1:25, took a key charge with 10 seconds left and grabbed the last rebound.

Lynch delivered 16 points in the second half to provide the scoring spark.

“We stayed focused and followed our game plan of getting Jalen the ball,” Lynch said. “(Kindrel) is our floor general and he did a good job of getting the ball to us in the right spot.”

Larkin coach Deryn Carter said Morris is an unsung player for the Royals.

“Everybody sees why Anthony and Jalen are captains, but (Kindrel) is a captain and nobody sees why,” Carter said. “That’s what makes him so special. He’s so mentally and physical tough. He made just enough plays at the end for us.”

Former teammate Christian Negrón, who’s a freshman forward for Missouri Valley champion Loyola, attended Tuesday’s game. He said Lynch and Shaw are an improved duo.

“They got to be huge down the stretch and are a good one-two punch,” Negrón said. “They have to keep playing off each other, and I think they can make it to state.”



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## Scouting Fox Valley area sectional finals

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK



Larkin's Kindrel Morris goes to the basket against St. Charles North in last week's regional championship game. Larkin takes on Rockford Jefferson Friday night for the Class 4A Jacobs sectional title. Patrick Kunzer | Staff Photographer

Three Fox Valley area boys basketball teams play Friday night for a berth in the Elite Eight.

Here's a look at the Class 4A sectional final matchups for **Larkin** and West Aurora and for Burlington Central in Class 3A.

### At Jacobs

**Larkin** (22-8) vs. Rockford Jefferson (26-6)

Each program seeks its first sectional title since 2004-05, when Jefferson defeated Larkin 73-60 in the Class AA Moline supersectional en route to a fourth-place finish.

Technically, it's a rematch. The J-Hawks defeated Larkin 69-58 in a Nov. 25 tournament game in Rockford. Jefferson coach Todd Brannan said he doesn't consider the earlier meeting a barometer for the sectional title game considering 15 weeks have passed.

"Larkin is much, much better than when we played them back in November and that's what I'm going to tell our guys," the 10th-year coach said after the J-Hawks hammered Dundee-Crown 77-48 in Wednesday's semifinal. "We were better than them that Saturday in November, but that doesn't mean anything this Friday."

Jalen Shaw will play a key role for the Royals as usual. The 6-foot-10 senior scored a team-best 21 points in the first meeting against Jefferson despite being tethered to the bench for much of the first half with foul trouble.

"He's not 6-10 when he's sitting on the bench, so we need Jalen on the floor," Larkin coach Deryn Carter said.

"They're a much different team when Shaw's not there," Brannan said.

Jefferson 6-foot-4, 210-pound senior forward My'Quion Garrett gives up six inches to Shaw, but he scored 26 in the first meeting and comes in hot. He had 15 points in the win over Dundee-Crown.

"We just have to attack the basket and get (Shaw) in foul trouble so he has to sit for a while," Garrett said. "Then just try to run up the score when he's out, get to the basket."

Defensively, Larkin must guard the 3-point arc. Jefferson sank 12 3-pointers in the semifinals, courtesy of eight different players. Senior Jy'aire Robinson made three 3-pointers and scored a team-high 18 points.

Offensively, Larkin will try to protect the ball against pressure from talented guards Quillin Dixon, Terry Ford and Mike Powell, who helped these J-Hawks surpass the previous school record of 23 wins. They were three reasons Dundee-Crown committed 19 turnovers through three quarters as Jefferson raced to a 60-29 lead.

"They like to get up on us and we can't freak out," said Larkin senior guard Anthony Lynch, who scored 28 points in Tuesday's 60-54 win over Rockford Auburn. "We have to stay calm, make the right plays. They try to rush you up, but if we play how we play and play smart basketball, we can drive around and pick the right spots. Just play smart. We have a lot of good ballhandlers. I think we can handle that pressure a little bit better than Dundee-Crown."

The Jacobs sectional winner advances to the NIU supersectional to face the Glenbard East sectional winner (Benet Academy vs. Willowbrook) on Tuesday at 8 p.m.

### **At Romeoville**

West Aurora (24-4) vs. Bolingbrook (22-6)

They meet again.

No. 1 sectional seed Bolingbrook has eliminated No. 2 West Aurora from the state tournament two of the last three seasons.

The Raiders denied West Aurora a state berth in 2015 with a 50-49 supersectional victory. Bolingbrook defeated the Blackhawks 85-66 in a sectional semifinal last year. The Raiders finished third in Class 4A both seasons.

"I'm excited about it," West Aurora third-year coach Brian Johnson said of the matchup. "We're a better team than we were last year. They have more speed and unbelievable guard play. They transition up and down the floor. They're one of the best teams in the state."

The Blackhawks are led by co-Upstate Eight Valley players of the year Camron Donatlan (19 ppg) and Jared Crutcher (13.2 ppg, 8.8 rpg). However, everyone in the starting five is dangerous, as they demonstrated in Wednesday's 70-58 win over Lincoln-Way East when seniors Damian Virgen (11.7 ppg) and Ben Young (7.8 ppg) and junior point guard Trae Brown (10.5 ppg, 4.5 apg) combined for 54 points.

Defensively, West Aurora is tasked with containing Bolingbrook senior guard Kaleb Thornton, who scored 29 of his 31 points after halftime in Tuesday's 94-91 double-overtime win over Joliet Central.

Junior guard Tyler Cochran led the Raiders with 17 points and 11 rebounds in the regional championship victory against Lemont (77-65).

"They are athletic at the guard spot where they have multiple prospective division-I guards," Johnson said. "We'll have to be ready to roll. They're are no easy matchups. We can't not guard people. Both teams are playing well right now. Hopefully, we can stay within ourselves, play our game and pull out a win."

The Romeoville sectional winner advances to the ISU supersectional to face the Pekin sectional winner (Belleville West vs. Moline) on Tuesday at 8 p.m.

### **At Woodstock North**

Burlington Central (28-3) vs. Rockford Boylan (21-10)

It's a matchup between No. 1 subsectional seeds with contrasting tournament pedigrees.

Central seeks the first sectional title in school history. The Titans seek their 20th overall and second in three years.

Boylan was a Class 4A team last year when it was eliminated by Larkin in a sectional semifinal. Coached by 2003 Barrington graduate Brett McAllister, the Titans slipped by St. Francis 51-47 in overtime on Wednesday, thanks to 14 points from Ben Ambrose and 11 points from 6-foot-1 sophomore guard Johnny Close.

Ambrose, a 5-foot-10 senior guard, has drained 66 3-pointers and leads his team in scoring (11.2 ppg), followed by 5-10 sophomore guard John Starck (9.1 ppg) and 6-3 sophomore forward Anthony Brown (8.2).

"They're a talented group," Central coach Brett Porto said. "They play a very tough schedule and have 20-plus wins. They have four good shooters on the court at all times with a solid interior player. They play a similar, physical man-to-man defense like we saw against Batavia. We're used to that because we've had some physical games during our playoff run and guys have adapted."

Central counters with program all-time leading scorer Zach Schutta (18.2 ppg) and junior Patrick Mayfield (17.2), the only non-senior in the starting lineup. Defense will be the key, according to Porto.

"It sounds simple but we have to be what we've been all year: a team that really defends," he said. "It all starts on defense for us. Then move the ball on offense and when we need certain shots we have to get the ball to Schutta and Mayfield."

The Woodstock North sectional winner advances to the Hoffman Estates supersectional at the Sears Centre to face the North Chicago sectional winner (North Chicago vs. DePaul College Prep) on Tuesday at 6 p.m.

