

Press Clippings 3/16/2018

---Courier News--- 3/16/18

Racial disparity in U46 discipline

Data: Three-fourths of expelled students were black, Latino

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

Black and Latino students made up three-fourths of the students expelled from District U46 schools last year, and black students receive longer suspensions and more disciplinary referrals than any other group, district data shows.

School board member Traci O'Neal Ellis requested more specific information, including expulsion numbers, after district administrators released data in January that showed that U46's black students are disciplined at a disproportionately higher rate than other racial or ethnic groups.

African-American students make up about 6 percent of U46's 39,000 enrollment but received about 26 percent of all out-of-school suspensions in the 2016-17 school year, numbers show.

"I am emotional and deeply frustrated," O'Neal Ellis said of the new information released. "What I'm not angry at is U46 because I can't single U46 out. This is an American systems problem."

She was not alone in being upset. Other board members called the statistics "egregious" and "alarming."

The numbers show:

Of the 21 students expelled last year from U46 schools, 12 were Latino and five were black.

The percentage of white students receiving out-of-school suspensions has dropped over the past four years, but the percentage of Latino and black students being suspended has increased over the same time period.

Suspensions given to black students averaged three days, roughly a half-day more than any other student bloc.

Black students receive about seven disciplinary referrals per student, far higher than any other student demographic.

Of the more than 2,500 black students enrolled at U46 schools, about 51 percent received some type of disciplinary referral in 2016-17. By comparison, less than 24 percent of all Latino students were issued a referral.

What was revealed, O'Neal Ellis said, validates the criticism that there is an implicit bias present in schools, she said.

While she acknowledged U46 educators and officials have made some progress in addressing the issue, such as in reducing expulsions and increasing equity training among staff, “something is going very wrong,” she said.

Board member Melissa Owens said that seeing black students receive an average seven referrals was “jarring.”

Other data presented Monday showed that 12 percent of African-American high school boys and girls were enrolled in at least one Advanced Placement class this school year.

Among Hispanic students, the breakdown was about 22 percent of girls and 14 percent of boys. The numbers are far less than for Asian, white and multiracial students, according to the data.

The disproportionate disciplinary actions may be harming the district’s efforts to make advanced courses more inclusive, board member Sue Kerr said.

“(Discipline) ties in to the academic part of it,” Kerr said. “Because the kids who got into all the disciplinary problems, they turn off from school. They’re not going to get into the honors or AP classes. They may not even graduate.”

U46 CEO Tony Sanders acknowledged the data does suggest the district is still failing with regard to discipline, despite some successes in improving the climate by using more trauma-informed interventions, offering professional development equity training, and recruiting minority teachers from local colleges and universities.

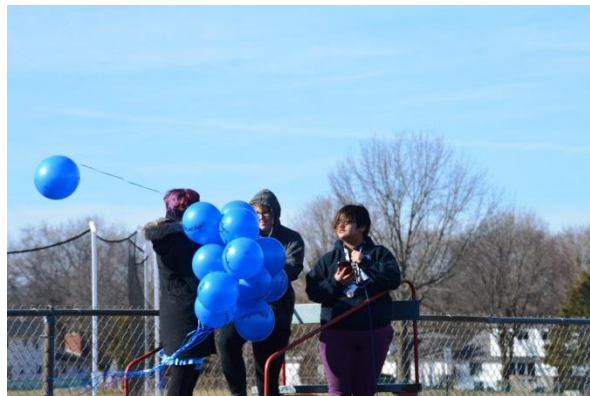
When addressing interventions, U46 Safety Director John Heiderscheidt said their findings on discipline demonstrate “we need to build more interventions that are differentiated for all students. Our interventions are working for some students, but it is apparent it is not working for all students.”

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Students ‘furious’ about lack of change

Hundreds at Larkin walk out in protest

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



Students release blue balloons during Wednesday’s walkout at Larkin High School in Elgin. The three students released 17 balloons, one for each fatality in last month’s mass shooting in Parkland, Fla. RAFAEL GUERRERO-THE COURIER NEWS

Elizabeth Howells, Melissa Camacho and Shawna Stein estimated about 50 classmates and friends would attend the Wednesday walkout they helped organize at **Larkin High School** in Elgin.

The three miscalculated by several hundred. Early estimates from Principal Jamie Crosen indicate between 700 and 800 students left the school building to attend the rally, held outdoors at the school track.

“I felt proud, like kids cared,” said Stein, a freshman at the school. “I know that some of the kids were there because they wanted to get out of class, but I also saw kids that did care.”

Camacho, a junior, said she saw one of her friends crying during the rally.

The protest, similar to hundreds simultaneously held all over the country on the one-month anniversary of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., was in memory of the 17 people who were killed and in support of gun law reform and awareness of gun violence.

Similar demonstrations were held at **Elgin-based District U46’s** four other high schools as well.

“With major shootings all over the country — Sandy Hook (Elementary School) in the Northeast, Marjory Stoneman Douglas in the South and Columbine (High School) in the West — we’ve had incidents nationwide but no legislation change,” Howells told students Wednesday morning. “That’s why we’re here today: to show our country we are furious.”

Howells noted that since the shooting in Florida, three of U46’s five high schools have had gun threats, two of which were made by students. Many students stayed home from school because of the threats, she said.

“Last week, we spent a whole period of math talking about ways to survive,” she said. “Could we jump out the window? Could we run? Half of our class was gone that day because we were afraid if we showed up, we wouldn’t go home.”

“Next time Larkin is in the news, it should be about our winning basketball team, not a threat to our lives,” Howells added, referring to the Larkin boys basketball team advancing Tuesday night to the Class 4A state semifinals.

About a dozen adults joined the cause by gathering on the sidewalks surrounding the school and holding signs in support of change.

Some of the signs read, “We love our kids more than guns,” and “We stand with Stoneman Douglas High students.” Some drivers passing by on McLean Boulevard honked in support.

“They are leading the way for change in this country with regards to our gun laws and the way we go forward,” said Jane Duffy, whose son attends Larkin and whose husband is a guidance counselor at Schaumburg High School. “I’m so proud of them.”

In addition to making comments, Howells, Camacho and Stein released 17 blue balloons, one for each Parkland, Fla., fatality.

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‘They don’t know Larkin’

Royals get big send-off at pep rally during historic tournament run

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



Larkin High School holds a pep rally Thursday for its boys basketball team, the first in its history to reach the IHSA state semifinals. (Rafael Guerrero/Courier-News) BY RAFAEL GUERRERO THE COURIER-NEWS

The treatment the **Larkin High School** boys basketball team received Thursday was befitting of its nickname.

The high school band welcomed the Royals with full fanfare during a morning pep rally at which hundreds of students cheered the players and coaches, and the Elgin police and fire departments led the team bus motorcade as it went down McLean Boulevard en route to downstate Peoria.

For the first time in the school’s five decades, one of Larkin’s basketball teams has advanced to the Illinois High School Association Class 4A state semifinals. The team is guaranteed to play at least two games this weekend, one of which may be the state title game Saturday night.

“It’s not over,” head coach and Larkin graduate Deryn Carter told the cheering student crowd. “Down there in Peoria, they don’t know Larkin. We’re going to let them know (who we are).”

The historical implications surrounding Larkin’s tournament run are significant. Not only is this the first time Larkin has made it to the final four, but it’s also the first time Larkin has advanced to the semifinals in an IHSA-sanctioned state competition.

The last **U46** boys basketball team to make it to a state semifinal was **Elgin High School** back in 1955, when none of the other four U46 high schools existed.

No boys basketball team from an Elgin public school has won the state tournament since Elgin won back-to-back titles in 1924 and 1925.

U46 girls basketball has seen more recent success, with the **Bartlett High School** girls team taking third place in 2012. Private schools in the Elgin area were well represented in last year’s state tournaments, with the St. Edward girls team finishing third in Class 2A and the Harvest Christian Academy girls team finishing fourth in Class 1A.

Larkin (24-8) plays Belleville West (30-2) at 5:30 p.m. Friday. The winner of the semifinal matchup advances to Saturday's title game at 7:15 p.m. The loser plays a third-place game at 5:30 p.m. Saturday. All games are at the Peoria Civic Center.

"I read the papers every once in a while. There's not a lot of people giving us a chance," Carter said. "They don't think we got a chance. They (Belleville West) got the best player in the state; they've never lost to a team from the state of Illinois (this season). But I know some people here who believe what I believe."

Larkin athletic director Ethan Karolczak said the original plan was to send three fan buses to Peoria beginning Friday. However, enthusiasm and demand resulted in ordering six buses.

It is expected the school will sell out all tickets that Larkin was allocated by the IHSA, he added. Because of the early afternoon start time, Larkin students will have a half-day Friday to watch the game, district officials announced.

"People in the Larkin community have been waiting for this for a long time," Karolczak said.

When asked how this tournament run has been for students and staff, Karolczak described it as "cathartic."

In the past two weeks, the school had a shooting threat that scared students, staff and families; a teen was arrested for making the threat via social media. On Wednesday, hundreds of students participated in a walkout in support of gun reform. In addition, a student died last week in a car crash about a mile away from the school.

"At the end of the day, it's just a game," he said. "But I will say that, last Tuesday and the Friday before," when Larkin played for the sectional and supersectional titles and a berth in the state semifinals, "for three hours, it was a nice distraction."

---Daily Herald--- 3/16/18

Larkin High headed to state finals

DAILY HERALD REPORT



Larkin High School basketball player Jalen Shaw and his teammates head to the state Class 4A state tournament in Peoria after a pep rally Thursday at the Elgin school. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*

The Larkin High School boys basketball team departed for Peoria Thursday to compete in the Illinois High School Association Class 4A state finals.

The Royals, who have already made history by becoming the school's first basketball team to reach the state finals, take their 24-8 record against 30-2 Belleville West in the first state semifinal at 5:30 p.m. Friday at Carver Arena. The game will be televised on NBC Sports Chicago.

Larkin, coached by alum Deryn Carter, is the first boys basketball team from an Elgin school to reach the state final tournament in 20 years and the first to play in a state semifinal game since 1955.

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 3/16/18

Mission impossible? Larkin accepting the challenge

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK

Some call it mission impossible.

The Larkin boys basketball team chooses to accept it.

Few outside the city of Elgin expect Larkin (24-8) to beat Belleville West (30-2) in a Class 4A semifinal at Carver Arena in Peoria on Friday at 5:30 p.m.

Observers favor the Maroons for several reasons, the most prominent being EJ Liddell. The 6-foot-7, 228-pound junior was recently named Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year.

Liddell has more big-time college offers than the Kardashians have TV shows. Such is life for a unique talent averaging 20.8 points, 8.3 rebounds and 6 blocks a game. He was named first-team all-state Thursday Associated Press.

Talented as Liddell is, he's hardly a one-man team.

Senior Malachi Smith is committed to Wright State. Considered the team's best defender by 14th-year Belleville West coach Joe Muniz, the 6-foot-3 guard averages 15.7 points, 6.2 rebounds, and 3.5 assists.

Then there's big, athletic junior Keith Randolph. The 6-foot-5, 242-pound forward played football for the first time last fall. He now holds 10 Division-I offers to play defensive end, including Illinois and Wyoming. He contributes 9.7 points and 6.7 rebounds.



Larkin and senior Anthony Lynch will battle Belleville West Friday at 5:30 p.m. in a Class 4A state semifinal at Carver Arena in Peoria. Mark Black | Staff Photographer

Junior guard Lawrence Brazil (5-11) averages 10.5 points. He netted 19 in a sectional final victory. Senior guard Curtis Williams (5-11) rounds out the starting five. He adds 4.8 points and 3.4 rebounds per outing.

The impressive collection of talent has blown out five straight playoff opponents by a 26-point average, including Tuesday's 81-43 takedown of previously hot West Aurora, which had won 17 straight.

"They've got several Division-I athletes, but we're not going to go out there and back down," Larkin coach Deryn Carter said. "We're not going to go out there and change the way we play. Although, we may be the underdog in a lot of guys' eyes, we're going to prepare to win, and that's going to be our anticipation. But we know we're going to have to execute the game plan at a high level to do that."

Larkin's offensive game plan in recent weeks has emphasized running the ball through 6-foot-10 senior forward Jalen Shaw.

"He's somebody we haven't faced all season, somebody of that size," Muniz said.

Shaw averaged 14.3 points in Larkin's first four playoff wins, but he was limited to 5 points on 2-of-9 shooting in Tuesday's supersectional victory over Benet Academy. Still, he affected how the game was played. Offensively, his kick out passes to the perimeter helped junior guard Pierre Black get open for 3-pointers, which, in turn, created driving lanes for other Larkin guards. On the defensive end Shaw blocked 2 shots, made 2 steals and grabbed 9 of his 11 rebounds.

"Once he realized that his teammates were committed to getting him the ball on almost every possession, I think it helped him relax and understand that 'OK, when I catch it, I don't have to score it for us to be a good team,' " Carter said. "So, it was twofold. It was, one, him just mentally kind of making the shift. I also think it was him realizing and the rest of his teammates realizing that he needed to touch it even if he wasn't going to score. It was a two-way street for sure."

The plan to get the ball in Shaw's hands on nearly every possession won't change with Liddell and Randolph looming.

"I understand they've got really good post players, but we're going to throw the ball to Jalen," Carter said. "I mean, he's going to get it, he's going to get it, he's going to get it. We're going to play through him and we'll take our chances by doing that."

Smith will likely draw the defensive assignment against Larkin leading scorer Anthony Lynch. In 5 playoff victories, the 6-3, 180-pound senior guard has scored 23, 15, 28, 24

and 16 points, respectively. He enters the state finals averaging 20 points, 5 rebounds and 3.8 assists.

"He's a pretty good player," Muniz said of Lynch. "They're going to be a good team. We're going to expect a tough game. Those two players are very nice and they've got some nice pieces to go around them. We're going to have to make sure we're ready to play and learn how to play against some size like that."

Larkin senior point guard Kindrel "Nomo" Morris is one of the "nice pieces" Muniz referenced. The three-year varsity player and tri-captain along with Lynch and Shaw averages 6.5 points and a team-best 6.2 assists.

"Morris is our engine. He makes us go," Carter said. "If we're a car, Morris is the engine, Shaw is the leather interior and Lynch is the fancy paint and fancy gadgets in the car.

"Without Morris we wouldn't be here. He's the heart and soul of the team. He's the toughest kid we've got. He does everything we ask of him and he's the leader. He's going to have to do big things for us Friday night."

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Royals to play Peoria

Black picks up scoring slack as Larkin tops Benet to reach state finals for the first time

BY PAUL JOHNSON



Larkin's Anthony Lynch (21) breaks away from Benet's Jake Ronneberg, left, and Ben Cooney during Tuesday's Class 4A supersectional game at Northern Illinois University. Larkin's 53-46 victory secured a trip to the state finals and snapped Benet's 18-game winning streak. (Stacey Wescott/Chicago Tribune)

All season long, Larkin has looked for a consistent third scorer behind senior standouts Anthony Lynch and Jalen Shaw.

In a 53-46 victory over Benet in Tuesday's Class 4A DeKalb Supersectional, Pierre Black filled that role admirably for the Royals.

The junior guard led Larkin (24-8) with 18 points, sending the Royals to the state semifinals for the first time in program history.

Larkin will play Belleville West at 5:30 p.m. Friday at Peoria Civic Center.

“I felt the shot (Tuesday),” Black said. “I just keep playing hard. If I’m not making shots, just keep playing defense. But my shot was on (Tuesday), and it helped us get a win.”

Black started his exploits with a 3-pointer off the bench to give Larkin a 7-2 lead early in the first quarter.

After the Royals milked the final minute of the first half off the clock, Black drilled a 3-pointer at the buzzer for a 21-11 lead.

“He did have his ups and downs early in the year, but he turned into more than just a shooter about six or seven weeks ago,” Larkin coach Deryn Carter said of Black. “He started defending at a high level and started rebounding at a high level, then he just played at a high level.

“Whether he was making shots or missing shots, we needed him on the floor.”

Down the stretch, with Benet (27-5) hanging around, Black hit three consecutive 3-pointers to push the lead to 42-33 with 3:03 left.

“He did step up,” Benet coach Gene Heidkamp said of Black. “He was a major part of the game. He made a ton of big threes, and timely threes. Give him a lot of credit. He played really well in probably the biggest game of his career.”

Benet played the foul game late, and it worked for a while.

Larkin shot only 5-for-13 from the free-throw line to start the fourth quarter, giving the Redwings a shot.

Reserve guard Jake Ronneberg put together a personal 8-3 run to cut the lead to 48-46 with 0:37 left.

Benet didn’t score again, however, as Larkin senior Kindrel Morris went 4-for-4 from the line, and Black split a pair in the final seconds to seal the win.

Benet’s 18-game win streak was snapped, but that didn’t put a damper on Heidkamp’s pride in his team.

“These guys have had an unbelievable year,” Heidkamp said. “They’re great kids. it’s just been a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of this team. They’ve just been unbelievable. This hurts, but that doesn’t diminish what they accomplished this year.”

Larkin heads to state Friday in Peoria for the first time in program history. It’s something extra special to Carter, who’s a Larkin graduate.

“It’s surreal, for sure,” Carter said. “It’s going to be a little while before it sinks in, but it’s got to sink in pretty quick because we eventually have to move on. We’re going to enjoy the heck out of this, and we should because it’s an unbelievable accomplishment. The school’s never been there. I’m just so proud.”

“I just couldn’t believe it because from the beginning, I never thought we would get here,” Shaw said. “Everybody believed. We’ve got to keep going.”

Paul Johnson is a freelance reporter for the Naperville Sun.

---Daily Herald--- 3/16/18

The big-school basketball show goes on in Peoria

BY MARTY MACIASZEK



Larkin's Kindrel Morris dives for a loose ball as Benet's Jake Ronneberg gets there first during Class 4A supersectional action at Northern Illinois University on Tuesday. John Starks | Staff Photographer

There seems to be increasing chatter about moving the boys basketball big-school state tournaments to Chicago as a solution to decreasing fan attendance the last decade in Peoria.

There are no actual numbers to track the declining numbers of tickets sold because the last time the IHSA posted figures was in 2006 -- the second-to-last year of the Class A-AA split of tournaments. But the eye test in the four-class era that started in 2008 has typically shown that many of the previous attendees have lost interest in what's playing in Peoria.

One of the reasons cited is the preponderance and dominance of Chicago-area teams. Sixteen of the first 20 champions in 3A and 4A are from up this way.

Twelve of those champions have come from Chicago Public League schools which traditionally have not brought the masses of fans to Champaign or Peoria in the one-, two- or four-class formats. And this year there could be two more big-city champs with Morgan Park and Whitney Young returning to defend their crowns in 3A and 4A respectively.

Some believe the Chicago area fans would go to the new Wintrust Arena to see a tourney that has been dominated by local teams. If that move did occur, at least fans would be able to see some successful Chicago boys/men's teams in that building for a change.

A side note to DePaul fans taking offense with that snide remark -- I have relatives who have graduated or are about to graduate from the school and have been a big fan since I was a kid. And, in fairness, the same shots are taken at Illinois football when it hosts the state title games every other year.

Anyway, relocating to the Chicago area is not necessarily as easy as the IHSA saying it's done with Peoria since the contract to hold the tourney there runs through the 2019-20 season. And someone from Chicago has to put together a bid package and ensure the state dates are available to hold it at Wintrust.

So, this weekend, will the Chicago-area schools continue to make the case for a move? Or will schools such as Belleville West and Springfield Southeast provide evidence from the rest of the state that it should stay in the Peoria Civic Center's Carver Arena?

Class 4A

Friday's semifinals

Belleville West (30-2) vs. **Larkin** (24-8), 5:30 p.m.: Last year was supposed to be the big year for Larkin, but those plans were dashed when talented big man Christian Negron, who is now a freshman at NCAA tourney qualifier Loyola, missed the season with a torn ACL. But with less fanfare this year, the Royals reached the Elite Eight for the first time in school history and will now bring the first top-four trophy back to the city of Elgin since the Maroons were second in 1955.

Larkin presents some tough challenges for opponents with dynamic 6-foot-3 senior Anthony Lynch (20 ppg, 5 rpg, 3.8 apg) and 6-10 senior Jalen Shaw (16.3 ppg, 12.2 rpg) inside. Lynch took over the sectional final win over Rockford Jefferson in the third quarter and Shaw is a defensive disruptor around the rim. Kindrel Morris (6.5 ppg, 6.2 apg) is a tough point guard who can get to the rim and Pierre Black (8.2 ppg, 8.0 3s) and Victor Perez are dangerous long-range threats.

Daily Herald Fox Valley prep gurus Jerry Fitzpatrick and John Radtke have done a tremendous job of chronicling how far this Larkin program has come since alum Deryn Carter took over. The toughness he instilled was evident as it held off late challenges from a Jefferson team it lost to earlier in the season and a Benet program that has been one of the state's best in the supersectional.

Now the challenge is even greater with Belleville West, which dismantled red-hot West Aurora 81-43 in the supersectional at Illinois State, and 6-7, 230-pound junior E.J. Liddell (20.8 ppg on 58 percent shooting from the field 8.3 rpg, 6 blocks per game, 3 apg). The Gatorade Player of the Year in Illinois is ranked among the top 50 juniors in the nation and needs just 9 points to become the program's career scoring leader.

Liddell also showed his shooting range by hitting a 3 in the opening minutes Tuesday. It's no surprise coaches such as Illinois' Brad Underwood, Missouri's Cuonzo Martin and Kansas State's Bruce Weber were in attendance at his recent games.

But there is more to the Maroons than just Liddell. NCAA qualifier Wright State is getting 6-3 senior Malachi Smith (15.7 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 3.5 apg, 3.4 3s) and junior guard Lawrence Brazil (10.5 ppg, 4.9 3s) has been an impact player after transferring from St. Louis. And there is more bulk inside with 6-5, 242 junior Keith Randolph (9.7 ppg, 6.7 rpg) for a team that goes eight deep.

- The pick: The Larkin story is one that makes March Madness such a special time. And it is a team that has been tested with nonconference games that include Whitney Young (70-64 loss), New Trier, Fenwick, Willowbrook, Conant and Uplift. But this will be much different as Belleville West has won 13 in a row by an average of 28 points and outrebounded West Aurora 53-25. Belleville West hasn't lost to an Illinois team this season and that won't change here with an 80-67 victory.

Evanston (26-5) vs. Young (27-7), 7:15 p.m.: Whitney Young may have had one of the quieter state title defenses in recent history since nationally ranked Simeon, Morgan

Park and 2A champion Orr grabbed a lot of the accolades this year in the Chicago Public League. But the Dolphins, who are celebrating the 20th anniversary of their first title with Quentin Richardson, are now looking for their fourth crown since 2009 under Tyrone Slaughter after upsetting Simeon 71-66 in overtime in the Chicago State supersectional.

They lost Lucas Williamson to NCAA tourney qualifier Loyola. But they return three starters in athletic 6-3 Valparaiso recruit Javon Freeman (19.6 ppg, 8 rpg), 6-2 South Florida-bound point guard Xavier Castaneda (11.8 ppg, 4.5 apg, 24 3s) and 6-4 senior Justin Boyd (7.4 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 30 3s). Six-3 junior Myles Baker (12 ppg, 4.5 rpg) and 6-6 senior Jake Kosakowski (6 ppg) also saw significant time in last year's 60-50 overtime title win over Simeon.

This was also a big milestone year for Evanston as it celebrated the 50th anniversary of its state championship team. The Wildkits reached the supers last year under Mike Ellis and then navigated a brutal Central Suburban South race and Maine East sectional to go one step further and guarantee the program its fifth state trophy.

The best days appear to still be ahead for the Wildkits with 6-7 Matt Hall the only senior starter. Two juniors, 6-2 Lance Jones (15.5 ppg, 4 rpg, 3 apg) and 5-11 Jaheim Holden (14.8 ppg, 41 3s), lead the way. Freshman guard Blake Peters (10.2 ppg, 73 3s) gained national attention in late January when he nailed a court-length heave at the buzzer off a missed free throw for a 45-44 win over Maine South. And Ellis has been through this before as he returns to the city where he led Richwoods to state runnerup finishes in 2006 and 2010.

- The pick: Young won't be bothered by the big stage in its return to Peoria. The fact it didn't wildly celebrate Tuesday's upset, which most teams rightfully would have, shows it had the bigger picture in mind. Evanston's young crew will make it tough, similar to what Fremd did in the semis last year, but Young will hold on 60-57.

Saturday's games

Third-place, 5:30 p.m.: Because this is Larkin's first trip to state and Evanston has a group poised for more downstate runs this will be more competitive than some of the consolation games are traditionally. Evanston delivers that message about its bright future with a 59-54 victory.

Title, 7:15 p.m.: Although it's not the much-anticipated Simeon-Belleville West matchup, it's hardly a letdown to have defending champion Young representing Chicago in this test against the Illinois' side of the St. Louis-area's best. No one in Illinois has been able to stop Liddell and the Maroons and it won't happen here as they win their first title 72-67.

Class 3A

Friday's semifinals

Marian Catholic (25-5) vs. Morgan Park (23-9), 11:15 a.m.: Some of the Metamora fans were apparently razzing Marian Catholic sophomore guard Ahron Ulis about not being as good as his brother Tyler, who starred at Kentucky and is now a second-year guard with the Phoenix Suns, during Tuesday's supersectional. But the younger Ulis one-

upped his brother as he will help the Spartans bring back their first state trophy to Chicago Heights.

Marian, which suffered one of its losses by 2 to St. Viator in December, lost senior guard Chase Adams via transfer to 2A champion Orr. But the 6-foot Ulis (13.1 ppg, 4.1 apg), 5-9 junior supersectional hero Malik Tidwell (17.7 ppg, 4 rpg, 57 3s) and 6-5 junior Chris White (10.5 ppg, 6.2 rpg) picked up the slack.

Morgan Park had its share of ups and downs this year and much of it can be attributed to midseason ankle trouble for dynamic Illinois-bound guard Ayo Dosunmu. But with the 6-4 Dosunmu (24.4 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 7.3 apg, 57 3s) at full strength after missing 10 games the goal of a repeat title and fourth since 2013 under Nick Irvin has been back on track.

The Mustangs have rolled through the postseason -- beating Bogan 101-71 in the sectional final and racing to a 26-3 lead in the 71-59 supersectional win over North Lawndale -- with 6-6 senior Cam Burrell (17.7 ppg, 13.1 ppg) and 6-4 sophomore Adam Miller (15 ppg, 81 3s), a transfer from Peoria Manual. They got even more dangerous when 6-9 Alabama-Birmingham recruit Tamell Pearson scored 5 points off the bench in the final 3:15 Tuesday after not playing since the season opener with a detached retina in his right eye.

- The pick: Everything is clicking right now for Morgan Park as it returns to familiar surroundings triumphantly with an 81-66 victory.

Springfield Southeast (28-3) vs. North Chicago (22-8), 1 p.m.: The "King" has brought the Warhawks back to the Carver Arena court. Gerald "King" Coleman has done a fantastic job without much fanfare for turning his alma mater into a perennial 3A state tourney threat. A program that 20 years ago went through a winless season has made the Elite Eight seven times in Coleman's 13 seasons in charge and will claim its third top-four trophy since 2011.

The Warhawks endured some rough times with a 5-game December losing streak that dropped them to 4-7. But they recovered to win 18 of their last 19 and 11 straight behind senior guards Tyrek Cooper (14.6 ppg, 29 3s), Pierce Coleman (12.3 ppg, 18 3s) and DyShawn Gales (9.5 ppg). Coleman also has a rarity in that he can actually look a couple of his starters in the eye in 6-6 junior Raeshaun Samoa (7.8 ppg, 6.7 rpg) and 6-8 junior Achan Clinton.

After upsetting DePaul Prep in the sectional final, they got big efforts from Ishaun Walker with 16 points and Quency Gilmore with 15 in a 69-56 supersectional win over Rockford Boylan.

Most of the Capital City's boys basketball history has belonged to Springfield High and Lanphier. Southeast will finally be more prominent in the discussion with its first top-four trophy after Sweet 16 losses last year and in 1980 and a quarterfinal loss in 1941, when the school was known as Feitshans.

Coach Lawrence Thomas has altered the culture of the Southeast program in his successful 10-year tenure. Now he's getting the big payoff with 5-11 guard Kobe Medley (12.3 ppg, 76 3s) one of only two seniors in the eight-man rotation. Six-3 junior Anthony Fairlee (15.7 ppg, 8.6 rpg) is a Division I prospect and guard Terrion Murdix (12 ppg) adds to the balanced Spartans attack.

- The pick: Southeast has the gaudier record but North Chicago's last couple of wins are definitely attention-getters. I'll go with the Warhawks 66-64.

Saturday's games

Third-place, 11:15 a.m.: With two teams that haven't been here before I don't see them going through the motions after the disappointment of their semifinal losses. Marian has faced challenges before the season even began and it answers this one 75-67 over Southeast.

Title, 1 p.m.: It was easy to question the likelihood of Morgan Park claiming a repeat title back in January. It's a lot different now for the healthy Mustangs and Dosunmu, who will give Illini fans a glimmer of hope after leading the way to another crown, 81-69 over North Chicago.

---Daily Herald--- 3/16/18

Geneva soccer shuts out Elgin

DAILY HERALD REPORT

Sydney Gratz and Jenna Dominguez each scored twice Thursday to lead the Geneva girls soccer team to a 4-0 win over Elgin in its season and Upstate Eight River opener.

Anna Soindle had 2 assists for the Vikings and Stephanie How added one. Katie Montgomery was in goal and made 1 save.

Maggie Troyke had 7 saves in goal for Elgin (1-1, 1-1).

CL South 2, Grant 0: Jillian Brokhof and Juliet Lavorata scored goals and Melissa Fetters had 2 saves in goal for Crystal Lake South (1-1) in this nonconference game.