

## Press Clippings 5/3/2018

**NOTE:** There were no U-46 related news stories in the May 3, 2018 newspapers.

### SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 5/3/18

#### **Volleyball: Jackson, St. Edward power past Sabres**

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK



St. Edward's Liam Jackson blocks a shot by Streamwood's Roberto Sanchez Wednesday in a boys volleyball game in Elgin. *John Starks | Staff Photographer*

St. Edward 6-foot-8 junior volleyball player Liam Jackson epitomizes the term "high ceiling."

The third-year varsity player said he lives "down the street" from one of the Elgin area's top volleyball clubs but has never competed on the club scene because offseasons were previously devoted to St. Edward basketball.

Things changed after Jackson's sophomore year when he decided to concentrate on volleyball. "I like it better and I'm looking to play it in college," he said.

Jackson said he has yet to be contacted by college volleyball coaches despite his length and athleticism for an understandable reason. He has yet to be seen on the club circuit where most recruiting takes place. He plans to attend any summer camps he can land an invitation to and will play for a club team next winter to improve skills and gain exposure.

The player college coaches will discover is an athletic, left-handed hitter with the ability to serve, block and deliver key points, like the biggest point of St. Edward's 25-16, 25-23 nonconference victory over Streamwood in Elgin Wednesday.

St. Edward (5-11) won the first set with relative ease and forged second-set leads of 9-4 and 18-11.

Streamwood (2-16) rallied to tie the second set 21-21 on Jack Maybrun's block kill, which reinvigorated the Sabres a night after they defeated Elgin.

The squads traded points before St. Edward captain Patrick Gleeson set his team's lefty hammer with the lead in the balance. Jackson rose from the right side, unfurled and spiked a cross-court winner inside the line to deny Streamwood its first lead.

"(Jackson) really gets up there, and our setter can really get the ball to him pretty well," said St. Edward defensive specialist Reno Domel, who will matriculate at Notre Dame next fall.

The Green Wave moved to a 24-22 lead when the return of Collan O'Neill's serve hit a light fixture and fell to the floor for a point.

Streamwood, still playing with energy, nevertheless pulled within 24-23 on a kill by 6-4 middle Juan Adan. However, the Sabres' ensuing service error ended the match in St. Edward's favor.

"It's difficult to dig yourself out of a hole once we got off to a slow start like that," Maybrun said. "We've just got to get the intensity from the beginning that we played with mid-to-late game."

The Green Wave rolled in the first set, fueled by a 7-point run on Jackson's serve during which he recorded 2 aces.

"He's a good server so we tend to do really well when he serves," St. Edward coach Karla Aguirre said. "All that energy he gives off helps a lot."

Domel and freshman libero Tyler Zemko later delivered back-to-back digs of vicious Streamwood spikes. St. Edward won both points to take a 17-6 lead.

"We've had a couple of bad games, but we really worked on digs in practice, on the technical aspects," Domel said. "We got better."

---Daily Herald--- 5/3/18

## **Softball: Weather gets best of South Elgin, Bartlett in 2<sup>nd</sup> inning**

BY CRAIG BRUESKE

\o There was no beating the Storm Wednesday afternoon.

Not the South Elgin Storm.

A line of heavy thunderstorms forced the suspension of the Upstate Eight Conference Valley Division softball game between host South Elgin (10-9, 9-3) and Bartlett (14-8, 8-4) with the Hawks ahead 1-0 after 1½ innings of play.

After a 40-minute delay at the outset due to the first round of storms passing through South Elgin, the game began at 5:10 p.m. with Hawks leadoff hitter Charlotte Linnartz reaching on a soft line single up the middle.

After a strikeout and walk to Taylor Rotondo, Linnartz stole third and scored on Janelle Ulaszek's sacrifice fly.

Ulaszek worked out of a mini-jam in the bottom half of the inning.

Storm leadoff hitter Casey Brennan walked and advanced to second on a 1-out free pass to McKenna Eichholz.

South Elgin's threat ended on back-to-back fly balls to Hawks center fielder Anna Tomillo.

Storm left fielder Geneva Pollman caught 3 consecutive fly outs in the top of the second before the umpires suspended play at 5:40 p.m. due to lightning.

"You try to get these games in because you hate to push things back but we knew this stuff was coming," Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said. "I'm so impressed with the field here (at South Elgin). It took that water and was playing well. It was a little sticky but it was OK."

The game was Bartlett's 10th in as many days.

"Games are backlogged so you try and get them in," said Wolfsmith said. "All the coaches want to and all the umpires want to but ultimately you get to the safety question. We've got to keep people safe.

"Since we had to wait at least 30 minutes (after every lightning strike), it was going to push us past 6 o'clock. Then we were going to start dealing with darkness issues because it's overcast. We'll pick it up where it's at -- the bottom of the second with us on top 1-0."

South Elgin coach Brad Reynard knows the drill all too well this season.

"You can't control it," he said. "I used to get upset about the weather but I'm too old for that. We were looking forward to it (playing Bartlett). The kids were sky high."

The Storm have also experienced a busy slate of games recently.

"We had six in six (days) last week and six in six this week," said Reynard. "Our kids are tired but it's one of those springs.

"We're pretty caught up as far as conference games. As for the nonconference games, that's another story but we'll worry about that later."

No make-up date has been determined.