

Press Clippings 5/10/2018

---Daily Herald--- 5/10/18

U-46, teachers union reach tentative deal on new contract

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY

The Elgin Teachers Association and Elgin Area School District U-46 administration have reached a tentative agreement on a new multiyear contract, though details have not been released.

Negotiations began in January on a new contract for the 2,448 teachers represented by the union. Without divulging details of the tentative agreement, Elgin Teachers Association President Richard Johnson said the deal is good "for everybody involved."

"We are taking steps toward making sure there is no disruption of school (this fall)," Johnson said.

The Elgin Teachers Association's representative assembly meets May 16 to vote on the tentative agreement. If supported by union leaders, the agreement goes before the full membership for a May 24 vote.

Suzanne Johnson, deputy superintendent of instruction, could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

In March 2017, the school board granted a one-year extension to the previous three-year contract ensuring classes were not disrupted this school year.

That agreement granted a base salary increase of 0.94 percent with a step increase of 3.1 percent on average -- a step increase refers to a teacher's years of experience, while a lane increase refers to a teacher's level of education.

No changes were made to health insurance premiums, which remain at 10 percent for the employees' share, or retirement benefits. The extension expires Aug. 10.

The new deal is expected to consider student placement, safety, teacher workload and compensation, Johnson said.

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Elgin police investigating BB gun fired at school property

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY

Elgin police are investigating reports of someone firing a BB gun on cars parked outside Garfield Elementary School in Elgin.

There have been three incidents of BB gun fire at the school -- April 30, May 1 and another on Monday, police spokeswoman Kristie Hilton said.

No one was injured, but a classroom window and a school employee's car window were damaged, Hilton said.

"We take crimes at schools very seriously and are actively investigating these cases," Elgin Police Deputy Chief Bill Wolf said. "If you have information that can assist with identifying those responsible for the damages, please reach out to us."

Police are reviewing video footage from cameras outside the school.

John Heiderscheidt, Elgin Area School District U-46 director of school safety and culture, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call police at (847) 289-2600, or text 847411 and include ELGINPD at the beginning of the text, along with the message and/or tip information.

SPORTS SECTION

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South Elgin alum Allen finishes successful college softball career

BY MIKE MIAZGA

South Elgin graduate Paige Allen has left her mark on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point softball team.

Allen, who played left and center field, ended up with 16 career home runs at Stevens Point, which ties the school's all-time record.

During her career for the Pointers, Allen hit .310 in 140 games played (134 starts). She finished with 429 career at-bats, had 133 hits and scored 66 runs. Among those 133 hits were 29 doubles, a triple and the 16 home runs. She also drove in 62 runs, had a .494 slugging percentage and a .353 on-base percentage. She also walked 28 times.

Allen was an all-WIAC selection her junior year and earned all-conference honorable-mention honors her freshman season. Allen was a finalist this year for the school's Pointer Award, which embodies Pointer spirit and all-around excellence as a student-athlete who also displays positive attitude and determination in athletics. She also is a nominee for a scholar-athlete award.

This season, Allen hit .248 with 30 hits in 121 at-bats. She scored 15 runs and had 8 doubles, 3 homers and 11 RBI, while walking 4 times. Stevens Point finished the season 12-25.

Boehmer at Milwaukee School of Engineering: Michael Boehmer, a 2014 product of St. Charles East, is graduating this month from Milwaukee School of Engineering and will walk away having set school career records in baseball for starts, wins, innings pitched and strikeouts.

This season, Boehmer went 5-2 in 11 appearances (10 starts) and had a 4.20 ERA. In 64 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings pitched he allowed 79 hits and struck out 39. He pitched 1 complete game.

He finished his career at MSOE with a 19-13 record with 3 saves and 6 complete games to his credit. He appeared in 48 career games on the mound and started 35 of them. In 248 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings he allowed 267 hits and struck out 182 while walking only 63. His career ERA was 4.09.

Region IV baseball tournament: Elgin Community College's baseball team is part of the NJCAA Region IV semifinals starting Friday at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines.

Top-seed Oakton (35-15) hosts Joliet (30-21) at noon Friday, while ECC (26-18), the No. 2 seed, will meet Rock Valley Community (31-20) at 3 p.m. on Friday. The double-elimination tournament continues Saturday with games at 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The Region IV championship will be decided Sunday at noon and 3 p.m. (if necessary at 3 p.m.). The winner of the Region IV tournament advances to the NJCAA District B championship May 19-20 at the site of the Region XII winner. That winner heads to the NCJAA Division III Baseball World Series in Greenville, Tenn., May 26-31.

Of note with Oakton is the recent performance of sophomore Alexander Crinigan, a Hampshire product. Crinigan started the first game of the sectional tournament for the Owls and allowed no earned runs over 8 innings, while striking out 11 and scattering but 6 hits.

Cohrs at Whitewater: Kaneland graduate Meg Cohrs is a member of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater softball team that swept the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular-season and tournament championships for a second straight season and now will host a 4-team NCAA regional Friday at the school's van Steenderen Softball Complex.

Heading into the tournament, Cohrs is hitting .300 in 31 games (28 starts). She has 21 hits in 70 at-bats and has scored 7 runs. She also has 5 doubles, a triple, 1 home run and 14 RBI to go with 13 walks and only 6 strikeouts at the plate. She sports a .405 on-base percentage and has made only 2 errors in the field this season.

Cohrs, a sophomore, is majoring in mathematics.

Pagan at IPNW: Bartlett graduate Holly Pagan, now at Purdue Northwest, recently was named to the all-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference second team. This was Purdue Northwest's first year in the GLIAC.

Pagan finished the regular season ranked eighth in the league overall in home runs with seven and finished 19th in RBI with 26. Heading into the GLIAC tournament, Pagan had 35 hits (8 doubles) and 21 runs scored in 44 appearances.

Paul at Eckerd: Dana Paul, another Bartlett graduate, wrapped up her senior season at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla. Paul hit .239 in 47 starts with 34 hits in 142 at-bats. She scored 14 runs and had 4 doubles, 1 home run and 16 RBI to go with 16 walks. Paul made only 3 errors at catcher in 233 total chances.

Off at College wants your help: Send information and/or statistics on Fox Valley area athletes playing collegiately to Mike Miazga at mjm890@gmail.com.

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Brotherly love prevails in Geneva's win over Elgin

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK

Brothers Hunter and Tyler Venditti gave their family plenty to talk about around the dinner table Wednesday after pitching Geneva to an 8-2 win at Elgin.

The right-handers combined to limit the Maroons to 2 runs, 1 earned, on 3 hits and a walk and struck out 10 as the Vikings won the middle game of the 3-game Upstate Eight River series. Geneva (14-10-1, 10-5-1) won Tuesday's series opener 14-7.

Hunter Venditti (3-0), a junior making his second start of the season and eighth appearance, held Elgin (6-20, 3-15) to 2 hits and a walk and struck out 7 in 5 innings.

Older brother Tyler Venditti took over in the sixth inning and shut the door to earn the save. The senior faced 7 batters over 2 innings, allowed 1 hit and struck out 3.

Would talk of their solid outings monopolize the family's dinner-table conversation?

"Of course, especially since we pitched so good," Hunter said. "I think it'll be an interesting dinner. It's definitely cool."

Geneva jumped to a 4-0 lead in the top of the second inning against Elgin starting pitcher Jack Sitter (1-5), though 2 runs were unearned. Joshua Rose's double drove in Dominic Guido to stake the Vikings to the lead. Nick Black's single drove in the second run. Senior left fielder Nathan Dewey capped the rally by going with a pitch on the outside edge for a 2-run single up the middle.

"I kind of realized that he was throwing outside," Dewey said. "I wanted to get out in front of it so I choked up a little bit and just poked it out there."

Sitter led Elgin's fourth-inning comeback. Batting third, he ripped a 1-0 fastball for a double to the left-center field fence, scoring Kyle Coates.

The extra-base hit came at the right time for the senior, who said he has been working with the Elgin coaching staff on taking bigger swings early in the count.

"I've been really frustrated lately taking those big swings and fouling it straight back and losing confidence," Sitter said. "This is the first time I've connected on one that well where I don't even feel it."

Matt Turner followed with a sharp single to left field. Sitter scored when the ball got past the left fielder for an error.

Otherwise, the Maroons had little luck against the brothers Venditti, and Geneva scored 4 runs in the seventh to put the game out of reach.

"Hunter threw great," Geneva coach Brad Wendell said. "It was a good outing for him and Tyler was sharp right after that. That's really good news for us."

Guido finished 2-for-4 with a double and Sean Baumgartner hit a 2-run single in the seventh inning for Geneva.

Elgin leadoff man Tim Mitchell joined Sitter and Turner as the only Maroons to hit safely.