

Press Clippings 9/12/2018

---Courier News --- 9/12/18

Big jump in U46 students doing reading program

By Rafael Guerrero Courier-News

Tally marks the second-highest recorded since 2012

Washington Elementary School in Elgin was recognized for the increase in the number of students participating in the summer reading challenge. (Rafael Guerrero/Courier-News)

Nearly 3,700 students in School District U46 elementary schools completed a district-sponsored summer reading challenge, district and library officials said.

The tally is the second-highest recorded since the challenge's inception in 2012. A total of 3,695 students completed the challenge, an increase of 629 students from summer 2017, according to the district. Officials on Monday said the participating students read for a combined 6 million minutes this summer.

All 40 District U46 elementary schools participated in the 2018 challenge. The reading program is a joint effort by the district and the Gail Borden, Poplar Creek, Bartlett and Carol Stream public library systems. The program is intended to help younger students avoid the "summer slide," in which reading skills and academic gains made the previous school year diminish during the break.

District U46 and Gail Borden officials were at Monday's school board meeting to recognize Lincoln Elementary School in Hoffman Estates and Washington Elementary School in Elgin. Lincoln Elementary won the 2018 challenge for having the highest completion rate among all the schools, with more than 37 percent of its students — 142 in all — meeting their reading log requirements.

Board members also recognized Washington Elementary for having the largest year-to-year jump in students completing the challenge. A total of 135 students completed their respective challenges this summer, up from 52 students in the summer of 2017. In a news release, Washington Elementary Principal Lori Brandes said staff used several methods to boost participation rates, such as posting on social media to encourage participation, sending emails to families and mailing six books home to a group of about 80 students.

Lincoln and Washington elementary principals were at Monday's meeting to be recognized by District U46 and its board.

raguerrero@tribpub.com

Twitter @rafaguerrero14

SPORTS SECTION

Girls The last go-round

Volleyball Notes

With 15 seniors, Elgin eyes historic season

Elgin senior Inga Suceska bumps a pass against Streamwood on Thursday. She is the team's only three-year varsity player. (Brian O'Mahoney/Courier-News photos) Suceska says the team is targeting the program record of 21 wins.

By Paul Johnson The Courier-News

Elgin senior Inga Suceska is the only three-year varsity player on the roster.

The setter/right side usually would be set up for a leadership role, mentoring younger players.

The thing is, Elgin has no younger players. All 15 players on the roster are seniors.

"It's really amazing," Suceska said. "It's really unique."

Coach Scott Stewart has had senior-laden teams before, but nothing like this.

"It's very interesting," Stewart said. "I've had teams with a lot of seniors, but not the entire roster. Five years ago I had eight, and that was crazy. Now I have 15."

The only real obstacle is getting everybody on the same page. The seniors have played on different levels throughout the years.

Suceska was on varsity as a sophomore. Half of this year's roster played with Suceska on varsity last year, but the other half played on the junior varsity team.

"It's been kind of a challenge, but we're getting there," Suceska said. "We're coming together really well. You just have to connect everyone. You have to make it like a family. It's like joining a new family every year. Everyone feels like they're a part of something."

Elgin (4-7) took a hit last weekend, losing all four matches at the West Chicago Pass, Set, Spike Tournament. The caveat is that Suceska and three other starters missed the tournament while taking the ACT.

The goals for the team have not changed. The program record of 21 wins, set in 1980, is one of them. Winning the first regional title since 1994 is another.

"Last year, we got really close," Suceska said of the Maroons' 17-win season. "We figured out that we could beat that record. This year, we really want to get there. When we have kids someday, we want to say, 'We were on that team.'"

Harvest jelling: Harvest Christian lost several key players off last year's team that finished fourth in Class 2A in the program's first trip to state.

The newcomers have stepped up. Sophomore Maya Jenkins is second on the team with 46 kills, followed by freshmen Hayley Martin (42) and Addison Nava (36).

"I'm happy with the young kids," coach Mike Bui said. "They've taken on a huge load. They came together pretty fast. Our senior leadership has been great. I've coached for 17 years, and this is by far the best group of kids that I've coached in terms of getting along. They're always hanging out together. It makes the trust on the court very easy."

The Lions (5-3) face a huge test this week in the Wheaton Classic at Wheaton Warrenville South, opening play Wednesday against perennial power Prairie Ridge.

“We’ll get beat up, but I want them to be challenged,” Bui said. “My goal is to get ready for the postseason. That’s all I care about.”

Coaching Bartlett : Bartlett didn’t even have a head coach two days before the Aug. 22 season opener at Willowbrook.

Boys coach Robert Schwantz took over on an interim basis.

The lack of stability in the coaching staff hasn’t done anything to slow down the Hawks (10-3, 2-0), who are undefeated in the Upstate Eight.

Bartlett won the U46 tournament and last weekend’s West Chicago Tournament.

“Things are going very well right now,” Schwantz said.

Bartlett still has two big tournaments before the postseason. The Hawks will be at the Hampshire Tournament on Sept. 29 and the two-day Lake Park Invitational on Oct. 19 and 20, the weekend before playoffs begin.

Paul Johnson is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

---Daily Herald --- 9/12/18

Girls volleyball: Fox Valley roundup

Daily Herald Reports

After a 25-21 win for Elgin in the first set, West Aurora rallied to win the final two, 25-9, 25-18, for an Upstate Eight Conference win Tuesday.

Kendra Battle had 10 kills, 2 aces and 6 digs for the Blackhawks (11-4). Chloe Myers (8 kills), Hannah Gove (2 aces, 6 kills, 4 digs), Lauren Greenwood (11 digs, 3 aces), Jenna Millen (2 aces, 13 assists) and Kiara McPherson (2 kills, 10 assists) also contributed.

For Elgin (4-8), Inga Sucasca had an ace, 4 digs, 11 assists, 3 kills and 3 blocks, and Kennedy Venable had 6 digs and 7 kills.

Jacobs d. Dundee-Crown: The Golden Eagles won 25-21, 25-21 behind Jordyn Kelly (2 aces), Katelyn Lodi (3 kills), Jaclyn Poirier (3 aces), Kristen Wilson (3 kills, 3 aces), Rachel Kaczorowski (21 assists, 7 digs, 2 blocks), Maggie Wallenberger (5 kills, 2 digs), Taishnayilesdi Ramirez (10 kills, 6 digs), Andie Voss (3 digs) and Maddie Breeze (5 digs).

For Dundee-Crown, MacKenzie Field had 6 kills, Claire Muhvic had 5 kills and 7 digs, and Olivia Miller had 5 kills and 5 digs. Jenna Brown set 19 assists.

Prairie Ridge d. Huntley: In a 15-25, 25-23, 25-23 loss, the Red Raiders (5-2) fell two games behind PR in the Fox Valley Conference standings despite Julia Johnson's 2 aces, 12 kills and 13 digs, Loren Alberts with 5 kills, 15 blocks and 2 digs, and Taylor Jakubowski with 3 aces, 3 kills, 4 blocks and 15 digs.

Bartlett d. West Chicago: The Hawks won 25-21, 25-17 behind Madison Hankins (13 assists, 8 digs, 4 kills), Samantha Martino (8 digs, 4 aces), Dakota Johnson (7 assists, 3 digs, 3 kills), and Isabella Diaz (4 kills).

Batavia d. Glenbard North: The Bulldogs (5-10, 1-1) pulled out a DuKane Conference win 25-23, 23-25, 25-23.

Maddy Boyer had a career-high 20 kills including the kill on match point. Becca Robinson set 23 assists with 2 aces and 10 digs, Lauren Haefer had 11 digs, and Priya Dave and Alexis Whelpley both had 3 blocks.

South Elgin d. Larkin: The Storm (7-4, 3-0) won 25-9, 25-9 behind Hayley Fisher (6 kills, 6 digs), Emily Wellman (13 digs), McKayla Geraghty (9 digs, 2 aces), Rylee Pompa (5 kills) and Anna Skrzpach (9 assists).