

## Press Clippings 01/14/2019

### SPORTS

---Daily Herald---01/14/2019

### Strong first half sends South Elgin past Larkin

By: Scott Miller

South Elgin may have had a letdown in the second half on Friday night, but they could more than afford it after a tremendous first half.

The Storm could do little wrong as they built a 40-20 halftime lead against visiting Larkin and then coasted to a 55-42 win in Upstate Eight Conference action. The win keeps South Elgin (13-6, 7-2) within 2 games of conference front-runner West Aurora.

"That first half was one of the best one's we have had all year," South Elgin coach Brett Johnson said. "We really got it done on the defensive end. Larkin is a quick athletic team and I thought we did a good job of keeping them in front of us and contesting shots. We guarded as one team and that's what we need to do."

Vincent Miskiewicz set the tone early on the defensive end with a couple blocked shots in the opening minute. Larkin went on to shoot just 2 of 19 from inside the arc in the first half.

"I thought the whole team played phenomenal defense," Miskiewicz said. "Getting those blocks at the start got our energy up. Even when we struggled to score in the second half we continued to play defense and that kept us in the lead."

Miskiewicz finished with a game-high 18 points to go with 11 rebounds and 6 blocks.

"Vince knows what he needs to do and he just does it," Johnson said. "I think his decision making on blocks has got a lot better. He's become more patient instead of just jumping and swatting. His whole game just continues to develop and get better."

On the offensive end it was some sharp perimeter shooting that set the tone for South Elgin early on. Jace Warrick knocked down a couple 3-pointers in the first quarter. He finished with 12 points.

Lane Mcvicar also had a 3-pointer in the opening quarter as the Storm jumped to an 18-6 lead. The outside shooting opened the floodgates inside for Miskiewicz, who scored 10 of his points in the second quarter, as South Elgin continued to build on its lead.

"When you make shots good things are going to happen," Johnson said. "I thought we pushed the ball up the floor tonight and knocked down some shots early to get us going."

Larkin was short-handed with 5 players out due to injury and started 2 freshmen. After their struggles in the first half and a brief but effective halftime talk the Royals played much better in the second half. They outscored the Storm 22-15 over the final two quarters.

"I think you try to take something from both halves and learn from them," Larkin coach Deryn Carter said. "I was encouraged with the way they responded from the halftime message. It's never a lack of desire with this team. It just continues to be a learning process."

Damari Wheeler-Thomas had 12 points to lead the Royals in scoring. Fernando Perez added 11 points.

## **Bartlett, Batavia stay hot**

### **Daily Herald Reports**

Bartlett closed in on a 20-win season on Saturday, beating Huntley 49-32 to improve to 19-3.

Mackenzie Hare led the Hawks with 18 points. Lexie Sinclair scored 14 and Teagan Noesen 9.

Kamsi Nwogu paced Huntley (6-13) with 12 points.

Batavia 40, Wheaton North 36: The Bulldogs (11-10, 4-3) ran their winning streak to 5 games. After a low-scoring first half with the game tied at 10, Batavia scored 22 points in the third quarter to take control.

Hailey Orman made four 3-pointers in the second half to finish with 12 points. Erin Golden scored 13 points and Ava Sergio had 10.

Aurora Central Catholic 48, St. Francis 38: Down by 4 at halftime, the Chargers (7-13) outscored St. Francis 32-18 in the second half for the come-from-behind win.

Delani Kosner led the Chargers with 16 points and 5 rebounds. Lizzie Albert scored 8 points, and Tressa Cwinski had 8 points and 8 rebounds.

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## Vincent's price

Miszkievicz's early blocked shots pay off as South Elgin defeats Larkin

By: Paul Johnson



- South Elgin's Vincent Miszkiewicz shoots over three Larkin defenders Friday. He had 18 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks.



- Larkin's Damari Wheeler-Thomas, who scored 12 points, drives past South Elgin's Trace Ashby on Friday.

South Elgin's Vincent Miszkiewicz has been on a shot-blocking spree.

His two blocks in the first minute Friday night against Larkin set the tone for a 55-42 Upstate Eight Conference win.

The senior forward swatted shots on Larkin's first two possessions, helping to spark South Elgin (13-6, 7-2) to a 20-point halftime lead.

"Our first half, we usually come out slow," Miszkiewicz said. "But (Friday) once I blocked those shots, our energy got up and we started playing basketball.

"The first half showed a lot. We were pushing the ball in transition. We were making layups. We were finding open guys on the three-point line. We were playing phenomenal defense too."

South Elgin went on an 18-0 run in the first half to open a 24-6 lead. The lead swelled to 40-20 at halftime.

“That was one of our best halves of the season,” South Elgin coach Brett Johnson said. “It wasn’t even offensively. It was done on the defensive end.

“We found ways to keep them from getting open looks at the basket, and we guarded and played as one team, one unit. That’s what we needed. If we can do that, I think we can hang with anybody.”

Defense helped the Storm overcome a four-point third quarter.

While Johnson said he was disappointed with the team’s performance in the second half, Miskiewicz looked at the positives.

“We played defense,” he said. “We were emphasizing defense in practice. If we’re struggling, just play defense because that can always keep us in the game. It kept us in the game in the third quarter.”

Larkin (7-12, 4-5) responded to coach Deryn Carter’s halftime talk with a better effort in the second half.

Despite being without five players, including injured starter Pierre Black, the Royals outscored the Storm 9-4 in the third quarter and 22-15 in the second half.

“They had an opportunity to respond to the message we gave them at halftime,” Carter said. “It’s definitely important that they do that, and they did, so that’s an encouraging sign.”

Damari Wheeler-Thomas led Larkin with 12 points. Fernando Perez Jr. added 11. Jace Warrick scored all 12 of his points in the first half for South Elgin.

Miskiewicz had a line similar to his recent performances, scoring 18 points with 11 rebounds and six blocks.

“He knows what he has to do,” Johnson said of Miskiewicz. “He knows he has to be a defensive force inside.

“He’s gotten so much better at decision-making on his blocks. He’s not trying to jump and swat. He’s just waiting and waiting and then he gets the block and continues to go for the rebounds.”