

Press Clippings 01/29/2019

---The Courier-News---01/29/2019

Frigid blast of arctic air coming on heels of 5 inches of snow in Elgin, new record cold could be set this week

By: Rafael Guerrero



- A frozen Fox River near the Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin is covered by more than five inches of snow that fell on the city Sunday and Monday. Historically cold temperatures are in the forecast for the coming week.

A storm that dumped as much as 5.5 inches of snow in the [Elgin](#) area Sunday into Monday, prompting school closures, is to be followed by a dangerous blast of record cold that could mean more time out of class for local students this week, officials said.

The [National Weather Service](#) is calling for a high of 0 in Elgin during the day Tuesday before the numbers drop to a low of 25-below Tuesday night, 16-below during the day Wednesday and 30-below Wednesday night.

Wind chills could make it feel as cold as 50 below zero, weather service meteorologist meteorologist Amy Seeley said.

The all-time low of minus-27 for the Elgin area was recorded in January 1985, Seeley said. Elgin temperature records date back to 1983.

“It could break the record. We’ll wait and see,” she said.

Elgin police spokeswoman Kristie Hilton said police responded to eight accidents due to the snow and no injuries were reported. Things could have been worse had the storm come through during an afternoon commute or had school not been canceled by so many districts, Lt. Pat Gengler with the Kane County Sheriff’s Office said.

While all Elgin-area school districts canceled class Monday no announcements had been made for the rest of the week as of Monday evening.

On his social media page, U46 CEO Tony Sanders shared information about how plant operations personnel were clearing out school buses for classes to resume Tuesday. He also offered tips on how to handle subzero temperatures, suggesting things like making sure there’s food in the house, keeping the thermostat high to prevent frozen pipes and having flashlights, batteries and blankets ready.

School District 303 spokeswoman Carol Smith said they anticipate schools being open Tuesday but a decision on Wednesday and Thursday likely won't be made until Tuesday, when the latest forecasts are available.

"There is no doubt that wind chills will be dangerously low," Smith said. "It's not an easy decision to make. We don't want students to be going to class through mid-June. But student and staff safety is the number one concern."

---Daily Herald---01/26/2019

When is it cold enough to close schools?

By: Jake Griffin



- When it comes to closing schools for extreme cold, some districts have guidelines with specific temperature outcomes that have to be met before closing.

After Naperville Unit District 203 Superintendent Dan Bridges posted on his Twitter account Thursday night that he was monitoring weather conditions to determine if school would be in session Friday, he was flooded with hundreds of tweets begging him to call off classes.

Ultimately, those pleas fell on deaf ears as Bridges announced early Friday morning that school was a go.

"We don't have a hard and fast rule when to close schools for cold weather," said the district's communications director Sinikka Mondini. "The ultimate goal is to keep kids safe and keep them in school."

Mondini said Bridges was in consult with other area superintendents and the DuPage Regional Office of Education before making the decision. In the end, only a few schools in northern Lake and McHenry counties canceled classes Friday.

Despite predictions that temperatures weren't going to get much above zero degrees all day, that's not cold enough for most schools to cancel classes.

"For cold weather closures, we have a response plan we put in place several years ago and it sets the bar for anyone to understand," said Palatine-Schaumburg High School District 211 spokesman Tom Petersen.

Forecasts of sustained wind chill of negative 30 degrees or lower or sustained temperatures of minus 15 degrees or lower will get school canceled at most districts in Northwest Suburban Cook County, Petersen said.

"This took the guessing game out of whether we'll be closed or not," he added.

In other districts, officials are far more apt to make the decision case-by-case.

"While there is no set standard, we typically get concerned when there's a sustained wind chill of negative 25 or below," said Elgin Area Unit District 46 CEO Tony Sanders. "We actively monitor weather and have subscribed to a service that provides us with up-to-date alerts that are specific to the 90 square miles we serve."

There are a lot of variables that go into determining whether to close schools due to cold, said St. Charles Unit District 303 spokeswoman Carol Smith. The readiness of the schools, buses and other equipment and facilities needed during the school day are all taken into account, she said.

"Transportation is a really important issue," Smith said. "Seventy-eight percent of our students ride the bus."

Some parents believe elementary and unit districts are quicker to cancel classes than high school districts because the students are older and better equipped to take care of themselves.

However, Mondini said that's not necessarily the case.

"You have to think about all students, including some seniors who maybe aren't dressing appropriately to walk to school," she said.

District officials said they continue to monitor the weather forecasts for the coming days as temperatures are expected to warm up slightly this weekend and then dip back down even colder next week.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---01/26/2019

South Elgin shoots past Maroons

By: Scott Miller

While the temperatures outside may have been frigid things heated up in a hurry inside the South Elgin gymnasium on Friday night. The host Storm and visiting Elgin set a torrid pace in the first quarter combining for 21 baskets and 54 total points. However, the Maroons eventually cooled off while South Elgin (17-6, 10-2) remained red hot and pulled away to an 85-58 win in Upstate Eight Conference action.

Drake Montgomery led a quartet of double digit scorers for South Elgin with a team-high 20 points. Vince Miskiewicz was right behind with 18 points. Trace Ashby added 16 and Alex Errington finished with 13 points.

Most teams would be happy to score 29 points like the Storm did in the first quarter, but head coach Brett Johnson wasn't too thrilled about giving up 25 points on the other end.

"It was just pretty much a track meet," Johnson said. "It was probably a lot of fun for the fans to watch, but not so fun for a coach. I thought we played out of control and undisciplined. That's not the style we want to play. We always want to be focused on

playing solid defense and making good decisions on offense. We didn't really execute that plan for most of the first half."

Still South Elgin led 46-38 at halftime. But the second half was much more to Johnson's liking as the Storm tightened the screws on the defensive end to hold the Maroons to 20 points.

"We rebounded better and held them to just one shot," Johnson said. "We gave them some different looks defensively with zones and it paid off."

The Storm outscored the Maroons 22-8 in the third quarter to pull out to a 68-46 advantage.

"We started executing our press break," Johnson said. "We did a good job of making the extra pass and when Drake got the ball he did a great job of attacking the basket."

Montgomery had 12 points in the third quarter.

"I just started taking it to the rim," Montgomery said. "That first half isn't what we want. We want to be focused on locking teams down defensively. We flicked the switch on at halftime. We did a better job of identifying their shooters and staying in front of them."

Kamarr Banks had 20 points, including six 3-pointers, to lead the Maroons in scoring.

"We are seeing growth," Elgin coach David Hess. "We have been playing better in stretches on offense. Now we have to put that together for a full game."

"Give credit to South Elgin. They have a really good team. They have multiple guys who can score and who can shoot and that makes them tough to defend."

Larkin races past Bartlett in 2nd half

By: Craig Brueske

There are times when halftime ties don't feel particularly comforting.

After starting the game on an 11-0 run through the first 4-plus minutes, Larkin's double-digit lead turned into a 26-26 halftime deadlock against Bartlett Friday night.

"A lot of times as a coach those are the worst halftimes because you feel like maybe you should be up by more (points)," said Larkin coach Deryn Carter. "But we probably didn't execute as well as we should have which is why they (the Hawks) took advantage of some situations."

Larkin (9-14, 6-6) responded with a vengeance, outscoring Bartlett 44-28 over the final 16 minutes during its 70-54 Upstate Eight Conference victory in Bartlett.

Junior Jashon Johnson-Neals, senior Victor Perez and freshman Damari Wheeler-Thomas combined for 53 points, 20 of them coming in the third quarter when the Royals outscored the Hawks 24-9.

"It looked like we got our rhythm offensively but it started on the defensive end," said Carter, whose team forced 4 third-quarter turnovers. "It has always been a staple of what we do -- trying to get stuff on the defensive end."

Wheeler-Thomas (16 points) connected on a pair of 3-point baskets in the first couple minutes of the third quarter while Perez (16 points, 3 steals) nailed a 3-pointer from the key and Johnson-Neals (game-high 21 points) added a 3-point play during the Royals' 12-2 surge that extended the lead to 38-28.

After the Hawks (9-13, 4-8) cut the deficit to 39-33 on the third of four 3-point baskets from sophomore guard Clark Lewis (14 points), Larkin closed out the third quarter on an 11-2 run to make it 50-35.

The late run included a 3-pointer by Johnson-Neals and back-to-back buckets from Perez, highlighted by a Euro-step driving layup.

"Our defense started it all," said Johnson-Neals, who added 5 rebounds, 5 assists and a pair of steals. "Coach always talks about the three E's -- energetic, enthusiasm and energy. That's what we had."

Johnson-Neals also made 7 of 9 free throws as the Royals got to the foul line 16 times -- making 12.

"I can go off the drive real quickly and that's when I get to the rim," said Johnson-Neals.

Senior reserve guard Anthony Ramirez capped the night by draining a 3-pointer in the final minute as the Royals notched their second straight win.

"I liked the way our guys responded in the second half," said Carter. "We got a couple guys back. This was Pierre Black's first game back (from an injury). We got him a couple minutes here and there."

Austin Gates added 14 points and 8 rebounds for the Hawks.

"We came out flat and soft in the beginning of the game," said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. "In the third quarter, we came out flat offensively and then toward the end of the third quarter we just stopped.

"We started throwing the ball away. Those guys (the Royals) feed off of that. The minute you start showing signs of weakness, they'll go right for the jugular."

---Daily Herald---01/27/2019

Streamwood's team effort sinks Maroons; Cooper sets Elgin's blocks mark

By: Allen Oshinski

When Streamwood's shots finally started falling, they started falling for everybody.

Nine different players scored as the Sabres downed Elgin, 75-39, in Upstate Eight action Saturday in Streamwood.

As usual, Mandy Mien and Riya Patel led the way with 17 and 12 points, respectively, but three other players scored 9 apiece.

Alexis Rojas, Kaylee Angle and Peyton Hedger just missed double figures for Streamwood. All of Angle's and Hedger's points came on 3-pointers, as they combined for 5 in the fourth quarter alone.

Elgin's Dajha Cooper broke the school's record for blocked shots formerly held by Leslie Schock. Cooper now has 103 rejections.

Cooper also had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Sarah Moskow added 15 points and 10 boards for the Maroons.

"Obviously, our first period went a little bit slow," said Mein. "Eventually we got a little bit of confidence. From there we gained momentum and played as a team throughout the entire game."

The game was tied 6-6 at the halfway point of the first quarter, but a 3-pointer by Patel ignited a 13-2 run that put Streamwood in command. The Sabres used a 10-0 run at the end of the half to pull away further.

The Maroons (6-21, 2-13) could never get untracked offensively, with 38 turnovers contributing to their downfall.

"Turnovers and Mandy (Mien) were the two things that did us in," said Elgin coach Dr. Nick Bumbales. "Every time we made a little run, they hit a 3 or Mandy had a big steal and a basket to put it away. But, yeah, the turnovers did not help us whatsoever."

Streamwood shot just 36 percent in the first half, but Mien and Patel kept them safely in front with drives to the basket and jump shots.

The Sabres led 36-20 at halftime and extended the advantage to 50-32 in the third quarter.

The shots really began falling in the fourth quarter. Hedger and Angle combined for 3-pointers on 3 straight possessions to make it 69-39 in the late going.

Colleen Veguilla added 7 points and Vickie Kopko 6 for Streamwood.