

Press Clippings 03/25/2019

---The Daily Herald---03/23/2019

U-46 school board hopefuls discuss whether teachers should be armed

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



Eva Porter



Kathleen Thommes



Daniel Hancock



Jeannette Ward



John Devereux



Ina Silva-Sobolewski



Susan Kerr



Tina Rio

Elgin Area School District U-46 school board hopefuls are divided on whether they would support arming teachers, if allowed by state law.

Incumbents Jeanette Ward of West Chicago and Sue Kerr and John Devereux, both of Bartlett, and newcomers Tina Rio of Bartlett, Kathleen Thommes of Elgin and Eva Porter, Daniel Hancock and Ina Silva-Sobolewski, all of Hanover Park, are vying for four, 4-year seats on April 2.

In November, the Illinois Association of School Boards voted overwhelmingly against supporting legislation that would let local school boards train and arm teachers and administrators in schools. The state legislature would have to take up and approve the measure before it could be allowed statewide.

Currently, Illinois school districts aren't allowed to let anyone knowingly possess a firearm within 1,000 feet of schools under the federal Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990.

During a recent candidate forum, Devereux, Kerr, Porter and Thommes unequivocally rejected the idea of arming school personnel, while Hancock, Silva-Sobolewski and Ward qualified their support as long as there is adequate training for employees.

Porter, 64, a retired teacher, said whether teachers are trained or not, having guns in the classroom is dangerous.

"I just don't know how you can lock down a gun, and if something happens, how can you go get it if it's locked down?" she said. "We should have trained people that we pay and employ to be able to do that."

Thommes, 44, also an educator, emphatically said, "no guns in schools." She added, she supports having trained police and school resource officers in schools.

"They can have guns. Nobody else gets them," she said.

Hancock, 68, a retired electrical engineer, said school districts should be allowed to decide locally whether to arm personnel.

"There could be a need specifically in a rural district," he said.

Ward, 45, a product manager for an international chemical company completing her first term on the board, said all a criminal would need to do is take out a school resource officer to have control of an entire school. She supports arming teachers, if they are properly trained.

"I believe there is no bigger attraction for a criminal than a gun-free zone," she said. "Guns in the hands of good people are a deterrent to evil. Who are we to tie the hands of our teachers when they and their children's lives are on the line?"

Kerr, 62, also a one-term incumbent and a retired computer programmer/analyst, said arming teachers could create more problems.

"Is a teacher supposed to leave his or her classroom and run after the intruder?" she asked adding, what if police were to mistake armed teachers for the intruder. "You only need one mistake."

Kerr said teachers couldn't easily get the type of training police officers undergo.

Devereux, 52, an actuary appointed to the board last June, said U-46 already partners with local police departments that have resource officers in some schools and should explore other options before arming district personnel.

"Data show that police officers in 20 to 30 percent of the situations hit their target when firing their weapon," he said. "That's not an indictment of police officers, but instead it demonstrates the volatility of very dangerous situations. There is no way that teachers could get the training, the lifelong, situational, in-depth training that police officers have. By introducing more guns into schools, we would in effect be making a dangerous situation even more dangerous."

Silva-Sobolewski, 56, a Portuguese translator/interpreter, urged constituents to draw their own conclusions about whether arming teachers is necessary in today's climate of mass shootings.

"It's up to our judgment ... the safety of our children is extremely important, and the safety of our teachers, as well," she said.

Rio, 52, who works for the airline industry and aligns herself with Ward, Hancock and Silva-Sobolewski, did not participate in the forum. Attempts to reach her were unsuccessful.

SPORTS

---The Daily Herald---03/24/2019

Baseball: Streamwood hits the road, knocks off Hoffman Estates

By: Scott Walsh

After delaying the start time of their game against Hoffman Estates three different times in an effort to get their field in playable condition Saturday, Streamwood finally threw in the towel and switched it to the Hawks' diamond, meaning the Sabres played their first home game on the road.

No matter. The Sabres pounced on Hoffman Estates and rolled to a 14-4, five-inning victory. Tyler Jones (1-0) picked up the win. The junior right-hander pitched four innings and gave up four hits but was never in serious jeopardy. Classmate Colin Bielinski pitched the final inning and, after a bloop leadoff double to right, retired the side, stranding the runner at second.

"When Tyler was pounding the zone, getting ahead of them in the count, he was great," said Sabres coach Ryan Lasota. "And considering we've only been on a dirt infield before today, this is a great way to start the season. We had a couple of misplayed balls in the first inning and gave up a run early, but I loved the way we battled back and put up four in the bottom half."

Streamwood (1-0) got big-time production from the top of the lineup, as the leadoff-through-cleanup spots went a combined 9-for-15, scored 5 runs and drove in eight.

Jordan Acosta got roughed up on the mound and took the loss for Hoffman Estates (0-4). The southpaw gave up 10 runs on 9 hits in three innings and walked three.

The Hawks drew first blood in the top of the first, scoring an unearned run when Acosta reached on a two-base error, took third on an infield out and then scored on a fielders choice by Jim Kliver.

But Streamwood wasted no time responding. After Jones (2-for-4, 2 runs scored, 1 RBI) and AJ Reyna (2-for-3, 1 run, 1 RBI) both singled, a pair of passed balls scored Jones and put Reyna on third. Connor Johnson (1-for-4, 2 runs, 1 RBI) then worked the count against Acosta and hit the tenth pitch thrown to him deep into left for a double, scoring Reyna. Dylan Caruso coaxed a walk, and then Bielinski hit a high fly ball toward right field that got lost in the sun and dropped for a two-base hit, scoring Johnson and Caruso to give Streamwood a 4-1 lead after one.

The Sabres added to that with a six-run third. After Johnson reached on an error to open the frame, Caruso singled and Bielinski drew a base on balls to load the bases for Dillon Skelnik, who singled through the box, scoring Johnson and Caruso. Acosta beamed Scott Wolfard to reload the bases, and Alanis (3-for-4, 2 runs, 5 RBI) pounded a bases-clearing double to deep center. Two outs later Anthony Caruso (2-for-4) doubled to the gap in right-center, scoring Alanis and putting Streamwood up 10-1.

Showing some grit, Hoffman Estates pushed across three in the top of the fourth. Logan Willis, Kliver, and Ernesto Alvarez all singled to load the bases for Owen Spear, who got hit by an errant Jones pitch to score Willis. Nathan Meister then doubled to right,

scoring Kliver and Alvarez before Spear got cut down trying to score on an overthrow at the plate.

Streamwood scored four more in the bottom of the fourth to restore the lead to 10, then Lasota turned the ball over to Bielinski to close the game out.

"We're young and we're looking for leaders," said Hoffman Estates first-year coach Andrew Wulbecker. "We play a tough schedule. At the beginning of the year I told these guys, because now we know who we need to beat, and that's how it's going to be come playoff time. Our nonconference schedule is really, really tough. Streamwood's a good team; they've beaten us three of the last four years."

Boys volleyball: Short-handed Grayslake Central wins own quad

By: Bill Pemstein



Grayslake Central's Tyler Armstrong (4) hits through the block of Streamwood's Kevin Patino (10) and Carlos Jasso Saturday during the Grayslake Central boys volleyball tournament.



Grayslake Central's Emmanuel Eugene (3) hits against Streamwood's Bryan Aguada Saturday during the Grayslake Central boys volleyball tournament.

Grayslake Central boys volleyball coach Dan Erlenbaugh also serves as spokesperson for the sport he coaches.

When approached by a baseball player, for example, he will say:

"(The temperature for) volleyball is always 70 degrees. There are never any rainouts. And volleyball takes about an hour to play."

Saturday marked the Grayslake Quad, which also included Larkin, Huntley and Streamwood.

Erlenbaugh was willing to make excuses for his club. His middle blockers were out with injuries and, being Spring Break, some players and their families took trips out of town.

So the coach raided the sophomore team for recruits.

And the Rams were the only team to go home without a loss. They won all three of their matches to improve to 4-0 on the season.

The final match of the day came when undersized Streamwood took on the Rams.

"We have a 6-foot-2 kid, but he's in Florida," said coach Jonathan Bacheller, whose Sabres finished 1-2 after losing to Grayslake Central 25-22, 25-13.

Grayslake Central has some gifted players, including junior outside Emmanuel Eugene, setter Steve Reinoso and senior hitter Issac Dahlstrom. Eugene and Dahlstrom registered aces in the first set as the Rams opened up a 10-6 lead. Soon enough, the advantage stretched to 21-15.

Abraham Martinez went to serve for Streamwood. Hard-hitting Joseph Huizar put one down. Carlos Jasso scored another point for the Sabres, Jasso added another kill, and the Rams' lead was 22-19.

"This was a good tournament for us," Bacheller said. "We had a little fun."

Set two was all Rams. With Dahlstrom serving, he notched a pair of aces and got kills from Eugene and Reinoso. Dahlstrom had 15 kills in the quad.

"We played pretty well over here," Dahlstrom said.

Eugene led the Rams offense with 20 kills.

"I play volleyball because it's fun to and exciting to play," Eugene said. "I think we have a pretty solid team."

Huizar led Streamwood with 30 kills. Setter Jasso notched 57 assists. Libero Martinez had 38 digs. Streamwood did manage a win over Huntley in the quad.

Larkin also fell to Grayslake Central but won its other two matches.

"We learned a lot about our team," Larkin coach Katie Smiley said. "We graduated a lot of seniors last year. We really stepped up today. I'm proud of our team."

Grayslake Central's Reinoso, notched 46 assists, while Kaleb Patrick led the Rams with 18 digs. Sophomore Jordan Kulis paced the Rams with 8 blocks, and Tyler Armstrong had 10 kills.

---The Daily Herald---03/23/2019

Girls soccer: Siblings making an impact all around Fox Valley

By: Chris Walker



St. Charles East's Alondra Carranza, right, learned a lot from her older sister Chantel, now at Grand Valley State.



Amy Leon, right, and her sister Kelly are two of the key players this spring for Larkin.



Kelly Stayart, right, is now playing at Missouri while her sister Jenna is back at Cary-Grove after scoring 14 goals as a freshman.

It sounds so simple, but if you just be yourself, you're different than anyone else.

Now imagine trying to do it on a high school girls soccer team where your older sister has been a star, and since you share the same last name, some expect the same things from you.

The Fox Valley area has several teams this spring where such a dynamic exists. Some of those sisters will play together. Others will make a name for themselves now that their older sisters have graduated. And coaches will try to avoid developing false expectations because sharing the same last name does not mean that someone possesses the same skills.

West Aurora junior Audrey Stephens learned how to be a leader from her sister Katharine, who now plays for Loyola-Chicago.

"Playing with her freshman year was a lot of fun and now I have been able to take over that leadership role that I learned from her," Audrey said. "We both play forward, but I like to play the target role. That's my main thing and that's different from my sister."

West Aurora coach Laura Wagley recognized a key difference between the sisters and has utilized their best strengths.

"They play the same position but are different," Wagley said. "Kat was so direct that she wanted the ball at every instant. Audrey is way better moving off the ball and we've formed our offense knowing that."

St. Charles North's Sami and Hailey Rydberg and Gia and CeCe Wahlberg have played together for years, but while Sami's a junior and CeCe's a senior, Hailey's now playing at Iowa and Gia's at Michigan State.

"We've all grown up playing together so I don't feel any added pressure, it just kind of goes along with not wanting to disappoint any of my teammates," CeCe said. "It's more me striving to fill (Gia's) shoes a little more than me comparing myself to her, because it's different positions and you can't compare to another player. But she's still a role model to me."

Harvest Christian freshman Becca D'Alessandro gets to play with her sophomore sister Maggie this spring.

"It's really just more comfortable with her being on the team and knowing I can just be myself and show my skills and have fun," Becca said. "And it's been easier since I knew some of the girls on the team already because of Maggie."

Although just in her second season with the Lions, Maggie likes being a young leader.

"It's fun to be a part of her development," she said. "I love helping push her to be more competitive and to be able to see her play and have fun on the field."

St. Charles East junior defender Alondra Carranza plays a much different role than older sister Chantel, who is now at Grand Valley State. Chantel was one of the area's top offensive weapons the past few seasons before sustaining a knee injury and graduating last year. Alondra's on the back line.

"I think Chantel set a pretty high bar for both her brother (Sebastian) and her sister," Saints coach Vince DiNuzzo said. "As for Alondra, I know she looks up to her sister, but she is self-motivated. They play two different positions so it is not easy to compare them other than the fact that they have very similar soccer IQs. I see similarities in their competitive spirit and work rate which is attributed to her family and club staff."

Elgin senior Emily Graves founded the Best Buddies program at Elgin with her sister Kylie (2018) who proceeded to be named valedictorian last year and was also the 2017-18 Daily Herald Fox Valley Female Athlete of the Year.

"Being so close in age we've been super close and been able to play sports together our whole life and she's been a huge inspiration with how competitive she is," Emily said. "She's been such a great example for me. We're similar on the field, but different, but watching her style, her approach and her lead has inspired me and made me a better player. I'm very proud of her and I'm definitely her biggest fan in that regard."

The collective message is to just be yourself. It doesn't matter if you grew up idolizing Brandi Chastain, Mia Hamm, Abby Wambach or anyone with the USA women's national team.

It doesn't make a difference if you're a big-time scorer like Larkin sophomore Kelly Leon (34 goals last year) and your older sister Amy is a junior defender. If you're a sophomore like Jenna Stayart (14 goals as a freshman) at Cary-Grove and your all-state sister Kelly Stayart (15 goals, 10 assists as a senior in 2018) is now playing at Missouri. If you're senior twins like Kaneland's Erin and Emma Ball (66 saves, 8 shutouts last spring) and Emma can use her hands to stop shots as a goalkeeper while Erin cannot as a defender. Or if you're Sarah Erickson and made the Elgin varsity as a freshman and your older sister Hannah was a fantastic goalie who graduated two years ago.

Or even if you're Westminster Christian junior Kylee Siers and your sister Johanna graduated last year but your dad, Dave, is still your coach. Whoever you are, just be yourself.

"It is always a cool experience when two of your children get to compete together, but there is an added blessing to be able to be their coach," Dave said. "As much as this is about the sport of soccer and competing, the environment and relationships the girls have created at Westminster through soccer is definitely a highlight."

The same certainly could be said for all of the other schools where sisters are also teammates.