

Press Clippings 02/01/20 to 02/03/20

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There are no U-46 related news stories.

---Daily Herald---01/02/2020

U-46 official: South Elgin elementary school principal on paid leave

U-46 doesn't say why

By: Mary Chappell

A principal at Clinton Elementary School in South Elgin is on administrative leave, a U-46 official confirmed Saturday.

Mary Fergus, director of school and community relations, said John Oliver, Clinton's principal, is on paid leave but didn't elaborate.

Administrators notified parents of Oliver's status Thursday, according to emails posted in a U-46-related Facebook group. They said Chris Dennison, a retired U-46 administrator, will serve as the interim principal until further notice.

In a later email sent to parents, officials emphasized the importance of student needs.

"We recognize that this is a time of uncertainty for us all," the email said. "Our goal through this correspondence is to assure our Clinton community that we will continue to be here to support your child's social emotional needs."

The email also said plans for the leadership of the school would be communicated with parents in the coming weeks and a parent meeting with Clinton's PTO will be scheduled for parent and guardian involvement.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---01/02/2020

Ball bounces Fremd's way at South Elgin

By: Jerry Fitzpatrick



Fremd's Russell Beaupre gets to a loose ball before South Elgin's Drew Cwik in a boys basketball game in South Elgin Saturday.



South Elgin's Drew Cwik drives low into Fremd's Tafara Okammor in a boys basketball game in South Elgin Saturday.



Fremd's Max Wexley puts in a reverse layup against South Elgin's Lane McVicar in a boys basketball game in South Elgin Saturday.



Fremd's Charlie Towns and South Elgin's Kendis Wiley battle for a loose ball on the floor in a boys basketball game in South Elgin Saturday.



South Elgin's Lane McVicar eyes the basket against Fremd's Charlie Towns in a boys basketball game in South Elgin Saturday.



Fremd's Russell Beaupre drives against South Elgin's Josh Genz in a boys basketball game in South Elgin Saturday.

Sometimes the rim giveth.

Sometimes the rim taketh away.

Trailing Fremd by a point with 7.5 seconds to play in overtime Saturday, host South Elgin inbounded the basketball from the sideline just inside midcourt.

The Storm executed to near perfection the pick-and-roll play coach Brett Johnson had drawn up in the preceding timeout.

Sophomore Kendis Wiley set a perimeter pick on Fremd senior guard Russell Beaupre then rolled toward the basket as Fremd forward Jack Walsh switched to cover South Elgin guard John Aaron Wafford.

Wafford fed a pass over both Vikings to the rolling Wiley. The 6-foot-4 sophomore caught the ball in stride, took a step and quickly released a shot over oncoming defenders Matt Wingen and Matt Smearman just before the buzzer sounded.

The bank shot bounced once on the rim.

Then twice.

Two seconds felt like eternity.

Then the ball rolled off the front rim. Fremd exhaled after a 37-36 nonconference win.

"I can see it in my brain rolling off the rim," Smearman said of the suspenseful shot. "We'll take it."

"I was nervous. I'm not gonna lie," Fremd guard Max Wexley said. "But it didn't go in and we pulled out the win. I'm grateful for that."

It was a tough break for Wiley, who led the Storm with 10 points on 4-of-7 shooting. He raised both hands to his head in disbelief after the final buzzer. So did three teammates on the court. Ditto a couple of guys on the bench. The loss dropped the Storm to 10-14.

"(Wiley) did a great job of setting a screen for Wafford and Wafford made a great pass to him," Johnson said. "I think he makes that shot nine out of 10 times. It just so happened there were two guys there. He threw it up there and it rolled off the rim. Basketball is a game of inches."

Neither team led by more than 5 points. The Storm led 15-14 at halftime, but Fremd (13-10) -- playing without injured leading scorer Jake Schoffstall, expected back next week, according to coach Bob Widlowski -- held a 25-24 advantage heading to the fourth quarter.

South Elgin used an 8-0 fourth-quarter run to take a 32-29 lead. Wiley's fifth field goal with a minute left gave the Storm their first fourth-quarter lead.

Following Fremd's 16th turnover and sixth of the fourth quarter, sophomore guard Drew Cwik's free throws extended the South Elgin cushion to 32-29 with 31.9 seconds remaining.

Wexley answered in a big way. The Fremd senior drained a 3-pointer from the left wing with 20 seconds left to knot the score at 32-32.

"Max Wexler stepped up for us," Widlowski said. "He did a good job defensively too. He did a real nice job in the last two minutes of the game when we needed a senior to step up."

Fremd took a 5-point overtime lead on a pair of Wexley free throws and a Beaupre 3-pointer, assisted by Spearman. Still, the Vikings left the door open as Beaupre twice missed bonus free throws in the final 70 seconds.

"We gave them a chance," Widlowski said. "We put some pressure on our defense, but we got a couple of stops."

Eight Vikings scored, led by Wexley's 11 points. Senior Tafara Okammor (4 points) came off the bench to grab 8 rebounds.

Cwik scored 9 points for South Elgin. Sophomore Lance McVicar finished with 8 points on 2-of-14 shooting and Wafford added 7 points.

---Daily Herald---01/01/2020

South Elgin regroup after Elgin's fast start

By: Eric Bridges

It's often said that the storms that last the longest are those that start with a slow drizzle. The Elgin Maroons boys basketball team may have found some truth to that statement Friday night after the South Elgin Storm started slow, but ended up outlasting the Maroons 68-54 in an Upstate Eight Conference matchup.

The Maroons (5-16, 1-10) darted out to a 22-10 first quarter lead thanks to 14 points by DionT Rodgers. But South Elgin (9-13, 5-7) rallied back with the help of Drew Cwik and Lane McVicar.

"We're used to being down, so we just have to stay positive and keep working hard," McVicar said. "I always tell the team to keep your heads up and keep working. There's going to be time when you're down 15-16 points and then come back and win by 20, so I just try to encourage them to keep working."

McVicar scored 6 points early in the second quarter on layups and a far-ranging jumper that just barely missed being counted as a 3-pointer. But it was McVicar's defense that really rallied the Storm, intercepting the ball several times when the Maroons tried to pass into the paint.

Storm coach Brett Johnson credited McVicar's leadership with starting the spark that propelled the Storm.

"Lane is always asking how he can be a leader," Johnson said. "This week I really saw the team responding to him in practice. When your leader plays as hard as he can, the other kids on the team will start to follow, and that's what we're starting to see."

Cwik's key 3-pointers in the third and fourth quarters thwarted any plans the Maroons had of rallying back into the game.

"I just give credit to my teammates," Cwik said. "They're the ones helping me to get open and then finding me at the right time. This week we haven't had any games, so we did a lot of running in practice and I think that helped."

Johnson credited Cwik's work in practice for his hot hand Friday night.

"He's a really good shooter," Johnson said. "He puts a ton of time in the gym. I tell him 'If you're not hitting them, then drive to the basket.'"

Down 30-24 as the second half started, Cwik's (19 points) layup cut the lead to four and after another steal, John Aaron Wafford's 3-point field goal brought the Storm back to within one. McVicar then hit three free throws to give the Storm their first lead of the game 34-32. On the Maroons' next possession, Cwik stole a pass and drove for a layup and a 36-32 Storm lead that they wouldn't surrender.

Brett Johnson thought the team played with the same intensity the entire game, but the work put in by their defense paid off as the game went on.

"We didn't really do anything differently," Johnson said. "We just started playing a little more aggressively on defense and started to hit our shots in the second quarter. I think that fired us up for the second half."

Maroons coach Todd Allen was happy with the strong first quarter start, but is looking for his team to carry that momentum forward throughout the game.

"We haven't started like that in a long time, but unfortunately we couldn't keep it going," Allen said. "We had a very good first half. Some decisions we made down the stretch, some bad shots ... give them credit, they went to a zone and we kind of went stagnant."

Bartlett cools off Larkin

By Allen Oshinski

Bartlett's 73-64 win against Larkin resembled an accordion: every time the Hawks started to pull away, the Royals would catch up again.

But the Hawks made the final run and came away with the Upstate Eight victory Friday in Elgin.

Conrad Luczynski had 20 points, 9 rebounds and 4 blocks for Bartlett. Jashon Johnson-Neals scored 22 for the Royals.

Larkin (5-16, 5-7) never led after 2-0, but the Hawks could never pull away, either. Bartlett (8-15, 5-7) led 29-22 early in the second quarter. Larkin answered with an 8-2 run to make it 31-30 and trailed just 34-31 at halftime.

Leading 49-44 late in the third before finally getting some separation, 3-pointers by Cameron Kunzer and Ian Smith made it 55-44, and the hosts never got closer than 7 the rest of the way.

"I thought the way we started on the road in a gym like this was awesome," said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. "From that point on, it became a matter of weathering the storm and not letting them go on 8-0 runs, 9-0 runs."

Hayden Angell had 11 points, all in the second half, and 9 rebounds, and Nick Kantzavelos also scored 11 for the Hawks, while Nicholas Bucaro added 10 off the bench. But the unsung hero may have been Clark Lewis, who finished with 6 points and 6 rebounds.

"I thought the kid who played the best game was Clark Lewis," Wolfsmith said. "He did just a great job handling the ball, making great decisions, seeing the floor, and playing good defense against guys who are quicker than he is."

Damari Wheeler-Thomas scored 14 points, Fernando Perez added 11 points, plus 9 rebounds, and DJ Jones scored 10 for Larkin.

Johnson-Neals also grabbed 9 rebounds. He scored 8 points in the third quarter, driving to the basket and either finishing or getting fouled, keeping the Royals close.

"Today we just couldn't get over the hump, and I think it's because we were a little too worried about the scoreboard or the results and not worried about the process of what it took to be a good team today," said Larkin coach Deryn Carter. "But that's part of what Bartlett was doing. They did a good job of getting us out of what we wanted to do."

Bartlett shot the ball well, hitting 53% while holding the Royals under 40% from the field. The Hawks actually shot better from the field than from the free-throw line, from where they hit just 50%.