

## Press Clippings 02/08/20 to 02/10/20

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### Press Clippings 02/10/2020

There are no U-46 related news stories.

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#### ---The Courier-News---02/09/2020

### U-46 students jump in to new lifeguard classes

By: Rafael Guerrero



An Elgin High School lifeguard student jumps in to “save” a swimmer as part of basic training. The group of students will spend the semester working on different skills in order to complete the class and earn their lifeguard certification. About 100 students districtwide are enrolled this semester.

Michelle Hernandez is one of the 15 students who spend their first minutes of the school day at the Elgin High School swimming pool this semester.

Unlike other physical education classes where swimming may only last days, the lifeguarding course is all about swimming, learning how to assist someone in emergencies, and how to be a lifeguard.

“We’re doing something here we all actually enjoy,” Hernandez, a high school junior, said of the class, which she started in January.

The five School District U-46 high schools began offering lifeguarding as a one-semester PE class this school year, providing students an option to earn honors credit upon completion of the class, as well as a lifeguard certification needed for lifeguard jobs.

“They’re always looking for lifeguards,” said Elgin High School lifeguarding teacher Carl Metzke. “Once they’re done here, (students) can go get a job.”

Hernandez enrolled in lifeguarding because she loves to swim, but a more traditional PE class would limit the amount of time in the swimming pool.

Hernandez and her classmates are only a few weeks into the course. So far, their instruction in how to be a lifeguard is in its early stages; on this particular day, the class is working on identifying a swimmer in duress and jumping in to save them.

“I’m small but I may have to carry someone bigger than me,” she said of the training.

Hernandez said students learn skills that go beyond the swimming pool, such as how to better communicate, identify visual cues, share responsibilities amongst one another.

Last semester, Omar Renteria was among the first group of Larkin High School students to complete the lifeguard course. When he told friends he was taking the course in school, they were shocked.

“I honestly think it’s important to have a variety of classes to take. If (students) don’t like their classes, it may not encourage them to go to school, to be encouraged to learn,” the Larkin senior said.

Renteria loves to swim, but the instruction early on taught him that his swimming technique was incorrect, he said.

Renteria was certified following his successful completion of the certification exam, which had written and in-pool components. This included moving a 10-pound brick underwater, swimming for 200 yards, and treading water for two minutes.

The class and certification ultimately led him to apply and earn a job with the Centre of Elgin as a lifeguard. Given the school, work and athletics commitments students face, Renteria said he is uncertain if he or other students in the lifeguard classes would have been able to earn their certification outside of school.

“It’s a win-win situation for me,” he said.

More than 100 students districtwide enrolled in the class in the fall, with approximately another 100 enrolling in the class this semester, said PE/Health/Wellness Coordinator Tracey Jakaitis. The expectation is the course will grow next school year as word of mouth grows, as well as the awareness that the course culminates with an honors credit and lifeguard certification.

“You’re saving lives, you have a certification that others do not have,” Jakaitis said of the decision to reward lifeguarding students with an honors PE credit.

In order to enroll, a student must be 15 by the time they take the lifeguard certification at the end of the semester. All the teachers leading the course were provided additional training prior to the start of the 2019-20 year in order to instruct and certify the students.

Lifeguarding joins functional fitness, strength and performance, walking for wellness, and team sports officiating and coaching among the newer PE courses U-46 high schools have adopted in hopes to better cater to student interests and long-term wellness.

“The kids are picking the classes they want to be in, as a result they’re getting more out of it,” added Metzke.

Other than students paying an additional fee for the courses, there are few drawbacks to students learning how to lifeguard at their high schools, said Courtney White, the physical education department chair at Downers Grove North High School, where a similar course has been in place for years.

The students walk away from the class with a credential that can earn them a job, White said. The teens can even lifeguard at the school as part of a separate lifeguard leaders class, he added.

“I get phone calls every year from private pools, public pools looking for lifeguards,” White said.

“Physical education is changing,” he added. “There’s a lot of push to get rid of PE, but there’s great benefits of continuing PE.”

## **District: U-46 elementary principal put on paid leave**

**By: Rafael Guerrero**



John Oliver, the principal of Clinton Elementary School in South Elgin, has been placed on paid administrative leave for an undisclosed reason.

Clinton Elementary School principal John Oliver was placed on paid administrative leave at the end of January, School District U-46 officials said.

Retired district administrator Chris Dennison is serving as the interim principal until further notice, a letter sent to parents said.

No information has been released on what precipitated Oliver’s leave or when he will return. District spokeswoman Mary Fergus said the district does not comment on personnel matters.

Oliver has been principal of Clinton in South Elgin since 2003, according to information posted on the school’s website. Prior to Clinton, he worked as a principal intern at Garfield Elementary School, a first-, third- and fourth-grade teacher at Century Oaks Elementary School and a teacher assistant at Channing Elementary School, all in Elgin.

A parent meeting will be scheduled at a future date in coordination with the Clinton PTO, the letter said.

A Clinton PTO official, speaking via email, said they have no other information.

Elgin News Digest

## **U-46 kindergarten registration starts Monday**

School District U-46 will hold kindergarten registration from Monday to Thursday for children starting school in the fall.

To be eligible, children must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1. Parents should bring their child's birth certificate and two documents showing proof of residency within U-46 boundaries.

Parents of incoming kindergarten students will be able to register other children for school in their household even if an older student attends a different school. No fees will be collected.

U-46 launched full-day kindergarten in 2016 for more than 2,500 students in 40 elementary schools and two early childhood centers.

For a list of each school's registration time and day, go to [www.u-46.org](http://www.u-46.org).

**---Daily Herald---02/08/2020**

## **Carol Stream woman charged with battery at girls basketball game**

**Daily Herald report**

Bartlett police Friday arrested a 31-year-old Carol Stream woman on a Class A misdemeanor charge for battery following investigation of a physical altercation that occurred Wednesday, Feb. 5, during a girls basketball game at Eastview Middle School, 321 Oak Ave.

Jessica V. Holst is accused of stepping onto the basketball court during a game between Eastview and Tefft Middle School and putting her hands on one of the players from Tefft.

No one was injured.

On Friday, Holst was released on a \$100 individual bail bond and assigned a next court date of March 11 at the Cook County Courthouse in Rolling Meadows.

## **SPORTS**

**---The Courier-News---02/09/2020**

### **Split decision in rivalry**

Wiley picks up pace with double-double as South Elgin boys hold off Bartlett

**By: Paul Johnson**



South Elgin's Kendis Wiley pumps his fist after the Storm closed out an Upstate Eight Conference win over Bartlett on Friday.



Bartlett's Mackenzie Hare drives against the defense of South Elgin's Madison Waichunas in an Upstate Eight Conference game Friday. Bartlett won 66-56.

On the first possession of Friday's game, South Elgin's Kendis Wiley had a rebound swiped away by Bartlett's Conrad Luczynski.

Storm coach Brett Johnson immediately took Wiley out of the game.

"He just told me that I have to be more aggressive," Wiley said. "He wasn't happy that I gave up that rebound. I was just thinking about it, and it got me riled up. I knew I had to go."

The sophomore forward took the talk to heart and put together a big game, helping South Elgin escape with a 40-35 Upstate Eight Conference victory over host Bartlett.

Wiley had 12 points, 10 rebounds, six blocked shots and a key steal in the final minute for the Storm (11-14, 7-6).

“That’s the way I think he can play all the time,” Johnson said. “He knows he can do it. He’s starting to believe in himself. He’s taking a really big step. He’s come a long way as a sophomore.”

Wiley learned from star center Vincent Miszkiewicz last season, and now is trying to fill his shoes.

“That was such a great experience for me,” Wiley said. “He taught me so much. Going into this season, I just take the things that he taught me and do what he told me to do and keep on going.”

Both teams played stifling defense, making scoring opportunities few and far between.

George Betevis shook free for a 3-pointer to open the fourth quarter, however, giving the Hawks (8-16, 5-8) a 31-26 lead.

South Elgin kept chipping away as Wiley’s putback with 2:16 left built a 32-32 lead. It remained tight until Dylan Marquis went 6-for-6 from the free-throw line in the latter stages, and the Storm never trailed again.

“Down the stretch, we had guys make plays,” Johnson said. “We made free throws and we found way to get some key stops later in the game. When you do that, you’re going to put yourself in a really good position.”

Bartlett also had a really good shot at forcing a tie at the end, but Betevis’ shot was off. Marquis then finished off the win at the line.

“He’s shooting 37 percent from the 3-point stripe, so yeah, I’ll put the ball in his hands for that shot,” Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said of Betevis.

Betevis led Bartlett with 10 points. Hayden Angell pulled down 11 rebounds. Aaron Wafford added 10 points for South Elgin.

Wolfsmith lamented another close loss in the Upstate Eight. It was the Hawks’ ninth conference loss by five or fewer points.

“We have to learn how to finish,” Wolfsmith said. “Unfortunately, that’s happened to us a lot this year.

“Hopefully we’ll learn and go on a little run before the postseason because I think we have all the tools to be a postseason underdog.”

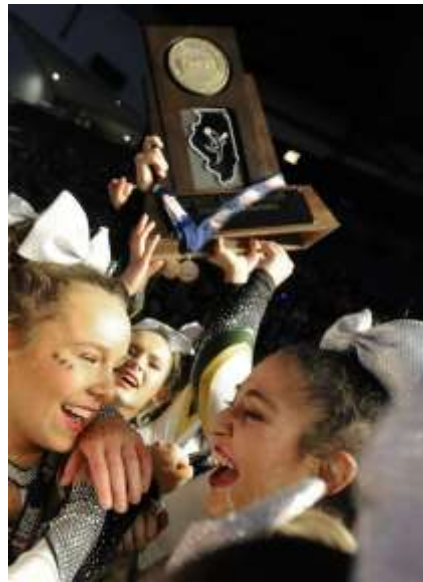
**---Daily Herald---02/09/2020**

## **How suburban schools did in IHSA Competitive Cheerleading state finals**

**Daily Herald report**



South Elgin High School cheerleaders, including Samantha Carson, celebrate their first-place finish in the coed division at the IHSA Competitive Cheerleading finals Saturday in Bloomington.



Stevenson High School cheerleaders celebrate their second-place finish in the large team division at the IHSA Competitive Cheerleading finals Saturday in Bloomington.



Antioch High School cheerleaders Jadda Pope and Paul Valdivia celebrate their first-place win in the medium team division at the IHSA Competitive Cheerleading finals Saturday in Bloomington.





Cheerleaders from Timothy Christian High School in Elmhurst compete at the IHSA Competitive Cheerleading finals Saturday in Bloomington. They ended up finishing 10th in the small team division.



Cheerleaders from St. Edward Central Catholic High School in Elgin placed third in the small division at the IHSA Competitive Cheerleading finals Saturday in Bloomington.



Conant High School placed sixth in the coed team division at the IHSA Competitive Cheerleading finals Saturday in Bloomington.

*This article has been updated to correctly report that Jacobs High School finished 6th in the large team division of the IHSA Competitive Cheerleading state finals.*

High school cheerleading teams from around Illinois took to the mat this weekend to compete for a state title. Here is a list of suburban teams that placed in the Top 10 in their divisions. For a [full list of results](#), visit [IHSA.org](http://IHSA.org).

Small Team: St. Edward, Elgin, 3rd; Timothy Christian, Elmhurst, 10th.



Medium Team: Antioch, 1st; Hampshire, 4th; Grayslake North, 6th; Johnsburg, 8th; Vernon Hills, 9th.

Large Team: Stevenson, 2nd; Jacobs, 6th; Huntley, 10th.

Coed Team: South Elgin, 1st; Buffalo Grove, 4th; Conant, 6th; Mundelein, 8th; Fremd, 9th; Niles North, 10th.

**---Daily Herald---02/08/2020**

## **Larkin locks down Elgin in lopsided win**

**By: Jerry Fitzpatrick**



Elgin's Jeffery Lomax (1) drives to the basket as Larkin's Damari Wheeler-Thomas (10) goes for the block Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Elgin's Darien Jackson (00) splits Larkin's Xavier Juarez, (32) and Fernando Perez Jr (1) Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Elgin's Giovoni Griffin (30) moves the ball up court at Larkin's Dj Jones (11) puts on some pressure Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Larkin's Xavier Juarez, (32) splits Elgin's Jeffery Lomax (1) and Giovoni Griffin (30) after pulling down a rebound Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Larkin's Xavier Juarez, (32) and Jashon Johnson-Neals (21) sandwich Elgin's Emmanuel Hernandez (24) on the way to the hoop Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Larkin's Jamarion Stubbs (5) Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Elgin's Jeffery Lomax (1) goes to the hoop Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Elgin's DionT Rodgers (4) drives to the basket as Larkin's Xavier Juarez, (32) tries to get the charging call Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Larkin's head coach Deryn Carter Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Larkin's Jashon Johnson-Neals (21) and Elgin's Jeffery Lomax (1) battle at the hoop Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Elgin's Emmanuel Hernandez (24) moves up courts as Larkin's (2) puts on the pressure Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Elgin's Giovoni Griffin (30) tries to get around Larkin's Fernando Perez Jr (1) Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.





Larkin's Damari Wheeler-Thomas (10) goes to the hoop as Elgin's Jeffery Lomax (1) gets a block and a foul Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Larkin's Fernando Perez Jr (1) gets in Elgin's Emmanuel Hernandez's (24) space while playing defense Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Larkin's Jashon Johnson-Neals (21) heads to the basket past Elgin's Jeffery Lomax (1) and Christopher Toolsie (15) Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Elgin's Darien Jackson (00) looks for an open teammate as Larkin's Damari Wheeler-Thomas (10) and Dj Jones (11) surround him Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Larkin's Jamarion Stubbs (5) and Elgin's DionT Rodgers (4) battle at the basket Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.



Elgin's Jeffery Lomax (1) tries to get to Larkin's Jashon Johnson-Neals (21) Friday during the crosstown game in Elgin.

Not in the modern history of the Elgin-Larkin series has either team played defense as effectively as the Royals in a 68-31 home victory Friday.

The Upstate Eight Conference game was tied 12-12 after one quarter.

Then Larkin (6-17, 6-7) focused in and locked down.

The Royals limited Elgin (5-18, 1-12) to 2 second-quarter points and never looked back. They held the Maroons to a field-goal in 9 attempts, forced 5 turnovers and won the rebounding battle 11-8 to forge a 29-14 halftime lead.

"We weren't helping on D," Larkin senior Jashon Johnson-Neals said of the first quarter issues. "We thought we could play (man-to-man) one on one so they were scoring inside."

Said Larkin coach Deryn Carter: "We told them at the end of the first quarter that we were on our own agenda instead of worrying about what we need to do as a team to be successful. I was proud of the way they responded."

Elgin's 31 points represent the lowest scoring total for either team in series records dating back to 1990. The 37-point victory margin is also the largest for either team over that span.

"They didn't do anything we thought was special. It's completely on us," Elgin coach Todd Allen said after his team committed 18 turnovers and shot 28% from the field (12 of 43). "Executing has kind of been our problem. It's frustrating because there are spurts when these guys are really, really good. We're just having a hard time putting it together right now."

Ten Royals scored, led by Johnson-Neals and sophomore Jamarion Stubbs with 16 points apiece.

"I was trying to attack, make plays for my team, look for the open guy, look for open shots and play good defense," said Stubbs, who sank three 3-pointers off the bench.

Sophomore Fernando Perez Jr scored 9 of his 15 points in the third quarter as the Royals outscored Elgin 25-12 to build a 54-26 cushion.

No Maroon breached double-figure scoring. Junior Jeffery Lomax finished with 7 points on 3-of-11 shooting, 6 rebounds and 2 blocks.

The win was the third straight for Larkin against Elgin. The Royals won for the 18th time in 19 meetings to trim the all-time series deficit to 80-59.

More importantly, Larkin has won 5 of its last 8 games following a 1-14 start.

"We've got our players and we are a stronger team now," Johnson-Neals said. "I wouldn't overlook us."



# South Elgin rallies late at Bartlett

By: Allen Oshinski

If Olympic judges had scored Friday's Bartlett-South Elgin boys basketball game, the Storm wouldn't have scored many style points. But they might have made up for it with degree of difficulty.

The Storm won the defensive slugfest, 40-35, in Bartlett.

George Betevis nailed a 3-pointer to start the fourth quarter and put the Hawks ahead 31-26. But South Elgin went on an 8-2 run over the next 5 minutes to take its first lead at 34-32.

From there, the Hawks nailed it down at the line, with Dylan Marquis making 6 straight from the stripe.

Kendis Wiley led the Storm with 12 points, 10 rebounds and 6 blocks, while John Aaron Wafford added 10 points.

"At this point we'll take anything we can get," said South Elgin coach Brett Johnson. "It was a battle. Bartlett made it extremely tough on us to get any open shots, and we couldn't hit anything at all. Everything was an inside bucket for us, and that's a testament to the way they play defense.

"Down the stretch we had guys make plays, and we made free throws down the stretch and we found ways to get some key stops later in the game, and when you do that you're going to put yourself in a really good situation."

With South Elgin leading by a point and time running down, Wiley intercepted a pass under his own basket, leading to 2 Marquis free throws.

Bartlett had one final chance to tie, but an open 3-pointer rimmed out. Marquis then made 2 more from the line for the final margin.

"I've just always got to bring that intensity, be aggressive, and help my team out," Wiley said.

Betevis finished with 10 points for Bartlett. Conrad Luczynski had 8 points, 9 rebounds, and 5 blocks. Hayden Angell had 10 rebounds to go with 5 points.

On a night when nothing came easy, Bartlett held 2 of South Elgin's more reliable scorers to a combined 6 points, but Wafford, Wiley and Marquis picked up the slack.

"If you're going to talk to me about, if I'm going to keep (Drew Cwik) and (Lane McVicar) limited to the points I held them to, and I lost the game, I'd be a little bit stunned," said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. "Credit to the rest of that team for stepping up in a team game and making some plays."

In winning, South Elgin shot just 29% from the field, including 0-for-12 from 3-point range. Bartlett shot a relatively sizzling 31%, but made just 5 of 10 free throws.