

## Press Clippings 12/07/2021

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### South Elgin starts season with 6 straight wins

By Mike Miazga, Daily Herald Correspondent



Senior Ella Winterhalder, right, has helped **South Elgin** start the year 6-0 while she closes in on 1,000 career points. *Daryl Quitalig/for Shaw Media*

The **South Elgin girls' basketball team** has a lot going for it through the first few weeks of the 2021-2022 season.

The Storm is off to a 6-0 start, including a 2-0 Upstate Eight Conference record, winning those six by an average of 25 points.

Senior Ella Winterhalder, a returning All-Area player, is approaching the 1,000 career-point mark. She's averaging 15 points a game, has hit 25 threes this year and has taken 14 recorded charges.

"It's unreal. She had five in one game," South Elgin coach Dan Mandernack said.

Mandernack also is high on the play of Caroline Croft, another returning All-Area performer who is averaging 14 points a game and sets up the Storm's press defenses. Mandernack noted the Storm runs five different types of presses.

"It's our defense, pressure and deny everything," said Mandernack when asked one thing that has impressed him thus far. "We press 80 percent of the game. They have bought into being relentless on defense and with pressure -- first to the ground. We have won the hustle chart every game. We start five guards and they are all basically point guards."

South Elgin also has been up to snuff on the offensive side of things. "If teams zone, we bomb away," Mandernack said. "We have all good-to-great 3-point shooters. If team's man us, we execute our motion offenses and set really well."

The Storm won the Dundee-Crown Thanksgiving tournament that included a big win over Rockton Hononegah.

Raina Young was a star in the team's recent win over Larkin, setting a school record with 9 steals.

"It's a fun team to coach and watch," Mandernack said.