

## Press Clippings 12/14/2021

---Daily Herald--- 12/14/2021

### **Boys' Basketball: Ahmer, Huntley off to strong start** By Mike Miazga, Daily Herald Correspondent

Things have been trending upward and then some for the Huntley boys basketball team this season.

Coach Will Benson's squad was 8-1 overall to start the week and 4-0 in Fox Valley Conference play. That lone loss was a 1-point setback to Batavia on a last-second drained 3-pointer.

Reasons for the Red Raiders' hot start? Benson pointed to the recent play of Ben Ahmer, Aiden Wieczorek and Adam Guazzo. Ahmer, a third-year varsity player, is shooting more than 40% from 3-point range, and is averaging 15 points a game. Wieczorek is right there at 12 points per game and has been solid on defense and the boards, Benson noted. Guazzo, headed to Valparaiso for baseball, is averaging 8 points and 10 rebounds a contest. Huntley is the No. 2 seed at the upcoming DeKalb tournament.

### **Larkin update:**

The news is equally good on the west side of Elgin for the **Larkin Royals**, who started the season 7-1 overall and were at 3-0 in Upstate Eight action to start the week.

Damari Wheeler-Thomas is averaging 21 points, 5 assists and 5 steals, while Fernando Perez Jr. is at 19 points, 7 rebounds and 3 assists and Jakob Blakley is averaging 15 points a contest -- giving the Royals three top-notch scoring threats. Coach Deryn Carter's team is averaging 71 points per game.

## **Streamwood** update:

Richard Santiago was off to a 14-point-a-contest scoring start for the **Sabres**, while Cris Calderon has been right behind him at 12 points.

"We lost all five starters from last season and we knew it would take time this season to be competitive," Sabres coach Kent Payne said, whose team advanced to the Upstate Eight semifinals last season.

### **---Elgin Courier-News--- 12/14/2021 Rick Armstrong's Beacon News/Courier-News boys' basketball rankings and player of the week for Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021 By Rick Armstrong for the Aurora Beacon-News**



**Larkin's** Damari Wheeler-Thomas tries to fight through a screen set by East Aurora's Jacques Kelly (4) for Amariion Savage (14) during a game on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. (Jon Cunningham / The Beacon-News)

Top 10

*With records through Monday and previous rankings in parentheses.*

1. Oswego East 9-0 (1)

2. Larkin 7-1 (3)

3. East Aurora 4-0 (5)

4. Yorkville Christian 6-4 (4)

5. Batavia 6-2 (2)

. St. Charles North 5-3 (8)

7. Bartlett 5-3 (7)

8. Geneva 5-3 (6)

9. Waubonsie Valley 4-3 (9)

10. Burlington Central 5-2 (10)

**Player of the Week:** Larkin's Damari Wheeler-Thomas, a North Dakota State recruit, averaged 23.5 points, 5.0 steals, 4.5 assists and 2.5 rebounds in a pair of wins over Bartlett and West Chicago.