

Press Clippings 2/2/2022 to 2/3/2022

Daily Herald

'It's not just teachers in front of kids': How suburban schools have dealt with the omicron surge --- 2/2/2022

By Marni Pyke



Third-grade teacher Anne Marie Moyer talks to her class at Ellis Elementary School Dec. 10 in Round Lake. The COVID-19 variant omicron hit schools hard in January, causing thousands of absences for students and staff. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer, December 2021*

By the fall of 2021, parents and teachers had the COVID-19 playbook down -- masking, social distancing, vaccinations. Then came omicron.

The super-infectious COVID-19 variant exploded over December and January, infecting students and teachers who'd eluded the virus for months, causing staff shortages and closures particularly after the winter break.

"How bad was it? It's been crazy," Algonquin-based Community Unit District 300 teachers' union President Michael Williamson described the post-holiday surge in a recent interview.

"We joked about it, me and the administration and the union executive committee," Williamson said. "It felt like back in the first week of the pandemic. You just didn't know what was going on."

By now, most educators are used to COVID-19 crises, but with omicron infecting so many, it forced everyone from administrators to custodians to dig deep so schools could stay open, Williamson said.

"It's not just teachers in front of kids. You've got to make sure there's custodians, you've got to make sure there's nurses, you've got to have administrators."

At one point, the district was worried a building would have to close because the custodian team was sick. Other custodians, stepped up, saying, "We'll go there. We'll make this work," Williamson recalled.

From Dec. 24 to 30, new COVID-19 cases among children and teens numbered 325,340 across the U.S., American Academy of Pediatrics data shows.

A month later, the count was closer to 1 million a week. Over 1.9 million new cases were reported between Jan. 13 and Thursday. Children age 4 and younger are not eligible for vaccines.

Omicron typically causes less severe illness than other COVID-19 strains such as the delta variant, but the sheer volume of infections was staggering. Some districts across the state did have to close buildings, including [Elgin Area School District U-46](#) and Des Plaines Elementary School District 62.

Des Plaines parent Zach Weller's 7-year-old son, Ben, was among students affected by District 62's decision to cancel classes for several days the week of Jan. 9 because of rising COVID-19 infections and staff absences.

"I am disappointed," Weller told the Daily Herald on Jan. 13. "However, I understand the limitations of the district, and with shortened staff numbers, they are not able to effectively educate the children at the moment.

"My kids, of course, would love to be in school, but they are troopers and enjoy spending their time with their dad and family."

Northwest Suburban High School District 214 was able to avoid closures, but "coming out of winter break we did have a significant number of students and staff who were out, but we managed," Superintendent David Schuler said.

"A lot of teachers who were in helped by covering classes during their prep periods, and administrators also covered classes. At least for this phase, we've weathered the storm."

COVID-19 cases began receding mid-January in Illinois. As of Friday, the seven-day average for new cases was 11,153 compared to a peak of 32,501 Jan. 12.

The CDC's adjusted guidelines reducing quarantine for schools from 10 to five days were adopted by the state Jan. 11, easing some staff shortage pressure.

"It's allowing more students back in school, as long as they're asymptomatic, and staff, so that's been wonderful," Schuler said.

Meanwhile, Tuesday's total new infection count of 8,665 is vastly lower than tallies of over 40,000 on Jan. 21 and Jan. 22, but it's still nowhere near the 2021 new-case average of 1,188 a day.

For Long Grove mother Allison Locascio, who has two children at Stevenson High School, "I feel like it's not over until it's over," she said. Currently, "when I send my kids to school, I'm concerned especially with people who aren't wearing masks properly."

- Daily Herald staff writer Russell Lissau contributed to this report.

Elgin Courier-News

U-46 planning to spend \$29 million on new fire alarm systems, drinking fountains, other capital improvements --- 2/2/2022

By Mike Danahey



Hilltop Elementary in Elgin is one of eight District U-46 schools that will receive new air-cooled chillers for their HVAC systems this summer. - Original Credit: (School District U-46 / HANDOUT)

School District U-46 plans to spend \$29 million on capital improvement projects this year, including \$2.9 million in work at Tefft Middle School that will require the building to be closed over the summer.

U-46 Director of Plant Operations Sheila Downs said the work at Tefft involves “an abatement of the ceiling and the installation of lights, drop ceiling and insulation for ductwork and other pipes.”

The school is also slated to receive a \$675,000 fire alarm system, which will be done in the fall. A similar change will be done at Wayne Elementary School in Wayne for \$330,000 over summer, she said.

“These projects replace systems that are at the end of their recommended lifecycle,” Downs said. “Tefft is a middle school with more square footage, which accounts for the difference in price (from Wayne Elementary).”

Bids are required for any project costing more than \$50,000, and the U-46 School Board was briefed on the potential costs at its Jan. 10 meeting. Downs cautioned the board that inflation and continuing supply chain issues could drive up prices and impact project timetables.

The most expensive project the district hopes to complete over summer is the reconfiguration of Streamwood High School for the U-46 Educational Pathways career and technical education program. The cost is expected to be about \$6.7 million, Downs said.

Educational Pathways is a new program in which each of the district’s five high schools are set up for students to focus their classes on a chosen future careers in business, fine arts, humanities, liberal arts or STEM-related fields in addition to studying a core curriculum.

“So we are preparing instructional spaces to support these courses and give our students an opportunity to participate in hands-on learning opportunities that mirror the actual industry,” Downs said.

Another significant expenditure will be the replacement of the air-cooled chillers that are part of the HVAC systems at eight elementary schools and are at the end of their recommended life cycles. The work will cost about \$2.1 million and is to be done at Creekside, Hilltop, Illinois Park, Lincoln and Otter Creek in Elgin, Hawk Hollow and Liberty in Bartlett and Timber Trails in Hoffman Estates.

More than \$1.4 million will be going to the replacement of bubblers with new drinking fountains at 14 elementary schools: Channing, Harriet Gifford, Highland, Hilltop and Lowrie in Elgin; Bartlett, Independence Center for Early Learning and Liberty in Bartlett; Laurel Hill and Ontarioville in Hanover Park; Willard in South Elgin; Glenbrook and Hanover Countryside in Streamwood; and Wayne in Wayne.

“Many of these bubblers have already been taken out of commission, but there are some bubblers that students and staff are actively using for drinking water,” Downs said.

The plan is to convert all classroom sinks to hand-washing only fixtures and to remove all bubblers from classrooms. Water fountains with bottle filling stations will be installed in hallways to ensure students and staff have access to filtered drinking water, Downs said. Other scheduled projects include \$1 million for parking lot and sidewalk replacement at Otter Creek Elementary in Elgin; \$1.03 million for track replacement and drainage repair at Streamwood High School; \$1.164 million for replacing windows at Ellis Middle School in Elgin; \$1.215 million for parking lot resurfacing and sidewalk creation at Kimball Middle School in Elgin; and \$1.5 million in renovations at the U-46 Educational Services Center in Elgin.

Daily Herald

Under fire for staying open --- 2/3/2022

By Kevin Schmit



A worker clears a path at Metea Valley High School as snow continues to fall Wednesday. Indian Prairie Unit District 204 schools remained open despite areas in Naperville and Aurora receiving 6 to 8 inches of snow by the afternoon. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*

As the Western and Southern suburbs continued to dig out from under Wednesday's snowstorm, several school districts came under fire from parents and students for remaining open.

Two of the area's larger districts hit hardest by the snow -- Naperville Unit District 203 and Indian Prairie Unit District 204 -- remained open, as did **Elgin Area School District U-46**, Wheaton Warrenville Unit District 200 and Lisle Unit District 202.

Other Western suburban districts, such as Glenbard High School District 87, Downers Grove High School District 99, Hinsdale High School District 86 and DuPage High School District 88, either closed schools or shifted to e-learning in anticipation of the difficulty for employees and students to reach school.

When District 203 Superintendent Dan Bridges tweeted early Wednesday morning that Naperville schools would be open, the responses were swift and angry. Even a fake Twitter account attached to Bridges was created.

District 204 tweeted a message early Wednesday morning, advising student drivers to be safe during their commute, that was met by hundreds of responses, many including a #firetalley hashtag to show disapproval for Superintendent Adrian Talley's decision.

District 203 parent Stephanie Raquel, who has a second grader, an eighth grader and a junior at Naperville North High School, chose to put her two younger children on the bus but kept her older daughter at home because she didn't want the inexperienced driver on the road under the wintry conditions.

She was among many parents questioning the decision to stay open.

"This is why we have e-learning," she said. "This would have been a perfect day for e-learning. We've got a crop of student drivers who had to learn how to drive when the DMV was closed for months on end, so I kept mine home. But then, I've got younger kids who can't afford to miss an instructional day."

By 11 a.m. Wednesday, areas of Naperville had received 6 to 8 inches of snow. Downers Grove and Glen Ellyn also reported accumulations of more than 5 inches of snow, according to the National Weather Service.

Bridges sent a follow-up message to families on Wednesday detailing his decision to keep schools open. Around 4:45 a.m., he said, conditions indicated commuting might be slow but a typical school day could still occur. He also said he was in contact with district and city officials to determine the feasibility of opening.

"Unfortunately," he said later, "the conditions changed quicker than anticipated."

Talley sent a similar message to families early Wednesday afternoon, saying the decision to stay open was made based on road conditions, adding that he and other staff members drove throughout the area to assess roadways. He also consulted with the district's transportation provider, custodial staff and other district superintendents to determine whether to stay open.

Bridges and Talley said Wednesday any absences will be considered excused and all after-school athletics and activities were canceled.

District 203 parent Jamie Gordon Mariotti kept her Washington Junior High student at home Wednesday. She looked outside early Wednesday morning, saw the streets weren't plowed and decided not to send her daughter to the bus stop.

"She rarely misses school, but I decided we're not doing this today," Gordon Mariotti said. "It's just not worth it. Who knows how long the snow's going to last. Who knows if she'll be able to get home. I know the district was in a tough position with the decision, but it's tricky."

Glenbard High School District 87 called off in-person classes and switched to remote learning Wednesday.

"We felt the commute was going to be challenging," said Superintendent David Larson, noting that some students drive themselves to school. "We just felt it was in our best interest, safest for our students and families, to make the call."

State law allows school districts to use up to five e-learning days yearly instead of emergency days, which must be made up before the end of the school year. Students must receive at least five hours of e-learning instruction or schoolwork. Regional offices of education must first sign off on a district's e-learning plan.

"All of the procedural requirements that a district must follow to establish and maintain an e-learning program are in effect this school year," Illinois State Board of Education spokeswoman Jackie Matthews said. "Specifically, before a school board adopts a new policy for e-learning or renews an existing policy, it must hold a public hearing at a regular or special board meeting where the public will have an opportunity to comment."

The regional office of education must verify the plan provides access for all students by Sept. 1 of each year.

Matthews said an e-learning program adopted in accordance with the procedural requirements is valid for three years. However, pandemic-related remote learning cannot be used for snow days.

U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders, who kept schools open in the state's second-largest district, said the district does not have an approved e-learning plan, "so we have no option to go remote."

"Anytime there is snow or inclement weather expected, I monitor three primary areas: road conditions (ability of buses to get kids safely), plant operations (can we have buildings and walkways ready), and staffing," he said.

Other Northwest suburban districts such as Palatine-Schaumburg High School District 211 also remained open on Wednesday. Director of Communications Erin Holmes said closing decisions are made after discussions with the two feeder districts the morning of, and sometimes the afternoon before, anticipated heavy snowfalls.

In the Glenbard school system, e-learning days replace the traditional snow days of years past. Students work on district-issued iPads, and they can access virtual office hours with teachers for more support.

"The context is different now because of e-learning," Larson said. "The infrastructure and the training and the hardware/software for e-learning is in place for teachers and students."

Larson expects schools will be back open Thursday.

"Our crews have been working throughout the day, and we feel confident our driveways and parking lots will be cleared and be safe," he said.

• Daily Herald staff writers Madhu Krishnamurthy, Eric Peterson and Katlyn Smith contributed to this report.

The Examiner of Bartlett

Dist. U-46 Board poised to vote on tax abatement ---

2/2/2022

By Seth Hancock; Note – this story also ran in The Examiner of South Elgin and in The Examiner of Streamwood

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** was presented with a tax levy abatement at its meeting on Monday, Jan. 24.

The board will vote on the abatement, this being the sixth consecutive year the measure has been used, if approved, on Feb. 7.

The abatement total is \$9.6 million to pay for the debt service of a \$66 million bond from 2003. Pertaining to this bond, there is \$28.5 million of taxes on file while the actual extension will be \$18.9 million after the abatement.

“This abatement is the same as the prior year,” said Dale Burnidge, director of financial operations. “Since 2015, we have abated a portion of the operating funds to help cover some of the debt service. And this payment that we’re abating tonight for those 2003 bonds will be the last payment on that bond series.”

Since 2015, the district has abated about \$48.3 million, Burnidge said.

The abatement is meant to lessen the impact of the district’s annual tax levy hike, but it effectively kicks the can down the road for taxpayers to pay in future years. In the past, Burnidge has admitted this preserves the maximum tax levy for the future.

In December, the board approved the maximum tax levy allowed under the law. It included a 2.5 percent increase in the corporate and special purposes tax levy from \$292.8 million to \$300.2 million and a 2.2 percent increase in the total levy, including debt service, from \$335 million to \$342.4 million.

The tax levy increase comes despite a seventh year of enrollment declines, U-46 losing 533 students (1.46 percent) for a total of 36,090 according to numbers presented in November.

The Examiner of Bartlett

Expense proposals set for U-46 board decision --- 2/2/2022

By Seth Hancock; Note – this story also ran in The Examiner of South Elgin and in The Examiner of Streamwood

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** is set to vote on \$3 million in expenditure proposal, all operations and maintenance or health life safety funds, at its upcoming meeting on Monday, Feb. 7.

The items were presented on Jan. 24.

The largest item was \$1.1 million with Evans and Son Blacktop, lowest of four bids, for track improvements at Streamwood High School. If approved, the work would start in May and have substantial completion by Aug. 15.

The proposal states the “asphalt base and rubber surfacing,” installed in 2002, “are in extremely poor condition. The current condition poses a safety hazard and has been deemed unusable for competition.”

A proposal for fire alarm replacement at Streamwood’s Tefft Middle School has a cost of \$761,000 with Kelso-Burnett Co., lowest of five bids, with work scheduled to start Sept. 6 this year and substantial completion on June 1, 2023. The proposal states alarms have not been updated since 1964.

Fire alarm replacement at Wayne Elementary School is also being sought costing \$339,880 with iWire Technologies, lowest of five bids, with work scheduled to start on Feb. 8 and substantial completion by July 25 this year. The proposal states the current alarm system is “at the end of its life expectancy.”

Costing \$446,900 with Associated Electrical Contractors, the lowest of two bids, the district is seeking to replace auditorium lights at Bartlett High School. Work would begin on June 7 with substantial completion by July 27.

“Original to the building, the stage light dimming system is antiquated and starting to fail within Bartlett High School’s auditorium,” the proposal states. “The manufacturer of the dimming system is no longer in business and replacement parts for this system are increasingly hard to find. Additionally, less than half of the house light fixtures are currently functional and replacement bulbs for these fixtures are no longer available from any manufacturer.”

For a parking lot project at Elgin’s Larsen Middle School, the district is asking for \$395,649 to go to Schroeder Asphalt Services, lowest of nine bids. Work would start June 7 and be substantially complete on July 27.

The project is to prepare for a City of Elgin pavement reconstruction project expected to start in 2024 that would leave a bus drop off lane location unusable. This project would “create a secondary exit from the parking lot,” the proposal states.

The Examiner of Bartlett

Police Department’s Bansley named 2021 Officer of the Year

--- 2/2/2022

According to the Bartlett Police Department, Officer Derek Bansley has been selected as the department’s 2021 Police Officer of the Year for his outstanding performance and work ethic during the past year. He has been a dedicated member of the police department for the past 15 years.

Bansley was recognized by his supervisors and peers for providing exceptional police service and consistently presenting himself in a highly professional manner. During the past year, he was awarded the police department’s certificate of commendation for utilizing his CIT skills and displaying, care empathy, and compassion towards an individual who walked many miles from his residence in a neighboring community to report he located a deceased individual. The information was passed along to a neighboring jurisdiction and it was determined the individual was telling the truth about his discovery.

Bansley was also selected as one of the police department’s employees of the month for his role in coordinating efforts with West Chicago Police Department and **School District U-46** to successfully locate an alleged suicidal male juvenile who left his residence in a neighboring community with a possible firearm.

Elgin Courier-News

‘It meant everything’: A determined Stephen Dorsey earns rare start for East Aurora on senior night against Elgin. The result? Stunning. --- 2/2/2022

By Rick Armstrong for the Aurora Beacon-News



East Aurora's Stephen Dorsey (22) goes up for a layup against Elgin's Micah Giovenco (33) during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Aurora on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022 (Mike Mantucca / The Beacon-News)

The limelight cast a large shadow Tuesday when East Aurora hosted **Elgin** on senior night, and Stephen Dorsey was happy to grab his share.

"It meant everything," Dorsey said. "I've been with these guys a long four years. We really grind it out, and we've been through a lot."

A 6-foot senior guard, Dorsey usually comes off the bench and makes a solid contribution, but he was granted the rare start.

He made the most of it, scoring 10 points and adding three steals and three rebounds in limited minutes during a 75-29 Upstate Eight Conference victory over the struggling Maroons.



East Aurora's Stephen Dorsey (22) and Ibrahim Koroma (40) go up for a rebound against Elgin's Micah Giovenco (33) during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Aurora on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022. (Mike Mantucca / The Beacon-News)

These are the dog days of a long high school basketball season, and it was nice for East Aurora (14-7, 9-4) to have a breather in another busy week.

The Tomcats were coming off an 83-53 loss Friday to **South Elgin** in their fourth game in a week. They had beaten the Storm in overtime earlier in the season.

"It looked like we were playing in mud boots," East Aurora coach Rick Robinson said of his review of that game film. "We were a step slow, late on our rotations.

"It was just one of those nights. They caught us at the right time, and coach Brett (Johnson) is always gonna have those guys prepared and ready to go."

On Tuesday, the Tomcats were ready to go, coming up with five steals in the first quarter and bolting to a 19-8 lead.

“Just to get out and get a chance to play and let loose and have fun was great,” Dorsey said. “I know we were coming off a tough loss.

“But it was nice to play with these guys in front of the home crowd and our parents. The experience was great.”



East Aurora’s Javier Cano (24) puts up a 3-pointer against Elgin’s Victor Rivera (15) during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Aurora on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022 (Mike Mantucca / The Beacon-News)

Todd Allen was unavailable to coach the game for Elgin (3-19, 0-14).

Four-year starter Jullian Acosta, who gets his share of the spotlight, provided a highlight with 4:47 remaining in the second quarter when he grabbed the rebound of a missed layup on the break and dunked the ball.

It came in the middle of a 22-0 run for East Aurora.

Acosta joined Dorsey and fellow seniors Nate Robinson, Javier Cano and Ibrahim Koroma in the starting lineup. Acosta scored 18 of his game-high 22 points in the first half.

“I enjoyed having my family come out to support us,” he said. “I wasn’t really focused on scoring, just winning. It was good for us to get some rest for upcoming games too.”

The Tomcats, who enjoyed a running clock in the fourth quarter, resume action Friday at West Chicago and then meet Oswego East (24-1) in the final game of Saturday’s Kivisto Classic at East Aurora.

Koroma, a 6-7 center, had four points and pulled down eight rebounds against Elgin. He understands his part in the show.

“My role is to rebound, protect the rim,” Koroma said. “Personally, I feel like I could offer more, but certain guys have gifts. I’m an energy guy. I come off the bench and make sure



East Aurora's Ibrahim Koroma (40) drives past Elgin's Skyler Chen (00) for a layup during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Aurora on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022 (Mike Mantucca / The Beacon-News)

"That's just what I do. I do the dirty work and I'm proud of that. Shout out to coach Rick, dealing with us every day. He's a good person."

Dorsey sees himself in a similar role.

"I do the dirty work," he said. "I rebound, get the loose balls, just hustle all around."

Both would have liked to score more on this night but understood the circumstances.

"I need to have everybody rested and ready to go for Friday and Saturday," Robinson said.

"Oswego East is going to be a good game, but I don't want to look too far ahead. We have to focus on West Chicago.

"And credit to Elgin, they played hard the whole game, regardless of the score."

The Examiner of Streamwood

Sabres boys' hoops earn needed victory over Elgin ---

2/2/2022

By Seth Hancock

The **Streamwood** boys' basketball team, sparked by four-year varsity senior Richard Santiago, defeated **Elgin** 58-55 in Upstate Eight Conference play on Friday, Jan. 28 at Elgin.

The Sabres trailed the entire first quarter and had a 17-11 deficit going into the second. They rallied with a 27-15 second period for a 38-32 lead at the break.

Santiago led that rally scoring nine of his game-high 15 points in the second quarter. Dakota White (eight points) hit a three-pointer with 2:31 left in the half for Streamwood's first lead, 30-28, and it never trailed again.

“I thought defensively we forced a little faster tempo and got some steals,” said Streamwood coach Kent Payne. “A couple guys made some shots, and I think that was the turning point.”

The Sabres added to their lead in the third quarter building as large as a 15- point advantage and holding a 54-45 lead entering the fourth.

The Streamwood offense went stagnant in the final period, but its defense helped maintain the lead until the end.

“We made a couple free throws, got a few defensive stops,” Payne said. “It wasn’t because of our offensive prowess, but the guys did a nice job closing it out on the defensive end.”

Cris Calderon and Nicholas Trybulec each had 10 points and Jacob Rubio six.

The win was a needed confidence boost for the Sabres who have struggled to get victories this season, sitting at 4-21 overall and 3-10 in the UEC at the end of the week.

“The season we’re having, getting any kind of win is good for them,” Payne said. Streamwood was coming off an 87-44 UEC loss against East Aurora on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at “Rosner Arena.”

In nonconference play, the Sabres ended the week with a 66-38 loss at Schaumburg on Saturday, Jan. 29. James Donato scored 16 points, Santiago 10, Calderon seven and Trybulec six.

Daily Herald

Lake Park captures regional crown --- 2/2/2022

By Chris Walker, Daily Herald Correspondent

Lake Park started strong on the uneven parallel bars and sailed to a regional title during Tuesday night's Lake Park regional.

The Lancers scored 142.325 points, finishing comfortably in front of Wheaton Warrenville co-op's 139.15.

"Right off the bat we hit 4 out of 5 routines on bars which really good because sometimes that's our iffy event," said Lancers senior Paula Naronowicz. "I feel just by starting the meet strong and hitting my routine set the tone pretty good for the rest of the meet."

Naronowicz would win the all-around title with a 36.725 while also capturing top honors on vault with a 9.25 and floor with a 9.525.

"Floor has always been my favorite event and I do skills that I can hit most of the time," she said. "I feel that I can finish off the meet really strong and I know I can support my team the best I can. I feel confident I can hit, and the environment with everyone cheering for you, and the amount of energy. I just love floor."

Sophomore Julia Bartnik finished second to Naronowicz in the all-around with a 35.625 while winning beam with a 9.225.

"I try to take all the pressure off of beam by focusing on what I'm doing and taking one step at a time," Bartnik said. "I just try to have fun with it like I do on all the other events. I don't know; it just works for me."

A lot was working for the Lancers.

Sophomore Cali Keefe followed Bartnik in the all-around with a 35.175 which included a second-place finish on bars with an 8.8. Alyssa Mizza contributed an 8.65 vault while fellow senior Annabelle Jung was fourth on bars with an 8.75, fifth on floor with a 9.05 and added to the team's beam score.

"We've been working so hard all season and it especially paid off this meet," Bartnik said. "Everyone did great. I'm really happy for all of us. I didn't even care how I did individually as long as the team did good."

It may have been Bartnik's first postseason experience, but she performed like she's been on the award stand plenty of times already.

"These people are my best friends and we've built a bond like sisters," she said. "I've never bonded with people like this. It was so much fun to see everyone's success today, so amazing to see everyone at their best."

Wheaton Warrentville co-op Ashley Huang was best on bars, winning with a 9.075. Unfortunately, she needed crutches to go to the award stand after suffering a knee injury during her floor routine. Huang also took third on beam with an 8.625.

"We're kind of where we expected to be for tonight," Wheaton Warrentville co-op coach Maureen Kermend said. "Floor was going pretty well, our bars looked a lot better, we had stumbled a bit on beam and we're still working some kinks out on vault, and you always want to get the strongest routines as possible."

Sophomore Haylie Hinckley and senior Maleah Crowley finished in fourth and fifth respectively, in the all-around with a 35.1 and 34.2, for the co-op.

Crowley took fourth place on floor while Hinckley soared to fifth on bars with an 8.7 while taking second on floor with a 9.35 and vault with a 9.15.

She found a way to stay focused and compete despite following Huang on floor.

"I was really upset for Ashley, but I wanted to finish strong for her and keep our team going," Hinckley said. "I was happy with the landing and everything. And I was really happy with my vault, which I thought was very good even if the scores didn't reflect it. I thought it was one of my better ones."

Addison Trail took third place with a 124.9 and U-46 co-op scored a 123.15.

Junior Maddie Muccianti was sixth in the all-around for the Blazers with a 33.35. U-46 sophomore Brynn Kerber was sixth on the vault with an 8.8.