

## Press Clippings 4/19/2022

### Courtesy of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra Grupo De Danza Folklorica Quetzaly and Mariachi Joya Dorada de U-46 to Perform at Mariachi! Concerts --- 4/18/2022



Mariachi Joya Dorada de U-46



Grupo De Danza Folklorica Quetzaly

Concert attendees will experience a celebration of local Mexican heritage when the Elgin Symphony Orchestra welcomes **Grupo De Danza Folklorica Quetzaly** and **Mariachi Joya Dorada de U-46** to perform at the Symphony's "Mariachi!" concerts featuring Mariachi Acero de Las Vegas at the Hemmens Cultural Center on April 30 and May 1.

Performing in the lobby starting one hour before the concerts will be the student musicians of Mariachi Joya Dorada de U-46. The group is composed of students from U-46 middle and high schools. Since its founding in 2018, the group has performed at dozens of events.

Grupo De Danza Folklorica Quetzaly, which provides the opportunity for children and adults in the Elgin area to celebrate and stay connected to their Mexican heritage through folk dance and music, will perform at intermission.

“The Elgin Symphony Orchestra is committed to celebrating and sharing the diverse culture of our community,” said Marc Thayer, CEO of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. “We are excited to bring this festive celebration of Elgin’s local Mexican heritage to the Hemmens Cultural Center this month. These two groups are dedicated to preserving the colorful Mexican arts culture with future generations and showcasing their heritage with the greater community. We encourage patrons to arrive early to hear the student performers in Mariachi Joya Dorada de U-46, and to enjoy the intermission performance by Grupo De Danza Folklorica Quetzaly.

**Richard Mizell** will conduct the “Mariachi!” concerts featuring Mariachi Acero de Las Vegas on Saturday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 1, at 3 p.m. Mizell was senior music producer for the Walt Disney Company for 37 years and conducted nationally recognized orchestras with EPCOT’s Mariachi Cobre and Doc Severinsen.

**Mariachi Acero de Las Vegas** was founded in 2008 by Erik Ramirez, a graduate of East Chicago High School in Indiana, and received top honors in the 2012 and 2013 Mariachi Nationals hosted by Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez and at the 2014 Battle of the Mariachis at San Juan Capistrano Mission in California.

Mariachi Acero de Las Vegas has shared the stage with the greatest Mariachi ensembles in the world including Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan, Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlan, Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez, and Mariachi Los Camperos. They have also had the pleasure of accompanying top Latino artists such as Emmanuel, Jenni Rivera, Angeles Ochoa, Lorenzo de Monteclaro, Pancho Barraza, Maribel Guardia, Los Temerarios, Pablo Montero, Gerardo Ortiz, Voz de Mando, and Banda Limon.

# Daily Herald

## Boys' volleyball: Conant shakes off slow start, tops Larkin --- 4/18/2022

By John Leusch

Dhru Patel began his Conant boys' volleyball career on the freshman team with Drewann Pancratz as the head coach.

The Cougars senior setter is now finishing his career with Pancratz as his head coach on the Cougars varsity team as she took over the program just this season.

"It's pretty cool," said Patel, who plans to study finance at the University of Illinois. "She is an amazing, talented coach. My first year, I had her as a coach and now I get to end my career with her as well."

Patel hopes the ending is the same way the Cougars have started the spring: in strong fashion.

After Patel collected his 17th assist following senior Nic Breiter's fifth kill, the Cougars wrapped up a 25-21, 25-9 nonconference triumph over visiting **Larkin** on Monday night and raised their record to 15-3.

"We've started out playing strong in conference (4-1 in the Mid-Suburban West) and in tournaments," Patel said. "The coaching and players are coming together and we've been able to put together a good record."

The Cougars' offense put together a good match, getting 8 kills from sophomore Michael Recko along with 5 from Jacob Pietraszek and 2 apiece from Nick Gutka and Patel.

Breiter and Dilan Patel each had 9 digs.

The Cougars built an 11-5 lead with seven straight service points from Pietraszek but Larkin (2-8) charged back with an 11-3 run and led 16-14 following a kill by senior Garrett Leaver and block by classmate Matheu Preuss.

"We had to make a last-minute change in our lineup and I felt Matheu stepped up for us serving," said Larkin seventh-year coach Katie Smiley, who like Pancratz is a Carthage College graduate. "So I am really proud of him. And when Josh James-Givens (senior) steps on the court, he has a positive attitude and always keeps his head up and that helps us every single game. Garrett Leaver is always a strong leader and I look to him for guidance and leadership because he adjusts well to things. He's hoping to play in college. He's a great captain and great team player."

At 13-13 in Set 1, Pancratz called a timeout and the Cougars got back on track to close out the set with an 11-5 run.

"We just didn't start with a lot of energy," Dhru Patel said. "But once coach called a timeout, she settled us down and we came back more energized and fixed things up."

The Cougars were rolling in the second set, getting four straight service points from Dhru Patel for a quick lead and extending it to 12-1 before a kill from Larkin's Ricky Jimenez.

A kill by Jayden Dimiceli got Larkin to within 23-9 before the match ended with a service error and Breiter's kill.

"We started out with a lot of unforced errors and I told the boys that we had to come ready to play," Pancratz said. "We had a good talk about our seniors showing some leadership and putting the ball away."

"Jacob Pietraszek came on well and we started utilizing our middles better. We cleaned up things a bit and Dhru started making good decisions with the ball. His senior leadership showed toward the end of the match. We have a good group of boys. We just have to stay focused. We can't get complacent. We have to keep pushing."

Smiley said the Royals have had some struggles with their roster and commitments this spring but the team is finally coming together.

"We had four good practices in a row," she said. "We're finally getting there. It's just been a little tough but I know we can do it. When we got that lead in the first set, they said 'oh man, we can do this' and I think they got a little too relaxed. They (Conant) began setting their middles a lot and that's where we struggle with some issues. But we're getting there."

# Daily Herald

## Boys' volleyball: Metea Valley rallies from set down to beat South Elgin --- 4/18/2022

By Jared Birchfield, Daily Herald Correspondent



Metea Valley's Bartosz Chmielewski sends a shot toward South Elgin's Evan Deguzman and Andrew Galanes in a boys volleyball match in South Elgin on Monday. *John Starks | Staff Photographer*

**South Elgin** made adjustments to fill a big offensive hole in its home nonconference match with Metea Valley Tuesday.

Storm coach Jess Bossenga's lineup changes to fill the void worked in the first set, which South Elgin won, 25-21.

However, Metea Valley countered with its own modifications and won the next two sets, 25-19 and 25-13 to win the match.

"We were playing a little short-handed, Sean Harvey was out today. You can throw up a lot of balls to him and he can swing so we needed other people to step into that role today," Bossenga said. "We tried to come out with some focus, and we definitely did in that first game. We had good energy, we moved the ball around and we took advantage of the things that we were trying to."

South Elgin (8-3) never trailed in the first set. The Mustangs knotted the contest three times in the early going, but the Storm managed to regain the lead. After the third tie, South Elgin went on a 12-5 run ending on a spike by Andrew Galanes (11 kills, 10 assists and 2 blocks) to go up 19-13. Metea Valley (13-6) rallied and pulled within 23-20 on a Marco Palczynski kill. Another Galanes strike put the contest at match point and a Mustang hitting error sealed the win.

"After the first set, we made a couple of lineup changes. We saw what they were doing, and we changed offensively and defensively," said Metea Valley coach Darren Honda. "I think that made a difference. Also, our blocking really picked up."

The Mustangs scored the first point of the second set on a Haas Duggirala spike (10 kills) and after a 3-3 tie, never relinquished the lead. The Storm pulled within 17-16 on one of Kyle Aluquin's six kills but Metea Valley closed out the contest on an 8-3 run.

"Our offense started humming in the second set. Chad (Luckinbill) was hitting well from the outside. Bartosz (Chmielewski) was getting us points in our middle and when we brought in Haas, he had a few kills and got us started," Honda said. "Both Haas and Robert (Stewart) had a lot of blocks. They were touching a lot of balls and changing South Elgin shots. We were able to get the ball back a lot more."

"They were using their middle a lot more in the in the second game and that hurt us," Bossenga said.

The third set was another close contest at the start. Metea Valley took an early lead, but the Storm tied it at 7-7 and capitalizing on Mustang errors took a 9-7 lead. Metea Valley retied the game, 9-9 on a Chmielewski ace. The Mustangs then took control, outscoring South Elgin 16-4 to win the game and the match.

"We're trying to fight back, and we were making a few more mistakes," said Bossenga. "Trying to be comfortable with everybody who's on the floor in slightly different roles caught up to us a little bit at the end."

"In the first set we made a bunch of errors. We were serving out, we were hitting out and not passing. After the first set we realized that they're not beating us we're beating ourselves," said Luckinbill, who had a match-high 12 kills. "In the second and third sets, we cleaned it up and we didn't make many errors. Also, our blocking got really good."

Aidan Murphy earned 31 assists and made nine digs for the Mustangs. Ashwin Achanta notched 8 digs.

The Storm's Ryan Vo tallied 15 assists and classmate Caiden Kapraun had 10 digs.