

Press Clippings 4/09/2022 to 4/11/2022

Daily Herald

U-46 honors 'Partners of the Year' at Elgin Area Chamber event --- 4/11/2022

Submitted by Elgin Area School District U-46



Five local healthcare organizations are honored as Elgin Area School District U-46 "Business Partners of the Year" at the Elgin Area Chamber's annual meeting and awards ceremony on March 31. *Courtesy of Elgin Area School District U-46*

Elgin Area School District U-46 celebrated its valued relationships with five healthcare organizations -- Greater Family Health, VNA Health Care, Advocate Health Care, Jewel-Osco, and Med-Call Healthcare -- by recognizing them as U-46's Business Partners of the Year at the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting.

"These five health organizations have always understood and supported our mission of 'All Means All'," said Superintendent Dr. Tony Sanders. "But during the COVID-19 pandemic, our relationships have only become more important as we worked together to try to keep our schools and community safe and our students in school for in-person learning. These five organizations deserve our recognition for serving as true partners of U-46."

When U-46 was able to offer COVID-19 vaccines in February 2021, Greater Family Health, VNA, Advocate's Sherman Hospital, and Jewel-Osco were the district's partners.

Those vaccines were offered to all of U-46's approximately 6,500 employees, and more than 1,200 community members ages 65 or older received vaccines at U-46's Educational Services Center.

When U-46 undertook the massive effort to host vaccine clinics at all 40 of its elementary schools in November 2021, Med-Call was the district's partner.

They worked with state agencies, provided the staff, and maintained the records that allowed nearly 2,000 elementary students to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Health Services Supervisor Jeff Judge and Specialist Caitlyn Van Dame presented representatives from Greater Family Health, VNA, Advocate Sherman Hospital, Jewel-Osco, and Med-Call with the awards on March 31 during the Elgin area Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting and awards reception at Elgin State Bank in Elgin.

During the reception, U-46 was also one of about two dozen organizations recognized for being a member of the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce for more than 70 years.

Kane County Connects

2022 Kane County ROE Educator of the Year – Week 1

Nominees --- 4/8/2022

Kane County Educator of the Year, a 46-year tradition, will take part on April 29, at the Q Center in St. Charles

Leading up to the big event night, the Kane County Regional Office of Education will be sharing all the nominations, beginning this week, with the representatives for Early Career, Elementary/Early Childhood, and Middle School Teachers.

And the nominees are ...



Early Childhood teachers must teach 50% of their time in the classroom instructing children ages birth through kindergarten. Elementary school teachers must spend at least 50% of their time instructing children kindergarten through fifth grade.

In Kane County there are 113 elementary school buildings serving more than 52,000 students.

The nominees are:

- Laura Manzanos Somoza, District 131, Oak Park Elementary, Preschool Bilingual/Dual Language
- Anna Nightingale, District 131, Oak Park Elementary, 2nd & 3rd General Ed/Bilingual
- Barbara Spence, District 101, Grace McWayne Elementary, Kindergarten
- Jillian Yaggie, District 302, Kaneland John Shields Elementary, Kindergarten

Middle School Category



Teachers must spend at least 50% of their time teaching, in the classroom, to children in levels 6th through 8th grade.

In Kane County, there are 30 middle school buildings, serving more than 28,000 students.

The nominees are:

- Megan Bockenbauer, District 131, Fred Rodgers Magnet Academy, 7th Grade English Language Arts
- Faviola Escobar, U-46, Larsen Middle School, 7th Grade Dual Language-Spanish Language Arts & Social Studies
- Sandy Ritter, U-46, Tefft Middle School, 6th & 7th Grade Special Education
- Suzanne Satterfield, District 302, Harter Middle School, 7th Grade Science & Social Studies

Early Career Category



The Early Career Category recognizes teachers who are in their second to fifth year of teaching.

The nominees are:

- Kiera Donnamario, District 131, Waldo Middle School, 7th Grade Social Studies
- Molly Duda, District 302, Kaneland Blackberry Creek Elementary, K-5th Grade Cross-Categorical/Special Ed Teacher
- Danielle Sheppard, District 303, St. Charles North High School, 9th-12th Grade School Art Teacher
- Brittany Tres, District 129, West Aurora High School, 9th-12th English Language Learner – Math

About the Kane County Educator of The Year Awards



Each year, Educator of the Year nominations are submitted by staff, friends, and family to recognize exceptional educators. Winners in each category are announced, along with the overall Educator of the Year winner.

Along with nominees, school district representatives are cordially invited to a formal dinner. Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available now through local district offices.

Learn more about Educator of the Year, visit www.kaneroe.org/educator-of-the-year/.

Stay updated with Kane ROE and subscribe to the bi-weekly newsletter from the Kane ROE and follow-on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

SOURCE: Kane County Regional Office of Education

Daily Herald

Boys' volleyball: Bartlett 3rd at Meadows invitational --- 4/9/2022

By Bill Esbrook, Daily Herald Correspondent

One of the final games in the Rolling Meadows boys' volleyball round-robin invitational Saturday had the potential to be a very interesting contest.

It pitted the host Mustangs against Fremd and sure enough, right on cue, the two teams made it even more compelling with each team winning its first four games of the day.

That set the Vikings-Meadows tilt up as the championship match, and Fremd coach Curt Pinley said there were two specific items his team had to focus on in the tournament.

"One of the biggest things we talked about coming into today was limiting errors and playing with confidence," said Pinley, "and we knew those were two things we had to figure out early in the season.

"Meadows is a fantastic team and finishing up with them after we had already played four matches, well, to play at the level we did in the last match of the day, I think it says a lot of the kind of guys we have this year."

And with the title on the line the two teams, fatigued as they had been from a long day of volleyball, put on quite a show.

Fremd got the upper hand early on, then rallied in the second set for a 25-17, 25-21 championship win.

"I always tell the guys the first match of a tourney is the second toughest match, and the last one is the toughest," said Mustangs coach Kevin Bourn. "Either way, you're tired because you just woke up, or you're tired from playing non-stop all day.

"Our setters have basically been doing sprinting workouts the entire day and we did a good job holding it together until the end. I felt like we played tough against a great Fremd team."

Fremd finished 5-0 on the day, not dropping even one set, while Meadows was 4-1.

Bartlett took third place with a 3-2 record, losing a heartbreaker to Fremd, 27-29 in set two.

Spencer Medendorp, a right side, led the Hawks on the day with 31 kills, 20 digs, and 3 aces. Teammates Jack Morrisey (25 kills, 27 digs), Aaron Amawan (43 digs, 6 aces), Anthony Mapes (23 kills, 21 digs) and Adarsh Patel (80 assists) also excelled.

"Against Fremd, we had multiple chances to put them away," said Bartlett coach Robert Schwantz. "We just made too many errors."

In what turned out to be the winner-take-all game, Fremd started strong to take set one.

Then Meadows rebounded to take a 14-11 advantage in the second set.

A kill from Vikings junior outside hitter Camden Seaver started the Fremd rally, and the teams traded points until senior Marco Boscolo set up classmate Luke Polcyn, an outside hitter, for a slam that made it 20-19 Vikes.

Fremd extended the lead to 24-21 when senior Aaron Sallade had a kill off the block, then a Meadows hit past the end line put the match in the win column for the Vikings.

Boscolo finished with 96 assists on the day for Fremd, Chris Kim had 29 digs and was 52-of-53 on serve receive, and Seaver led the way on attack with 51 kills.

And despite the final match loss, Bourn was upbeat about his squad's performance on the day, especially three players who got their initial varsity playing time.

"They took the court for varsity for the first time ever in their careers, and they all did great," said Bourn. "Stevie Psarros, one of our setters, was just back from a knee injury, Rayko Wojciekowski got some playing time in the back row and got some nice serves in and some front row hitting as well. And Aidan Moran, a defensive specialist, got in for the first time and also did a nice job."

Daily Herald

Girls' soccer: Veterans contributing to D-C's strong play ---

4/9/2022

By Chris Walker, Daily Herald Correspondent



Bartlett's Madison Neer was joined on the all-tournament team at last week's Rose Augsburg-Drach Invitational by teammate Sabrina Fowler, St. Charles East's Anna Champine, McKenna Gahagan and Grace Williams, St. Charles North's Martina Nava, Bella Najera and Sophia Hein, and Burlington Central's Eva Samuelian. *Paul Valade | Staff Photographer*

Dundee-Crown has gotten off to a strong start this spring.

"We have great leaders on our team in Berkley Mensik, Kate Raby and Giselle Farias," Dundee-Crown coach Rob Moulton said. "We are playing hard, smart and together and we are taking it one day at a time."

Moulton is stressing hard work and dedication from his girls this spring after a 4-11-1 record a season ago. So far, it's working as the Chargers (2-0) won their first two games of the year against **Streamwood** and Hoffman Estates.

"We look forward to a great rest of the year and have a team that's capable of making a great run," he said. "We understand that we need to work hard to earn it."

Battling weather and unique opponents:

By the time Rosary was finishing up a 3-0 loss against Westosha Central (Wis.) last Saturday there was half an inch of snow on the field.

Rosary (3-2-1) certainly experienced some things in the Antioch Invitational last week. The Royals had a 3-0 lead against Belvidere North only to lose 5-4 on Friday before bouncing back for a 3-1 win against Antioch and then falling to the tournament champions from Wisconsin.

"Losing 5-4 was a heartbreaker but then we came back and beat Antioch," Rosary coach Amy McMahon said. "And we played well against Westosha. They scored all their goals in the first half so we shut them out the rest of the game."

Playing three games in two days in less than fair conditions will hopefully pay off as a valuable learning experience.

"It helps us find the areas we have to improve on," McMahon said. "We switched up our formation from last year so we're trying to adapt to strengthening our defense and everything like that. The girls are receptive to constructive criticism and willing to learn so I think that's going to help us progress."

Senior Alaina Ferraro and junior Macey DeMoss are leading the Royals. DeMoss has 10 goals already while Ferraro's versatility has her stepping into different roles pretty much seamlessly depending on team needs.

Sophie's Choice reigns at North:

St. Charles North has a talented squad this spring and the Sophias and Sophies have a lot to do with it.

"It can make it really confusing so we pretty much use last names and nicknames," North Stars coach Brian Harks said.

Seniors Sophie Sutherland, Sophia Hein and Sophia Hickey and junior Sophie Kirsten account for the plethora of North Stars named Sophia/Sophie, a name of Greek origin meaning "wisdom."

"The next game I'll just put our starting lineup of Sophia all across the top," Harks joked.

Harks has to be pleased with what the Sophia/Sophies and their teammates are doing after they secured their first championship of the season, winning the Rose Augsburg-Drach Invitational on a cold, wet Saturday at St. Charles East to improve to 5-0 overall.

"It was a great way to end what we consider spring break," Harks said. "We're really looking forward to taking on some DuKane Conference teams. We know it's a really talented group of teams and wins never come easy so this conference poses a really nice challenge."

The tournament dynamic of having to win and advance had been missing in the regular season since 2019 and was definitely missed.

"We talked about the tournament style of play with the girls and how it allows you to get in the right mindset each game and it's one after the other so very much the postseason mentality," Harks said. "We won (the Augsburg-Drach Invitational) in 2019 and hadn't had it for two years so going into the finals the girls saw 'St. Charles North' on the trophy and I think that was a little extra motivation."

The North Stars will also compete in the extremely tough Naperville Invitational later this month with games already scheduled against Oswego East and Benet.

Augsburg-Drach notes:

St. Charles East's Anna Champine, McKenna Gahagan and Grace Williams, St. Charles North's Martina Nava, Bella Najera and Sophia Hein, **Bartlett's** Sabrina Fowler and Madison Neer and Burlington Central's Eva Samuelian were among the all-tournament team in last week's Rose Augsburg-Drach Invitational.

The North Stars edged the Saints for the title, 2-1. Last year the Saints beat the North Stars three times including to win the Class 3A Bartlett sectional.

Wearing a new coat at Geneva:

Geneva knew losing all-conference, all-sectional selection Lilly Coats to an injury for the first six weeks or so of the season was going to be a big loss, but it also afforded another kid with an opportunity to step up.

Sophomore Leyna Yonehara has done just that at center back to replace Coats.

"Although she had no previous experience at this position, her composure and leadership in the back has resulted in three shutouts in our first four games," Vikings coach Megan Owens said. "Although she had a solid freshman year for us, she was limited by injury, so it's great to

see her playing with so much confidence and poise this year. She is quickly becoming the vocal leader of our defense."