

Press Clippings for 11/11/2022

--- The Daily Herald---

Girls volleyball: 2022 Fox All-Area Team

Nov. 10, 2022

By Gregg Voss

2022 Fox All-Area Girls Volleyball Team

Name School Year Pos.

Abby Buban, Geneva, senior, outside hitter

Haley Burgdorf, St. Charles North, junior, outside hitter

Avary DeBlieck, Huntley, senior, middle blocker

Tricia Kennedy, Cary-Grove, senior, middle blocker

Bria Lomax, Bartlett, senior, middle

Ally Panzloff, Huntley, senior, outside hitter

Amanda Otten, Batavia, senior, setter/right side

Gabi Peter, Hampshire, senior, outside hitter

Kate Scherer, St. Charles North, junior, outside hitter

Lia Schneider, St. Charles East, senior, defensive specialist/libero

Mia Vassallo, Kaneland, junior, libero

Gabby Wire, Crystal Lake South, junior, outside hitter

Honorable mention:

Jazmine Binion, South Elgin, junior, outside hitter

Alyssa Burke, Harvest Christian, sophomore, outside hitter

Maggie Duyous, Huntley, senior, setter

Caitlyn Madsen, St. Edward, junior, outside hitter

Clare McEniry, Rosary, sophomore, outside hitter

Brooke Hoffman, Burlington Central, senior, outside hitter

Meredith Milz, Kaneland, senior, setter

Morgan Jones, Huntley, junior, outside hitter

Jessica Parker, St. Charles North, senior, setter

Alicia Pierre, Jacobs, junior, middle hitter

Audrey Prusko, Dundee-Crown, junior, middle

Chloe Ruge, Aurora Central Catholic, senior, outside hitter

Natalee Rush, St. Charles East, senior, middle

Jorah Rutter, Hampshire, sophomore, setter

Maddy Shaner, South Elgin, senior, outside hitter

Emma Stowasser, Crystal Lake South, senior, setter

Sam Vanda, Geneva, sophomore, outside hitter

Alyssa Yost, Elgin Academy, senior, libero

– Chicago Tribune –

A true story: **Elgin's Julian Orozco, who didn't start out as a defender, is the 2022 Beacon-News/Courier-News Boys Soccer Player of the Year.**

Nov. 10, 2022

By Patrick Z. McGavin - Aurora Beacon News



Elgin's Julian Orozco (14) moves to defend an incoming kick against East Aurora during a game in Aurora on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022. (Jon Cunningham / The Beacon-News)

Elgin senior [Julian Orozco](#) didn't start out as a true defender.

He's a natural fit in the center of the field, but he came to his featured position in a roundabout fashion — by first looking at the other side of the ball.

“Originally, as a kid, I would play in the attack a lot,” Orozco said. “I learned how defenders like to work because I was used to playing against them.

“If you're a good all-around player, you can learn how to play any position.”

A sterling defensive performance from Orozco, the 2022 Beacon-News/Courier-News Boys Soccer Player of the Year, put [Elgin](#) in position to make a bunch of history.

The [Maroons](#) (20-1-3) captured the first sectional title in program history, allowing only 13 goals and registering 14 shutouts, with Orozco spearheading that team effort.

His leadership, versatility and command of the field beautifully fused together.

Coming up through youth and travel leagues in [Elgin](#), Orozco kept hearing about how stout and instinctive he was as a defender. He had the savvy and feel for the position.

“I learned as an attacker what was hard to play against,” he said.

Last season as a junior, his permanent switch to a central defender opened up the possibilities, allowing his blend of athleticism, tenacity and strength to truly prosper.

“The combination of positive attitude, continuous work ethic and desire to improve made his game consistently superior throughout the season,” [Elgin coach Jimmy Romano](#) said.

And it's not just his coach who thinks that. [Senior central defender Edgar Perez](#) agreed.

“He is one of the best I have ever played with in my 16 years of competitive soccer,” Perez said.

“He is a great leader and a tough opponent to beat in one-on-one situations.

“He communicates with all of us.”



Elgin's Julian Orozco (14) directs the ball to a teammate against East Aurora during a game in Aurora on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022. (Jon Cunningham / The Beacon-News)

A three-year starter, Orozco played as an outside defender during the special pandemic season in spring 2021. It opened up a previously undiscovered world.

“I just feel like being a central back makes you look at the field a whole lot differently than being a forward or midfielder,” Orozco said. “There is something about seeing the whole field and seeing the game develop in front of you.

“You see a pass, and then suddenly, you see there’s a man on his back.”

Orozco never turned his back on soccer after beginning in organized competition at age 8.

“As a kid, it was just one of those sports that was given to me,” he said. “I remember thinking, ‘I guess I’ll start playing this now.’ Over time, I realized how much I enjoyed the sport.”

His stepfather and older brother, Ramone, also played at **Elgin**.

Ramone, who is four years older, played center midfielder. His brother’s influence explains the early interest in taking up the attack.

The competitive fire between the brothers created a profound sense of urgency and purpose, but defense became Julian’s calling. He remains a special two-way talent.

“Julian is a remarkable lockdown defender who is brilliant at anticipating plays, breaking up and keeping possession of the ball to create opportunities to advance it up the field,” Romano said.

Most importantly, Orozco’s play did not exist in a vacuum. He helped the **Maroons** set multiple single-season program records.

As he ponders the next stage of his playing career, Orozco knows his achievements at **Elgin** played out in the context of team success.

“I learned how to gravitate toward the position because I liked it,” he said of being a true defender. “I also wanted to take ownership of my team and lead them to winning.

“This year was our year because we were just connected.”

Patrick Z. McGavin is a freelance reporter for The Beacon-News.