

Press Clippings for 12/2/2022

– Elgin Courier-News –

Elgin High students to perform at the Hemmens Tuesday as part of the FABBA tribute show to ABBA

Dec. 1, 2022

By Mike Danahey



Elgin High School students Katherine Altergott, from left, Hannah Stewart, Philip Salvador and Katherine Polli will get a taste of the professional stage Tuesday night when they join the orchestra Tuesday night on three songs during "The FABBA Show" at The Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin.

(**Elgin High School** / HANDOUT)

Four **Elgin High School** students will get a taste of show business — and pop music from the 1970s — when they perform Tuesday night at "The FABBA Show," a tribute to Swedish supergroup ABBA at The Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin.

"This will be my first time playing with professionals and a much bigger crowd, which makes me really excited but nervous at the same time," said Philip Salvador, a junior who plays violin.

Also taking part in the show are fellow violinist Hannah Stewart, a junior, and viola player Kathleen Polli and cellist Katherine Altergott, both seniors.

"We were so excited to be contacted by Andy Nagle from LaJolla Booking Agency about having a string quartet perform with this show," said Allison Vickers, **Elgin High School's** director of orchestras.



Elgin High School junior Philip Salazar, clockwise from top left, junior Hannah Stewart, senior Kathleen Polli and senior Katherine Altergott will perform three songs with the orchestra Tuesday during "The FABBA Show," a tribute to Swedish supergroup ABBA at The Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin.

(**Elgin High School** / HANDOUT)

Nagle told Vickers that they like having local students get involved in the traveling production, and often contact schools to find teen musicians when the show goes to towns like Elgin, she said.

"I hopped on board immediately as I knew this would be a great opportunity for the students," Vickers said.

It's a happy coincidence that **Elgin High School's** spring musical in March is "Mama Mia," which uses ABBA tunes to tell its tale, she said.

"Many of my students wanted to play in the pit orchestra for the show, but string parts were

not in the book. This was a great way to give them a similar experience,” Vickers said.

The four will be featured on the songs “Honey, Honey,” “Slipping Through My Fingers” and “If It Wasn’t for the Nights.”

The students and their teacher said they are fans of the music by the Swedish foursome, who had their biggest hits more than 40 years ago. ABBA broke up in 1982, but reunited in 2021 for the album “Voyage,” which is up for three Grammy awards in April.

“I was exposed to ABBA and other music like that when I was a little kid by my grandparents and parents,” Salvador said. “I have watched the ‘Mamma Mia!’ movie before ... and I had played some of their music since I just love playing popular music pieces when I have free time.

“As a Filipino, we’re really fond of singing and music in general and my family would listen to different kinds of songs from different singers and bands, such as Journey, Air Supply, Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin, Elvis, Queen, ABBA and other acts.”

His favorite ABBA song is “The Winner Takes It All,” while Polli said she is partial to “Dancing Queen” and Altergott said she loves “Money, Money, Money.”

“I love that ABBA’s music is upbeat, enjoyable and can appeal to anybody,” Vickers said.

The four students have been rehearsing together for the show as well as preparing their individual parts at home, Vickers said.

“One thing that has really helped is playing along to ABBA recordings so they can hear how their parts will fit in during the show with the FABBA band,” she said.

Salvador said, “Preparing for the show was really enjoyable both because of the music that we are playing and the things that came along with it, such as a photo shoot, interviews and overall excitement.”

In addition to featuring the student-musicians playing with a live backing band, “The FABBA Show” will feature costume changes, choreographed dance routines and performers teaching the audience a few dance moves.

While the students won’t get paid for their work, the company is making a donation to **Elgin High School** for their participation in the show.

“The FABBA Show” will be presented at 7:30 Tuesday, Dec. 6, at The Hemmens, 45 Symphony Way. Tickets range from \$25 to \$65 and can be purchased by going to the Hemmens box

office, calling 847-931-5900 or going to www.hemmens.org.

Mike Danahey is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

– Elgin Courier-News –

ABBA tribute band brings Elgin students on stage in Hemmens show

Nov. 23, 2022

By Kathy Cichon

Maybe she should have sent out an S.O.S. during the costume change.

“There was one point where the other girl got the hanger stuck in the costume and she came back on stage and the hanger was still at the back of her head,” said Marie-Claire Marshall, who performs as Anni-Frid Lyngstad in The FABBA Show. “So she couldn’t turn around.”

But since the show must go on, the dancing queen continued with the number, despite the wardrobe mishap.

“She couldn’t do any of the turns because she didn’t want the audience to see,” Marshall said. “We could all see, so it was very hard for us all to keep a straight face because we could all see what was going on.”

Good times and laughter are the name of the game at The FABBA Show, a high-energy tribute to pop megastars ABBA.

“It’s really a little bit more than just a band. We really try to make it a spectacle and so thoroughly entertaining,” Marshall said. “The biggest goal is finding fun in everything and the audience having a fun time. And in order to do that we just pull out all the stops, really.”

The FABBA Show opens its December tour at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin.

“There’s an awful lot of costume changes, little comedy skits and loads of audience participation,” Marshall said. “Lots of dancing in the aisles and singing along.”

Joining the cast of The FABBA Show for two songs is **Elgin High School String Quartet. Seniors Philip Salvador, Kathleen Polli, Katherine Altergott and junior Hannah Stewart** will accompany the band on “Honey Honey” and “Slipping Through My Fingers.”

Marshall has been part of an ABBA tribute show for at least the last 15 years. She was a singer in London when she auditioned for an ABBA tribute band and got the job. She thought it would last for a set amount of time, but instead it became a group she would continue to perform with between other gigs and projects.

“And here I am, nearly two decades later and it’s turned out to be my life’s work,” she laughed.

Now, she performs in the United States with her husband, guitarist Andy Marshall. He plays Björn Ulvaeus.

“He and I met when we were just jobbing musicians in London and we started a family and moved to America about 10 years ago,” she said. “And when we got here we thought we’ll just be musicians for hire again. We didn’t think that ABBA was particularly big in the States. And we were so wrong! People kept asking us about it and eventually we decided to put the band back together again, but this time with some American cast members.”

Joining the Marshalls in the cast of The FABBA Show for the tour are Lars Midthun as Benny Andersson, Karie Seasock as Agnetha Fältskog and drummer Gustavo Peraza as Ola Brunkert, who was one of the main session drummers for ABBA.

Audience members range from octogenarians to the TikTok generation. Marshall said every generation sort of rediscovers ABBA with its “terrifically catchy melodies” and “fantastic musicianship.”

“It happens upon the next generation when they’re discovering music for themselves they pop up, just like The Beatles and the Stones and all the greats do,” Marshall said. “And people fall in love with them all over again.”

To prepare for their roles the cast did “a lot of intensive listening to recreate their sound.

“We would sort of pull apart a song and try and put it back together again. And when a part of it didn’t sound right, we try and figure out why. Is it a different way of strumming that string? Is it a different way of hitting that note? How did they blend together? Really it was like a puzzle trying to figure it all out,” Marshall said.

The band encourages audience members to dress in ’70s garb, as it adds to the fun and atmosphere. Marshall said it’s fun to recreate the glitz and sparkle of the disco era, complete with bell bottoms, platform boots and hair glitter.

“And that’s one of the parts we particularly love. We get in as many costume changes as we can,” she said.

That means there are usually mere seconds between songs to change clothes.

“That’s always fraught because you’re trying so hard to get the next costume on before your cue to get back on that all sorts of things can happen backstage.”

Things like a wardrobe mishap. Mamma mia, here we go again.

This time it happened when Marshall and a fellow cast member had to change into dresses that also have shorts attached.

“She was doing it so quickly that she put both of her legs into one part of the shorts” Marshall said. “And then it was her cue and she had to come back on again for the next song. So until we could get to the next costume change, her legs were so tight together. So we’ve had a few incidents like that, but it’s all part of the fun.”

The FABBA Show

When: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6

Where: The Hemmens Cultural Center, 45 Symphony Way, Elgin

Tickets: \$25-\$60

Information: 847-931-5900; hemmens.org

Kathy Cichon is a freelance reporter for the Courier-News

– Daily Herald –

Wrestling season preview: Scouting Fox and DuPage teams

Nov. 30, 2022

By Mike Garafola

Wrestling is back -- and it's Ben Davino and Jameson Garcia who lead a star-studded class of returning state medal winners in advance of the 2022-23 wrestling season.

The two-time state champions are among 15 who brought home a variety of state medals from

all three classes, with nearly 45 more that qualified to compete at State Farm Arena in Champaign last February.

It is a toss-of-the-coin between Davino (St. Charles East) and Garcia (Marmion Academy), who begin season ranked 1-2 in state polls at 126 pounds. However, there's little mystery as to where their respective clubs stand in those same preseason polls.

Garcia (32-4), who is headed to Harvard next fall, leads an impressive Cadets lineup that sits third behind Marist and Mt. Carmel, one spot ahead of Davino (37-1) and his mates, who have no less than nine of their men in the preseason top 10, including 2A state champion Jayden Colon, who comes over from Montini Catholic.

"If we stay healthy, sort out our lineup, and lined (correctly), I feel like we can compete with anyone with the addition of a couple of move-ins, the transfer from Colon, and Davino, who since state last year won nationals, Who's No. 1, and the Super 32 challenge," says Saints coach Jason Potter.

While the Saints are the league favorite, the DuKane Conference is one of plenty of quality and talent. That includes longtime rival Glenbard North, and Batavia, which has a superb quartet of top 8 state qualifiers, beginning with state runner-up, Kaden Fetterolf.

New coach Anthony Cirrincione boasts a lineup of nine returning state qualifiers, five of which brought home state medals, and a pair of incoming freshmen who are each multiple IKWF state champions. Junior Collin Carrigan enters the season the top-rated 152-pounder.

Class 1A state champion Michael Calcagno will give IC Catholic Prep an opportunity to overtake 2A state-ranked Aurora Christian for top honors in the Metro Suburban this season despite losing a pair of state champions. The Eagles lost two brilliant state champions: Braden Stauffenberg (Michigan State) and Nate Wemstrom (Nebraska) but return Deven Casey, one of four 2A state medal winners.

There wasn't a team within miles of eventual 3A state runner-up DeKalb a year ago, which sent 12 to state. But the DuPage Valley Conference champs will return just three giving hope to the

rest of the league with Naperville Central senior and two-time state qualifier Ethan Olson (27-9) the highest rated man (No. 6) at 132.

Antonio Torres (32-3) will be tough to replace at Waubonsie Valley, as will a quartet of sectional qualifiers for coach Brad Caldwell.

The consensus among coaches in the Fox Valley Conference is it will be a two-team race between McHenry and Crystal Lake Central; however, there are several potential state medal winners all throughout the league.

St. Cloud State-bound Dominic Ducato (113) and teammate James Wright (120) are both rated in the top eight of their respective weight class at Jacobs, with Wright turning in a sensational two days to win at the Moore-Pettyman last weekend.

Huntley heavyweight Markos Mihalopoulos is fifth as he looks to make his second consecutive trip downstate a successful one.

"With the rest of our team very new to the varsity level (Ducato, and Wright) will be our focal points this season, as we look to the future here at Jacobs," said coach Gary Conrad.

Vince Govea will have five back at Burlington Central, including three of which were sectional qualifiers, led by super soph Austin Lee (120, 30-17). Over at Cary-Grove, coach Will Peterson has a roster filled with 80% of freshmen and sophomores.

The room at Hampshire has over 70 out this season, including Dimitri Skoulikaris (182) whose thrilling sudden-victory at sectionals sent the senior downstate a year ago.

A sensational season from Porter Leith (195, 34-5) ended one victory short of advancing to state who is front and center at Dundee-Crown this season for coach Tim Hayes. "We have a very young team, but some terrific returning upperclassmen, so the plan is to develop our young guys, while the others strive to reach big goals," says Hayes.

It was a magical year for Crystal Lake South last season who celebrated the 2A state title from

Shane Moran (182) and third-place finish by Josh Glover (113). With both gone, next up will be junior heavyweight Andy Burburijia who joined his mates in Champaign, and enters the season ranked seventh overall.

Glenbard East is the reigning Upstate Eight champ and appears to have a slight edge over **Bartlett**, **South Elgin** and West Chicago according to most coaches in the league.

"We return three sectional qualifiers (Waleed Binmahfooz, Blake Salvino, Billy Clayton) and five all-conference guys from last year, so we're looking to compete for another conference title this season," says Glenbard East coach Donald Pool.

"We fell six points short of a league title, and in my opinion, **South Elgin**, on paper, appears to be the team to beat," opines **Bartlett** coach John Glorioso, who will lean on UEC champ Kaivin Robles (182) and sectional qualifier Ryan Gura (195) while his young club takes shape.

The state-ranked duo of Nico Clinite (145, 27-3) and big man Tommy Roath appear to have enough to head downstate in front of a veteran lineup over at **South Elgin**.

"We continue to build our numbers and improve during the offseason, and with a senior heavy lineup, and some very talented incoming freshmen, we will be competitive both in our duals and weekend tournaments," said coach James Gloudeman.

Brian Hastings at Fenton will bring a young team into the season, as will Bill Peach over in **Streamwood**, and so will Derrick Crenshaw, who is one year away from retirement at Glenbard South.

Larkin coach Earl Danan is thrilled with his club this season, which features six returning all-conference wrestlers, plus conference champ and IHSA fourth-place medal winner, Maria Ferrer, who finished with a dazzling 24-3 overall record.

"We have a wealth of experience this year, the making of a true championship club that has terrific camaraderie, leadership, passion, and commitment to help and support each other,"

said Danan.

Elgin coach Gary Parciak is just as excited as his Larkin counterpart, thanks in part to his state-ranked heavyweight Adam Lambas (No. 8) and the trio of Julius Avendano, Ruben Campuzano and Fabian Ramirez.

"Those guys put a lot of work in the summer at camps, clinics, and freestyle wrestling, so along with (Lambaz) we have a real solid core to build from," says Parciak, who with Lourdes Hernandez was the only school in U-46 to have a boy and girl state qualifier last year.

Who has enough to top the rest of the bunch in both divisions of the West Suburban Conference this season?

With all due respect to Addison Trail, Hinsdale South, Leyden and Willowbrook, the Mustangs from Downers Grove South appear to be deep for their counterparts in the Gold where Sean Lovelances' men won its 10th league title in the last 12 seasons, and first regional crown in 40 years.

"We'll be led by our two senior state qualifiers, Luke Swan and Donnie Fields, and we have a great junior class led by Matt Lapacek, who is a frosh-soph state champ. And with our depth and several new guys in the mix, we feel like this will be another strong season here at South," says Lovelace, now in his ninth year in charge.

Griffin Carr from Hinsdale South and Addison Trail senior Seth Skamra both are in the top 10 preseason polls, while Richard Ortiz at Willowbrook will rely on five returning starters to supplement a young roster.

The WSC Silver division is loaded this year and is defined with high-end talent all throughout the 14 weight classes.

No. 4 Cody Tavoso (138) and his teammate at Hinsdale Central, Marko Ivanisevic (220), are both capable of adding yet another state trophy to their collections, while state-ranked trio from York -- Zach Parisi, Sean Berger and Sean VanSleet -- will give the Dukes an impressive

lower weight advantage over its rivals.

"Our entire Southwest Prairie Conference continues to be so competitive, there is not a single team that can be taken lightly," said Plata.

RETURNING STATE MEDAL WINNERS

(records includes individual state tournament)

Michale Calcagno, IC-Prep, Jr, 21-1, 1A state champion, Collin Carrigan, Marmion, Jr, 27-5, 3A 5th place, Deven Casey, Aurora Christian, So, 32-7, 2A 3rd place, Jayden Colon, Montini (now at St. Charles East, Jr, 25-4, 2A state champion, Ben Davino, St. Charles, Jr, 37-1, 3A state champion, Kaden Fetterolf, Batavia, Sr, 41-6, 3A state runner-up, Jameson Garica, Marmion, Sr, 32-4, 3A state champion, Tyler Guerra, St. Charles East, Jr, 32-6, 3A 3rd place

Braden Hunter, Aurora Christian, Sr, 12-4, 2A 4th place, Marko Ivanisevic, Hinsdale Central, Jr, 37-4, 3A 5th place, Harrison Konder, Downers Grove North, Jr, 43-5, 3A 4th place, Jack Leshner, Marmion, Jr, 40-6, 3A 4th place, David Mayora, Montini, Jr, 18-4, 2A 3rd place, Cody Tavoso, Hinsdale Central, Sr, 26-6, 3A 6th place, Josh Vasquez, Aurora Christian, So, 24-10, 2A 4th place.

RETURNING STATE QUALIFIERS

Andrew Alvarado, IC-Prep, So, 22-13, Cael Andrews, Bataiva, Sr, 40-10, Austin Barrett, St. Charles East, Sr, 27-14, Sean Berger, York, Sr, 40-7, Ben Bielawski, Downers Grove North, Sr, 37-6, Griffin Carr, Hinsdale South, Sr, 22-14, Tegan Chumbley, Marmion, Sr, 30-18, Christian Chavez, Glenbard North, Jr, 14-8, Gavin Connolly, St. Charles East, Jr, 30-10, Morley Corval, Glenbard West, Sr, 29-8, Mike DiBenedetto, Lake Park, Sr, 35-8, Dominic Ducato, Jacobs, Sr, 25-7, Ino Garcia, Batavia, Jr, 42-6, Joseh Gliatta, IC-Prep, Jr, 24-9, Aidan Huck, Batavia, Jr, 30-11, Kalani Khiev, Glenbard North, So, 29-12, Jacob Lachs, Glenbard West, Sr, 31-14, **Adam Lambaz, Elgin**, Sr, 25-6, Devin Medina, Wheaton North, Sr, 41-13, Markos Mihalopoulos, Huntley, Jr, 29-20, Alec Miller, Hinsdale South, Jr, 14-12, Brody Murray, St. Charles East, Jr, 30-8, Ethan Olson, Naperville Central, Sr, 27-9, Zach Parisi, York, Jr, 40-6, Teddy Perry,

Marmion, 25-16, Donny Pigoni, Marmion, Jr, 35-12, Joe Ranieri, Lisle, Sr, 26-14, Mikey Rosch, Wheaton North, Sr, 28-19, Noah Quintana, West Aurora, Jr, 40-8, Omar Samayoa, IC-Prep, Jr, 19-8, Santino Scolaro, Marmion, Sr, 26-10, Sean Scheck, Marmion, Sr, 35-12, Will Schuessler, Downers Grove South, Sr, 37-10, Taythan Silva, Aurora Christian, Sr, 30-10, Seth Skamra, Addison Trail, Sr, 25-10, Dimitri Skoulikaris, Hampshire, Sr, 18-11, Bryson Spaulding, IC-Prep, Jr, 14-10, Luke Swan, Downers Grove South, Sr, 31-8, Sean VanSleet, York, Sr, 31-10, James Wright, Jacobs, Sr, 26-8.

– Daily Herald –

Larkin holds off Glenbard East in Upstate Eight win

Dec. 1, 2022

By Gregg Voss



Larkin's Armani Ivy collides with Glenbard East's Ari Pierson as he goes for a shot in a boys basketball game in Lombard on Thursday, Dec. 1.

John Starks | Staff Photographer



Larkin's Tramare Reed battles for a rebound with a host of players in a boys basketball game against Glenbard East in Lombard on Thursday, Dec. 1.
John Starks | Staff Photographer



Larkin's Jackson Casebeer stops a shot by Glenbard East's Demontay Mack in a boys basketball game in Lombard on Thursday, Dec 1.
John Starks | Staff Photographer



Larkin's **Tramare Reed** and Glenbard East's Danny Snyder chase a loose ball in a boys basketball game in Lombard on Thursday, Dec. 1.

John Starks | Staff Photographer



Colen-York Glenbard East's Jack Ryan blocks a last-second shot by Larkin's **Adrian** at the end of the first half in a boys basketball game in Lombard on Thursday, Dec. 1.

John Starks | Staff Photographer

Respect the process.

If there is one thing **Larkin** boys basketball coach Deryn Carter is harping on this season, a year after his team advanced to the IHSA Class 4A supersectional, it's that.

"Right now, we're too worried about results," Carter said Thursday after **Larkin** (2-3) escaped Glenbard East with a 70-69 Upstate Eight victory.

"We're worried about results instead of worrying about the things that get you to the result.

"Too many times, we didn't know who we were guarding, too many times we weren't executing things we wanted to do defensively, and that comes with a lot of inexperience."

But a game like Thursday's, especially so early in the season, can go a long way to fixing those issues, said senior Armani Ivy.

Ivy scored 13 points and grabbed 5 rebounds and was an integral part of a 14-4 run late in the game that staved off a pair of Rams' 3-pointers with less than 20 seconds to go.

"You have to trust in his planning," Ivy said of Carter. "Respect him and trust in his plan."

Added senior Adrian Colen-York, who finished with 18 points for **Larkin**: "We've got to do what he tells us to do on the court, box out, rebound, and all that."

After a seesaw first three quarters, it looked as if Glenbard East might start pulling away, thanks to a pair of 3-pointers from freshman guard Michael Nee. That gave the Rams a 52-47 lead at the end of the third period.

But it didn't stay that way for long. With 3:37 to go in the game, senior Darnell Wilder hit on a 3 from the left arc, while Ivy did likewise from the left corner at 2:13. After a pair of Ivy free throws with 43.6 left, the **Royals** had a 69-63 lead that seemed insurmountable.

Wrong. Guard Jack Ryan canned a three-pointer with 20.2 seconds left, and after Colen-York made 1 of 2 free throws, Rams' freshman guard Danny Snyder hit another 3 at 5.6 seconds.

It wasn't quite enough, though, as a three-quarter length shot by Ryan at the buzzer fell just short.

Ryan said though his team is 0-5, there has been vast improvement since Game 1.

"It's completely different," Ryan said. "We're a very young team, so it took us a little bit to get it going, but I think it's going in the right direction."

Keep your eye on the freshmen Nee (10 points) and Snyder (7 points) going forward. The future is bright in Lombard for those two reasons.

"I don't think it's a secret that they are the best two shooters in the program," first-year coach Eric Kelly said. "They're on the floor for two reasons: One, they can shoot the ball, and two, they have a very high basketball IQ."