

Press Clippings 5/21/2022 to 5/23/2022

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

Streamwood's Nick Weaver describes it as playing 'not for me.' It leads to two walks, a run and a sacrifice bunt in win over Bartlett --- 5/20/2022

By Paul Johnson, Aurora Beacon-News



Streamwood's Nick Weaver (5) reacts at the plate against Bartlett during an Upstate Eight Conference game at Streamwood on Friday, May 20, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

Junior catcher [Nick Weaver](#) had the right idea Friday for **Streamwood**. Except the next time, he might want to tell coach Dan Jennings about his personalized plan.

Weaver, who has been the focus of opposing pitching staffs all season, decided he wanted to make sure his teammates got some of the glory against **Bartlett**.

And it worked.

Weaver walked twice, scored and even delivered a sacrifice bunt on his own.

“I told (Jennings) I was trying to be less selfish, try to get people over,” Weaver said. “He was not happy with (the bunt), however. I was doing stuff for the team, not for me.”



Streamwood's Nick Weaver (5) regains his focus during an at-bat against Bartlett in an Upstate Eight Conference game at Streamwood on Friday, May 20, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

No good deed might go unpunished, but Weaver was rewarded by his teammates in the Upstate Eight Conference finale with a 12-5 victory.

"The rest of the order did their job," Weaver said. "We had pinch hitters coming in and doing their job. Everybody was doing their job."

This season, Weaver has definitely got the job done for Streamwood (19-11, 18-8), hitting .512 with 17 doubles, three homers and 36 RBIs.

He has earned all the accolades that figure to come his way.

"He's really good," Jennings said. "I'm going to try to get him player of the year because I think he deserves it. Defensively, I think he's the best player on the field wherever we go. If he has a chance to throw somebody out, he will."

"It seems like he comes up big all the time. He just hits a lot of balls hard. When guys are standing on second, it seems like he always hits them in. He's just been good all year."

His strong season also has caught the eyes of opponents.

"We know what kind of damage he can do," [Bartlett coach Chris Baum](#) said of Weaver. "We weren't afraid to let him walk. We handled him OK during the series. He's definitely got our respect."

"We just kind of nibbled and let him make the mistakes. If he didn't bite, he got on base. We didn't want to get beat by their best."



Streamwood's Nick Weaver (5) adjusts his catcher's mask during an Upstate Eight Conference game at Streamwood on Friday, May 20, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

At the start, Bartlett (15-15, 14-11) looked unbeatable as Patrick Nelson hit his ninth homer of the season on the second pitch of the game.

“He’s really good,” Jennings said of Nelson. “He hit one the other night at Bartlett.”

Frank Plichta then singled and scored on a double steal for a 2-0 lead.

The Sabres, however, responded in the bottom of the second with three runs on a wild pitch, a balk and a sacrifice fly. They added three runs in the third, including Chris Lara’s RBI double.

Bartlett cut the deficit to 7-5 after five innings, but Streamwood put the game out of reach with a five-run sixth. Dylan Love’s two-run double was the big hit.

“They’re a real good hitting ballclub,” Baum said. “They’re going to put the ball in play. They’re going to be aggressive. They capitalized. They took advantage.

“Overall, we hit some balls real hard. We hit them right at their guys. Tip of the hat to them. They made the plays.”



Streamwood's Chris Lara (11) makes a play against Bartlett during the third inning of an Upstate Eight Conference game at Streamwood on Friday, May 20, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

Freshman right-hander Austin Paskewic sealed the deal with 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings of scoreless relief. Eric Arroyo picked up the pitching win.

The victory caps a successful regular season for Streamwood. The only UEC series the Sabres didn't win was against Glenbard East, dropping two of three games.

"It's been awesome, especially with all these guys behind me," Weaver said. "With a team like this, it's been awesome."

The focus now turns to the postseason for the Sabres, who face the host Chargers at 4:30 p.m. Thursday in the Class 4A Dundee-Crown Regional semifinals.

"I'm excited for that," Weaver said. "I'm hoping to be able to play a few games and win a regional."

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

Bartlett's Conrad Luczynski, 7-foot-3 and growing, looks to expand game at Missouri prep school: 'This kid wants to play in the NBA.' --- 5/20/2022

By Rick Armstrong



Bartlett center Conrad Luczynski (54) looks to shoot against East Aurora during the fourth quarter of a game on Friday, Jan. 14, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

It seems unfathomable, really.

Bartlett's Conrad Luczynski stands 7-foot-3, weighs 250 pounds and has continued to improve his game and athleticism over the past 18 to 24 months.

Even so, the talented center continued to wait this spring for the Division I scholarship offer he hoped would help him reach his goal.

"This kid wants to play in the NBA," Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said.

With changes in the world, changes in the game and changes in recruiting, the college part of the equation just hasn't happened for Luczynski.

Yet.

His high school coach remains confident it will.



Bartlett's Conrad Luczynski (54) dunks the ball during a game on Friday, Jan. 14, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

That's because the 6-9 Wolfsmith, who refers to Luczynski as "The Polish Hammer," knows full well the strong work ethic his player has developed since losing his sophomore season to the pandemic.

"I told him, 'You're looking to find a path for you,'" Wolfsmith said. "Conrad has leaned on a lot of people, from his parents to our coaching staff, and this spring he joined the Illinois Wolves run by Mike Mullins.

"It's kind of brought everything in focus."

This week, Luczynski decided his path will include going to a prep school — Link Year Prep in Branson, Missouri — for a nine-month postgraduate year that will allow him to develop his game, mind and body even further.

Luczynski won't turn 18 until June.

"I've talked to a lot of people and it looks like a good fit," Luczynski said. "The coach (Rodney Perry) there believes in me and likes my game. He thinks I can go as far as I dream of going.

"It just depends on how much work I put in, and that's what I plan to do."

He has done it before.



Bartlett's Conrad Luczynski looks to the basket while defended by East Aurora's Jullian Acosta (23) during a game on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022. (Mike Mantucca / The Beacon-News)

Luczynski said he reached 270 in the year he lost to the pandemic before getting back to work for the shortened season in Illinois as a junior.

“I just kept eating,” Luczynski said of the unwanted sabbatical.

He pared down for that shortened junior season, actually reaching 230, before putting some weight back on.

As a senior, he averaged 18.5 points, 12.8 rebounds, 4.3 blocked shots and 3.3 assists and put up multiple triple-double games for the Hawks.

He was named third team all-state by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association and second team all-state by the Champaign News-Gazette.

“I’ve been told it will give me more time for my body to mature and put on some more muscle,” Luczynski said of prep school. “No one even knows if I’m done growing.”

His dad, Bart, is 6-6 and his mother, Agnieszka, is 5-9.

It also will help him develop his overall game, especially with basketball’s emphasis now on players extending their range and big men being less inclined to remain planted close to the basket.



Bartlett's Conrad Luczynski (54) grabs a rebound against East Aurora during a game on Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022. (Mike Mantucca / The Beacon-News)

"I've dealt with coaches recruiting kids for Division I, II and III along with NAIA, but I've never had a player go the prep school route," Wolfsmith said.

It's why he was happy to see Luczynski join the Wolves.

"Mike runs a great program and looks out for his kids," Wolfsmith said. "With so many kids already in college utilizing the NCAA transfer portal, I think you're going to see more and more high school kids choose a prep school.

"Conrad looked at several. I told him it will allow him to 'work on your game, work on your grades and work on your body.'"

Wolfsmith said Luczynski made great strides last season getting into better shape, which allowed him to move up and down the floor and seldom take a break unless the score became lopsided.

"I think a lot of people were surprised at how well he could move north and south," Wolfsmith said. "I'm proud of all the work he's put in. He's one of the most coachable, unselfish and humble guys out there."

Daily Herald

Girls' soccer: St. Charles N. survives scare from Bartlett; Saints win regional--- 5/20/2022

By Allen Oshinski, Daily Herald Correspondent

St. Charles North never lost its composure. Held scoreless for 80 minutes by a scrappy **Bartlett** side, the North Stars finally broke through in overtime.

Sophie Sutherland scored less than 4 minutes into overtime, Sidney Timms added an insurance goal, and Hannah Lehmann made 3 saves in goal as the North Stars downed the Hawks 2-0 to claim the plaque at the Class 3A Streamwood regional.

St. Charles North (18-2) advances to play Wheaton Warrenville South in the St. Charles East sectional semifinals at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday.

For 80 minutes, the Hawks battled the North Stars, with the back line giving up few opportunities and keeper Megan Kron stopping everything that got through.

In the first overtime, Sutherland took a feed from Juliana Park about 10 yards from the net and let loose. The ball glanced off the keeper's hands and into the net.

"In the talk before overtime, we talked about 'not here, not now,' said Sullivan. "For a lot of people this is our senior season, and we're not losing our regional. We haven't ever lost our regional, so we're doing it here and we're not doing it now. So we were really motivated."

When the opportunity finally presented itself, she took advantage.

"I felt like our mids had been working hard all game and an opportunity was coming," Sutherland said. "At the top of the box it was wide open and nobody was filling that space, so I figured fill it."

"Bartlett I thought played outstanding," said St. Charles North coach Brian Harks. "They had a game plan and it worked really well. Their back line was solid, and their goalkeeper came up with some big saves throughout the game.

"And when you get to this point in the season, the mindset of most teams is to find a way to win or find a way to not get scored on and I was proud of our girls with their ability to keep composure, to not let emotions like frustration take over, and to keep grinding and to just know that it was going to come."

The North Stars controlled play for most of the first half but couldn't find the back of the net. In one sequence, Kron stopped shots by Isabelle Najera, Lauren Balster, and Najera again.

After intermission, the North Stars stepped up the pressure but still couldn't solve Kron. She made acrobatic saves against Parks on consecutive possessions, then made a diving stop of close-in attempt by Sophie Kirsten.

Kron finished with 11 saves. Lehmann made 3 stops for St. Charles North.