

Press Clippings for January 30, 2023

– Chicago Tribune –

First-person accounts of Holocaust survivors and those who helped save them brought to life in U-46 production

Jan. 27, 2023

Mike Danahey - Elgin Courier-News



South Elgin High School junior Hannah Yoder reads the role of Phyllis Zimbler Miller in a production of Zimbler Miller's "Thin Edge of the Wedge," which was presented Thursday night at Congregation Kneseth Israel in Elgin. (Ryan Lewin / HANDOUT)

Friday was the 78th anniversary of the day on which more than 7,000 people awaiting their deaths at the hands of the Nazis were freed from the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland.

It's known as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and this year a group of **School District U-46** students learned some powerful lessons about the humanity behind the history thanks to **Phyllis Zimbler Miller, a 1966 Elgin High School graduate**, and Elgin resident Mark Seigle.

Zimbler Miller, who now lives in California, wrote the play "Thin Edge of the Wedge," which she makes free to high school students as a way to educate them about the Holocaust and the need to fight anti-Semitism and all forms of hate.

The first-person monologues it features are from people who survived the Nazi genocide of the 1930s and '40s and those who helped save some of them, all real accounts documented by Zimbl Miller when she lived in Munich, Germany, in 1970.

When Zimbl Miller, who now lives in California, asked Seigle last year to help her get her work to students in the Elgin area, he made it his mission.



Playwright Phyllis Zimbl Miller speaks with Danny Spungen Thursday night after a performance of Zimbl Miller's "Thin Edge of the Wedge" at Congregation Kneseth Israel in Elgin. [South Elgin High School](#) students did the readings -- first-person accounts from Holocaust survivors and those who helped save people during World War II -- and Beacon Academy students filmed them. (Mike Danahey / The Courier-News)

On Thursday night, members of Elgin's Congregation Kneseth Israel attended a staged reading of the work presented by [South Elgin High School](#) students. It was documented on film by students who attend Beacon Academy, the magnet school on the [South Elgin](#) campus.

On Friday, a similar presentation was done at Elgin Community College for [U-46](#) high school language arts, social studies and theater teachers.

“By having kids do staged readings, they really are able to feel its stories,” said Zimbl Miller, who attended the events.

She said her passion to learn about and educate others on the Holocaust started in 1969, when she and her husband honeymooned in Israel. A year later she graduated from Michigan State

University with a journalism degree and moved to Munich, Germany, where her husband was stationed as an Army officer.

It was just 25 years after the end of World War II, and she was able to interview people who survived the genocide and the “saviors” who risked their own lives to save those who would have otherwise been killed, she said.

Zimmler Miller published those accounts and other interviews she did while working as a reporter and editor for the Jewish Exponent, a weekly newspaper in Philadelphia.

It was kismet when she met Seigle at a wedding reception in Los Angeles last year, she said.

“I asked Mark if there was someone in the **Elgin school system** with whom he could connect me who might be interested in my free nonfiction Holocaust theater project,” she said. “Next thing I know, I’m talking to **Jacob VandeMoortel (U-46’s coordinator of social studies and world languages).**”

South Elgin theater students staged the first reading of the work in November to commemorate Kristallnacht, the “Night of Broken Glass,” when violent mobs provoked by anti-Semitic Nazi agitation destroyed hundreds of Jewish-owned businesses, homes and synagogues in 1938 in Germany and Austria.

“Getting the opportunity to read the words of someone who endured the Holocaust and imagining themselves in these situations was a humbling experience for the students,” theater teacher Jessica Smith said.

“We often think of the Holocaust as a historical event, viewed in black and white, but it was less than 100 years ago, and the hate that caused it still exists. It’s a reminder to be kind, vigilant and to speak up for one another.”

Seigle helped arrange the synagogue performance Thursday as well as a field trip in which students involved in the production and filming went to the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie.

Arianna Suarez, a Beacon Academy freshman who helped film the productions, said the museum visit was upsetting but also reinforced what she was learning through her work on the project.

“(It) helped connect us to the stories and intensity of what went on,” said junior Hannah Yoder, who read the monologues Zimmler Miller wrote for herself in the play documenting her reaction to what she was learning.

Seigle said his mother, her sister and their parents escaped Germany in the late 1930s but many family members who did not leave were killed.

“There are two types of Holocaust survivors, those who want to tell their stories to preclude a recurrence and the others who can’t bear to talk about it. My mother was the latter so I have little to share,” Seigle said.

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

– Daily Herald –

Gov. J.B. Pritzker has vowed to bring preschool to every Illinois child. But big hurdles remain for that to happen.

Jan. 30, 2023

By Sarah Macaraeg and Zareen Syed

In his second inaugural address this month, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker promised to “make preschool available to every family throughout the state” — a feat that will require solutions to staffing shortfalls, school capacity limitations and an increase to the state’s nearly \$600 million early childhood education block grant program.

Providing free preschool “for everyone who wants it” will “require a multiyear approach to funding,” a Pritzker spokesperson said, adding that the governor’s administration will be “working closely ... with legislators, advocates, and other stakeholders on this in the years to come.”

Pritzker’s office did not provide an estimated cost of expanding access to prekindergarten statewide, saying his budget proposal has yet to be finalized. Block grant dollars, which a spokesperson said would eventually fund the initiative, already fall short of demand, with 16 eligible full-day preschool programs denied grants due to a lack of funding in the current fiscal year, an Illinois State Board of Education report shows.

According to the most recent [State of Preschool report](#) from the National Institute for Early Education Research, Illinois enrolled less than a quarter of preschool-age children in 2021, when the state would have needed an estimated \$505 million in additional funds to enroll all low-income children alone.

Meetings families' needs

In Chicago Public Schools, Illinois' largest school system, the governor's universal pre-K commitment also implies the expansion of preschool to include 3-year-olds. This year, CPS fulfilled a 2018 promise to provide enough free, full-day pre-K seats for all 4-year-olds, a spokesperson said, with "limited half-day seats for 3-year-olds."

With a statewide expansion on the horizon, lessons from the district's implementation of universal preschool may prove useful, said Stacy Ehrlich Loewe, a senior research scientist with NORC at the University of Chicago, who has studied CPS pre-K enrollment over the last decade.

Rather than increasing the sheer number of options, "structuring programs in a way that meets families' needs," such as aligning with work schedules, may make a difference, Ehrlich Loewe said. When full-day preschool became more available, enrollment rose among previously underenrolled groups, particularly when programs were within a half-mile of families homes. That increased access provided a "pathway" to higher-average second-grade test scores, NORC's [research](#) found.

But amid COVID-19, enrollment rates dipped nationally. "I think we're still trying to find our way back from that. And without understanding what parents' needs and wants are, it's going to be very difficult," Erlich Loewe said.

When universal preschool isn't accessible, parents are left to navigate "a patchwork of options," ranging from free Head Start programs for eligible low-income families to pricey private child care, said Terri Sabol, a Northwestern University professor who researches child development in schools and families.

"We know preschool is good for kids' developmental gains and also good for parents' ability to work," Sabol said. "Being able to support that simultaneously ... is really exciting policy."

Though the practical realities entail a range of challenges, "the evidence we have is that you want to make sure that these systems are high-quality," Sabol said. "You want to invest in teachers and teacher compensation, ... professional development and building systems of care that are inclusive to the diverse learners."

'I couldn't accommodate any more kids'

At School District 180 in west suburban Burr Ridge, Anne M. Jeans School fits 48 preschool students in three classrooms.

Principal Tracy Ritchey said the district typically does a couple of preschool screenings a year unless the slots are already full. The district determines which kids age 3 to 5 get in based on certain criteria and assessments.

Ritchey said if there were more paraprofessionals to partner with classroom teachers, more students could have preschool access, but the district is struggling to fill open positions. There's also the question of where more pre-K students would be housed.

“If universal meant that the state was going to help pay for the preschool rooms, I could understand it, but I couldn't accommodate any more kids than I have now,” Ritchey said. “Because preschool rooms are different than other rooms — the sinks, bathrooms and all sorts of stuff, and we only have three of those. If they said everybody could go to preschool and we're going to pay for it, I would say I still don't have space.”

In District 180, preschool hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., and children are given breakfast and time for rest. Though the district is fiscally sound and well-funded, Ritchey said the rules and regulations of operating a preschool-for-all system would still require a lot more staffing than the district has.

Some districts have relied on private-public partnerships to produce more space to teach toddlers.

“Public schools often don't have enough space or appropriate space, so they need to partner with community providers,” said National Institute for Early Education Research policy specialist GG Weisenfeld. In New York, for example, she said some schools ensure the high quality of programs taught by community partners, who provide the necessary space.

A number of private early-learning providers in Chicago complained in 2021 that universal preschool was already “strangling” their operations, as parents began returning to office jobs after the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. But Beata Skorusa, head of school at the Montessori Foundations of Chicago in McKinley Park, advocates for collaboration. “I'd rather see us working as partners than competing for dollars and children.”

As for potential solutions to staffing shortages, Weisenfeld said states can create policies that spur workforce development by helping educators meet certification or licensing requirements. “We know that teachers with degrees and specialized training are really needed to ... achieve a high-quality program.”

A ‘great need’

Outside of CPS, U-46 in Elgin is the largest school district in Illinois, offering free preschool to about 1,300 students each year who meet the state's eligibility criteria.



Preschool teacher Anna Vasquez watches as Melany Cisneros, left, and Ailani Gorostieta, stack colored blocks at **Independence Center for Early Learning** in Bartlett on Jan. 19. (Stacey Wescott / Chicago Tribune)

U-46 has preschool programs in 10 buildings across the district that are funded by state grants, some half- and some full-day, said Katie Cox, director of **U-46's Early Learner Initiatives**. Cox noted. At least 125 children are on a waitlist for spots for free pre-K.

“We know there is a great need for more learning opportunities before children enter kindergarten,” said Cox. “Our continued interest would be to increase the number of ISBE-funded slots and locally funded or tuition-based slots to meet the community need.”

U-46 also has about 150 preschoolers in special education preschool classrooms, funded by the district.

Within the district's boundaries, there are an estimated 9,800 children ages 3 through 5, Cox said. About 35% of kids in the district live within the poverty levels that would qualify them for state-funded preschool, according to the 2018 Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map.



Gabriel Coix stacks blocks as Emma Echeverria, left, and Ismael Hernandez, right, look on during preschool at [Independence Center for Early Learning](#) on Jan. 19 in Bartlett. (Stacey Wescott / Chicago Tribune)

While Cox couldn't comment on the governor's plan and how it would affect [U-46](#), it's clear that one of the district's long-term goals is to increase its preschool opportunities for families.

Chicago's approach

Following a push for a new school by parents in Chicago's Belmont-Cragin community, Mayor Lori Lightfoot, CPS CEO Pedro Martinez and other officials recently gathered for a ribbon-cutting to mark the opening of Belmont-Cragin Elementary and Early Childhood Center.

According to [city data](#), 43% of Belmont-Cragin children up to 4 years old were enrolled in preschool as of 2021, less than the city average of 47%. Spanish is the primary language for many school families, said Lightfoot, who committed a range of resources to improve equity in schools.

"We will be putting in the resources that are necessary to facilitate making that dual-language learning absolutely possible. ... This facility will foster a well-rounded school experience for our students while answering the needs of this community," she said.

The mayor, who is running for reelection, said there are "still too many schools in our city that face overcrowding or grapple with outdated facilities. And we are on the path to right that historic wrong."

Belmont-Cragin is one of 369 CPS schools in 68 out of 77 Chicago community areas that offer free preschool programs for 4-year-olds, a district spokesperson said. CPS plans to add seats in

the remaining nine Chicago communities — North Park, West Ridge, Edison Park, Beverly, Mount Greenwood, Dunning, Lakeview, Lincoln Park and Portage Park — by Fall 2024.

As of Friday, 100 CPS preschool programs are full and may have a waitlist, according to the [CPS early childhood enrollment portal](#). In total, more than 12,000 4-year-old preschoolers and nearly 4,000 3-year-olds were enrolled in the district as of the start of the school year. By state law, 37% of Illinois' early childhood education block grant appropriation goes to CPS.

The district has also phased out tuition-based pre-K and all its programs are now free.

“The district took a phased approach ... targeting the highest-need areas to initiate the expansion and the lowest-need community areas were the last to be served,” a spokesperson said. CPS didn't provide information regarding future plans for programs serving 3-year-olds.

Along with the [districts in Burr Ridge and Elgin](#), CPS is one of nearly 750 public school systems, out of over 850 statewide, which provide free or tuition-based preschool.

The Illinois State Board of Education provides early education block grants to a mix of community and school-based preschools.

While the details of Pritzker's plans aren't out yet, Weisenfeld, the researcher who studies preschool policy nationally, said she's hopeful his plans for universal access will become a reality.

“One of the hardest things to really move the preschool agenda is political will. When you hear someone at the top, and the governor in particular, talk about it, it's great news because he or she sets the priorities for the state,” Weisenfeld said.

“It's not a bipartisan issue. ... Prioritizing young children is a good thing.”

– Chicago Tribune –

Basketball scores for the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County

Jan. 27, 2023

By From Staff Reports - Daily Southtown

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Antioch 60, North Chicago 40

Antioch (12-10, 6-3 Northern Lake County): Teddi Wetu 12 points. Colby Priller 10 points.

Argo 59, Oak Forest 57

Argo (6-17, 3-8 SSC Red): Demario Eddins 29 points; GW 3-pointer.

Oak Forest (8-14, 1-9 SSC Blue): Amari Brownlee 14 points.

Aurora Christian 57, St. Francis 46

Aurora Christian (17-7, 4-3 Metro Suburban Blue): Brayden Hatch 24 points. Cam Morel 16 points.

Bartlett 65, Elgin 35

Bartlett (16-8, 9-4 Upstate Eight): Keegan Kunzer 16 points. Kelton McEwen 14 points.

Bishop McNamara 60, Aurora Central Catholic 43

Bolingbrook 83, Sandburg 46

Sandburg (9-16, 0-4 SWSC Blue): Camri Hodge 15 points. David Vargas 14 points.

Bradley-Bourbonnais 59, Andrew 48

Andrew (13-10, 3-1 SWSC Red): Austin Kulig 16 points, 10 rebounds. Nate LaPlant 10 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists.

Bremen 67, Richards 59

Richards (8-15, 3-7 SSC Red): Nik Dixon 19 points. Camren King 16 points.

Brother Rice 62, St. Ignatius 61

Brother Rice (21-3, 8-2 CCL Blue): Ahmad Henderson 18 points. Zavier Fitch 17 points.

Burlington Central 70, Crystal Lake Central 55

Carmel 23, Notre Dame 19

Crete-Monee 54, Thornridge 48

De La Salle 79, Yorkville Christian 53

De La Salle (16-8): Richard Lindsey 17 points. Anthony Davis 14 points. Charles Barnes Jr. 13 points. Bryant Hedrick 11 points.

Yorkville Christian (6-17): David Douglas Jr. 30 points.

Deerfield 55, Niles North 53

East Aurora 61, Glenbard South 57

Elgin Academy 82, Morgan Park Academy 39

Grayslake Central 56, Grant 33

Grayslake Central (21-3, 8-1 Northern Lake County): Sam Cooper 22 points. Dennis Estepp 14 points.

Grayslake North 68, Wauconda 63

Grayslake North (10-13, 5-4 Northern Lake County): Dominic Jankowski 23 points. Uros Mitrovich 14 points. Jayden Hunt 12 points.

Hampshire 61, Dundee-Crown 57

Hillcrest 73, Evergreen Park 62

Hillcrest (23-2, 11-0 SSC Blue): Quentin Heady 19 points, 9 rebounds. Darrion Baker 19 points. Tolu Samuels 17 points, 14 rebounds.

Evergreen (14-11, 5-5 SSC Red): Lonnie Mosley 23 points. Ulises Cardenas 21 points.

Harvest Christian 56, Rockford Christian Life 41

Homewood-Flossmoor 51, Lockport 46

H-F (15-9, 2-2 SWSC Blue): Vincent Davis 13 points, 12 rebounds, 4 steals.

Lockport (14-10, 1-3): Jalen Falcon 18 points. Quinton Hunter 13 points.

Indian Creek 74, Leland 66

Indian Creek (7-16, 2-6 Little Ten): Jeffrey Probst 27 points. Jake Taylor 16 points. Sam Genslinger 15 points.

Jacobs 66, McHenry 58

Kaneland 75, Ottawa 41

Kankakee 56, Thornton 45

Thornton (10-10, 5-4 Southland): Eliyah Brooks 11 points. Vincent Rainey 10 points.

Lake Forest 56, Zion-Benton 37

Lake Forest (14-9, 6-3 North Suburban): Asa Thomas 30 points, 11 rebounds.

Lake Park 46, Batavia 44

Lakes 82, Round Lake 32

Lakes (15-7, 7-2 Northern Lake County): Brock Marino 16 points. Cooper Lopriore 15 points.

Larkin 59, Fenton 37

Lemont 69, Shepard 45

Lemont (19-6, 9-2 SSC Blue): Rokas Castillo 20 points. Matas Castillo 16 points.

Libertyville 65, Waukegan 34

Libertyville (18-4, 8-1 North Suburban): Cole Bonder 22 points. Henry Eads 14 points.

Lincoln-Way East 60, Stagg 42

Lincoln-Way East (20-2): Kyle Olagbegi 14 points. George Bellevue 12 points. B.J. Powell 10 points.

Stagg (10-13): David Ortiz 14 points. Domas Narcevicius 11 points. Connor Williams 10 points.

Marian Catholic 57, Joliet Catholic 49

Marian (19-6, 8-4 ESCC): Tre Davis 19 points. Zack Sharkey 15 points. Jonah Weathers 14 points.

JCA (10-13, 2-10): Tyler Surin 22 points. Anthony Birsa 12 points.

Marist 53, St. Viator 49

Marist (20-5, 9-2 ESCC): Mason Ross 13 points. Keshawn Vaval 10 points.

Mount Carmel 60, Fenwick 49 (OT)

Mount Carmel (21-2, 9-0 CCL Blue): DeAndre Craig 20 points. Lee Marks 16 points. Angelo Ciaravino 15 points.

Neuqua Valley 56, Naperville Central 39

Newark 57, IMSA 43

Newark (12-10, 6-2 Little Ten): Zach Carlson 26 points, 10 rebounds.

Oak Lawn 84, Corliss 38

Oak Lawn (16-7): Robert Wagner career-high 30 points. Corey Lee 16 points, 7 assists. Ayham Salah 11 points.

Oswego 60, Minooka 47

Oswego East 62, West Aurora 53

Oswego East (20-5, 12-0 Southwest Prairie West): Bryce Shoto 18 points. Javion Starwood, Mekhi Lowery 14 points.

West Aurora (15-11, 7-5): Terrence Smith 17 points. Josh Pickett 10 points.

Providence 41, Montini 26

Providence (10-14, 3-6 CCL White): Seth Cheney 11 points.

Riverside-Brookfield 78, Chicago Christian 56

St. Charles East 67, Glenbard North 54

St. Laurence 53, Marmion 49

St. Laurence (17-9, 4-5 CCL White): E.J. Mosley 20 points. Jacob Rice 11 points.

Serena 57, Hinckley-Big Rock 56

Hinckley-Big Rock (19-6, 7-1 Little Ten): Landon Roop 21 points.

Somonauk 67, Hiawatha 55

Somonauk (8-16, 5-3 Little Ten): Coleton Eade 21 points.

South Elgin 64, Streamwood 26

Stevenson 47, Mundelein 38

Stevenson (17-4, 8-1 North Suburban): Jack Dabbs 18 points, 12 rebounds. Aidan Bardic 14 points, 4 assists.

Mundelein (10-13, 3-6): Derek Bishop 11 points.

Thornwood 55, Bloom 50

Bloom (14-7, 6-1 Southland): Santana Flowers 15 points, 15 rebounds.

Tinley Park 68, T.F. South 49

Tinley (12-11, 8-2 SSC Red): Bernard McHerron 24 points. Indion Aurel 15 points. Dashawn Allen 12 points.

Vernon Hills 58, Highland Park 51 (OT)

Vernon Hills (12-12, 4-3 Central Suburban North): Milan Raval 22 points, 9 rebounds. Nolan Lazor 13 points, 6 rebounds.

Waubonsie Valley 64, Metea Valley 41

Warren 55, Lake Zurich 54

Warren (14-11, 5-4 North Suburban): Adam Panek 15 points. Alex Daniels 12 points.

Lake Zurich (12-9, 4-5): Nick Popovic 18 points. Anton Strelnikov 12 points.

Wheaton North 52, St. Charles North 39

Wheaton Warrenville South 56, Geneva 24

Yorkville 53, Plainfield North 47

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Aurora Central Catholic 49, Timothy Christian 37

Bartlett 53, **Elgin** 22

Batavia 59, Glenbard North 29

Batavia (14-10, 6-3 DuKane): Brooke Carlson 21 points.

Bolingbrook 36, Lincoln-Way East 29

Lincoln-Way East (17-9, 2-4 SWSC Blue): Hayven Smith 9 points.

Crete-Monee 48, Bloom 24

Evergreen Park 37, Hillcrest 33

Evergreen: Isabelle Carney, Kyziah Lewis 9 points.

Geneva 54, St. Charles North 46

Geneva (20-3, 10-0 DuKane): Lauren Slagle 16 points.

St. Charles North (20-5, 9-2): Alyssa Hughes 16 points.

Glenbard South 38, East Aurora 29

Hinckley-Big Rock 75, IMSA 18

Hinckley-Big Rock (17-9, 5-2 Little Ten): Devin Wener 15 points. Kylee Hellebrand 14 points.

Indian Creek 44, Hiawatha 38

Indian Creek (6-11, 3-4 Little Ten): Isabella Turner 26 points, 14 rebounds.

Larkin 56, Fenton 29

Lemont 45, Shepard 38

Lincoln-Way Central 59, Mother McAuley 55 (OT)

Lincoln-Way Central (18-9): Azyah Newson-Cole 25 points, 8 rebounds, 4 assists. Gracen Gehrke 11 points, 5 rebounds.

McAuley (15-10): Morgan Feil 15 points. Maeve Egan, Quinn Arundel 14 points.

Lincoln-Way West 45, Andrew 42

Lincoln-Way West (19-7, 5-1 SWSC Red): Ava Gugliuzza 16 points.

Andrew (13-13, 1-5): Skye Echols 17 points.

Minooka 43, Oswego 28

Morgan Park 43, Jones 13

Naperville Central 61, Neuqua Valley 52

Naperville North 59, DeKalb 12

Newark 42, Somonauk 30

Oak Forest 49, Argo 37

Oak Forest (14-9, 7-1 SSC Blue): Janae Kent 25 points, 15 rebounds.

Argo (10-9, 6-5 SSC Red): Apple Guerrero 16 points, 10 rebounds. Jada Madgett 12 points, 10 rebounds.

Ottawa 52, Kaneland 33

Reavis 59, Eisenhower 23

Rich Township 54, Thornridge 43

Richards 40, Bremen 26

Richards (10-14, 6-4 SSC Red): Julia Niemeyer 18 points. Iyanah Crosby 11 points.

St. Edward 37, Elmwood Park 35

St. Edward: Jordan Sauls 15 points.

Sandburg 37, Lockport 34

Sandburg (15-12, 3-3 SWSC Blue): Josie Canellis 10 points.

Lockport (13-15, 0-5): Alaina Peetz 10 points.

South Elgin 68, Streamwood 43

South Elgin (11-15, 8-6 Upstate Eight): Raina Young 24 points.

South Beloit 38, Westminster Christian 24

Stagg 42, Bradley-Bourbonnais 37

Stevenson 53, Mundelein 22

Stevenson (19-8, 9-3 North Suburban): Emory Klatt 13 points. Nisha Musunuri 11 points.

T.F. South 82, Tinley Park 17

Waubonsie Valley 73, Metea Valley 40

West Aurora 68, Oswego East 59

Westmont 58, Chicago Christian 43

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

– Daily Herald –

Bartlett's depth shines at Elgin

Jan. 27, 2023

By Dave Hess

Defeating **Elgin** by 43 points, 82-39, on Dec. 13 in Upstate Conference play in **Bartlett**, you might think the **Hawks** wouldn't come ready to play in Elgin Friday night.

That was not the case.

Playing without starter Martin McCarthy, the **Hawks** jumped out to a 12-4 lead and never looked back.

Behind 15 points from Kelton McEwen and 14 by Keegan Kunzer, the **Hawks** blitzed the **Maroons** 65-35.

"It was a business trip and we took care of business," said Kunzer. "We miss Martin but everybody stepped up."

Propelled by 5 points from Kunzer including a trey and 3-pointers from Shubh Mangrola and William Pouloupoulos the **Hawks** led by 8 with 3:42 left in the first quarter.

McEwen's driving layup gave the Hawks (16-8, 9-4) a 23-8 lead with 2:46 remaining before half.

An outstanding effort by **Elgin's** (9-15, 2-11) Maddox Hollian kept the **Maroons** within striking distance.

Maddox scored 14 points on 4-of-6 shooting including a pair of 3s. He scored 14 of the **Maroons'** 18 points as **Bartlett** led 31-18 at half.

"Maddox made some really tough shots," said **Elgin coach Brett Johnson**. "He really kept us in the game."

The **Maroons** got to within 31-21 on a conventional 3 by Hallion to start the second half.

He connected on a layup, was fouled and converted the free throw to complete the 3-point play.

Elgin couldn't get any closer as **Bartlett** went on a 7-0 run to extend the lead to 38-21.

Pouloupoulos and Kunzer connected on shots from beyond the arc as the **Hawks** seized control of the game.

McEwen buried a 30-foot 3-pointer at the buzzer as the **Hawks** grabbed a 46-25 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

"We were ready to play," said McEwen. "**Elgin** is a lot better than the first time we played them."

Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith likes the way his team has played through some injuries.

"We are scrambling right now," said Wolfsmith. "We have a lot of depth. We played well to start the game. Elgin is a much better team than when we played them the first time."

Hallion scored 22 of the Maroons' 35 points.

"We are taking baby steps," said Johnson. "The kids are playing with more intensity and starting to believe in the system. They are playing hard. It is a long process."