

Press Clippings - 2-13-2023

– Elgin Courier-News –

Tony Sanders readies for state superintendent job and looks back on 16 years with Elgin’s U-46

Feb. 12, 2023

By Mike Danahey - The Courier-News



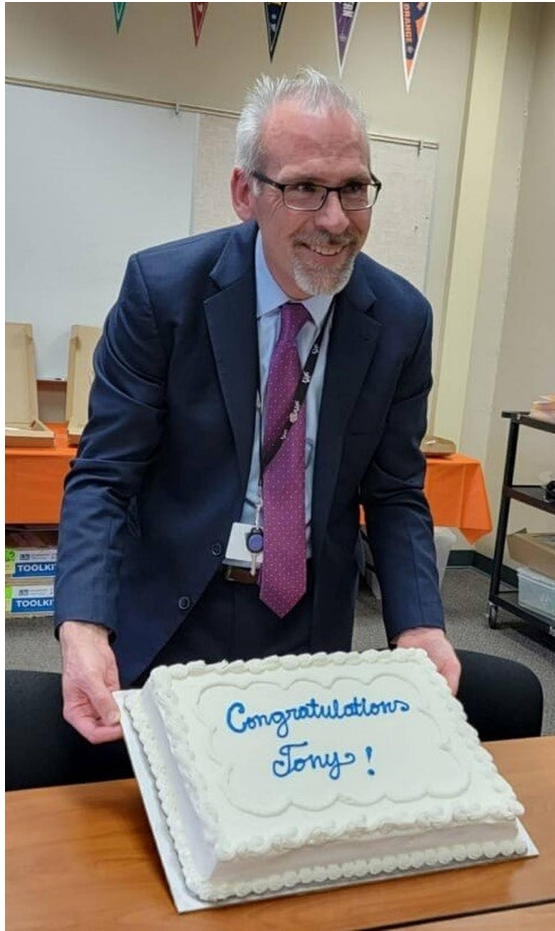
District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders poses with students during an event in October 2022. (Tony Sanders Facebook page / HANDOUT)

Before he leaves for his new job as state superintendent of schools, **District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders** will preside over his final school board meeting Monday, where board members will approve his resignation and name his interim replacement.

He hopes to have “the opportunity to say a few words (of goodbye),” just as he’s been doing by visiting as many **U-46** schools as he can before his last day Feb. 22.

A community gathering is planned for him at 4 p.m. Wednesday at **South Elgin High School** as well.

The timing of **Sanders’** departure is somewhat complicated given that it comes just weeks before voters in the state’s second largest school district will be asked to approve a bond referendum to help fund a massive capital improvements plan that could cost anywhere from \$310 million to \$380 million.



District U-46 student advisers surprised **Superintendent Tony Sanders** with a surprise party last week to celebrate his appointment to state superintendent of schools. He assumes his new job Feb. 23. (**Tony Sanders** Facebook page / HANDOUT)

Voters will not see a tax increase if the April 4 measure passes, but the money will pay for a huge slate of projects that include school closings, additions, renovations, repairs and other work. Some of the changes are needed as the Elgin-based district moves sixth-grade classes from elementary to middle schools and adds early learning programs to some elementary schools.

“I wish the timing of the appointment allowed me to stay to inform the public about the referendum,” **Sanders** said. “That’s my only regret. It’s key to the future of the district.”

Simultaneous to that, the district is transitioning to a system in which students can choose to follow an educational pathway in high school or they can apply to attend a magnet academy, which will be established at each of the high schools. The intention is to align students with classes that prepare them for the college degree or trade they want to pursue.

“We’re looking to make chefs, not cooks,” Sanders said of the plan to radically realign the high school system from the traditional broad-based approach to one with more targeted goals.

And there’s also the U-46 Rising program, where the district will move away from teacher-directed classroom instruction to a system in which students learn through collaboration and teachers work as facilitators and guides.

Eventually all U-46 schools will use this approach, Sanders said, shifting away from what he called the “Stand and Deliver” way of teaching. The program is now being implemented in 13 grade schools and at Tefft Middle School in Streamwood.

“These efforts are starting to show progress,” Sanders said.

The new approach could be a key in helping students make up ground lost during the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

“The pandemic took its toll in U-46 and most school districts. There’s a lot to make up. This isn’t going to take one or two years, but is a generational issue in Elgin and elsewhere,” Sanders said.

The pandemic was a tough time for the superintendent, who took a lot of criticism from some parents who thought the district too slow in returning students to the classroom and eliminating the use of face masks and other restrictions meant to slow the virus’ spread.

“We chose to follow science and to keep politics out of it,” Sanders said, adding that a lot of the credit for making things work goes to the teachers and staff.

“Their efforts were truly heroic,” he said. “They took the worst of situations and made things tolerable,” Sanders said.

Federal relief money also helped in the aftermath by allowing the district to reduce class sizes, cover student fees, offer summer programming and provide tutoring, he said.

He’s proud that he leaves the district on strong financial footing, he said, and that he accomplished his three initial goals when taking the helm in 2014: making kindergarten a full-day program, doing away with expulsions and creating the DREAM Academy alternative high school.

“DREAM Academy has literally saved lives. It’s providing a way for these students to graduate. When you drop out, who knows what can happen,” Sanders said.

As he prepares for his new state job — the same position his father also held — looks back over his 16 years with U-46, he knows there will be a lot of things he’ll be sorry to leave behind, he said.

“What I’ll miss most, though, is the kids,” Sanders said.

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

– *Daily Herald* –

Here's how you can help provide earthquake relief for Turkey, Syria

Feb. 13, 2023

By Madhu Krishnamurthy

Black artists

Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin features an exhibit on the music of influential Black artists from Chicago, such as Muddy Waters, Chance the Rapper and Mahalia Jackson.

Musical artists from soul, jazz, blues, gospel, rap, rock and funk genres are highlighted in the exhibit at the Main Library, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin. It also features a display case containing memorabilia of former Elgin opera and blues musician Mike Ledbetter, the late Elgin High School graduate who died of complications from epilepsy in 2019 at age 33.

Black History Month events include:

- "We Are Human: CHAR In Concert," 7 p.m. Thursday in the Main Library's Meadows Community Rooms.

- "The Life-Changing Power of Community with Author Clifton Taulbert," 7 p.m. Feb. 23 via Zoom. Taulbert is a former migrant cotton field worker. His first book, "Once Upon A Time When We Were Colored," was an international bestseller. His recent book, "The Invitation," was part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the signing of the 1964 Civil Rights law. He received an NAACP Image Award for his contribution to literature.
- Black American authors discussion group, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 27 in the Main Library's Grove Room.

Register for the events at gailborden.info/register, by calling (847) 429-4598, or in person at the library. For more information, visit gailborden.info/blackhistory.

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

– Daily Herald –

Elgin preschool teacher accused of pushing student into the snow

Feb. 10, 2023
By Alicia Fabbre

An Elgin preschool teacher is on administrative leave and faces a felony charge after authorities allege he pushed a student into the snow.

Patrick Keating, 40, of Elgin, turned himself in to Elgin Police Wednesday and posted \$1,000 bond. He is charged with one felony count of aggravated battery in a public place and is scheduled to appear before a Kane County judge on March 2, Elgin Police spokesman Sgt. Mike Martino said.

Keating, a licensed teacher in Illinois since 2006, is listed as a preschool teacher at Illinois Park Center for Early Learning in Elgin.

Elgin Area School District U-46 spokeswoman Karla Jimenez said the teacher immediately was placed on leave after the district was made aware of the situation on Jan. 26. She declined further comment noting the district does not comment on personnel matters.

However, in a letter to parents, the school's principal said once officials were made aware of the recess incident "the teacher was asked to leave and not return to the building." Principal Apryl Lowe also wrote that the incident was referred to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the Elgin Police Department.

"We strive to promote a culture of mutual respect and take deliberate steps to create a positive school culture and climate in which every student can learn, and feel safe, nurtured, and welcome," Lowe wrote to parents. "We ask that you please explain to your child that if they see or become aware of any inappropriate behavior or safety concerns, to notify you, a trusted adult, or the police right away."

Martino said police are not aware of any other students who were mistreated by the teacher.

He added, the student involved in this case was not physically injured.

– Daily Herald – Elgin early education teacher charged with felony after allegedly manhandling young boy

Feb. 9, 2023

By Gloria Casas - Elgin Courier-News

A teacher at **Illinois Park Center for Early Learning** in Elgin is facing a felony aggravated battery charge after he allegedly lifted a young student by the arm and then pushed him to the ground, according to Kane County court documents.

Patrick J. Keating, 40, of the 3100 block of Holden Street, Elgin, turned himself in at the Elgin Police Department Tuesday and posted \$1,000 bond.

The incident occurred Jan. 26 at the 1350 Wing St. school, which is part of **School District U-46**.

Keating is said to have “knowingly, without legal justification, caused bodily harm” when he grabbed the boy by his left forearm and lifted him off the ground before reportedly dragging him and pushing him to the ground, Kane County State’s Attorney’s Office charging documents said.

No information on what might have led to the incident was provided. **Keating** has been a teacher at the school for about 15 years.

The court document did not include the child’s name or age but **Illinois Park** is a pre-kindergarten early education center for children between the ages of 3 and 5, according to its website. Its mission is to “create a safe and positive learning environment for all preschoolers to help them become socially and emotionally ready to make academic progress in all learning areas,” the site said.

While the district did not respond to a request for comment, **Illinois Park Principal Apryl Lowe** sent a letter to parents in which she acknowledged that they are aware that a teacher “allegedly mistreated a student during recess time.”

“The administration took immediate action, and on that same day, the teacher was asked to leave and not return to the building. The teacher was immediately placed on administrative leave. Additionally, this incident was reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Elgin Police Department for further investigation.

“We strive to promote a culture of mutual respect and take deliberate steps to create a positive school culture and climate in which every student can learn and feel safe, nurtured and welcome,” **Lowe** said. “We ask that you please explain to your child that if they see or become aware of any inappropriate behavior or safety concerns, to notify you, a trusted adult, or the police right away.”

A motion/petition hearing in the case is scheduled for Feb. 16, according to the circuit clerk's office.

Gloria Casas is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

– City of West Chicago –

At Home with Merle Burleigh – February 8, 2023

FEB. 8, 2023

By City of West Chicago

AROUND AND ABOUT

SCHOOLS

- The Illinois State Board of Education named **Elgin Area School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders** as the next Illinois State Superintendent of Education. He assumes his new duties in late February. Sanders succeeds Carmen Ayala, who announced in November, she would retire effective Jan. 31, 2023. **Sanders** became **U-46 superintendent** in 2014.(<https://merleburl.com>)

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

– Chicago Tribune –

With all eyes on Kelton McEwen, Nathan Searce steers Bartlett past Larkin. And that's a good thing. 'He's back.'

Feb. 10, 2023

By Paul Johnson - Aurora Beacon-News



Bartlett's Nathan Scearce (5) takes a swipe at a shoot by Larkin's Darnell Wilder (13) during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Elgin on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

A big indicator of how much [junior guard Nathan Scearce's game](#) has evolved can be traced to him taking over for [Bartlett](#) when the opposition focuses defensively on [Kelton McEwen](#).

If McEwen draws the extra attention, somebody else has to step up and make plays for the [Hawks](#). As the season has gone on, that player consistently has been Scearce.

Friday night's Upstate Eight Conference game at [Larkin](#) was no different.

"Kelton is usually the playmaker, but I had to step up because he was getting face-guarded," Scearce said. "He gets face-guarded every game. We just try to share the ball."



Larkin's Jakob Blakley (10) fouls Bartlett's Nathan Searce (5) as Keegan Kunzer (3) trails the play during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Elgin on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

The **Hawks** trailed by four at halftime, but Searce brought them back. He hit a 3-pointer to start the fourth quarter, giving **Bartlett** a one-point lead in an eventual 55-53 win.

Helping the **Hawks** (18-11, 11-6) hold on was Searce, who finished with 18 points, eight rebounds and four assists. McEwen was held to six points.

“He made a lot of great plays,” **Larkin coach Deryn Carter** said of Searce. “We knew he was a great player. McEwen, we thought, was a little bit bigger piece but a different type of player.

“(Searce) did a heck of a job. If he wasn’t scoring it, he was rebounding it. If he wasn’t rebounding or scoring it, he was passing it. He dominated the game.”

McEwen, meanwhile, was just fine with Searce taking the reins.

“When things like that happen, I’m confident he can do his thing,” McEwen said. “Then when he’s getting guarded, I can do my thing. It’s kind of like a mutual trust there.

“He did a really good job taking his guy off the dribble. Then when they doubled, he found the open guy.”



Larkin's Adrian Colen-York (11) pushes the ball from Bartlett's Kelton McEwen (2) during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Elgin on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

Early in the season, Scarce may have not been as decisive as he was Friday. That's a sign of his growth as a player, according to **Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith**.

"Nate is such a hard guard in the open court," Wolfsmith said. "He's strong enough to take you down low and bully you. He's quick enough to get by you, and he can pull up and hit the three.

"His game has developed and his confidence is really growing since the injury early in the year. He's back to being Nate again."

Jakob Blakley was the star early on for **Larkin** (14-15, 11-6). He scored 15 of his game-high 22 points in the first half as the Royals led by nine in the second quarter.

"Blakley tore us up in the first half," Wolfsmith said. "I thought we did a much better job defensively on him as a team in the second half."

Larkin led the majority of the first three quarters, taking a 42-40 lead into the fourth.

However, Scarce hit a 3-pointer and a free throw and then found McEwen for another three. Suddenly, **Bartlett** had a 49-42 lead, holding on at the end despite missing free throws.



Bartlett's Nathan Searce (5) and **Larkin's Jakob Blakley (10)** collide in the fourth quarter of an Upstate Eight Conference game in Elgin on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

Larkin still had a chance to win, though. Blakley hit two free throws with 18 seconds left and Bartlett missed the front end of bonus situations two times in the final seconds.

Potential tying shots from Blakley and **Armani Ivy** also went awry.

“I think it was an off night shooting,” Carter said. “It was a little bit of shot selection — settling for shots when we could have taken it to the basket a little bit more.”

The win snapped a three-game losing streak for **Bartlett**, which had a 4-8 record in its last 12 games.

“This is a big win for us,” Searce said. “The four teams we beat weren’t very good, so this is a big win, giving us momentum going into the playoffs.”

Paul Johnson is a freelance reporter for The Beacon-News.

— Chicago Tribune —

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

Feb. 10, 2023

By From Staff Reports - Daily Southtown

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Andrew 76, Southland 33

Andrew (17-11): A.B. Mahmoud 17 points, 4 assists.

Aurora Central Catholic 65, Elmwood Park 55

Aurora Christian 55, Chicago Christian 49

Bartlett 55, Larkin 53

Batavia 53, St. Charles East 44

Batavia (15-14, 7-6 DuKane): Jack Ambrose 20 points.

Benet 60, Marist 53

Benet (27-1, 15-0 ESCC): Brayden Fagbemi 14 points. Niko Abusara 13 points.

Marist (23-6, 12-3): Justin Lang 15 points. Adoni Vassilakis 14 points.

Bloom 60, Rich Township 54

Bloom (17-8, 9-1 Southland): Santana Flowers 11 points, 15 rebounds. Elijah Lovemore 10 points, 10 assists, 5 rebounds.

Rich Township (18-11, 5-6): Jamson Coulter, Samar Bures 14 points each.

Bolingbrook 55, Lockport 49

Lockport (16-12, 2-5 SWSC Blue): Quinton Hunter, Adam Labuda 13 points each.

Bradley-Bourbonnais 58, Lincoln-Way West 49

Lincoln-Way West (10-19, 1-6 SWSC Red): Eli Bach 17 points. Tyler Gabriel 15 points.

Brother Rice 60, DePaul Prep 55

Burlington Central 66, Crystal Lake South 40

De La Salle 63, Providence-St. Mel 32

De La Salle (20-9, 9-4 CCL White): Evan Jackson, Richard Lindsay 13 points each.

DeKalb 59, Naperville Central 32

Dundee-Crown 45, McHenry 41

Dundee-Crown (13-13, 8-8 Fox Valley): Tyler DiSilvio 13 points.

Earlville 72, Somonauk 53

Somonauk (10-19, 5-4 Little Ten): Carson Bahrey 22 points.

Fenwick 57, Leo 25

Glenbard East 82, Elgin 41

Glenbard North 55, St. Charles North 53

Grant 64, Round Lake 9

Grayslake Central 70, North Chicago 46

Grayslake Central (24-4, 11-2 Northern Lake County): Sam Cooper 14 points. Dennis Estep 12 points. School record for wins in a season.

Hinckley-Big Rock 57, Newark 55 (2 OT)

Hinckley-Big Rock (22-7, 8-1 Little Ten): Martin Lebetter 22 points, 15 rebounds, 4 blocks. Ben Hintzsche 15 points.

Newark (16-12, 6-3): Jake Kruser 21 points, 7 assists. Zach Carlson 18 points, 15 rebounds.

Indian Creek 56, LaMoille-Ohio 55

Indiana Creek (9-19, 3-6 Little Ten): Jeffrey Probst 17 points. Logan Schrader 14 points.

Jacobs 53, Hampshire 51

Kaneland 52, Sycamore 48

Kaneland (24-5, 13-0 Interstate Eight): Gevon Grant 15 points. Luke Wituk 10 points.

Lake Forest 60, Mundelein 46

Lake Forest (18-10, 9-4 North Suburban): Asa Thomas 31 points.

Lakes 47, Grayslake North 38

Lakes (19-7, 11-2 Northern Lake County): Brock Marino 14 points, Tyler Anderson 14 points.

Grayslake North (13-15, 7-6): Dominic Jankowski 12 points.

Lemont 76, Bremen 57

Lemont (24-6, 11-2 SSC Blue): Rokas Castillo 22 points. Matas Castillo 18 points.

Libertyville 41, Stevenson 40

Libertyville (23-5, 12-1 North Suburban): Aidyn Boone 13 points. Won conference title.

Stevenson (20-6, 11-2): Christian Uremovich 14 points.

Lincoln-Way Central 49, Stagg 47

Stagg (12-15, 3-5 SWSC Red): Connor Williams 22 points.

Lincoln-Way East 60, Homewood-Flossmoor 55

Lincoln-Way East (23-4, 6-2 SWSC Blue): Kyle Olagbegi 18 points. B.J. Powell 15 points.

H-F (17-12, 3-4): Carson Brownfield 22 points. Jahlil Birchette 15 points.

Marian Catholic 40, Notre Dame 30

Marian (22-7, 10-5 ESCC): Tre Davis 15 points, Jonah Weathers 15 points.

Naperville North 57, Metea Valley 39

Naperville North (17-10, 6-3 DuPage Valley): Bryce Welch 17 points. Luke Williams 14 points.

Niles North 71, Highland Park 55

Neuqua Valley 58, Waubonsie Valley 35

North Shore 70, Morgan Park Academy 45

Oak Lawn 62, Tinley Park 57

Oak Lawn (20-8, 10-3 SSC Red): Ayham Salah 20 points, Robert Wagner 14 points, Corey Lee 14 points.

Oswego East 72, Oswego 56

Oswego East (24-5, 15-0 Southwest Prairie West): Jehvion Starwood 23 points. Mekhi Lowery 15 points.

Oswego (15-15, 9-7): Dasean Patton 26 points. Max Niesman 17 points.

Plano 44, Morris 37

Plano (10-19, 4-9 Interstate Eight): James Pugh 12 points.

Providence 59, Marmion 58

Providence (12-17, 4-9 CCL White): Zinn Amos GW basket with 0.4 seconds remaining. Seth Cheney 19 points. Kyle Lipke 12 points.

Marmion (17-11, 5-8): Collin Wainscott 14 points, 7 assists. Jabe Haith 14 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists.

Richards 78, Argo 75 (OT)

Richards (10-18, 4-9 SSC Red): Camren King 21 points.

Argo (6-21, 3-10): Demario Eddins 24 points.

Rock Falls 86, Genoa-Kingston 59

Genoa-Kingston (10-18, 1-7 Big Northern): Hayden Hodgson 17 points.

Rockford Christian Life 57, Mooseheart 49

St. Edward 61, Westmont 40

St. Ignatius 48, Mount Carmel 46

St. Laurence 70, Montini 43

St. Laurence (20-10, 7-6 CCL White): Zerrick Johnson 18 points. Jacob Rice 13 points, 7 rebounds.

St. Patrick 39, Carmel 33

St. Rita 54, Loyola 32

St. Rita (18-10, 10-1 CCL Blue): Morez Johnson 20 points, Nojus Indrusaitis 20 points.

St. Viator 75, Joliet Catholic 50

JCA (12-15, 3-12 ESCC): Anthony Birsa 10 points.

Sandwich 72, Rochelle 61

Shepard 78, Evergreen Park 66

Shepard (13-15, 3-10 SSC Red): Jermell Lymon 29 points.

Evergreen (16-14, 6-7): Nolan Sexton 20 points. Billy Buchanan 15 points.

T.F. South 75, Eisenhower 60

T.F. South (16-13, 9-4 SSC Blue): Caleb Newman 27 points.

Eisenhower (12-17, 4-9 SSC Red): A.J. Abrams 20 points.

Thornwood 51, Thornton 46

Vernon Hills 67, Maine West 57

Vernon Hills (16-14, 6-4 Central Suburban North): Milan Raval 24 points. Bryce Drexler 18 points.

Warren 64, Zion-Benton 35

Warren (16-14, 7-6 North Suburban): Adam Panek 19 points. Amaris Stephens 11 points.

Wauconda 64, Antioch 48

Wauconda (14-11, 7-5 Northern Lake County): Braeden Carlsen 26 points, 8 rebounds, 3 steals. Tyler Tylka 12 points, 14 rebounds.

Antioch (14-13, 8-5): Teddi Wetu 21 points. Carter Webb 16 points.

West Aurora 68, Plainfield North 59

West Aurora (16-14, 8-7 Southwest Prairie West): Josh Pickett 22 points.

Wheaton North 59, Geneva 53

Yorkville 61, Minooka 37

Yorkville (23-5, 12-4 Southwest Prairie West): LeBaron Lee 11 points. Jory Boley 10 points.

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

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

– Daily Herald –

Bartlett holds on for 2-point win over Larkin

Feb. 10, 2023

By Jared Birchfield - Daily Herald Correspondent

Bartlett escaped from **Larkin's** gym with a hard-fought 55-53 win Friday night in Upstate Eight action.

Armani Ivy's three-point shot at the buzzer to win the senior night game for **Larkin** rimmed out.

With 18.2 seconds left on the clock, the **Hawks** led 55-51. Jacob Blakely reduced the lead to two after connecting on two free throws, the last of the junior's game-high 24 points.

Neither team was able to take advantage of scoring opportunities in the waning seconds. **Larkin** turned the ball over and missed a basket while **Bartlett** (18-11, 11-6) was unable to connect on two free throw opportunities. The **Royals** rebounded the second Hawk free throw attempt to set up Ivy's shot.

Although it was nerve wracking, **Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith** thought the game was good preparation for upcoming playoffs.

"A few free throws earlier and this game wouldn't be as exciting. We been scuffling, playing defense but not hitting shots. Going up in the fourth quarter and then losing," the **Bartlett** coach said. "The kids needed this one. Going into the postseason, we just need to go out there and play our kind of basketball."

Larkin led from the middle of the second quarter until the 6:41 mark of the fourth period when a Nate Searce basket put the **Hawks** on top 43-42. **Larkin's** defense limited Kelton McEwen, **Bartlett's** top scorer, to six points but Searce took up the slack, scoring a team-high 18 points.

"Kelton had the better defender on him, and he was getting face guarded," Searce said. "He's usually the playmaker so I had to step up and make the plays."

The junior was also effective on the defense end, pulling down nine rebounds.

A Searce free throw, a McEwen trey from the right corner and William Pouloupoulos's layup widened the **Hawks'** lead to seven, 49-42. Logan Leaver (eight points) narrowed the margin back to four with a bucket and a charity toss. The two teams traded baskets keeping the margin to four until the last seconds of the contest.

Bartlett's defense limited Blakely's scoring in the second half. After scoring 17 points in the first two quarters, the junior was limited to seven in the last 16 minutes.

"I thought our defense in the second half was stellar," said Wolfsmith. "Blakely tore us up in the first half and I thought we did a much better job on him (in the second half)."

Both teams struggled to score in the early going. **Larkin** (14-15, 11-6) led 10-8 at the end of the first quarter. **Royal** shooters found their mark midway through the second quarter. After a Pouloupoulos basket put the Hawks up 12-10, the **Royals** went on a 17-6 run to take a 27-18 lead, their biggest of the night with 2:39 left in the half. Blakely made five baskets during the run. The **Hawks** rallied and trailed by four at intermission, 29-25.

"I think it was an off night for shooting," said **Larkin coach Deryn Carter**. "It was also a little bit of shot selection. Settling for a shot when we could have taken it to the basket a little more."

Darnell Wilder scored 10 points for the **Royals**.

– Daily Herald –

Girls wrestling: Batavia, Palatine, Glenbard North win multiple sectional titles

Feb. 11, 2023

By Bobby Narang

Batavia senior SueSue Paw is an accomplished athlete in track.

She's aiming to land her first trip to the state track meet in Charleston this spring. She's competed in track for seven years.

"I've been on the varsity for track all four years," Paw said. "Shot put and discus are my two events, but I haven't made state yet."

Paw can check off one of her primary goals after finally landing a coveted trip to the state tournament -- in wrestling.

For now, Paw will have to wait a few more months for her track goal, but she was one of the standout performers at the Schaumburg girls wrestling sectional on Saturday.

Paw pinned Andrew's Emma Akpan to win the sectional title in the 235-pound weight class. Paw's meteoric rise in wrestling was among the many storylines at the highly-competitive two-day sectional. Paw (26-14) celebrated her sectional championship by hugging one of her coaches immediately after her victory.

"My coach was following me around school, so I decided to join wrestling this year for the first time," Paw said. "Heart and determination were the keys for me. This is my first year wrestling. I have amazing coaches. I'm so happy."

Batavia junior Sydney Perry is at the opposite spectrum of her novice teammate. A state champion last season in the IHSA's inaugural individual girls state meet last season, Perry (30-0) kept her record varsity unblemished with a dominating performance at sectionals, culminated by a 14-4 major-decision victory over Barrington's Kaia Fernandez in the 145-pound final.

"I feel like I did very good this weekend, but I wished I would've pushed the pace more and had cleaner takedowns but did overall pretty good," Perry said.

Palatine also had a pair of sectional champions, with Jasmine Hernandez (32-1) cruising to the 155 crown to stay on track for another medal. Teammate Sabrina Cargill notched the 170 title.

"I felt great today and just tried to win," Hernandez said. "I just tried to finish every (match) strong. It feels great to redeem myself after not winning state last year and winning state my sophomore year."

Glenbard North was also a member of the multiple title club, as first-year student Nadiia Shymkiv continued her strong season by capturing the 105 title. Sophomore Gabriella Gomez claimed the championship at 115. Gomez, who hails from a family of talented wrestlers, is starting to carve out her own name within her family in the sport.

"It feels great to win at 115 after growing some," Gomez said. "I knew I could dominate at any weight class I went to, so I feel this is the right choice I made. I try not to overthink think. I take what I do in the practice room and try and dominate out here. My coaches and teammates helped me put that puzzle together, so I can get closer to that state title."

Bartlett sophomore Emma Engels (14-1) started the championship finals with a title at 100 pounds.

"I just tried to stay focused," Engels said. "Last year I got second at sectionals and finished top eight at state, so my goal is to get a medal. I feel so much better this year. I got a lot stronger in the offseason."

At 110 pounds, Addison Trail's Nina Matthews also comes from a family full of accomplished athletes. Matthews, a catcher and third basemen in softball, is moving up the ranks after landing a spot at state in just her second season wrestling.

"I'm trying to do what my brother did in wrestling," Matthews said. "I'm surprised definitely making state. I just kept my head in the game and avoided mistakes."

Hoffman Estates notched a champion, with Sophia Ball (39-4) relying on several strong showings to easily record the 120 title. Glenbard West senior Khatija Ahmed relished her 130-pound championship in her final sectional appearance.

"I relied on my instincts because I haven't wrestled a long time," Ahmed said. "I've done a lot of other sports but started training specifically for wrestling. The girls on the team all helped me, and we all did amazing."

Conant senior Mannie Anderson (32-4) was one of the stars at the sectional, capping a memorable weekend with the 135 title to add another milestone in her prolific career.

"It felt good to finally set the tone for a state championship, and I'm really excited for that journey and hopefully I will be getting that title," Anderson said, the first female to land a spot in the state tournament last season in program history.

Schaumburg junior Valeria Rodriguez had a huge home crowd following her during the weekend. She didn't disappoint by leaving the gym with a 140 title.

"I was confident and had faith in myself, especially after getting third place at state last year at 155 pounds," Rodriguez said. "I feel a lot more springy and confident."

At 190 pounds, West Chicago junior Jayden Huesca-Rodriguez, a state championship last season, maintained course for a second title by overwhelming the field in her class.

"I'm excited to be going to state again, and want to get another (title)," Huesca-Rodriguez said. "I hope winning gets more girls at my school to try out wrestling. I just trusted myself today."

– Elgin Courier-News –

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

Feb. 12, 2023

From Staff Reports

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Andrew 76, Southland 33

Andrew (17-11): A.B. Mahmoud 17 points, 4 assists.

Aurora Central Catholic 65, Elmwood Park 55

Aurora Christian 55, Chicago Christian 49

Bartlett 55, **Larkin** 53

Batavia 53, St. Charles East 44

Batavia (15-14, 7-6 DuKane): Jack Ambrose 20 points.

Benet 60, Marist 53

Benet (27-1, 15-0 ESCC): Brayden Fagbemi 14 points. Niko Abusara 13 points.

Marist (23-6, 12-3): Justin Lang 15 points. Adoni Vassilakis 14 points.

Bloom 60, Rich Township 54

Bloom (17-8, 9-1 Southland): Santana Flowers 11 points, 15 rebounds. Elijah Lovemore 10 points, 10 assists, 5 rebounds.

Rich Township (18-11, 5-6): Jamson Coulter, Samar Bures 14 points each.

Bolingbrook 55, Lockport 49

Lockport (16-12, 2-5 SWSC Blue): Quinton Hunter, Adam Labuda 13 points each.

Bradley-Bourbonnais 58, Lincoln-Way West 49

Lincoln-Way West (10-19, 1-6 SWSC Red): Eli Bach 17 points. Tyler Gabriel 15 points.

Brother Rice 60, DePaul Prep 55

Burlington Central 66, Crystal Lake South 40

De La Salle 63, Providence-St. Mel 32

De La Salle (20-9, 9-4 CCL White): Evan Jackson, Richard Lindsay 13 points each.

DeKalb 59, Naperville Central 32

Dundee-Crown 45, McHenry 41

Dundee-Crown (13-13, 8-8 Fox Valley): Tyler DiSilvio 13 points.

Earlville 72, Somonauk 53

Somonauk (10-19, 5-4 Little Ten): Carson Bahrey 22 points.

Fenwick 57, Leo 25

Glenbard East 82, Elgin 41

Glenbard North 55, St. Charles North 53

Grant 64, Round Lake 9

Grayslake Central 70, North Chicago 46

Grayslake Central (24-4, 11-2 Northern Lake County): Sam Cooper 14 points. Dennis Estep 12 points. School record for wins in a season.

Hinckley-Big Rock 57, Newark 55 (2 OT)

Hinckley-Big Rock (22-7, 8-1 Little Ten): Martin Lebetter 22 points, 15 rebounds, 4 blocks. Ben Hintzsche 15 points.

Newark (16-12, 6-3): Jake Kruser 21 points, 7 assists. Zach Carlson 18 points, 15 rebounds.

Indian Creek 56, LaMoille-Ohio 55

Indiana Creek (9-19, 3-6 Little Ten): Jeffrey Probst 17 points. Logan Schrader 14 points.

Jacobs 53, Hampshire 51

Kaneland 52, Sycamore 48

Kaneland (24-5, 13-0 Interstate Eight): Gevon Grant 15 points. Luke Wituk 10 points.

Lake Forest 60, Mundelein 46

Lake Forest (18-10, 9-4 North Suburban): Asa Thomas 31 points.

Lakes 47, Grayslake North 38

Lakes (19-7, 11-2 Northern Lake County): Brock Marino 14 points, Tyler Anderson 14 points.

Grayslake North (13-15, 7-6): Dominic Jankowski 12 points.

Lemont 76, Bremen 57

Lemont (24-6, 11-2 SSC Blue): Rokas Castillo 22 points. Matas Castillo 18 points.

Libertyville 41, Stevenson 40

Libertyville (23-5, 12-1 North Suburban): Aidyn Boone 13 points. Won conference title.

Stevenson (20-6, 11-2): Christian Uremovich 14 points.

Lincoln-Way Central 49, Stagg 47

Stagg (12-15, 3-5 SWSC Red): Connor Williams 22 points.

Lincoln-Way East 60, Homewood-Flossmoor 55

Lincoln-Way East (23-4, 6-2 SWSC Blue): Kyle Olagbegi 18 points. B.J. Powell 15 points.

H-F (17-12, 3-4): Carson Brownfield 22 points. Jahlil Birchette 15 points.

Marian Catholic 40, Notre Dame 30

Marian (22-7, 10-5 ESCC): Tre Davis 15 points, Jonah Weathers 15 points.

Naperville North 57, Metea Valley 39

Naperville North (17-10, 6-3 DuPage Valley): Bryce Welch 17 points. Luke Williams 14 points.

Niles North 71, Highland Park 55

Neuqua Valley 58, Waubonsie Valley 35

North Shore 70, Morgan Park Academy 45

Oak Lawn 62, Tinley Park 57

Oak Lawn (20-8, 10-3 SSC Red): Ayham Saleh 20 points, Robert Wagner 14 points, Corey Lee 14 points.

Oswego East 72, Oswego 56

Oswego East (24-5, 15-0 Southwest Prairie West): Jehvion Starwood 23 points. Mekhi Lowery 15 points.

Oswego (15-15, 9-7): Dasean Patton 26 points. Max Niesman 17 points.

Plano 44, Morris 37

Plano (10-19, 4-9 Interstate Eight): James Pugh 12 points.

Providence 59, Marmion 58

Providence (12-17, 4-9 CCL White): Zinn Amos GW basket with 0.4 seconds remaining. Seth Cheney 19 points. Kyle Lipke 12 points.

Marmion (17-11, 5-8): Collin Wainscott 14 points, 7 assists. Jabe Haith 14 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists.

Richards 78, Argo 75 (OT)

Richards (10-18, 4-9 SSC Red): Camren King 21 points.

Argo (6-21, 3-10): Demario Eddins 24 points.

Rock Falls 86, Genoa-Kingston 59

Genoa-Kingston (10-18, 1-7 Big Northern): Hayden Hodgson 17 points.

Rockford Christian Life 57, Mooseheart 49

St. Edward 61, Westmont 40

St. Ignatius 48, Mount Carmel 46

St. Laurence 70, Montini 43

St. Laurence (20-10, 7-6 CCL White): Zerrick Johnson 18 points. Jacob Rice 13 points, 7 rebounds.

St. Patrick 39, Carmel 33

St. Rita 54, Loyola 32

St. Rita (18-10, 10-1 CCL Blue): Morez Johnson 20 points, Nojus Indrusaitis 20 points.

St. Viator 75, Joliet Catholic 50

JCA (12-15, 3-12 ESCC): Anthony Birsa 10 points.

Sandwich 72, Rochelle 61

Shepard 78, Evergreen Park 66

Shepard (13-15, 3-10 SSC Red): Jermell Lymon 29 points.

Evergreen (16-14, 6-7): Nolan Sexton 20 points. Billy Buchanan 15 points.

T.F. South 75, Eisenhower 60

T.F. South (16-13, 9-4 SSC Blue): Caleb Newman 27 points.

Eisenhower (12-17, 4-9 SSC Red): A.J. Abrams 20 points.

Thornwood 51, Thornton 46

Vernon Hills 67, Maine West 57

Vernon Hills (16-14, 6-4 Central Suburban North): Milan Raval 24 points. Bryce Drexler 18 points.

Warren 64, Zion-Benton 35

Warren (16-14, 7-6 North Suburban): Adam Panek 19 points. Amaris Stephens 11 points.

Wauconda 64, Antioch 48

Wauconda (14-11, 7-5 Northern Lake County): Braeden Carlsen 26 points, 8 rebounds, 3 steals. Tyler Tylka 12 points, 14 rebounds.

Antioch (14-13, 8-5): Teddi Wetu 21 points. Carter Webb 16 points.

West Aurora 68, Plainfield North 59

West Aurora (16-14, 8-7 Southwest Prairie West): Josh Pickett 22 points.

Wheaton North 59, Geneva 53

Yorkville 61, Minooka 37

Yorkville (23-5, 12-4 Southwest Prairie West): LeBaron Lee 11 points. Jory Boley 10 points.

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

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

– Daily Herald –

Boys basketball: Top 20

Feb. 13, 2023

Boys basketball

Records through Feb. 12

Team | Comment

1. Benet (27-1) No. 1 seed at **Bartlett sectional**

2. Hinsdale Central (27-3) No. 2 seed at Hinsdale Central sectional
3. Downers North (25-3) No. 4 seed at Hinsdale Central sectional
4. Rolling Meadows (25-5) No. 3 seed at New Trier sectional
5. Libertyville (24-5) No. 1 seed at Barrington sectional
6. Stevenson (20-6) No. 2 seed at Barrington sectional
7. WW South (25-5) No. 2 seed at **Bartlett sectional**
8. Palatine (22-6) No. 3 seed at Barrington sectional
9. Burlington Central (24-5) No. 1 sub-sectional seed in 3A
10. Fremd (16-9) No. 4 seed at Barrington sectional
11. Barrington (18-4) No. 5 seed at Barrington sectional
12. Geneva (22-5) No. 3 seed at **Bartlett sectional**
13. Neuqua Valley (23-7) No. 5 seed at Bolingbrook sectional
14. Prospect (16-12) No. 6 seed at Barrington sectional
15. Glenbard West (18-10) No. 6 seed at **Bartlett sectional**
16. Lake Park (19-9) No. 5 seed at **Bartlett sectional**
17. Metea Valley (20-9) No. 4 seed at **Bartlett sectional**
18. Hersey (18-11) No. 7 seed at Barrington sectional

19. Marmion (18-11) No. 2 sub-sectional seed in 3A

20. Grayslake Central (24-5) No. 2 seed in 3A

Others to watch: Naperville North 18-10, Batavia 15-14, Kaneland 24-5, Conant 14-12, Lakes 19-7, Waubonsie Valley 14-14, Warren 16-14, Crystal Lake South 21-8, South Elgin 18-11, Huntley 20-8, West Aurora 16-14, Fenton 23-7