

Press Clippings - 10/19/2023

- Chicago Tribune -

Right on cue as Fernando Cuahquentzi scores goal for Elgin in regional semifinal. 'I just have to keep pushing.'

By: Paul Johnson

Oct 18, 2023



Elgin's Fernando Cuahquentzi (6) Eduardo Nava (25) and Alberto Gaytan (9) celebrate Nava's goal against DeKalb during a Class 3A Elgin Regional semifinal game on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

Senior center midfielder Fernando Cuahquentzi has been one of **Elgin's** unsung heroes.

Every once in a while, however, the spotlight shines upon the unheralded Cuahquentzi, and that was the case Wednesday when he began the Maroons' scoring against DeKalb.

"It was an amazing feeling to get the first goal," the jubilant Cuahquentzi said afterward. "First goal of the playoffs, early on in the game, it was a good feeling."

It got better, too. Cuahquentzi's fourth goal of the season set the tone for the host Maroons during an 8-1 victory over the Barbs in the Class 3A Elgin Regional semifinals.

The Maroons face **South Elgin** at 4 p.m. Saturday for the regional title.

Eduardo Nava scored three goals for **Elgin** (14-3-3), which plays at 4 p.m. Saturday against **South Elgin** (9-7-4) for the regional title. Nava now has 29 goals this season.

Alberto Gaytan and Edgar Perez also scored in the first half as **Elgin** built a 6-0 lead on DeKalb (7-12-2).

Elgin coach Jimmy Romano confirmed that Cuahquentzi is one of his team’s best offensive finishers, but he’s so valuable in other ways that Romano uses that skill selectively.



Elgin's Roberto Salinas (4) heads the ball over DeKalb's Jayson Quintero (24) and teammate Fernando Cuahquentzi (6) during a Class 3A Elgin Regional semifinal game on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

“He’s very important on both sides of the ball,” Romano said. “Defensively breaking up plays, making tackles, reading the game and organizing players around him.

“Offensively, he keeps us in possession, switching up the point of attack and keeping the ball.”

It didn’t take Cuahquentzi long to get the Maroons on the board.

He played the ball ahead and then ran up to trail the play. After the ball bounced off a DeKalb defender, Cuahquentzi took a shot and scored with 34:09 left in the first half for a 1-0 lead.



Elgin's Alberto Gaytan (9) controls the ball in front of DeKalb's Henry Garcia Alvarez (13) during a Class 3A Elgin

Regional semifinal game on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

“I just have to keep pushing and be there when it’s unexpected,” Cuahquentzi said. “And put it in.”

Nava followed with his first goal at the 20:29 mark. He added two more goals before halftime and then sat out the second half.

“We have to put every team away right away,” Nava said. “From the beginning, we have to go all in.”

Nava has been used to garnering the accolades all season, but he was happy to see Cuahquentzi get his moment in the spotlight.



Elgin's Eduardo Nava (25) shoots and scores past DeKalb defenders DeKalb's Julian Hernandez (17) and Ian Wikens-Walther (12) in the first half of a Class 3A Elgin Regional semifinal game on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

“He’s a great player,” Nava said. “He has a left. He has a right. He’s got vision. He’s a great player overall.

“I’m really happy that he got his goal. It was good that he got the first goal. We needed a goal no matter who it was.”

With an offensive threat as dangerous as Nava, having solid play in the midfield from Cuahquentzi is a big part of that success. And it’s not lost on Romano.

“A huge part of it,” Romano said of Cuahquentzi. “It’s awesome because there’s a lot of responsibility with him. He’s selfless and patient. We are fortunate to have quality players all over the field. If teams don’t watch out for them, they’re going to be able to expose them.

“We had all players step up and that helped take the pressure off (Nava) and open up some opportunities for him later on.”



Elgin's Roberto Salinas (4) heads the ball past DeKalb defender Diego Rivas (23) in the first half of the Class 3A Elgin Regional semifinal game on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

The Maroons went without a loss until the supersectional last season. That wasn't the case this year. They had to regroup and learn to face adversity.

“We did have a practice where we talked it out, got on the same page,” Romano said. “The only direction now is forward. The way they responded, I couldn't ask for a better way.”

After airing out issues, Cuahquentzi feels like Elgin is ready to make another deep postseason run. “We learned that losing feeling,” Cuahquentzi said. “We needed to get back together as a family. We had our downs, but we got back together. We're all on the same page.

“We talked out what we felt — what was going wrong. Now, we're all good.”

- Chicago Tribune - Local scores for the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County

By: From Staff Reports

Oct 18, 2023



Elgin's Alberto Gaytan (9) controls the ball in front of DeKalb's Henry Garcia Alvarez (13) during a Class 3A Elgin Regional semifinal game on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

Results and highlights of high schools and local colleges from the Southland and Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County coverage areas.

FOOTBALL

HIGH SCHOOLS

WEEK 9

FRIDAY'S GAMES

CCL/ESCC BLUE

St. Rita at Brother Rice, 7 p.m.

CCL/ESCC GREEN

Marist at Niles Notre Dame, 7:30 p.m.

St. Ignatius vs. Joliet Catholic at Joliet Memorial Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

CCL/ESCC PURPLE

St. Patrick at Carmel, 7:30 p.m.

St. Viator at Marmion, 7:30 p.m.

CCL/ESCC RED

De Paul Prep at De La Salle, 7:30 p.m.

Leo at Marian Catholic, 7:30 p.m.

CCL/ESCC WHITE

Benet at Providence, 7:30 p.m.

Montini at St. Laurence, 7:30 p.m.

CENTRAL SUBURBAN NORTH

Highland Park at Vernon Hills, 6 p.m.

CENTRAL SUBURBAN SOUTH

Deerfield at New Trier, 7 p.m.

CHICAGOLAND CHRISTIAN

Aurora Christian at Chicago Christian, 7:15 p.m.

St. Edward at Bishop McNamara, 7 p.m.

DUKANE

Geneva at St. Charles North, 7 p.m.

Glenbard North at Batavia, 7 p.m.

Wheaton Warrenville South at St. Charles East, 7 p.m.

DUPAGE VALLEY PLAYOFFS

Metea Valley at DeKalb, 7 p.m.

Naperville North at Waubonsie Valley, 7 p.m.

Neuqua Valley at Naperville Central, 7 p.m.

FOX VALLEY

Cary-Grove at Dundee-Crown, 7 p.m.

Hampshire at Crystal Lake Central, 7 p.m.

Huntley at Burlington Central, 7 p.m.

Jacobs at Crystal Lake South, 7 p.m.

KISHWAUKEE RIVER/INTERSTATE EIGHT BLUE

Marengo at Plano, 7:30 p.m.

KISHWAUKEE RIVER/INTERSTATE EIGHT WHITE

Kaneland at LaSalle-Peru, 7 p.m.

NORTH SUBURBAN

Mundelein at Lake Forest, 7 p.m.

Stevenson at Libertyville, 7:30 p.m.

Warren at Zion-Benton, 7 p.m.

Waukegan at Lake Zurich, 7 p.m.

NORTHERN LAKE COUNTY

Grayslake North at Wauconda, 7 p.m.

Lakes at Grayslake Central, 7 p.m.

North Chicago at Grant, 7 p.m.

Round Lake at Antioch, 7 p.m.

SOUTH SUBURBAN RED

Oak Lawn at Eisenhower, 6:30 p.m.

SOUTHLAND

Crete-Monee at Kankakee, 7 p.m.

Riverside-Brookfield vs. Rich Township at Rich South, 6 p.m.

Thornridge at Thornwood, 6 p.m.

SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE WEST

Minooka at West Aurora, 7 p.m.

Oswego East at Oswego, 7 p.m.

Plainfield North at Yorkville, 7 p.m.

SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN BLUE

Homewood-Flossmoor at Lockport, 6:30 p.m.
Lincoln-Way East at Bolingbrook, 7 p.m.
SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN RED
Andrew at Lincoln-Way West, 7:30 p.m.
Lincoln-Way Central at Bradley-Bourbonnais, 7 p.m.
UPSTATE EIGHT
Bartlett at Glenbard East, 7 p.m.
East Aurora at Fenton, 7 p.m.
Glenbard South at **Elgin**, 7 p.m.
Larkin at West Chicago, 7 p.m.
Streamwood at **South Elgin**, 7 p.m.
NONCONFERENCE
Aurora Central Catholic at Kewanee, 7 p.m.
Sandwich at Woodstock North, 7 p.m.
Stagg at Sandburg, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

CCL/ESCC BLUE

Mount Carmel at Loyola, 1 p.m.

PUBLIC RED

Simeon vs. Morgan Park at Gately Stadium, 1 p.m.

SOUTHLAND

Thornton at Bloom, noon.

NONCONFERENCE

Little Village vs. Ag. Science, 11 a.m.

LOCAL COLLEGES

CCIW

Washington (Mo.) at North Central College, 1 p.m.

MIDWEST

Lake Forest College at Ripon (Wis.), 1 p.m.

MSFA MIDWEST

St. Francis at St. Ambrose (Iowa), 1 p.m.

NACC

Wisconsin Lutheran at Aurora, 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

CLASS 3A REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

ELGIN

Elgin 8, DeKalb 1

South Elgin 1, Rockford East 0

GLENBARD NORTH

St. Charles East 4, Hoffman Estates 0

St. Charles East (16-7): Connor Sychowski goal. Aiden Maloney goal. Logan Lewarchik goal.
Huxley Kapoor goal.

LINCOLN-WAY CENTRAL

Lincoln-Way Central 3, Joliet Central 1

Lincoln-Way Central (13-3-1): Dylan Maksa goal. Aidan Byrne goal. Noah Anhalt goal. Jamison Stockrahm 2 assists.

LOCKPORT

Lockport 4, Lincoln-Way East 1

MARIST

Shepard 3, Sandburg 2

Shepard (14-11-1): Chris Fernandez 2 goals. Filip Zawodniak goal.

PLAINFIELD NORTH

Naperville North 4, Batavia 0

CLASS 2A REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

ANTIOCH

Grayslake Central 6, Cary-Grove 1

Grayslake Central (12-4): Brendan Kirkner 3 goals. Mitchell Fein 2 goals.

CRYSTAL LAKE SOUTH

Lake Forest 3, Lakes 0

ROCHELLE

Kaneland 1, Rochelle 0

ST. RITA

Bremen 3, St. Rita 1

Bremen (8-8-2): Diego Lagunas 3 goals.

CLASS 1A REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHICAGO CHRISTIAN

Carver 1, Chicago Christian 0

CRISTO REY ST. MARTIN

Cristo Rey St. Martin 1, Northridge 0

HINCKLEY-BIG ROCK

Westminster Christian 5, Genoa-Kingston 4

ILLINOIS LUTHERAN

Universal 4, Joliet Catholic 2

MANTENO

Beecher 3, Manteno 0

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Bolingbrook d. Batavia 25-20, 25-14
IC Catholic d. De La Salle 25-14, 25-12
Jacobs d. Marian Central Catholic 17-25, 25-17, 25-19
Jacobs (18-15): Ali Pierre 7 kills, 8 digs, 4 blocks. Jordan Miller 5 kills, 17 digs. Abby Deacon 15 assists, 13 digs. Gracie Breeze 21 digs.
Lemont d. Chicago Christian 22-25, 25-19, 25-17
Lemont (27-9): Keira O'Donnell 12 kills. Nora Miller 10 digs.
Lincoln-Way West d. T.F. South 25-14, 25-12
Lockport d. Providence 25-14, 25-17
Marist d. Minooka 25-14, 25-16
Marist (30-4): Hannah Hosty 5 kills. Jessica Kurpeikis 5 kills. Maddie Berry 25 assists, 12 digs.
Mother McAuley d. Lyons 25-17, 25-20
McAuley (30-5): Ellie White 16 kills. Peyton Heatherly 28 assists. Samantha Falk 11 digs.
Mundelein d. Lake Forest 25-22, 25-19
Richmond-Burton d. Plano 25-12, 25-21
Stevenson d. Libertyville 24-26, 25-20, 25-14
Stevenson (28-6, 6-1 North Suburban): Mija Jegers 13 kills, 9 digs, 3 aces. Ava Wysocki 13 kills. Kyra Costabile 26 assists, 14 digs. Alice Birtig 20 digs.
Thornwood d. Hillcrest 25-18, 25-20
Warren d. Zion-Benton 25-13, 25-16
Warren (23-10, 5-2 North Suburban): Ruth Ziegler 9 kills. Madison Wojdyla 15 assists.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS SOCCER

CLASS 3A REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

ADDISON TRAIL

St. Charles North 3, Bartlett 0

ANDREW

Andrew 3, Lincoln-Way West 0

Eisenhower 1, Thornton co-op 0 (SO)

BOLINGBROOK

Naperville Central 4, Plainfield Central 0

Naperville Central (10-5-7): Owen Jarrell 2 goals.

Bolingbrook 1, Waubonsie Valley 0

GENEVA

Geneva 2, Wheaton Warrenville South 1

Geneva (13-5-2): Trent Giansanti goal.

HARLEM

Larkin 1, Jacobs 0

Round Lake 5, Harlem 1

HERSEY

Rolling Meadows 2, Lake Zurich 1

HINSDALE CENTRAL

Mount Carmel 6, Juarez 0

HUNTLEY

Dundee-Crown 2, McHenry 1 (OT)

Dundee-Crown (14-7-1): Hugo Arista GW goal.

LOCKPORT

Stagg 2, Joliet West 1

Stagg (15-3-1): Bart Jaskowski GW goal.

MARMION

Metea Valley 3, Marmion 1

Metea (8-10-1): Cole Hatfield goal. Abel Lopez goal. Michael Senese goal.

Romeoville 3, Neuqua Valley 2

MARIST

Bloom 3, Homewood-Flossmoor 0

Bloom (23-1): Omar Ortiz goal. Jonathan Magana goal. Diego Flores goal.

REAVIS

Reavis 5, Argo 0

STEVENSON

Stevenson 5, Fremd 0

Buffalo Grove 4, Mundelein 0

STREAMWOOD

Grant 2, Rockford Guilford 1

Streamwood 3, Hononegah 1 (OT)

Streamwood (14-4-4): A.J. Sabanovic goal, assist. Max Galvan goal. Luis Vega goal.

WARREN

Warren 1, Zion-Benton 0

Warren (12-9-2): Mikey Yang goal.

Palatine 4, Waukegan 3

WEST AURORA

Oswego 1, Oswego East 0

West Aurora 1, East Aurora 0

CLASS 2A REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

BELVIDERE NORTH

Burlington Central 3, Belvidere 1

Burlington Central (11-6-3): Sam Knych goal.

CRYSTAL LAKE SOUTH

Crystal Lake South 2, North Chicago 0

DE LA SALLE

De La Salle 6, Muchin 0

GRAYSLAKE NORTH

Grayslake North 1, St. Viator 0

Grayslake North (11-8): Chris Fabela goal.

Wauconda 6, Woodstock North 1

Wauconda (13-2-2): Freddy Barnshaw 3 goals.

LEMONT

Lemont 6, Crete-Monee 1

MARIAN CATHOLIC

Marian Catholic 5, Providence 2

Oak Forest 10, Evergreen Park 0

NAZARETH

Benet 4, Hinsdale South 0

ST. LAURENCE

St. Laurence 7, Noble-UIC 0

St. Laurence: Diego Lugo 2 goals. Edgar Perez 2 goals.

ST. RITA

Brother Rice 10, Englewood 0

VERNON HILLS

Deerfield 2, Vernon Hills 1

Deerfield: Nicholas Biank goal. Cristian Carani goal.

WHEATON ACADEMY

Wheaton Academy 6, Plano 0

CLASS 1A REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

SOMONAUK

Somonauk 7, Aurora Central Catholic 0

REGIONAL SEMIFINAL

ILLINOIS LUTHERAN

Joliet Catholic 7, Illinois Lutheran 0

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Bartlett d. Glenbard East 25-22, 25-19

Bradley-Bourbonnais d. Andrew 25-27, 25-18, 25-20

Burlington Central d. Hampshire 25-18, 25-15

Burlington Central (19-14, 7-10 Fox Valley): Ashli Bonds 7 kills.

De La Salle d. Latin 25-18, 25-11

Grayslake Central d. Wauconda 25-17, 25-19

Huntley d. Dundee-Crown 25-16, 25-13
Illinois Lutheran d. Tri-Point 25-14, 25-22
Illinois Lutheran (10-17): Calleigh Garrett 6 kills.
Jacobs d. McHenry 16-25, 25-26, 25-19
Jacobs (17-15, 9-8 Fox Valley): Ali Pierre 7 kills, 9 blocks, 4 digs. Abby Deacon 12 assists, 12 digs.
Gracie Breeze 21 digs.
Joliet West d. West Aurora 25-10, 25-16
Lakes d. Grayslake North 12-25, 25-14, 25-23
Lincoln-Way Central d. Richards 25-18, 25-20
Lincoln-Way Central (22-12): Kiera King 9 kills, 8 assists. Alyssa Teske 5 kills, 13 assists, 6 digs.
Lincoln-Way East d. Bolingbrook 25-10, 16-25, 25-20
Lincoln-Way East (20-14, 6-2 SWSC): Tamia Maddox 14 kills. Maggie Simon 32 assists.
Lincoln-Way West d. Stagg 25-7, 25-17
Lincoln-Way West (26-8, 6-2): Ashley Dace 6 kills. Ashley Miller 19 assists. Lexi Byas 13 digs. Won SWSC Red title.
Loyola d. Warren 25-18, 25-18
Warren (22-10): Ruth Ziegler 8 kills, 4 blocks.
Marist d. Marian Catholic 25-12, 25-10
Montini Catholic d. St. Edward 25-15, 25-21
St. Edward (14-16-3): Caitlyn Madsen 7 kills.
Naperville North d. Metea Valley 19-25, 25-23, 29-27
Newark d. LaMoille-Ohio 25-6, 25-5
Niles West d. Highland Park 25-13, 25-13
Oswego d. Romeoville 27-25, 25-22
St. Laurence d. Oak Lawn 25-20, 25-8
St. Viator d. Carmel 25-23, 25-20
Sandburg d. Homewood-Flossmoor 25-14, 18-25, 25-18
Sandburg (21-13, 7-1 SWSC): Elise Sterling 11 kills, 6 blocks. Katie Walsh 10 kills. Maya Rihani 20 assists.
H-F (23-7, 5-4): LaDonna Trantham 9 kills. Skylar Skinner 28 assists, 11 digs. Camille Brooms 15 digs.
Somonauk d. IMSA 25-21, 25-17
Somonauk (12-10, 5-5 Little Ten): Aubrey Chiavario 6 kills. Josie Rader 6 kills.
Vernon Hills d. Maine East 25-12, 25-19
Vernon Hills (15-15, 6-3 Central Suburban North): Kiersten Cieslinski 7 kills. Maya Raval 18 assists.
Yorkville d. Plainfield East 25-8, 25-15
Yorkville (12-22, 4-6 Southwest Prairie West): Clare Knoll 7 kills, 7 assists, 6 digs. Kayle Dudek 16 assists.

- Daily Herald -

Playoff clinchers: These area football teams enter Week 9 knowing they will have a Week 10

By: Daily Herald Report

10/18/2023



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com Quarterback Colton Gumino works on the first day of football practice at Hersey High School in Arlington Heights on Monday, August 7, 2023.

Why stop now? Thirty teams in the Daily Herald's coverage area have clinched playoff berths. But each would love to improve their seeding by winning this weekend's regular-season finale. Here's a brief look at the 30 teams.

Playoff team (record) Playoff pts Projected class Week 9 opponent

Barrington (8-0) 35 8A at Conant (3-5)

Playoff talk: Impressive win over Palatine. Broncos peaking at the right time?

Naperville Central (7-1) 33 8A vs. Neuqua Valley (5-3)

Playoff talk Looking to improve seeding with second win over Neuqua Valley.

Maine South (7-1) 32 8A vs. Evanston (3-5)

Playoff talk: 3-point opening loss to Brother Rice only thing separating Hawks from being unbeaten.

Warren (6-2) 43 8A at Zion-Benton (1-7)

Playoff talk: Blue Devils going for third straight shutout win.

Downers Grove South (5-3) 37 8A vs. Addison Trail (6-2)

Playoff talk: Snagged WSC Gold title after 0-3 start in nonconference play.

York (7-1) 33 8A vs. Proviso West (0-8)

Playoff talk: Nice bounce-back win over Lyons Twp.

South Elgin (7-1) 33 8A vs. **Streamwood** (2-6)

Playoff talk: Looking at share of UEC title before focusing on playoffs.

Huntley (7-1) 33 8A at Burlington Cen. (4-4)

Playoff: Looking to knock Burlington Central out of the playoff hunt.

Stevenson (6-2) 35 8A at Libertyville (5-3)

Playoff talk: Big regular-season finale before playoffs start.

Hersey (8-0) 27 7A vs. Elk Grove (3-5)

Playoff talk: Best Huskies team since 1987 title winners?

Maine West (8-0) 25 7A at Niles North (3-5)

Playoff talk: Battle tested after several close wins.

Batavia (7-1) 39 7A vs. Glenbard North (0-8)

Playoff talk: On a roll since 1-point Week 2 loss to Lincoln-Way East.

Glenbard East (7-1) 33 7A vs. **Bartlett** (4-4)

Playoff talk: Must be wary of Bartlett team still fighting for playoff spot.

St. Charles North (6-2) 38 7A vs. Geneva (6-2)

Playoff talk: Bounced back strong from 2-2 start.

Prospect (6-2) 37 7A vs. Wheeling (1-7)

Playoff talk: Five straight playoff appearances for the Knights.

Downers Grove North (6-2) 36 7A vs. Hinsdale Central (3-5)

Playoff talk: Nice to clinch playoff spot before Old Oaken Bucket game.

Glenbard West (6-2) 34 7A at Oak Park (1-7)

Playoff talk: Always on the bubble between 7A and 8A.

Willowbrook (6-2) 21 7A vs. Leyden (2-6)

Playoff talk: With just 21 playoff points, Warriors really needed that sixth win.

Addison Trail (6-2) 21 7A at Downers South (5-3)

Playoff talk: First playoff appearance since 2014.

Lake Zurich (7-1) 33 6A vs. Waukegan (1-7)

Playoff talk: Won't win conference, but Bears ready for second season.

Cary-Grove (6-2) 34 6A at Dundee-Crown (1-7)

Playoff talk: Trojans fueled by a pair of 1-point losses.

Wauconda (6-2) 31 6A vs. Grayslake North (4-4)

Playoff talk: Clinched playoff berth with authority -- a 64-0 win over North Chicago.

Geneva (6-2) 31 6A at St. Charles North (6-2)

Playoff talk: Finally notched that sixth win after 5-0 start.

Antioch (8-0) 24 5A vs. Round Lake (0-8)

Playoff talk: Fewest number of playoff points among state unbeaten teams.

Carmel (7-1) 36 5A vs. St. Patrick (2-6)

Playoff talk: Coming on since Week 5 loss to Mt. Carmel.

Glenbard South (7-1) 33 5A at **Elgin** (1-7)

Playoff talk: Must regroup from last week's loss to Glenbard East.

St. Francis (6-2) 41 5A at Nazareth (4-4)

Playoff talk: As if a game at Nazareth isn't tough enough, Roadrunners are vying for a playoff berth.

Wheaton Academy (7-1) 31 4A vs. Marian (4-4)

Playoff talk: With few playoff points, Warriors need a win for seeding.

IC Catholic Prep (6-2) 34 4A vs. Fenwick (4-4)

Playoff talk: Defending 3A champs back in the playoffs.

Aurora Christian (6-2) 42 1A at Chicago Christian (5-3)

Playoff talk: Another tough game before the Eagles enter the playoffs.

- Daily Herald -

Breaking down this week's Top 10 football teams

By: John Lemon

10/18/2023



Glenbard East's Donte Hudson runs for a touchdown during the Rams' win over Glenbard South Friday in Lombard. The Rams are No. 15 in this week's Daily Herald Top 20. (Gary Middendorf/Shaw Local News Network)

First and 10

Team (record) This week's opponent

1. Hersey (8-0) Elk Grove, Friday

Comment: The Huskies, who took over the top spot in the Top 20 in Week 8 following York's loss to Glenbard West, will try to complete their second straight 9-0 regular season against the 3-5 Grens. Hersey hasn't lost a regular season game since Buffalo Grove got them 21-20 to end the 2021 regular season.

2. Batavia (7-1) Glenbard North, Friday

Comment: Junior Nate Whitwell had a big night in the Bulldogs' DuKane-clinching 28-14 win over Wheaton Warrenville South with his blocking and a key fourth quarter TD. Punter Charlie Whlpley helped Batavia win the field position battle pinning the Tigers deep multiple times. The defense allowed 50 yards rushing; Ben Fiegel made 10 solo tackles.

3. Barrington (8-0) At Conant, Friday

Comment: The Broncos put 50 points on the scoreboard last week in a MSL West clinching win over Palatine. QB Nick Peipert was outstanding again completing 13 of 15 passes for 178 yards and 3 TDs. The Broncos have been balanced all year and continued that trend with Dillon Fitzpatrick rushing for 173 yards and three scores vs. the Pirates.

4. York (7-1) Proviso West, Friday

Comment: After having their 17-game regular season winning streak snapped by Glenbard West, the Dukes rebounded by beating a strong Lyons squad, 24-14. They now can earn a share of the West Suburban Silver title vs. 0-8 Proviso West. Luke Mailander caught 9 passes for 135 yards last week including a 24-yard TD from quarterback Sean Winton.

5. Maine South (7-1) Evanston, Friday

Comment: The Hawks have put a difficult offseason behind them when they forfeited 9 victories by winning another Central Suburban South championship. Maine South clinched a share of the title last week by blowing out Deerfield 49-17 and will wrap up the outright crown by beating 3-5 Evanston Friday.

6. Warren (6-2) At Zion-Benton, Friday

Comment: The Blue Devils are on a six-game winning streak -- coming a long way this fall since opening with losses to Barrington and Maine South (two teams a combined 15-1). Their schedule was front-loaded this season, and Warren finishes its quest for a 7-0 North Suburban record with a Zion-Benton team that is 1-7 and has been outscored 241-98.

7. Lake Zurich (7-1) Waukegan, Friday

Comment: After a 21-17 loss to Warren in Week 5 that once again will go down as the NSC decider, the Bears have bounced back by beating Libertyville 29-28, Lake Forest 43-0, Mundelein 30-14 and now get 1-7 Waukegan. Chris Pirrone ran for 183 yards in last week's victory in a game they trailed 14-10 in the third quarter.

8. Naperville C. (7-1) Neuqua Valley, Friday

Comment: The unique DuPage Valley Conference schedule concludes with Week 9 rematches. The Redhawks will be going for a second win over the 5-3 Wildcats. The first came in Week 5, 21-7, a game -- like many -- that the Redhawks' defense came up big. Lockport's 31-24 win in Week 3 is all that stands between Central and a perfect season so far.

9. Downers Grove N. (6-2) Hinsdale Central, Friday

Comment: The Trojans are likely headed to a third-place finish in the West Suburban Silver -- but their nonconference win over St. Francis looks better and better as the season has played out, as does a 24-point victory over Glenbard West to start conference play. Downers North will be a tough out for anyone in the postseason.

10. Glenbard West (6-2) At Oak Park, Friday

Comment: The Hilltoppers have had to overcome injuries more than anyone this fall. They have done that and are peaking at the right time, now with five straight wins after a 1-2 start. They next get 1-7 Oak Park with a win giving them a share of the WSS title with a York team they beat 28-7. Teyion Oriental has helped fill in for the injury to RB Julius Ellens.

Second and 10

11. St. Francis 6-2 Beat Leo 42-6; Nazareth
12. St. Charles North 6-2 Beat Lake Park 42-14; Geneva
13. Prospect 6-2 Beat Buffalo Grove 63-28; at Rolling M.
14. Palatine 5-3 Lost to Barrington 50-32; Schaumburg
15. Glenbard East 7-1 Beat Glenbard South 28-14; **Bartlett**
16. Huntley 7-1 Beat Dundee-Crown 35-7; at Burlington C.
17. IC Catholic Prep 6-2 Beat DeLaSalle 55-20; Fenwick
18. Geneva 6-2 Beat St. Charles E. 42-20; at St. Charles N.
19. Neuqua Valley 5-3 Beat DeKalb 40-6; at Naperville Central
20. Antioch 8-0 Beat Grayslake C. 48-15; Round Lake