

# Press Clippings - 10/23/2023

## - Daily Herald -

### Streamwood High School's fall play: 'Almost, Maine'

By: Linnea Grooms

10/ 19/2023



Sarah Ballenger (right) and Victoria Leyva in Streamwood High School's production of "Almost Maine." (Courtesy of Linnea Grooms)

**Streamwood High School's** Fine Arts Department will present John Cariani's "Almost, Maine" at 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 26-27 and at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28, in the school's auditorium. The show is directed by Linnea Grooms.

Almost, Maine is a place that's so far north, it's almost not in the United States. It's almost in Canada. And it's not quite a town because its residents never got around to getting organized. So it almost doesn't exist. One cold, clear, winter night, as the Northern Lights hover in the star-filled sky above, the residents of Almost, Maine, find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend - almost- in this delightful midwinter night's dream.

At its core, "Almost, Maine" is nine separate stories with no more than three actors on stage at a time dealing with love and loss. The audience sits on stage with the actors and become part of the

magic.

Behind the scenes is a tech crew of 10 students, under the direction of auditorium manager and technical director Emmalie Hall. The crew is designing and constructing the set, designing and controlling the lighting, organizing all of the props, and handling all of the sound engineering. Costumes are being designed by Ashley Santiago.

Victoria L., a junior playing Pete and Deena, says, "I feel like one of the best parts of 'Almost, Maine' is the close relationship between everyone; it makes for genuine reactions, sincere connections, hilarious jokes, and makes the experience all the more enjoyable to watch."

Keira H., a senior playing Marci, says, "Being a part of 'Almost, Maine' has been one of the most memorable experiences I have had over the past few years. The rapport that we castmates has grown stronger the more time passes, and I couldn't be more grateful for them. I also really appreciate our director and tech director, as they were super supportive of me and everyone else. When I graduate later in the school year, I will be proud to have been a part of 'Almost, Maine' and the Sabre Ensemble Theater."

Tickets for these performances will be \$7 dollars for students and \$8 for a general admission seat and available for purchase at the door with cash.

## **- Chicago Tribune - District U-46 and transportation union reps hope more lucrative contract will end school bus driver shortage By: Mike Danahey Oct 20, 2023**



School District U-46 buses line up outside South Elgin High School. Officials for the district and the transportation union say they hope a more competitive contract will help bring in more bus driver applicants. (Dave Gathman / The Courier-News)

**School District U-46's** contract with its transportation union doesn't expire until June 2025, but negotiations will be starting early in effort to draft a deal that might be more attractive to bus driver applicants, officials said.

Drivers are working under a contract signed in April 2021 but both sides agreed in September that collective bargaining for a new package would begin this year, district spokeswoman Tara Burghart said.

"This would be an earlier start to contract negotiations than in the past," she said.

Bus drivers speaking at recent school board meetings have said they are being paid less than drivers in other districts, a situation that's contributing to a driver shortage and resulting in drivers being overworked.

Starting U-46 bus driver pay is \$19.50 an hour, significantly less than the \$22.68 paid by St. Charles School District 303 and the \$25 rate at Palatine School District 15, union officials said.

"It's been at least two years that we have been struggling with transportation," said Heather Weiss, president of the District U45 Transportation Union.

The district employs 265 school bus drivers and has about a dozen drivers on call on an as-needed basis, Burghart said. That's 11 fewer driver than they had last year.

Of the 48 job openings in the transportation department, 34 are for bus drivers, Burghart said. Because of the shortage, some students are arriving late to school, which impacts instruction time, Weiss said.

"Our special education students need consistency, and that is definitely taking a hit with the shortage because we have to double up routes. This causes drivers to be overloaded and students to be late to school and even home," Weiss said.

Burghart acknowledged this has been a problem.

"We do have routes that run late to school because of the driver shortage, which is why we are working hard to bring more qualified drivers and assistants onto our team," she said.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, U-46 and many other school districts have not been able to hire enough drivers, Burghart said. The district has been holding job fairs, offering referral bonuses and using other recruitment efforts to close the gap, she said.

“We are working diligently to resolve the staffing challenges that school districts across the state are facing so that our transportation services run smoothly and (we) work closely with our schools to ensure that our routes are not overloaded,” Burghart said.

Weiss said the union has been told that U-46 officials recognize the need to offer more competitive wages.

“Our school bus drivers and assistants play a vital role in our school district, ensuring that more than 22,000 students travel safely between their schools and homes each day. We appreciate their dedication and service,” Burghart said. “We are committed to finding a resolution that recognizes their valuable contributions to our school community.”

## **- Daily Herald -**

### **Few suburban schools follow state's radon testing recommendation**

**By: Jake Griffin**

**10-21-2023**



Kirsten Schmidt of Westmont-based Radon Detection Specialists places a radon detection device in a room at Millburn Elementary School after construction was completed recently to remediate unsafe levels of the radioactive gas detected there.( Joe Lewnard | Staff Photographer)

Despite recommendations that schools be tested for radon every five years, 85 out of 100 suburban school districts have not done so -- and more than half of the 15 that did found elevated levels of the radioactive gas in at least one building.

Even among districts that tested, most did not test all their buildings as recommended.

That's according to a Daily Herald investigation into the 100 districts' compliance with an Illinois State Board of Education recommendation that school buildings be tested every five years for the gas that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Surgeon General's office estimate is responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths annually.

"I wouldn't be surprised if this is the first time some of these school districts are hearing the word 'radon,'" said Patrick Daniels, a health physicist and radon program manager for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. "Radon is a very big risk most people aren't aware of, or don't understand."

The radon testing recommendation was part of a 2009 legislative package that also "requires" school districts to report test results to IEMA, though compliance with this aspect of the law appears scattershot as well.

"Our district wanted to be proactive and comply with some of the new recommendations that have been coming out so we could be ahead of the curve if it became required," said Scott Ney, director of facility operations at Geneva Unit District 304.

Six of the district's 11 buildings were tested in 2021, costing the district \$12,200, according to records obtained through a public records request. The other buildings are slated to be tested soon, Ney said.

Of the 417 detectors deployed in those six buildings, five showed radon levels above 4 picocuries per liter of air, the accepted limit. Another \$6,914 was spent to remediate the problems.

"Mitigation costs can vary depending on the location of the leak in the building," said Dan Potter, who operates DuPage Radon Contractors and also runs the Illinois Radon Policy Task Force. "But these radon mitigation systems are pretty dependable, and once they're installed, they work."

Millburn Elementary District 24 officials in Lake County just installed a system a few weeks ago after elevated levels were discovered in an elementary school. Testing and remediation costs

combined were \$11,345, records show.

"We wanted to make sure everyone's safe, that's our priority," said District 24 Superintendent Jason Lind.

Some of the largest suburban school districts -- including Elgin Area **District U-46**, Indian Prairie Unit District 204, Northwest Suburban High School District 214 and Wheaton Warrenville Unit District 200 -- have not done any testing, records show. Officials from some of those districts noted the state is only recommending the action, not requiring it. District 200 officials said testing hasn't taken place at any of its 20-plus buildings because "our schools do not have basements."

"It doesn't have to be a basement, it's anything with ground contact," said Kirsten Schmidt, vice president of Westmont-based Radon Detection Specialists. "We find high levels in rooms on slabs all the time."

The state law reads that districts should test in "every occupied school building."

Since the 2017-2018 school year, Elk Grove Elementary District 59, Leyden High School District 212, Northbrook Elementary District 27 and Northbrook Elementary District 28 in suburban Cook County reported test results. Elevated levels were detected in a classroom in District 28.

In DuPage County, Downers Grove Elementary District 58, Glen Ellyn Elementary District 89 and Naperville Unit District 203 reported testing in just some of those districts' buildings. Elevated levels were found in two classrooms at one of the four schools tested in District 58 and one classroom in District 203 also reported unsafe levels, reports show.

In addition to District 304, East Aurora Unit District 131 was the only other school district in Kane County to perform tests in the past five years. St. Charles Unit District 303 performed tests six years ago and Kaneland Unit District 302 tested in 2013.

District 131's testing in 2018 was one of the most comprehensive in the suburbs. In all, 1,603 detectors were deployed at 25 district buildings resulting in 36 unsafe readings at eight different schools. The cost to the district for both testing and remediation was \$35,600, district records show.

In McHenry County, Huntley Unit District 158 tested nine schools in 2022. Only one of the 90 detectors deployed recorded unsafe radon levels.

Barrington Unit District 220, Fremont Elementary District 79, Lake Zurich Unit District 95 and

Woodland Elementary District 50 were the only Lake County school districts beside District 24 to report radon testing in the past five years. All but District 50 reported some detectors with elevated radon levels. Both District 220 and District 95 officials reported spending nearly \$60,000 each to test and remediate leaks.

District 79 officials took advantage of a state program that trains staff on how to use radon detectors, and performed the testing with state-issued equipment, saving thousands of dollars.

Schmidt said the tests are small, well-marked unobtrusive devices placed in classrooms and other spots where people congregate.

"It's not uncommon to find elevated levels, but I've never had a case where we've had to shut down a room or anything," she said. "It's really about prolonged exposure, so how long is too long to go without testing? It's always fixable."

Radon exposure is more likely to affect teachers more so than students, Schmidt said. That's because teachers and other district staff are apt to remain in the same room year after year.

Teacher unions back the ISBE recommendation.

"The Illinois Federation of Teachers supports efforts to ensure our schools are safe and healthy for all students, teachers and staff," said IFT President Dan Montgomery. "To that end, we urge districts to conduct any ISBE-recommended testing, such as radon testing, that impacts the health and safety of our members and the students they serve."

Potter's task force is looking to draft legislation that would change radon testing from a recommendation to a requirement. The group formed less than two year ago and was already successful in passing legislation requiring landlords to test for radon in rental units, which goes into effect next year.

"We've known that radon kills for 30 years now," Potter said. "We're trying to get a mandate for school testing."

## **- Daily Herald -**

### **IHSA playoff football: Class 1A to 8A first-round matchups**

**By: Daily Herald Report**

**10/22/2023**

The IHSA on Saturday announced the first-round pairings for the football playoffs. Here are the matchups. Dates and times will be posted at [ihsa.org](http://ihsa.org) at around 3 p.m. Monday.

**Class 8A**

No. 32 Plainfield (North) (4-5) at No. 1 Wilmette (Loyola Academy) (9-0)  
No. 17 Palatine (6-3) at No. 16 Naperville (Neuqua Valley) (6-3)  
No. 25 Niles West (6-3) at No. 8 Huntley (8-1)  
No. 24 St. Ignatius (6-3) at No. 9 Joliet West (8-1)  
No. 29 West Aurora (5-4) at No. 4 Edwardsville (8-1)  
No. 20 Naperville North (6-3) at No. 13 Glenbard West (7-2)  
No. 28 Homewood-Flossmoor (5-4) at No. 5 York (8-1)  
No. 21 Lyons Twp. (6-3) at No. 12 Stevenson (7-2)  
No. 31 Taft (4-5) at No. 2 Lincoln-Way East (9-0)  
No. 18 Sandburg (6-3) at No. 15 Minooka (7-2)  
No. 26 Lane (6-3) at No. 7 **South Elgin** (8-1)  
No. 23 Oswego (6-3) at No. 10 Warren (7-2)  
No. 30 Glenbrook South (4-5) at No. 3 Barrington (9-0)  
No. 19 Downers Grove South (6-3) at No. 14 Naperville Central (7-2)  
No. 27 Lockport (5-4) at No. 6 Maine South (8-1)  
No. 22 East Aurora (6-3) at No. 11 Belleville East (7-2)

**Class 7A**

No. 32 Argo (5-4) at No. 1 Normal Community (9-0)  
No. 17 St. Charles North (6-3) at No. 16 Bradley-Bourbonnais (6-3)  
No. 25 Addison Trail (6-3) vs. No. 8 Lincoln Park (8-1) at TBA  
No. 24 Machesney Park Harlem (6-3) at No. 9 Glenbard East (8-1)  
No. 29 Wheaton Warrenville South (5-4) at No. 4 Hersey (9-0)  
No. 20 Kenwood (6-3) at No. 13 Downers Grove North (7-2)  
No. 28 Collinsville (5-4) at No. 5 Maine West (9-0)  
No. 21 Hoffman Estates (6-3) at No. 12 Lincoln-Way West (7-2)  
No. 31 Rockford Auburn (5-4) at No. 2 Rockton Hononegah (9-0)  
No. 18 Yorkville (H.S.) (6-3) at No. 15 Willowbrook (7-2)  
No. 26 Brother Rice (5-4) at No. 7 Batavia (8-1)  
No. 23 Jacobs (6-3) at No. 10 Lincoln-Way Central (8-1)  
No. 30 West Chicago (5-4) at No. 3 Quincy (9-0)  
No. 19 Wheaton North (6-3) vs. No. 14 Whitney Young (7-2) at TBA  
No. 27 St. Rita (5-4) at No. 6 Mt. Carmel (8-1)  
No. 22 Buffalo Grove (6-3) at No. 11 Prospect (7-2)

#### Class 6A

- No. 16 Crystal Lake Central (5-4) at No. 1 Lake Zurich (8-1)
- No. 9 Kaneland (6-3) at No. 8 Riverside-Brookfield (7-2)
- No. 13 Amundsen (6-3) at No. 4 Belvidere North (7-2)
- No. 12 Grant (6-3) at No. 5 Wauconda (7-2)
- No. 15 Lake Forest (5-4) vs. No. 2 Lake View (7-2) at TBA
- No. 10 Senn (6-3) at No. 7 Geneva (7-2)
- No. 14 Libertyville (5-4) at No. 3 Cary-Grove (7-2)
- No. 11 Highland Park (6-3) vs. No. 6 Mather (7-2) at TBA
- No. 16 Bremen (5-4) at No. 1 Kankakee (Sr.) (9-0)
- No. 9 Dunlap (6-3) at No. 8 Blue Island (Eisenhower) (6-3)
- No. 13 Lemont (5-4) at No. 4 East St. Louis (7-2)
- No. 12 Simeon (5-4) at No. 5 Normal West (7-2)
- No. 15 Danville (5-4) at No. 2 Washington (8-1)
- No. 10 Champaign Centennial (6-3) at No. 7 Crete Monee (6-3)
- No. 14 Hubbard (5-4) at No. 3 Richards (7-2)
- No. 11 Bloomington (5-4) at No. 6 Chatham Glenwood (6-3)

#### Class 5A

- No. 16 Sterling (4-5) vs. No. 1 Payton (9-0) at TBA
- No. 9 Rochelle (7-2) at No. 8 St. Francis (7-2)
- No. 13 Corliss (5-4) vs. No. 4 Morgan Park (8-1) at TBA
- No. 12 Evergreen Park (6-3) at No. 5 Sycamore (8-1)
- No. 15 Nazareth Academy (4-5) at No. 2 Prairie Ridge (9-0)
- No. 10 Noble/UIC (7-2) at No. 7 Glenbard South (8-1)
- No. 14 Englewood STEM (5-4) at No. 3 Antioch (9-0)
- No. 11 Lindblom (7-2) at No. 6 Carmel (8-1)
- No. 16 Tinley Park (5-4) at No. 1 Morris (9-0)
- No. 9 Sacred Heart-Griffin (6-3) at No. 8 Thornton Fractional North (7-2)
- No. 13 Triad (6-3) at No. 4 Mahomet Seymour (7-2)
- No. 12 Joliet Catholic Academy (6-3) at No. 5 Peoria (7-2)
- No. 15 Providence Catholic (5-4) at No. 2 Morton (8-1)
- No. 10 Hillcrest (6-3) at No. 7 Carbondale (7-2)
- No. 14 Mt. Vernon (6-3) at No. 3 Highland (8-1)
- No. 11 Decatur MacArthur (6-3) at No. 6 Metamora (7-2)

#### Class 4A

- No. 16 Agricultural Science (5-4) vs. No. 1 Dyett (8-1) at TBA
- No. 9 Ridgewood (6-3) at No. 8 Sandwich (6-3)
- No. 13 Phoenix (5-4) at No. 4 Wheaton Academy (8-1)
- No. 12 St. Viator (5-4) at No. 5 Richmond-Burton (7-2)

No. 15 Phillips (5-4) at No. 2 Rockford Boylan (8-1)  
No. 10 Geneseo (6-3) at No. 7 IC Catholic Prep (7-2)  
No. 14 Plano (5-4) at No. 3 Dixon (8-1)  
No. 11 St. Laurence (6-3) vs. No. 6 Chicago Vocational (7-2) at TBA  
No. 16 Lincoln (5-4) at No. 1 Rochester (9-0)  
No. 9 Normal University (7-2) at No. 8 Coal City (7-2)  
No. 13 Cahokia (5-4) at No. 4 Breese Central (7-2)  
No. 12 Effingham (5-4) at No. 5 Mt. Zion (7-2)  
No. 15 Taylorville (5-4) at No. 2 Murphysboro (8-1)  
No. 10 Freeburg (6-3) at No. 7 Charleston (7-2)  
No. 14 Peoria Notre Dame (5-4) at No. 3 Kewanee (8-1)  
No. 11 Harrisburg (6-3) at No. 6 Carterville (7-2)

#### Class 3A

No. 16 Noble/Hansberry (5-4) at No. 1 Byron (9-0)  
No. 9 Peotone (6-3) vs. No. 8 Crane (6-3) at TBA  
No. 13 Stillman Valley (5-4) vs. No. 4 Noble/Johnson (8-1) at TBA  
No. 122 Oregon (5-4) at No. 5 Pecatonica Du-Pec Coop (7-2)  
No. 15 Paxton Buckley-Loda (5-4) at No. 2 Princeton (8-1)  
No. 10 Monmouth-Roseville) (5-4) at No. 7 North Boone (6-3)  
No. 14 Fairbury Prairie Central (5-4) vs. No. 3 North Lawndale Charter (8-1) at TBA  
No. 11 Eureka (5-4) at No. 6 Montini (6-3)  
No. 16 Monticello (5-4) at No. 1 DuQuoin (9-0)  
No. 9 Tolono Unity (7-2) at No. 8 Williamsville (7-2)  
No. 13 Benton (5-4) at No. 4 Mt. Carmel (8-1)  
No. 12 Clinton (6-3) at No. 5 Sullivan-Okaw Valley Coop (8-1)  
No. 15 Fairfield (5-4) at No. 2 Greenville (9-0)  
No. 10 Litchfield Coop (6-3) at No. 7 Stanford Olympia (7-2)  
No. 14 Paris (5-4) at No. 3 Roxana (9-0)  
No. 11 Carlinville (6-3) at No. 6 St. Joseph Ogden (7-2)

#### Class 2A

No. 16 Dwight/Gardner-So. Wilmington Coop (5-4) at No. 1 Seneca (9-0)  
No. 9 Taylor Ridge Rockridge (8-1) at No. 8 Westville (8-1)  
No. 13 El Paso Gridley (6-3) at No. 4 Downs Tri-Valley (9-0)  
No. 12 Aledo Mercer County (6-3) at No. 5 Wilmington (8-1)  
No. 15 Chicago Christian (5-4) at No. 2 Maroa-Forsyth (9-0)  
No. 10 Knoxville (7-2) at No. 7 Momence (8-1)  
No. 14 Mendon Unity (Unity-Payson Coop) (6-3) at No. 3 Bloomington Central Catholic (9-0)  
No. 11 Bismarck-Henning-Rossville-Alvin (7-2) at No. 6 Farmington (8-1)  
No. 16 Quincy Notre Dame (4-5) at No. 1 Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond (9-0)

No. 9 Pana (6-3) at No. 8 Nashville (6-3)  
No. 13 Piasa Southwestern (5-4) at No. 4 Athens (7-2)  
No. 12 Chester (5-4) at No. 5 Red Bud (7-2)  
No. 15 Trenton Wesclin (5-4) at No. 2 Shelbyville (8-1)  
No. 10 Vandalia (6-3) at No. 7 Lawrenceville (7-2)  
No. 14 Auburn (5-4) at No. 3 Johnston City (8-1)  
No. 11 Breese Mater Dei (6-3) at No. 6 Carmi White County (7-2)

#### Class 1A

No. 16 Rockford Lutheran (5-4) at No. 1 Lena-Winslow (9-0)  
No. 9 Ottawa Marquette (7-2) at No. 8 Forreston (7-2)  
No. 13 Mackinaw Deer Creek (5-4) at No. 4 Kewanee Wethersfield (A.-Wethersfield Coop) (8-1)  
No. 12 Fulton (6-3) at No. 5 Morrison (8-1)  
No. 15 Princeville (5-4) at No. 2 Toulon Stark County (9-0)  
No. 10 Oneida ROWVA Coop (7-2) at No. 7 Sterling Newman Central Catholic (7-2)  
No. 14 Peru St. Bede (5-4) at No. 3 Hope Academy (8-1)  
No. 11 Gibson City (Melvin-Sibley) (6-3) at No. 6 Aurora Christian (7-2)  
No. 16 Red Hill (5-4) at No. 1 Camp Point Central (9-0)  
No. 9 Hardin Calhoun (Coop) (6-3) at No. 8 Heyworth (7-2)  
No. 13 Tuscola (5-4) at No. 4 Belleville Althoff Catholic (8-1)  
No. 12 Villa Grove (6-3) at No. 5 LeRoy (8-1)  
No. 15 Carrollton (5-4) at No. 2 Sesser Valier (Coop) (9-0)  
No. 10 Winchester West Central Coop (6-3) at No. 7 Catlin Salt Fork (7-2)  
No. 14 Nokomis (5-4) at No. 3 Greenfield-Northwestern Coop (9-0)  
No. 11 Toledo Cumberland (6-3) at No. 6 Casey Westfield (8-1)

## **- Daily Herald -**

### **An early look at suburban first-round playoff matchups**

**By: Craig Brueske and Dick Quagliano**

**Daily Herald Correspondents**

**10/21/2023**



Lake Zurich's Chris Pirrone runs against Warren in a game earlier this season. (John Starks | Staff Photographer)



Rolling Meadows' Brian Diaz reacts after scoring the winning goal in an overtime shootout against Prospect in a regional championship boys soccer game in Arlington Heights on Saturday, October 21, 2023. (John Starks | Staff Photographer)

## IHSA state playoffs

Dates and times will be announced Monday afternoon.

### Class 8A

No. 30 Glenbrook South (4-5) at No. 3 Barrington (9-0)

Quick look: Barrington, which has scored 336 points, enters the playoffs unbeaten for the first time since 2017. This is the highest seed for Barrington since that year. Glenbrook South is one of four 4-5 teams that qualified for the state playoffs.

No. 27 Lockport (5-4) at No. 6 Maine South (8-1)

Quick look: Maine South has won eight straight and feels it is back where they belong as one of the top seeds. The Hawks, who are CSL champions, average 35.6 points a game. Lockport has won just two of its last six games.

No. 23 Oswego at No. 10 Warren (7-2)

Quick look: After an 0-2 start, Warren has earned its sixth consecutive playoffs appearance. The Blue Devils allowed 68 points in their first two games and just 48 in their final seven with three consecutive shutouts. Oswego won its way in the playoffs.

No. 21 Lyons (6-3) at No. 12 Stevenson (7-2)

Quick look: The Patriots are back in the playoffs for the second year in a row. After a 2-2 start, Stevenson has won five straight and matched their win total from a year ago. Lyons has allowed just 92 points this season and had three shutouts.

No. 17 Palatine (6-3) at No. 16 Neuqua Valley (6-3)

Quick look: Neuqua earns the home field because of playoff points 49-46. Palatine's Dominik Ball has rushed for 1,291 yards this season and a school record 4,068 for his career. Neuqua won its final four games.

No. 28 Homewood-Flossmoor (5-4) at No. 5 York (8-1)

Quick look: Last year, the Dukes reached the 8A semifinals before running into eventual champion Loyola Academy. This season, senior QB Sean Winton leads the Dukes. H-F defense allows 27 points per game.

No. 26 Lane Tech (6-3) at No. 7 **South Elgin** (8-1)

Quick look: The five-time defending UEC champs are young but talented, led by junior TE Ishmael George and junior MLB London Leflore. Lane Tech is making its second straight postseason appearance following a dry spell.

No. 25 Niles West (6-3) at No. 8 Huntley (8-1)

Quick look: Running back Haiden Janke is a workhorse in the backfield for the Red Raiders, who ended the regular season on a five-game winning streak. Led by QB John Bae, the Wolves reached the playoffs after finishing 2-7 last season.

No. 20 Naperville North (6-3) at No. 13 Glenbard West (7-2)

Quick look: A couple of perennial heavyweights collide in Glen Ellyn, as the Huskies and Hilltoppers have combined to play 152 postseason games. Tailback Cole Arl leads the Huskies' attack. Glenbard West has reached the playoffs 17 consecutive full seasons.

No. 19 Downers South (6-3) at No. 14 Naperville Central (7-2)

Quick look: The Mustangs rebounded from an 0-3 start to win their last 6, led by tailback Deon Davis, who has scored 10 TDs in the last four games. Anchored by Christian Kuta, the Redhawks captured their first DVC title since 2018.

No. 29 West Aurora (5-4) at No. 4 Edwardsville (8-1)

Quick look: After finishing 1-8 last year, the Blackhawks reached the playoffs for the first time in five years. Juniors Reece Powers and Terrence Smith lead the offense. The Tigers feature Iose Epenesa, whose older brother, A.J., plays for the Buffalo Bills.

Class 7A

No. 29 WW South (5-4) at No. 4 Hersey (9-0)

Quick look: Hersey is looking to make a very deep run. The Huskies have outscored their opponents 408-50 while Quarterback Colton Gumino has yet to be sacked this season. WW South won three of its final four games.

No. 28 Collinsville (5-4) at No. 5 Maine West (9-0)

Quick look: Maine West had the best season in school history, and this is the highest seed they have ever been awarded. Maine West has allowed just 58 points this year. Collinsville plays an independent schedule and advanced to the quarterfinals last year.

No. 22 Buffalo Grove (6-3) at No. 11 Prospect (7-2)

Quick look: These MSL East rivals meet again with Prospect winning 63-28 in week 8. Prospect qualifies for the fifth consecutive playoff season and the Knights have won their last three opening round games. Third consecutive appearance for Buffalo Grove.

No. 21 Hoffman Estates (6-3) at No. 12 Lincoln-Way West (7-2)

Quick look: Hoffman which has tons of speed, has weapons at every skill position and a tough defense is back in the playoffs for the third consecutive year. Lincoln-Way West is also built for speed. They are back after their 11-year playoff streak was broken last year.

No. 26 Brother Rice (5-4) at No. 7 Batavia (8-1)

Quick look: This is not your normal first-round matchup, as the Crusaders have played the likes of Loyola Academy, Mt. Carmel, and Montini. Brother Rice reached the quarterfinals in 2022. Defending 7A state runner-up Batavia is led by standout QB Mike Boe.

No. 24 Harlem (6-3) at No. 9 Glenbard East (8-1)

Quick look: Junior tailback Jahmari Muhammad is the Huskies' top offensive threat. Led by senior linebacker Blake Salvino, the Rams' defense has held 7 of its 9 foes to 7 points or less. Salvino also starts at quarterback.

No. 20 Kenwood (6-3) at No. 13 Downers North (7-2)

Quick look: Third-year varsity player Noah Battle leads the Trojans into the playoffs for the second consecutive year. The Broncos' player to watch is multipurpose threat I'Marion Stewart.

No. 18 Yorkville (6-3) at No. 15 Willowbrook (7-2)

Quick look: Led by quarterback Arthur Palicki, the Warriors head into postseason play with momentum, having won 5 straight. Yorkville, meanwhile, captured its first conference title since 1989 on a walk-off-field goal in a 13-10 win over Plainfield North.

No. 17 St. Charles North (6-3) at No. 16 Bradley-Bourbonnais (6-3)

Quick look: North Stars junior quarterback Ethan Plumb loves to sling the ball around to wideout Jake Mettetal and tight end Jake Furtney. The Boilermakers feature receiver Luke Allen and running back Marquise Aaron.

No. 19 Wheaton North (6-3) at No. 14 Whitney Young (7-2)

Quick look: Winners of 3 straight, the Falcons have sharpened their game against the likes of DuKane Conference foes Batavia, Geneva, St. Charles North, and Wheaton Warrenville South. Running back Walker Owens and defensive lineman Joe Barna lead Wheaton North.

No. 23 Jacobs (6-3) at No. 10 Lincoln-Way Central (8-1)

Quick look: The Golden Eagles take a five-game winning streak into postseason play, Earlier this season, sophomore fullback Caden DuMelle rushed for 302 yards and 5 touchdowns in a victory over Crystal Lake Central.

No. 25 Addison Trail (6-3) at No. 8 Lincoln Park (8-1)

Quick look: Led by quarterback Nico Dill and receiver Noah Cruz, the Blazers reached the playoffs for the first time since 2014 -- which is the last time they've enjoyed a winning season. Junior quarterback Cam Touissant is the Lions' player to watch.

No. 30 West Chicago (5-4) at No. 3 Quincy (9-0)

Quick look: The Wildcats are making their first trip to the state playoffs since 2002. Senior two-way standout Vincent Muci is the heart of the soul of the Wildcats' squad. Quincy recorded its first unbeaten regular season.

Class 6A

No. 16 Crystal Lake C. (5-4) at No. 1 Lake Zurich (8-1)

Quick look: Lake Zurich, who was a semifinalist in 7A last year, drops down to 6A this season. The Bears are averaging 28 points and have allowed just 96 points all season. The Tigers won in overtime on Friday to get into the playoffs.

No. 12 Grant (6-3) at No. 5 Wauconda (7-2)

Quick look: These Northern Lake County rivals will battle again. Wauconda won the week four matchup 27-24. Wauconda is making its third straight appearance while Grant is back in the playoffs for the first time since 2019.

No. 14 Libertyville (5-4) at No. 3 Cary-Grove (7-2)

Quick look: The Trojans love to lean on their ground game, led by sophomore Logan Abrams. Libertyville, meanwhile, features a strong passing attack with quarterback Quinn Schambow leading the way.

No. 10 Senn (6-3) at No. 7 Geneva (7-2) Quick look: Senior quarterback Nate Stempowski directs the Vikings' offense, which features one of the top wide receivers in the state -- junior Talyn Taylor. Tight end Michael Loberg caught 4 touchdown passes earlier against St. Charles East.

No. 9 Kaneland (6-3) at No. 8 Riverside-Brookfield (7-2)

Quick look: Quarterback Troyer Carlson and receiver Aric Johnson lead the Knights into postseason play. Kaneland has won three games in a row, and await a road game against the Bulldogs.

Class 5A

No. 14 Englewood Stem (5-4) at No. 3 Antioch (9-0)

Quick look: Antioch is making its 7th straight playoff appearance but has lost its last two playoff openers. The Sequoits have been a powerhouse offensively, scoring 472 points while allowing 14 points per game. This is Englewood Stem's first playoff appearance.

No. 11 Lindblom (7-2) at No. 6 Carmel (8-1)

Quick look: Carmel is back in the playoffs and the Corsairs could be a dangerous out, with their only loss coming to Mt. Carmel. Lindblom is making its 6th playoff appearance of all time and has never won a state playoff game.

No. 10 Noble/UIC (7-2) at No. 7 Glenbard South (8-1)

Quick look: Notre Dame-bound WR/DB Cam Williams gets another postseason opportunity for the co-Upstate Eight Conference champion Raiders. Senior quarterback Michael Champagne provides veteran leadership for Glenbard South.

No. 9 Rochelle (7-2) at No. 8 St. Francis (7-2)

Quick look: The Spartans feature one of the state's top quarterbacks in Ball State-bound Alessio Milivojevic. Their high-octane offense has routinely put 30-plus points on the scoreboard.

Class 4A

No. 12 St. Viator (5-4) at No. 5 Richmond-Burton (7-2)

Quick look: For the second year in a row, St. Viator is back in the playoffs after winning their way in on the final weekend. The Lions have not won a state playoff game since 2017. Richmond-Burton is making its 15th consecutive playoff appearance.

No. 13 Phoenix (5-4) at No. 4 Wheaton Academy (8-1)

Quick look: Coach Jim Johanik's Warriors have been a force this season. Earlier in the year, Wheaton Academy earned a road win over St. Charles East. Senior QB Brett Kasper directs the offense, while junior linebacker Jeremy Johanik anchors the defense.

No. 10 Geneseo (6-3) at No. 7 IC Catholic Prep (7-2)

Quick look: The defending Class 3A champion Knights move up a class against a perennial power in Geneseo. A grueling schedule may come in handy for the Knights, led by senior RB Joey Gliatta.

Class 3A

No. 11 Eureka (5-4) at No. 6 Montini (6-3)

Quick look: Led by junior quarterback Gaetano Carbonara and junior receiver Santino Florio, the Broncos punched their first postseason ticket since 2019. They'll get a home game against the Hornets.

Class 1A

No. 11 Melvin-Sibley (6-3) at No. 6 Aurora Christian (7-2)

Quick look: Coach David Beebe's Eagles are no strangers to postseason play, having qualified six consecutive times. Led by quarterback Jalen Cater, they are looking to get past the opening round for the first time since 2018.

## **- Daily Herald -**

### **Boys soccer: Elgin, Huntley, Glenbard West among weekend's regional winners**

**By: Chris Walker**

**10/21/2023**



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com Rolling Meadows celebrates their boys soccer regional championship after defeating Prospect in Arlington Heights on Saturday, October 21, 2023.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com Rolling Meadows goalkeeper Marceli Okonski blocks the last Prospect shot in a shootout to decide the win in a regional championship boys soccer game in Arlington Heights on Saturday, October 21, 2023.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com Rolling Meadows' Calvin Lagunas, left, Alex Kociubinski and Christian Jablonski, right watch as teammate Brian Diaz takes the last shot in a shootout to win the regional championship boys soccer game against Prospect in Arlington Heights on Saturday, October 21, 2023. They had all shot and scored in the shootout.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com Rolling Meadows' Brian Diaz reacts after scoring the winning goal in an overtime shootout against Prospect in a regional championship boys soccer game in Arlington Heights on Saturday, October 21, 2023.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com Rolling Meadows' Jonathan San Roman and Prospect's Max Czapulonis collide in a regional championship boys soccer game in Arlington Heights on Saturday, October 21, 2023.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com Rolling Meadows' Calvin Lagunas heads the ball against Prospect in a regional championship boys soccer game in Arlington Heights on Saturday, October 21, 2023.



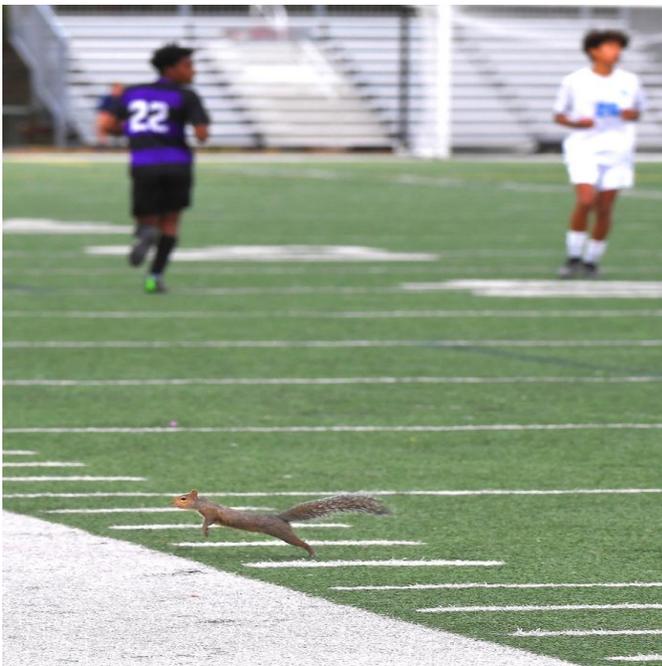
John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com Rolling Meadows' Jonathan San Roman and Prospect's Dimitriy Hutnyk jump for a header in a regional championship boys soccer game in Arlington Heights on Saturday, October 21, 2023.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com Prospect's Matthew Fouch, back, and Rolling Meadows' Alex Chlopek compete for the ball in a regional championship boys soccer game in Arlington Heights on Saturday, October 21, 2023.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com Rolling Meadows' Jonathan San Roman, left, and Prospect's Dimitriy Hutnyk compete for the ball in a regional championship boys soccer game in Arlington Heights on Saturday, October 21, 2023.



John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com A squirrel scampers across the field during a regional championship boys soccer game between Rolling Meadows and Prospect in Arlington Heights on Saturday, October 21, 2023.

When **Elgin** played **South Elgin** during the regular season, the Maroons were without their leading scorer, Eduardo Nava.

With Nava in the lineup on late Saturday afternoon at the Class 3A **Elgin** regional final, his talent was on full display. He needed less than two minutes to respond to **South Elgin's** early strike from Ashton Kerrigan. **Elgin** won 4-1.

He scored another on a 24-yard free kick and another while gaining possession deep the box before tapping it home to finish with a hat trick.

"He's a difference-maker that allows the other guys to play at a high level," Maroons coach Jimmy Romano said. "I was very happy with how the guys responded, especially after giving up the first goal. We didn't put our heads down and at halftime we knew what we needed to do in the second half."

Freshman Alex Vallarruel also scored for **Elgin**.

Huntley 1, Dundee-Crown 0:

The Red Raiders handled the Chargers 4-1 earlier this month but found themselves scoreless after 80 minutes of regulation and a pair of overtimes during Friday's Class 3A Huntley regional championship.

Despite Hudson Nielsen missing his attempt for Huntley, Jack Bakey followed with the first of what would prove to be three consecutive saves during the shootout, while Finley Williams, Gavin Eagan and Kyle Paler were good on their tries to lead the Red Raiders past their familiar FVC foe.

Glenbard West 1, Geneva 0:

PK shootouts appeared to be a theme of sorts across the IHSA regional finals on Friday with a handful of games needing the special session to claim a winner.

The Hilltoppers got a pair of huge saves from their goalkeeper, Jack Harrod, and edged the Vikings 4-3 in the shootout to win the Class 3A Geneva regional title, the program's first since 2014.

"Playing for 100 minutes, there's a lot going through my mind," Hilltoppers coach Phil Wycik said.

"One mis-hit and my team is down and then 18 seniors are done. That's the love of the game and the hate of the game and at the end of the day either we were moving on or they were moving on."

Hinsdale Central, 3, Mt. Carmel 1:

Trailing 1-0 at the half, the Red Devils rallied to victory during Friday's Class 3A Hinsdale Central regional championship.

"Proud of the boys," Hinsdale Central coach Mike Wiggins said. "I wish every youth player who grows up playing this great game could experience what our fans at this great school created tonight in an amazing comeback."

Luca Davies added to his record-breaking season with his 26th goal this fall.

"Luca did what we knew he could do, as he has all season and got us back in it with such a big goal to even the score," Wiggins said. "What's amazing is less about the number of goals, but the significance of so many of them."

Ardit Abdullai scored the go-ahead goal and Robbie Rocque added insurance.

St. Charles East 2, Conant 1:

Senior brothers Marc Walker and Jake Walker provided the assists on goals from Aiden Maloney and Garrett Melton and the Saints rallied past Conant in Friday's Class 3A Glenbard North regional title game.

Timothy Christian 3, Wheaton Academy 1:

The Trojans, who edged the Warriors in a PK shootout to take third in the state in 1A last season, once again got the better of them this postseason to win the Class 2A Wheaton Academy regional late Saturday night.

Crystal Lake South 1, Lake Forest 0:

Nolan Getzinger's second-half goal lifted the Gators to their sixth straight regional title during Saturday's Class 2A Crystal Lake South regional championship

**Streamwood 6, Grant 0:**

The Sabres got a pair of goals from Luis Vega and others from A.J. Sabanovic, Merced Availa, Andy Benitez and Jose Pena as they cruised to victory in Friday afternoon's Class 3A Streamwood regional final.

York 3, Glenbard East 2:

With hopes of advancing to state again fading with the scoreboard reaching single digits in minutes remaining and the Dukes trailing 2-0, things did not look good for York during Friday's Class 3A Schaumburg regional. A pair of late goals in the final eight minutes of regulation turned the game completely around. The Dukes pushed the game into overtimes before winning in a shootout.

West Chicago 2, St. Charles North 1:

The Wildcats surrendered a goal just two minutes into the action of Friday's Class 3A Addison Trail regional final, but rallied behind a brotherly effort. The Wildcats started three sets of brothers, which included seniors Rafael Posada and Aldo Alfaro and who each scored. Alfaro had the first assist while Posada's younger brother, Leonardo, assisted Alfaro. In addition, Alfaro's younger brother, Alan Alfaro, was a key part of a defense that shut down the North Stars for the final 78 minutes.

Other 3A area regional championship game scores included, Naperville Central 4, Bolingbrook 1; Naperville North 2, Plainfield East 0; Romeoville 4, Metea Valley 3, 2 OT; Oswego 2, West Aurora 1, 2 OT; Lyons 5 Downers Grove North 1; and Round Lake 2, Larkin 0. In 2A, scores included, Benet 3, Nazareth 0; Belvidere North 1, Burlington Central 0; and Rockford Boylan 5, Kaneland 0. y, Westminster Christian, the area's last remaining 1A team, watched its season come to an end after a 3-1 loss to Richmond-Burton in Saturday's Oregon sectional semifinal.

## **- Chicago Tribune -**

### **High school football pairings for the Southland and the Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County areas**

**By: Daily Southdown**

**Oct 21, 2023**



Mount Carmel's Matthew Mucha (41) celebrates after a big hit on a kickoff against Brother Rice during a CCL/ESCC Blue game in Chicago on Friday, Sept. 29, 2023. (Vincent D. Johnson/Daily Southtown)

Here are the first-round pairings by the Illinois High School Association for the Southland and the Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County areas.

#### Class 1A

(6) Aurora Christian 7-2 vs. (11) Melvin-Sibley 6-3

Rudy Griffing, Jalen Carter and Co. end season on strong note as Eagles eye deep run.

#### Class 2A

(2) Maroa-Forsyth 9-0 vs. (15) Chicago Christian 5-4

Obi Goble has ground game going for Knights, who have battled adversity to get here.

#### Class 4A

(1) Dyett 8-1 vs. (16) Ag Science (5-4)

It's not an easy first-round matchup, but for Ag Science, they made it. That's what counts.

(8) Sandwich 6-3 vs. (9) Ridgewood 6-3

Cinderella would love this story. Simeion Harris and Indians, after taking year off, are in.

(3) Dixon 8-1 vs. (14) Plano 5-4

Waleed Johnson has wanted even more for the Reapers. And they get it with playoff berth.

(6) Chicago Vocational 7-2 vs. (11) St. Laurence 6-3

Injuries have dealt a blow to Aaron Ball-led Vikings, but if healthy, watch out, indeed.



Carmel's Torey French (2) finds room to run during a nonconference game at Lake Forest on Friday, Sept. 1, 2023. (Mark Ukena /News-Sun)

### Class 5A

(4) Morgan Park 8-1 vs. (13) Corliss 5-4

Terrance Gurley. Chris Durr. Marcus Thaxton. These Mustangs are loaded for playoff bear.

(5) Sycamore 8-1 vs. (12) Evergreen Park 6-3

When you've got Aidan Bench on board, what more do you need? Mustangs are ready.

(5) Antioch 9-0 vs. (14) Englewood STEM 5-4

Nick Day and Sequoits haven't been challenged, and that shouldn't change here. Then ...

(6) Carmel 8-1 vs. (11) Lindblom 7-2

Torey French and the Corsairs should advance and meet Antioch in the second round.

(1) Morris 9-0 vs. (16) Tinley Park 5-4

Could there be a tougher opener for Titans than perennial power Redskins? Probably not.

(8) T.F. North 7-2 vs. (9) Springfield Sacred Heart-Griffin 6-3

And on that note, Dominic Gradford and Meteors get this juggernaut to start off.

(5) Peoria 7-2 vs. (12) Joliet Catholic 6-3

HJ Grigsby and Andy Munoz-Adrian Washington combo are good to go. Bank on it.

(2) Morton 8-1 vs. (15) Providence 5-4

Don't let Celtics' record fool you. This is exactly how last season went, so ...

(7) Carbondale 7-2 vs. (10) Hillcrest 6-3

Erimus Wright and the playoff-tested Hawks will be bring right stuff into this one.



Richards' Dijon Newman (2) tiptoes down the sideline against Lemont during a South Suburban Conference crossover game in Oak Lawn on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. (Steve Johnston/Daily Southtown)

### Class 6A

(1) Lake Zurich 8-1 vs. (16) Crystal Lake Central 5-4

Lincoln Adams helps 2022 semifinalists allow just 10.7 points a game.

(8) Riverside-Brookfield 7-2 vs. (9) Kaneland 6-3

Can Troyer Carlson and Knights get close enough to 100% to make a push? We shall see.

(5) Wauconda 7-2 vs. (12) Grant 6-3

The second Battle of the Bulldogs. Wauconda pulled out a 27-24 win in the first matchup.

(2) Lake View 7-2 vs (15) Lake Forest 5-4

Forget seeds. Scouts' tough schedule, with losses to Warren and Carmel, have them ready.

(7) Geneva 7-2 vs. (10) Senn 6-3

Nate Stempowski, Michael Loberg and Vikings have spoken. They're for real. Expect it.

(3) Cary-Grove 7-2 vs (14) Libertyville 5-4

Quinn Schambow and Wildcats get a tough draw but know how to put points on board.

(6) Mather 7-2 vs (11) Highland Park 6-3

Behind David Finfer, Giants are rolling into first playoff appearance since 2017.

(1) Kankakee 9-0 vs. (16) Bremen 5-4

Don't sleep on these Braves. They've been a tough out in the playoffs recently.

(8) Eisenhower 6-3 vs. (9) Dunlap 6-3

If Nick Mayfield continues to turn Friday night into a video game, keep an eye on Cardinals.

(4) East St. Louis 7-2 vs. (13) Lemont 5-4

Nevan Bufka comes up big as Lemont survives to get rematch with postseason nemesis.

(7) Crete-Monee 6-3 vs. (10) Champaign Centennial 6-3

Warriors kinda-sorta live for this time of season, right, Tylin Brefford? We know the answer.

(3) Richards 7-2 vs. (14) Hubbard 5-4

Austin Synoga, Dijon Newman will want to win a couple of rounds for assistant Rick Pratl.



Batavia's Ryan Boe (21) throws under pressure against Lincoln-Way East during the third quarter of a nonconference game in Batavia on Friday, Sept. 1, 2023. (Brian O'Mahoney/The Beacon-News)

### Class 7A

(1) Normal Community vs. (32) Argo 5-4

Argonauts will be checking out those NCAA Tournament brackets for inspiration.

(16) Bradley-Bourbonnais 6-3 vs. (17) St. Charles North 6-3

Let's just say Ethan Plumb and North Stars are no ordinary 6-3 team. Dangerous.

(12) Lincoln-Way West 7-2 vs. (21) Hoffman Estates 6-3

When you can hand the ball to Joey Campagna, that bodes well for Warriors, it really does.

(15) Willowbrook 7-2 vs. (16) Yorkville 6-3

Any team with Luke Zook is gonna be better than good on defense. Foxes to trot?

(7) Batavia 8-1 vs. (26) Brother Rice 5-4

Ryan Boe and Bulldogs vs. Randall Nauden and Crusaders. We smell an instant classic.

(10) Lincoln-Way Central 8-1 vs. (23) Jacobs 6-3

Knights have Anthony Noto. Golden Eagles have Caden DuMelle. It's a tossup, folks.

(6) Mount Carmel 8-1 vs. (21) St. Rita 5-4

In what universe is Caravan the sixth seed? Ah, this one. Should be a thriller vs. Mustangs.



Lincoln Way East's Nuri Muhammad (6) gets into the open field against Lockport during a SouthWest Suburban Blue game in Lockport on Friday, Sept. 29, 2023. (Troy Stolt/Daily Southtown)

### Class 8A

(16) Neuqua Valley 6-3 vs. (17) Palatine 6-3

Wildcats' defense sparks fourth straight win, will be tested against Pirates' prolific offense.

(4) Edwardsville 8-1 vs. (29) West Aurora 5-4

This is what Terrence Smith and Blackhawks wanted from first day of practice. Well done.

(13) Glenbard West 7-2 vs. (20) Naperville North 6-3

Huskies will call upon Cole Arl, who has run for 1,000-plus yards, to challenge Hilltoppers.

(5) York 8-1 vs. (28) Homewood-Flossmoor 5-4

Cameron Brooks carried preseason buzz for Vikings, who are on upswing again.

(12) Stevenson 7-2 vs. (21) Lyons 6-3

Aidan Crawley's winning TD pass in fifth straight victory gives Patriots playoff momentum.

(2) Lincoln-Way East 9-0 vs. (31) Taft 4-5

Oof. Josh Janowski, Nuri Muhammad, Braden Tischer and Griffins are bit of a handful.

(15) Minooka 7-2 vs. (18) Sandburg 6-3

Anthony Shelton and freshman Quinn Durkin have Eagles thinking bigger this time around.

(7) **South Elgin** 8-1 vs. (26) Lane Tech 6-3

Kevon Brooks has been a lifesaver for Storm, who are a team to definitely watch.

(10) Warren 7-2 vs. (23) Oswego 6-3

Blue Devils feature Aaron Stewart, Donovan McNeal. Panthers tout Carson Cooney. Pick 'em.

(14) Naperville Central 7-2 vs. (19) Downers Grove South 6-3

With Jack Cook and Christopher Bern, Redhawks' offense will try to get back on track.

(6) Maine South 8-1 vs. (27) Lockport 5-4

Drew Gallagher, Porters make triumphant return. Then they get state final-type game.

(11) Belleville East 7-2 vs. (22) East Aurora 6-3

Yep, it's been 41 years for Tomcats. And no one deserves it more than Amado Martinez

# - Chicago Tribune -

## Football scores for the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County

By: From Staff Reports

Oct 20, 2023



St. Rita's DJ Stewart (17) looks for running room against Brother Rice during a CCL/ESCC Blue game in Chicago on Friday, Oct. 20, 2023. (Vincent D. Johnson/Daily Southtown)

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

### FRIDAY'S RESULTS

#### HIGH SCHOOLS

#### FOOTBALL

#### WEEK 9

#### CCL/ESCC BLUE

Brother Rice 42, St. Rita 21

#### CCL/ESCC GREEN

Marist 35, Niles Notre Dame 26

St. Ignatius 23, Joliet Catholic 10

#### CCL/ESCC PURPLE

Carmel 42, St. Patrick 0

St. Viator 49, Marmion 27

#### CCL/ESCC RED

De La Salle 34, DePaul Prep 20

De La Salle (4-5, 2-1): Kenyonte Louis 19 carries, 232 yards, 3 TDs (60, 40, 43 yards); 36-yard TD pass to Myles Green. David Coffey 50-yard TD run.

#### CCL/ESCC WHITE

Montini Catholic 24, St. Laurence 17

Providence 35, Benet 28

Providence (5-4, 2-1): Leo Slepski 3 TD passes. Jaden McMiller 22-yard INT return TD.

#### CENTRAL SUBURBAN NORTH

Highland Park 49, Vernon Hills 34

#### CENTRAL SUBURBAN SOUTH

New Trier 27, Deerfield 9

#### CHICAGOLAND CHRISTIAN

Aurora Christian 36, Chicago Christian 7

Bishop McNamara 7, St. Edward 6

#### DUKANE

Batavia 41, Glenbard North 7

Batavia (8-1, 7-0): Luke Alwin 2 TDs. C.J. Valente 2 TDs.

Geneva 20, St. Charles North 10

Wheaton Warrenville South 24, St. Charles East 3

#### DUPAGE VALLEY PLAYOFFS

DeKalb 25, Metea Valley 10

Naperville North 28, Waubonsie Valley 7

Naperville North (6-3): William Korosec 90-yard KO return TD, INT return TD. Jacob Bell 2-yard TD run. Cole Arl 63-yard TD run.

Neuqua Valley 26, Naperville Central 14

#### FOX VALLEY

Cary-Grove 55, Dundee-Crown 12

Dundee-Crown (1-8, 1-8): Zach Randl TD pass to Hayden DeMarsh.

Crystal Lake Central 27, Hampshire 24 (OT)

Huntley 20, Burlington Central 10

Jacobs 42, Crystal Lake South 20

Jacobs (6-3, 6-3): T.O. Boddie 4 TDs.

#### KISHWAUKEE RIVER/INTERSTATE EIGHT BLUE

Plano 48, Marengo 21

#### KISHWAUKEE RIVER/INTERSTATE EIGHT WHITE

Kaneland 42, LaSalle-Peru 7

#### NORTH SUBURBAN

Lake Forest 35, Mundelein 14

Lake Forest (5-4, 4-3): Danny Van Camp 17-yard TD pass to James Elliott. Marty Hippel 27-yard TD run.

Lake Zurich 41, Waukegan 0

Stevenson 35, Libertyville 28

Warren 42, Zion-Benton 0

#### NORTHERN LAKE COUNTY

Antioch 70, Round Lake 0

Antioch (9-0, 7-0): James Sheehan 2 TD passes to Tyler Ingman.

Grant 46, North Chicago 6

Grant (6-3, 5-2): Matthew Gipson 4 TD passes. Tyler Zdon 54-yard TD run.

Grayslake Central 36, Lakes 22

Wauconda 32, Grayslake North 7

#### SOUTH SUBURBAN RED

Eisenhower 49, Oak Lawn 26

#### SOUTHLAND

Kankakee 42, Crete-Monee 0

Riverside-Brookfield 35, Rich Township 20

Thornwood 28, Thornridge 0

#### SOUTHWEST PRAIRIE WEST

Minooka 21, West Aurora 7

West Aurora (5-4, 1-4): Mason Atkins TD pass to Terrence Smith.

Oswego 16, Oswego East 0

Oswego (6-3, 2-3): Brett Connolly 33-yard TD pass to Jeremiah Cain.

Yorkville 13, Plainfield North 10

Yorkville (6-3, 4-1): Dominic Recchia GW 24-yard FG as time expired. Michael Dopart 1-yard TD run. First conference title since 1989.

#### SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN BLUE

Homewood-Flossmoor 34, Lockport 27

H-F (5-4, 1-3): Jayden Banks 2 TD runs (1, 76). Randall McDonald 57-yard TD pass to Myles Ellis. Kyair Williams 48-yard fumble return TD.

Lockport (5-4, 1-3): Drew Gallagher 5-yard TD run, 24-yard TD pass to Kevin Holland.

Lincoln-Way East 20, Bolingbrook 0

#### SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN RED

Lincoln-Way Central 42, Bradley-Bourbonnais 41 (2 OT)

Lincoln-Way Central (8-1, 3-1): Michael Kuehl TD pass to Justin Bafia in 2nd OT and Drew Schiller GW PAT. Anthony Noto 3 TDs in regulation.

Lincoln-Way West 31, Andrew 23

#### UPSTATE EIGHT

East Aurora 54, Fenton 20

East Aurora (6-3, 6-3): Clinched first state playoff berth since 1982.

Glenbard East 41, **Bartlett** 7

**South Elgin** 64, **Streamwood** 11

West Chicago 35, Larkin 19

#### NONCONFERENCE

Kewanee 50, Aurora Central Catholic 0

Sandburg 31, Stagg 28

#### BOYS SOCCER

#### CLASS 3A REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

ADDISON TRAIL

West Chicago 2, St. Charles North 1

ANDREW

Andrew 1, Eisenhower 0

Andrew: Johnny Aravanetes goal.

GENEVA

Glenbard West 1, Geneva 0 (SO)

GLENBARD NORTH

St. Charles East 2, Conant 1

St. Charles East (17-7): Aiden Maloney goal. Garrett Melton goal.

HINSDALE CENTRAL

Hinsdale Central 3, Mount Carmel 1

HUNTLEY

Huntley 1, Dundee-Crown 0 (SO)

LOCKPORT

Stagg 3, Lockport 1

Stagg (16-3-1): Kacper Dziubek goal. Sebastian Kornak goal. Maciej Ostrega goal.

MARIST

Bloom 3, Shepard 0

Bloom (24-1): Miguel Vilchis goal. Omar Ortiz goal. Jonathan Magana goal.

REAVIS

Whitney Young 3, Reavis 0

STREAMWOOD

**Streamwood** 6, Grant 0

**Streamwood** (15-4-4): Luis Vega 2 goals, assist.

WARREN

Palatine 2, Warren 1 (OT)

Warren (12-10-2): Christian Albarran goal.

CLASS 2A REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

LEMONT

Washington 3, Lemont 2 (SO)

MARIAN CATHOLIC

Marian Catholic 2, Oak Forest 1

CLASS 1A SECTIONAL SEMIFINAL

MARINE LEADERSHIP

Cristo Rey St. Martin 5, Parker 3

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Glenbard West d. Stevenson 27-25, 25-22

Stevenson (28-7): Mija Jegers 10 kills. Brynn Smith 7 kills, 8 digs.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

## HIGH SCHOOLS

### FOOTBALL

#### WEEK 9

#### CCL/ESCC RED

Marian Catholic 47, Leo 0

Marian (4-5, 3-0): Kaleb Isom 31-yard TD reception, 40-yard punt return TD. Tyler Lofton 2 TD runs (80, 12 yards).

#### SOUTH SUBURBAN BLUE

Lemont 19, T.F. North 18

Tinley Park 26, Oak Forest 16

#### SOUTH SUBURBAN RED

Richards 49, Reavis 11

Shepard 23, Evergreen Park 20

#### NONCONFERENCE

Argo 17, T.F. South 14

## GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Aurora Christian d. Somonauk 25-14, 25-13

Chicago Christian d. Oak Lawn 25-19, 25-20

Crystal Lake Central d. Hampshire 25-21, 25-19

Dundee-Crown d. Cary-Grove 25-23, 25-15

Gardner-South Wilmington d. Illinois Lutheran 25-19, 25-21

Indian Creek d. Lisle 10-25, 25-17, 27-25

Jacobs d. Marian Central Catholic 25-18, 25-22

Jacobs (18-16, 9-9 Fox Valley): Teagan Van Stone 8 kills, 6 digs.

Highland Park d. Maie West 25-16, 21-25, 25-21

Huntley d. Burlington Central 21-25, 25-12, 25-11

Burlington Central (19-15, 7-11 Fox Valley): Ashli Bonds 10 kills, 8 digs. Leah Freeseemann 9 kills.

Ashley Arceo 19 assists. Brianna Gritzman 22 digs.

Kaneland d. Sycamore 25-20, 25-15

Kaneland (25-10, 8-2 Interstate Eight): Won conference title.

Lakes d. Grant 25-17, 22-25, 25-19

Lakes (22-9, 7-0 Northern Lake County): Adey Martin 9 kills. Katie Mercure 30 assists. Lainey

Russo 26 digs. Katie Lage 15 digs.

Lockport d. Downers Grove South 25-16, 25-17

Lockport (25-8): Anna McGraw 5 kills. Bridget Ferriter 5 kills. Kylee Schurig 5 kills. Lainey Green 17 assists.

Metea Valley d. Naperville Central 25-18, 20-25, 25-16

Metea (26-8, 8-2 DuPage Valley): Camille Morrison 12 kills, 9 digs. Ashley Ward 7 kills, 5 digs.

Katie Schuele 28 assists, 7 digs. Addison Torain 13 digs. Won conference title.

Naperville North d. Waubonsie Valley 25-16, 21-25, 25-23

Newark d. Moline 25-20, 12-25, 25-19

Newark (31-4): Kiara Wesseh 9 kills, 15 digs. Adrianna Larsen 6 kills. Kodi Rizzo 5 kills. Lauren Ulrich 18 assists. Elle Norquist 24 digs.

Rosary d. Yorkville Christian 25-20, 25-13

Rosary: Clare McEniry 8 kills.

Sandburg d. Lincoln-Way East 25-19, 25-20

South Elgin d. Wheaton North 25-19, 25-14

Yorkville d. Oswego East 25-21, 25-15

Yorkville (13-22, 5-6 Southwest Prairie West): Joelle Pye-Blacknard 8 kills, 6 digs. Lili Casbarian 6 kills. Charlee Young 6 aces.

## - Daily Herald -

### **West Chicago becomes eligible for playoffs with victory against Larkin**

**By: Allen Oshinski**

**10/20/ 2023**

West Chicago's two-decade playoff drought most likely ended Friday night.

Behind 5 touchdowns by Vincent Muci and a gritty defense, the Wildcats won their fifth game by beating Larkin 35-19 in Upstate Eight Conference action in West Chicago.

With 36 playoff points coming in, the Wildcats (5-4, 5-4), who haven't been to the postseason since 2002, figure to be in good shape when the pairings are announced Saturday night.

West Chicago broke the game open with 3 fourth-quarter touchdowns.

Leading 28-19 after Erick Myrick's 96-yard kickoff kept **Larkin** close, the Wildcats got the ball with just over nine minutes left. In a drive that epitomized their season, the Wildcats moved 65 yards in 13 plays, all on the ground, burning all but 1:17 of the clock. All but 1, including the last 9, were runs by Muci. On third and goal from the 17, on his 42nd carry of the night, the senior tailback broke three tackles to go in for the clinching score.

Muci also scored on runs of 5, 2, and 3 yards and took a blocked punt to the end zone to open the scoring. He finished with 183 yards.

Before that last drive, Muci had just one thought: "Carry the rock. We've got to score. If we get it right here, we end it, it's over."

Fans ran onto the field and celebrated with the players after the final buzzer.

"It's just amazing," Muci said. "Just having this opportunity after coming from a losing program, just turning it up these last few years, it's been great."

The turnaround from last year's 1-8 record started with some soul-searching among coaches last November.

"After what we went through last year we sat together as coaches and said, 'What do we need to change?'" said West Chicago coach Adam Chavez. "We said, we're not going to win by beating anybody with athleticism, with speed. We're going to beat people with toughness and physicality. That started in the weight room, getting the kids in the weight room. Doing whatever we can, just getting that mentality of being tough and being physical. It started after Thanksgiving of last year."

The Wildcats got an early lift from their special teams, blocking a **Larkin** punt on the game's first possession. Muci scooped in and returned it for the score. After a defensive stop, Muci put West Chicago up 14-0 with his first rushing touchdown.

But the Royals battled back with touchdowns by Jalen Miller on runs of 14 and 1 yards. The Wildcats blocked the second extra point to lead 14-13 and that was the difference in the game until the fourth quarter.

Muci and the Wildcats scored twice in less than two minutes thanks to an interception by Tommy Doyle that he returned to the 3-yard line, setting up a 1-play scoring drive.

Myrick took the ensuing kickoff all the way to keep things interesting, setting up the Wildcats' final drive.