

## Press Clippings 12/29/2017

### SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 12/29/17

## Lemont upends South Elgin

BY KEN TILLOTSON

South Elgin never figured out how to contain Lemont's potent front line duo of senior Paul O'Leary and junior Nate Ferguson.

The bruising 6-foot-9 O'Leary poured in a game-high 29 points and grabbed 7 rebounds while Ferguson notched a double-double with 20 points and 11 rebounds as the No. 8 seeded Indians upset the top-seeded Storm 61-56 in Thursday night's quarterfinal of the 90th Annual Chuck Dayton Holiday Classic hosted by DeKalb.

Junior guard Drake Montgomery kept the Storm in contention by knocking down four 3-pointers in a stellar 23-point performance, while Vince Miskiewicz contributed 9 points and 12 rebounds.

Lemont (8-4) advanced to Friday's semifinal against Mundelein (8-3) while South Elgin (7-3) dropped down to the fifth place bracket and will face host DeKalb at 3:15 p.m.

"Our goal was to not let O'Leary and Ferguson win the game and they ended up scoring 49 of their 61 points," said Storm coach Brett Johnson. "After halftime, we stepped it up and guarded and locked down on them, but then I think the physicality of the game and the size that they had took over."

"Defensively we tried to game plan before the game, but those big guys know how to play, so it was tough," Montgomery added.

Trailing 33-27 at the half, South Elgin came out with more defensive intensity and forced 8 Lemont turnovers in the third quarter. Noah Rohr, Latrell Lamarca and Montgomery all connected on 3-pointers as the Storm took its largest lead of the game at 43-39.

"We definitely got the momentum in the third quarter," Montgomery said. "We came out of the locker room saying push the ball and get as many points as we can."

Montgomery's driving layup gave the Storm its final lead at 54-53 with 2:10 left, but O'Leary split a pair of free throws then put Lemont in front for good with a basket off the glass with: 44 remaining.

The Storm committed a pair of turnovers and Jaxson Dian hit four straight clutch free throws for the Indians to seal the win.

"I thought we played really hard, but toward the end of the game we couldn't execute our offense crisply and correctly. They were able to take advantage of it and go down and score when they needed it," Johnson said.

Lemont's size forced the Storm to play primarily from the perimeter, as they connected on 10-of-31 attempts from 3-point range and shot 37 percent from the field overall.

"Their size affected us. We were kind of timid to take it into the lane," Montgomery said.

"That was our lowest shooting percentage of the year," Johnson said. "When you rely on outside shots and they're not going, it's hard to win games."

Rohr finished with 8 points and 5 rebounds for South Elgin while Kyle Sy added 6 points.

"I think this game going to help us down the road as we play other teams with big front lines because now we know how to guard them," Johnson said. "Lemont's a quality team and they have a good chance to win this tournament."

---Daily Herald--- 12/29/17

## **Bartlett take third at Jacobs**

BY JOHN LEMON

Bartlett broke open a close game by scoring the first 13 points of the fourth quarter on its way to a 57-39 victory over Crystal Lake South on Thursday in the third-place game at Jacobs' Hinkle Holiday Classic.

The Hawks forced 22 turnovers, and two of them came on the Gators' first two possessions of the fourth quarter. Austin Gates took his steal the other way for a layup while being fouled, and Byron Price followed with a putback basket to quickly extend a 38-33 lead to 43-33.

Gates had 6 steals in the game and Price 5.

"I thought we came out in the fourth quarter and played great defense, really shut them down," Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said. "We put our foot down in that fourth quarter."

Bartlett's 13-0 run continued with a basket by Price, a baseline drive from Ben Fisher, a layup by Tomas Vikonis and 2 Garrett Jurina free throws.

Gates (18 points), Fisher (11), Price (10) and Vikonis (10) all scored in double figures as the Hawks rallied to go 4-1 in the tournament without Ben Tompson (ankle). Wolfsmith said he hopes to get Tompson back sometime in January.

"Given how we came in scuffling a little, really good job by our kids," Wolfsmith said. "I like the way we are trending."

Crystal Lake South (7-7) never led. The Gators tied the game twice, once at 2-2 and the other at 17 midway through the second quarter.

Gates put the Hawks back up with a 3-point shot, then Price came up with a steal and layup. Vikonis ended the quarter with a 3 to put Bartlett up 29-20 at halftime.

"I thought our press really messed with them tonight, creating chaos," Gates said. "We forced a lot of errors."

"We all played good, played as a team, happy to bounce back after a bad performance. It feels great to get a quality win."

The bad performance Gates referred to was a semifinal loss to Barrington, the only defeat Bartlett (7-7) suffered at Jacobs.

Fisher and Vikonis both made the all-tournament team, as did Tyler Haskin for the Gators.

"He played very tough," Crystal Lake South coach Matt LePage said. "As a senior getting a lot out of him. His attitude and toughness is there every night."

Haskin had 8 points and 5 rebounds Thursday, second on the team to Kyle Leva's 11 points and 10 boards.

Leva and Matthew Reall both hit last-second shots for wins over Streamwood and Grant, respectively, in what was an exciting tournament for Crystal Lake South.

"It was still a positive tournament," LePage said. "It's just a matter of overcoming some tough games here at the end."

"Turnover city is the name of the game. Can't have it against a good team like Bartlett. We had a rough night handling the basketball and they made us pay for every turnover going the other way."

---Daily Herald--- 12/29/17

## **Larkin no match for Uplift**

BY JERRY FITZPATRICK

Larkin's quest to be counted among the state's elite boys basketball teams hit a wall named Uplift in the second round of the 57th Proviso West Holiday Tournament Thursday.

The Titans dominated Larkin from start to finish in a 75-43 victory that was exactly as close as the score makes it appear.

Uplift (7-2), ranked No. 7 in the initial Class 2A Associated Press poll, pressured Larkin (7-3) into mistake after mistake. The Royals lost the turnover battle 16-8 and gave up 18 points off turnovers. They were outrebounded 41-32, shot 29.6 percent from the field (16 of 54) and 18 percent from 3-point range (4 of 22).

"It's just rough. Rough and embarrassing," Larkin coach Deryn Carter said. "They're talented and all, but it felt like a lot of self-inflicted wounds."

It was the second straight year Uplift defeated Larkin in the second round at Proviso West. The Titans won 90-76 last season. Larkin kept that game competitive until late because 6-foot-10 Jalen Shaw had a big game with 26 points and 5 rebounds. That wasn't the case in Thursday's rematch. Shaw was limited to 8 points and 7 rebounds and 3 blocks in 15 minutes and was in foul trouble throughout. He fouled a driving Toraze Dobbs with the body with 4:06 left in the second quarter, his third personal foul, and sat for the remainder of the half.

Dobbs, who last year scored 16 points and grabbed 6 rebounds in the win over Larkin, got the better of the matchup this time. The uncommitted 6-foot-6, 225-pound senior led all scorers with 25 points on 7-of-13 shooting to go with 6 rebounds and 2 blocks.

"We played them last year and (Shaw) gave me a run, so I just wanted to give my matchup back," Dobbs said.

Uplift held Larkin to 6 points in the first quarter and 9 in the second to take a 32-15 halftime lead. Larkin missed all 11 first-half 3-point attempts.

The Titans further exerted their dominance in the third quarter by outscoring the Royals 35-20 to eliminate any suspense. They made 15 of 21 shots in that period alone and shot 51 percent for the game (30 of 59).

"Coming out in the third quarter and giving up 35 points is outrageous, just outrageous," Carter said. "I'm very, very disappointed. I wish we could practice (today) but we're going to have a tougher game with whoever we play. So we'd better regroup and figure it out by then."

Larkin plays in the consolation bracket today at 5:30 p.m. against the winner of Thursday's late game between defending Class 2A state champion Orr and Fenwick.

Senior guard Anthony Lynch led the Royals with 16 points but the Titans made him work for it via 4-of-16 shooting from the field and 12 trips to the free-throw line. Pierre Black finished with 9 points.

Kansas-bound junior guard Markese Jacobs had 15 points and 3 assists for Uplift.