

Press Clippings 3/28/2018

NOTE: There were no U-46 related news stories in the March 28, 2018 newspapers.

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 3/28/18

Boys Volleyball: St. Charles East outlasts Streamwood

BY CRAIG BRUESKE

Fresh from a solid showing at last weekend's prestigious Marist Tournament, St. Charles East's boys volleyball team opened its home season with a hard-fought, 25-19, 25-22 victory over Streamwood Tuesday morning.

Playing without a pair of starters, the Saints (6-1) got off to a slow start, spotting the Sabres a 5-0 early lead.

Left-handed senior setter Sam Enno recorded a pair of service aces while kills from senior Juan Adan and junior Joseph Huizar delivered kills during Streamwood's fast start.

After the Saints scored 8 of the next 10 points to grab an 8-7 lead, the Sabres answered with back-to-back kills from sophomore Roberto Sanchez and 6-foot-2 senior middle Jack Maybrun to regain a 9-8 advantage.

Streamwood still clung to a 15-14 lead before the Saints capitalized on the Sabres' third service error of the opening set to take the lead for good at 17-16.

From there, senior Matt Kolet took over for the Saints, recording 3 kills and a block while 6-4 sophomore Jacob Stark added a middle kill on set point.

"Obviously, we are missing a few players but even though we had some faults in the game we still came together and played pretty well at times," said Kolet.

In the second set, the score was tied at 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and again at 22-22 following a St. Charles East hitting error.

A middle kill by junior Neehar Shah (6 kills, 1 block) gave the Saints the lead for good at 23-22 and back-to-back kills from senior Jeff Makowski and Kolet sealed the team's Upstate Eight Conference River Division victory.

Mistakes were a big part of the second set as the Saints committed 7 service errors.

"It felt like it wasn't pretty at all," said Saints coach Kate McCullagh. "We're proud of the fact that they were able to do it. They took care of what they needed to take care of."

McCullagh admitted that her team struggled to gain momentum at times during the conference opener.

"Mentally, sometimes games like that can be tough when you can't seem to get the momentum but we stuck with it and were able to finish."

Kolet recorded a match-high 9 kills while teammates Lucas Coker, Colin Hanley and Makowski each added a pair of kills.

"It's good to be out here and win on Spring Break," said Kolet.

At Marist, the Saints defeated Mt. Carmel, St. Ignatius, Downers Grove North and Benet sandwiched around a loss to the defending state champion and host RedHawks to claim the Silver Division title.

"It was a great victory for us -- the best we've ever done at that tournament," said McCullagh, whose team visits St. Charles North on April 3. "We've got a lot of work to do though before next week."

Adan and Maybrun led the Sabres with 5 kills apiece while Sanchez had 4 kills and Carlos Jasso added 2 aces and a kill.

"We've got a lot of talent," said Sabres coach Sheryl Hettinger. "I told them, 'once you raise the energy level, we might be able to beat teams like St. Charles East.'

"We've got some younger players and a lot of it was on our mistakes but they're learning. I'm excited about the season and hoping we go upward from here."

---Daily Herald--- 3/28/18

Softball: South Elgin's bats go quiet vs. WWS

BY JOHN LEMON

Jeff Pawlak expects his Wheaton Warrenville South softball team to be sound defensively this year, and that's just what the Tigers displayed Tuesday in their season opener at The Dome at the Ballpark at Rosemont.

Wheaton Warrenville South followed a 3-1 win over DeKalb with another 3-1 victory over South Elgin as Izzy Fawcett held the Storm to 3 hits while her teammates played error-free behind her.

"We had a great defensive game," Fawcett said. "I felt really supported. I had a great defense behind me. I think we'll only get better from here."

Wheaton Warrenville South (2-0) scored all its runs in the first two innings. Aerin Moberg led off the bottom of the first with a single, stole second, took third on a groundout and scored on Kaitlyn Bresingham's sacrifice fly to center.

The Tigers scored two more runs in the second. Abby Struebing reached on an error and came in when Megan Adamek blasted a ball just over South Elgin left fielder Geneva Pollman's glove. Two batters later Adamek scored on a groundout by Kara Struebing to make it 3-0.

With the way Fawcett was pitching and the Tigers played defense behind her, that was all WW South needed. Fawcett struck out eight and walked none.

"She worked ahead the whole day," Pawlak said. "Strike one, strike two which is huge. She did a nice job.

"This is one of the best defensive teams we've had in awhile. We've got some good young talent on this team."

Pollman relieved Allyssa Kendall in the third inning for South Elgin (1-5). Pollman didn't allow a hit over her four innings, giving up just one baserunner when she hit a batter.

"Geneva pitched her best game," South Elgin coach Brad Reynard said. "She pitched lights out. Our pitching one through five will keep us in a lot of games."

South Elgin scored its only run in the fifth. Sami Koss hit a sinking liner that got past the Tigers center fielder and went for a triple. She scored on a wild pitch.

Offense has been an issue for the Storm in the early going this year. They went 1-4 on a trip to Tennessee last week.

"Our pitch selection was pretty poor throughout the game," Reynard said. "We got ourselves out in a lot of scenarios, some weak contact early in the game. We want to be aggressive at the plate and with a young team that's sometimes a pill you have to swallow."

Fawcett said her curve and screw were her two best pitches Tuesday.

"I threw a lot of screwballs at the righthand batters," Fawcett said. "I like playing outdoors better but playing indoors gives us an opportunity to get the reps in before we get to conference. I'm glad we had the opportunity."

The Tigers will get four more opportunities at the Dome with doubleheaders scheduled Wednesday or Thursday.

"We've been coming here the last five years," Pawlak said. "We keep them home over break because it is insured we'll get our games in. We have our baseball team who just canceled their trip to Tennessee. A ton of teams have. This works for us."

The Storm hopes the more games their newcomers get in will help their offense come around.

"We're struggling offensively," Reynard said. "It happens when you have seven new starters. We're scuffling offensively for sure. We'll keep working. We'll get better."