

# Press Clippings - 11/25/2024

## - Daily Herald -

### Intentional learning: How Sycamore Trails Elementary in Bartlett earned 'exemplary' status

By: Alicia Fabbre

Date: November 23, 2024



Jaclyn Jones, principal of Sycamore Trails Elementary School, works with fifth grade students. The Bartlett school has earned an “exemplary” designation on the Illinois School Report Card.

***To view all the photo's gallery, please click [here](#).***

For the first time since 2019, an Elgin Area School District U-46 school has earned an “exemplary” designation on the Illinois School Report Card.

Sycamore Trails Elementary School in Bartlett is among dozens of suburban schools with that status, according to the 2024 school report card.

“Exemplary” schools perform in the top 10% of all schools statewide.

“We’re still very excited about it,” said Principal Jaclyn Jones, who delivered the news to students, teachers and staff in late October. “I’m so proud of the Sycamore Trails community. Our teachers, students and staff worked hard to earn this designation.”

Since 2018, when the state started using summative designations, Sycamore Trails has been classified as “commendable” — one step below exemplary.

The Illinois State Board of Education designates schools into five categories: exemplary, commendable, targeted, comprehensive and intensive. Schools in the bottom three categories receive additional funding and support to help improve student outcomes.

Eighteen out of 51 schools in U-46 improved their designation over the last school year, and 30 remained the same this year.

Three schools in the state's second-largest district received a lower designation, officials said.



Fifth grade gifted students work in a classroom at Sycamore Trails Elementary School in Bartlett.

According to report card data, Sycamore Trails earned 100% of the points available in the categories of English language arts, math and science proficiency and 92% of the points available for English language arts growth.

“Our educators and all our support staff members are working very hard for our students to see these gains and make this growth,” U-46 Superintendent Suzanne Johnson said at a recent school board meeting.

As the district's second-largest elementary school, Sycamore Trails serves about 630 students and has two self-contained classrooms for students with special needs, six Ignite — or gifted — classrooms and three preschool classrooms.

School and district officials noted that part of Sycamore Trails' success involved teachers being intentional about what happens in the classrooms and partnering with parents. At the start of each school year, parents are informed about what the school's goals are and teachers regularly keep parents updated about what's happening in the classrooms and what students are working on each week, said Jones, who served as assistant principal at Sycamore Trails before being named principal this year.



Sycamore Trails Elementary School in Bartlett is the first U-46 school in five years to earn an “exemplary”

designation on the Illinois School Report Card. Sixth- graders made a poster to mark this designation.

“The administration and teachers are constantly asking the parents how can we serve you,” said Kyle Bunker, executive director of elementary schools for U-46’s Bartlett network. “The doors are always open. It’s a school that serves the community, not just leads the community.” He noted the school’s parent-teacher organization is an integral part of the school and often attracts large groups to events it hosts.

PTO President Jennifer Casolari said the organization usually hosts at least one event a month and typically can expect at least half the families to attend.

“That’s one way we build community,” said Casolari, who has two children at Sycamore Trails and a third who is in middle school.

She said the “exemplary” designation for Sycamore Trails helps reaffirm what the school is doing.

“It makes me feel like my kids are really in a good place to be set up for a successful future,” she said.

Lisa Cardenas, Sycamore Trails’ former principal, and Jones said teachers have focused on being deliberate in their classrooms. They examined state standards, data from previous years and student performance to tailor instruction to help address student needs at all academic levels.

Jones added that in the last three or four years, the school honed in on reading and writing skills and that’s when the school started to see growth.

“It’s important to note this wasn’t done overnight,” Jones said. “It was years of very intentional work that built off each other to get to this point.”

Cardenas, who now leads Laurel Hill Elementary School, said this year’s exemplary designation shows the years of work paid off.

“We’re on the right track,” she said. “All the work was worth it.”

## **- Daily Herald -**

### **Is your school in the top 10% in the state?**

**By: Daily Herald Report**

**Date: November 23, 2024**

A select group of schools across the suburbs earned the “exemplary” designation on the 2024 Illinois School Report Card.

Here are some of the schools in Cook, Lake, DuPage, Kane and McHenry counties that have been designated as exemplary:

**KANE COUNTY**

Elgin Area School District U-46

Sycamore Trails Elementary School, Bartlett

Batavia Unit School District 101

Batavia Sr. High School, Grace McWayne and Hoover Wood elementary schools, all in Batavia

Aurora East Unit District 131

Johnson Elementary School, Aurora

Community Unit District 300

Eastview Elementary School in Algonquin and Hampshire Elementary School

Central Community Unit District 301

Howard B. Thomas Grade School, Burlington

St. Charles Community Unit District 303

Ferson Creek and Bell-Graham elementary schools, both in St. Charles; and Norton Creek Elementary School, West Chicago.

Geneva Community Unit District 304

Geneva High School, Geneva Middle School North, Geneva Middle School South, Western Avenue and Fabyan elementary schools, all in Geneva.

*To view the full list, please [click here](#).*

## **- Patch -**

### **“Thanks and Giving” gathering to celebrate community volunteers**

**18 selfless community volunteers to be honored**

**By: Pat Szpekowski, APR Community Contributor**

**Date: November 22, 2024**

Thanksgiving is an ideal occasion to give thanks for our bountiful blessings. One of the cherished traditions in the community is the Annual Community Thanksgiving Luncheon where business and community leaders come together to reach out in true gratitude and friendship.

Coordinated by the Elgin Area Chamber, the holiday luncheon is being held on Tuesday,



November 26 at Elgin Community College. It's a wonderful opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to family, neighbors, and community. The program will beautifully weave themes of "thanks" and "giving" through storytelling, and we hope you can join us as we kick off the holiday season with this beloved tradition, now in its 43rd year! Table centerpieces will be crafted by students from School District U-46.

During the program, the Chamber will be singing the praises of unsung heroes in our community. These special volunteers have been nominated by local nonprofits for their incredible support and dedication and include:

- \*Sue Campbell, St. Thomas More Catholic School
- \*Linda Rock, Elgin History Museum
- \*Jen Pierce, Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra
- \*Andy & Ruthanne Bagwell, PADS
- \*Janet McCarthy, Food for Greater Elgin
- \*Jon Kramp, Elgin Theatre Company
- \*Vicki Kellenberger, CASA
- \*Alison Smith, Marklund
- \*Jennifer Rome, Fellowship Housing
- \*Melissa Dotson, EasterSeals
- \*Bob Malm, Alignment Collaborative for Educ.
- \*Sheila & Lynda Mukite, Community Crisis Ctr.
- \*Ken Swanson, Anderson Humane
- \*Jim McDermott & Bob Pautsch, Habitat for Humanity
- \*Cheryl Alopogianis, Hoof Woof Meow Animal Rescue

Local service clubs and non-profit organizations will also be recognized for their vital programs and services that benefit our neighbors.

## **- Chicago Tribune -**

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

**By: Staff Reports**

**Date: November 23, 2024**



Joliet Catholic's Daniel Rouse (42) and Kingston Dunagan takes Morris' Bryce Varner (2) during a Class 5A state semifinal game at Memorial Stadium in Joliet on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024.

High school and local college results and highlights from the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County coverage areas.

## **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

### **BENET/NAPERVILLE CENTRAL TIP-OFF TOURNAMENT**

Benet 60, St. Laurence 47

Homewood-Flossmoor 58, De La Salle 11

Kenwood 66, Batavia 38

Batavia (1-1): Julia Arulandu 10 points. Hallie Crane 10 points. Natalie Warner 9 points.

### **BOBBY BOLTON TIP-OFF CLASSIC**

At Richards

Marist 66, Thornton 34, championship

Marist (4-0): Olivia Barsch 12 points. Lily Porter 11 points.

Evergreen Park 46, Eisenhower 12, seventh

### **BUFFALO GROVE CLASSIC**

Grayslake Central 53, Buffalo Grove 34

Libertyville 53, Barrington 27

Libertyville (2-0): Lily Fisher career-high 21 points.

Rich Township 50, Niles West 20

### **BURLINGTON CENTRAL MARK EINWICH TOURNAMENT**

St. Charles North 70, Moline 37, championship

Kaneland 51, Rockford Auburn 50, third

Kaneland (3-1): Kendra Brown 17 points. Kyra Lilly 12 points.

East Aurora 44, Belvidere North 37

Marengo 44, Burlington Central 35

### **CHICAGO CHRISTIAN TOURNAMENT**

Latin 47, Reavis 39, championship

Westmont 43, Chicago Christian 41, third

### **DUNDEE-CROWN TOURNAMENT**

South Elgin 55, Boylan Catholic 39

Rockton Hononegah 63, Dundee-Crown 11

### **ELMHURST CLASSIC**

Marian Catholic 61, Thornwood 11

Marian (2-0): LaParis Poe 11 points. Ty Jackson 11 points.

#### HAMPSHIRE DOREEN ZIERER TOURNAMENT

Lake Zurich 57, Hampshire 22

Lake Zurich (4-0): Avery Cooper 17 points. Molly Friesen 12 points. Alex Nowak-Tice 10 points.

#### HINCKLEY-BIG ROCK TOURNAMENT

Hinckley-Big Rock 46, Hiawatha 13

Hinckley-Big Rock 70, Westminster Christian 20

#### HINSDALE BRENDA WHITESELL TOURNAMENT

Lincoln-Way East 51, Yorkville 41

Lincoln-Way East (2-0): Emerson Nilsson 19 points.

Naperville North 65, Wheaton St. Francis 38

Neuqua Valley 61, Plainfield South 57

Hinsdale South 60, Sandburg 44

#### MAINE EAST TOURNAMENT

Carmel 54, Maine East 32

Carmel (3-0): Grace Booher 15 points. Hartman 12 points. Maliyah Mays 12 points. Maron Bowes 11 points.

Lakes 48, Wheeling 38

Lakes (1-2): Kaylee Anderson 16 points, 10 rebounds.

T.F. South 43, Round Lake 34

#### MUNDELEIN TOURNAMENT

Highland Park 33, Mundelein 28

#### NEW TRIER/LOYOLA TOURNAMENT

Loyola 74, Stevenson 33

#### SCHAUMBURG CLASSIC

Maine West 48, Bartlett 44

#### VERNON HILLS COUGAR CLASSIC

Vernon Hills 42, Lake Forest 35

Vernon Hills (1-2): Emma Jocson 11 points. Keira Thomas 9 points.

Lake Forest Academy 68, Antioch 34

Antioch (1-2): Addison Webb 12 points. Heidi Rathmann 10 points.

#### WILLOWBROOK INVITATIONAL

Lockport 65, Willowbrook 23

#### WJOL TOURNAMENT

Plainfield North 49, Lincoln-Way West 42, championship

Lincoln-Way West (3-1): Molly Finn 14 points. Caroline Smith 10 points.

Lincoln-Way Central 49, Minooka 41, third

Lincoln-Way Central (3-1): Brooke Katzmann 14 points. Brooke Baechtold 11 points. Taylor Watt 11 points.

Providence 55, Joliet West 45, fifth

Joliet Central 53, Joliet Catholic 49, seventh

#### ZION-BENTON TOURNAMENT

Deerfield 50, Fenton 31

Deerfield (2-0): Eve Engler 22 points, 6 rebounds, 4 steals. Maya Silber 10 points, 7 steals.

Niles North 40, Zion-Benton 23

Senn 37, North Chicago 19

#### FRIDAY'S RESULTS

#### HIGH SCHOOLS

##### GIRLS BASKETBALL

##### BEECHER FALL CLASSIC

Andrew 61, Beecher 23

Andrew (3-0): Brooke Ramirez 14 points. Evan Gilleylen 11 points. Ana Cisek 9 points.

T.F. North 63, Crete-Monee 42

T.F. North (3-0): Natalie McGhee 18 points. Laury Jackson 14 points.

Kankakee 55, Oak Forest 30

##### BENET/NAPERVILLE CENTRAL TIP-OFF TOURNAMENT

Batavia 64, Bloom 38

Batavia (1-0): Natalie Warner 13 points. Hallie Crane 13 points. Julia Arulandu 9 points.

Benet 77, De La Salle 18

Homewood-Flossmoor 47, St. Laurence 30

Kenwood 86, Naperville Central 32

##### BURLINGTON CENTRAL MARK EINWICH TOURNAMENT

St. Charles North 59, Kaneland 27

Kaneland (2-1): Kendra Brown 12 points.

Sycamore 48, Burlington Central 41

##### CHICAGO CHRISTIAN TOURNAMENT

Reavis 44, Chicago Christian 26

Westmont 32, Tinley Park 30

##### HAMPSHIRE DOREEN ZIERER TOURNAMENT

Geneva 64, Hampshire 52

Lake Zurich 49, Mother McAuley 34

Lake Zurich (2-0): Alex Nowak-Tice 15 points. Leah Gilbertson 11 points.

##### HARVARD TOURNAMENT

Waukegan 58, Willows 51

##### IMSA KEITH MCINTOSH TOURNAMENT

Earlville 38, Elgin 34

West Chicago 64, Harvest Christian 54

##### LYONS TOURNAMENT

Lyons 58, Oak Lawn 30

Oak Lawn (1-1): Liv Perry 10 points.

##### MUNDELEIN TOURNAMENT

Mundelein 58, St. Viator 45

Mundelein (4-0): Casey Vyverman career-high 30 points, 6 rebounds, 2 steals. Madalyn Gardner 10 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals. Adrianna Lesniak 9 points. Audrey Smith 8 points, 5 steals, 4 blocks.

#### NEW TRIER/LOYOLA TOURNAMENT

Fenwick 43, Stevenson 42

#### OREGON TIP-OFF CLASSIC

Dixon 48, St. Edward 39

#### SOMONAUK TIM HUMES BREAKOUT TOURNAMENT

Aurora Central Catholic 60, Dwight 24

ACC (4-0): Won tournament.

LaSalle-Peru 52, Somonauk 21

#### WAUCONDA BOB GILLEN MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

Wauconda 57, Belvidere 55

Wauconda (2-0): Grace Parker 25 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals. Sarah Palmer 12 points, 7 rebounds.

#### WILLOWBROOK INVITATIONAL

Lockport 37, Montini 32

#### WJOL TOURNAMENT

Lincoln-Way Central 49, Providence 37

Lincoln-Way Central (2-1): Taylor Watt 12 points. Brooke Katzmann 9 points. Kiya

Newson-Cole 8 points.

Lincoln-Way West 55, Joliet West 28

Lincoln-Way West (3-0): Mackenzie Roesner 14 points. Caroline Smith 12 points. Molly Finn 11 points.

Minooka 66, Joliet Catholic 33

#### YORK TOURNAMENT

St. Charles East 64, Glenbrook South 47

Downers Grove South 58, Oswego East 48

Oswego East (1-3): Desiree Merritt 17 points. Maggie Lewandowski 14 points. Aubrey Lamberti 11 points.

#### ZION-BENTON TOURNAMENT

Zion-Benton 52, Mather 29

Zion-Benton (1-0): London Davis 15 points.

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

**- Daily Herald -**

**High school scores for Nov. 23**

**Date: November 23, 2024**



Geneva's Talyn Taylor catches a touchdown pass during an IHSA Class 6A semifinal football game against Cary-Grove on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024, at Geneva High School.

## Girls basketball

### Benet/Naperville Central Tip Off Tournament

Benet 60, St. Laurence 47

Kenwood 66, Batavia 38

Buffalo Grove Bison Classic

Grayslake Central 53, Buffalo Grove 34

Libertyville 53, Barrington 27

Maine South 54, Hersey 31

### Burlington Central Tournament

Kaneland 51, Auburn 50

Marengo 44, Burlington Central 35

St. Charles North 70, Moline 37

### Chicago Christian Thanksgiving Tournament

Westmont 43, Chicago Christian 41

### Dundee-Crown Thanksgiving Tournament

Hononegah 63, Dundee-Crown 11

Huntley 54, Palatine 19

South Elgin 55, Boylan 39

### Glenbard East District 87 Rachel Back Tournament

Glenbard East 40, Glenbard North 38

Glenbard West 41, Glenbard South 32

### Hampshire's Doreen Zierer Turkey Tournament

Lake Zurich 57, Hampshire 22

### Hinckley Big Rock Tournament

Hinckley Big Rock 70, Westminster Christian 20

### Hinsdale Central/South Brenda Whitsell Tournament

Hinsdale South 60, Sandburg 44

Naperville North 65, St. Francis 38

Neuqua Valley 61, Plainfield South 57

### Hoffman Estates Tournament

Rolling Meadows 58, Resurrection 45

### Lyons Tournament

Wheaton North 62, Lyons 32  
Maine East Tournament  
Carmel 54, Maine East 32  
Lakes 48, Wheeling 38  
Mundelein Tournament  
St. Viator 40, Regina Dominican 24  
New Trier Invitational  
Loyola Academy 74, Stevenson 33  
Oregon Tip Off Classic  
St. Edward 55, Amboy 28  
St. Edward 70, Rockford Christian 50  
Ridgewood Invitational  
Leyden 38, Lisle 23  
Schaumburg Tournament  
Maine West 48, Bartlett 44  
Vernon Hills Tournament  
Guildford 61, Elk Grove 18  
Lake Forest Academy 68, Antioch 34  
Vernon Hills 42, Lake Forest 35  
Willowbrook Tournament  
Lockport 65, Willowbrook 23  
Zion-Benton Invitational  
Deerfield 50, Fenton 31  
Others  
Crystal Lake Central 40, Crystal Lake South 32  
Phillips 54, Warren 18

Upcoming  
Monday, Nov 25  
Boys basketball  
Batavia Ken Peddy Windmill Classic  
Streamwood vs. Marmion, 6 p.m.  
Mooseheart vs. Batavia, 7:30 p.m.  
Coal City Tournament  
Morris vs. Timothy Christian, 5:30 p.m.  
IC Catholic vs. Peotone at Manteno, 5:30 p.m.  
Crystal Lake Central Tournament  
Belvidere vs. Harvest Christian, 5:30 p.m.  
Grayslake Central vs. Hononegah, 7 p.m.  
De La Salle Windy City Turkey Classic  
Benet vs. King, 6:30 p.m.  
Downers Grove North Thanksgiving Invitational  
Metea Valley vs. Richards, 6 p.m.



Downers Grove North vs. Lombard CPSA, 7:30 p.m.  
Elmwood Park Thanksgiving Tournament  
Aurora Central vs. Francis Parker, 5:30 p.m.  
Fenton Chuck Mitchell Tournament  
Rolling Meadows vs. Wheaton Warrenville South, 6 p.m.  
Fremd vs. Montini, 7:30 p.m.  
Geneva Bob Schick Thanksgiving Tournament  
Downers Grove South vs. Prairie Ridge, 5:30 p.m.  
Geneva vs. South Elgin, 7 p.m.  
Glenbard West District 87 Tournament  
Glenbard East vs. Glenbard North, 6 p.m.  
Glenbard South vs. Glenbard West, 7:30 p.m.  
Glenbrook North Tournament  
Conant vs. Senn, 7 p.m.  
Hoffman Estates Invitational  
Addison Trail vs. Collins, 5:30 p.m.  
Hoffman Estates vs. Maine West, 7 p.m.  
Johnsburg Tournament  
Barrington vs. North Chicago, 5 p.m.  
Buffalo Grove vs. Crystal Lake South, 6:30 p.m.  
Lakes Invitational  
Jacobs vs. Notre Dame, 5:30 p.m.  
Lakes vs. Lake View, 7 p.m.  
Loyola Academy/New Trier Tournament  
Lake Zurich at New Trier, 5 p.m.  
Lyons Tournament  
Lincoln-Way East vs. Maine South, 6 p.m.  
Mundelein Tournament  
Mundelein vs. Carmel, 5:30 p.m.  
Deerfield vs. Grant, 7 p.m.  
Battle of the 'Ridge Tournament at Northridge  
Vernon Hills vs. Wheeling, 6 p.m.  
Oswego Hoops 4 Healing Invitational  
West Aurora vs. Neuqua Valley, 5:30 p.m.  
Hinsdale Central vs. Naperville Central at Oswego East, 5:30 p.m.  
Palatine Invitational  
Hersey vs. Huntley, 6 p.m.  
Stevenson vs. Lake Park, 7:30 p.m.  
Ridgewood Thanksgiving Tournament  
Maine East vs. Naperville North, 5:30 p.m.  
Wheaton North vs. Highland Park, 5:30 p.m.  
Ridgewood vs. Elk Grove, 7 p.m.  
Northside vs. Leyden, 7 p.m.

St. Charles East Thanksgiving Invitational  
Thornridge vs. Schaumburg, 5:30 p.m.  
St. Charles East vs. East Aurora, 7 p.m.  
St. Viator Tournament  
Prospect vs. Libertyville, 5:30 p.m.  
Antioch vs. St. Viator, 7 p.m.  
Westminster Christian Tournament  
Westminster Christian vs. Elgin, 4:30 p.m.  
Aurora Christian vs. St. Edward, 6 p.m.  
Wheaton Academy Tournament  
Bartlett vs. Wheaton Academy, 7 p.m.  
Woodstock Thanksgiving Tournament  
Cary-Grove vs. Wauconda, 5:30 p.m.  
Woodstock vs. Grayslake North, 7 p.m.  
Kaneland vs. Warren (JV) at Woodstock North, 5:30 p.m.  
Others  
Hancock vs. Schaumburg Christian, 7:30 p.m.

#### Girls basketball

Addison Trail, Metea Valley, Naperville North, Neuqua Valley St. Francis at Hinsdale  
Central/South Brenda Whitsell Tournament, TBA  
Antioch at Vernon Hills Tournament, TBA  
Aurora Central Catholic at West Aurora Thanksgiving Tournament, TBA  
Aurora Christian at Indian Creek, 6:45 p.m.  
Barrington, Hersey, Maine South at Buffalo Grove Tournament, TBD  
Fenton at Zion-Benton Invitational, TBA  
Geneva, Fremd, Lake Zurich at Hampshire's Doreen Zierer Turkey Tournament, TBA  
Glenbard North, Glenbard South, Glenbard West at Glenbard East District 87 Rachel Back  
Tournament, 5 p.m.  
Harvest Christian at Larkin, 7 p.m.  
Hoffman Estates at Streamwood, 6:30 p.m.  
IC Catholic Prep/Timothy Christian Thanksgiving Tournament, TBA  
Johnsburg at Grayslake North, 7 p.m.  
Montini at Willowbrook Tournament, TBA  
Mundelein at Cary-Grove, 7 p.m.  
Woodstock North at Wauconda, 7 p.m.

#### Boys bowling

Andrew at Naperville North (Fox Bowl), 4:30 p.m.  
Burlington Central at Huntley (Hi Lanes), 4:30 p.m.  
Glenbard East at Willowbrook (Stardust), 4 p.m.  
Hinsdale Central at Nazareth (Hillside Lanes), 4 p.m.  
Lake Zurich at Mundelein (Lakeside Lanes), 4:45 p.m.

Larkin at St. Edwards (Elgin Lanes), 4 p.m.  
Naperville Central at Glenbard North (Bowlero), 4 p.m.  
Warren at Stevenson (Fairhaven), 4:45 p.m.

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

## **- Chicago Tribune -**

### **Rick Armstrong's top 10 boys basketball teams and 25 players to watch in Aurora-Elgin area for the 2024-25 season**

**By: Rick Armstrong**

**Date: November 22, 2024**



Oswego East's Mason Lockett takes a shot against West Aurora's Mike Evans in the Hoops for Healing Tournament at Naperville North on Monday, Nov. 20, 2023.

Waubonsie Valley lands top spot. Can Oswego East, Metea Valley and West Aurora challenge?

#### **Top 10 Teams**

##### **1. Waubonsie Valley (27-3)**

Illinois State recruit Tyreek Coleman, a 6-foot-2 senior guard, and 6-5 senior guard/forward Moses Wilson will lead the Warriors. Wilson is a Division I talent, according to coach Andrew Schweitzer. They will be joined by fellow seniors in 6-7 forward Cade Valek and 6-1 guard Joshua Tinney, who's back from an injury. Don't miss 6-3 sophomore guard/forward Kristopher Mporokoso.

##### **2. Oswego East (21-11)**

The Wolves have won 20 or more games in each of the six full seasons under coach Ryan Velasquez and should do so again. Two starters return in rising junior guard Mason Lockett, who has offers from Xavier and Minnesota, and senior guard Andrew Pohlman. Both are 6-4.

##### **3. Metea Valley (19-11)**

Senior point guard Khalil Jones, a three-year starter at St. Laurence, transfers home and

bolsters Mustangs' core of senior forwards Jake Nosek and Dominic Smith and junior guard Tre Watkins. Metea is expected to contend with Waubonsie and DeKalb for DuPage Valley Conference title.

#### 4. West Aurora (21-11)

Three seniors in forwards Terrence Smith and Kewon Marshall and center Gabe Gonzales should lead Blackhawks' bid for a conference title in Upstate Eight West return. Sophomore guard Travis Brown will definitely help, while senior guard Jaden Edwards returns from injury.

#### 5. Geneva (16-15)

Three of four starters who are back averaged in double figures last season and should make Vikings a strong contender in the DuKane Conference race. Leading the way will be 6-6 senior forward Hudson Kirby, who averaged 11.5 points, while 6-2 senior guard Jack Hatton clocked in at 10.5 and 5-11 junior guard Gabe Jensen added 10.

#### 6. Batavia (22-9)

Senior forward Jax Abalos (Cornell), who averaged 11 points and five rebounds, is expected to shoulder a bigger scoring load. Senior forwards Darian Susic and Payton Wolff and senior guards Josh Kahley and Joe Schroeder should help Bulldogs contend in DuKane Conference.



Batavia's Jax Abalos does a reverse layup against St. Charles East during a DuKane Conference game in Batavia on Friday, Dec. 22, 2023.

#### 7. Kaneland (26-6)

Despite graduating the program's career scoring leader in Troyer Carlson, Knights have plenty of talent returning, led by 6-7 senior forward Freddy Hassan and 6-5 junior guard Evan Frieders. Sophomore forward Jeffrey Hassan, who is 6-9, has improved. Junior guard Marshawn Cocroft, an all-state transfer from Aurora Christian, bolsters an already-strong backcourt.

#### 8. Burlington Central (21-11)

Missouri Southern State baseball recruit Jake Johnson, a senior forward who averaged 14.9 points and 6.6 rebounds last winter, will help keep the Rockets in contention in the Fox Valley Conference. A trio of fellow seniors in forward Patrick Shell and guards LJ Kerr and Caden

West will be bolstered by four sophomores who gained varsity experience as freshmen.

#### 9. Bartlett (19-11)

The Hawks lost 20-point scorer Nathan Searce to graduation. A trio of seniors — twin forwards Colin and Keegan Taylor and center Dimitre Petrasiunas — will try to share the load for last year's Upstate Eight Conference runner-up. Sophomore guard Joey Cwik, who averaged 7.5 points as a freshman, also will be in the mix.

#### 10. Oswego (4-25)

Returning senior guard/forward Dasean Patton should reach 1,000 points early in the season and will team up with senior guard Tyrell Mays. Incoming guard Ethan Vahl will have an impact as one of the state's top freshmen. Look for junior guard Mariano Velasco to be a defensive standout for first-year coach Nicholas Oraham.



Oswego's Dasean Patton (23) drives to the basket against West Aurora during a Southwest Prairie West game in Aurora on Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024.

#### The 25 Players to Watch

- Jax Abalos, Batavia, senior, guard/forward.
- Marshawn Cocroft, Kaneland, junior, guard.
- Tyreek Coleman, Waubonsie Valley, senior, guard.
- Gabe Gonzales, West Aurora, senior, center.
- Freddy Hassan, Kaneland, senior, forward.
- Jack Hatton, Geneva, senior, guard.
- Davion Jackson, East Aurora, junior, forward.
- Ben Jurzak, Jacobs, senior, guard.
- Jake Johnson, Burlington Central, senior, forward.
- Khalil Jones, Metea Valley, senior, guard.
- Hudson Kirby, Geneva, senior, forward.
- Martin Ledbetter, Hinckley-Big Rock, senior, forward.
- Mason Lockett, Oswego East, junior, guard.
- Kewon Marshall, West Aurora, senior, forward.
- Kristopher Mporokoso, Waubonsie Valley, sophomore, guard/forward.
- Jake Nosek, Metea Valley, senior guard/forward.
- Dasean Patton, Oswego, senior, forward.

- Dimitre Petrasuinas, Bartlett, senior, center.
- Andrew Pohlman, Oswego East, senior, guard.
- Jayden Riley, Yorkville Christian, junior, guard.
- Terrence Smith, West Aurora, senior, forward.
- Jahvion Sowers, Larkin, junior, guard.
- Ali Tharwani, Marmion, junior, guard.
- Ethan Vahl, Oswego, freshman, guard.
- Moses Wilson, Waubonsie Valley, senior, guard/forward.

## **- Chicago Tribune -**

### **Paul Johnson's top 10 wrestling teams and 25 wrestlers to watch in Aurora-Elgin area for the 2024-25 season**

**By: Paul Johnson**

**Date: November 22, 2024**



Marmion's Nicholas Garcia, top, holds off St. Charles East's Dom Munaretto during the 113-pound bout in the Class 3A state meet at the State Farm Center in Champaign on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024.

Yorkville starts at the top, with Marmion, St. Charles East and West Aurora within striking distance.

#### **Top 10 Teams**

##### **1. Yorkville (22-5)**

The Foxes return four state placers in Luke Chrisse (190), Jack Ferguson (150), Ryder Janeczko (157) and Luke Zook (175). They took second in the Class 3A dual team state meet last season and will be looking for more.

##### **2. Marmion (10-6)**

The Cadets are loaded once again, featuring returning state champions in Nicholas Garcia (113) and Zach Stewart (138). Joey Favia (215) was a state runner-up and Ashton Hobson (144) was also a state placer. Demetrios Carrera (120) transferred in from South Elgin.

##### **3. St. Charles East (24-1)**

The Saints won the Class 3A dual team state meet two seasons ago and placed third last winter. Dom Munaretto (113) is a two-time world champion. Anthony Gutierrez (165) placed fourth at state last winter. Despite graduating four-time state champion Ben Davino, Saints are loaded again.

#### 4. West Aurora (7-7)

Returning state qualifiers Evan Matkovich (126) and brothers Dayne Serio (165) and Dominic Serio (150) return for strong group. Sectional qualifier Dehmoni Dean (106) also returns as the Blackhawks get back this season to the Upstate Eight Conference.

#### 5. Yorkville Christian (20-10)

Three-time medalist Aiden Larsen (113) is looking to add a state championship to his resume. State qualifier Robby Nelson (157) also returns as do a number of depth pieces. Mustangs sport a full lineup this season, looking to win another regional title.

#### 6. Sandwich (23-17)

Sophomore state qualifiers Cooper Corder (138) and Colten Stone (126) return to lead Indians, who are coming off a regional title. They also return five sectional qualifiers and welcome a pair of freshmen to the lineup this season.



Yorkville's Luke Chrisse, left, escapes from Mount Carmel's Rylan Breen in the Class 3A dual team state meet at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024.

#### 7. Hampshire (11-5)

Whip-Purs bring back sectional qualifiers Mike Brannigan (157), Carter Hintz (215), Aidan Rowells (175) and Andrew Salmieri (120) for a team that went 7-2 last season in the Fox Valley Conference. Freshman Knox Homola (285) figures to make an immediate impact.

#### 8. Batavia (2-9)

Ino Garcia took third place at 120 last season, but he graduated. The Bulldogs will be led by state qualifier Asher Sheldon (215) and sectional qualifiers Jack Duraski (132) and Dylan Wells (150) as they look to keep pace in the rugged DuKane Conference.

#### 9. Bartlett (9-7)

The Hawks don't return any state or sectional qualifiers, but they do have seven seniors from a



team that took third last season in the Upstate Eight Conference. Bolstering those seniors is arguably the top wrestler on the team in sophomore Cameron Engels (132).

#### 10. Streamwood (4-12)

Don't let the record fool you, the Sabres have one of the best teams in program history. Seniors Gabe Inorio (175) and Jace Wolf (190) were both state qualifiers last season and Juan Cortes (150) just missed qualifying for state.



West Aurora's Dominic Serio, left, takes down Marmion's Santino Scolaro in the 145-pound bout during the Class 3A Marmion Regional finals in Aurora on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023.

#### The 25 Wrestlers to Watch

- Demetrios Carrera, Marmion, junior, 120.
- Jonah Chavez, Burlington Central, senior, 165.
- Luke Chrisse, Yorkville, senior, 190.
- Logan Conover, Marmion, sophomore, 106.
- Cooper Corder, Sandwich, sophomore, 138.
- Joey Favia, Marmion, junior, 215.
- Jack Ferguson, Yorkville, senior, 150.
- Nicholas Garcia, Marmion, junior, 113.
- Anthony Gutierrez, St. Charles East, senior, 165.
- Ashton Hobson, Marmion, junior, 144.
- Ryder Janeczko, Yorkville, senior, 157.
- Aiden Larsen, Yorkville Christian, senior, 113.
- Evan Matkovich, West Aurora, junior, 126.
- Dom Munaretto, St. Charles East, junior, 113.
- Robby Nelson, Yorkville Christian, senior, 157.
- Mateusz Nycz, Marmion, senior, 285.
- Joe Pettit, Geneva, senior, 215.
- Dayne Serio, West Aurora, junior, 165.
- Dominic Serio, West Aurora, senior, 150.
- Asher Sheldon, Batavia, senior, 215.
- Zach Stewart, Marmion, junior, 138.
- Colten Stone, Sandwich, sophomore, 113.
- Brayden Swanson, Oswego, senior, 138.

- Jace Wolf, Streamwood, senior, 190.
- Luke Zook, Yorkville, senior, 175.

## **- Daily Herald -**

### **High school scores for Nov. 22**

**Date: November 22, 2024**



Geneva's Gabby Web drives to the basket against Hampshire on Friday, Nov. 22, 2024 in Hampshire.

#### Girls basketball

##### Benet/Naperville Central Tip Off Tournament

Batavia 64, Bloom 38

Benet 77, De La Salle 18

##### Burlington Central Tournament

St. Charles North 59, Kaneland 27

Sycamore 48, Burlington Central 41

##### Chicago Christian Thanksgiving Tournament

Westmont 32, Tinley Park 30

##### Dundee-Crown Thanksgiving Tournament

Hononegah 52, South Elgin 32

Huntley 53, Rockford Boylan 35

##### Hampshire's Doreen Zierer Turkey Tournament

Geneva 64, Hampshire 52

Lake Zurich 49, Mother McAuley 34

##### IMSA Keith McIntosh Tournament

Earlville 38, Elgin 34

##### Mundelein Tournament

Mundelein 58, St. Viator 45

##### New Trier Tournament

Fenwick 43, Stevenson 42

##### Oregon Tip-off Tournament

Dixon 48, St. Edward 39

##### Somonauk Breakout Tournament

Aurora Central Catholic 60, Dwight 24

Wauconda Tournament  
Wauconda 57, Belvidere 55  
Wheaton Academy Thanksgiving Invitational  
Wheaton Academy 53, East Moline United 41  
Willowbrook Tournament  
Lockport 37, Montini 32  
Willowbrook 48, Plainfield East 46 (OT)  
York Thanksgiving Tournament  
Prospect 67, Butler 48  
Downers Grove South 58, Oswego East 48  
Waubonsie Valley 57, York 24 (Championship)

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