

Press Clippings 01/25/2019

---Daily Herald---01/25/2019

S. Elgin names its first officer of the year

By: Elena Ferrarin

Jim Creighton was named South Elgin's police officer of the year for his enthusiasm and aptitude in organizing events that benefit the community, officials said.

Creighton, a 12-year veteran of the department, has taken the community relations program to new heights in South Elgin, Village President Steve Ward said.

Creighton worked to raise funds and organize South Elgin's largest block party during "National Night Out" starting in 2017. He serves as the "Too Good for Drugs" instructor at local elementary schools, helps read books to children at Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin, and worked with **Fox Meadow Elementary School** to help start a mentoring program for students.

He also took the lead in helping the police department raise \$27,000 for Special Olympics.

"Officer Creighton's enthusiasm and attitude help bring the spirit of working with the police and community together," Sgt. Mike Doty said.

This especially showed during the "Santa's Helpers" event last year, when Creighton worked with police, fire and village employees to give 15 children a fun-filled day with breakfast, shopping for toys and lunch with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Doty said.

When the group Concerns of Police Survivors was on a two-day walk, Creighton arranged for the police department and residents to provide a picnic and greet the walkers with U.S. flags and a memorial table honoring their family members who died in the line of duty. Creighton said he was "incredibly grateful", for the award, for which he also credited the work of others.

I couldn't have done my job without my colleagues at the police department and in the village as a whole, the support of our generous business owners and perhaps most importantly, the residents of South Elgin.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---01/25/2019

Sinclair scores 30 in Bartlett's win over Larkin

By: Scott Walsh

It's really nice to have options in life.

Chicken or fish? Shower or bath? SUV or sports car? Drive or 3-pointer?

It's even better when you can actually have both, and Thursday night in Bartlett's second tilt of the season against Upstate Eight Conference foe Larkin, the Hawks' Lexie Sinclair was hitting on all cylinders.

The sophomore point guard hit an eye-popping 13 of 17 shots from the floor, including 9 of 10 from two-point range -- mostly drives to the hoop -- and four 3-pointers, en route to a career-high 30 points as the Hawks trounced Larkin for the second time this season, 78-45.

The win was Bartlett's 14th in its last 16 games, dating back to the first meeting with Larkin. In addition to Sinclair, fellow sophomore Justina Hernandez had 14 points and senior Teagan Noesen added 13 for the Hawks (22-4, 14-1).

Larkin (10-15, 5-9) was paced by Ashley Miller's 14 points and another 8 from Aaliyah Dixon.

Sinclair was just eight points shy of the school single-game record of 38 and she may have had a shot at it had she not adjourned to the bench for much of the final quarter with the game safely in hand. Her previous high was 24, which she managed to reach twice last season as a freshman -- including, by her recollection, in the season opener.

"I felt really good tonight," Sinclair explained. "I found my rhythm in warmups, and my team did a really great job of finding me during the game. I like to drive and I had lanes, and that really opened me up for the 3s."

Bartlett held the Royals to just 13 points in the first half, including four in the second quarter, as they built leads of 19-9 after eight minutes and 44-13 at halftime.

"This was really a tale of two halves," assessed Bartlett coach Brad Hunt. "I really liked our intensity in the first half, but as much as I liked it in the first I was as disappointed in our second-half intensity, and I think it really just boiled down to complacency. They thought the game was in hand and they relaxed. But we're not that good. We need to play with a purpose, and when we do, we're pretty talented."

To the Royals' credit, they could very easily have folded in the second half, but instead they came out and took it to the Hawks in the third quarter. After falling behind 53-17 with 5:41 left, Larkin commenced a 17-4 run to cut the deficit to 57-34 with two minutes left. Miller led the charge with 8 points in the frame, Dixon chipped in 5, and the Royals were a perfect 6 of 6 from the line.

But Hunt put Sinclair and her fellow starters back in, and just like that the lead was restored to 65-36 with three quarters in the books.

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Helping the Hawks fly

Junior 3-point ace Megan McClure has added to her game for South Elgin

By: Paul Johnson



Megan McClure has helped South Elgin, which sits tied atop the Upstate Eight standings with Bartlett, rattle off a six-game winning streak. (Brian O'Mahoney/Courier-News 2018)

South Elgin's Megan McClure is already known for her outside shooting. The junior forward holds the program's career record for 3-pointers with 110.

What has allowed her to take the next step, however, can be found in the evolution of the rest of her offensive game.

That also has helped the Storm (15-9, 12-1), who sit tied atop the Upstate Eight standings with Bartlett, rattle off a six-game winning streak.

"I have started to become more of an all-around player," McClure said. "I've been able to shoot outside, but I've also been able to drive. I think I put the defense to the test."

It took a conscious effort from coach Dan Mandernack and his staff to develop other offensive traits to help McClure be even more effective at what she does best — shooting the three.

"Teams have been tagging her (defensively), so we have been working with her on attacking and posting up," Mandernack said. "We also have her jab-stepping and pass-faking to get an inch so she can use her quick release and still shoot her threes."

South Elgin felt good heading into its first matchup with Bartlett.

The Storm were 7-0 in conference before Bartlett won 54-36, starting a four-game skid that extended through the first three games of the Dundee-Crown Tournament.

"We stopped forcing the ball," McClure said. "That was our struggle at Bartlett and at the Christmas tournament. It was hard for us losing those games. The last game (a win over Resurrection) gave us confidence coming back into conference play."

A dominant 50-31 win at Glenbard South, a victory Mandernack called one of the best in his seven years as coach, has highlighted the recent streak.

The Storm have marked the calendar for Friday, Feb. 1, when Bartlett (20-4, 12-1) visits South Elgin. The Hawks lost 44-43 at Glenbard South last Tuesday to open a crack in the conference race.

“It’s starting to get interesting, but this does put some pressure on us,” McClure said. “We have some big games. That will make us work harder in practice to come out stronger and come out on top.”

Tourney champs: Larkin (9-15, 4-8) was struggling heading into the Elgin City Classic. The Royals were 4-14 entering the tournament.

Things seemingly got worse in their 62-54 win over Elgin to start the tourney as junior guard Brianna Young went down with what was feared to be a season-ending finger injury.

As it turned out, however, Young only missed three games and the team rallied around her. The Royals won the Elgin City Classic and have won five of six.

“I think our scoring has picked up over the past four or five games and we are starting to play as a team,” Larkin coach Stephen Knapp said. “Winning the tournament will help us with momentum riding into the playoffs in the next few weeks.

“I’m hoping we can go at least .500 in the last six games and make some noise in the playoffs.”

Conference craziness: The Fox Valley standings keep getting wilder by the week.

When Hampshire beat Dundee-Crown 40-30 on Jan. 11, it put the Whip-Purs in the driver’s seat at 7-0.

Hampshire (21-5, 9-1) promptly lost 47-43 to McHenry in its next game. To put the loss in perspective, Jacobs lost 47-42 to McHenry and is 0-11 in conference.

Meanwhile, Dundee-Crown (16-7, 9-1) bounced back from the loss to Hampshire with wins over Huntley and Prairie Ridge.

Dundee-Crown visits Hampshire in the regular-season finale on Feb. 8. That could determine the conference champion.

Paul Johnson is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.