

## **Press Clippings 02/26/2019**

**---The Daily Herald---02/26/2019**

### **U-46 board approves contract for certification of magnet schools**

**By: Madhu Krishnamurthy**

The Elgin Area School District U-46 school board Monday night approved a two-year contract for \$44,700 with the nonprofit association Magnet Schools of America to help transform its five high school academies into unique, certified magnet programs.

Officials are researching the selection criteria for magnet academies and developing curriculum for those programs: STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) at Bartlett, Gifted/International Baccalaureate Studies at Elgin, Visual and Performing Arts at Larkin, Beacon Academy of Media and Digital Arts at South Elgin, and World Language and International Studies at Streamwood.

"Our magnet school courses will be moving to semesterlong courses in the 2021 school year," said Kinasha Brown, director of career pathways.

Officials also provided an update on plans to offer five new college and career academies, or smaller learning communities, at each of the high schools beginning with the freshman class of 2021-22. Those academies would focus on the arts, humanities, liberal arts, business and STEM.

Each new academy would house multiple educational pathways, some offered at all schools and others unique to one or two buildings based on site or equipment requirements. Students would have the opportunity to explore a field of interest as elective courses their sophomore, junior and senior years while taking core classes and meeting rigorous college admission requirements. They also could earn industry certification, dual credit through a partnership with Elgin Community College and gain internship experience.

Students would have access to pathways -- such as welding or precision manufacturing - - even if they are not housed at their home schools.

Brown said the STEM academy would offer the most career pathways, while the liberal arts academy would be available to students who want a more traditional high school model. Though specific pathway courses haven't been finalized, officials have begun writing the freshmen seminar course that will be available to all ninth-graders, she added.

To help students prepare for entering high school academies, the district hosted roughly 2,700 eighth-graders at its Explore career fair last September at the Sears Centre Arena in Hoffman Estates. This year's career fair is set for Sept. 11 and eighth-grade parents can visit with industry exhibitors and inquire about high school courses and magnet academies from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 10.

There also will be parent engagement sessions this spring to share news about the educational pathways programs, officials said.

# Elgin Area League to host 8 candidate forums in March

**By: League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area**

The League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area invites the community to attend the moderated candidate forums before the April 2 consolidated election. A half-hour before each forum starts, voters will have the opportunity to talk informally to the candidates in a "meet and greet."

- The league's Rutland-Dundee Townships Committee will host the first forum with candidates for the Sleepy Hollow Village Board from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 7, at the Sleepy Hollow Village Hall, 1 Thorobred Lane. The race has four candidates for three trustee seats.
- On Saturday, March 9, the Elgin candidate forum will be 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Meadows Community Room at Gail Borden Public Library, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin. Two candidates are running for Elgin mayor, and there are seven city council candidates for four 4-year terms, and the three city council candidates for one 2-year seat.
- On Tuesday, March 12, the Dundee area candidate forum will be 7 to 9 p.m. at the Rakow Senior Center, 665 Barrington Ave., Carpentersville. There are six candidates for three seats on the Rutland-Dundee Fire Protection District board. Four candidates are vying for three seats on the East Dundee Village Board.
- On Wednesday, March 13, the Gilberts candidate forum will be 7 to 9 p.m. at the Gilberts Village Hall, 87 Galligan Road. Five candidates are vying for three seats on the Gilberts Village Board.
- On Thursday, March 14, the West Dundee candidate forum will be 7 to 9 p.m. at the West Dundee Village Hall, 102 S. Second St. Four candidates are vying for three seats on the West Dundee Village Board.
- On Tuesday, March 19, the candidate forum for District 300 and ECC will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at Rakow Senior Center, 665 Barrington Ave., Carpentersville. The Community Unit District 300 school board has five candidates for four seats. Five candidates are vying for two seats on the Elgin Community College District 509 board of trustees.
- On Thursday, March 21, the library candidate forum will be 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Elgin Room at Gail Borden Public Library, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin. There are six candidates for four seats on the Gail Borden Public Library board.
- On Saturday, March 23, a candidate forum for U-46 and ECC will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Meadows Community Room at Gail Borden Public Library, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin. Eight candidates are running for four seats on the **Elgin Area School District U-46 board**, and five candidates are vying for two seats on the Elgin Community College District 509 board of trustees.

For information, visit [lwvelginarea.org](http://lwvelginarea.org) or [www.facebook.com/LWVElginArea/](http://www.facebook.com/LWVElginArea/).

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, issue-oriented political organization that holds voter education as a primary mission. This is why the League sponsors these forums. The league does not endorse or recommend candidates for office and it is neutral with regard to the candidates who are the focus of this forum.

The League is not responsible for the accuracy of statements made by the candidates. The candidates will be requested to address a specific question(s) in their opening remarks.

Audience questions will be written and collected by League members. Questions are to address issues, not personalities. The League reserves the right to screen questions, and there should be only one question per card. The audience is asked to remain silent and in their seats during the forum. The audience is not permitted to respond in any audible way to the candidates.

## **SPORTS**

**---The Daily Herald---02/26/2019**

### **Clutch plays by Cole, Sinik lifts Streamwood over Jacobs**

**By: Jerry Fitzpatrick**

It had been 23 years since Streamwood boys basketball coach Kent Payne felt that winning playoff feeling.

Payne notched his first IHSA postseason victory since he coached Addison Trail in 1996, thanks late heroics from 6-foot-7 senior forwards Keenon Cole and Nikola Sinik.

Cole gave No. 8 Streamwood the late lead and Sinik made it stand up in the final minute of a 74-70 victory over No. 10 Jacobs at the Class 4A South Elgin regional.

Cole, a 6-foot-7 forward committed to Northern Illinois, scored 33 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. His biggest bucket came on a baseline move that staked Streamwood to a 69-67 lead with 1:30 to play.

"I knew that if I scored inside, dominated inside, it would be a good game for us and we'd get the 'dub," he said.

Sinik, who scored 9 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter, scored in transition with 49 seconds remaining, a play sparked by a Jakobi Strong steal.

However, senior guard Matt McCoy drilled a 3-pointer at the other end, his fifth, to draw No. 10 Jacobs (13-18) within 71-70 with 22 seconds left.

Streamwood inbounded against a full-court press. Cole dribbled in the backcourt and spotted Sinik behind the defense. He drove to the bucket, missed, got the rebound, scored, drew the foul and completed the three-point play with 11 seconds left to establish the final margin.

"I didn't have that big of a first half, so I knew I needed to step up in the second half for us to win this game," Sinik said.

Little went right for Jacobs down the stretch. The Golden Eagles turned the ball over six times in the fourth quarter, including four miscues in five possessions late in the game.

"At the end of the day when it comes down to these situations, you're going to be what you are," Jacobs coach Jimmy Roberts said. "Unfortunately, a little too much this year, that's what we were. We were really, really close but couldn't find a way to finish at the end. Our younger guys need to remember that when it comes to our habits every single day."

Streamwood advances to face No. 1 subsectional seed Cary-Grove (20-7) today at 7 p.m. Payne and the Sabres will savor Monday's playoff win in the meantime.

"It was great, not so much for me, but for the kids because we've worked them hard," Payne said. "Nikola and Zach (Marquez), half the time they hate me because I'm always on them. A quarter of the time they love me. I'm proud of them all. They played hard."

Marquez scored 16 points for Streamwood.

Junior Jaden Henderson led the Golden Eagles with 20 points to go with 7 rebounds, McCoy finished with 19 points and sophomore guard Andrew Balkcom scored 15 of his 19 points in the second half.

## **Huntley rallies twice, tops Larkin**

**By: John Lemon**

One comeback wasn't enough for Huntley Monday night in the Class 4A St. Charles East regional quarterfinals.

Huntley came back from double-digit deficits in both halves to win a wild 64-61 game over No. 9 Larkin. The seventh-seeded Red Raiders (17-14) will play host and No. 2 St. Charles East (18-13) at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the regional semifinals.

"Just a tough, gutty win," Huntley coach Will Benson said. "To find a way to win a game like that with our season on the line, I've never been prouder in nine years as a head coach."

Larkin started fast, leading 6-0 two minutes into the game and 20-10 late in the first quarter.

By halftime Huntley had erased that deficit by holding the Royals without a field goal in the second quarter to go up 27-26 at halftime.

Once again, Larkin surged. Tied at 34, Jashon Johnson-Neals' conventional 3-point play started a 16-5 run to end the third quarter ahead 50-39.

Once again, Huntley battled back.

"We had to think positive and stay confident," Huntley junior Ryan Crosby said. "We just had to keep fighting."

Uchenna Egekeze made a pair of free throws and a 3-pointer before Ryan Sroka's fadeaway quickly got the Red Raiders back within 50-46.

"That minute really hurt us, got us tight offensively and they made some big shots down the stretch and we didn't guard the way we should have," Larkin coach Deryn Carter said. "That's why we're going home."

With 3:43 remaining, Crosby sank a 3 to give Huntley a 55-54 lead, the first of five lead changes down the stretch. Freshman Damari Wheeler-Thomas sank two free throws to put Larkin up 56-55, Sroka had a putback for Huntley, Victor Perez Jr. hit a pullup jumper, and then Crosby buried another 3 to make it 60-58 Red Raiders with 2:30 left.

"Once I hit my first one I knew I kind of had it going and my teammates trusted me to take the next one," said Crosby, who made four 3s in the game. "I just let it fly and it went in."

The Red Raiders didn't trail again after Crosby's 3, but up 62-59 in the final minute they had to survive a pair of turnovers and a missed 1-and-1. The Royals missed shots after both turnovers, then got one more chance after the missed free throw with :5.2 seconds to go.

Huntley tried to foul at half-court so Larkin couldn't get off the game-tying 3 but fouled Perez Jr. while he was in the act of shooting. Needing to make all three to tie with 2.4 seconds to go, Perez hit the first and third to bring Larkin within 62-61.

Egekeze sank two free throws to put Huntley ahead 64-61. Inbounding from half-court after a timeout with just .5 seconds left, Wheeler-Thomas got off a contested and rushed 25-footer to try to force overtime that was off the mark.

Egekeze paced Huntley with 18 points and 8 rebounds. Sroka double-doubled with 15 points and 11 boards.

"That was about as much adversity as you could have in a game," Benson said. "A lot of fight. Down 11 in the fourth we just said you guys have worked too hard not to have one more run in you."

Perez Jr. led all scorers with 20 points and Johnson-Neals added 12.

A year after taking fourth at the Class 4A state tournament, the inexperienced Royals finished 12-19 with promising young players like Wheeler-Thomas, who capped his freshman season with 15 points Monday.

"He's going to be special," Carter said. "That's the only way I can say it. He gets you excited about the future. What people don't see is how hard he works off the court. He's an absolute gym rat. I'm looking forward to what he can do. He had a great freshman year and we're looking forward to great things from him. This group came a long way this season."