

## Press Clippings 09/10/19

### SPORTS

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### Boys soccer: Bartlett battles back to tie South Elgin

By: Allen Oshinski

For IHSA and Upstate Eight Conference purposes, Bartlett and South Elgin tied 2-2 Monday night.

But there was more at stake than just a half game in the standings -- bordering town bragging rights and the tentatively named Thunder Hawk trophy were on the line.

So with spectators filing out of the stadium, the teams lined up for penalty kicks at the south end zone.

For the record, Bartlett made 2 PKs while shutting out South Elgin to take home the trophy.

In the game that counted, Bartlett erased a 2-goal deficit in the final 14 minutes, tying it on Edgar Leon's goal in the 76th minute.

The deadlock under South Elgin's newly installed lights left both teams lamenting missed opportunities to some extent.

Bartlett, of course, would have preferred a win, but after the late comeback, the Hawks weren't complaining.

"It's especially salient when you talk about playing away in a Monday conference game where we're usually flat, at South Elgin, which is typically not an easy field to play at," said Bartlett coach Vince Revak. "So, yeah, I like to talk about the missed opportunity of a possible win, but, bottom line, the way things were going before 20 minutes left in the game, we definitely came out with a positive result in the end."

After an extended feeling-out period, Edwin Ayala and Danny Quintana scored 4 minutes apart to seemingly put South Elgin in control.

Hernan Garcia got the Hawks (3-1-2) on the board with a line drive from about 10 yards out following a free kick in the South Elgin end by Amine Medmoun.

Then, with time running out, Leon took a feed from Sean Cox and fired in a shot from 20 yards away to tie it up.

"Coach told us, 'We've got to keep pressuring them, we got them,'" said Leon. "So that's exactly what we did. At one point they kept telling me, the left side is always empty. We've got to switch it up."

After not being able to get much going in the first half, the Storm opened things up after intermission, and it started in the back.

"They were finally able to see the difference it makes when we're able to play smartly out of the back," said Storm coach Jerzey Skowron. "It tends to open them up. They were pressing us the whole game. To unlock them a little bit forced them to get dragged out of position."

## **Boys soccer: Weather gets the best of Larkin, Dundee-Crown**

**By: Chris Walker**

Larkin may have looked ahead to its game against Elgin on Wednesday and right past Dundee-Crown on Monday afternoon but no one will ever know.

The game never started and was postponed after a brief lightning delay although a freshman/sophomore football game between the Chargers and McHenry was being played on the field next door at the same time.

Despite being nonconference opponents, the rivalry between Larkin and Dundee-Crown is a good, healthy and competitive one.

The Chargers won last year's meeting, but the teams tied in 2017 and the Royals won in 2016. The Royals ended Dundee-Crown's season in the state series in 2013 and 2014, but the Chargers got some revenge with a 3-2 win in a 2015 regular season game.

Dundee-Crown senior Roland Dearborn (5 goals, 2 assists) certainly wanted to play, especially after scoring a hat trick in his team's last game to lead the Chargers to a 3-1 Fox Valley Conference victory over Prairie Ridge on Sept. 5.

"We were really excited for this game tonight," he said. "But it just didn't happen."

After an 18-year win season last fall, there were a lot of questions coming into the new year for Dundee-Crown, but so far, it's been business as usual as the Chargers now sit at 4-1 overall and 1-0 in conference. They've also won four straight after opening the season with a 4-0 drubbing to Round Lake.

"The first game kind of gave us a wake-up call, but since then we've worked at practice and picked it up on defense," Dearborn said. "We're now doing what we needed to do and against Prairie Ridge we were doing what the offense was supposed to do."

The Chargers have a 25-man roster and a busier schedule than ever before in coach Rey Vargas' 16 years at the school. They also have a lot of seniors, but little experience.

"It's early but we're starting to gauge things out a little bit more," Vargas said. "This is the biggest team I've ever carried, but with so many seniors without varsity experience we're kind of in that gray area sometimes. They are starting to come around and we're trying to figure out what pieces make us work best."

A new piece is Julian Saldana, a junior with a club background who joined the squad this year and already has a pair of goals and 5 assists.

"I'm happy with the decision so far," he said. "The training everyday and going on the bus for games is different, but I've figured things out. I was used to playing club defensively, but here they've put me at striker and attacking mid."

Dearborn and Saldana are working extremely well with each other already.

"It's worked really well and we switch positions a lot," Dearborn said. "Last year we were more of a defensive team, but losing Jabari (Washington) and Peyton (Story), we've had to rebuild our defense and while we're working on that we've already got a better attack to go with it."

Senior Kevin Martinez has been a calming presence in the midfield and helping out in back for the Chargers.

"He's done a great job of being more of an in-the-background guy," Vargas said. "He's doing all the hard work in the back distributing balls forward and that type of thing. He's so calm with the ball and kind of keeps the guys calm in the back."

Hopefully the weather will be as calm on Thursday. That's when Dundee-Crown returns to action and will try to host Huntley.