

## Press Clippings 12/23/2021 to 12/28/2021

### **Kane County Connects Kane County records 21 active school outbreaks as of Dec. 24 --- 12/28/2021 Kane County Connects report**

Kane County is recording a total of 21 active school outbreaks, according to data posted by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The IDPH outbreak report was last updated on Friday, Dec. 24, 2021. Data includes entries elicited from cases opened within the previous 30 days from date of update.



Among the updated outbreaks are cases at Geneva Middle School North, Harter Middle School in Kaneland, Jefferson Middle School in Aurora, Kaneland High School, Marmion Academy, South Elgin High School and West Aurora High School.

- [Click here to see the IDPH School Outbreaks page.](#)

Of course, school are closed for the holiday break, many through the first week in January, so this report might not be updated for a couple weeks.

Outbreak information is reported once clusters of cases are confirmed to be linked by location and time (within 14 days). Some outbreaks are pending processing and evaluation and will be added as more complete information is available.

The outbreak information is reported by local health departments to the Illinois Department of Public Health through an outbreak reporting system.

Specific outbreaks included are those that have been identified by the Kane County Health Department to have three or more COVID-19 cases who may have a shared exposure at a shared Youth Related location and are from different households.

These outbreaks do not include secondary cases that may occur in a household member who has not been at the same outbreak location.

All data is provisional and subject to updating as more information becomes available. Data are updated once a week, typically on Fridays. The IDPH says this data includes entries elicited from cases opened within the previous 30 days from the date of the update.

## **School Outbreaks as of Friday, Dec. 24**

### Dundee-Crown High School (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/9/2021

### Elgin Academy (K-12)

- 10 Cases
- Students
- Source: Sports
- First Reported: 12/9/2021

### Elgin Math And Science Academy (K-12)

- 11 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 11/15/2021

### Ferson Creek Elementary (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/16/2021

### Gary D Wright Elementary School (K-12)

- 13 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 11/18/2021

### Gates Elementary School (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/2/2021

### Geneva High School (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Sports
- First Reported: 12/13/2021

### Geneva Middle School North (K-12) \*

- 10 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/22/2021

### Harter Middle School (K-12) \*

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Students

- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/17/2021

### Heartland Elementary School (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/7/2021

### Hillcrest Elementary School (K-12)

- 12 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 11/18/2021

### Jefferson Middle School (K-12) \*

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/22/2021

### John Shields Elementary School (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/9/2021

### Kaneland High School (K-12) \*

- 5 Cases
- Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/17/2021

### Marmion Academy (K-12) \*

- 10 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 11/16/2021

### O'Donnell Elementary (K-12)

- 5 Cases
- Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/14/2021

### Ronald O'Neal Elementary School (K-12)

- 5 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/10/2021

### South Elgin High School (K-12) \*

- 8 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Other
- First Reported: 11/24/2021

### St. Peter School (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 11/12/2021

### West Aurora High School (K-12) \*

- 12 Cases
- Students
- Source: Sports
- First Reported: 12/22/2021

### Wild Rose Elementary School (K-12)

- 11 Cases
- Staff and Students

- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 11/15/2021

SOURCE: IDPH website

## Daily Herald South Elgin shakes off slow start, blows by Buffalo Grove--- 12/28/2021

By Allen Oshinski, Daily Herald Correspondent



South Elgin's Raina Yang, right, and Tianna Bongiovanni stop Buffalo Grove's Leah McKenna in a girls basketball game at the 38th Annual Komaromy classic holiday tournament in Carpentersville on Monday, December 17, 2021. *John Starks | Staff Photographer*

Once **South Elgin** knocked the rust off, everything went smoothly for the Storm.

The Storm outscored Buffalo Grove 33-10 during the middle periods and rolled on to a 57-43 win Monday in the opening round of the Dundee-Crown Komaromy Classic in Carpentersville. South Elgin will play Lake Park at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in the quarterfinals.

Early on the Storm, playing their first game in more than a week, seemed to be feeling the aftereffects of a few too many Christmas cookies. And the Bison took advantage, snapping up loose balls and building an 18-14 lead early in the second quarter.

But then someone flipped the switch. The Storm scored the final 16 points of the first half, then continued the surge after intermission, eventually building a 52-24 lead.

Caroline Croft and Zoie Lewis scored 14 points apiece to lead the balanced Storm attack.

Raina Yang added 13 points and Ella Winterhalder added 8 for South Elgin (11-1). Lewis also grabbed 10 rebounds.

Leah McKenna had 10 points and 13 rebounds for the Bison.

"Everyone's going to come out a little bit flat," said Storm coach Dan Mandernack. "We didn't play in over a week. We're coming off a loss so I told them that we've got to get our hunger back and get a new streak going. We're going to be playing awesome teams here at this tournament and we've got to throw the first punch. And we came out not coming to the ball and not being strong."

The Storm's comeback started with their defense. They switched from a man-to-man to a zone press and began creating the turnovers that led to easy chances offensively.

"It's our defense," Mandernack said. "We're small but we're scrappy and our press is really good."

"We're a defensive-first team," said Winterhalder. "With those scrappy steals, they tend to get us all going and we feed off of each other. It doesn't matter who scores, it's how we get it there and I think we got the job done."

The Bison scored the game's first 6 points, and still led by 4 when a reverse 3-point play started the Storm's run.

Caitlyn Tolentino made 1 of 2 free throws. Lewis rebounded the miss and put it back.

A bucket by Yang put the Storm ahead to stay with 4:21 left in the first half. A 3-pointer by Lewis, a basket by Chloe Kmiec, a basket by Croft, a steal and transition layup by Lewis and a basket by Ariana Lopez made it 30-18 by halftime.

## **Daily Herald**

### **Larkin tops Loyola, will play Barrington for Hinkle title --- 12/28/2021**

**By Dave Hess, Daily Herald Correspondent**

Damari Wheeler-Thomas set the tone and his **Larkin** teammates followed his lead.

Wheeler-Thomas, who made his first 5 shots of the game including a 3-pointer, scored 11 of his game-high 20 points in the first quarter.

The senior guard's early scoring surge propelled the Royals to an impressive 66-54 win over Loyola Academy in semifinal action of the Hinkle Holiday Classic hosted by Jacobs Monday night.

Larkin, the 2014 champion, advances to Tuesday's championship game at 7:30 p.m. to play Barrington.

Wheeler-Thomas, a North Dakota State commit, made 8-of-12 from the field while dishing out 5 assists with 4 steals.

"It is all about making the right decision," said Wheeler-Thomas. "I know I need to be a leader on the floor. Our goal is to win this championship."

Larkin coach Deryn Carter realizes Wheeler-Thomas is a special talent.

"Damari got into a rhythm early and got us going," said Carter. "He is so tough to guard."

Thomas' 11-point first quarter helped lead to a 17-10 Larkin advantage after one quarter.

The Royals (13-1) seized control of the game in the second quarter. A 13-3 run to start the quarter extended Larkin's 7-point first quarter to 30-13 with 2:33 remaining before intermission.

Andre Blakley scored 5 points while Fernando Perez and Dontrell Maxie scored 4 apiece as the Royals held a commanding lead.

Pesky Loyola got to within 57-48 with 3:18 left on a 3-pointer by Connor Casper. The Ramblers couldn't get any closer.

Following Wheeler-Thomas in scoring for Larkin was Blakley with 15 points which included 2 3s.

"We have so many guys who can score," said Blakley. "It was nice to hit some shots and help the team win. Our goal is to win the championship of this tournament."

Perez added 14 while Maxie, a perfect 4-of-4 field, contributed 9 points with 5 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 dunks.

"This was a big win for us," said Carter. Loyola is a super awesome team who never quit. They hung in there for four quarters.

Alex Engro led the Ramblers with 15 points, 9 in the fourth quarter. Miles Boland, with a pair of treys, scored all 13 of his points in the third quarter.

## **Daily Herald**

### **Barrington pulls away from Bartlett in Hinkle semifinals --- 12/28/2021**

**By Jared Birchfield, Daily Herald Correspondent**

It took Barrington two quarters to adjust to Bartlett's defense in the second semifinal of the Hinkle Holiday Classic hosted by Jacobs Monday night.

The Broncos had only a 1-point lead over the Hawks at halftime, 25-24.

After tweaking the offense at intermission, Barrington got a handle on Bartlett's strategy and pulled away in the second half for a 61-41 victory Monday night.

The Broncos will square off with Larkin, winners of the first semifinal, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday for the championship. Barrington last won the tournament in 2009.

Bartlett will battle Loyola Academy at 6 p.m. for third place.

"We were a little bit uncomfortable with what Bartlett was doing defensively at first. They had switched to a gimmick defense. We talked about it at halftime and made adjustments to get some looks," said Barrington coach Bryan Tucker.

"Luckily, we knocked down some shots (in the third quarter) and we got the separation and they had to come out and play more to the style we wanted. I just think we settled down in the second half."

Will Grudzinski, a 6-foot 6 senior, led Barrington's offense with 24 points and pulled down nine rebounds.

"In the first half, we were a bit quick on shots but then we toned it down," Grudzinski said.

"We used everyone in the system. We made the right passes and the right plays and that really made the difference."

The senior got a lot of attention from Bartlett's defense.



"They were trying to tag him, take him out of the equation. A lot of kids will get frustrated and force shots and he didn't," Tucker said about Grudzinski. "He stayed unselfish and got his teammates looks and got a couple of huge baskets."

One was a reverse tip at the end of the second quarter that gave the Broncos the lead at the intermission.

Just before the buzzer-beater, Conrad Luczynski, Bartlett's 7-foot-2 center, put the Hawks on top, 24-23. The senior finished the night with a team-high 13 points and eight rebounds.

Luczynski was the focus of Barrington's defense.

"We decided to make him work for his points, He hurts you in a lot of ways -- not just with his scoring. He's such a good passer," Tucker said. "We had to make sure they weren't getting buckets off his passing, I thought all of our kids did a really good job of that."

Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith felt his squad let up on their intensity in the second half.

"We stopped playing defense and they kept up their defense. We did not execute," the Bartlett coach said. "We didn't guard up the guys we were supposed to guard up. They got open shots and knocked them down."

Barrington outscored Bartlett 21-11 in the third quarter and led 46-35 at the start of the fourth quarter.

Daniel Hong scored 17 points for the Broncos and teammate Nate Boldt tallied 12.

Tucker expects a high caliber contest with Larkin.

"We know how talented they are. They have shown it throughout this tournament," said Tucker "They have a lot of weapons so I know we will have our hands full."

## Daily Herald

### Cwik scores 35, shoots South Elgin past Marian ---

12/28/2021

By Joe Stevenson, Shaw Media



Marian Central's Christian Bentancur tries to reach in for the ball as he defends against South Elgin's Brian Vesta during their game at the Hinkle Holiday Classic basketball tournament on Monday, December 27, 2021 at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. *Ryan Rayburn/for Shaw Media*

Marian Central displayed plenty of resourcefulness and resolve while battling from behind most of way against **South Elgin**.

But for all the Hurricanes showed through three quarters of what their coach Charley Walsh considered a constant struggle, they just could not score enough points.

"I was pleased that we stayed in the game on effort and guts," Walsh said. "We really weren't that efficient. Everything was a struggle for us. We just couldn't sustain that for 32 minutes. We turned the ball over too often, we couldn't get in any rhythm on offense the whole game, we worked too hard for all of our points and that's a credit to them."

South Elgin, led by guard Drew Cwik's seven 3-pointers and 35 points, defeated Marian, 70-57, in their Consolation A bracket semifinal Monday at Jacobs' Hinkle Holiday Classic.

The Storm (7-8) will face Waubonsie Valley (8-5) for the Consolation A championship at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday. Marian (6-9) plays against Cary-Grove (7-6) at noon in their final game of the tournament.

Cwik hit four 3s in the first quarter as the Storm never trailed in the game. South Elgin did have problems against Marian's 1-3-1 zone defense with 23 turnovers, 21 in the first three quarters.

"I was trying to find spots," said Cwik, who was 10 of 18 from the field. "Credit to my teammates. Every time we try to get it to the middle we always try to kick it out where the spots are in the zone. All credit to my teammates for knowing where I was and hitting shots."

Storm coach Brett Johnson said Marian's zone was the first his team had seen this season. That, plus South Elgin's willingness to play up-tempo, led to some of the turnovers.

"We did turn it over a lot, but that's the style we want to play, so we'll turn it over some but we'll learn from those mistakes," Johnson said. "We got them to turn it over a ton too. It's a give and take with the turnovers. We talk about live-ball turnovers. If you're going to turn it over, throw it out of bounds so they're not getting a fast break off of it. We got some easy breakaways on their turnovers."

The Storm committed only two turnovers and hit 11 of 13 free throws in the fourth quarter to put the game away. Cwik hit two 3s and scored 15 of his points in the fourth.

"Coach told us to settle down a little bit and try to find our groove," Cwik said.

Marian's sophomores Cale McThenia (24 points) and Christian Bentancur (23) led the way. The Hurricanes cut the lead to 45-41 after three quarters, but South Elgin kept its distance in the fourth.

"We were trying to stay patient in our offense and started to hit big shots," McThenia said. "In the fourth quarter, we fell apart. We got tired."

Johnson knew Cwik could be the Storm's key player against a zone.

"We expect him to make shots," Johnson said. "He got them off of catches. Any good shooter, when they catch in rhythm, get the bend down, they're going to make shots. He didn't have to work hard to get the open looks."

Walsh still liked his team's effort.

"We could never seem to get out of the hole," Walsh said. "I was pleased with our pressure (defense). We have to be more consistent on offense."