

Press Clippings - 3/20/2023

– Chicago Tribune –

ISBE awards meritorious service award to South Elgin principal

March 17, 2023

By Mike Danahey - The Courier-News



Dustin Covarrubias, principal of Willard Elementary School in South Elgin, is the recipient of a Meritorious Service Award through the Illinois State Board of Education's Those Who Excel program. (School District U- / HANDOUT)

South Elgin principal wins meritorious service award

Dustin Covarrubias, principal of Willard Elementary School in South Elgin, is the recipient of a Meritorious Service Award from the Illinois State Board of Education's Those Who Excel program.

The award recognizes school personnel and volunteers who have made lasting impacts on their school communities, according to a **School District U-46** news release. Award recipients will be honored at an April 29 banquet.

Covarrubias has worked for **U-46** for 16 years. Prior to being named **principal at Willard** in 2018, he was **assistant principal at Huff Elementary School** in Elgin. He also has

coached football, boys and girls basketball, baseball, track and field, and girls and boys volleyball during his time with U-46.

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

– WBEZ Chicago News –

Pandemic learning loss, staff shortages are top challenges for Illinois' new education leader

March 17, 2023

By Susie An

Supt. Tony Sanders sees an “ever-widening gap between the left and the right ... I think public education is squarely in the middle of that fight.”

Helping students struggling with the impact of the pandemic, shepherding a first budget through the state Legislature and dealing with the growing politicization of public education - these are among the challenges facing Tony Sanders, who took over as Illinois' new state superintendent of education last month.

“There will be a generational impact from COVID on student learning, and we have a lot of work to do at the state and local level to try to make up for that loss,” said Sanders, who was previously superintendent of U-46 in Elgin, the state's second largest school district.

Sanders sat down with WBEZ education reporter Susie An to discuss these issues, as well as his priorities as he settles into his new statewide leadership position.

To hear the entire interview, click [here](#).

– Daily Herald –

Maureen Morris: 2023 candidate for Elgin Area School District U-46 board

March 17, 2022

Editor's note: Candidate has not filled out a questionnaire.

– Elgin Courier-News –

The 2022-23 Courier-News All-Area Team

March 19, 2023

By Rick Armstrong - Beacon-News First Team

Jakob Blakley, Larkin, junior, guard: Special mention all-state. Missed first five conference games before returning from knee injury. Upstate Eight Conference's player of year. Averaged 21 points, 3.0 rebounds and 3.0 assists.

David Douglas Jr., Yorkville Christian, senior, guard: First team all-state. Averaged 33.8 points, 9.4 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 1.9 steals. Set state record by making 339 free throws. Scored 1,083 points to rank seventh all-time.

Mekhi Lowery, Oswego East, senior, forward: First team all-state. Southwest Prairie West MVP. Led Wolves to second straight undefeated conference title. Averaged 12.6 points, 9.0 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 2.1 steals. Committed to Towson.

Drew Scharnowski, Burlington Central, senior, forward: First team all-state. Big man with guard skills. Averaged 23.1 points, 8.6 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 2.4 blocked shots. Led Rockets to third straight conference title. Committed to Belmont.

Terrence Smith, West Aurora, sophomore, forward: Special mention all-state. Averaged 13.5 points, 7.1 rebounds and 1.5 steals. Has Division I offers in both football and basketball.

Second Team

Jalen Bealer, East Aurora, junior, guard: Averaged 19.6 points, 4.0 rebounds and 2.0 assists. All-conference.

Jabe Haith, Marmion, senior, guard: Averaged 14.6 points, 5.8 rebounds and 4.0 assists as Cadets advanced to super-sectional but lost to Class 3A state champion Metamora. All-conference. Committed to Lewis.

Ryan Johnson, Oswego East, senior, guard: Special mention all-state. Averaged 11.7 points, 5.3 rebounds, 1.8 assists and 1.9 steals as Wolves reached super-sectional but lost to Class 4A state champion Moline.

LeBaron Lee Jr., Yorkville, senior, forward: Third team all-state. Averaged 11.9 points and 7.8 rebounds. All-conference. Committed to Illinois State for baseball.

Kelton McEwen, Bartlett, junior, point guard: Special mention all-state. Averaged 18 points, 4.5 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 1.8 steals. Made 92 3-pointers. All-conference.

Third Team

Jason Jakstys, Yorkville, junior, forward: Special mention all-state. Averaged 11.5 points and 8.0 rebounds. All-conference.

Mick Lawrence, Geneva, senior, guard: Averaged 13 points and 2.5 assists as Vikings won 25 games. All-conference.

Josh Pickett, West Aurora, junior, guard: Averaged 14.4 points, 5.8 rebounds and 2.4 assists. All-conference.

Trevon Roots, Marmion, senior, forward: Led team in scoring with 15.3 points a game. Strong interior defender averaged 5.5 rebounds and 3.6 blocked shots.

Collin Wainscott, Marmion, senior, guard: Third team all-state. Averaged 14.5 points, 4.1 rebounds and 4.1 assists. Scored 35 points in regional final. Made game-winning 3-pointer in sectional semifinal. Led Cadets to first sectional title in 47 years.

Honorable Mention

Jack Ambrose, Batavia, senior, forward; Steven Call, St. Charles East, senior, guard; Troyer Carlson, Kaneland, junior, guard; Marshawn Cocroft, Aurora Christian, freshman guard; **Elias Cole-Williams, South Elgin**, senior, guard; Gevon Grant, Kaneland, senior, guard; Jahki Gray, Metea Valley, senior, guard; **Maddox Hollian, Elgin**, junior, guard; Jackson Langendorf, Waubonsie Valley, senior, forward; Martin Ledbetter, Hinckley-Big Rock, sophomore, forward; Ben Lothery, Harvest Christian, senior, guard; Max

Niesman, Oswego, senior, guard; Jimmy Rasmussen, Geneva, senior, guard; Jehvion Starwood, Oswego East, junior, guard; Ben Zielinski, St. Edward, senior, guard.

– Chicago Tribune – Paul Johnson's top 10 teams and 25 players to watch in the Aurora-Elgin area for the 2023 baseball season

March 17, 2023

By Paul Johnson - Aurora Beacon-News

Top 10 Teams

- 1. Jacobs:** The Golden Eagles, regional champions last season, have 12 players committed to play in college led by [Anthony Edge](#) (Bradley), [Christian Graves](#) (Bradley) and [Nicholas Gottfried](#) (McHenry). [Gavin Feck](#) and [Kyler Kennen](#) return to lead the pitching staff.
- 2. St. Charles East:** Third baseman [Jake Zitella](#) (Illinois) is one of the best seniors in Illinois. [Seth Winkler](#), the DuKane Conference's player of the year last season, and two-sport star [James Brennan](#) are big bats in the middle of the order for Saints.
- 3. Oswego:** Panthers surprisingly reached sectional championship game last spring but won't sneak up on anyone this season. [Tyler Stack](#) (Xavier), [Cade Duffin](#) (Illinois-Springfield), [Bryson Mello](#) (Fort Scott) and [Troy Vosburgh](#) (DuPage) lead experienced team.
- 4. Yorkville:** Foxes are loaded up for another postseason run behind a trio of Division I recruits. [LeBaron Lee Jr.](#) (Illinois State) returns to pitching staff along with two-way junior [Nate Harris](#) (Northwestern). Junior left-hander [Simon Skroch](#) committed Tuesday to Minnesota.
- 5. Kaneland:** Knights were disappointed to finish second in conference last season but made a postseason run to the sectional championship game. [Alex Panico](#), [Johnny Spallasso](#) and [Parker Violet](#) are among the returnees hoping to keep that progress going.

6. Hampshire: Pitching is the biggest name of the game for the experienced Whip-Purs, who return a whopping 21 players. Senior [Colin Miller](#) (Illinois State) and sophomore [Anthony Karbowski](#) (Louisville) head the rotation with veteran catcher [Austin Leonard](#), a senior, guiding them.

7. St. Charles North: Two-way player [Anthony Estrada](#) is the top senior returnee for the North Stars, but they have a roster this season heavy on juniors. [Joshua Caccia](#), [Parker Reinke](#), [Colin Ryder](#) and [Jackson Spring](#) headline the junior class.

8. Harvest Christian: On paper, this could be one of the best teams the Lions have put on the field in program history. Five of the top six pitchers and eight defensive players return. [Gavin Duran](#), [Jacob Janisko](#), [Jared Rodriguez](#) and [Sam Rohlfing](#) headline the returnees.

9. Streamwood: Last spring, Sabres had their best season since 2011 by reaching the regional championship game. All-state senior catcher [Nick Weaver](#) is the leader for the Sabres. [Miguel Rodriguez](#), who went 7-0, returns to head the pitching staff.

10. West Aurora: Senior shortstop [Ryan Niedzwiedz](#) (SIU-Edwardsville) has emerged as one of the top seniors in the state. [Colin Tarr](#) (Logan) heads up the pitching staff for Blackhawks. Niedzwiedz also will see innings on the mound.

25 Players to Watch

James Brennan, St. Charles East, senior, designated hitter; Cade Duffin, Oswego, senior, first baseman; Gavin Duran, Harvest Christian, junior, shortstop; Anthony Edge, Jacobs, senior, pitcher; [Brady Gilroy](#), Burlington Central, junior, outfielder; Christian Graves, Jacobs, senior, third baseman; Nate Harris, Yorkville, junior, outfielder/pitcher; Jacob Janisko, Harvest Christian, senior, pitcher; [Martin Ledbetter](#), Hinckley-Big Rock, sophomore, catcher/pitcher; [LeBaron Lee Jr.](#), Yorkville, senior, pitcher; [Joe Martin](#), Newark, senior, pitcher; Bryson Mello, Oswego, senior, pitcher; Colin Miller, Hampshire, senior, pitcher; Ryan Niedzwiedz, West Aurora, senior, shortstop; [Michael Person](#), Burlington Central, junior, pitcher; Simon Skroch, Yorkville, junior, pitcher; Tyler Stack, Oswego, senior, catcher; [Nate Stempowski](#), Geneva, junior, infielder; [Zach Stuck](#), Aurora Central Catholic, senior, catcher; Colin Tarr, West Aurora, senior, pitcher; [Jarron Thompson](#), Waubonsie Valley, senior, pitcher; Parker Violet, Kaneland, junior,

infielder/outfielder/pitcher; Nick Weaver, Streamwood, senior, catcher; Seth Winkler, St. Charles East, senior, pitcher; Jake Zitella, St. Charles East, senior, third baseman.

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

– Elgin Courier News –

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

March 19, 2023

By From Staff Reports

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BASEBALL

GIRLS SOCCER

Crystal Lake Central 9, Grant 0

Deerfield 2, Grayslake Central 0

Deerfield (2-0): Ryane Emory, Emily Fox goals.

Hersey 3, Stevenson 2

Stevenson (0-1): Nicole Tchorz, Sami An goals.

Hoffman Estates 3, Dundee-Crown 1

Naperville Central 7, Belleville West 4

Naperville Central (2-0): Megan Norkett 3 goals. Becca Ruggiero, Isabella Brozek 2 goals.

Naperville North 6, South Elgin 0

Naperville North (1-1): Annie Chang 3 goals. Cam DeCook 2 goals. Isa Polavieja 3 assists.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

GIRLS SOCCER

Barrington 2, St. Charles North 1

Bloom 3, Elmwood Park 3

Carmel 4, Mundelein 0

Deerfield 3, Palatine 1

Deerfield (1-0): Emily Fox 2 goals. Bella Krummenacher goal.

Elgin 1, Schaumburg 1

Fremd 5, Lake Zurich 2

Lake Zurich (1-1): Lauren Bailey 2 goals.

Grayslake North 4, Prairie Ridge 0

Grayslake North (2-0): Makayla Campbell goal, assist.

Indian Creek 4, Genoa-Kingston 0

Indian Creek (1-0): Emma Turner 2 goals.

Manteno 9, Rich Township 0

Morris 7, Hinckley-Big Rock 0

Oak Lawn 4, Crete-Monee 1

Oswego East 4, Payton 0

Rochelle Zell 3, Lake Forest Academy 0

St. Charles East 4, Rockford Boylan 1

St. Charles East (2-0): Tia Bernstein, Lauren Salter, Amanda Stepien, Grace Williams goals.

DEKALB BARB FEST CUP

Larkin 1, Rockford Guilford 1

DeKalb 1, West Aurora 0

Plainfield East 3, Yorkville 1

Yorkville (0-2): Marissa Galloway goal.

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

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

– Elgin Courier-News – Baseball 2023 Courier-News Season Preview

A genuine pennant race

Jacobs and St. Charles East take top two spots, but keep an eye on Oswego, Yorkville and Kaneland.

March 19, 2023

By Paul Johnson for Beacon-News Top 10 Teams

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