

# Press Clippings - 6/1/2023

## – Chicago Tribune – Second pitch a charm for South Elgin’s Hannah Harms. A first inning home run? ‘That’s definitely what we needed.’

May 31, 2023

By Rick Armstrong - Aurora Beacon-News



**South Elgin's Hannah Harms** gets congratulations from **coach Brad Reynard** as she rounds third base on her home run in the first inning against Lake Park during the Class 4A St. Charles North Sectional semifinals on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. (Jon Langham / The Beacon-News)

**South Elgin's Hannah Harms** couldn't have asked for a better start Wednesday.

The senior center fielder drove a 1-0 offering from Lake Park starting pitcher Mia Giammarese over the left field fence for her team-leading 10th home run of the season.

That's the good news.

“Hitting that second pitch of the game out, I definitely thought, ‘We’ve got this — this is our game,’” **Harms** said afterward. “That’s definitely what we needed.”



***South Elgin's Hannah Harms cheers for Mia Speidel after scoring on Speidel's hit against Lake Park during the Class 4A St. Charles North Sectional semifinals on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. (Jon Langham / The Beacon-News)***

The bad news?

Showing their resiliency, the Lancers came from behind twice to pull out a 6-3 victory over the **Storm** in the Class 4A St. Charles North Sectional semifinals.

**Harms'** homer staked starting pitcher **Cece Bell** and **South Elgin** (24-6-1) to the early lead over Lake Park (26-11), giving the **Storm** hopes of avenging last spring's 11-0 loss to the Lancers in the regional final.

That **Harms**, a St. Cloud State recruit, came through right away was no surprise.

“That’s why she’s leading off,” **South Elgin coach Brad Reynard** said.

With the win, however, Lake Park set up a sectional final showdown at 4:30 p.m. Friday against DuKane Conference rival St. Charles North (22-6).

The **Storm**, who beat another DuKane Conference team Friday in St. Charles East for their first regional title in 10 years and fourth in program history dating to 2006, is still

seeking their first sectional title.

“We had a couple errors here or there, and Lake Park knows how to hit the ball and where to place it,” **Harms** said. “They just executed. Unfortunately, we didn’t.”



**South Elgin's Hannah Harms** catches a fly ball in center field against Lake Park during the Class 4A St. Charles North Sectional semifinals on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. (Jon Langham / The Beacon-News)

And Mamma Mia, here they go again.

Lake Park coach **Tom Mazzie** turned to his other pitcher with the same first name in Mia Savage, and that proved to be the difference for the Lancers.

Lake Park promptly answered **Harms'** blast with Penn State recruit Michela Barbanente reaching on one of her three singles, stealing her 40th base and scoring on Kylie Pytlak's single.

After **Harms** delivered an RBI double and **Mia Speidel** added an RBI single in the second inning for a 3-1 lead, Mazzie made the pitching change with two outs.

“I use both my Mia’s,” Mazzie said. “Giammarese started, but I feel like I flip a coin

sometimes. Some days, some teams see one pitcher better than the other, and **South Elgin** was kind of barreling up on my first Mia pretty good.”

Against Savage? Not so good.

Savage locked down the **Storm** the rest of the way, shutting them out on one hit over 5 1/3 innings to take the win.

The Lancers, who have averaged 8.5 runs a game, capitalized on small ball to force a tie with two runs in the third inning and put it away with three more in the sixth, the go-ahead score coming in on Savage’s RBI single.



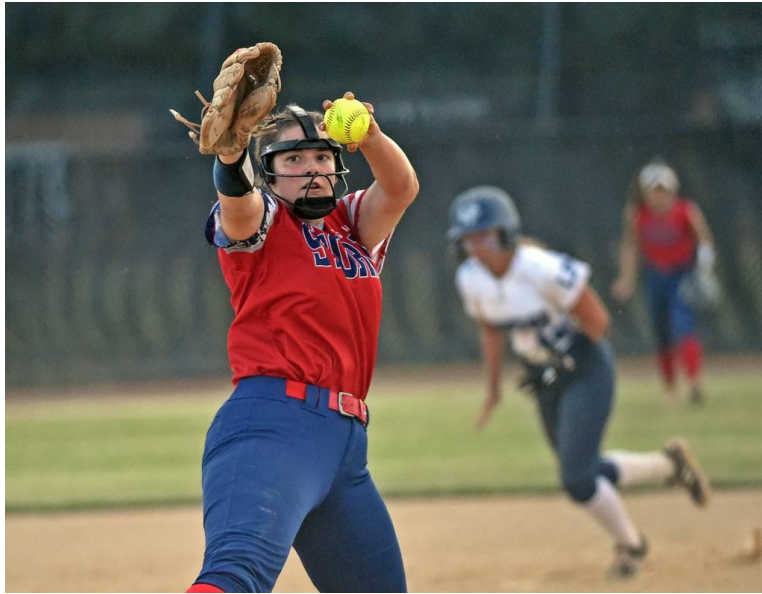
**South Elgin's Hannah Harms** hits a double in the second inning against Lake Park during the Class 4A St. Charles North Sectional semifinals on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. (Jon Langham / The Beacon-News)

“Savage was outstanding,” **Reynard** said. “She just did a great job of keeping us off balance. She’s their MVP today.

“We’re a good offensive team, and not a lot of pitchers did that to us this year.”

**Bell** (13-2) matched Savage pitch for pitch until the Davenport recruit gave up three straight hits to open the sixth.

“Their pitcher was unbelievable,” Mazzie said. “She’s why we went small ball. We’ll do that when a pitcher is dominating. Normally, we get to you. We never got to her.”



**South Elgin's Anna Kiel** delivers a pitch in relief against Lake Park during the Class 4A St. Charles North Sectional semifinals on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. (Jon Langham / The Beacon-News)

Bell is familiar with Savage.

“We play for the Wasco Diamonds together,” Bell said. “She just has really good spin. She doesn’t have overpowering speed, but her spin is very effective.

“As hitters, I don’t think we adjusted very well.”

**Harms**, who struck out twice against Savage, agreed.

“She was good at placing the ball where she needed to, making sure no one hit her hard,” Harms said. “She kept me off balance for sure. She was changing speeds and hitting her spots.”

# – Daily Herald –

## Softball: Savage's stellar pitching leads Lake Park over South Elgin in sectional semifinal

May 31, 2023  
By Dave Hess

Lake Park coach Tom Mazzie realized a change was necessary.

With starting pitcher Mia Giammarse struggling and his Lancers losing to South Elgin 3-1 in the top of the second, Mazzie inserted right fielder Mia Savage in the pitcher's circle.

It turned out to be the right move for the Lancers.

Savage blanked the Storm on 1 hit in 5 1/3 innings of work as the Lancers rallied for a 6-3 win in the Class 4A St. Charles North sectional semifinal Wednesday afternoon.

The Lancers defense didn't commit an error in the game, which was delayed 15 minutes due to lightning.

The Lancers (26-11) will play host and defending state champion St. Charles North for the sectional crown at 4:30 p.m. Friday.

"I can tell something was wrong," said Mazzie. "Mia (Giammarse) wasn't spinning the ball the way she usually does. Mia Savage was unbelievable. She was throwing some incredible pitches and her defense behind her was flashing some leather."

During her stint, Savage struck out 3 and hit a batter and earned the win in relief. The only hit she gave up was a single by Madison Hunt to lead off the sixth.

"My curve ball was my best pitch," said Savage. "I was mixing my off-speed pitches and got ahead of the hitters. My defense was great behind me. I totally trusted them. I don't think the delay bothered us. We knew there was plenty of game left. We came back after the delay ready to play and with plenty of energy."

Savage also drove in the winning run with a single in the decisive 3-run sixth.

The Storm (24-6-1) seized control early as Hannah Harms led off the game with a homer. The Lancers answered with a run in the bottom of the inning on a run-scoring single by Kylie Pytlak.

South Elgin answered with 2 in the second on an RBI double by Harms and a run-scoring single by Mia Speidel.

Lake Park scored 2 in the bottom of the third on an RBI single by Michela Barbanente and Pytlak executed a perfectly placed sacrifice bunt which scored Barbanente with the tying run.

"We had a great season," said **South Elgin coach Brad Reynard**. "We won a regional for the first time in 10 years.

"This is a special group that truly loved each other. These seniors put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into this program."

## **– Chicago Tribune – Baseball, softball and girls soccer scores for the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County**

**May 31, 2023**

**By From Staff Reports - Daily Southtown**

### **WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS**

#### **HIGH SCHOOLS**

#### **SOFTBALL**

#### **CLASS 4A SECTIONAL SEMIFINALS**

#### **ST. CHARLES NORTH**

Lake Park 6, **South Elgin** 3

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

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