

Press Clippings - 11/30/2023

-Daily Herald - A positive culture at Elgin is just what 'Doc' ordered

By: Dave Oberhelman

11/29/2023



Nick Bumbales

In his final season coaching **Elgin** girls basketball, Nick Bumbales has the same goal he's brought to every season.

"My goal hasn't changed. I still try to create a positive experience for the kids," said Bumbales, in his 15th year.

"I want to finish on a high note, which we're going to regardless of the wins and losses. I'm really big on the culture thing."

Known as "Doc," Bumbales studied to become a chiropractor at National University of Health Sciences

in Lombard. For the first 21 of his 36 years at **Elgin** he served as a team physician for all Maroons sports before he earned teaching certification.

Bumbales has coached in seven **Elgin** programs and also is 1-0 as Maroons varsity baseball coach, leading the 2004 team after the head and assistant coaches got ejected the day before.

"He's a lifer here," said **Elgin** athletic director Paul Pennington.

Bumbales, 59, will teach physics for five more years. Though it was a hard decision, to simultaneously stop both coaching and teaching would be too much of a shock to his system.

On Oct. 30 he told his players this would be it.

"It's about them," said Bumbales, a Merrillville, Indiana, native who lives in St. Charles. "Now it's my last season, but it's a couple of the kids' last seasons, too. I'm trying to make sure it goes well for everyone."

So far, so good. Tuesday's win over **South Elgin** had the Maroons at 4-1 entering Friday's Upstate Eight Conference game at Fenton.

It's a group paced by seven seniors, including the first four-year team captain in school history, Jocelyn Bardesi.

And yes, because Bumbales is a people person it'll be a rewarding season regardless of record.

"He provides a positive space for them to just to be a kid," said Pennington, a 1991 **Elgin** graduate.

"Too many times I think that the pressure mounts for our kids to just win at all costs. I think there's a special attention to detail in which he's tried to instill a process and tried to instill care.

"Sometimes that doesn't come with wins, but I think if you ask any of the kids who've been coached by him, he's concerned with the well-being of a student-athlete more than the win at all costs," Pennington said.

Over the years seven of Bumbales' former players have returned to his coaching staff. Assistant Scott Stewart has been with him all 15 seasons.

Three former Maroons are on staff this season: volunteer assistant Ali Reynolds, freshman coach Katie (Quick) Spets, and junior varsity coach Kassie Rife, her eighth year in the program.

"It gets me a little emotional knowing this is his last year, actually. It's hard to imagine a program without Doc," said Rife, who choked up talking about it.

A 2012 graduate, Rife has gone through the stages with Bumbales -- coach, mentor, colleague, friend.

"The biggest thing is we are not just a team but a family, and Doc has shown that through all these years," Rife said.

The coaching legends among his friends, past and present -- a shortlist includes Mike Bailey, Jim Harrington, Gordie Kerkman, Gene Pingatore, Jim Roberts, even York's Joe Newton at Bumbales' first job out of St. Joseph's College -- attest to his leadership in life-changing ways.

Bumbales credits his wife, Cristine, and adult daughter, Taylor, for their support. Because of course he would.

"I've really kind of had the 'Forrest Gump' life," he said. "I've just walked into fabulous people who've helped me along the way."

- Chicago Tribune - Introducing the 2023 Beacon-News/Courier-News Football All-Area Team

By: Rick Armstrong

Nov 30, 2023



East Aurora's Kenneth Cooley (4) celebrates a touchdown against West Chicago during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Aurora on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. (Mark Black/The Beacon-News)

Batavia leads the way with three players on the first team, while Geneva, East Aurora, West Aurora, Aurora Christian, Oswego East and Yorkville are also represented.

First Team Offense

Ryan Boe, Batavia, senior, quarterback: Completed 66% of passes (188 of 287) for 2,977 yards, 33 touchdowns. Ran for 491 yards, 10 TDs. All-state. All-conference. Committed to North Dakota State.

Logan Brasfield, Yorkville, senior, offensive lineman: An anchor at tackle for Southwest Prairie West champs. All-conference. Committed to Coastal Carolina.

Zac Clarke, Oswego East, senior, offensive lineman: Had 36 pancake blocks. Special mention all-state. All-conference. Committed to Cincinnati.

Kenneth Cooley, East Aurora, senior, wide receiver: Had 1,696 all-purpose yards with 27 TDs. Scored 12 receiving, eight running, four punt returns, two kick returns, one fumble return. All-state. Conference's offensive player of year.

Owen Hampton, Aurora Christian, senior, wide receiver: Caught 63 passes for 913 yards, 15 TDs. Added 61 tackles, three interceptions at defensive back. Honorable mention all-state. All-conference.

Bodey McCaslin, St. Charles East, senior, offensive lineman: DuKane Conference's lineman of year. Also played defense. Committed to Iowa.

Frankie Porcaro, Batavia, senior, offensive lineman: Captain for Class 7A state semifinalist that averaged 192 yards rushing, 237 yards passing. All-conference. Committed to Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Grant Stec, Jacobs, senior tight end: Had 23 receptions, 210 yards, two TD's. Contributed 30 pancake blocks. All-conference. Committed to Wisconsin.

Nate Stempowski, Geneva, senior, athlete: Passed for 1,502 yards, 21 TDs. Ran 118 times for 925 yards, six TDs. All-state. All-conference.

Charlie Whelpley, Batavia, senior, running back/punter: Had 134 carries for 760 yards, 11 TDs. Caught 49 passes for 613 yards, four TDs. Put 14 punts inside 20. All-conference.



West Aurora's Terrence Smith (23) heads to the end zone in front of Oswego East's Andrew Karsten (29) during a Southwest Prairie Conference game in Aurora on Friday, Oct. 6, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

First Team Defense

Ben Alvarez, Yorkville, senior, linebacker: Split time at defensive end. Had 35 tackles, seven for loss, two sacks, nine hurries, one interception return for TD. All-conference. Committed to Harvard.

Mikey Claycombe, Oswego, junior, linebacker: Led Panthers in tackles with 82. Added six tackles for loss, two pass breakups. All-conference.

Tony DeBlasio, Kaneland, senior, defensive back: Area leader with six interceptions. Added 83 tackles, one blocked kick. All-conference.

Luis Estrella, West Aurora, senior, linebacker: Had 114 tackles, 94 solo, two sacks. All-state. All-conference.

Ben Fiegel, Batavia, senior, linebacker: Had 114 tackles, 83 solo, 12 for loss. Added two sacks, 14 hurries, six forced fumbles, three passes defended, one interception. Honorable mention all-state. All-conference. Committed to Southern Illinois.

Jake Furtney, St. Charles North, senior, athlete: Had 70 tackles, 15 for loss, five sacks at linebacker. Had 46 catches, 536 yards, five TDs at tight end. All-state. All-conference.

Josh Mauthe, Kaneland, senior, defensive lineman: Had 63 tackles, 10 for loss, seven hurries. Ran for 957 yards, 15 TDs. All-conference.

Chase Osborne, Batavia, junior, defensive back: Had 110 tackles, 87 solo, eight for loss, nine passes defended. All-conference.

Dominic Recchia, Yorkville, junior, kicker/punter: Averaged 35.7 yards a punt. Went 19 of 20 on extra points and 7 of 10 on field goals, including winner at buzzer to clinch conference title. Had 28 tackles as defensive back.

Malachi Smith, Batavia, junior, defensive lineman: Had 28 tackles, 12 for loss, two sacks, 21 hurries. All-conference.

Arnold Walker, East Aurora, senior, defensive lineman: Had 55 1/2 tackles, 11 1/2 for loss, 10 sacks, 16 hurries, two forced fumbles, one blocked punt. All-conference.

Luke Zook, Yorkville, junior, defensive back: Had 52 tackles, five for loss, two interceptions. Ran 58 times for 273 yards, six TDs. All-conference.



Batavia's Ben Fiegel (2) reacts after a sack against Geneva during a DuKane Conference game in Batavia on Friday, Oct. 7, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

Second Team Offense

Troyer Carlson, Kaneland, senior, athlete: Completed 65% of passes for 1,995 yards, 22 TDs. Ran for 363 yards, six TDs in eight games. All-state. All-conference. Committed to Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Brendan Conklin, Batavia, senior, offensive lineman: Key blocker for offense that averaged 429 yards. Special mention all-conference. Committed to Illinois State as preferred walk-on.

Ishmael George, **South Elgin**, junior, wide receiver: Caught 46 passes for 908 yards, 20 TDs.

Honorable mention all-state. All-conference.

Sheko Gjokaj Jr., St. Charles East, sophomore, wide receiver: Had 64 receptions for 683 yards, four TDs. All-conference.

Aric Johnson, Kaneland, senior, wide receiver: Caught 38 passes for 882 yards, 10 TDs. Ran for 304 yards, four TDs. Had 22 tackles, two interceptions. Honorable mention all-state. All-conference.

Jalen Johnson, Waubonsie Valley, senior, tight end: Had 25 receptions for 326 yards, one TD. Added 23 tackles, four for loss, three sacks, 14 hurries. Honorable mention all-conference. Committed to Minnesota.

Waleed Johnson, Plano, senior, running back: Had 1,303 yards rushing, 1,745 all-purpose yards, 20 TDs. All-state. All-conference.

Brett Larson, Kaneland, senior, offensive lineman: Helped power potent attack. All-conference. Committed to Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Aidan Malone, Aurora Christian, senior, offensive lineman: Three-year starter. Added 71 tackles on defense. All-conference.

Joe Pettit, Geneva, junior, offensive lineman: Averaged over 90% on grades for strong run blocking. All-conference.

Ethan Plumb, St. Charles North, junior, quarterback: Completed 64% of passes for 2,541 yards, 20 TD. Ran for 251 yards, nine TDs. Honorable mention all-state. All-conference.

Tommy Roath, **South Elgin**, senior, offensive lineman: Paced high-end offense that averaged 265 yards rushing. Had 13 tackles for loss on defense. All-conference.



South Elgin's Ishmael George (83), makes a catch as Lane Tech's TJ Harper defends during a Class 8A first-round playoff game in South Elgin on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023. (Mark Kodiak Ukena/The Beacon-News)

Second Team Defense

Jeremiah Brown, East Aurora, junior, defensive back: Had 47 tackles, nine pass breakups, two interceptions. Rushed for 1,045 yards, five TDs. All-conference.

Jordan Buckley, Batavia, senior, defensive lineman: Had 30 tackles, seven for loss, three sacks, nine hurries. All-conference. Committed to Western Michigan.

Carson Cooney, Oswego, junior, linebacker: Had 71 tackles, eight for loss, one sack, two pass breakups. All-conference.

Tommy Diamond, Geneva, senior, linebacker: Had 58 tackles, six for loss, two blocked punts, one interception, one defensive TD. Played with a torn labrum in each shoulder. All-conference.

Rocco DiLeonardi, Geneva, senior, defensive lineman: Had 36 tackles, six for loss, three sacks, one blocked punt, one defensive TD. All-conference. Committed to St. Thomas.

Rudy Griffing, Aurora Christian, senior, linebacker: Had 118 tackles, 10 for loss, 3 1/2 sacks, one forced fumble. Honorable mention all-state. All-conference.

Bryan McGladdery, Burlington Central, senior, defensive lineman: Had 62 tackles, 6 1/2 for loss, three sacks, seven hurries, three forced fumbles. All-conference.

Andy Pohlman, Oswego East, junior, defensive back: Had 73 tackles, two interceptions, 10 pass breakups. All-conference.

Kyle Porter, Batavia, senior, defensive back: Had 61 tackles, two for loss, three interceptions, 10 passes defended, two forced fumbles. All-conference.

Paulie Rudolph, Jacobs, senior, athlete: Four-year starter at linebacker. Had 78 tackles, 13 for loss. Ran for 301 yards at fullback. Honorable mention all-state. All-conference. Committed to Wisconsin-Platteville.

Andrew Wiggins, Oswego East, senior, linebacker: Had 44 tackles, three sacks, two interceptions. All-conference. Committed to Army.

Charlie Winterhalter, Geneva, senior, linebacker: Had 94 tackles, four for loss. All-conference.



Geneva's Rocco DiLeonardi (33) gets past Lake Forest's Miles Specketer (43) after grabbing a blocked punt and running it in for a touchdown during a Class 6A second-round playoff game in Lake Forest on Friday, Nov. 3, 2023. (Mark Kodiak Ukena/The Beacon-News)

Honorable Mention

Luke Alwin, Batavia, senior, wide receiver.

Jeremiah Cain, Oswego, junior, wide receiver.

Dominick DeBlasio, Kaneland, senior, wide receiver.

Luke Elsea, Waubonsie Valley, senior, quarterback.

Kali Freeman, Dundee-Crown, senior, wide receiver.

Josh Gettemy, Yorkville, senior, linebacker.

Bryce Griffin, Yorkville, junior, defensive lineman.

Caleb Jones, Sandwich, junior, linebacker.

Cole Klawikowski, Hampshire, junior, running back.

Cris Marquez, **Streamwood**, senior, defensive lineman.

Blake McCluskey, **Bartlett**, senior, offensive lineman.

Jake Mettetal, St. Charles North, senior, wide receiver.
Lucas Norowol, **South Elgin**, senior, linebacker.
Bryce Provis, Waubonsie Valley, senior, linebacker.
Jimmy Ramey, Sandwich, junior, linebacker.
Charlie Reynolds, Marmion, senior, defensive lineman.
Dominic Savini, St. Edward, senior, linebacker.
Kevin Stanislo, Aurora Central Catholic, senior, quarterback.
Azuriah Sylvester, West Aurora, junior, defensive back.
Tyler Threat, Waubonsie Valley, senior, running back.
CJ Valente, Batavia, senior, tight end.
Lucas Van Vlerah, Metea Valley, senior, athlete.

- Chicago Tribune - Basketball scores for the Southland, Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County

By: From Staff Reports

Nov 30, 2023



Aurora Christian's Marshawn Cocroft, right, drives as IMSA's Charles Ludwig defends during a Burney Wilkie Classic game in Aurora on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023. (Jon Cunningham/The Beacon-News)

FOOTBALL

QUARTERFINALS

NAIA

St. Xavier (8-3) at Northwestern (Iowa) (12-0), 1 p.m.

NCAA DIVISION III

North Central College (12-0) at Wisconsin La Crosse (11-1), noon.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Burlington Central 51, Crystal Lake Central 28
Crystal Lake South 40, Dundee-Crown 27
Dunbar 57, Ag. Science 46
Downers Grove South 66, **Streamwood** 24
Hampshire 57, Prairie Ridge 54
Hampshire (3-1, 1-0 Fox Valley): Nick Louis 18 points.
Homewood-Flossmoor 56, Crete-Monee 46
H-F (5-0): Gianni Cobb 19 points, 5 rebounds, 4 steals. Jayden Tyler 11 points.
Jacobs 65, McHenry 56
Jacobs (1-4, 1-0 Fox Valley): Ben Jurzak 22 points.
St. Laurence 54, Providence 39
St. Laurence (2-3, 1-0 CCL White): Bradley Stratton 19 points. Zerrick Johnson 15 points.
Providence (1-4, 0-1): Seth Cheney 21 points.
Somonauk 61, Amboy 36
Somonauk (3-2): Brock Sexton 22 points. Carson Bahrey 17 points, 8 rebounds, 7 assists.
BURNEY WILKIE CLASSIC
Joliet Catholic 64, Harvest Christian 50
JCA (2-0): James Pilapil 22 points. Connor Louthan 16 points.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Bolingbrook 82, Crete-Monee 20
Grayslake Central 55, Prairie Ridge 41
Grayslake North 39, Crystal Lake South 23
Grayslake North: Ashlyn Stoneham 14 points.

Kankakee 41, Lincoln-Way West 31
Lakes 47, Woodstock 32
Lakes (3-2): Jes Ross 9 points.
Lincoln-Way West (2-4): Caroline Smith 15 points.
Lincoln-Way Central 42, Marist 29
Lincoln-Way Central (6-0): Kiya Newson-Cole 14 points.
Morgan Park Academy 36, Intrinsic 28
Oswego East 65, DeKalb 35
Stagg 52, Reavis 35
Stagg (3-3): Abbey Hobart 19 points. Ameli Sanchez 11 points.
Sycamore 59, Neuqua Valley 54

LOCAL COLLEGES

MEN'S BASKETBALL

North Central College 61, Augustana 59
North Central College (2-4, 1-0 CCIW): Ethan Helwig 15 points, 8 rebounds.
Roosevelt 76, Governors State 67
Governors State (3-6, 1-1 CCAC): Kendall Brasfield 16 points.
St. Francis 88, Trinity Christian 43
St. Francis (2-2, 1-1): Rahmel Davis 16 points.
St. Xavier 84, Judson 64
St. Xavier (2-4, 1-1): Cedric Johnson 20 points, 8 rebounds, 6 assists. Andre Brandon 18 points, 9 rebounds.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Carroll (Wis.) 92, North Central College 62

Governors State 54, Roosevelt 49
Governors State (5-2, 2-0 CCAC): Tabetha Jones 16 points, 6 rebounds.
Lake County 79, Madison (Wis.) 32
St. Francis 84, Trinity Christian 49
St. Francis (5-3, 2-0): Amena Alexander 14 points, 8 rebounds, 4 assists.
St. Xavier 82, Judson 41
St. Xavier (3-4, 2-0 CCAC): Eleanor Harris 20 points, 5 rebounds, 4 steals. Alyssa Crenshaw 14 points.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Andrew 60, Argo 36

Andrew (4-1): Grantas Sakenis 20 points.

Argo (1-4): Jayvon King 11 points. Deuce Rayner 11 points.

Aurora Central Catholic 44, Indian Creek 35

Beecher 80, Gardner-South Wilmington 49

Beecher (5-0, 1-0 River Valley): Zack Johnson 19 points, 8 rebounds, 5 assists. Adyn McGinley 18 points, 7 steals.

Benet 59, Nazareth 24

Brother Rice 68, St. Francis de Sales 39

Evergreen Park 87, U-High 45

Evergreen (4-0): Ulises Cardenas 20 points. Keshawn Vaval 18 points. Markell Johnson 14 points.

Geneva 59, **Bartlett** 51

Grant 59, Woodstock 44

Grayslake North 64, Westlake Christian 37

Grayslake North (2-2): Jayden Hunt 22 points. Uros Mitrovic 21 points.

Hinckley-Big Rock 65, Winnebago 46

Hinckley-Big Rock (3-2): Martin Ledbetter 27 points, 17 rebounds. Landon Roop 12 points.

Illinois Lutheran 42, Grant Park 41

Kaneland 79, Rochelle 56

Kaneland (3-1, 1-0 Interstate Eight): Freddy Hassan 27 points, 15 rebounds. Troyer Carlson 19 points.

Lake Zurich 49, Prospect 46 (OT)

Lemont 73, Sandburg 70 (OT)

Leo 55, Bogan 46

Leyden 60, Reavis 50

Lockport 81, Thornridge 37

Lockport (3-2): Logan Cooper 15 points, 6 assists. Evan Dziadkowiec 12 points.

Mount Carmel 55, Fenwick 25

Mount Carmel (5-0, 1-0 CCL Blue): Angelo Ciaravino 26 points.

Marist 57, St. Patrick 32

Marist (5-0, 1-0 ESCC): Adoni Vassilakis 20 points. Darshan Thomas 13 points.

Marmion 70, Marian Central Catholic 64

Marmion (3-2): Evan Stumm 25 points. Caden Anderson 19 points, 8 rebounds.

Naperville Central 55, Lincoln-Way Central 41

Naperville Central (4-1): Ross DeZur 14 points. Alex Liabo 11 points. Preston Kuta 10 points.

Neuqua Valley 71, Morton 34

Niles West 58, Mundelein 53

Oak Lawn 64, Chicago Christian 28

Oswego East 47, Minooka 39

Richards 74, College Prep School of America 45

Richards (2-3): Camren King 15 points. Isaiah Johnson 15 points.
Richmond-Burton 70, Round Lake 26
St. Charles North 42, West Chicago 32
St. Charles North (4-1): Parker Reinke 14 points. Jake Furtney 11 points.
St. Viator 55, Carmel 50
Carmel (3-2, 0-1 ESCC): Kaleb Jackson 13 points. Jacob Chajet 12 points.
Stagg 68, Bremen 47
Stagg (5-0): Connor Williams 25 points, 7 assists, 5 rebounds. Domas Narcivicius 16 points.
Vernon Hills 56, Lakes 53
Vernon Hills (4-1): Deen Hatibovic 19 points. Dylan Chong 18 points.
Lakes (1-4): Thomas Mercure 23 points.
Warren 56, New Trier 42
Warren (4-1): Javerion Banks 19 points. Jaxson Davis 17 points.
West Aurora 55, Yorkville 33
West Aurora (3-2, 1-0 Southwest Prairie West): C.J. Savage 19 points. Jordan Brooks 13 points, 5 assists.
Yorkville (2-2, 0-1): Jason Jakstys 10 points.
Yorkville Christian 77, Universal 48
Yorkville Christian (2-3): Jayden Riley 29 points.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Andrew 34, Shepard 23
Batavia 63, Naperville Central 38
Batavia (4-1): Addie Prewitt 14 points. Brooke Carlson 12 points.
Burlington Central 47, Crystal Lake Central 41
De La Salle 52, Rosary 33
Downers Grove North 40, Lincoln-Way West 32
Lincoln-Way West (2-3): Peyton Madl 13 points.
Dundee-Crown 55, Crystal Lake South 34
Elgin 50, South Elgin 42
Elgin (4-1, 1-0 Upstate Eight): Izzie Castro 17 points. Isabella Coleman 15 points.
Fenton 34, East Aurora 28
Geneva 58, Naperville North 39
Geneva (3-2): Leah Palmer 23 points.
Hampshire 57, Prairie Ridge 33
Hampshire (2-3, 1-0 Fox Valley): Whitney Thompson 21 points.
Jacobs 50, McHenry 30
Kaneland 53, Winnebago 34
Kaneland (5-2): Lexi Schueler 20 points. Sam Kerry 11 points.
Lake Zurich 54, Mundelein 38
Libertyville 63, Zion-Benton 20
Libertyville (5-2, 1-0 North Suburban): Madison Sears 13 points. Sophia Swanson 11 points.
Lincoln-Way East 59, Richards 25
Lincoln-Way East (4-1): Addison Aidinovich 12 points. Lilly Dockemeyer 11 points.
Richards (1-4): Kailey Moore 18 points.
Loyola 52, Providence 45
Providence (3-2, 0-1 GCAC Red): Molly Knight 17 points.
Maine West 46, Vernon Hills 31
Mother McAuley 59, Trinity 42
McAuley: Morgan Feil 22 points, 5 rebounds. Grace Gambotz 17 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists.
Oak Lawn 36, Bradley-Bourbonnais 30

Oak Lawn (2-3): Danielle Dempsey 12 points, 15 rebounds.
Oswego East 68, Minooka 57
Oswego East (2-4, 1-0 Southwest Prairie West): Aubrey Lamberti 23 points. Desiree Merritt 16 points.
Plainfield North 67, Oswego 42
Plano 48, Sandwich 27
Plano (3-4, 1-0 Interstate Eight): Josie Larson 21 points, 12 rebounds.
St. Charles East 55, Waubonsie Valley 48
Sandburg 74, Tinley Park 9
Thornton 63, Argo 32
Warren 56, Lake Forest 35
Warren (3-2, 1-0 North Suburban): Mariah Phelps 20 points.
Wheaton Academy 54, Hinckley-Big Rock 33
West Chicago 42, **Streamwood** 28
Yorkville 61, West Aurora 48
Yorkville (3-2, 1-0 Southwest Prairie West): Brooke Spychalski 23 points. Mackenzie Sweeney 18 points.

LOCAL COLLEGES

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Kishwaukee 90, Moraine Valley 84
Lake County 78, Harper 56
Monmouth 75, Lake Forest College 62
Rock Valley 91, Prairie State 54
South Suburban 75, Marian Ancilla (Ind.) 48
South Suburban (6-0): Jemel Jones 27 points.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lake Forest College 59, Monmouth 57
Moraine Valley 86, Kishwaukee 46
Rock Valley 88, Prairie State 59
Sauk Valley 67, **Elgin** 63

-Daily Herald -

DuPage and Fox girls basketball notes: Carlson starts season on fire for surging Batavia

By: Mike Miazga

11/29/2023



Batavia's Brooke Carlson averaged 26.3 points in her first four games this year. (Gary E Duncan Sr./for Shaw Local News Network)

Batavia senior standout Brooke Carlson is putting up points like they are going out of style.

Carlson averaged 26.3 points in four games at the Naperville Central Tip-Off tournament, including a 34-point, 6-rebound, 4-steal and 3-assist effort in the title game against Chicago Kenwood (Kenwood won 70-63).

In that Kenwood game, Carlson also was a perfect 10-for-10 from the foul line. Kylee Gehrt had 14 points and hit 3 threes in the title game. She's averaging 12.3 points for coach Kevin Jensen's squad.

Downers Grove North update:

The Trojans went 4-1 at the Schaumburg tournament. Kaitlyn Parker (13 points per game) and Hope Sebek (11 points per game) were named to the all-tournament team. North's only loss was by 3 points to Schaumburg.

Fenton update:

The Bison scored a 51-29 win over Calumet Christian at the Parkview Christian Thanksgiving tournament in Orland Park. Junior Elizabeth Delgado was the Fenton player of the game in a nonconference game against Bremen, while senior Isabella Valadez earned player of the tournament for the Bison at Parkview.

Glenbard North update:

Mikaela Quinn was an all-tournament pick at the recent Rachel Bach District 87 tournament (featuring the three Glenbard schools).

Glenbard South update:

The Raiders have been hit with some bad news to start the year with two-time all-conference player and senior captain Allie Mizwicki out with an injury, and then senior captain Sofia Alcala left a game against Glenbard West with an injury.

Brooklynn Moore has been a highlight for the Raiders. She had 20 points and 5 rebounds in a win over Glenbard North. Callie Hardtke had 9 points and 5 steals in a loss to Glenbard East.

Glenbard West update:

Makenna Yeager was the tournament MVP at the District 87 tournament. Lauren Escalante and Julia

Benjamin also were named all-tournament for the champion Hilltoppers.

Hinsdale Central update:

Grace Dolan leads the Red Devils in scoring, while coach Eric Novolio noted Julia Sherpitis provides great energy off the bench (16 points in a game against Stagg). Luella Sheehan, Greta Dani, Maya Gin and Katherine Skinner have also been key for Central (2-2).

Huntley update:

Coach Steve Raethz's squad split four games at the Dundee-Crown tournament.

Luca Garlin had 10 points against Rockford Boylan, Anna Campanelli had a 15-point, 13-rebound effort against Hononegah, while Cassidy Serpe and 13 points against St. Viator. Campanelli had 13 points against **South Elgin**.

Raethz pointed out Huntley, with 10 new players on the varsity, had leads deep into the second half of the two losses to Boylan and Hononeagah.

Kaneland update:

The Knights went 3-1 at the Burlington Central tournament. Kendra Brown was named to the all-tournament team after averaging 18.5 points per game for Kaneland (4-1 overall).

Larkin update:

Sanaii McPherson is averaging 12.6 points per game while Mia Carter is averaging around 10 points for the Royals, who went 2-2 at the Burlington Central tournament.

Lisle update:

Improved pressure defense and rebounding have helped Lisle get off to a 3-3 start (2 losses by a combined 3 points), coach Nick Balaban noted. Crystal McHugh leads the Lions in scoring at 18.5 points per game, and she also went over the 1,000 career point milestone.

Montini update:

Coming off a 4-0 showing and winning the Willowbrook tournament, Montini picked up where it left off, scoring a 63-31 win over Glenbrook South in its home opener. Viki Matulivicious finished with 20 points and 7 rebounds, while Nikki Kerstein had 14 points, 6 assists and 7 steals for the 5-0 Broncos. At Willwobrook, Kerstein was an all-tournament first-team pick, while Matulivicious earned second-team honors (12-assist effort in one game). Kerstein also went over the 1,000-point mark for her career at the tournament.

Naperville North update:

The Huskies won the Warhawk tournament with a 3-0 mark, scoring wins against Plainfield Central (by 32 points), Aurora Central Catholic (39-38) and West Aurora (37-31).

Rosary update:

The Royals were 2-2 at the IC Catholic Prep/Timothy Christian tournament, led by a trio of scorers in juniors Karyna Brol and Maddie Stumm, along with senior Erin Murray. Coach Ken Ubertino lauded the strong defensive play of senior Megan Molenhouse and sophomore Peyton Saltijeral.

South Elgin update:

The Storm started the week 1-3, which includes a 50-44 win over host Dundee-Crown at D-C's Thanksgiving tournament. Lexi Lopez has been **South Elgin's** leading scorer in all its games.

St. Charles East update:

Alexis Maridis was named to the all-tournament team at York. The Saints went 3-1 at York and took third.

St. Charles North update:

The North Stars are off to a 5-0 start, which included winning the Burlington Central tournament (beating Lake Park for the title).

Senior Reagan Sipla is averaging 18 points per game. She's a Quinnipiac University commit. Lacey Stark is averaging 9 points, 6 steals and 5 assists. Both were named all-tournament at Burlington.

St. Edward update:

The Green Wave went 2-2 at the Oregon tournament where freshman Savannah Lynch was named to the all-tournament team after averaging 16.3 points per game.

St. Francis update:

The Spartans got off to a 3-1 start and took third at the Brenda Whitesell tournament in Hinsdale, losing only to defending state-champion and nationally ranked Nazareth. St. Francis averaged 60 points in its three wins after averaging 40 points a game last year. Riley Austin leads the team in scoring at 17 points per game, while Tea Rubino is second at 10 points.

St. Francis will head to the famed Hoosiers Gym in Knightstown, Ind., Saturday to face IC Catholic Prep. St. Francis coach Jeff Gerdeman noted both teams will have quick practice sessions on Friday, including court time for families to partake in a shootaround. A joint dinner and bowling outing is also planned for Friday.

The Falcons were 4-2 to start the week, led by the likes of Sara Abdul (14.8 points per game), Zoey Bohmer (14 points, 8.2 rebounds) and Mira Spillane (11 points, 4.2 rebounds). The Falcons, averaging 12.5 steals per game, lost to host Lyons in the championship game at Thanksgiving.

Willowbrook update:

Wright State commit Elle Bruschk (first team) and Ayanni Gusman (second team) were named all-tournament for the Warriors at their own Thanksgiving tournament. Bruschk is averaging 11.5 points, 14.5 rebounds, 5.2 assists and 3.5 steals for Willowbrook (1-4 to start the week).