

## BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Upstate Eight	Conf.	Overall
East Aurora	3-0	14-4
Neuqua Valley	5-1	20-1
St. Charles North	5-1	13-5
South Elgin	3-1	10-5
Waubonsie Valley	3-2	9-8
Bartlett	2-2	10-6
Elgin	2-2	8-10
Larkin	1-4	6-11
Streamwood	1-5	7-10
St. Charles East	1-5	3-14
Lake Park	0-5	3-16

Fox Valley (Valley)	Conf.	Overall
Jacobs	2-0	16-2
Dundee-Crown	2-0	11-4
McHenry	1-1	8-8
Woodstock	1-1	4-13
Cary-Grove	0-2	11-8
Crystal Lake South	0-2	10-8

Fox Valley (Fox)	Conf.	Overall
Grayslake Central	2-0	12-6
Prairie Ridge	2-0	11-7
Huntley	1-1	11-7
Johnsburg	1-1	10-8
Grayslake North	0-2	6-10
Crystal Lake Central	0-2	3-15

Big Northern East	Conf.	Overall
Hampshire	4-0	11-6
Richmond-Burton	3-0	10-7
Burlington Central	3-2	9-7
North Boone	1-3	5-10
Marengo	1-3	3-14
Harvard	0-4	3-16

Big Northern West	Conf.	Overall
Winnebago	4-0	19-0
Rockford Lutheran	4-1	13-4
Genoa-Kingston	3-3	11-8
Byron	2-2	12-6
Oregon	2-4	7-13
Stillman Valley	0-5	2-15

Suburban Catholic	Conf.	Overall
Aurora Central C.	10-0	17-2
Marmion	7-4	9-11
St. Francis	5-3	11-6
Imm. Conception	6-4	13-7
Driscoll	3-5	9-9
Marian Central	2-5	9-11
St. Edward	2-7	6-13
Montini	1-9	1-16

Other Teams	Conf.	Overall
Westminster Christian	1-4	11-7
Elgin Academy	1-5	3-12

# Race for UEC title coming into focus

## East Aurora being chased by local teams

By Erik Jacobsen  
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With just under a month left in the regular season the Upstate Eight Conference title race is beginning to take shape.

Few observers will dispute that defending champion Neuqua Valley (20-1, 5-1) is the league's best team as it sports the No. 2 ranking in the most recent Class 4A state poll. However, in an indication of the UEC's competitive nature this season, the Wildcats aren't even on top of the conference standings.

That's because Neuqua's only setback came shortly before Christmas in a 74-70 loss at East Aurora. The Tomcats (14-4, 3-0) still haven't lost a UEC game and are alone in first place.

With tough league tests against Neuqua, South Elgin and Waubonsie Valley in the rear-view mirror, East Aurora is clearly in control of the championship race. However, the Tomcats aren't necessarily a lock for their first UEC title since the 1998-99 season, considering some disciplinary issues that are surrounding the team.

Standout Will Brown was out of the lineup last Saturday when East Aurora was upset by Marmion 52-51 on its home floor. A loss like that seems to provide an opening for Neuqua, South Elgin (10-5, 3-1) and St. Charles North (13-5, 5-1), which are tied for second place, a game behind the Tomcats in the loss column.

Of those three teams, only the North Stars still have East Aurora left on the schedule. The two squads will meet Feb. 24 at East Aurora in a make-up game from a contest that was postponed earlier this month.



South Elgin point guard Alex Sanchez drives between St. Charles East's Tim Russell and Phil Kohlhagen.  
SHAUNA BITTLE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Assuming those two teams make it through the next few weeks with relatively little damage in conference play, that game could determine the league's champion. Adding to the intrigue is the fact that the North Stars edged East Aurora 53-50 in the season opener for both teams in November at the St. Charles East Tournament.

North's lone conference loss came in a 68-64 setback against Neuqua in December. Winners of 10 of their past 11 games, the North Stars have remaining conference games against Lake Park, Waubonsie Valley and South Elgin in addition to East Aurora.

"Honest to gosh, every night in the conference I expect a battle," North coach Tom Poulin said. "We like where we're at with one loss and having it be to Neuqua. That's nothing to hold your head down about, but we've got a lot of work to do."

**Royals get a boost** — Larkin (6-11, 1-4) isn't in the UEC title discussion, but things are looking up for the Royals despite being in the midst of a four-game losing streak.

That's because juniors Jermaine Clements and Garrett McDaniels became academically eligible with the

start of the second semester last week after missing the first 16 games.

The duo made an immediate impact against St. Charles North last week with Clements scoring eight points and McDaniels adding five points. That came as no surprise to Larkin coach Larry Hight, who expects more contributions from the pair after seeing their talents during the summer.

"Garrett can play inside," Hight said. "He's not a tall inside player, but he's like a miniature Charles Barkley and can move people around. Jermaine can play anywhere. If he can fit in with our schemes he'll be fine."

**Streiking Eagles** — Jacobs will be in search of its 15th straight win when it travels to Woodstock on Friday.

Long winning streaks are nothing new to the Eagles, who have had four different win streaks of 10 or more games since the start of the 2006-07 season. They own a 68-7 record in that span.

The current win streak is already longer than last year's season-best 13 straight victories. However, Jacobs still has a ways to go before matching the 2006-07 team's school-best 21 consecutive wins.

## BOYS BASKETBALL STATISTICS

## SCORING LEADERS

Krutwig	Jac	22.7
Senechalle	SCE	22.0
Little	Bart	21.3
Esikiel	Swood	20.3
Labedzki	Bart	19.6
Suchy	G-K	18.4
Beck	D-C	16.8
Redburg	Elgin	15.8
Larkin	BC	15.4
Roth	Elgin	15.2
John	Lark	13.1
Lewis	Swood	12.7
Neari	SCN	12.4
Dix	StEd	11.8
Muench	G-K	11.8
McCurdy	BC	11.0
Boster	Hunt	10.7
Coleman	StEd	10.6
Kozenczak	Hamp	10.6
Mikes	SCN	10.5

## REBOUNDING

Senechalle	SCE	10.5
Krutwig	Jac	9.6
John	Lark	6.8
Whitaker	Bart	6.6
Kastel	SCN	6.5
Dutcher	WC	6.4
Kimbrough	D-C	6.2
Beachler	WC	6.0
Martin	StEd	5.7
Mikes	SCN	5.6
Beck	D-C	5.5
Lopez	SoElg	5.4
Moran	Jac	5.3
Cooks	Lark	5.1
Domokos	Swood	5.1

## ASSISTS

Little	Bart	4.8
Peterson	Jac	4.5
Moran	Jac	4.3
Saurbaugh	Lark	3.9
DeMoss	SCN	3.5
Graves	WC	3.5
Neari	SCN	3.5
Sanchez	SoElg	3.3
Lewis	Swood	3.1
Dix	StEd	2.9

## STEALS

Little	Bart	2.6
Esikiel	Swood	2.5
Lewis	Swood	2.4
Cooks	Lark	2.2
Brauer	Swood	2.1
Neari	SCN	2.0
Sanchez	SoElg	1.8
Whitaker	Bart	1.8
Beachler	WC	1.7
Simonini	Lark	1.7

## FREE-THROW % (MIN. 15 ATT.)

Lefelstein	SCN	87.5
Stade	SoElg	86.1
Doty	BC	83.3
Labedzki	Bart	82.0
Hirsch	SCN	81.0
Little	Bart	80.5
Martin	StEd	79.2
Boster	Hunt	78.6
Smith	Lark	76.5
Krutwig	Jac	75.8

## 3-POINTERS MADE

Hirsch	SCN	40
Labedzki	Bart	40
Dix	StEd	38
Coleman	StEd	37
Smith	Lark	36
Mastio	BC	35
Stupar	D-C	35
Nicosia	WC	34
Suchy	G-K	33
Esikiel	Swood	31

## On the Web

Visit [couriernewsonline.com/sports](http://couriernewsonline.com/sports) for video highlights and post-game interviews of Friday night's Burlington Central at Hampshire boys basketball game. Photo galleries of that game and from the Bartlett at Streamwood game will also be available.

