

# SPORTS



## BRUSHIN' UP

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## NEW HIRES

Lake Forest College hires new coaches for multiple programs, Page 29

Lake Forest's Grant Kaus passes the ball to a teammate in the Net Gain charity tournament July 2 at Lake Forest High School. CLAIRE ESKER/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

# SCOUTS' GAIN EARNS MORE

Lake Forest's Net Gain charity basketball game raises funds, bonds players, Page 30

## SPORTS COVER STORY

# Scouts host Orr, Marshall in charity basketball game

Net Gain two-year total jumps to \$40K

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“What can we do to help these kids?”

That was Lake Forest basketball’s first question after reading Rich Telander’s award-winning Chicago Sun-Times series.

The five-part article, written by Telander in 2017, highlighted Orr Academy High School’s basketball team and its path to the 2017 IHSA Class 2A state championship amidst playing and living in the turbulent and violent streets of Chicago’s west side.

Telander, along with the help of Tom Dickelman, Fred Koch and Phil LaScala, the head coach of the LFHS varsity basketball team, planned, organized and debuted the inaugural Net Gain charity event last year, which featured a charity exhibition game between Lake Forest and Orr.

For the second year in a row, the Lake Forest High School boys basketball team hosted its annual Net Gain fundraising event July 2.

Net Gain expanded to a four-team doubleheader this year, headlined by the Scouts in a rematch against the reigning two-time defending IHSA Class 2A state champions,

Orr Academy.

A second game followed featuring another city-suburban matchup, New Trier Trevians squared off against the John Marshall Metropolitan High School.

Net Gain has raised more than \$40,000 with all of the proceeds pledged to finance Orr’s, and now Marshall’s, athletic programs.

Net Gain is more than just fundraising, the main objective is to bridge different racial and socioeconomic backgrounds and communities together by using basketball. The game is used as a binding agent, a unifying mechanism, to thwart stereotypes and stigmas that have been etched into the social fabric of American

society.

“We had them read all of Telander’s articles to show them what was going on in the west side of Chicago,” LaScala said. “It’s night and day. Lake Forest and west Chicago are on opposite sides of the spectrum, and we thought it would be a great idea to bring everyone together and help out the community.”

In preparation for the Net Gain fundraiser, members of the LFHS basketball spread awareness around town and spurred more interest from their family and friends.

“We went out and hung up signs and tried to explain the cause to get the community involved,” Tommy Hanson, a Lake Forest rising senior forward, said. “It was cool to see how receptive they were.”

The day of the event, Net Gain T-shirts and raffle tickets were sold to help raise as much as possible.

When it came to the actual game, the Scouts were able to avenge last year’s close loss to Orr.

In the end it was Scouts that edged out Orr, 50-44, but it was Orr that came out strong and aggressive.

Momentum favored the Spartans early, two Scout turnovers led to two consecutive rim-rattling dunks at the other end. Orr Academy led 9-4 midway through the first quarter.

The Scouts responded with poise and good fundamentals, passing their way through the Spartan press and patiently moving the ball on offense.

Lake Forest tied the game at the end of the opening period at 16 apiece, led by 8 first-quarter points from Hanson,



Stephen Young looks to make a move during the Net Gain game against Orr Academy July 2 at LFHS. PHOTOS BY CLAIRE ESKER/22ND CENTURY MEDIA



Grant Kaus looks for an open passing lane.

who hit two 3’s and converted a layup underneath the hoop as time expired.

Lake Forest took control of the game in the second quarter behind its stifling defense and offensive execution. The Scouts started the second frame on an 11-0 scoring run attacking the Spartan pressure and holding Orr scoreless the first four minutes of the

quarter. The Scouts would eventually take a 31-23 lead into halftime.

The Spartans did not go away though, they mounted a comeback of its own in the second half and tied the game at 33 with 2 minutes, 7 seconds left in the third quarter. The Scout offense came alive in the fourth quarter. Led

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## BASKETBALL

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by Hanson once again, the Scouts went on a 9-2 scoring run. Fellow rising seniors Michael Pasquella and Crawford Bolton put the Scouts up 46-38 with 1:31 left in the game.

Hanson led all scorers with 17 points, while Pasquella paced the Scouts with 10.

“The kids played well. I think they were really excited to play,” LaScala said. “I thought they did a great job of sharing the ball and a pretty good job of rebounding.”

For Hanson, he felt the game was a good test for the team.

“It was a good close to our summer,” Hanson said. “It was a good culmination to everything we’ve been working on as a team.”

In the second game, New Trier was able to use a huge third quarter to pull away from Marshall, winning big 71-56.

To end a day filled with fun and competition, LaScala, along with other members of the LFHS basketball family and athletic office, took to the grill and cooked up hamburgers and hotdogs right outside the competition gym in the senior parking lot, allowing all four teams to break bread and relax after a long and tiring month of June summer camp.

“It is really cool to be able to interact with kids who aren’t necessarily from the same background as you,” Hanson said. “It’s also interesting to see how much you have in common whether its basketball or in general.”

The addition of New Trier and Marshall was welcomed by LaScala as he is looking forward toward the future and potentially expanding Net Gain’s reach to more communities.

“It was great having two more teams this year, it’s always great to meet new people,” LaScala said. “Next year, we might try and expand it to an eight-team, four-game shootout somewhere.”