

Older teenagers now eligible for vaccines in St. Louis area



Upper-level high school students can now get the COVID-19 vaccine just in time for prom and graduation.

Missouri’s eligibility rules open vaccines to all residents 16 and older starting Friday, with Illinois opening up on Monday. One of the available vaccines, from Pfizer, is authorized for use starting at age 16.

“The vaccines are really our way out, but we also have to be cautious in this transitional phase where not everyone is vaccinated,” said Dr. Brad Ornstein, pediatric infectious disease specialist at Mercy.

Dr. Matifadza Hlatshwayo Davis, an infectious disease specialist at Washington University, said it is valid to have concerns about the vaccine because of historical mistreatment and abuse of Black people in medical research.

“They should make the decision that is best for them and their families using the best available information ... that should be from trusted messengers, people like myself who have dedicated their careers to this work,” she said in a **video for the Hazelwood School District’s Help Hazelwood Get Healthy** public health campaign.

Top U20 Talent To Compete With Pros At Miramar Invite



Just one year removed from **Hazelwood West High School, Justin Robinson**, 19, will compete against professionals in a loaded 400m field this weekend.

Robinson opted not to enroll at Arizona State in the fall -- he had signed with the Sun Devils during the National Letter of Intent period -- after making the decision to play it safe due to ongoing conditions surrounding competition.

So this will be Robinson's first big opportunity to challenge himself against athletes he will likely see at the U.S. Olympic Trials in June. The field consists of top names such as Will London, Quincy Hall, Michael Cherry, and Kahmari Montgomery.

This will be Robinson's first competition since August, when he competed at the American Track League Meet and ran 44.91 seconds, ending the year with the world lead at the distance. He beat Cherry by .07 seconds at that meet.

Friedrich's playmaking has SLU soccer on a roll



St. Louis University midfielder Hannah Friedrich, a sophomore from Hazelwood West, leads the team with 10 goals and has seven game-winning goals.

In four years as a varsity starter at Hazelwood West, Hannah Friedrich scored 108 goals, a school record, and she never doubted her ability to do so.

Arriving at St. Louis University, the 5-foot-2 midfielder figured that would change, but she emerged from her first two seasons on a pace to break the SLU career record for goals.

“She’s the first real, true goal scorer we’ve had in the program,” coach Katie Shields said in the preseason.

However, something changed when the Billikens’ COVID-delayed season started in February. There were fewer goals from Friedrich and more for everyone else.

With two games remaining in the regular season, the junior leads the country with 12 assists and has scored only two goals. And it’s all worked in the team’s favor as SLU enters Thursday night’s home game against Dayton at 7 p.m. ranked No. 20 with an 11-1 record.

“Through all my years of playing my first thought is scoring,” Friedrich said. “This year is definitely different. I’m still thinking about scoring, but if I have a chance to pass to someone for a wide-open shot, I’m going to do that.”

Friedrich scored in SLU’s second game and then went nine without hitting the back of the net. Instead, she has assisted seven teammates on goals and has piled up eight in the last five wins.

https://www.stltoday.com/sports/college/slu/friedrichs-playmaking-has-slu-soccer-on-a-roll/article_868128a7-7615-502b-b59b-46e4bc56d8cd.html

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Lionel Banks •

Hazelwood Central football



A 5-foot-7, 185-pound junior running back, Banks had 31 carries for 174 yards and three touchdowns rushing, including the game winner on an 8-yard run with 1:56 to play, to beat Pattonville 28-21. He also had a 10-yard TD run in the first quarter and ran 6 yards for a score in the second quarter. It was the first 100-yard rushing game of the season for Banks, who is a first-year starter. Overall, Banks has 74 carries for 450 yards and seven touchdowns this season after playing sparingly and rushing for 32 yards and one TD as a sophomore. He also competes in track and field, specializing in the 100 and 200 meters and the sprint relays.