



Photo: Rachel Ray

The East Prairie seventh and eighth grade band performs during the spring concert on Wednesday, May 9.

Warriors ready for post season after closing week at Bush Stadium

By Kayleigh Rahn

**Monday, May 7
Tuscola-10; Unity-3**

Tuscola took down Unity 10-3 on Monday, May 7 thanks to 14 hits and a six-run fourth inning.

“We came out really swinging the bats well tonight,” Coach Duff Hoel said. “There was a strong wind blowing in, but we were able to hit a few balls over the head of their outfielders. We had a nice approach overall trying to stay on top of the ball and not elevate it into the wind. We had several base hits to the opposite field, which is good hitting and something we are going to have to do if we are going to make a deep run in the post season.”

Brayden VonLanken went 2 for 3, while Pierce (2-3) and Lucas Kresin (2-4) added an RBI apiece, Tyler Meindhold (2-4) had two RBIs and Haden Cothron (2-4) tallied three.

Cale Sementi battled for four innings from the mound. He walked five, struck out four, and allowed one run on two hits.

“Cale was effective tonight, but not as efficient as we need him to be,” Hoel said. “He walked five guys, but got himself out of several jams and was aided by some good defensive plays.”

The team committed five errors, which Hoel said was concerning.

“We’ll spend some time in practice discussing some of those in an attempt to get them corrected,” he noted.

**Wednesday, May 9
Tuscola-15; Salt Fork-0**

Two nights later the Warriors headed to Salt Fork where Tuscola Noah Pierce led the Warriors to a 15-0 win.

Pierce put in 4 2/3 innings of work for one hit, three walks, and nine strike outs.

The Warrior bats were hot with 14 hits leading to runs in each of the five innings.

Cade Kresin went 3 for 3



Photo: Douglas Cottle

Warrior players in the dugout before CIC action with the Clinton Maroons at Busch Stadium. The Warriors defeated the Maroons 7-3 as they finish the regular season with a 32-3 record.

with two RBIs, and Andrew Erickson, who went 4-5, put together six RBIs including a homerun. Pierce helped his own cause with 2 RBIs and a homerun, and Lucas Kresin went 3-4.

**Thursday, May 10
Tuscola-15; Windsor-6**

TCHS senior Andrew Erickson showed up big for his Senior Night at Ervin Park Thursday, May 10.

Erickson hit two home runs to tally five RBIs in the 15-6 win over Windsor.

“We continued hitting the ball hard as a team and put up 15 runs against a good team,” Hoel said after the game.

Tyler Meindhold got the start on the mound for the Warriors, though he was up in the zone early and spotted

them a couple of runs before settling in, Hoel noted.

“Cade Kresin relieved Tyler and was up in the zone too much, giving up two home runs to allow them to tie the score at 6,” the coach said. “Logan Tabeling came in the game in the fifth and closed things out for us allowing no runs.”

It was Senior Night for the eight team members from the class of 2018.

“All 8 of them got the start and contributed to the win,” Hoel said. “This is a special group that has seen Warrior Baseball win 110 games to date in their high school careers. Dalton Hoel and Andrew Erickson have been major contributors in all 110 wins, while Noah Pierce, Tyler Meindhold, Jacob Crad-

dock and Cale Sementi are three-year contributors, and Caleb Stumeier and Hunter Hutcherson are two-year Varsity players. Each of the eight seniors have been a part of Warrior Baseball for all four years of high school.”

**Friday, May 11
Tuscola-7; Arcola-12**

The Friday night Cola War was a pitcher’s duel through four innings; however, Tuscola eventually found a rhythm and beat Arcola 7-2 on Friday, May 11.

Andrew Erickson collected the win for Tuscola after four innings with no runs, one hit, no walks, and eight strike outs.

“Erickson was lights out on the mound,” Hoel said. “We took him out to keep his

pitch count down so he could pitch at Busch Stadium Sunday. Brayden VonLanken came in and they worked a couple of runs out of him, but we felt pretty good about our lead. Cade (Kresin) threw (Thursday) night and had some issues, but he came in tonight to close it out and looked good.”

Erickson continued his hot streak at the plate with a 3-3 night.

“He is heating up at the right time, but some of the guys in front of him are in a bit of a slump,” the coach admitted. “If we can get them all rolling, we feel like we’ll be able to score on about any team.”

Hoel said the boys looked a bit tired after a long week.

“We lacked focus in

pregame and that carried over into the game,” Hoel said. “It is very difficult to get properly ready mentally every night out.”

The Warriors tallied nine hits as VonLanken went 2-3, Tyler Meindhold was 2-4, and Lucas Kresin was 2-5.

**Sunday, May 13
Tuscola-7; Clinton-3**

After facing a rain out last month, the Warriors were given a second chance to play at the St. Louis Cardinals’ Busch Stadium.

The Warriors walked away with the 7-3 win over Clinton in a nine-inning show down, and every player on the team had a hand in the win that was treated similarly to an exhibition game for both teams.

“We pitched a different pitcher every inning, and our batting line-up was all 24 healthy players, oldest to youngest,” Hoel said. “Will Little and Matthew Erickson are both on the disabled list and unable to play, so they coached third base. It was a terrific reward for a season that, to date, has gone quite well with grades and discipline, not to mention wins.”

The Tuscola boys tallied 11 base hits and every player was able to see three innings on defense.

“The guys got a chance to play in a big league stadium on a very well conditioned field,” Hoel said. “Our approach at the plate was to try and hit the ball out of the park. Cale Sementi hit a ball deep, so did Jacob Craddock and Logan Tabeling.”

Hunter Hutcherson and Max Wyninger each had two hits.

“We were three at bats away from every player getting two plate appearances,” he said. “Unfortunately our freshmen, Cole Cunningham, Nathan Koester and Ben Tiezzi, only got one plate appearance, but Koester singled in his at bat. It was a wonderful experience for our players.”

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AROUND the Halls

By Caleigh Parsley

Wednesday, May 2 was the last Key Club meeting of this school year where the Kiwanis Club provided pizza. They inducted the 2018-2019 Officers which are Sabrina Alcorn (President), Ryan Bartley (Vice President), Justine Kauffman (Secretary), Kelsey Slaughter (Statistical Secretary), Emily Kemp (Social Media Editor), and Dillan Alcorn (Sophomore Director).

Thursday, May 3 the Tuscola FFA Chapter attended National Day of Prayer at the Forty Martyrs in Tuscola. More than 30 members were

dressed in official dress to be present at this event. FFA members helped serve lunch and clean-up.

Student Council had State Convention in Springfield where Sydney Hoel brought the Honor Council book, which they won a plaque for; JD Barrett presented an idea board over our collection for a high school in Texas that was affected by the hurricane, which he received the Pillar Award for Dedication; Sabrina Alcorn led a discussion group over Student Council participation; and Whitney

Root made a donation. Those students, Sydney, JD, Sabrina, and Whitney were Honor Delegates. Kelsey Slaughter, Emma Zimmer, Emily, Kemp, Justine Kauffman, Dillan Alcorn, and Gabby Gunther were all regular delegates. Tuscola Student Council was also recognized as an Honor Council Winner and the Kickapoo District was awarded the number one Student Council District in Illinois!

Friday, May 11 FFA had Ag Outside the Classroom in the East Prairie parking lot. There were East Prairie and

North Ward students, as well as several children from area preschools that came out to see the dogs, chickens, goats, pigs, cattle, a duck, a horse, a bunny, and the tractors.

Monday, May 14 SADD had their last meeting of the year during which they reviewed the year’s accomplishments and prepared for next year. Leadership team applications were due at the end of the day. FCCLA had officer interviews for the 2018-2019 school year during lunch as well.

