



Photo: Rachel Ray

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

# Back to Back to Back conference title for Lady Warrior SOFTBALL



Tuscola's softball team clinched their third straight league crown this past Thursday night on the road at Macon Meridian. The Lady Warriors upended the first place Lady Hawks two weeks ago to set up the championship showdown.

The Lady Hawks chipped away early in the contest, building a five-run lead entering the top of the sixth on top 5-0. It was not enough, however, as the ladies in black and gold stormed back to take the lead and ultimately secured the

program's third consecutive Central Illinois Conference championship in extra innings. The win was thanks to a solo homerun by Isabelle Shelmadine in the top of the eighth and a quick 1, 2, 3 inning in the bottom half for the Hawks.

Ashton Smith had the pill for Tuscola. The junior gave up a run in each of the first three frames before giving way to Kaitlyn Reifsteck. The two combined to scatter 11 hits and three walks out over eight innings of action while striking out three. Meridian pushed another pair across in the fifth before the Warriors finally broke through with a run in the top of the sixth.

Jackie Watson started the offense in the frame with a single but was caught on fielder's choice by Allison Clark who moved to second on a single by Alexis Koester

and scored on a base knock by Reifsteck making it 5-1 Hawks. Smith got the ball rolling with a lead off walk but was caught on fielder's choice. Shelmadine followed with a single, moved on a bunt by Kendyl Ring, and scored on a double by Watson that rattled the bottom of the fence. Clark followed with a double of her own then scored on a double by Koester, who trotted home on a double by Ashtyn Clark. Reifsteck then doubled as well pushing in Kyra Moyer, who was running for Clark and setting the table for an RBI single by Claire Ring as the Warriors put six on the board to take a 7-5 lead entering the final half frame.

Meridian answered with a pair of three hits and a walk forcing the extra frame. Shelmadine lit the candles with a blast over the left field fence to put the Warriors on top for good in the eighth. Reifsteck induced three fly balls, and Sydney Watson and Abbey Jacobs gobbled them up securing the win and the title as the Warriors end a very tough CIC campaign with an 11-3 record.

Photo: Douglas Cottle

**Warrior Ashtyn Clark slides into second base for a double during non-conference softball action with the St. Joseph-Ogden Spartans. The Spartans pulled away late in the game as the Warriors fell 11-1.**

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## Lady Warriors end strong with 26-7 record

Tuscola's softball team ended the regular season strong finishing off the regular season with four straight victories and a 12-1 record in the final three weeks of the season, ending with a 26-7 record overall. During which time they captured their third straight Central Illinois Conference title while the seniors, Isabelle Shelmadine, Alexis Koester and Ashtyn Clark moved to the front of the class in total victories.

With the 26th win, the trio now has been part of 116 wins during their high school careers.

Shelmadine had a hand in every one not missing a start during her four-year career. She set the table this past week, and junior Jackie Watson cleared it off. The fourth year second baseman reached base 15 times on 12 hits in the five games, and Watson drove her in seven times in a week that included eight hits for the Warriors' third baseman. The Clark sisters Allison and Ashtyn also produced combining for 10 hits and seven RBIs of their own.

Pitching duties were shared as both Ashton Smith and Kaitlyn Reifsteck each added two wins to their season stat sheet. Reifsteck took the only loss on Monday the 7th in a hard-fought contest, against the state's top-ranked Spartans of St. Joe-Ogden, that was 2-1 after three and two thirds before the visitors pulled away late. The freshman secured a big non-conference win against Georgetown on Friday while

resume with a 7-2 victory over Tolono Unity Tuesday and a 7-4 win over a good Salt Fork team on Saturday morning in Catlin.

SJO opened up an early one-run lead after one inning of action then pulled away late. The Clarks tied it up in the second thanks to back-to-back doubles, but that's the only run the Warriors could muster as they left seven baserunners in all on the paths. Allison Clark led the way at the plate going 2 for 3 on the day. Claire Ring and Koester also reached on base knocks but were left.

It didn't look good one night later on senior night for the Lady Warriors against the Rockets. Unity jumped out to a 2-0 lead on three hits in the top of the first, but Smith settled in giving up just three more hits the rest of the way and the offense took over. She worked all seven frames scattering six hits and a walk while striking out two. Tuscola scored one in the first and three in the to take the lead and put it away with two more in the fourth and added an insurance run in the sixth.

Shelmadine led all with four hits on four trips to the plate. The senior was a triple away from the cycle while delivering an RBI-double and a homerun. Koester and Ashtyn Clark were strong as well on senior night each driving in runs. Koeser posted an RBI double, while Clark drove in one on a single up the middle. Allison Clark drove in one as well with a double to left.

Georgetown put one on the board in the top of the first only to watch the Warriors erase the lead and build one of their own scoring two in the second and third, one in the fourth, and three in the sixth to seal the deal. Ali Clark was tops on offense with a 3 for 4 effort at the plate. Shelmadine, Ashtyn Clark, Kendyl and Claire Ring, Koester and Watson all posted two hits each. Clarks' were both two baggers, and Watson drove in three. Reifsteck singled and collected the win scattering five hits and three walks out over six innings of work, fanning three.

Tuscola rose to the occasion in a battle of 20-win teams putting up seven runs on 10 hits. Smith took the win giving up four runs on nine hits and a walk. Shelmadine scored twice, while delivering a 3-for-4 effort at the plate that included an RBI triple. Watson and Kendyl Ring both added a pair of hits to their season stat line and each scored once. Watson twice pushed Shelmadine across the plate. Claire Ring donated a pair of base knocks and an RBI as the Warriors ended the regular season with 26 wins on their resume.

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## CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

- First Christian Church**  
100 E. Church St., Tuscola  
253-2394  
Worship services: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday school: 9:15 a.m.  
Youth Group 7th-12th @6:33 Sundays  
After school program 5th-6th, Wednesdays
- Tuscola United Methodist Church**  
901 N. Prairie • 253-4232  
Sunday Worship Services: 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
- Forty Martyrs Catholic Church**  
201 E. Van Allen  
253-4412  
Saturday Evening Mass 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Mass 8:00 a.m.  
Daily Mass Mon & Fri: 8:00 a.m.
- Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
600 E. Northline  
253-4341  
Saturday Evening Service: 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
- Eagle Mountain Assembly of God**  
401 E. Sale  
253-4444  
Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- First Church of God**  
821 E. Barker St. • 253-2180  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Prayer time 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
Wednesday night 6 p.m.  
Missionary women meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month 6 p.m.
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
1100 E. Northline Rd  
253-3896  
Sunday Morning Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 a.m. and 10:40 a.m.  
Wednesday Youth Night 7:00 p.m.
- Bourbon Baptist Church**  
626W Co Rd 475E, Tuscola  
Pastor: David Babb  
Church 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  
email: bourbon.baptistchurch@yahoo.com
- United Church of Christ**  
114 E. Pembroke  
253-2532  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:20 a.m.
- Zion United Church of Christ (Rural Arthur)**  
Sunday Morning Worship: 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.
- First Baptist Church**  
300 E. Daggy  
253-4231  
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.
- Faith Baptist Church**  
300 Northline Road  
253-2084  
Sunday school: 9:30am  
Sunday Morning service: 10:30am  
Sunday Evening service: 6:00pm  
Wednesday Adult Bible study, Real Teens, King's Kids - 6:30pm  
www.faithtuscola.org
- Church of the Nazarene**  
1001 Egyptian Trail  
253-3541  
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer: 7:00 p.m.
- Calvary Temple** 700 E. Main St., Arcola  
Pastors: Henry Schrock & Rogelio Gutierrez  
Sunday services in English at 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.  
Sunday services in Spanish at 2 p.m.  
Bible study/prayer in Spanish Tues. at 7 p.m.  
Bible study/prayer in English Wed. at 6 p.m.  
Phone 217-246-0104 (Schrock) or 217-636-4838 (Gutierrez)
- Lifepointe Church**  
700 E. Main St., Arcola • 217-268-4586  
Pastor: Scott Howell  
Assistant: Hency Schrock  
Sunday, 10:30 Worship Service  
Wed., 7 pm Bible Study  
Spanish Service  
Spanish Paster Rogelio Gutierrez 217-636-4838  
Sunday, 5 pm Worship Service  
Wed., 7 pm Bible Study

Call The Tuscola Journal 253-5086 to change any information found here in the church directory.