

Slow start dooms Warriors at Monticello Holiday Hoopla



Submitted photo
Tuscola boys' basketball Coach Justin Bozarth rallies the troops during second quarter action with the Clinton Maroons during the 54-42 victory in the Central Illinois Conference opener.

By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola picked up a pair of wins to start the Monticello Holiday Hoopla and dropped a tough one to a very good Gibson City squad to end pool play earning them a spot in the third place contest versus the host Sages on Friday, Dec. 28.

The rims were cold for coach Justin Bozarth's squad early, and the Sages didn't wait for them to warm up, running out to a big first quarter lead en-route to a 52-29 victory and dropping the Warriors to 2-2 in the tournament and 10-3 overall on the year.

"We opened the Hoopla with ten great quarters of basketball and truly played pretty well in 12 of the 16 in the tourney," stated Bozarth. "In our third quarter versus Gibson City to end pool play and the first two against Monticello we just didn't play to our capability in my opinion. We allowed too many easy buckets inside and didn't take care of the ball like we usually do."

Freshman Jalen Quinn led all Warriors with eight points on 3 of 7 from the floor. Next were Will Little, Jacob Kibler and Grant Hard-

wick all ending the night with four points apiece. Brayden VonLanken led the way on the boards hauling five rebounds, while Kresin was tops in the assists department with three.

The host Sages hit 8 of 10 shots to open the game before the Warriors were able to score. Ben Dixon stopped the bleeding with 1:32 to go in the first making it 16-2. Monticello posted a six-point run to end the first and start the second and went up by 20, at 24-4, before Cade Kresin hit a short jumper on a feed from Kibler to make it 24-6 Sages at the break.

Tuscola's offense got on track early in the third but again the inside attack by the hosts proved to be too much to overcome despite a 13-point fourth quarter by the Warriors. Quinn earned a spot on the Hoopla All Tournament Team voted on by the coaches for contributions during the four-game stint.

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TUSCOLA (29)

	fg-fga	ft-fa	3-3a	reb	a	s	pf	tp
VonLanken	2-5	0-0	0-0	5	0	1	4	4
Little	0-3	2-2	0-1	2	1	1	1	2
Kresin	0-2	0-0	0-0	1	2	0	0	0
Kibler	2-5	0-0	0-1	3	0	0	1	4
Quinn	3-7	1-3	1-2	3	0	0	1	8
Dixon	1-2	0-3	0-0	1	0	1	1	2
Hardwick	1-3	1-2	1-3	0	1	0	0	0
Cunningham	1-2	0-0	1-1	0	0	0	0	3
Hortin	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Williams	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0
Calderon	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2
Chester	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	11-30	4-10	3-8	15	3	0	8	29

FG% - 37% FT% - 40% 3-FG% - 38% Turnovers-13

MONTICELLO (52)

	fg-fga	ft-fa	3-3a	reb	a	s	pf	tp
Johns	3-4	0-0	1-1-7	Alexander	3-4	1-2	1-1-8	
Singleton	4-14	2-2	0-3-10	Graham	3-7	0-2	0-2	
Bundy	3-7	0-0	0-1-6	Miller	2-3	0-0	0-0-4	
Reed	23-51	(45%)	FT-3-7	(43%)	3FG-3-11	(27%)		
Reb.	34	TO-8						
Tuscola	2	4	10	13				29
Monticello	18	6	17	11				52

Statistics order: fg-fga, ft-fa, 3fg-3fga-pt

TUSCOLA (54)

	fg-fga	ft-fa	3-3a	reb	a	s	pf	tp
VonLanken	1-3	3-4	0-1	2	0	0	2	5
Little	1-5	1-2	0-2	4	3	1	0	3
Kresin	2-5	0-0	0-0	4	3	2	1	4
Kibler	5-9	1-4	2-3	7	1	2	0	13
Quinn	9-19	3-3	3-6	5	1	2	1	24
Dixon	1-1	0-0	0-0	4	1	1	2	2
Hardwick	0-2	0-0	0-2	0	0	0	0	3
Cunningham	1-2	1-1	0-1	1	0	0	1	3
Totals	20-46	9-14	5-15	27	9	8	6	54

FG% - 43% FT% - 64% 3-FG% - 33% Turnovers-13

CLINTON (42)

	fg-fga	ft-fa	3-3a	reb	a	s	pf	tp
Hickman	3-6	0-0	1-2-7	Case	3-10	0-0	1-3-7	
Overtun	2-11	0-0	2-7-6	Nelson	2-12	0-0	1-6-5	
Jording	4-6	0-0-0-8	Welch	0-2	0-0	0-0-0		
Williamson	2-2	2-4	1-1-7	Torbert	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	
FG-17-51	(33%)	FT-2-4	(50%)	3FG-6-19	(32%)			
Reb.	25	TO-16						
Clinton	11	5	15	11				42
Tuscola	17	14	15	8				54

TUSCOLA JV (44) CLINTON JV (25)

	fg-fga	ft-fa	3-3a	reb	a	s	pf	tp																																	
Dixon	3-5	0-0	1-1-7	Homann	1-3	1-2	0-0-3																																		
Hortin	4-10	2-3	2-5-12	Hardwick	3-5	0-0	1-2-7																																		
Cunningham	4-9	3-3	2-4-13	Williams	1-3	0-0	0-0-0																																		
Calderon	0-1	0-0	0-1-0	Tiezzi	0-2	0-0	0-0-0																																		
Patel	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	Totals	fg-fga	16-38	(42%)	ft-fa	6-8	(75%)	3fg-3fga	6-16	(38%)	TO-12	REB:(17)	Homann	7	Calderon	4	Cunningham	3	Dixon	1	Williams	1	Hortin	1	CLINTON JV	fg-fga	10-39	(26%)	ft-fa	3-5	(60%)	3fg-3fga	2-14	(14%)	Reb.	24	TO	18

Statistics order: fg-fga, ft-fa, 3fg-3fga-pt

Bozarth's boys back on track with a conference victory over Clinton

By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola's boys' basketball team started the holiday season off with a pair of wins at the Monticello Holiday Hoopla Tournament between Christmas and New Years but left the land of the Sages with a sour taste in their mouth.

The Warriors stumbled in their final two outings collecting just their second and third losses of the year. Coach Justin Bozarth and his boys in black didn't wait long to wash it away, kicking off the new year dominating the first half in a 54-42 victory over the Clinton Maroons in Tuscola's Central Illinois Conference opener.

Jacob Kibler is like a kid in a candy shop if you look at him in pre-game warm-ups. He hustles everywhere he goes and never stops smiling. The junior swing man just might be the emotional leader of Warriors.

"It was great to start the conference season with a win," stated the coach. "Kibler's energy was fantastic, Jake's been our leading rebounder in 4 of our last 5 games and he's starting to see the ball go through the hoop again."

Put him and Will Little on the floor next to each other, and the energy in the gym is at peak levels. The duo's intensity is infectious, and last Friday it paid dividends as the Warriors' defense in the second quarter was the difference in the game.

Kibler led all in the game with seven rebounds to his credit while also finding his way to a pair of steals and also chipped in 13 points on 5 of 9 from the floor. Little boasted a stat line just as strong grabbing three rebounds, swiping two steals, dished out a game high four assists. Freshman phenom Jalen Quinn scored in all four frames on his way to a game high 24 points. He hit 9 of 19 from the floor including a 3 for 3 effort at the free throw line and a 3 for 6 effort outside the arc. And, don't forget about Cade Kresin the senior donated a well-rounded stat line that included four rebounds, four points, three assists and two steals.

Little started it all 30 seconds into the game with a runner and then found Kibler streaking to the hoop on Tuscola's next possession before

Kibler stepped outside the arc for a three. Quinn was the next to do damage with a bucket that he followed up with a three on his next touch. He then finished off an old fashioned three after a coast-to-coast steal for the final points of the frame, giving the Warriors a 17-11 lead at the buzzer despite three treys by the Maroons.

Brayden VonLanken took advantage of a pass from Little for the first points of the second eight minutes of action, and Cole Cunningham put one back following an offensive rebound only to watch Clinton hang close with yet another three. Bozarth followed the trey with a time out and rallied the troops preaching to them about allowing teams to hang around, and from the point Kibler, Little and the Warriors shut the door on the Maroons offense for the rest of the half while building a 15-point lead by the break and entering the locker rooms on top 31-16.

Both Quinn and Kibler hit threes to open the third opening up the inside for the rest of the second half. Quinn took full advantage slicing

through the middle on his way to 11 points in the final 16 minutes of the contest securing the victory in the league opener. With the win, Bozarth's group moves to 11-3 on the season overall and 1-0 in the always tough CIC.

"One thing we talked about improving was putting a team away when we get the lead," commented Bozarth. "We stretched it to 20 in the third quarter. From there, Clinton was able to cut it to 10 at one point in the fourth. We'd like to do a better job finishing teams off."

Coach Jacob Hilgendorf's JV squad started the New Year off with a win as well thanks to a dominating 44-25 victory. Silas Hortin was the man with a plan scoring 12 points, ten of which came in the pivotal fourth frame. He hit a pair threes down the stretch helping the Warriors gain separation in the last four minutes of the contest. Cunningham was big as well scoring a game high 13 points, which included a pair of threes. Ben Dixon also hit a three ball as did Grant Hardwick.



Submitted photo
Brayden VonLanken posts up during action with the Clinton Maroons during the 54-42 victory in the Central Illinois Conference opener.

East Prairie boys' basketball teams stay successful over winter break

By Caleigh Parsley

The seventh Grade Boys' Basketball holds a record of 14-3.

On Tuesday, Dec. 11,

they beat Bement 34-17 when Josiah Hortin excelled with 13, Jackson Barrett made six, Nate Thomason earned three, Jordan Quinn

totalled eight, and Brayden Gough scored four points. Then, Wednesday the 13th the boys defeated Cerro Gordo 40-8 where Austin Cummings, Brady Cain, and Will Foltz totalled four each, Hortin put together 16, N. Thomason tallied eight, and Quinn and Gough had two points each. They added another win as they topped Marshall 33-26 on Friday the 15th. Hortin earned 25, N. Thomason and Gough made two each, and Quinn scored two points.

The eighth grade East Prairie Boys' are 9-8. The eighth grade boys also defeated Bement 24-5 on the 11th. Hunter Branca made a free throw, Easton Cunningham earned seven, Will Cowan, Mason Jones, and Colton Musgrave shot two

points each, Boston Broady tallied six, and Jordan Sanchez scored four points.

Cerro Gordo on the 13th was also a victory for these boys, 37-26, when Cunningham excelled with 14, Robert Fancher totalled two, Broady shot 10, and Sanchez gained 11 points. On Friday, Dec. 15, the week ended with a close game against Marshall but won 32-30 after Cunningham scored 16, Cowan, Fancher, and Broady tallied two each, Musgrave earned six, and Sanchez made four points.

An overall great week for both teams!
Winter Break Hoops
Seventh Grade
Monday, Dec. 17
EP-4;Prairieview Ogden-17
Austin Cummings - 4

points; Josiah Hortin - 10 points; Ty Thomason - 3 points; Will Foltz - 10 points; Nate Thomason - 12 points; Brayden Gough - 2 points

Tuesday, Dec. 18
EP-39; Warrensburg-Latham-21
Cummings - 2 points; Hortin - 4 points; T. Thomason - 4 points; Foltz - 11 points
Saturday, Jan. 5
EP-33 Arcola-25
Cummings - 6 points; Hortin - 10 points; Foltz - 5 points; N. Thomason - 4 points; Jordan Quinn - 6 points
Eighth Grade
Monday, Dec. 17
EP-29; Prairieview Ogden-14
Easton Cunningham - 3 points; Robert Fancher - 2 points; Colton Musgrave - 10

points; Boston Broady - 7 points; Jordan Sanchez - 7 points

Tuesday, Dec. 18
EP-22; Warrensburg-Latham-11
Cunningham - 8 points; Will Cowan - 2 points; Musgrave - 8 points; Broady - 3 points; Sanchez - 1 point
Saturday, Jan. 5
EP-30; Arcola-21
Cunningham - 17 points; Cowan - 2 points; Fancher - 4 points; Musgrave - 1 point; Sanchez - 6 points
Both the seventh and eighth grade will play in the semifinals of the conference tournament. Seventh grade is currently 16-4, and eighth grade is 12-8.

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AROUND the Halls

By Caleigh Parsley
TCHS SADD hopes everyone buckled up, did not text and drive, and arrived safely to their destinations over the wonderful holiday season.
Tuscola FFA donated 35 blankets to the Douglas County Animal Shelter for the Christmas season, FFA members of the month during

October, November, and December were Blake Cruzan, Shelbi Fleener and Daisy Mast and were recognized at the December meeting. FFA members are selling Strawberries until Jan. 23 for \$15 for a half flat and \$25 for a full flat. If you are interested in purchasing strawberries please call 217-253-2377 or email:

pirtlea@tuscola.k12.il.us
FFA members this month will be preparing for the Prepared Public Speaking CDE and Proficiency Awards.
National Honor Society members worked concessions Tuesday, Jan. 8 at the high school boys' basketball game against Unity.