

Warriors crank up offense in conference tournament play

By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola's boys' basketball team knocked off Meridian in the opening round of the Central Illinois Conference tournament this Saturday, Jan. 26. The Warriors went toe to toe with one of the most prolific offenses in the league and upended the Hawks 76-73.

Meridian scored 10 more than their season average of 63 points a game, but it was not enough as head coach Justin Bozarth's squad delivered 19 points more than their average in the victory and sealed the deal on a berth in the league semi's.

Meridian entered the contest with a 16-7 record overall and left it heading to the consolation bracket. The freshmen from both teams canceled out each other, and the Warrior peripherals were a few points better than the Hawks. Tuscola freshman Jalen Quinn scored a game high 26 points on 11 of 18 from the field, including 10 points in the second quarter alone to combat a big outing by two Meridian first years that combined for 25 points. Quinn banged the boards hard as well turning in a double-double corralling 10 rebounds.

No shot clock was needed as the two teams fired up nearly 120 shots from the field and 27 from the free throw line. The charity stripe and the War-



Submitted photo

Tuscola's Ben Dixon drives the lane during basketball action on the road.

riors' Ben Dixon may have been the difference in the end. Meridian reached the line just once in the first half and four times total scoring six points, while Tuscola strolled to the stripe 11 times where they scored 13 points. Dixon was a near perfect 5 of 6 from the field, scoring 14 points. The junior was good on both trips outside

the arc and converted 2 of 2 from the line while also securing seven rebounds.

"We were extremely proud of our guys for digging in and getting enough stops when we needed to. It's a beautiful sight to see such balance in our scoring with Dixon, Kibler, and VonLanken at 14 each and Quinn with 26," stated

Bozarth. "As the season has wore on, we are really improving at making an extra pass to get from getting a decent shot to a great shot."

Senior post Brayden VonLanken did his share of the damage in the skirmish adding 14 points to his season totals on 5 of 7 from the floor, including a big three in the fourth frame. Jacob Kibler found his way to double-digits also ending the night one rebound short of a double-double with nine boards and 13 points. Cole Cunningham donated five points to the cause with a runner and a three to his credit.

Tuscola ran out to an 11-4 advantage, but threes on three straight possessions to end the frame allowed the Hawks to take a 17-14 lead after one. Quinn put one back to start the second, and Dixon drained a three and then finished off an old fashioned three to put the Warriors in front 26-24. From there it was a blur as both teams lit up the scoreboard heading toward the break. However, back-to-back, coast-to-coast steals by Quinn and a trey by Grant Hardwick produced some separation by the second buzzer giving Bozarth's boys a 41-34 lead heading to the locker room.

The Hawks answered with a pair of short runs in

the third that allowed them to not only cut into the lead but move in front 56-54 after three. They added to it with a seven-point spurt to open the fourth going up by nine 63-54.

"That was a fun high school basketball game," commented the coach. "Obviously, we are disappointed in giving up 73 points. Our defensive rotations were poor at times and must improve. However, we were down nine heading into the fourth, and we finally showed the resiliency to come back and win."

Dixon and VonLanken fed off each other in the fourth attacking inside and out to knot it at 67. The duo then traded places with Dixon attacking the hoop for a bucket thanks to a feed from Will Little and VonLanken tickling the net with a three ball that gave Bozarth a five-point cushion with under a minute left on the clock. Quinn ended the suspense with two free throws with under 10 seconds to play, which moved the Warriors to 13-8 overall and a shot at redemption against the top seeded Central A&M Raiders on Tuesday the 29th. Meridian struggled down the stretch to score due in no small part to the triangle and two defense Bozarth utilized in the waning minutes of the game.

TUSCOLA (63)

fg-tfg	ft-tfta	3-3a	reb	a	s	pf	tp
VonLanken 3-4	2-3	0-0	3	1	2	4	8
Little 3-4	0-0	1-1	3	9	4	1	7
Kresin 1-1	4-4	0-0	6	0	1	3	6
Kibler 8-11	1-2	2-3	6	0	1	0	15
Quinn 3-7	4-4	0-2	6	6	3	1	30
Dixon 3-4	0-0	1-2	2	0	0	0	7
Hardwick 0-1	0-0	0-1	1	0	1	0	1
Cunningham 2-7	0-0	2-4	2	0	2	0	6
Totals	23-39	11-13	6-13	29	13	12	63

ARTHUR CHRISTIAN (51)

fg-tfg	ft-tfta	3-3a	reb	a	s	pf	tp
Lowry 9-21	4-5	2-8-24	1-4	0-0	1-3	3-3	8
Smith 3-9	0-2	0-1-6	1-3	1-4	4-6	0-1	12
1-12	0-0	1-11-3	Lee 2-2	0-0	2-2-6	Miller 1-1	0-0
1-1-3	FG-19-54	(35%)	FT-5-10	(50%)	3FG-8-30	(7%)	Reb: 17; TO-11.
Arthur Christian	13	11	13	14	-	51	
Tuscola	21	16	12	14	-	63	

TUSCOLA JV (43) ARTHUR CHRISTIAN JV (21)

fg-tfg	ft-tfta	3-3a	reb	a	s	pf	tp
VonLanken 1-3	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	2
Little 0-3	0-0	0-2	2	0	1	4	3
Kresin 1-3	1-2	0-0	5	0	0	4	3
Kibler 3-7	6-7	1-3	5	1	0	1	13
Quinn 3-7	0-0	1-4	5	2	3	0	7
Dixon 1-2	1-2	0-1	6	2	2	0	3
Hardwick 1-5	1-3	0-3	1	1	0	0	3
Cunningham 1-2	0-0	1-1	4	0	0	0	3
Hortin 0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	3
Williams 1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	2
Homann 0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyninger 0-0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0
Chester 0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	3
Totals	12-35	9-14	3-14	30	8	6	26

PAXTON-BUKLEY-LODA (57)

fg-tfg	ft-tfta	3-3a	reb	a	s	pf	tp
VanWinkle 5-11	1-2	3-8-14	Schrodt 3-6	0-1	0-1	2-7	Gooden 3-3-4
0-0	0-1	0-6	Busbroom 1-1	0-1	0-2	Ecker 3-9	2-2
1-3	0-0	1-3	0-0	0-0	0-2	Coy 4-11	0-1
0-1	0-0	0-8	Swanson 1-4	2-2	0-1	4	Rueck 1-1
0-0	0-0	0-2	FG-23-49	(47%)	FT-5-8	(63%)	3FG-6-17
(35%)	Reb: 20; TO: 13.						
Tuscola	10	11	5	10	-	36	
PBL	20	11	12	14	-	57	

TUSCOLA JV (34) PBL JV (42)

fg-tfg	ft-tfta	3-3a	reb	a	s	pf	tp
Cunningham 3-8	0-0	3-8-9	Homann 1-1	0-0	0-0	0-2	Hortin 0-3
0-0	0-0	0-2	0	0	0	0	6-12
Wyninger 2-3	1-4	0-0-5	Williams 0-1	0-0	0-1	0-4	Calderon 0-4
2-2	0-0-2	Calderon 12-3	0-0	0-0	0-4	Totals: fg-tfg 12-31	
(39%)	ft-tfta 4-8	(50%)	3fg-3fga 6-17	(35%)	TO-22	REB:(22)	Wyninger 6
Calderon 5	Cunningham 3	Homann 3	Hardwick 2	Hortin 1	Chester 1	PBLJV: fg-tfg 14-38	
(37%)	ft-tfta 10-17	(59%)	3fg-3fga 4-10	(40%)	Reb: 23; TO: 16.		

Warrior's Kibler sets tone for victory over Arthur Christian School

By Lenny Sementi

Jacob Kibler was on target in all facets of his game.

Offensively the junior forward scored in every way possible en-route to a game and career high 19 points. He hit a short jumper early, put back two offensive rebounds, was good at the free throw line, and stepped outside the arc for a pair of threes in a 63-51 victory at Arthur Christian School last Tuesday the 22nd.

Kibler thwarted an early run by Arthur in the first fueled by threes with a trey of his own and didn't stop there adding 12 points to the team

totals in the first half alone. His late three and a big bucket by Ben Dixon before the buzzer put the Warriors in front by eight after one entering the second on top 21-13. Kibler ended the night hitting 8 of 11 from the floor, including 2 of 3 from outside the arc. Will Little's stat line wasn't too shabby either. The senior facilitator dished out a game and career high nine assists. He also added seven points, three steals, and three rebounds to the team totals.

"Will was great in setting up his teammates. I'm not sure the last time one of our guys had that many assists in a game, but I'm confident in

saying it's been awhile," commented Coach Justin Bozarth.

Jalen Quinn reached the double-digit plateau as well for the Warriors delivering 10 points. The duo shared rebound accolades with senior Cade Kresin. The trio combined for 18 boards grabbing six apiece. Kibler and Dixon both put back shots early in the second, and Dixon and Cole Cunningham hit late threes helping the Warriors extend the lead to 13 points, 37-24, at the break.

Cunningham went back to the three well in the third as did Kibler, who answered a pair of long range salvos by

Arthur Christian. The home team connected on three more long bombs in the fourth but couldn't find an inside game as the Warriors shut off the lane en-route to the victory.

"We were really pleased with our performance at AOC," Bozarth said. "They're one of the better kept secrets in our area. They have talented basketball players who are well coached. The point guard, Lowry, is one of the better individual players we've seen."

Jacob Hilgendorf's JV squad came out on top, also posting a 22-point victory

43-21. Nick Williams hit a three in the first and the fourth frames on his way to a game high 12 points. Silas Hortin and Max Wyninger each chipped in seven points, while Cameron Homann donated six points.

Things were a little different a few nights later on Friday when the Warriors ran into a hot-shooting PBL squad on the road. The Panthers went up by 10 points in the first quarter and stayed there, ending the night in front 57-36. Kibler hit a bucket early on and came up big late, leading the Warriors with 13 points on the night. PBL salted the win away in

the third pressuring the ball limiting the Warriors to just five points in the frame all but ending any hopes of a comeback.

Quinn was second on Tuscola's scoring list with seven points, while four others all added three points to the totals.

"Those who have followed us closely this season, know one of our challenges is consistency," stated Bozarth. "PBL was another one of those games where we struggled. We can be really good on our best nights and bad on our worse nights. They forced some turnovers and their press hurt us."

TUSCOLA

JAN. 27TH THRU FEB. 2ND

SUPERPARTYDEALS

DiGiorno THIN CRUST

12-34.2 oz

2/\$9

IGA TableRite
85% Lean
Ground Chuck

\$2.69
lb

Ripe Avacados

69¢

5-8 oz
Shredded,
Chunk or Cubes
Kraft
Cheese

2/\$4

DEL I SPECIALS
Deli Hours: 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

Serving Daily:
Grilled Chicken
Fried Chicken
Chicken Tenders

Sunday:	Monday:	Tuesday:	Wednesday:	Thursday:	Friday:
Meatloaf	Chicken-ala-king Kraut & Sausage	Ham/Beans Beef & Noodles	Hamburgers BBQ Ribs	Taco Salad Italian Beef	Walleye, Catfish filet & whole catfish

Hornets look to post season play

By Caleigh Parsley

The seventh grade boys' basketball team closed the regular season 19-5 and headed into Regionals at Shelbyville.

Monday, Jan. 14
Tuscola-37
Decatur-10

Austin Cummings - 2 points; Josiah Hortin - 8 points; Ty Thomason - 3 points; Will Foltz - 6 points; Nate Thomason - 7 points; Brady Cain - 2 points; Jordan Quinn - 5 points; Brayden

Gough - 2 points; Aiden Weaver - 2 points

Thursday, Jan. 17
Sullivan-24
Tuscola-18

Cummings - 9 points; Hortin - 7 points; Quinn - 7 points

The eighth grade boys' team ended their regular season 13-11. They earned the 3 seed in the Arthur Regional.

Monday, Jan. 14
Decatur-39
Tuscola-29

Hunter Branca - 2 points;

Easton Cunningham - 11 points; Will Cowan - 5 points; Colton Musgrave - 9 points; Jordan Sanchez - 2 points

Thursday, Jan. 17
Tuscola-35
Sullivan-11 35

Branca - 4 points; Cunningham - 8 points; Robert Fancher - 2 points; Mason Jones - 2 points; Musgrave - 8 points; Boston Broady - 5 points; Grant Kauffman - 2 points; Sanchez - 4 points



By Caleigh Parsley

FCCLA Section 15 Officers met in Arcola Tuesday the 22 to finalize the Section Conference during FCCLA Week in February. Wednesday, Jan. 23, Tuscola FCCLA held a bake sale during school.

The TCHS Winter Dance on Saturday, Jan. 26 raised \$380 for Douglas County Mental Health!

#TuscolaKind week is Monday, Jan. 28 until Friday, Feb. 1! In reality though, we should be #TuscolaKind-which includes kindness, unity, bully prevention, and respect-everyday. The purpose is to create an even more

positive school and community.

All three schools are participating in dress up days: Monday - "Dreaming of Kindness" Pajama Day; Tuesday - "Team up for Kindness" Favorite Sport Attire; Wednesday - "Tied Together By Kindness" Wear a Tie; Thursday - "Peace, Love, and Kindness" Hippie Day; Friday - "#TuscolaKind, Get in the Spirit of Kindness" Tuscola Apparel/Colors.

Everyday at the high school, a kindness quote will be read during the morning announcements. On Monday, if students dreamt of kindness and wore pajamas to the EP volleyball game or TCHS girls' basketball game, they received \$1 admission. Also on Monday, Pack the Pig began at TCHS! Each class - Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior - has their own pig to fill and whoever donates the most gets to leave school 15 minutes early on Friday! The proceeds will go to the Douglas County Mental Health After School Program. On Tuesday morn-

ing, TCHS Boys and Girls Basketball gave high-fives to the North Ward students. On Wednesday during all TCHS English classes, Kindness Stations were set up where students could write kind notes about others and #tuscolakind stickers were given to the entire school district. On Thursday, retro music will be played over the TCHS speakers at times during the day. Also, families will receive 10 percent off their tab at Joe's Pizza if students wear their #tuscolakind sticker (you must mention #tuscolakind). To finish off a GREAT week, city officials and police officers will be at TCHS Friday morning to high-five the students.

Stay tuned for the Pack the Pig results!

Molly Liffick, Carli Stone, and Maddy Boyd along with their adviser Mrs. LaReau founded the newest club at TCHS, Literacy on Current Events. Monday, Jan. 28 was their first official meeting in which they talked about Restkit.