

# WEEKLY SPORTS WRAP-UP

GH baseball Cruise past Tribe Keagan Patterson fanned 5, allowing 2 hits and 2 earned runs, as the Hawks defeated Judah Christian 11-3 on Logan McKee chipped in with 3 innings of 1 run ball, and struck out three for VGH. Patterson starred at the plate for the Hawks as well, going 1-2, scoring 3 runs and driving in 2. Noah Davison and Nick Coffin also knocked in a pair of runs for Villa Grove Heritage.

Passed over by Comets Nick Coffin went 2-2 and scored a run, but it wasn't enough as VGH dropped a 3-1 decision to Oakwood on March 28. Mason Wyant smacked a double for VGH. Nathan Chewning gave up two runs and took the loss in relief of starter Evan Wilson, who allowed 1 run in 5 innings while fanning 5.

VG softball Herd Buffaloes Jordyn Ray's double in the bottom of the seventh capped a five-run inning as the Blue Devils won in walk-off fashion, defeating Georgetown-Ridge farm 10-9. Vanessa Wright starred at the plate, going 3-4 with 3 RBI's, and smacking the first homer of her varsity career. Ray went 4-5 with 3 runs batted in, Regan Baker went 2-3 and scored twice, and Wendy Fisher also scored a pair of runs for Villa Grove. Reagan Cheely picked up the win in relief of Kyleigh Block, fanning 7 in 3 innings of work.

Shoot down Bombers Jordyn Ray pitched a gem, fanning 6 in a complete game one-hitter as VG blanked Argenta-Oreana 9-0 on March 27. Reagan Cheely double, tripled and drove in 5 runs to lead the Blue Devil offensive attack. Kyleigh Block went 2-5 and scored 3 times to help the cause.

The Blue Devils dropped an 18-1 decision to Windsor on March 28. No statistics were available at press time.

VGH track and field Boys Trevor Reberger cruised to victory in the 200m and placed second in the 100 to lead VGH to a second place finish at the Arcola Quad meet on March 26. The 4x400 relay team consisting of Ashton Harrison, Will Wilson, Sam Reno and Andrew McQueen also took first at the meet. McQueen won the 110m HH, and finished 2nd in the 300m lh, Will Wilson finished 2nd in the 800m, Chase Burwell, Zayzen Price and Daelin Price finished 2-4 in the shot put, Zayzen Price finished 3rd and Daelin Price finished 5th in the discus, Elijah Kiesel and Ashton Harrison finished 4th and 5th in the Long Jump, and Nick Orndorff took 4th in the 300m lh.

Girls Samantha Campbell raced to victories in the 800m and 1600m runs and the 4x800m relay team, consisting of Kate Eisenmenger, Sophia Wegeng, Isidora Davis and Sarah Brown took home first place as well to lead VGH to a second-place finish at the Arcola Quad on March 26. Kate Eisenmenger and Isabella Caceres finished 2nd and 3rd respectively in the 800. Meike Herbrandt finished 2nd in the 200m and 400m and 3rd in the 100m, and Lilly Lawrence and Lilly Burnside finished 4th and 5th in the 400m for the Blue Devils. Liberty Floyd finished 3rd in the high jump and Kirsten Foreman finished 5th in the Long Jump to round out the Blue Devils scoring efforts.

Junior High Track and Field Maci Clodfelder: 1st in 8th grade girls shot put; 3rd in discus, Chloe Reardon: 1st in 7th

grade girls 200-meter dash; 2nd in 100m; 2nd in long jump

7th grade girls 4x100m relay (Kaylee Hodis, Ryan Barrett, Kenzie Cardiff, Chloe Reardon): 1st

Luke Zimmerman: 1st in 8th grade boys 110-meter hurdles; 3rd in 200m; 3rd in long jump, Braydon Dowler: 1st in both 7th grade 110-meter hurdles and 200-meter dash, Brady Clodfelder: 1st in 7th grade boys 800-meter run; 5th in discus for 8th grade boys (had him compete in higher division to allow other boys to compete), Layne Rund: 1st in 7th grade boys high jump (jumped 5 ft and state qualifying is 4'11", but will have to jump that at sectionals to actually qualify)

7th grade boys 4x100m relay (Gunner Cline, Mason Carter, Layne Rund, Bradon Dowler): 1st and run under state qualifying time already.

Will Jones 2nd in 8th grade boys 100m and 200m, Gavin Kiser 2nd in 8th grade boys 110m hurdles

8th grade boys 4x100m relay 2nd (Luke Zimmerman, Gavin Kiser, Sam Bender, Will Jones), Gunner Cline 2nd in 7th grade boys 100m and 200m, Kenzie Cardiff 2nd in 7th grade girls 200m, Nic Wilson 2nd in 7th grade boys discus and 3rd in shot put, Madison Logan 3rd in 8th grade girls 400m. Ryan Barrett 3rd in 7th grade girls 800m, Zoey Thompson-Burton 3rd in 7th grade girls 100m hurdles, Lukas Shadwick 3rd in 7th grade boys 1600m, 3rd in 7th grade boys 4x400m relay (Chase White, Kurt Zimmerman, Alexander Jensen, Lukas Shadwick), Alexander Jensen 3rd in 7th grade boys Long jump, Parker Knierim 3rd in 7th grade boys discus.

# Hook, Line and Sinker With Tony Hooker

There has been a lot of talk during the first week of the NCAA tournament about Michigan State coach Tom Izzo dressing down one of his players on the sidelines during their opening round game against Bradley.

It seems that many took umbrage at the vehemence of his display. Likewise, there are some in social media circles who think that Brad Underwood's old school coaching style is making prospects shy away from signing up to play for the beloved Orange and Blue.

When I think back to my own less than illustrious playing days in this context, I smile. One of the coaches I played for, Hall of Famer Russ Ghere, would let you know what he thought of the effort you were putting forth in no uncertain terms, often demonstrating the desired technique for full effect. Villa Grove Heritage now plays their home games on a field that's borne his name since 1982. Coaches Homma and Shepherd would also get after you on occasion, as would Coach Boyer, my freshman coach. Coach Boyer, however, faced the herculean task of teaching over thirty (that's right, there were more than 30 frosh football players in my class) knucklehead freshman boys the art of football. This was in the days before JFL, so this was the initial foray into organized football for almost all of us. He did so

with amazing restraint, given the circumstances. I probably would have thrown each and every one of us into the river at one time or another during that plebe campaign, 40 years ago.

Coach Don Waltrip, who served as head coach when Coach Ghere faced medical problems during my time in high school, used methods that were more psychological in nature, including enticing one player who shall remain nameless to eat an earthworm in lieu of running additional wind sprints. In hind sight, maybe we should have just taken the chewing out.

Of course, we can't always equate things that happened back in the dark ages of my youth with today's kids, right? Having no firm answer to this question, I solicited the opinion of an expert, my daughter, who has been a part of the amazingly successful Devilette dance team for the past six years. "Of course, no one LIKES getting yelled at," was her reply. "The team did tend to respond better, though." So, there you have it. A very limited sample, but a valid one.

My dancer and cheerleader had a very limited career as a softball player, but when she did play, she was coached by Kerry Cheely and Julie

Woller, two of the architects of the Elite softball program, and their coaching style was very laid back. She didn't play for the Elite, as dance and cheer has always been her jam and so stick and ball sports took a back seat, so I can't say with absolute certainty, but I don't believe their coaching styles ever changed dramatically, and their records speak for themselves. Multiple state championships with the club team. An IESA state title in 2015. More importantly, the Elite softball program continues to blossom and grow to this day, with a 2018 World Series title under their belts, and it will look to be one of the state's best for years to come.

So there you have it. From yelling and screaming to laid back and unproductive, to cerebral and psychological. Coaching styles run the gamut, but what doesn't change for the good ones is their love for the kids. Coaches like Jeana Block and Heath Wilson might have different styles, but the message is the same. The true secret is letting the kids know that you have their best interests at heart. You get that point across and the method of delivery becomes mute.



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2019 VILLA GROVE/HERITAGE HAWKS BOYS BASEBALL SCHEDULE					record
Mar 11	SJO	L	0-1	0-1	
Mar 12	@ Marshall	ppd		0-1	
Mar 13	@ Salt Fork	ppd		0-1	
Mar 14	Urbana	ppd		0-1	
Mar 16	Paris	W,L	6-5, 8-11	1-2	
Mar 18	@ Monticello	L	0-9	1-3	
Mar 19	@ Armstrong	W	11-0	2-3	
Mar 20	Sullivan	W	5-3	3-3	
Mar 22	@ BH	L	8-11	3-4	
Mar 26	@ Judah	W	11-3	4-4	
Mar 28	Oakwood	L	1-3	4-5	
Mar 29	@ Arcola	ppd			
Mar 30	@ Blue Ridge	ppd			
Apr 01	ALAH				
Apr 02	LSA				
Apr 04	Georgetown Ridge Farm				
Apr 05	@ Martinsville				
Apr 08	@ Cumberland				
Apr 10	Oblong				
Apr 11	@ Fisher				
Apr 12	Tri-County				
Apr 16	Schlarman				
Apr 17	@ Hutsonville				
Apr 18	Arthur Okaw Christian				
Apr 22	Martinsville				
Apr 23	@ Tuscola				
Apr 24	Cumberland				
Apr 25	@ Oblong				
Apr 29	@ Tri-County				
May 04	Neoga (DH)				
May 08	Cerro Gordo				
May 09	ALAH				
May 11	@ Unity				

**HEAD COACH Jason Conn**

**2019 VGH Girl's Track & Field Schedule**

Mar 09	@ EIU invite
Mar 13	@ Uni High (Armory)
Mar 19	@ Arcola
Mar 26	@ Arcola
Mar 28	@ Tuscola
Apr 05	@ ALAH
Apr 09	@ Salt Fork Invite
Apr 12	@ Unity (girls)
Apr 19	@ Tuscola
Apr 23	@ ALAH
Apr 26	@ Monticello
May 03	@ Arcola (LOVC meet)

**HEAD COACH Heath Wilson**

2019 VILLA GROVE Blue Devils GIRLS SOFTBALL SCHEDULE					record
Mar 12	@ MS	L	4-7	0-1	
Mar 13	@ Salt Fork	ppd			
Mar 14	@ ALAH	ppd			
Mar 18	Tuscola	L	3-6	0-2	
Mar 19	@ Unity	L	9-10	0-3	
Mar 20	Urbana	W	11-2	1-3	
Mar 21-24	@ TENN	LLLLW		2-7	
Mar 26	GRF	W	10-9	3-7	
Mar 27	@ AO	W	9-0	4-7	
Mar 28	Windsor	L	1-18	4-8	
Mar 29	Okaw Valley	ppd			
Mar 30	@ Rantoul	ppd			
Apr 01	@ Cumberland				
Apr 02	@ SJO				
Apr 03	Tri-County				
Apr 05	@ Oblong				
Apr 08	Martinsville				
Apr 09	Champaign Centennial				
Apr 10	@ Hut-Pal (DH)				
Apr 11	@ Fisher				
Apr 15	vs Heritage				
Apr 16	@ Casey Westfield				
Apr 17	Cumberland				
Apr 18	@ Blue Ridge				
Apr 19	@ Tri-County				
Apr 22	Oblong				
Apr 24	@ Martinsville				
Apr 25	@ Arcola				
May 01	@ Heritage				
May 02	Armstrong-Potomac				
May 08	Cerro Gordo				
May 10	@ PBL				

**HEAD COACH Heather VonLanken**

**2019 VGH Boy's Track & Field Schedule**

Mar 13	@ Uni High (Armory)
Mar 16	@ EIU invite
Mar 19	@ Arcola
Mar 26	@ Arcola
Mar 28	@ Tuscola
Apr 05	@ ALAH
Apr 09	@ Salt Fork Invite
Apr 12	@ Unity (girls) M
Apr 19	@ Tuscola
Apr 23	@ ALAH
Apr 26	@ SJO (boys)
May 03	@ Arcola (LOVC meet)
May 11	@ Shelbyville

**HEAD COACH Heath Wilson**



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