

WEEKLY SPORTS WRAP-UP

VGH Baseball
Roll Hilltoppers
 Austin Grimm smacked a pair of doubles and drove in 4 runs, and Carson Howard went 3-4 with 4 RBI's of his own to lead VGH to a 21-0 win over Danville Schlarman on April 16. Mason Wyant pitched a 5 inning complete game, allowing only one hit, to earn the win. Keagan Patterson, Nick Coffin, and Noah Davison each scored 3 times for the Hawks. Davison also smacked a home run for the Hawks.

Tame Tigers
 Kane Davison had himself a day, smacking 3 homers and driving in 8 runs, to lead Villa Grove Heritage to a 12-9 win over Pal-Hut on April 17.

Carson Howard, who coaxed 3 walks on the day, scored 3 runs to help the cause. Nathan Chewing earned the win in relief of starter Evan Wilson, who fanned 7 in the contest.

VGHS softball
Blank Hawks
 Kyleigh Block scattered 3 hits and earned a complete game, 10-0 victory over Heritage on April 15. Reagan Cheely hit a 3 run bomb to spark the Devils offense, and Maris Eversole doubled and drove in 2. Jordyn Ray went 2-4 and drove in a pair of runs, and Madie Burwell went 3-4 and scored twice to help the cause. Regan Baker also scored twice for VGHS. **Calm Warriors**

Reagan Cheely pitched a complete game shutout, fanning 9 and scattering 4 hits, as Villa Grove defeated Casey Westfield, the state's number one ranked team in Class 1A, 2-0 on April 16. Vanessa Wright drove in both runs for Villa Grove.

Scuttle Pirates
 Jordyn Ray allowed two runs, fanning 7 in a complete game, 3-2 win over Cumberland on April 17. Villa Grove used two homers from Madison Burwell and a solo blast from Reagan Cheely to generate their runs.

Win over Titans
 VG won by forfeit over Tri-County on April 19 to improve to 14-10 on the season.

Hook, Line and Sinker

With Tony Hooker

I will never advocate for violence. But. In the golden days of America's pastime, Christian Yelich would have worn one.

There is no way that the pitchers of that era would have allowed a guy to homer in six straight games against them without doing something to make him a little less comfortable in the batter's box. Sal Maglie, who pitched for the Giants, Indians and Brooklyn Dodgers, had such a fearsome reputation for throwing "chin music" that his nickname was "the barber" for the clean, close shave his heater was likely to give to opposing batters.

Hall of famer Bob Gibson's mound presence was so scary that he intimidated everyone from opponents to his own teammates. Catcher Tim McCarver once recalled that on the manager's orders, he once approached Gibson during a break in the action, and the reception he got was classic Gibby. "Get off my mound, rookie. The only thing you know about my pitching is that you can't hit it!" Gibson was purported to have snarled. Yikes. Good luck digging in against that guy.

In today's modern game, where players are earning generation changing wealth, the brush back and the mound charge have largely gone away. No one wants to take a chance on injury that can curtail a career.

That's why the recent brawls between the Reds and Pirates and White Sox and Royals were notable. Both times they were precipitated by a batter breaking one of the "unwritten rules" of baseball by showing up the pitcher after hitting a home run. The unwritten rules, and there are many, are just one of the reasons why baseball is so revered by purists like me. It's also a reason why it generally isn't as popular with the younger generation. The fact that baseball's deliberate pace pairs very well with radio, and not so much with video,

is another reason, in my mind.

I don't know if all teams teach these unwritten rules at all levels, but they did when I played. I was playing second base in a pony league game once and a kid slid in spikes high on a force play. I, of course, took great umbrage, but before I could react our center fielder, who would become an all-are middle line-backer a few years later, beat me to the jump. By the time I stood up, he had the hapless kid by the jersey and was emphatically showing him the error of his decision by trying to plant him, right there in the infield. I think the kid was so shocked and scared that he provided his own fertilizer. Thanks for having my back, Steve.

Another incident of note happened when my son's team faced off against Tuscola. VG's Bug Bradley homered in his first two at bats against the Warriors, but wasn't given

an opportunity to hit number three. Nick Bates, one of the best ball players to come around these parts, promptly plunked him with his first pitch before striking out the side on nine straight pitches to end the contest. Zach Gadbury, who pitched for Unity, seemed to have a propensity for hitting my son's buddy Spenser Eversole, early and often. Old school.

There are many who feel that the unspoken rules are antiquated relics from the days of yore, and to some extent they're probably right. For me however, they add to the charm of the game, like peanuts and crackerjacks. So the next time you're playing, don't bunt for a base hit to break up a no hitter, or you're liable to catch one in the back or fanny in your next at bat. Remember though, if you do get hit, don't rub the mark, or you'll be guilty of violating yet another of the rules.

A Quilt will Warm Your Body and Comfort Your Soul cont'd from pg. 2

"Quilt of Many Colors" was the Grand Prize winner at the 2017 Arthur Amish Country Quilt Show. It probably is the most decorated quilt to win the prize here in Arthur.

The quilt won first place in its category at the American Quilters Society show in Madison, Wisconsin in 2018. It was juried in to the Machine Quilter Exposition held in Springfield

in 2017. "The exposition is put on by people from New Hampshire and is their only Midwest show. It is also a juried show and my quilt won a Founder's Ribbon. It was quite an honor to be picked by one of the show's organizers as their favorite."

"Quilt of Many Colors" was juried in to the 2017 International Quilt Show held in Paducah, Kentucky

that will be taking place this week as well. In fact, quite a few of our guests at the Quilt Show will also attend the big exposition to the south.

"It did not win any prizes but it did get recognized by someone from the American Quilters Society. The quilt will be in the 2020 AQS Quilt Arts calendar which should be available at the Paducah show. My husband David and I enjoy the quilting, the shows and meeting people."

Ironically, in talking with two of these women I found out that Mary Traxler's mother was from Montana and I told her Norma Maney grew up in Montana. Hard work, patience, families, memories and connections all go into the making of a quilt. You can see some of the best at the 30th Annual Arthur Amish Country Quilt Show at the Otto Center from this Thursday through Saturday, April 25 - 27.

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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	@ Pal-Hut	W	10-0	5-5	
Apr 02	LSA	W	17-15	6-5	
Apr 04	G-RF	W	7-3	7-5	
Apr 05	@ M'ville	W	10-0	8-5	
Apr 08	@ C'land	L	3-8	8-6	
Apr 10	Oblong	W	12-2	9-6	
Apr 11	@ Fisher	W	15-2	10-6	
Apr 12	Tri-County	W	18-5	11-6	
Apr 16	Schlarman	W	21-0	12-6	
Apr 17	@ Hutsonville	W	12-9	13-6	
Apr 18	AOC	ppd			
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	@ C'land	W	4-3	5-8	
Apr 02	@ SJO	L	2-7	5-9	
Apr 03	Tri-County	W	25-0	6-9	
Apr 05	@ Oblong	ppd			
Apr 08	Martinsville	W	15-0	7-9	
Apr 09	Centennial	W	16-6	8-9	
Apr 10	@ Hut-Pal	W,W	16-1,9-1	10-9	
Apr 11	@ Fisher	L	4-6	10-10	
Apr 15	vs Heritage	W	10-0	11-10	
Apr 16	@ Casey	W	2-0	12-10	
Apr 17	Cumberland	W	3-2	13-10	
Apr 18	@ Blue Ridge	ppd			
Apr 19	@ Tri-County	ppd			
Apr 22	Oblong				
Apr 24	@ Martinsville				
Apr 25	@ Arcola				
Apr 29	@Heritage				
May 01	Armstrong-Potomac				
May 02	Cerro Gordo				
May 10	@ PBL				

HEAD COACH Jeana Block

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	@ Monticello CANCELLED
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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