

# Warriors football, volleyball teams return to competition post shutdown

By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola's football and volleyball teams made their return to competition this week after taking last week off due to a surge in COVID-19 cases at the high school. The two programs were shut down on Thursday, September 30 and resumed on Monday, October 11.

Coach Andy Romine's football team had just upset the third ranked Raiders of Central A&M on homecoming before being forced to forfeit games against Clinton and Decatur St. Teresa. The two losses put the Warriors behind the eight ball in the playoff picture. They have two remaining contests traveling this Friday for a date

with a 5-2 Warrensburg team coming off a win over Clinton before returning home for senior night to take on a currently 4-3 Meridian squad on Friday September, 22.

If they are able to win both they have a shot at sneaking into the postseason with a 4-5 record but a boatload of playoff points. Most years a few four-win teams

earn a spot and the Warriors are currently well positioned near the top of the point race after playing five ranked teams to open the season.

"If we return and take care of business in our final two games, we have a chance to get into the playoffs," stated Romine. "We will crank it back up at practice on Columbus day, our play-

ers have been great through all this and are excited to get back to work."

Coach Lydia Miller's volleyball team lost three contests, two CIC skirmish's verse Warrensburg and St. Theresa and one non-con against Urbana. They restarted this past Monday with a short practice before falling to Westville in a three

set thriller 23-25, 25-9, 20-25 at home before traveling to Paris the next night. They will round out the regular season with three more matches over the next two weeks before entering the post season at Central A&M squaring off with the Regional's top seed Windsor/Stew-Stras on Wednesday, October 27.

# Tuscola cross country team takes on difficult courses last Saturday

By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola's cross-country team continued their tour of central Illinois this past Saturday taking on Lake Land College's challenging three-mile loop. Sophomore Josiah Hortin led the 14th ranked boys squad while freshman Rylie Vanausdoll served as the girls teams number one in the twenty school Cumberland Invite hosted by Cumberland High School.

Hortin entered the final chute in eighth overall crossing the line in 17 minutes and 16 seconds



Photo: Lenny Sementi

Boys cross country runners line up at the Lake Land College course on October 9.

out legging a large group of runners in the final quarter mile in a race of numerous state ranked runners and the top sophomore in the state. Teammate Jackson Barrett

was part of that group and he also found his way to the front, ending his day one spot back in ninth with a 17:26.

Next up in the three and

four holes were Tuscola's elder statesmen seniors Logan Wallace and Riley Nolan. Wallace found his way into the top twenty out over 130 runners finishing nine-

teenth with a 17:48 while Nolan ended up in fifty-first with a 19:27. Capping off the scoring for coach Lacey Diaz was sophomore Bryce Graves who clocked in at 19:40 landing in the top half in fifty-ninth helping the team to fourth place hardware. Mason Veach and John Hegarty served as the first and second alternates while Thomas Brown and Jacob Middleton competed as individuals.

Vanausdoll secured fourteenth place with a 22:46 donating to the Lady Warriors seventh place fin-

ish as a team. Makenzie Herschberger and Lauren Woods went back to back taking sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth place. Junior Reggan Smith and senior Kyla Gough rounded out the scoring for coach Adam Crutchley.

The Warriors will be looking for some Central Illinois Conference recognition this week as they prepare to host the league at Wimple Park this Thursday, October 14 before also hosting the Regional a week later on Saturday, October 23.

# Tuscola Warriors golf team takes season ending swings at Sectionals

By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola juniors Makena Fiscus and Marley Good are now three for three on advancement to the sectional round of the IHSA post-season golf tournament and will look to make four for four as seniors but hoping

to take one more step. The duo took their final swings of the 2021 season this past Monday October 1 at a very tough Auburn Sectional while sophomore Brayden Gough putted his last ball at the Beecher Sectional.

Gough advanced out

of the Regional round for the first time as a Warrior a week prior firing an 87. Tuscola's number one all season long went off early at 10:03 a.m. with 110 other golfers at a challenging Balmoral Golf Course on the seventh hole carding

matching 47's on the front and back nine. He ended strong paring three of his final four holes of the season ending his day in the top sixty individuals.

Fiscus and Good teed off a little later in the morning at 5,035 yard Edge-

wood Golf Club in Auburn. Edgewood is a very tough course with numerous blind shots and even tougher when it's your first tour not knowing where your layups will best benefit your second shots. Fiscus ended the front nine strong paring the

121 yard par three eighth but struggled on the back ending her season. Good teed off on number ten and was holding her own when she stumbled which made her turn to the front nine bringing her third campaign to a halt.

# East Prairie girls basketball resumes with a busy beginning of season

By Kendra Hennis

## Our Lady of Lourdes Seventh Grade

On September 14, the Hornets took on the Lady of Lourdes, losing 20-15. Sicily Moss led the girls with six points, Emma Spillman followed with three, and Brynlee Ring, Montserrat Xolo, and Sawyer Cleland each contributed two points.

## Eighth Grade

In the eighth grade match, the girls were defeated 20-14. Kady Cler led with four points, Chloe Fowler and Phoebe Wilkins each added three, and Reese Davis and Lilly Kurtz each contributed two points.

## Bement Eighth Grade

Later in the week, the Hornets took on Bement September 16. Amariyah Banda led the girls with 12 points and Kady Cler added four.

## Paris Mayo Seventh Grade

The Hornets hosted Paris Mayo on September 20, losing 27-11. Kinzie Cleland led the Hornets with three points, Abbey Meyer, Sawyer Cleland, and Montserrat Xolo each added two, and Emma Spillman and Brynlee Ring each scored a free throw.

## Eighth Grade

Later in the night, the eighth grade Hornets were defeated 33-14. Lilly Kurtz and Reese Davis each added four points, and Amariyah Banda, Phoebe Wilkins, and

Tori McCollum each added two points for the Hornets.

## Central A&M Seventh Grade

The next night, the Hornets traveled to Central A&M, winning 11-6. Kinzie Cleland led the Horneys with four points, Emma Spillman, Montserrat Xolo, and Sawyer Cleland each added two, and Addyson Revell contributed one free throw.

## Eighth Grade

In the eighth grade match, the Hornets defeated Central A&M 17-10. Amariyah Banda led the girls with six points, Kady Cler followed with four, Reese Davis, Lilly Kurtz, and Phoebe Wilkins each added two, and Cailin Munson contributed

one free throw.

## Charleston Seventh Grade

On September 27, the Hornets traveled to Charleston, where they put up a tough fight but ultimately lost 24-22. Sicily Moss contributed 13 points, Sawyer Cleland followed with five, and Kinzie Cleland added four points.

## Eighth Grade

In the eighth grade matchup against Charleston, the Hornets claimed victory 15-11. Amariyah Banda led the girls with five points, Reese Davis and Phoebe Wilkins each added four points, and Izabella Taylor contributed two free throws.

Coach Beth Pugh said, "both the seventh and eighth grade are trying to make up for time lost due to COVID. The seventh grade lost at least two years of basketball because of COVID and the eighth grade had a very short season last year. The girls are working hard and improving every day." She added that, "both teams have been a little short handed in a few games due to injuries and quarantine. However, the girls have been resilient and kept playing hard."

## Okaw Valley Seventh Grade

The following night, the Hornets traveled to Okaw Valley, winning 33-14. Makenzie Spencer led with 15 points, Emma Spillman contributed six, Sicily Moss added four points, and Montserrat Xolo and Sawyer Cleland contributed three points each.

On the game, Coach Pugh noted that, "The seventh grade had a good game against a young Okaw Valley team. It was great to see so many of our players get to play and score in the game."

## Eighth Grade

In the eighth grade game, the Hornets won 23-10. Am-

ariyah Banda led with six points, Reese Davis followed with five, Phoebe Wilkins and Izabella Taylor each added four points, and Lilly Kurtz contributed two.

On the game, Coach Pugh said, "We played good defense against Okaw Valley and held their best player scoreless."

## Mahomet-Seymour Tournament Seventh Grade

On October 4, the Hornets played in the Mahomet-Seymour Tournament. They first went up against Mahomet themselves and lost 29-10. Makenzie Spencer led the team with four points, and Sicily Moss, Montserrat Xolo, and Addie Presson each added two points.

Coach Pugh said, "The Mahomet-Seymour tournament is a very competitive tournament. All three of the schools that we played have a much higher enrollment than Tuscola. It is good for the girls to get to play this type of competition." She added that, "Mahomet-Seymour was tall, athletic, quick, and they shot the ball really well. They pressured the ball and took us out of our offense."

In the next game on October 5, the Hornets took on Unity, where they won 20-11. Sicily Moss led the Hornets with six points, Emma Spillman, Kinzie Cleland, and Sawyer Cleland each added four points, and Montserrat Xolo contributed two points.

On the game, Coach Pugh said, "We came out ready to play in this game. We held Unity to just four field goals. We passed the ball well and our open teammate."

In the final game of the tournament on October 7, the seventh grade Hornets won 22-21. Emma Spillman led the team with seven points, Sicily Moss added four points, Sawyer Cleland

contributed three points, and Addyson Revell, Kinzie Cleland, Montserrat Xolo, and Makenzie Spencer each added two points.

Coach Pugh said, "We held on to beat a good Mt. Zion team by one point. The girls kept their composure at the end of the game. Sawyer Cleland was one for four on the free throw line, but that one was enough for us to win the game. Congratulations to the seventh grade for placing second in the Mahomet-Seymour Bulldog tournament."

## Eighth Grade

The eighth grade Hornets also took on Mahomet-Seymour in their tournament on October 4. They were defeated 33-10. Amariyah Banda, Reese Davis, Hannah Kidwell, Cailin Munson, and Kady Cler all provided two points for the Hornets in the match.

Coach Pugh noted that, "Mahomet-Seymour was tall, athletic and very skilled. Their defense took out our offense."

In the next match on October 5, the Hornets took on Unity where they were defeated 36-5. Chloe Fowler and Tori McCollum each contributed two points and Cailin Munson added one point for the Hornets.

In the final matchup of the tournament, the Hornets were defeated 27-4 by Mt. Zion. Amariyah Banda and Cailin Munson each contributed two points for the Hornets.

On the tournament, Coach Pugh said, "Both Mahomet and Unity are big and athletic teams. Both teams took us out of our offense. The eighth grade started the game strong against Mt. Zion, but we did not handle the press as well as we should have." She added that, "The girls will learn a lot from this tournament and it will help them in the rest of their season."

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