

Black & Gold

Warrior boys and girls each win their only games of the week

By Daniel L. Chamness

Not many teams can beat the Warriors or the Lady Warriors on the hardwood.

But, as they have proved in the past, COVID-19/Coronavirus and the weather, are very formidable opponents.

The Warrior boys basketball team had one game this week, traveling up to Clinton on Friday night to play in their first Central Illinois Conference game of the year. The other game, a highly-anticipated non-conference matchup between the Tuscola Warriors and the St. Joseph-Ogden Spartans was canceled due to severe weather on Saturday afternoon/evening.

As for the girls, they played an equally deficient Fisher Bunny team on Thursday night. A contest with Tolono Unity, scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 8 was postponed to Monday, Jan. 31.

The good news is both teams won their only games this week. The boys topped the Maroons 58-47 as the Quinn brothers, Jalen and Jordan, both were in double figures. Jalen, the senior, led all scorers with 21 points. He scored nine of those points in the final eight minutes. He struck three times from beyond the arc, including twice in the final stanza.

"It was great to get that first



IZZY WILCOX PREPARES to pass the ball around the Fisher defensive player in their Thursday night contest. Wilcox helped the Warriors win their only game of the week with a hybrid squad that combined players from the junior varsity team suiting up with the varsity team to play a varsity contest only. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.

conference win, especially on the road," said head coach Justin Bozarth of his varsity Warriors. "Even though it was a double digit win, it was not our best performance. I am looking forward to turning the page and getting to play our best basketball."

Younger brother Jordan, would finish with a double-

double. The sophomore, who earned his 12 points by exclusively hitting two-point buckets, was in double figures before the first half ended. He would post 12 rebounds to complete the double double.

"It felt good to get that double-double," said Jordan Quinn. "I felt in control with the ball in

my hands and attacking the boards all night long. I think as the stakes get higher, we get mentally sharper and we are going to be ready to play in any opponent in any game. We are getting smoother and smoother in our play, I feel."

The Warrior pair were joined in double figures by

Jalen Quinn's senior classmate, Haven Hatfield, who had 10 points. Hatfield was held to just one free throw in the first half. He drained seven points in the third quarter. The traditional post player even hit a three pointer.

The scoring was rounded out by Josiah Hortin (five points), Preston Brown (four), Easton Cunningham (three), James Parsley (two) and Rajan Patel (one). The Warriors are 12-3 overall and 1-0 in the Central Illinois Conference.

The girls won an easy victory over the Bunnies, beating them 38-12. They managed to hold the Bunnies to just two points in the first quarter and were leading 12-2 after the first eight minutes and 26-8 after one half. With the win, the Lady Warriors are now 13-6 overall. They are 2-1 in the Central Illinois Conference.

Some of the girls were out of action due to the virus. Four main athletes were not able to play in the contest. But, Fisher had the same problem. The COVID-19 positive tests forced Tuscola girls coach Tim Kohlbecker to call up some junior varsity players to fill varsity roles.

"I liked what I saw from our young players," said

Kohlbecker. "They did not seem scared or timid. I know they were missing players just like we were. You could throw out the scouting report. It made it kind of fun. We just showed up and played."

The Lady Warriors were led by senior Sophie Kremitzki and Harley Woodard, who each tallied 12 points.

Kremitzki scored eight of her 12 points in the first quarter, nailing two three pointers. She would not hit another bucket, hitting four free throws in the second and third quarters. Woodard had her big quarter in the third quarter, scoring six points. The two were aided by the eight points of Izzy Wilcox, who scored all of her points in the second quarter. She, like Kremitzki, struck twice from beyond the arc.

"We came together well today," said Wilcox, a Tuscola junior. "We all seemed to do our jobs. For me personally, I need to drive the basket better and pass the ball better. I hit some threes and overall I am pretty pleased."

Taylor Musgrave, Olivia Wallace and Taylor Gordon each scored two points to round out the scoring for the Lady Warriors.

Lady Warriors post 3-0 mark in Holiday Hoopla pool play

By Daniel L. Chamness

Since 2015, the Tuscola Lady Warriors have won two Monticello Holiday Hoopla Championship Titles.

While they did not win the title game this year, they were right where they have been three of the last five years: battling for that team title.

This year, the Lady Warriors blasted through the Gold Pool, defeating opponents by an average of 27 points per game. They would score 48.6 points per game, while holding the three pool play opponents, Stark County, Ridgeview and Paxton-Buckley Loda to an average of 21 points per game.

But, the opening pool play game, a 60-12 victory over Stark County, was the most decisive victory of all for Tuscola. The Warriors would start faster than a sprinter out of the blocks, scoring the first nine points of the game and never looking back.

Sophie Kremitzki started the scoring with a pair of free throws at the 5:49 mark of the first quarter. That was followed by a Kremitzki steal and subsequent bucket, a pair of free throws by Ella Boyer and yet another bucket by the senior, Kremitzki. All of the scoring occurred within 90 seconds. Stark County earned their first points with just 4:00 to play in the first quarter as Lauren West nailed a three pointer.

The Warriors quickly answered as Ella Boyer hit not one, but two treys from the different wings. At the 3:35 mark, the junior struck from the left wing. To show she is equally adept from the right wing, she nailed one at 3:22. In both cases, the basketball hit nothing but hoop thread. Stark County would score only once more in the first eight minutes of play as Kylee Frisby scored with only five ticks left on the clock in the first quarter.

At the first break, the Lady Warriors would boast a 17-5 lead. They would continue to run away with the game and with two minutes to play in the

first half, they would be up by 30. At halftime, they were leading 42-7 at halftime. The clock started running steady after Harley Woodard drained a layup at the 3:17 mark of the third quarter. The Warriors would score the final eight points of the third quarter with Lia Patterson hitting a layup with 48 second left on the clock.

Kremitzki would finish the opening contest against Stark County with 20 points and five rebounds. Boyer would finish with 17 points, six assists, three steals and two rebounds. Both Boyer and Kremitzki were named to the all-tournament team at the conclusion of the title game of the Holiday Hoopla.

"I was proud of myself for being named to the all-tournament team," said Kremitzki. "It shows that my hard work is paying off. My teammates were extremely supportive and I could not have accomplished that without them."

Woodard had seven points, while Wilcox and Patterson each had four. Musgrave, Stahler, Moss and Macaulay each had two points.

The Lady Warriors would win a pair of Tuesday games to complete pool play with a 3-0 record. To open the day, they topped Colfax-based Ridgeview 46-33. Kremitzki and Boyer were in double figures once again as Kremitzki scored 13 points, while Boyer finished with 12. Stahler would

bucket eight points.

"I was pretty pleased with how I played against Ridgeview," said Stahler. "It was a pretty energetic game by both sides. It was amazing to be on the court in a game like that. I think we may surprise some teams, because I think we are getting better and better."

Macaulay had four points and Woodard finished with three. Ava Boyer and Musgrave each had two, while Wilcox and Patterson tallied one point each.

In Tuscola's 40-19 thump-

ing of Paxton-Buckley-Loda, Ella Boyer finished with 13 points. She was the only Warrior in double figures. Musgrave had seven points, while

Moss and Woodard each had six points. Ava Boyer had four points, while Kremitzki had three points. Wilcox scored the other point.

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