

# Black & Gold

## Tuscola wins defensive battle over Arcola

By Mike Monahan

ARCOLA- In a defensive boys' basketball battle Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021, at Nancy Stiff Gymnasium it was Tuscola's that stood out as they held Arcola to just 10-of-45 (.222) from the field and 2-of-17 (118) from beyond the three-point line.

"We tried to play good man-to-man defense, much like Arcola," said Tuscola coach Justin Bozarth. "They guard like crazy as well. They are as well coached as anybody around here. Greg (Gisinger) does such a good job and gets the most out of his guys. For the most part it was two teams playing solid man-to-man defense all night."

Tuscola led the entire game and they didn't lead by more than nine until the 2:48 mark of the third quarter after a 7-0 run by Loyola-bound Jalen Quinn, a 6-3 point guard. Quinn scored all 13 points in the third quarter as the Warriors led 32-22 entering the final quarter. The final margin of 16 was the largest of the game. The 7-0 run in a span of 3:39 was the largest run by either team. Quinn made a basket, scored on a putback and drained one of his three, three-pointers in the scoring spurt.

"It is pretty cool to end out on a cola war with a win," said Quinn, who went 3-1 against Arcola. "They are huge games for both communities and they come out and show the love. It is really important for us to get that victory and keep the momentum going. It was good to get the win."

Bozarth did anticipate a low scoring game, but not that much.

"One of the reasons why we were kind of anticipating a low-scoring game is Arcola's offense is so difficult to defend," said Bozarth, who is in his fifth year. "Because they put you in positions where you have to defend for 25-30 seconds as a result the pace of the game slows down because you are playing defense so long which is why it is important to rebound the first shot that they take. Did I think we would score 44 points? No, I thought we would score a little more than that. We knew it was one of those games where we were averaging 72.8 points per game. We are probably not getting 73 versus a team that guards as well as Arcola does."

Quinn, who had two dunks in the game, one in the opening quarter and one in the final quarter, finished 10-of-22 from the field, including 3-of-7 from beyond the three-point line for a game-high 25 points. He also had several assists, including one behind the back pass.

"It was a team effort (on Quinn) for the most part we switched a lot on him," said Gisinger. "Aldo Garcia did a good job on him and he probably had his best game of the year tonight."

As for the third quarter Bozarth said, "We tried to get (Jalen Quinn) a touch inside and get the confidence and let him see the ball go in once or twice and I thought he fought through it," said Bozarth. "We were not as sharp on offense as we have been all year long and it is not just Jalen. It is the whole team."

Gisinger agreed about the third quarter saying, "They did a good job of going to the post of going to him, which I was hoping they would not do, especially with us in foul trouble. When Quinn got in there it was a problem for us. We adjusted to it, but it was probably something we should have been more ready for it in the third quarter."

Arcola never led and fell to 4-4.

Arcola didn't have any bigger run than three points. The Warriors run was all by Quinn as



JALEN QUINN (3) PREPARES to shoot from the corner for Tuscola in their game with Arcola. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

Tuscola led 22-17 with 6:27 left in third when he hit a jumper, scored on a putback and drilled one of three pointers for a 29-17 advantage. The Purple Riders didn't get closer than 10 in the final 9:48.

Garcia led Arcola's balanced attack with seven points, while Beau Edwards had a team-high seven rebounds.

The kids played hard," said Gisinger. "We had some foul trouble early, we had three starters with two fouls all in the first quarter I think. That made it kind of tough on us offensively especially. We kept guarding, rebounding at a high level for being pretty undersized (Arcola was only outrebounded 33-30). I thought we did some really good things. We just shot poorly and that is basketball. It is hard to win that way."

Tuscola, 8-1, has won six

straight games and after shooting .300 in the first half shot .458 in the second half to help them to victory.

"I felt like in the first half their offensive was getting to us and we were trying new things and they were just taking it away," said Jalen Quinn. "In the second half they put me in the post and gave them a new look and see if we could work off that. I think that helped us a lot just to get more movement and get me more touches and hopefully get me scores and that is what it did. They did play really good defense that packs the lane. So getting me touches inside the lane helped us."

Jordan Quinn was also in double digits with 10 points, while Preston Brown was tops in rebounds with 12.

"It was one of those nights where you look at the stat line

percent every night. The law of averages is going to even out. I guess what I am most proud of is we bought in defensively and on a night that your offense is not as good you better be ready to guard and for the most part we were."

Tuscola held Arcola to just 4-of-25 (.160) shooting from the field in the final 16:21, helping the Warriors pull away.

"I felt like our effort was their the whole game," said Jalen Quinn. "We were struggling on the offensive end so we knew we had to turn up the energy on the defensive end. That is kind of what produced our points. We know we are a defensive energy team and we have to keep teams under a certain amount of points and that is what we did tonight with our effort."

The 1962-63 and 1963-64 Arco teams were honored prior to the varsity game and team varsity wore throwback jerseys Friday. The 1962-63 team went 26-2, while the 63-64 squad was 25-6 and reached the Sweet Sixteen in the one class system.

"(after the third quarter), We talked about being up 10 and if we can push the lead we had opportunities to do things differently offensively," said Bozarth. "As long as we commit to guard-

ing as well as we had up to that point you can put a little more pressure on their defense as far as stringing them out. It was a good atmosphere and great recognition from the teams from the 1960s. This is what makes it fun."

### Junior varsity wins

The junior varsity won a thrilling 40-37 game. The Warriors led 21-16 at the half and 34-24 entering the fourth before the Purple Riders rallied. Tuscola held on by three.

Chris Boyd and Jackson Barrett led Tuscola with 12 points each.

Tuscola	9	10	13	12-44
Arcola	8	7	7	6-28

TUSCOLA: Preston Brown 2-0-4, Jalen Quinn 10-2-25, Austin Cummings 1-0-3, James Parsley 1-0-2, Haven Hatfield 0-0-0, Colton Musgrave 0-0-0, Dylan Homann 0-0-0, Rajen Patel 0-0-0, Jackson Barrett 0-0-0, Chris Boyd 0-0-0, Josiah Hortin 0-0-0, Jordan Quinn 3-4-10, Hunter Branca 0-0-0, Totals 17-6-44

3-point goals: Arcola 2-17 .118 (Kuhns 1, Thomas 1) Tuscola 4-13 .308 (Jalen Quinn 3, Austin Cummings 1) Rebounds: Arcola 30 (Edwards 7), Tuscola 33 (Preston Brown 12). Turnovers: Arcola 11, Tuscola 11. Shooting percentages: Arcola 10-45 .222, Tuscola 17-44 .386

Tuscola	11	10	13	6-40
Arcola	8	8	8	13-37

TUSCOLA: Musgrave 3-0-7, Cummings 0-0-0, Barrett 4-1-12, Branca 1-2-4, Boyd 4-4-12, Boston Broady 0-0-0, Parker James 1-2-4, Totals 13-10-40

3-point goals: Tuscola 4 (Musgrave 1, Barrett 3)

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