

# Black & Gold

## Girls enter post season 22-7; triumph over Meridian 47-24

**By Daniel L. Chamness**  
 The hay is in the barn and now, the real season starts. While the Tuscola Lady Warriors played their final game of the regular season, they will head to the post season with a record of 22-7. They cruised to a 23-point victory over the Meridian Hawks on

Wednesday night, almost doubling up the Hawks, beating them 47-24. The Lady Warriors held the Lady Hawks to just five points in each of the second and third quarters. They scored seven points in each of the book ends. At halftime, Tuscola was

only up by nine, 21-12, and the third quarter was not all that offensively active for either team, but the Warriors were able to creep even away even further. The Tuscola defense limited Meridian to just two buckets, both of which were scored by freshman guard Haley Leffler.

Their other point was scored by Emma Babb. The Warriors were leading 33-17 at the end of the third quarter. Within the first 90 seconds of the fourth quarter, an old fashioned three point play by Izzy Wilcox with 6:37 left to play gave the Warriors a comfortable 38-18 lead.

The game did not start off that way. Given it was their senior night, the Lady Hawks entered the game fired up and played on adrenalin given it was their senior night. At one point in the first quarter, they led the Warriors 7-4. They even held the lead at the end of the first break, 7-6, as the Lady

Warriors managed only buckets by Sydney Moss and Taylor Musgrave. The other two points were scored by Sophie Kremitzki, who was one of two Lady Warriors in double figures.

In the second quarter, the Warriors woke up and would score 15 to the Hawks' five points and take the lead for good. No less than seven Warriors scored in the second quarter. They struck from everywhere, hitting from three point land, the charity stripe and regulation buckets.

No one was more prolific scoring than junior Ella Boyer. The guard scored her four points with the clock at a standstill as she netted four free throws. Kremitzki would nail a three pointer, one of three that she had during the game, while Ava Boyer, Harley Woodard and Musgrave each had regulation buckets. Molly McCaulay and Wilcox each had one free throw. The second quarter gave Tuscola the lead for good.

The Warriors will start the Illinois High School Association Regionals this week. The first scheduled game for the Lady Warriors, who are ranked third, will play Okaw Valley at 7:30 p.m. If they beat Okaw Valley, who is ranked sixth in that regional complex, they will play for the regional title at 7 p.m. on Thursday night. All Tuscola's regional games will be played in Macon Meridian.

From there, the winner of the Macon Meridian Regional will advance to the IHSA Class 1A Sectional at Tuscola. The other regionals that will feed into the Tuscola Sectional will be Hume Shiloh Regional, which features Arcola, Toledo Cumberland Regional and Altamont Regional. There will be two games on Tuesday, February 22, one at 6 p.m. and the other at 7:30 p.m. or after the first game. Tuscola will play in the second game, provided they have not lost.



ELLA BOYER TRIES to weave her way through Macon Meridian traffic last week. She was one of two Lady Warriors in double figures as the Warriors won their final regular season game. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.

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