

# Black & Gold

## Tuscola celebrates 23-7 team

By Daniel L. Chamness

A time of celebration.

That is what Monday night was for the Tuscola basketball team. For the fans and coaches, it was a chance to say goodbye. At times that goodbye was punctuated by the emotions of the head coach Justin Bozarth as his voice cracked with emotion and he had to pause for a second before continuing.

While it was also a time to say farewell to the greatest basketball player to ever pull on the black and gold, Jalen Quinn, Bozarth rightfully pointed out that the eight seniors that made up the Tuscola Class of 2022 were not just about one player, but highlighted the group and what they accomplished.

It was truly the end of an era, but the memories, still fresh in everyone's mind, will most likely not fade for a long, long time.

Jalen Quinn grabbed three honors from the school and one from the Central Illinois Conference. The awards for the 6-foot-3 guard are still pouring in. He has already been selected to numerous all-state teams and not shockingly, he earned unanimous selection in the CIC, earning the vote of every conference coach.

The soon-to-be Loyola University Rambler was named the TCHS Boys Basketball Most Valuable Player. He also earned two stat driven awards, the rebounding honor and free throw award. Quinn scored a total of 844 points in 35 games, starting every one. He averaged 24.1 points per game.

As far as the rebounding, he grabbed 231 total rebounds, an average of 6.6 per game. On free throws, he nailed 79 percent of his opportunities, hitting 155-of-197 from the charity stripe.

"I have known Jalen since his freshman year," said Bozarth, "We drove nine hours

to North Carolina and he said about 18 words. He will always be much more to Tuscola that has nothing to do with basketball. I can honestly say that he is the best Tuscola basketball player ever. He is obviously been blessed with some amazing talent, but he nurtured that talent and worked to get better. We were at a crossroads this season and Jalen along with his brother (Jordan) decided we were going north and getting better, not south."

James Parsley and Colton Musgrave shared the defensive award. Parsley, a senior, finished with 40 steals, while Musgrave had 24 steals. Both athletes traditionally played against the other team's guards and would harass them on the wings and the top of the key. They would trap them and cause turnovers.

"He is a guy that knows his strengths and his limitations," said Bozarth. "He is not afraid to work on his weaknesses. We are looking forward to working with him. The junior gave us an identity when we needed one. He just works and forges ahead and keeps improving."

Meanwhile, the pair kept their own turnovers at a minimum. Parsley turned the ball over 24 times in the 29 games he played. Parsley battled a fractured ankle at the end of the year, but returned to play in the playoffs. Musgrave played in all 32 games and turned the ball over only 15 times.

Other stats for Parsley included 88 points, 47 rebounds and 21 assists. He nailed over 50 percent of his points from the field, hitting 34-of-68 from the floor, which is 50 percent. His percentage only dropped two percentage points when he moved beyond the arc as he hit 15-of-31 from three-point land. Musgrave scored 59 points, pulled down 51 rebounds, had 24 steals and doled out 23 assists. He was ef-



**BASKETBALL AWARD WINNERS:** The Tuscola Warriors show off their awards on Monday night after the basketball banquet. From left to right are: Colton Musgrave (Defensive Award), Thomas Brown (Warrior Spirit Award), James Parsley (Defensive Award) and Jalen Quinn (Most Valuable Player, Free Throw Award, Rebounding Award). Photo by Dan Chamness.

ficient from the field, nailing 24-of-56 shots, which included six treys. He also had three free throws.

"When James called me at home to tell me that he fractured his ankle, I cried," said Bozarth of Parsley. "I did not think he would be back. At the time he got injured, he was playing his basketball of the year. He was the only guy that believed he would make it back. I will never forget his tenacity or toughness. He bounced back. James believed

he would be back and he was. He set the bar for toughness. He got into his role his senior year and made us better."

Thomas Brown, another of the graduating seniors, earned the Warrior Spirit Award. Brown appeared in 26 games and finished with 36 points, 39 rebounds, 11 steals and seven assists.

"Thomas is our energy guy," said Bozarth. "This is a guy who was enthusiastic weather he played 20 minutes or no minutes. It was never about

him, but about the team. Thomas is inspiring. We would not have made the IHSA Class 1A Sweet Sixteen without you."

While Jordan Quinn did not earn honors from TCHS, the sophomore joined his older brother on the all-conference team. He was one of three Tuscola boys players to score over 200 points, as his 273 points on the season was second only to his older brother. Besides his 8.53 points per game, he also had 51 boards, 24 steals and 23 assists.

"Jordan had multiple double-doubles this year," said Bozarth. "Other than Jalen and Nick Bates, it has been a long, long time since we have had a sophomore make first team all conference. He missed nearly all of the beginning of the season, other than conditioning. He has a tremendous upside. We are excited for what his future looks like on the basketball floor."



**JOSIAH HORTIN** competes in the 800-meter run at the Gene Armer Invitational, which was hosted by Urbana High School and held at the University of Illinois Armory. The sophomore has been invited to run in the Top Times Meet on Friday afternoon/evening as a member of the 3,200-meter relay team. Photo by Dan Chamness.

### Track

From page 10

them the proper rest so they can perform at a high level."

The other victory belonged to

Natalie Hastings in the shot put. Hastings threw 9.85 meters.

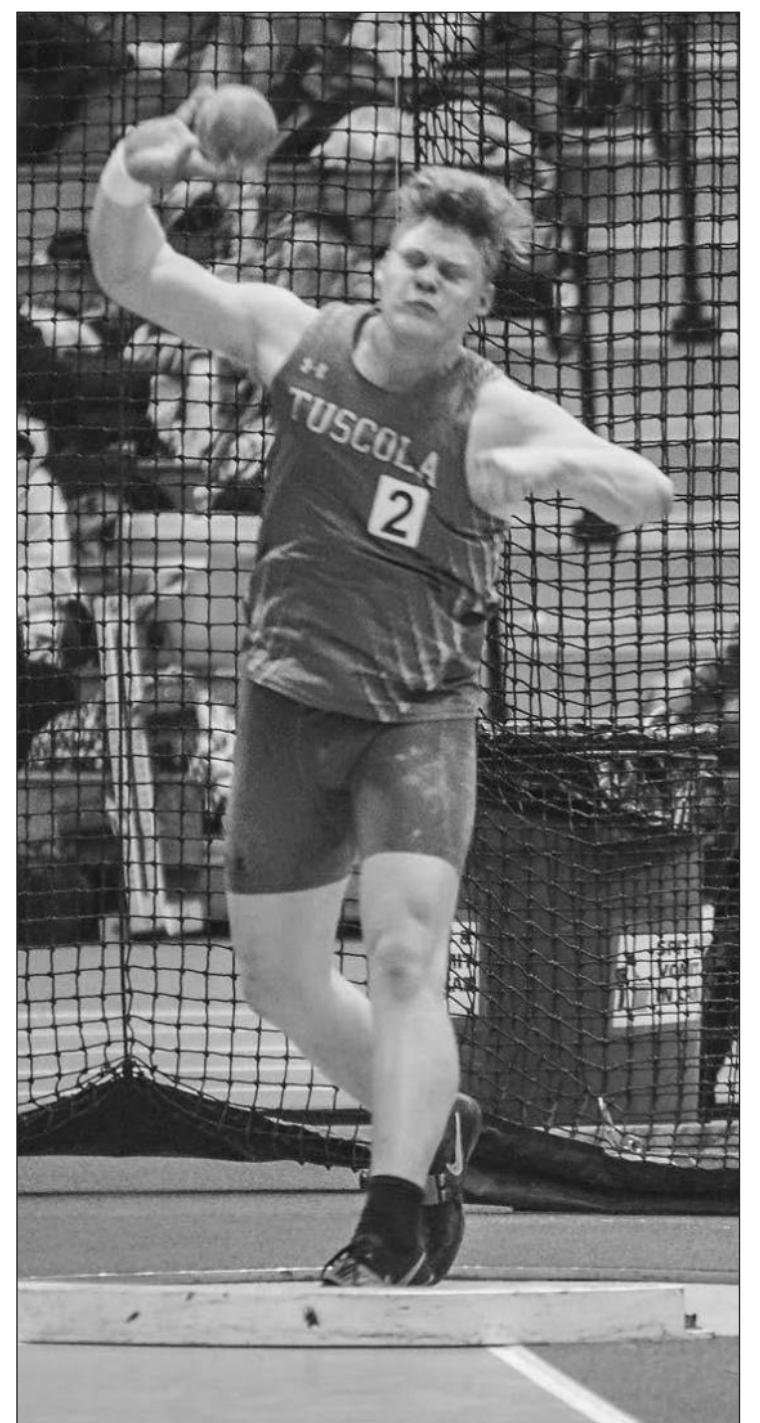
Clodfelder jumped 9.88 meters in the triple jump, which was good enough for second place. Taylor Gordon backed Hastings up in the shot put, finishing third with a put of 9.04 meters.

Patterson took fourth in the long jump, while Addisyn Petry took fifth in the 60-meter hurdles. Patterson recorded a leap of 4.70 meters, while Petry finished in :11.57.

"Natalie has a great mental-

ity and listens to the coaching advice we give her," said Sterkel. "Kenna is so tough as well. She jumped her best in the triple jump by almost three meters and she filled in quite nicely for a sick athlete in the 800-meter relay."

Other top 10 finishes were posted by Harley Woodard (sixth, long jump) and Clodfelder (seventh, 200-meter dash) and Victoria Wells (10th, shot put). The Lady Warrior 1,600-meter relay team also took sixth.



**CHRIS BOYD** HEAVES the shot put 15.0 meters at the Gene Armer Invitational. The junior has the second best throw in the state of Illinois in Class 1A and will make the trip to the Top Times Meet on Friday. Photo by Dan Chamness.

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