

# Tuscola baseball tops Eastland

By Daniel L. Chamness

If you were a Tuscola Warrior baseball player against the visiting Lanark-based Eastland Cougars, you hit the ball.

Multiple times. The point: no Warrior had only one hit. Every Warrior that had a hit, had at least two hits. Up and down the lineup. Six Warrior players accounted for the 15 hits in the 19-9 Tuscola win.

"We swung the bats really well," said Adam Carver, Tuscola's head coach, of the game against Eastland. "It was nice to see us do that. We need to put the ball in play and improve our defense."

Four of the 15 hits were courtesy of Patrick Pierce. The senior smacked a pair of doubles, drove home four runs and scored three times.

"I am starting to feel a little more comfortable at the plate," said Pierce. "Against Eastland, I was seeing the ball very well. It also helped that my teammates were hitting well also. I want to just keep improving and help us win a conference title and a regional title. At the end of the year, I would like to be all-conference."

The top three batters in the Tuscola lineup, namely Peyton Armstrong, Easton Cunningham and Colton Musgrave, each had multiple hits as well. The leadoff hitter, Armstrong, was 3-for-5 with a double. The future college football player crossed the plate three times and drove home one run. Cunningham and Musgrave were 2-for-3 and 2-for-4 respectively. Cunningham, who doubled and walked twice, had three RBIs and three runs scored. Musgrave crossed the plate twice and

drove home one run.

Chase Jones and Nate Thomason had two hits each. Jones, the designated hitter, was a perfect 2-for-2 with a double and a pair of walks. With his performance at the plate, he drove home a pair of runs and scored once. Thomason was 2-for-4. He crossed the plate twice and drove home two runs.

"We have had some growing pains and lack a bit of experience at the varsity level," said Carver. "We are improving on a weekly basis and we will be more competitive as the season continues."

On the hill, Dylan Shinn earned the win. He worked 5 2/3 innings, allowing four earned runs on nine hits. He fanned four and walked one in earning the win. Caden Baer worked the final 1/3 of an inning, rolling goose eggs in each category. He did not get the save.

Unfortunately for the 3-8 Warriors, they would not win the nightcap with Effingham-based St. Anthony or Thursday's contest with Warrensburg-Latham.

In the 18-5 loss to St. Anthony, which started at 5 p.m. on Saturday, the Warriors were held to seven hits. Musgrave doubled and homered in the contest. He would finish 3-for-4, driving home four runs and scoring once. Armstrong was 2-for-3 and scored once.

The Cardinals scored eight runs in the top of the sixth inning to earn a 17-4 win on Thursday. Armstrong was 2-for-3 with a double. The senior scored twice. Musgrave homered in the contest and finished with four RBIs and one run scored.



PEYTON ARMSTRONG DELIVERS a pitch for the Warriors on Saturday. The Warriors split a pair of games, beating the Eastland Cougars at noon, but losing to the St. Anthony Bulldogs later in the day. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.



JACKSON BARRETT (foreground) and Josiah Hortin (background) compete in the 3,200-meter run at the ALAH Invitational. The distance runners, who run cross country in the fall and play basketball in the winter, competed in the 1,600-meter run as well on Saturday. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.



CHRIS BOYD, a Tuscola junior, heaves the shot put during the ALAH Invitational. Boyd finished second in both throwing events, the shot put and the discus. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.



SURROUNDED by her fellow Warriors, Keri Pierce warms up between innings against Warrensburg Latham. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.



RILEY NOLAN RUNS his leg of the 3,200-meter relay on Saturday. The senior two sport athlete helped the Warriors finish third in that event and third as a team. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.

BOYD BREWER LOBS the ball into play during a corner kick. Tuscola spring soccer saw one of the largest registrations for youth soccer. Teams will travel to area towns, as well as hosting games at Ervin Park.

Opening the season was U12 (5th and 6th grade), traveling to Arthur on Thursday, April 7, the team came away with a 5-3 win. They then hosted Villa Grove on Saturday, April 9, taking a loss but putting in a strong match-up.

Also on Saturday, U14 (7th and 8th grade) welcomed Paxton. Despite a strong showing, Paxton took the win. U10 (3rd and 4th grade) hosted St Joe in their season open and pulled off a shutout 3-0 win.

Sunday, Robinson Soccer Club visited with the Tuscola High School level team. The matchup was close but Tuscola ended then game with a win, 4-3.

This week will see an increase in activity as the other 4 youth teams in U8 and U10 open their season. Photo by Margie Carter.



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