

# Black & Gold

## Tuscola holds Arcola scoreless in final three innings in 13-9 victory

By Mike Monahan

ARCOLA – Tuscola’s softball team won its fifth straight game last Wednesday at Moore Memorial Park. This time it was the pitching of Kerri Pierce, who retired 11 of Arcola’s last 12 batters to win 13-9 on a cold day. Tuscola trailed 9 to 8 when Pierce found her pitches and the Lady Warrior offense scored the final five runs for the victory.

Early on she couldn’t throw a couple of pitches,” said Tuscola coach Lenny Sementi. “The last three innings we were able to throw a couple of different pitches that she throws and we got them to roll over and got some ground balls out of it. That was the difference.”

Tuscola improved to 6-1 with the victory, while Arcola dropped to 6-5 and are one of the teams receiving votes in the latest Class 1A softball rankings according to the Illinois Softball Coaches Association.

The game featured four lead changes and 32 hits along with 22 runs. Tuscola averaged a 10-7 victory going into the contest, while the Purple Riders averaged a 10-5 triumph.

Arcola led 5-3 after three innings when Tuscola sent 10 batters to the plate and scored five runs, four with two outs. The first run occurred on the Lady Warriors only home run of the game, a solo shot by Makenna Fiscus. With two outs Ava Boyer reached on an error and Isabelle Wilcox singled. Ella Boyer doubled to the gap in left center and went to third on the throw home as two runs scored. Emily Czerwonka, Kerri Pierce and Zoey Thompson all singled as two more runs scored before the inning ended.

Arcola, who led 5 to 2 after two innings, tallied four runs in its half of the fourth on four hits to take a 9-8 advantage.

“It is always tough and I think it is nemental anytime

we play Tuscola in any sport, boys and girls,” said Arcola coach Cara Roberts. “It was really good to see how we reacted every inning when they were on top we would come back. It tells alot about the team and how they are not going to shut down and give up. They scored two and we came back and scored four. They scored five and we scored four until the last three innings. It is always hard when you play Tuscola.”

Ava Simpson led off for the Purple Riders with a double down the left field line and scored on a two-run homer by left-handed batter Keira Hohlbauch. Ariana Warren drew a full-count walk and Kacie Sisk doubled to left-center putting runners in scoring position. Both runners moved up on a wild pitch as Warren made it a tie game at eight. Tuscola second baseman Ava Boyer made a diving catch to her right for the first out.

Mackenzie Thomas drove in Sisk on a single up the middle for what would be Arcola’s next to last hit of the game. A strikeout and a line out back to the pitcher ended the inning.

Tuscola tied the game with a run in the fifth on a two-out single by Wilcox, scoring Fiscus who led of the inning with a single and advanced to second on a wild pitch. After an intentional walk Arcola relief pitcher Hohlbauch got the next batter to fly out to center.

The Warriors took the lead for good after a one-two-three fifth for Arcola, the first by either team. With one out Thompson singled to left stole second and third and with two outs Fiscus hit an infield single for what turned out to be the winning run. The big hit was next as No. 9 batter Addyson Ring, who was 0-for-3, smacked a triple to the gap in right-center, scoring two runs and Ring scored on a single by Eva Boyer for a 12-9 advance.

tage. “You don’t see many triples to the fence out of a slap hitter,” said Sementi of Ring. “It was a big triple and the home run by Fiscus was another big hit.”

Arcola had a runner on second with two outs in the sixth after Avery Kessler singled to left and advanced to second on a wild pitch. Pierce got out of the inning with a strikeout.

The Warriors added one more run in the seventh for the final margin of four.

Everyone in Tuscola’s lineup had at least one hit and all but two players had at least two hits.

Hohlbauch suffered the loss for Arcola throwing three innings and allowing eight hits on five runs, no walks and two strikeouts.

All but two players had at least one hit for Arcola and the top six hitters were a combined 11-for-22 with nine runs, seven runs batted in and three doubles, a triple and two

home runs.

“Arcola’s top five or six hitters can stick the ball and I was a little worried,” said Sementi. “I wasn’t sure where we would come out on that, but the girls kept fighting and there girls kept fighting. It was just a good softball game by both teams and fun to watch.”

Sementi thought that their shortstop, Ella Boyer, played a good game.

“We only have one player in the same position as last year,” said Sementi. “Everyday is a new day and our catcher had not caught before this season. We have two kids that are injured.”

Tuscola	201	513	1-13-19-1
Arcola	410	400	0-9-13-3

Winning pitcher: Kerri Pierce 7 innings, 14 hits, 9 runs, 8 earned, 2 walks, 6 strikeouts  
 TUSCOLA: Ava Boyer 3-for-5, double, 2 runs, RBI; Isabelle Wilcox 3-for-5, 2 runs, double, 2 RBIs; Ella Boyer 2-for-4, double, 2 runs, 2 RBIs; Emily Czerwonka 2-for-5, 2 runs, 2 RBIs; Pierce 3-for-5, double, 2 RBIs; Zoey Thompson 2-for-5, run; Marissa Boyer 1-for-5; Makenna Fiscus 3-for-5, home run, 3 runs, 2 RBIs; Addyson Ring 1-for-4, triple, run, RBI

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