

# Black & Gold



TUSCOLA SOPHOMORE AUSTIN CUMMINGS takes a swing at a pitch in the Warriors game with the Georgetown Ridge Farm Buffalos. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.

## Tuscola tops Meridian in conference play

**By Daniel L. Chamness**  
 The rivalry between the Meridian Hawks and the Tuscola Warriors is alive and well. The Warriors had three baseball games in the last week, and the most important of the three was the game with the Hawks. In the Central Illinois Conference game, the Warriors brought not only their "A game", but their ace pitcher, Patrick Pierce. The Warriors would emerge victorious posting a 5-2 victory. The Warriors, who finished with nine hits, all singles by the way, got multiple hit performances from future college football player Peyton Armstrong and Jayden Gaines. Armstrong crossed the plate twice and


drove home one run. Gaines scored twice. For his part, Pierce worked six innings, allowing one earned run on four hits. He fanned seven batters and walked three. Pierce threw 105 pitches in the contest and 65 of those were strikes. Dylan Shinn worked the final inning, allowing one hit and fanning a pair. The Warriors would also win on Monday night, beating the Sullivan Redskins 7-5. Seven Warriors had hits, but only one, Easton Cunningham, had multiple hits. He was 2-for-3, scored twice and drove home one run. Pierce had one hit, but it was a homer. He was 1-for-3, drove home two and

scored twice. Baer worked 5 2/3 innings and reached the pitching limit as allowed by the Illinois High School Association. He allowed six hits. Baer struck out five and walked four. He was not charged with a single earned run. In the Thursday night game against Georgetown Ridge Farm, a 12-7 loss, Colton Musgrave was 3-for-4. The catcher drove home two and scored two. Three other Warriors, namely Baer, Chase Jones and Gaines, had two hits. Baer was 2-for-3, drove home one and scored once. Gaines was 2-for-3 and scored a run. Jones finished 2-for-3. Pierce smacked a

homer, driving home three runs and scoring one. "We had some tough times at the plate," said Adam Carver,

Tuscola's head coach, after the loss to GRF. "When we threw Patrick against Meridian, I knew that would give us a good

chance to win. We were looking for our first conference win and we knew it was a winnable game."

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