

Black & Gold

Warrior softball team wins six in a row

By Daniel L. Chamness
Tuscola Warrior softball coach Lenny Sementi believes his Lady Warriors have "turned a corner."

Time will tell if that is true, but what is true and factual is the Lady Warriors have simply had a memorable, winning week. The most memorable and winning one of the year thus far. They have not lost all week and have rolled to six straight wins since Tuesday, April 12. They are now 12-2 overall and 5-1 in the Central Illinois Conference.

The streak started with a 15-4 victory over the St. Teresa Bulldogs. They would follow that win with wins on Wednesday, Friday, a pair on Saturday and one on Monday.

Keri Pierce earned the victory against St. Teresa, work-

ing five innings. She allowed one earned run on six hits, fanned one and walked one. She also helped herself at the plate as she went 2-for-3, drove home two runs and scored two runs.

She was one of five Lady Warriors to post a multiple hit game. Ella Boyer, Emily Czeronka and Ava Boyer had perfect days at the plate. Ella Boyer was 4-for-4 with a homer. She drove home four runs and scored three times. Czeronka was also 4-for-4 and scored twice. Ava Boyer, who also homered, was 3-for-3 and walked. Boyer crossed the plate four times and drove home three runs.

Izzy Wilcox was the other Warrior to post a multiple hit game, posting a 2-for-4 performance with a triple. She

drove home a pair and scored two.

That was simply the start. They would go on to defeat Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond (14-10), Meridian (6-5), Oakwood (14-1), Waltonville (9-5) and Sullivan (11-3).

"I think the one that showed we can play with anyone was the Meridian game," said Sementi. "It was a really big win over a really good Meridian team. We are not a complete team as we are missing some players. But, we have had some players like Claire Meyer, Ava Boyer and Zoey Thomason step up. The girls have put in some time in the batting cages and our lineup is solid."

In the game, Pierce once again earned the win and she also was one of two Lady War-

riors to post a multiple hit game. Both the Hawks and Warriors had seven hits. Pierce was 2-for-2 with a walk. She drove home one run and scored a run. On the hill, she worked seven innings, allowing three earned runs on seven hits. She fanned one and walked one.

The other two athletes that contributed heavily to the win over Meridian were Czeronka and Taylor Musgrave. Czeronka was 2-for-4 and drove home a pair of runs. Musgrave was 1-for-2, but her lone hit was a homer. Musgrave drove home two runs and scored once.

Izzy Wilcox earned the win in the 14-10 slugfest with ALAH. She and Pierce shared the pitching duties. In her time on the hill, Wilcox allowed

three earned runs on eight hits. She walked three runs. Ava Boyer, who smacked a homer and a double, was 3-for-4. The freshman drove home three runs and drove home a pair. Wilcox Czeronka, Piece and Thomason each had two hits. Thomason had a double in the contest.

Wilcox earned the victory over Oakwood. She allowed only one hit in five innings of work. She fanned five and walked two. Ava Boyer homered against Oakwood, finishing 4-for-4. She scored three times and drove home two. Thomason and Meyer each had a pair of hits. Thomason also walked.

In the triumph over Waltonville, Wilcox and Ella Boyer were each 3-for-4. Boyer doubled. Pierce earned the win. In seven innings of work, she al-

lowed two earned runs on six hits. She walked three batters.

Four Lady Warriors had multiple hit games against Sullivan. Ava Boyer homered as did Thomason. Boyer was 3-for-5, crossed the plate twice and drove home a pair. Musgrave, Thomason and Meyer each had two hits. Thomason was 2-for-4, scored three times and drove home three. Musgrave doubled and walked. She was 2-for-3 and scored once. Meyer, who was also 2-for-3, walked as well. She scored twice and drove home one.

Pierce earned yet another victory, working a complete game. She allowed three earned runs on six hits. She struck out three batters and walked two.

Warriors win two individual titles at Monticello boys invitational meet

By Daniel L. Chamness
During the track season, there are not too many meets the Tuscola Warriors will compete in that have the prestige that the Monticello Boys Invitational has.

With a mixture of Class 1A and 2A schools competing, it gives the athletes an opportunity to see where they stand approximately five weeks from the sectional finals and six weeks from the Illinois High School Association state championships.

If that is the case, the Tuscola boys, especially junior Christopher Boyd and sophomore Will Foltz are in pretty good positions. Boyd won the shot put convincingly, throwing 16.90 meters. The junior three-sport Warrior athlete was also second in the discus, recording a throw of 45.52 meters.

"It was one of the best days ever in the shot put," said Boyd. "Even though I did not top my personal best, I had three throws over 54 feet. My last throw was 55-6. I like that consistency. I was only three

inches from my personal best of 55-9."

Foltz would win the pole vault in the field, leaping 3.96 meters.

"It was a great way to start the weekend," said Foltz. "I need to work on fixing my turn and my plant could improve. I think I have more height in the vault. I am aiming for 13-0 again and anything more would be a bonus. The Tuscola Invite is on Friday night and I would like to win that of course."

Foltz would also finish in the top 10 in the 800-meter run. He finished the middle distance race in 2 minutes, 18.81 seconds.

A number of Warrior athletes would finish in the top 10, but the two longest relays, the 3,200-meter relay and the 1,600-meter relay, would each finish third. Ben Hornaday, Josiah Hortin, Logan Wallace and Hunter Branca would finish the 1,600-meter relay in 3:40.29. Hortin and Wallace were on the 3,200-meter relay as well, joining forces with Jackson Barrett and Riley

Nolan to break the tape at 8:57.0.

Haven Hatfield would earn a fourth place finish in the discus, throwing 39.55 meters. He was also ninth in the shot put with a throw of 12.49 meters.

Tristan Gadomski competed in both the 300-meter hurdles, taking fifth in :46.71, and 110-meter hurdles, taking sixth in :18.90.

Hortin would finish sixth in his individual event, the 1,600-meter run. The sophomore distance runner finished in 4:47.09.

The foursome of Ben Hornaday, Conner Lewis, Krish Patel and Hunter Branca would place ninth in the 800-meter relay and 10th in the 400-meter relay. They would run respective times of 1:45.20 and :47.43.

"The level of competition at Monticello was extremely high," said Ryan Hornaday, the Tuscola coach. "It was impressive to see Chris and Will perform so well. We have high hopes for them the rest of the season and for the end of May. We have some good relay teams as well, but we need to iron out the relay exchanges. In the distance events, we have three guys that can break five minutes in the 1,600-meter run and we have yet to begin to taper. I think that is pretty impressive at this point in the season. We are looking forward to the Tuscola Invitational and have a goal to win it. But, it will not be easy. ALAH and Salt Fork are both loaded."



CADEN BAER, a Tuscola senior, leads away from first base after getting one of two hits in the contest. The infielder was one of four Warriors to finish the game with multiple hits. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.



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