

Black & Gold

Tuscola splits pair of CIC games Lady Warriors top Shelbyville Rams

By Daniel L. Chamness
In Major League Baseball, players are either great pitchers or great hitters. But, that does not hold true at the high school level. It certainly did not hold true for the Tuscola Warriors last week. Even with the weather being horrible and canceling games, the Warriors managed to play two games, defeating Toledo Cumberland, but losing to a very good Shelbyville team. In both cases, the pitchers of record, namely Patrick Pierce, Junior and Easton Cunningham, smacked homers in efforts to earn victories for the Warriors. In the 13-2 win over Cumberland, the Warriors scored

the first seven runs of the game and the first two hitters in the lineup, Peyton Armstrong and Cunningham, not only each homered but each had multiple hits. They were the only two hitters for the Warriors to finish with multiple hits. Cunningham, who worked the complete game five innings, was perfect at the plate as he went 3-for-3. The junior scored three times and drove home a pair of runs. He also walked in the contest. On the hill, he allowed just two earned runs on two hits. He struckout five hitters. "I went to the plate with the intention of hitting a homer," said Cunningham. "Cumber-

land's pitcher threw me a fastball down the middle of the plate and I took advantage. It felt great to contribute on the hill and at the plate." Armstrong, the senior centerfielder, was the first batter in the lineup. He was 2-for-3, scored four times and drove home one run. In addition to his solo homer, he also walked. The Warriors had eight hits. Colton Musgrave, who tripled, had a hit as did Jayden Gaines and Brady Cain. Pierce drove home three runs and scored twice, even though he was not credited with a hit. Gaines drove home three runs. In the 11-5 loss to Shelbyville, Pierce homered and worked the first four innings.

He allowed seven earned runs on 11 hits. The senior fanned four and walked a pair. "Patrick threw well for us against Shelbyville," said Tuscola mentor Adam Carver. "Shelbyville is very, very good. They are 16-1 overall and 7-0 in the Central Illinois Conference. He played well and so did his battery mate, Colton." Musgrave also smacked a homer and was the only Warrior with multiple hits, as he was 2-for-4. He finished with two RBIs and two runs scored. Dylan Shinn, Cain and Chase Jones had the other hits. The Warriors are 6-11 overall and 2-4 in the CIC. The Lady Warrior softball team were even less fortunate

than their baseball counterparts on the field. They were limited to one game this week, a 16-3 thumping of Shelbyville on Friday night. Tuscola had 14 hits. Emily Czeronka, who was 3-for-3 with a homer and a double. She drove home three runs and scored twice. Ava Boyer and Ella Boyer, a freshman and junior respectively, each had two hits in the contest. Each were 2-for-3. Ava Boyer, who tripled and walked, scored three times and drove home one. She also walked. Ella Boyer, who doubled, drove home three and scored once. Zoey Thomason and Addison Ring had the other multiple hit game. She was also

2-for-3 with a homer. She crossed the plate three times and drove home three runs. Ring was 2-for-2, drove home one and scored once. "We made some great plays on defense in the Shelbyville game," said Leonard Sementi, Tuscola's head coach. Isabelle Wilcox, Kerri Pierce and Ella all made diving catches. Zoey was also strong in the field." Pierce earned the win on the hill. In five innings of work, she allowed three earned runs on four hits. She struckout five batters and walked one. The Lady Warriors are 13-3 overall and 6-1 in the Central Illinois Conference.

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