

Black & Gold

Tuscola tops Raiders on Senior Night

By Daniel L. Chamness
 A sign that you are impressive on the baseball field offensively or defensively: even your opponents congratulate you. Such was the life for Colton Musgrave on Monday afternoon. On senior night, the junior catcher smacked not one but two homers to help the Tuscola Warriors beat the Central A&M Raiders 10-7. It was their seventh overall win of the year and their third in the Central Illinois Conference. "I saw the ball really well tonight," said the junior catcher. "The first homer was pretty satisfying. I think I hit it a little better than the second one also. It was a curve ball and I focused on the pitch and put a good swing on it." The two-run blast came immediately after senior Caden Baer had smacked a double to deep right centerfield. The Raiders were still leading at that point even with the two run shot. They had scored three times themselves in the top the first. And they would hold the lead until Tuscola's Dylan Shinn reached on an error and both Jayden Gaines, who had reached on an error as well, and Chase Jones, who

had smacked a double, came racing home on the error. "It shows when you hit the ball, put it in play, good things can happen," said Tuscola Head Coach Adam Carver. We struck out 12 times today. I would like to see that number cut in half. But the middle of our lineup did some good things." When those two runs were plated, Tuscola took the lead 7-5. They also took it permanently. The Raiders, who would score one more in the top of the fourth and another in the top of the seventh could not retake the lead. Musgrave would smack a three-run homer in the bottom of the fifth to drive the Tuscola run total to 10 runs. Sophomore Nate Thomason, who had started the inning with a walk, and Baer, Musgrave's battery mate, who had been hit by a pitch, both scored on the left-center field blast. When Musgrave trotted around third, even the Raider third baseman had to respect his performance that day and stuck out his hand. "Colton is a great baseball player," said Carver. "There is no way to say that. He is excel-

lent behind the plate and one of the best offensive catchers in the area." Baer would earn the win, working five innings allowing five earned Raider runs on eight hits. He fanned eight batters and walked three. Jacob Waugh worked the final two innings, but did not get the save. Waugh fanned two and walked two in his time on the hill. The Warriors had seven hits. Other than Musgrave's three and Baer's two, Chase Jones had the other two hits. The end is near. Even with all the rainouts, the Illinois High School Association Class 1A Regional will start next week. But that is not until next Thursday on May 19. This week, the Warriors have four games, with three of those being on the road. The lone exception is the Warriors welcome the Meridian Hawks to Ervin Park on Thursday night. The game is scheduled to start at 4:30 p.m. They travel to Clinton tonight, Shelbyville on Wednesday and Sullivan on Friday. All start times are 4:30 p.m. at those respective parks. Today was also a special day for the Warriors. In addition to logging the win, the Tuscola Warriors had the little league team from First Bank, who have thus far posted a 4-0 mark in their play. "It was a huge honor to have the younger athletes out here," said Carver. "It was also great to see the high school team interact so well with the 9-10 year old athletes." Ron Urban, the 9-10 year old coach of the First Bank Team, turned his thanks to not only the coach, but Ryan Hornaday. "What we learned today is what it will be like to be a future Warrior," said Urban. "Many of these boys got a glimpse into if you work hard, you get there. Also, some of the older athletes let them know they had not played at 9-10, so they had a head start on them." The First Bank team bought cookies for the Warriors and the Warriors also had cake to celebrate senior day.



COLTON MUSGRAVE, Tuscola's junior catcher, signs an autograph for a member of the First State Bank Team. Musgrave smacked two homers during the game to help the Warriors win the game 10-7. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.



OWEN LAUWERS ACCEPTS the ball from Easton Cunningham. The member of the Trust Bank Team was one of the players scheduled to take the first pitch in the pregame ceremony. Submitted photo.

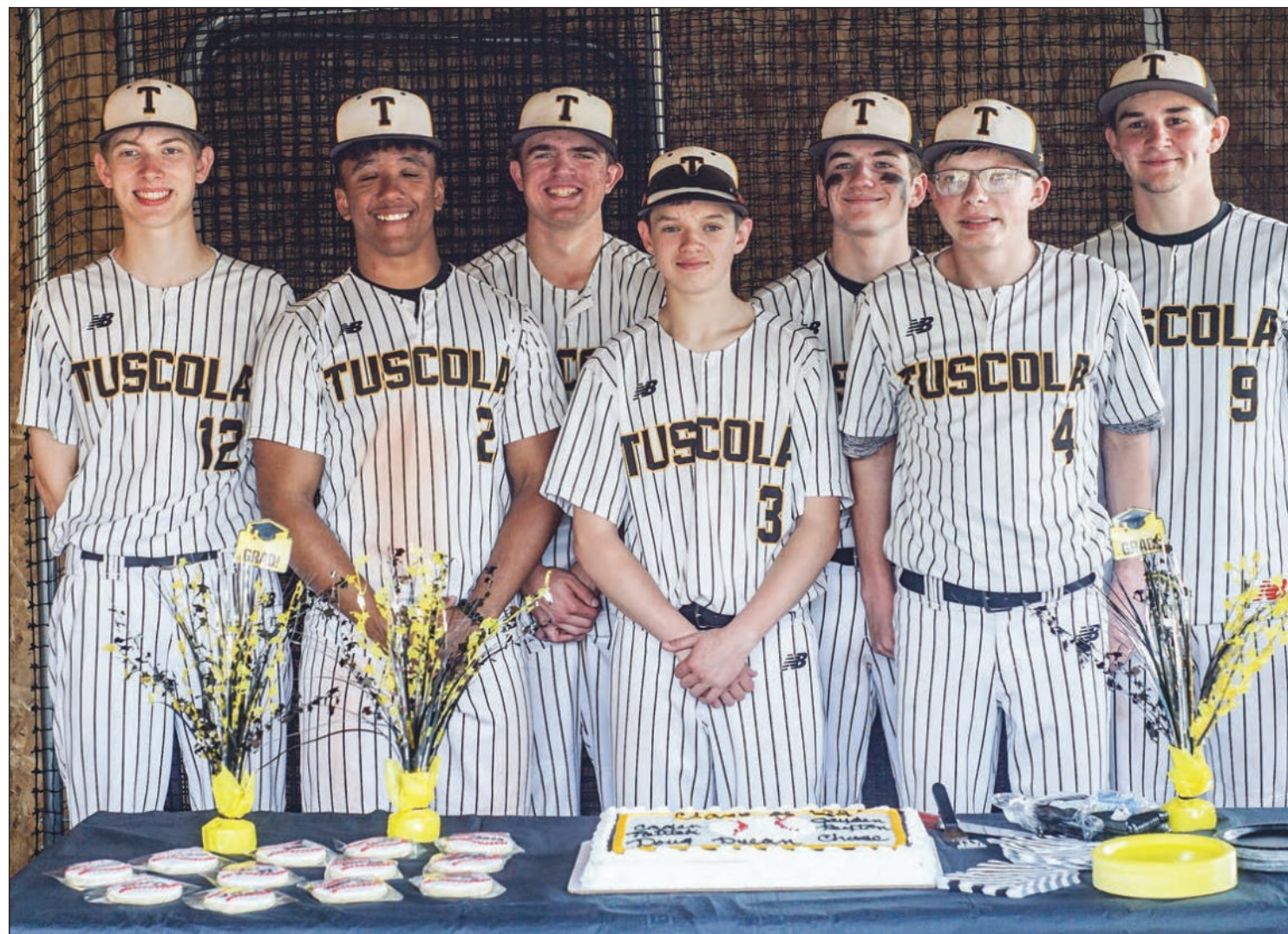
Softball bows to St. Joe

The Tuscola Lady Warriors

only had one game this week. The Lady Warriors played the St. Joseph Ogden Lady Spartans and lost, but a box score was not available. Like the boys, they have a full week of games, before the Class 1A Regional starts next week. Ironically, the girls will start before the baseball team as they play the winner of the Tri-County/St. Teresa game on

May 17 at Ervin Park. That game will be followed by a 6:30 game between Argenta Orea and Arcola at 6:30 p.m. The Tuscola game is scheduled to start at 4:30 p.m. But they have four games this week. They will host Meridian at Ervin Park tonight at

4:30. They will also host Georgetown at 4:30 on Friday. But, they will face Sullivan and Clinton on the road on Wednesday and Thursday. They will also face Salt Fork on the road on Saturday. The start times are 4:30 for Sullivan and Clinton and 10 a.m. for Salt Fork.



THE SENIORS STAND behind the senior cake. From left to right: Dylan Shinn, Peyton Armstrong, Chase Jones, Jayden Gaines, Caden Baer, Doug Ruggles and Patrick Pierce. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.



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