

Two Tuscola Warriors to play in Shriner football game

By Daniel L. Chamness
Haven Hatfield and Patrick Pierce might have thought their football season was over last fall.

But, the Tuscola Warrior pair will get one more chance to play high school football, this time in the Illinois High School Shrine Game against other seniors. The game is slated to be played Saturday at Tucci Stadium on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington. The game will start at 1 p.m.

"It is an honor to be selected to play in this game," said Hatfield, who has lettered in four sports at Tuscola. "It has been a tradition in Illinois for almost 50 years and representing Tuscola means a lot to me. The other thing that is great is Patrick, or Pete, as we call him will be right there with me as he has been for years. It feels so good to get one last opportunity to play with others from across the state. Everyone of these athletes, be they opponents or teammates, is they love football. I am looking forward to seeing these players on the college gridiron."

The 6-foot-3, 245-pound senior, who played both offense and defense for Tuscola, helped the Warriors post winning records and they advanced to the playoffs twice in his career. In his final two years, as an offensive lineman, he helped the Warriors post almost 2,900 rushing yards and almost 1,000 passing yards.

On the defensive side of the ball, he finished with 10 solo tackles and 25 total tackles during his senior season. On three occasions, he was able to break into the backfield and hit skill players for seven yards of loss. In his final two years of football, which was limited to just 13 games due to COVID, he would post 45 tackles, 20 of which were solos.

"The most heartbreaking thing about my career was not making the playoffs as a senior and COVID disrupting my season as a junior," said Hatfield. "When those playoff pairings came out my senior season and we were not on the list after posting a winning record and playing every game we could and not taking easy forfeit wins, it was heartbreaking."



PEYTON ARMSTRONG (18) has plenty of protection as he tucks the ball and prepares to gain some of his 222 rushing yards on Friday night. Providing a protective escort for the signal caller are from left to right: Haven Hatfield (76), Armstrong, Caden Baer (35) and Patrick Pierce (34). File photo by Daniel L. Chamness.

Pierce shined on both sides of the ball for the Warriors as well. The 6-foot-2, 195-pound Pierce earned All-State Status at the Illinois High School Association Class 1A level when the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association (IHS-FCA) selected him. As a linebacker, he led the Warriors in tackles, posting 67 total

tackles and 45 solo tackles. Both were team leading. He finished his senior season with 332 rushing yards on 71 carries.

"We were limited to just seven games my senior season so it is nice to play another game, especially with Haven," said Pierce, who is undecided if he will play any sport in col-

lege. "Football at Tuscola was a brotherhood. I am looking forward to playing and forging new friendships with my teammates on Saturday."

Pierce and Hatfield have already met their teammates on the Red Team. At press time, the athletes on the Red Team, who will play against the Blue Team, have been involved in

practice, familiarizing themselves with each other.

"I am pretty sure that Coach (Andy) Romine nominated both Haven and I to play in this game," said Pierce. "While I have not been invited to play in any other all-star type games, I am honored to play in this one. If I had my choice, I would like to play in an East-West All-Star game as well."

Romine did nominate both Pierce and Hatfield and the pair were selected to play by the same organization that selected Pierce to the all-state team. The game will feature players from every class of football, as players from the City of Chicago, the Chicago Burbs and everywhere in Illinois, play in the contest. Each roster easily has over 50 players. All of the athletes that were selected to play on Saturday are seniors.

While Hatfield will continue his playing career at University of Indianapolis as a Greyhound football player, Pierce, who was also on the baseball team at Tuscola, has not decided or announced if he will play either in college.

GOOD LUCK WARRIORS

Mike Bergner — 217-369-3820
940E CR 1450N – Tuscola

WARRIOR PRIDE

FIRST STATE

801 S Main St. Tuscola, IL
217-253-2265 | FSBcorp.com

Member FDIC

Always a
Warrior

BECKER

CONSTRUCTION

(217) 253-4619

#READYSETLETSRIDE

LET'S GO WARRIORS!

TUSCOLA Ford

FORDOFTUSCOLA.COM
217-253-3353
Small Town Feel, Great Big Deals!

GO WARRIORS

ACT

Allied Capital Title

108 W. Sale St., Tuscola, IL 61953
(217) 599-1393

GO WARRIORS!

TUSCOLA IGA

607 E. Southline Rd., Tuscola, IL
253-4781 • 6 am to 10 pm

WARRIORS
are **SIZZLIN'!**

ta'carbon

STEAK HOUSE & BAR

Rt. 36, Tuscola — 217-599-1430
www.tacarbon.us
Like us on Facebook

Have a
SAFE & SUCCESSFUL
SEASON

TUSCOLA Sav-Mor

PHARMACY

Rt. 36 Tuscola, Ph. 253-2309

Warrior Pride

The CAST IRON Pub

125 W. Sale St., Tuscola
217-599-1511
castironpub@gmail.com

Good Luck Warriors!

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

ALORA MURPHY

AGENT

102 W. Wilson St. • Tuscola, IL 61953
(217) 402-8068
Email: amurphy@amfam.com

GOOD LUCK WARRIORS!

TUSCOLA STONE COMPANY

1199 East US Highway 36 • Tuscola, IL 61953
(217) 253-4705
www.tuscolastone.com • Email: info@tuscolastone.com

GO WARRIORS

FNB First Neighbor Bank, N.A.
MEMBER FDIC

602 E. Southline Rd.
217-253-1000

Open Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Good Luck Warriors!

Chrisi's Cutting Corner
Chrisi Vandeventer
Hairstylist

100 N Niles Tuscola Ph: 253-2241
Cell: 369-6167

Good Luck Warriors

Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Homes
in Tuscola and Atwood
www.hilligossshraderfh.com

GOOD LUCK Warriors!

MONICAL'S PIZZERIA RESTAURANT

Rt. 36 Tuscola • Phone 253-4749
Delivered for \$2.25 more (Limited Delivery Area)

GO WARRIORS!

RALLY POINT FITNESS

GO WARRIORS

ALL PRO Heating • AC Plumbing LLC

(217) 599-1046
www.allprohvac.net

GAME ON!

AARON WEAVER PAINTING

217-722-0214

Blending quality and craftsmanship

Good Luck Warriors!

TUSCOLA FIRST BANK

Every Person Matters

504 South Main • 217-253-4774 • www.tuscolafb.com

GO Warriors!

LIGHTHOUSE Insurance Agency
Your Insurance Guide

guide@lighthouseinsurance.org
217-253-2008

AMERICAN CENTRAL INSURANCE SERVICES

Est. 1987

Sherri L. Stewart Insurance Broker

304 E. Southline Road, Suite A
Tuscola, Illinois 61953
(217) 599-1202
FAX (217) 599-1205
MOBILE (217) 549-8132
E-Mail: sherri@americancentrals.com
www.americancentrals.com
sherriestewartacis.com

RE/MAX 204 E Southline Road Tuscola, IL
nealwood6@gmail.com
217-253-6978
217-232-9665

Choice Tuscola

NEAL WOOD LAND AND RESIDENTIAL TEAM

"Helping people help themselves"

THIS IS WARRIOR COUNTRY

Kelsey Furniture Co Inc

"Find the look you love for less!"
www.kelseyfurniture.com
(217) 253-2142

Edward Jones

Go Warriors!

Cory M Kleiss, CFP®
Financial Advisor
502 E Southline Road
Tuscola, IL 61953
217-253-5053

Jessie Hanner
Financial Advisor
502 E Southline Road
Tuscola, IL 61953
217-253-5053

edwardjones.com
Member SIPC