

Black & Gold



TUSCOLA BASEBALL PLAYERS proudly display their honors won at the recent banquet. Colton Musgrave (center) was the team Most Valuable Player and Highest Batting Average. He is flanked by Caden Baer, who earned the Warrior Spirit Award, and Doug Ruggles, who won the Most Improved Player. Baer is on the left, while Ruggles is on the right. Photo by Minore "Moto" Johnson



THE TUSCOLA GIRL'S track team recently celebrated their season. Alyssa Williams was named the overall Most Valuable Player as well as the Field Most Valuable and Track Most Valuable. The future Murray State University runner is flanked on the left by Mia Hausmann and on the right by Addy Pettry, who each earned the Warrior Spirit Award. Photo by Minore "Moto" Johnson.

Lady Warriors celebrate 2022 track season

By Daniel L. Chamness

The girls state track meet ended almost one month ago, but the celebration of Tuscola's first ever state title in girls track and field, or at least the recognition of such, may continue for quite a while.

While the Warrior girl's track team and Head Coach Drew Sterkel will bid goodbye to Alyssa Williams, who will become a member of the Murray State University track team, a NCAA Division I team competing in the Ohio Valley Conference. Alondra Tapia and Vikki Wells. Tapia and Wells will not compete in college.

"Everyone sees the winning that Alyssa did during her career," said Sterkel. "But, the

thing I will miss most about her is the relationship she built with not only me, the rest of the coaching staff, but her teammates as well. I will continuously be one of her biggest supporters. We have been saying for months; the time will come when she is no longer a member of the team, but no one is ready to face that reality yet. At this point, I am just enjoying the memories of the past season. The memories she was largely responsible for creating. We have yet to say our goodbyes and I am not sure that will ever happen. I think it will be a see you later type of thing."

Williams finished her track career as the most celebrated,

and medalled Warrior in history. In any sport. Williams now has eight state medals, passing the previous Tuscola record held by Patty McDaniel, Kim Von Lanken and Johanna Wienke, who each had five. Williams, like all competitors, did not have an opportunity to earn any state medals in 2020.

The graduating senior collected three of the five honors awarded by Sterkel and the Warrior track team. She was named the Most Valuable Player as well as the Most Valuable Field Athlete of the Year and the Most Valuable Track Athlete of the Year.

Williams is not the only senior to be exiting Tuscola. The Lady Warriors will also bid

goodbye to Alondra Tapia and Vikki Wells.

"Alondra is someone that took on a role that was crucial to our team," said Sterkel. "I hope my daughter turns out to be just like her. Her work ethic, drive and communication skills will make her successful in anything she does. She did anything we asked her to do, like running one of our 3,200-meter relay legs. She would do whatever we needed to help the team. Her mental attitude rubbed off on the entire team and it is something that will last forever. Vikki was similar, but in the field. She had a drive to always improve. She would be able to lift people up, away from the track or on it. A coach

can't have too many Alondras or Vikkis in their program. They put the team before themselves."

Addy Pettry and Mia Hausmann earned the Warrior Spirit Award. Both are slated to return. Hausmann was part of the Warrior 800-meter relay team, which won the state championship. She was also a part of another relay, which finished fourth in the state. The Lady Warriors won the title with 57 points. They bested second place Newark by three points.

"Winning a state title is like finding a unicorn," theorized Sterkel. "Many things have to fall into place for it to happen, but what I hope for the girls is

that they understand that hard work, teamwork, pushing through adversity and being a positive role model behind the scenes will take you places in life. Athletics are just a tool for creating productive adults. I hope the life lessons learned this year will carry them for the rest of their lives."

Sterkel issued letters to not only the afore mentioned five athletes, but Jillian Alexander, Lauren Woods, Natalie Hastings, Harley Woodard, Belle Notaro, Lia Patterson, Kenna Clodfelder, Olivia Wallace, Rylie Vanausdoll, Taylor Gordon and Adrina Simmons.

Warriors recognize key baseball players at banquet

By Daniel L. Chamness

As Adam Carver exits the Tuscola Warrior baseball team as their coach, the former University of Southern Indiana pitcher has one big, big hope for the present, graduating and incoming Warriors.

"I hope they support each other as teammates, friends

and classmates," said Carver. "I would like to see the older athletes step up and be a guiding force for the younger athletes. I will be interested to see how many of them progress."

Few, but important words from the Warrior coach, who was a young assistant coach when they placed third in the

Illinois High School Association Class 2A state finals. He would take over the team in 2019 and would ride that roller coaster, which included two winning seasons in 2019 and 2021 and a canceled season in 2020. Last year was abbreviated, of course.

Last year, the Warriors en-

dured a 7-17 mark. They were 3-10 in the Central Illinois Conference. But, they still managed to get three athletes on the various all-conference teams. Colton Musgrave, who is only a junior, will return next year. They signal caller earned first team status as he missed a .500 batting average by only six points. He had an on-base percentage of .568. In addition to first team all conference, the junior was selected Most Valuable Player.

"Colton was selected/voted on by the team to earn MVP and rightfully so," said Carver. "He did a great job at the plate, offensively, and an equally good job behind the plate every game and that is not easy."

Musgrave, who had 39 hits, 12 of them for extra bases, also

earned the batting average award.

Patrick Pierce and Peyton Armstrong, both Warrior seniors, were named to the second team and honorable mention respectively. Pierce, who finished with the lowest earned run average on the team with a 3.073. He also owned three of the seven wins this year. Armstrong, who will attend Arizona Christian University and be a member of their football team, finished with a .343 batting average. He belted 23 hits, eight of which were for extra bases. He smacked five doubles and three homers.

"The seniors brought so much each energy to the team," said Carver.

Douglas Ruggles was named the Most Improved Player, while Caden Baer earned the

Warrior Spirit Award. Both were selected by the team. Baer hit .268.

Other than the afore mentioned players, Jayden Gaines, Dylan Shinn, Chase Jones, Easton Cunningham, Brady Cain, Issac Halverson, Nate Thomason, Austin Cummings, Parker James, JJ Reynolds and Jacob Waugh earned letters.

"Doug went from a player that could not catch a fly ball, without taking one to the face, to being able to catch when the pitchers were warming up," said Carver. "He was also able to put the ball in play off varsity pitching. He is a quick learner. I am also looking forward to see how Jacob progresses. He did a great job as our shortstop."



MACKENZIE CARTER backstrokes during a 120m Individual Medley. Photo by Margie Carter.



OLIVIA WITHEFT during a butterfly stroke event. Photo by Margie Carter.



American Legion
Post #27

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE
BREAKFAST

7-10 am
July 9



Tuscola Community Building

DONATIONS
ACCEPTED