

SPORTS

Junior high boys advance to conference tournament championship games

By Mike Monahan

VILLA GROVE - Both the Arcola eighth grade and seventh grade boys basketball teams entered the Junior High Okaw Conference Tournament as the top seed and received a bye, which meant they didn't play last Saturday, but played in the semifinals Monday.

Both squads played Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond and came away with victories. The seventh grade won 29-10, while the eighth grade rallied for a 36-33 triumph.

Thursday both teams travel back to Villa Grove with the teams taking on Tuscola, the No. 2 seeded team in their respective championship games. The seventh grade plays at 6 p.m., while the eighth grade plays at 7:15 p.m.

In the seventh grade game Arcola led 15-4 at the half and Sawyer Maxwell was the top scorer with 17 points, including seven in the opening quarter.

In the eighth grade game Arcola trailed 14-11 at the half and 23-21 heading into the final quarter of the physically tough game, which saw the Purple Riders trail most of the game before taking the lead with 2:20 remaining.

A.J. Stevens led Arcola with 11 points, all in the second half.

The eighth grade is 10-7, while the seventh grade is 11-6.

Seventh grade	
ALAH	2 2 0 6-10
Arcola	9 6 5 9-29

ARCOLA: Ronnie Vega 2-1-5, Jordan Gingerich 0-2-2, Sawyer Maxwell 8-1-17, Lawson Barrow 0-0-0, William Biggs 1-0-2, Kaden Hohlbauch 1-1-3, Totals 12-5-29

Arcola	9 6 5 9-29
Bement/Cerro Gordo	0 4 6 2-12

ARCOLA: Ronnie Vega 1-2-4, Sawyer Maxwell 8-0-18, Lawson Barrow 1-0-2, Canton Wesch 1-1-3, Kaden Hohlbauch 1-0-2, Totals 12-3-29

3-point goals: Arcola 2 (Maxwell 2)
Eighth grade

ALAH	7 7 9 10-33
Arcola	7 4 10 15-36

ARCOLA: Evan Rardin 1-4-7, Eduardo Garcia 2-0-4, Brody Phillips 5-1-11, A.J. Stevens 2-0-4, Remi Roberts-McGeheon 4-0-8, Sawyer Maxwell 0-2-2 Totals 14-7-36

3-point goals: Arcola 1 (Rardin 1)
Bement/Cerro Gordo 6 9 5 5-25

ARCOLA: Rardin 1-1-4, Garcia 1-0-2, Phillips 4-6-14, Stevens 1-0-2, Roberts-McGeheon 6-1-13, Totals 13-8-35

3-point goals: Arcola 1 (Rardin 1)

Junior high volleyball starts with losses to Heritage

ARCOLA - The Arcola Junior High volleyball season opened Monday against Heritage and both the seventh and eighth grade teams lost (scores will be in Jan. 18 edition as they were unavailable at press time) They also hosted Okaw Valley Tuesday.

The seventh grade consists of 10 players and are coached by Ixcel Vega and the eighth grade has 13 players and are coached by Golene Moreno.

Arcola Junior high volleyball 2023 schedule

(all caps is home game; all games start at 6 p.m. unless noted with the seventh grade followed by the eighth grade)

Thursday-ARTHUR-LOVINGTON-ATWOOD-HAMMOND; Monday-at Decatur LSA; Tuesday-CASEY-WESTFIELD; Jan. 19 TOLONO UNITY; Jan. 24 VILLA GROVE; Jan. 26-vs. Bement/Cerro Gordo at Bement; Jan. 30 at

Shiloh; Jan. 31 SANGAMON VALLEY

Feb. 7 TUSCOLA; Feb. 11-15 Junior High Okaw Conference Tournament at Cerro Gordo, TBA; Feb. 20 at Windsor; Feb. 21 at Argenta-Oreana; Feb. 23 at Tri-County (Oakland); Feb. 25, 27, 28, March 1, 2 seventh grade regional, TBA

March 4,7,9 eighth grade regional, TBA

Arcola Junior High volleyball 2023 roster

Eighth grade
Zoey Chupp, Debanie Cruz, Emma Edwards, Jolena King, Aymara Leal, Danielle Lope, Sofia Martinez, Jaiden Miller, Megan Miller, Bella Smith.

Seventh grade
Bella Moreno, Briseda Condarco, Molly Hensley, Keyla Hernandez, Stephanie Vazquez, Jaycie Brian, Addison Williams, Avery Baker, Anahi Campos, Kayla Lyons, Jazlyn Moreno, Mariana Jaramillo, Abi Alexander.

Kutz and Garza earn first-team Decatur Herald & Review honors

DECATUR - Austin Kutz, a 5-8, 135 pound wide receiver and Anthony Garza, a junior lineman was named to the Decatur Herald & Review all-area football team.

Kutz was one of three wide receivers on the first team, while Garza was one of three defensive linemen.

Kutz led Arcola in receiving with 51 catches, including several unbelievable receptions, for 685 yards and eight touch-

downs for the 4-5 Purple Riders, who finished 4-3 in the Lincoln Prairie Conference, good for fourth place in the eight-team conference.

A total of 17 were on the first team offense, including the kicker while nine were on the first team defense.

Among the 78 to receive special mention were Tyson Lewis, a junior; sophomores Bryan Mendoza and Tanner Thomas as well as senior Braden Shonkwiler.

Tuscola coach Andy Romine was the Herald & Review All-Area Coach of the Year, while Pana's Max Lynch was the player of the year.

Arcola Sports through Jan. 18

High school boys basketball
Friday
Okaw Valley at Arcola, 6 p.m.
Saturday
Arcola at Central A&M, 6 p.m.
Monday
Arcola at Sullivan, 6 p.m.
freshman
Tuesday
Arcola vs. Cerro Gordo/Bement at Cerro Gordo (freshman, 5 p.m, followed by jv and varsity)

High school girls basketball
Thursday
Arcola at Cerro Gordo/Bement at Cerro Gordo, 6 p.m.
Saturday
Arcola at Cumberland in Lincoln Prairie Conference Tournament, TBA
Monday
Arcola at Cumberland in



ARCOLA HIGH SCHOOL sophomore Braden Phillips (10) was fouled by the defender from Blue Ridge in the varsity game played Tues., Jan. 3 in Arcola. Arcola's varsity won 51-22. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

Lincoln Prairie Conference Tournament, TBA
p.m. (eighth grade championship)
Monday
Sullivan at Arcola, 6 p.m.
Junior high boys basketball
Thursday
Arcola vs. Tuscola at Villa Grove in Junior High Okaw Conference Tournament, 6 p.m. (seventh grade championship)
Arcola vs. Tuscola at Villa Grove in Junior high Okaw Conference Tournament, 7:15

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