

SPORTS

Arcola Sports through Jan. 25

High school boys basketball

Friday
Arcola at Argenta-Oreana Lincoln Prairie Conference Tournament, TBA
Saturday
Arcola at Argenta-Oreana Lincoln Prairie Conference Tournament, TBA
Tuesday
Arcola at Argenta-Oreana Lincoln Prairie Conference Tournament, TBA

High school girls basketball

Thursday
Arcola vs. Tri-County in Lincoln Prairie Conference Tournament semifinals at Cumberland, 6 p.m.
Saturday
Arcola at Cumberland in Lincoln Prairie Conference Tournament, TBA
Monday
Tri-County at Arcola, 6 p.m.

Junior high boys basketball

Saturday
Arcola vs. Bement/Cerro Gordo at Salt Fork (Sidell), 10:15 a.m. seventh grade Class 2A regional
Monday
If Arcola wins Saturday vs. winner of Villa Grove-St. Matthew, 7 p.m. at Salt Fork (Sidell) in Class 2A seventh grade regional semifinals
Wednesday
If Arcola wins Saturday and Monday play in championship game of Class 2A regional at Salt Fork (Sidell), 6 p.m.

Junior high volleyball

Thursday
Unity at Arcola, 6 p.m.
Tuesday
Villa Grove at Arcola, 6 p.m.

Myers fulfills dream, competing in track at collegiate level; selected Indiana State

By Mike Monahan

ARCOLA – Mitchel Myers, a senior at Arcola, said competing in track at the collegiate level has always been a dream.

“I didn’t think it was possible at the Division I level until my junior year when I started getting a throwing coach,” said Myers of Angel De La Santos of Roxana. “I got a coach that analyzes everything and broke it down. It was just like ‘Wow, I can do this in college and at the Division I level. It is crazy to think about that.’”

Myers chose Indiana State in Terre Haute, Ind. over Illinois State, Southern Illinois, Eastern Illinois and Drake.

“Definitely the coaching staff of Indiana State and all of the people there,” said Myers on why he chose the Sycamores. “I bonded with the teammates really well and the coaching staff is amazing. They treated me like their son. It was definitely the coaching staff that drew me in.”

Thursday is when Myers signed his National Letter of Intent in a ceremony that started 10 minutes earlier than officially planned. Still a large crowd of students surrounded the table and posed for a big photo around Myers.

“It was really cool just to see everyone that came out to support me,” said Myers, the son of Doug and Johnna Myers. “It really just opened my eyes on how many people have my back. It is good to see in a community like this they come out and support me. It is very surreal.”

As a sophomore Myers finished 22nd in the IHSA state track and field meet by throwing the discus 125 feet. Last

year Myers was in both the shot put and discus. He finished third in the discus at 166-3 and was 19th in the shot put at 44-8. The last time Arcola had someone place in the state meet in the discus was in 1906 when Harrison Knapp placed second.

“I started working with him on Sept. 5 and he has made a great amount of progress,” said De la Santos of the track club Universal Threax. “We are definitely excited for his senior year. His shot put is going to surprise himself and everyone else. The shot put will actually help him in the discus. That is why he has been focusing on that a little bit more. We are excited as his discus numbers are going to go up a little bit because of the shot put.”

Myers, who competes in club meets in the St. Louis area, did have a heave of 52-0 at Principia College on Dec. 11, a personal best by four feet.

“His weight training is going well and I am excited to see what numbers he is going to put up his senior year,” said De la Santos, who is helped by Lia Tulua.

Arcola is coached by Tommy Eddleman, who was present along with former football coach Nick Lindsey and Adam Reel, track coach as well as Myers’ junior high coach Bruce Manola.

Myers has been in track since seventh grade.

Indiana State has an enrollment of 8,658 and competes in the 12-member Missouri Valley Conference.

“I met a lot of older throwers on the team and we bonded really well,” said Myers.



ARCOLA SENIOR Mitchel Myers signed his National Letter of intent to compete in track at Indiana State. Photo by Mike Monahan.

The indoor season runs from late January through February and the outdoor season runs from late March to mid-May.

Two other familiar names are on the coaching staff including Brad Butler, who spent 11 years at Eastern Illinois and is an EIU grad and son of Arcola graduate Jeff Butler. Riley McInerney, a Charleston grad and son of John McInerney, a former Long time Eastern Illinois coach and a volunteer at Charleston and member of the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Last spring in the Lincoln Prairie Conference Tournament Myers won the shot put (44-10) and the discus (147-8).

Faith Frye, a Casey-Westfield grad, is a senior, who competes in the long jump and 60-meter dash at Indiana State as well as Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond’s Layton Hall, a sophomore distance runner.

Jazzmine Hicks, a senior at Cerro Gordo/Bement, will also be going to Indiana State next year in throws. She was part of the early signing group Nov. 15.

There are 52 on the men’s roster, including 13 seniors, or graduate students. There are a total of seven throwers on the roster, including two that are in their last year.

“It is a blessing for sure,” said Myers of throwing at the collegiate level. “Not a lot of people get the opportunity like this and I am very blessed and grateful for the opportunity and all of the support that I have received.”



ARCOLA HIGH SCHOOL senior Reyli Vega (00) takes a shot in the varsity game with Okaw Valley played Monday, Jan. 9 in Arcola. Arcola’s varsity won 55-35. There was no junior varsity game played. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

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