

## SPORTS

## Arcola wins LPC consolation championship; now 11-11

By Mike Monahan

ARGENTA - In the last five games Argenta-Oreana had averaged 75.6 points per game and had scored 82 and 83 points in the last two games. Saturday in the consolation championship game of the fourth Lincoln Prairie Conference Tournament Arcola held the Bombers to just 39 points in a 60-39 victory.

"It (the win) is a testament to this team," said Arcola's Jackson Miller. "We would have loved to be in the championship game, but to come here and go 2-1 is great."

Arcola reached the consolation championship in a 57-42 triumph over Villa Grove as the Purple Riders never trailed.

Arcola is 11-11

## Arcola 60, Argenta-Oreana 39

Arcola never trailed, but Argenta-Oreana, who fell to 12-12, trailed by just four, 15-11 with 2:10 left in the first half and they had not trailed by more than six.

That is when the Purple Riders pulled away with a 21-3 run over a span of 4:23. The scoring spree began with the final 12 points of the half as an A-O player was called for a technical and Miller made both free throws and a basket for a four-point possession. Miller scored again and after a time-out by former Neoga and Clinton coach Clay Haurberg, Braden Phillips scored four points and the half ended with a bucket by Tyson Lewis.

"What changed for us is we started taking care of the basketball," said Arcola coach Greg Gisinger. "We had eight in the first quarter. We got better at it progressively throughout the game in taking care of the ball and that comes from being a young team. I am really proud of their toughness."

The second half started with two free throws by Argenta's MJ Hall, a 6-3 sophomore, Miller answered with another basket and Ryan Lindstrom drilled a 3-pointer. Phillips made one of two free throws and Miller's 3--pointer put Arcola up by 23 points, 36-13 with 5:23 left in the third.

Argenta, who was 4-of-24 (.167) from the field in the first 20:16, did get to within 12 with 4:53 left to go on a basket by Ethan Mahan. That was as close as they would get as Miller, who led all players with 27 points, scored seven straight in a span of 1:35.

"I think our defense is what really won us this game," said Miller. "We had three charges in the first half. We were locked in the first half. We struggled eventually in the second half, but we picked it up."

Phillips had another double-double with 21 points and 17 rebounds.

"We played six guys and they all played Friday night also," said Gisinger. "I was a little worried about their legs. They got a little tired once we got a 23 point lead. I saw our energy level go down. We kept telling them this team (A-O) can shoot and score. They scored 33 in the fourth against Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond. I called a time-out and kind of got on them about finishing strong and they did a good job. It was a complete team effort and that is what we want."

Arcola outrebounded Argenta 40-25.

"The guys are understanding their rolls pretty well, right now," said Gisinger. "They are just a fun group to coach. We got three weeks left before regionals. We have to keep getting better and keep teaching the game of basketball and stay healthy."

Aldo Garcia is most likely done for the season with another shoulder injury suffered in practice Jan. 23.

## Arcola 57, Villa Grove 42

Arcola led the entire game, but only by as much as eight in the first half. The Purple Riders led 33-29 with 3:29 left in the third quarter when they went on a pivotal 9-1 over the next 1:53 as Miller made a 3-pointer to start the run. He had the next basket also as he finished with a team-high 24 points.

After a free throw by Villa Grove's Lukas Shadwick, Phillips scored two points and Miller sank a pair of free throws for a 42-30 lead.

Gerardo Alanis made it 50-36 midway through the final quarter for what was the largest lead of the game.

Villa Grove didn't quit as they battled back to within eight, 50-42 as Layne Rund scored four and Brady Clodfelder had a basket with 3:43 left. Miller scored five of his team-high 24 points, including a three-point play to put the Purple Riders up 55-42 with 2:03 remaining.

"The way they shoot the ball they (Villa Grove) is never out of a game," said Gisinger. "So we had to keep going, keep playing and keep things going the right way. I thought for the most part we did that, especially playing five guys almost the whole game. I thought it was really important to do that. That way we could get into our fastbreak stuff and make them foul us and make free throws. We wanted to make them take some quick 3-pointers and hope that they miss them. I thought Miller was phenomenal offensively and defensively. Phillips cleaned the glass and that is the expectation now. He is an unbelievable rebounder and is getting better finishing around the rim. He even played some point for us and probably had five assists. I thought

Alanis did a good job and he made shots early for us



ARCOLA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL - Junior Jackson Miller (14) goes up big for a one handed shot in the LPC consolation bracket championship game at Argenta on Saturday, January 28. The Purple Riders defeated Argenta-Oreana 60-39 to take fifth place in the tournament. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

(finished with 15 points. Lindstrom didn't score a point, but he defended Rund well as he was phenomenal."

Phillips was also in double digits for the Purple Riders with 10 points and 16 rebounds for another double-double.

**Saturday**  
Arcola 10 17 16 17-60  
Argenta-Oreana 5 6 14 14-39

ARCOLA: Ryan Lindstrom 1-0-3, Gerardo Alanis 2-0-5, Tyson Lewis 1-0-2, Braden Phillips 9-3-21, Jackson Miller 10-3-27, D. J. Stevens 1-0-2, Max Rardin 0-0-0, Kaden Brawner 0-0-0, Bryan Mendoza 0-0-0, Alan Guevera 0-0-0, Totals 24-6-60

3-point goals: Arcola 6-23 (.261), Lindstrom 1-2, Alanis 1-7, Miller 4-12, Stevens 0-2, Argenta-Oreana 3-9 (.333) Ethan Mahan 3-6, Chase Logue 0-2, Oros 0-1). Free throws: Arcola 6-11 .545, Argenta-Oreana 10-18 .556. Rebounds: Arcola 40 (Phillips 17), Argenta-Oreana 25 (Jalynn Flowers 6). Turnovers: Arcola 18, Argenta-Oreana 20. Field goals shooting: Arcola 24-58 .413, Argenta-Oreana 13-38 .342

**Friday**  
Villa Grove 7 12 13 10 -42  
Arcola 15 11 16 15 -57

ARCOLA: Lindstrom 0-0-0, Gerardo Alanis 5-0-15, Lewis 2-0-4, Phillips 3-4-10, Miller 10-4-24, Stevens 0-0-0, Totals 20-8-57

3-point goals: Arcola 9-16 .563 (Alanis 5-6, Jackson 4-9, Phillips 0-1), Villa Grove 4-17 235 (Layne Rund 2-8, Lukas Shadwick 2-6, Robert Fancher 0-3). Rebounds: Arcola 40 (Phillips 16), Villa Grove 26 (Rund, Shadwick, Brady Clodfelder 5). Turnovers: Arcola 16, Villa Grove 9. Free throw shooting: Arcola 8-13 .615, Villa Grove 4-9 .444. Bench points: Arcola 0, Villa Grove 2. Shooting percentages: Arcola 20-43 .465, Villa Grove 17-53 .321.

## Final 4th Lincoln Prairie Conference boys tournament at Argenta-Oreana

(Seeds and record in parentheses)

**Friday, Jan. 20**  
Game 1: Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 71, Heritage 52  
Game 2: Villa Grove 48, Blue Ridge 43  
Game 3: Argenta-Oreana 63, Tri-County 48

**Saturday, Jan. 21 at Argenta-Oreana**  
Game 4: Decatur LSA 69, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 43 (8)  
Game 5: Cumberland 47, Arcola 41  
Game 6: Cerro Gordo/Bement 50, Villa Grove 42 (junior high gym)  
Game 7: Okaw Valley 73, Argenta-Oreana 70, (junior high gym)

**Tuesday, Jan. 24**  
Game 8: Villa Grove 65, Heritage 55, ot. (junior high gym)  
Game 9: Argenta-Oreana 75, Blue Ridge

55 (junior high)

Game 10: Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 69, Tri-County 48  
Game 11: Decatur LSA 60, Cumberland 39

Game 12: Okaw Valley 52, Cerro Gordo/Bement 41

**Friday, Jan. 27**

Game 13: Arcola 57, Villa Grove 42, Arcola  
Game 14: Argenta-Oreana 82, vs. Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond (8, 11-13) 74

**Saturday, Jan. 28**

Game 15: Blue Ridge (10, 8-16) 51, Heritage (8, 6-18) 50, ot. 9th place game  
Game 16: Tri-County (11, 4-18) 62, Villa Grove (7, 9-15) 50, 7th place

Game 17: Arcola (5, 11-11) 60, Argenta-Oreana (6, 13-11), 39, consolation championship (5th place)

Game 18: Cumberland (4, 10-12) 70, Cerro Gordo/Bement (2, 13-10) 61, third place,

Game 19: Decatur LSA (1, 21-0) 6, Okaw Valley (3, 11-11) 56, championship



ARCOLA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL - Junior Gerardo Alanis (2) looks for an opening in the LPC consolation bracket championship game at Argenta on Saturday, January 28. The Purple Riders defeated Argenta-Oreana 60-39 to take fifth place in the tournament. Photo by Nancy Rairden.



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