

# SPORTS

## Arocla eighth grade boy's rally falls short in regional championship; eighth grade volleyball wins first match

By Mike Monahan

CHAMPAIGN – The Arcola eighth grade boys' basketball season came to an end Feb. 1 in the championship game of the St. Matthew Class 2A regional, but not without a fight.

The Purple Riders trialed 28-14 at halftime as the Raiders outscored Arcola 12-5 in the second quarter, including a 7-0 run. Arcola outscored St. Matthew 7-2 in

the third to make it 30-21 and Arcola made it 30-24 as the final quarter began with a 3-pointer by Brody Phillips. St. Matthew ended the Purple Riders 10-2 run with a basket. There was no more scoring for 2:30 when Phillips had a three-point play to make 32-27 with still 2:14 remaining. The two teams traded 3-pointers before the Raiders went up 38-32 with 2:14 left and they went on to win by five.

"St. Matthews is a solid team," said Arcola coach Randy Swartz. "The first half hurt us. We got it down to five (on three different occasions), but could not finish."

Arcola, a team that was 1-4 at one time, finished 15-8 and won the Junior High Okaw Conference Tournament.

"We had a nice season and beat every team in our conference," said Swartz.

Phillips led Arcola with 22

points, including four 3-pointers and nine points in the final quarter.

Arcola lost to St. Matthew 33-14 earlier in the season for a 14-point turn around. Arcola's longest winning streak of the season was six games.

**Arcola** 9 5 7 13-34  
**St. Matthew** 16 12 2 9-39  
ARCOLA: Evan Rardin 1-2-4, Eduardo Garcia 0-0-0, Brody Phillips 7-4-22, A.J. Stevens 0-0-0, Remi Roberts-McGeehon 3-1-8, Carson Jewell 0-0-0, Totals 11-7-34  
3-point goals: Arcola 5 (Phillips 4,

Roberts-McGeehon 1)

### Arcola volleyball eighth grade wins first match

ARCOLA – The Arcola eighth grade volleyball team won its first match of the season on Eighth Grade Night beating Sangamon Valley in straight sets, 25-18, 25-18 to improve to 1-6.

Prior to that Arcola fell to

Villa Grove in three sets 25-21, 25-27, 25-7 and to Shiloh 25-9 25-18.

The seventh grade lost all three matches falling to Villa Grove 25-12, 25-17; Shiloh 25-7, 25-10 and Sangamon Valley 25-11, 25-17.

The seventh grade fell to 0-7.

The two teams compete in the Junior High Okaw Conference Tournament starting Saturday at Cerro Gordo.

### Boys

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lead for good on a 3-pointer by Alanis. The only tie of the game was at eight. That is when the Purple Riders used a 14-0 run over a span of 5:29 to take a 22-8 advantage midway through the second quarter.

Phillips had seven points during the run, including the first basket of the scoring spurt and a three-point play, while Miller had four and Alanis three.

The Titans, who fell to 5-19 overall and 1-4 in the LPC, made their first basket in nearly eight minutes on a 3-pointer by Tyler Hutchinson.

Arcola led 28-16 at halftime as the Titans in the first 13:19 were just 2-of-13 (.154)

from the field, while the Purple Riders were 11-of-23 (.478) from the field.

The Titans cut the lead down to seven on three occasions in the third as Gaige Cox had eight points, including a bucket with 1:33 remaining in the quarter to make it 36-29.

Arcola scored seven straight points, including a 3-pointer by Alanis. Arcola led by the same margin they did at half, 12.

The Purple Riders led by 17 three different times in the fourth, including 50-33 with 4:33 remaining. However, Tri-County pulled to within nine on a 10-2 run. A 3-pointer by Carter Phillips with two minutes left made it 53-44. Miller scored three straight points in the next 1:05 to ice the victory

for Arcola.

The Purple Riders had three players in double digits with Miller scoring a team-high 18 followed closely by Phillips and Alanis with 17.

The Titans were led by Cox with 22 and Braxton Buckler with 10.

### Junior varsity

The junior varsity fell to Tri-County 61-25 as Haris Mayhal had a team-high 11. The Arthur Chirstian game went into two 3:30 overtime periods with the Conquering Riders winning 38-35 despite 11 points by Aiden Smith for AHS.

### Freshmen

Arcola participated in a

freshman tournament at Heritage and went 1-1 beating Tri-County 51-29 with Aiden Smith leading a balanced scoring attack with 13 points. The Purple Riders lost to Heritage 44-21 with Smith scoring seven points.

**Varsity**  
**Arthur Christian** 7 5 9 8-29  
**Arcola** 10 14 21 8-53  
ARCOLA: Ryan Lindstrom 0-0-0, Gerardo Alanis 4-2-13, Tyson Lewis 0-2-2, Braden Phillips 3-2-8, Jackson Miller 11-4-30, D.J. Stevens 0-0-0, Max Rardin 0-0-0, Kaden Brawner 0-0-0, Bryan Mendoza 0-0-0, Alan Guevara 0-0-0, Totals 18-10-53  
3-point goals: Arcola 7-15 467 (Miller 4-10-, Alanis 3-5), Arthur Christian 4-26 .154 (Jaden Mast 2-5, Cole Gabriels 1-3, James Lee 1-2, Kyson Pflum 0-3, Brock Helmut 0-3, Asa Binion 0-5, Caden Henry 0-1, Joshua Skowronski 0-2). Free throws: Arcola 10-21 .476, Arthur Christian 7-16 .500. Bench points: Arcola 0, Arthur Christian 8. Rebounds: Arcola 37 (Phillips 13), Arthur Christian 22 (Caden Henry 6). Turnovers: Arcola 12, Arthur Christian 19. Field goal

shooting: Arcola 18-49 (.367), Arthur Christian 9-46 (.196).

**Tri-County** 8 8 15 17-48  
**Arcola** 12 16 15 25-58

ARCOLA: Lindstrom 1-0-2, Alanis 6-3-17, Lewis 1-2-4, Phillips 7-3-17, Miller 6-5-18, Mendoza 0-0-0, Totals 21-13-58  
3-point goals: Arcola 3-10 (.300) (Alanis 2-3, Miller 1-6, Lindstrom 0-1), Tri-County 5-8 .625 (Gaige Cox 1-1, Jacob Smith 1-3, Carter Phillips 1-1, Tyler Hutchinson 2-3). Free throws: Arcola 13-24 .542, Tri-County 11-18 .611. Bench points: Arcola 0, Tri-County 8. Rebounds: Arcola 28 (Lewis, Phillips 6), Tri-County 25 (Braxton Buckler 8). Turnovers: Arcola 13, Tri-County 12. Field goal shooting: Arcola 21-47 .489, Tri-County 14-40 .350.

**Junior varsity**  
**Arthur Christian** 10 10 6 5 16-38  
**Arcola** 6 3 10 12 13-35  
ARCOLA: Guevara 1-0-2, Aiden Smith 3-4-11, Rardin 0-0-0, Haris Mayhal 2-4-9, Mendoza 3-0-6, Stevens 3-0-7, Aiden Myers 0-0-0, Totals 12-8-35  
3-point goals: Arcola 4 (Mayhal 2, Stevens 1, Smith 1)

**Tri-County** 15 13 16 17-61  
**Arcola** 1 10 7 7-25

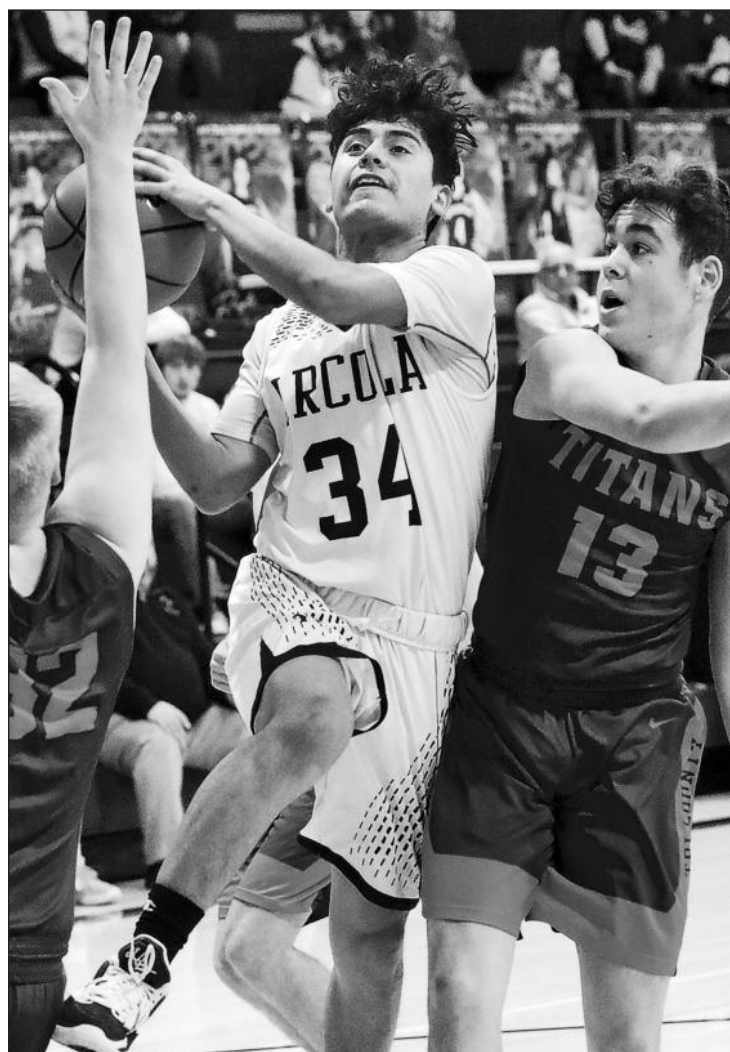
ARCOLA: Guevara 0-0-0, Stevens 0-0-0, Canton Wesch 0-0-0, Smith 1-1-3, Max Rardin 0-0-0, Anthony Lira 0-0-0, Mayhal 3-2-11, Mendoza 3-2-8, Myers 1-0-3, Totals 8-5-25  
3-point goals: Arcola 4 (Mayhal 3, Myers 1).

**Freshmen**  
**Arcola** 11 12 9 19-51  
**Tri-County** 9 5 8 7-29

ARCOLA: Guevara 1-0-3, Stevens 4-0-8, Smith 6-1-13, Mayhal 3-0-9, Mendoza 4-1-9, Rardin 2-0-6, Lira 1-0-3, Myers 0-0-0, Totals 21-2-51  
3-point goals: Arcola 7 (Mayhal 3, Rardin 2, Lira 1, Guevara 1)

**Arcola** 4 6 8 3-21  
**Heritage** 14 12 12 6-44

ARCOLA: Guevara 1-1-3, Stevens 1-0-2, Smith 2-3-7, Mayhal 1-0-3, Mendoza 1-1-3, Lira 0-0-0, Rardin 1-0-3, Myers 0-0-0, Totals 7-5-21  
3-point goals: Arcola 2 (Rardin 1, Mayhal 1)



ARCOLA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL - Sophomore Bryan Mendoza (34) goes in for a basket in a junior varsity game played at Arcola on Jan. 31. The Purple Riders lost to Tri-County 61-25. Photo by Nancy Rairden.



ARCOLA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL - Junior Tyson Lewis (5) stretches out to make the shot in a varsity game played at Arcola on Jan. 31. The Purple Riders defeated Tri-County 58-48 in a Lincoln Prairie Conference game. Photo by Nancy Rairden.



ARCOLA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL - Sophomore Alan Guevara (15) works his way through the defenders in a varsity game played at Arcola on Feb. 3. Arcola defeated Arthur Okaw Christian 53-29. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

### Girls

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more after Condill drilled a 3-pointer for a 44-32 advantage.

Arcola's man-to-man defense held Arthur to just 1 of its first 12 field goals (.083) shooting in the first 10:45. This caused coach Condill to get away from running a half-court offense.

"We were struggling in our half court with our man, which happens sometimes," said Condill. "Arcola is tough. They have got a lot of length out there and a lot of quickness. We thought let's get into our transition and score early because then we don't have to set anything up. That was the means to an end because our half court was so stagnant. It did speed things up and it got us moving. We are always talking about ball movement and player movement so that just naturally gets that going. We made some really good passes and were able to get some baskets after we started

really cold."

In the final 21:15 the Knights were 13-of-26.

Arcola entered the game shooting 25 percent from three-point range, but went 1-of-16 (.063)

The Lady Riders did use a press in the second half, but were unable to get many turnovers off of it.

Kacie Sisk led Arocla with 20 points and seven rebounds. "Games like this are good for us," said Roberts. We have two days of practice and get Neoga (No. 8 in Class 1A). "It gets us ready for the postseason as long as we learn from it and continue to practice hard and get better."

Arthur, 18-9, had two players with double-doubles as Seal had a team-high 17 points and 10 rebounds, while Condill had 16 points and 14 rebounds. Otto was also in double digits with 13 points.

"We shot well from the free throw line, but it was not enough," said Roberts whose team was 11-for-14 (.786), a

season-best. "You can't put a team like that at the free throw line that many times."

### Junior varsity

Arcola battled Arthur in a close game before falling 32-28. The Lady Riders trailed 21-12 at the half and tied the game on several occasions in the fourth. Crystal Ramierz led a balanced scoring attack with eight points.

In two eight minute running clock periods Arcola's Hayden Gauna scored eight points in a 14-12 victory over Cumberland.

**Varsity**  
**ALAH** 9 17 15 10-51  
**Arcola** 12 8 12 6-38

ARCOLA: Eva Hopkins 0-2-2 Jacey Kessler 2-2-6, Kesley Moore 1-1-4, Mackenzie Thomas 1-2-4, Kacie Sisk 8-4-20, Reyli Vega 1-0-2, Crystal Ramirez 0-0-0, Vanessa Condarco 0-0-0, Emma Vazquez 0-0-0, Totals 13-11-48  
3-point goals: Arcola 1-16 .063 (Moore 1-6, Kessler 0-6, Vega 0-2, Hopkins 0-2), Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 1-5 .200 (Charley Condill 1-1, Kailee Otto 0-2, Clarie Seal 0-1, Kaci Beachy 0-1). Rebounds: Arcola 24 (Sisk 7), Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 36 (Condill 14, Seal 10). Free throws: Arcola 11-14.786,

Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 23-28 .821. Bench points: Arcola 2, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 0. Turnovers: Arcola 10, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 12. Field goal Shooting: Arcola 13-45 .289, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 14-39 359.

**Arcola** 9 13 11 10-43  
**Cumberland** 5 6 2 5-18

ARCOLA: Hopkins 4-0-10, Kessler 0-1-1, Moore 2-2-6, Thomas 7-0-14, Sisk 3-0-6, Vega 2-1-5, Alessia Menoud 0-0-0, Condarco 0-1-1, Vazquez 0-0-0, Ava Simpson 0-0-0, Totals 18-5-43  
3-point goals: Arcola 2-9 .222 (Hopkins 2-2, Kessler 0-1, Moore 0-2, Vega 0-3, Sisk 0-1), Cumberland 2-7 .286 (Abbie Becker 2-5, Katelyn Shoemaker 0-1, Isabel Martinez 0-1). Rebounds: Arcola 22 (Sisk 9), Cumberland 24 (Paige Dittamore 9). Free throws: Arcola 5-7 .714, Cumberland 2-6 .333. Bench points: Arcola 6, Cumberland 0. Turnovers: Arcola 11, Cumberland 22. Field goal Shooting: Arcola 18-44 (.409), Cumberland 7-29 (.241).

**Junior varsity**  
**ALAH** 9 12 4 7-32  
**Arcola** 4 8 8 8-28

ARCOLA: Ramirez 4-0-8, Ema Simpson 2-2-6, Ava Simpson 3-0-6, Hayden Gauna 3-0-6, Shelby Roberts-McGeehon 1-0-2, Totals 13-2-28  
3-point goals: Arcola 0

**Arcola** 4 10-14  
**Cumberland** 5 7-12

ARCOLA: Gauna 4-0-8, Ava Simpson 1-0-3, Ramirez 0-1-1, Ema Simpson 1-0-2, Totals 6-1-14  
3-point goals: Arcola 1 (Ava Simpson 1)

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