

SPORTS



ARCOLA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL - Junior Jackson Miller (14) looks to pass the ball off in a varsity game played at Arcola on Feb. 7. The Purple Riders lost to Argenta-Oreana 51-50 in a Lincoln Prairie Conference game. Photo by Nancy Rairden.



ARCOLA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL - Sophomore Bryan Mendoza (34) looks to pass the ball in a junior varsity game played at Arcola on Feb. 7. The Purple Riders lost to Argenta-Oreana 47-34. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

Arcola drops two close LPC games

By Mike Monahan

TOLEDO – Arcola dropped two Lincoln Prairie Conference games, falling to Cumberland last Friday, 51-43.

Argenta-Oreana snapped Arcola's four-game losing streak in a game where neither team led by more than nine. The Bombers nipped the Purple Riders Feb. 7 51-50.

Arcola entered Tuesday's home game against Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond with a 13-13 overall record and 3-5 in the LPC, good for sixth place in the 10-team conference.

Cumberland 51, Arcola 43

Arcola trailed by 12 late in the first half when Ryan Lindstrom scored and Jackson Miller sank a 37-footer at the buzzer to give them momentum heading into the second half, down 23-16.

Arcola's Gerardo Alanis started the second half with the first five points, including a 3-pointer to make it a two point game.

Cumberland, a school that started in 1949-50 and has over 1,000 wins in program history, ended Arcola's 10-0 run with a free throw and a basket by Gavin Hendrix, a 6-6

210 pound senior.

The Purple Riders trailed 31-27 heading into the final period. Arcola started the fourth by making all three field goals, including two 3-pointers by Alanis and a bucket by Tyson Lewis (who had eight points) as the Purple Riders led for the first time, 35-31 with 6:23 remaining.

However, that is what Hendrix, who scored 10 in the second quarter, took over. He ended Arcola's 8-0 run with a three-point play and the Pirates regained the lead on a bucket by Trevin Magee. Cumberland, who improved to 15-12 overall and 5-3 in the LPC, had a rare four-point play as Hendrix scored and was fouled. He missed the free throw, but scored again for a 41-35 Pirate advantage.

Arcola, who played a 2-3 zone in the second half, kept fighting as Miller drained a 3-pointer, but the Purple Riders went 1-of-5 from the field in the last 4:20.

Hendrix scored the first 14 points of the quarter and his basket with 1:32 made it a two-possession game, 48-43. Hendrix was 12-of-15 from the field and was 7-of-11 from the free throw line for a game-high 31 points.

Alanis led Arcola with 11 points, all in the second half,

including three 3-pointers.

Arcola was hurt by rebounding as the Pirates pulled down 26 compared to 16 for Arcola.

Argenta-Oreana 51, Arcola 50

The two teams met Jan. 28 in the LPC tournament and Arcola won 60-39. This time it was much closer as neither team led by more than nine points.

Argenta led 40-32 after three quarters. Miller made a 3-pointer to start the fourth and a steal and layup by Alanis made it a one possession game, 40-37. After that Arcola trailed by one and three points over the next five minutes until 5-8 sophomore Jamario Barbee hit a 3-pointer after a scramble for the ball to make it 49-45 with 2:22 remaining. Alanis made it 49-47 with :39 seconds left, but Argenta made it 51-47 and Miller sank a 3-pointer at the buzzer for the one-point margin.

"When you coach you always have one or two games a year where you just can't quite get it going," said Arcola coach Greg Gisinger. "Hats off to them. I thought they beat us to some loose balls at some key spots. I thought that they

adjusted their defense against us compared to what they did last time and they did a good job with that."

Braden Phillips had 16 points and 12 rebounds for yet another double-double, while Alanis had 15 and Miller 10.

Both teams shot nearly the same as Arcola was 21-of-53 and the Bombers 21-of-55. However, the Purple Riders were a dismal 4-of-22 from beyond the 3-point line.

"I really think we got the shots we wanted all night," said Gisinger. "We just couldn't quite put the ball in the hole. Everytime we got to that one or two point game it would be a loose ball or broken play and we had been getting all of those loose balls I feel like the last couple of weeks. A broken play and they would make the shot. Hats off to them, they made big shots all night."

Arcola did lead most of the opening quarter, but the Bombers, coached by former Neoga and Clinton coach Clay Hauberg, started an 8-0 run with the game tied for the second and final time at 12. Barbee scored all eight points for a 20-12 lead.

Arcola climbed back to within three when Phillips scored five straight points,

including a three-point play and a pass from Miller. A 3-pointer by Alanis made it a 3-point game, but Barbee answered with a 3-pointer of his own.

Argenta led 30-23 at the half, making 10-of-22 from the field compared to 12-of-31 for the Purple Riders.

Barbee finished with a season-high 23 points, including 16 in the first half.

Arcola was outrebounded 39-30.

"My concern was some of the other guys were just assuming Phillips would get the rebound," said Gisinger. "I don't think we had five guys crash the boards tonight. We had 2-3 and 1 or 2 leaked out against a team that is really athletic and they jump well. They are not really big, but they are quick to the ball. You can't leak out because that half step beats you."

Junior varsity

The junior varsity also lost two games, falling to Cumberland 49-31 as D.J. Stevens led Arcola with 11 points.

Arcola dropped a 47-34 decision to Argenta-Oreana despite 15 from Stevens and 10 from Haris Mayhal.

Varsity	Arcola	Cumberland
Arcola	7	9
Cumberland	10	17-43

Cumberland 6 17 8 20-51

ARCOLA: Ryan Lindstrom 2-0-5, Gerardo Alanis 4-0-11, Tyson Lewis 4-0-8, Braden Phillips 1-4-7, Jackson Miller 3-4-10, D. J. Stevens 0-0-0, Max Rardin 0-0-0, Kaden Brawner 0-0-0, Bryan Mendoza 1-0-2, Alan Guevara 0-0-0, Totals 15-6-43

3-point goals: Arcola 7-16 .438 (Alanis 3-6, Miller 2-7, Lindstrom 1-2, Phillips 1-1), Cumberland 2-4 500 (Blake McMechan 1-1, Trevin Magee 1-3). Rebounds: Arcola 16 (Phillips 6), Cumberland 26 (Gavin Hendrix 9), Turnovers: Arcola 12, Cumberland 11. Free throws: Arcola 6-8 .750, Cumberland 13-20 .550. Bench points: Arcola 2, Cumberland 8. Field goal shooting: Arcola 15-34 (.441), Cumberland 18-34 (.529).

Argenta-Oreana 18 12 10 11-51

ARCOLA: Lindstrom 2-0-5, Alanis 7-0-15, Lewis 2-0-4, Phillips 6-4-16, Miller 4-0-10, Mendoza 0-0-0, Totals 21-4-50

3-point goals: Arcola 4-22 (.182) (Miller 2-11, Lindstrom 1-4, Alanis 1-7) Argenta-Oreana 6-20 (.300) Jamario Barbee 3-5, Jaylenn Flowers 1-5, Ethan Mahan 1-4, Dylan Rigsdale 1-2, Chase Logue 0-4). Rebounds: Arcola 30 (Phillips 12), Argenta-Oreana 39 (Barbee 11) Turnovers: Arcola 14, Argenta-Oreana 16. Free throws: Arcola 4-5 .800, Argenta-Oreana 3-5 .600. Bench points: Arcola 0, Argenta-Oreana 9. Field goal shooting: Arcola 21-53 .396, Argenta-Oreana 21-55 .382

Junior varsity

Arcola 8 5 9 9-31

Cumberland 7 8 15 19-49

ARCOLA: Guevara 1-0-2, Stevens 4-0-11, Canton Wesch 0-0-0, Haris Mayhal 2-3-8, Mendoza 1-2-4, Aiden Smith 2-0-4, Anthony Lira 0-0-0, Brawner 0-0-0, Aiden Myers 1-0-2, Totals 11-5-31

3-point goals: Arcola 4 (Stevens 3, Mayhal 1)

Argenta-Oreana 17 15 7 8-47

ARCOLA: Guevara 0-0-0, Stevens 6-0-15, Smith 0-2-2, Mayhal 3-4-10, Mendoza 3-0-7, Wesch 0-0-0, Myers 0-0-0, Totals 12-6-34

3-point goals: 4 (Stevens 3, Mendoza 10)