

SPORTS

and making 6-of-9 in the opening 6:40, including seven by Miller.

Heritage, coached by Corey White, who is in his seventh season and is a Shiloh grad, were within nine points, 25-16 after a 3-pointer by Timmy Wilson with 2:14 remaining in the half on Lyle Loman Court in Broadlands.

Miller answered with a 3-pointer, a 2-point bucket and a pass to Lewis for a 30-16 advantage. Heritage's Wilson ended the scoring in the first half, giving Arcola a 12-point margin.

It was the Hawks last basket for 4:14 (0-for-5) until freshman Rylan White ended Arcola's 13-0 run as the Purple Riders held a commanding 43-20 advantage.

White led the Hawks with 10 points.

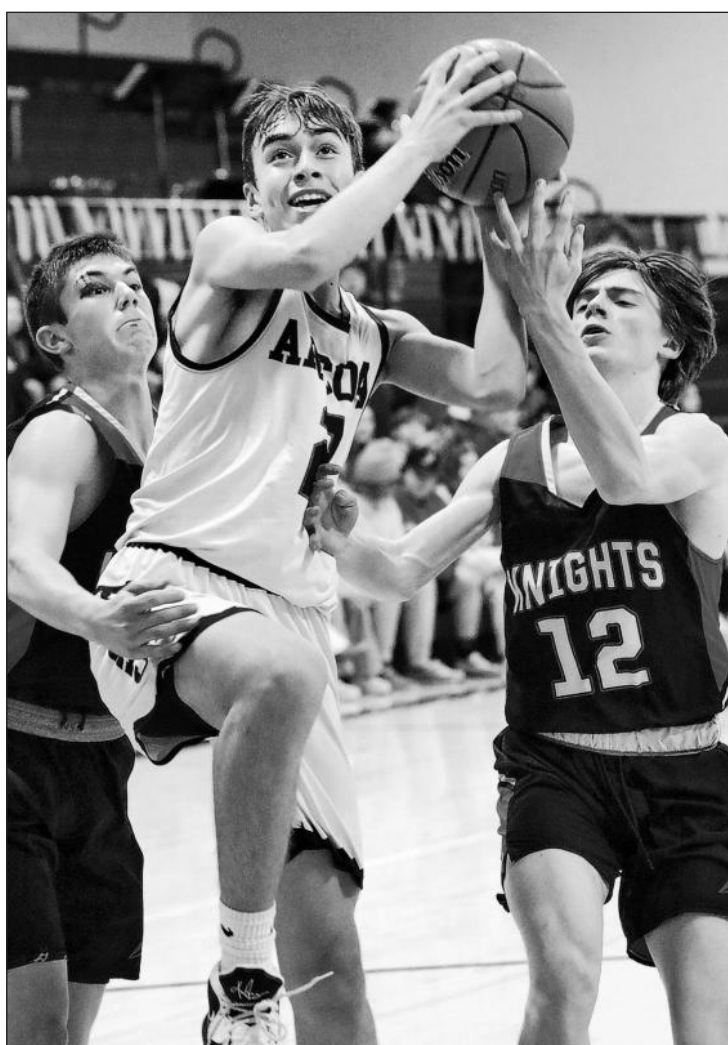
Arcola shot 52 percent compared to 38 for Heritage and the win assured Arcola of a winning season.

Miller had a game-high 24 points, while Phillips had 12 for Arcola, who led by over 20 points the entire fourth quarter before winning by 27.

Arcola 66, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 48

It was the first and only meeting between the two schools and the Knights only led once, on the first basket of the game by Clay Seal. Arcola took the lead for good on a 3-pointer by Alanis and Miller followed with another trey for an 8-2 advantage.

Arcola led 15-10 when they went on a 9-2 run over a span of 3:12 to increase the advantage to 24-12 as Miller hit Phillips for two and the 10-point lead. Arcola led 28-18 at the half against Arthur, a team



ARCOLA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL - Junior Gerardo Alanis (2) threads his way between two defenders from Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond in a varsity game played at Arcola on Feb. 14. The Purple Riders defeated the ALAH Knights 66-48 in the final game of the regular season. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

that entered the game with a 12-16 record, never did get within 10 the rest of the game.

Arcola started the second half off with a 3-pointer by Miller. Jayce Parsons scored for Arthur before Arcola had a four point possession as Alanis made a basket and was fouled. He missed the free throw, but the Purple Riders got the rebound and Phillips scored. Lewis's basket forced Knight coach Brad McGill to use a time-out as the Purple Riders led 39-22.

Arthur did get within 12 after a 3-pointer by Wyatt

Hilligoss and a steal and layup by Connor Nettles. Arcola led 44-31 after three and went on to win by 18.

"We played hard and played with intensity," said Alanis. "We played with emotion and as a team. We had a good lead in the first half and we came out and we said, 'The score is 0-0'. We just came out and played hard in the second half and hit our shots (11-22 from the field and 4-of-6 from 3-point range in the second half). If I am feeling it, I am going to shoot it (3-pointer) and if any of us are open we

are going to shoot it."

Miller had 22, Phillips 18 and Alanis 17 points for Arcola, while Hilligoss led all players with 23 points.

"We were a little low on our rotations and left their shooters open a little too much," said McGill. "With a rivalry game everyone's a little amped up. Maybe the type of thing where they kind of petered themselves out relay quick-both teams did that. Once they hit a couple of shots we didn't respond in the way that I had hoped. Both teams played hard. Get a couple of more shots to fall for us or a couple of breaks here or there and it is a closer game at least. Disappointed but it has been our season. There have been a lot of waves (ups and downs) here."

As for Wyatt Hilligoss, who went over the 1,000 point mark in his career recently, McGill said, "He is steady Eddy and he is going to get you your 20 points every single night. He is going to work his butt off. As all the kids do. Wyatt has a knack around the basket and for getting calls. He has put in the work. He has had a good career and I wish I had him for another couple of years."

Arcola shot 50 percent from the field and 56 percent from three-point range against the Knights man-to-man defense. The Purple Rider defense held Arthur to just 33 percent from the field.

"I thought we came out with a lot of energy and it was a really nice crowd which was good to see," said Gisinger. "I think people are starting to realize we play some pretty good basketball here with a young team. I appreciated the support from the community. We have been practicing well. I was a little worried about if we had that same type of energy we have had all year.

Everytime I worry about it they seem to play even harder and better. Which is hard to do when you have no seniors. We have some guys that have stepped into leadership roles at a young age. I am just really proud of them."

Arcola also out rebounded A-L-A-H 35-26.

"Overall, I thought Alanis and I told him in the locker room that it was maybe the best I have seen a point guard play in a long time," said Gisinger. "He played phenomenal. He got guys open. He took care of the ball and the pressure and was under control. He attacked when it was there and got to the free throw line. He played good defense and rebounded. It was a great team effort."

Junior varsity

After a 47-24 loss to Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond, the Purple Rider junior varsity team picked up a 41-36 win over Heritage as Aiden Smith had a team-high 12 points.

The top scorer for AHS against the Knights was Smith and Mayhall with five points each.

Varsity
G'town La Salette 12 7 8 14-41
Arcola 10 14 9 17-50
ARCOLA: Ryan Lindstrom 4-0-12, Gerardo Alanis 1-3-6, Tyson Lewis 0-0-0, Braden Phillips 7-2-16, Jackson Miller 6-1-16, D. J. Stevens 0-0-0, Totals 18-6-50
3-point goals: Arcola 8-21 381, (Lindstrom 4-7, Alanis 1-8, Miller 3-6, Notre Dame de La Salette 7-19 368 (Eamon Martin 4-9, William Fitzpatrick 2-6, Matt Romero 1-4), Rebounds: Arcola 24 (Phillips 9), Notre Dame de La Salette 32 (Charles Prather 13). Bench points: Arcola 0, Notre Dame de La Salette 0. Turnovers: Arcola 7, Notre Dame de La Salette 11. Free throws: Arcola 6-12 .500, Notre Dame de La Salette 4-5 .800. Field goals: Arcola 18-44 .409, Notre Dame de La Salette 15-41 .366
Arcola 16 16 16 18-66
Heritage 6 12 9 12-39
ARCOLA: Lindstrom 2-0-5, Alanis 3-1-7, Lewis 4-0-8, Phillips 4-4-12, Miller 10-0-24, Stevens 1-0-2, Max Rardin 1-0-3, Kaden Brawner 1-0-3, Bryan Mendoza 0-0-0, Alan Guevara 1-0-2, Totals 27-5-66
3-point goals: Arcola 7-13. 538

(Lindstrom 1-1, Rardin 1-1, Brawner 1-2, Miller 4-6, Stevens 0-2, Lewis 0-1) Heritage 5-17 (Timmy Wilson 2-6, Andrew Williams 1-1, Jacob Bensyl 1-1, Joel Bear 1-2, Aaron Coffin 0-2, Julian Gray 0-5, Rylan White 0-1). Rebounds: Arcola 31 (Miller 9), Heritage 17 (Wilson 5). Turnovers: Arcola 5, Heritage 11. Free throws: Arcola 5-8 .625, Heritage 4-6 .667. Bench points: Arcola 10, Heritage 18. Field goal shooting: Arcola 27-52 .519, Heritage 15-40 .375

A-L-A-H 8 10 13 17-48
Arcola 12 16 16 22-66

ARCOLA: Lindstrom 2-1-7, Alanis 4-7-17, Lewis 1-0-2, Phillips 8-2-18, Miller 7-3-22, 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 12-13-66

3-point goals: Arcola 9-16 .563 (Lindstrom 2-2, Alanis 2-3, Miller 5-9, Stevens 0-2), A-L-A-H 4-11 .364 (Wyatt Hilligoss 2-3, Connor Nettles 2-5, Jayce Parsons 0-1, Will Hilligoss 0-1, Maddix Stirrett 0-1). Rebounds: Arcola 35 (Miller 12), A-L-A-H 23 (Wyatt Hilligoss 9), Turnovers: Arcola 10, A-L-A-H 5. Free throws: Arcola 13-19 .684, A-L-A-H 10-16 .625. Bench points: Arcola 0, A-L-A-H 2. Field goal shooting: Arcola 22-44 .500, A-L-A-H 17-48 .333

Junior varsity
Arcola 8 8 16 9-41
Heritage 5 2 12 17-36

ARCOLA: Guevara 0-0-0, Stevens 3-2-9, Canton Wesch 3-0-7, Aiden Smith 5-2-12, Haris Mayhall 1-1-3, Max Rardin 1-0-3, Anthony Lira 0-0-0, Brawner 0-1-1, Mendoza 1-1-3, Aiden Myers 1-1-3, Totals 15-8-41

3-point goals: Arcola 3 (Stevens 1, Wesch 1, Rardin 1)

A-L-A-H 12 8 10 17-47
Arcola 9 5 5 5-24

ARCOLA: Guevara 0-0-0, Stevens 1-1-4, Wesch 1-1-4, Rardin 0-0-0, Mayhall 2-0-5, Mendoza 1-0-2, Lira 1-0-2, Smith 1-3-5, Brawner 0-0-0, Myers 1-0-2, Totals 8-5-24
3-point goals: Arcola 3 (Stevens 1, Wesch 1, Mayhall 1)

2023 Class 1A regional, Tuscola

(Seeds and record if known in parentheses through last Saturday)

Saturday
Game 1: Tuscola 79, Tri-County (15, 5-26) 14

Game 2: Villa Grove 48, Chrisman (12, 10-21) 45

Game 3: Okaw Valley 70, Heritage (14, 8-23) 45

Game 4: Arcola 50, Georgetown Notre Dame de La Salette (13, 6-17) 41

Wednesday at Tuscola
Game 5: Tuscola (1, 25-6) vs. Villa Grove (9, 12-19), 6 p.m.

Game 6: Okaw Valley (4, 17-12) vs. Arcola (6, 16-13), 7:30 p.m.

Friday
Game 7: Winner of game 5 vs. Winner of game 6, regional championship, 7 p.m. Winner advances to Allamont Sectional vs. winner of South Central regional, March 1, 7 p.m.

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