

SPORTS

Boys

From page 6

respectively. Arcola did shoot the ball at a 42 percent clip from the field, but Tuscola shot 47 percent.

"We talked about it as a staff and even as a team," said Gisinger of Tuscola being hard to guard. "They got us out-sized inside, they are faster than us and when they shoot well and take three's I don't know you guard them person-

ally. Other teams might be able to, but for our younger, smaller guys, I don't know if we can.

I thought Sweetnam played a fantastic game and Hortin was a thorn in our side all night. In the second half I thought we did some good things offensively and got the ball inside and then Quinn started hitting some 3-pointers with a hand in his face (Quinn had all three of his 3-pointers in the third). They

played really well and we had a bad start and that is the game in a nutshell."

Tuscola beat Arcola 63-39 Dec. 20 at Tuscola.

Arcola 48, Okaw Valley 41

Arcola led the game that had eight lead changes by one possession, 38-35 with 4:21 left after a 3-pointer by Okaw Valley's Husdon Ruppert, when the Purple Riders outscored the Timberwolves 13-6 to win 48-41. With 2:48 left it was still a 3-point lead when Alanis made a pair of free throws with 2:42 remaining. Miller hit a 3-pointer from the corner for a 45-37 advantage. Okaw Valley's Bret Lybarger made one of two free throws and Chase Creviston made a basket as the Timberwolves made it 45-41 with still 1:44 remaining. Arcola took its time and Alanis made a pair of free throws with 24 seconds left and one more for the final point of the game.

For the second time Arcola played a 2-3 zone in the second half after playing it in the quarterfinal win over Georgetown Notre Dame de La Salette.

Why did Arcola go to a zone defense when they have been a man-to-man team?

"Mainly because of foul trouble," said Gisinger. "Phillips had three and Lewis had two. We tried to protect them and just hoped they (Okaw Valley) missed some shots and they did. We are not a zone team so, I would not say our zone is really good, but they had some looks. More than anything it slowed them down. I thought they got into rhythm at the end of the second quarter, when Phillips went out) so we wanted to go to a zone to get them out of that rhythm a little bit. They had some good looks that I am sure

they wanted. They just happened to miss them tonight."

Okaw Valley was 8-of-24 (.333) from the field in the first half, but just 6-of-27 (.222) in the second half. In addition they were 3-of-7 (.429) from 3-point land in the first half, but only 1-of-12 (.083) in the second half.

"We had a good year," said Okaw Valley coach Brooks Inman. "I think we shot 60 percent from 3-point range for about 2-3 weeks straight. Nothing fell tonight. We just didn't have our game and we just didn't have the same energy. It was a weird night for us."

Alanis was 6-of-11 (.545) from the field, including 2-of-4 from 3-point range.

"It means a lot to have 22 points," said Alanis, the point guard. "I have always wanted to play in a big game like this and a big crowd and do well. I have always wanted to go to the regional championship."

Okaw Valley's largest lead was five (25-20 with 56 seconds left in the first half and Arcola's was eight points (45-37 with 2:23 left).

"I thought we did a good job of getting to the rim," said Inman. "We didn't get to the free throw line (7-12) like I had hoped," said Inman. "Getting to the free throw line is a big part of our offense and we just didn't get there tonight."

Arcola lost to Okaw Valley 54-29 Jan. 13 at Arcola.

"We didn't really do anything different," said Alanis other than the 2-3 zone. "We wanted to play the game we have always been playing and we have been playing really well at the end of the year. We just said keep doing the same thing; just play hard and get the win."

Arcola 8 11 11 16-46
Tuscola 23 13 19 8-63
ARCOLA: Ryan Lindstrom 3-0-7, Gerardo Alanis 2-1-6, Tyson Lewis 1-0-2,



JUNIOR JACKSON MILLER (14) in a Regional Tournament game played at Tuscola on Wed., Feb. 22. The Purple Riders defeated the Okaw Valley 48-41 to advance to the championship game on Fri., Feb. 24. Tuscola defeated Villa Gove earlier that evening, 101-35, to also advance to the championship game. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

Braden Phillips 8-2-18, Jackson Miller 5-1-13, D. J. Stevens 0-0-0, Max Rardin 0-0-0, Alan Guevera 0-0-0, Totals 19-4-46

3-point goals: Arcola 4-16 .250 (Lindstrom 1-2, Alanis 1-4, Miller 2-10), Tuscola 10-19 .526 (Kam Sweetnam 4-7, Josiah Hortin 2-4, Parker James 1-2, Jordan Quinn 3-5, Jackson Barrett 0-1). Rebounds: Arcola 24 (Phillips 9), Tuscola 28 (Quinn 9). Bench points: Arcola 0, Tuscola 0. Free throws: Arcola 4-8 .500, Tuscola 5-5 1.000. Turnovers: Arcola 10, Tuscola 6. Total field goals: Arcola 19-45 .422, Tuscola 24-51 .471

Arcola 12 10 10 16-48
Okaw Valley 7 18 4 12-41

ARCOLA: Lindstrom 3-0-7, Alanis 6-8-22, Lewis 1-0-2, Phillips 1-0-2, Miller 6-0-15, Stevens 0-0-0, Totals 17-8-48

3-point goals: Arcola 6-15 .400 (Miller 3-9, Alanis 2-4, Lindstrom 1-2), Okaw Valley 4-19 .211 ((Hudson Ruppert 2-5, Gibson Dickens 2-9, Brandon Montgomery 0-3, Brett Lybarger 0-2). Rebounds: Arcola 32 (Miller 10), Okaw Valley 27 (Jace Rickey 7). Free throws: Arcola 8-12 .667, Okaw Valley 7-12 .583. Bench points: Arcola 0, Okaw Valley 0. Turnovers: Arcola 15, Okaw Valley 9. Total field goals: Arcola 17-37 .459, Okaw Valley 14-51 .275



JUNIOR GERARDO ALANIS (2) in a Regional Tournament game played at Tuscola on Wed., Feb. 22. The Purple Riders defeated the Okaw Valley 48-41 to advance to the championship game on Fri., Feb. 24. Tuscola defeated Villa Gove earlier that evening, 101-35, to also advance to the championship game. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

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