

# SPORTS

## Joergens, an Arcola grad, named Lawrenceville head football coach

By Mike Monahan

LAWRENCEVILLE – For the past 10 football seasons Cory Joergens, a 2007 Arcola grad, has been an assistant football coach at Lawrenceville, a member of the Little Illini Conference, with an enrollment of 325, was named the new head football coach. He replaces Travis Reider, who resigned after going 13-20 in four seasons, including one playoff appearance in Class 2A.

“He kind of told us coaches he would be done at the end of last season,” said Joergens, who was officially hired on Jan. 18.

“It is something I have always wanted to do,” said Joergens of being head coach. “Being an assistant first was good because I knew I wasn’t ready for it right away. After a few years it was something I definitely wanted to do.”

Joergens said the assistants don’t have any official titles, but technically he has been the offensive coordinator the last few years.

In high school Joergens was a three-sport athlete, playing



Joergens 2007

center in football and playing baseball and basketball as well.

Joergens played under three different coaches, Joe Marks his freshman year, Nathan Watson his sophomore and junior seasons and Jarod Kiger his senior year.

“Outside of my parents (Steve and Tina Joergens of Arcola) Jarod Kiger and Nathan Watson were the ones that helped me be the person I am today,” said Joergens. “There are not enough words to me to thank them for what they have done and for what

they do today (coaches). I will model what they taught me.”

As a Purple Rider Joergens was on teams that combined for a 18-19 record, including a 7-3 Class 1A playoff season his senior year.

“It (being a head coach) is basically fulfilling what I have always wanted,” said Joergens. “I can go back to my head coaches in high school and how much they meant to me. They have had a huge impact on my life. There are reasons why I chose the profession in teaching and coaching responsibilities. Personally, I had to give back to the next generation of what they gave me.”

He was a second team all-Little Okaw Valley Conference infielder his senior season and honorable mention all-LOVC in football. His sophomore year was when he made a shot to remember as on Feb. 18, 2005 he hit a 3-pointer from the far corner on a pass from Kevin O’Rourke as Arcola ended the regular season with a thrilling 63-61 win over Tuscola.

Joergens was the eighth

grade boys’ basketball coach for six years and was asked to move up to high school, where he has spent the last four years as the junior varsity coach under head coach Randy Bishop, who is 37th all-time in number of wins at 636 including stints at Martinsville and Casey-Westfield. The Indians reached the Class 2A sectional championship before falling to Teutopolis, who made the final four with a 42-40 overtime win over Pinckneyville Monday night. Teutopolis is coached by Sullivan grad Chet Reeder. Lawrenceville finished 26-9 its best season since going 28-3 in 2015-16.

“We played Teutopolis three times in my six years and now the sectional and we have never beat them,” said Joergens of when he has been with the teams.

Joergens said he is resigning from his basketball duties, “so, I can hone in on my football duties full time.”

At Illinois College he was an offensive tackle and in 2008 was named to the Academic All-Midwest Conference Team.

His first two seasons they were 4-6 and his last two the Blueboys went 5-5. He had two coaches in Aaron Keen and Garrett Campbell.

Joergens was a substitute teacher for a year and a half and in the fall of 2013 he started teaching eighth grade math at Lawrenceville.

Joergens will have all of the assistant coaches that were associated with the Indians for the past several seasons.

“I didn’t have to make any new hire or find out about anybody,” said Joergens, who has been under Reider, Chad Green and Greg Wood. “It is an easy transition there.”

The LIC includes eight teams with three other programs that will have a new coach in Casey-Westfield (enrollment 258), Olney (enrollment 735) and Marshall (enrollment 376). Other teams are Robinson

(enrollment 464), Newton (enrollment 434), Paris (enrollment 560.5) and Mt. Carmel (enrollment 495.5).

“What makes the LIC different from the Lincoln Prairie Conference is that when I was playing I didn’t think about the school’s enrollment. Here we have Class 2A up to Class 5A. We are very diverse with schools and class sizes.”

As for advice to high school or college students that want to be head coach, Joergens said, “It is a process. You have to do all the jobs and put in your dues and do the dirty work first before you get up there. Stick to the process and time will come. Five years ago when we were looking for a head coach my name was in the hat and they chose Reider, which was fine. I stuck to the process. I could have left then, but I didn’t. I knew my time was coming at some point.”

## Myers sets indoor shot put record in first meet of season at Charleston

By Mike Monahan

CHARLESTON – Mitchel Myers, an Arcola senior, started off the 2023 indoor track season with a bang as he had a shot put of 50-0 to not only win the event at the Eastern Illinois University Indoor Meet at Lantz Fieldhouse, but also broke the school indoor record by 5-11. Hugo Garza had the previous record of 44-1.

Also placing seventh in the triple jump at 37-3 was Braden Phillips, while Aiden York was 15th in the 800 with a time of 2:15.61.

The boys featured 35 Class 1A, 19 Class 2A and 1 Class 3A team for a total of 55.

On the girls side Arcola’s Ema Simpson had the highest finish as she was eighth in the long jump at 15-0. Crystal

Ramirez was 11th in the high jump at 4-6 and Kesley Moore was 15th in the 60 hurdles in 10.91 seconds.

The girls had a total of 56 teams in it, including 36 Class 1A, 15 Class 2A and 5 Class 3A teams.

**Team scores**

1.Tolono Unity 63; 37. Arcola, Okaw Valley, Lowpoint Washburn 1

**Arcola results**

60 dash: 30. Ema Simpson 8.62; 77. Delila Leal 9.33;

60 hurdles: 15. Kelsey Moore 10.91

Shot put: 36. Aalyiah Garza 6.98

High jump: 11. Crystal Ramirez 4-6

Long jump; 8. Ema Simpson 15-0

**Team scores**

1.Mount Zion 68; 18. Arcola 10

**Arcola results**

60 dash: 85. Miguel Trevino 8.70; 89. Nic Alanis 9.05

200: 29. Kenyon Andrews 26.11;

800: 15. Aiden York 2:15.61

4x200: 28. Ryan Lindstrom, Braden Phillips, Oden Barron and Dawson McMillan 1:45.86

Shot put: 1. Mitchel Myers 55-0\*

High jump: 23. Alan Guevera 5-2

Long jump: 25. Lindstrom 17-0

Triple jump; 7. Phillips 37-3

\*-Indoor school record at Arcola



Myers

## Miller second team all-LPC

By Mike Monahan

DECATUR – Jackson Miller, an Arcola junior, was one of six players selected to the second team all-Lincoln Prairie Conference for the 2022-23 season, one which saw the Purple Riders go 17-14 overall and 5-5 in the LPC.

No Arcola player was on the seven member first team, but receiving honorable mention was Braden Phillips, a sophomore.

Decatur LSA won the conference regular season and tournament title. They finished with a 30-1 record. The Lions had one on the first team and two on the second team for a total of three, the most of any of the 11 teams in the LPC.

A total of seven seniors, eight juniors and two sophomores received first, second or honorable mention.

Cumberland had two players, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond had two,

Cerro Gordo/Bement two, Okaw Valley two, Argenta-Oreana two, while Villa Grove and Heritage had one each.

**2022-23 All-Lincoln Prairie Boys teams**

**First team**

Gavin Hendrix, senior, Cumberland\*; Wyatt Hilligoss, senior, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond\*; Layne Rund, junior, Villa Grove; Tyson Moore, junior, Cerro Gordo/Bement\*; Sebastian Hill, junior, Decatur LSA\*; Hudson Ruppert, senior, Okaw Valley\*; Jaylyn Flowers, junior, Argenta-Oreana

**Second team**

Konnor Waterhouse, senior, Cerro Gordo/Bement; Jamario Barbee, sophomore, Argenta-Oreana; Jameer Campbell, senior, Decatur LSA; Trent Collins, junior, Decatur LSA; Jackson Miller, junior, Arcola; Drew Williams, senior, Heritage

**Honorable mention**

Trevin McGee, senior, Cumberland; Gibson Dickens, junior, Okaw Valley; Braden Phillips, sophomore, Arcola; Connor Nettles, junior, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-

Hammond

**2022-23 standings**

Team	Overall	LPC
LSA	30-1	10-0
OV	17-12	8-2
A-O	16-17	7-3
CG/B	18-13	7-3
Cland	16-14	6-4
Arc	17-14	5-5
ALAH	12-19	3-7
Her	8-23	3-7
VG	12-19	3-7
BR	9-22	2-8
TC	5-26	1-9

Girls LPC standings (overall was in last week’s issue)

Team	LPC
TC	8-0
Arc	6-2
ALAH	6-2
CGB	6-2
Cland	4-4
OV	3-5
LSA	2-6
A-O	1-7
Her	1-7

Note; Villa Grove did not play varsity



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## Arcola Sports through March 15

**High school boys and girls track**  
**Saturday**  
 Arcola at Rantoul, 11:30 a.m. at University of Illinois Armory

**Softball**  
**Tuesday**  
 Arcola at Georgetown-Ridge Farm, 4:30 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
 LeRoy at Arcola, 4:30 p.m.

