

SPORTS

Arcola blanks Argenta-Oreana 8-0 behind strong pitching by Whisman

By Mike Monahan

ARGENTA - After losing a heartbreaking 6-5 Lincoln Prairie Conference game to Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond last Friday, the Arcola baseball team improved to 4-1 overall and 3-1 in the conference with an 8-0 victory over Argenta-Oreana Monday. Saturday the first game played at the revamped baseball field at Moore Memorial park was a non-conference game against former Little Okaw Valley Conference

team, Martinsville. Arcola made it a fun day with a 21-2 three and a half inning game due to the 15-run rule after three innings.

Arcola played another non-conference game April 12 at home against Sullivan.

Arcola 8, Argenta-Oreana 0

Brevyn Whisman stole the show on the mound as he pitched a complete game, throwing 89 pitches, 56 of

which were for strikes (.629) with 10 strikeouts and only two hits and two walks.

The Purple Riders got off to a great start with four runs in the first. With one out Whisman helped his own cause with a double; Caiden Helmuth singled to right advancing Whisman to third. Whisman scored on a wild pitch and Jackson Griffith walked to put runners at first and second. Jayden Henson-Stice walked after both runners advanced on a wild pitch. Helmuth scored on a passed ball and Phillips singled to center, scoring Griffith. The final run of the inning happened on an error.

Whisman retired the Bombers in order twice.

Arcola added a run in the fifth and three more in the sixth for the victory.

Helmuth was 2-for-4 for Arcola, while six of the nine batters had at least one hit.

Arcola 21, Martinsville 2, 3 ½ innings

Arcola erased any doubt who would win this game as they pushed across 12 runs in the second after leading 2-0. The second inning included 16 at-bats, 12 with two outs. Braden Shonkwiler drove in two runs with a single. Kutz singled to put runners on the corners again and Thomas singled after Shonkwiler stole home and Kutz stole third on a double steal.

Kutz reached on an error and advanced to second on an error and runners were on the corners after a single by Tanner Thomas. Kutz scored on a fielder's choice and Helmuth reached on a fielder's



ARCOLA'S CATCHER, Tyson Lewis, tries to get control of the ball as the runner from Martinsville hurdles over him to tag home plate. Martinsville scored one of their two runs on the play. Arcola's baseball team played their first official game, and first home game of the season, at the new baseball diamond at Moore Park in Arcola on Saturday, April 8. Arcola won 21-1 over Martinsville. Photo by Nancy Rairden.



BREVYN WHISMAN THROWS the first pitch in the first official game of the season at the new baseball diamond at Moore Park in Arcola. The city of Arcola continues to work on the baseball, softball and t-ball diamonds in addition to several other improvements being made at the park. Arcola won the home opener against Martinsville 21-2 on Saturday, April 8. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

choice as Thomas was out at home. With two outs Griffith singled to center, Henson-Stice reached on an error as Hemuth scored. Braden Phillips walked, Anthony

Garza, the designated Hitter singled to make it 6-0 as Griffith scored. Shonkwiler drove in two runs with a single. Kutz singled to put runners on the corner again and

Thomas singled after Shonkwiler stole home and Kutz stole third (Arcola had eight stolen bases) for a dou-

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Arcola's offense struggled against A-L-A-H

By Mike Monahan

ARTHUR - After dropping a 19-3 non-conference game to Effingham St. Anthony, the No. 7 team in the pre-season Class 2A rankings, Arcola dropped a 6-2 Lincoln Prairie Conference game to Villa Grove. Saturday Arcola picked up a 13-2 triumph in a game called after four and a half innings due to the 10-run rule.

"Martinsville was a good game," said Arcola coach Cara Roberts. "It was a fun day and a good confidence booster for our girls. It was a nice day and that always helps. We had 12 hits. We were able to hit when we got in the box and we made plays in the infield and outfield and just did what we were supposed to do; play good softball."

However, the confidence didn't last long as Monday in the LPC, Arcola dropped an 11-1 game to the Knights of Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond.

"Against Villa Grove and Arthur we waited until the fifth



ARCOLA'S KEIRA HOHLBAUCH leans into the pitch from the mound in a morning game played at Moore Park on Saturday, April 8. Arcola defeated Martinsville 13-2 in five innings. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

inning to hit (Arcola had half of 12 hits in the first four innings against the Blue Devils and out

hit them 12-10). Against good conference teams we can't do that. We are not ready to hit. On defense you have to know before the ball is hit what you are going to do and that is a struggle for us right now (14 errors in 4 games). We are not fully confident in ourselves as an individual."

A-L-A-H II, Arcola 1, 5 innings

Madison Schweighart had not allowed a hit through four and two-thirds innings for the Knights when Ava Simpson and Kacie Sisk singled, but were left on base as Schweighart earned her eighth and final strikeout with four walks.

"Maddie pitched well," said Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond coach Jerry Lane. "They had about three or four good hitters on their team. I am not taking away anything

from them as far as the hitting goes. Her movement on her ball looked good from where I was at (just inside the dugout). Her location looked good and her velocity was pretty decent at times."

The top three batters for the Knights, Charley Condill, Mackenzie Condil and Alisha Frederich were a combined 8-for-10 with seven RBIs.

"The thing about our seniors (four) is they are great leaders," said Lane. "They understand the game. They know the game. They teach the game. Our freshmen and sophomores are falling right in line with them and watching what they do and learning from them. It is just an enjoyable thing to see."

The Knights improved to 9-2 overall and 3-0 in the LPC. "Neither the Villa Grove game or the Arthur game was

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ARCOLA'S KACIE SISK was the starting pitcher for a game played with Villa Grove on Friday, April 7. Villa Grove defeated Arcola 6-2 in the game played at Moore Park in Arcola. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

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