



ARCOLA'S SOFTBALL HEAD COACH Cara Roberts, far left, called a time out to discuss the situation in a game played with ALAH on Monday April 10. Arcola lost the LPC game to host ALAH, 11-1. Photo by Sally McCarthy.



ARCOLA'S JACEY KESSLER takes a turn at bat in a game played with ALAH on Monday April 10. Arcola lost the LPC game to 11-1. Photo by Sally McCarthy.

Softball

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shortstop)-3 (Hohlbauch first base)-5 (Gracie Wagoner) double play.

"That was big," said Roberts. "We did really feed off that. Anytime you turn a double play it has got to be some kind of confidence booster in some sort of way."

In the fourth Ava Simpson led off with single to left and advanced to second on an error. With one out Kacie Sisk, who led the team in home runs last season with 10, hit a two-run homer over the fence in left/center field to give the Lady Riders the lead for good.

"I thought it was a pop-up," said Sisk. "I was looking to hit a line drive, just waiting for my pitch; stay through the ball and not dipping my hands."

Arcola also got the second out of the third in a rundown as Cumberland scored its final two runs on the single (and an error on the play) by Chaney Thornton to the left fielder, Vanessa Condarco. From there it read like lotto numbers, going 7-6-2-1-5-1.

"In the run down I think we had every girl ready to back it up," said Roberts. "We were just all in and ready to go to get the win today."

Sisk picked up the win. "In the circle she takes care of the field," said Roberts. "She leads and does everything she

is supposed to when she is in the circle or at short. She really takes charge and either gets the girl out at the plate (batting) or fields her position very well."

Mattoon 3, Arcola 1

Mattoon took a lead in the very first inning when with one out Aubrey Cross singled to right and stole second. Liz Enlow, who is headed to Lake Land next fall, singled to right-center and stole second. With runners in scoring position the cleanup batter, a left-handed batter, Sophie Artis, drove in both runs with a double to center.

When you play Mattoon you never know what you are going to get," said Roberts. "There are a lot of travel teams up here. They have got at least nine travel players. For us to be competitive against them is a lot to say about what is to come maybe."

Mattoon improved to 3-5 and the Class 3A team snapped a 5-game losing streak.

Arcola had its chances, but left 11 runners on, seven in scoring position.

"Our defense has definitely stepped up this year and made some huge plays to get us into position to not let runs score and helps us out when it comes to that," said Saucier, a

Chatham Glenwood graduate, where she was a three-time selection in the Central State Eight all-star game against Class 1A and 2A all-stars in the Springfield State Journal-Register area. "I have been very pleased with that. Our pitchers got some big outs themselves and that definitely helps out."

Arcola scored its only run of the game when with bases loaded all via walks and one out Keira Hohlbauch walked to force in Gracie Wagoner who reached on a full-count pitch.

Hannah Griffin came on in relief of Lexi Otto and got out the bases loaded one out jam with a strikeout and a fly ball to right field.

Hohlbauch retired 11 of the next 13 batters after the second run scored for the Green Wave.

Matton got an insurance run in the fifth when with one out Hallee Perry tripled and scored on a single by Aubrey Cross.

"It (insurance run) was definitely big," said Saucier. "I was kind of hoping we could have shown a little bit more because I think we definitely capable of showing more than what we did today. We have to get it out of our heads and be the team that we were at the beginning of the season."

The seventh was the only inning they were retired in order.

As for Arcola coach Cara

Roberts said, "I told the girls one of the things we have to execute on is when we get walked and have runners on."

Neither team committed an error.

"Defensively, I thought we did really well, including pitching," said Roberts. "Keira pitched really well. Our defense backed her up. When they put the ball in play we got the outs we needed to get." Kacie Sisk did well at shortstop and Ava Simpson at center. I think they are both really well up the middle. They both know

the game and where to go to get the ball and they are vocal."

April 17
Arcola 342 14-14-12-2
Heritage 001 01-2-6-3

Winning pitcher: Keira Hohlbauch 5 innings, 6 hits, 2 runs, 1 earned, 0 walks, 8 strikeouts

ARCOLA: Kacie Sisk 3-for-4, 2 stolen bases, 3 runs; Ava Simpson 2-for-3, stolen base, 3 runs, 2 RBIs; Hohlbauch sacrifice, 2 RBIs; Ema Simpson 4-for-4, stolen base, double, triple, 5 RBIs; Vanessa Condarco 1-for-2, stolen base, RBI; Gracie Wagoner stolen base, run; Makenzie Thomas run; Hayden Gauna 1-for-1, run; Reyli Vega 1-for-2, stolen base, 2 runs, RBI; Kaydence Nichols run

April 14
Cumberland 312 000 0-6-9-3

Arcola 240 400x-10-12-3
Winning pitcher: Sisk 4i innings, 3 hits, 0 runs, 3 walks, 2 strikeouts; relief: Hohlbauch 3 innings, 6 hits, 6 runs, 0 earned, 1 walk, 2 strikeouts

ARCOLA: Ava Simpson 1-for-3, 2 runs; Hohlbauch 2-for-3, Sisk 2-for-4, home run, 2 runs, 4 RBIs; Ema Simpson 2-for-3, double, stolen base, 2 runs, 2 RBIs; Jacey Kessler 2-for-3, stolen base, run, RBI; Condarco 1-for-4 RBI; Makenna Wagoner RBI; Thomas 1-for-3 double; Vega 1-for-3, run, stolen base

April 11
Arcola 010 000 0-1-4-0
Mattoon 200 010 x-3-7-0

Losing pitcher: Hohlbauch 5 innings, 6 hits, 3 runs, 1 walk, 4 strikeouts; Relief: Sisk 1 inning, 1 hit, 0 runs, 0 walks, 1 strikeout

ARCOLA: Hohlbauch 1-for-3, double, RBI; Ava Simpson 1-for-3; Sisk 1-for-3; Condarco 1-for-4; Gracie Wagoner run



ARCOLA'S REYLI VEGA (right) makes a play at second in a game played at Arthur with ALAH on Monday April 10. Arcola lost the LPC game to ALAH, 11-1. Photo by Sally McCarthy.

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