

SPORTS

Arcola picks up two Lincoln Prairie Conference wins

By Mike Monahan

ARCOLA – After suffering a 3-1 loss to Neoga, a team that entered the contest 8-12, Arcola's baseball team picked up two Lincoln Prairie Conference wins, trouncing Tri-County 17-3 in a game called after five innings due to the 10-run rule Monday. The Purple Riders topped Villa Grove 10-3 last Friday.

Arcola improved to 9-3 overall and 6-1 in the conference, good for a second pace tie with Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond and a game behind Okaw Valley.

Arcola 17, Tri-County 3, 5 innings

Arcola jumped out to a 4-0 lead after the first inning and three pitchers, Braden Phillips, Brevyn Whisman and Jayden Henson-Stice combined to allow eight hits on three runs, 2 earned with four walks and seven strikeouts.

The game, played at Kansas at Ken Coffey Field of Dreams, began for Arcola with Tanner Thomas being hit by a pitch. Whisman singled and Thomas advanced to third. Henson-Stice singled to score Thomas. With one out Braden Phillips had an 0-2 count when he came through with a single to center, scoring Whisman and Henson-Stice. With two outs Anthony Garza reached on an error allowing Phillips to score.

Already leading 8-3 Arcola scored four in the fourth, including two on Anthony Garza's home run.

Garza was 2-for-3 with four runs batted in, while Phillips was 3-for-4 with two RBIs. Six players drove in one run as well.

Tri-County fell to 2-14 overall and 1-7 in the LPC and has now dropped five straight games.

Arcola 10, Villa Grove 3

A six run second inning helped Arcola to the seven-run victory. The Purple Riders scored eight runs in the first three and Thomas, Whisman and Shonkwiler allowed just 3



ARCOLA'S Tanner Thomas was the starting pitcher in the baseball game with Villa Grove played on April 28 at Moore Park in Arcola. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

hits and two earned runs with 15 strikeouts and ten walks.

In the second D. J. Stevens singled and Garza reached on a fielder's choice as Stevens was out. Gerardo Alanis walked and Thomas doubled to right on full-count pitch as Garza scored. Whisman walked, Henson-Stice singled to score Thomas and Alanis scored. Jackson Griffith singled, driving in two runs as the Purple Riders led 6-0 and they tacked on one more run in the inning.

Thomas didn't allow a hit until the third inning and in that inning Thomas got out runners on first and second with no outs by getting the next three batters.

Thomas had 13 strikeouts in his five innings of work and was the winning pitcher.

The top four batters for Arcola, Thomas, Whisman, Henson-Stice and Griffin went a combined 9-for-14 with three doubles, two stolen base and eight RBIs.

Neoga 3, Arcola 1

Arcola faced a slow, accurate pitcher in Brady Reynolds, who

pitched a complete game five-hitter with no walks and 11 strikeouts.

The Purple Riders scored its lone run in the sixth inning when with one out Thomas reached on an error and advanced to third on a ground out. With two outs Caiden Helmut singled to center, scoring Thomas. Griffith put two runners in scoring position with a double, but Reynolds got out of the jam with a strikeout.

Shonkwiler relieved Whisman and only allowed one walk in the final three and a third innings.

"Shonkwiler did a good job," said Arcola coach Mike Phillips. "He did what he was supposed to do. Other than that we put the ball in play, but we couldn't get any hits. That is all there is to it. You have to want to play and the kids didn't want to play today."

Neoga scored a run in the second and two more in the third. The first run scored when Malachi Staszak reached on an error, advanced to second on a sacrifice, stole third and scored when the catcher's throw to third was wild. In the third Trey

Shannon walked on a full-count pitch and with one Reynolds singled and then Micah Stazak came in to be a courtesy runner. A wild pitch scored one run and the second run scored on a ground out.

"We had one added on for yesterday and we ran ourselves out of arms and so he was given a task today to be efficient, be in the strike zone and do what you do," said Neoga coach Kirk Hacker, a former Division I umpire, who is in his fourth year. "That is him. He is not going to rare back and blow the ball by guys. Today he was soft and hard and soft and hard and sometimes you don't know what is coming. It is pretty good thing when you can throw almost all of them for strikes today."

Offensively, Hacker said, "We are not a team that can score 15 runs a game. What we are looking for is a start. If it is an error, a walk; a hit by a pitch; we are going to do what we have to do. We are going to bunt or steal a base. We have some kids that have had the opportunity to be three-year starters here."

Neoga was 11-12 through Monday, winning three straight.

Monday's game

Arcola 404 45-17-11-1
Tri-County 012 00-3-8-7

Winning pitcher: Braden Phillips 2 innings, 1 hit, 0 runs, 1 walk, 4 strikeouts; starter: Brevyn Whisman 1 inning, 0 hits, 0 runs, 1 walk, 1 strikeout; Relief: Jayden Henson-Stice 1 innings, 4 hits, 3 runs, 2 earned, 2 walks, 2 strikeouts

ARCOLA: Tanner Thomas 1-for-4, run scored, stolen base, RBI; Whisman 1-for-3, stolen base, 2 RBIs; Henson-Stice 1-for-3, 2 runs, RBI; Jackson Griffith run; Phillips 3-for-4, 4 runs, 2 RBIs; Caiden Helmut 2 runs, RBI; D. J. Stevens 2-for-3 double, 2 runs, RBI; Anthony Garza 2-for-3, home run, runs, 4 RBIs; Gerardo Alanis run, stolen base, RBI; Austin Kutz 1-for-1, RBI

Friday's game
Villa Grove 000 011 1-3-3-2

Arcola 161 020x-10-10-2

Winning pitcher: Thomas 5 innings, 3 hits, 1 run, 0 earned, 5 walks, 13 strikeouts; Relief: Whisman 1 inning, 0 hits, 0 runs, 2 walks, 1 strikeout; Braden Shonkwiler 1

inning, 0 hits, 2 runs, 3 walks, 1 strikeout
ARCOLA: Thomas 2-for-4 double, 3 runs, stolen base, RBI; Whisman 2-for-3, double, 3 runs, RBI; Henson-Stice 3-for-4, run, double, 3 RBIs; Griffith 2-for-3, run, 3 RBIs; Phillips stolen base, RBI; Stevens 1-for-4; Garza run; Garardo Alanis run

Tuesday's game

Arcola 000 001 0-1-4-2
Neoga 012 000 x-3-2-3

Losing pitcher: Whisman 2 innings, 2 hits, 3 runs, 2 earned, 4 walks, 2 strikeouts; Shonkwiler 3 innings, 0 hits, 0 runs, 1 walk, 5 strikeouts

ARCOLA: Thomas 1-for-3, run, stolen base; Griffith 1-for-3, Henson-Stice 2-for-3, stolen base



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