

SPORTS

Budd runs first half-marathon in Washington, D.C.

By Mike Monahan
ARCOLA – Madie Budd, a 2015 Arcola High School graduate and 2019 Illinois College grad set out to our nation's capital, Washington, D.C. to run a half-marathon for her first time.

"I never considered doing any kind of long distance running, but thought it would be fun to challenge myself," said Budd, who lives in Decatur. "I found the National Women's one in DC and registered for it on New Year's Eve."

The National Women's Half-Marathon and 8K is a National Women's Half Marathon Series event and the route is described on the web page as "a run through the majestic beauty that is Washington, D. C. Runners past national monuments like the Jefferson Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the World War II Memorial and the

Korean War Memorial on their way through 13.1 miles of unforgettable scenery in our nation's capital. The course is flat in some areas but there are rolling hills throughout."

Budd said she started running last December before her lifts and really started to enjoy it.

"I had to stop running last January to mid-March because of some health stuff (I had strep throat, then mononucleosis, and then asthma. So, realistically I started training in December then took a break and started up in April."

Budd said 9.5 miles is the most she ran while training and did a lot of hilly training 5-7 miles otherwise.

Madie and her mother, Jaime Budd, an Arcola grad, drove to D.C. last Friday morning and arrived at 6 p.m. where she picked up her race packet and had dinner with

Noah Yantis, a 2014 Arthur-Lovington grad, who lives out there.

On Saturday the two of them walked around places such as the Botanical Gardens, National Archives Museum and the Mall.

"We were just revisiting places and enjoying the day," said Madie Budd, who woke up at 4:30 a.m. to get ready for the race Sunday. They had to be at the Lincoln Memorial at 6 a.m. and the race started at 7 a.m. and she was done at 9 a.m.

Budd's time was 1:48.59 in the female 25-29 division which was good for 34th place in her age group and 132nd overall.

"We walked around for a little bit after my race so I would not cramp up and then got back on the road shortly after that and got back around 10 p.m. Sunday. It was a quick,

but rewarding trip. Washington, D.C. is one of my favorite places and it was just the second time I had been there."

At Arcola Budd played volleyball all four years, playing her freshman year as a middle hitter under Kaurie Lindenmeyer and moved to outside hitter her sophomore year. The other three years were under Tom Welsh. She was a first team all-Little Okaw Valley Conference Northwest Division player as a senior and junior (17-13 Lady Riders team) and played club volleyball for Prime Time out of Champaign.

While in college Budd played volleyball, where she was a 5-6 defensive specialist/libero and played in 102 matches averaging 3.86 digs per set as she had 1,374. She averages 0.42 assists per set and 0.23 aces per set.



ARCOLA GRADUATE Madie Budd ran the National Women's half marathon in 1:48.59. It was her first half marathon. Budd will be an assistant volleyball coach at Maroa-Forsyth this fall. Submitted photo.

Arcola posts first shutout of the season; Sisk allows three hits with eight strikeouts

By Mike Monahan
ARCOLA – May 3rd, nearly a year after the last shutout, the Arcola softball team achieved its first one of the season with a 6-0 triumph over Class 3A Urbana. Ironically the last shutout was also against a Class 3A team in Champaign Central (3-0 on May 11, 2022).

Kacie Sisk picked up the win, improving to 6-2. She allowed just three hits with eight strikeouts and only one walk.

"Her change up keeps getting better and better," said

Arcola coach Cara Roberts. "I think she is more confident in it. She is throwing it more and more. A couple of change ups were called strikes. They are really pretty pitches. She did really well and got strikeouts when we needed them."

Arcola received a forfeit last Friday from Decatur St. Teresa as they didn't have enough players due to injuries and sickness. Monday's scheduled Lincoln Prairie Conference game was moved from May 8 to May 10 due to the wet field.

The Lady Riders, 12-6-1,

are to play host to Casey-Westfield, the No. 1 team in the Class 1A rankings, according to the Girls Softball Association. The Lady Warriors had a 29-2 record and had won six straight prior to their game May 9 against Oblong

Arcola scored two runs in the first after Sisk worked out of a two on, two out jam with her first strikeout. The Lady Riders took advantage of an error as Ema Simpson reached second. Reyli Vega singled to put runners on the corners. Ava Simpson reached on an

error as her sister Ema Simpson scored and Vega moved to third. Vega scored on a passed ball.

Arcola kept things going in the second as they sent eight batters to the plate. With one out the four run inning started with back-to-back-to-bac singles by Jacey Kessler, Ema Simpson and Vega. Ava Simpson doubled to center, scoring Kessler and Ema Simpson. Sisk followed by hitting the first pitch to center, plating Vega and Ava Simpson.

"After the game I told them our defense was big, even

though we had a couple of errors (two) we backed up our pitcher well. I told them we needed to put the ball in play. Their leadoff batter (Lorielle Yau) was probably one of the quicker girls we have seen all season whether or not she got on base (0-for-3), they still had a couple of base runners (four)."

Sisk didn't allow a hit after the second inning although the Lady Tigers did reach on a dropped third strike and an error in the sixth.

"We hit the ball well throughout the whole game," said

Roberts. "We just hit it to them. I think Ema Simpson and Sisk both had a good hit, but the left fielder caught them both."

The winning streak is at nine games.

"Their goal is to get the winning streak (9-0-1) into double digits," said Roberts. "That is what they are hoping for."

Urbana	000	000	0-0-3-3
Arcola	240	000	x-6-7-2

Winning pitcher: Kacie Sisk 7 innings, 3 hits, 0 runs, 1 walk, 8 strikeouts
ARCOLA: Ema Simpson 2-for-4, stolen base, 2 runs, Reyli Vega 2-for-2, 2 runs; Ava Simpson 1-for-3, double, run, 2 RBIs; Sisk 1-for-2, double, run, 2 RBIs; Jacey Kessler 1-for-3, run

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