

SPORTS

Arcola softball advances to regional semifinals

By Mike Monahan
ARCOLA – Monday began the postseason run for the Arcola softball team and they advanced to the Class 1A regional semifinals with a 10-2 win over Decatur St. Teresa, a team that finished 2-21-1.

The Lady Riders took their 15-9-1 record to Meridian at Macon to play LeRoy, a team that was 27-6. The Lady Bulldogs of St. Teresa averaged to get beat 15-3 before the game at Moore Memorial Park. The game against LeRoy is a rematch of a game played March 15 and won by the Lady Panthers 12-2.

In a busy week Arcola started off with a 16-1 Lincoln Prairie Conference win over Tri-County in a game called after four innings due to the 15-run rule. The Lady Riders fell to top-ranked Casey-Westfield 10-1 and to Marshall 3-0 before competing at Sullivan on Saturday. Arcola lost to fellow LPC foe, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 3-2, but snapped the three-game losing streak with a 5-3 triumph over Sulivan.

The 15 wins is the most since Craig VanDeveer led Arcola to a 15-7 in 2013.

Arcola 16, Tri-County 1, 4 innings

A seven run second followed by an eight run third helped Arcola to a resounding win.

Keira Hohlbauch allowed just a two-out double in the fourth and had six strikeouts and no walks.

Ema Simpson was 3-for-4 with three runs and four RBIs, while Hohlbauch was 2-for-4 with a run and Reyli Vega was

1-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs.

Casey-Westfield (No. 1 in Class 1A) 10, Arcola 1

Arcola trailed just 4-1 after five innings against the top-ranked team in Class 1A and last year's state runner-up Casey-Westfield. However, the Lady Warriors plated two in the sixth and four in the seventh for the nine-run win.

In the fourth the Lady Riders had a single by Ava Simpson and Vega was hit by a pitch. With one out Kacie Sisk doubled to center, scoring Simpson. The next two batters struck out against Paige Cutright, who pitched six innings and allowed two hits and one run with no walks and 13 strikeouts.

Sisk was 2-for-3 and Ava Simpson 1-for-2 for Arcola.

Marshall 3, Arcola 0

Arcola could only get three hits against Marshall's Haley McGuire, who had nine strikeouts and no walks for the 22-6 team.

Vega, Sisk and Vanessa Condarco had the hits for the Lady Riders and never had a runner on third.

A-L-A-H 3, Arcola 2

The first time these two teams played, Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond won 11-1. This time the Lady Riders got on the board first and led 2-0 after two and a half innings. In the first, the leadoff batter, Ema Simpson walked and Vega reached on a fielder's choice. Ava Simpson

singled to center, scoring Simpson. Sisk walked and Hohlbauch singled to center, scoring Vega.

The Knights, coached by Jerry Lane, who are 20-9, tied the game in the third with two runs.

The winning run scored in the fifth for the Knights when Charley Condill singled with one out and with two outs Alisha Frederich reached on an error and Condill advanced to third. Kailee Otto drove in Condill on a single to left.

Arcola threatened in the sixth in the time-limit game. With one out Makenzie Thomas and Gracie Waogner walked, but Madison Schweighart struck out the next batter and got the final out on a fly out.

Hohlbauch was 1-for-3 with an RBI, while Ava Simpson was 1-for-2 with an RBI.

Hohlbauch was the tough-luck losing pitcher as she allowed six hits and one earned run with no walks and five strikeouts.

Arcola 5, Sullivan 3

Arcola beat Sullivan 3-2 on April 27. This game ended up close, but the Lady Riders led 5-1 after four innings, scoring two in the first and two in the fourth inning.

Sisters Ema and Ava Simpson were 2-for-3 and 2-for-4 respectively to lead Arcola.

In the fourth with one out Jacey Kessler walked and Eva Hopkins went into run for her as a courtesy runner. Simpson reached on a bunt to third and an error put runners in scoring position. Vega was out on a sacrifice bunt, but two runs

scored on an error by the catcher.

Sisk pitched all six innings (a time limit game) and allowed four hits and two runs with five walks and four strikeouts.

Arcola 10, Decatur St. T. 2, Class 1A regional

Arcola broke a deadlock at two with a three-run third to take the lead for good. It all began with one out when Vega singled to right, stole second and Ava Simpsons singled putting runners on the corners. Sisk's double drove in Vega and Hohlbauch's single scored Ava Simpson. Condarco hit a sacrifice fly to left, plating Sisk for a 5-2 lead.

Sisk, the winning pitcher, allowed just one hit in the last four innings.

Condarco, one of six seniors, was 1-for-3 with a team-high three runs batted in and two sacrifice flies.

"I was really just trying to make solid contact," said Condarco, the right fielder. "The last few games I have kind of did the pop-up thing and I have kind of been ahead of the ball. So, I just have been focusing on staying back and making solid contact. It just so happened it benefited the team (sacrifices flies). Whatever it takes to pull ahead."

Condarco also had a double in her last at-bat in the sixth, scoring Hohlbauch with the final run of the game.

"I went up and just was ready to hit it," said Condarco, who hit the ball on her first pitch. "It meant another sacrifice than that is what it takes. It means a lot (success they have had) being my senior

season. We were talking (in the post game) huddle and I told the team we have got to want it from here on out because we are not going to face any old team. Everybody we face from here on out has worked hard and earned their position. We are ready to go."

St. Teresa, a team that could not play Arcola last week due to injuries and illnesses, came out and scored one run in the first when with one out Jalie Eller singled to right, advanced to second on a wild pitch and to third on a dropped third strike. Hanah Williams singled to score Eller.

Arcola took the lead with two turns in the second when Sisk singled to left, stole second and third. Hohlbauch walked and with one out Thomas came through with a double to right field, scoring two.

St. Teresa tied the game in the third as the leadoff batter drew a full-count walk, stole second and went to third on a passed ball and scored on a wild pitch.

Sisk not only contributed at the plate by going perfect in three at-bats with four runs and two RBIs, but also pitched a complete game. She allowed six hits and two runs with two walks and 10 strikeouts.

Hohlbauch was 2-for-3 with three runs scored and two RBIs.

May 10
Tri-County 000 1-1-1-7
Arcola 078 1-16-10-1
Winning pitcher: Keira Hohlbauch 4
innings, 1 hit, 1 run, 0 earned, 0 walks, 6
strikeouts

ARCOLA: Ema Simpson 3-for-4, triple, 3 runs, 4 RBIs; Reyli Vega 1-for-3, stolen base, 2 runs, 2 RBIs; Hohlbauch 2-for-4, run; Kacie Sisk 1-for-3, run, double, RBI; Vanessa Condarco 1-for-3, 2 runs; Gracie Wagoner 2 runs, RBI; Mackenzie Thomas 1-for-3, 2 runs; Makena Waogner 2 runs, RBI; Eva Hopkins 1-for-2 run

May 11
Casey-Westfield200 1124-10-12-0
Arcola 000 100 0-1-3-6
Losing pitcher: Sisk 7 innings, 12 hit, 10 runs, 5 earned, 3 walks, 0 strikeouts
ARCOLA: Ava Simpson 1-for-3, run; Sisk 2-for-3, double, RBI; Conardco stolen base

May 12
Marshall 002 000 1-3-9-0
Arcola 000 000 0-0-3-5
Losing pitcher: Hohlbauch 6 innings, 8 hits, 2 runs, 1 walk, 4 strikeouts; relief: Sisk 1 inning, 1 hit, 1 run, 0 earned, 0 walks, 1 strikeout

ARCOLA: Vega 1-for-3; Sisk 1-for-3; Condarco 1-for-2
May 13 at Sullivan
Arcola 200 000 0-2-3-4
Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond002 010-3-6-0

Losing pitcher: Hohlbauch 5 innings, 6 hits, 3 runs, 1 earned, 0 walks, 5 strikeouts
ARCOLA: Ema Simpson run; Vega run; Ava Simpson 1-for-2, stolen base, RBI; Hohlbauch 1-for-3, RBI; Thomas 1-for-2;

Arcola 201 200-5-5-1
Sullivan 001 002 -3-4-4
Winning pitcher: Sisk 6 innings, 4 hits, 3 runs, 2 earned, 5 walks, 4 strikeouts

ARCOLA: Ema Simpson 2-for-3, run; Vega run, RBI; Ava Simpson 2-for-4, double, 2 runs; Sisk RBI; Hohlbauch 1-for-1; Gracie Wagoner stolen base

May 15
Decatur St. Teresa 101 0000-2-6-2

Arcola 023 023x-10-11-1
Winning pitcher: Sisk 7 innings, 6 hits, 2 runs, 2 walks, 10 strikeouts

ARCOLA: Ema Simpson 2-for-4, stolen base, run; Vega 1-for-3, stolen base, run; Ava Simpson 1-for-4, run; Kacie Sisk 3-for-3, 2 stolen base, 4 runs, 2 doubles, 2 RBIs; Keira Hohlbauch 2-for-3, stolen base, 2 runs, 2 RBIs; Vanessa Condarco 1-for-2, double, 2 sacrifice flies, 3 RBIs; Thomas 1-for-4, double, 2 RBIs; Gracie Wagoner RBI;

Class 1A softball regional at Meridian (seeds, records in parentheses)

May 15
Game 1: Arcola 10, (Decatur St. Teresa (9, 2-21-1) 2

May 16
Game 2: Arcola (7, 15-9-1) vs. LeRoy (2, 27-6), 4:30 p.m.

Game 3: Meridian (4, 21-10) vs. Tuscola (5, 17-11), 6 p.m.

Friday
Game 4: Winner of game 2 vs. winner of game 3, 4:30 p.m. regional championship. Winner advances to the Tuscola Sectional vs. winner of Villa Grove regional, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday

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