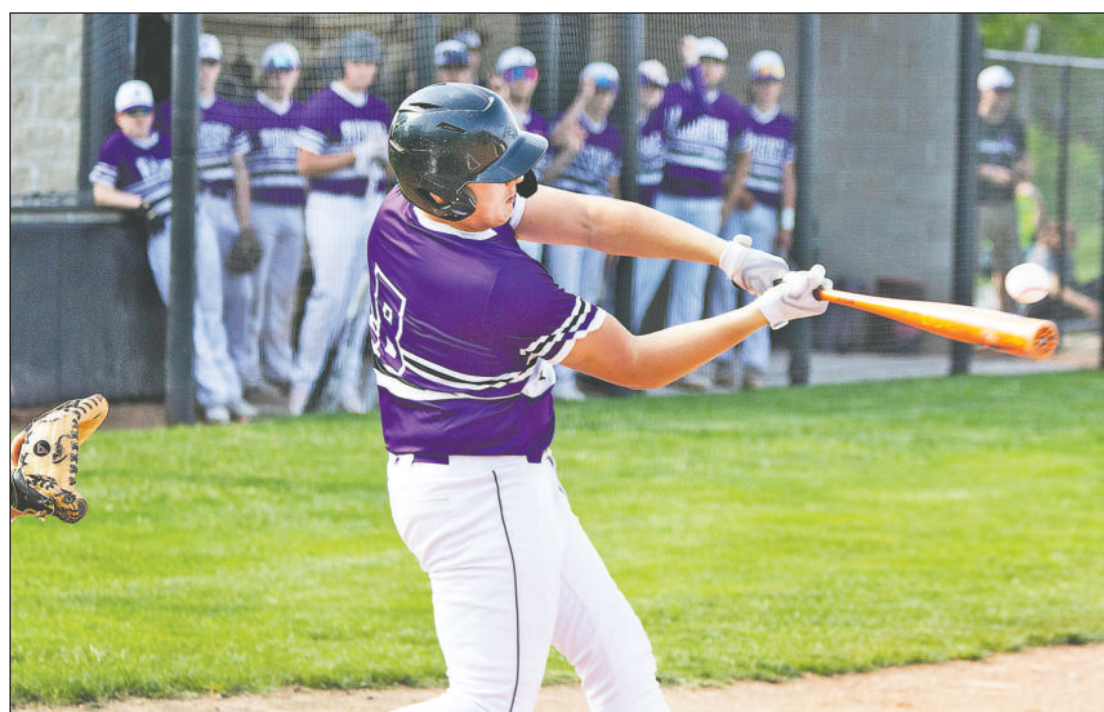


# SPORTS



ARCOLA'S Brevyn Whisman took the mound in a nonconference baseball game with Tuscola played on May 3 in Tuscola. The Purple Riders defeated the Warriors 5-3. Photo by Dominik Stallings.



ARCOLA FRESHMAN JACKSON GRIFFITH hits the ball during the May 18th non-conference baseball game at Ervin Park. Griffith drove in one run as the Purple Riders beat the Warriors 5-3. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

## Arcola baseball beats Tuscola for first time since 2007

By Mike Monahan

TUSCOLA – It had been awhile to say the least since the Arcola baseball team had defeated Tuscola. While they have not played each other every year the Purple Riders had lost eight straight games to the Warriors. That is until last Thursday, May 11, at Tuscola's Ervin Park. Arcola nipped Tuscola 5-3 to improve to 13-4 ahead of the Class 1A regional game against Meridian at Tuscola May 17.

In the eight straight losses Arcola was outscored by Tuscola 76-20 or average score of 10-3.

The last time Arcola beat Tuscola was at Arcola in a doubleheader sweep on May 2, 2007. The Purple Riders won 5-4 and 4-3. Arcola scored two runs in the seventh in both games to win. Jameson Miller pitched a complete game in the first game with 12 strikeouts and three walks and Cory Joergens, the first baseman, fielded a grounder to end the game. Joergens had a two-run single with two outs and Brett Poorman on second. Miller walked before Joergens delivered.

Sixteen years later Arcola also had a come-from-behind win, 5-3 scoring three in the sixth after trailing 3-2 heading into the fifth.

Earlier in the week Arcola picked up its final Lincoln Prairie Conference game beating Decatur LSA 11-1 in a game called after six innings due to the 10-run rule. The Purple Riders had only one more hit than LSA, but took advantage of 16 walks.

### Arcola 5, Tuscola 3

Arcola trailed 3-1 after four innings. A run in the fifth cut the deficit to one and the Purple Riders took the lead with three runs in the sixth.

Caiden Helmuth led off the fifth with a solo home run to tie the game. With one out Anthony Garza walked and was out when Austin Kutz reached on a fielder's choice. With two outs Thomas singled to left as Kutz moved to third putting runners on the corners. Brevyn Whisman, the winning pitcher, helped himself by hitting a two-run single to left, scoring Thomas and Kutz for the game-winning runs.

In the seventh Braden

Phillips, who came in to pitch in relief of Whisman, retired the Warriors in order on two fly outs and a strikeout to end the contest.

The Warriors scored two runs in the first when with one out Jacob Waugh reached on an error, Colton Musgrave singled and Nate Thomason loaded the bases with a single. Reynolds reached on error as two runs scored before Whisman got out of the jam by striking out the next two batters. Reynolds hit a home run to start the fifth for Tuscola.

Arcola turned a double play in the second.

Thomas had a solo home run in the fifth. The Purple Riders won despite leaving nine runners on base. Thomas was 2-for-4 with a RBI and Whisman was 2-for-4 with two RBIs. All but two players had at least one hit.

Tuscola fell to 2-22 overall.

Whisman pitched five and two-thirds innings and allowed just three hits and one earned run with three walks and seven strikeouts. Phillips earned the save allowing no hits with no walks and one strikeout in an inning and a third.

### Arcola 11, Decatur LSA 1, 6 innings

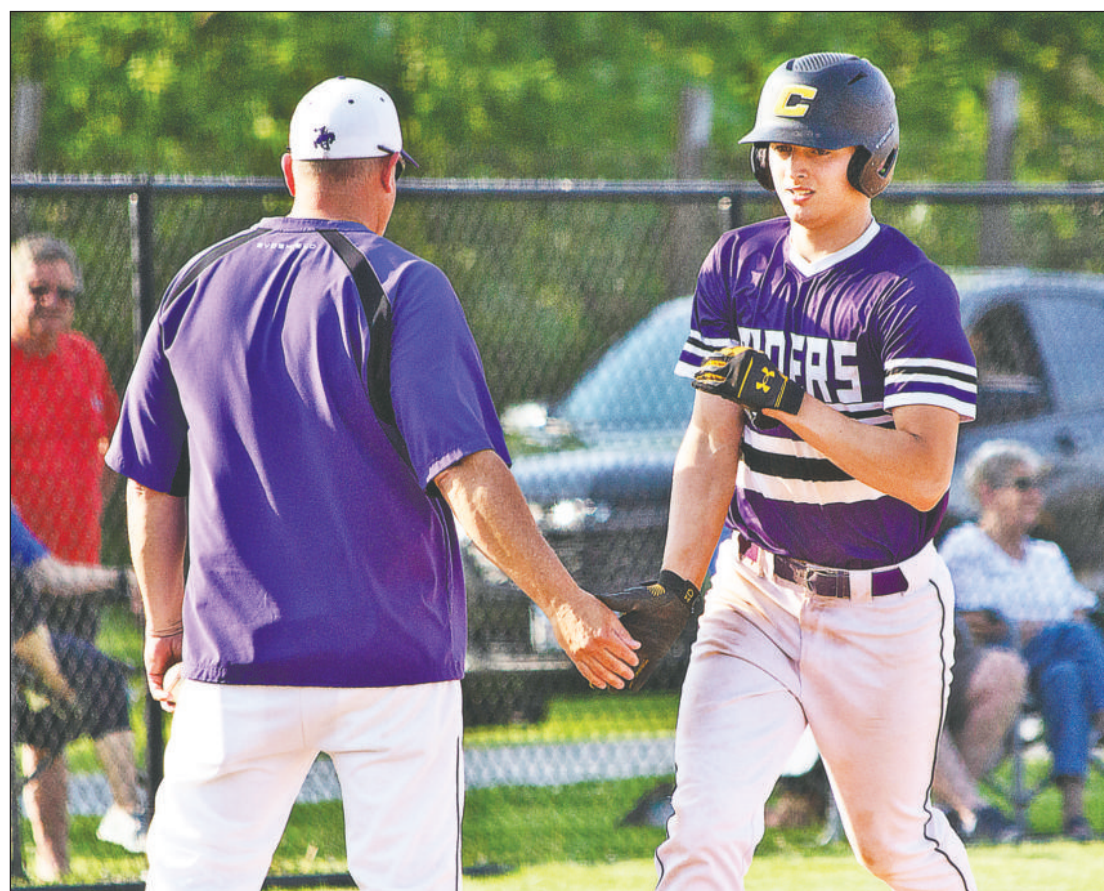
Arcola led just 3-1 after three innings before taking a 4-1 lead after four and putting the game away with three in the fifth and four in the sixth.

The Purple Riders finished 9-2 in the LPC, good for third place.

Braden Shonkwiler picked up the victory allowing three hits and one run with two walks and six strikeouts. Caiden Helmuth pitched the last three and allowed only one hit with no runs, no walks and four strikeouts.

In the fifth the first four batters (Anthony Garza, Austin Kutz, Helmuth and Tanner Thomas) all walked. Kutz scored when Whisman hit into a fielder's choice. Helmuth scored on a ground out by Jayden Henson-Stice for a commanding 7-1 lead.

For the game the top three batters, Thomas, Whisman



ARCOLA'S Tanner Thomas gets a congratulatory "low five" from head coach Mike Phillips as he rounds third base with a solo homerun on May 3. Arcola defeated Tuscola 5-3 in a nonconference game played at Tuscola. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

and Henson-Stice were just 2-for-9, but had six RBIs. Whisman was the only player with two hits as he was 2-for-5 with three RBIs.

Arcola also had seven stolen bases in the game, including three by Braden Phillips. All but two players walked at least once.

Eight of the 11 runs were as a result of an Arcola batter that walked.

**Arcola** 001 013 0-5-9-2  
**Tuscola** 200 100 0-3-3-1

Winning pitcher: Brevyn Whisman 5 innings, 3 hits, 3 runs, 1 earned, 3 walks, 7 strikeouts; relief: Braden Phillips 1 innings, 0 hits, 0 runs, 0 walks, 1 strikeout

**ARCOLA:** Tanner Thomas 2-for-4, 3 runs, RBI; Whisman 2-for-4, 2 RBIs; Jayden Henson-Stice 1-for-1; Jackson Griffith RBI; Phillips 1-for-4; Caiden Helmuth 1-for-4, run, RBI; D. J. Stevens 1-for-2; Anthony Garza 1-for-3; Austin Kutz run

**Decatur LSA** 001 000 -1-4-1  
**Arcola** 201 134 -11-5-1

Winning pitcher: Braden Shonkwiler 3

innings, 3 hits, 1 run, 2 walks, 6 strikeouts; relief: Helmuth 3 innings, 1 hit, 0 runs, 0 walks, 4 strikeouts

**ARCOLA:** Thomas 2 runs, 2 stolen bases, RBI; Whisman 2-for-5, double, run, 3 RBIs; Henson-Stice run, stolen base, 2 RBIs; Phillips 1-for-1, run, 3 stolen bases; Stevens run, stolen base; Garza 1-for-1, 2 runs; Kutz 1-for-3, 2 runs, 2 RBIs; Helmuth run, RBI

### Tuscola Regional at Ervin Park

(seeds followed by record in parentheses)

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**May 15**  
Game 1: Tuscola 3, Tri-County at Oakland (9, 3-17) 2

**May 17**  
Game 2: Tuscola (10, 3-22) vs. Windsor/Stewardson-Strasburg (1, 17-7), 4:30 p.m.

Game 3: Meridian (6, 10-12) vs. Arcola (4, 13-4), 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Game 4: Winner of game 2 vs. Winner of game 3, 11 a.m. regional championship. Winner advances to Allamont sectional vs. winner of South Central Regional at Allamont, Wednesday, 4:30 p.m.



ARCOLA'S DJ Stevens took his turn at bat in a nonconference baseball game with Tuscola played on May 3 in Tuscola. The Purple Riders defeated the Warriors 5-3. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

## ARCOLA SPORTS SCHEDULE

(Through May 24)

High school boys and girls track.

**Wednesday**

Arcola boys at Tuscola Class 1A Sectional, 4:30 p.m.

**Thursday**

Arcola girls at Eastern Illinois University in Class 1A state track, 10 a.m.

**Saturday**

If Arcola girls have a finalists at Eastern Illinois University in Class 1A state track, 10 a.m.

**Baseball**

**Wednesday**

Arcola vs. Meridian, 6:30 p.m. at Tuscola Class 1A regional semifinals

**Saturday**

If Arcola wins Wednesday play winner of Tuscola vs. Windsor/Stewardson-Strasburg, 11 a.m. at Tuscola for regional championship

**Softball**

**Friday**

If Arcola wins May 16 vs. LeRoy play for regional championship, 4:30 p.m. at Meridian vs winner of Tuscola vs. Meridian game



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