

SPORTS

Second most wins in program history

South Central southpaw ends Arcola's baseball season

By Mike Monahan

ALTAMONT – The Arcola baseball team faced South Central left-handed pitcher, Anthony Buonauro, May 24 in the Class 1A sectional semifinals. Buonauro faced one batter over the minimum in hurling a two-hitter with 14 strikeouts and only one walk.

Arcola's second ever sectional semifinal ended with a 2-0 loss to the Cougars, who improved to 25-6, while the Purple Riders finished 14-5, the second most wins in the history of the program as Jarod Kiger's 2005 team went 17-6. This season was also the second best winning percentage in the history of the program at .737.

"That was their number two guy and we kind of had him pegged," said Arcola coach Mike Phillips. "We had a little scouting report. We knew what he was going to do, but we just could not catch up to it for whatever reason. He was deceptive enough and we could not make that adjustment. It was tough."

South Central's season came to an end with a 6-1 loss to Effingham St. Anthony in the sectional championship.

"He is a pretty good number two," said South Central coach Curt Jones, who is 480-240-1 in 26 years with only three losing seasons. "It is pretty tough to go seven innings and only walk one. He was down in the strike zone and when he is a little off he is wild high and today he was at his best. That is what you have to have when you don't really hit."

The Cougars scored an unearned run in the second inning when with one out Zane Montez singled to center and Ethan Watwood reached on an error as Montez moved to third. With runners on the corners Callaway Smith put down a sacrifice bunt as Montez scored and Watwood advanced to second. A walk to Colton Smith put two on



ARCOLA FRESHMAN Brevyn Whisman hurls a pitch to catcher Jackson Griffith in the IHSAA Class 1A sectional semifinal game at Altamont. Arcola lost to South Central 2-0. Whisman allowed only one earned run for the Purple Riders who finished 14-5. Photo by Mike Monahan.

before Arcola freshman Brevyn Whisman earned his fourth strikeout to end the inning.

Arcola started their half of the first with a single by Tanner Thomas, however he was caught off first and Buonauro struck out the next two.

While Buonauro kept Arcola bats silent for a total of 11 straight batters, the Cougar offense threatened in the third and fourth innings. In the third South Central's

Buonauro singled to short left field, stole second and went to third on a wild pitch. Whisman got the next batter to hit into a shortstop to first grounder on a 3-2 pitch. The fourth was even more impressive as South Central, a member of the National Trail Conference, had bases loaded with only one out when Whisman struck out one his 8 and got a grounder to Jayden Henson-Stice at second, who threw to first baseman Anthony Garza to end the

threat. "The defense made some good plays," said Phillips, who is assisted by Jeff Thomas. "Caiden Helmuth had a couple of good plays at third, Jayden Henson-Stice made a good play at second and Braden (Phillips) had a couple of good catches in the outfield (right field). Anthony Garza made some good plays at first. Our defense played well. All year we have played well defensively. Brevyn (Whisman) pitched a heck of a game. I

could not ask for a better outing."

Jones was also impressed with Whisman.

"Their guy pitched really well," said Jones. "Some of our best hitters made us look silly. He did a really good job. He made some good pitches (Brevyn) 3-2 he threw a slider. We are not going to hit that I don't care what the count is. For him to have confidence and throw it with a 3-2 count is pretty good and he made us look pretty bad at times today."

Arcola's second hit occurred with one out when Phillips reached on a bunt. However, South Central turned a 5-6-3 double play.

"Today it was mostly fastballs," said Jones. "He has a good change up and he throws a curve ball sometimes just to keep them guessing. Today was mostly fastballs and that was big."

Buonauro threw just 84 pitches with 60 for strikes, while Whisman threw 113, 65 for strikes. He gave up five hits and only one earned run with four walks.

The only earned run occurred in the fifth when with one out Buonauro helped his own cause with a home run to right field.

"That gave us a little more breathing room," said Jones. "It was kind of his day. One of the sayings the kids say is 'you have to carry the boat' Everybody has to carry the boat. Boy, Buonauro idd more than carry the boat, it was like carrying the Titanic. It was all about him."

As for what the win meant to Jones he said, "I am old and I have done this for a long time so I have been in this game, but I am happy for the kids to get it. All of these sophomores I have got playing this year and have never got to this sort of thing. The seniors were part of our Class 1A state championship (in 2021) and have been through this, but the

young ones have not. I am just happy to see them do it (reach the Sweet 16). I wasn't sure how they would react if they would be scared or nervous. So far I am pleased with how they have approached everything."

Arcola finished in the last 32 teams of Class 1A, which is the farthest in program history as the 1984 team was in the two-class system when the final eight teams (not the final four like now) made it to state and they were one of the final 64 teams.

"It was a great season. I am very proud of these guys. They world their butts off and it showed. It started in mid-January and they were relentless and they bought in and it showed. We have two seniors (Braden Shonkwiler and Austin Kutz) and they are going to be sadly missed. They were a big part of this team. We are young. We have seven freshmen and sophomores and a lot of experience for next year. We will come back and work hard. Winning the regional was one of our goals. Winning the conference was also a goal (didn't get) and obviously the regional was a lot better and sweeter as you get play longer. Now we know what we have to do to take care of business and keep playing late in May. That will be our motivation for next year. We have the athletes and talent and know what to do."

Class 1A baseball sectional semifinals at Altamont

South Central	010	010	0-2-5-0
Arcola	000	000	0-0-2-1

Losing pitcher: Brevyn Whisman 7 innings, 5 hits, 2 runs, 1 earned, 4 walks, 8 strikeouts
 ARCOLA: Tanner Thomas 1-for-2; Braden Phillips 1-for-2
 Winning pitcher: Anthony Buonauro 7 innings, 5 hits, 0 runs, 1 walk 14 strikeouts
 SOUTH CENTRAL: Buonauro 2-for-4, run, stolen base, home run, RBI; Zach Montes 1-for-2, run; Callaway Smith 1-for-1, RBI; Colton Smith 1-for-1



ARCOLA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
 Once a Purple Rider
 Always a Purple Rider!
 1882 - 2023
 Check us out at: arcolaalumni.org

MonahanPartners
 we're in this together

GO PURP!

Animal Health Care Center



Kimberly Livezey, DVM
 531 E. Springfield Rd.
 Arcola, IL 61910
 217-268-4747
 Emergency 840-7278



221 E. Main, Arcola, IL 61910
 217-268-3885 • Toll Free: 1-888-543-3885
 Our Family: Jeff, Lisa, Taylor & Beau Edwards,
 Corey, Cara, Camryn & Cooper Roberts



1-57 & SR 133, Arcola • 268-3712

Thank You ARCOLA SPORTS SPONSORS

WHOSE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF ARCOLA SCHOOL ATHLETICS MAKE THIS PAGE POSSIBLE



THE CITY OF ARCOLA
 Good Luck Arcola Purple Riders!



Lisa Sappenfield Boyer, CFP
 Stan G. Boyer
 102 E. Main, Arcola
 268-3216
 "RIDERS RULE"

The Thomas Monahan Company
 "GOOD LUCK RIDERS"



www.arcola1b.com
 217-268-4911
 GOOD LUCK RIDERS!



LINDENMEYER INSURANCE AGENCY
 A Division of Compass Insurance

406 E. Springfield Rd.,
 Arcola, IL 61910
 217-268-3041



Good Luck Riders

GRABER Building Supply & HARDWARE

111 W. Springfield Rd., Arcola, IL 61910
 217-268-3014 • Mon.-Sat. 7:00-6:00, Closed Sunday



Better Newspapers Inc.
 www.arcolarecordherald.com

@ArcolaRecordHerald

NOW OPEN!
 217-268-4889



Store Hours: 8:30-4:30 except Wed. 8:30-5:00
 121 W. Springfield Road • Arcola
 GO RIDERS! Have a safe and rewarding year!
 Your local Sav-Mor Pharmacy supports you!

woodshed health & fitness

Get Pumped Up Riders!

ARCOLA FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 100, Arcola, IL 61910 • 217-268-4911 • 217-246-6732
 For more information contact: Jennifer Shafer
 ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE
 & MAKE ARCOLA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

JBH inc.

& Employees
 Arcola



AFTER THE GAME
 Rt. 133, Arcola • 268-4141
 GOOD LUCK PURPLE RIDERS!



Open Mon.-Sat. 6:30 am - 2 pm
 Fri. 'til 8 pm
 130 E. Main St.
 Arcola, IL
 217-518-1022
 Good Food • Good Coffee • Good Neighbors
 Order Online at:
 www.broomtowncafearcola.com