



ABOVE; On Saturday, Central Illinois throwers Arcola's Mitchel Myers (left), Salt Fork's Garrett Taylor (center) and Tuscola's Christopher Boyd (right) proved they were the cream of the crop in Class 1A in the shot put. Myers took second, Taylor won the state title, while Boyd took third with a toss of 16.97 meters. Myers finished with a throw of 17.41 meters and Taylor threw 18.47 meters. Photo by Moto Johnson.

At left, Myers throws the shot put at the state meet. Photo by Sally McCarthy.

# Myers takes silver in shot put and discus; first boy to place in both events in same year at state

**By Mike Monahan**  
 CHARLESTON – Mitchel Myers becomes the first Arcola boy or girl to place in the shot put at the Illinois High School Association Class 1A state boys state track meet Saturday. Not only that he became the first to medal in state in both the shot put and discus at Arcola.

Myers' throw in the shot put May 25 broke his own record by two feet, two inches with a heave of 57-1 1/2 in the preliminaries. His best discus throw at state was 173-4 which he accomplished on his second throw also in the preliminaries.

"I think he should be pretty proud of himself for get-

ting second in both events," said Arcola boys track coach Tommy Eddleman. "There is nothing to hang his head on for sure. It was a good year. He broke the discus school record (held previously by Terry Miller in 1964 with a throw of 181-5) and that was one of the top things on his list for sure. So, that was awesome to see. Being able to place at state is pretty incredible."

Myers best discus throw was 184-9 which he threw May 2nd at the Sullivan Invitational.

In addition Braden Phillips placed 14th in the triple jump going 40-10 3/4 in the preliminaries May 25.

## Mitchel Myers

Myers was second going into Saturday in both events. His best shot put Saturday was 56-10 1/4, which was his first throw. In the discus his second throw was his best at 169-0.

"It (shot put) was still good as far as consistency," said Myers, who is to continue throwing at Indiana State University. "My normal average was something like 52 or 53 before this and finally getting over those numbers is really big for me."

Myers flexed his muscles on the podium after receiving his second place medallion.

"It (shot put) was something crazy," said Myers. "I had never thrown it that far. Just something clicked and I got it done Thursday."

Myers said, "honestly, I am happy with second honestly. I came here last year and got third place. To be able to do it in both shot and discus is really cool."

Myers said Saturday morning he was pretty laid back and "I just tried to focus for the moment I woke up as I set my eyes on what I wanted to do today."

Both shot put and discus throwers have 20 minutes to warm-up.

"You make your throw what you are actually going to do in the actual meet and it is very important," said Myers, who was third in the discus last year with a throw of 166-2 and 19th in the shot put with a heave of 44-7. I never thought of shot put as something I would do. Last year I came to the state meet. It is crazy to jump up so fast."

Myers' final throw in the discus appeared to be good, but he stepped on top of the ring resulting in a foul.

"It looked like a pretty good one, but I don't know if it would have got Garrett (Taylor) or not, but it would have probably made him feel a little happier about his throw even though he still got 173-4, which is still really good."

Taylor, who is headed to Illinois State, of Salt Fork won both the shot put and discus with throws of 60-7 1/4 and 183-7 respectively.

"Myers was three feet behind Taylor coming into the finals," said Eddleman. "He was right there."

As for the shot put Eddleman said, "It (three throws in the preliminaries on May 25 and three on Saturday) was the best series of six throws he has had his whole career. He was not under 53 (lowest was 53-8 1/4) and he had not done that all year. He was throwing that consistently in the shot put. It is pretty awesome."



ARCOLA'S MITCHEL MYERS receives his second place medallion Saturday in the discus. Myers went 173-4 at Eastern Illinois. Photo by Mike Monahan.



A SURPRISE GUEST at Mitchel Myers graduation party was former NFL player Terry Miller, on of Arcola's favorite sons. Pictured is Myers, who broke Miller's discus record that stood for 59 years (181-5) this season with a throw of 184-9 on May 2 at the Sullivan Invitational. Both are holding the discus they used. Photo by Mike Monahan.

## Arcola falls to Buckley, last year's Eastern Illinois League champions

**By Mike Monahan**  
 BUCKLEY- The Arcola Eastern Illinois League baseball team fell to last year's regular season and tournament champions, the Buckley Dutch Master, 22-1 and 14-0 with the second game going seven innings.

Arcola managed just eight hits Sunday at Scheive Field. The defense also committed a total of seven errors.

The Riders are off this Sunday, but return to action June 11 against the new team in the league, the Decatur Commodores, who are also 0-4. Game time is 1 p.m. at Moore Memorial Park.

Game one				
Arcola	100	000	000	-
Buckley (13)	45	000	00x	-22-
Game two				
Arcola	000	000	0-0-3-2	
Buckley (10)	03	100	x-14-9-0	

Myers put in a lot of time on shot and discus throughout his career, including practicing in the high school parking lot.

"In the old days when I started throwing I was thinking I would like to do this in college and I started doing it a lot more and at first we didn't really have the facilities to throw in and so I would throw in the high school parking lot to the road and into the football practice field. It just goes to show you that you don't need facilities to make it big and do big things. Times like that can be a little stressful and you think why do I even want to do this. Nobody really sees it, but now sitting here I could see that all paid off finally."

Edelman agreed.

"He put in a lot of time this off season and it definitely paid off for him. He put in so much work this season even

when no one was looking and even outside of practice. You have to give him all of the credit. He put in so much work and it paid off."

Myers is the first to place second in boys since Kolin Peterson was second in the 1998 300 meter hurdles. He finished his high school career earning three medallions and all in individual events. He joins Beau Edwards (placed in three individual events last year and was in four overall), Peterson (four individual events) as the only boy to earn at least three medals in individual events. Myers also joins Edwards, Jeff Fishel and Peterson all who won two medalions in the same state track meet.

"It feels really good to go down in history like that," said Myers of being the first boy or girl to place in shot put. "I hope it motivates the younger

generation too. I will be there for all of them and show them the ropes. I am very thankful for all of the support."

## Braden Phillips

Phillips, a sophomore, was in the triple jump on May 25 for the first time and his final jump was his best of the day. He missed going to the finals by two spots as the top 12 made the finals.

"It is pretty crazy for him to play baseball and do that," said Eddleman. "It just shows how athletic he is. When he was with us at practice he put in a lot of practice. He will be back next year. It was a learning experience for him this year with coming to the state meet, but I think he will be able to make finals next year. He was really close this year."

Phillips was 23rd according to his sectional performance of 41-3 1/4, which was his best.