

After helping Parkland to fifth place finish —

# Melton will continue softball career at Illinois College

By Mike Monahan

ARCOLA --Delaney Melton, a 2021 Arcola graduate, just finished her academic and softball career at Parkland College in Champaign. Melton helped the Lady Cobras finish fifth in the National Junior College Athletic Association at the Division II level.

Melton is going to continue her college softball career and get an education at Illinois College in Jacksonville, a Division III school.

She appeared in 34 games and had 63 at bats. She hit .238 with 15 hits, including a double and nine runs batted in. She was a utility player, who did not make an error in 19 chances and three stolen bases.

"My double was (Feb. 23) against Hinds Community College in Mississippi and we were tied at one in the top of the seventh and I hit a leadoff double and it ended up being the the winning run of the game," said Melton, who also drove in two runs against East Mississippi and had two hits against Anoka-Ramsey (won 15-0) and Illinois Central (lost 5-1)

Parkland finished 52-12 and 23-1 in the Mid-West Athletic Conference.

Her freshman year at

Parkland Melton, the daughter of Chad and Shawna Melton of Arcola, she earned second team NJCAA All-Academic honors and was in 36 games with 75 at-bats. She had 27 hits for a .360 batting average. She had five doubles and two triple and drove in 15 with two stolen bases. The Lady Cobras finished 39-21 and lost in the Region 24 tournament.

Parkland, a school of over 20,000, is coached by Kirsti and Dan Paulson of Mattoon, who were in their first year last season. The two started the Mattoon based Premier Fastpitch team in 2011. Kristi is the daughter of Bert Bradley, who has served as both a pitching coach and national scout in the San Francisco Giants organization. The assistant coach is Stacey Birdsong, a former Mattoon American Legion Post 88 baseball coach. One thing the Parkland coaches preach is that the team is a family.

"I was a utility player and my freshman year I was a designated hitter," said Melton. "During the off-season I stayed in the gym and was pretty hungry for us to make it to Nationals this year. I wanted to get to that mark. I stayed busy and had hitting practice

with my dad in the field. From day one the chemistry was different from my freshman year. We could feel it from day one. It was weird, but we could feel it."

In the fall season Parkland plays Division I teams and beat St. Louis University as well as the University of Illinois.

"When we did that we were like, 'oh, it is not just something we think is possible,'" said Melton. "Some of the tournaments we played in were tougher. We went from Florida to Mississippi to Georgia and back to Florida. It was fun to be down there in January through some of March where it was warm."

Parkland's only losses were to Northwest Florida State College, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Wallace State College, College-Hanceville, Pearl River Community College, San Jacinto College South, Indian River State College, Florida Southwestern State twice (all games in the south), Illinois Central College, Rock Valley College, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, and Louisburg College.

"I had a different role on this year's team," said Melton.

"I think just being on the team was great."

The World Series was in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

"We had a banquet with all of the teams and mingled with them before we started our games and we practiced on a different field. The field was dirt just like Parkland's and not turf. I like dirt because the ball comes off the bat differently on turf."

Melton said of the No. 4 seeded Parkland team, "it was honesty like a dream. In travel ball you go to nationals, but it is nothing like this. The competition is so much better and you have to work in college. It is a grind, but it is worth it. There is a lot more work and that makes it exciting."

During games when Melton was on the dugout they were still part of the game as they chanted and cheered for their teammates.

"We make sure they know they need more energy sometimes and sometimes it intimidates the opponents and sometimes it is just for fun," said Melton. "We stay in the game."

As for the last season Melton said, "We took home many memories and had a lot of pictures and other stuff like that. It is more than a ring



ARCOLA GRADUATE Delaney Melton helped Parkland to a fifth place finish in the nation in the NJCAA Division II World Series. Submitted photo.

(which they don't get) it is the experience."

## Illinois college

At Parkland Melton studied general studies and plans to major in kinesiology at Illinois College.

The only bad news is Illinois College is looking for a softball coach as Meghan Roman moved up to be athletics director.

"I was recruited by coach Roman," said Melton. "I went there for a visit and they offered it (partial scholarship) to me then. I thought it over and I think at the end of Nationals she decided to step down. When I visited Illinois College I knew it was the place for me."

Melton said that she will get to pick if she wants to stay or not once the new coach is named. Melton said before she went to Parkland that she planned to play after Parkland.

"I want to play softball for as long as I can," said Melton. The Lady Blues went 25-

16-1 last season and were 15-1 in the Midwest Conference, which tied with Grinnell College for the conference champions.

Illinois College has an enrollment of 1,150 students.

Melton plans to keep working with her hitting coach Randy Inman at Bethany and working out herself until a new coach is named.

"In Division III you only have so many games in the fall and the schedule is a little bit lighter so you can have more focus on your schoolwork. It is a lot tougher schedule. The fact is you have a lot more time doing study tables and other stuff. You are limited to how much you can practice."

Melton was a catcher for Arcola coach Cara Roberts, including the 2019 team that went 12-13. Melton hit .234 with four runs batted in. COVID-19 wiped out her junior season, but her senior season in 2021 Melton was on the 14-10 (5-3 in the LPC, good for third place) and hit .380 with 23 runs batted in.

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Wednesday, June 21  
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Sunday, June 25  
9:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
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Deacon: Jami Budd  
Children's Church: Darlene Budd
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Rev. Ivan Jess  
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Sam Miller, SS Supt.  
Phone 202-6094  
Sunday  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship (Sign Language Interpreter)  
6:00 p.m. - Sunday Evening Service  
Wednesday  
6:00 p.m. - Bible Study  
Missionary Meeting  
Second Wednesday of the month
- ARCOLA FREE METHODIST CHURCH**  
219 North Walnut Street  
Bill Ramsey, Pastor  
Phone 217-268-4501  
Cell 217-294-1868  
If no answer, call 217-346-2474  
Sunday  
10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship
- ARCOLA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
220 W. Springfield Rd.  
Arcola, IL 61910  
Pastor Todd Nolen  
Phone 217-346-2707  
http://tmmnolen.wixsite.com/ambc  
Facebook: Arcola Missionary Baptist Church  
Sunday  
10:00 a.m. - Church Service  
10:15 a.m. - Children's Sunday School
- ARCOLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**  
305 E. Jefferson St., Arcola, IL 61910  
Phone 217-268-3212  
Pastor: Rev. Paula Carmichael  
William Blackwell, Clerk of Session  
Email: arcolapc@consolidated.net  
https://arcola.presbyterian.website  
Sunday, June 25  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
11:30 a.m. - Coffee Hour with hostess Jan Coombe

- ARCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
A Place to Encounter Jesus Christ  
121 S. Locust, Arcola  
Pastor Seth Emerson  
Phone 217-268-4287  
Website: www.arcolaumchurch.org  
Sunday, June 25  
9:00 a.m. - Encounter Worship
- BOURBON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Bourbon, IL  
Pastor David Babb  
bourbon.baptist@yahoo.com  
Sunday  
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
10:45 a.m. - Sunday School
- CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF HINDSBORO**  
Sunday  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
Wednesday  
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study
- CHURCH OF CHRIST AT KEMP, IL**  
132 W. Kemp St., Arcola, IL 61910  
Phone 217-508-6456  
Sunday  
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study  
10:30 a.m. - Worship  
6:00 p.m. - Worship  
Wednesday  
6:30 p.m. - Bible Study
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**  
1100 E. North Line Rd, Tuscola, IL  
Phone 217-253-3896  
Branch Pres. - Rafael Ruggieri  
1st Counselor - Kevin Johnson  
2nd Counselor - Keven Lewis  
Sunday  
9:30 a.m. - Sacrament  
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
- EAGLE MOUNTAIN ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
401 Sale Street, Tuscola  
Phone 217-253-4444  
Darin Elder, Pastor  
Sunday  
10:00 a.m. - Worship  
Sunday Evening  
6:30 p.m. - Worship  
Wednesday  
6:30 p.m. - Worship
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ARCOLA**  
220 E. Main St., Arcola, IL 61910  
Pastor Doug McClellan  
Phone 217-268-4890  
Sunday  
9:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
10:15 a.m. - Sunday School for children and adults.  
Everyone welcome.

- FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF ARTHUR**  
320 Surrey Lane, Arthur, IL 61911  
Pastor Timothy Froese  
Phone 217-543-3024  
Email: facarthur@yahoo.com  
Sunday  
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
11:15 a.m. - Worship & The Word  
Wednesday  
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study
- HINSBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Third Wednesday  
7:00 p.m. - UM Women Meet  
Sunday  
9:00 a.m. - Morning Worship  
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School
- HUMBOLDT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
419 Jefferson Street  
Humboldt, IL 61931  
Phone 217-856-2369  
Pastor Mitch Ramey  
Sunday  
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
Second Wednesday  
2:00 p.m. - UMW meeting in the church  
First Saturday  
7:30 a.m. - Men's breakfast at Pagliacci's Restaurant in Mattoon
- IGLESIA DEL NAZARENO**  
Spanish Church of the Nazarene  
Rev. Waldemar Perez-Lopez  
217 N. Ridge St., Arcola, IL 61910  
Phone 217-268-4653  
Sunday  
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
6:00 p.m. - Youth Group  
Wednesday  
7:00 p.m. - Bible study and prayer  
Friday  
6:00 p.m. - Women's Worship & Bible Study
- IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD**  
Pastor Jason Braaten  
600 E. Northline Road, Tuscola, IL  
Phone 217-253-4341  
Website: http://immanueltuscola.org  
Saturday  
5:30 p.m. - Church Service  
Sunday  
9:00 a.m. - Church Service  
10:30 a.m. - Bible Class
- LIFEPOINTE CHURCH**  
Nondenomination / Spirit-Filled  
Pastor Scott Howell  
700 E. Main St. • Arcola, Illinois  
Phone 217-268-4586  
Sunday Service  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
Wednesday  
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study

- SPANISH SERVICE**  
Spanish Pastor: Rogelio Gutierrez  
Phone 217-636-4838  
Sunday  
5:00 p.m. - Bible Study  
Wednesday  
7:00 p.m. - Service
- THE LIGHT HOUSE**  
Pastor: Paul Etherton  
215 E. Pembroke St. • Tuscola, IL  
Phone 217-246-8020  
Sunday Services  
9:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
10:45 a.m. - Sunday School  
6:00 p.m. - Evening Worship
- PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Cooks Mills, IL  
Interim Pastor:  
Rev. Stephanie Johampeter  
Sunday  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
- ROMAN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Fundamental Independent  
3 Miles North & 2 Miles West of Arthur  
Interim Pastor Jack Barton  
Sunday  
10:30 a.m. -Worship Service
- ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Rev. Angel Sierra, Pastor  
Washington & Pine Streets  
Phone: 217-268-3766  
Email: johnbaptist@consolidated.net  
Sunday  
9:30 a.m. - Mass  
Weekday Mass Wednesday  
5:15 p.m. - Confessions  
5:30 p.m. - Mass
- ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
2 Miles East of Dorans  
Rev. Paul Hopkins  
Sunday  
9:00 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. - Church Service
- SUNNYSIDE CONSERVATIVE MENNONITE CHURCH**  
1/2 Mile East of Chesterville  
Larry Locke, Pastor  
Lonnie Gingerich, Asst.  
Sunday  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. - Church Services  
6:00 p.m. - Sunday Evening Services
- TUSCOLA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Minister: Rev. Ralph Deal  
114 E. Pembroke, Tuscola  
Phone 217-253-2532  
Sunday  
9:00 a.m. - Morning Worship  
Sunday School immediately after worship service.
- WALNUT GROVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Administration Pastor: Aaron Boothe  
4 Miles East of Arcola,  
4 Miles South on Filson Road  
12930 E. Co. Rd. 1700 N.  
Phone 217-856-2155  
www.walnutgrovecc.org  
Sunday  
8:30 a.m. - Fellowship Time  
9:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
Following Worship, Adult Small Groups and Children's Sunday School
- ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Pastor: Dennis Hanner  
701 N CR 250 E, Arthur, IL  
4 miles west and 2 miles north of Arcola  
Phone 217-578-2203  
Sunday  
9:00 a.m. - Morning Worship  
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School

### GRAIN MARKETS

As reported by Total Grain Marketing - Arcola at 2:58 p.m., Monday, June 19, 2023.

	Corn		Beans	
Cash	\$6.40	Cash	\$14.67	
August '23 (futures)	\$6.09	August '23 (futures)	\$14.18	

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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