

SPORTS



SPECIAL ARCOLA baseball award winners for the 14-5 Class 1A regional championship team were Brandon Lyons, Hunter Drake, Braden Shonkwiler, Brevyn Whisman, Tanner Thomas, Austin Kutz, and Brandon Phillips. Submitted photo.

Thomas named conference rep for IHSBCA all-region team

By Mike Monahan
 ARCOLA - In just the second year the Lincoln Prairie Conference has been a part of such an award Arcola's Tanner Thomas was named the representative in the conference for all-region and all-state honors by the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association. He did not earn all-state and the all-region team has not been released yet. Arthur-Lovington-A-wood-Hammond's Clay Seal was the conference representative as a pitcher and was not all-state either, but could be all-region. Last season Jake Armstrong

of Tri-County was the pitcher of the year and Tyson Montgomery of Okaw Valley was the player and also earned all-state honors. The Arcola baseball team held its banquet June 12 and several awards were given out. Brevyn Whisman, a freshman, earned the Cy Young Award with a 1.33 earned run average, while Braden Phillips, a sophomore, earned the Silver Slugger Award with a .483 regular season batting average for the 14-5 Purple Rider, who went 8-2 in the LPC, good for third place. Phillips hit .625 in the conference.

Braden Shonkwiler, a senior, earned the Rider Award, which went to the player that exemplifies teamwork and sportsmanship. Thomas earned the Gold Glove award with no errors in 27 chances. Hunter Drake and Brandon Lyons received the Coaches award for being a player with a positive attitude, heart and

hustle, while Austin Kutz, a senior, earned the Most Improved award for the most effort and determination.

2023 baseball award winners

Cy Young award: Brevyn Whisman (36 2/3 innings pitched, 1.33 earned run aver-

age, 51 strikeouts)
 Silver Slugger award: Braden Phillips (.483 regular season batting average, .625 Lincoln Prairie Conference batting average)
 Rider award (payer that exemplifies teamwork and sportsmanship) Braden Shonkwiler

Gold Glove (finest in the field) Tanner Thomas (1.000 fielding percentage)
 Coaches award (Player with a positive attitude; heart and hustle) Hunter Drake and Brandon Lyons
 Most Improved award (Effort and determination) Austin Kutz.

Three Arcola girls track earn News-Gazette all area honorable mention

By Mike Monahan
 CHAMPAIGN - Arcola's Eva Hopkins, Kelsey Moore, Ema Simpson, a senior, junior and freshman respectively last May were selected as three of the 90 on the honorable mention 18th annual Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette All-Area Girls Track Team. Hopkins was named as a sprinter/triple jumper,

while Moore was named as a hurdler and sprinter. Simpson was named a sprinter/long jumper. There were no Arcolians named on the 14-member first team or second team. Tuscola coach Drew Sterkel and Tuscola sophomore (last May) Lia Patterson were the N-G Area Coach of the Year and Player of the Year respectively.



THE ARCOLA BASEBALL team had four players earn first, second or honorable mention teams in the Lincoln Prairie Conference. Pictured are Brevyn Whisman (second team), Jayden Henson-Stice (honorable mention), Tanner Thomas (first team unanimous) and Braden Phillips (first team). Submitted photo.

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