

SPORTS

Arcola basketball teams had plenty of success

By Mike Monahan

ARCOLA – Last Monday the 2022-23 college sports season ended with the final game of the Men's Baseball College World Series won by LSU 18-4 over Florida.

It ended a little earlier for Arcola High School, May 27 with the Illinois High School Association Class 1A boys' state track and field meet at Eastern Illinois University.

The fall and winter seasons saw Arcola/Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond boys and girls golf, football, volleyball, boys and girls' basketball compete and do very well.

Golf

The Arcola/A-L-A-H boys won their fourth straight Lincoln Prairie Conference title with a 330, which was 77 shots ahead of second place Okaw Valley. The Knight-Riders, assisted by Brad McGill, were led by Braden Kauffman, who took individual medal honors with a 78 in the 18-hole meet. Kauffman, Aaron Seegmiller, Canton Wesch, Clay Seal and Hunter Grant all earned all-LPC honors with an 80, 84, 88, and 93 respectively.

Although the team didn't advance to the sectional three individuals made their appearance in the Class 2A Waterloo Sectional. In the regional Among the top 10 individuals not on an advancing team were Kauffman, Wesch and Seegmiller who shot 18 hole rounds of 81, 82 and 84 respectively at the Charleston Regional. In the sectional, Seegmiller and Kauffman finished in a five-way tie for 30th with 82's in the Class 2A Sectional. Wesch finished with an 84, good for 39th place out of 111 golfers.

Football

Arcola finished 4-5 in the season, one that would be the last for Nick Lindsey, who remains the athletics director and junior/senior school principal. The Purple Riders finished the LPC in fourth place at 4-3.

The 108th edition of the 'Cola War' game between Tuscola and Arcola at Tuscola saw the Warriors win 30-13. Tuscola made the Class 1A quarterfinals before falling to Ridgeview/Lexington 41-6. Arcola then faced a Class 3A team in Braidwood Reed Custer and lost 66-7. The Comets would eventually reach the semifinals before falling 32-27 to Byron. Arcola's seven points was the most scored against them until week seven.

After the 0-2 start the Purple Riders started play in the LPC and scored 28 points in the opening quarter and led 41-0 at halftime en route to a 47-23 win over Argenta-Oreana. Next was a 46-14 triumph over Tri-County as Grant Wilson scored four touchdowns in 11:25 and Arcola scored a touchdown on its first five drives. Arcola rallied, but fell short in a 38-28 loss to Cumberland in the rain falling to 2-3. Tanner Thomas was 10-of-16 for 144 yards and two touchdowns in a 28-12 win over Sangamon Valley/Tri-City. However, Thomas was injured with 5:51 left in the third quarter and didn't return the rest of the season and missed basketball season as well.

Illinois-bound Kaden Feagin had 14 carries for 174 yards and four touchdowns as Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond downed Arcola 49-21. Arcola gave itself a chance to make the playoffs after a 45-6 dominated of Cerro Gordo/Bement improving to 4-4. However, Villa Grove scored 13 points in the final quarter to eliminate Arcola from the playoffs with a 20-6 win.

Anthony Garza, an Arcola junior, and Austin Kutz, an Arcola senior, were named first team unanimous all-Lincoln Prairie Conference football for the 2022 season. Garza was named as an offensive lineman (one of six overall) and Kutz, a wide receiver, was one of three receivers named unanimously. Also named to the first team defensive lineman was Garza, while senior Tyson Lewis was first team linebacker. Kutz was

a first team defensive back. Named to the second team was senior Grant Wilson, who was one three named at the skilled position on offense, while senior Braden Shonkwiler was one of four players named to the defensive skilled position. Bryan Medoza earned honorable mention status for Arcola.

Volleyball

Arcola finished 5-21 overall and 2-9 with one of the wins coming against perennial power Tri-County. Arcola beat the Lady Titans 25-18, 25-22 in a Lincoln Prairie Conference game at Oakland. It was the first since topping the Lady Titans 26-24, 26-24 on Sept. 27, 2015. The last time the Lady Riders beat Tri-County at Oakland was in a 25-22, 14-25, 25-13 victory on Oct. 7, 2013.

Other wins were against Martinsville 25-17, 25-20; Heritage 23-25, 25-18, 16-14; Urbana University High 16-25, 25-21, 25-14 and Argenta-Oreana 25-14, 10-25, 25-20.

One of the losses was to Blue Ridge, a team that was 18-9 at the time with the Lady Riders taking them to three sets 23-25, 25-18, 25-21.

Arcola senior Makenzie Thomas earned honorable mention all-Lincoln Prairie Conference volleyball for the past season as a middle hitter.

Boys' basketball

Arcola started off with a 63-45 win over Urbana University High, but then lost four straight games falling to Salt Fork, Windsor/Stewardson-Strasburg, Danville Schlarman and Carlinville before topping Judah Chirsitan 58-44 and nipping Sullivan 50-44 in overtime. Two straight losses to Neoga and Tuscola the Purple Riders began the Dieterich Holiday Tournament with a 61-40 win over Oblong/Palestine-Hutsonville. After a 56-35 loss to Dieterich, Arcola placed third after a 39-36 triumph over Sullivan and an 80-68 conquest of Grayville. Arcola was victorious over Blue Ridge 51-22

before falling to undefeated Decatur LSA 64-56. Arcola beat Villa Grove 63-50, lost to Okaw Valley, but beat Central A&M in a non-conference game 51-46. Arcola lost two straight, falling to Cerro Gordo/Bement and then a conference tournament loss to Cumberland. Arcola went on to win the consolidation title beating Villa Grove (57-42) and Argenta-Oreana (60-39). Those were the first two wins of four straight as they beat Tri-County (58-48) and Arthur Christian (53-29). After two tough LPC losses to Argenta-Oreana (51-50) and Cumberland (51-43). Arcola beat Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond 66-48 and ended the conference season with a 66-39 triumph over Heritage. In the Class 1A regional at Arcola and beat Georgetown Notre Dame de La Salette 50-41. After a 49-41 win over Okaw Valley at Tuscola for its fourth straight win, Arcola lost in the regional title game 63-46 to Tuscola.

Jackson Miller, an Arcola junior, was one of six players selected to the second team all-Lincoln Prairie Conference for the 2022-23 season, one which saw the Purple Riders go 17-14 overalls and 5-5 in the LPC. Receiving honorable mention was Braden Phillips, a sophomore.

Girls' basketball

The girls, coached by Corey Roberts, finished 22-9, which tied the 2013-14 and 1986-87 teams as the sixth best record in the history of the program.

The Lady Riders finished 7-2 in the LPC, good for second place.

Kacie Sisk, a sophomore, was named to the first team all-LPC, while Jacey Kessler, a junior, was a unanimous second team selection and Eva Hopkins, a senior, was also on the second team.

The season began with a 45-31 win over Oakwood followed by a 46-41 loss to Sullivan. Arcola then reeled off six straight victories starting with a 46-37 win over Central A&M.

Other victories were against Salt Fork (37-23) and Windsor/Stewardson/Strasburg (41-27) in the conference opener a 57-13 conquest of Blue Ridge as well as a forfeit in over Villa Grove and topped Windsor/Stewardson/Strasburg (41-27) as well as Decatur LSA (57-35). After a 52-28 non-conference loss to Tuscola, Arcola closed out the 2022 portion of its schedule going 3-2. Arcola cruised by Chrisman 52-14 before entering play in the Dieterich Holiday Tournament where they beat Red Hill (51-18), lost to Marshall (52-51 in overtime) and Dieterich (38-36) before downing Casey-Westfield (47-21). The winning streak reached five after beating Heritage (61-14), Hoopeston Area (49-33), Okaw Valley (55-

35) and Cerro Gordo/Bement (39-36) before losing to Cumberland (33-30) in a LPC contest.

Arcola won six of its next seven beating Argenta-Oreana (61-12), Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond in double overtime (58-51) and after a 53-23 loss to Tri-County, the Lady Riders won four consecutive games downing Arthur Christian (65-36), Marshall (45-41), Argenta-Oreana (45-16) and Cumberland (45-18) before falling to A-L-A-H (51-38) and Neoga (39-25) to close out the regular season. In the Arcola regional the Lady Riders topped Central A&M 46-40 before a season-ending regional championship loss to Tri-County 47-39.

Note: next week: A look back at baseball, softball and boys and girls track.

Myers first team all-area N-G

By Mike Monahan

CHAMPAIGN – Recent Arcola graduate Mitchel Myers was named to the 14-member Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette All-Area boys' track and field team. Myers, who is headed to Indiana State to continue his track career, was second in both the shot put and discus at the Illinois High School Association Class 1A State Track and Field meet in May at Eastern Illinois University. His shot put was a career-best 57-1 ½ and his discus was 173-4.

Myers set the shot put and discus records at Arcola breaking the 59-year-old discus record of 181-5 by Terry Miller in 1964. Myers' best in the discus was 184-10 ½.

Although no Arcola boy was on the 14-member second team five were among the 80 to receive honorable mention status. The five were Elian Aguilera (sprints), Michael Gauna (throws), Ryan Lindstrom (jumps and sprints), Braden Phillips (jumps and sprints) and Aden York (middle distance) in the 18th annual publication. Aguilera and Gauna are recent

graduates, while Lindstrom and York finished their junior year and Phillips his sophomore year.


Salt Fork's Phil Surprenant was the Area Coach of the Year, while Champaign Centennial's Daniel Lacy was the Male Athlete of the Year in track and field.

Postponed season-opening scramble at Kaskaskia Country Club held Sunday

ARCOLA – The postponed (due to cold, windy weather) season-opening scramble at the Kaskaskia Country Club was held Sunday.

Steve Hall, Delmar Schrock, Tom Degler, Tim Massengale, and Marchita Sanchez won with a score of 11-under-par. They had tied with Dallas Sisk, Shawn Vanausdoll, Darren Poorman, Paul Sisk and Sharon Hunt. Hall, Schrock, Degler, Massengale and Sanchez won in a one-hole playoff. Sisk's, Vanausdoll, Poorman and Hunt finished at 8-under-par.

Nate Degler sank the longest putt at 9'2 and Hall was closest to the pin at 8'8.



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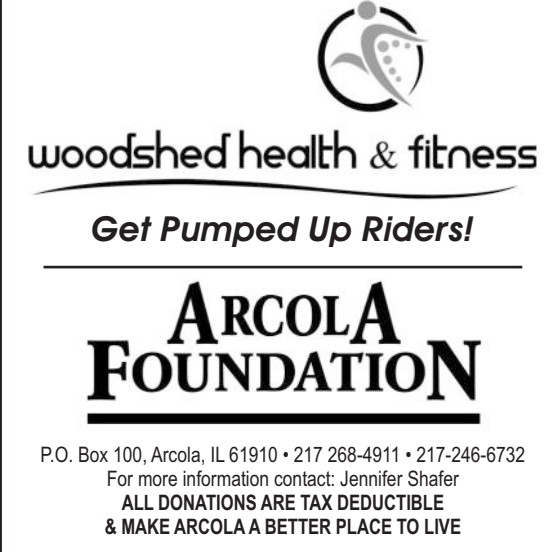
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