



A LARGE CROWD gathered Sunday at Green Mill Village to watch Arcola's annual fireworks. Photo by David Porter.

Phillips named first team on News-Gazette's all-area roster; two more locals make all-area

By Mike Monahan
 CHAMPAIGN - Arcola sophomore Braden Phillips was one of 12 players overall to be named to the first team Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette All-Area squad. Phillips, an outfielder, second baseman and pitcher, hit a team-leading .483 for the Purple Riders, who finished 14-5, the second best record in the history of the program. Phillips was second on the team in runs batted in with 23 and second in stolen bases with 14. He helped Arcola win its first regional championship since 1984 by beating Windsor/Stewardson-Strasburg. Arcola was 8-2 in the Lincoln Prairie Conference, good for third place. Phillips also led the team in earned run average at 0.57 in 12 1/2 innings with 16 strikeouts and three walks.

Named to the 12-member second team was sophomore outfielder/pitcher Tanner Thomas. Thomas hit .458, which was second on the team. He was first in runs scored with 39, 28 hits (tied for first), tied for first in doubles (10), and led the team in home runs with five. First in stolen bases with 15, tied for first in fielding percentage at 1.000.

Named to the 90 member honorable mention squad was freshman Brevyn Whisman.

Mahomet-Seymour coach Nic Dilfilippo was named the 11th News-Gazette Area Coach of the Year, while Blake Wolters of Mahomet-Seymour was the 33rd News-Gazette Area Player of the Year. Wolters was drafted 44th overall (second round) in the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft last Sunday by the Kansas City Royals.



Braden Phillips

Arcola JFL Heavyweight schedule out; not enough players for lightweight team

By Mike Monahan
 ARCOLA - The 2023 Arcola heavyweight Junior Football League team schedule has been released, but there are no Lightweight games this year due to lack of numbers.

According to the Arcola JFL Facebook site from June 24 to July 7 the lightweight team was looking for five more players so that they could have a season. Unfortunately the number stayed the same and as a result the season was canceled.

However, the sixth graders are playing with the Heavyweights (was seventh and eighth) and the fourth and fifth graders, according to the facebook page, are welcome to join the Arthur or Villa Grove lightweight teams.

Anyone can still sign up for the heavyweight team through the end of July.

Conditioning for the Heavyweight began June 27 and is on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

There will be no jamboree

for Arcola this season, where they would have played teams for a quarter. Now the season will start August 20th at Thomas-Bradford Field at 4 p.m. against Kincaid. Another home game follows as on August 27 Arcola hosts Cerro Gordo/Bement at 4 p.m. On Labor Day Saturday, September 2, Arcola travels to face Sullivan-Okaw Valley at 3 p.m. On Broom Corn Festival Sunday, Sept. 9, Arcola travels to Tuscola with the game time to be announced. The Purple

Riders play host to Villa Grove at 4 p.m. Sept. 17 and then have two games on the road with the game time to be announced as they are at Oakland against Tri-County on Saturday, Sept. 24 and at Decatur Catholic on Saturday, Sept. 30. The final game is set for Thomas-Bradford Field at 4 p.m. against Cumberland.

Arcola is in the Little Illini Junior Football League and the coaches are Tyler Drake and Josh Truex.

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