

Arcola/Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond boys golf starts with fifth place finish in scramble

By MIKE MONAHAN Staff Writer

ARCOLA - A young Arcola/Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond boys golf team started its season Thursday at Danville's Harrison Park and hosted by Oakwood in a five-player scramble. The Knight Riders won it last year. It was a bit earlier this year as the meet began at 9 a.m. instead of 1 p.m. meaning the golf team left at 6:45 a.m.

Arcola finished in a tie for fifth place out of 17 with a 65. The Knight-Riders tied with Saint Joseph-Ogden and Urbana. St. Thomas More was first with a 58 followed by Bismark-Henning-Rossville-Alvin (62), Dwight (63) and Iroquois West (64).

Participating on Arcola were Canton Wesch, Hunter Grant, Jackson Miller, Kendal Schrock and Kody Burdick.

Last season Arcola had an older group and had three compete in the Class 2A sectional including Wesch (a sophomore). Aaron Seegmiller and Braden Kauffman were also in the sectional and the two were among five boy seniors.

"The first couple of days have been really good," said

Gisinger of practice that started last Monday.

The Knight Riders have a total of 13 boys and 11 girls on the roster, including nine underclassmen on the boys roster and seven girls that are underclassmen (freshmen or sophomores).

"If it is not one of the largest teams in co-op history then it is close," said Gisinger, who is assisted by Brad McGill of Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond. "Our numbers have grown."

A total of nine boys and five girls on the roster last season for a total of 14.

Boys

"We have a lot of young kids and it is a little different group than last year when we had a lot of experience with Kauffman, Clay Seal and Seegmiller. We have a lot of kids that don't have that knowledge of the game."

Thursday, Aug. 10 Wesch was the No. 1 golfer, while Grant at two, Jackson Miller at three, Schrock at four and Burdick at five.

"Last year it was more just play, play, play and this year it is 8-10 guys go play and the other 14-16 work on these things one day," said Gisinger.

"I think we will see a lot of improvement throughout the season."

Wesch said he has always put pressure on himself no matter what he is doing. So being No. 1 is not too bad.

"After I just focused on the fact I am just doing this for fun, like it is not a job for me and yes, there are all of these expectations on me, but somehow you have to block that out and focus on yourself and just get after it," said Wesch. "There is always going to be that pressure, but I put pressure on myself already and nothing is going to beat that pressure. I am focusing this year on enjoying golf and just to live in the moment."

Wesch said he is working on being a leader especially with Burdick.

Gisinger said of the first three days, "We have been trying to get the guys that really want to compete for the top five spots on the course, playing competitive golf and then we took the best five guys of the first three days to Oakwood. We will rotate the 4-5-6 spot until we figure out who it is."

The main thing for the first three days was to get the new-

by's and the freshmen and some of the people that had not played before to get the basics; how to chip and putt and how to keep score and the rules and then get the guys ready to go into a competitive mode."

The senior boys are Hunter Grant, Jackson Miller and Arick Stutzman. Grant along with Wesch, a sophomore, earned all-Lincoln Prairie Conference by shooting an 84 and 93 respectively. Logan Schrock, a sophomore, earned all-LPC honors last year, but is out for the season with a broken elbow.

"Logan Schrock played in the top six last year," said Gisinger. "He was probably going to be our two or three so that hurts our team but it gives someone else a chance to step up. Wesch was in our top three and maybe was second in average. Hunter Grant is back. Jackson Miller played last year and Max Rardin is back. He didn't play last year. He played football. He played golf as a freshman. We have a young inexperienced squad. I think we will get a lot better."

Gisinger knows they won't be winning meets by a lopsided margin this year and

he said "it will come down to the little things and we will be working that plus the team will be working on not wasting shots."

Gisinger said, "We are really going to lean hard on our leaders; Jackson Miller, Hunter Grant, and Canton Wesch"

Team goals will be a little bit different this year according to Wesch as Arcola won the conference meet by 77 strokes.

"Last year we had 3-4 guys that would be in the top three or four every tournament, but this year I still think we are going to win the conference, but it will definitely be close, especially with Sullivan. I have the expectation to win the conference as a team and I think we can get it done. You just have to tweak those minor mistakes and get it done that way."

Gisinger said, "It will be a different challenge for us coaches and as a team. Our goal is still to win the LPC (won it four years straight). It is going to be a lot more difficult especially with Sullivan coming into the conference this year. They are always pretty good at golf. We still think we have the best team in the conference. I think we have the best player in the conference in Canton Wesch."

Girls

Returning from last season are Avery Alexander and Lily Vanda both sophomores and Brooklyn Gingerich (sophomore) came on the team late last year.

The Knight Riders have eight new players.

"Lily and Avery have some experience playing matches. We can't take 25 kids on the golf course and keep them all active. There are different levels. Canton needs to work on things that some other kids don't need to work on yet."

The girls worked on chipping and putting Wednesday, Aug. 9. The freshmen learned about golf etiquette and rules.

"Avery Alexander played in the conference tournament," said Gisinger. "She is the only one who thought she was ready to play in an 18-hole match last year. That experience will help her this year. I think we have some girls, including freshmen Jaiden Miller and Megan Miller have some ability and talent. They have been around the game a little bit. I have really been impressed with Claire Seal, who has not played golf before, but she is extremely athletic. I remember watching her play on the basketball court last year against us and she is really competitive. All I told her was to keep her head down and be an athlete. She was hitting the ball pretty well. I think if she sticks with it by the end of the year she will be a pretty decent golfer for never having played before because she is so athletic. I think CC Davis has a nice swing. They all have potential, but golf is really hard. It is a hard game to get good at quick. Hopefully they stay patient with it."

I don't know if we will play a match for a few weeks with the girls. My goal is to have a few of them ready to play at the Tuscola Invitational. I would like to have at least two girls and maybe four ready to go compete in team events."

Seal and Brooklyn Matheny are the lone seniors on the squad.

2023 Arcola/Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond golf schedule

(All home meets are at the Kaskaskia Country Club and all meets are at 4 p.m. unless noted)

Thursday PARIS; Monday at Tuscola Invitational, 1 p.m.; Tuesday CLINTON and OKAW VALLEY; Aug. 24 at Moweaqua vs. Meridian; Aug. 28 at Tuscola vs. Fisher, Casey-Westfield/Martinsville; Aug. 29 at Casey vs. Casey-Westfield/Martinsville and Tri-County; Aug. 31 at Villa Grove vs. Villa Grove and Central A&M

Sept. 8 at Blue Ridge Invitational, 8 a.m.; Sept. 11 at Okaw Valley (Eagle Creek Golf Course); Sept. 12 TUSCOLA; Sept. 13 TRI-COUNTY and

DECATUR LSA; Sept. 15 at Mt. Zion Tournament, 1 p.m.; Sept. 18 at Altamont vs. Altamont and Sullivan; Sept. 19 VILLA GROVE; Sept. 20 at Mattoon (Mattoon Country Club); Sept. 21 at Moweaqua Golf Course (hosted by Sullivan), 10 a.m.; Sept. 22 at Charleston, 1 p.m. (Stan Adkins Fall Classic); Sept. 27 Class 2A boys regional, TBA; Sept. 28 Class 2A girls regional, TBA; Oct. 2 Class 2A sectional boys and Class 1A girls; Oct. 6 and 7-boys Class 2A state at Weibring Golf Club, Normal; girls Class 1A girls state at Decatur's Red Trail Run

2023 Arcola/Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond boys roster

Coach: Greg Gisinger 3rd year 31-3; assistant coach: Brad McGill

Freshmen: Kole Binder, Coyo Grant, Kody Burdick, Cameron McGill, Landen Franklin

Sophomores: Canton Wesch, Logan Schrock, Jack Miller

Juniors: Kendal Schrock, Max Rardin

Seniors: Hunter Grant, Jackson Miller; Arick Stutzman

2023 Arcola/Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond girls roster

Freshmen: Jaiden Miller, Megan Miller

Sophomores: Lily Vanda, Avery Alexander, Jada Bontreger, Skyler Graham, Brooklyn Gingerich

Juniors: Chloe Sadowski, CC Davis

Seniors: Claire Seal, Brooklyn Matheny

Village Board from page 1

Academy on August 25. After taking the power test on August 8, Colton Heston would be starting at the academy on August 30 and is scheduled to graduate in December.

-Goodman informed the board that there will be an ad in the newspaper for a crossing guard. Mark Krutsinger will be working in the mornings for the first four to five days of school until someone is hired.

-There have been complaints of peddler solicitations. Goodman said that if a peddler solicits at your door, ask to see their license. A peddler is required to have a license for door to door sales.

-Residential listing agreements for Meadowview subdivision and lot sales were renewed with both Legacy Land Co and Westfork Auction & Real Estate LLC until July 19, 2024.

-A temporary sign was approved for the Mennonite Relief Sale.

-A TIF Facade Grant request was approved for \$10,000 for Steve's Barber Styling building at 236 South Vine Street.

-Blondies Bar was approved to serve alcoholic beverages during the Cheese Festival on Saturday, September 1 through Monday, September 3 on the street in direct proximity to the bar at 113 East Progress Street. There will be a beer tent during the festival with fencing around it. IDs will be checked before going in and individuals who are allowed in will be given wrist bands. No smoking or glasses would be allowed outside of the tent. Hours of the tent will be the same as the bar (6:00 am to 1:00 am) but will close down with the rest of the festival on Monday.

-The Arthur Police Department was approved to purchase office furnishings in the amount of \$2,425. Goodman said that the office was in need of a more utilized and uniformed look and some of its furniture had been there for quite some time and was mismatched. A shelf was also needed for storage of electronics and charging stations.

-A Sesquicentennial coin design was approved. The logo would be placed on the front of the coin and the welcome sign would be on the back.

ALAH JFL SCRIMMAGE



The ALAH JFL teams started their 2023 season with scrimmage games with the Sullivan Okaw Valley Redskins on Sunday, August 13 at Wilson Field. Here the lightweight B team meets with their coaches after the game.



The captains of the ALAH lightweight JFL team meet with their opponents, the Sullivan Okaw Valley Redskins prior to their scrimmage game last Sunday. The lightweight team will open their 203 regular season at home on August 20 vs. Tolono at 1:00 p.m.



The ALAH JFL heavyweight team meets with their coaches following their scrimmage game with the Sullivan Okaw Valley Redskins last Sunday. They will begin their 2023 regular season against Tolono on Sunday, August at 3:00 p.m.