

SPORTS

Whisman hoping for confidence from AHS volleyball team

By Mike Monahan

ARCOLA - The Arcola volleyball team opened its season Tuesday with a home match against Judah Christian in a non-conference game.

The Lady Riders have been struggling the last two years winning just nine games, which is one reason why Arcola coach and graduate Katy Whisman says confidence is a big thing.

"I think a big thing with them is just confidence," said Whisman. "That is always an issue with high school girls. Self-confidence and being confident in your teammates, trusting your teammates and knowing that it is okay to mess up. It will happen. Knowing that everyone will not be mad at you. That is a big thing. In years past we have gotten where they will get mad at each other on the floor and then it just falls apart. The group this year is really good about being positive and pulling each other out of funks and working together. That was one of the big goals, just stay positive."

Returning from a 5-21 season are seven players, including Kelsey Moore and Kacie Sisk, who are the captains of the squad.

One of the wins was 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. 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.

Gone from last year's team is Makenzie Thomas, an honorable mention all-LPC player, finished with a team-high 1.4 kills per set, was second in aces with 0.4 per set and led in blocks at 0.4 per set. Eva Hopkins, Rachel Sigris, Makena Wagoner, Gracie Wagoner,

Alessia Lucianai, and Martina Domingo Ventura (last two are foreign exchange students).

The team consists of four seniors, seven juniors, four sophomores and five freshmen for a total of 20.

"Practices have been good," said Whisman. "We have been working on just severe receive and our defense a lot. We are doing well with that. The varsity girls are just getting used to playing together and that is a big thing."

The varsity, for now, has 10 players on what is not a deep team.

"Our defense and serve receive are looking better than last year at this time," said Whisman. "They are hustling more. They are getting to the ball. They are not letting it drop and hit the floor. We are getting on the floor to get the ball up which is a big improvement, because that is something we have had issues with in the past. No one wanted to get on the floor. So, we have worked on that. Our passing and receiving have done really well."

The 10 varsity players are seniors Melani Martinez, Moore, Jacey Kessler, foreign exchange student Sarah Gellieaux. The juniors will be Ileana Jarmarillo, Crystal Ramirez, Ava Simpson, Kacie Sisk and sophomores Kiera Leal and Ema Simpson.

"I told them we are not tall obviously, but we have to be quicker and hustle more," said Whisman. "We do have some girls that can jump well so that helps. It is just you never know what you are going to meet on the other side of the net."

The team has two setters and will play a 5-1, meaning one of them will start. Martinez is the libero.

The players goals are to win the LPC and play together as a team.

"I think they are ready to play," said Whisman, whose team plays host to Casey-Westfield, a new team on the schedule, in a non-conference contest.



THE ARCOLA VOLLEYBALL TEAM, coached by Katy Whisman, opened the 2023 season last Tuesday with a non-conference match against Judah Christian. Returning letter winners are Kelsey Moore, Crystal Ramirez, Kacie Sisk, Ava Simpson, Jacey Kessler and Melani Martinez. Photo by Mike Monahan.

2023 Arcola Volleyball Roster

Coach: Katy Whisman 3rd year 9-39

.188. Assistant coach: Yessi Ramirez

Seniors

(Name..... position)
Sarah Gellieaux..... S
Jacey Kessler..... MB
Melani Martinez..... L
Kelsey Moore..... OH

Juniors

Hayden Gauna..... MB
Yosy Gauna..... OH
Ileana Jarmarillo..... S
Crystal Ramirez..... RS
Shelby Roberts-McGeehon..... DS
Ava Simpson..... S
Kacie Sisk..... MB
Noheми Vasquez..... NA

Sophomores

Maiya Bryan..... MB
Kiera Leal..... OH

Maddie Pilkington..... NA
Ema Simpson..... RS

Freshmen

Emma Edwards..... NA
Jolena King..... OH
Aymara Leal..... NA
Mady Lyons..... NA
Emmalee Reel..... MB

L-libero; MB-middle blocker; OH-outside hitter; RS-right side hitter; S-setter; DS-defensive specialist; NA-not available

Arcola volleyball schedule 2023

(All games start at 6 p.m. with the junior varsity followed by the varsity unless noted)

Thursday CASEY-WESTFIELD;
Tuesday NEOGA
Sept. 4 TUSCOLA;
Sept. 7 at Decatur Unity Christian* (formerly Decatur Lutheran);

Sept 12 CERRO GORDO/BEMENT*;
Sept. 14 at Argenta-Oreana*;
Sept. 16 at Effingham St. Anthony Tournament, TBA;

Sept. 18 at Martinsville;
Sept. 19 at Sullivan*;
Sept. 21 VILLA GROVE*;
Sept. 26 at Cumberland*;
Sept. 28 TRI-COUNTY*;
Sept. 30 JV at Judah Christian tournament, 10 a.m.

Oct. 2-5 Lincoln Prairie Conference Tournament at Argenta-Oreana, TBA;
Oct. 10 OKAW VALLEY*;
Oct. 12 at Farmer City vs. Blue Ridge*;
Oct. 16 URBANA UNIVERSITY HIGH;
Oct. 17 at Broadlands vs. Heritage*;
Oct. 19 ARTHUR-LOVINGTON-ATWOOD-HAMMOND*;
Oct. 21 Freshmen -sophomore Invite at Tolono Unity, 10 a.m.;
Oct. 23-26 Class 1A regional tournament, TBA

*-Lincoln Prairie Conference game

Arcola JFL Heavyweight season starts with a 30-24 win

By Mike Monahan

ARCOLA - The Arcola JFL Heavyweight football team started the season on a hot Sunday afternoon at Thomas-Bradford Field against Kincaid.

Arcola and Kincaid were only tied once and the Purple Riders came away with a 30-24 victory.

Blain Helmuth and Ronnie Vega scored three and two touchdowns each for Arcola.

There are a total of four sixth graders, nine juniors and 10 eighth graders for a total of 23 players out for coaches Tyler Drake and Josh Truex.

The Lightweights were un-



able to have a team due to lack of numbers, but the sixth graders, who normally are members of the lightweight team, get to play up.

The Purple Riders play host to Cerro Gordo/Bement Sunday at 4 p.m.

The final game of the season is set for Oct. 8 against Cumberland at 4 p.m.

Arcola Heavyweight JFL 2023 roster

Sixth grade	
Name	weight
Logan Otto	129
Patton Reel	102
Wylin Smith	110
Grayson Truex	145
Seventh grade	
Alexandro Cortez	110
Lucas Janes	134
Cooper McConnell	91
Mitchell Murphy	198
Ilan Nichols	117
Trevor Otto	118
Trevin Plank	173
Ke'din Smith	149
Braydon Williams	167
Eighth grade	
Johnny Andriey Carmisa	131
Laison Barron	130
Blain Helmuth	168
Sawyer Mitchell	112

Arcola JFL 2023 Heavyweight Schedule

(All games are to start at 4 p.m. unless noted)
Sunday KINCAID; Aug. 27 CERRO GORDO/BEMENT
Sept. 2 at Sullivan/Okaw Valley, 3 p.m.; Sept. 9 at Tuscola, TBA; Sept. 17 VILLA GROVE; Sept 24 at Oakland vs. Tri-County, 4 p.m.; Sept. 30 at Decatur Catholic, Oct. 8 CUMBERLAND
Arcola competes in the Little Illini Junior Football League

Wallace, Rothe win Douglas County Tournament

By Mike Monahan

ARCOLA- Jarrett Wallace, a 2015 Tuscola graduate, shot a four-under-par 64 on the final day of the Douglas County Men's Golf Tournament that finished Sunday at the Kaskaskia Country Club. Wallace won with a 137, beating Clayton Miller, a 2017 Arcola grad, who finished as the runner-up last year in a playoff hole.

Miller led after the first 18 holes at Villa Grove's Tri-City Golf Course with a 72, leading by one shot over Wallace, Tristan Harrison, and Paul Wright.

A total of 13 were in the championship flight.

Rick Shonkwiler won the 13 member A Flight by three shots over Dusty Kirkman with a 159. B Flight was won by David Smith by one stroke over Mike Vanausdoll with a 169 in the 14-player flight. C Flight was won by Russ Brough and Todd Harned with 181's. There were a total of 14 in the flight and a total of 54 in the tournament.

On the Ladies side Sue Rothe of Hammond won by 10 strokes with a 175. She fired an 86 Saturday at the Kaskaskia Country Club and an 89 at the Tri-City Golf Course. Jodie M also had an 89 on Sunday, which were the top scores of the hot day.

2023 Men's Douglas County Tournament

(first score is 18-holes at Tri-City Golf Course and second score is 18 holes at the Kaskaskia Country Club)

Men's results

Championship Flight 1. Jarrett Wallace 73-64=137; 2. Clayton Miller 72-68=140; 3. Tristan Harrison 73-74=147; 4. Wes Dukeman 76-72=148; 5. Jason Watson 75-74=149; 6. Darren Gilles 76-74=150; 7. Michael Holmes 75-75=150; 8. Travis Albin 78-77=155; 9. Paul Wright 73-82=155; 10. Doug Cisna 76-80=156; 11. Chuck Clarkson 78-80=158; 12. John Hensley 78-92=170; 13. Shawn Vanausdoll 78-WD=WD (withdrew).

A Flight: 1. Rick Shonkwiler 81-78=159; 2. Dusty Kirkman 79-83=162; 3. Heath Wilson 83-80=163; 4. Randy Murray 84-80=164; 5. Darrin Com-

er 83-81=164; 6. Chris Corum 83-82=165; 7. Josh Ryan 83-83=166; 8. Steve Murray 80-86=166; 9. Ashton Harrison 79-87=166; 10. Steve Edwards 84-83=167; 11. Chris Vandeventer 79-88=167; 12. Aaron Mendoza 85-88=173; 13. Jake Gilles 83-96=179; 14. AJ Howell 83-WD=Withdrew; 15. Brady Clodfelder 83-WD=WD.

B Flight: 1. David Smith 87-82=169; 2. Mike Vanausoll 91-79=190; 3. Bill Murray 88-85=173; 4. Darren Poorman 86-88=174; 5. Jeff Rayment 91-84=175; 6. Jeff Holmes 89-86=175; 7. Davin Smith 91-86=177; 8. Steve Sigler 91-87=178; 9. Todd Dukeman 88-90=178; 10. Dave Gilbert 91-89=180; 11. Matt McCarthy 91-89=180; 12. Robert Renfrow 88-93=181; 13. Nathan Kiser 91-102=193; 14. Gavin Kiser 86-108=194.

C Flight: 1. Russ Brough 94-87=191; 2. Todd Harned 93-88=191; 3. Brad Johns 96-89=195; 4. Don Burnett 94-91=185; 5. Johnnie Cornell 92-94=186; 6. Corey Roberts 94-93=187; 7. Nick Lindsey 93-94=187; 8. Darrell Comer 96-93=189; 9. Steve Romine 94-95=189; 10. Pete Wasiloski 105-89=194; 11. Lucas Shonkwiler 98-101=199; 12. Andy Ingram 106-106=212; 13. Cliff Stoker 111-107=218; 14. Carson Block 101-124=225.

Women's results: 1. Sue Rothe 76-79=185; 2. Paula Murray 94-98=192; 3. Debbie Cox 95-99=194; 4. Jodie M.

(last name not available) 96-89=195; 5. Kristina M (last named not available) 101-99=200; 6. Marylou Payne 106-94=200; 7. Mary Burnett 106-95=201; 8. Maureen K (last name not available) 101-104=205; 9. Georgia Barnes 115-103=218; 10. Cathy Ross 112-107=219; 11. Susie Henson 117-102=219; 12. Tina Rayment 117-111=228; 13. Donna Spencer 122-115=237; 14. Jennifer Appleby 151-119=270

Sports Schedule (Aug. 24-Aug. 30)

Boys golf
Thursday at Moweaqua Golf Course vs. Meridian, 4 p.m.

Monday at Tuscola Iron Horse Golf Course vs. Tuscola, Fisher, Casey-Westfield/Martinsville, 4 p.m.

Tuesday at Casey-Westfield Golf Course vs. Tri-County and Casey-Westfield/Martinsville, 4 p.m.

Football
Friday NOKOMIS, 7 p.m.
Monday junior varsity NOKOMIS, 6 p.m.

Volleyball
Thursday CASEY-WESTFIELD, 6 p.m. junior varsity followed by varsity
Tuesday NEOGA, 6 p.m. junior varsity followed by varsity

Junior Football League
(All games are heavy-weight contests)
Sunday host CERRO GROD/BEMENT, 4 p.m.

Arcola/Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond golf falls to Paris; Wesch leads Knight-Riders with a 33

By Mike Monahan

ARCOLA - Sophomore Canton Wesch led the Arcola/Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond Knight-Riders and all golfers in a dual golf meet with Paris Aug. 16. Wesch shot a 33 beating Paris's Porter Underwood by six strokes.

However, the Tigers won the meet with a 159 to Arcola's 171.

Other scores for Arcola were Jackson Miller with a 43, Kody Burdick with a 46, Kendall Schrock a 49, Hunter Grant a 54 and Max Rardin a 56.

Four members of the

Knight-Rider junior varsity golfed as well with Landen Franklin shooting a 50, Coye Grant with a 52, Kole Binder a 56 and Cameron McGill a 69.

Arcola played host to Clinton Tuesday and are scheduled to travel to the Moweaqua Golf Course to face Meridian on Thursday.