

# SPORTS

## Arcola tries to get back on track Friday vs. Tri-County

**By Mike Monahan**  
 ARCOLA – After suffering a heartbreaking 21-20 loss to Argenta-Oreana last Friday, the Arcola Purple Riders look to get back on track as they have dropped two straight. Arcola will play host to 0-3 Tri-County Friday at Thomas-Bradford Field at 7 p.m.  
 “They have a good couple of runners and they are physical runners and that doesn’t make it easy to get them on the ground. We have a couple of kids like that too. It will be good to see that across the line.”  
 Clay Kibler is the Titans leading rusher with 59 carries

for 272 yards, while quarterback Garrett Pollock is 12-of-28 for 176 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions. Myles Watson leads the team in receiving with 11 catches for 152 yards and two touchdowns.  
 “They have a good offensive lineman, who really gets after it,” said Snider. “On defense they fire off the ball. I don’t know if we have seen on tape or live a defensive front that is as fast as they are.”  
 Tri-County, coached by former player T.J. Blake, a 2012 Oakland grad, played a 4-4 defense.  
 “It is more of an old school

4-4 look instead of the modern 4-4,” said Snider. “We still have the same assignments though.”  
 Tri-County’s defense is led by Clay and John Kibler, who averaged 8.7 and 5.0 tackles per game.  
 Arcola had freshman Brody Phillips at quarterback last week and Jayden Henson-Stice at running back. Expect the same this week.  
 “It gives us the most potent offense on the field,” said Snider.  
 Arcola averages 20 points per game compared to just 8 for the Titans. Defensively, Arcola allows 30.3 and Tri-County, who has lost six straight

games, allows 21.3 points per game.  
 When asked if this is a must win Snider said, “It is one game at a time. If you start thinking it is a must win you could lose so many more. You never want to be in a position below .500, but stuff happens. If we win Friday we will be 2-2 and sitting fine.”  
 Late in the game Arcola’s Caiden Helmuth was injured and suffered a separated shoulder and will not play in the game.  
 As for the keys to the game Snider said, “We have to eliminate turnovers. We had three turnovers and we dropped three interceptions and that

is a six turnover swing in one game. Braden had a good interception. Argenta didn’t

have a lot of offense, it was more in the right place at the right time.”



Jackson “Tank” Griffith (66). Photo by Nancy Rairden.



Brokton Morford (22). Photo by Nancy Rairden.

## Arcola sports wrap

### Arcola opens LPC in volleyball with a loss

**By Mike Monahan**  
 DECATUR – Arcola’s volleyball team opened the Lincoln Prairie Conference season Thursday at Decatur Unity Christian (formerly Decatur Lutheran School Association) and lost 25-17, 25-21.

Kacie Sisk led in digs, blocks and kills with ten, three and five respectively, while Ava Simpson was tops in assists with six and Kelsey Moore led in aces with two.

Arcola, 2-2, played host to Cerro Gordo/Bement last Tuesday, Tuscola last Wednesday and host Argenta-Oreana today (Thursday) before traveling to Effingham/Effingham St. Anthony Tournament Saturday.

**Decatur Unity Christian def. Arcola 25-17, 25-21**  
 ARCOLA: Ava Simpson 1

ace, 6 assists, 3 digs; Crystal Ramierz 1 assist, 8 digs; Lleana Jaramillo 4 assists, 1 dig; Jacey Kessler 1 ace, 4 kills, 2 digs; Kacie Sisk 5 kills, 3 blocks, 10 digs; Kelsey Moore 2 aces, 3 kills, 6 digs; Kiera Leal 1 kill, 1 block, 6 digs; Melanie Martinez 1 dig  
 JV: Decatur Unity Christian def. Arcola 25-13, 25-16

### Junior varsity drops a 40-20 decision to Argenta-Oreana

**By Mike Monahan**  
 ARGENTA – The Arcola junior varsity football team played a good first half, but lost to Argenta-Oreana 40-20 Monday.

Braden Hatchel scored a rushing touchdown for the Purple Riders, while Remi Roberts-McGeehon and Brevyn Whisman had touchdown passes from Brody Drake. Anthony Buurgos had

the two-point conversion.  
 On defense Evan Radin had an interception.  
 Arcola, 0-3, looks for their first win Monday at 6 p.m. at home against Tri-County.

### Arcola falls to Tuscola in JFL

TUSCOLA – The Arcola Heavyweight football team fell to Tuscola 28-0 Sunday. Arcola, 2-2, will play host to Villa Grove Sunday at 4 p.m.

### Sports Schedule (September 13 through September 20)

**Boys golf**  
 Wednesday DECATUR UNITY CHRISTIAN, TRI-COUNTY, 4 p.m.  
 Monday Sullivan, Atlamont at St. Elmo Golf Club, 4 p.m.  
 Tuesday: Lincoln Prairie Conference meet at Moweaqua Golf Course (hosted by Sullivan), 10 a.m.

Wednesday: at Mattoon (at Mattoon Country Club), 4 p.m.

**Football**  
 Friday: TRI-COUNTY, 7 p.m.  
 Monday junior varsity TRI-COUNTY, 6 p.m..

**Volleyball**  
 Wednesday: TUSCOLA; junior varsity starts at 6 p.m. followed by varsity  
 Thursday: at Argenta-Oreana; junior varsity starts at 6 p.m. followed by varsity  
 Saturday: at Effingham/Effingham St. Anthony tournament, 8 a.m. (varsity only)  
 Monday: at Martinsville junior varsity starts at 6 p.m. followed by varsity  
 Tuesday: at Sullivan; junior varsity starts at 6 p.m. followed by varsity

**Junior Football League**  
 (All games are heavyweight contests)  
 Sunday; VILLA GROVE, 4 p.m.

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