

SPORTS

Arcola defense helps them to a 21-12 win over Tri-County

By Mike Monahan

ARCOLA - In a Lincoln Prairie Conference football game Friday at Thomas-Bradford Field the Arcola defense held Tri-County to 50 yards in the first half and a total of 176, including a key stop in the first half as Arcola moved to .500 at 2-2 with a 21-12 triumph.

Defensively, we were awesome," said Arcola coach Steve Snider. "Everything was lights out from start to finish. You look at their scores and we gave up them on really short fields. We tackled really, really well for the most part. We did a lot of really, really good things."

Arcola's key stop was when the Titans, who fell to 0-4, drove from the Arcola 48 to the nine as Myles Watson had a 31 yard run with under four minutes left in the half. After a false start moved the ball back five yards, making it fourth and nine, the Purple Riders forced an incomplete pass to take over.

Two plays later Tri-County got the ball back after Andy Houlihan picked off a pass with 36.7 seconds left to give the Titans the ball on the Arcola 14. It came down to the last play of the half and Clay Kilber bullied in from a yard in. The extra point was blocked leaving Arcola with a 14-6 advantage.

"On their first touchdown that was on me," said Snyder whose team improved to 2-2. "I told the kids at halftime 'We should have run power and if something happened it happened.' That (their score) is one of me making a bad de-

cision at the end of the first half and throwing the ball that close to our goal line and that gave us a score. I honed up to that and the kids really responded well to rally around me and protect me from that and not make it part of a loss. They did their part on that and I think I helped them do their part on other things."

Tri-County had won the coin toss and deferred to the second half. The Titans moved into Arcola territory with a 23-yard run by Kibler, who finished with 15 carries for 57 yards and two touchdowns. A holding penalty moved Tri-County back 10 yards and on second and long quarterback Garrett Pollock hit Houlihan for 36 yards. He fumbled near the end of the play and Tyson Lewis recovered for Arcola.

"Scoring before half was huge and it definitely gave us some hope and some excitement," said Tri-County coach T.J. Blake. "We had been struggling moving the ball on the offensive side. For some reason we can't get going. The thing that has been killing us all season long is self-inflicted mistakes as far as turnovers and penalties. We don't need that."

On the Purple Riders next possession that started at its one 35. Jayden Henson-Stice picked up a gain of 54 down to the Titan six and Lewis scored on the next play. Gael Elizondo booted the extra point for a 21-6 lead.

The Titans scored with 5:27 left in the game after Tri-County took over at the Arcola 39 on a muffed punt. Alex Hole



JUNIOR BRADEN PHILLIPS (10). Photo by Nancy Rairden.

gained 26 yards for the big play of the drive, which culminated with a six yard run by Kibler. The two-point conversion was stopped and Arcola went on to win by nine.

"After our team dinner we sat down and talked about the little things," said Snider. "I said that you need to understand that what you do on every single play has a much larger impact than you think. When Braden Phillips blocked the extra point that made them have to go for two and the pressure was on them and not on us. Ryan Lindstrom had a great tackle on the two-point conversion."

Lindstrom led Arcola in tackles with 12, including two tackles for a loss. Ryder Wilcox Rich had 6.5 tackles, including a quarterback sack.

Arcola freshman Brody Phillips, starting his second game, was 6-of-8 for 87 yards with a touchdown and an interception. The pass was a 34-yarder to his brother. Braden Phillips, a junior.

"It was awesome (the TD pass)," said Brody Phillips. "The adrenaline rush was crazy. I just saw him break out and I knew I had to just throw it up and give him a chance to get the ball. I knew he would go get it and he did. It was awesome and that is the first of many. It is awesome to play with my brother. He is a stud. My high school career with my brother is going to be awesome."

Henson-Stice led the ground game with 15 carries for 93 yards for Arcola, who won despite four turnovers and seven penalties for 95 yards.

"It was a mess on the offensive side of the ball again," said Snider. "I think it was a mess in different ways from last week. The turnovers were still there, which is a problem. We focused a lot on our footwork problems and now we have new footwork problems. We are still getting things shored



SENIOR BROCKTON MORFORD (22). Photo by Nancy Rairden.

up. These kids are learning a brand new offense. This is the fourth game they have played in this offense and the best teacher is actual game live reps. We all have to make sure we are working towards that one common goal and I think we are."

Blake was happy with their defense.

"Our defense has stepped up this year," said Blake. "I think going into tonight we were third in the conference with the least amount of points. Last week (36-16 loss to Arthur-Lovington-Arthur-Hammond) there were big plays on the back end. That is how teams are scoring on us. I think we allowed five passing touchdowns in the first four weeks just because of blown coverage. The guys are biting on everything underneath when they know they are not

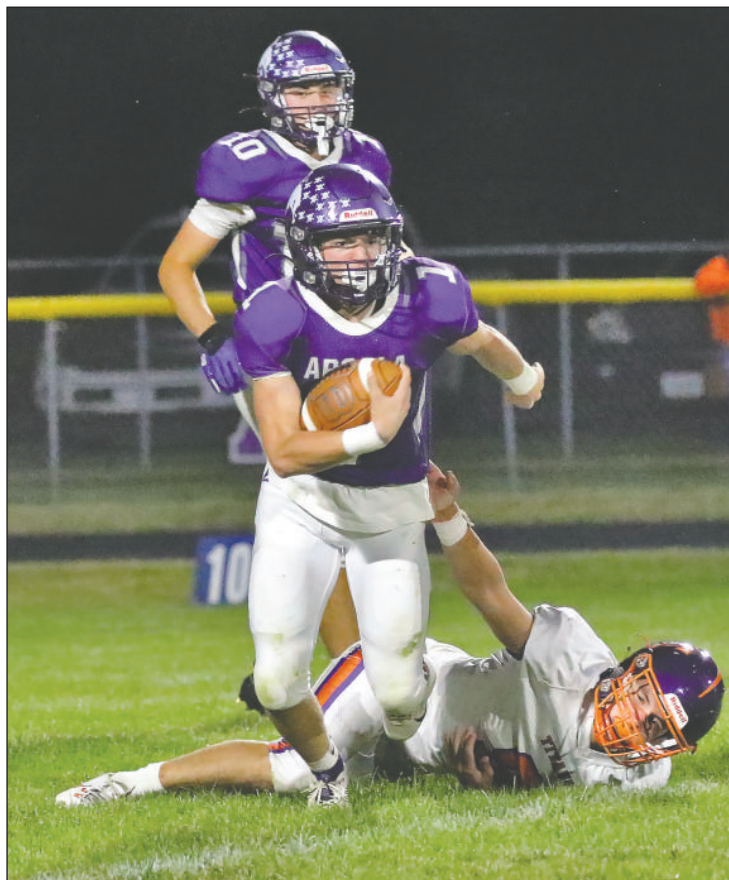
supposed to do that. We are still young and learning. It is one of those things we have to work on each and every week."

Tri-County	0	6	0	6-12
Arcola	0	14	7	0-21

Second quarter	
A-Brockton Morford 2 run (Gael Elizondo kick) 11:54	Passing
A-Braden Phillips 34 pass from Brody Phillips (Elizondo kick) 7:10	Tri-County: Pollock 4-9-0-54, 0 TDs
T-Clay Kilber 1 run (kick blocked) 0:00	Arcola: Brody Phillips 6-8-1-87, TD
Third quarter	Receiving
A-Tyson Lewis 6 run (Elizondo kick) 5:26	Tri-County: Watson 2-11; Andy Houlihan 1-36; Wolfe 1-7
Fourth quarter	Arcola: Braden Phillips 4-59, TD; Henson-Stice 2-28
T-Clay Kibler 6 run (run failed) 5:27	Total yards
INDIVIDUAL STATICS	Tri-County 46-176, 2 TDs
Rushing	Arcola 40-233, 2 TDs

Tri-County: Clay Kibler 24-57, 2 TD's; Myles Watson 6-33, Alex Hole 5-40; Garrett Pollock 1-(-7); Jordan Wolfe 1-(-1); Totals 37-122, 2 TDs

Arcola: Jayden Henson-Stice 15-93; Brock Morford 10-35, TD; Brody Phillips 1-(-4); Tyson Lewis 6-22, TD; Totals 32-146, 2 TDs



JUNIORS JAYDEN HENSON-STICE (1) and Braden Phillips (10) in back. Photo by Nancy Rairden.



ARCOLA HEAD COACH Steve Snider giving freshman QB Brody Phillips (12) the next play. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

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