

SPORTS



Freshman Aymara Leal (12) in the JV volleyball game Sept. 21 at Arcola.



Junior Yosy Gauna (17) in the JV volleyball game Sept. 21 at Arcola.



Juniors Shelby Roberts-McGeehon (15) with Yosy Gauna (17) in the background. JV volleyball game Sept. 21 at Arcola.



Junior Hayden Gauna (42) in the JV volleyball game Sept. 21 at Arcola. Photos by Nancy Rairden.

Arcola volleyball improves to 3-2 in LPC, sweeps Villa Grove; on three-game winning streak

By Mike Monahan

ARCOLA - The Arcola volleyball team is on a roll as they have posted three straight victories sweeping Sullivan and Villa Grove last week. The Lady Riders topped Sullivan 28-26, 25-17 and the Blue Devils, coached by John Woolley, husband of Arcola graduate Deanna (Munson) Wooley, 25-23, 25-19.

The winning streak began with a non-conference 25-12, 25-16 against Martinsville.

Arcola improved to 8-6 overall and 3-2 in the Lincoln Prairie Conference, good for a tie for third place with Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond, Villa Grove, and Heritage.

It is Arcola's best record since going 10-22 in 2018.

"It makes me feel really good," said setter Ava Simpson, who had 15 assists against the Lady Redskins and 21 against Villa Grove. "We all really work together and our chemistry works very well. We have already

exceeded last year's goals. Now we are trying to combine last years with the previous years in terms of wins (9-38 the last two years) and see how many wins we can get. It is a really good feeling that we can all work together. Even if we are down like we were against Villa Grove we can still come back and win."

Last year they were 4-21 in 2021 Arcola was 5-17 and in 2020 the Lady Riders were 3-11. The 2019 squad was 6-19, while the 2018 team was 10-22. So, in the last five seasons Arcola is a combined 28-90.

Arcola def. Villa Grove 25-23, 25-19

Villa Grove, a team that entered the match with a 10-5 overall record, started off strong leading 8-1 as Alison Pangborn's kill gave them the serve and Kayln Cordes served five unanswered

points for a 6-0 advantage. It became a seven point lead on a point off a serve by Alexis Cassano.

"We decided to get a better pass and pass it up and put it down and we found holes," said Arcola coach Katy Whisman of the comeback.

Jacey Kessler served five points, including two aces as Arcola trailed just 8-7.

Villa Grove maintained the lead except for a tie at 10 and led 17-13 after a kill by Jobella Crafton and an ace by Cordes.

Arcola did keep Cassano from getting as many kills as she did the first part of the set.

"She was (Cassano) hitting mostly to the same spot over and over again and we just worked it out and adjusted to cover that area," said Whisman.

Arcola took its first lead of the set as Kelsey Moore served four unanswered points for an 18-17 lead.

Villa Grove led 21-18 on a tip by Piper Kiser when Arcola

answered with a 4-0 run, including a kill by Crystal Ramirez and three straight by Kacie Sisk, who led with 18 kills, made it 22-21, Lady Riders. Sisk's tip ended the set with a two-point victory.

Arcola rallied in the second set from a 15-8 deficit outscoring Villa Grove 17-10 the rest of the way as Kessler served four points for a 19-17 lead, its first since leading 2-1. The Blue Devils tied it at 19 as Kiser served a point after a kill by Crafton.

Sisk's tip gave the Lady Riders the lead for good and Ema Simpson served the last five points, including two kills by Sisk and one by Kessler.

"We are doing well playing together and trying to get each other up when somebody is down," said Whisman. "That is helping. Hopefully the wins are building their confidence in themselves and with each other."

Arcola def. Sullivan 28-26, 25-17

Ava Simpson who had 21 assists said of setting, "Making a good set is really fun. Kacie (Sisk) is my best friend and I set it to her and when she puts it down..that is my favorite part. Setting to everyone else is really fun too. After they really hit the ball, it gets me pumped."

Whisman said the team played really well against the Lady Redskins, who are 5-13.

"We had really good energy and we were just able to keep it together the entire time," said Whisman.

Ava Simpson, a junior, said she enjoys being the setter.

"I just love the energy that comes with it and knowing that if I have a good set they are going to put it down. I trust the hitters and I feel like there is energy after they hit it. It is really amazing. I have to know where the hitters like the ball and what pace they like on it."

Arcola def. Villa Grove 25-23, 25-19

ARCOLA: Ava Simpson 1 ace, 15 assists, 12 digs; Crystal Ramirez 1 kill, 1 dig; Ema Simpson 2 digs; Jacey Kessler 3 aces, 2 kill/s, 1 block, 9 digs; Kacie Sisk 18 kills, 1 block, 13 digs; Kelsey Moore 1 kill, 8 digs; Kiera Leal 1 ace, 1 assist, 4 digs; Melani Martinez 1 kill, 7 digs

JV: Villa Grove def. Arcola 27-25, 25-11

Arcola def. Sullivan 28-26, 25-17

ARCOLA: Ava Simpson 21 assists 8 digs; Ramirez 3 kills, 8 digs; Kessler 1 ace, 2 kills, 4 digs; Sisk 1 ace, 14 kills, 2 blocks, 15 digs; Moore 2 aces, 3 kills, 11 digs; Leal 1 ace, 2 kills, 12 digs; Martinez 5 digs; Shelby Roberts-McGeehon 1 dig

JV: Sullivan def. Arcola 25-22, 13-25, 15-12

ARCOLA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Once a Purple Rider
Always a Purple Rider!
1882 - 2023
Check us out at: arcolaalumni.org

MonahanPartners
we're in this together

GO PURP!

Animal Health Care Center

 Kimberly Livezey, DVM
531 E. Springfield Rd.
Arcola, IL 61910
217-268-4747
Emergency 840-7278


EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME

221 E. Main, Arcola, IL 61910
217-268-3885 • Toll Free: 1-888-543-3885
Our Family: Jeff, Lisa, Taylor & Beau Edwards,
Corey, Cara, Camryn & Cooper Roberts


HEN HOUSE

I-57 & SR 133, Arcola • 268-3712

Thank You **ARCOLA SPORTS SPONSORS**
WHOSE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF ARCOLA SCHOOL ATHLETICS MAKE THIS PAGE POSSIBLE



THE CITY OF ARCOLA
Good Luck Arcola Purple Riders!



Lisa Sappenfield Boyer, CFP
Stan G. Boyer
102 E. Main, Arcola
268-3216
"RIDERS RULE"

The Thomas Monahan Company

"GOOD LUCK RIDERS"



www.arcolafb.com
217-268-4911

GOOD LUCK RIDERS!



LINDENMEYER INSURANCE AGENCY
A Division of Compass Insurance
406 E. Springfield Rd.,
Arcola, IL 61910
217-268-3041



Good Luck Riders

GRABER Building Supply & HARDWARE

111 W. Springfield Rd., Arcola, IL 61910
217-268-3014 • Mon.-Sat. 7:00-6:00, Closed Sunday



Better Newspapers Inc.
www.arcolarecordherald.com

@ArcolaRecordHerald

NOW OPEN!

217-268-4889



Store Hours: 8:30-4:30 except Wed. 8:30-5:00
121 W. Springfield Road • Arcola

GO RIDERS! Have a safe and rewarding year!
Your local Sav-Mor Pharmacy supports you!


woodshed health & fitness
Get Pumped Up Riders!

ARCOLA FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 100, Arcola, IL 61910 • 217-268-4911 • 217-246-6732
For more information contact: Jennifer Shafer
ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE & MAKE ARCOLA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

JBH inc.
SINCE 1975
& Employees
Arcola

MONICAL'S PIZZA RESTAURANT

AFTER THE GAME
Rt. 133, Arcola • 268-4141
GOOD LUCK PURPLE RIDERS!



Open Mon.-Sat. 6:30 am - 2 pm
Fri. 'til 8 pm
130 E. Main St.
Arcola, IL
217-518-1022
Good Food • Good Coffee • Good Neighbors
Order Online at:
www.broomtowncafearcola.com