



TUSCOLA BOY'S BASKETBALL celebrated Senior Night Wednesday Feb. 15. Left to right, Amanda Boyd, Chris Boyd, John Boyd, Susan Branca, Hunter Branca, Scott Branca, Boston Broady, Matt Broady, Stephanie Kauffman, Grant Kauffman, Kevin Kauffman, Scott Musgrave, Colton Musgrave, Amanda Musgrave. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

## Warriors burst into post season play

By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola's boy's basketball team rebounded from a pair of late-season losses with three straight wins to end the regular season, including one of the top-ranked Indians of Altamont and one on senior night before opening the post season with a bang. The Warriors opened last week with a 58-34 run-away win over Neoga on Tuesday, Feb. 14 and then celebrated the fourth-year players with a 55-29 victory over Central A&M on Wednesday before bursting into the 2023 version of 'March Madness' with a dominating 79-14 win over Tri-County in the opening round of the Tuscola Regional.

Parker James continued his breakout season, leading the way with 38 points on the week in the 3-game

sweep. Jordan Quinn was next in line adding 32 points to his season totals. Kam Sweetnam followed with 28 points while Josiah Hortin contributed 24-points and at least 5 assists in every contest to the mix. The Warriors end the regular season with 25 wins and 6 losses overall, adding the 26th win to the mix following the Tri-County conquest in the regional.

Coach Justin Bozarth's bunch ran away and hid this past Saturday versus the Titans giving up just 6 points in the first half and only 7 in the second, allowing a mere 4 field goals in the slaughter rule-shortened blowout. Five players in all stepped outside the arc for three's as the Warriors connected on 11 total as a team. Jackson Barrett led all off the bench with 17 points and 6

rebounds. Quinn and Sweetnam were right behind with 16 points each, while Hortin notched 10. Chris Boyd had 3 buckets in the paint, helping to open up the outside aerial attack and James ended his evening with 4-point and a game-high 7 rebounds.

Boyd, Colton Musgrave, Boston Broady, Grant Kauffman and Hunter Branca suited up for their final regular season outing at historic Tuscola Gymnasium a few nights earlier against Neoga. Kauffman and Branca have missed the majority of the season with injuries sustained in a quarterfinal football playoff run. Boyd, Musgrave and Broady combined for a pair of three's, 6 rebounds, 4 steals and 12 points.

Quinn did a little bit of everything, adding another

double-double to his resume. The third-year starter ended his night with 11 points, 14 rebounds, 4 steals and 4 blocks. James was at the top of the scoring column with 16 points while Sweetnam joined Quinn at the top of the rebounds list, grabbing 14-boards. Hortin distributed the ball, assisting on 5 baskets while scoring 5 points of his own.

Both James and Boyd found the double-digit plateau in the victory over Neoga on Tuesday and also did their fair share of the damage on the boards. James completed his night with a game-high 18 points and 7 rebounds, while Boyd found his way to 11 points and 5 rebounds. Hortin and Sweetnam both donated 9 points to the cause, with Quinn adding 7 points and 7 rebounds to the scorebook.

### TUSCOLA (65)

|          | fg-fga | ft-fta | 3-3a  | reb | a | s | pf | tp |
|----------|--------|--------|-------|-----|---|---|----|----|
| Quinn    | 9-15   | 4-4    | 3-5   | 7   | 2 | 0 | 2  | 25 |
| James    | 1-6    | 1-1    | 1-4   | 7   | 1 | 0 | 5  | 4  |
| Boyd     | 3-6    | 0-0    | 0-0   | 6   | 0 | 0 | 3  | 6  |
| Hortin   | 4-9    | 0-0    | 1-3   | 5   | 3 | 1 | 1  | 9  |
| Sweetnam | 6-14   | 0-0    | 4-8   | 2   | 3 | 2 | 2  | 16 |
| Barrett  | 1-1    | 0-0    | 1-1   | 2   | 1 | 0 | 0  | 3  |
| Woodard  | 1-2    | 0-0    | 0-0   | 1   | 0 | 0 | 0  | 2  |
| Kurtz    | 0-1    | 0-0    | 0-1   | 0   | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| Totals   | 25-54  | 5-5    | 10-22 | 30  | 9 | 3 | 13 | 65 |

FG% -46% FT% -100% 3-FG% 45% Turnovers-7  
 FG-26-48 (54%) FT-7-12 (58%) 3FG-8-13 (62%)  
 Reb 21; TO-5.

### ST. TERESA (67)

|            |    |    |    |    |   |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Tuscola    | 19 | 14 | 11 | 21 | - | 65 |
| St. Teresa | 12 | 16 | 21 | 18 | - | 67 |

### TUSCOLA JV (33) St. Teresa JV (43)

Woodard 4-9, 5-10, 0-1-13; Spillman 0-3, 0-0, 0-0-0; Kurtz 2-7, 3-3, 2-5-9; Gabbard 1-6, 0-0, 1-6-3; Chenoweth 1-2, 0-0, 0-0-2; Rennels 0-0, 0-0, 0-0-0; Devlin 1-1, 0-0, 1-1-3; Russo 1-2, 1-2, 0-0-3; Wilcox 0-0, 0-0, 0-0-0; B.Graves 0-0, 0-0, 0-0-0; Thomas 0-1, 0-0, 0-1-0; Warner 0-0, 0-0, 0-0-0. Totals: fg-fga 10-31 (32%); ft-fta 9-15 (60%); 3fg-3fga 4-15 (27%) REB:(30) Woodard 8, Chenoweth 7, Kurtz 5. Asst. (5). TO-18.  
 St. Teresa JV fg-fga 16-46 (35%); ft-fta 5-6 (83%); 3fg-3fga 6-20 (30%); Reb. 22; TO-7.  
 Statistics order: fg-fga,ft-fta, 3fg-3fga-pt

### TUSCOLA (64)

|          | fg-fga | ft-fta | 3-3a  | reb | a  | s | pf | tp |
|----------|--------|--------|-------|-----|----|---|----|----|
| Quinn    | 8-10   | 2-4    | 5-6   | 7   | 2  | 1 | 2  | 23 |
| James    | 4-7    | 0-0    | 2-2   | 2   | 1  | 1 | 2  | 10 |
| Boyd     | 1-2    | 0-0    | 0-0   | 5   | 1  | 2 | 4  | 2  |
| Hortin   | 4-10   | 0-0    | 2-3   | 4   | 3  | 1 | 0  | 10 |
| Sweetnam | 5-10   | 0-0    | 4-7   | 0   | 0  | 0 | 3  | 14 |
| Barrett  | 2-4    | 0-0    | 1-3   | 1   | 2  | 0 | 0  | 5  |
| Woodard  | 0-0    | 0-0    | 0-0   | 1   | 1  | 0 | 1  | 0  |
| Kurtz    | 0-0    | 0-0    | 0-0   | 1   | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| Spillman | 0-0    | 0-0    | 0-0   | 1   | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| Totals   | 24-43  | 2-4    | 14-21 | 22  | 10 | 5 | 12 | 64 |

FG% -56% FT% -50% 3-FG% 67% Turnovers-7  
 FG-15-40 (38%) FT-7-11 (64%) 3FG-1-11 (9%)  
 Reb 22; TO-11.

### ALTAMONT (38)

|          |    |    |    |    |   |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Tuscola  | 17 | 14 | 17 | 16 | - | 64 |
| Altamont | 13 | 6  | 13 | 6  | - | 38 |

## Tuscola girl's basketball team moving on

By Lenny Sementi

After finishing the regular season with a 30-1 record in tow, Tuscola's girl's basketball team did what the top seed in a sub-sectional is supposed to do: win and advance. Coach Tim Kohlbecker's crew posted wins in the semi-finals and finals this past week at the Salt Fork regional's earning them a spot in the Casey Westfield sectional on Tuesday, Feb. 21 for a chance to avenge the only blemish on their record verse Effingham St. Anthony.

The Warriors used a three-player-scoring barrage and a team effort on the boards to upend Georgetown-Ridge farm in their post-season opener 61-41 on Monday, Feb. 13. Then made a big first frame stick a few nights later on Thursday, dropping the host Storm 61-41 on their own floor in the regional championship. Coach K's crew survived a 4 for 26 effort from outside the arc in the tournament thanks to a relentless assault on the boards, grabbing 65 in the two-game swing, 25 of which came on the offensive end.

Harley Woodard kicked off the championship skirmish in style. The senior wing was a beast in the win over the storm scoring 13 points in the opening frame on a 6 for 7 effort from the field, putting a pair back while grabbing 6 offensive rebounds in the first 8 minutes of action. She ended the night with a double-double accounting for a game-high 20 points and 12 rebounds. Classmate Ella Boyer hit a

bucket and finished off both ends of a one on one for the only points that weren't Woodard's in the stanza, giving Tuscola a 17-10 lead after one.

Sydney Moss posted up for two big buckets in the second and Isabelle Wilcox stepped outside the arc for a three helping the Warriors push the lead to 9-points entering the break on top 30-21. It was a back and forth affair from that point forward but the Warriors forced all one and done in the second half and sealed the deal late at the line. Ella Boyer provided offensive punch with a pair of threes in the third en route to a 19-point outing. She and her younger sister Ava came in clutch at the line in the final 8 minutes, hitting 11 of 13 from the charity stripe. Both Molly Macaulay and Lia Patterson provided solid minutes on the defensive end for the black and gold and were also strong on the boards in the game.

"We didn't feel we were particularly sharp or focused

for Georgetown but the girls certainly changed that in the championship game," stated the coach. "We feel like the tone of the game was set on our first offensive possession when we had 5 offensive rebounds that resulted in an "and 1" for Harley; she was a beast all game. We felt if we owned the paint and the glass, we would win, and our bigs were outstanding!"

"Defensively, we knew we had to focus on two players and make them work for every point. Our defense was very good and rebounding was even better (doubled their total). Everyone played exceptionally well and they need to enjoy this championship because they have earned it, but now we need to set our sights on the next game."

Woodard was also strong in the semis versus Georgetown, adding another double-double to her season stat sheet finishing with 13 points on 6 of 7 from the floor and 12 rebounds. Moss doubled up in the paint as well, scoring a game high 17 points while grabbing 10 rebounds. Ella Boyer connected on the Warriors' only trey of the game early in the contest and also found her way onto the double-digit plateau tallying 14 points on 5 of 10 shooting. Ava Boyer and Wilcox distributed the ball ending the evening with 5 assists apiece.

Nine players entered the steal column combining for 21 on the night, forcing over 25 turnovers. Wilcox led the way with 6, Moss and Ella Boyer followed with 4 each, while sophomores Ava Boyer and Patterson donated 3-steals to the cause.

Tuscola moves to 32-1 on the season with the two wins and will travel southeast to Casey-Westfield for Sectionals on Tuesday evening. It's one of the strongest sectionals in the state, with all four teams (Tuscola, St. Anthony, Tri-County, Neoga) ranked in the state.

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