



THE WARRIORS CELEBRATE THEIR WIN against the Altamont Indians in the Sectional Game March 3. The students are making "Ws" with their hands. Left to right, Miranda Long, Alicia Keown, Kali Foner, Lilly Kurtz, Makenzie Herschberger, Andrew Spillman, Sawyer Woodard, Kamden Sweetnam, Boston Broady, Jordan Quinn, Parker James, Grant Kauffman, Hunter Branca, Mikayla Dunn, Carleigh Kleiss, Zoe Hochstetler, Delanie Yantis, Logan Kurtz. Sitting in front are Colton Musgrave, Josiah Hortin, Jackson Barrett, Chris Boyd. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Warriors

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That was the best way to top off the night on my birthday. Couldn't have been happier!"

The junior hit a three in the fourth to knot it at 46 forcing overtime, hit another at the end of the first extra 4-minute period tying it at 50, and one more at the end of the third extra period propelling the two teams to the fourth where the Warriors secured the win. He led all offensively while delivering a double-double, tallying 33 points and 10 rebounds. And amazingly did this after picking up his fourth foul midway thru the fourth quarter.

"What an incredible atmosphere. It exceeded the highest of expectations I had going into it," stated Bozarth. "Our guys were incredibly resilient and just refused to go away time and time again. Jordan was an absolute monster scoring and rebounding. We think he's an All-State caliber player and he lived up to it last night. Whenever we needed a big shot, he provided it."

The host Indians bellowed a 'We Will Win' chant from their student section, and entered the break on top 27-13 on the back of an 8-point run and looked to be moving on. Bozarth's boys had other plans, ramping up the defensive pressure and forcing wayward Indian three-balls and quick possessions, ultimately fueling the offensive comeback. Chris Boyd went to work down low, hitting a bucket early in the third frame before stepping outside for a trey. The Warrior big man then hit both ends of a 1 and 1 late, pulling the black and gold to within one 32-33, heading to the fourth. Sweetnam hit a big three in the period as well, and so did James.



COLTON MUSGRAVE HOLDS UP THE PLAQUE for the Sectional Championship 2022-2023. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Bozarth's entire starting lineup tickled the bottom of the net from outside the arc in the game. But it was Sweetnam finding his way to the hoop in the fourth that may have saved the day. The super soph found his way to 6 points late on a pair of layups and a pair of free throws after drawing a foul in the lane. He added 15 points to his season totals in the contest, while Hortin delivered 12 points, both donating a pair of threes to the cause after the half. James had one three on his way to 5 points in the game

but did most of his damage on the boards, hauling in 11 rebounds. Boyd and fellow senior Colton Musgrave hit the boards hard, also securing a combined 8 rebounds, grabbing 4 apiece. "They were pressing up and trying to get steals. I was just staying aggressive and trying to get to the rim as much as I could," Sweetnam said. "We ended up getting to the foul line or with a layup."



JOSIAH HORTIN AND JORDAN QUINN get rushed by their teammates directly after beating the Altamont Indians March 3 for the Sectional Championship. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

Hortin hit a runner to open the fourth and final overtime, and Tuscola's student section started the 'We Will Win' chant. Altamont answered to knot it at 65's, but this time Tuscola pulled in front by 4 and never looked back. Hortin battled the big men in the lane for an offensive rebound and found Quinn under the hoop for a bucket and Sweetnam finished off a pair of clutch free throws with under 40 seconds left on the clock giving the Warriors all the cushion they would need.

"For Jordan and Josiah to play every minute of that game is phenomenal," the coach commented. "Part of Altamont's success is they play so many guys and just wear teams down throughout. We're pretty lucky to have two of the best cross-country runners in the state on our roster. Altamont tried and tried, but Josiah just never tired out."

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Sweet success for boys' basketball

By Lenny Sementi

For the second straight year, Tuscola's boy's basketball lived up to their mantra 'Build the Brand' advancing to the Sweet Sixteen of Class 1A in Illinois' March Madness. Jordan Quinn and the Warriors downed a very good Effingham St. Anthony 48-45 in the semi-finals of the Altamont Sectional.

Jordan Quinn finished off an old-fashioned three early in the contest giving the Warriors a 5-0 advantage but St. Anthony fired back with a 10-2 run helping the end the first on top by three 12-9. Kam Sweetnam, a big-time deep-threat took to the lane on three straight drives as the two area heavyweights traded blows in the second frame. He then drove and dished to Josiah Hortin who hit Tuscola's first three of the game late in period pulling coach Justin Bozarth's bunch to within entering the break down 20-18.

Sweetnam then stepped outside the arc in the third and Chris Boyd put one back for a bucket and made the ensuing free throw on a non-traditional three giving the Warriors their first lead 26-24 since the 3-minute mark of the first. Sweetnam drained his second three of the stanza and Parker James punctuated the 5-point swing in the pivotal period taking a steal coast to coast for a big bucket, pushing the Warriors into the final 8 minutes of action on top 33-30.

"What a dog fight," Bozarth exclaimed. "In the postseason, you've got to be able to defend on the nights that you don't shoot it particularly well. We felt good at the half knowing the amount of shots we had missed but were only down 2 and had given up just 20-points."

Tuscola's turned up the defensive to open the second half and just kept increasing the pressure as the game progressed steadily forcing the Bulldogs into tough situations in the waning minutes. Sweetnam drained his third three of the half early in the final frame, Quinn added 5-points to the cause in the stanza and Hortin polished off 5 of 5 from the charity stripe after St. Anthony opted to foul in an attempt to extend the game late sealing the deal on the victory. James and Colton Musgrave came up big on the defensive end late combining to force four Bulldog turnovers.

Sweetnam was tops in the Warriors scoring column delivering 15 points, including 3 threes. Next up was Quinn who ended his night with 14 points and 9 rebounds. Hortin followed with 12 points while James and Boyd combined for 7 points and 12 rebounds. Musgrave showed out by donating 2 assists, 2 steals and 2 rebounds to the cause.

"In the second half we hit a few big shots with Kam, Jordan, Parker, and Chris after the half each and Josiah was so good with the ball in his hands especially as the game wore on and St. Anthony increased their pressure. We also decided to bounce back and forth on our defenses to attempt to keep them uncomfortable. We adjusted from our zone press to man to man on different possessions. Parker did a great job at the top of the press and he and Jordan rebounded really well on the defensive end. It was a great atmosphere and our kids are so fortunate to have the community support that we get."

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