

Community Sports



Good week for Tuscola's Lady Warriors softball team

By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola's softball team sandwiched a loss in between three wins this past week by utilizing both power and speed on offense, a solid defense, and a one-two punch in the pitching circle. Isabelle Wilcox and the Boyer sisters Ella and Ava combined to hit 5-home runs during the week and joined up with Zoey Thomason and Addy Ring to deliver 14-stolen bases while Wilcox and Bayleigh Taylor took turns in the pitching circle.

The Warriors knotted one through three frames before an offensive onslaught blew open the close game that saw all 9 starters add at least one hit to their season stat sheet. Tuscola put up crooked numbers in both the fourth and fifth frames

on the back of round-trippers by Ella Boyer and Wilcox, fueling the 9-6 Central Illinois Conference road victory over the 17-win Cardinals squad. Wilcox worked into the fifth in the circle giving up 4 runs on 5 hits and a walk while striking out 2. Taylor finished off the final 2 and 2/3s, collecting the win and allowing just one to cross the dish.

Six players recorded multiple hits, with Wilcox and Smith leading the way with 3 apiece. Wilcox drove in 2 in the game on a 3 for 5 night that included a homer and a double. Smith went 3 for 4 on the evening with a pair of doubles while Ella Boyer was a perfect 2 for 2 outing delivering a HR and a double. Emily Czerwonka, Makenna Fiscus

and Claire Meyer all notched a pair of extra base hits while Ring, Ava Boyer and Thomason all reached safely with singles.

The one loss came one night later when a defensive miscue and missed opportunities resulted in a 6-4 defeat at the hands of Villa Grove. Tuscola left runners in scoring position in the final 3-frames and had the winning run at the plate in the bottom of the seventh. Wilcox took the loss giving up 6-runs, 4-earned in 5.1-innings of work. Czerwonka, Fiscus, and Ring all notched a pair of base knocks and combined for 6-hits including 2-doubles. Smith doubled in the game as well while Ella Boyer, Kayleigh Bales, Thomason and Wilcox all singled.

Wilcox painted the corners



ELLA BOYER picks up the ball and throws it to the Tuscola infielder during the April 28 game against Meridian. Tuscola won 10-9. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

the following night in Clinton helping the black and gold to their second CIC victory of the week. The senior hurler scattered 5 hits out over seven innings of work while fanning 8 in the complete-game win. Ella Boyer got the ball rolling with a 2-out first-inning bomb to put the Warriors up early and then a late barrage in the final three stanzas ended the suspense. Ava Boyer went 4 for 5 in the game, scoring twice and driving in a pair. Wilcox and Fiscus both delivered three hits and an extra base hit in the contest.

Ella Boyer drove in 3, adding a double and a dinger to the box score. Ring had a pair of hits and also pushed 1 across while Thomason notched 2-hits as well, scoring both times. Czerwonka, Ring and Smith posted a single.

They capped off the week on Friday evening handing Meridian its first loss in the CIC. The Hawks entered the contest with an 11-0 slate in the league and 18-wins overall. It was a game that saw the Warriors take an early lead, then give it up and then get it back and secure a

thrilling 10-9 victory. Ava Boyer set off the fireworks in the bottom of the first with a leadoff bomb and then Meyer set the table late starting off both the bottom of the fifth and sixth frames with base hits. Myer doubled in the fifth, moved on a single by Thomason, who then stole second before Boyer struck again driving in both with a base hit to right. Wilcox drove in Boyer with a line drive single, stole both second and third and scored on a single by Czerwonka cutting the Hawk lead to 2.

Meyer singled to open the sixth but was caught at second on a fielder's choice by Thomason who reached on the play, stole second and scored on a double by A. Boyer pulling the Warriors to within 1. Wilcox followed with a line shot home-run over the left field fence to give the Warriors the lead 10-9 heading to the final stanza. Taylor got the first two outs of final frame and allowed a pair to reach but induced a pop fly to Wilcox in center field to collect the win on the bump.

Wilcox was perfect with a 4 for 4 outing at the plate that included a round-tripper, 3 runs scored, 4 RBIs, and 4 stolen bases. A. Boyer was a triple away from the cycle posting a HR, a single and a double to her stat line. Meyer was big on defense at third base and went 2 for 3 on the evening with a double while Czerwonka, Ring and Thomason all recorded a single.

Baseball pushes toward finish

By Lenny Sementi

Head baseball coach Caleb Englehardt's squad led after one 1 inning of action in two of the three games they played this past week but could not hold on as they push towards the later half of the season and towards postseason action. The Warriors moved in front of Warrensburg Latham on the road Monday, April 24, following a triple by Austin Cummings and an RBI single by Colton Musgrave, only to watch the host Cardinals post crooked numbers in both the third and fourth frames to collect the Central Illinois Conference victory.

Musgrave tripled and scored, pushing in Cummings in the seventh but the late-game rally fell short. Mus-

grave led the Black and Gold going 3 for 4 on the evening while driving in 3 runs. JJ Reynolds was the third of Englehardt's guys to triple and cross the dish in the game. Sophomore Jacob Waugh and freshmen Kaden Russo and Cooper Lyons all singled in the game. Lyons took the loss on the hill, giving up 10 runs, only 5 earned as errors plagued the Warriors at times. Aiden Devlin worked the final two frames allowing 1 run-on, 1 hit and a walk while fanning 1.

Tuscola fell again a few nights later at Clinton, losing to the Maroons despite a 3-run top of the second. The big frame was the only stanza the Black and Gold added hits to their season stat sheets.

Musgrave, Russo and Carson Gaines all singled in the frame pulling the Warriors even, but the home team found the dish in each of the next 5-frames securing the CIC win. Russo took the loss going 4 strong without giving up an earned run.

Like they did to open the week, the Warriors left the first frame in front 1-0 but once more and kept it close through 4 innings but just could not close the door on a win as the visiting Hawks consistently found a way to score. Carson Gaines led with a pair of base knocks, while Russo pushed in 2 runs in the 10-4 loss. Cummings, Reynolds, Devlin and Isaac Halverson all added singles to their season totals.

Boyd leads the way for boys

By Lenny Sementi

Chris Boyd came up big this past Friday evening at the Spartan Classic at St. Joseph High School. The Warrior big man won the shot put at the 28-team event that boasted one of the top 1A/2A throwing fields in the state. Boyd hit the sand at 57.32 feet to win the event beating his nearest competitor by over 4 feet. The senior owns the longest toss in the state in 1A thus far as the post-season looms. He also found the podium in a loaded discus showcase that included the first and second-ranked throwers in the state taking fourth with a toss of 151.35 feet.

For the second straight week, the Warriors traveled to a premier meet without two of their stars. Coach Ryan Hornaday sent his two

elite distance runners north to compete in the 55th Annual Prospect Boys "Joe Wanner" Invite. Josiah Hortin and Jackson Barrett, who shined last week at another multi-state distance meet, both broke the school's 1600-meter record taking second and third, respectively. They were the only two 1A runners in the top 20 in a race that saw 10 runners go sub 4:30.

The duo was shoulder to shoulder most of the way, passing numerous runners in the final lap and actually positioned 1 and 2 until the final 10 meters. Hortin collected a silver medal crossing the line a mere .3 of seconds behind the winner, clocking in at 4 minutes and 18.30 seconds. Barrett was right on his heels in third place overall, finishing in 4:20.07.

Will Foltz, another cross-country standout for the Warriors, took over the distance duties at St. Joe. The junior took second place in a loaded 3200-meter field finishing his eight laps in a personal best time of 9-minutes and 30-seconds. He collected more hardware with a fifth-place finish in the 1600-meters, taking fifth overall with a time of 4:33. Senior Greenville University commit, Ben Hornaday found his way to a sixth-place medal in a very fast open 100-meter race posting a personal best of 11.60. And backed it up with a seventh-place effort in the open 200 crossing the line in 23.71 seconds. First-year runner Alan Robello turned some heads in the 400 turning a personal best time of 53.82 seconds while taking fifth place overall.

Ladies shine at Sages invite

By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola's girl's track team continues its assault of central Illinois Invites this past Friday evening, April 28 in Monticello. The ladies in black and gold collected 3 gold, 5 silver and a bronze medal in the premier 17-team 1A/2A event that does not keep teascores.

Lia Patterson shined, finding her way to the podium in all four races she was entered into. She set a personal record in the 100-meter dash breaking the tape in 12.61 seconds and

then won the open 200-meter with a time of 25.63. The super sophomore followed it up with a pair of medals in the hurdle heats, taking first in the grueling 300-meter low hurdles finishing in 45.55-seconds and a second in the 100-meter highs despite a slip at the start clocking in at 15.37 seconds.

Freshman Kate Foltz secured some hardware in both distance races taking first in the 3200-meter, turning eight laps in a personal best 10-minutes and 54-seconds. She also

occupied the third place step on the podium following her 5:17 effort in the 1600-meter run.

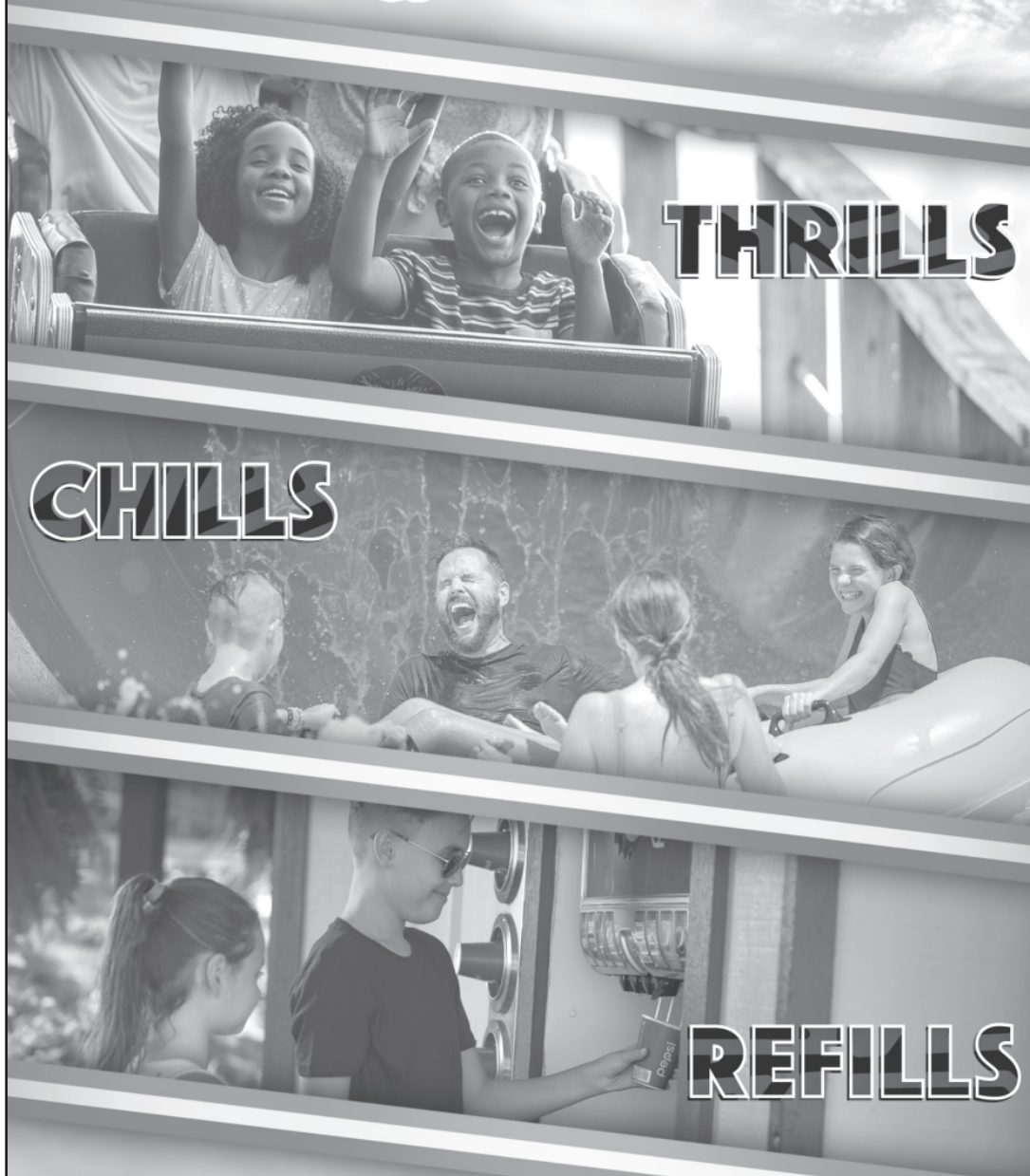
A pair of athletes got the ball rolling, securing the Warrior's first three medals in the field events. Natalie Hastings landed in second place in both throws tossing the shot put 33.5 feet and the discus 107.15 feet. Kenna Clodfelder continued her strong junior campaign with a second place effort in the triple jump with a leap of 32.15 feet.

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