

Community Sports



Southern swing revisited for Lady Warriors softball

By Lenny Sementi

This year's senior class has dealt with more than a few adversities during their four-year high school athletic career due to the pandemic. They missed out on their freshman year and the spring sports programs dealt with a shortened sophomore campaign. And then softball and baseball's spring trip south at the start of the season was canceled in both their junior and senior seasons due to weather. But this past weekend, the softball team made up for lost opportunities by making the trip south for the Benton Round Robin on Saturday. The ladies in black

and gold made the most of it, upending the 20-game winner and state-ranked Waltonville Sesser Valier 6-4 in a battle of tourney unbeaten to win it.

Waltonville beat state-ranked Goreville in their first game, while the Warriors ran past the host Rangerettes 15-4. Tuscola erased a 1-run deficit with a 4-run top of the second against Waltonville, then broke up a 4-4 tie with a pair of runs in the fifth to take a 6-4 lead and never looked back. Isabelle Wilcox worked the first 3 frames giving 4 runs on 5 hits and 2 walks. Bayleigh Taylor collected the win in relief, scat-

tering 5 hits and 2 walks out over the final 4 innings not allowing a run.

Addy Ring had a day at the plate with a 2 for 3 outing that included a bunt single, an RBI single, 2 runs scored and 2 stolen bases. She also had 2 big grabs in right field and throw out a would-be run in the fifth on a sac fly to end the threat. Alaina Smith came up big as well, scoring once and driving in 2 on a team-best 3 hits, while Ella Boyer was 2 for 2 in the game with an RBI and a run scored. Wilcox, Makenna Fiscus and Kayleigh Bales all added an RBI single to the box score.

The Warrior started the day with a 15-4 win over the hosts putting crooked numbers on the board in 4 frames, capping it off with a 6-run top of the seventh. Ava Boyer flexed her muscles driving two over a deep centerfield fence. The super soph scored 4-runs while pushing 4 across the plate. Wilcox had an RBI double going 4 for 5 in the game. Ella Boyer doubled as well, notching 4 RBIs in a 3 for 5 effort at the plate. Smith pounded out a pair of hits to go with 2-RBI's Bales, Thomson, Fiscus and Ring all add singles to the stat sheet. Wilcox took home the win in the

circle giving just 2 hits in 4 innings of work and Taylor threw the final 3 frames surrendering 3 hits and a pair of walks.

Two nights earlier, the Warriors wrapped up their Central Illinois Conference schedule with an 11-1 win over Central A&M. Wilcox once more secured the win on the bump, going the distance and allowing 1 run on 2 hits striking out 6. She provided some offense, also going 2 for 4 on the day with a home run and 4 RBIs. A. Boyer drove in 4 RBIs and scored 3 runs of her own in a two-hit outing that included a triple. Emily Czerwonka,

Smith, Fiscus and Thomson all donated a pair of hits to the cause, while Ring and Claire Meyer each singled.

They opened the week on Tuesday, May 2, with a lopsided 23-4 victory over St. Theresa. Tuscola crossed the dish 15 times in the first and didn't slow down, delivering 16 hits in the contest. Wilcox and Taylor each threw 2 innings in the run-rule shortened contest. The Boye sisters each hit a home run and were perfect on the night, going a combined 4 for 4 night at the plate, delivering 5 runs scored and 4 RBIs. Thomson didn't miss a beat either, with a 3 for 3 outing that was a homer away from the cycle.

Warriors baseball breaks through

By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola's baseball team broke through with a win in this past Thursday evening after battling through a rough stretch. The Warriors run-ruled Central A&M, avenging an early loss to the Raiders with an 11-1 five-inning victory behind a gem from starting pitcher JJ Reynolds. The junior collected the win by scattering 5 hits and 4 walks out over 5 innings of work, allowing just one 1-unearned to cross the dish.

Tuscola scored first, push-

ing 2 across in the second frame and then just kept adding on. Nate Thomson drove in the first 2 on a 3 for 4 night at the plate that included a double, a triple, 2 runs scored and 2 RBIs. Jacob Waugh added to the lead with a 2 RBI single in the third to increase the lead and the Warriors put it away with a 6-run fifth. Colton Musgrave, and Reynolds both singled in the game while Austin Cummings and Ty Thomason each scored twice.

Coach Caleb Englehardt's

group took it on the chin the two previous nights, falling to a good St. Theresa squad 13-3 on Tuesday and a very good Monticello team 22-1 on Wednesday. Caden Russo took the loss against St. T, while Isaac Halverson took it against the Sages. Musgrave delivered 4 hits in the two-game swing adding a double, 3 RBIs and 2 runs scored to his season stat sheet. Lyons and Austin Cummings recorded hits in both contests, while Reynolds and Halverson each had hits against Monticello.

Conference accolades for ladies

By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola's girls track team secured 7 first-place medals in what will be the final full Central Illinois Conference track meet with Sullivan and St Theresa exiting the league following the school year. The Lady Warriors battled their way to a third-place finish as a team behind big nights by Lia Patterson, Kate Foltz, Natalie Hastings and Kenna Clodfelder.

Patterson secured spots on the top of the podium in 3-events winning the 200-meter dash with a personal best 25.06 seconds, and both hurdle events breaking the tape in the 100-meter highs in 15.11 and the 300-lows in a season-

best 45.36. The second-year runner came up less than a half-second short 100-meter dash finishing second with a personal best time of 12.42. Chloe Bowden scored in the 100 as well, taking fourth overall setting a personal record finishing in 13.36.

Kate Foltz did her damage in the 800 and 3200-meter runs. The freshman won both, turning two laps in 2:24 and laps in 11-minutes and 10-seconds. She added to her medal haul, joining Rylie Vanausdoll, Mia Hausmann and Clodfelder for a second-place effort in the 4x400-meter relay. Clodfelder, Hausmann and Vanausdoll then lined up with Bowden for a pair of bronze medals in the

4x100 and the 4x200 relays. Coach Drew Sterkel's squad added fifth-place points to the mix in the 4x800 utilizing Lauren Woods, Olivia Coll, Braidy Stahler and Ann Brazzell.

Natalie Hastings led the way in the field events winning the discus with a toss of 113.94 meters while taking third in the shot PR'ing with a throw of 36.06 feet. Olivia Wallace added to the point total with a fourth-place finish in the discus. Clodfelder was third in the triple jump, while Vanausdoll and Belle Notaro was fourth in the long jump and Pole Vault, respectively.

Boyd's gaining momentum

By Lenny Sementi

Like many times before, head boys track coach Ryan Hornaday dialed up a few relays and looked to his throwers to score points at the 10-team Sullivan Invitational. Bryce Graves, Josiah Hortin, Will Foltz and Ben Hornaday traded the baton and collected gold medals and first-place points in the 4x400-meter relay helping the team to third place finish in the mid week meet, breaking the tape in 3-minutes and 39-seconds. Graves, Foltz, and Hortin then joined up with Jackson Barrett

for yet another top-of-the-podium performance in the 4x800 relay crossing the line in 9:08.

Chris Boyd led the Warriors in the throwing events collecting 18 points and placing in both the shot put and discus. The senior is hitting his stride at the right time, winning the shot with a toss of 56.17 feet before launching the disc a personal best 174.74 feet, taking second behind a monster throw by Arcola's Mitchell Meyer. Sophomore Sawyer Woodard tacked on 6-points with a third-place finish in

the discus setting a personal record of 147.51-feet. Junior Aiden Weaver PR'd in the shot, taking fifth place denting the sand at 43.67 feet.

Barrett led the way in the open runs winning the 800 with a personal best time of 2:07. Tavi Neamtu posted a PR as well, finishing the 2-laps in 2:28 to take sixth overall. Mason Veach led the distance crew with a second-place effort in the 3200 delivering a 12:21, while Alan Robello rounded out the team scoring with fifth place in the 200 meter.

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Baseball	Softball
Wed., 5/10 vs Salt Fork 4:30 p.m.	Thur 5/11. vs Cumberland 4:30 p.m.
Thur., 5/11 vs Arcola 4:30 p.m.	Fri.5/12 @ Georgetown 4:30 p.m.
Mon., 5/15 IHSA Regionals Begin	Sat. 5/13 vs Salt Fork 10 a.m.
Sat., 5/20 IHSA Regional Championship	5/15 IHSA Regionals
Wed., 5/24 IHSA Sectionals	5/20 Regional Championship
Sat., 5/27 Sectional Championship	5/23 IHSA Sectionals @ Home vs TBA
Mon., 5/29 IHSA Super-sectional	5/26 Sectional Championship @ Home vs TBA
Fri., 6/2 IHSA State @ Peoria	5/29 IHSA Super-Sectional
	6/2 IHSA State @ East Peoria