

Warriors football team stumbles in opener

By Lenny Sementi

In what was not your normal opening week Tuscola's football team led at the end of each of the first three quarters against a good Peru St. Bede squad but couldn't hang on falling 34-25 in a game that took 4-hours to complete. The Warriors practiced late all week thanks to Mother Nature's head dome and then were halted after the half for an hour thanks to her lightning show in Bloomington in a game played on a neutral field at Illinois Wesleyan University.

St. Bede struck first on a 3-yard run by QB Max Brey to take a 6-0 lead early. The senior transferred in this summer after starting for Aurora

Christian the last three seasons. Tuscola followed that up with a score of their own as Austin Cummings plunged in from 5-yards out capping an 8-play drive knotting it at 6's. The multi purpose offensive threat gained 19-yards on 5 carries and grabbed 4 balls out of the air for 46-yards. He went in again late in the 1st quarter on a 76-yard punt return putting the Warriors on top 12-6 while accounting for 142-total yards.

Brey answered back early in the 2nd pushing it back to even as both squads failed to convert point after attempts thru the midpoint of the 2nd frame. Tuscola's signal caller Jordan Quinn reached the end zone



for the first time in 2023 on a 20-yards scoring jaunt and this time Keller Beachy split the up rights putting the Warriors up 19-12 which is where it would stay until the break. Quinn eclipsed 65-yards on 13-carries and connected on 13 of 21 for 172-yards in the game.

After a series from both squads St Bede jumped in front for the first time with a score and a 2-point conversion moving in front by one 20-19 with just over 3-minutes left in the 3rd quarter. Tuscola Coach Andy Romine's team moved right back in front on their next possession thanks to a 9-yard scamper by Parker James. James took it around the left side and turned it up field giving the black and gold a 25-20 advantage. Bede however put two in the promise in the final 8-minutes of action to secure the non-conference affair.

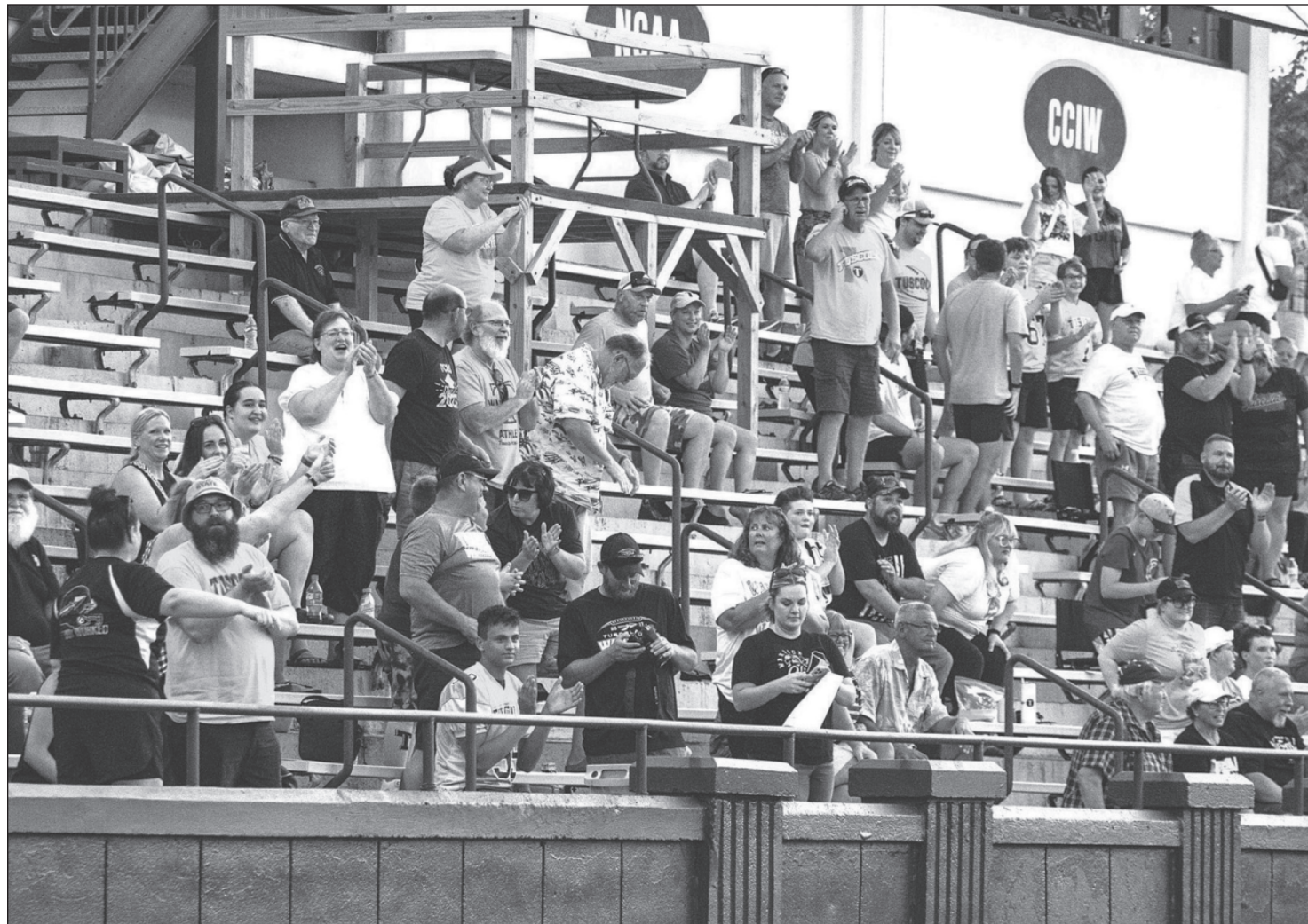
Tuscola gained 112-yards on the ground on 24-tries, scoring 3 times. Nate Thoma-

son garnered 15-yards on 4-carries. James was top in the receiving department grabbing 5 balls for 74-yards while Zach Rennels caught a pair of Quinn passes for 46-yards.

Cain was tops on the tackle chart donating 14-tackles, including 8-solos and 2 for loss from his linebacker position. Thomason was next up with 7-stops, followed by Caden Russo and Tavi Neamtu who both secured 5-tackles. Nate Hudson and Dylan

Graves were right behind them on the stat sheet securing 4-tackles apiece.

"We were not great up front on defense and that will be fixed," stated Romine. "We also had too many penalties on offense stalling drives and that will be fixed. All in all did some things well and did some things no so well but we will learn from the film and get better. Overall we will stress a more physical mind set moving forward."



TUSCOLA WARRIORS FANS cheer for their time during a hard-fought game against St. Bede at the Illinois Wesleyan University football field on Aug. 25. Photo by Dominik Stallings.

St. Bede	6	6	8	14	- 34
Tuscola	12	7	6	0	- 25

- St.B-Max Bray 3 yd. run (run failed)
- T-Austin Cummings 5 yd. run (kick failed)
- T-Cummings 76 yd. punt return (kick failed)
- St.B-Bray 2 yd. run (run failed)
- T-Jordan Quinn 20 yd. run (Keller Beacht kick)
- St.B.- Jose DeLaTorre 10 yd. run (run good)
- T-Parker James 9 yd. run (run failed)
- St.B-Alex Ankiewicz 12 yd. pass from Bray (run failed)
- St.Bede-Bray 22 yd. run (run good)

	St. B.	T
First Downs	29	13
Penalties	8-58	9-70
Fumble-Lost	1-1	0-0
Had Intercepted	1	1
Rushing	38-290	24-112
Ave. per carry	7.6	4.7
Passing	16-22-1=168	13-21-1=172
Total Yards	458	284

Tuscola Individual Rushing

	No.-Yds.-Ave.
Jordan Quinn	13-65 - 5.0
Austin Cummings	5-19 - 3.8
Nate Thomason	4-15 - 3.8
Dylan Graves	1-4 - 4.0
Parker James	<u>1-9 - 9.0</u>
	24-112 - 4.7

Tuscola Individual Passing

	Comp.-Att.-Int.-Yds.
Jordan Quinn	13-21-1 - 172

Tuscola Individual Receiving

	No.-Yds.-Ave.
Parker James	5-74 - 14.8
Austin Cummings	4-46 - 11.5
Zach Eennels	2-46 - 23.0
Dylan Graves	<u>2-6 - 3.0</u>
	13-172 - 13.2

Tuscola Tackles

	S-A	Total
Brady Cain	8-6	14
Nate Thomason	6-1	7
Austin Cumming	5-1	6
Tavi Neamtu	4-1	5
Caiden Russo	1-4	5
Dylan Graves	4-0	4
JJ Reynolds	2-1	3
Sam Spencer	1-2	3
Nate Hudson	0-3	3
Jordan Quinn	2-0	2
Aiden Weaver	2-0	2
Kaedan Chenoweth	2-0	2
Parker James	2-0	2
Andrew Spillman	1-1	2
Lucas Gonzales	1-0	1
Jackson Burlew	1-0	1
Cooper Lyons	0-1	1

Lady Warriors take the court

By Lenny Sementi

Tuscola's volleyball team and new head coach Emily Griswell kicked off the season with a busy week playing three matches in four days. The Warriors opened the season on the road versus Cerro Gordo on Monday the 21st, then one night later squared off with perennial power Tri-County for their home opener in newly air conditioned historic TCHS gymnasium before closing the week with a second home match against ALAH on Thursday.

Senior Zoey Thomason led the way at the net in all three skirmishes totaling double digit kills for the week. The outside hitter delivered 5-kills in a three set loss to Cerro Gordo. Tuscola won the first game of the year behind kills from Thomason, who accounted for 7-points in the match and Sydney Moss. Emily Czerwonka delivered the ball to the front row tallying a team high 8-assists. The senior also found her way to 6-saves and 2-aces. Ayla Deleva was strong in the back row diving her way to 5-digs while Carly Ochs and Addi-

Thomason led the way up front posting 6-kills to her stat sheet. Ava Rauguth was responsible for 4-assists and 5-digs while Pettry and Deleva both recorded double-digit it saves with 13 and 10-digs respectively. Thomason was a bright spot at the net again in a tough 22-25, 16-25 loss to

Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond Knights delivering 5-kills, including a pair late in game one that pulled the Warriors to within one of the lead 22-21. Czerwonka fed the front row to the tune of 11-assists and patrolled the back row as well delivering 5-digs. Ochs led the defense with 6-digs while Deleva donated 5. Catie Gibson and Natalie Hasting joined in the clash on offense and Brady Stahler added to the back row with 3-service points, including an ace and 2-digs,

Kate Foltz is building bridges

By Lenny Sementi

Freshman phenom and now super soph Kate Foltz knows she's part of rather young squad and needs to be a leader despite boasting just one year of experience. Coach Drew Sterkel's team travelled south to Paris this past Saturday for the Don Acklin Invite and he called on Foltz to show them the ropes in the 18-team event asking her to tempo

run with promising freshman Bella Dueker to show her the ropes in her first high school outing. Deuker finished 12th overall, circling the 3-mile course in a personal best 22-minutes and 15-seconds and Foltz who paced her was right on her shoulder crossing the line in 22:15.08 in 13th place. Sterkel's squad finished 8th despite the tempo run by Foltz

who ran an 18:01 last season and would have challenged for the top spot. "For a first meet it was a great start to the season overall," stated the coach. "Our team is fairly new to Cross Country but they all exceeded expectations. We now have a baseline and will use that to continue our growth." Bailey Ritter was next up finishing in the top half of the nearly 100-runners delivering

a personal best 26:15. Hanna Carson and Celeste Rebello were the 4th and 5th scorers for coach Sterkel while Anne Brazzell served as the alternate. "It was a tough week with heat forcing different times for practices, but the girls adapted to the changes and showed up when it was safe," Sterkel said. "Their commitment has been outstanding."

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