



# The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

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## Bobcats End Season As State Runners-Up

The Arnold Cardinals and the Callaway Bears were once rival teams, but combined as the South Loup Bobcats, made history on Monday, as they faced East Butler at Lincoln’s Memorial Stadium in the Class D-1 State Championship finals. SL’s trip to state came after beating Medicine Valley in the semi-finals, 34-14, the Monday before at Callaway.

The game between the Bobcats (12-0) and East Butler (10-2) kicked off at 10:15 a.m., with a large crowd of SL fans traveling to Lincoln to cheer them on. The few who were left behind watched the game live on PBS or listened to the action on the radio. SL ended up losing the game by a score of 36-14. At the end of the game, each team member lined up to receive their runner-up medal from Coach Andy Schwarz and were awarded the Class D-1 State Runner-Up Trophy.

Coach Schwarz described East Butler as a team that is very similar to South Loup.

“They throw the ball extremely well and use multiple formations on offense. Their defense is aggressive and physical. They are a very good team,” he said.

Schwarz, an Arnold alum who has coached at Arnold for 22 years - eight of those with the Bobcats - said he is fairly cer-

tain that neither Arnold nor Callaway has made it to the state finals before, so this was a first for both towns.

Schwarz said preparing mentally was the most difficult part of making it to the state finals.

In the days leading up to the trip to Lincoln, he said, “We are so excited to be in the finals game, it is easy to get caught up in everything going on around us and not prepare for the game. As coaches, we are treating practice like any other game while not losing track of enjoying every minute. Every other week has been win or you’re done, and this week is we are done no matter what.”

The team - consisting of 36 players, five coaches, seven student managers, three statisticians and two trainers - were escorted out of town by the local fire & rescue departments on Sunday, with fans lining the road in their vehicles. The team practiced on the way to Lincoln.

“It was quite the production,” said Schwarz. “NSAA rules don’t allow for practice time on Memorial Field, so Monday was the first time the Bobcats were on the actual field.”

The team took to the field for warm-ups, but went out a little early just to look around and soak it all in.

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A large crowd of South Loup fans traveled to Lincoln to cheer on the Bobcats as they took on East Butler in the D-1 championship game at Lincoln’s Memorial Stadium on Monday morning. (Ronda McFate photo)

## Auction Raises Over \$50,000 For Community Foundation Fund



Past and present Arnold EMTs were presented the ACFF organization of the year award, Saturday night at the annual banquet and auction. Pictured, from left, are: Randi Atkins, Robbi Smith, Nancy Cool, Shelley Smith, Tammy Weinman, Andrew Tickle and Diana Coleman. (Courtesy photos)

## Half Earmarked For Cemetery Restoration

Saturday night’s Arnold Community Foundation fundraiser was a big success, with over \$53,828.00 raised, before expenses. This year, half of the money will go to the Arnold Cemetery Restoration Project, and the other half will go to the community’s savings account to benefit many projects in Arnold.

ACFF committee member Carolyn Bowers said that 190 people enjoyed the meal. Fifty-four live and 49 silent auction items were donated by businesses and individuals, and cash donations were also received.

Each year, the foundation gives an award to an organization or business entity and an individual that has demonstrated commitment and pride to the Arnold area.

Josh Flint presented the awards, taking a moment to explain the process of the selections the committee goes through in order to make the selection.

“As everyone is well aware, our community is surrounded by truly amazing people that dedicate not only hours to our tiny Sandhills town, but their entire lives,” Snyder said. “From community clean-ups, to school fundraisers, our community thrives in economic hardship while others slip away. This can be directly related to the people and local business owners sitting in this room. It is truly an honor to me to be able to present these awards this year to an outstanding organization, as well as an outstanding person.”

Snyder then presented the 2017 business entity or organization of the year award to the Arnold EMT department, saying, “This organization serves the surrounding area. To be a

little more precise, it covers around 450 square miles with a population of over 1,400 square miles. The members of this said organization come from a variety of backgrounds to include farmers, ranchers, business owners, moms, dads and teachers, among others. They may be your next-door neighbor or good family friends. They are selfless and giving people who at the drop of a hat, stop what they are doing and come to those in need. They volunteer countless training hours to the community, as well as help assist with numerous events throughout the year. They can also be found training community members throughout the year in order to develop a better understanding about their side profession to help others in need. They have been recognized in 2008 by a national magazine in which they received the coveted Gold Award. They currently have 10 certified members who are

fully trained and ready to assist anyone in need. They typically respond to 50-plus incidents a year.”

Snyder then presented the individual of the year award to Joan Smith. First, he took a moment to tell of some of the amazing work she has done for the community and people within the community.

“If there is something that needs done, or someone in need in the community, you can always count on her to be there,” he said. “She is known for her green thumb, and for several years she has shared that gift by helping care for the community flower barrels.

“She has been honored by the Arnold Rotary with the Paul Harris Award for her contributions to the community. She enjoys fixing meals and has headed up cooking events for the church, the American Legion Auxiliary chicken noodle dinner, the senior tea, and has been involved with helping prepare the Arnold Alumni meal for the past few years.

“She has also made gallons of homemade ice cream for the After Prom. If a family is in

need, she is one of several caring women in the community who offers to take them a meal or help out in any way she can.

“She also enjoys mowing, and has been spotted voluntarily mowing at the Arnold Cemetery, as well as at the Arnold Golf Course - no matter what the outdoor temperature.

“She is also excellent at trapping, and keeps her eye out for gopher and mole trails in neighbor’s yards or on her way around the community. When she spots a trail, she is quick to set a trap and keeps monitoring it until she gets the catch. In her neighbor’s eyes, her trap should some day be bronzed.

“From time to time, she has been known to give ideas for weed pulling and even lawn care - pro bono - to Jesse Halstead.

“She is well known for making a pie or two, and I believe we have a couple of those here tonight. The pies are so well known, in fact, that we had to bring in a celebrity auctioneer whose talents are known far and wide to fetch astronomical prices.”

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Josh Flint presented Joan Smith the ACFF individual of the year award.