

Classified/B7-8

SPORTS

Wednesday,
May 24, 2023

Union Local's Sechrest wins OVAC Coach of the Year

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING — Kaye Sechrest couldn't believe what she was hearing as she stood in front of the audience at the OVAC's 38th annual Banquet of Champions held Tuesday evening inside WesBanco Arena.

The extremely humble and unassuming Union Local volleyball coach was thinking it was a mistake.

The announcement that Sechrest was the recipient of the 2023 OVAC Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year was, in fact, accurate.

After guiding her Jets squad to the Division II state tournament, an OVAC Class 3A title and a

26-2 record, Sechrest put the finishing touches on the story-book campaign with the top individual coaching award the OVAC gives.

"I am overwhelmed," Sechrest, fighting back emotion, said. "I am really, truly overwhelmed. I never in all my time (of coaching) thought I'd ever receive an award like this. It's just very, very special."

Sechrest was one of five up for the award. The other finalists were B.J. Depew (Linsly football), Holly Pettit (Cameron girls basketball), Jayson Stephen (Barnesville wrestling) and David Tallman (Morgantown girls basketball).

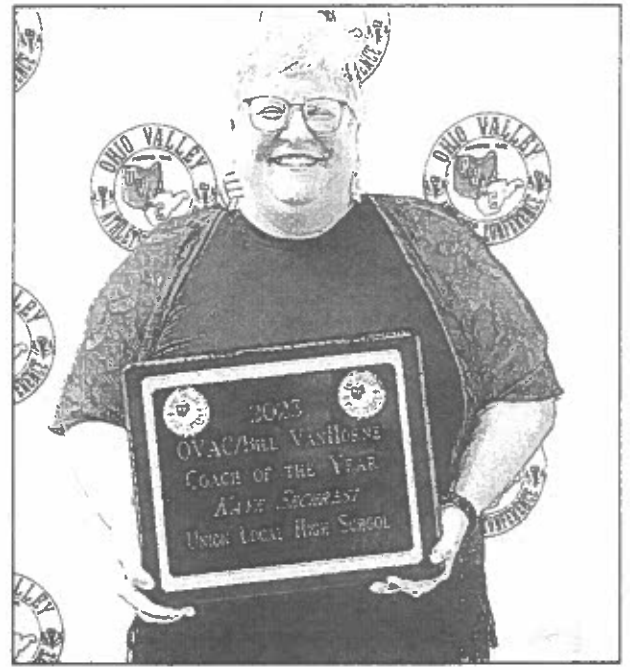
Sechrest was originally surprised when she received the phone call from OVAC Executive Director

Dirk DeCoy to inform her that she had been chosen as a finalist.

However, the call allowed her to think back to those early November days when her team fell in the Division II state semifinals to eventual state champion Chardon Notre Dame Cathedral Latin in three games. Actually, she thought back to much more than just that final game.

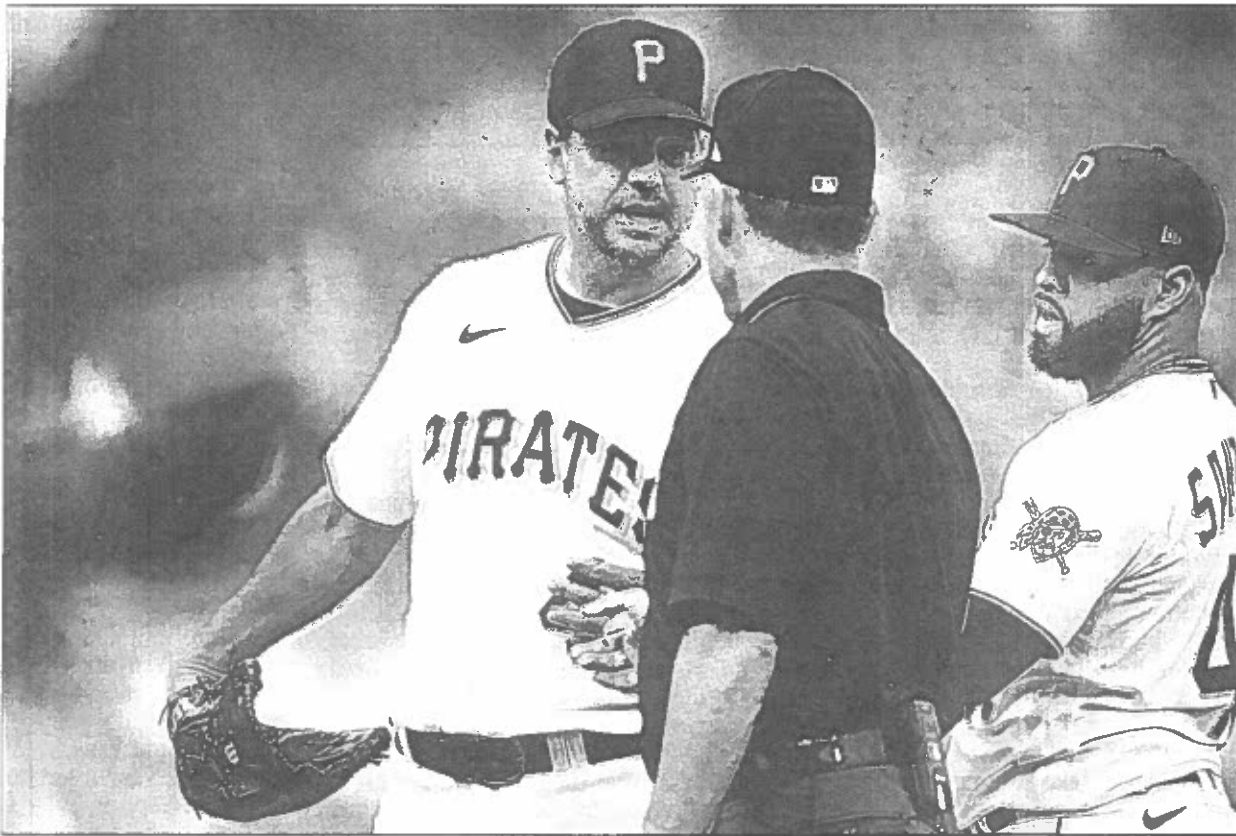
It was the entire journey of a season that made Belmont County history. The Jets were the first school to advance to the state tournament from the county. They won the first district and regional volleyball titles in UL history and after coming up short in a couple of OVAC title

See, **SECHREST**, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

UNION LOCAL volleyball coach Kaye Sechrest was named the 2023 OVAC Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year at Tuesday's OVAC Banquet of Champions.



AP PHOTO

PITTSBURGH PIRATES starting pitcher Rich Hill, left, is separated from umpire Dan Iassogna by Carlos Santana, right, as he argues after being called for a balk during the first inning of the team's baseball game against the Texas Rangers in Pittsburgh, Tuesday.

Eovaldi's 2nd complete game in 5 starts leads Rangers over Pirates

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Nathan Eovaldi pitched a complete game for the second time in five starts after throwing just two in the first 226 of his major league career, leading the Texas Rangers over the Pittsburgh Pirates 6-1 on Tuesday night.

Eovaldi (6-2) allowed six hits, struck out five and walked one, his fifth straight start of at least seven innings. The 33-year-old right-hander, a 12-year big league veteran, pitched a three-hit shutout in a 2-0 win over the Yankees on April 29.

"Right now, I feel like I'm really locked in," Eovaldi said. "We're staying on top of the mechanics

and just the little things, making sure we're doing the work. ... A lot of things have to go into a complete game. We were able to score runs early, we had the lead. Any time we have the lead, it's my job to prevent them from scoring."

Eovaldi threw 71 of 104 for strikes after tossing 113 game against the Yankees.

"The key is just how efficient he's pitching," Rangers manager Bruce Bochy said. "He didn't really have a stressful inning. Gave up the one run, but besides that, it's pretty easy work for him."

Texas has won four of five, losing Monday's series opener 6-4. Pittsburgh has split its last eight

games after losing 11 of 12 and has not won a series since taking two of three at Washington on April 29 and 30.

Rich Hill (4-4) gave up five runs and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings with a season-high nine strikeouts.

"I think if you want to look at it as a good outing, fair outing or whatever, in my mind, that's not a championship mindset," Hill said. "You've got to hold yourself to a higher standard and you've got to be able to execute pitches throughout the entire game."

Josh Jung hit his 11th home run of his first full season in the majors to give the Rangers a five-run lead

See, **PIRATES**, Page B2

White Sox rally to top Guardians

CLEVELAND (AP) — Dylan Cease feels like he's finally finding his groove. The Chicago White Sox just might be, as well.

Romy Gonzalez's two-run double broke a seventh-inning tie to help Cease get his first win since April 10 as the White Sox, who opened the season so miserably, rallied for a 4-2 win over the Cleveland Guardians on Tuesday night.

Gonzalez snapped a 2-2 tie with his first double this season, a hard shot off rookie Logan Allen (1-2), who was probably left in the game one batter too many by manager Terry Francona.

"Definitely a big moment," said Gonzalez, who hit a two-run triple in Sunday's win over Kansas City. "He was doing a great job up until that point, pounding us all in. I just put a good swing on a good pitch. Definitely a huge moment."

Yasmani Grandal homered for the White Sox, who started 7-21 but have won six of eight to stay within striking distance in the wide open and winnable AL Central.

Chicago's win was tainted with some concern as center fielder Luis Robert Jr. left in the eighth inning with soreness in his right hip/quadriceps area and is day to day. He leads the White Sox with 13 homers.

The 25-year-old Robert missed three months in 2021 with a strained right hip flexor.

"He has some soreness in his quad. But he's good," said manager Pedro Grifol, who will likely sit Robert for Wednesday's series finale.

Cease (3-3) had gone eight starts since his last win at Minnesota last month. The right-hander allowed five hits in six innings, Keynan Middleton and Joe Kelly pitched an inning apiece and Kendall Graveman worked the ninth for his fourth save.

"Definitely the best I've felt in quite a while and I feel like I'm getting really close to synching everything up," said Cease.

Rookie Will Brennan hit a solo homer for the Guardians, who have scored four runs or fewer in seven of eight games.

"There's not a lot of wiggle room," Francona said. Josh Naylor's RBI double in the sixth gave Cleveland a 2-1 lead, but the White Sox countered with three runs in the seventh.

Allen gave up a leadoff single to Andrew Vaughn and Andrew Benintendi doubled. Grandal followed with a chopper that star third baseman Jose Ramirez misplayed for an error that allowed Vaughn to score.

Clint Frazier battled Allen for a walk to load the bases, and although Francona had reliever Enyel De Los Santos warming up in the bullpen and ready, he stuck with his left-hander and Gonzalez made him

See, **GUARDIANS**, Page B2

Lakers hoping LeBron decides to keep playing after playoff elimination

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers hope LeBron James will decide to continue his career af-

General manager Rob Pelinka and coach Darvin Ham said they'll speak with James soon about his future.



LOS ANGELES

Area Sports Briefs

Brilliant American Legion Baseball Holding Tryouts

The Brilliant American Legion Post 573 baseball team will be holding tryouts at Buckeye Local High School's Mazeroski Field on Wednesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. Eligible players must be 19 or younger during this calendar year. For more information, please contact Mickey Nest at 740-317-7109.

Wheeling Central Athletic Physicals Offered

Physical examinations will be offered for all Wheeling Central student-athletes for the 2023-24 school year on Tuesday, June 6 at Wheeling Hospital's Tower 3. The cost is \$10. Juniors and seniors physicals will be given at 5:30 p.m., while freshmen and sophomores will be given at 6 p.m. A reminder that all athletes must have an up-to-date physical on file before he or she will be able to practice and/or play.

Bellaire Basketball Camp Slated

The Bellaire Basketball Camp will be held on Monday, June 5 through Thursday, June 8 from 9 a.m. until noon daily at the Bellaire High School Gymnasium.

The program is open to both boys and girls entering grades K-8 and open to all school districts. Camp directors are J.R. Battista and John Farrier.

Special emphasis will be given to the fundamentals: Body balance and pivoting, starting and stopping, ball handling and dribbling, passing and catching, screening and cutting, boxing out and shooting.

Lectures will be delivered on drug and alcohol prevention, teamwork, attitude, scholastic achievement, goal setting, success and more.

Fun activities like dribble tag, lay-up competitions, full court basketball games, etc. will also be included.

Each participant will receive a Bellaire Basketball t-shirt. Smaller basketballs and lower hoops will be available for younger campers.

Cost of the camp is \$30 pre-registered and \$40 at the door.

For more information or an application, call J.R. Battista at Bellaire High School at (740) 676-3652 ext. 201.

St. C. Boys Basketball Camp Slated for May 30

The St. Clairsville Basketball Staff will be holding the 31st annual basketball camp for boys in grades 3-9 (2023-24-school year). The camp will be held Tuesday, May 30 through Friday, June 2 from 9-11:30 a.m. The cost is \$50 per player or \$40 per sibling. The camp will consist of individual instruction of the fundamentals as well as camp games and a tournament. Contest will be held and awards will be presented. Each camper will receive a T-Shirt. Applications may be obtained at the elementary, middle, or high school Offices. For further information, please contact Coach Ryan Clifford @ (740) 310-3407, or Kim Clifford @ kim.clifford@stcschools.com

Sons of Italy Golf Scramble Slated

The 24th annual Sons of Italy Bellaire Lodge #754 will be held on Monday, June 12 at Belmont Hills Country Club.

The event will feature a 1 p.m. shotgun start and the entry fee is \$300 per team of four players. The cost includes green fees, cart, refreshments on the course and dinner after the round. The top three teams will receive prizes. The tournament is limited to the first 18 teams and the proceeds benefit scholarships and Cooley's Anemia. For more information, please contact the Sons of Italy at 740-676-3178.

Bellaire TD Club Golf Scramble Set

The Bellaire Touchdown Club will be sponsoring its annual golf scramble on June 24 at the Fairway River Links. The entry fee is \$65 per person or \$260 per team. The cost includes cart, lunch, beverages and a dinner after the outing. Entry forms can be picked up at the following locations: Bellaire Party Center on Union St., Gulla's, Around the World Gourmet in West Bellaire. For more information, contact Jim at 740-676-7937 or Norm at 740-699-0313.

UL Seeking Golf Coach

Union Local is currently accepting applications for the position of head golf coach. Anyone interested should send resume and cover letter to Union Local Director of Athletics Nick Nardo via email at nnardo@ulschools.com

could play again this season," Pelinka said. "For him to end the season playing virtually 48 minutes and posting a virtual 40-point triple-double as a player in the 20th year of his NBA career is

starting point." Los Angeles was one of the NBA's best teams after its moves at the trade deadline, going 18-8 to end the regular season even without James.

of the first half and were up by nine again when Max Strus connected on a 3-pointer early in the third quarter.

That was the moment where Boston's season was at stake.

And the Celtics responded — most emphatically.

The 18-0 run took Boston from down nine to up nine, a huge turnaround that took 3 minutes, 3 seconds. The Celtics were 6 of 7 from the floor during the run, 4 of 4 from 3-point range. Tatum had nine of the 18 points and just like that the defending East champions — who won three playoff games on Miami's home floor in last year's playoffs — were rolling again.

Pirates

Continued from Page B1

in the eighth, crushing a curveball from Duane Underwood Jr. 444 feet to left. The 25-year-old hit five home runs in 26 games last year after debuting on Sept. 9.

"Love the way he comes down here every day and just works to get better, gives you good at bats," Bochy said. "I really thought this kid would have a nice year. I know it's early, but I still feel that way, trust me."

Two Texas runs came in on balks, one from Hill for the second of two runs in the first and another by Josu Hernandez that capped a three-run sixth.

Pittsburgh's Ji Hwan Bae was picked off first in the third inning, then overran second and was tagged out on Andrew McCutchen's eighth-inning single. The Pirates committed three errors and had five wild pitches in their previous loss, an 8-3 rout to Arizona on Sunday.

"The tolerance is we have to be better in those moments," Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton said. "We're still going to continue to teach because we have a bunch of young players and they're going to make mistakes."

Bryan Reynolds drove in the Pirates' run with a third-inning double.

Rangers: C Mitch Garver (left knee sprain) and OF Travis Jankowski (right hamstring strain) joined Triple-A Round Rock for rehab assignments. Garver, who has been out since April 8, is expected to DH the first two games before catching the third. Jankowski has not played since experiencing hamstring tightness against the Angels on May 7.

Pirates: 1B Ji Man Choi fielded groundballs from his knees before the game. He is on the 60-day injured list with a left Achilles sprain sustained April 13.

UP NEXT LHP Martin Perez (5-1, 4.01) will take the mound for the Rangers in the series finale Wednesday afternoon, opposite Pirates RHP Johan Oviedo (3-3, 4.69).

Guardians

Continued from Page B1

pay with his double to left. "I wanted Logan to get through the bottom of the order," said Francona, explaining he liked Allen matching up against Gonzalez rather than likely pinch-hitter Gavin Sheets. "It didn't work."

Allen, who retired his first 11 hitters in order, got two strikes on Grandal in the fifth before Chicago's catcher connected for a 414-foot homer. Grandal is batting .353 (18 of 51) in his last 15 games.

Brennan, who accidentally killed a bird with a batted ball in Monday's game, put the Guardians up 1-0 in the third with his second homer.

As he rounded second base and looked toward Cleveland's dugout, Brennan locked his thumbs in front of his chest and wiggled his fingers as if imitating a bird's wings.

"Ya know, you've gotta pay tribute to a fallen hero like that," joked Brennan. "That was a little spur of the moment thing."

SWINGS AND MISSES

Chicago's Jake Burger struck out five times, four swinging and looking in the ninth.

FEATHERED FRIEND

The unfortunate meeting of baseball and bird remained a topic of conversation.

Sechrest

Continued from Page B1

matches outlasted Shenandoah in five sets to win the title.

"It takes more than me, obviously (to have a season like we did)," Sechrest said. "It's a nice little topping on the cake for a great season. All of the girls deserve to be recognized for this. I just put them in the position. They played the games and did the work. It was a great group of kids that will always be remembered by me and many others for that 2022 season."

In a night where the OVAC offered special recognition to females in sports as the 50th anniversary of Title IX was recognized this school year, Sechrest becomes just the fourth female to win the award and first since 2005 when Shadyside softball coach Jillian Ongley was the winner.

"It's great to know

that women are finally getting recognized, and I don't mean just me," Sechrest admitted. "All of these young ladies who were honored (Tuesday) with the scholarships and such, we didn't have this type of stuff when I was younger. These girls now have something to look forward to and can really advance their careers at a professional level, which is great. I am all for girl power."

Sechrest began her coaching career at Bellaire and has been at Union Local for the past six seasons and the Jets have become one of the area's most consistent programs.

"If it wasn't for (assistant coaches) Julie (Kildow) and Karen (Gress) or the people who have helped make me as a coach like (the late) Monte Miller, Gene Ammirante, Scooter Tolzda, I am not anywhere close to this (award)," Sechrest said.

Sechrest was aware of the award's existence prior to receiving DeCoy's phone call, but she was more in tune with the writing of Van Horne, the

man for whom the award is named. He put forth an OVAC Hall of Fame sports writing career for the Wheeling News-Register and The Times Leader.

"I knew who Bill Van Horne was from reading his articles when I was younger," Sechrest admitted. "I knew some other coaches who had won it and I always thought, 'that's great that these coaches win that award.'"

Along with the coach of the year award, Madonna (1A), Shadyside (2A), Linsly (3A), St. Clairsville (4A) and Wheeling Park (5A) received their Student-Athlete Achievement Awards.

Meanwhile, Conotton Valley (1A), Shadyside (2A), Linsly (3A), St. Clairsville (4A) and Morgantown (5A) received the overall championship banners.

Long-time tennis director George Frazier received the OVAC Over-Time Award.

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WVU To Rely On Redshirt Frosh In Big 12 Opener

By BOB HERTZEL
WV News

MORGANTOWN — Echoes of the early onslaught the Texas Longhorns heaped upon West Virginia's starting pitching in the final three games of the regular season have reverberated through the chambers of the third-seeded Mountaineers' baseball facility, leading Manager Randy Mazey to put his own neck in a guillotine with a daring, surprising choice for his starting pitcher in Game 1 of the Big 12 Tournament.

Mazey has reached out to a redshirt freshman who has never started a collegiate game to face sixth-seeded Texas Tech, the top offensive team in the Big 12.

in an effort to see that his team does not fall behind as quickly and deeply as it did at Texas.

Game time is approximately 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday night on ESPN+.

"We're gonna start David Hagaman on Wednesday," Mazey said, a pronouncement that was greeted with much surprise.

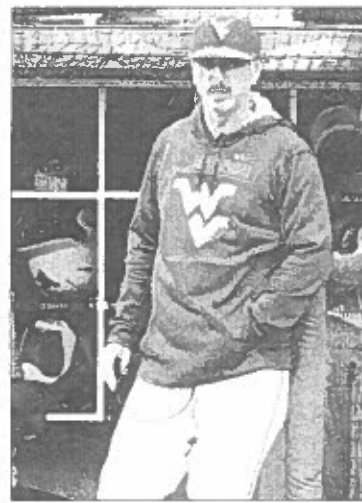
Against Texas in a series where WVU could have clinched the No. 1 seed in the tournament and a spot as a host of an NCAA regional, Carlson Reed, Ben Hampton and Blaine Traxel were scuffed around in the first two innings of each game as Texas scored 18 early runs against WVU as it swept the series.

Rather than using his normal starting pitchers on short rest — although none had pitched very long in the Texas series — Mazey is gambling on a 6-4, 190-pound right-hander out of Egg Harbor, New Jersey.

Hagaman has been spectacular in middle relief, working 20 games with a 2.30 ERA in 31.1 innings of work. He has allowed only 16 hits and eight earned runs — five of them against Oklahoma State coming in one outing.

That means he allowed only three earned runs in his other 19 appearances and lately has been unhittable.

(Please see WVU, Page 14)



RANDY MAZEY



Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Central starting pitcher Seth Cover, left, congratulates reliever Max Criniti after Criniti closed out Tyler Consolidated in Championship Game 2 of the W.Va. Class A Region 1 baseball tournament. Game 3 is today in Middlebourne.

Wheeling Central Rallies Again To Force A Game 3 Maroon Knights, Silver Knights Face Off Today With State Berth On Line

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Wheeling Central's mascot is a Maroon Knight. The East Wheeling-based school might want to look into changing that nickname to Cardiac Kids.

Facing elimination for the sixth time in the postseason, the youthful Maroon Knights (17-14) scored four times — the final pair with two outs — in the bottom of the sixth Tuesday to stun visiting Tyler Consolidated (30-6) on the sun-soaked Wheeling University field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

Trailing 2-0 entering its next-to-last at bat, Wheeling Central used the only error of the contest to jumpstart its comeback. Some wildness by the Silver Knights' bullpen, coupled with two clutch hits, led to a 4-2 victory in Championship Game 2 of the W.Va. Class A Region 1 best-of-3 baseball series.

"This bunch is very resilient. There is no quit in them," an elated Wheeling Central head coach Jason Rowe said. "We always seem to get the two-out hits when we need them."

With the hard-earned triumph, the Maroon Knights forced a third-and-deciding Game 3 today on the all-turf surface in Middlebourne. The first pitch is set for 5 p.m. with

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Guided Jets Volleyball To State Tournament

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

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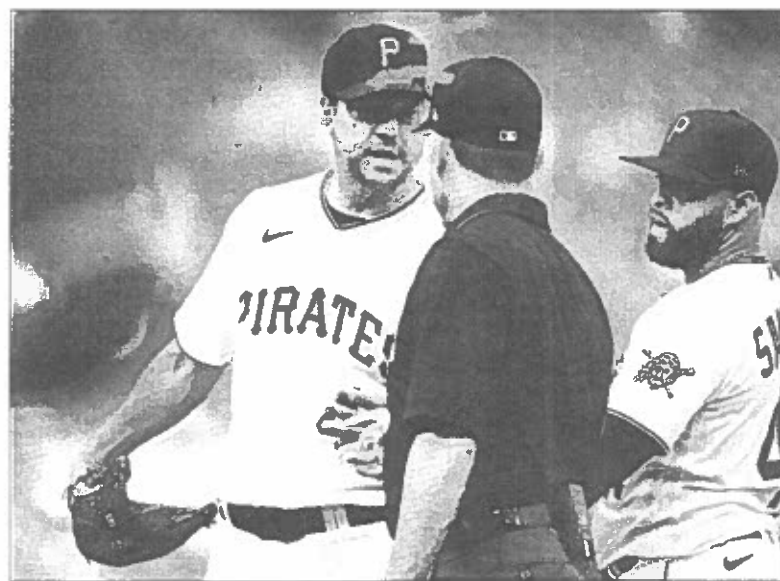
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(Please see SECHREST, Page 14)



Photo by Seth Staskey
Union Local volleyball coach Kaye Sechrest is shown with the coveted OVAC/Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year trophy she received during Tuesday night's OVAC Banquet of Champions inside downtown Wheeling's WesBanco Arena.



AP Photo

Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Rich Hill, left, is separated from umpire Dan Iassogna by Carlos Santana, right, as he argues after being called for a balk during the first inning of a game against the Texas Rangers in Pittsburgh, Tuesday.

Eovaldi's Complete Game Powers Rangers By Pirates

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Rahal Gets Indy 500 Ride As Replacement

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Graham Rahal will get a chance to keep his Indianapolis 500 start streak intact after all, replacing the injured Stefan Wilson on Tuesday in the Dreyer & Reinbold entry after failing to qualify for the race with his own team.

Wilson was hospitalized with a fractured vertebra following a crash in practice Monday. He was ruled out of the race, and that left car owners Dennis Reinbold and Don Cusick scrambling for a replacement less than a week before Sunday's green flag.

Rahal was their first choice, but he'd spent his career tied to Honda, which powers the Rahal Letterman Lanigan team. Dreyer & Reinbold runs engines from rival Chevrolet, and Rahal initially told DRR that any discussions were a waste of time because of his Honda relationship. He told the team to call his dad, 1986 Indy 500 winner Bobby Rahal, and see if there was a path forward.

Sunday's race will mark the first time in Rahal's 17 seasons as a professional he will compete in a Chevrolet.

"I spent my entire career in a Honda. I've never driven anything other than that," Rahal said. "I wasn't sure we would get the releases in place to make this happen. They really came together, two manufacturers, to allow this to take place, to allow us to race Sunday, and hopefully allow us to move his car to the front and have a really strong run."

SECHREST

(Continued from Page 13)

Sechrest was originally surprised when she received the phone call from OVAC Executive Director Dirk DeCoy to inform her that she had been chosen as a finalist.

However, the call allowed her to think back to those early November days when her team fell in the Division II state semi-finals to eventual state champion Chardon Notre Dame Cathedral Latin in three games. Actually, she thought back to much more than just that final game.

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"It's a nice little topping on the cake for a great season. All of the girls deserve to be recognized for this. I just put them in the position. They played the games and did the work."

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RAHAL

(Continued from Page 13)

Wilson qualified 25th in the 33-car field, ahead of all three Rahal Letterman Lanigan entries. But the driver change means Rahal will start last, alongside his usual teammate Jack Harvey, who had bumped him in the final seconds of qualifying.

"Jack hasn't got rid of me yet," Rahal said with a smile.

Wilson was about an hour into a two-hour practice Monday when he was hit from behind by Katherine Legge, one of the other RLL entries. Their two cars careened into the outer wall, and while Legge was able to climb from her wreckage without any injuries, Wilson remained in the hospital Tuesday undergoing additional testing.

"He's fairly crushed emotionally," Cusick said, "but supportive of what we're doing out here."

The team announced late Tuesday that Wilson will undergo surgery on Wednesday at IU Health Methodist Hospital to stabilize the fractured area.

Less than 48 hours earlier, it appeared Rahal's 15-year streak in "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" would end. His team struggled all week to get up to speed, and that continued into qualifying, when he sat on the bubble with Harvey heading to the track for a third, desperate try at bumping his way into the field.

Harvey eclipsed him by the slimmest of margins, and Rahal suddenly knew

how his father and team owner Bobby Rahal felt in 1993, when the reigning series champion was famously bumped from the Indianapolis 500 field.

"The situation is super unique," the younger Rahal admitted.

"There was a part of me that thought, when you look at RLL and where we were as a team, can I have more of an impact to try to help Jack and Christian (Lundgaard) and Kat perform better on the weekend?"

"Now it's a little bit of a different situation," he added. "At the end of the day, we're competing now. I tell people all the time, motorsports is one of the few sports where there are no guarantees ever. Things can change immediately. That's the situation we are in. Now we're going to go do the best we can to get to victory lane. That's been a dream of mine my entire life."

Bobby Rahal said in a statement that he supported his son driving for another team.

"When Dennis called, we went to work to make this happen," he said. "The most amazing thing is how all these different groups, out of respect for the sport and the Indy 500, agreed to agree and go forward even though it may have been somewhat of a difficult decision. The fact that everyone pulled together to make this happen for Dennis, and also for Graham, makes us very thankful."

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 13)

"Love the way he comes down here every day and just works to get better, gives you good at bats," Bochy said. "I really thought this kid would have a nice year. I know it's early, but I still feel that way, trust me."

Two Texas runs came in on balks, one from Hill for the second of two runs in the first and another by Jose Hernandez that capped a three-run sixth.

Pittsburgh's Ji Hwan Bae was picked off first in the third inning, then over-

ran second and was tagged out on Andrew McCutchen's eighth-inning single. The Pirates committed three errors and had five wild pitches in their previous loss, an 8-3 rout to Arizona on Sunday.

"The tolerance is we have to be better in those moments," Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton said. "We're still going to continue to teach because we have a bunch of young players and they're going to make mistakes." Bryan Reynolds drove

in the Pirates' run with a third-inning double.

TRAINER'S ROOM
Pirates: 1B Ji Man Choi fielded groundballs from his knees before the game. He is on the 60-day injured list with a left Achilles sprain sustained April 13.

UP NEXT
LHP Martin Perez (5-1, 4.01) will take the mound for the Rangers in the series finale Wednesday afternoon, opposite Pirates RHP Johan Oviedo (3-3, 4.69).

CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 13)

the strike zone as Kuhns scored. Braxton Billick's sacrifice fly to center plated Hildebrand with the tying run. Brayden Cover grounded a single between third and short that drove in Prager with what would be the eventual game-winning run, and Gary Hatfield slapped a single to left that allowed Tiu to score with an insurance marker.

"Those were two very clutch hits by a freshman and a sophomore," Rowe said of Cover's and Hatfield's base knocks, respectively.

Max Criniti took over for Seth Cover to start the seventh. The sophomore retired the first batter before walking Zade Billings. A fly to center and a pop up to Hatfield at second sealed the deal as Criniti was congratulated for his effort.

Cover picked up the win. He struck out seven and walked one Silver Knight. He threw 102 pitches, with 70 being strikes.

"He's been solid all year for us," Rowe said of Seth Cover. "He threw a really nice game today when we needed it."

Seth Cover also picked up the win in the Section I championship game at Weirton Madonna. That was the fifth straight win-or-go-home win, and followed victories over Paden City, Magnolia, Cameron and Madonna twice - both on the road.

"These kids don't quit. We are never out of a game with the way we can hit the ball," Rowe noted.

Tyler Consolidated took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second when Walton was hit with a pitch leading off. Hayden Brown doubled to the gap in right-center

as Walton pulled up at third. He would come home on a sacrifice fly by Carson Gorby.

The Silver Knights would make it 2-0 in the third as Jayden Helmick lined a single to left with one out. He stole second and, with two outs, raced home on Ethan Clark's single.

Seth Cover escaped further damage when he induced an infield bloop with runners on second and third. The sophomore also kept Tyler Consolidated off the scoreboard in the fourth when he wiggled out of a bases-loaded situation with no outs.

An infield fly resulted in the first out before the righty fanned the next two hitters.

He helped himself out in the sixth when he fielded a comebacker and fired to third where Brayden Cover tagged a runner for the second out.

"I just told the kids that attitude reflects leadership. Be a good teammate and come to work every single day and have fun, but give us your time while you're here."

The Silver Knights also excelled on defense as Billings showed off his strong right arm with a snap throw to third that caught a Maroon Knight runner napping in the third. Carson Gorby threw a Maroon Knight runner out at the plate to end the fifth.

Rowe indicated Hatfield would get the ball today, with everyone that is eligible pitch-count-wise ready to go, if needed. Jones said he and his staff would have to do a lot of thinking as to who they will hand the ball.

"I feel confident that Gary will get it done," Rowe said.

WVU

(Continued from Page 13)

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SPORTS

Sunday,
May 21, 2023



Seth Staskey
Sports Editor

OVAC Coach of the Year finalists named

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

The award, which is chosen by a committee, considers coaches from all sports and utilizes the spring of 2022 along with the fall and winter seasons of the current school year.



DEPEW PETTIT SECHREST STEPHEN TALLMAN

And then there were five! The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will present one of its most cherished awards Tuesday evening at the annual Banquet of Champions at WesBanco Arena.

Following the distribution of several thousand dollars in scholarships and other special recognitions for yet another memorable school and athletic year, the OVAC Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year will go to one of the five finalists, which are being formally announced today.

The finalists, all of whom will be recognized at the banquet, are B.J. Depew (Linsly football), Holly Pettit (Cameron girls basketball), Kaye Sechrest (Union Local volleyball), Jayson Stephen (Barnesville wrestling) and

David Tallman (Morgantown boys basketball).

Here's a capsule look at each finalist, who are listed alphabetically.

B.J. DEPEW, Linsly football — The Cadets entered the season with high expectations, but they also knew they were facing one

of the most daunting schedules in their school's history.

Depew had his team up for the challenge time and time again.

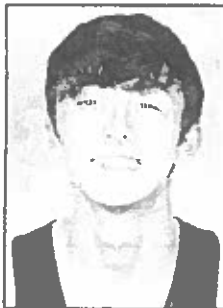
After stubbing their toe against Fairmont Senior in Week 2, the Cadets found their groove. They proceeded

See, **OVAC**, Page C2

UL grad Vinskovich set to jump at NCAA D-II National Championships

As he thinks back on it, Liam Vinskovich can literally just shake his head.

It was late in the 2020 calendar year, the world was just beginning to turn the page from the COVID-19 pandemic and high school athletes were competing under difficult circumstances. Guidelines and spring sports remained several months away after being canceled in 2020.



Vinskovich, who was a senior at Union Local High School, was a member of the Jets' basketball team and actually leaning toward not going out for the track team.

"I was just kind of ready to be done with school," Vinskovich said. "I was going to spend the spring looking at some colleges and making the decision where I would be going in the fall."

Vinskovich talked it over with his family, some friends and others and ultimately decided to sign up for the Jets' track team. Obviously, it's a decision that has proven itself to be vastly important to where Vinskovich is at this point.

That spring, with Vinskovich among the Jets' team leaders, Union Local had one of its best track seasons in school history, winning the OVAC and Division II district title, while finishing third in the regional. Individually, Vinskovich — who stands 6-6 — found his niche and it was at the high jump area. He placed seventh in the state meet to garner All-Ohio acclaim.

As he posted impressive marks, he caught the eye of West Liberty University's coaching staff.

"Going to West Liberty was kind of a last-minute thing," Vinskovich said.

It's just another decision Vinskovich made that paid off for him.

The decisions to continue in track and field and do it at West Liberty truly pay off this week when Vinskovich will compete in the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field National Championship Meet in Pueblo, Colo. in the high jump.

"If you had told me, in high school, that all of this would be happening to me, I wouldn't have believed you," Vinskovich said. "I am truly shocked by all of this. I figured I would go more toward basketball and track was kind of a back-up plan."

It's a back-up plan that's taking Vinskovich to new heights seemingly each time he steps on the track.

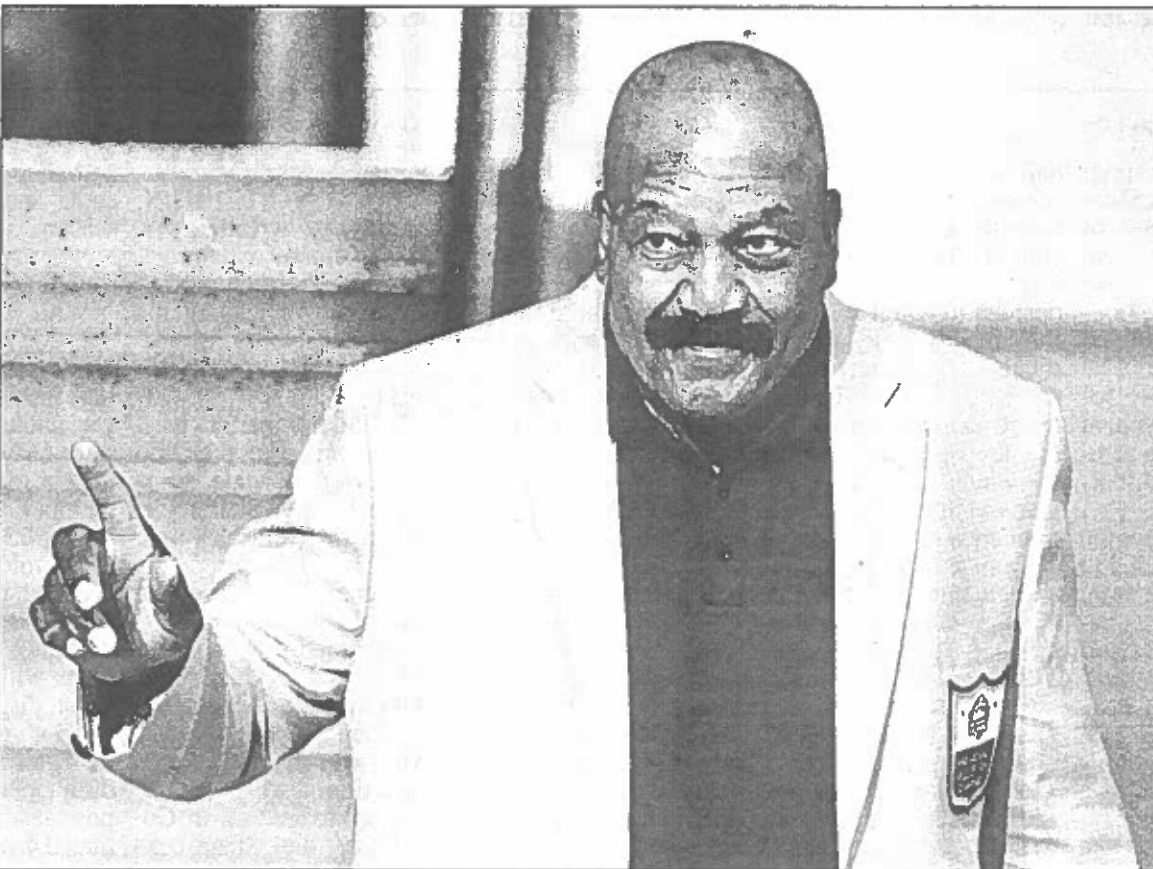
"Coming into the season, I definitely knew I could get the height, but my form wasn't there," Vinskovich admitted. "I knew I had higher heights in me, but I am not necessarily sure I thought about 6-11, but I felt 6-9 was there for sure."

Vinskovich won the Mountain East Conference title during the indoor season, but late last month during the conference outdoor meet, he finished third in the competition, clearing just 6-3 1/4.

So, what happened?

"I knew going into the conference (outdoor) meet that it could be tough," Vinskovich said. "The coaches and I were focused on (scoring team) points, so I was also competing in the triple jump, long jump and ran on the 4x4. We were trying to win the team title and not really focusing on anything individually."

Vinskovich turned in a 21-9 long jump, which was good enough for fourth and finished second in the triple jump with a mark of 45-3 1/2, which is his personal best. He ran a leg on the runner up 4x4



JIM BROWN is introduced before the inaugural Pro Football Hall of Fame Fan Fest in 2014, at the International Exposition Center in Cleveland. NFL legend, actor and social activist Jim Brown passed away peacefully in his Los Angeles home on Thursday night with his wife, Monique, by his side, according to a spokeswoman for Brown's family. He was 87.

AP PHOTO

Jim Brown, all-time NFL great and social activist, dead at 87

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jim Brown was virtually unstoppable in every arena.

Whether on the field, as a Hollywood film hero or civil rights advocate, Brown was a force.

One of the greatest players in NFL history, Brown, who retired at the peak of his playing career to pursue acting and remained in the public spotlight as an activist — and due to off-field transgressions that included allegations of violence against women — has died. He was 87.

A spokeswoman for Brown's family said he died peacefully in his Los Angeles home on Thursday night with his wife, Monique, by his side.

"To the world, he was an activist, actor, and football star," Monique Brown wrote in an Instagram post. "To our

family, he was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Our hearts are broken."

One of pro football's first superstars, Brown was a wrecking ball while leading the league in rushing for eight of his nine seasons with the Cleveland Browns. He never missed a game, playing in 118 straight before his sudden retirement in 1965 — after being named Most Valuable Player.

Brown led the Browns to their last championship in 1964 before quitting football in his prime at age 30 to make movies. He appeared in more than 30 films, including "Any Given Sunday" and "The Dirty Dozen."

A powerful runner with speed and endurance, Brown's arrival sparked the game's burgeoning popularity on television and he remained an indomitable

figure well after his playing days ended.

Brown was also a champion for Black Americans and used his platform and voice to fight for equality.

"I hope every Black athlete takes the time to educate themselves about this incredible man and what he did to change all of our lives," NBA star LeBron James said. "We all stand on your shoulders Jim Brown. If you grew up in Northeast Ohio and were Black, Jim Brown was a God."

In June 1967, Brown organized "The Cleveland Summit," a meeting of the nation's top Black athletes, including Bill Russell and Lew Alcindor, who later became Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, to support boxer Muhammad Ali's fight against serving in Vietnam.

See, **BROWN**, Page C2



Pirates cruise past Arizona

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ke'Bryan Hayes had three hits and three RBIs. Bryan Reynolds homered for the first time in six weeks and drove in four runs, and the Pittsburgh Pirates rolled over ace Zac Gallen and the Arizona Diamondbacks 13-3 on Friday night.

Gallen (6-2) lasted just 3 2/3 innings

ing away from the backs and defensive backs. He was also famous for using a stiff arm to shed defenders in the open field or push them away like they were rag dolls.

Indeed, Brown was unlike any back before him, and some feel there has never been anyone better than Cleveland's No. 32. At 6-foot-2, 230 pounds, he was relentless, fighting for every yard, dragging multiple defenders along or finding holes where none seemed to exist.

After Brown was tackled, he'd slowly rise and

return — but also a cultural figure who helped promote change," Goodell said. "During his nine-year NFL career, which coincided with the civil rights movement here at home, he became a fore-runner and role model for athletes being involved in social initiatives outside their sport."

Off the field, Brown was a contentious, complicated figure.

While he had a soft spot for those in need, he also was arrested a half-dozen times, mostly on charges of hitting women.

refused to attend domestic violence counseling.

He also feuded with Browns coach Paul Brown and later with the team's management, although he played his entire career with Cleveland.

When his playing days ended, Brown set off for Hollywood and eventually settled there. Brown advised Cleveland coach Blanton Collier of his retirement while the team was in training camp and he was on the set of "The Dirty Dozen" in England.

• OVAC

Continued from Page C1

ed to win their final eight, which includes wins over the likes of Cardinal Mooney, St. Clairsville, Fort Frye, Steubenville, Dover, Louisville, John Marshall and Morgantown.

Of those, only the Dover game was played at "home" but that was actually staged at West Liberty University.

Linsly had a flair for the dramatic, too. Included in its winning streak were three consecutive one-score decisions, including the game against Fort Frye, which saw Linsly kick a 41-yard field goal as time expired.

The Cadets made a huge stop defensively each of the next two weeks to win at Harding Stadium in Steubenville and then to defeat Dover.

Linsly won the OVAC Class 3A title in the process.

HOLLY PETTIT, Cameron girls basket-

ball — After winning the school's first girls' basketball state championship in 2022, the Dragons weren't satisfied. So, they decided to win it again.

With Pettit leading a relatively young cast, the Dragons were battled tested during the course of the regular season in which they lost six games. However, it paid dividends in March.

Cameron finished 22-6 and cut the nets down in Charleston after posting a 53-46 victory win over Tucker County.

En route to the title game, Cameron took down Pendleton County and Webster County by comfortable margins. En route to the state tournament, Cameron eliminated Tyler Consolidated in the regional championship game.

Cameron won its second straight OVAC Class 1A title when it knocked off Frontier, 47-36.

KAYE SECHREST, Union Local volleyball — This veteran head coach took her Jets squad to new heights.

After finishing the regular season with a 21-1 record, a Buckeye 8 and OVAC Class 3A title, the Jets set off on a journey that's never been duplicated by any school in Belmont County and very few OVAC members on the Ohio side.

The Jets won the Eastern District championship for the first time and then went to the regional tournament where they eliminated Thornville Sheridan and New Lexington to advance to the Division II state tournament.

In the semifinals, the Jets magic carpet ride of a season came to an end at the hands of eventual state champion Chardon Notre Dame Cathedral Latin.

All told, Union Local finished with a 26-2 re-

cord. They were at 3-1 in 199, with more variety on the horizon. Rain was in the forecast for Saturday, wind on Sunday, and 18 players were separated by five shots.

There were a few late charges to move into contention (Koepka with a 31 on the back nine), to keep hopes alive (Rory McIlroy with a 69) or simply to make the cut (Jon Rahm, Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas).

For now, Scheffler is the target as a Masters champion a year ago and a player who has not finished worse than 12th all year.

Hovland, who shared the 54-hole lead at St. Andrews last summer, is getting used to this, too. He dropped only one shot early in his round of 67, and closed with a 7-iron out of wet, thick rough to 5 feet for birdie.

It was his 10th consecutive round in the majors when he ended the day among the top 10 on the leaderboard.

cord.

JAYSON STEPHEN, Barnesville wrestling — This veteran Shamrock coach enjoyed a season to remember in leading his squad to a most impressive list of accomplishments.

It didn't matter if it was locally or in the Ohio Division III state tournament, the Shamrocks flexed their muscles time and time again.

Barnesville finished third in the Division III team standings with 76 points and produced five All-Ohioans, including Stephen's son, Reese, who won the 150-pound state title.

Prior to getting to Columbus, the Shamrocks rolled to the sectional and district title. At the district, Barnesville had five individual champions.

They also won the OVAC Class 3A tournament, in January, at West-Banco Arena and a few weeks later added the OVAC dual title.

DAVID TALLMAN, Morgantown boys bas-

ketball — The Mohigans came into the 2022-23 season with extremely high expectations surrounding them.

With Tallman guiding the way, Morgantown responded in resounding fashion by winning yet another Class AAA state championship when it held off fellow OVAC member Parkersburg South, 65-58.

All told, the Mohigans finished with a 26-2 record.

It didn't lose to a team from within the state of West Virginia.

Prior to the state title game, Morgantown didn't play a game in the postseason that was closer than 14 points. It won its games in Charleston by scores of 64-39 and 66-41 over Bridgeport and Huntington, respectively.

Morgantown, however, fell in the OVAC title game for the second straight season to Ohio power Dover in an unusually low-scoring game.

With that mark now official, Vinskovich had to play the waiting game to see if it would be good enough to garner an invite to the national meet. After all, there are only top 16 jumpers and ties invited and there were still more than a week's worth of last-chance meets to be held across the country before the NCAA formally announced the qualifiers.

"I spent a lot of time doing mental math, checking websites of results and rankings just trying to figure out if I was going to get in," Vinskovich said.

Last Sunday was the closing date for the entry marks and official list of entrants was posted on Tuesday.

"I spent Monday and Tuesday practicing without even knowing if I had made it," Vinskovich said. "It was definitely exciting and a relief."

Vinskovich, who will compete Saturday night at 8:45 p.m. eastern time, is one of 19 jumpers in the field and is actually tied for the lowest entry height. He's absolutely not getting caught up in what the performance list says.

"My goal is to be one of the people who performs well and place as high as a can because a lot of people don't always perform as well as they're ranked at nationals," Vinskovich said. "Since I hit my mark late in the season, I feel like I am in a good spot. If I perform how I am capable of, I believe I'll place well. Even if I don't place, and I compete well, I'll be able to say I gave it my best shot."

The Hilltopper delegation, which also includes pole vaulter Reese Burnside, will fly to Colorado Tuesday morning. They'll continue their preparation at Colorado State Pueblo's Thunder-Bowl.

While extremely proud of his athletic achievements with the Hilltoppers, Vinskovich is even prouder of how well he's doing academically as a pre-dental hygiene major.

"The school part is just another area place where I've really dialed in," Vinskovich said. "I've really taken more pride into the academic side and put more focus on performing well in every aspect of my life. It's really made a big difference for me in just being a better all-around person."

Vinskovich's family won't be making the trip to Colorado. Liam's sister, Reagan, graduates from Union Local that weekend. Reagan will actually join her brother as a Hilltopper student-athlete next year when she joins the Hilltopper women's basketball team following a brilliant, four-time All-Ohio career with the Jets.

"I totally understand my parents not being able to be there," Vinskovich said. "You only graduate from high school once. I am hoping to compete in the national meet again."

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OVAC Coach Of The Year Finalists Named For 2022 School Year



B.J. DEPEW



HOLLY PETTIT



KAYE SECHREST



JAYSON STEPHEN



DAVE TALLMAN

Winner To Be Announced During Tuesday Night's Banquet Of Champions

By SETH STASKEY

For the Sunday News-Register

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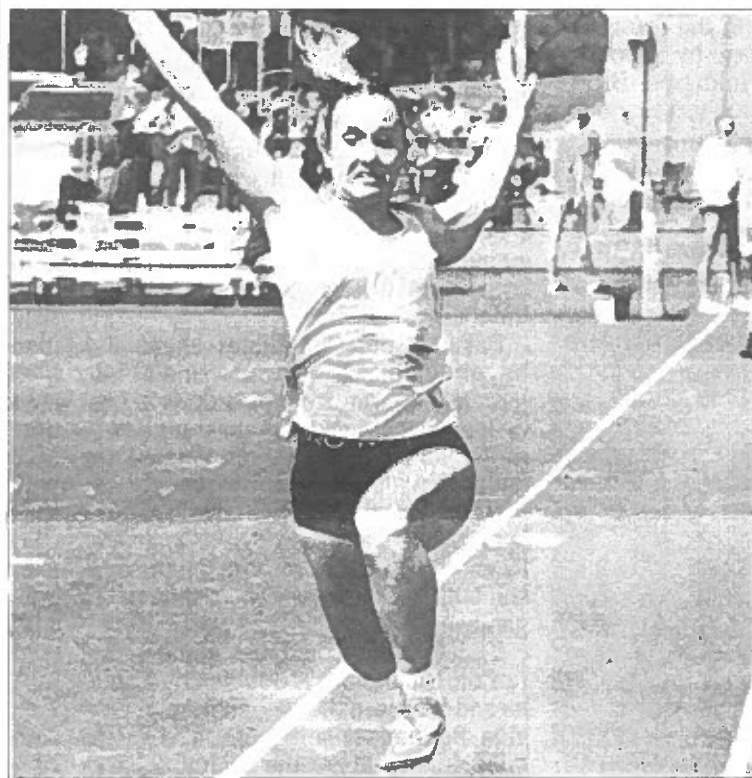
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Please see OVAC, Page C2

WVSSAC STATE TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Oak Glen sophomore Kensington McConnachie is shown competing in the OVAC Championships earlier this year. She won the Girls Class AA long jump Friday at Laidley Field in Charleston.

File Photo
by Seth
Staskey

Oak Glen's McConnachie Wins Girls 'AA' Long Jump Title

From STAFF REPORTS

CHARLESTON — Oak Glen's Kensington McConnachie won the Class AA girls long jump as the W.Va. State Track and Field championships got underway Friday at Laidley Field.

The Golden Bears sophomore jumped 17-feet, 2.5 inches. It was nearly six inches further than any other competitor. McConnachie was fifth last year.

Oak Glen's Kami Ward had the top qualifying time in the 100-meter dash with a clocking of 12.3 seconds.

Weir's Mea Kaufman was the fourth fastest qualifier in 12.97.

Class A

Wheeling Central's Aniah Maltory qualified for the finals of the 100.

Magnolia's Jenna Blain ran the fastest qualifying heat in the 100 meter high hurdles in 16.09 seconds. She also finished third in the 200

Tyler Consolidated's foursome ran sixth in the shuttle hurdles. The Silver Knights team was made up of Bridget Doak, Taylor Donaldson, Trinity Kanz and Bella Garuccio.

BOYS
Class A

Wheeling Central's Lorenzo Ferrara qualified for the finals in the 100 and 200 meter dashes. He ran a qualifying-best 10.89 in the 100 and his 22.6 was tops in the 200.

Magnolia's Matthew Anderson placed third in the discus with a toss of 140-02. Tyler Consolidated's Tristen Tuttle was fifth at 135-0.

Magnolia's 4x800 relay team took seventh. The team included Lucas Zombotti, Jordan Davis, Shiv Patel and Landen Davis.

Class AA

Weir's Devan Colson qualified for the

Pirates Roll By D-Backs, 13-3

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ke'Bryan Hayes had three hits and three RBIs, Bryan Reynolds homered for the first time in six weeks and drove in four runs, and the Pittsburgh Pirates rolled over ace Zac Gallen and the Arizona Diamondbacks 13-3 on Friday night.

Gallen (6-2) lasted just 3 2/3 innings and allowed a career-high eight runs — five earned — and eight hits as his six-game winning streak ended. He walked four and struck out two. Gallen had given up a total of six runs in his previous seven starts.

Andrew McCutchen, Ji Hwan Bae and Josh Palacios also had three hits apiece as part of the Pirates' 17-hit outburst. Jack Suwinski added two hits.

The Pirates scored eight runs in their previous game Wednesday at Detroit. Before that, they had scored no more than four runs in 14 straight games and reached that total only once.

Johan Oviedo (3-3) won for the first time in five starts. He gave up one run and two hits in six innings while striking out seven and walking three. In his previous four starts, Oviedo was tagged for 18 earned runs in 17 2/3 innings.

The Pirates won for the third time in their last four games. That comes after losing 11 of 12 following a surprising 20-8 start to the season.

Please see Pirates, Page C2



SATURDAY'S BEST AUTO RACING

■ 2:30 p.m. — NTT IndyCar Series: Qualifying Day 1, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis, Ind., NBC

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

■ 1-11 p.m. — Regional Coverage, ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, ACCN, SECN

HORSE RACING

■ 6 p.m. — The 148th Preakness Stakes: From Pimlico Race Course, Baltimore, NBC

MAJOR LEAGUE

BASEBALL

■ 4 p.m. — Milwaukee at Tampa Bay, FS1

■ 4:05 p.m. — Arizona at Pittsburgh, ATTSN

■ 7 p.m. — Regional Coverage: LA Dodgers at St. Louis or Seattle at Atlanta, FOX

NBA PLAYOFFS

■ 8:30 p.m. — Western Conference Final: Denver at LA Lakers, Game 3, ABC

NHL PLAYOFFS

■ 8 p.m. — Eastern Conference Final: Florida at Carolina, Game 2, TNT

PRO GOLF

■ 3 p.m. — PGA Tour: The PGA Championship, Third Round, Oak Hill CC, Rochester, N.Y., CBS

USFL FOOTBALL

■ 12:30 p.m. — Pittsburgh at Memphis, USA

SUNDAY'S BEST

AUTO RACING

■ 3 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: The NASCAR All-Star Race, North Wilkesboro, N.C., FS1

BOWLING

■ Noon — PBA: Players Championship, Finals, Middletown, Del., FOX

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

■ Noon-9 p.m. — Regional Coverage, ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, ACCN, SECN

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

■ 11:30 a.m. — NY Yankees at Cincinnati, PEACOCK

■ 1:35 p.m. — Arizona at Pittsburgh, ATTSN

■ 7 p.m. — Cleveland at NY Mets, ESPN

NBA PLAYOFFS

■ 8:30 p.m. — Eastern Conference Final: Boston at Miami, Game 3, TNT

NHL PLAYOFFS

■ 3 p.m. — Western Conference Final: Dallas at Vegas, Game 2, ABC

PRO GOLF

■ 3 p.m. — PGA Tour: The PGA Championship, Final Round, Oak Hill CC, Rochester, N.Y., CBS

USFL FOOTBALL

■ 4 p.m. — New Jersey vs. Houston, FOX

WNBA BASKETBALL

■ 4 p.m. — Chicago vs. Phoenix, ESPN

Jim Brown Dead At The Age Of 87

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jim Brown was virtually unstoppable in

...serving in Vietnam.

In later years, he worked to curb gang violence in LA and in 1988 founded Amer-I-Can, a program to help disadvantaged inner-city youth and ex-convicts.

On the field, there was no one like Brown, who would blast through would-be tacklers, refusing to let one man take him down before sprinting away from linebackers and defensive backs. He was also famous for using a stiff arm to shed defenders in the open field or push them away like they were rag dolls.

Indeed, Brown was unlike any back before him, and some feel there has never been anyone better than Cleveland's No. 32. At 6-foot-2, 230 pounds, he was relentless, fighting for every yard, dragging multiple defenders along or finding holes where none seemed to exist.

After Brown was tackled, he'd slowly rise and walk even more slowly back to the huddle — then dominate the defense when he got the ball again.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell offered his condolences on behalf of the

...while the team was in training camp and he was on the set of "The Dirty Dozen" in England.

Among his films were "100 Rifles," "Mars Attacks!" Spike Lee's "He Got Game," Oliver Stone's "Any Given Sunday," and "I'm Gonna Git You Sucka," which parodied the blaxploitation genre. In 2002, Brown was the subject of Lee's HBO documentary "Jim Brown: All-American."

In recent years, Brown's relationship with the Browns was inconsistent. He served as an adviser to owner Randy Lerner and was hired to counsel the team's younger players. However, in 2010, Brown parted ways with the team after having his role reduced by incoming team president Mike Holmgren. Brown felt slighted by the perceived demotion — when the club unveiled a "Ring of Honor" inside its downtown stadium, Brown didn't attend the ceremony in protest.

The Browns erected a statue of Brown outside their stadium in 2016.

... (Koepka with a 31 on the back nine), to keep hopes alive (Rory McIlroy with a 69) or simply to make the cut (Jon Rahm, Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas).

For now, Scheffler is the target as a Masters champion a year ago and a player who has not finished worse than 12th all year.

...wind, so that kind of helped us out," Hovland said. "With that rain, the ball went a little bit short. And if you're in the rough, it tends to make that rough a little bit juicier. At the end of the day, it makes the greens softer, and you can maybe be a hair more aggressive."

There were some im-

for the weekend.

Rahm, the Masters champion and No. 1 player in the world, opened with a 76 and couldn't get a putt to fall. He was running out of holes, one shot over the cut of 5 over, when he ran off three straight birdies and salvaged a 68 to make the cut with one shot to spare.

PIRATES

(Continued from Page C1)

The Diamondbacks lost for the second time in seven games. Backup catcher Jose Herrera pitched the eighth inning and gave up two runs in his first mound appearance in a major-league game.

The Pirates chased Gallen with a seven-run fourth inning in which they sent 11 batters to the plate while snapping a 1-1 tie. Gallen had three walks in the inning and third baseman Josh Rojas committed a fielding error that led to three unearned runs.

Palacios put the Pirates ahead 3-1 by grounding a two-run single into left field. Bryan Reynolds drew a bases-loaded walk and Suwinski hit a two-run double before Hayes capped the outburst with a two-run single.

Reynolds' three-run homer an inning later pushed the lead to 11-1. It was Reynolds' sixth home run of the season but first since April 7, a span of 34 games.

The Pirates scored the game's first run on back-to-back doubles by Santana and Hayes in the second inning. Gerardo Perdomo's solo home run in the third inning drew the Diamondbacks into a tie.

Rojas hit a two-run double in the seventh. The Diamondbacks' Lourdes Gurriel Jr. extended his hitting streak to 12 games with an eighth-inning single.

HOMETOWN HEROES

Brooklyn Nets forward Cameron Johnson, a Pittsburgh native, threw a ceremonial first pitch. Johnson played

collegiately at Pitt before transferring to North Carolina then becoming a first-round pick in the NBA Draft in 2019.

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Kenny Pickett was also in attendance.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Diamondbacks: RHP Zach Davies (strained left oblique) is scheduled to make his first rehab start Saturday for Double-A Amarillo. After that, the Diamondbacks will determine if he needs a second minor-league outing before being activated from the injured list ... OF Kyle Lewis (illness) played in the Arizona Complex League for the second time in three days Friday ... LHP Joe Mantiplay (left shoulder inflammation) will throw off flat ground Saturday for the first time since going on the IL ... C Carson Kelly (fractured right forearm) is expected to begin taking live batting practice next week.

Pirates: RHP Duane Underwood Jr. (right forearm tightness) left the game in the seventh inning ... LHP Rob Zastryzny (left elbow discomfort) was activated from the 15-day IL and OF Miguel Andujar was designated for assignment.

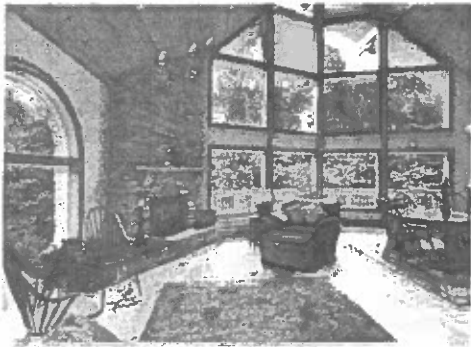
UP NEXT

Diamondbacks rookie RHP Brandon Pfaadt (0-1, 8.59 ERA) will face Pirates RHP Mitch Keller (5-1, 2.38) on Saturday. Pfaadt will be making his fourth career start. Keller has pitched 16 scoreless innings while winning his last two starts.



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OVAC

(Continued from Page C1)

HOLLY PETTIT, Belmont County and very few OVAC members on the Ohio side.

The Jets won the Eastern District championship for the first time and then went to the regional tournament where they eliminated Thornville Sheridan and New Lexington to advance to the Division II state tournament.

In the semifinals, the Jets magic carpet ride of a season came to an end at the hands of eventual state champion Chardon Notre Dame Cathedral Latin.

All told, Union Local finished with a 26-2 record.

JAYSON STEPHEN, Barnesville wrestling — This veteran Shamrock coach enjoyed a season to remember in leading his squad to a most impressive list of accomplishments.

It didn't matter if it was locally or in the Ohio Division III state tournament, the Shamrocks flexed their muscles time and time again.

KAYE SECHREST, Barnesville finished third in the Division III team standings with 76 points and produced five All-Ohioans, including Stephen's son, Reese, who won the 150-pound state title.

Prior to getting to Columbus, the Shamrocks

rolled to the sectional and district title. At the district, Barnesville had five individual champions.

They also won the OVAC Class 3A tournament, in January, at WesBanco Arena and a few weeks later added the OVAC dual title.

DAVID TALLMAN, Morgantown boys basketball — The Mohigans came into the 2022-23 season with extremely high expectations surrounding them.

With Tallman guiding the way, Morgantown responded in resounding fashion by winning yet another Class AAA state championship when it held off fellow OVAC member Parkersburg South, 65-58.

All told, the Mohigans finished with a 26-2 record. It didn't lose to a team from within the state of West Virginia.

Prior to the state title game, Morgantown didn't play a game in the postseason that was closer than 14 points. It won its games in Charleston by scores of 64-39 and 66-41 over Bridgeport and Huntington, respectively.

Morgantown, however, fell in the OVAC title game for the second straight season to Ohio power Dover in an unusually low-scoring game.