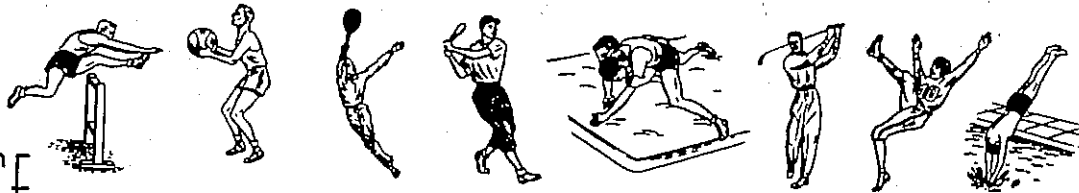


OHIO VALLEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE



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Serving The Youth of The Upper Ohio Valley

This was the First ever for a True
O.V.A.C. Champion. Wheeling was W.V.A. state
champions. Great ball game!!!

WHEELING EDGED Steubenville Wins OVAC Ball Playoff

With Larry Pickford pitching a one-hitter, Steubenville High School won the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference baseball championship with a 2-0 decision over Wheeling High's West Virginia state titlists Monday afternoon at Shafyside.

Pickford won a sparkling mound duel from Dick Kettler, who suffered his first setback after eight victories. Kettler gave up only two hits.

Pickford struck out seven and walked only one. Wheeling had only four base runners, two of which reached first on errors.

The Steubenville righthander lost his bid for a non-hitter in the fifth inning when Junior Moore rapped a single. Moore got as far as third base but was stranded there.

The tense struggle was scoreless until the fifth. Then Steubenville pushed across a marker. John Cucumella walked, moved around to third on an error and an infield out and scored on Gary Repella's sacrifice fly

to centerfield.

The Big Red garnered its other marker in the seventh when Richard DeLeonardis doubled, took third on an infield out and tallied on Pickford's squeeze bunt.

Kettler fanned six and walked only three. Just five Big Red batters reached base over the seven innings.

The victory was the ninth in 10 decisions for Pickford, who has been selected to play in the Ohio East-West series at Columbus.

Steubenville, coached by Chuck Watt, wound up its season with a 24 and 6 won-lost record. Wheeling won 20 games and lost only four in Tom Pannett's second and last year at the helm and the Gold, which might have experienced somewhat of a letdown yesterday after its weekend triumph in the state tourney at Parkersburg, was not only state champ but also West Virginia titlist in the OVAC and a sectional and regional kingpin.