



Winners of the 1976 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's divisional baseball titles were presented with their awards during Tuesday night's fall conference dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Weirton. From left to right are George Kovalick, who accepted the Class AAA trophy and pennant for Bellaire High School; Dave Cisar, head football and baseball coach of double-A champion Bishop Donahue and the Rev.

Father John Lester, who accepted the award for Class A champion Bishop Donahue. Bellaire's 1976 baseball coach Terry Snively now will be teaching and coaching at Shadyside High this fall, while Mark Matz left Bishop Donahue to become the basketball and baseball coach at Bellaire High.

(News-Register Photo—Matt Mumley)



Marty Spanner, left, of St. John's Central, receives the 1976 Ohio Valley District Board of Approved Baseball Umpires Association's \$250 scholarship and watch from Board treasurer Warren Hood during last night's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference fall dinner meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Weirton. Spanner will be attending Ohio University this fall.

Magnolia Scores 10-5 Win in OVAC Title Tilt

Magnolia High captured the 1976 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AA baseball crown Saturday afternoon with a 10-5 triumph over Linsly Institute at the Bridgeport High athletic field in Brookside.

Coach Dave Cisar's high-flying Blue Eagles, who won for the 31st time in 34 starts and copped their 20th straight decision, tallied four runs in each of the first two innings and pushed across two more tallies in the fifth stanza.

Senior right-hander Dan Fitzsimmons upped seasonal record to 11-1 as he scattered three hits and fanned nine batters while also rapping out a double.

Sophomore Richard Wilson blasted a two-run homer in the fifth inning for his 50th hit of the season for the Blue Eagles, while Tim Clayton rapped a two-run double and a run-scoring single and Mark Dawson had two singles, rapping home three runs.

Magnolia scored its four tallies in the first inning on four singles and a passed

ball, while in the second the Blue Eagles tallied on two singles, a double, two errors and a squeeze bunt.

Linsly scored all five of its runs in the fourth on three errors, a walk and two singles. Tom Sims packed the Cadets with a two-run single in the inning. Linsly dropped to 8-8-2 on the year.

Magnolia's next outing is Tuesday evening at 7:30 against Ravenswood (16-14) in the West Virginia Region One Class AAA semi-finals at Parkersburg. The winner of that contest will meet the victor of the John Marshall-Brooke clash set for the same day at the West Liberty State College diamond in the finals at Parkersburg on Thursday evening.

Line score follows:

Magnolia	448	826	9-10	15 5
Linsly	600	500	0-5	3 7
Batteries: Fitzsimmons and Clayton; Owens, Cuyne 1st and 2nd				
(first game)				
Barnesville	010	000	3-4	5 1
River	010	002	3-4	8 4
Turner and Alahoney; Rose and Romick				
(second game)				
River	201	100	1-5	12 2
Barnesville	000	000	0-5	2 2
Batteries: Williamsen and Romick; Medley and Mahoney				

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Bishop Donahue Gains OVAC 'A' Baseball Crown

It took nine innings, 22 runs and 23 hits, but when the dust cleared at Patterson Field in Elm Grove Saturday, Bishop Donahue was the 1976 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A baseball champion via a 13-9 win over Weirton-Madonna.

Two runs by each team in the seventh inning sent the game into extra frames with the score tied at 9-9. In the top of the ninth, after a walk and a single by winning pitcher Mark Battista, Barry Logston singled in what proved to be the deciding run, followed by a two-run single by Kelly Smith and a run-scoring single by Buddy Smith.

Battista went the entire nine innings for Donahue, striking out seven and issuing as many walks. Steve Harbart, who relieved in the seventh, took the loss.

Donahue took a 2-0 lead in the first on a homer by Rick Ebbert, but Madonna came back with one in their half of

the first and went ahead 3-2 in the second. The Bishops erupted for five in the third and Madonna once again tied the score at 7-7 in the fifth.

In the top of the seventh, Ebbert and Battista had RBI singles for a 9-7 Donahue lead, but Mike Mastroianni's run-scoring single and Chris Conti's sacrifice fly sent the game into extra innings.

Logston had three singles and three RBIs to pace the Bishop hitters, with Buddy Smith, John Bonar and Battista getting two singles each and Ebbert banging a homer and single.

Conti had two singles and a triple as well as his game-tying sacrifice fly, while Mike Reardon had three hits and scored two runs, and Mastroianni had a triple and single.

(at Patterson Field)

Bishop Donahue	205	000	2-04	13 12 4
Madonna	120	040	2-00	9 11 2
Batteries: Battista and Marsh; Lucause, Harbart (7) and DeLuca				

Bellaire Wins Triple-A Title

It was the Big Reds over the Big Red in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference triple-A baseball tournament final Saturday afternoon at Brookside as Bellaire High tallied two runs in the sixth inning to break a 3-3 tie and defeat Steubenville, 5-3.

Three-sports star Lance Mehl's two-run single to right field in the sixth gave Bellaire the lead and Jim D'Innocenzo came on in relief in the seventh and worked out of a bases-loaded jam to preserve the margin at the Bridgeport Schools athletic field.

The victory was the nineteenth against six losses and two ties for Terry Shively's team while Steubenville now stands at 21-9.

Bellaire bested Steubenville ace Fred Hetherington, although limited to six hits, as Don Landers and D'Innocenzo collaborated in a four-hitter for the new champions.

Bellaire broke on top with two runs in the bottom of the second. Kevin Roseberry was safe on an error but forced at second by B. J. Regoli. Dave LaRoche singled and then Paul CarCenter bounced a high chopper to shortstop and when the ball was thrown home, Regoli extricated himself from a rundown to get back to third and leave the bases loaded. Then Dave Vasey drew a walk, to force in Regoli with the first run, and Frank Hibbitt laid down a squeeze bunt to bring LaRoche home.

The bases were still loaded, as Hibbitt beat out the bunt, but Hetherington worked out of the inning by fanning Landers and getting

Mehl on a fly ball.

The Steubers tied the count in the third as two walks and a fielder's choice filled the bases and Ed Hicks doubled across a pair of markers.

In the top of the fourth, Jake Hollowood's club took the lead against Landers. Ken Peterson singled and moved up on Hank Fleishour's sacrifice. John Maltese then hit to Dave Vasey at third and when Mehl, at first, errored on the play, Peterson tallied.

Bellaire drew even in the same inning as Carpenter walked, stole second and came home when Landers doubled.

In the sixth, Vasey singled, Hibbitt was hit by a pitch and both runners advanced into scoring position as Landers sacrificed. Then Mehl, the Reds' top hitter, lashed a single to right and Vasey and Hibbitt raced home.

In the seventh, Steubenville threatened to knot the score. Mark Yocum singled and Bob Porter walked. At this juncture, Snively lifted his starter, Landers, who had fanned three and walked two during the game. D'Innocenzo came in and Larry Whetstone greeted him with a bunt. Hicks was walked to load the bases, with only one out.

However, D'Innocenzo struck out Jim DeFrank and got Hetherington on a line drive deep to Roseberry in left.

The line score follows:

Steubenville	002 100 0-3 4 1
Bellaire	020 102 X-5 4 3
Batteries:	Hetherington and Fleishour;
Landers, D'Innocenzo (7) and Bardwell.	