

# Edison Wins Pitchers' Duel

*Beats Wheeling Park 1-0 in 15 innings to claim OVAC 'AAAA' title*

By JOEDY McCREARY  
Staff Writer

For 14 innings Saturday, Wheeling Park's Beth Doyle matched Edison's Stephanie Peddicord out for out, and zero for zero, on the Belle Isle Field scoreboard.

But in accordance with a rule — one that prevents a player from pitching more than 14 innings in a single day — the 15th inning of the OVAC big-school championship became the battle of the bullpens.

And Edison reliever Lesley Baker — who had pitched two innings all season — became the unlikely winner.

Dani Mohney's RBI single in the 15th inning scored Jessica Shepherd lifted Edison to the Class AAAA championship with a 1-0 win over Wheeling Park (21-7).

Mohney's run-scoring single made a winner of Baker (1-0), the Wildcats' No. 2 pitcher who heretofore hadn't seen any significant mound action because of Peddicord's dominance. Peddicord, who has thrown virtually every meaningful inning for Edison (21-5) this season, had 14 strikeouts and no walks in 14 innings of work, but by rule, she had to be relieved when the game went to the 15th.

Enter Baker.

"Lesley has pitched two innings for us this season, but she's done a good job in those two innings," Edison coach Spencer Bendle said. "To put a young girl in there who has never pitched varsity in tough conditions is a tough thing to do. Lesley has worked very hard in the offseason to pitch, and she probably should have been pitching on the reserve level but because Stephanie is the only other pitcher I have, (Baker) had to be with us throughout the season. She sacrificed a lot of playing time on the reserve level ... You've got to give her credit for being a team player for doing that."

After Baker retired the Patriots in the top of the 15th, the Wildcats' sporadic offense went to work against Park reliever Mindy Haberfield, who relieved Doyle after 14 frames.

Shepherd led off Edison's 15th

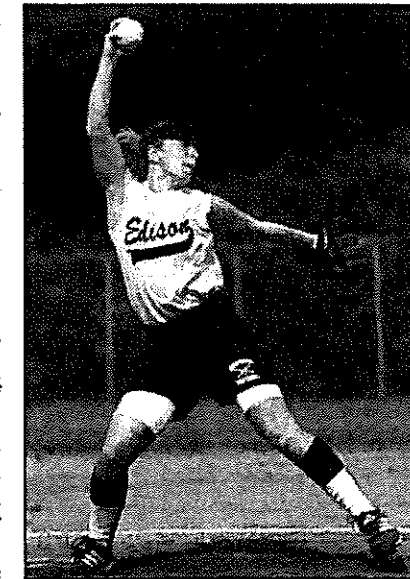


Photo by Scott McCloskey

**Edison's Stephanie Peddicord struck out 14 hitters in 14 innings on Saturday.**

with a single to left field. She moved to second on Haberfield's wild pitch to DH Missy Evans.

Evans then tried to execute a sacrifice bunt, but Park catcher Cassie Greathouse's throw to first base struck a running Evans squarely in the back. The umpires then called Evans out for running inside the foul line and sent Shepherd back to second base.

Then, after No. 9 hitter Angie Skinner drew a walk, Mohney laced an RBI single to center field, scoring Shepherd from second and sealing the Wildcats' marathon win.

"They just got the hits ... a couple of them there," Park head coach Tammy Higley said. "Mindy's done a great job all season, so I wasn't worried about putting her in there."

Defense was the order of the day through 14 scoreless innings, as the two starting pitchers — Doyle and Peddicord — kept control.

Doyle struck out seven, walked three and seemingly could induce Edison groundouts on demand. She didn't give up a hit until Shepherd's one-out single in the fifth.

"She went 14 strong innings," Higley said. "She could've gone more, but those are the rules. But I think she did a fine job. We didn't expect that many innings, but we expected a pitchers' duel. We had heard that (Peddicord) was good ... so we kind of expected a defensive ball game."

Added Bendle: "Beth Doyle did an excellent job. It's a shame that she had to come out of the game at that time, and it's a shame that Stephanie Peddicord had to come out of the game at that time, too."

Peddicord has struck out 29 batters in her last two games. The junior hurler had 15 strikeouts in Thursday's 2-0 win over West Holmes in the Ohio Eastern District championship in Warsaw.

"(Peddicord) has not had a bad game," Bendle said. "She's had maybe one or two bad innings throughout the season, or she might have had one or two bad pitches in a ball game. She's just consistent, tough as nails and she gets the big outs when we need them."

Wheeling Park senior Ashley Minor had three singles in her final game as a Patriot, and Haberfield had two hits batting out of the No. 9 hole for Park, which ends its season at 21-7.

Edison remains alive in Ohio postseason play. The Wildcats will meet the Southeast District champion — either Sheridan or South Point — on Thursday in Pickerington.

**OVAC Class AA Finals  
Toronto 5, Shadyside 3**

Also at Belle Isle Field, Courtney Fleming hurled a four-hitter in pitching the Lady Red Knights to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AA championship over the Lady Tigers. Toronto (14-6) scored three runs in the second inning and added a pair in the third to beat Shadyside (16-4).

Fleming also had a double in the game, while Abby Bailey singled twice and Ashley McClan had a two-run single. Lauren Clegg and Jen Weidger also singled in runs for the OVAC champions.

Shadyside picked up an RBI single by Lisa Merryman, who took the loss after surrendering nine hits.

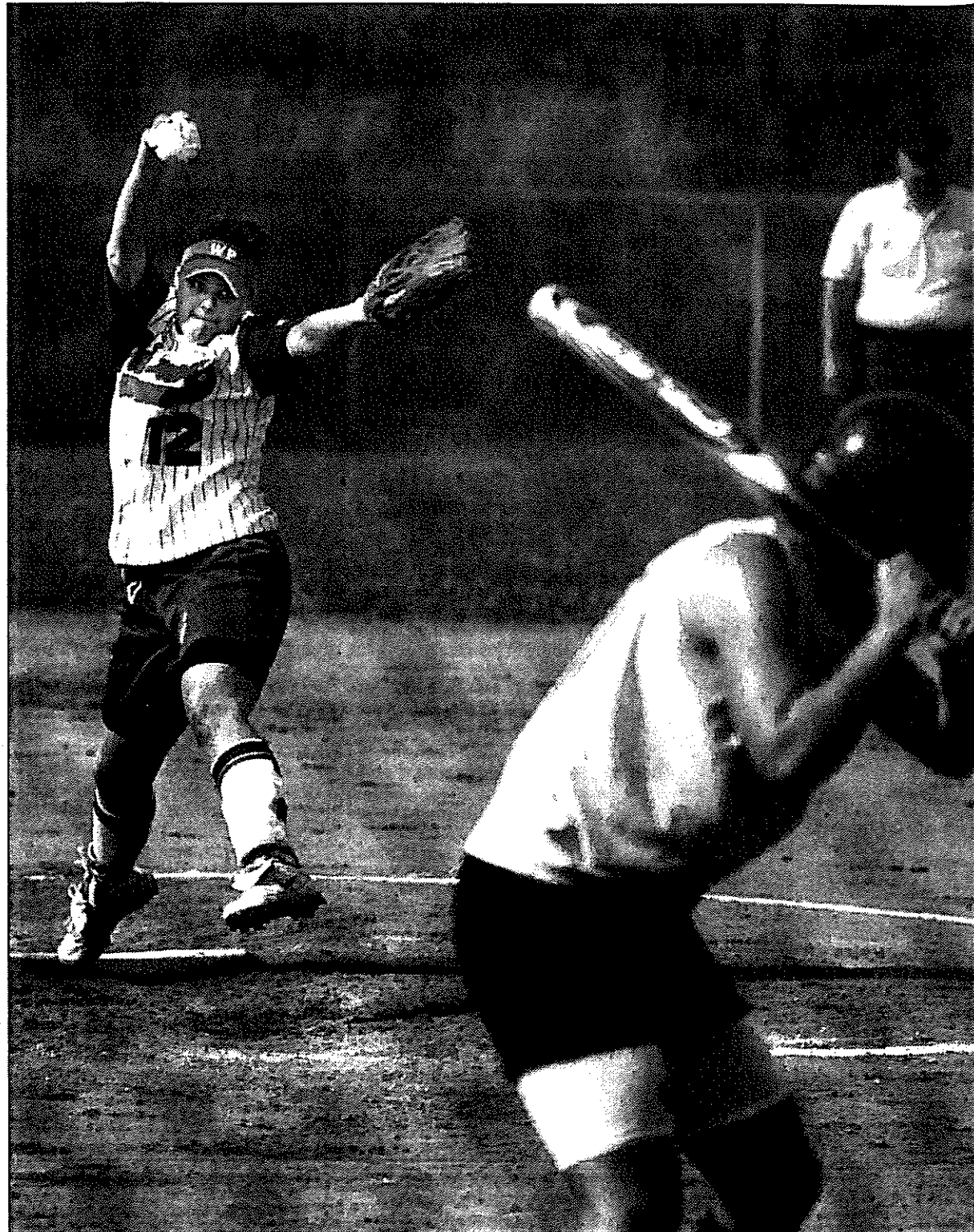


Photo by Scott McCloskey

Wheeling Park's Beth Doyle works to the plate and Edison hitter Sam Steele during the OVAC Class AAAA championship game Saturday at Belle Isle Field on Wheeling Island. Doyle tossed 14 shutout innings but didn't figure in the decision, as Edison claimed a 1-0 win in the 15th frame.

# St. John's girls nip Madonna for OVAC 1-A crown

By GREG HARKNESS  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Senior Scarlett Lynn scattered seven hits and sophomore Jodie Coyne singled in the game-winning run as St. John Central captured the OVAC Class A Championship by topping Weirton Madonna, 3-2, at the Chambers Field Complex in Elm Grove.

The win improved the Lady Irish to 19-6 on the season with St. John Central returning to action Wednesday night in district action against Tuscarawas Central Catholic.

"It was another tough one," first-year Irish mentor Jerry Magistro explained referring to his team's 5-4 victory over Conotton Valley to advance to the championship game. "Our girls worked extremely hard," he added. "They have been lifting weights and doing plyometrics for quite a long time. I am really happy for our seniors."

St. John's had a chance to have a breakout first inning but Weirton

Madonna pitcher Jana LaMantia was able to escape with minimal damage.

With one out, hard-nosed catcher Retta Rico walked, stole second and then moved to third on a passed ball. Senior standout Kayla Magistro followed with a ground ball to Lady Don shortstop Megan Finneran who elected to throw home unsuccessfully.

The inning continued as center-fielder Jacques Baker singled down the third base line to put runners on first and second. After Kristen McCormick flew out sophomore Jonni Jo Magistro singled down the third base line to load the bases.

LaMantia then induced a ground out to end the inning.

Weirton Madonna answered back in the top of the third as freshman Stephanie Glover singled to start the inning. Junior Amy Finneran followed with a bunt single, and when the ensuing throw was wide, Glover took third.

Senior Megan Finneran's ground out scored Glover to make it 1-1.

Madonna took the lead in the top of the fifth inning when Megan Finneran walked to start the inning. Following an out, Jenna Fulmer walked to put runners on first and second.

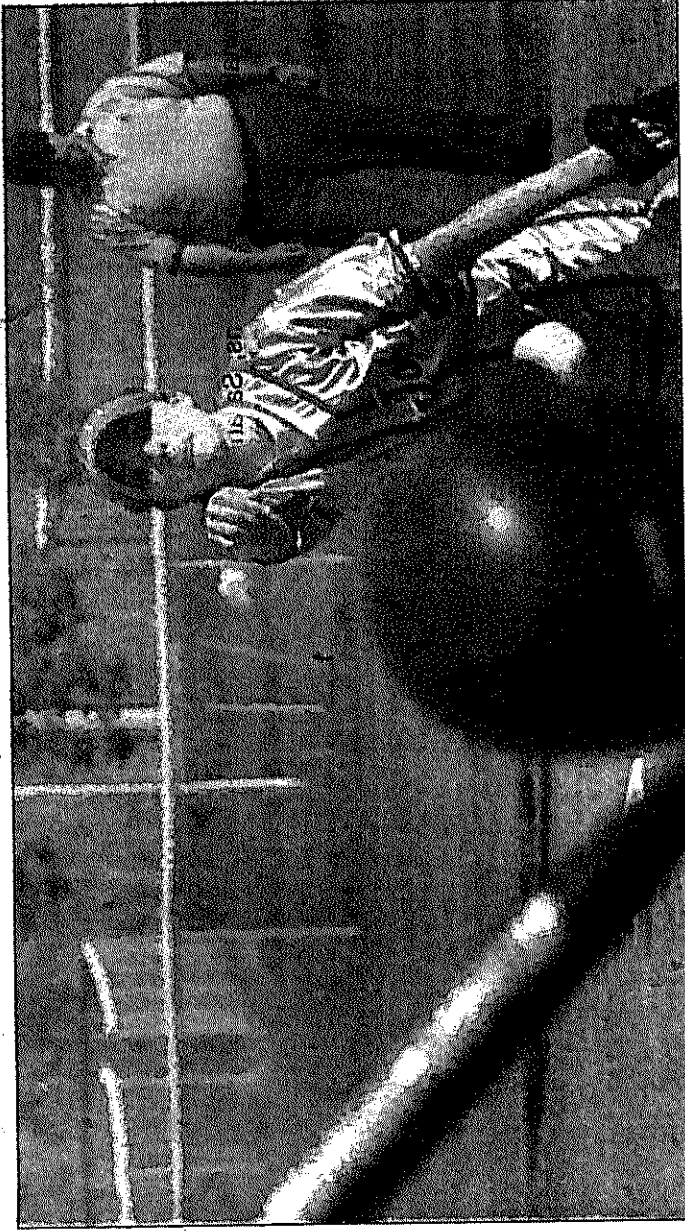
Alisha Vargo then smacked a double to right field which scored Megan Finneran, but Jonni Jo Magistro's throw was perfect to nail Fulmer trying to score to keep the Lady Dons from extending the lead past 2-1.

In the bottom of the fifth, Kayla Magistro walked with one out. LaMantia recorded a strikeout for the second out of the inning before McCormick blasted a double to left center to tie the score at 2-2.

In the decisive sixth inning, Lynn started things with a walk. The Lady Irish took advantage of the courtesy runner and replaced Lynn with Brooke Poliva, who took second on a passed ball.

Alicia Ciardelli attempted a sacrifice bunt, but reached when the throw to first was wide which

See, ST. JOHN'S, Page 2B



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA  
**DELIVERING** a pitch during Monday's OVAC 1-A championship game between St. John Central and Weirton Madonna is Lady Irish mound standout Scarlett Lynn. St. John's nipped Madonna, 3-2, to capture the conference crown.

## Park Capitalizes on Brooke Errors

First-inning scoring highlights OVAC semifinal

By MIKE HUGHES  
Staff Writer

If you look up the term "pitcher's duel" in the dictionary, you would probably find a description of Monday's OVAC Class AAAA semifinal matchup between rivals Wheeling Park and Brooke at the J.B. Chambers Sports Complex.

Well, minus the first inning.

All of the game's runs were scored in the initial stanza, as the Patriots' (21-5) Beth Doyle and the Bruins' (16-9) Ashley Visco combined to give up just five hits without allowing a run the rest of the way.

In fact, both of the Patriots' runs came via a two-run error during the bottom half of the first.

"You never know where the difference in a game is going to be," explained Bruins' head mentor John Leary following the tough, season-ending loss. "That play shouldn't have been the deciding factor in the game."

"Kids are kids, they are going to make mistakes... and two runs should not beat us."

But two runs was all the Patriots' defense, and its senior hurler would need.

Eighteen of the Bruins' 21 outs were made in the infield, two by strikeouts, five were infield pop-ups, and Doyle induced 11 ground balls.

And the Patriot infield was flawless, not committing an error in the process.

"The defense was great," explained Park head coach Tami Higley. "Defensively we were real good...we gave up one in the first, and they were great the rest of the way through."

"And you can't beat the last play that ended the game."

With Brooke down to its final two outs, Marissa Ciccolella hit a bloop infield single. Lindsey Felton came on to pinch-run, and on the following pitch, stole second.

Rachel Cutone popped one towards second baseman Michelle Depto, which looked as if it would drop, causing Felton to run. But Depto snagged it before it hit the dirt, and flipped the ball to Somer Struthers for the game-ending 4-6 double play.

Visco, the Bruins' freshman hurler, who sported an impressive regular-season record, had gotten off to a rocky introduction to playoff softball, starting with last week's sectional loss to Park.

But the steady frosh kept her cool, and pitched a gem to keep her team in the game.

"My freshman pitcher...to come back today after giving up those to early runs, to keep her composure, and keep us in the game like that was very good on her part," said Leary.

That is putting it lightly.

With both runs scoring via error, Visco did not allow an earned run all game. She struck out five batters, did not give up a free pass, gave up three hits, and threw a total of 58 pitches --

### OVAC SOFTBALL

nine of which were balls, good for a 6-to-1 strike-to-ball ratio.

"I'll take that kind of control," added Leary. "That's Greg Maddux-like."

All three of Park's hits came courtesy of singles by Doyle, Depto and sophomore Stephanie Luzader.

RaeAnn D'Aurora doubled home Mandy Dipasquale, who had two singles, for the Bruins lone run.

With the win, Wheeling Park advances to the Class AAAA final against hard-throwing Stephanie Peddicord and the top-seeded Edison Wildcats on Wednesday.

But first, they must contend with Parkersburg South, which has a tough pitcher of its own in Jessica Greathouse, in a West Virginia Class AAA Regional final matchup today at Brooke High School.

"We have seen her pitch (Greathouse), but we haven't faced her yet," commented Higley. "We watched her pitch against John Marshall, and we are going to have to get our bats out, because I'm sure once she gets a lead she's probably tough."

Brooke ends the year with a 16-9 record, but Leary still holds a sense of optimism for next year, as his entire starting lineup will return for the 2002 campaign.

"I told my team that everybody that was out on that field today is coming back," said Leary. "And I look at that as a positive."

#### CLASS AAA FINAL

##### Beaver Local 1 Oak Glen 0

Beaver Local (23-3) took home the Class AAA OVAC title with a hard earned victory over Oak Glen, also at the Chambers Complex.

Beaver Local hurler Vicki McCoy gave up just one hit in the shutout, while tallying seven strikeouts. On offense for the Beavers, it was Tori Lattanzio scoring the game's only run. Lattanzio was knocked in by Robin Prescott in the fifth inning.

Prescott finished the game with a single and an RBI, while Lattanzio had a double.

Oak Glen (15-7) got its lone hit from Jade Eckleberry with a single.

#### CLASS A FINAL

##### Bellaire St. John's 3 Madonna 2

Jodie Coyne singled in Scarlett Lynn in the bottom of the sixth inning as Bellaire St. John's (19-6) topped Weirton Madonna in taking home the OVAC Class A Crown.

Lynn, who walked just ahead of the Coyne single, was also the game's winning pitcher, striking out four.

Kristen McCormick and Kayla Magistro also produced run-scoring hits for the Irish, who had seven hits vs. Madonna starter Jana LaMantia.

For the Blue Dons, Amy Finneran stroked a pair of singles and drove in a run while Stephanie Glover blasted a triple and a single.



**CROSSING** the first base bag is Weirton Madonna's Megan Finneran as St. John Central's Aliccia Ciardelli awaits the throw during Monday's OVAC 1-A softball championship game. T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

## St. John's

Continued from Page 1B

placed runners at first and third. That's when Coyne followed with a bloop single to right center that dropped to score the game-winning run.

Amy Finneran started the seventh with a walk, but Lynn recorded the next three outs to claim the title.

Lynn finished five strikeouts and two walks to up her record to 11-3 on the season.

LaMantia pitched well in defeat as she allowed just five hits. LaMantia fanned six and walked four.

St. John's was runnerup last year to Beallsville and was the team champion in 1999. The Lady Blue Devils were forced to withdraw from this year's event because of a scheduling conflict.

Linescores:

Weirton Madonna 001 010 0 — 2 7 3  
St. John Central 100 011 x — 3 5 2  
BATTERIES: LaMantia and Setcavage; Lynn and Rico.

BEAVER LOCAL (23-3) took home the class AAA behind the one-hit pitching of senior ace Vicki McCoy as the Lady Beavers downed Oak Glen 1-0.

Lady Beavers' catcher Robin Prescott accounted for the game's only run, singling home teammate Tori Lattanzio in the bottom of the third inning.

McCoy compiled seven strikeouts for BL. Jade Ecklberry singled for the Lady Bears (15-7) lone hit. Linescore:

Oak Glen 000 000 0 — 0 1 0  
Beaver Local 001 000 0 — 1 7 0  
BATTERIES: Amos and Morris; McCoy and Prescott.

IN A 4-A semifinal matchup, Wheeling Park posted a 2-1 triumph over Brooke.

The 21-5 Lady Patriots received a sterling mound effort from veteran Beth Doyle who compiled two strikeouts and one walk. Doyle yielded but five hits.

Equally impressive was the Bruins' Ashley Visco who permitted just three Patriots hits. Visco fanned five and did not permit a base on balls.

After Brooke took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first, the Park came back for two tallies in its half of the first. Both runs scored via Bruin fielding miscues. Brooke finished with a 16-9 slate. Line score:

Brooke 100 000 0 — 1 5 4  
W. Park 200 000 x — 2 3 0  
BATTERIES: Visco and D'Aurora. Doyle and Greathouse.

# St. John's Holds On For Win

By CHRISTOPHER S. NASH  
Staff Writer

Top-seeded Bellaire St. John's (18-6) dug itself a hole, climbed out, then dug another, before edging out fourth-seeded Conotton Valley 5-4, in the opening game of the OVAC Class A semifinal at the Chambers Complex fields in Wheeling on Wednesday afternoon.



"To be honest, I wasn't real happy with our performance tonight," remarked St. John's coach Jerry Magistro. "I don't think the kids came ready to play, I think they overlooked them, and maybe so did I."

The Rockets (6-15) took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second, only to watch St. Johns storm back in the fifth.

Jodie Coyne led off the fifth for the Irish and set the tone for the inning with a triple. The very next batter, Lauren Crecion bounced into a fielder's choice as Coyne was cut down at the plate. Three batters later, Crecion accounted for the first St. Johns' run on an error.

Then it seemed to fall apart for the Rockets.

St. John's added two more runs courtesy of two wild pitches to take a 3-1 lead, and with pitcher Scarlett Lynn racking up the strikeouts, it appeared that was all the scoring the Irish would need.

Through five innings, Lynn had struck out nine, including a span of six in a row. She added one more for a total of 10 strikeouts on the night.

"Her (Lynn) pitching is probably what won this game for us today," said Magistro.

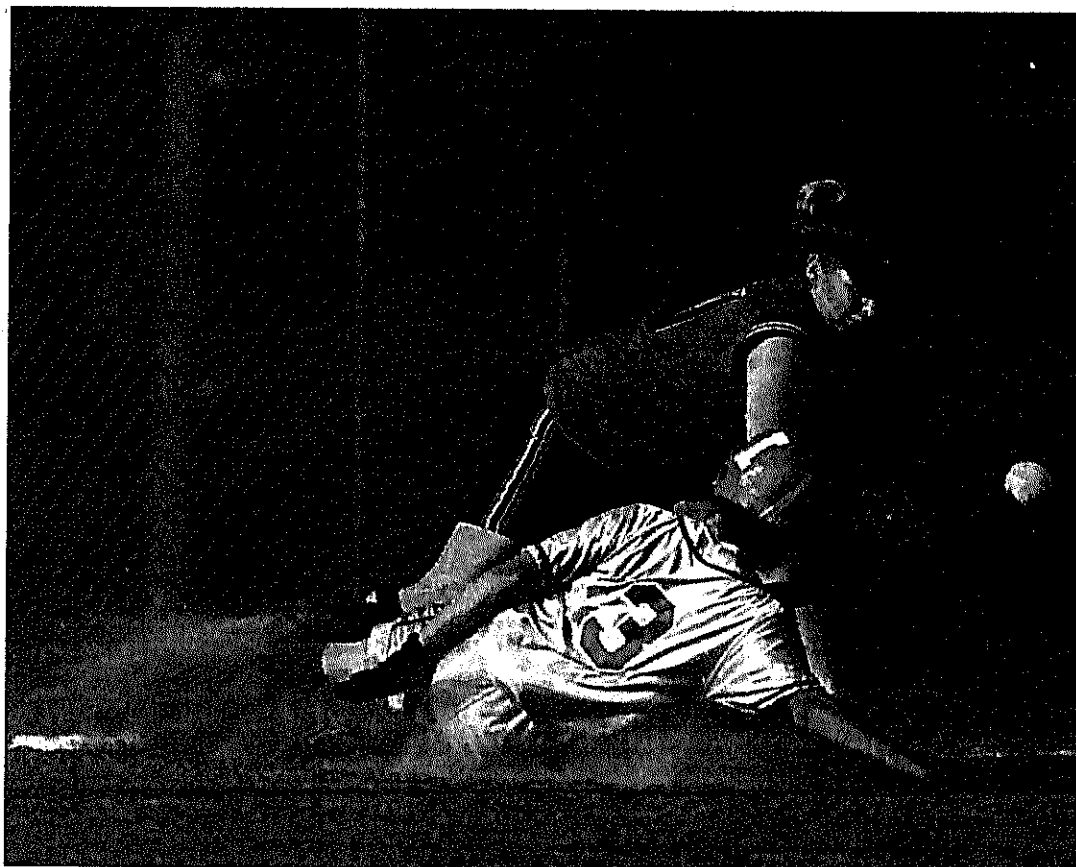


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Bellaire St. John's base runner Jodie Coyne slides safely into third base ahead of the tag of Conotton Valley third baseman Rachel Cole during action of the OVAC Class A semifinal Wednesday at the Chambers Complex.

Back-to-back sixth inning errors by the Irish set up the Rockets' Amber Schwarze with runners at second and third with her team trailing by just a single run.

Schwarze crushed a double, driving in both runners, giving the Rockets a 4-3 advantage heading into the bottom half of the sixth.

"Our girls played tough today," mentioned

Conotton Valley coach Craig Boles. "Unfortunately, we made some mistakes at some crucial times, and it hurt us."

Then came the mistakes for the Rockets.

A dropped throw on a steal of third put St. John's Alisha Ciardelli in position to tie the game.

Please See ST. JOHN'S, Page 23



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Shadyside runner Lisa Merryman, left, is out at home plate by Fort Frye catcher Daniella Polk during the OVAC Class AA Softball Tournament at the Chambers Complex Wednesday.

## St. John's

(Continued from Page 21)

With an error at first two batters later, Ciardelli knotted the score at 4-4.

Rockets' pitcher Jamie Householder was able to get her team out of the inning, but the offense could not back her up, and the Rockets' side was retired in order.

Householder found herself staring at perhaps one of the best Irish hitters in Kayla Magistro to start the bottom half of the contest's final frame.

Magistro connected for a triple on the very first pitch, putting the pressure on Conotton Valley immediately.

After a bunt and a walk in successive at bats, and the Irish had the bases loaded with no outs.

Magistro then sprinted home on a wild pitch, and St. John's had pulled out a close win, and a berth in the OVAC championship game.

"They (Conotton Valley) kept pitching those outside pitches," added Magistro. "We kept telling our girls to watch for those pitches, and we finally got hold of one for a big hit."

### Weirton Madonna 11 Cameron 0

While the first semifinal game kept the crowd on its toes, the second game was unable to live up to its excitement.

Second-seeded Weirton Madonna (12-5) pounded out 10 hits, while its pitcher Jana LaMantia gave up just one, in a mercy rule aided five-inning victory over the third-seed Cameron.

"I think LaMantia had maybe lost her confidence in the last few games," said Blue Dons' coach Chris Conti. "But I'm pretty sure she got it back tonight. She is a hard throwing pitcher when she is focused, the kind of pitcher that can take control of a



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Weirton Madonna hurler Jana LaMantia brings a pitch to the plate against Cameron in the OVAC Class A Tourney semifinal at the Chambers Complex Wednesday.

game."

Led by Sarah Setcavage's two-single, two-RBI performance, the Blue Dons looked like they did not see a pitch they didn't like.

Whether by virtue of a hit, an error, a walk, or being hit by a pitch, every member of the Madonna lineup reached base.

Amy Finneran was hit once by a pitch, but got to first twice more on

hits.

The only member of the Dragons to get a hit was Annie McCulley, who had a single.

Weirton Madonna will play a doubleheader with Wheeling Central in the opener of West Virginia, Region One, Section One play tonight, before having to return to the Chambers Complex for the OVAC final against Bellaire St. John's on Saturday.

"I think tonight's game really helped us for our game against the Maroon Knights," added Conti. "We got back to hitting the ball tonight, and when you play a team like Central, you have to be able to hit the ball."

### CLASS AA

#### Shadyside 2 Fort Frye 1

Sophomore Whitney Brown had a single, triple and RBI and made an outstanding catch to spoil a potential rally by the Cadets and help the Tigers advance to the double-A title game Saturday.

Brown tied the game in the fourth inning with a single to score Jillian Johnson. In the bottom of the inning with one out, Brown tracked down a shot in center field that was headed for extra bases. Then Brown led off the seventh with a triple, later scoring on a Cindy Mason sacrifice fly to hand Fort Frye just its second loss in 21 games this season.

Lisa Merryman, daughter of head coach Tim Merryman, went the route against the powerful Cadets, striking out eight with no walks in a complete-game performance.

She surrendered only three hits, all coming off the bat of Kayla Bickford.

The Tigers advance to Saturday's 12:15 p.m. final against the winner of tonight's Steubenville Central-Toronto clash.



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Toronto pinch-runner Felicia Burchfield collides with Steubenville Central catcher Katie Lloyd while scoring the Red Knights' first run in the OVAC Class AA Tournament semifinal Thursday at the Chambers Complex.

# The 'Price' is Right

## Red Knight belts solo blast for 4-3 victory

By JIM ELLIOTT  
Staff Writer

Toronto's Lindsay Price said she'd never hit a softball that far. Still in its infant stages, the chances are good the J.B. Chambers Complex has never seen a softball hit that far. Steubenville Central head coach Jackie Marook would just as soon never see a softball hit that far again.

After Crusader pitcher Sara Franckhauser had gotten two quick outs in the top of the eighth inning of Thursday's OVAC Class AA semifinal, Price, who had earlier been called out for leaving early from third base on an attempted tag-up play, blasted a deep shot to left field. Steubenville Central left fielder Cristen Biggio gave chase — a long chase — eventually catching up with the bouncing ball on the warning track.

By that time, Price was around second, on her way to the Class AA finals as fourth-seeded Toronto (12-6) held on for a 4-3 victory over top-ranked Steubenville Central (18-6), advancing to play Shadyside at 12:25 p.m. Saturday, also at

the Chambers Complex.

It must have been a pretty nice pitch. "It was right down the middle, just how I like them," a smiling Price said.

The blast came just one inning after Steubenville Central stormed back from a 3-1, bottom-of-the-seventh-inning deficit to tie the game on a heroic, two-out, two-run single by Tessa Valerio.

Before the seventh, Steubenville Central had accumulated just two hits off Toronto hurler Courtney Fleming — a sharp base-hit to center by Megan Gould and an infield safety by Biggio.

"We couldn't really get anything going in the beginning," Marook said. "We had some hard shots, we just hit it right at them. They had all the momentum until the bottom of the seventh inning."

After the Price homer, Steubenville Central, which sent just 10 batters to the plate in the first three innings, advanced at least two runners in scoring position for the third straight stanza.

This time, though, Danielle Hamann popped up to Fleming, who juggled the ball for a second before making the catch, securing the Toronto victory.

Please See PRICE, Page 23

# Peddicord Stops 'Cats

By JOEDY McCREARY  
Staff Writer

It was, Edison coach Spence Bendle said, vintage Stephanie Peddicord.

The Wildcat hurler struck out 10, walked none and weathered through one testy inning in Edison's 5-3 win over Cambridge in Thursday's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAAA semifinal at the Chambers Complex in Elm Grove.

"(Peddicord) hasn't thrown a no-hitter, but she's thrown a ton of two-hitters," Bendle said. "She always gives up, like, two hits, with double figures in strikeouts and very minimal walks."

"And she always gets the outs when she needs them."

Catcher Holly Cline had three singles and two RBIs, and Angie Skinner singled, tripled and knocked in two runs for the

Wildcats (19-5).

Peddicord struck out four of the first five hitters she faced and whiffed seven of the nine Cambridge starters at least once.

But with a steady stream of bunts, Cambridge eventually caught up to her fastball, and the Bobcats made things interesting in the sixth.

The Bobcats (12-12) scored three runs in that frame, the first coming when Natasha Oliver scored from third on a double steal. Then, with two outs, Jackie Golden doubled home Jayme Cline, and Tara Keith singled Golden home before Peddicord regrouped and induced a flyout from opposing pitcher Tabi Thompson.

Peddicord then retired the Bobcats 1-2-3 in the seventh to clinch the win.

Please See 'CATS, Page 23

# OVAC Softball set to get under way

- Beallsville forced to exit

The OVAC Girls' Softball Tournament will get underway today -- weather permitting -- at the Chambers Complex Fields in Elm Grove.

IN CLASS A, second-seeded and defending champions Beallsville has been forced to exit the competition for scheduling conflicts.

That leaves top-seeded St. John Central (17-6) facing Conotton Valley (3-10) in one semi-final at 6 p.m. Following that contest,

new second-seeded Weirton Madonna (11-5) will square off with Cameron (5-10).



IN CLASS AAA, a new champion will be crowned after defending champion Martins Ferry did not qualify for the event.

Top-seeded Beaver Local (19-2) will face Indian Creek (13-9) in the opener at 6 p.m.

The second game will feature Meadowbrook (11-1) and Oak Glen (14-5).

## OVAC SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

# Oak Glen Tops Colts

Oak Glen advanced to within one game of an OVAC championship with a 4-1 victory over Meadowbrook in semifinal action Friday night at the Chambers Complex fields in Wheeling.

Jolene Lamb led the Golden Bears' attack with three singles, and

two RBIs, while Jade Eckleberry had a pair of singles.

Jenna Eckleberry had a single and drove in a run.

Meadowbrook was paced by Ashley Carpenter with a double, and Misty Lorimer who had two singles and knocked in a run.

## Price

(Continued from Page 21)

"We had to make it a little difficult, but it was exciting," said Toronto assistant Jennifer Matyas, who was subbing for an absent Joe Lastivka. "That seems to be the way our trend is going."

For the Red Knights, the win avenged a 12-0 loss to the Crusaders back on April 5.

"I knew the first time, we really didn't play that good," Price said. "We really wanted to show them that we could do just what they could do."

Toronto scored its first two runs in the second inning when Fleming and right fielder Jen Weidger — owner of two outfield assists on Thursday — began the inning with walks. A Steubenville Central error, which scored pinch runner Felicia Burchfield on a close play at the plate, and an ill-fated bunt later, Abbey Bailey knocked in the second run with a groundout.

An inning later, Tara Brand doubled, and Price, who had two of the team's four RBIs, drove her in. It was one out later that Price was called out on the tag-up play, attempting to score on a fly ball.

She went 2-for-3 with a walk in the game.

All told, Steubenville Central stranded 12 base runners.

"We made a couple of defensive mistakes," Marook said. "But like always, we battled back; tied the game, went into extra innings and that girl (Price) just hit a shot."

### Beaver Local 6 Indian Creek 5

Indian Creek jumped out to an early 5-0 lead during the semifinals of the OVAC AAA softball tournament Thursday afternoon at the Chambers Complex in Wheeling.

But by the sixth inning, the Redskins (14-10) were seeing double and triple. The triple vision was in the form of the Beaver Local's McCoy family; Vicki, Sara and Heather.

Sophomore Sara McCoy, sister of senior hurler Vicki McCoy, drove in Vicki McCoy, Robin Prescott, and cousin Heather McCoy on a bases clearing double during the bottom half of the sixth to bring the score to 5-3.

Sara McCoy was at it again in the seventh for the Beavers (22-3), driving in Prescott, again on a double, for the winning run.

Vicki McCoy, although allowing five runs on eight hits, did fan five Redskin batters without allowing a free pass.

Lori Stinard and Michael-Ann Kuester each drove in a pair of runs in the loss.

The Beavers advance to Saturday to take on the winner of today's Oak Glen vs. Meadowbrook game at 4:30 p.m.

The times for Saturday's finals are yet to be set, as there is a scheduling conflict with one of the remaining teams in today's Class AAA semifinal.

# Shadyside, St. John's girls notch OVAC wins

By RICH GIBSON  
Times Leader Sports Editor

Shadyside, St. John's and Weirton Madonna scored semifinal victories as the OVAC Softball Tournament opened Wednesday at Elm Grove's Chambers Fields Complex.

The Irish and Orange both needed seventh inning heroics to advance to Saturday's 1-A and 2-A title tilts.

St. John's came back from an early deficit to avert an upset at the hands of Conotton Valley, 5-4.

Shadyside, meanwhile, broke a 1-1 deadlock, scoring in the top of the seventh to upend Fort Frye by a 2-1 count.

Madonna needed no such dramatics to easily dispose of upstart Cameron, 11-0.

The Blue Dons and Lady Irish clash Saturday afternoon for the 1-A banner. Shadyside opposes with winner of today's Steubenville Central-Toronto tussle for the 2-A crown, also on Saturday.

Tournament semifinal play continues today with four games. Beaver Local opposes Indian Creek in a 3-A tilt at 4:30. Edison and Cambridge clash in a 4-A matchup at 6:00. Toronto and Steubenville Central square off at 6:00 in 3-A action. Brooke and Wheeling Park battle under the lights at 7:30 in a 4-A scrap.

SHADYSIDE and Fort Frye hooked up in a sterling matchup of pitchers.

Lady Tigers' freshman Lisa Merryman outdueled the Cadets' Kim Heldman. Neither issued a base on balls.

Merryman set down eight Cadets on strikes while Heldman recorded four Ks.

Additionally, the Orange executed flawlessly in the field. Coach Tim Sde, OVAC, Page 4B



## OVAC

Continued from Page 1B

Merryman's team was the recipient of a fourth inning diamond gem turned in by centerfielder Whitney Brown.

With the contest knotted at 1-1, Fort Frye's Nicki Misel sent a line drive towards left-center which Brown speared on the run, taking away extra bases — and possibly a home run.

"A great catch by Whitney Brown," remarked Merryman. "Our defense has been solid and that was an excellent example."

The Orange broke through in the top of the seventh when Brown led off with a triple to centerfield.

Freshman Cyndi Mason followed with a fly ball to center, easily deep enough to plate Brown with what proved the game-winner.

Facing Fort Frye's 4-5-6 hitters in the bottom of the seventh, Merryman recorded a quick strikeout, then retired the next two batters to end it.

"The key with Lisa has been consistency," said the Orange coach. "Her control has been outstanding. That, and playing well defensively gives us a chance to win almost every game."

Fort Frye was a 1-0 leader after three innings before Brown singled home Jillian Johnson in the top of the fourth.

The Lady Cadets, under fourth-year coach Barb Miller, fell for only the second time in 21 starts.

"Coming into today, we were 8-0 in one-run games. (It) caught up with us at the wrong time," she theorized. "I thought we hit the ball well. But almost everything we hit was right at someone. It was just a very well-played game."

Fort Frye remains alive in sectional play. The Cadets were scheduled to face Bellaire this afternoon at Cambridge.

Shadyside takes a 16-3 mark into Saturday's 2-A title game.

ST. JOHN'S, top-seeded among 1-A teams, was forced to rally from a 1-0 deficit after four and a half innings.

Irish coach Jerry Magistro admitted his club dodged a major

bullet.

"We just weren't mentally ready to play. I took them lightly...the girls took them lightly. Before the game, some of our fans were even talking the 10-run rule."

Instead, the Green was forced to survive, scoring three times in the fifth for a 3-1 upperhand.

Conotton, however, countered with three in the top of the sixth to regain a 4-3 upperhand.

The Johnnies pushed across the game-tying tally in the last of the sixth, then won in their final at bat.

Senior Kayla Magistro ignited the Irish, sending an opposite field triple down the right field line. Classmate Jacque Baker reached on an infield hit before senior Kristen McCormick walked, loading the bases.

Three pitches later, Magistro raced home on a wild pitch and the Green had averted a possible upset.

"This was a definite wake-up call. I don't think there's any doubt we'll be ready to play Saturday," Magistro advised. "We beat Madonna twice in the regular season, but they're a dangerous team, so we'll have to execute."

The Green received a gutty mound performance from mainstay Scarlet Lynn, who recorded 10 strikeouts and two walks.

Conotton's Jamie Householder struck out a pair and permitted seven walks. The Rockets' Amber Schwarence drilled a double and two singles.

Baker belted a single and double for St. John's. Sophomore Jonni Jo Magistro contributed two singles. Line scores:

**CLASS 2-A SEMIFINAL**  
Shadyside 000 100 1 2 5 0  
Fort Frye 001 000 0 1 4 1  
BATTERIES: Merryman and Fluharty, Heldman and Polk.

**CLASS 1-A SEMIFINAL**  
Conotton Valley 010 003 0 4 4 2  
St. John's 000 031 1 5 6 4  
BATTERIES: Householder and Morgan, Lynn and Rico

**CLASS 1-A SEMIFINAL**  
Cameron 000 00 0 1 2  
Madonna 431 3x 11 13 2  
BATTERIES: Lamanila and Fulmer, Sampson and McCulley.

# Close matchups mark OVAC clashes

Closely contested games highlighted day two of the OVAC Softball Tournament, Thursday at the Chambers' Field Complex in Elm Grove.

Edison built a five-run lead then held off a Cambridge comeback bid to score a 5-3 semifinal triumph in a 4-A clash.

Beaver Local also found itself in a 5-0 hole, but rallied dramatically to upend Indian Creek, 6-5, in a 3-A contest.

Thursday's final game saw Steubenville Central score twice in the bottom of the seventh to force extra innings with Toronto only to see the Red Knights tally in the top of the eighth for a 4-3 decision in 2-A play.

A 3-A semifinal is on this afternoon's card with Meadowbrook and Oak Glen scheduled to vie at 4:30.

The OVAC was unable to announce official game times for Saturday's title tilts. Fans of competing teams are advised to contact respective coaching staffs.

## CLASS 4-A

### EDISON 5 CAMBRIDGE 3

WILDCATS' mound ace Steph Peddicord fired a six-hitter and recorded nine strikeouts as the Jefferson County club improved to 19-5.

Catcher Holly Cline socked three singles, driving in two Edison tallies. Angie Skinner also accounted for two runs, tagging a triple and single.

Leah Snyder and Sam Steele contributed two singles apiece. Jessica Shepherd hammered a triple.

Cambridge's Jackie Golden singled and doubled for a run batted in. Tara Keith clubbed two singles. Jayme Cline drilled a double. The Lady Cats concluded at 12-12.

## CLASS 3-A

### BEAVER LOCAL 6

### INDIAN CREEK 5

TRAILING 5-0 entering the bottom of the sixth, Beaver Local loaded the bases before sophomore Sara McCoy drilled a three-run double for a 5-3 Redskins' upper-hand.

The Beavers kept coming and

plated the fourth and fifth runs in the last of the seventh. McCoy, again came through in the clutch, singling home the game-winner.

Vicki McCoy came back from a shaky start to blank IC over the final five frames. She struck out five and did not allow a base on balls.

The Creek's Jenn Calabrese also went the route, recording four Ks and two walks. The Lady Redskins finished at 14-10.

Robin Prescott contributed a single, double and run batted in for Beaver which takes a 22-3 record into Saturday's title game.

Lori Stinard socked a single and double, good for two Creek tallies. Calabrese and Jamie Wallace collected two hits apiece. Michale Ann Kuester doubled and scored two teammates.

## CLASS 2-A

### TORONTO 4

### STEUBENVILLE CENTRAL 3

THE LADY Knights' Lindsey Price pounded a solo homer in the top of the eighth, elevating Toronto to Saturday's championship game against Shadyside.

Junior Courtney Fleming spaced five hits, but survived 10 walks in the mound triumph. She recorded four strikeouts.

Sophomore Sarah Frankhauser pitched well in defeat, fanning four and walking a like number.

The Crusaders, falling to 16-6, received a double and run batted in from Tessa Velerio.

Toronto improved its record to 12-6. Line scores:

## CLASS 4-A

Cambridge	000 003 0 3 6 2
Edison	111 200 x 5 12 1

BATTERIES: Thompson and Keith. Peddicord and Cline

## CLASS 3-A

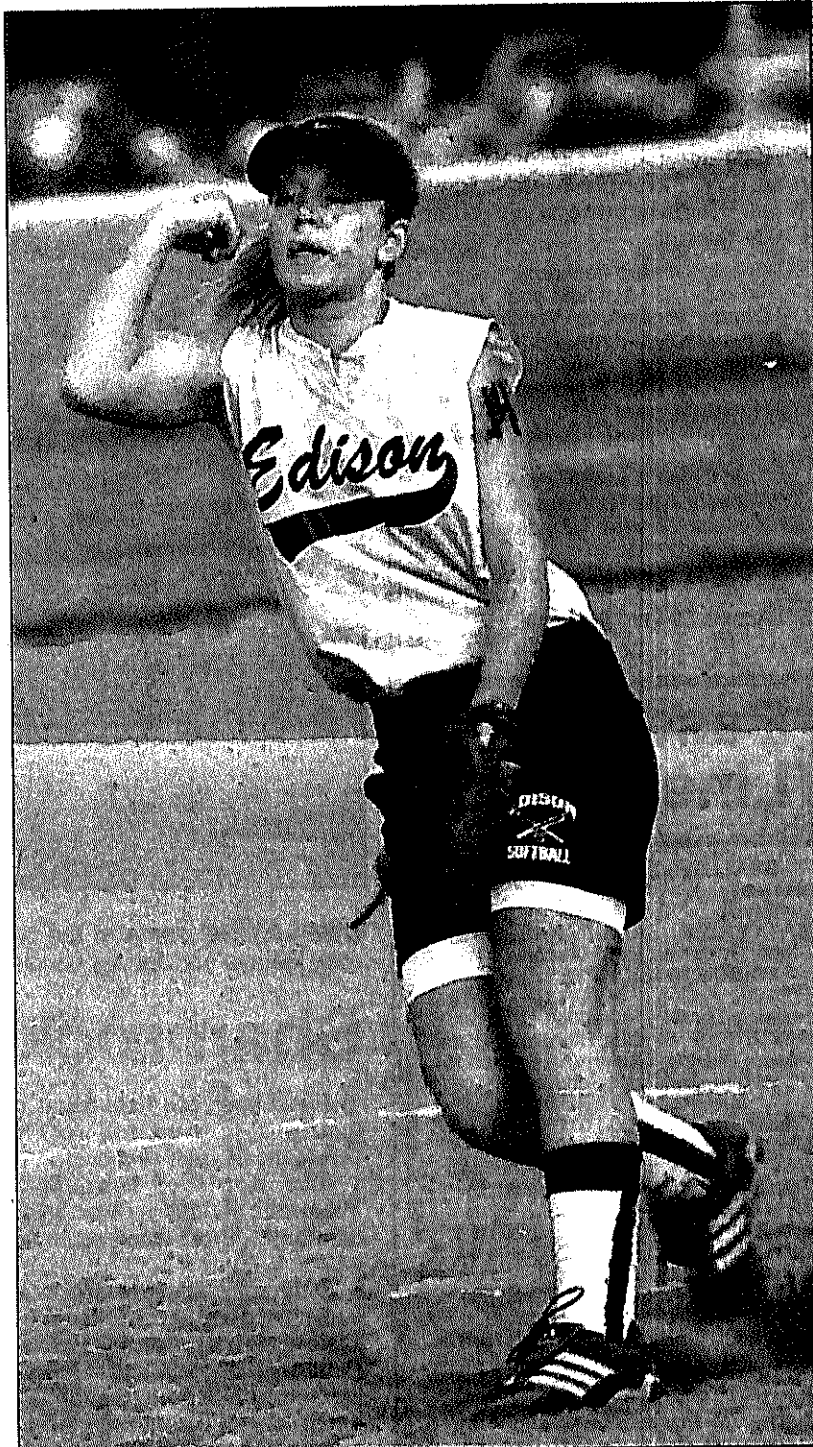
Indian Creek	140 000 0 5 8 0
Beaver Local	000 003 3 6 9 2

BATTERIES: Calabrese and Orwick. McCoy and Prescott.

## CLASS 2-A

Toronto	021 000 01 4 7 0
Steub. Central	000 010 20 3 5 0

BATTERIES: Fleming and Brand. Frankhauser and Lloyd.



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

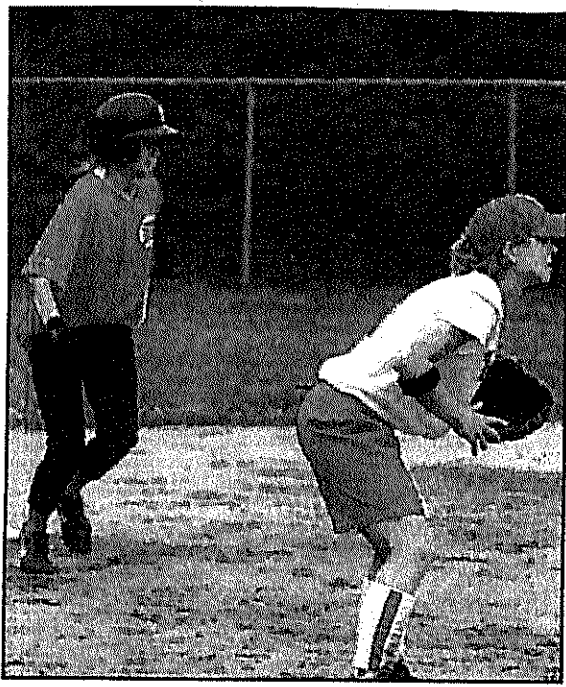
DELIVERING a pitch during Thursday's OVAC 4-A matchup between Edison and Cambridge is the Wildcats' mound ace Steph Peddicord. She fired a six-hitter and fanned nine in a 5-3 victory.

## OVAC Champs



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

PICTURED IS the OVAC Class A Champions from St. John Central. Front row, from left, are Jonni Jo Magistro, Scarlett Lynn and Brie Donaher. Second row are Brianne Boger and Retta Rico. Third row are Lauren Crecion, Jaclyn Cera, Kayla Bittengle, Kristen McCormick, Allisha Ciardelli, Kayla Magistro, Jacque Baker, Jodie Coyne, Leigh Ann Hanlin and Angela Soos. Fourth row are coaches Tina Reynolds, Neal Johnson, Jerry Magistro, Tim Ciardelli and Chuck Canter.



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

**SHADYSIDE'S** Hillary Horvath leads off second base during Saturday afternoon's OVAC Class AA Softball Championship Game at Belle Isle Field.

# Toronto pockets OVAC

• Edison slips past Park in 15 innings

By GREG HARKNESS  
Times Leader Sports Writer

It took an extra week, but it was well worth the wait for Toronto.

The Lady Red Knights claimed the OVAC Class AA Championship with a 5-3 victory over Shadyside Saturday afternoon at Belle Island Field on Wheeling Island.

The game was scheduled for last Saturday, but heavy rains and Toronto's district berth pushed the game back to this weekend.

Toronto junior ace Courtney Fleming limited Shadyside to three hits in the victory. She fanned six and walked two to earn the mound decision.

Things got off to a quick start for Toronto in the top of the second. Fleming started things with a double to center field. Ashley McClain followed with a single that scored Fleming's courtesy runner.

After a pop out, Abby Bailey reached on an error that allowed McClain to cross the plate. Shadyside freshman Lisa Merryman recorded a strikeout for the second out, but Lauren Clegg plated Bailey with a base hit to center.

Leading 3-0, Toronto broke out the bats again in its half of the third.

Lindsay Price started things with a infield base hit and a steal of second. Fleming walked before McClain's ground out brought home Price. Jenn Wedger then had a base knock to score Fleming's courtesy runner.

Shadyside got on the board in the bottom of the third.

Kelly Roman reached on an error and moved to second on catcher Nikki Fluharty's sacrifice bunt. Merryman then blasted a single to right to score Roman.

Shadyside kept building momentum in the bottom of the fourth.

Junior Jillian Johnson led off the inning by getting hit with a pitch. Richelle Thoburn moved her to second with a sacrifice bunt, before Hillary Horvath reached on an infield single and stole second placing runners on second and third.

Cyndi Mason followed with a ground ball to short, but the throw was low which allowed both Johnson and Horvath to score to cut the lead to 5-3.

However, Fleming would settle down and the

## OVAC

Continued from page 1C

Lady Tigers were not able to muster another scoring threat.

Merryman put up a solid effort in defeat with one strikeout and two walks.

Linescore:  
Toronto 032 000 0 - 5 9 1  
Shadyside 001 200 0 - 3 3 4  
BATTERIES: Fleming and Brand; Merryman and Fluharty.

**THE CLASS AAAA** Championship Game was one for the ages.

Edison's Stephanie Petticord and Wheeling Park's Beth Doyle matched goose eggs for 14 innings before both were forced to leave because of a West Virginia state rule that limits a pitcher to 14 innings.

Subsequently, the Wildcats scored in the bottom of the 15th inning to pocket the championship

1-0. Petticord turned in an amazing performance with 23 strikeouts and no walks.

Doyle was equally superb with nine strikeouts and three walks.

Both pitchers scattered eight hits.

Dani Mohny plated the game-winning run with two singles for Edison (21-5). Holly Cline and Jess Shepherd each added a pair of singles for the Lady Wildcats.

Ashley Minor contributed three singles for Park (21-7), while Mindy Haberfield added two base knocks.

Linescore:  
Park 000 000 000 000 000 - 0 8 0  
Edison 000 000 000 000 001 - 1 8 1  
BATTERIES: Doyle, Haberfield (15) and Greathouse; Petticord 23/0, Baker and Cline.

# Rain dampens OVAC softball, baseball games

The big winner during Saturday's OVAC Baseball and Softball Tournament was the rain.

Heavy downpours Friday night claimed the majority of Saturday's action with the OVAC Softball Championships being completely washed out. Baseball action at Perkins Field

**THE OVAC Softball** tournament will resume play Monday night.

Two games will have a 4:30 first pitch Monday night at the Chambers Complex in Elm Grove. Wheeling Park will battle Brooke in a Class AAAA semi-final contest. Also at 4:30, Oak Glen and Beaver Local will decide the Class AAA championship.

At 6 p.m. on Monday, St. John

Central will do battle with Weirton Madonna in the Class A Championship Game.

More action is on tap Tuesday with Edison facing the Park-Brooke winner in the Class AAAA Championship game at 4:30. Also at 4:30, Shadyside will square off with Toronto in the Class AA finals.

**MEANWHILE,** OVAC Baseball Tournament action at Perkins Field in Brookside also was cancelled.

The games will be made up Monday night with Harrison Central and Buckeye Trail playing in a Class AAA semi-final at 4:30 while St. John Central will face Bishop Donahue at 7:30 in a Class A semi-final.



— OVAC TOURNAMENT —



# Changes Made In Softball Tourney

*Beallsville drops out of competition*

The OVAC softball tournament will get under way this afternoon at the Chambers Complex fields in Elm Grove.

The tournament will begin with Class AAA and Class A double-header play.

In Class AAA, Beaver Local and Indian Creek will face-off in the 6 p.m. game. Beaver Local owns the number one seed for the AAA play-off, and come into the contest with a record of 19-2. Indian Creek owns a 13-9 record.

The nightcap will include Meadowbrook (11-1) and Oak Glen (14-5).

Class A play had an adjustment last night with defending champion Beallsville withdrawing from the competition.

Its withdrawal gave Weirton Madonna the second seed, and enabled Conotton Valley to enter the tournament.

The early game will begin at 6 p.m., and will match top seed Bellaire St. Johns (17-6), the 1999 OVAC champion, against Conotton Valley (3-10).

The second game will feature Weirton Madonna (11-5) against Cameron (5-10), and will get under way at 7:30 p.m.