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The Times Leader

SPORTS

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Wednesday,
April 30, 2003

Union Local slips past Martins Ferry

By GREG HARKNESS
Times Leader Sports Writer

Chalk round three up to Union Local. If there will be a round four is still to be determined.

On the heels of a Saturday double-header sweep of the Riders, the Jets opened OVAC play with another close victory, 3-0, over Martins Ferry Tuesday afternoon in Morristown.

"We came up with some big plays

when we needed them," Union Local head coach Bill Weller said. "Martins Ferry has really improved throughout the season. They are a scary team to play and we could see them again."

For the fourth meeting to occur, Martins Ferry must first deal with a solid Harrison Central club in the opening round of the sectional tournament Monday. The Jets have a first round bye.

The win improved Union Local to

14-8 on the season and moved the Jets into the OVAC semifinals next week against Bellaire, which was a 3-0 winner over Barnesville.

The Jets have a regular season home game tonight against St. Clairsville.

Martins Ferry, meanwhile, dropped its fifth-straight to fall to 8-11 on the season. The Purple Riders will entertain Bridgeport on Thursday.

"I am disappointed for the girls," Martins Ferry head coach Jess Cordery

said. "We played hard. This was a couple of evenly matched teams and it came down to a couple of lose plays and they made them and we didn't."

Union Local posted a pair of one-run victories in Saturday's twinbill.

"We could see them again," Cordery said. "First though, we have to get ready for Harrison Central. That sectional out there is tough. There are no easy games."

Megan Jack fired seven strong

innings for the Jets. She fanned two and most importantly did not permit a walk.

"Megan really did a nice job changing locations and keeping the ball down," Weller said. "She got the ball up a little bit early and they got a couple hits, but then she started working down in the zone."

Martins Ferry threatened in the first inning with two outs as Carrie Oliver

See, JETS, Page B5

Breeden stymies 'Rocks

• Bellaire captures OVAC opener, 3-0

By RICH MATERKOSKI
Times Leader Sports Writer

Fueled by an excellent showing on the mound from Lysa Breeden and some defensive gems from the rest of the Lady Big Reds, Bellaire and head coach Melissa Kaldor disposed of visiting Barnesville, 3-0, in the opening round of OVAC 3-A softball action Tuesday at Badia Field.

Bellaire now moves on to meet Union Local in the semifinals, which defeated Martins Ferry by a 3-0 count.

Breeden sparked on the mound against the Lady 'Rocks. She went the distance, striking out 10 batters, while giving up just one free pass in the top of the seventh.

Kaldor knew coming in that Breeden was going to be the go-to pitcher in the tourney and was not surprised at the excellent showing from the right-hander.

"Lysa has really been our go-to girl all year long, and today was no different," said Kaldor. "I told her before the game that this was a big game and she responded. She does get a little frustrated sometimes when the calls aren't going her way, but she fights through and gets things done."

"Today she got her defense behind her and she pitched a nice game," Kaldor expressed.

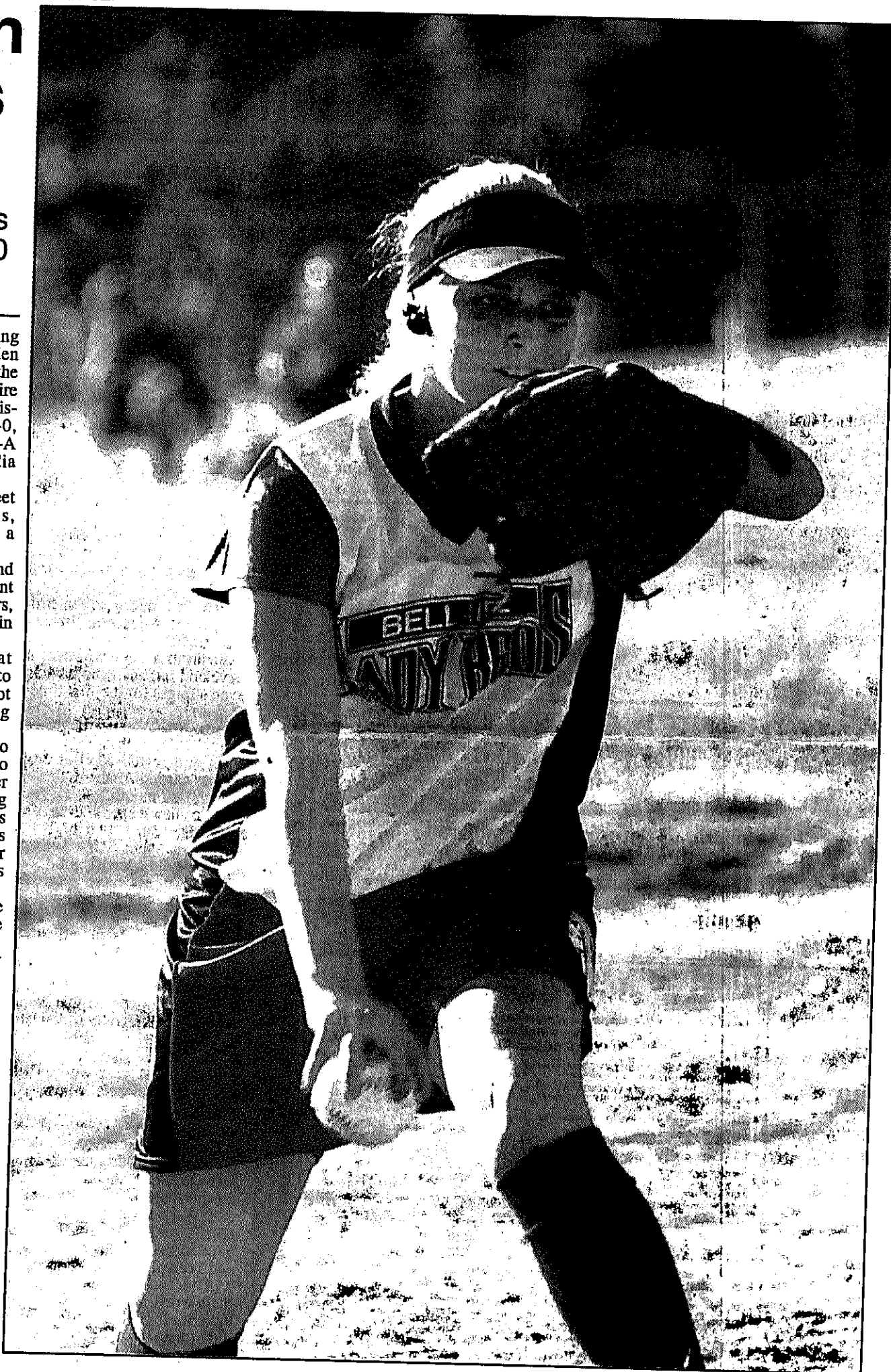
The defense was definitely behind Breeden as the Lady Reds turned three double plays, derailing any effort of a Shamrock comeback.

"We work hard on good defense and double plays every time we practice," noted the first year boss. "I tell them not to get too anxious on double plays, they will come to them."

"We did a good job of handling Barnesville's big hitter (Brianna Cook), and held her to just one hit. We doubled her up by running the catcher at her when she did get on base and that really helped us out a lot," related Kaldor.

Barnesville, meanwhile, was bit by the error bug, which allowed two of Bellaire's runs to be scored.

"I felt when we were coming down here that we could compete with them," said Barnesville head coach Paul Burkhart. "They got a couple of 'Texas Leaguer' hits and



BELLAIRE pitcher Lysa Breeden fires a pitch to the plate against Barnesville during opening-round OVAC Tournament action Tuesday night at Badia Field in Bellaire. Breeden went the distance to help the Big Reds post a 3-0 victory.

T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

See, **BELLAIRE**, Page B5

SPORTS



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

BARNESVILLE'S Natasha Skinner delivers a pitch to the plate against Bellaire during action in the opening round of the OVAC Tournament at Badla Field in Bellaire.

● Bellaire

Continued from Page B1

a couple of throwing errors from us and they took advantage of that.

"When your playing a high caliber team like Bellaire, you have to play errorless ball," Burkhart said. "I give them credit, they are a good ballclub."

Bellaire put a run on the scoreboard in the home half of the second inning.

After Jennifer Beila was hit by a Natasha Skinner pitch, she moved all the way to third via two wild pitches.

After Rosie Zeno walked, putting to Reds on base, Suzanne Wright hammered a single, scoring Beila for the 1-0 lead.

The Lady Reds held the Shamrocks scoreless in the top of the third, and tacked one more on the bottom.

Erica Brandon led off the frame with a single, and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by senior Erica Hibbitts. After a wild pitch, taking Brandon to third, Nikki Driscoll laced a single scoring Brandon to take a 2-0 lead.

The final Bellaire run came in the bottom of the fifth as Amanda Coulter drew a walk to lead of the frame.

With two outs, and Coulter

sitting on third, Driscoll hit a rope to third, which Shamrock third baseman Whitney Lucas couldn't handled scoring Coulter.

Barnesville did put two runners on the basepaths in the top of seventh, but Breeden came up with two strikeouts to end the game.

Kaldor knows the Lady Reds have to get stronger in the later innings of the game if they want to advance to the title game.

"We have been a little sluggish in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings all year long, that has been our forte. We are going to have to snap out of it and get a complete seven under ourselves," said Kaldor.

The Lady Reds were led at the plate by Wright who had a single and RBI, while Driscoll and Brandon laded singles.

Barnesville received two singles from Skinner and Amy Hines, while Cook and Kayla Ralston each added singles.

Bellaire is now 13-5, while Barnesville drops to 8-9.

Linescore:
Barnesville 000 000 0 -- 0 6 4
Bellaire 011 010 x -- 3 3 0
BATTERIES: Skinner and Stephens, Hannahs (3); Breeden and Hibbitts.

● Jets

Continued from Page B1

singled and junior standout Shae Marchbank followed with a double.

However, Jack was able to coax Lyndsey Agnew into grounding to first base to get out of the inning.

Martins Ferry had a pair of runners -- Angie Cerasoli trying to stretch a double and Marchbank stealing -- thrown out to end the third and fourth, respectively.

Union Local finally broke through in the fifth as junior Krista Kinney worked a walk, the game's only free pass, and moved to second on Stacey Taylor's sac bunt.

After Cerasoli recorded the second out, junior Kim Ogilbee smacked a clutch single back through the box to plate Kinney, making it 1-0.

"That was a huge hit by Kim," Weller said. "That was the game-winning hit. We were able to get on with a walk and found a way to get her around."

"Leadoff walks are huge," Cordery said. "That person ends up scoring about 75 percent of the time. It was her only walk of the game, Angie pitched well. We just didn't help her out very much."

With two outs in the sixth inning and Ashley Suto on first base, Oliver stroked another shot into the gap, but this time Jennifer Habig made a fine running catch to save at least one run.

"That was a huge catch," Cordery said. "We would have scored at least one run...and had a chance for more in the inning with Marchbank coming up."

The bottom of the sixth inning got off to a bad start for Ferry as Lisa Dunfee reached on an error. After an out, Jack also reached on an error to put runners on first and second.

Junior backstop Mandy Faunda followed with a single to load the bases.

Cerasoli seemed poised to work out of the jam, recording a strike out and then inducing Taylor to pop up to the shortstop.

One problem....the Purple failed to make the catch allowing the Jets to score two precious insurance runs, making it 3-0.

Third baseman Nikki Petrey did the rest.

She recorded the first out by snaring a sharp line drive off Marchbank's bat and took part in a pair of ground ball outs.

"Nikki is irreplaceable for us at third base," Weller said. "She isn't afraid to stick her nose in there and make a play."

Union Local had four hits. Jack doubled and Dunfee, Ogilbee and Faunda had singles.

Martins Ferry received a single and a double from Marchbank, while Oliver and Tracey Canter each added singles. Cerasoli had a double.

Cerasoli was the tough-luck loser. She fanned eight and allowed just one walk.

Linescore:
Martins Ferry 000 000 0 -- 0 5 3
Union Local 000 012 x -- 3 4 1
BATTERIES: Cerasoli and Oliver; Jack and Faunda.

Linsly claims OVAC crown

• Cadets pocket 3-1 victory for first OVAC championship

By GREG HARKNESS
Times Leader Sports Writer

It will be a memorable Saturday for Linsly.

That's because the Cadets won their first-ever OVAC softball championship via a 3-1 victory over Beallsville Saturday afternoon in the Class A championship game at the Chambers/I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

"I am speechless," Linsly head coach Liz Hofreuter-Landini said. "We knew back at spring break that we had something special.

"We lost four great seniors from last year and started with five early losses, but this team never got down," Hofreuter-Landini continued. "We kept believing in each other. This is a team of 15 players and all were important pieces of the puzzle.

"This is just a testimony to believing in each other, the coaches and your self," Hofreuter-Landini added.

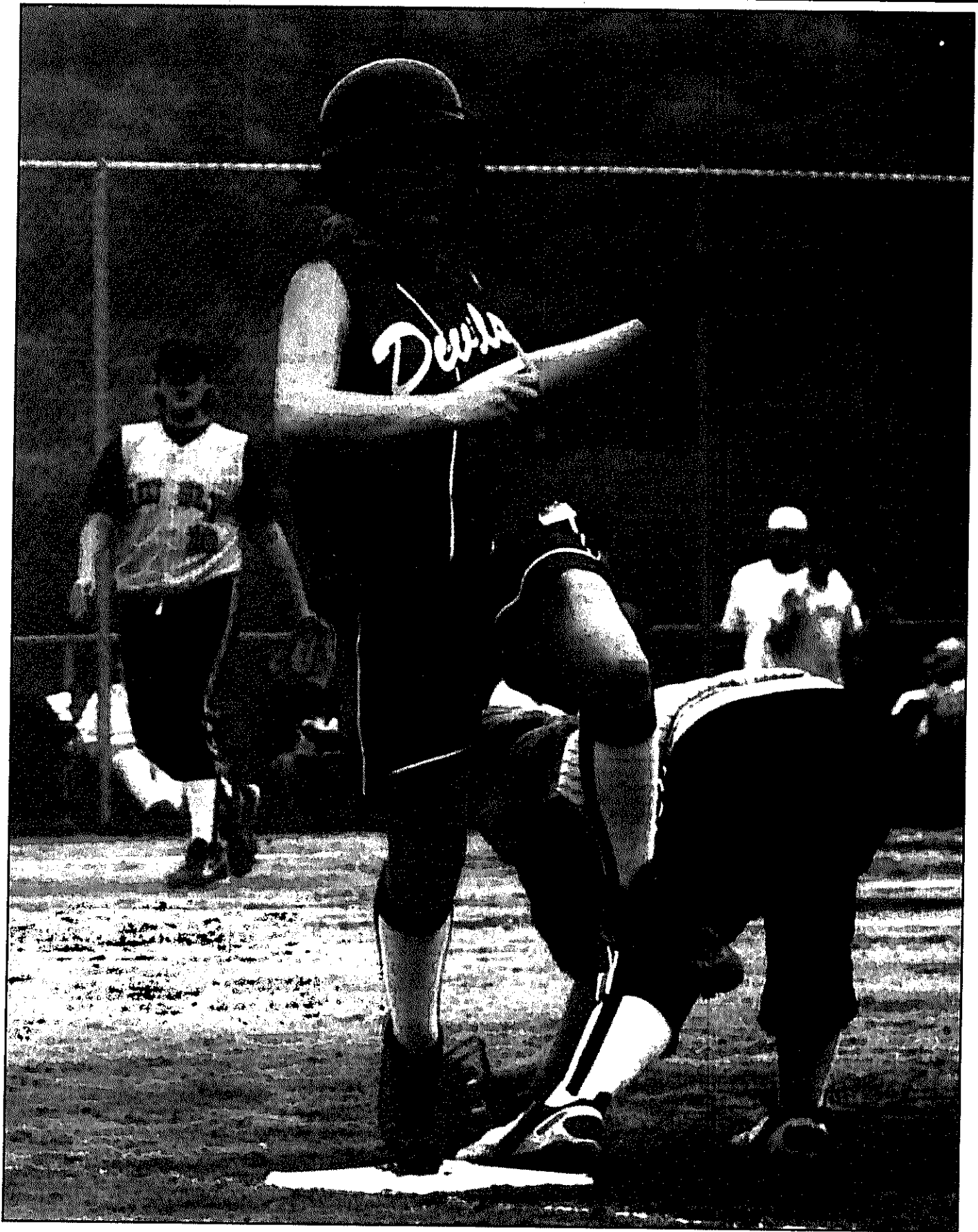
Linsly certainly earned the championship. Had it been just one season ago, the fifth-seeded Cadets would have on the outside looking in, but the OVAC expanded the format to eight teams.

"If wasn't for them expanding the playoffs, I wouldn't even be standing here," a smiling Hofreuter-Landini said. "I am certainly happy that they did that."

The Cadets opened tournament play with a win over fourth-seeded Weirton Madonna before edging top-seeded St. John Central, 1-0.

Beallsville, meanwhile, overcame some late season adversity to get to the championship game.

See, LINSLY, Page B2



BEALLSVILLE'S Lee Ann Schumacher is out at first base as Linsly's Kaleigh Parsons (right) takes the throw from third baseman Mandy Szerszen (background) during action in Saturday's OVAC Class A Championship game at the Chambers/-470 Complex in Wheeling. T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

Taczak Keys Edison, 1-0

Big Reds, Blue Devils, Seminoles also advance

By RYAN GEORGE
Staff Writer

Two pitchers duel's were on display Thursday afternoon at the J.B. Chambers I-470 complex as Bellaire managed to get past Union Local 2-0 in the class AAA Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Semifinal and Edison scored in the bottom of the seventh to defeat Brooke 1-0 in the class 4-A semifinal.

Key hits with runners in scoring position enabled both Bellaire and Edison to pull out the wins on Field 4 at the complex.

Edison (21-3) advances to play John Marshall Saturday in the 4-A championship at 3:45 p.m., while Bellaire (14-7) will square off with Meadowbrook at 12:15 p.m. in the AAA contest.

In Class AA, action Monroe Central blanked Frontier 10-0, and will face Steubenville Central at 10:30 a.m. in the finals.

In single-A, Beallsville hipped Shadyside 3-2, and will play Linsly at 2 p.m. in the finals.

Edison 1, Brooke 0

Samantha Taczak drove a one-out line drive which scored Angie Skinner from second in the seventh to lift Edison.

Lakyn Bendle struck out just two Brooke batters, but also allowed only three Bruin hits. Brooke pitcher Ashley Visco also struck out two Wildcat hitters but kept her team in the contest.

"I thought we played very well defensively," said Edison head coach Spencer Bendle.

"I think we were fundamentally sound today and Lakyn pitched effectively for us."

For Brooke skipper John Leary, who said he was proud of his team's effort despite the fact that it has come up short in



File Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Jessica Shepherd and the Wildcats advanced past Brooke in OVAC softball tournament action Thursday at the J.B. Chambers I-470 complex.

four straight games against Edison, including last year's OVAC AAA championship. The Wildcats also won that game by a run.

"This was an excellent softball game," Leary said following his team's defeat.

"It hurts to lose this way but we played exceptionally well. I just wish we could find a way to beat Edison."

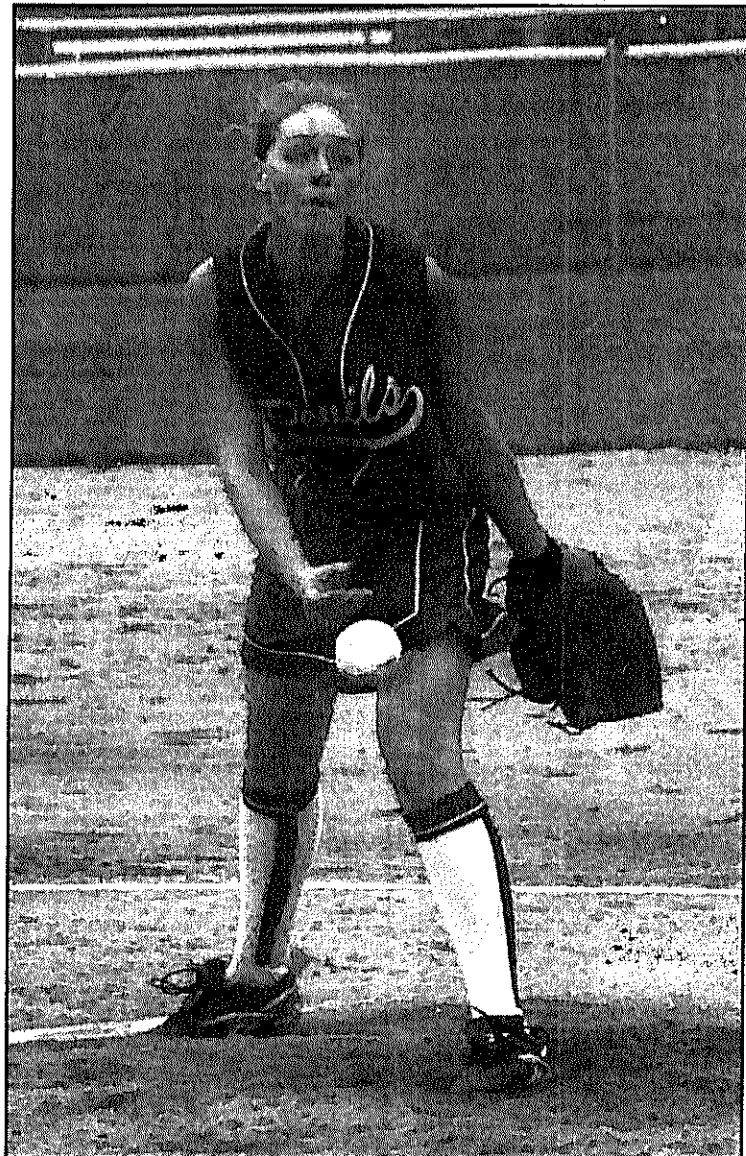
Erika Alloggia and Missy Evans each singled twice for the Wildcats.

Brooke (11-9) was led at the plate by Michelle DiGiacinto's two base hits.

Bellaire 2, Union Local 0

Bellaire's Lysa Breeden and Union Local's Megan Jack each allowed just three hits, but it was Breeden's team that took advantage of timely hitting and a Jet infield error to earn the win.

Please See OVAC Page 22.



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

BEALLSVILLE senior Sasha Burkhardt delivers a pitch to the plate against Linsly during the OVAC Class A Championship game Saturday at the Chambers/I-470 Complex.

● Linsly

Continued from Page B1

After seeing catcher Lee Ann Schumacher injured in a regular season game against Shadyside and return, the Blue Devils lost talented junior pitcher Charity Street to arm injury.

Street was able to keep playing, at first base, until Saturday when she was limited to pinch-running duty.

"I have so much respect for Charity (Street) and the rest of their team," Hofreuter-Landini said. "Sasha Burkhardt has really done a wonderful job filling in for her, and her team has really stepped up."

Junior standout Kiliane Parsons picked up the mound win for the Cadets. She scattered five hits with two strikeouts and one walk.

"Kiliane did exactly what we wanted her to do," Hofreuter-Landini said. "She worked ahead in the count and made them put the ball in the play. Our fielders did a great job behind her."

Linsly jumped on the board in the first inning as J.J. Troiani reached on an error and later scored on a single off the bat of talented centerfielder Ashley Neal.

The Cadets tacked on another run in the fourth, thanks to a pair of Beallsville miscues, the second of which allowed Annie Joseph to score with two outs.

"We just made some mental errors," Beallsville assistant coach Randy Thornberry said. "Defensively and offensively, we didn't get the job done. You have to give a lot of credit to Linsly. They did what they had to do to win the game. They have a young team and they were hungry to win."

Kea Krupica's run-scoring single in the fifth extended the Cadets' cushion to 3-0.

Beallsville finally broke through in the sixth, but the damage could have been worse.

Senior standout Coty Marcum opened with a triple to right. Alona Kahrig followed with a shot down the rightfield line, but Troiani tracked it down limiting the play to a sacrifice fly that scored Marcum.

"J.J. has been doing that all year," Hofreuter-Landini said. "She spends a lot of time working on softball and it has paid off."

Beallsville appeared primed

to make a run in the seventh. Consecutive infield singles from Burkhardt and Schumacher started the inning, but Bethany Caldwell lined back to Parsons who quickly threw to first for a double play.

Parsons then induced a pop out to second to end the game.

"We had some chances in the sixth and seventh innings, but we just couldn't sustain it," Hofreuter-Landini said. "The rightfielder made a great catch. That's the way the game goes, I guess."

Linsly finished the season with just its second winning campaign since girls were added in 1989. The Cadets went 15-8.

Beallsville, meanwhile, closes the season with a 16-12 record.

Linescore:
Linsly 100 110 0 - 3 3 0
Beallsville 000 001 0 - 1 5 4
BATTERIES: Parsons and Wilson; Burkhardt and Schumacher.

LAKYN Bendle went the route striking out seven John Marshall batters, while walking just two as the Lady Wildcats downed the Monarchs 3-2 in the OVAC 4-A championship. This is the second title in as many years for the 'Cats.

Missy Evans led Edison at the dish as she slapped a single and plated two runs, while Erika Alloggia added an RBI.

John Marshall, meanwhile, received a single and a RBI, apiece, from Samantha Stout and Ashley Luzader.

Linescore:
John Marshall 000 020 0 2 3 2
Edison 102 000 x 3 3 1
BATTERIES: Bendle and Evans; White and McGilton.

OVAC NOTES

- The grounds crew deserves major kudos for getting the field ready for action. OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak, softball commissioner Barry Closser and Wheeling Recreation Director Tom Bechtel and his fine staff went above and beyond the call of duty to get the fields ready to play.

- The other two championships will be determined Monday night - weather permitting. At 5 p.m., Monroe Central will face Steubenville Central for the Class AA title. At 6:30 p.m., Bellaire will battle Meadowbrook for the AAA crown.

(Continued from Page 19)
"I told the girls all week we had to hit the ball and make plays," said Bellaire coach Melissa Kaldor.
The Big Reds made the plays just when they needed to, after defeating Union Local in the two team's first contest by a 1-0 count.
Rosie Zeno's two out RBI single in the sixth with a 2-2 count was followed by an error scoring the Big Reds second run in the sixth.
"With the count 2-2 we called for a pitch up but we just didn't get it up high enough and she got the bloop single that was the difference," said Union Local head coach Bill Weller.
For Zeno the hit couldn't have come at a better time.
"Rosie came up with the big

hit after she had trouble at the plate at previous at bats today," said Kaldor.
Breeden's performance didn't surprise Kaldor. She knew her pitcher was ready for the semifinal contest.
"I asked Lysa in school if she was ready for this game and she said, 'Coach you have nothing to worry about.'"
For Union Local (15-9) the loss was a tough one.
"We made a couple bad decisions on the bases and had a few mistakes in the field," said Weller.

At Wheeling, Leekyca Brown fanned 10 and gave up just two hits, powering Monroe Central into the Class AA final with a shutout victory over Frontier.
Ashley Kuhn tripled home a run for the Seminoles, while Jewell Jones singled in two more.
Frontier, which committed five errors, got singles from Paige Crawford and Jennifer King.

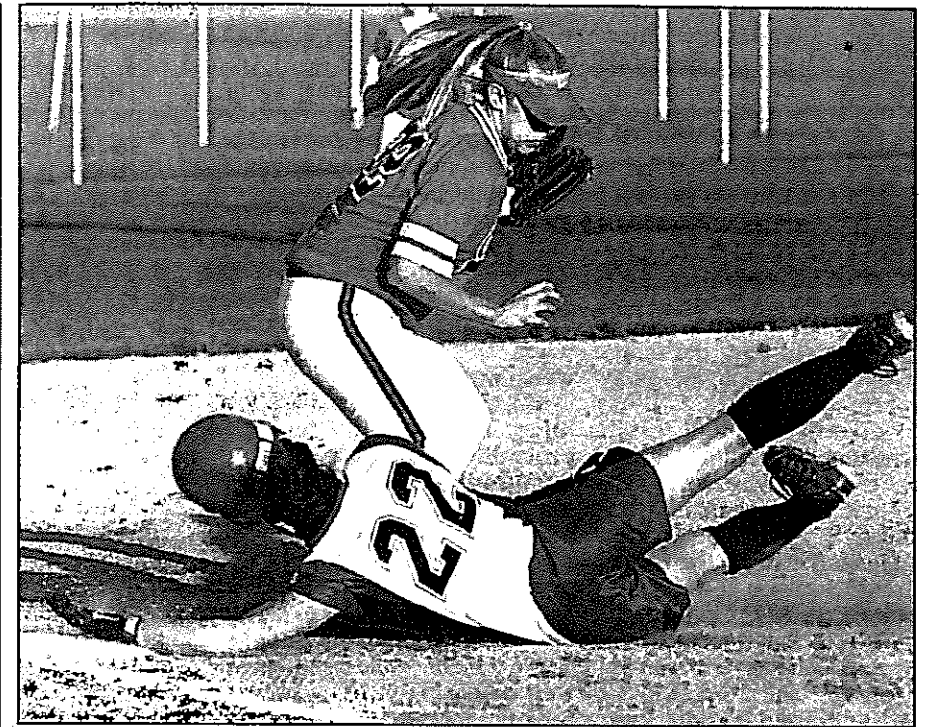
OVAC



T-L Photos/MICHAEL HARVILLA

ABOVE: Monroe Central junior Ashley Kuhn beats the throw to first base for an infield single as Steubenville Central's Molly Darrow stretches to take the throw during action Tuesday night at the Chambers/I-470 Complex in Wheeling. Monroe Central claimed the OVAC Class AA title with a 4-3 victory.

TOP RIGHT: Bellaire's Amanda Reger slides into third base as Meadowbrook's Jenny Wright takes the throw during action Tuesday night in the OVAC Class AAA title game at the Chambers/I-470 Complex in Wheeling. Bellaire took the crown with a 7-1 victory.



Monroe Central, Bellaire win OVAC softball titles

By GREG HARKNESS
Times Leader Sports Writer

The OVAC determined its final two softball champions Tuesday night at the Chambers/I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

Monroe Central slipped past Steubenville Central for the Class AA championship, while Bellaire downed Meadowbrook to take home the Class AAA crown.

MONROE Central claimed its first girls' OVAC championship of any kind with a 4-3 victory over Steubenville Central.

"I am so proud of the girls," Monroe Central head coach Ted Brown said. "Steubenville Central is a very good team. Our girls never gave up today."

The win improved the Seminoles to a sparkling 23-2 on the season. Monroe Central is back in action tonight against Indian Valley in Division III sectional action at Cambridge.

For four innings, the Crusaders' ace

Meredith Hitchcock and her Monroe counterpart, Leekycia Brown, mowed down hitters at a lightning pace.

Through the first four frames, Brown had seven strikeouts, while Hitchcock allowed just two singles.

However, things changed in a wild fifth inning.

Sarah Frankhauser opened the inning for Steubenville Central by reaching on an error and hustled all the way to third on a sacrifice bunt from Hillary Jones.

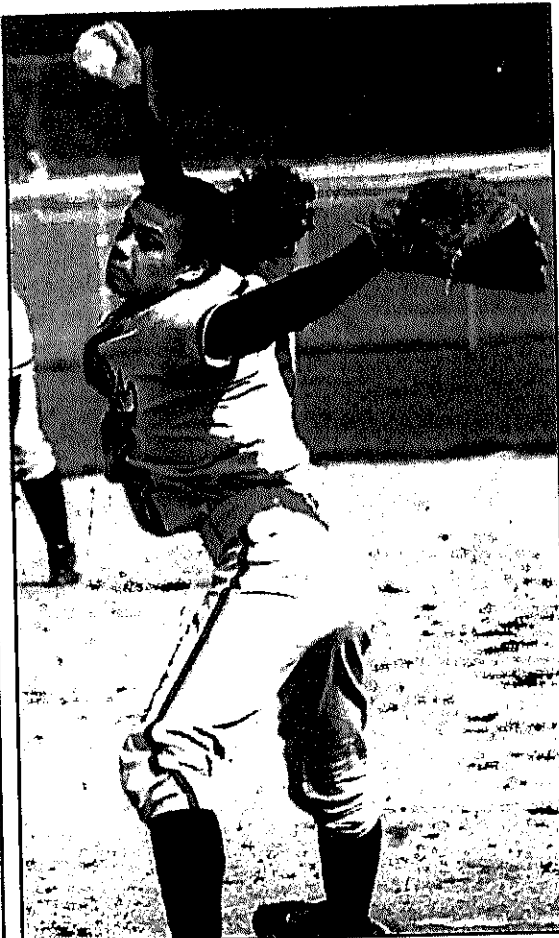
Tessa Valerio plated her with a ground out to second base.

Catcher Megan Gould followed with a single to keep the inning going.

Molly Darrow then lifted an innocent fly ball to left center, but the Seminoles' outfielders collided, allowing one run to



See, OVAC, Page B2



T-L Photos/MICHAEL HARVILLA

LEFT: Bellaire's Lysa Breeden delivers a pitch to the plate against Meadowbrook Tuesday night.

ABOVE: Monroe Central's Leekycia Brown fires a pitch to the plate against Steubenville Central.

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

score. Brown cut the throw home and fired to second base, where the ball trickled into centerfield allowing Darrow to also cross home.

Monroe Central answered back in its half of the inning.

After an out, Kayla Donley was hit by a pitch and moved to second when Anna Blair's ground ball was booted.

Brown followed with a sharp single to plate Donley, while Blair moved to third on the play and Brown hustled to second.

A wild pitch allowed Blair to score and the throw to the pitcher covering home glanced off her back and towards second base, enabling Brown to score from second base making it 3-3.

Monroe Central opened the decisive seventh with Donley reaching on an error. Blair smoked a double to right center, placing runners on second and third.

Dana Potts brought in the game-winning run by lifting a fly ball to right center, where Crusader centerfielder Jaime LaSavage made the catch but collided with rightfielder Hillary Jones, allowing Donley to easily trot home.

"I called a huddle and told the girls that all season we had won the close games and today should be no different," the Seminoles' coach said. "I told the girls we had to take the game, Steubenville Central wasn't going to give it to us."

"I was proud of how the girls responded," he added.

Brown finished with nine strikeouts and no walks. She scattered eight Steubenville Central hits.

"Steubenville Central is a very good hitting team," Coach Brown said. "They hit the ball hard, but Leekycia was able to come up with the important strikeout when we needed it."

Steubenville Central, now 15-7, will face Martins Ferry tonight in the Division III sectional final at Cadiz.

"We had two freak injuries this week that forced us to move some people around," Crusaders' head coach Jackie Marook said. "The injuries are not the reason we lost, but it sure shook up our lineup."

"I don't want to use that as an excuse because Monroe Central got the hits when it needed to,"

Marook added.

Linescore:
Steub. Central 000 030 0 -- 3 8 4
Monroe Central 000 030 1 -- 4 5 3

BATTERIES: Hitchcock and Gould; Brown and Huffman.

BELLAIRE spotted Meadowbrook an early run, but senior ace Lysa Breeden settled down and the Big Reds pounded out 10 hits en route to a 7-1 victory.

"I told the girls all week that we were going to have to hit the ball," first-year Bellaire head coach Melissa Kaldor said. "We had a shaky first inning, but the girls settled down. It wasn't Lysa's best performance, but she was able to start throwing strikes and our defense was very good behind her."

"I am really proud of the girls," Kaldor said. "We made the plays when we needed to."

The win improves Bellaire to 16-7 on the season. The Big Reds will face Buckeye Trail Thursday in the Division III sectional at Cambridge.

Meadowbrook took a 1-0 lead on Jenny Wright's run-scoring single in the top of the first inning.

Bellaire battled back to take the lead in the second frame as Jenn Biela singled and moved to third on Rosie Zeno's deep double to left. Both scored on a Colts' throwing error.

Suzann Wright followed with a single and later scored on Amanda Coulter's ground out to make it 3-1.

Bellaire tacked on two more runs as Zeno stroked another double to left and scored on Wright's single. Erica Brandon then brought in Wright with an infield single.

Bellaire added a pair of insurance runs in the fifth inning. Nikki Driscoll and Biela reached on singles and Zeno walked to load the bases.

Meadowbrook pitcher Kim Harra induced a ground ball back to the mound, threw home for one out, but Ashley Carpenter's attempt at a double play went awry as the ball went into rightfield allowing two more runs to score.

Breeden then sat down the Colts 1-2-3 in the seventh with the final out coming on a strikeout. She finished with six strikeouts on the game.

Linescore:
Meadowbrook 100 000 0 -- 1 4 2
Bellaire 030 220 x -- 7 10 0
BATTERIES: Breeden and Hibblts; Harra and Carpenter.



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

John Marshall second baseman Ashley Luzader steps on the bag during the Monarchs' 4-2 win over Wheeling Park in the OVAC softball semifinals Tuesday. JM's Meredith Bourne (17) watches the play.

JM Outlasts Park

White pitches 1-hitter to lift Monarchs into OVAC final

By SHAWN RINE
Staff Writer

It takes three aspects to be successful in the game of softball: offense, defense and pitching. John Marshall proved from the outset Tuesday it has the necessary ingredients.

Jade White came within a sixth-inning Mindy Haberfield single of a no-hitter, and freshman Vanessa Ilovar homered, powering the Monarchs (21-6) to a 4-2 victory over Wheeling Park, in an

OVAC Softball Tournament semifinal at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

The Monarchs will now face the Edison-Brooke winner, Saturday at the same site.

With sophomore Devin Heilman out with a broken finger, the onus of the pitching duties have fallen upon White, along with spot-starter Megan Gouldsberry.

Tuesday evening, White responded the way a staff ace should.

The crafty right-hander threw 73 pitches — 43 for strikes — and set the Patriots down in order in five of the seven frames.



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

John Marshall's Tara Marsh takes a swing during Tuesday's win over Wheeling Park at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

"Jade has really responded; she has calmed herself down," said John Marshall coach Pancho Flores. "She pitched a wonderful game today, and was in complete control. She has become very consistent."

The Monarchs played small ball early — with consecutive bunt singles to open the bottom of the first — and long ball later, with Ilovar's solo shot in the fourth.

Please See JM, Page 21

***(Continued from Page 19)**
 "I'm telling you, right now we are playing good ball," Flores said. "The kids — all the way down the order have been hitting the ball well."
 "We put the ball in play. In any type of sport, when you make the other team defend good things can happen."
 Like in the first inning when Stephanie Luzader and Gouldsberry led off with consecutive bunt singles, setting the table for Meredith Bourne who ripped a two-run double over the head of Park left fielder Fallon Namack for a 2-0 JM lead. Illovar's homer made it 3-0.
 "But we made a couple of uncharacteristic errors there," Flores admitted. "They were easy plays really."
 The first of those three errors occurred in the top of the fifth when Jill Wright, leading off the frame, hit a fly ball to right field that was dropped. Hustling down

the line, Wright ended up at third base on the play. She scored a batter later on a Kylie Earliwine sacrifice fly.
 John Marshall manufactured another run in the bottom half, as Samantha Stout singled and eventually scored on a wild pitch to make it 4-1.
 "I would have liked to have a few more (runs) today," Flores acknowledged. "My goodness, there in the sixth inning they have two girls on and the Wright girl coming up."
 Flores and assistant Ed West

conferred and decided it would be best to put Wright, the Patriots' cleanup hitter, on base.
 It turned out to be a good move as Earliwine flew out to left to end the frame with the Monarchs clinging to a 4-2 cushion.
 "If we would have just got one hit two runs would have scored," said an exasperated Wheeling Park coach Dee Davis. "We just couldn't get that hit though."
 "This team has JM in their heads for some reason."

The Intelligencer
SPORTS

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Monroe, Bellaire Nab OVAC Crowns

Seminoles edge Crusaders; Big Reds cruise past Colts

Staff report

Oftentimes in the game of softball, particularly on the high school level, it's not necessarily the plays you make that will win or lose a game, it's the ones you don't make that will get you.

Nobody knows this better than coach Jackie Marook and her Steubenville Central Crusaders.

Tuesday afternoon the Crusaders (15-7) out-hit Monroe

Central (22-2) nine-five, but came unglued defensively committing three errors, eventually falling to the Seminoles by a 4-3 count in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AA softball finals at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

Though she allowed the season-high hit total, Monroe Central ace Leekycia Brown did what she does best — strike out the opposition.

In all, nine Crusader hitters went down by way of the strike-out, and none received a free pass to first base.

Offensively the fireballer drove in a run as the Seminoles



Class AA
 Monroe Central 4,
 Steub. Central 3

Class AAA
 Bellaire 7,
 Meadowbrook 1

answered a three-run Steubenville Central fifth with a three-spot of their own in the bottom half of the frame. The difference proved to be a seventh-inning tally that ruined a brilliant effort by the Crusaders own ace, Meredith Hitchcock.

Hitchcock surrendered just five hits on the evening and

struck out eight. She, too, did not issue a base on balls.

Jewell Jones had a pair of hits for Monroe Central, while Anna Blair doubled and Dana Potts drove home another run.

Hitchcock singled and doubled for the Crusaders, while her battery mate Megan Gould added two hits. Tess Valerio added an RBI.

Class AAA
Bellaire 7, Meadowbrook 1

At Wheeling, Lysa Breeden was her normal steady self and Bellaire (16-7) scored early and often — three in the second and two each in the fourth and fifth innings — en route to claiming

the Class AAA championship.

Breeden, who struck out six and walked four in the contest, allowed just four hits — only one of which went for extra bases.

Rosie Zeno paced a nine-hit Big Reds' attack with a single and a double, while teammates Suzann Wright and Erika Brandon each collected a pair of singles.

Amanda Reger and Amanda Coulter had an RBI apiece.

The Colts' Jenny Wright finished with two singles and Cayla Hanes doubled. Kim Harra struck out and walked two each in taking the loss.

OVAC softball semifinal dates, times set



By **GREG HARKNESS**
 Times Leader
 Sports Writer

The second round OVAC softball times and dates have been announced.

Games will be played Tuesday and Thursday at the

Chambers/I-470 Complex in Wheeling. The cost of admission is \$3 for students and \$5 for adults.

On Tuesday, Coach Jerry Magistro's St. John Central club will oppose Linsly in a Class A semifinal. The Class A brackets were reworked after an error occurred and the Irish were accorded the top seed.

The game is set for a 5 p.m. first pitch on Field 3.

Also at 5 p.m., Wheeling Park will battle John Marshall in a Class AAAA showdown. The game is set for Field 4.

At 6:30 p.m. on Field 3, top-seeded Toronto will square off with Coach Jackie Marook's talented Steubenville Central squad.

On Field 4 at 6:30, top-seeded Oak Glen will face Meadowbrook in a Class AAA contest.

On Thursday, Coach Tim Merryman's Shadyside club will square off with third-seeded Beallsville. The Class A tilt will begin at 5 p.m. on Field 3.

Also at 5 p.m., Coach Melissa Kaldor's second-seeded Bellaire club will face Union Local. The Class AAA showdown will be on Field 4.

At 6:30 p.m., Monroe Central will put its sparkling record and top seed on the line against fifth-seeded Frontier. The Class AA battle will be on Field 3.

Also at 6:30, Coach Spencer Bendle's talented Edison team will face Brooke in a Class AAAA battles on Field 4.

The winners will return Saturday to decide the championships.

Class A is tentatively set for 10:30 a.m., while Class AA will see a 12:15 p.m. first pitch. Class AAA is set for 2 p.m., while the Class AAAA title will be decided at 3 p.m.

OVAC BASEBALL PAIRINGS

The sites for Saturday's OVAC Baseball

OUT OF LEFTFIELD

Semifinals will be determined tonight at a meeting. The four sites are Bridgeport, Magnolia, Toronto and Steubenville. The times and sites will be in tomorrow's paper.

BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

JOSH NORMAN, Linsly -- This Cadet turned in a sterling effort against Weirton Madonna in the opening round of the OVAC Baseball Tournament. He went the distance on the mound to earn the 8-0 victory, allowing just a second inning single to Jonathan Misier.

Norman fanned 17 and walked just four on the hill. He aided his cause at the plate with a run-scoring single.

SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

JESSICA DAGRAVA, Buckeye Local -- Senior standout etched her name in the Buckeye Local record books. During Saturday's double-header sweep of Magnolia, DaGrava recorded her

See, LEFTFIELD, Page B2

Three In A Row For Wildcats

By RYAN GEORGE
Staff Writer

Saturday afternoon amidst damp conditions and periods of steady rain the Edison girls softball team claimed their third straight Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAAA championship with a come-from-behind win over John Marshall, 3-2 at the I-470 Chambers Sports Complex.

Linsly captured its first OVAC title with a 3-1 victory over Beallsville in the day's second game.

The Class AA and Class AAA games, scheduled for early in the day, were washed out. The games will be played Monday at the same location.

In Class AA, Monroe Central will face Steubenville Central at 4:30 p.m. The Class AAA match up at 6 p.m. will feature Bellaire going up against Meadowbrook.

Spencer Bendle's club, who didn't lose an OVAC played game all season had beaten the Monarchs in Richmond and in Glen Dale earlier this season, but yesterday's win turned out to be a much more exciting contest as JM led 2-1 and was just six outs away from stealing the crown from the defending champs.

"John Marshall was a very tough opponent today," said Bendle, whose team improves to 22-3 on the season.

"It is good to have adversity like we did today as long as we can pull out the win."

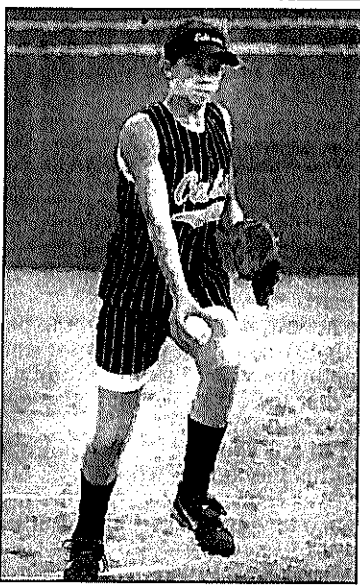
After trailing 1-0, John Marshall scored twice in the fifth to take the lead and looked to hold on, but Edison managed to get two hard hit singles from Kylie Snyder and Leah Snyder to start the sixth and two batters later Missy Evans connected on a single that drove the game tying and winning run across the plate.

John Marshall, who had its chances with runners in scoring position on a couple occasions, had their best chance to score multiple runs in the third.

Lakyn Bendle, who took the win on the hill for Edison by striking out seven and walking two, gave up a single to Tara Marsh and allowing Danielle McGilton aboard.

After striking out Ashley Luzader, Samantha Stout singled, loading the bases for the Monarchs.

Bendle stood up to the challenge, striking out JM's third hitter Megan Gouldsberry and fol-



Lakyn Bendle

lowed by fanning clean-up batter Meredith Bourne to get the Wildcats out of the inning.

"Lakyn got a couple of big strikeouts for us to end that inning. There were some opportunities missed by John Marshall today," said Bendle.

For JM mentor Pancho Flores and his Monarchs, the game just slipped away.

"We thought we had a good chance. We just didn't take advantage of our opportunities," said Flores.

"We knew we had to keep it close and we did, but they are holding the first place trophy."

Following three scoreless innings, Bendle reached base on an error to start the bottom of the fourth and put herself in scoring position for Erika Alloggia's RBI ground out to give the Wildcats the 1-0 advantage.

JM's lead in the fifth came after Bendle once again allowed the first two Monarch batters on base and Luzader made her pay with an RBI single.

Samantha Stout scored the second runner on an RBI infield sacrifice.

Pitcher Jade White took the loss for John Marshall, despite setting down the Wildcats in order in three innings.

Linsly (15-8) wore down Beallsville to earn its first OVAC Championship since beginning the team's softball program in 1989.

The Cadets knocked off Weirton Madonna in the quarterfinal, Bellaire St. John's in the semifinal and then took a 3-0 led over Beallsville and managed to hold on for the win.

"This is clearly our first OVAC championship. Last year was the first time in school history we had a record above .500," said Cadet head coach Liz Hofreuter-Landini.

See, WILDCATS, Page B4



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Linsly's Kilaine Parsons throws from the mound during Tuesday's OVAC Class A softball semi-final versus Bellaire St. John's. Parsons struck out five to lead the Cadets to a 1-0 victory.

Crusaders Move On

Steubenville Central scored four runs in the top of the fifth inning, and they proved to be enough for the Crusaders to advance past Toronto 4-3 in the semifinals of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference softball tournament Tuesday at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

H.S. SOFTBALL

Other winners on Tuesday were Linsly in Class AA, Meadowbrook in Class AAA, and John Marshall in 4-A.

Merideth Hitchcock struck out six to the win, while Sarah Franckhauser and Jenna Benko each drove in runs for the Crusaders (14-6).

Molly Moore drove in a run and Lindsay Price belted a double for the Red Knights.

Steubenville Central opens Ohio Division IV sectional today at 5 p.m. against St. Clairsville in Cadiz.

Class A

Linsly 1, Bellaire St. John's 0

Kilaine Parsons whiffed five batters and Mandy Szerszen drove in the game's only run, helping Linsly eke past Bellaire St. John's.

J.J. Troiani singled three times, as the Cadets banged out eight hits against Irish starter Meghan Johnson.

Johnson suffered the loss despite striking six and issuing just one walk.

Bellaire St. John's managed just three singles off Parsons.

Class AAA

Meadowbrook 3, Oak Glen 1

Meadowbrook bounced Oak Glen from the tourney as Kristen Harrison singled and drove in two runs, and pitcher Kim Harra struck out four in a two-run victory.

Oak Glen received an RBI off the bat of Deanna Wedgewood and a double from Meghan McPherson.

Ohio Division II Sectional Edison 8, Steubenville 0

At Richmond, Edison hurler Lakyn Bendle struck out 10 and walked a pair in a shutout win over Steubenville in Ohio Division II Sectional action.

Bendle went the distance on the mound and also knocked in a run for Edison. Catcher Missy Evans also had two RBIs, while teammate Leah Snyder smacked a double and two singles.

Steubenville's Leann Westfall had the only two hits for the Big Red (4-20).

Edison (20-3) continues in the sectional tournament by playing next Monday against the winner of Wednesday's game between Buckeye Local and Indian Creek.

Ohio Division II Sectional Buckeye Trail 14, Caldwell 9

At Cambridge, Buckeye Trail prevailed over Caldwell in a sloppy game that saw 21 errors committed between both teams.

Buckeye Trail committed 12 errors but still managed to get by Caldwell with several fine hitting performances.

Molly Grimes tripled, doubled, and drove in two runs and Ashley Walker had a pair of RBIs on a double and a single. Raine Lowry also plated two runs on a double to round out the hitting for the Warriors.

Caldwell finishes the season with a record of 3-17. Buckeye Trail (6-16) will return to action next Tuesday at 5 p.m. hosting Barnesville.

Ohio Division III Sectional Martins Ferry 6, Harrison Central 1

At Cadiz, Kelsey Carpenter tripled and Holly Apostolec added two hits, helping Martins Ferry get past Harrison Central.

Martins Ferry (10-11), which scored all its runs in the second inning, received a double from Angie Ceraoli, its starting pitcher.

Ashley Cunningham doubled for Harrison Central (8-12), which scored its only run in the top of the fifth.

WILDCATS

Continued from page B3

"This is a testimony to if you believe in the people you play with and the coaches you can make anything happen."

Linsly scored in the first and then scored single runs in the fourth and fifth to pull out the win.

"We wanted to come out and score early and defensively we just wanted to keep the ball in front of us," said Hofreuter-Landini, about her fundamentally sound team.

Ashley Neal delivered an RBI single to give Linsly a boost. In the fourth a Beallsville error allowed another runner to score and in the fifth Kea Krupica connected on an RBI single to score Neal, who had reached base earlier in the inning on an error. Krupica also added a triple in the contest for Linsly.

Alona Kahrig drove in Beallsville's lone run in the sixth after Coty Marcum tripled to start the inning.

"They are a young team and they were hungry," said Beallsville assistant Randy Thornberry of Linsly.

Linsly's Kilaine Parsons earned the win, striking out two and walking one batter.

Sasha Burkhardt took the loss for the Blue Devils, striking out three and walking five.

Class AAAA OVAC Championship				
John Marshall	000	020	0-2	3 2
Edison	000	102	x-3	3 1
JM—White lp (0SO, 0W) and McGilton, Stout S, rbi; S.Luzader S, rbi.				
E—Bendle wp (7SO, 2W) and Evans, Alloggia rbi; Evans S, 2rbi.				
Class A OVAC Championship				
Beallsville	000	001	0-1	4 0
Linsly	100	110	0-3	5 3
B—Burkhardt lp (3SO, 5W) and Schumacher, Schumacher 2S, Kahrig S, rbi.				
L—Parsons wp (2SO, 1W) and Wilson, Krupica S, T, rbi; Neal S, rbi				

Linsly edges past Irish, 1-0

By RICH MATERKOSKI
Times Leader Sports Writer

For Linsly head coach Liz Hofreuter-Landini, leaving eight runners on base is okay...especially if it means the Lady Cadets escape with a win.

The Wheeling-based school did just that Tuesday evening at the I-470 complex as the Cadets downed defending 1-A champion St. John

Central, 1-0, to advance to the OVAC finals on Saturday.

Hofreuter-Landini's club was all over Central ace Meghan Johnson, roughing up the righty for 11 hits. All those hits, producing just one run was of no concern for the Lady Cadets boss, as Linsly was never short of baserunners.

"We only score one run, but I was never lonely over on third base," smiled Hofreuter-Landini. "We just

couldn't get our baserunners around, but that is okay with me. We learned a lesson today, and as long as your can learn that lesson and apply it in your next game, its fine with me.

"Now we have another game, and we played well enough today to ensure that," noted Hofreuter-Landini.

On the hill for the Lady Cadets was right-hander Kilane Parsons, who forced the Lady Irish to hit into

several ground and flyouts.

Parsons went the route striking out five St. John Central batters, while walking just two base on balls.

But not only was Parsons pitching impressive, but her fielding was admirable as well snaring more than her share of line drives back through the box.

"Parsons has been very effective,"

See, CADETS, Page B2

● Cadets

Continued from Page B1

said Hofreuter-Landini. "Kilane's job is to make the opposition put bad hits into the field of play and she did an excellent job of that this evening.

"I would also have to say that she is maybe the best fielding pitcher in the league," Hofreuter-Landini said. "She made a couple plays today that were amazing...she can absolutely field anything they hit at her."

On the offensive side of things, Linsly was led by two multiple-hit batters.

Leading the way for the Lady Cadets was Mandi Szerszen as she ripped a single, double and plated a run, while teammate J.J. Troiani hammered two singles.

Other hitters for Linsly were: Ashley Neal (single), Kilane Parsons (single), Kea Krupica (double), Kristina Bandi (single), Justine Wilson (single) and Annie Joseph (single).

St. John Central, meanwhile, lacked a hitting power which has been evident at times this season.

The Irish could only muster four hits, led by Jessica Vavra who laid down two bunt singles. Vavra also had two stolen bases against the Cadets.

Johnson and Jaclyn Cera each had singles for the other two St. John Central hits.

Johnson was the tough-luck loser on the hill for the Irish as she also went the distance. The sophomore struck out six Linsly batters, while walking just one.

Linsly showed the bats were hot from the very beginning as the Cadets quickly loaded put two runners on the basepaths. Neal laced the single and Szerszen nailed a double putting runners on second and third, but Johnson would fight back striking out the next two batters to derail the Linsly early rally.

Neither squad could get anything going in the second frame, but it was Linsly that would score what would be the deciding run in the top half of the third.

Troiani led the inning off with a single, and stole second setting up Szerszen who ripped a single scoring the only run of the afternoon.

St. John Central looked as if something could get going in the fifth, but when Brienne Boger got caught trying to take home on a wild pitch and Cera got doubled up on a ball hit by senior Jodie Coyne, the Irish rally came to an abrupt end.

Linsly (14-8) will now move on to the title game where they will take on the winner of Shadyside/Beallsville which will be played Thursday at 5 p.m. on Field #3.

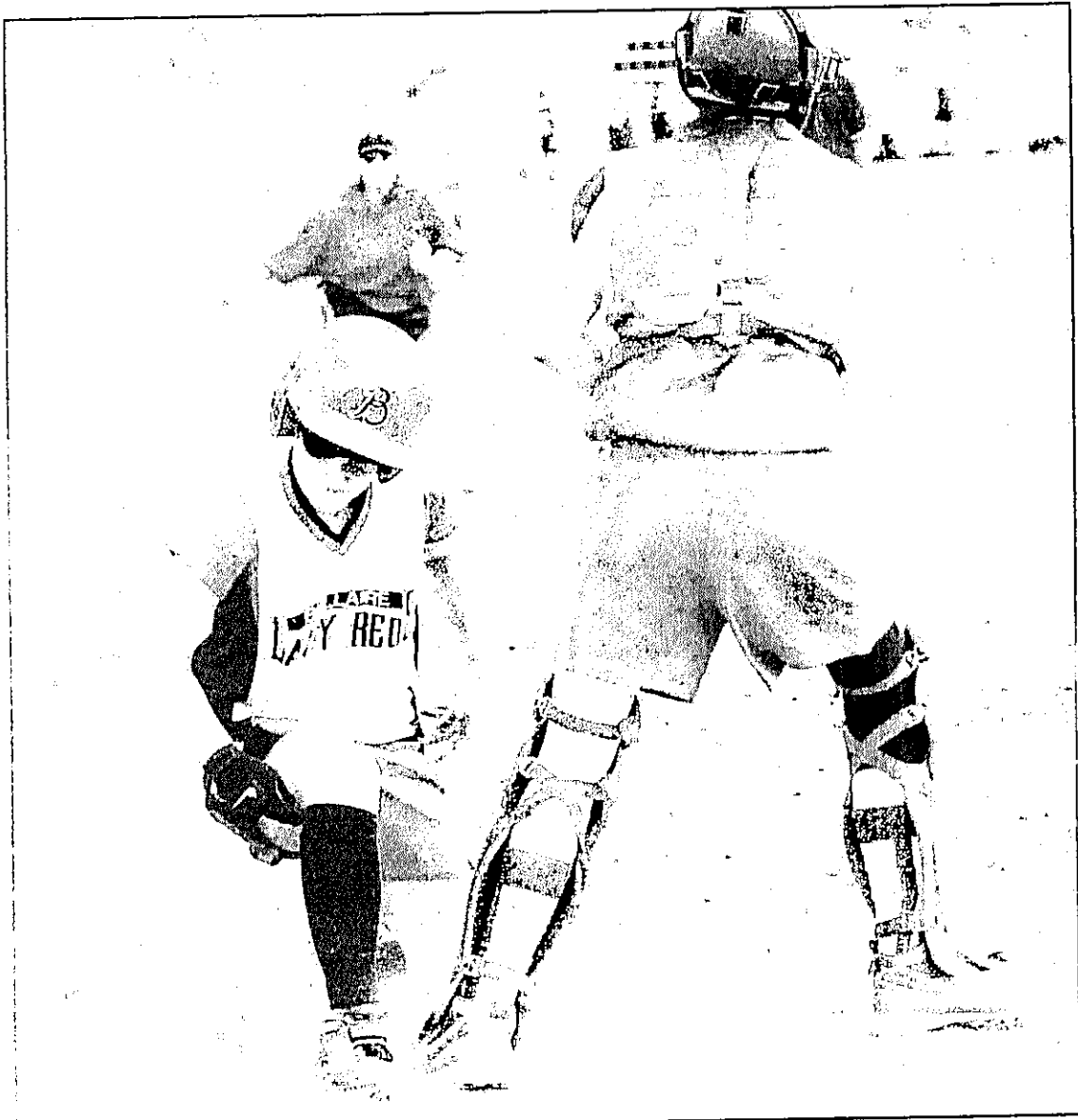
St. John Central now falls to 17-6 and will be in action again Friday at 5 p.m. in the sectional tournament at Shadyside. The Green will tangle with Wellsville.

Linsly 001 000 0 1 11 2
St. John's 000 000 0 0 4 1
BATTERIES: Ki. Parsons and
Wilson; Johnson and Swartz.

Softball Champions



WINNING last weekend's OVAC Class A Softball Championship is this team from Linsly. Pictured, front row, from left assistant coach Lisa Ames, Jordan Joltes, Annie Joseph, Kristina Bandi, head coach Liz Hofreuter-Landini and J.J. Troiani. Second row are Ashley Neals, Annie Stazenski and Katie Yeso. Third row are Ashley Kepner, Kaleigh Parsons, Kilaine Parsons, Justin Wilson, Kea Krupica, Mandi Szerszen, Alana Reisinger, Rachel Walters and bat girl Kayla Seldier.



Sectional, OVAC lists tournament pairings



By
GREG HARKNESS
Times Leader
Sports Writer

The OVAC and sectional pairings have been announced.

Action begins Tuesday, April 29 in the OVAC tournament, while sectional

competition begins the first week of May.

In the OVAC Softball Tournament, Shadyside took the top spot in Class A at 10-3. The Tigers will welcome Paden City (1-11).

In the other half of the bracket, fourth-seeded Weirton Madonna will entertain Linsly (11-7).

In the lower bracket, second-seeded Beallsville (13-5) welcomes Bridgeport (3-11), while third seed St. John Central (12-2) entertains Cameron.

In Class AA, Monroe Central (16-2) earned the top seed and a home date with Buckeye Trail (5-12). In the other half, River (13-4) will entertain Frontier (8-5).

In the lower bracket, second-seeded Toronto (11-4) will host Wheeling Central, while Steubenville Central (8-5) entertains Fort Frye (5-5).

In Class AAA, Oak Glen (12-3) took the top spot and earned a home game with Harrison Central. On the other side, Meadowbrook (11-5) will host Indian Creek (12-10).

In the lower bracket, Union Local (13-7) and Martins Ferry (8-10) will battle in Morristown, while Bellaire (12-5) entertains Barnesville (7-8).

In Class AAAA, Edison is undefeated in OVAC play and the top seed. The Wildcats will welcome Zanesville (6-10).

In the other half, Buckeye Local (13-6) entertains Brooke (8-7).

In the lower bracket, Wheeling Park (15-7) hosts Beaver Local (7-9), while John Marshall (11-4) welcomes Weir (7-10).

All semifinal action will take place on May 6 and 8 at the Chambers Field Complex in Elm Grove. The championships will be decided on May 10 beginning at 10:30 a.m.

In the OVAC Baseball Tournament, Cameron (12-3) was the top seed in Class A. The Dragons will welcome Bishop Donahue (3-10). The winner matches up with the survivor of Beallsville (5-11) at Paden City (7-10).

In the other bracket, Shadyside (6-10) welcomes St. John Central (8-13), while second seed Linsly (11-5) entertains Weirton Madonna (3-12).

In Class AA, Steubenville Central is the top seed and will host Monroe Central (6-8), while Toronto (11-9) hosts Caldwell (11-8) in the other half.

River (11-3) took the second seed and a home date with Wellsville (6-7), while Wheeling Central (17-5) hosts Buckeye Trail (9-8) in the lower bracket.

In Class AAA, Indian Creek (13-9) is the top seed and will host Martins Ferry (7-9). The winner faces the survivor of Harrison Central (8-9) and Magnolia (7-8), which play in Cadiz.

In the lower bracket, Barnesville (8-7) will host Meadowbrook (7-11), while Bellaire (8-6) entertains Tyler Consolidated (6-7).

In Class AAAA, Edison (16-2) is the top seed and will welcome Buckeye Local (10-8). Beaver Local (12-5) hosts Wheeling Park (11-7) on the other side.

See, LEFTFIELD, Page B2

Prep Softball Linescores

FRONTIER 6 RIVER 4		STEUBENVILLE CENTRAL 4 FORT FRYE 0	
Frontier	420 000 0 - 8 6 3	Frt Frye	000 000 0 - 0 2 3
River	100 030 0 - 4 7 7	Steubenville Central	001 003 x - 4 7 1
BATTERIES: Rinard and Brunoni; Jones, Semon (2) and Romick.		BATTERIES: Porter and Polk; Hitchcock and Goude.	
MONROE CENTRAL 15 BUCKEYE TRAIL 0		BEALLSVILLE 11, BRIDGEPORT 6	
Buckeye Trail	000 000 - 0 0 4	Bridgeport	001 000 4 - 5 4 3
Monroe Central	314 061 - 15 16 0	Beallsville	003 602 x - 11 15 2
BATTERIES: H. Miller and Howes; Brown and Hudiman.		BATTERIES: Roberts and Murad; Burkhardt and Schumacher.	
BROOKE 7, BUCKEYE LOCAL 4		ST. JOHN'S 8 CAMERON 0	
Brooke	100 006 0 - 7 6 3	Cameron	000 000 0 - 0 1 0
Buckeye Local	100 020 1 - 4 7 4	St. John's	003 230 x - 8 10 0
BATTERIES: Visco and Felton; Greichen and Baker.		BATTERIES: Samson and Morris; Marinacci and Swartz, DeCalmonte (5).	
MEADOWBROOK 3, INDIAN CREEK 1		OAK GLEN 10 HARRISON CENTRAL 5	
Indian Creek	000 001 0 - 1 5 1	Harrison Central	000 120 2 - 5 7 4
Meadowbrook	001 200 x - 3 9 4	Oak Glen	210 106 x - 10 10 3
BATTERIES: Clapham and Predmore; Harra and Carpenter.		BATTERIES: Yarrish and Cunningham; Cashdollar and Morris.	
SHADYSIDE 10 PADEN CITY 0		LINSLY 4 MADONNA 2	
Paden City	000 00 - 0 0 1	Linsly	000 103 0 4 4 2
Shadyside	114 22 - 10 13 0	Madonna	002 000 0 2 2 3
BATTERIES: Veyon and Amos; Merryman and Thoben.		BATTERIES: Parson and Wilson; Gassaway and Denjen.	

OVAC Champions



WINNING the OVAC Class AA Softball Championship was Monroe Central. Team members include Krista Huffman, Chrissy Schumacher, Ashley Kuhn, Nikki Merrifield, Dana Potts, Anna Blair, Whitney Wright, Leekyia Brown, Lauren Craig, Kayln Donley, Jewell Jones, Kim Stalder, Brittany Mugrava, Amanda Daugherty and Joni McGarry. The Seminoles head coach is Ted Brown and he is assisted by Dave Blair.

T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

Leftfield

Continued from Page B1

John Marshall (13-2) earned the second seed and a home date with Cambridge (12-9), while Steubenville (14-6) entertains Weir (9-5).

The survivors will battle on Saturday, May 10 at various sites. The championships will be determined on May 17 at Vaccarro Field.

Ogilbee Lifts Jets by Riders

Kimberly Ogilbee drove in the game-winning run, and Megan Jack scattered five hits and struck out two in a complete-game effort, as No. 4 Union Local (14-8) opened Ohio Valley Athletic Conference

OVAC SOFTBALL

Class AAA Softball Tournament play with a 3-0 victory over No. 5 Martins Ferry (8-11) Tuesday in Morristown. Jack also added a double for the Jets, while Shae Marchbank had a single and a double for the Purple Riders.

Oak Glen 11, Harrison Central 5

At New Manchester, Susan Cashdollar picked up the win and also singled twice, as top-seeded Oak Glen (14-3) defeated No. 8 Harrison Central.

The Golden Bears rapped 11 hits off the Huskies, led by Katie Eckleberry's three singles. Deanna Wedgewood also had a multi-hit game, and Mayghan McPherson had three sacrifice bunts in three at-bats.

Brittney Luther led the way for Harrison with three hits.

Bellaire 3, Barnesville 0

At Bellaire, Lysa Breenden allowed just five hits and struck out 10 over seven innings, leading Bellaire (13-5) over No. 7 Barnesville (8-9).

The Shamrocks' Natasha Skinner wasn't bad herself. She allowed just four hits and struck out five.

Nikki Driscoll and Suzann Wright each singled in a run for the Big Reds.

Meadowbrook 3, Indian Creek 1

At Byesville, Kim Harra got the win and Ashley Carpenter had three hits and two RBIs, to lift Meadowbrook (16-7) over Indian Creek (12-11).

CLASS AAAAA

Edison 10, Zanesville 1

At Richmond, Lakyn Bendle twirled a one-hitter, also drove in a run as Edison (17-1) bested Zanesville (10-13).

Leah Snyder, Angie Skinner and Jess Shepherd all plated two runs for the Wildcats.

John Marshall 9, Weir 8

At Glen Dale, Ashley Luzader scored on a wild pitch in the seventh inning, as No. 2 ranked John Marshall (17-6) avoided the upset by rallying from an 8-1 deficit to nip Weir (7-11).

Stephanie Luzader paced the Monarchs with three singles and two RBIs, while Tara March and Vanessa Ilovar each drove in one. Megan Gouldsberry and Ashley Luzader had two hits apiece to back winning pitcher Jade White, who fanned three.

Losing pitcher Kerri Phillips and Athena Zelenka each plated two for the Red Riders, and Candis Brown and Linzy Turner split a pair of RBIs.

Brooke 7, Buckeye Local 4

At Connorville, Rae Ann Klein tripled home two runs, and Mandy DiPasquale, Gina Lastoria, Tiffany Latimer and

Michelle DiGiacinto all plated one, as fifth-seeded Brooke (9-8) pulled a bit of an upset over No. 4 Buckeye Local (13-8).

Kristen King had two hits and an RBI for the Panthers, while losing pitcher Tabettha Gretchen singled in another.

Wheeling Park 7, Beaver Local 1

At Wheeling, Kylie Earliwine went the distance, allowed just three hits and struck out four, as No. 3 ranked Wheeling Park (19-8) advanced with an easy victory over Beaver Local.

Amy Sampson led a 14-hit Patriots' attack with three singles, while Mindy Haberfield, Earliwine and Jill Wright had two hits each.

CLASS AA

Monroe Central 15, Buckeye Trail 0

At Woodsfield, Leekyia Brown struck out 10 on her way to her second perfect game of the season, as Monroe Central (18-2) routed Buckeye Trail (6-17).

Krista Huffman and Chrissy Schumacher each plated two runners for the Seminoles, while Anna Blair (four hits), Dana Potts and Ashley Kuhn had two RBIs apiece.

Frontier 6, River 4

At Hannibal, Ashley Bishong and Lara Brunoni combined for five hits and four RBIs, as fifth-seeded Frontier (11-5) took advantage of six River (13-6) errors over the first two innings to earn the upset.

Lauren Rinard got the win for the Cougars, striking out six.

Kayla Matesick singled twice to drive in a run for the Pilots, while Ashley Armann singled in two more.

Steubenville Central 4, Fort Frye 0

At Steubenville, Meredith Hitchcock fanned 13 batters and surrendered just two hits as Steubenville Central (11-6) downed Fort Frye.

Jenna Benko singled home two runs for the Crusaders.

CLASS A

Linsly 4, Weirton Madonna 2

At Weirton, Kilaine Parsons' complete-game, two-hit effort propelled No. 5 Linsly past Weirton Madonna (14-5).

Parsons had the lone RBI for the Cadets. Kristen Stewart plated a run for the Blue Dons.

Beallsville 11, Bridgeport 5

At Beallsville, Carrie Stalder had three hits and three RBIs to help Beallsville (14-6) advance to take on Shadyside with a victory over Bridgeport. Alona Kahrag also had three RBIs, while Charity Street had four hits.

Winning pitcher Sasha Burkhart struck out four.

Bellaire St. John's 8, Cameron 0

At Bellaire, Ashley Marinacci was a Jolene Morris single away from a no-hitter, but Bellaire St. John's (15-4) still shutout Cameron.

Ellie Swartz led the Fighting Irish as she singled twice, doubled and drove in four runs.

Tigers Roar To Victory

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

Shadyside High received a little bit of bad news regarding its seeding in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A softball tournament Tuesday afternoon. However, junior pitcher Lisa Merryman helped her team and its fans forget all about it.

Merryman pitched her third no-hitter of the season, losing a perfect game when walking the leadoff batter in the fifth inning, as the Lady Tigers roared to an 11-0 five-inning victory over visiting Paden City.

Earlier in the day, coach Tim Merryman and athletic director Ty Fleming were informed that there had been an error in the final standings and Shadyside, which was originally the No. 1 seed, had dropped to the No. 2 seed behind Bellaire St. John's.

While both the Tigers and Irish played their first-round games with the original seedings, they will switch seedings and brackets for the second round.

Shadyside, which improved to 11-3 and will host River in a regular-season game this afternoon, will now play Beallsville in an OVAC semifinal contest.

Ironically, the Tigers will also play the Lady Blue Devils in an Ohio Division IV sectional contest Tuesday at Shadyside.

"Hopefully this game today was the first step for us towards a successful tournament run," Tim Merryman said afterward. "We need to put all this behind us and focus on what's ahead."

Lisa Merryman and her teammates had very little trouble focusing Tuesday.

The fire-balling Merryman fanned 13 of the 16 batters she faced, with Brittany Henry's leadoff walk in the fifth being the Wildcats' (2-16) only baserunner of the contest.

The Tigers scored at least one run in every inning, including four in the third, two in the fourth and a game-ending three in the fifth. Overall, the orange-and-black pounded out 12 hits.

Merryman and senior Beth Stillion each singled three times for the winners, while Richelle Thoburn and sophomore Miranda Lappert had a pair of safeties each. Senior Kelly Roman busted things open in the third when she launched a three-run triple deep over the right fielders head.

"We started a little slow, and have been struggling at the plate, but we did get the bats going," Tim Merryman added. "Things won't be easy, as we are in a very loaded sectional tournament and also have some tough teams remaining in the OVAC's."

OVAC updates softball pairings

Action in the 2003 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Softball Tournament resumes Tuesday, with all remaining games being played at the J.B. Chambers I-470 complex.

Tuesday's action begins with Bellaire St. John's battling Linsly at 5 p.m. on Field 3. At 6:30 p.m. on the same field, Steubenville Central takes on Toronto.

At Field 4, Tuesday, Wheeling Park plays John Marshall at 5 p.m., followed by Oak Glen against Meadowbrook at 6:30 p.m.

On Thursday, Shadyside battles Barnesville at 5 p.m. at Field 3, followed by Monroe Central and Frontier at 6:30 p.m.

At Field 4, Bellaire and Union Local play at 5 p.m., followed by Edison against Brooke at 6:30 p.m.

Admission for the tourney is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

Correction: Irish win OVAC girls title

A headline in Saturday's Intelligencer incorrectly stated that the Shadyside girls won the OVAC Class A team title.

As the story indicated, the Class A meet was actually won by the Bellaire St. John's girls, who tallied 156 points. Shadyside finished second with 133.

The Intelligencer regrets the error.

Merryman, Brown Marinacci shine in OVAC tourney

CLASS A SHADYSIDE 10 PC 0

AT SHADYSIDE, the Lady Tigers' Lisa Merryman fired the opening salvo in the OVAC tournament's first round by no-hitting Paden City for five innings in a 10-0 blanking.

Merryman struck out 13 Wildcats and walked only one, narrowly missing a perfect game. The junior hurler and Shadyside are 12-3 on the year.

Kelly Roman drove home three runs with triple, while Beth Stillion and Merryman each had three hits. Miranda Lappert, Rochelle Thoburn and Jenna Johnson each chipped in with two hits as Shadyside pounded 13 base knocks.

The Lady Tigers host River in a regular season contest this afternoon and will return to OVAC action next week.

SJC 8, CAMERON 0

AT BELLAIRE, St. John Central freshman Ashley Marinacci just missed a no-hitter, but most importantly got the win as the Irish opened OVAC play with an 8-0 victory over Cameron Tuesday night.

Marinacci took a no-hitter to the seventh inning, but Jolene Morris' infield single broke up the bid. Marinacci still finished with the shut out which included nine strikeouts and two walks.

Marinacci helped herself out with a single, double and a RBI.

Sophomore Ellie Swartz continues to swing the big stick with two singles, a double and four RBI. Senior Jodie Coyne added two singles and a RBI, while Jonni Jo Magistro had a run-scoring single.

Meghan Johnson closed with two base hits and a RBI.

St. John Central, now 15-4 and winners of nine straight, will visit Bellaire tonight.

BEALLSVILLE 11 BRIDGEPORT 5

AT BEALLSVILLE, the host Blue Devils picked up an opening round OVAC victory, 11-5, over seventh-seeded Bridgeport Tuesday night.

Carrie Stalder swung the big stick with two singles and a double with three RBI. Alona Kahrig also plated three runs with two singles.

Charity Street donated two singles, two triples and drove in a run.

Sasha Burkhart earned the mound win with a complete game effort.

Cassie Supanek led the Bulldogs with two singles and two RBI.

Beallsville, now 14-7, will host Monroe Central in a regular season tilt tonight.

LINSLEY 4 MADONNA 2

AT WEIRTON, Linsley received a strong pitching performance and some timely hitting en route to a 4-2 victory over Madonna in the opening round of the OVAC 1-A tournament.

Kilaine Parsons earned the mound win with six strikeouts and a walk. She helped her own cause with a RBI single.

CLASS AA

FRONTIER 6 RIVER 4

AT HANNIBAL, River was charged with seven errors from which it could never recover as visiting Frontier knocked off the Lady Pilots in the OVAC tourney 2-A opener, 6-4.

Lauren Rinard went the distance for the Lady Cougars striking out six batters, while walking four.

Laura Brunoni led the way for Frontier at the dish clubbing three singles and plating three runs, while Ashley Dishong chipped in with a single, triple and two RBI's.

River received two singles and two RBI from Kayla Matesick and a single and two RBI's from Ashley Armann.

OVAC Softball Quarterfinals

Lindsey Romick added two singles in the loss.

Frontier is now 11-5 on the year, while River drops to 13-6.

MONROE 15 TRAIL 0

AT WOODSFIELD, Leekyia Brown pitched a perfect game as Monroe Central moved on to the second round of the OVAC tourney via a 15-0 win over visiting Buckeye Trail.

Brown gave Trail no chance at the plate striking out 10 batters, while giving up zero walks.

At the plate, Brown received excellent run support led by Anna Blair who had four singles and two RBIs, while Ashley Kuhn nailed two doubles, a single and two RBI.

Dana Potts chipped in with two singles and two RBI.

Monroe Central is now 18-2 and will meet Frontier in the second round of 2-A action.

Trail falls to 6-17.

SCC 4 FORT FRYE 0

AT STEUBENVILLE, Steubenville Central will move on to the 2-A semifinals as the Lady Crusaders downed visiting Fort Frye by a 4-0 count.

Meredith Hitchcock went the distance striking out 13 batters, while giving up just one walk.

Jenna Banko led the way with a single and two RBI, while Hillary Jones had a RBI single. Megan Goulde lended a double for the winners.

Central is now 11-6.

CLASS AAA

MEADOWBROOK 3, IC 1

AT BYESVILLE, Meadowbrook got another strong effort from Kim Harra en route to a 3-1 victory over Indian Creek in the opening round of the OVAC Tournament Tuesday.

Harra went the distance on a five hitter with three strikeouts and two walks.

Ashley Carpenter led the offense with three singles and two RBI. Cayla Hanes added two singles and a RBI, while Jochlyn Stack had two singles. Indian Creek received two singles and a RBI from Jennifer Molinaro. Erika Bell donated a double.

Meadowbrook is now 16-7.

OG 10 HARRISON CENT. 5

AT NEWELL, Oak Glen dispatched Harrison Central 10-5 in the opening round of the OVAC-AAA playoffs.

Susan Cashdollar went the distance to pick up the mound win for the now 14-3 Lady Bears. She struck out three and offered four walks.

As a hitter, Cashdollar plated two runs on two hits. Deanna Wedgewood scored three runs and had two hits, while Jenna Eckleberry scored two runs, also on two hits.

For the Lady Huskies, Brittany Bovenizer had two singles and a triple, good for two RBIs, while Samantha Cunningham sent one runner home. Andrea Davis pitched in with a run-scoring double.

Harrison Central dropped to 7-12 and will travel to Steubenville for a regular season game this afternoon. The Huskies host Martins Ferry Monday in a sectional match up.

CLASS AAAA

BROOKE 7, BL 4

AT CONNORVILLE, fueled by a six-run sixth inning fifth-seeded Brooke opened OVAC tourney play with a 7-4 victory over Buckeye Local.

Ashley Visco went the distance to earn the victory. She fanned two and walked four.

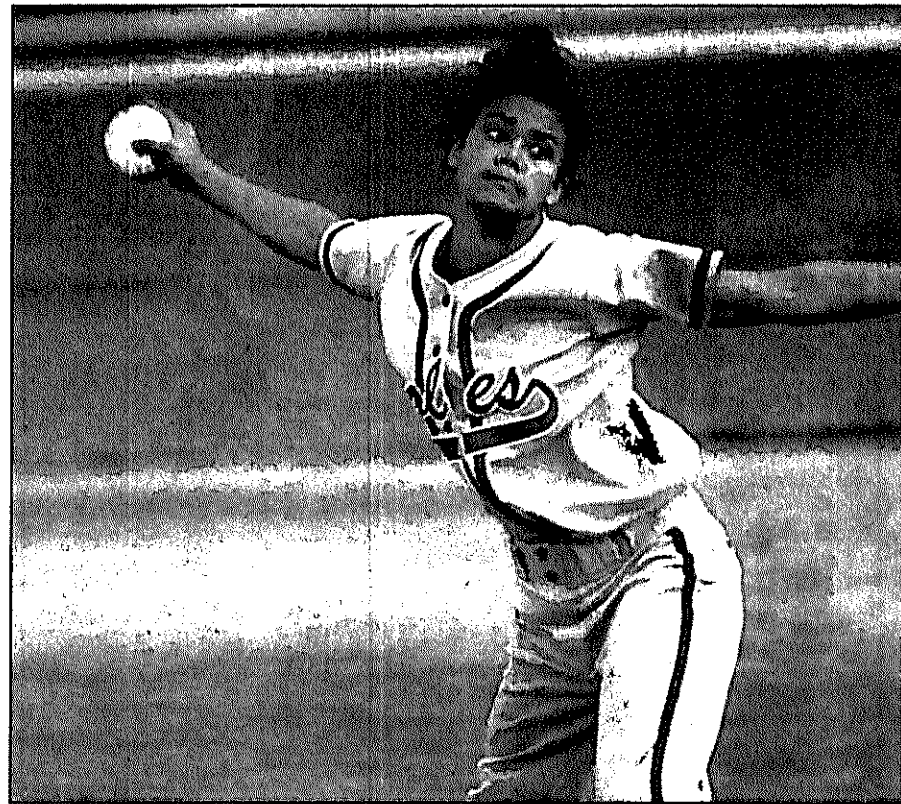
Buckeye received a single, double and a RBI from Kristen King. Tabettha Gretchen plated a run with a single and Kristine Mayle added a triple and a single.



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

LAYING DOWN a bunt during Tuesday's OVAC quarterfinal game against Paden City is Shadyside's Lisa Merryman. The talented junior tossed a no-hitter in the Lady Tigers' shutout win.

SPORTS



T-L Photos/MICHAEL HARVILLA
LEFT: Beallsville senior Sasha Burkhart delivers a pitch to the plate against Shadyside in their OVAC Class A semifinal game Thursday night at the Chambers/I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

TOP: Monroe Central sophomore standout Leekyia Brown fires a pitch to the plate against Frontier in a OVAC Class AA semifinal game.

RIGHT: Lysa Breeden pitches to a Union Local hitter during action in their OVAC Class AAA semifinal game.

Beallsville, Bellaire, advance to OVAC fi

By GREG HARKNESS
 Times Leader Sports Writer

There was one recurring theme Thursday night at the Chambers/I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

Dominant pitching. The OVAC softball finals are set after four more teams punched their tickets into Saturday's championship games.

Beallsville, Monroe Central, Edison and Bellaire completed the championship bracket with victories Thursday.

The championship schedule now looks like this: 10:30 a.m. - Class AA: Monroe Central

vs. Steubenville Central; 12:15 p.m. - Class AAA: Bellaire vs. Meadowbrook; 2:30 p.m. - Class A: Beallsville vs. Linsler; 4:30 p.m. - Class AAAA: Edison vs. John M.

BEALLSVILLE'S season could have been in jeopardy after junior ace Ciera Breeden suffered an arm injury, but someone else stepped up: senior pitcher Sasha Burkhart.

The senior continues to fill in admirably in a strong performance as Beallsville defeated Shadyside, 3-2, in eight innings.

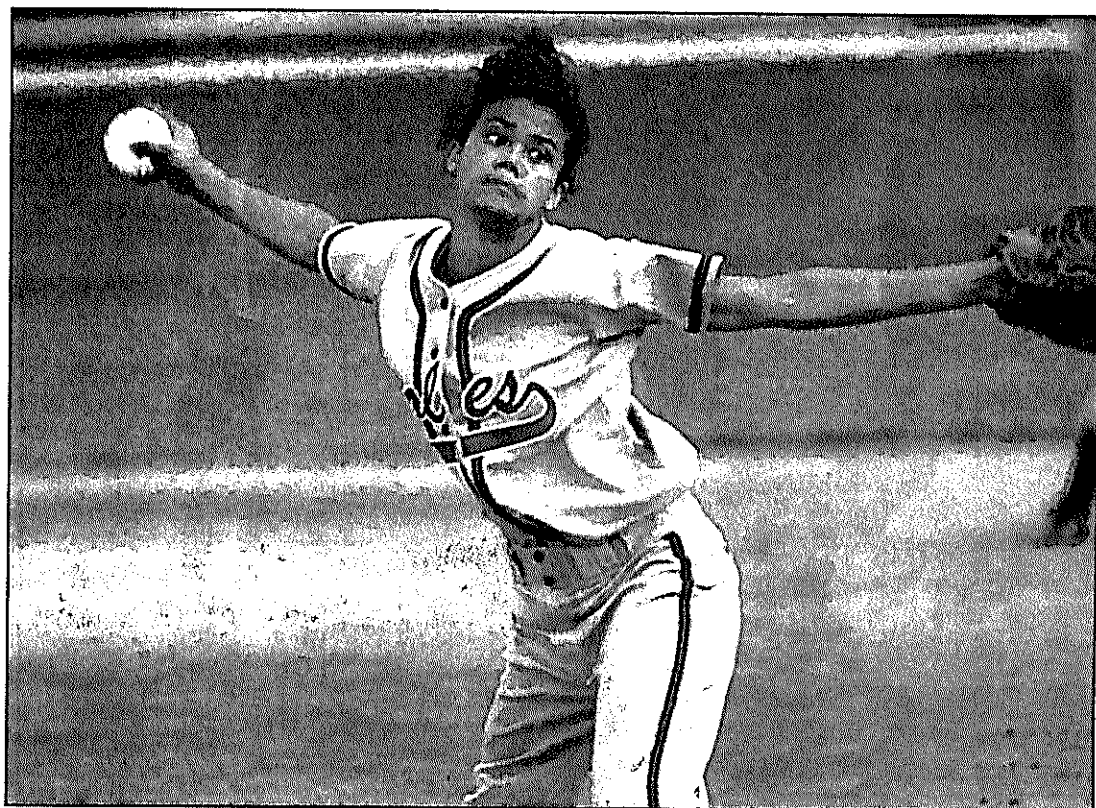
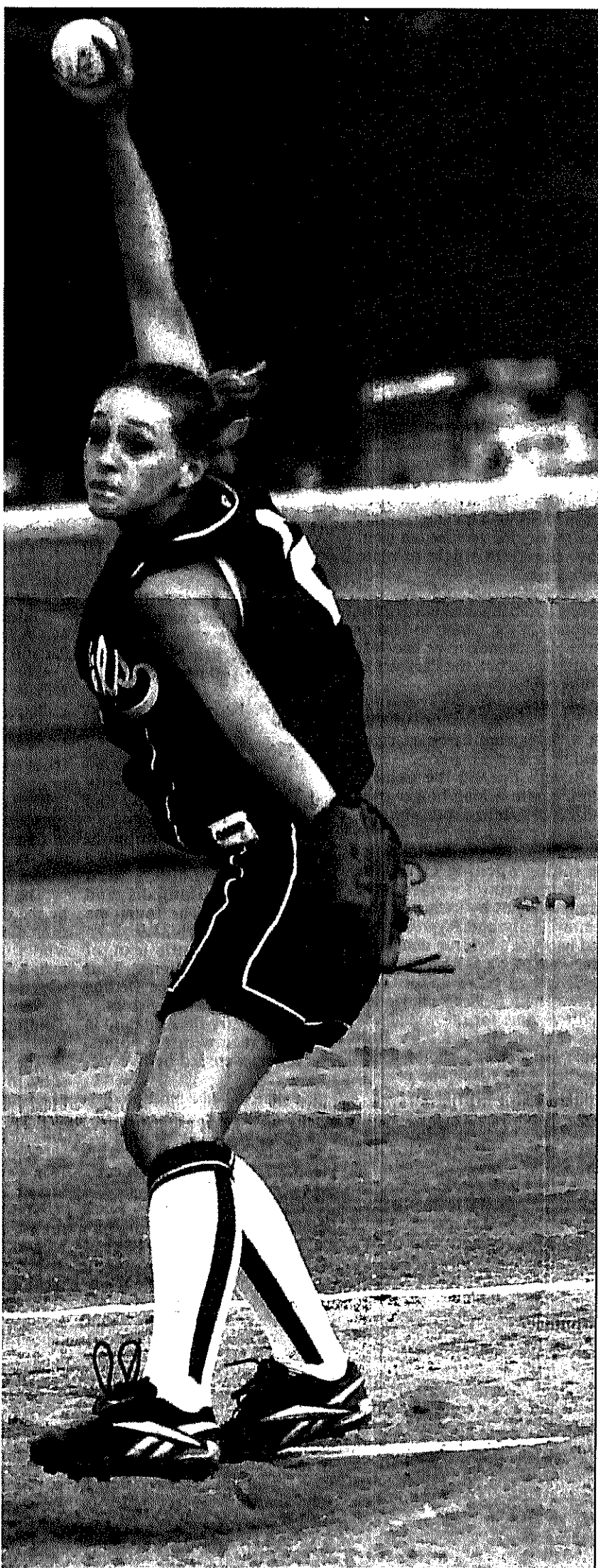
"Sasha has done a fantastic job,"

See, OVAC, Page B3

SPORTS

Friday, May 9, 2003

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T-L Photos/MICHAEL HARVILLA
LEFT: Beallsville senior Sasha Burkhardt delivers a pitch to the plate against Shadyside in their OVAC Class A semifinal game Thursday night at the Chambers/I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

TOP: Monroe Central sophomore standout Leekycla Brown fires a pitch to the plate against Frontier in a OVAC Class AA semifinal game.

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Beallsville, Bellaire, MC advance to OVAC finals

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vs. Steubenville Central; 12:15 p.m. — Class AAA: Bellaire vs. Meadowbrook; 2 p.m. — Class A: Beallsville vs. Linsly; 3:45 p.m. — Class AAAA: Edison vs. John Marshall.

BEALLSVILLE'S season was supposed to be in jeopardy after junior ace Charity Street suffered an arm injury, but someone forgot to tell the Blue Devils and Sasha Burkhardt.

The senior continues to fill in nicely, turning in a strong performance as Beallsville slipped past Shadyside, 3-2, in eight innings.

"Sasha has done a fantastic job for us," Blue

See, OVAC, Page B2

Continued from Page B1

Devils' head coach Deb Street related. "She has really come on. "I am so proud of my team," Street continued. "We have a lot of girls playing out of position, but they haven't complained. They just keep playing hard. This team is selfless...they only care about winning."

The win improved Beallsville to 16-11 on the season and avenged the Blue Devils' loss to Shadyside in sectional play just one day earlier.

"Beallsville deserves all of the credit," Shadyside head coach Tim Merryman said. "We have played two great games the last two nights. I just want to wish them the best of luck Saturday."

Burkhart finished with four strikeouts and three walks.

"She (Burkhart) has really done a fantastic job for them," Merryman said. "Beallsville took advantage of a few mistakes that we made."

Shadyside took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first as Jenna Johnson singled in a run and Kelly Roman coaxed a bases-loaded walk.

Beallsville started chipping away in the third inning on Coty Marcum's triple to right center, making it 2-1.

The Blue Devils tied the score in the sixth inning on Alecia Marcum's infield single.

In the top of the eighth, Coty Marcum reached on an infield single. She promptly stole second and took third when the ball bounced into the outfield.

Marcum then scored when Charity Street grounded back to the pitcher, who went to first for the out, but Johnson's throw home was late and the run scored.

The loss spoiled another superb effort from Shadyside junior ace Lisa Merryman. She scattered four hits with seven strikeouts and just one walk.

Beallsville received a single and a triple from Coty Marcum, while Alecia Marcum had the run-scoring single.

Shadyside was led by Johnson's double, single and RBI. Merryman donated a single and a double.

Linescore:
Beallsville 001 001 01 — 3 4 0
Shadyside 200 000 00 — 2 6 1
BATTERIES: Burkhart and Schumacher; Merryman and Thoburn.

LYSA BREEDEN fired a three-hitter, outdueling Megan Jack, as Bellaire pocketed a 2-0 victory in the Class AAA semifinal game.

Breeden went the distance with five strikeouts and three walks.

"Lysa has been our go-to pitcher all season," Bellaire head coach Melissa Kaldor said. "We want her on the mound in big games because she can handle the pressure."

"I asked her in school today if she was ready, and she told me



T-L Photos/MICHAEL HARVILLA
TOP PHOTO: Bellaire's Nikki Driscoll is forced out at home as Union Local catcher Mandy Faunda keeps her foot on the plate during OVAC Class AAA semifinal action at the Chambers/I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

LEFT: Beallsville's Charity Street makes the catch during OVAC Class A action against Shadyside.

"coach you have nothing to worry about," a smiling Kaldor added.

Breeden and Jack posted goose eggs until the sixth inning when Erica Hibbitts opened the frame with a double to left. After an out, Breeden worked a walk before the Jets got a force out at third.

Rosie Zeno followed with a clutch two-out bloop single which scored one run. The Big Reds tacked on an insurance run when Amanda Reger's ground ball was booted.

"That was a big hit for Rosie," Kaldor said. "Union Local is a tough team. I told the kids before the game we had to make the plays when we needed to."

"Rosie came up with the big hit and our defense was excellent, probably the best it has been since the early part of the season," Kaldor added.

Jack was the tough-luck loser. She recorded two strikeouts with three walks, while allowing just three hits.

"The way the game started, I knew it was going to be tight," UL head coach Bill Weller said. "We made a couple of bad decisions on the base paths and had a few defensive lapses that cost us."

"And you have to give Bellaire credit," Weller added. "They made the plays that they had to make."

Linescore:
Union Local 000 000 0 — 0 3 2
Bellaire 000 002 x — 2 3 1
BATTERIES: Jack and Faunda; Breeden and Hibbitts.

LEEKYCIA Brown continues to shut opponents down, this time helping Monroe Central earn a 10-0 five-inning victory over Frontier.

Brown finished with 10 strikeouts and no walks. Those numbers improve her season totals to a mind-boggling 202 strikeouts with just six walks.

Ashly Kuhn led the attack with a run-scoring triple and a RBI single, while Chrissy Schumacher also had a three-base hit. Jewell Jones donated a single and plated two runs.



OVAC Softball Set

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference has released the schedule for this week's softball tournament semifinals.

All games will be played on Fields 3 and 4 Tuesday and Thursday at the Chambers I-470 Softball Complex in Wheeling.

Championship games in all four divisions will be played Saturday, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

In Tuesday's semifinals, the Field 3 doubleheader will feature a Class A game between Bellaire St. John and Linsly at 5 p.m. followed by a double-A tilt between Steubenville Central and Toronto at 6:30.

On Field 4, Wheeling Park and John Marshall meet in a 4-A game at 5 p.m. with Oak Glen and Meadowbrook to follow in 3-A at 6:30.

Thursday's Field 3 card opens with a single-A clash between Shadyside and Beallsville with Monroe Central and Frontier closing out the Class AA bracket at 6:30.

ing out the Class AA bracket at 6:30.

On Field 4, Bellaire and Union Local play a Class AAA game at 5 p.m. followed by the final 4-A tilt between Edison and Brooke at 6:30.

Admission to all games has been set at \$5 and \$3 by the OVAC, which is accepting only OVAC passes for the event.

"We are starting to hit the ball at a really good time," Monroe Central head coach Ted Brown said. "We are in for a tough game Saturday. Jackie (Marook, Steubenville Central's head coach) runs a fine program."

"Leekycia turned in another sharp performance for us," Brown added.

The Seminoles also were benefactors on five costly Cougar errors in improving to a sparkling 22-2 on the season.

"Frontier is a quality team," Brown said. "They got a little rattled today and made some errors. But I think you have to give us credit for that because we put a lot of pressure on the fielders to make plays by putting the ball in play and aggressive base running."

Linescore:
Frontier 000 00 — 0 2 5
Monroe Central 206 11 — 10 7 0
BATTERIES: Rinard and Higgins; Brown and Schumacher.

EDISON'S Lakyn Bendle limited Brooke to four hits as the Wildcats picked up a hard-fought 1-0 victory.

Bendle went the distance with two strikeouts and one walk.

Samantha Taczak's line drive plated Angie Skinner from second base for the game's lone run.

Erika Alloggia and Missy Evans each had two singles for Edison.

Brooke received two singles from Michelle DiGiacinto.

Linescore:
Brooke 000 000 0 — 0 4 1
Edison 000 000 1 — 1 7 1
BATTERIES: Visco and Felton; Bendle and Evans.

Saturday, May 10, 2003 • Page D10

OVAC softball championships set for today

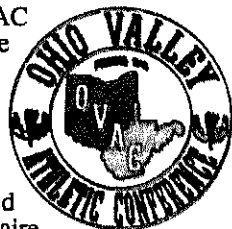
The OVAC will decide its 2003 OVAC softball championships this afternoon at the Chambers/I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

At 10:30 a.m., top-seeded Monroe Central will square off with third-seeded Steubenville Central to determine the Class AA championship.

At 12:15 p.m., fourth-seed Meadowbrook faces the top-seeded Bellaire Big Reds.

At 2 p.m., fourth-seeded Linsly will battle third-seeded Beallsville to decide the Class A championship.

At 3:45, Edison will go for another Class AAA championship against John Marshall.



OVAC to determine 2 softball champs today

The OVAC will decide its final two softball champions this evening at the Chamber/I-470 Complex in Wheeling. Top-seeded Monroe Central will square off with Steubenville Central in the Class AA championship game will start at 4:30. At 6:00, the Class AAA contest will take centerstage as top-seeded Bellaire will face Meadowbrook.