

OVAC Baseball Pairings

QUARTERFINAL PAIRINGS	
SATURDAY, MAY 1	
CLASS 4-A	
#8 Edison at #1 John Marshall	#5 St. Clairsville at #4 Magnolia
#7 Brooke at #2 Cambridge	CLASS 2-A
#6 Buckeye Local at #3 Steubenville	#8 Buckeye Trail at #1 Steubenville Central
#5 Wheeling Park at #4 Weir	#7 Toronto at #2 Barnesville
CLASS 3-A	#6 Caldwell at #3 Fort Frye
#8 Union Local at #1 Harrison Central	#5 Wheeling Central at #4 River
#7 Martins Ferry at #2 Indian Creek	CLASS 1-A
#6 Bellaire at #3 Meadowbrook	#8 Frontier at #1 Weirton Madonna
	#7 Bishop Donahue at #2 Cameron
	#6 Linsly at #3 Shadyside
	#5 St. John Central at #4 Beallsville

Beallsville falls in OVAC semifinals

Weirton Madonna advanced to the OVAC 1-A baseball championship game after eliminating Beallsville, 6-1, Monday night at Connorville.

The game was a make-up from a rainout Friday. It wasn't able to be played Saturday with the other semi-final games due to the Blue Devils taking part in the Division IV sectional.

Madonna received a strong pitching effort from Anthony Gianni who struck out Beallsville hitters and didn't allow a base hit. He did allow six walks. He also had a single.

Matt Hirkala had a two-run single for the Blue Dons, while Jake Myers also had a RBI on a base knock.

Casey Richards and Mike DeCaria came through with a double and a triple, respectively. Kelson Jerrel and Chad Paterra each had a RBI.

Madonna will now meet Linsly Saturday at 11 a.m. at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

OVAC SEMIFINAL AT CONNORVILLE
MADONNA 6 BEALLSVILLE 1
 Beallsville 010 000 0 1 0 3
 Madonna 300 210 x 6 5 3
BATTERIES: Bilyeu and Turner; Gianni Anthony and Hall.

Harrison Central reaches OVAC 3-A baseball final

AT BROOKE, Harrison Central easily walked away with an OVAC semifinal win Saturday as the Huskies of head coach Mike Saffel defeated Magnolia by the score of 11-2.

Tom Snyder gained the win on the hill for the Huskies as he went the distance striking out seven Blue Eagle batters, while walking five.

Jarryd Ridgeway led the winners with a three-run homer in the first inning, while Adam Greene smacked two doubles and two singles. Snyder aided his mound effort with a single and a double, while Cody Smith clapped a double.

Magnolia received a double, a piece from Jonathan Kemp and Michael Carroll.

Harrison Central is now 16-3 on the season and will be back in action next Saturday in the OVAC finals as it will take on Meadowbrook at 5 p.m.

Magnolia, meanwhile, drops to 14-8 on the year.

BUCKEYE LOCAL 3 CAMBRIDGE 2

AT CONNORVILLE, Buckeye Local punched its ticket to the OVAC 4-A title game against top-seeded John Marshall next Saturday at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

Buckeye Local posted a hard-fought 3-2 win over Cambridge in Saturday's semifinals.

The Panthers received a strong pitching effort from senior stand-out C.J. Besece who worked the distance. He fanned seven and walked two. He also had a single.

Senior Mark McCain lifted the Panthers to the win when he cracked a solo home run in the sixth. He also plated a run with a base hit.

Cambridge was sparked by a two-run home run by Cody Bond.

Linescore:

HARRISON CENTRAL 11 MAGNOLIA 3

Magnolia 000 011 0 -- 2 4 4

Harrison 302 303 x -- 11 11 3

BATTERIES: Blair and Carroll. Snyder and Carlson.

JOHN MARSHALL 16 WEIR 6

Weir 030 210 -- 6 12 1

John Marshall 201 751 -- 16 17 0

BATTERIES: Kotson, Marino (2), Hayden (4), Tuatrichi (4) and Martin.

Campbell and Marple, Berger (6).

BUCKEYE LOCAL 3 CAMBRIDGE 2

Buckeye Local 101 001 0 3 6 1

Cambridge 002 000 0 2 7 2

BATTERIES: Besece and Verhovic; Harbin and Bond.

OVAC Baseball Semifinals

FRIDAY
AT BUCKEYE LOCAL
 5 p.m. -- Weirton Madonna vs. Beallsville

SATURDAY
AT BRIDGEPORT
 11 a.m. -- Meadowbrook vs. Indian Creek
 2 p.m. -- Steubenville Central vs. River
 5 p.m. -- Fort Frye vs. Barnesville

AT BUCKEYE LOCAL
 1 p.m. -- Linsly vs. Cameron
 4 p.m. -- Cambridge vs. Buckeye Local

AT BROOKE
 1 p.m. -- John Marshall vs. Weir



Colts advance in OVAC tourney

By RICK DeLUCA
 Times Leader Sports Writer

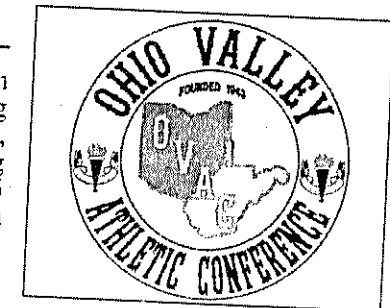
Bolstered by a pair of five run innings and a strong pitching effort by Jesse Froehlich, Meadowbrook's hard-hitting Colts erupted to post an 11-6 win over second-seeded Indian Creek in the Class 3-A semifinals at Bridgeport's Perkins Field Saturday afternoon.

With the win, coach Tim Roller's Colts advanced into the OVAC finals at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville on Saturday at 5 p.m. Meadowbrook's win also boosted their record to 16-9 on the season.

Indian Creek's setback closed the season for the Redskins with a 15-9 mark.

Froehlich went the distance on the mound for the Colts recording five strikeouts and walking eight. The Colt righthander settled down after allowing five runs in the first two innings.

Ryan Doult paced the Colt hitters with a double, two singles



and two RBI while Zach Zifzal cracked a double, two singles and collected three RBI. Jordan Potts closed with two singles. Brad Mitchell blasted a long solo homer in the third and Craig Cross had a RBI-double in the seventh.

Richie Crowe led the Redskins with a double, single and two RBI while Jeremy Frazier added a double, single and three RBI and Seth Fluharty had a double.

Line score:
 Meadowbrook 105 000 5 -- 11 13 0
 Indian Creek 230 001 0 -- 6 7 2
 Batteries: Froehlich and Daugherty; Daily, Gasser (3), Walter (7) and Fluharty.

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Monarchs Break Out the Bats in Romp Over Weir

Buckeye Local nips Cambridge in Class AAAA, Harrison Central and Meadowbrook roll to victories in Class AAA

By DON CLEGG
Sports Editor

If the measure of a quality baseball team is how well it responds to adversity, head coach Bob Montgomery believes his John Marshall squad can stand pretty tall.

Weir High head coach Bob Rosnick agrees.

After being held to only three hits in a Thursday night loss to Wheeling Central, the Monarchs broke out the heavy artillery Saturday in hammering their way to a 16-6 romp over Weir High in an OVAC Class AAAA semifinal at the Brooke High diamond.

John Marshall raked a quartet of Red Rider hurlers for 17 hits and no less than seven Monarch regulars enjoyed multi-hit afternoons as JM needed just six innings to dispose of a quality Weir High contingent.

"Like I told our guys afterwards," said Rosnick, whose team slipped to 17-6 on the year. "It's not too often that you get 12 hits in a game and still get 10-run.

"We made some mistakes today but that's a good hitting baseball team over there.

"I haven't seen a team around here hit the ball like that in years. They've got a shot to go an awful long way."

The veteran Montgomery said he was pleased with the way his team shook off Thursday's setback and attended to the task at hand.

"A little adversity always helps sharpen the focus," said Montgomery.

"Wheeling Central played a great game Thursday but we talked before the game about getting back to hitting one through nine (in the batting order) and we had a lot of guys come through."

Despite the end result, the Monarchs had to come from behind twice in the early going on Saturday.

Run-scoring singles by Robbie Kinkade and Kial Downs spotted JM ace Zac Campbell a 2-0 lead in the first but Weir answered with three runs in the top of the second.

Joe Quattrochi launched Campbell's first pitch of the frame deep over the right field fence for a solo homer. Joel Marino weighed in with an RBI double and Josh Buffo chased him home with a two-out single for a 3-2 Red Rider lead.

John Marshall tied the game at 3 in the third when Cody Koontz doubled and came around to score on an error but Weir went right back to work in the top of the fourth.

Jason Gatto and Jack Crow ignited the two-out rally with back-to-back singles. They scored on infield hits by Quat-



Fort Frye's Cory Stimpert dives back to the bag as Barnesville first baseman Brad Hannahs (31) receives the pickoff throw during Saturday's OVAC semifinal game. Stimpert was safe on the play.

Photo by Scott Mccluskey

trochi and Brandon Coxen to put Weir back up, 5-3.

The hard-throwing Coxen, the only senior on the Red Rider roster, had started on the mound but was replaced by Marino after the first inning.

"I knew they (John Marshall) were a good fastball hitting team," said Rosnick, "but I told Brandon if he had his good stuff, it would be his game.

"They were on him pretty good in the first so I brought Joel in to mix things up.

"He pitched pretty well for a while but then they got to him, too."

After Marino had held JM to one run on two hits through the second and third frames, the Monarch floodgates opened in the fourth.

John Marshall not only came from behind, the Monarchs broke the game open by batting around and scoring eight runs.

The key blow of the stanza was delivered by J.C. Cunningham, who ripped the first pitch he saw over the left field fence for a one-out grand slam.

It was the first of three hits on a five-RBI day for the senior third baseman and turned the 5-3 deficit into a 7-5 lead.

"I was really happy to see J.C. come up big like that," said

Montgomery.

"He started off the season something like 23-of-35 at the plate with five home runs. No one can keep up that kind of pace so he'd been a little down on himself lately.

"Today he came out and got the big hit but we had a lot of guys hitting top to bottom. We even had a lot of hard outs today."

Koontz finished with two doubles and a single while Trent Schambach chased home three runs with a single and double.

Downs, Kinkade, Malachi Marple and Aaron Simmons also had multi-hit games for JM.

The sweet-swinging Quattrochi led Weir with a home run, two singles and two RBIs. Gatto and Buffo each drove in runs with a double and a single while Coxen had a pair of base knocks.

John Marshall (20-2) advanced to the OVAC Class AAAA championship game against the Buckeye Local.

The Panthers earned a one-run decision over Cambridge to advance.

All four championship games will be played at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field on Saturday with times to be announced early this week.

The Monarchs will be looking

to scratch a 23-year itch.

"We've won several (OVAC) regular season championships but we haven't won the playoffs since we won four straight from 1978-81," said Montgomery.

Class AAAA

Buckeye Local 3, Cambridge 2
At Connorville, Mark McCain had three RBIs on a single and a home run as Buckeye Local edged Cambridge to advance to the OVAC Class AAAA Championship game.

C.J. Besece got the win for the Panthers, fanning seven and walking one while holding Cambridge to seven hits and two runs. Sean Call had two singles.

Class AAA

Meadowbrook 11, Indian Creek 6

At Bridgeport, the Colts exploded for five runs in the top of the seventh inning to break a 6-6 tie and earn a berth in next Saturday's OVAC championship game.

Meadowbrook will face Harrison Central, a winner over Magnolia Saturday in Wellsburg.

Ryan Douth belted two singles, a double and knocked in two runs for the Colts. Zach Zifzal scored two runs and had two singles and a double and knocked in three runs.

Jeremy Frazier paced Indian

Creek with a double, single and three RBIs. Richiè Crowe doubled, singled with two RBIs.

Harrison Central 11, Magnolia 2

At Wellsburg, Harrison Central scored three runs in three separate innings to run away from Magnolia.

Jarryd Ridgeway led the Huskies (16-3) with a three-run home run and Adam Greene added two singles and two doubles.

Jon Kemp and Michael Carroll each had a double for the Blue Eagles (14-8).

Class AA Semifinals

Steub. Cent. 12, River 2

At Bridgeport, the Crusaders' John Koehlein fired a two-hitter and the Steubenville Central bats provided plenty of offensive firepower in downing the Pilots.

The Crusaders (14-5) advanced to next Saturday's OVAC title where they will play Fort Frye, a 3-2 victor over Barnesville in the other Class AA semifinal.

Steubenville Central exploded for nine runs in the bottom of the third inning, and that's all the offense the Crusaders would need.

Matt Belardine doubled, singled and knocked in a run for the winners. Joe Antinone added a triple, double and RBI.

Ryne Romick homered and had two RBIs for the Pilots, while Greg Bayes singled.

Fort Frye, 3, Barnesville 2

At Bridgeport, Tyler Engle laced two singles and knocked in a run as the Cadets moved on to the OVAC championship round.

Fort Frye will now face Steubenville Central next Saturday. The Crusaders thumped River 12-2 in the other semifinal.

Jaremy Barton, Corey Best and Corey Stimpert all singled for Fort Frye (20-4).

Craig Miller had two singles and an RBI for the Shamrocks (17-3). Chris Wells added a double and an RBI.

Class A

Linsly 12, Cameron 8

At Connorville, Linsly advanced to Saturday's final against either Weirton Madonna or Beallsville, which play at 5 p.m. on Monday at Buckeye Local.

No details were provided.

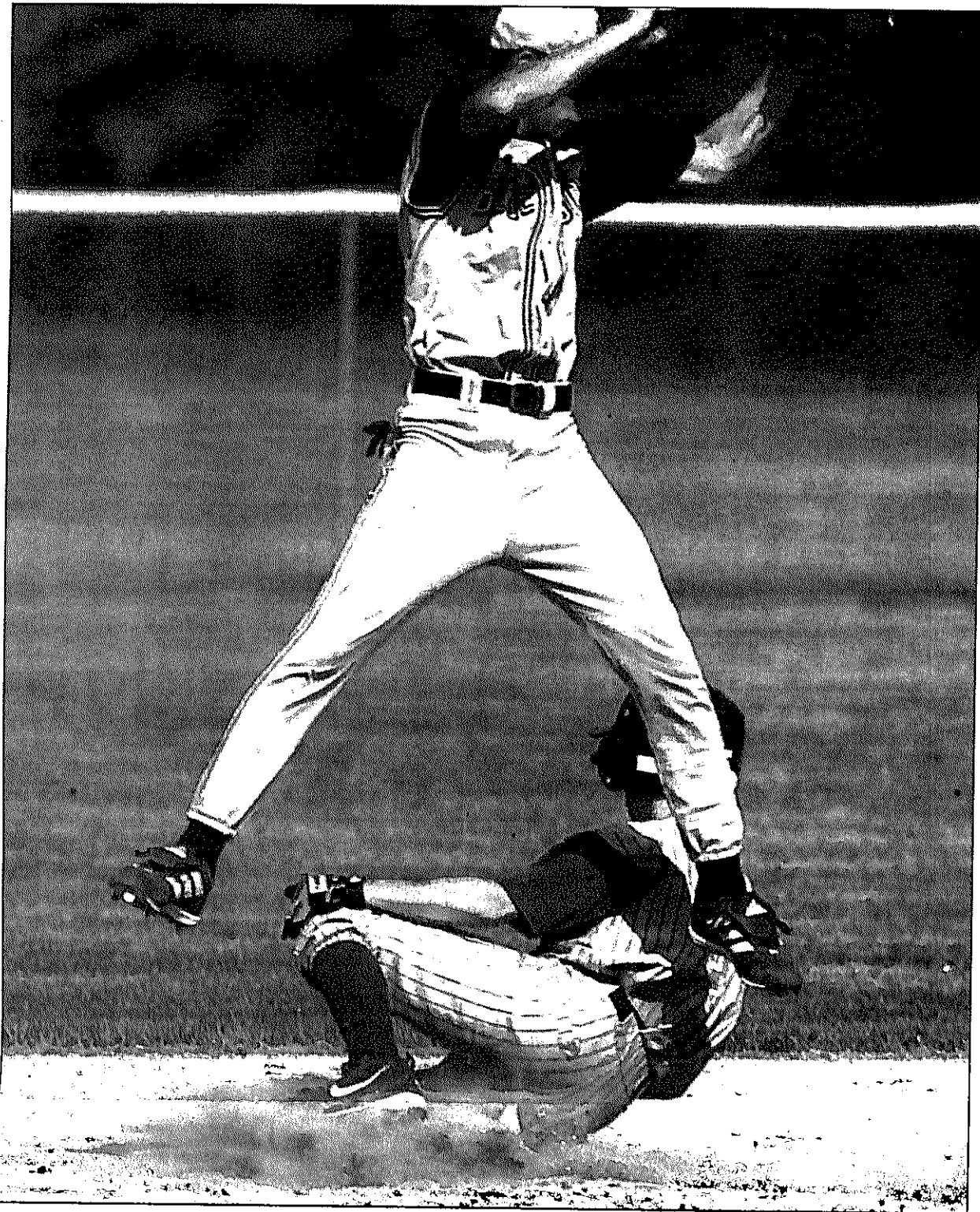


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Weirton Madonna second baseman T.J. Weimerskirch leaps for a ball as Beallsville baserunner Jordan Turner slides safely into second base during their OVAC Class A semifinal game Monday at Buckeye Local

Blue Dons ear OVAC title by topping Linsly

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

Since its last title in 1992, Weirton Madonna been one of the whipping boys in Class 1-A baseball. The change in trend is under way.

The Blue Dons showed they are back in a big Saturday afternoon, capturing the conference title thanks to the 14-4 pasting they put on upstart Linsly.

"We had this goal since we first walked in the gym (in March)," said elated Madonna manager Tony Magone. "The kids knew what they wanted and they believed they could do it all season, so I am really proud of these kids."

The title marks the Dons' first since 1992, ironically enough that season was the last during the tenure of Magone as manager.

Linsly, meanwhile, ends its season at 8-14 and came up short in its quest to be the first-ever to win OVAC title with a losing record.

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Don of the Mound

Gianni tosses no-hitter to lift Weirton Madonna past Beallsville

By JIM ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

Weirton Madonna's Anthony Gianni had it all working on Monday.

The big, strong right-hander struck out nine and didn't allow a hit in his team's 6-1 victory over Beallsville in OVAC semifinal action at Bill Maze-roski Field on the campus of Buckeye Local High School.

"As you can see, he's got a great fastball, he's got a pretty good change-up, and he's got a great curveball when he

stays on top of it," said Weirton Madonna coach Tony Magnone.

Gianni, who now has 49 strikeouts in 28 innings of work this season, completed the gem when he struck out Jonah Turner and catcher Sam Hall fired to first to catch Jordan Turner a bit too far off first.

But still, he had to do a lot of work to get out of some jams.

He walked five batters and Madonna (16-6) committed three errors behind him. All told, nine different Beallsville batters reached base.



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Weirton Madonna's Anthony Gianni struck out nine on his way to a no-hitter in Monday's 6-1 OVAC victory over Beallsville.

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OVAC
Baseball

Buckeye wins OVAC baseball title

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

It was going to be their last time in a Buckeye Local uniform and C. J. Besece and his coach Chris Blackburn made the last time their best. They finished on top.

Ending a season of high expectations and, at times, disappointing results, Buckeye Local closed out their 2004 campaign in style capturing the school's first OVAC Class 4-A baseball title with a nerve-wrenching 10-9 eight-inning win over top-seeded John Marshall at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville Saturday night.

Closing out his three-year stint at the Panther helm, Blackburn goes out a winner after his team battled back in the OVAC playoffs from a No. 6 seed to take home the gold in the conference's final championship game of the 2003-2004 season.

Blackburn's Panthers surprised a good Steubenville Big Red team in the quarterfinals with a 5-2 win just one day after dropping a 13-2 decision to the same Big Red squad. In the semi-finals last Saturday, Buckeye held on against the second-seeded Cambridge Bobcats to register a 3-2 win and advance into the finals.

Buckeye's title win on Saturday closed out an 11-10 season for the Panthers and a sparkling four-year prep career for Besece.

A hard-throwing righthander, who combines a good fastball with an assortment of breaking pitches, Besece finished his fine career by pitching complete game victories in each of the Panthers three OVAC playoff wins.

Saturday's win was a gutsy performance by Besece, who had opened the contest with three scoreless innings before giving way to a five-run John Marshall fourth. More importantly, Besece was struck on the shin midway through the inning by a batted ball, but continuing to pitch.

Besece closed with 12 strikeouts that including striking out the side in the fifth and retiring two on Ks in the eighth. He walked three and left two runners on base in the fourth, fifth and eighth frames.

Despite all of the Besece heroics, Saturday's title contest came down to near-catastrophic error in the bottom of the seventh and a game-ending play by the same fielder in the eighth.

After three scoreless innings to open the game, Buckeye exploded with seven runs in the top of the fourth capitalizing on five hits and three Monarch miscues.

Catcher Greg Verhovec opened

the fourth with a single and after senior shortstop Mark McCain reached on an error, R. J. Faldowski singled by first. Gary Thompson reached on an second JM error that plated a couple runs and Sean Call singled to left that added another.

With two outs, Zach McKim singled to center that brought home another Panther tally and Besece singled down the third base line to bring home a fifth run. Verhovec reached on the Monarchs third error in the inning and in the process, the winners scored two more runs.

In the bottom half of the inning, the Monarchs struck back as Justin Cunningham ripped a double to left for coach Bob Montgomery's bunch. Robbie Kinkade followed with a two-bagger to right that tallied one run. Kial Downs singled to left and Trent Schambach singled to center that scored Kinkade, but Downs was gunned down at the plate as centerfielder Stan Dobranetski threw to Besece who threw to Verhovec for the tagout.

Chaz Schultz reached on an error and Malachi Marple's single to right brought home another run. Two batters later, Zac Campbell's fly ball to left was mishandled as two more runs scored to close the frame.

Buckeye added two more in the top of the fifth as Faldowski opened with a single to right. He moved to second on Thompson's fielders choice and to third on Mark Doughty's ground out. Call singled to single to plate Faldowski and Saltkield's single to center and subsequent error on by the centerfielder allowed Call to score from second.

With a 9-5 lead heading into the bottom of the seventh, the Panthers were hoping for a quick inning to close out the win, but JM opened with a Cunningham single and with one out a walk to Downs. After Cunningham scored on a wild pitch, the Monarchs got a RBI-single to center by Schambach to pull to within two. Marple's single to center added another run with two outs to cut the margin to 9-8.

With Aaron Simmons as the Monarchs last hope, Besece got the JM rightfielder to his a slow roller to second, but Saltkield's throw to first sailed by Call and Marple raced home with the game-tyer.

After a fly ball to right ended the seventh, the Panther opened the eighth with a hit-batsman in Call. Joe Hutton ran for Call and after a popup to third and a groundout to short retired the next two batters, the limping Besece sent a bloop single to right that plated Hutton with the eventual game-winner.

In the bottom of the eighth, JM got its first two runners on base before Besece struck out the next two and got Schambach to ground out to Saltkield at second to end the game.

"I've been waiting for this team to play with heart for three years," an emotional Blackburn said after the win, "And if that was heart on that field tonight, then I'll never figure it out. What a great day."

"Next to the birth of my daughters, this is just fantastic," he added. "And obviously, this was my last game. I resigned from this team and I just hope that the tradition we built here continues on."

"We're losing four kids, four kids that are going to college," Blackburn added while fighting back tears. "What more could you ask for. This just great."

"These guys showed character. For three years, I waited for

them to show heart. When this guy failed, this guy picked it up. When this guy failed, C. J. picked it up.

"This is a great way for the seniors to go out. It's just a great feeling. You can't sum it up enough. Especially being the first OVAC championship in the school's history, when we look up there and see that banner, we know that we put that there.

Besece added to fine effort on the mound with two doubles, a single and two RBIs while Faldowski added three singles and Call had two singles and two RBI.

Cunningham paced the Monarchs, now 23-4, with a double and two singles while Schambach and Marple and two singles and two RBI each. Zac Campbell also had two singles.

Linescore:
BUCKEYE LOCAL 000 720 01 - 10 11 5
JOHN MARSHALL 000 500 40 - 9 12 4
Batteries: Besece and Verhovec; Koontz and Marple.

HE INTELLIGENCER - Wheeling, W.Va. - Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Don

(Continued from Page 15)

"We hit some good shots but they happened to be right at 'em and their outfielders made some really great plays," said Beallsville coach Terry Caldwell, who took a small issue over a couple of the would-be base hits that were ruled errors.

"But still, he pitched a great game. You can't take anything away from him, he did a great job. He's a good pitcher."

Only Tony Stephens, who reached on an error, moved to second on a hit by pitch, and third on a passed ball, managed to score. He came plateward on a sac fly by No. 8 hitter Brad Bilyeu.

Just twice in the game did Gianni face just three batters in an inning - the fourth and fifth.

"We've been making a lot of errors, believe me," Magnone said. "That's what's been holding us back a little bit is our fielding. We've been getting great pitching all year and our fielding has been subpar."

The Blue Dons now move into Saturday's finals vs. Linsly in the Class-A championship at 11 a.m. at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

Madonna scored three runs in the first inning when Mike DeCaria reached on the first of three walks by Blue Devil pitcher Brian Bilyeu. Gianni followed with a single, just ahead of a two-run rip by third baseman Matt Hirkala, who later scored on a wild pitch.

They added two more in the fourth on a disastrous half-inning of fielding by Beallsville. The Blue Dons banged out just one hit in the inning, a solid single up the

middle by Chad Pattera, but scored a pair of runs on one of three errors and a sac fly by No. 9 hitter Kelson Jerrel.

They scored their final run when Hall walked with two outs - a theme on this day - and later came around to score on a single by T.J. Weimerskirch in the fifth.

"We've been taking advantage of that all year," Magnone said. "We've got some kids who can hit the baseball. And they're finally starting to hit it. I'm proud of everything they did."

● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

"Frankly, I am happy we got here," said veteran Linsly boss Gary Sprague who won his 400th game earlier this spring. "We are a young team, so they might have been a little tight playing in a championship game."

Weirton Madonna wasted little time in jumping on Linsly starter Chris Banal who was roughed up a tune of 12 runs on eight hits. However, only three of those runs were earned.

Madonna shortstop Jake Meyers led off the Madonna half of the first with a solid single. After an out was recorded, pitcher Anthony Gianni laced a double to the right-field gap.

Matt Hirkala followed with a single to score Meyers from third and Sam Hall flew out deep in left, allowing Gianni to score on a sacrifice fly.

After Gianni quickly retired Linsly in the top of the second, the wheels fell off for the Cadets.

Linsly was guilty of three errors and Madonna was credited with four hits. All told, those led to nine runs in the Dons' second.

"We have been notorious for (errors) all year," Sprague said. "I just hoped it wouldn't show up today, but they did and Madonna made us pay."

Magnone was happy with how his team took advantage of the chances it was presented.

"Usually we make the errors," Magnone smiled. "Good baseball teams are able to take advantage of mistakes, and that's what we did today."

Trailing 11-0, Linsly finally found a few seams in the Madonna defense in the top of the third. Matt Jividen connected on a one-out single and two hitters later Tyler Jividen doubled his brother home. Third-baseman Brad Nickerson followed with a double, scoring the other Jividen.

The Cadets got two more back in the top of the fifth. Cory Darill came through with a one-out single, followed by a Tyler Jividen base knock. Two wild pitches resulted in Darill crossing the dish.

Sophomore Jason Pyles belted a RBI single to score Jividen.

Madonna got one of those runs back in the fifth and the Dons were able to end the contest, scoring two runs off Linsly reliever Bill Zavatsky.

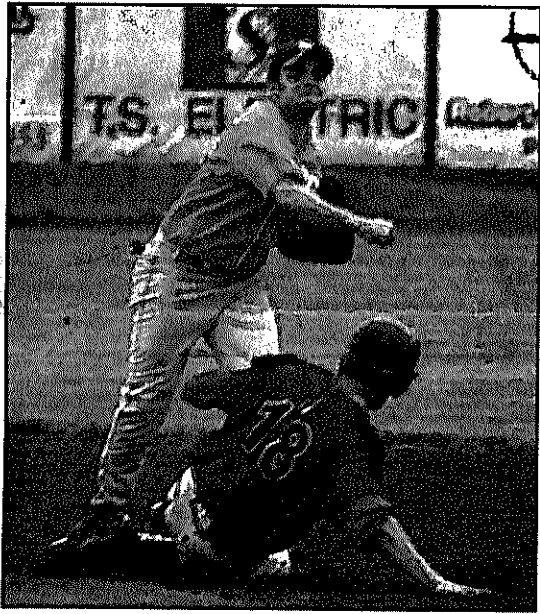
Gianni earned the mound win for the Dons. He went the distance with nine strikeouts. He allowed just one walk to earn the mound win.

The Dons were led at the dish Chris Gianni who had two doubles, a single and three RBI. Hirkala a double, single and a pair of runs driven in. Meyers had a RBI in the fifth and Chad Patero had a single and two RBI.

Nickerson had a pair of hits and Banal had a single for the Cadets.

Linescore:
Linsly 002 020 4 8 4
Madonna 290 012 14 9 0
BATTERIES: Banal, Zavatsky (6) and Jividen, Gianni and Hall.

Meadowbrook captures OVAC



Janell Tedrick/The Daily Jeffersonian
Meadowbrook High second baseman Wes Mercer turns a double-play after erasing Harrison Central's Jarryd Ridgeway in the first inning of Saturday's OVAC Class 3-A championship game in Steubenville.

ROD JOHNSON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

STEUBENVILLE — For the second time in Tim Roller's tenure as the skipper of the Meadowbrook Colt baseball program, his team is bringing home an OVAC championship.

Behind the gritty pitching of starter Jesse Froehlich, some stellar relief work by Zach Zifzal, and some timely hitting, the Colts bested Harrison Central 4-2 on Saturday evening at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field to claim the Class 3-A title.

Roller was especially complimentary toward his two hurlers in Saturday's contest.

"Jesse is just a bulldog," he stated. "He was a little arm weary, but told me he had good stuff. His fastball was great and he was getting his splitter over.

"He finally did get a little worn down in the seventh, but Zach came in and really shut them down. Zach told me he had a couple of innings to give."

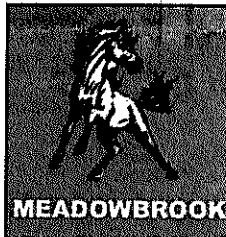
As in much of this month of May, the Colts (18-10) served notice early that they had their hitting shoes on. In the top of the first, Derek Daugherty blasted a hanging curve ball off the left field fence for a one-out double. Froehlich followed with an RBI single short left.

After Froehlich moved to second on a groundout, he scored when Wes Mercer laced a single past the Harrison Central third sacker.

Only an errant pickoff attempt by Froehlich in the bottom of the first allowed the Huskies to get a runner to third, in the person of Adam Greene. Jarryd Ridgeway flared an RBI single to right to get Harrison on the scoreboard.

After a scoreless second, the Colts padded their lead with single runs in the third and fourth. In the third, it was Mercer, again, providing the key hit with an RBI single, plating Froehlich, who had doubled.

In the fourth, it was Zifzal's turn, and he drilled an RBI single to right, which scored

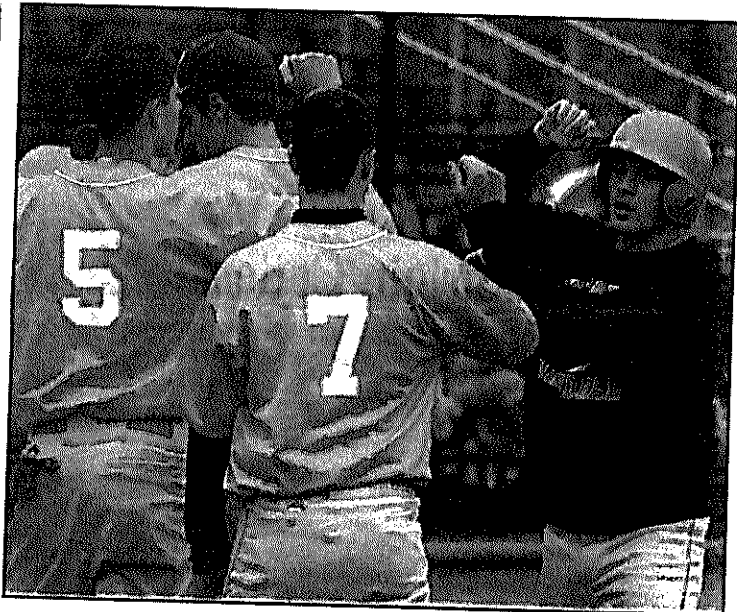


See MHS page B-3

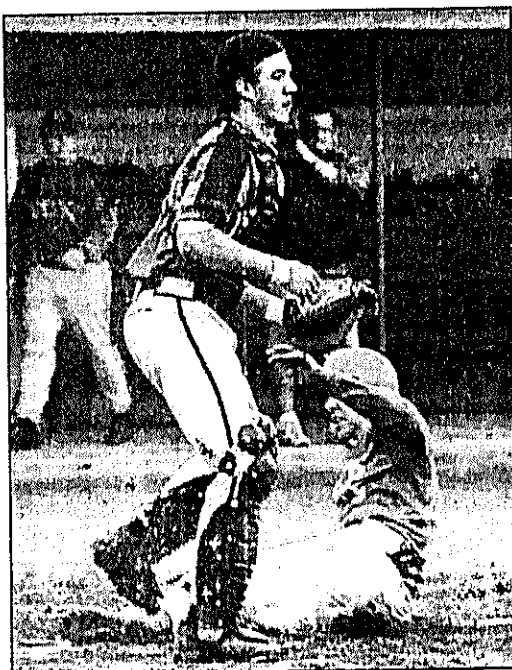
SPORTS

PAGE B-3 SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2004

3-A baseball title



Janell Tedrick/The Daily Jeffersonian
Meadowbrook High's Jesse Froehlich is greeted by his teammates, including Derek Daugherty (5) and Kyle Winland (7) during Saturday night's OVAC Class 3-A championship game against Harrison Central. The Colts won the crown with a 4-2 triumph at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field.



Janell Tedrick/The Daily Jeffersonian
Meadowbrook High's Derek Daugherty scores the first run of the OVAC Class 3-A Championship game at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field on Saturday. Meadowbrook won, 4-2.



Janell Tedrick/The Daily Jeffersonian
Meadowbrook High's Zach Zifzal slides to tag first base for an out before getting tangled up with Harrison Central's Cody Smith during Saturday's OVAC Class 3-A championship game.

MHS captures OVAC Class 3-A crown

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Daugherty.

Staked to a 4-1 lead, Froehlich appeared to be cruising until the Huskies' sixth. Ridgeway belted a one out triple and scored on an RBI single by Tommy Snyder. Froehlich was able to get the next two hitters on a popup and a strikeout.

After the Colts were retired in the top of seventh, Froehlich finally ran out of gas in the Huskies' seventh.

And then the drama really began. Froehlich walked the leadoff hitter, then notched his sixth strikeout of the game before walking the next two hitters to load the sacks.

At that point, Roller made the pitching change, bringing Zifzal to the mound. The junior righthander came through big time by fanning the Huskies' No. 2 and No. 3 hitters to preserve the win.

Froehlich and Zifzal combined for eight strikeouts. Froehlich picked up the win, improving to 7-3. He allowed just three hits,

but walked six. It was Zifzal's first save of the spring.

Froehlich, Mercer and Jordan Potts paced the Colt offense with two hits apiece.

For Harrison Central (17-5), Snyder suffered the pitching loss, despite fanning seven. He allowed nine hits. He and Ridgeway accounted for all three of the Husky hits.

Despite district tourney play looming on Tuesday, Roller didn't hesitate to bring Zifzal to the mound in the crucial seventh. "This was too important to let slip away," he commented. "We had him warm up a little during the sixth. He wouldn't have been able to go for long."

As it turned out, he didn't need to. Two batters...two strikeouts.

In earlier OVAC action, Weirton Madonna routed Linsly 14-4, to win the Class 1-A championship and Steubenville Catholic Central edged Fort Frye, 6-5, to claim the Class 2-A crown. Buckeye Local edged John Marshall, 10-9, in eight innings in the Class 4-A title game late Saturday night.

NEXT—Meadowbrook turns its attention back to OHSAA tournament play, with the Colt scheduled to face John Glenn in the Division II District at River View High's diamond in Warsaw on Tuesday at 5 p.m.



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

HARRISON Central senior Tom Snyder delivers a pitch during Saturday's OVAC Class 3-A Championship game against Meadowbrook at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville. Meadowbrook won, 4-2.

Huskies come up short

• Meadowbrook deals Harrison Central 4-2 setback

By **GREG HARKNESS**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Harrison Central had the perfect opportunity.

Trailing by two runs in the bottom of the seventh, the Huskies loaded the bases with one out but Meadowbrook reliever Zac Zifzal slammed the door shut as the Colts won the OVAC 3-A title with a 4-2 victory Saturday evening at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

"It just didn't happen," Harrison Central head coach Mike Saffell said. "We battled like we did all year, but like the last couple of games we just could not come up with the big hit.

"You know the guys set the school record for wins in a season, but it just didn't

happen in the postseason," Saffell added. "And nobody wanted it to happen more than me and the players."

The Huskies finished the season with a 17-5 record -- but went 0-3 in the EOBL and OVAC title games, and the sectional tournament.

Meadowbrook, meanwhile, will continue its season in district action on Tuesday at River View High School against John Glenn.

"Meadowbrook is a good hitting team," Saffell said. "They have a good team. They didn't get to the district by accident."

Meadowbrook starter Jesse Froelich kept the Huskies at bay most of the afternoon until the seventh when he created his own jam.

Froelich walked Jared Carlson to open

the seventh and after an out permitted free passes to Brandon Ludwig and Mark Dulkoski to load the bases.

Colts' head coach Tim Roller elected to bring in Zifzal to face Huskies' hard-hitting standouts Adam Greene and Jarryd Ridgeway.

He didn't disappoint.

The lanky righthander sat both down on strikes -- the second a wicked 3-2 curve ball to Ridgeway to end the game.

"A 3-2 curve," Saffell said. "I sure wouldn't have been expecting that pitch in that situation.

"That is a gutsy pitch," he added. "Meadowbrook must have a lot of confidence in their pitcher and catcher. You

See, **HARRISON**, Page C3

● Harrison —

Continued from Page C1

have to give them credit."

Meadowbrook took a 2-0 lead in the first inning as Derek Daughtery doubled to left and scored on Froelich's single. Froelich then scored on Wes Mercer's base knock.

Harrison Central answered back with a run in the first inning. Greene walked and moved to third on an errant pick-off attempt. Ridgeway followed with a single make it 2-1.

The Colts added a run in the third inning. Froelich started the inning with a double and scored on another Mercer base hit.

Meadowbrook took a 4-1 lead in the fourth as Daughtery reached on a fielder's choice and scored on Zifzal's single.

Harrison Central cut the deficit in half in the sixth. With one out, Ridgeway drilled a triple to rightcenter and scored on Tom Snyder's single to left.

Froelich pitched well to earn the victory. He allowed just three hits while walking six and fanning a like number.

Snyder pitched well in defeat for the Huskies. He struck out seven and walked four.

Linescore:
Meadowbrook 201 100 0 - 4 9 2
Harrison Central 100 001 0 - 2 3 0
BATTERIES: Froelich, Zifzal (7)
and Daughtery; Snyder and Carlson.

OVAC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Kemp, Blue Eagles Blank St. Clairsville, 3-0

Marino, Coxen team up for three-hitter as Red Riders eliminate Wheeling Park

By MIKE HUGHES
Staff Writer

Magnolia did not play the picture perfect ball game Saturday afternoon against St. Clairsville.

There were a few occasions when it looked as if the Red Devils were poised for big innings, but somehow, the Blue Eagles' defense managed to escape unscathed.

Perhaps signs that Magnolia is finally starting to put it together.

"It was a gut check, that's all I can say," a relieved Magnolia (11-7) head coach Dave Cisar said following his team's 3-0 victory over the Red Devils in the quarterfinal round of the OVAC Class AAA tournament at New Martinsville. "Our pitching wasn't sharp and they were one hit away from (coming back).

"But we were real happy to get the win."

Magnolia advances to take on Harrison Central on Saturday in a semifinal matchup. The Huskies advanced with a 12-7 victory over Union Local

Kemp, who struggled with his control most of the afternoon, twice got caught in big games, but on both occasions, the gusty senior found a way to get out of the inning.

He struck out Justin Sabo to start off the third inning, but proceeded to walk the next three batters on 16 pitches, prompting Cisar to head to the mound to have a talk with his hurler.

Zac Sikole then hit a hard grounder to second, where Stewart Leasure alertly fielded the ball and fired home for the force out. Leasure's throw was offline, but catcher Michael Carroll reached for the throw and kept his foot on the plate for out No. 2.

"That was the play of the game," Cisar said. "We moved our infield up and there was a bad throw, but Michael made a great play to hang onto the ball."

Josh Graham then struck out swinging to end the threat.

Kemp settled down after that scare and regained his control briefly, but in the fifth, found himself with runners on second and third again with one out.

Adam Stewart and Adam Myser walked to lead off the inning and were advanced on a sacrifice from Josh Waggle.

That brought Cisar out of the dugout again for a mound meeting, but once again, the longtime coach elected to stay with Kemp.

It paid off, as Kemp got Sikole to pop-up to third, and Graham to pop to short to end the inning.

"I was this close," Cisar said when asked about leaving Kemp in the game. "He was one batter away from me taking him out of the game, but here's a four-year senior starter, and we weren't going to bring in a junior or a sophomore."

"We had to go all the way with him and it wound up paying off."

But it wasn't only senior making contributions for Magnolia on this day.

Leading 2-0 in the home half of the fifth, Cisar elected to pinch hit for the bottom half of his order to try to give Kemp more of a cushion heading into the final two innings.

Sophomore Cory Hardman led off at the No. 8 spot in the order, and ripped a 3-1 double of Casey Tennant to the fence in



Photo by Mike Hughes

Magnolia's Jon Kemp makes a pitch to the plate during Saturday's OVAC Class AAA quarterfinal game in New Martinsville

left. Hardman reached third on a passed ball and wound up scoring on a well-placed suicide squeeze bunt from freshman Eric Mason.

Sophomore Mike Blair then laced a line drive to left for a base hit. Blair's single didn't provide any runs, but it did give three-productive at bats off the bench.

"It's hard to get any kind of consistency when 50-percent of our team is young kids, and it's hard to get any consistency with all these rain outs," Cisar said. "But today, we had a sophomore hit a double, a freshman hit a suicide squeeze, and a sophomore hit a single (in pinch-hit roles)."

**Class AAAA
Weir 4,
Wheeling Park 2**

At Weirton, Brandon Coxen and Joel Marino teamed up on a three-hitter as the Red Riders (15-5) knocked off the Patriots in an OVAC quarterfinal.

Coxen pitched into the sixth inning before getting relief help from Marino to get out of the sixth.

The hard-throwing Coxen returned to the mound in the seventh and struck out the side to finish off The Park.

Tommy Martin had a two-run single for Weir while Marino doubled home a run. Coxen, Brandon Sperlazza and Jack Crow all had singles for the winners.

Joe Caveney pitched well in a losing cause for Coach Doug Tush's visitors. Caveney gave up only five hits while striking out five and not walking a batter.

Todd Krasevec doubled for the Patriots while Matt Comer and Doug Brown added singles.

Cambridge 5, Brooke 0

At Cambridge, Kyle Harbin fired a two-hit shutout and helped his own cause with a double, single and two RBIs as the Bobcats (14-4) nailed down a spot in this week's OVAC

Class AAAA semifinals.

Harbin struck out eight and walked only one while yielding just two harmless singles in a masterful performance.

Sean Mahley backed Harbin with two singles and two RBIs.

Will Barnes and Chris Hatala each singled for Brooke (9-11).

**John Marshall 9,
Edison 0**

At Glen Dale, Cody Koontz crushed a three-run bomb to lead John Marshall past Edison.

Zac Campbell earned the win, allowing only two hits and fanning 11 Wildcats in a complete-game effort.

Jason Cunningham had two RBIs on a double and Matt Berger had a solo home run.

Dave Ujcich and Mike Scalley singled for Edison.

Buckeye Local 5, Steubenville 2
At Steubenville, C.J. Besece struck out three to earn the win and added a solo home run as Buckeye Local downed Steubenville.

R.J. Faldowski had three singles and two RBIs for the Panthers.

Mike Giannamore had two doubles and an RBI for Big Red (12-8).

**Class AAA
Harrison Central 12,
Union Local 7**

At Cadiz, Tom Snyder drove in three runs on a home run and a single as part of a seven-run third inning to lead top-seeded Harrison Central past Union Local.

The Jets made a game of it, as Robbie Styles belted a three-run home run and Andrew Schmitt drove in two runs on three doubles.

Meadowbrook 6, Bellaire 3

At Byesville, despite a two-run shot from Mike Fisher and a solo home run from Keith Sechrest, Bellaire fell to Meadowbrook.

Zach Zifzal struck out six bat-

ters and held Bellaire to three runs on three hits to earn the win for Meadowbrook.

**Indian Creek 10,
Martins Ferry 0**

At Mingo Junction, Indian Creek erupted for 10 runs on 11 hits in defeating Martins Ferry.

Ivan Stein drove in three runs on two triples, a double and a single. Zach Viltro limited to one single and struck out one to earn the win.

Class AA

**Steubenville Central 13,
Buckeye Trail 3**

At Steubenville, Sean Creegan drove in four runs and Josh Samples, Joe Trbovich and Greg Ashmead each plated two as Steubenville Central (11-5) downed Buckeye Trail.

Nate Lynn earned the win, fanning four and walking one in six innings.

Kevin Shipe had two RBIs for Buckeye Trail (9-10).

Fort Frye 12, Caldwell 3

At Beverly, Fort Frye wasted no time, scoring seven runs in the first two innings in a blowout of Caldwell in the OVAC tournament.

Cory Best singled and hit a home run for Fort Frye (17-4), while Adam Handschumacher singled, doubled and knocked in four runs. Jeremy Hines added a two-run double for the Cadets.

Caldwell (10-9) was paced by Alex Hayes with two singles and two RBIs, while Joe Chandler added a pair of singles.

Barnesville 6, Toronto 5

At Barnesville, Chris Wells singled and knocked in three runs, leading Barnesville (14-2) past Toronto an into the OVAC Class AA semifinals.

Brock Huntsman picked up the win from the hill for the Shamrocks, striking out three batters. Barnesville got additional offensive help from Brad Hannahs with an RBI single, while Colin Hudson hit a pair of singles.

For the Red Knights (8-12), Zach Thomas hit two singles and drove home two, while Jake Booth hit two singles.

River 2, Wheeling Central 1
At Hannibal, the Pilots' Rynce Romick edged Central's Ricky Szeligo in an outstanding pitchers' duel to send River into the OVAC Class AA semifinals.

Romick didn't surrender an earned run while striking out six and issuing only one free pass. The Maroon Knights (16-5) avoided the shutout by scoring on a passed ball in the top of the fourth.

River (14-5) scratched out single runs in the fourth and fifth frames to advance.

Romick helped his own cause with a pair of singles while Luke Taylor also had two hits and drove in a run.

Szeligo was hung with the tough-luck loss despite giving up only seven singles and one walk in a route-going performance.

Brian Gaudet had two of Wheeling Central's six hits off Romick.

**Class A
Cameron 11,
Bishop Donahue 2**

At Cameron, Brandon Rush had two, two-run home runs and Mike Cain crushed a three-run bomb as Cameron (13-7) took care of Bishop Donahue.

Mike Cain earned the win, fanning 11 and walking four as the Dragons won their 7th-straight game.

See, Baseball, Page B5



HIGH SCHOOL LINESCORES

BASEBALL
OVAC Tournament Quarterfinals
Class AAAA

Wheeling Park 000 002 0-2 3 2
Weir 021 001 x-4 5 3
Wh—Caveney Ip (6SO, 0W) and Krasevec. Krasevec D; Comer S; Brown S.
We—Coxen wp (4SO, 4W), Marino (6) (1SO, 0W), Coxen (7) (3SO, 0W) and Martin. Martin S, 2rb; Marino D, rbi; Buffo rbi; Coxen S; Sperlazza S; Crow S.

I—Viltro wp (1SO, 0W) and Fluharty. Stein S, D, 2T, 3rbi; Crowe D, rbi; Daily 2S, rbi; Frazier D, rbi; Ohalek 2rbi; Bell S, T, rbi.

Class AAA
Buckeye Trail 002 100 - 3 5 2
Steub. Central 048 102 - 13 11 1
B—Shipe Ip (0SO, 1W), Carpenter (3) (0SO, 2W), Meek (4) (0SO, 1W) and Williams. Shipe S, 2rbi; Williams S, D; Gilmora HR. rbi.

S—Sadlowski Ip (8SO, 4W), Meintel (6) (3SO, 0W) and Stevens. Francis S, rbi; Holmes S, rbi; Meintel S, rbi; Stevens S, D.

Bishop Donahue 100 010 0 - 2 4 3
Cameron 502 004 x - 11 13 1
B—Fazio Ip (2SO, 0W), Gordon (3) (3SO, 1W) and T. Stamp. To. Stamp D, rbi; Marshall D; Faxio HR, rbi.
C—Cain wp (11SO, 4W) and Cumpston. Cain D, HR, 3rbi; Burre 2S, 2rbi.

ris. Jo. Morris HR, rbi; Jo. Morris S; Frye rbi; Nulph D; Gouldsberry rbi.
Cameron 102 022 1-8 5 1
Hundred 022 100 0-5 4 2
C—Tustin wp (4SO, 7W) and Jo. Morris. Woods S, rbi; Riggle S, rbi; Yeater rbi; Yoho D, rbi.
H—Gorby Ip (2SO, 13W) and Mackey. Kolojay 2S; Morgan rbi; Mackey D, rbi.
Meadowbrook 330 210 0 - 9 12 1

more of a cushion heading into the final two innings.
 Sophomore Cory Hardman led off at the No. 8 spot in the order, and ripped a 3-1 double of Casey Tennant to the fence in

At Cambridge, Shute Harbin fired a two-hit shutout and helped his own cause with a double, single and two RBIs as the Bobcats (14-4) nailed down a spot in this week's OVAC

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 Zach Zifzal struck out six bat-

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 See, Baseball, Page B5

HIGH SCHOOL LINESCORES

BASEBALL
OVAC Tournament Quarterfinals
Class AAAA

Wheeling Park 000 002 0—2 3 2
Weir 021 001 x—4 5 3
 W—Caveney lp (6SO, 0W) and Krasevec, Krasevec D; Comer S; Brown S.
 Ve—Coxen wp (4SO, 4W), Marino (6) (1SO, 0W), Coxen (7) (3SO, 0W) and Martin, Martin S, 2rbi; Marino D, rbi; Buffo rbi; Coxen S; Sperlizza S; Crow S.

Edison 000 000 0—0 2 1
John Marshall 130 302 x—9 10 0
 E—Wilson lp (6SO, 1W) and Scalley, Ujcich S, Scalley S.
 J—Campbell wp (11SO, 2W) and Marple, Berger (6), Campbell 2S; Koontz 2S, 3-run HR; Cunningham D, 2rbi; Kinkade S, rbi; Berger HR, rbi; Simmons 2S.

Brooke 000 000 0—0 2 2
Cambridge 013 100 x—5 9 1
 B—Gaglione lp (3SO, 2W) and Barnes, Barnes S; Hatala S.
 C—Harbin wp (8SO, 1W) and Bond, Harbin D, S, 2rbi; Mahley 2S, 2rbi.
Buckeye Local 001 013 0—5 10 2
Stuebenville 100 000 1—2 10 2
 B—C.J. Besace wp (3SO, 1W) and Verhovic, Besace S, HR, rbi; Faldowski 3S, 2rbi; Thompson 3S.
 S—Brown lp (1SO, 2W) and Straker, Bainbridge D; Giannamore 2D, rbi; Filtz 2S, D.

Class AAA

St. Clairsville 000 000 0—0 3 1
Magnolia 101 010 x—3 8 3
 S—Tennant lp (2SO, 0W) and Myser, M—Kemp wp (3SO, 7W) and M.Carroll, Kemp S, D; Sims S, rbi; Hardman D; Mason rbi.
Union Local 200 400 1—7 9 4
Harrison Central 007 014 x—12 11 1
 U—Stephens lp (0SO, 0W), Parker (3) (2SO, 3W), Girty (6) (1SO, 0W) and McVay, Schmitt 3D, 2rbi; Styles HR, 3rbi; Johnson S, rbi; McVay 2S, rbi; Girty S, D.
 H—Ludwig wp (4SO, 1W), Moore (6) (3SO, 2W) and Carlson, Snyder S, HR, 3rbi; Greene 2S, 2D; Ridgeway S, 2rbi; Smith S, HR, rbi; Bumgardner T, 2rbi.
Bellaire 002 100 0—3 3 1
Meadowbrook 400 101 x—6 10 0
 B—Sechrest lp (4SO, 1W) and Fisher, Fisher HR, 2rbi, Sechrest HR.
 M—Zifzal wp (6SO, 4W) and Daugherty, Daugherty 2S, rbi; Mercer D, S; Cross HR; Potts D; Zifzal 2S.
Martins Ferry 000 00—0 1 1
Indian Creek 122 32—10 11 4
 M—Nagle lp (1SO, 5W), Robinson (5) (0SO, 0W) and Robinson, Nagle (5), Beck

I—Viltro wp (1SO, 0W) and Fluharty, Stein S, D, 2T, 3rbi; Crowe D, rbi; Daily 2S, rbi, Frazier D, rbi; Ohalek 2rbi; Bell S, T, rbi.

Class AA

Buckeye Trail 002 100—3 5 2
Staub Central 046 102—13 11 1
 B—Shipe lp (0SO, 1W), Carpenter (3) (0SO, 2W), Meek (4) (0SO, 1W) and Williams, Shipe S, 2rbi; Williams S, D; Gilmore HR, rbi.
 S—Lynn wp (4SO, 1W) and Hawrot, Weld (4), Trbovich 2S, 2rbi; Samples S, 2rbi; Antinone 2S; Koehnlein 2S; Lynn S, rbi; Creegan 2S, 4rbi; Ashmead D, 2rbi.
Wheeling Central 000 100 0—1 6 1
River 000 110 x—2 7 1
 WC—Szeligo lp (3SO, 1W) and Carp, Gaudet 2S.
 R—Romick wp (6SO, 1W) and Taylor, Romick 2S; Taylor 2S, rbi.
Caldwell 100 020 0—3 8 3
Fort Frye 432 300 x—12 12 2
 C—Chandler lp (0SO, 1W), Petry (4) (2SO, 1W), Creff (6) (0SO, 2W) and Hayes, Hayes 2S, 2rbi; Chandler 2S.
 F—Griffin wp (3SO, 2W), Fleming (5) (0SO, 0W) and Best, Handschumacher S, D, 4rbi; Engle 3S, rbi; Barton D, 2rbi; Best S, HR, rbi; T.Best D.
Toronto 101 030 0—5 9 3
Barnesville 130 002 x—6 6 0
 T—Booth (1SO, 4W), Thomas (2) (3SO, 0W), Booth (3), Thomas (4), Booth lp (5) and Sherrwood, Harless 2S, rbi; Thomas 2S, 2rbi; Booth 2S; Sherrwood 2S, 2rbi.
 B—Miller (2SO, 0W), Huntsman wp (5) (3SO, 0W) and Huntsman, Wells (5), Wells S, 3rbi; Hannahs S, rbi; T.Miller D; Hudson 2S.

Class A

Frontier 000 00—0 1 5
Weirton Madonna 040 6x—10 7 1
 F—Albrecht lp (5SO, 6) and Amos, Amos S.
 W—Gianni wp (9SO, 0W) and Hall, DeCaria S, T, 2rbi; Jerrall S, D, 2rbi; Hall D, 2rbi.
Bellaire St. John 200 010 0—3 8 2
Beallsville 501 042 x—12 10 0
 Bel—McCormick lp (3SO, 4W); Swift (6) (3SO, 0W) and Polanski, McCormick 2D; Nardo S, D.
 Bea—Jones wp (10SO, 4W) and Turner, Bilyeu S, HR, 4rbi; Jon.Turner 2S, 3rbi; Thompson D; Jon.Turner D; Bilyeu D.
Linsly 000 070 1—8 7 0
Shadyside 010 100 1—3 8 3
 L—Banal wp (6SO, 4W) and Wilson, Jividen S, T; Nickerson S, 2rbi; Turkaly S, D, 3rbi.

S—Sadlowski lp (8SO, 4W), Meintel (6) (3SO, 0W) and Stevens, Francis S, rbi; Holmes S, rbi; Meintel S, rbi; Stevens S, D.
Bishop Donahue 100 010 0—2 4 3
Cameron 502 004 x—11 13 1
 B—Fazio lp (2SO, 0W), Gordon (3) (3SO, 1W) and Ti.Stampp, To.Stampp D, rbi; Marshall D; Faxio HR, rbi.
 C—Cain wp (11SO, 4W) and Cumpston, Cain D, HR, 3rbi; Burge 2S, 2rbi; Rush 2HR, 4rbi (2-2); Campbell 2S; Stewart 2S.

Regular Season

Monroe Central 148 001 2—14 13 7
Shenandoah 401 133 0—12 8 2
 M—Tennant (1SO, 1W), Langsdorf (2) (3SO, 1W), Lasure wp (2SO, 2W) and Merckle, Graham D, HR, 4rbi; McCoy S, D, rbi; Merkel 2S, 2rbi; Speelman 2S, rbi; Langsdorf 2S, rbi.
 S—Livaly (5SO, 5W), Hedge (7) (1SO, 0W) and Daley, Crum S, D, 3rbi; Cowgill S, D, 2rbi; Daley D, rbi.
Valley 102 035 0—11 17 11
South Harrison 600 624 x—18 18 3
 V—Johnson lp (2SO, 1W), Bucher (6) (0SO, 1W) and White, Bucher 3S; Hall 3S; Coen 3S; Stackpole 2S, T.
 S—Curry wp (3SO, 2W), Frum (7) (2SO, 1W) and Van Horne, McWhorter 3S; Frum 3S.
Valley 020 001—3 10 4
South Harrison 502 132—13 12 2
 V—White lp (3SO, 5W), Cunningham (4) (2SO, 1W), Stackpole (5) (1SO, 3W) and Johnson, Martin S, D; Cunningham S, D, HR; Stackpole 2S.
 S—Jones wp (2SO, 1W), Van Horne (5) (3SO, 0W) and Curry, Frum 4S, Van Horne 2S.

ris, Jo.Morris HR, rbi; Js.Morris S; Frye rbi; Nulph D; Gouldsberry rbi.
Cameron 102 022 1—8 5 1
Hundred 022 100 0—5 4 2
 C—Tustin wp (4SO, 7W) and Jo.Morris, Woods S, rbi; Riggie S, rbi; Yeater rbi; Yoho D, rbi.
 H—Gorby lp (2SO, 13W) and Mackey, Kolojaj 2S; Morgan rbi; Mackey D, rbi.
Meadowbrook 330 210 0—9 12 1
Coshocton 001 005 0—6 6 2
 M—Bri Pine wp (5SO, 9W) and Sichi-na, Wares 4S; Harrison S, D; Hanes S, D.
 C—Blair Hill lp (3SO, 2W) and Jones, Amanda Lousha 2S, T.
Roane County 300 01—4 3 3
Linsly 402 17—14 11 3
 R—Sloan lp (4SO, 6W) and White, L—Ki.Parsons wp (5SO, 2W) and Wilson, Neal 2D, rbi; Goltes D, 2rbi; Zane S, D; Wilson D, 2rbi; Szerszen 2D, 2rbi; Flowers D, 3rbi.
Roane County 222 002 0—8 7 1
Linsly 201 020 0—5 8 4
 R—Godbey wp (7SO, 5W) and White, Nichols 2D; White 2S, T.
 L—Zane lp (2SO, 6W), Parsons (4) (5SO, 0W) and Flowers, Wilson (4), Ki.Parsons S, D; Ka.Parsons D, 2rbi; Flowers 2D, 2rbi.
Stuebenville 000 000 0—0 0 5
Staub Central 421 003 x—10 9 0
 St—Jackson lp (1SO, 3W), Cunningham (5) (1SO, 2W) and Venci.
 SCC—Hitchcock wp (16SO, 1W) and Gould, Valerio S, rbi; Gould D, 4rbi; Hitchcock S, rbi; Calabria 2S, rbi.
Bellaire St. John 000 010 0—1 3 4
Staub Central 212 010 x—6 11 1
 B—Johnson lp (7SO, 0W) and Swartz, Donaher S, D, rbi.
 S—Hitchcock wp (11SO, 1W) and Gould, Valerio 2S, rbi; DiCarlo 2S, rbi; Gould S, rbi.
Bridgeport 000 020 0—2 9 2
River 040 010 x—5 5 5
 B—Roberts lp (4SO, 2W), Wojtesec (5) (1SO, 1W) and Dober, Supanik 2S; Dober T; Roberts 2S.
 R—Semon wp (4SO, 0W) and Cecil, Mariah Husley S, T, rbi; Ricci Cecil D, rbi; Laura Blatt T, 3rbi.
River 002 100 1—4 7 1
Bridgeport 501 003 x—9 8 1
 R—Jones lp (2SO, 4W), Semon (2) (2SO, 0W), Jones (5) and Cecil, Hulsev S, D, rbi; Collyn Wright 2S, rbi; Cecil D, rbi.
 B—Roberts wp (1SO, 0W), Wojtesec (4) (6SO, 3W) and Wamsley, Cassie Sunanik S, D; Alli Murad 2S, D, 3rbi

SOFTBALL

Buckeye Local 200 010 1—4 7 4
Magnolia 000 100 0—1 0 3
 BL—Gretchen wp (7SO, 5W) and Brown, Bartrug T; Gretchen S, rbi.
 M—Leichter lp (3SO, 5W), Keene (6) (1SO, 0W) and Barker.
Bellaire St. John 223 002 1—10 10 3
Stuebenville 000 200 0—2 7 4
 B—Rosepapa wp (4SO, 0W) and Swartz, Vavra D, rbi; Skorich 2S, rbi; DiClemente 2S, rbi; Swartz D, 2rbi; Irwin D, 2rbi; Bougher S, D.
 S—Jackson lp (4SO, 4W) and Konoski, Moore 2S; Clark 2S, rbi.
Hundred 000 000 0—0 2 2
Cameron 001 222 x—7 4 0
 H—Gorby lp (8SO, 4W) and Mackey, Kolojaj S; Bartrug S.
 C—Tustin wp (7SO, 4W) and Jo.Mor-

Crusaders

Continued from Page C1

Monroe Central earlier in the win in Sectional tourney play, fell to 14-8 on the season with the setback.
 Righthander John Koehnlein went the distance on the mound for the winners recording one strikeout and one walk while limiting River to just a two hits.
 River jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first after Greg Bayes opened with a single to right and standout Ryne Romick drilled a long two-run homer to left.
 After being held scoreless through the first two innings, Central unloaded for nine runs in the third sending 13 batters to the plate.
 Cory Weld opened the scoring spree with a solo homer to lead off the frame. Matt Belardine followed with a single to center, Joe Trbovich reached on an error before Josh Samples singles for a run. Joe Antinone then came through with a double to right and Koehnlein singled to left to plate another run. Brian Costantini's single to left added another tally and Nate Linn's double to left kept the Crusader

run going.
 SCC kept the third inning alive as Sean Creegan's single scored two runs and Weld's second hit in the frame pushed across another. Belardine's double added the ninth run in the inning.
 Central added another run in the fourth after Antinone started the frame with a triple to deep center then scored on Koehnlein's fielders choice.
 In the bottom of the fifth, an error and angle by Trbovich set the stage for two intention walks and a bases-loaded walk that brought home the deciding run.
 Antinone paced the winners with a triple, double and RBI while Linn added two doubles and a RBI and Weld with his home, single and RBI.
 Creegan closed with two singles a two RBI and Costantini added two hits and a RBI.
 Linescore:
 River 200 00 -- 2 2 1
 Steubenville CC 009 12 -- 12 14 0
 Batteries: Warrington, Orndorff (3), Yager (3), Lallathin (5) and Taylor; Koehnlein and Costantini.

Cadets

Continued from Page C1

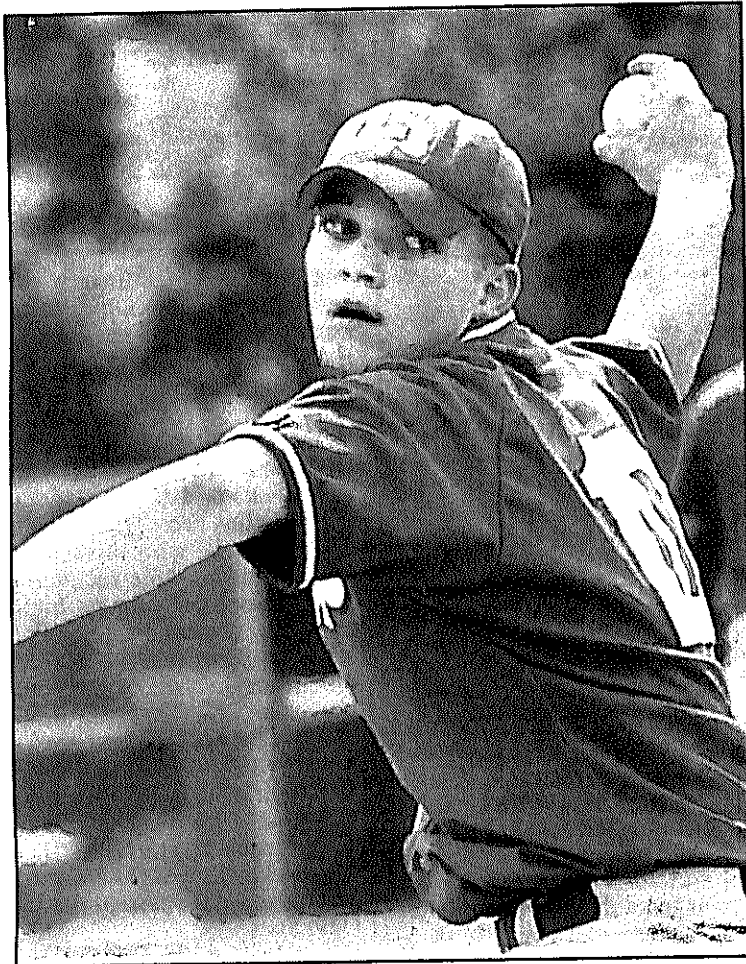
Handschumacher.
 Barnesville bounced back with a single tally in the bottom of the fifth as Colin Hudson led off with a single to left and scored on Chris Wells sacrifice fly to deep center.
 In the bottom of the seventh and with two outs, the Rocks rallied with a Wells double to center Craig Miller singled to right to score Wells. Brock Huntsman then singled to right, but the Cadets caught Miller in a rundown to end the game.
 Engle paced the Fort Frye hitters with two singles and a RBI while Cory Best and Cory Stimpert collected the other Cadet hits.
 Craig Miller paced the Rocks with two singles and a RBI while Wells added his RBI-double and Bryce Allen, Huntsman, Todd Miller and Hudson provided the other hits.
 Line score:
 Fort Frye 000 120 0 -- 3 5 0
 Barnesville 000 010 1 -- 2 7 2
 Batteries: Handschumacher and T. Best; Yarnall, T. Miller (6) and Huntsman.

Central downs River

By RICK DeLUCA
 Times Leader Sports Writer

Steubenville Central's top-seeded Crusaders shocked a good River Pilot squad with a nine-run third inning and went on notch a 12-2 win over the Pilots in the first of two OVAC Class 2-A semi-finals at Perkins Field in Brookside Saturday afternoon.
 With warm, sunny prevailing much of the day, coach Frank Spence's hard-hitting Crusaders rolled to their 15th win of the season while advancing to Saturday's OVAC 3-A finals at Vaccarro Field in Steubenville. SCC will take on Fort Frye at 2 p.m.
 River, tough-luck losers to

See, CRUSADERS, Page C4



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

BARNESVILLE'S Craig Miller delivers a pitch to the plate during action Saturday against Toronto. The Shamrocks won, 6-5.

River edges by Central in OVAC tourney

AT HANNIBAL, River made its way into the OVAC semifinals as the Pilots of head coach Kyle Rose downed visting Wheeling Central by the score of 2-1.

Ryne Romick gained the mound win for the Pilots striking out six, while walking none. Luke Taylor lead the way for the Hannibal-based school with two singles and a RBI, while Romick aided his cause with two singles of his own.

River is now 14-5 on the season and will take on Steubenville Central in the semifinals.

CLASS AAAA JOHN MARSHALL 9 EDISON 0

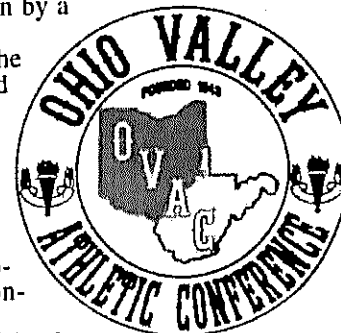
AT GLEN DALE, top-seeded John Marshall advanced to the OVAC 4-A baseball tournament semifinals Saturday afternoon, downing Edison by a 9-0 count.

Zac Campbell was strong on the mound for the Monarchs. He fanned 11 and walked just two. He also had two singles.

Cody Koontz enjoyed a big game at the dish for the Monarchs. He had a pair of singles and a three-run home run.

Justin Cunningham had a two-run double and Bryan Berger connected on a solo home run.

John Marshall, now 17-1, will battle Parkersburg South Tuesday.



CLASS AAA MAGNOLIA 3 ST. CLAIRSVILLE 0

AT NEW MARTINSVILLE, Magnolia held visting St. Clairsville without a run as the Blue Eagles moved their way into the OVAC semifinals with a 3-0 win over the Red Devils.

Jon Kemp earned the win for the Blue Eagles going the distance with three strikeouts and seven walks. Casey Tennant took the loss for the Red Devils as he went the route with three strikeouts and no walks.

Josh Sims led the way at the dish for Magnolia with a RBI single, while Eric Mason added a RBI. Kemp aided his mound cause with a single and a double, while teammate Corey Hardman slapped a double.

St. Clairsville scattered four singles on the afternoon. Magnolia is now 11-7 on the season and will take on Harrison Central in the semifinals.

MEADOWBROOK 6 BELLAIRE 3

AT MEADOWBROOK, Meadowbrook put four runs on the board in the bottom of the first and never looked back as the Colts downed the visting Big Reds of Bellaire, 6-3, in the OVAC quarterfinals Saturday.

Zac Zifzal gained the win on the hill for the Colts with eight strikeouts and four walks, while Keith Sechrest took the tough loss with six K's and one free pass.

Derek Daugherty led the winners with two singles and RBI, while Craig Cross smacked a homer for the Colts.

Bellaire, meanwhile, received a double and homer from Sechrest, and a two-run bomb from Mike Fisher. Brian Mancini was the other hitter for Bellaire with a double.

Bellaire is now 5-9, while Meadowbrook moves to 12-8.

OVAC CLASS 1-A BEALLSVILLE 12, ST. JOHN'S 3

AT BEALLSVILLE, the host Blue Devils scored five runs in the first inning and never looked back en route to a 12-3 win over St. John Central.

Brian Bilyeu smacked a home run and a single to drive in four teammates, while Jordan Turner plated three runs with two singles.

A.J. Thompson, Brad Bilyeu and Jonah Turner added doubles. Jimmy Jones earned the mound win with 10 strikeouts and four walks.

Cody McCormick roped two doubles for the Irish, while Bryan Nardo added a double and a single.

Beallsville (10-10) will host Frontier Monday night.

● Shamrocks

Continued from Page C1

with a lot of momentum switches," Wilson said. "We made plays in the clutch when we needed to.

"Toronto is a tradition-rich program," he added. "Their record (8-13) is very deceiving. They have played quality opposition."

The Red & Green found itself on the short end of a 5-4 score, heading into the bottom of the sixth. The hosts, however, maintained their poise and responded with a two spot in the home-half of the sixth to take the lead.

Tony Yarnell opened the frame by reaching on an error by the Red Knights' third baseman. Colin Hudson singled before Bryce Allen's bunt single loaded the bases.

A pinch runner for Yarnell was picked off at third for the first out.

Chris Wells followed with a grounder to the pitcher. Wells slid into first on a close play at the bag. Wells was out but the Toronto first baseman got tangled up, enabling Hudson to score on the play.

The first baseman's throw to the plate got past the Red Knight catcher. The hustling Allen never quit running on the play and slid in to give the Rocks the game-winning run.

Brock Huntsman -- who came on in relief of Craig Miller in the fifth -- put the issue to rest by retiring the Red Knights in order in the seventh.

Huntsman earned the mound win with his fine relief work. He fanned four and walked none. Miller fanned two.

Both teams scored a first-inning run.

Toronto's Zac Thomas sin-

gled with two outs. He stole second and moved to third on a wild pitch. Jeremy Sherwood singled him home.

The Red & Green drew even as Allen singled, stole second and scored on a two-out single by Brad Hannahs.

Barnesville stretched its lead to 4-1 in the second.

With two outs, Yarnall walked and Hudson singled. A throwing error by the Red knight catcher allowed one run in before Wells plated two more with a single.

Toronto got one back in the third on an RBI single by Thomas.

The Red Knights -- who stole 10 bases on the afternoon -- took a 5-4 lead with three fifth-inning runs. Zach Harless and Thomas produced run-scoring singles with a Shamrock error accounting for the third run.

Jake Booth and Thomas teamed for four strikeouts and a like amount of walks. The Red Knights stranded six runners.

"We have been a tough luck team all year...and today was no different," said Toronto head boss Matt Morrison. "Twelve of our losses have come in one- and two-run games."

Barnesville left eight runners on the base. Todd Miller crushed a double for the winners.

"It's been an enjoyable season," Wilson said. "Our seniors have done a great job of providing leadership. We have a nice mix of talent and experience."

Linescore:
Toronto 101 030 0 5 7 3
Barnesville 130 002 x 6 7 1
BATTERIES: Booth, Thomas (2), Booth (3), Thomas (4), Booth (5) and Sherwood; C. Miller, Huntsman (5) and Huntsman, Wells (5).

● Huskies

Continued from Page C1

with a single, followed by Adam Greene's double to left. Senior standout Jarryd Ridgeway then singled to tie the score at 2-2.

Tom Snyder then singled before Cody Smith reached on an error allowing Ridgeway to score.

Robby Hall then lifted a sacrifice fly to right to make it 4-2. After a run scored on an error, Josh Bumgardner tripled in two more runs, making it 7-2.

Union Local answered right back with a four spot in the fourth.

Andrew Schmitt started things with a double and scored on Dusty McVay's single. After Jeff

bomb to deep leftfield.

Cody Smith followed with a solo blast of his own to make it 12-6.

Union Local added a lone run in the seventh on Greg Thornberry's sacrifice fly.

"It's like I told the kids after the game, I can't be happy with a loss, but I am happy with how hard the kids played," Union Local head coach Rich Mercer commented.

"We had four kids out for an academic trip and the kids that filled in played well," Mercer continued.

"We just made too many errors," Mercer added. "You

Prep Baseball Linescores

OVAC CLASS 3-A
MAGNOLIA 3 ST. CLAIRSVILLE 0
St. Clairsville 000 000 0 -- 0 4 1
Magnolia 101 010 x -- 3 8 2
BATTERIES: Tennant and Myser; Kemp and Carroll.
MEADOWBROOK 6 BELLAIRE 3
Bellaire 021 100 0 -- 3 4 2
Meadowbrook 400 101 x -- 6 8 0
BATTERIES: Sechrest and Fisher; Zifzak and Daugherty.
OVAC CLASS 2-A
RIVER 2 WHEELING CENTRAL 1
Wheeling Central 000 100 0 -- 1 6 1
River 000 110 x -- 2 7 1

BATTERIES: Szeligo and Carp; Romick and Taylor.
OVAC CLASS 1-A
BEALLSVILLE 12, ST. JOHN'S 3
St. John Central 200 010 0 -- 3 8 2
Beallsville 501 042 x -- 12 10 0
BATTERIES: McCormick, Swift (6) and Kolanski; Jones and Turner.
OVAC CLASS 4-A
JOHN MARSHALL 9 EDISON 0
Edison 000 000 0 0 2 1
John Marshall 130 302 0 9 10 0
BATTERIES: Wilson and Sculley; Campbell and Marple, Berger (6).

● Buckeye

Continued from Page C1

ed in the sixth as Sean Call started the inning with a single by third. David Saltkield hit a comebacker to the mound, but the throw to first sailed to right field plating Call and moving Saltkield to third.

Zach McKim fielder's choice added Saltkield to the Buckeye tally. With the bases empty, Besce aided his own cause drilling a long homer over the leftfield wall for a 5-1 cushion.

Big Red added a run in the seventh after Giannamore doubled to left and later scored on a Keith Zrinvi sac fly Besce

and a RBI. Lee Bainbridge cracked a double and Bauman, Straker and Randy Ralston had singles.

"We've been capable of this all year," Blackburn said after the win. "I know our record doesn't show it. We had a lot of seniors and a lot of I attitudes, but we had a good article in the paper yesterday and maybe that woke some people up."

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Union Local answered right back with a four spot in the fourth.

Andrew Schmitt started things with a double and scored on Dusty McVay's single. After Jeff Warren reached on an error, Rob Stiles crushed a three-run home run to left to make it 7-6.

The Huskies manufactured a run in the fifth inning as Hall walked, was sacrificed to second and later scored Bud Moore's sacrifice fly.

The Huskies put the game away in the sixth.

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bomb to deep leftfield.

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"We had four kids out for an academic trip and the kids that filled in played well," Mercer continued.

"We just made too many errors," Mercer added. "You can't give up five unearned runs against what is probably the best team in the valley."

Union Local will begin section play Monday night against Barnesville. That game is also scheduled to be played at Sally Buffalo Park.

Linescore:
Union Local 200 400 1 -- 7 9 4
Harrison 007 014 x -- 12 11 1
BATTERIES: Stephens, Parker (3), Girty (6) and McVay; Ludwig, Moore (5) and Carlson.

CLASS AAA

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Bellaire is now 5-9, while Meadowbrook moves to 12-8.

OVAC CLASS 1-A

BEALLSVILLE 12, ST. JOHN'S 3

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A.J. Thompson, Brad Bilyeu and Jonah Turner added doubles.

Jimmy Jones earned the mound win with 10 strikeouts and four walks.

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Beallsville (10-10) will host Frontier Monday night.

Prep Baseball Linescores

OVAC CLASS 3-A
MAGNOLIA 3 ST. CLAIRSVILLE 0
St. Clairsville 000 000 0 -- 0 4 1
Magnolia 101 010 x -- 3 8 2
BATTERIES: Tennant and Myser; Kemp and Carroll.
MEADOWBROOK 6 BELLAIRE 3
Bellaire 021 100 0 -- 3 4 2
Meadowbrook 400 101 x -- 6 8 0
BATTERIES: Sechrest and Fisher; Zifzak and Daugherty.
OVAC CLASS 2-A
RIVER 2 WHEELING CENTRAL 1
Wheeling Central 000 100 0 -- 1 6 1
River 000 110 x -- 2 7 1

BATTERIES: Szeligo and Carp; Romick and Taylor.
OVAC CLASS 1-A
BEALLSVILLE 12, ST. JOHN'S 3
St. John Central 200 010 0 -- 3 8 2
Beallsville 501 042 x -- 12 10 0
BATTERIES: McCormick, Swift (6) and Kolanski; Jones and Turner.
OVAC CLASS 4-A
JOHN MARSHALL 9 EDISON 0
Edison 000 000 0 0 2 1
John Marshall 130 302 0 9 10 0
BATTERIES: Wilson and Sculley; Campbell and Marple, Berger (6).

● Buckeye

Continued from Page C1

ed in the sixth as Sean Call started the inning with a single by third. David Saltkield hit a comebacker to the mound, but the throw to first sailed to right field plating Call and moving Saltkield to third.

Zach McKim fielder's choice added Saltkield to the Buckeye tally. With the bases empty, Besece aided his own cause drilling a long homer over the leftfield wall for a 5-1 cushion.

Big Red added a run in the seventh after Giannamore doubled to left and later scored on a Keith Zrinyi sac fly. Besece, clocked in the low to mid 80s, went the distance on the mound recording three strikeouts, walking one and hitting one batter. Tom Brown matched Besece on the mound for Big Red with one strikeout and two walks. Faldowski finished with three singles and two RBI while Gary Thompson ripped three singles for the winners. Besece closed with a homer and single and Verhovic and Call added the other Panther hits.

Kyle Filtz led Big Red with a double and two singles while Giannamore had two doubles

and a RBI. Lee Bainbridge cracked a double and Bauman, Straker and Randy Ralston had singles.

"We've been capable of this all year," Blackburn said after the win. "I know our record doesn't show it. We had a lot of seniors and a lot of I attitudes, but we had a good article in the paper yesterday and maybe that woke some people up."

"It's tournament time and this could be the last time some of these senior play baseball," he added. "I don't want it to end here and I know they don't want it to end. So it's either take us top the next level or get eliminated."

"We played these guys twice, but we haven't played to our potential," the Panther boss said. "C. J. is an exceptional athlete and he has the ability to bring out the best in people and he did that today. His team followed suit with him today and he had just a great game."

Line score:
Buckeye Local 001 013 0 -- 5 10 3
Staubenville 100 000 1 -- 2 10 3
BATTERIES: Besece and Verhovic; Brown and Straker.

● Linsly

Continued from Page C1

enth. Banal reached second base thanks to a pair of Shadyside errors and Turkaly scored his third RBI of the game with a single.

The Tigers' third run came in the bottom of the seventh on a Clifton Francis double.

Linsly and Shadyside split the regular season series.

"We were fortunate today," said Sprague.

Linescore:
Linsly 000 070 1 - 8 9 0
Shadyside 010 100 1 - 3 8 3
BATTERIES: Banal and Wilson; Sadlowski, Meintel (6) and Wallace.

OVAC BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Antinone's Hit Lifts Crusaders to Triumph

Steubenville Central edges Fort Frye for OVAC Class AA championship

By MIKE HUGHES
Staff Writer

Steubenville Central and Fort Frye had battled closely Saturday afternoon, trading runs, and the lead, for nearly seven innings in an OVAC Class AA tournament final at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

Neither team could seem to hold a lead. And with the score knotted at five apiece, Steubenville Central's top half of the order was due to bat in the last half of the seventh and head coach Frank Spence had a good feeling.

Following three straight singles, cleanup hitter Joe Antinone ripped a walk-off single to left field, driving home the winning run and giving Steubenville Central an OVAC title with a 6-5 decision over Fort Frye (21-6).

"I felt pretty confident because we were starting out at the top of the order," Spence said of the deciding inning.

"Matt (Belardine) got on and then we loaded the bases, and I knew Joey was going to make contact.

"All he had to do was hit a fly ball and I felt good (about the situation) because we had our No. 4 hitter at the plate."

Antinone hit the first offering from Cadets' reliever Adam Handschumacher over the head of Jeff Mendenhall in left field, scoring Belardine from third.

But even had Mendenhall caught the fly, the ball carried far enough were Belardine would have tagged easily from third and scored.

"To have the game winning hit in the OVAC championship in your senior year, you could-



Photo by Mike Hughes
Steubenville Catholic pitcher Jon Koehnlein (17) works to the plate Saturday as first baseman Paul Kramer looks on.

n't ask for anything more," Antinone said.

But before Antinone could get his opportunity, the Crusaders had to get some baserunners on board.

Belardine reached on a single and was advanced to second when Joe Trbovich laid down a perfectly-placed drag bunt and was able to reach first safely.

With no outs and two aboard, the Central coaching staff elected to play small ball again, as the speedy Josh Samples dropped down the bunt and

was able to maneuver around first-baseman Garrett Fleming's tag attempt to reach safely.

"I knew if we got the first man on, we were definitely going to bunt," Spence said. "And it just worked out."

The game might not have been in doubt in the final inning if not for an uncommon rule enforcement in the second inning that cost Steubenville Central two runs.

Trent Best reached on an error to lead off the inning for Fort Frye.

Fleming then hit a grounder to first where pitcher Jon Koehnlein scooped it up, tagged Fleming, and fired Best out at third for the double play.

But time was called and the umpires conferred. And after a brief delay, the Cadets still had runners at the first and second with no outs.

Apparently, Koehnlein had used a multi-colored glove, something not allowed for pitchers, and the double play was nullified.

Two batters later, Cory Best reached on an error that allowed two runners to score.

"That two color glove call ... a rule is a rule, but it ended up giving them two runs," Spence said.

"It upset us, but the kids did a good job of settling down."

Koehnlein earned the win, fanning six and walking two in a complete-game effort.

Belardine ended the day with three singles for the Crusaders.

Trent Best singled in a run for the Cadets, while Cory Best finished with a double for Sprague's club. Mendenhall finished with a triple.

Fort Frye	020	120	0	—	5	8	2
Steubenville Cent.	111	110	1	—	8	10	3

F — Fleming (2SO, 0W), Handschumacher 1p (5) (2SO, 1W) and T. Best. T. Best S, rbi; Mendenhall T, C. Best D. S — Koehnlein wp (8SO, 2W) and Constantini. Belardine 3S, rbi; Trbovich S, rbi; Samples S, T, rbi; Antinone S, rbi; Koehnlein D, T; Linn rbi.

SUNDAY NEWS-REGISTER — Wheeling, W. Va. — Sunday, May 16, 2000

Panthers Edge JM In Eight

By NEIL THOMPSON
Staff Writer

What a fitting way for a coach to go out — on top.

Buckeye Local head coach Chris Blackburn announced after his team's OVAC Class AAAA championship game with John Marshall that he would resign his post as head coach.

And considering his Panthers held off a spirited John Marshall comeback to win 10-9 in eight innings, it seemed the perfect way to end his season, and career, as the Buckeye mentor.

"This is the greatest way to go out that I can think of," Blackburn said. "What a great feeling to be champions of the OVAC."

It was the first time in school history that the Panthers (11-10) were crowned kings of the OVAC's largest class in baseball, but they had to withstand a furious Monarch comeback to do so.

Trailing 9-5 in the bottom of the seventh, John Marshall went to work in the Panther lead.

J.C. Cunningham led off with a single and was moved to second on a ground out from Robbie Kinkade. Kial Downs walked and Trent Schambach singled, scoring Cunningham and moving Downs to third.

Downs scored on a wild pitch from C.J. Besece and Schambach was brought home on an RBI base hit from Malachi Marple.

Ryne Foster came on to pinch run for Marple and went to second on another wild pitch. Aaron Simmons then hit a routine ground ball to second, but the throw to first base was high, allowing Foster to score the

tying run.

It was a play that could have cost Buckeye the game, but it was on the same type of play that David Saltkield atoned for later.

Sean Call was hit by JM pitcher Cody Koontz to start the eighth inning for the Panthers and Joe Hutton was sent in to pinch run. After an out, Zack McKim grounded to short, moving Hutton to second. Besece came up and on a 2-2 pitch, blooped a single to right, scoring Hutton and giving Buckeye the 10-9 lead.

Now it was the Panthers' turn to hold again.

Koontz led off by reach first on an error and following a Cunningham single, JM had runners at first and second with no outs. Besece bore down and struck out Kinkade on three pitches. Following a wild pitch that advanced both runners into scoring position, Besece struck out Downs for out No. 2.

Schambach came up and hit a sharp grounder to Saltkield, who fielded the ball cleanly and fired to first for the game's final out.

Besece got the win on the mound, striking out 10 in eight innings. He also added two RBIs at the plate on a single and two doubles.

Schambach and Marple each had two RBIs for JM.

Buckeye Local	000	720	01	—	10	11	5
John Marshall	000	500	40	—	9	12	4

B — Besece wp (10SO, 3W) and Verhovic. McKim S, rbi; Besece S, 2D, 2rbi; Verhovic S, R.J. Fialdowski 3S, Call 2S, 2rbi; Saltkield S. J — Koontz 1p (5SO, 1W) and Marple. Campbell 2S; Cunningham 2S, D; Kinkade D, rbi; Schambach 2S, 2rbi; Marple 2S, 2rbi.



Colts Close Out Huskies in Class AAA

By NEIL THOMPSON
Staff Writer

Meadowbrook baseball coach Tim Roller has complete faith in Zach Zifzal's ability to close out a game.

As a result, Roller will be picking up his second Class AAA championship pennant at Monday's OVAC Banquet of Champions in Wheeling.

With the Colts (18-10) clinging to a 4-2 lead over Harrison Central in Saturday's OVAC Class AAA title tilt at Vaccaro Field, Zifzal came on with the bases loaded and one out in the bottom of the seventh to strike out the last two batters and nail down the win.

Starting pitcher Jesse Froehlich had held the Huskies (16-5) to just three hits over the first six innings but ran out of gas in the seventh.

Froehlich loaded the bases on three bases on balls and a fielders choice.

With the heart of the Harrison Central lineup coming to the plate, Roller put the ball — and the game — in Zifzal's hand.

"Zach's been our guy in clutch situations all year," said Roller. "We have a lot of confidence in him."

Zifzal struck out No. 2 hitter

Adam Greene for the second out of the inning, setting up a "High Noon" style showdown between the Colt reliever and Huskie standout Jarryd Ridgeway.

Ridgeway had got to Froehlich for a triple and single and the tension only increased when the count ran full.

With the runners breaking on the pitch, any type of hit would tie the game and a gap shot would win it.

Zifzal checked the runners and then snapped off a nasty curve ball that set Ridgeway down swinging.

"Zach's done that a couple of times this year with the game on the line," said Roller.

"It's been his 'out' pitch and he's able to throw it with confidence."

Meadowbrook, which opens District play at River View High School on Tuesday against John Glenn, drew first blood Saturday.

Derek Daugherty smacked a one-out double in the top of the first and came home on a Froehlich single.

Froehlich moved up on a fielders choice and scored on a two-out single off the bat of Wes Mercer.

Harrison Central got an

unearned run in the bottom of the first on an RBI single by Ridgeway but Meadowbrook stretched the lead with single tallies in the third and fourth frames.

Mercer picked up his second RBI in the third inning when he followed a Froehlich double with a run-scoring single and Zifzal added an RBI base knock in the fourth.

Froehlich hadn't allowed a hit since Ridgeway's first-inning single and appeared to be cruising before Ridgeway struck again.

The senior standout snapped Froehlich's string with one-out triple in the sixth and scored on a Tom Snyder single but Froehlich escaped with no further damage to set up the thrilling climax.

"Jesse's got that bulldog mentality on the mound and the kids play good defense behind him," said Roller.

"I can't say enough about all of our kids, really. We may not look pretty but we get the job done."

Meadowbrook	201	100	0-4	9	2
Harrison Central	100	001	0-2	3	0

M—Froehlich wp (6SO, 5W), Zifzal (7) (2SO, 0W) and Daugherty. Daugherty D; Froehlich D, S, rbi; Zifzal S, rbi; Mercer 2S, 2rbi; Potts T, S.
HC—Snyder lp (7SO, 5W) and Carlson. Ridgeway T, S, rbi; Snyder S, rbi.

Blue Dons Roll to Class A Crown

By MIKE HUGHES
Staff Writer

Weirton Madonna's hitters provided pitcher Anthony Gianni all the offense he needed in the first two innings as the Blue Dons downed Linsly 14-4 in the OVAC Class A title game.

The Blue Dons finished with 14 runs on nine hits, and every Madonna player scored at least one run.

"We came to play today," Weirton Madonna head coach Tony Magnone said. "We are one win away from a school record and I am real proud of these kids."

"We haven't won the OVAC (tournament) since back in 1982 and it was one of our goals from the start of the season."

In the first inning, Matt Hirkala had an RBI single and Sam Hall had a sacrifice fly to center that put Madonna up 2-0 after first.

Two runs isn't a large deficit to overcome, but for the Linsly Cadets and starting pitcher Chris Banal, those two runs were just the calm before the storm.

Gianni sat Linsly down 1-2-3 in the top of the second, and the Dons came to bat again.

Chris Gianni led off with a single and Chad Patera bunted to advanced him to second. But the throw to first sailed over the first baseman's head, allowing Gianni to score and Patera to reach third on a three-base error.

Banal struck out Kelson Jerrel and got Jake Myers to pop out, but Patera scored on a passed ball during Myers at-bat.

With two outs, Mike Decaria walked, Anthony Gianni was beamed, and Hirkala then ripped a two-run double off the wall in

dead center to make the score 6-0.

But Madonna still wasn't done.

Hall was also hit by a pitch and T.J. Weimerskirch reached on a throwing error to give the Dons bases loaded with two outs.

Chris Gianni, batting for the second time in the inning, belted a shot to left over Matt Jividen's head that cleared the bases, making the score 9-0.

Then Patera lined a double to left field, scoring Chris Gianni, and came home on throwing error.

After only the second inning, Linsly already trailed 11-0 and the game was all but over.

"That is usually what we do (commit errors)," Magnone said about taking advantage of Linsly's fielding mistakes. "But they made a few mistakes and we were able to take advantage of them."

"But that's not a typical performance from a Linsly team."

Linsly finished the game with four errors, three in the second inning, and of Madonna's 14 runs, all but three were unearned.

"We've been notorious for (errors) this year," Linsly head coach Gary Sprague said after the game. "I'd have hoped we would show up defensively this game, but we do have a very young team."

"We were happy to get here. We were the No. 6 seed, we were 8-14 and we had a chance to win the OVAC."

Linsly didn't exactly roll over and give up though, as they managed to score four runs off Anthony Gianni.

Jividen and Brad Nickerson had back-to-back run-scoring

doubles in the third inning, and Cory Barill scored on a passed ball in the fifth. Jason Pyles also added an RBI base hit in the fifth.

Anthony Gianni fanned nine batters, and allowed four runs on eight hits to earn the victory.

Chris Gianni led the Blue Dons at the plate with three RBIs on a single and two doubles. Hirkala added three RBIs.

Linsly	002	020	—	4	8	4
Weirton Madonna	290	012	—	14	9	0

L — Banal lp (3SO, 4W), Zavatsky (5) (0SO, 1W) and Wilson. T.Jividen S, D, rbi; Nickerson S, D, rbi; Pyles S, rbi.
W — A.Gianni wp (9SO, 1W) and Hall. Myers S, rbi; A.Gianni D; Hirkala S, D, 3rbi; Hall rbi; C.Gianni S, 2D, 3rbi; Patera D, rbi.

Buckeye Local tops Steubenville

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

With a 13-2 Friday night loss fresh in their minds, Buckeye Local took advantage of some timely hitting, some outstanding play in the outfield and the pitching of senior C. J. Besece to advance to the OVAC Class 4-A semifinals with a crucial 5-1 quarterfinal

win over Steubenville Big Red at Vaccaro Field Saturday afternoon.

Meeting Big Red for the third time this season, coach Chris Blackburn's Panthers avenged two earlier losses while improving their record to 8-9 on the season.

Buckeye will move on to the OVAC semis next Saturday against Cambridge, a quarterfinal winner over Brooke.

Buckeye is back in action on Tuesday at Vaccaro Field taking on St. Clairsville in the Division II Sectional at 6:30 p.m. The winner of that game squares off with Big Red on Thursday.

Big Red, guilty of leaving 10 runners on base in the game, opened the scoring in the first after lead-off hitter Chad Bauman singled to right to open the game. Two batters later, the Panthers

committed a pair errors that moved Bauman to third and Ryan Straker to second. Mike Giannamore's sacrifice fly to deep center plated Bauman.

Buckeye evened the score in the third with Besece opening with a single by short. Greg Verhovic bunted Besece to second and following a popout to deep short, R. J. Faldowski singled to center to score Besece.

In the fifth, the Panthers took the lead with Besece again opening the inning, this time by reaching on the second Big Red error. Two outs later, Faldowski single through the middle to score Besece and put the Panthers ahead by 2-1.

Buckeye added the insurance it needed.

See, BUCKEYE, Page C6

Sixth-seeded Linsly knocks off Shadyside in OVAC quarterfinals

By JEREMY MIDEI
Times Leader Sports Writer

The sixth-seeded and defending OVAC-A champion Linsly Cadets took the first step toward a repeat title Saturday in Shadyside, upsetting the third-ranked Tigers, 8-3, in OVAC-A quarterfinal action.

Senior righty Chris Banal picked up the complete-game victory, and the Cadets batted around the order in the fifth inning.

"Good pitching, timely hitting and good defense will win you a lot of games," said Linsly coach Gary

Sprague, "and we had all three today."

Banal struck out five, walked two batters and scattered eight Tiger hits over seven innings, while his teammates picked him up with a seven-run inning off Tiger starter Derrick Sadlowski.

"Chris has the ability to change speeds," Sprague said. "He has the ability to control a game, not overpower it. He lets his defense play."

"This was one of his better games."

Sadlowski, however, was overpowering.

He pitched out of a basesloaded jam in the first and cruised through the next three innings, allowing only two singles,

until the Linsly bats came roaring to life in the fifth.

Senior Matt Jividen laced a Sadlowski offering to leftfield to open the inning, and junior Corey Barill followed him up with a bunt down the third-base line for a single. Junior lead-off man, Tyler Jividen, drew a walk, loading the bases for third baseman, Brad Nickerson.

Nickerson swung at the first pitch he saw and sent it to deep right center, plating Matt Jividen and Barill.

Sadlowski sent Jason Pyles back to the dugout with a strikeout for the first out, but intentionally walked Banal to

re-load the bases. Catcher Corby Wilson slapped a grounder to shortstop, scoring Tyler Jividen, but the throw to second was wide right. Nickerson scored on the error for a 4-2 score, advantage Linsly.

The next batter, Kyle Turkaly, laced a hit to the gap in right center, sending Wilson and Banal across home. Turkaly ended up on third and would score the final run of the inning on a wild pitch.

Sadlowski struck out Bill Zavatsky and Matt Jividen to end the inning. The Tiger hurler had eight punch outs on the day.

Shadyside picked up two early runs, one in the second and another in the fourth. Josh Stevens rapped a single to lead off the second, swiped second and wound up on third after a wild pitch. Mike Meintel sent him home only two hitters later.

Stevens scored again in the fourth. Banal got two quick outs before Stevens doubled to right. Junior Ryan Holmes made the score 2-0 Tigers with a single.

Linsly erupted for seven runs only a half inning later, and the Cadets added an insurance run in the top of the sev-

See, LINSLY, Page C6

Barnesville edges past Toronto

By BUBBA KAPRAL
T-L Executive Sports Editor

Brad Wilson is a blue-chip and battle-tested manager.

In his 25 years at the Barnesville High baseball helm, Wilson has experienced many a successful season...2004 is definitely one of them.

The Shamrocks ran their record to an impressive 14-2 this spring via a roller-coaster 6-5 triumph over visiting and perennial power Toronto in an OVAC quarterfinal game at Memorial Park Saturday.

Wilson and his veteran troops will launch sectional play Monday against Union Local in a 5 p.m. start at Cadiz.

"This was an up-and-down contest



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

BARNESVILLE'S Chris Wells slides safely into third base as Toronto's Zac Thomas awaits the throw during action Saturday afternoon in OVAC quarterfinal action at

Harrison Central wins school-record 15th

By GREG HARKNESS
Times Leader Sports Writer

The table is set for Harrison Central.

Now all the state-rated Huskies have to do is close strong.

Harrison Central advanced to the OVAC semifinals with a 12-7 victory over Union Local Saturday afternoon in Cadiz.

"We hit the ball well today," Harrison Central head coach Mike Saffell said. "This was really a typical game for us -- 12-7 and a couple of big innings."

The Huskies improved to 15-2 on the season, which is a school record for victories. Harrison Central will oppose Magnolia next Saturday at a site to be determined.

Up next for the Huskies is the winner of Monday night's Edison

Wednesday night at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

Ironically, Edison and Carrollton are the only two teams to defeat the Huskies this season.

"I have to credit our seniors," Saffell said. "They got it together and made sure we won this game. This is the most important time of the year and seniors are the ones that usually come through."

Union Local bolted to a 2-0 lead in the first inning as Pec Schmitt walked and stole second and then scored on Artis Johnson's base hit.

Johnson then scored on Andrew Schmitt's double to right center. Jets' freshman pitcher Eric Stephens ran into trouble in the third inning as after an out Harrison Central struck for four-straight hits.

Mark Dulkoski started things

COMING MONDAY:
 Full results of the NASCAR California race.

SPORTS

- Prep baseball, softball
- Kentucky Derby story
- Major League baseball

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2004

Snapshots from the OVA

Buckeye Local defeats Big Red

By STEPHANIE ELVERD
 Sports writer

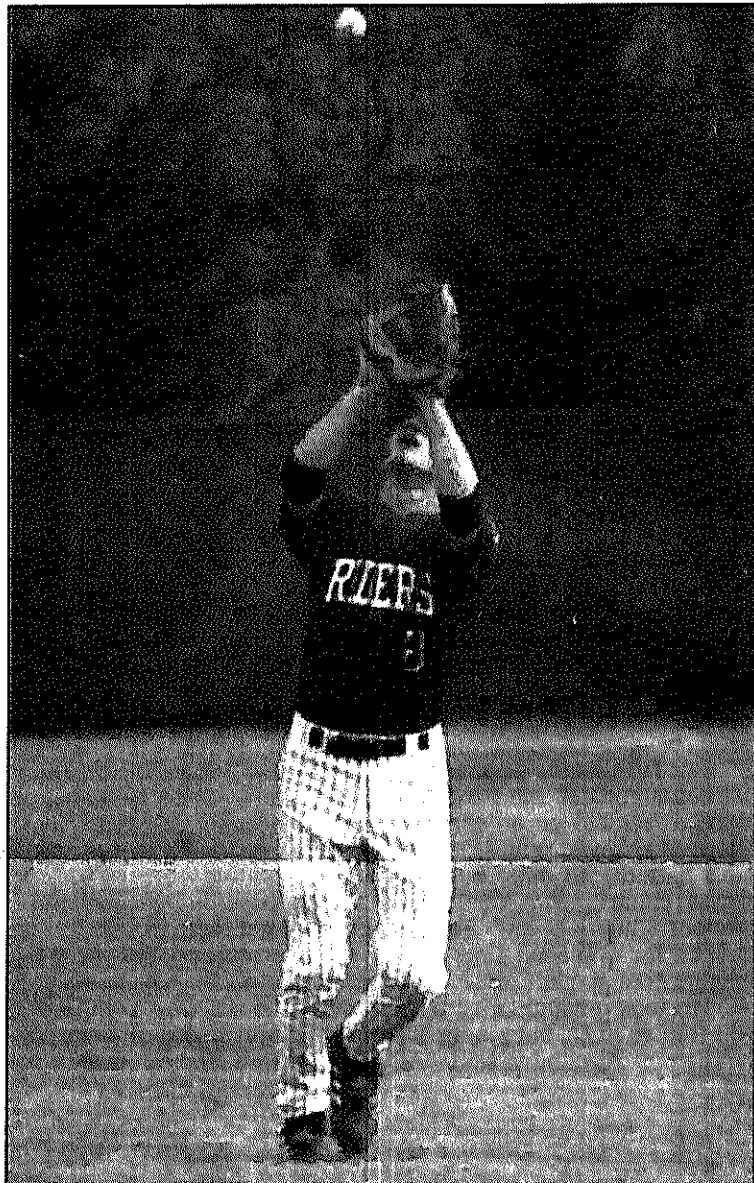
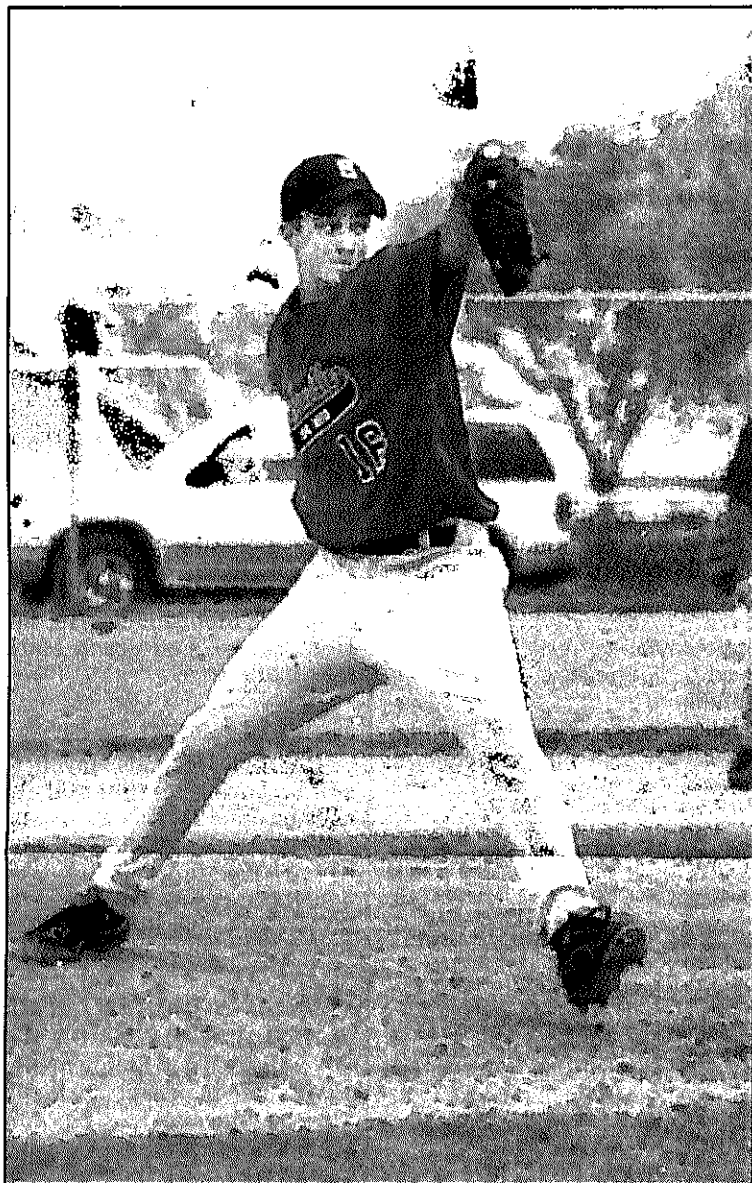
STEUBENVILLE — On Friday, a somber Chris Blackburn sat in the dugout at Vaccaro Field, trying to dissect his team's latest loss. The Buckeye Local coach could take his lumps, but this loss was a little hard to swallow. Losing to Big Red wasn't shameful, but the way his team played was. Frustrated over five fielding errors and what he viewed as a poor attitude in the 13-2 loss, Blackburn called out his players. He asked for one thing — to play up to their potential.

Saturday, Blackburn and the Panthers were back at Vaccaro Field to face Big Red for the second straight day and for a berth in the OVAC semifinals. The first two meetings with Steubenville had been disastrous. In the 13-2 loss, Big Red had scored 12 runs in the third inning. Earlier in the season, Big Red had posted 10 runs in the first inning to rout Buckeye Local on the Panthers' home field. Needless to say, the odds weren't on Buckeye Local's side heading into the OVAC Class AAAA quarterfinal.

But odds are made to be beaten and that's exactly what the Panthers did. The Buckeye Local players stepped up to Blackburn's call, downed Big Red, 5-2, and did what he's been waiting for his 8-9 team to do all year — wake-up.

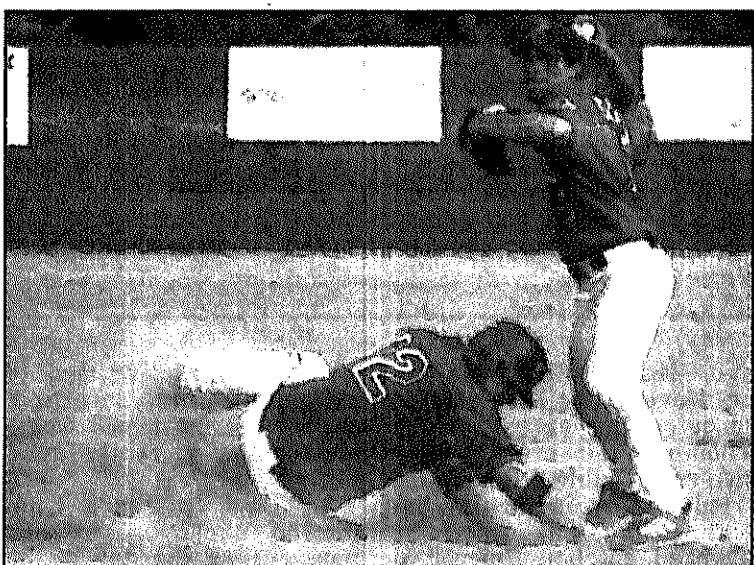
"What a difference a day makes, huh?" a smiling Blackburn asked. "This is the baseball team I've been waiting to see. This was basic baseball. We hit the ball, we fielded the ball, we threw strikes and we ran the bases. It's nice to see them finally come around."

In the other dugout, Big Red
 See **BUCKEYE** Page 2C ⇨



OVAC BASEBALL — Top left, Steubenville's Tommy Brown winds up for a pitch during Saturday's OVAC baseball game at Vaccaro Field. Big Red lost to Buckeye Local, 5-2. Top right, Weir's Jack Crow catches a fly ball during Saturday's OVAC baseball game at Cove Field. Bottom left, Buckeye Local coach Chris Blackburn slaps C.J. Besece a high-five after the Panther hit a home run during Saturday's baseball game at Vaccaro Field. Bottom right, Weir's Jason Gatto tries to turn a double play during Saturday's game.

Photos by Michele Neff



Riders' Pat

By AARON
 Sports writer

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Ashmead caps Central's victory vs. Buckeye Trail

By STEPHANIE ELVERD
 Sports writer

STEUBENVILLE — Catholic Central's big guns put Buckeye Trail on the ropes and Gregory Ashmead knocked the Warriors out with a two-run double to end the OVAC Class AA quarterfinal in six innings at Vaccaro Field on Saturday.

Ashmead, who entered the

game in the fourth inning, stepped up to plate with no outs and drove in Josh Samples and Joey Antinone for the game-ending double RBI and advanced the Crusaders in OVAC play with a 13-3 victory.

"It's that old saying 'always stay ready' and these kids come to practice everyday and work hard and we

See **CENTRAL** Page 2C ⇨

Harrison Central knocks off Union Local, 12-7

From staff reports

CADIZ — The Harrison Central baseball team advanced in OVAC Class AAA play with a 12-7 win over Union Local, Saturday.

The Huskies exploded for seven runs in the third and four in the seventh to win the game.

Cody Smith and Tom Snyder both homered in the win.

Smith also had a base hit, while Snyder finished with another hit and three RBIs on the day. Adam Greene had two base hits and two doubles, while Josh Bumgardner both tripled and drove in two runs. Jarryd Ridgeway came up with a hit and two RBIs.

Union Local also sent a ball over the fence. Robbie Stiles homered and drove in

See **HARRISON** Page 2C ⇨

Madonna moves win over Frontier

From staff reports

WELLSBURG — The Madonna baseball team advanced in the OVAC Class A tournament with a 10-0 shutout over Frontier at Brooke High School on Saturday.

Anthony Gianni led the Blue Dons to the win, fanning nine, allowing no walks and no runs and giving up just a single hit.

Frontier's only hit of the

game cam hitter sin inning. A turned aw ter and th backed hin "Anthon he mixes it curveball knows he strikes," M Magnone s

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SPORTS

■ Prep baseball, softball	3
■ Kentucky Derby story	5
■ Major League baseball	7

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SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2004

Snapshots from the OVAC

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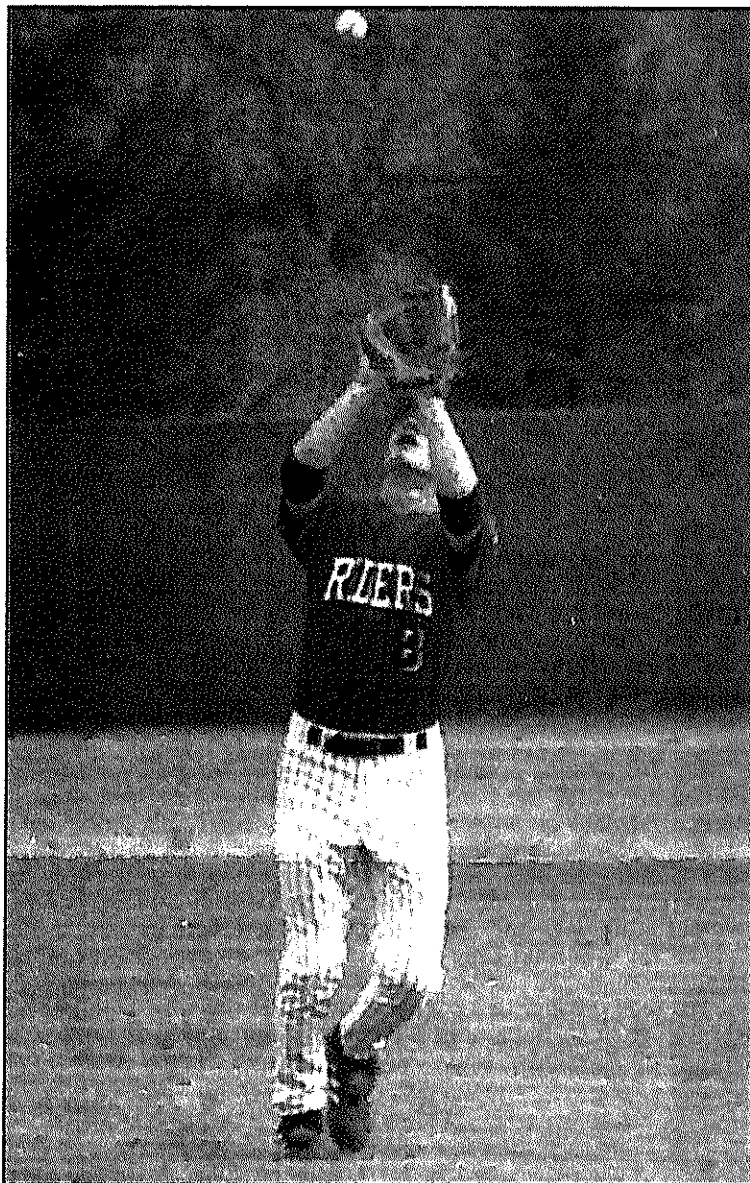
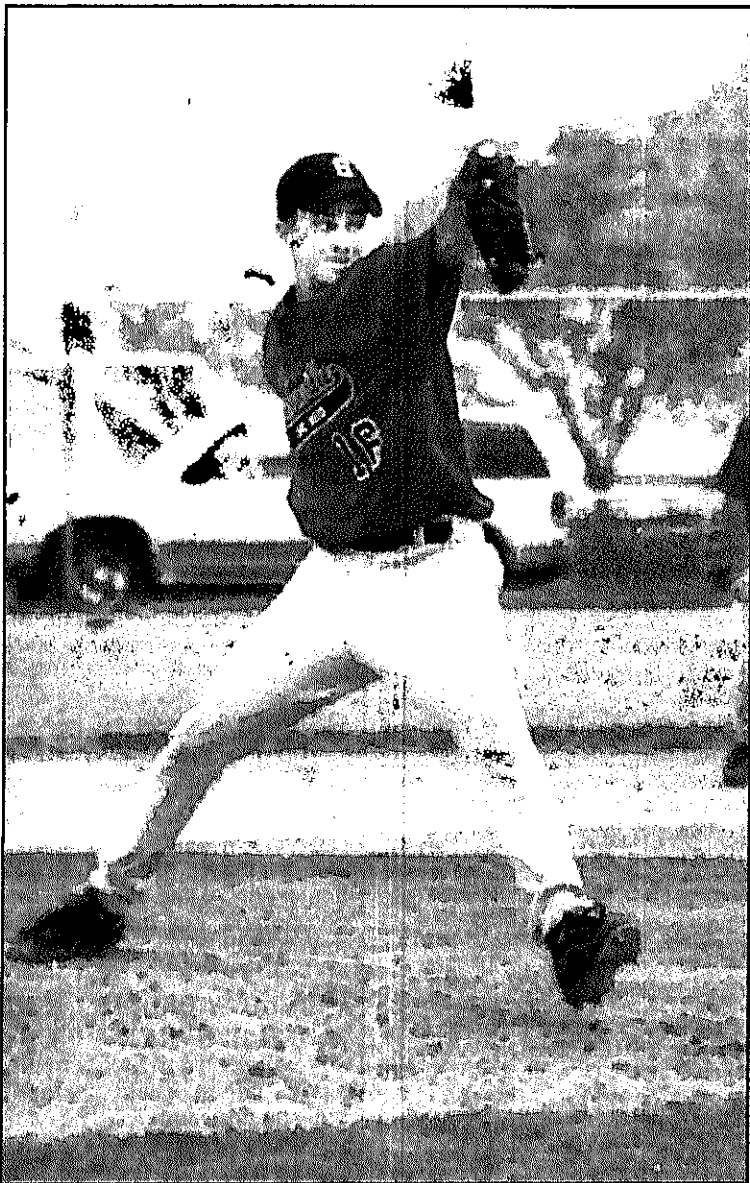
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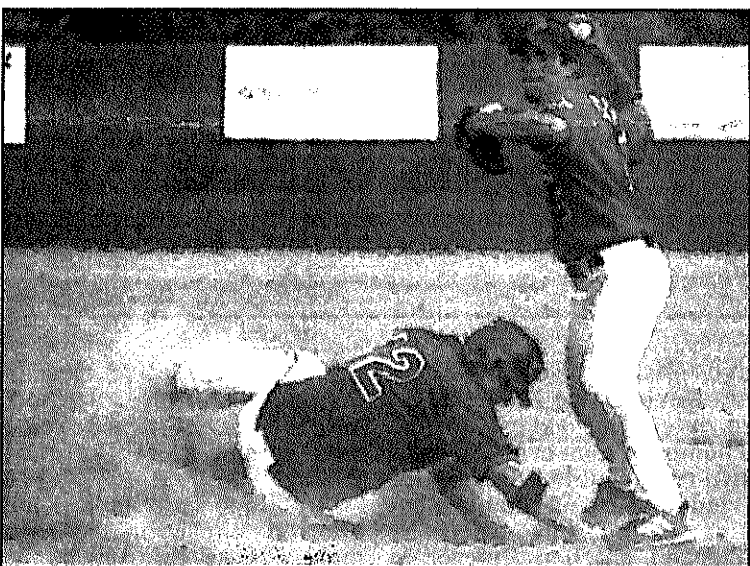
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Photos by Michele Neff



Riders send Patriots packing

By AARON PETCHAL
Sports writer

WEIRTON — The Weir baseball team received strong pitching from Brandon Coxen and Joel Marino, and the Red Riders' bats produced enough offense as home-standing Weir edged visiting Wheeling Park, 4-2, in an opening round game of the OVAC Class AAAA baseball tournament at Cove Field on Saturday.

Coxen struck out four batters before being replaced by Marino with one out in the sixth. Coxen came back in in the seventh and struck out the side to end the game. He finished with seven strike outs in the game.

Weir head coach Bob Rosnick said his team played a strong game.

"We are very happy," he said. "we had a very good week, that is four wins in a row. We played well. I think we have our problems ironed out. We are getting our lineup set for the tournament now. We have struggled off and on during the season. Right now, things are starting to work. The kids are coming around. We are getting timely hitting and good defense.

"I am very happy. Wheeling Park is a good team. Anytime we can beat them, we are happy to do that. They had a very good pitcher out here today. He kept us off balance for most of the day except for the second and third when we got some runs."

The Red Riders took an early lead with two runs in the bottom of the second inning. Coxen and Brandon Sperlazza had back-to-back singles, and Marino doubled, scoring Coxen and making it 1-0. Mike

See RIDERS Page 2C ⇨

1 caps Central's s. Buckeye Trail

game in the fourth inning, stepped up to plate with no outs and drove in Josh Samples and Joey Antinone for the game-ending double RBI and advanced the Crusaders in OVAC play with a 13-3 victory.

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See CENTRAL Page 2C ⇨

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Union Local also sent a ball over the fence. Robbie Stiles homered and drove in

See HARRISON Page 2C ⇨

Madonna moves on with win over Frontier, 10-0

From staff reports

WELLSBURG — The Madonna baseball team advanced in the OVAC Class A tournament with a 10-0 shutout over Frontier at Brooke High School on Saturday.

Anthony Gianni led the Blue Dons to the win, fanning nine, allowing no walks and no runs and giving up just a single hit. Frontier's only hit of the

game came when the lead-off hitter singled in the first inning. After that, Gianni turned away batter after batter and the Madonna defense backed him up.

"Anthony throws hard and he mixes it up. He has a decent curveball and the defense knows he's going to throw strikes," Madonna coach Tony Magnone said. "He keeps our

See MADONNA Page 2C ⇨