



Photo by Patrick Myers

Wheeling Park's Dan Caryll (14) slides home safely as Steubenville catcher Mike Mort goes down to block the throw during Saturday afternoon's OVAC Class AAAA championship game at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

Sweet Revenge

Patriots shock Big Red to claim OVAC Class AAAA championship

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

The Wheeling Park baseball team had no interest in seeing history repeat itself Saturday so the Patriots made a little history of their own.

First-year coach Chad Stout's Ohio County squad shocked regular-season champion Steubenville, 7-4, in the OVAC Class AAAA championship game at Vaccaro Field.

It was sweet revenge for a Patriot team that had absorbed a 14-2 beating from Big Red on the same field just two short weeks ago.

"I've never been around a more resilient group of guys in my entire life," said Stout. "They're never satisfied. They always want more."

"And because they love baseball, they want everything they do to be positive."

Steubenville got on the board first in the bottom of the first inning when Mike Mort singled



"We knew we were going to take some blows but we felt if we could land some big shots early on, we might be able to hold on and win."

Chad Stout

home Zach Collaros.

The Patriots, who set a school record with 22 wins in a season, bounced right back.

Ronnie Green hit a two-out triple that brought home his brother, Ronnell, to tie the score.

Wheeling Park didn't stop there.

The Patriots fired away in the fourth. Dan Caryll's double brought home Dillon Mangino, and then came home himself on a Ronnie Green single.

The two runs in the inning forced Steubenville starting pitcher

er Sam Busic from the game after giving up six hits, two walks, and striking out three.

Wheeling Park starter Jim Estep kept Big Red at bay, allowing the Patriots to pile on with another two runs in the fifth to take a 5-1 advantage.

Steubenville didn't go quietly as some shaky Wheeling Park fielding provided a helping hand.

After Anthony Gossett was hit by a pitch in the bottom of the frame, Collaros brought him home with an RBI triple.

Lee Bainbridge then lofted a routine fly to left but the ball was dropped, allowing Collaros to score from third.

Mike Mort reached on an infield error and Steve Davis brought home Bainbridge with a single, as Big Red closed the gap to one.

Tom Brown was walked to load the bases but Estep stopped the bleeding by getting Justin Mavromatis to fly out to center.

"We compared this to a heavy-weight fight, and in that fight, Steubenville was probably the favorite," Stout said.

"We knew we were going to take some blows but we felt if we could land some big shots early on, we might be able to hold on and win."

"Steubenville delivered a big blow in fifth inning that could have knocked us out, but we got right back up and starting punching some more."

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REVENGE

Continued from page B1

Wheeling Park added a pair of insurance runs in the seventh. Heath Beecher started the inning with a single, followed by a Mangino double.

Tom Kettlewell singled Beecher home and Ronnie Green's sacrifice fly scored Mangino.

Estep shut down the heart of Big Red's order in the bottom of the seventh for a complete game win. He allowed seven

hits, walked one and struck out five.

"One of our goals this season was to get to hang this banner in our gym and another was to exceed the school win total and we've done both," said the Patriots' proud head man.

"They have worked so hard to become a team on and off the field and they take it upon themselves to be the very best they can be."

Harrison Central Repeats

By RICH GIBSON
For the News-Register

Following the bitterness of a 10-0 sectional tournament loss earlier in the week, Mike Saffell and his Harrison Central Huskies first regrouped, then responded like champions.

The Huskies came off an early deficit to take control, then held off a late St. Clairsville charge to successfully defend their OVAC 3-A title.

Harrison's 8-5 Saturday afternoon victory at Vaccaro Field is some degree of solace, considering Saffell's club was intent on advancing in the sectionals.

"This (OVAC) is a great tribute to our kids and how hard they've worked," Saffell said. "We really wish we were in St. Clairsville's shoes with a chance to keep playing, but winning back-to-back OVAC championships is very satisfying."

The Red Devils, meanwhile, are back at Vaccaro on Monday (6:00) where a victory over Indian Creek would send Sliva's team on to district play.

"Yes, we do have bigger goals ahead, but we're definitely disappointed with today's outcome," Sliva observed. "Now we'll channel all our energy on winning the sectional Monday."

Saturday's contest featured an early explosion of offense.

Harrison struck for two quick first inning runs, only to see St. C. retaliate with three.

First baseman Matt Bear lined a two-run double to left field, plating teammates Ben Hodkinson and Robbie Davia as the Cadiz-based combine went ahead.

St. C. also made an early statement against Huskies' southpaw Cody Smith. Catcher Adam Myser and first baseman Charlie Bishop rapped RBI hits before sophomore Dustin Hynes delivered a run-scoring double.

Smith, however, proved virtually untouchable over the next five and a third innings, retiring 16 of 17 batters.

Harrison proceeded to knock out Devils' starter Fred Holub, scoring three more runs in the top of the second.

See, Repeat, Page B4

Huskies repeat

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St. C., 8-5, to claim
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See, HARRISON, Page B2



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

HARRISON CENTRAL catcher Dustin Gibson waits for the throw home in Saturday's OVAC 3A Championship game. The Huskies defeated St. Clairsville, 8-5.

REPEAT

Continued from page B3

A two-out walk to centerfielder Trevor McCue preceded a two-run homer off the bat of senior vet Dan Milleson.

"Dan's big hit really got us jump-started," Saffell related.

Milleson's blast over the fence in leftcenter gave the Huskies a lead they would not relinquish.

Hodkinson reached on an infield hit before Smith socked a double for a 5-3 lighting.

The Saints received effective relief work from righthander Ian Riddel who recorded eight strikeouts.

The Huskies, did, however, compile three additional runs.

Designated hitter Donald Norris doubled home Bear in the third. One inning later, Smith drilled his second RBI double of the day before

Davia clouted a sacrifice fly.

Harrison's lead was 8-3 when Smith tired in the seventh. A leadoff walk to Hynes ignited St. C.'s comeback which eventually sent the tying run to the plate.

Left fielder Casey Tennant tagged his second hit of the game to KO Smith before reliever Jacob Graham hit Holub with a pitch.

After third baseman Anthony Wakim rapped into a 5-2 fielder's choice cutting down Hynes, Graham plunked another St. C. batter, this time leadoff man Adam Stewart as Tennant trotted home.

Myser's ground out to third permitted Holub to score, but Davia, coming on for Graham, retired shortstop Josh Waggle on a game-ending fly ball to right field.

OVAC BASEBALL



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

SHADYSIDE'S Kraig Kubancik slides into second before Bishop Donahue's second baseman collects the baseball. Shadyside advanced to the 1-A final to face Linsly thanks to a 10-0 victory over the Bishops.

Meintel pitches Tigers into OVAC 1-A title game

• Shadyside to meet Linsly Saturday

By **KIM APPOLLONI**
Times Leader Sports Writer

The OVAC A semi-final game's in Bridgeport could not have been more different.

The morning contest had top-seeded Shadyside squaring off with fifth ranked Bishop Donahue. The Tigers needed just five innings to blank the Bishops, 10-0, while the 2:00 game went extra innings. Third place finishing Linsly outlasted second ranked Beallsville, 8-6, to set up a third encounter between Linsly and Shadyside, next Saturday, in Steubenville for the OVAC 1-A banner.

IN THE OPENER Shadyside head coach Gary Cunningham preached to his team prior to the game about making a statement with its play. The Tiger youngsters were obviously listening.

The Orange and Black blanked the Bishops, 10-0, in five innings to advance to next Saturday's championship round. It's not easy anytime you face the likes of junior flame-thrower Michael Mientel, but when the Tiger bats are loaded, it is going to be a tough day for the opposition.

The Tigers, now 17-2, blasted two home runs in the opening inning, jumping out to a 5-0 lead.

From there Mientel did the rest.

The hard-throwing righthander proceeded to strike out the next dozen batters he faced, while the offense added five more tallies in the last three innings of the game.

Meintel moved his mound record to 6-0 on the season.

"He has only given up two runs all season," commented the personable Cunningham. "Even though his stats today were outstanding, remarkably this wasn't one of his most dominating performances."

Bishop Donahue and the crowd in attendance would be scratching their heads about Cunningham's assessment after watching Meintel fan 13 out-of-15 batters. He amassed 12 Ks in a row at game's end.

The mound master notched his 76th strike-out and his second no-hitter of the season. Meintel now has three stingy performances on his illustrious career resume.

"It was a lot of fun out there today," stated a smiling Meintel. "My catcher Cody McCormick got me fired up early with a great shot to second for the third out of the inning. Then he blasts a three run homer in the bottom of the inning. The guys hit the ball well today."

Cunningham added, "Making it to the OVAC finals was certainly one of our goals. We only have one senior on the team, so I wasn't sure how focused we would be today because we 10-ran them earlier in the season. We came out ready to play, we were looking to make a statement, and we did."

Sophomore Billy Merryman singled and stole second to start the Tiger first. Junior Clifton Francis drilled a hit, chasing in Merryman. Francis advanced to second on the throw home. Meintel stepped in and reached when BD attempted to get Francis out when he

difficult," stated Cunningham. "We're not sure who will be on the mound because we have a lot of baseball to play this week. Obviously Mike is our ace, but we have other guys who have done a great job. I like the confidence that we are gaining and hope we keep hitting the ball."

Junior A.J. Gordon, Meintel's counterpart on the mound, was the only BD performer to reach first base as he drew two walks in his plate appearances. Gordon sat down four, walked two and watched his team commit three errors.

The Tigers totaled eight hits on the day. Along with McCormick and Palicka's shots were Meintel, with an RBI single and RBI double. Sophomore B.A. Holloway chipped in with a double. Merryman had a single and chased in a run. Francis has an RBI single. Senior center-fielder Matt Garrett added a base hit.

Linescore:

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Shadyside 502 21 -- 10 8 0

BATTERIES: Gordon and Haglock; Meintel and McCormick.

IN GAME TWO, senior slugger Bill Zavatsky crushed a 350-foot solo shot over the left field fence in the top of the 10th inning to give the Cadets a 7-6 advantage. Pinch-runner Andrew Kozosko tagged on Steve Pavlock's sacrifice to deep center for an insurance run making the Devils face an 8-6 deficit in the bottom of the inning.

Beallsville head coach Patrick Wells may not have as many games under his belt as Sprague, but the two coaches were both a little emotional after the game. "This hurts and I know my team is disappointed," stated a dejected Patrick Wells. "We have had a great season and it isn't over by a long shot, but we really wanted to get to the finals and face Shadyside."

The second year coach continued, "I don't want my kids to hang their heads, we were beat by a quality team. They are solid every year. We didn't get down after trailing early. I looked in their eyes. We believed we were going to win. I'm proud of them and we need to put this behind us and get ready for next week."

Sophomore Joe Jividen picked up the win in relief of Zavatsky. Zavatsky battled for eight innings before Jividen threw the last two.

Zavatsky felt he had to do something in the final inning to help his team.

"I felt like I had a bad a bat earlier in the game when I swung at a bad pitch. I wanted another shot and wanted to just go up to the plate, relax and have a good at bat," he said.

It was a good at bat indeed. The talented senior paced the Cadets at the plate with a pair of singles, the solo homer and three ribbies. On the mound he was also solid. Zavatsky whiffed 12 batters, issued six passes and pitched his way out of several jams. Jividen chipped in with two Ks and a walk.

Opposing ace Jimmy Jones did his share to keep the Devils in contention. Jones sat down five and walked four batters. Classmate Tony Stephens came on in the ninth to suffer the loss. Stephens had one strikeout and hit a batter.

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Meintel turned to go to second while the Bishops were chasing Francis. The crew from McMechen couldn't get Francis, so they went for Meintel. When the dust cleared, both runners were safe setting the stage for McCormick's blast.

McCormick smashed a shot to left center that traveled 365 feet, making the count 4-0. Sophomore Ross Palicka followed with a solo dinger, his first ever round-tripper.

Meintel proved he can do it at the dish as well as on the mound. He connected for a two-bag RBI in the third. He scored on a passed ball for a, 7-0, lighting. Shadyside scored a pair in the fourth and another in the fifth to end the game.

"We enjoyed the game today, but we know the next game no matter who we play will be

difficult," stated Cunningham. "We're not sure who will be on the mound because we have a lot of baseball to play this week. Obviously Mike is our ace, but we have other guys who have done a great job. I like the confidence that we are gaining and hope we keep hitting the ball."

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Opposing ace Jimmy Jones did his share to keep the Devils in contention. Jones sat down five and walked four batters. Classmate Tony Stephens came on in the ninth to suffer the loss. Stephens had one strikeout and hit a batter.

Lending support on the offensive end for the winners was a slew of hitters. Tyler Jividen had two singles. Jason Pyles ripped a double. First baseman Luke Cecil had an RBI single early and added a base hit late in the game. Corby Wilson and Taylor Cecil each smacked a pair of hits. Pavlock had a single and an RBI.

Beallsville's Josh Hossman and Jimmy Reisz both cracked run-scoring hits. Tony Stephens and Kent Price had two base hits apiece. Bryan Bilyeu and Kevin Stoney chipped in with base hits.

"We had five games next week, now we have a sixth," added the classy Sprague. "We are looking forward to getting another shot at Shadyside. We had two very good games with them and they beat us twice. It will be a good game."

Linsly 210 010 110 2 -- 8 11 5
Beallsville 010 310 010 0 -- 6 8 2
BATTERIES: Zavatsky, J. Jividen (9) and Wilson; Jones, Stephens (8) and Stoney.

Big Red, Park win

By JOSH STROPE
For The Times Leader

Steubenville's Lee Bainbridge has been finding a way to put the ball over the fence all season long.

Saturday in the OVAC Class 4A semifinals, he hit his most dramatic of them all.

Bainbridge hit a two-run, walk-off home run to lead Big Red to a 4-3 win over Edison at Brooke High School.

"I just came to the plate looking for something to rip," Bainbridge said.

And rip it he did.

Entering the bottom of the seventh down 3-2, Zach Collaros walked to begin the inning, setting the stage for Bainbridge's heroics.

The senior took the 0-1 fastball over the leftfield fence to earn a date against Wheeling Park, a 5-3 win over John Marshall earlier in the day, Saturday at Vaccarro Field in Steubenville.

Matt Belardine started opened the bottom of the first inning with a single, advancing to third on two straight wild pitches by Edison hurler David Rawson.

After a Collaros walk, Bainbridge reached on a fielders choice, and Belardine was able to come home for the score.

The Wildcats looked like they would strike back in the third inning as they loaded the bases with no outs.

Instead, Steven Shepherd grounded to short, where Collaros fired to home to force out Drew Powley at the plate.

Next, Corey Keenan flied out to right fielder Belardine who fired a perfect throw to catcher Mike Mort, who blocked the plate and tagged out Andy Stine to escape the threat.

Stine started the frame with a walk, followed by an Art Fetty single. A sacrifice bunt by Steve Shepherd put the runners on third and fourth.

On the ensuing pitch to Keenan, the designated hitter swung and went down in pain. His teammates carried him off the field and Cory Wickham replaced him at the plate.

The next hit he allowed was Bainbridge's bomb to end the game.

PARK 5, JM 3

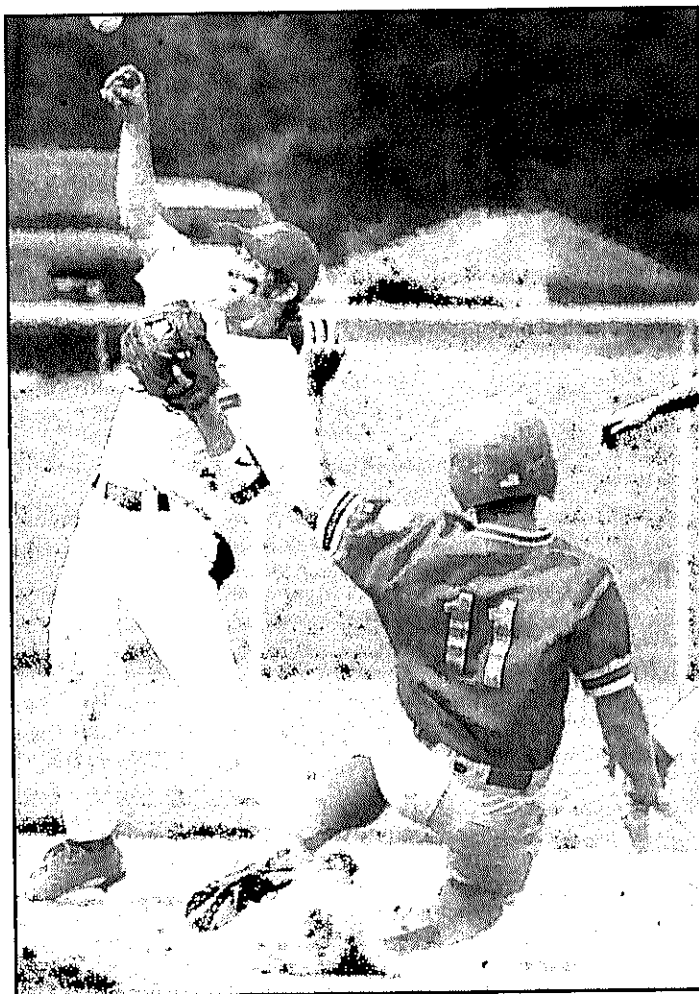
At WELLSBURG, Adam Lewton hit three singles for two RBIs as Wheeling Park dethroned reigning OVAC champion John Marshall to advance to the OVAC Class 4A finals.

Toronto, Central advance

Toronto scored seven times in the bottom of the second and never looked back en route to a 10-0 win over Monroe Central in the Class 2-A OVAC Semifinal at the Red Knight Baseball Complex.

The Red Knights got solid pitching from Dustin Coil who fanned four and walked two. He also had a single and a RBI.

Miller had two singles, a double and three RBI, while Stewart donated a single and a



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Josh Waggle slides into second as Indian Creek's Jared Hennis stretches to catch the throw during Saturday's OVAC Class 3-A semifinal game at Mazeroski Field in Cadiz. The Red Devils prevailed by a 6-3 count.

St. C., Harrison to tangle in OVAC 3-A final

By BRIAN COOK
Times Leader Sports Writer

Harrison Central and St. Clairsville will get the chance to meet again this season in the Class AAA OVAC Championship game as the Huskies downed Magnolia 7-3 and the Red Devils handed Indian Creek a 6-3 decision Saturday afternoon at Mazeroski Field in Cadiz.

"It feels good being the number four seed and being in the championship. We won it last year. Hopefully we can go back and defend it again," Harrison Central coach Mike Saffell commented after the game.

In the early game, the Huskies (15-8) took advantage of a pair of Blue Eagle errors to score three runs on a Robbie Davia single and a Donald Norris double in the first inning.

"If you don't make the routine play on a fly ball and a couple of routine groundballs throwing the ball to first base you don't win and that's the game," Magnolia coach Dave Cisar said about his team's exit in the OVAC tournament.

Up early, the Huskies continued to chip away at their Mountain State rival as Trevor McCue hit a triple to the right field fence. Two batters later, second baseman Ben Hodgkinson's stick came alive dropping a single into center field scoring McCue to put the Huskies up 4-0.

Winning pitcher Jake Grahm of Harrison Central continued to do his duty in the field striking out five batters in the game keeping the Blue Eagles scoreless through four innings.

"He (Jake Grahm) did a great job today. He was sort of a surprise coming up we only expected him to throw a little bit here and there, but coming in he pitched a great game," Saffell commented.

"Defense was one thing our middle was able to do today to help our game. When we get a ground ball we turn it over pretty well," Saffell said about his senior infield," Saffell said.

In the top of the fifth frame a trio of doubles by Davia, Matt Bear and Mike Valesko brought two more runs in for Saffell's senior cominated roster.

The Blue Eagles finally responded to the Huskies' bats in the bottom of the frame as Brandon Carroll hit a single. Then sophomore Kale Street connected for a two-run blast to left field for a homerun.

The Blue Eagles were able to tack on another run in the sixth. Harrison Central also added run on a Magnolia error and past ball as it rolled to victory.

"We ran the bases aggressively. We got thrown out a couple times, but it took great throws to get us," Saffell commented. "We run aggressively all the time and we don't want to change that. With the runners they gave us we got them on and got them in."

In the late game, St. Clairsville pitcher Casey Tennant fanned nine batters in the win over the Redskins.

"It feels good to be in the finals," St. Clairsville skipper Tom Sliva said with a smile after the game.

St. Clairsville marked the books first as Dustin Hynes smacked a single to right-center field. After stealing second and an Indian Creek throwing error, Hynes crossed the plate on a Fred Holuh single.

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The Red Knights will now meet Wheeling Central in the title game, which was a 14-9 winner over Steubenville Catholic in the second game at the Red Knight Baseball Complex.

Eli Popieg led the Maroon Knights with two singles and three RBI, while Eric Baker had three singles and two RBI. Taylor belted three singles, a double and a RBI.

Greg Ashmead had a single and three RBI.

Linescores:

Toronto 10, Monroe Central 0
Monroe Central 000 00 — 0 4 2
Toronto 070 12 — 10 8 2
BATTERIES: Winland, Leasure (2) and Turner. Coil and Freshwater.

Mazeroski Field in Cadiz. The Red Devils prevailed by a 6-3 count.

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Winning pitcher Jake Graham of Harrison Central continued to do his duty in the field striking out five batters in the game keeping the Blue Eagles scoreless through four innings.

"He (Jake Graham) did a great job today. He was sort of a surprise coming up we only expected him to throw a little bit here and there, but coming in he pitched a great game," Saffell commented.

"Defense was one thing our middle was able to do today to help our game. When we get a ground ball we turn it over pretty well," Saffell said about his senior infield," Saffell said.

In the top of the fifth frame a trio of doubles by Davia, Matt Bear and Mike Valesko brought two more runs in for Saffell's senior cominated roster.

The Blue Eagles finally responded to the Huskies' bats in the bottom of the frame as Brandon Carroll hit a single. Then sophomore Kale Street connected for a two-run blast to left field for a homerun.

The Blue Eagles were able to tack on another run in the sixth. Harrison Central also added run on a Magnolia error and past ball as it rolled to victory.

"We ran the bases aggressively. We got thrown out a couple times, but it took great throws to get us," Saffell commented. "We run aggressively all the time and we don't want to change that. With the runners they gave us we got them on and got them in."

In the late game, St. Clairsville pitcher Casey Tennant fanned nine batters in the win over the Redskins.

"It feels good to be in the finals," St. Clairsville skipper Tom Sliva said with a smile after the game.

St. Clairsville marked the books first as Dustin Hynes smacked a single to right-center field. After stealing second and an Indian Creek throwing error, Hynes crossed the plate on a Fred Holub single.

With momentum on the side of the Red Devils, St. Clairsville continued to their stride towards the OVAC AAA championship game as Josh Waggle reached first on an error and Ian Riddel was walked. Dustin Hynes then connected for a double scoring both Waggle and Riddel. Hynes also scored on a Fred Holub single to put the Devils up 4-0.

Still scoreless, Indian Creek's Tim Ohalek slaps a double to left only to be followed by a Mike Wilson RBI single to put the Redskins on the scoreboard.

As the Red Devils went into the fourth inning their bats continued to produce. With Adam Stewart on first base, senior Josh Waggle poked a double through the Redskin outfielders for a triple scoring Stewart. Charlie Bishop then connected with ball for a sacrifice fly that was deep enough to center to score Waggle.

"We put balls in play I thought we did a real good job. Everyone contributed to the success of our win," Sliva commented. "We preach all the time team effort and I think it was a team effort today that one for us."

Dominating for the most part of the game, Tennant started to show fatigue in the sixth as Indian Creek's Ohalek hit solo shot home run to lead off the inning. After a walk, Mike Wilson added a single to the mix to put runners on the corner.

Then with no outs in the inning, Tennant buckled down and fired strikeouts on three of the next four batters to end the inning.

"I thought Casey Tennant did a heck of a job pitching and kept them off balance keeping us in the game," Sliva said.

The Red Devils accumulated 10 hits in the win.

Harrison Central 310 021 0 -- 7 12 0

Magnolia 000 021 0 -- 3 7 2

BATTERIES: Graham, Hodkinson (7) and Gibson; Blair and Mason.

Indian Creek 000 102 0 -- 3 7 3

St. Clairsville 013 200 x --6 10 0

BATTERIES: Walter, Ohalek (3) and Johnston; Tennant, Riddel and Myser.

Mangino Keys Wheeling Park

Dillon Mangino singled and drove in a run, leading Wheeling Park (18-4) to a 4-1 victory over Cambridge in OVAC AAAA quarterfinals baseball tournament action Thursday in Wheeling.

Donnie Platt worked a complete game, four-hitter to earn the win.

Class AAA

St. Clairsville 3, Meadowbrook 2

At St. Clairsville, the Red Devils' Josh Waggle clinched the game-winning run with a double in the seventh inning, as St. Clairsville came back to defeat Meadowbrook.

John Vensel earned the win by striking out four and yielding four hits.

Class AA

Steubenville Central defeated Barnesville, 11-1. No other details were reported before The Intelligencer went to press.

Class A

Linsly 21, Paden City 2

At Wheeling, Bill Zavatsky had three hits, including a homer, and finished with six RBIs, leading Linsly (14-4) to a victory over Paden City.

The Cadets' Andrew Kuzusko and Steve Pavlock each had three RBIs, while Spencer Atkinson, Pat Ohrman and Warren Hammel each drove in two. Cody Meadows singled twice, and drove in a run for Paden City (8-13).

REGULAR SEASON

Bellaire, 5, John Marshall 1

At Bellaire, the Big Reds' (4-18) hitting drive, including two RBIs by Jarred Booth's double and single, gave Bellaire a win over John Marshall.

Nick Rocchio tripled, while Kyle Barnes and Jeremy Garrett contributed to the Big Red offense with an RBI each.



BASEBALL QUARTERFINAL PAIRINGS CLASS AAA

Staubenville vs. Edison
John Marshall vs. Wheeling Park

Magnolia vs. Harrison Central
St. Clairsville vs. Indian Creek

Steubenville Central vs. Whg. Central
Toronto vs. Monroe Central

Shadyside vs. Bishop Donahue

Karl George drove home the only run for John Marshall.

Magnolia 15, River 6

At Hannibal, River's (5-11) Michael Blair's three RBIs led Magnolia to victory over River.

John Nuevo, Corey Hardman and Evan Boatman each had one RBI. Josh Sims had two.

River's Tyler Abbott homered and singled, while teammates Ty Ash and Casey Orndorff doubled and singled.

New Philadelphia 6, Edison 2

At Richmond, Edison lost in a seventh inning turnaround for New Philadelphia.

Art Fetty doubled for one RBI, while teammate Bryson Anderson had a single, and an RBI to tally Edison's two runs.

Indian Creek 10, Harrison Central 4

At Cadiz, Rocco Auteri and Kody Grimes each had four hits en route to an Indian Creek win over Harrison Central.

Craig Johnston added three hits, including a triple, and Tim Ohalek homered for the Redskins (14-8).

Robbie Davia and Cody Smith each had two hits for the Huskies (13-8).



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

SHADYSIDE pitcher Mike Meintel delivers a pitch amidst a downpour during his OVAC 1-A quarterfinal against St. John Central. The Tigers led 6-0 in the third inning when play was suspended.

OVAC playoffs under way despite downpour

Martins Ferry and Magnolia engaged in a memorable OVAC quarterfinal game Tuesday afternoon at New Martinsville.

Neither team managed a hit in a rain-shortened contest which was decided by a first-inning sacrifice fly.

The Blue Eagles' Michael Blair plated teammate Brandon Carroll with what proved the game-winner in a 1-0 Magnolia victory.

Umpires halted the game after Ferry batted in the top of the fifth deeming deteriorating field conditions too poor to continue.

Ferry's Fred Owens walked the bases full in the Eagles' first before Blair's sac-fly.

Neither Owens nor Blair allowed a single hit. Owens totaled five strikeouts and five walks. Blair recorded eight Ks and permitted but one free pass.

None of the other three 3-A games were played. Two games are scheduled today at 5:00. Union Local and Harrison Central vie at Cadiz while Oak Glen and Indian Creek meet at Wintersville, also at 5:00.

St. Clairsville and Meadowbrook will complete the 3-A quarters with a Thursday afternoon (5:00) game at St. C.'s Memorial Park.

In Class 2-A, Caldwell and host Monroe Central resume play this afternoon at 5 with the two teams tied at 1-1 in the bottom of the second.

Shenandoah and Wheeling Central have scheduled their 2-A quarterfinal contest this evening (7:00) at the I-470 complex.

The Barnesville and Shamrocks and Steubenville Central, meanwhile, will meet in their 2-A quarterfinal Thursday afternoon (4:30) at Vaccaro Field. A 4-A quarterfinal between Steubenville and Brooke will be played following the Crusaders-Shamrocks' tilt.

AT FLEMING FIELD, top-seeded

Shadyside assumed control of its OVAC 1-A quarterfinal game early Tuesday afternoon against St. John, grabbing a 6-0 lead when Mother Nature reared her ugly head and forced the game to be suspended until today at 5 p.m.

The Tigers struck five times in the first and added a single run in the second and that was plenty for junior ace Michael Meintel who was on cruise control on the hill.

Meintel -- who had two singles and a like number of RBI -- had allowed just one base runner when the game was stopped. He had fanned six and the only runner reached via a free pass.

Senior catcher Cody McCormick drilled a double and an RBI for the Tigers, while Luke Horvath had a RBI.

At Beallsville, the Blue Devils have a 1-0 lead vs. Weirton Madonna in the top of the second. The two teams resume play today at 5:00.

Bishop Donahue advanced to semifinal play following the Bishops' 9-6, five-inning Tuesday win at Cameron.

In a big school tilt completed Tuesday, John Marshall blanked East Liverpool, 9-0.

Linescores:

CLASS 4-A

JOHN MARSHALL 9, EAST LIVERPOOL 0
East Liverpool 000 00 -- 0 4 1
John Marshall 504 00 -- 9 7 0
BATTERIES: Blackburn, Jackson (4) and Carr; Mozingo and Novick.

CLASS 3-A

MAGNOLIA 1, MARTINS FERRY 0
M. Ferry 000 00 -- 0 0 0
Magnolia 100 0x -- 1 0 0
BATTERIES: Owens and Zabitski. Blair and Masein.

CLASS 1-A

SHADYSIDE 5, ST. JOHN CENTRAL
St. John Central 000 -- 0 0 1
Shadyside 51x -- 6 5 0
BATTERIES: Dobrovich and Kasproski; Meintel and McCormick.

PREP BASEBALL

OVAC Class AAAA

Wheeling Park 4, Cambridge 1
Cambridge 000 000 1 -- 1 4 1
Wheeling Park 102 100 x -- 4 6 1
C -- Mahley 1p (6SO, 3W) and Harvey. Harvey S, rbi.
W -- Platt wp (2SO, 1W) and Lewton. Mangino S, rbi.

CLASS AAA

St. Clairsville 3, Meadowbrook 2
Meadowbrook 200 000 0 -- 2 4 3
St. Clairsville 001 100 1 -- 3 6 1
M -- Sasser 1p (1SO, 4W) and Sasser. Lintand 2S.
S -- Vensel wp (4SO, 6W) and Myser. Myser D, Riddel 2S; Tenant D; Waggle S, D, rbi.

CLASS A

Linsly 21, Paden City 2
Paden City 0 00 02 -- 2 6 6
Linsly 10100 5x -- 21 17 3
P -- Cospar 1p (0SO, 1W), Feldmeier (3) (0SO, 4W) and Smith. Thoburn S, D; Meadows 2S, rbi.
L -- Zavatsky (2SO, 1W), Hammel wp (3) (2SO, 0W), T.Cecil (5) (1SO, 0W) and Wilson. Kozusko (3). Atkinson 2S, D, 2rbi; Ohrman S, D, 2rbi; Zavatsky S, D, HR, 6rbi; Kozusko HR, 3rbi; Pavlock S, 3rbi, Hammel D, 2rbi.

REGULAR SEASON

New Philadelphia 6, Edison 2
New Philadelphia 100 001 4 -- 6 8 0
Edison 000 011 0 -- 2 6 3
N -- Miller (2SO, 3W), Sharshay (6) (1SO, 1W) and Vanderheide. Fouts S, D; Laner S, rbi.
E -- Keenan (5SO, 3W), Fetty (7) (0SO, 1W) and Miller, McCoy (7). Fetty D, rbi; Anderson S, rbi.

Jefferson Co. Chr. 18, Valley 16
Valley 410 231 5 -- 18 14 2
Jeff. Co. Chr. 227 520 x -- 18 15 2

V -- White 1p (3SO, 5W), Burr (4) (0SO, 1W), Wyatt (5) (1SO, 3W) and Eddy. White 2S, 2D; Stackpole S, 2D.
J -- Brown wp (5SO, 7W) and Warden. Hutchison S, D; Brown S, D, T.

Beallsville 8, Bridgeport 2

Beallsville 110 033 0 -- 8 8 0
Bridgeport 000 002 0 -- 2 8 2
Be -- Stephens wp (6SO, 0W), Albus (5) (2SO, 0W) and Stoney. Thompson D, HR, rbi; Bilyeu S, 2rbi; Marling D; Stephens D.
Br -- Doughty 1p (3SO, 3W), Gregoric (7) (2SO, 1W) and Maleski. Doughty 2S, HR, rbi; Smith 2S; Morgan S, rbi.

Magnolia 15, River 6

Magnolia 202 531 2 -- 15 10 1
River 002 120 1 -- 6 9 6
M -- McEldowney wp (2SO, 0W), Carroll (3) (1SO, 1W) and Mason. Blair S, D, 3rbi; Carroll 2S; Nuovo 2S, rbi; Sims S, 2rbi; Hardman S, rbi; Boatman S, rbi.
R -- Lallathin 1p (2SO, 7W), D.Starr (4) (1SO, 1W), Smith (6) (0SO, 0W), C.Starr (0SO, 1W) and Wells. Abbott S, HR; Orndorff S, D; Ash S, D, rbi; Bayes S, rbi.

Bellaire 5, John Marshall 1

John Marshall 000 100 0 -- 1 4 1
Bellaire 200 120 x -- 5 8 1
J -- Edge 1p (1SO, 2W), Hartley (5) (1SO, 0W), Madden (7) (1SO, 0W) and Novick. Mozingo D; George rbi; Maeker 2S.
B -- Rocchio wp (7SO, 5W) and Rose. Booth S, D, 2rbi; Rocchio T, rbi; Barnes S, rbi; Garrett S, rbi.

Indian Creek 10, Harrison Central 4

Indian Creek 403 030 0 -- 10 16 1
Harrison Central 300 010 0 -- 4 8 2
I -- Wilson wp, Ohalek (6), Vitro (7) and Siamondo. Auteri 2S, D, T; Johnston 2S, T; Ohalek HR; Grimes 4S.
H -- Norris 1p, Hodgkinson (6), Smith (7) and Gibson. Smith 2S; Davia S, D.

SPORTS

Steubenville
Catholic
dominates
ShamrocksBy RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

The Barnesville Shamrocks' 2006 OVAC Tournament stay lasted all of five innings.

Steubenville Central scored in every inning of a 11-1 Thursday afternoon ouster of the Green at Vaccaro Field.

Coach Frank Spence's now 19-3 Crusaders next face Wheeling Central in a semifinal contest slated for Toronto on Saturday morning at 11:00.

Barnesville, meanwhile, dropped to 6-12 under Vinnie Kirkpatrick. The Rocks were slated to host Harrison Central in a regular season encounter today at 4:30.

BARNESVILLE managed two first inning baserunners against SCC righty Kevin Marrow who worked out of the inning en route to firing a two-hitter.

Central answered with a first frame tally as shortstop Ryan Marrow raced home after reaching on an error.

The Gold and Blue piled on four more runs in the second. Designated hitter Billy Brockway singled and eventually scored on a base knock by number nine hitter Mike Emmerling.

Leadoff man Zach D'Ulisse also delivered an RBI hit. Emmerling came home off a wild pitch and D'Ulisse scored on a Barnesville error.

Emmerling's third inning sacrifice fly plated first baseman Brian Constantini for a 6-0 lighting.

Barnesville flashed fourth inning signs of life when Cameron Shreve socked a leadoff single and catcher Bud Hines drew a base on balls.

But Marrow struck out the next three Shamrocks in succession to avert further trouble.

Crusaders' centerfielder Greg Ashmead doubled home Ryan Marrow in the fourth. Constantini's ground ball scored catcher Zac Hawrot before Ashmead sprinted home on a wild pitch.

The Rocks broke through in the top of the fifth with third baseman Blake Allen plating Devin Stephen with a ground out.

Central came back to plate three more runs and end the contest via the 10-run rule when Hawrot's double to the left centerfield fence permitted D'Ulisse and Ryan Marrow to score.

Kevin Marrow recorded eight strikeouts and three walks. Shreve totaled three Ks and four walks before Eric Kemp came on in the fourth.

D'Ulisse collected three singles to pace Central. Ryan Marrow contributed two hits and three runs scored. Leftfielder Jeremy Samples drilled a double. Line score:
Linescore:

Barnesville 000 01 -- 1 2 3

S. Central 141 32 -- 11 11 1

BATTERIES: Shreve, Kemp (4) and Hines. K. Marrow and Hawrot.

Gibson may be reached via email at: rgibson@timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

ST. CLAIRSVILLE junior John Vensel winds up for a pitch during Thursday afternoon's AAA OVAC quarterfinal matchup. Vensel blanked the Colts through the last six innings to give the Red Devils a 3-2 decision.

Red Devils advance

By BRIAN COOK
Times Leader Sports Writer

It was a battle of defense as the bats couldn't quite connect Thursday afternoon at Memorial Park in St. Clairsville where the Red Devils faced off against Meadowbrook in a OVAC AAA quarterfinal match up.

After recording four walks and two unearned runs in the first frame, St. Clairsville pitcher John Vensel settled down to lead the Devils to a 3-2 decision.

"It was a well-played game. Two teams that went at it full-go and unfortunately, we came up on the short end," Colts' coach Steve Norman said following the game.

Down two runs, Vensel finally got into a rhythm after his rocky start as the Red Devils went three up and three down in the second and third innings.

"I went out there and told him (Vensel) in not many words, 'You have two choices to make,'" St. Clairsville skipper Tom Sliva commented. "One, he could tuck his tail and back down, or two, he could bull his neck, step up to the plate and hold them down. They never scored another run from that point on."

"Credit their starting pitcher. He started off struggling a little trying to find the zone, but settled down and his teammates played good defense behind him," Norman said as Vensel kept his Colts scoreless through the final six innings.

In the third, the Red Devils finally made a mark

'We did enough to do the job and get more runs than they had and that's the key.'

— Tom Sliva

on the scoreboard as Adam Stewart made his way to first after a walk. St. C's Josh Waggle later made it to first on an infield throwing error that scored Stewart.

Throwing a no-hitter through three, Meadowbrook's TJ Sasser began to lose his shine as St. Clairsville's Dustin Hynes slapped an infield dribbler back to the mound.

Hynes was able to make it to first as TJ Sasser tossed an overthrow to first advancing Hynes to second base. Next, Casey Tennant cranked a shot to left-center for an RBI double to put the game at 2-2.

The Red Devils continued to connect, but were denied on the bases as Meadowbrook catcher Tyler Sasser gunned down two runners in the course of the game.

"Tyler (Sasser) was throwing the ball well and he has always had a strong arm. He was really firing

See, RED DEVILS, Page C2

Blue Eagles Advance

Magnolia moves on with 1-0 shutout win

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

It has been a long, tough season for Martins Ferry head coach Josh Lucas and his youthful Purple Rider baseball team.

However, Tuesday night's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAA quarterfinal loss to No. 1 seed Magnolia may very well have been the icing on the cake.

Lucas watched his sophomore pitcher, Fred Owens, fire a no-hitter, fanning five and walking five, however, that was not enough as Blue Eagle senior ace Michael Blair equalled that accomplishment in a 1-0, rain-shortened, five-inning Magnolia victory at New Martinsville.

Blair needed just 67 pitches to complete his no-hitter, striking out eight and issuing just one free pass. Ferry's other two base runners reached on an error and a dropped third strike.

Meanwhile, after struggling in the first inning and throwing 31 pitches, Owens settled down and finished with 70.

However, four of his five walks came in the first inning and were the difference in the outcome.

"This is a very tough loss," Lucas admitted. "Both kids pitched very well today and it is really a shame that this thing had to work out like this and get cut to five innings."

"Magnolia is a very good team, but Freddie has just gotten better and better as the season has gone on. He is only a sophomore and he is tough to beat when he throws strikes."

"Once he found the strike zone today he was unhittable, unfortunately they were able to score a run off of him early when he was struggling. It is also too bad that the weather didn't cooperate today."

The only run of the game came in the first inning as Brandon Carroll, Zac Snyder and Josh Sims all walked to lead off the frame for Magnolia (13-5) before Blair's sacrifice fly to center field plated Carroll for a 1-0 lead. Both Snyder and Sims drew their free passes on 3-2 counts.

Cory Hardman then walked to load the bases again before Owens recorded a strikeout and groundout to end the threat.

Junior Jonas McEldowney worked a two-out walk in the bottom of the fourth, also on a 3-2 count, for the Eagles' only other base runner.

All three of the Riders' (3-14) runners would be stranded at first.

"I really don't know what you can even say about this game," Dave Cisar said jokingly. "We were able to get the only run we would need without a hit in the first inning."

"Both kids pitched very well, but Michael Blair was in command all the way. The conditions were terrible, but you have to give the Owens kid a lot of credit, he really gutted up after that tough first inning."

"Anything can happen in the game of baseball and that is what everyone saw here today. I am just very happy that we will be moving on and have the opportunity to play another OVAC game."

Please See EAGLES, Page 17

● Red Devils

Continued from Page C1

them tonight. He looked good," Norman commented about his catcher.

St. Clairsville kept chipping away at the Colts, loading the bases with no outs, but the Colts still managed to keep the Red Devils scoreless in the inning. The Red Devils ended the game leaving eight runners on base.

"We got a lot of timely hits, but just couldn't make the breaks on the base paths. We couldn't get the big hit and get the break we needed," Sliva admitted.

"Most of the year, we have been getting that hit in the gap and today, we definitely won with defense and pitching. We did enough to do the job and get more runs than they had and that's the key."

In the bottom of the seventh, the Red Devils' senior duo of Adam Myser and

Waggle took the game into their own hands. On a 3-0 count, Myser drilled a deep shot to left field for a double and was followed by a shot down left field line by Waggle for the game winning RBI.

"Adam hustles out a fly ball and it gets down for a double and Waggle has been hitting all year and gets the big hit," Sliva said.

"They (Myser and Waggle) have been strong four years since they've been here as have all the seniors. I am real happy for this win for them and hopefully we can keep winning some games and keep it going for them."

Cook can be reached via email at timesleader@timesleaderonline.com.

Linescore:

Meadowbrook 200 000 0 -- 2 4 3

St. Clairsville 001 100 1 -- 3 8 3

BATTERIES: TJ Sasser and Ty.

Sasser; Vensel and Myser.

Eagles

(Continued from Page 15)

That next game will be Saturday against the winner of the contest between No. 4 seed Harrison Central and No. 5 seed Union Local which was rained out yesterday.

"Overall, no one was able to hit the ball in these conditions, and with these two fine pitchers on the mound today. But we found a way to score a run and get the win."

"Michael (Blair) pitched a heck of a game and has really been in a groove for us the last couple of weeks. I know it is a tough loss for Martins Ferry, but they played well today and can leave with their heads held high."

Class AAAA
John Marshall 9,
East Liverpool 0

At Glen Dale, Shane Pysh and Karl George each recorded hits in a five-run first inning Tuesday as John Marshall blanked East Liverpool.

Pysh finished with a double and a run batted in for John Marshall (19-3), while George also had two RBIs.

Cy Mazingo picked up the win on the mound for the Monarchs, collecting 10 strikeouts and walking two.

Nick Turklay doubled and singled for the Potters.

The Monarchs advance to play the winner of Wheeling Park-Cambridge.

Class AA
Monroe Central 1,
Caldwell 1

(suspended in second inn.)
At Woodsfield, the Seminoles and Redskins played into the second inning before rain halted the contest.

Action will pick up today at 5 p.m.

Class A
Bishop Donahue 9,
Cameron 6

At Cameron, John Haglock blasted a fifth-inning grand slam that gave the Bishops the lead and a berth in the OVAC baseball semifinals.

Joe Ridsen added two doubles and an RBI for Bishop Donahue (10-12), while Mike Matheny added a homer, single and two RBIs.

Travis Smith homered and singled for the Dragons (10-10), while Jordan Simons rapped two singles.

The Bishops move on to play the winner of Shadyside and Bellaire St. John

Shadyside 6,
Bell. St. John 0
(game suspended
after two inn.)

At Shadyside, the Tigers had built a 6-run cushion before the rains hit at Fleming Field.

The contest will resume today at 5 p.m.

Prior to the rain, Shadyside's Mike Mientel had already fanned six batters from the mound, while also recording two singles and two RBIs.

SOFTBALL
Regular Season

Cameron 7, Hundred 1

At Pine Grove, Lacey Tustin struck out 11 and Sunni Hartley slapped two singles as the Dragons posted a win over the Hornets.

Kori Gouldsberry added a double and an RBI for Cameron (12-10).

Michelle Mackey and Shannon Bartrug each singled for Hundred.

Tigers Slam Fighting Irish

Shadyside's five-run first inning paved the way to 8-0 blanking over Bellaire St. John in the OVAC Class A quarterfinals Wednesday in Shadyside.

Michael Meintel singled twice and drove in a run while walking only one and striking out six on the mound.

Cody McCormick relieved Meintel on the mound in the fourth inning, striking out one and walking zero. This relief pitcher slammed a double, resulting in 2 RBIs.

Kraig Kubancik added an RBI for the Tigers, while Billy Merriam connected for two singles.

Shadyside (15-2) will take on Beallsville (16-1) Saturday in the semifinals.

Beallsville 8,

Weirton Madonna 3

At Beallsville, Beallsville's hitting drive pulled them ahead of Weirton Madonna.

The Blue Devils' Kent Price showed his value both at the plate and on the mound. He struck out 11 and drilled a home run and a single, tallying one RBI.

A.J. Thompson doubled and drove in two while Josh Hossman doubled and drove in one.

The Blue Devils (16-1) will be in action again on Saturday at Bridgeport for the OVAC A semifinal, against Shadyside (15-2).

Bobby Kovalik hit a two-run home run for Weirton Madonna, while Matt Ceran hit a triple.

Class AA

Monroe Central 11,

Caldwell 10

At Woodsfield, after Caldwell rallied to take the lead at the top of the seventh, Monroe Central (12-3) answered at the bottom of the frame when Kyle Singleton drove in the winning run.

Chris Leasure, the game's winning pitcher, slammed a home run and a single, tallying two RBIs. Singleton finished with three RBIs. Josh Turner singled, doubled and added an RBI, while Jonah Turner doubled and drove in one. Ryan Highman also doubled and drove in a runner.

Caldwell's Logan Clark and Travis Thompson both homered and drove in three.

Wheeling Central 3,

Shenandoah 0

At Wheeling, Eric Anthony struck out 10 as Wheeling Central picked up a win over Shenandoah.

Josh Edwards had a double and single for a RBI, while Brandon Taylor had two singles with an RBI.

Toronto 4, Fort Frye 0

At Toronto, Red Knight pitcher Travis Miller held Fort Frye to one hit as Toronto (20-3) blanked Fort Frye.

Jarred Welday hit three singles

and drove in a run. Zach Stewart had two hits, including a double, and drove in one.

Class AAA

Harrison Central 11,

Union Local 8

At Cadiz, Harrison Central (13-7) banged out 13 hits in advancing past Union Local.

Robbie Davis earned his winning pitcher status for the Huskies with eight strikeouts and only one walk.

Matt Bear ignited Harrison Central with two home runs and drove in four. Ben Hodgkinson's two singles and one double accounted for two RBIs, while teammate Dan Milleson's triple and single resulted in one RBI for the Huskies. Davia was credited with one RBI after hitting two singles and triple.

The Jets' Pec Schmitt slammed two doubles and a single on his way to three RBIs.

Indian Creek 11, Oak Glen 4

At Wintersville, Indian Creek's offensive power was too much for Oak Glen.

Winning pitcher Craig Johnston struck out seven and issued three walks on the mound and collected a pair of hits, including a double, for the Redskins.

Mike Wilson's slammed two singles and drove in four. Andy Thompson, with a double and a single, and Ron Sismondo recorded two RBIs each. Adam Walter had a single and an RBI.

Josh Greathouse doubled for Oak Glen.

Class AAAA

Edison 2, Weir 0

At Richmond, Edison's Aaron Hilt (six strikeouts, two walks) and Weir's Jason Gatto (eight strikeouts, four walks) battled on the mound, but the Wildcats (12-9) were able to push across

a run in the second and fifth innings on their way to a win.

Brooke 4, Buckeye Local 2

At Connorville, Brooke's Matt Taylor gained the win over Buckeye Local with eight strikeouts and three walks. At the plate, he singled and doubled.

Greg Verhovec tallied both runs for the Panthers from his two singles. Jade Waligura slammed a double as well.

REGULAR SEASON

St. Mary's 10, Paden City 5

At Paden City, St. Mary's nine-run first inning surge was enough to defeat Paden City.

Wes Cosper, Coty Meadows and Chris Smith all drove in runs for Paden City.

Magnolia 11-15,

Tyler Consolidated 0-4

At New Martinsville, Magnolia overpowered Tyler Consolidated in both games of a doubleheader.

In game one, Magnolia's Mike Blair had three RBIs from two singles. Corey Hardman's double drove in two runs, and Jonas McEldowney doubled and singled. Brandon Carroll connected three times for singles.

Tyler Consolidated's Rusty Swartzmiller had two singles.

In the second game, McEldowney led the Blue Eagles with a home run and two RBIs. Hardman sent home three runs with three singles.

Winning pitcher Kevin Snyder singled and drove in two. Zac Snyder, Evan Botizan, and Josh Sims all added RBIs.

Cameron 13, Hundred 3

At Cameron, Michael Scott had two hits and three RBIs to lead Cameron past Hundred.

Kyle Warsinsky and Jacob Koontz also added RBIs for the Dragons.

OVAC baseball title games set

The OVAC Baseball Committee has announced the schedule for Championship Saturday at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

All four OVAC baseball championships will be decided in the traditional quadruple-header that closes the book on the bi-state league's 2005-06 school year.

With the OVAC Class AAA and AAAA track meet set to wrap up earlier Saturday afternoon, the baseball winners will be the last of the conference's 62 team champions.

Action gets under way at 11 a.m. when St. Clairsville challenges defending champion Harrison Central in the Class AAA title tilt.

The Class AAAA final follows at 1:30 p.m. with Steubenville taking on Wheeling Park.

Wheeling Central and Toronto tangle for Class AA bragging rights at 4 p.m. with Linsly trying to defend its Class A championship against Shadyside at 6:30 p.m.

OVAC Baseball Finals

Saturday, May 6

(at Vaccaro Field)

Class AAA

St. Clairsville vs. Harrison Central, 11 a.m.

Class AAAA

Steubenville vs. Wheeling Park, 1:30 p.m.

Class AA

Toronto vs. Wheeling Central, 4 p.m.

Class A

Shadyside vs. Linsly, 6:30 p.m.

OVAC baseball semifinal pairings announced

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference announced semifinal pairings for this weekend's 2006 baseball tournament.

Games in all four divisions will be played Saturday at four sites.

Bridgeport's Perkins Field hosts the 1-A games. Bishop Donahue and Shadyside square off at 11 a.m. with Beallsville and Linsly vying at 2 p.m.

Class 2-A action is scheduled at Toronto where Steubenville Central and Wheeling Central battle at 11 a.m. followed by a 2 p.m. matchup between Monroe Central and host Toronto.

The 3-A semis will be contested at Bob Mazerowski Field in Cadiz. At 12 noon, Magnolia and Harrison Central collide. The second game at 3:00 has St. Clairsville opposing Indian Creek's Redskins.

Big school battles unfold at Brooke High in Wellsburg. The first 4-A semifinal has John Marshall meeting Wheeling Park at 11 a.m. while Edison and Steubenville tangle at 2 p.m.

Conference officials also announced game times for all baseball championship tilts to be played the following Saturday (May 6) at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field.

The 4-A title game begins at 11 a.m. with 3-A survivors meeting at 1:30 p.m. The Class 2-A championship begins at 4 p.m. with the small

school title tilt set for 6:30 p.m.

SEMI-FINAL PAIRINGS

CLASS 1-A at BRIDGEPORT

11 a.m. -- (5) Bishop Donahue vs. (1) Shadyside

2 p.m. -- (2) Beallsville vs. (3) Linsly

CLASS 2-A at TORONTO

11 a.m. -- (4) Wheeling Central vs. (1) Steubenville Central

2 a.m. -- (3) Monroe Central vs. (2) Toronto

CLASS 3-A at HARRISON CENTRAL

12:30 p.m. -- (4) Harrison Central vs. (1) Magnolia

3:30 p.m. -- (3) Indian Creek vs. (2) St. Clairsville

CLASS 4-A at BROOKE

11 p.m. -- (4) Edison vs. (1) Steubenville

2 p.m. -- (3) Wheeling Park vs. (2) John Marshall

Admission at all games is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students.

Finals will be played at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville on Saturday, May 6.



Bishop Donahue's A.J. Gordon (15) slides into second base safely as Shadyside's B.A. Holloway (25) waits for the throw during their OVAC Class A semifinal game in Bridgeport. Photo by Mike Harvilla

Tigers, Cadets Advance to Finals

By KIM APPOLLONI
For the News-Register

The OVAC A semi-final game's in Bridgeport could not have been more different.

The morning contest had top-seeded Shadyside squaring off with fifth ranked Bishop Donahue. The Tigers needed just five innings to blank the Bishops, 10-0, while the 2:00 game went extra innings. Third place finishing Linsly outlasted second ranked Beallsville, 8-6, to set up a third encounter between Linsly and Shadyside, next Saturday, in Steubenville for the OVAC 1-A banner.

In the opener, Shadyside head coach Gary Cunningham preached to his team prior to the game about making a statement with its play.

The Tiger youngsters were obviously listening.

The Orange and Black blanked the Bishops, 10-0, in five innings to advance to the championship round.

The Tigers, now 17-2, blasted two home runs in the opening inning, jumping out to a 5-0 lead.

From there pitcher Michael Meintel did the rest.

The hard-throwing right-hander proceeded to strike out the next dozen batters he faced, while the offense added five more tallies in the last three innings of the game.

Meintel moved his mound record to 6-0 on the season.

"He has only given up two runs all season," commented the personable Cunningham. "Even though his stats today were outstanding, remarkably this wasn't one of his most dominating performances."

Bishop Donahue and the crowd in attendance would be scratching their heads about Cunningham's assessment after watching Meintel fan 13 out-of-15 batters. He amassed 12 Ks in a row at game's end.

The hurler notched his 76th strikeout and his second no-hitter of the season. Meintel now has three stingy performances on his illustrious career resume.

"It was a lot of fun out there today," stated a smiling Meintel. "My catcher Cody McCormick got me fired up early with a great shot to second for the third out of the inning. Then he blasts a three run homer in the bottom of the inning. The guys hit the ball well today."

Cunningham added, "Making it to the OVAC finals was certainly one of our goals. We only have one senior on the team, so I wasn't sure how focused we would be today because we 10-runned them earlier in the season. We came out ready to play, we were looking to make a statement, and we did."

Sophomore Billy Merryman singled and stole second to

chasing Francis. The crew from McMechen couldn't get Francis, so they went for Meintel. When the dust cleared, both runners were safe setting the stage for McCormick's blast.

McCormick smashed a shot to left center that traveled 365 feet, making the count 4-0. Sophomore Ross Palicka followed with a solo dinger, his first ever round-tripper.

Meintel proved he can do it at the dish as well as on the mound. He connected for a two-bag RBI in the third. He scored on a passed ball for a, 7-0, lighting. Shadyside scored a pair in the fourth and another in the fifth to end the game.

Linsly 8, Beallsville 6
At Bridgeport, senior slugger Bill Zavatsky crushed a 350-foot solo shot over the left field fence in the top of the 10th inning to give the Cadets a 7-6 advantage. Pinch-runner Andrew Kozosko tagged on Steve Pavlock's sacrifice to deep center for an insurance run making the Devils face an 8-6 deficit in the bottom of the inning.

"I've had a lot of games in my 33-year career," stated retiring Cadet skipper, Gary Sprague. "This was one of the best games I have been involved in. It was a game that no one should have to lose. Both teams battled the entire way."

Beallsville head coach Patrick Wells may not have as many games under his belt as Sprague, but the two coaches were both a little emotional after the game. "This hurts and I know my team is disappointed," stated a dejected Patrick Wells. "We have had a great season and it isn't over by a long shot, but we really wanted to get to the finals and face Shadyside."

The second year coach continued, "I don't want my kids to hang their heads, we were beat by a quality team. They are solid every year. We didn't get down after trailing early. I looked in their eyes. We believed we were going to win. I'm proud of them and we need to put this behind us and get ready for next week."

Sophomore Joe Jividen picked up the win in relief of Zavatsky. Zavatsky battled for eight innings before Jividen threw the last two.

"It was a warm day, and Bill was over 100 pitches. He was getting a little tired. We needed to make the change and I was pleased with the way both pitchers threw," said Sprague.

It was a good at bat indeed. The talented senior paced the Cadets at the plate with a pair of singles, the solo homer and three ribbies. On the mound he was also solid. Zavatsky whiffed 12 batters, issued six passes and pitched his way out

sive end for the winners was a slew of hitters. Tyler Jividen had two singles. Jason Pyles ripped a double. First baseman Luke Cecil had an RBI single early and added a base hit late in the game. Corby Wilson and Taylor Cecil each smacked a pair of hits. Pavlock had a single and an RBI.

Beallsville's Josh Hossman and Jimmy Reisz both cracked run-scoring hits. Tony Stephens and Kent Price had two base hits apiece. Bryan Bilyeu and Kevin Stoney chipped in with base hits.

OVAC CLASS AA Semifinals Toronto 10,

Monroe Central 0

At Toronto, Dustin Coil not only threw a four-hit shutout but drove in a run to help his own cause as the Red Knights (21-3) defeated Monroe Central in the OVAC semifinals.

Travis Miller had two singles and a double for three RBIs in the win.

Wheeling Central 14, Steubenville Catholic 9

At Steubenville, Brandon Taylor had four hits and drove in a run while pitching three innings of relief as the Maroon Knights took a slugfest from the Crusaders.

Eric Baker had three singles and two RBIs and Eli Popieg had two singles and 3 RBIs for Wheeling Central.

Brian DeFranco had a double and a single for an RBI for the Crusaders.

REGULAR SEASON

Shenandoah 10-3, River 0-4

At Hannibal, the Pilots (6-13) pushed across an unearned run in the bottom of the sixth to split a twinbill with the Zeps.

In the first game, Shenandoah's Drew West threw a five-hit shutout in a shortened game.

River's Troy Starr had four hits in the doubleheader.

Oak Glen 8-4, Buckeye Local 4-12

At Yorkville, the Bruins and Panthers split a doubleheader.

In the first game, junior Brad Lahr threw a complete game four hitter in Oak Glen's victory.

In the second, Buckeye Local's Colin McCoy drove in three runs while striking out eight hitters in three innings.

OVAC CLASS A SEMIFINAL	
Shadyside 10, Bishop Donahue 0	
Bishop Donahue	000 00 - 0 0 3
Shadyside	502 21 - 10 8 0
B -	Gordon and Haglock.
S -	Meintel and McCormick.
Linsly, Beallsville 6	
Linsly	210 010 110 2 - 8 11 5
Beallsville	010 310 010 0 - 6 8 2
L -	Zavatsky, J. Jividen (9) and Wilson
B -	Jones, Stephens (8) and Stoney.
OVAC CLASS AA SEMIFINAL	
Wheeling Central 14, Steubenville Catholic 9	
Whg Central	000 671 0 - 14 18 1
Steub. Central	300 220 2 - 9 7 1
W -	Miller (4SO, 5W), Taylor wp (1SO, 1W) and Vanl. Taylor 3S, D; rbi; Storm

out-of-15 batters. He amassed 12 Ks in a row at game's end. The hurler notched his 76th strikeout and his second no-hitter of the season. Meintel now has three stingy performances on his illustrious career resume.

"It was a lot of fun out there today," stated a smiling Meintel. "My catcher Cody McCormick got me fired up early with a great shot to second for the third out of the inning. Then he blasts a three run homer in the bottom of the inning. The guys hit the ball well today."

Cunningham added, "Making it to the OVAC finals was certainly one of our goals. We only have one senior on the team, so I wasn't sure how focused we would be today because we 10-ran them earlier in the season. We came out ready to play, we were looking to make a statement, and we did."

Sophomore Billy Merryman singled and stole second to start the Tiger first. Junior Clifton Francis drilled a hit, chasing in Merryman. Francis advanced to second on the throw home. Meintel stepped in and reached when the Bishops attempted to get Francis out when he got stuck in a run-down situation between second and third.

Meintel turned to go to second while the Bishops were

Shadyside."

The second year coach continued, "I don't want my kids to hang their heads, we were beat by a quality team. They are solid every year. We didn't get down after trailing early. I looked in their eyes. We believed we were going to win. I'm proud of them and we need to put this behind us and get ready for next week."

Sophomore Joe Jividen picked up the win in relief of Zavatsky. Zavatsky battled for eight innings before Jividen threw the last two.

"It was a warm day, and Bill was over 100 pitches. He was getting a little tired. We needed to make the change and I was pleased with the way both pitchers threw," said Sprague.

It was a good at bat indeed. The talented senior paced the Cadets at the plate with a pair of singles, the solo homer and three ribbies. On the mound he was also solid. Zavatsky whiffed 12 batters, issued six passes and pitched his way out of several jams. Jividen chipped in with two Ks and a walk.

Opposing ace Jimmy Jones did his share to keep the Devils in contention. Jones sat down five and walked four batters. Classmate Tony Stephens came on in the ninth to suffer the loss. Stephens had one strikeout and hit a batter.

Lending support on the offen-

five-hit shutout in a shortened game.

River's Troy Starr had four hits in the doubleheader.

Oak Glen 8-4, Buckeye Local 4-12

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In the second, Buckeye Local's Colin McCoy drove in three runs while striking out eight hitters in three innings.

OVAC CLASS A SEMIFINAL
Shadyside 10, Bishop Donahue 0
Bishop Donahue 000 00 — 0 0 3
Shadyside 502 21 — 10 8 0

B — Gordon and Haglock.
S — Meintel and McCormick.
Linsly, Beallsville 6
Linsly 210 010 110 2 — 8 11 5
Beallsville 010 310 010 0 — 6 8 2

L — Zavatsky, J. Jividen (9) and Wilson
B — Jones, Stephens (8) and Stoney.

OVAC CLASS AA SEMIFINAL

Wheeling Central 14, Steubenville Catholic 9
Whg Central 000 671 0 — 14 18 1
Steub. Central 300 220 2 — 9 7 1
W — Miller (4SO, 5W), Taylor wp (1SO, 1W) and Vani. Taylor 3S, D; rbi; Storm S, D, rbi; Popicg 2S, 3rbi; Baker 3S, 2rbi.
S — DeFranco 1p (2SO, 4W), Emerling (4) (1SO, 5W) and Hawrot. DeFranco S, D, rbi; Ashmead S, 3rbi.

Toronto 10, Monroe Central 0
Monroe Central 000 00 — 0 4 2
Toronto 070 12 — 10 8 2

M — Winland (0SO, 6W), Leasure (2) (1SO, 1W) and Turner.
T — Coil (4SO, 2W) and Freshwater. Miller 2S, D, 3rbi; Stone S, rbi; Coil S, rbi; Stewart S, rbi.

Harrison Central advances in OVAC baseball tourney

By KIM APPOLLONI
Times Leader Sports Writer

Get out the calculator.

When Union Local and Harrison Central meet on a baseball diamond, the score is more indicative of a defensive football struggle than it is a baseball game. The Huskies outscored the Jets, 11-8, last evening in Cadiz in an OVAC AAA quarter-final match up.

With the win Mike Saffell's squad improves to 13-7, thus moving on to Saturday's semifinal round, where they will face Magnolia. The Blue Eagles escaped with a 1-0 win over Matins Ferry on Tuesday.

"We seem to score a lot of runs when we face each other (Union Local)," stated Saffell. "We haven't played in a while and I was worried about being rusty, but we had no problems at the plate."

The defending AAA champions were paced by senior slugger Matt Bear. Bear smashed a pair of two-run dingers that proved too much for the invaders from Belmont County. Bear's blasts were his fourth and fifth of the season.

With the second slam in the sixth stanza Bear established two new Huskies' records. The second shot marked the second time in a season that a HC hitter slammed a pair of homers. Ironically both came against UL. Five home runs in a season is also a new standard.

"I told the guys before the game that no one has scored more runs on Harrison Central than we have," commented Rich Mercer.

The Jets jumped out with three tallies in the first inning behind starting pitcher Pec Schmitt's two-run double. Schmitt advanced to home plate via a pair of wild pitches for a, 3-0, lighting.

The Huskies took the lead in the second inning 4-3. Junior dandy Ben Hodkinson cracked a double to right field chasing in senior Dan Millison. Millison cracked an RBI single after Trevor McCue put one on the right side to score Mike Valesko, who reached with a base hit.

The two clubs would continue to one-up each other in the scoring column before Sophomore flame thrower Robbie Davia settled in and let his offense take over. Davia quieted the Jets in the fifth and sixth innings. Bear sealed the deal with his second homer in the sixth.

Davia notched the mound decision in a complete game effort. He fanned eight, walked one and hit one. Schmitt suffered the loss. He struck out a pair, passed one to first and hit another before junior Travis Stephens entered in the fourth inning with no outs, trailing 8-7.

Backing Bear at the plate were a host of Harrison hitters. Millison added a triple to his RBI single. Hodkinson ended with two singles, a double and an RBI. Davia helped his cause with two singles and a triple. Stu Sullivan cracked a three-bagger. McCue ended with a pair of RBIs.

The Jets had several stand outs at the plate.

Schmitt was the leader with two doubles, a single and three RBIs. Dylan DeVore had a pair of hits and an RBI. Logan Pruitt smacked an RBI double and added a base hit. Jordan Barbina had a three-bagger.

Shadyside 8 St. John 0

Shadyside's five-run first inning paved the way to 8-0 blanking over Bellaire St. John in the OVAC Class A quarterfinals Wednesday in Shadyside.

Michael Meintel singled twice and drove in a run while walking only one and striking out six on the mound.

Cody McCormick relieved Meintel on the mound in the fourth inning, striking out one and walking zero. This relief pitcher slammed a double, resulting in 2 RBIs.

Kraig Kubancik added an RBI for the Tigers, while Billy Merryman connected for two singles.

Beallsville 8 Weirton Madonna 3

At BEALLSVILLE, Beallsville's hitting drive pulled them ahead of Weirton Madonna.

The Blue Devils' Kent Price showed his value both at the plate and on the mound. He struck out 1 and drilled a home run and a single, tallying one RBI.

Class AA

Monroe Central 11 Caldwell 10

At WOODSFIELD, after Caldwell rallied to take the lead at the top of the seventh, Monroe Central (12-3) answered at the bottom of the frame when Kyle Singleton drove in the winning run.

Chris Leasure, the game's winning pitcher, slammed a home run and a single, tallying two RBIs. Singleton finished with three RBIs. Josh Turner singled, doubled and added an RBI, while

Regular Season

Brooke 4 Buckeye Local 2

At CONNORVILLE, Brooke's Matt Taylor gained the win over Buckeye Local with eight strikeouts and three walks. At the plate, he singled and doubled.

Greg Verhovec tallied both runs for the Panthers from his two singles. Jade Waligura slammed a double as well.

Linescores:

Indian Creek 11 Oak Glen 1
Oak Glen 000 01 — 1 1 5
Indian Creek 404 03 — 11 11 0
BATTERIES: Winters, Eckleberry (4) and Dijorlano; Johnston and Sismondo.
Beallsville 8 Weirton Madonna 3
Weirton Madonna 002 001 0 — 3 2 0
Beallsville 121 004 x — 8 9 0
BATTERIES: Kovalik and Reese; Price, Bilyeu (7) and Stoney.
Shadyside 8 St. John Central 0
St. John 000 000 0 — 0 3 2
Shadyside 510 020 x — 8 6 0
BATTERIES: Dobrovich 1p and Kasproski, Meintel, McCormick (4) and McCormick, Kubancik (4).
Brooke 4 Buckeye Local 2
Brooke 200 110 0 — 4 6 2
Buckeye Local 101 000 0 — 2 6 4
BATTERIES: Taylor and Benham; Beaver and Verhovec.
HARRISON CENTRAL 11, UNION LOCAL 8
Union Local 301 300 1 — 8 10 1
Harrison Central 132 212 x — 11 12 2
BATTERIES: P. Schmitt, Stephens (4) and Kolanski, Davia and Gibson.
MONROE CENTRAL 11 CALDWELL 10
Caldwell 011 023 3 — 10 8 2
Monroe Central 106 021 1 — 11 12 2
BATTERIES: Nau, Hesson (5) and Neff; Highman, Ch. Leasure (6) and Jon. Turner

Bainbridge Homer Leads Big Red

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

Steubenville's Lee Bainbridge has been finding a way to put the ball over the fence all season long.

Saturday in the OVAC Class 4A semifinals, he hit his most dramatic of them all.

Bainbridge hit a two-run, walk-off home run to lead Big Red to a 4-3 win over Edison at Brooke High School.

"I just came to the plate looking for something to rip," Bainbridge said.

And rip it he did.

Entering the bottom of the seventh down 3-2, Zach Collaros walked to begin the inning, setting the stage for Bainbridge's heroics.

The senior took the 0-1 fastball over the leftfield fence to earn a date against Wheeling Park, a 5-3 win over John Marshall earlier in the day, Saturday at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

"We battled to the end," Steubenville coach Fred Heatherington said. "We didn't do a lot of things well today.

"We didn't run the bases well, we didn't hit well, we didn't pitch well, but we played as a team and we stayed together and we got it done in the end."

Matt Belardine started opened the bottom of the first inning with a single, advancing to third on two straight wild pitches by Edison hurler David Rawson.

After a Collaros walk, Bainbridge reached on a fielders choice, and Belardine was able to come home for the score.

The Wildcats looked like they

would strike back in the third inning as they loaded the bases with no outs.

Instead, Steven Shepherd grounded to short, where Collaros fired to home to force out Drew Powley at the plate.

Next, Corey Keenan flied out to right fielder Belardine who fired a perfect throw to catcher Mike Mort, who blocked the plate and tagged out Andy Stine to escape the threat.

"I thought after the inning they were a little deflated, but they quickly put that behind them and battled back," Edison coach Bill Beattie said.

Big Red added another run in the bottom of the fourth on an RBI single by Justin Mavromatis that brought in Steve Davis to make the score 2-0.

Edison quickly turned the game in their favor in top of the fifth.

Stine started the frame with a walk, followed by an Art Fetty single. A sacrifice bunt by Steve Shepherd put the runners on third and fourth.

On the ensuing pitch to Keenan, the designated hitter swung and went down in pain. His teammates carried him off the field and Cory Wickham replaced him at the plate.

Wickham sent Steubenville pitcher Sam Busic's pitch towards the gap for a two RBIs and a stand-up double to tie the game.

The next batter, David Miller, sent a liner up the middle for a single, and centerfielder Anthony Gossett fumbled the ball, allowing Wickham to score

from second and give the Wildcats their first lead of the game.

"The last two times we played Big Red, they embarrassed us," Beattie said. "I asked our kids to give us one thing and that was to play hard and they did that."

Rawson shut down Big Red the next two innings, allowing no hits and striking out three batters.

The next hit he allowed was Bainbridge's bomb to end the game.

"Rawson pitched great today and had us swinging at pitches we shouldn't have been swinging at," Heatherington said. "Luckily, we had some good guys up at the plate at the end."

Added Bainbridge: "I went at it like any other at bat, and there were no doubts because of my great teammates behind me."

Big Red lost in last year's final to John Marshall.

Wheeling Park 5, John Marshall 3

At Wellsburg, Adam Lewton hit three singles for two RBIs as Wheeling Park dethroned reigning OVAC champion John Marshall to advance to the OVAC Class 4A finals.

Mike Hockenberry connected with two doubles, Dillon Mangino had two singles, and Ronnie Green and Dan Caryll each had a double in the win.

Cy Mozingo struck out 13 batters and hit two singles in a losing effort.

CLASS AAA St. Clairsville 6, Indian Creek 3

At Cadiz, Casey Tennent struck out nine hitters to lead the Red Devils to a win over the Redskins.

The St. Clairsville hitting attack was led by Fred Holub and Dusfin Hynes. Holub collected three singles and both drove in two runs.

Tim Ohalek collected three extra base hits in a losing cause for Indian Creek and also on in long relief, hurling the final four innings.

Harrison Central 7, Magnolia 3

At Cadiz, Harrison Central (15-8) jumped out to a 6-0 lead after four and a half innings and six different players drove in runs to lead the Huskies to a win.

Donald Norris doubled and drove in two runs to lead the Harrison Central attack, while Jacob Graham picked up the win fanning five.

The Eagles' Kale Street hit a two-run home run in the bottom of the fifth in a losing cause.

CLASS AAAA
Steubenville 4, Edison 3
Edison 000 030 0 — 3 9 1
Steubenville 100 100 2 — 4 4 3
E — Rawson lp (8SO, 7W) and McCoy.
Wickham D, 2rbi; Miller 2S; Anderson 2S.
S — Busic wp (6SO, 1W) and Mort.
Bainbridge HR, 2rbi.

Wheeling Park 5, John Marshall 3
Wheeling Park 102 101 0 — 5 10 2
John Marshall 003 000 0 — 3 6 2
W — Estep (0SO, 1W), Autton (2) (0SO, 3), Sambuco wp (4) (0SO, 3W), Platt (7) (2SO, 1W) and Lewton. Green D; Hockenberry 2D, rbi; Lewton 3S, rbi; Kettlewell 5, 2rbi; Caryll D.
J — Mozingo lp (13SO, 1W) and Novick. Mozingo 2S; Edge D.

CLASS AAA
St. Clairsville 6, Indian Creek 3
Indian Creek 000 102 0 — 3 6 3
St. Clairsville 013 200 0 — 6 10 0
I — Walter lp (3SO, 2W), Ohalek (3) (3SO, 2W) and Johnston. Ohalek 2D, HR, rbi; Wilson 2S, rbi; Sismondo S, rbi.
S — Tennent wp (9SO, 1W), Riddle (7) (0SO, 0W) and Myser. Waggle S, T, rbi; Hynes S, D, 2rbi; Holub 3S, 2rbi.

Harrison Central 7, Magnolia 3
Harrison Central 310 021 0 — 7 14 0
Magnolia 000 021 0 — 3 7 2
H — Graham wp (6SO, 3W), Hodgkinson (7) (1SO, 0W) and Gibson. Millison 3S, rbi; Hodgkinson 2S, rbi; Davis 2S, D, rbi; Bear S, D, rbi; Norris D, 2rbi; Valesko D, rbi.
M — Blair lp (6SO, 0W) and Mason. Street S, HR, 2rbi; Mason D; Snyder S, rbi.

Fond farewell

• Linsly takes 1A title in Sprague's final year

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

Not many retire from a sport and get to go out on top.

Linsly's Gary Sprague is on the short list after Saturday evening's decisive 16-2 five-inning win over top-seeded Shadyside at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field.

Sprague and chief assistant Terry Depew will retire from the Cadet coaching boxes after a career in which Linsly won 13 OVAC titles.

"It's great to go out on top," Sprague said. "We didn't do much, but our teams did."

While Linsly ends its season with a 20-4 record, Shadyside falls to 19-3 and will have to shake off this setback before Tuesday's sectional final against Frontier at Bridgeport.

"We'll be back," said Shadyside skipper Gary Cunningham. "We've got the sectional final on Tuesday and I think it will be a different story. We beat Linsly twice during the season, and we felt confident, but it just wasn't our night."

"Give all of the credit to Linsly and Coach Sprague. We feel honored to be a part of his last game. He's a class act and baseball in the Ohio Valley will definitely miss him."

Linsly jumped on the Tigers in the first with a two-out, two-run home run by Pat Ohrman.

The Cadets pushed it back to a two-run cushion at 3-1 when Luke Cecil deposited a Cody McCormick offering over the center-field fence.

The Cadets' offense went back to work in the fourth, striking four more times. Steve Pavlock had a two-run single to spark the rally.

The wheels fell completely off for the Tigers in the fifth when Linsly sent 13 hitters to plate and scored nine runs.

Tyler Jividen had a RBI single as did Pavlock and catcher Corby Wilson.

Shadyside was also guilty of three errors in the inning, which helped to fuel the rally.

"It just snow-balled on us (in the fifth)," Cunningham said. "Once our kids starting hanging their heads it was tough to come back from."

All told the Cadets pounded out 11 hits and the Tigers were guilty of four fielding blunders.

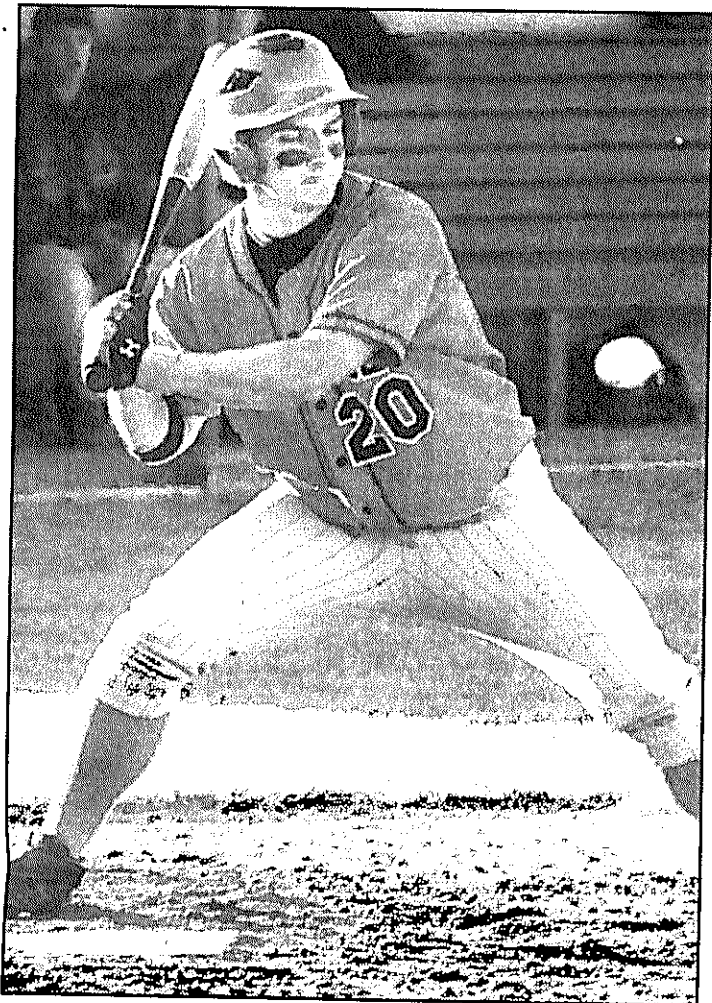
Linsly pitching -- which included starter Billy Zavatsky and reliever Warren Hammel -- limited the Tigers to just two singles. Matt Garrett had a RBI base knock and Luke Horvath had a sin-

'It's great to go out on top.'

— Linsly's Gary Sprague

See, LINSLY, Page B5

SPORTS



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

SHADYSIDE'S Cliff Francis gets a good look at a pitch during Saturday's OVAC 1A Championship game. Linsly took the title in coach Gary Sprague's final season at the helm.

● **Linsly**

Continued from Page B1

gle.
 "We had a lot of walks, but it will still go down as a two-hitter," Sprague said. "We pitched well enough and our defense got us out of some situations."

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

Linescore:

Linsly 210 49 16 11 1

Shadyside 110 00 2 2 4

BATTERIES: Zavatsky, Hammel (3) and Wilson. McCormick, Merryman (5), Butts (5), Kubancik and McCormick (5).

Park beats Big Red for 4A title

By **JOSH STROPE**
 For The Times Leader

A couple of weeks ago, Wheeling Park traveled to Vaccaro Field in Steubenville for a matchup with Big Red.

The result -- Steubenville laying the lumber to the tune of a 14-2 victory.

Wheeling Park was bound and determined not to let that history repeat itself and came away with a 7-4 victory to claim the OVAC Class AAAA Championship.

"I've never been around a more resilient group of guys in my entire life," Wheeling Park head coach Chad Stout. "They are never satisfied, and they are always wanting more."

"Because they love baseball, they want everything they do to be positive."

Steubenville got on the board first in the bottom of the first inning when Mike Mort singled home Zach Collaros.

The Patriots, who set a school record with 22 wins in a season, bounced right back.

Ronnie Green hit a two-out triple that brought home his brother, Ronnell, to tie the score.

Wheeling Park didn't stop there.

The Patriots fired away in the fourth, Dan Caryll's double brought home Dillon Mangino, and then came home himself on a Ronnie Green single.

The two runs in the inning forced Steubenville starting pitcher Sam Basic from the game after giving up six hits, two walks, and striking out three.

Wheeling Park starter Jim Estep kept Big Red at bay, allowing the Patriots to pile on.

Wheeling Park scored another two runs in the fifth to take a 5-1 advantage.

But like every good team, you can never count them out.

Steubenville entered the bottom of the fifth needing a spark.

After Anthony Gossett was hit by a pitch, Collaros brought him home with an RBI triple.

Lee Bainbridge, the hero of the semifinal come-from-behind win over Edison, sent a routine fly out to left field that would seemingly end the inning, but leftfielder Cory Brown dropped the ball allowing Collaros to score from third.

Big Red stayed alive in the next-at bat from Mike Mort.

Mort appeared to ground out to third, but the ball was mis-played by third baseman Caryll for back-to-back errors that kept the rally alive.

Steve Davis brought home Bainbridge with a single, as Big Red closed the gap to one.

Tom Brown was walked to load the bases, but Wheeling Park held off the damage by getting Justin Mavromatis to fly out to center.

"We compared this to a heavyweight fight, and in that fight, Steubenville was probably the favorite," Stout said. "We knew we were going to take some blows but we felt if we could get in some big shots early on, we might be able to hold on and win the fight."

"Steubenville delivered a big blow in fifth inning that could have knocked us out, but we got right back up and starting punching some more."

Wheeling Park entered the final inning leading 5-4, but added two insurance runs in the final frame.

Heath Beecher started the inning with a single, followed by a Mangino double.

Tom Kettlewell brought home Beecher with a single, and Ronnie Green brought home Mangino with a sacrifice fly.

Estep shut down the heart of Big Red's order in the bottom of the seventh for a complete game win.

He allowed seven hits, walked one, and struck out five.

"One of our goals this season was to get to hang this banner in our gym and another was to exceed the school win total and we have done both," Stout said. "They have worked so hard to become a team on-and off the field."

"They hang out with each other, care for each other, love each other, and they take it upon themselves to be the very best they can be."

Wheeling Park 7, Steubenville 4

Wheeling Park 010 220 2 -- 7 14 2

Steubenville 100 030 0 -- 4 7 1

W -- Estep wp (5SO, 1W) and Lewton. Ronnie Green T, 2S, 2rbi; Hockenberry 2S; Lewton S, D; Mangino S, D; Kettlewell 2S, rbi; Caryll D, rbi.

S -- Basic lp (3SO, 1W), Canestraro (4) (2SO, 2W) and Mort. Collaros 2S, T, rbi; Mort S, rbi; Dava S, rbi.

OVAC BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sprague Closes Career on High Note

By TRACY WATSON
For the News-Register

When Linsly head baseball coach Gary Sprague and his assistant Terry DePew took over the Cadet program in 1982, the Wheeling-based school quickly posted a 20-4 record and an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship.

In a bit of irony, the Linsly dynamic duo watched Saturday night as the Cadets capped another 20-4 campaign with their 13th and final OVAC title in their last game on the Linsly School bench.

After putting on an early power display, the Cadets took advantage of Shadyside mistakes in the final two frames to post a lopsided 16-2, five-inning, victory over the Tigers in front of an appreciative crowd at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville in the Class A title tilt.

Not only did the victory atone for a pair of regular season losses to 19-3 record, and top-seeded, Shadyside, it also denied coach Gary Cunningham's Tigers their first OVAC baseball crown.

"This is going to be our last game ever," Sprague said of

"And it is great to go out on top, the same way we came into this. But I also want to point out that our teams have accumulated all of these wins and championships."

Gary Sprague

DePew and himself afterwards. "And it is great to go out on top, the same way we came into this. But I also want to point out that our teams have accumulated all of these wins and championships."

"Jay Cartwright will be taking over the Linsly baseball program next year and he will try to keep this thing going. There is also not enough I can say about Terry DePew and what he has meant to me as my assistant coach all of these years."

The Tigers biggest downfall would be the Cadets ability to score two-out runs. In the first inning Jason Pyles would stroke a two-out single just ahead of Pat Ohrman's blast over the leftfield fence for a quick 2-0 lead.

Shadyside would use a walk, stolen base, fielder's choice and a Linsly error to cut the margin to 2-1 in the bottom of the frame.

However, Luke Cecil's mammoth shot deep over the left-centerfield fence in the second pushed the margin to 3-1.

The count would be 3-2 in the fourth when Linsly would put together a little more two-out magic to take command. After getting two quick outs, losing pitcher Cody McCormick walked the next three batters he faced just ahead of Steve Pavlock's two-run single.

The designated visitors would add two more on a Tiger error for a 7-2 reading after four. But things would only get worse for the Belmont County squad.

Sprague's team would add

nine runs in the decisive fifth, on just five hits, three Shadyside miscues, two bases loaded walks and a hit batsman. A total of five different Cadets would knock in runs, with 10 straight batters reaching base and 13 coming to the dish.

"We had a shot with the bases loaded and only down 3-2 in the second, but we just couldn't get the big hit," Cunningham admitted. "I thought that really could have made the difference, or at least let us stay in the game."

"But we didn't play our way and things fell apart quickly and just snowballed. This team hates to lose and it will be a different story Tuesday night in our sectional."

"It would have been very nice to have won this, but our main focus is the sectionals and districts right now and that is what we have to look at."

"I would also like to say that this whole thing should be about Gary Sprague. He is a great coach and has done so much for baseball in the Ohio Valley and he will really be missed."

See, Sprague, Page B4

Huge First Frame Boosts Toronto to Title

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

The Toronto Red Knights have been one of the most successful teams in the Ohio Valley this year in part to their ability to jump out to a lead and let their pitchers do the rest.

And that's exactly how they managed to claim the OVAC Class AA championship with an 8-3 win over Wheeling Central.

The Maroon Knights sent their ace, Eric Anthony, to the mound but Toronto was up to the challenge.

The Red Knights' first three batters — Mike Freshwater, Aaron Miller, and Jake Stone — all reached base and Mike Ludwig got the game's first RBI with a sacrifice fly to right field.

Travis Miller walked to reload the bases, and Jared Welday hit a two-run double to right field.

Dustin Coil, the Toronto starting pitcher, helped his own cause with an RBI double

in the frame that brought home Welday.

The Red Knights batted around in the opening frame for a 5-0 first inning lead, more than enough for Coil to work with.

Anthony threw 39 pitches in the first inning.

The Red Knights put more pressure on the senior, scoring three more times in the third inning and forcing him from the contest.

"It just wasn't his day," Wheeling Central coach Jim Wodusky said. "He struggled, but he's a senior and he's our most reliable pitcher and we know we he will be able to put this game behind him and get focused on the sectionals."

Anthony only got one batter out in the third.

Welday started off the second inning by reaching second base on an error by centerfielder Morgan McCormick.

Max King walked and Coil reached on a perfectly executed bunt single to load the bases.

Welday scored on a wild pitch and Freshwater brought home King with an RBI single.

R.J. Miller enter the game for Anthony to face Aaron Miller.

The Red Knights' second baseman tried to execute a suicide squeeze, but missed contact.

Maroon Knights' catcher Zach Vani fired to third, but threw the ball in the outfield as Coil came home easily for the eighth run.

"It was important for us to show up today against a good team like Wheeling Central," Toronto coach Brian Perkins said. "We got off to a good start and we knew we just had to stay focused."

Coil was plenty focused on the mound.

The senior struck out 10 batters in the complete game victory.

"Dustin has had some big games in his career, especially last year in the regionals," Perkins said. "He has a lot of confidence and when he has

that, you see the kind of good effort you are gonna get from him."

Wheeling Central got on the board in the fourth inning with an RBI double by McCormick.

It added two more in the sixth as Eli Popicg scored after two errors by Toronto right fielder King on a ball hit by P.J. Henry, and Henry scored on a single by McCormick.

"We just need to regroup, refocus and take things one game at a time," Wodusky said.

SPRAGUE

Continued from page B3

"Shadyside High School is honored to just be a part of his last game as a head coach."

While the Tigers were the recipients of nine walks and stranded nine batters in the game, Bill Zavatsky and winning pitcher Warren Hammel combined on a two-hitter for the Cadets. Matt Garrett would get an RBI-single in the second while Luke Horvath added a base hit in the fifth.

Zavatsky also singled and double and chased home a run while Pavlock singled twice and plated three and Ohrman added a single to go along with his home run.

"We hit a lot of flares tonight and balls that had eyes and dropped in," Sprague added. "Sometimes you hit the ball hard and it is caught and some-

times you hit it easy and it isn't caught. It can really come down to a matter of inches.

"It really wasn't a pitching gem from our side, but the scorebook still says it was a combined two-hitter and it was good enough for the win."

"I thought Cody McCormick had good command and control on the mound for them, but I think he just ran out of gas in the end."