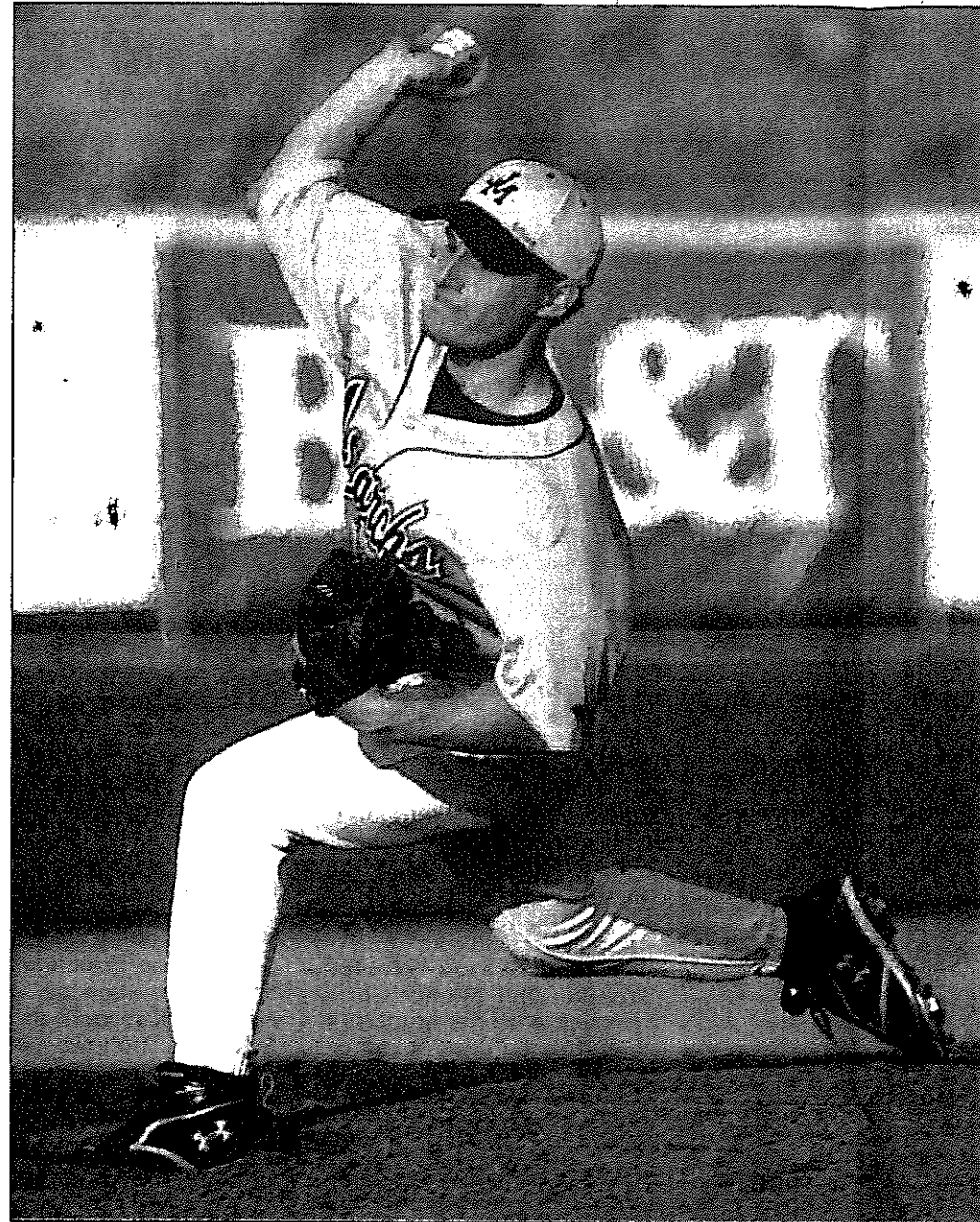


OVAC Baseball Tournament



John Marshall starting pitcher Zane Madden works to the plate during Tuesday night's game against Buckeye Local. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Monarchs All Madden

JM hurler has 2-hit shutout vs. Panthers

By MIKE HUGHES
Staff Writer

John Marshall broke out the bats early in a 10-0, six-inning rout of Buckeye Local in an OVAC Class AAAA quarterfinal matchup Tuesday at Glen Dale.

The Monarchs advance to Saturday afternoon's semifinals at Brooke High School opposite Edison. The third-seeded Wildcats needed extra innings to vanquish Weir, winning 4-3 in 10.

"Overall, I thought we hit the ball well," John Marshall coach Bob Montgomery said. "Their pitcher threw a lot of off-speed and breaking pitches and we swung at a few bad ones."

"But I'd say this was a good game for us overall."

"Buckeye's record is not indicative of how good they are."

The Monarchs pounded out 13 hits off Panthers starter Jake Waligura and reliever Norman Wright in scoring their 10 runs.

Although one or two runs seemingly would have done the trick.

Zane Madden took the mound for the fourth time this season and proved why

Montgomery continues to hand his budding sophomore the ball.

Madden fired a two-hit shutout, surrendering only singles to Colin McCoy in the fourth and Cameron McKim in the first.

"Zane pitched well," Montgomery said. "He's pretty much had four straight games like that."

Earlier this month, Madden drew a start against Steubenville and held Big Red to two runs in a 5-2 victory that saw the young righty strike out seven against three walks.

He also owns a one-run, four-hit gem against East Fairmont.

Tuesday was pretty much more of the same from Madden.

He struck out five without issuing a walk, requiring only 60 pitches in six innings to close out the game.

After giving up a leadoff single to McKim to start the game, Madden proceeded to retire the next 12 batters before a well-placed bunt from McCoy that died along the third-base line allowed another runner aboard to start the fourth.

Madden offered up a solid mixture of well-placed fastballs and off-speed pitches to keep Buckeye batters off balance, inducing 10 groundball outs in the process.

In fact, only twice did Buckeye Local manage to hit the ball out of the infield.

"I tried to use my change-up a good bit and get some groundballs — allow the guys behind me to make the plays," Madden said.

"I try not to worry about strikeouts but just getting the ball in the right spot and avoiding any walks."

Please See MADDEN, Page 16

Park Wallops Brooke In OVAC 4-A, 10-0

Patriots earn 2nd victory
in two days vs. Bruins

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

Wheeling Park opened defense of its Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAAA baseball championship with a business-like 10-0, five-inning conquest of struggling Brooke on a sunny but cool Tuesday after-

over the 350-foot sign in dead centerfield for his fourth home run of the season.

"Lewton has hit the ball hard all spring," said Chad Stout, the Patriots' second-year coach. "I'm really happy for him because he works so hard on his game. He's does an excellent job behind the dish and you can really tell he is comfortable at the plate right now."

One day after thumping Brooke 17-0 in a regular-season game, Stout wasn't concerned about Park letting up against the same team



Wheeling Park's Adam Lewton (5) slides into second base as Brooke's John Paull takes the throw.

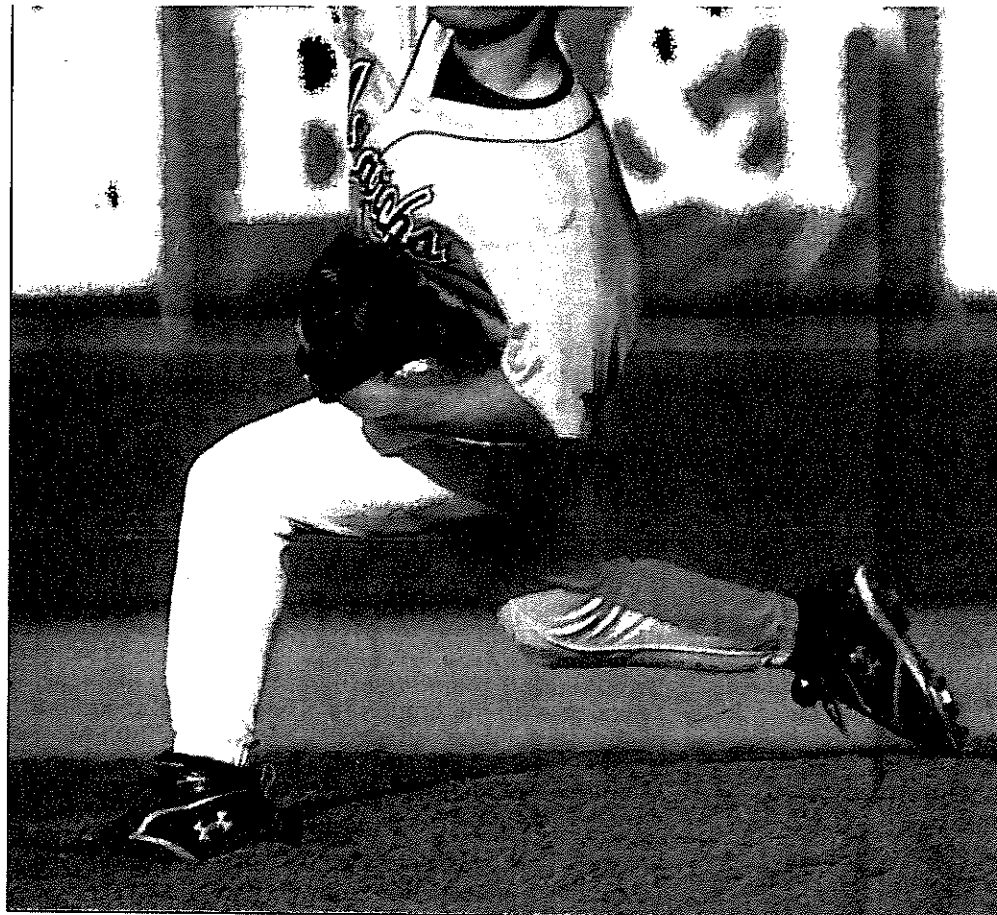


Photo by Alex Kozlowski
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By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

Wheeling Park opened defense of its Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAAA baseball championship with a business-like 10-0, five-inning conquest of struggling Brooke on a sunny but cool Tuesday afternoon at Patriot Field.

Donnie Platt, supported by two double plays from his defense and the red-hot bat of batter mate Adam Lewton, set down the struggling Bruins on just three hits. He walked one and fanned three as Park improved its record to 16-2 and advanced to Saturday's OVAC semifinals.

Lewton, Park's senior catcher whose batting average has been hovering around the .500 mark this spring, went 3-for-3 and drove in three runs. After singling across the Patriots' first run in the opening inning, he laced an RBI double in the third inning and then capped off his big day by rocketing a pitch

over the 350-foot sign in dead centerfield for his fourth home run of the season.

"Lewton has hit the ball hard all spring," said Chad Stout, the Patriots' second-year coach. "I'm really happy for him because he works so hard on his game. He's does an excellent job behind the dish and you can really tell he is comfortable at the plate right now."

One day after thumping Brooke 17-0 in a regular-season game, Stout wasn't concerned about Park letting up against the same team in the OVAC opener.

"We're just doing the right things to win baseball games," Stout pointed out. "We continue to play that hard, stiff defense and that is what wins championships."

Park threw some leather at the Bruins in the first two innings. Brooke leadoff batter Tyler Ossman reached on an infield single as the ball took a bad hop away from first baseman Tom Kettlewell. However, on the very next pitch, Ethan Benham rapped a hard-hit ball to shortstop Scott Slater that was turned into a nifty 6-4-3 double play.

Please See PARK, Page 16



Wheeling Park's Adam Lewton (5) slides into second base as Brooke's John Paull takes the throw Tuesday night in Wheeling. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net

Photo by Alex Kozlowski



Wheeling Park starting pitcher Donnie Platt works Tuesday night during an OVAC Tourney game vs. Brooke. View additional photos at cu.theinelligencer.net.

Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Park

(Continued from Page 15)

In the second inning, Brad Evans poked a single into center for the Bruins, but he was also quickly erased on another 6-4-3 twin killing. Brooke's only other hit was a leadoff single by John Gilchrist in the fifth inning.

Slater turned in a defensive gem in the fifth to help preserve Platt's shutout. After the Bruins had runners at first and second with none out, Nathan Johnson rapped a grounder that appeared headed to centerfield only to see Slater make a diving stop and flip the ball to second baseman Corey Brown for the force out.

"That was kind of Ronnie Green-like," said Stout, referring to the kind of plays that were almost routinely turned in by last season's shortstop. "It's the first play Slater has made like that this year on a ball hit up the middle. He and Corey Brown are really getting comfortable playing alongside each other now. They've been together for a while and they are learning to understand they can lean on one another."

Brooke, which has won just twice in 19 outings, tried to be aggressive against Platt, who is usually around the plate with his pitches.

"Not only does he throw strikes, his first pitch is usually a fastball. We wanted to be aggressive and get a good swing," pointed out Bruins coach Ron Ujcich. "We hit some balls hard but couldn't find any holes."

"What can you do?," Ujcich asked. "Park has a good ball team and they hit the ball real well."

The Patriots scored in each of their four turns at bat. Brown walked, stole second and came around on Lewton's line-drive single to center to put the Patriots ahead 1-0 in the bottom of the first.

A walk to Platt, Christian Lewton's single and Kettlewell's two-run double on a blast that short-hopped the fence in right field, boosted the lead to 3-0 in the second inning. Kettlewell's hit was

"What can you do? Park has a good ball team and they hit the ball really well."

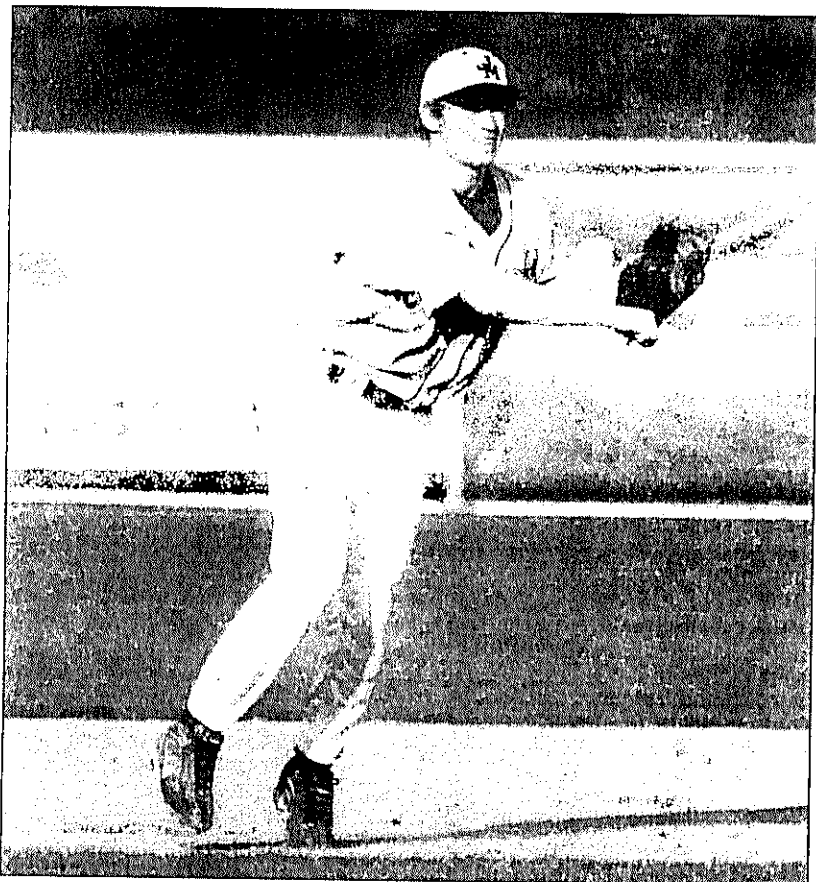
Ron Ujcich
Brooke coach after losing to the Patriots for the second day in a row

his sixth in as many at bats going back to Saturday's game against Cambridge. When he was hit by a pitch in his next plate appearance, it was also the eighth straight time he had reached base. The streak, which began with a walk Saturday, ended when the veteran first baseman was retired on a flyball to centerfield in the fourth inning.

The Patriots sent 10 batters to the plate, scoring four runs in the bottom of the third to open a 7-0 lead.

Heath Beecher ignited the rally with a single and he hustled all the way around the basepaths when Adam Lewton's liner into the gap in left centerfield also short-hopped the fence for an RBI double. Platt helped his own cause, driving in a run with a single. A throwing error let in the third run of the inning and Clark Sambuco picked up an RBI on an infield out.

Adam Lewton greeted Brooke relief pitcher Chris Fluharty with his home run blast to start a three-run uprising in the fourth inning. Dillon Mangino drew his second walk in as many frames and advanced to third when Platt doubled. Christian Lewton's infield out scored one run and a wild pitch plated Brad Guckert, the courtesy runner for Platt.



John Marshall's Curt Conroy throws to first Tuesday night against Buckeye Local. View additional photos at cu.theinelligencer.net.

Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Madden

(Continued from Page 15)

He had only 18 pitches fail to hit the strike zone, never more than five in an inning.

His counterpart for the Panthers, Waligura, had his curveball working and seemed to baffle some of the Monarchs hitters, leaving them swinging at air.

Madden drove in JM's first run in the second with a sacrifice scored 6-3 that allowed Cy Mazingo to score from third.

Shane Pysh and Mazingo, who finished 3-for-3 with two singles and a double, added RBI hits in the third inning as the Monarchs started to get a feel for Waligura.

Ryan Zelinski added a run-scoring single one inning later for a 4-0 advantage.

The breakout inning came in the fifth as JM tagged Waligura for five runs on three hits, including a two-run double from Jacob Carnahan who came on to bat for centerfielder Cory Mecker. Zelinski also plated two more with a single.

"We're feeling and hitting really good as a team right now," Madden said. "And I think that win over Wheeling Park really boosted our confidence because ever since then we've been hitting the ball hard."

Scott Edge drove in the final run in the sixth when he laced a line drive single into left, scoring Curt Conroy.

SPORTS

Wednesday,
April 25, 2007

OVAC Baseball Tournament

**CLASS 4-A
SCOREBOARD**
John Marshall 10, Buckeye 0
Edison 4, Weir 3
Cambridge 10, Steubenville 2
Wheeling Park 10, Brooke 0
SEMIFINALS
Wheeling Park vs. Cambridge
Edison vs. John Marshall

**CLASS 3-A
SCOREBOARD**
Indian Creek 5, Martins Ferry 1
Magnolia 7, Oak Glen 1
St. Clairsville 12, Bellaire 2
Union Local 7, Meadowbrook 5
SEMIFINALS
St. Clairsville vs. Indian Creek
Magnolia vs. Union Local



**CLASS 2-A
SCOREBOARD**
Wheeling Central 6, Fort Frye 5
Toronto 11, Caldwell 1
Buckeye Trail 8, Barnesville 6
Steubenville CC 14, Frontier 5.
SEMIFINALS
Toronto vs. Buckeye Trail
Steubenville CC vs. Wheeling CC

**CLASS 1-A
SCOREBOARD**
Shadyside 16, Madonna 1
Beallsville 5, Cameron 4
Linsly 5, Bridgeport 2
Bishop Donahue 12, Paden City 8
SEMIFINALS
Shadyside vs. Bishop Donahue
Linsly vs. Beallsville

OVAC Baseball Semifinals Set

St. C. rolls past Bellaire

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

All things considered, St. Clairsville's Tom Sliva can't complain. Nor should he. Sliva's Red Devils improved to 12-5, but more importantly, passed their opening round quarterfinal OVAC test in a 12-2 breeze past Bellaire.

Tuesday afternoon's 3-A contest at Memorial Park was an abbreviated affair, ending in the bottom of the sixth via a bases loaded walk.

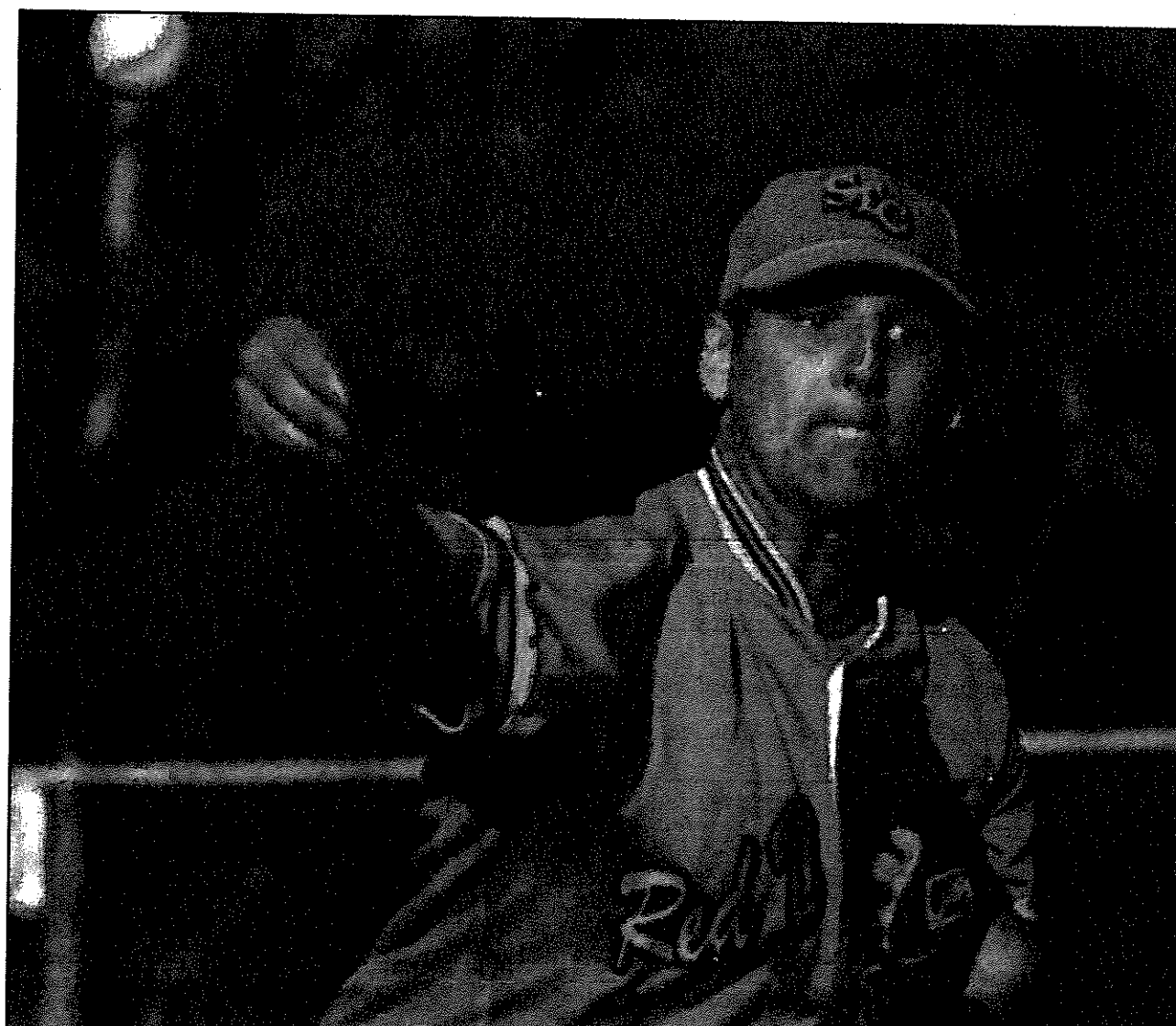
"Our goal is to always have something to play for (when May arrives)," said Sliva whose past teams at St. C.

and Bellaire St. John's have generally adhered to that philosophy.

For Bruce Young's Big Reds, the program continues its struggle to achieve a degree of consistency. Bellaire is a young and often capable club which has yet to establish a winning attitude.

The Big Reds trailed 7-0 after two innings Tuesday and were never able to

'...Our guys are striving to become better players each and every day.'
- Tom Sliva

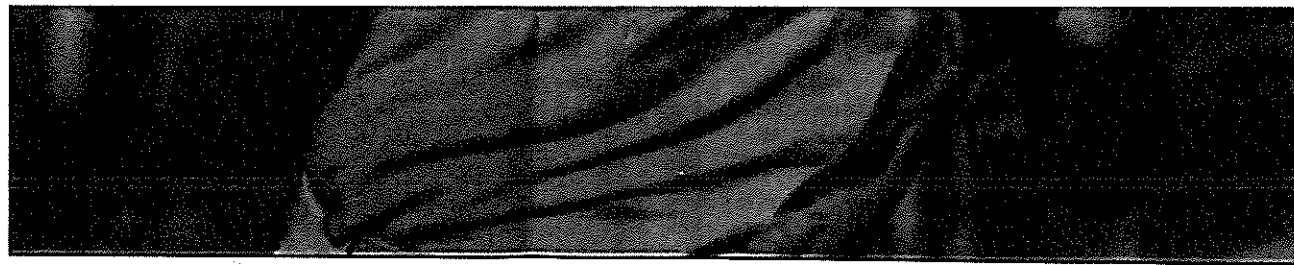


ST. CLAIRSVILLE pitcher John Vensel delivers a pitch during Tuesday's OVAC quarterfinal game against Bellaire at Memorial Park in St. Clairsville. Vensel went the route and the Red Devils advanced via a 12-2 count.

establish a winning attitude. The Big Reds trailed 7-0 after two innings Tuesday and were never able to recover. A pair of base running blunders did nothing to help the cause.

St. C., meanwhile, advances to a Saturday morning (11:00) semifinal start scheduled at Cadiz. "Considering we had

See, ST. C., Page B2



Shadyside's Meintel stymies Madonna, 16-1

By JEFF POTTS
Times Leader Sports Writer

With a pitcher the quality of Michael Meintel, usually all Shadyside needs is one or two runs to feel comfortable.

When the Orange offense goes out and scores 16, it makes Meintel's job a whole lot easier.

Case in point was Tuesday afternoon's OVAC Class 1-A quarterfinal matchup with Weirton Madonna.

The Tigers (15-1) put seven runs on the board in the bottom of the first and cruised from there to hand the Blue Dons a 16-1 setback.

The win advances Shadyside to a semifinal round matchup with Bishop Donahue on Saturday at Perkins Field in Bridgeport.

"The big thing today was our hitting, we came out and hit the ball hard," Tigers skipper Gary Cunningham explained. "One of the reasons I'm pleased with our hitting was when we played Weirton Madonna earlier in the year and we beat them 4-2 in the second game of a doubleheader and we knew they had a decent pitcher and we faced that same pitcher today and our kids were ready to face him and they swung the bats well."

Playing with a heavy heart due to a death in the family, Meintel gave up a run on four

hits while walking one and striking out five.

"The guys were behind me today and we brought the bats today," Meintel said. "I'm a little disappointed in the way I pitched. I gave up a run, and I shouldn't have given up as many hits and walks."

Cunningham was pleased with his senior workhorse.

"Michael had a little bit of a sluggish arm



MEINTEL

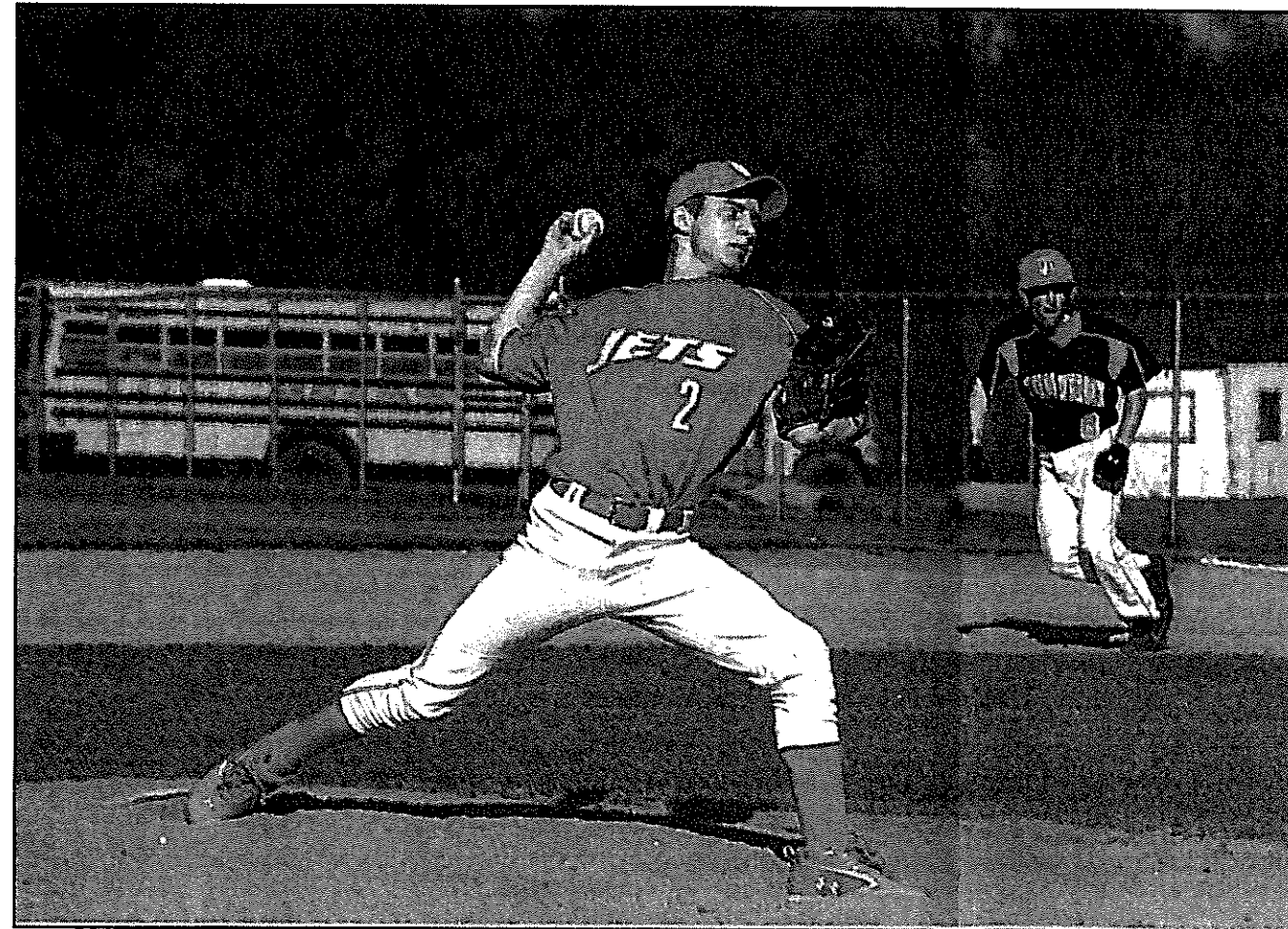
today," Cunningham said. "It was a good, solid effort."

Shadyside put all doubt about the outcome to rest in the bottom of the opening frame.

Billy Merryman reached on an error, Kraig Kubancik singled and Clifton Francis reached on an error allowing Merryman and Kubancik to score for a quick 2-0 lead.

Following a Meintel flyout, Cody McCormick doubled and scored when Patrick O'Donnell reached on an error. B.A. Holloway singled in Ross Palicka, who reached via walk. Merryman closed out the first inning scoring with a two-run single.

See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

UNION LOCAL'S Justin Curry delivers a pitch during the Jets' OVAC 3-A tournament game against Meadowbrook in Morristown. The Jets earned a 7-5 win and advanced to the OVAC 3-A semifinals against Magnolia on Saturday at Cadiz. Additional photos of this event can be viewed at cu.timesleaderonline.com.

Union Local advances past Meadowbrook

By KIM APPOLLONI
Times leader Sports Writer

Most coaches would have played it safe, choosing a starting pitcher for the opening round of the OVAC AAA playoffs. Not Union Local mentor Rich Mercer.

'The third and fourth innings we dug deep and we pulled ourselves out of trouble.'

- Rich Mercer

Hosting sixth-seeded Meadowbrook, Mercer called upon freshman Justin Curry for mound duty. The tough-minded frosh helped the Jets pick up a 7-5 win. The majority of coaches would not have placed a freshman in that situation, but Mercer and the Jets faced the Colts less than a week ago and the game went 11 innings before the Jets pulled out a 2-1 win. For that reason the UL coach decided to give the Colt batters a fresh look. His thinking paid off.

"We have a lot of faith in Justin (Curry)," remarked the personable Mercer. "He is a fine pitcher and I felt that Meadowbrook had not got a look at him the last time we played and we all believed he would be able to get us to the second

See, UL, Page B2

8
results

al, 115; St. Clairsville,
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ek, 52; Buckeye Local,

ng Marks and Place All

IL), 13-6; Becca (BL);
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1 (Ed), 20-4; McGinnis
t. C.); Wilson (Ed); Best

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2), 142-5; Klug (MF);
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(IC), 40.1; Nardo (UL);
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Kuczkynski (Ed); Pokas

); 49.3; Cenkus (St. C.);
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Hodgson (St. C.); Panas
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C.), 26.8; Bonds (BL);
Bell); Blanchard (HC);

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T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

UNION LOCAL'S Joby Barr goes over the pole vault bar at 12-0 to win the Buckeye 8 championship Tuesday afternoon at Stanton Middle School. The win helped spark the Jets to the team title.

Union Local boys, St. C. girls rule Buckeye 8 track

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The prep track season is getting down to the nitty-gritty with the month of May just around the corner.

The first conference championships of the season were passed out Tuesday evening at Stanton Middle School in Hammondsville where the Buckeye 8 held its second annual track championship.

Union Local's boys and St. Clairsville's girls headed back to Belmont County with the conference titles for this season and both did so impressively.

The Jets of Coach Tracey Lewis racked up 115 points, which was 13 better than the Red Devils.

Coach Ben Frye's Lady Red Reds, meanwhile, were run-away winners on the distaff side with 151 tallies. Harrison Central was second with 90 markers.

THE JET BOYS captured the hardware on the strength of four individual victories and three relay wins over the course of the 18-event meet.

"This is very exciting for our kids," Lewis said. "Being in this position is a little different for us, and it's something we talked about in practice. We had some high expectations and we hope to continue performing this way the rest of the season. I think we are peaking at the right time."

Sterling sophomore pole vaulter Joby Barr got things rolling for the Jets when he soared over a meet-record 13-ft-6 to claim the title.

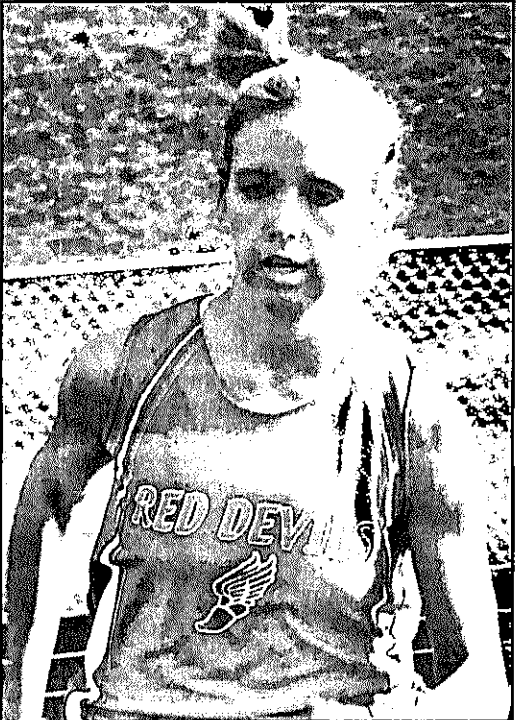
Junior speedster Zach Gust was the winner in the 100 meter dash, also in meet-record fashion, posting a 11.1 for gold.

Freshman Josh Fitch continues to come up big for the Morristown outfit. He recorded victories in both 800 and 1600 meter run, posting times of 2:07.2 and 4:41.9.

The Jets' crack 4x200 team of Zach Azallion, Zach Delman, Devin Otto and Gust teamed for a 1:32.7 to take the title.

The 1600 meter relay team of Azallion, Otto, Dan Hoblick and Kyle Blackman posted a 3:38.3 for the crown.

The shuttle team of Sam Nardo, Delman, Brandon Nichols and Kyle Jarrett joined forces for a 62.6 and the title.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Alanna Seamon runs her leg of the 4x800 meter relay. Seamon anchored the Lady Red Devils to a victory. She also won the 1600 and 3200 meter runs to help spark the Lady Devils to the team title.

rookie head coach Ben Frye. "Plus, we have a nice supporting cast and the girls are really working hard and doing everything that's asked of them. This, the OVAC and the post-season are the meets we pointed toward at the start of the season, so to be able to win this is really great. I am just proud of my kids."

Junior speedster Lindsey Neavin was strong in the short sprints. She won the 100 in a time of 12.7. She then won the 200 in a solid 26.6.

The Lady Red Devils also claimed three relay titles. The 3200 meter relay squad of Olivia Pokas, Alex Pokas, Seamon and Kate Hodgson turned in a 10:32.8 for the title.

The 4x100 team of Brooke Cenkus, Katie Tadolini, Jaelyn Dutton and Neavin boasted a

● **St. C.**

Continued from Page B1

to break in so many unproven, inexperienced kids (at the varsity level), 12 wins is a pretty fair accomplishment," Sliva noted.

"What's really important, though, is how our guys are striving to become better players each and every day."

That fact was evident in Tuesday's win. The Red Devils were selective at the plate. On at least four occasions, they came through with productive two-out hits.

None, perhaps, of greater significance than the one provided by junior third baseman Layne Mehl in the bottom of the first inning.

St. Clairsville was a 2-0 leader when John Vensel and Zane Butler coaxed two-out walks. Mehl worked the count, then singled up the middle for a 4-0 lighting.

"That was huge," Sliva acknowledged. "Layne's hit made it real difficult for Bellaire (to mount a comeback). Those are the type at-bats that help win ball games."

Mehl's teammates responded in turn. Junior catcher Dustin Hynes knocked home two runs, hammering a first inning single and second inning triple.

Sophomore shortstop Adam Shanks contributed a pair of RBI hits. Junior Anthony Wakim singled twice and produced a run. Juniors J.C. Thrash and Jake Johnson also accounted for RBIs. Butler scored three runs and leadoff-man Brody Call was on base three times.

On the mound, Vensel was solid, scattering five hits, two of which were lost in a bright sun in right field.

"John kept them off balance and made them put (it) in play," praised Sliva as his righthander improved to 4-1 this spring.

Bellaire catcher Tyer Rose rapped a double and single, driving in teammate Kyle Barnes who singled. Jeremy Garrett scored the Reds only other run, coming home on a Barnes ground out.

Vensel recorded six strikeouts and spaced three walks. A quartet of Bellaire pitchers teamed for five Ks and seven walks.

Line score:
Bellaire 001 001 — 2 5 4
St. Clairsville 431 202 — 12 10 1
BATTERIES: Crozier, Rocchio (3), Dobson (5), Paliswat (6) and Rose. Vensel and Hynes.

Gibson may be reached at: rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

● **Shadyside**

Continued from Page B1

"I really believe that inning was the key to the game," Cunningham mentioned. "It relaxed everybody and from then on we were up and never looked back."

Austin Pitchok scored the Blue Dons only run in the top of the first.

Batting with one out, Meintel drilled a 2-1 fastball over the left center-field fence for his sixth home run of the year to push the Tiger lead to 8-1.

"There was never any doubt the ball was gone, it was a shot," Cunningham said.

With two outs, Palicka doubled. O'Donnell reached on an error, allowing Palicka to score. Nathan Butts walked and Holloway doubled home Butts and O'Donnell for an 11-1 Shadyside lead.

Shadyside erased any thoughts of a Weirton Madonna comeback.

McCormick singled in Meintel. Palicka walked and O'Donnell doubled in Palicka and McCormick. A Butts sac fly plated O'Donnell, who stole third.

Evan Beekman scored on an RBI single by Josh Eneix.

Holloway led the way for Shadyside with two doubles and four RBI. O'Donnell doubled home a run while Meintel homered, singled and knocked in a run.

Anthony Reese singled in the only run for Weirton Madonna.

Losing pitcher George Magnone struck one.

Linescore:
Weirton Madonna 010 00 — 1 4 4
Shadyside 744 1x — 16 12 1
BATTERIES: Magnone, Pietrantoni (3) and Combs. Meintel and Kubancik.

Potts can be reached at jpotts@timesleaderonline.com

● **UL**

Continued from Page B1

round."

The plebe went four and two-third innings before Mercer called on Travis Stephens to close the door on the crew from Guernsey County. With the win the Jets improve to 11-7 overall and will face the Magnolia in the semi-finals, on Saturday, at Harrison Central. The Colts drop to 9-10.

The Jet offense gave the young Curry some serious breathing room in the opening inning as they tallied four runs. Dylan DeVore opened the Jet half of the first with a single He swiped second before senior standout Casey Stiles chased him home with a base hit.

Stephens singled and Logan Pruitt coaxed a walk jamming the bases for Mark Thompson. The sophomore catcher put the ball in play scoring Stiles. An erratic throw allowed Stephens to score as well. Cory Carpenter connected for an RBI single for the fourth tally in the frame.

"You really put yourself in a hole when you spot a team a 4-0 lead in the first inning," commented Colt boss Steve Norman. "They put the ball in play tonight and we didn't, it's as simple as that."

The Colts managed a run in the second and fourth inning, but every time the visitors would get close Union Local would respond with a big play on defense and a run on offense.

"The third and fourth innings we dug deep and we pulled ourselves out of trouble," added Mercer. "They put some guys on base, but we had some heads up plays that kept them from having a big inning." Three plays in particular kept the Colts at bay.

strength of one and one runner-up, cruised into first one of the OVAC is Tournament at Liberty.

gles, the tandem of and Steven Barrows air No. 1 seed by eling Park's Matt Brent Jorden in 2, 6-2.

bles, Victor Grego rge, who weren't re in the top four, ls where they out-sted Cambridge's Mike Evancho.

ly contested match eing decided on a (4) and 7-6 (4).

ncho were seeded

es saw Wheeling McCullough and her capture the tiling back from a first set.

Central's Hugo Adem Dudek took -4, only to watch Hatcher reel off in the subsequent

Knights find them-ond place tie with ending champion rk as each team ven points.

1 fourth with five erpool rounds out h four points.

action gets under-8:30 a.m. where will try to hold its ad to capture the

have three of the l players in singles Terra waldrum at Freeman at No. 2 r at No. 4. Park's is seeded second s where Brooke's ico rated the top

think we are peaking at the right time.

Sterling sophomore pole vaulter Joby Barr got things rolling for the Jets when he soared over a meet-record 13-ft-6 to claim the title.

Junior speedster Zach Gust was the winner in the 100 meter dash, also in meet-record fashion, posting a 11.1 for gold.

Freshman Josh Fitch continues to come up big for the Morristown outfit. He recorded victories in both 800 and 1600 meter run, posting times of 2:07.2 and 4:41.9.

The Jets' crack 4x200 team of Zach Azallion, Zach Delman, Devin Otto and Gust teamed for a 1:32.7 to take the title.

The 1600 meter relay team of Azallion, Otto, Dan Hoblick and Kyle Blackman posted a 3:38.3 for the crown.

The shuttle team of Sam Nardo, Delman, Brandon Nichols and Kyle Jarrett joined forces for a 62.6 and the title.

St. Clairsville's boys won just one event in the meet and that came when frosh Alex Thornburg circled the track eight times for a 10:08.9 and the title.

Harrison Central - the 2006 champions - finished third this season. The Huskies just one winner in the meet as Josh Yeske won the discus with a toss of 142-ft-5.

The Huskies also won the 3200 meter relay as the team of C.J. Moon, Rafael Oliverio, Justin Brooks and Derrick Sproul teamed for a 8:44 and the crown.

Edison was led by Blake Wilson who won a trio of events. He won both jumping events, marking the sand at 20-ft-4 and soaring over 6-ft-2 to take the high jump. He then captured the 110-meter high hurdles with a time of 16.0.

Martins Ferry prevailed in a pair of track events and a field events. Senior Jake Klug won the shot put for the Riders. He heaved the iron ball to a mark of 48-ft-9.

Sophomore speedster Jeremy Murray captured the 200 meter dash. He ran half a lap in 23.2.

The Riders' 4x100 team of Rawn Driver, Cameron Gasmire, Jeremy Murray and John Martin posted a 45.6 for the title.

Bellaire's only winner of the meet came in the 400 meter dash as Ross Fuller won the 400 meter dash in 53.3.

Indian Creek's only boys winner was Michael Smith who captured the intermediate hurdles in a time of 40.1.

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Lady Red Devils were sparked to victory by victories in seven events.

Senior distance dynamo Alanna Seamon led the Lady Devils. She won the 1600 meter run in 5:33.6 and then captured the 3200 in 11:49.1.

"We've got some horses on this team," said

rookie head coach Ben Frye. "Plus, we have a nice supporting cast and the girls are really working hard and doing everything that's asked of them. This, the OVAC and the post-season are the meets we pointed toward at the start of the season, so to be able to win this is really great. I am just proud of my kids."

Junior speedster Lindsey Neavin was strong in the short sprints. She won the 100 in a time of 12.7. She then won the 200 in a solid 26.6.

The Lady Red Devils also claimed three relay titles. The 3200 meter relay squad of Olivia Pokas, Alex Pokas, Seamon and Kate Hodgson turned in a 10:32.8 for the title.

The 4x100 team of Brooke Cenkus, Katie Tadolini, Jaelyn Dutton and Neavin boasted a 52.6. The 800 squad of Pokas, Katie Tadolini, Dutton and Neavin ran a 1:51.7.

Harrison Central's girls tallied 90 points for runner-up honors.

The Lady Huskies were led by Kim Eckroth who won both hurdling events. She won the highs in 16.3 and then captured the lows in 49.3.

Senior Courtney Dowdle won the high jump by leaping over 5-feet.

Buckeye Local's girls were third in the meet with 84 points.

The Lady Panthers were led by Julie Bonds who won the 400 meter dash in a time of 60.1. The Lady Panthers then closed the female portion of the meet with a win in the mile relay. The team of Bonds, Nina Piergallini, Jessica Frazier and Tia Moore ran a 4:22.4 for the title.

Bellaire's girls claimed titles in three field events. Sophomore standout Megan Green continued to rule the shot put and discus circles.

She won the iron-ball event with a toss of 34-ft-9 and then shifted to the platter where she posted a 105-ft-8 for the title. Senior Alicia Yonyon posted a season-best effort of 16-feet to win the long jump.

Union Local's Marie Minnich was the only pole vaulter to clear a height and she soared over 9-ft-3 for the title.

Martins Ferry's shuttle team of Mallory Phamphilis, Justina Martin, Dorthea Headley and Kelly McIntosh teamed to clear 40 hurdles in 1:12.8 for the title.

Indian Creek's Chelsea Furda won the 800 meter run with a time of 2:33.7.

DeVore opened the Jet half of the first with a single He swiped second before senior standout Casey Stiles chased him home with a base hit.

Stephens singled and Logan Pruitt coaxed a walk jamming the bases for Mark Thompson. The sophomore catcher put the ball in play scoring Stiles. An erratic throw allowed Stephens to score as well. Cory Carpenter connected for an RBI single for the fourth tally in the frame.

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The Colts managed a run in the second and fourth inning, but every time the visitors would get close Union Local would respond with a big play on defense and a run on offense.

"The third and fourth innings we dug deep and we pulled ourselves out of trouble," added Mercer. "They put some guys on base, but we had some heads up plays that kept them from having a big inning." Three plays in particular kept the Colts at bay. Thompson made an alert throw catching a sleeping Colt. Curry picked off a runner at first and Pruitt perfectly fielded a shot to third, froze the man at the bag and then delivered a strike to first for the put out.

"They caught us sleeping on the bases and followed up with runs of their own," commented Norman. "They made the big play when they needed it, that's a sign of a good team."

Curry fanned four batters, walked two and plunked a pair before Stephens slammed the door. The hard throwing right hander had two K's and did not issue a walk in relief.

Mercer added, "I thought about pulling Justin a little earlier than I did, but it really wasn't his fault that they scored. We should have made a couple catches in the outfield that would have kept him on the mound; but I was sure Travis (Stephens) would settle us down and get us through the final two innings."

Stephen Mitchell suffered the loss for the Colts. He whiffed five and passed four in five innings of action. Zac Coutler threw the sixth for Meadowbrook. He issued two walks and sat down one batter.

Carpenter paced the Jets at the plate with a pair of RBI singles. Stephens ended the day with two singles and an RBI. DeVore, Thompson and Barbina all had base hits.

For the Colts, Nick Hudson had an RBI twin bagger. Aaron Daugherty cracked a double. Coutler, Rick Douth and Ridge Pennington all ripped singles. Brooks Penrod chased in a tally with a sacrifice fly to deep center field.

Line score:
Meadowbrook 010 120 1 5 5 3
Union Local 401 011 x 7 7 4
Batteries: Mitchell, Coutler (6) and Hudson; Curry, Stephens (5) and Thompson.



OVAC Baseball Pairings

All Games scheduled for:
Tuesday, April 24 at 5 p.m.

- CLASS 4-A**
Brooke at Wheeling Park
Buckeye Local at John Marshall Weir at Edison
Steubenville at Cambridge
- CLASS 3-A**
Bellaire at St. Clairsville
Oak Glen at Magnolia
Meadowbrook at Union Local
Martins Ferry at Indian Creek
- CLASS 2-A**
Caldwell at Toronto
Frontier at Steub. CC
Wheeling Central at Fort Frye
Barnesville at Buckeye Trail
- CLASS 1-A**
Weirton Madonna at Shadyside
Cameron at Bealsville
Linsly at Bridgeport
Paden City at Bishop Donahue

OVAC Announces Baseball Changes

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference has announced the makeup dates for the Class AAAA baseball tournament semifinal games that were rained out at Brooke High School and has made a few changes to the schedule for Saturday's championship games at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

The changes are as follows:

■■■■
Today
Edison at John Marshall, 5 p.m.

Tuesday
Cambridge at Wheeling Park, 5 p.m.

■■■■
Saturday
Class AAA
Indian Creek vs. Union Local, 11 a.m.

Class AAAA
Wheeling Park/Cambridge winner vs. John Marshall/Edison winner, 1:30 p.m.

Class A
Shadyside vs. Linsly, 4 p.m.

Class AA
Toronto vs. Steubenville Central, 6:30 p.m.

OVAC Baseball Pairings

- SEMI-FINAL PAIRINGS**
- CLASS 4-A**
at Brooke High School
Wheeling Park vs. Cambridge
John Marshall vs. Edison
- CLASS 3-A**
at Mazeroski Field, Cadiz
St. Clairsville vs. Indian Creek
Magnolia vs. Union Local
- CLASS 2-A**
at Red Knight Complex, Toronto
Toronto vs. Buckeye Trail
Steubenville Central vs. Wheeling Central
- CLASS 1-A**
at Perkins Field, Bridgeport
Shadyside vs. Bishop Donahue
Bealsville vs. Linsly

Tigers Rout Dons

Shadyside scores early and often

By JEFF POTTS
For The Intelligencer

It was finished early.

Homestanding Shadyside shot out to a 7-0 lead after the first inning and cruised from there to hand Weirton Madonna a 16-1 setback in an OVAC Class A quarterfinal Tuesday at Shadyside.

"The big thing (Tuesday night) was our hitting," Tigers coach Gary Cunningham said.

"We came out and hit the ball hard.

"One of the reasons I'm pleased with our hitting (Tuesday night) was when we played Weirton Madonna earlier in the year, we beat them 4-2 in the second game of a doubleheader. We knew they had a decent pitcher and we faced that same pitcher and our kids were ready to face him and they swung the bats well."

Shadyside (15-1) put away all doubts about the outcome in the bottom of the opening frame.

Billy Merryman reached on an error, Craig Kubancik singled, Clifton Francis reached on an error allowing Merryman and Kubancik to score for a quick 2-0 lead.

Following a Michael Meintel flyout, Cody McCormick doubled and scored when Patrick O'Donnell scored on an error, B.A. Holloway singled in Ross Palicka. Merryman closed out the first-inning scoring with a two-run single.

Austin Pitchok scored the Blue Dons only run in the top of the first.

After a Francis strikeout to open the home half of the second, Meintel drilled a 2-1 fastball over the left-center-field fence for his sixth home run of the season to push the Tigers lead to 8-1.

With two outs, Palicka doubled and O'Donnell reached on an error, allowing Palicka to score. Nathan Butts walked and Holloway doubled home Butts and O'Donnell for an 11-1 Shadyside lead.

Shadyside put the game out of reach in the third.

McCormick singled in Meintel, Palicka walked and O'Donnell doubled in Palicka and McCormick. A Butts sacrifice plated O'Donnell, who stole third.

Evan Beekman scored on an RBI single by Josh Eneix.

Holloway led the way for Shadyside with two doubles and four RBI. O'Donnell doubled home a run while Meintel homered, singled and knocked in a run. Meintel also struck out five.

Anthony Reese singled in the only run for Weirton Madonna.

Losing pitcher George Magnone struck out one.

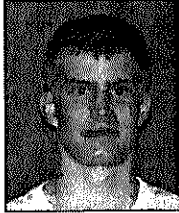


T-L Photo/JOE LOVELL

MARTIN FERRY'S Fred Owens fires in one of his nine strikeouts in Tuesday night's contest in Mingo Junction, but it wasn't quite enough as the Purple Riders were bounced from the opening round of the Class AAA OVAC Tournament.

Beallsville, Linsly advance in 1-A; Ferry bounced in 3-A

AT BEALLSVILLE, Tim Jones singled in the winning run with one out in the bottom of the eighth to propel Beallsville to a 5-4 win over Cameron in an OVAC Class 1-A baseball quarterfinal Tuesday night.



Price

Kent Price singled, tripled and drove home a run, while Jimmy Reisz had a double for Beallsville.

Kevin Stoney struck out nine to gain the win.

LINSLY 5, BRIDGEPORT 2

AT BRIDGEPORT, Pat Ohrman's three singles and an RBI led the Cadets past the Bulldogs in an OVAC Class 1-A quarterfinal.

Tommy Morgan, Ryan Kreiter, Mike Muklewicz and C.J. Foosse each had a single for Bridgeport.

INDIAN CREEK 5, MARTINS FERRY 1

AT MINGO JUNCTION, Andy Thompson singled twice and drove home two runs to lead the Redskins past the Purple Riders in an OVAC Class 3-A baseball quarterfinal.

Tim Ohalek added two singles and an RBI, while winning pitcher Craig Johnston fanned seven for Indian Creek.

Clay Francis doubled and plated a run, while Derek Edwards was credited with two singles and Chris Lovell chipped in a double for Martins Ferry.

Fred Owens struck out nine in a losing effort.

BUCKEYE TRAIL 8 BARNESVILLE 6

OLD WASHINGTON, Warriors' senior Nolan Cox connected on a three-run, walk-off home run to stun Barnesville in a 2-A quarterfinal contest, 8-6.

After the Shamrocks scored three times in the top of the seventh to take a 6-5 advantage, Trail rallied.

Justin Mellinger ignited the comeback with a base hit and advanced when Bobby Beros drew a base on balls. With two out, Cox connected on his game-winning drive to centerfield.

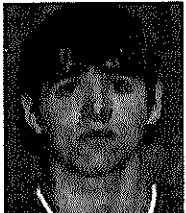
Improving to 11-8, Trail advances to semifinal play Saturday.

Ethan Williams worked the distance and notched the mound decision for Trail. He compiled eight strikeouts and three walks.

Steven Shumaker and Shane Crosier split hill duty for Barnesville.

In addition to hitting the game-deciding blast, Cox added another hit and totaled four RBIs. Bobby Beros belted a single and double, good for a run batted in. Steve Beros singled twice and scored a teammate.

Barnesville's Corey Stephen socked a single and double. Crosier and Devin Stephen contributed two singles apiece.



Stephen

Monarchs Bats Explode in Rout of Edison

John Marshall scores 11 runs in final three

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

Knotted at 6-6 after three innings of play Monday afternoon, John Marshall and Edison's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAAA baseball semifinal looked like it was going to be a slugfest that could be headed for some late-inning heroics.

But with Ryan Zelinski, Cy Mozingo and Tanner Defibaugh all playing key roles, coach Bob Montgomery's Monarchs turned the final three frames into a baseball clinic — complete with hitting, pitching, fielding and good

base running — to run away from the Wildcats and claim a 17-7, six-inning victory at Monarch Field in Glen Dale.

Zelinski blasted a pair of two-run home runs while Mozingo and Defibaugh allowed only one run on the mound in the final three innings as John Marshall scored 11 runs during that span.

"We just gave them too many chances," Edison coach Mike Collopy said. "Too many walks and too many errors. That is something that you cannot do against a team as good as they are. If you do, you can expect this type of outcome. You have to play seven complete innings and we didn't. We were good here and there, but that is just not enough. We have to get good pitching and make routine plays

"They came at us hard early ..."
JM coach Bob Montgomery on Edison

to continue being successful."

The victory puts Montgomery's squad into Saturday's big-school championship game against the winner of today's other semifinal between Wheeling Park and Cambridge.

John Marshall has defeated the

Patriots twice in a pair of close outings, but dropped a 7-6, 10-inning decision to the Bobcats on April 14. The Monarchs, who are on an 11-game winning streak, have not lost since.

Montgomery will also be looking for his seventh OVAC Tournament title with John Marshall.

"It is going to be a great matchup Saturday," Montgomery said. "And it doesn't matter if it is Park or Cambridge. They are both great teams and we are looking forward to playing (Tuesday's) winner."

"We are really on a roll right now with 11 wins in a row, but I think the boys may be spoiling us a little bit because we felt we were in good shape when we took a 6-2 lead after the first

inning."

That lead did not come easily with losing pitcher Aaron Hilt getting the Wildcats (16-4) started with a run-scoring double before Robbie Stewart made it a 2-0 margin with a sacrifice fly.

Hilt got the first two Monarchs he faced in the home-half of the first before a walk, a hit batsman and four straight hits put the Monarchs in front by a 6-2 score after one.

The main damage came from a Mozingo RBI single, Zach Sberna's run-scoring double, Donnie Gilbert's RBI single and a two-run home run off the bat of starting pitcher Zane Madden.

Please See MONARCHS, Page 17

Monarchs

(Continued from Page 15)

Edison was not fazed, putting up three on the Monarchs in the second and another in the third. Wildcats catcher Cody McCoy provided two of those runs with solo homers in the second and third frames. His second blast tied the score at 6-6 and chased Madden from the hill.

Defibaugh retired eight of the 11 batters he faced, allowing one hit, before being lifted for a pinch-hitter in the bottom of the fifth.

Zelinski, who launched a pair of three-run homers in a game against Magnolia last week, drilled two-run shots in both the fourth and fifth innings Monday

to help up the count to 12-6.

Mozingo took the mound in the sixth, and while he did allow the Wildcats to load the bases and gave up an RBI base on balls to Luke Scardina, he fanned McCoy on a 3-2 count with the bases loaded and a five-run lead.

After sending nine batters to the plate in the first and fourth innings and seven to the dish in the fifth, John Marshall finished things off with five runs, all coming with no one out in the sixth. The eventual game-winner came on Sberna's run-scoring single through the left side of the infield.

"Tanner (Defibaugh) is a

senior who really hasn't pitched a lot for us this year," Montgomery said. "But he really came in and held them in check real well."

"They came at us hard early and are really the first team to get to Madden like that. Tanner also allowed us to get to Cy (Mozingo), who put some men on, but got the big out in the end."

"Both teams did a great job hitting the ball to the opposite field and the ball carried very well with the wind blowing out, which is a little unusual here. I also can't say enough about Ryan Zelinski, who has hit four home runs in our last three games after starting the season

with a broken wrist."

Madden and Zelinski both finished with three hits in the game while Carson Koontz,

Zelinski, Sberna and Madden all had multiple RBI games.

McCoy added a single to go with his two homers.

DeFranco Proves a H

Stewart just misses a perfect game, twirls no-hitter in victory

By AARON PETCHAL
For the News-Register
Touch 'em all.

Some players have the knack of coming through in the clutch. Saturday, Steubenville Catholic Central shortstop Brian DeFranco delivered in the clutch when the Crusaders needed him the most.

With the bases loaded and two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning, DeFranco blasted a ball over the fence in left field for a grand slam giving the Blue-and-Gold a 9-5 victory against Wheeling Central in an OVAC Class AA Tournament semifinal at the Knight Baseball Complex in Toronto.

DeFranco's blast made a winner out of Dan DeFalco, who struck out four and walked six.

"He had a couple of rough innings, but he pitched out of a couple of jams," Steubenville Central coach Frank Spence said. "We made a couple of plays out there. I think it was just really a case of we hung in there and we hung in there until we got a chance to tie the game."

With the victory, the Crusaders improved to 16-4 and advanced to the tournament final Saturday at Vaccaro Field against Toronto. The Red Knights defeated Buckeye Trail, 13-0, in five innings.

With one out in the bottom of the seventh, Justin Kaufman singled, and Aaron Straney doubled to center. Mike Emmerling was walked to load the bases. Bob Petchal came in to run for Emmerling. After a strikeout, DeFranco delivered his game-ending bomb.

DeFranco finished the day with five RBI. He also doubled, and brought in a run with a bases loaded walk. Billy Brockway belted two singles, had a sacrifice fly and three RBI. Luca Call contributed two singles and an RBI.

Jack Weishar took the loss for the Maroon Knights in relief of starter R.J. Miller, who pitched 5 1/3 innings. Miller struck out eight and walked eight. Weishar struck out one and walked one.

Offensively for Wheeling Central, Andrew Richardson led the way with two singles, a double and an RBI. Josh Jackson delivered a two-run single.

Toronto 13, Buckeye Trail 0
The Toronto baseball team

continues to get the job done in grand fashion.

Against Buckeye Trail, the Red Knights were once again dominating on the mound and at the plate.

Offensively, Toronto tallied 13 runs on 13 hits, and pitcher Zach Stewart was one hitter away from a perfect game. In the end, Stewart hurled a shutout pitching a no-hitter leading the Red Knights past the Warriors.

Stewart retired the Warriors in order, and the Toronto bats did the talking in the bottom half of the first inning as 12 Red Knights stepped to the plate. Toronto scored eight runs on seven hits, and the result of the game was never in question at that point. Offensively, Stewart helped his own cause with a single, a double and two RBI. Also for the Red Knights, Mike Ludewig delivered two singles and three RBI. Travis Miller contributed a single, a triple and two RBI and Adam Hannan added a two-run double.

Jordan Thompson was the only Trail player to reach base.

Regular Season
Toronto 10
East Liverpool 0

At Toronto, Mike Radvansky pitched a one-hitter as Toronto improved to 19-1 with a victory against East Liverpool.

Radvansky had a single and a triple, while Michael Garman and Max King also had triples for the Red Knights.

Shenandoah 13, River 7
Shenandoah 13, River 3

At Sarahsville, Shenandoah defeated River in the regular season finale for both teams.

Logan Cline finished the day with nine RBI after a combined three doubles and a single.

The Zeps (7-11) also received multiple hits from Jacob Parks, Drew West, Josh Cowgill, and Patrick Winland.

Dillon Potts led the Pilots (5-12) with three singles and Tyler Brooks with two doubles.

Parkersburg Catholic 15
Paden City 5
Paden City 12

Paden City split a double-header with Parkersburg Catholic, taking an early lead in Game 2 and holding on to win.

The Wildcats scored nine runs in the first inning, but survived a ferocious rally for a victory.

Wes Cosper, Ryan Thoburn, Ricky Wright, Coty Meadows, and Justin Grimes each had multi-hit games for Paden City (9-9) in the victory.

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Grimes had mul

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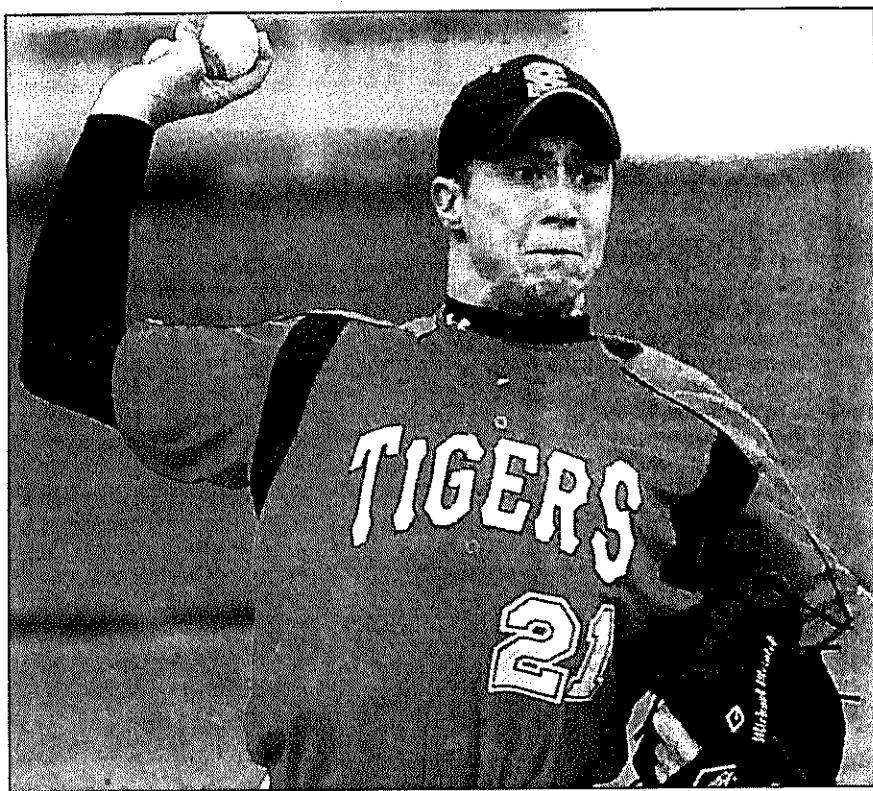
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Shadyside's Mike Meintel works against Bishop Donahue on Saturday at Perkins Field in Brookside.

Photo by Mike Harvilla

Shadyside Rolls to Finals

Three OVAC classes complete baseball semis

Shadyside coach Gary Cunningham has had a lot of regular-season OVAC success, claiming two such titles.

Saturday morning at Perkins Field in Brookside, the Tigers took another step toward claiming their first league Tournament title in the Cunningham era.

Shadyside scored 14 runs in the bottom of the third inning to break open a close game, handing Bishop Donahue a 16-2 setback in a Class A semifinal.

"The OVAC title is an important thing for us because we have a bad taste in our mouths after getting beat in the title game last year," Cunningham said. "Unlike (Saturday), I promise, we will come ready to play next Saturday."

Shadyside scored first when Billy Merryman doubled to open the home half of the second and advanced to third when catcher Kraig Kubancik reached on an error. Kubancik advanced to second on the second error of the play.

With one out, Meintel doubled home Merryman and Kubancik for a 2-0 Shadyside lead.

It continued that way, with Meintel working the first four innings and keeping the Bishops bats at bay.

Merryman led the hit parade for Shadyside with a single, double and two RBI. Meintel doubled twice and plated a pair of runs. Brent Holloway singled twice and drove in four, while Ross Palicka chipped in a two-run single.

Linsly 5, Beallsville 3

It's a rematch from last season's OVAC Class A title game.

Defending champion Linsly pushed across two runs in the top of the eighth to defeat Beallsville in a Class A semifinal.

The Cadets will meet Shadyside Saturday at 11 a.m. in the Class A title game at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

"I'm excited about the rematch with Shadyside Saturday," Linsly coach Jay Cartwright said. "We're going to have to play well against them. They have great arms, great hitters and we're going to have to go out there and get after them."

The Cadets struck first in the top of the third.

Leadoff hitter Taylor Cecil drew a walk, then stole second and third and scored when Joseph Wills laced a single back up the middle.

Beallsville's Joey Albus hit a sacrifice fly to score Reis for a 2-1 Blue Devils lead after three-and-a-half.

Cecil reached on an error that scored Chris Kiedaisch and Patrick Milton for a 3-2 Linsly lead heading into the bottom of the seventh.

Kent Price singled and stole second, then advanced to third on a single by Joey Albus. Timmy Jones reached on a fielder's choice to tie it at 7 heading to extra innings.

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Indian Creek 9,
St. Clairsville 1

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Ohalek later hammered a two-run homer and also drilled a two-run double in his team's OVAC Class AAA semifinal victory at Mazeroski Field in Cadiz.

The now 10-10 Redskins advance to Saturday's title game opposite Union Local, which upended Magnolia in Saturday's second game.

The Red Devils' only score came in the first inning when catcher Dustin Hynes singled and came home on a base hit by teammate John Vensel.

Trailing by a run early, Redskins catcher Ron Sismondo grounded a two-run single up the middle. A third run came home on an infield out off the bat of Mike Wilson.

In the Redskins third, center-fielder Kody Grimes drew a leadoff walk from St. C. righty Ian Riddel. That brought Ohalek to the plate. He hammered an opposite-field line drive home run to right-center and it was 5-1.

Two more Creek runners were aboard an inning later when Ohalek unloaded a two-run double to deep center. That made it 7-1 and Cottis'

club was virtually home free.

Riddel worked all seven innings for the Devils, registering five strikeouts and six walks. The 13-7 Red Devils were limited to four singles of which Vensel collected two.

Class AAA
Union Local 5
Magnolia 3

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They are now. Union Local mounted a 3-0 first inning lead then held its collective breath as a seventh-inning Magnolia rally came up precariously short.

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Thus, UL's skipper turned to the element of surprise the fifth, ordering consecutive squeeze plays.

With Stiles off from the base, Thompson slapped an infield grounder allowing Stiles to score. The situation duplicated itself seconds later.

Travis Stephens took off from third on another attempted squeeze with Jordan Bartna at the plate. But Robinson pitch sailed high, eluding catcher Jordan Ash as Stephens tallied for a 5-3 score.

Carpenter compiled three strikeouts and two walks. Stephens and Thompson singled twice for the Jets.

Robinson registered eight strikeouts and two walks in complete-game outing.

(Times Leader sports writers Rich Gibson and Jeff Pot contributed to this report)

DeFranco Proves a Hero

Stewart just misses a perfect game, twirls no-hitter in victory

By AARON PETCHAL
For the News-Register

Some players have the knack of coming through in the clutch. Saturday, Steubenville Catholic Central shortstop Brian DeFranco delivered in the clutch when the Crusaders needed him the most.

With the bases loaded and two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning, DeFranco blasted a ball over the fence in left field for a grand slam giving the Blue-and-Gold a 9-5 victory against Wheeling Central in an OVAC Class AA Tournament semifinal at the Knight Baseball Complex in Toronto.

DeFranco's blast made a winner out of Dan DeFalco, who struck out four and walked six.

"He had a couple of rough innings, but he pitched out of a couple of jams," Steubenville Central coach Frank Spence said. "We made a couple of plays out there. I think it was just really a case of we hung in there and we hung in there until we got a chance to tie the game.

With the victory, the Crusaders improved to 16-4 and advanced to the tournament final Saturday at Vaccaro Field against Toronto. The Red Knights defeated Buckeye Trail, 13-0, in five innings.

With one out in the bottom of the seventh, Justin Kaufman singled, and Aaron Straney doubled to center. Mike Emmerling was walked to load the bases. Bob Petchal came in to run for Emmerling. After a strikeout, DeFranco delivered his game-ending bomb.

DeFranco finished the day with five RBI. He also doubled, and brought in a run with a bases loaded walk. Billy Brockway belted two singles, had a sacrifice fly and three RBI. Luca Call contributed two singles and an RBI.

Jack Weishar took the loss for the Maroon Knights in relief of starter R.J. Miller, who pitched 5 1/3 innings. Miller struck out eight and walked eight. Weishar struck out one and walked one.

Offensively for Wheeling Central, Andrew Richardson led the way with two singles, a double and an RBI. Josh Jackson delivered a two-run single.

Toronto 13, Buckeye Trail 0
The Toronto baseball team

continues to get the job done in grand fashion.

Against Buckeye Trail, the Red Knights were once again dominating on the mound and at the plate.

Offensively, Toronto tallied 13 runs on 13 hits, and pitcher Zach Stewart was one hitter away from a perfect game. In the end, Stewart hurled a shutout pitching a no-hitter leading the Red Knights past the Warriors.

Stewart retired the Warriors in order, and the Toronto bats did the talking in the bottom half of the first inning as 12 Red Knights stepped to the plate.

Toronto scored eight runs on seven hits, and the result of the game was never in question at that point. Offensively, Stewart helped his own cause with a single, a double and two RBI. Also for the Red Knights, Mike Ludewig delivered two singles and three RBI, Travis Miller contributed a single, a triple and two RBI and Adam Hannan added a two-run double.

Jordan Thompson was the only Trail player to reach base.

Regular Season
Toronto 10

East Liverpool 0

At Toronto, Mike Radvansky pitched a one-hitter as Toronto improved to 19-1 with a victory against East Liverpool.

Radvansky had a single and a triple, while Michael Garman and Max King also had triples for the Red Knights.

Shenandoah 13, River 7

Shenandoah 13, River 3

At Sarahsville, Shenandoah defeated River in the regular season finale for both teams.

Logan Cline finished the day with nine RBI after a combined three doubles and a single.

The Zeps (7-11) also received multiple hits from Jacob Parks, Drew West, Josh Cowgill, and Patrick Winland.

Dillon Potts led the Pilots (5-12) with three singles and Tyler Brooks with two doubles.

Parkersburg Catholic 15

Paden City 5

Paden City 12

Parkersburg Catholic 11

Paden City split a doubleheader with Parkersburg Catholic, taking an early lead in Game 2 and holding on to win.

The Wildcats scored nine runs in the first inning, but survived a ferocious rally for a victory.

Wes Cosper, Ryan Thoburn, Ricky Wright, Coty Meadows, and Justin Grimes each had multi-hit games for Paden City (9-9) in the victory.

Cosper, Thoburn, Wright, and Grimes had multiples hits for the Wildcats in the loss.

Bridgeport Invitational

Bridgeport 12

Weirton Madonna 1

At Bridgeport, the Bridgeport Bulldogs won the Bridgeport Invitational with a rout of Weirton Madonna.

Ryan Kreiter hit a home run, Tom Morgan had three singles, and Mike Muklewicz had a single, double, and two RBI for the Bulldogs.

Ravenswood 14

Tyler Consolidated 13

Tyler Consolidated 11,

Ravenswood 7

RAVENSWOOD - The Silver Knights earned a split with Ravenswood, taking the final game behind a home run from Logan Efaw, and two singles each from Brey Northcraft, Adam Dennis, and Zach Perkey.

Perkey and Dennis had three-hit games in the opener.

SOFTBALL

River 4, Valley 1

River 10, Valley 0

At Pine Grove, Shaleena Rhodes finished with two singles, two triples, and a double and River swept a doubleheader with Valley.

Marcy Meredith earned the victory in the first game and collected three singles in Game 2. Chelsea Wax and Kelsey Duke also had two singles.

Lauren Ueltschy, Samantha Fry, and Raquel Partridge each finished with two singles.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Shepherd 7, West Liberty 1

West Liberty 8, Shepherd 4

At West Liberty, Mike Darrah picked up a complete-game victory and Jonas Phares, Sean Lucas, and Brad Bichey had multi-hit games as West Liberty took Game 2 from Shepherd.

Josh Yager had an RBI single for the Hilltoppers (19-20 overall, 12-2 West Virginia Conference) in Game 1.

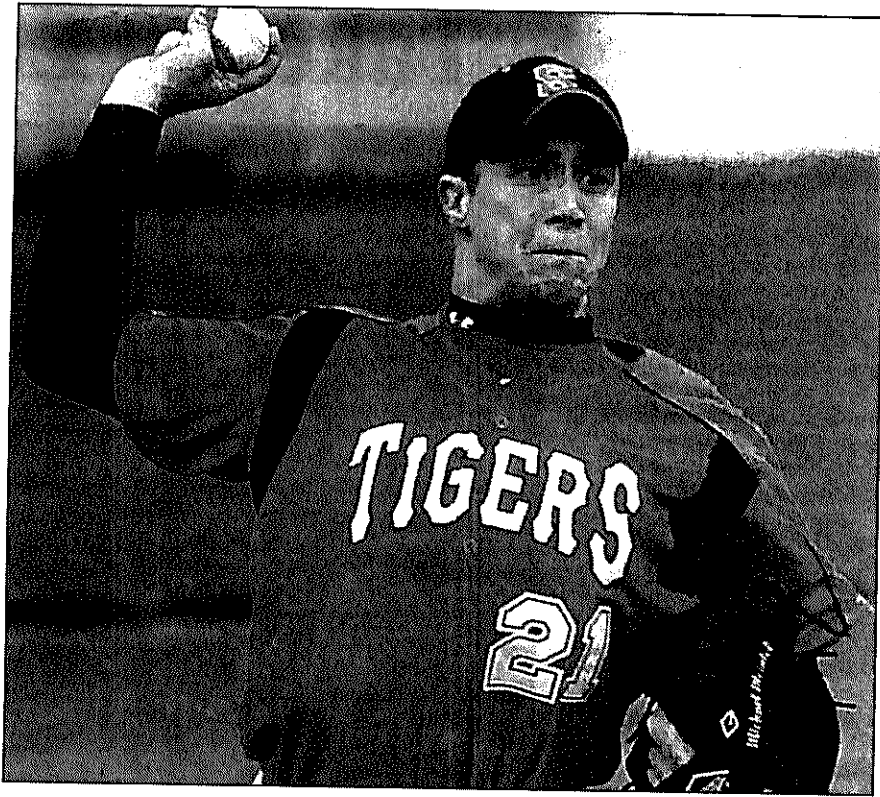
Thiel 3, Bethany 1

Thiel 3, Bethany 2

GREENVILLE, Pa. - With narrow losses Saturday afternoon at Thiel College (24-12, 9-6), the Bethany baseball team (11-21, 2-13) was eliminated from contention for the PAC Tournament.

In Game 1, Bethany scored its lone run in the top of the fourth, as junior J.J. Eberhart doubled to begin the frame and scored on an RBI single by senior catcher Brent Owens.

In the second game, Zach Duncan hit a two-run single for the Bison.



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Shadyside Rolls to Finals

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St. Clairsville Puts Bellaire Away Fast

Red Devils move to AAA semis

By RICH GIBSON
For the Intelligencer

St. Clairsville scored in five of its six at-bats in a 12-2 OVAC Class AAA quarterfinal victory Tuesday night against Bellaire.

Coach Tom Sliva's Red Devils improve to 12-5 and will play a Saturday semifinal contest at Cadiz.

St. Clairsville mounted a 7-0

advantage after two frames and was never seriously threatened.

Senior John Vensel shut down the Big Reds on a sharp five-hitter. Vensel recorded six strikeouts and allowed three walks.

Red Devils leadoff hitter Brody Call singled to ignite a four-run first inning. Call swiped second base and raced home when catcher Dustin Hynes singled to centerfield.

Vensel and Zane Butler reached via two-out walks before third baseman Layne Mehl drilled a two-run single to centerfield. The Devils added three

more in the second frame.

Call walked, swiped second base and came home when shortstop Adam Shanks singled. Hynes followed with a RBI triple to deep centerfield.

Bellaire got on the board in the top of the third. Third baseman Jeremy Garrett was hit by a pitch. After centerfielder Timmy Young singled, Garrett scored on a ground ball off the bat of first baseman Kyle Barnes.

St. Clairsville retaliated as Anthony Wakim singled, stole second and advanced to third on a wild pitch. With two out, Shanks delivered a

base hit to right field and it was 8-1.

Two more Red Devils crossed the plate an inning later. Ian Riddel reached on an error. After Zane Butler singled and attempted to take second base, pinch runner Tyler Armantrout beat a relay throw home for a 9-1 score. Wakim then came through with another two-out RBI hit, scoring Butler.

Bellaire scored its final tally in the top of the sixth. Barnes belted a single and advanced on a Kevin Dobson base knock. A Tyler Rose hit to right field scored Barnes.

The Red Devils ended the six-inning affair in bizarre fashion. The Devils sent five batters to the plate and scored twice without putting the ball in play.

Consecutive walks were followed by back to back hit batsmen. Yet another base on balls to J.C. Thrash allowed the final run to trot home.

Hynes, Shanks and Wakim enjoyed two-hit outings for St. Clairsville. Rose rapped a single and double for Bellaire.

Four Big Reds hurlers teamed for five strikeouts and seven walks.

FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS

The West Liberty women's tennis team is headed to the Great Lakes Regional for the second time in three seasons/16

The Intelligencer SPORTS

WEDNESDAY
MAY 2, 2007

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Now That's a Good Sign

Wetherell's two-run HR lifts Bobcats to victory, into OVAC 4-A final

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

Often times in baseball, when a player chooses not to pay attention to his coach's sign, it can bring significant consequences and possibly even cost a team a game.

But after ignoring a take sign from coach Matt Johnson on Tuesday, Cambridge catcher Kirk Wetherell received only a big smile and an apology from his grateful mentor.

Wetherell provided the game-winning blast with a towering two-run homer in the top of the seventh inning and the Bobcats

overcame an erratic, but effective, pitching performance from Bear Holdren to rally for a 4-2 victory against Wheeling Park in an OVAC Class AAAA semifinal contest at Patriot Field in Wheeling.

Cambridge, which has handed Coach Chad Stout's team two of its four losses this season, advances to take on six-time OVAC champion John Marshall on Saturday afternoon at Vaccarro Field in Steubenville.

Coach Bob Montgomery's Monarchs have won 11 in a row, last losing to the Bobcats in Cambridge by a 7-6 count in 10-innings in mid-April.

The loss by Park also guarantees a new big-school OVAC champion after the Patriots defeated Steubenville in last season's final.

"We have so much respect for Coach Montgomery and his program and we are

very grateful to get the chance to play for a conference championship," Johnson said.

"We also understand that we did not see their ace pitcher the first time we played them and we are not foolish enough to think that this is going to be an easy game."

Tuesday's contest was not easy by any stretch either. After all, the visitors had only two hits off Park starter — and loser — Donnie Platt, entering the final frame and they were both of the infield variety.

That changed in the seventh with the Patriots nursing a 2-1 advantage and Cambridge sending the meat of its order to the dish.

Sean Mahley led off with the Bobcats first hit out of the infield, a single to left before Wetherell stepped to the plate.

Please See SIGN, Page 16



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Scott Slater throws from his knees during an OVAC Class AAAA semifinal Tuesday in Wheeling. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Sign

(Continued from Page 15)

He calmly watched the first two pitches sail by for balls before looking to his coach and getting the take sign for the ensuing pitch.

Instead of taking that offering, however, Wetherell stepped into Platt's offering and sent it over the 350-foot sign in straight-away centerfield to give the visitors a 3-2 advantage.

Following a fly out, Jamaal Lowery added a little insurance with a home run of his own, this one deep over the rightfield fence for a 4-2 upperhand.

"Kirk tends to do that a lot," Johnson said. "But he has hit seven home runs this year and maybe that is my fault for giving him that sign in that situation. I know better than that and he let me know about it when he rounded third base."

"We just lost a disappointing game to Coshocton, and I think the fact that we could come back and win this one shows a lot of senior leadership on this team."

While the Bobcats led by two, the Patriots were not done and offered one final threat in their half of the seventh. After No. 9 hitter Clark

Cambridge will play John Marshall in Saturday's OVAC Class AAAA final at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field

Sambuco walked for the third time to lead off the inning. Christian Lewton worked a one-out free pass to put two on.

Corey Brown hit into a fielder's choice to put runners at second and third with two out before Adam Lewton was intentionally walked to load the bases.

But Holdren overcame the three walks in the seventh to get his seventh strikeout to end the game.

"That is the way baseball should be played and that is one of the things that can happen when the other team puts the ball in play," a disappointed Stout said.

"They deserve this and I wish them all the luck."

"That championship game will be a battle of two outstanding high school baseball teams."

"Our biggest problem is that we are too passive at the plate. We struck out 11 times (Tuesday) and seven of those were looking."

"You are not going to win games sitting back and doing that."

The Patriots took a 1-0 lead in the third on a Sambu-

co walk, a pair of stolen bases and Brown's RBI single. But the visitors bounced back with a leadoff walk to Stephen Ford in the top of the fourth.

Ford stole second and advanced to third when the ball went into center. Mahley's infield single plated him for a 1-1 score.

Sambuco's second walk, this one in the fourth, led to Park's second run as he watched four straight balls with the bases loaded to force home Adam Lewton, who had walked to lead off the frame. It was also the first of two times the Patriots left the bases loaded.

Holdren fanned 11 and walked eight, however, only 61 of his 121 pitches were for strikes.

Platt was the hard-luck loser, striking out four and walking a pair in 6 1/2 innings.

"Bear is Bear," Johnson said. "He tends to buckle down when he gets in trouble and he did that again. He had a lot of leadoff walks, but he also got strikes when he really needed them."

While Stout's team will not get the opportunity to repeat as big-school OVAC champions, he knows there is still the matter of the upcoming sectional at hand, and possibly another shot at their biggest rivals — and his alma mater — John Marshall.

"I have confidence in these kids, and I know they can be more aggressive," he said. "And I believe they have the ability to pick things up and peak at the right time. Hopefully that will come in about a week."

SPORTS

SUNDAY NEWS-REGISTER — Wheeling, W.Va. — Sunday, May 6, 2007

OVAC BASEBALL TOURNEY

'Pyshing' in the Dark

Righty has Cambridge swinging at air as JM wins Class AAAA title

By SHAWN RINE
Staff Writer

It doesn't matter the sport, coaches always tell their players to be patient and take what the opposition gives them.

The John Marshall baseball team provided a tutorial on what that adage means Saturday at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville, in the OVAC Class AAAA final against Cambridge.

The Monarchs (24-3) turned two hit batsmen, two walks with the bases loaded and a pair of singles into the only four runs they needed, in a 4-3 victory against the Bobcats (18-6).

It's the seventh conference title in the illustrious career of John Marshall coach Bob Montgomery.

"Every group is special, and this one is special," Montgomery said. "The OVAC, we have great respect for, and I have refereed in it for 46 years."

"I thought it was a real good championship game."

The Monarchs were lucky to get those four runs, because after that first inning Cambridge starter — and loser — Bear Holdren settled into a groove. He allowed

just three more hits in six innings, and the Monarchs were able to advance a runner to third just two more times.

While the senior right-hander was holding the fort, his offense began to chip away against John Marshall starter, and Radford recruit Shane Pysh. The Bobcats managed single runs in the second and third, and tacked on another in the sixth.

Catcher Kirk Wetherell was at the center of it, as he produced a single leading off the second and scored on a Jamaal Lowery double. He launched a solo home run to dead center in the sixth to bring Cambridge to within a run.

In between, Sean Mahley singled home an unearned run in the third.

But as good as Pysh was — he struck out 10, walked one and 75 of his 112 pitches were strikes — the Bobcats had an opportunity to blow the game open in the top of the sixth. Wetherell led off with his homer and Zach Engstrom and Lowery followed with back-to-back singles.

A stolen base by the former and a catcher's indifference had the go-ahead run on second with nobody out.

Pysh wasn't having any more.

The right-hander struck out Hank Lillenthal and pinch-hitter Brian McClelland, and then induced Justin Lashley to ground out to second to escape further damage.

"That was huge — it really deflated us," Cambridge coach Matt Johnson said. "Our guys didn't cut down their swings

and get the runners in when we had guys on second and third with nobody out.

"(Pysh) did a heckuva job getting out of it. He threw a 3-1 curveball to our No. 8 hitter and that just shows the confidence he has in his pitches. All the credit to him."

Most pitchers at the high school level try to work off their fastball. Pysh, who struck out at least one in every inning but the fifth, works in reverse. He looked to establish his curve and then finish off Bobcats batters with the fastball.

"(The Bobcats) are a really good hitting team," Montgomery said. "We knew the mixture had to be serious because these kids are baseball players and they can hit it out of any park."

"He mixed his pitches real well, but calling your own pitches, he and (catcher) Jesse (Persinger) brought the heater at the right time."

Montgomery admits he's probably had better teams, or at least ones with more star power. But he's also quick to point out how close this season's bunch has become.

"This is what I call a true team," he said. "We've had a lot of different lineups and had 16 guys start at one time or another."

"I'm going to say we've had 30 errors in 27 games. Pitching starts baseball, but this team has played tremendous defense."



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

UNION LOCAL'S Cory Carpenter throws the ball to the plate against Magnolia's Evan Botizan during Saturday's OVAC Class 3-A semifinal at Mazeroski Field in Cadiz. Carpenter worked 6.1 innings and earned the win as UL advanced to its first OVAC baseball final since 1996.

Union Local advances in 3-A

BY RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

Off to a 1-4 start at the beginning of April, Rich Mercer and his Union Local Jets were not exactly thinking OVAC championship. They are now.

Slowly but surely, UL worked its way to the .500 level and eventually beyond.

Still, not many gave Mercer's team much chance in Saturday's OVAC 3-A semifinal matchup at Cadiz against a well-schooled Magnolia contingent.

The Jets thought otherwise. UL mounted a 3-0 first inning lead then held its collective

breath as a seventh inning Blue Eagles' rally came up precariously short.

Union Local's resulting 5-3 victory elevates the Morristown school to its first OVAC baseball title game appearance since 1996. The now 12-8 Jets oppose Indian Creek next Saturday at 4 p.m.

"I'm proud of the way our kids handled (the early adversity)," Mercer related. "We put up a sign in the dugout that read 'Re-Focus.' That's what our guys did. We've come back to play some pretty good baseball."

Always a requirement against Magnolia

and the Eagles' legendary baseball guru Dave Cisar. "The difference today?" Cisar advised, "They (UL) played with emotion and intensity and we didn't. We probably lost it right there in the first inning."

That's when UL touched up Eagles' sophomore starter Andrew Robinson for three runs.

Dylan DeVore hit a towering fly ball that Magnolia centerfielder Trent Adkins tracked down. But the ball glanced off his glove and DeVore raced to third base.

One-out later, shortstop Casey Stiles

See, **UL**, Page C4

Shadyside rolls to 1-A title game

By JEFF POTTS
Times Leader Sports Writer

Shadyside head coach Gary Cunningham has had a lot of regular season OVAC success, claiming two OVAC titles.

Saturday morning at Perkins Field in Brookside, the Tigers took another step towards claiming their first OVAC Tournament title in the Cunningham era.

Shadyside scored 14 runs in the bottom of the third inning to break

open a close game, handing Bishop Donahue a 16-2 setback in an OVAC Class 1-A semifinal.

"The OVAC title is an important thing for us because we have a bad taste in our mouths after getting beat in the title game last year," Cunningham said. "Unlike today, I promise you we will come ready to play next Saturday."

Though happy with the win, Cunningham indicated he was dis-

See, **SHADYSIDE**, Page C4



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

SHADYSIDE catcher Kraig Kubancik gets ready to tag out Donahue's Sean Jordan during the second inning.

Toronto rolls past Trail, 13-0

By AARON PETCHAL
For The Times Leader

The Toronto baseball team continues to get the job done in grand fashion.

Saturday against Buckeye Trail in the OVAC Class AA Semifinals at the Knight Baseball Complex, the Red Knights were once again dominating on the mound and at the plate at the Red Knight Baseball Complex in Toronto.

Offensively, Toronto tallied 13 runs on 13 hits, and pitcher Zach Stewart was one hitter away from a perfect game. In the end, Stewart hurled a shutout pitching a no-hitter leading the Red Knights past the Warriors, 13-0, in five innings.

With the victory, the Red Knights are now 18-1. After falling in the season opener to Big Red, Toronto has won 18 straight games. The Red Knights will have a chance for revenge Monday when the team travels to Vaccaro Field to take on Big Red.

Also with the win, Toronto will play in the tournament finals Saturday at Vaccaro Field. The Red Knights will take on Catholic Central. The Crusaders defeated Wheeling Central, 9-5, in Saturday's second semifinal game.

In the only meeting of the season thus far, Toronto defeated Central, 11-1, in five innings Friday.

The game against Buckeye Trail was essentially over after the first inning.

Stewart retired the Warriors in order, and the Toronto bats did the talking in the bottom half of the inning as 12 Red Knights stepped to the plate.

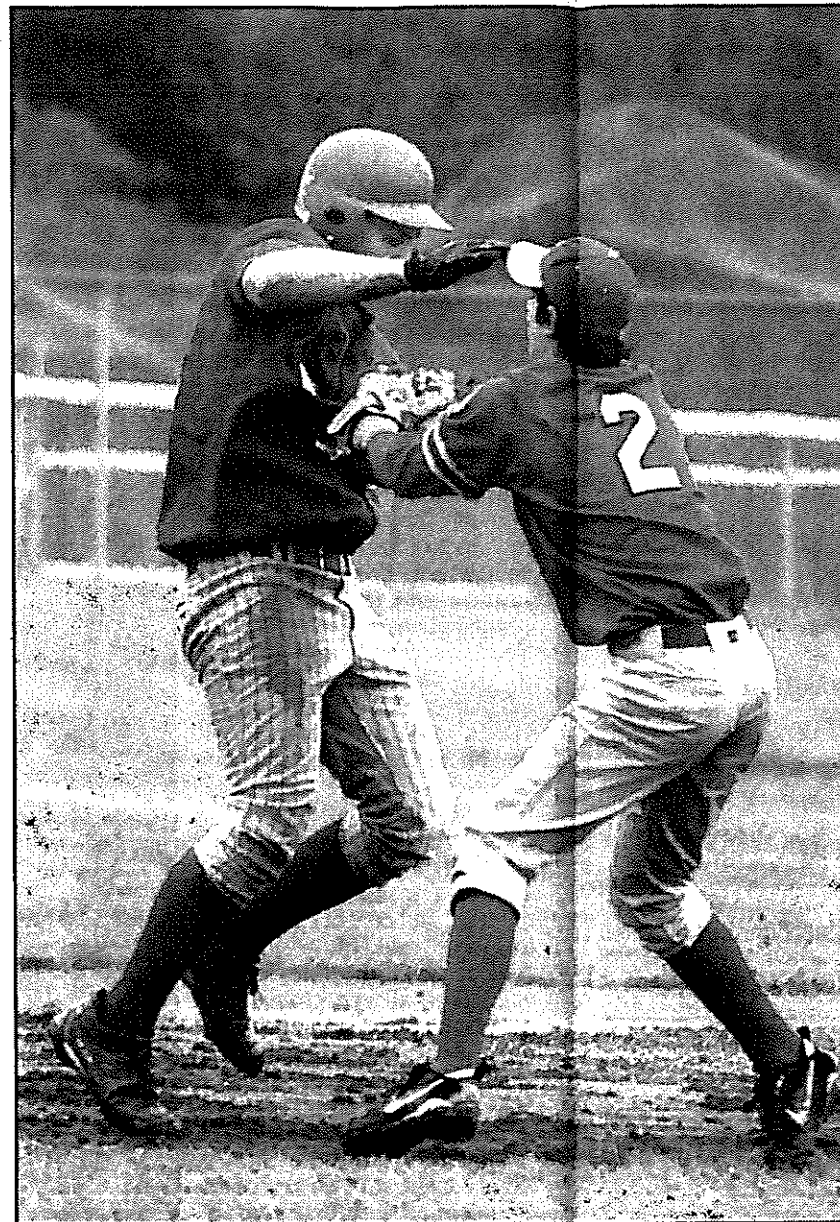
Toronto scored eight runs on seven hits, and the result of the game was never in question at that point.

Stewart improved to 3-0 on the season. He struck out three.

Offensively, Stewart helped his own cause with a single, a double and two RBIs. Also for the Red Knights, Mike Ludewig delivered two singles and three RBIs, Travis Miller, who has signed to play baseball at Cleveland State, contributed a single, a triple and two RBIs and Adam Hannan added a two-run double. Caleb Zeigler and Nick Turkaly tallied two singles, Kris Carr chipped in with a double and a RBI and Aaron Miller had a single and a RBI.

Ethan Williams took the loss for the Warriors. He struck out three and walked one. Jordan Thompson was the only Buckeye Trail player to reach base.

Linescore:
Buckeye Trail 000 00 - 0 0 2
Toronto 814 0X - 13 13 0
BATTERIES: Williams and Nelson. Stewart and Carr.



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

ST. CLAIRSVILLE first baseman Brody Call tags out Indian Creek's Andy Thompson to complete a double play during the third inning of their OVAC Class 3-A semifinal game at Cadiz.

Indian Creek upsets top-seeded St. C.

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

Indian Creek coach Mike Cottis had to make a difficult decision. It turned into a winning one.

Opposing St. Clairsville had loaded the bases against Creek's Craig Johnston in the top of the second inning when Cottis headed to the mound.

"Craig wasn't feeling real comfortable out there," Cottis advised. "He's been in a whole lot of big games for us, but I felt like making a change at that point."

during the afternoon. But Ohalek easily countered, inducing three additional infield ground balls which Redskin fielders turned into rally-killing double plays.

"Turning four double plays in a high school game is very rare," Cottis noted. "I can't remember the last time I saw it."

Trailing by a run early, Creek catcher Ron Sismondo grounded a two-run single up the middle. A third run came home on an infield out off the bat of Mike Wilson.

In the Redskin third, centerfielder Kody Grimes drew a leadoff walk from

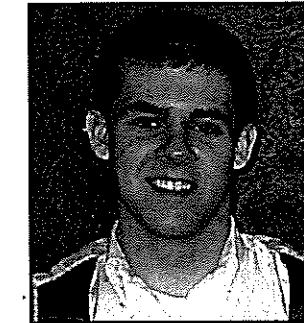
Linsly headed back to 1-A final

• Cadets bounce Beallsville, 5-3

By JEFF POTTS
Times Leader Sports Writer

It's a rematch from last year's OVAC Class 1-A title game. Defending champion Linsly pushed across two runs in the top of the eighth to defeat Beallsville by a 5-3 count in an OVAC Class 1-A semifinal Saturday afternoon at Perkins Field in Brookside.

The Cadets will meet Shadyside Saturday at 11 a.m. in the Class 1-A title game at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.



WARREN HAMMEL

"I'm excited about the rematch with Shadyside Saturday," Linsly head coach Jay Cartwright said. "We're going to have to play well against them. They have great arms, great hitters and we're going to have to go out there and get after them."

Beallsville head coach Patrick Wells was frustrated after the game.

"We made a couple mistakes that hurt us, the dropped fly ball in the sixth inning let them back in it,"

Wells said. "But our kids did what they have done all year, we came back and tied it up."

With nobody out in the top of the first, Linsly placed runners on second and third, before Beallsville starter Kent Price induced two groundouts and a flyout to escape a jam.

Linsly starter Warren Hammel struck out the side in the home half of the first, then received a nice 4-6-3 double play and a strikeout to end the second.

The Cadets struck first in the top of the third.

Leadoff hitter Taylor Cecil drew a walk, then stole second and third and scored when Joseph Wills laced a single back up the middle.

Price settled down and struck out two straight batters, stranding Andrew Kozusko who walked.

"After the first two innings, I wondered if we would even put the ball in play," Wells said. "Our guys weren't real selective and they finally realized the strike zone isn't up in their eyes."

Kevin Stoney singled and advanced to second on a walk to Jimmy Reisz. With one out, Price reached on an error, allowing Stoney to score. Joey Albus hit a sac-fly to score Reisz for a 2-1 Blue Devil lead after three-and-a-half.

Linsly loaded the bases with two outs in the top of the fifth, but Price induced a Hammel flyout to end the threat.

Hammel struck out the side in the home half of the fifth, giving the Linsly offense new life.

With one out, Chris Kiedaisch walked and took second when Patrick Milton singled, Milton took second on the ensuing error and Ethan Jones reached on a fielder's choice. Cecil reached on an error scoring Milton and Jones for a 3-2 Linsly lead heading into the bottom of the seventh.

Price singled and stole second, then advanced to third on a single by Joey Albus. Timmy Jones reached on a fielder's choice to tie it at 7-all heading to extra innings.

The Cadets pushed across two runs on two hits in the top of the eighth and held Beallsville in the home half of the inning to set up the rematch with Shadyside.

Milton and Cecil each had three singles to lead Linsly, while Hammel struck out 16.

Price struck out nine and helped his won cause with two base

● UL

Continued from Page C1

dumped a double into center, plating DeVore. After third baseman Logan Pruitt reached on an error, Stiles raced home. When catcher Mark Thompson lined a single to right, UL enjoyed a three-run margin.

Magnolia worked its way back. Shortstop Kale Street clubbed a run-scoring double in the third, scoring teammate Kevin Snyder. One inning later, Eagles' leftfielder John Peffer doubled to right to plate Kyle Kimble.

"You didn't figure three runs was going to be enough for us," Mercer accurately envisioned.

Thus, UL's skipper turned to the element of surprise in the fifth, ordering consecutive squeeze plays.

With Stiles off from third base, Thompson slapped an infield grounder allowing Stiles to score. The situation duplicated itself seconds later.

Travis Stephens took off from third on another attempted squeeze with Jordan Barbina at the plate. But Robinson's pitch sailed high, eluding catcher Jordan Ash and Stephens tallied for a 5-2 lighting.

UL starter Cory Carpenter, who authored a masterful mound performance, pitched into the seventh before yielding to Stephens.

Peffer and Snyder socked consecutive singles. With two-out, Eagles' leadoff hitter Jonas McEldowney stepped to the plate representing the tying run.

McEldowney sent a Stephens' offering high and deep to left field. The ball missed by no more than two feet of clearing the fence and went for a RBI double and a 5-3 reading.

With runners at second and third, Street fouled off several pitches before Stephens recorded a game-ending strikeout.

"Give Union Local all the credit," Cisar advised. "They just came out here and took it to us. Some of our guys must have thought they could just show up and move on. This game doesn't work that way."

Carpenter compiled three strikeouts and two walks. Stephens and Thompson singled twice for UL.

Robinson registered eight Ks and two walks in a complete game outing.

Mercer indicated his team has several make-ups slated this week, including a Monday afternoon (5:00) home field encounter with Harrison Central. The Jets host Edison on Tuesday.

Line score:

Union Local 300 020 0 -- 5 9 1

Magnolia 001 100 1 -- 3 5 2

BATTERIES: Carpenter, Stephens (7) and Thompson. Robinson and Ash.

"Craig wasn't feeling real comfortable out there," Cottis advised. "He's been in a whole lot of big games for us, but I felt like making a change at that point."

Enter equally adept righthander Tim Ohalek who faced St. C.'s number two hitter, Adam Shanks with no margin for error. The Devils' shortstop hit a sharp one-hop grounder back to the box. Ohalek turned it into a 1-2-3 inning-ending double play.

Ohalek later hammered a two-run homer and also drilled a two-run double in the Creek's 9-1 OVAC 3-A semifinal victory at Mazerowski Field in Cadiz.

The now 10-10 Redskins advance to next Saturday's title game opposite Union Local which upended Magnolia in Saturday's second game.

"There's really no dropoff bringing Ohalek in to pitch," Cottis said afterward. "Just like Craig, Tim's a real competitor. He did a great job shutting down a very good St. Clairsville team."

That was hardly the case Saturday as Tom Sliva's club which had edged Indian Creek 4-3 in a regular season encounter, authored its poorest performance of the spring. "We've been streaky like that at times," Sliva reported. "Obviously, you can't go out, make six errors and expect positive results."

The Red Devils' only tally came in the first inning when catcher Dustin Hynes singled and came home on a base rap by teammate John Vensel.

The Belmont County combine was able to produce additional baserunners

single up the middle. A third run came home on an infield out off the bat of Mike Wilson.

In the Redskin third, centerfielder Kody Grimes drew a leadoff walk from St. C. righty Ian Riddel. That brought O'Halek to the plate. He hammered an opposite-field line drive home run to right-center and it was 5-1.

Two more Creek runners were aboard an inning later when Ohalek unloaded a two-run double to deep center. That made it 7-1 and Cottis' club was virtually home free.

Ohalek, who missed the first two weeks of the season with ligament damage, recorded three strikeouts and one walk in his winning five and two-third innings of work.

Riddel worked all seven innings for the Devils, registering five Ks and six walks. The 13-7 Red Devils were limited to four singles of which Vensel collected two.

"It's not like the season's over," Sliva pointed out. "We've still got the EOBL and sectionals. Today's definitely disappointing. It wasn't our best effort. But we still have much to play for. I hope our kids realize that."

The Red Devils and Indian Creek play a regular season makeup encounter Tuesday at Wintersville.

The Creek and UL vie next Saturday (4 p.m.) at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field.

Line score:
Indian Creek 032 220 0 -- 9 7 2
St. Clairsville 100 000 0 -- 1 4 6
BATTERIES: Johnston, Ohalek (2) and Sismondo, Riddel and Hynes.

the eighth and held Beallsville in the home half of the inning to set up the rematch with Shadyside.

Milton and Cecil each had three singles to lead Linsly, while Hammel struck out 16.

Price struck out nine and helped his won cause with two base knocks. Alubs singled and drove home two runs for Beallsville.

"I thought Kent threw a great game for us," Wells said.

Cartwright said he thinks the I-A title game will be a classic.

"I think it will be a great game," he said. "Shadyside has three or four quality arms and they are going to come after us. We'll run our ace out there and we'll see what happens."

"It wouldn't surprise me at all if it was a pitcher's duel."

Linescore:

Linsly 001 002 02 -- 5 9 1

Beallsville 000 200 10 -- 3 5 4

BATTERIES: Hammel and An. Kozusko. Price and Mellinger.

Potts can be reached at jpotts@timesleaderonline.com

● Shadyside

Continued from Page C1

pleased with the performance.

"I'm not happy with the way we played today, we weren't ready to play," Cunningham said. "We didn't field, hit and pitch the ball very well today. Hopefully what happened to us last year will have us ready to play Saturday."

Cunningham indicated he was pleased with the offensive output.

"Anytime you put 16 runs up on the board, you have to be happy," he said. "Donahue helped us out with a few errors here and there, and we put the ball in play, but it wasn't a good effort on our part today."

Shadyside starter Michael Meintel got two quick strike outs in the top of the first before getting in a small jam following walks to John Haglock and A.J. Gordon. Meintel came right back and struck out James Whitfield on a 3-2 curveball.

Billy Merryman doubled to open the home half of the second and advanced to third when catcher Kraig Kubancik reached on an error. Kubancik advanced to second on the second error of the play.

With one out, Meintel doubled home Meryrman and Kubancik for a 2-0 Shadyside lead.

Cody McCormick walked and stole second with Meintel taking third on a wild pitch. A groundout left both runners stranded. Andrew Smith reached on an error and advanced to third when Sean Jordan reached on an error. Mike Matheny singled to cut the Shadyside lead to 2-1 after one-and-a-half.

The Tigers put the game out of reach in the home half of the third.

Kubancik singled and took third on a Clifton Francis single, Meintel walked to load the bases. McCormick also drew a walk to bring home Kubancik.

Ross Palicka singled in two runs for a 5-1 Shadyside lead. Nathan Butts laced an RBI single and B.A. Holloway singled in two runs for an 8-1 Tigers lead.

Merryman joined the hit parade with a two-run single.

The Tigers would put four more runs across the plate for a 16-1 lead after three.

After a strikeout of Donahue's Whitfield, Smith and Bo Groves singled, putting runners on first and second. Meintel settled down and struck out the next two hitters to preserve the 16-1 lead.

Groves got a one-two-three bottom of the fourth and the Bishops put one run across the plate in the top of the fifth before Butts retired the final three hitters to send the Tigers on to next Saturday's OVAC Class 1-A title game at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville against Linsly.

Merryman led the hit parade for Shadyside with a single, double and two RBI. Meintel doubled twice and plated a pair of runs. Holloway singled twice and drove in four, while Palicka chipped in a two-run single.

Linescore:

Bishop Donahue 010 01 -- 2 3 6

Shadyside 20(14) 0x -- 16 11 2

BATTERIES: Gordon, Matheny (3), Groves (4) and Haglock. Meintel, Butts (5) and Kubancik.

Potts can be reached at jpotts@timesleaderonline.com

SECTION
B

Sunday, May 6, 2007

Jets soar to first OVAC baseball title

• UL rallies past Indian Creek for 3-A crown

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

They don't look very intimidating. But Rich Mercer's Union Local Jets look very much like champions.

For the first time in school history, UL has captured an OVAC baseball title. The Jets did so in dramatic fashion Saturday at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field, rallying for a tense 3-2 triumph over Indian Creek.

'They faced some adversity, but refocused and came together as a team.'

— Rich Mercer

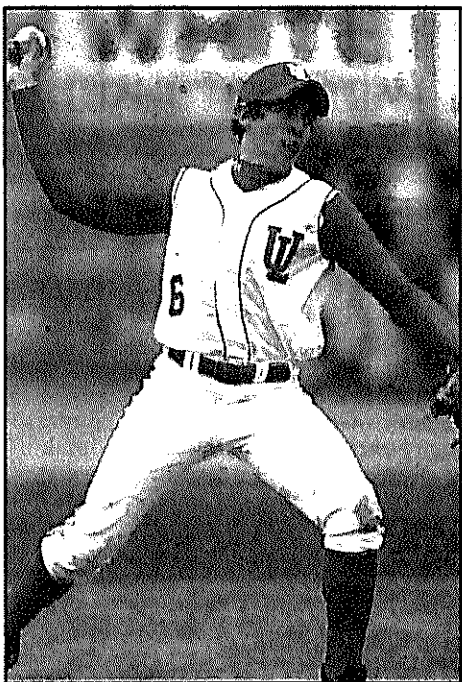
Despite a less-than-impressive start this spring, Mercer's team successfully regrouped to qualify for the OVAC 3-A semifinals. A week earlier they had pulled off an unexpected 5-3 win over perennial power Magnolia.

In Saturday's title matchup, the Jets faced a 1-0 deficit with only six outs to work

with. But they got off the deck, sparked by their number nine hitter, a freshman, no less.

"This team has done whatever has been necessary to win games all season," a happy Mercer reported. "They faced some early adversity but refocused and came together as a team."

See, UL, Page B3



Photo/MIKE MATHISON

UNION LOCAL'S Cory Carpenter delivers a pitch during Saturday's OVAC Class 3-A title game. The Jets prevailed by a 3-2

UL has depended almost exclusively on quality contributions up and down its lineup, led by six seniors, a talented junior and a group of achieving underclassmen.

"The kids understand their roles and bought into our system," Mercer indicated.

"We became a better team as the season progressed. We beat two quality teams in this tournament. I'm just very proud and happy for our players and coaches."

Redskins' skipper Mike Cottis saw his team rally in the seventh inning only to fall a run short. "I don't think many people would have expected us to even be in this position today," he said. "It's a credit to the work our kids put forth. I congratulate Union Local. They made a nice comeback. We had to make some plays and didn't. But give them (UL) credit. They did a great job playing 'small ball' and got the job done."

Creek was a 1-0 leader through five frames via UL's only error of the day. But Jets' freshman Justin Curry led off the sixth, drilling a two-strike pitch from IC's Craig Johnston into the left field corner for a double.

That brought up leadoff hitter, Dylan DeVore who executed a perfect bunt towards third base. Johnston fielded, but had no play.

On an attempted steal by DeVore, Creek catcher Ron Sisondo saw his throw short-hop second baseman Daniel Dunlevy and roll into centerfield. This permitted Curry to score.

With DeVore racing towards third, the ensuing relay eluded third baseman Mike Wilson and DeVore kept chugging, diving head first into home ahead of Johnston's throw.

Now leading 2-1, senior Shay Martin sent a Johnston offering to left for his second double of the afternoon. Shortstop Casey Stiles was next. His bunt towards first was fielded by Johnston whose quick toss was off the glove of first baseman James Watson. Martin raced home and it was 3-1.

Junior pitcher Cory Carpenter, meanwhile, was once again working his magic, nursing a two-run lead into the seventh.

Carpenter retired Creek's first two hitters before Wilson kept the Redskins' alive with a double to left. Johnston was next, unloading a drive over the head of UL rightfielder Jordan Barbina for a ribbie double and a 3-2 issue.

Mercer then opted to bring on senior Travis Stephens who induced a game-ending line drive to center which DeVore snagged for the final out.

Carpenter, the winning pitcher in both of UL's OVAC victories, was superb in tossing a five-hitter. "He painted that outside corner all day," Cottis noted. Added Mercer, "Our guys love playing behind Cory. He's usually always around the plate."

Carpenter struck out four and walked two en route to spinning a five-hitter. Johnston was equally excellent and deserved a better fate. He recorded five Ks and no walks before Tim Ohalek entered and fanned a pair.

Martin's two doubles paced UL. Wilson tagged a pair of two-baggers for the Redskins. Both teams face sectional action this week on Thursday.

The 13-11 Jets will be in Cambridge to oppose the winner of Monday's Bellaire-Monroe Central encounter.

Line score:
Indian Creek 000 100 1 — 2 5 3
Union Local 000 003 x — 3 5 1
BATTERIES: Johnston, Ohalek (7) and Sisondo. Carpenter, Stephens (7) and Thompson.

Once-Beaten Shadyside Club 'Gets the Monkey of its Back'

Tigers ace shuts down Linsly to secure Class A hardware

By JEFF POTTS

For the News-Register

Outright Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A tournament champions.

Shadyside coach Gary Cunningham has waited a long time to hear those words associated with his Tigers baseball team.

Saturday afternoon at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville, the long wait ended.

The Tigers (22-1) plated three runs in the bottom of the first inning and hung on from there to hand Linsly (12-10) a 3-0 setback.

"The monkey is off our back," Cunningham said with a smile. "This is my 10th year as head coach, we've had some regular-season titles, we've been runners-up so this is our first one."

"Actually this is the first championship for Shadyside that I know of," Cunningham continued. "We had a split championship, so this is our first official outright title."

Shadyside starter Michael Meintel was thrilled following the game.

"Everybody's excited and it was a team effort (Saturday)," Meintel said. "We brought our bats in the first inning and our defense played well, we didn't have any errors. We came ready to play."

Cunningham said the kids were very focused.

"The kids knew that Shadyside team on the field last year wasn't the team that won a lot of games," Cunningham said. "We wanted to show them we had a pretty good team."

Cunningham said the Tigers title win won't hit him for a while.

"It's going to take a little bit of time for it to sink in," Cunningham said. "The week leading up to the game is exciting and then you score three runs in the first inning and then hang on. It's a relief when it's over."

Though disappointed with the loss, Linsly coach Jay Cartwright was proud of his kids.

"I'm as pleased as I could possibly be," Cartwright said. "We faced one of the best pitchers in the valley and we battled them for seven innings. I'm just so proud of my kids."

After a one-two-three top of the first, the Shadyside bats came alive in the bottom of the first.

Billy Merryman got things going with sharp single to left. Following a flyout, Clifton Francis reached via error and Meintel followed with a single scoring Merryman.

Cody McCormick grounded into a fielder's choice, allowing Francis to cross the plate.

Ross Palicka singled in Meintel for a 3-0

"It's going to take a little bit for it to sink in. The week leading up to the game is exciting, and then you score three runs in the first inning and hang on."

Gary Cunningham

Shadyside lead.

Cartwright indicated the inning was huge. "We gave up a couple unearned runs and it hurt," Cartwright said. "There was a possible double-play ball and the kid did all the right things, the ball just got by him. But that's the game of baseball."

"That inning set the tone for the game," Meintel said. "We didn't score or get many hits after that, but it set the tone and the guys realized we would win the game."

Linsly starter Warren Hammel settled down after that, giving up just four more hits — all singles — while permitting one runner past first base.

Meintel was on his game from the get-go, taking a perfect game into the third, before giving up a single to Taylor Cecil. Meintel then retired the next five batters before Cadets shortstop Patrick Milton singled with two outs in the fifth and took second on a balk. Meintel induced a groundout by Ethan Jones to end the threat.

After another one-two-three top of the sixth, Meintel ran into trouble in the top of the seventh.

Second baseman Spencer Atkinson and catcher Andrew Kozusko led off with singles, putting runners on first and second with nobody out.

Meintel followed with two strikeouts and Milton grounded out to give the Tigers the title.

For the game, Meintel struck out 10 while giving up four hits and zero walks.

"I'm very happy with the way I threw (Saturday)," Meintel said. "I'm not really sure what happened in the seventh, but (second baseman) B.A. (Holloway) made a nice play to get us out of it."

Cunningham had high praise for Meintel.

"He wanted it," Cunningham said. "We rested him all week and he came through."

"He had good pop on his fastball and came through in the clutch."

Though he finished the game with just one strikeout, Hammel kept the Shadyside offense off-balance all day.



Photo by Stephanie Elverd
Indian Creek starter Craig Johnston works to the plate vs. Union Local.

Jets Get Best Of Redskins

Big sixth enough in Class AAA tilt

By RICH GIBSON

For the News-Register

They don't look very intimidating. But Rich Mercer's Union Local Jets look very much like champions.

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"This team has done whatever has been necessary to win games all season," a happy Mercer said. "They faced some early adversity but refocused and came together as a team."

UL has depended almost exclusively on quality contributions up and down its lineup, led by six seniors, a talented junior and a group of achieving underclassmen.

"The kids understand their roles and bought into our system," Mercer said. "We became a better team as the season progressed. We beat two quality teams in this tournament."

Indian Creek led 1-0 through five frames via the Jets' lone error. But Jets' freshman Justin Curry led off the sixth, drilling a two-strike pitch from Indian Creek's Craig Johnston into the left-field corner for a double.

That brought up leadoff hitter, Dylan DeVore who executed a perfect bunt toward third base. Johnston fielded, but had no play.

On an attempted steal by DeVore, Creek catcher Ron Sismondo saw his throw short-hop second baseman Daniel Dunlevy and roll into centerfield. This permitted Curry to score.

Crusaders Pull Off the Upset

Steub. Central Tops Toronto in 2-A final

By AARON PETCHAL

For The News-Register

Sporting events seldom live up to the hype, but that was not the case Saturday night.

The Steubenville Central and Toronto baseball teams staged an epic 10-inning marathon to determine the OVAC Class AA Tournament Champion at Vaccaro Field.

When the smoke had cleared, it was the Crusaders who found a way to get the job done as catcher Justin Kaufmann scored the game-winning run on a strikeout in the top of the 10th inning giving the Crusaders a thrilling 5-4 victory.

With the victory, Catholic Central improves to 19-5 on the season. The Crusaders victory snapped the Red Knights 21-game winning streak. Toronto entered the game as the No. 1-ranked team in the state of Ohio in Division IV with a record of

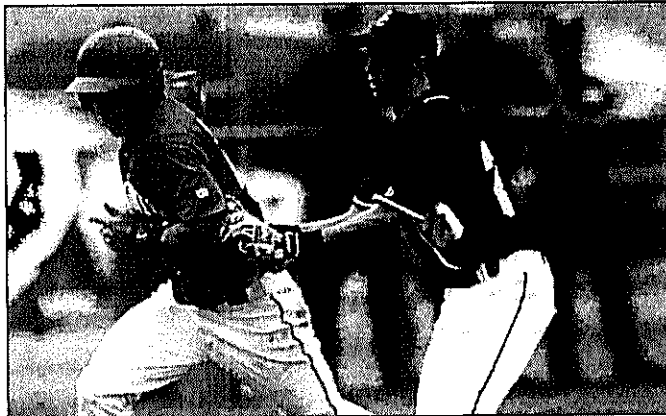


Photo by Mike Mathison

Steubenville Central's Chris Gale tags out Toronto's Travis Miller during the OVAC Class A final in Steubenville.

21-1.

Brian DeFranco, who was the hero of Steubenville Central's semifinal victory against Wheeling Central last Saturday as he belted the game-winning grand slam in the bottom of the seventh inning, was one of the many heroes for the Crusaders against the Red Knights.

DeFranco started the game, delivering nine strong innings. He struck out one, and he walked three batters in earning the victory. Steve

Smith pitched the 10th inning. Smith walked one batter.

Offensively, Steubenville Central pounded out eight hits.

Zack D'Ulisse led the way with a single, a double and two RBIs. Also for the Blue-and-Gold, Jeremy Samples contributed a single and a RBI. Aaron Straney added a pair of base hits, and Kaufmann, Mike Emmerling and Luca Call chipped in with singles.

'Cats come up short in OVAC title tilt

Cambridge falls to John Marshall, 4-3, in 4-A baseball championship

DARREN McCULLOCH
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

STEUBENVILLE — ALL IT TAKES IS ONE BIG INNING TO WIN A BALL GAME. UNFORTUNATELY FOR CAMBRIDGE, IT GAVE UP A FOUR-RUN FIRST INNING TO JOHN MARSHALL THAT HELPED THE MONARCHS CLAIM THE OHIO VALLEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE 4-A TITLE WITH A 4-3 DECISION OVER THE BOBCATS ON SATURDAY AT A.J. VACCARO FIELD.

DOWN 4-2 IN THE SIXTH, KIRK WETHERELL BROUGHT THE CAMBRIDGE FAITHFUL TO ITS FEET WITH A BOMB OVER THE CENTER FIELD FENCE TO START THE FRAME. ZACH ENGSTROM AND JAMAAL LOWERY FOLLOWED WITH BACK-TO-BACK SINGLES THAT EVENTUALLY PUT THE DUO ON SECOND AND THIRD WITH NO OUTS.

JOHN MARSHALL HURER SHANE PYSH REGAINED HIS COMPOSURE AND STRUCK OUT THE NEXT TWO BOBCATS AND GOT A GROUND OUT TO SECOND TO END THE THREAT AND SEND THE MONARCHS INTO THE DUGOUT WITH A 4-3 CUSHION.

PYSH FED OFF HIS MOMENTUM IN THE SEVENTH BY RETIING THE FINAL THREE BATTERS OF THE GAME IN ORDER IN THE SEVENTH TO CLINCH THE OVAC TITLE FOR JOHN MARSHALL.

CAMBRIDGE HEAD COACH MAIT JOHNSON GAVE JOHN MARSHALL CREDIT FOR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE EARLY MISTAKES.

"THEY ARE A GREAT BALL TEAM," JOHNSON OPENED. "WE BATTLED BACK. WE COULD HAVE

lost it in the first. Pysh did a good job of keeping us of keeping us off-balance. We didn't cut down on our swings. I believe this is the seventh title for (John Marshall head coach) Bob (Montgomery). We will get ready for the tournament."

Cambridge starting pitcher Bear Holdren struggled early on. Holdren only allowed two singles in the first inning, however, he hit a pair of batters and walked two more. Cy Mazingo hit a single to right to plate Ryan Zelinski; K.C. McGilton and Zane Madden drew back-to-back two-out walks; and Mazingo scored on a wild pitch to give John Marshall a 4-0 cushion.

The 'Cats managed to get a run back in the second inning with Jamaal Lowery smoking a double just over the left fielder's head to plate Wetherell and trim the deficit to 4-1.

Cambridge tacked on one more run in the third with Stephen Ford, who reached on an error, scoring on an RBI single to right-center from Sean Mahley to bring the 'Cats to within two, 4-2.

Johnson admitted the bottom of the first and the top of the sixth were the two biggest situations where John Marshall made the plays to deflate his team.

"In the sixth, we have the momentum with runners on second and third and nobody out," Johnson started. "However, they came

back with two strikeouts and a ground out. That really deflated us. Another situation is in the first. They had the bases loaded and Bear gets a pop out. However, he walks the next two batters. We can't have an inning like that again or we will be going home on Wednesday."

Pysh fanned 10 and walked two in the complete-game for John Marshall (24-2). Pysh led the Monarchs with two singles and a run. Zane Madden added a double and an RBI; and Ryan Zelinski finished with a double and a run.

Holdren (6-2) had one K and two walks in the tough loss. Holdren only allowed three hits in the final six innings after the rocky first.

Wetherell paced Cambridge (18-6) with a solo homer, single and two runs. Lowery added a double, single and an RBI; and Mahley finished with a single, RBI and a stolen base.

Earlier in the day, Union Local got three runs in the sixth to defeat Indian Creek, 3-2, to win the OVAC 3-A title. Shadyside defeated Linsly, 3-0, to take the 1-A championship.

NEXT—Cambridge will face the Harrison Central-East Liverpool winner on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in the Division II Sectional at Vaccaro Field.

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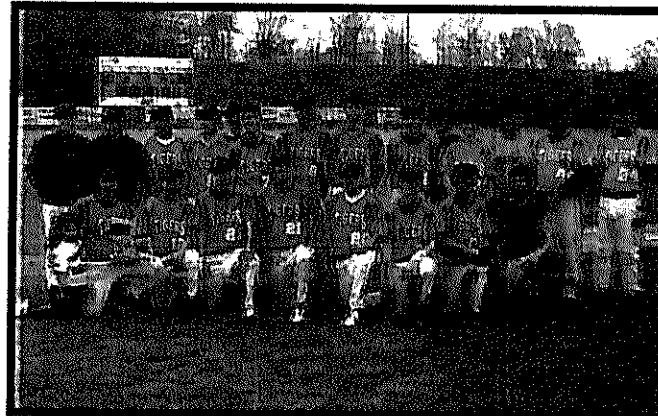
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from **NEWHART'S**

Edison Outlasts Weir

Bases-loaded walk wins it

By AARON PETCHAL
For the Intelligencer

It's a shame one team had to lose.

In the opening round of the OVAC Class AAAA Baseball Tournament on Tuesday, both Edison and Weir pitched their aces. Aaron Hilt took the ball for the Wildcats, and Steven Buffo took the mound for the Red Riders.

In the end, only one of them figured in the decision.

Weir scored two unearned runs in the second, and the Red Riders added a run in the top of the sixth building a 3-0 lead. Edison (16-3), however, refused to go quietly into the night, and the Wildcats staged a rally.

In the bottom half of the inning, an error plated a pair of runs, and Cory Wickham sin-

gled home the tying run.

Neither team was able to push a run across in the seventh, and the game went into extra innings.

In the bottom of the 10th, Drew Polwey drew a bases-loaded walk plating Luke Scardina, who singled to start the inning, with the winning run as Edison came away with the 4-3 victory at Jefferson State Lake Park.

"It was a very good baseball game," Edison coach Mike Collopy said. "The two pitchers did very good jobs throughout the whole game. Their kid pitched an outstanding game, and it is unfortunate that someone has to lose."

Weir coach Bob Rosnick was unable to comment following the game because he had to get to a previous commitment.

Hilt pitched the first eight innings before he was relieved by Scardina. Hilt struck out 12

and walked one. Scardina walked one in his two innings of work.

Offensively for the Wildcats, Wickham delivered three singles, and Cody McCoy and Scardina each contributed two singles. Jonathan Stewart singled.

Buffo took the loss for the Red Riders striking out 12 and walking one.

Offensively for Weir, Paul Reardon delivered two singles and an RBI, Rudy Nagy contributed a single and an RBI and Buffo doubled. Jordan Taflan tallied two singles, and Buddy Anderson added a single.

Collopy said his team was able to come through when it needed to the most.

"We left a ton of runners on early," he said. "We didn't do a very good job of hitting with runners in scoring position, and in that (sixth) inning we had some kids step up. That is

Central Edges Fort Frye

Alan Storm had a double, Larry Witzberger had two singles, and Zach Vani had three singles as Wheeling Central (13-7) broke a tie in the top of the seventh for a 6-5 victory against Fort Frye at Beverly in Class AA quarterfinal action of the OVAC Tournament.

Mason Lang had a homer and a single for the Cadets (13-4), while Tyler Stephens and Saben Strahler each had two singles.

Buckeye Trail 8

Barnesville 6

At Old Washington, Nolan Cox hit a three-run, walk-off homer in the bottom of the seventh as Buckeye Trail defeated Barnesville in dramatic fashion.

Bob Beros had a single and double for the Warriors.

Cameron Hall led the Shamrocks (11-8) with two singles and a double, while Devin Stephen, Andrew Doan, and Shane Crosier each had two singles.

OVAC Class AAA

Quarterfinals

Indian Creek 6

Martins Ferry 1

At Mingo Junction, Indian Creek defeated Martins Ferry behind two doubles and two RBI from Andy Thompson and two singles and an RBI from Tim Ohalek.

Martins Ferry was led by Chris Lovell and Clay Francis with doubles and Derek Edwards with two singles.

Union Local 7

Meadowbrook 5

At Morristown, Travis Stephens and Corey Carpenter each had two singles as Union Local (11-7) advanced with a

PREP BASEBALL

victory against Meadowbrook.

Ridge Pennington collected a single and a double for the Colts (9-10).

Magnolia 7, Oak Glen 3

At New Martinsville, Andrew Robinson struck out 10 and Jonas McEldowney and Kale Street each had homers as Magnolia defeated Oak Glen.

Street also had two doubles, Robinson had a single and a double, and Kevin Snyder had a double for the Blue Eagles (12-4).

Oak Glen (5-10) was led by Brad Lahr with an RBI double.

OVAC Class A

Bishop Donahue 12

Paden City 8

At Glen Dale, John Haglock's triple led to two runs scored, and Michael Matheny, A.J. Gordon, and Andrew Robbins each collected two singles in a Bishop Donahue (10-10) victory against Paden City.

Ryan Thoburn and Ricky Wright hit singles for the Wildcats.

Linsly 5, Bridgeport 2

At Bridgeport, Pat Ohrman had three singles to lead Linsly past Bridgeport.

Tom Morgan, Ryan Kreiter, Mike Muklewicz and C.J. Foose had singles for the Bulldogs (10-7).

Beallsville 5, Cameron 4

8 innings

At Beallsville, Beallsville scored two runs in the bottom of the eighth to rally past Cameron.

Kent Price had a single, triple, and two RBI, and Jimmy Reisz had a double in the victory for the Blue Devils (10-3).

Zach Porter had a home run and Kyle Worsinsky had a double for the Dragons.

Class AAAAA

Cambridge 10, Steubenville 2

At Cambridge, Cambridge scored seven runs in the sixth inning en route to a victory against Steubenville.

Kirk Weatherell had a single and a home run and a Chris McCulley and Sean Mahley each had a single and a double. Mahley had three RBI for the Bobcats (15-4).

Rocco Auteri had two singles for Big Red.

Red Knights bats continue to punish the baseball, this time against Caldwell

By STEPHANIE

ELVERD

For the Intelligencer

For the second time in two days, the Toronto baseball team sent a Redskins squad packing in five innings of work.

Monday, the Red Knights downed backyard rival Indian Creek, 13-1. They returned to the field Tuesday and took care of Caldwell, 11-1, in the OVAC Class AA quarterfinal at a sun-splashed Red Knights Baseball Complex in Toronto.

In its latest victory, Toronto came on heavy in the fourth and fifth innings, scoring nine of its runs on nine hits in what would be the last frames of the day.

"We started out a little slow (Tuesday night), but later in the game our kids picked it up," said Toronto coach Brian Perkins, whose team won its 16th straight and is currently ranked No. 1 in Ohio Division IV by the Associated Press. "It started to feel like a tournament atmosphere and our kids stepped up with some big hits."

Up until the fourth inning, the Knights held a 2-1 edge.

Toronto scored in the first when Nick Turkaly, who doubled, was batted in on a base hit from Mike Ludewig. The Knights tacked on another score in

the second. In that inning, Aaron Miller scored and Mike Radvansky supplied the RBI with a sacrifice fly to right field.

Caldwell (7-11) was able to snatch one those runs back in the third.

Justin Saling singled and later made it home on a wild pitch. The damage could have been much worse. The Redskins had the bases loaded — thanks to a walk and hit batter — when Saling scored. Caldwell juiced the bases again, but Toronto's defense prevented any more runs.

"We have a veteran crew and they know all about pressure," Perkins said. "They've been in situations like that before and they reacted real well and got us out of the inning."

After the too-close-for-comfort third, the Knights tightened the reins.

Starting and winning pitcher, Travis Miller, turned away the first three batters of the fourth with a pop-up and two strikeouts. Caldwell's lead-off hitter in the fifth grounded out to Miller for an easy putout.

The next Redskin reached on bobbled ball in the infield, but was sent back to the dugout for out No. 3 when Toronto shortstop Zach Stewart caught a flyball and threw to first for a double play.

Steubenville Central rallies for victory against Frontier in OVAC Class AA

By MIKE MATHISON

For the Intelligencer

It seems it has been the M.O. of the Steubenville Catholic Central baseball team all season — fall behind early, rally with a big inning and cruise to victory.

Such was the case Tuesday at Vaccaro Field against Frontier in the Class AA quarterfinals of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tournament.

Central scored eight times in the bottom of the second inning en route to a 14-5 triumph against the Cougars.

"We seem to do that a lot," Steubenville Central coach Frank Spence said about falling behind early. "I don't think it is a good thing, myself. I'd actually like to see what it feels like to play from ahead."

"That's the way it's been. We've had the ability to come back."

"The better the team, the tougher it is. I still want to work on getting on top early."

Frontier jumped on Central starter Steve Smith with two in the top of the first, thanks to two Crusaders errors.

Central (15-3) tacked on one run in the bottom of the first and followed with an eight-spot one frame later.

Zac D'Ulisse was hit by a pitch and sacrificed to second by Justin Kaufman. Central followed with five singles in

a row by Aaron Straney, Mike Emmerling, Luca Call, Brian DeFranco and Mike DiChazi.

One out later, Jeremy Samples walked, D'Ulisse singled and Kaufman singled before Straney made the final out.

The Cougars added three in the top of the third, but the hosts quelled any comeback notions with four in the bottom half of the inning.

Call singled, DeFranco walked and with one out, Billy Brockway walked, Samples and D'Ulisse singled.

The Crusaders will play either at 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. Saturday at Toronto.

"It's win and move on," Spence said. "This team had a big rush at the end to get into that No. 7 spot at the end of the year. They won, I think, four or five in a row. Obviously, they've been playing very well."

"We're so far apart from each other, you don't see them a lot, so you really don't know."

Smith went six innings for Central and DeFranco threw the final inning. Smith made Frontier put the ball in play. He finished with one strikeout and two walks.

"Steve threw the ball around the plate and as the game settled in, we started making the plays behind him and it kind of fell into place after that," Spence said.

Shadyside wins first 1-A OVAC tourney title

By JEFF POTTS
Times Leader Sports Writer

Outright OVAC Class 1-A tournament champions.

Shadyside head coach Gary Cunningham has waited a long time to hear those words associated with his Tiger baseball team.

Saturday afternoon at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville, the long wait was over.

The Tigers (22-1) plated three runs in the bottom of the first inning and hung on from there, to hand Linsly (12-10) a 3-0 setback.

"The monkey is off our back," Cunningham

smiled after the game. "This is my 10th year as head coach, we've had some regular season titles, we've been runners-up so this is our first one.

"Actually this is the first championship for Shadyside that I know of," Cunningham continued. "We had a split championship, so this is our first official outright title."

Shadyside starter Michael Meintel was thrilled following the game.

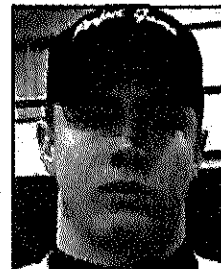
"Everybody's excited and it was a team effort today," Meintel said. "We brought our bats in the first inning and our defense played well, we didn't have any errors. We came ready

to play today."

Cunningham said the kids were very focused Saturday.

"The kids knew that Shadyside team on the field last year wasn't the team that won a lot of games," Cunningham said. "We wanted to show them today we had a pretty good team."

Cunningham said the Tigers title win won't hit him for a while.



MEINTEL

"It's going to take a little bit of time to sink in," Cunningham said. "The week up to the game is exciting and then you get three runs in the first inning and then he gets it's a relief when it's over."

Though disappointed with the loss, head coach Jay Cartwright was proud of his kids.

"I'm as pleased as I could possibly be," Cartwright said. "We faced one of the best pitchers in the Valley and we battled through seven innings. I'm just so proud of my kids."

See, SHADYSIDE, Page B3

● Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

After a one-two-three top of the first, the Shadyside bats came alive in the bottom of the first.

Billy Merryman got things going with sharp single to left. Following a flyout, Clifton Francis reached via error and Meintel followed with a single scoring Merryman.

Cody McCormick grounded into a fielder's choice, allowing Francis to cross the plate.

Ross Palicka singled in Meintel for a 3-0 Shadyside lead.

Cartwright indicated the inning was huge.

"We gave up a couple unearned runs and it hurt," Cartwright said. "There was a possible double play ball and the kid did all the right things, the ball just got by him. But that's the game of baseball."

"That inning set the tone for the game," Meintel said. "We didn't score or get many hits after that, but it set the tone and the guys realized we would win the game."

Linsly starter Warren Hammel settled down after that, giving up just four more hits - all singles - while permitting one runner past first base.

Meintel was on his game from the get-go, taking a perfect game into the third, before giving up a single to Taylor Cecil. Meintel then retired the next five batters before Cadets shortstop Patrick Milton singled with two outs in the fifth and took second on a balk. Meintel induced a groundout by Ethan Jones to end the threat.

After another one-two-three top of the sixth, Meintel ran into trouble in the top of the seventh.

Second baseman Spencer Atkinson and catcher Andrew Kozusko led off with singles, putting runners on first and second with nobody out.

Meintel followed with two

strikeouts and Milton grounded out to give the Tigers the title.

For the game, Meintel struck out 10 while giving up four hits and zero walks.

"I'm very happy with the way I threw today," Meintel said. "I'm not really sure what happened in the seventh, but B.A. (second baseman Holloway) made a nice play to get us out of it."

Cunningham had high praise for Meintel.

"He wanted it today," Cunningham said. "We rested him all week and he came through today."

"He had good pop on his fastball and came through in the clutch today."

Though he finished the game with just one strikeout, Hammel kept the Shadyside offense off-balance all day.

"I thought Warren threw the ball really well," Cartwright said of his junior hurler. "He's starting to progress as a pitcher, he's moving the ball around and using his defense."

"You give up three runs in the first against a pitcher like Meintel, a lot of kids couldn't handle that," Cartwright said. "He handled it like a champion."

Cunningham made special mention of his coaching staff.

"Without my coaching staff (Mike Meintel and Larry Appicella), it wouldn't have come together the way it has," Cunningham said. "Mike does a great job with our pitching staff and Coach App has the experience."

The Tigers return to action Tuesday, when they tangle with the Frontier Cougars at Perkins Field, in the opening round of the Ohio Division IV Sectional Tournament.

Linescore:

Linsly 000 000 0 - 4 4 1

Shadyside 300 000 x - 3 7 0

BATTERIES: Hammel and An. Kozusko, Meintel and Kubancik