

OVAC Softball Championships

Irish Eyes Smile

St. John beats Cameron for Class A crown

By RICH GIBSON
For The Intelligencer

Rest assured, Coach Mark Witzberger's Cameron Dragons didn't win 18 games playing like this.

"We have an all-sophomore infield," Witzberger advised. "I don't know — maybe it was big-game jitters or something else.

"But that's uncharacteristic of us.

"We normally make the routine plays."

Bellaire St. John benefited greatly from nine Cameron errors in capturing the OVAC Class A softball title Monday with an 8-0 victory at Lisa's Field at the I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

While the Fighting Irish celebrated their sixth OVAC trophy in seven seasons, Witzberger and his 18-6 team are looking to rebound — as early as today.

Cameron and Hundred open West Virginia sectional play in New Martinsville at 5 p.m. today.

"Overall, we've played pretty steady much of the season," Witzberger added. "(Tuesday) just wasn't our day, that's all.

"Give St. John credit.

"They played with more consistency."

Coach Jerry Magistro's Irish won for the 16th time in 18 starts. The Irish oppose Wellsville at Shadyside when Ohio sectional play opens Saturday.

"I'm very, very happy for the girls," Magistro said. "We scouted Cameron and felt we needed to put the ball in play ... try and make something happen."

Mission accomplished.

Following two scoreless innings between opposing mound aces Lacey Tustin (Cameron) and Amanda Rosepapa (St. John), the Irish broke through, scoring three times in the bottom of the third.

Jenna Vavra, converted to catcher with regular Betsie Smith unavailable, drilled a two-out single to left field. Rosepapa followed, reaching on a walk. Third baseman Sara Wamsley followed with a sharp single to left, scoring Vavra.

The Dragons proceeded to mishandle the ball on a pair of throws, permitting both courtesy runner Rosemary Lynn and Wamsley to cross the plate.

St. John's made it a 7-0 issue an inning later, using two hits and three more Dragons errors to pull away.

When leadoff hitter Lakyn McFarland reached on an error, Kristina Velkovich came home and it was 4-0. Vavra then came through with a clutch, two-run single to left. McFarland raced home on an outfield error.

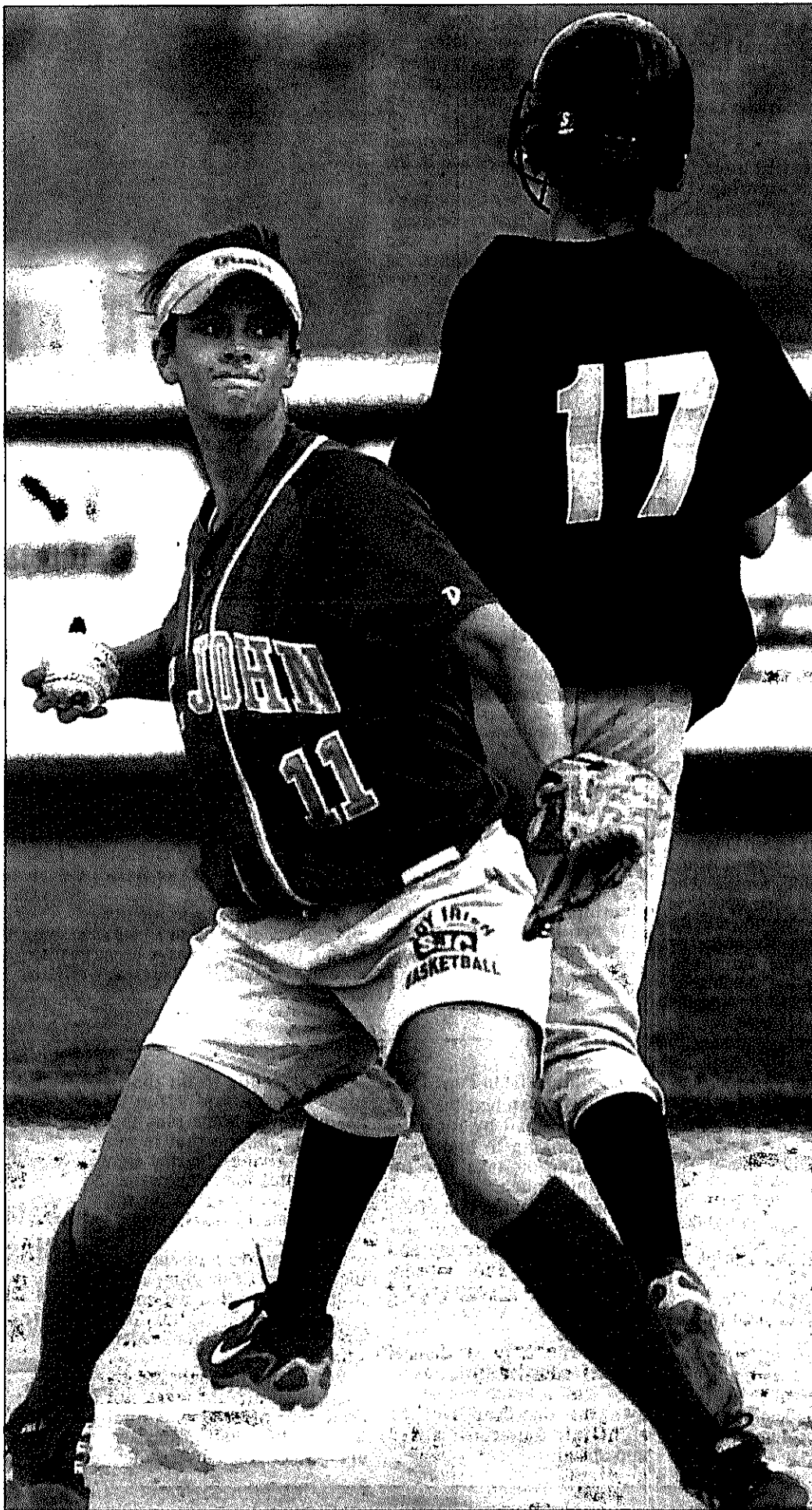
After Rosepapa induced another free pass, Wamsley delivered a run-scoring single and the Irish were in command.

St. John added its final run in the sixth.

Centerfielder Ashley Wallace singled, advanced on a wild pitch, then trotted home on yet another fielding gaffe.

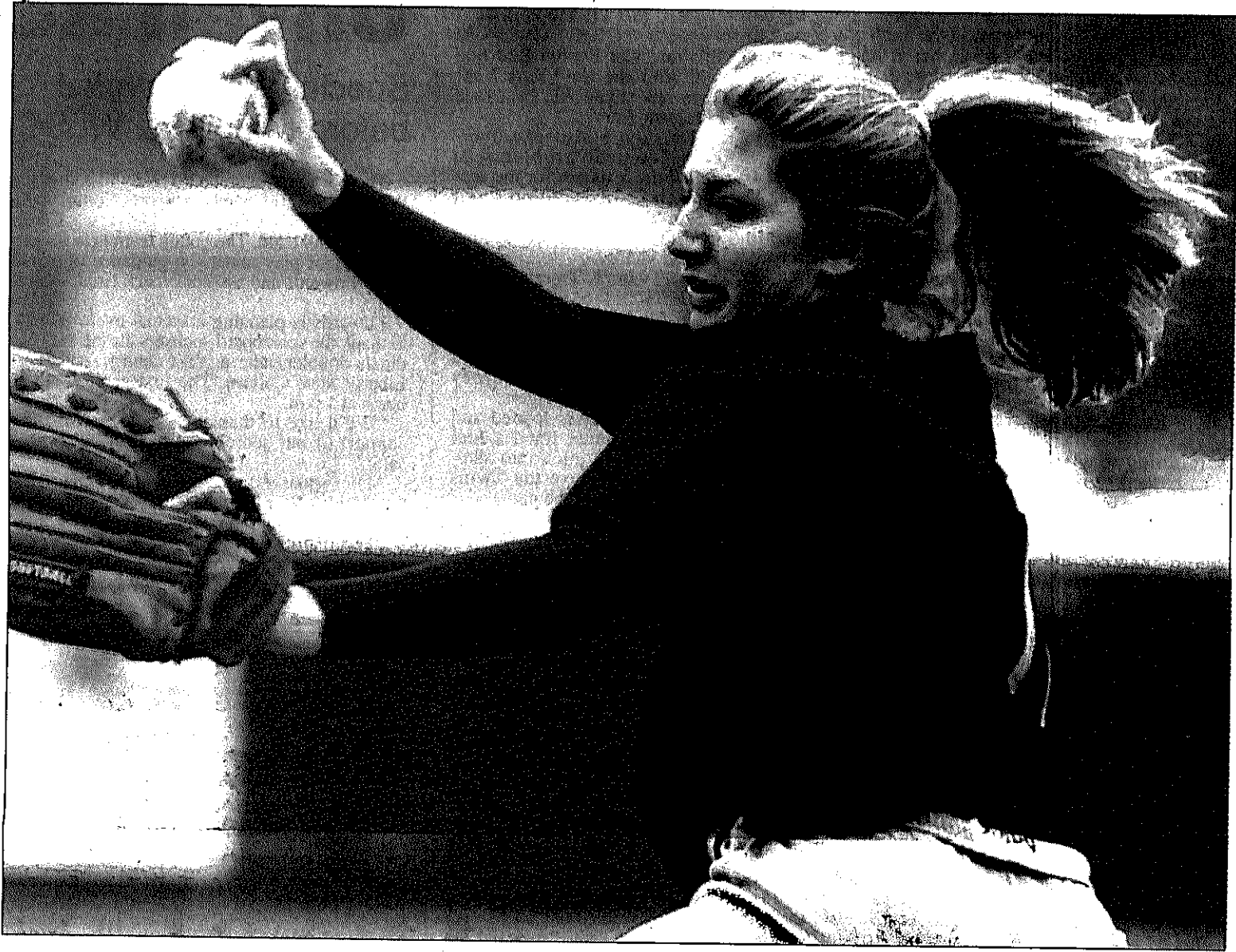
Rosepapa fired a five-hitter, compiling seven strikeouts and one walk. Vavra and Wamsley contributed two hits apiece.

Tustin, who deserved a much better fate, chalked up eight strikeouts while issuing three walks.



Photos by Alex Kozlowski

Bellaire St. John's Sara Wamsley looks to fire to first after forcing out Cameron's Lacey Tustin in Tuesday's Class A softball final. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.



Cameron's Lacey Tustin works to the plate Friday against Linsly in an OVAC Class A semifinal game at the I-470 Complex. The Dragons won the game, 4-2. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net. Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Dragons Roar

OVAC Class A final moved to Tuesday

By MIKE HUGHES
Staff Writer

Lacey Tustin struck out 10 batters and limited Linsly to two runs on three hits as Cameron advanced to the OVAC Class A championship game against Bellaire St. John with a 4-2 victory against the Cadets on Friday at Lisa's Field at the I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

Tustin surrendered two runs in the first inning on a single by Keri Kitchen, but from there, the Dragons senior cruised.

"Lacey really (bore) down and put the team on her back," Cameron coach Mark Witzberger said.

Cameron got back in the game during the third inning when No. 9 hitter Morgan Hughes led off

with a double and was brought home on an a strongly hit ball by Lauren Siburt to shortstop.

Kori Gouldsberry singled and later scored on an error to tie the game.

Hughes came up big again in the sixth inning, driving in Janet Peterson on a line-drive single into left centerfield.

Kayla McConnell followed with a single that scored Hughes.

"Morgan is just a freshman and I try to keep her in the No. 9 spot because actually, she's like another leadoff hitter with her abilities," Witzberger said. "Every time we've needed a big hit, she's come up for us."

"This is a big win for us because Linsly is a great team, and we have the utmost respect for them.

"They have had a good season." And the Cameron defense came up big the next half inning.

Three errors on two consecutive plays allowed Linsly to get runners at second and third with nobody out to start the home half of the sixth.

OVAC SOFTBALL



Finals
Class AAA
 10:30 a.m.
 Martins Ferry vs. Meadowbrook
Class AAAA
 12:15 p.m.
 Wheeling Park vs. Brooke
Class AA
 12:15 p.m.
 Wheeling Central vs. Frontier
Class A
Tuesday
 4 p.m.
 Bellaire St. John vs. Cameron

That series of events forced Witzberger to have a brief meeting on the mound with his team.

"I was nervous after that happened," Tustin said. "I was worried that we were going to head into extra innings, but we buckled down, made the plays and got out of the inning."

Summer Flowers lined out to first for the first out and Tustin followed by getting both Kitchen

and Erika Mitchem swinging at strike three to end the threat.

Given that the Cadets managed only three hits, coming up empty after an opportunity to get back in the game was huge.

"We had our chances and couldn't take advantage of them," Linsly coach Liz Hofreuter-Landini said.

Please See DRAGONS, Page 18

Dragons —

(Continued from Page 13)

"But I have to give Cameron credit.

"They hit the ball hard, and often, and had some timely at-bats."

After falling to Linsly 2-1 earlier in the season, the Dragons had a much better go-around against Cadets pitcher Megan Byhanna.

Cameron finished with eight hits — Gouldsberry went 3-for-4 with three singles — and managed to get 12 runners total aboard.

"We've really worked hard on our hitting," Witzberger said. "The girls got behind early, but I told them that it's a seven-inning game and they stuck with it."

"We played the way we needed to play, probably the best we've played all year."

Now the Dragons must go up against the Fighting Irish and senior hurler Amanda Rosepapa.

The two teams haven't faced this season, but two seasons ago, Meghan Johnson fired a no-hitter against Cameron in the championship final of the OVAC Tournament and last season, Rosepapa finished with a one-hitter against the Dragons in the semifinals.

"The girls have seen (Rosepapa) enough to know that this will be a tough game," Witzberger said.

"We'll have to take advantage of whatever breaks we catch and not hold anything back."

Cameron and Bellaire St. John's championship game was moved to 4 p.m. Tuesday, averting a near fiasco.

Because of prom, a call was made earlier in the day to move the date of the game because the Irish had prom Friday and the Dragons Saturday.

It was decided to play the game Monday and Cameron was notified.

Witzberger informed his players of this, only to be told after the game that because of an objection by one of the eight remaining teams, the games would be played as originally scheduled.

Cameron still planned to play at 2 p.m., but this caused a rift between the team as the girls were forced to make the decision between going to the game, or prom.

Tournament director Barry Closser was coaching his own team and was unavailable, as was OVAC executive secretary Tom Rataiczak, who left the game just prior to its conclusion.

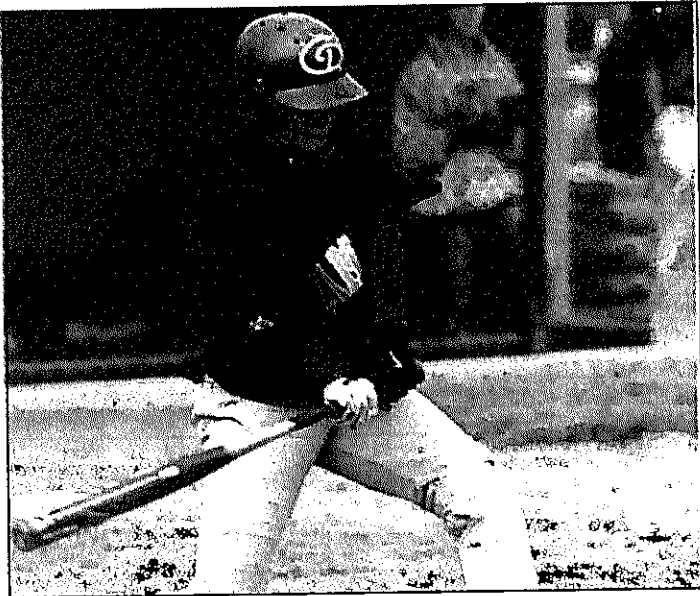


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Cameron's Kori Gouldsberry takes a cut against Linsly on Friday. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Ed Cihy, a Wheeling Central assistant and tournament committee member, stayed well past 9 p.m., making phone calls and trying to get a plan hammered out to accommodate all teams involved.

OVAC Class AA Semifinal

Frontier 4, Buckeye Trail 1

Maggie Brunoni struck out 13 batters and finished with a no-hitter as Frontier defeated Buckeye Trail to advance to today's final at 12:15 p.m. opposite Wheeling Central.

Kristen Tidd drove in a run with a single and a double for the Cougars while Alissa Kirkbride added a double.

Amy Kittle and Rory Cox had two steals apiece for the Warriors, whose lone run came on an error that scored Emily McEndree.

Frontier nearly decided not to play in the championship game.

The Cougars prom is tonight and the Class AA game was originally slated for a 3:45 p.m. start, putting the team back in New Matamoras well after the dance's start time.

After a lengthy effort to rectify the situation by Cihy, the game was moved to 12:15 p.m.

LATE THURSDAY OVAC Class A quarterfinal Bellaire St. John 1 Weirton Madonna 0, 16 innings

Bellaire St. John's Amanda Rosepapa and Weirton Madonna's Kacy Magnone were locked in a scoreless pitchers' duel for 14 innings before West Virginia rules pushed them from the circle and the game into the hands of relief pitchers Sara Wamsley (St. John Central) and Liz Pietran-

ton (Weirton Madonna).

By the time they left — state rules don't allow anyone to throw more than 14 innings in one day — the two combined for 35 strikeouts, 20 by Rosepapa and 15 by Magnone.

The Irish scored the game's only run in the bottom of the 16th when Jenna Vavra led off with a double, was pushed to third on a single by Rosepapa and scored on a single by Wamsley.

Bellaire St. John 1
Weirton Madonna 0
St. John 000 000 000 000 000 0 — 0 3 2
Madonna 000 000 000 000 000 1 — 1 7 1
S — Rosepapa (20SO, 4W), Wamsley (15) wp (0SO, 0W) and Smith, Wamsley S, rbt, Vavra D.
W — Magnone (15SO, 3W), Pietran-ton (15) (1SO, 0W) and Paolomillo.

LATE BASEBALL Buckeye Local 7, Wheeling Central 6

At Wheeling, the Panthers scored six runs in the first three innings and one in the seventh top top the Maroon Knights.

Shadyside 9, Wheeling Central 1

At Wheeling, Coty McCormick belted a grand slam and picked up a victory on the mound for the Tigers.

Mike Meintel added a round tripper for Shadyside.

An Adam Parsons homer provided the lone run for Wheeling Central.

Buckeye Local 7, Wheeling Central 6
Buckeye Local 321 000 001 — 7 14 3
Wheeling Central 000 060 000 — 6 13 0
BL — McCoy (6SO, 3W), Beaver wp (8) (1SO, 0W) and Edzkowski, Pairpoint D, 3S; Bishop 2D, F; McCoy T.
WC — Richardson (11SO, 1W), Parsons 1p (8) (1SO, 0W) and Zani, Jackson D, S; Foose 2S; Witzberger D, S.
Shadyside 9, Wheeling Central 1
Shadyside 020 200 5—9 9 2
Wheeling Central 000 100 0—1 3 3
S — McCormick wp (7SO, 2W) and Kuban-cik, Meintel HR; McCormick GSHR, 2S.
WC — Blass 1p (3SO, 1W), Edwards (7) (2SO, 1W) and Parsons, Parsons HR



Photo by Mike Harvilla

The wind, and the pitch

Weirton Madonna starting pitcher Casey Magnone fires one plateward Thursday against Bellaire St. John. The Fighting Irish emerged with a 1-0 victory in an OVAC Class A contest in Wheeling.

OVAC Softball Pairings

All Games Tonight at 5 p.m. unless noted
CLASS 4-A

Weir at Cambridge
Buckeye Local at Edison
Beaver Local at Brooke
Stauberville at Wheeling Park, 7:30 p.m.

CLASS 3-A
Indian Creek at Martins Ferry
St. Clairsville at Meadowbrook
Bellaire at Harrison Central
Magnolia at Oak Glen

CLASS 2-A
Monroe Central at Wheeling CC
Shenandoah at Frontier
Fort Frye at Buckeye Trail
River at Stauberville CC

CLASS 1-A
Shadyside at St. John.
Bealsville at Linsly, 5:45 p.m.
Bridgeport at Cameron.
Bishop Donahue at Madonna

OVAC Softball Finals reset

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Championship Softball Games were all postponed due to rain. The revised schedule has been set: Monday — Class 2-A and Class 4-A at

Lisa's Field
Tuesday — Class 1-A, 4:30 p.m. at Lisa's Field.
Wednesday — Class 3-A, 4:30 p.m. at Lisa's Field.

Central, Park win OVAC softball crowns

Wheeling Park and Wheeling Central brought OVAC Softball titles back to the Friendly City Monday night at Lisa's Field in Elm Grove.

The Patriots knocked off Brooke by a 7-2 count, while Central cruised past Frontier to a 10-0 victory.

Mary Hohman was strong for the Lady Patriots, striking out eight and walking one. She helped her own cause with two singles.

Katie Eckman came up big for Park with a three-run triple.

WHEELING CENTRAL, meanwhile, got

strong pitching from Brittany Derr and the offense pounded out 10 hits off Frontier's Maggie Brunoni.

Derr fanned six and allowed nary a walk.

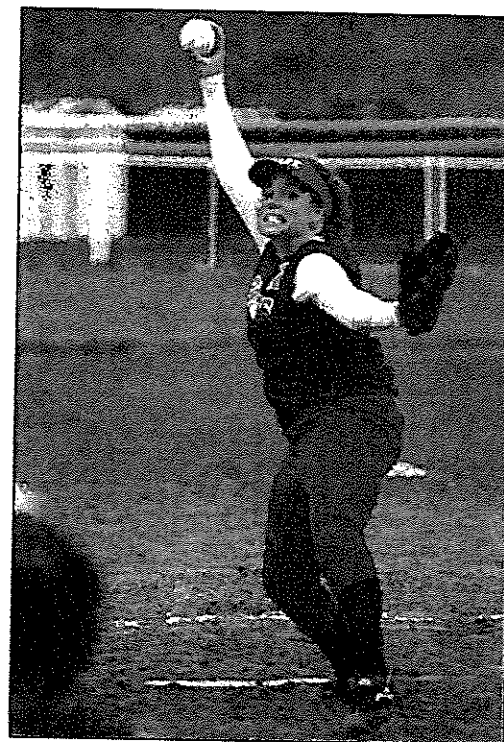
Val Palmer and Mary Petros each had a RBI single. Kayla Gray had a single, double and two RBI, while Lindsey Beaver had a single, double and four RBI.

OVAC Championship action returns to Chambers' Complex this evening when St. John and Cameron battle for the 1-A crown at 4:30 p.m.

Wheeling Park starting pitcher Mary Hohman rocks and fires to the plate Thursday against Cambridge.

View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Photo by Alex Kozlowski



Park Softball Secures Upset

Patriots eliminate top seed Bobcats in OVAC Tourney

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

Supported by a staunch Wheeling Park defense, ace pitcher Mary Hohman recovered from a slow start and allowed top-seeded Cambridge only two hits in the last five innings as the Patriots notched a 5-3 victory in Thursday's OVAC Class AAAA softball semifinal played at the Chambers I-470 Complex No. 4 field in Wheeling.

Park rallied from a 3-0 deficit, avenging a doubleheader setback last Saturday at Cambridge and advanced to Saturday's OVAC championship game against either Brooke or Edison.

Caitlin Wilson's booming triple that nearly banged off the centerfield fence on the fly, scored two runs to tie the game at 3-3 in the top of the third inning. Kaitlin Eckman's sacrifice fly in the sixth knocked home what proved to be the winning tally for the Patriots, 17-6 on the season.

"We really believed we would get them the third time," Park coach Dee Davis said. "At Cambridge, we had a couple of

the Bobcats with a single up the middle, and she took second on Maggie Starr's well-executed sacrifice bunt. Samantha Roller promptly singled just past Mathieu's outstretched glove to drive home the game's first run. Danielle Shepherd then found the gap in right center for a double that knocked in Roller.

Cambridge had an opportunity to break the game open in the first inning as Janelle Givens followed with an infield hit to shortstop on which Roller, with the play in front of her, was unable to advance to third. Hohman then retired the side by getting a force out at third on a bouncer back to the circle, followed by a strikeout of DeVaney Daugherty.

After the second inning, Cambridge managed to get only two more runners on base as Hohman settled down. For the second game in a row she did not allow a walk and struck out three. Lacie Mahley reached on a two-out single in the third inning before Hohman retired the next 10 batters she faced, until Megan Tharp led off the bottom of the seventh with a single into left field.

Hohman then turned in a defensive gem of her own, racing in to field Kafury's bunt in front of the plate and firing a strike to first base, nipping the runner. She ended the game by getting Sarah Starr and Maggie

One Big Hit



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Central's Lauren Baker, left, is tagged out by Steubenville Central first baseman Mandy Almonte during an OVAC Class AA semifinal in Wheeling. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

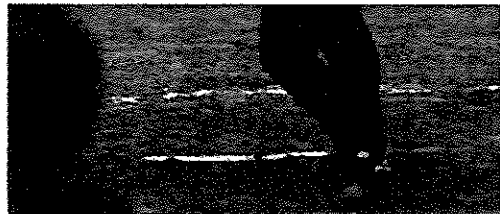
Sparachane single lifts Whg. Central

By MIKE HUGHES
Staff Writer

Ferrera walked Barry on four
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The Maroon Knights also didn't

Photo by
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"We really believed we would get them the third time," Park coach Dee Davis said. "At Cambridge, we had a couple of errors that cost us both games. Our defense really played well (Thursday). We got a couple nice plays at short from Amy Mathieu and 'Jiv' (second baseman Caitlin Jividen) also had a good one."

Park committed only one error, that was in right field after Alex Kafury opened the second inning with a single. Kafury advanced to second on the miscue and scored Cambridge's third and final run on an RBI double into the left-center gap by Sarah Starr.

It was Starr who opened a two-run first-inning rally for

the Bobcats with a single up the middle, and she took second on Maggie Starr's well-executed sacrifice bunt. Samantha Roller promptly singled just past Mathieu's outstretched glove to drive home the game's first run. Danielle Shepherd then found the gap in right center for a double that knocked in Roller.

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Hohman then turned in a defensive gem of her own, racing in to field Kafury's bunt in front of the plate and firing a strike to first base, nipping the runner. She ended the game by getting Sarah Starr and Maggie Starr on infield popups.

The Patriots coach stressed that there was no panic on Park's bench after Cambridge jumped in front.

"When you are down 3-0 and it's still early in the game, who cares?" Davis asked. "If you are three runs down in the last inning, then you should worry. We had plenty of time to work our way back into the game. Mary settled down and kept them from scoring. Our offense came through when we needed to score some runs."

Please See PARK, Page 21



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Central's Lauren Baker, left, is tagged out by Steubenville Central first baseman Mandy Almonte during an OVAC Class AA semifinal in Wheeling. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Sparachane single lifts Whg. Central

By MIKE HUGHES
Staff Writer

Jen Sparachane broke a scoreless tie in the bottom of the seventh with a run-scoring single as Wheeling Central edged Steubenville Central, 2-1, in a OVAC Class AA semifinal matchup Thursday at the I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

Sparachane's first-pitch grounder up the middle that scored Stephanie Barry from third came with two outs in a closely contested game that neither team deserved to lose.

Crusaders starter Alexis Ferrera got Kayla Gray to ground out to short, and followed that by firing strike three past Val Palmer for her eighth and final strikeout of the game.

Ferrera walked Barry on four pitches but still appeared as if she would escape the inning unscathed as Mary Petros hit a lazy pop-up down the first-base line.

But in what has become a recurring theme for Steubenville Central, the pop-up was dropped, allowing Sparachane to step to the plate.

"For anyone who has followed us, that has been the story of our season," a disappointed Crusaders coach Jackie Rossi said. "In pretty much every single loss, we have made an error and the (opposing) team has made us pay."

"There have been some frustrating times this year, but Wheeling Central is a very good team and they didn't make any mistakes."

The Maroon Knights also didn't fair too well at the plate.

In 6 2/3 innings, Ferrera allowed only three singles, the other two coming from Brittany Derr and Sparachane. Her control was spot on, and the veteran Crusaders righty got a plethora of Maroon Knights batters swinging at pitches they normally let pass by.

"We were lucky (Thursday), that's for sure," Wheeling Central co-coach Ambrose Bober said. "(Ferrera) had us off balance."

"We told the girls before the game that, despite its record, Central is a good, well-coached team," co-coach Rick Magruder added.

Please See BIG, Page 21



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Central's Jen Sparachane fires vs. Steubenville Central. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Big

(Continued from Page 19)

"Ferrera is a very smart pitcher."

But the Maroon Knights have a quality arm of their own in Sparachane, and much like her counterpart Thursday, she was on target.

Steubenville Central was limited to two singles in the third inning, one from Jessie Harlan and the other from Amy Joyce.

The Crusaders had a scoring opportunity that inning with runners at second and third with two outs, but Sparachane got Bree Bayne to pop-up to shortstop Lauren Baker to end the inning.

She finished with nine strikeouts and one walk, allowing only three baserunners the entire game.

"Jen pitched a great game," Magruder said. "Both girls did. I think there were only five hits combined.

"Jen really rose to the occasion for us," Bober added.

Sparachane recorded at least one strikeout in every inning but the first, including fanning the side — the four through six hitters — in the second inning.

She required 80 pitches to finish the game, with 57 being recorded as strikes.

Ferrera was just as consistent, throwing 86 pitches, 63 for strikes and retiring 14 of the first 15 batters she faced.

"I don't care what her record is, Alexis is one of the top pitchers in the Eastern District (in Ohio)," Rossi said. "We haven't given her much support defensively or at the plate, and some of that can be attributed to experience.

"We have improved, but I don't think we're near where we need to be at this point."

Park

(Continued from Page 19)

A couple of Bobcats defensive lapses helped out in the top of the third when Park put three tallies on the board to knot the score. Eckman ignited the rally by drawing a one-out walk, followed by Angela Johnson's single.

Eckman took third when Johnson was retired on a force play at second base. Elizabeth Kosowski stole second, and when the ball was thrown away, it allowed Eckman to score the Patriots' first run. After Jividen walked, Wilson blasted the ball over the centerfielder's head to tie the score.

In the top of the sixth, Park scored twice more to move in front to stay.

The first two Patriots batters used Cambridge pitcher Paige Young for target practice to reach base on infield singles. Leann Rigby lined the ball off Young's glove for a single, and Mathieu's sharp grounder up the middle struck the pitcher in the foot and ricocheted toward third base.

Young, who has pitched every inning of every game the 15-5 record Bobcats have played, then regrouped to strike out Shannon Orum. Eckman picked up her teammate with a sacrifice fly to centerfield, scoring Rigby as the Patriots took a 4-3 lead. Mathieu later advanced to third on an error and provided an insurance run by racing home after a passed ball.

"The way we played was uncharacteristic of our team," said the disappointed Bob Shepherd, Cambridge's coach. "Only two of their runs were earned and good teams like Wheeling Park are going to make you pay for your mistakes.

"Our pitcher did very well. The only hard-hit ball was the

"The way we played was uncharacteristic of our team. Only two of their runs were earned and good teams like Wheeling Park are going to make you pay for your mistakes."

Bob Shepherd

one in the third inning. The rest of their hits were bleed-ers."

Johnson was the only Patriot with two hits, both of which were singles. Wilson's line-drive triple was their only extra-base knock. Jividen, Park's No. 3 hitter, drew three walks.

Leading Cambridge's eight-hit attack was Sarah Starr with a single and double. Starr's RBI double was the only other hit that went for extra bases.

Davis said her team was playing with a purpose this week as it had its sights set on winning an OVAC championship before heading into sectional tournament play.

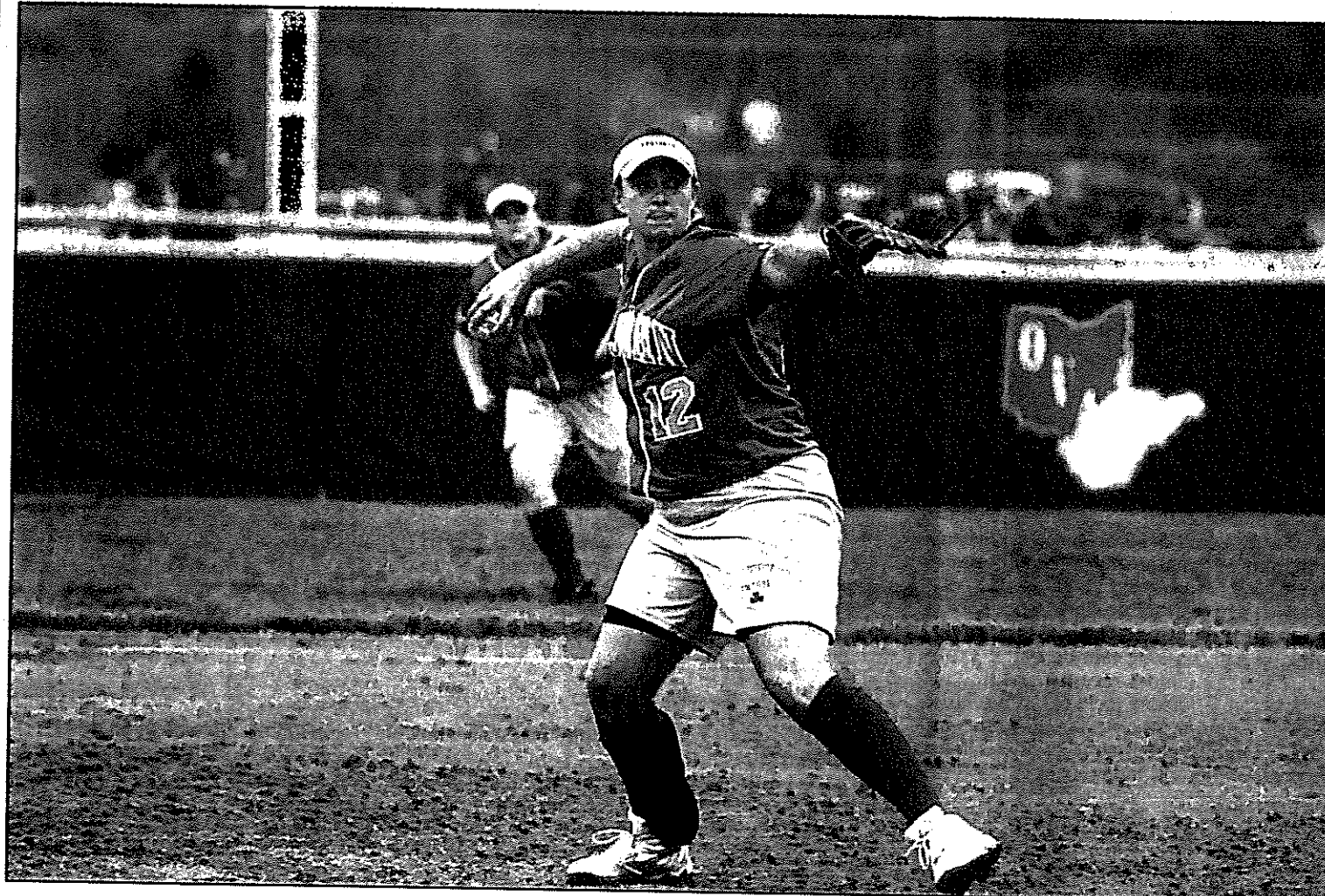
"We felt like we gave Cambridge the regular-season title last week and we're determined not to let this opportunity get away from us," Davis promised.

SPORTS

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Friday, April 27, 2007

OVAC SOFTBALL



ST. JOHN shortstop Jenna Vavra comes up with a ground ball and gets ready to fire it on to first during Thursday's OVAC Class 1-A semifinal game against Madonna. The Lady Irish prevailed in 16 innings to advance to the Class A title game set for Saturday afternoon. T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

Lady Irish outlast Madonna

• Rosepapa records 20Ks as SJC wins in 16, 1-0

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

They could have played all night. And very well might have.

With ace pitchers Amanda Rosepapa (Bellaire St. John's) and Kacy Magnone (Weirton Madonna) involved in a historic mound duel, it took a State of West Virginia mandated edict to determine an outcome.

The Mountain State rule prohibits a pitcher from working past 14 innings in a single game. Thus, Rosepapa and Magnone were



innings over the years, maybe, but nothing like playing 16. That was one incredible game."

Talk about dominance. Rosepapa and Magnone combined for 35 strikeouts. The Lady Irish's senior compiled 20 Ks and walked four while Magnone chalked up 15 punch outs and issued three walks.

After 12 innings, Magnone was working on a one-hitter. Rosepapa, meanwhile, did not allow a base rap until there was one out in the 10th frame. "That was just two of valley's

OVAC TOURNAMENT Scoreboard

**Class 4-A
Semifinals**
Wheeling Park 5, Cambridge 3
Brooke 7, Edison 2.

**Championship Game
Saturday, Noon**
Wheeling Park vs. Brooke.

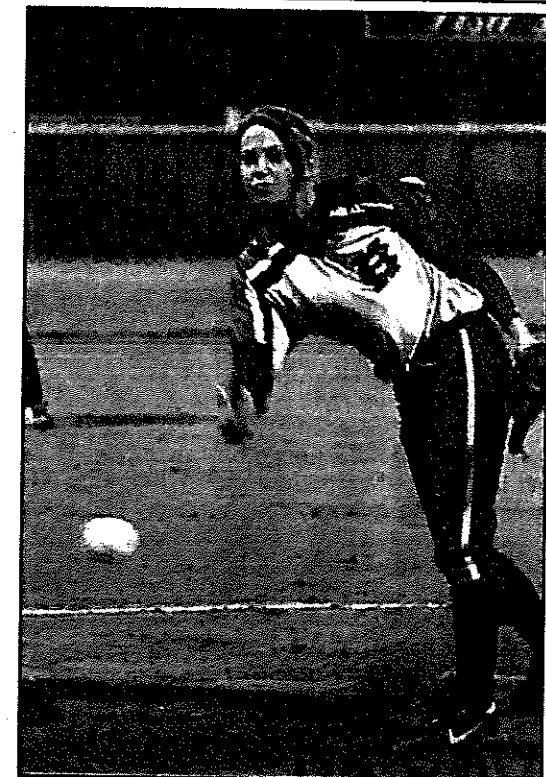
**Class 3-A
Semifinals**
Martins Ferry 2, Magnolia 1.
Meadowbrook 2, Harrison 0

**Championship Game
Saturday, 10 a.m.**
Martins Ferry vs. Meadowbrook.

**Class 2-A
Semifinals**
Wheeling Central 2, Steub. CC 1
Buckeye Trail vs. Frontier, Today, 4:30 p.m.

**Championship Game
Saturday, 4 p.m.**
**Class 1-A
Semifinals**

St. John 1, Madonna 0, 16 Innings.
Linsly vs. Cameron, Today, 4:30 p.m.
**Championship Game
Saturday, 2 p.m.**



HARRISON CENTRAL junior ace Katy Leeper throws a pitch during Thursday's Class 3-A OVAC semifinal contest. T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

mound duel, it took a State of West Virginia mandated edict to determine an outcome.

The Mountain State rule prohibits a pitcher from working past 14 innings in a single game. Thus, Rosepapa and Magnone were relegated to alternate positions after Thursday afternoon's OVAC 1-A semifinal battle remained a scoreless deadlock through 14 frames.

With both team's number two hurlers forced into action, St. John's finally broke through in the 16th inning. Ironically, winning pitcher Sara Wamsley accounted for the game-deciding blow in the Green's much-cherished 1-0 triumph.

Though distraught over the final verdict, Lady Blue Dons' veteran coach Chris Conti refused to be critical of the state order. "I can live with it and can see why (they'd) want to make a ruling like that," Conti exclaimed. "I just feel so bad for our girls. That is what you call a tough loss."

On the other side, coach Jerry Magistro's Lady Irish celebrated their most treasured



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

ST. JOHN junior Sara Wamsley delivers a pitch during Thursday's 16-inning OVAC semifinal win over Madonna. The Lady Irish scratched out a run in the 16th to win, 1-0.

victory of the season, to date. "I've never ever been involved in anything like that," Magistro remarked. "A few that went extra

After 12 innings, Magnone was working on a one-hitter. Rosepapa, meanwhile, did not allow a base rap until there was one out in the 10th frame. "That was just two of valley's best going head to head out there," Conti stated.

St. John's threatened to prevail in the last of the 14th when senior Courtney Coyne reached on a two-out single, raced to second base on a passed ball and swiped third. But Magnone recorded an inning-ending ground out to force a 15th frame.

Enter Wamsley who escaped a bases-loaded jam by registering a clutch strikeout. Madonna's Liz Pietranton took over for Magnone and also worked a scoreless 15th.

After Madonna failed to score in the top of the 16th, Irish senior Jenna Vavra ignited the Green, drilling a leadoff double down the leftfield line.

Rosepapa followed with a single to short left field placing runners at the corners.

See, SJC, Page C2

Ferry advances to 3-A final

• Fifth inning rally lifts Lady Riders past Magnolia, 2-1

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The Martins Ferry offense didn't produce much offense Thursday night in its OVAC Class 3-A softball game.

However, the Lady Riders needed every bit that it managed to produce.

Ferry scratched out a tough 2-1 victory over Magnolia at Lisa's Field at the Chambers' I-470 Complex in Elm Grove.

The win advances the now 17-1 Lady Riders into yet another OVAC 3-A title game where they will take on Meadowbrook, which won the late game Saturday morning at 10 a.m.

Before the Lady Purple could focus on its next opponent, there was difficult business to tend to with a Lady Blue Eagle squad, which fell to 7-6.

Ferry's normally high-powered offense was limited to a mere two singles, but both of those hits resulted in runs.

"Our girls never seem to get rattled," said Ferry skipper Jess Cordery shortly after the game. "They have been down before in games, so they know how to handle it and when a team does score first on us, it usually energizes us."

That philosophy fit to a tee



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

MARTINS FERRY second baseman Kayla Kuminkoski comes up with a ground ball and throws onto first for the out during Thursday's OVAC 3-A semifinal against Magnolia.

after the Lady Blue Eagles made it a 1-0 lead with a run in the top of the fifth on a single from Evann Ludewig.

The trend of the game made one think that run could be enough seeing as Magnolia pitch-

er Tory Greene had allowed nary a hit to that point.

However, the righty issued a lead-off walk to Kristen Cerasoli to begin the frame. She moved to second on a wild pitch.

After a strikeout was recorded,

Brianne Booth hit an innocent ground ball, but Magnolia attempted to cut down Cerasoli at third. The throw was late and it skipped away from the Magnolia

See, FERRY, Page C2

T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

HARRISON CENTRAL junior ace Katy Leeper throws a pitch during Thursday's Class 3-A OVAC semifinal against Meadowbrook.

Meadowbrook blanks HC, 2-0

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Harrison Central's Don Bethel realized there was little margin for error facing the likes of Meadowbrook sophomore Kinsi Tellep.

After all, the Lady Colts' mound ace had recorded no fewer than 19 strikeouts when the two teams met earlier in a nine-inning regular season matchup won by the Guernsey County team, 2-1.

Thursday night at Wheeling's I-470 complex, the stakes were significantly higher. Unfortunately, the result was the same for Bethel's hard-luck Huskies.

Tellep sat down 17 Harrison hitters via the K-route and Meadowbrook made the most of its four singles to score a 2-0 victory in a OVAC 3-A semifinal encounter.

'Tonight was a case of their pitcher being a little bit better than our hitters.'

- Don Bethel

Improving to 16-4, Meadowbrook now meets Martins Ferry for the 3-A crown Saturday morning at the same site. The Lady Colts and Purple Riders split a pair of regular season engagements. Ferry outlasted Magnolia, 2-1 in Thursday's

other semifinal tilt.

"Tonight was a case of their pitcher being a little bit better than our hitters," said Bethel whose club was limited to one single. "I thought we helped her out by swinging at a few balls out of the zone."

After yielding a fourth inning opposite field hit to Harrison's Chelsea Coconougher, Tellep was nearly untouchable. She allowed two additional baserunners, both by issuing walks.

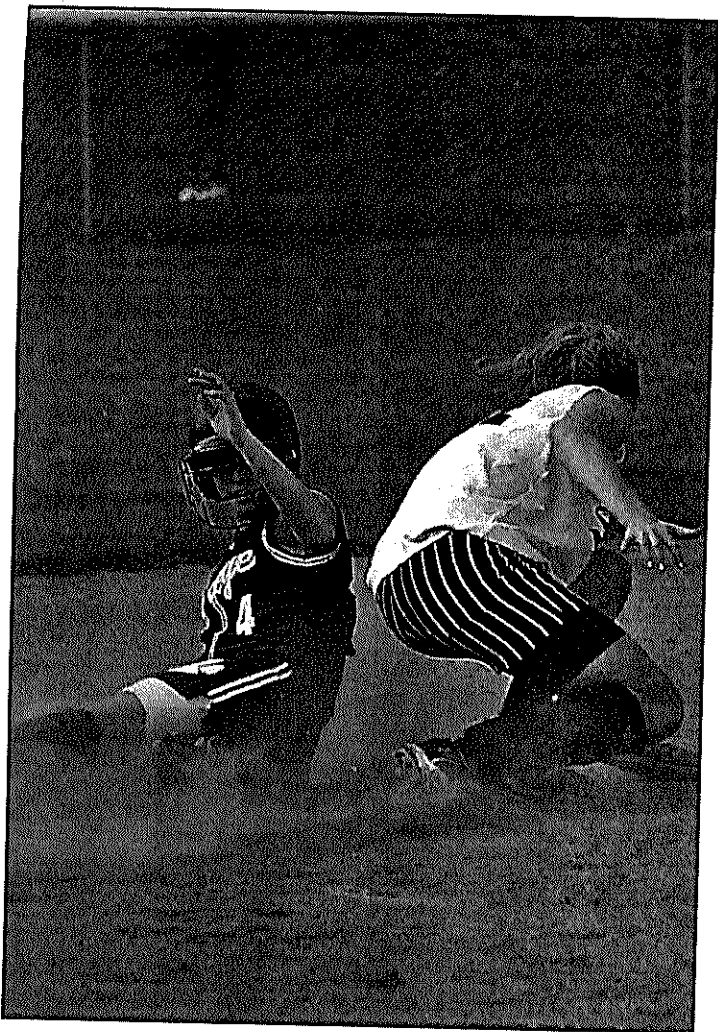
"I feel bad for our seniors who've worked so hard," Bethel related. "And Katy Leeper did an equally great job on the mound. We just couldn't get her any run support."

Leeper pitched well enough to win on another day, chalking up 10 strikeouts and permitting but one base on balls.

Meadowbrook strung together three second inning singles to tally the only run the Colts would need.

Second baseman Alyssa Wright hit a leadoff single up the middle and advanced to third when designated player Meghan Fedorke singled to

See, HARRISON, Page C2



Photo/MIKE MATHISON

BUCKEYE LOCAL'S Nikki Cesario slides into third ahead of the tag by the Edison third baseman during their OVAC game Monday night.

Buckeye Local ousted by Edison

AT STATE LAKE PARK, the cousin duo of Autumn and Ashley Bendle sent Buckeye Local out of the first round of the Class AAAA OVAC tournament as they combined for 13 strikeouts in Monday's 9-4 Edison win.

Buckeye Local's lone hit came in the second frame as Nikki Cesario hit a bases loaded single.

Leading the bats for Edison was Kaitlyn Blake with two doubles while teammate Kim Smyth singled driving in two runs.

CAMERON 13, BRIDGEPORT 0

AT CAMERON, Bridgeport was charted for five errors and Cameron responded with 13 runs in a blanking of the Lady Bulldogs in the OVAC Class 1-A quarterfinal.

Lacey Tustin gained the mound win. She had 10 strikeouts and three walks.

Morgan Belles and Rachel Benda each had a single for the Lady Bulldogs.

MEADOWBROOK 4, ST. CLAIRSVILLE 0

AT BYESVILLE, Kensi Tellep was too much for the Lady Red Devils as she allowed nary a hit in the Lady Colts' 4-0 win.

Tellep fanned 14 and allowed only two to reach via the free pass. She and Candace Neff each had a double.

St. Clairsville's Kate Davison was strong in defeat on the mound.

STEUBENVILLE CC 6, RIVER 3

AT STEUBENVILLE, the Lady Crusaders punched their ticket back into the semifinals by virtue of a 6-3 win over River.

Alexis Ferrera was strong for Catholic Central. She had 11 strikeouts. Jessie Harlan had three hits for the Lady Crusaders.

River's Rhodes had a RBI double.

TRAIL 3, FORT FRYE 0

AT OLD WASHINGTON, Buckeye Trail scored once in the first and thanks to the pitching of Kelly Zimmerman it proved to be enough.

Zimmerman fanned eight. She also had a single. Traci Ault had the Lady Warriors' only other hit.

Huskies Take Out Big Reds

Bases-loaded single wins it

By JEFF POTTS

For The Intelligencer

Softball is a game of inches. An inch or two here or there can change the complexion of a whole game.

Monday night at Sally Buffalo Park in Cadiz, the Bellaire found that out the hard way.

Chelsea Coconougher's bases-loaded single off the third-base bag in the bottom of the seventh gave the Lady Huskies (12-7) a 3-2 victory against Bellaire in an OVAC Class 3-A softball tournament quarterfinal game.

"It's been that way both times this year so I didn't expect anything different," Harrison Central coach Don Bethel said. "As long as we let a team hang around in a game, the more confidence they are going to get."

Though disappointed with the loss, Bellaire coach Melissa Lahna was proud of the way her team fought back after being down 2-0 going into the top of the seventh.

"It was a great game on both ends," she said. "As usual we let them score early but our girls shut them down the rest of the game."

"They couldn't score, they couldn't touch many bases so that's something to be proud of especially in the playoffs."

Lahna said hitting was a big factor in the game.

"They stroked the ball," she said. "And I don't think we hit the ball as well as I've seen us hit."

Harrison Central picked up two quick runs in the home half of the first inning, with Bree Spoonmore doubling in Coconougher and Kaylee Horn singling in Spoonmore.

Though the Lady Huskies continued to threaten during the next five innings, Bellaire starter Alex Wright settled down, allowing only Kristina Brandon to reach second base.

Wright's counterpart on the mound, Katy Leeper, was even more impressive throughout the early going as the junior right-hander limited the Bellaire offense to just two hits during the first six innings. Brandon racked up 12 of her 14 strikeouts during that span.

Things would get interest-

"It's been that way both times this year so I didn't expect anything different.

As long as we let a team hang around in a game, the more confidence they are going to get.
Don Bethel

ing in the top of the seventh.

Megan Kowalczyk walked to open the frame. Following a strikeout of Kylee Ney, Alyssa Ofat singled and then took second on a throwing error by Brandon that allowed Kowalczyk to score and bring the Big Reds within one at 2-1.

Brandon attempted to pick off Ofat at third, but the throw was off the mark and Ofat scooted home to tie it at 2-2.

Brandon crushed her third double of the game to open the bottom half of the seventh setting up the wild finish.

Kaitlyn Houston reached via error and Lahna elected to intentionally walk leadoff hitter Sara Pelegreen setting the stage for Coconougher's heroics.

"I wanted a play where they had to force us out of the inning," Lahna said of the decision to walk Pelegreen.

"Coconougher was hitting right side the whole game and then hit one down the third base-line and it hit off the foul side of the bag.

"If that ball's just a couple more inches to the left, we're still playing."

Bethel said he wasn't surprised Bellaire walked Pelegreen.

"Sara's a good ballplayer," he said. "Coming into (Monday). I think she's been our hottest hitter so I'm not surprised they walked her."

Brandon led Harrison Central with three doubles, while Spoonmore was charted with three singles.

Ferry Edges Past Magnolia

Purple Riders hold off stubborn Eagles, 2-1

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

Martins Ferry has become a regular in the OVAC Class 3-A softball final.

While it was a little more of a struggle than coach Jess Cordery may have liked, the Purple Riders advanced to Saturday's conference title game by virtue of a 2-1 victory against a game Magnolia squad on Lisa's Field at the Chambers' I-470 Complex in Elm Grove.

"Magnolia deserves a ton of credit because they held us in check for the most part," a relieved Cordery said. "We got a little energized when they went on top, but our girls get angry when that happens."

Needless to say, the Purple Riders turned their anger into offense.

After the Blue Eagles forged ahead when they plated an unearned run in the top of the fifth, the Ferry offense came alive.

The bottom of the fifth started when Kristen Cerasoli drew a lead-off walk. She took second on a wild pitch.

After an out was recorded, Brianne Booth hit what appeared to be an innocent grounder on the infield, but the Blue Eagles opted to try to cut down the lead runner and the result was two aboard with one down.

No. 9 hitter Brittany Hood then laced a single that scored Cerasoli and knotted the game. Shortstop Karlen Vinci followed with a single that plated Booth, giving the Purple Riders the lead.

"Give Martins Ferry credit, they manufactured a couple of runs and took advantage of a mental error we made," first-year Blue Eagles coach Mark Batton said. "Ferry is a heck of a team that plays extremely well fundamentally."

The Blue Eagles got the leadoff hitter aboard in the sixth when Kayla Brill

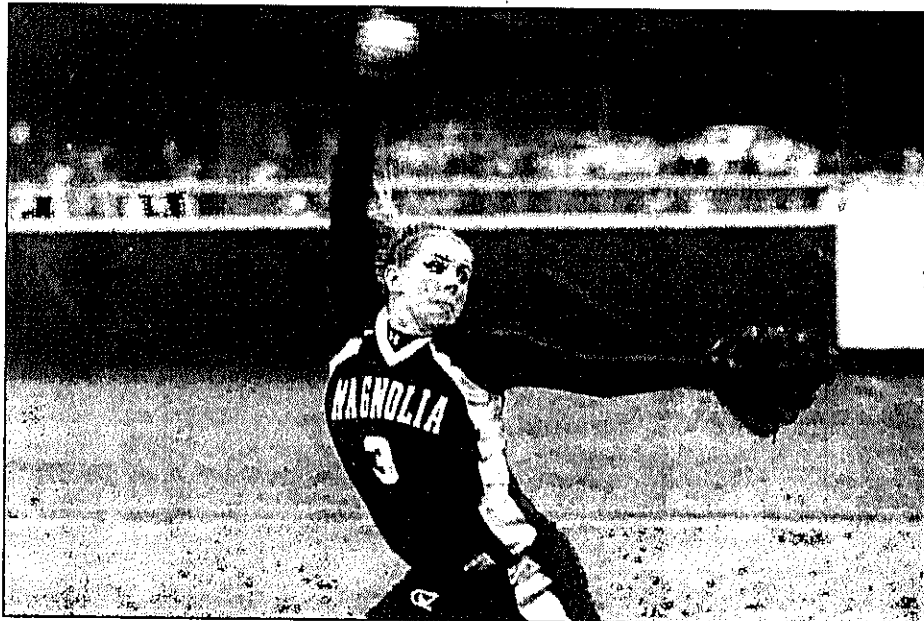


Photo by Mike Harvilla

Magnolia starting pitcher Tory Greene delivers to the plate during the Blue Eagles' OVAC Tournament softball game Thursday in Wheeling.

"Magnolia deserves a ton of credit because they held us in check for the most part."

Jess Cordery
Martins Ferry coach

drew a walk. She stole second, but advance no further as Martins Ferry ace Victoria Zigacheek got the next three hitters in order, two via strikeout.

Martins Ferry was unable to tack on any insurance runs in its half of the sixth as Blue Eagle pitcher Tory Greene got the Purple Riders 1-2-3.

Magnolia had life again the top of the seventh.

Right fielder Cassie Neff singled and was promptly moved up to second on a sacrifice bunt by Bree Carr. However, Zigacheek and the Ferry defense buckled down and got an innocent pop out and a strikeout to thwart the rally and send the Purple Riders to the title tilt.

"Victoria fell behind in the count some early in the game and it hurt her, but she was really strong late in the game," Cordery said.

Zigacheek finished with six strikeouts and a pair of walks. Her circle counterpart, Greene, finished with 10 strikeouts against an unrelenting Ferry lineup.

Magnolia's offense was led by Evann Ludewig who had a RBI single.

The Purple Riders are 17-1 while Magnolia dropped to 7-6.

Cadets Shut Down Bishops

John Marshall stays hot, thumps Magnolia

Taylor Cecil, Alex Kozusko and Jessie Holloway combined on a two-hit shutout as Linsly handed Bishop Donahue a 9-0 defeat Thursday in high school baseball action at Holloway Field in Wheeling.

Cecil aided his cause with two RBI, coming up a homer short of the cycle while Andrew Kozusko plated three runners with double and a pair of singles.

John Marshall 13, Magnolia 1

At New Martinsville, John Marshall continued its hot streak at the plate by pounding out 13 runs on 14 hits in a huge victory against Magnolia.

Donnie Gilbert bashed a grand slam for the Monarchs (19-2) while Ryan Zelinski had a three-run bomb in both the fourth and sixth innings to finish with seven RBI.

Kyle Kimble had a RBI single for Magnolia as John Marshall pitcher Cy Mazingo fanned nine batters and held the Blue Eagles (12-5) to one run on four hits.

St. Clairsville 10, Union Local 0

At St. Clairsville, Ian Riddel drove in four runs and Zane Butler added two more as St. Clairsville downed Union Local.

Anthony Wakim recorded a no-hitter for the Red Devils (13-5), striking out five and walking two in six innings of work.

John Vensel and Adam Shanks added RBI base hits for St. Clairsville.

Fort Frye 10, Caldwell 5

At Caldwell, Trey Engle drove in three runs and Tyler Stevens and Cole Dutton had one RBI apiece as Fort Frye (14-4) put away Caldwell.

Logan Clark and Corey McGilton each singled twice for the Redskins.

Frontier 10, Monroe Central 0

At Woodsfield, Ethan Morris and Justin Flores combined on a three-hit shutout as Frontier hammered Monroe Central (5-11).

Kurt Addlesburger had a grand slam and a single for the Cougars (10-7) while Flores and Frank Budrevich had an RBI apiece.

Josh Turner singled twice for the

PREP ROUNDUP

Seminoles.

Softball
OVAC Class AAAAA
Brooke 7, Edlson 2

At Wheeling, Caitlin Kocher struck out 10 and held Edison to two runs on three hits as Brooke advanced to Saturday's Class AAAAA championship game against Wheeling Park with a victory against the Wildcats.

Elizabeth Preston, Sam Michetti and Leighann Lauri all drove in two runs apiece for the Bruins.

Kim Smyth singled twice and doubled for Edison.

Class AAA

Meadowbrook 2, Harrison Central 0

At Wheeling, Kinsi Tellep struck out 17 batters in a one-hit performance as Meadowbrook advanced to the finals by blanking Harrison Central.

Alyssa Wright had two singles and Tiffany Reese had a single and an RBI for the the Colts (16-4).

Katy Leeper had 10 strikeouts in the loss for the Huskies (12-8).

Martins Ferry catcher Kayla Lewis looks to throw against Meadowbrook on Wednesday. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Photo by Alex Kozlowski



Colts Gain Elusive Title

Meadowbrook topples Ferry

By RICH GIBSON
For The Intelligencer

They say good things come to those who wait. Lord knows, Meadowbrook's Bob Rasor can relate.

In his 22nd season as Colts softball coach, Rasor has had several close calls attempting to capture a OVAC Tournament title.

That lengthy drought came to a dramatic halt Wednesday at Wheeling's J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

"I think I'm more happy for the girls," Rasor said moments after Meadowbrook rallied for a 2-1 victory against Martins Ferry.

The victory earned Meadowbrook its first 3-A tourney trophy and improved the Guemsey County team to 19-4 overall.

Wednesday's tough-to-take setback dropped Jess Cordery and his Purple Riders to 18-2. Both setbacks have been inflicted by Meadowbrook.

"It's a shame one of us had to lose," Cordery said. "I said earlier the first team to three was going to win it. We just

came up a little short."

With two of the district's top guns on the mound, this one figured to be played close to the vest. That, it was.

Meadowbrook's Kinsi Tellep and Ferry's Victoria Zigacheek were in control throughout the afternoon. In the end, Tellep prevailed, recording 14 strikeouts along the way. The sophomore yielded four hits and walked a pair.

Zigacheek, meanwhile, experienced the ultimate in frustration. The Riders ace senior no-hit Meadowbrook in six of seven innings.

Please See COLTS, Page 18

Irish

(Continued from Page 17)

However, the Colts strung together their only three hits in the sixth frame to erase a 1-0 deficit and earn the victory.

"I really have to give our team credit," Rasor noted. "We were behind but just kept hanging in. The kids were never discouraged. We were able to get a couple baserunners on in the sixth and took advantage."

Ferry broke a scoreless tie in the third. Slugger Kayla Lewis reached on one of four Colts errors. That brought up sweet-swinging senior Sarah Burch who drilled a run-scoring double to the gap in left-centerfield, plating courtesy runner Courtney King.

Meadowbrook finally got off the deck in the sixth. A one-out single by No. 9 hitter Natasha Steele ignited the Colts. Zigacheek was able to induce a groundball for out No. 2.

But back-to-back hits off the bats of Kylee Williams and Tellep scored the tying and what-would-prove, winning runs.

Ferry staged a two-out threat in its half of the sixth with junior Kristian Cerasoli and senior Kayla Kuminkoski reaching base before Tellep recorded an inning-ending strikeout.

The Purple Riders was unable to mount a seventh inning threat, falling a run short.

"Of course, it hurts,"

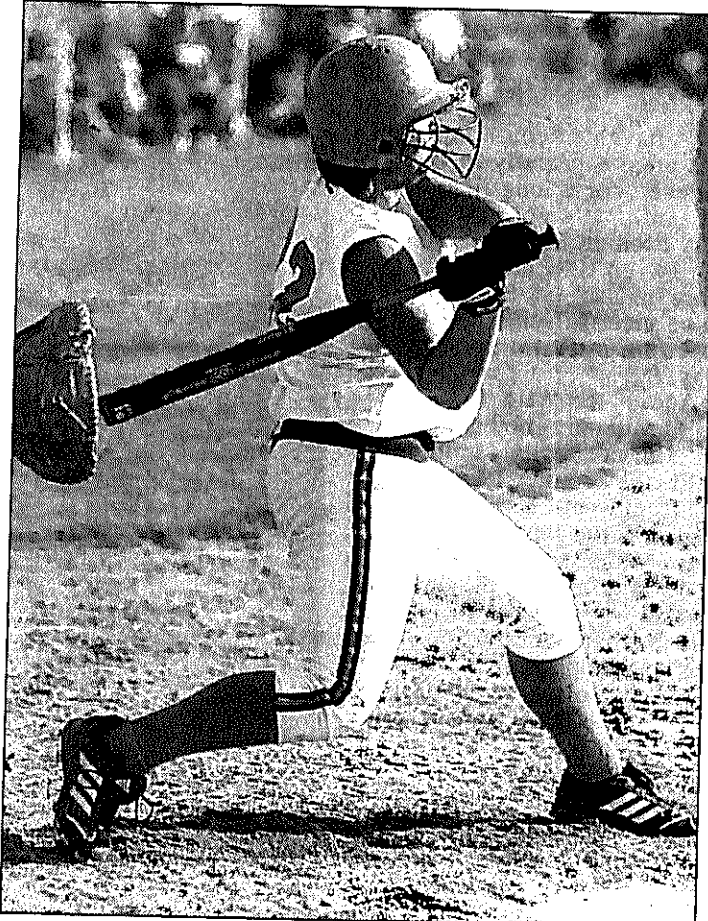


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Meadowbrook designated player Meghan Fedorke takes a cut during the OVAC Class AAA final Wednesday in Wheeling. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Cordery said. "Winning a OVAC title was one of our goals. But we have other things we can still achieve."

Zigacheek endured the setback despite a stellar nine-strikeout, no-walk performance.

Thursday
May 3, 2007

SPORTS

For comments regarding local sports stories, or ideas for future stories, please e-mail sports@daily-jeff.com

Meadowbrook captures OVAC 3-A softball title

Lady Colts rally with two-run sixth for 2-1 win against Ferry; MHS improves to 19-4

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

ELM GROVE, W.Va. — Bob Rasor may have gotten a little older thanks to another nail-biting finish, but in the end, his Lady Colts presented their veteran coach with his first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tournament championship.

Trailing 1-0 to once-beaten Martins Ferry entering the sixth inning, with the Lady Riders riding a potential no-hitter from pitcher Victoria Zigaceek, Meadowbrook put together three hits and two runs to pull out an exciting 2-1 triumph in the OVAC Class 3-A title contest at the I-470 Complex on Wednesday.

Only two Meadowbrook batters had reached base through five innings against Ferry's Zigaceek before senior leftfielder Natasha Steele lined a single past diving Ferry shortstop Karlen Vinci with one out in the sixth.

Senior centerfielder Kristen "Boo" Waers moved Steele second with a sacrifice bunt and then freshman first baseman Kylee Williams delivered a clutch, two-out opposite-field single to left, with Steele racing home from second with the tying run and Williams taking second on the throw to the plate.

Meadowbrook sophomore mound ace Kinsi Tellep followed with a bloop single to right and Williams scampered home with what proved to be the

game-winning tally.

Tellep finished off the Ferrians in 1-2-3 fashion in the seventh, giving the Colts the coveted title.

"Someone said a game like that can take 10 years off of your life, and they're right," Meadowbrook's Rasor sighed. "This is the first time we've ever won the tournament and it's a great feeling.

"You can see how happy they are," he said, pointing to his players jumping up-and-down on the infield.

Rasor credited his team with staying positive despite trailing 1-0 late in the game.

"The girls didn't get down and they hung in there and then we had a couple of hits fall in there in the sixth," he said. "It was another great game with them (Ferry)."

Meadowbrook (19-4) has inflicted both losses on state-ranked Ferry (18-2), winning the season series 2-1. The teams split an earlier doubleheader, the Lady Colts winning 3-0 and the Lady Riders posting a 2-1 victory.

"Today, they deserved to be OVAC champions," Ferry coach Jess Cordery complimented. "They got two key hits when they had to with two outs and that's tough to do.

"It's just a shame that one of us had to lose a game like this," Cordery continued. "We're two evenly matched teams and we thought it would be the first team to three (runs) wins, but it didn't even get there."



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The Meadowbrook High softball team celebrates the school's first-ever Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tournament championship following an exciting 2-1 victory over top-seeded Martins Ferry in the Class 3-A title game at the I-470 Complex in Elm Grove, W. Va.

Ferry scored its lone run in the bottom of the third frame when senior catcher Kayla Lewis reached on an infield error and scored all the way from first on an RBI double to left-

center by senior first baseman Sara Burch.

The Riders had two runners on base in the second and sixth innings, but Tellep shut the door both times with

strikeouts.

Until the decisive sixth, Meadowbrook's only other baserun-

See MHS page B-3

Lady Colts win OVAC 3-A

MHS from page B-1

ners were freshman shortstop Candace Neff, hit by a pitch in the second inning; and senior catcher Tiffany Reese, who reached on an error in the third.

Although Rasor felt Tellep was at less than peak form, she still managed another big-time showing by tossing a four-hitter with 14 strikeouts and two walks. She now has amassed a whopping 292 Ks in 23 games this year, an average of 12.7 per game, and pushed her two-year total to 515 whiffs.

"I didn't think she was at the top of her game," Rasor commented, "but she came through when we had to have it more

than once."

Ferry's Zigaceek finished with nine strikeouts, no walks and one hit batsman in a tough-luck mound loss.

In addition to Burch's RBI double, Ferry got singles from Lewis, Kayla Kuminkoski and Christian Cerasoli.

"This was one of our goals," Rasor said of the OVAC title, "and now we'll get ready to go after a couple of others."

NEXT—Meadowbrook has two key East Central Ohio League games up next, starting with a home game tonight against New Philadelphia at 5 p.m. followed by a visit to league-leading Dover on Friday.

TITLE REPEAT

Rosepapa smokes Cameron in OVAC 1-A title game

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

The trophy case is filling up on Guernsey Street.

Make it six out of seven OVAC tournament championships for Jerry Magistro and his Lady Irish who pinned a 8-0 setback on mistake-plagued Cameron in Tuesday's 1-A title game.

St. John's won for the 16th time in 18 starts, receiving yet another prime-time mound performance from senior Amanda Rosepapa.

Additionally, the Green was sparked by converted shortstop-turned-catcher Jenna Vavra. "We had to play without (regular catcher Betsie Smith)," Magistro advised. "Jenna was just outstanding (behind the plate). She really stepped up for us."

Vavra got it done with the bat as well, accounting for two hits and two runs batted in. Though limited to six hits by Cameron's Lacey Tustin, St. John, nevertheless, produced plenty of baserunners.

Thanks in large part to a disastrous defensive outing from coach Mark Witzberger's Lady Dragons. "That was totally uncharacteristic of us," said Witzberger of his team's nine fielding misplays. "I do know we have an all-sophomore infield. Maybe some (of them) just had big-game jitters."

Whatever the case may be, Tustin certainly deserved better. She recorded eight strikeouts and three walks.

Rosepapa was just as effective. She yielded five hits and received solid play behind her. Rosepapa finished with seven Ks and only one walk.

"We scouted Cameron and told the girls they needed to put the ball in play," Magistro advised. "I thought we were real aggressive on the bases. That helped us score some early runs."

After two scoreless frames, St. John's struck for three runs after Tustin retired the first two Irish hitters in the bottom of the third.

Vavra ignited the outburst, lining a single to left field. After Rosepapa drew a base on balls, shortstop Sara Wamsley singled to left, plating Wallace.

Cameron proceeded to come unglued, first making an errant relay which allowed courtesy runner Rosemary Lynn to score. On an aborted toss back to third base, Wamsley was able to race home and it was 3-0.

The scenario virtually repeated itself an inning later when St. John's scored four more times as Cameron aided and abetted with three additional misplays.

Kristina Velkovich and Sara Timko were aboard before leadoff hitter Lakyn McFarland reached on an error.

Vavra made the Dragons pay, drilling a two-run single to left field. Wamsley capped the inning with her second hit of the afternoon and Cameron faced a seven-run deficit.

Centerfielder Ashley Wallace singled in the



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

ST. JOHN CENTRAL'S Amanda Rosepapa fires in one of her seven strikeouts early in Tuesday night's 1-A OVAC title game. The Irish ace went on to lead the Guernsey Street squad to their sixth OVAC gold finish in seven attempts.

Irish sixth and raced home when Rosepapa's ground ball was mishandled.

"After playing so well this season, today was disappointing," Witzberger admitted. "But we still have the (West Virginia) tournament ahead."

Cameron and Hundred were slated to vie this afternoon (5:00) at New Martinsville where sectional play opens.

St. John's meanwhile, was scheduled to host Harrison Central today in a regular season makeup encounter.

Vavra and Wamsley collected two hits apiece, pacing Tuesday's triumph. Cameron's Janet Peterson doubled.

Gibson may be reached at: rgibson@timesleaderonline.com



Photo/ALEX KOZLOWSKI

MARTINS FERRY ace Victoria Ziggacheek delivers a pitch during Wednesday's OVAC Class 3-A title game at Chambers I-470 Complex against Meadowbrook. The Lady Colts posted the 2-1 victory to claim the OVAC title.

PURPLE PAIN: Ferry girls suffer 2-1 loss in 3-A title game

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

With OVAC powers Martins Ferry and Meadowbrook matched in the 3-A title game, this much was certain: One worthy softball team was destined for heartbreak.

Not to mention the disappointment associated with a 2-1 loss which Jess Cordery and his Lady Riders were forced to endure Wednesday afternoon.

"Any time you lose a championship game, you know it's bitter," said Cordery. "We're hurting right now but our girls will bounce back. We're still looking forward to the upcoming sectionals."

Meadowbrook, meanwhile, celebrated its first-ever OVAC Tournament trophy. "I'm just so proud of this team" said 22-year Lady Colts' coach Bob Razor. "We were behind a majority of the way, but the girls stayed positive. We finally got a couple of key hits and were able to take advantage."

Razor wasn't surprised a single run decided the outcome. "These are two very evenly matched teams," he related. "You had to figure not many runs would be scored."

Meadowbrook's Kinsi Tellep and Ferry's Victoria Ziggacheek performed like the all stars they are. The Colts' young sophomore chalked up 14 strikeouts while yielding four hits and issuing two walks.

Ziggacheek was just as dominant — fanning nine and walking none. Ironically, the Riders' senior pitched six innings of no-hit softball, allowing all three Colt hits and both runs in the top of

'We're hurting right now, but our girls will bounce back. We're still looking forward to the upcoming sectionals.'

— Jess Cordery

● Ferry

Continued from Page C1

the sixth.

Until that point, Ferry nursed a 1-0 lead. In the Riders' third inning, senior ace Kayla Lewis reached on a Colts' error.

Up next was first baseman Sarah Burch who drilled a gapper to left-center, scoring courtesy runner Courtney King.

Meadowbrook finally broke through in the sixth and the Colts did so via two-out dramatics.

Number nine batter Natasha Steele accounted for her team's first hit, lining a one-out single up the middle.

Ziggacheek recorded the second out before first baseman Kylee Williams singled to short left field, scoring Steele for a 1-1 lighting.

Tellep then stepped to the plate and lifted a fly ball to short right field that dropped for a base hit to score Williams.

The Purple staged a two-out threat in the last of the sixth with Kristian Cerasoli and Kayla Kuminkoski reaching base.

But Tellep reached back to record an inning-ending strikeout. The Colts' ace then retired Ferry 1-2-3 in the Purple's final at-bat.

"That was two of the valley's best going at each other tooth and nail," Razor remarked. "We're just happy to come out on top."

The Purple Riders (18-2) were scheduled to host Buckeye Local this afternoon in the continuation of Buckeye's rain-delayed invitational championship game which was suspended last month.

When play resumes, Buckeye Local is batting in the top of the fifth inning of a 1-1 deadlock. The Lady Panthers have the bases loaded.

Following completion of that game, the two teams tangle in a second regulation contest.

Ferry begins sectional play next Tuesday at St. Clairsville where the Riders oppose Bellaire.

Line score:
Meadowbrook 000 002 0 — 2 3 4
Martins Ferry 001 000 0 — 1 4 1

BATTERIES: Tellep and Reese, Ziggacheek and Lewis.

Gibson can be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

High School Softball

Patriots Roar

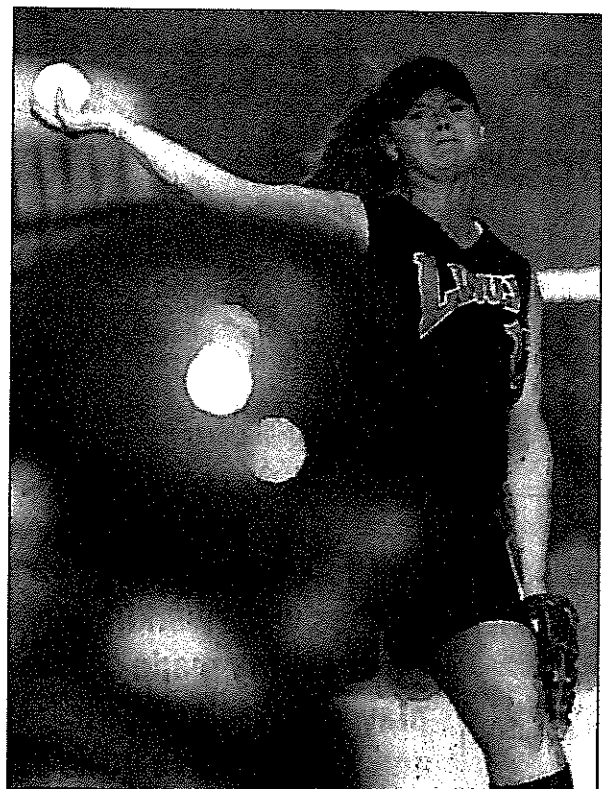


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Linsley third baseman Summer Flowers fires the ball to first during Monday's OVAC contest. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Linsley Runs Past Devils In OVACs

Cadets put it all together

By MIKE HUGHES
Staff Writer

Freshman Erika Mitchem dropped down the perfect bunt, scoring Summer Flowers from third for the final run as Linsley handed Beallsville a 10-0 defeat Monday in the opening round of the OVAC Class A Softball Tournament at Lisa's Field at the I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

The Cadets (12-6) advance to Thursday's semifinal opposite Cameron. The Dragons, behind senior pitcher Lacey Tustin, made quick work of Bridgeport on Monday, defeating the Bulldogs 13-0.

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Just like that, the Cadets were up 7-0 after three, pounding out nine hits in the process.

"I told the girls before the game to trust their swings," Linsley coach Liz Hofreuter-Landini said. "We didn't hit the ball very well Saturday (against Bridgeport), but I told them to trust their swings and it worked.

"We hit the ball extremely well."

Not only that, but besides the 11 hits the Cadets finished with, they were playing small ball to a 'T'.

Linsley successfully bunted six times and had five official steals, not

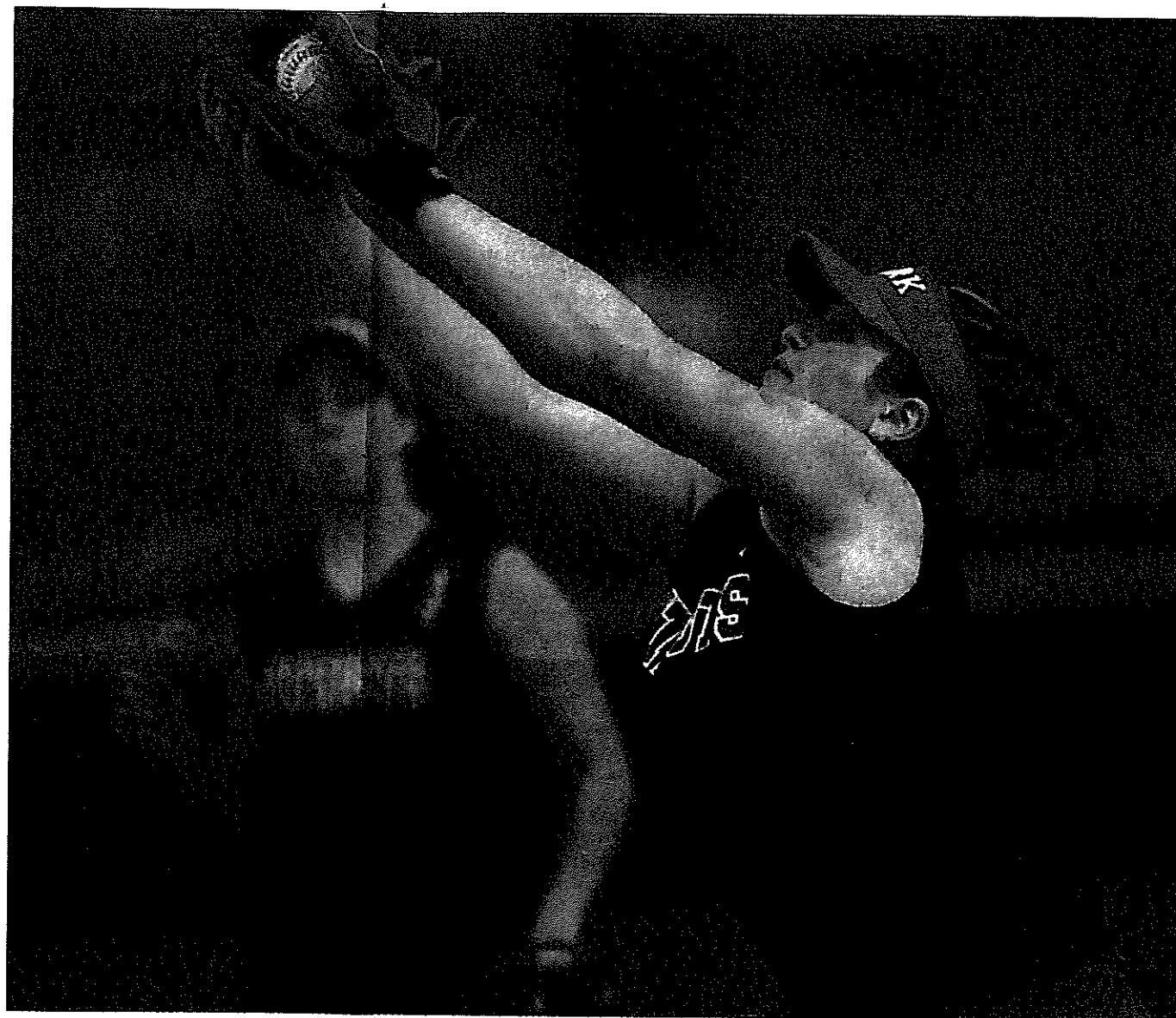


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park first baseman Caitlin Wilson keeps her eye on a popup during Monday's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tournament game Monday in Wheeling against Steubenville. The Patriots advanced to Wednesday's semifinal against Cambridge, a 17-1 winner against Weir. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Wheeling Park blanks Steubenville, 5-0

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

Wheeling Park junior Mary Hohman came within two outs of a no-hitter but was more than happy to settle for a 5-0, one-hit victory against Steubenville in Monday night's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAAA softball quarterfinal played at Lisa's Field in Wheeling.

The lone Big Red hit was an infield single by Brea Magnone on a sharply struck groundball between short and

working really good," Hohman said after her near perfect game. She didn't issue a single walk and threw 19 balls out of 85 pitches.

Only two Big Red batters reached base. In the top of the fourth after Hohman had set down the first 10 Steubenville hitters, Laura Kirkland hit a hopper up the middle that saw Mathieu make another fine stop but her hurried, high throw to first base enabled Kirkland to reach the bag safely.

"Amy made a great play just getting

Complex. Cambridge, which defeated Wheeling Park in a doubleheader last Saturday, coasted to a 17-1 romp against Weir High in Monday's other quarterfinal.

"We are looking forward to playing Cambridge again," Park coach Dee Davis said. "I'm confident we are going to play them a lot better."

Davis was extremely pleased with her team's effort against Big Red's Jackson, who is also regarded as one of the top pitchers in the area. The Patriots.

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Linsly went to work early and often in getting to Blue Devils pitcher Miranda McFrederick.

Sarah Vankirk drove in a run on a single and Kari Kitchen plated two more with a grounder through the left side for an early 3-0.

Two innings later, Mitchem and Emily Beck got into the act with RBI

base hits while Megan Byhanna drove in two with a double off the fence in left-centerfield.

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The Cadets wasted few, if any at bats.

"We've been working on our small-ball game all year," Hofreuter-Landini said.

Please See PAST, Page 16



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Wheeling Park first baseman Caitlin Wilson keeps her eye on a popup during Monday's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tournament game Monday in Wheeling against Steubenville. The Patriots advanced to Wednesday's semifinal against Cambridge, a 17-1 winner against Weir. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

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The lone Big Red hit was an infield single by Brea Magnone on a sharply struck groundball between short and third with one down in the top of the seventh inning. Patriots shortstop Amy Mathieu made a strong attempt at what would have been a sensational play, racing deep into the hole to flag down the ball but she had no chance at getting an out at first base.

Unruffled, Hohman went back to work and finished off Steubenville by retiring pitching rival Shay Jackson on a pop fly to Shila Gray at third base and then striking out Sam Dixon for her 11th "K" of the game.

"I felt strong and all my pitches were

working really good," Hohman said after her near perfect game. She didn't issue a single walk and threw 19 balls out of 85 pitches.

Only two Big Red batters reached base. In the top of the fourth after Hohman had set down the first 10 Steubenville hitters, Laura Kirkland hit a hopper up the middle that saw Mathieu make another fine stop but her hurried, high throw to first base enabled Kirkland to reach the bag safely.

"Amy made a great play just getting to the ball," Hohman said, "and she would have gotten the out if the throw was down just a little. The defense behind me played very well (Monday night).

Park, now 16-6, avenged an 1-0 loss to Steubenville earlier in the season in another Hohman vs. Jackson pitching duel that saw the game's only run score on an error.

Monday night's revenge victory advances the Patriots into Wednesday night's 4A semifinal against top-seeded Cambridge at the Chambers I-470

Complex. Cambridge, which defeated Wheeling Park in a doubleheader last Saturday, coasted to a 17-1 romp against Weir High in Monday's other quarterfinal.

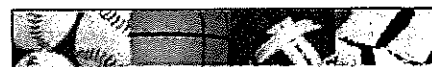
"We are looking forward to playing Cambridge again," Park coach Dee Davis said. "I'm confident we are going to play them a lot better."

Davis was extremely pleased with her team's effort against Big Red's Jackson, who is also regarded as one of the top pitchers in the area. The Patriots, determined not to get shut out again, came out with their bats swinging and scored all five of their runs in the first inning, getting timely run-producing hits from Caitlin Wilson, Hohman and Mathieu.

"Mary pitched well and we played well. I thought our defense was really good," Davis said.

The best play of the game was turned in by Gray against Briana Kanoskie with two out in the sixth inning.

Please See ROAR, Page 16



ON THE LINE

Today's Results:

Q. Will Barry Bonds pass Hank Aaron before the All-Star game?

Yes: 39% No: 61%

Tomorrow's Poll:

Q. Do you think the Pittsburgh Steelers should try to trade disgruntled guard Alan Faneca?

Tell us what you think.

Register your answer at www.theintelligencer.net

(The results of this poll are not scientific and represent only the opinions of Internet users who have chosen to participate.)

Knights Open Defense With 10-0 Rout

Central looks to win another OVAC title

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

It wasn't your typical Wheeling Central outing and it at times lacked the dominating performance that the Maroon Knights usually turn in, but for the defending OVAC Class AA champions, it was business as usual.

Wheeling Central opened its tournament title defense with a 10-0 victory against Monroe Central in six innings at Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

"I talked to a few coaches and we felt Monroe Central was a dangerous

team," Wheeling Central co-coach Ambrose Bober said. "We want to make sure our girls stay focused because this is our second season right now.

"Our regular season OVAC is done and now we go into playoffs. We've got to work on that depth and that playoff mentality."

The Maroon Knights (19-3) pounded out 10 hits against Seminoles pitcher Maggie Cox.

While Brittany Derr only allowed three hits — all infield singles — she struck out five and most outs came on ground balls.

She wasn't dominant, but she didn't need to be.

"We have a good solid defense so

"We have a good, solid defense so we tell our pitchers that you don't have to strike everyone out."
Rick Magruder

we tell our pitchers that you don't have to strike everybody out," Wheeling Central co-coach Rick Magruder said. "Let the defense do the work and they have been pretty consistent hitting so

as long as we keep doing that, we will be going one game at a time."

The Maroon Knights scored three in the first inning, started off by Stephanie Barry with an RBI single.

The Seminoles might have been able to get out of the first with allowing just one run, but a fly ball by Mary Petros to left field that looked like it would be caught was misjudged by leftfielder Nicole Huffman, allowing two more runs to score.

Central put another run on the board in the second as Jen Sparachane came home after an error by Cox, who was trying to make a play with a tough throw to first to get Lauren Baker.

Please See KNIGHTS, Page 16



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Linsly's Megan Byhanna makes contact with the ball during her team's OVAC Tournament game Monday vs. Beallsville. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Past

(Continued from Page 15)

"In my opinion, either small ball or big hits is going to get you wins and if you can't do either, wins will be hard to come by."

With a sizable lead early, Hofreuter-Landini was able to sit back and watch one of the top up-and-coming pitchers in the valley go to work.

Byhanna was masterful working from the circle, firing a two-hit shutout just two days removed from throwing a no-hitter against Bridgeport.

She struck out 11 batters in six innings without a walk, surrendering singles to McFrederick in the fifth inning and Emiley Mercer in the third.

"Megan was very dominant out there," Hofreuter-Landini said of her budding ace. "She pitched a very good game and nothing seems to faze her."

Byhanna needed only 78 pitches — 51 strikes, 27 balls — to record her 12th victory. Even when the sophomore got behind in the count, whether it be 2-1, 3-1 or 3-0, she battled back to get the out.

Flowers added a two-run double in the seventh before Mitchem's game-winning bunt and Dana Wolfe added three singles, two coming courtesy of bunts for Linsly.

Byhanna will go up against Tustin, a four-year veteran in the circle for Cameron to see who advances to Saturday's championship finals.

For the Cadets, it would be their first OVAC Class A title since capturing the tournament championship during the 2003 season.

Each team in the conference has a goal of winning the OVAC tourney, but for Linsly, it's a bit more special.

Unlike the majority of teams they face, the Cadets aren't members of West Virginia's high school governing body, the WVSSAC, and subsequently aren't eligible for postseason play.

So for Linsly, this is its postseason.

"Yes, we do view this tournament a little differently than most (teams)," Hofreuter-Landini said. "The (OVAC) Tournament is something we have been working for and building towards the entire season."

Roar

(Continued from Page 15)

After Kanoskie dropped down a bunt along the third base line, Gray got to the ball in a flash and her strong throw to Wilson at first base nipped the speedy Big Red leadoff hitter.

"Shila's been making those kinds of plays all season for us," the smiling Davis pointed out.

Hohman also turned in a solid defensive play to help her own cause, racing off the pitching mound to make a one-handed stab of a short popup off the bat of Steubenville's Tanetta Curenton to end the third inning.

Jackson, who limited the Patriots to three hits in innings 2-6, struggled in the bottom of the first when she yielded all five Park runs.

Shannan Orum walked leading off and, with one out, Jividen also worked the Big Red ace for a free pass. Wilson stepped up and slapped a line-drive single to left which allowed Orum to score. A throwing error, with Jividen trapped off second base, resulted in Park having runners at second and third.

Hohman's solid single to center brought in run No. 2 and, although Wilson stopped at third, the Park pitcher was able to hustle into second base. Both runners held on as Leann Rigby beat out a bunt for a single. Mathieu outraced the throw to first base on her slow-hit ground ball to second as two more runs

"I felt strong and all my pitches were working really good. Amy made a great play just getting to the ball, and she would've gotten the out if the throw was down just a little. The defense behind me played really well (Monday night)."

**Mary Hohman
Wheeling Park pitcher**

crossed the plate. An error, Steubenville's second of the inning, scored the fifth and final run of the inning.

Park's only other hits were singles by Mathieu and Gray with two out in the fourth inning and Hohman's single with one out in the fifth

Knights

(Continued from Page 15)

Instead, first baseman Kylie Knowlton couldn't handle the throw and Sparachane scored easily.

Val Palmer tripled to lead off the third and Barry brought her home with a sacrifice fly. Courtesy runner Rachel Helms scored on a Sparachane triple.

"If we can put it all together and not go into any kind of a slump, we can make a good run again," Bober said. "I knew (the Seminoles) were young and had a couple hitters. They played a couple teams very tough. ... That first game is always the toughest."

Barry led off the fifth with a triple, was again replaced by Helms, who scored on a single by Petros. In the sixth, Barry reached on an error that led to another run.

"All year long, she's been our iron-woman. I should say, Heckuva team player that never complains and works everyday and gives us 110 percent every time," Bober said.

Added Magruder: "With her and Kayla Gray, we have some pretty good seniors. They are good leaders."

The Maroon Knights got the three runs they needed in the sixth inning to induce the 10-run mercy rule despite not collecting a hit. Three errors led to three runs, including a steal of home by Derr.

"It pretty much ended up how I expected," Monroe Central coach Missy Knowlton said. "Wheeling Central is a tough team. They have (22) games in compared to our 13th game this season so we were kind of at a disadvantage. We're very young, and my pitcher, who is a freshman, did a really nice job overall against a quality team like this."

"She kept her cool and I am just real pleased with her so far. Each year I see her pitch, she's improved so I'm hopeful for next year that she'll keep improving."

Monroe Central loaded the bases in the second inning, but Derr got Raven DeLong to ground out to the second base, ending the only scoring chance for the Seminoles.

Up next for the Maroon Knights is Steubenville Central on Wednesday at the I-470 Complex.

SPORTS

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

OVAC Softball Tournament

CLASS 4-A
SCOREBOARD

Wheeling Park 5, Steubenville 0
Brooke 15, Beaver Local 0
Cambridge 17, Weir 1
Edison 9, Buckeye Local 4

SEMIFINALS

Cambridge vs. Wheeling Park.
Brooke vs. Edison.

CLASS 3-A
SCOREBOARD

Martins Ferry 15, Indian Creek 0
Magnolia 6, Oak Glen 4
Meadowbrook 4, St. Clairsville 0
Harrison Central 3, Bellaire 2

SEMIFINALS

Martins Ferry vs. Magnolia.
Meadowbrook vs. Harrison.

CLASS 2-A
SCOREBOARD

Steubenville CC 6, River 3
Buckeye Trail 3, Fort Frye 0
Wheeling Central 10, Monroe 0
Frontier 13, Shenandoah 1

SEMIFINALS

Wheeling Central vs. Steub. CC.
Frontier vs. Buckeye Trail.

CLASS 1-A
SCOREBOARD

St. John's 6, Shadyside 0
Weirton Madonna 2, Donahue 0
Linsly 10, Beallsville 0
Cameron 13, Bridgeport 0

SEMIFINALS

St. John vs. Madonna.
Linsly vs. Cameron.

OVAC Softball Semifinals Set

Harrison Central edges
Bellaire in Class 3-A

By JEFF POTTS
Times Leader Sports Writer

Softball is a game of inches. An inch or two here or there can change the complexion of the whole game.

Monday night at Sally Buffalo Park in Cadiz, the Bellaire Lady Big Reds found that out the hard way.

Chelsea Coconougher's bases loaded single off the third base bag in the bottom of the seventh gave the Lady Huskies (12-7) a 3-2 win over Bellaire in an OVAC Class 3-A softball tournament quarterfinal game at Cadiz.

"It's been that way both times this year so I didn't expect anything different today," Harrison head coach Don Bethel said. "As long as we let a team hang around in a game, the more confidence they are going to get."

Though disappointed with the loss, Bellaire head coach Melissa Lahna was proud of the way her team fought back after being down 2-0 going into the top of the seventh.

"It was a great game on both ends," she said. "As usual we let them score early but our girls shut them down the rest of the game."

'As long as we let a team hang around in a game the more confidence they are going to get.'

- Don Bethel



Photo/ALEX KOZLOWSKI

BEALLSVILLE pitcher Miranda McFrederick goes through her motion before throwing the ball home during Monday's OVAC Class 1-A quarterfinal at Lisa's Field in Elm Grove.

Class 3-A softball tournament quarterfinal game at Cadiz.

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"It was a great game on both ends," she said. "As usual we let them score early but our girls shut them down the rest of the game."

"They couldn't score, they couldn't touch many bases so that's something to be proud of especially in the play-offs," Lahna continued.

Lahna said hitting was a big factor in the game.

"They stroked the ball today," she said. "And I don't think we hit the ball as well as I've seen us hit."

Harrison Central picked up two quick runs in the home half of the first inning, with Bree Spoonmore dou-

See, HARRISON, Page B2

Top-seeded Martins Ferry unloads on Indian Creek

By BRIAN COOK
Times Leader Sports Writer

Returning a veteran team to the diamond is only part of the reason Martins Ferry coach Jess Cordery is smiling these days.

The other is the Lady Purple Riders are peaking at the right time and it showed in the opening round of the OVAC Class AAA tournament as Martins Ferry dismantled Indian Creek 15-0 in a mere three innings Monday night in Martins Ferry.

"That's the nice thing about this team. Everyone in the lineup can hit the ball and they all did it tonight," Cordery said. "Hopefully we are peaking at the right time as May is right around the corner."

Martins Ferry (15-1) unloaded on Indian Creek's Liz Williamson in the opening frame with four consecutive hits and never hesitated to look back. The sophomore ace allowed 13 runs before being pulled in the bottom of the third frame.

"We didn't show up today," Indian Creek coach Angie Penner explained. "Last time we matched up we were leading 2-0 in the fifth. We are a young team and we have things to correct. I have a lot of work to do before we get back out there."

Completing a no-hitter on the Purple Riders' mound

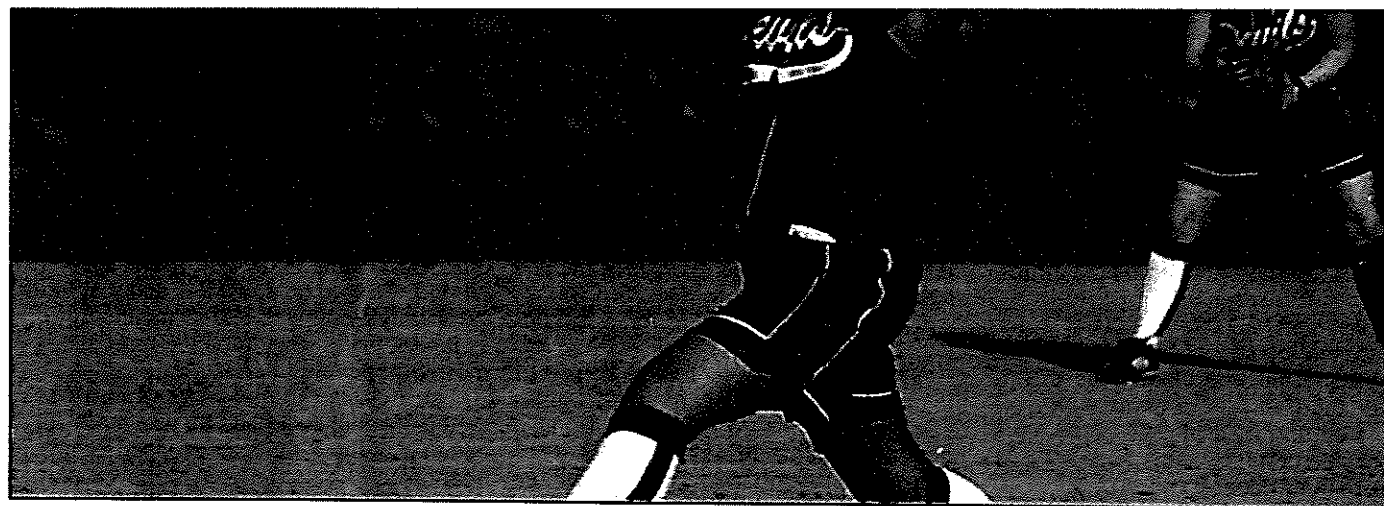
See, FERRY, Page B2

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- Don Bethel

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- Jess Cordery



Photo/ALEX KOZLOWSKI

BEALLSVILLE pitcher Miranda McFrederick goes through her motion before throwing the ball home during Monday's OVAC Class 1-A quarterfinal at Lisa's Field in Elm Grove.

Linsly rolls past Beallsville, 10-0

By MIKE HUGHES
For The Times Leader

Freshman Erika Mitchem dropped down the perfect bunt, scoring Summer Flowers from third for the final run as Linsly handed Beallsville a 10-0 defeat Monday afternoon in the opening round of the OVAC Class A Softball Tournament at Lisalls Field at the I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

The Cadets (12-6) advance to Thursday's semifinal opposite Cameron. The Dragons, behind senior pitcher Lacey Tustin, made quick work of Bridgeport Monday, defeating the Bulldogs 13-0.

Linsly went to work early and often in getting to Blue Devils pitcher Miranda McFrederick.

Sarah Vankirk drove in a run on a single and Kari Kitchen plated two more with a grounder through the left side for an early 3-0.

Two innings later, Mitchem and Emily Beck got into the act with RBI base hits while Megan Byhanna drove in two with a double off the fence in left-centerfield.

Just like that, the Cadets were up 7-0 after three, pounding out nine hits in the process.

"I told the girls before the game to trust their swings," Linsly coach Liz Hofreuter-Landini said. "We didn't hit the ball very well Saturday (against Bridgeport), but I told them to trust their swings and it worked."

"We hit the ball extremely well."

Not only that, but besides the 11 hits the Cadets finished with, they were playing small ball to a tee.

Linsly successfully bunted six times and had five official steals, not counting the plays a runner reached second safely while Beallsville's catcher held on to the ball, holding a runner at third.

The Cadets wasted few, if any at bats.

"We've been working on our small ball game all year," Hofreuter-Landini said. "In my opinion, either small ball or big hits is going to get you wins and if you can't do either, wins will be hard to come by."

With a sizable lead early, Hofreuter-Landini was able to sit

See, LINSLY, Page B2

St. John blanks Shadyside, 6-0

By KIM APPOLLONI
Times Leader Sports Writer

Business as usual.

St. John Central began its quest for another OVAC championship with a 6-0 win over arch-rival Shadyside Monday in Bellaire. Jerry Magistro's crew improved to 12-2 with the win and will face Weirton Madonna in second round action.

"These girls have been here before and we expect to win," stated the successful manager. "We've beaten Shadyside twice before and sometimes you worry that your team will over look the opponent in that situation, but these girls were focused and we hit the ball well."

St. John's has turned the OVAC Tournament into their personal play ground and Monday evening every aspect of their game was at a high level. On the mound, senior standout Amanda Rosepapa was her usual stingy self. The hard-throwing right hander whiffed 10 batters, allowed just two singles and



issued one freebie.

"We counted on Amanda (Rosepapa) to carry us early in the season because we had some young players in new positions and you never know how they are going to respond," stated Magistro. "She does a great job and our team has worked hard to develop. I'm proud of this team."

Rosepapa received excellent backing from her defense. Centerfielder Ashley Wallace was outstanding. The cat quick centerfielder pulled in a few exceptional grabs. "The wind made it difficult for the outfielders, but Ashley (Wallace) can really cover some ground."

"Tonight was one of the best games we played all year," stated Shadyside boss Jillian Johnson. "I don't like losing and I'll never settle for the girl's accepting defeat either, but realistically we are young and we faced one of the best teams in the area. We have no reason to hang our heads."

Magistro agreed with Johnson's assessment of her squad. "They made some exceptional plays today," added Magistro. "Their shortstop (Lakin Gibson) and their centerfielder (Jill Lytton) made plays that kept the game close."

The Irish came out smacking the ball from the opening

See, ST. JOHN, Page B2

● Linsly

Continued from Page B1

back and watch one of the top up-and-coming pitchers in the Valley go to work.

Byhanna was masterful working from the circle, firing a two-hit shutout just two days removed from throwing a no-hitter against Bridgeport.

She struck out 11 batters in six innings without a walk, surrendering singles to McFrederick in the fifth inning and Emiley Mercer in the third.

"Megan was very dominant out there today," Hofreuter-Landini said of her budding ace. "She pitched a very good game and nothing seems to faze her."

Byhanna needed only 78 pitches -- 51 strikes, 27 balls -- to record her 12th victory this season. Even when the sophomore got behind in the count, whether it be 2-1, 3-1 or 3-0, she battled back to get the out.

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Linescore:

Beallsville 000 000 -- 0 2 4

Linsly 304 003 -- 10 11 0

BATTERIES: McFrederick and Thomas. Byhanna and Mitchem.

Wheeling Central girls rip Monroe

By JOSH STROPE

For the Times Leader

It wasn't your typical Wheeling Central outing and it at times lacked the dominating performance that the Maroon Knights usually turn in, but for the defending OVAC Class AA champions, it was business as usual.

Wheeling Central opened its tournament title defense with a 10-0 victory against Monroe Central in six innings at Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers 1-470 Complex.

"I talked to a few coaches and we felt Monroe Central was a dangerous team," Wheeling Central co-coach Ambrose Bober said. "We want to make sure our girls stay focused because this is our second season right now."

"Our regular season OVAC is done and now we go into playoffs. We've got to work on that depth and that playoff mentality."

The Maroon Knights (19-2) pounded out 10 hits against Seminoles' pitcher Maggie Cox.

While Brittany Derr only allowed three hits -- all infield singles -- she struck out five and most outs came on ground balls.

She wasn't dominant, but she didn't need to be.

"We have good solid defense so we tell our pitchers that you don't have to strike everybody out," Wheeling Central co-coach Rick Magruder said. "Let the defense do the work and they have been pretty consistent hit-

ting so as long as we keep doing that, we will be going one game at a time."

The Maroon Knights scored three in the first inning, started off by Stephanie Barry with an RBI single.

The Seminoles might have been able to get out of the first with allowing just one run, but a fly ball by Mary Petros to left field that looked like it would be caught was misjudged by leftfielder Nicole Huffman, allowing two more runs to score.

Central put another run on the board in the second as Jen Sparachane came home after an error by Cox, who was trying to make a play with a tough throw to first to get Lauren Baker.

Instead, first baseman Kylie Knowlton couldn't handle the throw and Sparachane scored easily.

Val Palmer tripled to lead off the third and Barry brought her home with a sacrifice fly. Courtesy runner Rachel Helms scored on a Sparachane triple.

"If we can put it all together

and not go into any kind of a slump, we can make a good run again," Bober said. "I knew (the Seminoles) were young and had a couple hitters. They played a couple teams very tough. ... That first game is always the toughest."

Barry led off the fifth with a triple, was again replaced by Helms, who scored on a single by Petros. In the sixth, Barry reached on an error that led to another run.

"All year long, she's been our iron-woman, I should say. Heckuva team player that never complains and works everyday and gives us 110 percent every time," Bober said.

Added Magruder: "With her and Kayla Gray, we have some pretty good seniors. They are good leaders."

The Maroon Knights got the three runs they needed in the sixth inning to induce the 10-run mercy rule despite not collecting a hit.

Three errors led to three runs, including a steal of home by Derr.

HEADED FOR REGIONALS

The West Liberty men's tennis team is off to the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional in Springfield, Mo. /16

The Intelligencer. SPORTS

TUESDAY MAY 1, 2007

COMICS19

OVAC Softball Championships

Wheeling: Title Town

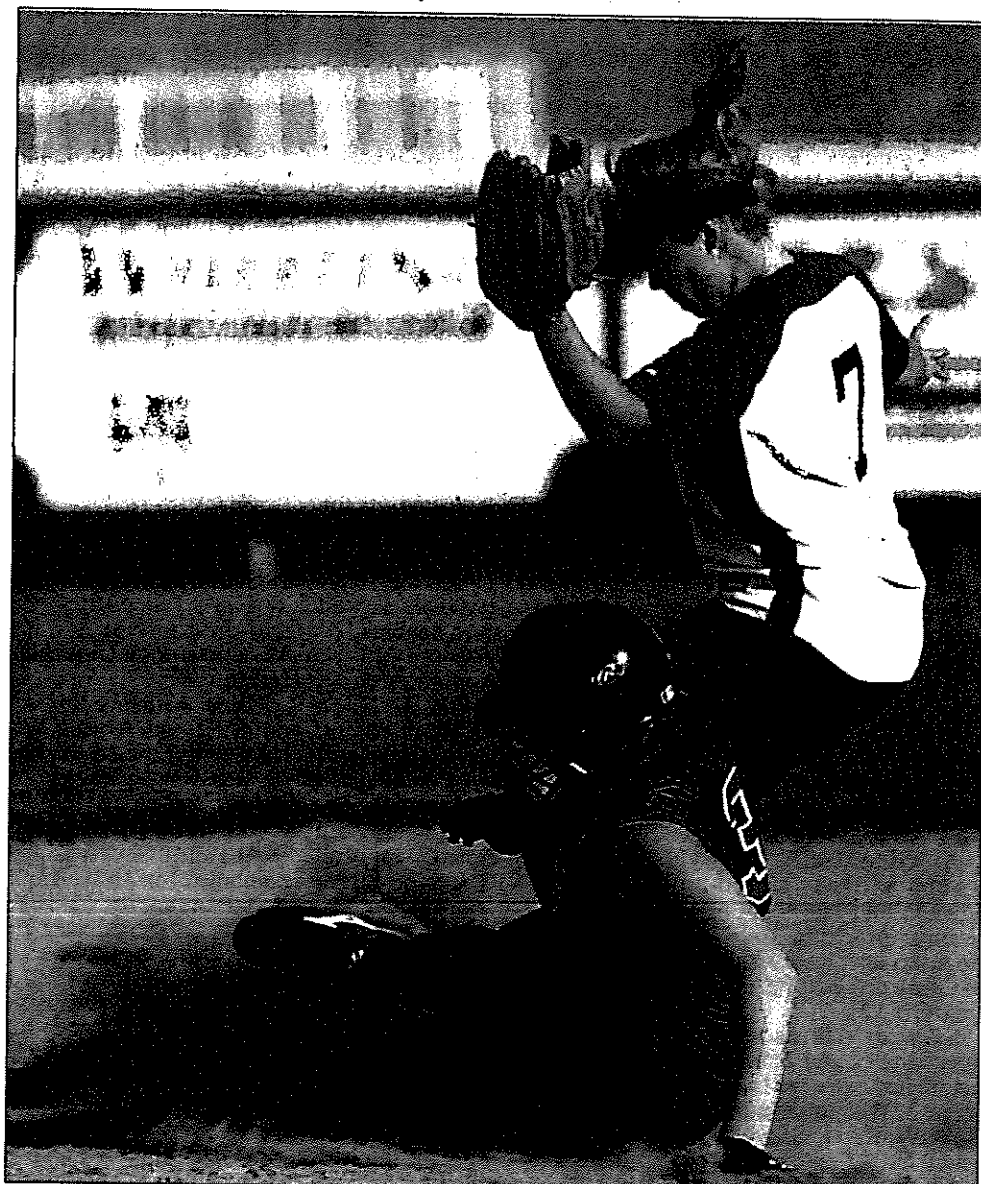


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Caitlin Jividen slides into second base in front of Brooke defender Morgan Hunter on Monday in Wheeling. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Behind Hohman, Patriots collect crown vs Bruins

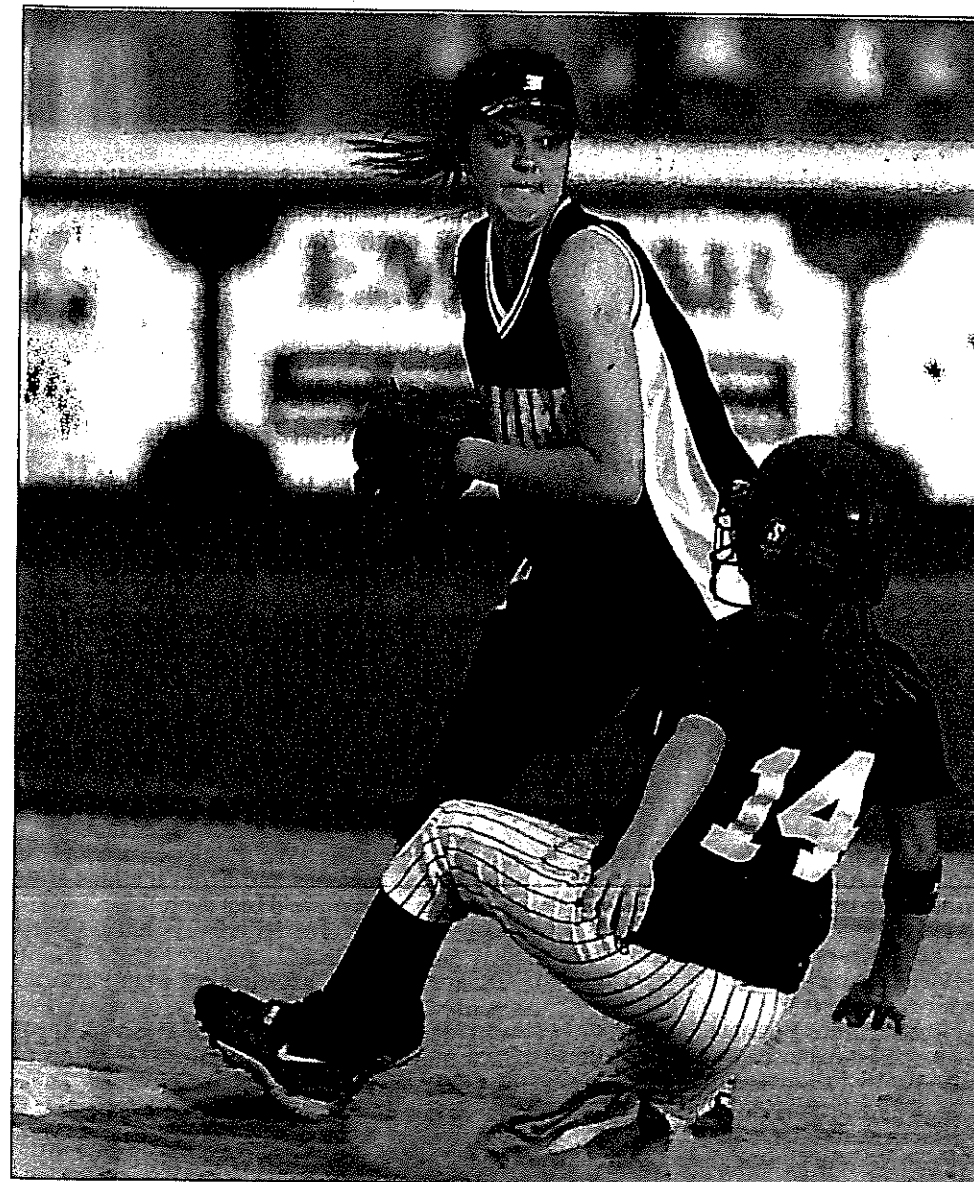


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Central Rachel Helms slides in front of Frontier second baseman Morgan Crum on Monday in Wheeling. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Maroon Knights gain 2nd straight title in dominant way

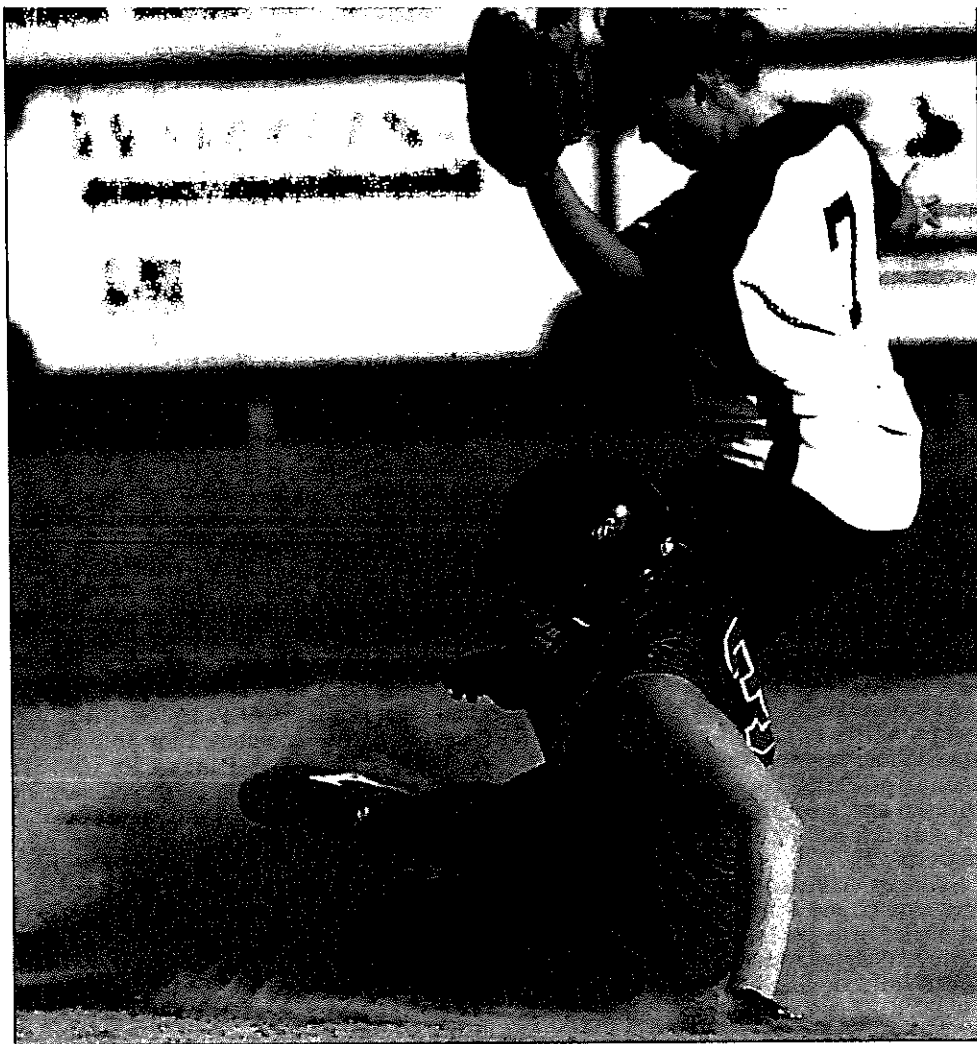


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Caitlin Jividen slides into second base in front of Brooke defender Morgan Hunter on Monday in Wheeling. *View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.*

Behind Hohman, Patriots collect crown vs. Bruins

By **JOSH STROPE**
Staff Writer

CLASS AAAA

Wheeling Park didn't qualify for the OVAC Tournament last season but found itself in the championship game against the defending champion Brooke Bruins this season.

Mary Hohman struck out eight batters and collected two singles as the Patriots claimed their third OVAC Class AAAA Championship with a 7-2 victory against Brooke on Monday at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

"Mary was on," Wheeling Park coach Dee Davis said. "When she is on her game and hits her spots, she's the best pitcher in the valley."

Park looked like it would roll early, getting all seven of its runs in the second inning.

The Patriots received three straight singles to load the bases for Shila Gray in that frame.

Gray hit a grounder to Brooke third baseman Elizabeth Preston. Preston looked to

home but the runner was going to beat the throw and instead fired to first. By then, Gray had reached safely and kept the bases juiced for Katie Eckman.

They weren't loaded for long as Eckman lined a shot into left-centerfield for a bases-clearing, three-run triple.

Eckman scored on another error by the Bruins and Caitlin Wilson finished off the scoring with a two-run single that put the Patriots up 7-0.

"We gave up seven runs in one inning, and I'm sure I'll sit on the bus and look at the book and look back to see if I could have done anything differently," Brooke coach Wes Eddy said. "When the dam broke, it really flooded us out."

"Seven runs in one inning. We chipped away and I don't think the girls quit so I tip my hat to Park. They're a great ballclub."

Please See HOHMAN, Page 16

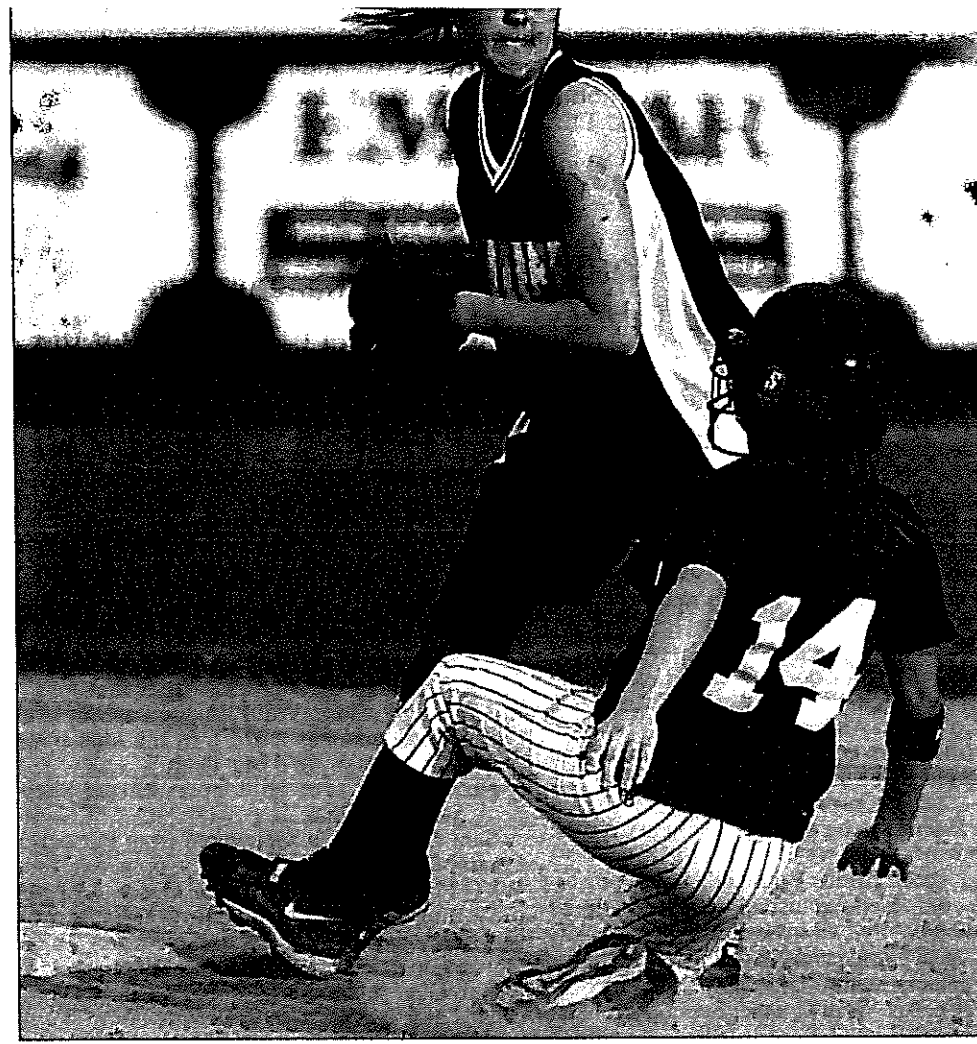


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Central Rachel Helms slides in front of Frontier second baseman Morgan Crum on Monday in Wheeling. *View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.*

Maroon Knights gain 2nd straight title in dominant way

By **MIKE HUGHES**
Staff Writer

CLASS AA

Wheeling Central put an impressive stamp on its second consecutive OVAC Class AA softball championship with a 10-0 victory against Frontier on Monday at Lisa's Field at the I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

The Maroon Knights managed 10 hits off Cougars veteran right-hander Maggie Brunoni and were swinging their bats well from the top of the order to the bottom.

Brunoni's record in the circle dropped to 12-3 with all three losses coming against Central.

"We came ready to play and really hit the ball well," Maroon Knights co-coach Ambrose Bober said.

"We were able to get big, key hits and keep the pressure on," Central co-coach Rick Magruder added.

The biggest hits for Central came from the bottom portion of its batting order.

Brittany Derr drew the starting assignment in the circle for the Maroon Knights.

When she's got the ball, the Central coaches occasionally elect a bench player to bat for her.

Monday was one of those occasions as Lindsey Beaver took Derr's place in the batting order and took full advantage of the opportunity.

During her second at-bat, Beaver crushed an 0-1 offering deep to the gap in left-centerfield that brought home two runs.

That blast made the score 5-0, but the Maroon Knights junior wasn't quite finished.

An inning later, Beaver blooped a two-out single into shallow right field that scored both Mary Petros and Kat Stiglich for an 8-0 advantage.

Her first at-bat resulted in a sharply hit drive to right field that Cassie Amos managed to snag.

Please See KNIGHTS, Page 16



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Central's Kat Stiglich (2) reaches on an error as Frontier's Brianna Riggs attempts to make the play. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Knights

(Continued from Page 15)

"We don't always have (someone) bat for Brittany, but we decided to (Monday) because Lindsey was swinging a hot bat and the decision paid off for us," Magruder said.

Val Palmer atoned for an 0-for-3 start with an RBI single in the sixth to push the lead to 9-0 and Petros followed with a line-drive shot into left that scored Kayla Gray for the 10th and final run.

"Central is a top-notch team and they made a lot of good plays," Frontier coach Todd Branford said. "We had a couple of nice hits here and there, but we were never able to string a group together."

"We were hitting the ball solid, but they were right at people and Central made the plays."

Things started out seemingly well for Frontier.

Chelsea Binegar lined a bouncer up the middle for a leadoff single, but was caught trying to steal on the next pitch by Wheeling Central catcher Stephanie Barry.

Shayna Cochran reached on an error and Brunoni followed with a single, giving the Cougars runners on first and second with one out.

Derr buckled down, however, and got Kristen Tidd to swing through strike three and

Alissa Kirkbride to fly out to right.

That brief flurry accounted for half the Cougars' hits, as Brunoni added a leadoff double in the fourth and later a single in the sixth.

"It's a nice problem to have, but we weren't sure whether to start Jen (Sparachane) or Brittany (Monday)," Bober said. "They had already seen Jen twice so we decided to go with Brittany and she pitched very well."

"She had a couple of tough outings, and I believe she got her confidence back after a couple of innings," Magruder said.

Derr finished with a four-hit shutout, striking out six without a walk and firing a total of 90 pitches, 57 of which went for strikes.

Gray finished with two RBI on a single and a double, while Courtney Schrebe drove in a run with a single for Central.

Frontier was plagued by four errors. According to Branford, nerves may have been a factor in those.

"Honestly, I thought we were nervous," Branford said. "Even before the game during warmups, we acted like we were a bit nervous and that's something we'll have to overcome if we want to play championship ball."

"We just seemed too uptight."

Hohman

(Continued from Page 15)

The Bruins (15-6) couldn't get much going because of Hohman.

Brooke scored both of its runs in the fourth, but neither were of any fault of Hohman's.

After Caitlin Kocher led off the inning with a single, her courtesy runner Marissa Reardon scored on an error when Alicia Wayne's shot bounced off leftfielder Leann Rigby's glove and allowed the runner to score from second.

With Miranda Wilson running for Wayne, she scored on a wild pitch that Wheeling Park catcher Annie Haber couldn't handle. The inning should have ended with a strikeout by Christina Cummings, but the ball got away from Haber and she wasn't able to catch Cummings at first base.

"I almost thought they'd catch us," Davis said. "They always say if you score all your runs in the first innings, the other team has time to chip away."

"I said, 'Oh no,' because we got seven in the second inning but we stuck to it, our hitting was good and we were able to control their hitting and keep them off guard. I was really pleased with the way they played."

Hohman didn't allow another runner past first base in the final three innings.

Miranda Wilson flied out to left field to end the game for Patriots.

"I am very proud," Davis said. "I have only two seniors on this team and each year, the



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Beth Kosowski dives for a ball against Brooke. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

same group that I have back is getting better and better. They're committed to the program and they're working hard and that is all a coach can ask for."

Added Eddy: "(Monday) we couldn't do the things that we typically like to do. When you are down by seven runs right off the bat, there are things you cannot do. Our bunting game was gone, I couldn't send a runner at all so there was no

running or bunting involved. When you take that away from us, that's what hurt us."

The two, along with John Marshall, will compete for the sectional championship in the near future.

By then, Eddy hopes his team will have an answer for the Patriots ace.

"She's a great pitcher and we've never really solved her," Eddy said. "We've had a couple games where we've beaten her in low-scoring games."

"She's a fantastic pitcher and that's something we are going to have to do if we want to compete in the sectional. We are gonna have to find a way to get four or five runs on her."

And it wasn't minutes after they had been crowned OVAC champions that Davis warned her squad of the next task ahead.

"I told them to enjoy it now because Brooke will remember this. They are going to go after us in sectionals so we need to remember it too," Davis said.