

## OVAC Baseball Tournament

# Flying High

### Magnolia bats come alive in 11-4 pasting of Wheeling Central

By MIKE HUGHES  
Staff Writer

It took all of one play to completely change the makeup of Magnolia's OVAC Class AAA quarterfinal with Wheeling Central.

In the first inning, sophomore pitcher Seth Pay worked himself into a jam with a pair of walks and a beaming of the Knights' No. 2 hitter, Andrew Richardson.

With nobody out and cleanup hitter Zach Foose at the plate, Pay let loose an 0-1 fast-ball down the pipe that Foose lined right back at the pitcher.

Pay fielded it cleanly and alertly fired to Justin Fox at third, doubling up Andrew Henry. The southpaw then struck out Adam Parsons on three pitches to end the inning.

"You have the bases loaded with no outs and I'm thinking we're going to have a big inning with our No. 4, 5 and 6 hitters coming up," Wheeling Central coach Jim Wodusky said following his team's 11-4 defeat Tuesday at New Martinsville. "Then we get a line drive and a double play and come away with nothing."

That series cracked the door for the Blue Eagles to take the momentum, and with two swings the next inning, Magnolia kicked it clear open.

Andrew Robinson got things started when

he hit a grounder to the left of first baseman R.J. Miller. Miller dropped down to field the ball, but his flip to first wasn't in time to get a diving Robinson.

Then with a 1-2 count, Jordan Ash blasted a Richardson pitch well over the fence in right field for a 2-0 lead.

Not to be outdone, Steve Zajdowicz followed with a solo shot to left-center field for back-to-back home runs.

Zajdowicz later scored on an error as Magnolia went from a potentially disastrous inning to a 4-0 advantage after one.

"That's about as peculiar of a first inning as you ever want to see," Magnolia coach Dave Cisar said, as his team won its 11th straight game. "Our first four hitters have been really hitting the ball, and Zajdowicz is the hidden secret in the Ohio Valley."

"He's hitting a ton."  
Pay continued to regain his composure in the second and sat down the Knights in order, allowing his teammates to immediately get back to expanding on their ever-growing lead.

Evan Botizan had an RBI base hit in the second, Chad Kimble had a sacrifice fly to center. But the crushing blow came from the bat of Fox.

With two aboard, Fox sent another bomb over the right-field fence for a commanding 8-0 lead.

A sac bunt from Zajdowicz in the third gave Magnolia a 9-0 lead, all before the Maroon Knights got their first hit.

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Photo by Mike Hughes

Magnolia's Kale Street successfully steals second base ahead of the tag of Wheeling Central's Andrew Henry. View additional photos at [cu.theintelligencer.net](http://cu.theintelligencer.net).



Photo by Mike Palmer

St. Clairsville's Brody Call slides into third base, but is late as Anthony Rocchio prepares to make the tag during their OVAC Tournament game Tuesday in St. Clairsville. The Red Devils won a high-scoring contest, 11-8.

## St. C. Outslugs Bellaire

### Red Devils capitalize to score five unearned runs

By KIM NORTH  
For the Intelligencer

Opportunistic.

St. Clairsville certainly was Tuesday night. The Red Devils (12-4) capitalized upon two crucial Bellaire errors in outscoring the Big Reds (4-12) by an 11-8 count in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAA quarterfinal tournament baseball game at Memorial Park in St. Clairsville.

Deadlocked at 6-6 with two outs in the bottom of the fourth, it appeared as though eighth-seeded Bellaire had played even with the top-seeded Red Devils, but a throwing error on a routine grounder opened the flood gates as the hosts went on to score five unearned runs.

"There were times before that everybody contributed to the loss," Bellaire coach

coach Tom Sliva said. "Zane has had some tough luck the last few at-bats. He's been hitting the ball hard and not having them fall, but he battled."

After the Big Reds grabbed a 2-0 lead on a Tyler Rose two-run bomb to left field, the Red Devils responded with a three-spot of their own. However, two of the runs trotted home after a third strike was mishandled and then thrown wildly to first base.

Bellaire tied the game in the second on Erik Canter's solo home run, but St. Clairsville regained the lead in the bottom of the frame.

Call drew a one-out walk and stole second. When the throw skipped into shallow center, he scooted to third and raced home on Shanks' infield single to short. Hynes then sent a laser down the left-field line that settled at the base of the fence in the tall grass. Bellaire left fielder Canter immediately raised his hands, but Sliva alertly had his baserunners continue running as Shanks scored and Hynes followed.

## Park Tames Wildcats

### Fielding errors haunt Edison

By ASHLEY NEWMAN  
For the Intelligencer

When two pitchers get into a zone, runs come at a premium. Such was the case Tuesday night at State Lake Park in Richmond as visiting the Wheeling Park baseball squad scored opportunistic runs and used staunch defense and pitching in taking a 4-2 decision against Edison in an OVAC Class AAAA Tournament quarterfinal game.

Errors were the biggest enemy of Edison. Wheeling Park was able to put all four runs up in those first two innings, mainly the result of defensive mistakes by the Wildcats.

Mike Collopy knows the importance of fielding the ball well when playing a tough opponent.

"To be consistent in baseball, you need all three or at least two of the three major aspects working. You have to work ahead and throw strikes, put the ball in play hard, and your defense has to field," Collopy said. "In the first two innings, our pitcher did a really good job of getting in front. We didn't do a good job of fielding behind him. When you give up runs to a good team early, you are putting yourself behind the 8-ball."

Edison (9-6) began matching Wheeling Park's excellent defense and pitching performance after the second inning, but Patriots



Photo by Ashley Newman

Wheeling Park's Cody Bishop swings at a pitch during Tuesday's game against Edison.

starter Dan Doyle did not allow the home squad to take momentum. Doyle pitched a complete game victory, striking out three and walking six batters.

Wheeling Park (14-8) coach Chad Stout liked what he saw out of Doyle and his defense throughout the game.

"If you get good pitching and play good defense, you are going to be in baseball

game. This was just a very well-played high school baseball game. When you are playing a good team like Edison, you are going to have to scratch out runs," Stout said. "Offensively, we did what we had to do in those first couple of innings and we put the ball in play."

Please See PARK, Page 16

## Redskins Edge Monarchs

### Carney, defense stifles John Marshall hitters

By NICK BEDWAY  
For The Intelligencer

Taped to the bottom of the lineup in the Indian Creek dugout was a portion of a newspaper article suggesting the Ohio

of a Monarchs throwing error in the second inning that keyed a 2-1 Redskins victory.

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"There were times before that everybody contributed to the loss," Bellaire coach Bruce Young said, "and everyone contributed to us playing well."

And he was right.

Following the error, which allowed leadoff hitter Brody Call to reach second, Adam Shanks singled to right to score him. After stealing second, Shanks crossed the plate when Dustin Hynes roped a double to right-center.

A walk to Tom Machovina ended Levi Crozier's day on the mound as Young brought on lefty Brandon Metz to face Zane Butler. However, the strategy backfired as the Red Devils right fielder smashed a 3-1 offering well over the fence in deep left-center, capping a five-run comeback.

"That home run was big," St. Clairsville

coach Tom Sliva said. "Zane has had some tough luck the last few at-bats. He's been hitting the ball hard and not having them fall, but he battled."

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After the base umpire inspected the location of the baseball, he ruled it to be in play, thus resulting in a home run. It was the senior slugger's third roundtripper in two days.

Bellaire didn't quit as Canter's infield single scored a run in the third and two unearned tallies in the fifth evened the count at six.

Sliva also praised the job his pitcher — senior Anthony Wakim — did.

"Anthony's had some leg injuries and we haven't been able to get him many innings, but he battled," Sliva said. "He struggled early, but the guys rallied behind him and he did a good job."

Wakim struck out seven, walked three and scattered nine hits. He threw 112 pitches.

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## Redskins Edge Monarchs

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Taped to the bottom of the lineup in the Indian Creek dugout was a portion of a newspaper article suggesting the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference should go back to holding four-team playoffs to determine its divisional baseball champions.

If that was the case, the eighth-seeded Redskins would never have received the opportunity to play defending OVAC champion and 2008 top seed John Marshall on Tuesday night in a Class AAAA quarterfinal held at Monarch Field in Glen Dale.

Considering the outcome of the game, that obviously would have suited the John Marshall fans just fine.

Indian Creek, relying on the solid pitching of Tyler Carney and a defense that made all the routine plays, took advantage

of a Monarchs throwing error in the second inning that keyed a 2-1 Redskins victory.

The top of the second began with John Marshall pitcher Ryan Lewicki sandwiching walks to catcher Brandon Gillespie and Tim Newburn around a strikeout of Alan Stevens. Mike Wilson, the ninth hitter in the Creek batting order, hit a ground ball to the left side of the infield which Lewicki stabbed while moving toward third base. He first appeared ready to make a throw trying for a force play on courtesy runner Vince Petrozzi, but suddenly turned toward second and fired the ball into left field.

By the time, the Monarchs got the ball back into the infield, Petrozzi had scored the game's first run and Newburn was standing on the doorstep at third base. A few seconds later, Newburn crossed the plate when Kody Grimes' hard grounder to the mound bounced off Lewicki but was fielded at shortstop by Carson Kootz, whose throw to first was in time to nip the runner.

Please See **REDSKINS**, Page 17



Today's Results:  
Q. Should Matt Morris stay in the Pirates' rotation?

Yes: 38%

No: 62%

### ON THE LINE

Tomorrow's Poll:  
Q. Do you think the OVAC Tournaments should feature eight teams in each division?

Tell us what you think.  
Register your answer at [www.theintelligencer.net](http://www.theintelligencer.net)  
(The results of this poll are not scientific and represent only the opinions of Internet users who have chosen to participate.)





## Park hurler to continue career at Bluefield State

By MIKE HUGHES  
Staff Writer

Wheeling Park's Mary Hohman didn't waste much time in making her collegiate selection.

Her plan was simple: find a school where she could both play softball and study her intended major of Radiologic Technology.

That's what she found in West Virginia Conference member Bluefield State, and after talking with Coach Annie Walters, Hohman wasted little time in signing a dotted line.

"I really didn't look at anywhere else," Hohman said. "They were really confident in what I had to offer (athletically) and were supportive in my decision for my major."

"I thought of West Liberty, but it's too close to me."

Hohman is looking to start the next phase of her academic and athletic life and the near-300 mile distance between Wheeling and Bluefield seemed to mesh well with her plans. It's close enough to come home for a visit, but far enough here coming home every weekend is more of a nice thought than a viable option.

A four-year letterwinner, Hohman and her teammates came two-runs shy of a state-tournament berth last season, falling to East Fairmont in a regional final in Morgantown.

Her junior season, she sported an 18-6 record with a 1.92 ERA and 95 strikeouts. But what makes Hohman an invaluable member in any lineup is her skill with the bat.

She led Park in batting last season, hitting a crisp .500 with 41 hits and 17 RBI. It's not often you see a team's pitcher also batting cleanup, but that's the versatility Hohman brings with her game.

The Big Blues are struggling this season with a 3-28 record, including a 2-16 conference mark.

Bluefield's main pitcher, sophomore Nicole McDonald, an Ontario, Canada, native, will return, but Hohman explained she will be given the opportunity to be the Blues' No. 1 arm next spring.

"(Walters) said that I could get the top spot if I wanted to and I'm going to try and fight for it," Hohman said. "I'll be playing my freshman year and that's going to be nice."

When not pitching, the coach wants to keep Hohman's bat in the lineup and has mentioned to her the possibility of playing one of

the outfield positions as well.

It's been a while since Hohman has patrolled the grass, but a brief refresher should get her back up to speed.

As a pitcher, Hohman has played, and excelled, on the varsity level since her freshman season.

Her fastball doesn't have the most zip of the pitchers in the valley, but what Hohman does have is good control and quality breaking pitches that routinely keep even the best hitters off-balance. She has a consistent five-pitch repertoire but doesn't hesitate to offer up a surprise if the situation warrants.

But according to her coach, what makes Hohman so successful is her ability to zone in on the task at hand.

"She's very mature and focused on whatever it is she wants to do," Park coach Dee Davis said. "She sets goals and goes after them."

Davis has no doubt Hohman is ready for the rigors of WVC softball. Neither does Hohman, but the Patriots senior would like to add one more element to her game before hitting the collegiate circuit.

"I'd like to master batting from the left side," Hohman said. "I can swing lefty, but I'd like to be able to be just as confident from either side of the plate."

ter bringing home a run. Losing pitcher Mariah Marley doubled for the Blue Devils.

### Cameron 23, Hundred 1

At Hundred, catcher Kylie Bungard homered, doubled, singled twice and plated seven runs as Cameron (15-4) scored 12 in the fourth and eight in the fifth in hammering Hundred. Winning pitcher Janet Peterson (four strikeouts), Morgan Hughes and Kayla McConnell drove in three each for the Dragons, while Lauren Siburt had two RBI.

### Indian Creek 10, Weir 7

At Wintersville, Liz Williamson won in relief and also had three hits and an RBI as Indian Creek downed Weir. Kayla Montgomery, Brianna Anderson and Anastasia Haysler all drove in a run for the Redskins

four.

### Buckeye Local 3, Martins Ferry 2

At Martins Ferry, Kristen Koles doubled and had three RBI as Buckeye Local (15-4) spoiled Martins Ferry's debut at its new sports complex. Callie Clark limited the Purple Riders (8-9) to six hits while striking out six and not issuing a walk.

Jenny Chambers and Kayla Lewis plated runs for Martins Ferry.

### OVAC Tournament Class AA

#### Fort Frye 6, Steub. Catholic 1

At Steubenville, Koutney Booth tossed a four-hitter, striking out 10, to lead Fort Frye (8-4) to a victory against host Steubenville Catholic (11-5). Ashley Okey plated two runs for the Cadets.

## Park

(Continued from Page 15)

Edison finally got its offense going in the bottom of the fifth inning, as Jeremy Matics drove in a run, cutting the lead to 4-1. In the bottom of the sixth, Edison added another run to come within two runs, but that is as close as it would get.

Doyle finished things off by forcing a Drew Powley flyout with two runners on base and two outs.

"Their pitcher did an outstanding job, especially in the first five innings, of keeping us off-balance," Collopy said. "We weren't able to sit back until late in the game and we weren't able to put the ball in play. Later in the game, we had some opportunities that we didn't take advantage of. Their pitching did a great job and they are a very well coached team. We just didn't get the job done against them."

Edison's Corbin Cline picked up the loss, allowing four hits. Cline also struck out three while walking two batters.

### CLASS AAAA Cambridge 6 Buckeye Local 3

At Cambridge, Trevor Markley homered and drove in three runs and Timmy Harvey whiffed 12 in a complete-game effort as Cambridge advanced by doubling up Buckeye Local. Tyler Hardesty add a pair of RBI for the Bobcats (11-5), while Zach Freeman drove in one and Ryan McClelland collected two hits.

Josh Verhovec and Brad Hughes plated runners for the Panthers, and Lance Pierpoint tripled.

### Steubenville 4 Beaver Local 3

At Steubenville, Jeremy Banks struck out nine and didn't issue a walk to pick up a victory as Steubenville moved on by beating Beaver Local. Anthony Gossett hit a two-run homer and finished with three RBI for Big Red.

D.J. Taylor had two hits for the Beavers and Dustin Sprouse doubled.

### CLASS AAA Barnesville 9 Harrison Central 2

At Barnesville, Shane Crosier limited the opposition to three hits and struck out eight as Barnesville (10-4) routed Harrison Central

## H.S. BASEBALL

(10-9). Cameron Hall had two doubles and two RBI for the Shamrocks, and Devin Stephen had two hits and three RBI.

Dustin Gibson hit two singles for the Huskies.

### Martins Ferry 5 Union Local 4

At Martins Ferry, Steve Splenda tied it with a single in the bottom of the seventh and then Fred Owens drove in the winner as Martins Ferry christened its new complex with a victory against Union Local.

Catcher Mark Thompson drilled a two-run single for the Jets

### CLASS AA Monroe Central 1 Shenandoah 0

At Woodsfield, Ryan Highman struck out 11, allowed three hits and didn't walk a batter as Monroe Central (8-3) skipped past Shenandoah on an RBI single from Josh Turner in the first that scored Sean Smith-berger.

Ethan Rose had two hits for the Seminoles.

Brandon Starr singled twice for the Zeps.

### Linsly 3, Fort Frye 2

At Beverly, Warren Hammel fanned eight and Taylor Cecil singled twice to drive in a run as Linsly eliminated Fort Frye. Jordan Medley added a double for the Cadets.

Tyler Stevens took the loss for the Cadets, but drive in a run with a pair of hits including a double.

### Steub. Catholic 14 Buckeye Trail 4

At Steubenville, Nick Milosevich had three hits that drove in seven runs and Steubenville Catholic (13-2) ran over Buckeye Trail (5-9). Mike DiChazi had two RBI for the Crusaders, and Brian DeFranco had three hits.

For the Warriors, Steve Beros had an RBI and Pete Gravens and Cody Nelson evenly divided four hits.

### Frontier 2, Shadyside 1 8 Innings

At Shadyside, Tyler Harris had a pair of hits and Ryan Neader singled home a run as Frontier (10-3) slipped past Shadyside (12-4). Ethan Morris whiffed nine and walked two to earn a victory.

## Flying

(Continued from Page 15)

"We gave them the momentum in the first inning and they never gave

it back," Wodusky said.

A two-run single in the fifth accounted for Magnolia's final runs as the Blue Eagles finished with 11 runs on 11 hits.

All but one of the Eagles' nine hitters reached safely, and the one that didn't, Kimble, had the second-inning sacrifice.

That's how it's been during Magnolia's hot streak — Cisar has been getting a little something from everyone.

"During this streak, we've hit the ball well and pitched well and played

well defensively," Cisar said. "And since Jordan Ash has come back, he's been above and beyond anything I've expected."

"When he swings at strikes, he's dangerous all the time."

Ash, who added a single in the second inning, has been hitting .750 in his past six games, and along with Zajdowicz, gives the Eagles serious pop in the heart of the order.

Magnolia advances to take on Martins Ferry on Saturday. The Purple Riders beat Union Local by a 5-4 count.

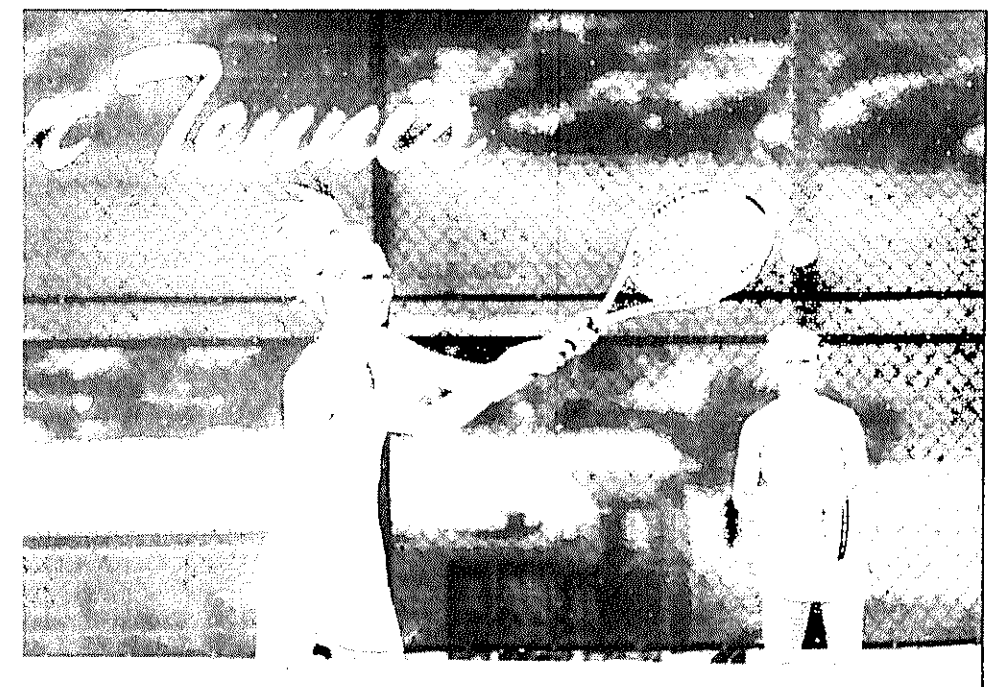


Photo by Scott McCloskey

Brooke's Alexa Hunter makes a return while playing in a doubles match with Emily Iglancio (background) as the two played against Wheeling Central's Alex Greco and Natalie Palmer during the OVAC Girls' Tennis Tournament held at West Liberty State College tennis courts Tuesday.

## Park Doubles Perfect

Patriots off to good start at OVAC tourney

Liberty State College.

The Patriots won all three titles, with the teams of Tierra Waldrum/Ali Prather, Ellen Freeman/Tiffany Waldrum, and Kaitlyn McKittrick/Emily Ellwood all taking home hardware.

Wheeling Park racked up 12 points, which is twice as

many as second-place Linsly. Oak Glen and Weir are each seven points back.

The boys' singles will be played today at West Liberty, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Championship matches are scheduled to start at 4 p.m., weather providing.

**OVAC TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Girls' Doubles**  
No. 1  
Tierra Waldrum/Ali Prather (WP) d. Julie Larch/Jessica Sikora (W) 8-5.  
No. 2  
Ellen Freeman/Tiffany Waldrum (WP) d. Moleigh Poling/Haley Powell (OG) 8-3.  
No. 3  
Kaitlyn McKittrick/Emily Ellwood (WP) d. Diane Long/Maria Miller (L) 8-5.



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## Redskins

(Continued from Page 15)

But Indian Creek had the only two runs it needed to upset John Marshall (15-4) for the second time in a week. In their first meeting, the Redskins took advantage of nine John Marshall errors to capture a 16-12 upset nod in eight innings. It required only one Monarchs miscue to help the Redskins accomplish an OVAC stunner.

With the upset nod, Indian Creek (8-12) moves on to Saturday's AAAA semifinals against another lower seed, Wheeling Park. The fifth-seeded Patriots defeated No. 4 Edison, 4-2, on the Wildcats' home field.

Mike Cottis, the Redskins' head coach, admitted he had clipped a portion of the newspaper article and attached it to his lineup card before the game.

"I have nothing against the media, but I saw it and thought this might be a good motivational tool for our kids," he explained.

"I know a lot of people have been saying that eight teams shouldn't be in there (the playoffs) and this proves that on any given day a team can step up and win a big game."

Both sides received excellent pitching. Carney, who relies on his ability to throw strikes and hitting spots to keep opposing batters off balance, tossed a five-hitter. Carney issued one walk and struck out three. In one stretch, he retired 10 straight hitters, beginning with the final out of the second inning and continuing through the third fourth and fifth frames.

"Tyler has three, sometimes four pitches that he is able to control very well," Cottis said. "He has grown by leaps and bounds this year as a pitcher."

Lewicki also was on his game after the early control

problems as he matched Carney's five-hit effort. The John Marshall lefty surrendered back-to-back singles to Grimes and Daniel Dunlevy in the first inning. However, he escaped without giving up a run by hustling over to the bag and taking a throw from first baseman Kylen Whipp whose diving stop denied a bid by James Watson for a two-RBI single.

Overall, Lewicki struck out seven and walked three. He retired the Redskins in order in the fourth and seventh innings.

John Marshall's only run was scored in the bottom of the second as Marshall White walked, took third on Kirk Conroy's single to right field and was sent home when Whipp took an inside-out swing and dropped an RBI base hit into right field. Conroy stopped at third but was stranded as Carney dealt a called third strike to Clint Cunningham and got Jacob Carnahan to bounce into a force play.

The Monarchs didn't get another base runner until the sixth when Koontz cracked a sharp single up the middle. He moved to second as Carney's pickoff throw was in the dirt and got past the Redskins first baseman.

With one out and the tying run at second, Lewic-

ki popped out to Dunlevy at second base. Koontz attempted to move up to third on a ground ball hit in front of him but was cut down on an Alan Stevens throw to Wilson. JM again got the tying run at second as Jesse Persinger advanced on a wild pitch. However, the inning ended as K.C. McGilton was pegged out at first on his one hopper to Stevens at short.

In the seventh inning, John Marshall got some hope again as Conroy lined a single to center with one out. Casey Defibaugh was sent to the plate as a pinch batter for Whipp and also hit the ball sharply. Unfortunately the ball was hit right at shortstop Stevens and the Redskins were able to turn the 6-4-3 double-play to seal the victory.

"It was a real good game on their part," said disappointed Monarchs coach Bob Montgomery, who was hoping John Marshall would remain in the hunt to capture their third OVAC crown in the last four seasons. "Their kid was able to mix up his pitches well and we really didn't have a lot of opportunities."

"This was disappointing but I've been around long enough to know that anything can happen in baseball. We have to score more than one run to beat anybody we play."

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# Toronto fights off Madonna for 1-A title

By ASHLEY NEWMAN  
For The Times Leader

STEUBENVILLE – Mirroring the clouds that circled overhead just before the first pitch, the Madonna baseball team began the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A championship game against Toronto with a flurry.

The Red Knights eventually regained control and used a strong finish to collect a 9-4 victory at Vacarro Field on Saturday, capturing the conference crown.

"It is nice to play in the OVAC tournament," Toronto head coach Brian Perkins said. "They do a great job in hosting a first class event every year. We are very happy to represent Toronto and represent the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference."

With the way the game started, it looked as though the Red Knights had a long day in front of them.

Toronto pitcher Mike Radvansky struggled with his control in the first inning. After walking three of the first four batters, Madonna's Lou Comis drilled a one-out grand slam deep to left field, giving the Blue Dons an early 4-0 lead.

The poor start to the contest seemed to awaken Radvansky, as the junior took control of the game in the second inning.

In the bottom of the second frame, the Toronto bats also came to life. With Dave Porter on second base two outs, Mitch Ludewig came up with an RBI double to center field, cutting the lead to 4-1.

Madonna starting pitcher Max Nogay did his best to hold down the Red Knight bats, as both teams failed to score in the third frame.

Toronto (17-4) caught its offensive rhythm again in the bottom of the fourth inning. A Jordan Cooper double was followed by a one-out RBI single by Porter, trimming the deficit to 4-2.

After Radvansky again quieted the Madonna bats in the top of the fifth inning, Toronto broke the game open in the bottom of that frame.

Nogay forced two ground outs to start the fifth inning, but an error on what would have been the third out of the inning allowed the Red Knights' Max King to reach base.

Toronto would not waste the opportunity. Mike Garman followed with an infield hit and another Blue Don error allowed King to cross the plate. Cooper then came up with another big hit, smacking a double into right field and knocking in two, giving Toronto a 5-4 lead.

It was no surprise to Perkins that his squad came through with the big offensive innings to take the lead. "All day long we were getting good at bats. We were seeing the pitches well and putting the ball in play," Perkins said.

Toronto will look to take the momentum from earning the OVAC championship and apply it to a regular season meeting at home against Big Red at 5 p.m. on Monday.

## Cambridge downs Wheeling Park, 11-6

By MIKE HUGHES  
For The Times Leader

Cambridge is widely regarded as housing one of the more feared lineups in the Ohio Valley.

From top to bottom, the Bobcats hit with consistency and power, with rarely a game going by without someone in that lineup going downtown.

Such was the case Saturday as a pair of early Cambridge home runs set the tone in a 11-6 victory against Wheeling Park in the OVAC Class AAAA Championship Game at Vaccaro Field.

"I'd like to congratulate Cambridge, they have a heckuva team," Wheeling Park coach Chad Stout said. "They attack from the first inning and they can hit a ton, 1-through-9."

"It's a tough lineup to face because any one of them can put it out."

After Park failed to score with two aboard in the top half of the first, Cambridge quickly went to work against Patriots' starter Christian Lewton.

After Lewton induced a groundout from leadoff hitter Winston Turner,

Trevor Markely turned on the first pitch he saw and crushed it deep to left-center.

The ball bounced high off the top of the fence and out of play for the solo home run.



# Power Surge Propels Cambridge

Bobcats' bats come alive in OVAC title tilt triumph

By MIKE HUGHES  
Staff Writer

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## OVAC Baseball

- Page B3

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After Lewton induced a groundout from leadoff hitter Winston Turner, Trevor Markely turned on the first pitch he saw and crushed it deep to left-center. The ball bounced high off the top of the fence and out of play for the solo home run.

Then in the third, with his team leading 2-0, sophomore Tyler Hardesty crushed a 2-1 pitch from Lewton deep over the left-field fence. The large throng in attendance had little doubt what was transpiring as the ball rocketed off Hardesty's bat, leaving the Vaccaro Field grounds in a hurry.

Hardesty's fifth homer of the season came with two aboard and the resulting 5-0 lead provided Bobcats' starter Timmy Harvey all the insurance we needed.

Mixing well-placed fastballs with a hard-breaking curveball, the junior kept Park's hitters off-balance for the majority of his seven innings of service.

The Patriots notched an unearned run in the fourth inning after Chad Bishop reached courtesy an error and was driven home on pinch-hitter Wyatt Lovis' two-out single.

Cambridge quickly answered with a five-run, fourth inning. Hardesty drew a bases-loaded walk, Tyler Leppla had a three-run double and Ryan McClelland's RBI single gave the Bobcats a commanding 10-1 advantage.

"Our bats were pretty consistent and (overall), we fielded the ball well," Cambridge coach Matt Johnson said after his team won its first OVAC baseball championship. "It's always special to do something for the first time, so I'm real proud of what we accomplished."

Harvey finished with seven strikeouts against four walks and limited the Patriots to two runs – Ryan Sengewalt had an RBI single in the fifth inning – through six innings of play.

Sensing what was about to transpire and holding a sizable 11-2 lead, the Bobcats got a little complacent in the seventh and allowed Park to trim the lead by four.

"I thought in that last inning we kind of pressed a little bit," Johnson said. "But Timmy does a good job and knows how to get himself out of a lot of jams."

"He knows he has a job to do and doesn't get frustrated. He knows how to pitch, he's not a thrower."

Brad Guckert led off the seven with a single and after Harvey walked Brian Coen, Heath Beecher crushed a three-run shot to left-center for an 11-5 score.

See, Surge, Page B5



Today's Results:  
Q. Do you like the idea of Dumatrait as a starter for Pirates?

# Central Gets to Highman

## Crusaders score early against Seminoles' ace

By MIKE MATHISON  
For the News-Register

It's time to move on for the Steubenville Catholic Central baseball team.

The Crusaders reached one of their goals Saturday with a 9-4 victory against Monroe Central to capture their second straight Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AA championship.

"This is what we have looked forward to since Day 1," said Central senior Mike Dichazi, who had three hits and an RBI. "This is the most important thing we wanted all season up until now."

The two teams met each other two weeks ago, when Catholic Central walked away with a 10-0 victory.

The Seminoles did not pitch their ace, Ryan Highman, that game. But, he was on the mound Saturday.

"He's a pretty good pitcher," said Catholic Central starting and winning pitcher Brian DeFranco.

"We figured we had to come out and get him early."

"He's a quality pitcher," Crusaders coach Frank Spence said of Highman, who beat the boys in blue-

and-gold in the sectional tournament when he was a freshman. "We just had to be focused and have good at-bats.

"He set us down the first time through. But, after that we had good at-bats, put the ball in play against him and made them play some defense.

"Then we had small ball going a couple times and we were successful."

Monroe Central had a 2-0 lead after 2 1/2 innings.

The Crusaders took care of that advantage in the bottom of the third.

Justin Teramana singled, Justin Kaufmann reached on an error and Ryan Morrow laid down a bunt single.

DeFranco brought home Teramana and Kaufmann with a single. Dichazi, Aaron Straney and Nick Milosevich followed with RBI singles. Teramana later added an RBI double for seven runs.

"I don't think we wore him down, we just gave him something to think about," Spence said of the inning.

"He bounced back and pitched strong. We beat a quality pitcher."

"All I had to do with the five run lead is not give up too many runs," said DeFranco. "I think that (seven run) inning got them down a little bit. They still battled back, but that inning

was big for us."

Monroe Central added two in the top of the fifth inning.

Sean Smithberger and Josh Turner singled and Adam Masters doubled in Smithberger and Turner scored on an error.

The Crusaders, though, answered with two runs of their own in the following half of the inning.

Jordan Porecca singled, stole second and went to third on the throwing error. He scored when Teramana reached on an error. With two outs, Marrow singled and Teramana later came home on the back half of a double steal.

"This feels great going back-to-back," said Dichazi. "It's amazing."

"We kind of almost expected to win the OVACs," Kaufmann said. "Now, we're looking forward to that state tournament more than anything."

"This is a big confidence boost for us going into the state tournament."

The drawing for the beginning of the state tournament, the sectional tournament, is today.

The Crusaders are in an eight-team sectional at Bridgeport High School on May 10-17 with Toronto, Shadyside, Frontier, Bridgeport, Wellsville, River and winless St. John Central.

# Devils Pocket First Title

## St. Clairsville tags Owens for four runs

By RICH GIBSON  
For the News-Register

The first one is the sweetest for Tom Sliva.

St. Clairsville's veteran coach guided his Red Devils to an OVAC Class AAA championship Saturday night at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

In a tight, wire-to-wire pitching dual, the Devils prevailed by a 4-1 count.

"This my first OVAC title here at St. Clairsville and it's very, very sweet," Sliva said. "We had two or three intense practices and the results were positive. Our kids really deserve this."

St. C. junior southpaw Ryan Jarvie was brilliant after surrendering a first-inning run to Josh Lucas'

Purple.

Jarvie worked into the sixth inning, recording seven strikeouts along the way.

When Ferry placed two runners on base in the sixth inning, Sliva opted to bring on senior Anthony Wakim. The righthander retired all four batters he faced.

"If you would have told me we would hold St. Clairsville to four runs and six hits, we would have liked our chances," Lucas said. "Give Jarvie tons of credit for a gutsy effort, but our kids have nothing to hang their heads over."

Ferry scored its only run in the top of the first after lead-off hitter Brandon Leonard singled and eventually scored on a wild pitch, but the Purple would not touch home again.

St. C. answered immediately in its half of the first inning. Shortstop Adam Shanks drilled an opposite field triple.

One out later, sophomore Tom Machovena unloaded a two-run homer well over the scoreboard in left center.

"Tommy's bomb enabled us to relax a little bit," Sliva said.

St. C. tacked on one run in the third on a RBI hit from the bat of senior Zane Butler, which plated teammate Dustin Hynes.

The Red Devils scored their final run in the fourth frame when sophomore Dan Slavik drew a base on balls and later scored on a wild pitch.

St. C. improves to 15-7, while Ferry fell to 12-8.

Senior Brody Call tripled and singled for the Red Devils and was on base four times. Butler contributed two singles.

Leonard belted two singles for the Purple. Senior righthander Fred Owens scattered six hits in the loss. Owens struck out six and walked a like number.

# Devils take 3-A crown

By RICH GIBSON  
Times Leader Sports Writer

STEUBENVILLE -- The first one is the sweetest for Tom Sliva.

St. Clairsville's veteran coach guided his Red Devils to an OVAC 3-A championship Saturday night here at Vaccaro Field.

In a tight, wire-to-wire pitching dual, the Devils prevailed by a 4-1 count.

"This my first OVAC title here at St. Clairsville and it's very, very sweet," Sliva said. "We had two or three intense practices and the results were positive. Our kids really deserve this."

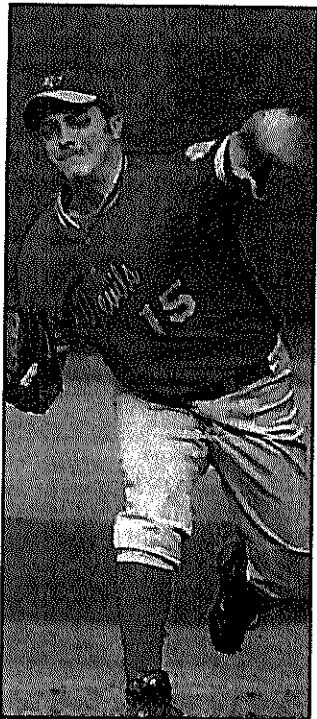
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See, ST. C., Page C2



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Ryan Jarvie comes home with a pitch during Saturday's Class 3-A OVAC title game.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** catcher Tom Machovena is greeted at home plate by his teammates after connecting on what proved to be the game-winning home run, a towering two-run shot in the first inning. Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

## ● St. C.

Continued from Page C1

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"I was really pleased with the way our kids approached their at-bats," said Sliva. "Owens is a really tough customer, and I thought we worked him well."

St. C. has a scheduled Monday home game against Zanesville.

Ferry is idle until Thursday when Shadyside visits.

Gibson can be reached at [rgibson@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:rgibson@timesleaderonline.com)





# SPORTS

For comments regarding local sports stories, or ideas for future stories, please e-mail [jharrison@daily-jeff.com](mailto:jharrison@daily-jeff.com)

## Bobcats advance to OVAC semifinals with 6-3 win Cambridge upends Buckeye Local to move on in OVAC Tournament

JASON MILLER  
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

The Bobcats of Cambridge High, behind the arm of junior pitcher Timmy Harvey, ousted Buckeye Local, 6-3, in Ohio Valley Athletic Conference

Class 4-A quarterfinal action on Tuesday.

"Timmy has been consistent like that for us all year," Cambridge head coach Matt Johnson pointed out. "I thought the biggest thing for him was

when he got into a bit of the jam in the fifth inning — he was able to calm down, regain his composure and get some big outs. That was huge for our team, and it was nice to see from him."

Harvey tossed a complete-game, allowed three runs (one earned) on six hits with 12 strikeouts and one walk.

In addition to Harvey's performance on the hill, Johnson was equally impressed with the improvements his defense made.

"We are getting more comfortable," he mentioned, "and we feel if we can limit ourselves to three errors, we can win. It might not sound good to everybody, but, for us, if we can keep it under four errors we feel we have a pretty good shot of winning."

The 'Cats (11-5) took an early 1-0 lead in their half of the opening frame. Senior Trevor Markley got things going with a one-out walk. After stealing second, Markley was driven in on a double by Tyler Hardesty down the left line.

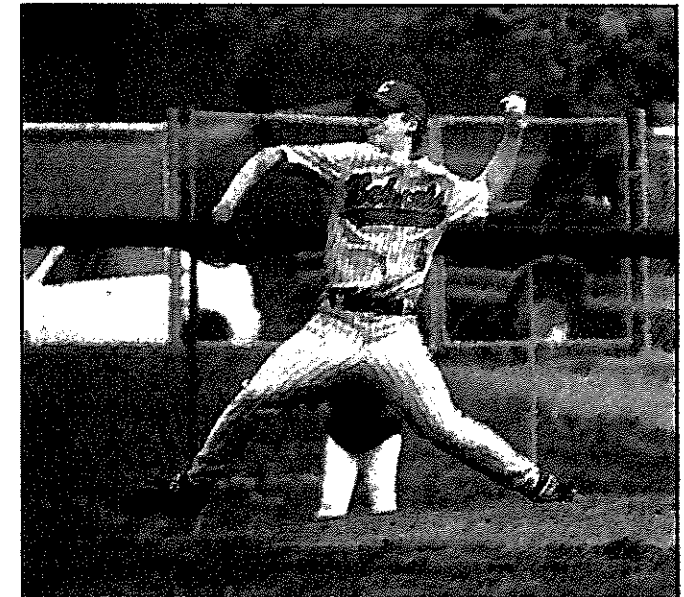
In the second inning, CHS tacked on two more runs on a

**CAMBRIDGE 6, BUCKEYE LOCAL 3**  
Buckeye Local 000 120 0 — 3 8 2  
Cambridge 120 201 x — 6 11 3  
Norman Wright (LP, 9 Ks, 8 BB), Jade Waligora (8th, 2 Ks, 0 BB) and Shane Bishop, Timmy Harvey (WP 5-1, 12 Ks, 1 BB) and Zach Freeman.  
RECORDS—Buckeye Local 10-10; Cambridge 11-5.  
STAT LEADERS—For Buckeye Local, Lace Pierpont, triple, run; Spencer McKen, single, run; Waligora, single, run; Josh Verhovac, single, RBI; Brad Hughes, single, RBI; Wright, single. For Cambridge, Winston Turner, run; Trevor Markley, home run, single, 3 RBI, 2 run, stolen base; Freeman, single, RBI; Kirk Wetherell, run; Tyler Hardesty, double, 2 singles, 2 RBI; Ryan McClelland, double, single, run; Harvey, single, run; Kyle Cox, single; Nick Lopat, single.

Markley RBI single that scored Ryan McClelland, and a sacrifice fly by Zach Freeman which brought in Harvey.

Buckeye Local (10-10) was able to trim the Bobcats' lead to 4-1 in the top half of the fourth. Jade Waligora singled down the right line to start the innings. After Harvey fanned the next to Panther batters, Danny Peddicord hit into a fielder's choice and Waligora reached second on a throwing error. Then, first baseman Brad Hughes laced a single to left field which scored Waligora from second.

Not to be discouraged, the home team was able to answer in the bottom portion of the same inning. Junior Winston

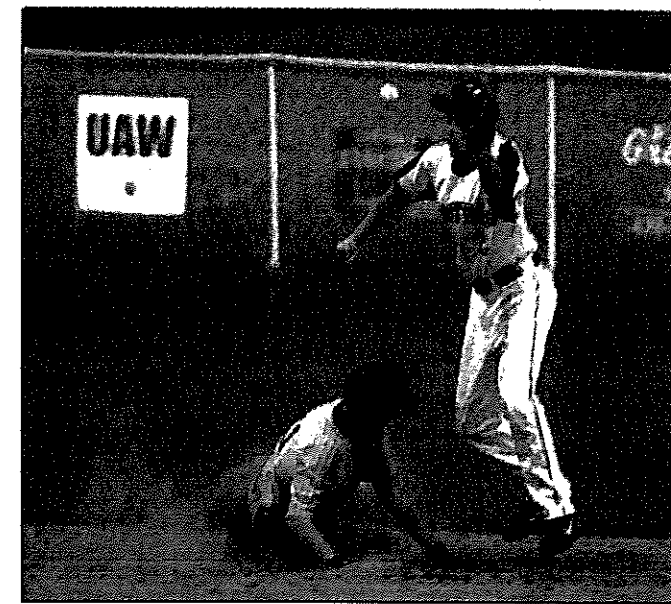


Ryan Pavlov/The Daily Jeffersonian/www.buyjeffphotos.com  
Cambridge High junior pitcher Timmy Harvey fires the opening pitch in Tuesday's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference quarterfinal game against Buckeye Local. Harvey fanned 12 in the Bobcats' 6-3 victory over the Panthers.

Turner began the frame with a base-on-balls and advance to second on a wild pitch. With Turner in scoring position, Markley blasted a home run over the left field wall to increase that Cambridge advantage to 5-1.

"That was key for us," Johnson said about Markley's home run. "A Five to one lead is obviously a lot different than three to one. If gave us a little bit of breathing room, in case

See CHS page B-4



Ryan Pavlov/The Daily Jeffersonian/www.buyjeffphotos.com  
Cambridge High's Trevor Markley steals second base as Buckeye Local's Jade Waligora receives the throw from catcher Shane Bishop in the first inning. Markley would later hit a home run to help lift the 'Cats to a 6-3 win in an OVAC quarterfinal matchup.

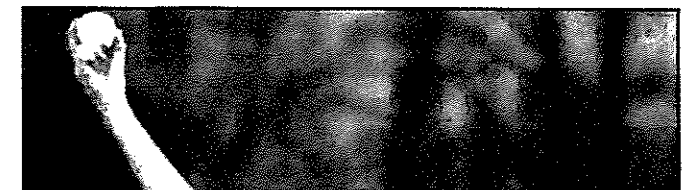
## Barnesville advances; Trail, Shenandoah fall in OVAC action

BARNESVILLE — With a 9-2 OVAC 3-A quarterfinal win over the Harrison Central Huskies, the Barnesville Shamrocks advanced to the semifinal round Saturday and will face St. Clairsville, a winner over Bellaire 11-8 Tuesday, in Cadiz at Mazeroski Field.

The Shamrocks built a four-run edge early with a single tally in the first two in the second and one in the fourth before erupting

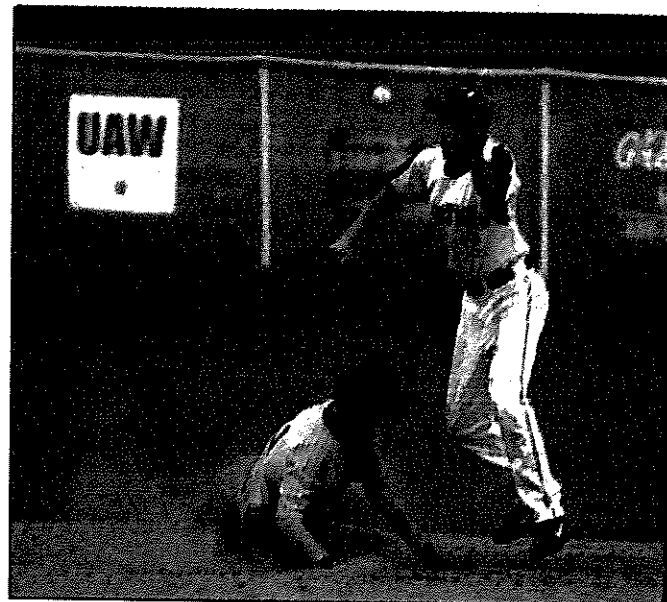
"With St. Clairsville, we have to keep them off balance because every guy in their lineup can hit the ball," he added. "Offensively, we have to wait for our pitch, just like we did tonight. They also have very good pitchers, and they are No. 1 in 3-A for a reason."

The Shamrocks banged out 10 hits with Hall lacing two doubles and collecting two RBI while Carpenter added a double and





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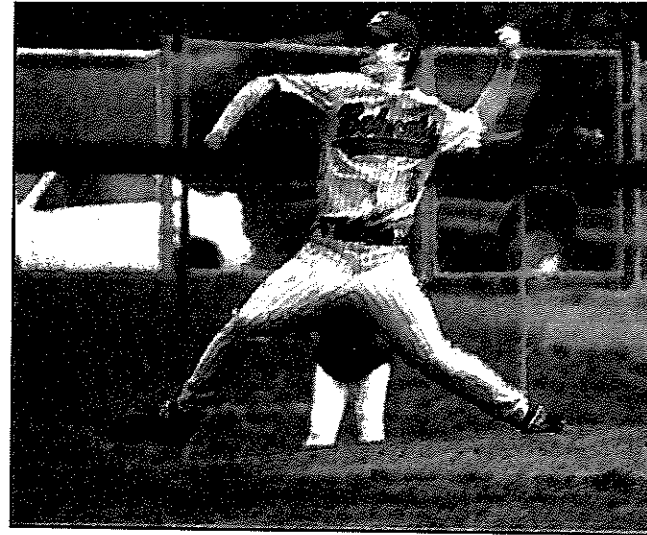
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The Shamrocks built a four-run edge early with a single tally in the first, two in the second and one in the fourth before erupting for four runs in the fifth after giving up a pair to the Huskies in the top of the fifth.

With their lead cut to 4-2, in the top of the fifth, the Shamrocks (10-4) got a single from Colby MacMillan who then moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Shane Crosier. Cameron Hall followed with a double to chase MacMillan home and Corey Stephen reached on a Harrison Central error sending Hall to third and he scored on the error. Kyle Carpenter followed with a double to send Stephen to third and Devin Stephen smacked a two-RBI single scoring both Corey and Hall to run the margin to 8-2 and put the game out of reach.

"We hit the ball really well, and even when we got out we hit it hard," Barnesville coach D.J. Butler stated. "We had a good night at the plate."

Barnesville tacked on an insurance run in the sixth to provide the 9-2 score.

Crosier claimed the mound win going the distance, giving up just three hits, while striking out eight and walking just one. Ivan Woodard absorbed the loss with four strikeouts and two walks with relief help from Ryan Davenport in the fifth who added one walk.

"Harrison Central has a couple of pretty good hitters," Butler said, "and Shane went right after them and challenged them. For the most part, we made the plays behind him.

"With St. Clairsville, we have to keep them off balance because every guy in their lineup can hit the ball," he added. "Offensively, we have to wait for our pitch, just like we did tonight. They also have very good pitchers, and they are No. 1 in 3-A for a reason."

The Shamrocks banged out 10 hits with Hall lacing two doubles and collecting two RBI, while Carpenter added a double and single, Devin Stephen a triple and single for two RBI and Jourden Yager chipped in a double.

Catcher Dustin Gibson had two of the three hits for Harrison Central (10-9), both singles and Kurt Smith added a single and scored one run. Danny Nunner scored the other run for the Huskies.

In other OVAC 3-A games Tuesday, Magnolia defeated Wheeling Central 11-4 and will play Martins Ferry, who beat Union Local 5-4 in eight innings, Saturday at Cadiz.

NEXT—Barnesville hosts Monroe Central in a varsity-junior varsity doubleheader on Friday at 4:30 p.m.

Steubenville Catholic Central 14, Buckeye Trail 4

STEUBENVILLE — Steubenville Catholic Central capitalized on 13 walks by three Buckeye Trail pitchers and 13 hits to claim a six-inning mercy-rule 14-4 decision over the Warriors in a OVAC 2-A quarterfinal game Tuesday and move on to the semifinal round Saturday at Toronto to face Frontier, a 2-1 winner over Shadyside Tuesday.

The visiting Warriors jumped in front in the first inning with a three-run outburst as Bobby Beros singled, Matt Wagner walked sending Beros to second, Steve Beros followed with an RBI single plating Bobby Beros with the first run and sending Wagner to second. Wagner then scored on a ground-out by J.R. Larrick which also moved Steve Beros to third. Peter Gravens

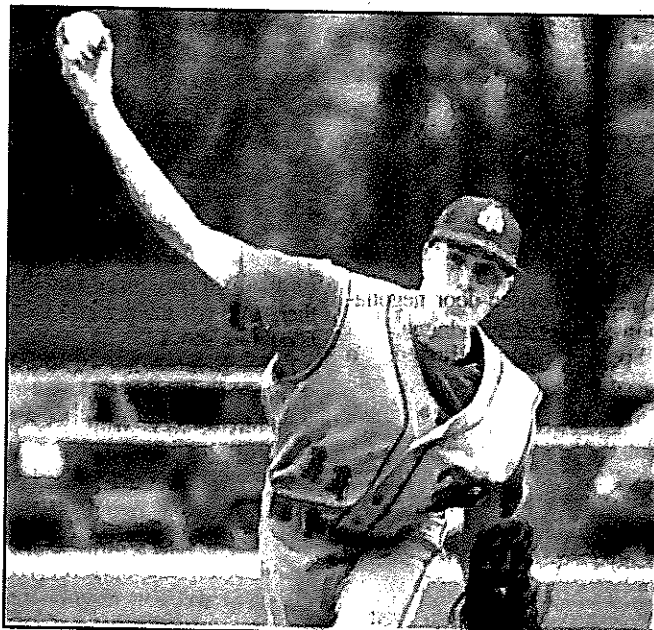


Photo Courtesy of Reed Tychonski  
Barnesville pitcher Shane Crosier hurls a pitch in an OVAC quarterfinal game against Harrison Central. Crosier tossed a complete-game three-hitter with eight strikeouts in the Shamrocks' 9-2 victory.

then laid down a bunt-single which scored Steve Beros to give the Warriors a 3-0 edge.

The lead was short-lived as the SCC Crusaders pushed four

See BASEBALL page B-4



# Zeps ousted from OVAC tourney, NHS stumbles

**BASEBALL** from page B-1

runs across in the bottom of the inning, then added three more runs in the second frame to build the margin to 7-3.

"The first and second innings we had them with no one on and two outs," Buckeye Trail coach Brian Kittle observed, "but they were able to rally and jump out ahead of us. They linked their hits together at the right time, and when we did ours, it usually came with two outs. There just weren't enough outs when we started hitting in an inning."

Buckeye Trail (5-9) cut the deficit by one in the fourth with Seth Jones crossing the plate. The Crusaders answered in the bottom of the round, taking advantage of the walks and hits to score two in the fourth, four in the fifth and one in the sixth to complete the 10-run mercy rule victory.

"We played solid baseball today," Kittle stated. "We just didn't have the hits when we needed them. Defensively, we only had one error and that's a big step for us. We are hitting the ball and we have reduced our strikeout total significantly. We are improving and we want to be at our best when the tournament starts."

The Warrior starter, Cody Nelson, suffered the loss pitching the first four innings and issuing seven free passes while striking out none. Larrick came on in the fifth and gave up two walks and was relieved by Chris Cosgrave, still in the fifth, who gave up four walks with no strikeouts. Longo picked up the pitching win for the Crusaders going the distance and fanning four while walking five.

Gravens and Nelson paced the Warriors eight hit offense with a pair of singles each, while catcher Tommy Allen, Bobby and Steve Beros and Wagner each chipped in singles.

Nick Milosevich paced the SCC 13-hit assault with a double and three singles with seven RBI and one run. Brian DeFanco added a double and single scoring three times and Dichazi chipped in two singles for two RBI and

scored twice.

"We have a lot of teams left on the schedule," Kittle pointed out. "It's still busy before we can even start looking at the sectional tournament."

**NEXT**— Buckeye Trail plays at Weirton today at 5 p.m.

## Monroe Central 1, Shenandoah 0

**WOODSFIELD** — Pushing across a single run in the opening inning, the host Monroe Central Seminoles rode the arm of pitching ace Ryan Highman to a 1-0 shutout of the visiting Shenandoah Zeps in the quarter-final round of 2-A OVAC baseball tournament play Tuesday.

The 'Noles struck in the first inning when Sean Smithberger drew a two-out

walk and moved to second on a balk. Josh Turner then followed with an RBI single to left scoring Smithberger.

"It was a hard defeat, but Monroe Central is a good team," Shenandoah coach Kevin Davis stated. "Highman is their ace and we couldn't get the hits together to score runs. It was a good ball game, but it would have been better if we had won. It was a quality game and we worked ourselves out of some situations."

One of those situations was in the third inning when the Seminoles loaded the bases with just one out. Shenandoah third baseman John Hronec fielded a sharp grounder off the bat of Turner, stepped on third and fired to first for the double-play to end the inning.

The Zeps (6-7) only real threat came in the fifth when Shenandoah got runners on first and second with nobody out. A bunt attempt to move the runners was popped up and the next two batters struck out to end the threat.

Wes Rataiczak was the hard-luck loser on the mound for the Zeps going the distance to strike out four, walk six and giving up just four hits.

"Rataiczak pitched a good game," Davis praised. "That is

the second time this year he has pitched well and got beat 1-0."

Highman claimed the win also going the distance fanning 11 but giving out no free passes, while surrendering five hits to the Zeps.

Hronec and Brandon Starr collected four of the Shenandoah hits with a pair of singles each. Catcher Logan Cline also added a single for the fifth hit.

Ethan Rose paced the Seminoles' offense with a double and single, while Turner had the RBI single and Highman tacked on a single.

Monroe Central moves on to the semifinal round to face Linsly who defeated Ft. Frye by a 3-2 score Tuesday, on Saturday at Toronto.



## Prep Baseball Roundup

**NEXT** —

Shenandoah

goes to River tonight for a makeup contest with the first pitch slated for 5 p.m.

## Hiland 12, Newcomerstown 5

**NEWCOMERSTOWN** — After spotting the visiting Hiland Hawks an early 4-0 lead, the Newcomerstown Trojans came back to knot the score at four in the third frame. It all went for naught as the Hawks tallied two runs in the fourth and added five in the sixth before the teams traded runs in the seventh as Hiland claimed a 12-5 Inter-Valley Conference win Tuesday.

The big bats for the Hawks were Clinton Yoder with a two-run home run in the first and Brandon Wengerd a two-run blast in the third to build the four-run lead.

Brandon Wengerd picked up the pitching win going the distance and giving up 10 hits, while striking out three and walking two. Justin Rominger (1-2), who came on in relief of starter Eric Martin, took the loss with no strikeouts and two walks. Martin struck out one and issued one free pass. Robb Hendershot went to the hill in the fifth fanning two and walking two, while Ryan Miller relieved in the sixth to finish it out claiming one strikeout.

Hiland (13-1, 7-1 IVC) banded

out 13 hits as Yoder added a single and three RBI while scoring two runs. Wengerd also contributed a double and single with two RBI and three runs. Justin Miller and Andrew Schlabach each collected a pair of singles and Jon Weaver chipped in a double.

For Newcomerstown (9-4, 4-4 IVC) at the plate, Hendershot had a double and two singles for two RBI and scored a run. Ethan Miller had a double, RBI and scored once, while J.C. Rine contributed two singles and scored once.

**NEXT**— Newcomerstown visits Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans on Thursday at 5 p.m.

**BARNESVILLE 9, HARRISON CENTRAL 2**  
Harrison Central 000 020 0 — 2 3 3  
Barnesville 120 141 x — 9 10 4  
Ivan Woodard (LP: 4 Ks, 2 BB), Flynn Davenport (5th: 0 Ks, 1 BB) and Dustin Gibson, Shane Croser (WP: 4-1, 8 Ks, 1 BB) and Devin Stephen.  
**RECORDS**—Harrison Central: 10-9; Barnesville: 10-4.  
**STAT LEADERS**—For Harrison Central: Gibson, 2 singles; Kurt Smith, single, run; Danny Nunner, run. For Barnesville: Cameron Hall, 2 doubles, 2 RBI; Kyle Carpenter, double, single; D. Stephen, triple, single, 2 RBI; Jourden Yager, double, 3 RBI; Chad Stephen, single.

**STUBS, CATHOLIC 14, BUCKEYE TRAIL 4**  
Buckeye Trail 300 100 — 4 8 1  
Stubs, Catholic 430 241 — 14 13 0  
Cody Nelson (LP: 0-1, 0 Ks, 7 BB), J.F. Larrick (5th: 0 Ks, 2 BB), Chris Cosgrave (5th: 0 K, 4 BB) and Tommy Allen, Longo (WP: 4 Ks, 5 BB) and Justin Kaufmann.  
**RECORDS**—Buckeye Trail: 5-9.  
**STAT LEADERS**—For Buckeye Trail, Pete Gravens, 2 singles; Nelson, 2 singles; Allen, single; Bobby Beros, single, run; Matt Wagner, single, run; Steve Beros, single, RBI, run; Seth Jones, run; Larrick, RBI. For Stubsville Catholic, Nick Milosevich, double, 3 singles, 7 RBI, run; Brian DeFanco, double, single, 3 runs; Dichazi, 2 singles, 2 RBI, 2 runs.

**MONROE CENTRAL 1, SHENANDOAH 0**  
Shenandoah 000 000 0 — 0 5 0  
Monroe Central 100 000 x — 1 4 1  
Wes Rataiczak (LP: 2-3, 4 Ks, 6 BB) and Logan Cline, Ryan Highman (WP: 11 Ks, 0 BB) and Kyle Platt.  
**RECORDS**—Shenandoah: 6-7; Monroe Central: 10-2.

**STAT LEADERS**—For Shenandoah, John Hronec, 2 singles; Brandon Starr, 2 singles; Logan Cline, single. For Monroe Central, Ethan Rose, double, single; Josh Turner, single, RBI; Ryan Highman, single.

**HILAND 12, NEWCOMERSTOWN 5**  
Hiland 202 205 1 — 12 13 1  
Newcomerstown 004 000 1 — 5 10 2  
Brandon Wengerd (WP: 3 Ks, 2 BB) and Eric Miller, Eric Martin (1 K, 1 BB), Justin Rominger (LP: 1-2, 3rd: 0 Ks, 2 BB), Robb Hendershot (5th: 2 Ks, 2 BB), Ryan Miller (6th: 1 K, 0 BB) and Scott Hannahs.  
**RECORDS**—Hiland: 13-1, 7-1 IVC; Newcomerstown: 9-4, 4-4 IVC.

**STAT LEADERS**—For Hiland, Clinton Yoder, home run, single, 3 RBI, 2 runs; Wengerd, home run, double, single, 2 RBI, 3 runs; Justin Miller, 2 singles, RBI, run; Dillon Callahan, single, run; Andrew Schlabach, 2 singles, 2 RBI, run; Jon Weaver, double, single, RBI, run; E. Miller, single, RBI, run; Clint Miller, run. For Newcomerstown, Robb Hendershot, single, run; Ryan Miller, single, RBI, run; Ethan Miller, double, RBI, run; Hendershot, double, 2 singles, 2 RBI, run; Cameron Wolf, single; Hannahs, single, RBI; J.C. Rine, 2 singles, run.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Dan Slavik is tagged out by Barnesville's Colby MacMillan during the second inning of Saturday's Class 3-A OVAC semifinal game at Harrison Central's Mazeroski Field. The Red Devils prevailed by a 8-1 count. *Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)*

## Rubber match set

• St. Clairsville, Martins Ferry advance in OVAC 3-A

By **RICH GIBSON**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

The Purple Riders and Red Devils will meet again.

Only this time, an OVAC championship trophy will be on the line.

Both Martins Ferry and St. Clairsville were impressive victors during Saturday's OVAC 3-A baseball semifinals at Cadiz.

Top-seeded St. C. knocked off Barnesville, 8-1, in the opener before Ferry overwhelmed Magnolia's Blue Eagles by 17-7 in the nightcap.

The Riders and Devils who split a pair of regular season encounters last week will settle things at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field Saturday. The 3-A title match is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

**FERRY** capped an amazing 24-hour stretch in which the Purple produced 29 runs and 28 hits, defeating both Magnolia and St. C.

Coach Josh Lucas saw his red-hot hitting ball club compile no fewer than 10 extra base hits in Saturday's beat down of Magnolia.

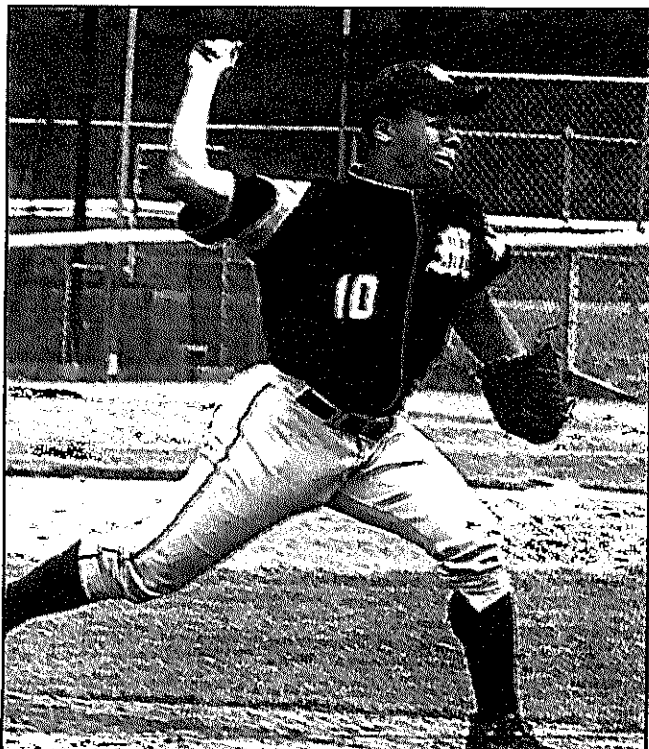
"We've hit much better than I expected but it's great to see the kids making contact and getting on base," Lucas commented. "The guys were in good spirits (this morning) after a big (Friday) comeback against St. Clairsville. The momentum definitely carried over."

And it did so immediately with the Purple batting around and putting up a first inning five-spot against Dave Cisar's Blue Eagles.

"We didn't have our ace (Andrew Robinson) on the mound, but neither did Ferry," Cisar explained. "They brought on Freddie Owens (in relief) and he pretty much shut us down. I was real impressed the way Martins Ferry swung the bats. Unfortunately, we complicated matters by giving them a few extra outs."

Not a good idea against a Riders' offense that has hit practically everything in sight of late. "We're normally station-to-station hitters," Lucas advised. "For us to come up with 10 extra base hits is something that's a little hard to imagine."

Seeing was believing for Lucas Saturday.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

**MARTINS FERRY** senior pitcher Freddie Owens hurls to the plate during the Purple Riders' Class 3-A semifinal game against Magnolia.

Starting pitcher Dave Koch clubbed a single and double. Designated hitter Logan Ballint and rightfielder Marco Richetti also registered run-producing hits.

"What really burns me is the number of two-strike hits we allowed when we were ahead in the count," Cisar added. "Ferry is an aggressive-hitting team and took advantage of our mistakes."

Magnolia, dropping to 15-6, was not without its share of big boppers.

Catcher Jordan Ash unloaded a two-run homer and also singled. Robinson rapped a solo homer and also delivered a RBI double. Leftfielder Davey Howell hammered a two-run double.

That production allowed Magnolia to erase an early 5-0 deficit and take a short-lived 7-5 lead before Ferry exploded for six, third inning tallies to go ahead for good.

Owens recorded eight strikeouts and five walks. A quartet of Eagles' moundsmen teamed for seven Ks and five walks.

Improving to 11-7, Ferry is idle before hosting Barnesville on Thursday.

Martins Ferry 506 040 2 - 17 15 2  
Magnolia 250 000 0 - 7 7 2

**BATTERIES:** Koch, Owens (2) and Francis, Pay, Kimble (1), Fox (3), Goddard (7) and Ash.

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE**

inning run, then blanked Barnesville for the duration. Additionally, he recorded 12 strikeouts and issued six walks.

On the heels of collecting 13 hits the evening before at Martins Ferry, St. C. returned to bang out a dozen safeties Saturday.

"I hope we don't see them again until the districts," smiled Shamrocks' mentor D.J. Butler. "Today we fell behind in the count, then swung at way too many bad pitches. We're still 11-5 and have a whole lot yet to play for."

Rocks' designated hitter Cameron Hall singled in teammate Colby MacMillan in the top of the first. But the Green would not score again. They stranded nine baserunners.

St. C., meanwhile, chipped away, scoring in five of its six at-bats. Sophomore catcher Tom Machovina enjoyed a three-hit afternoon, hammering a solo homer to deep center. He also delivered a run-scoring double and a single.

Senior Layne Mehl continued his recent prolifics, clubbing a leadoff homer in the second and adding another RBI hit one inning later.

## Toronto blanks Bulldogs

By **KIM APPOLLONI**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Toronto senior Zach Stewart was firing on all cylinders Saturday afternoon at Perkins Field on the Niekro Diamond in Bridgeport. The hard-throwing senior notched eight strikeouts and scattered three hits in five innings of action to dispose of Bridgeport, 10-0.

With the win the Red Knights inked a spot in the OVAC championship game next Saturday at Vaccaro field in Steubenville. Toronto's opponent will be a streaking Weirton Madonna club which it defeated earlier in the season. The Red Knights check in with a 14-3 record while the 'Dogs dipped to 9-8.

"Zach is one of two seniors we are counting on to pitch well for us down the stretch," stated Red Knight boss Brian Perkins. "We needed a big game from him and he delivered. You can expect a fundamental, smart baseball team when you square off against a team led by Coach Steve Wojcik."

Today was the exception as the Bulldogs seemed to be in a funk all afternoon.

"When you put guys on base and commit errors, you are not going to win a baseball game," stated veteran manager Steve Wojcik. "For scoring 10 runs, they did not get many hits. We just gave this one away, definitely not one of our better efforts."

Sophomore C.J. Foose struggled to find the strike zone in the opening inning. Following a leadoff single by Toronto's Mitch Ludwig, Foose walked three straight batters and hit an opponent allowing the winners to jump out to a 3-0 advantage. While the Bulldogs were struggling in the field, the Red Knights were near perfect. Wojcik replaced Foose in the second stanza with junior Justin Gregoric. He was the victim of five Bulldog boots.

Toronto scored runs in three consecutive innings. Not one of the tallies was earned.

Mike Garman ripped a triple to start the decisive fifth frame for Toronto. With two outs, Ludwig doubled home Garman before Mike Radvansky belted a double that plated Ludwig with the final run of the contest.

"It was a pleasant surprise to jump out to an early lead. Once we got the lead, I knew Zach would be tough to hit. He has a lot of confidence and he was in a good groove."

Toronto picked up six hits on the afternoon. Garman added an RBI to go with his three-bagger. Jordan Cooper ripped a double and got an RBI when he was hit by a pitch with bases jammed. Max King had an RBI and Dave Porter singled.

Gregoric picked up two base hits to pace the Bulldogs. Kyle Cash chipped in with a base hit.

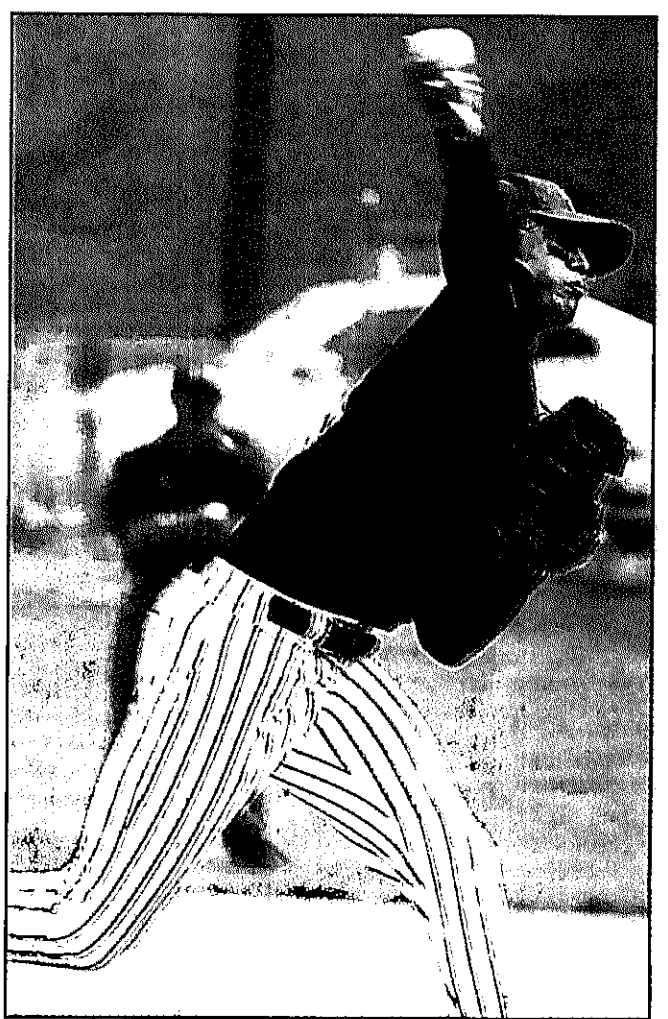
Foose ended with four walks, a hit batter and one strikeout. Gregoric had four whiffs and one free pass. Stewart had two walks.

**Linescore:**  
Bridgeport 000 00 0 3 5  
Toronto 311 32 10 6 0

**Batteries:** Foose, Gregoric (2) and Kreiter; Stewart and Wallace.

**Madonna 8, Paden City 0**

Weirton Madonna had several goals heading into



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

**MONROE CENTRAL'S** Ryan Highman delivers to the plate during the Seminoles' Class 2-A semifinal game against Linsly at the Red Knight Baseball Complex in Toronto. *Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)*

## Monroe Central advances to its first 2-A final

• Seminoles to meet Steubenville CC

By **AARON PETCHAL**  
For The Times Leader

**TORONTO** - It was an historic day for the Monroe Central baseball team.

Saturday, the Seminoles made history as Monroe Central defeated Linsly, 8-2, in an OVAC Class AA Tournament Semifinal at the Knight Baseball Complex to advance to the tournament finals for the first time in school history.

The Seminoles (11-4) will take on Catholic Central (13-3) at 11 a.m. Saturday at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville. The Crusaders advanced to the finals by defeating Frontier, 4-2, in Saturday's first semifinal.

The Cadets are now 16-8 on the season.

Monroe Central scored seven runs in the second inning, and the Seminoles were not threatened after that point.

"We kind of put some hits together and did some good things on the bases," Monroe Central head coach Ryan Rosnick remarked. "This has been our goal all season to qualify for the OVACs, to host a game, which we did, and then make it to the finals. We are excited. These guys have had some tough luck in the past in the semifinals. We have never made it to the finals before. So, this will be the first time we have been in the finals."

Linsly head coach Jay Cartwright said the second inning was the difference in the game.

"We had a bad inning. We struggled defensively in that one inning," he said. "We made a couple of errors, and Warren (Hammel) was struggling a little bit with his control. He didn't really have his best stuff. I have seen him throw a lot better game. He just didn't have his real goo stuff tonight. That one inning just killed us. We didn't make the plays, and give them credit. They have good hitters. They swung the bats well. They outhit us. They were the better team today. They fielded better. They pitched better. They did everything better than us today."

Ryan Highman earned the win for the Seminoles. He struck out five and walked one.

Offensively, Adam Masters contributed a single, a double and an RBI. Sean Smithberger recorded a run-scoring triple, and Zach Ring and Highman each had an RBI single. Also, John Schumacher chipped in with a pair of base hits, and Ethan Rose, Kyle Piatt and Josh Turner all tallied singles.

Hammel took the loss for the Cadets. He struck out four and walked two in five innings of work. Alex Kuzosko struck out one in his one inning of relief work.

Offensively for the Cadets, Jordan Medley delivered a single, a triple and an RBI, Hammel tallied a single and Pat Milton picked up an RBI.

In the first game, Brian DeFranco was strong on the mound in picking up the win for the Crusaders. DeFranco struck out two, walked two and he limited the Cougars to just three hits. Both of Frontier's runs were unearned.

Offensively, the battery mates combined to pickup five hits and two RBIs. Kaufmann contributed two singles, a double and an RBI, and DeFranco delivered two singles and an RBI. Also, Mike Dichazi chipped in with a single, a home run and two RBIs.

Ethan Morris took the loss for Frontier. Morris struck out one, but he walked six batters. Offensively, Brent King tallied a triple and a single, and Tyler Harris recorded a base



during the second inning of Saturday's Class 3-A OVAC semifinal game at Harrison Central's Mazerowski Field. The Red Devils prevailed by a 8-1 count. Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

# Rubber match set

• St. Clairsville, Martins Ferry advance in OVAC 3-A

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Only this time, an OVAC championship trophy will be on the line.

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Top-seeded St. C. knocked off Barnesville, 8-1, in the opener before Ferry overwhelmed Magnolia's Blue Eagles by 17-7 in the nightcap.

The Riders and Devils who split a pair of regular season encounters last week will settle things at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field Saturday. The 3-A title match is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

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Coach Josh Lucas saw his red-hot hitting ball club compile no fewer than 10 extra base hits in Saturday's beat down of Magnolia.

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And it did so immediately with the Purple batting around and putting up a first inning five-spot against Dave Cisar's Blue Eagles.

"We didn't have our ace (Andrew Robinson) on the mound, but neither did Ferry," Cisar explained. "They brought on Freddie Owens (in relief) and he pretty much shut us down. I was real impressed the way Martins Ferry swung the bats. Unfortunately, we complicated matters by giving them a few extra outs."

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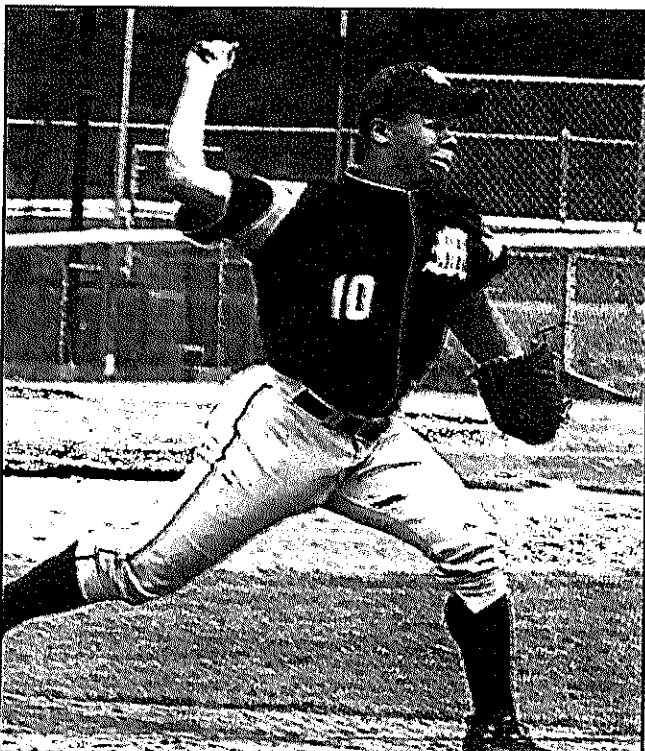
Seeing was believing for Lucas Saturday.

Owens not only earned the mound decision in relief, the Riders' senior made like A-Rod at the plate, hammering a pair of home runs and also drilling a double. Owens also was walked twice, totaling four RBIs and four runs scored.

Ferry also received a sterling performance from junior catcher Clay Francis who wore out the Eagles with two doubles, a single and four runs batted in. Francis also gunned down two Magnolia baserunners.

Leadoff hitter Brandon Leonard contributed a three-run double and three runs scored. Senior Matt Masarick tagged a triple and two-run double.

First baseman Steve Splenda delivered a run-scoring double and single.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

**MARTINS FERRY** senior pitcher Freddie Owens hurls to the plate during the Purple Riders' Class 3-A semifinal game against Magnolia.

Starting pitcher Dave Koch clubbed a single and double. Designated hitter Logan Ballint and rightfielder Marco Richetti also registered run-producing hits.

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Magnolia 250 000 0 - 7 7 2  
BATTERIES: Koch, Owens (2) and Francis. Pay, Kimble (1), Fox (3), Goddard (7) and Ash.

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** showed no ill effects of coughing up a seven-run lead 24 hours earlier at Ferry in knocking off Barnesville.

"The kids shook it off and played very well today," Red Devils' boss Tom Sliva acknowledged. "We like to think we take a good approach at the plate and have been swinging the bats well lately. We have several guys who are fierce competitors."

Not the least of whom is junior southpaw Ryan Jarvie who gave his team a clutch mound outing Saturday. "Ryan's a hard-nosed kid like most of the rest of our players," Sliva remarked. "He started a little slow today, but came back to pitch a strong game."

Jarvie yielded a first

inning run, then blanked Barnesville for the duration. Additionally, he recorded 12 strikeouts and issued six walks.

On the heels of collecting 13 hits the evening before at Martins Ferry, St. C. returned to bang out a dozen safeties Saturday.

"I hope we don't see them again until the districts," smiled Shamrocks' mentor D.J. Butler. "Today we fell behind in the count, then swung at way too many bad pitches. We're still 11-5 and have a whole lot yet to play for."

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St. C., meanwhile, chipped away, scoring in five of its six at-bats. Sophomore catcher Tom Machovina enjoyed a three-hit afternoon, hammering a solo homer to deep center. He also delivered a run-scoring double and a single.

Senior Layne Mehl continued his recent prolifics, clubbing a leadoff homer in the second and adding another RBI hit one inning later.

Second baseman Daniel Slavik singled twice and knocked in one. Senior centerfielder Dustin Hynes contributed two singles. Junior Zane Butler singled and swiped two bases, including a fifth-inning steal of home. Jarvie aided his cause, drilling a double.

Barnesville's Shane Crosier clubbed a two-base blow. On the hill, Crosier worked four innings, recording four Ks and three walks. Sophomore Clint Healey fanned four in relief.

Barnesville is slated to host St. C. in a Monday afternoon regular-season encounter. Line score: Barnesville 100 000 0 - 1 5 2  
St. Clairsville 121 022 x - 8 12 2  
BATTERIES: Crosier, Healey (5) and D. Stephen. Jarvie and Machovina.

Gibson may be reached at: [rgibson@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:rgibson@timesleaderonline.com)

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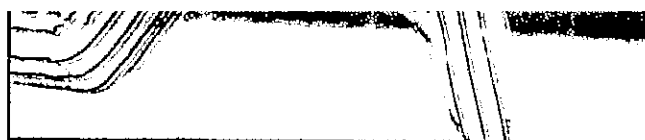
**Madonna 8, Paden City 0**  
Weirton Madonna had several goals heading into the 2008 Baseball season. Coach Jeff Baire's club reached a second one Saturday afternoon at Perkins Field on the Niekro Diamond in Bridgeport.

The Blue Dons blanked Paden City 8-0 in the OVAC A semi finals and will play Toronto next Saturday for the banner.

Madonna is now 15-8.

## OVAC Baseball

**At Vaccaro Field**  
**Class 2-A at 11 a.m.**  
(2) Monroe Central vs. (1) Steubenville Central  
**Class 1-A at 1:30 p.m.**  
(2) Weirton Madonna vs. (1) Toronto  
**Class 4-A at 4 p.m.**  
(5) Wheeling Park vs. (3) Cambridge  
**Class 3-A at 6:30 p.m.**  
(3) Martins Ferry vs. (1) St. Clairsville



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

**MONROE CENTRAL'S** Ryan Highman delivers to the plate during the Seminoles' Class 2-A semifinal game against Linsly at the Red Knight Baseball Complex in Toronto. Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

# Monroe Central advances to its first 2-A final

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For The Times Leader

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The Cadets are now 16-8 on the season. Monroe Central scored seven runs in the second inning, and the Seminoles were not threatened after that point.

"We kind of put some hits together and did some good things on the bases," Monroe Central head coach Ryan Rosnick remarked. "This has been our goal all season to qualify for the OVACs, to host a game, which we did, and then make it to the finals. We are excited. These guys have had some tough luck in the past in the semifinals. We have never made it to the finals before. So, this will be the first time we have been in the finals."

Linsly head coach Jay Cartwright said the second inning was the difference in the game.

"We had a bad inning. We struggled defensively in that one inning," he said. "We made a couple of errors, and Warren (Hammel) was struggling a little bit with his control. He didn't really have his best stuff. I have seen him throw a lot better game. He just didn't have his real goo stuff tonight. That one inning just killed us. We didn't make the plays, and give them credit. They have good hitters. They swung the bats well. They outhit us. They were the better team today. They fielded better. They pitched better. They did everything better than us today."

Ryan Highman earned the win for the Seminoles. He struck out five and walked one.

Offensively, Adam Masters contributed a single, a double and an RBI, Sean Smithberger recorded a run-scoring triple, and Zach Ring and Highman each had an RBI single. Also, John Schumacher chipped in with a pair of base hits, and Ethan Rose, Kyle Piatt and Josh Turner all tallied singles.

Hammel took the loss for the Cadets. He struck out four and walked two in five innings of work. Alex Kuzosko struck out one in his one inning of relief work.

Offensively for the Cadets, Jordan Medley delivered a single, a triple and an RBI, Hammel tallied a single and Pat Milton picked up an RBI.

In the first game, Brian DeFranco was strong on the mound in picking up the win for the Crusaders. DeFranco struck out two, walked two and he limited the Cougars to just three hits. Both of Frontier's runs were unearned.

Offensively, the battery mates combined to pickup five hits and two RBIs. Kaufmann contributed two singles, a double and an RBI, and DeFranco delivered two singles and an RBI. Also, Mike Dichazi chipped in with a single, a home run and two RBIs.

Ethan Morris took the loss for Frontier. Morris struck out one, but he walked six batters. Offensively, Brent King tallied a triple and a single, and Tyler Harris recorded a base hit.

Linescores:  
Crusaders 4, Cougars 2  
Frontier 100 001 0 - 2 3 0  
Catholic Central 111 100 X - 4 7 5  
BATTERIES: Morris and Neader. DeFranco and Kaufman.  
Seminoles 8, Cadets 2  
Linsly 000 002 0 - 2 3 3  
Monroe Central 071 000 X - 8 10 1  
BATTERIES: Hammel, Al. Kuzosko (5) and An. Kuzosko. Highman and Piatt.

## Cambridge, Park advance in 4-A baseball tournament

**AT BROOKE** High. Wheeling Park rallied from an early 2-0 deficit to defeat Indian Creek and advance to Saturday's big school title game vs. Cambridge with a 7-2 win.

Christian Lewton tossed a complete game eight-hitter for the Pats. He compiled six strikeouts and two walks. Brad Guckert tagged a triple for the winners.

Daniel Dunlevy collected two singles and a run batted in for the Creek.

**CAMBRIDGE 11 STEUBENVILLE 7**  
THE BOBCATS struck for five, first inning runs and led by 9-1 after three frames enroute to a convincing win over Big Red.

Tyler Hardesty hammered a home run and single, good for four Bobcat RBIs.

**OVAC Baseball**

**CLASS 4-A**

Indian Creek 2, John Marshall 1  
Steubenville 4, Beaver Local 3  
Cambridge 6, Buckeye Local 3  
Wheeling Park 4, Edison 2

**Semifinals Pairings**

Indian Creek vs. Wheeling Park  
Cambridge vs. Steubenville

**CLASS 3-A**

St. Clairsville 11, Bellaire 8.  
Magnolia 11, Wheeling Central 4  
Martins Ferry 5, Union Local 4  
Barnesville 9, Harrison Central 2

**Semifinals Pairings**

St. Clairsville vs. Barnesville  
Martins Ferry vs. Magnolia

**CLASS 2-A**

Steubenville CC 13 Buckeye Trail 4  
Monroe Central 1, Shenandoah 0  
Linsly 3, Fort Frye 2  
Frontier 2, Shadyside 1

**Semifinals Pairings**

Steubenville CC vs. Frontier  
Monroe Central vs. Linsly

**CLASS 1-A**

Toronto 10, St. John 0  
Weirton Madonna 19, Valley 0.  
Paden City 5, Beallsville 4  
Bridgeport 11, Bishop Donahue 0

**Semifinals Pairings**

Toronto vs. Bridgeport  
Weirton Madonna vs. Paden City

**MOVING ON**

**Martins Ferry rallies past Union Local**

By **KIM APPOLLONI**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Over the past week Union Local and Martins Ferry have gotten to know each other pretty well. The two clubs met Tuesday afternoon on the Hilltop in Martins Ferry for their third contest in five days. The rubber match just happened to be the opening round of the OVAC 3-A Tournament.

On Friday, the Purple Gang christened its new complex with a 10-6 victory over the defending OVAC Champions and on Monday the Jets responded by spanking Ferry, 12-1, setting the table for the latest meeting.

Josh Lucas' club pulled out an eighth inning come-from-behind, 5-4 victory. The win places the Riders in



Saturday's semi-final round in Cadiz. Ferry will face Magnolia, which dispatched Wheeling Central

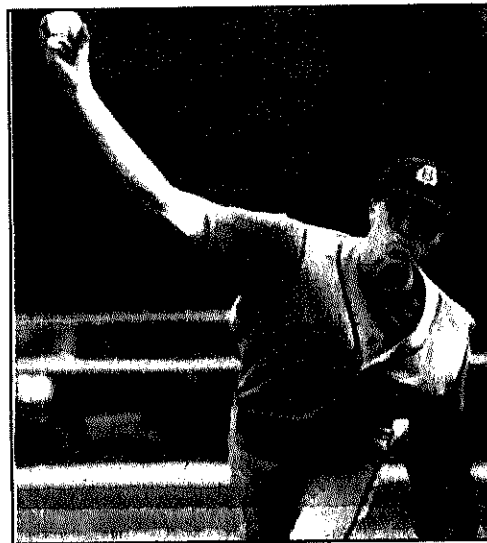
"We had a lot of guys contribute tonight and these kids never hung their heads when UL took the lead," stated the intense Lucas. "We never felt like we were going to lose this game. They stayed positive and late in the game when we put runners on the bases, a couple of seniors stepped up and hit the ball when it counted."

What Lucas was referring to was a game-tying seventh-inning RBI single by senior first baseman Steve Splenda and the game-winning RBI by senior All-Ohio candidate Fred Owens.

See, **FERRY**, Page B2



**MARTINS FERRY'S** Fred Owens is lifted into the air by teammate Stephen Perdok after the Riders prevailed over Union Local in the eighth inning of their OVAC Quarterfinal game at the new Ferry baseball field. *Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)*



Photo/REED TYCHONSKI

**BARNESVILLE'S** Shane Crosier delivers a pitch during Tuesday's OVAC quarterfinal against Harrison Central.

**Barnesville rolls by Harrison, 9-2**

By **RICH GIBSON**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

You had to like the Shamrocks on Earth Day.

D.J. Butler's Green Machine of Barnesville advanced to the OVAC 3-A semifinals in impressive style, overwhelming Harrison Central by a 9-2 count at Memorial Park.

Butler and his Huskies' counterpart, Mike Saffell, have been buddies since childhood and Butler acknowledged as much following Tuesday's outcome.

"You hate to win a game like this (at Mike's expense) but I'd rather be on the winning end of it," Butler smiled. "By no means did we play a perfect game. We weren't always real sharp in the field. That's something we'll address the rest of the week."

Before Barnesville (10-4) battles St.

See, **ROCKS**, Page B2

**Top-seeded St. Clairsville upends Bellaire, 11-8 in 3-A**

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Opportunistic.

St. Clairsville certainly was Tuesday night.

The Red Devils (12-4) capitalized upon two crucial Bellaire errors in outscoring the Big Reds (4-12) by an 11-8 count in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3-A Quarterfinal Tournament baseball game at Memorial Park in St. Clairsville.

Deadlocked at six-all with two outs in the bottom of the fourth, it appeared as though eighth-seeded Bellaire had played even with the top-seeded Red Devils, but a throwing error on a routine grounder opened the flood gates as the hosts went on to score five unearned runs.

"There were times before that everybody contributed to the loss," explained Bellaire coach Bruce Young, "and everyone contributed to us playing well."

And he was right.

Following the error, which allowed leadoff hitter Brody Call to reach second, Adam Shanks singled to right to score Call. After

See, **ST. C.**, Page B2



**BELLAIRE'S ANTHONY**

Rocchio attempts to tag St. Clairsville's Brody Call during a play at third during Tuesday's OVAC quarterfinal baseball game. *Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)*

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

## ● Ferry

Continued from Page B1

With the game deadlocked 2-2 heading into the seventh inning, UL plated a pair of tallies. Catcher Mark Thompson drilled a two-run single chasing in Darby Waller and Cory Carpenter for a 4-2 Jet advantage.

The Riders came right back in the bottom half to knot the score. Junior dandy Clay Francis continued his hot bat by plating junior Dane Koch via a sacrifice fly. With one out, Splenda delivered a clutch RBI base hit between first and second which scored Owens who reached on a Jet miscue to knot the score.

Matt Masarick replaced Owens in the eighth frame and picked up the mound decision. He managed to sit down the Jets in order. With two outs, junior Brandon Leonard and Koch each coaxed walks before Owens ripped a hard one down third that sailed into the outfield allowing Leonard to race to the dish for the game-winning counter.

"That was so big for us," added Lucas. "We have been on the wrong end of a couple of seventh-inning loses and to finally have one go our way is a definite boost. Doing well in the OVAC tournament has been a goal we have set and we feel confident that we have enough depth to make it happen. I feel we have a couple of guys we can put out on the mound that will do the job."

"Not too many people gave us a shot here tonight with (Fred) Owens on the mound, but our kids believed

we could win the game and we came out and battled, but we fell just short," responded a disappointed Rich Mercer.

Mercer continued, "These guys are feeling bad because we had a couple of errors late, but they have nothing to be ashamed of. They showed me something tonight. We have five games left before the sectionals and I still think we can make some noise."

Owens was his usual self on the mound striking out 14 and walking six batters. Promising sophomore Justin Curry threw seven innings for the Jets. Curry amassed two whiffs and walked four before Waller threw the eighth inning. Waller had two walks and a fan.

Leading the way at the plate for the winners was Francis who picked up a pair of ribbies. Owens reached first base twice via hits. Super sophomore Josh Nagel blasted a two-bagger as did classmate Logan Ballint rounding out the Rider attack.

For UL, Thompson ended with three RBI's on a pair of hits. Carpenter singled twice. Waller, Curry and freshman Kyle Copeland all singled.

Lucas added, "We need to continue to put the ball in play because we have some big hitting teams coming up. Our defense and pitching is solid, we'll be alright if we can swing the bat."

Linescore  
Union Local 002 000 20 -- 4 8 2  
M. Ferry 100 010 21 -- 5 6 0  
BATTERIES: Curry, Waller (8) and Thompson; Owens, Masarick (8) and Francis

## ● St. C.

Continued from Page B1

stealing second, Shanks crossed the plate when Dustin Hynes roped a double to right-center.

A walk to Tom Machovina ended Levi Crozier's day on the mound as Young brought on lefty Brandon Metz to face Zane Butler. However, the strategy backfired as the Red Devils' rightfielder smashed a 3-1 offering well over the fence in deep left-center, capping a 5-run comeback.

"That home run was big," said St. C. coach Tom Sliva. "Zane has had some tough luck the last few at-bats. He's been hitting the ball hard and not having them fall, but he battled."

After the Big Reds grabbed a 2-0 lead on a Tyler Rose two-run bomb to left field, the Red Devils responded with a three-spot of their own. However, two of the runs trotted home after a third strike was mishandled and then threw wildly to first base.

Bellaire tied the game in the second on Erik Canter's solo home run, but St. Clairsville regained the lead in the bottom of the frame.

Call drew a one-out walk and stole second. When the throw skipped into shallow center, he scooted to third and raced home on Shanks' infield single. Hynes then sent a laser down the left field line that settled at the base of the fence in the tall grass. The Bellaire leftfielder immediately raised his hands, but Sliva alertly had his baserunners continue running as Shanks scored and Hynes followed.

After the base umpire inspected the location of the baseball, he ruled it to be in play, thus resulting in a home run. It was the senior slugger's third roundtripper in two days.

Bellaire didn't quit as Canter's infield single scored a run in the third and two unearned tallies in the fifth evened the count at six.

"I give my kids credit for not quitting," Young said. "They're young, but they battled."

Sliva also praised the job his pitcher - senior Anthony Wakim - did. "Anthony's had some leg injuries and we haven't been able to get him many innings, but he battled. He struggled early, but the guys rallied behind him and he did a good job."

Wakim struck out seven, walked three and scattered nine hits. He threw 112 pitches.

Linescore:  
Bellaire 211 202 0 -- 8 9 3  
St. Clairsville 330 500 x -- 11 9 1  
BATTERIES: Crozier, Metz (4) and Rose, Wakim and Hynes.  
North can be reached at [knorth@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:knorth@timesleaderonline.com)

## ● Rocks

Continued from Page B1

Clairsville (11-4) in one of two Saturday semifinal games at Cadiz, the Rocks will host Monroe Central in a regular season varsity/jayvee twinbill Friday.

The Shamrocks mounted a 4-0 lead Tuesday before Harrison rallied within 4-2. But Barnesville retaliated in a big way, scoring the game's final five tallies to win going away.

"Everything we did right last night, we didn't get done tonight," lamented Saffell, referring to Monday's 1-0 Huskies' win against Buckeye Local. "We got behind early and their pitcher really kept us off-balance."

Saffell was speaking of Shamrocks' senior Shane Crosier who fired a complete game three-hitter. Crosier wasn't always on top of his game...he walked two batters and hit three more.

At crunch time, however, Crosier came through in the clutch. The righthander recorded eight strikeouts in improving his season mark to 4-1.

Crosier's teammates, meanwhile, all played starring roles with each starter reaching base at least once.

"Today, I was really proud of our 5-9 hitters," said Butler. That group accounted for six hits, five runs and five RBIs.

Despite being limited to three hits, Harrison Central managed to stage several threats. In all, Saffell's squad left nine runners on base. But clutch hits were few and far between.

Crosier's first inning ground ball plated Chad Stephen for a 1-0 upperhand. The Rocks made it 3-0 an inning later when number nine hitter, sophomore Jourden Yager, drilled a two-run double down the right field line, plating Kyle Carpenter and Zane Wilson.

In the bottom of the fourth, catcher Devin Stephen tripled to deep centerfield and came home when Yager grounded out.

Harrison Central showed offensive signs of life in the fifth, scoring both of its runs. The Huskies did so without the benefit of a base hit.

Two hit-batsmen, a pair of Shamrock misplays and two walks resulted in runs scored by Kurt Smith and Danny Nunner. But Crosier averted further damage, inducing an inning-ending fielder's choice.

With their lead sliced in half, the Rocks came back to bat around in the last of the fifth. First baseman Cameron Hall hammered a RBI double. A Huskies' error brought in another tally and Stephen capped the uprising, driving a two-run single to center field.

In the Barnesville sixth, second baseman Colby MacMillan worked a walk and later raced home on Hall's second run-producing double of the evening.

Carpenter, Hall and Stephen collected two hits apiece. Harrison catcher Dustin Gibson accounted for two of the Huskies' three hits. Starter Ivan Woodward struck out four and issued two walks. Ryan Davenport entered in the fifth.

Harrison Central was slated to play Edison this afternoon at Richmond.

Harrison 000 020 0 -- 2 3 4  
Barnesville 120141 x -- 9 10 4  
BATTERIES: Woodward, Davenport (5) and Gibson, Crosier and D. Stephen.

Gibson may be reached at:  
[rgibson@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:rgibson@timesleaderonline.com)



# OVAC baseball tourney opens today

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

Batter up!  
That will be the chant heard at area baseball diamonds this afternoon as the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's Championship tournament opens with quarter-final action on 16 fields. The top four seeds in each of the four classes will host with the survivors advancing to Saturday's semi-final round. Games are slated to begin at 5 p.m. at most fields and Saturday's semifinals will commence at 11



a.m. and 2 p.m. at Bridgeport, Toronto, Harrison Central and Brooke hosting the semifinal games in Classes 1-A through 4-A, respectively.

The title tilts will be held on Saturday, May 3 at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field.

However, before any travel plans to Jefferson County can be made, area coaches are still filling out line-up cards for tonight's game.

## CLASS 4-A

The John Marshall Monarchs — with veteran skipper Bob

See, **OVAC**, Page B2

## OVAC BASEBALL

Class 4-A Quarterfinals  
(5 p.m. Today Unless Noted)

No. 1 John Marshall vs. No. 8 Indian Creek.  
No. 4 Edison vs. No. 5 Wheeling Park.  
No. 3 Cambridge vs. No. 6 Buckeye Local.  
No. 2 Steubenville vs. No. 7 Beaver Local.

## OVAC BASEBALL

Class 3-A Quarterfinals  
(5 p.m. Today Unless Noted)

No. 1 St. Clairsville vs. No. 8 Bellaire.  
No. 4 Barnesville vs. No. 5 Harrison Central.  
No. 3 Martins Ferry vs. No. 6 Union Local.  
No. 2 Magnolia vs. No. 7 Wheeling Central.

## OVAC BASEBALL

Class 2-A Quarterfinals  
(5 p.m. Today Unless Noted)

No. 1 Steubenville CC vs. No. 8 Buckeye Trail.  
No. 4 Shadyside vs. No. 5 Frontier.  
No. 3 Fort Frye vs. No. 6 Linsly.  
No. 2 Monroe Central vs. No. 7 Shenandoah.

## OVAC BASEBALL

Class 1-A Quarterfinals  
(5 p.m. Today Unless Noted)

No. 1 Toronto vs. No. 8 St. John.  
No. 4 Bridgeport vs. No. 5 Bishop Donahue.  
No. 3 Paden City vs. No. 6 Beallsville.  
No. 2 Weirton Madonna vs. No. 7 Valley.

## ● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

Montgomery — are the top seed in the largest division. The Monarchs boast a 14-3 record and will host Indian Creek. The Monarchs have claimed five OVAC titles and are the defending champions in the class. Indian Creek has yet to hoist a banner, but Mingo won a title and Wintersville won three, meaning the school district owns four titles.

Steubenville — which shares the lead with Linsly with 13 titles — is the second seed and will host Beaver Local this afternoon at Vaccaro Field.

Cambridge will welcome Buckeye Local in the 3-6 matchup. The Bobcats are 9-5 on the season and will welcome the 7-5 Panthers to Don Coss Field. The Panthers won the OVAC title in 2004 and Cambridge has never won that title.

Edison — which is the defending state runnerup in Ohio — will host Wheeling Park in the four-five game in the big-school division. The Wildcats own four titles with the last coming in 2003, while the Patriots have claimed two, including the 2006 pennant.

## CLASS 3-A

The OVAC's second largest class is one of the most wide-open divisions with no fewer than six local schools going head-to-head tonight.

St. Clairsville warranted the top seed after posting a 10-4 record prior to the OVAC's cut-off date this past Saturday. The Red Devils will host eighth-seeded Bellaire, which earned the final spot on the bracket with a 4-10 mark.

"I am not sure there's a clear favorite in this tournament," said St. C. skipper Tom Sliva who owns four OVAC titles as the head coach at St. John Central in the late 90s. "This is probably the most evenly matched field we've been in since I started coaching."

The Red Devils — who are also in the thick of the Buckeye 8 title chase — are coming off a double-header split on Saturday with Buckeye Local, which completed a 5-1 week.

"Our goal was to go 5-1 last week and we met that goal, but our kids and coaches were a little disappointed with our second game (Saturday). We need to get back on track."

St. Clairsville owns seven OVAC baseball titles, which is fifth-best in the conference. However, the Red Devils last won the title in 1996 under then manager and now OVAC Hall of Famer Lefty Hall.

The Martins Ferry Purple Riders will play their second-ever game on their new field tonight when sixth-seeded Union Local comes calling. The same two teams met Friday and Monday during the regular season.

The Purple Riders are 8-5 on the season, while the Jets posted a 7-7

record. Union Local is the defending champion in Class 3-A. The Purple Riders' last and only OVAC title came in 2002.

Ferry head coach Josh Lucas has already announced he'll send hard-throwing senior ace Fred Owens to the hill today, but he knows his team has got to get some offensive production.

"Our pitching sets up pretty well for this tournament," Lucas said. "Our hitting has gotten better the last couple of games and if that continues to improve and our pitching and fielding stay consistent we can be really competitive."

The always-tough 4-5 matchup finds Harrison Central making the trip to Barnesville.

In that game the storyline is the relationship between Barnesville head coach D.J. Butler and Harrison head coach Mike Saffel who teach together at Harrison and have coached together in the past.

"Mike and I have been friends forever," Butler said. "It's a tough situation because I see the kids every day."

As for his Shamrocks, Butler has been pleased with the pitching and defense his club has gotten, but knows the offense has to improve.

"We've got to take a better approach at the plate," Butler explained. "We're swinging at too many pitches out of the zone and not being selective enough. Our pitching and defense are coming through, but our offense is lagging behind a little bit."

The Shamrocks own a pair of OVAC baseball titles with the last coming in 1997 under legendary head coach Brad Wilson. Harrison Central, meanwhile, has pocketed three titles in its short history. Saffel has been the skipper for all three of those.

The other Class 3-A semifinal finds a battle of traditional West Virginia powers with Wheeling Central visiting Magnolia.

## CLASS 2-A

This division is another that appears to be wide open with a bevy of teams that are legitimate title contenders.

Steubenville Catholic warranted the top seed by virtue of a 11-2 record. The Crusaders will host 5-8 Buckeye Trail this afternoon.

Monroe Central — which started the season like a house of fire — settled for the second seed with a 7-2 record. The Seminoles will welcome PVC rival Shenandoah to Woodsfield. Neither school owns an OVAC title in baseball, but Skyvue — which is part of the Monroe consolidation — won a pair of crowns.

"We seem to be playing to the level of competition," said first-year Monroe manager Ryan Rosnick. "There are no gimmes in this tournament. If you play one bad game or take a night off you're going to be in trouble, and a seed really

doesn't matter."

The Seminoles will send ace Ryan Highman to the mound tonight and Rosnick is hoping he could possibly bring him back on Saturday if the Seminoles survive.

Fort Frye — which handed the aforementioned Seminoles their first loss of the campaign more than a week ago — is the third seed and will host always-powerful Linsly. The Cadets won the 2005 championship and Linsly has 11 titles with its last coming in 2006.

The Shadyside Tigers — the defending Class 1-A champions — started the season with eight victories in a row, but dropped three straight last week and are currently 11-3 on the season. Coach Gary Cunningham's squad will host fifth-seeded Frontier this evening.

All told, Shadyside owns two baseball titles. It also shared the 1994 crown with Paden City because the title game wasn't played due to an epidemic, which broke out in West Virginia that season.

## CLASS 1-A

The Toronto Red Knights — in the 10th year anniversary of their Division IV state baseball championship — garnered the top seed in their first year in the division. The Red Knights will welcome winless St. John Central today. All told, Toronto owns four OVAC titles and the Irish have eight championships to their credit, but none since 2002.

Weirton Madonna earned the second seed and will host winless Valley this afternoon. The Blue Dons have two OVAC crowns in their possession with the last coming in 2004.

Paden City is the third seed in class 1-A and will host sixth-seeded Beallsville. The Wildcats come into the tournament with a 15-7 mark. Those 15 wins are the most in the entire OVAC. Beallsville, meanwhile, enters with a 3-9 mark. The Blue Devils have previously won two OVAC titles.

Bridgeport owns a 8-6 record and garnered the fourth seed, meaning Niekro Diamond will host this Bishop Donahue this evening. The Bishops are 8-14 on the year.

"For us, it's a matter of what team comes to play," said Bridgeport head coach Steve Wojick. "Anyone can beat anyone, and if you don't bring your 'A' game to the field, it doesn't matter how good you are because you're not going to get past this round."

The Bulldogs have won four OVAC titles in their history, but the last came in 1977. Bishop Donahue also owns four brass rings with the last coming in 1991.

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# SPORTS

Sunday  
May 4, 2008

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## Cambridge wins OVAC 4-A baseball title

JASON MILLER  
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

STEBENVILLE — On a history making day, the Cambridge High baseball team captured its first-ever Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4-A championship with an 11-6 victory over the Patriots of Wheeling Park on Saturday afternoon at Vaquero Field.



"It's always special to do something for the first time in a school's history,"

**CAMBRIDGE 11, WHEELING PARK 6**  
Wheeling Park 000 110 4 — 8 8 2  
Cambridge 104 501 X — 11 13 2  
Christian Lewton (LP, 2 Ks, 2 BB), Danny Doyle (4th, 1 Ks, 4 BB) and Ryan Orth, Lewton (4th), Timmy Harvey (WP 7-1, 7 Ks, 4 BB) and Zach Freeman.  
RECORDS—Cambridge 16-6.  
STAT LEADERS—For Wheeling Park, Brad Guckert, single, 2 runs; Brian Coen, double, run; Keith Beecher, home run, single, 3 RBI, run; Ryan Sengewalt, single, RBI, run; Clark Sambucco, triple, run; Cody Bishop, double; Wyatt Love, single, RBI. For Cambridge, Winston Turner, single, run; Trevor Markley, home run, 2 singles, RBI, 2 runs; Freeman, single, run; Kirk Wetherell, single, 2 runs; Tyler Hardesty, home run, 4 RBI, 2 runs; Taylor Leppla, double, 3 RBI, 2 runs; Ryan McClelland, 2 singles, RBI; Kyle Cox, single, RBI; Billy Webb, 2 singles, run; Nick Liptak, stolen base.

Cambridge head coach Matte Johnson remarked. "We are very proud to do what we did, and what was special for me was that my high school baseball coach came over and told me congratulations. That really meant a lot to me."

Johnson realizes a win like this helps his team's morale heading into the sectional tournament.

"We are playing with a lot of confidence," the CHS skipper commented, "and in baseball, if you are playing like that and the momentum is going your way good things will happen. We had a lot of confidence, and we are fielding the ball better. We feel we can play and hang with most teams."

In the midst of all the celebration, Johnson extended a congratulations to his spring sports counterpart for their first OVAC crown.

"We are just glad to join our softball team in winning the

school's first OVAC championship," Johnson expressed. "Congratulations to Shep (Coach Bob Shepard) and the girls. They work hard for everything they do, and we are happy to be there with them."

The Bobcats (16-6) got their offensive juices flowing early when Trevor Markley belted a one-out solo home run in the

bottom half of the first inning to give Cambridge an early 1-0 advantage.

CHS put together another offensive surge in the third inning. Following back-to-back singles, Markley scored on a two-base fielding error by the third baseman on a ball hit by Kirk Wetherell. With runners on second and third, Tyler

Hardesty jacked a three-run bomb to left center to give the 'Cats a 5-0 lead.

The Patriots were able to plate a run in the top of the fourth when Ryan Sengewalt scored on a double to left field by Cody Bishop.

Cambridge answered in its portion of the fourth with a

See CHS page B-3



Jason Miller/The Daily Jeffersonian  
Cambridge High's baseball team displays its trophy after defeating Wheeling Park, 11-6, to capture the OVAC Class 4-A baseball championship Saturday at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

## SPORTS

PAGE B-3 SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2008

## Cambridge wins OVAC 4-A title

CHS from page B-1

five-run explosion. With the bases load, Hardesty drew a five-pitch walk to bring in Billy Webb. Taylor Leppla stepped up to the plate next, and with two outs, and cleared the bags with a double to the left field corner. Leppla then scored on an RBI single to right field by Ryan McClelland.

Down 10-1, Sengewalt laced an RBI single to make it a seven-run affair, but a Kyle Cox base hit in the sixth brought the Bobcats' lead back to eight (11-2).

Wheeling Park made one last charge in the seventh inning. The Patriots led the inning off with a Brad Guckert single and Brian Coen walk. With no outs, Keith Beecher cranked a three-run home run to left-center to make it an 11-5 contest. Clark Sambucco came up with two outs and legged out a triple to right-center to keep the rally going. With the next batter at the plate, Sambucco scored on a wild pitch to narrow the gap even more, 11-6. However, that's as close as they would come, as Timmy Harvey struck out Rob Hartman looking to finish the game.

On the day, Harvey tossed

seven innings with seven strikeouts and four walks to earn his seventh 'W' of the season.

"He made some good adjustments on the mound," Johnson said of Harvey. "Timmy did a nice job of keeping them off-balance."

At the dish for the 'Cats, Markley went 3-for-5 with a home run and two singles while McClelland and Webb each had a pair of singles and Hardesty drove in four runs.

"Our bats have been pretty consistent and we fielded the ball really well," Johnson pointed out. "In the last inning, we were a little pressed because we felt that it was so close. Fortunately, we had a good lead going into the seventh, and hopefully we will learn from that so we stay focused and do what we need to do in the tournament."

For Park, Beecher had a homer, single and three RBI to spark the offense.

On the hill, Christian Lewton suffered the loss for the Patriots. Lewton had two Ks and two walks in three innings of work. Danny Doyle closed out the final three innings in relief, fanning one and walking four.

In the other OVAC baseball championship games, Toronto beat Weirton Madonna, 9-4, for the Class 1-A crown; Steubenville Catholic Central topped Monroe Central, 9-4, for the Class 2-A title; and St. Clairsville beat Martins Ferry, 4-1, in the Class 3-A championship.

NEXT— Cambridge hosts Dover on Tuesday, finishing a suspended game first and following that up with the regularly-scheduled contest. Action at Don Coss Field is slated to begin at 4:30 p.m.



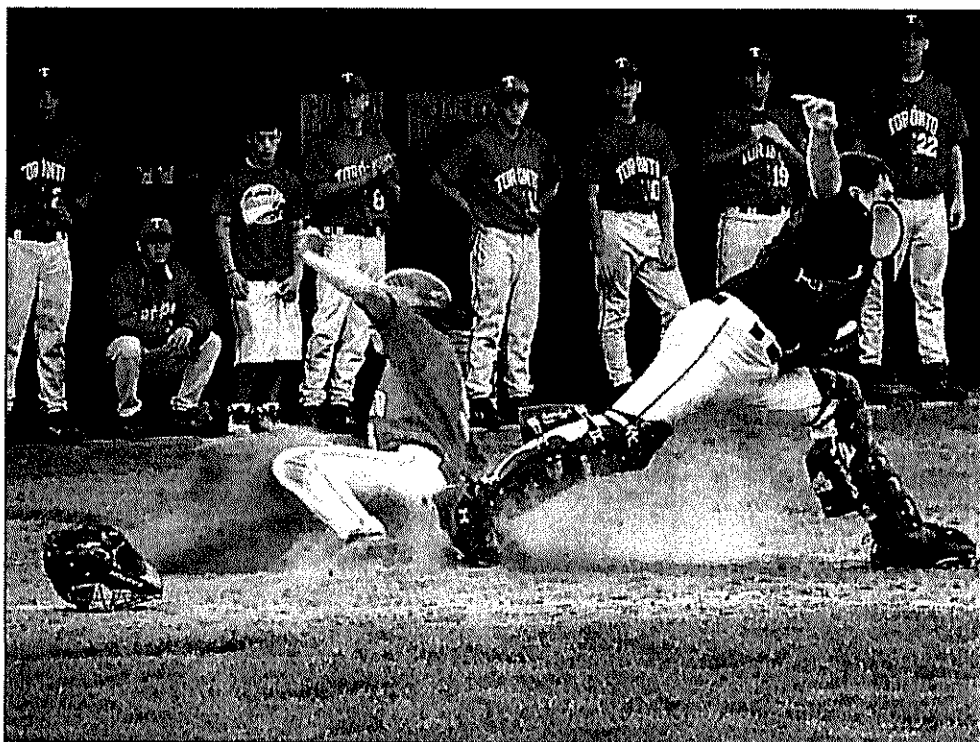


Photo by Mike Hughes

Weirton Madonna catcher Lou Comis, right, gets the force out at home of Toronto's Mitch Ludewig, left, during their OVAC Class A title game Saturday at Steubenville.

## Red Knights Recover

Toronto battles back after Comis' first-inning slam

By ASHLEY NEWMAN  
For the News-Register

Mirroring the clouds that circled overhead just before the first pitch, the Madonna baseball team began the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A championship game against Toronto with a flurry.

The Red Knights eventually regained control and used a strong finish to collect a 9-4 victory at Vacarro Field on Saturday, capturing the conference crown.

"It is nice to play in the OVAC tournament," Toronto head coach Brian Perkins said. "They do a great job in hosting a first class event every year. We are very happy to represent Toronto and represent the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference."

With the way the game started, it looked as though the Red Knights had a long day in front of them.

Toronto pitcher Mike Radvansky struggled with his control in the first inning. After walking three of the first four batters, Madonna's Lou Comis drilled a one-out grand slam deep to left field, giving the Blue Dons an early 4-0 lead.

"Mike (Radvansky) wasn't on with his pitches at the beginning of the game," Perkins said. "They had that big first inning and they were really able to capitalize on his walks."

The poor start to the contest seemed to awaken Radvansky, as the junior took control of the game in the second inning.

In the bottom of the second frame, the Toronto bats also came to life. With Dave Porter on second base two outs, Mitch Ludewig came up with an RBI double to center field, cutting the lead to 4-1.

Madonna starting pitcher Max Nogay did his best to hold down the Red Knight bats, as both teams failed to score in the third frame.

Toronto (17-4) caught its offensive rhythm again in the bottom of the fourth inning. A Jordan Cooper double was followed by a one-out RBI single by Porter, trimming the deficit to 4-2.

After Radvansky again quieted the Madonna bats in the top of the fifth inning, Toronto broke the game open in the bottom of that frame.

Nogay forced two ground outs to start the fifth inning,

but an error on what would have been the third out of the inning allowed the Red Knights' Max King to reach base.

Toronto would not waste the opportunity. Mike Garman followed with an infield hit and another Blue Don error allowed King to cross the plate. Cooper then came up with another big hit, smacking a double into right field and knocking in two, giving Toronto a 5-4 lead.

It was no surprise to Perkins that his squad came through with the big offensive innings to take the lead.

"All day long we were getting good at bats. We were seeing the pitches well and putting the ball in play," Perkins said. "The breaks just weren't going our way early on."

"It pretty much sums up our whole game, though, because our hitters kept battling and eventually the ball starting falling. Then, we were able to capitalize on some good hits."

Radvansky continued his dominance on the mound, as he struck out three batters in the top of the sixth inning to hold the lead. He finished with 11 strikeouts and those three first-inning walks.

"Mike is one of the guttiest ball players that I have been around," Perkins said of the junior hurler. "He just doesn't get rattled and it showed today. He just kept battling and continued to fight through the early problems. He was able to find his groove and he ended up being successful."

In the bottom of the sixth inning, Toronto's offense continued its success, this time against Madonna reliever George Magnone.

The Red Knights' Joe Shimmel began the frame with a double. After Ludewig drew a walk, Radvansky helped his own cause by hitting a run-scoring single to right field, extending the lead to 6-4. Zach Stewart was able to draw a walk to load the bases.

After Madonna recorded a force out at home, Garman came up with a two-run single to left field. Another run crossed the plate when Madonna threw out an attempted steal at second base, giving the runner at third base enough time to cross the plate.

When the sixth inning ended, Toronto had extended its lead to 9-4.

The five run lead was plenty for Radvansky. With

one runner on base and two outs, Comis was forced into a fly out to deep left field, ending the game and bringing an OVAC championship back to Toronto.

While Toronto celebrated the victory, Madonna, led by head coach Jeff Baire, was left to ponder what could have been.

"They played a heck of a good ball game. To stay in there and battle back the way they did says something about their program," Baire said of his opponent. "But, (Saturday) was the same old story for us. We get runners on second and third with no outs and we aren't able to score. You don't have to look very far to find the reason why we lost the ball game."

"You can say that an umpire could have made a call and you can talk about philosophies and approaches when you go to the plate, but if you don't execute on what you're told to do, the end result is not going to be good. That is where we were at today."

Madonna (15-11) stranded seven runners.

"I keep saying that hitting when runners are on base is an attitude," Baire explained. "You have to want to be in the batter's box when you see runners in scoring position. Right now, we are struggling to find that guy that wants to be in the batter's box when we have guys on base."

"It will come eventually. I have complete faith in that. It may not be this year, but it will definitely happen next year."

Toronto will look to take the momentum from earning the OVAC championship and apply it to a regular season meeting at home against Big Red at 5 p.m. on Monday.

Baire will continue to seek answers from his squad.

"We still have some games left. The most important part of our season starts on Monday. Every time you take the field, you have a chance to learn. We needed to be on the field today to get the opportunity to learn," Baire said. "We did that today."

"It is not going to be hard for us to refocus. If you can't get focused on the sectional tournament, you might be playing the wrong sport."

Madonna will travel to play Bishop Donahue in the opening round of sectional play at 5 p.m. on Monday.



# Monroe falls in 2-A title game

By RICH GIBSON  
Times Leader Sports Writer



Photo/MIKE MATHISON  
**MONROE'S** Ryan Highman deals to the errors combined with 11 runners left on base during Saturday's 2-A title game.

thing came apart during a disastrous bottom of the third inning when coach Frank Spence's Crusaders batted around and scored seven times.

Monroe, unfortunately, led to its undoing by committing two critical misplays in the field. "Actually, those mistakes were uncharacteristic of us," Rosnick advised. "You have to give Steubenville Central credit. They

left on base. "I'm still very proud of these kids, especially our seniors," Rosnick reflected following a 9-4 setback at Vaccaro Field. "We've made good progress (this spring) and by no means is our season over."

Following tournament drawings scheduled today, Monroe will discover its first sectional opponent. The Seminoles were early 2-0 leaders Saturday before every-

thing came apart during a disastrous bottom of the third inning when coach Frank Spence's Crusaders batted around and scored seven times.

See, SCC, Page C2

took advantage."

That the Crusaders did, stringing together six hits enroute to sending 10 hitters to the plate. When the dust finally settled, Monroe Central was staring at a 7-2 deficit and one from which they would not recover.

"It seemed when it rained, it poured that inning," Rosnick observed. "Ryan (Highman) definitely deserved a better fate."

Highman pitched reasonably well but yielded 10 hits in a route-going performance. He compiled eight strikeouts and issued two walks.

Monroe, meanwhile, staged continual threats against Crusaders' righthander Brian DeFranco. In no fewer than five innings did the Noles strand two baserunners. "We just couldn't seem to come up with one or two clutch hits," Rosnick offered.

A second inning Crusaders' error permitted junior Ryan Kuhn to score the game's first run. One inning later, leadoff man Ethan Rose singled and raced home when shortstop Sean Smithberger drilled a double.

But Steubenville Central was about to erupt and take control. A leadoff single by shortstop Justin Teramana ignited the Blue and Gold. Catcher Justin Kaufman reached on a fielder's choice and Teramana was safe at second the result of a Noles' misplay.

Leftfielder Ryan Marrow followed by laying down a sacrifice bunt. When the throw to first was off-line, SCC had the bases juiced.

Monroe paid dearly as winning pitcher Brian DeFranco, first baseman Mike Dichazi, centerfielder Aaron Straney and designated hitter Nick Milosevich each delivered run-producing hits.

Batting for the second time in the inning, Teramana tagged an RBI double to right and it was 7-2.

Monroe Central fought back in the top of the fifth. Smithberger and centerfielder Josh Turner both singled before sophomore Adam Masters doubled to plate Smithberger. Turner also scored on a Crusaders' error.

Kuhn drew a base on balls before DeFranco averted further damage by retiring the next two hitters.

Two more Monroe errors led to a pair of insurance tallies in the Crusader fifth. Teramana collected another run batted in, then pulled off a steal of home for what proved the final reading.

DeFranco surrendered eight hits. He chalked up seven strikeouts and permitted five walks. Dichazi delivered a double and two singles. Teramana singled and doubled.

Monroe Central received multi-hit outings from Smithberger, Turner and rightfielder John Schumacher. Line score:  
Monroe 011 020 0 - 4 8 4  
Steub. C. 007 020 x - 9 10 3  
BATTERIES: Highman and Piatt.  
DeFranco and Kaufman.

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