

Linsly wins OVAC 2-A softball title

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

There's a new team among the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2-A ranks, and it likes the view from the top.

Linsly, which for years had competed at the Class A level, captured the Wheeling-based private institution's first OVAC softball championship Saturday afternoon on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers Complex in Elm Grove.

Behind the stingy pitching of senior Megan Byhanna, the top-seeded Lady Cadets (20-2) posted a come-from-behind, 4-1, triumph over No. 6 seed Buckeye Trail (12-6) to secure the gold hardware.

"The girls deserve all the credit," explained Linsly coach Liz Hofreuter-Landini. "They have played well all season."

Byhanna settled down after a shaky start in which she hit two batters, uncorked a pair of wild pitches and allowed a double as the Lady Warriors grabbed a 1-0 lead.

However, Byhanna, who fanned nine and walked none, shook off the first inning blues and set down 13 of 14 batters she faced from the first through the fifth. She also escaped a two-on, two-out situation in the sixth by inducing an inning-ending ground ball.

"She's not super human," Hofreuter-Landini said of Byhanna. "No one's perfect, but sometimes people expect her to be. When she's on she gives confidence to everyone else."

After spotting Buckeye Trail the early advantage, Linsly drew even in its first at-bat when Linden Nelson slapped a one-out infield single and went to second on a wild pitch by the Lady Warriors' Jessica Bates. Caitlyn Johnson followed with a RBI single to right to plate Nelson.

A three-run third inning gave the Lady Cadets some breathing room. Rachel Dodd hit a nubber in front of the plate for an infield single and Nelson ripped a one-out double to left-center field to score what proved to be the game-winner as Dodd circled the bases. Kari Kitchen followed with a two-out triple into the left field corner and she would score on Byhanna's bloop single to shallow center.

Buckeye Trail did threaten in the top of the sixth as Julie Bates reached second when her fly ball to deep right-center couldn't be handled. Brittany McGilton then sliced a single to right, but Bates was cut down trying to score on a fine relay from Lauren Zavatsky to Kitchen to catcher Erika Mitchem.

"We had a couple of opportunities early on that we didn't take advantage of and that hurt," said Buckeye Trail coach Sue Heidelbach, who saw her team's eight-game winning streak halted. "We just couldn't get the big hit when we needed it, but we're young. I'm proud because we play a lot of freshmen."

The 20 wins are a Linsly school record in softball. "I'm proud of these girls," said Hofreuter-Landini.

Linescore:
Buckeye Trail 100 000 0 - 1 6 1
Linsly 103 000 x - 4 8 0
BATTERIES: Jo. Bates and Sells. Byhanna and Mitchem.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
LINSLY third baseman Kayla Seidler reacts after catching a pop up for the final out, giving the Cadets their second-ever OVAC title in softball Saturday.

Cambridge, Central win 4-A and 3-A crowns

AT Lisa's Field, the Lady Cats came back from a 3-0 first inning deficit to overtake Park and win going away by a 9-3 score.

Paige Young came off a shaky start to blank Park the final six frames. She recorded four strikeouts and two walks. Alexa Kafury clubbed a single and double for the victorious Cats. Young aided her cause with a double and two runs batted in. Carly Kehn contributed a two-run single.

Park's Amy Mathieu delivered a two-run single. Sarah Starr accounted for the Lady Patriots other tally in the opening frame.

Cambridge won the school's first softball championship and improved its overall record to 20-3.

Cambridge 020 105 1 - 9 8 1
Wheeling Park 300 000 0 - 3 7 8
BATTERIES: Young and Kehn. Hohman and Heber.

IN CLASS 3-A, Wheeling Central claimed its third consecutive title, but first in its newest class with a 2-1 victory over defending 3-A champion Meadowbrook in nine innings.

Jen Sparachane was brilliant on the mound, striking out 16 and allowing nary a walk. Courtney Beaver delivered the game-winning RBI.

Kinsi Tellep was strong for the Lady Colts, fanning 16 and walking none herself. Kylie Williams had a triple and Alyssa Wright had a RBI single.

Linescore:
Wheeling Central 2, Meadowbrook 1 (9 Inns.)
Wheeling Central 000 000 002 - 2 5 3
Meadowbrook 000 000 001 - 1 4 2
BATTERIES: Sparachane and Schrebe. Tellep and Williams.



MADONNA'S Jen Nogay is tagged out at the plate by St. John's Betsie Smith during the third inning of the Class A championship game Saturday at Lisa's Field. Additional images may be viewed at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

FEELING BLUE

• St. John girls denied record fifth straight OVAC title by Madonna

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

It just wasn't meant to be.

That was the thought of St. John Central softball coach Jerry Magistro following the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A Championship Game Saturday afternoon.

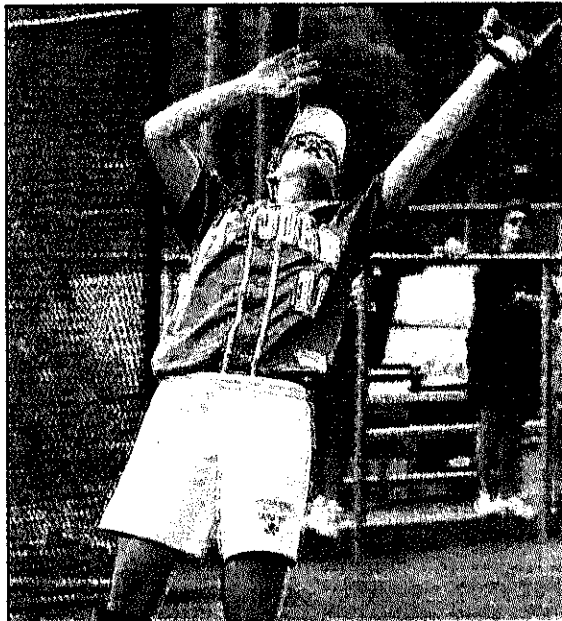
His second-seeded Lady Irish (15-6) had dominated the Class A field during the decade, winning four straight diamond titles and six of seven.

However, all he could do was shake his head after watching his team be dominated by Weirton Madonna's Rebecca Stewart to the tune of 5-0 on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers Complex in Elm Grove.

"This was a lot different from last week," Magistro said of a 12-2 pounding of the Lady Blue Dons in the Undo's Tournament a week earlier. "It just wasn't meant to be today. They out-threw us. I don't know what went wrong, but for some reason we just didn't hit the ball like we have been."

The main reason — Weirton Madonna's freshman hurler.

See, **SJC**, Page C3



ST. JOHN third baseman Sara Wamsley makes a catch of a pop-up in foul territory during Saturday's OVAC 1-A Championship game at Lisa's Field at I-470 Complex.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

● SJC

Continued from Page C1
The fireballer scattered five hits while striking out nine and not allowing a base-on-balls. She needed just 99 pitches to get the job done and St. John only got two runners to third base.

"Rebecca did a fantastic job once again today," offered Weirton Madonna coach Chris Conti. "She's calm for a freshman and has great composure inside the circle. The girls played well behind her, too."

Stewart and her freshman counterpart Bethany Cera were locked in a scoreless duel until the top-seeded Lady Blue Dons broke the ice in the bottom of the third.

Paige Good smashed a one-out double over Brandi

Richards head in left. After the second out was recorded, leadoff hitter Jen Nogay sliced a single down the right field line. When the throw went to first base in an attempt to retire Nogay, Good alertly sprinted home with what turned out to be the game-winning run.

Meanwhile, Stewart, who no-hit Beallsville in the semifinals Thursday, was setting the Lady Irish down. She retired 13 of the first 15 batters she faced.

"We didn't take them lightly," explained Magistro. "I just don't why we played like we did."

Weirton Madonna tacked on a three-spot in the fifth when it collected four of its seven safeties. Good and Nogay had RBI triples in the

inning and the other run scored on a passed ball.

The Lady Blue Dons tacked on an insurance marker in the sixth as Meghan Dulaney singled and scored on Jen Nicka's single.

"The girls played hard today," Conti added. "We pitched well and we played defense well."

Cera struck out five in taking the loss. Kylee Caddel singled twice for the Lady Irish, while Ayla Spoljar doubled. St. John Central hosts Toronto Tuesday.

Linescore:
St. John 000 000 0 — 0 5 0
Madonna 001 031 x — 5 9 1
BATTERIES: Cera and Smith,
Stewart and Myers.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

Park Reaches Final

Patriots set up rematch with Cambridge

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

Winning a championship in sports can be a very tough endeavor.

Defending it can be an even bigger task.

That is the opportunity in front of Wheeling Park softball coach Dee Davis, as her Patriots will get the chance to defend their Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAAA title Saturday morning at the Chamber's I-470 complex.

Senior hurler Mary Hohman fanned eight without issuing a free pass and Park pushed across two runs each in the fifth and sixth innings to defeat Buckeye Local by a 4-0 margin in an OVAC semifinal contest Thursday at Lisa's Field.

Davis' squad (16-6) will go for two in a row at 10:30 a.m. Saturday against Cambridge. Meanwhile, coach Barry Closser's Panthers drop to 16-5 and will play Harrison Central this afternoon.

Defense, or "Dee-fense" if you're Wheeling Park, was the theme of the game, as the two teams took turns making outstanding plays in the field, sending the game to the bottom of the fifth scoreless.

While the Patriots stranded a runner at third in the first and runners at first and second in the third, Buckeye Local missed an opportunity with runners at second and third and one out in the second, failing to push across a run.

Hohman, who allowed three singles, received all the support she needed in the fifth. Junior Shannon Orum led off with a single deep to short, followed by a sharp single to left off the bat of sophomore Taylor Cope.

Elizabeth Kosowski then launched an RBI double to deep left-center, scoring Orum. Cope started home, headed back to third, and looked to head home again before eventually getting thrown out on her way back to third base.

Kosowski eventually moved to third on a fielder's choice and scored on Buckeye Local's first error for a 2-0 advantage.

It was Amy Mathieu's turn to get things going in the sixth for the Patriots with a leadoff single to center. Kait Eckman reached on a one-out error with Mathieu going to third and Eckman reaching second on a throw to third.

Orum plated the third run via a fielder's choice before Cope's third single plated Eckman for a 4-0 score.

"We started getting hits in the fifth and when we start doing that



Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Park third baseman Alyssa Abrigg scoops up a grounder and prepares to make a throw to first Thursday against Buckeye Local.

CLASS AAAA

we have the ability to string some together," Davis said. "It is like a chain reaction and everyone in the lineup can hit the ball.

"Mary really controlled the game on the mound, but if you don't have the people around you to field the ball, pitching means nothing. We stress playing defense and we expect no errors, and I think we did a great job in the field behind Mary."

Kosowski added a single and double and Orum, the team's No. 9 hitter, had two singles and an RBI.

Closser, while disappointed with the loss, was happy with his team's performance and is still expecting big things from his Panthers.

"We got to this point and we earned the right to be with with the No. 4 seed and a spot in the semifinals," the longtime coach said.

Cambridge 3 Edison 2

Sarah Starr had two singles and a triple and Maggie Starr drove in a run while adding three base hits, as Cambridge edged Edison.

Paige Young struck out seven and allowed two runs on two hits for the Bobcats.

Kaitlyn Blake and Ashley Kunkel each had singles for the Wildcats.

Autumn Bendle started and took the loss for Edison (10-7), striking out four with three walks. Her cousin, Ashley Bendle, struck out five in relief.

Cambridge, which improved to 18-2, will be looking for revenge against Wheeling Park. The Patriots handed the Bobcats their first defeat, a 6-0 blanking last Friday.

St. John Back In Class A Title Game

Fighting Irish seek 5th straight Class A trophy

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

Bellaire St. John (15-5) capitalized on mistakes and captured a 6-4 decision in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A semifinal game against Bishop Donahue (14-10) on Thursday afternoon at a sun-splashed I-470 Complex in Elm Grove.

With the victory — its ninth straight and 12th in 13 games — St. John Central will play in its eighth straight Class A championship game. It has won 6 of 7 titles and has taken four consecutive gold trophies.

The Lady Irish will play Weirton Madonna, which defeated Beallsville, 10-0, in the other semifinal Thursday. Game time is tentatively scheduled for 2 p.m. at the same site.

"We hit the ball. When you hit the ball, you're going to make things happen," said St. John Central coach Jerry Magistro, referring to the four crucial Bishops fielding miscues that allowed all six runs to score. "A lot of those hits were hard shots for them to catch."

Trailing 1-0 entering the bottom of the third inning, St. John Central scored three times with two outs.

Freshman Ayla Spoljar drew a walk to open things and went to second when classmate Bethany Cera's infield bloop was misplayed. Senior slugger Jenna Vavra sent a slow roller to second base that seemed to end the rally, but the throw to first was low and skipped away as Spoljar raced home and Cera scooted to third. Senior Sara Wamsley promptly singled to left, and when the ball got past the left fielder, Vavra chugged all the way around the bases to make it 3-1.

Meanwhile, Cera was sailing along after a rocky start. Taylor Barry smacked the first pitch of the game into eight-center field for a triple and scored two batters later on Alexis George's sacrifice fly.

The hard-throwing righty set down 10 of the next 12 batters — 17 of the 21 from the first to the seventh — to keep the Bishops at bay.

In fact, she was so dominant she needed just 63 pitches through six frames (she ended with 93 after a sloppy seventh), with 72 of those being strikes. She did not go to Ball 3 on any batter and struck out eight, including the final out of the game looking with a runner on second.

"She does a good job," Magistro said of Cera. "And with (assistant coach) Ben (Taylor) calling the pitches ... He does good because he tells her where to throw them.

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

Class AAAA
Wheeling Park vs. Cambridge, 10:30 a.m.
Class AA
Linsly vs. Buckeye Trail, 12:15 p.m.
Class A
Weirton Madonna vs. Bellaire St. John, 2 p.m.
Class AAA
Meadowbrook vs. Wheeling Central, 3:45 p.m.

CLASS A

That helps out a lot too.

"She's young, only a freshman, but I said that if we could win early that, if we keep our hitting the way it has been, we'd be all right. "We've been hitting better than probably anybody in the valley for the last two weeks, and that has been the key to our winning."

That potent hitting was evident in the bottom of the sixth when the Irish struck for three of their seven runs, but two key errors led to three more unearned runs and a seemingly safe 6-1 advantage with three outs remaining.

Bishop Donahue didn't go quietly as Sammi Burciasa reached on an error leading off. She advanced to third on Cassie Campbell's double to center field. It looked as though the Lady Irish would escape further harm as pinch-hitter Sara Carpenter sent a roller to second that went through the legs of the second baseman as two runs raced home. Barry followed with a double to make it 6-4, but that was as close as the Lady Bishops got.

"When you're playing a team like St. John you can't (make mistakes). I don't know how many errors we had, probably four or five at least. You can't do that against them," Bishop Donahue coach Curt Mele said.

"This is supposed to be their down year. I wish I could have down years like they're having," he joked, "but Jerry and his coaching staff, probably the best in the valley, do a good job with their girls."

Weirton Madonna 10 Beallsville 0

Weirton Madonna's Rebecca Stewart came two walks shy of a perfect game as she no-hit Beallsville through five innings in a Blue Dons victory.

Stewart had seven strikeouts for Madonna (16-5), which scored four runs in the fourth inning and six in the fifth in the mercy-rule-shortened contest.

Jen Nogay led the Dons at the plate with a trio of singles, while Samantha Myers added two base hits.

Emily Velto, Erin Birkheimer, Nikki Glover, Jen Nicka and Paige Good also got into the act, each supplying a base hit in Madonna's 10-hit attack.

SPORTS

Friday,
April 25, 2008Wheeling
Park tops
BuckeyeBy TRACY WATSON
For The Times Leader

Winning a championship in sports can be a very tough endeavor. However, defending it can be an even bigger task.

But that is the opportunity in front of Wheeling Park head softball coach Dee Davis as her Patriots will get the chance to defend their Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4-A title Saturday morning at the Chamber's I-470 complex.

Senior hurler Mary Hohman fanned eight without issuing a free pass and the Park pushed across two runs each in the fifth and sixth innings as the Patriots defeated Buckeye Local by a 4-0 margin in an entertaining OVAC semifinal contest Thursday afternoon at Lisa's Field.

Davis' 16-6 record squad will go for two in a row Saturday at 10:30 a.m. against Cambridge, which dispatched Edison, 3-2, in the nightcap. Meanwhile, coach Barry Closser's Panthers drop to 16-5 on the season and will play Harrison Central this afternoon.

Defense, or "Deefense" if you're Wheeling Park, was the theme of the game Thursday as the two teams took turns making outstanding plays in the field, sending the game to the bottom of the fifth scoreless.

While the Patriots stranded a runner at third in the first and runners at first and second in the third, Buckeye missed a golden opportunity with runners at second and third and one out in the second, failing to push across a run.

Hohman, who allowed just three singles in the game, got all the support she would need in the fifth. Junior



BUCKEYE LOCAL second baseman Shelby Bartrug records a force out as Wheeling Park's Caitlin Jividen slides in during the early innings of their Class 4-A OVAC semifinal game at Lisa's Field at the I-470 Complex in Elm Grove. Additional images may be viewed at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

'I'm sure we'll have our hands full again Saturday (with St. John).'

—Madonna's
Chris Conti

Madonna
roughs up
Beallsville
in Class ABy RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

After losing mound ace Casey Magnone to graduation, Weirton Madonna's Chris Conti figured some growing pains were in order for his Lady Blue Dons. Not necessarily the case.

Not with freshman Rebecca Stewart on the hill. The first-year flash fired her fourth no-hitter of the spring, sparking Madonna's 10-0, five-inning KO of Beallsville in OVAC 1-A semifinal play Thursday evening.

"Rebecca had a tough act to follow all right, but she's more than done the job," Conti remarked. "She has a great attitude and work ethic for a player so young."

Not only did Beallsville fail to collect a hit off Stewart, the Lady Devils were unable to hit a ball out of the infield. Coach Deb Street's team staged a pair of mild rallies, nevertheless, but was unable to dent the scoreboard.

Thursday's decision results in a Madonna-St. John Central Saturday afternoon (2:00) matchup for the conference title.

"We lost to St. John's (12-2) in the Undo's event and have all kinds of respect for them," Conti acknowledged. "I'm sure we'll have our hands full again Saturday."

Beallsville's Cheyenne Moore worked a near effortless first three frames before things quickly disintegrated. Madonna bunched four hits and took advantage of a Beallsville error to take a 4-0 lead.

Designated hitter Jen Nicka singled home teammate Nikki Glover. Second baseman Paige Good also came through with a run-scoring hit. A ground ball off the bat of rightfielder Devon McCune made it 3-0 before centerfieler Jen Nogay capped the uprising with a single to centerfield.

In the top of the fifth, Beallsville threatened to respond. Moore reached on a Blue Don misplay and Mariah Marley worked a base on balls. But Stewart responded with consecutive Ks, then retired leadoff hitter Latara Arnold to end the inning.

The West Virginians returned to bat around in their half of the inning, eventually ending the game on a run-scoring single by third baseman Emily Velto. Nogay preceded that play with a two-run base knock. Two other runs crossed home via wild pitches.

Nogay collected three singles and Velto contributed a pair. Stewart finished with seven strikeouts and two walks.

Beallsville 000 00 — 0 0 2
Madonna 000 46 — 10 9 2
BATTERIES: Moore, Marley (5) and Groves. Stewart and Myers.

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleader.com



St. John back in Class A title game

• Unearned runs spark Lady Irish past Bishop Donahue, 6-4

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

Cincinnati had the "Big Red Machine" in the late '70s. Bellaire has the "Green Machine" in the 2000s and it kept on rolling Thursday afternoon at a sun-splashed I-470 Complex in Elm Grove.

The No. 2-seeded Lady Irish (15-5) capitalized upon each Bishop Donahue (14-10) mistake in capturing a 6-4 decision in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A semifinal softball game.

With the victory — its ninth straight and 12th in 13 games — St. John Central will play in its eighth straight Class A championship game. It has won six of seven titles and has taken home four consecutive gold trophies.

The Lady Irish will face top-seeded Weirton Madonna (16-5), which run-ruled No. 5 seed Beallsville, 10-0 in five innings, in the other semifinal Thursday. Game time has been scheduled for 2 p.m. at the same facility.

"We hit the ball. When you hit the ball, you're going to make things happen," said St. John Central coach Jerry Magistro, referring to the four crucial Lady Bishops' fielding miscues that allowed all six runs to score. "A lot

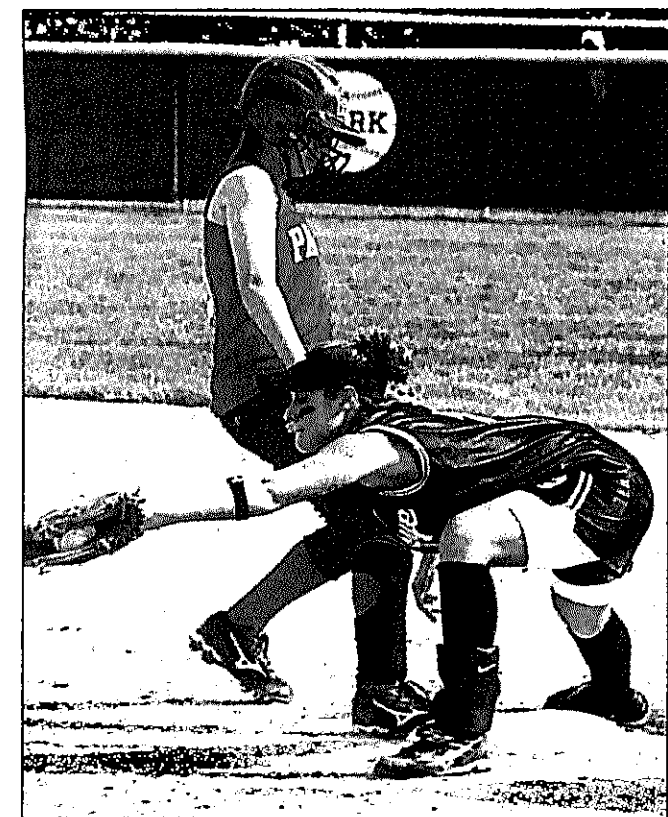
'This is supposed to be (St. John's) down year. I wish I could have a down year like they're having'

—Donahue's
Curt Mele



ST. JOHN'S leftfielder Brandi Richards watches a ball into her glove during the first inning of the Lady Irish's game against Bishop Donahue Thursday afternoon in Elm Grove. Additional images may be viewed at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

BUCKEYE LOCAL first baseman Kristen Koles attempts to retire a Park base runner on a pick-off play during their Class 4-A OVAC Softball game Thursday night.

● Park

Continued from Page B1

Shannon Orum would lead off with a single deep to short followed by a sharp single to left off the bat of sophomore Taylor Cope.

Elizabeth Kosowski would then launch a RBI double to deep left-centerfield scoring Orum, however, Cope started home, head back to third and look to head home again before eventually getting thrown out on her way back to third base.

"I honestly don't know what she was thinking, when I send a runner home I expect them to go home," Davis admitted. "If you get thrown out that is my fault, but I have never called a runner back to third. Luckily losing that run didn't hurt us."

Kosowski eventually moved to third on a fielder's choice and score on Buckeye Local's first error of the day for a 2-0 reading.

It would be Amy Mathieu's turn to get things going in the sixth for the designated hosts with a leadoff single to center. Kaitlin Eckman would reach on a one-out error with Mathieu going to third and Eckman reaching second on a throw to third.

Orum plated the third tally with a fielder's choice before Cope's third single of the game drove in Eckman for a 4-0 score.

"We started getting hits in the fifth and when we start doing that we have the ability to string some together," Davis added. "It is like a chain reaction and everyone in the lineup can hit the ball."

"Mary (Hohman) really controlled the game on the mound, but if you don't have the people around you to field the ball pitching means nothing. We stress playing defense and we expect no errors and I think we did a great job in the field behind Mary today."

While Cope finished with three singles, Kosowski added a single and double and Orum, the team's No. 9 hitter, had two singles and an RBI.

Closser, while disappointed with his team's loss, was happy with their performance and is still expecting big things from his Panthers.

"We got to this point and we earned the right to be with the number 4 seed and a spot in the semifinals," the long-time head coach commented. "Obviously we wanted to win today, and I think we played championship style softball, but it just wasn't meant to be. This is a great team and a great group of kids and they are a pleasure to be around."

"This team still has a lot of softball to play and it all gets started tomorrow (Friday) against Harrison Central. I would also like to congratulate Wheeling Park, they have an outstanding softball team."

Linescore:
Buckeye Local 000 000 0 — 0 3 2
Wheeling Park 000 022 x — 4 8 2
BATTERIES: Clark, Koran (6) and Wojchowski. Hohman and Haber.

OVAC 4-A SEMIFINAL CAMBRIDGE 3 EDISON 2 (9 Inn)

CAMBRIDGE tallied in the bottom of the ninth inning to outlast Edison and advance to Saturday's championship encounter vs. Park.

Paige Young fired a complete game two-hitter to record the mound decision. She totaled seven strikeouts and three walks. Edison ace Ashley Bendle also worked the route, fanning four and walking three.

Sarah Starr tagged a triple and two singles for Cambridge, now 18-2. Maggie Starr supported with a three-hit outing.

Edison 000 200 000 — 2 2 3
Cambridge 101 000 001 — 3 9 2
BATTERIES: Young and Kehn. Bendle and Leggett.

● Morgan

Continued from Page B1

ers in not only the area or state, but the United States. Morgan competed here at the prestigious Penn Relays in the 1600 meter run and came into the meet with the 12th

● Track

Continued from Page B1

The Lady Patriots were fueled to their title by victories in four events, including two open races.

Hannah Gompers got things rolling for the Lady Patriots with a victory in the 100 meter high hurdles in a time of 16.2. Dashayla Bell claimed the 100 meter dash in a solid 12.7 clocking.

The Lady Patriots' 4x200 team of Bell, Monae Walker, Caitlin O'Leary and Austyn Creighton out-leaned St. John at the line for the victory in the 800 relay. The four-some posted a 1:48.4 for the win.

The Lady Patriots put the finishing touches on their title with a win in the 100-meter shuttle relay. The team of Alicia Bonar, Ashley Dolan, Gompers and Miranda Rios teamed to clear 40 timbers in 1:07.8.

Steubenville Catholic also won four events over the course of the 18-event meet.

Bernadette Dubois led the Lady Crusaders with a pair of victories. She won the 400 meter with a time of 62-flat. She then won the 200 with a solid 26.4 clocking.

Catholic Central's Jane Clare Vosteen was the winner in the high jump, soaring over 5-ft-2 and edging out Harrison Central's Ericka Skinner on the number of misses.

The Lady Crusaders also won the 4x400 meter relay in a time of 4:20.3. The team of DuBois, Jane Crosby, Cassy Stevens and Christina Homol posted the effort.

St. John Central still managed to win three events. The Lady Irish's only individual win came in the field where junior ace Justene Delman continued her dominance in the long jump. She marked the sand at 16-ft-3 for the title.

The Lady Irish then won the 4x800 relay. The team of Natalie Perzanowski, Kelly Perzanowski, Jamie Perzanowski and Sarah Kosky joined forces for a 10:05.3.

The Lady Green's crack 4x100 team of Kylie Kidder, Emily Hawthorne, Alexis Campbell and Delman passed the baton around the track to a school-record time of 50.6.

Bellaire's Megan Green was the top field scorer in the meet. She claimed her usual 20 points, winning both the shot put and discus titles with marks of 38-ft-1 and 124-ft-5.

Barnesville's lone winner came in the 800 meter run where junior Karly Jones posted a solid 2:28.3 for the win.

The aforementioned Skinner shook off the high jump and came back later in the day to win the 3200 meter run in a time of 12:35.7 for the Lady Huskies' lone victory.

Shadyside's lone victory came from freshman phenom Kelsey Holloway who posted a 48.0 to win the 300 meter low hurdles.

River's Kelsey Krempasky won the pole vault with a clearance of 8-feet.

Wheeling Central's Claire Caruso won the 1600 meter run in a time of 5:52.9.

Staskey can be reached at staskey@timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

ST. JOHN'S Betsie Smith dives back into first ahead of the tag of Bishop Donahue's Stephanie Kudla during the first inning of their OVAC Class 1-A semifinal game at the Chambers' I-470 Complex in Elm Grove. Additional images may be viewed at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● SJC

Continued from Page B1

Trailing 1-0 entering the bottom of the third inning, St. John Central scored three times with two outs.

Freshman Ayla Spoljar drew a full-count walk to open things and went to second when classmate Bethany Cera's infield bloop was misplayed. Senior slugger Jenna Vavra sent a slow roller to second base that seemed to end the rally, but the throw to first was low and skipped away as Spoljar raced home and Cera scooted to third. Senior Sara Wamsley promptly singled to left, and when the ball got past the leftfielder, Vavra chugged all the way around the bases to make it 3-1.

Meanwhile, Cera was sailing along after a rocky start. Taylor Barry smacked the first pitch of the game into right-center field for a triple and scored two batters later on Alexis George's sacrifice fly.

The hard-throwing righty set down 10 of the next 12 straight batters — 17 of the 21 from the first to the seventh — to keep the Lady Bishops at bay.

In fact, she was so dominant that she needed just 63 pitches through six frames (she ended with 93 after a sloppy seventh), with 72 of those being strikes. She did not go to ball three on any batter and struck out eight, including the final out of the game looking with a runner on second.

"She does a good job," Magistro said of Cera. "And with (assistant coach) Ben (Taylor) calling the pitches ... he does good because he tells her where to throw them. That helps out a lot, too."

"She's young, only a freshman, but I said that if we could win early that, if we keep our hitting the way it has been, we'd be alright. "We've been hitting better than

probably anybody in the valley for the last two weeks, and that has been the key to our winning."

That potent hitting was evident in the bottom of the sixth when the Green-and-White struck for three of their seven safeties, but two key errors led to three more unearned runs and a seemingly safe, 6-1, advantage with just three outs remaining.

However, Bishop Donahue didn't go quietly as Sammi Burciosa reached on an error leading off. She advanced to third on Cassie Campbell's double to center field. It looked as though the Lady Irish would escape further harm as pinch-hitter Sara Carpenter sent a roller to second that went through the legs of the second baseman as two runs raced home. Barry followed with a double to make it 6-4, but that was as close as the Lady Bishops would get.

"When you're playing a team like St. John you can't afford (I don't know how many) errors we had, probably four or five at least. You can't do that against them," said Bishop Donahue's Curt Mele.

"This is supposed to be their down year. I wish I could have down years like they're having," he joked, "but Jerry and his coaching staff are probably the best in the valley and do a good job with their girls."

He also praised his team's play. "I'm very proud how we battled back and never quit," Mele added. "I just wished we hadn't had to battle back, but ..."

Linescore:
Bishop Donahue 100 000 3 — 4 6 4
St. John Central 003 003 x — 6 7 2
BATTERIES: Blazer and Legg. Cera and Smith.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

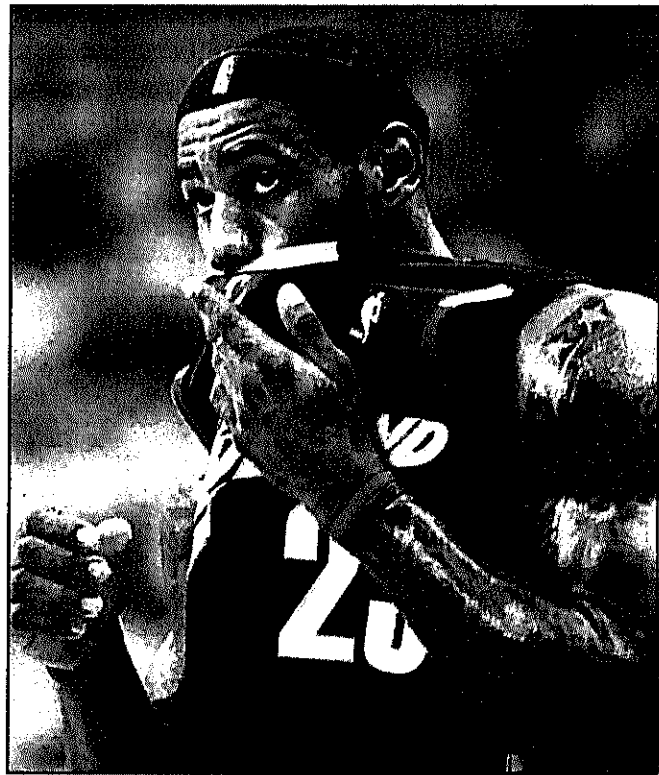
Cleveland drilled by Wizards in Game 3

WASHINGTON (AP) — LeBron James couldn't say the words without cracking up. He tried twice. The thought was just too silly to fathom.

"There's no DeShawn-LeBron rivalry," James said.

Maybe not. But the back-and-forth between the Cleveland Cavaliers megastar and Washington Wizards role player DeShawn Stevenson sure has made their first-round playoff series entertaining. If nothing else, it had a teenage rapper dancing in the aisle in the second half of Washington's 108-72 victory in Game 3 on Thursday night.

The rapper is Soulja Boy, who ought to give James and Stevenson some royalties from his next CD because he couldn't buy better publicity than this. He was in Row 1 at the invitation of Stevenson, his big hit "Crank Dat" was played on the sound system, and — in part because of him



AP PHOTO

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS' LeBron James wipes his

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

SPORTS

Meadowbrook, Trail advance to OVAC title games

Tellep fans 18 as Lady Colts edge Magnolia; MHS to face Wheeling Central in title tilt

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

ELM GROVE, W. VA. — Not rain, nor lightning, nor her team's lack of hitting could deter Meadowbrook High junior Kinsi Tellep as she played the role of mailcarrier and delivered big-time to lead the Lady Colts to a 2-1 victory over Magnolia in the OVAC Class 3-A semifinals at the Chambers I-470 Complex on Wednesday.

With the victory, Meadowbrook (13-4) advances to the championship game on Saturday and will have a chance to go back-to-back when it faces always-tough Wheeling Central (21-2), a 4-0 winner over Oak Glen in Wednesday's other Class 3-A semifinal game.

Despite a couple of early-game delays for rain and lightning, Tellep (13-3) was in top form as she recorded a whopping 18 strikeouts while allowing just four Magnolia hits and one walk.

"Phenomenal," Meadowbrook coach Bridget George said of Tellep's performance. "She handled the pressure and challenged their hitters. It was just a phenomenal job. She had her 'A' game tonight, that's for sure."

Magnolia (15-9) scored an unearned run in the top of the first inning, but that was all they would get. Leadoff hitter Alicia Hinerman reached on a strikeout-passed ball, moved to second on a single by shortstop Bree Carr and scored on an RBI single by catcher Kayla Brill, but Tellep fanned the next three hitters for a four-strikeout inning to avoid fur-

MEADOWBROOK 2, MAGNOLIA 1
Magnolia: 100 000 0 — 1 1 1
Meadowbrook: 100 100 x — 2 1 1
Tory Greene (LP, 3 Ks, 4 BB) and Kayla Brockmeier, Jessica Bates (WP 8-4, 3 Ks, 2 BB) and Dani Belle.
RECORDS—Magnolia 15-9; Meadowbrook 13-4.
STAT LEADERS—For Magnolia: Brill, single, RBI; Alicia Hinerman, single, run; Bree Carr, single; Cassie Neff, single. For Meadowbrook: Candace Neff, single, run; Williams, run.

ther damage.

Meadowbrook evened the score at 1-1 in the bottom of the first as catcher Kylee Williams walked; raced from first to third on a wild pitch and scored on another wild pitch.

The Lady Colts made the most of their only hit of the game — a leadoff single by shortstop Candace Neff — in the third

inning for the eventual game-winning run. Williams followed with a perfect sacrifice bunt, advancing Neff to second and then a grounder off the ball of Tellep went through an infielder's legs and Neff scampered home to put MHS on top, 2-1.

Magnolia got a two-out single by Hinerman and a walk to Carr in the fifth, but Tellep ended that threat with a "K" and then in the seventh, a lead-off single by rightfielder Cassie Neff who was then bunted to second went for naught as an infield popup ended the ballgame.

"We didn't do much offensively," George admitted, "but we did get the sacrifice down when we needed it and Kinsi pretty much did the rest."

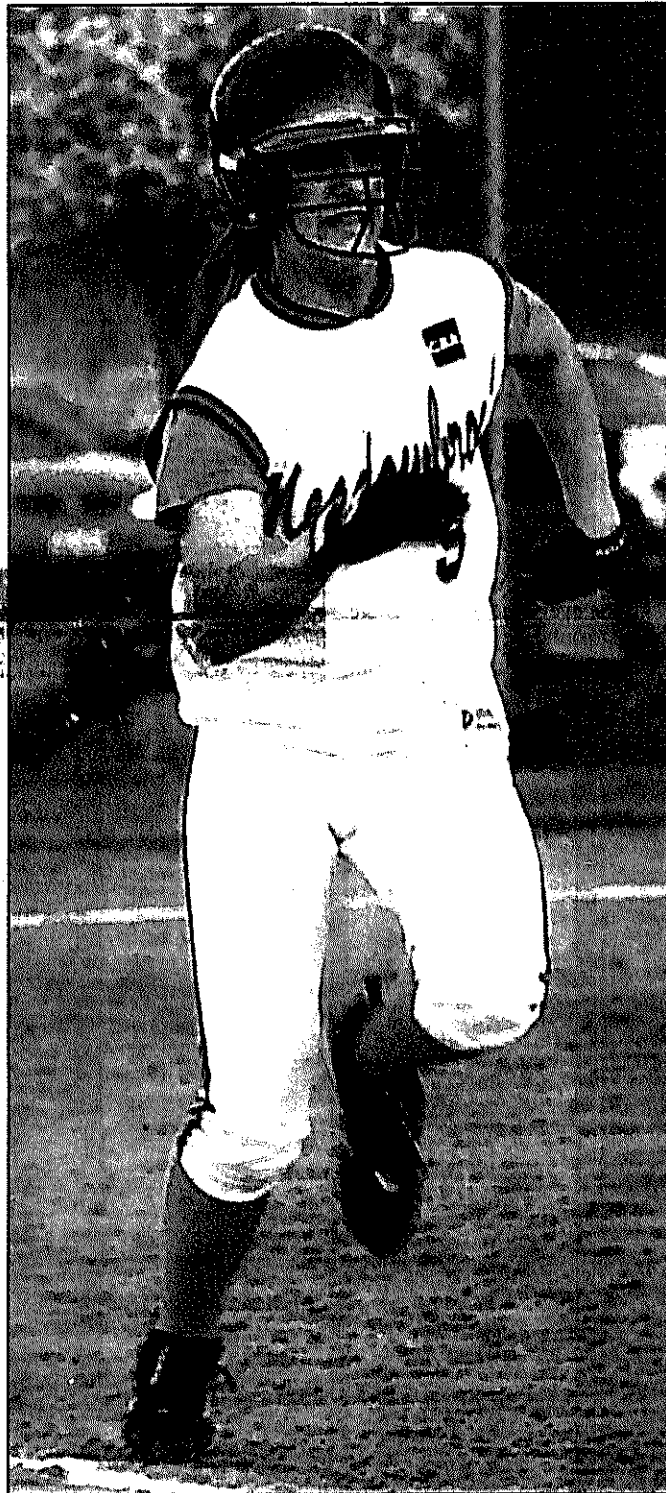
Magnolia pitcher Tory Greene was saddled with the hard-luck loss. She allowed just the one hit, struck out three and walked four.

Looking ahead to Saturday,

See MHS page B-4



Sarah Hannahs/The Daily Jeffersonian/www.buyjeffphotos.com
Buckeye Trail High's Julie Bates connects for a grand slam home run during Wednesday's 11-4 victory over Fort Frye in the OVAC Class 2-A semifinals in Elm Grove, W. Va. It was Bates' fifth home run of the season.



Sarah Hannahs/The Daily Jeffersonian/www.buyjeffphotos.com
Meadowbrook High's Candace Neff heads to first after getting a third innings single during the OVAC Class 3-A semifinal game against Magnolia in Elm Grove, W. Va. Neff later scored what proved to be the game-winning run as the Lady Colts won, 2-1.

Lady Warriors get offensive in 11-4 romp over Fort Frye, to face Linsly for 2-A crown

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

ELM GROVE, W. Va. — Buckeye Trail got downright offensive in its OVAC Class 2-A semifinal game and never even let Fort Frye get settled in, putting up five runs in the first inning en route to an 11-4 romp at the Chambers I-470 Complex on Wednesday.

Buckeye Trail (10-5) will take a five-game winning streak into Saturday's OVAC 2-A title game against Linsly (19-2), which defeated Cameron by a 5-1 count in Wednesday's other semifinal.

"We pounded the ball pretty well again tonight," said Buckeye Trail coach Sue Heidelbaugh after her team collected eight hits and had a pair of five-run innings in the victory. "It was 5-0 before they even blinked."

In the first inning, Trail got a leadoff single from Traci Alt. Alexa Abrams was then hit by a pitch and on back to back fielder's choices, Fort Frye failed to record an out, with Alt scoring on the second attempt.

Up stepped Trail first baseman Julie Bates with the bases loaded and she promptly delivered a resounding grand slam home run, giving the Lady Warriors a 5-0 advantage.

Fort Frye (8-5) got two runs back in the third inning, with Lady Cadets' pitcher Kourtney Booth getting an RBI single and the second run scoring on a Trail error.

Trail broke things open with five more in the third frame. Bates started with a walk

BUCKEYE TRAIL 11; FORT FRYE 4
Fort Frye: 002 002 0 — 4 8 2
Buckeye Trail: 506 010 x — 11 8 5
Kourtney Booth (LP, 7 Ks, 5 BB) and Krista Brockmeier, Jessica Bates (WP 8-4, 3 Ks, 2 BB) and Dani Belle.
RECORDS—Fort Frye 8-2; Buckeye Trail 10-5.
STAT LEADERS—For Fort Frye: Daniels, Lang, double, single; Booth, single, RBI; run; Kacey Stacy, triple, run; Krista Brockmeier, single, RBI; Maurice Fouca, run; Kelsey Hanson, run. For Buckeye Trail: Traci Alt, two singles, three runs, two stolen bases; Bates, two singles, three RBI, run; Alexa Abrams, single, RBI, two runs; Julie Bates, grand slam home run, four RBI, two runs; Kaylie Warnock, two singles, two RBI, run; stolen bases; Cori Poland, run; Flory Cox, run.

and was bunted to second by Brittney McGilton. Cori Poland then walked and both runners moved up on a ground-out before Kaylie Warnock delivered a two-run single.

Alt then walked and Abrams singled up the middle to drive in

Warnock with the third run of the inning, with Alt racing to third and Abrams taking second on the play. Catcher Dani Sells then followed with a two-run single to score Alt and Abrams and extend Trail's lead to 10-2.

Fort Frye trimmed the gap to 10-4 in the sixth on a triple by Kacey Stack; a hit batsman to Kelsey Hanson; an RBI single by Krista Brockmeier and an error.

Trail closed the scoring in the bottom of the sixth when Alt singled; moved to second on a wild pitch and third via a stolen base and then scored on a sacrifice fly-RBI by Sells.

Jessica Bates (6-4) picked up the pitching with a complete-game effort. She struck out five and walked two. Booth took the loss for the Lady Cadets with seven Ks and six walks.

Alt, Sells and Warnock each

See BTHS page B-4



Sarah Hannahs/The Daily Jeffersonian/www.buyjeffphotos.com
Several Buckeye Trail players celebrate after an out during Wednesday's OVAC Class 2-A semifinal game against Fort Frye in Elm Grove, W. Va. The Lady Warriors posted an 11-4 win to advance to Saturday's championship game against Linsly.



Sarah Hannahs/The Daily Jeffersonian/www.buyjeffphotos.com
Meadowbrook High's Kylee Williams takes a swing during Wednesday's OVAC Class 3-A semifinal game against Magnolia in Elm Grove, W. Va. Also in the play is Magnolia catcher Kayla Brill. The Lady Colts advanced with a 2-1 victory and will face Wheeling Central in the title game on Saturday.

SPORTS

Tuesday
April 22, 2008

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

Tellep's one-hitter leads Meadowbrook to 7-0 OVAC 3-A quarterfinal win over Union Local

JASON MILLER
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

BYESVILLE — A strong defensive performance combined with clutch hitting lifted the Meadowbrook High Lady Colts to a 7-0 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3-A quarterfinal win over Union Local on Monday.

"We have been stressing defense all year and it really came through tonight," Meadowbrook head coach Bridget George expressed. "I'm really proud of my defense. Chelsey (Roberts) did a great job and was able to field pretty much anything that came to her.



Jessica Neuhart/The Daily Jeffersonian/www.buyjeffphotos.com
Meadowbrook's Kylee Williams lays down a bunt and heads for first during Monday's OVAC Class 3-A quarterfinal game against Union Local in Byesville.

Union Local bunted quite a few times to keep us off balance, but Chelsey didn't falter and did a great job.

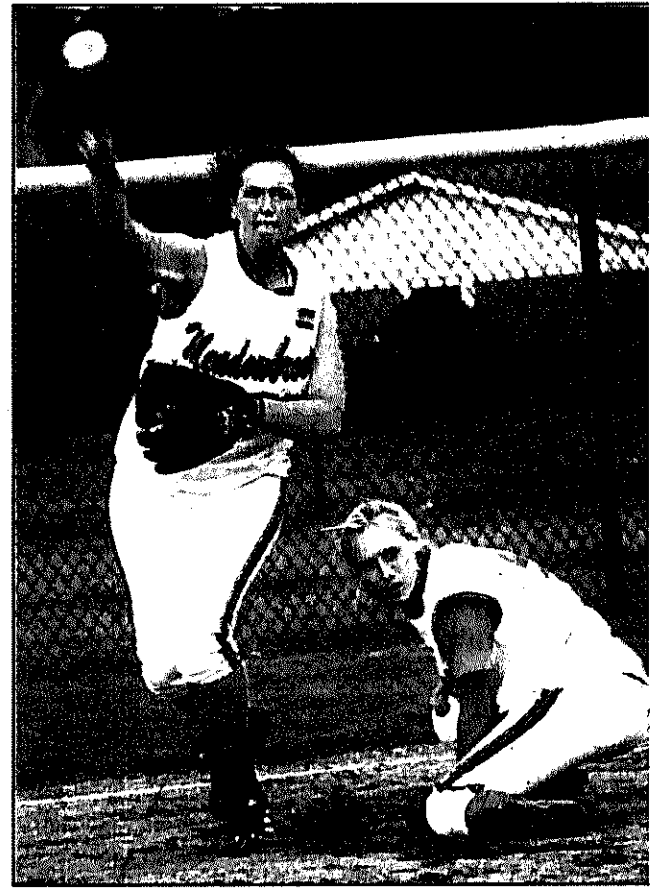
"We came through with some clutch hitting," the Lady Colts' skipper went on. "We've been stressing to the girls not to leave baserunners on, and we came up with some clutch hits. Alyssa (Wright) and Kinsi (Tellep) hit the ball really well tonight."

Wright blasted a pair of doubles and drove in two, while Tellep laced two singles and had two RBI.

In addition to her offensive spark, Tellep tossed a complete-game one-hitter en route to her 11th victory of the year. The junior hurler fanned 12, including eight in a row, in seven innings of work.

"Kinsi pitched a great game," George praised. "She pitched tough tonight and hit her spots well, allowing the defense to make plays. She is the glue that holds this team together.

See MHS page B-4



Jessica Neuhart/The Daily Jeffersonian/www.buyjeffphotos.com
Meadowbrook High third baseman Chelsey Roberts throw to first as pitcher Kinsi Tellep looks on during Monday's 7-victory over Union Local in the OVAC Class 3-A quarterfinals in Byesville.

MEADOWBROOK 7, UNION LOCAL 0
Union Local: 000 000 0—0 1 3
Meadowbrook: 021 004 x—7 8 0
Lindsay Bowman (LP, 0 Ks, 1 BB), Kate Davis (4th, 1 Ks, 2 BB) and Sarah Minnich; Kinsi Tellep (WP, 11-3, 12 Ks, 0 BB) and Kyle Williams.
RECORDS—Union Local 4-12; Meadowbrook 17-1.
STAT LEADERS—For Union Local, Katie Lucas, single. For Meadowbrook, Candace Neff, single, RBI, run; Williams, single, run; Tolson, 2 singles, 2 RBI; Audrey Barco, 2 runs; Alyssa Wright, 2 doubles, 2 RBI; Bekka Snyder, double, run; Courtney Shipman, run; Kayla Francis, double; Ashley Clark, single, run, stolen base.

Young spins two-hitter, Cambridge registers 3-1 win over Indian Creek in OVAC 4-A play

TODD MELL
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

Despite a lack of offense on either side, the Cambridge High Lady Bobcats picked up a win in the first round of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4-A over visiting Indian Creek on Monday, 3-1.

The Lady 'Cats (17-1) earned only one run, but capitalized on a pair of errors by the Lady Redskins (6-8), who scored their only run in the final inning of play. Starting hurler Liz Williamson kept Cambridge guessing throughout the game with a nice changeup to compliment her solid heater.

"That was the second left-handed pitcher we've seen this



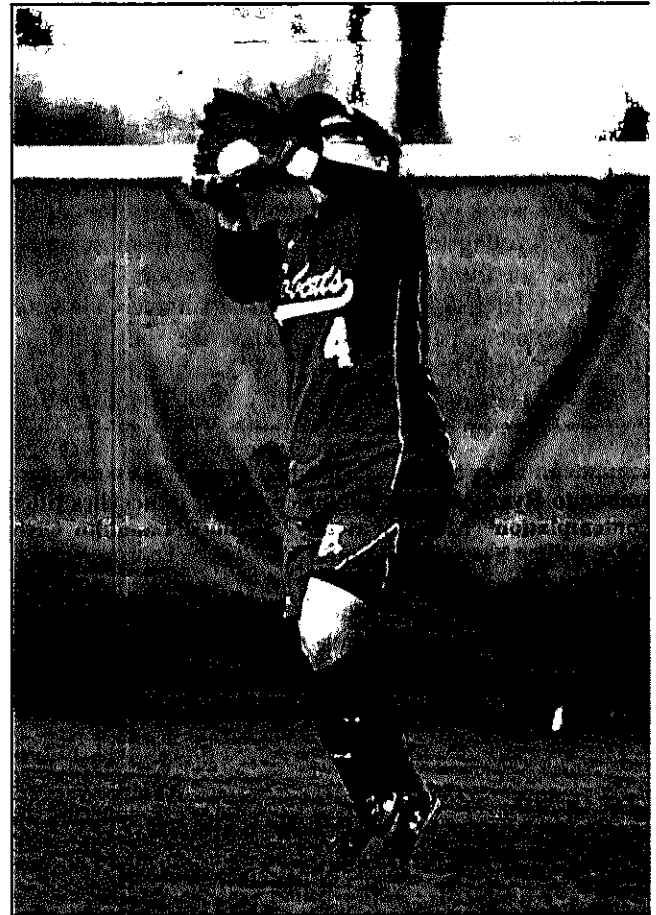
Ryan Pavlov/The Daily Jeffersonian/www.buyjeffphotos.com
Cambridge High's Alexa Kafury connects with the ball during Monday's 3-1 win over Indian Creek in the OVAC Class 4-A quarterfinals.

year and she had us off-balance a little bit," Cambridge head coach Bob Shepard said. "Once we adjusted, we started to put the ball in play. We just have to put the ball in play, and against a decent pitcher - those are the kinds of things we are going to have to do.

"It's nice to have a close game like this because it kind of shows what these kids are made of," Shepard added. "I think we showed defensively tonight that if we have an opportunity to get you out, we are going to get it done. Sarah Starr, Janelle Givens and Alexa Kafury are our seniors and leaders offensively and defensively this year and I'll put our defense up against any defense."

The Cambridge defense allowed just a pair of hits with just one error in the game, partly because of a solid infield error and a lot because of sophomore ace Paige Young. The Lady Bobcats' hurler recorded

See CHS page B-4



Ryan Pavlov/The Daily Jeffersonian/www.buyjeffphotos.com
Cambridge High's Megan Tharp catches a fly ball in the outfield during Monday's OVAC Class 4-A quarterfinal game against Indian Creek.

CAMBRIDGE 3, INDIAN CREEK 1
Indian Creek: 000 000 1—1 2 2
Cambridge: 000 300 x—3 3 1
Liz Williamson (LP, 5 Ks, 8 BB) and Haley Mays; Paige Young (WP, 13-1, 5 Ks, 2 BB) and Carly Kahn.
RECORDS—Indian Creek 6-8; Cambridge 17-1.
STAT LEADERS—For Indian Creek, Shelby Brandon, single; Rachael Hasley, single, RBI; Mays, run. For Cambridge, Lacie Mahley, single, run; Janelle Givens, run; Megan Tharp, single, run, BB; Chanel Ford, RBI; Taryn Peyton, single, BB.

Trail advances; Shenandoah, Barnesville ousted in OVAC play

WOODSFIELD — The Lady Warriors of Buckeye Trail High rallied in the middle innings to overcome a 7-1 deficit to take the lead in the seventh inning and get a 8-7 win over Monroe Central in the first round of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2-A Tournament on Monday.

Trail (8-5) utilized the lower half of the lineup as well as a solid pitching effort from Jessica Bates in relief to overcome the huge deficit and advance in the tourney.

"It was really exciting," Trail head coach Sue Heidlebaugh said. "We just kept chipping away for the last few innings. Jessica (Bates) came in and pitched a good five innings of relief for us, our defense settled down and our bats picked away here and there.

"We left the bases loaded with the top of our order coming up and I thought that was going to spell doom for us, but the bottom of our order really stepped up for us - especially Cory

Poland." The powerful Lady Seminoles (11-4) scored a pair of runs in the first inning and five more in the third to take a commanding 7-1 lead, but thanks to Jessica Bates and the Buckeye Trail defense, Monroe Central wouldn't get on the board again.

In the fourth inning, Kaylie Warnock hit a sac fly to score Brittney McGilton after she walked with one out. Then, with two on and two out, Traci Alt to load the bases once again. The Lady Warriors scored again when Alexa Abrams was hit by a pitch to send Lacey Tidrick home, cutting the deficit to 7-3.

Julie Bates drilled a one-out homer to start the scoring in the fifth before McGilton was walked again. After a stolen base, McGilton scored on a Tidrick double, drawing the Lady Warriors even closer at 7-5.

One more run came in the sixth when Alt

reached second on a fielding error and Rory Cox doubled the run home. In the final at-bat, McGilton reached on yet another base-on-balls before stealing second base once more. Tidrick reached on a single and advanced on an error. To tie the game, Poland came through and drove in both runs with a double and then scored on a Warnock two-bagger, giving the Lady Warriors an 8-7 advantage thanks to the help of the bottom of the lineup.

With the win, Trail advances to the semifinals of the OVAC Tournament on Wednesday at 6:30 to take on the winner of Fort Frye-Steubenville Catholic Central, which takes place today at 5 p.m. due to a postponement.

"We've already played Fort Frye once and we always have tough games with them," Heidlebaugh offered. "We haven't seen Steubenville Catholic, but they always have a solid program. We just have to get out there and put a solid defense out

there. We need to get our bats going and I am ju looking for a good game.

"Last year, we got to the semifinals in the OVA tourney, and our goal is to win it this year," th coach added. "We control our own destiny."

NEXT— Buckeye Trail and Monroe Central square off again today in Pioneer Valley Conference play, this time in Old Washington at 5 p.m.

Cameron 3, Shenandoah 0
CAMERON, W. Va. — Homestanding Cameron got a no-hitter from pitcher Devan Shields and big offensive game from Morgan Hughes to claim a 3-0 OVAC quarterfinal victory over the Shenandoah Lady Zeps on Monday.

Shields recorded 12 strikeouts and three walk in pitching the "no-no".

"They had a great pitcher," Shenandoah coach Allen Franklin stated. "We didn't get to hit th

See SOFTBALL page B-



Lady Colts top UL in OVAC 3-A pl

MHS from page B-1

"She dominated them," George said about the eight straight batters Tellep fanned. "I don't think they were even close to hitting the fast ball. Kylee (Williams) also called a nice game from behind the dish. She moved the ball around and caught the corners."

Meadowbrook (11-4) built an early 2-0 lead in the second frame. Junior Beka Snyder led the inning off with double down the left line. Snyder would eventually come around to score when freshman Courtney Shipman reached via fielding error by the Lady Jets' first baseman. Later on in the frame, Shipman crossed the plate on an infield single by sophomore Candace Neff.

Tellep led off the third with a base hit to the shortstop, and then advanced to second on a throwing error by the middle infielder. Wright then drove in pinch-runner Audrey Beros from second on an RBI double to increase the MHS lead to 3-0.

The Lady Colts' offense erupted for four more insurance runs in the sixth to put the contest out of reach. Freshman Ashley Clark began the two-out rally with a single through the infield. After stealing second, Clark scored when the Union Local right fielder dropped a Neff fly ball. With runners on second and third, Tellep blasted a two RBI single to widen the gap extend the lead (6-0).

Beros, who once again pinch ran for Tell knocked in by another RBI double by Williams to make it a 7-0 game.

The Lady Jets (4-12) broke up the perfect when Katie Lucas dropped a single in the third inning.

UL pitcher Lindsey Bowman suffered the loss. Bowman threw three innings, gave up two runs (one earned) on four hits and walks. Kate Davis pitched the final three, allowing two unearned runs on five hits, walked two and struck out one.

With the victory, Meadowbrook will take the Class 3-A title. Magnolia, which defeated Harrison Central on Wednesday in an OVAC Class 3-A semifinal, will play for the state title in a contest at 6:30 p.m.

"We told the girls we need to play error-free just like we did tonight," the Lady Colts' coach said. "We need to be ready to go because the next game is going to be an even bigger test." "We don't know a lot about Magnolia," he continued. "We just need to focus on what we can do well, execute and get the job done."

In the other OVAC 3-A quarterfinal, Wheeling Central defeated Martins Ferry, 4-1, and Wheeling Central topped Barnesville, 11-4. Oak Glen faces off with Wheeling Central on Wednesday in the first 3-A semifinal at 5 p.m.

NEXT— Meadowbrook travels to Coshocton for an ECOL contest today at 5 p.m.

Lady 'Cats win OVAC 4-A quarterfinal

CHS from page B-1

five strikeouts and allowed just a pair of hits, both coming in the final inning.

"We were hoping she could get that no-hitter," Shepard admitted. "We wanted to calm her down after the error in the seventh, but the hit after that was clean, and that's the way to lose a no-hitter — with a clean hit. Paige pitched a great game and she has 13 wins so far this year, so she's coming up big for us."

Both pitchers started the game tough, holding each team scoreless and hitless through three frames.

The Lady Braves failed to put anything together in the fourth before Cambridge erupted for three runs. Lacie Mahley singled to start things off and Janelle Givens followed with one of her three free passes in the game. Megan Tharp proceeded to blast a single, scoring Mahley and Givens crossed the plate on an errant throw on a stolen base. Chanel Ford grounded out in the infield to end the final run of the inning for the Lady 'Cats, giving the home team a 3-0 advantage.

Both offenses sputtered until the seventh inning when the Lady Redskins made one final stand. Haley Mays reached on a misplayed ball to right field and scored when Rachael Hasley found

a hole for a single to center. On the same play, Givens came up throwing and gunned Givens' Shelby Brandon — who singled just before — at the plate to end the game.

All three hits for Cambridge came by way of singles from Mahley, Tharp and Taryn Payton. Shepard was obviously thrilled with his team's performance in the game and said that his team needs to continue what it is doing to keep the focus on success.

"We just have to be mentally prepared for every game each day," he commented. "It's important not to look too far ahead, and that's what our team does. You can't forget the team you are playing at the time. We are trying to keep our focus on the game at hand."

With the win, the Lady 'Cats will advance to the OVAC semifinals on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Edison at the I-470 Complex in Elmwood Park, W.Va. Edison defeated John Marshall, 6-0 in a quarterfinal game on Monday.

Also in Class 4-A tournament action, Wheeling Central beat Brooke, 10-0, and will take on Bland in the semifinals.

NEXT— Cambridge returns to ECOL today hosting Claymont at 5 p.m.

Lady Zeps, Lady 'Rocks fall in OVAC

SOFTBALL from page B-1

ball, so we couldn't see how good they really were. We were never able to figure out how to hit the pitches they were throwing and that hurt us. Tonight, they had the better team."

Cameron (11-3) broke on top in the second inning when Hughes blasted an inside-the-park home run over the head of the Shenandoah left fielder.

The Lady Dragons then added a pair of insurance runs in the fourth when Hughes singled and advanced to second on an error. Janet Peterson then laid down a sacrifice bunt to move Hughes to third and Kilie Bungard, who had singled, to second. Jacklyn Peterson then drove them both home with a two-run single to provide the 3-0 shutout win.

Hughes ended the day with the homer, a single and RBI and a run scored. She had offensive help from Kelsey Allen, Lauren Siburt, Bungard and Jacklyn Peterson with singles, with the Peterson safety driving in a pair of runs.

Shenandoah, bounced from the OVAC tournament, will now turn attentions to preparations for the sectional tournament. The Lady Zeps (7-6) host Barnesville tonight, but will then have some days between games to get back on the practice field.

"We have a nice stretch where we will be able to practice in between games, so hopefully the weather will cooperate," Franklin observed. "We are going to work on the mistakes we made and make less mistakes. We just need to keep hitting the ball like we have been all year because we have hit the ball well this year. We have some important games that we want to win, and we will be ready for tournament time."

Cameron advances to the semifinal round to face Linsly, a 5-1 winner over River in another quarterfinal game, on Wednesday at 5 p.m.

NEXT— Shenandoah entertains Barnesville today at 5 p.m. **Wheeling Central 11, Barnesville 4**

WHEELING, W. Va. — All it took was one inning to take the Barnesville High Lady Shamrocks out of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3-A Tournament.

Wheeling Central put together a monstrous nine-run fifth inning to pull ahead for good and advance to the semifinals with an 11-4 win Monday.

"If we could have just gotten rid of two-thirds of that fifth inning, things would have been a lot different," Barnesville head coach Eric Kerns said. "I thought we got a little bit frustrated when they (Wheeling Central) started hitting the ball on us and we weren't able to come together and regroup. Chelsey (Keylor) came in and showed her leadership and got us out of that inning."

"For the most part, I thought we played an excellent ballgame," Kerns added. "When you score four runs on Wheeling Central and hold them to just two runs for most of the game, you played

BUCKEYE TRAIL 8, MONROE CENTRAL 7
Buckeye Trail 010 221 2 — 8 9 1
Monroe Central 205 000 0 — 7 8 3
Britney McGilton (2 Ks, 1 BB), Jessica Bates (WP 4-4, 4 Ks, 1 BB) and Dani Sella, Sarah Lucas (LP, 2 Ks, 7 BB), Maggie Cox (4th, 0 Ks, 1 BB), Lucas (7th) and Haven DeLong.
RECORDS—Buckeye Trail 8-5; Monroe Central 11-4.
STAT LEADERS—For Buckeye Trail, Traci Alt, run; Alexa Abrams, single, RBI, 2 stolen bases; Rory Cox, double, RBI; Julie Bates, home run, RBI, run; McGilton, 4 runs, 2 stolen bases; Lacey Tidrick, double, 2 singles, RBI, run; Cori Poland, 2 doubles, 2 RBI, run; Kaylie Wamock, double, 2 RBI. For Monroe Central, Samantha Kilburn, single, RBI, run; Nicole Huffman, single, run; Karlie Davis, single, 2 runs; Kyle Knowlton, 2 singles, 2 RBI, 2 runs; Stacey Schumacher, 2 singles, 2 RBI, run; Lucas, single, RBI; Megan Schumacher, single.

CAMERON 3, SHENANDOAH 0
Shenandoah 000 000 0 — 0 0 2
Cameron 010 200 x — 3 6 0
Ashley Butcher (LP 7-6, 3 Ks, 1 BB) and Megan Grywalski, Devon Shields (WP, 12 Ks, 3 BB) and Kilie Bungard.
RECORDS—Shenandoah 7-6; Cameron 11-3.
STAT LEADERS—For Shenandoah, none. For Cameron, Kelsey Allen, single; Lauren Siburt, single; Morgan Hughes, home run, single, RBI, run; Bungard, single; Jacklyn Peterson, single, 2 RBI.

WHEELING CENTRAL 11, BARNESVILLE 4
Barnesville 020 200 0 — 4 5 4
Wheeling Central 002 090 x — 11 12 4
Brittany Barr (2 Ks, 4 BB), Alexia Christakis (WP 4th, 3 Ks, 1 BB) and Maggie Ball, Samantha Jelferis (LP 7-7, 2 Ks, 2 BB),

Chelsey Keylor (5th, 5th, 2 Ks, 0 BB) and Megan Kemp.
RECORDS—Barnesville 7-9.
STAT LEADERS—For Barnesville, Megan Phillips, 2 singles; Keylor, single; Alora Moore, single; Kemp, single. For Wheeling Central, Courtney Schrebe, double, single, RBI; Mary Petros, double, single, 2 RBI; Val Palmer, double, single, 2 RBI; Ball, triple, single.

JOHN GLENN 5, MAYSVILLE 2
Maysville 101 000 0 — 2 6 0
John Glenn 201 101 x — 5 8 3
Jenna Strickler (LP, 0 Ks, 3 BB) and Ashley Wilkins, Kinsley Mitchell (WP 6-0, 5 Ks, 2 BB), Morgan Gilbert (SV 1), 7th, 1 Ks, 0 BB) and Kristyn Heagen.
RECORDS—Maysville 10-4, 4-4 MVL; John Glenn 10-1, 9-0 MVL.

STAT LEADERS—For Maysville, Katlyn Maxwell, 2 doubles, single, 2 RBI; Courtney Wells, single, 2 runs; Blake Lane, double; Wilkins, single. For John Glenn, Macie Brosie, 2 singles, 2 runs, stolen base, RBI; Breanna Bradley, 2 singles, RBI; Jenna Shingary, single, run, 2 stolen bases; Taryn Sawyer, single, run, stolen base; Gilbert, single, RBI; Mckenzie Jarles, single; Heagen, RBI; Ali Gorman, run.

NEWCOMERSTOWN 5, MALVERN 1
Newcomerstown 004 010 0 — 5 10 2
Malvern 000 001 0 — 1 3 1
Devony Pugh (WP 6-4, 9 Ks, 2 BB) and Annie McWhorter, Jessica Harry (LP, 2 Ks, 1 BB).

RECORDS—Newcomerstown 8-6, 3-4 IVC; Malvern 4-10, 1-6 IVC.
STAT LEADERS—For Newcomerstown, Amber Gibson, 2 singles, 2 runs, 3 RBI; Kirstin Ritchie, double, single, run; Brandi Crank, double; Keelyne Kissel, double.

well. It was just that one big inning that really hurt us."

The Barnesville coach said that if nothing else, this loss would serve as a great learning tool for his team.

"I told the girls after the game not to hang their heads," Kerns offered. "We need to look at this as a learning experience. We can't let up for one second against a good team, especially a team like Wheeling Central. We are going to see a lot of teams of that calibre. If we let our guard down for one second, teams like

win over the visiting Maysville Lady Panthers on Monday.

John Glenn (10-1, 9-0 MVL) spotted the visitors a run in the first inning, then plated a pair in the bottom of the frame to grab the lead for good. Maysville knotted the score at two in the third inning, but the Lady Muskies answered in their half of the inning to maintain the lead.

John Glenn then scored single tallies in the fourth and sixth frames to remain undefeated in league play with the 5-2 victory.

Kinsley Mitchell (6-0) picked up the win in the pitching circle, striking out five and walking two. Morgan Gilbert came on in seventh to close it out and posted one strikeout to record the save. Jenna Strickler took the loss with no strikeouts and three walks.

For the Lady Muskies, Macie Brosie and Breanna Bradley each contributed a pair of singles in the eight-hit attack.

Leading Maysville (10-4, 4-4 MVL) on offense were Katlyn Maxwell with two doubles and a single. Blake Lane added a double.

NEXT— John Glenn travels to Dresden to face Tri-Valley on Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Newcomerstown 5, Malvern 1
MALVERN — Newcomerstown got four runs in the third inning and pitcher Cevony Pugh limited the host Malvern Lady Hornets to just three hits as the Lady Trojans claimed a 5-1 Inter-Valley Conference win on Monday.

Newcomerstown (8-6, 3-4 IVC) got its other run in the fifth frame, while Malvern didn't get on the scoreboard until the sixth with the single run.

Pugh (6-4) fanned nine and walked two in going the distance. Jessica Harry took the loss with two strikeouts and one walk.

Amber Gibson led Newcomerstown's 10-hit barrage with two singles, three RBI and scored two runs. Kirstin Ritchie added a double and single and scored a run. Brandi Crank and Keelyne Kissel each chipped in a double for the winners.

NEXT— Newcomerstown hosts Hiland in another IVC matchup today at 4:30 p.m.

John Glenn 5, Maysville 2
NEW CONCORD — Jumping in front in the first inning, the John Glenn Lady Muskies were never headed as they claimed a 5-2 Muskingum Valley League



Prep Softball Roundup

that are going to capitalize and make you pay."

The Lady 'Rocks (7-9) picked up a pair of runs in the second frame, but the Lady Maroon Knights picked up a pair in the following inning. Barnesville took a 4-2 advantage in the fourth with another couple of tallies, but gave up nine in the fifth, which proved to be the Lady Shamrocks' undoing.

Wheeling Central registered 12 hits in the game, including a double and a single from each of Courtney Schrebe, Mary Petros and Val Palmer while Maggie Ball checked in with a triple and a single.

For Barnesville, Megan Phillips singled twice while Keylor, Alora Moore and Megan Kemp each singled. The Lady 'Rocks tied Wheeling Central in the errors category with four apiece and scored four runs on just five hits.

With the win, Wheeling Central will take on Oak Glen on Wednesday at 5 p.m. in the OVAC semifinals. Oak Glen advanced with a 4-1 win over Martins Ferry.

NEXT— Barnesville plays at Shenandoah today at 5 p.m.

John Glenn 5, Maysville 2
NEW CONCORD — Jumping in front in the first inning, the John Glenn Lady Muskies were never headed as they claimed a 5-2 Muskingum Valley League

Bryant's 4th help Laker

Celtics go up 2-0 on Hawks

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It doesn't pay to make Kobe Bryant angry.

Kenyon Martin and the Denver Nuggets learned that lesson in Game 2 of their first-round playoff series against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Bryant scored 19 points in a span of 4:19 of the fourth quarter Wednesday night, and the Lakers beat the Nuggets 122-107 to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Games 3 and 4 will be in Denver on Saturday and Monday night.

Bryant finished with 49 points and 10 assists — one shy of his career playoff high in both categories.

There was some trash talking between Bryant and Martin, Denver's 6-foot-9 forward who had the assignment of guarding the Lakers' star in the first two games.

"He's one of those players that you don't really want to make mad," teammate Lamar Odom said. "He can make shots from anywhere with people on him. I was surprised

ably could have p and probably would stop him," said Martin who wasn't bad and six assists.

"I didn't realize Bryant said what he said. We were just getting into a groove, the ball just got hot, the ball just got hot."

Regarding the trash talk, Martin said he enjoyed it, and it added a lot of talking game to the game. "It's something I enjoyed it, and it added a lot of talking game to the game. It's something I enjoyed it, and it added a lot of talking game to the game."

Martin said he enjoyed it, and it added a lot of talking game to the game. "It's something I enjoyed it, and it added a lot of talking game to the game."

As far as Bryant said: "You just can't let him get to you. You just can't let him get to you."

CLASS 4-A

Wheeling Park 10, Brooke 0
 Buckeye Local 6, Beaver 4
 Edison 6, John Marshall 0
 Cambridge 3, Indian Creek 1
Semifinals Pairings
 Wheeling Park vs. Buckeye Local
 Edison vs. Cambridge

CLASS 3-A

Meadowbrook 7, Union Local 0.
 Magnolia 4, Harrison Central 0
 Oak Glen 4, Martins Ferry 1
 Wheeling Central 11, Barnesville 4
Semifinals Pairings
 Meadowbrook vs. Magnolia
 Oak Glen vs. Wheeling Central

CLASS 2-A

Linsly 5, River 1
 Cameron 3, Shenandoah 0
 Buckeye Trail 8, Monroe Central 7
 Steubenville CC vs Fort Frye, PPD
Semifinals Pairings
 Linsly vs. Cameron
 Buckeye Trail vs. Steub. CC/FF.

CLASS 1-A

Weirton Madonna 10, Paden City 0
 Beallsville 9, Toronto 8
 Bishop Donahue 1, Valley 0
 St. John 11, Bridgeport 1
Semifinals Pairings
 Madonna vs. Beallsville.
 Bishop Donahue vs. St. John.

SEMIFINAL BOUND

Buckeye takes out Beaver, 6-4

By **KIM NORTH**
 Times Leader Sports Writer

It wasn't a masterpiece by any accounts, but Barry Closser will take it regardless.

The veteran Buckeye Local softball coach had just watched his fourth-seeded Lady Panthers (14-4) post a 6-4 victory over No. 5 Beaver Local Monday afternoon in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4-A quarterfinal tournament game in Connorville.

"It was entertaining for the fans," said Closser, who owns 400-plus victories during his 30-year tenure, "but we must tighten up our defense if we want to advance on."

It's not that Buckeye Local kicked the softball all over the place — they had just two errors — but the Lady Panthers had some trouble catching fly balls.

"If we catch a couple of balls in the outfield, it's easily 6-0," he noted, "but we'll take it. We're 14-4 and still battling."

And much of that can be credited to the pitching of sophomore Lexee Koran, who raised her personal won-loss mark to 7-3. The south-



BUCKEYE LOCAL'S Ashley Becca is tagged out at the plate by Beaver Local catcher Alyssa Derenburger as pitcher Kayla Mackall and umpire Dan DeLande look on during Monday's OVAC Tournament game. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

See, **BUCKEYE**, Page B2

St. John rolls past Bridgeport, 11-1

By **KIM APPOLLONI**
 Times Leader Sports Writer

In softball, there are a couple of things you can count on come late April. One, St. John Central will be in the hunt of yet another OVAC softball championship and two; they will be playing its best hard-ball.

Jerry Magistro's club continued its domination over the OVAC A field by defeating visiting Bridgeport Monday in six innings, 11-1. With the victory, the Lady Irish will advance to face Bishop Donahue in round two of the OVAC playoffs.

The girls in green can call upon a pair of talented freshman pitchers and last night it was Ayla Spoljar who got the ball from Magistro. Spoljar looked like a seasoned veteran, scattering three hits, striking out nine batters and passing just one in a complete game effort.

"Both Ayla (Spoljar) and Bethany (Cera) are doing a great job," stated Magistro. "They haven't been pitching very long and they are learning the game every time out. That's why I challenged my upperclassman to get them run support and give them time to grow up a little. The last two weeks we have done that and it's paid off."

Talented third baseman Sara Wamsley must have taken Magistro's challenge to heart as the power hitting senior crushed a solo shot to dead center piling up her fourth RBI of the contest. Wamsley drove in runs on all four of her appearances at the dish. She ended with an RBI two bagger and a pair of run scoring singles.

"Sara has the ability to really hit the ball," claimed the successful Magistro. "She's just learning to sit back and wait on it so she gets full power in her swing. With her and Jenna Vavra in the lineup we have two kids that can take it deep on any pitch."

See, **SJC**, Page B2

Trail rallies past third-seeded Monroe Central, 8-7

By **SETH STASKEY**
 Times Leader Sports Editor

The Monroe Central Lady Seminoles came into their OVAC Class 2-A quarterfinal game against sixth-seeded Buckeye Trail looking to exact some revenge from a loss earlier this month.

The Lady Seminoles (11-4) will have to try again this afternoon when the two clubs meet in Old Washington.

The Lady Warriors made the trip to Woodsfield City Park and ousted the Lady Seminoles, rallying from six runs down to post a dramatic 8-7 win.

"We've always felt that we've had a good hitting team and a good defense, so we thought we could claw back into the game," said Trail head coach Sue Heidelbaugh. "Our defense came through and our offense finally got going."

Next up in the OVAC Tournament for Trail is a date with the winner of Steubenville Catholic and Fort Frye, which was postponed due to a wet field. The semifinal game will be held at Chambers' I-470 Complex in Elm Grove Wednesday night.

"We don't know a lot about Steubenville Catholic, but we



MONROE CENTRAL centerfielder Morgen Ramage makes a running catch of a fly ball during the early innings of Monday's OVAC quarterfinal. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

play them next week during the regular season," Heidelbaugh said. "If we get solid pitching, play good defense and our hit-

ting comes around, I think we'll be okay."

While the Lady Warriors are making travel plans to Elm

Grove, the Monroe Central Lady Seminoles are left to do nothing but scratch their heads.

"Trail hit the ball really well and caused us to make errors we haven't made all year," lamented Monroe head coach Missy Knowlton. "The errors cost us tonight and hopefully we get it together and we can get the job done at Trail (Tuesday)."

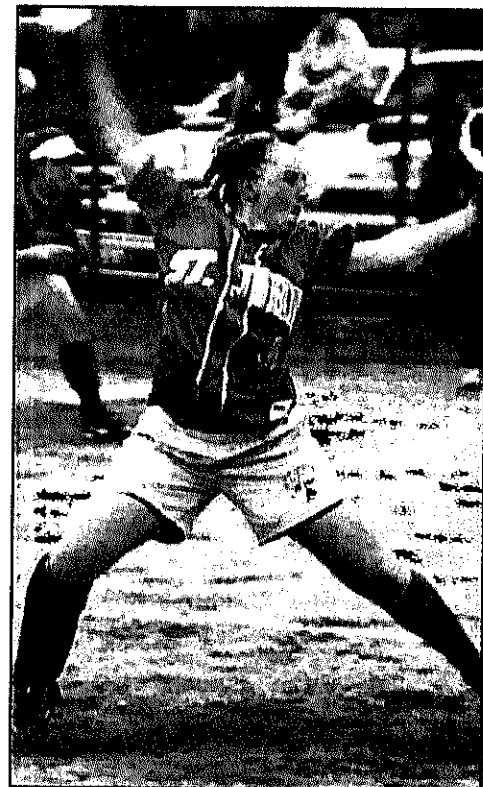
It appeared the Lady Seminoles were well on their way to the revenge they sought as well as the semifinals.

Nursing a 2-1 lead, Monroe came to bat in the third against Trail starting pitcher Brittany McGilton with the top of the lineup heading to the dish.

Consecutive singles from Samantha Kilburn, Nicole Huffman, Karlie Davis and Kylie Knowlton ignited a five-run rally. Stacey Schumacher followed the single-barrage by drawing a bases-loaded walk to score Huffman. Starting pitcher Sarah Lucas then singled off of reliever Jessie Bates to score Knowlton.

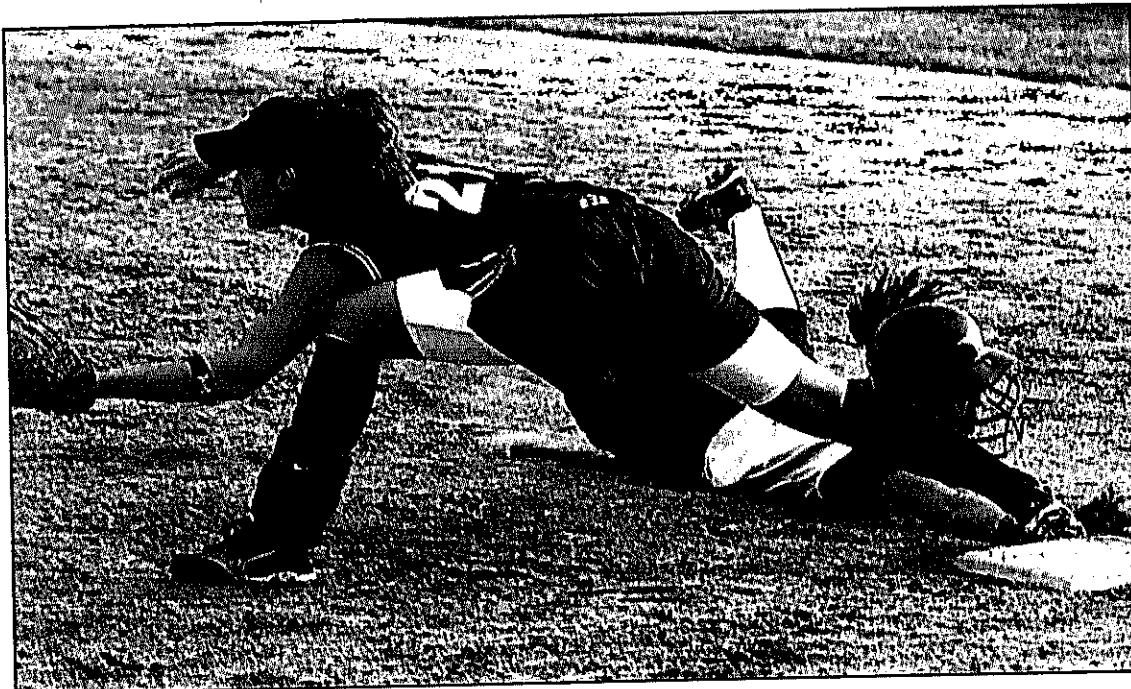
Alex Kuhn then rolled into a fielder's choice, scoring Knowlton. After a strikeout was recorded to turn the lineup over, Kilburn was plunked, forcing in the fifth run of the

See, **TRAIL**, Page B2



ST. JOHN pitcher Ayla Spoljar delivers a pitch to the plate during Monday's OVAC quarterfinal game against Bridgeport. The Lady Irish prevailed by an 11-1 count. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER



BUCKEYE LOCAL first baseman Kristen Koles makes a play to double-up Beaver Local's Brittany Barrett for the final out of Monday's OVAC Class 4-A quarterfinal game in Connorville. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com
T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

● **Buckeye**

Continued from Page B1

paw needed just 84 pitches — 64 strikes — in setting down the Lady Beavers (9-4).

"She's a competitor," Closser offered. "She's a little bit injured, but she gutted it out. All three of our pitchers are competitors."

Buckeye Local dented the scoreboard first when Koran doubled home Nikki Cesario with two outs in the bottom of the first frame.

After the Lady Beavers knotted the count in the top of the second, leadoff hitter Jaycee Gotschall — who started the season in the No. 9 slot in the order — made the coaching staff look good when she lined a shot to the right-centerfield gap that rolled to the fence and resulted in a three-run homer for a 4-1 advantage.

"We switched our lineup a little since earlier in the season," he explained. "It paid off today."

Beaver Local sliced the deficit to 4-3

with a two-spot in the fourth inning, but Ashley Becca's two-run triple to right-center restored the three-run margin. Becca was gunned down at the plate on a bang-bang play while trying for a four-bagger.

The Lady Beavers got one run back in the sixth and appeared to have a rally in store in the seventh, but third baseman Audrey Verhovec snagged a screamer off the bat of Sammi Cianni and promptly doubled up the runner who had strayed off of first base to end the game.

"We played defense when we had to," Closser said, "but we still have to tighten it up."

Koran struck out four, didn't issue a base-on-balls and scattered nine hits. In fact, she only went to three balls on one batter. She was also the only Lady Panther to record a pair of safeties as she singled in addition to her two-bagger.

Losing pitcher Kayla Mackall fanned five, but walked six — with four of those coming in the second inning. She recorded a double and triple, while teammate Allyson Jones had two doubles and a pair of RBI.

Buckeye Local is back in action today when it travels to Martins Ferry to help the Lady Purple Riders christen their new diamond on the hilltop. Closser said junior Callie Clark will take her 5-1 mark to the mound.

The Lady Panthers will be back in tournament action Wednesday at the I-470 Complex in Elm Grove against Wheeling Park, which defeated Brooke in another quarterfinal Monday.

Linescore:
Beaver Local 010 201 0 — 4 9 1
Buckeye Local 130 020 x — 6 6 2
BATTERIES: Mackall and Derenburger.
Koran and Hall.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

Dear Mr. Rataiczak,
On behalf of the Linsly 2008
OVAC Class AA Championship Softball team,
We want to extend our appreciations to you
and the OVAC staff for a well run tournament.
Saturday was 'a great' day for our team
and we will never forget it.

Thank you for all that you do for
the OVAC and High School athletics.

Linsly 2008 Softball Team

● SJC

Continued from Page B1

Wamsley wasn't alone in her offensive exploits. Spoljar plated a run and had two singles. Senior Kristina Velkovich cracked an RBI double as did Jenna Vavra. Classmate Betsie Smith cut the game short with a game ending RBI single in the bottom of the sixth inning. Cera collected a pair of singles and

"Obviously I'm not happy with the outcome, but I'm proud of the kids we have," stated first year boss Bob Krajnyak. "They keep plugging away, and we will get better. We have some good young athletes and we just need to fill a few holes in order to compete at this level."

Leading the way for the 'Dogs was Amelia Smith. The right-fielder crushed a triple and scored the lone Bulldog run on the night when junior dandy Rachel Benda made contact. She also tagged Spoljar for a single. Lisa Tomolonis chipped in with a base hit.

Magistro added, "This time of year, you better be hitting the ball well and fielding the ball because the offense has caught up with the pitching. I feel we are playing our best softball, but we can still get better. We just have to take one game at a time and not look ahead."

The Bulldog defense turned in three double plays in the contest. Suffering the mound loss was Tomolonis. She sat down a pair and walked four.

Linescore

ST. JOHN CENTRAL 11, BRIDGEPORT 1
Bridgeport 000 100 -- 1 3 5
St. John 320 204 -- 11 13 1
BATTERIES: Tomolonis and Benda, Reed (2); Spoljar and Smith.

● Trail

Continued from Page B1

frame before Bates finally worked out of the jam.

"I went with (McGilton) because I started (Bates) the last time we played here and I wanted to give them a different look," Heidelbaugh said. "I was planning on going with each of them for three innings anyway, but the changed worked out for us."

The Lady Warriors wasted little time in beginning the come-back trail. Bates drew a one-out walk and moved up to third when Lacy Tidrick ripped a gap double to right before designated player Cory Poland walked. Kaylie Warnock then lifted an innocent pop-up behind first base, which was caught cleanly, but Bates tagged and scored on a heady base-running play.

Traci Alt then drew a walk to re-load the bases, forcing Knowlton into her bullpen, bringing in sophomore Maggie Cox. Alexa Abrams was plunked, forcing in another run before a pop-out to short thwarted the rally.

The Warriors got two runs closer in the fifth. First-baseman Julie Bates took a 2-2 offering deep into the afternoon for a solo home run. Bates then drew a walk, stole second and came around to score when Tidrick reached on a two-base error in the outfield.

Monroe had a runner reach on an error, but Bates ended ground-outs to end the inning.

Trail went back to work in the sixth. Alt led off by reaching on a two-base error. She moved to third on a wild pitch before Cox recorded two outs. However, another outfield error allowed Alt to bring the Lady Warriors within one at 7-6.

After Monroe went in order in the bottom of the sixth, Trail got the rally caps out once again as Knowlton opted to bring Lucas back into do the pitching.

"The effort from our pitching was there," Knowlton said. "I think the strikezone was pretty tight, and I think we struggled with that. They are young and are coming along nicely. I think they were a little tired after last week."

She issued a lead-off walk to McGilton, which pinch hit in Bates' spot, which was followed by a base hit from Tidrick. Poland followed with a double, which barely stayed in the yard down the left-field line. Tidrick was cut down at the dish, trying to score all the way from first.

The ninth-hitting Warnock came through once again with a double, scoring Poland, putting the Lady Warriors in front for the first time.

In the bottom of the seventh, a nifty play by Alt at second base and a diving catch from Cox in center preserved the outcome and never allowed Monroe to threaten.

"We give the kids a skull for their hat if they produce a web gem, and I think those two were definitely web gems," Heidelbaugh said.

Linescore:

Buckeye Trail 010 221 2 -- 8 8 2
Monroe Central 205 000 0 -- 7 8 3
BATTERIES: McGilton, Bates (3) and Sells. Lucas, Cox (4), Lucas (7) and DeLong.

Staskey can be reached at
sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

SPORTS

OVAC softball tournament opens today

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

Play ball!
Softball, that is. Ohio Valley Athletic Conference style.

Thirty-two OVAC squads will begin action today as the annual conference event gets underway across the valley.

Eleven of those teams entered hail from the Times Leader coverage area. They include: Buckeye Local (4-A); Barnesville, Martins Ferry, Harrison Central and Union Local (3-A); Linsly, Monroe Central and River (2-A);



and St. John, Beallsville and Bridgeport (A).

A summary of each division follows:

Class AAAA
Barry Closser's Lady Panthers have played more games (17) than any other team in this classification, and they have recorded more victories (13) than any 'Big School' team.

Buckeye Local, the No. 4 seed, will host No. 5 Beaver Local (9-3) today at 4:30 p.m. in Connorville. The Lady Panthers defeated the Lady

See, **OVAC**, Page B2

OVAC SOFTBALL

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

No. 1 Wheeling Park vs. No. 8 Brooke, 7:30 p.m.
No. 4 Buckeye Local vs. No. 5 Beaver Local.
No. 3 Edison vs. No. 6 John Marshall.
No. 2 Cambridge vs. No. 7 Indian Creek.

OVAC SOFTBALL

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

No. 1 Meadowbrook vs. No. 8 Union Local.
No. 4 Magnolia vs. No. 5 Harrison Central.
No. 3 Oak Glen vs. No. 6 Martins Ferry.
No. 2 Wheeling Central vs. No. 7 Barnesville, 4 p.m.

OVAC SOFTBALL

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

No. 1 Linsly vs. No. 8 River, 5:45 p.m.
No. 4 Cameron vs. No. 5 Shenandoah.
No. 3 Monroe Cent. vs. No. 6 Buck. Trail, 6 p.m.
No. 2 Steubenville CC vs. No. 7 Fort Frye.

OVAC SOFTBALL

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

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

● **OVAC**

Continued from Page B1

Beavers, 6-4, early in the season.

"That was our first game of the season and their third," Closser said Sunday afternoon, shortly after the pairings were announced. "That game probably doesn't even matter now."

The veteran head coach, who has amassed over 400 prep wins, does know one thing about his team's opponent. "They don't make the mistakes of the Beaver teams of old," he noted.

While he doesn't know much about the opposition, Closser does know that he and his coaching staff are tickled to death with the way the season has progressed thus far.

"We are really pleased to be 13-4," he said. "We weren't real sure coming into the season. We thought we could have a winning record, but to be 13-4 ... we're really pleased."

Sophomore Lexee Koran has been a strong player for Closser's Blue-and-White, not only at the plate but on the mound as well. She has logged a whopping .511 batting average (24-for-47) that includes two doubles, a pair of triples and two home runs. She has also knocked in 21 runs and recorded a 6-3 won-loss mark inside the circle with a 1.28 earned-run average. She has struck out 36 in 49 innings.

Second baseman Shelby Bartrug hits at a .471 clip with four two-baggers, one homer and a dozen ribbies. Shortstop Nikki Cesario has a team-high eight doubles while hitting .390. Rightfielder Jaycee Gotschall checks in at .354, while first baseman Kristen Koles had a trio of three-baggers.

Junior Callie Clark also shines in the middle of the diamond, posting a 5-1 won-loss mark with a microscopic 0.98 ERA. She has fanned 23 in 43 innings of work.

Class AAA

All four local teams will hit the road today as No. 7 Barnesville (7-8) treks to the I-470 Complex in Elm Grove to battle No. 2 Wheeling Central (14-2); No. 6 Martins Ferry (8-7) loads the bus for a trip to New Manchester to tangle

with No. 3 Oak Glen (11-8); No. 5 Harrison Central (7-6) meets No. 4 Magnolia (9-6) in New Martinsville; and No. 8 Union Local (4-11) journeys to Byesville to meet top-seeded Meadowbrook (8-1).

All of those games have 5 p.m. starts, with the exception of the Barnesville-Wheeling Central game that begins at 4 p.m.

Class AA

Linsly (16-2) didn't have any trouble in moving up a division this year.

Liz Hofreuter-Landini's Lady Cadets, the No. 1 seed, will host No. 8 River (9-7) at the I-470 Complex at 5:45 p.m. The two teams met last week with Linsly notching a 15-5 nod in six innings.

That victory allowed Hofreuter-Landini to record her 100th career victory at the Wheeling-based private school.

Pitcher Megan Byhanna, a hard-throwing senior, leads the Cadets. She had a season-high 18 strikeouts Saturday.

The Lady Pilots are paced by pitcher Marcy Meredith, a West Liberty State College signee, and catcher Shaleena Rhodes, who has clubbed five home runs.

Monroe Central (11-3), the No. 3 seed, will entertain No. 6 Buckeye Trail (7-5) in Woodsfield at 6 p.m.

One of the Lady Seminoles losses was a setback to the Lady Warriors.

"We've got a score to settle," explained Monroe Central head coach Missy Knowlton. "We more or less gift-wrapped that victory for them."

The Lady Seminoles are hitting the cover off the ball as three players have an average of .429 or higher. That includes senior first baseman Kylie Knowlton (.469), junior shortstop Karlie Davis (.450) and senior third sacker Stacey Schumacher (.429). Knowlton, Schumacher and center-fielder Morgen Ramage all have two home runs.

"I've had these girls since they were

young," offered the head coach. "I know what they are capable of doing."

On the mound, Sarah Lucas had posted a 5-1 mark, while Maggie Cox is 5-2. Both are just sophomores.

The same two teams collide Tuesday in regular season action.

Class A

St. John (11-5) earned the No. 2 seed behind Weirton Madonna, despite the fact that the Lady Irish put a hurting on the Lady Blue Dons Saturday in the Undo's Catholic Tournament.

The Lady Irish host Bridgeport (2-11) at the I-470 Complex.

"We're coming on each game," said head coach Jerry Magistro. "We've worked on our hitting because you have to score runs to win."

One of those who have benefited from the extra batting practice is shortstop Jenna Vavra. The heavy-hitting senior enjoyed a superb week last week as she hit a eye-popping .684 (13-19) in six games. She had five singles, three doubles and six home runs to drive in 19 runs. She scored 11 runs and had an almost-unbelievable 2.693 slugging percentage.

For the season, Vavra has hit a Eastern-Ohio leading nine home runs, 31 RBI and a .491 mark. Senior catcher Betsie Smith, a Davis & Elkins College recruit, checks in at .491, while freshman Bethany Cera hits .357.

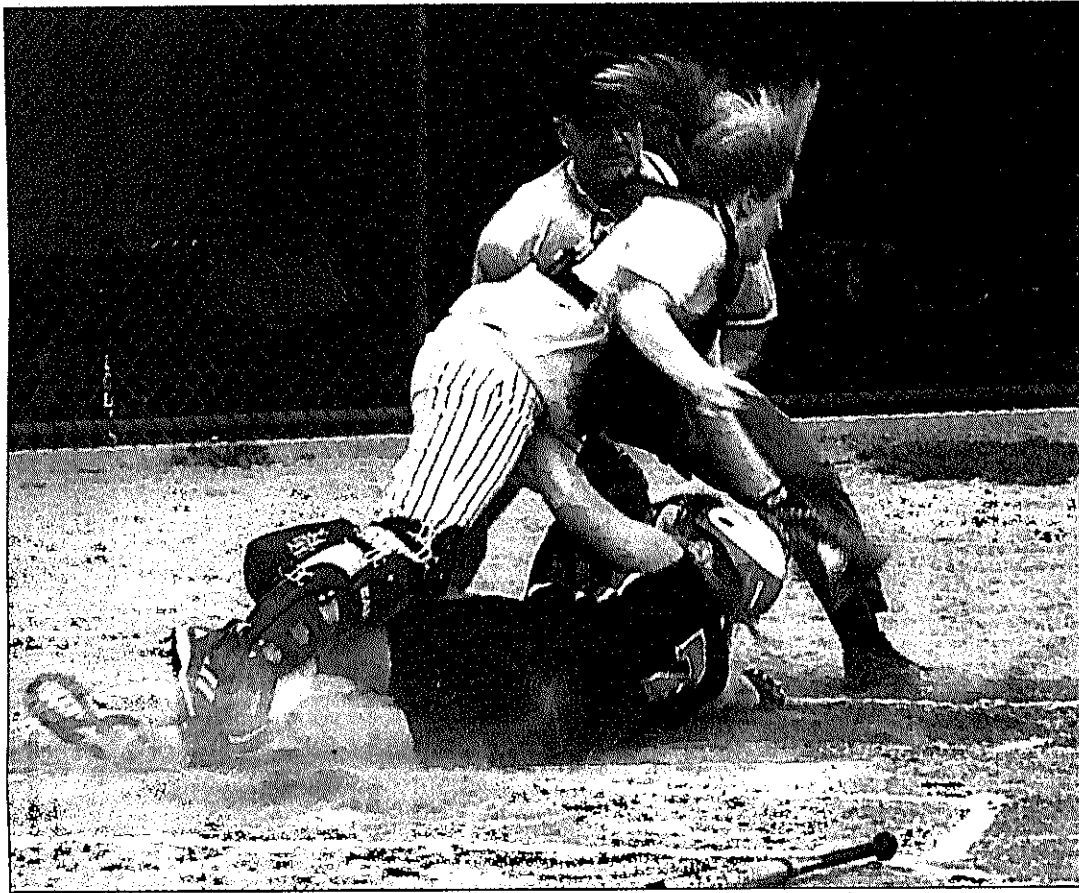
On the mound, Cera has a 5-1 mark with a 1.75 ERA and 48 strikeouts compared to four walks. Classmate Ayla Spoljar has a 5-4 mark with 23 K's and seven walks.

In the other 'Small School' game involving a local squad, No. 5 seed Beallsville (3-9) travel to No. 4 Toronto (3-12).

Semifinal action begins Wednesday and Thursday at the I-470 Complex, with the finals set for the same site Saturday.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

OVAC Softball Semifinals



Photos by Jim Elliott

Above: Linsly's Erika Mitchem slides safely into home plate ahead of the tag of Cameron catcher Kille Bungard during action of their OVAC Class AA softball semifinal game Wednesday at Lisa's Field in Wheeling. Making the call is home plate umpire Randy Whittlach. Below: Cameron's Devan Shields delivers a pitch. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Linsly Tops Cameron

Top-seeded Cadets move on to play Trail Saturday

By SHAWN RINE
Ohio Sports Editor

Most often when the stakes are the highest, the team that blinks first is the one that finds itself wondering what it could have done better. The Cameron (15-5) softball team sure knows the feeling after Wednesday's OVAC Class AA semifinal loss to Linsly at Lisa's Field in Wheeling.

The two teams had waged a 1-1 tie through three innings of play, but three fourth-inning errors helped the Cadets (19-2) to a 5-1 victory just before the clouds opened up.

The victory places Linsly in the final opposite Buckeye Trail, which defeated Fort Frye by a X-X count.

"To tell you the truth, my biggest source of pride is that Cameron is an *extremely strong* team," Linsly coach Liz Hofreuter-Landini said. "The fact they were a four seed is amazing to me."

"They are very, very well coached."

Following a first-inning, bloop double by Erika Mitchem that dropped between his shortstop and a pair of outfielders, Cameron coach Mark Witzberger pleaded with his team to go after the ball until somebody calls them off. Mitchem eventually scored on a wild pitch for a 1-0 lead.

After the Dragons had tied it courtesy of a Kelsey Allen infield single and three Linsly errors in the fourth, Cameron fielders had more issues.

With runners on first and second, Mitchem drilled a Devan Shields pitch into left-center field, where Cameron outfielders Meghan Marsh and Morgan Hughes collided and the ball dropped in for a two-run double and a 3-1 lead. Two more errors, a wild pitch and a Caitlin Johnson single closed the scoring.

"We really need to work on communicating," Witzberger said. "With the way Devan has been pitching, our fielders don't see that many balls."

"That's absolutely no excuse, we should have made plays.



"My motto is 'Play Seven' and we let up for an inning."

Megan Byhanna was the winning pitcher, striking out seven and not allowing a walk. Her counterpart, Shields, struck out the same number and walked two.

"The last couple innings were more Linsly softball," Hofreuter-Landini said. "We had some nerves in the beginning and had some errors that we're not accustomed to. I'm extremely proud of the girls for calming down and going out and making the plays."

"It's the mark of confidence in your game."

Part of the intrigue of this game is the fact it involved Cameron, which a few seasons ago not only probably had little chance of advancing this far, let alone accounting for itself the way it did.

Please See LINSLY, Page 24



Photos by Jim Elliott

Top: Oak Glen first baseman Kayleigh Brennan is on the receiving end of a putout of Wheeling Central's Lindsay Beaver. Above: Oak Glen shortstop Maria Gala can't track down a soft single into left field. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Sparachane Keys Knights

Senior does it in circle, at plate

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

For five-plus innings, Jen Sparachane was as perfect as she could be during Wednesday's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAA softball tournament semifinal played at the J.B. Chambers 1-470 Complex in Wheeling.

The Wheeling Central Catholic all-state pitcher retired the first 16 Oak Glen hitters she faced. The only hit she allowed was a two-

out single in the sixth to Maggie Skinner. Overall, Sparachane struck out 11 and did not issue a free pass.

But there would be more to her highly successful day. Much more, in fact.

The senior standout also singled, doubled and drove in three runs as the Maroon Knights racked up a 4-0 victory to punch their ticket in to Saturday's championship game.

Central, competing in the Class AAA ranks for the first time this spring after having won back-to-back AA division titles, will face Meadowbrook.

See KNIGHTS Page 24

Knights

(Continued from Page 19)

"Jen did a great job of keeping them off balance," said Rick Magruder, co-head coach of the 19-2 Maroon Knights. "When she brings up her riser pitch, she really throws it hard. And she's also very smart. When that girl tried to run up in the box and slap at the ball, Jen fooled her by throwing a changeup."

With one out in the sixth inning, Oak Glen (12-9) finally got a base runner. Ashley Yeater swung and missed on a 3-2 pitch but was able to make it to first base safely on a passed ball. One out later, Skinner stepped up to the plate and whistled Sparachane's first pitch into left for a clean single to break up the no-hitter. She stole second, but with runners on second and third with two outs, Sparachane was able to retire Maria Galla on a grounder to short-stop Lauren Baker, one of several fine plays turned in by the Central sophomore infielder.

In the second inning, Baker short-hopped Natalie Richard's sharp grounder and made an accurate throw to first for an out. Two innings later, Baker turned in a good catch of a popper over the infield off the bat of Galla. Second baseman Val Palmer also contributed a couple of nice plays on infield rollers to help keep Oak Glen from getting any runners on base.

"Our defense was excellent," pointed out co-coach Ambrose Bober. "When Jen wasn't striking them out, Lauren, Lindsey (Beaver) and Val were making the plays in the field. Courtney (Schrebe) also did a good job behind the plate."

Another positive for the Maroon Knights girls were the eight hits they collected off Golden Bears

pitcher Erin Shuman, who had six strikeouts and issued just two walks.

Central, which has started slowly offensively at times this season, banged out four hits to jump in front 3-0 in the opening inning. Schrebe opened the last of the first with a single that fell just fair, and she took third on Baker's blooper into short right that went for a double when Skinner was unable to come up with a shoestring catch.

One out later, Sparachane got all of a Shuman pitch and drove the ball over Skinner's head for a two-run double. Beaver then singled to left on a 3-2 pitch, scoring Sparachane with the third run of the inning.

"We told the kids to concentrate on just putting the ball in play and they were able to do that," Magruder said. "We came up with some key hits. The one that Lindsey got was big because it gave us our third run."

The Maroon Knights pushed across another insurance run in the second inning to conclude the scoring. Schrebe reached on a fielder's choice with one out, moved up a notch when Baker walked and then scored on Sparachane's single, her second of the day.

Despite the loss, Oak Glen Coach Michelle

McHaffie had no regrets. "The kids came in here knowing what kind of a record Wheeling Central had and all I asked of them was to give me 100 percent. They did that and I'm proud of them."

Although Sparachane had her strikeout pitch working, McHaffie still credited her girls with putting up a battle during every at bat.

"We never stopped trying to get a hit and we played very well in the field," McHaffie stressed.

CLASS AAA Meadowbrook 2 Magnolia 1

Kinsi Tellep won a pitcher's duel with Tory Greene by striking out 18 of the 21 batters she faced, lifting Meadowbrook

past Magnolia. Tellep also drove in a run.

Greene struck out four, and allowed two hits. Four players had singles for the Eagles.

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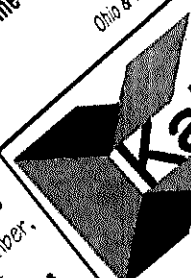
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Trail, Linsly to meet for OVAC 2-A softball title

AT WHEELING, Julie Bates belted a first inning grand slam and Trail went on to topple Fort Frye.

Jessica Bates recorded the mound decision, striking out five and spacing two walks. The Lady Cadets' received seven Ks and six walks from Courtney Booth.

Catcher Dani Sells accounted for three Warriors runs. Kaylie Warnock contributed two singles and two RBIs.

Kasey Stack socked a triple for Fort Frye. Danielle Lang drilled a double.

LINSLY 5 CAMERON 1

THE Lady Cadets broke a 1-1 tie, scoring four times in the last of the fifth to oust Cameron.

Megan Byhanna struck out seven and did not walk a batter as Linsly won for the 19th time in 21 starts. Catcher Erika Mitchem contributed two doubles and two RBIs for the winners. Caitlyn Johnson and Linden Nelson also produced Cadet tallies.

OVAC 3-A SEMIFINALS MEADOWBROOK 2 MAGNOLIA 1

DESPITE being held to one hit, Meadowbrook knocked off Magnolia. Kensi Tellep compiled 18 strikeouts out of 21 batters

Prep Softball Roundup

WHEELING CENTRAL 4 OAK GLEN 0

Jen Sparachane fired a one-hitter in the Lady Knights' victory. She totaled 10 strikeouts and no walks. Teammate Courtney Schrebe collected two singles for Central with Sparachane delivering a single and double.

REGULAR SEASON ST. JOHN'S 10 ST. CLAIRSVILLE 1

AT BELLAIRE, Ayala Spoljar stopped St. C. on four hits. She received offensive support from Jenna Vavra who tripled and doubled for two runs batted in. Sara Wamsley clouted a three-run homer and also singled. Bethany Cera singled and doubled to plate a pair. Betsie Smith contributed a single, double and RBI. Laken McFarland drilled a double.

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Ashley

gillespie delivered a RBI single.

UNION LOCAL 10 HARRISON CENTRAL 6 AT MORRISTOWN, UL'S Kate Davis scattered six hits in a route-going mound win. She struck out three and issued four walks.

Shayla Lucas singled twice and totaled three RBIs for the Jets. Sadie Waller and Lindsay Schafer each contributed RBI doubles. Rachel Stahl singled and knocked in a pair.

HARRISON'S Jackie Sentich singled and totaled four RBIs. Kristina Brandon donated two singles and a run batted in.

Union Local was slated to host Magnolia this afternoon.

BEALLSVILLE 7 VALLEY 6 AT BEALLSVILLE, the host Lady Blue Devils scored six times in the last of the sixth to tie Valley, then pushed across the game-winning tally in the bottom of the seventh.

Miranda McFrederick scattered six hits in a route-going effort. She fanned three and walked a pair. Ashley Ankrom unloaded a three-run homer for the victors. Crystal Lallathin doubled and drove in a pair

Cameron

(Continued from Page 19)

That, says, Hofreuter-Landini, is a credit to Witzberger. "I remember very clearly playing Cameron the year before Mark took over, and Mark walked up to me — he was actually helping us on a jayvee level at that point — and Mark walked over to me and said 'they can play better than that,'" the Linsly coach said. "And I knew at that moment Mark Witzberger would pick that team up and move it to where it is now."

To that end, Witzberger says it's a tribute to the work his players have put in.

"Every year we've set a school record for number of wins — we're not going to this year simply because of bad weather — but we're really excited about where we've come," he said. "We don't start a senior."

"We're in AA in the semifinals, and that's just pretty amazing. We're excited for these kids and (them) believing in themselves."

Buckeye Trail 11, Fort Frye 4

Jessie Bates fanned five and Dani Sells doubled and had three RBI as Buckeye Trail (10-5) advanced to the title game. Julie Bates homered and plated four runs for the Warriors, while Kaylie Warnock had two hits and to RBI.

Kasey Stack and Ashley Okey plated one each for the Cadets (9-5).

Pittsburgh starter Matt Morris allowed 8 runs in four innings as Florida easily handled Pittsburgh/19

OVAC Softball Tournament

Park Has 'Mercy' on Rival Brooke

Patriots have no issues with Bruins

By **JIM ELLIOTT**
W.Va. Sports Editor
Wheeling Park began defense of its OVAC Class AAAA Tournament title by playing some super defense. Mary Hohman tossed a one-hitter and struck out

seven and seven different Patriots hitters had at least one RBI, as top-seeded Wheeling Park routed undermanned Brooke, 10-0, in a quarterfinal game Monday night at Lisa's Field.

"No errors," Wheeling Park coach Dee Davis pointed out. "We hit the ball; that's what I like. Being aggressive."

The Bruins, as they have

had to do for much of the season, limped into the contest with all sorts of injuries to key players, including last season's OVAC Class 4-A Player of the Year, Caitlin Kocher.

When starting pitcher Aimee Quattrochi injured her hand trying to get out of the way of a sharp comebacker off the bat of Shannon Orum in the third inning and was

replaced by Leanne Mazella, Brooke coach Wes Eddy had three freshmen in the game.

Eddy said he was proud of their effort, but he knows there are better ways to get on-the-job training than getting thrown to the fire against this particular Wheeling Park outfit.

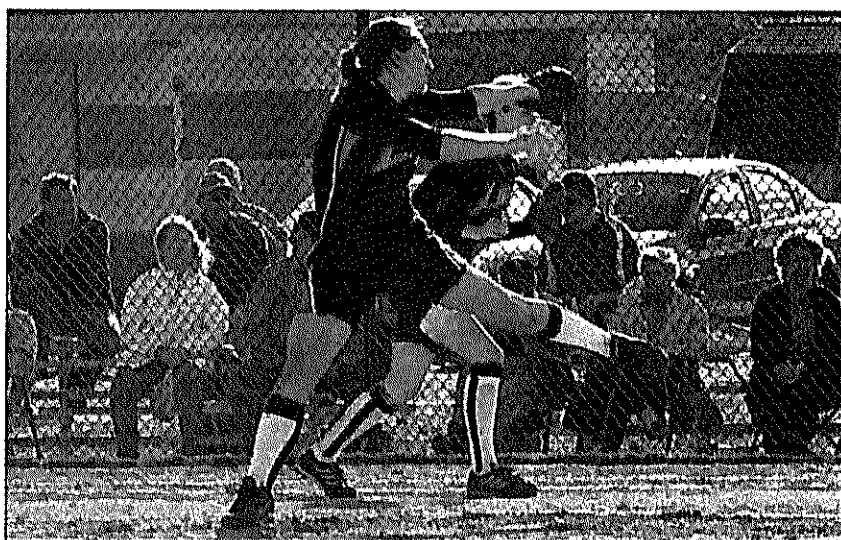
"They're as good of a ball club as I've seen since we were lucky enough to go to the state tournament in

2003," he said. "They hit the ball 1-through-9, they've got great pitching, and they cover more ground defensively than any team we've played all year. So they're that good."

Every single player who took a stick to the plate for the Patriots had a contribution in this victory, as they all reached base at least once.

Please See **PARK**, Page 22

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Left: Linsly pitcher Megan Byhanna struck out 17 River hitters Monday in OVAC Class AA action.

Right: Linsly's Kayla Seidler watches the ball come to the plate and readies to swing.

View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Photos by Mike Hughes



Rolling On River

Byhanna strikes out 17 as Cadets run past Pilots

By **MIKE HUGHES**
Staff Writer

When Linsly's Megan Byhanna is in the circle, any lead is safe.

So when the Cadets spotted their ace a 3-0 lead after the first inning, Byhanna's teammates probably took that concept a bit too much to heart.

That's why Linsly coach Liz Hofreuter-Landini had few issues with her players following their 5-1 victory against River on Monday in an OVAC Softball Tournament quarterfinal at Lisa's Field in Wheeling.

Rarely this season has Hofreuter-Landini's team been able to punch a few runs across in the first inning.

So after doing so against the Pilots, the coach felt her team lost some of its fire at the plate after giving their pitcher the early cushion.

"It was frustrating for me that we had a good first inning and then didn't keep going at that pace for all seven innings," Hofreuter-Landini said as her team improved to 17-2. "In playoff softball, you have to keep going and I thought we were just a little too complacent and not as smart as we needed to be at the plate, or on the base path."

In her players' defense, Byhanna was

zoned in and baffled the Pilots' hitters with an array of well-placed pitches.

After yielding a leadoff single to Courtney Gates, Byhanna proceeded to strike out the next 9 of 10 batters she faced, yielding only a walk to Ericka Williams.

"Megan did a great job," Hofreuter-Landini said. "She was really on location and we honestly couldn't have asked for more from her."

River scored its lone run in the fourth, but managed only three singles against the veteran pitcher — one in the first, one in the fourth and one in the seventh inning.

And considering Byhanna wasn't in a giving mood, issuing only two walks, the Pilots' chances were few and far between.

"We couldn't get anything going offensively," River coach Dave Wright said. "Byhanna is one of the premier pitchers in the valley and we knew that coming in."

"The girls got up there and just couldn't make contact."

Byhanna, who had nine strikeouts in the first three innings, finished with 17.

A single from Kari Kitchen, a passed ball and a RBI grounder from Jessie Schucht accounted for the Cadets' runs in the first.

Caitlyn Johnson had a leadoff double and scored on a passed ball in the third and Schucht's infield single in the fifth brought home Linsly's final run.

The Cadets will take on Cameron in the semifinal round. The Dragons advanced courtesy of a 3-0 victory against Shenandoah and another no-hitter from Devan Shields.

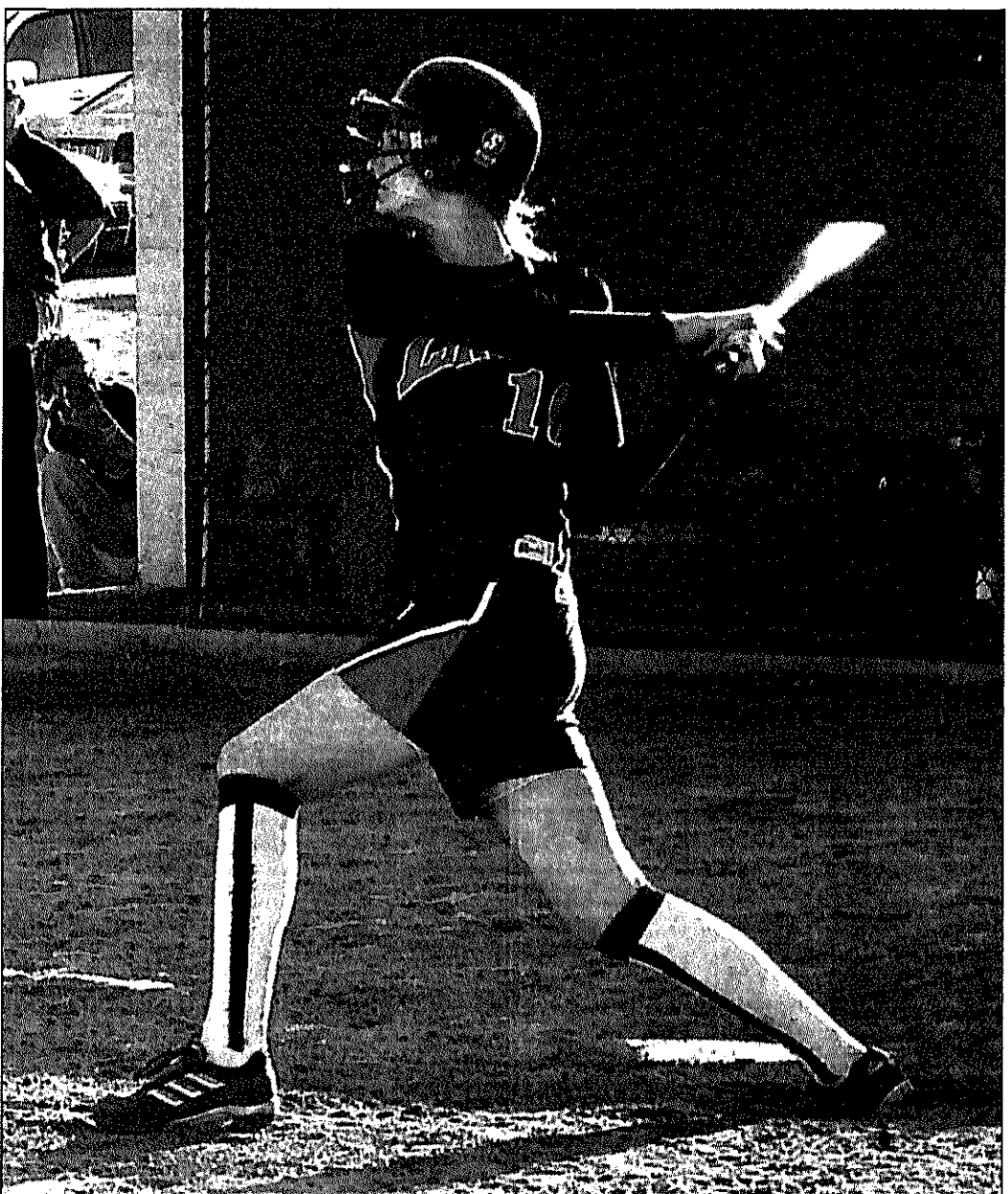


Photo by Mike Hughes

Linsly's Kari Kitchen smacks an RBI single during the first inning of her team's OVAC Class AA quarterfinal game Monday against River at Lisa's Field in Wheeling. The Cadets moved on with a 5-1 victory. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Knights Throttle Rocks

Central moves ahead, 11-4



Buckeye Tops Beaver

Closser's crew wins close one

By **KIM NORTH**
For The Intelligencer
It wasn't a masterpiece by any accounts, but Barry Closser will take it regard-

thers had some trouble catching fly balls.

"If we catch a couple of balls in the outfield, it's easily 6-0," he said, "but we'll take it. We're 14-4 and still battling."

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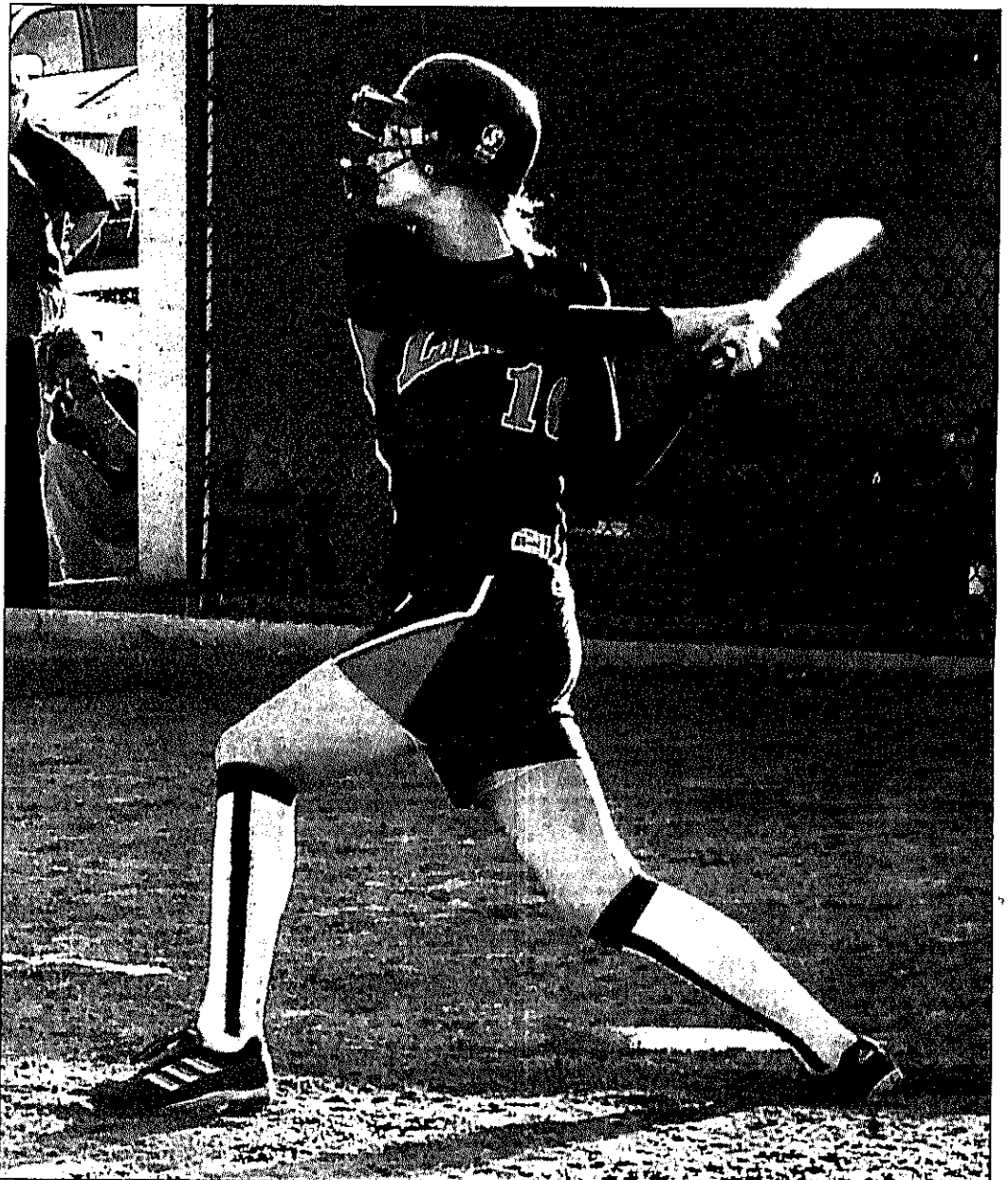


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Knights Throttle Rocks

Central moves ahead, 11-4

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

Trailing 4-2 entering the home half of the fifth inning, second-seeded Wheeling Central exploded for nine runs on the way to an 11-4 victory against upstart Barnesville in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAA Division softball tournament game played Monday on Lisa's Field at the Chambers I-470 Complex.

The triumph, No. 18 in 20 starts for the Maroon Knights, moves Central into the semifinals against Oak Glen, which beat Martins Ferry.

Mary Petros, Val Palmer



Photo by Mike Hughes

Barnesville's Chelsey Keylor, left, is late with the tag on Wheeling Central's Meggie Ball Monday's at Lisa's Field. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

and Lauren Baker drove in two runs each during the fifth-inning uprising that saw the Maroon Knights send 13 batters to the plate.

"We never should have been in that position but the girls picked themselves up and finally got some offense going," Wheeling Central co-head coach Rick Magruder said.

Magruder was a little concerned early in the game

when Central allowed Barnesville (7-9) to twice open up two-run leads.

"We have to be ready to play because everybody is going to take their best shot at us," Magruder said.

Central, which is bidding for a third straight OVAC championship after having won the Double-A title back-to-back before moving up a class this season, looked

See KNIGHTS, Page 22

Buckeye Tops Beaver

Closser's crew wins close one

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

It wasn't a masterpiece by any accounts, but Barry Closser will take it regardless.

The veteran Buckeye Local softball coach had just watched his fourth-seeded Panthers (14-4) post a 6-4 victory against No. 5 Beaver Local on Monday afternoon in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAAA tournament quarterfinal game in Connorville.

"It was entertaining for the fans," said Closser, who owns 400-plus victories during his 30-year tenure, "but we must tighten up our defense if we want to advance on."

It's not that Buckeye Local kicked the softball all over the place — they had two errors — but the Pan-

thers had some trouble catching fly balls.

"If we catch a couple of balls in the outfield, it's easily 6-0," he said, "but we'll take it. We're 14-4 and still battling."

And much of that can be credited to the pitching of sophomore Lexee Koran, who raised her personal won-loss mark to 7-3. The southpaw needed 84 pitches — 64 strikes — in setting down the Beavers (9-4).

"She's a competitor," Closser said. "She's a little bit injured, but she gutted it out. All three of our pitchers are competitors."

Buckeye Local dented the scoreboard first when Koran doubled home Nikki Cesario with two outs in the bottom of the first inning.

After the Beavers knotted the count in the top of the second, leadoff hitter Jaycee Gotschall — who started the season in the No. 9 slot in the order — made the coaching staff look good

when she lined a shot to the right-center gap that rolled to the fence and resulted in a three-run homer for a 4-1 advantage.

"We switched our lineup a little since earlier in the season," Closser said. "It paid off."

Beaver Local sliced the deficit to 4-3 with a two-spot in the fourth inning, but Ashley Becca's two-run triple to right-center restored the three-run margin. Becca was gunned down at the plate on a bang-bang play while trying for a four-bagger.

The Beavers got one run back in the sixth and appeared to have a rally in store in the seventh, but third baseman Audrey Verhovec snagged a screamer off the bat of Sammi Cianni and promptly doubled up the runner who had strayed off of first base to end the game.

See BUCKEYE, Page 19



Today's Results:

Q. Do you think the long layoff between series is good for the Penguins?

Yes: 41%
No: 59%

ON THE LINE

Tomorrow's Poll:

Q. Should Matt Morris stay in the Pirates' rotation?

Tell us what you think.

Register your answer at www.theintelligencer.net
(The results of this poll are not scientific and represent only the opinions of Internet users who have chosen to participate.)



Buckeye

(Continued from Page 17)

"We played defense when we had to," Closser said, "but we still have to tighten it up."

Koran struck out four, didn't issue a base-on-balls and scattered nine hits. In fact, she only went to three balls on one batter. She was also the only Panther to record a pair of hits as she singled in addition to her two-bagger.

Losing pitcher Kayla Mackall fanned five, but walked six — with four of those coming in the second inning. She recorded a double and triple, while teammate Allyson Jones had two doubles and a pair of RBI.

Buckeye Local is back in action today when it travels to Martins Ferry to help the Purple Riders christen their new diamond on the hilltop. Closser said junior Callie Clark will take her 5-1 mark to the mound.

The Panthers will be back in tournament action Wednesday at the I-470 Complex in Elm Grove against Wheeling Park, which defeated Brooke in another quarterfinal.

CLASS AAAA

Cambridge 3

Indian Creek 1

At Cambridge, Paige Young won a pitching duel as Meghan Tharp hit an RBI single as Cambridge topped Indian Creek.

Liz Williamson struck out six for the Redskins and teammate Rachel Haysley added a double and an RBI.

Edison 6, John Marshall 0

At Richmond, Emily Pollock hit a solo homer, Kim Smyth added a double, and Kaitlin Blake hit an RBI single as Edison (9-7) eliminated John Marshall.

Class AAA

Magnolia 4

Harrison Central 0

At New Martinsville, Tory Greene struck out 13 and hit an RBI single as Magnolia blanked Harrison

PREP SOFTBALL

Central.

Kayla Brill and Cassie Neff hit doubles for the Blue Eagles (14-8).

Oak Glen 4, M. Ferry 1

Class AA

Cameron 3

Shenandoah 0

At Cameron, Devan Shields pitched her seventh no-hitter of the season as Cameron blanked Shenandoah (7-6).

Morgan Hughes had a single and a solo home run for the Dragons (14-4).

Class A

Bishop Donahue 1

Valley 0

At Benwood, Sarah Blazer struck out eight and limited Valley to one hit as Bishop Donahue marches on.

Cassie Campbell had the RBI for the Bishops (12-9), knocking in Alexis George.

Weirton Madonna 10,

Paden City 0

At Weirton, Rebecca Stewart tossed a no-hitter and Weirton Madonna hammered Paden City.

Samantha Myers hit a double, triple, and two RBI for the Blue Dons (15-5).

Kim Davis struck out nine in a losing effort for the Wildcats.

Bellaire St. John 11,

Bridgeport 1

At Bellaire, Sara Wamsley hit two singles, a double, and a solo home run for four RBI as Bellaire St. John routed Bridgeport.

Alya Spoljar struck out nine and contributed at the plate with two singles.

Amelia Smith hit two singles for the Bulldogs.

Regular Season

Tyler Consolidated 2-0

Ravenswood 1-8

At Kidwell, Hannah Thomas totalled three singles and Kaitlin Goudy picked up a victory as Tyler Consolidated (9-11) split a doubleheader with Ravenswood (10-10).

Park

(Continued from Page 17)

Wheeling Park scored four runs in the second, with the big hit being a two-run single by Caitlin Jividen. Jividen, who was 2-for-3 with an RBI, didn't forget her glove either. Of Brooke's 15 outs, seven came via strikeout, four were hit elsewhere, and Jividen assisted on four of them.

"'Jiv' had a nice game at second," Davis noticed.

In the third, the Patriots added three more, with Amy Mathieu and Orum driving in runs. Wheeling Park provided the necessary number to end things early via the mercy rule with three more in the fourth. That charge was led by Hohman, who doubled in a run, and RBI groundouts by Mathieu and Haber.

Hohman had two doubles, as part of Wheeling

Park's nine-hit attack.

This is a Patriots team that is hitting its stride — and, more importantly, the ball — at just the right time.

"You never want to peak early in the season because then you start being lackadaisical and think you're going to win things," Davis said.

"These five seniors are pushing everybody and they're going to play to win. That's what we're in it for, to win. I don't care how we do it, we're going to try to do it."

Brooke's lone hit was a two-out grounder out of the reach of Jividen off the bat of Sam Michetti in the fourth inning.

Up next for Wheeling Park is Buckeye Local, also at I-470 where then entire tournament will conclude from here, either Wednesday or Thursday.