

## SPORTS

Thursday,  
April 29, 2010

## OVAC Softball Tournament

## Ferry, St. C. denied in 3-A

• Lady Riders fall in 8 to Edison

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

The Edison and Martins Ferry softball teams met three weeks ago and the Lady Wildcats cruised to a 10-1 victory.

The two squads met again Wednesday evening in the semifinals of the OVAC Class 3-A softball tournament at the Chambers I-470 Complex in Elm Grove.

The Lady Riders showed they've closed the gap on their Buckeye 8 rival, but Edison is moving on. The Lady Wildcats will go after their eighth conference title Saturday at 12:30 p.m. against Meadowbrook after outlasting a valiant Lady Rider effort, 7-6, in a two-hour, eight-inning marathon.

"This was a great game for the fans...particularly our fans at the end," said Edison skipper Spencer Bendle. "We've been struggling to put a full ball game together all year long and that was the case again tonight, but we're finding ways to win a majority of our games."

Edison appeared to be prime to win the game in seven innings.

After the see-saw affair, the Lady Wildcats took a one-run lead in the fifth and then added an insurance tally in the sixth when senior Abby Connelly scored on a two-out single by senior Kayla Marcus.

"Edison always seemed to have an answer for us," said Martins Ferry head coach Paige Williams. "Give them all of the credit and we knew what their lineup was capable of. We had a few bad pitches and they capitalized on them at times, but our girls fought to the very end."

However, the Lady Riders were far from finished.

Freshman Kylie Stalder belted a one-out single and Kylie Clark followed with a base knock of her own. Stalder eventually scored as an out was recorded, but Clark raced home on a wild pitch, knotting the game at six.

"Our girls deserve credit because some things didn't go our

See, FERRY, Page B2

*'Edison always seemed to have an answer for us.'*

*— Ferry coach Paige Williams*



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

MARTINS FERRY'S Shayla Outward swings at a pitch during the first inning of the Lady Riders' OVAC Class 3-A semifinal against Edison Wednesday afternoon at the Chambers I-470 Complex in Elm Grove. Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S leftfielder Jennifer Antosz makes a catch, while avoiding a collision with shortstop Jesse Machovina during their OVAC Class 3-A semifinal in Elm Grove. Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

• Lady Red Devils play long ball, but fall to Colts

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

St. Clairsville jumped all over Meadowbrook in the second OVAC Class 3-A Softball semifinal held at the chilly Chambers I-470 Complex in Elm Grove Wednesday evening.

However, the battle-tested Lady Colts proved it's not how you start, but how you finish.

After watching the Lady Red Devils snag a 5-1 upperhand, the Lady Colts cranked up their offense, got splendid defense and solid pitching to rally for a 8-5 victory and a spot in Saturday's Class 3-A final against Edison, which dispatched Martins Ferry in eight innings in the lidlifter.

"We came out hard and had an awesome start," said St. C. head coach Rachel Duncan. "We didn't have room for any mistakes and we made some. I am not disappointed, but it's a tough loss because I felt like we deserved it."

While St. C. (14-8) was making its first appearance in the semifinals in quite sometime, the Lady Colts are going back to the title game for the second straight year. They fell in last year's epic final to Harrison Central.

"St. Clairsville came out and hit the ball hard from the first pitch on," said Meadowbrook head coach Bridgett George. "But, we made some plays and we're just excited to be back in the finals."

The Lady Red Devils assumed a 3-0 lead after junior slugger Taylor Clark connected on a belt-high fastball and took it out of the yard in left.

They pushed the margin to 5-1 in the second when talented junior Jesse Machovina got a pitch to drive and deposited deep into the evening for a 2-run blast.

*'We didn't have any room for mistakes, and we made some.'*

*— St. C. coach Rachel Duncan*

The Lady Colts then began to chip away. They got a single run in the third and tied the game in the fifth.

St. Clairsville pitcher Sarah Slenski struggled with her control and walked the bases loaded. Alyse Dudley plated a run with the first hit of the inning. Kylee Williams then drove in a run with another single, but Meadowbrook had a run thrown out at the plate.

Slenski then appeared to induce the second out of the frame when she got Alyssa Wright to lift a high fly ball to leftcenter. However, the Lady Red Devils' misplayed it and Dudley was able to knot the game.

The Lady Devils threatened in the sixth. Britany Saffel roped a triple to the right-field gap. The ensuing Red Devil batter appeared to have driven her home with a single, but Lady Colts' shortstop Candace Neff made a brilliant diving catch and then doubled off Saffel to thwart the rally.

The Lady Colts continued to build on the momentum. Ashley Clark poked a one-out single

See, DEVILS, Page B2

**JM**

**Ferry**

Continued from Page B1

way throughout the game," Bendle said. "Our pitchers were struggling, we made some mistakes defensively, had some bad at-bats and poor base running, but with all of the said, we found a way to get it done. We're going to fight to the end."

Edison got two aboard in the bottom of the seventh, but talented sophomore pitcher Cirstie Delguzzo endured a comebacker to escape the jam and force free softball.

Delguzzo dropped down a beautiful bunt with one out. She advanced all the way to third after the ball was thrown down the right-field line.

Much to the chagrin of Ferry's large following, Delguzzo was called out at third for leaving early on an attempted tag up on Taylor Campbell's pop out.

"We've had some very interesting calls this year, but I think that one will hurt us the most and be the one that I remember the most," Williams said. "The girls fought hard, and I think we've proven who we are. We didn't get some calls to go our way, but that happens."

Senior Alexis Kunkle led off the bottom of the inning with a double. Kristen Prokopakis reached on a fielder's choice after she had sacrificed to move Kunkle up 60 feet.

Kunkle was picked off third, but Marcus reached on a fielder's choice and Kelly Morgan singled. Kristen Prokopakis scored the game-winner from third on an error.

Ferry's offense was led by Courtney Frohnapfel who had a RBI double. Delguzzo - who suffered the mound loss - had a pair of hits. Kaci Rykowski had a RBI single and Stalder drove in a run on a groundout.

Edison, meanwhile, was led by the aforementioned Prokopakis sisters. Kayla came on in relief to earn the mound win. She had a two-run home run in the fifth and a single. Kelly Morgan had a three-hit game. Kunkle also had two hits out of the nine-spot in the order.

Linescore:  
Martins Ferry 101 110 20 - 6 5 7  
Edison 210 021 01 - 7 12 2  
BATTERIES: Delguzzo and Rykowski. Tice, Ka. Prokopakis (5) and Leggett.  
Staskey can be reached at staskey@timesleaderonline.com

**Devils**

Continued from Page B1

down the first-base line. After another out was recorded, Neff then drew a walk and Dudley followed with a RBI single. Williams then laced another single, which scored both Neff and Dudley.

"We had a girl thrown out at the plate, got picked off on a line drive, left early on a tag up and had an error in centerfield," Duncan said. "I am still proud of them though because they fought and played like a team."

St. Clairsville got two runners aboard in the seventh, but had a runner called out for leaving third base early on an attempted tag up.

Clark and Machovina led St. C's offense with two hits piece. Jenn Antosz also had two base wraps.

Linescore:  
St. Clairsville 320 000 0 - 5 10 4  
Meadowbrook 101 033 x - 8 7 0  
BATTERIES: Slenski and Hummel. Endly and Ab. Dudley.

(Continued from Page 19)

For a while it didn't look like South would get the opportunity to play Saturday with John Marshall (19-5) freshman pitcher Amy Rotriga mowing the Patriots down through five innings.

Actually, Rotriga didn't do bad in the final two either, striking out seven and allowing just one hit. However, Parkersburg South also scored both of its runs during that time.

The Monarchs got their only run in the bottom of the fourth on Haley Rush's two-out home run over the center-field fence.

But with one out in the top of the sixth Katelyn Hamilton stuck out, only to reach on a wild pitch with one down. After moving to second on a passed ball, Hamilton advanced to third on another wild pitch with two down.

Senior catcher Megan Wilson's run-scoring sin-

gle to right-center field on a 3-2 pitch turned it into a new game with a 1-1 deadlock.

The start of the seventh looked a little like deja vu as Allison Parsons fanned to start things off only to reach on a wild pitch and advance to second on another. Parsons moved to third on a sacrifice bunt with Sarah Gray being safe at first on a dropped throw for an error.

Kaylee Wiggins then bunted and reached first on a fielder's choice with the bases loaded and one out. Winning pitcher CeCe Bailey also bunted, allowing Parsons to beat the throw home for what would turn into the game-winning run.

Coach Ed West's stunned squad went down in order in the bottom of the inning as the Patriots celebrated their improbable victory.

"These girls were persistent to the very end,"

Null added. "I think their pitcher got a little tired. We helped her out the whole game swinging at balls, but we kept our heads up and kept pushing."

"This is a great overall team. We have fielded the ball well all year and played as a team all the way down to the girls cheering on the bench. Everyone has been together."

"We started the season against Wheeling Park and now we will end the regular season against them, and hopefully we will get a big win and that flag."

West, meanwhile, watched his freshman pitcher fan 14 and walk only one while allowing three hits. But she had to take the hardest of hard-luck losses.

"Striking girls out and giving them bases is a tough way to lose," he said with a shrug. "I really feel bad for Amy, she

pitched well enough to win this game but just didn't get the help.

"We had a lot of missed opportunities with runner in scoring position and gave them a couple of gifts on defense. The worst part is that we had girls at the plate who normally come through for us. We could n't have asked for better situations."

"Haley (Rush) had stroked the ball real well for us all season and she has the power to connect like she did (Wednesday) I just wish we could have scored a couple of more when we had the chances."

Bailey set down eight or strikes and did not issue a free pass while John Marshall outthit South by an 8-3 margin.

**South**

(Continued from Page 19)

Linsly's James Long - by a 10-7 score in a match that lasted nearly an hour and 15 minutes.

"I felt good out there," Riberio said. "I hurt my leg in the last match and it was painful. I thought I could have won, but (Tebay) played better than me."

"(The match against Long) was a long match and that was too much for one day. I was very tired. If I wasn't tired, I could have played better but I felt I did a pretty good job."

Linsly led most of the afternoon, but Long's loss in the semifinal opened the door for Parkersburg South to seize control.

Parkersburg South's No. 4 Singles player, Andrej Svidron, defeated Linsly's Paresch Sovani in the semis and the Patriots had won the trophy before the finals matches took place.

Parkersburg South finished with 22 points, while Linsly came in second with 19 and Cambridge placed third with 14.

Linsly's lone champion came in the form of Bird, who defeated South's Josh Wise, 10-3.

"I knew his backhand was going to be weak so I attacked it," Bird said. "Some matches I did well, some I could have played better, but that was my best match. It feels pretty good."


Holland defeated Cambridge's Connor Engstrom,

10-1, for the No. 3 title. McCormick knocked off Svidron, 10-5, in the final match of the afternoon.

Oak Glen's Jesse Beilhart was selected as the winner of Carol Strasser Sportsmanship Award.

The girls' tournament completes today, starting at 8:30 a.m. Linsly and Parkersburg South are at the top of the standings after the doubles portion.

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**AL**

**South**

(Continued from Page 19)

Greco before rallying to beat the 2009 Class A No. 1 Singles state champion in a tiebreaker, 9-8 (4).

Like that wasn't hard enough, McDermott was then set to face Halbert in the final.

The senior won the No. 1 singles championship last year, beating Greco. This year, she was even more impressive.

Halbert defeated McDermott, 8-0, to complete a run in which she didn't yield a point all day.

In No 2, Bush trailed Wheeling Central's Natalie Palmer, 5-4, before scoring the final four points to beat out the Maroon Knights senior, 8-5.

In the battle of Patriots, Parkersburg South's Dushkoff blanked Wheeling Park's Ali Prather, 8-0.

Osborn completed the Parkersburg South sweep at No. 4 with a victory

against Linsly's Diane Long. Long, like her Cadets teammate, also had a battle in the semifinals, edging Wheeling Central's Natalie Capito in a tiebreaker set to advance to the final.

"Morgan was down in the semifinal and 6-1 is tough to come back from," Riethmiller said. "She really hung in there and pulled it out. Diane was in a similar situation and fought hard, too. I'm really proud of them both."

"Our closest match in the regular season with Parkersburg South was 8-2 so we knew they were strong and we were going to have our hands full. But we are very happy to finish runner-up and this is a nice way to end the season for us."

McDermott was selected as winner of the Carol Strasser Sportsmanship Award.

**OVAC Softball**

- OVAC Tournament  
At I-470 Chambers Complex  
Wheeling  
Tuesday  
Field 3  
Class AA
- 5 p.m. Buckeye Trail vs Monroe Central
  - 6:30 p.m. Fort Frye vs Steubenville Central
  - Championship (Saturday, May 1)
  - 10:30 a.m. - Winners meet on Lisa's Field
  - Field 4
  - Class A
  - 5 p.m. Weirton Madonna vs St. John Central
  - 6:30 p.m. Bridgeport vs Cameron
  - Championship (Saturday, May 1)
  - 3:45 p.m. - Winners meet on Lisa's Field
  - April 28, 2010
  - Field 3
  - Class AAAA
  - 5 p.m. Wheeling Park vs Indian Creek
  - 6:30 p.m. Parkersburg South vs John Marshall
  - Championship (Saturday, May 1)
  - 2 p.m. - Winners of Semis meet on Lisa's Field
  - Field 4
  - Class AAA
  - 5 p.m. Martins Ferry vs Edison
  - 6:30 p.m. St. Clairsville vs Meadowbrook
  - Championship (Saturday, May 1)
  - 12:15 p.m. - Winners meet on Lisa's Field

## Cameron pockets 1-A softball title over SJC

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

When playing in championship games, runs tend to be a little hard to come by.

When opportunities arise, teams have to cash in on them or suffer the consequences.

St. John Central fit that bill Saturday afternoon at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex in dropping a 3-0 verdict to Cameron in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A title tilt.

The Irish wasted a pair of bases-loaded situations and stranded nine runners total.

"We had more opportunities (to score) than they did," St. John Central head coach Jerry Magistro offered. "We had the bases loaded twice and the meat of our order up. You've gotta come up with a hit there."

The game was scoreless entering the home half of the sixth as Cameron's Tara Paczewski and St. John Central's Bethany

See, SJC, Page C3



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY  
**ST. JOHN'S** Rosa Young shows her emotion after the Lady Irish fell in the Class 1-A title game Saturday afternoon to Cameron.

## Fort Frye tops Monroe in 2-A

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

It just wasn't meant to be for Monroe Central's girls' softball team Saturday morning.

The third-seeded Lady 'Noles (16-7) committed five errors and recorded just two hits in dropping a 3-0 decision to Fort Frye in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's Class AA championship game on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Elm Grove.

"This game was kind of like the one we played at their place (a 4-0 loss)," Monroe Central head coach Missy Knowlton said. "The only thing different is that we didn't have to make that trip (to Beverly)."



See, FORT, Page C3

## Edison Rallies Past Meadowbrook to Win 5-3

By AARON PETCHAL  
For the News-Register

WHEELING — Edison scratched and clawed its way to another championship.

Saturday, the Edison softball team was down but the Wildcats fought back and came through in the clutch, scoring three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to rally and defeat Meadowbrook, 5-3, in the OVAC Class AAA championship game at the I-470 Chambers Complex.

The victory gave the Wildcats their second straight OVAC championship and their 10th title overall.

"Things weren't going our way early in the ballgame," Edison coach Spencer Bendle said. "We weren't being real disciplined at the plate, and we were chasing

### ■ Class AAA Softball

some pitches we probably shouldn't have been. We weren't getting bunts down. We weren't moving runners over and putting them in scoring position, and then again it is frustrating that we had runners in scoring position with two outs and we just weren't getting the timely hits.

"On the reverse side of that, Meadowbrook was doing those things. They were hitting the ball with two outs, scoring runs, and things just weren't going our way.

"We told the girls with each at-bat as they came in off of the field, 'let's work on getting one run here, and we will build from that. Continue to put the ball in play. Let's

be a little bit more disciplined at the plate,' and things eventually worked out for us."

In the sixth inning, Edison used its team speed to its advantage as the Wildcats were able to put the ball in play, and the speed of the batters forced the Colts into making multiple mistakes keying the comeback.

Kayla Prokopakis produced a two-run double in the sixth inning sparking the victory.

Also, Kristin Prokopakis and Kayla Marcus each had a single and an RBI, and Kelly Morgan, Molly McCoy and Tricia Trifonoff all tallied base hits.

Kayla Prokopakis picked up the victory for Edison. Prokopakis, who gave up four hits, struck out two and walked one.

In the seventh inning,

Prokopakis was able to retire the Colts in order giving the championship to the Wildcats. The highlight of the inning was a running catch by senior shortstop Alexis Kunkel that resulted in the second out of the inning.

Erin Endley took the loss for Meadowbrook, finishing with four strikeouts and five walks.

Offensively, Kylee Chaffin contributed a solo home run, Candace Neff and Alyssa Wright each recorded a double and an RBI and Alyse Dudley delivered a base hit.

The Colts led 1-0 after one inning. Edison tied the score with a run in the fourth. Meadowbrook regained the lead with two runs in the fifth, one coming on Chaffin's home run. The Wildcats closed the gap with a run in the fifth making the score 3-2.

## ● SJC

Continued from Page C1

Cera had dominated the game, combining for 20 strikeouts and yielding just four hits.

The Irish (18-6) threatened in the second when they loaded the bases on a trio of free passes with two outs, but Paczewski ended the rally with a strikeout. The Green Gang filled the sacks once again in the fifth on a pair of walks and Cera's infield single with two outs. However, Cameron left fielder Staci Hall made the defensive play of the game when she snagged Ayla Spoljar's sinking liner at her shoe tops for the final out.

"That girl in left field made the play," Magistro said of the catch. "She came up big because if that ball gets behind her we score at least three runs if not a fourth."

The Dragons (20-4) advanced a runner to third in their half of the fifth, but Cera worked her way out of the mini-jam.

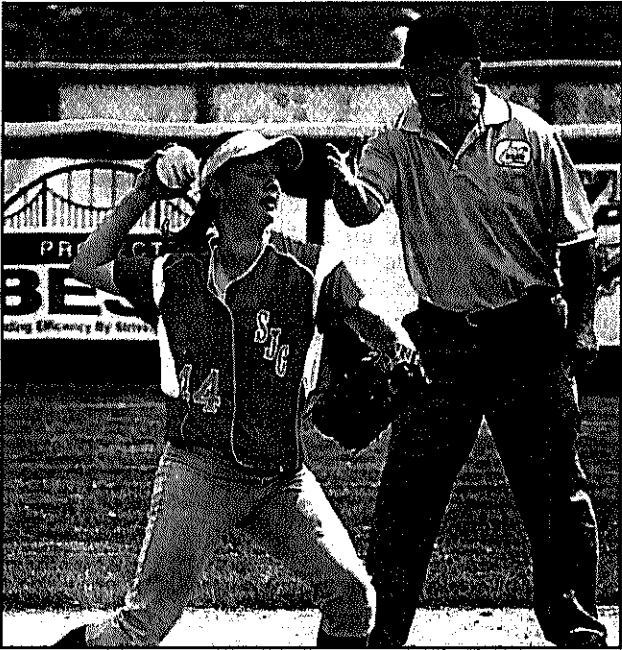
However, she couldn't get out of the sixth as Cameron, which successfully defended its title, banged out five of its seven hits in the inning while tallying all three of its runs.

Kelsey Allen ignited the uprising with a one-out double to the fence in left-center. Megan Marsh then bounced a ball up the middle that was gloved but no play could be made as Allen went to third. Morgan Hughes dropped an RBI single into shallow right-center that scored Allen and Shelby Wood's sacrifice fly to right plated Marsh. Hughes would race around from second when the ball was overthrown at the plate.

Allen singled and doubled to lead Cameron's offensive attack, while Audrey Bryan also had a one-base rap and a two-bagger. Cera singled twice for St. John Central's lone safeties.

"It seems that in all of our losses we're just a hit or two away from winning those games," Magistro noted. "That's just the way its been this year."

Linescore:  
St. John Central 000 000 0 — 0 2 2  
Cameron 000 003 x — 3 7 1  
BATTERIES: Cera and Young. Paczewski and Wood.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**ST. JOHN'S** Kaydie Coppa tries to turn a double play as umpire Norm Whitlatch calls an out at second base.

## ● Fort

Continued from Page C1

That's a horrible trip.

"But the girls showed up to play," she continued. "We had some fundamental errors and we couldn't get our bats going. They (Fort Frye) made some awesome plays and they were just the better team today."

"I'm disappointed for the girls to come this far and then play like we did," she added.

Championship game atmosphere's are nothing new to the Cadets (16-5), at least four of them who claimed titles on the basketball court last winter.

"That absolutely helps," Fort Frye head coach Barbara Sleek said. "The girls knew what to expect and what its like. They rose to the challenge."

The Cadets didn't even know if they would be playing in the tournament until a late rush prior to the cutoff date. They finished fourth and drew top-seeded Steubenville Central in the first round. They won, 11-0, in five innings.

Then came Saturday's game in which two of the three runs they scored were unearned.

"We come into each game with the philosophy that defense wins championships," Sleek added. "We knew we weren't going to score many runs, so we concentrated on our defense. They (Monroe) made a couple of errors and we capitalized upon them."

The contest was scoreless until the top of the fourth when Fort Frye bunched three hits together to plate a

## Mayfair leads

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Billy Mayfair is one round away from his first victory on the PGA Tour in 12 years.

Mayfair never lost the lead during a mad scramble behind him Saturday at the Quail Hollow Championship, shooting a 1-under 71 to build a two-shot lead.



**MONROE CENTRAL** shortstop Alex Kuhn throws to first during the OVAC Class 2-A softball final in Elm Grove Saturday morning.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

pair of runs, but two key Monroe Central miscues aided the rally.

Hard-hitting Nicole Miller reached on an error leading off. One out later she advanced to second on Leah Baker's single to right. Sammi Hanson attempted to move the runners up with a sacrifice bunt, but was ruled to have stepped out of the batter's box which resulted in the second out.

Kylee Close came through with a looping single just over shortstop Alex Kuhn's head that plated Miller. Winning pitcher Victoria Mimken followed with a rolling single through the right side of the infield, but when the ball was bobbled in the outfield, Baker raced home to make it 2-0.

The Cadets tacked on an insurance run in the seventh when Baker's sacrifice fly knocked in Devan Vaughn.

Monroe Central, which only had five baserunners in the game and none further than second, threatened in the bottom of the sixth. Kuhn drew a one-out walk and Leah Winland singled an out later. However, Sarah Lucas' fly ball to right ended the inning.

"That's been our season. We get good pitching and our defense lets us down. We get baserunners on and our bats don't come through," Knowlton said.

Sleek, meanwhile, is pleasantly surprised with her young squad.

"We've only got one senior and this was totally unexpected," she said. "Our returning pitcher (Kelsey Watson) rolled her car the day before the season opener and broke her collarbone. Victoria (Mimken) has stepped in and done a wonderful job."

Fort Frye banged out seven hits and didn't com-

mit an error in back of Mimken's two-hit shutout. She recorded half-a-dozen strikeouts and issued a trio of free passes.

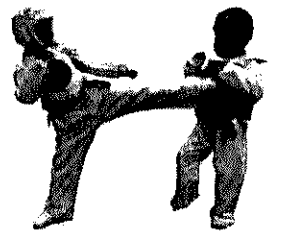
Lucas fanned six and walked a pair. She also doubled for one of Monroe Central's two hits.

Linescore:  
Fort Frye 000 200 1 — 3 7 0  
Monroe 000 000 0 — 0 2 5  
BATTERIES: Mimken and Miller. Lucas and DeLong.  
North can be reached at [knorth@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:knorth@timesleaderonline.com)

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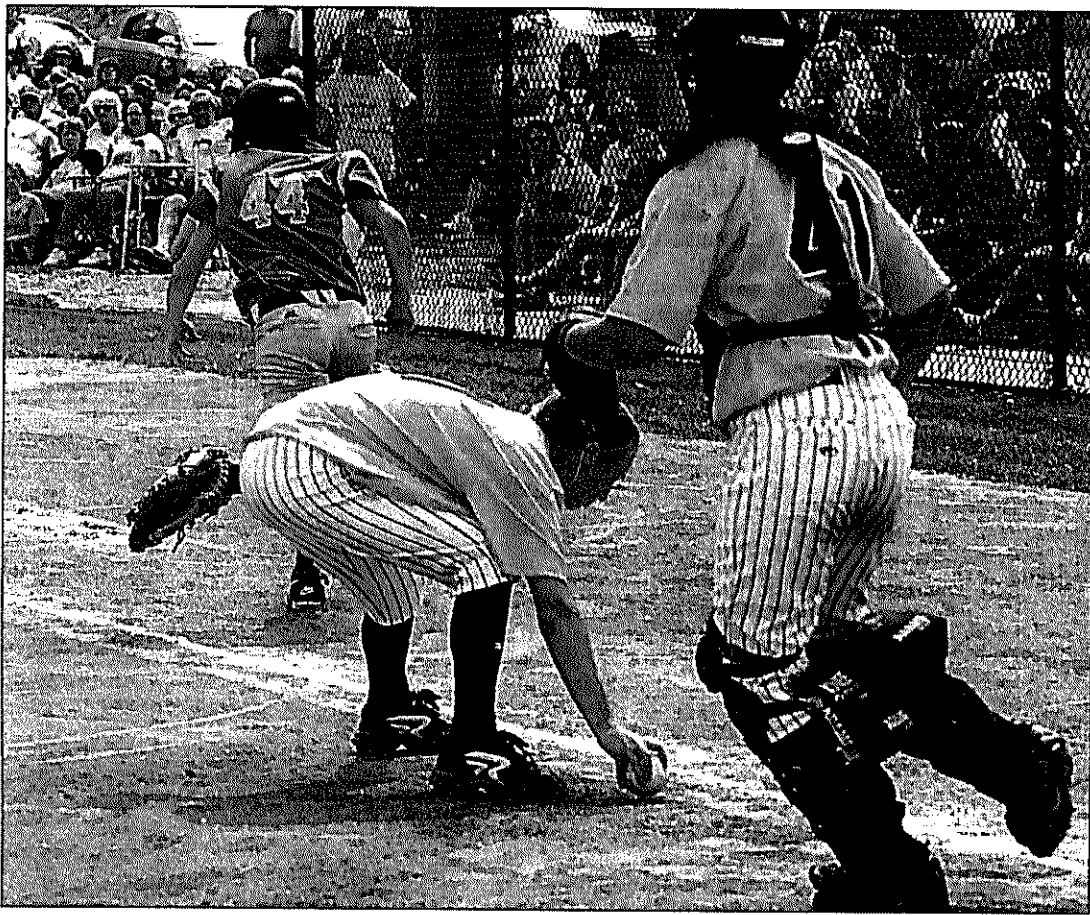


Photo by Seth Staskey

Cameron pitcher Tara Paczewski fields a ball in front of catcher Shelby Wood as St. John Central's Kaydle Coppa races to first base during action of the OVAC Class A softball final.

## Cameron Girls Repeat

**Paczewski fires  
2-hitter at St. John**

**By TRACY WATSON  
For The News-Register**

WHEELING — Following a breakout 2009 campaign in which Cameron won an OVAC title, a sectional championship and a regional crown before losing in the West Virginia Class A finals, the Dragons are at it again.

Sophomore Tara Paczewski fired a two-hitter, mowing down

### ■ Class A Softball

14 batters on strikes while walking six, and senior Morgan Hughes' RBI single in the bottom of sixth chased home the winning run as top-seeded Cameron plated all of the game's runs in the inning en route to a 3-0 blanking of Belaire St. John on Saturday on Lisa's Field to capture the OVAC Class A championship.

"After losing five starters to graduation last year I don't

think anyone really expected any of this again," Cameron coach Mark Witzberger said. "But these girls have worked so hard and they had a great off-season in which the parents take charge and help make all of this come together.

"They do all the work and I just get to sit back and reap the benefits. But these girls are just so much fun to be around."

Missed opportunities were the name of the game through a scoreless first five innings with

*See, Cameron, Page B4*

## Parkersburg South Caps Big Week

**Coach Null calls winning  
the championship an honor**

**By NICK BEDWAY  
For the News-Register**

WHEELING — Capturing its third Ohio Valley Athletic Conference spring sports championship of the week, Parkersburg South relied on

### ■ Class AAAA Softball

the stellar pitching of sophomore CeCe Bailey and rock-solid defense to defeat Wheeling Park, 2-0, in the Class AAAA softball final Saturday morning at the Chambers I-470 Complex.

*See, South, Page B4*

## CAMERON

Continued from page B1

Coach Jerry Magistro's Fighting Irish (17-6) struggling time and again to get a big hit.

St. John stranded a runner at second in the first frame, left the bases loaded in both the second and fifth innings and had two on in the seventh but could not push across a run.

Losing pitcher Bethany Cera, who struck out six and did not walk a batter, led off the game with a base hit, but was stranded at second. Paczewski lost a little control in the second, walking three hitters, then getting a big strikeout to end the threat.

A pair of walks and a Cera infield single, the only other Irish hit of the contest, loaded the bases again, however, left fielder Staci Hall raced in and made a shoestring catch of a Ayla Spoljar line drive to avoid any damage.

Cameron (20-4) had a single by Kelsey Allen in the first, but Cera retired the next 11 hitters before freshman Audrey Bryan ripped a shot deep off the left-field fence for a double, which the Dragons could not cash in.

Things changed in the sixth when Allen stroked a one-out double to left and

moved to third on Meghan Marsh's infield single.

Hughes laced a 1-2 pitch over second for an RBI single and a 1-0 lead. With runners at first and third, Shelby Wood lofted a run-scoring sacrifice fly to right with Hughes also coming all the way around when the throw home went awry to make it 3-0.

Cameron had five of its seven hits in the sixth inning.

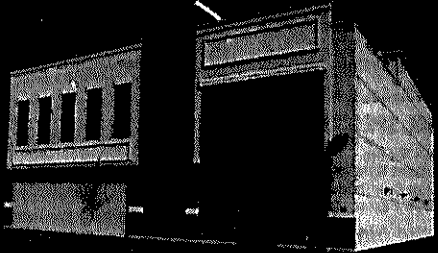
A walk and error, both coming with one out, brought the tying run to the plate for St. John in the seventh but Paczewski earned a strikeout and a roller back to the mound to end the threat and begin the celebration.

"Morgan Hughes is a big-game player and has been for four years," Witzberger said. "I am so proud of her and of this team, but Morgan has been so unselfish this season."

The Fighting Irish ended up stranding nine runners in the game, including six in scoring position.

"We had more opportunities than they did and we had the meat of our order up twice with the bases loaded and couldn't score," Magistro said. "We had so many chances and you have to come up with a hit there and we just didn't."

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## SOUTH

Continued from page B1

One of the newcomers to the bi-state conference, the Wood County Patriots are already proving they will be a force in years to come. Earlier this week, Parkersburg South captured both the boys' and girls' tennis championships after also having won the overall wrestling title in January at West-Banco Arena.

"We are very excited about being a part of the OVAC," Parkersburg South coach Jenny Null said. "Winning this championship is an honor for our school and our program."

Bailey tossed a five-hitter, struck out five and issued just one walk in besting Park ace Angela Johnson. The Park Patriots senior surrendered five hits, matching the total yielded by Bailey.

Johnson was touched for a run in the opening

inning despite not giving up a hit. Park had to make a couple of defensive adjustments because senior outfielder Taylor Cope missed the game to attend freshman orientation at West Virginia University. One of the switches backfired immediately when Parkersburg South's lead-off hitter Katelynn Hamilton's fly ball into center field wasn't caught and resulted in a three-base error.

Taylor Wittekind then hit a grounder to third baseman Mallory Morris and when she made the throw to first for the out, Hamilton took off for home. The throw beat Hamilton to the plate but she slid in safely when the ball got past catcher Carly Slater.

South scored its other run when in the fifth when Bailey singled, was replaced by courtesy run-

ner Jessie Townsend, advanced to second on a fielder's choice, and scored on single by Wittekind.

Two runs proved more than enough for Bailey, whose assortment of fastballs, changeups and off-speed pitches kept the Ohio County Patriots off balance throughout the game.


"She walked a lot of batters when we beat her in the opening game of the season," Wheeling Park coach Dee Davis said. "She keeps the ball low and sometimes has trouble getting it into the strike zone."

Wheeling Park's last-ditch rally attempt in the seventh began with leadoff singles from Slater and Kayla Kimmins. Franke twice fouled off pitches attempting to bunt before striking out, another victim of one of Bailey's tantalizing changeups.

Park's gamble to get the tying runs at second and third backfired when South catcher Megan Wilson knocked down a potential wild pitch and made a throw in time for a tag of Slater at third base.

The game ended with still another sparkling catch in center by Wittekind, who raced in to grab Morris' sinking drive just above the ankles

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## OVAC SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT SEMIFINAL ACTION



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

**ST. JOHN** Central's Bethany Cera fires plateward during Tuesday's OVAC Class A semifinal at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex in Wheeling. The Irish blanked Weirton Madonna, 4-0. Cera had 14 strikeouts. See image at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

## Irish in 'A' finals

• Cera fans 14 in 4-0 blanking of Madonna

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

The St. John Central girls' softball team has enjoyed quite a few victories over the 10 years under Jerry Magistro. To be exact — 200.

That milestone came Tuesday afternoon at the bright, but chilly J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex in Wheeling in the form of a 4-0 shutout of W.Va. rival Weirton Madonna in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A Tournament semifinal.

With the win, the No. 2 seeded Irish (17-5) advance to meet top-seeded Cameron Saturday for the championship. That time will be set following Wednesday night's action.

"We got some timely hits and we were patient at the plate," Magistro said. "We were very disciplined at the plate and not anxious. We took some pitches and it seemed to work."

Junior Bethany Cera was on her game yesterday. The hard-throwing righty struck out 14 Blue Dons, while walking just one. She scattered seven hits — six singles and a double — but continually wiggled her way out of jam-after-jam as third-seeded Weirton Madonna left 10 runners on base.

"Bethany was pretty good today," Magistro said. "All season our pitchers have done everything we've asked of them. We've got three of them and I'm not afraid to send anyone of them out there."

Cera registered the eight of the first nine outs on strikeouts as she was dominant early on. She didn't allow a Blue Don runner to reach third base until there were two outs in the sixth inning.

"We left a lot of baserunners on in key situations," Weirton Madonna head coach Cris Conti explained. "We just couldn't get a key hit when we needed to."

"On the other hand, they (St. John) got the key hits when the needed them," he added. "That was the difference. I thought my girls played hard. I'm not disappointed in their effort at all."

Locked in a scoreless game through 3 1/2 innings, the Lady Irish scored all the runs they would need in the bottom of the fourth. Rosa Young drew a leadoff walk on a 3-1 pitch. Ayla Spoljar followed with a full-count double to right-center field as Young pulled into third. With the infield pulled in, Kylie Caddell's shot to third caromed off the third baseman as Young raced home for a 1-0 edge. Alexis Sharpe bunted for a base hit to load the bases and Gina Beekman walked to force in the second tally.

See. IRISH, Page B2

*'We got some timely hits and we were patient at the plate.'*

— Jerry Magistro

## Bridgeport drops heartbreaker to Cameron

• Lady Bulldogs blow 6-0 lead, fall to Dragons 8-7 in 8 innings

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Don't try to tell Bob Krajnyak about moral victories.

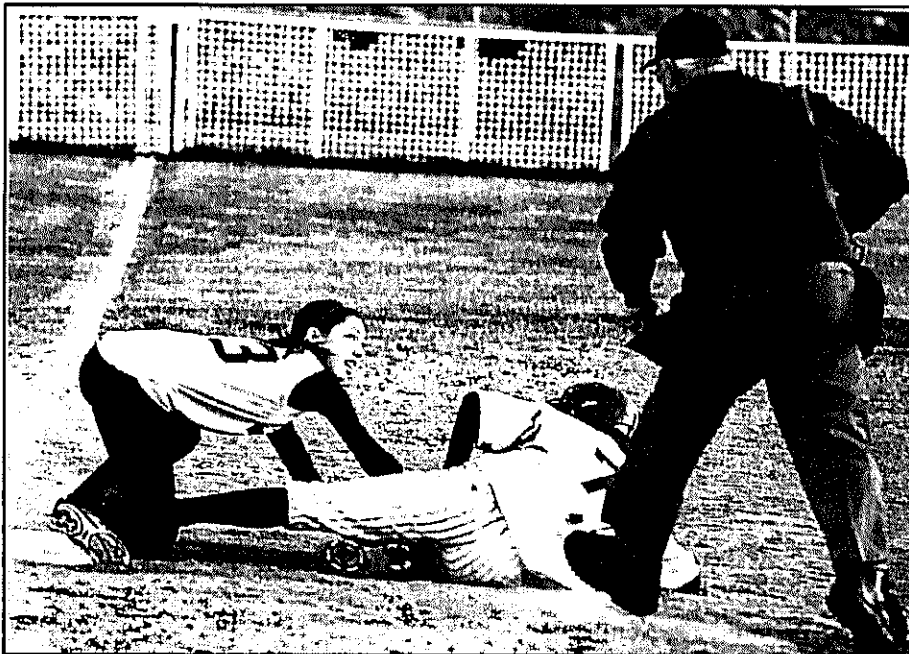
His fourth-seeded Bridgeport girls' softball team had just dominated top-seeded Cameron for five innings before self destructing Tuesday night at the chill-filled J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex in Wheeling.

Leading 6-0 after 5 1/2 innings, freshman Ashley Hadzima had held the hard-hitting Dragons (19-4) to just three hits.

However, seven errors later — six in the final three innings — the Lady Bulldogs (12-6) had watched their lead vanquish as Cameron rallied three times for a thrill-packed, 8-7, victory in eight innings in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A Tournament semifinal.

"Devastating," Krajnyak said, shaking his head in disbelief. "We controlled the whole game until the sixth. Not making plays cost us today. If we make the plays, we're playing Saturday for the championship."

See. BRIDGEPORT, Page B2



**BRIDGEPORT** THIRD baseman Morissa Booth (23) looks to home plate umpire Dan Delande for the call during Tuesday's game with Cameron. The Dragons' Tara Paczewski was out on the play. The Bulldogs fell, 8-7, in 8 innings. See image at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER



**MONROE CENTRAL'S** Erica Hooper slides across home plate as Buckeye Trail catcher Dani Sells awaits the ball. See image at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

## Monroe hikes Trail

• Seminoles rally past Warriors, 2-1, in 8 innings

By MIKE PALMER  
Times Leader Sports Writer

If revenge is a dish best served cold, Mother Nature supplied the perfect setting as the chilly winds and dropping temperatures were the backdrop as the Monroe Central girls' softball team issued a punitive measure against Buckeye Trail.

The Lady Seminoles were still stinging from a 12-2 mercy loss to the Warriors' last Friday night in Old Washington but took their measure of retribution Tuesday evening as they ended the tournament bid for Buckeye Trail, 2-1, in the OVAC AA softball semi-final match at the Chambers I-470 complex.

*'That's a supreme effort by our girls.'*

— Missy Knowlton

"That's a supreme effort by our girls," said a very happy Monroe Central head coach Missy Knowlton. "We were ready and we came to play."

See. MONROE, Page B2

# Irish

Continued from Page B1

That would be all the support that Cera needed, but she had to escape jams in the fifth and sixth innings. Her teammates gave her some breathing room with solo runs in the bottom of the aforementioned innings. Young reached on an interference call with one out in the fifth. Spoljar's groundout advanced Young to second and she went to third when Caddell's grounder was misplayed. After Caddell stole second without a throw, Sharpe singled to left to plate Young to make it 3-0. Cera helped her own cause with a two-out double in the sixth. Freshman Kaydie Coppia singled her home with the final run.

It appeared early on that St. John Central had run itself out of three innings. The Irish had a player run through a stop sign at third base and get nailed at the plate to end the first inning. A line drive double play put a halt to a rally in the second, and a runner leaving first base too early stalled the third-inning.

"I don't know what we were thinking about with those early baserunning mistakes," Magistro said. "I guess it

was just one of those days. We couldn't get anything going early and you can't do what we were doing and win championships.

"But I have faith in these girls and we continued to have the patience and discipline at the plate, which we have worked on all year. They waited and we got some big, key hits when it counted."

Spoljar singled and doubled, while Caddell and Sharpe each singled twice.

Jen Nogay singled twice and doubled for three of Weirton Madonna's seven hits.

St. John Central returns to regular season action Thursday when it hosts Union Local. Today's scheduled game with John Marshall has been postponed due to the Monarchs being in OVAC Tournament action.

Linescore:  
Weirton Madonna 000 000 0 — 0 7 2  
St. John Central 000 211 x — 4 11 1

BATTERIES: Stewart and Myers. Cera and Young.  
*North can be reached at [knorth@timesleader-online.com](mailto:knorth@timesleader-online.com)*

# Bridgeport

Continued from Page B1

"But give Cameron credit," he continued. "They didn't quit."

Meghan Marsh's bases-loaded single to left field with one out in the bottom eighth chased home Cassidi Richmond with the winning run to cap the Dragons' furious comeback.

The Dragons scored four times in the sixth, twice in the seventh to tie the game at 6. Then, after Bridgeport regained the lead with a run in the top of the eighth, the defending titlists tallied twice in their at-bat to win it.

Staci Hall started the game-winning rally by reaching second on the first of two Bridgeport errors in the inning. She would advance to second on Tara Paczewski's sacrifice bunt. When Hall rounded third a little too wide, the throw across the infield was off target as Hall raced home. Richmond reached second on the third miscue of the inning and went to third base on Shenai Wade's bunt single. Wade then stole second base uncontested and Kelsey Allen — who had homered in the seventh — was walked to load the bases and set the stage for Marsh's game-ender on a 1-0 pitch.

The Bulldogs broke a scoreless pitcher's duel between Hadzima and the Dragons' Paczewski, who had already beaten Bridgeport twice this

season by scores of 15-0 and 4-0, with three runs in the top of the fourth.

Ashley Grall's two-run single up the middle scored Bev Reed and Sarah Bowers to make it 3-0. Shauna Bandy had scored earlier on a Cameron throwing error.

Bridgeport added three more tallies in the fifth, two coming on Reed's two-run, two-out single to left that plated Amelia Smith and Bandy. Reed went to second on the throw to the plate and Sarah Bowers walked. The duo then pulled off a double steal as Bowers took second and Reed raced home ahead of the return throw.

Cameron finally broke through in the sixth when Allen, who was on base all five times, drew a leadoff walk. After stealing second she touched the plate on a single to right by Marsh, who would score one out later on Shelby Wood's single to left. Hall's groundout made it 6-3 and the fourth run with come around on an error.

After Bridgeport failed to score in the top of the seventh, Allen's solo blast to deep left pulled Cameron to within one, 6-5. Marsh's infield popup was dropped and she stole second. While attempting to steal third, Bandy rifled a strike to Morissa

Booth who applied the tag for the second out. Morgan Hughes kept the inning alive with a full-count walk. A wild pitch moved her to second, but Wood's grounder appeared to end the game.

However, the error bug-a-boo popped up again as Hughes raced home with the tying run.

Bridgeport re-gained the lead in the top of the eighth. Reed's sharp single to left eluded the outfielder and rolled to the fence as Reed chugged into second. Bowers' sacrifice bunt moved Reed to third, and Grall's perfectly placed bloop single before the mound allowed Reed to score.

However, it just wasn't meant to be for the Lady 'Dogs as their gloves let them down once again in the bottom of the inning — for the last time.

Booth singled and doubled to lead Bridgeport's 8-hit attack. Bandy, Reed and Grall evenly divided six base knocks. Grall recorded three RBI and Reed two.

Bridgeport hosts Toronto Monday.

Linescore:  
Bridgeport 000 330 01 — 7 8 7  
Cameron 000 004 22 — 8 10 5

BATTERIES: Hadzima and Bandy. Paczewski and Wood.  
*North can be reached at [knorth@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:knorth@timesleaderonline.com)*

# Monroe

Continued from Page B1

As Knowlton alluded to, the Lady Noles' wasted little time in making their statement that this game was to be different than the last meeting between the two teams.

Asia Prickett notched a single as Monroe Central threatened early leaving two on base as the Warriors' defense kept them off the scoreboard.

Erica Hooper had a single in the second inning but it was her leadoff hit in the fifth that would spell trouble for Trail. Chelsea Covert dropped a bloop single into short right field and the throw went to third base where Hooper was looking to extend.

The errant throw rolled to the infield fence and Hooper headed the wave from Knowlton coaching third base and crossed the plate ahead of the throw to put the 'Noles up, 1-0.

The defense supported the pitching of Sarah Lucas allowing no more than one base runner for the Warriors in any of the first six innings.

Buckeye Trail leadoff hitter Julie Bates led off the bottom of the seventh inning with a double to the center field fence. Lacey Tidrick's single to short right was fielded and the throw went to third base erasing the lead runner.

Freshman Kaylee Smith stroked a single to right center that scored Tidrick to

knot the contest at 1 apiece and send the game into extra frames.

Once again the Lady 'Noles answered the call as lead offhitter Alex Kuhn reached on an error. Prickett moved the runner to second and senior Leah Winland singled to push the go ahead run to third.

The potential winning run was now just 60 feet away and pitcher Sarah Lucas had a chance to help her cause. The senior came through big with a sacrifice fly to left center that plated what would prove to be the winning run.

"I'm proud of my girls," Knowlton added. "The good they have accomplished this season far outweighs the bad and it is an honor to coach them."

"We made a couple mental mistakes, both on defense and on the basepaths," Buckeye Trail head coach Stacey Smith said. "We have nothing to hang our heads about, we played a good game and we played like a team."

The Seminoles advance to face Fort Frye in the AA OVAC Softball championship game back at the Chambers I-470 Ball Field at a time to be determined.

Monroe 000 010 01 — 2 5 1  
B. Trail 000 000 10 — 1 2 1

BATTERIES: Lucas and DeLong, Bates and Sells  
*Palmer can be reached at [mpalmer@timesleader-online.com](mailto:mpalmer@timesleader-online.com)*

## OVAC Softball

AAAA					
School	W	L	CP	AVG	
Indian Creek	17	2	1017	53.53	
John Marshall	13	4	818	48.12	
Parkersburg South	8	2	481	48.10	
Wheeling Park	10	3	625	40.06	
Cambridge	9	5	538	38.43	
Steubenville	11	6	601	35.35	
Buckeye Local	10	10	588	29.40	
Brooke	9	9	515	28.51	
Beaver Local	5	6	250	22.73	
Zanesville	4	6	204	20.40	
*East Liverpool	0	7	0	0.00	

AAA					
School	W	L	CP	AVG	
Edison	11	3	700	50.00	
Meadowbrook	11	2	649	49.85	
St. Clairsville	14	7	847	40.33	
Martins Ferry	8	6	483	34.50	
Magnolia	8	7	438	27.38	
Hamson Central	7	8	383	25.53	
Union Local	6	16	357	16.23	
Tyler Consolidated	4	10	132	9.43	
Bellaire	3	17	168	8.40	
Weir	4	13	132	7.76	
Oak Glen	3	21	144	6.00	

AA					
School	W	L	CP	AVG	
Steubenville Central	15	5	715	35.75	
Buckeye Trail	12	7	640	33.68	
Monroe Central	12	6	568	31.56	
Fort Frye	10	5	437	29.13	
Wheeling Central	14	10	661	27.54	
Shenandoah	12	7	522	27.47	
Barnesville	9	8	423	24.88	
Shadyside	10	9	464	24.42	
Caldwell	9	9	345	19.17	
Frontier	5	8	198	15.23	
Linsly	4	10	195	13.93	
River	3	15	116	6.11	
*Wellsville	2	6	120	15.00	

A					
School	W	L	CP	AVG	
Cameron	16	1	876	39.76	
St. John Central	15	5	643	32.15	
Madonna	12	6	543	30.17	
Bridgeport	12	5	506	29.76	
Bishop Donahue	12	12	477	19.88	
Toronto	4	10	169	12.03	
Paden City	5	12	181	10.65	
Beallsville	6	15	218	9.91	
Valley	1	14	33	2.20	
*Hundred	3	4	91	13.03	
*Conotton Valley	1	2	40	16.33	
*Bishop Rosecrans	0	7	0	0.00	
*Trinity Christian	0	9	0	0.00	

## OVAC Softball

OVAC Tournament  
At I-470 Chambers Complex  
Wheeling, WV  
Tuesday  
Field 3  
Class AA  
5:00 PM Buckeye Trail vs Monroe Central  
6:30 PM Fort Frye vs Steubenville Central

Field 4  
Class A  
5:00 PM Madonna vs Bellaire St. John  
6:30 PM Bridgeport vs Cameron

April 28, 2010  
Field 3  
Class AAA  
5:00 PM Wheeling Park vs Indian Creek  
6:30 PM Parkersburg South vs John Marshall

Field 4  
Class AAA  
5:00 PM Martins Ferry vs Edison  
6:30 PM St. Clairsville vs Meadowbrook



Class AAA

## Colts Rally To Upend Red Devils

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — St. Clairsville jumped all over Meadowbrook in the second OVAC Class AAA softball semifinal held at the chilly Chambers I-470 Complex on Wednesday night.

However, the battle-tested Colts proved its not how you start, but how you finish.

After watching the Red Devils snag a 5-1 upperhand, the Colts cranked up their offense, got splendid defense and solid pitching to rally for a 8-5 victory and a spot in Saturday's final against Edison, which dispatched Martins Ferry in eight innings in the lidlifter.

"We came out hard and had an awesome start," St. C. coach Rachel Duncan said. "We didn't have room for any mistakes and we made some. I am not disappointed, but it's a tough loss because I felt like we deserved it."

While St. C. (14-8) was making its first appearance in the semifinals in quite some time, the Colts are going back to the title game for the second straight season. They fell in 2009's epic final to Harrison Central.

"St. Clairsville came out and hit the ball hard from the first pitch on," Meadowbrook coach Bridgett George said. "But, we made some plays and we're just excited to be back in the finals."

The Red Devils assumed a 3-0 lead after junior slugger Taylor Clark connected on a belt-high fastball and took it

Please See COLTS, Page 20

## Cats Oust Riders In Extras

Edison will go for its eighth OVAC crown

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — The Edison and Martins Ferry softball teams played three weeks ago and the Wildcats cruised to a 10-1 victory.

The two squads met again Wednesday in the semifinals of the OVAC Class AAA softball tournament at the Chambers I-470 Complex.

The Purple Riders showed they've closed the gap on their Buckeye 8 rival, but Edison is moving on. The Wildcats will go after their eighth conference title Saturday at 12:30 p.m. against Meadowbrook after outlasting a valiant Riders effort, 7-6, in a 2-hour, eight-inning marathon.

"This was a great game for the fans ... particularly our fans at the end," Edison coach Spencer Bendle said. "We've been struggling to put a full ballgame together all year long and that was the case again, but we're finding ways to win a majority of our games."

Edison appeared to be primed to win the game in seven innings.

After the see-saw affair, the Wildcats took a one-run lead in the fifth and then added an insurance one in the sixth when senior Abby Connelly scored on a two-out single by senior Kayla Marcus.

"Edison always seemed to have an answer for us," Martins Ferry coach

Please See CATS, Page 22



Photo by Flick Thorp

John Marshall pitcher Amy Rotriga works to the plate during the second inning of Wednesday's OVAC Class AAAA semifinal.

## Patriots Edge Monarchs

South scores twice in final two innings to win

Class AAAA

By TRACY WATSON  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Prep softball is a game of highs and lows that seems to come with so many different ways to win or lose a game.

But Wednesday night, John Marshall may have found one of the most painful ways imaginable to come up on the short end of things, a way that cost the Monarchs a possible shot at an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship.

Leading 1-0 and standing just six outs away from advancing to the finals, John Marshall twice allowed hitters to reach base after striking out in the final two innings, with both eventually scoring runs during a 2-1 Parkersburg South vic-

tory in a Class AAAA semifinal contest on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

The victory by Coach Jennifer Null's 24-7 squad sets up a battle of the Patriots with Wheeling Park on Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. for the championship. The OVAC's two biggest member schools split their two regular-season meetings.

"It's a great feeling to be advancing to our first OVAC softball final," Null said with a smile. "I think it will be a good experience for the girls and will help get us ready for sectionals next week."

"It is also a big thing for us in just our second year, and I can tell you it would be real nice to have one of those big flags hanging in our gym for softball."

Please See JM, Page 26

## Johnson, Park Roll To Final

Patriots blank Indian Creek in five innings

By NICK BEDWAY  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Give the hitters in the Wheeling Park softball lineup an inch, and they'll likely bury you on the scoreboard.

Taking advantage of five errors by top-seeded Indian Creek, the powerful Patriots pounded out 11 hits and coasted behind the usual excellent pitching of Angela Johnson to a 10-0, five-inning mercy rule victory against the Redskins in Wednesday's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAAA semifinal on Lisa's Field at the Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex.

Fourth seeded entering the tournament, Park will face Parkersburg South in Saturday's championship game.

Winning an OVAC title as a lower seed is nothing new for the Patriots with Dee Davis at the helm. Park has twice earned the title while entering the event as the sixth seed.

"Well, we can't do that any more since only four teams qualify, but we don't care where we were seeded," Davis said. "We were just happy to make the tournament and our girls are looking forward to playing in the finals on Saturday."

The Patriots' speed, explosiveness on offense and ability to jump on opponents' mistakes came into play again at the expense of Indian Creek (17-5).

Speedy freshman Emily Puskarich, running hard down the baseline, forced a hurried throw resulting in a two-base error by the first baseman. Taylor Cope then drove a line drive over the head of Indian Creek left fielder Jackie Kennedy for an RBI double. Cope continued on to third base as the ball was thrown away during the relay to the infield. Caitlin Jividen's bounce out to second base brought in the second run of the inning.

The Patriots then were helped out some by two more Redskins' miscues, but they also collected six hits while scoring seven runs in the top of the third to open a 9-0 advantage. The big inning also set up the opportunity for the mercy rule when Johnson tripled and scored on Alexis Phillips' single in the fourth inning.

"If you give us a break or two in the field and we're hitting the ball the way we usually do, we're very tough to beat," Davis said. "Everyone, 1-through-9, can hit the ball hard and everyone can bunt."

For the second time in a little more than a week, Johnson allowed only one hit and again it was a topped ball in front of the plate that prevented the no-hitter. That was the case during a 15-0 romp against city rival Wheeling Central. Wednesday, Indian Creek's Ariel Cortez just managed to put the ball in play, but Johnson was unable to get to it in time to attempt a throw to first base.

The scratch single, combined with an earlier two-base throwing error by Johnson as she rushed the throw to first after fielding Page DeMattio's one-hopper, put runners on second and third with one out. Johnson still managed to preserve the shutout thanks to a sparkling play at third base from Mallo-ry Morris.

After Johnson whiffed Gabby Davis, Morris went to her left to glove a hot smash off the bat of Ashley Shimco, Morris then stood up and made a strong throw to Phillips at first base in time to retire the side.

Please See PARK, Page 20



Today's Results:

Q. Does horse racing need a triple crown winner to regain interest?

Yes: 75%  
No: 25%

### ON THE LINE

Tomorrow's Poll:

Q. Do the NHL and NBA drag out playoff series too long to satisfy television?

Tell us what you think.

Register your answer at [www.theintelligencer.net](http://www.theintelligencer.net)

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



# Colts

(Continued from Page 19)

out of the park in left. They pushed the margin to 5-1 in the second when talented junior Jesse Machovina got a pitch to drive and deposited it deep into the evening for a two-run blast.

The Colts then began to chip away. They got a single run in the third and tied the game in the fifth.

St. Clairsville pitcher Sarah Slenski struggled with her control and walked the bases loaded. Alyse Dudley plated a run with the first hit of the inning. Kylee Williams then drove in a run with another single, but Meadowbrook had a runner thrown at the plate.

Slenski then appeared to induce the

second out when she got Alyssa Wright to lift a high fly ball to left-center. However, the Red Devils misplayed it and Dudley was able to knot the game.

The Devils threatened in the sixth. Britany Saffel roped a triple to the right-field gap. The ensuing St. Clairsville batter appeared to have driven her home with a single, but Colts shortstop Candace Neff made a brilliant, diving catch and then doubled off Saffel to thwart the rally.

The Colts continued to build on the momentum. Ashley Clark poked a one-out single down the first-base line. After another out was recorded, Neff

then drew a walk and Dudley followed with an RBI single. Williams then laced another single, which scored both Neff and Dudley.

"We had a girl thrown out at the plate, got picked off on a line drive, left early on a tag up and had an error in center field," Duncan said. "I am still proud of them though because they fought and played like a team."

St. Clairsville got two runners aboard in the seventh, but had a runner called out for leaving third base early on an attempted tag up.

Clark and Machovina led St. C's offense with two hits apiece. Jenn Antosz also had two base wraps.

# Park

(Continued from Page 19)

Including the final two batters in the third inning, Johnson set down the last eight Redskins in a row and finished the game with seven strikeouts without issuing a walk. She struck

out the side in the second inning while facing Indian Creek's 4-5-6 hitters.

The loss was disappointing to say the least for the Redskins and Coach Angela Penner.

"We didn't show up,"

she said matter-of-factly. "Take nothing away from Wheeling Park. They have a very good ballclub and their pitcher is really tough to hit. Our girls just didn't play very well. We made a couple of mistakes right at the start of the game and we couldn't shut them down after that."

"Hopefully, we will put this behind us and get ready for the start of our sectional tournament next week."

Keying the Patriots attack was Phillips with a double, single and three runs batted in. Puskarich, Cope and Kayla Kimmins, who tripled and singled, had two hits each. Sure-handed second baseman

Caitlin Jividen drove in two runs.

Park (18-5) sent 11 batters to the plate during the seven-run third inning. Puskarich got things rolling with a bunt single and a steal of second base. She advanced to third when Cope reached with an infield hit. After Cope stole second, Jividen beat out a roller to shortstop that plated Puskarich with the third run of the game. Allie Dailer's grounder to second resulted in a two-run error.

After Johnson walked, Phillips shot a two-run double into center field. Kimmins' triple and Puskarich's run-scoring single concluded the seven-run uprising.

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# Cats

(Cont. from Page 19)

Paige Williams said. "Give them all of the credit and we knew what their lineup was capable of. We had a few bad pitches and they capitalized on them at times, but our girls fought to the very end."

However, the Purple Riders were far from finished.

Freshman Kylie Stalder belted a one-out single and Kylie Clark followed with a base knock of her own. Stalder eventually scored as an out was recorded, but Clark raced home on a wild pitch, knotting the game at 6-6.

Edison got two aboard in the bottom of the seventh, but talented sophomore pitcher Cirstie Delguzzo ended a comebacker to escape the jam

and force free softball.

Delguzzo dropped down a beautiful bunt with one out to start the eighth. She advanced to third after the ball was thrown down the right-field line.

Much to the chagrin of Ferry's large following, Delguzzo was called out at third for leaving early on an attempted tag up on Taylor Campbell's popout.

Senior Alexis Kunkle led off the bottom of the inning with a double. Kristen Prokopakis reached on a fielder's choice after she had sacrificed to move Kunkle up 60 feet.

Kunkle was picked off third, but Marcus reached on a fielder's choice and Kelly Morgan singled. Kristen Prokopakis scored the game-winner from third on an error.

AMENTS IN FULL FORCE

## St. John Blanks Madonna, 4-0

Irish will face  
Cameron in final

**Class A**

■ St. John 4, Weirton Madonna 0  
Cameron 8, Bridgeport 7, 8 inn.

By TRACY WATSON  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — There is no question that if you are looking for the strength of the St. John softball team, you have to start with the pitching staff.

Coach Jerry Magistro has said all season he has three hurlers he is confident in sending to the circle on any given day.

Tuesday it was junior Bethany Cera's turn and as usual, she did not let her coach, or her teammates down.

Cera scattered seven hit, mowing down 14 batters on strikes while walking just one, and St. John overcame some early baserunning blunders to post a 4-0 victory against third-seeded, and defending runner-up Weirton Madonna in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A semifinal on Field 4 at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

Magistro will take his second-seeded team back up on the hill Saturday afternoon for a 3:45 p.m. battle with defending small-school champion, and top seed Cameron in the Class A title tilt.

Tuesday's victory not only

improved the Fighting Irish to 17-5, it was the 200th in Magistro's 10th season at the helm.

While St. John squandered opportunities in the first three innings, Coach Chris Conti's Blue Dons (12-7) had runners on base in every once except the second and went on to strand 10 total.

"I don't know what we were thinking about with those early baserunning mistakes," Magistro said with a shrug. "I guess it was just one of those days. We couldn't get anything going early and you can't do what we were doing and win championships."

"But I have faith in these girls and we continued to have patience and discipline at the plate, which we have worked on all year. They waited and we got some big, key hits when it counted."

The Irish got a pair of two-out singles from Rosa Young and Ayla Spoljar in the bottom of the first, but Young ran through a stop sign at third and got thrown out at the plate to end the threat.

Please See ST. JOHN, Page 20

## Dragons Rally Past Bulldogs

Cameron scores  
8 of last 9 runs

By NICK BEDWAY  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Meghan Rush singled into left field with one out and the bases loaded in the bottom of the eighth inning to drive home the winning run and cap a near-miraculous rally by defending champion Cameron in Tuesday night's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A semifinal at the Chambers I-470 Complex.

Trailing 6-0 entering the bottom of the sixth, the Dragons got close with four runs, tied it in seventh inning and, after falling behind by a run in the top of the eighth, scored twice to come away with an 8-7 victory against Bridgeport.

The victory earned Cameron (19-4) a berth against Bellaire St. John Central in Saturday's title game. The Fighting Irish advanced by blanking Weirton Madonna 4-0.

Asked if he believed in miracles following the Dragons comeback, Coach Mark Witzberger responded, "What I believe in are these girls. You could see early on that there were a lot of things

we needed to fix. The one thing we don't need to fix is their heart. They just don't quit."

Witzberger pointed out that his assistant coach Joe Pettit, who recovered from a near-fatal accident last fall to rejoin the softball team this spring, kept encouraging the Cameron players to keep fighting back.

"You never give up. Look at me," he told them.

"They believed in him and they believed in each other," Witzberger added.

The game was played under the most miserable of weather conditions for a late April evening. Temperatures dropped into the 30s and the a brisk wind put the chill factor below freezing.

As a result, the level of play wasn't up to the standards one might expect to see in a championship setting. The teams combined for a total of 13 errors along with several mental mistakes that don't show up in a box score.

It was especially disappointing to Bridgeport (12-6) coach Bob Krajnyak, whose team was twice within three outs of upsetting a Cameron club that had spanked

See DRAGONS, Page 16

## St. John

(Continued from Page 15)

Kylee Caddell had a lead-off single in the second for the Irish only to get doubled off first on a line drive. St. John then had a girl called out for leaving the bag too soon following a leadoff base hit in the third.

However, it was Madonna that made the mistakes in the bottom of the fourth, and that led to the only runs St. John needed.

Young worked a walk to lead off and move to third on a Spoljar double to deep left with no one out.

Young then scored when Caddell reached on an error. Alexis Sharp reached on a fielder's choice to load the bases while Gina Beekman recorded an RBI with a free pass to force home the second tally.

Sharp made it 3-0 with a run-scoring single in the fifth before Cera doubled and scored on a Kaylie Coppa single in the sixth.

Spoljar collected a pair of hits for the winners while the Dons' Jen Nogay has three of Madonna's hits with a pair of singles and a double.

"We have three pitchers who have done everything we have asked of them all

season long and our fielders back them up," Magistro said. "I would really like to tip my hat to our outfielders. That wind was brutal and they made some great catches out there.

"It's our 200th win in 10 years, but it is not my 200th win, it is the program's 200th win because we have all worked and done this together."

While not disappointed with his team's effort, Conti knew exactly where things went wrong for his Blue Dons.

"The girls played very well and I am not disappointed at all," he said. "St. John is a very good team. We just left too many runners on base in key situations.

### CLASS AA Monroe Central 2 Buckeye Trail 1

**WHEELING** — If revenge is a dish best served cold, Mother Nature supplied the perfect setting as the chilly winds and dropping temperatures were the backdrop as the Monroe Central softball team issued a punitive measure against Buckeye Trail.

The Seminoles were still

stinging from a 12-2 mercy loss to the Warriors on Friday night in Old Washington, but took their measure of retribution Tuesday evening as they ended the conference tournament for Buckeye Trail.

"That was a supreme effort by our girls," Monroe Central coach Missy Knowlton said. "We were ready and we came to play."

As Knowlton alluded to, the Noles wasted little time in making their statement that this game was to be different than the last meeting. Asia Prickett notched a single as Monroe Central threatened early leaving two on base as the Warriors defense kept the Seminoles off the scoreboard.

Erica Hooper had a single in the second inning, but it was her leadoff hit in the fifth that spelled trouble for Trail. Chelsea Covert dropped a bloop single into short right field and the throw went to third base as Hooper was looking to take an extra base. The errant throw rolled to the fence behind third base. Alertly, Hooper raced for home and made it ahead of the throw

to put the Noles up 1-0.

The defense supported the pitching of Sarah Lucas, allowing no more than one baserunner for the Warriors in any of the first six innings.

However, Buckeye Trail leadoff hitter Julie Bates led off the bottom of the seventh inning with a double to the center-field fence. Lacey Tidrick's single to short right was fielded and the throw went to third base erasing the lead runner. Freshman Kaylee Smith stroked a single to right-center that scored Tidrick to knot the contest at 1-1 and send the game into extras.

Once again, the Noles answered the call. Leadoff hitter Alex Kuhn reached on an error. Prickett moved the runner to second and senior Leah Winland singled to push the go ahead run to third.

The potential winning run was just 60 feet away and pitcher Lucas had a chance to help her cause. The senior came through big with a sacrifice fly to left-center that plated what proved to be the winning run.



## Dragons

(Continued from Page 15) the Bulldogs in a double-header earlier this season.

"This was tough, espe-

cially when you control things for five innings and then you don't make some plays that would have had

us playing on Saturday," Krajnyak said.

The pitchers, Bridgeport freshman Ashley Hadzima and Cameron sophomore phenom Tara Paczewski, went through the first three innings locked in a 0-0 game.

Paczewski, experiencing a rare off night this spring, gave up a leadoff single to Marissa Booth in the top of the first and had the first batter she faced in the second and third innings reach on errors. But she was able to escape unscathed until the top of the fourth.

Walks to Shauna Bandy and Bev Reed put her back in hot water. Sarah Bowers dropped down a sacrifice bunt that Paczewski fielded but threw away, allowing the first run to score. Ashley Grall then singled to right, driving in two more for a 3-0 Bulldogs lead.

Bridgeport came right back in the fifth inning to go up 6-0, Amelia Smith walked and Bandy singled and both scored on Reed's single to left. Reed eventually stole home to score the third run.

The Dragons got going in the bottom of the sixth as Kelsey Allen walked and scored on Marsh's single. Marsh scored when Shelby Wood laced a single to left. Audrey Bryan singled and two more runs eventually scored on another infield out by Staci Hall and an error, pulling Cameron to within two.

With one out in the bottom of the seventh, Allen brought the Dragons to within one when she homered over the left-field fence.

Later, a walk to Morgan Hughes, wild pitch and another error scored the tying run.

Bridgeport went back on top 7-6 in the top of the eighth, the rally started as

### Prep Softball

Reed singled and moved on to second when the ball was bobbled in left field. She took third on Bowers' sacrifice bunt and scored when Grall picked up her third RBI with a popper just over the circle that went for an infield hit.

The Bulldogs then committed three errors that helped the Dragons rally in the bottom of the eighth to escape with the victory. Hall reached on a two-base error to start things off. Paczewski's sacrifice bunt was successful but, after recording the out, Bridgeport attempted to catch the runner off third base and threw the ball away which allowed the tying run to score. The third error of the inning put Cassidi Richmond on base. Shenai Wade dropped down a bunt that wound up as base hit. After Allen walked to load the bases, Marsh drove the ball over shortstop for the game-winning single.

#### Class AA

#### Fort Frye 11 Steub. Central 0

**WHEELING** — Victoria Mimken tossed a three-hitter, striking out eight and walking one to help Fort Frye blank Steubenville Central and advance to Saturday's Class AA championship game.

Sammi Hanson, Ashley Okey and Nicole Miller all had three hits and two RBI for the Cadets, who will face Monroe Central for the title.

#### Regular Season

#### River 7, Barnesville 3

**HANNIBAL** — Chelsea Wax doubled and knocked in two runs as River topped Barnesville.

Rena Riley added two singles for the Pilots (4-16). Riley also picked up

the victory, striking out nine.

Lindsey Burkhart laced two singles for the Shamrocks (9-8).

#### Buckeye Local 14 Harrison Central 7

**CONNORVILLE** — Emma Omaitis laced three singles and knocked in four runs as Buckeye Local prevailed in a slugfest against Harrison Central.

Jaycee Gotschall doubled, singled and had two RBI for the Panthers, while Shelby Bartrug doubled and singled.

Katie Custer tripled, singled and knocked in two runs for the Huskies, while Jessica Custer had two singles and an RBI.

#### Martins Ferry 2 Union Local 1

**MORRISTOWN** — Martins Ferry scored two runs in the third inning and the Purple Riders made it stand against Union Local.

Kaci Rykowski and Addie Suriano each laced two singles for Martins Ferry.

Lindsay Schafer singled and knocked in a run for the Jets.

#### Weir 5, Oak Glen 2

**WEIRTON** — Nikki Robinson doubled, singled and had an RBI as Weir edged Oak Glen.

Kassi Robinson added two singles for the Red Riders.


Jordan Cunningham had two singles and triple for the Golden Bears, while Sierra Dunlevy had two singles.

#### Bishop Donahue 14

#### Linsly 0

**BENWOOD** — Bishop Donahue scored 12 runs in the third inning to put away Linsly.

Cassie Campbell belted a grand slam and a single for the Bishops, while Katie Scott laced two singles and plated three runs. Sarah



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# Madonna Belts Rosecrans, 12-2

By MIKE MATHISON  
For the News-Register

STEUBENVILLE — It took three chances, but the Madonna baseball team grabbed its first OVAC Class A title since 2004 with a 12-2 victory against Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans in six innings Saturday night at Vaccaro Field.

"This feels great," Madonna coach Jeff Baire said. "When I coached here in (in 2001-03) we made the OVAC playoffs, which we hadn't done in a long time. It's been quite a few years since we've won it, so this feels really nice."

"But, it's just another step. A great one, at that. I hope these things continue to happen."

The Blue Dons hit Rosecrans starter Mike Reef hard in the third and fourth innings, turning a 2-0 deficit after 1 1/2 innings into a 9-2 lead after four frames.

"It was a little different night for him. That's probably as hard as he's been hit all year," Rosecrans coach Doug Geyer said of Reef. "He looked good early. He battled out of innings."

Madonna was led by senior Eddie Nogay. He struck out 10, walked four and gave up two hits, both singles in the first and second innings.

Baire liked that his team didn't let up.

"For whatever reason, we tend to get complacent when we get a lead, instead of stepping on the pedal, putting them out of the ballgame," Baire said. "We did a great job of that (Saturday). We talked about that between innings, saying 'we just put five on the board, let's get a couple more.'"

"I think they're starting to understand when you do that to teams, you take their heart out of them."

Lou Comis led the 15-hit attack with three singles and a double. Max Nogay added a double and home run.

## ■ Class A Baseball

Regular Season  
River 16

**Tyler Consolidated 2**  
KIDWELL — Joe Asturi hit a home run and Devon Potts, Brandon Price and Tucker Brown each had multiple hits as River dominated Tyler Consolidated.

Brody Northcraft and Zack Minger picked up and RBI for the Silver Knights (10-14).

Bellaire 4

**Harrison Central 2**  
CADIZ — Levi Crozier earned a victory for Bellaire, striking out 10.

Bob Bennett had a four-hit day for the Big Reds (5-17) with two singles, a double, triple, and four RBI. Crozier hit three singles.

The Huskies (5-19) were paced by Ryan Gilham with a triple and an RBI and Deacon Rose with a double and an RBI.

Brooke 22-9

**Buckeye Local 0-7**  
CONNORVILLE — David Alward struck out 10 in a one-hit shutout, along with hitting two singles, a double and driving in three as Brooke took the first of two games against Buckeye Local.

Shane Paesano drove in four runs, while Justin Porco brought in three.

In Game 2, Kyle Wales hit two singles for three RBI, while Paesano hit three singles with an RBI while also earning a victory.

Shane Duncan had three singles for the Panthers.

Softball

**Buckeye Local 5**  
**Indian Creek 3**  
CONNORVILLE — Jenna Clark struck out 12 to pace Buckeye Local past Indian Creek.

Amy Balk hit a solo home run for the Panthers (13-10), while Dana Bettinechi hit a single, triple, and an RBI.

Ashley Starr struck out 10 for the Redskins.



Photo by Seth Staskey

Monroe Central pitcher Sarah Lucas works to the plate against Fort Frye.

# Five Errors Doom Monroe Central in Class AA Final

By KIM NORTH  
For the News-Register

WHEELING — It just wasn't meant to be for Monroe Central's softball team Saturday morning.

The third-seeded Seminoles (16-7) committed five errors and recorded just two hits in dropping a 3-0 decision to Fort Frye in the OVAC Class AA championship game on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

"This game was kind of like the one we played at their place (a 4-0 loss)," Monroe Central coach Missy Knowlton said. "The only thing different is that we didn't have to make that trip (to Beverly). That's a horrible trip."

"But the girls showed up to play. We had some fundamental errors and we couldn't get our bats going. Fort Frye made some awesome plays and they were just the better team."

"I'm disappointed for the girls to come this far and then play like we did."

## ■ Class AA Softball

But, at the same time, I'm happy for them being able to play here and be around this atmosphere."

Championship game atmosphere's are nothing new to the Cadets (16-5), at least four their players claimed titles on the basketball court last winter.

The Cadets didn't even know if they would be playing in the tournament until a late rush prior to the cutoff date. They finished fourth and drew top-seeded Steubenville Central in the first round. They won, 11-0, in five innings.

Then came Saturday's game in which two of the three runs they scored were unearned.

"We come into each game with the philosophy that defense wins championships," Fort Frye coach Barb Sleek said. "We knew we weren't going to score many runs, so we concentrated on our

defense. (Monroe) made a couple of errors and we capitalized upon them."

The contest was scoreless until the top of the fourth when Fort Frye bunched three hits together to plate a pair of runs, but two key Monroe Central miscues aided the rally.

Hard-hitting Nicole Miller reached on an error leading off. One out later she advanced to second on Leah Baker's single to right.

Sammi Hanson attempted to move the runners up with a sacrifice bunt, but was ruled to have stepped out of the batter's box which resulted in the second out.

Kylee Close came through with a looping single just over shortstop Alex Kuhn's head that plated Miller.

Winning pitcher Victoria Mimken followed with a rolling single through the right side of the infield, but when the ball was bobbled in the outfield, Baker raced home to make it 2-0.

The Cadets tacked on an insurance run in the seventh when Baker's sacrifice fly knocked in Devan Vaughn.

Monroe Central, which only had five baserunners in the game and none farther than second, threatened in the bottom of the sixth. Kuhn drew a one-out walk and Leah Winland singled an out later.

However, Sarah Lucas' fly ball to right ended the inning.

"That's been our season. We get good pitching and our defense lets us down. We get baserunners on and our bats don't come through," Knowlton said.

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