



# Zeps capture OVAC Class 2-A baseball crown

SHS from page B-1

Again Shenandoah counter-punched in the sixth when Farnsworth reached on an error and scored all the way from first on an infield single by Starr and ensuing throwing error, pushing the Zeps' advantage to 5-3.

Fort Frye got a leadoff single in the seventh by Donald Hilverding, but Luyster shut the door with a strikeout and a double-play ball.

Starr (3-0) got the win for the Zeps, striking out three, walking five and hitting one batter while Luyster earned a save with three



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

Shenandoah High's Marcus Wise (13) talks with first base coach Jamal Lowery after reaching first base during Saturday's OVAC Class 4-A championship game against Steubenville at Vaccaro Field.

Ks in two and one-third innings of work.

"He threw 99 pitches four days ago and 90 more today," Davis said of Starr. "He kept us in the ballgame and then I can't say enough about our sophomore reliever (Luyster)."

Josh Spindler took the loss for Fort Frye, fanning two and walking five in six innings, with Bryan Neader hurling the final inning.

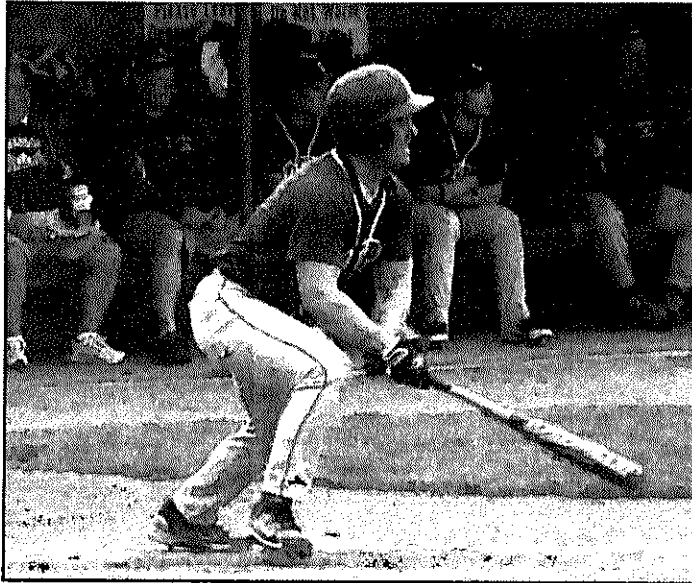
Starr carried the hot bat for the Zeps with two doubles, two singles and two RBI while Lang had three of the Cadets' five safeties.

Davis hopes the championship provides a springboard for the upcoming Division III Sectional Tournament.

"We know now we can win tight games against good teams," the SHS coach related, "and this definitely should help our seeding in the tournament."

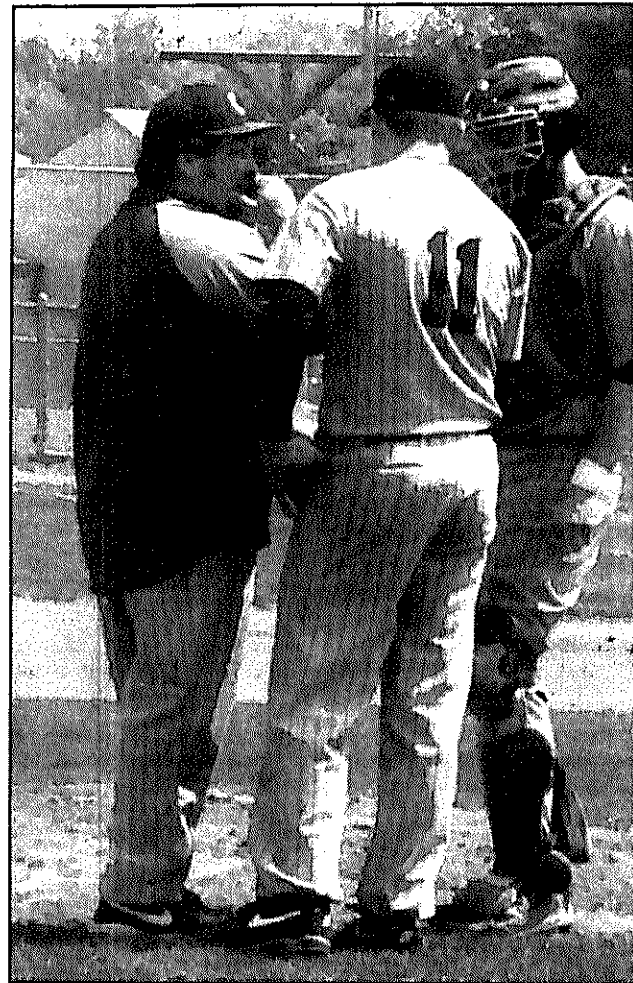
The game took on added significance as it served as the second Pioneer Valley Conference matchup of the teams, with both teams emerging with one loss in that league as the season winds down.

NEXT— Shenandoah visits Barnesville on Monday at 5 p.m.



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

Shenandoah High's Brandon Starr enjoyed a big day at the plate, collecting two doubles and two singles to help the Zeps to a 5-3 victory over Fort Frye in the OVAC Class 2-A championship game at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

Cambridge High assistant coach Dusty Braun talks pitcher Dakota Taylor (11) and catcher RyLee Rogers during a break in the action at Saturday's OVAC Class 4-A championship game in Steubenville.

## 'Cats fall in OVAC final

CHS from page B-1

a good high school baseball game. I think that's only the second game they've gone seven innings all year."

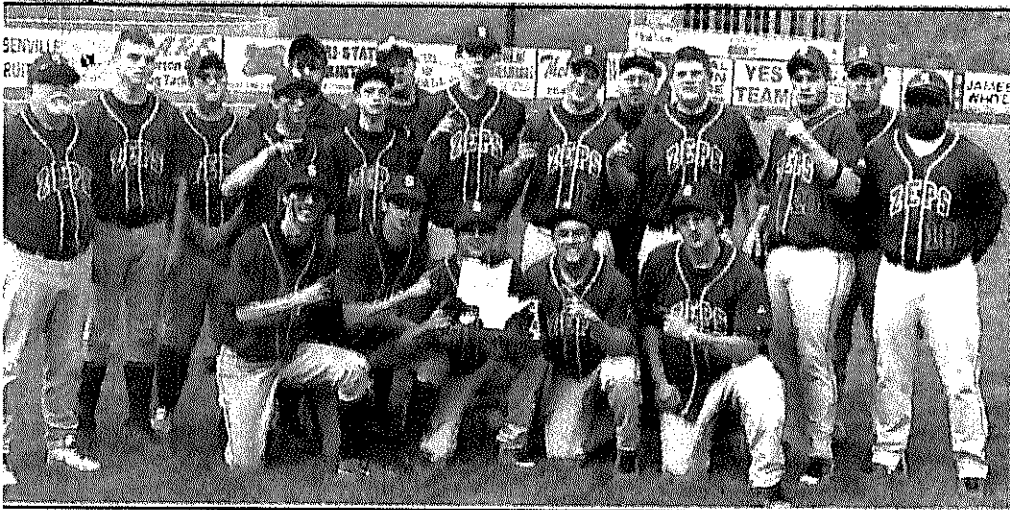
"We didn't hit the ball like we have all year," said Steubenville's Heatherington. "Their pitcher did a nice job keeping us off-balance. We're just glad to get out of here with a win."

JoJo Pierro's two singles led Steubenville while Wilson lined three singles in Cambridge.

"We've been OVAC runner-up two of the last three years," Gray stated. "Hop playing well today will us some momentum going into the tournament."

NEXT— Cambridge travels to Dover on Monday at 5 p.m. Anyone interested in more information is scheduled for 5 p.m. Anyone interested in more information is scheduled for 5 p.m.

## Shenandoah wins OVAC 2-A baseball crown



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

Shenandoah Zeps celebrate the school's first-ever OVAC playoff championship after defeating Fort Frye in last week's Class 2-A championship game at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

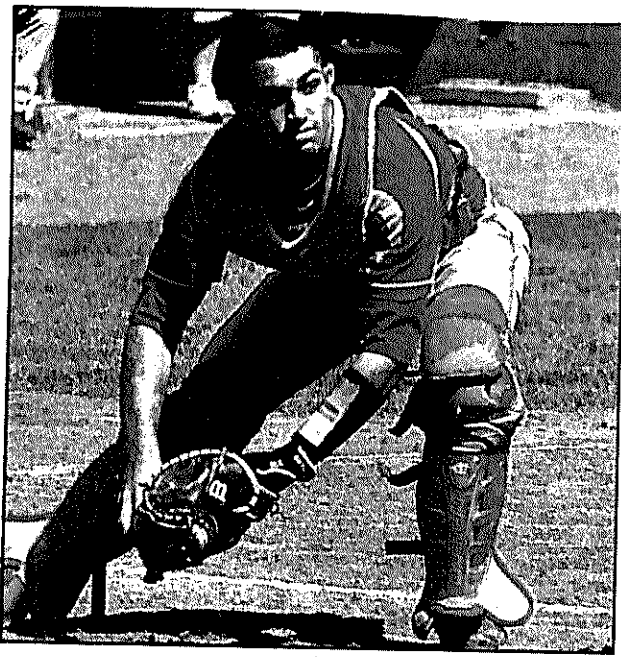
## Cambridge takes OVAC 4-A runner-up spot



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The Cambridge Bobcats finished as the runner-up in the OVAC Class 4-A baseball playoff, falling to Steubenville Big Red in the championship game last weekend at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.





ST. CLAIRSVILLE catcher Riley Carlton scoops up a loose ball and looks to throw to first during Saturday's OVAC Class 3-A final in Steubenville.

Photo/BRETT SOBLESKI

# St. C. falls short in 3-A baseball final

• Edison defeats Red Devils for the third time

By RICH GIBSON  
Times Leader Sports Writer

STEUBENVILLE — It wasn't meant to be. That goes without saying for Tom Sliva's St. Clairsville Red Devils.

Edison's talented right-hander Greg Stagani made sure of that in Saturday's OVAC 3-A championship game at Vaccaro Field.

Not only did Stagani stop St. C. on three hits, the Wildcats' junior accounted for both runs with his bat in a dramatic 2-1 victory.

Saturday's outcome was a far

cry from the 2010 title tilt in which St. Clairsville overwhelmed Mike Collopy's ball club by a 10-4 count.

Hits, however, were few and far between for the Saints Saturday which found the going a little more than difficult against Stagani.

"He's a good one, no doubt about it," Sliva acknowledged. "We hit a few balls hard but could not get a key hit (with runners on base)."

Stagani managed to avert potential damage on two occasions, inducing 6-4-3 double

See, ST. C., Page C2



## ● St. C.

Continued from Page C1

plays to silence the Saints.

"Greg's such a competitive kid," Collopy stated. "We're confident he'll play at the next level. Although he's just a junior, Greg's already getting some D-I looks."

Stagani struck out 10 Red Devils and issued two walks. His complete game effort was matched by Red Devils' junior Sam Vincenzo whose body of work was good enough to beat a majority of opponents.

"That kid did a real nice job keeping us off balance," Collopy praised. "We were fortunate to put together two good innings against him."

Vincenzo surrendered just five hits. The Saints' savvy southpaw recorded six strikeouts while issuing two walks.

St. C. staged a first inning threat when shortstop Jared Clovis doubled to centerfield with one out. After second baseman Zack Kinnick reached

on a error, Stagani got Saints' cleanup hitter Mackenzie Koehler to rap into an inning-ending double play.

Edison's Jonathan Byers led off the bottom of the first with a base hit. After first baseman Mark Rogers was hit by a pitch, Stagani singled to right field, plating Byers.

The Cats made it 2-0 in the fifth. Second baseman Mark Smyth singled. When Rogers was again plunked by a Vincenzo offering, Stagani stepped in and delivered another RBI single to leftcenter.

That count held up before St. C. staged a serious seventh inning uprising.

Third baseman D.J. Busby dumped an opposite-field double down the right field line before first baseman T.J. Sliva was hit by a pitch.

When leftfielder Cory Kotopka drew a base on balls, St. C. had the

sacks loaded with none out.

But the Devils' Michael Androsko grounded into a 6-4-3 twin-killing which allowed Busby to score.

Stagani then closed it out, blowing a two-strike pitch past catcher Riley Carlton for the clincher.

"Yes, we're disappointed but we feel like we have a lot of baseball ahead," said Sliva whose ball club drops to 9-3 with all three losses inflicted by now 12-3 Edison.

Both coaches will attend their respective sectional tournament draws this afternoon. St. C., meanwhile, has a scheduled regular season Monday game against Martins Ferry at Memorial Park.

St. C. 000 000 1 — 1 3 0  
Edison 100 010 x — 2 5 2  
BATTERIES: Vincenzo and Carlton, Stagani and Glasure.

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

## SPORTS

THE TIMES LEADER • Wednesday, April 27, 2011 • B3

# Edison knocks Bellaire out of OVAC baseball event

By BRENT SOBLESKI  
For The Times Leader

RICHMOND — Usually, when it rains it pours.

The downpour never came, but the precipitation was constant Tuesday as the Edison baseball team defeated visiting Bellaire, 11-1, in six innings at the Richmond/Edison Athletic Complex.

"To be honest, I have been miserable at home," Edison coach Mike Collopy said regarding the weather. "I've been miserable at school. I know everyone

is in the same boat.

"The kids have done a good job. We had a real good practice (Monday) indoors after a day where it looked like we were going to play. We have to take what the weather is giving us and get better every day."

With the victory Edison advances to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tournament Class AAA final against St. Clairsville on Saturday at Vaccaro Field.

"Both teams had to play in the same weather," Bellaire skipper John Patrone said. "I can't look

at that as a factor as to why we didn't execute the way we should have. We had several dropped balls. We played in the same rain they did."

Edison's offensive output was accumulated primarily in the fourth and sixth innings. The Wildcats posted five runs in the bottom of the fourth and added four more tallies in the sixth.

"Offensively, we put the ball in play hard," Collopy said. "We made them field it. We kept them on their toes. When you put the ball in play offensively, you have a good chance to win the game."

Mark Smyth was the team's catalyst going 4-for-4 at the plate with six RBI.

Three of the four hits were singles, but Smith ripped a double in the final frame.

Two other Edison sluggers added multi-hit efforts. Jonathan Byers was 2-for-3 with a double and single.

He also added a sacrifice bunt and reached based a third time courtesy of a Bellaire error. Greg Stagani also added a double and a single.

Stagani was stellar on the mound pitching a complete game,

five-hitter while adding 11 strikeouts. The Edison pitcher's lone hiccup came in the fifth inning when the right-hander walked home Bellaire's only run.

"For the most part, we were focused the entire game," Collopy said. "Greg (Stagani) does a good job keeping the ball around the plate. So defensively the team is in the game."

Spencer Badia, Nick Patrone, Brady Hall, Derek Bradshaw, and Chucky Myers each singled for the Big Reds. Nick McMahon was credited for the team's lone RBI.

# THE OVAC CROW Big Red Wins 2nd Straight

Steubenville trails early,  
but comes on strong

By BRENT SOBLESKI  
For the News-Register

STEUBENVILLE — One is good, but twice is better. The Steubenville Big Red baseball team became back-to-back OVAC Class AAAA champions Saturday after defeating Cambridge, 4-1, at Vaccaro Field.

"It's an awesome experience," Big Red senior Anthony Pierro said. "We were looking to become back-to-back OVAC champs. Our seniors led us and the whole team has come together. As a result, we won it again."

Both teams were blanked through the first two innings. Big Red was shaky during early portion of the day's performance but quickly righted the ship.

"We had three double plays," Big Red coach Fred Heatherington said. "We could have had four. I think our pitching and defense won the game for us."

Cambridge jumped on top early 1-0 after two consecutive singles, a walk, and then a double play that allowed a runner to cross the plate.

Big Red immediately responded.

JoJo Pierro reached base courtesy of an error with one out in the bottom of the third inning.

See, Big Red, Page B4

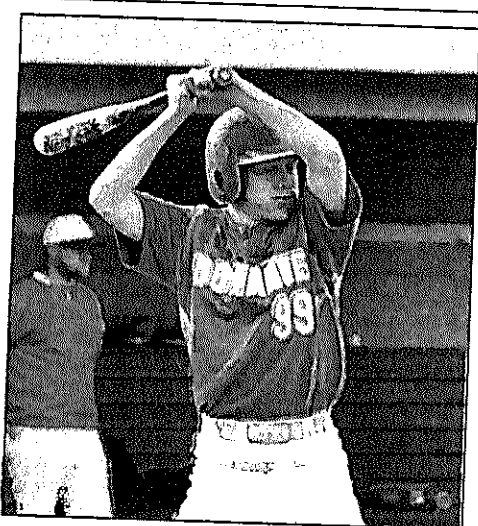


Photo by Mike Mathison

Bishop Donahue's Garrett Yurisko prepares himself in the batter's box.

## Bishops Earn OVAC Crown

Donahue proving it can  
play with the big boys

By BRENT SOBLESKI  
Sports writer

STEUBENVILLE — Bishop Donahue wasn't supposed to be in the OVAC Class A championship game. Despite the claim, the Bishops took full advantage of their opportunities, winning their first crown in 20 years.

"We said at the start of the season that we needed to close the gap on the (Wheeling) Centrals, the Madonnas, and the Torontos of the world," Bishops coach Dan Anaglich said. "This showed we have closed it a little bit. I think our kids gave great effort all night."

"The seniors have seen the rough times.

See, Bishops, Page B4

## BIG RED

Continued from page B1

His brother, Anthony, tripled down the line to bring the team's starting pitcher around the bases to tie the score.

In the bottom of the second inning, Big Red posted two runs to pull ahead for good.

Dominic Mavromatis and Jordan Garay each singled to open Steubenville's half of the inning. Lucky McClurg followed with a fielder's choice which scored the team's second run. JoJo Pierro singled to extend the lead to 3-1.

It was all the cushion JoJo Pierro needed as he pitched a complete game, five-strikeout performance.

"That's why they are 14-0," Cambridge coach Dave Gray said. "They hit the ball and make great plays in the field. We had a chance here and there, but their pitcher pitched an excellent game. It's nothing to be

ashamed of. We just couldn't pull a key hit here or there. We were happy to be here."

Big Red scattered all eight of its hits throughout the lineup. Only one Steubenville hitter didn't record a hit.

"We didn't have our best game, but we scratched out a win," Heatherington said. "We talked about that right after the game. We struggled through, and we made the plays when we had to. We had good defensive plays. JoJo hung in on the mound. Our bats weren't there, and this pitcher gave us trouble last year."

"We fought through and got a win. It's a good win, but it's not the win that we want. We have the state tournament coming up. We have to get ready for that."

"If we're going to go on any further, we have to get better."

## BISHOPS

Continued from page B1

So to come through and win a championship is really rewarding for them.

"It's really sweet. We've raised an OVAC banner with football with these guys, but with baseball it's been a long time. It's sweet redemption. It shows all that hard work in the gym, all those days you can't get outside, then take batting practice inside pays off."

It was Toronto that jumped out to an early lead during the day's fourth game played on Vaccaro Field during Championship Saturday.

The Red Knights' Chase Takacs, as usual, set the table with a walk. He then stole second base. Tyler Butler singled and brought Takacs past home plate. Butler also stole second base, and Spenser Sninchak brought him home with a single.

Toronto was up 2-1 after one.

Bishop Donahue's damage came in the fourth and seventh innings. It was in the top of the fourth when the Bishops secured the lead that led to the team's eventual victory.

Singles by Zach Whitfield, Austin Ghaphery and Devin Overholt, plus a fielder's choice by Chad Reidel manufactured two runs to give the Bishops a 4-3 advantage.

The team then added two more in the top of the sev-

enth with key hits from Phillip Smith and Kyle Gillis.

"Our kids kept battling, and we got the key hits when we needed them while making the big plays," Angalich said.

On the mound, Whitfield was whirling his way through Toronto's lineup while striking out nine batters.

"Hats off to Bishop Donahue," Toronto skipper Brian Perkins said. "It was a good game, and we had our opportunities. We didn't take advantage of them. (It) wasn't our night."

"Our kids are resilient. We have great senior leadership. This isn't our overall goal. We looking forward to the sectional tournament next week. Ultimately, that's our goal. We're going to rebound, and we'll get back at it like always."

Class AA  
Shenandoah 5  
Fort Frye 3

STEUBENVILLE — Brandon Starr went five innings to earn a victory and did damage with the bat in the way of three doubles and two RBI, helping lift Shenandoah to a championship.

Ryan Lovette and Marcus Wise each had an RBI for the Zeps.

Spencer Lange singled twice and plated two for the Cadets.

# St.C. Pours It On

Red Devils get to Eagles' Fox

By NICK BEDWAY  
For The Intelligencer  
NEW MARTINSVILLE — Hot-hitting St. Clairsville jumped on Magnolia senior ace Justin Fox for five runs and eight hits in his four innings of work on the way to an 8-1 victory against the Blue Eagles in an OVAC Class AAA semifinal Monday night at the George S. Mullett Complex.

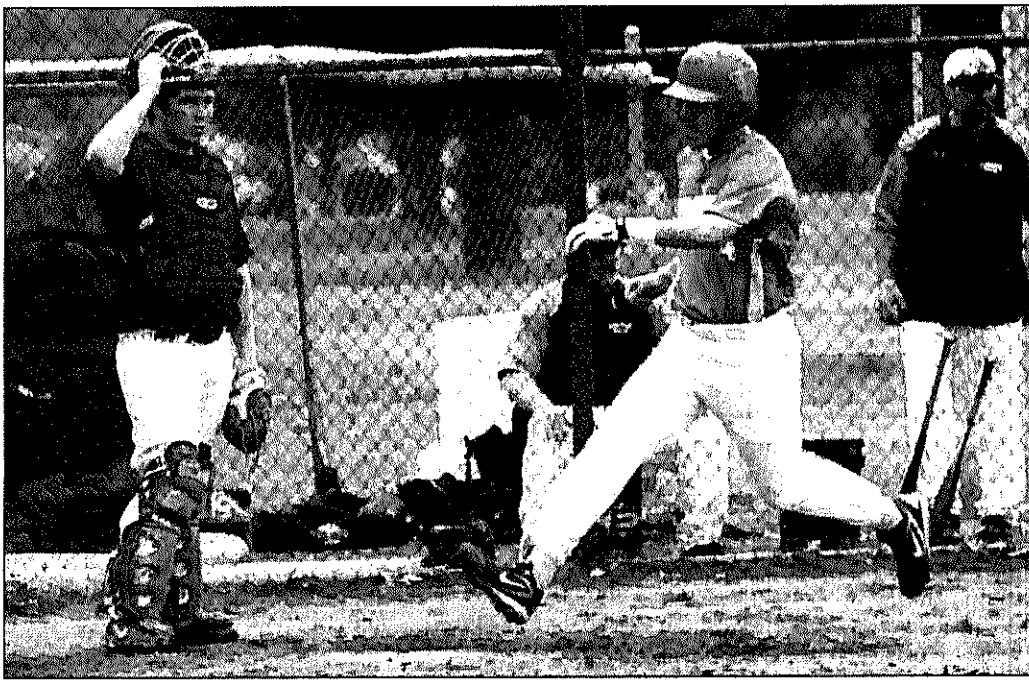
The Red Devils (8-1), also benefited from strong pitching by Sam Vincenzo and Zack Kinnick, along with some stellar defensive play, while advancing to Saturday's championship game against the Bellaire-Edison winner. "No doubt that was a quality team win," St. Clairsville coach Tom Sliva said. "I think we made plays all over the field and the plays we made at third were outstanding by (D.J.) Busby. We also had some key hits and Sam Vincenzo pitched a heck of a game keeping their hitters off balance."

Vincenzo, the Red Devils' crafty left-hander, teased the Blue Eagles batters with his curve balls while pitching five-plus innings. He allowed five of Magnolia's six hits, struck out seven, and walked five. He left leading 5-1 in the bottom of the sixth with a 3-0 count on Blue Eagles leadoff batter Drew Simmons.

Sliva brought Kinnick from second base in to pitch. After completing a walk to Simmons and allowing a bloop single down the left-field line to Chase Cain, Kinnick got out of the jam thanks to the help of two spectacular defensive plays by Busby at the hot corner.

Busby picked Ryan Walton's one-hop smash, stood up and tagged Simmons trying to get to third, then

See ST.C., Page 16



Bishop Donahue's Marshall Reager (4) crosses the plate in front of Cameron catcher Taylor Neely on Monday.

Photo by Josh Strope

## Bishops Get Title Shot

Donahue trips up Cameron in OVACs

By JOSH STROPE  
Staff Writer

MOUNDSVILLE — It's been a rough stretch for Bishop Donahue baseball, but under first-year coach Dan Angalich, the Bishops will get a chance to play for an OVAC Class A championship.

Bishop Donahue, which hasn't won an OVAC title since 1991, earned that right by beating sectional foe Cameron, 6-4, on Monday at Valley Fork.

The Bishops will face perennial power Toronto, winner of three championships in the past five seasons (two Class A, one Class AA), at 11 a.m. Saturday at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

"(Toronto) is always awesome, and I think it's great for our kids to go up there and have this opportunity to play," Angalich said. "They are excited. Hell, we are just excited to play baseball. We have played four games in three weeks and we are just as excited to play Monroe Central (today) as we are Toronto."

"But I'm sure when Saturday

comes, we'll be ready to go."

Bishop Donahue (7-3) did the little things that have avoided it in previous years — timely hitting, solid pitching, no errors, and, of course, a little luck.

The Bishops took a 4-0 lead before Cameron (7-7) came roaring back in the top of the fifth to tie the score.

But some bad breaks doomed Cameron and the Bishops took advantage.

Leadoff man Kyle Gillis drew a walk and stole second base. The throw was too high and went into the outfield, allowing Gillis to move to third.

The ensuing batter, Wylje Koontz, hit a slow roller but the ball went through the second baseman's legs, allowing Gillis to score and the Bishops to regain the lead. Koontz moved up to second on a groundout to the pitcher.

The Dragons thought they had caught a big break when pitcher Mark Walker nabbed Koontz too far off the bag. Caught in a rundown, the third baseman dropped the ball and Koontz slid safely into third.

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Toronto makes quick work of Hundred, 11-1

By MIKE MATHISON  
For The Intelligencer

TORONTO — The Toronto baseball team needed a big hit and No. 9 man Ralph King was there to deliver.

He laced a Dalton Kuhn offering into the gap in right-center for a bases-clearing triple in the second inning Monday against Hundred at the Knight Baseball Complex.

That gave Toronto a 3-0 lead that grew into an 11-1, six-inning victory in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A semifinals.

The Red Knights will play in the 11 a.m. championship game Saturday at Vaccaro Field against Bishop Donahue, a 6-4 winner over Cameron.

"We're looking forward to going up to Vaccaro," Toronto coach Brian Perkins said. "The OVAC is a nice tournament. We look forward to competing Saturday and hopefully we come out

Please See TORONTO, Page 16

## Unusual Occurrence

Lightning takes 2 runs away, but Linsly rolls

By JIM ELLIOTT  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — When does a 10-1 lead turn into an 8-1 victory? When lightning strikes.

Linsly led Brooke 10-1 and had a runner on third base when a second bolt of lightning flashed — an earlier one delayed the fifth inning for half an hour — and the rains came down, reverting everything back to the end of the last completed inning, where the Cadets still comfortably

beat the Bruins (3-9-1) on Monday at Holloway Field.

All of that wiped away two hits for Brooke and three hits and two runs for Linsly, including what would have been a fourth single in four at-bats for Alex Stephens.

But the weather did hold off long enough to make the game official. That's been a rarity this spring.

"We're playing our (13th) game (on April 25)," Brooke coach Ron Ujcich said. "We're two weeks from sectionals starting. It's been tougher on this group than any I've had, not getting that opportunity."

Please See LINSLY, Page 16

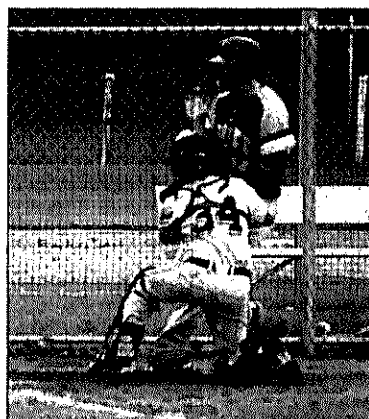


Photo by Jim Elliott

Linsly catcher Neil Tennant (34) blocks the plate and tags out Brooke runner Nick Breen.

base on another close call at second ahead of T.J. Sliva's solid double into right center.

"We strung some key hits together by Kinnick, Busby and T.J. in the third inning," Sliva said. "Fox is a quality pitcher and he has had a great career. I thought if we just came in, swung the bats and kept coming at him, we would have a chance."

## LINSLY

(Continued from Page 15)

Of course, the Bruins aren't alone in that regard, and they actually led this game 1-0 heading into the top of the third as starting pitcher Shane Paesano retired six of the first seven batters he faced.

Brooke took that lead when David Alward

reached on an error to begin the game, stole second base, moved to third on a wild pitch, and scored on a sacrifice fly by Nick Breen.

"It just would have been nice to carry some momentum, tack on a couple more runs and go slowly but surely from there," Ujcich said.

It didn't happen. The Bruins went quietly in the second and Linsly got three in the third, beginning with a leadoff home run by Neil Tennant.

"Neil really ignited us there," Linsly coach Jay Cartwright said. "That was a huge at-bat for him. First pitch, he got the fastball he was looking for."

Normally, solo homers are rally starters, but the Cadets wound up loading the bases with one out in front of a two-run double to

left by Leighton Gibson after the Tennant homer.

Breen was cut down at home in the bottom of the inning after trying to score from first on a double by Kyle Wales and the Bruins never officially threatened again (though did put two runners in scoring position in the bottom of the sixth).

Linsly sent 10 batters to the plate in the fifth and scored five runs, highlighted by RBI singles from Matt Smith, Stephens, Gibson and Haydon Stanley.

"We hit some balls hard," Cartwright said. "It was a real good night for us. Matt had a real good night against a real good hitting lineup. He changed speeds real well. It was one of his better outings."

Smith struck out four and yielded just two official hits.

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## BISHOPS

(Continued from Page 15)

Three pitches later, Jordan Angalich hit a flyball to right field that scored the runner and gave Bishop Donahue a 6-4 lead.

"Walker had us a little bit fooled compared to (Cameron starting pitcher Mitchell) French," Coach Angalich said. "Walker was really hurting us and we wanted to get the leadoff guy on. We felt if we could get Gillis on, with 4-5-6 behind him, we felt we could get a run in because of Kyle's tremendous speed.

"We felt getting the leadoff man on was definitely the key in that inning."

Bishop Donahue took the lead in the second inning on a two-run double from Chad Reidel. Garrett Yurisko drove in Reidel on the next pitch with an RBI single.

A throwing error led to another Bishops run in the third inning.

Cameron came charging back in the fifth, scoring all its runs with two outs after loading the bases as French delivered a two-run single, followed by a two-run double from Austin McDonald.

"We had a couple timely hits to tie things up and

## Baseball Roundup

made it interesting, but we came out on the short end of the stick," Cameron coach Eric James said. "These kids are resilient. The next few weeks will be all about gearing up for sectionals, to continuously get better."

Cameron got a runner on in the sixth and seventh innings but Jimmy Higginson was picked off at first and Ryan Hughes was left stranded, respectively.

Zach Whitfield struck out four in earning a victory. When asked if he will get the ball Saturday, Angalich emphatically responded, "Absolutely. When he can throw that curve ball for a strike, he's pretty hard to beat."

### Valley 4-11

### Paden City 7-5

PADEN CITY — Paden City scored six runs in the fifth inning and went on to post its first victory in the first game against Valley.

Taylor Still doubled and knocked in two for the Wildcats (1-14), while Jay Billiter and Matt Barker both singled and plated a run.

Alex Henderson, Albert McGuane and Brock Stackpole each laced two hits in the Lumberjacks' victory.

### Weirton Madonna 19

### Morgantown 17

MORGANTOWN — Madonna jumped out to a 12-0 lead after the first inning, but had to hang on for the victory.

Chris Perna blasted two homers for the Blue Dons (6-2), while Chris Eloi and Logan Linder also went yard. Perna and Linder each had four RBI, while Chris Duerr and uca Fuscardo each drove in three.

Eric Wyant and Justin Miller both knocked in four for the Mohigans (8-4).

### COLLEGE

### Saint Vincent 4-4

### Bethany 0-1

### LATROBE, Pa. —

Bethany was limited to five singles by Saint Vincent pitcher Jeff Bugajski struck out seven to pace the Bearcats.

The Bison didn't fare much better in Game 2 as Max Henry kept Bethany hitless for the first five innings, striking out 10. T.J. Zarewicz hit a sacrifice fly to score the lone Bethany run of the afternoon.

## ST.C.

(Cont. from Page 15)

threw to Brandon Snider for a force play on Cain. Snider's strong relay to first base just missed turning in a triple play.

However, Busby wasn't finished with his fancy glove work in the inning as he made a diving stop of Matt Sapp's hard-hit ball, then threw him out at first base to retire the side.

That was the second of two double plays Busby started. In the opening inning after Sapp and Kyle Elliott had singled, Busby fielded Fox's one-hopper down the line, stepped on the bag and delivered a strike to first baseman T.J. Sliva.

Offensively, the Red Devils banged out 11 hits, but the game remained close until the top of the seventh when Michael Young put the frosting on the cake with a three-run homer off Magnolia sophomore reliever Chandler Sapp.

After Sapp retired the first two batters, Michael Androsko singled — his second hit of the game — Riley Carlton walked and Young crushed a fastball to left-center, the ball sailing well over the fence before hitting on top of the roof of the football concession stand.

"St. Clairsville is a better baseball team than Magnolia," Blue Eagles coach Dave Cisar said. "They just did everything fundamentally sound. They swung the bat aggressively, hustled, and made some really nice defensive plays when we had men in scoring position.

"They played with enthusiasm, intensity and fire, while we were flat as a pancake."

Fox looked like his usual self the first two innings. In the opening frame he struck out four batters, having to pick up an extra strikeout when McKenzie Koehler reached base after fanning as the ball wasn't fielded cleanly by catcher Traeh Keller. Undaunted, Fox ended the inning by getting Busby on a called third strike.

The Blue Eagles senior picked up two more strikeouts in the second inning before running into problems during the top of the third. With one out, Jared Clovis singled sharply up the middle, his second hit in as many at bats. Clovis then stole second and was chased home with the game's first run when Kinnick doubled into right center.

After Koehler popped out, Fox looked to be out of the inning when Keller's strong throw from behind the plate appeared to have nailed Kinnick on a steal attempt of third base. However, he got in safely when the ball was dropped. Busby singled him home and he also got credit for a stolen base on another close call at second ahead of T.J. Sliva's solid double into right center.

## TORONTO

(Continued from Page 15)

Trevor Cooper doubled and Spenser Sninchak singled to begin the second inning. Cooper was out at home on a fielder's choice by Austin Lucas and Vance Goddard walked to load the bases. Sninchak was out at home on another fielder's choice, this one by John Romey.

That set the stage for King.

"We had bases loaded and Ralph came up in a big situation and picked the team up," Perkins said.

"His big hit for us kind of kick started our day.

"Our kids got really enthused after that."

Tyler Butler doubled and Cooper singled for an RBI to begin the third. Sninchak singled and Lucas was hit by a pitch. Goddard singled in a run and eventually came home for an 8-0 lead.

In the sixth, Tyler Owens reached on an error. Butler tripled him home and came in when Cooper also reached on an error. Lucas' single plated the final run of the game.

The 1 p.m. start was moved back 80 minutes because of a downpour. Perkins and his coaching staff arrived at the field at 7 a.m. to get it ready for play.

"Our kids had to sit around a lot," Perkins said. "But, once we woke up, we got the bats going."

Cooper earned a victory, striking out seven, walking none, and giving up three singles.

"Coop threw a lot of strikes," Perkins said. "He went after the batters. He's a senior and we expect that out of him."



# SPORTS

Thursday,  
April 28, 2011

## Shadyside upset in 2-A OVAC action

• Shenandoah fights off Tigers in 10; Will meet Fort Frye

By RICH GIBSON  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Not exactly what they were expecting in Tigertown.

An otherwise excellent spring took a disappointing turn Wednesday afternoon at Fleming Field.

Mike Meintel's top-seeded Shadyside ball club saw its OVAC title hopes washed away in a tough-to-take 4-3, 10-inning semifinal loss to Shenandoah.

Leading 2-0 and needing but three outs to close out the Zeps 24 hours earlier, Kevin Davis' Zeps got off the deck to first force extra frames before umpires halted play due to impending darkness.

*'We were totally flat, and I wish I knew why.'*

*- Mike Meintel*

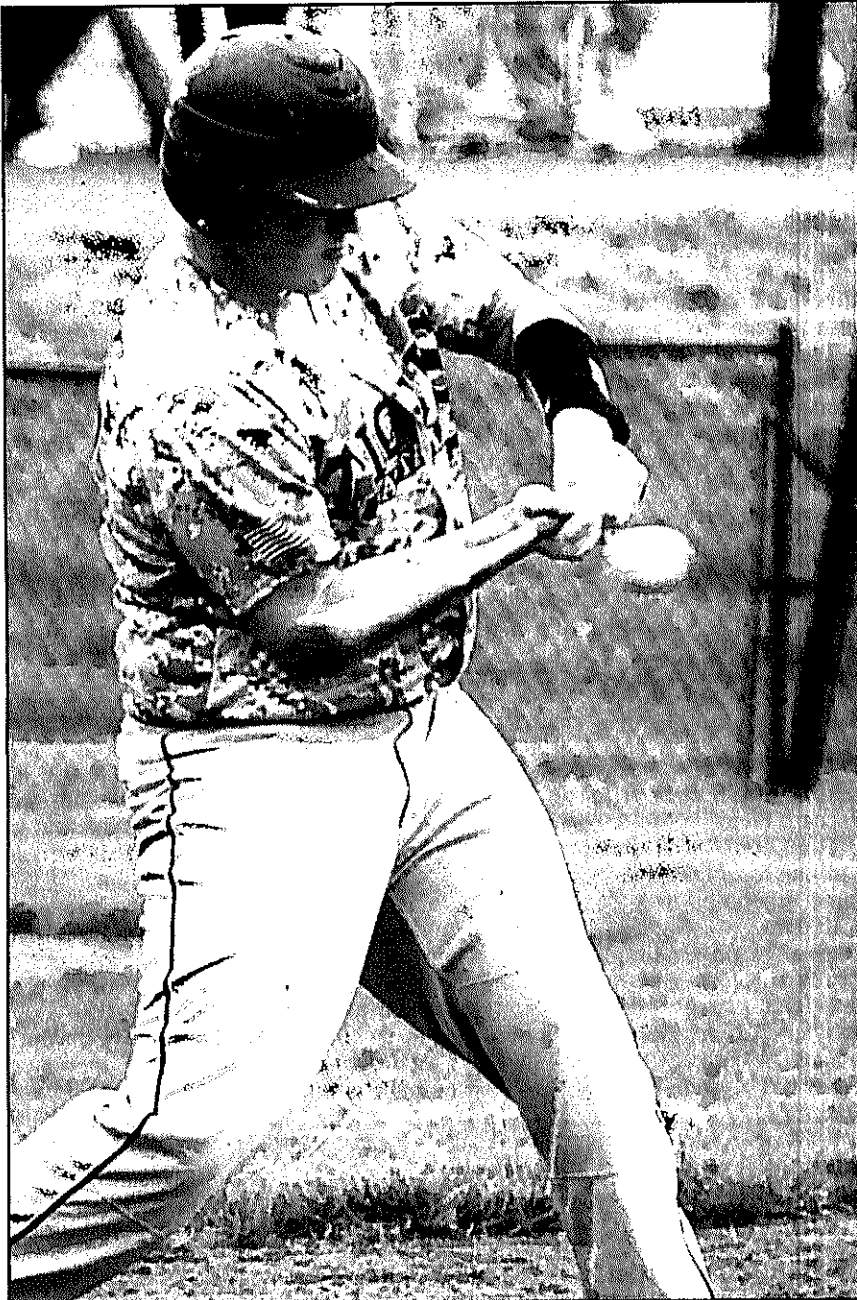
"That (decision) forced us to make back-to-back three-hour bus trips on consecutive days. We weren't happy about it and definitely used that as incentive," Davis proclaimed.

"Our kids made the most of a tough situation and beat a very good Shadyside team in the process. The ride home is going to feel pretty good."

On the contrary for Meintel and his now 9-3 Orange who must now look forward to Ohio postseason play to make amends.

"Give Shenandoah credit, but our kids were never ready to play today," Meintel advised. "We were totally flat, and I wish I knew why."

Wednesday's triumph sets up an all-Pioneer Valley Conference matchup in Saturday's See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2



T-L File Photo/MIKE PALMER

SHADYSIDE'S Josh Kernik swings at a pitch during Tuesday's OVAC Class 2-A semifinal against Shenandoah. The Tigers and Zeps were suspended and completed the game Wednesday afternoon with the Zeps prevailing by a 4-3 score in 10 innings. Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

## ● Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

OVAC 2-A championship at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field.

The Zeps will battle familiar foe Fort Frye in a game scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m.

"We've never been to Vaccaro," Davis pointed out. "That's another reason we wanted to get this win."

Facing elimination in the top of the seventh Tuesday,

Shenandoah loaded the bases against Tigers' ace Logan Hudson who then gave way to reliever Josh Kernik.

Zeps' first baseman Marcus Wise greeted Kernik with a game-tying base knock to right field but the Noble County club could do no further damage.

Shenandoah mound ace

Brandon Starr was superb during an eight-inning stint, allowing just four hits. Starr recorded six strikeouts and walked four.

When play resumed Wednesday, the Green mounted two-out lightning in the top of the ninth.

Shortstop Brett Farnsworth lined a single to left field, then swiped second base before Wise delivered again with a RBI base hit and a 3-2 Zeps' lead.

Shadyside stayed alive in the bottom of the ninth when catcher Kody Kubancik's sacrifice fly plated the tying tally.

The Zeps, however, responded. Third baseman Shane Crum drilled a lead-off single in the 10th, moved up on a passed ball, and came around to score when catcher Kalob Davis

singled.

Shadyside's Chase Kinemond reached via a base rap leading off the bottom of the 10th and then stole second base.

But Shenandoah sophomore righty James Luyster was equal to the challenge, retiring the next three Tigers to end it.

Farnsworth drilled a double and three singles. Seth Thompson singled and doubled. Wise totaled two singles and three runs batted in.

Shadyside's Matt Duda doubled and scored twice. Kernik also doubled and drove in a teammate.

Hudson logged 11 strikeouts and six walks with Kernik compiling five Ks and one free pass.

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

### BASEBALL TOURS

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# Mother Nature causing problems for OVAC

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

This spring's weather has everyone questioning what in the world we did to upset Mother Nature.

In terms of spring sports, it's been a season to forget as the number of postponements and cancellations has far exceeded the number of games the majority of area baseball and softball teams have been able to play.

While it's been a serious issue all month, it becomes even more magnified this week as the weather continues to fail to cooperate and today is slated to be the final day of the OVAC baseball regu-

lar season.

Games scheduled for today count in the OVAC Standings and the playoff brackets will be set this evening and confirmed Thursday morning before the semifinals, which are slated to be played at four sites Saturday. The championship games in the four classes will be held on Saturday, April 30 at Steubenville's Vacarro Field.

Having said all that, weather forecasts don't look favorable for today on top of the fact that many parts of the Ohio Valley received another inch or more of rain during Tuesday's latest storm.

So what does that do to the OVAC Tournament?

*'We're going to meet Thursday morning and see where we are.'*

- Tom Rataiczak

"We're going to meet Thursday morning and see where we are," OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak said. "This has been, without a doubt, the worst spring in my tenure in

terms of weather. We realize the schools just want to play and the kids are chomping at the bit to play."

The OVAC requires six games against conference foes in order to be eligible. That number was actually decreased this season from 10. This has also been the first season where every game played counted in the standings unlike years' past when just OVAC games were figured into a team's average.

Hypothetically assuming that the majority of today's games are washed out, Rataiczak, Baseball Director Perry West, Baseball Commissioner Steve Wojcik and Rick DeLuca, who compiles the

standings will have plenty of decisions to make.

"We've got a few options," Rataiczak said. "We could drop the limit to four (OVAC) games or we could not worry about the OVAC games and just go by the games they've played."

The majority of the schools have been able to get their required number of games in after some moments of trepidation earlier in the month.

While all of the 2-A and 3-A schools have played enough OVAC games to be considered, the same can't be said in Class 1-A where Madonna has played just four OVAC games.

See, MOTHER, Page B2

## Mother

Continued from Page B1

On top of the weather, the Blue Dons had an additional battle because the basketball team won the West Virginia Class A State Championship, which delayed the start of the season.

The Blue Dons' baseball team, which just defeated Class 1-A leader Toronto on Monday, is the defending Class A champion and if the rules are interpreted by the letter could be left out of the mix at making a run at a repeat.

"If every school has its six OVAC games in (Wednesday), then it's tough to make an exception for the team, which only got five in," Rataiczak said. "Obviously, some circumstances are different and this could be a year beyond rules. The bottom line is you can make all of the rules you want, but in a

year like this, you have to be fair to all of the schools. We're looking at what's best for 50 schools and now just one."

Another option could be extended the deadline by 24 hours since Thursday's weather forecast shows sunshine.

"We could go Thursday, but right now, I wouldn't gamble on anything," Rataiczak said. "If you extend a day, really the only schools who could benefit are the ones who have the types of fields who can recover quickly."

The semifinal date won't be adjusted unless Saturday's weather dictates it. Unfortunately, weather forecasts aren't too appealing for this weekend.

"Monday is scheduled as the make-up date for the semifinals," Rataiczak said.

"If one class can play, they'll play. It's not an all or nothing thing."

The OVAC baseball and softball does have a rule in place, which says if the semifinals can't be played prior to the championship game, the higher two seeds automatically advance to the finals.

While baseball ends today, softball has until Saturday. As of this point, Edison and St. Clairsville, which are both currently in the top 4 of the Class 3-A race, have yet to play the six OVAC contests.

The softball semifinals are slated for next Tuesday and Wednesday at I-470 Complex in Elm Grove. The finals are also slated for Saturday, April 30.

Staskey can be reached at [sstaskey@timesleader-online.com](mailto:sstaskey@timesleader-online.com)

## OVAC BASEBALL

AAAA					
OVAC	G/P	W	L	CP	AVE
Steubenville	5	9	0	532	59.11
Zanesville	3	8	1	476	52.89
Cambridge	1	5	4	504	38.77
Morgantown	1	5	3	300	37.50
Indian Creek	9	5	4	288	32.00
John Marshall	7	4	3	222	31.71
Wheeling Park	9	5	6	340	30.91
Parkersburg South	9	7	8	450	30.00
Buckeye Local	10	5	5	296	29.60
Meadowbrook	6	4	6	216	21.60
Brooke	9	2	7	120	13.33
Beaver Local	0	1	5	50	8.33
East Liverpool	6	1	5	42	7.00
University	1	0	4	0	0.00

AAA					
OVAC	G/P	W	L	CP	AVE
Edison	7	6	1	358	51.44
Magnolia	7	6	1	340	48.77
St. Clairsville	7	5	2	304	43.43
Union Local	8	4	4	258	32.25
Bellaire	8	5	3	250	31.25
Weir	10	5	5	282	28.20
Buckeye Trail	12	4	8	192	16.00
Oak Glen	11	3	8	156	14.18
Martins Ferry	7	2	5	98	14.00
Harrison Central	9	1	8	70	7.78
Tyler Consolidated	2	1	3	30	7.50

Class AA					
OVAC	G/P	W	L	CP	AVE
Fort Frye	9	8	1	390	43.33
Shadyside	8	7	1	336	42.00
Barnesville	10	8	2	392	39.20
Shenandoah	6	5	2	256	36.57
Linsly	9	9	2	354	32.18
Caldwell	8	5	4	248	27.56
Steubenville	6	3	4	170	24.29
Wheeling Central	7	4	4	174	21.75
Monroe Central	7	3	4	144	20.57
Frontier	7	4	4	134	16.75
River	9	3	6	104	11.56
Bridgeport	8	0	8	0	0.00
Wellsville	0	0	2	0	0.00

Class 2-A					
OVAC	G/P	W	L	CP	AVE
Toronto	8	8	2	340	42.50
Trinity Christian	0	1	0	40	40.00
Madonna	3	3	2	138	27.60
Cameron	10	7	4	290	26.36
Bishop Donahue	8	6	2	206	25.75
Valley	3	4	2	128	21.33
Conotton Valley	2	2	5	90	12.86
Hundred	6	2	5	60	8.57
Bealsville	8	2	6	62	7.75
Bishop Rosecrans	3	1	8	60	6.67
St. John Central	9	1	8	34	3.78
Paden City	7	0	11	0	0.00

\*Note: Standings based on results provided to the OVAC

## OVAC Baseball

Class 4-A					
OVAC	G/P	W	L	CP	AVE
Steubenville	5	9	0	532	59.11
Zanesville	3	8	1	476	52.89
Cambridge	9	8	5	504	38.77
Morgantown	1	5	3	300	37.50
Indian Creek	9	5	4	288	32.00
John Marshall	7	4	3	222	31.71
Wheeling Park	9	5	6	340	30.91
Parkersburg South	9	7	8	450	30.00
Buckeye Local	10	5	5	296	29.60
Meadowbrook	6	4	6	216	21.60
Brooke	9	2	7	120	13.33
Beaver Local	0	1	5	50	8.33
East Liverpool	6	1	5	42	7.00
University	1	0	4	0	0.00

Class 3-A					
OVAC	G/P	W	L	CP	AVE
Edison	7	6	1	358	51.44
Magnolia	7	6	1	340	48.77
St. Clairsville	7	5	2	304	43.43
Union Local	8	4	4	258	32.25
Bellaire	8	5	3	250	31.25
Weir	10	5	5	282	28.20
Buckeye Trail	12	4	8	192	16.00
Oak Glen	11	3	8	156	14.18
Martins Ferry	7	2	5	98	14.00
Harrison Central	9	1	8	70	7.78
Tyler Con.	2	1	3	30	7.50

Class 2-A					
OVAC	G/P	W	L	CP	AVE
Fort Frye	9	8	1	390	43.33
Shadyside	8	7	1	336	42.00
Barnesville	10	8	2	392	39.20
Shenandoah	6	5	2	256	36.57
Linsly	9	9	2	354	32.18
Caldwell	8	5	4	248	27.56
Steubenville	6	3	4	170	24.29
Whg Central	7	4	4	174	21.75
Mon. Central	7	3	4	144	20.57
Frontier	7	4	4	134	16.75
River	9	3	6	104	11.56
Bridgeport	8	0	8	0	0.00
Wellsville	0	0	2	0	0.00

Class 1-A					
OVAC	G/P	W	L	CP	AVE
Toronto	8	8	2	340	42.50
Trinity Chr.	0	1	0	40	40.00
Madonna	3	3	2	138	27.60
Cameron	10	7	4	290	26.36
B. Donahue	8	6	2	206	25.75
Valley	3	4	2	128	21.33
C. Valley	2	2	5	90	12.86
Hundred	6	2	5	60	8.57
Bealsville	8	2	6	62	7.75
B. Rosecrans	3	1	8	60	6.67
St. J. Central	9	1	8	34	3.78
Paden City	7	0	11	0	0.00

Based on Results Provided to the OVAC

## OVAC baseball pairings announced

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

The pairings for the OVAC Baseball Championship were formally announced Thursday morning.

And there's one glaring absence. The Weirton Madonna Blue Dons, who are the defending Class 1-A champions, didn't qualify for the tournament because they did not play enough conference games to earn a spot to the tournament, which is slated to open Saturday morning.

OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak admitted that it was a decision that was by no means taken lightly.

"Obviously, it's unfortunate," Rataiczak said. "The rule says the cut-off date is April 20 and the baseball community has gone by that cut-off date for years, and we've always kept the rule."

There was a thought earlier in the week that the rule

### OVAC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Saturday-Semifinals  
(Note: Higher seed is designated as the home team)

- CLASS 4-A**  
At John Marshall  
#1 Steubenville vs. #4 John Marshall, 11 a.m.  
#2 Cambridge vs. #3 Indian Creek, 2 p.m.
- CLASS 3-A**  
At Harrison Central  
#1 Edison vs. #4 Bellaire, 11 a.m.  
#2 Magnolia vs. #3 St. Clairsville, 2 p.m.
- CLASS 2-A**  
At Bridgeport  
#1 Shadyside vs. #4 Shenandoah, 11 a.m.  
#2 Fort Frye vs. #3 Barnesville, 2 p.m.
- CLASS 1-A**  
At Toronto  
#1 Toronto vs. #4 Hundred, 11 a.m.  
#2 Bishop Donahue vs. #3 Cameron, 2 p.m.



of needing six OVAC games to qualify might be erased or the cut-off date adjusted because of the unkind weather so many teams have had to deal with as more

See, OVAC, Page B2



# Tigers, Zeps deadlocked

• Game will resume today at 4:30 p.m.

By RICH GIBSON  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Nearly three hours following the scheduled first pitch, Shadyside and Shenandoah had decided nothing Tuesday evening.

The two teams finished their OVAC 2-A semifinal game at Fleming Field involved in a 2-2 lockup after eight innings when play was halted due to darkness. The game had been held up an additional 25 minutes earlier by rain.

Weather permitting, the contest was slated to resume this afternoon at 4:30 with Coach Kevin Davis' Zeps coming to bat in the top of the ninth.

Shadyside had taken a 2-0 upperhand to the top of the seventh when Shenandoah staged a dramatic rally to knot the encounter at 2 apiece. The game remained tied through eight frames when veteran

See, **TIGERS**, Page B2



**SHADYSIDE CATCHER** Kody Kubancik applies a tag to Shenandoah's C.J. Danford during action from their OVAC Class AA baseball game Tuesday at Fleming Field. The game was tied after 8 innings and will be resumed today at 4:30 p.m. Additional images can be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

## ● Tigers

Continued from Page B1

home plate umpire Andy Cross opted to halt play.

It stands to reason, Zeps' righthander Brandon Starr will be involved in a no-decision after working all eight innings Tuesday. Starr scattered four hits, struck out six and issued three walks.

Shadyside starter Logan

Hudson was equally strong before being removed by Tigers' skipper Mike Meintel in the Zeps' seventh. Hudson recorded 11 strikeouts and recorded six walks.

Senior Josh Kernik who entered in the seventh, was expected to return to the hill this afternoon.

Shadyside's leadoff hitter Matt Duda doubled to lead off the Tigers' first inning and came home to score on an infield ground ball off the bat of Kernik. In the third, Duda walked, swiped second base, advanced to third on a grounder, and raced home when Starr uncorked a wild pitch.

A Zeps' threat went by the boards in the fifth when pinch runner C.J. Danford was cut down at the plate attempting to score on a base hit by teammate Brett Farnsworth.

In the top of the sev-

enth, Shenandoah loaded the bases, then tied the game on a two-run single to right off the bat of Marcus Wise. Kernik, however, averted further damage by picking Wise off first, then recording consecutive strikeouts.

The Zeps are scheduled to lead off the ninth with number nine hitter Dan Neuhart at the plate. Shadyside has hitters 2-3-4 due up in the bottom of the ninth.

Gibson can be reached at [rgibson@timesleader-online.com](mailto:rgibson@timesleader-online.com)

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# Edison Tops Bellaire, Will Face St. C. in Final

Smyth belts four hits for Wildcats

By BRENT SOBLESKI  
For The Intelligencer

RICHMOND — Usually, when it rains it pours. The downpour never came, but the precipitation was constant Tuesday as the Edison baseball team defeated visiting Bellaire, 11-1, in six innings at the Rich-

mond/Edison Athletic Complex.

"To be honest, I have been miserable at home," Edison coach Mike Collopy said regarding the weather. "I've been miserable at school. I know everyone is in the same boat."

"The kids have done a good job. We had a real good practice (Monday) indoors after a day where it looked like we were

## OVAC Baseball

going to play. We have to take what the weather is giving us and get better every day."

Edison advances to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tournament Class AAA final against St. Clairsville on Saturday at Vaccaro Field.

"Both teams had to play in the same weather," Bellaire

skipper John Patrone said. "I can't look at that as a factor as to why we didn't execute the way we should have. We had several dropped balls. We played in the same rain they did."

Edison's offensive output was accumulated primarily in the fourth and sixth innings. The Wildcats posted five runs in the bottom of the fourth and added four more in the sixth.

"Offensively, we put the ball in play hard," Collopy said. "We made them field it. We kept them on their toes. When you put the ball in play offensively, you have a good chance to win the game."

Mark Smyth was the team's catalyst going 4-for-4 at the plate with six RBI. Three of the four hits were singles, but he ripped a double in the final

Please See EDISON, Page 17

## St. C. back in Class 3-A title game

By NICK BEDWAY  
For The Times Leader

NEW MARTINSVILLE — Hot-hitting St. Clairsville jumped on Magnolia senior ace Justin Fox for five runs and eight hits in his four innings of work on the way to an 8-1 victory against the Blue Eagles in an OVAC Class AAA semifinal Monday night at the George S. Mullett Complex.

The Red Devils (8-2), also benefited from strong pitching by Sam Vincenzo and Zack Kinnick, along with some stellar defensive play, while advancing to Saturday's championship game against the Bellaire-Edison winner.

*'...we made plays all over the field.'*

— St. C. head coach  
Tom Sliva

"No doubt that was a quality team win," St. Clairsville coach Tom Sliva said. "I think we made plays all over the field and the plays we made at third were outstanding by (D.J.) Busby. We also had some

key hits and Sam Vincenzo pitched a heck of a game keeping their hitters off balance."

Vincenzo, the Red Devils' crafty left-hander, teased the Blue Eagles batters with his curve balls while pitching five-plus innings. He allowed five of Magnolia's six hits, struck out seven, and walked five. He left leading 5-1 in the bottom of the sixth with a 3-0 count on Blue Eagles leadoff batter Drew Simmons.

Sliva brought Kinnick from second base in to pitch. After completing a walk to Simmons and allowing a bloop single down the left-field line to Chase Cain,

See, DEVILS, Page B2

## ● Devils

Continued from Page B1

Kinnick got out of the jam thanks to the help of two spectacular defensive plays by Busby at the hot corner.

Busby picked Ryan Walton's one-hop smash, stood up and tagged Simmons trying to get to third, then threw to Brandon Snider for a force play on Cain. Snider's strong relay to first base just missed turning in a triple play.

However, Busby wasn't finished with his fancy glove work in the inning as he made a diving stop of Matt Sapp's hard-hit ball, then threw him out at first base to retire the side.

That was the second of two double plays Busby started. In the opening inning after Sapp and Kyle Elliott had singled, Busby fielded Fox's one-hopper down the line, stepped on the bag and delivered a strike to first baseman T.J. Sliva.

Offensively, the Red Devils banged out 11 hits, but the game remained close until the top of the seventh when Michael Young put the frosting on the cake with a three-run homer off Magnolia sophomore reliever Chandler Sapp.

After Sapp retired the first two batters, Michael Androsko singled - his second hit of the game - Riley Carlton walked and Young crushed a fastball to left-center, the ball sailing well over the fence before hitting on top of the roof of the football concession stand.

"St. Clairsville is a better baseball team than Magnolia," Blue Eagles coach Dave Cisar said. "They just did everything fundamentally sound. They swung the bat aggressively, hustled, and made some really nice defensive plays when we had men in scoring position."

"They played with enthusiasm, intensity and fire, while we were flat as a pancake."

Fox looked like his usual self the first two innings. In the opening frame he struck out four batters, having to pick up an extra strikeout when McKenzie Koehler reached base after fanning as the ball wasn't fielded cleanly by catcher Traeh Keller. Undaunted, Fox ended the inning by getting Busby on a called third strike.

The Blue Eagles senior picked up two more strikeouts in the second inning before running into problems during the top of the third. With one out, Jared Clovis singled sharply up the middle, his second hit in as many at bats. Clovis then stole second and was chased home with the game's first run when Kinnick doubled into right center.

After Koehler popped out, Fox looked to be out of the inning when Keller's strong throw from behind the plate appeared to have nailed Kinnick on a steal attempt of third base. However, he got in safely when the ball was dropped. Busby singled him home and he also got credit for a stolen base on another close call at second ahead of T.J. Sliva's solid double into right center.

Leading 3-0 entering the fourth, the Red Devils picked up two more runs after Fox, who rarely has control problems, issued back-to-back walks to Carlton and Young with one out. The runners were sacrificed to second and third by Clovis, then Kinnick and Koehler came through with clutch back-to-back two-out RBI singles.

## ● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

games have been postponed due to rain or cold than played.

"We just couldn't justify altering it," Rataiczak said. "I don't deny that Madonna is probably one of the premier teams in the conference, but the other schools all worked hard to get their games and when basically all of the other schools got their games in. I wish I could say this is the right answer, but when you're dealing with 50 schools, you must be fair to 50 schools."

Madonna was actually one of 12 schools to not play the six required games, but it's the only school, which had planned on or had hoped to take part in the tournament.

"We met Thursday, went over the schedules and standings and based on what we had, all of the other schools had their games in," Rataiczak said. "Once we looked at that, we pretty much didn't have a choice. We had to keep it the way it was."

This was actually the first season that the OVAC required six games against conference foes to be eligible for the tournament. In years' past, 10 games were needed.

If that rule was still in place, only 16 schools would have qualified in the four divisions.

"If you start bending the rules, then teams, which played four games, want it lowered again," Rataiczak said. "If you're not going to honor the rules, then why have them? We should just let everyone in."

Rataiczak did admit that the baseball committee, which will meet shortly after the tournament, will sit down and take a look at the format once again. However, he also indicated people shouldn't get their hopes up for wholesale changes.

"Year in and year out, I think you'll find that the rules are fair for all of the schools," Rataiczak admitted.

Toronto, which Madonna just knocked off on Monday, is the top seed in Class A. Bishop Donahue, Cameron and Hundred, which is just 2-5, round out the 1-A field.

While much of the talk has been about Madonna and schools' needs to get their games in, Steubenville, Edison and Shadyside were crowned the three other

*'We just couldn't justify altering it.'*

— Tom Rataiczak

regular-season champions and earned the top seeds in Saturday's semifinals.

Along with Madonna, Class 2-A defending champion Linsly failed to qualify for the tournament. The Cadets met the game requirement, but their 30.17 average was good enough for just sixth place.

With the brackets now set, the OVAC's attention shifts to the weather reports. Heavy rains were predicted for today and scattered storms on Saturday.

The number one and number four seeds are slated to meet at 11 a.m. and the two and three seeds will square off at 2 p.m. at John Marshall, Cadiz, Bridgeport and Toronto, respectively, by class.

Should weather be an issue, the 11 a.m. games will be pushed back an hour and if it's still bad at that time, the first game will be delayed for the day and all efforts will be made to play the second game.

"We don't want to push four schools back because we're dealing with proms and such," Rataiczak said. "So, we like to keep two schools on schedule as best we can."

If the entire day is washed out, Monday is set as the make-up day for the tournament. If need be, games will continually be pushed back and possibly jockeyed around site wise if need be until Friday. If the semifinals still aren't completed by then, the top two seeds will advance to Vaccaro Field in Steubenville to play for the title.

Rataiczak also reported that JM head baseball coach Bob Montgomery has indicated to him and OVAC Baseball Director Perry West that the Monarchs' field will be ready despite the flooding that hit the field once again this week.

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# SPORTS

## OVAC baseball tourney rescheduled

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

It's become an annual rite of spring. This spring, anyway. The prep baseball and softball seasons continued to be ravaged by rainfall. The latest downpour, which lasted much of the day Friday and into the wee hours of Saturday morning, has taken a toll on the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tournaments. Despite feverish efforts by grounds crews at Toronto, Bridgeport, Harrison

Central and John Marshall, all eight of Saturday's semifinals were washed out well before the first pitch was slated to be thrown.

"I was up at Toronto early (Saturday) and there was water just standing on the infield and that's not to say how much water was lying in the outfield," OVAC Baseball Director Perry West said. "When the workers arrived at the field, they just shook their head. They said it would have probably been 6 o'clock before they could have played."



West began working the phones to the three other sites and the answers were the same.

"There's just too much water to get the fields ready," West said.

After informing all of the schools of the cancellation, the decision was made to allow the higher seeded teams to host the games and they could establish the schedule.

"It's the responsibility of the host team to schedule as soon as possible," West said.

The OVAC did leave the door open for the schools to alter the sites if one field is playable, while the host team's isn't.

"If the host team's field isn't playable, they must be ready to travel to the visitor's field or a neutral site," West said. "The higher seed would still remain the home team."

The OVAC finals are slated for Saturday at Steubenville's Vacarro Field and West was adamant this will be the final week.

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### ● OVAC

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"We've got to get these games in one way or another," West said. "I hate the thought or idea of a paper champion, but this is going to be the final week."

If the re-scheduled games can't be played at either site on the day they're scheduled for, they're to just continually push them back throughout the week.

"We'll be looking for the first possible time they can play," West said.

The new schedule looks like this:

Class 4-A  
Wednesday, 5 p.m.

- No. 1 Steubenville vs. No. 4 John Marshall  
**Monday, 5 p.m.**
- No. 2 Cambridge vs. No. 3 Indian Creek  
**Class 3-A  
Monday, Noon**
- No. 1 Edison vs. No. 4 Bellaire  
**Monday, 5 p.m.**
- No. 2 Magnolia vs. No. 3 St. Clairsville  
**Class 2-A  
Tuesday, 5 p.m.**
- No. 1 Shadyside vs. No. 4 Shenandoah
- No. 2 Fort Frye vs. No. 3 Barnesville  
**Class 1-A  
Monday, 1 p.m.**
- No. 1 Toronto vs. No. 4 Hundred  
**Monday, 2 p.m.**
- No. 2 Bishop Donahue vs. No. 3 Cameron

### OVAC Baseball

CLASS 4-A				
	W	L	CP	AVE
Steubenville	8	0	446	55.75
Zanesville	4	1	258	51.20
Cambridge	8	2	480	48.00
John Marshall	4	1	218	43.60
Buckeye Local	4	3	232	33.14
Morgantown	4	4	240	30.00
Indian Creek	3	3	172	28.67
Meadowbrook	3	3	168	28.00
Wheeling Park	3	5	198	24.75
Parkersburg South	5	8	318	24.46
Brooke	2	4	110	18.33
Beaver Local	1	3	50	12.50
East Liverpool	1	3	36	9.00
University	0	3	0	0.00
CLASS 3-A				
	W	L	CP	AVE
Magnolia	4	1	214	42.80
Edison	4	0	150	37.50
Bellaire	4	2	192	32.00
Union Local	3	3	188	31.00
Weir	3	3	148	24.67
Buckeye Trail	3	6	140	15.56
St. Clairsville	2	2	52	13.00
Oak Glen	2	6	96	12.00
Harrison Central	1	5	66	11.00
Martins Ferry	1	3	40	10.00
Tyira Consolidated	1	3	32	8.00
CLASS 2-A				
	W	L	CP	AVE
Fort Frye	6	1	274	39.14
Linsly	8	0	312	39.00
Shadyside	4	1	186	37.20
Barnesville	5	2	244	34.86
Shenandoah	4	2	204	34.00
Caldwell	4	3	194	27.71
Frontier	4	2	132	22.00
Wheeling Central	2	3	110	22.00
Morroe Central	2	3	84	16.80
River	2	4	64	10.67
Bridgeport	0	6	0	0.00
Steubenville Central	0	4	0	0.00
Wellsville	0	2	0	0.00
CLASS 1-A				
	W	L	CP	AVE
Toronto	3	2	148	29.60
Bishop Donahue	6	1	204	29.14
Madonna	1	1	56	28.00
Cameron	7	4	284	25.82
Valley	2	2	66	16.50
Conotton Valley	1	2	48	16.00
Bishop Rosecrans	1	6	60	8.57
Hundred	2	5	60	8.57
Bealsville	1	6	32	4.57
St. John Central	1	6	32	4.57
Paden City	0	9	0	0.00
Trinity Christian	0	0	0	0.00

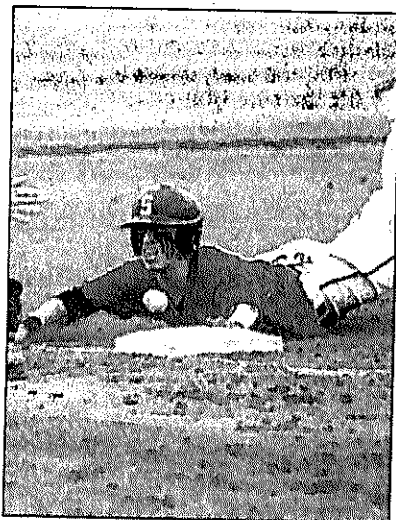


Photo by Fred Younce  
Steubenville's Anthony Pierro slides safely into third base.

## Big Red Rolls to Final

John Marshall issues 13 walks in 13-0 blowout

By **FRED YOUNCE**  
For The Intelligencer

STEUBENVILLE — Wednesday at Vacarro Field, Steubenville made short work of visiting John Marshall in their OVAC Class AAAA semifinal game. It took Big Red just five innings to defeat the Monarchs 13-0 to advance to Saturday's championship game against Cambridge.

Steubenville used patience at the plate to draw 13 walks from Monarchs pitchers and capitalized on five errors to help its cause, on a day when Big Red bats collected only five hits.

"Big Red's a good team," John Marshall coach Bob Montgomery said. "I wish them well, but we didn't play very well."

Anthony Pierro had a first-inning double that knocked in Joe Pierro who led the game off with the first of those 13 bases on balls. Jordon Meyer followed Anthony Pierro with a single that brought Anthony Pierro home.

Meyer scored the third run of the opening inning when Darin Heatherington pushed him in on a groundout to second base.

"We talked before the game about wanting a good start and we got three good runs in the first inning," Big Red coach Fred Heatherington said. "It gave

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