

OVAC Champs Crowned

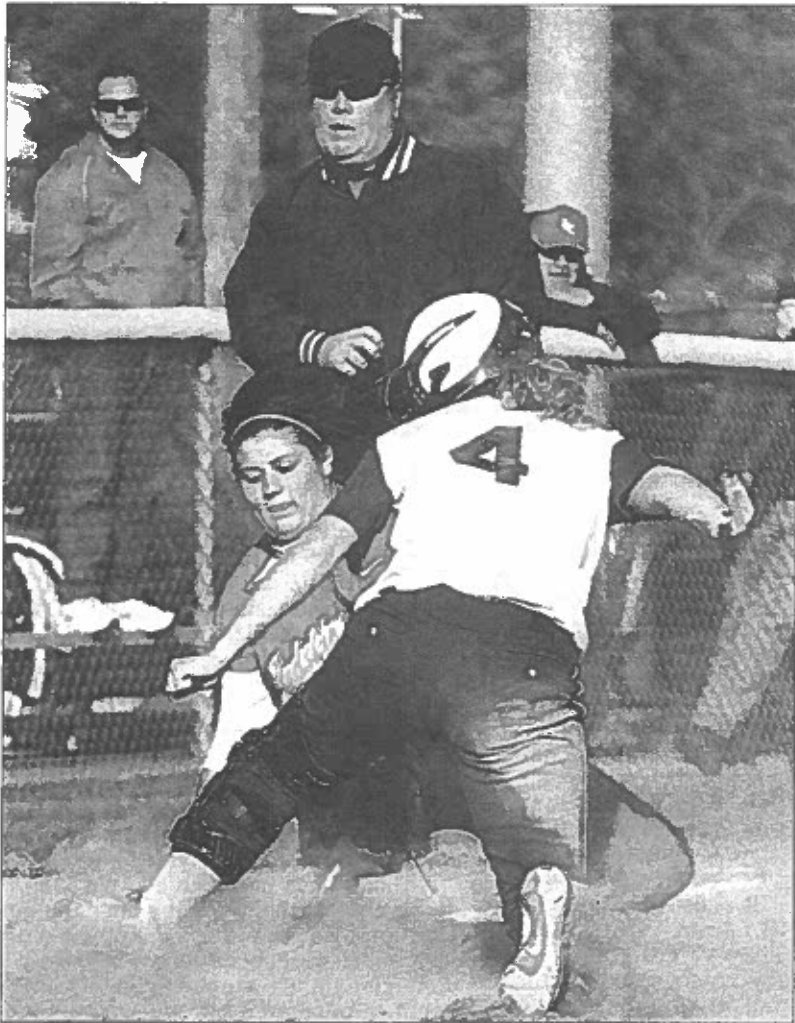


Photo by Jim Elliott

John Marshall's Kylie Howard (4) slides into third base safely ahead of the tag of Indian Creek's Paige DeMattio.

Class 5A Softball

JM wins first title since '93

By JIM ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

WHEELING — It's been no secret throughout what has been a magical season at John Marshall, pitchers Amy Rotriga and Megan Garcia have been rocks for each other every time one has found trouble.

It happened again Friday in the OVAC Class 5A championship game at Lisa's Field, as Rotriga came on in relief of Garcia and retired seven of the eight batters she faced — four via strikeout — as the Monarchs beat Indian Creek, 13-6, for the school's first league softball crown in nearly two decades.

"We work hard together," Rotriga said. "When I'm down, she picks me up. When I went in (the dugout), I said, 'keep your head up.'"

Still, it seems almost silly to discuss pitching in a game where there were three home runs and 17 combined hits. John Marshall, which won its 28th straight game, had 11 of those hits and two of the home runs.

The Monarchs (28-2) led 8-2 and were cruising along behind Garcia in the fifth inning when Indian Creek made things interesting. The Redskins sent seven to the plate and scored four runs, highlighted by a three-run home run by Paige DeMattio. Ashley Starr added an RBI single as the 'Skins cut the deficit to two.

"We kept plugging away," Creek coach Angela Penner said. "We had some life when it was 8-6. And things could have turned around. Our kids just don't quit. They're playing seven innings."

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JM

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They could have, had it not been for another thing JM has consistently done since the snow stopped flying.

"That's been our forte all year long," Monarchs coach Ed West said. "To not give up. If we get a lead, we keep the pressure on, if we happen to get behind, we don't give up, we keep plugging. (Friday) didn't surprise me a bit. We're pretty fortunate. Our girls hit the ball well. Our top four is probably better than any I've seen. And five-through-nine is not bad either. They put the ball in play."

John Marshall nearly batted around in the sixth, with Kylie Howard collecting her third hit — and second straight RBI double — ahead of an RBI single by Garcia, and a three-run home run by Rotriga.

"We just went in there, got rallied up and were ready to hit the ball," Rotriga said.

Just like that, JM pushed its lead back to seven with the junior southpaw needing to get just three more outs.

She struck out two, worked around JM's lone error, and induced Starr to ground to short, setting off a celebration

that was 19 years in the making.

"I wasn't worried about it," she said. "I knew I had a good defense behind me. I just went in there and threw strikes and wherever the ball's hit, it's going to be an out."

That wasn't always the case with Starr and the Redskins, who suffered through a day they'd love to forget in the field. They were guilty of seven errors, continually giving the Monarchs golden opportunities.

"John Marshall is a good hitting team 1-through-9," Penner said. "We knew coming in we'd have to play our 'A' game and we had some errors along the way. You can't have errors against a good team — especially a good hitting team."

JM grabbed a 2-0 lead two batters into the game on a two-run home run by Sissy George and made it 5-0 with three more runs in the second inning. Creek committed two errors in the inning and had four through JM's first 12 hitters, allowing one run to score. Garcia also ripped a two-run single in the second frame.

The Redskins got two back in the third on a sacrifice fly by Mallorie Sullivan and an RBI single by Ashley Shimko.

SPORTS

Whg. Central, Magnolia win OVAC softball titles

WHEELING — For six innings, Saturday afternoon's OVAC Class 2A final had just about everything you would want from a championship game.

The pitching was solid, the defense nearly just as good and there were also a timely hit or two as a good crowd enjoyed the tightly played battle on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers Memorial Youth Sports Complex.

But with the score tied at 2-2 entering the top of the seventh, things suddenly unraveled, especially for Steubenville Catholic. Defending champion Wheeling Central took advantage of a huge break to explode for seven runs and then hang on for a 9-5 victory.

Central began what proved to be the game-winning rally on a solid

single to left field by Brittany Miller. Paige Creamer, the standout Crusaders pitcher who had not issued a single base on balls and allowed just five hits to that point, suddenly lost control and walked Emily Wizba on four pitches.

Laken Visnick moved up both runners with her well-placed sacrifice bunt and Creamer loaded the bases by walking Megan Griffin.

Joni Zavolta then tapped the ball in front of the plate where it was fielded by Creamer who threw the ball home to trying for a forceout.

However, courtesy runner Cara Stahl slid in safely when it was ruled that the catcher's foot was not in contact with home plate.

Before Steubenville Catholic could finally get

the second and third outs of the inning, Wheeling Central had scored six more runs.

Bri Robbins singled to left, extending the lead to 4-2.

Magnolia 3, Fort Frye 0

Fort Frye pitcher Victoria Mimken was unhittable for the first three innings in Saturday's Class 3A OVAC Softball championship against Magnolia, striking out nine of the first 10 batters.

But if there was one person in the home dugout that knew how to get to Mimken, it was first baseman Mallory Chapman.

Dallas Mullett broke up Mimken's no-hitter in the fourth inning with a single before Chapman hit a towering home run to right field three pitches later to give Magnolia a 2-0 lead.

Buckeye captures first softball crown since 1999

BUCKEYE LOCAL short-stop Dana Betteneschi catches a pop up during the OVAC Class 4A title game. Looking on is Kaylee DeCesare. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Buckeye Local hadn't won an OVAC softball championship since 1999.

That all changed on a cold Saturday afternoon at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Wheeling after the Panthers (17-6) posted a wild, 8-6, decision over Meadowbrook to claim the Class AAAA title on Lisa's Field.

"It hasn't been easy all season. Why start now?" first-year Buckeye Local head coach Joe Soos allowed after watching his team nearly cough up an 8-2 lead after five innings. "Going in

as the No. 2 seed you've got to beat a good team to win the championship, and we had enough to get it done.

"I can't be more proud of a group of girls."

Things didn't start off well for the Panthers as Angela Primovic's first pitch hit Sarah Stine. Stine would move to second on a sacrifice bunt and to third on a wild pitch. Alyse Dudley's groundout chased her home for a 1-0 lead.

Buckeye Local responded when sophomore Karlee Leonard led off the top of the second with an infield sin-

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SJC back on top of 1A softball after four-year drought

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

For the eighth time in school history, St. John Central is the queenpin of the OVAC Class 1A girls' softball field.

The Lady Irish (18-4) tied Edison and John Marshall with eight titles after their methodical, 6-0, whitewash-

ing of Bishop Donahue on a down-right cold Saturday morning on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

Only the Bishops (13) and Wheeling Central (10) have more championships. It was St. John Central's first championship since the 2007 season.

See, **SJC**, Page C2



ST. JOHN'S pitcher Hannah Absalom works to the plate during Saturday's 1A title game against Bishop Donahue. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

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"These girls stepped up today. I can't be any happier with a group of girls," veteran Irish head coach Jerry Magistro said. "When we started this back in the winter, we didn't have the numbers and we had some injuries. We had a lot of freshmen who had to play, and some kids even played hurt."

"So, with everything that's gone on this season, and where we are now, I'm just so happy for these kids," he continued. "I'm sure there were a lot of people out there that didn't think we'd get this far, or do this good, but these freshmen getting to play in a big game like this gives them even more experience for the years to come."

"They grew up fast this year," he said of his four frosh. "I never thought it was going to come, but these girls (freshmen) have really worked hard."

While most of the talk centered around his first-year players, sophomore Hannah Absalom, who sat out her freshman season due to injury, continued her dominance from inside the circle.

The hard-throwing Absalom struck out 16 Bishops, one less than she did against Conotton Valley in a semifinal victory. She was perfect for 3 1/2 innings before walking Abby Randolph on a 3-2 pitch. She then retired the next seven Bishops before yielding a two-out single to shallow left by Tess Fallova, who was erased attempting to steal by veteran Irish catcher Rosa Young.

Absalom gave up a leadoff single to Randolph to start the seventh, but struck out the side to end the game.

"Hannah has done this all season for us," Magistro explained. "With her in the circle, we are a pretty good team."

Absalom was also responsible for scoring half of her team's runs. She led off the game with a wicked smash off the right knee of Bishop Donahue third baseman Beth Wolfe, who was carried off the field and later taken to Wheeling Hospital for diagnosis.

After stealing second, Absalom was sacrificed to third by Kaydie Coppa. She would score on Young's bouncer to short. That proved to be the only run the lanky sophomore would need, but the Irish did not let up.

They would plate another run in the second as Sydney Helms drew a leadoff walk and went to second on a wild pitch. With one out, Amber LaMotte's grounder to short skipped into the outfield for an error as Helms chugged home.

It became 4-0 in the third when Absalom drilled a triple to deep left leading off. Coppa's infield single got Absalom home and Coppa would cross the plate when Gina Beekman's shot to second was misplayed.

Some aggressive baserunning by the Green-and-Gray made it 6-0 in the fourth. Kyleigh Falcone reached second on a one-out error and Cheyenne Harris bunted her to third. Absalom walked and Coppa's infield roller turned into a circus as the Irish runners never seemed to stop running while the Bishops threw the ball around the infield, albeit late every time.

When it was all said and done and the dust had settled, Falcone and Absalom had both scored.

"We lost a game earlier this season because of our baserunning," Magistro recalled. "But today, I thought our baserunning got us a couple of runs."

Bishop Donahue head coach Curt Mele said, despite the loss, he was proud of his team.

"I really liked our chances coming in, but we knew that it would take a nearly perfect game to beat St. John. They have a great team that is very well coached, and we didn't play a perfect game. Give them (St. John) credit."

Mele did note that Wolfe suffered a badly bruised knee and will need further diagnosis after the swelling goes down.

Bishop Donahue 000 000 0 - 0 2 3
St. John Central 112 200 x - 6 4 0
Batteries: Guzek and Scott. Absalom and Young

● Buckeye

Continued from Page C1

gle and freshman Kierstyn Czuchran blasted an 0-1 pitch well over the fence in right-centerfield for a two-run homer and a 2-1 Panthers' lead. It was her eighth round-tripper of the season.

"Kierstyn can really hit the ball for a freshman," Soos said with a smile. "She plays a lot of travel ball in the summer, probably 70-80 games."

Dana Bettineschi's one-out RBI double off the fence in dead center scored Taryn Tonkovich, who had tripled to the same part of the field one at-bat earlier, to make it 3-1.

A two-out error and Sammy Frizzell's run-scoring single to right cut the Colts' deficit to 3-2, but she was erased trying for second on a fine relay to avoid further damage.

The defensive gem seemed to spark the Panthers' bats as Aliyah Marelli led off the fifth by being hit with a pitch. Tonkovich dropped a single into right as Marelli went to third. When the ball trick-

led away. Tonkovich alertly took second. After the next two batters struck out, senior Tori Nest laced a two-run single to right, bumping the margin to 6-2.

Buckeye Local wasn't done, however, as it plated another pair of runs in the sixth and seemed to be on cruise control.

Kaylee Decesare legged out an infield single leading off and Sydney Omaitis walked. Marelli dropped down a bunt single to load the bases and, with one out, Bettineschi was walked to force in a run.

Then, with two outs, Czuchran looked at ball four as another run was forced across the plate, making it 8-2.

Meadowbrook didn't earn the No. 1 seed by rolling over when times got tough.

The Colts put together a four-hit, four-run bottom of the sixth to whittle the margin to 8-6, and left the bases loaded when Ivy Starcher, who came on in relief of Primovic two batters prior, recorded an

inning-ending strikeout.

"Ivy struggled a little bit when she first came in, but she settled down and got us out of the jam," Soos assessed. "Angela did a fine job, but we didn't make a couple of plays behind her, or she might've finished out the game."

When Omaitis gloved a fly ball off the bat of Frizzell with two outs in the seventh, the long wait for another OVAC softball championship was over in Connorville.

"Meadowbrook is one heckuva team and they played well, too," Soos added. "These girls have been through a lot in the last few years."

"I'm their third coach in four years," he said of his senior group.

"What can you say about them? They've been a big part of us for four years, so this is really special for them. They've performed well."

Tonkovich, Bettineschi, Nest and Decesare all had multi-hit games for Buckeye Local.

Bettineschi and Czuchran also had a trio of runs batted in each, while Nest drove home two.

Primovic struck out just two and walked one in 5.2 innings of work. She scattered 11 hits and threw just 73 pitches before being pulled.

Buckeye 021 032 0 - 8 11 2
Meadow 100 104 0 - 6 11 2
Batteries: Primovic, Starcher (6) and Nest. DeLong, Endly (4) and Ab. Dudley

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Cadets Back In Saddle

Does another OVAC title await?

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Trailing by eight runs entering the seventh inning of Tuesday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal baseball game at Holloway Field, invading Shadyside scored six times without the benefit of a hit but still wound up falling 9-7 to Linsly.

Three errors, a trio of hit batters and one walk left the Tigers with the tying run at the plate when Jarred Brooks struck out to end the improbable last-ditch comeback attempt.

"That was one of the craziest innings I have ever seen," Cadets coach Jay Cartwright said after his team advanced to this weekend's championship game. "But we are very excited to be back in the OVAC finals after not making the tournament last year. Our No. 1 goal, since we aren't in the SSAC, is win this tournament every year."

Capturing the conference crown is something the Cadets have been very good at accomplishing during the last several decades. Linsly won 13 titles during Gary Sprague's long reign at the Cadets helm. They've garnered two more of those highly coveted pennants since Cartwright took the helm in 2007.

The trio of Linsly pitchers, Momo Felt, Jimmy Brinsky and Adam Jones, combined to pitch three-hit ball, all three being singles off the bat of right fielder D.J. Shoemaker.

Jones pitched the extended top of the seventh and did not allow a ball to be hit out of the infield but he committed two of the errors while the other was the result of catcher's interference with the bases loaded forcing in a run.

Shadyside coach Mike Meintel also was shaking his head after his team's record fell to 11-8. The Tigers had problems of their own in the field and several other balls fell safely that should have resulted in outfield outs.

"We had some balls we didn't catch, but we are very young in the outfield," Meintel said. "Being down 9-1, I never thought it would come down to this. The little things early in the game that we didn't do turned out to really hurt us."

"But Linsly is a great team and an excellent program."

The Cadets offense accounted for 11 hits off the lefty Brooks, who had beaten them 4-2 in their most recent game played at Shadyside.

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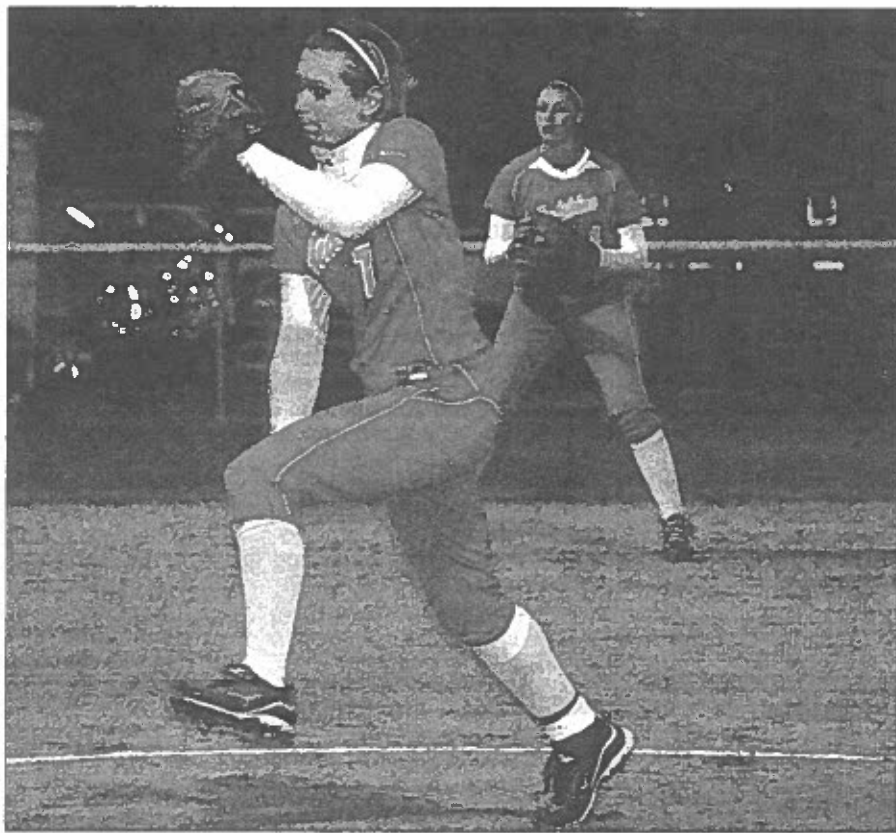


Photo by Jim Elliott

Indian Creek starting pitcher Ashley Starr rocks and delivers Tuesday against Wheeling Park. Taylor Geanangel is in the background.

Creek's Big Fourth Beats Wheeling Park

Top-seeded Monarchs next for the Redskins

By JIM ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Indian Creek coach Angela Penner knew her hitters had a big inning in them, she just wasn't sure when it would come during Tuesday night's OVAC Class 5A semifinal against Wheeling Park.

The answer was the fourth.

The Redskins sent 10 batters to the plate, hit three home runs, and scored seven in the frame on their way to an 8-4 victory against the Patriots.

They'll meet John Marshall and its 27-game winning streak in Saturday's

final.

"I kept thinking it was a matter of time before we would hit the ball," Penner said. "It was looking glim the first inning."

It's true.

Wheeling Park did nearly all of its damage in the first inning behind an RBI triple from Allie Dailer, an RBI ground-out by Kelsi Johnson and a Little League home run by Ashleigh Sidon on a ball that was misplayed in the outfield.

Creek got one back in the third on an RBI double by Ashley Simko ahead of the avalanche in the fourth. It was the Redskins' first hit off Park starter Carly Greer.

In the fourth, Abby Orr drove in the

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Photo by Rick Thorp

Wheeling Central's Emily Wizba (10) pulls up as Shadyside's Tierany Duncan looks on.

Central Pulls Away From Shadyside

Knights make the most of the little things, 9-4

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Hits, home runs and good at-bats are always key components to winning softball games, but sometimes it is the little things that make the biggest difference.

Tuesday, Wheeling Central had its share of big hits, but the Maroon Knights managed to claim victory thanks in large part to base running and taking advantage of little Shadyside mistakes that turned into big runs.

Brittany Miller allowed four first-inning runs and then just three base runners the rest of the way and freshman Sydney Bennington tripled and blasted a home run as the third-seeded Maroon Knights rallied to post a 9-4 victory against the No. 2 Tigers in an OVAC Class 2A semifinal contest on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

Coach Rick Magruder's 16-7 squad will look to defend its title at 12:15 on Saturday against the survivor of today's matchup between top-seeded Steubenville Catholic and No. 4 Cameron.

Meanwhile, Jillian Ongley's Tigers drop to 14-5 and will attempt to regroup with sectional play opening soon in Ohio.

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Photo by Rick Thorp

JM's Kylie Howard rounds the bases past Coach Ed West after hitting a home run Tuesday.

Make It 27 for Monarchs

John Marshall rolling into OVAC 5A finale

By RICK THORP
Staff Writer

WHEELING — After playing nearly every day for the past few weeks, John Marshall coach Ed West sensed his team needed a breather.

The Monarchs got exactly that the last few days when Old Man Winter reared his ugly head again. But after winning 26 consecutive games, the last thing Parkersburg South (17-12) wanted to see was a well-rested JM squad in the OVAC Tournament.

The top-seeded Monarchs pounded out 21 hits and did a number on the

Patriots' infield defense in posting an 11-3, six-inning triumph Tuesday in a Class 5A semifinal at Lisa's Field.

JM (27-2) will face Indian Creek at 5:30 on Saturday for the conference crown.

"I think we were ready to play," West said. "We played well on all facets of the game — good defense, good pitching, good base running — I was really pleased."

West unintentionally left hitting out of that statement. And it was clear the time off did the Monarchs the most good in that area.

"Actually, the way we hit the ball was the way we were hitting the ball earlier this season," West said.

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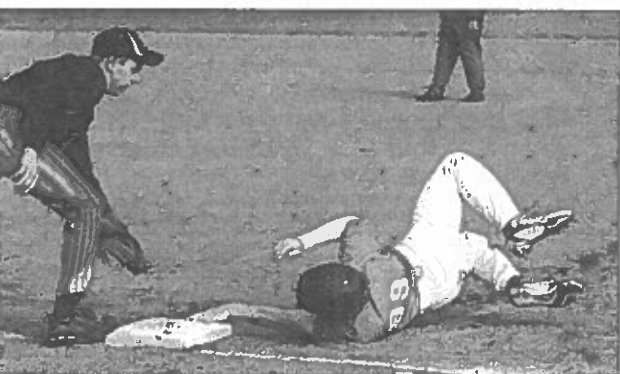


Photo by Josh Strobe

Bishop Donahue's Garrett Yurisko dives back to first as Valley's Albert McGuane looks to make a tag.

Donahue Will Defend Its Crown

Bishops face winner of Madonna-Trinity

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

MOUNDSVILLE — Bishop Donahue was a surprise winner of last season's OVAC Tournament. There will be no sneaking up on anyone this season.

The Bishops began defense of their title with a 17-1 pasting of Valley in the semifinals Tuesday at

Valley Fork. They will face the winner of today's Weirton Madonna-Trinity game Friday at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

"We have something to defend and (might) be playing one of the best teams in the state in Weirton Madonna," Bishop Donahue coach Bob Kleeh said. "Coach (Jeff) Baire has them well-prepared to play every time they step on the field so we are going to have our hands full."

Bishop Donahue scored 11 runs

in the second inning, but it was seven errors by Valley that played the biggest part.

The Lumberjacks (7-8) allowed two hits to lead off the inning and could of gotten out of the inning unscathed. Instead, two dropped balls by the center fielder and a mis-handled play at third allowed three runs to come across the plate.

Phillip Smith and Hunter Kaschke each added a two-run single, and Marshall Reager, Austin

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time. Starr followed with a line drive home run that chased Greer in favor of lefty Skylar Carrington.

"Those guys hit the ball," Wheeling Park coach Dee Davis said.

"Even the couple of errors we had, they were hard line drives out there. They earned it. They hit the ball and we didn't, that's it. We hit a couple shots but they had more shots than we did."

Of Indian Creek's seven hits, four were for extra bases. Park had three extra-base hits.

"We were hitting the ball too, but we weren't consistent with it," Davis said. "They were. They pound the ball. They deserved to win."

The Patriots added a run in the seventh when Kristin Slater doubled and scored on a base hit by Marissa Tucker.

CLASS 4A

Buckeye Local 3, Edison 0
WHEELING - Sydney Omais

to Saturday's title game against Buckeye Local.

Summer Gladman led the Huskies (12-8) with three singles. Jana Fensmacker, Roni Caldwell, and Kiley Staley each hit two.

REGULAR SEASON

St. Clairsville 10, Martins Ferry 1
ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Lauren Figura earned a victory and drove in four runs with three hits including a three-run homer, as St. Clairsville (11-10) was able to dispatch rival Martins Ferry to claim the Buckeye 8 title.

Krista Morrison added a double, two-run home run and three RBI for the Red Devils, while Taylor Clark drove in a run and Jesse Machovina had two hits.

Cassie Hanson had the lone Purple Riders RBI and losing pitcher Cirstie Delguzzon singled twice.

River 18, Frontier 2

NEW MATAMORAS - Gabby

and Taylor Gianangeli singled twice, doubled and drove in three runs as Weir shut out Steubenville (5-17).

Caitlyn Fodor added three hits and an RBI for the Red Riders, while Danica Rasicci had two hits and plated a run.

Valley 12, Notre Dame 6

PINE GROVE - Holly Schell earned a victory and was just as effective at the plate, hitting two singles, a home run and adding three RBI in leading Valley past Notre Dame.

Dani Hayes hit five singles and added three RBI for the Lumberjills, while Megan Bucher hit a double with two RBI and Arizona Cunningham hit a single, double, and drove in two.

Toronto 3, East Liverpool 1

TORONTO - Cari Horne and Becca Schamming each hit two singles and Toronto (9-9) knocked off East Liverpool.

CADETS

(Continued from Page 15)

"Jarred did not have his best stuff," Meintel noted. "His curveball and slider were not working and they were good enough hitters where they could jump on the fastball."

Felt, the starter for Linsly (18-5), couldn't throw strikes early, walking five in the first two innings. Two walks after

Shoemaker's leadoff single to right field in the top of the second resulted in a run as Luke Nardo picked up the RBI on a fielder's choice.

The Cadets bounced back with two runs in the bottom of the inning, starting out with back-to-back doubles by Michael Joseph and Neil Tennant. With one out, Jameson Murray's

single down the right-field line put Linsly on top to stay at 2-1.

Cartwright's team then struck for five runs and six hits in the third inning. Joseph drove in a pair with a single, while Ryan Riethmiller and Colton Coss also had RBI hits. The fifth run scored on an error.

Alex Stephens' double in the left-center gap accounted for the Cadets other two runs in the bottom of the sixth. Haydon Stanley, Stephens, Joseph and Tennant collected two hits each for the winners. Five different Linsly players accounted for at least one RBI as Stephens and Joseph had two each while knocking home one tally apiece were Tennant, Riethmiller, Murray and Coss.

CLASS 3A
Buckeye Trail 7
Shenandoah 4

OLD WASHINGTON - Jesse Roe singled and plated three runs and Zach Roe went the distance as Buckeye Trail (16-6) advanced to the title game with a victory against Shenandoah despite being guilty of five errors.

Shane Crum's double was one of just four hits for the Zeps.

CLASS 2A
Steubenville Catholic 12
Toronto 0

TORONTO - Jimmy Panella hit two singles and drove in three runs as Steubenville Catholic scored eight runs in the sixth inning to beat Toronto and set up a title match against Linsly.

Brenton Collabella drove in two runs with a triple. David Bertoia hit three singles and drove in a run for the Crusaders.

CLASS 4A
Edison 1
Harrison Central 0
RICHMOND - Greg

Stagani threw 11 strikeouts and Alec Jones' bloop single scored Josh Pasek for the only run as Edison topped Harrison Central to set up a title game against rival Steubenville.

Rasheen Mitchell threw a two-hitter and struck out 12 in a losing effort for the Huskies.

REGULAR SEASON
Magnolia 17

Tyler Consolidated 0
NEW MARTINSVILLE - Chandler Sapp hit a grand slam as Magnolia exploded for 12 runs in the first inning en route to a pasting of rival Tyler Consolidated.

Jayson Keller (two doubles), Ryan Walton (two singles, RBI), and Tanner Hanna (two singles, RBI) had multi-hit games for the Blue Eagles (12-8).

Evan Davis hit a double for the Silver Knights (5-15).

Buckeye Local 7
Union Local 0

MORRISTOWN - Austin Marshall led off the game with a solo home run and it was all Buckeye Local from there.

Tyler Richardson hit three singles and three RBI for the Panthers (7-14) and Brian Zeroski hit two singles.

Oak Glen 8
Wheeling Park 7

NEW MANCHESTER - With one out and the bases loaded with two runs already across the plate in the bottom of the seventh, Steve Barr doubled to the gap in right-center, scoring a pair and capping an improbable rally Oak Glen stunned Wheeling Park.

Barr recorded three doubles and three RBI to lead the way. Bub Haddox and Tyler Steed each delivered a double and two RBI. Jeff Hissam finished with a double and an RBI and Matt McLaughlin ended up with a double for the Golden Bears.

J.R. Pyle produced a single, double and two RBI, and Ethan Jacobs and Andrew Kowalo each ended up with a single and a double for the Patriots.

MONTY

(Continued from Page 17)

Montgomery termed himself "so blessed" to have visited and worked in all of West Virginia's 55 counties during his career.

He began his teaching career in 1969 at JMHS, where he taught English and sports journalism and management through 2001.

But Montgomery's affiliation with high

on the board in the second with a towering home run over the left-field fence to cut the deficit to 4-1.

The Knights continued to chip away in the third, even though they had a runner thrown out at the plate. Vanessa Saseen reached on a fielder's choice and advanced to second on a passed ball. Ashley Gast then sent an RBI single to right-center to make it a 4-2 score. However, Magruder's crew also stranded runners at second and third.

Wheeling Central manufactured a run in the third thanks to a leadoff Sarah Henry double and a pair of strikeouts. Henry advanced to third on a dropped third strike with the batter thrown out at first.

Pinch-runner Maria Olsen then scored on a second strikeout to make it 4-3, and Emily Wizba

came alive after the first inning and everyone stepped it up," Magruder added. "After that we played great defense, and even though we didn't hit the ball like we have been, we got things going."

Ongley, meanwhile, was disappointed with the outcome and knows her squad needs to pick things up to be successful.

"One thing just seemed to lead to another and everything snowballed," Ongley said. "The things that hurt us are things that we have got to take care of and stop before the tournament starts. Those things are killing us."

"We got the quick first inning lead and just let up. It seems like every time we get an early lead we just decide to take it easy and we have to stop doing that."

DONAHUE

(Continued from Page 17)

Ghaphery, and Bryce Jones hit RBI singles as the Bishops (18-4) sent 15 batters to the plate and opened a 12-0 lead.

"We call that wasting pitches," Valley coach Jim West said of the errors. "We have a game (today), a game Thursday, maybe two on Friday. We are wasting our best pitcher on what should have been three outs early. What follows an error? A base hit. What follows a base hit? All that stuff rolls and snowballs on us."

"We have that one inning where we don't focus and I have to start making changes."

Smith got the scoring started in the first inning with an RBI groundout. In the fourth, he had an RBI single to give him three singles, five RBI, and a stolen base for the day.

That was more than enough for starting pitcher Joey Myers.

MONARCHS

(Continued from Page 17)

"The last few games, like three or four, we kind of slacked off a little bit. But we got our rhythm back."

The bulk of John Marshall's hits were singles. And many of those were of the infield variety. That, combined with South's shaky defensive play in the infield, spelled doom for the folks from Wood County.

"Mistakes cost us," South coach Jennifer Null said. "When you get down on yourself it's a negative spiral."

"We're better than how we played."

The Monarchs are one of the best, if not the best, in the area at getting runners on and moving them into scoring position. Tuesday, they were at the top of their game.

"We were just our own worst enemy putting people on base," Null said. "I give them credit, they are a good hitting team, but when you set them up also

Myers struck out two and allowed four singles. He didn't allow more than three batters to come to the plate in the first four innings.

"He's working on three days rest and he did a nice job for us," Kleeh said. "He's coming along for us and stepping up big every time I put him on the mound."

Valley broke up the shutout with an RBI single from Chase West in the fifth inning.

Kleeh is unsure who he will throw in Friday's title contest, but is confident his club will be able to step up to the task, whether it be the Blue Dons or the Warriors in the opposing dugout.

"We feel very confident, but we'll see," Kleeh said. "I like to keep our feet on the ground but I'm real proud of our baseball team and we will show up Friday and see how it plays out."

the timely hits come and the score goes up."

Everyone in JM's starting lineup had a hit, with Kristin Lewicki, the team's leadoff batter, collecting five, including a triple that set up the final run.

Not only was JM's hitting machine firing on all cylinders, but ace Amy Rotriga was mowing 'em down, too.

The junior allowed two hits and struck out nine, including the side in the sixth. Both hits were homers. The first came off the bat of Katelyn Hamilton to start the game. The other, by Taylor Wittekind, came with a runner on in the third.

The focus for his team, according to West, is not the winning streak, but the OVACs and then the sectional next week.

"Not a whole lot," he said when asked if his team talks about the streak. "That's nice, but the regular season is over. It's like a new season now."

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■ In 1975, he was named head baseball coach at JMHS. His lifetime record as coach is 776-335, and his 1985 team won the state championship.

■ A total of 39 of Montgomery's players were named to all-state status, and more than 70 went on to play college baseball.

■ Montgomery has been named West Virginia State Baseball Coach of the Year

SPORTS

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OVAC CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY


Photo by Josh Strobe

Wheeling Central's Maria Olsen is tagged out by Steubenville Catholic pitcher Paige Creamer after she tried to score on a passed ball Saturday in the OVAC Class 2A softball title game. Looking on is the Knights' Brittany Miller.

Wheeling Central Gets Past Steub. Catholic

Knights break it open with big seventh inning

By NICK BEDWAY
For the News-Register

WHEELING — For six innings, Saturday afternoon's OVAC Class 2A final had just about everything you would want from a championship game.

The pitching was solid, the defense nearly just as good and there were also a timely hit or two as a good crowd enjoyed the tightly played battle on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers Memorial Youth Sports Complex.

But with the score tied at 2-2 entering the top of the seventh, things suddenly unraveled, especially for Steubenville Catholic. Defending champion Wheeling Central took advantage of a huge break to explode for seven runs and then hang on for a 9-5 victory.

Central began what proved to be the game-winning rally on a solid single to left field by Brittany Miller. Paige

CLASS 2A SOFTBALL

Creamer, the standout Crusaders pitcher who had not issued a single base on balls and allowed just five hits to that point, suddenly lost control and walked Emily Wizba on four pitches. Laken Visnick moved up both runners with her well-placed sacrifice bunt and Creamer loaded the bases by walking Megan Griffin.

Joni Zavolta then tapped the ball in front of the plate where it was fielded by Creamer who flipped the ball home to trying for a forceout.

However, courtesy runner Cara Stahl slid in safely when it was ruled that the catcher's foot was not in contact with home plate.

Before Steubenville Catholic could finally get the second and third outs of the inning, Wheeling Central had scored six more runs. Bri Robbins singled to left, extending the lead to 4-2. That was followed by Vanessa Saseen's third straight hit, this one a two-run single.

See, **Knights**, Page B2

The Wait Is Over For Buckeye Local

Panthers hang on to down top-seeded Meadowbrook

By KIM NORTH
For the News-Register

WHEELING — Buckeye Local hadn't won an OVAC softball championship since 1999.

That all changed on Saturday afternoon at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex after the Panthers (17-6) posted a wild 8-6 decision

Magnolia Blanks Fort Frye

Chapman rips long HR for Blue Eagles

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Fort Frye pitcher Victoria Mimken was unhittable for the first three innings in Saturday's Class 3A OVAC championship against Magnolia, striking out nine of the first 10 batters.

But if there was one person in the home dugout that knew how to get to Mimken, it was first baseman Mallo-

ry Chapman. Dallas Mullett broke up Mimken's no-hitter in the fourth inning with a single before Chapman hit a towering home run to right field three pitches later to give Magnolia a 2-0 lead.

Blue Eagles pitcher Tori Tharp and the defense did the rest as Magnolia won, 3-0, to win its third OVAC softball title and first since 2006.

"It feels tremendous and I feel

See, **Magnolia**, Page B2

Absalom Two-Hits Bishops, 6-0

St. John wins its eighth softball crown

By KIM NORTH
For the News-Register

WHEELING — For the eighth time in school history, St. John Central is the queenpin of the OVAC Class A girls' softball field.

The Irish (18-4) tied Edison and John Marshall with eight titles after their methodical, 6-0,

whitewashing off Bishop Donahue on a down-right cold Saturday morning on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

Only the Bishops (13) and Wheeling Central (10) have more championships. It was St. John Central's first championship since the 2007 season.

"These girls stepped up. I can't be any happier with a group of girls," veteran Irish coach Jerry Magistro said. "When we started this back in the winter, we didn't have the numbers and we had some injuries. We had a lot of freshmen who had to play, and some kids even played hurt.

"So, with everything that's gone on this season, and where we are now, I'm just so happy for these kids. I'm sure there were a lot of people out there that didn't think we'd get this far, or do this good, but these freshmen getting to play in a big game like this gives them even more experience for the years to come.

Buckeye Local

Panthers hang on to down top-seeded Meadowbrook

By KIM NORTH
For the News-Register

WHEELING — Buckeye Local hadn't won an OVAC softball championship since 1999.

That all changed on Saturday afternoon at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex after the Panthers (17-6) posted a wild, 8-6, decision against Meadowbrook to claim the Class 4A title on Lisa's Field.

CLASS 4A SOFTBALL

"It hasn't been easy all season. Why start now?" first-year Buckeye Local coach Joe Soos allowed after watching his team nearly cough up an 8-2 lead after five innings. "Going in as the No. 2 seed you've got to beat a good team to win the championship, and we had enough to get it done."

"I can't be more proud of a group of girls."

Things didn't start off well for the Panthers as Angela Primovic's first pitch hit Sarah Stine. Stine moved to second on a sacrifice bunt and to third on a wild pitch. Alyse Dudley's groundout chased her home for a 1-0 lead.

Buckeye Local responded when sophomore Karlee Leonard led off the top of the second

See, Panthers, Page B3

the winter, we didn't have the numbers and we had some injuries. We had a lot of freshmen who had to play, and some kids even played hurt.

"So, with everything that's gone on this season, and where we are now, I'm just so happy for these kids. I'm sure there were a lot of people out there that didn't think we'd get this far, or do this good, but these freshmen getting to play in a big game like this gives them even more experience for the years to come."

While most of the talk centered around his first-year players, sophomore Hannah Absalom, who sat out her freshman season because of injury, continued her dominance from inside the circle.

The hard-throwing Absalom struck out 16 Bishops, one less than she did against Conotton Valley in a semifinal victory. She was perfect for 3 1/2 innings before walking Abby Randolph on a 3-2 pitch. She then retired the next seven Bishops before yielding a two-out single to shallow left by Tess Fallova, who was erased attempting to steal by veteran Irish catcher Rosa Young.

Absalom gave up a leadoff single to Randolph to start the seventh, but struck out the side to end the game.

See, St. John, Page B2

THE LINE

Tomorrow's Poll:
Are you happy with your favorite
NFL team's draft picks?

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



KNIGHTS

Continued from page B1

An error, freshman Sydney Bennington's run-scoring double, a wild pitch that led to another run and Sarah Henry's RBI single capped the inning.

The Crusaders, top-seeded in the tournament, turned a walk, an error, wild pitch, Allee Vandeborne's single and Maddy Gulan's run-scoring double into three runs in the bottom of the seventh before Robbins' nice catch of Creamer's fly ball ended the contest.

"It was definitely a great game for six innings," said Central Coach Rick Magruder after Lady Maroon Knights extended their winning streak to 12 in a row and their overall record to 17-7 this season. "You know what Steubenville Central is like," he continued. "You've got to try and eliminate your mistakes because they are going to capitalize on them and they did on the few we made."

"We were fortunate

enough to do the same thing on their mistakes and then we started hitting the ball at the right time."

The tough call at home plate in the seventh added to the misfortune that Crusaders had to deal with in the loss. With the score tied 1-1 earlier, Coach Jim DiCarlo's team lost a run he thought had scored on a wild pitch when Sammi Giannamore was sent back to third base because of hitter's interference. Allie Vandeborne was called out when she was ruled to have pulled her bat back and hit the catcher's mitt with runners at first and third and only one out in the bottom of the third inning.

"I was kind of baffled a little bit by both calls," DiCarlo said. "But I told our kids we have to be good enough to overcome any adversity."

"We gave them some opportunities that we shouldn't have, but give Central credit. I don't want to stand here and complain about the umpires. If we had limited the damage in the last inning, we still could have won the game."

Both pitches were able to keep their opponents' formidable offenses under control for the most of the chilly afternoon.

Miller walked four, struck out three and yielded six hits with the only extra-base blows being doubles by freshman Ashlynn Daley and Gulan.

"I don't think Brittany had her best stuff, but she was just effective enough to keep them off balance," Magruder said. "When she got in trouble, she made the

pitches she needed to make to get them out."

Miller also received some help from her defense as Saseen turned in a couple of good plays at third base while the outfield combination of Wizba in left, Robbins in center and Zavolta in right combined to track down seven fly balls. Wizba was especially busy in left as she recorded five putouts.

"Our freshman shortstop (Bennington) booted one but then came back and made a couple of nice plays and got a big hit in the seventh inning," Magruder noted.

Creamer struck out seven and allowed just four hits until the fateful top of the seventh.

The Crusaders (16-5) scored first in the bottom of second after Creamer singled and courtesy runner Tori Knight came home when Daley found the left-center gap for a double.

Wheeling Central tied it in the top of the third after two errors and Saseen's two-out single on a ground ball to deep short that Micca Mirabella gloved but had no chance to make a play at first.

Steubenville Catholic regained the lead in the bottom of the fourth as Giannamore singled, Mirabella walked and a two-out error put the Crusaders in front 2-1.

The Maroon Knights got even in the sixth after Robbins and Saseen singled. Bennington fanned but had to be thrown out after the ball fell out of Clark's glove. During the throw to first to retire Bennington, Robbins took off for home and beat the relay back to the plate.

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Continued from page B1

"Hannah has done this all season for us," Magistro said. "With her in the circle, we are a pretty good team."

Absalom was also responsible for scoring half of her team's runs. She led off the game with a wicked smash off the right knee of Bishop Donahue third baseman Beth Wolfe, who was carried off the field and later taken to Wheeling Hospital for diagnosis.

After stealing second, Absalom was sacrificed to third by Kaydie Coppa. She scored on Young's bouncer to short. That proved to be the only run the lanky sophomore needed, but the Irish did let up.

They plated another run in the second as Sydney Helms drew a leadoff walk and went to second on a wild pitch. With one out, Amber LaMotte's grounder to short skipped into the outfield for an error as Helms chugged home.

It became 4-0 in the third when Absalom drilled a triple to deep left leading off.

Coppa's infield single got Absalom home and Coppa crossed the plate when Gina Beekman's

shot to second was mis-played.

Some aggressive baserunning by the Irish made it 6-0 in the fourth. Kyleigh Falcone reached second on a one-out error and Cheyenne Harris bunted her to third. Absalom walked and Coppa's infield roller turned into a circus as the Irish runners never seemed to stop running while the Bishops threw the ball around the infield, albeit late every time.

When it was all said and done and the dust had settled, Falcone and Absalom had both scored.

"We lost a game earlier this season because of our baserunning," Magistro recalled. "But I thought our baserunning got us a couple of runs."

Bishop Donahue head coach Curt Mele said, despite the loss, he was proud of his team.

"I really liked our chances coming in, but we knew that it would take a nearly perfect game to beat St. John. They have a great team that is very well coached, and we didn't play a perfect game. Give them (St. John) credit."

Mele did note that Wolfe suffered a badly

bruised knee and will need further diagnosis after the swelling goes down.

Magistro, who ran his 12-year record to 242-73, was really happy for his trio of seniors.

"Rosa has been our catcher and our No. 3 hitter for four years," he praised. "I'm not sure many teams can say that. She's really aggressive behind the plate and does a good job with the bat."

"Gina is the one I really want to talk about," Magistro added.

"Here's a girl that is a great pitcher that never got to pitch (Saturday) because she's such a good third baseman. I don't know if she's ever had an errant throw to first base in four years, but she did it for the team."

"We are a much better team with her at third, and I take my hat off to her. I really do. She thought of her team first."

"And Emily Powell. This girl has had so much bad luck in her four years with injuries. I really happy that she is involved in something like this. She deserves it for what she's been through in four years."

With one of its goals achieved, the Irish will now set their sights on the remaining regular-season schedule, which continues Monday on Amanda's Field in Bellaire when Union Local comes calling, and the upcoming Division IV Sectional Tournament.

PANTHERS

Continued from page B1

with an infield single and freshman Kierstyn Czuchran blasted an 0-1 pitch well over the fence in right-center field for a two-run homer and a 2-1 Panthers' lead. It was her eighth roundtripper of the season.

"Kierstyn can really hit the ball for a freshman," Soos said with a smile. "She plays a lot of travel ball in the summer, probably 70-80 games."

Dana Bettineschi's one-out RBI double off the fence in dead center scored Taryn Tonkovich, who had tripled to the same part of the field one at-bat earlier, to make it 3-1.

A two-out error and Sammy Frizzell's run-scoring single to right cut the Colts' deficit to 3-2, but she was erased trying for second on a fine relay to avoid further damage.

The defensive gem seemed to spark the Panthers' bats as Aliyah Marelli led off the fifth by being hit with a pitch. Tonkovich dropped a single into right as Marelli went to third. When the ball trickled away, Tonkovich alertly took second. After the next two batters struck out, senior Tori Nest laced a two-run single to right, bumping the margin to 6-2.

Buckeye Local wasn't done, however, as it plated another pair of runs in the sixth and seemed to be on cruise control. Kaylee Decesare legged out an infield single leading off and Sydney Omaitis walked.

Marelli dropped down a bunt single to load the bases and, with one out, Bettineschi was walked to force in a run. Then, with two outs, Czuchran looked at ball four as another run was forced across the plate, making it 8-2.

Meadowbrook didn't earn the No. 1 seed by rolling over when times got tough. The Colts put together a four-hit, four-run bottom of the sixth to whittle the margin to 8-6, and left the bases loaded when Ivy Starcher, who came on in relief of Primovic two batters prior, recorded an inning-ending strikeout.

"Ivy struggled a little bit when she first came in, but she settled down and got us out of the jam," Soos assessed. "Angela did a fine job, but we didn't make a couple of plays behind her, or she might've finished out the game."

When Omaitis gloved a fly ball off the bat of Frizzell with two outs in the seventh, the long wait for another OVAC softball championship was over in Connorville.

"Meadowbrook is one heckuva team and they played well, too," Soos added. "These girls have been through a lot in the last few years."

"I'm their third coach in four years," he said of his senior group. "What can you say about them? They've been a big part of us for four years, so this is really special for them. They've performed well."

Tonkovich, Bettineschi, Nest and Decesare all had multi-hit games for Buckeye Local. Bettineschi and Czuchran also had a trio of runs batted in each, while Nest drove home two.

Primovic struck out just two and walked one in 5.2 innings of work. She scattered 11 hits and threw just 73 pitches before being pulled.

Buckeye Local is back in action Tuesday at Shadyside.



Photo by Josh Stroppe

Magnolia second baseman Abby Durig completes a force out of Fort Frye's Abby Baker during action of their Class 3A game Saturday.

MAGNOLIA

Continued from page B1

happy for these seniors," said Magnolia coach Mark Batton, who won his first OVAC title since taking over as coach. "We always seemed to stub our toe in the semifinals so I am real tickled to see them play in the championship game and to turn around and win it is just icing on the cake."

"We are going to enjoy this one for a day or so."

For Chapman, it was the second home run against Mimken in a little more than a week.

In a doubleheader last week at Hydro Field in New Martinsville, the sophomore got the best of Mimken. Her home run this time was a little more important.

"I knew as soon as I hit it was gone," Chapman said. "It felt so good. She is such a good pitcher and that makes it so hard to time her up. She will throw different pitches. She is very good. As a hitter, you have to be ready for anything."

"We were a little down because we usually hit. Coach Batton got us up and momentum really started to come our way."

Chapman was the lone batter that didn't strike out in the first three innings, instead walking on four pitches.

Marissa Bosley led off the sixth inning with a triple that just missed leaving the park. Two batters later, Chapman brought in the final run with a groundout to second.

Mimken allowed four hits, striking out 13.

"She did a nice job against us before

and we struggled at the plate," Batton said. "We just wanted to be patient with her. We were concerned but it doesn't matter how many hits you have, it just matters if they are the right ones."

"Dallas sparked us with the base hit, then Mallory ... wow, that was a bomb. I haven't seen one hit out of here like that in a long time."

For Fort Frye coach Barb Sleek, it was a little deja vu. Just not in her favor this time.

In Tuesday's victory against Martins Ferry in the semifinals, Purple Riders pitcher Cirstie Delguzzo had her way with Fort Frye early on but the Cadets got the hits they needed and won, 2-0.

Against Magnolia, Fort Frye got a hit in every inning but the seventh and each time it was either the first or second batter of the inning.

Only in the sixth did the Cadets get another baserunner. Fort Frye had runners on second and third with one out but Sharp struck out Sammi Hanson for her seventh and final strikeout. Then she got Natalie Smith to groundout to end the threat.

"Sometimes softball is that way," Sleek said. "We outhit them, just couldn't put them together. They got the one big hit at the right time. A little bitter-sweet but our girls played hard. We just couldn't poke him through when we needed them. Magnolia is a great team. You can't feel too bad going home knowing you lost to a great team 3-0 in a great ballgame."



SPORTS

Wednesday,
April 25, 2012

OVAC Softball Tournament Semifinals

Buckeye blanks Edison in AAAA

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

A pair of seniors helped Buckeye Local to its first OVAC Class AAAA girls' softball championship game Tuesday afternoon.

The Lady Panthers (15-6) used Sydney Omait's bases-clearing double with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning to rally past Edison, 3-0, on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers Complex in Wheeling.

That was all the support that Angela Primovic would need as she shut down the hard-hitting Wildcats (12-8) on a mere three singles.

With the victory, Buckeye Local advances to Saturday's OVAC 4-A championship encounter with Meadowbrook, which defeated Harrison Central, 3-2, in Tuesday's second semifinal.

"Ang is real efficient," said first-year Buckeye Local head coach Joe Soos after watching his senior ace need just 64 pitches (43 strikes). "She's been that way all year. She stymies the hitter's, and when she's on, they (the opposition) can't touch her. It's been that way all year."

"She only gave them three runs up there, but we made a couple of errors that allowed them to score. Tonight, she was on her game. She's a real gamer."

The game's lone runs came when Karlee Leonard and Kierstyn Czuchran led off the sixth with back-to-back singles. Tori Nest's grounder to the right side of the infield advanced both runners and pinch-hitter Lauren Swiger walked to load the bases.

See, **BUCKEYE**, Page B1

BUCKEYE LOCAL'S
Taryn Tonkovich leaps high in the air to snag a line drive during Tuesday's OVAC Class AAAA softball semifinal at the J.B. Chambers Complex in Wheeling. The Panthers won, 3-0. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

Pirates defeat Rockies

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Frustrated by six innings of 78 mph fastballs, Andrew McCutchen and the Pirates had seen enough.

Pittsburgh outlasted a pitcher whose career has outlasted the life of McCutchen.

McCutchen had three RBIs. Casey McGehee drove in the go-ahead run with an eighth-inning single and the Pirates scored four runs off the Colorado bullpen to beat the Rockies 5-4 on a chilly Tuesday night.

Seven days after becoming the oldest pitcher to win a game in major-league history, 49-year-old Rockies starter Jamie Moyer was in line for another victory after allowing one run over six innings.

"It was three frustrating at-bats," said McCutchen, who went 0 for 3 with an RBI groundout against Moyer. "Man, three-at bats. I can't believe he got me out. You know he has nothing to throw by you, but he just nippicks, he hits his spots and he gets out."

But the Pirates got the game to the Colorado bullpen, which promptly blew two leads against a team that had scored only 30 runs in 15 games coming in — by far the fewest in the majors.

Pittsburgh's two seventh-inning runs turned a 2-1 deficit into a 3-2 lead. McCutchen's double off the center field wall was the third consecutive hit to begin the inning off lefty Rex Brothers, who on average throws 20 mph faster than Moyer.

"I couldn't wait to see 95. Honestly," McCutchen said. "I mean, you don't see 70-79 every day. ... For (Moyer) to do what he did, he did a pretty good job. But as soon as another arm came in there throwing pretty hard, I was like, 'All right, here we go.'"

McGehee's two-out single to right off Matt Belisle (1-1) scored pinch-runner Nate McLouth. Clint Barmes had led off the eighth with his second home run to tie the game at 4-4.

Carlos Gonzalez hit his second two-run homer of the night in the top of the eighth to give Colorado the short-lived lead.

Gonzalez had three of the Rockies' six hits. Barmes, a former Colorado player, had three hits for the Pirates, who have won four of six.

Joel Hanrahan pitched a perfect ninth for his third save.

The ageless Moyer allowed a home run to a skinny rookie named Barry Bonds on Aug. 11, 1986, in his first career start against Pittsburgh.

McCutchen, who was born 60 days later, drove in Alex Presley with a groundout in the first. Presley had extended his hitting streak to eight games by leading off the inning with a double.

Moyer didn't throw a pitch that registered over 79 mph all game, but that was the only run he would allow. He gave up six hits and three walks with three strikeouts. Two of those strikeouts came against opposing starter Kevin Correia with runners in scoring position and two outs.

"I didn't feel like I had real good fastball command early in the game," Moyer said. "After the second inning, I was able to find it. I walked a few too many guys but I was able to eventually get the ball around the plate."

Meadowbrook squeaks by Harrison



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

MEADOWBROOK'S SAMMY Frizzell is forced out at home plate in the seventh inning Tuesday night as Harrison Central catcher Emily Dodds takes the throw while keeping her foot on the plate. The Colts won, 3-2. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

It's hard to beat a team three times in one season in any sport.

However, Meadowbrook accomplished that feat Tuesday night with a 3-2 victory over Harrison Central in an OVAC AAAA girls' softball semifinal on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers Complex in Wheeling.

The Colts (17-5) scored the winning run in the bottom of the seventh when Mourie DeLong's sacrifice fly to center plated Sarah Stine, whose slide just beat the tag by Harrison Central catcher Emily Dodds on a bang-bang play.

"Give Meadowbrook credit," veteran Harrison Central head coach Donnie Bethel said. "They battled, but so did we."

The Colts plated a pair of runs in the first frame when Ali Furry singled with one out and DeLong followed suit with two outs. Abby Dudley

See, **MEADOWBROOK**, Page B1

Shadyside coughs up 4-run lead in loss

By TRACY WATSON
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — Hits, home runs and good at-bats are always key components to winning softball games, but sometimes it is the little things that make the biggest difference.

Tuesday, Wheeling Central had its share of big hits, but the Maroon Knights managed to claim victory thanks in large part to base running and taking advantage of little Shadyside mistakes that turned into big runs.

Brittany Miller allowed four

first-inning runs and then just three base runners the rest of the way and freshman Sydney Bennington tripled and blasted a home run as the third-seeded Maroon Knights rallied to post a 9-4 victory against the No. 2 Tigers in an OVAC Class AA semifinal contest on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

Coach Rick Magruder's 16-7 squad will look to defend its title at 12:15 on Saturday against the survivor of today's matchup between top-seeded Steubenville Catholic and No. 4 Cameron.

Meanwhile, Jillian Ongley's Tigers drop to 14-5 and will attempt to regroup with sectional play opening soon in Ohio.

It was a gift that got things going for the Tigers in the first as Karli Bonar reached on a leadoff error before Shelby Benedetta beat out a bunt and Tierney Duncan walked to load the bases with no one out.

The carousel continued turning as Shadyside took a 1-0 lead on a four-pitchwalk to Hayley Holenka. Kenzie Fielding then opened things up with a two-run double before

the Belmont County squad made it 4-0 on Alisha Gulley's fielder's choice and a second Maroon Knights miscue.

"It was ugly at times and luckily, we survived that first inning," Magruder said with a smile. "Sometimes you need a little luck and we will definitely take it."

Bennington put Central on the board in the second with a towering home run over the left-field fence to cut the deficit to 4-1.

The Knights continued to chip away in the third, even

See, **SHADYSIDE**, Page B1

Ferry girls, St. C. boys win Buckeye 8 track titles

By SETH STASKEY

postseason. The Lady Riders have ... mier 400 meter dashers in the area

Reds roll past Giants

CINCINNATI (AP) — Mat Latos finally got his first win for Cincinnati after putting his price tag out of mind.

The right-hander pitched seven shutout innings against an old NL West nemesis, and Brandon Phillips homered and drove in three runs Tuesday night, leading the Reds to a 9-2 victory over the San Francisco Giants.

Latos (1-2) came to the Reds in a four-player deal with San Diego that included starter Edinson Volquez and two prospects who were first-round draft picks. He found himself trying to pitch up to that high price in his first three outings.

"It's always in the back of your mind," Latos said. "It's like you're saying, 'Wow, they traded four players for me.'"

● Meadowbrook

Continued from Page B1

chased both runners home with a triple to deep right.

That would be all the hits or runs that Meadowbrook would get off Huskies' freshman Katie Ellzy. She settled down and allowed only baserunners from the second through the sixth innings — three on walks and one on a hit batter.

"Katie settled down and got into a groove," Bethel explained. "She pitched well, but we just get her enough support."

Harrison Central had plenty of opportunities, leaving two runners on base in the first, third, fourth and sixth innings.

The Huskies finally dented their side of the scoreboard in the fourth after Brooke Shultz drew a lead-off walk and Katie Parkinson singled to right-center. When the ball was bobbled, Shultz took third and Parkinson second. Shannon Compfer was inserted to run for Parkinson. Summer Gladman singled to left to load the bases and Roni Caldwell's infield single scored Shultz.

The Huskies failed to add any more runs when Paige

Dunlap's liner to short was turned into a double play.

"We very easily could have won this game," Bethel admitted. "We had a bases-loaded and no outs play and we failed to get a bunt down when we needed to."

With two outs in the top of the sixth, Harrison Central mounted a rally to deadlock the game.

Gladman, who had a trio of singles, led off with a base rap to center. Caldwell reached on an infield single before Dunlap blooped a RBI double down the right-field line.

In the bottom of the seventh, Meadowbrook loaded the bases with no outs, but a fielder's choice grounder resulted in a force at the plate. However, DeLong's fly ball to Jana Fenstamaker in centerfield did the trick.

"Offensively, we struggled a little bit after that first inning, but they battled back and won the game. They stepped up when they needed to," said Meadowbrook head coach Bridgett George. "It was a team win."

Harrison Central hosts Magnolia Thursday.

● Buckeye

Continued from Page B1

With two outs, Omaitis drilled a 1-0 offering from Edison's Zoe Westfall to the gap in right-center as her three teammates circled the bases.

"Unbelievable," he said of Omaitis eventual game-winner. "Two monster hits for a senior that has had a rough go of it this year. She's been steady in the field and came through with the bat today. I couldn't be more happier for her."

Both teams had several opportunities to score runs throughout the first 5 1/2 frames, but a baserunning miscue in the first inning halted the Wildcats' first threat. With a runner at second and one out, Trisha Trifonoff lifted a shallow fly ball to left field that Aliyah Marelli made a nice running catch of. She then tossed to Taryn Tonkovich at second to double up the runner and end the inning.

That wasn't the only web gem behind Primovic as second baseman Tonkovich turned in a pair of defensive sparklers. She leaped high in the air to snag a drive off the bat of Cassie Judy to end the Edison fifth. She also grabbed another liner and made an over-the-shoulder running catch of another pop.

"Taryn made a couple of spectacular plays and Aliyah made a pair of great running catches," Soos allowed. "We played pretty well defensively."

The Wildcats got two runners as far as third base, but that would be it. Caitlin Brenstuhl got there with one out in the third and Kristen Prokopakis reached there in the sixth, also with one out. However, neither got any further as Primovic knuckled down.

"We are really happy with that," Soos said of reaching the title tilt. "It's been a couple of years since Buckeye (Local) has been over here. I didn't want the girls to just be happy with being here. We wanted to make sure that we got to Saturday, and it took everyone to do it."

Czuchran led the Panthers' 8-hit attack with a trio of singles. In addition to her game-winning double, Omaitis also singled. Nest had a pair of one-base raps.

"Buckeye Local deserved to win this ballgame," said veteran Edison head coach Spencer Bendle. "They outplayed us in every phase of the game."

The Panthers are back in action today against Bellaire in a key Buckeye 8 matchup in St. Joe. A win by the Panthers would give them a share of the Buckeye 8 title with St. Clairsville.

St. C. tops Ferry; earns a share of Buckeye 8

Lauren Figura and Krista Morrison each clubbed home runs as St. Clairsville clinched at least a share of the Buckeye 8 softball title by defeating homes-tanding Martins Ferry, 10-1.

The game, a continuation of a rainout, picked back up in the first inning. Figura had a three-run homer and added two singles for four RBI. Morrison had a two-run homer and totaled three RBI, adding a double.

Figura held the Purple Riders to one run on three hits, with Cassie Hanson driving in the lone run. Martins Ferry's Cirstie Delguzzo singled twice.

River 18, Frontier 2

At New Matamoras, leading 2-0 the Lady Pilots (18-7) erupted for 11 fourth-inning runs that led to their blowout of the host Cougars.

Mackenzie Marshall slugged two doubles to drive in four runs, while Haylee Bowers added a pair of triples that plated two runs. Monica Curtis, Lindsey Goddard and Mikayla Cieszeski all had two singles and a run batted in.

Gabby Goudy went the distance inside the circle, striking out seven and walking one. She scattered three hits.

BASEBALL Buckeye Local 7, Union Local 0

At Morristown; the Panthers got a measure of revenge for an earlier loss to the Jets (6-10) as Austin Marshall's leadoff homer started a seven-run, 11-hit barrage.

Tyler Richardson drove in three runs for the Panthers (7-14) on a trip of singles. Chase Hopkins struck out five without a walk in the shutout.

Bellaire 10, Cameron 1

At Chase Field, Bellaire (13-8) followed its Monday OVAC 3-A semifinal win with a romp over invading Cameron.

The Big Reds received excellent pitching from sophomore Spencer Badia who fired a complete game two-hitter. Badia recorded seven strikeouts and one walk.

Senior Nick McMahon accounted for two runs, clubbing three singles. Tyler West and Hunter Westlake rapped out two hits apiece and knocked in a pair. Badia belted a single and totaled two RBIs. Junior Dalton Conroy drilled a double.

● Ferry

Continued from Page B1

St. C.'s other two victories came in the distance races. Junior Julianna Madzia won the 1600 meter run in a time of 5:48.52 and senior Melanic Hannan claimed the 3200 meter run in 12:29.65.

Edison had a quartet of victories and it was led by the hurdling sweep of junior Ashley Borsch. She won the highs with a season-best time of 16.02 and won the 300 hurdles in a time of 48.21.

Sophomore Katelyn Pollock won the high jump by soaring over 5-feet.

The Lady Wildcats' 4x100 team of Bethanie Bube, Borsch, Kylie Long and Nhung Tran denied Ferry a relay sweep when it posted a 53.01.

Union Local posted a pair of winners in the field. Senior Arika Kemp

the deepest team around, but when they claim titles in eight of the events it doesn't take too much depth.

"We had some kids step up and take on a big role which we need because of our lack of depth," Frye said. "We've got good kids, and I am glad to see a good effort from them today. This is a good tune up for next week (OVAC)."

The Red Devils were ignited with a strong start in the field. Colby Lindsay won the discus with a mark of 135-ft-2.

On the track, St. C. let its distance, middle distance and sprinting contingent take over.

Senior standout Andy Thornburg captured both the 1600 and 3200 meter runs. He claimed the 1600 meter run in 4:37.71 and

4x200 team of Jaylon Brown, Michael Ferns, Jerrid Marhefka and Alex Young passed the baton to a meet-record time of 44.70.

St. C.'s 4x200 team of Chase Garan, Ferns, Marhefka and Young ran two laps in 1:34.66.

The 4x800 team of Joe Davies, Jared Derosa, Matt Mamone and Walker ran a 9:03.33 for the title.

Harrison Central used its depth en route to second place. The Huskies won just one event and it came on a 4x4 after a disqualification. The team of Josh Moore, Blake Yoho, Zack Riley and Brenton Spencer posted a solid 3:32.94, which was a new meet record.

Martins Ferry's strength in the hurdles and in the field sparked the Purple

gle down the first base line with a fourth run scoring a short time later on a wild pitch as the Maroon Knights pushed the lead to 8-4.

Central added a ninth run, its fifth in the fifth, when Robbins reached on an error allowing Zavolta to cross the dish. "Brittany (Miller) really came alive after the first inning and everyone stepped it up," Magruder added. "After that we played great defense, and even though we didn't hit the ball like we have been, we got things going."

Ongley, meanwhile, was disappointed with the outcome and knows her squad needs to pick things up to be successful. "One thing just seemed to lead to another and everything snowballed," Ongley said.

"The things that hurt us are things that we have got to take care of and stop before the tournament starts. Those things are killing us."

"We got the quick first inning lead and just let up. It seems like every time we get an early lead we just decide to take it easy and we have to stop doing that."



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

SHADYSIDE CATCHER Sarah Dierkes tags out Wheeling Central's Bri Robbins at the plate during Tuesday's OVAC Class AA girls softball semifinals at the J.B. Chambers Complex in Wheeling. The Maroon Knights won, 9-4. Additional images can be found at cu.timeslead-eronline.com

● Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

though they had a runner thrown out at the plate.

Vanessa Saseen reached on a fielder's choice and advanced to second on a passed ball.

Ashley Gust then sent an RBI single to right-center to make it a 4-2 score. However, Magruder's crew also stranded runners at second and third.

Wheeling Central manufactured a run in the third thanks to a leadoff Sarah Henry double and a pair of strikeouts. Henry advanced to third on a dropped third strike with the batter thrown out at first.

Pinch-runner Maria Olsen then scored on a second strikeout to make it 4-3, and Emily Wizba reached on error and went all the way to second. The Knights eventually caught up in the fourth, scoring another run on a dropped third strike, the third of the frame.

The comeback was complete in the fifth when Bennington ripped a leadoff triple down the right-field line and a pair of walks followed. With two down Emily Wizba reached on a fielder's choice to make it a 5-4 count.

Joni Zavolta then sent a two-run sin-

gle down the first base line with a fourth run scoring a short time later on a wild pitch as the Maroon Knights pushed the lead to 8-4.

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first three weeks of the season, having the Colorado left fielder make a catch with his eyes closed wouldn't have been out of the question.

The ball hit the ground and the Pirates didn't let the good fortune go to waste.

Nate McLouth's RBI double skipped just under Gonzalez's outstretched mitt, sparking a five-run rally to lead the Pirates past the Rockies 5-1 on Wednesday as the teams split a doubleheader.

Colorado broke up James McDonald's no-hit bid in the seventh inning of the opener on its way to a 2-1 victory. But baseball's worst offense tied a season-high for runs in a game after Gonzalez battled the sun and lost.

"We've had opportunities present themselves before, haven't been able to move on them," Pittsburgh manager Clint Hurdle said. "We had an opportunity in the second game and we moved on it dramatically."

McLouth's hit led to an RBI single from Andrew McCutchen, a two-run homer from Garrett Jones and a solo shot from Pedro Alvarez, who homered in both games.

"I thought we played good baseball," Alvarez said.

Please See BUCS, Page 19

Uneasy Time For Most

NFL Draft set to kick off tonight

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.
AP Sports Writer
NEW YORK

Andrew Luck knows exactly where he's heading, and so does Robert Griffin III.

For the rest of the college stars preparing for the NFL Draft tonight, the anxiety is building. Nobody is looking forward to the green room at Radio City Music Hall.

"It kind of made me a little nervous when we were talking to the commissioner and he said, 'You'll be back there for an hour and it'll feel like you've been back there for five days,'" Southern California tackle Matt Kalil said. "I'll be sweatin' up a storm back there, and I want to have my name called and not have to wait too long."

He shouldn't have to worry much about that. Most mock drafts project Kalil to go third overall to Minnesota after Luck heads to Indianapolis and Griffin to Washington. But he knows better than to put much stock in the predraft chatter.

"I stopped paying attention to all of that stuff," said Kalil, attending an NFL event at a playground in Manhattan. "No one really has a clue. Unless you're the GM of a team, you don't really know who a team is going to pick, so you just let it all play out."

Please See NFL, Page 20

Linsly's Jose Luis Torres and teammates during the Tennis Tournament on Wednesday at West Liberty.

the Edgar Martin Tennis Complex

Please See LINSLY, Page 18

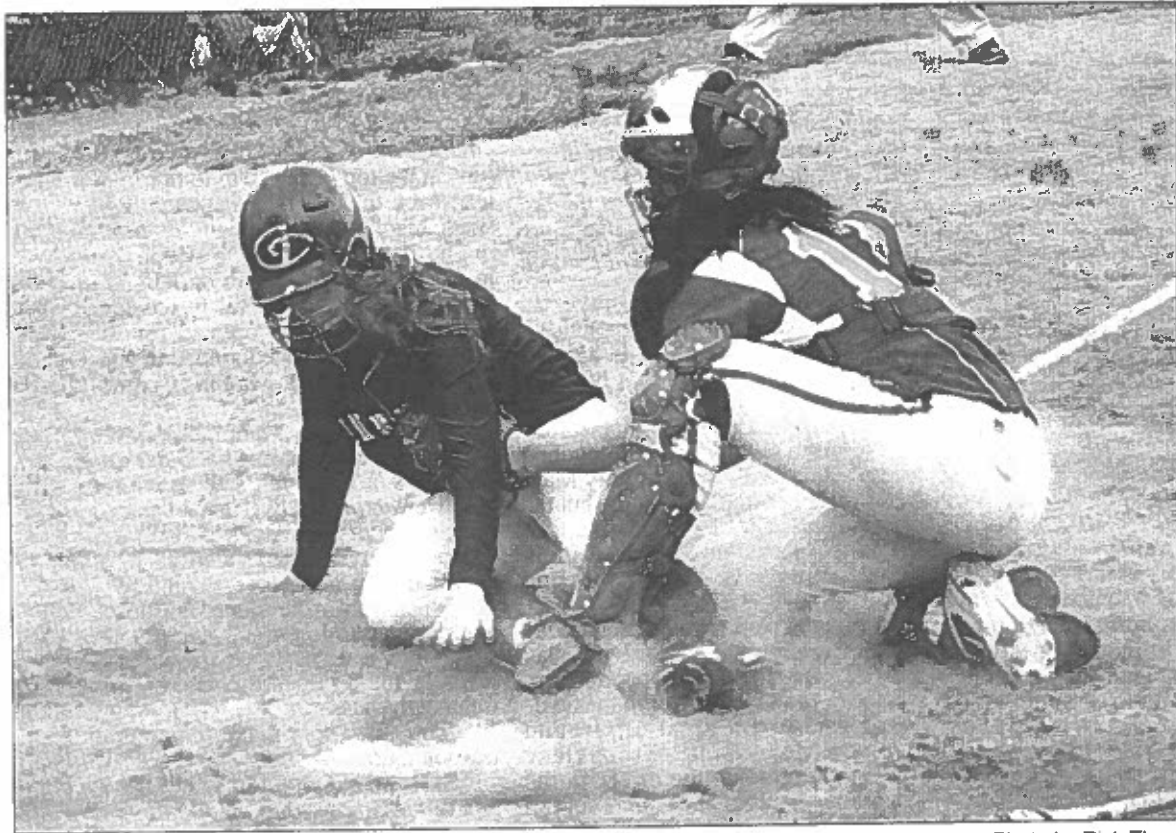


Photo by Rick Thorp

Steubenville Catholic Central catcher Taylor Clark slaps a perfectly timed tag on Cameron baserunner Linda Hall during action of their OVAC Class 2A semifinal Wednesday in Wheeling.

Crusaders Tame Dragons

Gulan hits homer, drives in four runs

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — With a ton of speed and ability, Steubenville Catholic can play small ball with the best of them on the softball diamond. But the Crusaders can also do so much more and Cameron found that out the hard way Wednesday.

Half of Catholic Central's six hits

were bunts while Maddy Gulan launched a long home run and collected four RBI as the Crusaders advanced to the OVAC Class 2A championship game with a 6-1 victory against the Dragons on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

Coach Jim DiCarlo's top-seeded Crusaders (17-4) will be looking for their first conference title since 2009 when they take on defending champion Wheeling Central at 12:15 p.m. Saturday, back at Lisa's Field.

Meanwhile, Coach Mark Witzberger's Cameron (19-6) squad

tasted defeat in the OVAC Tournament for the first time since 2008, having won the previous three Class A crowns.

The Dragons received a leadoff double from Cassidi Richmond in the top of the first, but stranded her at third. Catholic Central, meanwhile, had a little more success in its half.

Micca Mirabella reached on a bunt single and quickly stole second before moving to third on a fielder's choice.

Please See TAME, Page 18



Photo by Rick Thorp

Bishop's Morgan Carroll sets and gets ready for a pitch Wednesday night.

Bishop Moving Ahead

Team seeks 14th OVAC title

By RICK THORP
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Prior to Wednesday's OVAC Class 1A semifinal against Madonna, Bishop Donahue coach Curt Mele stressed to his squad the importance of pouncing early.

His players listened. The Bishops jumped out to a 5-0 lead and scored seven seventh-inning runs in besting the Blue Dons, 14-4, in the finale of a set of three OVAC Tournament

See BISHOP, Page 18

Tharp Is Sharp For Magnolia

Blue Eagles cruise into Class 3A championship

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Magnolia senior ace Tori Tharp struck out 12 and scattered five hits in pitching the Blue Eagles into the OVAC 3A championship game with a 6-0 blanking of Shenandoah on Wednesday night on Ben's Field at the JB Chambers Youth Sports Complex.

Tharp walked one and allowed more than one baserunner in two innings as Coach Mark Batton's club advanced to meet Fort Frye with the conference title on the line Saturday afternoon.

"Tori threw the ball well throughout the game," Batton pointed out. "Even the time or two when she got behind in



Photo by Rick Thorp

Magnolia starting pitcher Tori Tharp rocks and delivers during Wednesday's game against Shenandoah.

the count she was able to battle back."

The only walk she allowed was to Leah Hill, putting two runners aboard with two out in the bottom of the sixth inning. However, she escaped that jam

Please See THARP, Page 18

Fort Frye Earns Shutout of Ferry

Cadets pitching, defense keys

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer
WHEELING

Wednesday at the J.B. Chambers Complex, Fort Frye got the clutch hits, while Martins Ferry didn't.

The end result was a 2-0 shutout for the second-seeded Cadets (14-5) against the No. 3 seed Purple Riders (9-9) on Ben's Field in an OVAC Class AAA tournament semifinal.

"We couldn't get that clutch hit when we had runners on the bases," Martins Ferry coach Paige Williams said. "Some-

times that happens. They (Fort Frye) got them when they needed them and we didn't."

Fort Frye coach Barbara Sleek agreed.

"That's really what it came down to. My assistant coach just told me that we only had four hits," she said. "The difference was ours came with runners in scoring position."

"We found a little bit of a gap there and managed to get two runs pushed across. I really don't care how many runs we give up — one, two, three or four — as long as we hold them. That's our bread and butter...pitching and defense."

Please See FF, Page 18

Dons Wast No Time in Routing Warriors

Madonna sends 15 to bat in first inning

By ED LOOMAN
For The Intelligencer

WEIRTON — Because of some minor travel-related difficulties, Madonna's OVAC Class 1A semifinal game with Trinity had a late start Wednesday.

The Blue Dons went right to work, ensuring the contest, played at Ed Bowman Field, had an early ending.

Jeff Baire's club sent 15 batters to the plate in the first, scored 10 runs and cruised to a 15-0, five-inning mercy triumph against the visiting Warriors.

With the victory, Madonna earned the right to test Bishop

Donahue, the defending Class A champ, in Friday's title game. The first pitch is set for 4:30 p.m. at Niekro Field in Bridgeport.

"That's something we talked about prior to the game," Baire said of his team's early explosion. "It was one of the few times this year that we actually came out and did what we needed to do early."

"I don't feel we are far away. A game like (Tuesday's 12-2 loss to Beaver Local) wasn't a good representation of how we are. (Wednesday) was a little bit better, we're moving in the right direction."

Logan Linder had the biggest of Madonna's eight first-inning

Please See DONS, Page 18

ON THE LINE

Today's Results:

Q. Is JM's Bob Montgomery in the top 5 of all-time Ohio Valley baseball coaches?

Yes: 68%

No: 32%

Tomorrow's Poll:

Q. Are you excited about possible BCS changes?

Tell us what you think.

Register your answer at
www.theintelligencer.net

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

TAME

(Continued from Page 17) The Crusaders took a 1-0 lead on Taylor Clark's RBI bunt base hit. Clark also took second and advanced to third on a wild pitch before scoring on Gulan's sacrifice fly to right field for a 2-0 count. Witzberger's squad got out of a major jam unscathed in the second. Again using the bunt following a leadoff walk, Steubenville Catholic loaded the bases with one out. But a caught stealing at the plate on a wild pitch and a Paczewski strikeout prevented any further damage. "We wasted some opportunities and left some runners on, but we felt coming in that we could steal and we like to use our speed and it definitely helped," DiCarlo said. "On the other side, we played some very good defense and Paige (Creamer) pitched very well." Cameron got one back in the third on a one-out Lexi Aston single, a walk to Richmond and Shenai Wade's bunt single that filled the sacks. Paczewski then hit into a fielder's choice with an errant throw allowing Richmond to cross to cut the deficit to 2-1. A leadoff walk to Clark to begin the third came back to haunt Paczewski when Gulan blasted a

moon-shot over the center-field fence to push the lead to 4-1. The Crusaders added some insurance in the sixth, scoring a run on a wild pitch and another on Gulan's RBI fielder's choice, her fourth of the contest. Steubenville Catholic stole eight bases, and repeatedly moved around the bases at will. "Cameron is a very good team that had won six straight OVAC games coming in and we knew it would be a battle, and it was close in the middle innings, but we got some big outs when we needed them and some clutch hits," DiCarlo said. Witzberger, meanwhile, knew what his team was getting into with the Crusaders and thought experience was the difference. "Honestly, we just don't play enough games against teams like that and I think our lack of experience against it showed," Witzberger said. "They have speed all the way around and they are a team built for the short game and running the bases. "I felt like Tara pitched well and we had plenty of opportunities that we just didn't take advantage of. Sometimes this is a game of inches and it just didn't go our way."

FF

(Continued from Page 17) Scoreless through 3.5 innings, the Cadets got the only run they needed in the bottom of the fourth. Nicole Miller looped a single into shallow left with one out and Victoria Mimken bounced into a fielder's choice for the second out. Lexi Huck then drilled a shot down the left-field line that bounced inches fair and rolled to the fence as courtesy runner Lexi Skinner raced all the way home from first. Fort Frye added to its lead in the fifth when Michelle Adkins drew a one-out walk and chugged home on Abby Baker's double to right-center, making it 2-0. The setback spoiled a fine outing by Martins Ferry senior pitcher Cirstie Delguzzo, who retired the first seven batters and nine of the first

10 Cadets that stepped to the plate. "Cirstie pitched an excellent game," Williams said. "She had them off-balance early on and was hitting her spots. This is without a question the best game I've seen her pitch this season. "It was a valiant effort." Cassie Hanson singled and doubled for the Purple Riders. Delguzzo legged out a pair of infield singles. Martins Ferry stranded five baserunners, with its best opportunity to score coming in the sixth when Brooklyn Monroe bunted for a single leading off and Delguzzo followed suit. Addie Suriano advanced both runners with a sacrifice bunt, but Mimken bore down and retired the next two batters to escape without any damage.

DONS

(Continued from Page 17) hits, drilling a three-run homer into the pine trees behind left field. Connor Mogan and Luca Fuscardo both had two-run singles. Nick Battista got things started with a base hit, then added a RBI double - his first two hits of the season. The Blue Dons plated a single run in the second, (Nick Ossman's double driving home Fuscardo). They scored four more in the third with Will Bowser and Ossman knocking in runs. Meanwhile, Madonna's "young arms" (sophomores Fuscardo and Mike Rogers, along with freshman Caleb Baire) combined to throw a no-hitter. They whiffed 10 and faced just 17 Warriors batters (two over the limit). **REGULAR SEASON**
Barnesville 6
Shenandoah 4
SHENANDOAH - Pre-

ston Dornon hit a double among three hits and drove two in as Barnesville beat Shenandoah. Zack Dornon added a double and a single for the Shamrocks while Auston Hannahs and David Brown had two hits apiece. Shenandoah was led by Ryan Lovette with a double among two hits while Shane Crum hit an RBI double. **Magnolia 10**
North Marion 6
NEW MARTINSVILLE - Chandler Sapp had a hit and drove in three as Magnolia beat North Marion. Bentley Knight added a double for the Blue Eagles (13-8) and Grant Cain had two hits. **Wheeling Central 5**
Linsly 4
WHEELING - Mic Keys hit a double among three hits and an RBI as Wheeling Central beat Linsly. Derek Yocke had a double and a single for the

Maroon Knights while Andrew Keane had a double. Alex Stephens led Linsly with a double among two hits and an RBI while Dillon Williams had two hits. **Oak Glen 13**
Harrison Central 7
CADIZ - Jeff Hissam hit a triple among four hits and an RBI as Oak Glen beat Harrison Central. Vincent Haddock hit a triple, a single and an RBI for the Golden Bears while Brandon Englehart added an RBI double. Rasheen Mitchell hit an RBI triple for Harrison Central (12-11) while Dalton Rutter and David Miser hit two singles and two RBI apiece. **Steubenville 5**
John Marshall 0
STUEBENVILLE - Pat Pizzoferrato had two hits as Steubenville blanked John Marshall. Bryan Pierro

added an RBI single for Big Red (13-5) while John Corsi struck out four from the mound. John Marshall was led by Josh Mckown with a double. **Steubenville Catholic 4**
Toronto 1
TORONTO - Brenton Colabella and Josh Merri-man each hit an RBI double as Steubenville Catholic defeated Toronto. Alecks Porreca added another double for the Crusaders (16-4). Tyler Antinone led the Red Knights (11-6) with an RBI single while Ralph King hit a double. **Late Tuesday**
OVAC CLASS 4A
Steubenville 9
St. Clairsville 5
ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Lucky McClurg hit two singles and a tripe as Steubenville advanced to face Edison in the OVAC title game.

BISHOP

(Continued from Page 17) contests at Lisa's Field. Bishop Donahue will face St. John at 10:30 on Saturday morning for the championship. "It's been a long time coming, especially for these juniors," Mele said. "They've taken some beatings the last couple of years, and I hope things are starting to come together at the right time." The Bishops already have an OVAC-best 13 softball championship banners and will look to add another against an Irish squad that blanked Conotton Valley, 6-0. The teams a split a doubleheader earlier this season. "St. John is a very well-coached team," Mele said. "(Coach Jerry Magistro's) numbers are down a bit, but the players he has are all good players. "We're gonna have our hands full. We're gonna have to come out and play an almost perfect game." Donahue's performance Wednesday was far from perfect, but when a play was needed someone stepped up, whether it be at the plate or in the field. "It was just a great all-around effort," Mele said. "From Guze (Andrea Guzek) in the circle to the defense behind her. There were several times early on when (Madonna) had girls on second and third, or at third, and we did what we had to do." The Blue Dons left 11 runners on base, including two in each of the first three innings. "We just didn't hit the ball," Madonna coach Chris Conti said. "If you don't hit, you don't win." The Blue Dons actually had two more hits than the Bishops, but weren't able to get them at the right time. "We didn't hit the ball when we needed to in key situations," Conti said. "If we would have done that the

game might have had a different outlook." Sara Lyons and Isabella Anile scored for Madonna in the fifth to cut the lead to 5-2. Donahue responded with two more runs in the top of the sixth to boost the lead back to 7-2. Tess Fallova's RBI single highlighted the inning. The Blue Dons drew to within 7-4 in the bottom of the sixth on RBI hits by Lyons and Anile. But in the seventh, the floodgates opened for the Bishops and they batted around in ending any threat of a Madonna comeback. "Give credit to Madonna," Mele said. "They kept battling back and battling back. I never felt safe. It wasn't until we went ahead by 10 that I started thinking about Saturday." Madonna committed six errors, most of which came in the latter innings. "When you make mental mistakes, you're going to lose the game," Conti said. "You just can't make mental mistakes in the field, hitting the ball or running the bases. "You just can't make those mistakes in tournament play." **St. John 6, Conotton Valley 0**
BELLAIRE - Cheyenne Harris hit a double among two hits as St. John beat Conotton Valley. Kristen Russell and Rosa Young all added two hits for the Irish. **REGULAR SEASON**
Toronto 3, Linsly 0
WHEELING - Kayla Brown had two hits as Toronto blanked Linsly. Shane Sears added a double for the Red Knights (10-9) while Cari Horne struck out nine. Katie Smith fanned six for the Cadets. **Shadyside 10, Barnesville 0**
BARNESVILLE - Karli Bonar hit

a triple among three hits and an RBI as Shadyside blanked Barnesville. Megan Heagney struck out four and only allowed three hits for the Tigers. Lane Hanlon struck out one and issued five walks for Barnesville (6-14). **Buckeye Local 5, Bellaire 0**
BELLAIRE - Tori Nest hit an RBI double as Buckeye Local beat Bellaire. Dana Bettineschi and Kierstyn Czuchran had two hits apiece for the Panthers (16-7) while Sydney Omatis picked up an RBI single. Sarah Marlin led Bellaire (10-12) with two hits. **Doddridge County 4-7**
Paden City 3-2
PADEN CITY - Dominique Craft hit a double among two hits and an RBI in game one but it wasn't enough as Doddridge County defeated Paden City. Hanna Stanley had a hit and drove two home for the Wildcats (4-15). **Brooke 13, Steubenville 9**
STUEBENVILLE - Jessica Kennedy hit two triples among three hits and drove two home as Brooke beat Steubenville. Shannon Reardon added a double and a single for the Bruins while Michaela Hinerman had three hits and an RBI. Mytia Barker hit a double among three hits and drove three in for Big Red (5-18) while Carmie Biasi added a double, a single and two RBI. **Valley 16, Hundred 11**
HUNDRED - Jessica Ashcraft hit a home run among three hits and drove three in as Valley defeated Hundred. Holly Schell added a home run and a single for the Lumberjacks (3-15) while Megan Bucher hit a triple among three hits and three RBI. Haley Hayes led Hundred with a home run among two hits and two RBI.

THARP

(Continued from Page 17) by retiring Andrea Wood on a called third strike. The only other time the Zeps (11-5) got more than one runner on base occurred during the fourth inning. Sammy Sickle and Hill picked up back-to-back hits with both runners moving up on a sacrifice bunt before Tharp also caught Taylor West looking at strike three to end the threat. Batton was also pleased with the Blue Eagles' success at putting the ball in play. Magnolia collected 11 hits off Shenandoah pitcher Jessy Lang, who walked a pair and struck out two. Although McKenzie Dawson went 3-for-3 with two singles and a double while Dallas Mullett singled twice, six other Magnolia hitters accounted for one hit each. "I was tickled to death to see McKenzie have a big night," Batton said. "Our kids were going with the pitch and hitting the ball to right field

instead of trying to pull everything. Whenever you put the ball in play, there is a chance good things are going to happen." Shenandoah coach Stacey Trenner didn't appear dejected after watching his inexperienced girls lose to the top-seeded Blue Eagles (23-3). "We've only got two seniors and you can't be disappointed when your young girls are playing against a powerhouse like Magnolia," he said. "They fought pretty hard and I'm proud of them. Magnolia got some timely hits when they got people on base. "If we had taken advantage of a couple of our opportunities, it could have been a closer game." After losing in the semifinals of the OVAC tournament last two years, Magnolia and Tharp came out determined to avoid a first-round KO punch. The Blue Eagles scored four runs on six hits the first two innings and coasted the rest of the

game. Bosley got things started in the bottom of the first by lining a 3-1 pitch into the gap in right-center field for a double. With one out, lefty Mallory Chapman drove the ball into right for an RBI single and moved up a base on the throw home. With two outs, Emily Blake's single to center put Magnolia in front 2-0. The second inning was more of the same for Batton's girls. Jordan Babe and hit the ball into right for a lead-off single. She took second after a wild pitch and third when Dawson collected the first of her three hits. A wild pitch scored Babe and moved Dawson to third ahead of Maghan Miller's single up the middle for a 4-0 lead. "We started out the game on fire with our offense but kind of cooled off a little bit," Batton said. "Overall, I think we did a good job of getting the runners in after we got them in scoring position."

LINSLY

(Continued from Page 17) South won the runner-up title on a tiebreaker. While Bird had been arguably the story of the tournament a year ago, this time the "oohs" and "ahhs" were for Schulz-

gantown deserves all the credit. He is just an incredible player. They had some nice points and some of the games could have gone either way, but I was really pleased with Jose's per-

formance in the final. "This was a good barometer for our region and states," Morgantown coach Dan Martinelli said. "The kids worked real hard. They did a great job

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Luck of the draw

His frequent flyer miles membership is literally off the chart.

But on this rare occasion, Oliver Luck's Wednesday flight to the Big Apple was strictly all pleasure and no business.



RICH GIBSON
Reality Check:

West Virginia University's second-year athletic director and former Mountaineers' quarterback maintains he'll be Manhattan's proudest papa tonight when son, Andrew, is announced as No. 1 selection in the NFL Draft.

"When I saw him play in high school, I thought Andrew had a chance of becoming a quality quarterback at the college level," Oliver Luck told us over the phone Tuesday from his office in Morgantown.

"Then, after watching him the past three seasons at Stanford, I felt Andrew possessed the necessary skills to play in the NFL."

It goes without saying Ollie had an early premonition young Andrew was a grid star in the making. Otherwise, he may have signed with Manchester United and become a back page sensation in the British tabloids.

Andrew spent much of his formative years abroad, attending The American School in London with Oliver serving in a number of capacities for Europe's World League of American Football.

Oliver Luck became general manager of two German franchises (Frankfurt, Rhein) before agreeing to take over as league president.

But with Andrew approaching his teen years, Oliver opted to return stateside. In 2001, he was sworn in as Chief Executive Officer of the Houston Sports Authority.

Andrew would eventually enroll at Stratford High in Houston and become a prep phenom, throwing for 7,139 career yards and 53 touchdowns. He rushed for another 2,085 yards and was soon a heavily-recruited commodity.

With dozens of offers on the table, Andrew pared the list to Stanford, Oklahoma State, Purdue, Virginia and Northwestern.

Both Andrew and Dad were in agreement then-Cardinal head coach Jim Harbaugh made the decision a virtual no-brainer.

"Not only was Jim an excellent football coach, his playing experience at the position (QB) was instrumental in aiding Andrew's college career," Oliver related. "No one person played a more prominent role in Andrew's development than Coach Harbaugh."

While Andrew shattered a number of PAC 10 passing marks, one statistic stands miles above all others.

In his final two seasons with the Cardinal, Luck completed over a staggering 70 percent of his passes, going a combined 551-of-776 for 6,855 yards and 69 touchdowns.

Even more impressive is the fact Luck threw only 22 career picks in over 1,000 attempts.

Those numbers and the young man's adept leadership skills were more than enough to convince Colts' general manager Ryan Grigson to officially announce this week the 22-year-old Luck will be the heir apparent to future Hall of Famer and now Denver Broncos' property Peyton Manning.

Oliver, in turn, was highly touted

See, **LUCK**, Page B2



OVAC Softball Semifinals



ST. JOHN Central's Rosa Young connects on a pitch during Wednesday's OVAC Class 1A semifinal against Conotton Valley at the I-470 Complex in Elm Grove. Young and the Lady Irish posted a 6-0 victory. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

SJC back in 1A title game

• Absalom sits down 21 in a row after a lead-off single in 6-0 Lady Irish win

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Many expected St. John Central to have at least a small dropoff after being hit hard by graduation and even injuries.

What many should have already known by now that when it comes to the OVAC Class 1A softball tournament, you should never count the Lady Irish out.

Conotton Valley realized that Wednesday evening in Elm Grove as St. John dispatched the Lady Rockets, 6-0, to reach Saturday morning's small-school final.

"It's always good to move on," said

'I am definitely happy for the girls ...'

—Jerry Magistro

Lady Irish head coach Jerry Magistro. "With this young team we have, I am definitely happy for the girls that they get to play in a big game like the OVAC championship."

The Lady Irish have achieved their suc-

cess this season with strong pitching, which was again the case.

Sophomore fireballer Hannah Absalom saw her first pitch of the game laced back through the box for a lead-off single.

Unflappable in the circle, she proceeded to sit down the 21 in a row, including 17 via the strikeout.

"We expect that out of Hannah," Magistro said. "She pitched another great game, but she's been doing that all season. She's done it against some big teams and we know she can do it."

With Absalom rolling, the Lady Irish

See, **SJC**, Page B2



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

MARTINS FERRY'S Addie Suriano prepares to make a catch at second base during Wednesday's OVAC Class 3A semifinal against Fort Frye, while umpire Don Moore looks on. The Lady Riders fell, 2-0. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

Ferry's 3A repeat bid denied by FF

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Timely hitting. Wednesday afternoon at the J.B. Chambers Complex in Wheeling, Fort Frye got the clutch hits, while Martins Ferry didn't.

The end result was a 2-0 shutout for the second-seeded Cadets (14-5) over the No. 3 seed Purple Riders (9-9) on Ben's Field in an OVAC Class AAA tournament semifinal.

"We couldn't get that clutch hit when we had runners on the bases," Martins Ferry head coach Paige Williams lamented. "Sometimes that happens. They (Fort Frye) got them

when they needed them and we didn't."

Fort Frye head coach Barbara Sleek agreed.

"That's really what it came down to. My assistant coach just told me that we only had four hits. The difference was ours came with runners in scoring position."

"We found a little bit of a gap there and managed to get two runs pushed across," she continued. "I really don't care how many runs we give up ... 1, 2, 3 or 4 ... as long as we hold them. That's our bread and butter ... pitching and defense."

See, **FERRY**, Page B2



Dave Ice Invitational



Photo Provided

PREPARING FOR the Burger King/Bellaire Sports Foundation Dave Ice Invitational this afternoon are, from left, Danielle Stoner, Devon Bailey, Donna Johnson, Myleah Green and Madi Kinder. The meet begins with field events at 3:30 p.m. and running at 4:30 p.m. Slated to compete are Barnesville, Bellaire, Buckeye Local, Steubenville Central, Conotton Valley, Harrison Central, Martins Ferry, Morgantown, River, Shadyside, St. John Central, Steubenville and Wheeling Central.

Royals snap skid at Tribe's expense, 8-2

CLEVELAND (AP) — Now the Kansas City Royals want to start a streak they can be proud of — a winning streak.

Billy Butler hit two of Kansas City's four home runs to help the Royals snap a 12-game losing streak by beating the Cleveland Indians 8-2 on Wednesday night.

"A big win, we all felt it and now we want to go run with it," Butler said. "There's too much talent on this team to be losing."

Butler's two-run blast off Ubaldo Jimenez (2-1) put the Royals ahead in the first inning. He added a solo shot in the ninth off reliever Jairo Asencio, following Alex Gordon's three-run homer against the reliever.

Eric Hosmer's two-run homer in the fifth made it 4-0 — the Royals' largest

lead since April 8, when they beat the Los Angeles Angels 7-3.

"I'm just glad we did it," manager Ned Yost said of ending the streak, which tied for the third-longest in team history, seven short of the Royals' record worst in 2005.

"I didn't care how we did it. It's a big monkey off our back," he said. "Now we can focus on day-to-day baseball."

Before the game, Yost expressed confidence the Royals would start winning. He rattled off several instances of when he managed Milwaukee in 2003-08 and the Brewers followed a long losing streak with a number of wins.

"Fans have expectations of this team," Yost said. "Well, these guys do, too. They have all been together as winners in the minors. This has been tough, but they are going to break out."

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BCS officials work on whittling future postseason options

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) — When Bowl Championship Series officials leave the beachside hotel in which they've gathered to hammer out the future of college football's postseason, they want to have the choices whittled down to two or three.

The guys in charge met Wednesday for about eight hours to discuss overhauling how a champion is determined and possibly implementing a four-team playoff. It is the fourth such get together this year, and they agreed it's time to start narrowing the field.

They will reconvene Thursday and BCS executive director Bill Hancock said the 11 conference commissioners and Notre Dame's athletic director would like to have it down to a few clear choices.

"I think that's what everyone wants to do. Get down to two maybe three," Hancock said. "I think we're making good progress on that. I think we're going to make it."

One thing is clear: "The status quo is off the table."

Hancock said. Though he cautiously added they have not ruled out making over the current system that guarantees only a No. 1 vs. No. 2 championship game.

But all signs point toward that being unlikely, and that by the 2014 season the BCS as fans have known it will be gone.

"I would say there is an expectation that there will be significant change," Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany said.

Delany and his fellow commissioners arrived in south Florida with four options to discuss, but much of the focus has been on a four-team playoff with two national semifinals and a title game.

That model comes with many variables, such as where the games will be played, how the teams will be picked and how the bowls fit in — if they do at all.

The role of the bowls represents a potential obstacle. Specifically, the Rose Bowl.

On Tuesday, bowl executives from the Sugar,

Orange, Fiesta and Rose met with the conference commissioners to give their input and answer some questions about how their games could work in a new postseason system.

An option being discussed could force those traditional bowls to give up holding their games in years in which they host a semifinal or championship game. That could mean a year without a Rose Bowl, which has been played every year since 1916.

most of those games matching the champions of the Big Ten and Pac-12.

"We feel like we have something very special and unique in college football," Rose Bowl spokeswoman Gina Chappin said. "We went into the room with the intention of reaffirming what we are."

The Big Ten and Pac-12 don't just play in the Rose Bowl, they are partners with the game.

Delany and Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott have made it clear that protecting that partnership is a priority.

Free agency helps draft

NEW YORK (AP) — The haul in free agency and through trades has strengthened the Broncos, Bills and Bears. Now comes the lifeblood of any NFL team: the draft.

Denver merely landed the best quarterback ever to hit free agency, Peyton Manning. Buffalo homed in on one player to be a difference maker, 2006 top overall draft pick Mario Williams, and signed him before his only visit to a team ended. Chicago dealt for the No. 1 receiver it lacked, getting Brandon Marshall, and bolstered its roster by signing running back Michael Bush and even a quality backup quarterback behind the injury-prone Jay Cutler in Jason Campbell.

Those moves make all three franchises, none of which had a winning record in 2011 — yes, we know, the Broncos won the pitiful AFC West at 8-8 — more viable contenders.

With Manning aboard, the Broncos are in a win-now mode.

"I think the bottom line is we want to do the best thing to surround him with a team that's going to give him an opportunity to win," Broncos boss John Elway said. "We want to come out of every draft ... with players that are impact players. As I said last year, you have a lot more misses in my mind when you draft to need, so we're going to find the best players in positions of need."

● Ferry

Continued from Page B1

Scoreless through 3 ½ innings, the Cadets got the only run they would need in the bottom of the fourth. Nicole Miller looped a single into shallow left with one out and Victoria Mimken bounced into a fielder's choice for the second out. Lexi Huck then drilled a shot down the left field line that bounced inches fair and rolled to the face as courtesy runner Lexi Skinner raced all the way home from first.

Fort Frye would add to its lead in the fifth when Michelle Adkins drew a one-out walk and chugged home on Abby Baker's double to right-center, making it 2-0.

The setback spoiled a fine outing by Martins Ferry senior pitcher Cirstie Delguzzo, who retired the first seven batters and nine of the first 10 Cadets that stepped to the plate.

"Cirstie pitched an excellent game," Williams noted. "She had them off balance early on and was hitting her spots. This is without question the best game I've seen her pitch this season. It was a valiant effort."

Cassie Hanson singled and doubled for the Purple Riders. Delguzzo legged out a pair of infield singles.

Martins Ferry stranded five baserunners, with its best opportunity to score coming in the sixth when Brooklyn Monroe bunted for a single leading off and Delguzzo followed suit. Addie Suriano advanced both runners with a sacrifice bunt, but Mimken bore down and retired the next two batters to escape without any damage.

The Purple Riders are scheduled to host St. Clairsville today. Meanwhile, the Cadets will play Magnolia Saturday at 2 p.m. for the OVAC championship.

Martins Ferry 000 000 0 — 0 7 0

Fort Frye 000 110 x — 2 4 1

Batteries: Delguzzo and K. Hotlosz. Mimken and Miller.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

● SJC

Continued from Page B1

staked her to a five-run lead in the bottom of the first when they sent 11 to plate, but had only two hits.

Taking advantage of five walks and an error, the Lady Irish seized control. Freshman Cheyenne Harris — the nine hitter — had a two-run single.

Senior catcher Rosa Young drove in a run on a sacrifice fly. Kyleigh Falcone also had a RBI on a base on balls.

The Lady Rockets, who went to their bullpen in the first inning, played strong defense and allowed just one run in the second when Young raced home on a wild pitch.

"I was happy with our hitting early, but when they switched pitchers we weren't as patient at the plate," Magistro pointed out. "We lost a little bit of patience, and I thought we should have hit better. Having said that, though, their defense made some plays to take some possible hits away from us."

Harris led the way at the plate with a double to go along with her aforementioned production. Shortstop Kristen Russell had two singles as did senior Gina Beekman. Young also had two hits.

Conotton Valley 000 000 0 — 0 1 2

St. John Central 510 000 x — 6 9 0

Batteries: Jones, Nign (1) and Reichman. Absalom and Young.

Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

● Luck

Continued from Page B1

coming out of Morgantown in 1981. In fact, Oliver Luck was projected the 1982 draft's No. 3 quarterback behind only Jim McMahon and Art Schlichter.

Selected by the Houston Oilers with the 17th pick of the second round (44th overall), Oliver enjoyed moderate Sunday success during a relatively brief tenure.

"I think one of the biggest differences between today and 30 years ago is the fact a vast majority of quarterbacks drafted then normally were in a two-to-three year learning process," Oliver stated. "Many of today's players are being asked to step in and be 'the man' right away."

"I'm sure Andrew is coming in much better prepared than I was. That doesn't necessarily mean he's going to excel his first season. Everything about the NFL is bigger, faster and stronger."

Nevertheless, tonight the old man has that rare opportunity to experience an 'A-Ha' moment for the ages.

"It's going to be very special, all right," Oliver confirmed.

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

● Pirates

Continued from Page B1

we moved on it dramatically."

McLouth's hit led to an RBI single from Andrew McCutchen, a two-run homer from Garrett Jones and a solo shot from Pedro Alvarez, who homered in both games.

"I thought we played good baseball today," Alvarez said. "Tough game the first game and I thought we bounced back pretty well."

Thanks in part to the late afternoon sun glaring at Gonzalez as McLouth's sinking liner came in his general direction.

"It was one of those things where you can't catch something you don't see, you know?" Gonzalez said. "I didn't see the ball at all."

The Pirates will take it. They began the day with a major-league low 36 runs, mustered just one in the opener on Alvarez's homer before erupting off Boule's Chris

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