

Off the Tee/D2
Classified/D5-6

SPORTS

Sunday,
May 2, 2021



AT LEFT: The Martins Ferry Purple Riders celebrate a home run by Ava Doyle (background with helmet on) during Friday's OVAC Class 3A championship game at the I-470 Complex in Wheeling. The Riders toppled Monroe Central, 12-5, for the title. **BELOW:** MARTINS Ferry senior Shelby Thomas and Doyle pose with the championship trophy.

T-L Photos/KIM NORTH

Want a top prospect? Draft from the SEC

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writer

From beginning to end, much like the first night, the second round of the NFL draft was all about the SEC.

And naturally, Alabama was a major place to go.

Georgia cornerback Tyson Campbell to Jacksonville and Mississippi wide receiver Elijah Moore to the Jets were the top two selections Friday night.

Finishing off the second round, it was Florida's Kyle Trask, the only quarterback taken — and he headed southwest to Tampa where Trask could wind up as Tom Brady's heir.

Trask was the sixth quarterback taken thus far. He finished fourth in the Heisman voting after a record-breaking season with the Gators.

Two more members of the national champion Crimson Tide went early: offensive lineman Landon Dickerson and defensive tackle Christian Barmore, the MVP on that side of the ball in the national title game in January.

A dozen SEC players were chosen in the opening round, a record-tying six from 'Bama.

Then four of the first six guys to go in the second round were from that conference. By round's end, 22 SEC players had been selected.

Campbell, a three-year starter, saw Bulldogs teammate Eric Stokes chosen in the first round by Green Bay. Campbell led Georgia with five pass breakups in 10 starts last season. He also had 29 tackles, including 2 1/2 for loss, and an interception.

He has no qualms about switching to safety if asked.

"I'm versatile and I could learn a new position," Campbell said. "I trust my feet, trust my hips. I feel like I can run with anybody."

Moore's breakout season lifted him to All-America status — and now to a potential regular target for Zach Wilson, the second overall pick. The explosive Moore set a school record with 86 catches for 1,193 yards in 2020.

PURPLE POWER

• Ferry hits a trio of two-run homers to rally past Monroe for 3A title

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING — Martins Ferry has shown its power at the plate on numerous occasions this spring. Friday night the Purple Riders waited until late in their Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tom Bechtel Class 3A Championship contest with Monroe Central before flexing their muscles.

Trailing 5-4 entering the home half of the sixth inning, top-seeded Martins Ferry connected for three two-run homers in scoring eight times for a 12-5 triumph over the stunned Seminoles (11-10) on wind-swept and chill-filled Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

With the come-from-behind win, the Purple Riders improved to 22-4 and claimed the program's fourth OVAC softball title. The others came in 2000, 2005 and 2011.

"I knew we could hit the ball, and we did, but their outfield played outstanding," Martins Ferry head coach Jerry Magistro said. "They made some really good catches, but I thought it was just a matter of time before we broke loose."

And no better time than when you're behind and only have six outs remaining.

Ella McFarland started the game-winning rally with an infield single. Three pitches later, No. 8 hitter Ava Doyle put Martins Ferry ahead to stay at 6-5 with a two-run shot to left-center. It was her third roundtripper of the season.

"As soon as I saw the ball leave the pitcher's hand I knew it was going to be the pitch to hit. When it left the bat I knew it was going over the fence," Doyle said. "I've never experienced

See, **FERRY**, Page D3



With fans and flowery hats, Derby is back at its old home in May

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The bourbon is flowing again, flowery hats and humans are on the scene and 20 horses are ready to run the most chaotic race of their lives. After being disrupted by a pandemic, the Kentucky Derby is back with many of its traditions intact.

America's longest continuously held sporting event returns to its traditional spot on the calendar — the first Saturday in May. The 147th edition comes less than eight months after it was run without spectators last September because of COVID-19, making it the shortest time between Derbies in history.

"I was hoping to enjoy my Derby win a little longer," joked trainer Bob Baffert, who earned his sixth last year with Authentic.

The eerie silence that settled over Churchill Downs last year when no spectators were allowed is being replaced by attendance of about 45,000 — some 100,000 less than usual.

Masks are required. Food and drinks are all-inclusive to lessen long lines and separate payments for every transaction.

With the Derby restored to its usual day, last year's upside down Triple Crown has been righted. The Preakness follows on May 15 and the Belmont, which kicked off the series a year ago, concludes it on June 5.

Essential Quality is the early 2-1 favorite on Saturday and has the bona fides. The striking gray colt was last year's 2-year-old champion. He comes in undefeated in five career starts. The last unbeaten colt to win the Derby was Justify in 2018, and he went on to sweep the Triple Crown.

Essential Quality is owned and bred by Godolphin Racing, the stable of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed al Maktoum, who is 0-for-11 in his decades-long quest to win America's greatest race. A victory by Essential Quality would bring extra scrutiny of human rights issues involving the

sheikh, who won't be among the limited fans in attendance.

The Kentucky Horse Racing Commission received a complaint this week from a group of human rights attorneys and students at the University of Louisville seeking to have Sheikh Mohammed banned from the Derby over alleged human rights abuses. A judge in England ruled that he orchestrated the abductions of two of his adult daughters.

Essential Quality's jockey, Luis Saez, is seeking his first Derby win after crossing the finish line first aboard Maximum Security in 2019 only to have his colt disqualified.

"Essential Quality is a deserving favorite," trainer Todd Pletcher said, "but I think it's a wide-open race."

Pletcher, a two-time Derby winner, saddles four starters, led by 6-1 shot Known Agenda. His others are listed at double-digit odds: 20-1 Dynamic One, 30-1 Bourbonic and 50-1 Sainthood.



AP PHOTO

KENTUCKY DERBY entrant Essential Quality works out at Churchill Downs Thursday in Louisville, Ky. The 147th running of the Kentucky Derby is scheduled for Saturday

Carpenter hits another HR



Penguins happy, but not

Union Local 3, Edison 2
MORRISTOWN – Tre Rex and Tyler Gummere combined on a two-hitter and struck out 13 as Union Local scored early and held off visiting Edison late in a 3-2 high school baseball victory Friday.

Rex started and worked into the fifth. The lefty fanned 10 and walked half-a-dozen. Gummere earned the save with a trio of punchouts.

Evan White and Dylan Higgenbotham each drove in a run with a single for Union Local. Luke Merritt doubled.

SOFTBALL

Bellaire 13, Buckeye Local 3
ST. JOE – Bellaire scored eight runs in

semifinal setback to Edison with a draining of the visiting Red Knights high stop Sally Buffalo Park at the Cravat Coal's Cadiz Girls Softball Complex.

Tristen Kovarik earned the win inside the circle with seven strikeouts and a pair of walks. She permitted just two singles and helped herself at the plate with a double and two runs batted in.

Maddy Butler singled twice and doubled to drive in a run. Jenna Young had a pair of suicide-squeeze bunts for ribbies and Danyel Beadling singled in a run.

The Huskies are back in action Wednesday in the Buckeye 8 second-place game.

Bieber strikes out 11, sets K record as Indians beat Chisox

CHICAGO (AP) – Shane Bieber struck out 11, setting a major league record in the process and pitching the Cleveland Indians past the Chicago White Sox 5-3 on Friday night.

Bieber (3-2) fanned at least eight in his 18th straight game, breaking a tie for the mark set by Hall of Famer Randy Johnson in 1999-2000.

Bieber gave up three runs and seven hits, walking one in six innings. The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner has fanned 68 in six starts this year – he's struck out at least 11 in five of those games.

Jose Ramirez homered and drove in three runs for Cleveland.

Tim Anderson had two

hits with an RBI and stole two bases for the White Sox. He was a part of two of Chicago's three runs, driving in Nick Madrigal and scoring on Yoan Moncada's single in the third inning.

This was Anderson's second time with multiple stolen bases in a game this season.

The first came on April 19 in Boston.

Ramirez started Cleveland's four-run inning in the third with a bases-loaded, two-run single off Dallas Keuchel (1-1). The Indians loaded the bases with one out when Andres Gimenez singled and Cesar Hernandez and Jordan Luplow drew back-to-back walks.

The Indians added two more runs in the third in-

ning on Franmil Reyes' RBI groundout and a single by Eddie Rosario.

Ramirez hit a solo shot in the eighth to give Cleveland a two-run lead.

Keuchel settled in after the Indians' early burst and went on to pitch through the sixth, including retiring nine straight batters after the third inning.

He gave up four hits and struck out four.

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• Ferry

Continued from Page B1

anything like this. It's awesome." Kelsi Gillespie, the winning pitcher in Tuesday's semifinal over Linsly, drew a walk and Hunter Pollock sent an 0-1 offering from Liz Roderick well into the night to deep left. Danielle Lude reached on an infield single that ricocheted off the mask of Seminoles' third baseman Brooklyn Grubb before Maria Clark rocketed a laser well over the fence in left to make it 10-5. Shelby Thomas and Ella McFarland capped the outburst with run-scoring groundouts.

"Ava got it going and that is how we are capable of hitting," Magistro noted. "I just wish we would do it every inning instead of just one, but what are you going to do?"

The three home runs gave Martins Ferry 28 as a team this season. Ten of the 13 team members have at least one and Clark leads with seven, one more than Pollock.

After going down in order in the top of the first, Monroe Central made the most of its second at-bat. The third seeds collected two of their six hits and took advantage of three Martins Ferry errors in tallying five times. Cheyenne Baker and Kynzi Bishop picked up RBIs on bunts before Trista Morris lined a double to the gap in left-center that plated two teammates. A fifth run crossed on an error.

"Monroe Central fought hard. They took that 5-0 lead, but I give my kids credit. They never gave up," Magistro, who captured his 11th OVAC title – 10 coming in Class A at St. John Central from 1999-2014, said.

Lauren McFarland shrugged off the five-run second and didn't allow another run. She struck out six, walked a pair and threw 107 pitches, with 76 being strikes. She also drove in three runs with two singles.

"Lauren settled down after that one inning and pitched well," Magistro said of his junior hurler. "She shut them down after that and we made some big plays behind her, especially the one that Danielle (Lude) made there to start the seventh. That was a big-time play." He was referring to a grounder in the hole at short that Lude backhanded and threw the runner out by a step.

"We had a really good shot at winning this game against a really good ball club. We played them twice earlier in the year and we played hard in both of those games," Monroe Central head coach Michael Brock said of 10-5 and 4-0 setbacks. "My pitcher got a little tired there but I tried to let her work through it because she's a senior.

"Hopefully we'll be able to take from this game the fact that we can compete with the good teams. Martins Ferry is the premier team in the Ohio Valley from what I've seen this year," Brock added. "We're still a young team that is learning. Other than that one inning that got away from us, we played very tough.

"We're going home healthy but broken hearted."

The Purple Riders are one win away from matching the 2005 team with 23 victories. They host Edison Wednesday for the Buckeye 8 title at 5 p.m.

Clark finished with two singles in addition to her bomb. Pollock had a double to go with her homer. Taylor Bell, Lude and Ella McFarland all had multiple singles.

"This is a very exciting one because we were down 5-0," Magistro said. "Every OVAC title is sweet. This is sweet because it's my first at Martins Ferry. I'm happy for the team. This was a team win."

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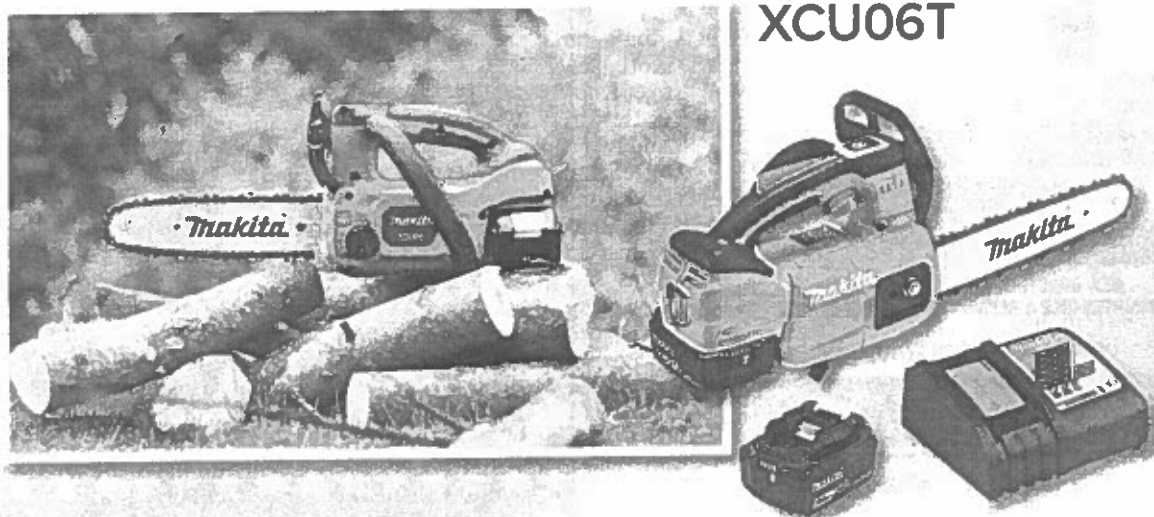
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The
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T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

MARTINS FERRY second baseman attempts to turn a double play as Shamrock runner Jeremy Hunkler slides into second during the first inning of Saturday's OVAC Class 3A semifinal at Memorial Park. The Riders won, 3-2.

Ferry outlasts Barnesville

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BARNESVILLE — After his club defeated Barnesville on Monday in a regular-season game in nine innings, Martins Ferry head coach Anthony Reasbeck said “big wins come in May.”

The calendar has flipped to May, and ironically, his Purple Riders posted their biggest win to date.

Taking advantage of three Barnesville errors in the outfield during the decisive second inning, the Purple Riders scored all three of their runs and

then held for a 3-2 victory behind brilliant pitching by junior Colby Shriver.

“I don’t see any trophies yet,” Reasbeck said. “This is a bigger win, but I am not sure it’s a big win. We’ll see. We have to continue to get better.”

The Purple Riders are expected to play for the conference title on Friday at Toronto’s Red Knight Baseball Complex against Linsly, which defeated Fort Frye in the other 3A semifinal.

“We’ll worry about (Linsly) later in the week,” Reasbeck said. “We have John Marshall on Monday. It may sound stupid, but we’re not playing at the level I think we’re capable of. We

had a chance for a knock-out blow and we just couldn’t deliver it.”

The Riders had the Shamrocks dazed in the second, however.

Kameron Hughes led off the inning by inducing a walk after being down in the count nothing and two.

Logan Smith followed and hit a shot into left center, which was dropped, leaving runners at first and second.

Brayden Maine then followed with a single and the Riders played station to station on the base paths.

Conner Probst lofted a fly ball to right, which was plenty deep enough

See, **FERRY**, Page B2

net, but which the dust settled it was a jaw-dropping outing that resulted in the host Tigers scoring a 1-0 victory over the Zeps.

Pitchers Rhys Francis of Shadyside and Dayton Hill of Shenandoah locked horns in a dandy, with the game scoreless heading to the bottom of the seventh inning.

Shadyside’s Alex Baker led off with a single and pinch-runner Tyler Stottlemeyer was advanced to second via a sacrifice bunt by Ben Wach.

After a strikeout, the game appeared headed for extra innings when Hill got Jordan Joseph to hit a high pop-up in the infield, but the ball dropped painfully between a trio of Zeps and Stottlemeyer sprinted from second home with the game-winning run.

“That’s baseball,” said Shadyside coach Shawn Selmon. See, **SHADYSIDE**, Page B2



Photo/KRISTIN MAZGAJ

SHADYSIDE PITCHER Rhys Francis works to the plate during Saturday’s OVAC Class 2A game against Shenandoah. Francis pitched a no hitter in the Tigers’ win.



Photo/KRISTIN MAZGAJ

ST. CLAIRSVILLE pitcher Tyler Tonkovich works to the plate during Saturday’s OVAC Class 4A semifinal against Cambridge.

St. Clairsville blanks Cambridge in 4A semi

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Veteran St. Clairsville baseball coach Tom Sliva was hoping for three solid innings from his ace.

What the Hall of Fame mentor received was a masterpiece from Tyler Tonkovich.

The senior dandy hurled a complete-game gem, helping the Red Devils pocket a 2-0 OVAC 4A semi-final win over a strong Cambridge squad Saturday afternoon at Memorial Park. St. C. now advances to the title game against Weir, which defeated Indian Creek in the other semi.

Tonkovich needed just 88 pitches to blank the Bobcats. He struck out seven, walked none and yielded just four hits, one coming on a fly ball lost in the sun.

Impressive as his mound performance was, it takes on even added luster. Tonkovich is just returning

from a tough battle with Covid.

“I never would have expected Tyler could have pitched as well as he did today. Earlier in the week, he could barely pitch before becoming exhausted,” Silva said. “I went into the game thinking if we could get three good innings from Tyler than we would piece meal it with the rest of our staff.”

“This just shows you what type of character young man Tyler is and what a great competitor he is,” he continued. “I am at a loss for words to truly describe what he did today. He showed a lot of guts.”

Tonkovich was in trouble just twice, those coming in the fourth and seventh innings.

With one out in the fourth, Blaine Brumfield delivered a single for Cambridge. However, he was gunned down trying to steal second base by St. Clairsville catcher Marcus Bush. Brock Valentine cracked a double and Jake Valentine reached

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

River falls in 2A OVAC softball final

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE -- River was looking for its first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference softball championship. The Pilots are still in search of that elusive crown.

Saturday afternoon under ideal weather conditions, second-seeded River (17-4) couldn’t get its bats going or its fielding -- at times -- in dropping a 10-0 decision in five innings to No. 4 seed Caldwell in the Tom Bechtel Class A title tilt on Ben’s Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

The Redskins’ Madi Mumaw faced the minimum number of Pilots in tossing a no-hitter. The only Pilot to reach was Josie Reed, who drew a walk to lead off the bottom of the first. Reed, however, was doubled up when Mumaw made a diving catch of an attempted sacrifice bunt by Lindsay Huffman and then relayed to first baseman Jaden Haught.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

RIVER SHORTSTOP Elizabeth McConnell, on knees, and second baseman Aeydn Kraft get tangled up at second base Saturday afternoon while Caldwell’s baserunner is safe. The Pilots fell, 10-0, in five innings to the Redskins.

Caldwell scored three times in sending eight batters to the plate in the top of the first. Josie Lori gave Mumaw all the run support she would need with an RBI single. Reagan Shockling’s two-out, two-strike single to right-center plated the other two runs.

Sydney Saling and Reagan Wheel-din each singled in runs in the Redskin’s third-inning uprising, while Reagan Wheeler doubled in two more. Mumaw scored the final tally in the fourth as part of a double steal.

See, **RIVER**, Page B2

Toronto shuts down River in 2A baseball

By **AARON PETCHAL**
For The Times Leader

TORONTO -- The Toronto baseball team keeps rolling along.

The top-seeded Red Knights jumped out to a big lead against fourth-seeded River in an OVAC Class 2A semifinal, had a bit of a hiccup in the fifth enabling the Pilots to get back into the game, but bounced right back and put the game away as the Toronto came away with a 9-3 victory Saturday afternoon at the Knights Baseball Complex.

“The kids were excited to play in the OVAC Tournament,” Toronto (15-1) head coach Brian Perkins said. “They brought that excitement to the field. We were able to get off to a quick start, and we were able to keep the momentum going throughout the game.”

The Red Knights -- the No. 1 ranked team in Ohio Division IV -- led 7-0 after three innings.

“Toronto is very well coached,” first-year River (11-7) head coach Tim Blue said. “Coach Perkins has an outstanding program. That banner out there says Division IV State Champions 2019. He is one of the best coaches in the state of Ohio. You can’t give up 11 walks, and expect to beat any team let alone the No. 1 ranked team in the state.”

With the win, Toronto will play Shadyside in the tournament final at either 5 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Knight Baseball Complex. Shadyside -- the No. 2 seed -- shutout

See, **TORONTO**, Page B2

Martinez goes 8, Bader 3-run HR as Cards sweep Pirates

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Carlos Martinez pitched eight marvelous innings, Harrison Bader hit an early three-run homer and the St. Louis Cardinals blanked the Pittsburgh Pirates 3-0 on Sunday for a three-game sweep.

St. Louis has won seven straight against the Pirates and is 20-6 versus Pittsburgh since the start of the 2019 season. The sweep was the second in three series for the Cardinals, who have won eight of 10 overall.

Bader's home run came with one out in the second inning. Paul DeJong walked, Tyler O'Neill singled and, after Andrew Knizner's fielder's choice, Bader drilled a 1-1 slider left up in the zone by rookie Wil Crowe (0-1).

It was Bader's first home run of the season in his third game since returning from a forearm injury.

Martinez (2-4) was effective and efficient, allowing five hits and two walks. He struck out just three, but leaned on his cutter and got 10 groundouts and three double plays.

"This is my best stuff," Martinez said. "When I want to throw hard, I've got the velocity. I'm feeling great."

Alex Reyes retired the side in order in the ninth for his seventh save.

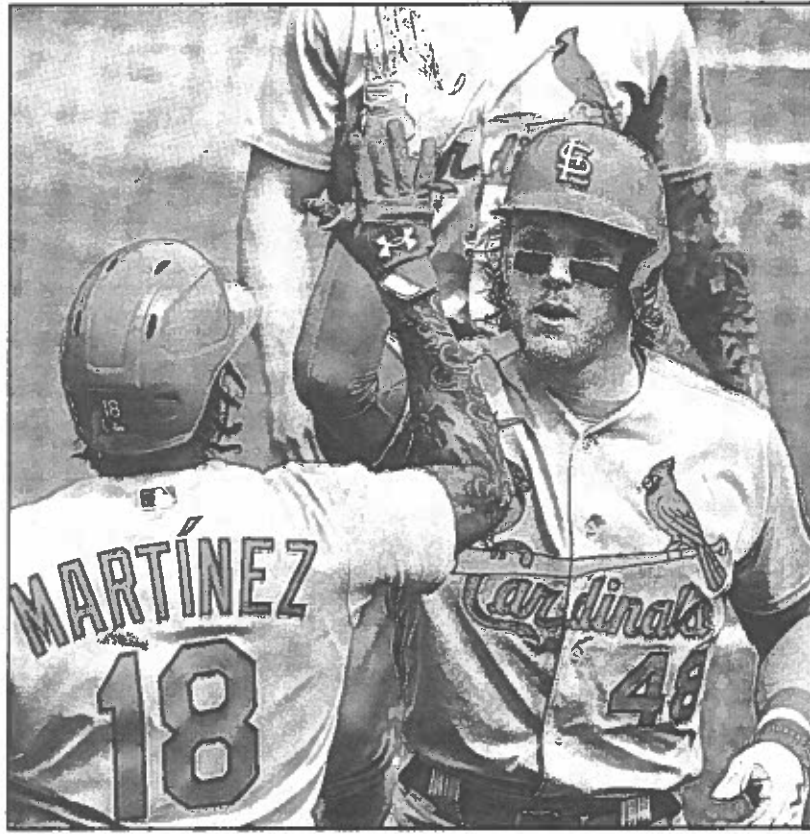
The Pirates went 0 for 8 with runners on base. No Pittsburgh player had more than one hit, and the Pirates did not get more than one hit in any inning.

Making his second major league start, Crowe dealt with traffic in every inning, partially thanks to four walks and a hit batter. He needed 97 pitches to get through five.

Crowe made the most of his first big league opportunity to hit, sending a single down the third-base line and drawing a walk in two trips to the plate.

GOING DEEPER

Martinez has gone at least five innings in every start this season and he



AP PHOTO

ST. LOUIS Cardinals' Harrison Bader (48) is greeted by pitcher Carlos Martinez (18) as he returns to the dugout after hitting a three-run home run off Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Wil Crowe during the second inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Sunday.

worked into the eighth for the second consecutive appearance, hitting the 100-pitch mark for the first time this year. He retired the last eight batters he faced.

"He's been able to get quicker outs, been on the ground, getting double plays when there's a little traffic," Cardinals manager Mike Shildt said. "He's been efficient with all of his pitches."

SCARY MOMENT

Pirates catcher Jacob Stallings was grazed in the face by a 97 mph fastball from Martinez in the fourth inning but stayed in the game.

"It was scary," Stallings said. "It's the first time it ever happened to me."

Stallings said the pitch hit him in the nose, lip and cheek, but he avoided full contact. Martinez apologized to Stall-

ings afterward.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Cardinals' RHP Jordan Hicks will undergo scans on his right forearm when the team returns to St. Louis on Monday, and Shildt said "there is optimism" that Hicks might be able to avoid the injured list.

UP NEXT

Cardinals: RHP Adam Wainwright (0-3, 4.08 ERA) is scheduled to start against the New York Mets to begin a seven-game homestand Monday. Wainwright was placed on the COVID-19 injured list Thursday due to contact tracing, but is eligible to be removed Monday. Shildt said Wainwright has repeatedly tested negative.

Pirates: LHP Tyler Anderson (2-2, 3.38) opens a three-game series at San Diego on Monday.

• Ferry

Continued from Page B1

to score Hughes on the sacrifice fly. The throw in to the infield was well off the mark and went out of play, allowing Smith to score and sending Maine all the way to third.

Trevor Hanson then hit what appeared to be a lazy fly into right center, which again was dropped by the Shamrocks outfielder, allowing Mayne to score.

"We've not made many errors this season, so that (second) inning was uncharacteristic of us," a disappointed D.J. Butler said. "It cost us today, but we kept battling and our kids left it all out there."

Now with a three-run cushion, Shriver went to work.

He pitched around a one-out single in the third, but in the second, fourth and fifth, he sat the Shamrocks down in order.

The Purple Riders appeared to be on the verge of blowing the game open in the fifth when put two aboard and chased Barnesville starter Ayden Hannahs.

Junior Kason Powell, however, got a strikeout and then induced a ground ball on the infield and the Shamrocks cut down a Rider runner at the plate. The escape was completed with a

groundout to short.

The Shamrocks finally got to Shriver in the sixth. Ninth-hitter C.J. Hannahs, who had a hit earlier in the game, ignited the rally with a single. Ayden Hannahs drew a walk.

Two hitters later, Jake Edwards singled in C.J. Hannahs. Logan Shepherd grounded out to third, but the Riders conceded the run. Shriver then got the next Shamrock to pop out innocently to first baseman Logan Smith.

Reasbeck, by his own admission didn't give one thought to going to his bullpen in that sixth. It was going to be Shriver's game.

"Colby is nuts, but he's my nut, and I mean that as the greatest compliment possible," Reasbeck said. "He showed something in the sixth. It's Kentucky Derby day, and Colby is our horse, so we were going to ride him."

Ferry didn't threaten to tack on any insurance runs in the seventh.

Barnesville proceeded to lead off the bottom half with a seeing-eye single by catcher Kyvan Johnson.

Again, however, Shriver didn't panic. He went to work. He got back-to-back fielder's choices on the infield, but then walked C.J. Hannahs to put the tying run in scoring position.

But, he buckled down and got the final out on a fly ball to right.

"Our kids battled to the last out and we had the guy up we wanted with a chance," Butler said. "It just didn't go our way. We knew (Shriver) was good. He threw his off-speed stuff for a strike, threw out of the zone when he wanted to and got us chasing. He did everything he had to win."

While the Purple Riders will play on Friday for their first conference title since 2002, the Shamrocks are left wondering what might have been.

Despite consistently being among the area's premier teams each and every spring, the OVAC title has eluded the Shamrocks since 1997.

This marks the seventh time since 2009 the Shamrocks have been a part of the OVAC Tournament, but have stubbed their toe.

"For me, it's crushing," Butler said of coming up short again in the OVAC. "I've got to be able to do something to get these guys over the hump. A lot of this (disappointment) is on me. It's obviously something I am doing because we get this far every year and I just can't get us over the top."

Shadyside will now take on top-seeded Toronto, a 9-3 winner over River in the other semifinal, for the OVAC Class 2A championship. The Tigers will be shooting for their third con-

tinuing the second inning where singles by Ryan Florence and Corey Beckett and a walk to Baker loaded the bases with one out, but Hill posted a strikeout and an infield grounder to shut the door.

In the fifth, the Tigers had two runners on via a walk to Eric Allen and a single by Joseph, but again Hill came through with a "K" to end the threat.

Shenandoah's only scoring chance came in the

Ramirez, Hernandez homer as Indians blank White Sox 5-0

CHICAGO (AP) — Jose Ramirez and Cesar Hernandez homered, Amed Rosario had three hits and the Cleveland Indians beat the Chicago White Sox 5-0 on Sunday.

Zach Plesac and three relievers combined to limit the White Sox to four hits as Cleveland took two of three in a series between AL Central foes that both made the playoffs last year. The Indians have won five of their last seven.

Andrew Vaughn had two hits for the White Sox, had won seven of nine.

Ramirez hit a two-run shot — his eighth homer of the season — off Codi Heuer in a three-run seventh inning.

Hernandez connected for a solo drive off Lucas Giolito to put the Indians ahead in the third. Giolito has allowed six homers in six starts.

Rosario tripled and scored on third baseman Yoan Moncada's error when Moncada and shortstop Tim Anderson bumped into each other trying to field a popup in the fourth.

Plesac (2-3) allowed three hits and four walks while striking out six in 5 2/3 innings. He fanned Jake Lamb with the bases loaded in the third after issuing back-to-back walks and hitting Jose Abreu with a pitch.

Plesac also escaped trouble in the fourth when he struck out Anderson with two on. In two previous starts against Chicago, the right-hander had allowed 12 runs over 5 2/3 innings.

Giolito (1-3) struck out eight and allowed two runs — one earned — in 5 1/3 innings. He had given up 12 runs (11 earned) in his last 7 2/3 innings.

LATE SWITCH

Star rookie Yermir Mercedes was scratched from the White Sox lineup after reporting late. Lamb replaced him at designated hitter. Mercedes entered Sunday second in the majors with a .395 batting average.

"I'm not upset with him," manager Tony La Russa said.

• River

Continued from Page B1

River also had a baserunner, albeit momentarily, in the bottom of the fifth when Katie Rufener reached on an error. However, after touching the first base bag she made a turn towards second and was tagged out.

The championship was the first for Caldwell, which starts five freshmen and a pair of sophomores, including Mumaw. In fact, the Redskins had never played in an OVAC Tournament game in program history until earlier in the week when they took out top-seeded Toronto.

The victory also allowed the Redskins to avenge a 7-4 reversal earlier in the campaign.

Meanwhile, River is left to pick up the pieces after only hitting one ball out of the infield. That came when Reed flied out to centerfield.

"It was a beautiful day to play for a championship on a field named after a gentleman who was a big proponent of fastpitch softball. He was also my coach at one time," veteran River head coach Dave Wright said of Ben Taylor. "Maybe one day River can find a head coach that is able to win a championship on this field."

• Toronto

Continued from Page B1

No. 3 seed Shenandoah, 1-0, Saturday afternoon in the other semifinal.

"We are excited to represent the Toronto community in the OVAC Tournament," Perkins said. "Shadyside is a good team. We are looking forward to playing in the finals."

Chris Parker got the win for the Red Knights. He allowed one run on one hit while striking out six and walking three in four-plus innings of work on the mound.

"Chris Parker did a nice job," Perkins said. "He came out and threw multiple pitches for strikes. He kept the momentum on our side. River has some talented ballplayers."

Parker was relieved by Dom Bouscher with one on and nobody out in the top of the fifth. Bouscher pitched the rest of the way, allowing three runs on four hits while striking out five without walking a batter.

River also used two pitchers. The pair for the Pilots struggled with their control as the duo combined to give up eight walks while also hitting two batters.

Mark Martie took the loss for the Pilots. He allowed six runs on five hits while striking out five and walking four in his 2 1/3 innings on the mound. He was replaced by Connor Hunter, who pitched the final 3 2/3 innings. Hunter allowed three runs on five hits while striking out one and walking four.

"We had too many called third strikes," Blue said. "You cannot do that and keep the momentum. We aren't scoring enough runs. We have to do a better job of making contact with the ball."

All 14 hits in the game were singles. Toronto out-hit River, 10-4.

Evan Wolter recorded two singles and two RBIs to lead the way offensively for the Red Knights, Avery Wiegand and Caleb Leasure each tallied two singles and an RBI and Parker picked up a single and two RBIs. Also, Brant Reeves collected two base hits and Bouscher brought home a run with a sacrifice fly.

"They hit the ball," Blue said. "They do the little things. You cannot give them walks, and you cannot make errors. They hustle. They are told to do something, and they do it."

Jake Rose and Martie each tallied a single and an RBI, Elijah Wayt and Hunter each collected a base hit and Brody Lollathin brought home a run with a groundout for River.

Bouscher led off the home half of the first inning with a walk, and he stole second and third before scoring on a base

• Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

whose team improved to 15-4. "It's obviously not the way you want to win a baseball game, but a win's a win."

"Baseball guys love this kind of game," added the Tigers' fourth-year boss. "It's a strategic game...a pitchers' duel...and we were fortunate to come out on top."

"That's baseball," echoed Shenandoah's first-year coach Tyler Engle. "Just when you think you've seen it all..."

"It was a very unfor-

matic ending was the fat that Shadyside's Francis was masterful, with the junior spinning a no-hitter and posting 11 strikeouts. Only two Shenandoah players reached base — one on a hit batsman and the other on a walk.

The "tough loss" label goes to Hill, who escaped a couple of jams while finishing with five hits allowed, three Ks and two walks.

"Both pitchers did an outstanding job today," said

including the second inning where singles by Ryan Florence and Corey Beckett and a walk to Baker loaded the bases with one out, but Hill posted a strikeout and an infield grounder to shut the door.

In the fifth, the Tigers had two runners on via a walk to Eric Allen and a single by Joseph, but again Hill came through with a "K" to end the threat.

Shenandoah's only scoring chance came in the

with an impressive 10-1 record and a 15-game winning streak going into Charleston. "From Day 1, we told the girls we knew they had the potential to do great things," Pettit said. "We tell them every day, 'You work hard in practice, it's going to show in the games.' The teamwork and the comradery that the girls have is great. This is probably the most unselfish team I've ever been around and I think that's what contributes to the success that they've had this year."

Indeed. With such an impressive resume, the Dragons claimed the No. 2 seed in the Class A field. And while the location will be unfamiliar territory for the Dragons, their first opponent will be one they're all too familiar with.

For the fourth time this year, Cameron and Madonna will square off in the state quarterfinals with a tipoff time of 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Charleston Civic Center.

"They know what they do and they know we do," Pettit said. "It's like we're practice partners. We've seen each other so many times. I told my girls they've been close games every time we've played them. We know that we're going to have to bring it and it's going to be a tough game. We're going to have to play our best in order to win."

The Dragons won all three of the previous matchups. The last time the two teams faced off was



Photo by Kyle Lutz

Kenzie Clutter and Cameron will make the trip to Charleston for the West Virginia Class A state tournament for the first time in school history. They will face off against Madonna in the quarterfinals today.

during the sectional championship where Cameron won 53-43.

In the first matchup of the season, the Dragons edged the Blue Dons 51-47 on March 11. They also claimed the other regular season meeting 57-44 on April 1.

"Here we go again for a fourth time. That has its advantages and disadvantages," Madonna coach Cory Wingett said. "One advantage is we don't have to search long and hard for film. We already have our scouting film.

The disadvantage is they already beat us three times. They're really a three-headed monster. They have three dominant players and a tremendous supporting staff. You can't let up any of them they put in the rotation from an offensive standpoint. Defensively, they play a very tough man-to-man defense."

It certainly wasn't an ideal start to the season for Madonna as it sat with a record of 2-6 eight games into the season.

Please see STATE, Page 10

Comfortable With Its QB Situation

By WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer
PITTSBURGH

Mike Tomlin isn't talking like a coach in the market for a quarterback.

Even with Ben Roethlisberger's status beyond his upcoming 18th season unknown. Even with backup Mason Rudolph in the final year of his contract. Even with Josh Dobbs and Dwayne Haskins on one-year deals.

After general manager Kevin Colbert said Monday the Steelers could "absolutely" add another young face to the mix during this week's NFL draft, Tomlin sounded like a coach who believes the Steelers have already selected one.

"It's exciting from a coaching perspective with one of those guys (in the quarterback room) being a 22-year-old guy like Dwayne Haskins who was viewed globally as having first-round talent just a short time ago," Tomlin said. "We're excited about working with him and seeing what his skillset is and helping him, as well."

The Steelers picked up Haskins in January after a spectacular flameout in Washington. Taken with the 15th overall pick in 2019, Haskins lasted less than two seasons in the nation's capital. Washington cut him last December after uneven play on the field and uncertain judgment off it.

He will get a chance to start over with Pittsburgh, though the Steelers insist they are not in a hurry to start over at quarterback. The 39-year-old Roethlisberger restructured his contract in March to offset a salary cap hit of nearly \$42 million, a move Colbert praised for its selflessness because it set an example veterans such as linebacker Vince Williams, defensive tackle Tyson Alualu and wide receiver Juju Smith-Schuster to follow. Williams returned after getting cut as part of a salary purge while Alualu and Smith-Schuster both opted to come back rather than leave after hitting the open market.

Please see
PITTSBURGH, Page 10

John Marshall Shuts Out Bellaire at Home, 10-0

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

MOUNDSVILLE — John Marshall wasn't perfect Monday afternoon, but the Monarchs were definitely clicking on all cylinders, at the plate, in the field, running the bases and on the mound, against visiting Bellaire.

Grant Swift tossed a three-hitter, twice getting out of bases loaded jams without allowing a run, and Jacob Coffield had three hits and a pair of RBI as John Marshall got the timely hits that the Big Reds couldn't in rolling to a five-inning, 10-0, victory over Bellaire at Monarch Field.

John Marshall dented the scoreboard early with a lead off Bryce Rayl base hit, a passed ball and a

one-out fielder's choice before Coffield accounted for the initial tally with an RBI double to deep left field.

Swift had only thrown five balls through the first seven hitters before walking the Big Reds' eight and nine batters to load the bases after a Danny Zwack single. However, Swift's third strikeout of the second ended the threat with no damage.

Things were much the same, but totally different for the hosts in the home-half of the frame. Swift doubled leading off before Jacob Korngiver walked and Garrett Gellner was hit by a pitch with one out to fill the sacks. After losing pitcher Lex Wilhelm recorded a strikeout for the second out Derek

Black laced a 3-2 pitch up the middle for a two-run single and a 3-0 John Marshall advantage.

For the second consecutive inning Bellaire managed to work the bases loaded, once again with a single and a pair of free passes but this time with just one out. And for the second straight time Swift managed to work his way out of trouble and keep the visitors off the board.

A one-out walk got the Monarchs going again in the fourth with the hosts eventually batting around and pushing across five runs after two outs.

Please see JOHN MARSHALL,
Page 10

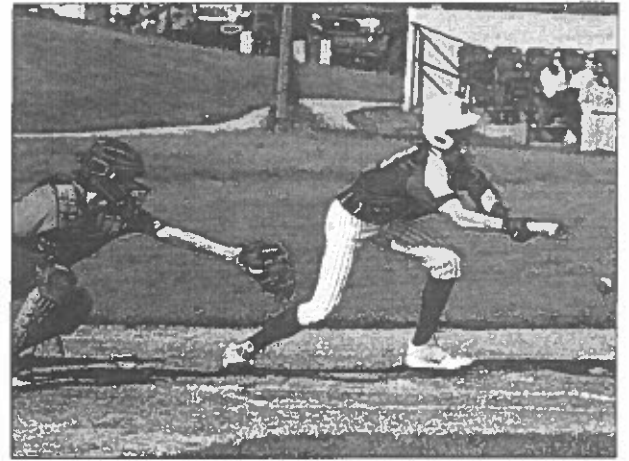


Photo by Kyle Lutz

John Marshall's Dillon Wright attempts a bunt during Monday's game against Bellaire.

Blue Dons Get Past Crusaders

By JOE CATULLO
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — One would think that when Madonna's Landry Bone squares off with Steubenville Catholic's Jayda Jones in the circle, runs would be hard to come by.

It was the complete opposite Monday during an OVAC Class 1A tournament semifinal at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

The Blue Dons and Crusaders combined for 23 runs and 23 hits. No lead was safe, and each team held their breath during crunch time.

In the end, top-seeded Madonna prevailed, 12-11, to advance to the championship game this weekend.

"With a team like that, you have to hit with them. That's what I kept telling my girls. If they hit, you hit," Blue Dons coach Chris Conti said.

"We made a few mental mistakes in the field here and there, but they'll pick that up. I always tell them they know what they're doing wrong, so fix it. They did."

Madonna's offense spotted Bone an early 5-0 advantage after three innings, while the sophomore was throwing a no-hitter.

With two away in the bottom of the second, Maddie Cross plated the first run of the contest with an RBI single. Adriana Lenhart



Photo by Joe Catullo

Madonna's Landry Bone gets ready to throw a pitch during Monday's game.

then struck out but reached first on a wild pitch. Jordan Dillon took full advantage with a two-run base knock.

Michaela Battista supplied a run-scoring double in the third, and she later scored on an error.

The Crusaders (7-7) then scored six unanswered runs in the next three frames to take a 6-5 lead.

Jones began the top of the fourth with a single for her team's first hit and later scored on a Madonna (6-2) miscue.

Please see DONS, Page 10

Tyler Defeats Williamstown

WILLIAMSTOWN — Owen Westbrook fired six strikeouts and also tallied two hits and four RBI as Tyler Consolidated defeated No. 2 Williamstown, 15-8 on Monday.

Jayden Helmick supplied two doubles and three RBI for the Silver Knights while Weston Henderson had three singles and two RBI.

University 5, Linsly 3

WHEELING — Adam Och compiled a double, single and three RBI, but Linsly fell to University.

Kobe Hill fired nine strikeouts for the Cadets in a losing effort while Zac Taylor had two singles and one double.

St. Clairsville 8, Brooke 3

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Will Balgo hit two singles, one double and brought home three runs as St. Clairsville defeated Brooke.

For the Bruins, Josh Shorts had a single, double and RBI.

Union Local 4, Madonna 2

MORRISTOWN — Luke Merritt and Jared Miller each garnered two singles as Union Local defeated Madonna.

For the Blue Dons, Chase Littleton had a single, double and RBI.

Shenandoah 6, Monroe Central 0
SARAHSVILLE — Michael Bunning and Kade Demchak each had

two hits, but Monroe Central fell to Shenandoah.

SOFTBALL

John Marshall 3, Dover 0

MOUNDSVILLE — Shelby Koontz hit a three-run homer in the fifth inning to lift John Marshall to a huge win over Dover.

Tessa Wise (three strikeouts) and Kadence Pettit (six strikeouts) were both solid in the circle for the Monarchs as they combined to allow five hits.

Brooke 3, Wheeling Park 0

WELLSBURG — Maleaha Misch tallied a two-run home run and a single at the plate and fired eight strikeouts in the circle as Brooke defeated Wheeling Park.

Wyntar McQuiston also tallied a homer for the Bruins.

For the Patriots, Katelyn Kozlowski belted a double and Emily Ashton struck out seven batters.

Tyler Consolidated 5
Doddridge County 4

MIDDLEBOURNE — Lauren Templeton struck out eight batters and had a single, double and 2 RBI as Tyler Consolidated defeated Doddridge County.

Briann Templeton added a single and double for the Silver Knights.

Track & Field Leaders/B3
NFL Mock Draft/B4
Classified/B7-8

SPORTS

Tuesday,
April 27, 2021



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

RIVER'S AEDYN Kraft fields a through at second base as Shadyside's Kylie Jo Baker slides in safely with a stolen base during Monday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex in Elm Grove. The Pilots navigated past the Tigers, 10-6. Umpire Skip Truax watches the play.

River fends off Shadyside in 2A

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE — River has never won an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference softball championship. The Pilots gave themselves a chance to become the first team to do so Monday.

Katie Lively scattered 10 hits and second-seeded River (14-3) used three big shots in outscoring No. 3 Shadyside, 10-6, in a Class 2A semifinal on sun-swept Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex in Elm Grove.

The Pilots, who have been to a pair of title tilts in head coach Dave Wright's elongated tenure, will play Caldwell which defeated Toronto, 7-3 in the other semifinal.

The date and time for the championship contest has not yet been set.

"I don't remember. It's been awhile. It's been awhile," Wright said when asked the last time River had advanced to the OVAC finals. "I truly can't remember off hand."

The Pilots trailed 2-0 early before taking a 4-2 lead in the third. However, the two Ohio 7 rivals found themselves deadlocked at 6-all entering the bottom of the sixth after the Tigers tallied four times in the top of the inning.

Aedyn Kraft's bases-clearing double with two outs in the bottom of the sixth capped a 4-run outburst. Hannah Raper had singled in a run earlier.

"Give Shadyside credit. Whenever there is a big game, Shadyside always steps up its

game two or three notches," Wright said. "The only way to beat them when they step it up a notch or two is to step it up a notch or two yourselves. You can never let your guard down against Shadyside because they are going to battle and battle you."

"I'm very proud of the way my girls hung in there."

With the Tigers leading 2-0 on a Tory Hendershot run-scoring double and a Mary Smith groundout, senior catcher Katie Rufener dropped a RBI single into shallow center with the bases loaded. Raper followed with a shot to the fence in left-center that cleared the bases for a 4-2 lead.

"We had a couple of key hits with runners in scoring position," Wright acknowl-

See, **RIVER**, Page B2

JM unloads on Bellaire

By **TRACY WATSON**
For The Times Leader

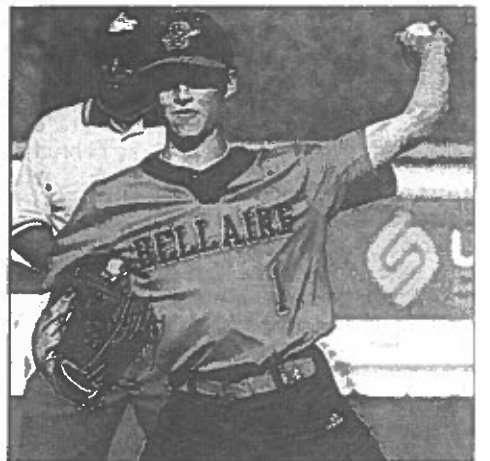
MOUNDSVILLE - John Marshall wasn't perfect Monday afternoon, but the Monarchs were definitely clicking on all cylinders, at the plate, in the field, running the bases and on the mound, against visiting Bellaire.

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Things were much the same, but totally different for the hosts in the home-half of the frame. Swift doubled leading off before See, **BELLAIRE**, Page B2



Photo/KYLE LUTZ

BELLAIRE'S JAKE Dowling works to the plate during Monday's game in Glen Dale. The Big Reds lost, 10-0.

MARTINS FERRYS first baseman Logan Smith stretches for a throw as Barnesville's Kyvan Johnson runs out the play during Monday's game in Martins Ferry. The Purple Riders won, 3-2, in 9 innings.

Photo/KRISTIN MAZGAJ



Martins Ferry outlasts Barnesville, 3-2, in 9

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
For The Times Leader

MARTINS FERRY - With the OVAC baseball playoff deadline looming midweek, Martins Ferry found itself in a precarious situation heading into Monday's game against one-loss Barnesville.

Coach Anthony Reasbeck's Purple Riders were sitting fourth in the OVAC 3A race, two spots below the Shamrocks and just one place ahead of Buckeye Trail for the final playoff berth.

Reasbeck's Riders were more than up to the task, albeit in elongated fashion, outlasting the Red & Green, 3-2, in a nine-inning classic. The

Purple Riders' winning run came home via a solid line drive single to left off the bat of junior Colin Sneider.

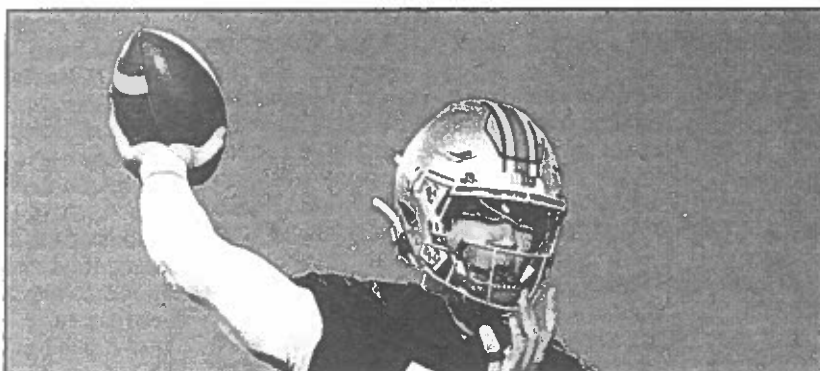
"It was a great game. The pitching was excellent on both sides," said an elated Reasbeck. "I couldn't be happier for Colin. In all my years of coaching baseball, I haven't had a player who cared more about the game than him. When you play teams like Edison and Barnesville you know it is going to be a battle to the end."

Ferry improved to 8-7 on the campaign and solidified its playoff aspirations. The Purple will visit Wheeling Central today.

See, **FERRY** Page B2

Buckeyes among five teams seeking a quarterback

By **ERIC OLSON**
AP Sports Writer



Steelers comfortable with QB situation ahead of NFL draft

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Mike Tomlin isn't talking like a coach in the market for a quarterback.

Even with Ben Roethlisberger's status beyond his upcoming 18th season unknown. Even with backup Mason Rudolph in the final year of his contract. Even with Josh Dobbs and Dwayne Haskins on one-year deals.

the Cleveland Indians a 5-3 victory over the Minnesota Twins in their series opener Monday night.

Luplow's second career game-ending homer was a leadoff shot that easily cleared the wall in left field, scoring free runner Cesar Hernandez from second base. Minnesota fell to 0-5 in extra-inning games.

Emmanuel Clase (2-1) worked one perfect inning for the win, helping Cleveland to its second straight victory. Luplow was the only batter faced by Colome (1-3).

It was the first of 19 meetings this season between teams that have combined to win the last five AL Central titles. Minnesota is the two-time defending champion.

Luis Arraez gave the Twins a 3-2 lead in the eighth when he singled home Jake Cave with two outs, but Jose Ramirez answered in the bottom half with a homer off Tyler Duffey that hooked just inside the foul pole in right.

Indians starter Zach Plesac allowed three runs in a season-high 7 2/3 innings, striking out four. The right-hander had dropped his last two starts, giving up six runs in both games over 5 2/3 total innings.

Jose Berrios of the Twins worked 5 2/3 innings, permitting two runs and five hits. The right-hander has never lost at Progressive Field, going 3-0 with a 3.83 ERA in seven outings.



AP PHOTO

CLEVELAND INDIANS' Jose Ramirez watches his home run off Minnesota Twins relief pitcher Tyler Duffey during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Cleveland, Monday. The Indians won 5-3.

Minnesota went in front 2-0 on a solo homer by Brent Rooker in the second and a sacrifice fly by Jorge Polanco in the fourth.

Eddie Rosario doubled home Hernandez with two outs in the sixth, then came around on Franmil Reyes' single to pull Cleveland even at 2. Rosario spent his first six seasons with the Twins before signing with the Indians on Feb. 4.

Josh Naylor tied his career high with three hits and Rosario had two, while Indians catcher Roberto Perez stole his

major league hit for the Twins, who reinstated shortstop Andrelton Simmons from the COVID-19 injured list before the game.

OPPOSING VIEWS

Indians president Chris Antonetti defended the rights of RHP James Karinchak to speak out against mass COVID-19 vaccinations, but said the franchise does not agree with him. "The vast majority of our players and staff opted for the vaccine and continue to follow the protocols around mask wearing, and that's something we'll continue to encourage and support," Antonetti said. "But in the end, people are free to make their own choices and decisions."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Twins: OF Byron Buxton (patella soreness) was not in the lineup after waking up with a sore knee. Minnesota manager Rocco Baldelli said Buxton has been bothered by the problem for several weeks.

Indians: RHP Nick Wittgren (paternity list) and wife Ashley welcomed the birth of their son, Camden, at 2:30 a.m. LHP Kyle Nelson was recalled from the alternate site to replace Wittgren on the active roster.

UP NEXT

Twins: RHP Kenta Maeda (1-1, 6.11 ERA) has won all three of his career starts against Cleveland, posting a 0.50 ERA with 20 strikeouts over 18 innings.

Siakam, Raptors top Cavs

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Pascal Siakam scored 25 points, rookie Malachi Flynn added 18 and the Toronto Raptors pulled away in the second half for a 112-96 win over the depleted Cleveland Cavaliers on Monday night.

Kyle Lowry contributed nine points, five rebounds and 10 assists for the Raptors, who have won five of six.

Isaac Okoro led Cleveland with 20 points. Jared Allen had 15 points and Darius Garland had 13 points and 10 assists for the Cavaliers, who have lost five of six.

The Cavaliers played with the same starting lineup they used in Sunday night's 119-110 loss at Washington, but without the first four players who came off their bench in that game.

Larry Nance Jr. fractured his right thumb in the fourth quarter Sunday night and is expected to be out for several games.

Matthew Dellavedova had a strained neck, and Lamar Stevens and Isaiah Hartenstein came out of the Washington game with concussion symptoms.

• Steelers

Continued from Page B1

Colbert called the class for centers "unusually deep," a good thing because Pittsburgh is in the market for one after perennial Pro Bowler Maurkice Pouncey retired in February. Improving a line that struggled to generate anything in the run game last year — when the Steelers finished last in the NFL in yards rushing and yards per carry — is a priority, though Tomlin cautioned adding talent isn't the only possible solution.

"We're capable of performing better than we have, players aside," Tomlin said. "Schematics, formations, the things that we do to give ourselves a strategic advantage need to be improved, and that's some of the things that we're working on."

Pittsburgh let offensive coordinator Randy Fichtner's contract expire and promoted quarterbacks coach Matt Canada to the position. Canada's had some success in generating an effective ground game in previous stops, most notably on the other side of the building the Steelers share with the University of Pittsburgh.

The Panthers averaged 225 yards on the ground during Canada's one-year stop in Pittsburgh in 2016.

Getting better production on the ground is vital if the Steelers want to take some of

the pressure off Roethlisberger. Having a back that's a difference-maker would help. They haven't had one — at least, not consistently — since Le'Veon Bell opted to sit out 2018 in a contract dispute.

Bell was a second-round pick in 2013. The Steelers haven't taken a back higher than the third round since. There's a chance that changes this time around.

"I think if you look at the Hall of Fame runners, most of those guys were taken in high rounds," Colbert said.

Just don't expect the Steelers to trade up from the 24th overall pick to grab a running back or anyone else. Pittsburgh has five picks in the top 140. Giving up a couple to move up a few spots in the first is sub-optimal for a club in need of immediate contributors.

One thing the Steelers won't do after having more than 100 video conferences with potential prospects is get caught up in what goes on ahead of them. Colbert called mock drafts "a complete waste of time."

Instead the Steelers will spend most of Wednesday coming up with a list of 24 players that could be available when they pick 24th. Odds are the one still available when they are on the clock is the one they'll take, regardless of position.

• OSU

Continued from Page B1

will arrive as a graduate transfer from Texas Tech.

Michigan State's situation is up in the air after 2020 starter Rocky Lombardi transferred. Payton Thorne started one game as a redshirt freshman, and the Spartans have added transfer Anthony Russo from Temple.

Peyton Ramsey is gone after leading Northwestern to a division title, leaving South Carolina transfer Ryan Hilinski to battle with Hunter Johnson and Andrew Marty.

Purdue's competition will begin in earnest in August when Aidan O'Connell returns from a foot injury. He'll go against Jack Plummer and UCLA transfer Austin Burton.

Teams appearing to have starting quarterbacks decided: Illinois, Brandon Peters; Indiana, Michael Penix Jr.; Iowa, Spencer Petras; Maryland, Taulia Tagovailoa; Minnesota, Tanner Morgan; Nebraska, Adrian Martinez; Penn State, Sean Clifford; Rutgers, Noah Vedral; and Wisconsin, Graham Mertz.

BIELEMA'S PROJECT
Bret Bielema inherited a

2-6 team at Illinois, and the first three weeks of spring practice weren't always pretty.

"With this group we have to understand baby steps are important before we can begin to walk or even run," Bielema said. "I took it back to ground zero. No disrespect to where we were, (but) it wasn't where we needed to be. I wanted to go back and start again and they responded very well."

Considering there's been a coaching change, a surprisingly high number of players elected to use the extra year of eligibility available from the NCAA because of the pandemic, notably Peters and linebacker Jake Hansen.

NEW COORDINATORS
Michigan hired former NFL assistants Mike McDonald and Maurice Linguist as co-defensive coordinators, replacing Don Brown.

Maryland has two new coordinators, Dan Enos on offense and Brian Stewart on defense. Enos was associate head coach and running backs coach at Cincinnati. Stewart was cornerbacks coach at Baylor and will be in his second stint with the Terrapins.

Mike Yurcich is offensive coordinator at Penn State after spending last season in the same position at Texas.

Jim O'Neil, defensive backs coach for the Las Vegas Raiders, takes over for longtime defensive coordinator Mike Hankwitz at Northwestern.

Brad Lambert, defensive coordinator at Marshall, is co-defensive coordinator at Purdue.

Bielema's coordinators are Tony Petersen on offense and Ryan Walters on defense. Petersen had the same job at Appalachian State, and Walters moved to Illinois after six years coordinating Missouri's defense.

RETURNING LEADERS
Big Ten statistical leaders who will be back: Minnesota's Mohamed Ibrahim ran for 1,076 yards and 15 touchdowns; Indiana's Penix averaged 274.6 yards passing per game; Purdue's David Bell averaged 104.2 receiving yards with eight touchdowns; Rutgers' Olakunle Fatukasi averaged 11.2 tackles; and Northwestern's Brandon Joseph had six interceptions.

COVID-19 DELAY
Rutgers' spring practice was delayed three weeks because of COVID-19 issues. Practice, scheduled to begin March 30, started on April 20 and the spring game was pushed back to May 20.

Hannans worked the first five innings, allowing just one hit. He struck out eight and walked four.

Hanson, meanwhile, went seven innings, striking out six and walking two. He was relieved by freshman Barron Lucey. The crafty southpaw earned the mound win with a sharp two-inning stint. He struck out two and didn't issue a walk.

Kason Powell was the tough-luck loser, despite pitching well in four innings of duty. He fanned three and walked two.

"We finally finished a game. We have done a terrible job of closing out games this year," Reasbeck said. "This is the first one-run game we have won in a long time. We beat a very good team today."

"Trevor did a super job. He worked a strong seven innings," he added. "And what can you say about Barron? He came on in a difficult situation and showed a lot of poise for a freshman."

Ferry drew first blood with a run in the third frame, nary a hit. Senior Alex Bennett coaxed a base on balls and eventually scored on a sacrifice fly by standout catcher Chase Goff.

Barnesville countered with two runs in the fifth inning to take the lead.

Powell singled before C.J. Hannans reached on an error. Colton Hines advanced both runners with a bunt. Gavin Carpenter delivered a single, plating a pair of teammates.

The Purple Riders forced extra innings by pushing across a run in the sixth. Goff opened the inning with a single and later scored on a Brayden Maine single.

Bennett opened the decisive ninth inning with a single. He advanced on a bunt by Colten Reddinger, setting the table for Snedeker's game-winner.

"It was an exciting game. Give Martins Ferry credit. They made the plays they needed to make," Butler said.

"I thought Ayden and Kason both pitched extremely well. However, our base running mistakes really cost us."

"We didn't make good adjustments at the plate. We haven't played in a week," he continued. "In regards to the OVAC playoffs, this doesn't hurt us. We are probably locked into second place."

Barnesville finished with eight hits while the Purple produced six.

"This is a nice win and it obviously helps us in the OVAC race," Reasbeck noted. "But it is an April win. The big wins come in May."

• River

Continued from Page B1

edged. Shadyside scored an unearned run in the top of the fourth to make it 4-3 but freshman Kelsey Harlan drilled a gapper to left-center to up the margin to 6-3.

As Wright eluded to, the Tigers didn't put their tails between their legs and head for the bus.

Heather Good bunted for a base hit leading off the sixth. She advanced to second and took third on a groundout and scored on a groundout. Kylie Jo Baker singled to extend the inning and scored when Gentry Brown doubled to deep center. Hendershot recorded her third two-bagger of the game and picked up a ribbie that drew the Tigers even.

"We started off slow once again tonight just like we did the other night in losing at Bellaire," Wright noted. "We always seem to start slow for some reason. If I could find something to work that out, I think we'd be really good. It just takes a little sweat on us to get us going."

For Shadyside head coach Jillian Ongley, there is a silver lining despite the setback. The Tigers will now prepare for Division IV sectional tournament action. They won a state title six years ago after losing in the OVAC semis.

"It just seemed like nothing bounced our way. We couldn't get that bounce when we needed it, but we kept battling," she said. "We don't have any regular season games left, so we'll get back to practice and prepare for the postseason."

Lively finished with four strikeouts and no walks. Taylor Fulton struck out five and issued a pair of base-on-balls while yielding a dozen base hits.

River hosts Beallsville tonight on Senior Night in Sardis.

• Bellaire

Continued from Page B1

Jacob Korgiver walked and Garrett Gellner was hit by a pitch with one out to fill the sacks. After losing pitcher Lex Wilhelm recorded a strikeout for the second out Derek Black laced a 3-2 pitch up the middle for a two-run single and a 3-0 John Marshall advantage.

For the second consecutive inning Bellaire managed to work the bases loaded, once again with a single and a pair of free passes but this time with just one out. And for the second straight time Swift managed to work his way out of trouble and keep the visitors off the board.

A one-out walk got the Monarchs going again in the fourth with the hosts eventually batting around and pushing across five runs after two outs. Rayl's run-scoring triple to deep center got the onslaught going and after Black walked Rayl stole home on a pick-off attempt to first making it 5-0 with Black going to second. Coffield's second hit of the game brought Black home with Coffield scoring on an Ethan Neely base hit and Wise, who walked, making it 8-0 when he crossed the dish on a wild pitch.

John Marshall finished things off in its half of the fifth, thanks in large part to the use of five pinch-hitters, which allowed Coach Mark Cisar to get everyone swings in the contest. Chase Kerns got a pinch-hit single to lead things off and eventually came around to score on a wild pitch while Noah Beckett's base hit scored Conner Blatt, who walked as a pinch-hitter earlier in the inning, to end the contest.

"I feel like we have been playing a lot better baseball and showing what we are capable of doing the last four or five games," Cisar commented. "When you are able to get runners on and get good at bats good things are going to happen and we did that (Monday). We also did a better job hitting to the opposite field."

"And Swift didn't have his best stuff (Monday), but he battled when he needed to and got out of a couple of bases

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ANWAP EYE CENTER

Maddie McKay Tosses Perfect Game Against Jets

WHEELING — Maddie McKay struck out 13, walked none and allowed no hits as Oak Glen defeated Union Local 10-0 in the OVAC 4A Semifinals on Tuesday.

McKay also smacked a home run and drove in two.

Edison 12, Harrison Central 2

WHEELING — Katie Fluharty struck out seven as Edison upended Harrison Central.

Aubrey Scott belted a homer and plated three runs and Alayna Meadows added a solo blast.

REGULAR SEASON

Brooke 11, Beaver Local 3

WELLSBURG — Alexa Foresha blasted two home runs and earned the win in the circle as Brooke improved to 7-0 with a win over Beaver Local.

Lizzie Foresha tallied three hits and two RBI, while Angelina Lippoli added a single and a double.

Tyler Consolidated 8, Magnolia 0

SISTERSVILLE — Lauren Templeton and Briann Templeton each smacked a single and a double to lead Tyler Consolidated past Magnolia.

Braeden Wall earned the shutout with four strikeouts and three walks and Audrey Dennis added a double.

Karisa Postlethwait struck out eight

and walked one for the Blue Eagles.

BASEBALL

Tyler Consolidated 7, St. Marys 0

ST. MARYS — Ty Walton struck out 11 and allowed just two hits as Tyler Consolidated shutout St. Marys — winning its fourth game in its last five outings.

Walton also supplied a triple and two RBI.

Owen Wesbrook supplied a single, a double and three RBI in the win and teammate Mason Nichols generated a single, a triple and a RBI for the Silver Knights.

Cameron 7, Trinity Christian 6

CAMERON — Clayton Bryan hit a single, a double and drove in a run as Cameron downed Trinity Christian.

Edison 9, Steubenville 7

STEUBENVILLE — Gage Cline singled, doubled and drove in two runs as Edison topped Steubenville.

Eli Wilson was also strong at the plate with a double and two RBI in the win.

Bellaire 8, Buckeye Local 4

BELLAIRE — Vince Patrone smacked three hits and two RBI and Jake Heatherington tripled and drove in a run as Bellaire enjoyed Senior Day with a win over Buckeye Local.

Trey Hoover paced the Panthers with a single and a double.

Monroe Central 6, Caldwell 0

CALDWELL — Jake Winland struck out 11 and held Caldwell to four hits in a shutout victory for Monroe Central.

Landen Lydick delivered three hits and two RBI and Westin Swallow added two hits in the win.

Toronto 10, Oak Glen 7

TORONTO — Chris Parker smacked three hits and Caleb Leasure added two hits and two RBI as Toronto edged Oak Glen.

TENNIS

OVAC BOYS SINGLES

GLEN DALE — Wheeling Park freshman Nic Trischler made his first OVAC tournament a memorable one.

Trischler made his way all the way to the OVAC finals before falling 8-4 in the No. 3 event.

COLLEGE

BASEBALL

Wheeling 18

Indiana University of Pa. 17

INDIANA, Pa. — The Cardinals escaped with a wild win at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in a non-conference game.

The Wheeling University baseball

team (24-8) won for the fifth time in three days and extended its winning-streak to a program-best nine straight with the win over the Crimson Hawks (2-27).

In what would end up being the game-winning run, senior Luis Dominguez got on base with a two-out single in the eighth inning, stole second and scored on a RBI-single by sophomore Jacob Murray to make the score 18-13.

SOFTBALL

Charleston 5-0

West Liberty 2-2

WEST LIBERTY - Mountain East Conference softball powers Charleston and West Liberty split an inter-divisional doubleheader at the WLU Softball Complex.

Senior ace Makenzie Amend led the way for the Hilltoppers in the second game, coming out on top in a pitcher's duel with Charleston ace Danielle Bauer.

Amend went the distance in firing a six-hit shutout, striking out six UC batters while issuing only one walk.

In the opener, Kat Donzella and Annie Paterson each smacked out a pair of singles for the hosts while Katie Beeman added a RBI double and Anna Welsh delivered a pinch-hit RBI single.

CAMERON

(Continued from Page 13)

shot go in as the horn sounded.

The Dragons went right to business with their defense as they allowed two field goals in the third quarter.

While Anna Backel hit a free throw to start the fourth quarter scoring and cut the Blue Don's deficit to nine, Cameron went right down the floor and responded. Ashlynn VanTassell grabbed an offensive board and put the ball back in the hoop. The Dragons were able to keep a double digit lead for the rest of the game.

"Our season was about creating memories... They created a lot," an emotional Madonna coach Cory Wingett said. "I'm not upset that we lost. I have a daughter on the team, but I have 16 daughters that I spent every day for the last six months with. That's the toughest thing."

The Blue Dons shot 8 of 41

from the field. Alatis led the way with eight points while Jazzy Melnyk scored seven points and grabbed six boards.

"We just couldn't get shots to fall," Wingett said. "Defensively, we were rock stars. They averaged 55 points a game on us. They had three players that averaged 45 of those 55. Mission accomplished, defensively. We battled and did a wonderful job. It's just in basketball we have to shoot some shots and get them to fall. It just didn't happen (Tuesday) and that's basketball."

For the Dragons, VanTassell tallied a double-double with 14 points and 14 rebounds while Lili Neely supplied nine points and seven rebounds.

Cain-Loy finished with eight points and both Kenzie Clutter and Gray had nine boards.

"The third (game against Madonna) was probably the hardest," Neely said going 4 of 4 against the Blue Dons. "We both know each other just as well as the other one. So coming out on top (Tuesday) really sparked everyone's confidence for Thursday."

Pettit was able to watch some of the Calhoun County game before she went down on the sidelines. The Red Devils wasted no time to open the state tournament and secured a 75-34 victory over River View.

"They're a very quick basketball team," Pettit said. "They shoot the ball well from the outside. On Thursday, we definitely need to make sure we're crashing the boards, boxing out and getting these girls to the rim. We need to get a hand in their face and we need to stop transition."

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 13)

"My mindset going up to the box was to put the ball in play," Difo said. "I knew they wouldn't get a double play on me because I run fast. I went up there aggressive and was able to square the ball up well enough to get it in play."

Underwood (1-0) won in his second big league decision, his first since last Aug. 17 for the Chicago Cubs against St. Louis.

Anderson allowed one run and three hits in six innings while striking out five and walking two.

Junis gave up two runs and six hits in 6 1/3 innings with nine strikeouts and one walk.

"Really well-pitched game by Jake," Kansas City manager Mike Matheny said. "Just a shame he couldn't get the win. We just really couldn't get anything going offensively."

Underwood, Sam Howard and Richard Rodriguez combined for three innings of scoreless, one-hit relief. Rodriguez retired the side in order on nine pitches for his fourth save in as many opportunities.

"Richie, he's just got a real slow heartbeat, and

cluding a grand slam and solo shot off Washington ace Max Scherzer, and had seven RBIs as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Nationals.

RAYS 4

ATHLETICS 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Brett Phillips hit a two-run homer in the sixth, helping send Oakland to its second loss in 16 games.

YANKEES 5

ORIOLES 1

BALTIMORE (AP) — Corey Kluber (1-2) won for the first time since April 20, 2019, to gain his first victory for Yankees, and Kyle Higashioka had two hits and homered again as he gains playing time from Gary Sanchez.

Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton also homered — the Yankees are 9-0 when they go deep in the same game, including the playoffs. New York stopped a four-game skid at Camden Yards and at 10-13 moved into a tie with the Orioles for last in the AL East.

Kluber allowed one run and six hits with five strikeouts over 6 2/3 innings.

Rookie Bruce Zim-

most 12 comeback victories. Matt Barnes fanned Pete Alonso and J.D. Davis during a 1-2-3 ninth for his fifth save. David Peterson (1-3) was the loser.

INDIANS 7, TWINS 4

CLEVELAND (AP) — Franmil Reyes homered twice, including a 452-foot drive that landed in the left-field bleachers about six rows in front of the scoreboard.

Jose Ramirez drove in two runs, including a first-inning homer that helped Cleveland to a win over its AL Central rival for the second straight night.

Byron Buxton homered with two outs in the eighth to chase Aaron Civale (4-0), but James Karinchak struck out Nelson Cruz and then worked the ninth for his second save.

Kenta Maeda (1-2) was charged with five runs, including three homers, in 5 2/3 innings.

BRAVES 5, CUBS 0

ATLANTA (AP) — Ian Anderson (2-0) allowed one hit in seven innings, lowering his ERA to 2.48, and Ronald Acuna Jr. hit a long home run off Trevor Williams

first win as a starter since 2018.

Paul Goldschmidt and Tommy Edman hit two-run doubles and Nolan Arenado doubled twice as St. Louis won for the fourth time in five games. Alex Reyes picked up his sixth save.

Zach Eflin (1-1) gave up five runs on nine hits over 6 2/3 innings. The Cardinals played without catcher Yadier Molina, who was placed on the 10-day injured list before the game with a sore tendon in his right foot.

RANGERS 6

ANGELS 1

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Joey Gallo ended the longest home run drought of his career at 20 games with the Texas slugger's hardest hit of the season, an early tiebreaking two-run shot, and Texas beat Los Angeles.

Shohei Ohtani was 0 for 4 with a strikeout as the LA designated hitter.

ASTROS 2

MARINERS 0

HOUSTON (AP) — Cristian Javier combined with two relievers on a two-hitter, and Houston beat Seattle.

BREWERS 5

MARLINS 4

CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 13)

The Warriors also received the ball with a chance to tie but Reasbeck made a crucial steal and hit a pair of his own free throws to give Central a 46-41 advantage it didn't relent.

"Ryan Reasbeck has been out for six weeks and he just came back the other night for the first time," Stephens said. "He looks like he hasn't missed a beat. All of our guys gave a tremendous effort and I can't say enough about the guys on the bench the past couple of weeks when we were really short-handed. Those guys were able to step up and keep us winning games."

James Garbart paced Trinity with 21 points and Jackson added 11.

"I thought both teams played really, really hard," Trinity coach Rick Hill said. "The difference between our guys and Wheeling Central is experience. We started two freshmen, two sophomores and a junior, who had not played on a varsity team until this year. Our kids fought and fought. That's kind of the mentality that I was brought up with."

"We made some young mistakes but we'll be back next year and we're very excited about it."

As important as Maxwell's 13 points were, it

was his hustle, heart and leadership that could be clearly seen throughout the game on a gym floor he grew up on.

"This was my last game in this gym," Maxwell said. "I really got emotional. It meant a lot and I felt like I had to leave everything out there. Being my last year I wanted to do everything I could to get down to state and leave everything out there for my teammates and everyone out there supporting us."

"It was a fun game and definitely one that I'll remember for a while. They are a tough team and really scrappy. They gave us some problems but it was fun."

Trinity led 10-9 after an electric first quarter and 20-19 at halftime. The Knights came out in the third and outscored the Warriors 7-2 and eventually took a 35-32 edge into the fourth.

The win also gave Central its first trip to state in Class AAA after making the move from Class A this offseason.

"We were basically forced to play some new teams," Stephens said. "For us, the goals are the same — try to win the OVAC Championship first and then try to qualify for the state tournament."

The Knights have now done both.

BLAST

(Continued from Page 13)

Myers' squad didn't slow down in the second, sending nine more batters to plate and pushing across five more runs to up the margin to 12-1. The big hit was a bases-loaded, no-out, Marsh double down the right field line while Gage Thomas, Billy Gooch and Lee all chased home runs as well.

Back-to-back doubles from Gongola and DeGenova to start the third increased the lead for the hosts before Thomas' third single, and second RBI, of the game, made it 14-2 after three

seniors on this team, and they just can't wait to get into the lineup and into games and show what they can do.

"It's been a great start to the season, but we still just want to go out and take things one game at a time. We travel to play a pretty good John Marshall team on Wednesday, so we need to be ready for that next."

The first eight hitters in the Patriots' starting lineup all had at least one hit by the end of the second inning and while the ninth batter didn't have a hit, he had produced an RBI

Kentucky Derby/B5
NFL Draft/B4

SPORTS

Wednesday,
April 28, 2021

Ferry trounces Linsly in 3A semifinal, 12-2

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE — All spring Martins Ferry has blistered the cover off the softball. That trend continued Tuesday night in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A semifinal on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

However, it wasn't the Purple Power rendition as reflected in their 25 regular-season home runs that did in the Cadets (4-5). Instead, head coach Jerry Magistro's crew used the 'bloop' to its advantage in a 12-2, five-inning victory.

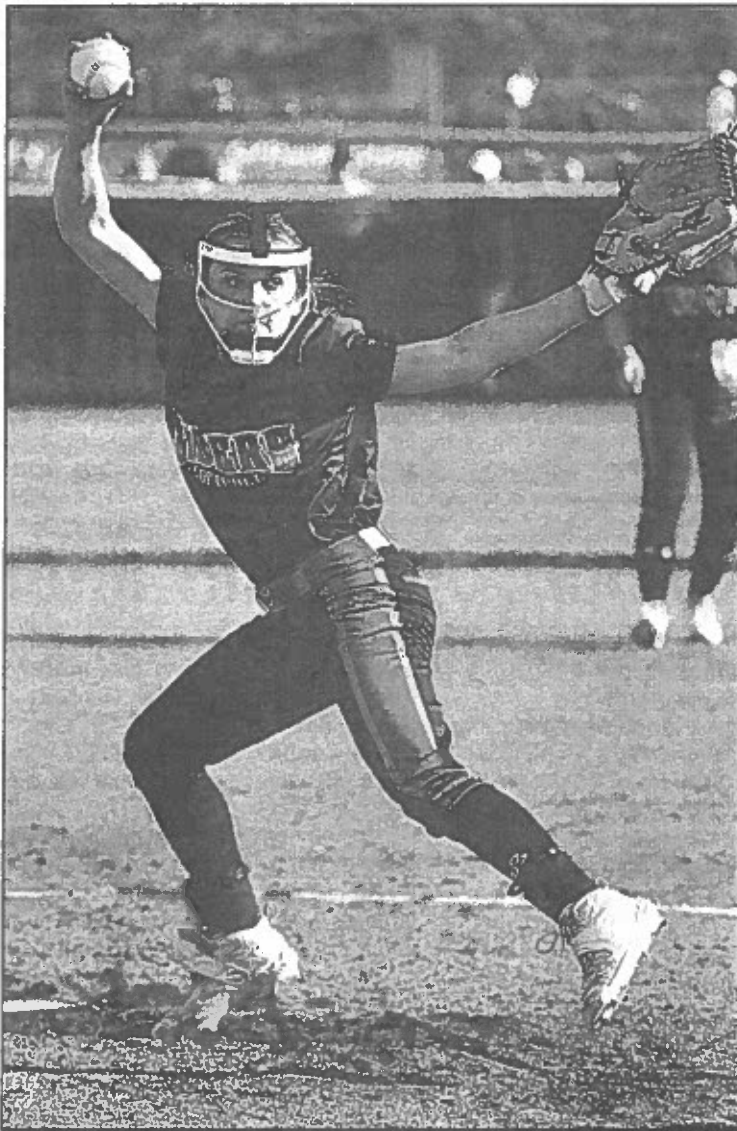
After watching fourth-seeded Linsly take a 2-0 lead in the top of the first on a Bailey Burwell single and a Purple Rider throwing miscue, Martins Ferry (21-4) went to work.

Burwell retired the first two batters rather easily but then the floodgates opened.

Four consecutive seeing-eye singles by Maria Clark, Taylor Bell, Lauren McFarland and Shelby Thomas tied things. Ava Doyle struck out for what appeared to be the third out, but the ball was bobbled by the catcher. Courtesy runner Sydney Koller stole home for the fourth run. Ella McFarland's single to center knocked in the fifth tally and Hunter Pollock, batting for the second time in the inning, blooped a single down the first base line for a 6-2 reading.

"The way their pitcher was pitching you have to take what they give you," Magistro, who won 10 OVAC Class A crowns at St. John Central from 1999-2014, said. "In the few games that we have trailed, we've found ways

See, **FERRY**, Page B2



MARTINS FERRY pitcher Kelsi Gillespie works to the plate during Tuesday' OVAC Class 3A semifinal. The Purple Riders posted a 12-2 victory in five innings to advance.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

Union Local mowed down by Oak Glen in 4A

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING -- Union Local hadn't been in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's Tom Bechtel Softball Championship tournament in 12 years prior to Tuesday afternoon's semi-final appearance against top-seeded Oak Glen.

The Jets won't soon want to remember their latest appearance.

Union Local ran into an absolute buzzsaw by the name of Maddie McKay, who sliced through the Jets lineup to a tune of a five-inning perfect game in a 10-0 romp. The win sends Oak Glen (11-0) to the championship game against Edison, which took out Harrison Central in the second semifinal at the Chambers I-470 Complex.

McKay, who is committed to the University of Toledo's 2022 recruiting class, mowed down the first nine Jets via the strikeout and finished with 13 Ks in the game.

See, **UL**, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
UNION LOCAL sophomore Torre Kildow reacts after striking out during Tuesday's Class 4A semifinal against Oak Glen.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

MONROE CENTRAL'S Liz Roderick fires plateward during Tuesday's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A semifinal on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex. The Seminoles defeated Bellaire, 3-1.

Monroe outlasts Bellaire in 3A

By **KIM NORTH**
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WHEELING — Bellaire had beaten Monroe Central twice during the regular season.

The third-seeded Seminoles avenged both of those setbacks with a 3-1 triumph over the No. 2 Big Reds Tuesday night in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A semifinal on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

"This game meant a lot more than the first two did," Monroe Central head coach Michael Brock said of 5-4 and 5-1 losses. "We're back in the finals."

The Seminoles haven't been to the finals since 2004 when they

finished off back-to-back championships.

"We've been living on the edge all year," Brock admitted of the seventh-inning dramatics. "Our defense is starting to come around. We get a sloppy every once in a while, but the girls usually step up and bail us out."

"We're coming around, he added. "Like I said earlier in the year, we're still a very young team but we are learning with each game and it is starting to pay off."

Monroe Central took a 1-0 lead in the top of the third when Madison Stimpert drew a leadoff walk. With two outs, Kalista Friday, Cheyenne Baker and Regan Hamilton all coaxed base-on-balls from Bellaire starter Jayden Lowe.

Hamilton's walk forced in Stimpert.

It remained that way until the fifth when the Seminoles struck twice for a 3-0 reading.

Friday doubled leading off and Baker reached on an infield single as Friday took third. Hamilton lofted a flyball deep enough to right to plate Friday and pinch runner Gillian Leonard raced home on an error with the third tally.

Liz Roderick struck out three, walked five and scattered eight singles. She wiggled her way out of danger in the first, second and seventh innings when the Big Reds (9-9) left the bases loaded each time.

"That's been the story all sea- See, **MONROE**, Page B2

Edison rolls past Harrison

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING -- Harrison Central head coach Darrin Young arrived at the Chambers I-470 Complex Tuesday evening expecting his Huskies to be in a nip-and-tuck game against Edison in the semifinals of the OVAC Tom Bechtel Softball Championships.

Some things don't always go as scripted. Edison struck early and often en route to a 12-2 victory to claim a spot in Saturday afternoon's conference title game against Oak Glen, which easily dispatched Union Local in the lidlifter on Ben's Field.

"My hat's off to Edison because I never would have guessed this would have been a mercy-rule type game," a disappointed Young said. "I expected this to be a lot better ball game than it was. They did a really nice job of preparing for us and we'll try again."

The Wildcats (13-5) set the tone immediately. They pushed a single run across in the

softball, (scoring first) is huge."

The two runs were plenty for sophomore pitcher Katie Fluharty, who went the distance and limited the hard-hitting Huskies to just three hits.

"I told the kids when you play in (big games) and the opponent is hitting your pitcher, you'd better be ready to score some runs and we didn't do a very good job at the plate," Young lamented. "I don't know if it was being overly anxious. The number one through six spots (in the order) have to hit for us to score runs. At times, they've done that, but (Tuesday) was one of the games where they didn't do that."

Nursing a 2-1 lead, the Wildcats flexed their muscle in the fourth when sophomore Aubrey Scott took a Harrison pitch over the straight-away centerfield fence for a three-run home run.

In the fifth, the Wildcats officially blew it open, scoring six times. Junior Alayna Meadows hit a solo home run. Savanna Anrkom and senior Hannah Christoff each had a



victory.

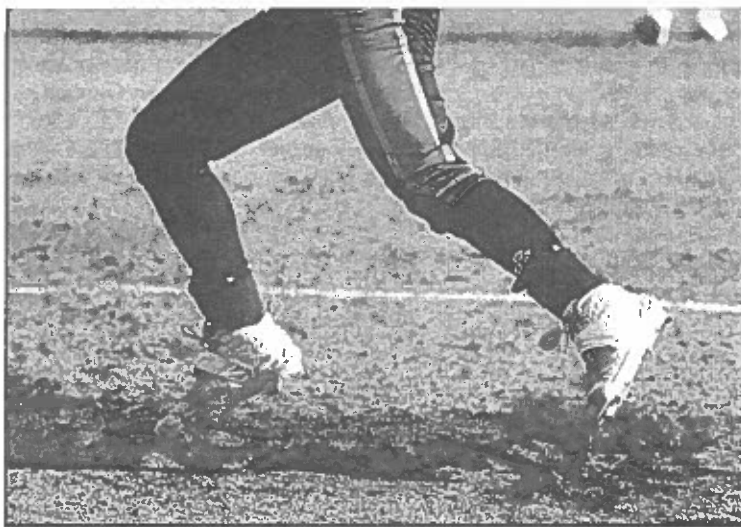
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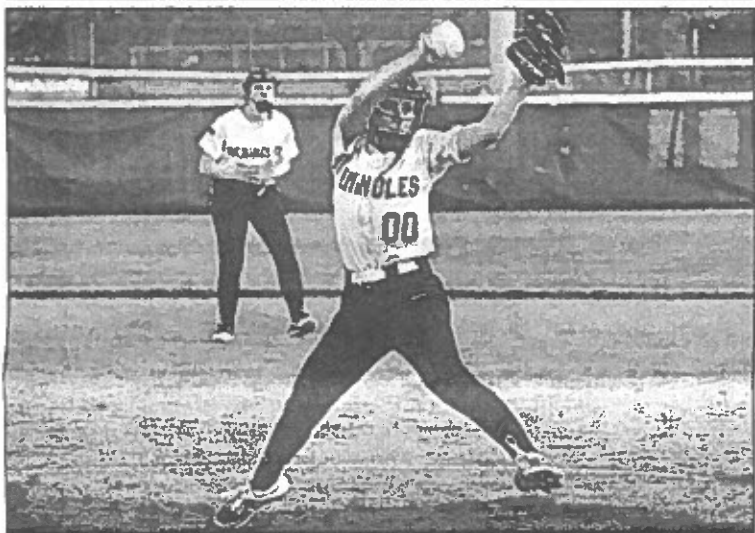
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The Wildcats (13-5) set the tone immediately. They pushed a single run across in the first and second innings before breaking out their heavy lumber in their final two at bats.

"I thought we hit the ball really well (Tuesday)," Edison head coach Spencer Bendle said. "Our lead-off hitter in the game made an out, but it was a line shot. Then our number two hitter followed with a hard-hit ball, and I think that brought us to life. In

softball, (scoring first) is huge."

The two runs were plenty for sophomore pitcher Katie Fluharty, who went the distance and limited the hard-hitting Huskies to just three hits.

"I told the kids when you play in (big games) and the opponent is hitting your pitcher, you'd better be ready to score some runs and we didn't do a very good job at the plate," Young lamented. "I don't know if it was being overly anxious. The number one through six spots (in the order) have to hit for us to score runs. At times, they've done that, but (Tuesday) was one of the games where they didn't do that."

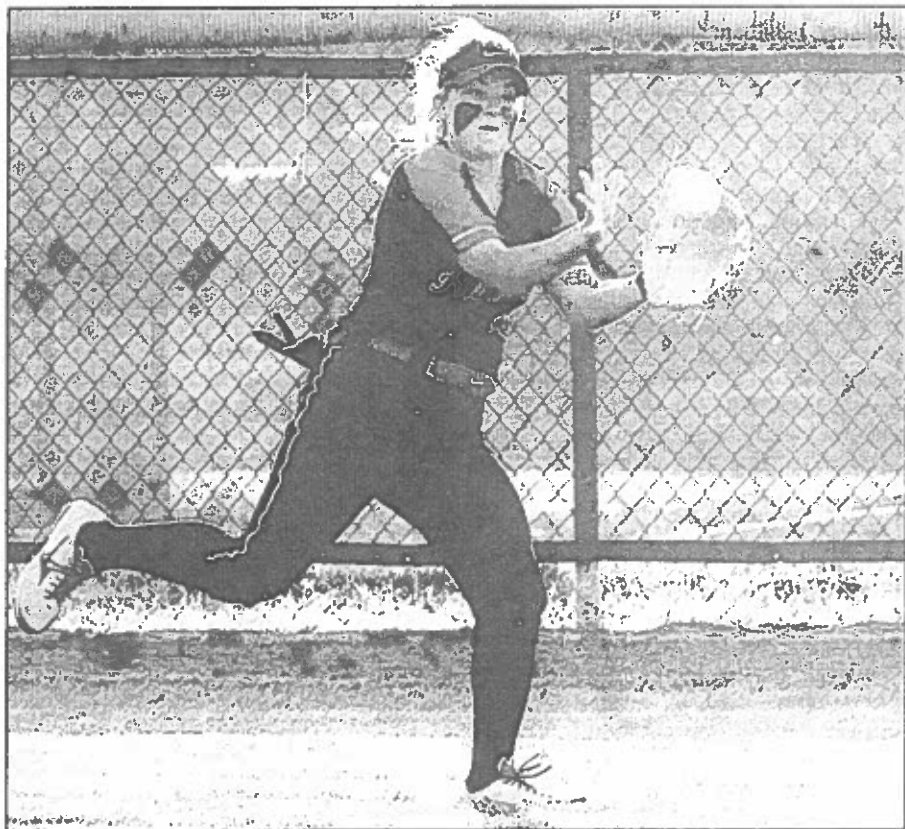
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In the fifth, the Wildcats officially blew it open, scoring six times. Junior Alayna Meadows hit a solo home run. Savanna Anrkom and senior Hannah Christoff each had a RBI single in that big inning.

Harrison was able to push one run across, but left a runner stranded at first that would have extended the game for at least another inning.

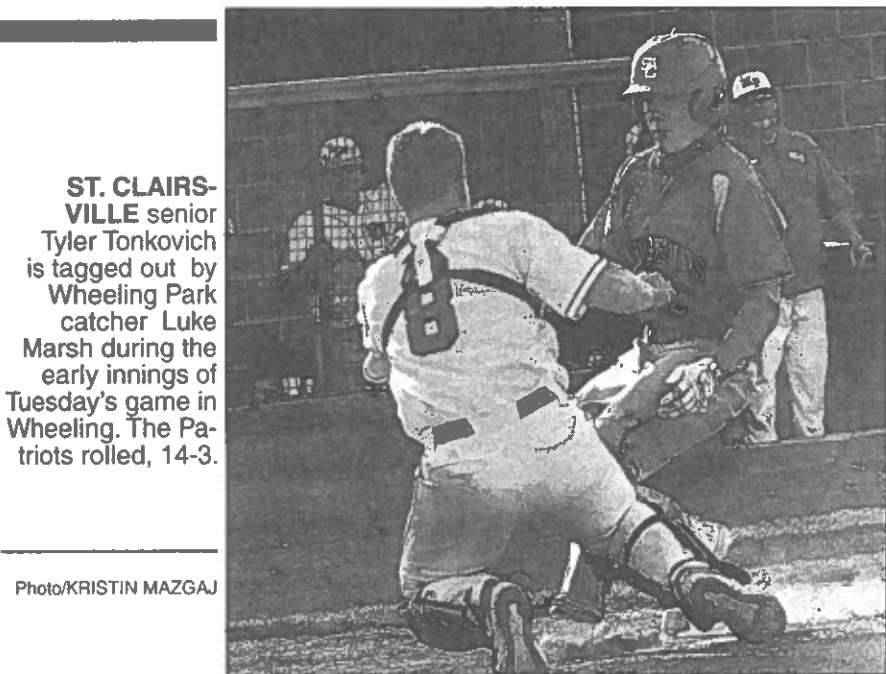
"Katie is pitching well, but I think she

See, **HARRISON**, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

HARRISON CENTRAL right fielder Abby Jozwiak makes a running catch during the second inning of Tuesday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal at the I-470 Complex in Wheeling. The Huskies lost, 12-2.



ST. CLAIRSVILLE senior Tyler Tonkovich is tagged out by Wheeling Park catcher Luke Marsh during the early innings of Tuesday's game in Wheeling. The Patriots rolled, 14-3.

Photo/KRISTIN MAZGAJ

Wheeling Park unloads on St. C.

By **TRACY WATSON**
For The Times Leader

WHEELING - Having not played a game in a week, Coach Steve Myers could only hope that his Wheeling Park baseball team continued its heavy-hitting, run-scoring ways that allowed them to win five of their first six games this season with a quality St. Clairsville squad visiting the hilltop.

Those hopes were realized early on as the Patriots collected 11 hits, scored 12 runs and sent 21 batters to the dish over the first two frames in a five-inning conquest of the Red Devils.

Dylan Gongola scattered six hits in the complete game victory and Wheeling Park's 15-hit attack was highlighted by eight extra-base hits, including a pair of long first inning home runs, as the Patriots scored early and often in steamrolling St. Clairsville by a 14-3 margin on Patriot Field Tuesday afternoon.

Both Wheeling Park (6-1) and Coach Tom Stiva's St. Clairsville (11-6) squad entered yesterday's game sitting in second place in their respective classes in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference standings with Wednesday's cut-off date quickly approaching.

After the Red Devils got the scoring started in the top of the first Tuesday with a little small ball, a bunt single, wild pitch and Tyler Tonkovich base hit to right field, the Patriots answered in a big way in the bottom of the frame with the long ball.

Noah Seivertson reached on a one-out fielder's choice right before James Salvatori jacked the first pitch he saw deep over the center field fence for a two-run blast and a 2-1 lead. Gongola worked a walk on a 3-2 offering and Gian Degenova followed with the second two-run homer of the inning with a shot to deep left.

See, **PARK**, Page B2

It's easy to see owner Shad Khan's excitement and enthusiasm for the Jacksonville Jaguars these days. He's smiling, cracking jokes, taking subtle shots at his previous coach/general manager regime.

It's undoubtedly one of the best weeks of his 10-year tenure, right up there with playing in the AFC championship game in January 2018.

"It's unbelievable," Khan said Tuesday, two days before Jacksonville is set to select Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence with the first pick in the NFL draft. "If this isn't a moment to enjoy for me and for all the Jags fans, you need more coffee or you need something else. This is a great-to-be-alive kind of moment, frankly."

Khan is downright giddy knowing the Jaguars will land Lawrence, widely considered the best quarterback prospect since Andrew Luck in 2012. Khan was a wide-eyed NFL owner back then, with little more than a notion about how the league worked.

He's since learned enough that he kept coach Doug Marrone and general manager Dave Caldwell in place an extra year in 2020 to have them clean up their mess. That decision, which came shortly after

Khan fired top executive Tom Coughlin, was the moment he felt he was "ready to take the training wheels off."

He hired Urban Meyer to replace them, bringing in one of the most decorated coaches in college football history and giving him full reign to change anything and everything he wants within the organization.

"Nine years ago, buying the team, it was like the great journey, the first step on a 1,000-mile journey and looking to the horizon," Khan said. "And what it is now? We've been through ups and downs, mostly downs, and now you're looking at a great upside."

Although Khan declined to tip the obvious top pick, he didn't balk at or even try to deflect any questions that mentioned Lawrence by name or alluded to him as the choice.

"We're looking at hope, optimism," he said. "I want to enjoy the moment. I want all the fans, all of us in Jacksonville, to enjoy this moment and our time in the national spotlight. If we have hope and we're winning, obviously, that's a lot better for the city and it's a lot better for the Jags."

The team went 41-106 in Khan's first nine years, including 2-1 in its one playoff year. The owner has endured eight sea-

sons with double-digit losses while failing repeatedly to find a franchise quarterback. The Jaguars gave Blaine Gabbert, Chad Henne, Blake Bortles, Cody Kessler, Nick Foles, Gardner Minshew, Jake Luton and Mike Glennon chances during Khan's tenure.

"It's that one player (who) is the hardest thing to (find)," he said.

The Jaguars are counting on Lawrence solving a decades-old problem for the small-market franchise. Lawrence comes off a stellar college career at Clemson, going 34-2 as the starter and leading the Tigers to three Atlantic Coast Conference titles and the 2018 national championship.

He completed 66% of his passes for 10,098 yards, with 90 touchdowns and 17 interceptions. Lawrence also ran for 18 scores.

He finished second in Heisman Trophy balloting to Alabama receiver DeVonta Smith last season. Lawrence threw for 3,153 yards, 24 touchdowns and five interceptions while missing two games after testing positive for COVID-19 in October.

He's expected to be the face of Jacksonville's franchise, along with Meyer, for the foreseeable future.

Khan sat in on several video calls in-

volving prospective quarterbacks in recent weeks, including at least one with Lawrence. The owner, who plans to be more involved with decision making than during previous regimes, also has been on hand for a few mock drafts.

He insists this draft will be different from previous ones in Jacksonville that "still had surprises in the draft room."

No one will be shocked when Jacksonville takes Lawrence, who will step into an immediate leadership role on a team still trying to make sense of all Meyer's methodologies. Even Khan is learning more and more about them every day.

"The coaches have to have accountability if the players aren't developing," Khan said. "I think that sense of accountability is really kind of refreshing. You do that in normal walks of life. ... We've always said, 'Well, everything is about talent.'"

"Well, if they don't have the psyche to blend into the team, it's not a good thing. And then if the coaches aren't developing them, then we're going to have what we have had."

Merzlikins shuts out Red Wings, Blue Jackets win in shootout

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Patrik Laine and Oliver Bjorkstrand scored in the shootout and the Columbus Blue Jackets snapped a nine-game losing streak with a 1-0 win over the Detroit Red Wings on Tuesday night.

Laine deked Thomas Greiss and beat him between the pads to lead off. Blue Jackets goalie Elvis Merzlikins denied Jakub Vrana and Adam Erne, and Bjorkstrand's shot sealed the win.

"I can't remember the last time we won. It feels good," Laine said.

Merzlikins, who had 41 saves and made two great stops in the waning seconds of the overtime period, got his second shutout of the season and seventh of his career.

"He gave us every opportunity to win that he could," Laine said. "He was so, so good tonight. I think everybody saw that. He was just making some unbelievable saves all night long."

Greiss had 33 saves for the Red Wings, who have lost five of their last six.

The bottom two teams in the Central Division generated lots of chances but had trouble finishing mostly disjointed offensive pushes. It was a big one for the Blue Jackets, who would have lost 10 straight for the first time in franchise history. They were 0-7-2 and hadn't won in three weeks.

"I'm just happy the guys got to celebrate a little bit, getting a win," Columbus coach John Tortorella said. "It's been a long time."

Detroit's best offensive effort was in the second period when Vrana got a breakaway and beat both Blue Jackets' defensemen down the ice but Merzlikins made the stick save. Later Vladislav Namestnikov got a look at a wide open net from a sharp angle but missed with the shot.

An early first period Blue Jackets goal by Bjorkstrand was waved off after a video

replay showed Eric Robinson was offside entering the zone.

"It wasn't a 0-0 game from chances," Detroit coach Jeff Blashill said. "Both teams had a number of chances. It was a little bit too loose for my liking, probably Torts' liking (also)."

KORPI SIDELINED

Goalie Joonas Korpisalo will be out for the rest of the season after suffering a lower-body injury in the third period of Sunday's loss to Tampa Bay. Matiss Kivlenieks was brought up from the taxi squad to back up Merzlikins the rest of the way.

FREE YOUR MIND

Merzlikins said the key to defending in a shootout is to not think about it.

"You don't have to focus," he said. "You don't have to think, you just have to live the moment. ... If you're going to think, you're going to get scored on every single shot. You can't think about what the guy is going to choose for you, to drag or make a move. So there is a completely free mind. You just do your job and have fun."

VELENO DEBUTS

Center Joe Veleno made his long-awaited NHL debut for the Red Wings, who were eager to see if the 30th overall 2018 draft pick is ready to part of their immediate future. The 21-year-old played this past season in the Swedish professional league, where he had 11 goals and nine assists in 46 games and suffered a mild concussion late in the season. Detroit chose him with one of the three picks obtained from Vegas in the 2018 Tomas Tatar trade. He had two shots on the evening.

UP NEXT

Red Wings: At Carolina on Thursday, then a weekend home back-to-back with Tampa Bay.

Blue Jackets: Travel to Carolina Saturday.

• Ferry

Continued from Page B1

to comeback and we did that again today. The kids have been hitting the ball hard all year. I hope it continues."

Following Tuesday night's game, the Purple Riders are hitting a lofty .376 as a team and have five starters over .400.

Given a four-run cushion sophomore Kelsi Gillespie settled into a groove after the first inning. The righty struck out six and didn't walk a Cadet in improving to 9-2 inside the circle. She retired the final seven batters she faced and yielded four singles. She threw 77 pitches, with 52 being strikes.

"I think our pitching, as of late, has gotten better as the season has progressed," Magistro said. "Our defense is starting to come along and if we can get everything together, I know that's a lot of work, we can be pretty good."

"In my first year with these girls, I'm happy with where we are right now, but we have a lot of things we can improve upon," he continued. "We've got a long way to go. I just hope the kids can continue to learn how to win."

A six-run third inning, in which the Purple once again sent 11 batters to the plate,

sealed the deal. Pollock had a bases-clearing triple and finished with four ribbies. Bell added a two-run double in the outburst and Lauren McFarland's second single of the night drove in her second RBI. Ella McFarland and Thomas each had a pair of hits, with McFarland driving in a pair of runs.

Karena Recrosio had two singles for Linsly.

"There's nothing you can do about that. They found holes and we didn't make plays when we needed to," Linsly head coach Paul Recrosio said. "It was a short turnaround for these girls after losing twice to them on Saturday, but we were ready to play. I'm proud of the way my girls came out at the start."

"Martins Ferry is in mid-season form and we are just getting out of the gate," Recrosio added.

Martins Ferry will be seeking its fourth title in school history after wins in 2000, 2005 and 2011. The Purple Riders face Monroe Central Friday at 5 p.m. on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

• UL

Continued from Page B1

"We're very fortunate to have Maddie and she's a nice luxury," Oak Glen head coach Sherrie Garner said. "She gets keyed up and she's an all-around player. Plus, she has some internal motivation from two years ago when we were here (in the OVAC)."

Being an all-around player was on display in the first inning. With Lizzie Kell on second, following an error, McKay took a Keira Gregor fastball over the left-field fence, putting the Golden Bears on top 2-0.

"When you have to beat one player, you have to show up for the game," UL head coach Melissa Lahna said. "You have to get off the bus ready to play against McKay. We worked (Monday in practice for two-and-a-half hours on staying off the high pitch."

"We didn't do it. We couldn't make anything happen and we served up a meatball (pitching) and we got sauced. We talked about keeping the ball low. We didn't execute."

With McKay giving herself a 2-0 lead, the deficit for the Jets felt upwards of 20 runs.

McKay was flat dealing. She went to just one three-ball count the entire game and quickly erased that with a strikeout.

Meanwhile, the offense kept coming.

The Golden Bears chased Gregor after three innings.

They added three runs in third and closed it out with five runs in the fifth.

Sarah Brown had two singles and two RBI, while Olivia Munoz had a double, single and two RBI. Kell and Sydney Brown each had a double.

Senior Alexis Holden drove in a run.

"We played good defense and we got hitting throughout our lineup," Garner said.

• Harrison

Continued from Page B1

may have been a bit overly excited in that fifth inning to finish the job," Bendle said. "She has a lot of velocity and she's starting to locate her pitches a little bit better with each outing."

• Monroe

Continued from Page B1

In over half of the games we've lost, we've left probably at least 10 runners on base and you can't do that against any team," Bellaire head coach Dave Menendez said after watching 11 of his runners left on the bases. "We had a couple of errors, also, and some walks."

The Big Reds, who were blanked for six innings, had the bases-loaded with no outs in the bottom of the seventh. However, a line drive to the pitcher who fired to third for a double play thwarted the rally. The next batter reached on an error to re-load the bags, but Roderick ended the game with her third punchout.

"There was nothing she could do," Menendez said of the double play. "She took one step on contact and that was all it took. She's a senior, so she's pretty tore up about it."

"Give Monroe Central credit, they hit the ball when they needed to."

The Seminoles will meet top-seeded Martins Ferry (21-4) for the title on Friday at 5 p.m. on Ben's Field. The Purple Riders roughed up Linsly, 12-2, in five innings and also own a pair of wins over the Seminoles.

• St. C.

Continued from Page B1

Luke Marsh added an RBI double in the frame while Avery Lee's second hit of the inning chased home another run. St. Clairsville did not help themselves with a pair of errors. In all, Wheeling Park sent 12 batters to plate, picked up six hits and recorded seven runs.

Myers' squad didn't slow down in the second, sending nine more batters to plate and pushing across five more runs to up the margin to 12-1. The big hit was a bases-loaded, no-out, Marsh double down the right field line while Gage Thomas, Billy Gooch and Lee all chased home runs as well.

Back-to-back doubles from Gongola and DeGenova to start the third increased the lead for the hosts before Thomas' third single, and second RBI, of the game, made it 14-2 after three. Will Balgo had an RBI single for the Devils in the top of the third while Marcus Bush's run-scoring double in the fourth made it 14-3.

"We have been off for a week and the kids came into this game really excited to get the chance to step up to the plate and hit," Myers said. "Coach (Chad) Stout is our hitting coach and has done a great job and the kids have been really effective hitting in practice and it is showing on the field. They really want to go out there and produce every game."

"This was a really great effort (Tuesday). We kind of lean on our pitching and defense a little bit because we feel like our offense has definitely been showing up. And we put everything together against St. Clairsville. We have nine seniors on this team, and they just can't wait to get into the lineup and into games and show what they can do."

"It's been a great start to the season, but we still just want to go out and take things one game at a time. We travel to play a pretty good John Marshall team on Wednesday, so we need to be ready for that next."

The first eight hitters in the Patriots' starting lineup all had at least one hit by the end of the second inning and while the ninth batter didn't have a hit, he had produced an RBI. Thomas had three singles and a pair of RBI for the winners while Marsh and Gongola each doubled twice, with Marsh chasing home three runs. DeGenova and Salvatore both had a home run and double, with three and two RBI respectively.

Jaren Starks had two singles and Bush an RBI double for the Devils.

"We just told the kids to get home quickly, take a shower and wash this one away and forget about it," Sliva commented. "Adversity strikes in baseball often but the key is to learn from it and hopefully it helps you in the future. This was a butt-beating (Tuesday), but they hit the ball so well. The three pitchers we used have actually pitched well coming into this one, including our starter who is only a freshman."

Monarchs Fall to Hawks in OVAC Semifinals

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
For The Intelligencer

ELM GROVE — OVAC softball championships and John Marshall are intertwined. The Monarchs have collected 14 conference crowns in the diamond sport, the last coming in 2018.

However, OVAC title number 15 will have to wait a year as John Marshall dropped a 3-1 decision to University Wednesday evening at the J.B. Chambers Complex.

University will now face city rival Morgantown Friday at 6:30 p.m. in the championship contest at the same venue. The top-seeded Mohigans punched their finals ticket via a 13-2 five-inning win over Steubenville in the other semifinal.

Autumn Stemple was the story of the night in University's well-played triumph.

The talented righthander starred in the circle while also slamming a home run. Stemple was perfect through the first four innings. She ended her masterful performance with 12 strikeouts, no walks while scattering four hits.

Stemple blanked John Marshall early in the season, 1-0, yielding just one hit.

"Autumn was super again tonight. She is amazing," University coach Mindy Park said. "The team has great confidence in her. She again showed why tonight."

"I thought we played really well despite being down four players. We are still dealing with Covid quarantine," she added. "Morgantown is an ex-

cellent team. We look forward to the challenge Friday."

The third-seeded Hawks improved to 6-4.

The loss spoiled a sparkling pitching performance by John Marshall's Kadence Pettit. Like Stemple, she allowed only four hits. She fanned 13 and walked just one.

Pettit accounted for the Monarchs' lone run, crushing a home run deep over the left field fence in the seventh inning. The blast came on an amazing at-bat as she fouled off eight pitches with a 3-2 count.

"I am disappointed. I thought we would hit her (Stemple) better than we did the first time we played them," veteran John Marshall skipper Ed West noted. "She pitched well but she is not overpowering. She is smart. We needed to do a better job at the plate."

"I was confident going into the game. We just didn't hit," he continued. "Kadence pitched very well for us. We just didn't give her enough support."

The Monarchs dropped to 7-4.

After four goose-egg filled innings, University broke through for two runs in the fifth.

Hannah Andriago tripled. Madison Moon reached on a fielder's choice. Moon subsequently stole second and when the throw went down to second base, Andriago came sprinting home for the game's first run. Moon later scored on a Monarch outfield error.

The Hawks made it a 3-0 lighting on the strength of Stemple's homer over the right field fence in the sixth inning.

Other than Pettit's final-frame home run, John Marshall had one other golden opportunity to score, that coming in the fifth.

Tessa Wise and Dori Kins opened the inning with back-to-back seeing-eye singles. Stemple was up to the task, however, retiring the next three batters, two on groundouts and one via the strikeout.

Kins produced two singles for the Monarchs.

OVAC Semifinals Class 5A

**Morgantown 13
Steubenville 2**

WHEELING — Mary Marshall tallied a two-run homer, but Steubenville fell to Morgantown.

Amaria Swearngen tallied a single and double for Big Red.

Regular Season

Indian Creek 3, Brooke 2

WINTERSVILLE — Alexis Dawson delivered a three-run home run to lift Indian Creek over Brooke.

Maleaha Misch fired 10 strikeouts for the Bruins.

**Monroe Central 8
Magnolia 5**

NEW MARTINSVILLE — Regan Hamilton crushed a home run and also had a single to lead Monroe Central to a victory over Magnolia. Ryleigh Windland had four hits for the Seminoles.

For the Blue Eagles, Haiden Bland tallied three singles while Shy White and Isabella

Conner had two hits.

BASKETBALL Class A Region One Co-Final Clay-Battelle 71 Madonna 53

BLACKSVILLE — Madonna's season came to an end after falling to Clay-Battelle in the West Virginia Class A Region One Co-Final.

Matt Amaismeier led the Blue Dons with 17 points, including four 3-point goals. Lucky Pulice netted a 12 points while Evan Bone added 10.

For Cee-Bees, Mojo Chisler dropped a game-high 24 points.

LACROSSE

**Wheeling Central 11
John Glenn 4**

WHEELING — J.D. LaHood netted four goals and dished out two assists as Wheeling Central upended John Glenn.

Braxton Anderson was solid for the Maroon Knights with two goals and a pair of assists, while John Emmerth and Andrew Tiu each supplied two goals and Austin Nestor added one in the win.

John Johnson had seven saves for the Knights.

BASEBALL

**Cartwright Pockets
250th Win**

WHEELING — Linsly defeated Cambridge, which earned Coach Jay Cartwright his 250th career win.

**John Marshall 4
Wheeling Park 2**

GLEN DALE — Joel Wise held a lethal Wheeling Park offense to only two hits, while

striking out three as John Marshall upended the Patriots.

Bryce Rayl, Dillon Wright and Reid Wiley each garnered two hits for the Monarchs and Derek Black provided a single and a RBI in the win.

Dylan Gongola supplied a double and a RBI for Park and Luke Marsh added a RBI.

Martins Ferry 4, Edison 1

RICHMOND — Quamari Lacy struck out 10 as Martins Ferry downed Edison.

Blake Connelly paced the Wildcats with a double.

Cameron 13, Hundred 3

CAMERON — Landon VanTassell belted a home run and single while bringing home five runs as Cameron defeated Hundred. Gage Mikels tallied two singles, two doubles and five RBI for the Dragons while Isaac Ball had a triple.

Wheeling Central 10

Monroe Central 1

WOODSFIELD — Jordan Waterhouse crushed two home runs as Wheeling Central took down Monroe Central. Nick Tsoras also supplied a home run for the Maroon Knights.

For the Seminoles, Wade Stoehr tallied two hits.

Brooke 11, Buckeye Local 0

RAYLAND — Andrew Coursin supplied a single, double, triple and three RBI as Brooke shut out Buckeye Local. Coursin also went all five innings on the mound and struck out 11 batters.

Cole Sperlazza and Andrew Goettel each had a single and double for the Bruins.

For the Panthers, Alan Burkett belted a triple.

Nailers-Fuel Contest Postponed Due To Health And COVID-19 Protocols

WHEELING — The ECHL, the Wheeling Nailers, and the Indy Fuel have announced that their game on Wednesday night was postponed due to ECHL Health and COVID-19 Proto-

cols. All three parties are working on establishing a date for the game to be made up.

Tickets from Wednesday's game can be used for the make-up date. The home-and-home

series between the Nailers and Fort Wayne Komets is still on as scheduled, with the teams playing on Friday in Fort Wayne at 8:00 p.m., then in Wheeling on Saturday at 7:10 p.m.

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 13)

"Pretty short, not great," Minor said of his outing. "We got the early lead, the offense did its job, the defense was making plays behind me and I couldn't do anything for them."

Kyle Zimmer (2-0) got the last two outs of the fifth, and Josh Staumont retired four straight batters for third save.

Mitch Keller (1-3) walked five in 2 1/3 innings, allowed four runs and needed 83 pitches to get seven outs. Keller has 13 walks in 18 2/3 innings over five starts.

"He didn't execute his pitches and they continued to extend at-bats and he wasn't in the zone enough," Pirates manager Derek Shelton said. "He's working hard between starts and it's not paying off the way he'd like. I think there's some frustration there and you're seeing it."

Keller declined to speak with the media following the game.

DODGERS 8, REDS 0

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Clayton Kershaw yielded four hits over seven innings, Justin Turner homered and the Los Angeles Dodgers ended their three-game losing streak with a victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

Kershaw (4-2) struck out eight and walked one never allowing Cincinnati to get a runner to third base.

CARDINALS 5, PHILLIES 3

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Andrew McCutchen returned to the lineup and drove in the go-ahead run, helping Philadelphia beat St. Louis after Bryce Harper was hit in the face by a pitch.

MARLINS 6, BREWERS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Jesus Aguilar homered for the fifth time in six games, a tiebreaking three-run shot off Eric Yardley in the fourth.

TWINS 10, INDIANS 2

CLEVELAND (AP) — Byron Buxton homered on the second pitch from Logan Allen (1-4) and went 5 for 5, Mitch Garver homered twice and the Twins connected six times to end a

four-game skid and win for the second time in 10 games.

Buxton's AL-leading eighth homer triggered a three-homer barrage in the first off Allen. Buxton added two doubles, two singles and stole a base while pushing his average to .438.

NATIONALS 8, BLUE JAYS 2

DUNEDIN, Fla. (AP) — Erick Fedde (2-2) allowed one run and two hits in six innings and Josh Harrison hit a three-run homer as Washington won in George Springer's Blue Jays debut.

RED SOX 1, METS 0

NEW YORK (AP) — Christian Vazquez hit an early RBI double, producing the only run required for the Boston Red Sox to beat Jacob deGrom (2-2).

YANKEES 7, ORIOLES 0

BALTIMORE (AP) — Domingo German (2-2) won his second straight start allowing three hits in seven innings and combining with Michael King on a four-hitter.

RAYS 2, ATHLETICS 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Tyler Glasnow (3-1) struck out 10 and gave up five hits in seven innings, dealing Oakland its third loss in four games after a 13-game winning streak.

BRAVES 10, CUBS 0

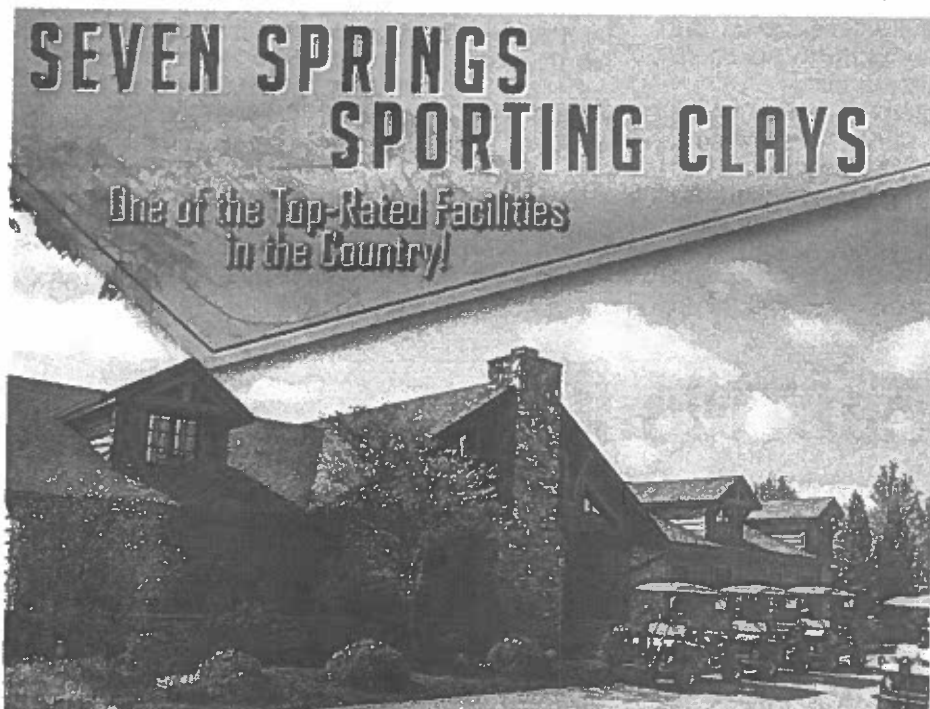
ATLANTA (AP) — Marcell Ozuna homered in a four-run first inning, and Huascar Ynoa (2-1) gave up four hits and struck out nine in 5 1/3 innings. Ynoa also hit his first big league home run, helping Atlanta win its third straight.

Chicago was shut out for the second consecutive night and has lost five in a row.

Freddie Freeman had four hits.

ANGELS 4, RANGERS 3

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Rookie Chris Rodriguez pitched 3 1/3 shut-out innings for the win, and Anthony Rendon and Jose Iglesias hit two-run singles in the first off Dane Dunning (1-1).



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AP PHOTO

PITTSBURGH PIRATES starting pitcher Mitch Keller delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals in Pittsburgh, Wednesday

Royals crown Pirates, 9-6

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jorge Soler had two doubles among his three hits and drove in three runs to lead Kansas City over the Pittsburgh Pirates 9-6 on Wednesday night and improve the Royals' record to a major league-best 15-8.

Soler's doubles sparked three-run rallies in the first and sixth innings, the latter stretching the lead to 9-5.

Kansas City won for the sixth time in seven games.

Salvador Perez also had three of Kansas City's 12 hits. Hunter Dozier hit a two-run triple and Andrew Benintendi added a two-run double.

Erik Gonzalez and Jacob Stallings hit back-to-back home runs for the Pirates, who had won three in a row.

Staked to a 6-0 lead, Kansas City starter Mike Minor lasted just 4 1/3 innings and gave up five runs -- four earned -- six hits and three walks.

Kyle Zimmer (2-0) got the last two outs of the fifth, and Josh Staumont retired four straight batters for third save.

Mitch Keller (1-3) walked five in 2 1/3 innings, allowed four runs and needed 83 pitches to get seven outs. Keller has 13 walks in 18 2/3 innings over five starts.

After Soler doubled in the game's first run, Dozier hit a two-run triple to the 410-foot mark in left-center field.

A bases-loaded walk to Michael A. Taylor in the third inning and consecutive RBI singles by Perez and Soler in the fourth extended the lead to 6-0.

Gonzalez hit a 453-foot shot to the bleachers in left-center. Stallings caught a break when the ball popped out of Taylor's glove when the center fielder banged into the top of the fence while trying to make a catch.

Todd Frazier's first hit with the Pirates, a two-run double in the fifth, cut the gap to 6-5. The two-time All-Star had been 0 for 14 since being called up from the alternate training site last week.

SENT DOWN
The Pirates reassigned OF Dustin

Fowler, who was designated for assignment last week, to their alternate training site after he cleared waivers. He hit .171 in 18 games.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Prates: The team has no timetable yet for when 3B Ke'Bryan Hayes (left wrist strain) might resume swinging. ... **RHP Michael Feliz** (cracked right middle fingernail) threw his first bullpen Wednesday since being injured. ... **RHP Chad Kuhl** (right shoulder discomfort) has started playing catch.

UP NEXT

Royals: RHP Brady Singer (1-2, 2.95 ERA) faces RHP Michael Pineda (1-1, 2.42) on Friday in Minnesota. Singer notched his first win of the season in his last start, holding Detroit to one run in seven innings.

Pirates: RHP JT Brubaker (2-1, 2.01) opposing St. Louis RHP John Gant (1-2, 2.25) on Friday. Brubaker had a tough-luck loss his last time out against the Twins when he allowed two runs in seven innings.

Cavaliers' Love sorry for on-court tantrum

CLEVELAND (AP) — Kevin Love spoke from his heart. Over 13 minutes, he apologized, lectured and asked for forgiveness and understanding.

He regrets his fit of frustration but said it shouldn't define him.

"That wasn't me," Love said. "I apologize for that moment. It was an ugly one. It was one that was not ill-intentioned."

The five-time All-Star apologized Wednesday for his on-court tantrum

two days earlier in a game against Toronto, saying his behavior was out of line and out of character — but that it had nothing to do with any frustration toward his teammates or coaches.

Love did not take any questions from reporters after speaking passionately about the incident, using the Zoom call as what he called a "therapy session" to express his feelings about dealing with an injury this season, and his leadership role in Cleveland and con-

tinued struggle with mental health.

"I (messed) up," Love said, using an expletive to open his remarks.

"Everyone knows that. My intent wasn't to disrespect the game, my intent wasn't even for the damn ball to go inbounds. It was a moment that I got caught up in."

Late in the third quarter against Toronto, a frustrated Love, who was upset with the officials for some non-calls, angrily tapped the

ball back into play on an inbounds pass.

The loose ball was grabbed by the Raptors, who made a 3-pointer and went on to win 112-96.

Video of the tantrum went viral on social media, and Love was blistered by fans and media for behavior called "childish" and "unacceptable."

Love took exception to some of the criticism, saying he felt aspects of his behavior were "a little blown out of proportion."

Probst and Colin Snedeker.

Blake Connelly led the Wildcats with two singles.

Wheeling Central 10, Monroe Central 1

WOODSFIELD — The invading Maroon Knights hit four home runs and pounded out 18 total hits in a rout of the Seminoles Wednesday.

Wheeling Central received a pair of solo home runs from senior Jordan Waterhouse.

Monroe Central received two singles from Wade Stoehr and a RBI single from Collin Kroll.

River 13, Valley 3

HANNIBAL — Just a night after committed 10 errors, the Pilots played flawless defense in a win over Valley at Rick Bonar Field.

Jake Rose and Carter Dennis led the offensive attack with a single and a triple. Brody Lollathin had a double and Brady Harlan had two singles.

SOFTBALL

River 5, Barnesville 1

BARNESVILLE — The Pilots picked up another win in an OVAC championship tuneup over the Shamrocks at Memorial Park.

River received strong pitching from Katie Lively. She fanned seven in a complete-game effort.

Hannah Raper led the offense with three singles and three RBI. Aedyn Kraft had two singles and a RBI. Josie Reed produced a triple and Lindsey Huffman had two singles.

The Shamrocks received two singles from Savanna Robinson.

Union Local 11, Buckeye Local 0

CONNORVILLE — Just 24 hours removed from having a perfect game achieved against them, the Jets bounced back and pounded out 12 hits and no hit the homesteading Panthers on Wednesday.

Keira Gregor struck out four and walked one in a masterpiece. She also had a single and a RBI.

Senior Casey Kildow came up big with the bat. She had two triples, a double and two RBI. Ava Lucas had two RBI on two singles. Alleigh Cheatham had a single and two RBI. Torre Kildow had a triple and a single.

JM softball falls in OVAC

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
For The Times Leader

ELM GROVE - OVAC softball championships and John Marshall are intertwined. The Monarchs have collected 14 conference crowns in the diamond sport, the last coming in 2018.

However, OVAC title number 15 will have to wait a year as John Marshall dropped a 3-1 decision to University Wednesday evening at the J.B. Chambers Complex.

University will now face city rival Morgantown Friday at 6:30 p.m. in the championship contest at the same venue. The top-seeded Mohigans punched their finals ticket via a 13-2 five-inning win over Steubenville in the other semifinal.

Autumn Stemple was the story of the night in University's well-played triumph.

The talented righthander starred in the circle while also slamming a home run. Stemple was perfect through the first four innings. She ended her masterful performance with 12 strikeouts, no walks while scattering four hits.

Stemple blanked John Marshall early in the season, 1-0, yielding just one hit.

The third-seeded Hawks improved to 6-4.

The loss spoiled a sparkling pitching performance by John Marshall's Kadence Pettit. Like Stemple, she allowed only four hits. She fanned 13 and walked just one.

Pettit accounted for the Monarchs' lone run, crushing a home run deep over the left field fence in the seventh inning.

The blast came on an amazing at-bat as she fouled off eight pitches with a 3-2 count.

Cherished Memories

A Mother's Day Tribute

Sunday, May 9th, 2021

Sample

Zimbeco

In Loving Memory of
Mary Lou Zimbeco
who passed away Sept. 29, 2016

God saw she was getting tired and a cure was not to be. So He put his arms around her and whispered "Come with Me."

With tearful eyes we watched her suffer and saw her fade away. Although we loved her dearly, we could not make her stay.

Remember your loved one for only

\$2900*

*includes up to

20 typed lines, border & color photo

Additional Lines \$1.00 each.

Use your own verse or choose from those available in our office

Deadline to participate is

Monday, May 3.

Sports on TV	
<p>Thursday, April 29</p> <p>AUTO RACING 8 p.m.</p> <p>FS2 — NHRA: The Sportsman Series, Las Vegas (taped)</p> <p>6:25 a.m. (Friday)</p> <p>ESPN — Formula One: Practice, Algarve International Circuit, Portugal</p> <p>COLLEGE BASEBALL 7 p.m.</p> <p>SECN — Auburn at Georgia</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p> <p>ESPN — Kentucky at Tennessee</p> <p>COLLEGE LACROSSE (WOMEN'S) 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>CBSSN — Georgetown at Loyola (Md.)</p> <p>COLLEGE LACROSSE (WOMEN'S) 2 p.m.</p> <p>BTN — Big Ten Tournament: Ohio St. vs. Rutgers, Quarterfinal, University Park, Pa.</p> <p>5 p.m.</p> <p>BTN — Big Ten Tournament: Michigan vs. Maryland, Quarterfinal, University Park, Pa.</p> <p>8 p.m.</p> <p>BTN — Big Ten Tournament: Penn St. vs. Johns Hopkins, Quarterfinal, University Park, Pa.</p> <p>9 a.m.</p> <p>GOLF — PGA Tour: The Tenente Open, First Round, Golf Costa Adeje, Tenerife, Spain</p> <p>2 p.m.</p> <p>GOLF — PGA Tour: The Valspar Championship, First Round, Copperhead Course, Tampa, Fla.</p> <p>10:30 p.m.</p> <p>GOLF — LPGA Tour: The HSBC Women's World Championship, Second Round, Sentosa Golf Club - Tanjong Course, Singapore</p> <p>HORSE RACING 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>FS2 — America's Day at the Races</p> <p>MIXED MARTIAL ARTS 9 p.m.</p> <p>ESPN2 — PFL 2: Rory MacDonald vs. Curtis Malender (Welterweights), Atlantic City, N.J.</p> <p>MLB BASEBALL 1 p.m.</p> <p>MLBN — Philadelphia at St. Louis OR NY Yankees</p>	<p>at Baltimore</p> <p>4 p.m.</p> <p>MLBN — Seattle at Houston (joined in progress)</p> <p>7 p.m.</p> <p>MLBN — Chicago Cubs at Atlanta OR LA Dodgers at Milwaukee (7:30 p.m.)</p> <p>11:30 p.m.</p> <p>MLBN — Colorado at Arizona (joined in progress)</p> <p>NBA BASKETBALL 7 p.m.</p> <p>NBA TV — Brooklyn at Indiana</p> <p>NFL FOOTBALL 8 p.m.</p> <p>ABC — NFL Draft: Round 1, Cleveland</p> <p>ESPN — NFL Draft: Round 1, Cleveland</p> <p>NFLN — NFL Draft: Round 1, Cleveland</p> <p>NHL HOCKEY 8 p.m.</p> <p>NBCSN — Florida at Chicago</p> <p>9 p.m.</p> <p>NBCSN — Calgary at Edmonton (joined in progress)</p> <p>RUGBY 5:30 a.m.</p> <p>FS2 — NRL: South Sydney at Canberra</p> <p>4 a.m. (Friday)</p> <p>FS2 — NRL: Cronulla-Sutherland at Melbourne</p> <p>SOCCER (MENS) 9 p.m.</p> <p>CBSSN — UEFA Europa League: TBA, Semifinals Leg 1 (taped)</p> <p>11 p.m.</p> <p>CBSSN — UEFA Europa League: TBA, Semifinals Leg 1 (taped)</p> <p>TENNIS 5 a.m.</p> <p>TENNIS — Madrid-WTA, Munich-ATP, Estoril-ATP, Early Rounds</p> <p>6 a.m.</p> <p>TENNIS — Madrid-WTA, Munich-ATP, Estoril-ATP, Early Rounds</p> <p>5 a.m. (Friday)</p> <p>TENNIS — Munich-ATP & Estoril-ATP Quarterfinals, Madrid-WTA: Early Rounds</p> <p>6 a.m. (Friday)</p> <p>TENNIS — Munich-ATP & Estoril-ATP Quarterfinals, Madrid-WTA: Early Rounds --</p>
Prep Lines	
<p>BASEBALL</p> <p>Shadyside 9, Madonna 0</p> <p>Madonna 000 000 0 - 0 1 2</p> <p>Shadyside 020 601 x - 9 10 2</p> <p>M - Flowing Ip (0K, 2BB), Hair (5) (2K, 2BB) and Brnic.</p> <p>S - Francis (3K, 0BB), Vannest wp (3) (4K, 0BB), Stottemyer (5) (4K, 0BB) and Florence, Francis 3S; Vannest 1 strike, Stottemyer 2S, Florence 2S, Brnic 2S, 2B.</p>	<p>Wheeling Central 10, Monroe Central 1</p> <p>Wheeling Central 114 220 0 - 10 18 0</p> <p>Monroe Central 000 100 0 - 1 7 3</p> <p>WC - Tuepla wp (9K, 5BB) and Hartman. Tucker 2S, rbi; Tsorras HR, S, rbi; Waterhouse 2HR, 2bi; Tuepla HR, 3S, 3bi; Hartman 3S, Toepler D, 2S; Ondrejco D; Hildebrand D, S, rbi.</p> <p>MC - Hogue Ip (4K, 1BB), Kroll (4) (6K, 0BB) and Lively. Silver 2S, Kroll 2S, rbi.</p>

Ferry Stuns Monroe, 12-5

By KIM NORTH
For the News-Register

ELM GROVE — Martins Ferry has shown its power at the plate on numerous occasions this spring. Friday night the Purple Riders waited until late in their Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tom Bechtel Class 3A Championship contest with Monroe Central before flexing their muscles.

Trailing 5-4 entering the home half of the sixth inning, top-seeded Martins Ferry connected for three two-run homers in scoring eight times for a 12-5 triumph over the stunned Seminoles (11-10) on wind-swept and chill-filled Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

With the come-from-behind win, the Purple Riders improved to 22-4 and claimed the program's fourth OVAC softball banner. The others came in 2000, 2005 and 2011.

"I knew we could hit the ball, and we did, but their outfield played outstanding," Martins Ferry head coach Jerry Magistro said. "They made some really good catches, but I thought it was just a matter of time before we broke loose."

And no better time than when you're behind and only have six outs remaining.

Ella McFarland started the game-winning rally with an infield single. Three pitches later, No. 8 hitter Ava Doyle put Martins Ferry ahead to stay at 6-5 with a two-run shot to left-center. It was her third roundtripper of the season.

"As soon as I saw the ball leave the pitcher's hand I knew it was going to be the pitch to hit. When it left the bat I knew it was going over the fence," Doyle said. "I've never experienced anything like this. It's awesome."

Kelsi Gillespie, the winning pitcher in Tuesday's semifinal over Linsly, drew a walk and Hunter Pollock sent an 0-1 offering from Liz Roderick well into the night to deep left. Danielle Lude reached on an infield single that ricocheted off the mask of Seminoles' third baseman Brookelynn Grubb before Maria Clark rocketed a laser well over the fence in left to make it 10-5. Shelby Thomas and Ella McFarland capped the outburst with run-scoring groundouts.

The three home runs give Martins Ferry 28 as a team this season. Ten of



Photo by Kim North

Martins Ferry pitcher Lauren McFarland throws a pitch during Friday's OVAC Championship victory.

the 13 team members have at least one and Clark leads with seven, one more than Pollock.

Lauren McFarland shrugged off the five-run second and didn't allow another run. She struck out six, walked a pair and threw 107 pitches, with 76 being strikes. She also drove in three runs with two singles.

BASEBALL

Tyler Consolidated 17, Beallsville 3
SISTERSVILLE — The Tyler Consolidated baseball team has won six out of seven and continued to do damage at the plate in a convincing win over Beallsville.

Hayden Brown threw a complete five-inning game with five strikeouts and no walks.

Jayden Helmick and Zade Billings each produced two singles, a double and three RBI and Mason Nichols added two singles, a double and two RBI in the triumph.

Union Local 3, Edison 2

MORRISTOWN — Tre Rex struck out 10 and walked six, while allowing no hits through four-and-a-third as Union Local edged Edison.

Dylan Higgenbotham and Evan White each drove in a run and tallied a hit for the Jets.

Tyler Gummere finished the job with three strikeouts in the final two-and-two-thirds innings.

Matt Parsons paced the Wildcats with a hit and a RBI and Blake Connelly struck out four and walked one, while allowing just four hits in six innings.

Abernathy's Love For Team Got Her Back on the Court

By KYLE LUTZ
Sport Writer
CHARLESTON

When the Wheeling Park girls basketball team walked off the Charleston Coliseum's floor Thursday night after falling to Morgantown in the West Virginia Class AAAA state quarterfinals, it marked the end to a tremendous career for senior Bella Abernathy.

While it was not the end that she and the Patriots wanted, there are several things about Abernathy that will never be questioned. That is her heart, character, determination and motivation.

Abernathy, fractured her finger in late March and had to miss a handful of games near the end of the regular season. The initial thought was Abernathy was done for the year.

However, Abernathy was not going to take that as an answer. The senior showed her teammates and community what true leadership was. And when it came down to it, Abernathy was back playing for the Patriots two weeks later.

"I just love this team. So, I was just trying to do anything to get back even if I wasn't 100%," Abernathy said after the quarterfinal loss to Morgantown. "I just wanted to play one more time. This is my last year, so I was thinking to come down here, play as hard as I can and play for all my friends. I've been playing with them since like third grade. It just didn't end the way we wanted to."

Going into the state tournament, Abernathy was averaging 18.5 points per game for the Patriots while also grab-

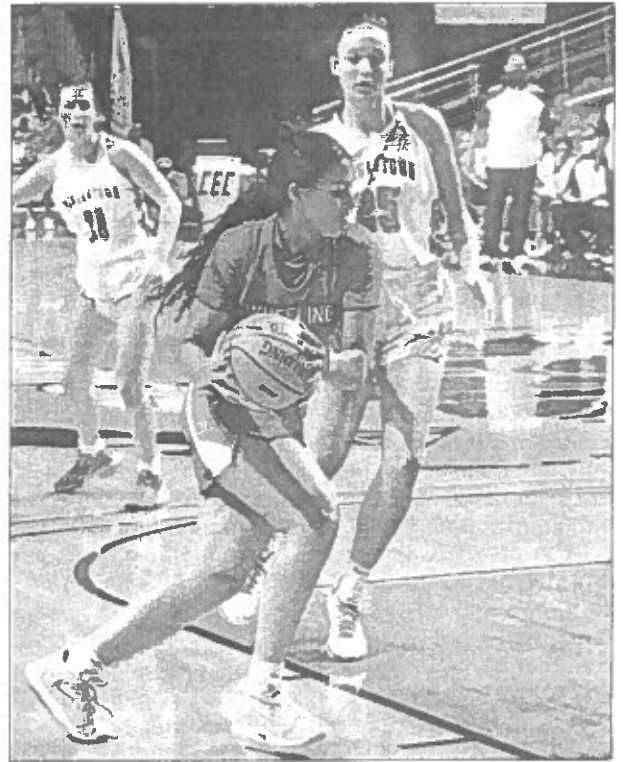


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Wheeling Park's Bella Abernathy's determination helped her to play in the state tournament after her injury earlier in the season.

bing eight rebounds.

She also scored 13 points against University in the regional co-final to help the Patriots punch their ticket to the state tournament.

The senior faced more adversity in Charleston. Picking up her second foul in 61 seconds of the game, Abernathy was forced to watch from the bench for the remainder of the quarter.

However, this adversity wasn't even close to what she had faced this year. And her strong leadership off the court was just as strong as it was on the court.

With her back in the game in the second quarter, Abernathy led the charge for a Wheeling Park rally. And as the Patriots were down by as many as 16 in the game, Wheeling Park was able

to cut it to a single possession on a couple of occasions in the fourth quarter.

Although Wheeling Park won't be cutting down the nets, the mindset of Abernathy is exactly what success looks like.

"It's amazing what she did. She could have said, 'I can't come back.'" Wheeling Park coach Ryan Young said. "The doctor told her it was going to be six weeks and she came back in two weeks. What she did in that time, she was focused on what we were doing as a team then going and working out on her own. Everything was about her coming back to this team. That just shows how much love you have for your friends and teammates. I've got a lot of respect for Bella."

WE
CAN
DO
THIS

COVID-19 PUSHED US
ALL TO THE BRINK.
NOW, WE PUSH BACK.

