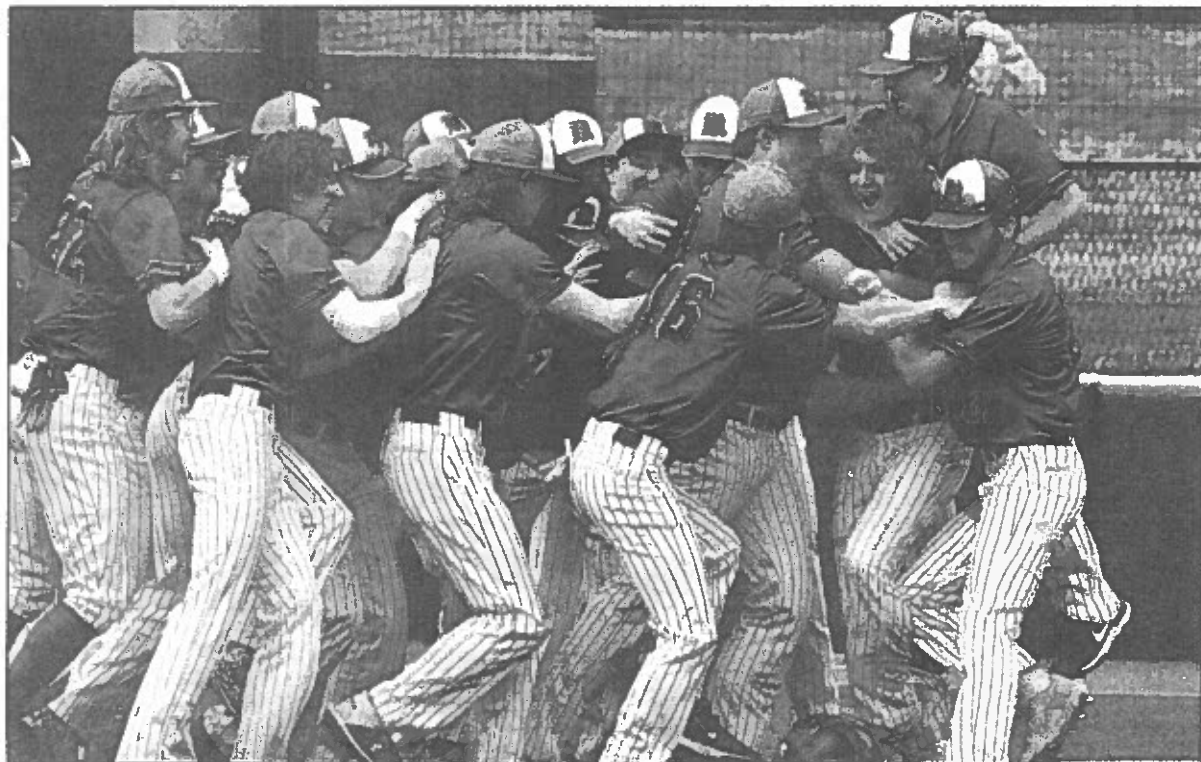


Prep Roundup/B2
 Counsel/B3
 Comics/B4
 Classified/B5-6

SPORTS

Monday,
 May 2, 2022

OVAC CLASS 3A BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

MARTINS FERRY pitcher Colby Shriver is swarmed by teammates after the Purple Riders defeated Barnesville, 2-1, to win the OVAC Class 3A baseball title Saturday at Edison High School.

Martins Ferry edges past Barnesville, 2-1, in classic

• Purple Riders capture second title in program history, other in 2002

By SETH STASKEY
 Times Leader Sports Editor

RICHMOND — The emotional pendulum was swinging back and forth at a feverish pace during Saturday's OVAC Class 3A championship game at Edison High School.

That's become commonplace for Martins Ferry, however, in the conference title game.

The Purple Riders, who have become seemingly regular entrants in the conference tournament, have been on the wrong end of their prior two appearances.

Coach Anthony Reasbeck's squad finally broke through, though, fending off Barnesville for a hard-earned 2-1 victory, giving the Purple Riders their first conference title since 2002 and just the second in school history.

"I tend to panic at times during these games, but the kids don't," a relieved Reasbeck said. "I have great guys who battle. I love this group of kids."

While the Purple Riders celebrated with the tra-

ditional dogpile and gave Reasbeck the Gatorade bath, it wasn't all smooth sailing.

Leading the entire game, Martins Ferry could only stand and watch as Barnesville senior Gavin Carpenter trotted around the bases for what was believed to be a game-tying, two-run home run.

However, seeing the reaction of his left fielder and center fielder to the call of a home run, Reasbeck came out to talk to the umpire crew, which promptly got together.

After a brief discussion, the umpires determined Carpenter's ball had hit in the field of play and bounced over the fence, thus resulting in a ground-rule double. That put Carpenter at second and made the score 2-1.

"The main thing going through my mind was to not get thrown out (of the game)," Reasbeck said matter of factly. "It bounced well short of the fence, but that was a weird play and I am glad the umpires got together and got the call right."

See, CLASSIC, Page B2

Browns check boxes, add talent in draft but Mayfield still lingers

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Their worries about finding a franchise quarterback seemingly over, the Cleveland Browns were able to focus on filling other pressing needs in this year's NFL draft.

They checked all the boxes — minus one.

Browns general manager Andrew Berry, who made his big move last month by acquiring Deshaun Watson in a league-shaking trade, added four offensive players, four on defense and the best available kicker over the past three days.

Berry finished his third draft for Cleveland with a flurry on Saturday by making two deals and drafting six players — three from Oklahoma.

"I don't think it necessarily even hit my brain at that time," Berry said of the oddity in taking three Sooners, two with consecutive selections. "Just happens to be an interesting coincidence."

Interesting.

That's one way to put it.

After all, Cleveland's most famous Oklahoma product, Baker Mayfield, ended the weekend still on the Browns' roster and in limbo — a lost QB.

Mayfield's been on the trade block since Watson's shocking arrival, but the Browns have not been able to strike a deal and move the No. 1 overall pick in 2018. There seemed to be momentum for a possible swap with Carolina on Friday, but those talks bogged down — reportedly over how much of Mayfield's \$18.8 contract the Browns would pay — and the Panthers moved up and selected Mississippi quarterback Matt Corral.

Steelers retool their offense through picks

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The on-the-fly retooling of the Pittsburgh Steelers' offense is nearly complete.

Outgoing general manager Kevin Colbert ended his 20-plus-year tenure with the organization by investing heavily in offensive skill players in his final draft, with the hope that his still-unnamed successor is well-positioned for the future.

"(Colbert's) impact on us will continue to be felt. played out in the lives of the men we selected," coach Mike Tomlin said.

A potential franchise quarterback in Kenny Pickett? Check. A field-stretching wide receiver in George Pickens? Check.

A versatile and speedy slot guy in Calvin Austin III? Check.

Throw them into the mix with the top of the 2021 draft class that featured running back Najee Harris and tight end Pat Freiermuth and it's clear the Steelers have loaded up on young and relatively inexpensive talent (at least in the short-term).

Rain postpones NASCAR Cup race at Dover's 'Monster Mile' to today

DOVER, Del. (AP) — Martin Truex Jr. has the blueprint for how to win at Dover Motor Speedway on Mondays.

Step 1, rain on Sundays.

Truex can win for the third time at the Monster Mile on the unconventional race day after rain stopped the action only 78 laps into the 400-mile race Sunday. Truex raced to his first NASCAR Cup win June 4, 2007, at Dover and 12 years later used another rainout to take the checkered flag on May 6, 2019.

It's the fourth time out of 104 career Dover races

it will run on a Monday.

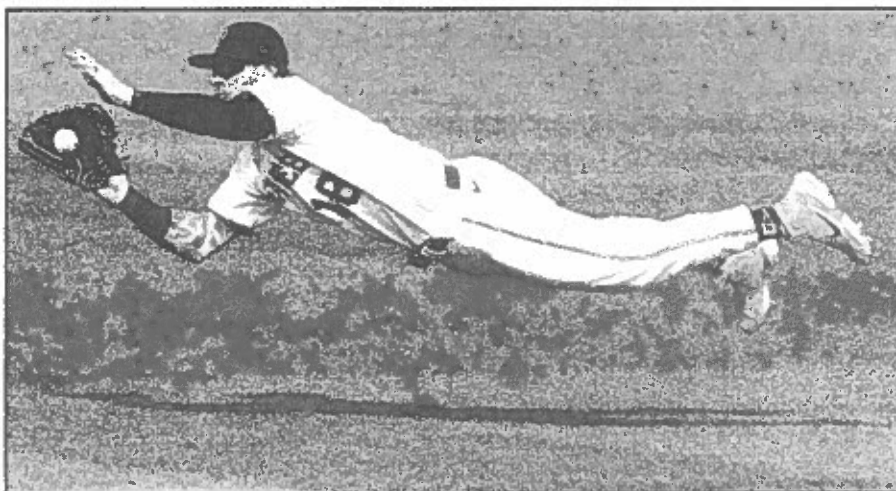
With a green flag start just after 3 p.m., and no lights at the concrete mile track, NASCAR faced a tight window to reach the halfway mark needed for an official race. So they'll fire the engines again at noon Monday with Hendrick Motorsports teammates Kyle Larson and Chase Elliott starting 1-2. Ryan Blaney is third, Truex is fourth and William Byron fifth.

Larson used his umbrella as a de facto cane as he walked back from pit road into the garage area. He stopped and posed for

pictures with members of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Dover.

Truex is winless this season with two top-five finishes over the first 10 Cup races. He won four races last season and would certainly like to break through into the win column, especially in the midst of contract negotiations with Joe Gibbs Racing. The 41-year-old Truex made his 596th career start at Dover and is set to join Kyle Busch, Kevin Harvick, Kurt Busch as active drivers with 600 starts.

See, NASCAR, Page B2



AP Photo

PITTSBURGH PIRATES left fielder Ben Gamel makes a diving catch on a fly ball hit by San Diego Padres' Eric Hosmer during the sixth inning of a game in Pittsburgh, Sunday.

Musgrove, Padres top Pirates

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Joe Musgrove struck out eight over seven solid innings and the San Diego Padres beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 5-2 Sunday.

The game was Musgrove's second with the Padres at PNC Park since being traded from Pittsburgh to San Diego after the 2020 season. He pitched

of the season and had five hits over the final two games in Pittsburgh. Austin Nola had two hits and scored three times and Abrams doubled and singled as the eight, nine and one spots powered the San Diego offense.

"It's important for us to get some contributions all over the board and

Guardians complete first Oakland sweep since April 10-12, 2000

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The Cleveland Guardians completed their first sweep of the Oakland Athletics since 2000 on Sunday.

lor Cope won the discus with a mark of 142-10. Shadyside was fueled by senior speedster Mason VanNest, who won the 100 meter dash in 11.11. Kooper Chimley grabbed the 400 meter dash title with a 53.97. In the field, Jayden Carmichael won the long jump with a mark of 19-7. The Tigers 4x8 prevailed in 9:17.07. Barnesville won the

with a mark of 39-9 1/2 and the discus with a twirl of 116-feet. Shamrocks also won the 800 thanks to Marah Bethel's 2:25.54. Shadyside's first victory of the day came from senior Paige Gorby, who captured the long jump with a mark of 15-9.0. The Tigers picked up a win in the high hurdles thanks to the work of Kierstyn Elerick, who won by nearly a full second with a time of 17.55.

and two singles and a like number of RBI from Alexis Morgan. **Shadyside 18, Frontier 2** BEAVERTON - Shadyside struck early and often en route to routing homesteading Frontier on Saturday. Taylor Fulton got the win in the circle with five strikeouts and nary a walk. She also had three singles and two RBI. Junior Gentry Brown was a triple short of the

Toronto 6, Wheeling Central 3 RICHMOND - Toronto pocketed the school's 10th Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship with a 6-3 victory against Wheeling Central. The pressure that Perkins is speaking came from the Red Knight offense against Maroon Knight ace Ben Foster, who pitched relatively well.

SOFTBALL
Union Local 4, Bellaire 3
Bellaire 120 000 0-3 7 2
Union Local 000 000 4-4 5 5
B - Jackson Ip (2K, 4BB) and Schmidt. Ault T, S; Morgan 2S, 2rbi.
UL - Gregor wp (3K, 4BB) and McGary. Kellaway S, T, 3rbi; Yager rbi.
Shadyside 18, Frontier 2
Shadyside 560 34-18 19 0
Frontier 010 10-2 9 4
S - T. Fulton wp (5K, 0BB) and Saxton. Smith T, S; Brown D, HR, S, 2rbi; Violet D, 2S; Hendershot D, S, 3rbi; Gorrell D, S, 2rbi; T. Fulton 3S, 2rbi.
F - Berentz Ip (3K, 1BB) and Schmidt. Rinard 3S, rbi; Ramsey S, rbi.
Harrison Central 7, Edison 2
Edison 000 110 0-2 8 5
Harrison Central 001 051 x-7 5 1
E-Meadows Ip (4K, 5BB), Browning (5), (0K, 0BB), Evans (5), (2K, 1BB) and Funkhauser; Scott 2S; Stewart S, D, rbi; Fluharty T HC-Kovarik wp (2K, 1BB) and Clelland; Touville S, 2rbi; Clelland 2S, rbi; Kovarik rbi; Tonkovich rbi; Yeager S, 2rbi

2 (b2) George Pickens, wr, Georgia.
3 (84) DeMarvin Leal, dt, Texas A&M.
4 (138) Calvin Austin III, wr, Michigan State.
6 (208) Connor Heyward, te, Michigan State.
7 (225) Mark Robinson, lb, Mississippi.
7 (241) Chris Oladokun, qb, South Dakota State.

NHL Playoffs

FIRST ROUND
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Carolina vs. Boston
Monday: Boston at Carolina, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers vs. Pittsburgh
Tuesday: Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Thursday: Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Saturday: N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Monday, May 9: N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
x-Wednesday, May 11: Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers, TBA
x-Friday, May 13: N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, TBA
x-Sunday, May 15: Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers, TBA
Toronto vs. Tampa Bay
Monday: Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Florida vs. Washington
Tuesday: Washington at Florida, 7:30 p.m.

Sports on TV

Monday, May 2
MLB BASEBALL
7 p.m.
MLBN - Regional Coverage: Atlanta at NY Mets OR Seattle at Houston (8 p.m.)
11 p.m.
MLBN - Tampa Bay at Oakland (Joined in Progress)
NBA BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.
TNT - Eastern Conference Semifinal: Philadelphia at Miami, Game 1
10 p.m.
TNT - Western Conference Semifinal: Dallas at Phoenix, Game 1
NHL HOCKEY
7 p.m.
ESPN - Eastern Conference First Round: Boston at Carolina, Game 1
7:30 p.m.
ESPN2 - Eastern Conference First Round: Tampa Bay at Toronto, Game 1
9:30 p.m.
ESPN - Western Conference First Round: St. Louis at Minnesota, Game 1
10 p.m.
ESPN2 - Western Conference First Round: Los Angeles at Edmonton, Game 1

MLB Glimpse

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	16	6	.727	
Toronto	15	8	.652	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	12	10	.545	4
Boston	9	14	.391	7 1/2
Baltimore	8	14	.364	8
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	13	9	.591	
Cleveland	10	12	.455	3
Chicago	8	13	.381	4 1/2
Kansas City	7	13	.350	5
Detroit	7	14	.333	5 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	15	8	.652	
Seattle	12	10	.545	2 1/2
Houston	11	11	.500	3 1/2
Oakland	10	12	.455	4 1/2
Texas	8	14	.364	6 1/2

Sunday's Games
Minnesota 9, Tampa Bay 3
Baltimore 9, Boston 5
Toronto 3, Houston 2
Seattle 7, Miami 3
L.A. Angels 6, Chicago White Sox 5
N.Y. Yankees 6, Kansas City 4
Texas 7, Atlanta 3
L.A. Dodgers 6, Detroit 3
Cleveland 7, Oakland 3
Monday's Games
Kansas City (Greinke 0-1) at St. Louis (Matz 2-1), 1:15 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Sandoval 1-0) at Chicago White Sox (Case 2-1), 2:10 p.m.
Minnesota (Paddock 0-2) at Baltimore (Wells 0-2), 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Montgomery 0-1) at Toronto (Stripling 0-0), 7:07 p.m.
Seattle (Gonzales 1-2) at Houston (Odriziz 1-2), 8:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Rasmussen 1-1) at Oakland (Jefferies 1-3), 9:40 p.m.

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	15	7	.682	
Miami	12	9	.571	2 1/2
Philadelphia	11	11	.500	4
Atlanta	10	13	.435	5 1/2
Washington	8	16	.333	8
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	15	8	.652	
St. Louis	12	9	.571	2
Chicago	9	13	.409	5 1/2
Pittsburgh	9	13	.409	5 1/2
Cincinnati	3	19	.136	11 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	14	7	.667	
San Diego	15	8	.652	
San Francisco	14	8	.636	1/2
Colorado	13	9	.591	1 1/2
Arizona	10	13	.435	5

Sunday's Games
San Diego 5, Pittsburgh 2
Chicago Cubs 2, Milwaukee 0
Seattle 7, Miami 3
St. Louis 7, Arizona 5
Texas 7, Atlanta 3
Colorado 10, Cincinnati 1
L.A. Dodgers 6, Detroit 3
Washington 11, San Francisco 5
Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets, late
Monday's Games
Kansas City (Greinke 0-1) at St. Louis (Matz 2-1), 1:15 p.m.
Arizona (Gallen 0-0) at Miami (Lopez 3-0), 8:40 p.m.
Atlanta (Fried 2-2) at N.Y. Mets (Bassitt 3-1), 7:10 p.m.

MLB Moves

National League
CINCINNATI REDS - Recalled OF TJ Friedl from Louisville (IL). Placed OF Jake Frately and 2B Jonathan India (retroactive to April 30) on the 10-day IL. Added INF Ajeiro Lopez to the taxi squad. Optioned INF Alejo Lopez and LHP Reiver Sanmartin to Louisville.

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Calgary vs. Dallas
Tuesday: Dallas at Calgary, 10 p.m.
Edmonton vs. Los Angeles
Monday: Los Angeles at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
Colorado vs. Nashville
Tuesday: Nashville at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
Minnesota vs. St. Louis
Monday: St. Louis at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.

NBA Playoffs

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
(Best-of-7)
x-if necessary
Eastern Conference
Milwaukee 1, Boston 0
Sunday: Milwaukee 101, Boston 89
Tuesday: Milwaukee at Boston, 7 p.m., TNT
Miami vs. Philadelphia
Monday: Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m., TNT
Western Conference
Phoenix vs. Dallas
Monday: Dallas at Phoenix, 10 p.m., TNT
Golden State 1 vs. Memphis 0
Sunday: Golden State 117, Memphis 116
Tuesday: Golden State at Memphis, 9:30 p.m., TNT

ECHL Playoffs

DIVISION SEMIFINALS
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
CENTRAL DIVISION
Wheeling 3, Fort Wayne 2
Wheeling 1, Fort Wayne 0
Wheeling 4, Fort Wayne 2
Fort Wayne 4, Wheeling 1
Fort Wayne 4, Wheeling 3, OT
Fort Wayne at Wheeling, 7:10 p.m.
Monday: Wheeling at Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m.
x-Tuesday: Wheeling at Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m.

Pro Golf Scores

Mexico Open at Vidanta Scores
Sunday
At The Norman Course at Vidanta Vallarta
Vallarta, Mexico
Purse: \$7.3 million
Yardage: 7,456; Par: 71
Final Round
Jon Rahm 64-66-68-69-267
Tony Finau 71-68-66-63-268
Kurt Kitayama 64-70-66-69-268
Brandon Wu 69-70-66-63-268
Davis Riley 69-65-67-68-269
Cameron Champ 67-66-67-70-270
David Lipsky 69-68-69-64-270
Alex Smalley 66-66-70-68-270
Aaron Wise 65-75-66-64-270
Patrick Rodgers 66-69-66-70-271
Nate Lashley 69-68-64-71-272
Martin Trainer 72-65-71-64-272
Grayson Murray 73-67-66-67-273
Chez Reavie 67-71-67-68-273
Jonathan Byrd 64-70-71-69-274
Lanto Griffin 71-69-69-65-274
Stephan Jaeger 69-71-64-70-274
Satoshi Kodaira 67-69-67-71-274
Kelly Kraft 68-69-70-67-274
Anirban Lahiri 68-68-72-66-274
Adam Long 67-66-71-70-274
Peter Malnati 68-68-72-66-274
Andrew Novak 66-67-70-71-274
Michael Gligic 67-70-71-67-275
Trey Mullinax 64-69-73-69-275
Aaron Rai 65-69-68-72-275
Sahith Theegala 65-73-69-68-275
Gary Woodland 67-72-69-67-275
Ryan Blaum 66-70-70-70-276
Hank Lebioda 67-67-69-73-276
Sebastian Munoz 66-69-71-70-276
C.T. Pan 66-70-69-71-276
Wesley Bryan 68-69-67-73-277
Brice Garnett 70-67-72-68-277
Doug Ghim 72-65-71-69-277
Emiliano Grillo 72-65-71-69-277
Charles Howell III 66-69-70-72-277
Graeme McDowell 70-70-68-68-277
Scott Piercy 66-73-70-68-277
Grayson Sigg 70-68-70-69-277
Cameron Tringale 71-69-68-70-278
Abraham Ancer 68-72-69-69-278
Robert Garrigus 66-67-71-74-278
Brandon Hagy 67-70-73-68-278
John Huh 70-69-72-67-278
Ben Kohles 70-67-73-68-278
Kevin Na 67-66-70-75-278
Patrick Reed 71-68-70-69-278
Brian Stuard 68-69-70-71-278
Alvaro Ortiz 65-69-73-72-279
Scott Brown 69-71-72-67-279
Tommy Gainey 68-72-69-70-279
Lee Hodges 68-71-71-69-279
Mark Hubbard 68-72-69-70-279
Sung Kang 70-69-71-69-279
Carlos Ortiz 69-69-74-67-279
David Skinnis 72-67-70-70-279
Turk Pettit 70-70-65-75-280
Matt Haas 71-69-70-70-280
Bill Jones 70-66-71-74-281
Kiradech Aphibnt

Guardians

Continued from Page B1

inning and the Cleveland Guardians took advantage of a key error to beat the Oakland Athletics on Saturday. Steven Kwan had two hits in his return to the lineup as the Guardians

won their second straight following a seven-game losing streak. The rookie outfielder, batting .354 in his first big league season, had missed five games with a sore hamstring.

A day after the two clubs combined for 17 runs and 21 hits, starters Shane Bieber of the Guardians and Cole Irvin of the A's kept it close into the late innings.

Pirates

Continued from Page B1

"Going through that experience here. I got a good idea how to handle that kind of stuff." Musgrove said. "I spent the whole delay out in the bullpen. There are a lot more distractions in (the clubhouse.)"

TRAINER'S ROOM

Pirates: LHP Anthony Banda (illness) threw a simulated game and should be able to return from the 10-day IL when eligible May 3, general manager Ben Cherington

said.

UP NEXT

Padres: RHP Mike Clevinger will make his first start since Sept. 23, 2020, in Cleveland on Tuesday. Clevinger missed all of 2021 after Tommy John surgery.

Pirates: RHP Bryse Wilson (0-0, 4.70) will begin a two-game series in Detroit on Tuesday.

(Late Saturday)

Pirates 7, Padres 6
PITTSBURGH (AP) - Ke'Bryan Hayes singled in the tying run and

scored the winning run on an error as the Pittsburgh Pirates scored twice in the bottom of the 10th inning to beat the San Diego Padres on Saturday night.

Hayes hit a leadoff single into center field off Luis Garcia (0-1) that scored automatic runner Jake Marisnick with the tying run. First baseman Eric Hosmer then misplayed Bryan Reynolds' hard ground ball. The ball rolled down the right-field line and Hayes

scored from first base.

"That was great instinctual baserunning on Ke'Bryan's part," Pirates manager Derek Shelton said. "That's the kind of play you send to the player development people."

Hayes was originally called out by home plate umpire Mark Wegner. However, video replay showed Hayes beat second baseman Jake Cronenworth's relay throw and the call was overturned.

NASCAR

Continued from Page B1

"It's a lot of races, but pretty cool though to be around as long as we have," Truex said. "My career has not been easy. We have had a lot of tough years, been through a lot of stuff and to still be here battling, fighting for wins is pretty cool."

Truex's 2007 Dover win his only one from his 2004 debut until 2013. He won once in 2013 and once in 2015 before his career

skyrocketed, first with Furniture Row Racing, and now with JGR. He won the 2017 Cup champion at Furniture Row and won seven races in 2019 driving for Joe Gibbs.

"I see guys in the Hall of Fame and what they have done, and stat-wise it's there," Truex said. "But I don't know. I've not really given it much thought."

He had time to think on Sun-

day. Dover ordered a grandstand evaluation and asked fans to seek shelter or return to vehicles. Chris Buescher tweeted he was bored during the delay and held an AMA on Twitter.

Among the revelations, a 1979 Ford Bronco is his dream car, and Rusty Wallace, and later Mark Martin, were his favorite drivers growing up.

Classic

Continued from Page B1

Once the umpires made their ruling, Barnesville head coach D.J. Butler argued to no avail and the inning continued. Unflappable senior ace Colby Shriver got two groundouts and ended the inning with a strikeout.

"As I've matured, I've learned how to face ad-

versity, which was big in that situation because I just had to keep pitching," Shriver said. "There was probably a time, when I was younger, when I would have thrown a fit, but I am glad the umpires got the call right."

Shriver then pitched around a two-out, infield

single in the seventh to finish the game set off the aforementioned celebration.

"The hardest three outs of any game to get are the final three, especially in a game of this magnitude," Reasbeck said. "Colby just kept mowing. I am the head cheerleader. I can hand him the ball and go sit down."

Shriver, who sat down the first nine Shamrocks of the game in a row, finished with seven strikeouts and he didn't issue a free pass.

The Riders offense got going early against Carpenter, but the Shamrocks ace settled down and didn't allow a hit after the second inning and only three in the game.

Ferry scored in the first inning after Colton Redinger led off the game by drawing a walk. After an out, Colin Sneadeker ripped a double to the fence in centerfield.

In the second, Baron Lucey reached on an error, Jesse Nagel singled and Ayden Ludolph drew a walk to load the bases and turn the order over. Carpenter got a strikeout,

but couldn't avoid damage when Hayden Smith singled.

"I have to figure out how to get these guys ready to play at the start of the game," a disappointed D.J. Butler said of his Shamrocks.

"For some reason, when we get to the OVAC, I do an even worse job than I do other times. We have to be ready to play from the get-go. That's on me."

Shriver's gem included anxious moments in the fourth and fifth as well as the sixth.

"He's seasoned," Reasbeck said of Shriver. "He always works his way out of (jams). He doesn't panic. He just works."

In both innings, Barnesville had runners at second and third, but Shriver buckled down and escaped the jam.

"Shriver is one of the best pitchers we've seen all year," Butler said. "Anytime he's on the mound, he gives (Ferry) a good chance to win."

On top of Carpenter's work with the bat, Spencer Bliss had a pair of singles out of the ninth spot in the order for Barnesville (9-7).

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Local, said. "But (Saturday) I just came out looking to do what I usually do."

Rex got in trouble immediately as he walked leadoff batter Braylen Blomquist on four pitches. Mason Myers lined back to Rex, but he threw the ball wildly to first attempting to double-up the runner as Blomquist scampered to second. Joey Balgo drew a full-count walk and Hoffman legged out a roller to the hole at short for an infield single that loaded the bases.

However, Rex fanned the next two batters, both looking, to escape unscathed.

"That gave me a boost of confidence," he said of the back-to-back punchouts. "My curveball was really working today. It was my best pitch today. I was starting it low in the strike zone and they were swinging at it. It got the job done."

Both head coaches praised Rex's effort. He struck out 11 (five looking), walked seven and hit a pair of Red Devils in throwing 119 pitches (69 strikes).

"He was phenomenal today. That's Tre Rex. He's pretty darn good," Harrison Central head coach Mike Valesko beamed. "He had some back spasms that affected his last outing, but he's worked his way through it and he did the job today."

"We've kind of had this day circled on the calendar for a couple of weeks now thinking we might be here."

Veteran St. Clairsville (5-5) head coach Tom Sliva lauded, not only Rex, but Hoffman, as well.

"We hit the ball very poorly today. First of all, though, our pitcher did a

up 11 runners left on base, with seven of those in scoring position. "We've got guys that are good in practice, but when it comes to games, they tighten up. They've got to understand that if you're going to win big games, you've got to beat big-time pitchers. That was a big-time pitcher today."

While Rex was holding the Red Devils in check, the Huskies got him the only run he would need in the bottom of the second. Kaden Jurosko drew a full-count walk leading off. After stealing second, he went to third on a sacrifice bunt by Rex. Arbaugh tried to bunt twice, but both times were unsuccessful. With the count 1-2, he singled softly to left to plate Jurosko.

"We asked him to bunt but he didn't get them down, but credit to him," Valesko noted. "We've had some good practices lately about doing whatever it takes to win a game, but when we got to that point, you had to do something to win the game. Today Cabot didn't get down on himself by not getting two bunts down, but with two strikes he choked up on the bat and got enough of the pitch to send it into left field for a single," Valesko recalled.

With the win, Harrison Central advances to the championship game next weekend in Richmond at Edison High School opposite top-seeded Cambridge, which rallied past No. 4 Indian Creek, 8-7. It will be Valesko's third try at a title. The Huskies haven't won an OVAC baseball title since 2013. It is one of four they possess as they went back-to-back in 2005 and 2006, and also won the 3A crown in 2000.

Ferry Fends Off Fort Frye

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
For The Intelligencer

MARTINS FERRY — It was baseball at its finest, played between two quality programs with much at stake.

Fort Frye made the trek to the Purple City Saturday afternoon for an OVAC 3A semifinal contest, matching the 8-2 Cadets against the Purple Riders, owning an identical mark, with both squads boasting mound aces.

After seven well-played innings, coach Anthony Reasbeck's resilient Riders pulled out a come-from-behind 2-1 triumph. The hosts did not score until their sixth at-bat.

The win propels the Purple Riders into the OVAC title game against Barnesville. The Shamrocks downed top-seeded Linsly, 5-1. Ferry and Barnesville will vie for the conference crown Saturday at 11 a.m. at newly refurbished Edison High School.

The Purple Riders downed the Shamrocks in last year's conference semi-final tilt. Ferry subsequently lost to Linsly in the championship game.

Colby Shriver, as is usually the case, was brilliant on the hill for Ferry. He had to be as Fort Frye's Clay Gruey, a Morgan High transfer, was nearly as brilliant.

Shriver scattered just six hits while striking out 10 and walking nary a batter. The Cadets' lone run was an unearned one in the first.

"I wasn't worried when they scored one run in the first inning. I figured we would score a lot of runs today," Shriver said. "But as the game goes deeper and deeper you get a little worried when you are still trailing. But we were able to finally get it done."

"It was a fun game to pitch. Their pitcher was really good so it makes me want to pitch better," he added. "We are looking forward to playing Barnesville again. We owe them one. They beat us in the district last year."

Gruey, meanwhile, also went the route. He allowed just seven hits while fanning two and walking none. He did plunk two batters.

"What more can I say about Colby? It sounds like a broken record," Reasbeck said. "Colby is the most consistent guy you could ask for. I have been head coach here for 12 years and he is 1A and 1B."

"Colby is a tremendous competitor. We come to expect performances like this every time he takes the mound," added the former Ferry athletic star. "He is one hell of a pitcher and character young man."

Fort Frye's lone run was ironically scored by a Cadet who Shriver struck out to open the game. Cadets' leadoff hitter Dawson Layton struck out, but reached first after the ball got past the catcher. He later scored on a two-out single by Ian Ellis.

While Shriver hurled a gem, he was far from the lone Purple standout. The Ferrians boasted heroes aplenty.

Down 1-0 in the sixth, Ferry third baseman Colin Sneadeker crushed a Gruey offering over the left field fence, knotting matters at 1-1.

Fort Frye threatened in the seventh, putting runners on second and third with one out. The Cadets' Carman Tennant lofted a fly ball to rightfield. Ferry freshman Ayden Ludolph made the catch and fired a strike to home plate to gun down Jackson Love, ending the inning and keeping the score tied.

The Purple Riders, now riding a wave of momentum, took care of business on the strength of some two-out lightning in the seventh.

Designated hitter Jesse Nagel kept the hosts alive with an infield single. Ludolph was beamed for the second time on the day. Both runners advanced on a wild pitch. Catcher Colten Redinger delivered the game-winner via an infield single deep in the hole at shortstop.

"We had so many players step up. But they are athletes and competitors. They perform well in other sports," Reasbeck said. "Ayden was starting quarterback for us as a freshman. So, I am not surprised he made a great throw. Jesse and Colten are battled-tested veterans. Colby was great, but we had a lot of other players do really good things."

The loss was a tough pill to swallow for Fort Frye head coach Trey Engle.

"It was really a great game to be a part of. It was well played with two super pitchers," Engle said. "It went our way for the first five innings. They did what they needed to do in their last two at-bats."

"I am proud of our kids and their effort today. I am just disappointed for our kids," he continued. "But our hats are off to Martins Ferry. They are a well-coached team."

This will be Reasbeck's third OVAC championship game appearance. In addition to last year's game, the Purple Riders previously lost to Steubenville.

"It was a tremendous game today. It was a shame one team had to lose. The Engles are class people," Reasbeck noted.

Sneadeker and Hayden Smith were the lone Riders to collect two hits.

starting quarterback in the spring — with another contender coming soon.

"What Graham's done, he's brought a confidence, he's got good swagger, but he's humble," Brown said. "I think that's been really effective in that room."

Quarterbacks Will "Goose" Crowder, Garrett Greene and Nicco Marchiol have been working with the team this spring, each experiencing ups and downs in a battle that appears somewhat close. J.T. Daniels, a former five-star quarterback prospect from Georgia, complicates things as he expects to join the fold this summer after committing to WVU earlier this month.

At running back, position coach Chad Scott has been impressed by the depth of the group as he eyes the replacement for Leddie Brown. Scott said earlier in the spring that he would likely turn to two different running backs at the same time — giving him a full deck as Tony Mathis, Lyn-J Dixon, Justin Johnson and Jaylen Anderson each have unique skill sets.

Elsewhere, the offensive line returns all five starters, while the wide receiver room keeps two of its top three pass

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 13)

"Our bullpen's been throwing pretty well and hope to continue that and pull for one another and keep this thing snowballing," Peters said.

Newman, Yoshi Tsutsugo and Ben Gamel each drove in a run for the Pirates, who took three of four in the series.

A day after it collected 23 hits during a historic romp, Chicago lost for the fifth time in six games overall. Villar committed a throwing error that brought home a run in the fourth, and the Cubs left 11 runners on base, including seven over the final three innings.

With runners on second and third in the ninth, Willson Contreras struck out swinging for the second out. After Happ was walked intentionally, Frank Schwindel also struck out swinging on three straight fastballs from Bednar — each registering at least 97.2 mph.

"You dream of those spots to be in," Bednar said, "and coming out on top and help the team win is all that matters."

Bednar has a sparkling 0.80 ERA in 28 games since last year's All-Star break. Crowe extended his scoreless streak to begin the season to 13 1/3 innings.

"We all feed off one another," Crowe said, "and we all know how good our stuff can be if we trust it."

The Cubs got off to another solid start, scoring in the first inning for the third time in the series. They have 16 first-inning runs over 16 games this season.

Ortega scampered home on a rare error by slick-fielding third baseman Ke'Bryan Hayes, and Schwindel added an RBI single. But Brubaker limited the damage by striking out Villar and Jason Heyward.

Pittsburgh got one back on Gamel's RBI single in the second, and then went ahead to stay with two in the third against Justin Steele (1-2). Tsutsugo hit a sacrifice fly and Newman drove in Hayes with a tiebreaking double.

CAMERON

(Continued from Page 13)

The Dragons struck first in the second inning when Nathan Haerberle walked and stole second, followed by a walk to Mason DeBolt.

Senior second baseman Chris McCauley delivered in the clutch with a two-run double to right field to give Cameron a 2-0 upper hand.

In the third, Cole Burkett provided a strong at-bat and drew a walk to set the stage for Coy Angel's two-run bomb, followed immediately by Ball's solo blast for a 5-0 advantage.

With Conotton Valley threatening in the fourth, Coy Angel got out of a bases-loaded jam with one out by firing a pair of strikeouts.

Brett Putnam got the Rockets on the scoreboard with a bases-loaded RBI single in the sixth but he just missed a grand slam earlier in the at-bat that was roughly two feet foul and smacked off the left field fence.

Nolan Caldwell also provided a RBI knock in the sixth for Conotton Valley

Carr and Jared Bartlett are battling for the starting spot.

The loss of Akheem Mesidor on the defensive line, while demoralizing to Brown and some inside the program, has allowed for Justin Jefferson — arguably the strongest player on the entire roster — to see increased reps.

"I feel like we just improved every day," defensive lineman Dante Stills said about the defense's spring performance. "That was kind of the main goal going into it, just make sure we take one step every day. I feel like, overall, we improved in many ways. Our aggression, just the way we play, stuff like that."

The Mountaineers will take a break until Memorial Day, returning for eight practices over nine weeks during the summer.

"I think the summer is going to be really important for us," Brown said. "We're gonna add, I think, 18 more people to the mix on scholarship, another 15 or so that are gonna be preferred walk-ons. We gotta get them acclimated, and we've got some guys that are younger players that must continue to develop as we go through the summer."

MAKING MOVES

The Pirates added another arm to their pitching staff, bringing up right-hander Beau Sulser from Triple-A Indianapolis. It's the first major league promotion for Sulser, the brother of Miami Marlins reliever Cole Sulser. To make room on Pittsburgh's 40- and 28-man rosters, outfielder Anthony Alford was designated for assignment.

UP NEXT

Pirates: Following an off day, RHP Mitch Keller (0-3, 6.23 ERA) starts Tuesday night in the opener of a three-game series against Milwaukee. RHP Brandon Woodruff (2-1, 4.30 ERA) pitches for the visiting Brewers.

Saturday

CUBS 21, PIRATES 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Alfonso Rivas had three hits and five RBIs, and the Cubs stopped a four-game slide by pounding the Pirates.

YANKEES 5, GUARDIANS 4

NEW YORK (AP) — Yankees fans in the right-field bleachers pelted Cleveland outfielders with bottles, cans and debris in a chaotic scene moments after Isiah Kiner-Falefa and pinch-hitter Gleyber Torres got RBI hits with two outs in the ninth inning to lift New York over the Guardians.

Sunday

YANKEES 10, GUARDIANS 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Gerrit Cole bounced back from the shortest start of his career, Anthony Rizzo powered an early offensive barrage and the New York Yankees pounded the Cleveland Guardians 10-2 Sunday to complete a three-game sweep in a series marred by fan misbehavior.

REDS 4, CARDINALS 1

CINCINNATI (AP) — First-round draft pick Nick Lodolo got his first major league win as Cincinnati beat St. Louis to end an 11-game skid, its worst in six years.

but Adam Angel IV escaped the jam and shut down the Rockets in the seventh to secure the triumph.

"I thought our kids played well," Conotton Valley coach Dave DiDonato said. "Last year pitching like Cameron's would have dominated us but we were two or three hits away from getting back into it. We had our chances. Cameron is a really solid team with two solid pitchers. They throw hard."

Cameron will be looking for its first OVAC title in program history when it takes the field next Saturday.

"We have a couple of games this week," Coach Angel said. "We should be pretty healthy and we should have all of our arms ready to go for Saturday. That game will come down to who throws more strikes and plays better defense. Hopefully we can get one. That would be pretty cool for this community and this school to get an OVAC Championship. That was one of our goals when we set out so hopefully we can achieve it."

Dunfee recently spoke to the Buckeye football coaching staff and the support staff that works inside the Ohio State University Woody Hayes Athletic Center about suicide prevention through the Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) method.

"(Death by suicide) is a very tough topic and I am very appreciative of Ohio State allowing me to speak," Dunfee said. "I've taught a lot of these classes and sometimes it's more well received than others, but I could not have asked for a better group. They actively participated and afterward several came up and shared different things with me."

Even as she drove to Columbus the morning of the first session, Dunfee still found herself in disbelief that she was chosen to serve as the speaker.

Dr. Candice Williams, who is an athletic counselor at Ohio State, first reached out to Dunfee in February. She had searched the QPR National Institute website and reached out about instructors in Ohio.

"My name was one of the names given and Dr. Williams looked me up and I think the fact that I sat on the board for the state coalition may have put me over the top," Dunfee said. "Maybe my affiliation with OSU, but they had really vetted me well and told me that they're very cognizant of who they let into the building."

After going back and forth on a few dates, Dunfee spoke just two weeks ago in the immediate aftermath of spring practice.

"There were a lot of logistics involved, but I was more than willing to be flexible," Dunfee said. "We could have done it virtually, but Coach (Ryan) Day felt like I needed to be there in person."

There were two sessions. The first was the entire coaching staff and the second was for the other staff members.

"QPR is a national program that's designed for the general population to be able to learn and it looks at seeing warning signs," Dunfee said. "There is no medical background needed."

The program takes upwards of 80 minutes to complete and during the session, Dunfee had the coaches do some "role playing."

"We had one person serve as a player and then the coach where they have to ask the question, 'are you suicidal?'" Dunfee said. "Afterward, we talked about it and how it's not an easy question to ask and it's an uncomfortable situation, especially the closer we are to someone, the harder it is to ask because, naturally, you don't want a particular answer."

Dunfee was overwhelmed at the feedback she received from the coaches in the training.

"Going into that environment and talking to a group of football coaches, you'd think you'd get some eye rolling or something, but these coaches were all totally engaged," Dunfee said. "Afterward, I had people coming up to me with tears in their eyes because they know someone suffering from mental health issues. It really did my heart good."

Because of the volume and the class size being limited to upwards of 30, the Buckeyes' players did not go through training. However, head coach Ryan Day "is open to exploring options" for the players in the future.

"Coach Day and I talked about virtual training or just training the position group leaders," Dunfee said.

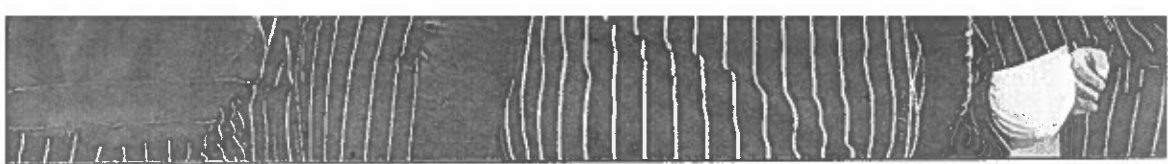
Due to an unforeseen circumstance, Day didn't take Dunfee's class, but he told her afterward that he will go through it soon.

"Coach Day made time to speak to me the second day after the training and he wanted to know how it went and how it was received," Dunfee recalled. "He was very appreciative and thanked me for coming to do it."

Suicide prevention and mental health are hot-button issues around the country, but especially in collegiate athletics.

Day and his wife Nina have a foundation through Nationwide Children's

See, **DUNFEE**, Page C2



is they Day. Eve Agnew (5) greets Zinn.

Ferry repeats in Class 3A

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE - After winning its first dozen games of the season, the Martins Ferry softball team tasted defeat for the initial time Thursday at Edison. They didn't like the taste.

Deadlocked with No. 2 seeded Shenandoah at 1 after two-and-a-half innings Friday, the top-seeded Purple Riders (13-1) took out their frustrations with seven hits that plated eight runs in the bottom of the third en route

to an 11-2 triumph and back-to-back Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A Tom Bechtel Softball Championships on sun-splattered Lisa's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex. The contest was halted after five-and-a-half frames due to the 10-run mercy rule.

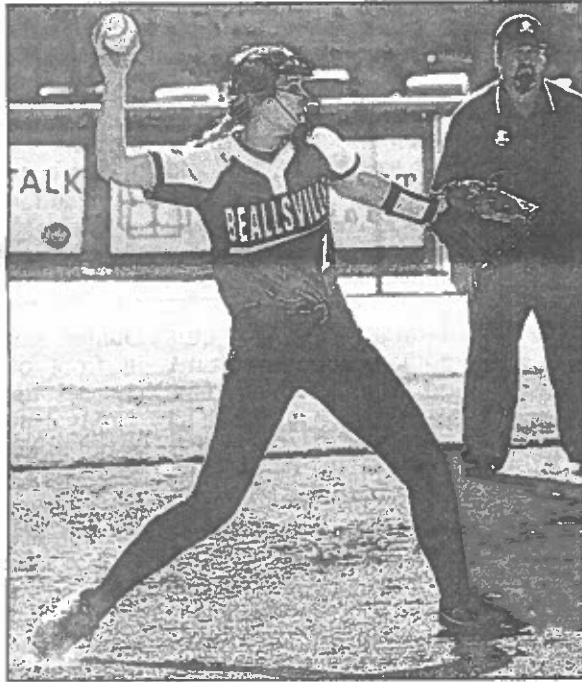
"Not because it's our second in a row, but I'm happy that the girls can win a second straight OVAC Championship," third-year Martins Ferry head coach Jerry Magistro, who collected his 12th overall OVAC softball title.

He won 10 Class A crowns while at St. John Central. "The girls have worked so hard this season in trying to get back here, so it's nice to see that their hard work has paid off."

"It's never a blessing in disguise when you lose, but these girls were ready to get back on the field and turn things around," Magistro said. "They don't like to lose, and neither do I."

Like in their semifinal against Linsly two days earlier, the Purple Riders found themselves down 1-0 as Laney

See, **FERRY**, Page C2



TL Photo/SETH STASKEY

BEALLSVILLE SHORTSTOP Kaylee Hagan throws to first for an out during Friday's OVAC Class 1A championship game.

Conotton Valley shuts down Beallsville in 1A

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ELM GROVE - Beallsville was well aware of just how good Conotton Valley ace pitcher Masy Baker can be in the circle.

The Blue Devils got an up-close-and-personal look at it on Friday afternoon in the OVAC Tom Bechtel Softball Championships on Ben's Field at the Chambers I-470 Complex.

Quite simply, Baker was brilliant in the 10-0, 5-inning Conotton Valley victory, which gave the Rockets their second consecutive title.

"Last year was special to win the first one in school history, but to win it a second one in a row really means a lot," Conot-

ton Valley head coach Jeremy Bleininger said.

On top of her pitching, which included 15 strikeouts and only one hit allowed, Baker hit a towering 3-run home run in the bottom of the first that caromed off the scoreboard.

"It's a special group of girls," Bleininger said. "Baker is rock solid (in the circle) and the heart of our team. When she's out there, everyone plays better."

The Blue Devils, who were in the OVAC Tournament for the first time in more than a decade, dropped to 10-10 on the season. They produced only three base runners against Baker. Kaylee Hagan had a solid single up the middle and Baker also issued a

See, **BEALLSVILLE**, Page C2

Harrison blanked by Cambridge in 4A baseball

By **CODY NESPOR**
For The Times Leader

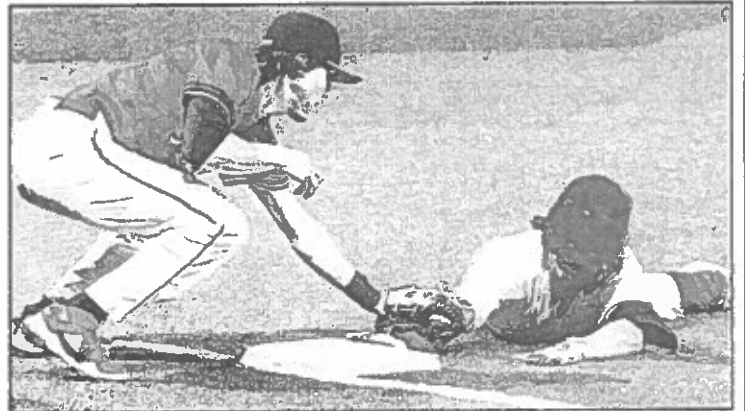
RICHMOND - You've heard of Christmas in July, but how about Valentine's Day in April?

That was the situation at Edison High School Friday night as Cambridge right-hander Jack Valentine tossed a complete-game shutout en route to the Bobcats claiming the OVAC Class 4A Championship 5-0 over Harrison Central.

"He was a workhorse tonight," Cambridge coach Jamaal Lowery said of Valentine. "He manned up and he did what he was supposed to do. He had all three pitches working well and he had a couple of big punchouts."

Valentine yielded just seven baserunners across the full seven innings, scattering three hits and three walks while striking out 11.

See, **HARRISON**, Page C2



Photo/KRISTIN MAZGAJ

HARRISON CENTRAL third baseman Caleb Blawut tags a Cambridge runner during Friday's OVAC Class 4A championship game at Edison High School.



Photo/JOE LOVELL

WHEELING NAILERS Sam Houde (36) and Cam Hausinger (16) celebrate a goal Friday night at WesBanco Arena.

Nailers fall in OT, 4-3

By **CODY TOMER**
For The Times Leader

WHEELING - The Wheeling Nailers rallied from 3-1 down to force overtime on Friday night but Fort Wayne got the final laugh.

With 5:17 showing on the clock in the extra period, Mark Russell corralled a rebound and wrapped it around Wheeling goalie Louis-Philip Guindon for the game-winner as the Komets evened the Central Division Semifinal series at 2-2 with a 4-3 triumph inside WesBanco Arena.

Wheeling hosts Game 5 Saturday at 7:10 p.m.

"In games like this everyone feels like they have to do something a little extra," Nailers' coach Derek

Army said as he broke down the game-winning goal by the Komets. "For us it was turned over in the O-Zone and it went back into our zone. Unfortunately we couldn't get it out so we went to their point. Our weak side wing went out and our 'D' left the net front to also go out and we just weren't able to get the block and then we weren't able to get the stick at the net front."

Despite the loss, Wheeling outshot Fort Wayne 39-27.

"Looking at it now, I thought we were for sure the better team (Friday)," Army said. "Five-on-five we pushed the pace and we dictated pretty much everything out there. Overall it was a great effort and a great game."

Russell also got the scoring start-
See, **NAILERS**, Page C2

• Harrison

Continued from Page C1

"Basically, everything was just working. I felt really good." Valentine said. "It feels really good (to win), especially on this nice field and in front of a big crowd. It's a long drive home, but it was fun."

As good as Valentine was, his counterpart did not make it easy on him. The Huskies had their own ace on the mound in the form of left-hander Tre Rex.

Rex, who out-dueled St. Clairsville's Hunter Hoffman in the OVAC semifinal to get to the championship, struck out seven while giving up six hits and three walks. Only one of the Bobcats' five runs was earned as the Huskies committed four errors in the field behind Rex.

"I thought he pitched well enough definitely to get a win," said HC coach Mike Valesko. "He's pitched well all year and I felt like (Friday) he was great. It's tough when you've got that zero on the scoreboard (on offense)."

The game started with plenty of excitement as both teams loaded the bases in the first inning, just for both aces to strand all three run-

ners.

In the top of the frame, Harrison Central loaded the bases with one out on two walks and an error only for Valentine to induce a harmless pop out to first base and a ground out to the second baseman.

In the bottom half, Cambridge walked and hit back-to-back singles to put themselves in the exact same situation - bases loaded with one out.

Rex, in turn, struck out the next two batters - both looking - to escape the jam.

"It felt like, in that first inning, if we get a hit there then you don't know what happens," Valesko said. "It's 2-0 on a single and then you can kind of settle in a get things going. On the flip side, I'm proud of our guys for going out in the bottom of the first and getting out of it as well."

Cambridge broke through in the bottom of the second inning as Davion Barr scored on a passed ball and Caleb Bond hit a groundball to third base that allowed Keaton Kyser to come home for a 2-0 lead.

The Bobcats added on in the

third inning on their first of two so-called "Little League home runs" in the game. With Bryce Murdock on first base, Valentine singled into right field. The right fielder misplayed the ball, allowing Murdock to score and Valentine to reach third base. Valentine never stopped running, however, and collided at home plate with Harrison Central catcher Treston Nemeth, who dropped the ball as Valentine was called safe.

The Huskies' next best chance to score came in the top of the fifth, when they got runners on first and second with one out. Valentine punched out the next two batters, however, and Harrison Central only had one more baserunner the rest of the game.

Cambridge put a bow on the game with another unusual trip around the bases when Barr tripled over the centerfielder's glove with two outs in the bottom of the sixth. Barr easily reached third base safely, but a poor relay throw afforded him the opportunity to come all the way home for the Bobcats' fifth run.

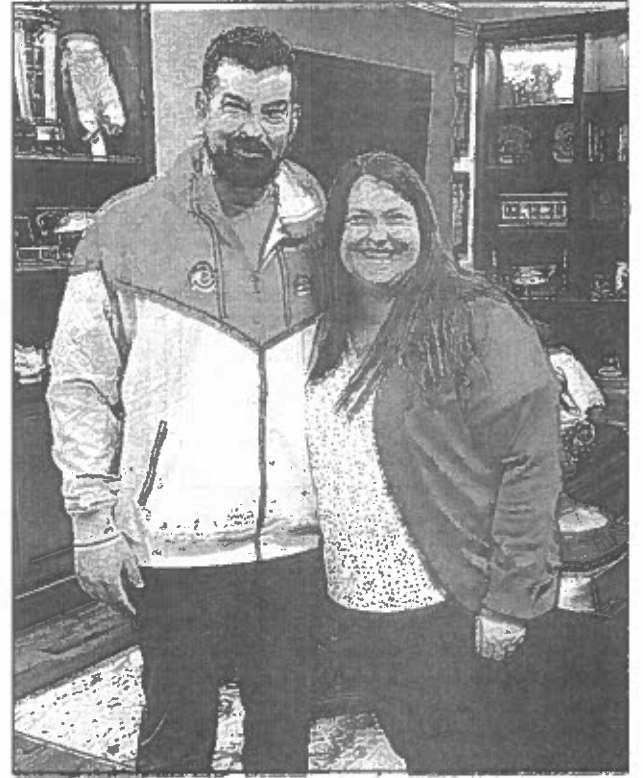


Photo Provided

LORRISSA DUNFEE, who oversees the OSU Belmont County Extension, recently spoke to the Ohio State University football staff about suicide prevention. She's pictured with OSU head coach Ryan Day.

• Dunfee

Continued from Page C1

Hospital in Columbus dealing with suicide prevention.

Ohio State football was in the national news recently when Harry Miller - an offensive lineman from Georgia - came out publicly and said he contemplated suicide during his time as a collegiate athlete. Miller has medically retired from the sport, but remains with the Buckeyes and was on the sidelines at the spring game a couple of weeks ago.

Dunfee is hopeful that getting her foot in the door with the Buckeyes football program could lead to more chances to get in front of coaches and student-athletes at multiple levels.

She indicated opportunities to speak to the volleyball and soccer teams at OSU could be on the horizon.

Dunfee worked in mental health for 10 years at Ohio Valley Medical Center before it closed.

"Since the training is for all people, of any age, Dunfee would like to get in front of high school coaches, too.

"My daughter is 18 and going to be graduating in May and I have said for a while that I wish I could get this into the OHSAA and it becomes one of the mandatory trainings that coaches go through," Dunfee said.

WVU BMAC CARAVAN

The annual caravan stop will occur on Tues-

day, May 10 at River City in Wheeling.

The event, which benefits WVU's MAC and BMAC Upper Ohio Valley endowed athletic scholarship, will feature WVU coaches.

Slated to attend the event, which runs from noon until 2 p.m., are head football coach Neal Brown, head basketball coach Bob Huggins, who was recently elected to the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame, and newly hired women's basketball coach Dawn Plitzuweit.

Tickets for the event are \$50 per person. For more information, please contact John S. Marshall at 740-695-4262.

OGLEBAY PARK GOLF CLUB

The West Sports Bar Tournament was held at Speidel Golf Club on April 24 with a solid field of players taking part.

Bryan Myers made it two wins in as many events, fending off Yadhu Urs for the win by a shot. Myers carded a 69, which was one better than the runnerup.

Justin Doerr was third with a 75, while Hunter Frye was fourth with a 76. Joey Seabright was fifth with a 76 and Mike Wetzel was sixth, also posting a 76.

The remainder of the top 10 in the medal division were Brooke Garrison (78), Paul Kurtz (78), Richard Humphrey (78) and Sean McFarland (78).

In the handicap scoring portion of the event, Penn Kurtz was the winner with a round of 71. Finishing second was David Sims.

SETH'S SCOOPS

JOHN MARSHALL has hired Melanie Knutson as its new girls golf coach. She takes over for Bridget Carnahan, who retired following last season.

THE OHSAA unveiled its new logo at a meeting in Cambridge last week. Officials will not be required to buy new garments to reflect the change ... just yet.

• Beallsville

Continued from Page C1

walk and plunked a batter.

However, nary another Blue Devil player put the ball in play.

"We're proud of our girls and we hope to be back next year." Beallsville head coach Rhea Pittman said. "We're a pretty young group. We only have two seniors."

Baker, who spun a five-inning perfect game against Paden City in Monday's semifinal, sat down the first seven she faced in order on Friday before getting into a bit of

trouble with some wildness.

However, she settled back and got out of that jam with two more strikes.

Offensively, Baker gave herself a healthy cushion with the first-inning home run and then the Rockets blew the game open with a seven-run uprising in the third. Kenzie Willoughby, Keira Turek both had RBI singles and Chloe Stuber had a RBI double.

Jordyn Braun drove in a run

with a sacrifice fly. Daphne Stuber, who had singled and scored earlier in the inning, drove in two runs with a double.

All told, Conotton (14-1) sent 11 to the plate in the inning and pounded out six hits to chase Hagan, who is the Blue Devils' ace.

"The girls really play well together," Bleininger said. "Once we get a lead, she relaxed a little bit more and everyone seems to follow her lead."

• Ferry

Continued from Page C1

Hitchens' RBI single with two outs in the top of the first drove in Bailey Frye. However, the lead was short-lived.

Hunter Pollock was instrumental in this come-from-behind win as she walked to start the bottom of the first. Danielle Lude sacrificed her to second where she scored from on a double off the fence in

left-center by Maria Clark to even things.

Kaylynn Zinn, the No. 9 hitter in the lineup, jump-started Martins Ferry's third-inning outburst in which 13 batters went to the plate. The junior sent a 3-1 pitch from Mya Leach well over the fence in left-center for a 2-1 advantage, and the Purple Riders never looked

back. It was her second roundtripper of the season. She singled in the frame, as well.

Pollock walked for the second of three times and Lude singled. Clark found the gap in left-center again for another two-bagger as Pollock scored. Taylor Bell followed with a two-run double to right-center; No. 8 hitter Eve Agnew

singled in two more tallies; and Pollock capped the inning with a two-run single.

"This was another total team victory," Magistro noted.

"Every girl in the lineup contributed, as did a couple off the bench."

Martins Ferry finished with 11 base hits, of which five were for extra bases. Clark, Bell and Zinn

"We can hit the ball from No. 1 to No. 9 in our order, and we hit the ball hard," Magistro added. "I think we've got girls on the bench that can hit, too. Allarah (Jones) came off the bench and got a hit today."



The Purple Riders added solo runs in the fourth and fifth innings on an RBI double by winning pitcher Lauren McFarland and a Bell run-producing single, respectively.

McFarland wasn't overpowering with five strikeouts and just a pair of walks.

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Cameron Captures First OVAC Crown

Hartley scores GW run in bottom of 7th

By AARON PETCHAL
For The Intelligencer

RICHMOND — The Cameron baseball team made history against Madonna.

The Dragons scored the winning run on an error in the bottom of the seventh inning en route to defeating the Blue Dons, 6-5, in the OVAC Class 1A Final Saturday evening at the Edison Unified Sports Complex.

"This is a little bigger than an OVAC championship, this is our first one in Cameron history," Cameron (13-5) head coach Adam Angel said. "It was a goal of ours at the beginning of the year. The kids probably thought I was nuts."

Cameron loaded the bases with no outs before a groundout to the pitcher was recorded, however, the throw to first as part of an attempted double play was not on target allowing the winning run to score.

"That's how we have done things this year," Madonna (7-12) head coach Jeff Baire said. "We have found a way to not come up with plays in crucial situations. We do a great job of putting ourselves in the right position. We had everything set up today, but that's what happens. They are high school kids."

"It is just something where we put ourselves in those positions. We were down 5-2 and we came back."

Cole Burkett led off the seventh with one of his three singles, and Lance Hartley reached on an infield error to give the boys from Marshall County two runners on base. Coy Angel was then intentionally walked to load the bases. Ike Ball followed by hitting a ground ball to Madonna pitcher Madonna pitcher Matt Amaismeier who threw home to record the first out, however, the throw to first was off line allow-



Photo by Seth Staskey
Cameron's Coy Angel, center, high fives teammate Mason DeBolt, left, and brother Adam Angel IV, right, during Saturday's OVAC Championship Game.

ing Hartley to score the winning run from second.

"We did everything right," Coach Angel said. "We pitched well, we played good defense and we played some small ball. We scored two runs Thursday. We faced two good pitchers."

The Blue Dons trailed 5-2 entering the sixth, but Madonna came through with a pair of clutch hits with two outs to tie

the score.

David Connors and Bryce Hair drew back-to-back walks to start the inning. After two pop-ups, Koleson Grishkevich tripled plating Connors and Hair pulling the boys from Hancock County to within 5-4. Luke Amaismeier followed with a double scoring Grishkevich knotting the score at 5-all.

Please see CAMERON, Page 10

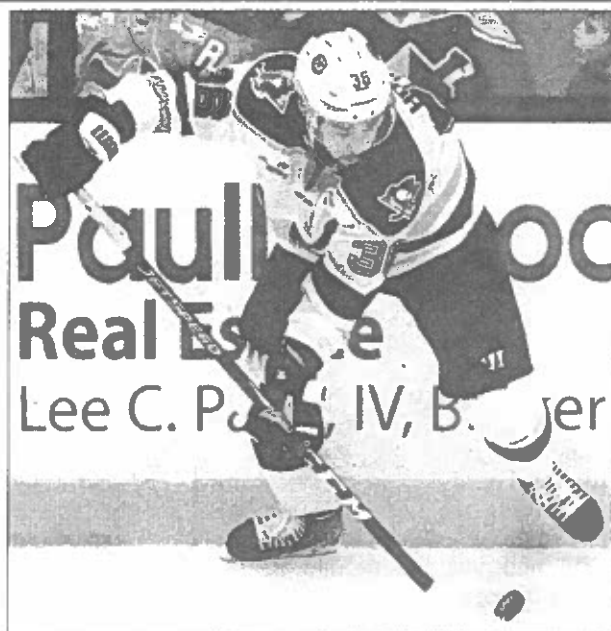


Photo by Joe Lovell
Wheeling's Sam Houde scored the game-winning goal in Game 5 to give the Nailers a 3-2 series lead.

Nailers Take A 3-2 Series Lead

By CODY TOMER
Sports Writer

WHEELING — The Wheeling Nailers are one win away from moving on in the 2022 Kelly Cup Playoffs.

In a crucial back-and-forth Game 5 on Saturday night inside WesBanco Arena, Sam Houde delivered the game-winning shot on Wheeling's power play with 2:02 left to play as the Nailers defeated Fort Wayne 3-2 and took a 3-2 series lead in the Central Division Semifinal.

Game 6 will be played on Monday night at 7:30 p.m. in Fort Wayne.

"It was a crazy game but I thought we played really well," Nailers' coach Derek Army said. "Our penalty kill was fantastic."

"Our power play was kind of hitting some skids but that's what the playoffs are all about. They come through when you need it the most and they did that in a big situation (Saturday)."

With the game dead-

locked at 2-2 and looking like a second straight overtime game, the Nailers went on the power play with 3:10 remaining.

That's when Cedric Desruisseaux and Patrick Watling set up Houde, who sent a laser from the middle of the left circle and into the top right of the cage — sending the fans into a roar.

Earlier in the period, a Wheeling power play turned into a Fort Wayne short-handed goal that evened the score at 2-2.

Army was proud of how his team made the most of its second chance.

"I would have liked our 5-on-3 to come through but we didn't quite get the look I was hoping we would, which is fine. That happens. But just by moving the right way and moving our feet we were able to draw a penalty. That's where you have to come through. That was the message."

Please see NAILERS Page 10

Musgrove Pitches Padres Past Pirates, 5-2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Joe Musgrove struck out eight over seven solid innings and the San Diego Padres beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 5-2 Sunday.

The game was Musgrove's second with the Padres at PNC Park since being traded from Pittsburgh to San Diego after the 2020 season. He pitched three years for the Pirates.

Musgrove (4-0) looked comfortable in his old stomping grounds, scattering seven hits while allowing just one run.

"This is one I've had on the calendar marked for a little while," Musgrove said. "Not in the sense that I have a grudge against these guys or anything, but anytime you leave somewhere and you

go back, you have that sense of wanting to show them what they missed out on."

Manny Machado hit an RBI single in the third off Mitch Keller (0-4) to put the Padres in the lead. The RBI was his team-leading 16th of the season.

Trent Grisham hit a two-run single after shortstop Cole Tucker's two-out throwing error in the seventh.

Roberto Perez hit an RBI single in the seventh and the Pirates loaded the bases with no outs in the eighth, but got only a sacrifice fly by Michael Chavis.

In the Padres ninth, Abrams had a sacrifice fly and Jake Cronenworth hit an RBI single.

Taylor Rogers struck out two

for his ninth save.

Grisham had his first three-hit game of the season and had five hits over the final two games in Pittsburgh. Austin Nola had two hits and scored three times and Abrams doubled and singled as the eight, nine and one spots powered the San Diego offense.

"It's important for us to get some contributions all over the board and Grisham is now swinging the bat better at the top," Padres manager Bob Melvin said. "You can't rely on three three, four, five guys all the time."

Keller allowed one run on five hits over six innings. He struck out five and did not issue a walk.

Please see PIRATES, Page 10



AP Photo
Pittsburgh left fielder Ben Gamel makes a diving catch on a fly ball hit by San Diego Padres' Eric Hosmer during the sixth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Sunday.

Jarry Will
Miss Start



JM Drops
Title Game



Martins Ferry Wins First OVAC Title Since 2002

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

RICHMOND — The emotional pendulum was swinging back and forth at a feverish pace during Saturday's OVAC Class 3A championship game at Edison High School.

That's become commonplace for Martins Ferry, however, in the conference title game.

The Purple Riders, who have become seemingly regular entrants in the conference tournament, have been on the wrong end of their prior two appearances.

Coach Anthony Reasbeck's squad finally broke through, fending off Barnesville for a hard-earned 2-1 victory, giving the Purple Riders their first conference title since 2002 and just the second in school history.

"I tend to panic at times during these games, but the kids don't," a relieved Reasbeck said. "I have great guys

who battle. I love this group of kids."

While the Purple Riders celebrated with the traditional dogpile and gave Reasbeck the Gatorade bath, it wasn't all smooth sailing.

Leading the entire game, Martins Ferry could only stand and watch as Barnesville senior Gavin Carpenter trotted around the bases for what was believed to be a game-tying, two-run home run.

However, seeing the reaction of his left fielder and center fielder to the call of a home run, Reasbeck came out to talk to the umpire crew, which promptly got together.

After a brief discussion, the umpires determined Carpenter's ball had hit in the field of play and bounced over the fence, thus resulting in a ground-rule double. That put Carpenter at second and made the score 2-1.

"The main thing going through my mind was to not

get thrown out (of the game)," Reasbeck said matter of factly. "It bounced well short of the fence, but that was a weird play and I am glad the umpires got together and got the call right."

Once the umpires made their ruling, Barnesville coach D.J. Butler argued to no avail and the inning continued. Unflappable senior ace Colby Shriver got two groundouts and ended the inning with a strikeout.

"As I've matured, I've learned how to face adversity, which was big in that situation because I just had to keep pitching," Shriver said. "There was probably a time, when I was younger, when I would have thrown a fit, but I am glad the umpires got the call right."

Shriver then pitched around a two-out, infield single in the seventh to finish the game set off the aforementioned celebration.

"The hardest three outs of any game to get are the final three, especially in a game of

this magnitude," Reasbeck said. "Colby just kept mowing. I am the head cheerleader. I can hand him the ball and go sit down."

Shriver, who sat down the first nine Shamrocks of the game in a row, finished with seven strikeouts and he didn't issue a free pass.

The Riders offense got going early against Carpenter, but the Shamrocks ace settled down and didn't allow a hit after the second inning and only three in the game.

Ferry scored in the first inning after Colton Redinger led off the game by drawing a walk. After an out, Colin Sneadecker ripped a double to the fence in centerfield.

In the second, Baron Lucey reached on an error, Jesse Nagel singled and Ayden Ludolph drew a walk to load the bases and turn the order over. Carpenter got a strikeout, but couldn't avoid damage when Hayden Smith singled.

"I have to figure out how to

get these guys ready to play at the start of the game," a disappointed D.J. Butler said of his Shamrocks. "For some reason, when we get to the OVAC, I do an even worse job than I do other times. We have to be ready to play from the get-go. That's on me."

Shriver's gem included anxious moments in the fourth and fifth as well as the sixth.

"He's seasoned," Reasbeck said of Shriver. "He always works his way out of (jams). He doesn't panic. He just works."

In both innings, Barnesville had runners at second and third, but Shriver buckled down and escaped the jam.

"Shriver is one of the best pitchers we've seen all year," Butler said. "Anytime he's on the mound, he gives (Ferry) a good chance to win."

On top of Carpenter's work with the bat, Spencer Bliss had a pair of singles out of the ninth spot in the order for Barnesville (9-7).

CAMERON

(Continued from Page 9)

Then, Matt Amaismeir singled to put two runners on base, however, Ike Ball, who had replaced Coy Angel on the mound earlier in the inning, got a fly-out to end the threat.

"This team battles. We do. We do a good job our giving ourselves a chance. We just have to eliminate mistakes at crucial times. When you make mistakes, you eliminate chances to win."

Both teams used multiple pitchers.

Lance Hartley - the Dragon's third pitcher of the game - ended up recording the win in relief. Hartley struck one while not walking one in his inning of work on the bump.

Coy Angel started the game on the mound, and he struck out nine while walking four in his five-plus innings of work. He was relieved by Isaac Ball following the back-to-back walks of Connors and Hair. Ball did not record a strikeout or a walk in his one inning on the mound.

"Coy pitched well," Coach Angel said. "He runs into issues when he has a lot of strikeouts because his pitch count goes up quickly. He moved the ball around. I made a bad call on a pitch. Adam and I talked about it."

"I brought Isaac ball in. He throws strikes. I thought he could get us out of that inning."

"Then, I brought Hartley into the game. Lance is tough when he is healthy. Plus, they hadn't seen him this season. We were holding him back."

Parker Haney started the game for Madonna. He struck out six while walking two in five innings of work. Matt Amaismeir came on to start the sixth. He did not record a strikeout and walked one while going the rest of the way.

"We pitched Parker at the beginning of the week, so he would be ready for today. We pitched Matt earlier in the week, so he would be ready in relief. We were looking ahead."

"The last 16 days we have had a tight schedule. We have made plans for our guys. We wanted to make sure we had Parker and Matt available."

The Dragons scored two runs in the first to take an early two-run lead. Coy Angel brought home the first run with a groundout, and Ball doubled home the second run making it 2-0.

The Blue Dons answered right back with a pair of runs in the second. Lucas McAllister and Griskevich each singled home a run to knot the score at 2.

Cameron regained the lead and the momentum by scoring two more runs in the third. Ball brought home the first run with a base hit, and Nate Haerberle doubled home the second run.

The victors extended their lead with a run in fifth. Haerberle plated his second run of the game - this one coming on a sacrifice fly to extend Cameron's advantage to three runs at 5-2.

"We did not have a lot of walks today," Baire said. "We allowed a lot of walks last year. It is tough when you are walking guys and making mistakes. We have eliminated the walks. We just have to clean things up defensively."

"We have young guys, and they are making young mistakes. The best thing about freshmen is they are sophomores."

Both teams are scheduled to play Monday. Madonna is slated to play Linsly at home at Bowman Field, while Cameron is set to play River on the road.

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PIRATES

(Continued from Page 9)

YANKEES 6, ROYALS 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Aaron Judge homered twice to run his long-ball streak to three straight games, added the tying RBI in the seventh inning and helped the New York Yankees rally past the Kansas City Royals for their ninth straight win.

ANGELS 6, WHITE SOX 5

CHICAGO (AP) — Mike Trout homered, doubled and scored three runs, Michael Lorenzen pitched into the ninth inning and Los Angeles held off Chicago for its seventh win in eight games.

MARINERS 7, MARLINS 3

MIAMI (AP) — Logan Gilbert kept up his run of impressive starts, Julio Rodriguez hit his first major league homer and the Seattle ended Miami's seven-game winning streak.

DODGERS 6, TIGERS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Walker Buehler (3-1) pitched five scoreless innings and Los Angeles beat Detroit and overcame Miguel Cabrera's 503rd career home run and his first this season.

BLUE JAYS 3, ASTROS 2

TORONTO (AP) — Santiago Espinal drove in the go-ahead run with an RBI single in the seventh inning. Bo Bichette added a two-run homer and Toronto edged Houston.

CUBS 2, BREWERS 0

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Marcus Stroman threw two-hit ball for seven innings, outpitching Cy Young Award winner Corbin Burnes and leading Chicago over Milwaukee.

RANGERS 7, BRAVES 3

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Adolis Garcia highlighted a three-hit, four-RBI day with a bas-

es-clearing triple in the third inning to help Texas beat Atlanta.

CARDINALS 7, D-BACKS 5

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Harrison Bader and Nolan Arenado homered in the seventh inning to help St. Louis rally past Arizona and win for the third time in five games and salvage a split of the four-game series.

NATIONALS 11, GIANTS 5

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Yadiel Hernandez drove in a career-high five runs with three hits as Washington beat San Francisco. **GUARDIANS 7, ATHLETICS 3**

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Triston McKenzie threw 6 1/3 scoreless innings and Cleveland completed its first sweep in Oakland in 22 years.

Franmil Reyes, mired in a 1-for-27 slump entering the day, had a two-run single in the third when Cleveland scored four times to take control at 5-0. Andres Gimenez had two hits and an RBI, finishing 6 for 12 with six RBIs in the three-game series.

McKenzie (1-2) held the A's to three hits, struck out seven and walked one as Cleveland swept a series at the Oakland Coliseum for the first time since April 10-12, 2000.

TWINS 9, RAYS 3

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Jorge Polanco drove in four runs with a pair of doubles, Carlos Correa had his fourth straight game with multiple hits and Minnesota beat Tampa Bay.

ROCKIES 10, REDS 1

DENVER (AP) — Kyle Freeland tossed seven strong innings for his first win of the season and Colorado completed a series sweep

of struggling Cincinnati.

ORIOLES 9, RED SOX 5

BALTIMORE (AP) — Jordan Lyles pitched six gritty innings, Rougned Odor homered in a six-run sixth and Baltimore beat skidding Boston.

SATURDAY

GUARDIANS 3, ATHLETICS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Pinch-hitter Richie Palacios hit a two-out, two-run double in the ninth inning and Cleveland took advantage of a key error to beat Oakland.

It was 1-all with one out in the Cleveland ninth with a runner on first when Oscar Mercado hit a potential double-play grounder to rookie second baseman Nick Allen, who misplayed it for an error. Palacios hit a towering double on a 3-1 pitch from Dany Jimenez (1-1).

Nick Sandlin (1-1) earned the win and Emmanuel Clase picked up his fourth save for the Guardians, who won their second straight after a seven-game losing streak.

PIRATES 7, PADRES 6

10 INNINGS

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ke'Bryan Hayes singled in the tying run and scored the winning run on an error as Pittsburgh scored twice in the bottom of the 10th inning to beat San Diego and snap a four-game losing streak.

Hayes hit a leadoff single into center field off Luis Garcia (0-1) that scored automatic runner Jake Marisnick with the tying run. First baseman Eric Hosmer then misplayed Bryan Reynolds' ground ball. The ball rolled down the right-field line and Hayes scored from first base.

JARRY

(Continued from Page 9)

Forward Jason Zucker is likely also out for the beginning of the series with an undisclosed injury sustained in a loss to Edmonton last Tuesday.

Injuries have dogged Zucker this season, limiting him to just 41 games.

The Penguins are otherwise healthy, though they face a daunt-

ing task in the Rangers. New York won three of four meetings during the regular season, limiting Pittsburgh to just four goals total in the process.

NAILERS

(Continued from Page 9)

"You're going to get your chances, now you have to come through and turn the page on the chances you had before." Credit to the guys. They did exactly that and what a shot by Houde."

The first period nearly went by scoreless until just 3 seconds remained on the clock.

It was not too late for Wheeling's Matthew Quercia, however, as he tipped a shot by teammate

said. "We had a good period tied at 0-0 and it's 'Good job guys.' But to score that goal with 3 seconds on the clock is huge, especially by the guys who did it. It's the third line, it's the hard-nosed guys like (Dylan) MacPherson. Guys who play hard minutes. To come through in that situation is huge."

"The guys were really excited because that's a big momentum builder moving into the second

Then, it was Josh Maniscalco's time to shine as the defenseman created a steal and took off flying down the ice on a break-away.

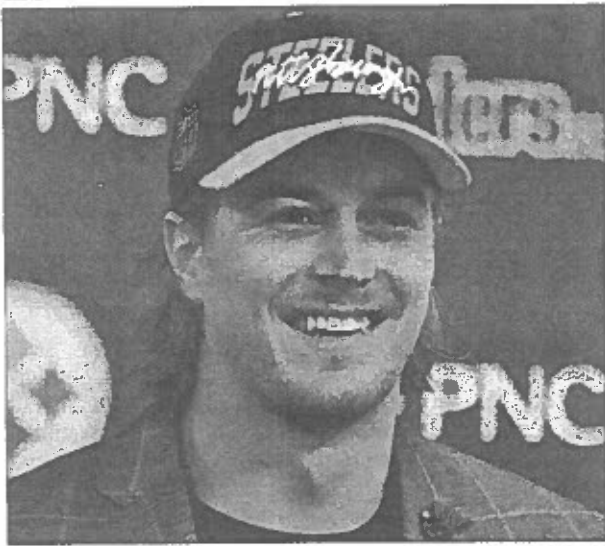
That was all she wrote as he delivered a beauty of a back-hander past Fort Wayne goalie Samuel Harvey to create a 2-1 cushion at 6:24 of the second.

"Many's goal was incredible," Army said. "There was a little frustration because we hadn't

the game and there is a lot going on on the bench right now."

Fort Wayne evened the score once more when Wheeling goalie Louis-Philip Guindon went for a puck behind the net but didn't see Fort Wayne's Matthew Boudens, who beat Guindon to the front for a short-handed goal.

Again, the Nailers refused to get down on themselves and Houde provided the late-game



AP Photo

Kenny Pickett, Pittsburgh's first-round draft pick, meets with reporters on Friday.

Steelers Finish Offensive Retool

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The on-the-fly retooling of the Pittsburgh Steelers offense is nearly complete.

Outgoing general manager Kevin Colbert ended his 20-plus-year tenure with the organization by investing heavily in offensive skill players in his final draft, with the hope that his still-unnamed successor is well-positioned for the future.

"(Colbert's) impact on us will continue to be felt, played out in the lives of the men we selected," coach Mike Tomlin said.

A potential franchise quarterback in Kenny Pickett? Check. A field-stretching wide receiver in George Pickens? Check. A versatile and speedy slot guy in Calvin Austin III? Check.

Throw them into the mix with the top of the 2021 draft class that featured running back Najee Harris and tight end Pat Freiermuth and it's clear the Steelers have loaded up on young and relatively inexpensive talent (at least in the short-term).

Now comes the hard part: making it all fit together. The quicker the better.

The Steelers are making a point to give Pickett — taken with the 20th overall pick on Thursday — everything he needs to hit the ground running whenever Tomlin ultimately hands him the keys to coordinator Matt Canada's offense.

That may come as soon as Week 1, though it's more likely Pickett starts his rookie season on the bench behind Mitch Trubisky — who signed as a free agent in March — or Mason Rudolph. That's the small picture.

Zoom out and Pickett will be given every last chance to succeed as the long-term answer to Ben Roethlisberger's retirement. How that pans out won't be known for years.

If things get sideways, as it did for Trubisky in Chicago after the Bears took him second overall in 2017, no one will be able to say it's because the Steelers didn't try to give him all the playmakers necessary to keep up in today's points-happy NFL.

Pittsburgh overhauled the offensive line for a second straight offseason, signing free agents James Daniel and Mason Cole, cutting Zach Banner and re-signing right tackle Chukwuma Okorafor. The Steelers dealt with the departure of wide receivers JuJu Smith-Schuster and Ray-Ray McCloud by drafting the 6-foot-3 Pickens and the 5-7 Austin and grabbing return specialist Gunner Olszewski and 6-4 Miles Boykin on the cheap on the open market.

"The more weapons, you have the better," Canada said. "The more competition you have in your room, the better. We're excited."

Albeit inexperienced.

There's a very real chance the oldest offensive starter in the 2022 season opener will be the Trubisky, who turns 28 in August. Compare that to the 2020 opener which included five starters in their 30s — quarterback Roethlisberger, tight end Vance McDonald and offensive linemen Maurkice Pouncey, David DeCastro and Alejandro Villanueva.

If Pickett wins the job out of training camp, Pickens emerges as the No. 3 receiver and Cole gets the nod at center, the combined career starts for Pittsburgh's Week 1 lineup would be 244 — or three less than Roethlisberger made during his 18-year career. The Steelers added another arm for training camp by drafting South Dakota State quarterback Chris Oladukun in the seventh round.

LEANING ON LEAL?

Pittsburgh appears to be banking on the return of veteran defensive tackle Tyson Alualu to help shore up a unit that finished last (32nd) against the run in 2021. The Steelers did take Texas A&M's DeMarvin Leal in the third round, but the 6-4, 283-pound Leal doesn't fit the mold of a run stopper. That job will likely fall to Alualu, who missed almost all of last season after fracturing his ankle, and Montravius Adams, who agreed to a two-year deal in March after coming over in a trade last fall.

While defensive coordinator Teryl Austin likes Leal's versatility, Leal is built more like a defensive

Toronto Downs Central in 2A Final

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

RICHMOND — The Toronto baseball team has endured its fair share of ups and downs this spring.

Veteran and highly successful head coach Brian Perkins somewhat expected that when considering the number of youngsters the Red Knights have in their every day lineup.

However, something else that's always seemingly expected from the Red Knights is they'll be playing their best at tournament time.

Case in point was Saturday at the gorgeous Edison baseball field where Toronto pocketed the school's 10th Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship with a 6-3 victory against Wheeling Central.

"This is very rewarding for the fact that we have such a young team," Perkins said. "We start four freshmen and three sophomores and only one senior, but these kids really showed up (Saturday) and played with a lot of passion and guts."

The Maroon Knights, who took out top-seeded and defending champion Shadyside in the semifinals, came into the conference title game playing some of their best baseball of the season and jumped on the Red Knights to a tune of two runs in the top of the first.

However, Toronto, which is now tied for sixth in OVAC history for most baseball titles, didn't flinch.

"Our kids were excited, but we knew we had seven more at-bats, so there was no panic," Perkins said. "This was an all-around, good team effort. We put some pressure on them and were successful."

The pressure that Perkins is speaking came from the Red Knight offense against Maroon Knight ace Ben Foster, who pitched relatively well. Howev-

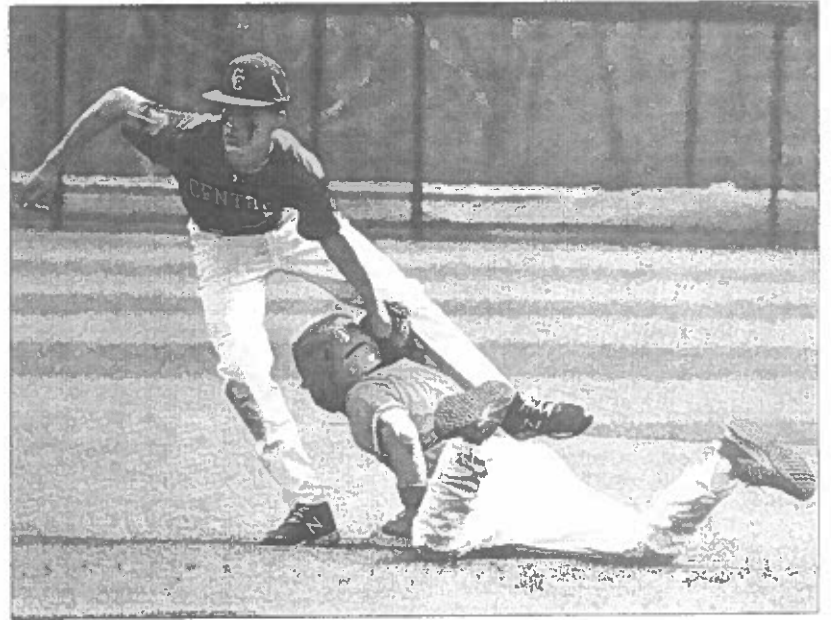


Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Central shortstop Peyton Hildebrand tags out Toronto's Nathan Brownfield on Saturday in the OVAC 2A Championship Game.

er, Central's defense was charged with six errors behind him and only one of the Toronto runs was earned.

"Give credit to Toronto because their kid pitched a really good game and they have a great team," Central head coach Jason Rowe said. "We gave them a few runs, which hurt us."

Those errors started early. Toronto struck for three runs in the home half of the first and not one was earned. Nathan Brownfield had the only RBI in the first inning, which drove in Dom Bouscher, who led off the game with a single.

Toronto put together three singles and received another Central error in the second to push across another run, making it 4-2.

The score remained that way until the Red Knights got some two-out lightning in the fourth.

Bouscher, who was named the game's MVP and received the commemorative bat, laced a triple to the fence in left and was driven

home by Zane Kinsey. Kinsey later moved around to third on a single by Evan Wolter and another fielding blunder allowed Kinsey to trot home.

The Knights got a run in the sixth and threatened for more. Seth Cover, who had a RBI earlier in the game, drove in Gary Hatfield on a groundout to short. Caden Ondrejko and Eli Tucker followed with back-to-back singles, but Bouscher was unfazed.

He calmly induced a pop out to right to thwart the rally.

"Dom has been a big player for us all year," Perkins said. "He attacked the zone against a very good Wheeling Central team. And I can't say enough about our guys behind him, making the routine plays to get the job done. With Dom on the mound, we knew we're going to have a shot in every game and he showed that today."

Bouscher finished with four strikeouts and allowed just five hits with nothing more than a single. Offensively, he had three hits.

OGDEN NEWSPAPERS HALF MARATHON

Classic

MAY 28

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Sunday News-Register
MAY 1, 2022

SPORTS

INSIDE:

Pirates/C3
Harrison Central Baseball/C4
Seth Stasley Column/C5
Scoreboard/C6

SATURDAY'S BEST GOLF

■ 3 p.m. — The Mexican Open, Third Round, CBS

MLB

■ 6:30 p.m. — San Diego at Pittsburgh, ATT

NFL

■ Noon — NFL Draft Rounds 4-7, Las Vegas, ABC, ESPN, NFL Network

SUNDAY'S BEST NASCAR

■ 3 p.m. — The DuraMAX Drydene 400 at Dover Motor Speedway, FS1

GOLF

■ 3 p.m. — The Mexican Open, Final Round, CBS

MLB

■ 1:35 p.m. — San Diego at Pittsburgh, ATT

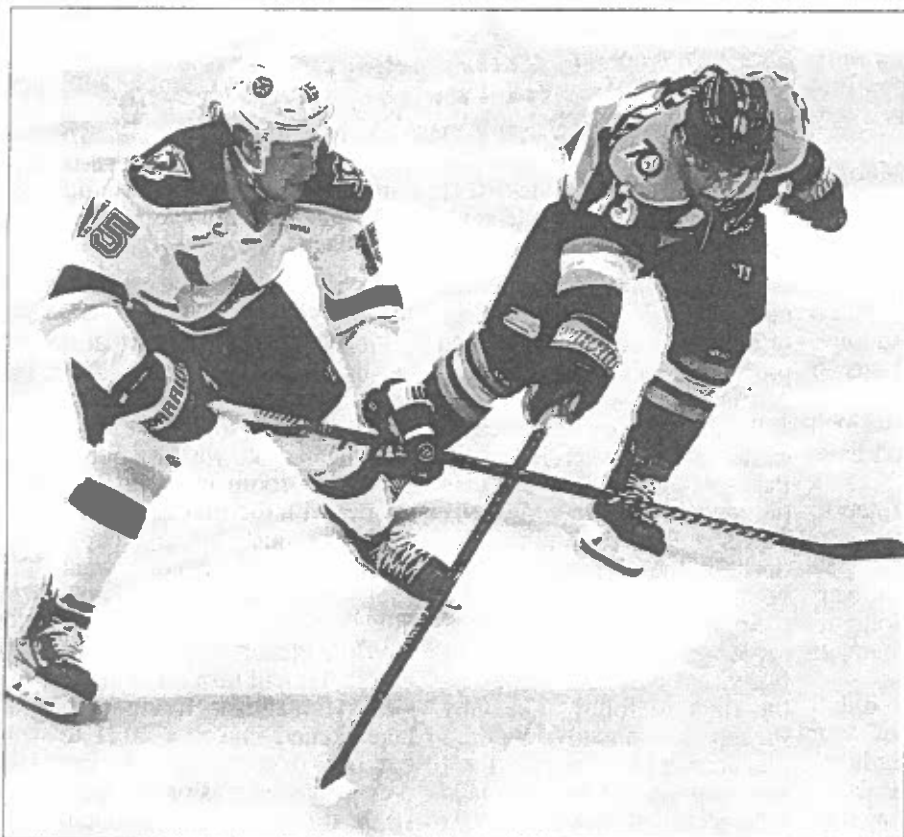
■ 7 p.m. — Philadelphia at New York Mets, ESPN

NBA

■ 1 p.m. — Eastern Conference Semifinal, Milwaukee at Boston, Game 1, ABC

■ 3:30 p.m. — Western Conference First Round, Minnesota at Memphis, Game 7, ABC

Komets Even Series With Nailers in OT



Wheeling's Shaw Boomhower, left, tangles with Fort Wayne's Anthony Petruzzelli during Friday night's playoff game inside WesBanco Arena.

Photo by Joe Lovell

Game 5 Slated for 7:10 p.m. Saturday

By CODY TOMER
Sports Writer

WHEELING — The Wheeling Nailers rallied from 3-1 down to force overtime on Friday night but Fort Wayne got the final laugh.

With 5:17 showing on the clock in the extra period, Mark Russell corralled a rebound and wrapped it around Wheeling goalie Louis-Philip Guindon for the game-winner as the Komets evened the Central Division Semifinal series at 2-2 with a 4-3 triumph inside

WesBanco Arena.

Wheeling hosts Game 5 Saturday at 7:10 p.m.

"In games like this everyone feels like they have to do something a little extra," Nailers' coach Derek Army said as he broke down the game-winning goal by the Komets. "For us it was turned over in the O-Zone and it went back into our zone. Unfortunately we couldn't get it out so we went to their point.

Please see NAILERS, Page C2



Photo by Cody Nespor

Wheeling Park starter Gian Degenova delivers a pitch during Friday's OVAC Class 5A Championship against Morgantown at Edison High School.

Morgantown Dethrones Park

By CODY NESPOR
Sports Writer

RICHMOND

Taking advantage of your opportunities is important in many aspects of one's life, and baseball is no different.

In the OVAC Class 5A Championship played at the brand-new facilities at Edison High School, the team that cashed in on its opportunities ended the night with a trophy, while the team that didn't went home empty-handed.

Morgantown was the team that won, defeating defending champion Wheeling Park by a final score of 8-2.

The Mohigans (16-5) scored in every inning where they got a runner on base. Park (8-7) meanwhile left seven runners stranded.

"Anytime you have an opportunity to score and you take advan-

tage of it, it feels really good," said acting Morgantown coach Brandon Wisman. "We didn't waste too many opportunities today and that's how you win. You can't waste your opportunities and we didn't."

Morgantown's first opportunity to score came right away as Aaron Jamison's automatic double put runners on second and third with one out in the top of the first inning. Jeffrey Poach's single scored both runners and gave the Mohigans a 2-0 advantage.

"Getting a head start is always a big, big advantage," Wisman said. "Giving your pitcher a two-run lead before he even throws a pitch is a very big boost in confidence."

Please see DETHRONES Page C2

Steelers Take WR Pickens, DL Leal in NFL Draft

NFL DRAFT SECOND & THIRD ROUNDS

SECOND ROUND

- 33. Tampa Bay (from Jacksonville), Logan Hall, de, Houston.
- 34. Green Bay (from DET through MIN), Christian Watson, wr, North Dakota State.
- 35. Tennessee (from N.Y. Jets), Roger McCreary, cb, Auburn.
- 36. N.Y. Jets (from N.Y. Giants), Breece Hall, rb, Iowa State.
- 37. Houston, Jalen Pitre, s, Baylor.
- 38. Atlanta (from CAR through NYJ and NYG), Arnold Ebiketie, de, Penn State.
- 39. Chicago, Kyler Gordon, cb, Washington.
- 40. Seattle (from Denver), Boye Mafe, lb, Minnesota.
- 41. Seattle, Kenneth Walker III, rb, Michigan State.
- 42. Minnesota (from Washington through Indianapolis), Andrew Booth, cb, Clemson.
- 43. N.Y. Giants (from Atlanta), Wan'Dale Robinson, wr, Kentucky.
- 44. Houston (from Cleveland), John Metchie III, wr, Alabama.
- 45. Baltimore, David Ojabo, lb, Michigan.
- 46. Detroit (from Minnesota), Joshua Paschal, de, Kentucky.
- 47. Washington (from Indianapolis), Phidarian Mathis, dt, Alabama.
- 48. Chicago (from L.A. Chargers), Jaquan Brisker, s, Penn State.
- 49. New Orleans, Alontae Taylor, cb, Tennessee.
- 50. New England (from Miami through Kansas City), Tyquan Thornton, wr, Baylor.
- 51. Philadelphia, Cam Jurgens, c, Nebraska.
- 52. Pittsburgh, George Pickens, wr, Georgia.

- 53. Indianapolis (from LV through GB and MIN), Alec Pierce, wr, Cincinnati.
- 54. Kansas City (from New England), Skyy Moore, wr, Western Michigan.
- 55. Arizona, Trey McBride, te, Colorado State.
- 56. Dallas, Sam Williams, de, Mississippi.
- 57. Tampa Bay (from Buffalo), Luke Goedeke, g, Central Michigan.
- 58. Atlanta (from Tennessee), Troy Andersen, lb, Montana State.
- 59. Minnesota (Green Bay), Ed Ingram, g, LSU.
- 60. Cincinnati (from Tampa Bay through Buffalo), Cam Taylor-Britt, cb, Nebraska.
- 61. San Francisco, Drake Jackson, lb, Southern Cal.
- 62. Kansas City, Bryan Cook, s, Cincinnati.
- 63. Buffalo (from Cincinnati), James Cook, rb, Georgia.
- 64. Denver (from L.A. Rams), Nik Bonitto, lb, Oklahoma.

THIRD ROUND

- 65. Jacksonville, Luke Fortner, c, Kentucky.
- 66. Minnesota (from Detroit), Brian Asamoah, lb, Oklahoma.
- 67. N.Y. Giants, Joshua Ezeudu, g, North Carolina.
- 68. Cleveland (from Houston), Martin Emerson, cb, Mississippi State.
- 69. Tennessee (from N.Y. Jets), Nicholas Petit-Frere, ot, Ohio State.
- 70. Jacksonville (from Carolina), Chad Muma, lb, Wyoming.
- 71. Chicago, Velus Jones, wr, Tennessee.
- 72. Seattle, Abraham Lucas, ot, Washington State.
- 73. Indianapolis (from Washington), Jelani Woods, te, Virginia.

- 74. Atlanta, Desmond Ridder, qb, Cincinnati.
- 75. Houston (from Denver), Christian Harris, lb, Alabama.
- 76. Baltimore, Travis Jones, dt, Connecticut.
- 77. Indianapolis (from Minnesota), Bernhard Raimann, ot, Central Michigan.
- 78. Cleveland, Alex Wright, de, UAB.
- 79. L.A. Chargers, JT Woods, s, Baylor.
- 80. Denver (from New Orleans through Houston), Greg Dulcich, te, UCLA.
- 81. N.Y. Giants (from Miami), Cordale Flott, cb, LSU.
- 82. Atlanta (from Indianapolis), DeAngelo Malone, lb, Western Kentucky.
- 83. Philadelphia, Nakobe Dean, lb, Georgia.
- 84. Pittsburgh, DeMarvin Leal, dt, Texas A&M.
- 85. New England, Marcus Jones, cb, Houston.
- 86. Tennessee (from Las Vegas), Malik Willis, qb, Liberty.
- 87. Arizona, Cameron Thomas, de, San Diego State.
- 88. Dallas, Jalen Tolbert, wr, South Alabama.
- 89. Buffalo, Terrel Bernard, lb, Baylor.
- 90. Las Vegas (from Tennessee), Dylan Parham, g, Memphis.
- 91. Tampa Bay, Rachaad White, rb, Arizona State.
- 92. Green Bay, Sean Rhyan, g, UCLA.
- 93. San Francisco, Tyrion Davis-Price, rb, LSU.
- 94. Carolina (from KC through NE), Matt Corral, qb, Mississippi.
- 95. Cincinnati, Zachary Carter, de, Florida.
- 96. Indianapolis (from L.A. Rams through Denver), Nick Cross, s, Maryland.



AP Photo

Georgia's George Pickens catches a pass in front of Alabama's Kool-Aid McKinstry during the National Championship.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — George Pickens could have taken his time while rehabbing from a torn ACL in his right knee suffered last March. Could have used all of 2021 to recover. Could have taken a redshirt at Georgia and pointed toward the 2023 NFL draft.

It would have been safe, sure. The wide receiver, however, didn't

believe it was necessary. Not with the Bulldogs chasing a national title. And not with a chance to head to the pros with so many of his teammates.

Less than nine months after being injured, Pickens made an impact in Georgia's run through the College Football Playoff. Just over a year removed from a bad step

Please see DRAFT, Page C2

And suddenly there Pickett was on Friday afternoon, running on adrenaline after a whirlwind 18 or so hours in which the kid from New Jersey who envisioned himself being drafted in the first round as a 7-year-old stood next to Pittsburgh Steelers president Art Rooney II, a No. 1 jersey in his hand after the franchise he worked next door for a half-decade made him the 20th overall pick in the 2022 draft — the only QB in the first round, too.

Pickett understands the pressure that comes with the territory. He knows he's being

Trubisky and Mason Rudolph for the right to be the starter in Week 1. The expectations of a fervid fanbase. If he wanted the easier road, he could have come out last year, been a mid-round pick and not had to shoulder any of it.

That's simply not the way he's wired. Pitt coach Pat Narduzzi realized that not long after Pickett arrived on campus in January 2017.

"He's still mad I didn't play him his freshman year every game," said Narduzzi, who waited until the 2017 regular-season finale against

offense to Pickett, who then proceeded to engineer a staggering upset.

Pickett's breakout season came last year when he led the Panthers to their first ACC title, was named the conference Player of the Year and finished third in the Heisman Trophy voting.

So don't expect Pickett to settle for settling in while Trubisky and Rudolph jockey for the right to follow The Guy. Pickett is already well-acquainted with Steelers offensive coordinator Matt Canada, who recruited Pickett in 2016

Pickett expects to start diving into the playbook the second things start to slow down. And he expects to throw everything he has into walking out of the locker room in early September with the first string.

"That's just his makeup," Narduzzi said. "You want a guy who wants to go play now."

While Pickett is technically a rookie, he will turn 24 in June. General manager Kevin Colbert likened Pickett's 2021 to that of a first-year pro. As impressive as he was on the field while throwing for 42 touch-

downing to people on national television debate the size of his hands. All that is over. Now he can just pour himself into his work. It's the only way he knows how.

Pickett admits he is obsessed with the little things required to get better. A year ago, he was part of an incredibly small group who thought he'd be here. Now he is. Underestimate him at your own risk.

"There's plenty of areas I can improve, so I don't know what my ceiling will be," he said. "You know, we'll have to find out in a few years."

NAILERS

Continued from Page C1

"Our weak side wing went out and our 'D' left the net front to also go out and we just weren't able to get the block and then we weren't able to get the stick at the net front."

Despite the loss, Wheeling outshot Fort Wayne 39-27.

"Looking at it now, I thought we were for sure the better team (Friday)," Army said. "Five-on-five we pushed the pace and we dictated pretty much everything out there. Overall it was a great effort and a great game."

Russell also got the scoring started as he tapped in a shot from in front of the net on the power play.

Cam Hausinger evened the score for Wheeling at 12:03 only to see the Komets strike again as Oliver Cooper gave Fort Wayne a 2-1 edge heading into the second period.

After a scoreless second, Will Graber pocketed his second goal of the postseason on a power play just 56 seconds into the third period to create a 3-1 Komets cushion.

Nonetheless, the Nailers battled back.

Hausinger got the rally started at 4:01 of the third with his second goal of the game and his fourth of the playoffs as he received a pass from Josh Maniscalco in front of the net and fired a shot as he fell to the ground to light the lamp, cutting the deficit to 3-2.

"He's a playoff type player," Army said of Hausinger. "He scored all of our winning goals down the stretch and that line has been terrific for us. He is arguably the best player in the series right now. He does everything right and he is selling everything out for the team. As a coach, I love coaching him."

Four seconds after a tripping penalty on Fort Wayne's Connor Jones gave Wheeling a 5-on-3 advantage, Maniscalco received a pass off the face off and sent a rocket into the back of the net to tie the game at 3-3 with 9:12 remaining.

Both teams had opportunities down the stretch but could not capitalize as the game went to overtime, setting the stage for the Komets to pull even in the series and set up a monstrous Game 5 Saturday.

"We had some great chances but unfortunately some didn't go in," Army said. "Now it will be about mentality getting ready for the next game. They are the older team. They've been through the playoffs so it's not new to them. It's a little new to us but we'll be ready to go Saturday. We'll take a lot of positives away from this game."

DETHRONES

Continued from Page C1

"They hit the ball when they had to. They had timely hitting and were able to take advantage of their situations."

— Wheeling Park coach Steve Myers

Not that Morgantown starter Maddox Bauers needed the confidence boost, as he cruised through three scoreless innings to begin his outing.

When runners did get on, Bauers appeared to kick into high gear as he induced double plays in both the third and fourth innings.

"Their guy pitched a good game," said Park coach Steve Myers. "We had a few opportunities and just weren't able to take advantage of them."

Morgantown started to add insurance runs in the top of the fourth as Weston Mazey's sacrifice fly made it a 3-0 lead.

Park broke through in the bottom of the inning on an RBI single by Grant Simon, but a double play limited what they could do.

Morgantown began to pull away in the top of the fifth, with RBIs from Poach, Caleb Cottle and Ty Galusky.

"They hit the ball when they had to," Myers said. "They had timely hitting and were able to take advantage of their situations."

Park shortstop Michael Bittinger drove in a run in the bottom of the fifth, but Morgantown scored in each of the last four innings to preserve their 8-2 victory.

Bauers pitched all seven innings, allowing five hits and five walks with only one strikeout, but he induced soft contact when he needed it and the Mohigans played spotless defense behind him.

"I think he kept us off-balance, we were on our front foot a lot," Myers said. Our timing looked a little off and hitting is all about timing.

"He was able to make pitches when it counted and get some double plays."

Catcher Luke Marsh was the only Patriot with multiple hits, two singles, as Bittinger and Simon collected the team's RBI.

Gian Degenova started on the mound for Park, allowing six runs in 5 1/3 innings while striking out three.

Poach led Morgantown with two singles and three RBI while Ryan Fluharty and Caleb Nutter both had two singles and a run driven in. Cottle had an RBI double in the top of the fifth.

"We preach to our guys to get a pitch that they can hit, drive through the baseball and drive runs in," Wisman said. "There was no gameplan (Friday), the gameplan was to play baseball."

DRAFT

Continued from Page C1

that threatened his career, Pickens is the latest member of a youth movement on a Pittsburgh Steelers offense that will try to make up for in fresh legs what it might lack in experience.

The Steelers grabbed the 6-foot-3 Pickens in the second round of the draft on Friday night, won over by his playmaking ability and the tenacity with which he recovered from shredding his knee.

Pickens caught just five passes for 107 yards in 2021, one of them a 52-yarder in the blowout win over Alabama in the national championship.

Pittsburgh then added Texas A&M defensive lineman DeMarvin Leal in the third round, giving the Steelers depth at a position decimated by injuries last fall.

The Steelers were aware of Pickens before he got hurt during the fourth day of Georgia's spring drills.

What they saw upon his return did little to change their mind about his potential.

"He didn't have a huge role, but he came back and played late, had some significant plays, and fought to get back out there and play," Steelers offensive coordinator Matt Canada said. "To me, that's a great show of his character right there. He could have easily said, 'Hey, I'm going to get healthy and wait.'"

Instead, Pickens cushions the blow of losing JuJu Smith-Schuster to Kansas City in free agency. Pickens joins a group that includes Diontae Johnson, Chase Claypool and tight end Pat Freiermuth. Oh, and rookie quarterback Kenny Pickett, taken with the 20th overall pick in the first round.

"I was saying everything happens for a reason, so that is also a blessing for Kenny to go last night and for me to go today," Pickens said.

Pickens caught 85 passes for 1,240 yards in his first two seasons with the Bulldogs in 2019 and 2020 and likely would have been drafted a first-rounder if not for his injury.

He ran a 4.47 40-yard dash and the Steelers practically sprinted to the podium to pick him up.

"We had him as a really high guy coming out prior to his injury and

we kept him there," Canada said. "He showed us on his pro day that he was still that guy."

The selection continues a generational shift on offense that began in earnest last April when the Steelers grabbed running back Najee Harris in the first round and Freiermuth in the second.

"I'm going to be excited about the youth," Canada said. "They're willing to work and they've been here already going. I think we got a real talented group."

Pickens gives whomever the starting quarterback will be in Week 1 — whether it's Pickett, Mitch Trubisky or Mason Rudolph — another big target to join the 6-4 Claypool and the 6-5 Freiermuth.

Canada believes he can have Claypool or Pickens line up in the slot despite their size and the fact all three of Pittsburgh's top receivers can get downfield — Pickens ran the 40-yard dash in a respectable 4.47 seconds — should only make the Steelers that much harder to defend.

"The more weapons you have the better," Canada said. "The more competition you have in any room, the better."

The same goes for the defensive line, which is smarting after finishing dead last in the NFL against the run in 2021. The loss of veteran defensive tackle Tyson Alualu in Week 2 and the season-long absence of Stephon Tuitt turned a glaring weakness despite the stellar play of All-Pro Cam Heyward.

Alualu is expected to return in the fall, though he does turn 35 next month while Tuitt's status remains uncertain.

The 6-foot-4, 283-pound Leal could play either inside or at defensive end in Pittsburgh. He collected 8 1/2 sacks last season for the Aggies amid a career-high 58 tackles.

Now he finds himself with the chance to line up alongside Heyward, with reigning NFL Defensive Player of the Year T.J. Watt standing behind him.

"TJ, he's the craziest pass rusher," Leal said. "I can't wait to get to work with him."

"Can't wait to combine our talents and get after the QB."

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Valentine Silences Harrison Central in OVAC 4A Final

By **CODY NESPOR**
Sports Writer

RICHMOND — You've heard of Christmas in July, but how about Valentine's Day in April?

That was the situation at Edison High School Friday night as Cambridge right-hander Jack Valentine tossed a complete-game shutout en route to the Bobcats claiming the OVAC Class 4A Championship 5-0 over Harrison Central.

"He was a workhorse tonight," Cambridge coach Jamaal Lowery said of Valentine. "He manned up and he did what he was supposed to do. He had all three pitches working well and he had a couple of big punchouts."

Valentine yielded just seven baserunners across the full seven innings, scattering three hits and three walks while striking out 11.

"Basically, everything was just working. I felt really good," Valentine said. "It feels really good (to win), especially on this nice field and in front of a big crowd. It's a long drive home, but it was fun."

As good as Valentine was, his counterpart did not make it easy on him. The Huskies had their own ace on the mound in the form of left-hander Tre Rex.

Rex, who out-duced St. Clairsville's Hunter Hoffman in the OVAC semifinal to get to the championship, struck out seven while giving up six hits and three walks. Only one

of the Bobcats' five runs was earned as the Huskies committed four errors in the field behind Rex.

"I thought he pitched well enough definitely to get a win," said HC coach Mike Valesko. "He's pitched well all year and I felt like (Friday) he was great. It's tough when you've got that zero on the scoreboard (on offense). You feel like you have to be perfect in that situation."

The game started with plenty of excitement as both teams loaded the bases in the first inning, just for both aces to strand all three runners.

In the top of the frame, Harrison Central loaded the bases with one out on two walks and an error only for Valentine to induce a harmless pop out to first base and a ground out to the second baseman.

In the bottom half, Cambridge walked and hit back-to-back singles to put themselves in the exact same situation — bases loaded with one out.

Rex, in turn, struck out the next two batters — both looking — to escape the jam.

"It felt like, in that first inning, if we get a hit there then you don't know what happens," Valesko said. "It's 2-0 on a single and then you can kind of settle in a get things going. On the flip side, I'm proud of our guys for going out in the bottom of the first and getting out of it as well."

Cambridge broke through in the bottom of the second inning as Davion Barr scored on a passed ball and Caleb Bond

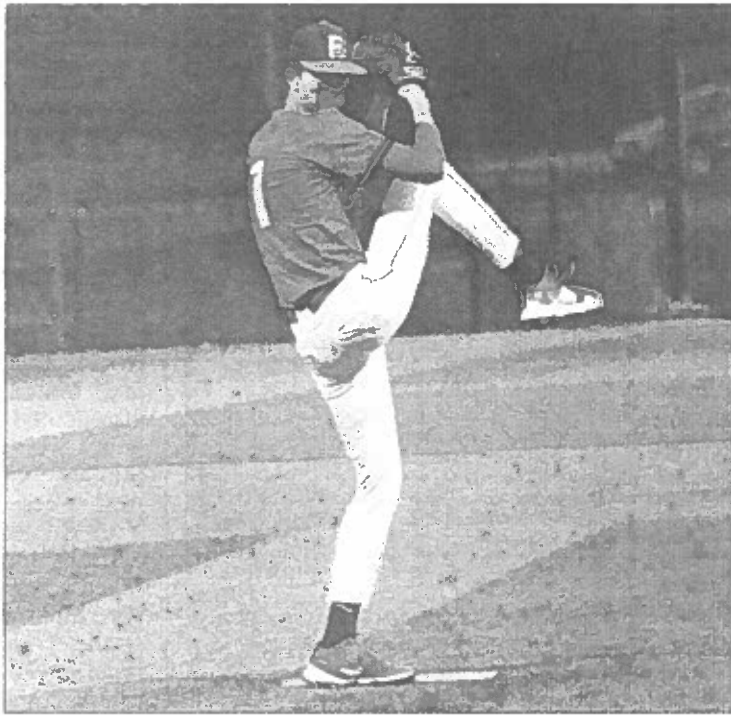


Photo by Cody Nespor
Harrison Central pitcher Tre Rex winds up to throw a pitch during Friday's OVAC Class 4A Championship against Cambridge at Edison High School.

hit a groundball to third base that allowed Keaton Kyser to come home for a 2-0 lead.

The Bobcats added on in the third inning on their first of two so-called "Little League home runs" in the game. With Bryce Murdock on first base, Valentine singled into right field. The right fielder misplayed the ball, allowing Murdock to score and Valentine to reach third base. Valentine never stopped running, however, and collided at home plate with Harrison Central catcher Treston Nemeth, who dropped the ball as Valen-

tine was called safe.

"I was rounding third and stopped at third," Valentine explained. "I saw them throw it (home) and it was a bad throw, so I just ran home. I don't know why. The ball got there in front of me, and I tried to dive under (Nemeth) and I think I hit his leg and the ball came out."

The Huskies' next best chance to score came in the top of the fifth, when they got runners on first and second with one out.

Valentine punched out the next two batters, however, and

Harrison Central only had one more baserunner the rest of the game.

"We needed more opportunities throughout the game," Valesko said. "It felt like we only had two chances while it felt like they were always putting pressure on us. And when you're constantly putting pressure on a team, eventually it will come through."

Cambridge put a bow on the game with another unusual trip around the bases when Barr tripled over the centerfielder's glove with two outs in the bottom of the sixth. Barr easily reached third base safely, but a poor relay throw afforded him the opportunity to come all the way home for the Bobcats' fifth run.

"It was huge for us because Rex was throwing really well," Lowery said. "But once we got into scoring position, we were kind of able to do what we wanted to do and capitalize on their mistakes."

Friday's win was a breakthrough for the Bobcats, as they had lost in the OVAC semifinals each of the last two seasons.

"We've talked about doing the little things, which we've done all year, and just getting over the hump of the semifinals," Lowery said with a wide grin. "Man, it feels great. It feels good."

Bond had Cambridge's lone RBI while Murdock and Valentine each singled twice. Barr finished with a single and a triple.

Bowman Looks to Defend Hendrick Dominance

DOVER, Del. (AP) — Sure, it was bright on Monday for the Hendrick Motorsports team photo filled with virtually every employee, drivers and the four cars that swept the top four spots last year at Dover. Sun or not, bleary-eyed race winner Alex Bowman needed his shades.

"It was a little bit

rough," Bowman said with a laugh. "Sunday night was a good celebration with me and my team. We got a cool picture. But I have sunglasses on for a reason. It was an enjoyable time."

Bowman led a Hendrick pack that found a little slice of history at the Monster Mile with the 1-2-3-4 finish a year

ago. Kyle Larson led a race-high 263 laps and finished second. Chase Elliott was third and William Byron fourth. Hendrick Motorsports won its 267th NASCAR race and now has a record 284 wins headed into Sunday's race.

Hendrick joined Peter DePaolo Racing (1956 at Titusville and 1957 at

North Wilkesboro) and Roush Fenway Racing (2005 Homestead-Miami Speedway) as the only race teams to claim the top four spots in a Cup Series race.

"I was definitely glad to have the bragging rights at being in the front of that," Bowman said.

A year later, Hendrick wouldn't surprise anyone

if it snagged the first four spots again.

Ross Chastain of Trackhouse Racing has emerged as the surprise of the season with two wins over the first 10 Cup races but Hendrick has four. Bowman won the third race of the season in Las Vegas, has six top-10 finishes and has followed up a career-best four wins in 2021 with the type of effort that should stamp him in the championship picture.

"You always want more but we're trying our best to keep that consistency through the summer," he said. "I think we've been doing a good job so far. Just need to keep digging."

Bowman drives the No. 48 Chevrolet, the same number and manufacturer that former Hendrick driver Jimmie Johnson used on his way toward a track-record 11 wins. Bowman said after his win he tried to run "the Jimmie Johnson line" on the concrete mile track. But the old playbook doesn't work anymore as NASCAR moved this season to its "Next Gen" car and takes it to Dover for the first time.

"Your notebook is out the window," Bowman said. "I wouldn't have predicted that it did what it did in Martinsville. I think while it is hard to pass, we've run up front there from really deep in the field."

No matter the car through the years, Hendrick is usually the betting favorite to win

Gibbs Racing. Any concern by the 2017 NASCAR Cup Series champion he won't return to JGR next season?

"No, none at all," Truex said Friday. "Work in progress, I guess."

Truex, who in his 17th full Cup season, remained optimistic a new deal would be reached for at least one more season driving for Joe Gibbs. Truex joined JGR in 2019 and has 12 of his 31 career Cup wins over that span. The 41-year-old Truex signed a multi-year agreement with JGR before the 2021 Daytona 500 and remained in the four-car stable.

Truex is part of a lineup at JGR alongside veterans Denny Hamlin, a three-time Daytona 500 winner, two-time Cup champion Kyle Busch and Christopher Bell, who is in his second full season with the team.

Busch, who will lose sponsor Mars Corp. at the end of the season, expressed unhappiness last week at Talladega he does not have a contract for 2023: "I'm not getting antsy about it. If it happens, it happens. If it don't, it don't. Goodbye."

Truex said he doesn't share Busch's concerns about his future with the team.

"I think we're in different situations," he said. "We haven't talked about it. So I'm not sure what kind of situation he's in. We're in a good place. It's just a matter of figuring out all the details."

Truex, who won four times last season and fin-

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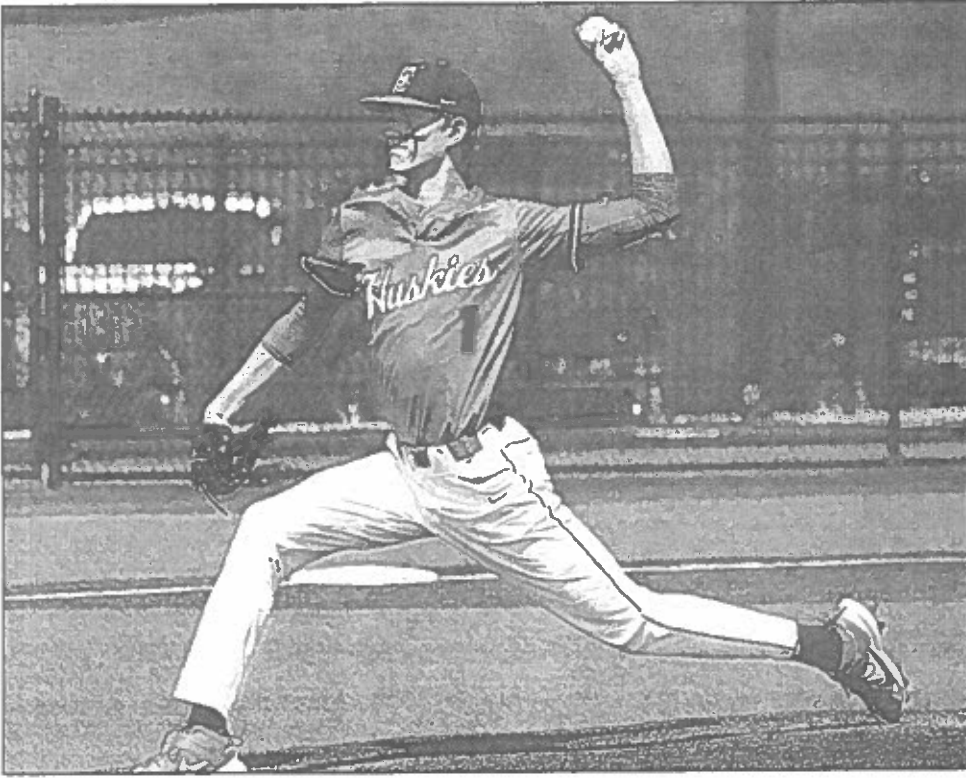
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SPORTS

Monday,
April 25, 2022

HARRISON CENTRAL junior ace Tre Rex delivers to the plate during Saturday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal against St. Clairsville. Rex threw a complete game to lead the Huskies to the conference championship game, which will be played this Friday at Edison High School at approximately 8 p.m. against Cambridge



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

Harrison outlasts St. C. in 4A

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

CADIZ - When two crafty lefties get together on the mound, don't expect many runs.

Such was the case Saturday at sun-drenched Mazeroski Field as Harrison Central's Tre Rex and St. Clairsville's Hunter Hoffman toed the rubber in an epic Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4A baseball tournament semifinal.

The second-seeded Huskies (10-3) rode the two-hit pitching of Rex and used Cabot Arbaugh's RBI single for a 1-0 triumph over the

No. 3 Red Devils. It was the second tight game between the neighboring rivals in a week as the Huskies fell to the Red Devils, 8-6, last Saturday in an eight-inning regular-season matchup.

"I haven't pitched in almost two weeks. I've been battling some arm problems," Rex said. "But (Saturday) I just came out looking to do what I usually do."

Rex got in trouble immediately as he walked leadoff batter Braylen Blomquist on four pitches. Mason Myers lined back to Rex, but he threw the ball wildly to first attempting to double-up the runner

as Blomquist scampered to second. Joey Balgo drew a full-count walk and Hoffman legged out a roller to the hole at short for an infield single that loaded the bases.

However, Rex fanned the next two batters, both looking, to escape unscathed.

"That gave me a boost of confidence," he said of the back-to-back punchouts. "My curveball was really working today. It was my best pitch today. I was starting it low in the strike zone and they were swinging at it. It got the job done."

Both head coaches praised Rex's See, **HARRISON**, Page C2

Ferry rallies past Fort Frye in 3A

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
For The Times Leader

MARTINS FERRY - It was baseball at its finest, played between two quality programs with much at stake.

Fort Frye made the trek to the Purple City Saturday afternoon for an OVAC 3A semifinal contest, matching the 8-2 Cadets against the Purple Riders, owning an identical mark, with both squads boasting mound aces.

After seven well-played innings, Coach Anthony Reasbeck's resilient Riders pulled out a come-from-behind 2-1 triumph. The hosts did not score until their sixth at-bat.

The win propels the Purple into the OVAC title game against Barnesville. The Shamrocks downed top-seeded Linsly, 5-1. Ferry and Barnesville will vie for the conference crown Saturday at 11 a.m. at newly refurbished Edison High School.

The Purple Riders downed the Shamrocks in last year's conference semi-final tilt. Ferry subsequently lost to Linsly in the championship game.

Colby Shriver, as is usually the case, was brilliant on the hill for Ferry. He had to be as Fort Frye's Clay Gruely, a Morgan High transfer, was nearly as brilliant.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

MARTINS FERRY'S Colton Redinger (4) awaits his teammates after his infield single scored pinch runner Coltin Larkin with the winning run in the bottom of the seventh Saturday against Fort Frye.

See, **FERRY**, Page C2

Barnesville knocks out Linsly in 3A

By **CODY NESPOR**
For The Times Leader

WHEELING - A team's hitting will not always be there, but its pitching and defense can be. Barnesville coach DJ Butler tells that to his team all the time and it's the exact reason why the Shamrocks will be playing for an OVAC Class 3A title.

No. 4 Barnesville (8-4) scored in the first and seventh innings with very little offense in between, but got a stellar pitching performance from senior Gavin Carpenter and played flawless defense behind him to pull out a 5-1 victory over No. 1 Linsly in an OVAC semi-

final game at Holloway Field Saturday morning.

"They're battle-tested. They're used to playing tight games, so they really don't flinch when they get into situations like that," Butler said of his team. "We always say that the bats won't always be there, but the defense and pitching can be. (Saturday) was good proof of what that can do for you."

Facing off against Linsly (13-3) starter Brodie Selmon in the top of the first inning, right fielder CJ Hannahs walked, stole second base and raced home when Carpenter sent a ball over the centerfielder's head for a double to score the first run of the game. Carpenter reached

home plate when catcher Kyvan Johnson laced a single through the middle and the Shamrocks led 2-0 before Carpenter had even taken the mound.

"We know we can hit, we just have struggled with hitting the last couple of games," Carpenter said. "That's what we're looking for, to get runs, get ahead early and ride it out the rest of the way."

"It's a big confidence booster (to score early)."

Barnesville was fortunate to score those two early runs, because its offense all but disappeared in the middle innings. However, with the way Carpenter was throwing

See, **BARNESVILLE**, Page C2



Photo/CODY NESPOR

BARNESVILLE SENIOR Colton Hines celebrates after scoring a run during Saturday's OVAC Class 3A semifinal win at Linsly.

Shadyside falls in 2A semi to WCC

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

SHADYSIDE - Oftentimes in baseball, it's not always the number of hits a team compiles, but the timeliness of those hits that goes a long way in determining the outcome.

It played out that way again Saturday afternoon when fourth-seeded Wheeling Central eliminated top-seeded and defending champion Shadyside, 2-1, in an OVAC 2A semifinal.

Each team accumulated five hits, but the Maroon Knights were able to get a big one in the clutch from pitcher Ben Foster in the top of the sixth to bring across the winning run and then

Foster worked out of two jams to fend off the Tigers before a large crowd at sun-drenched Fleming Field.

"This is a good, team win in a game where we came in as the underdog," Central head coach Jason Rowe said. "We made the plays we needed to make. We hung in there (at the plate), didn't try to pull the ball and did a great job of situational hitting."

Shadyside, which elected to start Alex Baker, called upon Rhys Francis out of its bullpen in the fifth where he promptly sat the Knights down in order.

Designated hitter Michael Toepfer looped a ball into no man's land down the right-field line and hustled it into a

lead-off double.

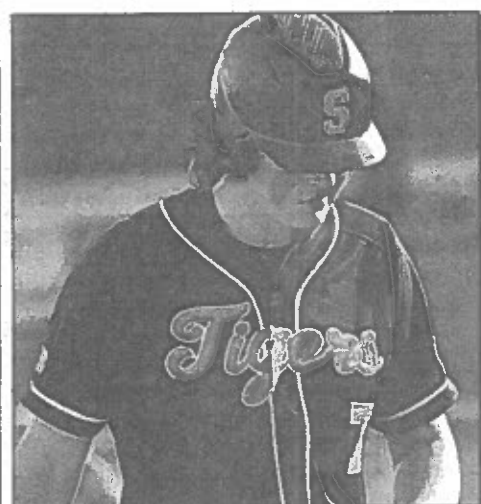
Foster promptly singled into right field and Toepfer raced home just ahead of the throw, giving the Knights the lead.

However, things were just getting interesting.

The Tigers - unwilling to go quietly - opened the sixth with back-to-back singles. Bryce Amos, who drove in the Shadyside run in the first with a single, recorded his second hit and Baker dropped down a perfect bunt that he beat out for a single.

Designated hitter Logan Crozier appeared to have made it three consecutive singles when he looped a

See, **SHADYSIDE**, Page C2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

SHADYSIDE SENIOR Bryce Amos reacts during the Tigers' 2-1 loss to Wheeling Central in an OVAC Class 2A semifinal.

Flyers skate past Penguins, 4-1 • Ferry

Continued from Page C1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Noah Cates had two goals and an assist. Martin Jones made 37 saves and the Philadelphia Flyers beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-1 on Sunday.

Morgan Frost added a goal and an assist and Travis Konecny scored an empty-netter for the Flyers, who won their second straight after losing six in a row.

Sidney Crosby scored for the Penguins.

The Penguins entered in third place in the Metropolitan Division, two points ahead of Washington. Pittsburgh has two games remaining and would play the Rangers in the first round of the playoffs by staying in third place. If Washington jumps ahead of the Penguins, Pittsburgh would meet the Eastern Conference-leading Florida Panthers in the opening round.

Philadelphia is merely playing out the season. The Flyers entered with the second-worst record in the East, and several regulars are sidelined for the remainder of the season. A mix of AHL call-ups and young players looking to establish themselves in the NHL gave Philadelphia a surprising lift against the more-talented Penguins.

Cates is one of them. A fifth-round pick in 2017, Cates recorded his first multi-goal performance and now has five tallies in 13 career games.

He joined the Flyers after his college team, Minnesota-Duluth, was eliminated from the NCAA tournament.

The 23-year-old Cates scored both goals in nearly identical fashion, the first a deflection of Keith Yandle's slap shot from in front of the net with 13:11 left in the

second period to put Philadelphia ahead 2-0, and the second a redirection of Ivan Provorov's slap shot on the power play with 10:22 to play to make it 3-0. It was a rare tally on the man-advantage for Philadelphia, which entered last in the NHL on the power play by converting just 12 percent of its chances.

Frost scored on a rebound with 4:11 left in the first to put the Flyers on the board.

Crosby recorded his 31st of the season and team-leading 84th point with 3:33 left.

With starter Tristan Jarry sidelined with a foot injury, Louis Domingue made his second appearance of the season in goal for the Penguins. Backup Casey Des-Smith has assumed the starting spot while Jarry recovers from an injury sustained on April 14.

• Relays

Continued from Page C1

St. Clairsville had a strong showing by claiming two events.

Individually, Karl Kain won the pole vault with a 13-6 clearance.

The Red Devils 4x8 team continued its strong season when the foursome of Jack Gasber, Gannon Kazmirski, Ben Shields and Nate Thornburg won the distance relay with a time of 8:29.57.

GIRLS

St. Clairsville's speed and depth was simply too much for the Cadets. The Red Devils won eight events along the way and scored in numerous others.

Senior standout Emily Thompson was a double individual winner for the Red Devils. She won the pole vault (11-0) and the high hurdles (17.36).

• Shadyside

Continued from Page C1

into shallow right center. However, Knights centerfielder Eli Tucker turned in a web-gem diving catch and they doubled Amos off second to basically thwart the Tiger rally.

In the seventh, Foster found himself in a jam once again. Shadyside's Grant Miller and Korey Beckett both reached to begin the inning on errors in the infield.

Again, however, Foster was unfazed. He got a fly out to right and then got the final outs by virtue of a 6-3 double play in which the Knights had the Tigers shaded up the middle.

"Those double plays were huge and great timing on both, too," Rowe said. "We didn't lose focus or get down on ourselves (after the errors), we just came back and made the plays we had to make."

Foster, who struck out only one,

Sophomore Emma Henry posted a couple of season-best times en route to winning the 100 and 200 meter dashes. She ran 12.95 and 26.96, respectively.

The Devils also captured four of the five relay events.

The 4x1, which included Madie Stock, Haven Brak, Thompson and Henry, posted a 51.96 for the win.

The 4x2, comprised of Brak, Laili Dombrowski, Lauren Powell and Henry, clocked a 1:53.47 for the title.

The 4x4, which consisted of Alyson Evonek, Stock, Lacy Tuttle and Delaney Florence, ran 4:37.73.

The shuttle team posted a 1:13.00. It consisted of Sydney Miller, Florence, Alivia DaRe and Thompson.

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"Ben did a good job on the bump and we had a hard time adjusting," Shadyside head coach Shawn Selmon said. "The pitcher's job is to throw timing off and he did a good job of it (Saturday). We didn't put the runs on the board like we should have."

Outside of the first, sixth and seventh, scoring opportunities were limited for the Tigers. They had only one runner reach scoring position in the other four innings.

"Every time we have Ben Foster on the mound, we have a chance to win the game," Rowe said. "This is the third time he's pitched against Shadyside and he just did his job."

The Knights were able to pro-

duce a run in the third. Taking advantage of a hit batsman, stolen base, single and a RBI groundout by Peyton Toepfer, Central knotted the game at one.

The victory sends the Knights to the OVAC championship game this Saturday against third-seeded Toronto, which won its semifinal at Frontier on Friday. The title game will be played at Edison's brand-new facility in Richmond and begin at 1 p.m.

Shadyside, meanwhile, falls to 9-3 and will get re-focused on the remaining goals it has left in front of it for this season.

"This is the first goal, but the second goal and bigger one is obviously the state playoffs," Selmon said. "We have a good ballclub and we have a lot more baseball to play and we plan on making some noise."

"He had tried to work the count and get (Brodie) Selmon out of the game because we knew how good he was," Butler explained. "We decided in that last inning that we were going to be aggressive at the plate and we just got the barrel to the ball and good things happened."

Center fielder Luca DiLorenzo walked to lead off the bottom of the seventh and later scored on a sacrifice fly to right field by Och, but that was all the offense Cadets could muster as Powell got Wilson to pop out to second base to end the game.

"We did not have a very good performance (Friday) and our seniors just took control and they kept the dugout up (Saturday)," Butler said. "They kept everybody focused and that's a hat's off to our seniors."

Carpenter pitched 5 2/3 scoreless innings on the mound with eight nunchouts and an RBI dou-

Shriver scattered just six hits while striking out 10 and walking nary a batter. The Cadets' lone run was an unearned one in the first.

"I wasn't worried when they scored one run in the first inning. I figured we would score a lot of runs today," Shriver said. "But as the game goes deeper and deeper you get a little worried when you are still trailing. But we were able to finally get it done."

"It was a fun game to pitch. Their pitcher was really good so it makes me want to pitch better," he added. "We are looking forward to playing Barnesville again. We owe them one. They beat us in the district last year."

Gruey, meanwhile, also went the route. He allowed just seven hits while fanning two and walking none. He did plunk two batters.

"What more can I say about Colby? It sounds like a broken record," Reasbeck said. "Colby is the most consistent guy you could ask for. I have been head coach here for 12 years and he is 1A and 1B."

"Colby is a tremendous competitor. We come to expect performances like this every time he takes the mound," added the former Ferry athletic star. "He is one hell of a pitcher and character young man."

Fort Frye's lone run was ironically scored by a Cadet who Shriver struck out to open the game. Cadets' leadoff hitter Dawson Layton struck out, but reached first after the ball got past the catcher. He later scored on a two-out single by Ian Ellis.

While Shriver hurled a gem, he was far from the lone Purple standout. The Ferrians boasted heroes aplenty.

Down 1-0 in the sixth, Ferry third baseman Colin Sneadeker crushed a Gruey offering over the left field fence, knotting matters at 1-1.

Fort Frye threatened in the seventh, putting runners on second and third with one out. The Cadets' Carman Tennant lofted a fly ball to rightfield. Ferry frosh Ayden Ludolph made the catch and fired a strike to home plate to gun down Jackson Love, ending the inning and keeping the score tied.

The Purple Riders, now riding a wave of momentum, took care of business on the strength of some two-out lightning in the seventh.

Designated hitter Jesse Nagel kept the hosts alive with an infield single. Ludolph was beamed for the second time on the day. Both runners advanced on a wild pitch. Catcher Colten Redinger delivered the game-winner via an infield single deep in the hole at shortstop.

"We had so many players step up. But they are athletes and competitors. They perform well in other sports," Reasbeck said. "Ayden was starting quarterback for us as a freshman. So, I am not surprised he made a great throw. Jesse and Colten are battled-tested veterans. Colby was great, but we had a lot of other players do really good things."

The loss was a tough pill to swallow for Fort Frye head coach Trey Engle.

"It was really a great game to be a part of. It was well played with two super pitchers," Engle said. "It went our way for the first five innings. They did what they needed to do in their last two at-bats."

"I am proud of our kids and their effort today. I am just disappointed for our kids," he continued. "But our hats are off to Martins Ferry. They are a well-coached team."

This will be Reasbeck's third OVAC championship game appearance. In addition to last year's game, the Purple Riders previously lost to Steubenville.

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Sneadeker and Hayden Smith were the lone Riders to collect two hits.

• Harrison

Continued from Page C1

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"He was phenomenal today. That's Tre Rex. He's pretty darn good," Harrison Central head coach Mike Valesko beamed. "He had some back spasms that affected his last outing, but he's worked his way through it and he did the job today."

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Veteran St. Clairsville (5-5) head coach Tom Sliva lauded, not only Rex, but Hoffman, as well.

"We hit the ball very poorly today. First of all, though, our pitcher did a tremendous job as did theirs. There was a total of five hits in the game. Our guys have a lot of work to do at the plate. We've got a lot of growing up to do at the plate," he said after counting up 11 runners left on base, with seven of those in scoring position. "We've got guys that are good in practice, but when it comes to games, they tighten up. They've got to understand that if you're going to win big games, you've got to beat big-time pitchers. That was a big-time pitcher today."

While Rex was holding the Red Devils in check, the Huskies got him the only run he would need in the bottom of the second. Kaden Jurosko drew a full-count walk leading off. After stealing second, he went to third on a sacrifice bunt by Rex. Arbaugh tried to

• Barnesville

Continued from Page C1

on the mound it did not matter.

Linsly had baserunners in every inning of Saturday's game but none of them made it even as far as third base as Carpenter spun 5 2/3 innings of shutout ball.

"Gavin was unbelievable on the mound, you couldn't ask for a better performance," Butler said. "He's been clutch for us since he was a freshman and he did it again for us (Saturday)."

Carpenter walked five batters and allowed five hits, but he located his fastball well and used a low curveball to rack up eight strikeouts.

"My fastball was working pretty well. I had good control today and my curveball was picking up as the game went on," Carpenter explained. "I just tried to focus on putting the ball over the plate. I felt like I did pretty well on spotting (the ball) today so my confidence was way up."

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"He kept us in the game," Cartwright said of Och. "Brodie struggled with his breaking ball command early but he started to throw better. I just wanted to make a switch before it got out of hand."

The Cadets finally chased Carpenter from the mound when Dillon Wilson walked in the bottom of the sixth and Xavier Fankhouser singled to put runners on the corners with two outs.

Kason Powell entered the game for Barnesville and induced a routine flyball to right field to end the threat.

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The runner-up Cadets picked up a trio of wins along the way, including freshman Haylen Cook, who won the 300 low hurdles in 51.36 by a hundredth of a second over St. Clairsville's Florence.

Senior Ally Hicks ran eight laps in 13:18.04 to win the 3200 meter run. That capped an impressive distance double because earlier she ran a 5:52.67 to win the 1600.

Bellaire's only winner was senior Katelyn Hart. She won the discus with a solid mark of 115-10.

The host Tigers picked up a win in the long jump thanks to senior standout Paige Gorby. She leaped off the board to a mark of 16-11 for the title.

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Carpenter was even better under pressure as he did not allow a single ball to even leave the infield when runners were on base.

"He just kept making pitches in the clutch," said Linsly coach Jay Cartwright. "In the middle innings, we came alive a little bit and had some pressure on him and he was just really effective at making pitches when he had to. We struck out a lot when we had to get balls in play and they made all the plays on defense."

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It looked like Barnesville would have to be content with its 2-run lead when Och got two quick outs to start the top of the seventh but Marshall Meade reached on an error and Jeremy Fankhouse singled and suddenly, the Shamrocks were in business.

Colton Hines and CJ Hannahs then hit back-to-back RBI singles as the Shamrocks were finally able to add some insurance runs. Hines later scored on a wild pitch and Barnesville led 5-0 heading into the bottom of the seventh.

"He had tried to work the count and get (Brodie) Selmon out of the game because we knew how good he was," Butler explained. "We decided in that last inning that we were going to be aggressive at the plate and we just got the barrel to the ball and good things happened."

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Carpenter pitched 5 2/3 scoreless innings on the mound with eight punchouts and an RBI double at the plate. Hines and Hannahs both had RBI singles in the seventh and Johnson had a run-scoring single in the first.

For Linsly, Selmon took the loss, allowing two runs in 2 2/3 innings with six strikeouts. Och allowed three runs in 4 1/3 innings with four strikeouts and an RBI and a double at the dish.

Barnesville will now play Martins Ferry, who defeated Fort Frye 2-1 Saturday, for the OVAC Class 3A title.

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"We asked him to bunt but he didn't get them down, but credit to him," Valesko noted. "We've had some good practices lately about doing whatever it takes to win a game, but when we got to that point, you had to do something to win the game. Cabot didn't get down on himself by not getting two bunts down, but with two strikes he choked up on the bat and got enough of the pitch to send it into left field for a single," Valesko recalled.

With the win, Harrison Central advances to the championship game next weekend in Richmond at Edison High School opposite top-seeded Cambridge, which rallied past No. 4 Indian Creek, 8-7. It will be Valesko's third try at a title. The Huskies haven't won an OVAC baseball title since 2013. It is one of four they possess as they went back-to-back in 2005 and 2006, and also won the 3A crown in 2000.

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OVAC BASEBALL SEMIFINALS

Central Knocks Off Top-Seeded Shadyside

Foster's pitching, hitting comes up clutch in semifinal

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

SHADYSIDE — Oftentimes in baseball, it's not always the number of hits a team compiles, but the timeliness of those hits that goes a long way in determining the outcome.

It played out that way again Saturday afternoon when fourth-seeded Wheeling Central eliminated top-seeded and defending champion Shadyside, 2-1, in an OVAC 2A semifinal.

Each team accumulated five hits, but the Maroon Knights were able to get a big one in the clutch from pitcher Ben Foster in the top of the sixth to bring across the winning run and then Foster worked out of two jams to fend off the Tigers before a large crowd at sun-drenched Fleming Field.

"This is a good, team win in a game where we came in as the underdog," Central head coach Jason Rowe said. "We made the plays we needed to make. We hung in there (at the plate), didn't try to pull the ball and did a great job of situational hitting."

Shadyside, which elected to start Alex Baker, called upon Rhys Francis out of its bullpen in the fifth where he promptly sat the Knights down in order.

Designated hitter Michael Toepfer looped a ball into no man's land down the right-field line and hustled it into a lead-off double.

Foster promptly singled into right field and Toepfer raced home just ahead of the throw, giving the Knights the lead.

However, things were just getting interesting.

The Tigers - unwilling to go quietly - opened the sixth

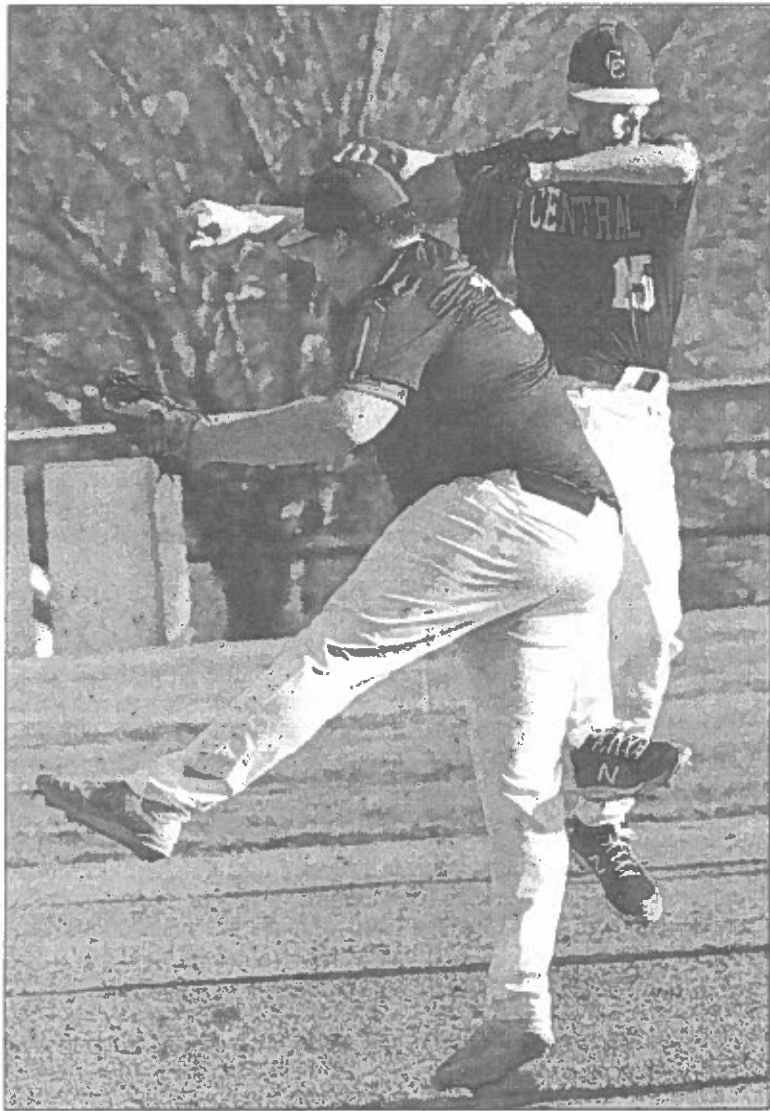


Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Central's Ben Foster and Payton Hildebrand (15) celebrate after the final out was recorded in the Maroon Knights' 2-1 victory at Shadyside in an OVAC Class 2A semifinal.

with back-to-back singles. Bryce Amos, who drove in the Shadyside run in the first with a single, recorded his second hit and Baker dropped down a perfect bunt that he beat out for a single.

Designated hitter Logan Crozier appeared to have made it three consecutive singles when he looped a ball into shallow right center. However, Knights centerfielder Eli Tucker turned

in a web-gem diving catch and they doubled Amos off second to basically thwart the Tiger rally.

In the seventh, Foster found himself in a jam once again. Shadyside's Grant Miller and Corey Beckett both reached to begin the inning on errors in the infield.

Please see **CENTRAL**,
Page 14



Photos by Cody Tomer

Wheeling Park catcher Luke Marsh fires to second during Saturday's OVAC 5A Semifinal win over University.

Park Advances To OVAC Final

By **CODY TOMER**
Sports Writer

WHEELING — Repeating as OVAC champions is far from an easy task.

No. 1 seed Wheeling Park baseball knew that entering Saturday's OVAC 5A Semifinal and it weathered the storm — recovering from a 2-0 deficit in the first inning over visiting No. 4 seed University.

Park will now play on Friday night at 5:30 p.m. at Edison against No. 2 Morgantown for a chance to win its second consecutive OVAC 5A title.

"It's a banner and that is why you have a season," Park coach Steve Myers said. "It's an exciting opportunity to try to do it again."

University opened the scoring in the first as a Gabe Templeton RBI single sparked a two-run frame.

However, the Patriots responded in a big way as they produced a six-run first inning and a three-run second frame to secure a commanding 9-2 advantage.

In the first for Park, Luke Marsh delivered a RBI double, Gian DeGenova tallied a RBI knock, Braydon Kupsky garnered a go-ahead RBI single, Dylan Hodgson hit into a RBI fielder's choice and Grant Simons provided the final blow with a two-run single.

Hodgson struck again in the second with a two-run single and Kupsky added an RBI single for the 9-2 cushion.

"The players answered the call," Myers said. "I think that is how I would describe it. The guys picked each other up all day long and it was a total team effort."

Please see **PARK**,
Page 14

Back-to-Back Homers Catapult Cameron Into Title Game

By **CODY TOMER**
Sports Writer

CAMERON — Defense might win championships but the long ball gets you there.

That was the case on Saturday anyway as top seeded Cameron defeated visiting No. 4 Conotton Valley 5-2 in the OVAC 1A Semifinal to advance to the championship game next Saturday.

The Dragons held an early 2-0 edge until Coy Angel delivered a two-run homer to right field in the bottom of the third.

Just seconds after Angel touched home plate, Isaac Ball made it back-to-back home runs as he belted a pitch over the left-center field fence to create a 5-0 cushion

and a momentum swing the Rockets could not overcome.

"It was a close game but those back-to-back home runs took the wind out of their sails," Cameron coach Adam Angel III said. "Then, our dugout started to get up so it was a good way to generate some runs."

The 5-0 lead was all the Dragons needed thanks to very strong pitching from the Angel brothers, Coy Angel and Adam Angel IV.

Coy Angel went five scoreless frames with 12 strikeouts and four walks, while allowing three hits.

In the sixth, Adam Angel IV took the hill. He did allow two runs but was able to limit the damage by escaping a bases-loaded jam with one out. He finished the

last two innings and picked up a trio of punch outs and no walks.

"Coy does a good job," Coach Angel said. "He has matured a lot and he is only a sophomore. He is becoming a pitcher instead of just a thrower. He's not just relying on his fastball to strike people out. He mixes his pitches up well and he's able to throw a lot of strikes."

"Adam is a junior and he has had some experience. He threw 32 pitches in the sixth inning but he threw 23 strikes. I never worry about his poise. He is the type of kid who just figures it out. I like him in that role because I don't have to worry about his mentality."

Please see **CAMERON**, Page 16

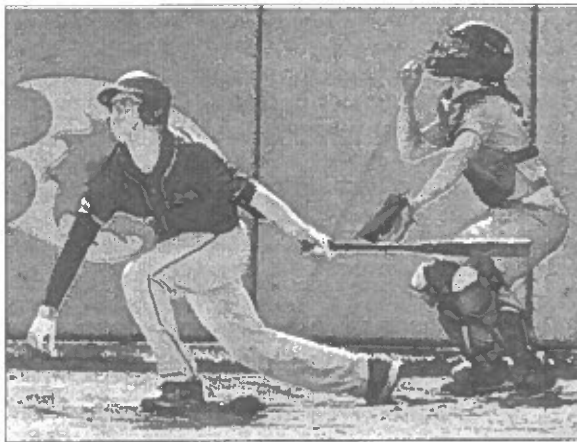


Photo by Cody Tomer

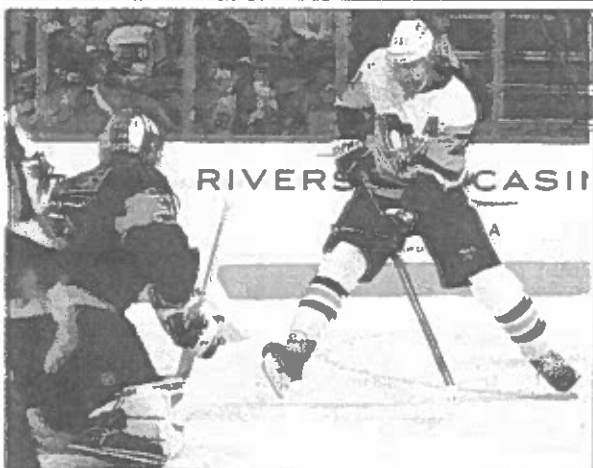
Cameron's Coy Angel follows through on a swing during Saturday's OVAC Semifinal game victory over Conotton Valley.

**Nailers Go
1 In 2-0 Over**



**Bullpen Shines
As Pirates Beat**





AP Photo

Pittsburgh Penguins' Evgeni Malkin, right, makes his move against Philadelphia Flyers' Martin Jones.

Cates, Jones Lead Flyers Over Pens

By AARON BRACY
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Noah Cates had two goals and an assist. Martin Jones made 37 saves and the Philadelphia Flyers beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-1 on Sunday.

Morgan Frost added a goal and an assist and Travis Konecny scored an empty-netter for the Flyers, who won their second straight after losing six in a row.

Sidney Crosby scored for the playoff-bound Penguins.

"We just weren't good enough," Pittsburgh coach Mike Sullivan said. "I was hopeful that we were going to have a better effort."

The Penguins entered in third place in the Metropolitan Division, two points ahead of Washington. Pittsburgh has two games remaining and would play the Rangers in the first round of the playoffs by staying in third place. If Washington jumps ahead of the Penguins, Pittsburgh would meet the Eastern Conference-leading Florida Panthers in the opening round.

"Wasn't our best," Crosby said. "It's not always going to be your best, you still have to find ways to win. We've got two games left here to make sure we're playing the right way going into the playoffs. You definitely want to be playing well, wherever that seeds you so be it."

Philadelphia is merely playing out the season. The Flyers entered with the second-worst record in the East, and several regulars are sidelined for the remainder of the season. A mix of AHL call-ups and young players looking to establish themselves in the NHL gave Philadelphia a surprising lift against the more-talented Penguins.

Cates is one of them. A fifth-round pick in 2017, Cates recorded his first multi-goal performance and now has five tallies in 13 career games. He joined the Flyers after his college team, Minnesota-Duluth, was eliminated from the NCAA tournament.

The 23-year-old Cates scored both goals in nearly identical fashion, the first a deflection

chances.

Frost scored on a rebound with 4:11 left in the first to put the Flyers on the board.

Frost, 23, centered the third line with Cates and 23-year-old Owen Tippett.

"Nice to be around some younger guys," Cates said. "We're chatting a little bit, helping each other out and obviously producing a little bit, so it's nice."

Crosby recorded his 31st of the season and team-leading 84th point with 3:33 left.

GOOD GOALIES

With starter Tristan Jarry sidelined with a foot injury, Louis Domingue made his second appearance of the season in goal for the Penguins. Backup Casey DeSmith has assumed the starting spot while Jarry recovers from an injury sustained on April 14. DeSmith made 23 saves in Pittsburgh's 7-2 win at Detroit on Saturday.

Domingue was solid throughout the contest and kept the Penguins from falling into a three-goal deficit with a stellar pad stop of Tippet from point-blank range with 10 minutes left in the second. He finished with 39 saves.

Jones was even better. Philadelphia's goalie was at his best late in the second, first denying Jake Guentzel with 5:09 left and then turning away Evgeni Malkin's excellent chance on the power play 27 seconds later.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Penguins: Sullivan said last week that Jarry is "week to week." He has missed four straight contests.

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Penguins: Host Edmonton on Tuesday night.

HURRICANES 5 ISLANDERS 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Max Domi scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period and the Carolina Hurricanes got help from a rookie goaltender, boosting their Metropolitan Division lead by beating the New York Islanders 5-2 on Sunday.

BLUE JACKETS 5 OILERS 2

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Rookie Nick Blankenburg scored his first NHL goal and

Carpenter Pitches Barnesville Past Linsly and Into OVAC Final

By CODY NESPOR
Sports Writer

WHEELING — A team's hitting will not always be there, but its pitching and defense can be. Barnesville coach DJ Butler tells that to his team all the time and it's the exact reason why the Shamrocks will be playing for an OVAC Class 3A title.

No. 4 Barnesville (8-4) scored in the first and seventh innings with very little offense in between, but got a stellar pitching performance from senior Gavin Carpenter and played flawless defense behind him to pull out a 5-1 victory over No. 1 Linsly in an OVAC semifinal game at Holloway Field Saturday morning.

"They're battle-tested. They're used to playing tight games, so they really don't flinch when they get into situations like that," Butler said of his team. "We always say that the bats won't always be there, but the defense and pitching can be. Today was good proof of what that can do for you."

Facing off against Linsly (13-3) starter Brodie Selmon in the top of the first inning, right fielder CJ Hannahs walked, stole second base and raced home when Carpenter sent a ball over the centerfielder's head for a double to score the first run of the game. Carpenter reached home plate when catcher Kyvan Johnson laced a single through the middle and the Shamrocks led 2-0 before Carpenter had even taken the mound.

"We know we can hit, we just have struggled with hitting the last couple of games," Carpenter said. "That's what we're looking for, to get runs, get ahead early and ride it out the rest of the way."

"It's a big confidence booster (to score early)."

Barnesville was fortunate to score those two early runs, because their offense all but disappeared in the middle innings. However, with the way Carpenter was throwing on the mound it did not really matter.

Linsly had baserunners in every inning of Saturday's game but none of them made it even as far as third base as Carpenter spun 5 2/3 innings of shutout ball.

"Gavin was unbelievable on the mound, you couldn't ask for a better performance," Butler said. "He's been clutch for us since he was a freshman and he did it again for us (Saturday)."

Carpenter walked five batters and allowed five hits, but he located his fastball well and used a low curveball to rack up eight strikeouts.

"My fastball was working pretty good, I had good control today and my curveball was picking up as the game went on," Carpenter explained.

CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 13)

Again, however, Foster was unfazed. He got a fly out to right and then got the final outs by virtue of a 6-3 double play in which the Knights had the Tigers shamed up the middle.

"Those double plays were huge and great timing on both, too," Rowe said. "We didn't lose focus or get down on ourselves (after the errors), we just came back and made the plays we had to make."

Foster, who struck out only one, pitched to contact most of the day. And the contact - for the most part - was soft as Shadyside's hitters were off balance at the plate most of the game.

"Ben did a good job on the bump and we had a hard time adjusting," Shadyside head coach Shawn Selmon said. "The pitcher's job is to throw timing off and he did a good job of it (Saturday). We didn't put the runs on the board like we should have."

Outside of the first, sixth and seventh, scoring opportunities were limited for the Tigers. They had only one runner reach scoring position in the other four innings.

PARK

(Continued from Page 13)

"They took a little punch in the first inning and answered it. To see these guys come together and do that, they showed a lot of character to battle like that."



Photo by Cody Nespor

Barnesville's Jeremy Hunkler (17) and Duker Castello (8) celebrate after Hunkler scored on an RBI single in the top of the seventh inning of Saturday's OVAC Semifinal game against Linsly.

"I just tried to focus on putting the ball over the plate. I felt like I did pretty good on spotting (the ball) today so my confidence was way up."

Carpenter was even better under pressure as he did not allow a single ball to even leave the infield when runners were on base.

"He just kept making pitches in the clutch," said Linsly coach Jay Cartwright. "In the middle innings we came alive a little bit and had some pressure on him and he was just really effective at making pitches when he had to. We struck out a lot when we had to get balls in play and they made all the plays on defense."

After walking back-to-back hitters in the top of the third, Selmon was replaced on the mound by senior Adam Och, who all but matched Carpenter's effectiveness on the mound. The Shamrocks did not record a single hit from the second to the sixth inning and their only baserunners in that span were the two that walked against Selmon and were stranded by Och.

"He kept us in the game," Cartwright said of Och. "Brodie struggled with his breaking ball command early but he started to throw better. I just wanted to make a switch before it got out of hand."

The Cadets finally chased Carpenter from the mound when Dillon Wilson walked in the bottom of the sixth and Xavier Fankhouser singled to put runners on the corners with two outs.

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It looked like Barnesville would have to be contempt with its 2-run lead when Och got two quick outs to start the top of the seventh but Marshall Meade reached on an error and

Jeremy Fankhouse singled and suddenly, the Shamrocks were in business.

Colton Hines and CJ Hannahs then hit back-to-back RBI singles as the Shamrocks were finally able to add some insurance runs. Hines later scored on a wild pitch and Barnesville led 5-0 heading into the bottom of the seventh.

"He had tried to work the count and get (Brodie) Selmon out of the game because we knew how good he was," Butler explained. "We decided in that last inning that we were going to be aggressive at the plate and we just got the barrel to the ball and good things happened."

Center fielder Luca DiLorenzo walked to lead off the bottom of the seventh and later scored on a sacrifice fly to right field by Och, but that was all the offense Cadets could muster as Powell got Wilson to pop out to second base to end the game.

"We had not a very good performance (Friday) and our seniors just took control and they kept the dugout up (Saturday)," Butler said. "They kept everybody focused and that's a hat's off to our seniors."

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For Linsly, Selmon took the loss, allowing two runs in 2 2/3 innings with six strikeouts. Och allowed three runs in 4 1/3 innings with four strikeouts and an RBI and a double at the dish.

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The 23-year-old Cates scored both goals in nearly identical fashion, the first a deflection of Keith Yandle's slap shot from in front of the net with 13:11 left in the second period to put Philadelphia ahead 2-0, and the second a redirection of Ivan Provorov's slap shot on the power play with 10:22 to play to make it 3-0. It was a rare tally on the man-advantage for Philadelphia, which entered last in the NHL on the power play by converting just 12 percent of its

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OILERS 2

COLUMBUS. Ohio (AP) — Rookie Nick Blankenburg scored his first NHL goal and added an assist to help Columbus beat Edmonton, breaking a five-game losing streak and keeping the Oilers from clinching second place in the Pacific Division.

RED WINGS 3

DEVILS 0

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Alex Nedeljkovic had 17 saves, Oskar Sundqvist and Tyler Bertuzzi each had a goal and assist and Detroit beat New Jersey.

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(Continued from Page 13)

"They took a little punch in the first inning and answered it. To see these guys come together and do that, they showed a lot of character to battle like that."

DeGenova didn't just showcase his skills at the plate, he also earned the win on the mound with two strikeouts, two walks and only one earned run allowed in five innings.

"He was really good last week at Steubenville and he was really good (Saturday)," Myers said of DeGenova. "He hits his spots and gives everything he has on the mound. He was able to hand the ball to the next guy and that is one of our mottos."

Templeton sparked another two-run frame for the Hawks with a RBI double to pull within 9-4 but a pair of University errors in the bottom of the fifth helped give Park an 11-4 upper hand.

University's Aaron Forbes put a charge into the ball and the Hawks in the sixth with a three-run home run that cut the deficit to 11-7 but a Kupsy RBI groundout in the bottom of the stanza put the game on ice.

"We were really happy with the start of the game," University coach Brad Comport said. "We were scoring in the first and getting some hits but we just responded very poorly in the field. They were hitting some balls really hard but we didn't help ourselves defensively. We made some errors and put some guys on base. They put up a six spot in the first and that was a really good response by them. We kind of had to play catch up from that point on. That's hard to do with a team that hits the ball as well as Park does."

Kupsy finished with a single, a double and three RBI. Simons tallied a single, a double and two RBI. DeGenova, singled, doubled and drove in one and Michael Bittinger finished with two hits for Park.

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Carpenter was even better under pressure as he did not allow a single ball to even leave the infield when runners were on base.

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NAILERS

(Continued from Page 13)

The Nailers had a strong response in the back half of the stanza, and were able to draw even on a power play. Josh Maniscalco worked the puck into the left circle for Justin Almeida, who immediately drilled a pass through the slot for Dylan MacPherson, who stepped up on the right side and wired a shot into the open side of the cage.

The Komets came with some early pressure once again, but Wheeling held its ground, then bided its time as it produced a go-ahead goal. That tally came with 3:39 remaining. Jared Cockrell poked the puck through the defender's legs, as he created a breakaway for himself. Cockrell faked from forehand to backhand, and slid a shot around Samuel Harvey's right pad.

A key moment in the contest took place in the early stages of the third period. The Nailers were forced to kill a 4-on-3 penalty kill, which turned into a 5-on-4. They did so successfully, and that immediately parlayed into a goal. Justin Almeida pinned the puck in the offensive zone to finish off the kill, then he dipped to the goal line, before centering a pass to Sean Josling, who buried a wrist shot into the top-left corner of the net. Fort Wayne pulled within one on Adam Brubacher's center point wrister, but Wheeling answered 1:20 later, as Cam Hausinger willed in the rebound of Patrick Watling's cannon off the left post, as the Nailers were victorious, 4-2.

Louis-Philip Guindon was sensational in goal for Wheeling, as he thwarted away 41 of the 43 shots he faced in the win. Samuel Harvey took the defeat, as he made 24 saves on 28 shots.

The series will shift to WesBanco Arena for the next set of games, as the Nailers will host the Komets for games three, four, and five on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday (if necessary). All home games will begin at 7:10.

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Rex Shuts Down St. C. In Semifinal

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

CADIZ — When two crafty lefties get together on the mound, don't expect many runs.

Such was the case Saturday at sun-drenched Mazeroski Field as Harrison Central's Tre Rex and St. Clairsville's Hunter Hoffman toed the rubber in an epic Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4A baseball tournament semifinal.

The second-seeded Huskies (10-3) rode the two-hit pitching of Rex and used Cabot Arbaugh's RBI single for a 1-0 triumph over the No. 3 Red Devils.

"I haven't pitched in almost two weeks. I've been battling some arm problems," Rex, a transfer from Union Local, said. "But (Saturday) I just came out looking to do what I usually do."

Rex got in trouble immediately as he walked leadoff batter Braylen Blomquist on four pitches. Mason Myers lined back to Rex, but he threw the ball wildly to first attempting to double-up the runner as Blomquist scampered to second. Joey Balgo drew a full-count walk and Hoffman legged out a roller to the hole at short for an infield single that loaded the bases.

However, Rex fanned the next two batters, both looking, to escape unscathed.

"That gave me a boost of confidence," he said of the back-to-back punchouts. "My curveball was really working today. It was my best pitch today. I was starting it low in the strike zone and they were swinging at it. It got the job done."

Both head coaches praised Rex's effort. He struck out 11 (five looking), walked seven and hit a pair of Red Devils in throwing 119 pitches (69 strikes).

"He was phenomenal today. That's Tre Rex. He's pretty darn good," Harrison Central head coach Mike Valesko beamed. "He had some back spasms that affected his last outing, but he's worked his way through it and he did the job today."

"We've kind of had this day circled on the calendar for a couple of weeks now thinking we might be here."

Veteran St. Clairsville (5-5) head coach Tom Sliva lauded, not only Rex, but Hoffman, as well.

"We hit the ball very poorly today. First of all, though, our pitcher did a

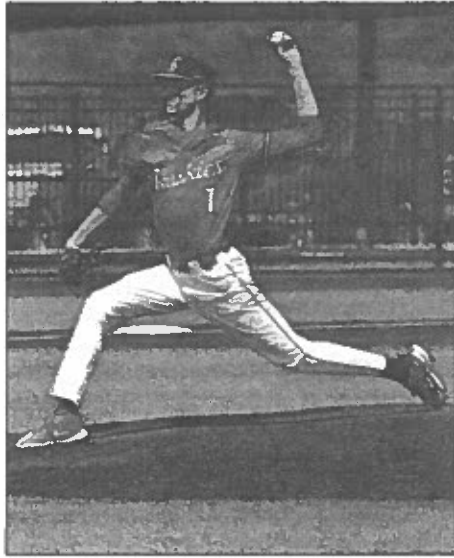


Photo by Kim North
Harrison Central pitcher Tre Rex delivers to the plate during Saturday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal.

tremendous job as did theirs. There was a total of five hits in the game. Our guys have a lot of work to do at the plate. We've got a lot of growing up to do at the plate," he said after counting up 11 runners left on base, with seven of those in scoring position. "We've got guys that are good in practice, but when it comes to games, they tighten up. They've got to understand that if you're going to win big games, you've got to beat big-time pitchers. That was a big-time pitcher today."

While Rex was holding the Red Devils in check, the Huskies got him the only run he would need in the bottom of the second. Kaden Jurosko drew a full-count walk leading off. After stealing second, he went to third on a sacrifice bunt by Rex. Arbaugh tried to bunt twice, but both times were unsuccessful. With the count 1-2, he singled softly to left to plate Jurosko.

"We asked him to bunt but he didn't get them down, but credit to him," Valesko noted. "We've had some good practices lately about doing whatever it takes to win a game, but when we got to that point, you had to do something to win the game. Today Cabot didn't get down on himself by not getting two bunts down, but with two strikes he choked up on the bat and got enough of the pitch to send it into left field for a single," Valesko recalled.

With the win, Harrison Central advances to the championship game next weekend in Richmond at Edison High School opposite top-seeded Cambridge, which rallied past No. 4 Indian Creek, 8-7. It will be Valesko's third try at a title. The Huskies haven't won an OVAC baseball title since 2013. It is one of four they possess as they went back-to-back in 2005 and 2006, and also won the 3A crown in 2000.

Ferry Fends Off Fort Frye

By BUBBA KAPRAL
For The Intelligencer

MARTINS FERRY — It was baseball at its finest, played between two quality programs with much at stake.

Fort Frye made the trek to the Purple City Saturday afternoon for an OVAC 3A semifinal contest, matching the 8-2 Cadets against the Purple Riders, owning an identical mark, with both squads boasting mound aces.

After seven well-played innings, coach Anthony Reasbeck's resilient Riders pulled out a come-from-behind 2-1 triumph. The hosts did not score until their sixth at-bat.

The win propels the Purple Riders into the OVAC title game against Barnesville. The Shamrocks downed top-seeded Linsly, 5-1. Ferry and Barnesville will vie for the conference crown Saturday at 11 a.m. at newly refurbished Edison High School.

The Purple Riders downed the Shamrocks in last year's conference semi-final tilt. Ferry subsequently lost to Linsly in the championship game.

Colby Shriver, as is usually the case, was brilliant on the hill for Ferry. He had to be as Fort Frye's Clay Gruey, a Morgan High transfer, was nearly as brilliant.

Shriver scattered just six hits while

Fort Frye's lone run was ironically scored by a Cadet who Shriver struck out to open the game. Cadets' leadoff hitter Dawson Layton struck out, but reached first after the ball got past the catcher. He later scored on a two-out single by Ian Ellis.

While Shriver hurled a gem, he was far from the lone Purple standout. The Ferrians boasted heroes aplenty.

Down 1-0 in the sixth, Ferry third baseman Colin Sneadeker crushed a Gruey offering over the left field fence, knotting matters at 1-1.

Fort Frye threatened in the seventh, putting runners on second and third with one out. The Cadets' Carman Tennant lofted a fly ball to rightfield. Ferry freshman Ayden Ludolph made the catch and fired a strike to home plate to gun down Jackson Love, ending the inning and keeping the score tied.

The Purple Riders, now riding a wave of momentum, took care of business on the strength of some two-out lightning in the seventh.

Designated hitter Jesse Nagel kept the hosts alive with an infield single. Ludolph was beamed for the second time on the day. Both runners advanced on a wild pitch. Catcher Colten Redinger delivered the game-winner via an infield single deep in the hole at shortstop.

WVU Ends Spring Ball, Starts 'Important Summer'

By JARED SERRE
For The Intelligencer

MORGANTOWN — Now, West Virginia University football fans wait.

Saturday's Gold-Blue Spring Game marked the end of a progressive session of spring ball for the Mountaineers, one that saw the team embrace a somewhat new offense, a lack of experience in the defensive secondary and many other adjustments.

With Week 1's kickoff against Pitt set for Sept. 1, much of what the team will look like then is still inconclusive. But, at the very least, coach Neal Brown and company have reached the first checkpoint in a long offseason as the climb continues.

Offensively, new coordinator and quarterbacks coach Graham Harrell has brought a welcome mindset to a group that needed revamping. He also brought a keen eye as three vied for the title of starting quarterback in the spring — with another contender coming soon.

"What Graham's done, he's brought a confidence, he's got good swagger, but he's humble," Brown said. "I think that's been really effective in that room."

Quarterbacks Will "Goose" Crowder, Garrett Greene and Nicco Marchiol have been working with the team this spring, each experiencing ups and downs in a battle that appears somewhat close. J.T. Daniels, a former five-star quarterback prospect from Georgia, complicates things as he expects to join the fold this summer after committing to WVU earlier this month.

At running back, position coach Chad Scott has been impressed by the depth of the group as he eyes the replacement for Leddie Brown. Scott said earlier in the spring that he would likely turn to two different running backs at the same time — giving him a full deck as Tony Mathis, Lyn-J Dixon, Justin Johnson and Jaylen Anderson each have unique skill sets.

Elsewhere, the offensive line returns all five starters, while the wide receiver room keeps two of its top three pass

catchers from 2021.

"I feel good about where we're at offensively as we hit the summer," Brown said. "Do we have to get better? Yes. We need some depth at some positions, probably so. But I do like our mix, and I think we made strides on those explosive plays and our consistency running the football."

Defensively, a lack of depth in the secondary has been the biggest concern. With a handful of last season's starters leaving the program, young players such as Davis Mallinger, Hershey McLaurin and Aubrey Burks have quickly been thrust into considerable playing time.

At linebacker, the addition of transfer Lee Kpogba provides much-needed experience in the middle, while Lance Dixon has continued to grow with more time in defensive coordinator Jordan Lesley's system. The lone question mark is currently at bandit, as Lanell Carr and Jared Bartlett are battling for the starting spot.

The loss of Akheem Mesidor on the defensive line, while demoralizing to Brown and some inside the program, has allowed for Justin Jefferson — arguably the strongest player on the entire roster — to see increased reps.

"I feel like we just improved every day," defensive lineman Dante Stills said about the defense's spring performance. "That was kind of the main goal going into it, just make sure we take one step every day. I feel like, overall, we improved in many ways. Our aggression, just the way we play, stuff like that."

The Mountaineers will take a break until Memorial Day, returning for eight practices over nine weeks during the summer.

"I think the summer is going to be really important for us," Brown said. "We're gonna add, I think, 18 more people to the mix on scholarship, another 15 or so that are gonna be preferred walk-ons. We gotta get them acclimated, and we've got some guys that are younger players that must continue to develop as we go through the summer."

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 13)

"Our bullpen's been throwing pretty well and hope to continue that and pull for one another and keep this thing snowballing," Peters said.

Newman, Yoshi Tsutsugo and Ben Gamel each drove in a run for the Pirates, who took three of four in the series.

A day after it collected 23 hits during a historic romp, Chicago lost for the fifth time in six games overall. Villar committed a throwing error that brought home a run in the fourth, and the Cubs left 11 runners on base, including seven over the final three innings.

With runners on second and third in the ninth, Willson Contreras struck out swinging for the second out. After Happ was walked intentionally, Frank Schwindel also struck out swinging on three straight fastballs from Bednar — each registering at least 97.2 mph.

"You dream of those spots to be in," Bednar said, "and coming out on top and help the team win is all that matters."

Bednar has a sparkling 0.80 ERA in 28 games since last year's All-Star break. Crowe extended his scoreless streak to begin the season to 13 1/3 innings.

"We all feed off one another," Crowe said, "and we all know how good our stuff can be if we trust it."

The Cubs got off to another solid start, scoring in the first inning for the third time in the series. They have 16 first-inning runs over 16 games this season.

Ortega scampered home on a rare error by slick-fielding third baseman Ke'Bryan Hayes, and Schwindel added an RBI single. But Brubaker limited the damage by striking out Villar and Jason Heyward.

Pittsburgh got one back on Gamel's RBI single in the second, and then went ahead to stay with two in the third against Justin Steele (1-2). Teague

MAKING MOVES

The Pirates added another arm to their pitching staff, bringing up righthander Beau Sulser from Triple-A Indianapolis. It's the first major league promotion for Sulser, the brother of Miami Marlins reliever Cole Sulser. To make room on Pittsburgh's 40- and 28-man rosters, outfielder Anthony Alford was designated for assignment.

UP NEXT

Pirates: Following an off day, RHP Mitch Keller (0-3, 6.23 ERA) starts Tuesday night in the opener of a three-game series against Milwaukee. RHP Brandon Woodruff (2-1, 4.30 ERA) pitches for the visiting Brewers.

Saturday CUBS 21, PIRATES 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Alfonso Rivas had three hits and five RBIs, and the Cubs stopped a four-game slide by pounding the Pirates.

YANKEES 5, GUARDIANS 4

NEW YORK (AP) — Yankees fans in the right-field bleachers pelted Cleveland outfielders with bottles, cans and debris in a chaotic scene moments after Isiah Kiner-Falefa and pinch-hitter Gleyber Torres got RBI hits with two outs in the ninth inning to lift New York over the Guardians.

Sunday

YANKEES 10, GUARDIANS 2

NEW YORK (AP) — Gerrit Cole bounced back from the shortest start of his career, Anthony Rizzo powered an early offensive barrage and the New York Yankees pounded the Cleveland Guardians 10-2 Sunday to complete a three-game sweep in a series marred by fan misbehavior.

REDS 4, CARDINALS 1

CINCINNATI (AP) — First-round draft pick Nick Lodolo got his first major league win as Cincinnati beat

Scoreboard/B3

xxx/B4

Counsel/B5

Comics/B6

Classified/B7-8

SPORTS

Tuesday,
April 26, 2022

BEALLSVILLE'S LEAH Trigg (23) slides across home plate on a wild pitch as Madonna pitcher Madison Cross looks on during the third inning of Monday's OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 1A Softball Championships semifinal on Lisa's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex in Elm Grove. The Blue Devils won, 12-0, and will meet Conotton Valley Friday at 5 p.m. for the title.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

Beallsville routs Madonna in 1A

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE - A pair of youthful squads faced off in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tom Bechtel Softball Championships Class 1A semifinal Monday.

Beallsville, the No. 2 seed, scored four times in the top of the first inning and never looked back in handing third-seeded Madonna a 12-0 setback in a game halted after four-and-a-half innings due to the 10-run mercy rule on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

With the victory, the Blue Devils (8-

8) not only evened their record but advanced to the Class 1A title tilt for the first time in roughly a decade-and-a-half. They will meet defending champion and No. 1 seed Conotton Valley which blanked No. 4 Paden City, 10-0, in another mercy-rule contest. That game will be played Friday at 5 p.m. at Ben's Field.

"We think it was 2005," Beallsville head coach Rhea Pittman said when asked how long it's been since the Blue Devils have played for an OVAC softball title. "We're not positive, but we think it was 2005."

Beallsville was the 2000 Class 1A champion.

Winning pitcher Kaylee Hagan, a promising freshman, and standout sophomore shortstop Kinley Hughes got things rolling with back-to-back RBI hits with one out. Hagan singled and Hughes doubled. Sophomore catcher Leah Trigg delivered a two-run double with two outs for a 4-0 reading as all nine Blue Devils batted.

"We wanted to get an early start," Pittman said. "This has been one of our goals the past two seasons. To win a game here is really big for our program. These girls have worked really hard all season."

See, BEALLSVILLE, Page B2



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

SHADYSIDE SECOND baseman McKenzie Zdunczyk (12) forces out Caldwell's Sydney Saling in the first inning of Monday night's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tom Bechtel Softball Championships Class 2A semifinal on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Elm Grove. The Redskins nipped the Tigers, 2-1, and will defend their title Saturday. Shadyside shortstop Gentry Brown (71) is also pictured.

Shadyside comes up short to Caldwell in 2A

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE - Robert Gorrell Jr. may be in his first season as the Shadyside softball head coach, but he's just like many of his cohorts when it comes to moral victories.

The Tigers (6-9) battled and clawed their way into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tom Bechtel Class 2A Softball Championships on the final day. Their reward: a date with defending champion and top seed Caldwell who they were mercy-ruled by (11-0) earlier this season.

However, Monday night fourth-seeded Shadyside gave the Redskins everything they had before falling 2-1 in semifinal action on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

"This was the kind of game that the fans like to watch. I would have liked to have come out on top, but it's a tough loss," Gorrell Jr. said. "The season's not over yet and you can learn a lot from losing. You have to have a short memory and step back up in the next game."

"We've only got one senior, so we've got everybody coming back next year."

The Tigers drew first blood as they bunched three

See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2

Martins Ferry comes up short to Wheeling CC

By BUBBA KAPRAL
For The Times Leader

MARTINS FERRY - All games are not created equal.

Both Martins Ferry and Wheeling Central posted thrilling OVAC semifinal wins Saturday afternoon.

The Purple Riders advanced to the 3A finals via a 2-1 nod over Fort Frye. The Maroon Knights, meanwhile, downed Shadyside by an identical score in a 2A semifinal. Thus, both will play for conference crowns Saturday at Edison.

As fate would have it, the two OVAC finalists met Monday in a regular-season contest in the Purple City with much less fanfare. Both teams rode the arms of their respective aces in the crucial Saturday games.

On Monday, Wheeling Central used strong efforts from the Brothers Toepfer to pull out a wild 10-9 win. The win was the seventh in 13 starts for coach Jason Rowe's club.

Senior Michael Toepfer was the hitting star for the Maroon Knights, blasting a home run, triple and single, knocking in three runs. He also drew an intentional walk.

Sophomore Peyton Toepfer turned in a yeoman's relief effort. He entered in the first frame with one out and the Purple Riders leading 5-0. He yielded just two runs in 5.2 innings of work to earn the mound triumph.

"Michael has a real nice night at the plate. He just needed a double to complete the cycle," Rowe offered. "Peyton was strong in relief. He helped us weather the storm."

Ferry plated its five first-inning runs on just one hit - that coming off the bat of Hayden Smith. However, the hosts made the most of four walks, a hit-batter and two wild pitches.

Central replicated Ferry's first inning in its second, scoring five runs on just one hit - a two-run blast by Michael Toepfer. The home run was complemented by three base-on-balls and two Purple errors.

The hosts regained the lead with two runs in the second on two walks, a hit-batter and an error.

Central bounced back to forge an 8-7 lead in the fourth. Eli Turner and Braxton Billik singled before Gary Hatfield delivered an RBI double. Peyton Toepfer plated another run with a sacrifice fly. Michael Toepfer capped the frame with a run-scoring triple. That score stood until a wild seventh inning.

Central stretched its lead to 10-7 on doubles by freshman dandy Seth Cover and Turner to go with two Purple errors.

Those two runs proved to be game-winners as Ferry scored a pair of runs in the home half of the seventh without netting a hit. Ayden Ludolph drew a one-out walk. After a strike-out, the next four Purple Riders were beamed, drawing the hosts to within one.

However, Central closer Peyton Hildebrand induced a popup to shortstop, ending the affair.

"It was a real nice win," Rowe said. "Ferry is an excellent team and they have a great program here."

"We are playing at a high level right now," he added. "We are a young team,

See, FERRY, Page B2

Steelers may be looking for QB with



Olave, Wilson among top WR options

quarter of the 30 pre-draft visits they're allowed on quarterbacks, meetings where they didn't ask them to throw a 20-yard out but instead picked their respective brains on their thought process.

"Some of (the factors) are not football-related, but personality-related," Tomlin said. "Some people are introverted, extroverted and (media attention) are draining for them, etc. And so for us, it was, yes, getting to know them as play-

ers. Tomlin said he had a one-year deal on Monday, a move that means on paper they have at least one veteran starter at all 22 positions.

That includes at quarterback. Pittsburgh brought Trubisky — the No. 2 overall pick by Chicago in 2017 who spent last season as the backup to Josh Allen in Buffalo — in on a two-year deal in free agency. Dwayne Haskins' tragic death on a Florida highway earlier this month leaves Rudolph as the only quarterback on the roster

could roll with just two quarterbacks, simple math indicates at least one and likely two more will need to be drafted or signed before organized team activities begin.

Tomlin likened Pittsburgh's uncertainty at quarterback this season to where it stood at the same time last year in regards to running back. The Steelers drafted Najee Harris in the first round and he set a franchise rookie record for yards rushing.

• Receivers

Continued from Page B1

City Chiefs, who have reached the Super Bowl two of the past three seasons, sent three-time All-Pro Tyreek Hill to the Miami Dolphins.

Kansas City has since added former Steelers receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster and ex-Packers wideout Marquez Valdes-Scantling, while the Packers brought in 2014 first-round pick Sammy Watkins. But both teams still may need to add more receivers, and they each have two first-round picks in this year's draft.

The Packers have the 22nd and 28th overall picks and have two more selections in the second round. The Chiefs are drafting 29th and 30th overall. The Tennessee Titans, who pick 26th overall, also could use a receiver.

How soon any rookie receivers taken in the lower portion of the first round will develop remains uncertain.

Wide receiver traditionally has been a developmental position in the NFL. Even wideouts taken in the first round generally didn't do much as rookies and instead needed time to develop.

Not anymore. The emergence of 7-on-7 camps and spread offenses has made wide receivers more equipped to contribute as rookies.

"They've been coached probably better than back in the day maybe 10-12 years ago," Packers wide receivers coach Jason Vrable said. "The reason why, people were passing since they've been in fifth grade now, right? And the growth of them as far as the pass game and route knowledge and all that stuff, typically guys are pretty clean in

that aspect coming out. The biggest thing is you've got to feel good about the playbook, knows the ins and outs, know the audible system and know why we're doing things. And that just takes some time."

For some young receivers, it hasn't taken much time at all.

Jefferson, drafted 22nd overall, caught 88 passes for 1,400 yards receiving for the Minnesota Vikings in 2020. Chase, the fifth overall pick in last year's draft, surpassed Jefferson's rookie total by accumulating 1,455 yards receiving while helping the Cincinnati Bengals earn their first Super Bowl berth since the 1988 season.

Jefferson's 1,400 yards receiving were the most by a rookie in the Super Bowl era, until Chase surpassed it last season.

This year's class of receivers also looks promising, though it lacks the star power of last year's group.

"None of these guys have the same grade as a DeVonta Smith, a Ja'Marr Chase or a Jaylen Waddle," ESPN's Mel Kiper Jr. said. "Those three last year all had elite grades."

Kiper and NFL Network draft analyst Daniel Jeremiah both predicted six or seven receivers could get taken in the first round. Jeremiah has Ohio State's Garrett Wilson and Southern California's Drake London ranked among his top 10 overall prospects.

"I really like this group, and I think it's, again, got those six or seven guys that you really like there at the top," Jeremiah said. "I don't think the depth into like the fourth round and beyond is as good

as some of the others we've seen, but I think up until that point it's pretty good."

Other receivers projected as potential first-round picks include Olave, Arkansas' Treyton Burks, Penn State's Jahan Dotson, Western Michigan's Skyy Moore, North Dakota State's Christian Watson and Alabama's Jameson Williams.

The trick is figuring out which of these guys can contribute right away. Vrable says some receivers need time to develop the confidence necessary to face elite cornerbacks such as Green Bay's Jaire Alexander.

"That's the hardest part — getting a guy to truly walk out there and look across from him and see Jaire and truly believe in yourself, like 'I can beat this guy one-on-one, not only do I know my route, I know the details of it, but then I've got to beat a guy who's a dominating force on the opposing side of the ball,'" Vrable said. "And typically every team has an elite corner, so you're going up against guys that you've just got to have that confidence. I think that, for some guys, takes a little bit more time than others."

There aren't many rookie receivers who possess that attitude plus the physical skills to back it up, but they're a lot more plentiful than before.

"For what it used to be, kind of a coin flip on first-round receivers with the hit rate, it has gone way up over the last few years," Jeremiah said. "It's been pretty consistent with these guys being solid, solid players — if not more than that — right away."

bat. The righthander struck out seven and hit a batter. She retired 13 of the final 14 Tigers she faced.

Her counterpart, Shadyside's Arianna Saxton, was just as effective. The freshman permitted just two singles to Sydney Saling, struck out three and walked only one. She threw 80 pitches (55 strikes) and threw a first-pitch strike to 14 of 24 batters.

"Arianna pitched excellent. She hit her spots and shut them down," Gorrell Jr. praised. "It came down to one run."

Caldwell drew even in the third when Hanna Reitter reached on an error leading off. She went to second on a groundout to first and scored on Saling's two-out single to center.

The Redskins took their first lead in the bottom of the sixth. Saling reached on the third Shadyside error of the contest leading off, and eventually ended up at third as the ball rolled down the right field line. With one out, Jaden Haught grounded to second as Saling sprinted home.

Mumaw retired the Tigers in order to preserve the win.

Smith had half of Shadyside's four hits.

Caldwell will meet Toronto, which took out Wheeling Central in the other semifinal, on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. for the 2A crown.

• Beallsville

Continued from Page B1

That's all Hagan needed as she sparkled inside the circle. The righty struck out eight, walked one and scattered four harmless singles. She threw 83 pitches (64 strikes) and went ahead in the count on half of the 20 batters she faced.

"We are very young. We lost eight seniors and a transfer from last season," first-year Madonna head coach Jason Backel explained. "We are basically all freshmen and sophomores."

"We didn't hit the ball like we should and they took advantage of us on the basepaths," he added. "That all comes with experience, which is something we don't have right now."

"We got a little embarrassed out there, but we knew we would take some lumps this year," Backel continued. "I promise you we will be back next year."

Hughes doubled in Hagan, who had singled, with two outs in the second to make it 5-0 and the Blue Devils batted around in the third, sending nine batters to the plate with five crossing the plate for a 10-0 advantage.

Three of the runs scored on wild pitches, one when Hannah Phillips stole home and the last on a Hagan RBI single to right. Trigg tripled with one out to start the explosion.

An error and run-scoring single by Phillips in the fourth capped the scoring.

The Blue Dons' lone threat came in the second when they had runners on second and third with two outs, but Hughes made a web-gem diving catch of Jenna Costello's soft liner near second base to end the inning.

"That was a huge play by Kinley," Pittman said of the defensive play.

Hagan, Hughes and Trigg all enjoyed multi-hit outings. Six of the nine Blue Devils recorded a base hit as they totalled 10, and all but one scored at least once. Four scored twice.

"We received good hitting from just about everyone in our lineup," Pittman noted. "Our baserunning was on point, as well. We got stolen bases when we needed them and we took advantage of some of their wildness."

• Ferry

Continued from Page B1

team, starting three freshmen. The kids have been working hard and it shows."

Ferry dropped to 9-3. Central finished with 10 hits. The Purple Riders mustered just six.

"It was a bad baseball game. We played poorly," Ferry head coach Anthony Reasbeck said. "Every time we get a big win we have a letdown. We are not a humble baseball team right now."

"I tell them every day that the mark of a man is picking up your lunch pail and going to work," he added. "We did not to that day. It was a disappointing showing."

Baron Lucy started on the mound for Ferry. He struck out one and walked four. Jackson Romshack came on in the second and fanned three and passed one in going the balance of the game.

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By CODY TOMER
Sports Writer

CAMERON — Not only has the Cameron girls' basketball team received recognition for its thrilling W.Va. Class A state title triumph throughout the state, but the Dragons' remarkable performance has now reached the national level.

The day following the title game, freshman Maci Neely's game-winning 3-point shot was No. 9 on Sportscenter's Top 10 plays.

Now, in the latest issue of Sports Illustrated, Ashlynn Van Tassell was featured in the magazine's 'Faces in the Crowd' segment.

The write-up includes her picture and mentions Van Tassell's record-breaking state quarterfinal performance when she hauled in a state tournament record 31 rebounds in a 74-43 win over River View. It also notes her 27-point, 19-rebound showing in the state title victory over Gilmer County.

"It's pretty exciting," Van Tassell said of the Sports Illustrated recognition. "I'm still shocked with all the recognition that my team and I have been receiving. I'm still searching for a copy of the Sports Illustrated."

What the magazine doesn't mention is that Van Tassell also knocked down a pair of free throws to tie the game with only 4 seconds remaining to set up the game-winning shot.

"This is awesome and we're all elated," Cameron coach Holly Pettit said. "Still to this day people are talking about it. As a coach you obviously want the best for your kids. It couldn't have happened to a nicer kid. She works so hard and it makes me so proud. Cameron is beaming with pride. The state tournament really put Cameron on the map state-wide but also with Sportscenter and Sports Illustrated, so we are definitely on the map now."

Pettit was thrilled when Sports Illustrated reached out to the school for information on the rising star.

"One of the writers from Sports Illustrated contacted our athletic director (Roger Cain)," Pettit said.

Please see SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, Page 10

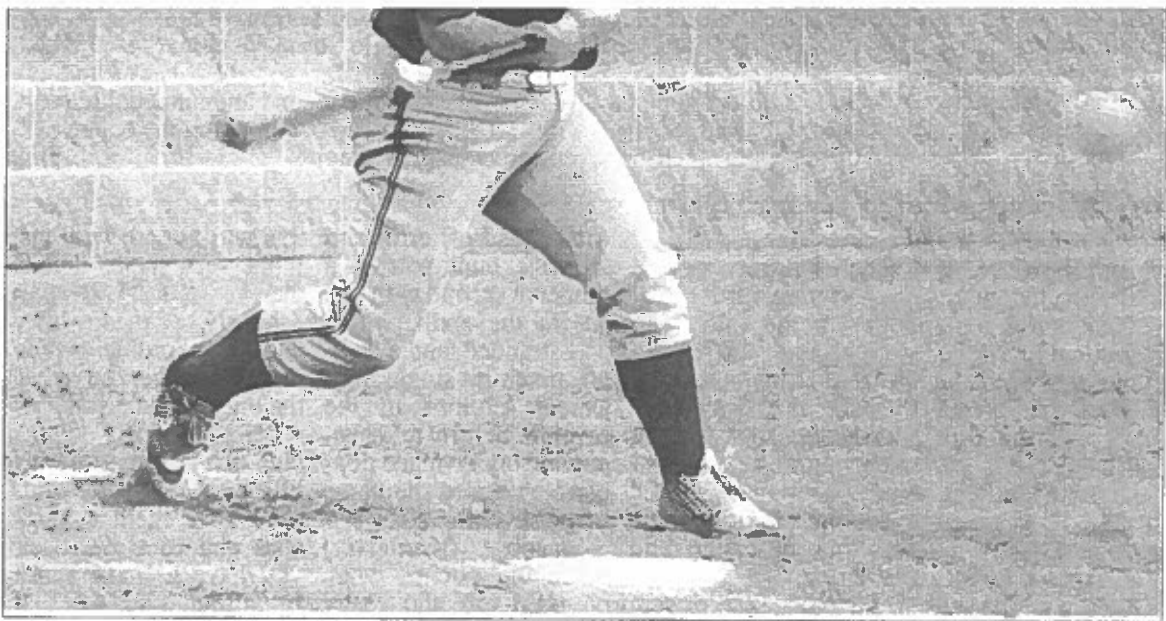


Photo by Cody Tomer

Wheeling Central's Taylor Knollinger delivers a two-run single during Monday's OVAC 2A Semifinal contest against Toronto at Ben's Field.

Reeves fans 13 to lead Toronto into Class 2A finals

By CODY TOMER
Sports Writer

WHEELING — The last time Toronto's softball team faced Wheeling Central, the Red Knights struck out 12 times.

Red Knights' coach Steve Trifonoff simply wanted that number cut in half during Monday's OVAC 2A Semifinal.

He got his wish and much more as No. 3 Toronto managed to whiff just six times and took down No. 2 Wheeling Central 9-7 at Ben's Field at the I-470 Sports Complex.

"I told them, 'If you can cut

that number in half (12 strikeouts), put the ball in play and force them to make plays we would have a chance,'" Trifonoff said. "We struck out six times and were putting the ball in play. We had two freshmen step up with big hits — Isabell Cattrell in the seventh inning with a big two-run single and Laney Danko got a couple things started in some innings where we scored runs."

Wheeling Central also suffered from four errors on defense, which came back to haunt the Maroon Knights.

"You can't take anything away from Toronto," Central coach Buck Davidson said. "We made mistakes and they made us pay for them. That was the worst defensive game we've played all year. I think we ended up giving them four or five runs over simple mistakes but looking at the big picture, I'd rather have a breakdown now instead of in the sectional or regional playoffs."

Toronto pitcher Andrea Reeves was strong to pocket the win with 13 strikeouts and seven walks.

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Korngiver Pitches John Marshall Past Park, 4-3

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

GLEN DALE - With 10 games postponed this Spring already, John Marshall's baseball team had yet to face a West Virginia Class AAA sectional opponent heading into the final week of April.

However, with games against Wheeling Park and Brooke on the slate over the next four days Coach Mark Cisar's Monarchs are looking to send a message that they should not be overlooked. Monday that first message was delivered via the left arm of Jacob Korngiver and four runs over the first two innings, three of them unearned.

Korngiver went the distance, scattering six hits while fanning five and walking two on 96 pitches, and John Marshall overcame numerous threats from the Patriots to record a hard-

earned, and cherished, 4-3, victory over their sectional rivals at John Marshall High School.

The victory pushes Cisar's crew to 6-10 on the campaign with Weir slated to pay a visit this afternoon for Senior Night. Meanwhile, Coach Steve Myers' Park squad, which will play for an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 5A title this weekend, drops to 7-3 and will travel to St. Clairsville today.

"I am a little upset with our offense once again going stagnant and leaving too many runners on, but Jacob (Korngiver) threw the ball very well and limited walks and we made plays on defense, and I am very pleased with that," Cisar admitted. "It's crazy that this is our first sectional opponent we have played, but it is a big win and hopefully we can keep this going."

While the Monarchs were opportu-

nistic over the first two frames the Patriots were their own worst enemy and could very well have dug themselves an even deeper hole. The bottom of the first began with Brennan Sobotka working a four-pitch lead-off walk and stealing second. Sobotka went to third on Jacob Coffield's base hit, however, Coffield was gunned down trying to advance to second.

Ethan Neely then reached on an error allowing Sobotka to score the game's initial run. A fielder's choice and another miscue put a runner at third, however, Patriots' starter, and loser, Luke Doyle recorded a strikeout to end the threat.

Park manufactured a run of its own in the top of the second on the first of two Luke Marsh singles on the day, a pair of wild pitches that advanced courtesy runner Nate Bittenger and a two-

out run-scoring single off the bat of Braydon Kupsy that knotted the count at 1-1.

The big inning of the contest came in the home-half of the frame with lead-off singles from Conner Blatt and Braden Sobotka and a wild pick-off attempt at first that allowed Blatt to cross to make it 2-1. Dillon Wright then brought Sobotka around with a double into the left-center field gap before stealing third and scoring himself on a wild pitch to give the hosts a 4-1 advantage.

Marsh's second hit in the top of the fourth started what looked like a big inning for the Patriots, who eventually loaded the bases with just one out, but the visitors were only able to push across one run when Bittenger, again

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Caldwell Holds Off Shadyside

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

ELM GROVE - Robert Gorrell Jr. may be in his first season as the Shadyside softball head coach, but he's just like many of his cohorts when it comes to moral victories.

The Tigers (6-9) battled and clawed their way into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tom Bechtel Class 2A Softball Championships on the final day.

Their reward: a date with defending champion and top seed Caldwell who they were mercy-ruled by (11-0) earlier this season.

However, Monday night fourth-seeded Shadyside gave the Redskins everything they had before falling 2-1 in semifinal action on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

"This was the kind of game that the fans like to watch. I would have liked to have come out on top, but it's a tough



Photo by Kim North

Shadyside pitcher Arianna Saxton delivers to the plate during Monday's OVAC 2A semifinal game.

loss," Gorrell Jr. said. "The season's not over yet and you can learn a lot from losing. You have to have a short memory and step back up in the next game."

"We've only got one senior, so we've got everybody coming back next year."

Please see SHADYSIDE, Page 10

Toepfers Lead Central Past Martins Ferry, 10-9

By BUBBA KAPRAL
For The Intelligencer

MARTINS FERRY - All games are not created equal.

Both Martins Ferry and Wheeling Central posted thrilling OVAC semifinal wins Saturday afternoon.

The Purple Riders advanced to the 3A finals via a 2-1 nod over Fort Frye. The Maroon Knights, meanwhile, downed Shadyside by an identical score in a 2A semifinal. Thus, both will play for conference crowns Saturday at Edison.

As fate would have it, the two OVAC finalists met Monday in a regular-season contest in the Purple City with much less fanfare. Both teams rode the arms of their respective aces in the crucial Saturday games.

On Monday, Wheeling Central used strong efforts from the Brothers Toepfer to pull out a wild 10-9 win. The win was the seventh in 13 starts for coach Jason Rowe's club.

Senior Michael Toepfer was the hitting star for the Maroon Knights, blasting a home run, triple and single, knocking in three runs. He also drew

an intentional walk.

Sophomore Peyton Toepfer turned in a yeoman's relief effort. He entered in the first frame with one out and the Purple Riders leading 5-0. He yielded just two runs in 5.2 innings of work to earn the mound triumph.

"Michael has a real nice night at the plate. He just needed a double to complete the cycle," Rowe offered. "Peyton was strong in relief. He helped us weather the storm."

Ferry plated its five first-inning run on just one hit - that coming off the bat of Hayden Smith. However, the hosts made the most of four walks, a hit-batter and two wild pitches.

Central replicated Ferry's first inning in its second, scoring five runs on just one hit - a two-run blast by Michael Toepfer.

The home run was complemented by three base-on-balls and two Purple errors.

The hosts regained the lead with two runs in the second on two walks, a hit-batter and an error.

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OVAC

(Continued from Page 9)

"She really gutted through a tough time there," Trifonoff said. "It didn't look good for her there in the middle innings but she was staying in there regardless."

"I think she kind of figured that out and in the fifth, sixth and seventh innings, she threw some really good ball there."

Toronto scored on an error in the first inning and plated two more in the third on another error and a RBI single off the bat of Callie Anderson to make it a 3-0 upper hand.

Central rallied in the bottom of the

third when Josie Frizzell delivered a two-run knock and an error allowed the tying run to cross the plate.

A two-run single from Taylor Knollinger in the fourth gave the Maroon Knights their first lead of the game.

Then it was Toronto's turn to rally.

The Red Knights pushed four runs across the dish in the fifth frame as Andrea Reeves provided a sac-fly, Abby Liddick garnered the game-tying RBI single and a two-out error allowed the go-ahead run and another run to race home for a 7-5 Toronto cushion.

Natalie Yates cut the deficit in half in the sixth with a RBI knock but Central left the bases loaded and Toronto made it pay.

In the top of the seventh, Cattrell delivered a two-out, two-run single to give the Red Knights some much-needed insurance and a 9-6 advantage.

Frizzell knocked in a run in the seventh but Central could not get any closer.

"It's our goal to win the OVAC Tournament," Trifonoff said. "Hopefully we can make it to district and hopefully win the district. We're still working on

it." Despite the setback, Central has a young group that can learn from this loss and use it as a growing experience.

"We started four freshmen," Davidson said. "Even though they were making mistakes they didn't give up. They kept battling as hard as they could until they made the final out. Their pitcher pitched really well but we weren't picking up on her change-up like I thought we should have but you have to play seven innings and they got us by two."

CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 9)

Central bounced back to forge an 8-7 lead in the fourth. Eli Turner and Braxton Billik singled before Gary Hatfield delivered an RBI double.

Peyton Toepfer plated another run with a sacrifice fly. Michael Toepfer capped the frame with a run-scoring triple.

That score stood until a wild seventh inning.

Central stretched its lead to 10-7 on doubles by freshman dandy Seth Cover and Turner to go with two Purple errors.

Those two runs proved to be game-winners as Ferry scored a pair of runs in the home half of

the seventh without netting a hit. Ayden Ludolph drew a one-out walk. After a strikeout, the next four Purple Riders were beamed, drawing the hosts to within one.

However, Central closer Peyton Hildebrand induced a popup to shortstop, ending the affair.

"It was a real nice win," Rowe said. "Ferry is an excellent team and they have a great program here."

"We are playing at a high level right now," he added. "We are a young team, starting three freshmen. The kids have been working hard and it shows."

Ferry dropped to 9-3.

Central finished with 10 hits. The Purple Riders mustered just

six. "It was a bad baseball game. We played poorly," Ferry head coach Anthony Reasbeck said. "Every time we get a big win we have a letdown. We are not a humble baseball team right now."

"I tell them every day that the mark of a man is picking up your lunch pale and going to work," he added. "We did not to that day. It was a disappointing showing."

Baron Lucy started on the mound for Ferry.

He struck out one and walked four. Jackson Romshack came on in the second and fanned three and passed one in going the balance of the game.

KORNGIVER

(Continued from Page 9)

running for Marsh, scored on a wild pitch to cut the deficit in half at 4-2.

Doyle settled in for the Park after the second inning, allowing just two hits the rest of the way in going the distance and got a huge strikeout with two-on and two-out in the fourth, the last time John Marshall threatened. Doyle was charted with 107 pitches in the game, fanning three and

walking three.

The Patriots got a lead-off single from Will James in the fifth, who stole second and scored on Jared Marsh's base hit to make it a 4-3 game. Marsh was then thrown out trying to steal second and Korngiver retired Wheeling Park's three and four hitters to end that threat.

Wheeling Park again had opportunities in both the sixth and the seventh

with a lead-off error and sacrifice bunt putting a runner at second with one out in the sixth, which was stranded, and a lead-off, pinch-hit single from Daniel Crumm in the seventh before a strikeout and taylor-made double-play ended the game in the seventh.

"Jacob (Korngiver) made big pitches when he need too and really kept them off-balance all day," Cisar added. "But

this was a team win and I am very happy about that."

Myers, meanwhile, had little problem putting his finger on what the biggest issue was.

"Not taking advantage of our opportunities killed us," Myers said. "We gave them a good start and to come back you have to have time-ly hitting, and we just couldn't get any (Monday)."

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

(Continued from Page 9)

"He said he wanted to feature her because he read about her performance in the state tournament and he had to get permission to post in the 'Faces in the Crowd.' Roger reached out to me and I said 'Heck yeah!' I don't know if anyone from Cameron has ever been in Sports Illustrated. Her mom (Mary Van Tassell) said 'Absolutely!' as well and gave them the picture and the information."

Winning a state title and receiving national recognition will always be remembered by Van Tassell and the Dragons but Pettit knows that with such glory comes responsibility and pressure.

"It brings a lot of excitement but a lot of nerves, too," Pettit said. "There is a target on our back now. We are even playing Morgantown next year. They are telling me that Cameron girls are celebrities in Morgantown, too. So it's neat to see the national recognition."

SHADYSIDE

(Continued from Page 9)

The Tigers drew first blood as they bunched three of their four hits in the top of the first. Rylie Fulton singled to right and Mary Smith followed with an infield single. After both runners moved up on a passed ball, Bella Honeywell's fly ball to right fell near the line for a single as Fulton raced home.

That would be all the scoring for the Belmont Countians as Caldwell's Madi Mumaw allowed just one more hit - a third-inning infield single off Smith's bat. The righthander struck out seven and hit a batter. She retired 13 of the final 14 Tigers she faced.

Her counterpart, Shadyside's Arianna Saxton, was just as effective. The freshman permitted just two singles to Sydney Saling, struck out three and walked only one. She threw 80 pitches (55 strikes) and threw a first-pitch strike to 14 of 24 batters.

"Arianna pitched ex-

cellent. She hit her spots and shut them down," Gorrell Jr. praised. "It came down to one run."

Caldwell drew even in the third when Hanna Reitter reached on an error leading off. She went to second on a groundout to first and scored on Saling's two-out single to center.

The Redskins took their first lead in the bottom of the sixth.

Saling reached on the third Shadyside error of the contest leading off, and eventually ended up at third as the ball rolled down the right field line. With one out, Jaden Haught grounded to second as Saling sprinted home.

Mumaw retired the Tigers in order to preserve the win.

Smith had half of Shadyside's four hits.

Caldwell will meet Toronto, which took out Wheeling Central in the other semifinal, on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. for the 2A crown.

TRANSACTIONS

Major League Baseball American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Placed RHPs Kutter Crawford and Tanner Houck on the restricted list. Recalled RHPs Tyler Danish and John Schreiber from Worcester (IL). **DETROIT TIGERS** — Optioned RHP Rony Garcia to Toledo (IL). **SEATTLE MARINERS** — Reinstated C Luis Torrens from the 10-day IL. Optioned INF Mike Ford to Tacoma (PCL) then designated him for assignment.

National League

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Recalled RHP Andre Jackson

from Oklahoma City (PCL). Optioned INF/OF Zach McK-instry to Oklahoma City. **ST. LOUIS CARDINALS** — Recalled INF Brendan Donovan from Memphis (IL). Optioned OF Lars Nootbaar to Memphis.

NBA

NBA — Fined Memphis head coach Taylor Jenkins an undisclosed amount for public criticism of the officiating following a game on April 23 against Minnesota. Fined Philadelphia C Joel Embiid an undisclosed amount for public criticism of the officiating in a game on April 23 against Toronto.

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