

SPORTS

Monday,
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West Virginia rallies past Ohio, 13-9, in OVAC All-Star Game

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — In what had been a lackluster offensive performance by both squads for three quarters, West Virginia used two outstanding efforts by Linsly's Luca DiLorenzo in the fourth quarter to rally past Ohio, 13-9, in the 77th edition of the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game inside muggy Wheeling Island Stadium.

With the come-from-behind win, the Mountaineers cut the Buckeyes lead in the all-time series to 47-30.

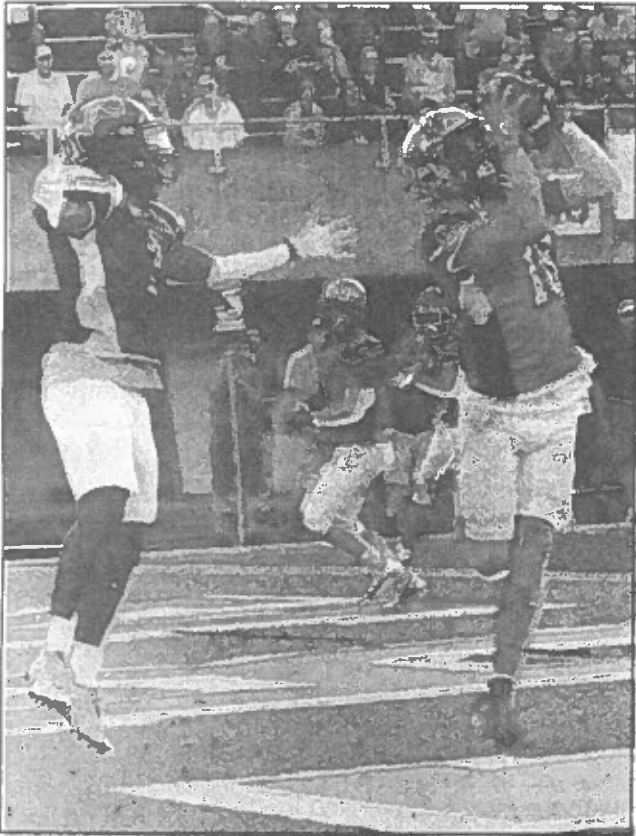
"It was supposed to be a pass play, but I saw a hole and I knew I was taking it home," DiLorenzo said in describing the game-winning play. "You've got to do what you've got to do to win, always."

"It's always been amazing watching this game growing up. To get a win like this after that talking they (Ohio) was doing feels great."

Wheeling Central head coach Mike Young said his team went into camp with a purpose.

"We went in with the mindset of respect each other and respect this game," he stressed. "We were outnumbered. We were outsized and we lost some kids. These kids really stepped it up and gutted it out."

Trailing 3-0 after three



OHIO'S ANDREW Vera reels in an interception along the back of the end zone against West Virginia.

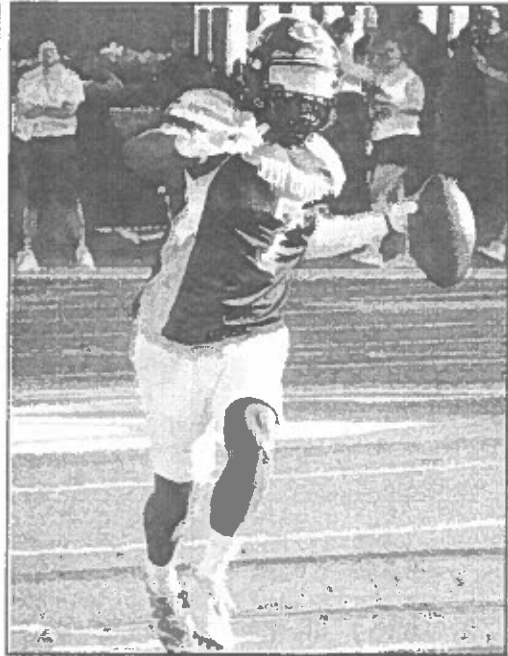
quarters of not-so-well-played football. West Virginia started the fourth quarter at its own 6. Ten plays and 94 yards later, the Mountaineers took their first lead of the contest on a 31-yard scoring strike from John Marshall's Jacob Coffield to DiLorenzo.

Streaking down the right sidelines on a first-and-20, DiLorenzo caught the pass deep in the back corner of the end zone, but somehow got his feet down for

the score. The PAT by Oak Glen's Trenton Richmond made it 7-3 with 5:54 left to play.

The Buckeyes didn't waste any time in storming back as Toronto's Zane Kinsey returned the ensuing kickoff 70 yards to the West Virginia 14. On a fourth-and-goal from the 4, Bellaire's Ray Ray Pettigrew powered his way over the left side of the line and into the end zone.

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WEST VIRGINIA'S Luca DiLorenzo winds up for a pass after an end-around play against Ohio.

• DiLorenzo plays familiar part in sendoff game

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — After dotting his career at Linsly with game-changing plays, it was a fitting sendoff for Luca DiLorenzo to play the part of the hero one last time in his final high-school game.

It'd been a low-scoring, defense-centric OVAC All-Star Football Game through three quarters, with Ohio ahead 3-0 going into the fourth. But with a flick of the wrist from West Virginia quarterback Jacob Coffield, DiLorenzo made the most of his opportunity to inject life into his team's offense, hauling in a 31-yard pass in the corner of the end zone for the first touchdown of the game.

See SENDOFF, Page B2



Photo by KIM NORTH

RYAN BILBY watches his Kalkreuth Amateur-clinching putt roll towards the cup on the first playoff hole Sunday on the No. 18 green at the Trent Jones Course at Speidel Golf Club inside Oglebay Park. Bilby parred the hole to outlast Bryan Myers who carded a bogey.

Bilby wins his first Kalkreuth Amateur Golf Championship

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Thirty-six holes weren't enough to decide the Kalkreuth Amateur golf tournament Sunday on the sun-soaked Trent Jones Course at Speidel Golf Club inside spacious Oglebay Park.

Ryan Bilby, a junior-to-be at Marshall University, parred the first extra hole — No. 18 — to hold off Bryan Myers who bogeyed, for his first Kalkreuth Amateur title. Both players, who are good friends on and off the course, carded 139s.

"I kind of struggled yesterday (Saturday). I didn't make any putts but I came out today and hit it really good for the first 13 holes," Bilby said. "I was 5-under and had it going."

The victory didn't come easy, however, as the 20-year-old Brooke High graduate struggled down the stretch after leading by three shots with five holes to play. It all started on the 14th when his second shot splashed down in a small pond in front of the green.

"I hit it in the water and bogeyed that hole and then bogeyed 15. I told myself, 'whatever. I've still got three holes left.'" Bilby added. "It was deflating but in golf you've got to have a short memory sometimes."

See BILBY, Page B2

Shohei Ohtani homers in last home game before trade deadline as the Angels beat the Pirates 7-5

PITTSBURGH PIRATES starting pitcher Mitch Keller throws to the plate during the first inning against the Los Angeles Angels, in Anaheim, Calif.



AP Photo

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Shohei Ohtani's line drive left his bat at a sizzling 113 mph, but only a 19-degree launch angle. Hugging the ground like an airplane trying to fly below the radar, it streaked all the way over the center-field fence.

"I don't know if I've seen a ball hit like that, except a golf ball, maybe," Angels manager Phil Nevin said. "I thought he lined out to center. I did. Every day he does something to impress you."

The Angels and their fans left the Big A on Sunday not knowing whether that was the last bit of baseball magic they'll ever see from Ohtani in the Halos' home uniform on this field.

See PIRATES, Page B2

Harper's hitting and defense help the Phillies beat the Guardians 8-5

CLEVELAND (AP) — Bryce Harper drove in the go-ahead run with a 10th-inning single and flashed more solid defense in his second career start at first base, leading the Philadelphia Phillies past the Cleveland Guardians 8-5 Sunday to avoid a three-game sweep.

"He's an athlete and he's a baseball player," Phillies manager Rob Thomson said.

Thomson admitted he's surprised how comfortable Harper looks at his new position, a transition from the outfield that only began Friday night.

win, wherever that may be on the field. Try to play the best game possible I can. That's why they got me here. That's why I love being here."

Phillies closer Craig Kimbrel (6-1) blew his first save of the season in 17 chances when David Fry hit a solo homer with two outs in the ninth to tie it 4-4. The home run came on a 1-0 pitch and narrowly cleared the 19-foot wall in left field.

The ball bounced back on the field after landing in the bleachers, which led to some brief confusion.



• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

However, the extra-point was no good and Ohio had a 9-7 advantage with 2:53 remaining.

That was more than enough time for DiLorenzo to flash his skills once more.

West Virginia started at its own 34 and quickly got to midfield with a pass from Coffield to Wheeling Central's Riley Watkins, who shined on both sides of the ball. A key hands-to-the-face penalty against Ohio advanced the leather to the 35 and, after a holding penalty against the Mountaineers and a dead-ball personal foul against Ohio, West Virginia had a first-and-5 at the 30.

Coffield took the snap and handed to DiLorenzo who looked to pass, but tucked the ball under his wing and weaved his way to the promised land. The Fairmont State recruit cut to his left after crossing the line of scrimmage, made a couple of would-be tacklers miss before sprinting down the left sidelines. The PAT was no good, but the Mountaineers led 13-9 with 55 seconds on the clock.

"Luca is an unbelievable athlete and he showed it on that play. He's a great dancer and he danced with the

ball on that play."

On third-and-15, Watkins intercepted a pass as time ran out to secure the win.

"This feels amazing, especially to be able to do it with Coach Young," he said. "I give every ounce of my football career to Coach Young. He's the best man I've ever met. I love him to death and tear up when I think of not being able to spend another minute with him on the football field."

Ohio had taken a 3-0 lead just past the midway point of the second quarter when Harrison Central's Jace Madzia split the uprights from 32 yards out.

West Virginia let a pair of golden scoring opportunities slip away in the late stages of the second quarter.

Following the three-pointer, West Virginia marched to the Ohio 6 on a 39-yard connection from Coffield to Watkins on second-and-20. Watkins made a nifty move at the Ohio 40 and got around a block to the sidelines before being run out of bounds.

Wheeling Park's Erick Brothers, Jr., had a huge quarterback sack on the final drive.

"It feels good to win this game on my home field since we lost in the

first round of the playoffs," the WVU wrestling commit said. "It feels really good."

A pair of running plays moved the ball to the 1 but a bad snap on third down resulted in a four-yard loss. DiLorenzo tried some razzle-dazzle but Fort Frye's Zaiden Huck and Steubenville's Spenser Ostovich didn't bite as Ohio took over at its own 3.

However, a fumble on second down was recovered by Weir's Jamari Hubbard-Bass at the Buckeyes' 8.

A pass interference penalty on Ohio advanced the ball to the 4, but Coffield was brought down after gaining a yard. St. Clairsville's Andrew Vera knocked down a third-down pass in the end zone, and then picked off a pass in the back of the end zone with 14 seconds left in the half.

"Jacob was down on himself for throwing that interception, but I told him you stick with us because we are going to stick with you. He responded," Young said.

The third quarter saw the teams combine for 67 total yards as both offenses struggled to find any rhythm. In fact, the teams only converted 2 of 19 third-down attempts — none

until the fourth quarter — and to go a combined 2-for-7 on fourth down.

"Offensively, we just couldn't get out of our own way," Barnesville's Blake Allen, who led the Ohio squad, said. "We had a lot of penalties ... a lot of mistakes. We only had a week to prepare, but no excuses. We just didn't play well."

"We finally took the lead late there in the game, but I told the guys that the game wasn't over," Allen continued. "Their No. 7 (DiLorenzo) made a great play. He's a very good player. We missed some tackles, as well."

"They made one more play than we did. Congratulations to West Virginia."

DiLorenzo finished with 98 yards rushing and 31 receiving. Coffield was 5-for-9 for 119 yards with a TD and INT. Watkins caught three passes for 62 yards, ran for 34 and made several big plays on defense.

"Riley is a hard-nosed kid. He was a four-year player for me and I couldn't be more proud of him right now," Young added.

Ohio could only manage 75 yards of offense — only 16 on four pass completions — on 42 snaps. Union Local's Jaksan Price ran six times for 25 yards.

• Pirates

Continued from Page B1

But another big victory made it even more likely they'll have at least two more months to enjoy their two-way superstar.

Ohtani hit his major league-leading 36th homer in Los Angeles' final home game before the Aug. 1 trade deadline, and the Angels wrapped up a strong homestand with a 7-5 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Ohtani's low line drive in the first inning was his 24th homer in his last 45 games. Only five other major leaguers entered Sunday with more than 24 homers for the entire season, but Ohtani has rekindled his June power surge after the All-Star break with four homers during the Angels' nine-game homestand.

"Every single time you see Shohei, he does something to help the team," said Luis Rengifo, who hit two homers.

While Ohtani's future is uncertain as the team heads to Detroit, the Halos' recent team success seemingly decreases the odds of a trade while Los Angeles owner Arte Moreno decides whether to risk losing Ohtani in free agency this winter.

General manager Perry Minasian has said the Angels are highly unlikely to deal Ohtani if they remain in playoff contention. The Angels are still in the AL wild-card race, although it currently features seven teams separated by roughly six games for the final two spots.

Andrew Velazquez and Rengifo hit back-to-back homers during the Angels' four-run fifth inning, and Mickey Moniak extended the majors' longest active hitting streak to 14 games during Los Angeles' sixth victory in eight games.

Tyler Anderson (5-2) yielded eight hits while pitching into the seventh inning for the Angels. Carlos Estévez worked the ninth for his 23rd save, remaining perfect this season in save chances.

"It means a lot after how we finished the first half," Estévez said of the Angels' surge. "We figured out a way to get going again, and it feels really good. Things are going our way."

Bryan Reynolds homered for the Pirates, who have lost seven of nine out of the break. Liover Peguero got his first career RBI on his second major league hit during Pittsburgh's four-run

seventh.

Mitch Keller (9-6) allowed three homers for the first time in his career while giving up nine hits and six runs over five innings with seven strikeouts in his third straight winless start. Pittsburgh's ace earned his first major league victory during the Pirates' previous visit to Angel Stadium in August 2019.

"It looked like he got away from his fastball a little bit," Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton said. "When you stay in the middle of the plate in the big leagues, you're going to get hit."

Peguero doubled home Nick Gonzales in the seventh and then alertly scored from third when reliever Jacob Webb dropped catcher Matt Thaiss' throw back to the mound and was slow to retrieve the ball. Carlos Santana added an RBI double before Webb escaped the jam.

DELAYED START

Ohtani will make his next mound start Friday in Toronto. The Angels pushed back his final pitching appearance before the trade deadline to give him an extra day of rest and to avoid putting him in line to start a Wednesday afternoon game in hot, humid Atlanta the following week — one day after the deadline. Nevin is worried the humidity could cause a reoccurrence of the finger blister that bothered Ohtani earlier this month.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Angels: SS Zach Neto missed his second straight game with back pain. Nevin hopes the rookie can play next week, saying Neto is "better today, but still pretty stiff." ... OF Mike Trout "feels awesome," Nevin said. The three-time AL MVP is doing grip-strengthening exercises after having the stitches removed from surgery on his broken hand. Trout still can't grip a bat, and he isn't expected back for several weeks.

UP NEXT

Pirates: Quinn Priester (0-1, 11.81 ERA) makes his second major league start when Pittsburgh travels down the California coast to open a three-game series in San Diego on Monday night. The 22-year-old right-hander got lit up for seven runs by Cleveland in his debut a week ago.

Angels: Nevin plans to play golf with his son, Tigers infielder Tyler Nevin, on Monday before the Halos send Griffin Canning (6-4, 4.52 ERA) to the mound Tuesday night to open a three-game series in Detroit.

• Sendoff

Continued from Page B1

"Luca, what can I say, he's a gamer, he's a game-breaker," West Virginia head coach Mike Young said. "It was a huge play there to score and our kids just stepped up. A tremendous team effort."

It was a big moment for Coffield too, who had not had much luck leading up to that play.

"He was down, he was upset with himself because he threw the picks early," Young said of Coffield. "It didn't keep him down and we told him you're going to get another chance. You stay with us, and we're staying with you and he went in and made that big play, it picked everyone's momentum up, not just his."

After the touchdown grab, it seemed like some of the momentum had rubbed off on Ohio as well, who returned the ensuing kickoff to the West Virginia 14 and powered through a Ray Ray Pettigrew touchdown rush. A game which had resembled two gears grinding against each other now looked like a metronome swinging back-and-forth. And with three minutes remaining in the game, DiLorenzo had more in the tank still.

A highlight-reel run went 30 yards to the end zone, DiLorenzo making nearly every man on the Ohio defense miss on his way to the house. With less than a minute to play, West Virginia had lurched into the lead again, and would not relinquish their advantage.

The two plays were the second and third-longest plays of the day from either side, behind only a 39-yard catch from Riley Watkins in the first half, and the only touchdowns for West Virginia in the win.

"It's all about my blockers, all about my teammates in those situations," DiLorenzo said. "We practiced all week, and the line said they would put them down, and they sure did put them down right there."

"Unbelievable athlete," Young said. "[DiLorenzo] showed his athleticism, what he's able to do. We knew he could break it, he dances like crazy, he dances with the football and I'm just so

proud of him."

Unbelievable, yet expected, was the sentiment surrounding the future Fairmont State Falcon, as those who know him best were not at all shocked at the day he turned in at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"It was no surprise," Wyatt Haynes, an offensive lineman for West Virginia on Saturday and a teammate of DiLorenzo's at Linsly, said. "I've seen it too many times. That's just him."

DiLorenzo and Haynes represented Linsly well Saturday, and enjoyed being able to share the field one last time.

"It was special," Haynes said. "I've played with Luca since sixth grade, and we've been doing this stuff for eight years now. It was nice to have a final game like this. The last game of the season just didn't feel like it was it. I didn't know why, but I'm glad we could finish up here."

"It was great, especially being able to play with my guys," DiLorenzo said. "And then having a bunch of new teammates, nothing better than that."

In all, DiLorenzo totaled 98 rushing yards, a rushing touchdown, 31 receiving yards, and a receiving touchdown.

The end of Saturday's game was not the end of DiLorenzo's playing days. He'll look to electrify a different crowd this fall as part of Fairmont State.

"This was a great end to my high school career for sure, but I've got to keep working until I go down August 5 and then earn my spot when I get down there," DiLorenzo said.

Day of Champions

There were yet more trophies to be awarded Saturday. St. Clairsville's Caleb McKeegan was awarded the OVAC Band Scholarship, while Brooke's Johnny Leonard was given Band Director Recognition.

Taylor Cope from Harrison Central won the Russell K. Armstrong award. Payton Nickerson from Wheeling Park won the Queen of Queens Pageant at halftime. John Marshall's Lauren Riggs was named first runner-up, followed by Buckeye Local's Abbey Berze, Martins Ferry's Kayla Beery, and Linsly's Amanda Herndon. Toronto's Jenna Anderson won Ms. Congeniality.

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Bilby's Marshall University teammate Joseph Kalaksey took third at 140 while Campbell Koegler and Noah Seivertson tied for fourth at 143.

Bilby made it a daily double when he and Kalaksey, from Charleston, ran away from the best-ball field by a whopping nine shots. The winners finished at 126 which was nine shots better than Myers and his partner, Jay Davis.

"We had a one-shot lead coming



WINDOW NATION

77TH ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME

W.Va. All-Stars Rally To Top Ohio, 13-9

Teams Score Three TDs In Final 5:54

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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With the come-from-behind win, the Mountaineers cut the Buckeyes lead in the all-time series to 47-30.

"It was supposed to be a pass play, but I saw a hole and I knew I was taking it home," DiLorenzo said in describing the game-winning play. "You've got to do what you've got to do to win, always. It's always been amazing watching this game growing up. To get a win like this after that talking they (Ohio) was doing feels great."

Please see ALL-STARS, Page 10



Photo by Nick Henthorn
West Virginia head coach, Wheeling Central's Mike Young, raises the OVAC All-Star Football Game trophy following his team's 13-9 win over Ohio at Wheeling Island Stadium.

DiLorenzo Plays A Familiar Part In Sendoff Game

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

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It'd been a low-scoring, defense-centric OVAC All-Star Football Game through three quarters, with Ohio ahead 3-0 going into the fourth. But with a flick of the wrist from West Virginia quarterback Jacob Coffield, DiLorenzo made the most of his opportunity to inject life into his team's offense, hauling in a 31-yard pass in the corner of the end zone for the first touchdown of the game.

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It was a big moment for Coffield too, who had not had much luck leading up to that play.

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Photo by Nick Henthorn
West Virginia's Luca DiLorenzo runs wide around the Ohio defense after a pitch play during Saturday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium.

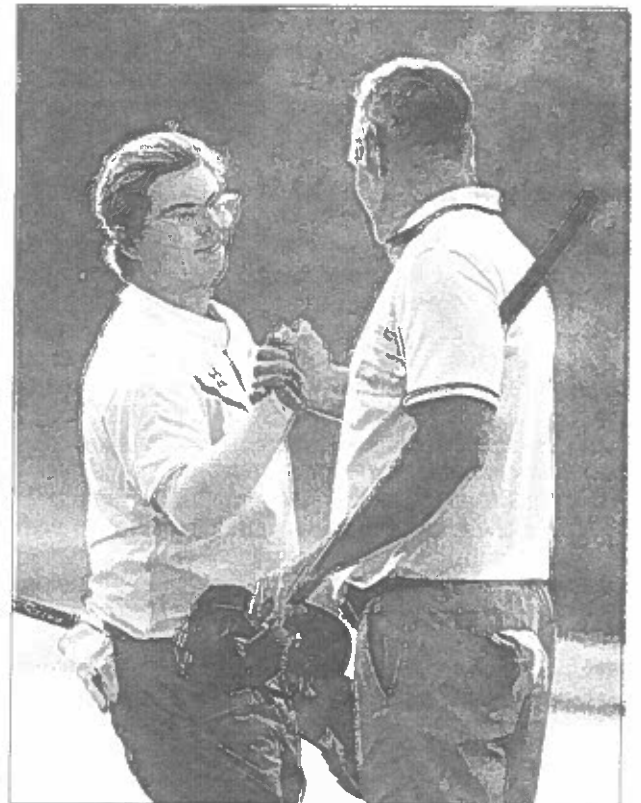


Photo by Kim North
Ryan Bilby, left, is congratulated by Bryan Myers Sunday after Bilby won the Kalkreuth Amateur on the first playoff hole on the No. 18 green at the Trent Jones Course at Speidel Golf Club inside Oglebay Park. Bilby parred the hole to outlast Myers who carded a bogey.

Ryan Bilby Wins First Kalkreuth Title In Playoff

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Thirty-six holes weren't enough to decide the Kalkreuth Amateur golf tournament Sunday on the sun-soaked Trent Jones Course at Speidel Golf Club inside spacious Oglebay Park.

Ryan Bilby, a junior-to-be at Marshall University, parred the first extra hole — No. 18 — to hold off Bryan Myers who bogeyed, for his first Kalkreuth Amateur title. Both players, who are good friends on and off the course, carded 139s.

"I kind of struggled yesterday (Saturday). I didn't make any putts but I came out today and hit it really good for the first 13 holes," Bilby said. "I was 5-under and had it going."

The victory didn't come easy, however, as the 20-year-old Brooke High graduate struggled down the stretch after leading by three shots with five holes to play. It all started on the 14th when his second shot splashed down in a small pond in front of the green.

"I hit it in the water and bogeyed that hole and then bogeyed 15. I told myself, 'whatever. I've still got three holes left,'" Bilby added. "It was deflating but in golf you've got to have a short memory sometimes."

Myers, who won the

Bordas & Bordas Amateur last month, birdied the 14th for a key two-shot swing as the lead dwindled to one shot.

Bilby gained one of those strokes back on the par-3 15th, but lost it on the par-4 16th as Myers kept the pressure on and trailed by a shot.

Myers pulled even heading into the final hole with a par on the par-4 17th while Bilby continued to limp home.

Bilby had a chance to win it in regulation but couldn't get a putt to drop. Myers knocked down a short putt to force some bonus golf as the sun was setting.

"I had a short putt to win it on 18 but it just didn't fall," he noted.

Myers, who held a two-shot lead after 36 holes, three-putted on the final hole while Bilby, who had a chance to win the tournament on his third shot that just missed, saved par for the title.

"I'm depressed right now," Myers allowed. "You've at least got to make par. I'm good friends with Ryan. Hats off to him. He played well."

Bilby's Marshall University teammate Joseph Kalaksey took third at 140 while Campbell Kogler and Noah Seivertson tied for fourth at 143.

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Page 10

Ohtani Homers As Angels Get



Brian Harman Wins British Open In Drama-Free Finish At Hoylake

BRITISH

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"I've always had a self-belief that I could do something like this," Harman said. "It's just when it takes so much time, it's hard not to let your mind falter, like maybe I'm not winning again. I'm 36 years old. Game is getting younger. All these young guys coming out, hit it a mile and they're all ready to win. Like, when is it going to be my turn again?"

"To come out and put a performance like that together ... I don't know why this week, but I'm very thankful that it was this week."

Harman turned back every challenge in the British Open, from big names to bad weather, and took his place among major champions Sunday with a victory that never was in doubt.

When his second bogey in the opening five holes reduced his lead to three, Harman answered with two straight birdies. When he dropped another shot on the 13th hole and his lead was down to four shots, Harman made two more birdies, the first one from 40 feet on No. 14.

By then, everyone else was playing for second.

"He won by six, so there's nothing really any of us could have done," said Masters champion Jon Rahm, one of four players who had to settle for the silver medal.

Harman, the great outdoorsman, made winning look as easy as shooting fish in a barrel. He is the oldest first-time major winner since Sergio Garcia was 37 when he won the Masters in 2017. Garcia wasn't a surprise. Not many would have imagined Harman's name engraved on the claret jug at the start of the week.

Harman had gone 167 tournaments over six years since his last win, the 2017 Wells Fargo Championship. This is only his third title in his 12 years on the PGA Tour.

"Someone mentioned that I've had more top 10s than anyone since 2017, so that's a lot of times where you get done, you're like, 'Damn it, man. I had that one.' It just didn't happen for what-

ever reason," he said.

Now he has the claret jug, and "I'm not going to let it out of my sight for the time being."

"I'm going to have a couple of pints out of this here trophy, I believe," Harman said.

Rahm birdied his last hole for a 70 to make it a four-way tie for second place with Tom Kim (67), Sepp Straka (69) and Jason Day (69).

That turned out to be the B-flight.

Harman took the lead on Friday morning with the second of four straight birdies early in the second round. He never trailed over the final 51 holes, leading by five shots after the second round and five shots after the third round.

He started the round in the rain with a smattering of boos from the grandstand, fans either wanting a big star or perhaps not paying attention to the masterclass performance Harman had delivered. Playing with Tommy Fleetwood of England on Saturday, Harman said he heard a few comments he described as unrepeatable.

He never wavered in rain or sunshine or wind over the final two days. And when it was over, Harman walked up toward the 18th green to a standing ovation, and tapped his hand to his heart to acknowledge the fans as he walked off the green.

He never contemplated winning until he blasted out of the pot bunker right of the green and slapped the chest of his caddie, Scott Tway, the brother of 1986 PGA champion Bob Tway.

Padraig Harrington was among those who envisioned how Sunday would unfold.

"Sometimes we see somebody leading a tournament and you kind of go, 'Oh, is he going to hang on?' I don't think that's the case with Brian Harman," Harrington said. "Nearly every day he goes out on the golf course he's playing with a chip on his shoulder like he's fighting something. I think this is ideal for him."

Other winners included Steve Green (First Flight); Brad Baker (Senior Flight); Jeff Sparks (Super Senior Flight); Kailey Pettit (Women's Flight); Luke Simonetti (Junior Flight); Abraham-Stephens (First Flight Best-Ball); Baker-Cope (Senior Flight Best-Ball); Sparks-Staber (Super Senior Flight Best-Ball); and Pettit-Frederick (Women's Flight Best-Ball).

KALKREUTH

(Continued from Page 9)

Bilby made it a daily double when he and Kalaskey, from Charleston, ran away from the best-ball field by a whopping nine shots. The winners finished at 126 which was nine shots better than Myers and his partner, Jay Davis.

"We had a one-shot lead coming into today and we wanted to jump out with a good start, and we did," Bilby noted. "We were 6-under after five holes."

ALL-STARS

(Continued from Page 9)

Wheeling Central head coach Mike Young said his team went into camp with a purpose.

"We went in with the mindset of respect each other and respect this game," he stressed. "We were outnumbered. We were outsized and we lost some kids. These kids really stepped it up and gutted it out."

Trailing 3-0 after three quarters of not-so-well-played football, West Virginia started the fourth quarter at its own 6. Ten plays and 94 yards later, the Mountaineers took their first lead of the contest on a 31-yard scoring strike from John Marshall's Jacob Coffield to DiLorenzo.

Streaking down the right sidelines on a first-and-20, DiLorenzo caught the pass deep in the back corner of the end zone, but somehow got his feet down for the score. The PAT by Oak Glen's Trenton Richmond made it 7-3 with 5:54 left to play.

The Buckeyes didn't waste any time in storming back as Toronto's Zane Kinsey returned the ensuing kickoff 70 yards to the West Virginia 14. On a fourth-and-goal from the 4, Bellaire's Ray Ray Pettigrew powered his way over the left side of the line and into the end zone. However, the extra-point was no good and Ohio had a 9-7 advantage with 2:53 remaining.

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"Luca is an unbelievable athlete and he showed



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Ohio's Andrew Vera reels in an interception along the back of the end zone against West Virginia during Saturday's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

it on that play. He's a great dancer and he danced with the ball on that play."

On third-and-15, Watkins intercepted a pass as time ran out to secure the win.

"This feels amazing, especially to be able to do it with Coach Young," he said. "I give every ounce of my football career to Coach Young. He's the best man I've ever met. I love him to death and tear up when I think of not being able to spend another minute with him on the football field."

Ohio had taken a 3-0 lead just past the midway point of the second quarter when Harrison Central's Jace Madzia split the uprights from 32 yards out.

West Virginia let a pair of golden scoring opportunities slip away in the late stages of the second quarter. Following the three-pointer, West Virginia marched to the Ohio 6 on a 39-yard connection from Coffield to Watkins on second-and-20. Watkins made a nifty move at the Ohio 40 and got around a block to the sidelines before being run out of bounds.

Wheeling Park's Erick Brothers, Jr., had a huge quarterback sack on the final drive.

"It feels good to win this game on my home field since we lost in the first round of the playoffs," the WVU wrestling commit said. "It feels really good."

A pair of running plays moved the ball to the 1 but a bad snap on third down resulted in a four-yard loss. DiLorenzo tried some razzle-dazzle but Fort Frye's Zaiden Huck and Steubenville's Spenser Ostovich didn't bite as Ohio took over at its own 3.

However, a fumble on second down was recovered by Weir's Jamari Hubbard-Bass at the Buckeyes' 8.

A pass interference penalty on Ohio advanced the ball to the 4, but Coffield was brought down

after gaining a yard. St. Clairsville's Andrew Vera knocked down a third-down pass in the end zone, and then picked off a pass in the back of the end zone with 14 seconds left in the half.

"Jacob was down on himself for throwing that interception, but I told him you stick with us because we are going to stick with you. He responded," Young said.

The third quarter saw the teams combine for 67 total yards as both offenses struggled to find any rhythm. In fact, the teams only converted 2 of 19 third-down attempts - none until the fourth quarter - and to go a combined 2-for-7 on fourth down.

"Offensively, we just couldn't get out of our own way," Barnesville's Blake Allen, who led the Ohio squad, said. "We had a lot of penalties ... a lot of mistakes. We only had a week to prepare, but no excuses. We just didn't play well."

"We finally took the lead late there in the game, but I told the guys that the game wasn't over," Allen continued. "Their No. 7 (DiLorenzo) made a great play. He's a very good player. We missed some tackles, as well."

"They made one more play than we did. Congratulations to West Virginia."

DiLorenzo finished with 98 yards rushing and 31 receiving. Coffield was 5-for-9 for 119 yards with a TD and INT. Watkins caught three passes for 62 yards, ran for 34 and made several big plays on defense.

"Riley is a hard-nosed kid. He was a four-year player for me and I couldn't be more proud of him right now," Young added.

Ohio could only manage 75 yards of offense - only 16 on four pass completions - on 42 snaps. Union Local's Jackson Price ran six times for 25 yards.

DiLORENZO

(Continued from Page 9)

After the touchdown grab, it seemed like some of the momentum had rubbed off on Ohio as well, who returned the ensuing kickoff to the West Virginia 14 and powered through a Ray Ray Pettigrew touchdown rush. A game which had resembled two gears grinding against each other now looked like a metronome swinging back-and-forth. And with three minutes remaining in the game, DiLorenzo had more in the tank still.

A highlight-reel run went 30 yards to the end zone, DiLorenzo making nearly every man on the Ohio defense miss

DiLorenzo's at Linsly, said. "I've seen it too many times. That's just him."

DiLorenzo and Haynes represented Linsly well Saturday, and enjoyed being able to share the field one last time.

"It was special," Haynes said. "I've played with Luca since sixth grade, and we've been doing this stuff for eight years now. It was nice to have a final game like this. The last game of the season just didn't feel like it was it. I didn't know why, but I'm glad we could finish up here."

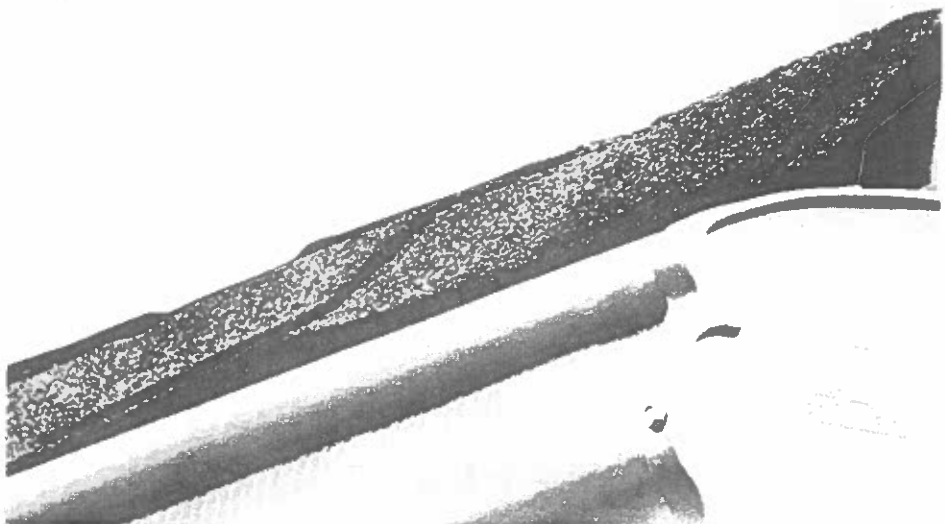
"It was great, especially being able to play with my guys," DiLorenzo said.



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masters champion Jon Kanm, one of four players who had to settle for the silver medal.

Harman, the great outdoorsman, made winning look as easy as shooting fish in a barrel. He is the oldest first-time major winner since Sergio Garcia was 37 when he won the Masters in 2017. Garcia wasn't a surprise. Not many would have imagined Harman's name engraved on the claret jug at the start of the week.

Harman had gone 167 tournaments over six years since his last win, the 2017 Wells Fargo Championship. This is only his third title in his 12 years on the PGA Tour.

"Someone mentioned that I've had more top 10s than anyone since 2017, so that's a lot of times where you get done, you're like, 'Damn it, man, I had that one.' It just didn't happen for what-

when it was over, Harman walked up toward the 18th green to a standing ovation, and tapped his hand to his heart to acknowledge the fans as he walked off the green.

He never contemplated winning until he blasted out of the pot bunker right of the green and slapped the chest of his caddie, Scott Tway, the brother of 1986 PGA champion Bob Tway.

Padraig Harrington was among those who envisioned how Sunday would unfold.

"Sometimes we see somebody leading a tournament and you kind of go, 'Oh, is he going to hang on?' I don't think that's the case with Brian Harman," Harrington said. "Nearly every day he goes out on the golf course he's playing with a chip on his shoulder like he's fighting something. I think this is ideal for him."

KALKREUTH

(Continued from Page 9)

Bilby made it a daily double when he and Kalaskey, from Charleston, ran away from the best-ball field by a whopping nine shots. The winners finished at 126 which was nine shots better than Myers and his partner, Jay Davis.

"We had a one-shot lead coming into today and we wanted to jump out with a good start, and we did," Bilby noted. "We were 6-under after five holes."

Other winners included Steve Green (First Flight); Brad Baker (Senior Flight); Jeff Sparks (Super Senior Flight); Kailey Pettit (Women's Flight); Luke Simonetti (Junior Flight); Abraham-Stephens (First Flight Best-Ball); Baker-Cope (Senior Flight Best-Ball); Sparks-Staber (Super Senior Flight Best-Ball); and Pettit-Frederick (Women's Flight Best-Ball).

corner of the end zone, but somehow got his feet down for the score. The PAT by Oak Glen's Trenton Richmond made it 7-3 with 5:54 left to play.

The Buckeyes didn't waste any time in storming back as Toronto's Zane Kinsey returned the ensuing kickoff 70 yards to the West Virginia 14. On a fourth-and-goal from the 4, Bellaire's Ray Ray Pettigrew powered his way over the left side of the line and into the end zone. However, the extra-point was no good and Ohio had a 9-7 advantage with 2:53 remaining.

That was more than enough time for DiLorenzo to flash his skills once more.

West Virginia started at its own 34 and quickly got to midfield with a pass from Coffield to Wheeling Central's Riley Watkins, who shined on both sides of the ball. A key hands-to-the-face penalty against Ohio advanced the leather to the 35 and, after a holding penalty against the Mountaineers and a dead-ball personal foul against Ohio, West Virginia had a first-and-5 at the 30.

Coffield took the snap and handed to DiLorenzo who looked to pass, but tucked the ball under his wing and weaved his way to the promised land. The Fairmont State recruit cut to his left after crossing the line of scrimmage, made a couple of would-be tacklers miss before sprinting down the left sidelines. The PAT was no good, but the Mountaineers led 13-9 with 55 seconds on the clock.

"Luca is an unbelievable athlete and he showed

or my football career to Coach Young. He's the best man I've ever met. I love him to death and tear up when I think of not being able to spend another minute with him on the football field."

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(Continued from Page 9)

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A highlight-reel run went 30 yards to the end zone. DiLorenzo making nearly every man on the Ohio defense miss on his way to the house. With less than a minute to play, West Virginia had lurched into the lead again, and would not relinquish their advantage.

The two plays were the second and third-longest plays of the day from either side, behind only a 39-yard catch from Riley Watkins in the first half, and the only touchdowns for West Virginia in the win.

"It's all about my blockers, all about my teammates in those situations," DiLorenzo said. "We practiced all week, and the line said they would put them down, and they sure did put them down right there."

"Unbelievable athlete," Young said. "(DiLorenzo) showed his athleticism, what he's able to do. We knew he could break it, he dances like crazy, he dances with the football and I'm just so proud of him."

Unbelievable, yet expected, was the sentiment surrounding the future Fairmont State Falcon, as those who know him best were not at all shocked at the day he turned in at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"It was no surprise," Wyatt Haynes, an offensive lineman for West Virginia on Saturday and a teammate of

DiLorenzo's at Linsly, said. "I've seen it too many times. That's just him."

DiLorenzo and Haynes represented Linsly well Saturday, and enjoyed being able to share the field one last time.

"It was special," Haynes said. "I've played with Luca since sixth grade, and we've been doing this stuff for eight years now. It was nice to have a final game like this. The last game of the season just didn't feel like it was it. I didn't know why, but I'm glad we could finish up here."

"It was great, especially being able to play with my guys," DiLorenzo said. "And then having a bunch of new teammates, nothing better than that."

In all, DiLorenzo totaled 98 rushing yards, a rushing touchdown, 31 receiving yards, and a receiving touchdown.

The end of Saturday's game was not the end of DiLorenzo's playing days. He'll look to electrify a different crowd this fall as part of Fairmont State.

"This was a great end to my high school career for sure, but I've got to keep working until I go down August 5 and then earn my spot when I get down there," DiLorenzo said.

DAY OF CHAMPIONS

There were yet more trophies to be awarded Saturday. St. Clairsville's Caleb McKeegan was awarded the OVAC Band Scholarship, while Brooke's Johnny Leonard was given Band Director Recognition.

Taylor Cope from Harrison Central won the Russell K. Armstrong award. Payton Nickerson from Wheeling Park won the Queen of Queens Pageant at halftime. John Marshall's Lauren Riggs was named first runner-up, followed by Buckeye Local's Abbey Berze, Martins Ferry's Kayla Beery, and Linsly's Amanda Herndon. Toronto's Jenna Anderson won Ms. Congeniality.

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SATURDAY'S BEST
CFL FOOTBALL

■ 7 p.m. -- Saskatchewan at B.C., CBSSN

CYCLING

■ 7:30 a.m. — UCI: The Tour de France, Stage 20, 83 miles, Belfort to Le Markstein Fellingring, France, PEACOCK

MAJOR LEAGUE
BASEBALL

■ 1 p.m. — Regional Coverage: Kansas City at NY Yankees or Colorado at Miami, MLB

■ 4 p.m. — NY Mets vs. Boston, FS1

■ 7 p.m. — Regional Coverage: Atlanta at Milwaukee or Chicago White Sox at Minnesota, FOX

■ 10 p.m. — Pittsburgh at LA Angels, ATTSN

TBT BASKETBALL

■ 4 p.m. — TBT Tournament: Mass Street vs. Show Me Squad, Wichita, Kan., ESPN2

PRO GOLF

■ 7 a.m. — DP World Tour/PGA Tour: The Open Championship, Third Round, Royal Liverpool, Hoylake, England, NBC

■ 4 p.m. — LPGA Tour: The Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational, Final Round, Midland Country Club, Midland, Texas, CBS

WNBA BASKETBALL

■ 1 p.m. — Connecticut at Atlanta, ESPN

SUNDAY'S BEST
AUTO RACING

■ 2:30 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: The Pocono 400, Pocono Raceway, Long Pond, Pa., USA

■ 2:30 p.m. — NTT IndyCar Series: The HyVee INDYCAR 250, Newton, Iowa, NBC

CYCLING

■ 10:10 a.m. — UCI: The Tour de France, Final Stage, 71 miles, Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines to the Champs-Elysoes in Paris, France, PEACOCK

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

■ 12:05 p.m. — San Diego at Detroit, PEACOCK

■ 1:30 p.m. — 2023 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony: From Cooperstown, N.Y., MLB

■ 4 p.m. — Pittsburgh at LA Angels

■ 7 p.m. — NY Mets at Boston, ESPN

PRO GOLF

■ 7 a.m. — DP World Tour/PGA Tour: The Genesis Scottish Open, Final Round, Royal Liverpool, Hoylake, England, NBC

77TH ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME



Photo by Kim North

Pictured are the W.Va. All Stars who will be competing against Ohio on Saturday in the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game presented by Huntington Bank at 7:15 p.m. inside Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are managers Jackson Bell, Easton Kuchinski, Matt Kendall, Camden Kuchinski and Nico DiBias. Second row, from left, are Logan Gaschler (Brooke), Nate Coleman (Linsly), Drew Boczek (Morgantown), Jamari Bass (Weir), Lorenzo Ferrera (Wheeling Central), Erick Brothers Jr. (Wheeling Park), Luca DiLorenzo (Linsly), Landon Cool (University), Jacob Coffield (John Marshall) and Levi Teets (Trinity Christian). Third row, from left, are Jake Croston (University), Payton Neely (Cameron), Riley Watkins (Wheeling Central), Matthew Gaad (Clay-Battelle), Braden Whipkey (Parkersburg South), Trenton Richmond (Oak Glen), Bryce Cook (John Marshall) and Charlie DiSaia (Wheeling Park). Fourth row, from left, are Adam Angel (Cameron), Eli Stahara (Morgantown), Jacob Stevens (University), Virgil Doiron (Valley), Dante Suggs (Wheeling Central), Braden Whitelatch (Wheeling Central), Tanner Griffith (Brooke), Wyatt Haynes (Linsly) and Bryce Bailey (Trinity Christian). Fifth row, from left, are assistant coaches Phil Pest, Shannon Kuchinski and Dylan Baker, head coach Mike Young, and assistant coaches Jim Wolfe, Mario DiBias and John Tankovits. Not pictured is assistant coach Jason Rine.

'King Football' Makes Return To Start High School Season

Ohio-West Virginia Kick Off At 7:15 p.m. In Wheeling Island Stadium

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - If it's late July and the Upper Ohio Valley Italian Festival is in full swing at Heritage Port, the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game is being played just across the Ohio River at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Ohio leads the all-time series 47-29, including a 33-15 victory a year ago, heading into the 77th edition which kicks off Saturday at 7:15 p.m.

However, it's a different season, with different players and different coaching staffs. But both head coaches said Friday morning during the final workouts that their teams will be ready to go.

"It's been a great week. It's been fun coaching these kids that come from great programs," Barnesville's Blake

Allen and his staff will lead the Buckeye State. He will be very familiar with the starting quarterback as the Shamrocks' C.J. Hannahs is at the helm. The two-year starter earned all-Ohio honors both seasons in leading the Green Machine to playoff appearances.

"C.J. is one of the smartest kids I've ever coached. So it was a no-brainer to select him," Allen noted.

"He has been able to teach the running backs and wide receivers our system. They have been able to pick it up quickly and we've looked really good in practice."

Other quarterbacks are St. Clairsville's Andrew Vera and Cambridge's Caden Moore.

Allen also picked Barnesville offensive lineman Quentin Leasure and that has also been a luxury.

"Having Quentin up front has helped the offensive line pick up the system really quick," Allen added. "I think we are ready to go out and have some fun."

Expected to see action up front with Leasure are Edison's Ashton Ellis, Harrison Central's Cabot Arbaugh, Dover's Jackson Lurie and Steubenville's Camden Daley.

When Ohio looks to throw, it has some sure-handed and fleet-footed wideouts as targets. Bellaire's Ray Ray Pettigrew, River's Brody Lollathin and Bridgeport's Mason Aberts.

The tight ends are Indian Creek's Luca Morelli and Martins Ferry's Landyn Hores.

Allen also thinks his backfield is two-dimensional.

Please see Football, Page C2

TBT Tournament Will Tip-Off Tuesday At WesBanco Arena

Best Virginia Faces Dubois Dream At 7 p.m.; Harler To Return Home

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Chase Harler's well-traveled basketball career has taken him to many arena's, both nationally and internationally. The 4-year letterman at West Virginia University has played in Sweden and Lithuania following his days on the court in Morgantown and the Big 12 Conference.

However, there is one place the Moundsville native has never played a game ... WesBanco Arena ... just blocks away from where he was a three-time W.Va. Class all-stater at Wheeling Central standout.

Harler, a 6-3 shooting guard who graduated from WVU in 2019 with a bachelor's degree in general business, will make his debut inside the downtown facility



AP Photo

United States' Lindsey Horan controls the ball during the Women's World Cup Group E soccer match between the United States and Vietnam at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand, Saturday.

Smith Scores Twice

U.S.

(Continued from Page C1)

Smith scored off a pass from captain Lindsey Horan in the 14th minute. Smith and Horan celebrated with a choreographed handshake after the goal. She scored again in first-half stoppage time to make it 2-0 going into the break. The United States was at first flagged as offside before a video review confirmed the goal.

The U.S. team was infused with young talent including Smith and Trinity Rodman after settling for a disappointing bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

Among the veterans, 38-year-old Megan Rapinoe made her 200th international appearance against Vietnam.

Rapinoe, who scored in the World Cup final in France and was named that tournament's best player, did not start. She announced before the team left for New Zealand that this would be her last World Cup and she would retire from her professional team at the end of the season.

Rapinoe and midfielder Rose Lavelle, who were both limited by injuries in the run-up to the tournament, both came in as substitutes in the 63rd minute.

Rapinoe sported bright blue hair.

The youngest player on the team, 18-year-old Alyssa Thompson, was also a second-half sub.

Horan scored into a wide-open net off a pass from Smith, who was rushed by the goalkeeper and deftly sent the ball back to her. Horan, who was recently engaged, kissed her ring in celebration.

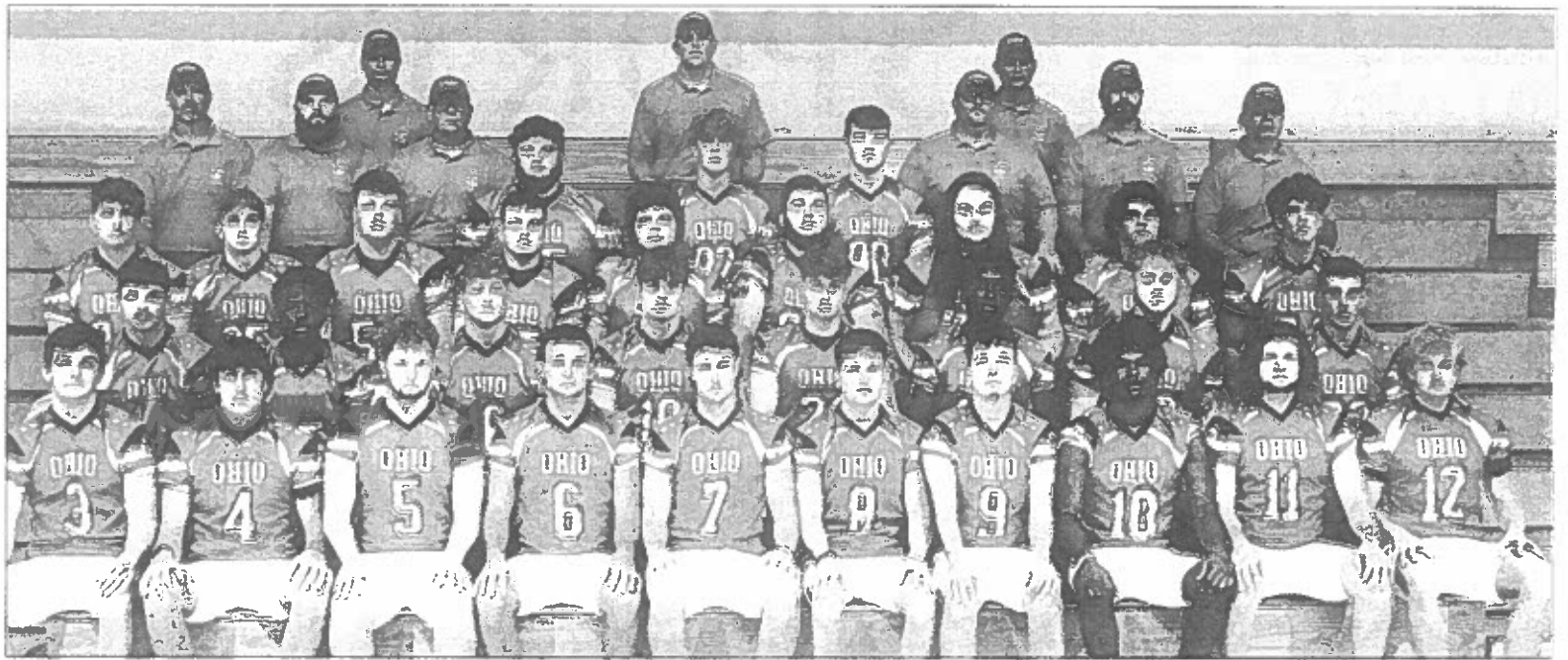


Photo by Kim North

Pictured are the Ohio All Stars who will be competing against W.Va. on Saturday in the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game presented by Huntington Bank at 7:15 p.m. inside Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Jaksan Price (Union Local), Jace Madzia (Harrison Central), Marshal Sayre (Caldwell), Brody Lollathin (River), Zaiden Huck (Fort Frye), Mason Aberts (Bridgeport), Caden Moore (Cambridge), Kyjhaun Hopkins (Steubenville), Trey Hoover (Buckeye Local) and Drue Jozwiak (St. Clairsville). Second row, from left, are C.J. Hannahs (Barnesville), Ty'lik Sims (Steubenville), George Hulsey (Martins Ferry), Andrew Vera (St. Clairsville), Zane Kinsey (Toronto), Ray Ray Pettigrew (Bellaire), Spenser Ostovich (Steubenville) and Lucca Morelli (Steubenville Catholic). Third row, from left, are Jack Storm (Dover), Dylan Ferguson (Beaver Local), Cabot Arbaugh (Harrison Central), Jared Trenner (Shenandoah), Brayden Strawn (River), Jackson Lurie (Dover), Quentin Leasure (Barnesville), Camden Daley (Steubenville) and Marcus Rector (St. Clairsville). Fourth row, from left, are Ashton Ellis (Edison), Landyn Hores (Martins Ferry) and Caleb Riggs (Fort Frye). Fifth row, from left, are assistant coaches D.J. Butler, Brady Treherne, Tony Starr, Bryce Allen, Steven Schumaker and Neal Zaccagnini, Back row, from left, are assistant coach Dylan Rogers, head coach Blake Allen and assistant coach/equipment manager Chris Hannahs.

KING

(Continued from Page C1)

"I think we can pound it up the middle with some big guys and I also think we can get to the edge with our speed," he added. "We've got a nice mix there."

The speed will come from Union Local's Jaksan Price, Caldwell's Marshal Sayre and Toronto's Zane Kinsey, while the power will be provided by Martins Ferry's George Hulsey, Buckeye Local's Trey Hoover and Steubenville's Spenser Ostovich.

Defensively, Allen said there is speed everywhere.

"We're very quick, especially at linebacker,"

he noted. "Some of these guys can really run."

Those linebackers include Steubenville's Kyjhaun Hopkins, Beaver Local's Dylan Ferguson, Dover's Jack Storm and Fort Frye's Zaiden Huck.

The down linemen are St. Clairsville's Drue Jozwiak, Fort Frye's Caleb Riggs and St. Clairsville's Marcus Rector at the ends; and River's Brayden Strawn and Shenandoah's Jared Trenner at the tackles.

Manning the secondary are Steubenville's Ty'lik Sims, Pettigrew, Lollathin, Vera and Kinsey.

Harrison Central's

Jace Madzia will handle the punting and kicking duties.

On the opposite sideline, Wheeling Central's Mike Young and his staff will be coaching the Mountaineers. The veteran mentor is excited as ever.

"We're ready to go. We've got a couple of guys with some sore muscles, but other than that we're ready to get after it," Young said.

The Mountaineers took a blow when Wheeling Park quarterback Brent Phillips was unable to play, but Young still has John Marshall's Jacob Coffield in the fold. He has also hinted at using versatile and lightning-quick performers Lorenzo Ferrara (Wheeling Central) and Luca DiLorenzo (Linsly) in some type of formation.

"The offense is moving the ball with what system we've put in. The kids

have picked it up rather quickly," Young said. Offense is all about execution and schemes and defense is read, react and run to the ball. Those are the things we have to be able to do.

"It's been a great experience for these kids this week, and our staff as well."

In addition to Coffield, the other quarterback is Morgantown's Drew Boczek. The running back is Wheeling Central's Riley Watkins.

When West Virginia takes to the air, it will look to Wheeling Park's Will James, Linsly's Nate Coleman and Ferrara and DiLorenzo out of the backfield.

Young has some good size across the offensive front in John Marshall's Bryce Cook, Morgantown's Eli Stahara, Brooke's Tanner Griffith, Trinity Christian's Bryce Bailey, University's Ja-

cob Bailey, Linsly's Wyatt Haynes and Clay-Battelle's Matthew Gadd.

Defensively, Young thinks this group will hold its own.

"We need to take care of our assignments and we'll be alright," he said.

The line consists of Wheeling Park's Charlie DiSaia, Wheeling Central's Braden Whitelatch, Weir's Jamari Bass, Hundred's Zach Wise and Valley's Virgil Doiron.

Manning the linebackers are Wheeling Park's Erick Brothers, Jr., Brooke's Logan Gaschler, Parkersburg South's Braden Whipkey, Cameron's Adam Angel IV and Oak Glen's Vince Quintana. The defensive backs are University's Jake Croston and Landon Cool, Trinity Christian's Levi Teets and DiLorenzo.

Doing the kicking is Oak Glen's Trent Richmond. Young was undecided on a punter.



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TBT

(Continued from Page C1)

The semifinals are set for Wednesday at 7 and 9 p.m., with the championship contest scheduled for Saturday at 2 p.m. The West Virginia Regional winner will face the Syracuse Regional winner on Sunday at 4 p.m. with a berth in the Elite 8 on the line. That game will be televised by ESPN.

Best Virginia, which advanced to the Elite 8 last summer, is 6-3 all-time in TBT while Dubois Dream is 0-3.

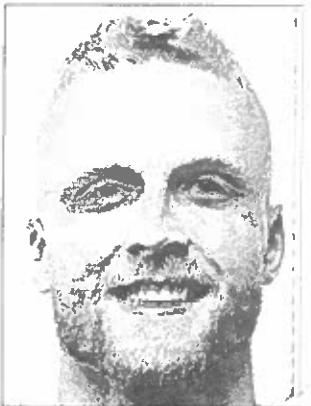
"Every year we get a little better," Harler noted. "We've got our goals set high for this year."

In addition to Harler, Best Virginia is made up of former WVU standouts John Flowers (6-7 small forward); Erik Stevenson (6-4 shooting guard);



PRESTON BOSWELL

Sean McNeil (6-4 shooting guard); Kedrian Johnson (6-4 point guard); Kevin Jones (6-8 power forward); Nathan Adrian (6-9 power forward) and Teyvon Myers (6-2 point guard). Stevenson also played collegiately at Wichita State, Washington and South Carolina while McNeil played his



DALTON BOLON

fifth season at Ohio State. The roster also includes Alex Gross (6-10 center) who played at Olivet Nazarene and Morehead State; Nathan Flowers (6-5 power forward) who played for Oklahoma City and Quincy Ford (6-9 small forward) who played at Northeastern University.

James Long is the beach coach of Best Virginia. He is assisted by Payton Sturm and Dave Tallman Jr., who is the head boys basketball coach at Mor-

Holiday Tours

MAYNARD — Winning one championship is good. Capturing two titles is sweet. Going back-to-back-to-back is quite an accomplishment.

...Maynard (21-5) did just that Friday night with a hard-fought, 11-9, win over Wheeling on Firemen's Field before a nice-sized gathering inside the Community Park.

The victory allowed the top-seeded Indians a 3-0 sweep in the best-of-5 series and set a modern-day OVBL record with the three titles in a row.

They also swept the third-seeded Pioneers (10-13) in the 2022 championship series after defeating Barton in 2021.

"It feels nice. We don't lose in Maynard." Maynard manager David Vicker stressed. "We came out hitting the ball tonight up and down the order. Mason (Van Nest) pitched a great game. We did it. We're the champions again."

See **MAYNARD**, Page C4



MAYNARD MADE it three Ohio Valley Baseball League championships in a row Friday night with a 11-9 victory over Wheeling in Game 3 of the best-of-5 series on Firemen's Field inside the Community Park. Pictured with the three trophies are members of this year's team.

Photo by KIM NORTH

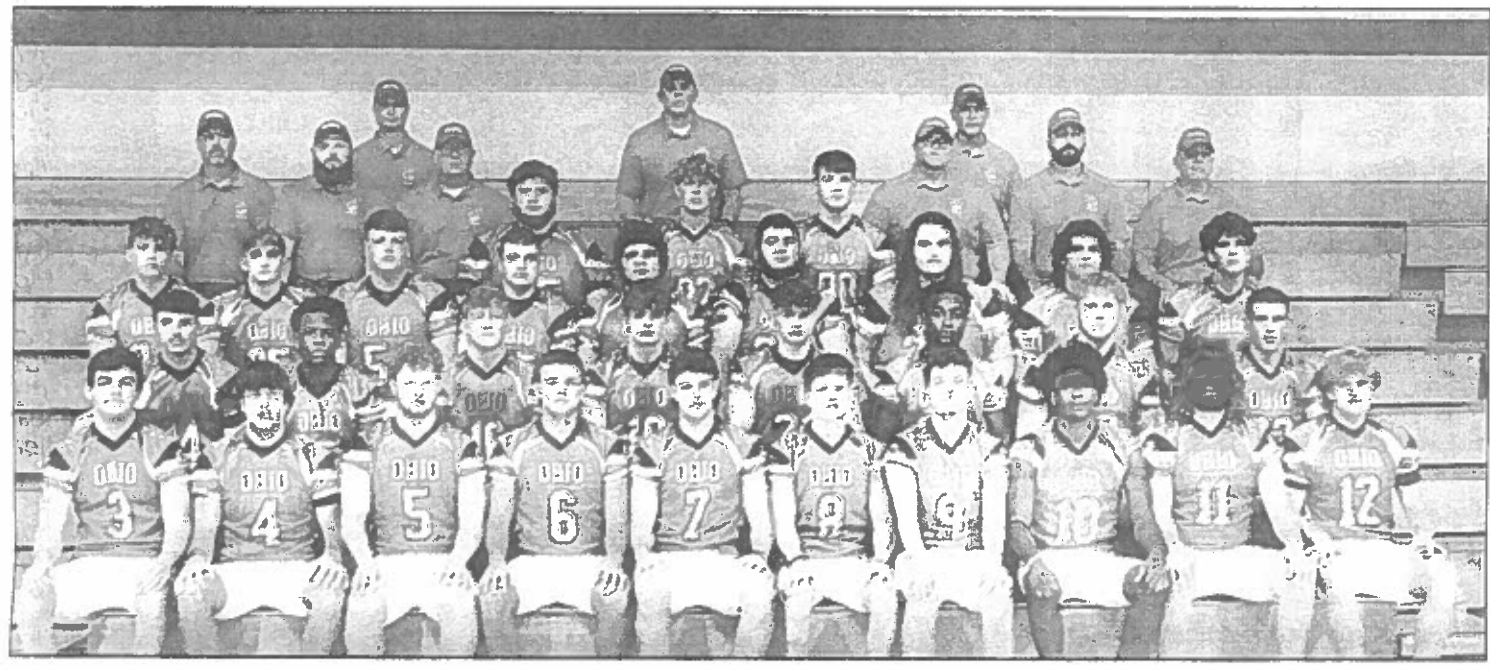


Photo by KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the Ohio All Stars who will be competing against W.Va. on Saturday in the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game presented by Huntington Bank at 7:15 p.m. inside Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Jaksan Price (Union Local), Jace Madzia (Harrison Central), Marshal Sayre (Caldwell), Brody Lollathin (River), Zaiden Huck (Fort Frye), Mason Aberts (Bridgeport), Caden Moore (Cambridge), Kyjhaun Hopkins (Steubenville), Trey Hoover (Buckeye Local) and Drue Jozwiak (St. Clairsville). Second row, from left, are C.J. Hannahs (Barnesville), Ty'lik Sims (Steubenville), George Hulsey (Martins Ferry), Andrew Vera (St. Clairsville), Zane Kinsey (Toronto), Ray Ray Pettigrew (Bellaire), Spenser Ostovich (Steubenville) and Lucca Morelli (Steubenville Catholic). Third row, from left, are Jack Storm (Dover), Dylan Ferguson (Beaver Local), Cabot Arbaugh (Harrison Central), Jared Trenner (Shenandoah), Brayden Strawn (River), Jackson Lurie (Dover), Quentin Leasure (Barnesville), Camden Daley (Steubenville) and Marcus Rector (St. Clairsville). Fourth row, from left, are Ashton Ellis (Edison), Landyn Hores (Martins Ferry) and Caleb Riggs (Fort Frye). Fifth row, from left, are assistant coaches D.J. Butler, Brady Treherne, Tony Starr, Bryce Allen, Steven Schumaker and Neal Zaccagnini. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Dylan Rogers, head coach Blake Allen and assistant coach/equipment manager Chris Hannahs.

Coming home for a game

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Chase Harler's well-traveled basketball career has taken him to many arena's, both nationally and internationally. The 4-year letterman at West Virginia University has played in Sweden and Lithuania following his days on the court in Morgantown and the Big 12 Conference.

However, there is one place the Moundsville native has never played a game ... WesBanco Arena ... just blocks away from where he was a three-time W.Va. Class all-stater at Wheeling Central stand-out.

Harler, a 6-3 shooting guard who graduated from WVU in 2019 with a bachelor's degree in general business, will make his debut inside the downtown facility on Tuesday as a member of Best Virginia, a WVU alumni team, when the TBT comes to the Ohio Valley.

"I'm super excited to be able to play in Wheeling," Harler said in a telephone interview on Thursday. "I talked with some people around January-February about the area and the venue about bringing the tournament to Wheeling."

"I know we are going to have a great turnout because people in the Ohio Valley love sports," he added. "For basketball fans that like high-level play, WesBanco Arena is going to be the place to be."

Harler scored 409 points and made 75 three-point field goals during his career with the Mountaineers.

See **HOME**, Page C5

It's OVAC All-Star Game time

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — If it's late July and the Upper Ohio Valley Italian Festival is in full swing at Heritage Port, the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game is being played just across the Ohio River at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Ohio leads the all-time series 47-29, including a 33-15 victory a year ago, heading into the 77th edition which kicks off Saturday at 7:15 p.m.

However, it's a different season, with different players and different coaching staffs. But both head coaches said Friday morning during the final workouts that their teams will be ready to go.

"It's been a great week. It's been fun coaching these kids that come from great programs," Barnesville's Blake Allen and his staff will lead the Buckeye State.

He will be very familiar with the starting quarterback as the Shamrocks' C.J. Hannahs is at the helm.

The two-year starter earned all-Ohio honors both seasons in leading the Green Machine to playoff appearances.

"C.J. is one of the smartest kids I've ever coached. So it was a no-brainer to select him," Allen noted.

"He has been able to teach the running backs and wide receivers our system. They have been able to pick it up quickly and we've looked really good in practice."

Other quarterbacks are St. Clairsville's Andrew Vera and Cambridge's Caden Moore.

Allen also picked Barnesville offensive lineman Quentin Leasure and that has also been a luxury.

"Having Quentin up front has helped the offensive line pick up the system really quick," Allen added. "I think we are ready to go out and have some fun."

Expected to see action up front with Leasure are Edison's Ashton Ellis, Harrison Central's Cabot Arbaugh, Dover's Jackson Lurie and Steubenville's Camden Daley.

See **OVAC**, Page C5

Four more for Central Hall of Fame

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
For Times Leader

WHEELING — The Wheeling Central Catholic High School Athletic Hall of Fame is set to add four more members to its 2023 class.

Kayleen Fitzsimmons, Dave Wojcik, Penn Kurtz and Floyd Deaton are the newest group of Maroon Hall of Famers.

They will join Eric Benancic, Terry Edwards and esse Smoulder who were announced as the initial trio of inductees for this year's Hall of Fame Class.

All of the honorees will be feted during the Maroon Knights' seventh Hall of Fame



DEATON **FITZSIMMONS** **KURTZ** **WOJCIK**

CCHS Great Hall. Only a limited number of tickets are available for this event and are \$25 per person. They can be purchased by contacting the school at 304-233-1660 or stopping by between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. during the month of August. They may also be purchased by calling Coach Mike Young at 304-312-9125.

The brunch begins at 10 a.m. Doors open at 9 a.m. It will be catered by Generations. The Wheeling Central Foot-

The Hall of Fame inductees will also be guests and recognized at halftime festivities at the Maroon Knights' football game against Midland Trail on Friday, Sept. 15. The game will be played at Wheeling University's Bishop Schmitt Field.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. Previous Wheeling Central Hall of Fame inductees are invited to the game and brunch. If interested in attending, contact either the school number or Coach Young.

Next week, another group of

Nailers re-sign Dirven

WHEELING — The Wheeling Nailers, proud ECHL affiliate of the Pittsburgh Penguins, are excited to announce their sixth player signing of the 2023 offseason. Wheeling has re-signed defenseman Sebastian Dirven to an ECHL contract.

Dirven, 25, made his professional debut with the Nailers in April, after completing his collegiate playing career. Sebastian recorded one goal, two assists, three points, and 10 shots on goal in his first four career contests. His first point came via an assist in a 6-2 win over Iowa on April 7, which was followed by his first pro goal the following night in a 4-3 victory against Fort Wayne.

"Sebastian is big and mobile, which is a hard combination to find in a defenseman,"

er. He showed us that he can do even more at the pro level."

Prior to turning pro, the Bainsville, Ontario, native attended Cornell University, where he was enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, while he played three seasons for the Big Red. Dirven suited up in 93 of the school's 95 games over the course of those three seasons, and amassed three goals, 12 assists, 15 points, and a +22 rating. His defensive game shined brightly in his final year at Cornell, as he finished fifth on the team with 24 blocked shots. The 2022-23 Big Red also earned a spot in the NCAA National Tournament and upset fourth-ranked Denver in the opening round.

Dirven and the Nailers will open the 2023-24 season on

• Home

Continued from Page C1

His top-seeded Best Virginia teammates are slotted in the 7 p.m. game in their first-round matchup against No. 8 Dubois Dream on Tuesday.

"We've been practicing in Morgantown. We had a camp there on Monday and our first practice was Tuesday," Harler noted. "We had a camp in Bridgeport, W.Va., on Wednesday and we will practice Thursday, Friday and Saturday in Morgantown before heading to Wheeling."

The event has eight teams

and kicks off at 2 p.m. with third-seeded Challenge ALS meeting No. 6 Dawg Town (Georgetown alumni). At 4, No. 2 Sideline Cancer faces No. 7 Ram Nation (VCU alumni). The nightcap has No. 4 Herd That (Marshall alumni) battling fifth-seeded Zoo Crew (Pitt alumni).

The semifinals are set for Wednesday at 7 and 9 p.m., with the championship contest scheduled for Saturday at 2 p.m. The West Virginia Regional winner will face the Syracuse Regional winner on Sunday at 4

p.m. with a berth in the Elite 8 on the line. That game will be televised by ESPN.

Best Virginia, which advanced to the Elite 8 last summer, is 6-3 all-time in TBT while Dubois Dream is 0-3.

"Every year we get a little better," Harler said. "We've got our goals set high for this year."

In addition to Harler, Best Virginia is made up of former WVU standouts John Flowers (6-7 small forward); Erik Stevenson (6-4 shooting guard); Sean McNeil (6-4 shooting guard); Kedrian Johnson (6-4

point guard); Kevin Jones (6-8 power forward); Nathan Adrian (6-9 power forward) and Teyvon Myers (6-2 point guard). Stevenson also played collegiately at Wichita State, Washington and South Carolina while McNeil played his fifth season at Ohio State.

James Long is the beach coach of Best Virginia. He is assisted by Payton Sturm and Dave Tallman Jr., who is the head boys basketball coach at Morgantown and a Magnolia grad.

Dubois Dream also has some

local talent in former West Liberty standout Dalton Bolon, who played in the NCAA Tournament last season with the College of Charleston, and former Magnolia all-stater Preston Boswell who played a couple of seasons at then-Wheeling Jesuit University who is an assistant coach.

Bolon is coming off his final collegiate season and second with Charleston where he made his first NCAA Tournament and just the school's second appearance in the big dance in the last 25 seasons.

• OVAC

Continued from Page C1

When Ohio looks to throw, it has some sure-handed and fleet-footed wideouts as targets. Bellaire's Ray Ray Pettigrew, River's Brody Lollathin and Bridgeport's Mason Aberts.

The tight ends are Indian Creek's Lucca Morelli and Martins Ferry's Landyn Hores.

Allen also thinks his backfield is two-dimensional.

"I think we can pound it up the middle with some big guys and I also think we can get to the edge with our speed," he added. "We've got a nice mix there."

The speed will come from Union Local's Jackson Price, Caldwell's

Marshal Sayre and Toronto's Zane Kinsey, while the power will be provided by Martins Ferry's George Hulsey, Buckeye Local's Trey Hoover and Steubenville's Spenser Ostovich.

Defensively, Allen said there is speed everywhere.

"We're very quick, especially at linebacker," he noted. "Some of these guys can really run."

Those linebackers include Steubenville's Kyjhaun Hopkins, Beaver Local's Dylan Ferguson, Dover's Jack Storm and Fort Frye's Zaiden Huck.

The down linemen are St. Clairsville's Drue Jozwiak, Fort Frye's Caleb Riggs and St. Clairsville's Marcus Rector at the ends; and River's

Brayden Strawn and Shenandoah's Jared Trenner at the tackles.

Manning the secondary are Steubenville's Ty'lik Sims, Pettigrew, Lollathin, Vera and Kinsey.

Harrison Central's Jace Madzia will handle the punting and kicking duties.

On the opposite sideline, Wheeling Central's Mike Young and his staff will be coaching the Mountaineers. The veteran mentor is excited as ever.

"We're ready to go. We've got a couple of guys with some sore muscles, but other than that we're ready to get after it," Young said.

The Mountaineers took a blow when Wheeling Park quarterback Brent

Phillips was unable to play, but Young still has John Marshall's Jacob Coffield in the fold.

Young has also hinted at using versatile and lightning-quick performers Lorenzo Ferrara (Wheeling Central) and Luca DiLorenzo (Linsly) in some type of formation.

"The offense is moving the ball with what system we've put in. The kids have picked it up rather quickly," Young said. Offense is all about execution and schemes and defense is read, react and run to the ball. Those are the things we have to be able to do.

"It's been a great experience for these kids this week, and our staff as well."

In addition to Coffield, the other quarterback is Morgantown's Drew Boczek. The running back is Wheeling Central's Riley Watkins.

When West Virginia takes to the air, it will look to Wheeling Park's Will James. Linsly's Nate Coleman and Ferrara and DiLorenzo out of the backfield.

Young has some good size across the offensive front in John Marshall's Bryce Cook, Morgantown's Eli Stahara, Brooke's Tanner Griffith, Trinity Christian's Bryce Bailey, University's Jacob Bailey, Linsly's Wyatt Haynes and Clay-Battelle's Matthew Gadd.

Defensively, Young thinks this group will hold its own.

"We need to take care of our assignments and we'll be alright," he said.

The line consists of Wheeling Park's Charlie DiSaia, Wheeling Central's Braden Whitelatch, Weir's Jamari Bass, Hundred's Zach Wise and Valley's Virgil Doiron.

Manning the linebackers are Wheeling Park's Erick Brothers, Jr., Brooke's Logan Gaschler, Parkersburg South's Braden Whipkey, Cameron's Adam Angel IV and Oak Glen's Vince Quintana. The defensive backs are University's Jake Croston and Landon Cool, Trinity Christian's Levi Teets and DiLorenzo.

Doing the kicking is Oak Glen's Trent Richmond. Young was undecided on a punter.



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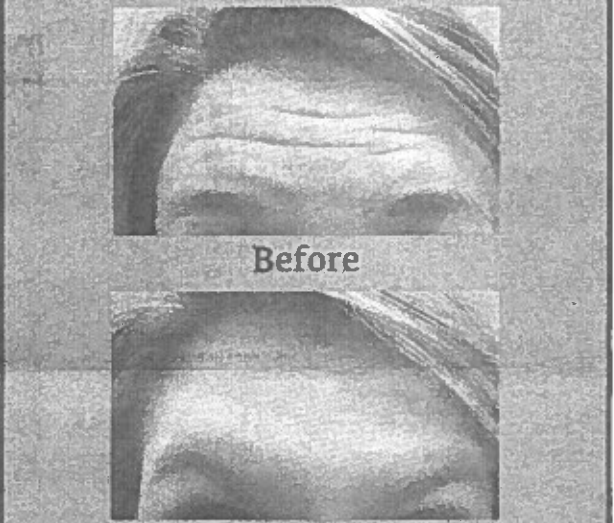
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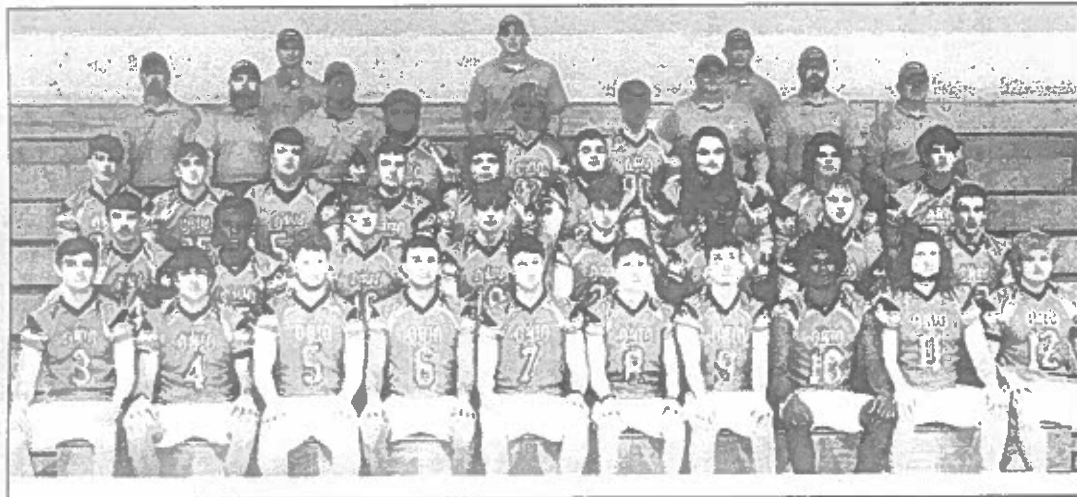


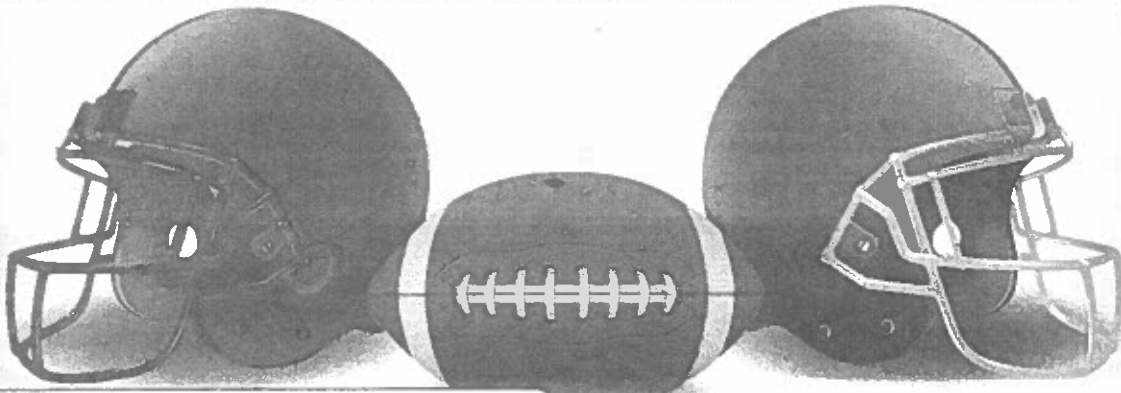
Photo by Kim North

Pictured are the Ohio All Stars who will be competing against W.Va. on Saturday in the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game presented by Huntington Bank at 7:15 p.m. inside Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Jaksan Price (Union Local), Jace Madzia (Harrison Central), Marshal Sayre (Caldwell), Brody Lollathin (River), Zaiden Huck (Fort Frye), Mason Aberts (Bridgeport), Caden Moore (Cambridge), Kyjhaun Hopkins (Steubenville), Trey Hoover (Buckeye Local) and Drue Jozwiak (St. Clairsville). Second row, from left, are C.J. Hannahs (Barnesville), Tylik Sims (Steubenville), George Hulsey (Martins Ferry), Andrew Vera (St. Clairsville), Zane Kinsey (Toronto), Ray Ray Pettigrew (Bellaire), Spenser Ostovch (Steubenville) and Lucca Morelli (Steubenville Catholic). Third row, from left, are Jack Storm (Dover), Dylan Ferguson (Beaver Local), Cabot Arbaugh (Harrison Central), Jared Trenner (Shenandoah), Brayden Strawn (River), Jackson Lurie (Dover), Quentin Leasure (Barnesville), Camden Daley (Steubenville) and Marcus Rector (St. Clairsville). Fourth row, from left, are Ashton Ellis (Edison), Landyn Hores (Martins Ferry) and Caleb Riggs (Fort Frye). Fifth row, from left, are assistant coaches D.J. Butler, Brady Treherne, Tony Starr, Bryce Allen, Steven Schumaker and Neal Zaccagnini. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Dylan Rogers, head coach Blake Allen and assistant coach/equipment manager Chris Hannahs.



Photo by Kim North

Pictured are the W.Va. All Stars who will be competing against Ohio on Saturday in the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game presented by Huntington Bank at 7:15 p.m. inside Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are managers Jackson Bell, Easton Kuchinski, Matt Kendall, Camden Kuchinski and Nico DiBias. Second row, from left, are Logan Gaschier (Brooke), Nate Coleman (Linsly), Drew Boczek (Morgantown), Jamar Bass (Weir), Lorenzo Ferrera (Wheeling Central), Erick Brothers Jr. (Wheeling Park), Luca DiLorenzo (Linsly), Landon Cool (University), Jacob Coffield (John Marshall) and Levi Teets (Trinity Christian). Third row, from left, are Jake Croston (University), Payton Neely (Cameron), Riley Watkins (Wheeling Central), Matthew Gaad (Clay-Battelle), Braden Whipkey (Parkersburg South), Trenton Richmond (Oak Glen), Bryce Cook (John Marshall) and Charlie DiSaia (Wheeling Park). Fourth row, from left, are Adam Angel (Cameron), Eli Stahara (Morgantown), Jacob Stevens (University), Virgil Doiron (Valley), Dante Suggs (Wheeling Central), Braden Whitelatch (Wheeling Central), Tanner Griffith (Brooke), Wyatt Haynes (Linsly) and Bryce Bailey (Trinity Christian). Fifth row from left, are assistant coaches Phil Pest, Shannon Kuchinski and Dylan Baker, head coach Mike Young, and assistant coaches Jim Wolfe, Mario DiBias and John Tankvits. Not pictured is assistant coach Jason Rine.



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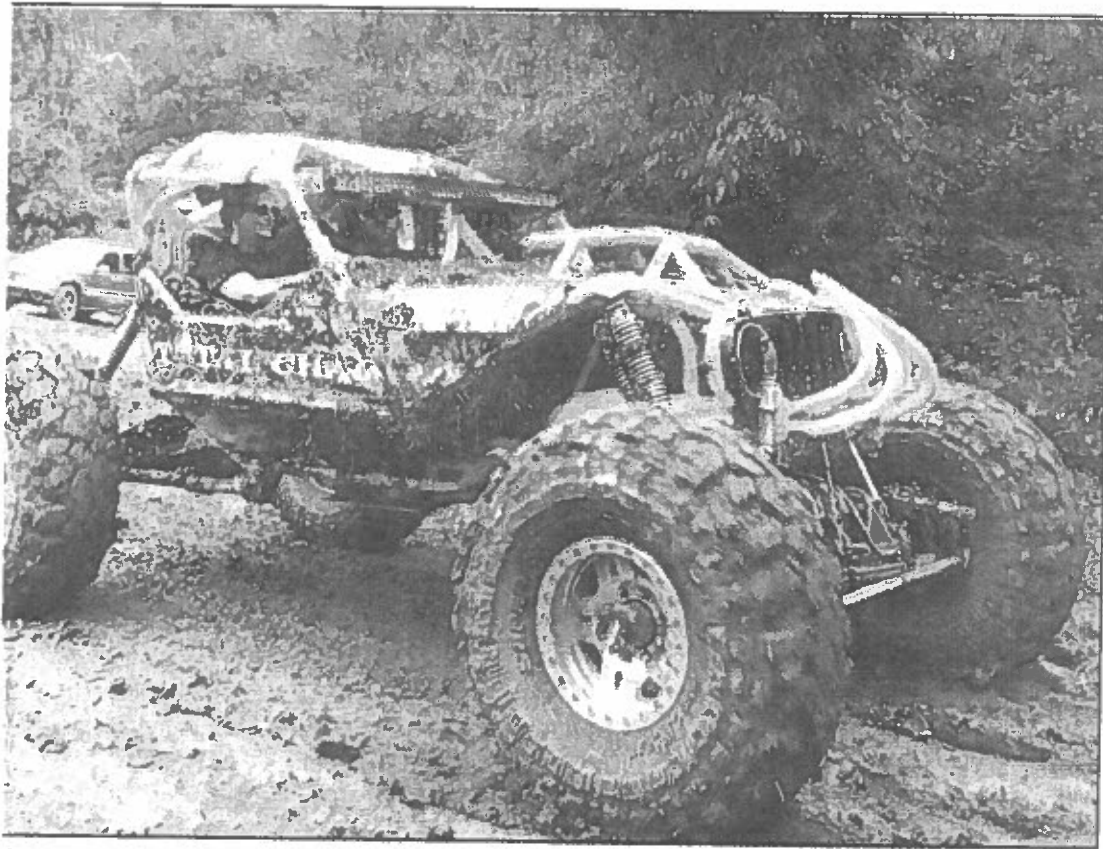
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A UTV, also known as a 'side-by-side,' makes its way through the course at the previous year's weekend race at Powerline Park.

ATV and motorcycle racing roaring into Powerline Park

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — 12 years ago, Steve Stiller had 235 participants signed up for a weekend of ATV and motorcycle races.

Now, after a dozen years of growth, Stiller and the American Woods Racing Championship Series (AWRCS) are gearing up for 1,000-plus racers to converge at Powerline Park for one of the off-road racing promotion's biggest events yet.

"We're more of a national series as far as our numbers go," Stiller, the manager of AWRCS, said. "[...] Wherever we go, whatever town we go to, it's like everybody stops what they're doing and comes to race with us. It's something cool."

Powerline Park in St. Clairsville, Ohio will be the sight of AWRCS' sixth leg of a 10-round race series on July 22 and July 23, bringing in 1,000 racers of a variety of different ages and abilities.

"We have top national ath-

letes in the United States coming," Stiller said. "But we also have just the guy who wants to come out and ride, he doesn't have to worry about the cops chasing him or anything like that. It's just a good, family-oriented race series, period, family first."

The two-day span will include youth, amateur and professional races from the morning until the evening. Saturday's main event is set to be a UTV race along a 13-mile course through hilly, rocky terrain.

Stiller said he expects eight-to-10 professionals for the weekend.

"They're the top guys in the United States, the pros that will be here," Stiller said.

Many of the racers that will take to the course this weekend will hail from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky, though others still will be imports from New York, Connecticut, Michigan, New Jersey and elsewhere.

AWRCS expects the weekend to draw quite a crowd to Powerline Park.

"There's a famous creek jump, everybody who knows Powerline over the past 20 years knows about the creek jump that's there," Stiller said. "They'll get to watch the famous creek jump, there's some hill climbs where there's some easy ways to go around but if you take the hard way, it's quicker - if you make it. There will be a ton for spectators to see."

"We're just one stop, but we're a popular stop," Greg Eaton, the land-owner for Powerline Park, said. "All the local businesses love it, you've got an influx of four or five thousand people plus 1,000 racers who need gasoline, gatorade, food, the whole enchilada. A lot of the hotels are all filled up."

AWRCS will hit the road to different parts of Pennsylvania for their next four events, but for their stop in Ohio, they hope to bring a sense of family and fun.

"It's a very family-oriented event," Eaton said. "And some of these people are dang talented."

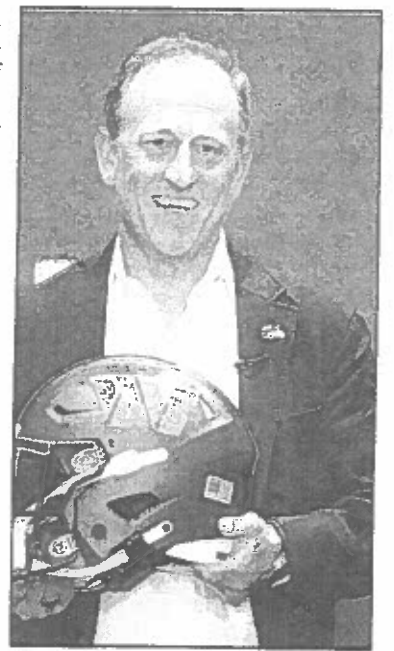
Commanders sale OK'd unanimously

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP) — NFL owners unanimously approved the sale of the Washington Commanders on Thursday from Dan Snyder to a group led by Josh Harris and including Magic Johnson for a record \$6.05 billion, right before the league announced a \$60 million fine for Snyder for improprieties corroborated by its investigation into workplace culture and business dealings.

"We are humbled and awed by the level of responsibility that we have to take care of the city, to win championships and really excite the fans again," Harris said in a news conference after the vote.

The purchase by Harris Blitzer Sports and Entertainment is the highest price paid for a North American professional sports club. Harris, like Snyder and Commissioner Roger Goodell, grew up in the Washington metro area as an avid fan of the team.

See SALE, Page B2



AP Photo

JOSH HARRIS, leader of a group buying the Washington Commanders, poses with a team helmet after NFL owners voted to approve the sale in Bloomington, Minn., Thursday.

Crowd favorite Fleetwood shares British Open lead

HOYLAKE, England (AP) — The British Open showed again Thursday that even after 163 years, golf's oldest championship can still deliver a few surprises.

It started with Christo Lamprecht, the South African amateur as tall as a flag stick and almost as thin, making three birdies over his last six holes and posting a 5-under 66 to become the first amateur in 12 years to share the 18-hole lead at the Open.

Curiosity about the 22-year-old amateur turned to glee at the site of the local hero, Tommy Fleetwood, running off three straight birdies on the back nine at Royal Liverpool to join him atop the leaderboard. Emiliano Grillo of Argentina became the third to post 66 by holing a birdie putt from 50 feet on the last hole.

Not to be overlooked was Jordan Spieth hitting a shank; Rory McIlroy missing a 3-foot putt; Justin Thomas going bun-

ker-to-bunker-to-rough — each shot farther away from the flag than the previous one — in making a 9 on the 18th hole to post his highest round in a major at 82.

McIlroy, trying desperately to end his nine-year drought in the majors, was happy to get away with a 71. He risked the round getting away from him until making up for that wee miss on the eighth hole with a 40-foot birdie on the 14th that sparked him.

And then it almost got away from him in the end — just like the bunkers on the 18th ruined so many other rounds — when he left one in the pot bunker and expertly got out the second time and made a 10-foot par.

Scottie Scheffler, the world's No. 1 player, got around in 70 in the morning before the breeze turned into a stiff wind.

Masters champion Jon Rahm reached a point where he felt nothing was going his way.

See OPEN, Page B2

New Zealand opens Women's World Cup with Norway upset



AP Photo

NEW ZEALAND'S Hannah Wilkinson celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the Women's World Cup soccer match between New Zealand and Norway in Auckland, New Zealand, on Thursday.

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — On a day that started with tragedy, the Football Ferns triumphed.

Hannah Wilkinson scored to open the second half and New Zealand went on to upset Norway 1-0 on Thursday for its first-ever win at the Women's World Cup, hours after a shooting in downtown Auckland shocked the host nation.

A gunman stormed a high-rise construction site near Norway's team hotel and opened fire, killing two people. The gunman was found dead after a police shootout.

There was increased security at Eden Park stadium, where 42,137 — a record crowd for a soccer match in New Zealand — were on hand to cheer on the home team, co-hosts of the tournament with Australia.

See UPSET, Page B2

Ohio County's OVAC football all-stars



PICTURED ARE W.Va. All-Stars from Ohio County that will be participating in Saturday night's 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Luca DiLorenzo (Linsly), Riley Watkins (Wheeling Central), Lorenzo Ferrara (Wheeling Central) and Deante Suggs (Wheeling Central). Back row, from left, Nate Coleman (Linsly), Braden Whitelatch (Wheeling Central), Erick Brothers Jr. (Wheeling Park), Wyatt Haynes (Linsly) and Charlie DiSaia (Wheeling Park).



AP Photo

England's Tommy Fleetwood waits to play the 18th hole on the first day of the British Open Golf Championships at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake, England, Thursday.

Crowd Favorite Fleetwood Tied For British Open Lead With Grillo

HOYLAKE, England (AP) — The British Open showed again Thursday that even after 163 years, golf's oldest championship can still deliver a few surprises.

It started with Christo Lamprecht, the South African amateur as tall as a flag stick and almost as thin, making three birdies over his last six holes and posting a 5-under 66 to become the first amateur in 12 years to share the 18-hole lead at the Open.

Curiosity about the 22-year-old amateur turned to glee at the site of the local hero, Tommy Fleetwood, running off three straight birdies on the back nine at Royal Liverpool to join him atop the leaderboard. Emiliano Grillo of Argentina became the third to post 66 by holing a birdie putt from 50 feet on the last hole.

Not to be overlooked was Jordan Spieth hitting a shank; Rory McIlroy missing a 3-foot putt; Justin Thomas going bunker-to-bunker-to-rough — each shot farther away from the flag than the previous one — in making a 9 on the 18th hole to post his highest round in a major at 82.

McIlroy, trying desperately to end his nine-year drought in the majors, was happy to get away with a 71. He risked the round getting away from him until making up for that wee miss on the eighth hole with a 40-foot birdie on the 14th that sparked him.

Please see BRITISH, Page 12



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Members of the Wheeling Post 1 American Legion baseball team are pictured with the W.Va. Area 1 championship trophy after defeating Parkersburg Post 15, 13-10, on Thursday at the I-470 Sports Complex.

Post 1 Will Begin State Tournament Play Tuesday At 1:30 p.m. In Charleston

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — Post 1 Wheeling and Post 15 Parkersburg may have both already qualified for the state tournament coming into Thursday's Area 1 Championship game, but both teams were still very much invested in the night's outcome.

Offenses unloaded Thursday, with Wheeling and Parkersburg combining for 23 runs in an eventual 13-10 win for Post 1 to claim the Area title.

"Everytime we play Parkersburg, they're a solid team, we know they're well-coached and it's an exciting game for our guys," Post 1 head coach Jon-Michael Brunner said. "I think to bring an Area [Championship] back to Post 1 I think meant a lot to the guys in the dugout today. It took an overall effort — from the coaches, who I can't give enough credit too, everybody on

the bench today stepped up and that's what we're looking for next week."

Seven different players recorded RBI for Wheeling on Thursday, as Post 1 started and finished strong in the title match, scoring four runs in the bottom of the first and bottom of the sixth.

"Everybody stepped up," Brunner said. "We've been having great at-bats pretty much the entire season. For one guy to get a hit, it's contagious, they feed off each other and this is a tight group of guys. Not only did they get a hit but they wanted to get a hit for their friends, their buddies, and that feeds off itself."

Trey Prather led the team with three RBI, going 2-3 on the day with a sacrifice bunt. Andrew Skadra put together a 4-4 day, all singles, while scoring twice. Alex Taylor followed with three hits, including a triple in the first inning. Jack

Scouart also mashed an RBI triple, finishing with two runs driven in on the day. Jared Marsh also tallied a pair of RBI in his own multi-hit day.

Parkersburg's own offense was nearly as potent, as Post 15 scored in every inning but the sixth, and mounted a comeback effort in the seventh, scoring three runs in the final frame.

"Considering last night's game, I was worried about us coming out flat, because we got beat pretty good," Post 15 head coach Mike Goodwin said. "So I was happy with how we started the first inning offensively. I thought our approach at the plate was better tonight than last night. We just gave up one or two runs every doggone inning and we couldn't do that to keep up. It was a hit fest."

Please see WHEELING, Page 12

ATV, Motorcycle Racing Comes To Powerline Park

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — 12 years ago, Steve Stiller had 235 participants signed up for a weekend of ATV and motorcycle races. Now, after a dozen years of growth, Stiller and the American Woods Racing Championship Series (AWRCS) are gearing up for 1,000-plus racers to converge at Powerline Park for one of the off-road racing promotion's biggest events yet.

"We're more of a national series as far as our numbers go," Stiller, the manager of AWRCS, said. "[...] Wherever we go, whatever town

we go to, it's like everybody stops what they're doing and comes to race with us. It's something cool."

Powerline Park in St. Clairsville, Ohio will be the site of AWRCS' sixth leg of a 10-round race series on July 22 and July 23, bringing in 1,000 racers of a variety of different ages and abilities.

"We have top national athletes in the United States coming," Stiller said.

"But we also have just the guy who wants to come out and ride, he doesn't have to worry about the cops chasing him or anything like that. It's just a good, family-oriented race series, period, family

first."

The two-day span will include youth, amateur and professional races from the morning until the evening. Saturday's main event is set to be a UTV race along a 13-mile course through hilly, rocky terrain.

Stiller said he expects eight-to-10 professionals for the weekend.

"They're the top guys in the United States, the pros that will be here," Stiller said.

Many of the racers that will take to the course this weekend will hail from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky, though others still will be imports from New

York, Connecticut, Michigan, New Jersey and elsewhere.

AWRCS expects the weekend to draw quite a crowd to Powerline Park.

"There's a famous creek jump, everybody who knows Powerline over the past 20 years knows about the creek jump that's there," Stiller said. "They'll get to watch the famous creek jump, there's some hill climbs where there's some easy ways to go around but if you take the hard way, it's quicker — if you make it. There will be a ton for spectators to see."

Please see ATV, Page 12

77TH ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME



Photo by Kim North

Pictured are Ohio All-Stars from Belmont County that will be participating in Saturday night's 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Jaksan Price (Union Local), George Hulsey (Martins Ferry), C.J. Hannahs (Barnesville), Quentin Leasure (Barnesville) and Mason Aberts (Bridgeport). Back row, from left, are Ray Ray Pettigrew (Bellair), Landyn Hores (Martins Ferry), Drue Jozwiak (St. Clairsville), Andrew Vera (St. Clairsville) and Marcus Rector (St. Clairsville).



Photo by Kim North

Pictured are W.Va. All-Star players from Brooke and Hancock counties that will be participating in the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium. From left, Jamarri Bass (Weir), Tanner Griffith (Brooke), Logan Gaschler (Brooke) and Trenton Richmond (Oak Glen).

77th Annual OVAC Mumley All-Star Game A Crossroads For Player's Pasts, Futures

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - Much is made of the unifying effect of Saturday's 77th Annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, and the week of camp preceding it where the two teams from Ohio and West Virginia enjoy camaraderie among teammates who for years previous were competitors.

But just as much as the All-Star Game brings together players who arrived by different routes and different schools, they also bring together players who will embark on wildly different paths immediately following the game.

"We've got some quality kids, both West Virginia and Ohio," West Virginia head coach Mike Young said during Monday's Media Day. "We've got kids who are going on to the next level, whether that's the next level of football or the next level of college. I've got

one kid who's going to be a welder, one kid who's going to be an electrician, they're going on to the next level, to take care of themselves, to have championship families, to have championship lives. That's what it's all about, it doesn't end here, but hopefully it starts here."

The coaches and game officials hope that this week leading up to Saturday will provide a common, positive experience for each player who came aboard to represent their state.

But it also undoubtedly means different things for those who are going on to the collegiate ranks, and those for who Saturday will be the final hurrah in their athletic careers.

Saturday's All-Star Game boasts several future college football players - some of whom will indeed be playing for the Wheeling University Cardinals, who's campus the teams are staying at and practicing

on all this week.

One such player is St. Clairsville's Marcus Rector, who is seeing plenty of benefits from his time on-campus in his future home all this week.

"No matter what comes next, it's always been a dream to play in this game," Rector said. "And we've been rivals with a lot of West Virginia schools and it's really going to feel bitter-sweet to go out once last time with them, battle in the trenches, and try to take care of business for all four quarters. It's also getting me ready for college camp in a couple weeks. Being out here with great coaches, great teammates, I'm just so excited."

While emotions are running high, Rector and others are also being pragmatic about this week, and it's preparatory effect for their incoming college careers.

Please see OVAC, Page 14



Photo by Kim North

Pictured are W. Va. All-Star players from Marshall and Wetzel counties that will be participating in the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, Jacob Coffield (John Marshall) and Payton Neely (Cameron). Back row, from left, are Bryce Cook (John Marshall), Adam Angel (Cameron) and Virgil Doiron (Valley).

Post 1 Sweeps Doubleheader, Punches Ticket To State Tourney

Wheeling, Parkersburg
Meet Today For Area
One Championship

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - Wheeling Post 1 overpowered Wellsburg Post 34 on Wednesday, winning 20-1 in five innings. Though there was another game to be played immediately following the victory, the dominant win set in stone the two teams representing Area 1 in the upcoming American Legion State Tournament.

Both the champion and runner-up teams from Area 1 qualify for the state tournament, to be held at the University of Charleston on July 25-29, meaning Post 1 punched its ticket by sprinting past Post 34.

"It's exciting, the area and the state are always fun times for us," Post 1 head coach Jon-Michael Brunner said. "We've just got to keep persevering, pushing through and hopefully we can make it happen."

Wheeling flexed its offensive muscles at the 1-470 Sports Complex, with all 10 batters to log a plate appearance recording at least one RBI in the win. Andrew Skadra piled up four RBI, Alex Taylor and Jackson Murray totaled three, while Jack Scouvar, Nate Simon, Trey Prather, Jared Marsh, Quinn Jamison, Dillon Wilson and Hunter Mueller all finished with one.

Please see POST 1, Page 14



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Post 1's Jared Marsh stands in the batter's box against Post 34 in Wheeling's 20-1 tournament win Wednesday. Marsh finished 3-4 with a double, a stolen base, two runs and an RBI.



Photo Provided

Steve Sabins puts baseballs in the pitching machine during the 2023 season. He is the coach-in-waiting as Randy Mazey finishes out his career in 2024.

Sabins Will Inherit WVU Baseball Job In 2024 Season

By BOB HERTZEL
WV News

MORGANTOWN - Steve Sabins has been the yin to Randy Mazey's yang as Mazey built West Virginia's baseball program into national prominence during his eight years as his assistant, and now he is in line to inherit the program from his mentor when Mazey steps down after the 2024 season.

It was almost a mystical spell that Mazey cast over Sabins from the moment they came across each other. Mazey was in his early years of managing the WVU team, something he has done for 11 years, and Sabins was a player and then assistant coach at Oklahoma State.

"I was working at Oklahoma State and we came and played Randy and the Mountaineers a few times. I even played when WVU was still playing at Hawley Field. I remember getting to know Coach Mazey a little bit, just being in the other dugout and seeing the teams he was building and how competitive they were," he said.

A seed was planted.

Maynard A Victory Away From OVBL Modern Day History

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WEST LIBERTY - A pair of wily veterans lifted Maynard to within a win of setting a modern day Ohio Valley Baseball League record on Wednesday night.

Thirty-four year old Chris McIntyre tossed a complete game with 11 strikeouts and 27-year-old Tyler Ramsay belted a pair of home runs and drove in five runs as the two-time defending champs defeated home-



OVAC

(Continued from Page 13)

"I played college football myself at Muskingum, and I've talked to those kids," Ohio head coach Blake Allen said. "This is a great experience because it's very similar to what your camp is going to be like. A lot of these kids are actually reporting in just a couple weeks, and when you get there you basically have two weeks of two practices a day, film sessions, 7:00 in the morning until 9:00 at night. That's really what this is, it's busy, we've got practices, so it's a good experience so those camps won't be a shock to those kids."

"It feels like it's getting me prepared," Rector said. "But it really feels like it's getting all these guys prepared for the next aspects of their lives, whether it's college football or just life in general. We've got a really good group of guys here and

it's all going well." One player who will certainly play a factor in Saturday's game is Cambridge quarterback Caden Moore, who plans on attending Kent State University to study construction management. But for Moore and many other's time playing competitive, organized football, that ends Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

So it's no surprise Moore is diving into his preparation for the game. "I'm going out there and giving it my all," Moore said. "I'm preparing like it's week eight, week 10, whatever it might be in the high school year. It's another game, but it's special, you get to be out here with guys I've played against my whole life, be teammates with them and compete."

While the future college athletes might look at this week as a precursor

to their future college camps, for the players who will not continue their career collegiately, the week is all about focusing on the moment.

"They're just having fun with it," Allen said. "They're enjoying it, more than anything they're trying to soak in each moment. It's really been cool to see them all make connections with kids from different schools, and maybe they wouldn't have that opportunity otherwise, so it's been really fun. I've noticed those players having so much fun with this, trying to soak it all in and embrace the moment."

"All the other players who aren't here, that week 10, week 11, week 12 game, whatever it was, that was their last game," Moore said. "I get one more opportunity to go out there and give it my all."

Pressure Is Building At Florida For Much Quicker Turnaround

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The pressure is on Billy Napier going into his second year at Florida, especially considering how his first one ended.

The Gators finished 6-7 losing five of their final seven games, and the skid culminated in a 30-3 loss to Oregon State in the Las Vegas Bowl.

Napier's Gators face an uphill climb in the Southeastern Conference's Eastern Division, which includes back-to-back national champion Georgia along with a resurgent Tennessee.

of Richardson in the Las Vegas Bowl, are competing for the starting job ahead of Florida's Aug. 31 opener at Utah.

"I've been very impressed with Graham," Napier said. "I think Graham's an accomplished player, but more importantly, I've been impressed with the person, the leader. This guy has an incredible motor and work ethic. ... That has helped the competition. I think it's caused Jack to respond."

Napier knows that Florida fans are accustomed to winning, so another losing season will not go over well in Gainesville. The Gators have not won a bowl game since 2019.

"Even in the Ferrari plant, and these cats don't even speak English, and we're getting 'Roll Tide.' I guess we must have a pretty decent brand."

The Sabans' Italian vacation was a 50th anniversary present that Nick said he "successfully got out of for two years."

"Didn't really want to go, but it was a fabulous time," Saban said.

SEC'S NEW QUOTE MACHINE

When asked if he would replace the late Mike Leach as "college football's most colorful and entertaining personality," Arkansas coach Sam Pittman said he "couldn't come close." Pittman certainly tried during his time with reporters.

At one point, Pittman misheard a reporter who introduced himself as Clark Brooks.

"Garth Brooks?" Pittman said. "I was getting ready to get your autograph."

"The margin of error is small in this league," said Napier, whose Gators went 3-5 in SEC play.

Napier will have a new quarterback after starter Anthony Richardson, who accounted for 26 total touchdowns last season, went fourth overall in the NFL draft to the Indianapolis Colts.

SABAN'S ITALIAN VACATION

Alabama coach Nick Saban and wife Terry took a summer trip to Italy, where he figured he would be able to enjoy some downtime in relative anonymity.

He was wrong. "I thought nobody would know us anywhere that we went, and we got 'Roll Tide'

Transfer Graham Mertz, a three-year starter at Wisconsin, and Jack Miller III, whose one career start came in place

Post 1

(Continued from Page 13)

Despite Wheeling reaching the double-decade mark, it was Wellsburg who struck first, taking a 1-0 lead in the top of the first. Leadoff man Raymond DeFranco reached safely before embarking on an odyssey around the bases - stealing second, reaching third on a wild pitch, and eventually sliding into home after a passed ball. The burst of excitement would be all the action in store for Wellsburg on Wednesday.

Wheeling provided a strong rebuttal in the bottom of the first, scoring three runs to retake a lead they would only build upon throughout the contest.

Post 1 got the wheels turning on their offense Wednesday by running early and often - Wheeling stole seven bases against Wellsburg, including four in the first inning alone.

Aggressiveness was the name of the game for Wheeling, who wanted to set the tone after taking a 7-3 loss to Parkersburg on Tuesday.

"They were aggressive on the bases," Brunner said. "A lot of strikes were thrown, which was nice coming off of yesterday's performance. Attack the zone, attack them on the basepaths, we were trying to be the aggressor here in the first game."

The snowball effect was on from there, with Wheeling scoring in every inning going forward - five in the second, four in the third, and eight in the fourth.

Alex Taylor hit an inside-the-park home run in the third, and added a two-run double in the fourth to boot. Jackson Murray put in a day's work with a RBI double and two-run triple, while Trey Prather and Jared Walsh also each hammered doubles Wednesday.

While scoring 20 runs would allow for some leeway defensively, Wheeling didn't slack off on the point-preventing

side of Wednesday's game. After recording six errors in their Tuesday loss, Post 1 tightened things up on Wednesday, turning in an error-free game against Wellsburg while starter Jack Selmon struck out three and allowed just one hit in his three innings. Post 34's sole run coming unearned.

Nicholas Tsoras came into the game in relief for the fourth and fifth, putting in back-to-back 1-2-3 innings to close the door on the contest.

Wheeling 11, Parkersburg 1

Post 1 avenged its Tuesday loss in the second game of a Wednesday double-header, winning in five innings.

Wheeling's Luke Doyle pitched the first 2.1 innings of the outing, allowing no hits and issuing no walks while striking out two.

Selmon pitched for the second time on the night, tossing the final 2.2 innings and recording the win, striking out three and allowing one run on two hits and one walk.

For Parkersburg, Evan Swain, Dylan Holliday, Izek Baldwin and Mason Camp each pitched in the game, Swain picking up the loss.

Wheeling's offensive mojo rolled over from their 20-1 win over Wellsburg in the very first inning, as Post 1 tagged Parkersburg for seven runs in the opening frame. Prather, Wilson and Marsh each knocked in two, while Skadra, Simon and Jamison also collected RBI.

Skadra finished with two doubles, while Jamison and Marsh smacked their own two-baggers.

Wheeling and Parkersburg will face each other once more Thursday. The winner of the game will enter next week's state tournament as the Area 1 Champion, the loser as Area 1 Runner-up.



AP Photo

Pittsburgh Pirates' Endy Rodriguez (25) singles off Cleveland Guardians relief pitcher Sam Hentges, left, for his first major league hit during the seventh inning of a game in Pittsburgh, Wednesday.

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 13)

Carlos Santana walked, and Choi sent a sharp liner into right field for a 5-4 lead. Enyel De Los Santos walked Henry Davis and Triolo drove a two-run single into left.

Josh Bell homered in the eighth off Ryan Borucki (1-0), and David Bednar struck out one in a perfect ninth for his 18th save in 19 chances.

Pittsburgh was outscored 21-1 in the series' first two games.

"It was a big win," Pirates manager Derek Shelton said. "I give them credit because we kept grinding. ... We scored one run in the first two games and got it handed to us pretty good. They kept going even though they got down. They continued to grind through the at bats."

Pirates starter Rich Hill

gave up four runs and eight hits in 5 2/3 innings. He is 0-2 in his last four starts.

Civale allowed two runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings.

"I pitch until I come out of the game. I was going to compete to the best of my ability," Civale said. "We've got one of the best bullpens in the game, regardless of how some of these last games have gone. No one is going to deny that. Baseball has ups and downs, but we've got one of the best bullpens in the game."

Andres Gimenez drove in a run with a squeeze bunt in the fourth. Amed Rosario hit a two-run double in the fifth when Suwinski dropped the ball on his attempt for a leaping catch in center and Bell followed with an RBI single.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Pirates: 3B Ke'Bryan Hayes ran linear sprints and took grounders in his recovery from low back inflammation. He could require a rehab assignment, Pittsburgh director of sports medicine Todd Tomczyk said. ... SS Oneil Cruz is throwing at up to 120 feet and has started advanced biometric work in the weight room. He has been out since breaking his left ankle on April 9.

UP NEXT

Guardians: RHP Gavin Williams (1-2, 3.94) is to start Friday in the first of a three-game home set against Philadelphia.

Pirates: RHP Johan Oviedo (3-10, 4.53) take the mound Friday in the opener of a three-game series at the Los Angeles Angels.

BASEBALL

(Continued from Page 13)

A couple of years later, Mazey's assistant Steve Trout left to take the job at Texas State. It was around Christmas, which is a quiet time in the coaching business.

It was a month until practice would begin, and Mazey had to find a coach quickly. He recalled the kid from Oklahoma State he'd met that night at

time, he was off backpacking in New Zealand or the Netherlands. I remember going, "I can't get hold of Coach Mazey," but it ended up working out."

He progressed and grew as did the WVU team. He went from assistant coach to recruiting director to assistant head coach, and as they worked with each

What I would bring to the table was structure and kind of a plan to execute on a day-to-day basis while Randy does a better job of keeping things fresh, creative and having fun with the team."

"That's probably the reason we work so well together," Sabins continued. "I need to have a really strong idea of where

else in the business."

"At the end of the day, if you can find people who want to be around you and have the best interests of the program at heart, you would want every single one of those people. Whether it's Coach Mazey, fans or alumni, all of them have to be pulling the rope in the same direction."

not going to be around anymore and that as a staff we needed to take on bigger chunks and bigger roles and understand how things work."

"I think his mission has been to prepare people inside the walls to handle the day-to-day; the things that are required to be great," Sabins continued. "I'm not sure he had an

"I think it was more that I was getting to a point in my career where some other schools were pursuing me in head coaching positions and that played into it to some degree."

And so it was that the day came that Mazey took Sabins aside.

"He got together with me. We met in the morning

SPORTS

Thursday,

July 20, 2023

All-Star Game a crossroads for players

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — Much is made of the unifying effect of Saturday's 77th Annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, and the week of camp preceding it where the two teams from Ohio and West Virginia enjoy camaraderie among teammates who for years previous were competitors.

But just as much as the All-Star Game brings together players who arrived by different routes and different schools, they also bring together players who will embark on wildly different paths immediately following the game.

"We've got some quality kids, both West Virginia and Ohio," West Virginia head coach Mike Young said during Monday's Media Day. "We've got kids who are going on to the next level, whether that's the next level of football or the next level of college. I've got one kid who's going to be a welder, one kid who's going to be an electrician, they're going on to the next level, to take care of themselves, to have championship families, to have championship lives. That's what it's all about, it doesn't end here, but hopefully it starts here."

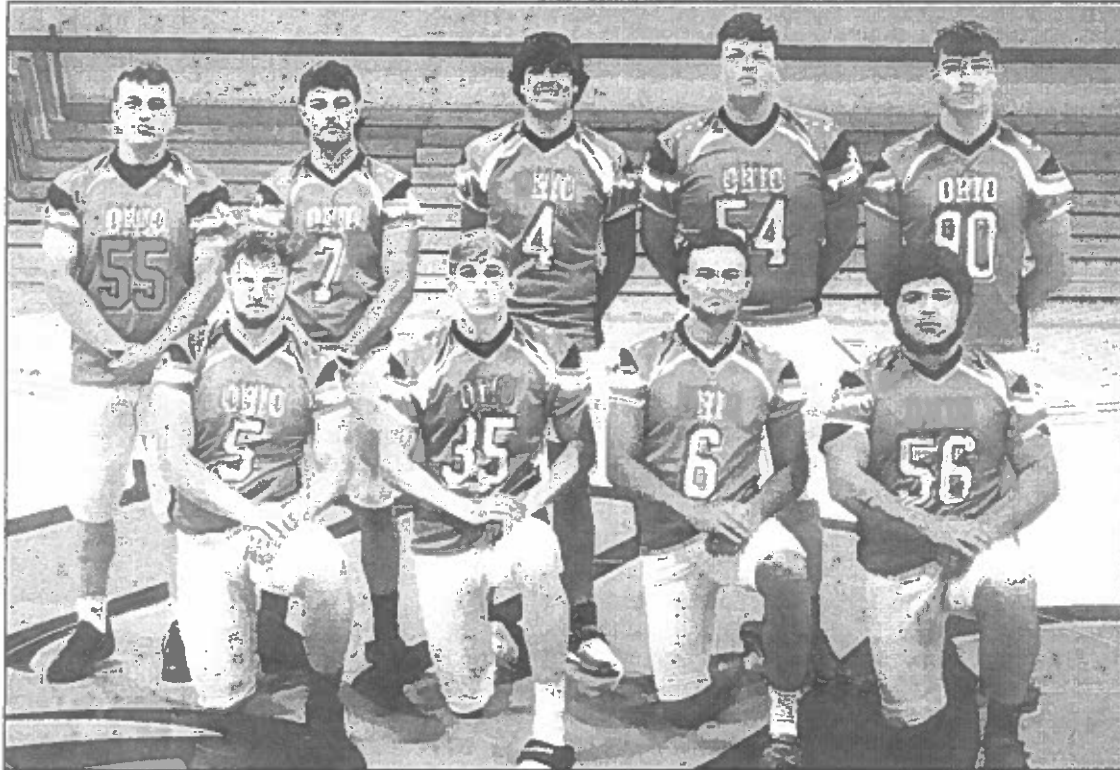


Photo by KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE Ohio All-Star players from Columbiana, Harrison, Monroe, Noble and Washington counties that will be participating in the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Marshal Sayre (Caldwell), Dylan Ferguson (Beaver Local), Brody Lollathin (River) and Brayden Strawn (River). Back row, from left, are Jared Trenner (Shenandoah), Zaiden Huck (Fort Frye), Jace Madzia (Harrison Central), Cabot Arbaugh (Harrison Central) and Caleb Riggs (Fort Frye).

The coaches and game officials hope that this week leading up to Saturday will provide a common, positive experi-

ence for each player who came aboard to represent their state. But it also undoubtedly means different things for those who

are going on to the collegiate ranks, and those for who Saturday will be the final hurrah in their athletic careers.

Saturday's All-Star Game boasts several future college football players—some of whom will indeed be playing for the Wheeling University Cardinals, who's campus the teams are staying at and practicing on all this week.

One such player is St. Clairsville's Marcus Rector, who is seeing plenty of benefits from his time on-campus in his future home all this week.

"No matter what comes next, it's always been a dream to play in this game," Rector said. "And we've been rivals with a lot of West Virginia schools and it's really going to feel bitter-sweet to go out once last time with them, battle in the trenches, and try to take care of business for all four quarters. It's also getting me ready for college camp in a couple weeks. Being out here with great coaches, great teammates, I'm just so excited."

While emotions are running high, Rector and others are also being pragmatic about this week, and it's preparatory effect for their incoming college careers.

"I played college football myself at Muskingum, and I've talked to those kids," Ohio head coach Blake Allen said.

See ALL-STAR, Page C2

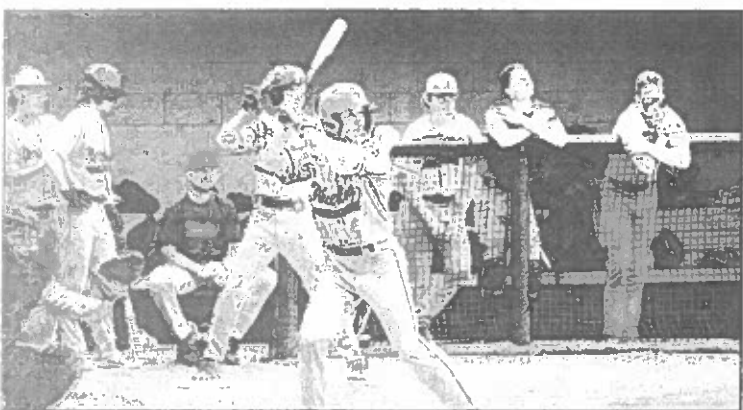


Photo by NICK HENTHORN

POST 1'S Jared Marsh stands in the batter's box against Post 34 in Wheeling's 20-1 tournament win Wednesday.

Wheeling overwhelms Wellsburg on way to state

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — Wheeling Post 1 overpowered Wellsburg Post 34 on Wednesday, winning 20-1 in five innings.

Though there was another game to be played immediately following the victory, the dominant win set in stone the two teams representing Area 1 in the upcoming American Legion State Tournament.

Both the champion and runner-up teams from Area 1 qualify for the state tournament, to be held at the University of Charleston on July 25-29, meaning Post 1 punched its ticket by sprinting past Post 34.

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Jon-Michael Brunner said.

"We've just got to keep persevering, pushing through and hopefully we can make it happen."

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Despite Wheeling reaching the double-decade mark, it was Wellsburg who struck first, taking a 1-0 lead in the top of the first.

See WHEELING, Page C2

Maynard on verge of setting a modern-day OVBL record

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WEST LIBERTY — A pair of wily veterans lifted Maynard to within a win of setting a modern day Ohio Valley Baseball League record on Wednesday night.

Thirty-four year old Chris McIntyre tossed a complete game with 11 strikeouts and 27-year-old Tyler Ramsay belted a pair of home runs and drove in five runs as the two-time defending champs defeated homestanding Wheeling, 6-1, on West Liberty University's sun-splashed Kovalick Field in Game 2 of the championship series.

With the victory, top-seeded Maynard (19-5) can clinch the best-of-5 series Friday night on Firemen's Field inside the Maynard Community Park. No team has gone back-to-back-to-back in the modern era. The first pitch is set for 6. Should the third-seeded Pioneers (10-12) prevail, Game 4 would be back in West Liberty on Sunday at 1 p.m.

McIntyre, who didn't have his best stuff, threw an eye-popping 146 pitches, with 80 being strikes. He threw a first-pitch strike to 20 of the 35 batters he faced. He did, however, walk half-a-dozen and hit one.



Photo by KIM NORTH

MAYNARD'S TYLER Ramsay (without helmet) is congratulated by his teammates after hitting the first of his two home runs during Game 2 of the Ohio Valley Baseball League championship series against Wheeling. Ramsay finished with five RBI as the Indians took a 2-0 lead in the best-of-5 series with a 6-1 victory on West Liberty University's Kovalick Field.

"I've probably only thrown half of that all summer," McIntyre said. "My fastball was working well tonight and they couldn't do much with it, so we stayed there. We tried locating it in different areas and (Michael) "Zuke" (Jacob) called a good game behind the plate."

Ramsay gave Maynard a lead it would never relinquish in Maynard's first at-bat. Matthew Busby, who was on base all five times he batted with three singles and two walks, walked. Jacob followed with a push-bunt that landed between

the mound and third base for an infield single. Hunter Westlake moved Busby to third with a deep fly to right-center. With the count 0-1, Ramsay sent a Ryan Poras offering well over the fence in left for 3-0 advantage.

It was his eighth roundtripper of the season after he hit nearly 20 in his college career out of Kovalick Field.

"I do. I've been doing it for a few years now," Ramsay, a West Liberty graduate, said when asked about hitting at the WLU field.

See MAYNARD, Page C2

Pirates overcome



Sabins is heir-apparent to WVU baseball coaching post

Continued from Page C1

Carlos Santana walked, and Choi sent a sharp liner into right field for a 5-4 lead. Enyel De Los Santos walked Henry Davis and Triolo drove a two-run single into left.

Josh Bell homered in the eighth off Ryan Borucki (1-0), and David Bednar struck out one in a perfect ninth for his 18th save in 19 chances.

Pittsburgh was outscored 21-1 in the series' first two games.

"It was a big win," Pirates manager Derek Shelton said. "I give them credit because we kept grinding. ... We scored one run in the first two games and got it handed to us pretty good. They kept going even though they got down. They continued to grind through the at bats."

Pirates starter Rich Hill gave up four runs and eight hits in 5 2/3 innings. He is 0-2 in his last four starts. Civale allowed two runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings.

"I pitch until I come out of the game. I was going

• All-Star

Continued from Page C1

"This is a great experience because it's very similar to what your camp is going to be like. A lot of these kids are actually reporting in just a couple weeks, and when you get there you basically have two weeks of two practices a day, film sessions, 7:00 in the morning until 9:00 at night. That's really what this is, it's busy, we've got practices, so it's a good experience so those camps won't be a shock to those kids."

"It feels like it's getting me prepared," Rector said. "But it really feels like it's getting all these guys prepared for the next aspects of their lives, whether it's college football or just life in general. We've got a really good group of guys here and it's all going well."

One player who will certainly play a factor in Saturday's game is Cambridge quarterback Caden Moore, who plans on attending Kent State University to study construction management. But for Moore and many other's time playing competitive, organized football, that ends Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

So it's no surprise Moore is diving into his preparation for the game. "I'm going out there and

to compete to the best of my ability," Civale said. "We've got one of the best bullpens in the game, regardless of how some of these last games have gone. No one is going to deny that. Baseball has ups and downs, but we've got one of the best bullpens in the game."

Andrés Giménez drove in a run with a squeeze bunt in the fourth. Amed Rosario hit a two-run double in the fifth when Suwinski dropped the ball on his attempt for a leaping catch in center and Bell followed with an RBI single.

TRAINER'S ROOM
Pirates: 3B Ke'Bryan Hayes ran linear sprints and took grounders in his recovery from low back inflammation. He could require a rehab assignment. Pittsburgh director of sports medicine Todd Tomczyk said. ... SS Oneil Cruz is throwing at up to 120 feet and has started advanced biometric work in the weight room. He has been out since breaking his left ankle on April 9.

giving it my all," Moore said. "I'm preparing like it's week eight, week 10, whatever it might be in the high school year. It's another game, but it's special, you get to be out here with guys I've played against my whole life, be teammates with them and compete."

While the future college athletes might look at this week as a precursor to their future college camps, for the players who will not continue their career collegiately, the week is all about focusing on the moment.

"They're just having fun with it," Allen said. "They're enjoying it, more than anything they're trying to soak in each moment. It's really been cool to see them all make connections with kids from different schools, and maybe they wouldn't have that opportunity otherwise, so it's been really fun. I've noticed those players having so much fun with this, trying to soak it all in and embrace the moment."

"All the other players who aren't here, that week 10, week 11, week 12 game, whatever it was, that was their last game," Moore said. "I get one more opportunity to go out there and give it my all."

WASHINGTON (AP) — If this was the reception for Declan Rice in the U.S. capital, imagine this season in London.

Arsenal's new midfield star came on as a second-half substitute and helped finish off a 5-0 victory over the MLS All-Stars on Wednesday night. Gabriel Jesus, Leandro Trossard, Jorginho, Gabriel Martinelli and Kai Havertz all scored — but those weren't the only highlights for the many

• Wheeling

Continued from Page C1

Leadoff man Raymond DeFranco reached safely before embarking on an odyssey around the bases — stealing second, reaching third on a wild pitch, and eventually sliding into home after a passed ball. The burst of excitement would be all the action in store for Wellsburg on Wednesday.

Wheeling provided a strong rebuttal in the bottom of the first, scoring three runs to retake a lead they would only build upon throughout the contest.

Post 1 got the wheels turning on their offense Wednesday by running early and often— Wheeling stole seven bases against Wellsburg, including four in the first inning alone.

Aggressiveness was the name of the game for Wheeling, who wanted to set the tone after taking a 7-3 loss to Parkersburg on Tuesday.

"They were aggressive on the bases," Brunner said. "A lot of strikes were thrown, which was nice coming off of yesterday's performance. Attack the zone, attack them on the basepaths, we were trying to be the aggressor here in the first game."

The snowball effect was on from there, with Wheeling scoring in every inning going forward— five in the second, four in the third, and eight in the fourth.

Alex Taylor hit an inside-the-park home run in the third, and added a two-run double in the fourth to boot. Jackson Murray put in a day's work with a RBI double and two-run triple, while Trey Prather and Jared Walsh also each hammered doubles Wednesday.

While scoring 20 runs would allow for some leeway defensively, Wheeling didn't slack off on the point-preventing side of

red-clad Arsenal supporters at Audi Field.

Rice moved from West Ham to the Gunners for a British-record transfer fee last weekend, reported to be 105 million pounds (\$138 million). The crowd roared when he came in just over an hour into the match, and cheered again when he possessed the ball.

U.S. national team forward Folarin Balogun, whose days at Arsenal could be numbered, also

Wednesday's game. After recording six errors in their Tuesday loss, Post 1 tightened things up on Wednesday, turning in an error-free game against Wellsburg while starter Jack Selmon struck out three and allowed just one hit in his three innings, Post 34's sole run coming unearned.

Nicholas Tsoras came into the game in relief for the fourth and fifth, putting in back-to-back 1-2-3 innings to close the door on the contest.

• Wheeling 11, Parkersburg 1

Post 1 avenged its Tuesday loss in the second game of a Wednesday doubleheader, winning in five innings.

Wheeling's Luke Doyle pitched the first 2.1 innings of the outing, allowing no hits and issuing no walks while striking out two. Selmon pitched for the second time on the night, tossing the final 2.2 innings and recording the win, striking out three and allowing one run on two hits and one walk.

For Parkersburg, Evan Swain, Dylan Holliday, Izek Baldwin and Mason Camp each pitched in the game, Swain picking up the loss.

Wheeling's offensive mojo rolled over from their 20-1 win over Wellsburg in the very first inning, as Post 1 tagged Parkersburg for seven runs in the opening frame. Prather, Wilson and Marsh each knocked in two, while Skadra, Simon and Jamison also collected RBI.

Skadra finished with two doubles, while Jamison and Marsh smacked their own two-baggers.

Wheeling and Parkersburg will face each other once more Thursday. The winner of the game will enter next week's state tournament as the Area 1 Champion, the loser as Area 1 Runner-up.

came on for the London club at the same time as Rice.

By then, the Gunners had a 3-0 lead.

"I think we were suffocated with the weather ... and we could not really control the game," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said. "But it's true that we were exceptional in both boxes today. Every time we got in the final third in good position, we put the ball in the back of the net."

The MLS has defeated the likes of Chelsea and Bayern Munich in the

past in this format, which generally results in competitive games with more defending than some other All-Star events. The MLS team — which did not include recent Miami addition Lionel Messi — received four yellow cards before halftime.

"I thought the referee made the game a little bit about himself once again," Rooney said. "I think that's something that needs improving in the MLS. I've said it all season, so it's a good opportunity for me to bring it up again."



AP Photo

ARSENAL MIDFIELDER Kai Havertz reacts after scoring a goal in the soccer match against the MLS All-Stars on Wednesday in Washington.

• Maynard

Continued from Page C1

"I'm comfortable here. Sometimes it's difficult to pick up pitches from the skyline in center. I played here for four years. I like this place."

"That was huge," Maynard manager David Vicker said of Ramsay's blast. "We've won our last two games in our last at-bats, so it was nice to jump out early."

Wheeling manager Scott Shaw agreed.

"(Tyler) Ramsay has killed me ever since I came into this league," he said. "If I walk him, the next guy gets a hit. If I don't walk him, he hits the ball like he did tonight."

Wheeling scored its lone run in the third with some small-ball.

Jarrold Jones reached on a one-out error and, with two outs, Luke Marsh and Dylan Gongola reached on infield singles.

Adam Och then walked to force in Marsh, making it 3-1.

It would stay that way until Maynard scored twice in the sixth and then tallied single runs in the fifth and seventh innings to pull away.

Westlake raced home on a fielder's choice in the fifth to the count to 4-1. Busby sprinted home on a wild pitch with Ramsay at the plate and two outs

in the sixth. Two pitches later, Ramsay belted a drive over the fence in deep left-center that traveled 400-plus-feet. Eric Banal came home in the seventh on another infield groundout.

Poras fanned 10 in suffering the loss. He also issued six free passes and threw 103 pitches in five innings.

In addition to his three singles and pair of walks, Busby scored twice from the leadoff spot. Tyler Tonkovich singled twice. Kelly Hendershot, who made a sliding catch in left for the final out, drove in a run.

The Pioneers recorded six singles. They had the bases loaded in the third after scoring their run, but McIntyre induced a groundout to end the threat. They also loaded the bases in the sixth with two outs, but an infield popup snuffed that rally out.

All told, Wheeling stranded at least one runner in each inning and left 13 total, with six in scoring position.

"It's not unusual that we have our backs to the wall, but the guys will continue to play hard and battle until it's over," Shaw noted.

Maynard sweep Wheeling, 3-0, in the 2022 championship series.

• WVU

Continued from Page C1

He was impressed. "I remember being like, 'Man, I really respect that guy.' That was a really nice gesture after a Thursday night practice to go over and have a nice meal at his house," Sabins said. "That was the first time I ever got to meet him face to face."

The details of the night are lost forever, but Sabins knows one thing about it.

"At best, I didn't screw up," he said.

A couple of years later, Mazey's assistant Steve Trout left to take the job at Texas State. It was around Christmas, which is a quiet time in the coaching business.

It was a month until practice would begin, and Mazey had to find a coach quickly. He re-

move, but there was one catch.

"I couldn't get hold of Randy," he said, laughing at the memory. "At the time, he was off backpacking in New Zealand or the Netherlands. I remember going, 'I can't get hold of Coach Mazey,' but it ended up working out."

He progressed and grew as did the WVU team. He went from assistant coach to recruiting director to assistant head coach, and as they worked with each other, they saw that each had something totally different to contribute to the program.

"At this point, it's hard to differentiate the qualities I came in with and what I've taken from him," Sabins admitted. "I know those things have meshed together. In this business, if you are lucky enough to be around people like Coach Mazey for eight years

"That's probably the reason we work so well together," Sabins continued. "I need to have a really strong idea of where we are trying to go long term, and he lives more in the moment. We always joke about if I were to go on a vacation, I'd have the plans 18 months out. If he would go on a vacation he wouldn't know where he was staying 15 minutes before he booked the room."

Those differences work into the plan to have Mazey coach another year as Sabins studies him further and helps build toward his first year, then have Mazey stay around for at least two more years to lend his side of the equation as Sabins can ease into the manager's chair.

"Experience is what brings to the table," Sabins said of the biggest value Mazey's pres-

come at any time.

"Over the last three or four years Coach Mazey has been discussing being able to spend more time with his family and more time with his wife. He obviously loves what he does, but cherishes family and always puts the family first," Sabins said.

"He'd joke about 'This might be my freshman year.' Or 'this might be my sophomore year in college', alluding to that eventually his eligibility may expire. I think it was just a little bit of a warning shot to the staff and to the people that make West Virginia baseball go that at some point he was not going to be around anymore and that as a staff we needed to take on bigger chunks and bigger roles and understand how things work."

attention as a coach elsewhere.

"That played into this. I was in the mix for a major job and it kind of got into a situation where I had to look in the mirror and really make some decisions with the family, and I went to the administration and talked to them about having other opportunities," Sabins explained.

"I think it was more that I was getting to a point in my career where some other schools were pursuing me in head coaching positions and that played into it to some degree."

And so it was that the day came that Mazey took Sabins aside.

"He got together with me. We met in the morning and said, 'If I were to do this, how would you feel about it? If I were to make this decision, would you be on board with this long

overall, a very easy offer. in my opinion, to take."

Skenes' first step as a professional player will be to report to the Pirates' spring training complex in Bradenton, Florida.

See **BONUS**, Page B2

loss came on the heels of an 8-0 blanking on Monday and prevented St. Clairsville from advancing to the Ohio state tournament in Lancaster.

"I said it last night (Monday), beating a team three times in the same season is even harder. Beating that team four is even

Muklewicz. "Like (Beverly-Lowell manager) Todd (Engle) and I talked about before the game. You can't tell me there are seven better teams in the state than us two. There's no seeding and only one team comes out."

See **BERTH**, Page B2

Parkersburg takes advantage of pitching and Wheeling's miscues

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

WHEELING — Tuesday at Wheeling Park High School, the runs came in bursts.

Four runs for No. 2 Parkersburg Post 15 in the third was the opening salvo. Then three runs for No. 1 Wheeling Post 1 tightened the contest. But with one final push via a three-run top of the seventh, Parkersburg put a lid on the Area 1 Tournament Semifinals, 7-3.

Evan Swain piled up three RBI for Parkersburg against Post 1, while Dylan Holliday and Josiah DeMoss also drove in runs.

"I thought we swung the bat well offensively," Post 15 head coach Mike

Goodwin said. "The third and the seventh innings were big for us. I thought piling on three runs right there made a statement offensively."

Wheeling hurt themselves plenty too, tallying six errors across seven innings, and issuing five walks.

"You're not going to beat a Mustang team with six errors," Post 1 head coach John-Michael Brunner said. "Defensively, you can't have six errors. Their pitcher threw a lot of strikes, those guys made plays defensively on their end. I thought we hit the ball okay, we battled some at-bats out. But on the mound, we've got to throw more strikes, and if you have six errors you're not going to beat anybody."

See **MISCUES**, Page B2



Photo by **NICK HENTHORN**

WHEELING POST 1's Andrew Skadra makes a throw from second to first against Parkersburg Post 15 in a 7-3 loss for Wheeling in the Area 1 Tournament Semifinals.

hours.

This poll was left up for five days and drew 1,167 votes, a large sampling for such a poll on my site.

It was a simple poll, not meant to tilt toward either side. Here is how it was presented:

HUGGINS POLL: Here's your chance. Everyone has an opinion on this. What's yours? Should Bob Huggins be asked back to coach WVU's basketball team?

There were two choices:

Bring Huggins back

Move on without Huggins

When Huggins' DUI first was made public and when his "resignation letter" was released by WVU, one he says he did not write, read, approve of or sign, there was a vocal group arguing that Huggins should be retained as coach.

But as time went on and Huggins challenged his resignation/dismissal, the sentiment seemed to change and by last week, when the poll was run, it was apparent that the West Virginia fans had had enough of it all.

The vote was more overwhelming than anyone could have imagined.

Bring Huggins back 17.4%

Move on without Huggins 82.6%

See **HUGGINS**, Page B2

OHIO PLAYERS REACHING FOR THE ALL-STARS



Photo by **KIM NORTH**

PICTURED ARE the Ohio All-Stars from Belmont County who will be participating in Saturday night's 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Jaksan Price (Union Local), George Hulsey (Martins Ferry), C.J. Hannahs (Barnesville), Quentin Leasure (Barnesville) and Mason Aberts (Bridgeport). Back row, from left, are Ray Ray Pettigrew (Bellaire), Landyn Hores (Martins Ferry), Drue Jozwiak (St. Clairsville), Andrew Vera (St. Clairsville) and Marcus Rector (St. Clairsville).



Photo by **KIM NORTH**

PICTURED ARE the Ohio All-Stars from Jefferson County who will be participating in Saturday night's 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Trey Hoover (Buckeye Local), Camden Daley (Steubenville), Zane Kinsey (Toronto) and Ashton Ellis (Edison). Back row, from left, are Lucca Morelli (Steubenville Catholic), Kyjhaun Hopkins (Steubenville), Ty'lik Sims (Steubenville) and Spenser Ostovich (Steubenville).

top pick in 2021.

Please see **PIRATES**, Page 12

Please see **OUSTED**, Page 12

77TH ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME

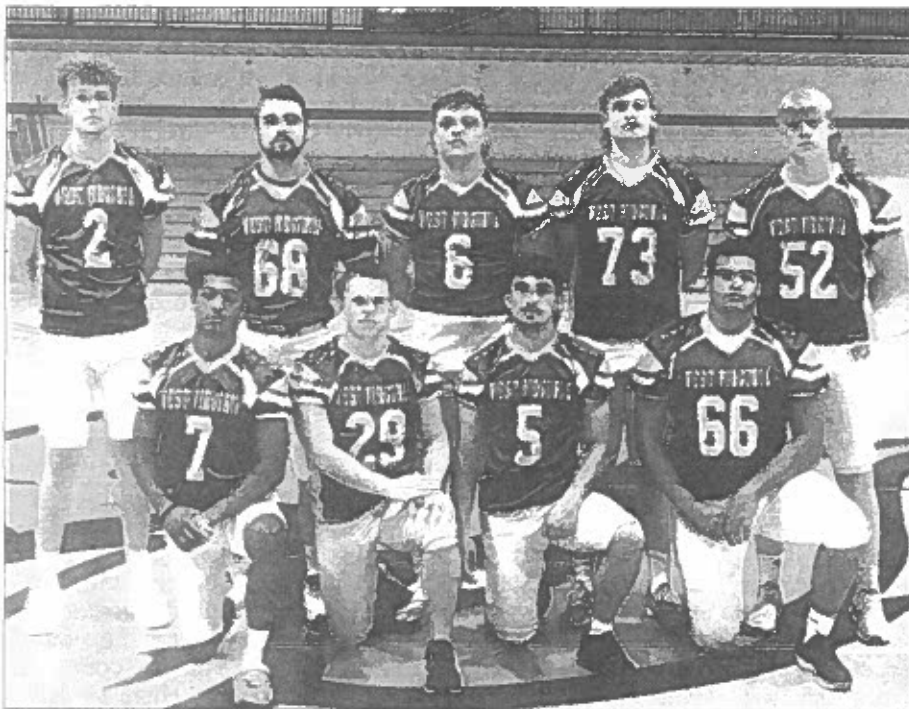


Photo by **Kim North**

Pictured are W.Va. All-Stars from Ohio County that will be participating in Saturday night's 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Luca DiLorenzo (Linsly), Riley Watkins (Wheeling Central), Lorenzo Ferrera (Wheeling Central) and Deante Suggs (Wheeling Central). Back row, from left, Nate Coleman (Linsly), Braden Whitelatch (Wheeling Central), Erick Brothers Jr. (Wheeling Park), Wyatt Haynes (Linsly) and Charlie DiSaia (Wheeling Park).



Photo by **Kim North**

Pictured are the Ohio All-Stars from Jefferson County that will be participating in Saturday night's 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Trey Hoover (Buckeye Local), Camden Daley (Steubenville), Zane Kinsey (Toronto) and Ashton Ellis (Edison). Back row, from left, are Lucca Morelli (Indian Creek), Kyjhaun Hopkins (Steubenville), Ty'lik Sims (Steubenville) and Spenser Ostovich (Steubenville).



Photo by Kim North

Pictured, from left, are West Virginia head coach Mike Young, Game Director Corey Murphy and Ohio head coach Blake Allen as they prepare for Saturday's 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kickoff is set for 7:15 p.m.

OVAC Eyes New, Old Traditions For Annual Mumley All-Star Game

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - As the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference turns 80, and prepares for its 77th Annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday, the word on the tip of everyone's tongue is "tradition."

"There's definitely a rivalry, it's the pride of the states," Mike Young, head coach of Wheeling Central Catholic and the West Virginia team, said. "It's a Ohio-West Virginia tradition, the Mountaineers of West Virginia and the Buckeyes of Ohio State. That in itself is a rivalry."

"The fact that we have kids representing 15-to-18 schools on both sides of

the river going against each other - and sometimes they'd played throughout the year too. Now you're joining forces together and it's an opportunity for these kids who have played against each other to be on the same team. It's an opportunity for them to shine for their state rather than for their school."

The longstanding All-Star Game, set to take over Wheeling Island Stadium on July 22, will pit some of the conference's best from the Mountain State against their counterparts in the Buckeye State, as a final send off for the athletes selected before they move onto the collegiate ranks - or hang up the cleats entirely.

Please see ALL-STAR, Page 10

Wheeling Post 1 Storms Past Moundsville, 17-7

Murray Sparks Wheeling In Area One Tournament Opener; Post 1 Meets Parkersburg Today

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - Not much went wrong for Wheeling Post 1 on Monday night, but a whole lot went right.

The result was 17 runs for #1 Wheeling in a 17-7 victory over #4 Moundsville to begin the first round of the Area 1 Tournament.

Wheeling amassed a dozen hits against Moundsville Post 3, led by cleanup hitter Jackson Murray's three-hit day. Murray drove in three runs, all from a second-inning, bases-clearing triple to center field, scored twice and stole a base in a monstrous day.

"I just went up there trying to see the ball the best I could," Murray said. "I was able to put a barrel on the ball and everything worked out on its own."

Wheeling has plenty to feel good about after their performance Monday, where they checked all the boxes. Three extra-base hits, a relatively modest five runner left on-base, and excellent two-out hitting.

Please see WHEELING, Page 10

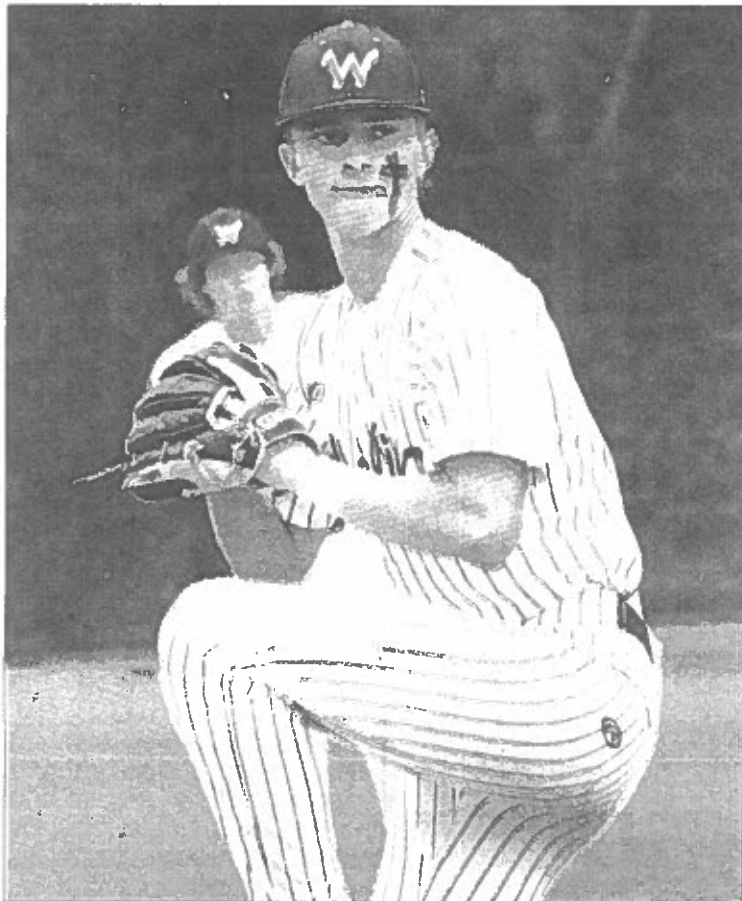


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Post 1 pitcher Nate Simon winds up for a pitch against Moundsville Post 3 in Wheeling's 17-7 victory in Monday's Area 1 Tournament.

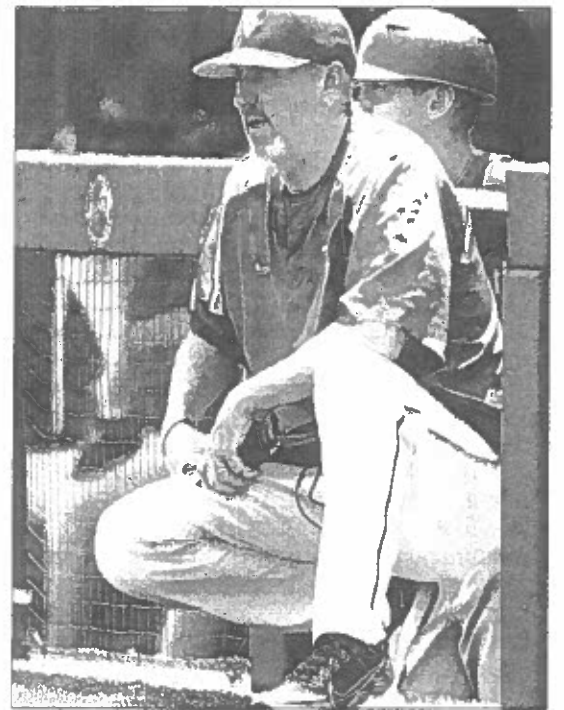


Photo Provided

West Virginia head coach Randy Mazey surveys the game from a familiar perch.

WVU's Mazey Will Step Down After The 2024 Season

MORGANTOWN - It's a gift, really, this thing that allows a person to be a successful coach.

You have to be a father, a mother, a teacher and a policeman. You must be strong enough to fill a room with your presence, yet soft enough to address another person in times of need.

You are the boss and you are the co-worker. You create an atmosphere where strangers from all parts of the country, each of different backgrounds, abilities, intelligence, and build a team on the field, and a family off of it.

It's a gift Randy Mazey brought with him from TCU to West Virginia 11 years ago to lead the West Virginia baseball team into big-time prominence.

Now, he's ready to give it up... slowly.

On Monday, at age 57, Mazey and WVU announced that a succession plan has been put into place with Mazey coaching one more year - wouldn't you with JJ Wetherholt coming back for one season? - before his assistant, Steve Sabins, becomes the new coach.

This, of course, is to keep things on track and moving in the same direction without the difficulties that came about when Gale Catler, Bob Huggins and Rich Rodriguez left their jobs.



BOB HERTZEL
WV News

Beverly-Lowell Forces Deciding Game Today

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ZANESVILLE - Beverly-Lowell Post 389/750 and St. Clairsville Post 159 have dominated the Region 8 Tournament for the past decade. Each won a championship several times during that span.

The two heavyweights will meet Tuesday night at 6 on the natural grass surface at Gant Stadium to decide the title once again after Post 389/750 (25-10) forced a deciding game with a resounding 8-0 victory on Monday. Tonight's victory advances to the state tournament later in the week in Lancaster at Beavers Field.

With its backs to the wall, Beverly-Lowell took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second when Dawson Layton's shallow fly to center with two outs dropped between a pair of diving Post 159 players as Ian Ellis raced home. A throwing error aided the inning.

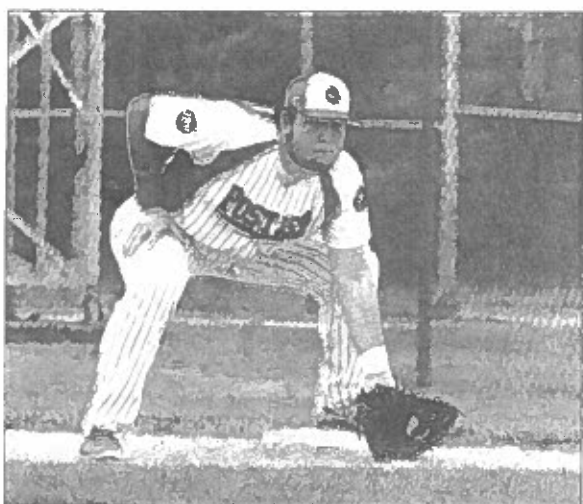


Photo by Kim North

St. Clairsville first baseman Peyton Blue awaits a throw during action Monday night at Gant Stadium in Zanesville. Post 159 fell to Beverly-Lowell, 8-0, to force a deciding game

WHEELING

(Continued from Page 9)

"Early on, we hit the baseball," Post 1 head coach John-Michael Brunner said. "We've been hitting it well all year. Offensively, we did a good job, especially with two outs, we put four runs up with two outs which was big. Not only because of the runs but because we're trying to work the pitcher, that's one of the things we've been trying to work at all season, trying to get these guys into their bullpen. I thought they did that early on, and there late, they just kind of put the ball in-play and made things happen."

Wheeling Post 1 indeed worked Post 3's pitchers, compiling 10 walks in the win.

"They're selective at the plate, they know what strikes are," Brunner said. "They've had good eyes at the plate all year, battled, put together good at-bats. Hopefully we get more of the same tomorrow against a good Parkersburg team."

The tournament game concluded in five innings Monday, on a heads-up play by Jared Marsh. Leading off from third base, his team ahead 16-7, Marsh watched as Moundsville pitcher Zack Conner delivered a pitch which popped out of catcher Martin Cain's glove, rolling between the plate and the mound. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher was quick to move for the ball, so Marsh took off for home.

"First thing I saw was the ball went in front, so I thought the catcher's going to have it," Marsh said. "Then I see him standing back there, pitcher's standing on the mound, that's a green light. Time to go."

Marsh's dash satisfied the run-rule and walked off the game for Post 1, but there was plenty of action leading up to the winning run.

Moundsville took a swift 1-0 lead in the top of the first, Hunter Coulter plating a run with a ground ball smoked past

the first baseman.

The lead lasted three batters deep into the bottom of the first. Nate Simon nailed his own RBI single to knot the score at 1-1, and Simon later came around to score on a wild pitch to put Wheeling ahead and never look back. Trey Prather also collected an RBI triple to put the finishing touch on a three-run first inning for Wheeling.

After Simon, Post 1's starter Monday, struck out two batters in the top of the second, Wheeling upped their output in the bottom of the frame, plating four - three from Murray's bases-clearing triple, and another from an Andrew Skadra single to centerfield which scored Murray.

Moundsville cut into Post 1's lead in the fourth, a Drew Murrey RBI single to right field bringing the score to 7-2, but Wheeling's biggest inning was yet to come.

Post 1's patience was on full display in the bottom of the fourth, Wheeling drawing four walks paired with three hits to score five runs and lead 13-2 going into the fifth.

Post 3 fired up to start the inning, scoring five runs of their own to preserve the game and trail by six, 13-7, as Wheeling took their turn back up to bat.

Post 1 quickly loaded the bases, and did not stumble on the finish line. Marsh drew a bases-loaded walk while Quinn Jamison bashed a two-run double down the third base line, putting Wheeling ahead 16-7. Marsh's walk-off swipe of home plate ended the game from there.

Wheeling moves on to play #2 Parkersburg today, while Moundsville will look to regroup against #3 Wellsburg.

Parkersburg 10, Wellsburg 0

Parkersburg shut out Wellsburg on Monday, securing a win in their first round matchup of the Area 1 Tournament.

Maynard Wins OVBL Finals Opening Game Over Wheeling, 7-6

MAYNARD - Two-time defending Ohio Valley Baseball League champion Maynard did it again Monday night.

Three nights after rallying from four runs down with two outs in the bottom of the seventh to defeat Moundsville and advance to the championship series, the Indians (18-5) scored twice in the bottom of the seventh Monday to defeat Wheeling, 7-6, in Game 1 of the best-of-5 series.

Ryan Florence, who had the game-winning hit Friday, came through again with a two-run, two-out double to walk it off.

Joe Myers went the distance on the mound with 10 strikeouts.

Trailing 1-0 in the fourth, Eric Banal and Mitch Viakley each slugged two-run homers to give Maynard a 4-1 lead.

The Pioneers (9-10) received a solo home run from Jarrod Jones leading off the game.

Brian Shaw singled three times and doubled for Wheeling. Mike Toepfer hit a solo homer and singled.

Game 2 will be Wednesday night at Kovalick Field on the campus of West Liberty University.

ALL-STAR

(Continued from Page 9)

"The All-Star game is a destination event," Dirk DeCoy, Executive Director of the OVAC, said. "Everybody wants to play in this game - where else can a player be given the opportunity to play for and defend your state in a football game? What a way to end your high school football career, defending your state, playing your state. And for the coaching staffs, to lead their teams into battle and bring home a victory for their state as well."

Mike Young and the Wheeling Central Catholic staff will coach up the West Virginia team, while Blake Allen and the Barnesville staff will take command of the Ohio squad as they practice at Wheeling University this week. In addition to drilling in their respective team's X's and O's before they hit the gridiron on Wheeling Island, the week has grown into a six-day affair full of events beyond football.

"All-Star Week is more than a game nowadays," DeCoy said. "It's the Evening with the Stars on Tuesday, Wednesday it's the Shriner's Ice Cream Social, Thursday it's the Queen of Queens Pageant, Friday it's the pep rally, Saturday it's the 50-year reunion before the game, and it all culminates with the All-Star football game on Saturday night with the OVAC All-Star McDonald's band performance at halftime."

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MAZEY

(Continued from Page 9)

Too often, you are judged on wins and losses. That is what you are paid for, but wins and losses are really just numbers. They are, of course, as important as the numbers on anyone's paycheck for they are a measure of your success, but the final goal really isn't creating championships.

There's only one of those a year, depending on the venue. It's creating solid individuals and strong teams that can compete on a regular basis. Little was expected at the time. The Mountaineers were picked to finish last in the Big 12, but it turned into a magical season with a 33-26 record, just the fifth 30-win season in 14 years, wound up third in the conference and began building a following that has mushroomed until it exploded this year.

When we joined the Big 12 eleven years ago, everybody in our circle said, "Yeah, football, they'll be fine and Coach Huggins in basketball, he'll be fine. But now

Randy Mazey is one of them. He masters the game, and he masters the psychology of the team concept of building men, not ball players. He was hired at West Virginia to bring it into Big 12 baseball, to lead

bringing in talent that could make it into the major leagues. He changed that by dynamiting the past, including old Hawley Field. The new Mon County Ballpark stood as a shrine to what Mazey was trying to create ... a winning team in a winning place with winning fans enjoying an atmosphere that was part yesterday, when baseball was kind, and part tomorrow, where the game is considered more entertainment than competition.

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the early stages where the future was unclear, and turned it into a charity that was adopted by the North Central West Virginia community and that goes on today.

At the same time, when NIL posed a challenge to WVU's athletic future, Mazey's wife, Amanda Ross Mazey, took an active role in the cooperative that is Country Roads Trust, which is the financial lifeline to the school's athletes in this pay-for-play era.

"You love all the kids," Mazey said. "There's not a guy in uniform I wouldn't do anything for, but I don't ever try to like these kids because they're good players. I like them because they are good people."

"So, the last 10 years have been really, really good," Mazey continued. "We've been ranked in the top 25 now in parts of seven consecutive seasons. And for West Virginia, the outlier in the Big 12, with all of our challenges geographically and weather-wise and travel-wise, for us to do

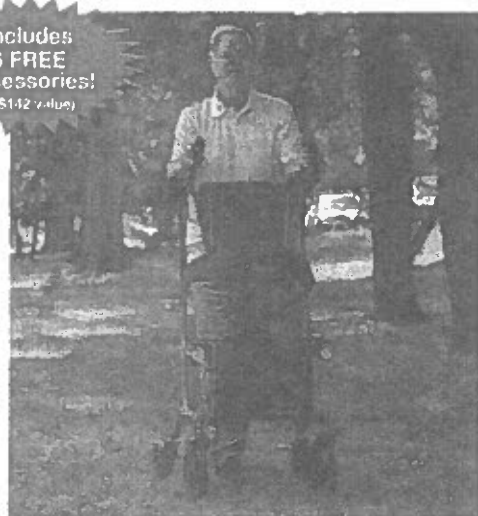
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free to walk in a normal fashion. Its easy-adjust height system allows it to be the perfect fit/height for anyone from 4'10" to 6'1" and supports up to 300 pounds. The new stand-assist handles enable you to distribute your weight across your arms and shoulders, not your hands and wrists to help reduce back, neck, wrist pain and discomfort. It features comfortable arm pads,

Classified/B7-8

SPORTS

Tuesday,
July 18, 2023

OVAC eyes new and old traditions for annual All-Star Game

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — As the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference turns 80, and prepares for its 77th Annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday, the word on the tip of everyone's tongue is "tradition."

"There's definitely a rivalry, it's the pride of the states," Mike Young, head coach of Wheeling Central Catholic and the West Virginia team, said. "It's a Ohio-West Virginia tradition, the Mountaineers of West Virginia and Buckeyes of Ohio State. That in itself is a rivalry."

"The fact that we have kids represent-

ing 15-to-18 schools on both sides of the river going against each other - and sometimes they'd played throughout the year too. Now you're joining forces together and it's an opportunity for these kids who have played against each other to be on the same team. It's an opportunity for them to shine for their state rather than for their school."

The longstanding All-Star Game, set to take over Wheeling Island Stadium on July 22, will pit some of the conference's best from the Mountain State against their counterparts in the Buckeye State, as a final send off for the athletes selected before they move onto the collegiate ranks - or hang up the cleats entirely.

"The All-Star game is a destination event," Dirk DeCoy, Executive Director of the OVAC, said. "Everybody wants to play in this game - where else can a player be given the opportunity to play for and defend your state in a football game? What a way to end your high school football career, defending your state, playing your state. And for the coaching staffs, to lead their teams into battle and bring home a victory for their state as well."

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In addition to drilling in their respective team's X's and O's before they hit the gridiron on Wheeling Island, the week has grown into a six-day affair full of events beyond football.

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See **GAME**, Page B2

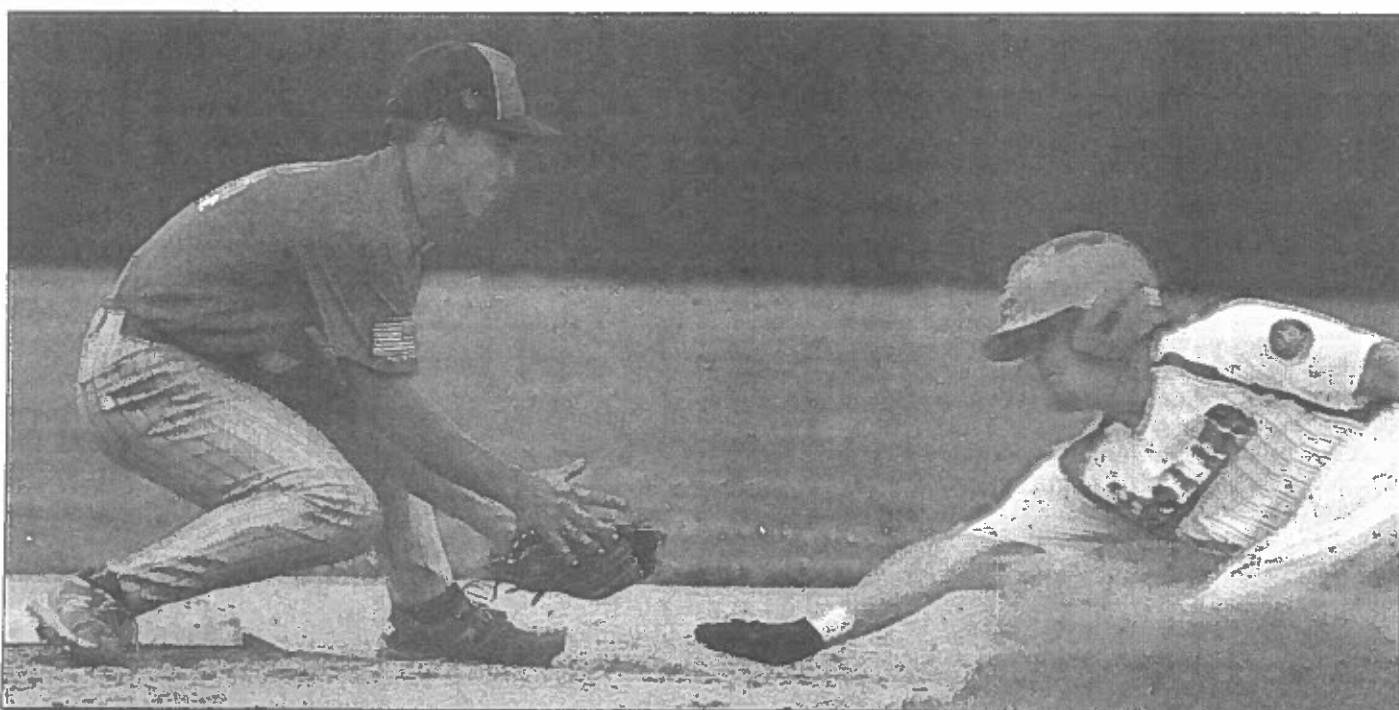


Photo by KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Hunter Hoffman slides into second base while attempting to steal the base Monday night against Beverly-Lowell during Region 8 American Legion tournament action at Gant Stadium in Zanesville. Hoffman was tagged out.

St. Clairsville Post 159 beats Beverly-Lowell, 8-0

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ZANESVILLE — Beverly-Lowell Post 389/750 and St. Clairsville Post 159 have dominated the Region 8 Tournament for the past decade. Each won a championship several times during that span.

The two heavyweights will meet Tuesday night at 6 on the natural grass surface at Gant Stadium to decide the title once again after Post 389/750 (25-10) forced a deciding game with a resounding 8-0 victory on Monday. Tonight's victory advances to the state tournament later in the week in Lancaster at Beavers Field.

With its backs to the wall, Beverly-Lowell took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second when Dawson Layton's shallow fly to center with two outs dropped between a pair of diving Post 159 players as Ian Ellis raced home. A throwing error aided the inning.

Post 389/750 played some small-ball in the fourth when they tallied four runs on a like number of hits in increasing the margin to 5-0.

"We know how talented they are and what arms they are throwing at us," Beverly-Lowell manager Todd Engle said. "We knew we had to press the issue today and be aggressive as far as bunting the baseball. But that's how we play. We like to play small-ball at times."

Ellis led off with the first of his two doubles and went to third on a wild pitch. With one out, Owen McCoy walked and Lucas Cox laid down a bunt that resulted in an RBI single as Ellis scored.

Layton followed with another bunt single to load the bases. With two outs, Easton Eible cleared the bases with a shot to the gap in left-center for a three-run double.

Beverly-Lowell tacked on a trio of insurance runs in the top of the seventh. Wade Pauley singled in the first and Ellis recorded his second two-bagger that produced the final two tallies.

"You know what they say? 'Beating a team three times in a season is tough, but beating them four times is, obviously, a little tougher,'" St. Clairsville manager Mike Muklewicz. "We got

that out of the way and we're now 3-1 on the season against them. We had to win one of two here, so I guess we'll have to do it the second time."

That was more than enough support for lanky righthander JR Curry. He only struck out one batter and issued a free pass, but recorded 14 flyball outs, something that didn't sit well with Muklewicz. Post 159 managed a mere four hits, with Treston Nemeth's double the lone extra-base safety. In fact, Nemeth and Ethan White (who walked and went to second on Zach Vickers single in the fifth) were the only two runners to reach second. Neither went any further.

"I'm going to speak to the guys about all the fly balls," Muklewicz noted. "Take nothing away from their pitcher, but he was nothing that we haven't seen before. We just couldn't get any runners on base and then move them over."

"We didn't have good approaches at the plate," he added. "I don't think we wanted it as much as they did."

Neither manager wanted to disclose who he would hand the ball to in today's win-or-go-home contest.

Naylor's 3 RBIs lead Guardians over Pirates

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Josh Naylor had three RBIs with a home run and a double, helping the Cleveland Guardians rout the Pittsburgh Pirates 11-0 on Monday night to end a four-game losing streak.

Naylor's sixth-inning RBI double extended his hitting streak to eight games and gave Cleveland a 5-0 lead. He drove a Yohan Ramirez sinker over the left-field wall in the seventh for a nine-run lead, the last of the Guardians' trio of two-run homers.

Steven Kwan added an RBI single in the eighth and Myles Straw had a run-scoring infield single in the ninth. Cleveland had totaled 10 runs during its four losses.

Michael Kelly (1-0) struck out two and allowed two hits in 1 2/3 innings for his first major league win. Xzavion Curry gave up one hit and one walk in three innings.

Quinn Priester (0-1), the fourth-ranked prospect in the Pirates' system, allowed seven runs and seven hits over 5 1/3 innings in his major league debut.

Endy Rodriguez, ranked third, also debuted to catch Priester in a battery often used at Triple-A Indianapolis. He was 0 for 4 and struck out three times.

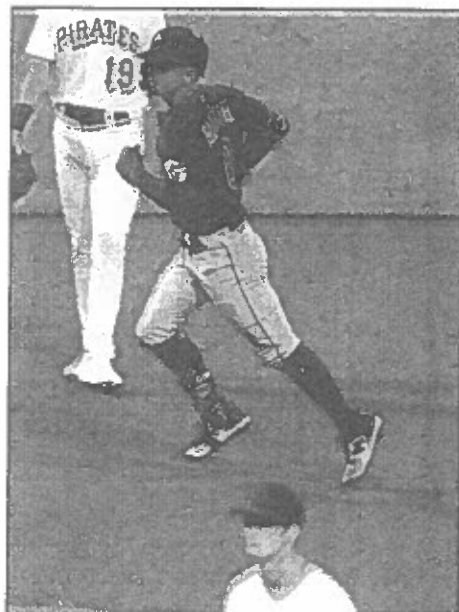
Pittsburgh has lost four in a row, eight of nine and 11 of 13, falling a season-high 12 games below .500 at 41-53 after a 20-8 start.

The Pirates were shut out for the 10th time and held to four hits or fewer for the 17th time.

Cleveland pitched its ninth shutout, one shy of the big league high.

Following a 47-minute rain delay, Priester gave up one hit in the first four innings, a two-run homer to Amed Rosario in the fourth. Bo Naylor doubled into the left-centerfield notch, extending the lead to 3-0 in the fifth.

See **NAYLOR'S**, Page B2



Martin Truex Jr. wins for the first time in 30 races

LOUDON, N.H. (AP) — long wanted one — when Martin Truex Jr. had just he didn't tag along as a kid with his mom and little brother to the racetrack, he worked on his dad's clam-

masterful Monday matinee SCAR garage.

It's where a few hours after the 43-year-old Truex led 254 laps in the No. 19 Toyota and won his third

• Game

Continued from Page B1

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Something Happening In Sports?



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• Naylor's

Continued from Page B1

José Ramírez had an RBI double ahead of Naylor's double in a four-run sixth and Andrés Giménez hit a two-run homer.

FRESH START

Priester, born Sept. 15, 2000, and Rodríguez, born May 26, 2000, became Major League Baseball's first starting battery born 2000 or later, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

It marked the first debuting starting battery for the Pirates since Cookie Cuccurullo pitched to Hank Camelli

• Truex

Continued from Page B1

Time is ticking on a decision. Truex announced last June that he would return for 2023 and he hasn't made up his mind yet on 2024. Gibbs needs an answer. So do the sponsors and all other interested parties affected by Truex's decision.

"I think it is, though, very important for us to kind of have some pressure here because it's pressure for all of us," Gibbs said. "It's a huge deal for us."

Truex, the 2017 NASCAR Cup Series champion, said he was close to choosing.

He is still driving at an elite level and has stamped himself again a serious contender for the Cup championship. But the choice is much more complicated for Truex than making it about simply wins and losses.

"They deserve the very best driver, the guy that wants it more than anyone else, and I've been that guy," Truex said. "I want to make sure that if I come back, I'm willing to do that. It takes a lot. It's not just show up at the track, drive the car, go home. It takes a lot. It takes a lot of commitment. It's a lot of travel. A lot of time missing things with family and friends and all those things that I've done for 25 years. Do I want to keep doing it and am I willing to sacrifice all those things again for my team?"

JGR hopes the answer is yes.

"Our focus is on this championship and winning that, and we'll worry about next year come December," crew chief James Small said.

At the Magic Mile, the answer could wait another day: it was

• Cup

Continued from Page B1

Canada is considered among those top teams, particularly after winning the Olympic gold medal at Tokyo. But coach Bev Priestman suggested that growing parity means there are no givens.

"It could really throw up some surprises just on tournament football, you can lose group-stage games and then go on to win the thing. So yeah, it's tighter than it's ever been," Priestman said.

There are eight teams debuting at the tournament, including Ireland, Vietnam, Zambia, Haiti, Morocco, Panama, Portugal and Philippines. While most stand little chance against the likes of France or Sweden, there's always that hope.

And there's hope that the international stage will help push federations to invest in more for the teams that don't traditionally have support.

"A lot of federations

are slowly getting into the trend of being better."

South Africa forward Thembi Kgatlang said. "A lot of those girls in those countries have been professional athletes, so they have an idea of what it means to be a professional. And when they go back to the respective national teams, they are able to also help and say, 'Hey, we need this, we need that.' It kind of forces the national teams to also adapt into the trends of changing and becoming better."

MORE THAN A GAME

Players are well aware that the World Cup gives them the platform to speak about inequity, human rights and a whole host of social issues.

At the World Cup final four years ago in France, fans chanted "Equal Pay!" in support of the Americans' fight for equitable compensation to their male national team counterparts.

The players struck a contract that equalized pay last year.

Now other teams are joining the call

on Oct. 3, 1943.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Pirates: INF Liover Peguero was selected from Indianapolis. ... C Jason Delay, RHP Cody Bolton and OF Josh Palacios were optioned to Indianapolis. ... OF Travis Swaggerty was designated for assignment.

UP NEXT

Guardians LHP Logan Allen (3-2, 3.47) is set to start Tuesday against RHP Mitch Keller (9-4, 3.31), appearing for the first time since allowing a home run in the second inning of the All-Star Game. Allen tossed 7 2/3 shutout innings over his previous two starts.

fourth. Truex said his JGR team "panicked" with a late call for two tires that backfired and cost them the checkered flag.

"It's always been one that I wanted so bad, and maybe I think too bad at times," Truex said.

The wait is over.

With 34 wins, a championship and three season runner-up finishes, Truex has built his case for the Hall of Fame.

If only he can pull off the perfect ending.

"It would be pretty awesome to win the championship and walk off into the sunset," he said.

OTHER FINISHES

Joey Logano finished second. Kyle Larson, Kevin Harvick and Brad Keselowski rounded out the top five.

BUSCH BUMMER

Kyle Busch was forced to drive his backup car after the No. 8 Chevrolet suffered damage in both practice and qualifying. Busch hit the wall early in the race and was forced out after 71 laps. The two-time Cup champion finished last. Busch had one win and finished in the top 10 in each of his last seven races.

"I've been lacking right-rear grip the whole time we've been here," he said. "Just couldn't get the right-rear feel in the race track."

UP NEXT

The series shifts to Pocono Raceway, where Chase Elliott is the defending race winner — even though he failed to finish first. Denny Hamlin had his Pocono win thrown out and so did runner-up Kyle Busch because of failed inspections. Hamlin was the first winner DQ'd since 1960.

player at the tournament gets a share of those funds.

As a result, all 736 players participating at this World Cup will each get at least \$30,000, an amount that increases the further teams advances in the tournament. FIFPRO has vowed to make the money gets to the players.

The overall fund for this World Cup is \$152 million, covering prize money, team preparation and payments to players' clubs. That's a 300% increase over the funds for the 24-team edition in 2019, and 10 times what it was in 2015.

IT'S JUST A NUMBER

It's hard to say who has had more of an impact on women's soccer in their home countries: Canada's Christine Sinclair or Brazil's Marta. Both players will be making their sixth appearance at the World Cup.

Sinclair, 40, holds the international scoring record, among both men and women, with 190 career goals. She's played in 223 games for

to be the first player to score in six World Cups

They are not the only players to make a sixth World Cup roster: Nigeria's Onome Ebi, 40, is about a month older than Sinclair and is the oldest in the tournament.

THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT

Casey Phair, an American-born forward on South Korea's squad turned 16 on June 25 and is the youngest person on a tournament roster. She's one of four 16-year-old players in World Cup squads.

The United States boasts teenager Alyssa Thompson, who plays for Angel City in the National Women's Soccer League. Just 18, she missed her high school graduation because of soccer.

A LOOK BACK

The U.S. women ran through a gauntlet of tough teams — first host France in the quarterfinals and then England in the semis — before



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Football Game
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**The 35th Annual
George Strager**

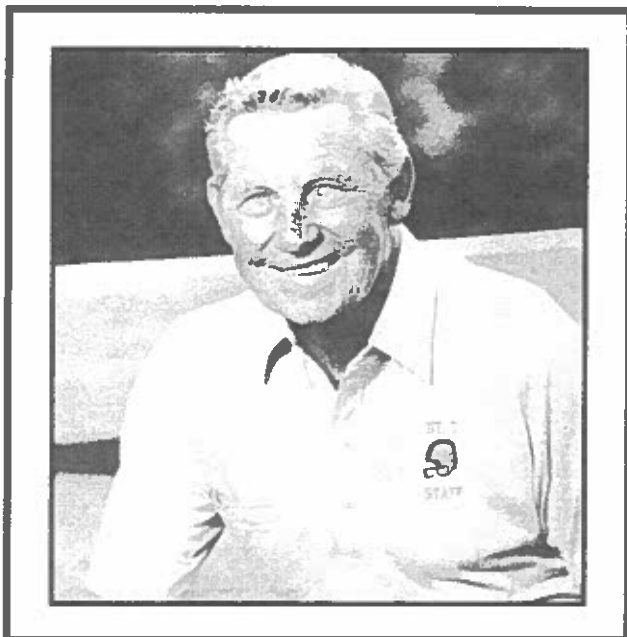
EVENING WITH THE STARS

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

6:30 p.m.

**White Palace - Wheeling Park
Wheeling, West Virginia**





George Strager

In Retrospect

Thanks so much for joining us this evening. Your presence at the "Evening With the Stars" is not only a tribute to our talented All-Star squads but to the founder of this gathering whose name it bears, George Strager, former head coach of St. Clairsville High School.

High in ideals and principles, Coach Strager initiated this evening's format for the specific purpose of placing the athlete first by exhibiting respect, admiration and support relative to his/her all-star status. Additionally, this type of an affair would also further generate a strong and sincere feeling, demonstrating that our adults do have a genuine interest in the development and future of our young student athletes.

Having been called home by the Lord, George Strager has left a legacy in athletics, all of which may never be equalled in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference. We humbly echo our thanks...yes, George, thanks for it all.

All★Star Committee

Corey Murphy - Game Director
Ben McPherson - Band Director
Amanda McPherson - Band Director
Joyce Jingle - Queen of Queens Director
Linda Myers - Program Director
Libby Shepherd - Cheering Director
McLeod Raquel - Assistant Cheering Director
Sam Jones - Football Commissioner
Richard Moore - Assistant Football Commissioner
Linda Cihy - All-Star Committee
Lori DeCoy - All-Star Committee
Todd Fullerton - All-Star Committee
Bob Koch - 50 Year Reunion Committee
Sandra Milliken - All-Star Committee
Tom Myers - All Star Committee
Melody Swift - All-Star Committee
Dirk DeCoy - Executive Director
Barbara Sleek - Assistant Executive Director
Bill Beattie - OVAC Executive Board, President
David Cottrell - OVAC Executive Board, Vice President
Dianna Vargo - Director, Evening With the Stars



All★Star Game Officials

Referee - Jim Kuczynski
Umpire - Terry Huffman
Center Judge - Brad DeMarchi
Line Judge - Dennis Stoddard
Linesman - Matt Young
Back Judge - Jimmy Sperlazza
Side Judge - Steve Famoas
Field Judge - Jacob Varner

2023 Queen of Queens CANDIDATES



Jenna Anderson
Toronto High School

Rylie Baker
Weir High School

Kayla Beery
Martins Ferry High School

Abbey Berge
Buckeye Local High School

Gina Crust
Steubenville Catholic Central High School

Elizabeth Doyle
Wheeling Central Catholic High School

Alexus Felton
River High School

Megan Gampolo
Indian Creek High School

Lilly Harbin
Madonna High School

Bayleigh Harman
Shadyside High School

Amanda Herndon
The Linsly School

Abigail Kerns
Brooke High School

Annie Martin
Cameron High School

Elizabeth McAninch
Bellaire High School

Payton Nickerson
Wheeling Park High School

Lauren Riggerbach
John Marshall High School

Lacy Tuttle
St. Clairsville High School

Anna Wadas
Edison High School

Haley Walton
Paden City High School

Mia Yee
Barnesville High School

2022 Queen - Jordan Hiles
Indian Creek High School



PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Rob Metzger - WTOV-TV 9

DINNER

WELCOME
Dirk DeCoy
Executive Director

**PRESENTATION OF
QUEEN OF QUEENS**
Joyce Jingle - Director

PRESENTATION OF ALL-STARS
Ohio – Rob Metzger - WTOV-TV 9
West Virginia – Scott Nolter - WTRF-TV 7

**1973 FOOTBALL ALL-STARS AND
QUEEN ALL-STARS**
Bob Koch - 50 Year Reunion Coordinator

**PRESENTATION OF
HONORED GUESTS**
Dirk DeCoy
Executive Director

WEST VIRGINIA COACH
Mike Young
Wheeling Central Catholic High School

OHIO COACH
Blake Allen
Barnesville High School

GEORGE STRAGER TRIBUTE
Kelly Rine
OVAC 1A-2A Golf Director

CLOSING REMARKS
Corey Murphy
Game Director

BENEDICTION
Bishop Michael Tolliver
New Beginning Church





ALL★STAR ROSTER



WEST VIRGINIA

1.....	LOGAN GASCHLER.....	BROOKE
2.....	NATE COLEMAN.....	LINSLY
3.....	DREW BOCZEK.....	MORGANTOWN
4.....	JAMARI BASS.....	WEIR
5.....	LORENZO FERRERA.....	WHEELING CENTRAL
6.....	ERICK BROTHERS.....	WHEELING PARK
7.....	LUCA DILORENZO.....	LINSLY
9.....	LONDON COOL.....	UNIVERSITY
14.....	JACOB COFFIELD.....	JMHS
15.....	LEVI TEETS.....	TRINITY
22.....	JAKE CROSTON.....	UNIVERSITY
23.....	PAYTON NEELY.....	CAMERON
29.....	RILEY WATKINS.....	WHEELING CENTRAL
35.....	MATTHEW GADD.....	CLAY-BATTELLE
40.....	BRADEN WHIPKEY.....	PARKERSBURG SOUTH
43.....	TRENTON RICHMOND.....	OAK GLEN
51.....	BRYCE COOK.....	JMHS
52.....	CHARLIE DISAIA.....	WHEELING PARK
53.....	ADAM ANGEL.....	CAMERON
54.....	ELI STAHARA.....	MORGANTOWN
57.....	JACOB STEVENS.....	UNIVERSITY
61.....	VIRGIL DOIRON.....	VALLEY
66.....	DEANTE SUGGS.....	WHEELING CENTRAL
68.....	BRADEN WHITELATCH.....	WHEELING CENTRAL
72.....	TANNER GRIFFITH.....	BROOKE
73.....	WYATT HAYNES.....	LINSLY
75.....	BRYCE BAILEY.....	TRINITY

HEAD COACH:

MIKE YOUNG - WHEELING CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

ASSISTANT COACHES: JASON RINE,
SHANNON KUCKINSKI, JIM WOLFE, PHIL PEST,
JOHN TANKOVITS, MARIO DIBIAS, DYLAN BAKER

CHEERLEADING HEAD COACH:

ASHLEY DERROW - WHEELING PARK HIGH SCHOOL

CHEERLEADERS:

ALAUNA BAKER, MARY DERROW, JERMANIQ EDMONDS,
EMMA FIERRO, ANNA HESTER, KATHERINE L'ECUYER,
MEGAN MARONEY, HANNAH MCKEEGAN

OHIO

3.....	JAKSAN PRICE.....	UNION LOCAL
4.....	JACE MADZIA.....	HARRISON CENTRAL
5.....	MARSHAL SAYRE.....	CALDWELL
5.....	ISAAC CHANDLER.....	BUCKEYE LOCAL
6.....	BRODY LOLLATHIN.....	RIVER
7.....	ZAIDEN HUCK.....	FORT FRYE
8.....	MASON ABERTS.....	BRIDGEPORT
9.....	CADEN MOORE.....	CAMBRIDGE
10.....	KYJHAUN HOPKINS.....	ST. CLAIRSVILLE
11.....	TREY HOOVER.....	BUCKEYE LOCAL
12.....	DRUE JOZWIAK.....	ST. CLAIRSVILLE
14.....	C.J. HANNAHS.....	BARNESVILLE
15.....	TYLIK SIMS.....	STEUBENVILLE
16.....	GEORGE HULSEY.....	MARTINS FERRY
18.....	ANDREW VERA.....	ST. CLAIRSVILLE
21.....	ZANE KINSEY.....	TORONTO
22.....	RAY RAY PETTIGREW.....	BELLAIRE
32.....	SPENSER OSTOVICH.....	STEUBENVILLE
33.....	LUCCA MORELLI.....	INDIAN CREEK
34.....	JACK STORM.....	DOVER
35.....	DYLAN FERGUSON.....	BEAVER LOCAL
54.....	CABOT ARBAUGH.....	HARRISON CENTRAL
55.....	JARED TRENNER.....	SHENANDOAH
56.....	BRAYDEN STRAWN.....	RIVER
66.....	JACKSON LURIE.....	DOVER
72.....	QUENTIN LEASURE.....	BARNESVILLE
73.....	CAMDEN DALEY.....	STEUBENVILLE
74.....	MARCUS RECTOR.....	ST. CLAIRSVILLE
75.....	ASHTON ELLIS.....	EDISON
82.....	LANDYN HORES.....	MARTINS FERRY
90.....	CALEB RIGGS.....	FORT FRYE

HEAD COACH:

BLAKE ALLEN - BARNESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

ASSISTANT COACHES: BRYCE ALLEN, DYLAN ROGERS,
BRADY TREHERNE, NEAL ZACCAGNINI, D.J. BUTLER,
TONY STARR, STEVEN SHUMAKER

EQUIPMENT: CHRIS HANNAHS

CHEERLEADING HEAD COACH:

CASEY MOZINGO - EDISON HIGH SCHOOL

CHEERLEADERS:

MADISON CRISWELL, CALI BRADZINSKI,
PAYTON BOMMER, COLEMAN HOLLY, HALEY DUNLAP,
JORDYN BRAUN, KENZIE HILL, LAKYN ABRUGG,
TYRIE LUCIEN, MADY DROSIEKO

77TH ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME

OVAC's Best Ready To Get Down To Business



Photo by Kim North

Linsly's Luca DiLorenzo opens the door to his home for the next week at Wheeling University in preparation for the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

West Virginia, Ohio All-Stars Report For Camp

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The all-stars have arrived.

Players representing Ohio and West Virginia in Saturday night's 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game checked into their home-away-from-home for the next week at Wheeling University on Sunday.

They will begin drills this morning, with media day scheduled from noon until 2 p.m. in Swint Hall and at Bishop Schmitt Field. The teams will practice twice daily.

"Things are going pretty well," Game Director Corey Murphy said Sunday inside the Alma Grace McDonough Center on the campus of Wheeling University. "We've had a couple of no-shows, but for the most part, the rosters have filled out."

"We're excited to get going and we look for a competitive game on Saturday. The weather looks to be pretty nice for the game," he added. "Let's hope it stays that way."

Ohio, which is coached by Barnesville's Blake Allen and his Shamrocks staff, added Beaver

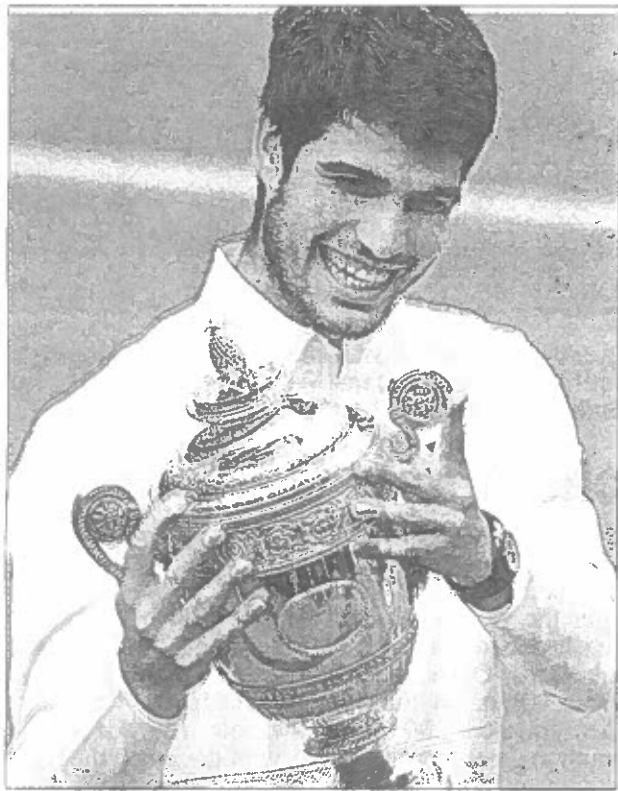
Local's Dylan Ferguson, while West Virginia, which is coached by Wheeling Central's Mike Young and his Maroon Knights staff, added University's Landon Cool.

That gives the Buckeyes 30 players, three more than the Mountaineers.

"We had a couple of kids who dropped out late, but we were fortunate to get a couple of kids to replace them," Murphy said.

Rosters will be finalized during media day.

Please see ALL-STARS, Page 10



AP Photo

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates with the trophy after beating Serbia's Novak Djokovic to win the final of the men's singles in the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Sunday.

Alcaraz Denies Djokovic His 8th Wimbledon Title

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

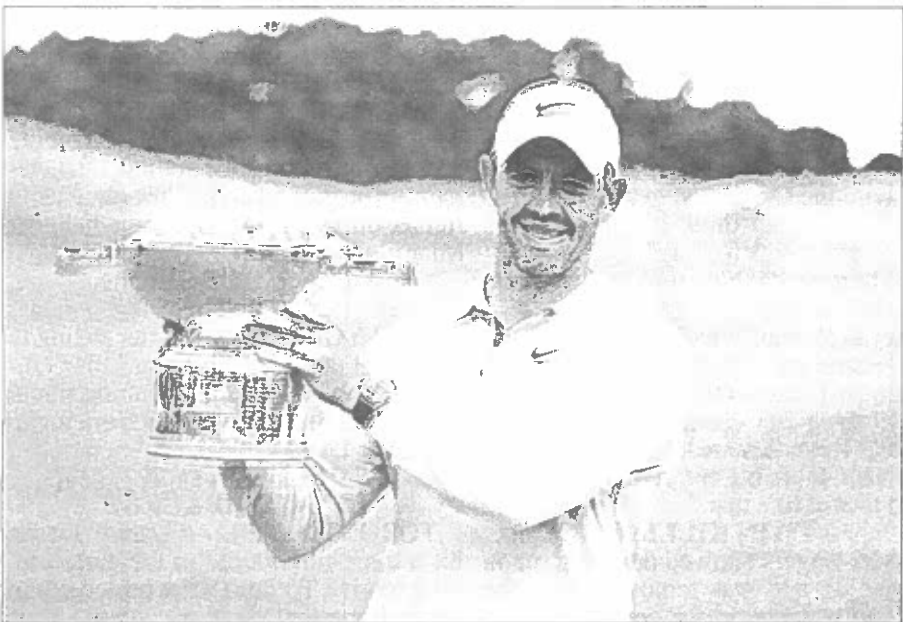
WIMBLEDON, England — A poor start left Carlos Alcaraz a single point from a two-set hole against Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon final.

That sort of deficit is daunting for anyone, let alone a 20-year-old in his second major final, and against anyone, let alone Djokovic, someone who hadn't lost at Centre Court in a decade, someone seeking a fifth consecutive championship, and record-tying eighth overall, at the All England Club. Someone who won the year's first two Grand Slam tournaments and 23 over his career.

Ah, but Alcaraz, last year's U.S. Open

champ, wanted this shot at Djokovic, someone he called "a legend of our sport." Said it would make winning Wimbledon that much more special. And so Alcaraz managed to come through in that tiebreaker as choruses of "Car-los! Car-los!" from the stands competed with cries of his older, more experienced, more accomplished foe's two-syllable nickname, "No-le! No-le!" And then Alcaraz came through in a 32-point, 25-minute masterpiece of a game soon thereafter. And, crucially, the Spaniard came through in the crucible of a fifth set, too.

Please see ALCARAZ, Page 11



AP Photo

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy lifts the trophy following day four of the Genesis Scottish Open 2023 at The Renaissance Club, North Berwick, Britain, Sunday.

McIlroy Birdies Last Two Holes To Win Scottish Open By 1 Shot

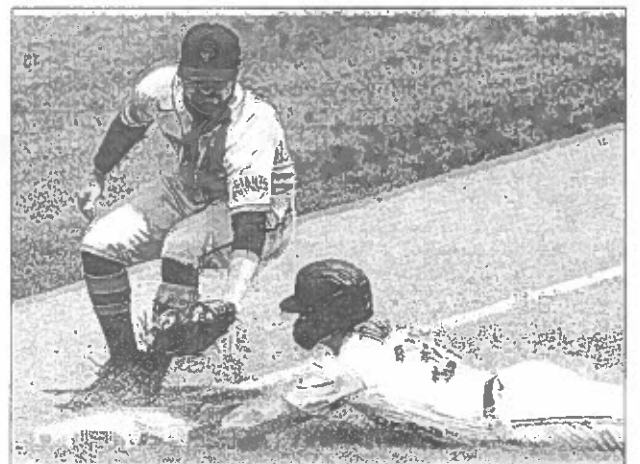
Giants Plate Five In 10th To Finish Off Sweep Of Pirates

By WES CROSBY
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Michael Conforto and Patrick Bailey hit two-run doubles in a five-run 10th inning, and the San Francisco Giants beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 8-4 on Sunday to finish a three-game sweep and extend their winning streak to five.

With automatic runner Casey Schmitt on second, Wilmer Flores singled off Yerry De Los Santos (0-1) starting the 10th and Joc Pederson hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly.

J.D. Davis walked, Conforto doubled to the right-center gap for a 6-3 lead and Mike Yas-



AP Photo

Pittsburgh Pirates' Henry Davis, right, safely steals third base ahead of the tag attempt by San Francisco Giants third baseman J.D. Davis during the sixth inning in Pittsburgh, Sunday.

al years here," Giants go-ahead hit Saturday, a manager Gabe Kapler two-run single that broke said "I think that's still a tie in the eighth inning

Rangers Complete Sweep Of Guardians

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Josh Jung's two-run single capped a four-run eighth inning as the AL West-leading Texas Rangers rallied past the Cleveland Guardians 6-5 on Sunday, completing a three-game sweep.

All four runs in the inning came off Trevor Stephan (4-4), who walked Marcus Semien and Corey Seager with one out before giving up an RBI single to Nathaniel Lowe, an RBI double to Adolis Garcia and a single to Jung. Will Smith pitched a scoreless ninth inning for his 16th save in 18 opportunities after Cody Bradford (2-1) pitched three innings.

The Rangers have won three consecutive games for the first time since June 17-19, and swept a three-game series for the first time since June 2-4 against Seattle. The Guardians have lost four straight, their longest losing streak of the season.

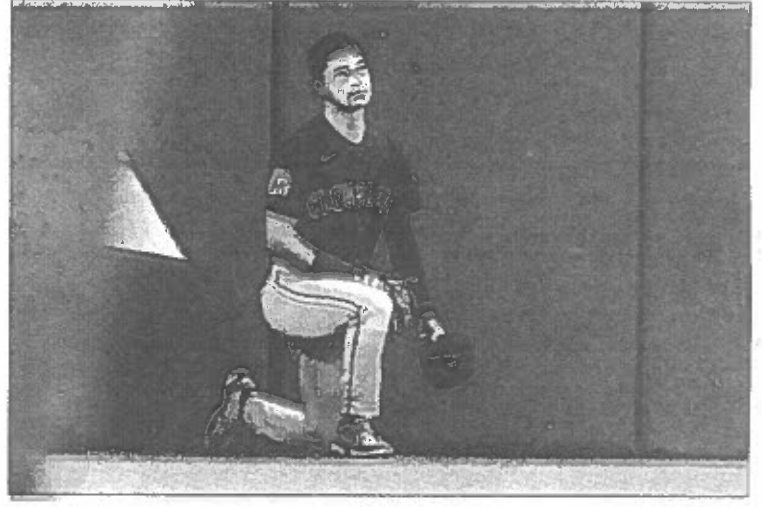
Jung, a rookie starter in last week's All-Star Game, was 1 for 12 in the series before his single to left.

Speaking of streaking in the wrong direction, the Rangers were 0-27 trailing after seven innings before Sunday. In Friday's win, they scored nine runs in the seventh and eighth innings and won 12-4.

"I finally contributed," Jung said. "To do that twice in the series to start the second half just gives us kind of that momentum going forward."

"When you walk people, you're kind of asking for trouble," Guardians manager Terry Francona said. "That's just a hard way to start the inning."

Cleveland's Steven Kwan and Semien hit homers to open each half of the first inning, only the second time that has happened this season. It previously happened on June 26 at Seattle, by the Washington Nationals' Lane Thomas and the Mariners' J.P. Crawford.



AP Photo
Cleveland Guardians' Steven Kwan reacts after failing to rob a home run from the Texas Rangers' Marcus Semien during the first inning Sunday in Arlington, Texas.

ALL-STARS

(Continued from Page 9)

"It's going to be a fun week. We've got a few activities, in addition to preparing for the game, for the kids," Murphy noted.

Members of the OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band report on Tuesday at 9 a.m. to start working on their pre-game and halftime routines, while the George Strager "Evening With the Stars" is set for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

McILROY

(Continued from Page 9)

Scheffler has finished among the top five in his last seven tournaments, two of them majors.

An and Lingmerth received a consolation prize by earning spots in the British Open, awarded to the leading three players not already exempt. The final spot went to Nicolai Hojgaard (67), who will join twin brother Rasmus at Royal Liverpool.

The Scottish crowd had been chanting MacIntyre's name all week around The Renaissance Club, and they roared when he delivered the 3-wood and birdie putt to the 18th, one of the toughest closing holes on tour.

MacIntyre was so caught up in the moment he had to hold back tears leaving the green.

"I'll never forget it. I had to take a minute coming off 18," he said. "If not The Open, the Scottish Open will be up there with the event I want to play for the rest of my life. It's one I've dreamed of winning since I watched at home, and I thought today coming down once I birdied 18, I thought, this might be the

The annual Queen of Queen's Pageant will be staged on Thursday at 7 p.m. inside the Capitol Music Hall in downtown Wheeling, with the winner's being announced Saturday night at half-time of the game.

A pep rally at 6:30 Friday night concludes the pre-game festivities, with the game kicking off at 7:15 p.m. Saturday inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

one. But it's not to be just now.

"Rory McIlroy's potentially the best in the world, and he showed why today."

McIlroy matched him with a shot every bit as good.

He was 201 yards from the pin, dead into the wind, a perfect 3-iron for him — except that McIlroy decided to replace his 3-iron with a 2-iron for the windy week.

"The 4-iron was only getting me to the front edge," McIlroy said. He needed to hit a 2-iron with a little cut and a little height to let the wind take off some of the distance, and "it came off absolutely perfectly."

"It's probably the best shot I've hit all year," McIlroy said. "When you hit a shot like that, I feel like I deserved to hole the putt to finish it off like that."

The tournament was co-sanctioned by the European tour and the PGA Tour. McIlroy expanded his lead atop the Race to Dubai, though he still has work to do to catch up to Rahm and Scheffler in the FedEx Cup.

Norrman Notches First PGA Tour Win

NICHOLASVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Vincent Norrman lipped in an 8-footer for bogey on the 72nd hole to get into a playoff, then scrambled for par on the same hole in sudden death on Sunday to beat Nathan Kimsey and win the Barbasol Championship, his first PGA Tour victory.

The 25-year-old Norrman, a tour rookie who played one year at Florida State after four years at Division II Georgia Southwestern, won in his 23rd career start. The Swede closed with a 66 at Keene Trace to finish at 22-under 266.

"I don't think I can process this for a while. I'm lost for words," Norrman said.

Norrman's girlfriend, LPGA Tour player Frida Kinhult, surprised him after the victory. Kinhult finished tied for 36th at the Dana Open in Sylva, Ohio, on Sunday, then traveled 300 miles south to greet Norrman.

Kimsey, a 30-year-old European tour player from England who made his PGA Tour debut in this co-sanctioned event, shot 64 to post 22 under and waited to see if it would be good enough. It didn't look promising with Norrman and Trevor Cone at 23 under.

But Cone yanked his tee shot into tall grass well left of the green on the par-3 16th, leading to double bogey. That opened the door for Norrman, who

hit fairway wood off the 18th tee and went well left into an awkward lie. He still had 57 yards for his third shot, missed the green from there and then chipped well past the hole. His bogey putt caught the lip on the right side and dropped.

In the playoff, Norrman again went left off the tee, missed the green to the right and chipped to 2 feet.

"I hit a really good tee shot, I thought," Norrman said. "I had a pretty tough lie, downhill left to right usually comes out left on me and that kind of flared right. That was a pretty tricky chip as well and I just put a good strike on it and hit it up there close."

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 9)

Ryan Walker (3-0) struck out one in a perfect ninth, and Scott Alexander allowed Henry Davis' RBI single in the 10th.

Pittsburgh (41-52) has lost seven of eight, dropping a season-worst 11 games under .500. The Pirates are 21-44 after a 20-8 start.

"We have to continue to go, but we have to execute," Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton said. "That's the main thing. We had opportunities to win that game today and didn't execute. ... I don't know if it surprises me. It's just, we have to play better."

Pittsburgh tied the score 3-3 in the eighth when Andrew McCutchen singled in his first game off the injured list and came home on Jared Triolo's sacrifice fly.

Giants starter Alex Wood allowed one run, five hits and three walks in 3 2/3 innings.

San Francisco took a 3-0 lead in the third off Osvaldo Bido on J.D. Davis' RBI single, Henry Davis' run-scoring error in right on Matos' RBI grounder.

"We need to come out and not get into a slump and come out here and make a statement," Davis said. "Even if it's winning the series, getting a sweep is even better. I think it's huge for us just to get things rolling."

Bido gave up three runs and four hits in 2 2/3 innings.

Bryan Reynolds had an RBI single in the second and Triolo hit a run-scoring grounder in the sixth.

"Nothing has changed in the locker room," Reynolds said. "If we pitch, we don't hit. If we hit, we give up runs. It's hard to win like that."

TWIN KILLING

Tyler Rogers allowed the tying run in the eighth and was removed with one out and runners on the corners. Taylor Rogers, Tyler's identical twin, relieved and struck out Tucupita Marcano before hitting Nick Gonzales with a pitch and striking out Jason Delay to leave the bases loaded.

"I didn't look at it any different," Taylor Rogers said. "Probably a good storyline, but it's still the same. You

ing single in a two-run eighth inning.

CARDINALS 8, NATIONALS 4

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Jack Flaherty won a fourth straight start for the first time in two years, and St. Louis beat Washington to take two of three in the series.

RED SOX 11, CUBS 5

CHICAGO (AP) — Masataka Yoshida hit a grand slam and a two-run triple, powering Kutter Crawford and Boston to a blowout over Chicago.

WHITE SOX 8, BRAVES 1

ATLANTA (AP) — Dylan Cease won for the first time in nearly two months, Luis Robert Jr. had four hits that included a two-run homer and the Chicago White Sox beat Atlanta 8-1 on Sunday to stop the Braves' streak of 11 consecutive series wins.

ROYALS 8, RAYS 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Bobby Witt Jr. homered and tripled with three RBIs, and Kansas City earned its second win in 10 games.

ORIOLES 5, MARLINS 4

BALTIMORE (AP) — Kyle Bradish took a shutout into the eighth inning and Danny Coulombe retired Luis Arraez on a game-ending lineout with a runner on second as Baltimore held off Miami's late rally.

METS 2, DODGERS 1, 10 INNINGS

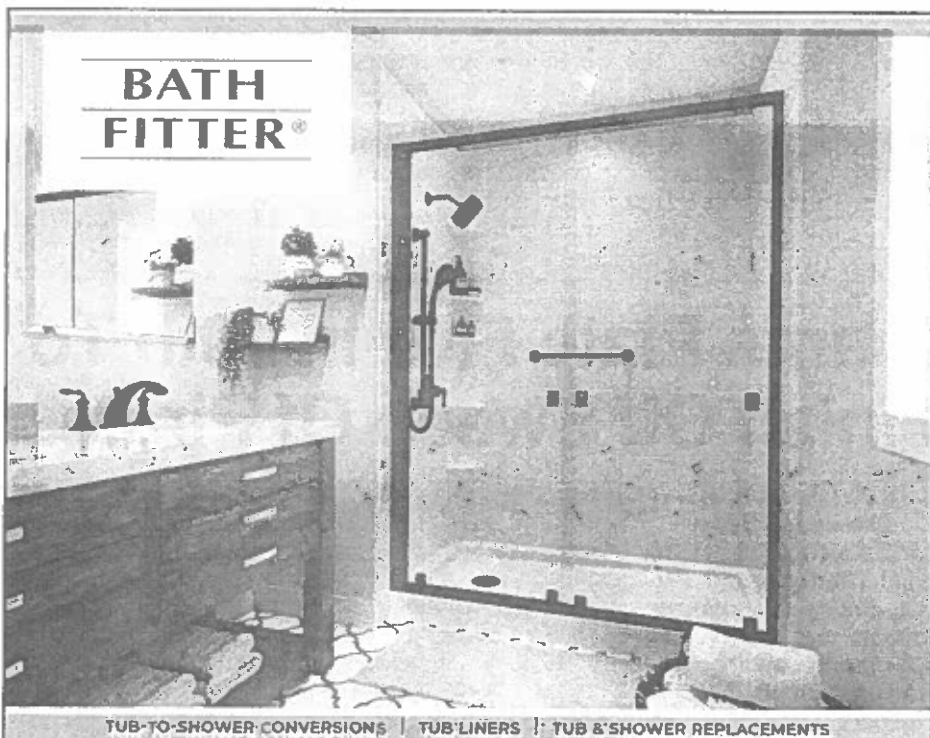
NEW YORK (AP) — After failing to get a bunt down, pinch-hitter Luis Guillermo doubled home the winning run in the 10th inning to give New York a victory over Los Angeles.

BLUE JAYS 7, DIAMONDBACKS 5

TORONTO (AP) — Danny Jansen hit a three-run double in the eighth inning to give Toronto what turned out to be an important cushion, and the Blue Jays beat Arizona for a three-game sweep.

ASTROS 9, ANGELS 8

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Alex Bregman connected for a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning for his fourth hit of the game, Chas McCormick went deep twice and Houston



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SPECIAL OFFER

Rangers score 4 runs in the 8th inning to beat Guardians 6-5

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utive games for the first time since June 17-19, and swept a three-game series for the first time since June 2-4 against Seattle.

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Speaking of streaking in the wrong direction, the Rangers were 0-27 trailing after seven innings before Sunday. In Friday's win, they scored nine runs in the seventh and eighth innings and won 12-4.

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the second half just gives us kind of that momentum going forward."

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Cleveland's Steven Kwan and Semien hit homers to open each half of the first inning, only the second time that has happened this season. It previously happened on June 26 at Seattle, by the Washington Nationals' Lane Thomas and the Mariners' J.P. Crawford.

Kwan had four hits and three RBI. David Fry, who graduated from nearby Grapevine High, hit a two-run homer in the eighth to give the Guardians a 5-2

lead.

Semien's homer nicked off Kwan's glove in the left-field corner before Kwan made contact with the wall.

Lowe also singled home Semien in the third inning.

FOR STARTERS

Guardians rookie Tanner Bibee allowed two runs on five hits in six innings. He struck out six, walked one, took a ball off a foot and was nearly struck in the head by a liner from Seager in the fifth inning. The ball grazed the top of Bibee's glove as he attempted to field.

See **GUARDIANS**, Page B2

All-star players check in, prepare for the week

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The all-stars have arrived.

Players representing Ohio and West Virginia in Saturday night's 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game checked into their home-away-from-home for the next week at Wheeling University on Sunday. They will begin drills Monday morning, with media day scheduled from noon until 2 p.m. in Swint Hall and at Bishop Schmitt Field.

The teams will practice twice daily. "Things are going pretty well," Game Director Corey Murphy said Sunday inside the Alma Grace McDonough Center on the campus of Wheeling University. "We've had a couple of no-shows, but for the most part, the rosters have filled out."

"We're excited to get going and we look for a competitive game on Saturday. The weather looks to be pretty nice for the game," he added. "Let's hope it stays that way."

Ohio, which is coached by Barnesville's Blake Allen and his Shamrocks staff, added Beaver Local's Dylan Ferguson, while West Virginia, which is coached by Wheeling Central's Mike Young and his Maroon Knights staff, added University's Landon Cool. That gives the Buckeyes 30 players, three more than the Mountaineers.

"We had a couple of kids who dropped out late, but we were fortunate



THE MARTINS Ferry duo of, from left, George Hulsey, and Landyn Hores, pose wearing their OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game jerseys they received Sunday after reporting for camp at Wheeling University.

to get a couple of kids to replace them," Murphy said.

Rosters will be finalized during media day.

"It's going to be a fun week. We've got a few activities, in addition to preparing for the game, for the kids," Murphy noted.

Members of the OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band report on Tuesday at 9 a.m. to start working on their pre-game and halftime routines, while the George

Strager "Evening With the Stars" is set for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

The annual Queen of Queen's Pageant will be staged on Thursday at 7 p.m. inside the Capitol Music Hall in downtown Wheeling, with the winner's being announced Saturday night at halftime of the game.

A pep rally at 6:30 Friday night concludes the pre-game festivities, with the game kicking off at 7:15 p.m. Saturday inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

Giants beat Pirates 8-4 to win 5th straight

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Michael Conforto and Patrick Bailey hit two-run doubles in a five-run 10th inning, and the San Francisco Giants beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 8-4 on Sunday to finish a three-game sweep and extend their winning streak to five.

With automatic runner Casey Schmitt on second, Wilmer Flores singled off Yerry De Los Santos (0-1) starting the 10th and Joc Pederson hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly.

J.D. Davis walked, Conforto doubled to the right-center gap for a 6-3 lead and Mike Yastrzemski was intentionally walked. Luis Matos was intentionally walked and Bailey doubled to left to put the Giants ahead 8-3.

"I think it speaks to the club's resilience, which is something we've been talking about for several years here," Giants manager Gabe Kapler said. "I think that's still the true character of this team. I think it speaks to an unselfish, team-first mentality that was really the key to our season in 2021. You're starting to see signals of that over the course of the last several months."

Conforto also had a go-ahead hit Saturday, a two-run single that broke a tie in the eighth inning of a 3-1 victory.

"He's been in the biggest moments on the biggest stages," Kapler said. "He's kind of a pretty proven commodity in those big moments."

Ryan Walker (3-0) struck out one in a perfect ninth, and Scott Alexander allowed Henry Davis' RBI single in the 10th.

Pittsburgh (41-52) has lost seven of eight, dropping a season-worst 11 games under .500. The Pirates are 21-44 after a 20-8 start.

"We have to continue to go, but we have to execute," Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton said. "That's the main thing. We had opportunities to win that game today and didn't execute. ... I don't know if it surprises me. It's just, we have to play better."

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Giants starter Alex Wood allowed one run, five hits and three walks in 3 2/3 innings.

See **PIRATES**, Page B2

Carlos Alcaraz beats Novak Djokovic in 5 sets to win Wimbledon for a second Grand Slam trophy

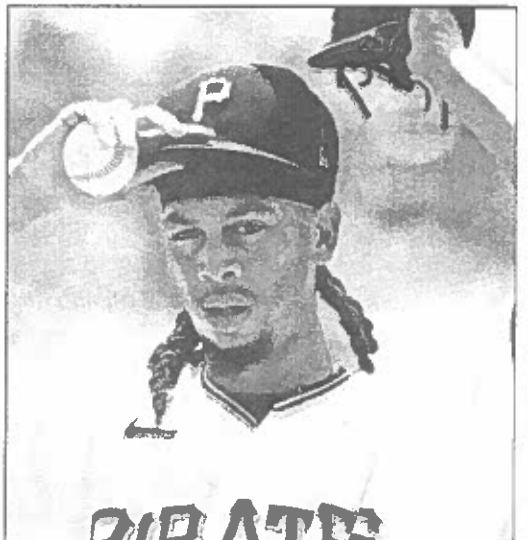


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That sort of deficit is daunting for anyone, let alone a 20-year-old in his second major final, and against anyone, let alone Djokovic, someone who hadn't lost at Centre Court in a decade, someone seeking a fifth consecutive championship, and record-tying eighth overall, at the All England Club. Someone who won the year's first two Grand Slam

through in that tiebreaker as choruses of "Car-los! Car-los!" from the stands competed with cries of his older, more experienced, more accomplished foe's two-syllable nickname, "No-le! No-le!" And then Alcaraz came through in a 32-point, 25-minute masterpiece of a game soon thereafter. And, crucially, the Spaniard came through in the crucible of a fifth set, too.

Add it all up, and the No. 1-ranked Alcaraz marked himself as the star people have been predicting he would be.



By **KAILEY CARPINO**
Times Leader Staff Writer

MARTINS FERRY — The Martins Ferry Wrestling Parents will host a glow-in-the-dark golf scramble on July 21 at Paradise Hills Golf Course to support the wrestling team.

Head wrestling coach Chad Ware said that the nine-hole, glow-in-the-dark scramble will take place after dark with tee times around 9 or 9:30 p.m.

"It just depends on when it starts to get dark," he said.

Those who wish to enter the tournament must be in teams of four and pay an entry fee of \$200 per team.

Ware said he hopes to get 18

teams to sign up and have two teams per hole at a time.

Ware said that this is the first time he and the Martins Ferry Wrestling Parents have hosted a golf scramble.

"We've never done this before. None of us have ever even been to one before," he said.

Food and drinks will be provided in one of the golf course's shelters. Each golfer will receive two glow-in-the-dark golf balls, and additional golf balls can be purchased if necessary.

Ware also said that glow sticks will be placed in each cup, on the flagpoles and around the greens. He also said that glow sticks will be used

to mark the paths for the golf carts and to mark obstacles.

All proceeds from the event will support the Martins Ferry peewee, junior high and varsity wrestling teams.

"It will support wrestlers of all ages, from kindergarten up to 12th grade," Ware said.

The Martins Ferry Wrestling Parents posted on Facebook that seven members of the high school wrestling team graduated this past spring.

"Our team will be talented but very young this year," the group posted.

Ware plans to send this year's team to multiple wrestling camps and tournaments this summer to help members

practice and gain experience. Funding from the golf scramble will help offset the costs of the additional camps and tournaments.

The Martins Ferry Wrestling Parents are also looking for sponsors for the golf scramble. Those who wish to sponsor one of the nine holes can donate \$100 and those who wish to sponsor the food or drinks can donate \$250.

Each sponsor will be recognized for their support with signage in their sponsored area. Those who sponsor one of the holes will have a sign with their name on it on the tee box, and those who sponsor food or drinks will have a sign

at the shelter.

Checks can be made out to the Martins Ferry Wrestling Parents Association and mailed to Ware at 71700 Treadway Road in Martins Ferry.

Those who wish to attend can register in advance or at the beginning of the event.

Ware said he plans to host the event every year.

"We'll see how it goes, and if we need to, we'll make changes for next year. It's a lot of trial and error," he said.

For more information or to register a team of golfers, call Ware at 740-391-2978.

Paradise Hills Golf Course is located at 301 Country Club Road in Rayland.

Barton Braves are eliminated from playoffs

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Staff Writer

WEST LIBERTY — They're back and looking for redemption.

Third-seeded Wheeling completed its sweep of No. 2 Barton Wednesday night in an Ohio Valley Baseball League best-of-3 semifinal series with a 10-2 victory on West Liberty University's Kovalick Field. This came after an 11-10 win on Tuesday in Crescent.

The Pioneers (10-10) finished runner up to two-time defending champion Maynard last summer in a three-game sweep. However, this year they want a different result.

"We seem to save our best for the end of the season," Wheeling manager Scott Shaw said. "Pitching has really been good for us down the stretch. We are finally starting to hit the ball up and down the order. We're getting lucky, too."

Wheeling didn't waste any time in jumping on the Braves (14-7), who ended the season on a 5-game losing streak.

"All I can think of is the Hare vs. the Tortoise story," a disappointed Barton manager Billy Timko said. "It's not how you start, but how you finish. Tonight was like

the other games in our streak, we'd get a hit here and there, but we couldn't string anything together and get anything going offensively.

"No excuses, though. They (Wheeling) were a better team than us."

The Pioneers sent 18 batters to the plate in the second (8) and third innings (10) while tallying eight runs. For the game, they collected 11 hits — all singles and played station-to-station baseball.

Sonny Peluchette sparked the three-run second with a two-run, two-out single to left. That followed an RBI single by Doug Clark.

Chase Goff (single), Nathan Miklos (ground out), Peluchette (infield single) and Dylan Gongola (single) accounted for four RBI in the five-run third. The other run scored on an error, one of four committed by Barton.

Adam Och capped Wheeling's scoring with a two-run single in the fifth.

While the Pioneers had four different players (Peluchette, Gongola, Och and Josh Schramm) with two hits each and three (Ryan Hummell, Goff and Schramm) who each scored twice, lefty Ryan Porras only allowed a first-inning



Photo by **KIM NORTH**

BARTON BRAVES' third baseman Drake Dobson catches an infield popup in front of shortstop Colton Coss during Ohio Valley Baseball League action Wednesday night at West Liberty University's Kovalick Field. However, the Braves were eliminated from the playoffs with a 10-2 setback to the Wheeling Pioneers.

solid single to center by Colton which five were looking. He Coss. also walked six.

He wasn't overpowering despite striking out nine, of See **BARTON**, Page B2

Ohio linemen named for OVAC All-Star Football Game

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Staff Writer

WHEELING — Size and talent are what Ohio head coach Blake Allen was looking for when he was seeking linemen — offensive and defensive — for the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

"We don't want to have kids playing both ways because with just one week of preparation, it's just too much to try and get them to learn two systems," Allen stressed.

On the offensive front, Allen chose one of his own Shamrocks in tackle Quentin Leasure.

"Quentin is a really smart kid who can help the other offensive linemen with our system," Allen noted. "We got just about everybody we were hoping for. There are some big, talented kids from good systems. I know most of the coaches on the Ohio side and these kids come from great systems. I know they will be ready to go."

See **LINEMEN**, Page B2

West Virginia QBs named for OVAC All-Star Football Game

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Staff Writer

WHEELING — Mike Young has been involved in two prior OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Games as a head coach of the West Virginia squad. He knows that big plays usually decide the game.

So, with that said, Young announces his quarterbacks, running backs and placekicker for the 77th edition of the bi-state contest, which will be played on Saturday, July 22 at 7:15 p.m. inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

The quarterbacks are:

JACOB COFFIELD, John Marshall — This 6-0, 175-pounder was a four-year letterman for the Monarchs. He was also a three-time all-OVAC first-teamer.

He will be going into the welding field. Jacob is the son of Jason and Melissa Coffield of Moundsville.

DREW BOCZEK, Morgantown — A 5-10, 175-pounder. Boczek was a four-year letterwinner for the Mohigans where he also played slot receiver and safety.

See **QBS**, Page B2

Panama upsets U.S. 5-4 on penalty kicks after 1-1 tie

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Adalberto Carrasquilla converted the decisive penalty kick after Cristian Roldan failed to convert his attempt, and Panama beat the defending champion United States 5-4 in a shootout after a 1-1 tie on Wednesday night to reach the CONCACAF Gold Cup final against Mexico or Jamaica.

Ivan Anderson scored his first international goal in the ninth minute of extra time, and Jesus Ferreira tied the score for the U.S. six minutes later.

After beating Canada on penalty kicks in Sunday's quarterfinal, the U.S. went to a second shootout for the first time in a Gold Cup.

Panama reached the final for the third time after losing to the U.S. in 2005 and 2013. Mexico played Jamaica at Las Vegas later Wednesday.

The U.S., a seven-time winner of the championship of North and Central

America and the Caribbean, failed to reach the final for the first time since losing to Jamaica in a 2015 semifinal.

The game marked the finale of B.J. Callaghan, who led the U.S. to five wins, one loss and one draw as the Americans' second interim coach this year. Gregg Berhalter returns for the Sept. 9 exhibition against Uzbekistan.

American Cade Cowell hit a post about 20 seconds in and that was the closest to a goal until Panama went ahead nine minutes into extra time. Carrasquilla played a through pass to Anderson, who was kept onside by DeAndre Yedlin.

Anderson took a touch and played the ball past onrushing goalkeeper Matt Turner, then kicked the ball into the open net for his first international goal.

Ferreira scored six minutes later after Matt Miazga played a long pass to

Jordan Morris, who headed the ball into the penalty area. Ferreira volleyed the ball with his right shin from 16 yards past the outstretched left hand of a diving Orlando Mosquera for his 15th international goal, his seventh of the tournament.

With the U.S. going first in the shootout, Ferreira was stopped by Mosquera.

Fidel Escobar and Ismael Diaz beat Turner, while Djordje Mihailovic and Morris were successful for the U.S. Turner dove to his left to stop Christian Mart nez and Julian Gressel and Miazga converted around Edgar Barcenias successful kick for Panama, leaving the U.S. ahead 4-3.

Cecilio Waterman tied the score with Panama's fifth shot. Mosquera dove right to parry Roldan's attempt and Carrasquilla put his shot inside Turner's right post

Ons Jabeur and Aryna Sabalenka both make their way back into the Wimbledon semifinals

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — From where Ons Jabeur was sitting on Centre Court, a spot in the Wimbledon semifinals was as good as guaranteed.

The sixth-seeded Tunisian walked into the main stadium at the All England Club on Wednesday to play Elena Rybakina in a rematch of last year's

me win today." Jabeur, who last year became the first woman from North Africa and first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam final, beat the defending champion 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-1.

She won eight of the final nine games, mixing her drop shots and slices throughout with some hard-hitting forehands

lost to Iga Swiatek.

Rybakina followed up her Wimbledon title with a first-round exit at that U.S. Open, but she then made the final at the Australian Open at the start of this year.

"Some moments I play really well, but was not consistent," Rybakina said of Wednesday's match. "Since physically (I)

Elina Svitolina faces Marketa Vondrousova in the other women's semifinal match.

Sabalenka reached the Wimbledon semifinals for the second straight time, with a one-year break in between because she was banned from the tournament in 2022 along with other players from her country and from Russia because of the war

Slam champion remaining in the women's tournament.

Keys was trying to complete a full set of Grand Slam semifinal appearances but she lost for the second time in the Wimbledon quarterfinals. Her only major final came at the 2017 U.S. Open, when she lost to Sloane Stephens.

So for Keys, the build-up to

Ja Morant's lawyers cite 'stand your ground' law, self-defense in pickup basketball lawsuit

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The future of a lawsuit accusing Memphis Grizzlies star Ja Morant of assaulting a teenager during a pickup basketball game hinges on whether Morant will be allowed to say that he was acting in self-defense and can receive immunity under Tennessee law.

A judge on Wednesday ruled that Morant's lawyers can proceed for now with their argument that Morant was acting in self-defense when he punched Joshua Holloway during a game at the All-Star player's Memphis-area home in July 2022.

Morant's lawyers have acknowledged he punched Holloway one time after Holloway threw a basketball at Morant and the ball hit Morant in the chin. In a July 26 motion, the player's lawyers said he should be immune from liability under the state's "stand your ground" law, which allows people who feel threatened at their homes to act with force in certain situations.

Circuit Court Judge Carol Chumney said the next step would be to hear from lawyers in the case, including those representing the Tennessee Attorney General, about whether the law can be applied to the case under the state Constitution.

Morant's accuser was 17 when the lawsuit was filed. It accuses Morant and friend Davonte Pack of assault, reckless endangerment, abuse or neglect, and infliction of emotional distress.

An amended complaint identified the

plaintiff as Holloway, who is now 18.

Morant filed a countersuit accusing Holloway of slander, battery and assault. No criminal charges have been filed against Morant.

The lawsuit has led to complicated legal arguments, including disagreement about whether the state's "stand your ground" law can be used to support Morant.

In a hearing Monday, Holloway's lawyer Rebecca Adelman argued Morant has waived his claim to immunity and that the self-defense claim under the state law can't be a reason to dismiss the civil case, partly because there is no ongoing criminal investigation against Morant.

Adelman said the self-defense and immunity arguments came too late in the process. She called it a "Hail Mary of Hail Marys."

Will Perry, Morant's lawyer, argued there are ways for the "stand your ground" law to apply in civil cases and that Morant is entitled to immunity. He said the motion was timely because the trial is not scheduled until 2024.

Outside court on Wednesday, Adelman told reporters that she was disappointed in the judge's decision to allow the immunity claim to continue, but she was pleased that the court is allowing arguments on the constitutional challenge to the law's application in the case.

"These are ... very important issues to everyone," Adelman said.

LeBron James says at ESPYS he will play for Lakers in upcoming season

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James will play another season for the Los Angeles Lakers.

The 38-year-old superstar announced his intentions at The ESPYS on Wednesday night after accepting the record-breaking performance award for becoming the NBA's career scoring leader.

At the end of last season, in which he surpassed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's mark, James had said he wasn't sure if he would be back.

"In that moment I'm asking myself if I can still play without cheating the game. Can I give everything to the game still? The truth is I've been asking myself this question at the end of the season for a couple years now. I just never openly talked about it," James said.

"I don't care how many more points I score or what I can and cannot do on the floor. The real question for me is can I play without cheating this game? The day I can't give the game everything on the floor is the day I'll be done. Lucky for you guys that day is not today."

The crowd at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood let out a huge cheer.

"So yeah, I still got something left," James said. "A lot left."

He was presented his trophy by wife Savannah, sons Bronny and Bryce and daughter Zhuri.

Earlier, Chicago White Sox reliever Liam Hendriks told audience that he pitched much of the 2022 season with non-Hodgkin lymphoma before being diagnosed with an advanced stage of the disease.

He accepted the Jimmy V Award for Perseverance. The 34-year-old

Australian was declared cancer-free in late April and returned to the mound a month later.

"That was an eye-opener. I didn't feel too many symptoms but I had some lumps around. It just shows you the power of the mind. When you don't think anything's wrong and you believe that you can do anything, you can do anything," Hendriks said.

"I was throwing 100 miles per hour while going through Stage 4 lymphoma and then coming back after doing eight rounds of chemotherapy and four rounds of immunotherapy and was able to get out there and throw 96 miles per hour. That isn't physically who I am. That's all this, that's all mental."

Patrick Mahomes was honored as best men's sports athlete, while skier Mikaela Shiffrin received the women's sports honor.

The Kansas City Chiefs quarterback has won two Super Bowls in his five seasons and was named MVP of the game each time, including this past February. He turns 28 in September.

"It was an incredible season. There was many ups, many downs," Mahomes said. "I appreciate my teammates, my coaches, the guys that are here. I go back to camp next Tuesday, so this is a great award. But we're going to do this thing again, we're going to keep this thing rolling."

Shiffrin won her 87th World Cup race in March, breaking the mark set by Ingemar Stenmark for the most such wins by any skier.

She went on to win an 88th Cup race, as well as the overall season title.

• QBs

Continued from Page B1

Last season he completed 175 of 298 passes and had 20 TDs. He also ran the ball 40 times for 325 yards and dive TDs, while also catching 22 passes for 340 stripes and another three six-pointers.

Defensively, he made 204 tackles — 71 unassisted — and helped on another 138. He had three interceptions.

Boczek will attend St. Thomas More Prep in Connecticut to play a fifth year.

Drew is the son of Joe and Debbie Boczek of Morgantown.

The running backs are:

LORENZO FERRERA, Wheeling Central — This 5-9, 180-pounder, was a four-year letterman for the Maroon Knights. He was also a track standout with four gold medals this past spring.

Young hinted that Ferrera could also be used in the Wildcat formation.

Lorenzo is the son of Larry and Andee Ferrera of Benwood.

RILEY WATKINS, Wheeling Central — A 5-8, 180-pounder, he ran for more than 3,000 yards and 27 touchdowns during his Maroon Knights days. He also recorded 200 tack-

les and 15 career quarterback sacks.

A three-time all-W. Va. Class A all-stater, he was also a two-time MVP for Wheeling Central.

He will attend Mercyhurst University.

Riley is the son of Matt and Heather Watkins of Wheeling.

The placekicker is: **TRENT RICHMOND**, Oak Glen — A 5-9, 177-pounder, Richmond came into his own the last several seasons as the Golden Bears enjoyed a lot of success.

He is the son of Amy and Ron Richmond of Newell.

• Barton

Continued from Page B1

Porras, who served as graduate assistant pitching coach at Wheeling University last season, has pitched in the Pecos League. The southpaw needed 113 pitches in his outing, with 60 being strikes. He allowed both runs.

"He was here all summer and wanted to play. I told him that was no problem with me," Shaw added.

Drake Dobson walked to start the Barton fourth. He moved to second on a wild pitch and scooted to third on a passed ball. He would race home on Zac Taylor's ground out.

The Braves second run came in the fifth when Kobe Hill walked leading off. A groundout moved him to second and he took third on a wild pitch. With

two outs, Hill caught the Pioneers napping when he stole home.

Coss also singled in the seventh for Barton.

When asked who he would rather play, Shaw said it really doesn't matter.

"We've been pretty competitive against Maynard. Whoever shows up for Game 1, we'll be ready."

Moundsville 4, Maynard 3

GLEN DALE — The fourth-seeded Expos evened their best-of-3 semifinal series with a walk-off victory over the top-seeded Indians on the John Marshall High School diamond.

Game 3 will be played Friday on Firemen's Field inside the Maynard Community Park. First pitch at 6.

No details provided.

• Linemen

Continued from Page B1

A brief capsule of each offensive linemen follows:

QUENTIN LEASURE, Barnesville —

This 6-0, 315-pounder earned first-team all-Ohio Division V, first-team all-OVAC and first-team all-Eastern District as the Shamrocks went 10-0 in the regular season.

Quentin is the son of Craig Leasure. They reside in Barnesville.

CAMDEN DALEY, Steubenville. This 5-11, 275-pounder was a mainstay sling the offensive front for Big Red. He was a two-time all-Ohio honorable mention and a two-time all-Eastern District first-teamer.

He recorded 80 career pancake blocks and graded out at 95 percent for his career.

Daley will attend the University of Dayton.

Camden is the son of Janet and Steve Daley of Mingo Junction.

JACKSON LURIE, Dover. A 6-4, 275-pounder, Lurie was a two-sport stand-out for the Tornadoes,

playing football and basketball. He was a scholar athlete and a member of the OHSB-CA scholarship society.

He will continue his academic and athletic careers at Wheeling University.

Jackson is the son of Danielle and Seth Lurie of Dover.

ASHTON ELLIS, Edison. A 5-10, 290-pounder, Ellis was a second-team all-Ohio Division V honoree. He had 35 knock-down blocks and graded out at 93 percent this past fall when the Wildcats went 10-0 in the regular season.

He will continue his academic and athletic careers at Bethany College.

CABOT ARBAUGH, Harrison Central. A 6-3, 270-pounder, Arbaugh was a two-time all-Ohio honorable mention selection, while also earning two-time all-Eastern Dis-

trict honors.

He will attend Ohio University-Eastern.

Cabot is the son of Russ and Tricia Arbaugh of Cadiz.

Defensively, the following are ticketed across the front line.

CALEB RIGGS, Fort Frye. A 6-4, 220-pound tackle, Riggs logged 115 tackles, 31 tackles for losses and 10 quarterback sacks for the Cadets.

He was named the Eastern District Defensive Player of the Year and was first-team all-Ohio, as well.

Riggs will attend Muskingum University in the fall.

Caleb is the son of Brenna and Roger Riggs of Lowell.

MARCUS RECTOR, St. Clairsville. A 6-5, 220-pound end, Rector was all-Eastern District and all-Buckeye 8 for the Red Devils.

He will attend Wheeling University.

Marcus is the son of Cliff Rector and Dawn Paul and resides in Jacobsburg.

SPENSER OSTOVICH, Steubenville. A 6-0, 220-pound end, Ostovich had an outstanding career for Big Red where he was a three-time all-state Division IV honorable mention pick. He was also all-Eastern District first team.

Spenser will continue his academic and athletic careers at West Liberty University.

B R A Y D E N STRAWN, River. A 5-8, 220-pound tackle, he recorded 70 solo tackles, 53 assists and 16 TFLs, along with 6.5 quarterback sacks, two fumbles caused and one fumble recovery last fall. He also pressured opposing quarterbacks 22 times.

Strawn will attend Marietta College in the fall.

Brayden is the son of

Charity Ady and Chris Strawn. He resides in Woodsfield.

DRUE JOZWIAK, St. Clairsville. This 6-0, 205-pound end can also play tight end. Defensively, he accounted for 65 tackles, a dozen quarterback sacks and forced four fumbles.

He was first-team all-Ohio this past fall and played in the Ohio North-South Game.

Jozwiak will attend Siena Heights University in the fall.

Drue is the son of Joe and Sheri Jozwiak of St. Clairsville.

JARED TRENNER, Shenandoah — A 5-10, 200-pound tackle, he was a three-time all-Ohioan, a three-time all-Eastern District and two-time all-OVAC honoree.

He will attend Marietta College.

Jared is the son of Steve and Laura Trenner of Belle Valley.

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Classified/B5-6

SPORTS

Friday,
July 14, 2023

Djokovic faces Sinner in the men's semifinals

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — The only two people standing in the way of a potential Wimbledon final between Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz are Jan-nik Sinner and Daniil Medvedev.

Sinner will try to upset Djokovic in the first semifinal Friday on Centre Court. Then Medvedev takes on top-ranked Alcaraz.

"It's interesting to play someone like Carlos," the third-seeded Medvedev said. "He is an amazing, amazing player. What he continues to do is just unbelievable. ... But I played a lot of great players in my career. I managed to win many times. So I'm going to try to do my best. If I show my best, I'll have my chances."

Medvedev and Alcaraz have one Grand Slam title each — both at the U.S. Open. Medvedev won in 2021; Alcaraz last year.

No. 8 seed Sinner lost to Djokovic in last year's Wimbledon quarterfinals after taking the first two sets.

"It's going to be a completely different match than last year," the 21-year-old Italian said.

Seven of Djokovic's 23 Grand Slam titles — the men's record — have come at the All England Club. He's won four straight trophies at Wimbledon and is trying to tie Roger Federer's men's record of eight.

The matchup between Sinner and the 36-year-old Djokovic represents the largest age gap between two men's semifinalists at Wimbledon in the professional era, which began in 1968.

The men's final is Sunday. WHEN ARE FRIDAY'S MATCHES?

The Djokovic-Sinner semifinal is scheduled to start at 1:30 p.m. local time, which is 8:30 a.m. EDT.



AP Photo
SERBIA'S NOVAK Djokovic celebrates winning a point against Russia's Andrey Rublev in a men's singles match on day nine of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London.

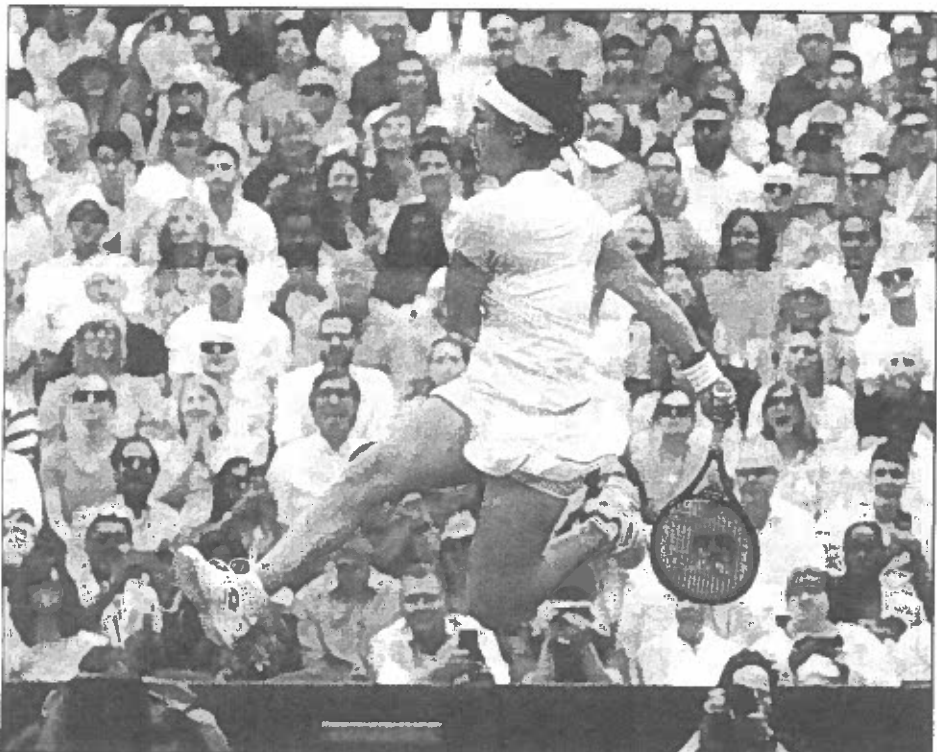
That will be followed by the Alcaraz-Medvedev match.

WHAT WERE THURSDAY'S RESULTS?

No. 6 Ons Jabeur reached the title match at Wimbledon for the second straight year by beating No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-3 in the women's semifinals. The Tunisian is 0-2 in Grand

Slam finals, including a loss at Wimbledon to Elena Rybakina in 2022. Jabeur's opponent on Saturday will be Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic. She eliminated Elina Svitolina 6-3, 6-3 on Thursday to become the first unseeded women's finalist at Wimbledon since Billie Jean King in 1963.

• Ons Jabeur is in a second consecutive Wimbledon final



AP Photo
TUNISIA'S ONS Jabeur kicks the ball after failing to chase down a volley by Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in their women's singles semifinal match on day eleven of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London.

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — There was a time — a year ago; six months ago, even — that Ons Jabeur might not have recovered from the deficit she found herself in during the Wimbledon semifinals. Down a set. Down a break in the second set. So close to being just a game from defeat.

She credits a sports psychologist with helping her understand how to deal with those on-court situations, with managing to keep her focus, keep her strokes on-target.

Thanks in part to that, and a steadiness down the stretch at Centre Court on Thursday, Jabeur is on her way to a second consecutive final at the All England Club and her third title match in the past five Grand Slam tournaments.

Now she wants to win a trophy. The sixth-seeded Jabeur earned the right to play for one again by beating big-hitting Aryna Sabalenka 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-3.

"I'm very proud of myself, because maybe old me would have lost the match today and went back home already. But I'm glad that I kept digging very deep and finding the strength," said Jabeur, a 28-year-old from Tunisia who already was the only Arab woman and only North African woman to reach a major final.

Big 12 brings Malzahn and Holgorsen back into Power Five

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Gus Malzahn is back in a Power Five conference with UCF prepping for its first season in the Big 12, where Houston coach Dana Holgorsen is again overseeing a team's transition into the league like he did just more than a decade ago at West Virginia.

While BYU is giving up its football independence, coach Kalani Sitake has past experience with a program moving up to the highest level. And Scott Satterfield's first season with Cin-

Big 12. "It's just the excitement of playing some of the best teams in college football week in and week out and that grind that goes with it," former Auburn coach Malzahn said Thursday as the Big 12 wrapped up its football media days. "That's what excites me. Just the profile of our program taking that next step."

Malzahn is going into his third season at UCF, which followed his eight consecutive seasons at Auburn.

champion after going undefeated in 2017 and beating Malzahn's Auburn squad in the Peach Bowl while one-loss Alabama won the CFP title game. The Knights, who left the American Athletic Conference with Cincinnati and Houston, have gone 18-9 overall under Malzahn with a 2-3 record against Power Five teams.

The Big 12 media days were at AT&T Stadium, the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys and its confer-

Ohio names players for all-star game

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Blake Allen has completed his Ohio roster for the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Today the Barnesville head coach selects his running backs, wide receivers/tight ends and linebackers.

"We've got a good mix of size and speed in the backfield. There are some guys that can flat-out run and there are some guys that are bruisers," Allen noted. "I think we will be able to get to the edge as well as pound it up the middle."

The running backs are: JAKSAN PRICE, Union Local — A 5-11, 195-pounder, Price ran for 3,750 yards and scored 40 touchdowns for the Jets.

He was an all-state honoree, along with all-OVAC and all-Eastern District.

Jaksan is the son of Jamie and Tammy Price of New Athens.

MARSHAL SAYRE, Caldwell — This 5-10, 200-pounder had 3,618 career rushing yards for the Redskins while scoring 46 touchdowns. He averaged 8.5 yards per carry. Defensively, he charted 227 tackles, intercepted half-a-dozen passes and forced a trio of fumbles.

Sayre was first-team all-Ohio as a senior and third team as a junior.

He will attend Muskingum University in the fall.

Marshal is the son of Michael and Melinda Sayre of Caldwell.

See OHIO, Page B2

West Virginia announces players for all-star game

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Wheeling Central's Mike Young has finalized his West Virginia roster for the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game by naming his wide receivers and linebackers.

The game will be played on Saturday, July 22 at 7:15 at Wheeling Island Stadium. Players will report to Wheeling University on Sunday for the start of the one-week camp in preparation for the event.

"I like the makeup of our team," Young said. "We've got some receivers that can really run and have good hands. Our linebackers might be the strength of our defense. We've got some good ones."

The wide receivers/tight ends are:

WILL JAMES, Wheeling Park — This 6-0, 150-pounder has speed to burn as he caught several long touchdown passes for the Patriots last fall.

A standout student, he achieved a 4.1 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society.

James will attend Wheeling University in the fall to continue his academic and athletic careers.

Will is the son of DeSean and Brenna James of Wheeling.

• **Players**

Continued from Page B1

A four-year letterman for the Cadets, he caught 51 passes for 1,043 yards last fall.

He was first-team all-OVAC and second-team all-Valley.

Coleman will attend Walsh University.

Nate is the son of Robert and Rhonda Coleman of Wheeling.

LUCA DILORENZO, Linsly — A 5-7, 150-pound athlete. DiLorenzo lined up at several positions for the Cadets during his career.

After starting as a quarterback, he eventually moved to wideout. Young hinted he could be used in the backfield, as well.

Luca is the son of Ron Scott and Adria DiLorenzo.

The linebackers are:

JUVENCIO QUINTANA, Jr., Oak Glen — This 5-10, 190-pounder was named Offensive Lineman of the Year for the Golden Bears after grading out at 92 percent.

However, Young indicated he would be used on the defensive side of the ball where he made 94 tackles — seven TFLs — and forced a fumble last fall.

Juencio is the son of Juencio Sr. and Andrea Southards of New Cumberland.

ERICK BROTHERS, Jr., Wheeling Park — A 6-1, 220-pounder for the Patriots. Brothers Jr. made 115 tackles, had 18 TFLs, four quarterback sacks and an interception last fall.

He was second-team all-state and first-team all-valley. Also a three-time W.Va. state wrestling champion, he has signed with West Virginia University.

Erick is the son of Erick Sr. and Tashina Brothers of Wheeling.

ADAM ANGEL IV, Cameron — A 6-2, 180-pounder. Angel charted 152 tackles last fall, with 108 being solo stops. He recorded 13 TFLs, sacked the opposing quarterback eight times, recovered six fumbles and forced five. He had five defensive touchdowns.

He was first-team all-state Class A, first-team all-OVAC and first-team all-Mason Dixon.

Angel will enroll in the electricians union.

Adam is the son of Adam Angel III. **BRADEN WHIPKEY**, Parkersburg South — A 6-3, 215-pounder, Whipkey was a key component of the W.Va. Class AAA runner up Patriots.

He was an all-OVAC honorable mention.

Whipkey will attend Marietta College in the fall.

Braden is the son of Amer and James Hall of Washington, W.Va.

LOGAN GASCHLER, Brooke — This 5-11, 210-pounder led the Bruins in tackles last season. He was on the all-OVAC first team.

Logan is the son of Bob and Kerry Gaschler of Wellsburg.

ZACK WISE, Hundred — A 5-8, 205-pounder, Wise was a two-time all-stater and two-time all-OVAC performer for the Hornets.

He charted 134 tackles and recovered a pair of fumbles.

Zack is the son of Larry and Correna Wise of Littleton.

LEVI TEETS, Trinity Christian — A 5-7, 165-pounder, Teets forced 15 fumbles in his career, recovering 10 in just 34 games. He also had 10 interceptions. Offensively, he ran for 2,168 career yards and scored 52 total touchdowns.

Teets was all-state second team in 2021 and 2022. He also made all-OVAC three times and all-Mason Dixon four times.

He will attend Grove City College in the fall.

Levi is the son of Mike and Lori Teets of Morgantown.

A late addition to the team:

DANTE SUGGS, Wheeling Central — This 6-2, 250-pounder was a terror for the Maroon Knights in both trenches.

He was a first-team all-stater in 2022 and 2023. He was also selected all-Valley in 2022-23.

Suggs will attend Denison University in the fall to continue his academic and athletic careers.

Dante is the son of Ricardo Suggs, Jr., and Megan Brak of Wheeling.

• **Ohio**

Continued from Page B1

TY'LIK SIMS, Steubenville — A 6-0, 185-pound athlete, Sims was all-Ohio, all-OVAC and all-Eastern District while at Big Red.

Sims will also see action in the defensive backfield.

He will attend Amherst College to continue his academic and athletic careers.

Ty'lik is the son of Sasha Sims of Steubenville.

The wide receivers are:

BRODY LATHIN, River — This 5-10, 185-pounder did just about everything for the Pilots during his four-year career.

As a senior, he ran for 479 yards and seven TDs while hauling in passes for 1,115 stripes and 16 six-pointers. On defense, he had 75 tackles, with 39 being solo, intercepted two passes and returned a pair of punts for TDs. He was the Eastern District Offensive Player of the Year and earned first-team all-Ohio Division VII honors.

He will enter the electrician's union.

Brody is the son of Dan and Sabrina Lollathin of Clarington.

DAVION BAHR, Cambridge — A 6-3, 180-pounder. Bahr broke the Bobcats' single-season record for TD receptions with 18.

He will attend Marietta College in the fall to continue his academic and athletic careers.

Damion is the son of LaToya and Abdulai Bahr of Cambridge.

ZANE KINSEY, Toronto — A 5-10, 180-pound sprinter, Kinsey was an honorable mention all-Ohio Division VII selection.

He will attend Walsh University in the fall.

Zane is the son of Ted and Jill Kinsey of Wellsville.

RAY RAY PETTIGREW, Bellaire — This 5-10, 165-pounder can literally fly, be it catching passes, returning kickoff and punts or running back interceptions. He set the Big Reds record for picks.

Pettigrew was a two-

time all-Ohio selection and a three-time all-Valley honoree.

He will attend the University of Findlay.

Ray Ray is the son of Mary Pope and resides in Martins Ferry.

MASON ABERTS, Bridgeport — A 5-10, 160-pound versatile athlete starred on both sides of the football for the Bulldogs.

Defensively, Aberts made 94 tackles and, on offense, he caught 43 passes for 668 yards and scored seven touchdowns.

He will continue his academic and athletic careers at Bethany College.

Mason is the son of Carma Taylor and Erick Aberts of Bridgeport.

ANDREW VERA, St. Clairsville — A 6-0, 170-pounder, Vera was the starting quarterback for the Red Devils.

Both a passer and a runner, he accounted for 1,700 yards on 109 completions, with 18 going for touchdowns. He also ran for 870 yards and an additional 15 six-pointers.

He earned first-team all-OVAC, first-team All-Buckeye 8 and first-team all-Eastern District. He was honorable mention all-Ohio.

He will attend Ohio University.

Andrew is the son of Rob and Jennifer Vera of St. Clairsville.

The tight ends are:

LANDYN HORES, Martins Ferry. A 6-5, 200-pounder, Hores caught 26 passes for 531 yards and nine touchdowns for the Purple Riders. On defense, he amassed 92 tackles, 11 TFLs, had four quarterback sacks and recovered two fumbles.

He will attend Wheeling University in the fall.

Landyn is the son of Jay and Karlie Hores of Martins Ferry.

LUCCA MORELLI, Steubenville Catholic — A 6-12, 210-pounder, Morelli was a two-time honorable mention all-Ohioan for the Crusaders. He was also first-team all-Buckeye 8.

He will attend Heidelberg University.

Lucca is the son of Cort-

ney and Rich Morelli of Steubenville.

The linebackers are: **TREY HOOVER**, Buckeye Local — This 6-0, 225-pounder was a two-way standout for the Panthers.

Defensively, he charted 100-plus tackles his final three years, with 130 his senior season. On offense, he gained more than 1,000 yards in each of the aforementioned seasons, with 1,300 in his sophomore season.

He was a three-time all-Ohioan.

Trey is the son of Jim and Robyn Hoover of Mingo Junction.

ZAIDEN HUCK, Fort Frye. A 5-11, 195-pounder was also a two-way threat for the Cadets.

Defensively, he was a first-team Division VI all-Ohioan linebacker and participated in the North-South Game.

He was also first-team all-Eastern District and first-team all-OVAC after making 200-plus tackles and averaging 196 yards per catch as a tight end.

Huck is committed to Marietta College.

Zaiden is the son of Chad and Missy Huck of Beverly.

KYJHAUN HOPKINS, Steubenville — This 5-11, 180-pounder was a two-way performer for Big Red.

Defensively, he logged 88 tackles and was named the Defensive Player of the Year.

Offensively, he had 13 receptions for 265 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

He will attend Notre Dame College in the fall to continue his academic and athletic careers.

KyJhaun is the son of Markis Hopkins and Erica Pitts.

MATTHEW PARSONS, Edison. A 6-1, 195-pounder, Parsons played linebacker on defense and split time at fullback and tight end on offense as the Wildcats went 10-0 in the regular season.

On defense he charted 103 tackles, with 10 being behind the line of scrimmage. He also had one quarterback sack and one interception.

He received first-team all-Ohio in Division V. He was also all-Eastern District and all-OVAC.

Matthew is the son of Joe and Krista Parsons of Hammondsville.

GEORGE HULSEY, Martins Ferry — A 5-9, 180-pounder, Hulsey was a three-year letterman for the Purple Riders. He lettered four years as a wrestler.

He saw most of his playing time as a standout linebacker, while also serving as a blocking fullback.

Hulsey will further his academic and athletic careers at Bethany College.

George is the son of Frank Conner and Kristi Hulsey of Martins Ferry.

The game is set for Saturday, July 22 at 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

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OVAC RUDY MUMLEY
ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CLASSIC

W.Va. Roster Finalized With WRs And LBs

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Wheeling Central's Mike Young has finalized his West Virginia roster for the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game by naming his wide receivers and linebackers.

The game will be played on Saturday, July 22 at 7:15 at Wheeling Island Stadium. Players will report to Wheeling University on Sunday for the start of the one-week camp in preparation for the event.

"I like the makeup of our team," Young said. "We've got some receivers that can really run and have good hands."

"Our linebackers might be the strength of our defense. We've got some good ones."

The wide receivers/tight ends are:

WILL JAMES, Wheeling Park - This 6-0, 150-pounder has speed to burn as he caught several long touchdown passes for the Patriots last fall.

A standout student, he achieved a 4.1 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society.

James will attend Wheeling University in the fall to continue his academic and athletic careers.

Will is the son of DeSean and Brenna James of Wheeling.

NATE COLEMAN, Linsly - A 6-3, 195-pounder, Coleman gives the Mountaineers some size when they look to throw.

A four-year letterman for the Cadets, he caught 51 passes for 1,043 yards last fall.

He was first-team all-OVAC and second-team all-Valley.

Coleman will attend Walsh University.

Nate is the son of Robert and Rhonda Coleman of Wheeling.

Please see W.VA., Page 13

BIG 12 FOOTBALL MEDIA DAYS

Brown Takes Issue With WVU's Preseason Pick Of Last Place



Photo Provided

West Virginia University head football coach Neal Brown spoke about the Mountaineers during Day 2 of the Big 12 Media Days on Thursday at AT&T Stadium in Texas.

Mountaineers Head Coach Doesn't Agree With Selection

MORGANTOWN — We will begin today with a bit of a guessing game for you.

After all, at Big 12 Media Day, isn't everything a guessing game? So, we would ask you to name which conference coach over the two-run that ended Thursday uttered the following statement, disguised only so that it doesn't become obvious who was speaking:

"I love what we bring back on the offensive line," this coach told the media, noting that a couple of his linemen were young and one a freshman All-American. "We're bringing back all five starting offensive linemen. We've recruited the position well over the last two years and it's a highly competitive room."

Then, when noted that a strong offensive line wins championships, this coach said



BOB HERTZ
WV News

"I'm with you, man. You win football games up front, and you've got to recruit big humans to make that happen, and that's something we've committed ourselves to doing over the last two years, and we'll continue to commit ourselves to."

OK, your guess?

Now, as much as you've heard how the strength of this season's West Virginia football team — that's picked to finish a distant last in the Big 12 — is its offensive line, and really its lifeline to a successful offensive season, you probably are thinking that was a point Neal Brown was stressing when he took to the speaker's chair.

You'd be wrong.

Please see BROWN, Page 12



DANA HOLGORSEN

Holgorsen Happy To Coach In Power 5 League

By BOB HERTZEL
WV News

MORGANTOWN — No one really knows what flashed through Dana Holgorsen's mind on Wednesday when he and his University of Houston football contingent walked into the massive, opulent AT&T Stadium for Big 12 Media Day.

It was, in a way, a homecoming for him. He was back where he always felt he belonged, back in the big time.

You kind of figure he didn't think that way when he left the ranks of career assistant coach to take over as head coach at West Virginia back in 2013, but you know how hard he celebrated that and for how long.

It was his break, his

Please see 5, Page 12

Allen Has Ohio All Stars Right Where He Wants

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Blake Allen has completed his Ohio roster for the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Today the Barnesville head coach selects his running backs, wide receivers/tight ends and linebackers.

"We've got a good mix of size and speed in the backfield. There are some guys that can flat-out run and there are some guys that are bruisers," Allen noted. "I think we will be able to get to the edge as well as pound it up the middle."

The running backs are:

JAKSAN PRICE, Union Local - A 5-11, 195-pounder, Price ran for 3,750 yards and scored 40 touchdowns for the Jets.

He was an all-state honoree, along with all-OVAC and all-Eastern District.

Jaksan is the son of Jamie and Tammy Price of New Athens.

MARSHAL SAYRE, Caldwell - This 5-10, 200-pounder had 3,618 career rushing yards for the Redskins while scoring 46 touchdowns. He averaged 8.5 yards per carry. Defensive



AP Photo

Czech Republic's Marketa Vondrousova in action against Ukraine's Elina Svitolina during the women's semifinal singles match on day 11 of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Thursday.

Jabeur, Vondrousova Will Meet For Wimbledon Title

WIMBLEDON, England 6-3.

(AP) — There was a time — a year ago; six months ago, even — that Ons Jabeur might not have recovered from the deficit she found herself in during the Wimbledon semifinals. Down a set. Down a break in the second set. So close to being just a game from defeat.

She credits a sports psychologist with helping her understand how to deal with those on-court situations, with managing to keep her focus, keep her strokes on-target. Thanks in part to that, and a steadiness down the stretch at Centre Court on Thursday, Jabeur is on her way to a second consecutive final at the All England Club and her third title match in the past five Grand Slam tournaments.

Now she wants to win a trophy. The sixth-seeded Jabeur earned the right to play for one again by beating big-hitting Aryna Sabalenka 6-7 (5), 6-4.

"I'm very proud of myself, because maybe old me would have lost the match today and went back home already. But I'm glad that I kept digging very deep and finding the strength," said Jabeur, a 28-year-old from Tunisia who already was the only Arab woman and only North African woman to reach a major final.

"I'm learning to transform the bad energy into a good one," Jabeur said, explaining that she was able to get over the anger she felt after the first set. "Some things I have no control over: She can ace any time. She can hit the big serve, even if I have a break point. That's frustrating a bit. But I'm glad that I'm accepting it and I'm digging deep to just go and win this match — and, hopefully, this tournament."

Please see TITLE, Page 12

Is Djokovic The Favorite At Wimbledon? Of Course He Is

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

Djokovic is the favorite to win Wimbledon, but he is not the only player to have a chance.

for the start of the one week camp in preparation for the event.

"I like the makeup of our team," Young said. "We've got some receivers that can really run and have good hands."

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Please see W.V.A., Page 13



West Virginia University head football coach Neal Brown spoke about the Mountaineers during Day 2 of the Big 12 Media Days on Thursday at AT&T Stadium in Texas. Photo Provided

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MARSHAL SAYRE, Caldwell - This 5-10, 200-pounder had 3,618 career rushing yards for the Redskins while scoring 46 touchdowns. He averaged 8.5 yards per carry. Defensively, he charted 227 tackles, intercepted half-a-dozen passes and forced a trio of fumbles.

Sayre was first-team all-Ohio as a senior and third team as a junior.

He will attend Muskingum University in the fall.

Marshal is the son of Michael and Melinda Sayre of Caldwell.

TY'LIK SIMS, Steubenville - A 6-0, 185-pound athlete. Sims was all-Ohio, all-OVAC and all-Eastern District while at Big Red.

Sims will also see action in the defensive backfield.

He will attend Amherst College to continue his academic and athletic careers.

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Please see TITLE, Page 12

Is Djokovic The Favorite At Wimbledon? Of Course He Is

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) - Novak Djokovic looked as if he were a bit surprised by the question.

And maybe he should have been. The query, essentially, was this: Are you the favorite to win the championship at Wimbledon? Now, sure, there is some work to be done to collect that trophy.

First Djokovic, 36, needs to beat No. 8 seed Jannik Sinner, 21, on Friday in what represents the largest age gap between two men's semifinalists at the All England Club in the professional era, which began in 1968.

And after that, Djokovic would need to beat the winner of that day's other match - No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz or No. 3 Daniil Medvedev - in the final on Sunday.

This, then, was Djokovic's reply: "I mean, I don't want to sound arrogant, but of course I would consider myself the favorite."

What Djokovic might have been forgiven for saying, but was too polite to, was: "Come on, my friend. Is that really what you want to ask? Of course I expect to win the title. And you should expect me to win the title. And everybody should expect me to win the title."



AP Photo
Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns a shot to Russia's Andrey Rublev to win their men's singles match on day nine of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Tuesday.

Start by looking at his accomplishments relative to the other three men still around at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament:

- Djokovic has won seven Wimbledon titles. The other three guys have won a total of zero.

- Djokovic has reached his 12th Wimbledon semifinal. The other three guys have never played in one.

- Djokovic has won a men's-record 23 Grand Slam titles, including both so far this year. The other three guys have won a total of two: Medvedev at the 2021 U.S. Open. Alcaraz at the 2022 U.S. Open.

- Djokovic will be participating in his 46th major semifinal on Friday, equaling Roger Federer's record for men. The other three guys have raised their combined total to 10: Medvedev is into his sixth, Alcaraz his third, Sinner his first.

And then there's also this: Djokovic is a combined 12-5 against the other three guys head-to-head. He leads Sinner 2-0, including a win in last year's Wimbledon quarterfinals. Sinner took the first two sets in that one but blew the huge lead and lost in five.

After eliminating No. 7 Andrey Rublev in the quarterfinals Tuesday, Djokovic was asked during his on-court interview what it feels like to constantly be the player every else is focused on trying to beat.

Please see DJOKOVIC, Page 12

Power 5 League

By BOB HERTZELL
WV News

MORGANTOWN - No one really knows what flashed through Dana Holgorsen's mind on Wednesday when he and his University of Houston football contingent walked into the massive, opulent AT&T Stadium for Big 12 Media Day.

It was, in a way, a homecoming for him. He was back where he always felt he belonged, back in the big time.

You kind of figure he didn't think that way when he left the ranks of career assistant coach to take over as head coach at West Virginia back in 2013, but you know how hard he celebrated that and for how long.

It was his break, his

Please see 5, Page 12

does not need to worry about Rafael Nadal. He's been sidelined since January with a bad hip and indicated that if he is able to return to competition, 2024 will be his final season.

Next to try to solve Djokovic, who has won 26 consecutive Grand

I think, with the serve. He's been serving better.

"On grass, obviously, (that) makes a difference. He's a very complete player."

Sinner's description of facing Djokovic: "It is also a little bit mental, no? If you play more so far. But he wants to do much more in the sport.

He and Medvedev, 27, offer contrasting styles that could produce a scintillating matchup. Still, all eyes on Friday — and, most assume, Sunday, too — will be on Djokovic.

(Continued from Page 11)

step into big time football with a program of his, one in which he could work out his Air Raid magic and, he will admit, he celebrated accordingly.

But it was different this time around. He was older, maybe wiser, probably not calmed down one bit. He seemed to burn out at WVU and the bright lights of big city Houston life drew him to it like a fly heads toward a burning bulb.

While the lifestyle fit him, the football didn't because it wasn't Power 5 football.

And he missed that. You could tell it by his reaction to Media Day.

"We're personally excited to be back, this is a special deal," Holgorsen said. "The last four years have been a little different for me being in the American Conference and it really makes you appreciate a conference like the Big 12. It's exciting to be the new guy again."

And it wasn't only Holgorsen returning to the big time. It was the University of Houston, too, which had had some amazing runs back in the old Southwest Conference days before being snubbed when it disbanded and merged with the Big Eight, leaving the Cougars out in the cold.

Houston had always been something of a maverick program, reaching its greatest heights under Bill Yeoman but also sent into NCAA prison for his almost unheard-of recruiting violations.

Wikipedia tells us that in 1988 the school was sanctioned for almost 250 violations and was hit harder than any program ever had been previously, going on probation for five years, being banned from bowl games for two years and kept off live television for a year while losing 15 scholarships.

The NCAA added that it would have been much worse had Yeoman not left the school following a 1-10 season.

So, Houston — like the man they would eventually hire in Holgorsen — had tasted the big-time success and had liked it, clamoring for it ever since but being turned down on every attempt it made, including by the SEC.

Now, as Oklahoma and Texas left the Big 12, there was a huge void in the conference and Houston, a city of 6 million people, a big-league city, was inviting them back and it became official with an on-campus celebration.

Holgorsen skipped it, instead vacationing in Cabo, Mexico, with his family.

"I'm tired of celebrating," Holgorsen said at media day, using words he had not uttered while at WVU. "The official announcement was 18 or 20 months ago: we've been preparing for this moment."

"The official drop-the-ball celebration, I just wasn't really interested in skipping the vacation for it. They did a midnight toast that they wanted me to be a part of, but after a long day golfing and eating and drinking in Cabo, I didn't think that would be a good thing for me."

Do not take this as being a new Dana Holgorsen, however. He seems very much like the old Holgorsen, right down to his Red Bull.

"I'm actually sponsored by Red Bull now," Holgorsen told the hosts of a Houston fan website during media day. "They send me care packages."

That might be worth more than \$100,000 a year, although Holgorsen admits he's trying to moderate.

"I do that more afternoon. I try not to drink one before noon. I do espresso or coffee, whatever I can get my hands on.

After noon I get me a little ripple and see where the rest of the day goes."

Holgorsen, of course, was hired at West Virginia to act as a coach in waiting behind Bill Stewart for a year as the team readied itself for its move to the Big 12, a coaching change as screwed up as is the basketball transition they are trying to negotiate presently with Bob Huggins.

Having gone through the transition once, Holgorsen is the perfect man for the job, if not the same football man he was.

Gone, he says, is his emphasis on the Air Raid offense that made him famous. "I've been doing things the one way for a long time, the Air Raid way," he said. "But I've evolved and developed."

Still, the Air Raid was important in helping him figure out how to make the move up, for Georgia coach Kirby Smart invited him this year to speak on the Air Raid to a high school coaches clinic he held and Holgorsen used it to see how far big-time football had progressed since he left WVU.

"What they are doing in Athens right now is on another level," Holgorsen marveled. "I've been to a lot of camps. I've been to NFL camps, to Alabama, a lot of places, but they are doing so much more."

"Just the commitment from the athletic department, from the funding to how they feed them, how they practice, how they lift, what their staff looks like. It's big time and clearly it works because they are back on top."

"They were gracious enough to open all their doors and I took a lot of ideas out of there from what their building looks like; what the day-to-day for the student-athlete looks like. We have been designing our building the last six months and it changed a lot of our thoughts."

Media Day, however, symbolically turned him back into a football coach. He is now thinking about the game, the season, and while he isn't an Air Raid coach any longer, he is a quarterback coach at a school that prides itself on quarterbacks, going back to Andre Ware and David Klingler, as well as Case Keenum, who Holgorsen tutored when he was offensive coordinator at Houston.

The last few years he leaned on the arm of Clayton Tune to run the show, but now must go into the Big 12 without him.

He isn't worried. "We went out and identified Donovan Smith pretty early and went hard on him. He's got 21 games under his belt (before transferring from Texas Tech. He's been wanting to come to Houston and try to be the guy. I'd be surprised if it's not him. He's the leader in the clubhouse right now and I'd be surprised if it's not him."

His transfer to Houston from Texas Tech is one of those things that Power 5 football offers Holgorsen that he didn't have before in the American Conference.

Being in the Big 12 means everything," Holgorsen said.

"We're not recruiting any different. We just don't get told no. We came to Houston and they said we'd have a shot at the top players."

"We did, but at the end of the day they'd say, 'Coach, I just want to play Power 5 football.'"

"I'd tell them. 'I don't blame you. I want to coach Power 5 football.'"

Now both can do that together.

OHIO

(Continued from Page 11)

defense, he had 75 tackles, with 39 being solo, intercepted two passes and returned a pair of punts for TDs. He was the Eastern District Offensive Player of the Year and earned first-team all-Ohio Division VII honors.

He will enter the electrician's union. Brody is the son of Dan and Sabrina Lollathin of Clarington.

DAVION BAHR, Cambridge - A 6-3, 180-pounder, Bahr broke the Bobcats' single-season record for TD receptions with 18.

He will attend Marietta College in the fall to continue his academic and athletic careers.

Damion is the son of LaToya and Abdulai Bahr of Cambridge.

ZANE KINSEY, Toronto - A 5-10, 180-pound sprinter. Kinsey was an honorable mention all-Ohio Division VII selection.

He will attend Walsh University in the fall.

Zane is the son of Ted and Jill Kinsey of Wellsville.

RAY RAY PETTIGREW, Bellaire - This 5-10, 165-pounder can literally fly, be it catching passes, returning kickoff and punts or running back interceptions. He set the Big Reds record for pick-6s.

Pettigrew was a two-time all-Ohio selection and a three-time all-Valley honoree.

He will attend the University of Findlay.

Ray Ray is the son of Mary Pope and resides in Martins Ferry.

MASON ABERTS, Bridgeport - A 5-10, 160-pound versatile athlete starred on both sides of the football for the Bulldogs.

Defensively, Aberts made 94 tackles and, on offense, he caught 43 passes for 668 yards and scored seven touchdowns.

He will continue his academic and athletic careers at Bethany College.

Mason is the son of Carma Taylor and Erick Aberts of Bridgeport.

ANDREW VERA, St. Clairsville - A 6-0, 170-pounder, Vera was the starting quarterback for the Red Devils.

Both a passer and a runner, he accounted for 1,700 yards on 109 completions, with 18 going for touchdowns. He also ran for 870 yards and an additional 15 six-pointers.

He earned first-team all-OVAC, first-team All-Buckeye 8 and first-team all-Eastern District. He was honorable mention all-Ohio.

He will attend Ohio University.

Andrew is the son of Rob and Jennifer Vera of St. Clairsville.

The tight ends are:

LANDYN HORES, Martins Ferry -- A 6-5, 200-pounder, Hores caught 26 passes for 531 yards and nine touchdowns for the Purple Riders. On defense, he amassed 92 tackles, 11 TFLs, had four quarterback sacks and recovered two fumbles.

He will attend Wheeling University in the fall.

Landyn is the son of Jay and Karlie Hores of Martins Ferry.

LUCCA MORELLI, Steubenville Catholic - A 6-12, 210-pounder, Morelli was a two-time honorable mention all-Ohioan for the Crusaders. He was also first-team all-Buckeye 8.

He will attend Heidelberg University.

Lucca is the son of Cortney and Rich Morelli of Steubenville.

The linebackers are:

TREY HOOVER, Buckeye Local - This 6-0, 225-pounder was a two-way standout for the Panthers.

Defensively, he charted 100-plus tackles his final three years, with 130 his senior season. On offense, he gained more than 1,000 yards in each of the aforementioned seasons, with 1,300 in his sophomore season.

He was a three-time all-Ohioan.

Trey is the son of Jim and Robyn Hoover of Mingo Junction.

ZAIDEN HUCK, Fort Frye -- A 5-11, 195-pounder was also a two-way threat for the Cadets.

Defensively, he was a first-team Division VI all-Ohioan linebacker and participated in the North-South Game.

He was also first-team all-Eastern District and first-team all-OVAC after making 200-plus tackles and averaging 196 yards per catch as a tight end.

Huck is committed to Marietta College.

Zaiden is the son of Chad and Missy Huck of Beverly.

KYJHAUN HOPKINS, Steubenville - This 5-11, 180-pounder was a two-way performer for Big Red.

Defensively, he logged 88 tackles and was named the Defensive Player of the Year.

Offensively, he had 13 receptions for 265 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

He will attend Notre Dame College in the fall to continue his academic and athletic careers.

KyJhaun is the son of Markis Hopkins and Erica Pitts.

MATTHEW PARSONS, Edison -- A 6-1, 195-pounder, Parsons played linebacker on defense and split time at fullback and tight end on offense as the Wildcats went 10-0 in the regular season.

On defense he charted 103 tackles, with 10 being behind the line of scrimmage. He also had one quarterback sack and one interception.

He received first-team all-Ohio in Division V. He was also all-Eastern District and all-OVAC.

Matthew is the son of Joe and Krista Parsons of Hammondsville.

GEORGE HULSEY, Martins Ferry - A 5-9, 180-pounder, Hulsey was a three-year letterman for the Purple Riders. He lettered four years as a wrestler.

He saw most of his playing time as a standout linebacker, while also serving as a blocking fullback.

Hulsey will further his academic and athletic careers at Bethany College.

George is the son of Frank Conner and Kristi Hulsey of Martins Ferry.

The game is set for Saturday, July 22 at 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

BROWN

(Continued from Page 11)

Oh, Brown heaped praise on his O-line, but the above comments came from Steve Sarkisian, the coach of the Texas Longhorns, picked to win the conference in their final year before heading for the SEC.

We bring this up only to emphasize Brown would seem to be on the right track toward building his team with his emphasis on an offensive line and a running game this year; a running game led by a player he dubbed "a budding superstar" in CJ Donaldson.

As it turns out, Brown understands he's walking a tightrope as he enters his fifth season as

mains to be seen. But rest assured if it doesn't, Brown can't say it wasn't for a lack of analyzing what was wrong and doing what he could to correct it.

First of all, Brown left no doubt that he believes this is a better team than the conference's media does, that group having ruined Brown's vacation by putting them last.

"I do not agree with that," Brown said, but he did find something good about it.

"The good thing, the positive is that the media has not been, as far as predicting the Big 12 goes, very successful in recent years, so I think that bodes well

"From that point on, my vacation was over. I went into football mode."

He even laid it out before his players as soon as he could.

"I think in this day and age of media information being able to ignore anything," he explained. "I think your best option is just to confront it. We had a team meeting on Tuesday where we talked about it in detail, and probably in more colorful terms that I did here, but I said a lot of the same things to our team."

"I have a strong belief, and what we spend a lot of time on, is just talking about being who

ball and throwing gives them a different look and, with added speed on the outside, a chance to make explosive plays.

"I'm excited about what we're going to look like. We're going to be more athletic at the quarterback position. I expect you'll see some ground and pound next season," he said.

The real rebuild, though, comes on defense.

There was a time when, in the Big 12, all you tried to do was outscore the other team. No more.

"You've got to be able to defend the pass," Brown said when asked how important that

reflect back, is we knew we needed to get some veterans, so we went out and added Montre Miller from Kent State, who started double-digit games at corner, was an All-MAC player, and added Anthony Wilson, who's started over 30 games and was a three-time All-Sun Belt player at Georgia Southern and brought in Beanie Bishop, who played at two previous institutions with double-digit starts."

They put in some new concepts and created a new game plan to improve the play on defense.

"What we have done is sim-

A face-to-face meeting with one of his new bosses, an unwanted but not unwelcome extended bit of downtime to heal up and a lengthy new contract to remain in Pittsburgh has given Jarry a welcome dose of peace.

Signing for five years and \$26.875 million to stay in the only NHL home he's ever known will do that.

"I want to be in Pitts-

a postseason breakthrough. He stumbled through a first-round loss to the New York Islanders in 2021 and a broken foot kept him out of all but one game of a first-round loss to the New York Rangers in 2022.

The Penguins missed the playoffs this spring, ending the longest active postseason streak in major North American sports at 16 years. Jarry's spotty play was a major

is stronger "in a different way" than he was before.

"Being able to have the people work with me every day, I think that's helped," Jarry said. "It's really it's put me in a good position, has put me in a good position to be fit."

The Penguins have added experienced depth behind Jarry, bringing in Magnus Hellberg and Alex Nedeljkovic to join Casey DeSmith in the

burgh, Thursday, March 30. Jarry believes his injury riddled 2022-23 season is an anomaly. So do the Pittsburgh Penguins, who signed the two-time All-Star goaltender to an eyebrow-raising five-year deal rather let him walk in free agency.

fight to be Jarry's primary backup. Dubas, whose contract as the Maple Leafs general manager was not renewed, also traded for veteran forward Reilly Smith and signed defenseman Ryan Graves to a six-year deal.

It was the highlights of

a busy few weeks for Dubas as he retooled around his team's core.

Jarry believes this season's team will be "more competitive" than the one that limped to the finish and ultimately out of the playoffs.

"It was very frustrating, very upsetting that

that's what happened and we weren't able to make it," Jarry said. "And I think this year it's going to change. Things are going to change and we're going to be a better team. And I think that we'll have a really good chance this year."

Ben An Opens Wth 61 At Scottish Open With Hope For More Links Golf

GULLANE, Scotland (AP) — Byeong Hun An played well enough in the Scottish Open on Thursday that he had reason to hope he can stick around for more links golf next week.

An ran off four straight birdies early in his round at The Renaissance Club and closed with a 25-foot birdie putt on the tough par-3 ninth hole for a 9-under 61, giving him a two-shot lead over Davis Riley.

An had his best score on the PGA Tour — the Scottish Open is co-sanctioned with the European tour — and it came at just the right time. This is the final tournament for players to try to earn a spot in the British Open next week at Royal Liverpool. The leading three players not already exempt will earn spots.

"It's one of those days, every shot you hit just has a perfect number," An said. "Pitched right, how the ball reacted on the greens, everything was perfect. Some of the putts I had were very straightforward putts that I think I left in a good spot. Everything went really well."

Rory McIlroy had few complaints after taking a two-week break from competition, much of that time without touching a club. He holed an eagle putt and made six birdies to offset a few mistakes for a 64, leaving him tied with Thomas Detry.

"It's a great start, and I would have

taken it before I teed off," McIlroy said.

Riley played in the afternoon when the wind got a little stronger and took as much pride in his par putts as some of his seven birdies.

Riley already has one eye on next week, his British Open debut. He narrowly missed out last year and clinched a spot when he shot 66 in the final round at Bay Hill, which offered three British Open spots to top finishers.

Riley first came to Scotland in 2014 as part of the Junior Ryder Cup team. That wasn't on a links course, and The Renaissance Club has only the look of links — it's not true links soil. It's still not a bad test for what awaits at Royal Liverpool.

Collin Morikawa credited his experience at The Renaissance Club to helping him win the British Open in 2021. Riley could sense and feel how to flight shots and use the ground.

"It's so much different than playing golf in the States," Riley said. "It's just so much fun, flighting shots, maneuvering it with the wind and playing slopes, a part of the game that I really enjoy."

"As firm as it gets, you can utilize some slopes. That's the best part about it is there's a million different ways to hit the shot right and that's what's so fun about it. That part today, I enjoyed, and that was a big part of the reason I played well."

He has been looking for momentum

anywhere he can find. His season got off to a slow start until he won the Zurich Classic — the lone team event on the PGA Tour — in New Orleans with Nick Hardy. In his eyes, Riley had his second straight round of 7-under par. He shot a 7-under 65 in the final round of the Rocket Mortgage Classic two weeks ago.

"I'm just trying to take that and carry it over," he said. Riley managed just that on a course nothing like Detroit Golf Club in a town nothing like Detroit.

McIlroy is playing the Scottish Open for only the seventh time as a pro dating to 2008. He has yet to finish in the top 10, and he missed the cut at The Renaissance Club in 2021.

"I haven't had particularly great experiences around this golf course the last couple times I've played," McIlroy said. "But I feel like my game is definitely in better shape than the last couple times I have played The Scottish Open. Great start. Controlled my ball nicely."

W.VA.

(Continued from Page 9)

LUCA DILORENZO, Linsly - A 5-7, 150-pound athlete, DiLorenzo lined up at several positions for the Cadets during his career.

After starting as a quarterback, he eventually moved to wideout. Young hinted he could be used in the backfield, as well.

Luca is the son of Ron Scott and Adria DiLorenzo.

The linebackers are:
JUVENCIO QUINTANA, Jr., Oak Glen - This 5-10, 190-pounder was named Offensive Lineman of the Year for the Golden Bears after grading out at 92 percent.

However, Young indicated he would be used on the defensive side of the ball where he made 94 tackles - seven TFLs - and forced a fumble last fall.

Juencio is the son of Juencio Sr. and Andrea Southards of New Cumberland.

ERICK BROTHERS, Jr., Wheeling Park - A 6-1, 220-pounder for the Patriots, Brothers Jr. made 115 tackles, had 18 TFLs, four quarterback sacks and an interception last fall.

He was second-team all-state and first-team all-valley. Also a three-time W.Va. state wrestling champion, he has signed with West Virginia University.

Erick is the son of Erick Sr. and Tashina Brothers of Wheeling.

ADAM ANGEL IV, Cameron - A 6-2, 180-pounder, Angel charted 152 tackles last fall, with 108 being solo stops. He recorded 13 TFLs, sacked the opposing quarterback eight times, recovered six fumbles and forced five. He had five defensive touchdowns.

He was first-team all-state Class A, first-team all-OVAC and first-team all-Mason Dixon.

Angel will enroll in the electricians union.

Adam is the son of Adam Angel III.
BRADEN WHIPKEY, Parkersburg South - A 6-3, 215-pounder.

Whipkey was a key component of the W.Va. Class AAA runner up Patriots.

He was an all-OVAC honorable mention.

Whipkey will attend Marietta College in the fall.

Braden is the son of Amer and James Hall of Washington, W.Va.

LOGAN GASCHLER, Brooke - This 5-11, 210-pounder led the Bruins in tackles last season. He was on the all-OVAC first team.

Logan is the son of Bob and Kerry Gaschler of Wellsburg.

ZACK WISE, Hundred - A 5-8, 205-pounder, Wise was a two-time all-stater and two-time all-OVAC performer for the Hornets.

He charted 134 tackles and recovered a pair of fumbles.

Zack is the son of Larry and Correna Wise of Littleton.

LEVI TEETS, Trinity Christian - A 5-7, 165-pounder, Teets forced 15 fumbles in his career, recovering 10 in just 34 games. He also had 10 interceptions. Offensively, he ran for 2,168 career yards and scored 52 total touchdowns.

Teets was all-state second team in 2021 and 2022. He also made all-OVAC three times and all-Mason Dixon four times.

He will attend Grove City College in the fall.

Levi is the son of Mike and Lori Teets of Morgantown.


A late addition to the team:
DANTE SUGGS, Wheeling Central - This 6-2, 250-pounder was a terror for the Maroon Knights in both trenches.

He was a first-team all-stater in 2022 and 2023. He was also selected all-Valley in 2022-23.

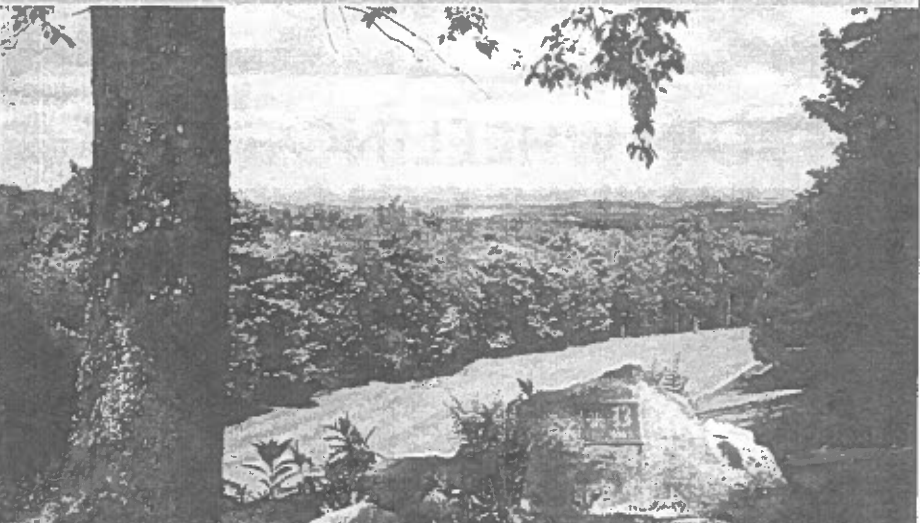
Suggs will attend Denison University in the fall to continue his academic and athletic careers.

Dante is the son of Ricardo Suggs, Jr., and Megan Brak of Wheeling.

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Announces QBs, RBs, PK

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Mike Young has been involved in two prior OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Games as a head coach of the West Virginia squad. He knows that big plays usually decide the game.

So, with that said, Young announces his quarterbacks, running backs and placekicker for the 77th edition of the bi-state contest, which will be played on Saturday, July 22 at 7:15 p.m. inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

The quarterbacks are:
JACOB COFFIELD, John Marshall - This 6-0, 175-pounder was a four-year letterman for the Monarchs. He was also a three-time all-OVAC first-teamer.

He will be going into the welding field.

Jacob is the son of Jason and Melissa Coffield of Moundsville.

DREW BOCZEK, Morgantown - A 5-10, 175-pounder. Boczek was a four-year letterwinner for the Mohigans where he also played slot receiver and safety.

Last season he completed 175 of 298 passes and had 20 TDs. He also ran the ball 40 times for 325 yards and dive TDs, while also catching 22 passes for 340 stripes and another three six-pointers.

Defensively, he made 204 tackles - 71 unassisted - and helped on another 138. He had three interceptions.

Boczek will attend St. Thomas More Prep in Connecticut to play a fifth year.

Drew is the son of Joe and Debbie Boczek of Morgantown.

The running backs are:

Please see WVA... Page 10

Ohio Linemen Big, Talented Across Fronts

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Size and talent are what Ohio head coach Blake Allen was looking for when he was seeking linemen - offensive and defensive - for the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

"We don't want to have kids playing both ways because with just one week of preparation, it's just too much to try and get them to learn two systems," Allen stressed.

A brief capsule of each offensive lineman follows:

QUENTIN LEASURE, Barnesville - This 6-0, 315-pounder earned first-team all-Ohio Division V, first-team all-OVAC and first-team all-Eastern District as the Shamrocks went 10-0 in the regular season.

"Quentin is a really smart kid who can help the other offensive linemen with our system," Allen noted. "We got just about everybody we were hoping for. There are some big, talented kids from good systems. I know most of the coaches on the Ohio side and these kids come from great systems. I know they will be ready to go."

Please see OHIO, Page 11

Advances to Championship Series

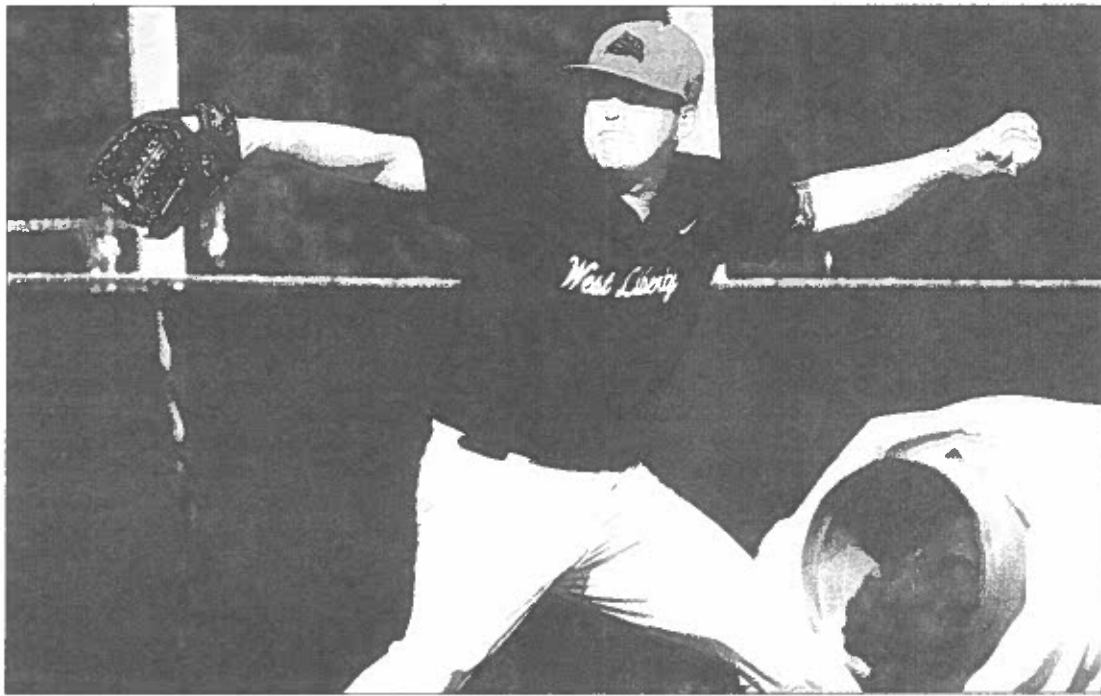


Photo By Kim North

Ryan Porras delivers to the plate Wednesday night for the Wheeling Pioneers against the Barton Braves at West Liberty University's Kovalick Field. Porras went five innings, striking out nine and walking six. He only allowed one hit in earning the win. He served as the graduate assistant pitching coach for Wheeling University last spring.

Pioneers Now Await Maynard-Moundsville Winner

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WEST LIBERTY - They're back and looking for redemption.

Third-seeded Wheeling completed its sweep of No. 2 Barton Wednesday night in an Ohio Valley Baseball League best-of-3 semifinal series with a 10-2 victory on West Liberty University's Kovalick Field. This came after an 11-10 win on Tuesday in Crescent.

The Pioneers (10-10) finished runner up to two-time defending champion Maynard last summer in a three-game sweep. However, this year they want a different result.

"We seem to save our best for the end of the season," Wheeling manager Scott Shaw said. "Pitching has really been good for us down the stretch. We are finally starting to hit the ball up and down the order. We're getting lucky, too."

Wheeling didn't waste any time in jumping on the Braves (14-7), who ended the season on a 5-game losing streak.

"All I can think of is the Hare vs. the Tortoise story," a disappointed Barton manager Billy Timko said. "It's not how you start, but how you finish. Tonight was like the other games in our streak, we'd get a hit here and there, but we couldn't string any together and get anything going offensively."

"No excuses, though. They (Wheeling) were a better team than us."

The Pioneers sent 18 batters to the plate in the second (8) and third innings (10) while tallying eight runs. For the game, they collected 11 hits - all singles and played station-to-station baseball.

Sonny Peluchette sparked the three-run sec-

Please see WHEELING, Page 10



BRETT YORMARK

I Don't Mind Telling You I'm Scared!

MORGANTOWN - I'm scared.

I don't mind telling you, I'm scared after listening to Brett Yormark, the Big 12 commissioner, address the annual Football Media Day.

See, he spoke for quite a while, gave an introductory address and did a Q&A, and you couldn't tell if were in A T & T Stadium or the A T & T board room.



BOB HERTZEL
WV News

Now I may be wrong, but I don't think in the entire time he had the microphone, I don't think I heard the word touchdown mentioned once and I'm not sure if how many times, if any, I heard a team's nickname mentioned.

Please see SCARED, Page 10

Post 1 Explodes Early, Often, Romps Past Wellsburg, 17-1

By **AARON PETCHAL**
For The Intelligencer

WELLSBURG - The first inning told the story.

Wheeling's first seven batters all reached safely and scored against Wellsburg, and Post 1 went on to defeat Post 34, 17-1, in five innings via mercy rule Wednesday evening at Brooke.

"The guys got going in the first," Wheeling (24-5) head coach Jon-Michael Bruner said. "We have hit pretty decent all season. We pretty much continued that today."

"We got off to a good start on the mound and defensively with Nate. We just kept hitting. That's baseball."

The visitors pounded out 17 hits on the day - six of which went for extra bases.

Wheeling tallied eight runs in the top of the first and the boys in the blue jerseys

never looked back.

"Wheeling is a good team," Wellsburg (4-9) head coach Micah Kinsley said. "Every time we play them, they hit the ball all over the field. If you don't play solid defense and hit the ball as well as they do, you are going to get beat."

"We have a very young team. We have seven freshmen, and we had an eighth grader out there today. We are an extremely young team. I knew we were going to take our lumps."

"Our kids hung in there. Our second pitcher - he's a freshman - and he came in and did well. He's a nice lefty."

"I hope all these kids stick together in the next couple of years. If they do, we will be a team with a bunch of seniors and juniors, and we will be able to compete against teams like Wheeling and Parkersburg."

Kinsley is a former Post 34 player. He played for Bob Sutton during his time playing for Wellsburg.

Post 1 plated two more runs in the third and two in the fourth before producing five more in the fifth.

Post 34 pushed a run across in the fourth.

Both teams used multiple pitchers. Nate Simon started and recorded the win for the boys from Ohio County. Simon struck out two without walking a batter in three innings of work on the mound. Jack Scouvar came on to pitch the fourth. He did not record a strikeout while walking one. Nick Tsoras pitched the fifth. He also did not record a strikeout while walking one.

Please see POST 1, Page 10



AP Photo

Christopher Eubanks, of the U.S., gestures to the crowd after losing to Russia's Daniil Medvedev in their men's singles match on day 10 of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Wednesday.

Eubanks' Magical Wimbledon Run Is Over With Loss To Medvedev

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) - Chris Eubanks woke up Wednesday morning ahead of playing for a berth in the final four at Wimbledon against 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev and, first thing, like so many of us, reached for his phone to see what the buzz was about on Twitter.

"It was just constant me," Eubanks said. "I was just like, 'This is so weird.' I looked at it. I was like, 'Man, I'm really about to play a Grand Slam quarterfinal today. This is cool.'"

He took less than 10 minutes to let that sink in, then, as the 27-year-old American who captivated the crowds at the All England Club and many folks back home put it, "was able to lock back in." And so he pushed Medvedev the distance, taking a two-

sets-to-one lead before running out of aces and energy.

Basking in the roars from the stands at No. 1 Court, the unseeded Eubanks came within four points of winning to extend his deepest run, by far, at a major tournament before Medvedev pulled away for a 6-4, 1-6, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-1 victory to reach the Wimbledon semifinals for the first time.

"It's like his level elevated into the fifth," Eubanks said, "where I had a little bit of a drop."

If Medvedev was unsteady for a bit, perhaps distracted by a back-and-forth with the chair umpire over a stray ball that headed toward the stands, he gathered himself well.

Please see EUBANKS', Page 10

and screamed. He paused for a second and screamed again. He strutted to the sideline, head held high, and yelled, then got to the sideline and yelled "Vamos! Vamos!"

"It was nerves. Tension. It was everything," Alcaraz explained later.

In the women's quarter-finals, Ons Jabeur eliminated defending champion Elena Rybakina 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-1 in a rematch of last year's title match, and reigning Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka defeated No. 25 seed Madison Keys 6-2, 6-4.

Jabeur, known more for her spins and slices and variety than her power, actually opted for trading big swings with Rybakina, whose game is built that way.

No. 6 Jabeur plays No. 2 Sabalenka on Thursday, when the other semifinal will be between unseeded

countries, over the invasion of Ukraine. The war continues, but Russians and Belarusians were allowed back this time.

If Alcaraz's victory was altered by the first-set tiebreaker — "He gained more confidence from that set: I didn't," Rune said — Medvedev's started to tilt midway through the fourth-set tiebreaker.

"The fans," he would say afterward, "definitely got their money's worth."

Medvedev's take on the way spectators backed Eubanks over the past 1 1/2 weeks, which included wins against No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas and No. 12 Cameron Norrie: "Maybe his tennis. Maybe he's underdog."

Maybe. And maybe Eubanks, who is from Atlanta and was a college All-American at Georgia Tech, enjoyed that 3-all moment in the tiebreaker just a tad too much.

second, and he pitched the next 3 2/3 innings. Beatty struck out a pair while walking four. Anthony Maple replaced Beatty with two outs in the fifth, and Maple retired the lone batter he faced on a popup.

"I love their coaches," Kinsley said. "If I could play them 50 times, I would, if you didn't count wins and losses. They are a good group of guys. Wheeling is a good team."

The victors collected seven hits in the first inning, setting the tone for the game.

Individually, Luke Myers recorded a three-run home run, Quinn Jamison contributed a three-run triple and Jared Marsh delivered two doubles and two

"Zach dislocated his shoulder. He is done for the year. I'm not going to risk anything with him. We have another kid who has a shoulder injury. He is done throwing, but we use him to hit.

Between injuries and vacations and work schedules, it is tough. We struggle to get everyone here. When we are able to, we are good. We compete. It is just tough getting everyone here."

Wellsburg's next scheduled game is Monday in the Area One Tournament. The game will be played down in Wheeling.

Wheeling is scheduled to play Follansbee Post 45 at 6 p.m. Friday back at Brooke.

WHEELING

(Continued from Page 9)

ond with a two-run, two-out single to left. That followed an RBI single by Doug Clark.

Chase Goff (single), Nathan Miklos (ground out), Peluchette (infield single) and Dylan Gongola (single) accounted for four RBI in the five-run third. The other run scored on an error, one of four committed by Barton.

Adam Och capped Wheeling's scoring with a two-run single in the fifth.

While the Pioneers had four different players (Peluchette, Gongola, Och and Josh Schramm) with two hits each and three (Ryan Hummell, Goff and Schramm) who each scored twice, lefty Ryan Porras only allowed a first-inning solid single to center by Colton Coss. He wasn't overpowering despite striking

out nine, of which five were looking. He also walked six.

Porras, who served as graduate assistant pitching coach at Wheeling University last season, has pitched in the Pecos League. The southpaw needed 113 pitches in his outing, with 60 being strikes. He allowed both runs.

"He was here all summer and wanted to play. I told him that was no problem with me," Shaw added.

Drake Dobson walked to start the Barton fourth. He moved to second on a wild pitch and scooted to third on a passed ball. He would race home on Zac Taylor's ground out.

The Braves second run came in the fifth when Kobe Hill walked leading off. A groundout moved him to second and he took third on a wild pitch. With two outs, Hill

caught the Pioneers napping when he stole home.

Coss also singled in the seventh for Barton.

When asked who he would rather play, Shaw said it really doesn't matter.

"We've been pretty competitive against Maynard. Whoever shows up for Game 1, we'll be ready."

Moundsville 4, Maynard 3

GLEN DALE - The fourth-seeded Expos evened their best-of-3 semifinal series with a walk-off victory over the top-seeded Indians on the John Marshall High School diamond.

Game 3 will be played Friday on Firemen's Field inside the Maynard Community Park. First pitch at 6.

No details provided.

W.VA.

(Continued from Page 9)

LORENZO FERRERA, Wheeling Central - This 5-9, 180-pounder, was a four-year letterman for the Maroon Knights. He was also a track standout with four gold medals this past spring.

Young hinted that Ferrera could also be used in the Wildcat formation.

Lorenzo is the son of Larry and Andee Ferrera of Benwood.

RILEY WATKINS, Wheeling Central - A 5-8, 180-pounder, he ran for more than 3,000 yards and 27 touchdowns during his Maroon Knights days. He also recorded 200 tackles and 15 career quarterback sacks.

A three-time all-W.Va. Class A all-stater, he was also a two-time MVP for Wheeling Central.

He will attend Mercyhurst University.

Riley is the son of Matt and Heather Watkins of Wheeling.

The placekicker is:

TRENT RICHMOND, Oak Glen - A 5-9, 177-pounder, Richmond came into his own the last several seasons as the Golden Bears enjoyed a lot of success.

He is the son of Amy and Ron Richmond of Newell.

SCARED

(Continued from Page 9)

No Mountaineers, no Horned Frogs, no Cyclones or Cougars.

There was a whole lot of talk of branding, which some may say is natural in a conference with schools in Texas and Oklahoma, where when you talk branding you're talking about putting your stamp on a cow, but to Yormark this the brand he was talking about was the product brand that the conference puts out to the public.

They could have been talking about upcoming football games as if they were made-for-TV movies.

Once upon a time at a football media day, you talked football. You talked about Heisman Trophy candidates and wishbone formations. You talked about rivalries. There was a little rivalry talk in his time with the microphone, but it was about losing the Red River Rivalry between Texas and Oklahoma, who are taking it after this year to the SEC.

He agreed it was a big time rivalry and that both the schools had written a lot of the conference's history, but in the end, this was how he looked

at it.

"The conference is bigger than any two schools," Yormark said.

With the feeling in Morgantown about Pitt coming to town for the Backyard Brawl this year, I'm not sure he's right about that.

See, the vision that Power 5 football now has is a totally different vision that built the college game into what it was.

Today they talk about how what they do will play in Vegas, not in Keyser, W.Va.

Things are out of whack with the game, with the system, with the values.

The NCAA had a championship game that ended with Georgia scoring 65 points and the Big 12's TCU team 7.

Maybe someone should be worrying about competitive balance in the game.

About the only thing that was mentioned along those lines is a push by college football to get Congress involved in some NIL legislation.

"We would like federal legislation to get uniformity into NIL," he admitted.

But there's a problem in that. College football

is so splintered that, as a group, it probably can't find a way to reign in the inequalities are inevitable in NIL payments that vary so widely from Alabama, Michigan and Georgia to Kansas State, Iowa State and, yes, West Virginia.

Yormark's approach is strictly business. His target isn't the traditional college football fan but he readily admits its "Gen X".

He's into marketing while football fans are worrying about targeting.

He lists his accomplishments as making a move into Mexico, in adding Spanish language broadcasts, in creating a big time halftime show for the Big 12 Championship game ala the Super Bowl halftime show.

Marching bands? As obsolete now as The New York Times sports section.

He's not selling football. He's selling entertainment.

And he says there have been strong movements toward creating a Big 12 that matches his vision of it since he took over as commissioner a year ago.

"And we're just getting started," he said. "There's a lot more to do."

That, of course, brings us to expansion. The league will be comprised of 14 teams this season with Texas and Oklahoma playing their final season and Houston, Cincinnati, BYU and Central Florida playing their first.

"This year is a celebration," he said, meaning a celebration of the history and legacy of the two exiting schools and of the inclusion of the four who have yearned to get Power 5 status.

He has previously mentioned that eventually he'd like to get to 14 teams as a complete conference.

"I did say 14, you're absolutely right. I do think there's strength in numbers. But I also said we're not chasing the number," Yormark said. "If and when the opportunity presents itself to stay at 14 we'll pursue it. But I did say that and I backpedaled a little bit, because I realized it's not about chasing a number. It's all about creating value for membership. And we'll see where that takes us."

"If we stay at 12 we're perfectly fine with that. If the opportunity presents itself, where there's something that creates value, and aligns well with our goals and objectives, starting with the board, then we're certainly going to pursue it."

And he's not chasing other conferences, either. He did an Ali shuffle when asked where the Big 12 ranks in the pecking order of Power 5 conferences.

"I want the Big 12 to be the best version of ourselves," he said. "If we can do that, we're in a great place. There has been no better time to be part of the Big 12 than right now."

Further expansion is almost sure to come and Yormark admitted that.

"We have a plan for expansion but I won't address it at this time," he said. "Hopefully, we can

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MOTHER EARTH NEWS

FAIR

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- ✓ **Cut Your Energy Costs**
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JULY 15 - 16

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Erie, Pennsylvania

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ANIMAL HUSBANDRY,
OFF-GRID LIVING,
HOLISTIC HEALTH,
+ MORE!

SCAN HERE

Chicago	42	41	.412	1	0.72	0-0	W-1	22-21	19-28
Pittsburgh	41	49	.456	8½	8	3-7	W-1	22-21	19-28
St. Louis	38	52	.422	11½	11	5-5	W-2	17-25	21-27

West Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Los Ang.	51	38	.573	-	-	7-3	W-4	29-16	22-22
Arizona	52	39	.571	-	2½	4-6	L-1	26-22	26-15
San Fran.	49	41	.544	2½	-	4-6	W-2	26-22	23-19
San Diego	43	47	.478	8½	6	6-4	W-2	25-23	18-24
Colorado	34	57	.374	18	15½	3-7	L-2	20-24	14-33

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Wednesday's Games
 No games scheduled
Thursday's Games
 No games scheduled
Friday's Games
 Miami at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
 Arizona at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
 Chicago White Sox at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
 Boston at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.
 Cleveland at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
 Tampa Bay at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
 N.Y. Yankees at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.
 Houston at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.
 Minnesota at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.
 Detroit at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Wednesday's Games
 No games scheduled
Thursday's Games
 No games scheduled
Friday's Games
 San Diego at Philadelphia, 6:05 p.m.
 Miami at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
 San Francisco at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.
 Arizona at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
 L.A. Dodgers at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
 Milwaukee at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.
 Chicago White Sox at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
 Boston at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.
 Washington at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.
 N.Y. Yankees at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.

LEGION LINESCORE

Wheeling 17, Wellsburg 1
 Wheeling 802 25 - 17 17 1
 Wellsburg 000 10 - 1 3 4
 WH--Simon wp (2K, 0BB), Scouvar (4), (0K, 1BB), Tsoaras (5), (0K, 1BB) and Selmon. Taylor 2S, D; Scouvar 2S, 2rbi; Simon S, D, rbi; Murray S, D, rbi; Prather 2S, rbi; Marsh 2D, 2rbi; Selmon 2S, 2rbi; Jamison T, 3rbi; Myers HR, 3rbi.
 WE--Mozingo 1p (1K, 0BB), Beatty (2), (2K, 4BB), Maple (5), (0K, 0BB) and Gajtka.

WIMBLEDON

Results
Wednesday
At All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club London
Purse: \$16,077,000
Surface: Grass
LONDON (AP) — Results
 Wednesday from the Championships at All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club (seedings in parentheses):
Men's Singles Quarterfinals
 Daniil Medvedev (3), Russia, def. Christopher Eubanks, United States, 6-4, 1-6, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-1.
 Carlos Alcaraz (1), Spain, def. Holger Rune (6), Denmark, 7-6 (3), 6-4, 6-4.
Women's Singles Quarterfinals
 Aryna Sabalenka (2), Belarus, def. Madison Keys (25), United States, 6-2, 6-4.
 Ons Jabeur (6), Tunisia, def. Elena Rybakina (3), Kazakhstan, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-1.
Men's Doubles Quarterfinals
 Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Horacio Zeballos (15), Argentina, def. Nathaniel Lammons and Jackson Withrow, United States, 6-4, 7-5.
 Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz (10), Germany, def. Michael Venus, New Zealand, and Jamie Murray (13), Britain, 6-4, 6-3.
 Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands, and Neal Skupski (1), Britain, def. Ariel Behar, Uruguay, and Adam Pavlasek, Czech Republic, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.
 Rohan Bopanna, India, and Matthew Ebden (6), Australia, def. Tallon Griekspoor and Bart Stevens, Netherlands, 6-7 (3), 7-5, 6-2.
Women's Doubles Quarterfinals
 Storm Hunter, Australia, and Elise Mertens (3), Belgium, def. Maia Lumsden and Naiktha Bains, Britain, 6-2, 6-1.
 Sara Sorribes Tormo, Spain, and Marie Bouzkova, Czech Republic, def. Vera Zvonareva, Russia, and Laura Siegemund, Germany, 7-6 (2), 7-5.
Mixed Doubles Semifinals
 Xu Yifan, China, and Joran Vliegen, Belgium, def. Matwe Middelkoop, Netherlands, and Aldila Sutjiadi, Indonesia, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.
 Lyudmyla Kichenok, Ukraine, and Mate Pavic (7), Croatia, def. Jonny O'Mara and Olivia Nicholls, Britain, 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-3.

SPORTS ON TV

Thursday, July 13
CFL FOOTBALL
 9 p.m.
 CBSN — Hamilton at Edmonton
CYCLING
 6:55 a.m.
 PEACOCK — UCI: The Tour de France, Stage 12, 103 miles, Roanne to Belleville-en-Beaujolais, France
GLOBAL JAM BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)
 5:30 p.m.
 CBSN — GLOBAL JAM FIVES: U.S. vs. Canada, Toronto
GOLF
 8:30 a.m.
 GOLF — DP World Tour/PGA Tour: The Genesis Scottish Open, First Round, The Renaissance Club, East Lothian, Scotland
 1:30 p.m.
 GOLF — PGA Tour Champions: The Kaulig Companies Championship, First Round, Firestone Championship South Course, Akron, Ohio
 4 p.m.
 GOLF — DP World Tour/PGA Tour: The Barbasol Championship, First Round, Keene Trace Golf Club, Nicholasville, Ky.
 7:30 p.m.
 GOLF — LPGA Tour: The Dana Open, First Round, Highland Meadows Golf Club, Sylvania, Ohio (Taped)
HORSE RACING
 12:30 p.m.
 FS2 — Saratoga Live: From Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
NBA BASKETBALL
 3 p.m.
 ESPN2 — Summer League: Cleveland vs. Chicago, Las Vegas
 3:30 p.m.
 NBATV — Summer League: Philadelphia vs. Atlanta, Las Vegas
 5 p.m.
 ESPN2 — Summer League: Brooklyn vs. Toronto, Las Vegas
 5:30 p.m.
 NBATV — Summer League: Miami vs. Milwaukee, Las Vegas
 7 p.m.
 ESPN — Summer League: Houston vs. Golden State, Las Vegas
 7:30 p.m.
 NBATV — Summer League: Charlotte vs. New Orleans, Las Vegas
 9 p.m.
 ESPN2 — Summer League: Portland vs. Orlando, Las Vegas
 9:30 p.m.
 NBATV — Summer League: Minnesota vs. Sacramento, Las Vegas
TENNIS
 8 a.m.
 ESPN — WTA: Wimbledon, Semifinals, London
 1 p.m.
 ESPN — ATP/WTA: Wimbledon, Mixed Doubles Championship, London

MLB MOVES

American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Sent C Anthony Bembboom outright to Norfolk (IL).
BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms with OF Caden Rose and RHP Blake Wehunt.
DETROIT TIGERS — Released 2B Jonathan Schoop.
SEATTLE MARINERS — Claimed RHP Adam Oller off waivers from Oakland and optioned him to Tacoma (PCL).
National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Optioned RHP Carlos Vargas to Reno. Reinstated LHP Tyler Gilbert from the paternity list.
ATLANTA BRAVES — Agreed to terms with RHP Ryan Bourassa on a minor league deal.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Acquired RHP Tyson Miller from Milwaukee in exchange for cash considerations. Placed RHP Daniel Hudson on the 60-day IL.



U.S. goalkeeper Matt Turner blocks a shot on goal by Panama midfielder Jovani Welch during extra time of a CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal soccer match Wednesday, in San Diego. AP Photo

Panama Upsets US 5-4 On Penalty Kicks After 1-1 Tie To Advance To CONCACAF Gold Cup Final

SAN DIEGO (AP) — After winning the CONCACAF Gold Cup with its junior varsity two years ago, the United States failed to repeat. Adalberto Carrasquilla converted the decisive penalty kick after Cristian Roldan was stopped in his attempt, and Panama beat the Americans 5-4 in a shootout following a 1-1 tie on Wednesday night to reach the CONCACAF Gold Cup final against Mexico or Jamaica. "There's a lot of learning lessons that we're all going to take away as we now continue our preparation to the path of 2026," U.S. interim coach B.J. Callaghan said, looking ahead to the Americans co-hosting the World Cup. "You had some older senior guys that had experience that we challenged to take on more leadership roles, mentorship roles, and that came out," Callaghan said. "And then we had a group of young players, whether they are U-20 — had played at the U-20 — or Olympic age, and all striving to become part of that roster in 2026." Ivan Anderson put No. 57 Panama ahead in the ninth minute of extra time with his first international goal, and Jesus Ferreira tied the score six minutes later for the 11th-ranked U.S. Panama reached the final for the third time after losing to the U.S. in 2005 and 2013. Mexico, an eight-time champion, played Jamaica at Las Vegas later Wednesday. The U.S., a seven-time winner of the championship of North and Central America and the Caribbean, failed to reach the final for the first time since losing a 2015 semifinal to Jamaica. The Americans have not won consecutive Gold Cups since 2005 and '07. The game marked the finale of Callaghan, who led the

U.S. to five wins, one loss and one draw as the Americans' second interim coach this year. Gregg Berhalter returns for the Sept. 9 exhibition against Uzbekistan. The U.S. had just 34% possession in the first half. "The first half is my fault," Callaghan said. "I didn't set the team up the way they should have been set up." American Cade Cowell hit a post about 20 seconds in and that was the closest to a goal until Panama went ahead nine minutes into extra time. Carrasquilla played a through pass to Anderson, who was kept outside by DeAndre Yedlin. Anderson took a touch and played the ball past onrushing goalkeeper Matt Turner, then kicked the ball into the open net for his first international goal. Turner, who saved two penalty kicks against Canada, was the only U.S. player on the field who saw extensive time at last year's World Cup. Ferreira scored six minutes later after Matt Miazga played a long pass to Jordan Morris, who headed the ball into the penalty area. Ferreira volleyed the ball with his right shin from 16 yards past the outstretched left hand of a diving Orlando Mosquera for his 15th international goal, his seventh of the tournament. With the U.S. going first in the shootout, Ferreira was stopped by Mosquera. Fidel Escobar and Ismael Diaz beat Turner, while Djordje Mihailovic and Morris were successful for the U.S. Turner dove to his left to stop Christian Mart nez and Julian Gressel and Miazga converted around Edgar Berenas successful kick for Panama, leaving the U.S. ahead 4-3. Cecilio Waterman tied the score with Panama's fifth shot. Mosquera dove right to parry Roldan's attempt and Carrasquilla put his shot inside Turner's right post.

James Plans To Play For Lakers In Upcoming Season

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James will play another season for the Los Angeles Lakers. The 38-year-old superstar announced his intentions on stage at The ESPYS on Wednesday night after accepting the record-breaking performance award for becoming the NBA's career scoring leader. "In that moment I'm asking myself if I can still play without cheating the game. Can I give everything to the game still? The truth is I've been asking myself this question at the end of the season for a couple years now. I just never openly talked about it," James said. The crowd at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood let out a huge cheer. "So yeah, I still got something left," James said. "A lot left." He was presented his trophy by wife Savannah, sons Bronny and Bryce and

daughter Zhuri. In her introductory remarks, Savannah said, "I think LeBron James is the baddest..." She began to say an expletive but cut herself off as Zhuri exclaimed, "Mom!" James later returned and was joined by Chris Paul and Dwyane Wade to honor Carmelo Anthony, who recently retired after a 19-year career. Earlier, Chicago White Sox reliever Liam Hendriks told the audience that he pitched much of the 2022 season with non-Hodgkin lymphoma before being diagnosed with an advanced stage of the disease. He accepted the Jimmy V Award for Perseverance. The 34-year-old Australian was declared cancer-free in late April and returned to the mound a month later. "That was an eye-opener. I didn't feel too many symptoms but I had some lumps around. It just shows you the power of the mind. When you don't think anything's wrong and you believe that you can do anything, you can do anything," Hendriks said.

OHIO

(Continued from Page 9)

able mention pick. He was also all-Eastern District first team. Spenser will continue his academic and athletic careers at West Liberty University. BRAYDEN STRAWN, River. A 5-8, 220-pound tackle, he recorded 70 solo tackles, 53 assists and 16 TFLs, along with 6.5 quarterback sacks, two fumbles caused and one fumble recovery last fall. He also pressured opposing quarterbacks 22 times. Strawn will attend Marietta College in the fall. Brayden is the son of Charity Ady and Chris Strawn. He resides in Woodsfield. DRUE JOZWIAK, St. Clairsville. This 6-0, 205-pound end can also play tight end. Defensively, he accounted for 65 tackles, a dozen quarterback sacks and forced four fumbles. He was first-team all-Ohio this past fall and played in the Ohio North-South Game. Jozwiak will attend Siena Heights University in the fall. Drue is the son of Joe and Sheri Jozwiak of St. Clairsville. JARED TRENNER, Shenandoah. A 5-10, 200-pound tackle, he was a three-time all-Ohioan, a three-time all-Eastern District and two-time all-OVAC honoree. He will attend Marietta College. Jared is the son of Steve and Laura Trenner of Belle Valley.

QUENTIN is the son of Craig Leasure. They reside in Barnesville. CAMDEN DALEY, Steubenville. This 5-11, 275-pounder was a mainstay sling the offensive front for Big Red. He was a two-time all-Ohio honorable mention and a two-time all-Eastern District first-teamer. He recorded 80 career pancake blocks and graded out at 95 percent for his career. Daley will attend the University of Dayton. Camden is the son of Janet and Steve Daley of Mingo Junction. JACKSON LURIE, Dover. A 6-4, 275-pounder, Lurie was a two-sport standout for the Tornadoes, playing football and basketball. He was a scholar athlete and a member of the OHSBCA scholarship society. He will continue his academic and athletic careers at Wheeling University. Jackson is the son of Danielle and Seth Lurie of Dover. ASHTON ELLIS, Edison. A 5-10, 290-pounder, Ellis was a second-team all-Ohio Division V honoree. He had 35 knock-down blocks and graded out at 93 percent this past fall when the Wildcats went 10-0 in the regular season. He will continue his academic and athletic careers at Bethany College.

CABOT ARBAUGH, Harrison Central. A 6-3, 270-pounder, Arbaugh was a two-time all-Ohio honorable mention selection, while also earning two-time all-Eastern District honors. He will attend Ohio University-Eastern. Cabot is the son of Russ and Tricia Arbaugh of Cadiz. Defensively, the following are ticketed across the front line. CALEB RIGGS, Fort Frye. A 6-4, 220-pound tackle, Riggs logged 115 tackles, 31 tackles for losses and 10 quarterback sacks for the Cadets. He was named the Eastern District Defensive Player of the Year and was first-team all-Ohio, as well. Riggs will attend Muskingum University in the fall. Caleb is the son of Brenna and Roger Riggs of Lowell. MARCUS RECTOR, St. Clairsville. A 6-5, 220-pound end, Rector was all-Eastern District and all-Buckeye 8 for the Red Devils. He will attend Wheeling University. Marcus is the son of Cliff Rector and Dawn Paul and resides in Jacobsburg. SPENSER OSTOVICH, Steubenville. A 6-0, 220-pound end, Ostovich had an outstanding career for Big Red where he was a three-time all-state Division IV honor-

the university of releasing a false statement" about him stepping down.

It's the latest chapter in what is turning out to be an ugly divorce battle between the university and the Hall of Fame coach.

The Associated Press obtained a five-paragraph statement issued by Huggins on Monday through his attorney, David A. Campbell of Cleveland. Huggins said he wanted to "set the record straight on the past two weeks" since his June 16 arrest in Pittsburgh. Huggins said that he has been focused on his rehabilitation at an unspecified facility and has not responded until now to the university's version of the events.

He said he plans to remain in the rehab center "until I am cleared to return to my active coaching duties."

WVU announced June 17 that Huggins had resigned. A week later, assistant coach Josh Eilert was promoted to interim head coach for the 2023-24 season. Several of Huggins' players have already entered the transfer portal, and some have found new teams.

But Huggins said he never submitted a formal notice. Under the terms of his contract, Huggins would have had to submit a letter by registered or certified



resigned was not drafted or reviewed by him.

"This false statement was sent under my name, but no signature is included," Huggins said. "In addition, the false, unsigned statement, was accompanied by a joint statement from the President and Athletics Director that clearly implied that they had received this purported resignation letter" from Huggins.

The university had told Campbell in a letter Saturday that "in no uncertain terms, the University will not accept Mr. Huggins' renovation of his resignation, nor will it reinstate him as head coach

but that WVU "was not willing to speak with me about the Pittsburgh event nor to provide me time to obtain counsel to review my Employment Agreement."

Huggins said he met with his players the day his resignation was announced and "let them know the truth — that I did not know what would happen to me, but that if I was not their coach, I was hoping that I would be replaced by a coach that I recommended to WVU."

The university has said Huggins met with his players and staff "to announce that he would no longer be coaching the team."

Please see **HUGGINS**, Page 10

OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CLASSIC

W.Va. Will Rely On Defensive, Offensive Lines

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Football games are usually won in the trenches. So, when Wheeling Central's Mike Young was named to coach the W.Va. team in the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game, he immediately looked to see what linemen were able from some of the larger schools in the Mountain State.

"You want to get some guys that have played against some of the bigger schools around," Young said. "It all starts in the trenches."

"In a game like this, many times it is decided by big plays," Young added. "A team has to eliminate its turnovers and take pride in the possessions you do get. You have to be able to move the ball and stop the opposition."

The 77th annual game is set for Sat., July 22 at 7:15 p.m. on the artificial surface at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The linemen Young and his staff have selected are top notch.

A brief capsule of each follows:

DEMETRIUS, GEARHEART, Parkersburg South. This 6-0, 250-pound defensive lineman had 58 tackles, 20.5 tackles resulting in minus 53 yards and six quarterback sacks for negative 27 stripes.

He was a second-team all-West Virginia Class AAA honoree and will attend Marietta College.

Demetrius is the son of John Gearheart III and Amanda Kowalczyk of Williamstown.

Please see **W.VA.**, Page 10

Ohio Quarterbacks Have Great Stats, Madzia Will Double

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Barnesville's Blake Allen didn't have to look very far to find his starting quarterback for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

The head coach selected the Shamrocks' C.J. Hannahs to lead Ohio against West Virginia in the 77th edition of the contest on Sat., July 22 at 7:15 p.m. inside Wheeling Island Stadium. Allen also selected Cambridge's Caden Moore. Bellaire's Jake Heatherington was also selected, but he opted to continue playing baseball for St. Clairsville Post 159. Heatherington will attend Baldwin Wallace in the fall on a baseball scholarship.

Please see **OHIO**, Page 10

Guerrero's Become First Father-Son HR Derby Winners

Toronto Standout
Edges Tampa Bay
Slugger Arozarena

SEATTLE (AP) - Toronto's Vladimir Guerrero Jr. joined Vladimir Sr. to become the first father-son duo to win the All-Star Home Run Derby, beating Tampa Bay's Randy Arozarena 25-23 in the final round on Monday night.

Guerrero defeated Julio Rodriguez 21-20 in the semifinals after the Mariners star hit a record 41 in the first round in front of his hometown fans.

Batting against Blue Jays manager John Schneider, Guerrero was the last semifinalist to swing and the first finalist, setting a final round record for homers to top Pete Alonso's 23 two years ago. Vladimir Guerrero Sr. won the 2007 derby in San Francisco while with the Los Angeles Angels, beating the Blue Jays' Alex Rios 3-2 in the final.

Arozarena, batting against Tampa Bay field coordinator Tomas Francisco, started his final 30-second segment with 21 homers and quickly got to 23 before lining and popping up on his final swings.

Arozarena overcame Luis Robert of the Chicago White Sox 35-22 in the semifinals. Robert hit the longest drive of the night, a 484-foot shot to left in the second round.

Please see **DERBY**, Page 10



AP Photo
Toronto Blue Jays' Vladimir Guerrero Jr., receives the Silver Bat Trophy after winning the 2023 Major League Baseball Home Run Derby Monday night in Seattle. He hit 25 in the final round to defeat Tampa Bay's Randy Arozarena, who hit 23. Vladimir Guerrero Sr. won the 2007 event that was held in San Francisco. Ken Griffey, Jr., made the presentation.

Yanks' Cole, D-Backs' Gallen Named Starting Pitchers

SEATTLE (AP) - Gerrit Cole had starting the All-Star Game on his baseball bucket list.

"I've always been like, man, I really hope I could do that one day," the New York Yankees ace said Monday.

He's getting his chance. Cole will start Tuesday night for the American League and Arizona's Zac Gallen will open on the mound for NL, the first time Yankees and Diamondbacks are both All-Star starters since Roger Clemens faced Randy Johnson in the 2001 game at Seattle.

"I feel like I've worked hard. This is something that I dreamed of as a kid," Gallen said. "So for it to come to fruition is everything and more, really."

AL manager Dusty Baker of Houston and NL manager Rob Thomson of Philadelphia announced their starting lineups on Monday before the annual Home Run Derby.

Baker said Sunday that Cole wouldn't pitch in the All-Star Game because he would be going on two days' rest after throwing 103 pitches in a 9-2 win over the Chicago Cubs in New York on Saturday.

"He wanted it," Baker said Monday. "A lot of guys, sometimes they might not want to pitch in this particu-

lar game, but he wanted to pitch. Hey man, if a guy like Gerrit Cole wants to pitch, I'll let him pitch."

"It's just always something that I've wanted to do, and I feel like I'm physically able to do it," Cole added.

Cole will start for the first time in his sixth All-Star nod. He is 9-2 with a 2.85 ERA and 123 strikeouts in 117 innings. The 32-year-old right-hander joins Lefty Gomez (five times), Red Ruffing (twice), Hank Borowy, Spud Chandler, Roger Clemens, Whitey Ford, Jimmy Key, Vic Raschi, Met Stottlemyre, Bob Turley and David Wells as Yankees All-Star starters.

Gallen, a 27-year-old right-hander, is 11-3 with a 3.04 ERA, tied for the major league lead in wins. The first-time All-Star has 125 strikeouts in 118 1/3 innings and becomes the third Diamondbacks pitcher to start an All-Star Game after Johnson in 2000 and '01 and Curt Schilling in 2002.

Gallen said he learned of the starting assignment last Wednesday from Arizona manager Torey Lovullo.

"It's been a whirlwind, really," he said. "I think I found out Wednesday or Thursday morning. Torey had FaceTimed me. So I kind of had to tell white lies for the last few days to my family."



American, Eubanks, Stuns Tsitsipas At Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) - Until about a week ago, even Chris Eubanks did not really believe he was capable of this sort of thing — of beating the world's best tennis players at Wimbledon, of reaching the quarterfinals at any Grand Slam tournament, of winning match after match after match on grass courts.

"I would show up to tour events saying, 'Oh, can I get through a couple rounds of here?'" he said during

Does he ever.

Eubanks, a 6-foot-7, big-serving American making his Wimbledon debut at age 27 right after claiming the first ATP title of his career, reached the quarterfinals at a major for the first time by stunning two-time Slam runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas 3-6, 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 in a little over three hours on Monday.

"It's surreal. I can't really describe it," said Eubanks, who is

He is ranked a career-best 43rd right now and had a win-loss record of merely 6-10 before going on the run to the trophy at Mallorca, Spain, on July 1. That came on grass, which he decided he hated a month ago — calling it "the stupidest surface" in a text he sent to International Tennis Hall of Fame member Kim Clijsters — after exiting in the second round at a low-level ATP Challenger Tour event.

"Those words will never come

EUBANKS

(Continued from Page 9)

He is now on a nine-match winning streak after adding the upset of the No. 5-seeded Tsitsipas to an earlier victory over No. 12 Cam Norrie at the All England Club. Next comes another challenge, meeting No. 3 Daniil Medvedev, the 2021

U.S. Open champion, for a berth in the semifinals.

"I know I need to be at my 100% and absolute best physically, tennis-wise, and mentally to try to beat him," said Medvedev, who won his only previous meeting against

Eubanks, at the Miami Masters in March.

"He is not scared to make a bad shot and still to go to the net and try to finish the point there. Definitely a little bit different from other players."

Jefferson County Tops St. Clairsville

RICHMOND - Jefferson County Post 33 scored five times in the first two innings and then held off visiting St. Clairsville Post 159 by an 8-5 count in American Legion baseball action Monday night at the Edison Unified Sports Complex.

After St. Clairsville (15-6) pulled to within 5-4 with a run in the top of the fifth, Jefferson County (23-7) tallied three runs in the bottom of the inning to pull away.

Kaden Jurosko singled and tripled to drive in a pair of runs for Post 33, while Landon Pownall doubled twice to knock in one. Gavin Pownall added a pair of singles. Sal Barcalow and Ayden Manning each added an RBI.

Sylus Hyde earned the mound win with three strikeouts and a pair of walks in 4.1 innings. Barcalow finished up.

Treston Nemeth slugged two singles, a double and drove in a run as Post 159 banged out 14 hits in the loss. Peyton Blue had a pair of doubles and one RBI, while Chance Maffe singled twice. Zach Vickers singled and doubled. Ayden Ludolph had a double.

Nailers Extend Qualifying Offers To Eight Players

WHEELING - The Wheeling Nailers, proud ECHL affiliate of the Pittsburgh Penguins, have announced their list of players who received qualifying offers for the summer of 2023. Eight players were tendered qualifying offers for Wheeling.

Each team was entitled to reserve the rights to a maximum of eight qualified players. Of the eight qualified players, no more than four could be veterans (260 regular season professional hockey games played as of the start of the upcoming 2023-24 season). Players on open qualifying offers cannot be traded.

The qualifying offer must remain open for acceptance until July 22, at which time the qualifying offer becomes null and void and the team may sign the qualified player to any salary or may elect to take no further action. Teams that extend a valid qualifying offer to a non-veteran player shall retain the rights to that qualified player for one playing season.

A team that extends a valid qualifying offer to a veteran player, or to a goaltender who has played more than 180 regular-season games, will retain the rights to that player until July 22. After July 22, if the veteran player or goaltender is not signed to a contract by the team, the player shall be deemed a restricted free agent and shall be entitled to seek and secure offers of employment from other ECHL teams. Restricted free agents may not be traded. When a restricted free agent receives a contract offer from a team other than the team with the player's rights and the restricted free agent wishes to accept the contract offer, the restricted free agent and the offering member must, within 24 hours, notify the ECHL, the team with the player's rights and the Professional Hockey Players' Association. The member with the player's rights shall have seven days after the date it is notified to exercise its right to match the contract offer.

If a restricted free agent is not signed to either an offer sheet or a contract by an ECHL team by August 8, the player shall be deemed an unrestricted free agent.

The eight qualified players for the Wheeling Nailers are:

Forwards - Cedric Desruisseaux, Cam Hausinger, Keltie Jeri-Leon, Cedric Pare and Felix Pare.

Defensesmen - Chris McKay, Adam Smith and Jordan Wishman.

DERBY

(Continued from Page 9)

Trying to become the youngest Derby winner at age 22, Rodriguez knocked out two-time champion Alonso, who hit 21. Rodriguez beat Corey Seager 32-24 in the first round last year at Dodger Stadium, then knocked out Alonso 31-23 before losing to Juan Soto 19-18 in the final.

Arozarena beat Texas' Adolis Garcia 24-17 in the opening pairing before a crowd of 46,952 at T-Mobile Park.

HUGGINS

(Continued from Page 9)

Huggins said now that he has obtained a lawyer to review his contract and has seen the university's comments about his current status, "it is clear that WVU did not handle the situation appropriately. More importantly, the basketball program is in need and I have a strong desire to conclude

Campbell claimed

(Continued from Page 9)

Allen made Harrison Central's Jace Madiz his special teams performer.

The 5-9, 160-pound Hannahs earned Ohio Division V second-team all-Ohio honors as a senior when he passed for 1,607 yards and ran for 1,243. He accounted for 29 total touchdowns. He was selected as the Eastern District Co-Player of the Year. His brother, Cade, played in the 2019 game. C.J. is the son of Chris and Rachel Hannahs of Barnesville.

"C.J. is one of the smartest kids I have ever coached. That's a big asset for us," Allen stressed. "I think with him as our leader, it will allow some of the kids to pick up on our system a lot quicker. He can teach them things about it."

Moore re-wrote many of passing marks, season and career. The 5-10, 170-pound signal-caller passed for 3,202 yards as a senior and 6,517 for his career. He threw 68 career touchdown passes, with half of them coming as a senior when he earned Ohio Division IV second-team all-Ohio honors. He was an academic all-Ohioan. He will attend Kent State University. Ca-

den is the son of Brian and Tiffany Moore of Cambridge.

"I think Caden broke just about every passing mark at Cambridge," Allen remarked. "He has a very strong arm and is very accurate."

Madzia will serve as Ohio's placekicker/punter. He held down both positions for the Huskies, and did so quite well.

"I know his dad. I used to work at Harrison Central. Jace comes from a great family and he had a great career at Harrison Central," Allen added. "He's got a strong leg so hopefully he can get us a couple of touchbacks on kickoffs. He can also be a weapon for us when we get on the other side of the 50, as well."

Madzia earned second-team all-Ohio after booting 35 of 38 PATs and going 3-for-3 on field goals, all from 30-plus yards. He punted 22 times for an average of 38.1 yards, with five of his punts landing inside the opponents' 20-yard line.

Jace, also a soccer standout, is the son of Donnie and Mindy Madzia. They reside in Hopedale.

W.V.A.

(Continued from Page 9)

JAKE CROSTON, University. This 6-1, 215-pounder logged 40 tackles, 11 assists, nine TFLs, sacked the quarterback five times, forced four fumbles, broke up three passes and intercepted one for the Hawks.

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Croston is the son of Gina and Jason Croston of Morgantown. He will attend Fairmont State College.

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He was presented with the Stobbs Award which is symbolic of the top senior lineman at Linsly.

He will attend Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Wyatt is the son of Nancy and Bill Haynes of Shadyside.

CHARLIE DiSAIA, Wheeling Park. This former Wheeling Park performer was a second-team all-West Virginia Class AAA honoree. He had 41 solo tackles, 29 assists, eight quarterback sacks, two fumble recoveries and an interception.

The 6-2, 225-pounder is headed to Glenville State University to continue his academic and athletic careers.

DiSaia is the son of Charles and Becky DiSaia of Triadelphia.

MATTHEW GAAD, Clay-Battelle. A 6-7, 260 pounder, Gaad is listed as a defensive lineman and tight end.

He will attend WVU.

Matthew is the son of Lori Shriver and Ronnie Gaad of Fairview.

BRYCE COOK, John Marshall. A 6-1, 205 pound two-way lineman, Cook was a 3-year letterman for the Monarchs and served as a team captain his senior season.

He will attend Alderson Broaddus University.

Cook is the son of Lee Ann Mileto of Wheeling.

TANNER GRIFFITH, Brooke. This 5-9, 180-pounder was a defensive tackle for the Bruins where he earned all-W.Va. Class AAA honorable mention.

Griffith was a team captain his senior season. He lettered four

years.

Griffith is headed to West Liberty University.

Tanner is the son of Keri and Justin Griffith of Wellsburg.

ELI STAHERA, University. A 5-11, 210 pound former Hawk is listed as an offensive lineman by Young and Company. He was a two-time all-W.Va. Class AAA second team performer.

Stahera will attend WVU.

Eli is the son of Lori Stahera.

BRYCE BAILEY, Trinity Christian. A 6-4, 350-pounder, Bailey compiled a 3.1 grade-point-average and will attend Waynesburg University.

Bryce is the son of Maitland and Jessica Bailey of Morgantown.

BRADEN WHITELACH, Wheeling Central. This former Maroon Knight is headed to the University of Notre Dame on an academic scholarship.

He logged 111 tackles as a senior, while also charting 10.5 quarterback sacks, four caused fumbles and two blocked punts. He was second-team Class AA honoree and lettered four times.

Braden is the son of Bill and Trish Whitelatch of Moundsville.

JACOB STEVENS, University. A 5-9, 210-pounder, Stevens was a center and middle linebacker for the Hawks. Young plans to use him on the offensive front.

On defense, Stevens made 93 tackles, forced a trio of fumbles, blocked five punts and sacked the quarterback twice.

He was honorable mention all-state and will head to Waynesburg University.

Stevens is the son of Charles Stevens of Morgantown.

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Your Favorite Businesses

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Best of the Ohio Valley Readers' Choice Awards




SPORTS

Tuesday,
July 11, 2023

Ohio announces QBs, kicker for OVAC A-S football game

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Barnesville's Blake Allen didn't have to look very far to find his starting quarterback for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

The head coach selected the Shamrocks' C.J. Hannahs to lead Ohio against West Virginia in the 77th edition of the

contest on Sat., July 22 at 7:15 p.m. inside Wheeling Island Stadium. Allen also selected Cambridge's Caden Moore. Bellaire's Jake Heatherington was also selected, but he opted to continue playing baseball for St. Clairsville Post 159. Heatherington will attend Baldwin Wallace in the fall on a baseball scholarship.

Allen made Harrison Central's Jace Madiz his special

teams performer.

The 5-9, 160-pound Hannahs earned Ohio Division V second-team all-Ohio honors as a senior when he passed for 1,607 yards and ran for 1,243.

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See OHIO, Page B2



AP Photo

AMERICAN LEAGUE'S Vladimir Guerrero Jr., of the Toronto Blue Jays, reacts next to Mookie Betts, of the Los Angeles Dodgers, during the first round of the MLB All-Star baseball Home Run Derby in Seattle.

Guerrero joins Vladimir Sr. as first father-son Home Run Derby winner

SEATTLE (AP) — Toronto's Vladimir Guerrero Jr. joined Vladimir Sr. to become the first father-son duo to win the All-Star Home Run Derby, beating Tampa Bay's Randy Arozarena 25-23 in the final round on Monday night.

Guerrero defeated Julio Rodriguez 21-20 in the semifinals after the Mariners star hit a record 41 in the first round in front of his hometown fans.

Batting against Blue Jays manager John Schneider, Guerrero was the last semifinalist to swing and the first finalist, setting a final round record for homers to top Pete Alonso's 23 two years ago.

Vladimir Guerrero Sr. won the 2007 derby in San Francisco while with the Los Angeles Angels, beating the Blue Jays' Alex Rios 3-2 in the final.

Arozarena, batting against Tampa Bay field coordinator Tomas Fran- cisco, started his final 30-second segment with 21 homers and quickly got to 23 before lining and popping up on his final swings.

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See DERBY, Page B2

• \$500 million? \$600 million?

Ohtani's free agency the buzz of the All-Star Game

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But that didn't stop others from pondering what could happen this offseason when perhaps the most unique free agent in history hits the open market.

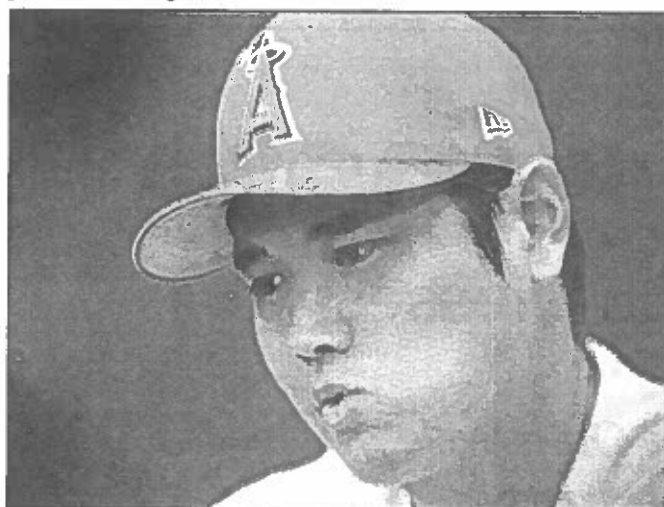
Kansas City's Salvador Perez and Toronto's Jordan Romano both tossed out \$600 million as a suggested number. Baltimore's Austin

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Ohtani's contract with the Los Angeles Angels ends after this season, making the two-way star the desire of everyone in baseball with a checkbook big enough.

But quantifying how much Ohtani deserves isn't simple or straightforward. How does one create a number that considers his value as a pitcher and a hitter?

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Whichever route Ohtani and his reps at CAA choose,

but his performance the first half of this season potentially added a little more

W.Va. boasts strong, talented linemen for all-star contest

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Football games are usually won in the trenches. So, when Wheeling Central's Mike Young was named to coach the W.Va. team in the 77th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game, he immediately looked to see what linemen were able from some of the larger schools in the Mountain State.

"You want to get some guys that have played against some of the bigger schools around," Young said. "It all starts in the trenches."

"In a game like this, many times it is decided by big plays," Young added. "A team has to eliminate its turnovers and take pride in the possessions you do get. You have to be able to move the ball and stop the opposition."

The 77th annual game is set for Sat., July 22 at 7:15 p.m. on the artificial surface at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The linemen Young and his staff have selected are top notch.

A brief capsule of each follows:

DEMETRIUS, GEARHEART, Parkersburg South. This 6-0, 250-pound defensive lineman had 58 tackles, 20.5 tackles resulting in minus 53 yards and six quarterback sacks for negative 27 stripes.

He was a second-team all-West Virginia Class AAA honoree and will attend Marietta College.

Demetrius is the son of John Gearheart III and Amanda Kowalczyk of Williamstown.

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Kansas City's Salvador Perez and Toronto's Jordan Romano both tossed out \$600 million as a suggested number. Baltimore's Austin Hays offered everything in his theoretical wallet.

Dodgers' star Freddie Freeman simply called him a unicorn with a price that can't be quantified.

"He's going to get a lot of money and he deserves it. There's no other player out there like him," Atlanta's Sean Murphy said Monday. "I don't know what I would do if I was in the position of having to sign him, but he's incredible."

The biggest attraction of Tuesday's All-Star Game

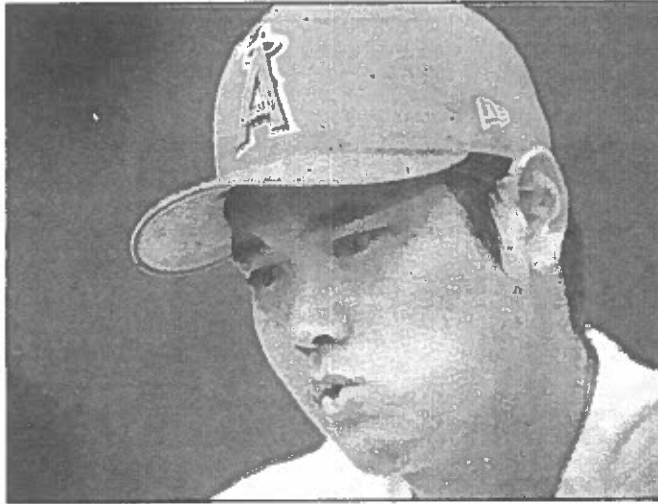
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"I think when he first came over to Major League Baseball, a lot of people were really saying, 'Hey, this guy's gonna have to do one or the other. It's really special the way you can do it right now, but how long can he do it?'" Philadelphia closer Craig Kimbrel said. "We're still sitting here talking about him being best on both sides. It's really fun to watch."

Ohtani's deal in free agency likely to exceed anything baseball has previously seen in contract value, either in total over the life of the deal or average



AP Photo

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Whichever route Ohtani and his reps at CAA choose, the winning suitor will be making a substantial financial commitment.

The \$426.5 million, 12-year deal signed by Mike Trout or the \$360 million deal signed last offseason by Aaron Judge may look minor in comparison.

"As much money as I have, I'm giving him everything that I've got," said Hays, the starting center fielder in Tuesday's All-Star Game.

Ohtani was already going to get a staggering payday

but his performance the first half of this season potentially added a little more paycheck.

"As a fan of baseball it's just amazing to watch what he's able to do," Freeman said. "I know what it takes to be a hitter and how much work and preparation and mindset you've got to do to do that every single day. And this man, every five days, is pitching too. I don't understand it. I don't even know how to put a number on that. We'll all find out together."

See **OHTANI**, Page B2

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Croston is the son of Gina and Jason Croston of Morgantown. He will attend Fairmont State College.

VIRGIL JAKE DOIRON, Valley. A 6-2, 225-pound defensive end, this Lumberjack led the team with 85 tackles and 13 tackles for loss. He also charted 44 solo stops and had four quarterback sacks.

Doiron was first-team all-Mason-Dixon Conference and will attend Waynesburg University.

He resides in New Martinsville.

HANK MARLIN, Morgantown. A 5-11, 180-pounder, Marlin participated in 130 tackles his senior year for the Mohigans. He also had 15 TFLs.

A 4-year letterwinner and all-state honorable mention, Marlin will attend WVU.

Hank is the son of Keely Marlin and Brian Rappmundt of Morgantown.

JAMARI HUBBARD-BASS, Weir. A running back for the Red Riders, the 6-2, 190-pound Hubbard-Bass is projected as a defensive lineman by Young and his staff.

An honorable mention Class AA selection, Hubbard-Bass ran for 850 yards and 10 TDs on 125 carries. He also made 51 tackles and recorded five quarterback sacks.

WYATT HAYNES, Linsly. A 6-3, 205-pound defensive end for the Cadets, he logged 103 tackles, 11 TFLs and a pair of quarterback sacks. Young and his staff plan to use him as a defensive lineman.

He was presented with the Stobbs Award which is symbolic of the top senior lineman at Linsly.

He will attend Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Wyatt is the son of Nancy and Bill Haynes of Shadyside.

CHARLIE DiSAIA, Wheeling Park. This former Wheeling Park performer was a second-team all-West Virginia Class AAA honoree. He had 41 solo tackles, 29 assists, eight quarterback sacks, two fumble recoveries and an interception.

The 6-2, 225-pounder is headed to Glenville State University to continue his academic and athletic careers.

DiSaia is the son of Charles and Becky DiSaia of Triadelphia.

MATTHEW GAAD, Clay-Battelle. A 6-7, 260 pounder, Gaad is listed as a defensive lineman and tight end.

He will attend WVU.

Matthew is the son of Lori Shriver and Ronnie Gaad of Fairview.

BRYCE COOK, John Marshall. A 6-1, 205 pound two-way lineman, Cook was a 3-year letterman for the Monarchs and served as a team captain his senior season.

He will attend Alderson Broaddus University. Cook is the son of Lee Ann Mileto of Wheeling.

TANNER GRIFFITH, Brooke. This 5-9, 180-pounder was a defensive tackle for the Bruins where he earned all-W.Va. Class AAA honorable mention.

Griffith was a team captain his senior season. He lettered four years.

Griffith is headed to West Liberty University.

Tanner is the son of Keri and Justin Griffith of Wellsburg.

See **LINEMEN**, Page B2

• Ohio

Continued from Page B1

"I think Caden broke just about every passing mark at Cambridge," Allen remarked. "He has a very strong arm and is very accurate."

Madzia will serve as Ohio's placekicker/punter. He held down both positions for the Huskies, and did so quite well.

"I know his dad. I used to work at Harrison Central. Jace comes from a great family and he had a great career at Harrison Central," Allen added. "He's got a strong leg so hopefully he can get us a

couple of touchbacks on kickoffs. He can also be a weapon for us when we get on the other side of the 50, as well."

Madzia earned second-team all-Ohio after booting 35 of 38 PATs and going 3-for-3 on field goals, all from 30-plus yards. He punted 22 times for an average of 38.1 yards, with five of his punts landing inside the opponents' 20-yard line.

Jace, also a soccer standout, is the son of Donnie and Mindy Madzia. They reside in Hopedale.

• Ohtani

Continued from Page B1

Ohtani was swarmed by media on Monday and didn't address any of the lingering unknowns of next season or the upcoming trade deadline, saying his focus is on helping the Angels win as much as possible.

Sandwiched in between the Ohtani circus and Seattle star Julio Rodriguez on the warning track of T-Mobile Park was Houston's Kyle Tucker, having a terrific season in his own right.

"They get pretty much all the media and I just hang out here, so that's kind of nice," Tucker said.

Tucker has seen his share of Ohtani up close with the Astros and Angels both in the AL West. Tucker described playing against Ohtani as "fun, but tough at the same time."

"Just that you're facing

Shohei, which is kind of fun," Tucker said. "Whenever you have a very good pitcher out there on the mound that's very competitive it's a little more fun."

Fun is relative when it comes to the pitch arsenal of Ohtani. The same goes for any pitchers who have tried to find the gaps in Ohtani's swing and avoid becoming part of his home run highlight reel.

"Every time he's out there I'm trying to sneak a peek at him and watch him," Boston closer Kenley Jansen said.

Dodgers catcher Will Smith may have summed it up best, noting that at age 29, Ohtani seems to be hitting his prime.

"It's incredible what he's doing," Smith said. "He seems to keep getting better, which is more incredible, honestly."

Nailers extend qualifying offers to eight players

• Five forwards, three defensemen receive offers

WHEELING — The Wheeling Nailers, proud ECHL affiliate of the Pittsburgh Penguins, have announced their list of players who received qualifying offers for the summer of 2023. Eight players were tendered qualifying offers for Wheeling.

Each team was entitled to reserve the rights to a maximum of eight qualified players. Of the eight qualified players, no more than four could be veterans (260 regular season professional hockey games played as of the start of the upcoming 2023-24 season). Players on open qualifying offers cannot be traded.

The qualifying offer must remain open for acceptance until

July 22, at which time the qualifying offer becomes null and void and the team may sign the qualified player to any salary or may elect to take no further action. Teams that extend a valid qualifying offer to a non-veteran player shall retain the rights to that qualified player for one playing season.

A team that extends a valid qualifying offer to a veteran player, or to a goaltender who has played more than 180 regular-season games, will retain the rights to that player until July 22. After July 22, if the veteran player or goaltender is not signed to a contract by the team, the player shall be deemed a restricted free agent and shall be entitled to seek and secure offers of employment from other ECHL teams. Restricted free agents may not be traded. When a restricted free agent receives a contract offer from a team other than the team with the player's rights and the restricted free agent wishes to accept

the contract offer, the restricted free agent and the offering member must, within 24 hours, notify the ECHL, the team with the player's rights and the Professional Hockey Players' Association. The member with the player's rights shall have seven days after the date it is notified to exercise its right to match the contract offer.

If a restricted free agent is not signed to either an offer sheet or a contract by an ECHL team by August 8, the player shall be deemed an unrestricted free agent.

The eight qualified players for the Wheeling Nailers are:

Forwards — Cedric Desruisseaux, Cam Hausinger, Keltie Jeri-Leon, Cedric Pare and Felix Pare.

Defensemen — Chris McKay, Adam Smith and Jordan Wishman.

If a player has already signed a contract for 2023-24, that player does not need to be tendered a qualifying offer.

San Antonio Spurs decide that Wembanyama's Summer League is over after 2 games

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Victor Wembanyama's first, and likely last, Summer League is over.

The San Antonio Spurs said Monday that they have seen all they needed from the No. 1 pick in this year's draft and won't play him during their remaining games in Las Vegas.

Wembanyama's final numbers from two games: 36 points, 20 rebounds, eight blocks and three assists on 41% shooting from the floor. He played about 54 minutes.

The shutdown wasn't a surprise; the Spurs never planned for Wembanyama to play the entirety of Summer League, and now they'll have a chance to use the minutes he would have gotten to take a look at other players.

"I'm going to sit down with the Spurs to know what the next months are going to be like," Wembanyama said Sunday night after what became his summer finale. "When to go on vacation, when to start back working out, where I'm going to practice, in San Antonio or somewhere else. I just know I've got

two to three months — two to three great months — that are coming and they're going to change my life."

Shutting him down from games — San Antonio has either three or four games left in Las Vegas — starts what will be a needed break for the 19-year-old from France whose last professional season in his homeland started nearly a year ago. He was in the French playoffs up until a few days before the draft in June, and his schedule has been crazed since.

Put simply, the Spurs believe he needs a chance to rest and reset to get ready for training camp that starts in early October and then an 82-game regular season.

"In the past month, I think basketball wasn't even 50% of my schedule," Wembanyama said. "I can't stand it. I know it's a special moment in my life, but I'm glad it's over. Honestly, I just want to hoop. I just want to work out, lift because this is my life. Obviously, every first pick is going to go through this. And it just makes me better for the future."

It has been a whirlwind few days in Las Vegas for the Spurs. Wembanyama's debut on Friday night had a circus-like atmosphere with a sold-out crowd and enormous attention; Sunday's game wasn't quite the same, but the crowd was still huge. And more big news came between those games on Saturday when Gregg Popovich's new five-year contract to remain coach and president of the team was announced.

As would be expected, the Popovich signing delighted Wembanyama.

"There's something great going on, starting," Wembanyama said. "We kind of knew it was going to happen, but now it's, let's get it rolling. We can get started now."

Wembanyama took part in the NBA's required rookie transition program on Monday, where he spoke with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver — who has raved about the 7-foot-3 star many times since first meeting him in Paris in January.

"I'm not sure if anything else I'd say could put more

pressure on him, because there's already so much pressure on him and attention," Silver said Monday while speaking to the Associated Press Sports Editors convention in Las Vegas. "But it seems, at least initially, that he's well equipped to handle it."

And everyone from teammates, opponents and even NBA greats like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Jerry West have raved about what they've seen from Wembanyama in recent days.

"The difficulty is learning how you can best contribute to a winning effort," Abdul-Jabbar told him. "That's what you've got to learn how to do with your skill set. You will find out what that is basically in preseason. You'll find out a lot about that."

Vegas is a showtown. Wembanyama put on a show, and the Spurs said it was enough. And now his focus shifts to his first real season.

"He's amazing," San Antonio guard Blake Wesley said. "He's an amazing person on and off the court."

• Linemen

Continued from Page B1

ELI STAHERA, University. A 5-11, 210 pound former Hawk is listed as an offensive lineman by Young and Company. He was a two-time all-W.Va. Class AAA second team performer.

Stahera will attend WVU. Eli is the son of Lori Stahera.

BRYCE BAILEY, Trinity Christian. A 6-4, 350-pounder, Bailey compiled a 3.1 grade-point-average and will attend Waynesburg University.

Bryce is the son of Maitland and Jessica Bailey of Morgantown.

BRADEN WHITE LACH, Wheeling Central. This former Maroon Knight is headed to the University of Notre Dame on an academic scholarship.

He logged 111 tackles as a senior, while also charting 10.5 quarterback sacks, four caused fumbles and two blocked punts. He was second-team Class AA honoree and lettered four times.

Braden is the son of Bill and Trish Whitelatch of Moundsville.

JACOB STEVENS, University. A 5-9, 210-pounder. Stevens was a center and middle linebacker for the Hawks. Young plans to use him on the offensive front.

On defense, Stevens made 93 tackles, forced a trio of fumbles, blocked five punts and sacked the quarterback twice.

He was honorable mention all-state and will head to Waynesburg University.

Stevens is the son of Charles Stevens of Morgantown.

• Derby

Continued from Page B1

Rutschman hit 21 left-handed, and the switch hitter then turned around to the right side and hit six more right-handed during a 30-second bonus round. From Portland, Oregon, Rutschman grew up attending Mariners games.

Guerrero, back for the first time in four years, defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers' Mookie Betts 26-11 in the first round. Four years ago at Cleveland, Guerrero hit 29 in the first round and 40 in the sec-

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July 2, 2023



Seth Staskey
Sports Editor

A look back at 25 memorable years as sports writer

It's a thought that all of us have had at some point.

But, it's one that I've really spent a lot of time wrestling with over the course of the last month or so and it is "where does the time go?"

It was November of 1998 when I first walked into The Times Leader office in Martins Ferry to meet with then sports editor Bubba Kapral about a part-time sports writer's job. That simply seems like just yesterday.

Now, as you're reading this, yesterday (Friday) was my last day at The Times Leader. I've accepted the position of Athletics Director at Wheeling Central Catholic High School and actually started two weeks ago.

Somehow, somehow, I am going to try to summarize nearly 25 years of chronicling Ohio Valley sports and athletes in less than a thousand words.

My mom, who died in July of 1998 and unfortunately never got to read one article I wrote outside of my high school newspaper at Shadyside, used to tell me when I was growing up to do my best to find a career that didn't feel like work.

I can — without hesitation — say I was able to do just that. Let's be honest! I was getting paid to cover sports in an area in which I grew up. Fresh out of high school, and working through my time at Ohio University Eastern, how could it honestly get any better?

Unfortunately, with that position came some moments of being content. There were times when I slacked off in college or didn't even explore any other jobs because, quite simply, I had found my dream job.

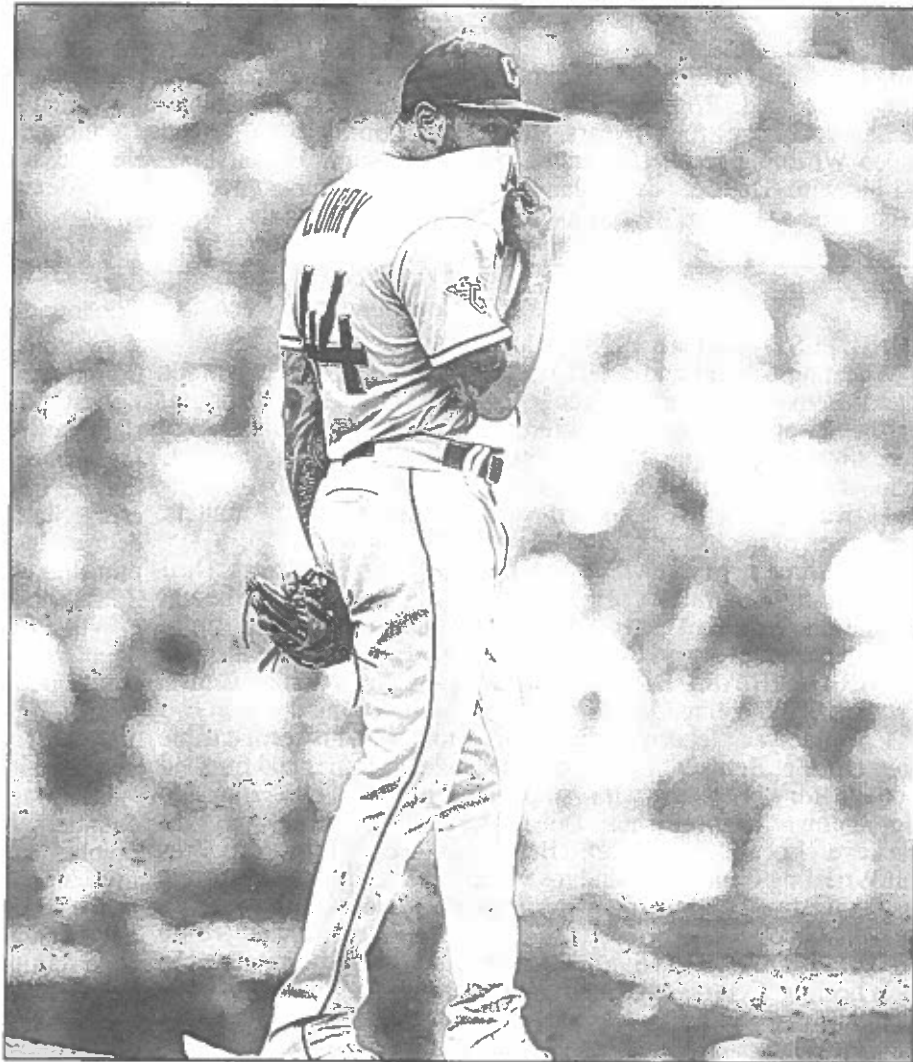
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I had made it. To me, as an Ohio Valley native who couldn't wait to get to my grandmother's house on weekend mornings because she subscribed to both The Times Leader and The Intelligencer so I could read recruiting tidbits in Doug Huff's "smorgasports" or see what national events that the T-L had "assigned" Rich Gibson to cover or what Cal Pokas' thoughts were on Ohio State football. On top of all of that, there was still the droves of prep coverage that both papers are still known for today.

As I grew even older and became active in different sporting things at Shadyside, I realized I wasn't going to be an athlete, so I wanted to pursue things that could help me in life, but still be involved with sports. I was the scorekeeper for girls basketball and watched several games that Bubba Kapral coached against the Tigers and then would look anxiously to see if and who covered the games for the paper. I met Greg Harkness, who is the current athletic director at Martins Ferry, this way and peppered Gibson with countless questions about the business.

In track season, I was involved in the meets that Shadyside hosted in a variety of ways, including timing for then head coach Donna Joseph. Well, Kapral was the Irish track coach, too and it came full



AP PHOTO

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS relief pitcher Xzavion Curry reacts after giving up a two-run home run to Chicago Cubs' Christopher Morel during the sixth inning of a baseball game Friday in Chicago.

Guardians routed by Cubs in Francona's return, 10-1

CHICAGO (AP) — Justin Steele burnished his potential All-Star credentials while helping the Cubs get back on a winning track.

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Madrigal's homer was his first since joining the Cubs in a 2021 trade-deadline deal with the crosstown White

See, GUARDIANS, Page C2

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PITTSBURGH (AP) — Carlos Santana hit his first career walk-off home run, a two-run shot to cap a three-run ninth inning and rally the Pittsburgh Pirates past the Milwaukee Brewers 8-7 on Friday night for their fourth straight win.

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Santana also doubled twice, and McCutchen homered among his three hits and had three RBIs.

The Pirates used RBI singles by McCutchen in the seventh and Jack Suwinski in the eighth to pull to 7-5. Suwinski had two hits.

Rookie Carmen Mlodzinski (1-1) pitched two scoreless innings for his



AP PHOTO

PITTSBURGH PIRATES' Carlos San-

Coaches named for OVAC ASG

• Barnesville's Allen set to guide Ohio

By KIM NORTH
For The Times Leader

Barnesville's Blake Allen could barely control his emotions when told he would be coaching the Ohio All Stars in the annual OVAC All-Star Football Game tonight at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"I am very excited and humbled to have the opportunity to coach the OVAC Game," he said. "My entire staff is looking forward to it."



Joining Allen on the Ohio coaching staff are members of his Shamrocks staff: Bryce Allen, D.J. Butler, Chris Hannahs, Dylan Rogers, Steven Shumaker, Anthony Starr, Brady Treherne and Neal Zaccagnini.

The following is a capsule look at the Ohio coaching staff:

BLAKE ALLEN - Allen has been the head coach of the Shamrocks for the past six seasons after a two-year stint as an assistant at his alma mater. He was named the 2022 Ohio Division V Eastern District Coach of the Year, the 2021 Ohio Division VI Eastern District Coach of the Year, and the 2020 OVAC Class 3A Coach of the Year.

A graduate of Muskingum University where he played football and served as a team captain his senior year, Allen and his wife, Carissa, have three children, Campbell (9), Carter (7) and Chandler (1).

See, ALLEN, Page C2

• Wheeling CC's Young to lead W.Va.

By KIM NORTH
For The Times Leader

Mike Young is no stranger to the OVAC All-Star Football Game. The veteran head coach will be making his third appearance in the late-July contest. He coached Ohio in 1991 with his St. Clairsville staff and West Virginia in 2013 with the Wheeling Central staff.

Joining Young are members of his Wheeling Central staff. They include: Jim Wolfe, Jason Rine, Shannon Kuchinski, Phil Pest, Mario DiBias, John Tankovits and Dylan Baker.

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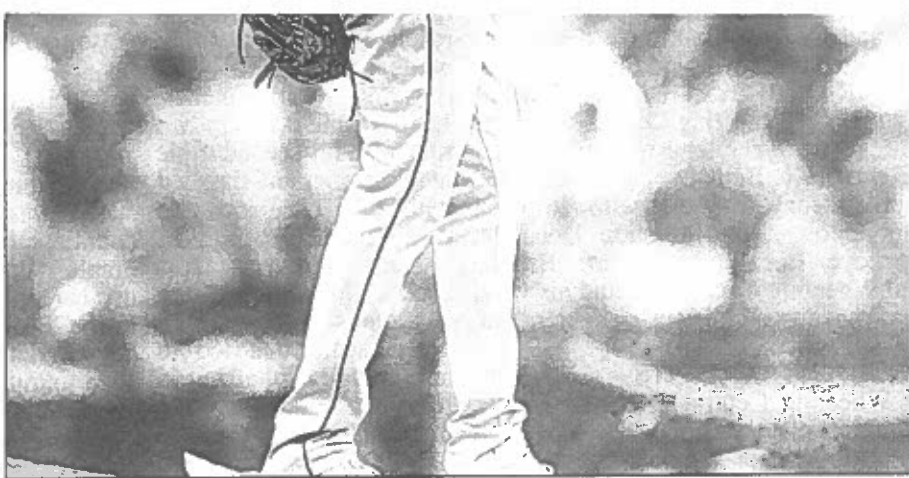
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He looked at me like "who in the world are you?" That approach paid dividends some six months later when I happened to be reading the paper as a freshman at OUE and saw a part-time job in sports at the Wheeling Intelligencer in there. I applied and interviewed with the legendary Nick Bedway. Talk about nerves ... here's an 18-year-old kid sitting down with an icon about a job.

A few days later, Bedway called and offered me a position, which I accepted. Somehow, fate must have intervened. I got a call from Harkness that very evening saying Kapral wanted to talk to me. I called him and he offered me a part-time job.

Well, being from Eastern Ohio led to The Times Leader winning out and forced me to make a difficult call to Bedway, but I can happily say he understood.

Thus, my career was launched. The job was part time and was supposed to be basically answering calls and typing



CLEVELAND GUARDIANS relief pitcher Xzavion Curry reacts after giving up a two-run home run to Chicago Cubs' Christopher Morel during the sixth inning of a baseball game Friday in Chicago.

Guardians routed by Cubs in Francona's return, 10-1

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Rookie Carmen Mlodzinski (1-1) pitched two scoreless innings for his first major-league win.

The Brewers' Owen Miller had three hits and rookie Brice Turang hit a two-run double. Milwaukee had won four of its previous five games but fell out of a first-place tie with Cincinnati in the NL Central.

Turang's double came in the seventh and followed an RBI double by Mill-



PITTSBURGH PIRATES' Carlos Santana crosses home plate after hitting a two-run walkoff home run off pitcher Matt Bush during the bottom of the ninth inning in Pittsburgh, Friday.

er to push the Brewers' lead to 7-3. However, the bullpen could not hold the lead as Milwaukee's relievers had their streak of 19 consecutive scoreless innings end.

Big names stay put as NBA free agency opens

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Kyrie Irving and Luka Doncic are going to try again together in Dallas. Draymond Green is going to chase more championships with Stephen Curry in Golden State, just like Khris Middleton is alongside Giannis Antetokounmpo in Milwaukee.

And Jerami Grant is staying put in Portland, for serious money. All those decisions, and many more, came quick-

ly Friday night as free agency in the NBA got off to its traditional fast and free-spending start — with more than \$1 billion in deals getting struck in basically the first hour alone.

"Love seeing guys getting paid," Boston star Jayson Tatum tweeted.

Irving agreed to a three-year, \$126 million deal to remain with the Mavericks, who acquired him in a splashy move in February but sputtered down the stretch and missed the playoffs. A

person with knowledge of the negotiations confirmed the agreement to The Associated Press, the deal taking quite possibly the biggest name in free agency off the board.

The Mavs had made clear that keeping Irving was their top priority — and got it done in the first hour of the NBA's free agency window that opened at 6 p.m. EDT.

Grant is getting \$160 million over the next five years, part of a plan that

See, **NBA**, Page C2

Game tonight at Wheeling Island Stadium.

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MIKE YOUNG - In 17 seasons at Wheeling Central, Young has compiled an OVAC Hall of Fame career by winning 175 of his 225 games. He has led the Maroon Knights to eight state championships (2005-07, 2010-11, 2017-19). They've also claimed three OVAC championships (2006-07, 2022).

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Young and his wife, Carol, have three sons, John, Jason and Justin, and a daughter, Whitney. They also have three grandkids.

"It's an honor and privilege to coach in this game," Young said. "I remember when Rudy and Sam Mumley were involved. It's still all about the kids, though."

Young said he is excited to be a part of it again.

"This game has a lot of history and tradition."

JIM WOLFE - Wolfe is a 1965

See, **YOUNG**, Page C2

• Allen

Continued from Page C1

BRYCE ALLEN - Bryce is the brother of the head coach and has served as an assistant coach at his alma mater in 10 of his 13 years of coaching. He was named the WTOV 9 Defensive Assistant Coach of the Year in 2022. He is a 2004 Barnesville graduate and attended Waynesburg and Muskingum universities. Bryce and his wife, Ashli, have one daughter, Alexis.

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CHRIS HANNAHS - Hannahs has been a mainstay along the Shamrocks sidelines while his three sons played football. He has been with Barnesville for 15 years. A former Shamrock, he attended Ohio University. He and his wife, Rachel, are the parents of Auston, Cade and C.J.

DYLAN ROGERS - Another Barnesville grad, Rogers has been on the Shamrocks staff for 14 years. He attended Wheeling Jesuit University. He and his wife, Denise, have a daughter, Ensley, and a stepson, Bryce Castle.

• Young

Continued from Page C1

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JASON RINE - Rine is in his 32nd season of coaching in the Ohio Valley. After one season at Brooke, he returned to his alma mater, Wheeling Central. He served as wide receiver and secondary coach on JT Thomas's staff, winning state titles in 2000, 2002 and 2004. In 2005, he became the offensive coordinator and the Maroon Knights have won eight state crowns. He was the WTOV Offensive Coordinator of the Year in 2007 and 2019. He and his wife, Heather, have three sons, Isaac, Jacob and Levi.

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PHIL PEST - Pest is a 1973 graduate of Wheeling Central and a 1977 graduate of Bethany. He earned three letters for the Bison and was all-conference three times. He taught at Ohio County Schools for a dozen years and at Buckeye Local for 17. He also served as head coach of the Panthers football program for three seasons and has coached at Wheeling Central for 14 seasons. He and his wife, Jan, have three children, Megan, Trevor and Shannen.

MARIO DIBIAS - DiBias is a 1992 graduate of Wheeling Central where he was a three-year letterwinner. He lettered twice at Bethany. He has coached football for 21 years with stops at Morgantown High, Bishop Donahue, Buckeye Local, Bridgeport, Brooke and Wheeling Central. He and his wife, Lisa, have two children, daughter Mia, and son, Nico.

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DYLAN BAKER - Baker played in the 2017 OVAC All-Star Game, representing Wheeling Central. He was a two-year letterman at Wheeling University and has served as an assistant at his alma mater for one season.

He is the son of Bill and Becky Bolon and Troy and Jody Baker.

STEVEN SHUMAKER - Shumaker is a 2007 OVAC All-Star game participant as a Shamrock.

He has been an assistant at his alma mater for eight years.

He attended Washington & Jefferson College.

He and his wife, Mariah, have three children, Lydia, Annie and Marlo.

ANTHONY STARR - Starr has been coaching football for 13 years, 11 at Barnesville. He has also coached at Cambridge and attended Ohio and Muskingum Universities. He and his wife, Julie, have three children, Alexis, Abigail and Olivia.

BRADY TREHERNE - A former Barnesville standout, Treherne attended Marietta College where he served as a student assistant in the OVAC All-Star Game.

He has been coaching at Barnesville for six years and is also a baseball assistant coach.

NEAL ZACCAGNINI - Zaccagnini is the newest member of the Barnesville staff as he came on board in 2022 after six years at St. John Central and four years at Buckeye Local. He is a St. John Central alum and attended Ohio University and West Liberty. He is married to Tricia Zaccagnini.

• Guardians — • Memorable

Continued from Page C1

Sox. "It's just a great win for our team," said Madrigal, ribbed by teammates over the long-ball drought. "That's the most important thing, but it definitely felt good."

Nico Hoerner had three hits, two RBIs and reached base four times while extending his hitting streak to nine games. Jared Young drove in two runs with his second triple in two games and finished with two hits and two runs scored.

Terry Francona was back managing the Guardians following a health scare that led to him being hospitalized in Kansas City and missing three games.

Will Brennan hit a solo homer in the ninth inning for Cleveland, which entered tied for first in the AL Central. The Guardians lost their second straight to fall to 39-42.

Three Cubs relievers followed to finish a five-hitter.

Cleveland's Cal Quantrill (2-5) lasted only 3 1/3 innings, allowing six runs on eight hits as he returned from a month on the injured list with shoulder inflammation. The

• NBA

Continued from Page C1

Portland hopes keeps Damian Lillard happy enough to not ask for a trade.

Grant stays put, as does Kyle Kuzma in Washington and Cam Johnson in Brooklyn.

Kuzma essentially doubled his annual salary, agreeing to a \$102 million, four-year deal with the Wizards.

Green got a new contract that'll pay him \$100 million over four seasons with the Warriors.

Both of those deals — first reported by ESPN and subsequently confirmed to AP by people with knowledge of the negotiations — got done very quickly once the offseason player movement window opened.

Kuzma had opted out of a contract that would have paid him \$13 million in Washington this coming season.

It paid off as he'll now average \$25.5 million over the next four years after scoring 21.2 points per game this past season.

Continued from Page C1

up things that came in on the fax machine. Kapral dispatched me right away into covering some higher profile things. I remember covering St. Clairsville in a district basketball championship game in 1999 at Zanesville High School.

While I am writing this about my experiences, it would be quite brief if it wasn't for the teams and athletes I covered. That was what it was all about.

That was just the first of countless big and memorable games. During my career, schools within the T-L coverage area advanced to at least one state tournament in every sport except soccer.

Schools won five state team titles and three of those came from St. John Central and the other was the boys track title claimed by St. Clairsville and Shadyside's softball crown. Including the Harrison Central run to the state baseball final earlier this month, there were eight team state runner ups claimed by area schools.

Individually, I covered 24 consecutive state track championships and numerous state cross country meets and wrestling tournaments. Add all of those up, and I covered 49 state champions.

Those were obviously awesome to write about and capture, but a couple of competitors who came up just short of the state title stick out, too. Not because they were state runner up, which is still an unbelievable accomplishment, but for how well they handled themselves in defeat. I will never forget Dominic Prezgia and Michael Eaton — both from St. Clairsville — being as gracious as anyone I ever interviewed — athlete or coach — despite coming up short of their ultimate goal in wrestling and swimming, respectively.

I will go way over my self-imposed word limit if I start listing all of the personal relationships and friendships I've built through covering sports. Believe me when I say, it seems like basically everyone I know who I didn't go to school with I met through sports.

Having the chance to cover, get to know and eventually call people like

Gene Ammirante, Kim Clifford, Dave Bruney, Jay Circosta, John Magistro a friend was more than a thrill because as a sports fan growing up in Eastern Ohio, these guys were icons to me.

Another name to add to the iconic list is Ty Fleming, but since he taught me geometry and I sat in his A.D. office during my study hall period at Shadyside, it was maybe even more nerve-wracking going up to him for an interview, especially after one of the more regrettable decisions I made.

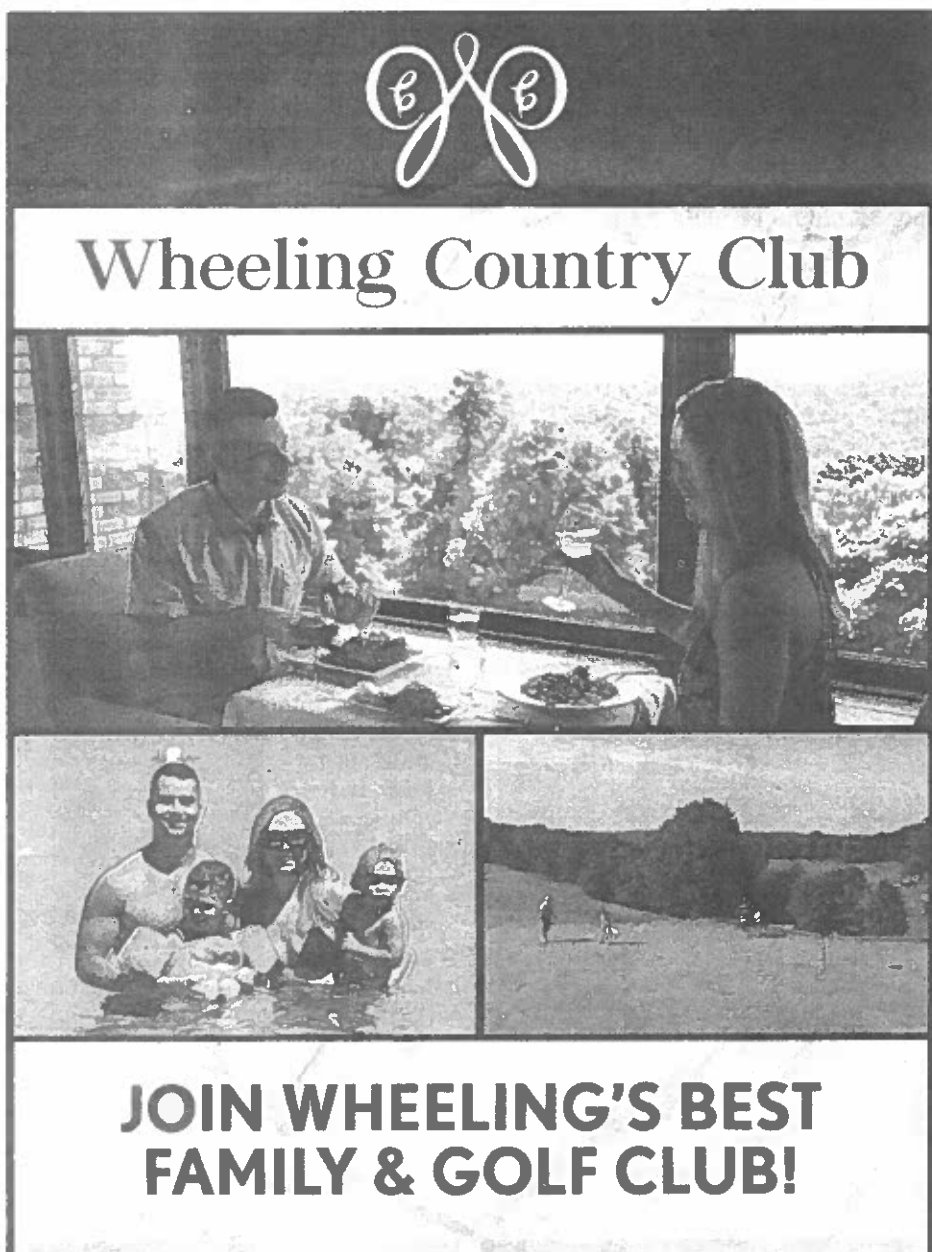
Early in his second tenure as head coach, I picked against Shadyside in the 'Pick Parade' and though I got the pick correct in the standings, Coach Fleming made sure he pointed out that getting the pick correct might not always be worth it. He was right and I never made that mistake again until that one time Kapral changed my pick without my knowledge. It was quite the prank.

While Shadyside was my alma mater, I developed so many relationships with schools up and down the river that I got to the point during numerous tournament runs that you're as excited as the alumni when they lose and disappointed when they lose, especially in the tournament.

This job has introduced me to so many people from so many different avenues of sports, that's mind boggling. On top of the obvious coaches and athletes, the number of people within the OVAC, OHSAA or WVSSAC or local sports officials, athletic directors, principals, superintendents, booster groups, fans, parents that I've been blessed to come in contact with and get to know both on a professional and personal level has been nothing short of amazing.

Actually, this whole ride has been amazing. Almost as amazing that I got to this point of this piece and have yet to shed a tear, which is hard to believe because there have been many since word of my career change became public a few weeks ago. This paper, this area and these people all mean a lot to me.

With the end of one chapter, comes another, and I am truly excited and honored to be the A.D. at Wheeling Central. Obviously, my role will be



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Wheeling Central Staff To Coach In OVAC All-Star Game

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

Mike Young is no stranger to the OVAC All-Star Football Game. The veteran head coach will be making his third appearance in the late-July contest. He coached Ohio in 1991 with his St. Clairsville staff and West Virginia in 2013 with his Wheeling Central staff.

Joining Young are members of his Wheeling Central staff. They include: Jim Wolfe, Jason Rine, Shannon Kuchinski, Phil Pest, Mario DiBias, John Tankovits and Dylan Baker.

The following is a capsule look at the West Virginia coaching staff:

MIKE YOUNG - In 17 seasons at Wheeling Central, Young has compiled an OVAC Hall of Fame career by winning 175 of his 225 games. He has led the Maroon Knights to eight state championships (2005-07, 2010-11, 2017-19). They've also claimed three OVAC championships (2006-07, 2022).

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Young and his wife, Carol, have three sons, John, Jason and Justin, and a daughter, Whitney. They also have three grandkids.

"It's an honor and privilege to coach in this game," Young said. "I remember when Rudy and Sam Mummy were involved. It's still all about the kids, though."

Young said he is excited to be a part of it again.

"This game has a lot of history and tradition."

JIM WOLFE - Wolfe is a 1965 graduate of Wheeling Central where he lettered four years. He has served as an assistant for the Maroon Knights for 39 years coaching the offensive line and defensive tackles. He started his coaching career at Blessed Trinity and St. John's. He has been a part of 11 W.Va. state championship teams and four OVAC titlists. He and his wife, Joyce, are the parents of Dr. Matthew Hartzell and his wife, Dr. Jennifer Hartzell. They have two grandsons, Jordan and Simon.

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AP: Many Big Names Stay Put As NBA Free Agency Begins

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Kyrie Irving and Luka Doncic are going to try again together in Dallas. Draymond Green is going to chase more championships with Stephen Curry in Golden State, just like Chris Middleton is alongside Giannis Antetokounmpo in Milwaukee.

And Jerami Grant is staying put in Portland for serious money. All those decisions, and many more, came quickly Friday night as free agency in the NBA got off to its traditional fast and free-spending start - with more than \$1 billion in deals getting struck in basically the first hour

alone. Irving agreed to a three-year, \$126 million deal to remain with the Mavericks, who acquired him in a splashy move in February but sputtered down the stretch and missed the playoffs. A person with knowledge of the negotiations confirmed the agreement to The Associ-

ated Press, the deal taking quite possibly the biggest name in free agency off the board.

Grant is getting \$160 million over the next five years, part of a plan that Portland hopes keeps Damian Lillard happy

enough to not ask for a trade. Grant stays put, as does Kyle Kuzma in Washington and Cam Johnson in Brooklyn.

Green staying put keeps him alongside Curry and Klay Thompson with the Warriors, where they

have won four titles over the last decade. He opted out of a \$27.6 million contract for this coming season, and now is under contract for more years.

Middleton also traded bigger salary in the short term for more years.



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Barnesville Coaching Staff Leads Ohio Into OVAC All-Star Game

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

Barnesville's Blake Allen could barely control his emotions when told he would be coaching the Ohio All Stars in the annual OVAC All-Star Football Game tonight at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"I am very excited and humbled to have the opportunity to coach the OVAC Game," he said. "My entire staff is looking forward to it."

Joining Allen on the Ohio coaching staff are members of his Shamrocks staff: Bryce Allen, D.J. Butler, Chris Hannahs, Dylan Rogers, Steven Shumaker, Anthony Starr, Brady Treherne and Neal Zaccagnini.

The following is a capsule look at the Ohio coaching staff:

BLAKE ALLEN - Allen has been the head coach of the Shamrocks for the past six seasons after a two-year stint as an assistant at his alma mater. He was named the 2022 Ohio Division V Eastern District Coach of the Year, the 2021 Ohio Division VI Eastern Dis-

trict Coach of the Year, and the 2020 OVAC Class 3A Coach of the Year.

A graduate of Muskingum University where he played football and served as a team captain his senior year, Allen and his wife, Carissa, have three children, Campbell (9), Carter (7) and Chandler (1).

BRYCE ALLEN - Bryce is the brother of the head coach and has served as an assistant coach at his alma mater in 10 of his 13 years of coaching. He was named the WTOV 9 Defensive Assistant Coach of the Year in 2022. He is a 2004 Barnesville graduate and attended Waynesburg and Muskingum universities. Bryce and his wife, Ashli, have one daughter, Alexis.

D.J. BUTLER - Butler has served as an assistant football coach for a quarter of a century, with stops at Cadiz and Harrison Central. He is also the Sham-



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rocks head baseball coach and led them to the 2021 Ohio Division III state semifinals. He and his wife, Kelly, have two daughters, Brittany and Natalie.

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sistant at his alma mater for eight years. He attended Washington & Jefferson College. He and his wife, Mariah, have three children, Lydia, Annie and Marlo.

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BRADY TREHERNE - A former Barnesville standout, Treherne attended Marietta College where he served as a student assistant in the OVAC All-Star Game. He has been coaching at Barnesville for six years and is also a baseball assistant coach.

NEAL ZACCAGNINI - Zaccagnini is the newest member of the Barnesville staff as he came on board in 2022 after six years at St. John Central and four years at Buckeye Local. He is a St. John Central alum and attended Ohio University and West Liberty. He is married to Tricia Zaccagnini.

Moore, Pendrith Share Rocket Mortgage Classic Lead At 13-Under

DETROIT (AP) - Taylor Moore and Taylor Pendrith shared the Rocket Mortgage Classic lead at 13 under Friday, hoping to hold off a veteran trying to end a victory drought and a promising young pro aiming for his first PGA Tour victory.

Pendrith shot an 8-under 64 at Detroit Golf Club, one off the tournament record. Moore, who began the day tied with Monday qualifier Peter Kuest, had a 67 to match

Pendrith at 13-under 131. Rickie Fowler (65) and former top-ranked amateur Ludvig Aberg (67) were a shot back after two straight solid rounds.

The 34-year-old Fowler jumped into contention, chipping in for eagle from 27 feet on the par-5 17th. Fowler set himself up with a chance to for his first win since 2019 at the U.S. Open two weeks ago with an opening 62 before closing with a 75 to plummet into a fifth-

place tie. "We can't try and press too hard," he said. "Definitely know we can win. How I've played is some of the best, if not the best, I've felt about my game and on the course really ever."

The 23-year-old Aberg, who starred at Texas Tech, finished the season No. 1 in the PGA Tour University ranking. The Swede became the first player to go straight from college to PGA Tour

membership without going through Q-school or earning enough money or points from sponsor exemptions. He's in his third event as a pro after tying for 25th in the Canadian Open and 24th last week in the Travelers Championship.

"I know what I'm capable of and I know that I can hit the golf shots, but you've got to be able to handle everything else," Aberg said. "This is new setting for me."

Collin Morikawa (67), Justin Lower (65), Aaron Rai (68), Adam Schenk (68) were 11 under, two

strokes behind the leaders.

The 29-year-old Moore won the Valspar Championship in March when he outlasted Jordan Spieth for his first PGA Tour title.

Moore missed the cut in his previous three tournaments after tying for 72nd at the PGA Championship, but said he hasn't panicked as he would've in the past.

"Golf's just such a finicky game," he said. "I really haven't felt like I've been that far off and haven't made a cut in a couple weeks."

On Friday, Moore opened with a birdie and had a temporary cushion with five birdies in a six-hole stretch midway through his round.

Pendrith, a big hitter from Canada, closed the gap with five birdies on his front nine and three more on his back in a bogey-free round. He tied for seventh this year in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am for his best career finish.

Kuest, ranked 789th in the world, had a bogey early and late in his round to finish with a 70 that put him three shots back.

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