

Classified/B5-6

# SPORTS

Monday,  
May 1, 2023

## St. Clairsville claims 4A OVAC crown

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

RICHMOND — St. Clairsville junior Hunter Hoffman isn't shy about taking the baseball in a big game.

Actually, the southpaw wants head coach Tom Sliva to give him the ball in those situations.

The veteran Red Devil skipper obliged Saturday morning at Edison High School's chilly, damp and gorgeous all-turf Unified Sports Complex. Hoffman didn't let him down.

Hoffman pitched in and out of some jams in the second, third and fourth innings, but managed to sit down the final 11 Indian Creek batters he faced en route to leading the Devils to a cherished 3-1 victory and the coveted OVAC Class 4A title. The title marks the Red Devils' 13th in school history and first since 2021.

"Winning these (OVAC titles) is always exciting, but seeing how excited the kids are makes it even more special," St. Clairsville head coach Tom Sliva, who now owns 11 as a skipper between his St. C. and St. John Central tenures, said. "This is a big goal. Our number one goal, every year, is to make a run in the tournament, but winning the OVAC is our second-biggest goal. This 4A was a bear with four quality teams, so we're happy and fortunate to be on top."

Hoffman wasn't overpowering. He only retired five Indian Creek hitters via the strikeout. He didn't need to do it all himself because the defense behind him was sparkling.

For instance, Indian Creek's biggest offensive threat came in the second when the Redskins loaded the bases

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T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** pitcher Hunter Hoffman jumps into the arms of his catcher, Marcus Bush, after the final out was recorded in Saturday's OVAC Class 4A championship game held at Edison High School in Richmond. Hoffman threw a complete game and Bush drove in a run as the Red Devils knocked off Indian Creek, 3-1.

## Ferry denied third straight 3A softball title

By **MIKE HUGHES**  
For the Times Leader

WHEELING — Martins Ferry entered Saturday as a two-time defending OVAC champion. So did Caldwell.

So, when the Redskins made the jump to class 3A from 2A in the OVAC, it set up a potential battle of the champions come tourney weekend.

That's just what fans were treated to Saturday afternoon at Wheeling Park's turf field. The team's battled to a 3-3 deadlock before Caldwell ripped it wide open with a 4-run fourth inning.

The result? A 14-3 victory in five innings for head coach Doug Pfeiffer's Redskins and a bit of revenge in the process.

Back in March, Martins Ferry took down Caldwell 10-0 in five innings on the Purple Riders home diamond. But there was one slight difference between that game and Saturday's. This time, the Redskins had the services of reigning OVAC Class 2A Player of



**MARTINS FERRY'S** Kelsi Gillespie drops down a bunt during Saturday's OVAC Class 3A softball championship game against Caldwell at Wheeling Park High School.

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the Year in Madi Mumaw.

Mumaw struck out five batters and limited Ferry to three runs on eight hits, with every run coming in a five-hit third inning. But those other four innings? Goose eggs across.

"We practiced for her, scouted her, so we knew what she does and what

she throws, but that's why she has all those victories, strikeouts, and signed to play for college," remarked Martins Ferry head coach Jerry Magistro. "She's pretty good. We knew we could hit her and did a bit for that one inning, but when you get behind like

See, FERRY, Page B2

## Shadyside captures 2A OVAC softball

By **KIM NORTH**  
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — For the first time in nearly three decades Shadyside has won an OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 2A softball championship. The last time the Tigers took home the title was in 1994.

The wait is over.

Third-seeded Shadyside (17-6) scored three times in the top of the fifth and tacked on another trio of runs in the sixth to rally past top-seeded Wheeling Central, 6-5, Saturday high atop the Friendly City on the all-turf surface at Patriot Field on the Wheeling Park High School campus.

"This is what the girls wanted. They talked about (winning the title) and they went out and did it," Shadyside head coach Robert Gorrell Jr. said amidst a wild celebration. "This is what they've worked so hard for. I'm very happy for them."

The Maroon Knights (16-4) took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the third courtesy of a Brook Edge 2-run homer to deep right-center with two outs. Edge would finish a triple shy of the cycle with a pair of singles and a double to go along with the roundtripper.

The Tigers finally broke through against Wheeling Central ace Josie Frizzell as Abby Gorrell reached on an error leading off. With one out, Rylee Fulton singled to right and Gentry Brown followed with a bunt single to load the bases. Bella Honeywell doubled to the gap in right-center as Gorrell and Fulton both scored, tying the game at 2.

With two outs and Brown still at third, she raced home on a wild pitch to put the Tigers ahead for the first time, 3-2.

A pair of Wheeling Central errors in the sixth allowed three Shadyside runs in the sixth. Keying the outburst was an RBI single to right by Fulton, and when the ball

See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2



Photo/KIM NORTH

**SHADYSIDE SENIOR** Bella Honeywell (left) and catcher Malaya McAngues celebrate after the Tigers won the OVAC Class 2A championship by a 6-5 score over Wheeling Central on Saturday at Wheeling Park High School.

## Wheeling Park rallies to win OVAC 5A baseball title

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
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ing across three tallies to earn its second OVAC crown in three years. Park was runner up a year ago.

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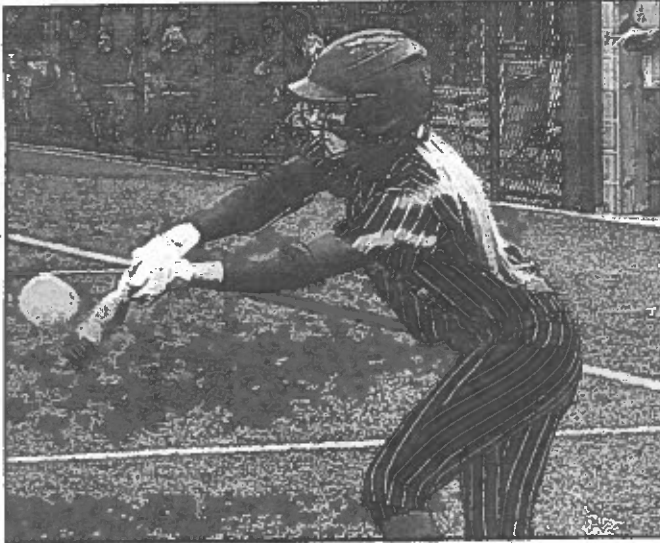
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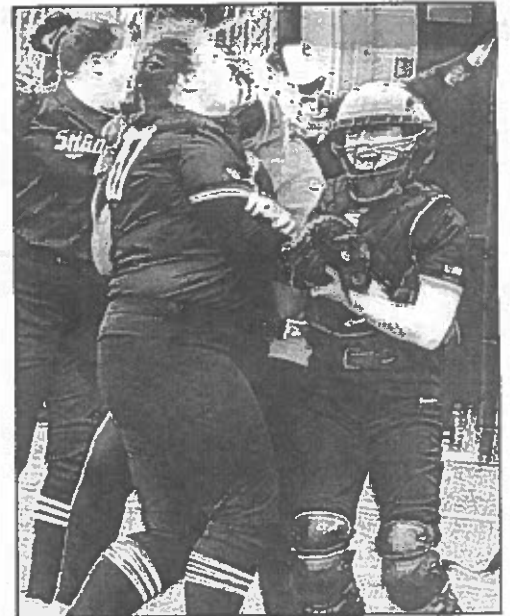
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T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**WHEELING PARK** shortstop Nate Simon throws on to first to complete a double play Saturday against University in the OVAC 5A championship game.

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
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"It was one tremendous game. University played extremely well," added the classy mentor. "It feels great winning another OVAC championship," especially the way we had to do it."

Deadlocked at 2 after seven well-played frames, University wasted no time seizing the lead in the eighth, opening with three straight hits. Cory

Thomas and Noah Braham singled and came scooting home on a ringing triple down the right field line off the bat off Wenkai Campbell. However, despite no outs, Campbell was stranded at third, which would prove key.

Jared Marsh ignited the Park comeback by reaching on a throwing error. Nathan Bittinger singled Marsh to third. Braydon Kupsky delivered an RBI groundout, cutting the deficit to 4-3.

Gian Degenova coaxed a walk before Ryan Conrad reached on a fielder's choice with no outs being recorded on the play. Nate Simon knotted

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## Pirates come up short to Nationals

**WASHINGTON (AP)** - Josiah Gray pitched six strong innings, Joey Meneses had four hits and the Washington Nationals finally cooled off the Pittsburgh Pirates 7-2 in a game delayed nearly 2 1/2 hours by rain Sunday.

Jeimer Candelario and Victor Robles each had an early two-run double for Washington, which had lost three straight. Luis Garc a delivered a two-run single in the second, and every Nationals starter got at least one hit.

Bryan Reynolds and Tucupita Marciano each had two hits and an RBI for the surprising Pirates, who had won

four straight and 11 of 12. Pittsburgh finished April with a 20-9 record.

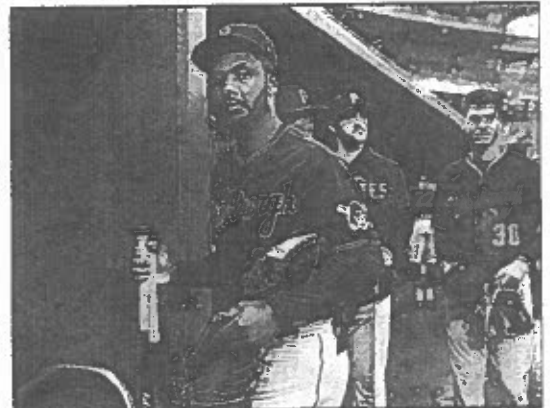
Gray (2-4) allowed one run on three hits and three walks. He struck out six and threw 105 pitches.

The right-hander retired 10 of his last 11 batters. Over his last five starts, he is 2-2 with a 1.57 ERA and 27 strikeouts in 28 2/3 innings.

Gray's biggest challenge came in the third. After a single by Reynolds made it 5-1, two walks loaded the bases with two outs. But then Gray retired Jack Suwinski on a hard shot to first baseman Dominic Smith, who tossed to Gray covering to end the in-

ning. "Things could have got out of hand quick if Suwinski got on there," Gray said. "I beared down and made a pitch. Happy to keep the team in the game and be able to go put up some zeros."

Added Pirates manager Derek Shelton: "Third inning we made him throw a lot of pitches and Suwinski hit that rocket right at Dominic Smith. That was kind of the difference in the game. If that ball's a foot or two one way or the other, we're at least at (5-3, maybe 5-4) and we run his pitch count up even more."



AP PHOTO

**PITTSBURGH PIRATES'** Miguel Andujar walks out of the dugout after a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Sunday, in Washington. Washington won 7-2.

## • Ferry

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that, you can't do everything you want to do like when it's a close game.

"We gave up too many hits, made too many mistakes here and there and they hit the ball hard."

Caldwell managed to plate 14 runs on 15 hits, including four in that fateful fourth inning that featured a leadoff solo blast from Sydney Sailing to center.

Six more runs on five more hits followed and by the time Kelsi Gillespie struck out the number nine hitter for the third out, Caldwell retook the lead in commanding fashion at 10-3.

"Ferry had just gotten the momentum back and our next at-bat, we just came in and took it right back from them," said Pfeffer, whose Redskins were voted the number four seed in Division IV for the east district. "If we only scored one or two runs, they may have thought they had a chance to come back, but getting seven across takes a bit out of you."

Caldwell received contributions across the board.

Freshman Mak Mumaw, had a single, double, and two RBI while also reaching via error from the leadoff spot. Katie Franklin drove in two runs, Jaden Haught had a single and a run-scoring two-bagger. Jordan Haught had two singles and plated a pair.

But it was the play from the sixth through eight spots, which resulted in six hits and five runs that Pfeffer was most proud of.

Sophie Shockling went 2-for-4 with two singles and three RBI, Sailing had her home run with three walks, and No.

## • Park

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affair with a groundout to first base. Senior Quinn Jamison produced the game-winner via an infield single which brought home the winning run, setting off a wild Patriot celebration.

"This is a special group. They have done everything we have asked of them," Myers said. "Winning OVAC championships is special. I am very happy for our seniors. They are great leaders."

"University deserves a lot of credit. They beat a quality Morgantown team in the semifinals to get here," he added. "We got up 2-0 after the first two innings but we didn't do much at the plate until we had to."

The fourth-seeded Hawks fell to 16-9 on the season. They beat city rival Morgantown 10-4 in the semifinals. Second-seeded Park, which downed Brooke 5-2 to advance to the finals, won for the 18th time in 24 starts.

Park drew first blood in its initial at-bat. Bittinger singled, stole second and was plated on a Degenova groundout. The Patriots made it 2-0 in the second. Jamison singled, stole second and came home on a Tino Nardone single.

University halved the deficit with a run in the fourth. Brodee Latocha singled and came home on Braham's dou-

8 hitter Hanna Reiter went 3-for-4 with a double and two singles.

"Everyone one through eight had an RBI and everyone had a hit," Pfeffer said. "But our 6-7-8 hitters had been struggling, but they hit really well today."

"You just never know who's going to come up big."

Ferry's lone scoring inning started with two-out lightning as Danielle Lude drove a line drive into left field for a double. She scored on a single from Taylor Bell, who later scored on a single from Kaylynn Zinn. Lude's double drove in Sam Goddard, who led off the inning with a single.

Abbey Snedecker attempted to rally the bats yet again in the home half of the fourth, answering Caldwell's outburst with a leadoff single.

But Madi Mumaw quickly slammed the door on any comeback thoughts, striking out the next two batters before inducing a pop-up to her sister at short to end the inning.

The first of two strikeouts that inning gave the elder Mumaw 400 strikeouts for her career. Keep in mind, Mumaw's freshman season was the lost COVID season, so that's 400 through only three seasons. Not bad for the future West Liberty Hilltopper.

"When you have your ace going and she's feeling better, you can get into a groove," Pfeffer said. "They put the ball in play but we made plays behind her and minimized any damage."

ble off the left centerfield fence.

The Hawks knotted the affair in the sixth. Latocha walked and moved to third on singles from Braham and Campbell. Gabe's Templeton's ground-er plated Latocha.

University had the makings of a potential big fifth frame only to fall victim to a pair of sparkling Park defensive plays. Jake Crosten and Gabe Jansen opened the inning with back-to-back singles. However, Conrad gunned down Crosten in his attempt to steal third before Marsh made a terrific throw from center field to nail Jansen at the plate. He was attempting to score from second on a Jett Walters' single.

Senior southpaw Luke Doyle was the first of three Park hurlers. He pitched well, striking out two and walking one. He gave way to Degenova in the sixth. Luke Myers earned the mound win as he entered in the eighth.

Cody Vance started on the bump for the Hawks. He fanned five and walked four before giving way to Cory Thomas in the sixth. Thomas struck out one and walked a like amount in taking the loss.

Park was limited to five hits. Jamison was the lone Patriot to have a pair of safeties.

## • Shadyside

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ball was misplayed, a second run crossed the plate for a 5-3 reading and Fulton stood at third. She sprinted home on another error.

"That's the worst game we've played defensively all year," Wheeling Central head coach Buck Davidson noted. "You can't give up 2-base errors, especially to a good team like Shadyside. We made the errors and they capitalized on them."

Wheeling Central didn't roll over, however. Bella Rine's pinch-hit single in the sixth drove in Erin Maxwell and Frizzell's 2-run single in the seventh drew the Maroon Knights to within 6-5, but Shadyside's Arianna Saxton got the next batter to fly out to Fulton in left to seal the victory.

Saxton, while not overpowering, struck out three and walked five. She allowed nine hits and threw 116 pitches, of which 68 were strikes.

## Guardians fall to Sox

BOSTON (AP) — Connor Wong hit a two-run homer, Alex Verdugo singled home a pair of runs and added a late solo homer, and the Boston Red Sox beat the Cleveland Guardians 7-1.

Chris Sale (2-2) struck out five, holding the Guardians to three hits over 6 1/3 innings. Boston took two of three from Cleveland in the series and climbed above .500 at 15-14.

Christian Arroyo added a two-run double during a three-run seventh that sealed it for the Red Sox, who overcame a strong start by rookie Logan Allen (1-1) and piled on late runs against Cleveland relievers.

Amed Rosario drove in Cleveland's only run with a single in the sixth, one of just four hits for the Guardians.

Sale took a shutout into the sixth before Steven Kwan led off with a double and scored on Rosario's single.

## • St. C.

Continued from Page B1

with nary an out.

Landon Pownell and Nick Maurer singled and Ty Householder drew a walk between the two.

Hoffman calmly got an innocent pop fly on the infield for the first out.

Senior Jayden Vandeborne stepped in and appeared to have knotted the game at one. He lofted a fly ball to medium deep right. St. Clairsville right fielder Zach Vickers, however, had other ideas.

He camped under the ball and rifled the ball to the plate where junior catcher Marcus Bush went up the first base line to get the ball and then dove across home plate to just put the tag down on Pownell to end the inning.

"That was a killer," Indian Creek head coach Mike Cottis said. "It was a shallow fly ball, but we decided to roll the dice. I thought (Pownell) got in there, but it was a bang-bang play and the (call) could have gone either way. We knew runs would be hard to come by in a game like this, so we knew we had to try to scratch one across."

Indian Creek did get on the board and cut the Red Devil lead in half with a run in the third.

Gavin Pownell, who came on in relief for the Redskins, drew a lead-off walk, which came back to haunt Hoffman. After an out was recorded, Pownell moved all the way to third after an error in the infield.

Creek catcher Sy Howell followed with a solid single, but the rally stopped there as Hoffman induced a 6-4-3 double play to escape the jam.

The pitcher's best friend proved to be big once again in the Creek half of the fourth. Householder and Maurer started the inning with back-to-back singles.

"This was a great game between two great teams, but their guy (Hoffman) got the outs when he needed them," Cottis said. "I felt like we had a good game plan at the plate and we executed, but we couldn't get the big hits when we needed it. Both of our pitchers threw well, but we just couldn't cash in offensively."

Hoffman promptly got a chopper to talented junior shortstop Braylen Blomquist, who stepped on second and threw on to first for the double play. A lazy fly ball to right got St. C. back in the dugout.

"Hunter did a really good job and we executed (defensive) plays that we needed to have to get the momentum back in our dugout," Sliva said. "Creek pitches, fields and hits it well, so getting the lead early and being able to keep the lead when we got into jams was big for us."

Hoffman, who appeared to be gaining velocity as the game went along, retired the Redskins in order in the final three frames.

"I kind of settled into a groove," Hoffman said. "I feel like after the second, third and fourth innings, I really settled in and knew how to pitch to them. And our defense was really good behind me to help me out."

Sliva was really impressed with how his ace got better as the game moved along.

"I thought his curveball became sharper and he had more juice on his fastball," Sliva said. "It was a combination of him digging down a bit in a big game and also the ball wasn't as slick. It wasn't ideal (weather) conditions, especially at the start, but both teams made plays."

St. Clairsville, which had lost to Creek by a run as recently as last Thursday, got just enough offense despite being outthit by the Redskins.

The Red Devils wasted no time in grabbing the lead by scoring in the first. Blomquist roped a triple that landed just inside the foul line in deep right.

A couple of hitters later, Blomquist scored on a ground out by Bush.

In the second, sophomore Mickey Balgo produced a one-out single and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt from classmate Noah Turley.

He was promptly driven in on a two-out single by Brody Saunders, which spelled the end of the afternoon for Creek starter Trevor Lash.

It wasn't until the fifth when the Red Devils got an add-on-run. Saunders drew a lead-off walk, but Sliva called upon Maddox Trennar to pinch run.

Blomquist laid down a bunt to move him into scoring position. It looked like Creek would keep it a one-run game after Gavin Pownell got an innocent fly out to right and then got Bush to pop up into shallow center, but the ball was dropped and Trennar raced around to score.

The Redskins will now shift attention back to the remainder of the regular season, which includes a Monday date with Weir.

"We have a lot of season ahead, and we'll keep plugging away," Cottis said.

## Cherished Memories

### A Mother's Day Tribute

Sunday, May 14th, 2023

#### Sample

Zimbeco



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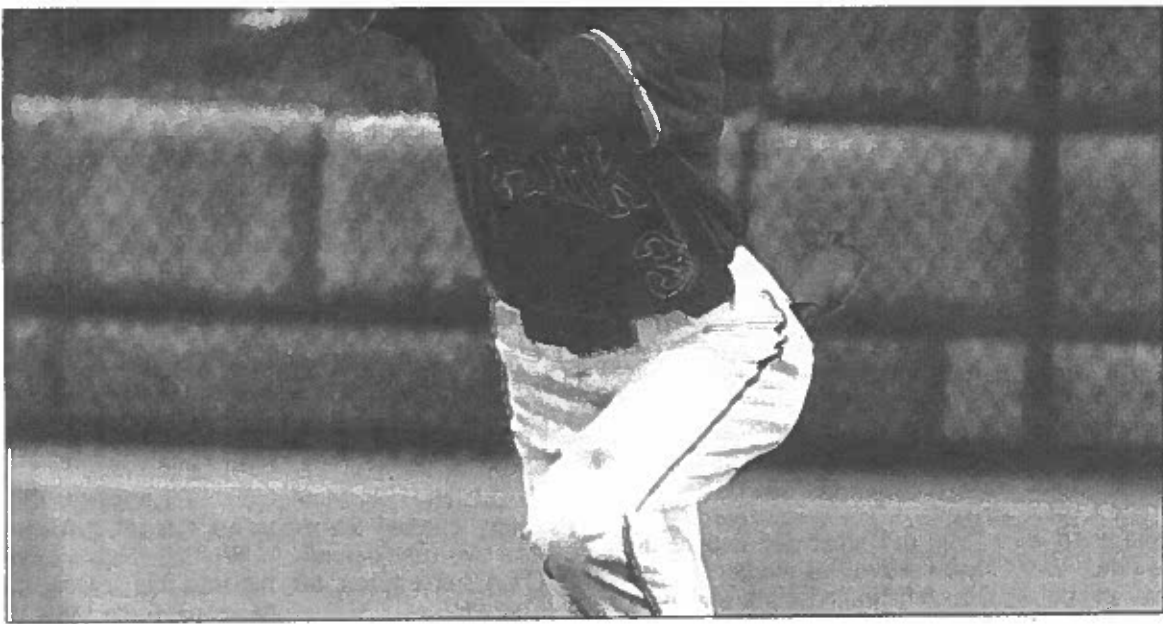


Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Park rightfielder Nathan Bittinger makes a running catch Saturday in the OVAC Class 5A championship game at the Edison Unified Sports Complex in Richmond. The Patriots rallied by University, 5-4, in 8 innings.

## Park Plates 3 In Extra Frame To Get By University

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Please see **PATRIOTS**, Page 10

St. Clairsville rightfielder Zach Vickers made a sliding catch Saturday against Indian Creek in the OVAC Class 4A championship game at the Edison Unified Sports Complex in Richmond. The Red Devils won, 3-1.

## Red Devils Ride Pitching, Defense To Class 4A Title

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Please see **4A**, Page 10

## Angels Carry Cameron To OVAC 1A Championship

By **AARON PETCHAL**  
For The Intelligencer

**TORONTO** — The Cameron baseball team presents "Angels in the Infield."

Adam Angel IV tallied four hits and an RBI, Coy Angel collected two singles and an RBI, while striking out seven and recording the win, and Kasen Angel contributed a single, while also providing strong defense behind the plate as No. 1 seed Cameron defeated No. 3 seed Conotton Valley on Saturday, 8-2, enabling the Dragons to repeat as OVAC Class 1A champions on an overcast Saturday afternoon at the Knights Baseball Complex.

"It feels good," Cameron (18-8)

head coach Adam Angel said about winning the conference championship. "The guys have worked hard. This was a goal we set at the start of the season. We lost some key pieces from last year's group. We have had some freshmen and underclassmen step up and fill those holes in the lineup. They do a good job. We played well."

The Dragons made history last year when Cameron defeated Madonna, 6-5, in the final to win the school's first tournament title.

"Both are great," Coach Angel said. "The first one was history for Cameron. This one is a little different. We re-



COY ANGEL

peated as champions. I have got my third son on the team. That's pretty cool. It's nice the three boys were able to play together. It's a great experience."

Adam Angel IV — the team's shortstop against the Rockets — was named the game's MVP. Angel IV went 4-for-4 with two singles, two triples, three runs scored, an RBI and a stolen base. He also played strong defense as he had two assists, while also starting a 6-3 inning-ending double play in the bottom of the second.

"He played well," Coach Angel said. "They could not keep him off the bases. He made a difference for us on de-

fense. He was a big key for us.

"Going into the game, I was thinking about mixing up the lineup. A friend of mine told me to stop overthinking it and to just play with what you have. I didn't make any changes, and it worked out. Kasen did a great job at catcher behind the plate. He had no passed balls and no errors. I could not ask for a better day."

The double play started by Angel IV was one of three the boys from Harrison County hit into during the game. The Green-and-White hit into one in each of the first two innings, and all three proved costly.

Please see **CAMERON**, Page 11

## Central Falls To Shadyside In Class 2A

By **KIM NORTH**  
Staff Writer

**WHEELING** — For the first time in nearly three decades Shadyside has won an OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 2A softball championship. The last time the Tigers took home the title was in 1994.

The wait is over.

Third-seeded Shadyside (17-6) scored three times in the top of the fifth and tacked on another trio of runs in the sixth to rally past top-seeded Wheeling Central, 6-5, Saturday high atop the Friendly City on the all-turf surface at Patriot Field on the Wheeling Park High School campus.

"This is what the girls wanted. They talked about (winning the title) and they went out and did it," Shadyside head coach Robert Gorrell Jr. said amidst a wild celebration. "This is what they've worked so hard for. I'm very happy for them."

The Maroon Knights (16-4) took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the third courtesy of a Brook Edge 2-run homer to deep right-center with two outs. Edge would finish a triple shy of the cycle



Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Central catcher Ava Hanson awaits a throw to the plate for a force out before relaying to first to complete a double play Saturday, but the Maroon Knights fell to Shadyside, 6-5, in the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 2A softball championship game on Patriot Field at Wheeling Park High School.

with a pair of singles and a double to go along with the roundtripper.

The Tigers finally broke through against Wheeling Central ace Josie Frizzell as Abby Gorrell reached on an error leading off.

Please see **SHADYSIDE**, Page 10

## Nationals Beat Pirates, Avoid Series Sweep

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Josiah Gray pitched six strong innings, Joey Meneses had four hits and the Washington Nationals finally cooled off the Pittsburgh Pirates 7-2 in a game delayed nearly 2 1/2 hours by rain Sunday.

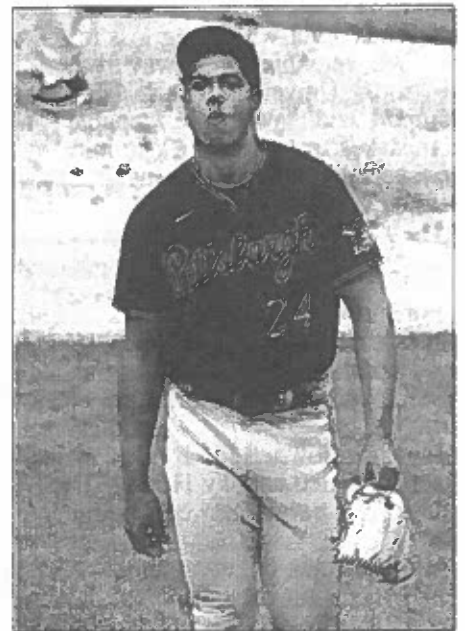
Jeimer Candelario and Victor Robles each had an early two-run double for Washington, which had lost three straight. Luis Garcia delivered a two-run single in the second, and every Nationals starter got at least one hit.

Bryan Reynolds and Tucupita Marcano each had two hits and an RBI for the surprising Pirates, who had won four straight and 11 of 12. Pittsburgh finished April with a 20-9 record.

Gray (2-4) allowed one run on three hits and three walks. He struck out six and threw 105 pitches.

The right-hander retired 10 of his last 11 batters. Over his last five starts, he is 2-2 with a 1.57 ERA and 27 strikeouts in 28 2/3 innings.

Gray's biggest challenge came in the third. After a single by Reynolds made it 5-1, two walks loaded the bases with two outs. But then Gray retired Jack Suwinski on a hard shot to first



AP Photo

Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Johan Oviedo walks off the field after being relieved in the third inning against the Washington Nationals Sunday in Washington.

baseballer Dominic Smith, who tossed to Gray covering to end the inning.

"Things could have got out of hand quick if Suwinski got on there," Gray said. "I beared down and made a pitch. Happy to keep the team in the game and be able to go put up some zeros."

Please see **PIRATES**, Page 11

# Steubenville's King No-Hits JM In OVAC 5A Softball Final

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — It's been said many, many times that good pitching will beat good hitting any day of the week.

Outstanding pitching will also do the job as Steubenville ace Julianna King outdueled John Marshall's Kadence Pettit in a 2-0 victory Saturday in the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 5A softball championship game at cloud-covered Patriot Field high atop the Friendly City on the campus of Wheeling Park High School.

"I'm proud of my team because they battled the entire game. They fought the entire time and never got too high or too low. They stayed even," Steubenville head coach Gus DiMarzio said.

"About two weeks ago I had a conversation with (former Pittsburgh Pirates bench coach) Rich Donnelly and he told me the essence of baseball in baserunners and not batting averages," DiMarzio said. "For two weeks now we've been preaching to the girls to just get two feet on first base and take one base at a time and we'll see what happens. It's paid off for us."

The championship was the fourth for Steubenville and the



Photo by Kim North

John Marshall first baseman AC Cumberledge stretches for a throw during the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 5A softball championship game Saturday against Steubenville on Patriot Field at Wheeling Park High School. Big Red's Julianna King was out on the play but pitched a no-hitter in a 2-0 victory.

first since 2019.

King, who will continue her career at NCAA Division II Tiffin University, didn't allow a hit and struck out 13 Monarchs. However, she did walk four — one intentionally — and only allowed one ball out of the infield, a pop up to shallow right by Pettit leading off the fourth.

"What a stage to throw a no-hitter and to do it against a pitcher like that (Pettit). Ka-

dence is as good as anyone in the valley, and for Jules to throw a no-hitter in the OVAC championship game, I'm very proud of her."

However, the other three base-on-balls came to the first three batters she faced as John Marshall loaded the bases with no outs. King came back to fan the next three and escape the only real jam she faced.

"I went out and settled her

down. I told her to get one out at a time and we'll go from there, and she did," DiMarzio said of King's Houdini act. "She settled down, maybe she needed a moment, and her teammates supported her."

The fact that John Marshall couldn't put the ball in play had veteran head coach Ed West shaking his head.

"We just didn't play very well. We had a very good chance in the first inning but couldn't capitalize on it," West said. "We couldn't put the ball in play ... three strikeouts in a row wasn't good."

"And when they scored, we committed two errors and gave them extra outs," he added. "You can't do things like that in big games. Give Steubenville credit though. They played better than we did."

Pettit, who is headed to West Liberty, matched King zero-to-zero through 5 innings, but a pair of errors by the Monarchs allowed Big Red to score.

Gia Bowman, the No. 9 hitter, beat out a tapper in front of the plate for a leadoff single. King followed by legging out another infield hit. After the first out was recorded, Sena Smith's smash went off the glove of the John Marshall third baseman for

an error to load the bases. Paige Matteson hit a comeback to Pettit, but her throw to the plate was low and mishandled as Bowman slid in safely with the first run of the contest.

Including the trio of Ks to end the first, King retired the next 16 batters she faced before Paytyn Tucker reached first after an error following a strike out. Tucker then scooted to second on a passed ball, but the next batter struck out. Pettit was intentionally walked and King got out of the mini-jam with another K.

Steubenville played some small ball in the seven to add an insurance marker. With two outs, Bowman singled up the middle and King reached on a slow roller to short. Sophia Zorne loaded the bases with another infield single. With Smith at the plate, Bowman raced home on a wild pitch for a 2-0 count.

King set the Monarchs down in order to preserve the win.

Of the seven singles that Pettit yielded, five were of the infield variety.

"Kadence pitched a really good game," West said. "We couldn't make a routine play at third and a routine play on a comebacker. If we do, it's a different ballgame."

## SHADYSIDE

(Continued from Page 9)

With one out, Rylee Fulton singled to right and Gentry Brown followed with a bunt single to load the bases. Bella Honeywell doubled to the gap in right-center as Gorrell and Fulton both scored, tying the game at 2.

With two outs and Brown still at third, she raced home on a wild pitch to put the Tigers ahead for the first time, 3-2.

A pair of Wheeling Central errors in the sixth allowed three Shadyside runs in the sixth. Keying the outburst was an RBI single to right by Fulton, and when the ball was misplayed, a second run crossed the plate for a 5-3 read-

ing and Fulton stood at third. She sprinted home on another error.

"That's the worst game we've played defensively all year," Wheeling Central head coach Buck Davidson noted. "You can't give up 2-base errors, especially to a good team like Shadyside. We made the errors and they capitalized on them."

Wheeling Central didn't roll over, however. Bella Rine's pinch-hit single in the sixth drove in Erin Maxwell and Frizzell's 2-run single in the seventh drew the Maroon Knights to within 6-5, but Shadyside's Arianna Saxton got the next batter to fly out to Fulton

in left to seal the victory.

Saxton, while not overpowering, struck out three and walked five. She allowed nine hits and threw 116 pitches, of which 68 were strikes.

"She did what she had to do," Gorrell said of his pitcher.

Frizzell fanned eight and didn't walk a batter. She yielded a dozen hits.

Even though Shadyside won an Ohio Division IV state softball championship in 2015, the Tigers didn't win the OVAC Class 2A title, nor did they make the finals. They fell to Steubenville Catholic in the semifinals.

## PATRIOTS

(Continued from Page 9)

Jared Marsh ignited the Park comeback by reaching on a throwing error. Nathan Bittinger singled Marsh to third. Braydon Kupsky delivered an RBI groundout, cutting the deficit to 4-3.

Gian Degenova coaxed a walk before Ryan Conrad reached on a fielder's choice with no outs being recorded on the play. Nate Simon knotted the affair with a groundout to first base. Senior Quinn Jamison produced the game-winner via an infield single which brought home the winning run, setting off a wild Patriot celebration.

"This is a special group. They have done everything we have asked of them," Myers said. "Winning OVAC championships is special. I am very happy for our seniors. They are great leaders."

"University deserves a lot of credit. They beat a quality Morgantown team in the semifinals to get here," he added. "We got up 2-0 after the first two innings but we didn't do much at the plate until we had to."

The fourth-seeded Hawks fell to 16-9 on the season. They beat city rival Morgantown 10-4 in the semifinals. Second-seeded Park, which downed Brooke 5-2 to advance to the finals, won for the 18th time in 24 starts.

"This is a gut-wrenching loss for sure. We were three outs away from the title," University coach Brad Comport said. "We made a couple of mistakes that came back to hurt us, especially in the last inning."



Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Park's Nick Tsoras takes a swing during Saturday's OVAC 5A championship game against University at the Edison High Unified Sports Complex in Richmond.

"Give Wheeling Park credit. They did what they needed to do. They responded well in the last inning," he added. "But I am proud of how we competed. Our guys played hard. They just came up a little short."

Park drew first blood in its initial at-bat. Bittinger singled, stole second and was plated on a Degenova groundout. The Patriots made it 2-0 in the second. Jamison singled,

stole second and came home on a Tino Nardone single.

University halved the deficit with a run in the fourth. Brodee Latocha singled and came home on Braham's double off the left centerfield fence.

The Hawks knotted the affair in the sixth. Latocha walked and moved to third on singles from Braham and Campbell. Gabe's Templeton's grounder plated Latocha.

University had the makings of a potential big fifth frame only to fall victim to a pair of sparkling Park defensive plays. Jake Crosten and Gabe Jansen opened the inning with back-to-back singles. However, Conrad gunned down Crosten in his attempt to steal third before Marsh made a terrific throw from center field to nail Jansen at the plate. He was attempting to score from second on a Jett Walters' single.

Senior southpaw Luke Doyle was the first of three Park hurlers. He pitched well, striking out two and walking one. He gave way to Degenova in the sixth. Luke Myers earned the mound win as he entered in the eighth.

Cody Vance started on the bump for the Hawks. He fanned five and walked four before giving way to Cory Thomas in the sixth. Thomas struck out one and walked a like amount in taking the loss.

Park was limited to five hits. Jamison was the lone Patriot to have a pair of safeties.

## Caldwell Breaks It Open In 4th, Defeats Ferry For Class 3A Championship

WHEELING — Martins Ferry entered Saturday as a two-time defending OVAC champion. So did Caldwell.

So, when the Redskins made the jump to class 3A from 2A in the OVAC, it set up a potential battle of the champions come tournament weekend.

That's just what fans were treated to Saturday afternoon at Wheeling Park High School's all-turf Patriot Field. The team's battled to a 3-3 deadlock before Caldwell ripped it wide open with a 4-run fourth inning.

The result? A 14-3 victory in five innings for head coach Doug Pfeiffer's Redskins and a bit of revenge in the process.

Back in March, Martins Ferry took down Caldwell 10-0 in five innings on the Purple Riders home diamond. But there was one slight difference between that game and Saturday's. This time, the Redskins had the services of reigning OVAC Class 2A Player of the Year in Madi Mumaw.

Mumaw struck out five batters and limited Ferry to three runs on eight hits, with every run coming in a five-hit third inning. But those other four innings? Goose eggs across.

Caldwell managed to plate 14 runs on 15 hits, including four in that fateful fourth inning that featured a leadoff solo blast from Sydney Sailing to center.

Six more runs on five more hits followed and by the time Kelsi Gillespie struck out the number nine hitter for the third out, Caldwell retook the lead in commanding fashion at 10-3.

CLASS 4A  
Oak Glen 5, Edison 2

WHEELING — Coming into this season, a lot of people focused on who Golden Bears didn't have back, not who they did have returning.

While it is true some key pieces from the back-to-back state tournament teams had graduated, perhaps flying under the radar a bit was just how talented this version was.

Under the radar no more.

Saturday coach Sherrie Garner's club finished another impressive 20-win regular season by capturing its third straight OVAC Class 4A championship with a win over the Wildcats at Wheeling Park High School's all-turf Patriot Field.

The victory not only gave the Golden Bears, who are ranked in the top-10 in W.Va. Class AA, the conference trophy, but was their 14th consecutive win and 17th in the last 18 games.

The Golden Bears were able to score a run in each of the first two innings, but had several opportunities to break things open, slip away and saw Edison battle back to tie the game in the sixth.

The Wildcats, who also came in red-hot having won seven of their last nine, surging into the tourney field on the cut-off day and upsetting top-seed Indian Creek in the semifinals, made a few too many mistakes in the end, though, as the Golden Bears took advantage and plated three runs in the bottom of the sixth to pull ahead for good.

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### CLASS 4A Oak Glen 5, Edison 2

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## 4A

(Continued from Page 9)

For instance, Indian Creek's biggest offensive threat came in the second when the Redskins loaded the bases with nary an out.

Landon Pownell and Nick Maurer singled and Ty Householder drew a walk between the two.

Hoffman calmly got an innocent pop fly on the infield for the first out.

Senior Jayden Vandeborne stepped in and appeared to have knotted the game at one. He lofted a fly ball to medium deep right. St. Clairsville right fielder Zach Vickers, however, had other ideas.

He camped under the ball and rifled the ball to the plate where junior catcher Marcus Bush went up the first base line to get the ball and then dove across home plate to just put the tag down on Pownell to end the inning.

Indian Creek did get on the board and cut the Red Devil lead in half with a run in the third.

Gavin Pownell, who came on in relief for the Redskins, drew a lead-off walk, which came back to haunt Hoffman. After an out was recorded, Pownell moved all the way to third after an error in the infield.

Creek catcher Sy Howell followed with a solid single, but the rally stopped there as Hoffman induced a 6-4-3 double play to escape the jam.

The pitcher's best friend proved to be big once again in the Creek half of the fourth. Householder and Maurer started the inning with back-to-back singles.

"This was a great game between two great teams, but their guy (Hoffman) got the outs when he needed them," Cottis said. "I felt like we had a good game plan at the plate and

we executed, but we couldn't get the big hits when we needed it. Both of our pitchers threw well, but we just couldn't cash in offensively."

Hoffman promptly got a chopper to talented junior shortstop Braylen Blomquist, who stepped on second and threw on to first for the double play. A lazy fly ball to right got St. C. back in the dugout.

"Hunter did a really good job and we executed (defensive) plays that we needed to have to get the momentum back in our dugout," Sliva said. "Creek pitches, fields and hits it well, so getting the lead early and being able to keep the lead when we got into jams was big for us."

Hoffman, who appeared to be gaining velocity as the game went along, retired the Redskins in order in the final three frames.

"I kind of settled into a

groove," Hoffman said. "I feel like after the second, third and fourth innings, I really settled in and knew how to pitch to them. And our defense was really good behind me to help me out."

St. Clairsville, which had lost to Creek by a run as recently as last Thursday, got just enough offense despite being outhit by the Redskins.

The Red Devils wasted no time in grabbing the lead by scoring in the first. Blomquist roped a triple that landed just inside the foul line in deep right.

A couple of hitters later, Blomquist scored on a ground out by Bush.

In the second, sophomore Mickey Balgo produced a one-out single and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt from classmate Noah Turley.

He was promptly driven in on a two-out single by Brody Saunders, which spelled the

end of the afternoon for Creek starter Trevor Lash.

It wasn't until the fifth when the Red Devils got an add-on-run. Saunders drew a lead-off walk, but Sliva called upon Maddox Trennar to pinch run.

Blomquist laid down a bunt to move him into scoring position. It looked like Creek would keep it a one-run game after Gavin Pownell got an innocent fly out to right and then got Bush to pop up into shallow center, but the ball was dropped and Trennar raced around to score.

The Redskins will now shift attention back to the remainder of the regular season, which includes a Monday date with Weir.

"We have a lot of season ahead, and we'll keep plugging away," Cottis said.

The now 13-6 Red Devils return to action Monday against Brooke at Memorial Park.

## NHL PLAYOFFS

■ 7 p.m. — Eastern Conference First Round: Toronto at Tampa Bay, Game 6, TBS

■ 8 p.m. — Eastern Conference First Round: New Jersey at N.Y. Rangers, Game 6, ABC

■ 10 p.m. — Western Conference First Round: Edmonton at L.A. Kings, Game 6, TBS

## PRO GOLF

■ 3 p.m. — PGA Tour: The Mexico Open, Third Round, Vidanta Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico, CBS

## USFL FOOTBALL

■ 12:30 p.m. — New Orleans at Birmingham, USA

■ 7 p.m. — Houston at Memphis, FOX

## XFL FOOTBALL

■ 7 p.m. — South Division Championship: Arlington at Houston, ESPN

## SUNDAY'S BEST

### AUTO RACING

■ 3 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: The Worth 400, Dover Motor Speedway, Dover, Del. FOX

### MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

■ 1:35 p.m. — Pittsburgh at Washington, ATSN

■ 7 p.m. — Philadelphia at Houston, ESPN

### NBA PLAYOFFS

■ 1 p.m. — Eastern Conference Semifinal: Miami at New York, Game 1, ABC

### PRO GOLF

■ 3 p.m. — PGA Tour: The Mexico Open, Final Round, Vidanta Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico, CBS

### USFL FOOTBALL

■ Noon — Pittsburgh vs. Philadelphia, Detroit, NBC

■ 4 p.m. — New Jersey vs. Michigan

### XFL FOOTBALL

■ 3 p.m. — North Division Championship: Seattle at D.C., ESPN



AP Photo

With the first pick in the second round of the NFL Draft on Friday night, the Pittsburgh Steelers drafted former Penn State cornerback Joey Porter Jr. He is the son of former Steeler linebacker Joey Porter.

## Former Penn State CB Is Son Of Former Pittsburgh LB

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Joey Porter Jr. is going home.

The Pittsburgh Steelers selected the Penn State cornerback and Pittsburgh native with the first pick in the second round of the NFL draft on Friday night.

The Steelers addressed a need with their second selection of the second round by taking defensive tackle Keanu Benton out of Wisconsin.

Benton will likely be given time to develop behind a group that includes longtime captain Cam Heyward.

It won't be that way for Porter. The son of former Steelers linebacker and assistant coach Joey Porter Sr., played high school football in Pittsburgh's northern suburbs before spending four seasons with the Nittany Lions. The 22-year-old joins a cornerback group in need of an influx of youth and talent. While the Steelers signed veteran Patrick Peterson during the offseason, they also Cam Sutton to Detroit in free agency.

The 6-foot-2, 195-pound Porter gives the Steelers a defender with size and the skills necessary to play in a scheme that thrives on

blitzing, frequently forcing the cornerbacks to fend for themselves.

While Porter had just one interception during his 35 career games, he was around the ball frequently. Porter tied a Big Ten record when he had six pass breakups in a victory over Purdue last fall.

The Steelers have no trouble catching the ball. Their 20 interceptions in 2022 led the NFL. Yet they were also susceptible to giving up big plays. Pittsburgh allowed 29 touchdown passes, ranked in the bottom five in the league.

Porter will get a chance to make an impact right away, and do it in a place he knows intimately, allowing him to dive in headfirst without having to the transition from collegian to pro in unfamiliar territory.

"A lot of young guys are going to go to a new city, they got to learn a new way to live, all this stuff," Austin said.

"So that's going to (be) less stress to a young guy (like Porter) as he comes in so he can really concentrate more on the football part of it."

Please see Steelers, Page C2

## Montana State

By BOB HERTZEL  
WV News

MORGANTOWN — Surely there are some of you out there shaking your heads having seen West Virginia basketball's latest nugget mined from the NCAA's transfer portal, RaeQuan Battle, and wondered how big a deal can it be coming from a mid-major like Montana State.

To those of you who think like that, let us introduce you to new world of college basketball, a world where mid-major, junior college, high school, foreign ... doesn't matter. Basketball players, like trees in West Virginia, are all around you ... most of them tall, with long limbs, elegant to look at and formidable if you want to try to cut them down to size.

Montana State?

Please see Battle, Page C4



RAEQUAN BATTLE

## OVAC CLASS 1A SOFTBALL FINAL

# Baker Powers Conotton To 3rd Consecutive Title

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The third time was definitely a charm for the Conotton Valley softball team Friday as it won a third consecutive OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 1A championship.

The top-seeded Rockets (18-2) did so by riding the left arm and bat of Masy Baker in a 10-0 blanking of No. 2 Frontier (10-7) on the soggy all-turf surface at Wheeling Park High School's Patriot Field.

"They all feel pretty good," Conotton Valley head coach Jeremy Bleininger said when asked if this one felt any better than the others. "It's just an accomplishment to come here and compete."

Baker, just a junior who has already verbally committed to NCAA Division I Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., not only sparkled inside the circle with a dozen punch outs, but she also homered in her third straight championship game.

The left-handed slugger highlighted a 5-run bottom of the fifth when she launched a 3-run blast well over the fence in deep left-center. Her circuit shot followed an RBI single by Chloe Stuber and preceded a solo shot off the bat of Maddie Kelley.

"We work a lot on our hitting. We did a lot of work off the tee this week, just working on fundamental stuff," Bleininger noted. "We want to be able to adjust to what the pitcher is throwing or what the umpire is calling. I thought the girls did a good job of that tonight."

With the surge of power, Conotton Valley quickly turned a 2-0 game into a 7-0 rout. The damage could've been worse as Delilah Williams lined a single off the fence, but Delaney Peters' lined back to

Please see Baker, Page C2

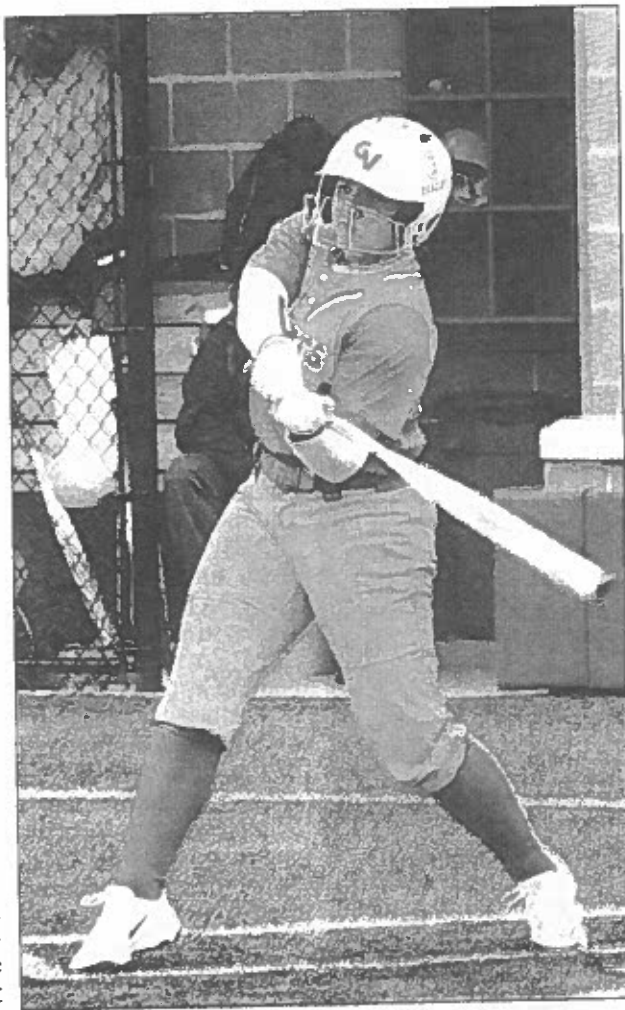


Photo by Kim North

Conotton Valley's Masy Baker watches the ball before sending it well over the fence in deep left-center during the fifth inning of Friday's OVAC Class 1A championship game on the all-turf surface at Wheeling Park High School.

## Analysis: QBs Picked 1-2 Both Don't Have Success

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Bryce Young was walking to an interview after being picked first in the NFL draft when he heard C.J. Stroud was selected second.

Young celebrated with a loud scream and a big smile.

The two childhood friends from Southern California became the ninth pair of quarterbacks picked 1-2 overall since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970 and the first Black signal-callers. They shared a hug after the Carolina Panthers took Young first and rejoiced when Stroud went next to the Houston Texans.

"C.J. is like a brother to me and hearing him selected was amazing," Young said. "He is a great player and person and to be going through this process together is surreal."

History says it's a longshot that both QBs will have successful careers.

Young and Stroud already have defied the odds getting here so they're up for the challenge. So is Anthony Richardson, who was chosen at No. 4 by the Indianapolis Colts.

"The city of Houston hasn't seen a franchise quarterback in a long time," Stroud said. "I definitely think I can become a franchise quarterback. I got to put in a lot of work."

Of the previous 16 quarterbacks selected 1-2, only Peyton Manning won a Super Bowl for the team that drafted him. Jim Plunkett was picked No. 1 by the New England Patriots in 1971, but won two Super Bowls for the Raiders years later. Carson Wentz was 11-2 as a starter for the 2017 Philadelphia Eagles, but a knee injury forced him to miss that team's Super Bowl run.

Other QBs in that group have produced wide-ranging results.

Please see QBs, Page C2

In West Virginia, the only pro team we now worry about plays at WVU — stop shouting, it's just a joke, although it really isn't all that funny.

That there isn't more interest in the NFL draft in these parts is in direct relation with the results in September, October and November on the football field. Bad football teams usually have bad players and bad players are not involved in the NFL draft.

Whereas at one time WVU was acknowledged as a "football school" in the past decade that has morphed into it being more of a "basketball school", even though the basketball results haven't been anything to write home about either.

But interest in basketball is soaring while, if we might pun for a moment, the interest in football is painfully "soaring."

Whereas in the good years for football, the Rodriguez years or the Nehlen years, WVU might have five or six or seven or eight players drafted, that many going back into the Sam Huff era, too.

Recently, though, WVU potential draftees are relegated to the late rounds, if at all, and that probably is no different

to players on an NFL roster or being chosen on draft day for that league, but that changed when Gale Catlett mercifully retired and John Beilein began turning out competitive, exciting teams and Bob Huggins created his own brand of WVU excitement as he took the team to the Final Four and became a member of the Hall of Fame himself.

The Coliseum now, every bit as much as the tailgating parking lots at Mountaineer Field, is the social capital of Morgantown, attendance reaching top levels even without teams winning 20 games or going deep into the season.

This year's recruiting magic by Huggins, cramming his hand into the transfer portal and pulling out rabbit after rabbit, has created the same kind of buzz there was in the Pittsnogle and Da'Sean Butler eras.

It is crucial for WVU's football program to get up off the floor right now — this season — and reclaim its place in the state, and that would require Neal Brown to find a way to beat either Penn State or Pitt before dipping its toe into the new configured Big 12 waters to create the kind of stir the program needs to get the public back involved.

Iota were the first two picks in 2015. They've had moderate success and now are backups. Winston is on his second team and Mariota on his fourth.

Jared Goff was picked ahead of Wentz in 2016. He led the Los Angeles Rams to a Super Bowl appearance before he was traded to Detroit for Matthew Stafford. Goff revived his career with the Lions last season and made his third Pro Bowl. Wentz is a free agent seeking his fourth team in four years.

Trevor Lawrence and Zach Wilson were the first two picks in 2021. Lawrence led the Jacksonville Jaguars to a

through. I wear the armor of God and I'm scarred up. But that's what you want. You want somebody who has been through adversity and somebody who will persevere through issues. I'm not really worried about the talk. People are going to talk good, bad, ugly, sad. I'm just going to continue to be myself and be a man of God."

The dynamic, dual-threat Richardson has the biggest upside of the three QBs but also the most bust potential. He threw only 393 passes in his career at Florida so he's raw and needs time to develop.



Pittsburgh Steelers first round NFL Draft pick, former offensive lineman from Georgia, Broderick Jones, right, poses for a photo with Steelers owner Art Rooney II at the Steelers football headquarters in Pittsburgh, Friday.

## STEELERS

(Continued from Page C1)

It's a job that Porter has been groomed for in some ways his entire life. His father spent eight seasons in Pittsburgh as a player from 1999-2006, winning a Super Bowl and making the Pro Bowl three times.

Joey Porter Sr. returned for a stint as an assistant on Mike Tomlin's staff from 2014-19 while his son starred at North Allegheny.

The younger Porter is well-versed in what it takes to play in the NFL, and that demeanor became evident when Austin checked in on him at Penn State's pro day.

"What I got when I was interacting with him was that he'd been around and understood that, 'Hey, this was an important part of (my) day, important part of (my) 'interview process.'"

A process that Porter handled with ease, even if he carries himself a little more quietly than his father, a notorious trash talker during his long and eventful career.

"Joe is as good (a trash talker) as there ever was," Austin said with a laugh. "But no, I think, you know, (Joey Porter Jr.) is his own person."

Porter won't lack for mentors. The Steelers have one of the best safeties in the game in perennial Pro Bowler Minkah Fitzpatrick. Peterson is a three-time All Pro who at age 32 will find himself with a protege to work with when organized team activities begin next month.

"(Porter) going to be in an environment that gives him an opportunity to succeed," Austin said.

## BAKER

(Continued from Page C1)

pitcher Kaylee Berentz who quickly fired to first to double up the runner and the Cougars got a nice catch in left by Savannah Offenberger to end the inning.

After giving up an infield single by Isabella Grayson to start the fifth, Baker struck out the next three Frontier hitters to end the inning.

She then capped a 3-run outburst in the home half of the fifth with an RBI single to right that scored Daphne Stuber with the game-ending run. Chloe Stuber drove in the previous two runs of the inning with her third single. She finished with three RBI, one behind Baker's four.

Williams also collected three hits, two singles and a double.

"They started making contact and you know how hitting can give a

team positive vibes," Frontier head coach Eric Rinard said. "Hitting breeds hitting and they hit the ball really nice."

Rinard said he was proud of his girls for attaining one of their goals.

"This was one of our goals to be in the championship," he said. "I just wish we could've been on the other side, but we understand that someone has to win and someone has to lose. We're not done yet. We've got a lot of softball ahead of us this season and in the postseason."

Kate Congleton had the first hit off of Baker - a 2-out single over the shortstop's head into left-center.

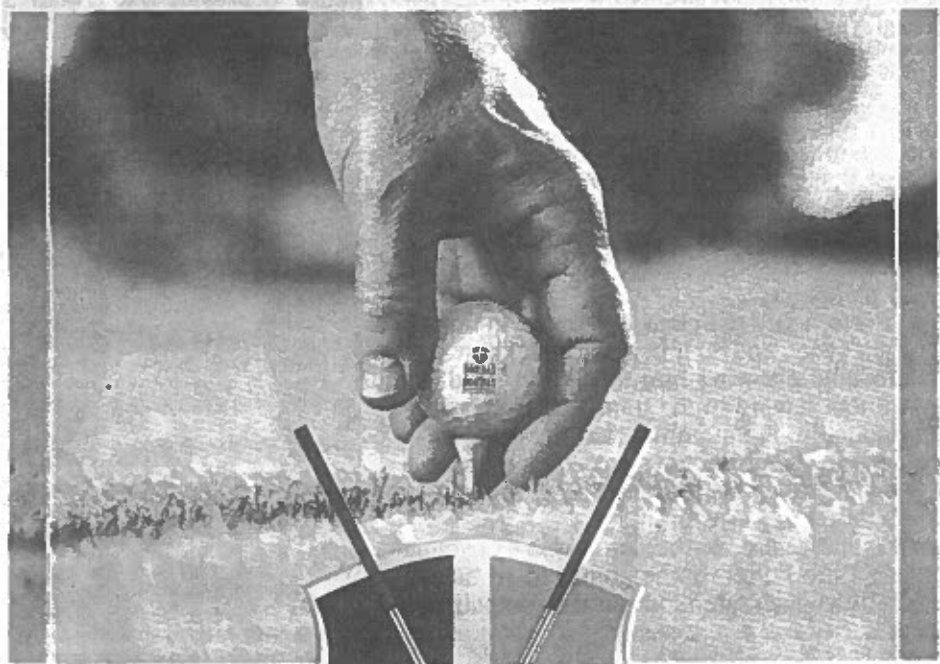
Baker faced just two batters over the minimum as the Cougars had a baserunner - following Baker's only walk - thrown

out attempting to steal second. Baker threw 74 pitches - 50 strikes - and went ahead 0-1 in the count on 13 of the 17 batters she faced.

"There is no doubt Masy is really good. She's been good for our program but what makes her a real team player is she will help any of her teammates, be it the younger pitcher's coming in or whatever. She shares her knowledge of the game and everyone kind of congregates to her for guidance."

**GAME NOTE**  
- The OVAC Class 4A championship game between Edison and Oak Glen will be played at the Wheeling Park High School facility at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, with the site for the Class 2A, 3A and 5A games to be determined early Saturday.

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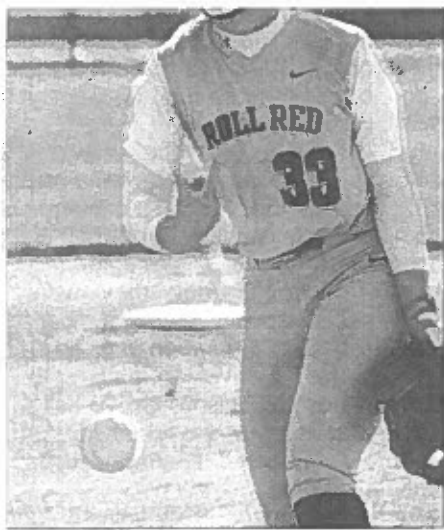


Photo by Seth Staskey

Steubenville's Jules King fires a pitch plateward Wednesday against University in an OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 5A softball semifinal. She struck out 16 in a 1-0 Big Red win.

## King Pitches Steubenville To 5A Final

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

ELM GROVE — Steubenville didn't get a lot going offensively against talented University pitcher Maddie Campbell Tuesday afternoon at the Chambers I-470 Complex.

As it turned out, Big Red didn't need a lot because the Hawks offense got even less going against ace righty Jules King.

A combination of one big swing of the bat by Steubenville catcher Sagan Smarella, King's pitching and strong defense resulted in a 1-0 victory to send Steubenville to Saturday's OVAC Class 5A championship game where it will take on John Marshall on Saturday on Ben's Field at 2 p.m.

"Our kids really battle and when you play a schedule like we play, it feels like you've kind of been there before when you're in games like this," Steubenville head coach Gus DiMarzio said.

Having been in those pressure-packed situations paid dividends for Big Red, especially in the seventh inning.

University put King, who struck out 16, in very stressful situations throughout the game. It had only four baserunners in the game, but with their backs to the wall, the Hawks finally ignited a rally in the seventh.

Talented shortstop Lauren Huebsch, who made a couple of brilliant defensive plays in the game, led off the inning with a double. She advanced to third on a ground out to first.

"We were in a perfect spot in our lineup and after Lauren doubled, and I thought we were going to be able to make it happen," University head coach Mindy Parks said.

Since barreling up the ball against King had been a true chore for the Hawks, Parks opted to try to squeeze. However, with King's velocity and movement, the Hawks were unable to execute the play and King was credited with a strikeout when the hitter fouled off the two-strike bunt attempt.

From there, King did it herself. She sat down the final Hawk hitter via the strikeout once again.

"Thank God I have a pitching coach like Tomi McConnell, and I am not calling the pitches anymore," DiMarzio smiled. "I don't understand the pitching circle stuff as well as she does, and she did a great job of calling those pitches and was very confident."

Even as good as King was, a team has to score to win and Steubenville did just enough.

Big Red (13-5) took the lead in the top of the second when Smarella turned a Campbell offering around and hit it well over the fence in left for a total no doubter.

Please see KING, Page 14

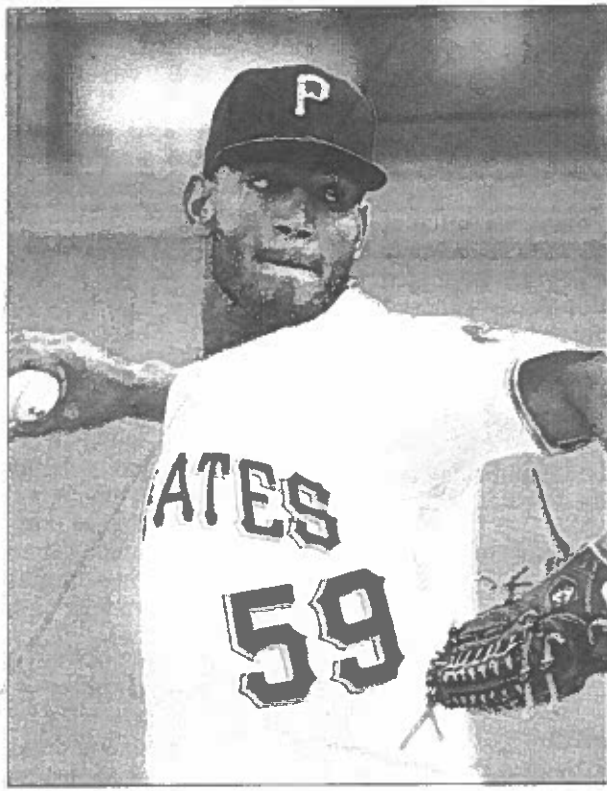
## Pittsburgh Scores Five Runs In 7th

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Roansy Contreras gave up two hits in six scoreless innings while Ji Hwan Bae and Jason Delay had three hits each in the Pittsburgh Pirates' 8-1 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday night.

Contreras (3-1) took a no-hitter into the sixth inning before Austin Wynns broke it up with a leadoff single and Freddie Freeman singled with one out. Contreras escaped the jam and preserved a 2-0 lead by getting Jason Heyward and James Outman to fly out.

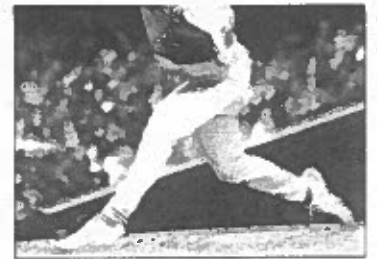
"I mean no-hit through five with that lineup, that's not easy to do," Pirates manager Derek Shelton said. "You know, kind of lost his command a little bit in the sixth but he was really good. He was really effective."

Please see PIRATES, Page 14



AP Photo

Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Roansy Contreras delivers during the first inning of a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Pittsburgh, Wednesday.



MICHAEL GROVE

## Injury Derails Grove's Plans In Ohio Valley

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

Michael Grove couldn't have scripted a better schedule.

The Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher was making a start at Wrigley Field last Thursday, meaning his next scheduled start would come at PNC Park in Pittsburgh.

Throw in an off day on Monday, and the Wheeling Park and West Virginia University

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## John Marshall Holds Off Wheeling Park In 5A Semi

Pettit, Blake Slug 2-Run Homers In Monarchs' Win

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

ELM GROVE — Kadence Pettit and Ava Blake slugged 2-run homers and Pettit went the distance inside the circle as John Marshall held off Wheeling Park, 5-3, in an OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 5A softball semifinal Wednesday night on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

With the victory, their third over the Patriots this spring (17-11), the top-seeded Monarchs (22-2) will be seeking their eighth championship under veteran head coach Ed West when they meet No. 2 Steubenville on Saturday at 2 p.m. on Ben's Field. Big Red blanked third-seeded University, 1-0.

"We played pretty good today. We hit the ball well, pitched well and didn't make an error," West said. "The girls really wanted to win this game."

Pettit, a West Liberty signee, sent an 0-1 offering from Amber Thompson well over the fence in left-center with two outs and Blake on base in the bottom of the first for a 2-0 lead. It was Pettit's seventh roundtripper of the year.

Each team plated a run in the fourth as the Patriots' Faith Randolph drilled a 2-2 pitch for a solo homer leading off. Carlee Yoho doubled home Carlie Keyser with two outs as the score bumped to 3-1.

"She had a couple of nice hits. She's been hitting the ball really well of late," West said of Yoho.

Masyn Inclan led off the bottom of



Photo by Kim North

John Marshall head coach Ed West congratulates Kadence Pettit after she hit a 2-run, 2-out homer in the bottom of the first inning Wednesday against Wheeling Park in an OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 5A softball semifinal on Ben's Field. The Monarchs won, 5-3.

the fifth for John Marshall with a single to left that ended Thompson's day inside the circle. Dalaney Theiss came on in relief and struck out the first batter she faced. However, Blake, a Marshall University recruit, took an 0-1 pitch to dead center for her 9th home run of the season as the margin grew to 5-1.

Wheeling Park didn't give up as Ma-

kiyah Strothers drew a 1-out walk in the sixth and Faith Randolph singled up the middle. Delaney Randolph sliced a drive down the right field line that eluded a diving Nia Miller as Strothers and Faith Randolph scored on the triple, making it 5-3.

Please see 5A, Page 14

## Harrison Central Finally Defeats Big Red On Baseball Field

By ANDREW GRIMM  
For The Intelligencer

STUEBENVILLE — After several years of not having much luck against Big Red at Vaccaro Field, Harrison Central head baseball coach Mike Valesko said he joked before Wednesday's game he hoped his team's first trip to the brand-new Crimson Complex would change the fortune.

One game is a small sample size, but so far, the Huskies' skipper got his wish as Harrison Central overcame an early deficit and then fended off a late Big Red surge to hold on for a 9-7 victory.

"Pulling up here I told the guys we're turning the page and I'm really glad we've turned that page," Valesko said

with a laugh. "We battled after getting down early, give credit to (Big Red), they came out ready to play. Our guys just kept playing, and I thought our at bats were good, we ran the bases well, we were aggressive, we got some bunts down, we fielded the ball ... we played good baseball, not great baseball, but good baseball."

All joking about the change of venue changing the luck aside, Valesko and company take a lot of pride in being able to get a win over Big Red any time they can come out on top in the battle of programs with mutual respect.

"I don't care what their record is, their jersey still says Steubenville Big Red," Valesko said. "I told our guys be-

fore the game, during the game and after the game, that means something. I have so much respect for coach Freddie (Heatherington) and their program. Growing up in the Valley as a die-hard baseball guy, you think of Steubenville Big Red. "It doesn't matter what their record is, that's a good baseball team and the best coached team you're going to play, so to beat them, it means something to us. I don't care if they're 4-15 or 20-0, it means something to beat Steubenville Big Red Baseball."

With Steubenville (5-13) walking Harrison Central (10-6) standout Treston Nemeth four times, including intentionally in his last three-straight at bats, the Huskies

had to get contributions from throughout the lineup — and they did.

Kaden Jurosko and Tucker Snyder each finished with three-hit days, while Anthony Pelegreen contributed a pair of RBIs. Nemeth did have an RBI single in the only at bat he was not given a free pass.

"Credit to those guys behind him, I thought our guys had really good at bats," Valesko said. "That's what it's going to take for us to be successful. If teams are smart, they're going to dance around Treston sometimes and if those guys behind him produce and help us out, teams will start throwing at him again."

Please see FIELD, Page 14

ment, we just have to stay together as a team and keep fighting.

"(Harrison Central) is a good team, our pitchers did a good job. We played good, we're getting better, we just have to keep believing."

Big Red's early offense came from Cooper Blackburn, who knocked a two-run single for the early advantage. He added another RBI single in the sixth inning rally to finish with three RBIs. Zach Smith finished three singles, plated a run in the fourth and reached in all five of his at bats for Big Red.

Harrison Central travels to Garaway on Friday. Big Red is off until Monday.

## KING

(Continued from Page 13)

Outside of that hit, Big Red only had seven other baserunners, only three of whom reached second and one got to third before being stranded.

Again, it proved to be irrelevant because King was on.

"We're very thankful to have Jules and she's like a daughter to me," DiMarzio said. "She's no different than any other kid who wants to succeed. She wants to win, and I wouldn't trade her for anyone. I am glad she's on my side because she'll battle you."

University (20-5) finished with three hits. Huebsch also had a single.

"We hadn't seen this type of pitching much this year," Parks said. "It's just not been around a whole lot, so it was a big adjustment."

Steubenville hosts Parkersburg South on Friday before focusing on the Monarchs, who defeated Wheeling Park, 5-3.

"It's always great to have the chance to play for a championship, and I thank the kids for the opportunity," DiMarzio said. "We'll show up Saturday and battle John Marshall. That's all we can do, right?"

## 5A

(Continued from Page 13)

However, on Lauren Nolte's tapper in front of the plate, Randolph was caught off third for the second out. The next batter grounded out.

"We had a little baserunning mistake there that hurt," Wheeling Park head coach Pat Durkin said. "Other than that, I thought the girl played a really good game."

"I was happy. The girls played hard," Durkin said. "That's all I can ask, but I think they know in their minds that they can beat John Marshall, and that's what we'll have to do in the postseason if we want to advance."

Pettit finished with seven strikeouts and two walks while yielding five hits. She threw 1-7 pitches, with 67 being strikes. Blake and Yoho both had two hits.

"I thought she threw the ball pretty well," West said of his ace in the circle. "There were some borderline calls she didn't get, but it didn't seem to bother her."

Theiss fanned five and didn't walk a batter in her relief stint. Thompson had a pair of Ks. Mary Darrow had a double.

"I don't think we made any errors, but I know we made a couple of really good plays," West said.

John Marshall owns a victory over Steubenville earlier this season, but West knows this one will be a battle.

"Their pitcher is really good," he said of Big Red's Jules King. "We will have to play a really good game to beat them."

The Monarchs fell in last year's championship

bases, including six Wednesday. The rule changes instituted by Major League Baseball to increase the running game are benefiting Pittsburgh.

"We've done a really nice job in the early going in how we've exploited it," Shelton said.

Rodolfo Castro added two hits for the Pirates, who won for the eighth time in nine games to improve to 17-8. Pittsburgh has the best record in the National League after losing 101 games in 2021 and 100 games in 2022.

Despite their great start, the Pirates aren't drawing many fans. There were just 12,152 in attendance

## GROVE'S

(Continued from Page 13)

product was planning to come to the Ohio Valley and visit with friends and family for the day.

Unfortunately, for one reason or another, sometimes all good plans go astray.

Grove left the start against the Cubs in the fourth inning with what proved to be a groin strain. Subsequently, he was placed on the 15-day injured list the next day, which obviously meant he was going to miss the start in Pittsburgh plus at least one additional turn in the rotation.

He arrived at the ballpark on Friday for tests and some treatment and was with the club on Saturday, but it was then when manager Dave Roberts informed him he'd be flying to Arizona on Sunday to report to the Dodgers' spring training facility to begin treatments for the injury.

"I was 100% looking forward to going to Pittsburgh," Grove said during a phone interview. "The timing (of the injury) couldn't have been any worse. I was just super upset to tell everyone that I wasn't going to be there."

Grove pointed out how appreciative he was of everyone understanding the situation.

## WVU

(Continued from Page 13)

that became very possible when a new ball field was built in Granville that would become to Mountaineer baseball what the Coliseum did to basketball and Mountaineer Field did to football.

It has become a wild, raucous community center, where over the past four games, 12,467 have whooped and hollered and turned baseball attendance into everything attending a football or a basketball game has been at WVU.

"What an unbelievable atmosphere again," Mazy said after beating Penn State. "People are having so much fun watching West Virginia baseball right now. I can't imagine there's been a better time in the history of West Virginia baseball with atmo-

spheres, winning games, people having fun. It's just been electric the last couple of weeks and we hope it continues."

It is reminiscent of the Pat White era of football or the Da'Sean Butler era in basketball in the connection it has made with the fans, and at the center of it is the latest in what is now becoming a long line of star players Mazy has developed at WVU, second baseman JJ Wetherholt.

With a grand slam, triple and sacrifice fly against Penn State in his first start back after missing five games with a thumb injury, Wetherholt's batting average stands at .459.

That would be third in school history for a season, the highest since 1935, which is 88 years

## LONG-TIME COMING

The Pirates' Drew Maggi, a 33-year-old utility player, made his major league debut in the eighth inning when he pinch-hit for McCutchen and struck out. Maggi had played in 1,154 minor league games over 13 seasons.

Home plate umpire Jeff Nelson called Maggi for a pitch-clock violation with the count 0-1.

The three-game series concludes Thursday afternoon with LHP Julio Urias (3-2, 3.33 ERA) pitching for the Dodgers against RHP Mitch Keller (2-0).

in that fourth inning, pitching coach Mark Prior paid him a visit because he noticed Grove "react a certain way."

Shortly into the conversation, Prior motioned for the athletic trainer and then manager Dave Roberts came out and they elected to lift Grove.

"I don't think they were super concerned with it, but they just didn't want to risk hurting it worse," Grove admitted.

For the season, Grove has made four starts and worked 16 innings. He's allowed 15 runs and has 14 strikeouts.

His lone, truly rough outing came in a loss at Arizona.

"I've been pitching inconsistently with a lot of ups and downs," Grove said. "There have been a couple of games where I feel like I've thrown the ball pretty well and then I got beat up bad by Arizona. So, it's been a mixed bag at times. Hopefully, as we go forward and I start to pile up some innings, I'm able to dial things up a little bit more."

As for moving forward, Grove pointed out he has "no idea" on a timetable or even plan once he's cleared from the injury.

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ago.

"Nothing he does surprises us at this point," Mazy said. "The law of averages tell you you're not able to do what he's doing, but he's doing it in spite of that."

"It's crazy, just seeing him out here every day," said Hussey, his grand slam mate on Tuesday. "He's one of the best baseball players I've ever seen. He'll continue to be one of the best players probably all of us will ever see."

The crowds cheer every sight they get of Wetherholt. He is emanating that same star quality that Pat White or Da'Sean Butler did ... an invisible connection of excitement to the people.

This can affect a player, sap away at his focus, magnify his ego, but to date Wetherholt has remained true to his roots.

"That's something I'm definitely figuring out," he said. "In the beginning of the year, when the crowd was into it when I was up at the plate I could get too big and try to do too much. Now, I'm just chillin', letting them play into it better."

There's been no time to soak it all in, at least not when he's on the field.

"I do most of the soaking after the game when I go in and watch the replays," he said. "In the moment I'm hearing them. I like it and it's firing me up but I laser focus on what I need to do."

When he first returned from his injury this weekend and pinch hit a double, the crowd went bananas but he barely noticed it.

"I didn't know there was a big ovation," he said. "I knew there was

like Manoah, the Toronto star pitcher; Means, author of a no-hitter in the big leagues, and Groves, who was good enough to be a second-round draft pick of the Dodgers despite being out with arm surgery.

He's an everyday player, while those others were pitchers who performed only once a week.

"We've had guys in the past (who excited the fans). Jimmy Galusky was a local guy the crowd really loved," Mazy said. "They fell in love with Darius Hill, Pudge Rodriguez and that class. We've other great offensive players here, but we haven't had anybody that has captured the attention of the whole community like JJ has."

"He's one of the best players I've ever coached and I've coached for ... well, I've been here 100 years and I've coached 150 years total," Mazy joked.

But there's a difference with Wetherholt.

"You know, when the Black Bears were a Pirates' affiliate, you liked them but you couldn't attach yourself to one player because the whole team was new every summer. Following our program, you can watch guys grow and develop year after year," Mazy said.

"It took Manoah a couple of years to become Manoah and JJ wasn't getting that kind of following last year, but he is now and he's got another year. That's the beauty of the community getting on board and JJ doing what he's doing," Mazy went on. "I am willing to bet that people in the community, when they go to work and go to the water fountain to get a drink are

**HARRISON CENTRAL** pitcher Treston Nemeth works to the plate during Wednesday's game against Steubenville at the brand-new Crimson Center.

Photo/ANDREW GRIMM



## Bellaire, 4-2

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
For the Times Leader

**NEFFS** - Strong pitching, superb defense and just enough hitting. Such was the recipe for Barnesville's 4-2 win over Bellaire at John Blacker Field Wednesday afternoon.

Junior Jaxson Wiley pitched six-plus strong innings and was aided by some stellar defensive support. Wiley fanned three, walked two and yielded just six hits before giving way to sophomore Marshall Meade with one out in the seventh and two on. Meade retired two straight Big Reds on fly balls to earn the save.

Barnesville's impressive play in the field really reared its head in the sixth.

Bellaire's Chance Maffe and sophomore Landon Preston opened with back-to-back singles. However, things went awry for the Big Reds at that point.

Shamrocks' catcher Caleb Powell gunned down Maffe attempting to steal third with Preston advancing to second. Rightfielder Corbin Wise, making his first career start, hauled in a fly ball to record the second out. He subsequently threw a missile to third base to nail Preston who was tagging from second.

"We made some really nice defensive plays. The sixth inning was really key for us," veteran Barnesville head coach D.J. Butler offered. "This was Corbin's first start and he really came up big. He made several nice plays."

"Jaxson was solid on the hill for us. He doesn't overpower people but he is our ace," added the classy men-

See, **BARNESVILLE**, Page C2

## Harrison fends off Steubenville

By **ANDREW GRIMM**  
For The Times Leader

**STEUBENVILLE** - After several years of not having much luck against Big Red at Vaccaro Field, Harrison Central head baseball coach Mike Valesko said he joked before Wednesday's game he hoped his team's first trip to the brand-new Crimson Complex would change the fortune.

One game is a small sample size, but so far, the Huskies' skipper got his wish as Harrison Central overcame an early deficit and then fended off a late Big Red surge to hold on for a 9-7 victory.

"Pulling up here I told the guys we're turning the page and I'm really glad we've turned that page," Valesko said with a laugh. "We battled after getting down early, give credit to (Big Red),

they came out ready to play. Our guys just kept playing, and I thought our at bats were good, we ran the bases well, we were aggressive, we got some bunts down, we fielded the ball ... we played good baseball, not great baseball, but good baseball."

All joking about the change of venue changing the luck aside, Valesko and company take a lot of pride in being able to get a win over Big Red any time they can come out on top in the battle of programs with mutual respect.

"I don't care what their record is, their jersey still says Steubenville Big Red," Valesko said. "I told our guys before the game, during the game and after the game, that means something. I have so much respect for coach Freddie (Heatherington) and their program. Growing up in the Valley as a die-hard

baseball guy, you think of Steubenville Big Red.

"It doesn't matter what their record is, that's a good baseball team and the best coached team you're going to play, so to beat them, it means something to us. I don't care if they're 4-15 or 20-0, it means something to beat Steubenville Big Red Baseball."

With Steubenville (5-13) walking Harrison Central (10-6) standout Treston Nemeth four times, including intentionally in his last three-straight at bats, the Huskies had to get contributions from throughout the lineup - and they did.

Kaden Jurosko and Tucker Snyder each finished with three-hit days, while Anthony Pelegreen contributed a pair of RBIs. Nemeth did have an RBI sin-

See, **HARRISON**, Page C2

## Shadyside rallies to stun Bellaire in softball, 14-13

By **TRACY WATSON**  
For The Times Leader

**SHADYSIDE** - With the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A championship game just days away Shadyside's softball team took the field looking for a tune up Wednesday night against visiting Bellaire, and while the Tigers were not at their finest, they turned what could have been a big let down into an instant classic.

Coach Bob Gorrell's Orange-and-

Black overcame an early six run deficit, and trailed by five twice in the later innings, before putting together an epic comeback with a six-run bottom of the seventh to stun their neighbors to the north.

Sophomore Ariana Saxton picked up the win in the circle and belted a seventh inning grand slam while senior Gentry Brown chased home the game winning tallies with a one-out, two-run single as Shadyside rallied for a 14-13 victory over the Big Reds at the Mead

Township fields.

"This is the kind of win that can propel you to the next level," a smiling Gorrell said afterwards. "These girls have so much heart and they just don't give up, they keep fighting to the end and (Wednesday) we needed that."

Bellaire took advantage of numerous Shadyside (16-6) mistakes early in the game and continued to take advantage on the base paths throughout the contest.

After getting an RBI single from los-

ing pitcher M.J. Jackson in the second Bellaire (6-10) exploded for five runs in the third to push the margin to 6-0. The Reds actually only had three hits in the frame but were aided by an error, two walks and a hit batsman. Jackson had a run-scoring single while Sidney Rowson ripped a two-run double and the visitors added runs with a bases loaded hit batter and a walk.

Shadyside finally got the bats go-

See, **SHADYSIDE**, Page C2

## Steubenville advances in OVAC 5A

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**ELM GROVE** - Steubenville didn't get a lot going offensively against talented University pitcher Maddie Campbell Tuesday afternoon at the Chambers I-470 Complex.

As it turned out, Big Red didn't need a lot because the Hawks offense got even less going against ace righty Jules King.

A combination of one big swing of the bat by Steubenville catcher Sagan Smarella, King's pitching and strong defense resulted in a 1-0 victory to send Steubenville to

Saturday's OVAC Class 5A championship game where it will take on John Marshall on Saturday on Ben's Field at 2 p.m.

"Our kids really battle and when you play a schedule like we play, it feels like you've kind of been there before when you're in games like this," Steubenville head coach Gus DiMarzio said.

Having been in those pressure-packed situations paid dividends for Big Red, especially in the seventh inning.

University put King, who struck out 16, in very stressful situations throughout the game. It had only four base-

runners in the game, but with their backs to the wall, the Hawks finally ignited a rally in the seventh.

Talented shortstop Lauren Huebsch, who made a couple of brilliant defensive plays in the game, led off the inning with a double. She advanced to third on a ground out to first.

"We were in a perfect spot in our lineup and after Lauren doubled, and I thought we were going to be able to make it happen," University head coach Mindy Parks said.

Since barreling up the ball against King had been a true chore for the Hawks, Parks

See, **STEUBENVILLE**, Page C2



**STEUBENVILLE PITCHER** Jules King reacts after recording her 16th strikeout for the game's final out to send Big Red to the OVAC Class 5A softball championship game, which will be played Saturday at 2 p.m. against John Marshall.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

## Knicks advance to second round, down Cavs 106-95 in Game 5

**CLEVELAND (AP)** - Jalen Brunson scored 23 points, RJ Barrett added 21 and the New York Knicks downed the Cleveland Cavaliers 106-95 in Game 5 on Wednesday night to advance to the second round of the Eastern Conference playoffs for the first time since 2013.

The Knicks easily controlled a series that was more one-sided than expected, even after

Julius Randle aggravated his left ankle injury and missed the second half.

New York won the opener at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse, overpowered the Cavs twice at noisy Madison Square Garden and then returned to Cleveland to finish the job. The fifth-seeded Knicks will meet the Miami-Milwaukee winner next.

Brunson was the consistent ingredient throughout the series

for the Knicks, who signed the stocky guard as a free agent last summer before their attempt to acquire Donovan Mitchell in a trade from Utah fell apart and he landed in Cleveland.

Brunson averaged 24 points in the series and led New York in scoring all four wins while outplaying Mitchell for the second straight postseason. Last year, Brunson was with Dallas when he got the best of Mitch-

ell.

Mitchell scored 28 and Darius Garland 21 for the Cavs, who won 51 games during the regular season but whose inexperience showed throughout their first playoff series in five years. The Cavs weren't ready.

A bigger issue, though, seemed to be Cleveland's toughness. The Cavs got pushed around and outrebounded in all four losses, including 48-30 in

the clincher.

New York center Mitchell Robinson finished with 18 rebounds - 11 offensive - in Game 5 and the 7-footer didn't shy away from calling out the Cavs for being soft after Game 3, saying they appeared to be shaken.

Cleveland hoped to recapture some of its 2016 magic and overcome a 3-1 deficit

See, **CAVS**, Page C2

most series sweep since last July.

Brad Mills' sacrifice fly off Lucas Sims (1-0) tied the score in the ninth. Kevin Newman singled leading off the bottom half against Jonathan Hernandez (0-1) and took second on shortstop Josh Smith's throwing error.

Senzel hit a full-count slider off the yellow padding along the top of the left-field wall, ending the Reds' streak of 79 innings without a home run since Kevin Newman's second-inning drive against Tampa Bay on April 17. The eight games without a long ball were the most for the Reds since 1991.

"We knew it was going to come," Reds manager David Bell said. "It was a matter of time. It couldn't come at a better time. We've been scoring in other ways, which was great. We have the ability to hit homers, too. They will come without trying to do it. That was certainly not on Nick's mind in that at bat."

"It just happened because that is what happens when you put a good swing on the ball."

After crossing home plate, Senzel was greeted by teammates who put a Viking helmet and cape on him. The Reds had not gotten a walkoff homer since Nick Castel-

## • Steubenville

Continued from Page C1

opted to try to squeeze. However, with King's velocity and movement, the Hawks were unable to execute the play and King was credited with a strikeout when the hitter fouled off the two-strike bunt attempt.

From there, King did it herself. She sat down the final Hawk hitter via the strikeout once again.

"Thank God I have a pitching coach like Tomi McConnell, and I am not calling the pitches anymore," DiMarzio smiled. "I don't understand the pitching circle stuff as well as she does, and she did a great job of calling those pitches and was very confident."

Even as good as King was, a team has to score to win and Steu-

## • Harrison

Continued from Page C1

gle in the only at bat he was not given a free pass.

"Credit to those guys behind him. I thought our guys had really good at bats," Valesko said. "That's what it's going to take for us to be successful. If teams are smart, they're going to dance around Treston sometimes and if those guys behind him produce and help us out, teams will start throwing at him again."

"Those guys had a lot of pressure on them and I'm happy they came through."

After taking a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first, Big Red found itself down 7-3 through five and plated three runs in the bottom of the sixth to pull within a run and threatened to do more as they left the bases loaded.

After the Huskies tacked on a couple insurance runs in the top of

## • Barnesville

Continued from Page C1

"We got off to a great start with three runs in the first. But after that we didn't have a lot of good at bats."

Luke Heatherington was the tough-luck loser. He pitched exceptional after the initial inning. The sophomore right-hander went the route, fanning two and walking a like amount. Like Wiley, he also allowed just six hits.

Taison Starr led off the game with a walk. Heatherington retired the next two batters before beaming Aydon VanHorn. Wiley aided his cause with an RBI single followed by run-scoring singles off the bats of Colevin Robb and Wise.

Barnesville made it a 4-0 issue in the second frame, courtesy of an RBI double from Meade. He plat-

ed again.

"It's in our DNA and in everyone's character to keep battling in games like this," Senzel added. "Some things haven't gone our way, but we're going to keep fighting."

Cincinnati (10-15) completed a three-game sweep of AL West-leading Texas (14-10), the first series sweep for the Reds since last July 8-10 over Tampa Bay. The Reds never trailed in the series finale after overcoming a four-run deficit in the opener and a six-run margin on Tuesday.

"Mistakes here and there," Texas starting pitcher Jon Gray said. "That's not our game. We've got to get back to where we are. We'd have really good innings and then we tapered off."

"You have to stay on top of your game."

Texas has lost three in a row for the first time since a seven-game skid last September.

"There's nothing to be concerned about," manager Bruce Bochy said. "I mean, we've got a lot of baseball left. These guys will bounce back. We have a tough team ahead of us, so we will have to play our best ball but no, no one is concerned, and we will continue to get better."

Steubenville did just enough.

Big Red (13-5) took the lead in the top of the second when Smarella turned a Campbell offering around and hit it well over the fence in left for a total no doubter.

Outside of that hit, Big Red only had seven other baserunners, only three of whom reached second and one got to third before being stranded.

Again, it proved to be irrelevant because King was on.

"We're very thankful to have Jules and she's like a daughter to me," DiMarzio said. "She's no different than any other kid who wants to succeed. She wants to win, and I wouldn't trade her for anyone. I am glad she's on my side because

she'll battle you." University (20-5) finished with three hits. Huebsch also had a single.

"We hadn't seen this type of pitching much this year," Parks said. "It's just not been around a whole lot, so it was a big adjustment."

Steubenville hosts Parkersburg South on Friday before focusing on the Monarchs, who defeated Wheeling Park, 5-3.

"It's always great to have the chance to play for a championship, and I thank the kids for the opportunity," DiMarzio said.

"We'll show up Saturday and battle John Marshall. That's all we can do, right?"

gles, plated a run in the fourth and reached in all five of his at bats for Big Red.

The Huskies got their offense going in the third and fourth. Nemeth and Reed Arbaugh had RBIs singles and Pelegreen was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded in the third, then, in the fourth, Jace Madzia was plunked with the bases full to score a run, an error on a ball put in play by Pelegreen plating two more.

The runs that ended up being the difference came on a Tucker Snyder RBI single and a Madzia sac fly in the top of the seventh.

Nemeth got the win on the mound, going 5 2/3 with three strikeouts. Big Red's Lee Sewell went 3 1/3 and took the loss, striking out three. Lucas McAllister, who also had a double at the plate, also fanned three in 3 2/3 in relief.

ed Reese Stephen who was hit by a pitch.

Bellaire got a run back in its second.

Senior ace Jake Heatherington singled, stole second, advanced to third on an error and scored on a sac fly via Kaden Banal.

The Big Reds tallied their second run in the fourth. Preston and Banal both singled. Preston eventually scored on an error.

"Give Barnesville credit. They made some great defensive plays," Bellaire head coach Bailey McGrath noted. "Their right fielder made at least four very nice plays. I tip my hat to them."

"Luke got off to a little bit of a rough start but he settled in and pitched a really nice game. I have

re picked out of a bases-loaded, no-outs jam, in the second, retiring Robbie Grossman on a popout, striking out Brad Miller and getting Josh Smith on a grounder to the right side. After beating Smith to the first-base bag, Ashcraft celebrated with an underhand fist pump.

Henry Ramos hit an RBI triple in the second and scored on Newman's grounder to third, beating Josh Jung's throw home. Nathaniel Lowe hit a run-scoring double in the fifth and Adolis Garc a tied the score with a sacrifice fly. TJ Friedl's sacrifice fly put the Reds ahead 3-2 in the bottom half.

### HEAVY HEART

Ashcraft's appearance was his first since the death on Monday of his grandmother, 82-year-old Ann Ashcraft, a Fort Worth, Texas, resident and Rangers fan until her grandson joined the Reds.

### LATE RUNS

Cincinnati's comeback Tuesday was its first from a deficit as large as six runs since a 7-6 win over Arizona on July 19, 2012, in Cincinnati.

### FOUR FIGURES

Gray's strikeout of Spencer Steer to end the fifth was Gray's 1,000th.

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"Luke got off to a little bit of a rough start but he settled in and pitched a really nice game. I have

a lot of trust in him. I knew he would figure it out," added the former Bridgeport High and West Liberty baseball standout. "We just couldn't get the key hit when needed. Wiley did a solid job for them on the mound."

Bellaire's mark evened at 7-7. The Big Reds are idle until Monday when they visit John Marshall.

Barnesville improved to 10-7. The Shamrocks host Shenandoah today.

"We knew going into the season we had a real young team. But we are making progress and getting better and better," Butler said.

Preston was the lone player from either team to record two hits.

in front in the fifth, loading the bases with no one out for the second time in three innings. Bellaire took a 7-6 lead on a hit batsman for an RBI before Adlie Ault's two-run single made it a 9-6 score. Sophie Porter doubled home a pair two batters later and the visitors had extended the lead to 11-6.

Junior Makenzie Zdunczyk got Shadyside going with a one-out double in the sixth and moved to third on a Gorrell two-sacker. Smith plated her third RBI of the game with another fielder's choice while the Tigers got a run on an error to cut the margin to 11-8.

Bellaire got a run scoring single from Sophie Porter in the seventh and an RBI double from Riley Porter to give the visitors what appeared to be a little bit of insurance, but things were about to get interesting in the bottom of the frame.

Honeywell started things off with her third single of the game in the home-half of the seventh which was followed by a Macy Hendershot base hit and a walk. That set the stage for Saxton, who launched a home run deep over the fence in left center field, clearing the bases and cut the deficit to 13-12. Zdunzak then singled with Gorrell lacing a base hit and both runners moving up on a wild pitch.

Smith became the first out of the inning on a great diving catch by Lizzie McAninch in left field, however, when Riley Fulton reached on an error the bases were loaded again and Brown made the Big Reds play with a two-run, walk-off, single straight up-the-middle that plated the game-winner.

The crazy game watched Bellaire bat around twice, sending 10 to the plate in the third, while Shadyside sent eight girls to the dish in the third and nine in the seventh.

"I am just so proud of these girls right now," Gorrell added. "You have to have pride and believe and they really do. We got some clutch hits when we needed them and we overcame some things. We got down, but we accepted the challenge and went after them."

"Honestly, I just can't say enough about these girls and this team right now."

Honeywell had three hits for the winners while Saxton had a single, home run and four RBI. Brown singled twice and chased home a pair while Smith collected three RBI. The Tigers were playing without the services of starting third baseman Mady Violet due to an injury and lost catcher Taylor Fulton early in the contest as well. Sophia Porter two singles, a double and three RBI for Bellaire while Ault added two singles and two RBI.

Saxton fanned 10 and walked five in the circle.

"Too many errors and walks," Menendez commented. "I can point out two errors that led to three runs right off the top of my head. We had a chance, we just couldn't close it out."

"We hit the ball well, but our pitching fell apart. We definitely have some things to clean up."

Shadyside will host Buckeye Local this afternoon before taking on Wheeling Central in the OVAC Class AA title game slated for Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m. at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

## • Grove

Continued from Page C1

ation.

"It's just unfortunate," Grove said. "I know people were bummed out, and that was more for me because they knew I was looking forward to that game and the chance to come home."

Obviously, injuries are totally unpredictable. Grove doesn't believe this groin problem will linger and has been encouraged by how it's responded to treatments and what he's heard from the Dodgers' training staff.

"It's nothing crazy," Grove said. "It's something that shouldn't sideline me too long. Obviously, you want to avoid injuries all the time, but especially want to do so early in the season. I'll learn from it."

Though Grove's injury was fully noticed in the game, he believes it stems from a minor slip he had while warming up in the bullpen.

"I felt it grab when I slipped," Grove said. "I just tried to make sure I kept it loose, but then I felt it again in the fourth."

Grove had been decently against the Cubs. He had allowed five hits, one of which was a home run to former teammate Cody Bellinger, but he hadn't recorded a strikeout and had nary a swing and miss.

Once Grove reacted after a pitch in that fourth inning, pitching coach Mark Prior paid him a visit because he noticed Grove "react a certain way."

Shortly into the conversation, Prior motioned for the athletic trainer and then manager Dave Roberts came out and they elected to lift Grove.

"I don't think they were super concerned with it, but they just didn't want to risk hurting it worse," Grove admitted.

For the season, Grove has made four starts and worked 16 innings. He's allowed 15 runs and has 14 strikeouts. His lone, truly rough outing came in a loss at Arizona.

"I've been pitching inconsistently with a lot of ups and downs," Grove said. "There have been a couple of games where I feel like I've thrown the ball pretty well and then I got beat up bad by Arizona. So, it's been a mixed bag at times. Hopefully, as we go forward and I start to pile up some innings, I'm able to dial things up a little bit more."

As for moving forward, Grove pointed out he has "no idea" on a timetable or even a plan once he's cleared from the injury.

## • Cavs

Continued from Page C1



# SPORTS

Wednesday,  
April 26, 2023



## Martins Ferry walks it off against Barnesville in OVAC 3A softball

By KIM NORTH  
For The Times Leader

ELM GROVE - The old adage that it's hard to beat a team three times in the same season came into play once again on Tuesday during the OVAC Tom Bechtel Softball Class 3A semifinals.

Top-seeded Martins Ferry (13-2) had defeated fourth-seeded Barnesville twice already this spring. However, the Shamrocks (11-8) gave the Purple Riders all they could handle.

Sophomore Abbey Snedeker singled through the left side of the infield with one out in the bottom of the seventh and pinch runner Kendyl Brandon raced home from second base, sliding head-first across the plate as the Martins Ferry bench erupted in a 5-4 victory on Lisa's Field at the

J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

"She was clutch again today," Martins Ferry head coach Jerry Magistro said of Snedeker. "She has really been hitting the ball of late, which is good for us."

It appeared as though the two-time defending champions were going to breeze as they scored three times in their first at-bat despite only managing one hit. A throwing error and a mental error by the Shamrocks aided the Purple Riders.

"We played well but we had a couple of key errors at key times that hurt us," Barnesville head coach Kelly Hanlon said. "The first inning really hurt and we had a bad play in right that allowed the fourth run to score."

"I'm proud of the way we battled back. We're still a

rather young team and for them to come back against a team like Martins Ferry in a tournament like this is encouraging," Hanlon added. "Things didn't fall our way in the seventh."

The only hit in the first inning came from Avery Hughes in the form of a 2-run single to right-center. Her RBI double with two outs in the third bumped the margin to 4-0.

"Avery really came through for us today," Magistro said. "She's capable of hitting the ball and she hits it hard when she does."

Meanwhile, Kelsie Gillespie was cruising with a 5-hitter through five innings. She pitched out of a 2-on, 2-out jam in the second and hadn't allowed a runner past second base.

See, FERRY, Page B2

Photo/JEFF HARRISON  
MARTINS FERRY'S Kendyl Brandon dives across home plate with the game-winning run as Barnesville catcher Lilly Welch awaits a throw in the OVAC Class 3A softball semifinal. Looking on is umpire Randy Whitlatch.

## Harrison falls to Oak Glen in 4A semis

By ANDREW GRIMM  
For The Times Leader

ELM GROVE - It may have taken the Golden Bears a little while to find their groove this season, but Oak Glen is right back where it's become accustomed to being - playing for an OVAC title.

The No. 2 seed Golden Bears used a big fourth inning to break open a close game and pull away from No. 3 seed Harrison Central for an 8-0 win in the nightcap of the OVAC Class 4A semifinals Tuesday.

The Bears advance to defend their title against Edison on Saturday.

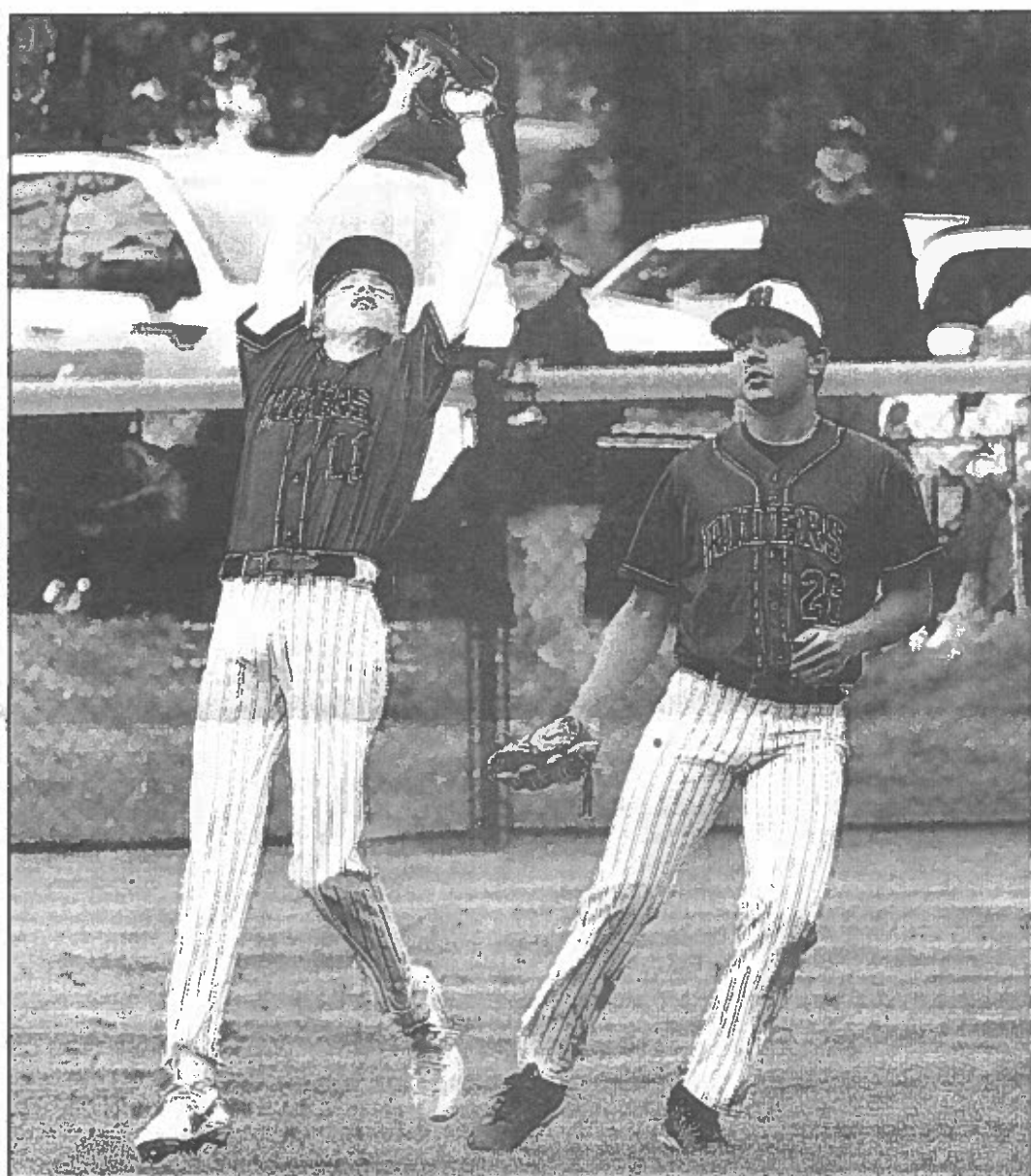
"We were able to come through and time up some hits," Oak Glen head coach Sherrie Garner said. "(Harrison Central's Emma Skinner) does a nice job and had us guessing (the first couple innings), but we were able to come through."

"It's a fun event to come down here and play in the OVAC championships, it's important to these seniors who have had a nice run of doing it. They want to continue the tradition. Hopefully we keep it up on Saturday."

The win is the 12th in a row for Oak Glen (18-8), now ranked No. 8 in the latest W. Va. coaches poll, after a 5-8 start to the season.

"We knew we were capable, I think it was just a matter of us settling in and making some adjustments," Garner said. "There's not really one thing we're doing better that's sparked it, the girls are just doing what they do and have dug in. They love to play ball and they

See, HARRISON, Page B2



AT LEFT: Martins Ferry second baseman Turner Kroll makes a catch as right fielder Ayden Ludolph pulls up on the play. The Purple Riders fell to Linsly in the OVAC Class 3A semifinal in Wheeling on Tuesday. Ferry fell, 10-0 and Linsly will take on Fort Frye on Friday in Toronto for the title.

BELOW: LINSLY pitcher Jack Selmon is congratulated by teammates Matt Turak after Selmon threw a complete-game no hitter Tuesday against Martins Ferry.

T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY

## Linsly's Selmon no hits Ferry in 3A

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING - Linsly pitcher Jack Selmon didn't have his best stuff by any means Tuesday afternoon on Holloway Field.

Some of his intangible traits, however, proved to be more than enough.

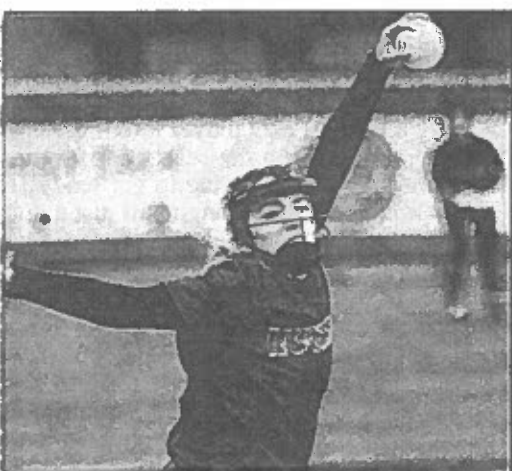
Despite command issues that led to him walking five and plunking three, Selmon found a way to get himself out of jams in the first three innings, settled in and spun a no hitter as the Cadets assured a new OVAC Class 3A champion by ousting defending champion, Martins Ferry, 10-0 in five



Now staked to a 2-0 lead in the top of the second, Selmon plunked back-to-back hitters before a strikeout and then a walk ninth-place hitter, Joe Green to load the bases. Again, he made pitches when he had to and recorded his second strikeout of the inning to thwart the rally.

Martins Ferry got Ayden Ludolph into scoring position in the top of the third after he drew a walk and swiped second. Selmon proceeded to catch the next two Rider hitters looking.

"We had (scoring) chances early, couldn't capitalize and it snowballed," Martins Ferry head coach Anthony Reasbeck said. "What are





Photo/JEFF HARRISON

**MARTINS FERRY'S** Kendyl Brandon dives across home plate with the game-winning run as Barnesville catcher Lilly Welch awaits a throw in the OVAC Class 3A softball semifinal. Looking on is umpire Randy Whitlatch.

(11-8) gave the Purple Riders all they could handle.

Sophomore Abbey Snedeker singled through the left side of the infield with one out in the bottom of the seventh and pinch runner Kendyl Brandon raced home from second base, sliding head-first across the plate as the Martins Ferry bench erupted in a 5-4 victory on Lisa's Field at the

by the Shamrocks aided the Purple Riders.

"We played well but we had a couple of key errors at key times that hurt us," Barnesville head coach Kelly Hanlon said. "The first inning really hurt and we had a bad play in right that allowed the fourth run to score."

"I'm proud of the way we battled back. We're still a

through for us today," Magistro said. "She's capable of hitting the ball and she hits it hard when she does."

Meanwhile, Kelsie Gillespie was cruising with a 5-hitter through five innings. She pitched out of a 2-on, 2-out jam in the second and hadn't allowed a runner past second base.

See, **FERRY**, Page B2

## Harrison falls to Oak Glen in 4A semis

By **ANDREW GRIMM**  
For The Times Leader

**ELM GROVE** — It may have taken the Golden Bears a little while to find their groove this season, but Oak Glen is right back where it's become accustomed to being — playing for an OVAC title.

The No. 2 seed Golden Bears used a big fourth inning to break open a close game and pull away from No. 3 seed Harrison Central for an 8-0 win in the nightcap of the OVAC Class 4A semifinals Tuesday.

The Bears advance to defend their title against Edison on Saturday.

"We were able to come through and time up some hits," Oak Glen head coach Sherrie Garner said. "(Harrison Central's Emma Skinner) does a nice job and had us guessing (the first couple innings), but we were able to come through."

"It's a fun event to come down here and play in the OVAC championships, it's important to these seniors who have had a nice run of doing it. They want to continue the tradition. Hopefully we keep it up on Saturday."

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See, **HARRISON**, Page B2



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TL Photos/SETH STASKEY

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Times Leader Sports Editor

**WHEELING** — Linsly pitcher Jack Selmon didn't have his best stuff by any means Tuesday afternoon on Holloway Field.

Some of his intangible traits, however, proved to be more than enough.

Despite command issues that led to him walking five and plunking three, Selmon found a way to get himself out of jams in the first three innings, settled in and spun a no hitter as the Cadets assured a new OVAC Class 3A champion by ousting defending champion, Martins Ferry, 10-0 in five innings.

"No one works harder in the offseason and during the season than Jack and he competes," Linsly head coach Jay Cartwright said. "He's a bulldog who loves to play. He doesn't quit and keeps coming."



Ferry had multiple runners aboard in the first inning before Conner Probst flew out to center fielder Alex Taylor who rifled a strike to third baseman Matt Scouvar for an inning-ending double play.

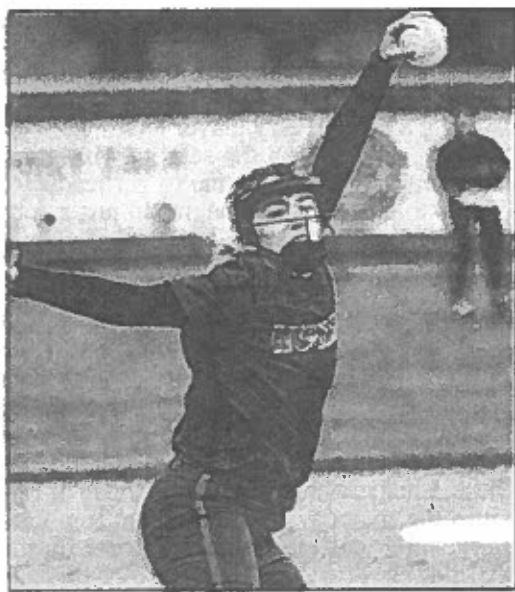
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Martins Ferry got Ayden Ludolph into scoring position in the top of the third after he drew a walk and swiped second. Selmon proceeded to catch the next two Rider hitters looking.

"We had (scoring) chances early, couldn't capitalize and it snowballed," Martins Ferry head coach Anthony Reasbeck said. "What are you going to do? We had a couple of questionable things not go our way and it just snowballed."

While the 2-0 lead was plenty, the Linsly offense, which was shut down just 24 hours prior in a 1-0 loss at

See, **LINSLY**, Page B2



Photo/ANDREW GRIMM

**HARRISON CENTRAL** pitcher Emma Skinner works to the plate during Tuesday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal vs. Oak Glen.

## Dodgers rally past Pirates, 8-7

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Chris Taylor hit a go-ahead, three-run home run in the eighth inning to help the Los Angeles Dodgers overcome a five-run deficit and rally to an 8-7 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Tuesday night.

Taylor took a sinker from Colin Holderman (0-1) deep to left for his fifth homer of the season. He singled his previous two at-bats and reached on an error in the second.

The third baseman was coming off four straight games without a hit, bringing his average down to .111. Taylor didn't have more than

one hit in his first 16 games.

"It's not the first time I've had a slow start to the season," Taylor said. "It's always hard. Everybody wants to start the year off well. You just kind of have to take it one day at a time and focus on helping the team win any way you can."

Yency Almonte (2-0) struck out two in a scoreless seventh for the win and Shelby Miller sent the side down in order in the ninth for his first save in the majors.

Los Angeles has won three straight after a 10-11 start. "It's big. It's big," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "Guys

kept grinding and having good at bats. ... There were a lot of good things that happened tonight."

It ended the Pirates' seven-game winning streak, their longest since an 11-game run in 2018.

"We just didn't play a clean game," Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton said. "Certainly not the type of game you need to play to beat a team that is capable of winning the world championship. We made too many mistakes tonight and it eventually came back to beat us."

James Outman had two doubles, his first leading off a two-run sixth



AP PHOTO

**PITTSBURGH PIRATES** left fielder Jack Suwinski (65) leaps to make the catch on a fly ball hit by Los Angeles Dodgers' Mookie Betts during the sixth.

# St. C. baseball falls at Wheeling Park; Buckeye softball scores first victory

WHEELING - Gian Degenova belted a 2-run homer in the bottom of the first inning and a trio of Wheeling Park pitchers teamed on a 7-hitter as it defeated visiting St. Clairsville, 4-0, Tuesday on the all-turf Patriot Field high atop the Friendly City.

Nick Tsoras and Quinn Jamison each singled in a run, with Jamison recording a pair of one-base raps. Braydon Kupsky singled and doubled.

Luke Myers, Nathan Bittinger and Zack Davis worked the mound for Wheeling Park. Bittinger earned the win with one strikeout and two walks.

Hunter Hoffman singled and doubled for the Red Devils. Max Fogle and Zac Vickers each doubled.

**Paden City 7, Bridgeport 2**  
PADEN CITY - The Wildcats (16-8) tallied four times in the bottom of the sixth to break open a close game with the visiting Bulldogs.

Liam Clements doubled in two runs and Garrett Parrish added a 2-run single for Paden City. Joey Baker singled, tripled and knocked in two.

Gary Widmor singled in a run for Bridgeport. He also fanned seven and walked one in taking the loss.

**Indian Creek 11, Toronto 1**  
MINGO JUNCTION - The Redskins scored in every inning in earning a 5-inning victory over the visiting Red Knights on Muth Field.

Sy Howell drove in three runs

with a single and double for Indian Creek. Nathan Maurer had two singles and a pair of ribbies. Ty Householder and Landon Pownall had RBI singles.

Householder went the first three innings to get the win. He struck out six and walked three.

Zack Kinsey tripled in a run for Toronto.

## River 10, Magnolia 0

HANNIBAL - River continued its hot play by no hitting Magnolia in a 10-0, five-inning affair at Rick Bonar Field on Tuesday. The win improved the Pilots to 11-8 on the season.

The Pilots utilized three pitchers in the gem. Brody Lollathin was the starter and winner. River Thompson and Max Castro worked the fourth and fifth, respectively. All three combined for seven strikeouts.

Offensively, Peyton Blue had two singles and a RBI. Hunter Nething and Cody Simon and Hunter Nething each had a single and two RBI. Lucas Dennis singled home a run.

## SOFTBALL Buckeye Local 17, Union Local 8

CONNORVILLE - Winless no more. Buckeye Local used an 11-run sixth inning to get past invading Union Local Tuesday by a 17-8 score.

The Panthers' Sam Ankrum was the winner in the circle. She also had a double, two singles and drove in two. Morgan Richardson had a double, single and rbi, while

Tatum Walker added a double and three RBI. Bella Russell had three singles and three RBI.

Union Local junior Lauren Miller finished a home run short of the cycle and had two RBI. Alli Kella-way had three singles and drove in a run, while Laken Vinskovich had a double and single.

## Bridgeport 7, Paden City 3

PADEN CITY - Bridgeport scored six runs in its first two at-bats to pull out its fifth win in six outings against the Wildcats.

Vanessa Mullen was strong in the circle with 10 strikeouts.

Offensively, the Bulldogs were led by Markiee McCormick and Hanna Brewer, who each had a single, double and RBI. Rylee-McElroy, Brooke Stewart and Rowyn Herman each had two singles and drove in a run. Cora Cooper had a RBI single.

McKenzie Thomas led Paden City with a three-run home run. Carlee Sweeny had three singles, while Lexi Mathis posted two base hits.

## River 10, Beallsville 4

BEALLSVILLE - The Pilots scored six runs in their first three at-bats and never looked back en route to toppling the Blue Devils.

Addison Kovach had three singles, a double and drove in two. Ava Wohnhas had three singles and three RBI. Rylee Knight posted two singles and drove in a run.

Kinley Hughes led the Blue Devils with two singles. Kaylee Hagan had a single and double.

# Pirates, Reynolds agree on new deal

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Pittsburgh Pirates general manager Ben Cherington has spent more than four years methodically overhauling the organization from the bottom up, relentlessly stockpiling prospects through three straight last-place finishes in the NL Central and promising the club would have the financial resources to in-

vest at the major-league level when the timing was right.

Cherington backed up his promise by giving outfielder Bryan Reynolds the largest contract in club history.

Three people with knowledge of the agreement told the Associated Press that it's an eight-year deal worth at least \$106.75 million, the

most lucrative in the history of a franchise that dates back to 1882.

The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal was not official, pending a physical.

A formal announcement is expected Wednesday.

The agreement was first reported by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

## • Pirates

Continued from Page B1

for the Dodgers.

Andrew McCutchen put Pittsburgh ahead 7-2 with a three-run homer, sending a sinker from Noah Syndergaard to right in a four-run fourth. Syndergaard was pulled after the inning, allowing seven runs on nine hits.

McCutchen popped out with the bases loaded to end the eighth.

Johan Oviedo gave up five runs on six hits in 5 1/3 innings for Pittsburgh.

After Los Angeles plated one in the fifth and two more an inning later to cut it to 7-5. Mookie Betts came to bat with two outs in the sixth.

He drove a slider from Robert Stephenson toward the bleachers in left. Jack Suwinski instead made a leaping grab at the wall to rob what would have been a three-run, go-

ahead homer.

Suwinski could not do the same to Taylor two innings later.

"If that one wouldn't have went out, then I just felt it wasn't meant to be," Roberts said. "Because Chris really got into that one."

## STAYING PUT

Pittsburgh outfielder Bryan Reynolds has agreed to an eight-year deal worth \$106.75 million, three people with knowledge of the agreement told the Associated Press. They spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal was not official pending a physical. The 2021 All-Star has a .294 average with five home runs and 18 RBIs in 22 games this season. Reynolds missed a second straight game since being placed on the Bereavement List on Sunday.

## TRAINER'S ROOM

Dodgers: INF Michael Busch was recalled from Triple-A Oklahoma City to make his major league debut, serving as the designated hitter with INF Max Muncy on the paternity list. The 25-year-old prospect had an RBI single, his first hit in the majors, with one out in the sixth and walked in the eighth. ... DH J.D. Martinez did not play with back discomfort first experienced in his final at bat against the Chicago Cubs on Sunday.

## UP NEXT

RHP Tony Gonsolin is expected to take the mound for the Dodgers opposite Pirates RHP Roansy Contreras (2-1, 4.57) on Wednesday. Gonsolin (left ankle sprain) is set to be activated from the 15-day injured list to make his season debut.

## • Harrison

Continued from Page B1

love to have fun together.

"The seniors have played a lot together and the sophomores have played a lot together ... it took a little bit to put the pieces together but we're playing really well."

With her team clinging to a 1-0 lead, Sarah Brown started the fourth inning onslaught with a leadoff solo homer just inside the left field foul pole, Sydney Brown and Lizzie Kell later adding a two-run single each after a couple Huskies (11-7) errors.

Oak Glen ended up plating seven runs before Harrison Central could get out of the inning.

"She cranked that one," Garner said. "She took it sailing. They took some big hits from us with some nice plays in the outfield."

As it turned out, Liv Munoz's RBI double, also after a Harrison Central error, in the bottom of the first inning was all the offense Kell needed, as the senior racked up 14 punchouts and allowed just one hit, a Maddy Butler double in the third inning.

"She is doing excellent, we can't ask for anything more," Garner said.

Skinner was saddled with the tough-luck loss as just one of the Golden Bears' eight runs were earned.

## • Ferry

Continued from Page B1

However, that all changed in the sixth.

With one out, Lily Welch singled and went to second on an error on Madelynn Tyson's grounder. Ella Thompson singled to load the bases and Peyton Dudzik roped a 2-run double to right-center. After the second out was recorded, Katelyn Arigoni popped up into foul territory to seemingly end the contest, but the ball was misplayed to give her another chance. This time she drilled a 2-run single to the same gap in right-center to score Thompson and Dudzik.

Ella McFarland opened the bottom of the seventh for the Purple Riders by reaching on an error. Brandon was inserted to run and, with one out, Hughes drew a walk. Snedeker, who blasted a walk-off 3-run homer last week to give Magistro his 400th career win, ripped a shot between third and short on the first pitch she saw to send the Purple Riders to their third consecutive OVAC championship game.

Gillespie got the win. She struck out six, didn't walk a batter and allowed eight hits. She threw 93 pitches, of which 73 were strikes.

"Kelsi really turned it up today. She pitched well, got out of a couple of jams," Magistro noted. "She didn't panic there in the sixth and got out of it and gave us a chance."

Johnson suffered the loss, fanning two and walking five. She gave up eight hits, as well, and threw 126 pitches.

Martins Ferry will play Caldwell on Saturday at 12:15 p.m. for the championship on Ben's Field. Both teams are seeking their third straight title, but the Redskins moved up from Class 2A this season. Caldwell blanked Shenandoah, 4-0.

## • Linsly

Continued from Page B1

Bellaire, broke out. The Cadets produced three hits and hung four runs in the bottom of the third.

The big hit in the frame came from talented freshman Jakson Murray, who laced a two-run single to score Trey Prather and Skadra. Scouart followed with another base hit, scoring Collin Paull, who ignited the first-inning rally when he launched a triple to the deepest part of the park in left, which one-hopped the fence.

Selmon capped the rally when he helped his own cause by driving in Murray with a sacrifice fly.

"These guys have been around the block now since this is like game 20 for us and we've seen some good pitching," Cartwright said. "The kids aren't shocked, fooled as much on off-speed stuff and we're starting to really scrap at the plate."

The Cadets (15-5) officially blew it open in the fourth with another four spot. The big hit came when Scouart sliced a double down the right-field line to score a pair. Murray had singled home another run one hitter prior and Prather, who had three singles in the game, also drove in a run with a hit.

"I think seeing (Heatherington) from Bellaire (on Monday) set us up well for (Tuesday)," Cartwright said. "I think our kids had the right approach and got after him and we strung some good at-bats together, but that only helped us in the long run."

In the fifth, Martins Ferry got a runner aboard, but he didn't advance past first base as Selmon closed the deal by catching a fourth Ferry player looking.

Martins Ferry, now 9-8 on the season, will return to regular season play and continue to get ready for the OHSAA tournament, which begins in just a couple of weeks.

"We graduated nine seniors, including a couple of all-staters, so for us to even get back into this tournament makes me proud as hell of these guys," Reasbeck said. "It's not a knock on our guys, but if we played this game 100 times, we probably would have lost 100 times. What am I going to do? Scream? Get mad? No. I am proud of these kids and now we'll get ready for the tournament."

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The agreement was first reported by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

It marks a somewhat of a turnaround for the soft-spoken Reynolds, who quietly requested a trade in December. Cherington insisted the team was willing to do what it takes to keep Reynolds in the fold for the long term, and both sides made steady progress toward an agreement in recent weeks with Reynolds talking multiple times with team owner Bob Nutting.

"Let's ride," Reynolds posted in typically brief fashion on Instagram shortly after he and the team agreed to terms on Tuesday.

The new contract includes a \$2 million signing bonus, a club option for 2031 that could make the agreement worth \$104.75 million over nine seasons and a limited six-team no-trade clause.

Please see RECORD, Page 12



AP Photo

Pittsburgh Pirates left fielder Jack Suwinski (65) leaps to make the catch on a fly ball hit by Los Angeles Dodgers' Mookie Betts during the sixth inning of a game in Pittsburgh, Tuesday.

## Los Angeles Scores Three Times In 8th Inning

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Chris Taylor hit a go-ahead, three-run home run in the eighth inning to help the Los Angeles Dodgers overcome a five-run deficit and rally to an 8-7 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Tuesday night.

Taylor took a sinker from Colin Holderman (0-1) deep to left for his fifth homer of the season. He singled his previous two at-bats and reached on an error in the second.

The third baseman was coming off four straight games without a hit, bringing his average down to .111. Taylor didn't have more than one hit in his first 16 games.

"It's not the first time I've had a slow start to the season," Taylor said. "It's always hard. Everybody wants to start the year off well. You just kind of have to take it one day at a time and focus on helping the team win any way you can."

Please see PIRATES, Page 12

## Linsly's Selmon No-Hits Ferry In Class 3A Semi

### Cadets Will Meet Fort Frye For Championship On Friday In Toronto

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

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Despite command issues that led to him walking five and plunking three, Selmon found a way to get himself out of jams in the first three innings, settled in and spun a no hitter as the Cadets assured a new OVAC Class 3A champion by ousting defending champion, Martins Ferry, 10-0 in five innings.

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Ferry had multiple runners aboard in the first inning before Conner Probst flew out to center fielder Alex Taylor who rifled a strike to third baseman Matt Scouvert for an inning-ending double play.

Now staked to a 2-0 lead in the top of the second, Selmon plunked back-to-back hitters before a strikeout and then a walk ninth-place hitter, Joe Green to load the bases. Again, he made pitches when he had to and recorded his second strikeout of the inning to thwart the rally.

Martins Ferry got Ayden Ludolph into scoring position in the top of the third after he drew a walk and swiped second. Selmon proceeded to catch the next two Rider hitters looking.

Please see SELMON, Page 12

## Martins Ferry Slips By Barnesville, 5-4

### Purple Riders Eye Repeat in 3A Softball

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The old adage that it's hard to beat a team three times in the same season came into play once again on Tuesday during the OVAC Tom Bechtel Softball Class 3A semifinals.

Top-seeded Martins Ferry (13-2) had defeated fourth-seeded Barnesville twice already this spring. However, the Shamrocks (11-8) gave the Purple Riders all they could handle.

Sophomore Abbey Snedeker singled through the left side of the infield with one out in the bottom of the seventh and pinch runner Kendyl Brandon raced home from second base, sliding head-first across the plate as the Martins Ferry bench erupted in a 5-4 victory on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

"She was clutch again today," Martins Ferry head coach Jerry Magistro said of Snedeker. "She has really been hitting the ball of late, which is good for us."

It appeared as though the two-time defending champions were going to breeze as they scored three times in their first at-bat despite only managing one hit. A throwing error and a mental error by the Shamrocks aided the Purple Riders.

Please see FERRY, Page 12

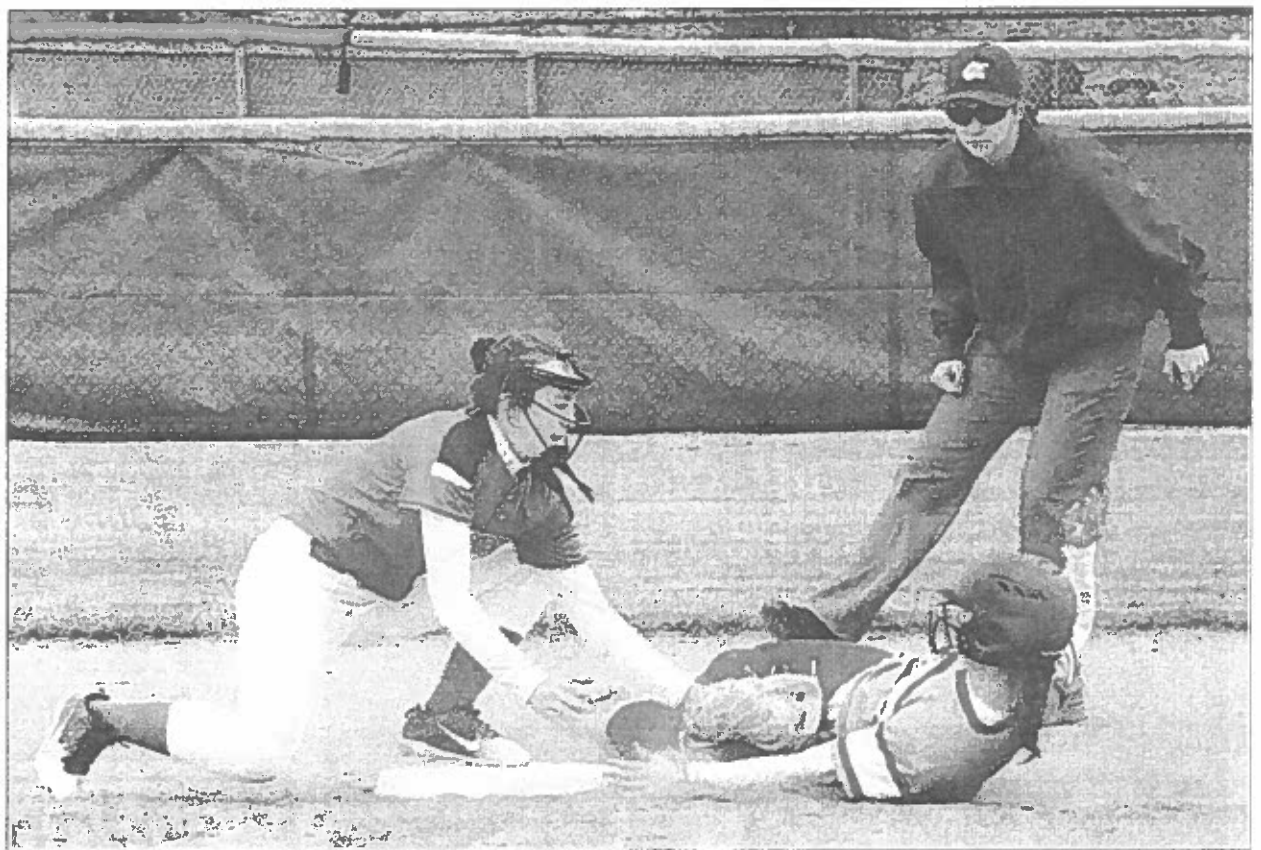


Photo by Kim North

Martins Ferry's Kendyl Brandon slips her hand around the tag of Barnesville shortstop Ellie Thompson during the first inning Tuesday night during an OVAC Class 3A semifinal on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex in Elm Grove. The Purple Riders defeated Barnesville, 5-4. Umpire Mack Hall looks on.

## Linsly Boys Repeat OVAC Class 1A-4A Tennis Title In Rout

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

GLEN DALE - Some things never change.

Linsly won its 27th OVAC Tennis title Tuesday when it finished the two-day event with 25 points to repeat as boys Class 1A-4A champions. The Cadets did it with one individual champion and

a trio of runner ups on the 8-court setup at John Marshall High School.

Weir was second in Class 1A-4A with six points.

Third-seeded Matteo Guzzo claimed the No. 4 singles title with an



GUZZO

8-6 decision over Morgantown's Max Chen.

Teammates Pablo Arangurea (No. 1 singles), Diego Consuegra (No. 2) and Andrew Hoang (No. 3) all lost to Morgantown players.

The second-seeded Arangurea lost 8-4 to No. 1 seed Max Phillips-Hartley. Consuegra, the top seed at No. 2 singles,

fell 8-6 to second-seeded Bennett Hall, and second-seeded Hoang dropped an 8-0 match to top-seeded Wyatt Abbitt.

The Mohigans scored 24 points to win the Class 5A crown.

University edged out Parkersburg South, 10-9, for second place.

Today the girls get started with doubles action at 8 a.m.

## WL Women's Tennis Earns Bid To 17th NCAAs

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — The West Liberty women's tennis team has earned an NCAA Tournament bid for the 17th time in program history.

Coach Heather Gallagher's Hilltoppers are the No. 5 seed in next week's NCAA D2 Atlantic Region championships and will take on No. 4 seed W.Va. State Monday at 9 a.m. in a regional semifinal at the Schoenbaum Courts in Charleston, W.Va.

In a virtual replay of this past weekend's Mountain East Conference Tournament, the winner advances to Tuesday's regional final against host and No. 1 seed Charleston.

## FERRY

(Continued from Page 11)

"We played well but we had a couple of key errors at key times that hurt us," Barnesville head coach Kelly Hanlon said. "The first inning really hurt and we had a bad play in right that allowed the fourth run to score."

"I'm proud of the way we battled back. We're still a rather young team and for them to come back against a team like Martins Ferry in a tournament like this is encouraging," Hanlon added. "Things didn't fall our way in the seventh."

The only hit in the first inning came from Avery Hughes in the form of a 2-run single to right-center. Her RBI double with two outs in the third bumped the margin to 4-0.

"Avery really came through for us today," Magistro said. "She's capable of hitting the ball and she hits it hard when she does."

Meanwhile, Kelsie Gillespie was cruising with a 5-hitter through five innings.

She pitched out of a 2-on, 2-out jam in the second and hadn't allowed a runner past second base. However, that all changed in the sixth.

With one out, Lily Welch singled and went to second on an error on Madelynn Tyson's grounder. Ellie Thompson singled to load the bases and Peyton Dudzik roped a 2-run double to right-center. After the second out was recorded, Katelyn Arigoni popped up into foul territory to seemingly end the contest, but the ball was misplayed to give her another chance. This time she drilled a 2-run single to the same gap in right-center to score Thompson and Dudzik.

Ella McFarland opened the bottom of the seventh for the Purple Riders by reaching on an error. Brandon was inserted to run and, with one out, Hughes drew a walk. Snedeker, who blasted a walk-off 3-run homer last week to give Magistro his 400th

career win, ripped a shot between third and short on the first pitch she saw to send the Purple Riders to their third consecutive OVAC championship game.

Gillespie got the win. She struck out six, didn't walk a batter and allowed eight hits. She threw 93 pitches, of which 73 were strikes.

"Kelsie really turned it up today. She pitched well, got out of a couple of jams," Magistro noted. "She didn't panic there in the sixth and got out of it and gave us a chance."

Johnson suffered the loss, fanning two and walking five. She gave up eight hits, as well, and threw 126 pitches.

Martins Ferry will play Caldwell on Saturday at 12:15 p.m. for the championship on Ben's Field. Both teams are seeking their third straight title, but the Redskins moved up from Class 2A this season.

Caldwell blanked Shenandoah, 4-0.

## SELMON

(Continued from Page 11)

"We had (scoring) chances early, couldn't capitalize and it snowballed," Martins Ferry head coach Anthony Reasbeck said.

"What are you going to do? We had a couple of questionable things not go our way and it just snowballed."

While the 2-0 lead was plenty, the Linsly offense, which was shut down just 24 hours prior in a 1-0 loss at Bellaire, broke out.

The Cadets produced three hits and hung four runs in the bottom of the third.

The big hit in the frame came from talented freshman Jakson Murray, who laced a two-run single to score Trey Prather and Skadra. Scouvar followed with another base hit, scoring Collin Paull, who ignited the first-inning rally when he launched a triple to the deepest part of the park in left, which one-hopped the fence.

Selmon capped the rally when he helped his own cause by driving in Murray with a sacrifice fly.

"These guys have been around the block now since this is like

game 20 for us and we've seen some good pitching," Cartwright said. "The kids aren't shocked, fooled as much on off-speed stuff and we're starting to really scrap at the plate."

The Cadets (15-5) officially blew it open in the fourth with another four spot. The big hit came when Scouvar sliced a double down the right-field line to score a pair. Murray had singled home another run one hitter prior and Prather, who had three singles in the game, also drove in a run with a hit.

"I think seeing (Heatherington) from Bellaire (on Monday) set us up well for (Tuesday)," Cartwright said. "I think our kids had the right approach and got after him and we strung some good at-bats together, but that only helped us in the long run."

In the fifth, Martins Ferry got a runner aboard, but he didn't advance past first base as Selmon closed the deal by catching a fourth Ferry player looking.

Martins Ferry, now 9-8 on the season, will return to regular season

play and continue to get ready for the OHSAA tournament, which begins in just a couple of weeks.

"We graduated nine seniors, including a couple of all-staters, so for us to even get back into this tournament makes me proud as hell of these guys," Reasbeck said. "It's not a knock on our guys, but if we played this game 100 times, we probably would have lost 100 times. What am I going to do? Scream? Get mad? No. I am proud of these kids and now we'll get ready for the tournament."

Meanwhile, Linsly, which is in action today at Dover, will turn the majority of its attention to a date with Fort Frye on Friday afternoon at Toronto for the conference title.

"We have a shot," Cartwright said. "I am sure Fort Frye is very good. We've had some great games with them in this tournament both in the semifinals and finals. We're looking forward to it."

Linsly owns 22 OVAC titles in baseball and last won the crown in 2021.

## DODGERS

(Continued from Page 11)

Yency Almonte (2-0) struck out two in a scoreless seventh for the win and Shelby Miller sent the side down in order in the ninth for his first save in the majors.

Los Angeles has won three straight after a 10-11 start.

"It's big. It's big," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "Guys kept grinding and having good at bats. ... There were a lot of good things that happened tonight."

It ended the Pirates' seven-game winning streak, their longest since an 11-game run in 2018.

"We just didn't play a clean game," Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton said. "Certainly not the type of game you need to play to beat a team that is capable of winning the world championship. We made too many mistakes tonight and it eventually came back to beat us."

James Outman had two doubles, his first leading off a two-run sixth for the Dodgers.

Andrew McCutchen put Pittsburgh ahead 7-2 with a three-run homer, sending a sinker from Noah Syndergaard to right in a four-run fourth. Syndergaard was pulled after the inning, allowing seven runs on nine hits.

McCutchen popped out with the bases loaded to end the eighth.

Johan Oviedo gave up five runs on six hits in 5 1/3 innings for Pittsburgh.

After Los Angeles plated one in the fifth and two more an inning later to cut it to 7-5, Mookie Betts came to bat with two outs in the sixth. He drove a slider from Robert Stephenson toward the bleachers in left. Jack Suwinski instead made a leaping grab at the wall to rob

what would have been a three-run, go-ahead homer.

Suwinski could not do the same to Taylor two innings later.

"If that one wouldn't have went out, then I just felt it wasn't meant to be," Roberts said. "Because Chris really got into that one."

### STAYING PUT

Pittsburgh outfielder Bryan Reynolds has agreed to an eight-year deal worth \$106.75 million, three people with knowledge of the agreement told the Associated Press. They spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal was not official pending a physical. The 2021 All-Star has a .294 average with five home runs and 18 RBIs in 22 games this season. Reynolds missed a second straight game since being placed on the Bereavement List on Sunday.

### TRAINER'S ROOM

**Dodgers:** INF Michael Busch was recalled from Triple-A Oklahoma City to make his major league debut, serving as the designated hitter with INF Max Muncy on the paternity list. The 25-year-old prospect had an RBI single, his first hit in the majors, with one out in the sixth and walked in the eighth. ... DH J.D. Martinez did not play with back discomfort first experienced in his final at bat against the Chicago Cubs on Sunday.

### UP NEXT

RHP Tony Gonsolin is expected to take the mound for the Dodgers opposite Pirates RHP Roansy Contreras (2-1, 4.57) tonight. Gonsolin (left ankle sprain) is set to be activated from the 15-day injured list to make his season debut.

## RECORD

(Continued from Page 11)

It's the latest bit of good news for the Pirates, who are off to a 16-7 start heading into a three-game series with the Los Angeles Dodgers beginning Tuesday night. Reynolds is not expected to play in the opener, remaining out after being placed on the bereavement list on Sunday.

The team signed fourth-year manager Derek Shelton to a contract extension Sunday, a vote of confidence that the franchise is committed to the vision Cherington outlined when he took over in the fall of 2019.

"The one thing that's the most important and again, this goes back to people signing here externally and coming in, is people want to be here," Shelton said. "They're trusting the process that

Ben's put in place."

Reynolds, an All-Star in 2021, stressed during spring training that negotiations with the Pirates wouldn't be a distraction once the season began. It hasn't: Reynolds is hitting .294 with five home runs and 18 RBIs in 22 games for the surprising NL Central leaders.

The agreement is a full-circle moment for the organization, which acquired the switch-hitting Reynolds in January 2018 as part of the trade that sent 2013 NL MVP Andrew McCutchen to San Francisco.

Five years later, McCutchen is back with the Pirates and Reynolds — a career .282 hitter — is now the anchor of a lineup that's helped Pittsburgh get off to its best start since 1992 despite

losing young shortstop Oneil Cruz to a fractured left ankle earlier this month.

The Pirates have been one of the worst teams in the major leagues since 2019, with Cherington frequently flipping veteran players for prospects and investing heavily in the draft. Finding a way to retain Reynolds is the latest proof that the front office is serious about keeping a core group of players.

The club signed third baseman Ke'Bryan Hayes to a \$70 million, eight-year deal in April 2022 and has followed up by locking down Reynolds for the rest of the decade. The signings give the team two youngish clubhouse fixtures to lean on while waiting for a farm system considered one of the best in the majors to start bearing fruit.

"(Reynolds) always wanted to stay here, he always would say (that)," Hayes said. "I think he's

# ATTENTION LOCAL BUSINESSES

You could be missing out on up to \$26,000 per employee!

Many businesses don't know they might be eligible for credits under the Employee Retention Tax Credit pandemic relief program — and time is running out for you to get yours.

The Intelligencer: Wheeling News-Register has teamed up with ERTC specialists Easy Tax Credits — they help you apply with no upfront fees.

No risk or obligation and Easy Tax Credits professionals do the paperwork for you.

DON'T MISS OUT. CALL TODAY!

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LOCAL CARD

Tuesday, April 25
BASEBALL
OVAC Class 3A Semifinal
Martins Ferry at Linsly
Regular Season
St. Clairsville at Wheeling Park
Parkersburg South at John Marshall
Bridgeport OH at Paden City
Clay-Battelle at Hundred
Magnolia at River
BOYS LACROSSE
Wheeling Park at John Marshall, 7 p.m.
SOFTBALL
OVAC Class 3A Semifinals
(at Lisa's Field)
Barnesville vs. Martins Ferry, 5 p.m.
Caldwell vs. Shenandoah, 6:45 p.m.
OVAC Class 4A Semifinals
(at Ben's Field)
Edison vs. Indian Creek, 5 p.m.
Harrison Central vs. Oak Glen, 7 p.m.
Regular Season
Cameron at North Marion, 4 p.m.
Stuebenville at Wheeling Park
Bridgeport OH at Paden City
Cameron vs. East Fairmont at North Marion, 6 p.m.
TENNIS
OVAC Boys Singles at John Marshall, 8 a.m.
TRACK
WTTL, 4 p.m.

SPORTS ON TV

Tuesday, April 25
COLLEGE BASEBALL
6 p.m.
ACCN — Coastal Carolina at Wake Forest
ESPN — East Carolina at NC State
7 p.m.
SECN — Louisville at Kentucky
8 p.m.
PAC-12N — Gonzaga at Oregon
COLLEGE GOLF (WOMEN'S)
1 p.m.
GOLF — Regional selections for the 2023 NCAA DI Women's Golf Championship
IHF HOCKEY (MEN'S)
10 a.m.
NHLN — World Championship Group Stage: Switzerland vs. U.S., Group B, Basel, Switzerland
12:30 p.m.
NHLN — World Championship Group Stage: Czechia vs. Canada, Group A, Porrentruy, Switzerland
MLB BASEBALL
6:30 p.m.
ATTSN—Los Angeles Dodgers at Pittsburgh
7:30 p.m.
MLBN — Regional Coverage: NY Yankees at Minnesota OR San Diego at Chicago Cubs
10:30 p.m.
MLBN — Regional Coverage: St. Louis at San Francisco OR Kansas City at Arizona (Joined in Progress)
NBA BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.
TNT — Eastern Conference First Round: Atlanta at Boston, Game 5
9 p.m.
NBATV — Western Conference First Round: Minnesota at Denver, Game 5
10 p.m.
TNT — Western Conference First Round: LA Clippers at Phoenix, Game 5
NHL HOCKEY
7 p.m.
ESPN — Eastern Conference First Round: NY Islanders at Carolina, Game 5
8 p.m.
TBS — Western Conference First Round: Minnesota at Dallas, Game 5
9:30 p.m.
ESPN — Western Conference First Round: Los Angeles at Edmonton, Game 5

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STANDINGS

Table with columns for American League (East and Central Divisions), National League (East and Central Divisions), and West Division. Columns include W, L, Pct, GB, WCGB, L10, Str, Ho, Aw.

Table with columns for American League (Monday's and Tuesday's Games) and National League (Monday's and Tuesday's Games). Includes game details like location, time, and scores.

PREP LINESCORES

Table listing prep line scores for baseball and softball. Includes teams like St. Clairsville, Harrison Central, Indian Creek, and Conotton Valley, along with player statistics.

PREP SOFTBALL

Frontier Storms Past Madonna In OVAC Class 1A Semifinal

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer
WHEELING - It took second-seeded Frontier six innings to get the bats going Monday afternoon...

After collecting just four hits through the initial five innings, Frontier (8-6) strung together nine hits in the deciding sixth inning while pushing across 10 runs against a stunned Madonna squad...

Winning pitcher Kaycee Berentz scattered four hits, fanning six and walking two, and plated the go-ahead run in the home-half of the sixth with a base hit...

Things could not have started much better for coach Jason Backel's Madonna squad, while they also could not have begun much worse for Frontier in the top of the first.

Chloe Orecchio got things going for the Dons with a lead-off double and quickly stole third. Orecchio scored the game's first run when Carmela Pulice reached on the first of two Cougars' errors in the opening frame...

Frontier got one back in the home-half when Jamison Schmidt reached on a two-base error and scored on Macie Gilkey's RBI single.

Madonna loaded the bases with no one out in the third and their 5-6-7 hitters due up, however, Berentz and her Cougar teammates were able to get out of the jam with no harm done.

The Dons weren't as lucky in the bottom of the third as Savannah Oeffenberger reached on a one-out single just ahead of a long Schmidt home run over the left field fence...

With the score still tied at 3-3 heading to the bottom of the sixth the Cougar bats were about to come to life.

Keeley Barrows started things with a double and came around to score the go-ahead run when Berentz ripped one straight up-the-middle off the pitcher's leg for a run-scoring single.

An Alexa Allen base hit, and an error, put runners at second and third when Gracie Mendenall singled to left, only to have the ball get past the left fielder for a three-base error with all three runners scoring to push the margin to 7-3.

Kate Congleton launched a long, two-run homer later in the frame while Berentz had her second run-scoring hit of the sixth, a double, that made it an

11-3 count a short time later. Mendenhall's two-run single plated the final two tallies as the Cougars began their celebration to cap things off.

Barrows had three hits for Frontier with Gilkey and Berentz each collecting a pair with two RBI apiece.

Regular Season
Indian Creek 9, Wheeling Park 2
WINTERSVILLE - The Redskins (15-3) took advantage of half-a-dozen errors by the Patriots (17-9) in gaining the victory.

Trinity Taylor struck out 12 and drove in three runs with a single and double for Indian Creek.

Summer O'Bryant had an RBI single for Wheeling Park.

Union Local 12, Bridgeport 11
MORRISTOWN - Junior Lauren Miller hit a bases-loaded double to fuel the Jets to a stunning, come-from-behind win over the Bulldogs Monday.

Union Local scored eight times in the bottom of the seventh to pull out the win.

Ella Pietranton was the winner in the circle and she also had a RBI single. Laken Vinskovich had a triple and two RBI, while Hallee McGary, Mya Martin and Izzy Bashline each had two singles and a RBI.

Roawn Herman had a single, double and four RBI for the Bulldogs, while Hanna Brewer had two singles and a RBI.

River 10, Paden City 0
SARDIS - River's Ava Wohnhas did it with her arm and bat Monday afternoon in a five-inning blanking of Paden City.

In the circle, Wohnhas spun a no hitter with nine strikeouts. She also had a single, double and drove in two runs.

Rylee Knight had a single, double and RBI, while Reese Hobbs and Emma Reed each had a double and two RBI.

Harrison Central 6, Bellaire 2
CADIZ - Harrison Central picked up a pre-OVAC tourney tune-up victory by holding off Bellaire on Monday.

Emma Skinner was sharp in the circle with 12 strikeouts and nary a walk.

Offensively, the Huskies received a triple from Maddy Butler. Olivia Tonkovich, Katy Banal and Aubry Wood each had a RBI single. Brooke Heavilin had a double and a single.

Lizzie McAninch led the Big Reds with a triple, single and RBI.

Martins Ferry 18, St. Clairsville 5
MARTINS FERRY - The Purple Riders completed the season sweep of the Red Devils by utilizing a pair of eight-run innings.

Ella McFarland got the win in the circle and she had a single and two RBI. Kaylynn Zinn had a double, single and two RBI, while Abby Snedeker had a double, single and a RBI. Larnyx Goff had two singles and four RBI. Taylor Bell and Riley Doyle both drove in a run with a triple and double, respectively.

The Red Devils, who were guilty of 10 errors, received a double, single and RBI from junior Rachel Finnical and a pair of singles and a RBI from Abby Salisbury.

PREP BASEBALL

Wilhelm Pitches John Marshall Past Park; TC Tops Cameron

WHEELING PARK -- Alex Wilhelm went the distance on the mound as John Marshall blanked Wheeling Park 1-0 in high school baseball action Monday at the new Patriot Field high atop the Friendly City.

The southpaw struck out three, walked three and limited the hard-hitting Patriots to just four hits. He threw 101 pitches.

Wilhelm outdueled Park's Gian Degenova who struck out seven, issued a walk and allowed three hits. He threw 91 pitches.

Adam Haynes drove in the lone run with a groundout.

Hakim Edwards had two singles and two RBI.

Wheeling Central 7, Shadyside 2
SHADYSIDE - The Maroon Knights avenged a loss from last week by knocking off the Tigers at Fleming Field Monday afternoon.

Central received solid pitching from Brett Cover, who went the distance with eight strikeouts. Seth Cover and Braxton Billick each had two singles and a RBI. Kade Koroneos had a single and RBI.

Shadyside received two singles from junior Ben Wach.

River 8, Frontier 4



AP File Photo

West Virginia's JJ Wetherholt runs the bases during a game from earlier this season. He is one of the leading hitters in NCAA Division I.

## Baseball Is Fun Again For Mountaineers, Pirates

MORGANTOWN — All of a sudden, baseball season has become fun in these parts.

From Pittsburgh to Morgantown, the sport no longer is just a vehicle to fill time from March Madness to the start of football season.

Winning is fun, you see, especially in baseball, where professionally there is a game almost every day and collegiately there's four games a week.

What could be more fun than it was Monday morning when the fans woke up in these parts to see those Pirates leading the National League with a 16-7 record, the last seven of the victories consecutive, and to find the West Virginia Mountaineers leading the Big 12 with a sweep of TCU?

The players were frolicking in their success and maybe more so the fans, who are adopting the players on both squads as their heroes and being taken in not only by their play but by their personalities.



BOB HERTZEL  
WV News

It started in Pittsburgh, perhaps, this past winter, when Andrew McCutchen came home. An influx of young talent coming together at the same time and the return of McCutchen brought back memories of years when the Pirates were laden with Hall of Fame talent and were challenging the Steelers for the top spot in the hearts of the city.

In Morgantown, West Virginia's baseball revival began with the arrival of Randy Mazey as coach and then with the construction of a beautiful ball park nestled into a hillside in Granville that has created an aura all its own.

Add all this together with the new major league clock rule that has livened up the game's action.

The sport is in the midst of a rebirth and Morgantown and Pittsburgh are along for the ride.

Please see FUN, Page 10



Photo by Seth Staskey

St. Clairsville's Hunter Hoffman works to the plate Monday against Harrison Central on the Memorial Park diamond.

## St. C. Doubles Up Harrison In Class 4A Semifinal, 4-2

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Ohio Valley baseball fans couldn't have asked for more Monday afternoon inside Memorial Park.

A nip-and-tuck game in which the Red Devils led, 4-2, in the top of the seventh with two outs.

They had their ace — junior Hunter Hoffman — on the mound. Harrison Central, meanwhile, countered with the leading run at the plate in the form of multiple-time All-Ohioan Treston Nemeth.

The cliché that good pitching shuts down good hitting proved true once again. Hoffman, who got ahead in the count, got Nemeth, who had singled twice and drove a ball to the fence in the notch in left center in the first, out in front of an offering and he grounded weakly to second where Brody Saunders fielded it and threw on to Mickey Balgo at first, sending the Red Devils to another OVAC title game by the 4-2 score.

"Hunter really bulled his neck and made a great pitch to get (Nemeth) out front a little bit and we were able to hang on," St. C. head coach Tom Sliva said. "I can't say enough about what Hunter did because he was up in pitch count, but he didn't want to come out and wasn't coming out. We made plays defensively and we got some key hits."

Please see 4A, Page 10

### OVAC TOM BECHTEL SOFTBALL CLASS 2A SEMIFINALS

## Wheeling Central Collects 18 Hits In Blanking Monroe, 8-0

### Frizzell Strikes Out 14 In Win

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer  
WHEELING

Top-seeded Wheeling Central wore its hitting shoes Monday night as it amassed 18 hits in an 8-0 blanking of No. 4 Monroe Central in an OVAC Class 2A semifinal on windy Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

Leadoff hitter Jensen Rine had four singles to lead the Maroon Knights (15-3). Brook Edge, Jocelyn Shaw and Maddie Miehle each had a trio of safeties.

"I was really proud of the girls today. The last few games we've really started hitting, but today was nice because we did it with runners on base," Wheeling Central head coach Buck Davidson said. "That really, really helped."

Please see HITS, Page 10



Photo by Kim North  
Wheeling Central's Maddie Miehle slides across home plate before Monroe Central catcher Shyanne Baker can apply the tag during Monday's game on Ben's Field. The Maroon Knights won, 8-0, to advance to the championship game on Saturday.

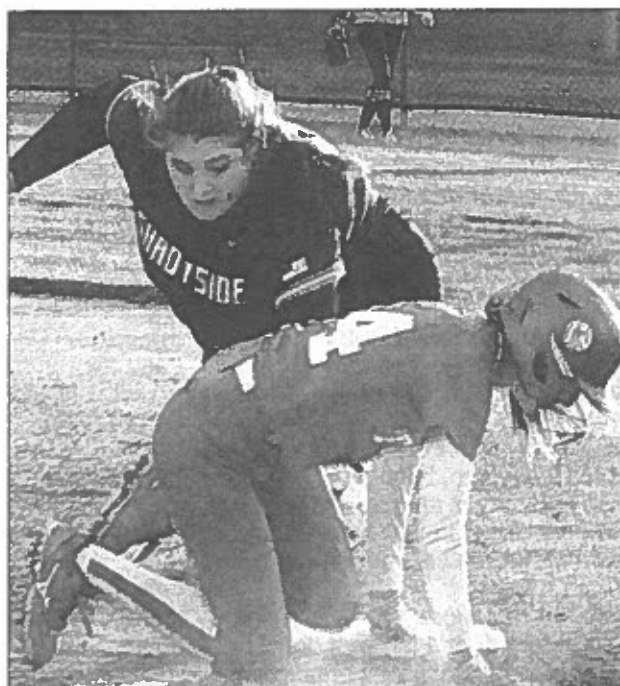


Photo by Kim North

Shadyside first baseman Bella Honeywell applies a tag to Toronto's Monique Sloan to complete a double play Monday. Sloan overslid the base as she attempted to return after a fly ball was caught in right-center.

## Shadyside Outlasts Toronto, 10-6, in 8 Tigers Tally 4 Runs In Extra Inning

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Shadyside exploded for four runs in the top of the eighth inning late Monday night to outlast Toronto, 10-6, in an OVAC Class 2A semifinal on chill-filled Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

The third-seeded Tigers (15-6) will now play top-seeded Wheeling Central at 2 p.m. Saturday for the championship. The Maroon Knights blanked Monroe Central, 8-0, in the other semifinal.

"That was a huge win," said a relieved Shadyside head coach Robert Gorrell Jr. "We came through when we had to in the eighth."

Deadlocked at 6, Shadyside received a pair of 2-run singles from Abby Gorrell and Bella Honeywell in the top of the extra frame as eight Tigers went to the plate. Gorrell's game-winner came with no outs, while Honeywell's was with two outs and gave Arianna Saxton some breathing room.

Please see SHADYSIDE, Page 10



Photo by Seth Staskey

St. Clairsville's Hunter Hoffman works to the plate Monday against Harrison Central on the Memorial Park diamond.

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Staff Writer

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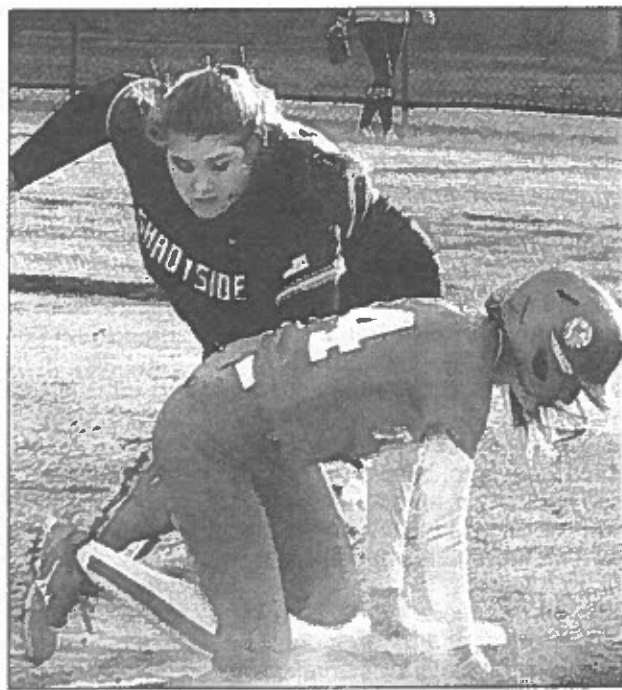


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Please see SHADYSIDE, Page 10

## Linsly Captures Two OVAC Boys Tennis Doubles Titles

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

GLEN DALE — Linsly grabbed a 1-point lead over Morgantown as the OVAC Tennis Tournament got under way Monday on the John Marshall High School courts with action in boys' doubles.

The Cadets scored 11 points while capturing a pair of championships. The Mohigans finished with 10 points and won the other title.

In No. 1 action, unseeded Pablo Aranguren and Diego Consuegra upset Morgantown's top-seeded tandem of Phillips and Hartley by a 9-7 score.

In No. 2 action, the Cadets duo of Andrew Hoang and Matteo Guzzo, the third seed, defeated Morgantown's top-seeded duo Abbitt and Tian, 9-8, in a third tiebreaker. The No. 3 title went to the Mohigans' Chen and Ch-

### TEAM SCORES

1. Linsly	11
2. Morgantown	10
3. University	5
4. (tie) Weir	4
Parkersburg South	4
6. Steubenville	3
7. (tie) Brooke	2
Marietta	2
9. (tie) Cambridge	1
East Liverpool	1
Wheeling Central	1

nin-Kreiner who rolled past Linsly's unseeded Palmer and Mihajlovic, 8-1.

Action continues all week with boys' singles starting today at 8 a.m.

Girls' doubles highlights Wednesday's action, also with an 8 a.m. start.

Girls' singles concludes the week on Thursday.



Photo by Kim North

Linsly's No. 2 Doubles team of Andrew Hoang, left, and Matteo Guzzo captured the OVAC championship Monday on the John Marshall courts.

and outside of this organization believed in us, Butler said. "That's fine. We just want to continue to do what we know is possible."

It is a statistically improbable story: The No. 8 seed now leads the No. 1 seed 3-1, something that has only happened four other times since the NBA went to the 16-team playoff format in 1984.

But Butler has willed them there. He was 19 for 28 from the field, 15 of 18 from the foul line and added nine rebounds.

## SHADYSIDE

(Continued from Page 9)

Saxton came in on the fifth to relieve starter Taylor Fulton. After giving up three runs in the fifth and a solo shot to Michelle Anderson in the sixth that drew the Red Knights even at 6. Saxton retired seven of the final eight hitters she faced, with five going down on strikes.

"Arianna was awesome," Coach Gorrell praised. "She settled down and got into a groove."

Saxton finished with nine punch outs in earning the win.

Toronto led 2-0 after two on the first of Michelle Anderson's two solo shots and an RBI groundout by Isabella Cattrell.

However, Shadyside evened the count with one swing of the bat in the third as Macy Hendershot lined a 2-out double to left-center.

The score remained that way until the fifth when the Tigers plated four runs for a 6-2 advantage. Gentry Brown curved a 2-run homer around the foul pole in left and Hendershot singled in a run. The fourth tally scored on an error.

Anderson singled in Laney Danko in the fifth and scored on an error, making it 6-4. Losing pitcher Andrea Reeves raced home on a wild pitch for a 6-5 reading.

Anderson tied the game in the sixth with her second roundtripper.

Taylor Fulton singled twice and rapped a pair of doublers to pace the Tigers' 13-hit attack. Honeywell drove in two runs with two singles and a double. Gorrell singled twice and knocked in a pair.

Reeves struck out four and walked six. She threw 155 pitches.

## HITS

(Continued from Page 9)

What also helped was the fact that Josie Frizzell struck out 14 and only walked one while scattering five singles, of which four were infield hits.

"She pitched a great game. She kept them off balance," Davidson added. "It was just an all-around game by everybody."

Wheeling Central plated four runs in the bottom of the first on six hits. Edge drove in one with a single and Shaw made it 3-0 with a 2-run double to right. Frizzell's groundout chased in Shaw.

Frizzell picked up another RBI with a groundout in the third and Peyton Smith singled to bump the count to 6-0. A seventh run crossed on an error.

Ashlee Baker grounded out in the fourth as Edge scored.

Edge doubled twice and singled, while Shaw had two singles and a double. Miehle singled thrice. All nine starters had at least one hit.

When asked if it mattered who his team plays in the finals, Davidson said, "they are both really good teams. We split with Toronto but we didn't play Shadyside. It doesn't matter who we play because we still have to play a good game."

Monroe Central head coach Michael Brock knew his team would probably struggle hitting the ball.

"We've been in a hitting slump of late. In our last game we had to go to Caldwell and face the Mumaw girl. The Frizzell girl pitched a great game today," he said. "Defensively we played really well, but offensively we are struggling."

The Seminoles threw two runners out at the plate and one at third.

Wheeling Central plays No. 4 Shadyside Saturday at 3 p.m. for the title on Ben's Field.

Press on the condition of anonymity because the teams had not officially announced the deal.

Packers general manager Brian Gutekunst said at a pre-draft news conference that the deal hasn't been finalized, but should be completed before the draft begins Thursday.

"We were expecting it to be done very quickly, hopefully soon," Gutekunst said. "A lot of things have been agreed upon. Some things to go through."

The Jets will receive Rodgers, the No. 15 over-

spent a few days in February contemplating his life and playing future during an isolation retreat in Oregon — while fans and reporters speculated about what he would decide.

He emerged and deliberated some more before deciding on March 10 he intended to play again — and for the Jets. Rodgers made his intentions official during an appearance on "The Pat McAfee Show" on YouTube and Sirius XM on March 15. That came after New York had sent a contingent that included owner Woody

— and the teams — wondering when or if the trade would be completed.

"We're anxious," Johnson told reporters at the league's annual meetings on March 28. "I guess, as we look forward, we're optimistic. But we have a plan, so we're willing to stick with our plan. And I don't think anybody is hyperventilating at this point."

It took a while, but the sides were finally able to agree on compensation. And the deal puts the one-time Super Bowl champion in New York

brother of Matt, Rodgers' coach in Green Bay the past four years.

Rodgers joins some promising young playmakers on offense, such as wide receiver Garrett Wilson, the AP Offensive Rookie of the Year, and running back Breece Hall.

"There's a lot of reasons why the Jets are attractive," Rodgers said during his appearance on "The Pat McAfee Show." "But there's one coach that has meant as much to me as any coach I've ever had. And he happens to be the coordinator there."

## 4A

(Continued from Page 9)

While the Red Devils are making plans to play Indian Creek, which knocked off defending conference champion Cambridge in the other semifinal, Harrison Central and head coach Mike Valesko are left to wonder what might have been.

"It was best on best and that's what you want in these situations," Valesko said. "It was a big moment and those usually work out in our favor, but it didn't this time around. This one is going to sting for a little bit, but credit to St. Clairsville."

Harrison Central had other scoring chances, including the sixth when Nemeth and Tucker Snyder produced back-to-back singles to start the frame. Hoffman, however, was unfazed. He proceeded to get the next three Huskies in order to escape the jam.

That followed up the Red Devils' biggest offensive uprising of the game when they had the heart of the order up against Harrison Central's Kaden Jurosko, who pitched well in defeat.

Braylen Blomquist led off the inning with a hustling double into no man's land in shallow left center. Junior Mason Myers followed by coming up just a foot or so shy of hitting a two-run home run to right. The speedster settled for a triple af-

ter the ball hit off the fence.

He then scored when junior Marcus Bush, who was brilliant once again defensively at third including turning a double play, singled into center. The ball was mishandled in the outfield and Bush alertly scampered to second.

"Those guys really came through (in the fifth)," Sliva said. "When you string hits together, it usually leads to runs. We were fortunate."

That extra 90 feet proved to be important. Bush got to third on a fly out to center. It looked like the Huskies had escaped the inning without further damage, but the throw to first after a ground ball was air mailed up the hillside behind first base for the game's lone unearned run.

As it turned out, that add-on run changed the entire Huskies' offensive approach in the seventh.

"We have to make a play with two outs and worst-case scenario it's 3-2 and then we had two guys on and with our style of play, we probably bunt and then squeeze again," Valesko said. "Those kinds of plays happen though. That's high school baseball and it (stinks) sometimes."

The Huskies led, 2-1, for a bulk of the game. They scored a single

run in both the second and third after St. C. struck for one in the first.

Jurosko sliced a triple down the right-field line and Kaden Dunkle dropped down a beautiful bunt to perfectly execute a squeeze play to put Harrison on top.

Anthony Pelegreen scored the first run of the game for the Huskies when he raced home on a wild pitch.

St. Clairsville, which got all five of its hits from the second through fifth spots in its order, got on the board first when Hoffman helped his own cause with a RBI single to score Myers, who had drawn a two-out walk.

Jurosko fanned seven, but he did issue six walks.

The Huskies' ace — senior Tre Rex — wasn't available to pitch because "he's hurt," according to Valesko.

St. Clairsville, which takes on OVAC 5A finalist Wheeling Park for the second time on the turf in Ohio County today, will be seeking its 13th OVAC baseball title.

"It's exciting for the kids to have the chance to play for an OVAC title," Sliva said. "We were able to (win it) a couple of years ago, but came up short last year, so it's nice to be back. We're really excited."

## FUN

(Continued from Page 9)

The Mountaineers themselves, perhaps, are leading their own revival with a mix of talented players oozing personality, having as much fun as the fans themselves ... and the fans are eating it up like Joey Chestnut eats hot dogs.

During the sweep of TCU, more than 9,000 fans attended the games, some of it despite unseasonable weather, and they rocked and rolled in the stands, at one point in the sold out second game of the series creating a paper cup snake that is the 2023 equivalent of the old wave.

The players themselves, as Kevin Kinder of Blue-GoldNews.com noted a day ago, have picked up on it all, symbolized best by a rather unique gimmick that came out of the idle mind of pitcher Ben Hampton, who may just have had too much time on his hands between starts.

While other teams in the sports world had something to give to their heroes after a job well done, be it a touchdown or a turnover, a homer or a great catch, a slam dunk or blocked shot, WVU needed something more to connect with each other and its fans than just the traditional singing of "Country Roads" after victories.

Hampton put together — literally — a Pretzel Chain to be awarded on big hits or plays.

"You have to be as gentle as possible. Ben Hamp-

ton spent I don't know how long making that thing. You have to not break it. That's the only rule," said Sam White after wearing it following a home run. "It's super impressive. He would break the pretzel, lick it and put it back together."

"I just started putting it together and pretty soon it was a chain," Hampton told Kinder. "It wasn't something I had done before, but it turned out pretty well, and then it came out for the Kansas game. I'm surprised it lasted this long. It did get a little break (on Saturday) but I fixed that."

The glee is that this creates ripples out of the dugout into the stands, just as it does after home runs when they bring the team together for a photo.

In Pittsburgh, the Pirates offer a similar honor to those who deliver big moments, although nothing quite so fragile as a pretzel chain. They have a sword that they swashbuckle — if indeed that is a verb — through the dugout.

The sword comes compliments of a fan who calls herself "Pirates Queen Banshee", who explained on a Pittsburgh radio show that she talked with pitcher Mitch Keller and told him about her sword at a local brewery during an event.

They kept in touch via social media and she got it to Keller before a game to be awarded on home runs. This has caught on so well that already there are Pirates sword T-shirts on the market.

One certainly can foresee in this NIL era, an inventive player/entrepreneur, getting someone to put on Mountaineer Pretzel T-shirts, or, even better, a Pirate Pretzel in a kit with instructions on making a chain.

Certainly, there's a history in such items, perhaps the prototype and most successful in all the world of sports was sportscaster Myron Cope's "Terrible Towel" from the Golden Age of the Super Bowl Steelers.

It was truly the first rally towel and sold for charity, the "Terrible Towel" raising more than \$6 million for the Allegheny Valley School, which cares for people with mental disabilities and physical disabilities.

"The Terrible Towel" was introduced at a playoff game in 1975 against the Baltimore Colts. Steelers linebacker Andy Russell in that game picked up a fumble as part of the "Steel Curtain" defense and rambled 93 yards for a touchdown, leading to a poem written by fan Lisa Benz that was sent to Cope, which read in part:

"He ran ninety-three like a bat out of hell, And no one could see How he rambled so well. 'It was easy,' said Andy



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# SPORTS



**SHADYSIDE PITCHER** Taylor Fulton throws a ground ball during Monday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal against Toronto. The Tigers won in eight innings, 10-6.

## Shadyside softball advances

By **KIM NORTH**  
For The Times Leader

ELM GROVE - Shadyside exploded for four runs in the top of the eighth inning late Monday night to outlast Toronto, 10-6, in an OVAC Class 2A semifinal on chill-filled Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

The third-seeded Tigers (15-6) will now play top-seeded Wheeling Central at 2 p.m. Saturday for the championship. The Maroon Knights blanked Monroe Central, 8-0, in the other semifinal.

"That was a huge win," said a relieved Shadyside head coach Robert Gorrell Jr. "We came through when we had to in the eighth."

Deadlocked at 6, Shadyside received a pair of 2-run singles from Abby Gorrell and Bella Honeywell in the top of the ex-

tra frame as eight Tigers went to the plate. Gorrell's game-winner came with no outs, while Honeywell's was with two outs and gave Arianna Saxton some breathing room.

Saxton came in on the fifth to relieve starter Taylor Fulton. After giving up three runs in the fifth and a solo shot to Michelle Anderson in the sixth that drew the Red Knights even at 6, Saxton retired seven of the final eight hitters she faced, with five going down on strikes.

"Arianna was awesome," Coach Gorrell praised. "She settled down and got into a groove." Saxton finished with nine punch outs in earning the win.

Toronto led 2-0 after two on the first of Michelle Anderson's two solo shots and an RBI groundout by Isabella Cattrell.

However, Shadyside evened the count with one swing of the bat in the third as Macy Hen-

dershot lined a 2-out double to left-center.

The score remained that way until the fifth when the Tigers plated four runs for a 6-2 advantage.

Gentry Brown curved a 2-run homer around the foul pole in left and Hendershot singled in a run. The fourth tally scored on an error.

Anderson singled in Laney Danko in the fifth and scored on an error, making it 6-4. Losing pitcher Andrea Reeves raced home on a wild pitch for a 6-5 reading.

Anderson tied the game in the sixth with her second roundtripper.

Taylor Fulton singled twice and rapped a pair of doublers to pace the Tigers' 13-hit attack. Honeywell drove in two runs with two singles and a double. Gorrell singled twice and knocked in a pair.



**AT LEFT:** St. Clairsville's Zach Vickers (3) high fives Mason Myers after he scored the game's first run in the first inning. Also pictured is St. Clairsville bat boy Austin Fillipovich. The Red Devils posted a 4-2 victory against Harrison Central to advance to the Class 4A championship game.

**BELOW:** ST. Clairsville first baseman Mickey Balgo records an out to complete a 5-3 double play as Harrison Central's Reed Arbaugh hustles down the baseline.

T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY

## Bellaire baffles Linsly

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
For the Times Leader

NEFFS - Bellaire was stymied by Linsly's Rocco Paolina Monday afternoon at John Blacker Field. The savvy sophomore pitched brilliantly in his first varsity start, holding the Big Reds to a single run.

One run, however, is often times enough when Jake Heatherington is toeing the rubber for Bellaire. The senior phenom turned in another brilliant effort as the hosts slipped past the Cadets, 1-0, in a 90-minute pitching special.

Heatherington, who intends to continue his career at Baldwin-Wallace, yielded just three hits while fanning 11 and walking only one.

"I couldn't find the zone in the first inning. I was struggling a little bit early," Heatherington said. "I talked to my dad and he said I was leaning back a little too much and throwing too much sidearm. I felt better as the game went on."

Paolina pitched liked a season vet, holding Bellaire scoreless over the first five innings. The Reds' lone run was of the unearned variety, coming home on a throwing miscue with two outs. Paolina allowed just six hits while striking out three and walking one. He gave way to Jack Selmon with one out in the sixth.

"That kid (Paolina) pitched a whale of a game, especially when you consider it was his first varsity start. He really brought it to us," Bellaire head coach Bailey McGrath noted. "But what more can you ask of Jake. He is on a pitching roll like I have never seen before, he is special."

"Our bats weren't at their best today but Paolina had a lot to do with that. Plus with Jake

## St. C. outlasts Harrison in 4A semi

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Ohio Valley baseball fans couldn't have asked for more Monday afternoon inside Memorial Park.

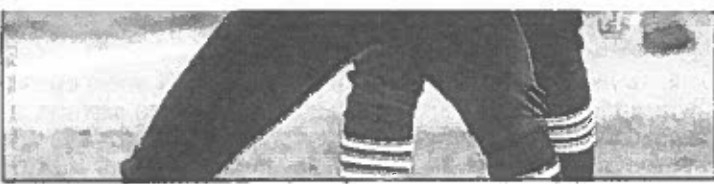
A nip-and-tuck game in which the Red Devils led, 4-2, in the top of the seventh with two outs.

They had their ace — junior Hunter Hoffman — on the mound. Harrison Central, meanwhile, countered with the leading run at the plate in the form of multiple-time All-Ohioan Treston Nemeth.

The cliché that good pitching shuts down good hitting proved true once again. Hoffman, who got ahead in the count, got Nemeth, who had singled twice and drove a ball to the fence in the notch in left center in the first, out in front of an offering and he grounded weakly to second where Brody Saunders fielded it and threw on to Mickey Balgo at first, sending the Red Devils to another OVAC title game by the 4-2 score.

"Hunter really bulled his neck and made a great pitch to get (Nemeth) out front a





**SHADYSIDE PITCHER** Taylor Fulton throws to first after fielding a ground ball during Monday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal against Toronto. The Tigers won in eight innings, 10-6.

Photo/KIM NORTH

Central, 8-0, in the quarterfinal.

"That was a huge win," said a relieved Shadyside head coach Robert Gorrell Jr. "We came through when we had to in the eighth."

Deadlocked at 6, Shadyside received a pair of 2-run singles from Abby Gorrell and Bella Honeywell in the top of the ex-

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**AT LEFT:** St. Clairsville's Zach Vickers (3) high fives Mason Myers after he scored the game's first run in the first inning. Also pictured is St. Clairsville bat boy Austin Fillipovich. The Red Devils posted a 4-2 victory against Harrison Central to advance to the Class 4A championship game. **BELOW:** ST. Clairsville first baseman Mickey Balgo records an out to complete a 5-3 double play as Harrison Central's Reed Arbaugh hustles down the baseline.

T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY

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"Our bats weren't at their best today but Paolina had a lot to do with that. But with Jake, one run was enough," added the former Bridgeport High and West Liberty diamond standout. "I like how competitive we

See, BELLAIRE, Page B2

## St. C. outlasts Harrison in 4A semi

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** - Ohio Valley baseball fans couldn't have asked for more Monday afternoon inside Memorial Park.

A nip-and-tuck game in which the Red Devils led, 4-2, in the top of the seventh with two outs.

They had their ace - junior Hunter Hoffman - on the mound. Harrison Central, meanwhile, countered with the leading run at the plate in the form of multiple-time All-Ohioan Treston Nemeth.

The cliché that good pitching shuts down good hitting proved true once again. Hoffman, who got ahead in the count, got Nemeth, who had singled twice and drove a ball to the fence in the notch in left center in the first, out in front of an offering and he grounded weakly to second where Brody Saunders fielded it and threw on to Mickey Balgo at first, sending the Red Devils to another OVAC title game by the 4-2 score.

"Hunter really bulled his neck and made a great pitch to get (Nemeth) out front a little bit and we were able to hang on," St. C. head coach Tom Sliva said. "I can't say enough about what Hunter did because he was up in pitch count, but he didn't want to come out and wasn't coming out. We made plays defensively and we got some key hits."



While the Red Devils are making plans to play Indian Creek, which knocked off defending conference champion Cambridge in the other semifinal, Harrison Central and head coach Mike Valesko are left to wonder what might have been.

"It was best on best and that's what you want in these situations," Valesko said. "It was a big moment and those usually work out in our favor, but it didn't this time around. This one is going to sting for a

See, ST. C., Page B2

## Wheeling Central too much for Monroe Central in 2A softball

By **KIM NORTH**  
For The Times Leader

**ELM GROVE** - Top-seeded Wheeling Central wore its hitting shoes Monday night as it amassed 18 hits in an 8-0 blanking of No. 4 Monroe Central in an OVAC Class 2A semifinal on windy Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

Leadoff hitter Jensen Rine had four singles to lead the Maroon Knights (15-3). Brook Edge, Jocelyn Shaw and Maddie Miehle each had a trio of safeties.

"I was really proud of the girls today. The last few games we've really started hitting, but today was nice because we did it with runners on

base," Wheeling Central head coach Buck Davidson said. "That really, really helped."

What also helped was the fact that Josie Frizzell struck out 14 and only walked one while scattering five singles, of which four were infield hits. "She pitched a great game. She kept them off balance," Davidson added. "It was just an all-around game by everybody."

Wheeling Central plated four runs in the bottom of the first on six hits. Edge drove in one with a single and Shaw made it 3-0 with a 2-run double to right. Frizzell's groundout chased in Shaw.

Frizzell picked up another RBI with a groundout in the third and See, **WHEELING**, Page B2



**WHEELING CENTRAL'S** Josie Frizzell is tagged out by Monroe Central's Juanna McElroy during Monday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal on Ben's Field at the I-470 Complex in Elm Grove.

Photo/KIM NORTH



# River Knocks Off Perennial OVAC Class 2A Power Toronto

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For the Sunday News-Register

TORONTO — River wasted no time in showing perennial OVAC 2A power and top-seeded Toronto that it had come to the Knights Baseball Complex to play Friday afternoon.

Lead-off hitter Lucas Dennis greeted Toronto ace Dom Bouscher with a lined single to left. He stole second, moved to third on a passed ball and then scored on a ground out by Pilot sophomore Peyton Blue.

The tone was officially set and River didn't take its foot off the gas en route to a 9-3 victory. The Pilots denied the Red Knights a chance at a repeat and will play for their first title since 2003 against Steubenville Catholic Central, which took out Wheeling Central in the other 2A semifinal.

"We got off to a good start offensively and we were very aggressive on the bases," a satisfied River head coach Tim Blue said. "We put a lot of pressure on them, which was our game plan coming. We wanted to make them make plays."

The Pilots (9-8) plan worked quite well. Toronto, which is ranked No. 1 in the Division IV state poll, committed six errors. On top of that, the Red Knights pitching staff walked three and plunked a guy.

"Give credit to River because they came ready to play," Toronto head coach Brian Perkins said. "We had as many hits as we did errors, which is not a good recipe. They capitalized on our mistakes and they just beat us."

With a 1-0 lead, River seemed to become even more aggressive on the base paths and in its approach at the plate.

In the second, River struck for three more runs. Colton Cisar produced a one-out single and then came around to score on a fielder's choice in which nary an out was recorded and compounding matters for Toronto the ball was thrown away.

Hunter Nething and River Thompson made it a 4-0 reading when they scored a laced single to left center

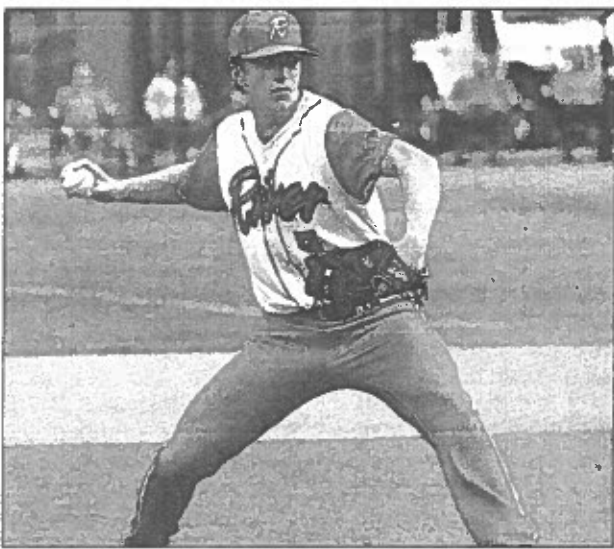


Photo by Seth Staskey

**River pitcher Colton Cisar works to the plate Friday against Toronto in an OVAC Class 2A semifinal contest at the Knights Baseball Complex in Toronto. The Pilots upset the Red Knights, 9-3.**

by senior Brody Lollathin.

The Pilots then added another three spot in the fourth to take full control of the game. Dennis led off with his second single of the game and Lollathin induced a walk before Blue ripped a single to center, scoring Dennis and chasing Bouscher.

Aiden Filby recorded a ground out to calm matters down. Max Castro then singled and Cisar grounded into a fielder's choice, but beat the throw to keep the inning alive.

The aggressive base running paid dividends once again. Cisar broke for second base, while Filby was on the rubber. He stepped off and threw to second, but the throw was high and sailed into the outfield, allowing Blue to score.

"We kept our nose to the grindstone throughout the game," Blue said. "Our base coaches were very aggressive, which I think helped us with three or four plays to move runners up and allowed us to score a couple of extra runs because of it."

Toronto wasn't finished just yet. The Red Knights struck for three runs against Cisar, who came on in relief of freshman Kaden Hunt in the third.

The first four hitters of the inning reached against Cisar. Filby led off with a single before Blake Close singled to center and the ball was misplayed, allowing both runners to move up an additional 90 feet. Nate Brownfield followed with a RBI hit and Andy Silverton followed with a two-run double.

However, Cisar settled down. He proceeded to get a pop up on the field and then back-to-back fly outs to center to thwart the rally. All told, Dennis — the Pilot centerfielder — recorded seven putouts in the game.

"I don't want to take away the credit from Coach Blue and his team because they showed up and out-performed us," Perkins said.

"We stunk today and they played really well. The bottom line is we had too many fly balls and too many errors."

After escaping that jam, Cisar proceeded to allow just one base runner the rest of the game, which was a harmless single.

"Colton Cisar threw one heck of a ball game and looked like Mariano Rivera," Blue smiled. "He did a great job pitching."

River added two more insurance tallies in the sixth. Cisar drove in Blue, who had singled to lead off the frame, and Hunter Nething drove in Castro, who had also singled on a groundout to short.

We took a long batting practice (on Thursday) and working on mechanics and the kids obviously took it to heart and did a heck of a job," Blue said.

River will play host to Frontier on Monday.

Toronto, which is now 13-4, plays host to Indian Creek on Monday.

## Opportunistic Bellaire Rolls By Visiting River In Softball

ST. JOE - Opportunistic Bellaire took advantage of 10 walks and seven errors in posting a 15-5 decision over visiting River Friday in high school softball action on the Bellaire Middle School diamond. The game was stopped in the bottom of the fifth due to the 10-run mercy rule.

The Big Reds (6-9) were led by Marissa Pacifico who knocked in three runs with a triple and home run. Allie Ault singled and tripled to produce a run while Ashlyn Rose drove in another with a single and double. Lizzie McAninch added a solo homer.

The Pilots' Rylee Knight belted a pair of home runs and finished with three RBI. Her second roundtripper - her eighth of the season - set a new single-season school record. Hannah Raper and Addison Kovach had solo shots for the Pilots (7-9).

**Wheeling Central 17, Union Local 0**

MORRISTOWN — The Maroon Knights picked up their 14th win in 17 tries Friday afternoon by routing Union Local in five innings.

Central's Josie Frizzell was once again brilliant in the circle with 13 strikeouts and nary a walk. She allowed just one hit.

Offensively, Brooke Edge had two singles, a triple and drove in a run. Jocelyn Shaw had a double, single and two RBI. Frizzell and Ava Hanson each had a double, while Taylor Knollinger had a pair of singles and drove in a run.

**Bridgeport 9, East Liverpool 6**

WOLFURST — Bridgeport's softball team won its fourth straight game Friday, outslugging East Liverpool, 9-6.

Sophomore Vanesse Mullen had 1 two-run home run, while Brooke Stewart had a single and two RBI.

Hanna Brewer picked up the win in the circle with 11 strikeouts.

**Barnesville 11, St. Clairsville 0**

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The Shamrocks improved to 11-7 on the season Friday afternoon thanks to a five-inning, repeat victory against the Red Devils.

Abigail Johnson was strong in the circle with six strikeouts and scattered just two singles. She also had a double

Morgan Richardson led Buckeye Local with two singles, while Melissa Smith had two singles and a RBI. Kaydence Kinyo singled twice.

**Parkersburg South 4, Wheeling Park 3, 8 inn. Wheeling Park 11, Parkersburg South 5**

PARKERSBURG -- The Ohio County Patriots and Wood County Patriots split a two-night doubleheader Friday.

In the opener, the hosts pushed a run across in the bottom of the eighth to outlast the visitors.

Delaney Randolph and Lauren Nolte had RBI singles for Wheeling Park.

In the nightcap, a 6-run fourth powered the locals to the split.

Randolph was the winning pitcher and helped herself at the plate with a 2-run single.

### BASEBALL

**Tyler Consolidated 5, Doddridge County 2**

MIDDLEBOURNE - The Silver Knights improved to 20-5 with their win over the visiting Bulldogs (15-4) on Senior Night.

Hayden Brown was a one-man wrecking crew for Tyler Consolidated as he singled, doubled twice and drove in two runs.

On the mound, he fanned nine, walked one and yielded a trio of harmless singles.

Jayden Helmick and Ty Walton each singled in a run. Carson Gorby had a pair of singles.

**Paden City 10, Hundred 4**

PADEN CITY - The Wildcats moved to 15-7 with the win over the visiting Hornets.

Joey Baker and Ashton Little combined on a 1-hitter and struck out 15 for Paden City.

Brayden Neff singled and tripled to drive in a pair of runs while Aleks Lazarev singled twice and drove in one. Baker, Little and Garrett Parrish all singled in a run.

Mason Goddard singled in two runs for Hundred.

**Barnesville 16, Monroe Central 4**

BARNESVILLE — The Shamrocks broke out the bats in a big way Friday afternoon, posting a 16-4 vic-

## Union Local Baseball Explodes In 11-6 Victory Over Buckeye

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
For the Sunday News-Register

CONNORVILLE - The Union Local offense has been dormant as of late. Quite dormant.

That all changed Friday afternoon as the Jets exploded for an 11-6 win over Buckeye Local. In its four previous games, UL had mustered just two total runs.

"It feels good to win," UL rookie head coach Jim Hess said after his team's fifth victory of the campaign. "The last few games have been tough. We've had a rough time scoring."

"But that really changed tonight. They guys looked like they were in great frames of mind going into the game," he added. "We had people hitting up and down the lineup. Hitting is contagious."

The Jets pounded out 12 hits.

UL never trailed as it scored three runs in the first inning. Those runs came after what appeared to be a one-two-three inning for Buckeye starter Gavyn Romanyak.

With two outs, Romanyak recorded a strikeout. But the third strike, however, was mishandled allowing the Jets to extend the frame...and they made the most of the opportunity.

Logan Hess followed with a single before Evan White delivered a run-scoring single. Peyton Causby made it 3-0 on the strength of a two-run double.

UL added two more runs in the second via a Bill Schumacher single, a Panther error, a wild pitch and a RBI single from Hess.

Buckeye responded with a pair of tallies in the second. Kaleb Stang and Wyatt Luyster both drew walks. Stang scored on a wild pitch while Luyster came home on a RBI groundout from Garret Devore.

The Jets stretched their edge to 6-2 in the fourth. Isaac Nicot singled and was plated by Clay Akers.

Buckeye put itself within striking dis-

tance with two runs in the fifth. Alex McDiffitt walked before Tyler Ebright reached on an error. Jake Berry knocked both in with a ringing double.

UL, however, put the game away with two runs in the sixth and three more in the seventh. The two Jet tallies in the sixth came home on a sac fly from Dylan Higgenbotham and a Buckeye error.

The three-run seventh was fueled by two walks, a Panther miscue and a Schumacher single.

Braylon Akers went the distance for UL to pocket the mound win. The gummy sophomore struck out nine and walked four.

"Braylon pitched a whale of a game. It was nice to get a complete game from him," Hess said. "He pitched better than what six runs would indicate. He is a bulldog out there."

"This win will do a lot for our confidence. The guys have continued to work hard for us," he added. "I got a great coaching staff. They really relate well with our kids."

Logan Hess, Causby and Schumacher paced the Jet attack with three hits each.

Buckeye bats produced eight hits. Luyster and Ebright each had two safeties.

"We cannot make the routine play. We did earlier in the year but not as of late," Buckeye Local coach Jeffery Patrick said. "Five of Union Local's first six runs were unearned. We made it too easy for them."

"Our pitchers aren't doing a bad job. We need to give them better support," added the classy mentor. "I do give our guys credit. They kept battling. We were still in the game going into the sixth."

Romanyak took the mound loss. He struck out three and did not issue a walk before giving way to Grant Dombroski in the fourth. The promising frosh fanned four and walked six.

## West Liberty Black And Gold Game To Be Held Saturday At High Noon

WEST LIBERTY - The West Liberty University football team wraps up a productive series of

games but all are expected back at full strength in the fall. "Even with the low

noted that more help is on the way in the fall with an outstanding recruiting class being bolstered by