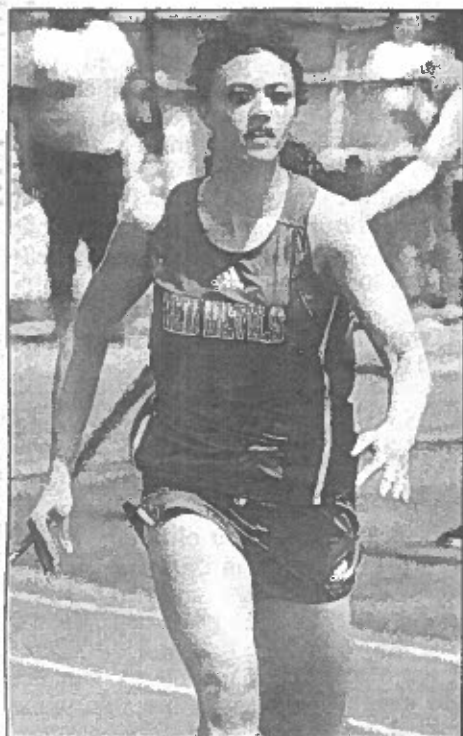


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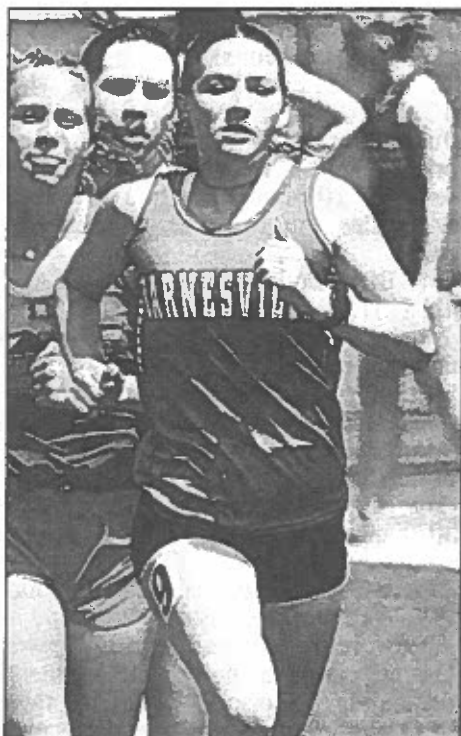
SPORTS

Monday,
May 8, 2023



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

ST. CLAIRSVILLE junior Emma Henry sprints to a victory in the 100-meter dash. She also won the 200M title and helped lead the Devils to another OVAC title.



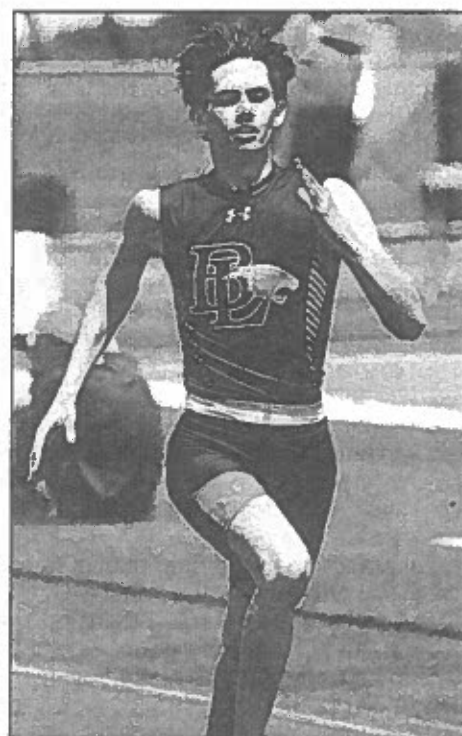
T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

BARNESVILLE SENIOR Aubrey Johnson racestoward a 3A victory in the 1600-meter run. She scored 26 points in the meet to help lead the Shamrocks to the 3A title.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

ST. CLAIRSVILLE junior Ben Shields crosses the finish line as the champion of the 3200M run. He was the overall champion and class champion to help St. C. win the team title.



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BUCKEYE LOCAL senior Cai McKeever sprints toward the overall OVAC and 4A championship in the 400M dash during Saturday's OVAC Cal Giffin Championship at St. Clairsville.

OVAC crowns track champions

Morgantown, St. Clairsville, Linsly, Wheeling Central win boys titles

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Wheeling Central, Linsly, St. Clairsville and Morgantown are all looking for room in their trophy cases today.

Those four schools brought home the top hardware Saturday afternoon from sun-drenched Red Devil Stadium and the OVAC Cal Giffin Track and Field Championship.

The Maroon Knights won the 1A/2A class, while Linsly secured the 3A title and St. Clairsville ran away with the 4A crown. The Mohigans fended off Wheeling Park for the top prize in the largest division.

Here's a look at each of the four classes:

1A/2A

Wheeling Central's speed and depth proved to be too much for the rest of the small-school field to overcome.

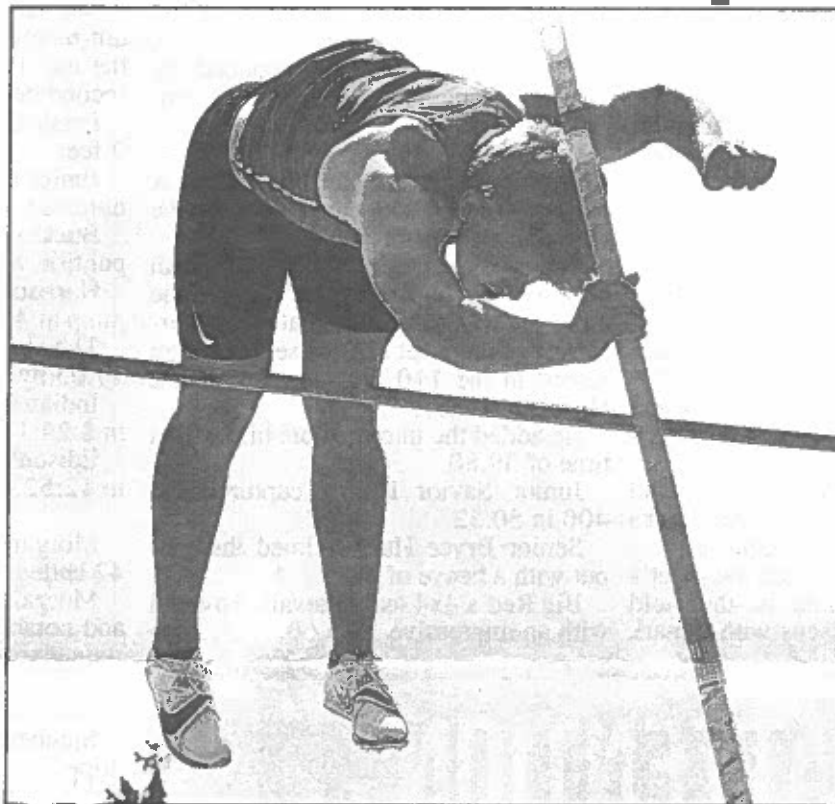
The Maroon Knights finished with 106 points and won five events along the way.

The top performer for Central was senior sprinter Lorenzo Ferrera. He won the 100 and 200-meter dashes with impressive marks. In the 100, he turned in a 10.89 to win the overall title and set a small-school record. He returned to the track and claimed the overall crown in the 200 as well with a 22.55.

Central passed the baton in the 4x200 to a time of 1:32.97 to win the class title by nearly a full second.

The Maroon Knights added the

See, **BOYS**, Page B2



ST. CLAIRSVILLE senior Karl Kain soars over the bar to win the pole vault and set a meet record in the process. He also helped fuel the Red Devils to the team title.

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Here's a look at each class:

CLASS 1A/2A

Steubenville Central's tradition-rich program struck OVAC gold once again, fending off Shadyside for the top prize.

The Crusaders were fueled to the top prize by four victories.

Central's first victory came in the 4x8 when it turned in an 11:12.34.

The strength in relays continued for the Crusaders in the 4x2 where they prevailed with a 1:53.65.

The Crusaders' first, and only, individual

title by capturing the 4x4 in 4:15.59.

The runner-up Tigers won five events.

Freshman Kaci Tsoaras claimed the pole vault crown with a height of 9-feet.

Shadyside's shuttle team turned in a 1:12.07 to claim the hurdle relay crown in the smallest class.

Senior Kierstyn Elerick skimmed 10 hurdles in 16.77 to win the high hurdle title.

Senior distance ace Kenzy Beckett posted a 5:24.53 to win the conference title in the 1600. She added the 800 title in 2:25.88.

Monroe Central had one of its stronger OVAC meets in several seasons.

The Seminoles picked up five wins, including in the long jump where freshman Bayleigh Burdette prevailed with a mark of 15-3.

Freshman Mayzie Emery was impressive in winning the 100 in 13.20. She claimed the 200 in 27.66.

The Seminoles picked up a victory in the 4x100 thanks to a 53.81.

Junior Riley Bettinger won the 400 meter dash in 62.68.

CLASS 3A

Barnesville's race to the title was fueled



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

LINSLY'S KAYLEIGH Whittington and Barnesville's Lexi Greer race in



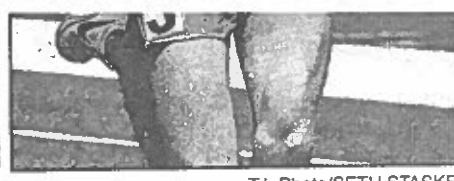
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T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY



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LINSLY'S KAYLEIGH Whittington and Barnesville's Lexi Greer race in the OVAC 4x100 during Saturday's Cal Giffin Track and Field Championship Meet at St. Clairsville's Red Devil Stadium. The Cadets won the race, but the Shamrocks won the 3A team title.

Morgantown, St. Clairsville, Barnesville, Steubenville CC win girls championships

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CLASS 3A

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See, **GIRLS**, Page B2

Pirates losing skid reaches seven after falling to Jays

PITTSBURGH (AP) – Whit Merrifield had four RBIs, three on his first home run this season, and the Toronto Blue Jays routed Pittsburgh 10-1 Sunday for a three-game sweep that extended the Pirates' losing streak to seven.

Merrifield put Toronto ahead with a run-scoring infield single in the first following a 95-minute rain delay and opened a 4-0 lead in the third when he sent a hanging curveball from Roansy Contreras (3-3) into the left-field bleachers. The two-time All-Star last had four RBIs on Aug. 25, 2021, while with Kansas City.

"That's what this lineup is capable of," Blue Jays manager John Schneider said. "You don't have to be so reliant on the top four. ... It's a pretty dangerous lineup."

Toronto outscored Pittsburgh 22-3 during the sweep, bouncing back from five straight losses. The Pirates have been outscored 44-9 during their longest skid since eight straight losses last Sept. 15-23. They began the season 20-8, their best start since winning

See, **PIRATES**, Page B2



AP PHOTO

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS' Jose Ramirez watches his fly out to Minnesota Twins' Joey Gallo during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Cleveland, Sunday.

Quantrill takes no-hitter into 7th, Guardians blank Twins

CLEVELAND (AP) – Cleveland's Cal Quantrill had a no-hit bid broken up with two outs in the seventh and combined on a one-hitter, leading the Guardians over the Minnesota Twins 2-0 on Sunday.

Alex Kirilloff got the lone hit with a two-out single in the seventh. Kirilloff hit a 1-0 changeup over second baseman Andres Gimenez, who attempted to make a leaping catch. The ball was picked up by right fielder Will Brennan.

Quantrill (2-2) received a standing ovation from the crowd of 17,477 following the hit. He walked Joey Gallo, but struck out Jose Miranda on three pitches. As he did after working out of a bases-loaded jam in the second, Quantrill pumped his fist and let out a yell as he left the mound as his day ended with another big ovation.

While they've had numerous close calls, the Guardians haven't had a no-hitter since Len Barker's perfect game in 1981 – the longest current drought in the majors.

OVAC Crowns Track Champs

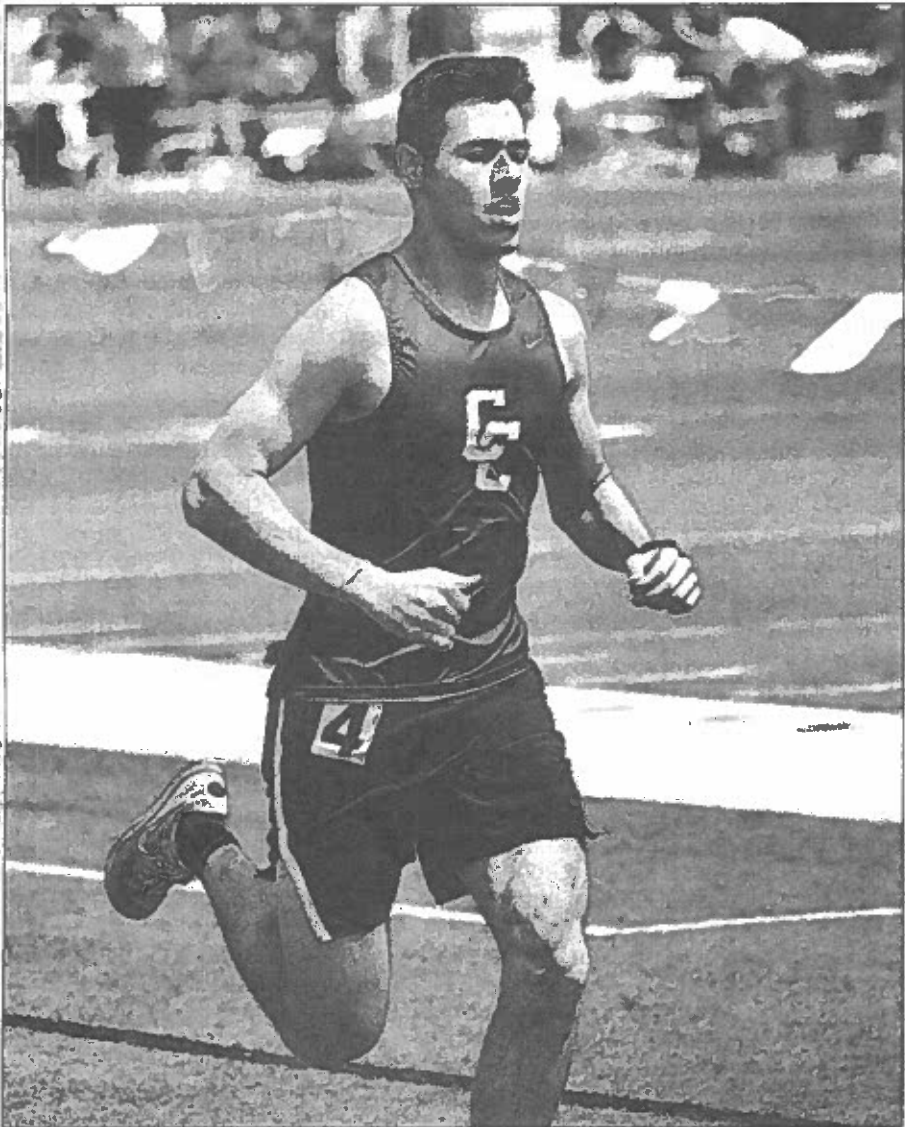


Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Central's Aidan Scott won the 1600 at Saturday's OVAC Cal Giffin Track and Field Championship, helping the Maroon Knights to the 1A/2A title.

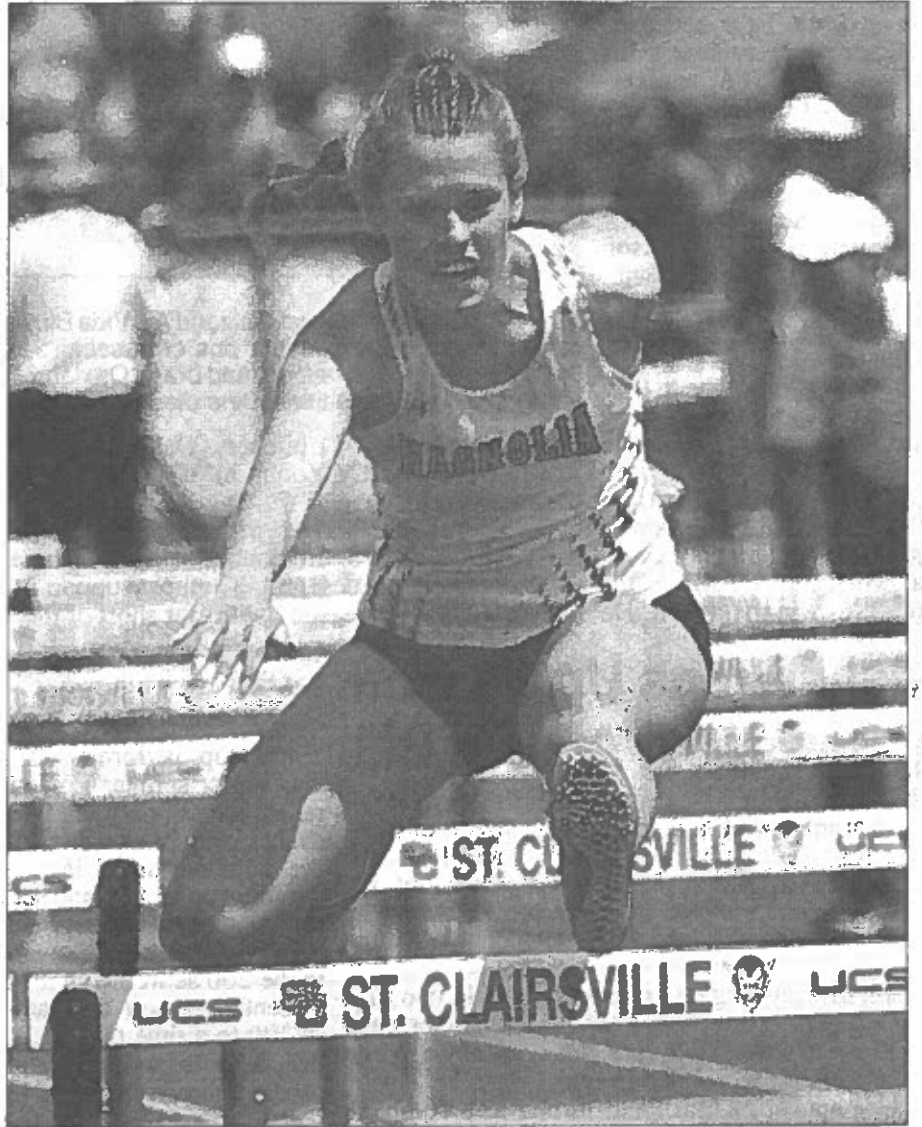


Photo by Seth Staskey

Magnolia's Jenna Blain had a big day at Saturday's OVAC Cal Giffin Track and Field Championship, winning titles in the 100 hurdles and low hurdles.

Wheeling Central, St. C., Linsly And Morgantown Claim Boys' Team Titles

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

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Please see **BOYS**, Page 10

Steubenville CC, St. C., Barnesville, Morgantown Capture Girls' Hardware

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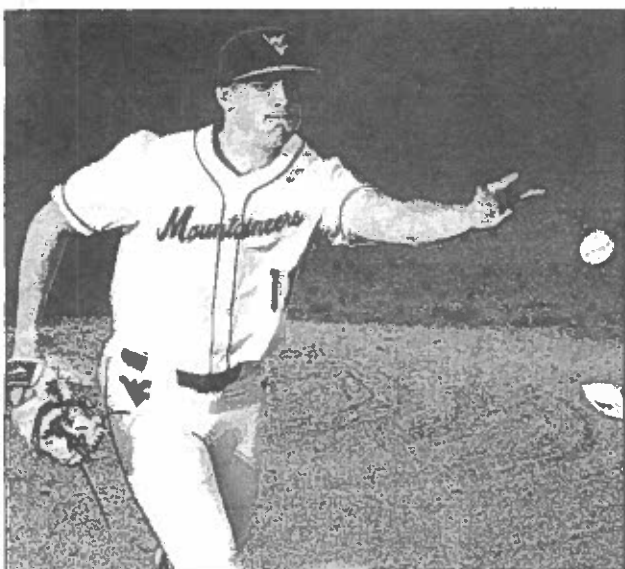
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Please see **GIRLS**, Page 11



BEN HAMPTON

WVU's Hampton Thrives On Adversity

Pitchers are a strange breed, no matter what the level.

In Major League baseball all you have to do is look at some of the nicknames they have earned over the years: "Space-man" Bill Lee, "Dizzy" Dean, Mark "The Bird" Fidrych, Al "The Mad Hungarian" Hrabosky,

Well, it might be a little too early (and certainly too salty) to start calling West Virginia's Friday pitcher Ben "Pretzels" Hampton, even though he is the one who fashioned the neck-

lace they present to hitters who hit home runs.

See, one reason pitchers develop into strange creatures is that between starts they have a lot of time on their hands, which allows them to partake of that dangerous endeavor — thinking.

That can always get you into trouble, as it did with the left-hander (naturally) Hampton earlier this sea-



BOB HERTZEL
WV News

son, threatening his grasp of the craft of pitching, so much so that Randy Mazey had to do what he does best, that being act like a parent, not a coach.

It happened a month ago Sunday, April 7, when he was pitching against Kansas in a rare bad outing, lasting just 3 2/3 innings, giving up 4 runs on 7 hits with 3 walks and a hit batsman.

"After that game I didn't think he was attacking hitters. He was pitching against a team he didn't think was very good and therefore he didn't have to be good and they whipped us," Mazey remembered after Hampton showed that he is a quick learner as he beat Oklahoma, 9-3, on Friday night to run his season record to 5-1.

Mazey approached Hampton after the game.

Please see **HAMPTON**, Page 12

Pirates Swept By Blue Jays; Skid Now At 7



Horse Deaths Cast A Shadow As Triple Crown Shifts To Preakness

By GARY B. GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A raging thunderstorm that washed out activ-



ATLANTA (AP) — Michael Harris II hit a game-ending double off Cionel Perez (1-1) as Atlanta won two of three from Baltimore, which lost consecutive games for the first time since April 8-9.

**DODGERS 5, PADRES 2,
10 INNINGS**

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Mookie Betts hit a game-tying homer with two outs in the ninth inning and James Outman hit a two-run shot in the 10th to lead Los Angeles over San Diego.

PHILLIES 6, RED SOX 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Kyle Schwarber homered after being dropped from leadoff to fifth in the batting order, and Philadelphia stopped a six-game skid and ended Boston's eight-game winning streak.

GIRLS

(Continued from Page 9)

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CLASS 3A

Barnesville's race to the title was fueled by depth. Coach Mark Brown's team, en route to scoring 82 points, only won two events.

The Shamrocks first win came in the 1600 where senior Aubrey Johnson prevailed in 5:37.80.

Barnesville, which went into the 4x4 trailing Magnolia by eight and tied with Fort Frye, meaning the Shamrocks were facing a must win for the title.

The team of Lydia Fuchs, Mia Yee, Marah Bethel and Ayla Yater delivered. The foursome posted a 4:15.24 to win the class by eight seconds.

Magnolia, which finished second in the team standings, posted 80 points.

Its first win came in the shuttles when it posted a 1:12.84.

Junior Jenna Blain put for an impressive day's work. She got started by winning the class and overall title in the 100 hurdles with a 15.82. She added the low hurdles with a 47.60, winning the overall title as well.

The Blue Eagles prevailed in the 4x2 thanks to a solid 1:51.77.

Linsly freshman Kayleigh Whittington was the champion in the 100 meter dash with a 13.10. She added the gold in the 200 with a 27.11.

The Cadets 4x1 team also prevailed with a 53.37.

Martins Ferry's 4x8 team ran a solid 10:27.37 to win the distance relay.

The Purple Riders got an individual winner in the 800 thanks to freshman Alanna Williams, who circled the oval twice in 2:27.69.

Union Local senior Josie Godson rounded the track in 59.73 to win the class' 400 title.

Caldwell sophomore Gwyn Lori swept the throwing events and was named the recipient of the Most Outstanding Performer Award for the field events. She won the shot put with a class record of 41-4 3/4. She won the discus with a class record mark of 132-11.

run homers, and Milwaukee ended a six-game losing streak while stopping San Francisco's four-game winning streak.

RANGERS 16, ANGELS 8

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Leo-dy Taveras had a career-high four hits along with four RBIs and Adolis Garcia hit his team-leading ninth homer as Texas overcame a 3-0 deficit and won its second straight after losing the series opener.

**NATIONALS 9,
DIAMONDBACKS 8**

PHOENIX (AP) — Joey Meneses hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning off Miguel Castro (1-1) and had four RBIs after Washington rallied from a four-run deficit to take an 8-6 lead.

CLASS 4A

St. Clairsville, which has made sweeping the track titles a habit, won yet another crown by finishing with 112 points.

Fueling the Red Devils were victories in five events.

Junior blazer Emma Henry was up to her same old tricks in capturing the 100 and 200 meter dash titles both in the class and overall.

She won the 100 in a run away, posting a stadium-record time of 12.16. She came back and claimed the half-lap dash in 25.68, which was more than a second better than her nearest competitor.

Freshman Ava Borkoski won the pole vault at 9-feet.

Junior Delaney Florence prevailed in the 300 low hurdles with a time of 49.53.

Weir High finished second with 90 points.

The Red Riders got a win in the discus circle thanks to senior Kendall Drobish's toss of 121-feet.

On the track, Weir's shuttle team won the class championship with a 1:11.14. The Red Riders followed with a victory in the 4x8 in a time of 10:58.72.

Oak Glen sophomore Kennsington McConnachie was the champion of her class and overall in the long jump with a mark of 16-4 1/2.

The Golden Bears won the 800 relay in 1:51.80.

Junior Hannah Kliner captured the 1600 in 5:17.91.

Oak Glen was the champions of the 400 relay with a time of 51.30.

Junior Kami Ward prevailed as the overall and class champion in the 400 for the second straight season. She posted a solid 59.38 en route to the title.

Buckeye Local junior Pam Kandrach won the shot put title with a solid mark of 39-10.

Harrison Central junior Danica Rensi won the high jump at 4-6.

The Huskies also prevailed in the highs thanks to a 17.05 by Grace Goudy.

Indian Creek senior Madison Conrad won the 800 in 2:24.15.

Edison's Josie Lesnansky won the 3200 meter run in 12:52.41.

CLASS 5A

Morgantown finished with 144 points, which was 42 better than runner-up Dover.

Morgantown was fueled by its distance contingent and notably senior Irene Riggs. The Stanford-bound runner was named the Most Outstanding Track Athlete after she posted a 4:52.14.

She also ran a key leg on the winning 4x8 team.

Staubenville, which was dealt a rough blow to their hopes when it had to scratch standout junior sprinter Sabria Jones due to injury, picked up two wins.

Sophomore Sarah Ostovich was the champion in the shot put with a mark of 35-9 3/4.

Big Red's first win on the track came in the 4x2 where they cranked out a 1:47.80 to prevailed by a tenth over Morgantown.

Wheeling Park sophomore Adriana Fazzini was the discus champion with a twirl of 124-8.

On the track, junior sprinter Kaylee Davis was the champion in the 200 thanks to a 26.73 effort.



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JJ WETHERHOLT

Wetherholt Worth More Than Numbers Show

MORGANTOWN — If you can read, and you wouldn't be looking at this if you couldn't, you are well aware of what WVU second baseman JJ Wetherholt has meant to the surging West Virginia baseball team that has captured the state's imagination with its run of nine straight victories, the latest over Pitt as the Mountaineers moved to their highest ranking ever at No. 12.

It's been in all the papers and on all the websites and probably talked about in your local tavern or coffee shop.

The kid is hitting an unimaginable .470 with a 1.341 on-base-plus-slugging average with 12 homers, 51 RBIs and 31 stolen bases.

But, even seeing that, do you really understand how much he means to the team that will spend this weekend at home in the raucous atmosphere that has been created at Mon County Ballpark facing Oklahoma, trying to build on what seems destined to lead them to hosting an NCAA Regional for the first time since



BOB HERTZEL
WV News

2019?

See, in sports, numbers are magnified but what a man does for the team by his presence, by his persona means as much as the numbers. The great ones not only raise the bar for excellence, but their presence helps lead the team over that bar.

Randy Mazey, the Mountaineer leader, understands that. He understands how a team works on personal relationships, and on how there's more to being a superstar than just individual performance.

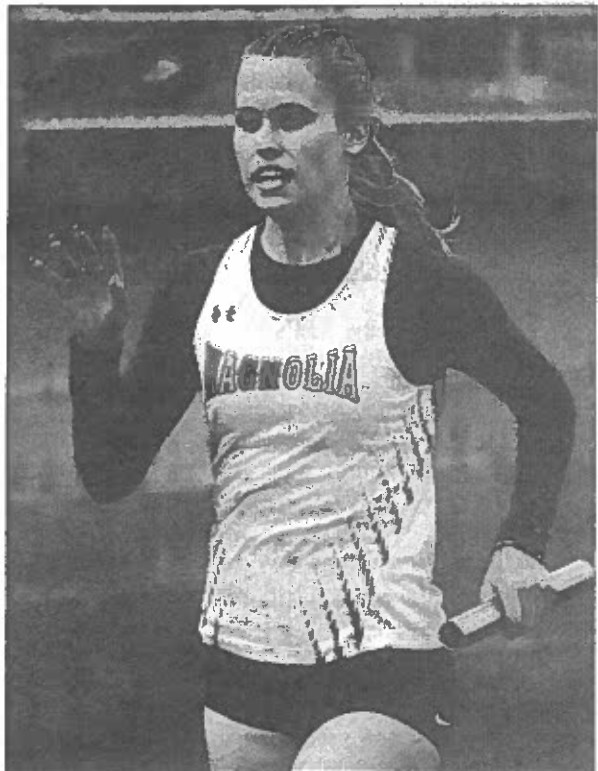
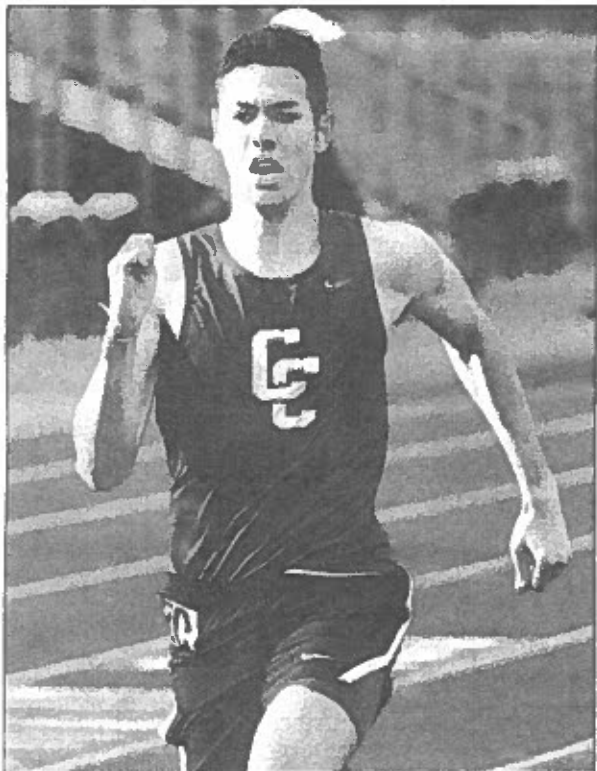
"You guys follow stats more than I do," Mazey said, "but I'd be curious to know what Bradon Barry's average is after JJ hits a homer. It seems like Barry just smashes the baseball."

Well, we can't provide that for you, but we can provide what he does in games where Wetherholt hits a home run.

Please see WETHERHOLT, Page 12

OVAC CAL GIFFIN TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

Field Is Set After Class 1A/2A and 3A Qualifying Thursday; Finals Saturday



Photos by Seth Staskey

LEFT: Wheeling Central's Aidan Scott runs in the Class 1A/2A 1600 meters Thursday where he posted the top time of 4-minutes, 40-seconds. He also finished tops in the 3200, as well. RIGHT: Magnolia's Jenna Blain was the top qualifier in the Class 1A/2A high hurdles with a time of 16.25 seconds. She also topped the field in the low hurdles and the 200 meter dash.

Team Races In All 4 Classes Should Be Tightly Contested

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The field is set. It's officially time to crown to Ohio Valley Athletic Conference champions in the sport of track and field.

The final pieces of the puzzle were put in place for Saturday's annual OVAC Cal Giffin Track and Field Championship Meet under much warmer and brighter conditions at Red Devil Stadium Thursday evening.

The Class 1A/2A and 3A schools, which were scheduled to qualify on Monday held their qualifying round.

GIRLS Class 1A/2A

Shadyside had a strong day of qualifying. Senior Kierstyn Elerick was impressive. She paced the high hurdles in a solid 16.79.

Senior Kenzy Beckett, who is enjoying a strong season, led the field in the 1600 meter run with a 5:26.31. She came back to pace the 800 in 2:29.64.

In the field, Shadyside's Kaci Tsoras led the pole

vault at 7-feet.

The Tigers' shame team paced the field with a time of 1:12.25.

The Tigers led the 4x1 field with a time of 54.56. Steubenville Catholic, which figures to be right in the mix for another team title on Saturday, also had an impressive day of competition.

The Crusaders got their day going by posting the top time in the 4x8 with a 10:42.16.

Their strength in the relays continued when they paced the 4x2 with a time of 1:53.93. They were the top seed by 23 seconds in the 4x4 with a time of 4:23.34.

Individually, senior Theresa Kerker led the field in the low hurdles with a time of 50.11.

Monroe Central's Mayzie Emery advanced as the top qualifier in the 100 with a time of 13.37. She later added the top spot in the 200 meter dash with a time of 28.06.

Please see FIELD, Page 12



Photo by Kim North

John Marshall's Ava Blake is fired up after hitting a 2-run homer in the third inning Thursday against Brooke in a W.Va. Class AAA sectional tournament game in Glen Dale. The Monarchs topped Brooke, 10-2. JM's Ed West looks on.

John Marshall Routs Brooke In Sectional Tournament Opener

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

GLEN DALE — John Marshall took advantage of Brooke's wildness inside the circle Thursday to advance in W.Va. Class AAA Section I softball tournament action with a 10-2 victory on Monarch Field.

The game was stopped after four-and-a-half innings due to the 8-run mercy rule. The top-seeded Monarchs (23-3) were issued 10 base-on-balls while another batter was hit with a pitch. They will host No. 3 Morgantown today at 5:30 in the winner's bracket final. The Mohigans defeated No. 2 Wheeling Park, 7-2, last night in the other first-round contest.

"I told the girls there's not much we could do with that many walks," veteran John Marshall head coach Ed West said. "I'm just glad they were patient and didn't chase the bad pitches. If they stay disciplined and don't swing at pitches that aren't strikes, we'll be okay."

Please see SECTIONAL, Page 12

Rays Sweep Bucs Behind Eflin, 3-2

Pittsburgh Begins Homestand Tonight

ST. PETERSBURG, double in the seventh. Fla. (AP) — Zach Eflin "We're rolling right pitched seven scoreless now," Walls said. innings. Randy Arozarena. After Ryan Thompson



Third Time No Charm For Wheeling Park

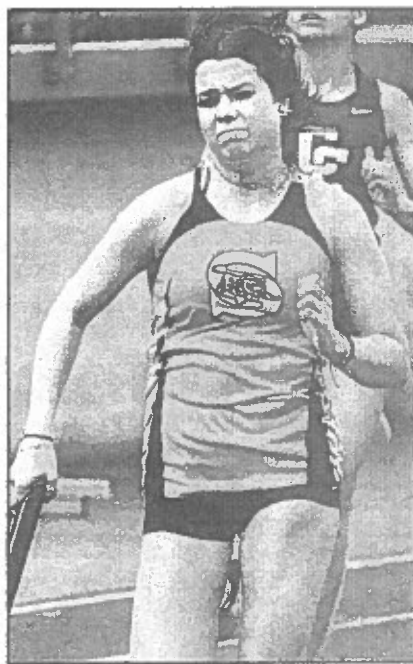
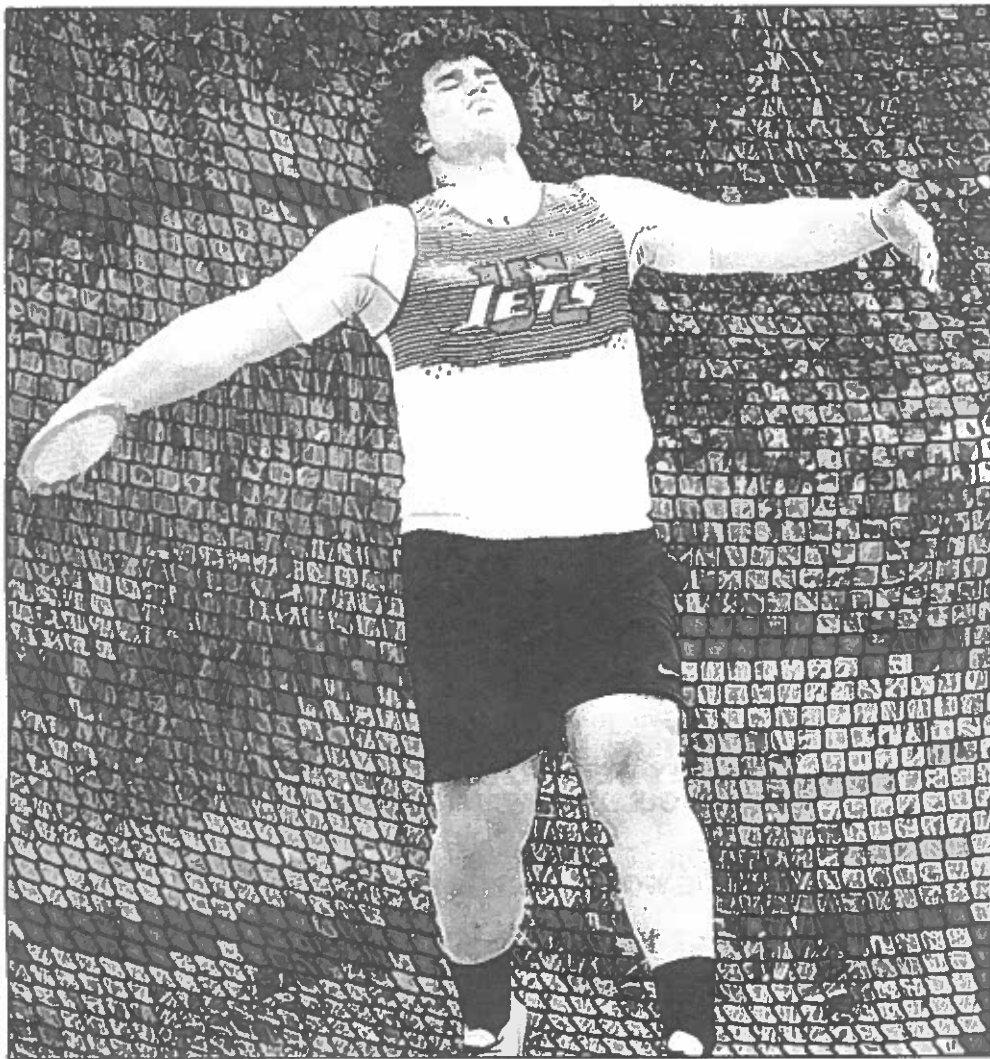
Patriots Host Bruins; Loser Eliminated

By CODY TOMER an elimination battle. For The Intelligencer "We beat Morgan-WHEELING — It was town twice this year and proven on Thursday why they were really good defeating the same team games" Park coach Pat

Classified/B7-8

SPORTS

Friday,
May 5, 2023



TL Photos/SETH STASKEY

AT LEFT: Union Local's Johnny Sabinski throws the disc to the top seed in Class 3A Thursday afternoon at Red Devil Stadium.
ABOVE: SHADYSIDE'S Kierstyn Elerick sprints toward a spot in the OVAC 4x100 final.
BELOW: MONROE Central's Mayzie Emery and River's Chloe Honeycutt race in the 100M dash Thursday. Both advanced to Saturday's championship.

Guardians send Plesac to minors

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Guardians have optioned struggling starter Zach Plesac to Triple-A Columbus.

The team made the move with Plesac on Thursday, one day before his next scheduled start. Instead, rookie Peyton Battenfield will pitch the opener of a three-game series against the Minnesota Twins on Friday.

Plesac went 1-1 with a 7.59 ERA in five starts before his demotion. The right-hander's problems extend to last season. He went 3-12 with a 4.31 ERA in 24 starts last year.

In his previous outing, the 28-year-old Plesac gave up five runs and eight hits in 3 1/3 innings on April 29, giving the Guardians no choice but to consider other options. He's 26-27 with a 4.20 ERA with Cleveland since 2019.

With Plesac going down, the Guardians are missing three starters they were counting on to defend their AL Central title. Triston McKenzie hasn't pitched this season because of a shoulder strain and Aaron Civale is out with an oblique injury.

However, Cleveland has solid pitching depth with rookie Logan Allen, Tanner Bibee and Battenfield all showing promise so far in 2023.

OVAC track qualifying wraps up

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The field is set. It's officially time to crown to Ohio Valley Athletic Conference champions in the sport of track and field.

The final pieces of the puzzle were put in place for Saturday's annual OVAC Cal Giffin Track and Field Championship Meet under much warmer and brighter conditions at Red Devil Stadium Thursday evening.

The Class 1A/2A and 3A schools, which were scheduled to qualify on Monday held their qualifying round.

GIRLS

Class 1A/2A

Shadyside had a strong day of qualifying.

Senior Kierstyn Elerick was impressive. She paced the high hurdles in a solid 16.79.

Senior Kenzy Beckett, who is enjoying a strong season, led the field in the 1600 meter run with a 5:26.31. She came back to pace the 800 in 2:29.64.

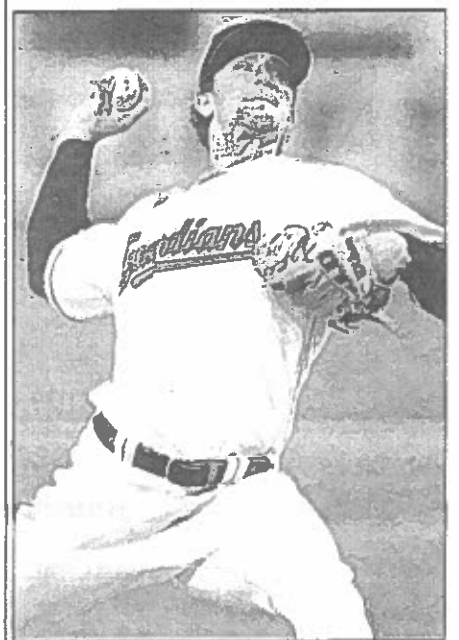
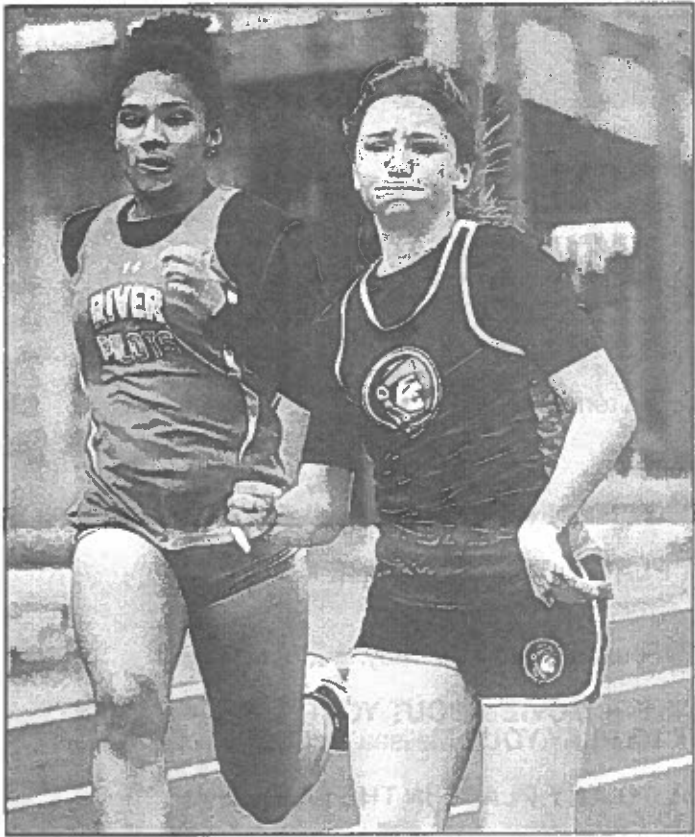
In the field, Shadyside's Kaci Tsoras led the pole vault at 7-feet.

The Tigers' shuttle team paced the field with a time of 1:12.25.

The Tigers led the 4x1 field with a time of 54.56.

Stuebenville Catholic, which figures to be right in the mix for another team title on Saturday, also had an impressive day of competition.

The Crusaders got their day going by posting the top time
See, **TRACK**, Page B3



AP PHOTO

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS starting pitcher Zach Plesac delivers during the first inning in the second baseball game of the team's doubleheader against the Miami Marlins last month in Cleveland.

Eflin goes 7 masterful innings, Rays sweep Pirates

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Zach Eflin pitched seven scoreless innings, Randy Arozarena hit one of three Rays homers and Tampa Bay beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 3-2 Thursday to finish a three-game sweep of small-budget teams off to outstanding starts.

Taylor Walls and Yandy Diaz also homered for Tampa Bay, and Eflin (4-0) scattered three hits and struck out 10. The right-hander allowed just one baserunner to reach scoring position, when Carlos Santana hit a two-out double in the seventh.

"We're rolling right now," Walls said.

After Ryan Thompson had a perfect eighth, Jason Adam gave up Santana's two-run, two-out double in the ninth before getting his second save and completing a four-hitter. Adam struck out



AP PHOTO

PITTSBURGH PIRATES second baseman Ji Hwan Bae throws the ball to first

the second inning during a conference on the mound with Rays manager Kevin Cash present. Eflin said other umpire crews had let him wear the ring, but this one told him he'd be ejected if it wasn't removed.

"This is the first crew that's really given me trouble about taking the ring off," Eflin said.

Eflin got married in 2020 and has been wearing the ring since the start of the 2021 season. He put the ring in his pocket at first and later on his necklace.

One day after Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton was ejected for arguing about how the pitch clock was operating at times, several Pirates expressed displeasure with plate umpire Manny Gonzales' strike zone. Seven of the Pirates' 10 strikeouts against Eflin were called third strikes.

Classified/B5-6

SPORTS

Thursday,
May 4, 2023



T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY

AT LEFT: Harrison Central's Grace Goudy clears a hurdle en route to qualifying in the 100M high hurdles Wednesday afternoon at Red Devil Stadium.

ABOVE: ST. Clairville junior Emma Henry sprints toward a spot in the OVAC 100M dash final.

BELOW: ST. Clairville senior Grant Swiders races toward the top seed in the 110M high hurdles. He also paced the 300IH and long jump on Wednesday.

Yankees rally past Guardians

NEW YORK (AP) — Willie Calhoun hit a tying single in the ninth inning and pinch-hitter Jose Trevino came through with a game-ending single in the 10th, giving the Yankees a 4-3 win over the Cleveland Guardians on Wednesday night as two more New York players got hurt.

Yankees center fielder Harrison Bader, back from the injured list just a day earlier, left after a ninth-inning collision with Isiah Kiner-Falefa, and Oswald Peraza limped off after hurting an ankle as a pinch runner.

"I think Harrison is going to be fine," manager Aaron Boone said.

Calhoun and Jake Bauers homered in the fifth off Shane Bieber as the Yankees erased an early 2-0 deficit.

The score was tied with two outs in the top of the ninth and Ron Marinaccio had gotten five straight outs when Boone went to the mound and brought in Clay Holmes as some fans booed the Yankees manager.

Myles Straw hit a liner to left-center that dropped for a double just in front of Kiner-Falefa, who played left field for the first time since 2015 in the minor leagues.

Pinch-hitter Oscar Gonzalez blooped an RBI single that dropped among Kiner-Falefa, Bader and short-stop Anthony Volpe, landing 240 feet from home plate. Kiner-Falefa collided with Bader on the play.

Fans, angered by the Yankees' poor play of late, chanted "Fire Boone!"

Anthony Rizzo singled off All-Star closer Emmanuel Clase leading off the bottom half. Peraza ran for Rizzo and stole second, injuring his ankle, and was replaced by Aaron Hicks, who scored on Calhoun's single.

Clase blew a save for the third time in 10 chances.

Albert Abreu (1-0) got Josh Naylor to ground into an inning-ending double play in the 10th.

With the automatic runner on second, Trevor Stephan (1-1) walked Bauers leading off and Kiner-Falefa sacrificed.

Trevino, the last non-pitcher on the Yankees' bench, blooped a single to center over the drawn-in infield on Stephan's third straight slider, boosting the Yankees to 17-15.

Cleveland has lost five straight series and 11 of its last 16 games.

Bieber allowed five hits in eight innings, throwing 93 pitches.

See, **GUARDIANS**, Page B2

OVAC track qualifying under way

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — It took a little bit longer than expected, but half the field for Saturday's OVAC Cal Giffin Track and Field Championship Meet is set.

The 4A and 5A schools held their qualifying meet at chilly, but mostly dry Red Devil Stadium Wednesday evening.

The top four finishers in each event earned a return trip to the Belmont County Seat to the championship run, which is where all places and scoring will be determined.

The Class 1A/2A and 3A schools, which saw their qualifying meet postponed on Monday due to the inclement weather, will set their fields today.

GIRLS Class 4A

Buckeye Local junior Pam Kandrach set the pace in the shot put (37-9 1/2) and discus (110-11).

St. Clairville junior Emma Henry continued to shine in the short sprints. She breeze^d down the track to a 12.37 to pace the 100 field.

Henry also paced the 200 field with a time of 25.72.

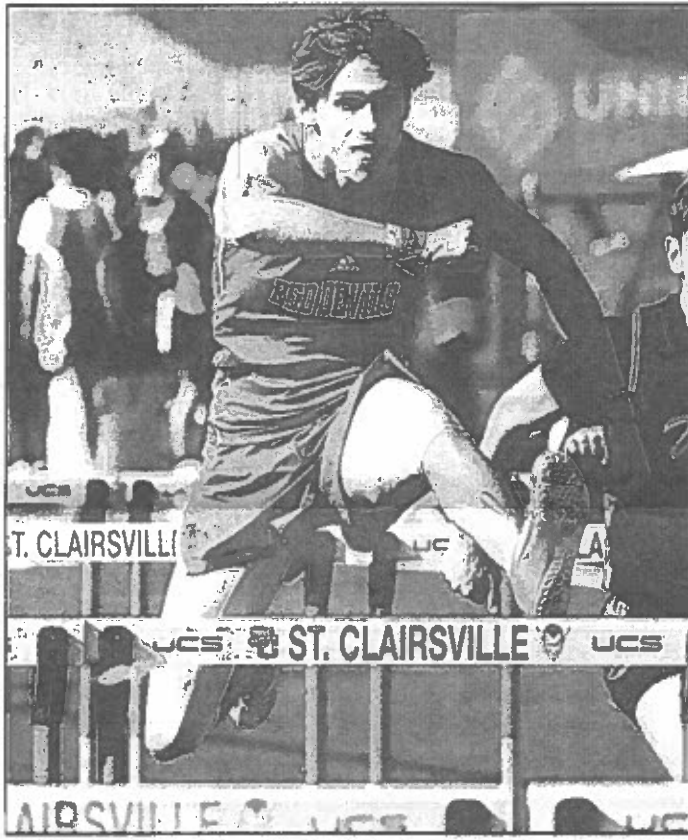
Weir posted the top seed in the shuttles with a time of 1:12.82.

The Red Riders also paced the 4x8 field with a time of 10:57.20.

Weir was also the top finisher in the 4x4 with a time of 4:29.86.

Weir's lone individual to earn the top qualifying spot was

See, **TRACK**, Page B2



McClanahan improves to 6-0 as Rays top Pirates, 8-1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Shane McClanahan became baseball's first six-game winner and the Tampa Bay Rays routed the Pittsburgh Pirates 8-1 on Wednesday night.

In a matchup of small-budget teams off to big starts, the major league-best Rays topped the NL Central-leading Pirates for the second consecutive day.

McClanahan (6-0) gave up one run on five hits over six innings, striking out nine and lowering his ERA to 2.03. Josh Lowe and Wander Franco homered off Pittsburgh relievers as the Rays improved to 25-6.

Since 1961, only the World Se-

ponents 207-94. The Rays lead the majors with 64 home runs.

Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton was ejected in the fourth. He was yelling from the dugout apparently at plate umpire Quinn Wolcott before coming out to talk with crew chief and third base umpire Adrian Johnson. First base umpire Manny Gonzalez joined the discussion and followed Shelton down the foul line toward the plate before it appeared he redirected the manager back toward the bench.

The Pirates felt the umpires missed a number of calls in Tuesday night's 4-1 loss to the Rays, including a pitch-clock violation and a balk.



• Pirates

Continued from Page B1

season. Pittsburgh went 0 for 7 with runners in scoring position and is hitless in 17 at-bats in those situations during the series.

Yandy Diaz got the first Rays hit off Mitch Keller (3-1) with two outs in a three-run third with a single and later scored when shortstop Rodolfo Castro was charged with an error after misplaying Harold Ramirez's grounder.

Brandon Lowe made it 3-1 with a two-run double.

McCutchen had hit a solo homer in the top of the third. From Fort Meade, Florida, which is about 75 miles away, he has five homers in 15 games at Tropicana Field.

Tampa Bay went ahead 5-1 in the fifth when Franco was credited with an RBI when second baseman Ji Hwan Bae was given an error for booting a grounder and Ramirez had a run-scoring

single.

Bae had two hits and a walk, and also stole his 12th and 13th bases.

Keller allowed five runs — one earned — and five hits in five innings.

Josh Lowe had a sixth-inning solo homer, and Franco went deep in the seventh.

LONG AND SUCCESSFUL DAY

New Rays right-hander Chase Anderson was acquired from Cincinnati on Wednesday and allowed two hits over three innings to get his first major league save.

The 35-year-old Anderson had been scheduled to start a morning game for Triple-A Louisville at Omaha but instead got up around 4:30 a.m. to fly to Florida, and arrived at the ballpark at 2 p.m.

It was also his 200th big league appearance, and 17th in relief.

• Guardians

Continued from Page B1

New York has a day off after playing 16 straight days, then plays at major league-leading Tampa Bay on Friday, the first of seven games in 10 days against the Rays.

Bieber got six of New York's first 12 batters to put his first pitch in play.

Calhoun homered for the second straight day. His leadoff drive on a cutter in the fifth, just the 36th pitch for the efficient Bieber, was snagged by a fan with a backhand catch in the right-field seats. Two outs later, Bauers pulled a slider into the right-field short porch for his first home run since Sept. 19, 2021, with Seattle.

Bauers started in right, his first game since bruising his right knee crashing into the wall while making a catch during the first inning of his Yankees

debut Saturday at Texas.

Cleveland scored a pair of unearned runs in the first after second baseman Gleyber Torres threw past first trying to complete a potential double play and Rizzo let Josh Ramirez's grounder bounce off his glove for an error. Josh Bell and Andrés Giménez followed with RBI singles.

Yankees starter Clarke Schmidt remained winless in seven starts. He allowed two unearned runs and six hits in 4 1/3 innings, lowering his ERA to 5.83.

New York had a runner on third with one out in the eighth when Volpe grounded to Ramirez, who was playing in at third.

He threw home in time for Cam Gallagher to tag Kiner-Falefa.

• Track

Continued from Page B1

sophomore Maleea Faulks, who cleared 4-6.

Oak Glen led the way in the 4x2 qualifying with a time of 1:55.21. The Golden Bears were also the top squad in the 4x1 field at 52.25.

Junior Hannah Kliner set the pace in the 1600 meter run with a 5:31.06.

Kami Ward, who had an exceptional showing in last season's OVAC meet, ran a 60.71 to lead the 400 field.

Sophomore Kensington McConnachie was the top qualifier in the long jump by half an inch with a 16-5 1/2.

Indian Creek's Madison Conrad was the top finisher in the 800 with a solid effort of 2:28.76.

Edison's freshman Josie Lesnansky posted a 12:45.26 to lead the qualifying in the 3200 meter run.

Class 5A

Steubenville had a strong day of qualifying. Big Red paced five events.

Junior Sabria Jones had a big day both on the track and in the long jump pit. She got her day started by leading the way in the long jump with an impressive mark of 17-5.

On the track, Jones sprinted to a 12.58 to lead the way in the 100. She also set the pace in the 400 with a time of 60.83.

Sophomore Sarah Ostovich paced the shot put with a mark of 35-8 1/2.

Sophomore Alivia Vostatek led the high jump with a 5-foot clearance.

Wheeling Park's Adriana Fazzini led the discus by more than 22-feet. She launched the platter to a mark of 121-7.

Junior Kaylee Davis posted a 26.66 to pace the 200 meter dash.

BOYS

Class 4A

St. Clairsville had a strong day of qualifying with the top time and/or mark in 10 of the 17 events.

The Red Devils' 4x8 team got the day started with an 8:54.82.

Senior Grant Swider had an impressive day, pacing the high hurdles with a 16.75.

He then topped the field in the 300 intermediates with a 43.29. In the long jump, he marked the sand at 21-0 1/2.

Junior Sawyer Bonnett ran a 2:08.84 to lead the way in the 800 meter run.

Junior Ben Shields continued his brilliant season by pacing the 3200 meter run with a 9:47.06.

The Red Devils paced the 4x4 teams with a 3:39.94.

In the field, junior Perry Patrone was the top qualifier in both the shot put (57-11 1/4) and the discus (146-1).

St. Clairsville's Karl Kain and Kyle Stoner were among the top qualifiers in the pole vault, both went 9-6.

Buckeye Local senior Cai McKeever ran a 52.08 to pace the 400 meter dash. He returned to the track and led the way in the 200 meters with a 23.11.

Class 5A

Wheeling Park's Seth Franke was the top qualifier in the 3200 meter run with a solid 9:46.29.

Wheeling Park's Mykel Davis and JT Pockl were two of three jumpers who cleared 5-8 to pace the high jump qualifying.

Senior speedster Christian Bryan ran 11.41 to lead the 100 qualifying.

The Patriots paced the 4x1 qualifying with a time of 43.97. A short-time earlier, Park posted the top 4x2 time with a 1:32.44.

Senior Ben Ashmore led the 1600 field with a time of 4:29.16.

Steubenville's Bryce Huff was the top shot putter in the 5A qualifying with a mark of 49-6.

Senior Micah Mitchell was impressive in both hurdling events.

He led the highs in 14.70 and paced the intermediates with a 39.80.

Junior Savior Faulks was the premier 400 meter runner in the field with a time of 52.81.

Big Red's 4x4 team turned in a 3:33.92 to lead the qualifying.

HC tops Bellaire in softball

CADIZ — Harrison Central needed eight innings, but it pushed across four runs in the top of the eighth and then held on for a 13-10 win over Bellaire, Wednesday in a Buckeye 8 placement game.

The Huskies offense received a home run and two RBI from Lizzie Clelland. Maddy Butler had two singles and drove in four.

Rylee Smith and Kalyn Ledger each added a RBI double.

The Big Reds, who committed eight errors, got a double, two singles and three RBI from Alexis Morgan. Gianna Schmidt had a home run, single and drove in a run. Majestique Jackson had a double, and two RBI. Marissa Pacifico had a RBI single.

BASEBALL St. Clairsville 2, Harrison Central 1

CADIZ — St. Clairsville escaped a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the seventh to pull out a hard-fought win over the Huskies Wednesday.

Brody Saunders went the distance on the mound with eight strikeouts.

Offensively, Zach Vickers drove in a run. Hunter Hoffman and Mickey Balgo each had a double.

Jace Madzia drove in the lone Harrison Central run.

The Red Devils will host Harrison Friday afternoon in the Buckeye 8 championship game.

• Secretariat —

Continued from Page B1

Associated Press by phone from his home in Canada. "Down the lane I never asked him to run. He just galloped to the wire very easily."

The Pimlico track's timing device showed Secretariat clocked 1:55 for 1 3/16 miles, but it had malfunctioned. It wasn't until 2012, at owner Penny Chenery's request, that the Maryland Racing Commission reviewed video and revised his time to 1:53, another track record.

Secretariat's popularity exploded in the three weeks leading up to the Belmont.

He became a pop culture phenomenon, appearing on the covers of Time and Newsweek while helping distract a nation dragged down by Watergate and the Vietnam War.

"He had just about everything," Turcotte said. "He was a good-looking horse, he was a very strong horse, had a long stride that covered a lot of ground, a very cooperative and generous horse. He would give you whatever you asked of him."

In the Belmont, Secretariat was the 1-10 favorite in the grueling 1 1/2-mile race against just four rivals, including

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DRIVEWAY &

Huggins: Availability Is Key To Transfer Portal Recruiting

MORGANTOWN — Bob Huggins has fooled them all this year, putting together one of the top recruiting classes through the transfer portal, being an old dog who has been more than willing to learn some new tricks while relying heavily on what he'd learned through more than 40 years of putting together a Hall of Fame career.

How did he do it? How does a coach like Huggins approach putting together a team in a new era where the book of recruiting is being rewritten.

What becomes most important in putting it all back together again?

"Honestly, availability," he answered. "It's got a lot to do with availability; what's going on with our guys, then you nose



BOB HERTZELL
WV News

around and find out the guys who aren't happy where they are. It's a crap shoot, really."

It is, but so often throughout his career, it's come up 7 or 11 for Huggins, be it in the pre-portal and pre-NIL days or now.

Often we on the outside looking in overstate what goes into it, thinking of coaches finding players who fit their system, having a rigid coaching philosophy be it offensive or defensive, be it building a team that is technically and fundamentally sound and

finding players to fit that or be it a more free-wheeling team with players who fit that mold.

Huggins doesn't operate that way. "It's a need basis," he said. "You can be loaded with guards and not have anybody who can rebound or you can have guys who can rebound but nobody who can pass. To me, it's all on a need basis."

His approach this off-season was to increase his team's athleticism.

"We needed this year a guy who could disrupt shots, be an intimidator and in regard to keep a guy from being able to back down and do what he wants."

Please see HUGGINS, Page 10



Photo Provided
West Virginia University men's basketball coach Bob Huggins gives Emmitt Matthews Jr. a hug on Senior Day in Morgantown this season.



Photo by Andrew Grimm
John Marshall's Braden Sobotka works to the plate Wednesday against Steubenville on Player's Field at the Crimson Complex. Big Red won, 2-1.

Steubenville Nips JM, 2-1

By ANDREW GRIMM
For The Intelligencer

STEUBENVILLE — With the lead cut in half and the tying run standing on third base, Big Red's Aydan Manning needed to dig deep to get the last and hardest out of his stellar outing on Wednesday.

The junior did just that, firing a strikeout to seal a 2-1 Big Red victory over visiting John Marshall.

Please see JM, Page 11

OVAC CAL GIFFIN TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

Half The Field Finally Set As 4A/5A Qualified Wednesday; Others Today

Top 4 Finishers In Each Event Return Saturday For Championship Finals

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — It took a little bit longer than expected, but half the field for Saturday's OVAC Cal Giffin Track and Field Championship Meet is set.

The 4A and 5A schools held their qualifying meet at chilly, but mostly dry Red Devil Stadium Wednesday evening.

The top four finishers in each event earned a return trip to the Belmont County Seat to the championship run, which is where all places and scoring will be determined.

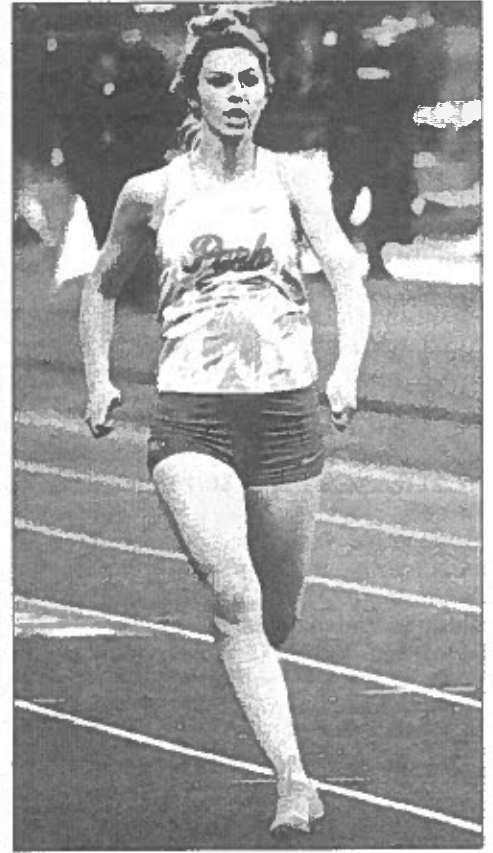
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GIRLS Class 4A

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St. Clairsville junior Emma Henry continued to shine in the short sprints. She breezed down the track to a 12.37 to pace the 100 field.

Please see QUALIFIED, Page 10



Photos by Seth Staskey
LEFT: Wheeling Park's Christian Bryan had the top qualifying time in the Class 5A boys 100 meter dash with a timing of 11.41 seconds. RIGHT: Wheeling Park's Kaylee Davis topped the Class 5A girls 200 meter in 26.66.

Rays Sting Pirates; McClanahan Now 6-0

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Shane McClanahan became baseball's first six-game winner and the Tampa Bay Rays routed the Pittsburgh Pirates 8-1 on Wednesday night.

In a matchup of small-budget teams off to big starts, the major league-best Rays topped the NL Central-leading Pirates for the second consecutive day.

McClanahan (6-0) gave up one run on five hits over six innings, striking out nine and lowering his ERA to 2.03.

"Throwing strikes, kind of mixing everything, being a little unpredictable, and trusting my defense behind me," McClanahan said.

Josh Lowe and Wander Franco homered off Pittsburgh relievers as the Rays improved to 25-6. Since 1961, only the World Series-win-

ning 1984 Detroit Tigers (26-5) had more wins through 31 games.

Tampa Bay has outscored its opponents 207-94. The Rays lead the majors with 64 home runs.

Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton was ejected in the fourth. He was yelling from the dugout at plate umpire Quinn Wolcott before coming out to talk with crew chief and third base umpire Adrian Johnson. First base umpire Manny Gonzalez joined the discussion and followed Shelton down the foul line toward the plate before it appeared he redirected the manager back toward the bench.

"I had a disagreement with how the clock was being run," Shelton said. "I had a disagreement with how the clock was being run yesterday. This is an issue I discussed with MLB this morning, and I'm sure

we'll probably discuss it tomorrow. In that situation, the 30-second clock runs, it stopped. I asked why it was stopped, and the umpire disagreed with my assessment of it, and then we had a conversation about it."

The Pirates felt the umpires missed a number of calls in Tuesday night's 4-1 loss to the Rays, including a pitch-clock violation and a balk.

Overall, Shelton thinks the new pitch clock has worked well.

"I thought they've done a really good job of it this year," Shelton said. "It's been paid attention to, it's been extremely consistent. And that's what I told MLB this morning. I thought it's been consistent. I did not think it was consistent the past two days."

Please see PIRATES, Page 10



AP Photo
Pittsburgh Pirates' Andrew McCutchen (22) celebrates with third base coach Mike Rabelo after hitting a solo home run off Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Shane McClanahan during the third inning of a game Wednesday, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Triple Crown Winner Secretariat Still Strong 50 Years and Running

By BETH HARRIS
AP Racing Writer



Brown Scores 25, Celtics Ruin Embiid's Return In 121-87 Win

BOSTON (AP) — Javlen Brown scored

