

SPORTS

Monday,
July 22, 2024

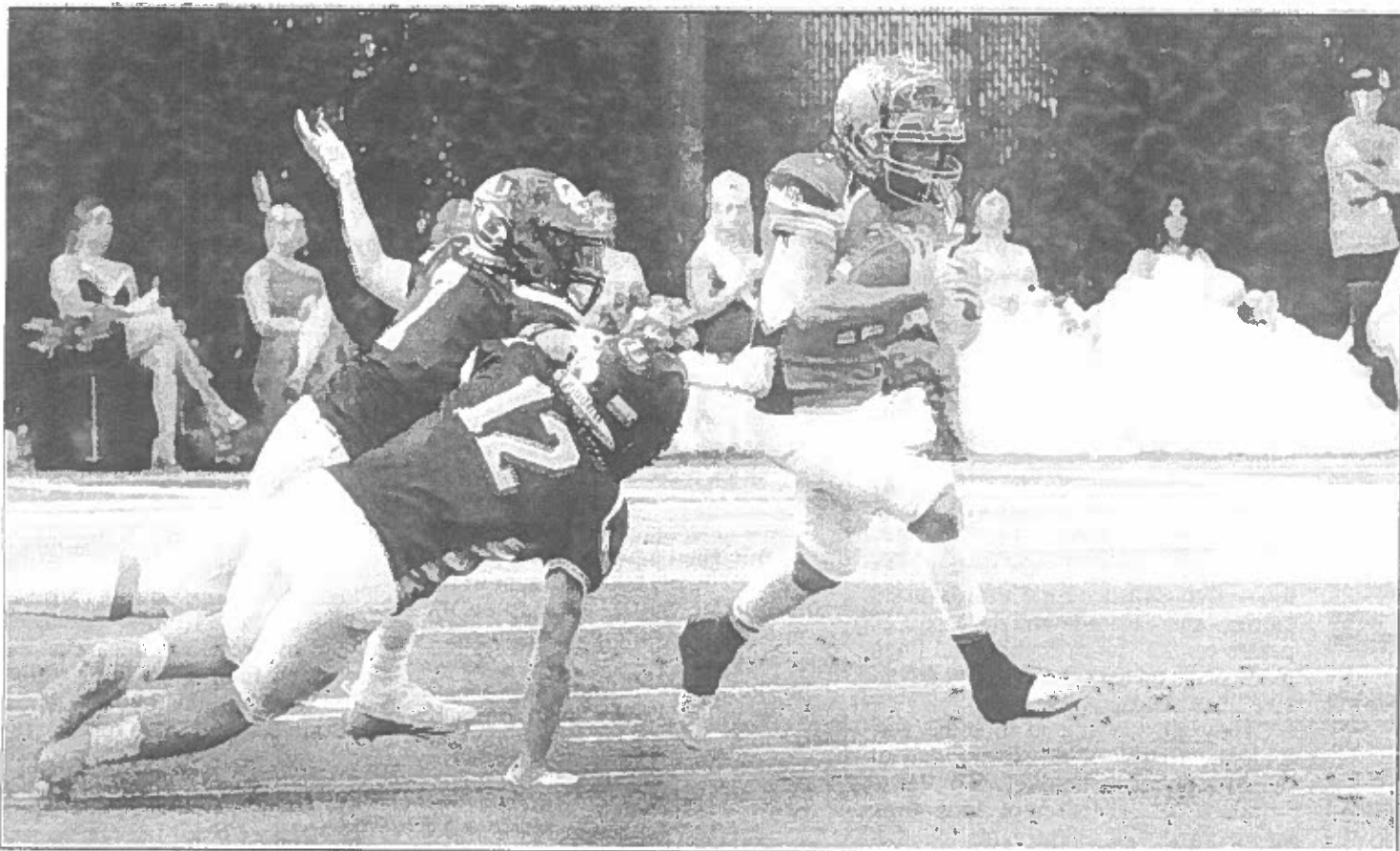


Photo by NICK HENTHORN

OHIO'S KABEL Isaly, who played for the River Pilots, rushes to the outside Saturday during the 78th Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Isaly passed for 133 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 33 in an eventual 13-13 tie.

OVAC all-star game ends in a tie for the first time

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — For the first time in its glorious 78-year history, the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game ended in a tie, 13-13 at Wheeling Island Stadium. There is no overtime in the contest.

The all-time series now stands at 45-31-2 in favor of Ohio, with the other deadlock coming in 1992 when the game was declared a washout (0-0).

The West Virginia defense came up with a pair of huge stands deep inside their own territory, with one ending up in a long fumble return for a touchdown that put it ahead 13-7 in the third quarter.

"Yes we had a couple of mishaps on offense, but we also missed some tackles and other things," Ohio head coach Anthony Hayes said. "All the emphasis is placed on those things, people are going to look at those because of that."

"The bottom line is everyone played hard. Both staffs prepared their teams well."

Ohio took the opening kickoff and marched 80 yards on seven plays as River's Kabel Isaly found St. Clairsville's Cole Thoburn streaking down the left sidelines from 34 yards out.

The Red Devils' Jacob Meager booted the placement for a 7-0 lead with 9-minutes, 20-seconds on the clock.

The drive took 2:40.

"We moved the ball consistently, we just couldn't finish off a couple of drives," Hayes added.

Barnesville's Luke Detling

gave the ball right back to the Buckeyes with an interception, but a fourth-down pass fell incomplete as the Mountaineers had held.

West Virginia drove right down the field with its next possession as Brooke's Gavin Moore capped a 4-play, 59-yard march with a 2-yard run over the right side of the line. John Marshall's Conor Fitzpatrick tied the game with the placement at the 3:48 mark of the second quarter.

The Buckeyes were threatening again late in the second quarter with a third-and-goal from the Mountaineers' 3.

See TIE, Page B2

•OVAC game more than final tied score

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — Any of the players on the field Saturday during the 78th Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game would tell you the first thing on their mind in the game, as with any of their games through their careers, was to win.

Neither side got what they wanted Saturday on the newly-replaced turf at Wheeling Island Stadium, with the game ending in a tie for the first time in its history. But what was a secondary objective, and perhaps what will endure more for those who took to the field for the evening, will be the memories of their experience.

See GAME, Page B2

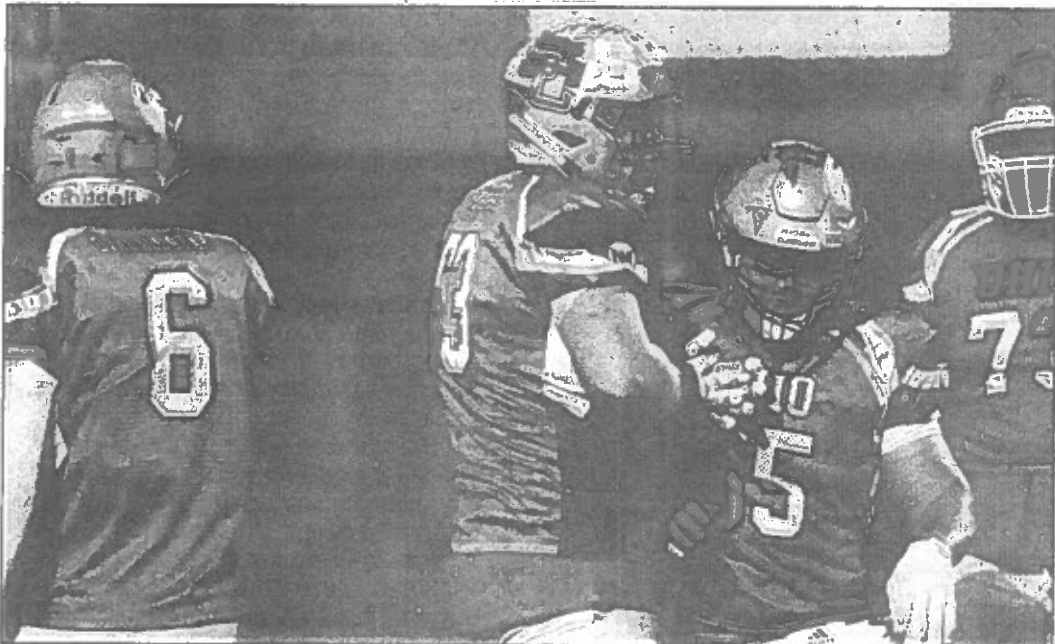


Photo by NICK HENTHORN

OHIO'S GRIFFIN Fogle (63) and Perry Patrone (55) come out of the huddle during the 78th Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Fogle and Patrone both played for the St. Clairsville Red Devils, two of five Red Devils who were able to play one more game together Saturday.

Cardinals take down Braves

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ELM GROVE — The third time was definitely a charm for Wheeling Sunday on the sun-soaked Wheeling University baseball diamond at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

After serving as bridesmaids the last two summers to Maynard, the Cardinals (15-10) rallied from a 3-2 deficit by scoring five times in the bottom of the sixth en route to a 7-4 victory and a 3-1 best-of-5 nod over Barton in Game 4 of the Ohio Valley Baseball League's championship series.

The victory is the first for the Cardinals' organization since 2019 when they also defeated the Braves (14-11). They re-located to Moundsville for the 2020 season and became the Expos. Many of the players on this year's Cardinals team came into the league that season, as well.

"We got hot when it mattered late in the regular season and we carried it over into the playoffs," Series MVP Jarrod Jones said. "Everybody kind of bought in and realized we were playing for something bigger."

Manager Scott Shaw said, "we had a lot of experience playing in the finals and I think that showed. Barton had a great team. They led the league for most of the season. We could've folded there when they took the lead, but the guys showed some fortitude and got the job done because of that experience."

Trailing 3-2 after top-seeded Barton plated a pair of runs in the top of the sixth on an RBI infield single by Cooper Blackburn and a wild pitch that allowed Zach Smith to sprint home. Wheeling sent 10 batters to the plate in the home half of the sixth, with five of them scoring. Jones drew a bases-loaded walk to tie the game at 3 and Sonny Peluchette's fielder's choice got the eventual game-winner across. Tyler Haskins punctuated the outburst - and the series - with a mammoth three-run blast deep to right for a 7-3 advantage.

Barton scored a run in the top of the seventh on a Ben Wach sacrifice fly, but Logan Bennett, the fourth Wheeling pitcher of the day, got a foul out to Haskins behind the plate and a grounder to second to end the game.

"We have a lot of guys that have been through the last two seasons, we have a few new guys but over half the team returned," Shaw continued. "They felt the pain of losing twice in sweeps and they worked hard to get better."

Wheeling took a 2-0 lead in its first at bat as Jones doubled to left-center leading off. Haskins walked with one out. Jones raced home on a wild pitch with Dylan Gongola at the plate. Gongola then lofted a single to shallow left that drove in Haskins.

See CARDINALS, Page B2

St. C. Post159 takes down Beverly/Lowell in tournament game

By JAY W. BENNETT

• Game

Continued from Page B1

Some of the players were the lone representatives from their respective schools, but for many of the players, their experiences include spending one last week on the field with a group of their teammates.

The St. Clairsville Red Devils were one of the most well-represented teams down at the all-star game, tied with Weir and Steubenville with five players each. Along with wide receiver Cole Thoburn and kicker/punter Jacob Meager, three of the Red Devils — Griffin Fogle, Perry Patrone and J.R. Adams — played in the trenches, and were in the fox hole with one another again Saturday.

"We're family down there," Fogle said after the game. "It was really nice to have my boy Perry right next to me. He'd been right next to me for two years straight. It was great to have him, Cole, Jacob Meager and J.R. Adams. They're all dogs and I was really grateful to have the chance to play with them one more time."

Experience playing together also helped during the game itself.

"It felt nice to have some familiar faces," Patrone said. "We also knew some other people from different teams. It was great to come down as a group. We could sort of communicate with each other right from the first day of practice. We all have a connection."

Each of the Red Devils did get involved Saturday — Thoburn caught a 34-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter, and Meager put through the ensuing extra point. Fogle and Patrone blocked for a ground game that went over 170 yards in a defensive-minded game, and Adams came up with a huge fumble recovery late in the fourth quarter, a change of possession that kept West Virginia off the scoreboard in the final minutes of the contest.

"That was a pretty big moment," Patrone said.

"It's not the first time and it's not the last time you'll see J.R. Adams make a play like that," Fogle said.

Adams will continue his playing career at Mercyhurst University. Fogle committed to West Virginia University, while Patrone will go to Marshall as a member of their track and field team.

As much as the players were grateful to be able to be on the same sideline as their teammates one more time, the

same can be said for the coaches chosen to lead West Virginia and Ohio, and their own players selected to the all-star game.

Weir head coach Frank Sisinni was joined by five of his Red Riders on team West Virginia — runningback Corey Lyons, quarterback Malachi Stromile — who played wide receiver Saturday — receiver/defensive back Devan Colson, and linemen Anthony Zorbini and Alias Pugh.

"It was awesome," Sisinni said of the Weir reunion. "Just awesome, considering we didn't think that we'd have that many. We had a couple guys withdraw last minute and the next guys in line were our kids. That's what pushed that number up. I told this class when they were freshmen, that we'd be playing well by the end of their careers. At the end of this year, they'd gone 11-2 and five of them got to come here and play in the all-star game, and I was fortunate enough to get four more quarters with them."

"It was exciting because our staff was here too, and we got to be with them one last time."

The Weir troupe made their marks too — Lyons rushed for 63 yards on six carries, and Stromile caught a pair of passes for 12 yards. Zorbini and Pugh made plays on the offensive and defensive lines, respectively.

"They all contributed in some way tonight," Sisinni said. "Every one of the guys on this team did."

Indeed, a collection of kids from an assortment of teams came together Saturday, and while it was closure for many of the representatives from the same school, the experience from the game and the week leading up to it also included making some new connections too.

"Being able to play with my teammates was great," Patrone said. "We also made a whole other family down here, guys who were great to be around and we'll be able to talk with them in the future about this one, what could have happened, what we could have done better. It was nice to make some new friends too."

"My mentality was, all throughout high school, to hate whoever we played," Fogle said. "But I come down here with all these boys and they all become family. We all respect each other all the same. It was nice to build new friendships that will last a lifetime."

• Tie

Continued from Page B1

However, a high snap was picked up on one bounce by Wheeling Park's Keohn Stephens who appeared to be off to the races, only to be tripped up by Barnesville's Taison Starr.

"I thought I was taking it to the crib. I thought I had a touchdown, but then I felt a hand around my ankle," Stephens said of the play which resembled Ben Roethlisberger's tackle against the Indianapolis Colts late in an AFC playoff game. "I remember that play."

On Ohio's first possession of the third quarter, it had a fourth-and-1 at the West Virginia 9, but the snap sailed over Isaly's head as he and Parkersburg South's Tristan Walker chased after it. Walker scooped up the loose ball and sprinted 62 yards to paydirt as West Virginia took a 13-7 lead after the PAT was blocked.

"Nobody was going to catch me. I was taking it to the house," Walker said.

Fitzpatrick recovered his own onside kick to put West Virginia back in business. After picking up a first down, the drive stalled and a punt ensued.

Ohio finally evened the count in the fourth quarter, but a bad snap on the ensuing PAT left the game in a stalemate.

On fourth-and-15 from his own 24, Isaly scrambled away from pressure before lobbing a pass to Bellaire's Mac

Mac Pettigrew who was wide-open in the middle of the end zone. However, a bad snap from center prevented Ohio from taking the lead with a little more than five minutes remaining.

West Virginia had one last chance. Linsly's Atley Cowan scrambled for 30 yards to the Ohio 10 before taking a huge shot from Starr. The ball flew up in the air and was recovered by St. Clairsville's J.R. Adams.

The West Virginia defense held, giving the ball back to the offense with 46 ticks showing. Cowan ran for five yards and threw an incompleteness before Starr picked off a pass.

"Our defense played very well. We forced some turnovers that really helped us," West Virginia head coach Frank Sisinni said. "Offensively, we had some big plays that we just couldn't connect on."

Isaly ran for 33 yards while passing for 133 and the two scores. Steubenville's Savier Faulks gained 69 yards on 15 carries as Ohio managed 171 on 35 totes. Petteway caught four passes for 45 stripes.

Cowan passed for 74 yards and ran for 45 more. Weir's Corey Lyons picked up 63 stripes on six carries.

Ohio charted 15 first downs, four more than West Virginia. The Buckeyes were flagged six times for 65 yards. West Virginia had five flags for 30. Both teams lost two fumbles.

• Cardinals

Continued from Page B1

Barton cut the margin in half as Blackburn scored on a wild pitch with two-out in the fifth when they chased Jones from the mound. The seldom-used righty did just what Shaw wanted, eat up some innings.

"Jarrod Jones did it all," Shaw proclaimed. "He really, really begged to get the ball today. He had only pitched twice this year. Today was the third. I gave him the ball and he came through."

Jones struck out one, walked one, surrendered a trio of singles and gave up just one run in four-plus innings. He threw 53 pitches, of which 29 were strikes.

"Just going out there and being competitive," the Wheeling Park and Fairmont State graduate said of his mindset entering the game. "We kind of let one slip away the other night in Barton. We knew coming into today being on our field was the most important thing. A lot of us have been playing in this (championship series) for the last three years and we wanted to win this year."

"I'm a big competitor and I knew when I went out there on the mound today I had a job to do," Jones added.

• Tournament

Continued from Page B1

However, he then proceeded to strike out the side before walking Easton Walker to begin the last of the fifth. Although pinch-runner Kyler Starr eventually went to third following two wild pitches, and Dominic Fry reached on another free pass, Saunders got out of the first-and-third jam after Coleman Welsh hit a hard comebacker to him that he managed to field and make the throw to first.

Saunders was more than motivated coming into the affair after making a pair of errors at shortstop during Saturday's 9-8 first championship game setback.

"You come in here with the mentality you got a job to do and a game to win," admitted Saunders. "I knew I had to throw strikes and with throwing strikes they are going to put the ball in play."

"I think my defense did a great job today with backing me up. Numerous fly balls and ground balls that my defenders made great plays on, so props to them. I couldn't do any of this without them."

No. 9 hitter Max Miller, who hit his first career bomb on Saturday, had a one-out single in the second and moved up a base via an error. Leadoff hitter Aydan Manning then made it 3-0 with his RBI knock to right.

St. Clairsville, which will carry a

"They started to hit the ball and I told (manager) Scott to get me out of there because I didn't want to blow the game for us."

Veteran Barton manager Billy Timko was proud of the way his team battled, but also gave credit where credit was due.

"We came back strong and showed some character again," Timko said. "Congratulations to Wheeling. They've been knocking on the door the last couple of seasons. They finally put a nice team together. They deserve it."

Jones hit .357 with a single, two doubles, a pair of home runs, drove in four runs, scored five times and drew a pair of walks. He also played flawlessly at first base.

Josh Schramm, who led the way with eight hits in the series, singled twice. He was the only Wheeling hitter with more than one. Gongola, the third Wheeling pitcher, earned the win. He also recorded two RBI.

Wach, who missed the first three games while preparing for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, had two singles. Zach Winland tripled in the seventh.

trolled the strike zone the whole time. He had the hitters off-balance. I mean he was challenging them and they knew it was coming sometimes, but they just couldn't get to it.

"I mean you put up that many zeroes against a team like that, that is truly an outstanding effort on his part. We played great defense. Yesterday we had some errors in the field and we told them to clean that up. We tried to limit that. That is a great, great team on the other side. I mean the Engles and the rest of the coaching staff do an absolute outstanding job. We've had some really good battles over the years. We know what each other brings and we go to war."

Saunders' free pass to Frye proved to be the last base runner for Beverly-Lowell, which finished 26-14. The righty retired the final seven batters he faced, which included receiving a running grab from third baseman Peyton Blue to retire Bradford for the first out of the sixth.


"A lot of support back home and we have a variety of schools here," added Muklewicz, who got two hits apiece from Castro, Saunders and Blue.

"The thing with this district, there are not seven other teams better than these two right here, which is a shame that only one gets to go because we both deserve to be there. We saw it every year."

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Photo by Jay W. Bennett

St. Clairsville Post 159 righty Brody Saunders tossed a 1-hit shutout against Beverly/Lowell Sunday in the championship game of the Ohio American Legion Region 8 Tournament at Fort Frye High School in Beverly, Ohio.

St. C. Post 159 Advances To State Tourney

Saunders' 1-Hit Gem Keys A 4-0 Victory In Region 8 Finals

By JAY W. BENNETT
For The Intelligencer

BEVERLY, Ohio — St. Clairsville Post 159 skipper Mike Muklewicz knew his team had to come back focused for Sunday's second championship game against Beverly-Lowell. Post 389/750 with a berth in the Ohio American Legion state baseball tournament on the line for the winner-take-all showdown in the Region 8 District finale at Fort Frye High School.

Post 389/750 head man Todd Engle's squad was short on pitching and received a complete game effort from JR Curry, but St. Clairsville right-hander Brody Saunders fired a one-hit shutout during a 4-0 triumph to put Post 159 back into the state tournament for the first time since 2021.

"You got to tip your hat to him. He threw a hell of a game," Engle said of Saunders, who issued two base on balls and had 10 strikeouts. "There for a while he went through a couple innings where he lost his breaking pitch, but he had enough velo(city) he was just throwing it by us.

"It's been a long time

since somebody has come in and did that to our program, so my hat is off to him. They were prepared and are always well coached. I got a little bit of experience over there at the state tournament and they got what it takes to get it done over there. With that guy on the bump they got a chance to beat anybody in the state."

Curry, who walked one, struck out one and gave up three earned runs while scattering a baker's dozen hits, allowed two runs in the top of the first as St. Clairsville gained early momentum.

After second baseman Max Castro laced a one-out double to the fence in center, Hunter Hoffman followed with a single to right and promptly swiped second. That brought up the cleanup hitter Saunders, who smoked a two-run double to left-center.

"That's a great feeling whenever you see your teammates are helping you out and getting on base," Saunders said.

"You got to put the ball in play. You got to do your job. You got a job to do."

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78TH-ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME

All-Stars Duel To A Draw On The Island



Photo by Nick Henthorn

West Virginia's Atley Cowan, who played for the Linsly Cadets, makes a jump throw Saturday during the 78th Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Cowan threw for 74 yards and rushed for 45.

Game Ends In Tie For First Time In Its Long History

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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one played hard. Both staffs prepared their teams well."

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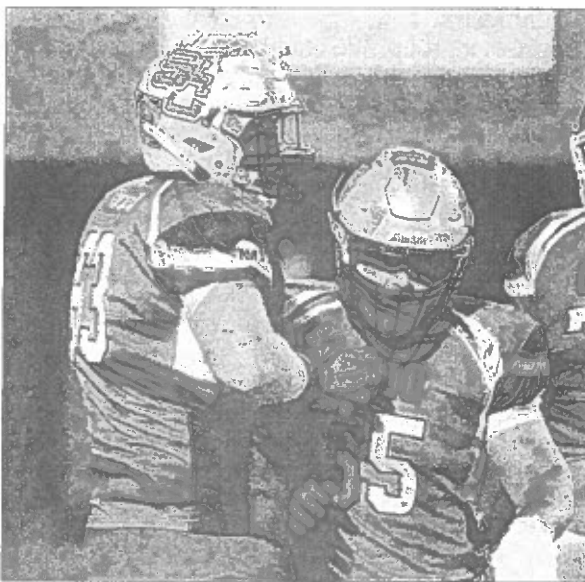


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Game About More Than Final Score

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

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Neither side got what they wanted Saturday on the newly-replaced turf at Wheeling Island Stadium, with the game ending in a tie for the first time in its history. But a secondary objective, and perhaps what will endure more for those who took to the field for the evening, was the memories of their experience.

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Phillies Defeat Pirates, Avoid



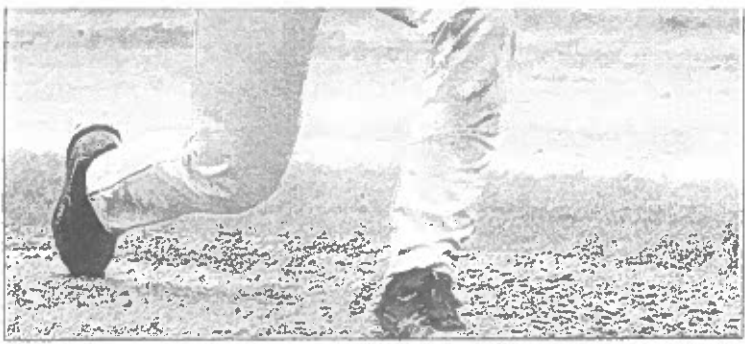


Photo by Kim North

Tournament MVP Jarrod Jones throws a pitch during Sunday's Game 4 of the Ohio Valley Baseball League championship series on the sun-soaked Wheeling University baseball diamond at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex. The Cardinals won the game, 7-4, and the title, 3-1 in the best-of-5 format.

them scoring. Jones drew a bases-loaded walk to tie the game at 3 and Sonny Peluchette's fielder's choice got the eventual game-winner across. Tyler Haskins punctuated the outburst — and the series — with a mammoth three-run blast deep to right for a 7-3 advantage.

Barton scored a run in the top of the seventh on a Ben Wach sacrifice fly, but Logan Bennett, the fourth Wheeling pitcher of the day, got a foul out to Haskins behind the plate and a grounder to second to end the game.

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day. He had only pitched twice this year. Today was the third. I gave him the ball and he came through."

Jones struck out one, walked one, surrendered a trio of singles and gave up just one run in four-plus innings. He threw 53 pitches, of which 29 were strikes.

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two doubles, a pair of home runs, drove in four runs, scored five times and drew a pair of walks. He also played flawlessly at first base.

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Wach, who missed the first three games while preparing for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, had two singles. Zach Winland tripled in the seventh.

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 9)

The Pirates outscored opponents 32-15 during their winning streak. They trailed the Phillies 7-4 entering the seventh inning Friday but won 8-7 on an RBI single by Nick Gonzales in the ninth before winning again, 4-1, on Saturday.

"We played well against the best team in baseball," Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton said. "We didn't play great today. But to come back the first night, do what we did yesterday — you want to win every game but to win two of three against that team — we didn't play great today but, overall, I thought we played well over the weekend."

Alec Bohm led off the second inning with a single off Marco Gonzales (1-1), stopped at third on a double from Edmundo Sosa and put Philadelphia ahead on Weston Wilson's sacrifice fly. Garrett Stubbs followed with an RBI single.

Gonzales lasted 4 2/3 innings, allowing two runs on six hits with four strikeouts and one walk.

Trea Turner hit an RBI single to right in the seventh inning after Oneil Cruz dropped the transition on what could have been an inning-ending double play. Kyle Schwarber then scored on a Bryce Harper groundball before Bohm added a fifth run with a single through the left side of the infield.

Nick Castellanos capped the scoring with a home run, his 14th of the season, off Josh Fleming in the ninth.

Pittsburgh's best chance came in the third inning, when Andrew McCutchen singled with two outs and Bryan Reynolds walked in front of Cruz, who had three RBIs in each of the previous two games. Cruz struck out swinging on a Phillips' 2-2 curveball in the dirt.

"Just staying within myself," Phillips said. "Trusting the preparation that I've put in. You know the guys are going to push guys into scoring position, they're going to try to score runs. That's on me to just execute pitches and pitch to my strength rather than what his weaknesses may have been."

UP NEXT

Phillies: LHP Ranger Suarez (10-4, 2.76 ERA) is set to return Monday following low back spasms to make his first start since July 12, opposite Minnesota Twins RHP Bailey Ober (8-5, 4.14)

Pirates: RHP Mitch Keller (10-5, 3.46) will be called upon Monday to start a three-game series against the Cardinals. RHP Andre Pallante (4-4, 4.21) will go for St. Louis.

MORE

(Continued from Page 9)

Along with wide receiver Cole Thoburn and kicker/punter Jacob Meager, three of the Red Devils — Griffin Fogle, Perry Patrone and J.R. Adams — played in the trenches, and were in the fox hole with one another again Saturday.

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Each of the Red Devils did get involved Saturday — Thoburn caught a 34-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter, and Meager put through the ensuing extra point. Fogle and Patrone blocked for a ground game that went over 170 yards in a defensive-minded game, and Adams came up with a huge fumble recovery late in the fourth quarter, a change of possession that kept West Virginia off the scoreboard in the final minutes of the contest.

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Adams will continue his playing career at Mercyhurst University. Fogle committed to West Virginia University, while Patrone will go to Marshall as a member of their track and field team.

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ALL-STARS

(Continued from Page 9)

"We moved the ball consistently, we just couldn't finish off a couple of drives," Hayes added.

Barnesville's Luke Dettling gave the ball right back to the Buckeyes with an interception, but a fourth-down pass fell incomplete as the Mountaineers had held.

West Virginia drove right down the field with its next possession as Brooke's Gavin Moore capped a 4-play, 59-yard march with a 2-yard run over the right side of the line. John Marshall's Conor Fitzpatrick tied the game with the placement at the 3:48 mark of the second quarter.

The Buckeyes were threatening again late in the second quarter with a third-and-goal from the Mountaineers' 3. However, a high snap was picked up on one bounce by Wheeling Park's Keohn Stephens who appeared to be off to the races, only to be tripped up by Barnesville's Taison Starr.

"I thought I was taking it to the crib. I thought I had a touchdown, but then I felt a hand around my ankle," Stephens said of the play which resembled Ben Roethlisberger's tackle against the Indianapolis Colts late in an AFC playoff game. "I remember that play."

On Ohio's first possession of the third quarter, it had a fourth-and-1 at the West Virginia 9, but the snap sailed over Isaly's head as he and Parkersburg South's Tristan Walker chased after it. Walker scooped up the loose ball and sprinted 62 yards to paydirt as West Virginia took a 13-7 lead after the PAT was blocked.

"Nobody was going to catch me. I was taking it to the house," Walker said.

Fitzpatrick recovered his own onside kick to put West Virginia back in business. After picking up a first down, the drive stalled and a punt ensued.

Ohio finally evened the count in the fourth quarter, but a bad snap on the ensuing PAT left the game in a stalemate.

On fourth-and-15 from his own 24, Isaly scrambled away from pressure before lobbing a pass to Bellaire's Mac Mac Pettigrew who was wide-open in the middle of the end zone. However, a bad snap from center prevented Ohio from taking the lead with a little more than five minutes remaining.

West Virginia had one last chance. Linsly's Atley Cowan scrambled

for 30 yards to the Ohio 10 before taking a huge shot from Starr. The ball flew up in the air and was recovered by St. Clairsville's J.R. Adams.

The West Virginia defense held, giving the ball back to the offense with 46 ticks showing. Cowan ran for five yards and threw an incompleteness before Starr picked off a pass.

"Our defense played very well. We forced some turnovers that really helped us," West Virginia head coach Frank Sisinni said. "Offensively, we had some big plays that we just couldn't connect on."

Isaly ran for 33 yards while passing for 133 and the two scores. Steubenville's Savier Faulks gained 69 yards on 15 carries as Ohio managed 171 on 35 totes. Pette-way caught four passes for 45 stripes.

Cowan passed for 74 yards and ran for 45 more. Weir's Corey Lyons picked up 63 stripes on six carries.

Ohio charted 15 first downs, four more than West Virginia. The Buckeyes were flagged six times for 65 yards. West Virginia had five flags for 30. Both teams lost two fumbles.

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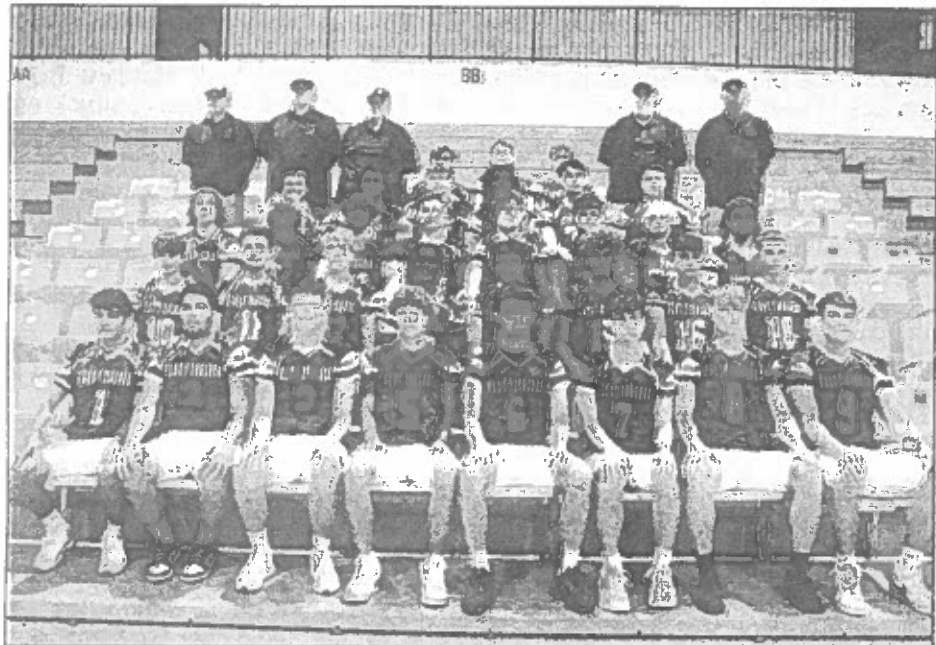


Photo by NICK HENTHORN

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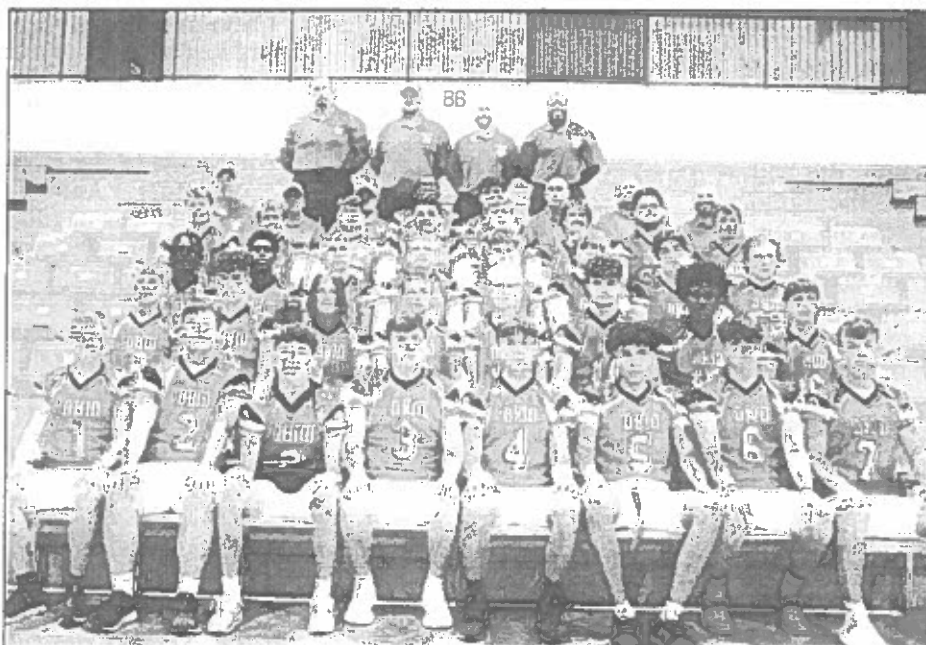


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It's kick-off time for OVAC All-Star Game

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — The players have practiced, the coaches have gameplanned, and all have eagerly waited over the past week. The wait is over Saturday evening for the 78th Annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, with two rosters made up of All-Conference, All-Valley and All-State stars converging on Wheeling Island Stadium for a 7:15 faceoff.

The long-running game has served as a final goodbye for a graduating class of OVAC athletes, but also as a celebration of the elite talent that inhabit the conference. This year,

according to the coaches who have now spent a week practicing with their respective squads, is no different.

"The talent's incredible," Ohio head coach Anthony Hayes said. "Anytime you're dealing with the best of the best of the Ohio side of the valley, it makes it pretty fun for the coach to get to pick those kids, and it's very difficult because there's so many young men deserving of this great honor. But we feel like we've got a pretty good selection of players, not just great football players but high-character kids who come from excellent programs, who were very well-coached."

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coach Frank Sisinni said. "We say it once or twice and they've got it. There aren't a whole lot of repetitions, once they get it we move on. This is the elite and the top of the conference when it comes to ability so from every position across the field we're just putting our system in and they're embracing it and having fun with it."

Hayes and Sisinni - who lead Harrison Central and Weir in the fall, respectively - doubtless have stacked rosters, but the two opposing sides also seen opposing strengths on their rosters.

Hayes sees his team favoring the big bruisers along the line as the tip of the spear.

"We always try to build a

football team around what we can do up-front," the Huskies head coach said. "The game of football has always been won and lost at the line of scrimmage. We feel pretty good about those groups of kids, we feel like that's definitely a strength for us, especially on the defensive side of the ball."

"I was very pleased with our defensive line, we have a really nice linebacker core - physical guys who are capable also of dropping back into coverage. On the back end we feel very athletic. We're not real tall on the back end but we're very athletic. We understand the threats that West Virginia can pose to us especially with the really good quarterbacks they

have. We want to drill that into our kids, the great challenge that lies ahead."

As Hayes alluded to, West Virginia is brimming over with talent at the skill positions, namely their quarterback room, where they have five QB's, though Sisinni suggested his staff was looking at the trio of University's Luke Hudson, Linsly's Atley Cowan and Morgantown's Maddox Bowers to be under center, with Cameron's Colson Wichterman and Weir's Malachi Stromile seeing their reps more on defense - or, in Stromile's case, at wide receiver - than at quarterback.

See ALL-STAR, Page C2



Photo by KIM NORTH

BARTON'S AARON Marovich is congratulated by teammates after scoring the tying run Friday in Game 3 of the best-of-5 Ohio Valley Baseball League championship series on Henning Field inside Pramesa Park in Crescent.

Barton Remains Alive In OVBL Finals Series

Pirates rally from down three for 8-7 win over Philadelphia

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Nick Gonzales hit the winning RBI single in the ninth inning and the Pittsburgh Pirates rallied from a three-run deficit for an 8-7 win over the Philadelphia Phillies on Friday night.

With the Pirates trailing 7-6, Connor Joe led off the ninth with a single before Jose Alvarado (1-4) walked Andrew McCutchen. Michael A. Taylor, running for Joe, and McCutchen executed a double steal. Oneil Cruz brought in the tying run on a one-out fielder's choice.

Gonzales then sent a first-pitch cutter through the left side of the infield to win it.

Carmen Mlodzinski (2-3) allowed two singles in the ninth before retiring three in a row.



AP Photo

PITTSBURGH PIRATES' Andrew McCutchen slides in safely to third base Friday in Pittsburgh.

Nick Castellanos.

Cruz drove in the first of up for a third time with a two-run homer in the fourth inning.

• British

Continued from Page C1

"To be leading this tournament after two days, it's why you come here. It's why we're here."

The shocker at Royal Troon — there were a lot of them Friday — was how many of the top players were leaving.

DeChambeau, the U.S. Open champion with top 10s in all the majors this year, managed only one birdie in a round of 75. McIlroy would have needed anything under par, and those hopes ended with a triple bogey 8 on his fourth hole. He shot 75.

"I'd much rather have a disappointing Sunday than going home on Friday," said McIlroy, who was coming off a late collapse that cost him the U.S. Open.

Woods had a 77 to

miss the cut in his third straight major, this one by eight shots. His 36-hole score of 156 matched his highest as a pro.

Lowry was at 7-under 135, and only nine other players remained under par after two days of havoc-wreaking wind off the Irish Sea.

Brown, playing in his first major championship, held it together for a 72 that puts him in the final group on the weekend with Lowry. Rose wasn't even sure he would be at Troon until he went through 36-hole qualifying at the start of the month. He went 29 holes before finally making a bogey, and then he finished strong for a 68.

Masters champion Scottie Scheffler found a pot bunker off the tee at the downwind 18th and made bogey, but other-

wise was solid as ever for another 70. He was tied for fourth just five shots behind, along with Billy Horschel (68) and Dean Burmester (69).

"I know tomorrow is going to be a long day, but I've done it before," Lowry said. "For me, it's just about going out and playing my own game, shooting the best score I can. Try not to worry about what other people are doing and just trying to take care of your own personal stuff."

It was best to keep blinders on at Royal Troon. There were some harrowing scenes.

Justin Thomas, who opened with a 68 to get himself in the mix, shot a 45 on the front nine and played his best golf from there to salvage a 78 and make sure he at least made the cut.

Robert MacIntyre had an even tougher start. Scotland's biggest star after winning his national Open last week, MacIntyre was stuck in pot bunkers and high grass. He was 8 over for his round through four holes — four holes! — and then played 4 under the rest of the way for a remarkable 75 to make the cut.

The cut was at 6-over 148.

Aguri Iwasaki had them all beat. He took a 9 on consecutive holes and shot 52 on the back nine for a 91. One of those 9s was on the par-3 14th, where he took four shots out of two bunkers and once had to go backward toward the fairway.

McIlroy, who started with a 78, needed a good start and instead got a triple bogey. He

barely moved the ball out of thick grass on the par-5 fourth. Once he got back to the fairway, he pulled another shot into the rough, chipped that into the bunker and ended the sad tale by missing a 4-foot putt.

"Once I made the 8 on the fourth hole that was it — 22 holes into the event and I'm thinking about where I'm going to go on vacation next week," McIlroy said.

PGA champion Xander Schauffele and Patrick Cantlay were in the group at 1-under 141.

Another shot back was Joaquin Niemann. He had another 71 despite taking a quintuple-bogey 8 on the par-3 eighth hole — the Postage Stamp — that measures a mere 123 yards. He was in three bunkers around the tiny green and three-putted

when he finally got out of them. Niemann also made six birdies in a most remarkable round of level par.

So much chaos across the century-old links, and it looked for a brief moment like Lowry might take part. He was in the right rough, but he was distracted by a photographer and angry at himself for not backing off the shot that he tugged left toward a clump of gorse.

Figuring it would be lost in the prickly mess, Lowry hit a provisional for a lost ball onto the green, a terrific shot. One problem. Someone found the ball. It was no longer lost, so the provisional ball was not in play.

Lowry took a penalty drop from the bush, going back to find a place where he had a swing, put it short of the green, chipped on and salvaged a double bogey 6.

"To be honest, I was happy enough leaving there with a 6. It wasn't a disaster. I was still leading the tournament," Lowry said.

• OVBL

Continued from Page C1

Following Wheeling's early outburst which saw Jarrod Jones belt a lead-off home run, Sonny Peluchette single to center and Tyler Haskins blast a two-run homer, Barton responded with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first as Cooper Blackburn scored on an error and Zac Taylor singled in another.

"He's a great pitcher," Timko said.

That allowed Romanyak to breathe a little easier.

"That gave me a lot more confidence," Romanyak added. "It gave me room to succeed. I'm not the hardest thrower out there. I have to work around everything."

Zach Winland's RBI double — Barton's first extra base hit of the championship series — drove in Aaron Marovich to tie the game in the fourth. Kobe Hill followed with a single to center as Winland came across to put the Braves ahead, 4-3.

The Braves broke the game open with a three-run fifth, highlighted by RBI singles from Marovich and Hill. A third tally scored on an error.

Barton added an insurance marker in the sixth as Colton Coss raced home on a groundout by Taylor.

The Braves collected 11 hits, one more than they had in the first two games combined, while the Cardinals (14-10) finished with seven, three coming off the bat of Josh Schramm who singled twice and doubled.

Hill, Coss and Marovich all singled twice for Barton.

"We scored those three runs early and then our bats went dead," said Wheeling's Brian Shaw. "The good news is we still have two more games left."

• All-Star

Continued from Page C1

"We're very strong at quarterback," Sisinni said. "We're very skilled on the perimeter as well and that's kind of how it was developed based on the best of the best and trying to get size and speed out there the best we can."

The Weir headman said that he expects Wheeling Central's Lucca Ferrara, Wheeling Park's Derek Croghan, John Marshall's Scott Schenerlein, Weir's Anthony Zorbini and Magnolia's Jaydin Lynch to start across the offensive line, with Weir's Corey Lyons starting the game at tailback, Morgantown's Nick DiProspero at tightend, and Parkersburg South's Triston Walker. Wheeling Park's Keohn Stephens and Stromile starting at receiver.

Whoever is out there at the start of the game is sure to split snaps with the other talents at each position though, as both coaches spoke about rotating their players early and often.

"We plan on rotating everybody in," Hayes said. "We feel comfortable with the kids we have and we think any kid we put in can do the job we need them to do. We're two-deep at every position. At least, and lots of guys are getting reps at multiple positions. We anticipate playing everybody on both sides of the ball."

West Virginia defeated Ohio 13-9 last year, though with a new coaching staff and new roster, revenge is not the central message for Hayes' crew. "History's a great teacher," Hayes said.

"But I think moreso, and this goes along with our team's philosophy at Harrison Central, it's the old adage 'you never get ahead by looking behind.' This is a new team for Ohio and a new team from West Virginia, but the goal for us is to beat West Virginia. Our side of the river selected us to put together a team that is worthy of winning this all-star game. It's incumbent upon us to do our absolute best and our kids know that."

Being at your best means having a game plan that is both effective and efficient, with the two teams only having five days together to practice.

Sisinni has taken it upon himself and his assistants to tailor a playbook that incorporates the play styles of multiple different schools- and

utilizing personnel from whichever school they are aiming to emulate.

"These boys coming in from different high schools, and the tremendous job that their high schools and coaches have done with them, now we get to capitalize on those things that we picked them on, their traits and their abilities that have made them all stars," Sisinni said.

"What we are trying to do is to marry all of it and get some of the philosophies to play into our philosophies. Maybe one team wants to pull-Wheeling Central's a pulling team, so when we do our pulling plays, we'll have Wheeling Central kids who like to do that. Certain quarterbacks like to roll out, there's certain things you might want to do with those guys."

Despite their short time together both teams feel prepared going into Saturday night.

"The thing that's stood out the most, and I'm sure this is likewise for coach Sisinni, but it's that there was a team full of kids who had to buy in

in a short amount of time, and these kids have done an excellent job of meshing together," Hayes said. "It's almost as if these kids have been on the same team all year. That's what's stood out the most, how easily these kids turned into Team Ohio."

"A lot of the time you get the same concepts but the language is different from school to school," Sisinni. "It's really getting them on the same language this week."

"This is the shortest time period in OVAC history. Years ago teams used to report for two weeks, now they've shortened it down to a five-day window. We have to really watch what we're trying to teach because we want them playing fast. We don't want them thinking a whole lot because when you're thinking then your feet slow down."

This is both men's first time as head coaches in the OVAC All-Star Game, although Sisinni noted he had been an assistant coach for the 2010 game as well as the 2017 W.Va. North-South All Star Game.



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OVAC All-Star Game Tonight At Wheeling Island



Photo by Nick Henthorn
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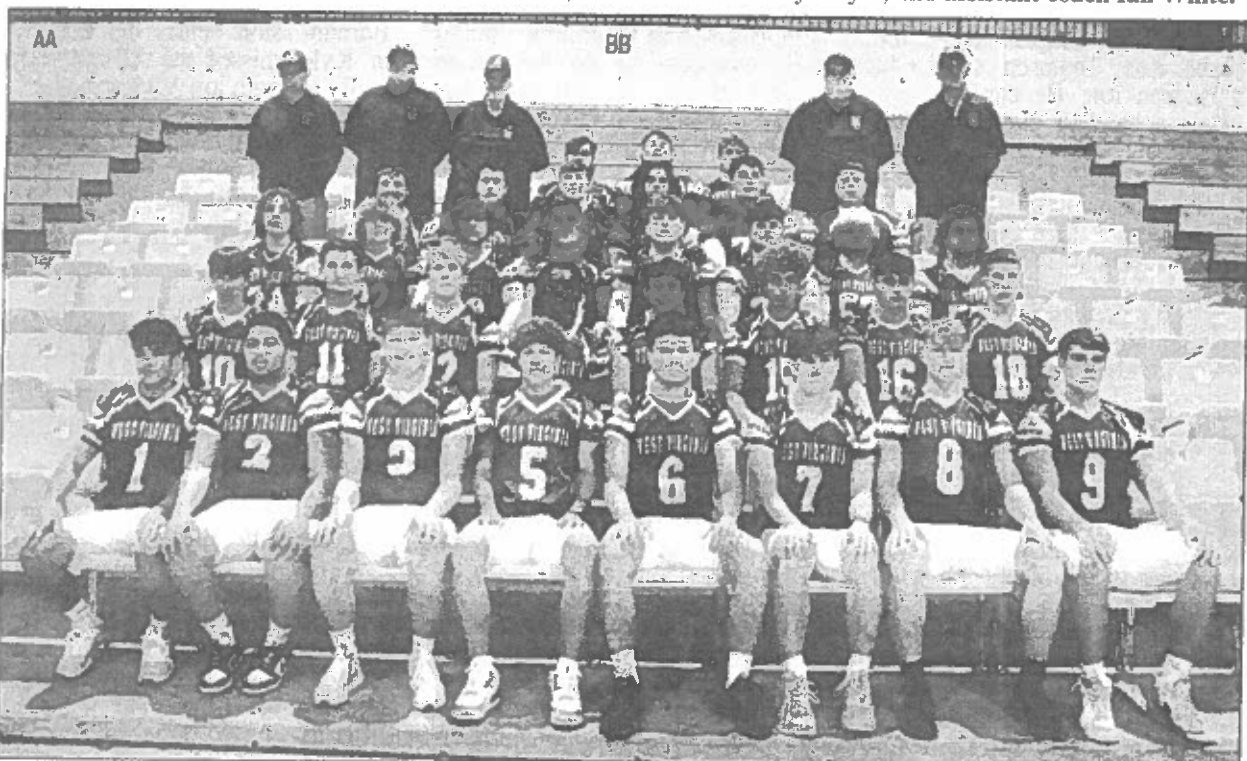


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Please see Game, Page C2

Barton Remains Alive In OVBL Finals

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

CRESCENT — With its backs to the wall, things didn't start off very well for Barton Friday night, but the top-seeds didn't panic.

Wheeling led 3-0 after eight pitches in Game 3 of the Ohio Valley Baseball League championship series, but the

single to the first three Wheeling batters as the Braves quickly found themselves playing from behind. However, the recent Buckeye Local grad settled down and went the distance, striking out six, walking two and allowing seven hits. He threw 95 pitches, with 69 being strikes.



Schmitt, Lou Smith, Eric Osterman, Todd Flanagan, Stephanie Caruso, Chris Stephens, Brandon Tucker and Justin Edwards.

The 10 honorees will be feted during the Maroon Knights' annual Hall of Fame Brunch on Saturday, Sept. 28, sponsored by Dan Stephens State Farm Insurance at the CCHS Great Hall.

Only a limited number of tickets are available for this event and are \$25 per

Sacco never aspired to be a head coach, but once said, "I just want to be the best possible assistant coach." His humility and avoidance to shy away from the limelight was characteristic of all Greg's pursuits and endeavors. He relished the work he did behind the scenes.

Greg handled his assignments meticulously, with precise organization and thoughtfulness. There was never a task regard-

avoid them being lost. If equipment was not returned in a timely manner at the end of each season, Greg would send letters to parents reminding them of their and their child's responsibility to do so. He could tell you exactly who had not turned in a specific item, documented by his careful records.

Greg's love of Central and Maroon Knight football was an integral part of his character. He would often say that he was

mother. She was confined in a nursing home. Retiring from coaching was a difficult decision for him but did so for the love of his family.

Greg died in 2016. Legendary Wheeling Central Principal Dr. Joseph Viglietta eulogized Greg at his funeral mass. Dr. Viglietta highlighted Greg's undisputed dedication, loyalty and service to Wheeling Central. In addition, he acknowledged the countless time

years) and city council member (22 years).

Henry created the Central football chain-gang and served on it for 40 years. He was a 50-year Central Athletic Booster Club member and was a 25-year Band Booster, running the Band Stand at Central games. He passionately worked Maroon Knight fundraisers, including selling raffle tickets at Central events.

Henry was a three-sports performer (foot-

member of the Fratern Order of Eagles, Aer 2541 in St. Clairsville.

"Herk Henry and his wife were icons to the entire CCHS Family. Herk supported and loved Central athletics and extracurricular activities, especially the Band and the Boosters," Young said. "Herk represented Central as great booster parent and alumnus. All his children were CCHS graduates and excelled as student athletes."

RALLY

(Continued from Page C1)

Oneil Cruz brought in the tying run on a one-out fielder's choice.

Gonzales then sent a first-pitch cutter through the left side of the infield to defeat the Phillies, who have lost three of four in front of a sellout crowd of 39,530, the largest in the regular season at PNC Park since April 13, 2015.

"I don't think so," Gonzales said when asked whether he'd played in a more memorable game. "Just the back and forth, especially against them, it's pretty cool to do. It kind of shows that we can compete

against the best."

The Pirates have won five in a row to move over .500 at 49-48 for the first time since April 24.

Carmen Mlodzinski (2-3) allowed two singles in the ninth before retiring three in a row.

Weston Wilson, who had a career-best three hits, put the Phillies ahead 4-3 in the third inning with a home run to left, his first this season and second in the majors. He capped a three-run first inning with his first of two singles, grounding it off the chest of third baseman Ke'Bryan

Hayes to follow a two-run double from Nick Castellanos.

"(Wilson is) a baseball player." Philadelphia manager Rob Thomson said. "He can run. He can hit. He's a baseball player, so we're giving him a chance here. Hopefully, he grabs it."

Cruz drove in the first of Pittsburgh's three runs off Aaron Nola in the first, hitting a double with an exit velocity of 120.5 mph to center. He led off the third with another double before scoring on a sacrifice fly to tie it 4-all.

"He was outstanding,"

Pirates manager Derek Shelton said. "I think if anybody needed the four days, it was him, because I think you guys saw him in Chicago. He was beat up and he wasn't moving at full speed. To be able to get him back to healthy I think is really important."

Nola was tagged for four runs and six hits with four strikeouts in five innings.

"Early in the game, he looked a little bit rusty," Thomson said. "Seven days off between starts. A lot of stressful pitches early."

GAME

(Continued from Page C1)

Whoever is out there at the start of the game is sure to split snaps with the other talents though, as both coaches spoke about rotating their players early and often.

"We plan on rotating everybody in," Hayes said. "We feel comfortable with the kids we have and we think any kid we put in can do the job we need them to do. We're two-deep at every position, at least, and lots of guys are getting reps at multiple positions. We anticipate playing everybody on both sides of the ball."

West Virginia defeated Ohio 13-9 last year, though with a new coaching staff and new roster, revenge is not the central message for Hayes' crew.

"History's a great teacher," Hayes said. "But I think moreso, and this goes along with our team's philosophy at Harrison Central, it's the old adage 'you never get ahead by looking behind.' This is a new team for Ohio and a new team from West Virginia, but the goal for us is to beat West Virginia. Our side of the river selected us to put together a team that is worthy of winning this all-star game. It's incumbent upon us to do our absolute best and our kids know that."

Trea Turner put the Phillies up for a third time with a two-run homer off Pirates starter Martin Perez in the fourth inning. Edmundo Sosa scored on Kyle Schwarber's sacrifice fly to make it 7-4 in the fifth.

Perez lasted 3 2/3 innings, allowing six runs on seven hits and two walks.

Cruz hit an RBI infield single in front of Rowdy Tellez's third sacrifice fly of the night that cut the deficit to 7-6 in the seventh.

TRAINER'S ROOM
Phillies: LHP Ranger

Suarez threw Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, going out to 120 feet and throwing a flat-ground session before the game. He missed the All-Star Game with low back spasms.

Pirates: LHP Bailey Falter threw a live bullpen on Thursday. He was placed on the 15-day injured list on July 7.

UP NEXT

RHP Luis Ortiz (4-2, 2.84 ERA) will take the mound for the Pirates, opposite Phillies LHP Cristopher Sanchez (7-4, 2.96).

ALIVE

(Continued from Page C1)

Kobe Hill followed with a single to center as Winland came across to put the Braves ahead, 4-3.

The Braves broke the game open with a three-run fifth, highlighted by RBI singles from Marovich and Hill. A third tally scored on an error.

Barton added an insur-

ance marker in the sixth as Colton Coss raced home on a groundout by Taylor.

The Braves collected 11 hits, one more than they had in the first two games combined, while the Cardinals (14-10) finished with seven, three coming off the bat of Josh Schramm who

singled twice and doubled.

Hill, Coss and Marovich all singled twice for Barton.

"We scored those three runs early and then our bats went dead," said Wheeling's Brian Shaw. "The good news is we still have two more games left."

NOTICE OF SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #6 TO THE FY2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

The West Virginia Department of Economic Development (WVDED) and the West Virginia Housing Development Fund (WVHDF) are providing a public comment period concerning a proposed substantial amendment #6 to the FY2019 Annual Action Plan (AAP) for funding provided to the State by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The APP summarizes the actions, activities, and the resources that will be used each year for the following housing and community development programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), CDBG CARES Act (CDBG-CV), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Emergency Solutions Grants - CARES Act (ESG-CV), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Care Act (HOPWA-CV).

DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT #6: This amendment will increase the CDBG funding cap for Infrastructure (stormwater, water, wastewater projects) from \$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000. This modification is being made due to the elevated costs of construction materials and supplies. As this amendment is a change to CDBG the Method of Distribution (AP-30), it is considered a substantial amendment and requires a 30-day comment period.

PUBLIC REVIEW: A comment period will begin on Monday July 22nd, 2024 and will continue until close of business on Wednesday August 21st, 2024. The proposed amendment #6 of the FY2019 Annual Action Plan (AAP) will be available on the West Virginia Community Advancement and Development (WVCAD) website at <https://wvcad.org/resources> or by calling WVCAD at 304-558-2234. To be considered in the plans, written comments will be received in the WVDED at the address below, attention Ryan Halsey, or submitted via email to Ryan.J.Halsey@wv.gov until the close of business on Wednesday, August 21st, 2024.

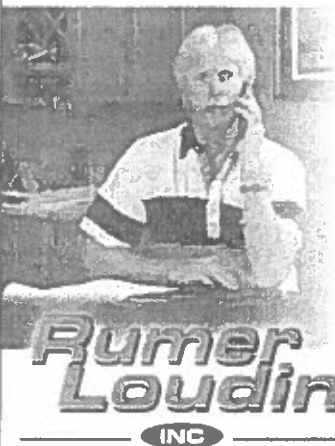
AGENCY CONTACT

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Language assistance for persons who have Limited English Proficiency will be available upon request. WVDO does business in accordance with the Fair Housing Act (The Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988) with equal access to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, and disability



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By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ELM GROVE — Wheeling is in the Ohio Valley Baseball League championship series for the third consecutive summer. However, the Cardinals didn't own a victory in the two previous best-of-5 series. Now they find themselves one win away from their first title since 2018.

Logan Bennett pitched a complete game and Wheeling scored twice in the sixth inning to snap a 2-all deadlock en route to a 4-2 triumph Thursday night on the Wheeling University diamond at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

See BARTON, Page B2

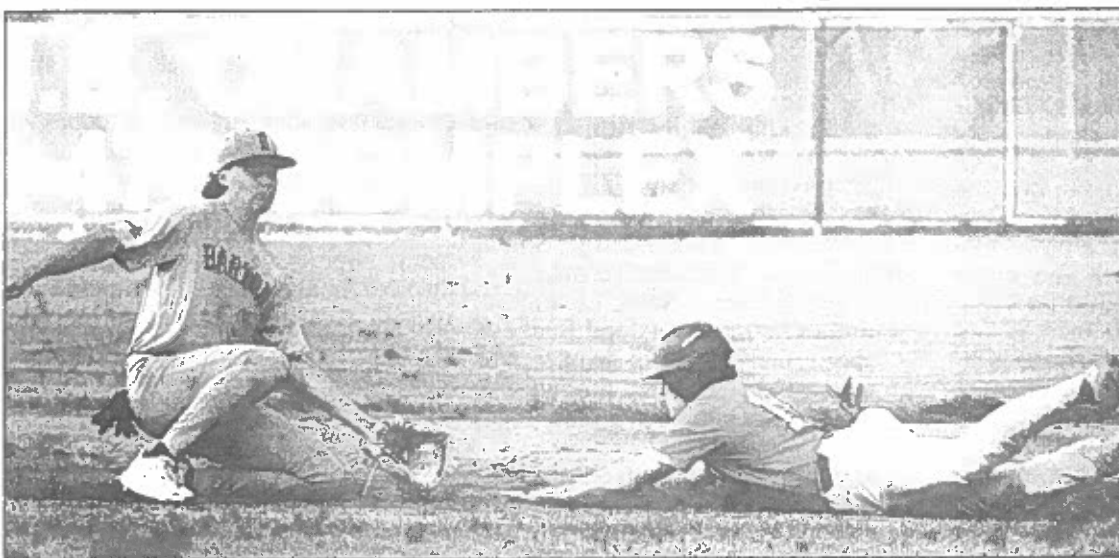


Photo by KIM NORTH

BARTON SHORTSTOP
Jake Winland fields a throw as Wheeling's Tyler Haskins steals second base during the sixth inning Thursday night in Game 2 of the best-of-5 Ohio Valley Baseball League championship series on the Wheeling University diamond at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Elm Grove. The Cardinals won 4-2 and can win the title in a sweep tonight in Crescent.

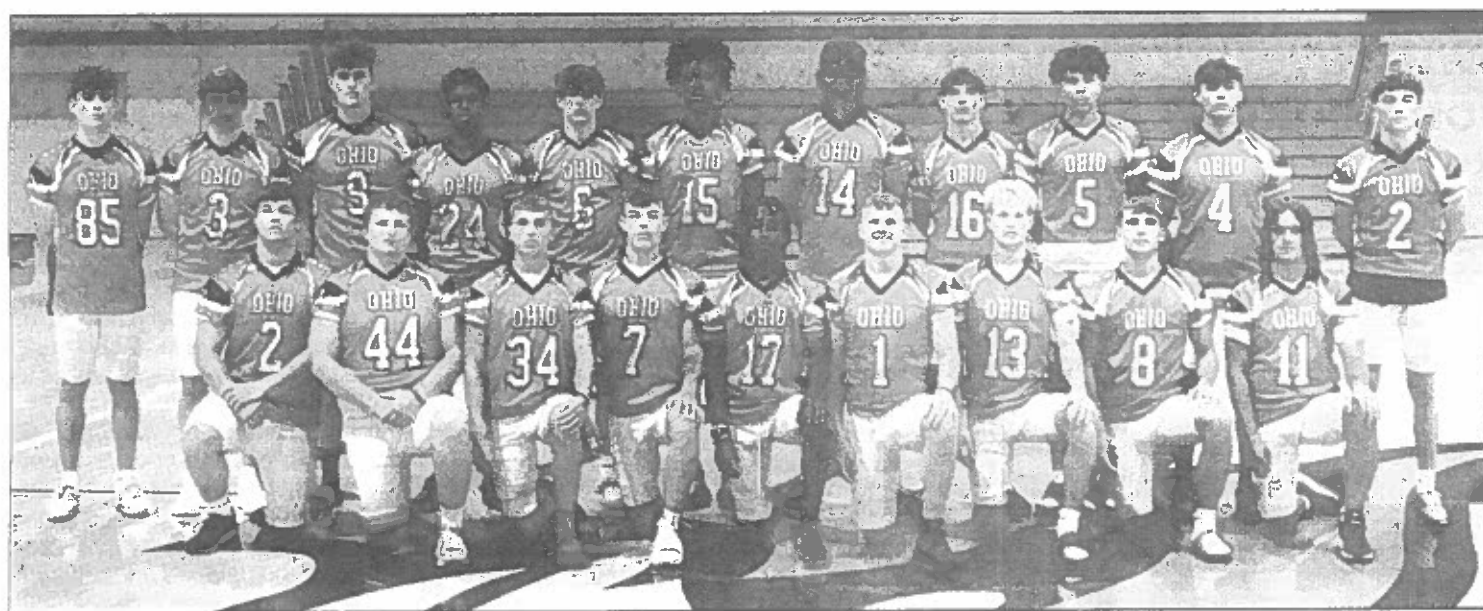


Photo by KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the skilled athletes for the Ohio All Stars when they face West Virginia in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kick off is set for 7:15. Front row, from left, are Kaden Johnson (River), Trenton Davis (East Liverpool), Koen Eagan (Buckeye Trail), Jason Castello (Barnesville), Mac Mac Pettigrew (Bellaire), Taison Starr (Barnesville), Cole Thoburn (St. Clairsville), Luke Detling (Barnesville) and Ben Wach (Shadyside). Back row, from left, are Jacob Meager (St. Clairsville), Parker Hutton (Harrison Central), Ryan Gigax (Dover), Savier Faulks (Steubenville), JJ Barton (Dover), Sabron Felton (Steubenville), Brady Hastings (Buckeye Trail), Dorian Burchett (East Liverpool), Lee Anthony Sewell (Steubenville), Drew White (Bellaire) and Baron Lucey (Martins Ferry). Not pictured is Kabel Isaly (River).

Ohio stacks roster ahead of all-star game

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — While West Virginia has five quarterbacks on its talented roster, Ohio selected just two for its squad which has been preparing for Saturday night's 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

Kick off is set for 7:15 on the artificial surface at Wheeling Island Stadium.

However, the Buckeye State roster is filled with speedy running backs and sure-handed wide receivers.

QUARTERBACKS

KABEL ISALY, River — A first-team all-Ohio Division VII honoree last fall, the 5-10, 165-pounder had a superb career for the Pilots. In his four seasons, Isaly passed for 6,387 yards and 77 touchdowns. He also rushed for 1,008 stripes and 20 touchdowns. He finished with 100 career touchdowns, including defense and special team scores.

He completed 67-percent of his passes in 2023 when he was also named first team all-OVAC for a third time.

He will attend Ohio University.

Isaly is the son of Karla and Rick Isaly. They reside in Clarington.

BEN WACH, Shadyside — This 5-10, 165-pounder passed for 3,540 yards and 36 touchdowns while also picking up 1,419 yards on the ground during his career.

He earned first team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and was an honorable mention on the all-Ohio Division VII list.

Wach will be the third member of his extended family to play in the game, following his father, Curt (1991) and uncle, Mike Coss (1987).

He is the son of Mickey and Curt Wach of Shadyside.

RUNNING BACKS

JJ BARTON, Dover — A dual threat out of the backfield, he ran for 1,925 yards and caught 60 passes for 1,021. Combined he totalled 29 touchdowns for the Tornados.

The 6-0, 185-pounder was named the Eastern District Offensive Player of the Year and was a Division II third team all-Ohioan.

Defensively, he charted 61 tackles, 31 of which were solo, and eight tackles for lost yardage. He also recorded three quarterback sacks.

Barton will attend Kent State-Tuscarawas.

He is the son of Jesse and Jason Barton. They live in Dover.

KOEN EAGAN, Buckeye Trail — This 5-10, 160-pounder played both running back and cornerback for the Warriors. He amassed more than 3,000 all-purpose yards and scored 23 touchdowns in his career.

He earned first team on the all-Eastern District and all-Ohio Division VI teams.

His uncle, Kyle Carpenter, played in the 2005 game.

Eagan is the son of Kayla and Josh Eagan. They reside in Salesville.

SAVIER FAULKS, Steubenville — This cat-quick 5-9, 165-pounder ran for

more than 3,000 yards and found the end zone 30-plus times in his Big Red career.

He was named to the first team all-Eastern District and all-OVAC teams, while making honorable mention all-state Division IV.

Faulks was the Ohio Division II 300-meter hurdles state champion and will attend West Virginia University on a track scholarship.

He is the son of Larai Faulks of Steubenville.

TAISON STARR, Barnesville — He was a two-way standout as the Shamrocks went 10-0 in the regular season, advancing to the Division V regional semifinals.

Offensively, he ran for 1,237 yards and scored 20 touchdowns. He caught 16 passes for 321 yards and six more scores. Defensively, he accounted for 94 tackles, including 13.5 TFLs.

Starr earned second team all-Ohio honors in 2023 and was a two-time all-Eastern District first-teamer and all-OVAC.

He will attend Marietta University to further his academic and athletic careers.

Starr is the son of Kimberly Starr of Barnesville.

WIDE RECEIVERS

DORIAN BURCHETT, East Liverpool — A 6-0, 168-pounder, Burchett was a wide receiver/cornerback for the Potters where he caught 28 passes for 630 yards and eight touchdowns. He participated in 22 tackles and picked off one pass.

See OHIO, Page B2

Big Cat Lineman Challenge starts today

SHADYSIDE — The Shadyside Athletic Boosters will hold the 14th annual Big Cat Lineman Challenge at Fleming Field on Friday, July 19 beginning at 2 p.m.

The Lineman Challenge is a friendly but intense competition amongst high school football linemen from in and around the OVAC. It consists of 10 different events including the bench press, sandbag fill, truck push, an obstacle course which linemen utilize their speed and agility to get through a painstaking course that stretches them to their limits, the sled push, a medicine ball throw, farmers walk, the pro agility drill and the tug-of-war. The latter being the event that has decided the winner of the team competition for each of the last five years.

"After getting out of coaching, I still wanted to stay involved with our program somehow," said event coordinator Doug Campbell. "I started attending some booster meetings and they were looking for some fresh ideas for events. I had been doing some research, mainly on the internet and found some videos from similar events in California, Florida, and Texas. They take this seriously in Texas. So seriously that they have state qualifiers and major championships. So, I took what I saw and put it down on paper. Once I was satisfied with what I had, I took it to the next booster meeting and brought it up before the group."

Campbell went on to say that the marriage with the boosters could not be better for the event. He noted that Booster President Bud Davis, former treasurer Joe Sedinger, and current treasurer Dennis Palicka, as well as booster member Larry Howell were all instrumental in helping to get the event off the ground.

"This event doesn't happen without those guys and the rest of the Boosters Club," he said.

Campbell went on to credit the current officers and membership of the boosters by pointing out how they have helped take the event to new heights.

See CHALLENGE, Page B2

Dodgers and Cubs open 2025 MLB season in Tokyo March 18, rest of league starts March 27

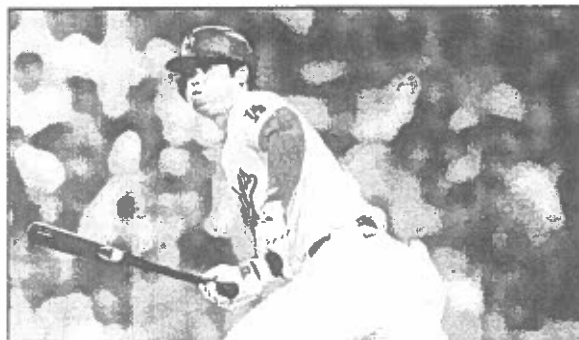
NEW YORK (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers and Shohei Ohtani will open the 2025 season in Tokyo against the Chicago Cubs on March 18 and the Athletics will start the home portion of their first season in Sacramento against the Cubs on March 31.

All 30 teams are scheduled for March 27, marking the earliest opening day other than international games. Major League Baseball announced Thursday. There were games on

South Korea. In the third straight season of a return to a balanced schedule, a team will play 13 games against each division rival and six or seven against each other club in its league for a total of 62. The remaining 48 games are against interleague opponents, with a single three-game series against each of the 14 other clubs in the opposite league. Teams will be home against the same interleague opponents they hosted in 2023.

MLB and the players' association intended to play regular-season games in Paris next June but abandoned the plan because they couldn't find a sponsor. The collective bargaining agreement also called for September 2025 games in San Juan, Puerto Rico, but none were included.

After playing in Oakland at the Coliseum since 1968, the Athletics intend to spend the 2025-27 seasons



businesses were recovering, these businesses stepped up and continued

St. C. takes down Beverly/Lowell in American Legion Region 8 Action

BEVERLY — Kody Carver improved to 7-0 with four-plus innings of relief work Wednesday as St. Clairsville defeated Beverly/Lowell, 5-4, in American Legion Region 8 action on the Fort Frye High School diamond.

The southpaw from Steubenville Catholic took over for Brody Saunders with two out in the third and Post 159 trailing 3-1. He scattered four hits, allowed a run in the seventh and walked one batter.

St. Clairsville snatched a 4-3 lead after tallying three runs in the fourth. Post 159 added a run in the fifth for a 5-3 margin.

Saunders drove in two runs with a single and double. Carver added a two-run double and Colin Powell singled in another. Hunter Hoffman added a single and double. Tyler Stottlemeyer added a double.

Saunders struck out seven, but walked five. He gave up two hits.

Cardinals (14-9) take a 2-0 lead into Game 3 tonight at 6 on Henning Field inside Pramesa Park in Crescent. Should the top-seeded Braves (14-9) extend the series, Game 4 would be contested Sunday at 2 p.m. back in Ohio County. A fifth — and deciding — game is set for Monday night, if necessary, back in Belmont County at 6.

"We're going to try and not let up because that is a big win," Wheeling manager Scott Shaw said of the possibility of a sweep. Logan has probably been our most consistent pitcher since we brought him aboard in mid-season. He's been a stalwart for us."

Veteran Barton manager Billy Timko was still upbeat despite his team having its backs to the wall.

"It takes three (wins) to win the championship. They've only got two," he said. "That was another good game. We just came up short."

Trailing 2-0 entering the top of the sixth, Barton scored two unearned runs as Wheeling committed three errors. Colton Coss had an RBI single with one out to knock in Zach Smith. Coss then raced home on an error to tie the game.

Tyler Haskins was hit with a pitch leading off the bottom of the sixth. Josh Schramm then legged out a slow roller to short. With one out, Cody Ray sent a one-hopper to Barton first baseman Dom Gorrence wide of the bag. His toss to pitcher Austin Bassa covering Gammas in time to get Ray, but Haskins scampered home from third with what proved to be the game-winning tally.

Bennett helped his own cause by slicing an 0-2 pitch into right that chased

knew we needed an extra run," Bennett noted. "I was looking for something away that I could slap to right."

Bennett, an East Liverpool High School and Bethany College graduate, slammed the door with a pop out, strike out looking and a grounder to short. He needed just 86 pitches (63 strikes) in tossing a three-hitter. He struck out six and walked only one.

"I just tried to fill up the strike zone today and get that first pitch for a strike as always," Bennett said of his outing. "I just tried to get weak contact and sit them down."

Haskins came across the plate in the fourth on an error to open the scoring. The Cardinals made it 2-0 when Jarrod Jones blasted a one-out double to the gap in left-center. Sonny Peluchette shot a single through the right side of the infield as Jones scored.

Bassa, who threw 109 pitches (63 strikes), probably deserved a better fate. He fanned four and walked three. He scattered five hits.

"We've really hit the ball pretty well the last few games, but not tonight," Shaw admitted. "However, we found a way to win without bashing the ball all around."

Peluchette was the only player in the game with two hits — both singles.

Shaw said he would give the ball to Ray tonight. Timko will counter with Gavyn Romanyak in a battle of right-handers.

GAME NOTE

— The contest took a mere 1-hour, 44-minutes.

— Barton last won a title in 2020 when it outlasted Weirton in a 5-game thriller.

Ohio

Continued from Page B1

One of his touchdown receptions established a Quad County Conference record from 98 yards out.

He will attend Washington & Jefferson University.

Burchett is the son of Michele and Sandy Burchett of East Liverpool.

JASON CASTELLO, Barnesville — Another two-way performer for the Shamrocks, the 5-10, 155-pounder set the school record for interceptions with 13. He was also an integral part of the passing game, catching numerous TDs. He was also a standout kick returner.

He was selected to the all-Eastern District first team and was a Division V all-Ohio honorable mention honoree.

His cousin, Mikey Habig, played in the 2009 game.

He will enter the Midwest Power Line-man Program this fall.

Castello is the son of Jennifer Castello and the late Stacey Castello. He resides in Barnesville.

LUKE DETLING, Barnesville — This 5-9, 155-pound wide receiver/free safety also played a huge role in the Shamrocks recent success.

On offense, he latched on to 110 career receptions for 1,496 yards and 13 touchdowns. Defensively, he picked off seven passes.

He was an all-Ohio honorable mention honoree, earned first team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-MOVL. He was also an academic all-Ohioan.

Detling will become the fourth member of his family to play in the game. He follows his two great uncles, Gary Lucas, Sr. (1962) and Tom Detling (1963); and his cousin, Ty Leach (1990).

SABRON FELTON, Steubenville — A 6-2, 200-pound athlete for Big Red, he saw action as a wide receiver, kick returner and safety.

He had more than 700 yards and 10 touchdowns on just 40 offensive touches last fall. He also charted 82 tackles and ran a pair of kickoffs back for touchdowns.

He will attend Washington & Jefferson University in the fall.

His cousins, Kyjhan Hokins and Tylik Sims, played in the 2023 game.

PARKER HUTTON, Harrison Central — This 5-11, 190-pound Huskie was selected to the all-Ohio Division V second team; and was first-team on the all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-Buckeye 8 squads.

He caught 48 passes for 728 yards and 14 touchdowns as a senior, when he

also amassed 65 tackles, three TFLs and picked off five passes.

Hutton will attend Ashland University. He is the son of Keely and Jeff Hutton. They live in Scio.

MAC MAC PETTIGREW, Bellaire — A 5-10, 160-pound speedster, he scored touchdowns in a variety of ways for the Big Reds during his stellar career.

Be it running the ball, catching the ball, picking off a pass, returning kicks and/or punts, Pettigrew was able to sniff out the end zone.

His brother, Ray Ray, played in the 2023 game.

He is the son of Mary Pope and the late McRay Pettigrew. He resides in Bellaire.

LEEANTHONY SEWELL, Steubenville — A tall target at 6-3, 185 pounds, Sewell caught 20 passes for more than 350 yards and four touchdowns.

He will attend Fairmont State University.

Sewell is the son of Amy Switzer.

COLE THOBURN, St. Clairsville — When the football was in the hands of this 5-11, 150-pounder, good things happened for the Red Devils.

He caught 61 passes for 964 yards and 10 touchdowns; returned 20 kickoffs for 634 yards and two TDs; and ran back 22 punts for 527 yards and a touchdown. He was first team all-Eastern District.

His grandpa, Don Ward, played in the 1969 and was a co captain for West Virginia.

Thoburn is the son of Stacey and Rodd Thoburn of St. Clairsville.

TIGHT ENDS

RYAN GIGAX, Dover — Primarily a linebacker and edge rusher for the Tornados, this 6-4, 225-pounder will utilize his size for blocking purposes.

He received a full scholarship to attend Slippery Rock University in the fall.

Gigax is the son of Jennifer and Michael Gigax of Dover.

BRADY HASTINGS, Buckeye Trail — A 6-2, 205-pounder. Hastings was an outside linebacker for the Warriors.

He will attend Mount Union University.

Hastings is the son of Barbara Hastings and Mike Hastings. They live in Cambridge.

SPECIALIST

JACOB MEAGER, St. Clairsville — This 5-10, 175-pounder connected on 56 extra-points and three field goals during his career with the Red Devils.

He will attend Ohio State University.

His parents are Dana and Jay Meager. They reside in St. Clairsville.



Photo by Kim North

Wheeling shortstop Adam Och relays a throw to first base after forcing out Barton's Nolan Blackburn (34) in the fifth inning of Game 2 Thursday night in the best-of-5 Ohio Valley Baseball League's championship series on the Wheeling University diamond at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Elm Grove. The Cardinals won 4-2 and can win the title in a sweep tonight in Crescent.

Cardinals One Win From OVBL Title

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ELM GROVE - Wheeling is in the Ohio Valley Baseball League championship series for the third consecutive summer. However, the Cardinals didn't own a victory in the two previous best-of-5 series. Now they find themselves one win away from their first title since 2018.

Logan Bennett pitched a complete game and Wheeling scored twice in the sixth inning to snap a

2-all deadlock en route to a 4-2 triumph Thursday night on the Wheeling University diamond at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

With the hard-earned victory, the second-seeded Cardinals (14-9) take a 2-0 lead into Game 3 tonight at 6 on Henning Field inside Pramesa Park in Crescent. Should the top-seeded Braves (14-9) extend the series, Game 4 would be contested Sunday at 2 p.m. back in Ohio County. A fifth - and de-

cid - game is set for Monday night, if necessary, back in Belmont County at 6.

"We're going to try and not let up because that is a big win," Wheeling manager Scott Shaw said of the possibility of a sweep. Logan has probably been our most consistent pitcher since we brought him aboard in mid-season. He's been a stalwart for us."

Please see OVBL, Page 12

tory, to the glory days of Oklahoma and Texas and, before that Nebraska, it was a regional entry built more on convenience than anything else.

Today, it is neither made up of 12 teams, nor does it acknowledge any boundaries, be they the Mississippi River or the Rocky Mountains. They may not be a conference that runs from A to Z, but they run from A (as in Arizona and Arizona State) to W (as in West Virginia).

While the other three power conferences are equally reconfigured, they have laid claim to the history of the game of football in their realignment while the Big 12 is casting its fate on the future.

History, in fact, is its enemy.

Big 12 is hoping to create tomorrow's.

Looking at the top 100 players of all-time on ESPN, you see that 32 of them came from teams now in the Big Ten. We're not talking about which conference the team they played for then was in, but what it is in now.

The SEC is second with 22 such players, the ACC has 19 of them and Big 12 only 12.

But dig deeper into it and you find that 12 of the Big Ten's 32 players played at USC, UCLA and Nebraska. There were 13 of the ACC's 19 players who earned their spurs in conferences other than the ACC, including six from Pitt back in its glory days.

Please see NAME, Page 13

Post 1 Wins Area Championship; All Eyes On State Tournament For Wheeling, Wellsburg

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - The atmosphere was far from pitched Thursday, with both Wheeling Post 1 and Wellsburg Post 34 both having already punched their ticket to the W.Va. American Legion State Tournament before the first pitch of their Area One championship game on the diamond at Wheeling Park High School. As Post 1 cruised to an 11-0 victory, the two teams turned the page to their next chapter - one to take place in Martinsburg, and one that either team is treating differently.

For Wheeling, they find themselves in the mix at the state tournament after getting there last year too, and fielding a team with plenty of players who were part of last year's run.

Post 1 thinks their state tournament experience will be a factor in their favor.

"We're very mature, we've got guys who have been there before," Wheeling assistant coach Isaac Rine said. "It makes our jobs as coaches a lot easier. We don't have to worry about telling a specific guy where to be when they're in the field,

they're going to communicate with each other, they know what jobs they have to do at the plate. It just makes our jobs a whole lot easier."

As Area One champion, Wheeling will face the runner-up of whatever Area they are matched up against in Martinsburg.

"It feels great," Rine said. "This is one of our goals, to win the area, and our ultimate goal is to move on and win the region. You've got to make each step to get where you want to go and this is one step in the right direction."

Please see AREA, Page 12



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Post 1, pictured with their Area One championship plaque after defeating Wellsburg 34 11-0 on Thursday. Both Post 1 and Post 34 will play in the upcoming W.Va. American Legion state tournament.

Shadyside's 14th Annual Big Cat Lineman Challenge Brings 14 Schools To Fleming Field

SHADYSIDE - The Shadyside Athletic Boosters will hold the 14th annual Big Cat Lineman Challenge at Fleming Field on Friday, July 19 beginning at 2 p.m.

The Lineman Challenge is a friendly but intense competition amongst high school football linemen from in and around the OVAC.

It consists of 10 different events including the bench press, sandbag fill, truck push, an obstacle course which linemen utilize their speed and agility to get through a painstaking course that stretches them to their limits, the sled push, a medicine ball throw, farmers walk, the pro agility drill and the tug-o-war-- the latter being the event that has decided the winner of the team competition for each of the last five years.

"After getting out of coaching, I still wanted to stay involved with our program somehow," said event coordinator Doug Campbell.

"I started attending some booster meetings and they were looking for some fresh ideas for events. I had been doing some research, mainly on the internet and found some videos from similar events in California, Florida, and Texas. They take this seriously in Texas. So seriously that they have state qualifiers and major championships. So, I took what I saw and put it down on paper. Once I was satisfied with what I had, I took it to the next booster meeting and

brought it up before the group."

Campbell went on to say that the marriage with the boosters could not be better for the event. He noted that Booster President Bud Davis, former treasurer Joe Sedinger, and current treasurer Dennis Palicka, as well as booster member Larry Howell were all instrumental in helping to get the event off the ground.

"This event doesn't happen without those guys and the rest of the Boosters Club," he said.

Campbell went on to credit the current officers and membership of the boosters by pointing out how they have helped take the event to new heights.

"They take the reins on event day. These guys run with it these days. I am merely an administrator anymore," Campbell said.

He went on to thank the dozens of volunteers who help every year including the Shadyside Football Moms who work the concessions stands, athletic director John Triveri, as well as his family.

Campbell's family are also involved with the preparations. His wife Lanie helps out with getting shirts sorted, son Jeff does a lot of grunt work leading up to the event and is now the event's photographer while daughter Ashley is now the event nurse.

The event, which started in 2010 is heading into its 14th year after taking 2020 off due to COVID protocols.

Please see CAT, Page 12

78TH ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME

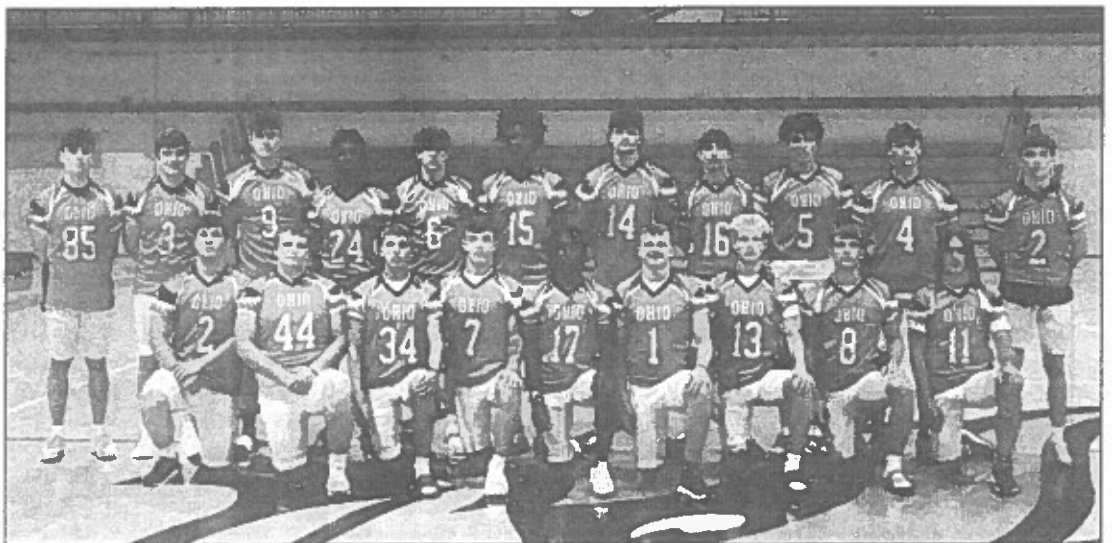


Photo by Kim North

Pictured are the skilled athletes for the Ohio All Stars when they face West Virginia in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kick off is set for 7:15. Front row, from left, are Kaden Johnson (River), Trenton Davis (East Liverpool), Koen Eagan (Buckeye Trail), Jason Castello (Barnesville), Mac Mac Pettigrew (Bellaire), Taison Starr (Barnesville), Cole Thoburn (St. Clairsville), Luke Detling (Barnesville) and Ben Wach (Shadyside). Back row, from left, are Jacob Meager (St. Clairsville), Parker Hutton (Harrison Central), Ryan Gigax (Dover), Savier Faulks (Steubenville), JJ Barton (Dover), Sabron Felton (Steubenville), Brady Hastings (Buckeye Trail), Dorian Burchett (East Liverpool), Lee Anthony Sewell (Steubenville), Drew White (Bellaire) and Baron Lucey (Martins Ferry). Not pictured is Kabel Isaly (River).

Skill Positions Bringing A Spark To Ohio Squad

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - While West Virginia has five quarterbacks on its talented roster, Ohio selected just two for its squad which has been preparing for Saturday night's 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

Kick off is set for 7:15 on the artificial surface at Wheeling Island Stadium.

However, the Buckeye State roster is filled with speedy running backs and sure-handed wide receivers.

QUARTERBACKS
KABEL ISALY, River -

A first-team all-Ohio Division VII honoree last fall, the 5-10, 165-pounder had a superb career for the Pilots. In his four seasons, Isaly passed for 6,387 yards and 77 touchdowns. He also rushed for 1,008 stripes and 20 touchdowns. He finished with 100 career touchdowns, including defense and special team scores.

He completed 67-percent of his passes in 2023 when he was also named first team all-OVAC for a third time.

He will attend Ohio University.

Isaly is the son of Karla and Rick Isaly. They reside in

Clarington.

BEN WACH, Shadyside - This 5-10, 165-pounder passed for 3,540 yards and 36 touchdowns while also picking up 1,419 yards on the ground during his career.

He earned first team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and was an honorable mention on the all-Ohio Division VII list.

Wach will be the third member of his extended family to play in the game, following his father, Curt (1991) and uncle, Mike Coss (1987).

Please see OHIO, Page 12

SHORT. With one out, Cody Ray sent a one-hopper to Barton first baseman Dom Gorrence wide of the bag. His toss to pitcher Austin Bassa covering Gamnwas in time to get Ray, but Haskins scampered home from third with what proved to be

the strike zone today and get that first pitch for a strike as always," Bennett said of his outing. "I just tried to get weak contact and sit them down." Haskins came across the plate in the fourth on an error to open the scoring. The Cardinals made

might. THIRDO WITH CONTACT with Gavyn Romanyak in a battle of right-handers. **GAME NOTE** - The contest took a mere 1-hour, 44-minutes. - Barton last won a title in 2020 when it outlasted Weirton in a 5-game thriller.

four hits, including a double, to pace Wellsburg against Parkersburg. Geer also picked up the win on the mound, pitching the final four innings in shutout fashion. TJ Decapio batted in two runs

state tournament. I don't think the boys understand the magnitude of what's coming. That's not a bad thing if they play relaxed and not worry about the stage." "We'll be just fine

outs on yesterday against Parkersburg and we knew we could not take them lightly," Rine said of Wellsburg. "We had to come in with the same focus we did yesterday. Our boys played well."

CAT

(Continued from Page 11)

During the 15-year run, the event has hosted more than 1,000 linemen, awarded more than 350 medals and plaques, and awarded nearly \$7,000 in scholarships.

"That's the one I'm proud of - the scholarships," Campbell said. "Those are made possible by the sponsors, and we have some great sponsors. Even after the COVID year, while businesses were recovering, these businesses stepped up and continued to support us. I can't even begin to express how thankful I am for all the support."

Sponsors for the 2024

Big Cat Lineman Challenge are OH/WV Excavating, Ohio River Aggregate, Quality Environmental Services, Kinetic Networking, Melanko Construction, Epic Restoration, Dr. Robert Caldwell, DeFelice Bros. Pizza, Johnson Brothers Automotive, Belmont Savings & Loan, WesBanco Bank, and Pacifico Heating and Cooling.

The 2024 BCLC consists of 25 teams representing 14 schools from around the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference as well as surrounding areas.

This year's schools include host Shadyside,

Buckeye Trail, Brooke, Williamstown, Parkersburg South, Union Local, Cameron, Toronto, Tyler Consolidated, New Lexington, Frontier, Vinton County and Buckeye Local.

Last year's team winner was the Union Local Jets and the individual top scorer award was Union Local senior Johnny Sabinski.

For more information on the Big Cat Lineman Challenge, please visit their website at bigcatlinemanchallenge.net or on Facebook at Shadyside Boosters Big Cat Lineman Challenge.



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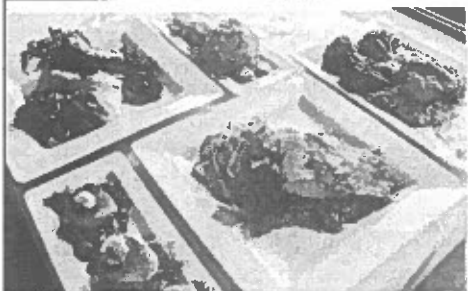
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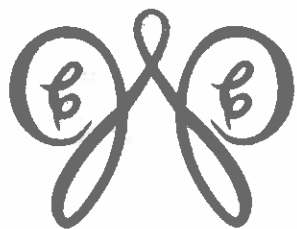
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OHIO

(Continued from Page 11)

He is the son of Mickey and Curt Wach of Shadyside.

RUNNING BACKS

JJ BARTON, Dover - A dual threat out of the backfield, he ran for 1,925 yards and caught 60 passes for 1,021. Combined he totalled 29 touchdowns for the Tornadoes.

The 6-0, 185-pounder was named the Eastern District Offensive Player of the Year and was a Division II third team all-Ohioan.

Defensively, he charted 61 tackles, 31 of which were solo, and eight tackles for lost yardage. He also recorded three quarterback sacks.

Barton will attend Kent State-Tuscarawas.

He is the son of Jesse and Jason Barton. They live in Dover.

KOEN EAGON, Buckeye Trail - This 5-10, 160-pounder played both running back and cornerback for the Warriors. He amassed more than 3,000 all-purpose yards and scored 23 touchdowns in his career.

He earned first team on the all-Eastern District and all-Ohio Division VI teams.

His uncle, Kyle Carpenter, played in the 2005 game.

Eagon is the son of Kayla and Josh Eagon. They reside in Salesville.

SAVIER FAULKS, Steubenville - This catquick 5-9, 165-pounder ran for more than 3,000 yards and found the end zone 30-plus times in his Big Red career.

He was named to the first team all-Eastern District and all-OVAC teams, while making honorable mention all-state Division IV.

Faulks was the Ohio Division II 300-meter hurdles state champion and will attend West Virginia University on a track scholarship.

He is the son of Larai Faulks of Steubenville.

TAISON STARR, Barnesville - He was a two-way standout as the Shamrocks went 10-0 in the regular season, advancing to the Division V regional semifinals.

Offensively, he ran for 1,237 yards and scored 20 touchdowns. He caught 16 passes for 321 yards and six more scores. Defensively, he accounted for 94 tackles, including 13.5 TFLs.

Starr earned second team all-Ohio honors in 2023 and was a two-time all-Eastern District first-teamer and all-OVAC.

He will attend Marietta University to further his academic and athletic careers.

Starr is the son of Kimberly Starr of Barnesville.

WIDE RECEIVERS

DORIAN BURCHETT, East Liverpool - A 6-0, 168-pounder,

Burchett was a wide receiver/cornerback for the Potters where he caught 28 passes for 630 yards and eight touchdowns. He participated in 22 tackles and picked off one pass.

One of his touchdown receptions established a Quad County Conference record from 98 yards out.

He will attend Washington & Jefferson University.

Burchett is the son of Michele and Sandy Burchett of East Liverpool.

JASON CASTELLO, Barnesville

- Another two-way performer for the Shamrocks, the 5-10, 155-pounder set the school record for interceptions with 13. He was also an integral part of the passing game, catching numerous TDs. He was also a standout kick returner.

He was selected to the all-Eastern District first team and was a Division V all-Ohio honorable mention honoree.

His cousin, Mikey Habig, played in the 2009 game.

He will enter the Midwest Power Lineman Program this fall.

Castello is the son of Jennifer Castello and the late Stacey Castello. He resides in Barnesville.

LUKE DETLING, Barnesville

- This 5-9, 155-pound wide receiver/free safety also played a huge role in the Shamrocks recent success.

On offense, he latched on to 110 career receptions for 1,496 yards and 13 touchdowns. Defensively, he picked off seven passes.

He was an all-Ohio honorable mention honoree, earned first team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-MOVL. He was also an academic all-Ohioan.

Detling will become the fourth member of his family to play in the game. He follows his two great uncles, Gary Lucas, Sr. (1962) and Tom Detling (1963); and his cousin, Ty Leach (1990).

SABRON FELTON, Steubenville

- A 6-2, 200-pound athlete for Big Red, he saw action as a wide receiver, kick returner and safety.

He had more than 700 yards and 10 touchdowns on just 40 offensive touches last fall. He also charted 82 tackles and ran a pair of kickoffs back for touchdowns.

He will attend Washington & Jefferson University in the fall.

His cousins, Kyjuan Hokens and Tylik Sims played in the 2023 game.

PARKER HUTTON, Harrison Central

- This 5-11, 190-pound Huskie was selected to the all-Ohio Division V second team; and was first-team on the all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-Buckeye 8 squads.

He caught 48 pass-

es for 728 yards and 14 touchdowns as a senior, when he also amassed 65 tackles, three TFLs and picked off five passes.

Hutton will attend Ashland University.

He is the son of Keely and Jeff Hutton. They live in Scio.

MAC MAC PETTIGREW, Bellaire

- A 5-10, 160-pound speedster, he scored touchdowns in a variety of ways for the Big Reds during his stellar career.

Be it running the ball, catching the ball, picking off a pass, returning kicks and/or punts, Pettigrew was able to sniff out the end zone.

His brother, Ray Ray, played in the 2023 game.

He is the son of Mary Pope and the late McRay Pettigrew. He resides in Bellaire.

LEE ANTHONY SEWELL, Steubenville

- A tall target at 6-3, 185 pounds, Sewell caught 20 passes for more than 350 yards and four touchdowns.

He will attend Fairmont State University.

Sewell is the son of Amy Switzer.

COLE THOBURN, St. Clairsville

- When the football was in the hands of this 5-11, 150-pounder, good things happened for the Red Devils.

He caught 61 passes for 964 yards and 10 touchdowns; returned 20 kickoffs for 634 yards and two TDs; and ran back 22 punts for 527 yards and a touchdown. He was first team all-Eastern District.

His grandpa, Don Ward, played in the 1969 and was a co-captain for West Virginia.

Thoburn is the son of Stacey and Rodd Thoburn of St. Clairsville.

TIGHT ENDS

RYAN GIGAX, Dover - Primarily a line-backer and edge rusher for the Tornadoes, this 6-4, 225-pounder will utilize his size for blocking purposes.

He received a full scholarship to attend Slippery Rock University in the fall.

Gigax is the son of Jennifer and Michael Gigax of Dover.

BRADY HASTINGS, Buckeye Trail

- A 6-2, 205-pounder. Hastings was an outside linebacker for the Warriors.

He will attend Mount Union University.

Hastings is the son of Barbara Hastings and Mike Hastings. They live in Cambridge.

SPECIALIST

JACOB MEAGER, St. Clairsville

- This 5-10, 175-pounder connected on 56 extra-points and three field goals during his career with the Red Devils.

He will attend Ohio State University.

His parents are Dana and Jay Meager. They reside in St. Clairsville.

ning, a home run that put Post 1 ahead 4-1 at the time.

"That was the toughest win we've had all year," Post 1 assistant coach Isaac Rine said. "We were gritty, we didn't give up at-bats. Only four runs but we had timely hitting, and Andrew Skadra was absolutely massive. That swing was big-time, he's been swinging it well for us all year but especially as of late. Big time players make big time plays in big time games."

Post 15 started to mount a counterattack in



Post 1's Andrew Skadra rounds third after hitting a two-run home run in the sixth inning Wednesday against Post 15 in a W.Va. American Legion Area One tournament game.

the bottom half, but one that was cut down in dramatic fashion by the centerfielder Taylor.

With one out and a man on first, Parkersburg's Iain Perry smashed a ball to dead center. With

a wind coming in from centerfield. Taylor still had to retreat to the wall. but the Ohio commit made a leaping catch up against the wall to register the out. The runner at first had rounded second.

and Taylor made a good throw which beat the retreating runner back to first on one hop, a devastating inning-ending double play.

Please see POST, Page 10

Paul Skenes Says He Feels Like "One Of Them" After Hitless Inning In All-Star Game

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — Paul Skenes walked onto the Globe Life Field mound, 66 days after his major league debut, 13 months after he was pitching in college. The public-address system played Smash Mouth's "All Star," and he really was one. "I don't think I blacked out when I was out there, but I was pretty close," he said.

Skenes had become the fifth rookie to start an All-Star Game, retiring Steven Kwan, Gunnar Henderson and Aaron Judge in a hitless first inning of the National League's 5-3 loss on Tuesday night. Baseball's best watched as the 6-foot-

6 wonder threw at up to 100.1 mph.

"The coolest part about it is they're so accepting and welcomed me with open arms into the clubhouse," he beamed.

Unlike some veterans who depart midgame, Skenes stayed in the dugout for a few innings to soak up their knowledge, then retreated to the clubhouse for more teammate talk and a little nibble.

A 22-year-old right-hander with 11 big league appearances, the fittest for an All-Star, Skenes took the mound wearing high socks with horizontal bands of yellow, light blue, maroon and navy.

Please see SKENES, Page 10



AP Photo National League's Paul Skenes, of the Pittsburgh Pirates, throws during the MLB All-Star game, Tuesday, July 16, 2024, in Arlington, Texas.

JJ Wetherholt is interviewed after being selected seventh overall by the St. Louis Cardinals in the first round of the MLB draft in Fort Worth, Texas, Sunday, July 14, 2024.

Jedd Gyorko Weighs In On Wetherholt's MLB Journey

By BOB HERTZEL
WV News

MORGANTOWN — JJ Wetherholt is about to embark upon the journey of a lifetime, chasing the dream young men have chased for more than 150 years.

What will it be like? Jedd Gyorko knows. He's been there.

You probably remember Jedd Gyorko. It wasn't so long ago he was living the life JJ Wetherholt is about to adopt as his own.

If Wetherholt, who Friday night was selected with the 7th pick of the first round of the major league baseball draft by the St. Louis Cardinals, the highest any West Virginia University player had ever gone in the draft, isn't the best hitter ever to play at the school, a strong argument can be made that it Jedd Gyorko was.

Wetherholt played three years - 145 games - at WVU and finished with a .370 career batting average. Gyorko played three years - 168 games - and finished with a .404 career average.

Gyorko played 23 more games than Wether-

holt at the school - oddly, injury cost Wetherholt 24 games in his last season - and Gyorko finished with more hits, runs, homers, RBIs and walks.

Of course, he didn't face Big 12 competition, but the Big East back in 2013, when Gyorko left, was turning out major league players, too. Gyorko was thought to be a second-round pick of the San Diego Padres.

He spent three years in the minor leagues, then had an eight-year major league career. His greatest success came after he was traded to the St. Louis Cardinals, where he had one 30-home run year and another 20-home run year. He reached double figures in home runs in six seasons and held a .245 career average with 121 homers.

Gyorko admits he sees a bit of himself in Wetherholt as a hitter.

"As far as hitting tools, we were similar," he said. "We both liked to go the other way and use the opposite field gap. We could both drive the ball in that direction."

Please see MLB, Page 10

Team USA Beats Serbia 105-79 In Olympic Tune-Up



AP Photo Serbia's Ognjen Dobric, left, blocks as United States' Anthony Edwards drives to the basket during an exhibition basketball match between Serbia and the United States at the USA Basketball Showcase, ahead of the 2024 Paris Olympic tournament, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday, July 17, 2024.

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
AP Sports Writer

Stephen Curry was relatively quiet offensively during the U.S. Olympic team's first two exhibitions before the Paris Games.

He got a lot more assertive on Wednesday with his official Olympic debut less than two weeks away.

Curry scored 24 points, Bam Adebayo added 17 and the U.S. beat Serbia 105-79 to improve to 3-0 in its five-game slate of exhibitions in advance of the Paris Olympics.

Anthony Davis finished with seven points, six rebounds and six blocks, helping to lead a U.S. defensive effort that limited Serbia throughout. Anthony Edwards had 16 points. LeBron

James added 11.

Curry scored the first nine points for the U.S. in a flurry that James said was by design.

"We drew it up for that particular reason, to get him going," James said. "He sees one go through the hoop, you see what it opens up for the rest of his game, for the rest of the game for all of us. He set the tone."

The U.S. led by as many as 31 points in the last of a pair of warm-up games in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The Americans go to London to play two more tuneups before heading to France.

The first is Saturday against South Sudan, followed by a matchup with Germany on Monday at London's O2 Arena.

78TH ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME

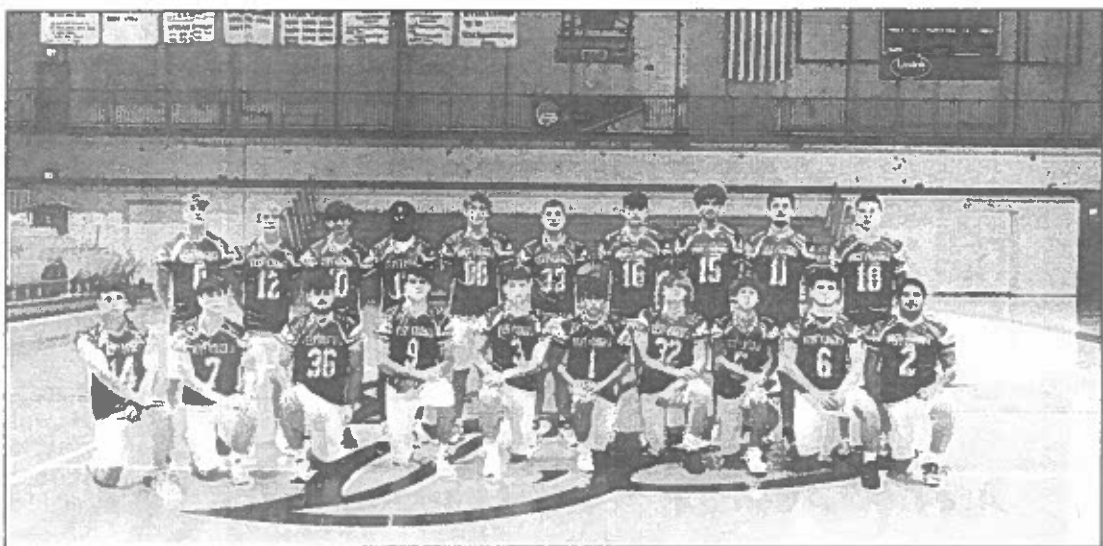


Photo by Kim North Pictured are the skilled athletes for the West Virginia All Stars when they face Ohio in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kick off is set for 7:15. Front row, from left, are Jared Marsh (Wheeling Park), Devan Colson (Weir), Maddox Shriver (Clay-Battelle), Joey Baker (Paden City), Anthony Bachinski (Brooke), DiMario White (John Marshall), Noah Loy (Wheeling Central), Malachi Stromile (Weir), Gavin Moore (Brooke) and Corey Lyons (Weir). Back row, from left, are Eli Tucker (Wheeling Central), Colson Wichterman (Cameron), Conor Fitzpatrick (John Marshall), Keohn Stephens (Wheeling Park), Nick DiProspero (Morgantown), Anthony Burt (Oak Glen), Maddox Bowers (Morgantown), Triston Walker (Parkersburg South), Luke Hudson (University) and Atley Cowan (Linsly).

W.Va. Team Rounded Out With Skill Positions

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Look for the West Virginia All Stars to air it out against Ohio Saturday night in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kick off is set for 7 p.m.

The Mountaineers have five strong-armed quarterbacks on their roster, however, some may play in the defensive backfield. They are:

MADDOX BOWERS, Morgantown - The Mohigans second all-time passing yardage leader with 2,826. The 6-1, 190-pounder also ranks third in MHS history with 23

passing touchdowns.

He was a three-year letterman and a two-year team captain.

He will attend Glenville State University.

Bowers is the son of Kerry and John Bowers. They reside in Westover.

ATLEY COWAN, Linsly - This 6-2, 190-pounder passed for 3,466 yards and 36 touchdowns during his career as a Cadet, with 2,418 his junior season establishing a school record. He also rushed for 506.

He was first team all-Valley as a junior.

Cowan will attend the University of Indianapolis.

He is the son of Shannon and Andrew Cowan of Wheeling.

LUKE HUDSON, University - The 6-3, 180-pounder set school records for passing yardage (5,695) and passing touchdowns (46).

He was selected to the OVAC first team and was all-West Virginia Class AAA.

Hudson will attend Waynesburg University.

His uncle, Joe Brula, represented Madonna High School in the 1985 game.

Hudson is the son of Rachel and Eric Snyder. He resides in Morgantown.

Please see SKILL, Page 10

is so fast ... I mean, I can't even fathom how fast he is. We were definitely different there."

The University High graduate and Morgantown native has been there, and he knows what lies ahead for Wetherholt.

"It's an exciting time. When I got drafted, more than anything I think back at the uncertainties ... You're not really sure what to expect," Gyorko began on Wednesday.

But it is, he admitted, a mixed feeling.

"At the same time, you are fulfilling your dream, or at least working toward your dream of getting to the big leagues. Not too many people around here have been picked in the first round."

Certainly, WVU is becoming a destination school for future major league players.

Gyorko, Alek Manoah, John Means, Victor Scott, who will share a Cardinal uniform with Wetherholt ... more and more scouts are converging on the Kendrick Family Ballpark to watch Mountaineers com-

with the team, meet the players.

"That's all nice, but when they send you out to your first minor league assignment, when you walk into that clubhouse and see the other 40 guys who were drafted and the players they have just signed, it becomes pretty real."

"You realize those players are pretty darn good. Once you get into your work, you realize it's going to take work, but it's a pretty fun ride."

And Gyorko is convinced that Wetherholt has what it takes to make an impact in the major leagues.

The entire front office in St. Louis is the same as when he last played in 2020, quitting the game to be with his family.

"I talked a little bit yesterday to the team president - John Mozeliak - yesterday and got on him a little bit about not giving me a call before they drafted him. I told them I wouldn't hold it against them, but told them they were getting one heck of a player and I know they are

Man" Musial and Rogers Hornsby.

Musial held the National League record for base hits until Pete Rose broke in and Hornsby's .424 average in 1924 is the highest ever in NL history.

Add to that the fact that the Cardinals' history is dotted with perhaps the best right-handed pitcher in league history in Bob Gibson, to say nothing of Albert Pujols, Lou Brock and Ozzie Smith among 37 Hall of Famers associated with the team.

"Once you start to get to know baseball people, they know all about that stuff. JJ will learn everything about the Cardinals organization and the Cardinal way, as they teach it now," Gyorko said. "You respect the people who came before you and appreciate all they did."

Gyorko said the organization makes you know what came before you.

"They let you know that those who came before you made it better for you and you then want to make it better for those who come behind you," Gyorko said.

fight back somewhat."

As the sixth turned over to the seventh, a light rain quickly turned into a downpour, with Wheeling pitcher Quinn Jamison trying to close out the game in adverse conditions.

Brady Swain drew a full-count walk with one out to put a man aboard,

SKILL

(Continued from Page 9)

MALACHI STROMILE, Weir - This 5-8, 150-pounder sparked the Red Riders to a deep run in the Class AA playoffs last fall. He passed for 1,538 yards and 18 touchdowns while also rushing for 927 stripes and eight more six-pointers. He accounted for 3,750 offensive yards and 37 touchdowns in his career.

He was an all-OVAC first team and a second team all-West Virginia selection as a utility player.

Stromile is the son of Nicole Currie and Lawrence Stromile. He resides in Weirton.

COLSON WICHTERMAN, Cameron - A 5-11, 160-pounder, he accounted for nearly 7,300 yards of offense during his star-studded career as a Dragon signal-caller. He passed for 4,912 and ran for 2,364.

However, he was also one of Cameron's leading tacklers with 130 for his career.

He was first team all-OVAC and all-West Virginia Class A, while also being named the Mason Dixon Conference Player of the Year.

Wichterman will attend West Virginia Northern Community College.

His uncle, Brian Ice, played in the 1996 game.

He is the son of Brittany Brown and Jason Wichterman. He resides in Cameron.

RUNNING BACKS

JOEY BAKER, Paden City - This 6-0, 180-pounder rushed for 4,316 yards in 30 career games, but was named second-team all-West Virginia Class A on the defensive side of the ball. He was also a four-time OVAC honoree.

He will attend Ohio University.

Baker is the son of Penny and Jon Baker of Paden City.

ANTHONY BURT, Oak Glen - This 5-11, 180-pounder played running back and outside linebacker for the Golden Bears.

He is undecided on his college choice.

Burt is the son of Keisha Smith and resides in Chester.

NOAH LOY, Wheeling Central - He is a third generation participant of the All-Star Game as his grandfather (Steve) and father (Chris) played in the 1968 and 1991 games, respectively.

The 6-1, 190-pounder played fullback and inside linebacker for the Maroon Knights, doing most of his damage on the defensive side of the ball where he accumulated 160 tackles in two seasons.

He was an OVAC honorable mention selection. Loy will attend West Liberty University.

He is the son of Ingrid

Jamison picked up the win, finishing with a line of three hits, three walks and three strikeouts.

"That was the toughest I've ever seen [Jamison] pitch in the three years that I've been a part of this," Rine said. "I couldn't be more proud of him."

Ethan Marshall was sad-

Post 15 was forced into action again Wednesday after their game against Wheeling. They played a tournament elimination game against Wellsburg Post 34, Wellsburg winning 6-5 to eliminate Post 15 and set up a rematch Friday between Post 1 and Post 34.

and Chris Loy. They reside in Wellsburg.

COREY LYONS III, Weir - This 5-10, 200-pounder did just about everything during his career as a Red Rider.

He carried the ball 575 times for 3,063 yards and 46 touchdowns, while passing for 359 yards and four more scores. He also caught 40 passes for 560 stripes and five six-pointers.

He earned all-OVAC first team honors three times and a first-team all-West Virginia Class AA honoree.

Lyons will attend Bethany College.

He is the son of Tysa Elmore and Corey Lyons Jr.

GAVIN MOORE, Brooke - This former Bruin accounted for more than 600 yards and 11 touchdowns on offense last season.

Defensively, the 5-10, 180-pounder charted 85 tackles, picked off three passes and returned one for a TD, and recovered two fumbles.

He will attend Washington & Jefferson University.

Moore is the son of Meredith Hood, Miranda Moore and Tommy Moore. He lives in Follansbee.

MADDOX SHRIVER, Clay-Battelle - A 5-10, 200-pounder, He was an all-state honorable mention as a junior.

He will attend Waynesburg University.

His brother, Colby, played in the 2015 game.

Shriver is the son of Angelia and Terry Shriver. They reside in Fairview.

TIGHT END NICK DIPROSPERO, Morgantown - The lone tight end listed on the roster, the 6-2, 210-pounder will attend Glenville State University.

He is the son of Nicole and Herman DiProspero. They reside in Morgantown.

WIDE RECEIVERS

ANTHONY BACHINSKI, Brooke - A 5-11, 210-pounder, he caught 38 passes for 538 yards and six touchdowns last fall. He also returned 12 punts for 139 yards and 16 kickoffs for 350 stripes. He finished with 1,038 all-purpose yards.

A team captain, he earned honorable mention all-OVAC and all-West Virginia Class AAA.

Bachinski will attend Glenville State University.

He is the son of Jill and Mike Bachinski. They reside in Follansbee.

DEVAN COLSON, Weir - This 5-10, 175-pounder landed 48 catches for 768 yards and 10 touchdowns as a Red Rider last fall. He also rushed for 133 on 36 carries.

A four-year letterman, he will attend Bethany College.

He is the son of Denise

and Joseph Colson. They live in Weirton.

JARED MARSH, Wheeling Park - Most likely a candidate for the defensive secondary with 118 career tackles, 13 passes defended and five interceptions, he is also a deep threat with his speed.

The 5-7, 175-pounder was second team all-OVAC and all-state as a safety.

He will attend West Virginia University with hopes of walking onto the football program.

Marsh is the son of Shannon and Rick Marsh. They live in Wheeling.

KEOHN STEPHENS, JR., Wheeling Park - This 5-11, 165-pounder caught 26 passes for 732 yards last fall when he was selected first team all-OVAC.

He is committed to Walsh University.

His cousin, Shaheed Jackson, played in the game.

He is the son of April Galberth and Keohn Stephens, Sr. He resides in Wheeling.

TRISTAN WALKER, Parkersburg South - A two-time all-West Virginia Class AAA second team selection, the 6-4, 176-pounder will attend Fairmont State University.

He is the son of Amber McCartney and resides in Parkersburg.

DIMARIO WHITE, John Marshall - A 5-10, 165-pounder, White played wideout for the Monarchs.

He is the son of Carolyn White and resides in Moundsville.

SPECIALISTS

CONOR FITZPATRICK, John Marshall - A strong-legged kicker who is headed to Wheeling University, this 6-0, 170-pounder booted 77 of his 100 career kickoffs into the end zone. He was also 78 of 84 on extra-points and 21 of 29 on field goals. He holds the record for the longest field goal in school history.

He was first team all-West Virginia Class AAA and all-OVAC.

Fitzpatrick is the son of Carri and Sean Fitzpatrick. They reside in Wheeling.

ELI TUCKER, Wheeling Central - This 6-0, 185-pounder is a well-decorated placekicker. He was 148 of 155 in career PATs and was perfect on all six field goal attempts, with a long of 38 yards.

He was a four-time West Virginia Class A all-statwer, a three-time West Virginia Class A Special Teams Player of the Year, a four-year all-Valley selection and a three-time all-OVAC honoree, along with being a team captain.

He will attend West Liberty University.

Tucker is the son of Diana and Charles Tucker. They reside in Wheeling.

OGDEN NEWSPAPERS

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SPORTS

Skenes says 'I feel like I'm one of them' after hitless inning against All-Stars

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Paul Skenes walked onto the Globe Life Field mound, 66 days after his major league debut, 13 months after he was pitching in college. The public-address system played Smash Mouth's "All Star," and he really was one.

"I don't think I blacked out when I was out there, but I was pretty close," he said.

Skenes had become the fifth rookie to start an All-Star Game, retiring Steven Kwan, Gunnar Henderson and Aaron Judge in a hitless first inning of the National League's 5-3 loss on Tuesday night. Baseball's best watched as the 6-foot-6 wonder threw at up to 100.1 mph.

"The coolest part about it is they're so accepting and welcomed me with open arms into the clubhouse," he beamed.

Unlike some veterans who depart midgame, Skenes stayed in the dugout for a few innings to soak up their knowledge, then retreated to the clubhouse for more teammate talk and a little nibble.

A few minutes after the final out, he walked into the postgame interview room wearing a custom-made white suit from the Pittsburgh tailor David Alan. He felt slightly disheveled, with his white shirt partially unbuttoned.

"I look like Colonel Sanders," he said.

Skene's girlfriend, gymnast/influencer Livvy Dunne, had given him a cream Dior necktie he wore to Monday's news conference after she

skipped his start in Milwaukee last week and went shopping in Chicago. The way he's pitching, he's going to be looked at as a tastemaker. That's quite a transition from two years ago, when he was a U.S. Air Force Academy cadet, or even last year, when he led LSU to the NCAA title.

A 22-year-old right-hander with just 11 big league appearances, the fewest for an All-Star, Skenes took the mound wearing high socks with horizontal bands of yellow, light blue, maroon and navy.

He retired Kwan, the major league batting leader, on a popup and induced a weak comeback from Henderson.

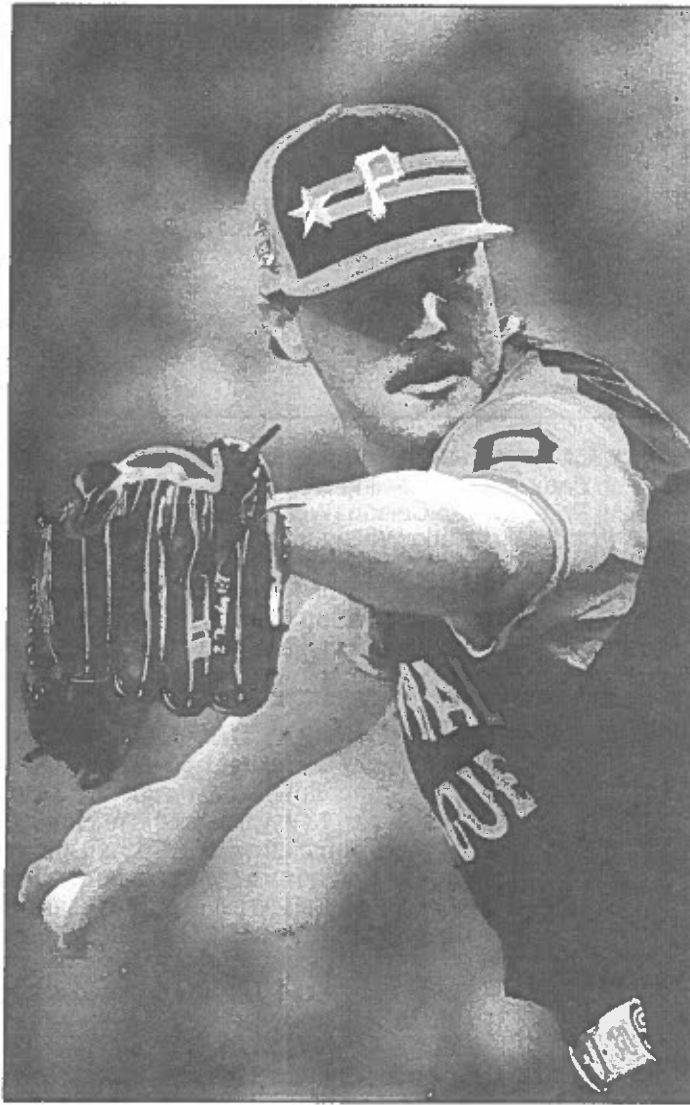
Juan Soto worked out a seven-pitch walk after fouling off a 100.1 mph offering.

"I was trying to take him deep. Not going to lie," Soto said with a grin during a joint interview with Judge. "But definitely after two strikes I was trying to work that at-bat because I wanted to make sure he faced him, too. I got my job done."

Judge grounded into an inning-ending forceout on the next pitch, a 99.7 mph four-seamer.

"He was really looking at me after he fouled that heater off," Judge said of Soto. "He wanted that pitch back, that's for sure."

Skenes joined Dave Stenhouse (1962), Mark Fidrych (1976), Fernando Valenzuela (1981) and Hideo Nomo (1995) as the only rookie All-Star starters. He threw 11 of 16 pitches for strikes,



AP Photo
NATIONAL LEAGUE'S Paul Skenes, of the Pittsburgh Pirates, throws during the first inning of the MLB All-Star baseball game in Arlington, Texas.

starting in the zone with all four batters. He mixed seven fastballs and seven splinkers with one curveball and one slider.

He treasured his time up close with Shohei Ohtani, who put the NL ahead with a three-run homer in the third off Tanner Houck. Ohtani had homered off Skenes last month.

"I tried to enjoy the three hours or so that I had on the same team with him because that's probably only going to happen once a year," Skenes said. "A guy like him, I'm sure everybody is probably going up to him so I kind of tried to stay out of his way. Talked to him about a couple different things and, yeah, watched him. I was in the weight room when he was in the weight room and just tried to watch him kind of do his thing and learn from

that."

Skenes also tried to tap into Chris Sale, Tyler Glasnow, Logan Webb and Hunter Greene.

"Even if I get one tiny piece of advice or something that can — one tiny nugget from them, it could help," he said.

Last year's No. 1 pick in the amateur draft, Skenes made his big league debut on May 11 and is 6-0 with a 1.90 ERA for the Pirates, striking out 89 and walking 13 in 66 1/3 innings.

He had hoped to have more time on the mound in front of a national audience.

"Frankly, I wish I had a few more pitches," Skenes said.

He no longer perceived himself an outsider looking in at the greats. That was the greatest transformation.

"I feel like I'm one of them," he said.

West Virginia OVAC team rounded out with skill position players

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Look for the West Virginia All Stars to air it out against Ohio Saturday night in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kick off is set for 7 p.m.

The Mountaineers have five strong-armed quarterbacks on their roster, however, some may play in the defensive backfield. They are:

MADDOX BOWERS, Morgantown — The Mohigans second all-time passing yardage leader with 2,826. The 6-1, 190-pounder also ranks third in MHS history with 23 passing touchdowns.

He was a three-year letterman and a two-year team captain.

He will attend Glenville State University.

Bowers is the son of Kerry and John Bowers. They reside in Westover.

ATLEY COWAN, Linsly — This 6-2, 190-pounder passed for 3,466 yards and 36 touchdowns during his career as a Cadet, with 2,418 his junior season establishing a school record. He also rushed for 506.

He was first team all-Valley as a junior.

Cowan will attend the University of Indianapolis.

He is the son of Shannon and Andrew Cowan of Wheeling.

LUKE HUDSON, University — The 6-3, 180-pounder set school records for passing yardage (5,695) and passing touchdowns (46).

He was selected to the OVAC first team and was all-West Virginia Class AAA.

Hudson will attend Waynesburg University.

His uncle, Joe Brula, represented Madonna High School in the 1985 game.

Hudson is the son of Rachel and Eric Snyder. He resides in Morgantown.

MALACHI STROMILE, Weir

— This 5-8, 150-pounder sparked the Red Riders to a deep run in the Class AA playoffs last fall. He passed for 1,538 yards and 18 touchdowns while also rushing for 927 stripes and eight more six-pointers. He accounted for 3,750 offensive yards and 37 touchdowns in his career.

He was an all-OVAC first team and a second team all-West Virginia selection as a utility player.

Stromile is the son of Nicole Currie and Lawrence Stromile. He resides in Weirton.

COLSON WICHTERMAN, Cameron — A 5-11, 160-pounder, he accounted for nearly 7,300 yards of offense during his star-studded career as a Dragon signal-caller. He passed for 4,912 and ran for 2,364.

However, he was also one of Cameron's leading tacklers with 130 for his career.

He was first team all-OVAC and all-West Virginia Class A, while also being named the Mason Dixon Conference Player of the Year.

Wichterman will attend West Virginia Northern Community College.

His uncle, Brian Ice, played in the 1996 game.

He is the son of Brittany Brown

NBA moves towards finalizing new media rights deal

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The NBA's Board of Governors approved the league's next media rights deals with Disney, NBC and Amazon Prime Video at its meeting Tuesday, moving the league one giant step closer to finalizing the 11-year agreements that will be worth about \$76 billion.

Now comes the next, and possibly final, step: seeing if Warner Bros. Discovery will match one of the deals in an effort to extend a relationship with the NBA that dates to the late 1980s. WBD has five days to match, that clock starting to run when it receives the contracts from the league.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, citing the ongoing process, declined to offer specifics on when that five-day window starts or whether it has already started.

and part of them also led to what are the best ways we can serve our fans going forward," Silver said. "Part of it was to get additional broadcast exposure, and hopefully we will have accomplished that. And also, to get more streaming connectivity with our fans, because in terms of traditional television — while still vital — there is a large portion of our fan base that no longer subscribes to those services."

The new deals, which as currently constructed would keep the NBA on ESPN and ABC plus add NBC and Amazon to the mix, will begin in the 2025-26 season. This coming season marks the end of a nine-year, \$24 billion deal that was record-setting for the NBA — and the new deal will shatter those records, both in terms of length and value.

that's something that we've been very focused on in these deals, and not just on reach in the United States, but reach globally as well."

Much of the basic framework of the new deals, if they become reality, have already emerged. ESPN and ABC will keep the league's top package, including the NBA Finals — which have been on ABC since 2003 — and one of the conference finals series, plus a slew of regular season contests.

NBC, which would return as a broadcast partner for the first time since 2002, would showcase games on Sunday night once the NFL season has ended, plus air games on Tuesdays throughout the regular season and stream a Monday night package on Peacock. Prime Video would have games on Thursday night after it is

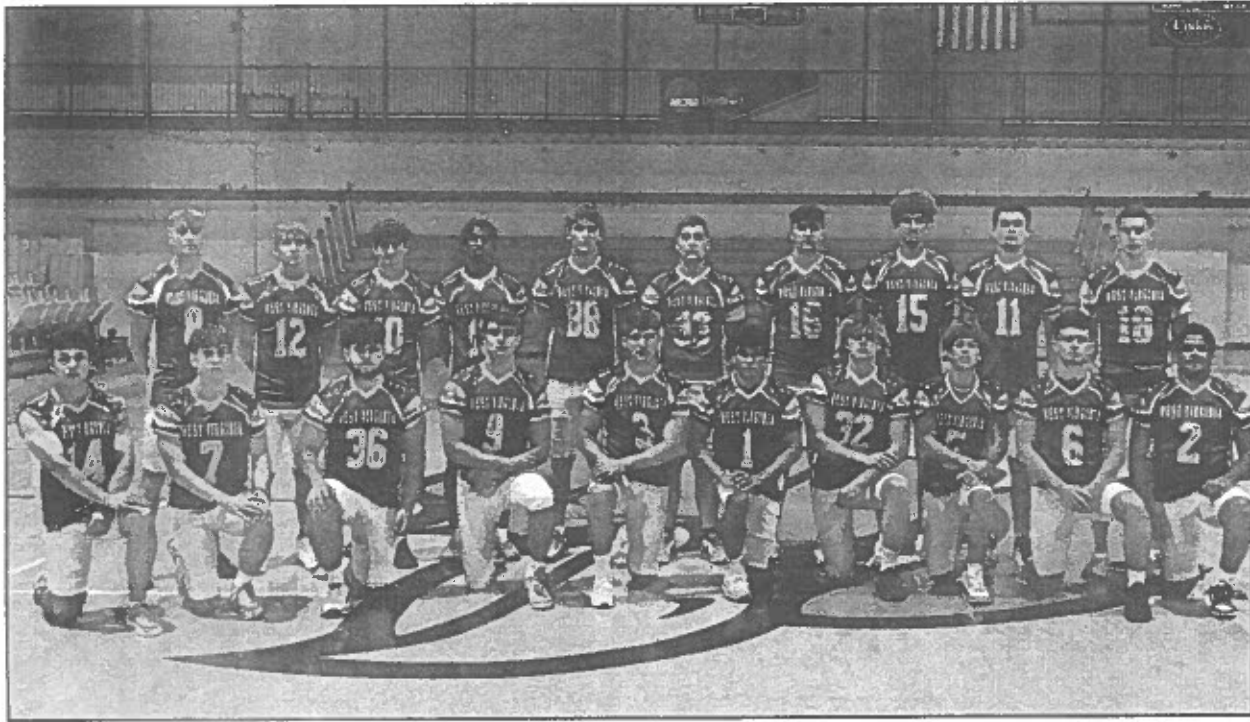


Photo by KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the skilled athletes for the West Virginia All Stars when they face Ohio in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kick off is set for 7:15. Front row, from left, are Jared Marsh (Wheeling Park), Devan Colson (Weir), Maddox Shriver (Clay-Battelle), Joey Baker (Paden City), Anthony Bachinski (Brooke), DiMario White (John Marshall), Noah Loy (Wheeling Central), Malachi Stromile (Weir), Gavin Moore (Brooke) and Corey Lyons (Weir). Back row, from left, are Eli Tucker (Wheeling Central), Colson Wichterman (Cameron), Conor Fitzpatrick (John Marshall), Keohn Stephens (Wheeling Park), Nick DiProspero (Morgantown), Anthony Burt (Oak Glen), Maddox Bowers (Morgantown), Triston Walker (Parkersburg South), Luke Hudson (University) and Atley Cowan (Linsly).

• Game

Continued from Page B1

RUNNING BACKS

JOEY BAKER, Paden City — This 6-0, 180-pounder rushed for 4,316 yards in 30 career games, but was named second-team all-West Virginia Class A on the defensive side of the ball. He was also a four-time OVAC honoree.

He will attend Ohio University.

Baker is the son of Penny and Jon Baker of Paden City.

ANTHONY BURT, Oak Glen — This 5-11, 180-pounder played running back and outside linebacker for the Golden Bears.

He is undecided on his college choice.

Burt is the son of Keisha Smith and resides in Chester.

NOAH LOY, Wheeling Central — He is a third generation participant of the All-Star Game as his grandfather (Steve) and father (Chris) played in the 1968 and 1991 games, respectively.

The 6-1, 190-pounder played fullback and inside linebacker for the Maroon Knights, doing most of his damage on the defensive side of the ball where he accumulated 160 tackles in two seasons.

He was an OVAC honorable mention selection.

Loy will attend West Liberty University.

He is the son of Ingrid and Chris Loy. They reside in Wellsburg.

COREY LYONS III, Weir — This 5-10, 200-pounder did just about everything during his career as a Red Rider.

He carried the ball 575 times for 3,063 yards and 46 touchdowns, while passing for 359 yards and four more scores. He also caught 40 passes for 560 stripes and five six-pointers.

He earned all-OVAC first team honors three times and a first-team all-West Virginia Class AA honoree.

Lyons will attend Bethany College.

He is the son of Tysa Elmore and Corey Lyons Jr.

GAVIN MOORE, Brooke — This former Bruin accounted for more than 600 yards and 11 touchdowns on offense last season.

Defensively, the 5-10, 180-pounder charted 85 tackles, picked off three passes and returned one for a TD, and recovered two fumbles.

He will attend Washington & Jefferson University.

Moore is the son of Meredith Hood, Miranda Moore and Tommy Moore. He lives in Follansbee.

MADDOX SHRIVER, Clay-Battelle — A 5-10, 200-pounder. He was an all-state honorable mention as a junior.

He will attend Waynesburg University.

His brother, Colby, played in the 2015 game.

Shriver is the son of Angelia and Terry Shriver. They reside in Fairview.

TIGHT END

NICK DIPROSPERO, Morgantown — The lone tight end listed on the roster, the 6-2, 210-pounder will attend Glenville State University.

He is the son of Nicole and Herman DiProspero. They reside in Morgantown.

WIDE RECEIVERS

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• Golf

Continued from Page B1

The forecast for the start of the 152nd Open is for off-and-on rain during the day with gusts in the 20 mph range early in the afternoon — about the time Rory McIlroy and Jon Rahm are finishing their rounds — and then easing late. And then more gusts Friday afternoon.

It's worth noting the forecast seems to change by the day. No one will really know until they're in the clear, or feeling like they are being blown into the Irish sea.

In recent times, Louis Oosthuizen caught the good side of the draw in St. Andrews. It was relatively calm all of Thursday — McIlroy opened with a 63 in 2010 — and then the wind became so fierce in the afternoon that McIlroy shot 80.

Oosthuizen finished his 65-67 start right before the wind came through. His name stayed atop the leaderboard for 11 hours that day and he led by five when it was over and wound up winning by seven shots. Good golf and a good draw go a long way.

"It's part and parcel of the Open. There's always good draws and bad draws," Tommy Fleetwood said. "Generally if you get unlucky and there is a good side and a bad side, that's wiping out half the field already. The good news is if you're on the good side. That's half of them gone and you only have to beat half the field."

"But that's always been part of the Open and that's the beauty of it," he said. "You have to be ready for whatever the conditions bring, along with the golf course. It's very important to embrace what can happen."

Another memorable example was Saturday at Muirfield in 2002. Tiger Woods had won the Masters and U.S. Open that year, raising possibilities of a calendar Grand Slam. He was two off the lead going into the third round

when a storm off the Firth of Forth brought rain and 40 mph (64 kph) gusts. Woods shot 81 — nine others were in the 80s — and there went the Grand Slam.

Even getting the bad end of the draw is not the end of the Open. Pdraig Harrington should serve as inspiration to everyone for what he did in 2008 at Royal Birkdale. He was caught in the raging wind Thursday morning and scrapped his way to a 74. Harrington went on to win by four shots for his second straight Open title.

But it can be maddening. Gary Woodland recalls one Open when he was staying with Dustin Johnson. They compared notes at the end of the round.

"I was early, he was late," Woodland said. "I'm hitting 3-iron into holes where he was hitting sand wedge. You just hope you're on the right side. Otherwise, you try to make the most of it. Half the field is getting (dumped) on. I grew up in the wind. I like the tough conditions. But you'd like to be on the good side."

Conditions can be even more exaggerated at Royal Troon by its out-and-back nature. The forecast for one of the practice rounds this week was an example of the worst that can happen, with wind in the players' faces going out, and then it shifted, so they had to play the back nine into the wind, too.

The last time the Open was at Royal Troon, it had the second-worse draw bias — one side far better than the other — in Open history. It was so bad that Friday afternoon that the cut line dropped three shots in a span of 45 minutes.

Such is the nature of this fickle championship.

"Everybody knows that going into the Open," Thomas said. "But I am so ready for a six- or seven-shot draw and being on the good side. It's going to be awesome whenever it happens."

• Media

Continued from Page B1

NBC and Prime Video would alternate who carries the other conference final.

NBA CUP TIEBREAKERS

A mild tweak has been made to the group play tiebreaker system for the in-season tournament, now called the Emirates NBA Cup.

Overtime scoring has been removed from the point differential and total points tiebreakers. Those are the second and third tiebreakers, after head-to-head record, in group play.

It doesn't totally remove the differential, and that tiebreaker led to some weirdness last season.

fouling Chicago up by 32 points with 7 minutes left in a group play game last season to try and ensure it would win any tiebreakers. And New York advanced to the quarterfinals on point differential over Cleveland, Orlando and Brooklyn.

"I understand the concept," Knicks guard Josh Hart said last season of the point differential tiebreaker. "But it's weird."

FLOPPING RULE

The in-game flopping penalty is now permanent, after a one-year trial this past season convinced the league to go forward.

When flopping is called in-game now, the offending player is charged with a non-sportsmanlike

Wheeling Steals Home-Field Advantage In OVBL Finals

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

CRESCENT - The top two seeds in the Ohio Valley Baseball League squared off Tuesday night in Game 1 of the best-of-5 championship series, and second-seeded Wheeling stole home-field advantage away from to-seeded Barton.

The Cardinals (13-9) scored five times in the second inning and road the two-hit pitching of Sonny Peluchette through six-plus frames for a 9-5 victory on Henning Field inside Pramesa Park, as the Braves (14-8) tallied four times in the bottom of the seventh to make the game much closer than it actually was.

"This was a huge win for us," Peluchette stressed. "We're ahead now going home, so hopefully we can get a win there on Thursday and come back here on Friday with a 2-0 lead."

Game 2 is Thursday on the Wheeling University diamond at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Ballfields.

After a scoreless first inning, five of the first



Photo by Kim North

Wheeling's Jared Jones (11) is congratulated by teammate Josh Schramm after Jones slugged a solo home run in the seventh inning of game 1 of the Ohio Valley Baseball League championship series Tuesday night on Henning Field inside Pramesa Park in Crescent. Wheeling won 9-5. Game 2 of the best-of-5 format is Thursday on the Wheeling University diamond at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Ballfields.

seven Wheeling batters collected base hits to start the second inning. Josh Schramm smacked a ground-rule double to ignite the outburst. Cody Ray singled and Brian Shaw was safe to load the

bases when no play was made on his bunt. Logan Bennett slapped a single through the left side of the infield that made it 2-0. When the ball got away in left, Shaw scampered all the way

around for a 3-0 reading. Bennett came home on a single to right by Jared Jones. Adam Och chased in Jones with a one-out single to cap the uprising.

Please see **OVBL**, Page 10

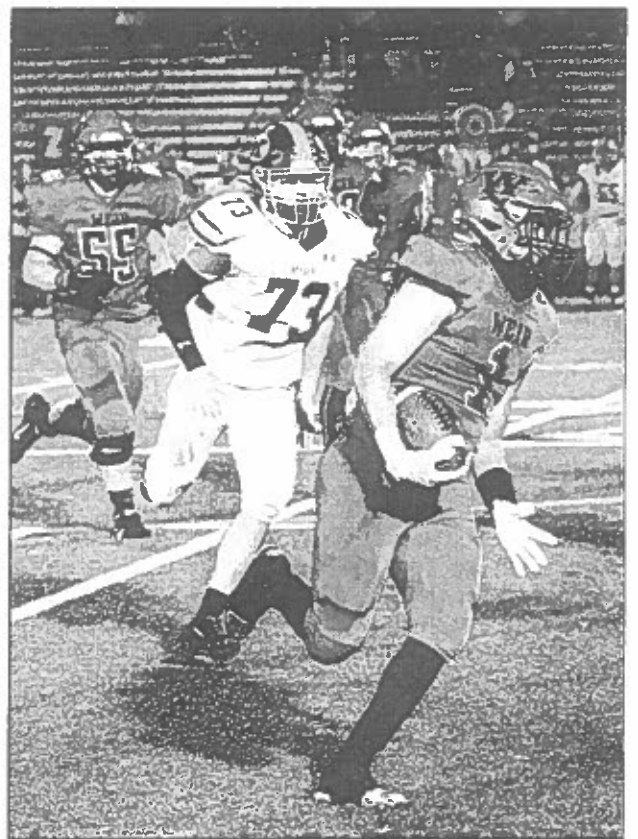


Photo by Andrew Grimm

Weir's Corey Lyons takes a carry down the sideline during a game this past season. Lyons will represent West Virginia in Saturday's 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium.

OVAC All-Stars Eager To Continue Familiar Tradition

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

WHEELING - For the young men representing West Virginia and Ohio this weekend, Monday was the start of what will be a week-long voyage to the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, to be held on Wheeling Island Stadium.

It's a voyage that includes plenty of practices for the best of the best in the OVAC's graduating class, but also plenty of extracurriculars. And it's a voyage with an event at the end which the players of this year's all-star game hold in high esteem.

In a way, the game - set for July 20 - stands as the final send-off of last season and heralding of the new campaign in August. It's a game that has been around as long - and far longer - than any of this year's participants can remember. For many, it is an

opportunity to put one's skills on display one last time, but for all, it's a tradition that they have waited a long time to take part in.

"It means a lot," River quarterback Kabel Isaly said of the game. "I know a lot of these guys, I played with them, played against them for many years. I've come up here and watched this game for many years. It just means a lot to be able to play with these guys, this high level of talent. It's awesome."

"It's obviously a really big opportunity, a ton of people come out to watch this game," Wheeling Park safety Jared Marsh said. "Even though I don't have an interest in playing football at the next level it's still great to be around these guys and this type of competition."

Please see **TRADITION**, Page 10

Duran's Two-Run Home Run Gives AL 5-3 Win In All-Star Game Started By Rookie Skenes

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP Baseball Writer

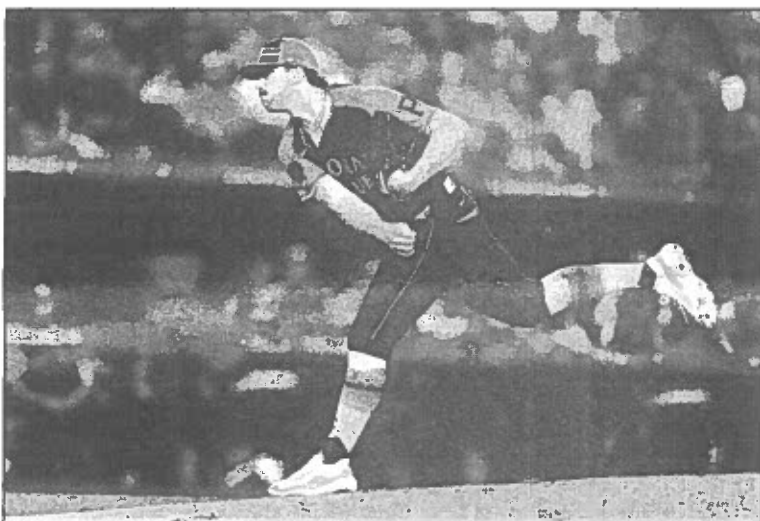
ARLINGTON, Texas - Boston's Jarren Duran, the All-Star MVP, hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the fifth inning and the American League beat the National League 5-3 on Tuesday night for its 10th win in the past 11 All-Star Games.

Pittsburgh rookie Paul Skenes pitched a hitless first for the NL, twice hitting 100 mph, and Shohei Ohtani hit a three-run homer in the third for a 3-0 lead.

Juan Soto hit a two-run double and scored on David Fry's single to tie the score in the third, and Duran went deep off Cincinnati's Hunter Greene.

Duran is the fifth Boston player to be an All-Star MVP, the first since J.D. Drew in 2008.

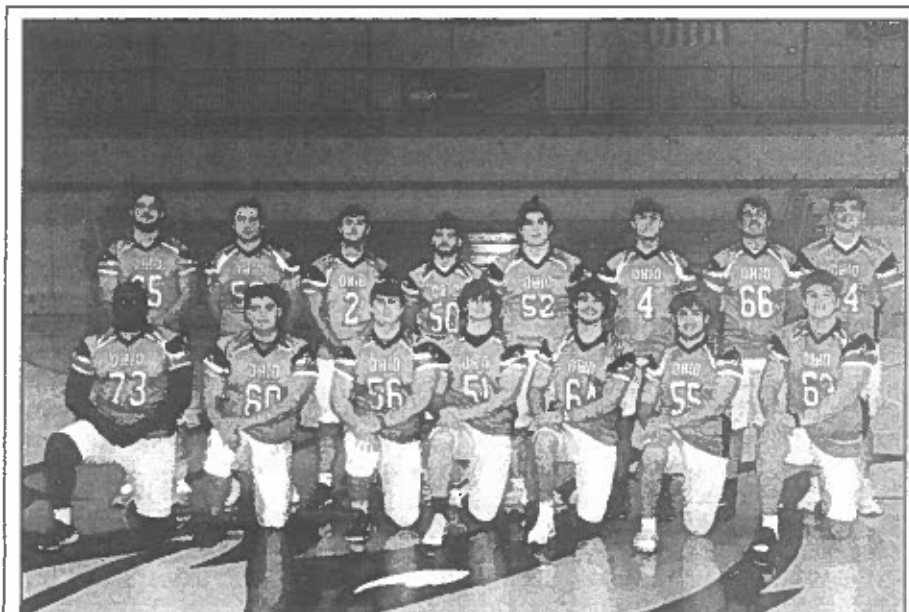
Please see **GAME**, Page 11



AP Photo

National League pitcher Paul Skenes, of the Pittsburgh Pirates, throws to an American League batter in the first inning during the MLB All-Star game, Tuesday, July 16, 2024, in Arlington, Texas.

78TH ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME LINEMEN



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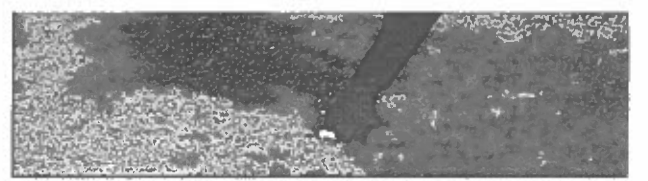


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opportunity to put one's skills on display one last time, but for all, it's a tradition that they have waited a long time to take part in.

"It means a lot," River quarterback Kabel Isaly said of the game. "I know a lot of these guys. I played with them, played against them for many years. I've come up here and watched this game for many years. It just means a lot to be able to play with these guys, this high level of talent. It's awesome."

"It's obviously a really big opportunity, a ton of people come out to watch this game," Wheeling Park safety Jared Marsh said. "Even though I don't have an interest in playing football at the next level it's still great to be around these guys and this type of competition."

Please see TRADITION, Page 10

Duran's Two-Run Home Run Gives AL 5-3 Win In All-Star Game Started By Rookie Skenes

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Baseball Writer

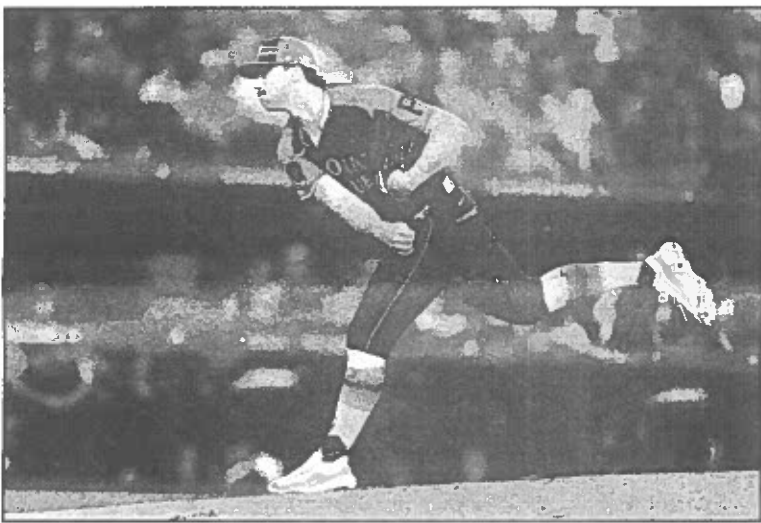
ARLINGTON, Texas - Boston's Jarren Duran, the All-Star MVP, hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the fifth inning and the American League beat the National League 5-3 on Tuesday night for its 10th win in the past 11 All-Star Games.

Pittsburgh rookie Paul Skenes pitched a hitless first for the NL, twice hitting 100 mph, and Shohei Ohtani hit a three-run homer in the third for a 3-0 lead.

Juan Soto hit a two-run double and scored on David Fry's single to tie the score in the third, and Duran went deep off Cincinnati's Hunter Greene.

Duran is the fifth Boston player to be an All-Star MVP, the first since J.D. Drew in 2008.

Please see GAME, Page 11



AP Photo

National League pitcher Paul Skenes, of the Pittsburgh Pirates, throws to an American League batter in the first inning during the MLB All-Star game, Tuesday, July 16, 2024, in Arlington, Texas.

78TH ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME LINEMEN

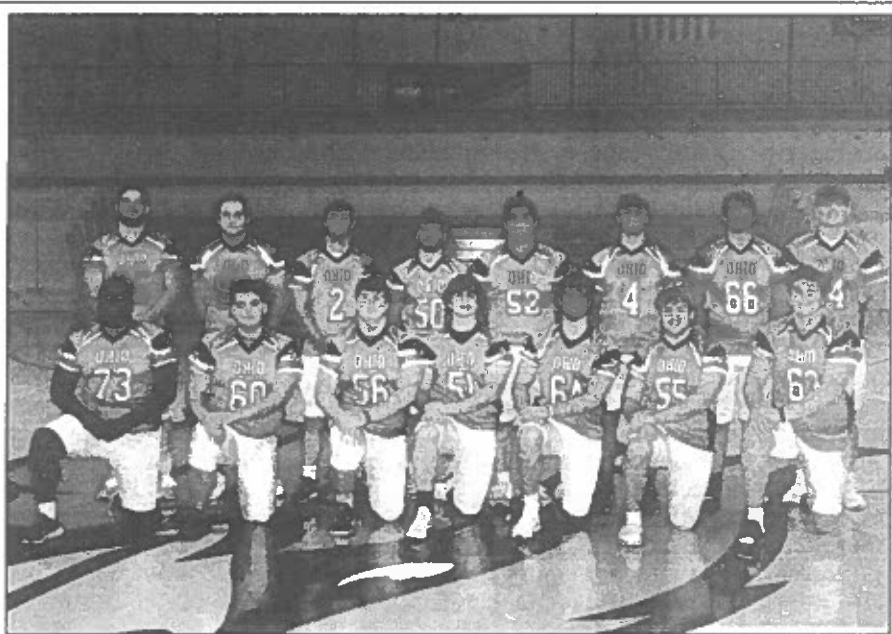


Photo by Kim North

Pictured are the offensive and defensive line candidates for the Ohio All Stars when they clash with the West Virginia All Stars Saturday night at Wheeling Island Stadium in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Kickoff is set for 7:15. Front row, from left, are Javin Harper (Steubenville), Jase Norman (Caldwell), Graham Baker (Fort Frye), Alex Beaver (Union Local), Hunter Boals (Harrison Central), Perry Patrone (St. Clairsville) and Griffin Fogle (St. Clairsville). Back row, from left, are JR Adams (St. Clairsville), Peyton Gorby (Steubenville), Kaden Johnson (River), Andrew Leiffer (Martins Ferry), Joey Simnpson (Edison), Drew White (Bellaire), Brendan Grimm (Steubenville Catholic) and Trenton Davis (East Liverpool). Not pictured is Jaxson Mast (Dover).

Decorated Players Across Ohio Line

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - It's been said that football games are won in the trenches. If that is so, Ohio has firepower on both sides of the line for Saturday night's 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kickoff is set for 7:15 p.m.

Although positions could switch between now and game time, the Buckeyes have a bevy of decorated down linemen.

JR ADAMS - St. Clairsville - One

of three line candidates for the Red Devils, the 6-4, 295-pound Adams saw action along the defensive front. In his career, he recorded 198 tackles, 23 quarterback sacks, 41 tackles for loss, forced a dozen fumbles and recovered five.

He earned all-Buckeye & first team honors and was an honorable mention all-Ohio selection.

Adams will attend NCAA Division I Mercyhurst University on a full athletic scholarship.

Please see OHIO, Page 10

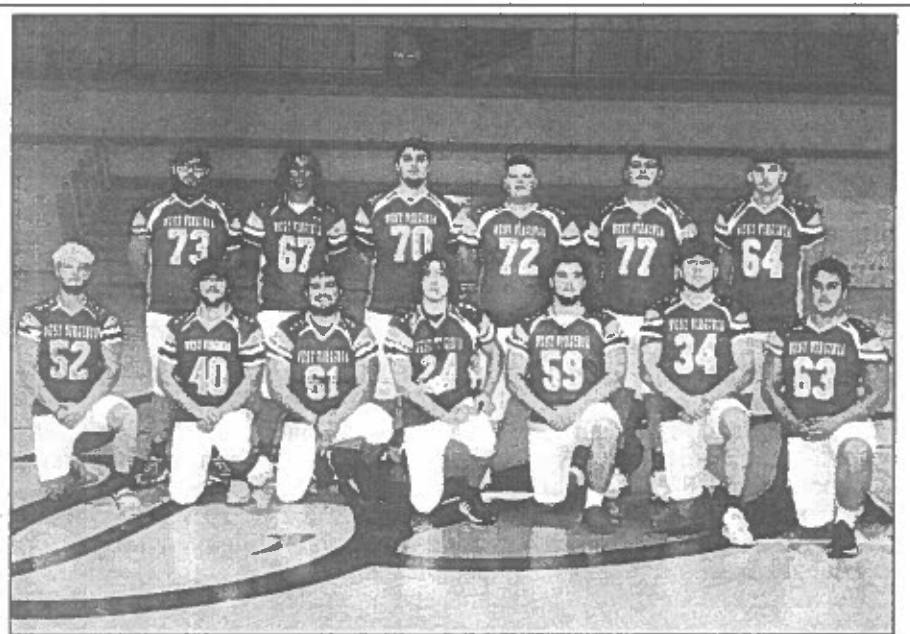


Photo by Kim North

Pictured are the offensive and defensive line candidates for the W.Va. All Stars when they meet the Ohio All Stars Saturday night at Wheeling Island Stadium in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Kickoff is set for 7:15. Front row, from left, are Hunter Goddard (Magnolia), Ryder Stern (Cameron), Thad Dempewolf (Cameron), Jordan Beasley (Wheeling Park), Anthony Zorbini (Weir), Landon Taylor (Linsly) and Lucca Ferrera (Wheeling Central). Back row, from left, are Ayden Britton (Hundred), Alias Pugh (Weir), Derek Croghan (Wheeling Park), Scott Schenerlein (John Marshall), Jaydin Lynch (Magnolia) and Tyler Wise (Brooke).

Speed Over Size Along W.Va. Line

BY KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - There may not be much beef along the offensive and defensive lines of the West Virginia All Stars, but there is plenty of athleticism.

The Mountaineers will square off with their Ohio counterparts Saturday night inside Wheeling Island Stadium in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Kick off is set for 7:15.

On its training camp roster, West Virginia has just 13 linemen ticketed for duty along both fronts.

JORDAN BEASLEY, Wheeling

Park - A 6-1, 220-pound defensive end for the Patriots, he accounted for 68 tackles, nine tackles for lost yards and had one quarterback sack.

His cousin, Corey Straub, played in the 2007 game.

He will attend West Virginia Northern.

Beasley is the son of Chasity Beasley and Shayne Saunders. He resides in Wheeling.

AYDEN BRITTON, Hundred - The Hornets only representative, this 6-3, 250-pounder played offensive line and middle linebacker last fall.

Please see W.VA., Page 10

their third player signing of the 2024 offseason. Wheeling has re-signed forward David Jankowski to an ECHL contract. Jankowski, 27, is coming off of a strong rookie season, as he finished tied for fifth on the club with 37 points, thanks to 11 goals and 26 assists. The 37 points were third most among first

just the fourth time in the last 27 seasons. His five markers on the man advantage ranked tied for second on the team and his 13 power play points were tied for fourth. Some notable games for the forward included a two-goal performance including the game winner on Thanksgiving Eve against To-

JANKOWSKI was the lone Wheeling player to score a shootout goal in 2023-24, and he did so twice - once for a win at Toledo and once in a home defeat against Tulsa. David's success continued into the playoffs, as he notched a point in each of the four wins over Indy in round one.

manager Billy Timko said. "It's only one game. It's a five game series, so we'll be back on Thursday." Barton made it 5-1 when Zac Taylor raced home from third on a wild pitch in the fourth, but Wheeling got that run

An RBI bunt single by Haskins and an RBI groundout off the bat of Schramm bumped the count to 8-1 in the sixth. Jones belted a two-out solo homer to deep left in the top of the seventh for the final Wheeling run. Run-scoring singles by

ditch effort. Hummel, who earned the save, struck out three batters, including the final out of the game. Timko said he would hand the baseball to righty Austin Bassa, a Martins Ferry alum. Wheeling will counter with Bennett.

TRADITION

(Continued from Page 9)

For as far back as the all-star game goes, players are focused on the present, letting their competitive instincts and pride for their state show in their preparation for Saturday.

"It's really an honor, I can't thank [Harrison Central's] coach Hayes and his staff enough for picking me." Barnesville linebacker/runningback Taison Starr said. "It really is a prestigious honor and I'm looking forward to getting after it."

"It means a lot because I grew up watching this game and hoping I'd be chosen for it one day," Weir runningback Corey Lyons said. "They picked me and I'm proud to represent West Virginia."

Last year, West Virginia defeated Ohio 13-9. While many of the players in this year's outing remember games from far back, the more recent years have held special importance for many others - allowing them to see their own senior teammates take part, and reminding them that it would be their time soon enough.

"I've had a couple of receivers play, and a lineman last year," Isaly said. "Coming to watch them play. I just saw the high level of talent and how awesome it was."

OHIO

(Continued from Page 9)

He is the son of Amy and Rogers Adams. They reside in St. Clairsville.

GRAHAM BAKER, Fort Frye - Baker was selected as a first-team all-Ohioan his senior season for the Cadets. He was also the Eastern District Defensive Player of the Year and first-team all-OVAC.

Last season, the 5-11, 240-pounder charted 133 tackles and 17 quarterback sacks.

He will attend Capital University in the fall.

Baker is the son of Janis and Brian Baker of Beverly.

ALEX BEAVER, Union Local - This 6-0, 235-pounder played on both sides of the ball for the Jets. He was a three-year letterman earning second-team all-Buckeye 8 honors, as well as being honorable mention all-OVAC. He was also OVAC all-Academic.

He will attend Bethany College. Alex is the son of Rebecca Beaver of Bethesda.

HUNTER BOALS, Harrison Central - A four-year letterwinner for the Huskies, the 6-0, 230-pound Boals was

People always said good things about the camp and the week, and being able to spend time with these guys and be able to play a football game one more time."

"I had two last year and three the year prior play in this game," Lyons said. "And my cousins played in it."

Last year, Park's Erick Brothers, Weir's Jamar Bass, River's Brody Lollathin and Brayden Strawn, and Barnesville's CJ Hannahs and Quintin Leasure were each on the team.

"Growing up I always came down to watch this with my uncle," Starr said. "I always said, I'm going to play in this game one day. Here I am. It's really an honor."

"I've been watching Park guys play in this game for 10 years now," Marsh said. "That championship team that we had in 2015, I was there watching this game and some of my favorite guys I've ever met played in it that year. It's an honor to be playing now."

Only a few short days stand in-between now and Saturday, but each year, the OVAC makes

sure those days are jam-packed. With Tuesday's George Strager Evening With The Stars, Wednesday's Shriners Social, Thursday's Queen of

Queens Pageant, and Friday's pep rally all adding to a week of practice, this year's players are aiming to soak it all in before the big game.

"There's a lot of things to do," Isaly said. "A big schedule, supporting the cheerleaders and the band, a couple things to go to. It's going to be a busy week but I'm excited."

"That's the plan," Marsh said of staying busy. "I'm a baseball player but now I get a nice week-long break, take a step back and play some football. It's great to be back on the field."

No matter how many socials and pep rallies there are, Saturday will still come. Though, not soon enough for the eager all-stars.

"It's a great opportunity to have a great week and end it by representing West Virginia," Lyons said.

"These guys are all great athletes," Starr said. "And I can't wait for Saturday."

NOTE
The Queen of Queens Pageant for this Thursday has changed venues to the JB Chambers Performing Arts Center at Wheeling Park High School. Tickets are available at <http://ovac.org> and tickets at the door will be cash only.

He registered 22 solo stops, assisted on 41 other tackles and had five tackles for minus yards. He also caused a fumble and recovered one.

Britton is the son of Jen and Brian Britton of Hurd.

DEREK CROGHAN, Wheeling Park - This 6-5, 300-pound Glenville State University recruit was a second-team Class AAA all-stater and was first-team all-Valley.

Defensively, he charted 53 tackles and four TFLs.

He is the son of Marylou Metz and Derek Croghan.

THADDEUS DEMPEWOLF, Cameron - A two-way standout for Dragons, the 5-10, 225-pounder was a first-team all-OVAC selection and a second-team Class A All-West Virginia awardee.

He had 54 tackles in his career.

Dempewolf will attend West Virginia Northern.

He is the son of Jessica and David Dempewolf. They reside in Glen Easton.

LUCCA FERRERA, Wheeling Central - This 5-10, 245-pounder is a fourth generation OVAC Rudy Mumley game participant. He follows in the footsteps of his grandfather, Larry Ferrara, Jr. (1963); his father, Larry Ferrara III (1990); and his brother, Lorenzo (2023).

Ferrera was a dual

threat on both sides of the ball, recording 65 tackles, 12 TFLs and 10 quarterback sacks. He was a first-team all-stater, first-team all-OVAC and a second-team all-Valley product. He also earned all-state honors in Lacrosse.

He is undecided upon his college plans.

Ferrera is the son of Andee and Larry Ferrera. They reside in Benwood.

HUNTER GODDARD, Magnolia - A 5-10, 200-pounder for the Blue Eagles, Goddard managed 40 tackles, 11 quarterback sacks and six TFLs. He also forced four fumbles and recovered three.

He will attend Glenville State University this fall.

Goddard is the son of Nikki and Danny Goddard. They reside in New Martinsville.

SCOTT SCHENERLEIN, John Marshall - This 6-2, 290-pound anchored the middle of the Monarchs offensive line at center.

He is undecided upon his future plans.

Schenerlein is the son of Kendra Tew (Hunter) and Scott Schenerlein Sr. He resides in Moundsville.

RYDER STERN, Cameron - He registered 29 tackles last season for the Dragons. He was a team captain and earned all-OVAC first team honors.

The 6-0, 200-pounder

is the son of Dawnett and Tom Stern of Cameron.

LANDON TAYLOR, Linsly - A 6-3, 240-pounder. Taylor is also an accomplished powerlifter, holding the USPA Ohio State record for squat, bench and total. He is a two-time state champ.

On the football field, Taylor recorded 57 tackles, four TFLs and two quarterback sacks last fall for the Cadets.

He will attend West Virginia University.

Taylor is the son of Sabrina and Richard Taylor. They reside in Bellaire.

TYLER WISE, Brooke - Primarily a defensive end for the Bruins, this 6-3, 210-pounder registered 51 tackles, nine assists, 10 TFLs and 6.5 quarterback sacks last fall. He also blocked at 88-percent clip.

Wise also won the 2024 West Virginia 215-pound state wrestling title and will attend Fairmont State University to continue his academic and wrestling careers.

Wise is the son of Debra and Greg Wise of Follansbee. His father played in the 1992 game.

ANTHONY ZORBINI, Weir - A Washington and Jefferson University recruit, this 6-0, 250-pound former Red Rider was all-state, all-OVAC and all-Valley.

He is the son of Darcy and Brian Zorbini of Weirton.

He was a Division IV honorable mention all-Ohio.

He graded out at 87 percent his senior and recorded an eye-popping 40 pancake blocks.

Fogle is the son of Johna and Chris Fogle of St. Clairsville.

BRENDAN GRIMM, Steubenville Catholic - A 6-0, 225-pound defensive end, Grimm was

a two-time all-OVAC first-teamer, along with being selected as a Division VII honorable mention all-stater his senior season when he chalked up 67 tackles and five quarterback sacks.

His cousin, Cullen Marshall, participated in the 2008 game.

Grimm is the son of Karen and Michael Grimm. They reside in Steubenville.

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The 6-0, 220-pounder will attend the New Castle (Pa.) School of Trades.

Gorby is the son of Faith and Eli Gorby of Wintersville.

JAVIN HARPER, Steubenville - A 6-2, 300-pound road grader, Harper will continue his academic and athletic careers at West Liberty University.

He graded out at 92-percent blocking in 2023 when he earned all-Eastern District and all-OVAC honors.

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ANDREW LEIFFER, Martins Ferry - A 5-7,

175-pounder, Leiffer will be the lone Purple Rider to participate in the contest. Teammate Baron Lucey is injured.

Leiffer charted 72 tackles, two quarterback sacks, 10 TFLs, caused four fumbles and recovered two as a linebacker. He also graded out at 86 percent on offense.

He was a third-team all-Ohio selection and a first-team all-Eastern District honoree.

He will attend Belmont Tech.

Leiffer is the son of Joann and Neil Leiffer of Martins Ferry.

JAXSON MAST, Dover - A two-year letterwinner and three-year scholar-athlete honoree, this 6-3, 250-pounder played both ways in the trenches for the Tornados.

He recorded 16 tackles, pressured the quarterback four times and had a pair of tackles for minus yardage.

He will attend Baldwin Wallace University.

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JASE NORMAN, Caldwell - Another two-way standout, this 6-0, 275-pounder did not allow a quarterback sack his senior season while also supplying blocking

225-pounder was an integral part of the Red Devils success. He had 27 pancake blocks as a center last fall, two more than his junior season. He was selected as a third-team Division IV all-Ohioan and was first-team all-Buckeye 8 and all-OVAC. He graded out at 87 percent.

He earned several special awards and placed fifth in the Division II state shot put.

Patrone is the son of Kaura and Christopher Patrone. They live in St. Clairsville.

JOEY SIMPSON, Edison - The lone representative for the Wildcats. Simpson was a two-way stalwart.

The 5-11, 265-pounder graded out at 94 percent. He allowed just one sack and had 34 knockdowns. Defensively, he posted 74 tackles, with 23 being solo stops. He also charted 22 TFLs and sacked the opposing quarterback six times.

He will attend Baldwin Wallace University.

Simpson is the son of Donna and Joe Simpson of Steubenville.

DREW WHITE, Bellaire - Another two-way threat for the Big Reds, this 5-11, 180-pounder was a running back/defensive end.

Receive \$250

Hawkins

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He is undecided upon his college plans.

Boals is the son of Haley and Bobby Boals of Scio.

TRENTON DAVIS, East Liverpool - A terror on defense, this 5-10, 225-pound Potter amassed 103 tackles, eight TFLs, forced three fumbles, sacked the quarterback twice and picked off a pass.

He was accorded first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-Buckeye 8 laurels.

He will attend Ohio Northern University.

Davis is the son of Kristi and Chris Davis. They reside in Lisbon. His father played in the 1998 game and his uncle, Brian, played in 2003.

GRIFFIN FOGLE, St. Clairsville - This 6-4, 285-pounder has been invited to walk on at West Virginia University after earning first-team all-Buckeye 8, all-OVAC and all-Eastern District.

He was a Division IV honorable mention all-Ohio.

He graded out at 87 percent his senior and recorded an eye-popping 40 pancake blocks.

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Mast is the son of Diana and Aaron Mast of Dover.

JASE NORMAN, Caldwell - Another two-way standout, this 6-0, 275-pounder did not allow a quarterback sack his senior season while also supplying blocking for an offense that ran for more than 2,000 yards and racked up 4,600 yards of offense.

Defensively, he registered 35 tackles, had eight TFLs and half-a-dozen quarterback sacks.

He will attend Bowling Green State University.

Norman is the son of Janae Tucker and Jason Norman. He resides in Sarahsville.

PERRY PATRONE, St. Clairsville - A Marshall University signee for track, this 5-10,

225-pounder was an integral part of the Red Devils success. He had 27 pancake blocks as a center last fall, two more than his junior season. He was selected as a third-team Division IV all-Ohioan and was first-team all-Buckeye 8 and all-OVAC. He graded out at 87 percent.

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The 5-11, 265-pounder graded out at 94 percent. He allowed just one sack and had 34 knockdowns.

Defensively, he posted 74 tackles, with 23 being solo stops. He also charted 22 TFLs and sacked the opposing quarterback six times.

He will attend Baldwin Wallace University.

Simpson is the son of Donna and Joe Simpson of Steubenville.

DREW WHITE, Bellaire - Another two-way threat for the Big Reds, this 5-11, 180-pounder was a running back/defensive end.

He came up three yards shy of reaching 1,000 his senior season in just eight games. He also recorded 33 tackles and a trio of quarterback sacks.

White was a second-team all-Eastern District selection, as well as a first-team all-OVAC honoree.

His uncle, John Ferguson, played in the 1987 game.

White is the son of Donna and the late Scott White. He resides in Bellaire.

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Doctor of Audiology

The Cardinals (13-9) scored five times in the second inning and road the two-hit pitching of Sonny Peluchette through six-plus frames for a 9-5 victory on Henning Field inside Pramesa Park, as the Braves (14-8) tallied four times in the bottom of the seventh to make the game much closer than it actually was.

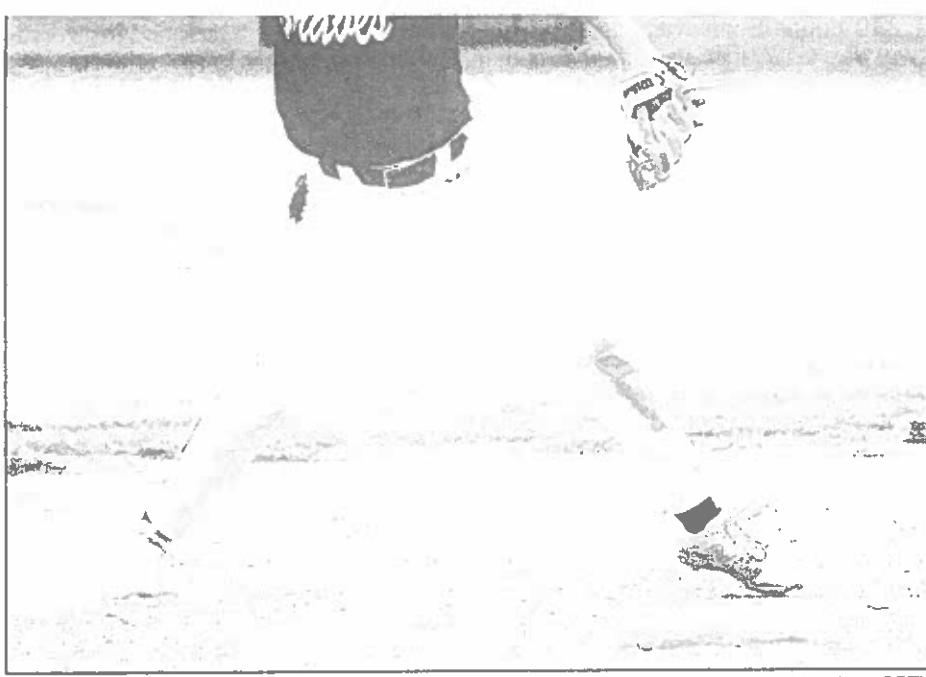
"This was a huge win for us," Peluchette stressed. "We're ahead now going home, so hopefully we can get a win there on Thursday and come back here on Friday with a 2-0 lead."

Game 2 is Thursday on the Wheeling University diamond at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Ballfields.

After a scoreless first inning, five of the first seven Wheeling batters collected base hits to start the second inning. Josh Schramm smacked a ground-rule double to ignite the outburst. Cody Ray singled and Brian Shaw was safe to load the bases when no play was made on his bunt. Logan Bennett slapped a single through the left side of the infield that made it 2-0. When the ball got away in left, Shaw scampered all the way around for a 3-0 reading. Bennett came home on a single to right by Jared Jones. Adam Och chased in Jones with a one-out single to cap the uprising.

"The name of the game is to hit the ball where they ain't. They did that for one inning ... one inning," veteran Barton manager Billy Timko said. "It's only one game. It's a five game series, so we'll be back on Thursday."

Barton made it 5-1 when Zac Taylor raced home from third on a wild pitch



BARTON SHORTSTOP Jake Winland throws to first for an out during action from Game 1 of the Ohio Valley Baseball League championship series with Wheeling Tuesday night on Henning Field inside Pramesa Park in Crescent. Wheeling won 9-5. Game 2 of the best-of-5 format is Thursday on the Wheeling University diamond at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Ballfields.

Photo by KIM NORTH

in the fourth, but Wheeling got that run back an inning later when Cody Ray sliced an opposite-field double to right that brought home Tyler Haskins.

An RBI bunt single by Haskins and an RBI groundout off the bat of Schramm bumped the count to 8-1 in the sixth. Jones belted a two-out solo homer to deep left in the top of the seventh for the final Wheeling run.

Run-scoring singles by the brothers

Blackburn — Cooper and Nolan — and a pair of fielder's choices accounted for two other runs in the Braves' last-ditch effort.

Hummel, who earned the save, struck out three batters, including the final out of the game.

Timko said he would hand the baseball to righty Austin Bassa, a Martins Ferry alum. Wheeling will counter with Bennett.

scored on David Fry's single to tie the score in the third, and Duran went deep off Cincinnati's Hunter Greene.

Oakland right-hander Mason Miller got the win after throwing a 103.6 mph pitch, the fastest in the All-Star Game since tracking began in 2008. Hard-throwing Cleveland closer Emmanuel Clase struck out two in the ninth for the save.

The 22-year-old Skenes, who has pitched only 11 big league games since being the No. 1 overall pick in the draft last July, became the first rookie starter since 1995 and had the fewest games played for any player to make an All-Star team.

The right-hander threw a hitless first, with a two-out walk to Soto before his Yankees teammate Aaron Judge grounded into a forceout on the next pitch.

Skenes threw 11 of 16 pitches for streaks, with seven fastballs up to 100.1 mph.

Ohtani, who has gone deep 29 times in his first season of his record \$700 million, 10-year deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers, pulled a 400-foot drive to right off Tanner Houck. That came after the Boston right-hander allowed singles to the first two batters he faced: No. 9 batter Jurickson Proffar and leadoff hitter Ketel Marte.

When Ohtani went against Miller in the fifth, he struck out on an 89.2 mph slider well inside and out of the strike zone. That was after twice taking strikes on fastballs of more than 100 mph.

OVAC All-Stars eager to continue familiar tradition

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — For the young men representing West Virginia and Ohio this weekend, Monday was the start of what will be a week-long voyage to the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, to be held on Wheeling Island Stadium.

It's a voyage that includes plenty of practices for the best of the best in the OVAC's graduating class, but also plenty of extra-curriculars. And it's a voyage with an event at the end which the players of this year's all-star game hold in high esteem.

In a way, the game — set for July 20 — stands as the final send-off of last season and heralding of the new campaign in August. It's a game that has been around as long — and far longer — than any of this year's participants can remember. For many, it is an opportunity to put one's skills on display one last time, but for all, it's a tradition that they have waited a long time to take part in.

"It means a lot," River quarterback Kabel Isaly said of the game. "I know a lot of these guys, I played with them, played against them for many years. I've come up here and watched this game for many years. It just means a lot to be able to play with these guys, this high level of talent. It's awesome."

See **TRADITION**, Page B2

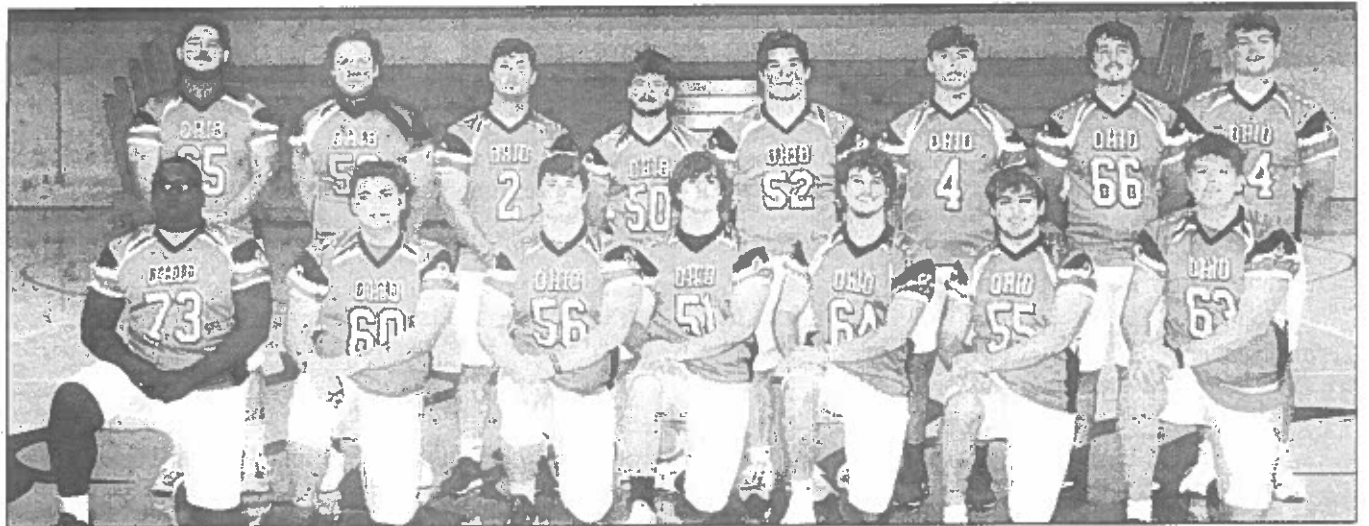


Photo by KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the offensive and defensive line candidates for the Ohio All Stars when they clash with the West Virginia All Stars Saturday night at Wheeling Island Stadium in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Kickoff is set for 7:15. Front row, from left, are Javin Harper (Steubenville), Jase Norman (Caldwell), Graham Baker (Fort Frye), Alex Beaver (Union Local), Hunter Boals (Harrison Central), Perry Patrone (St. Clairsville) and Griffin Fogle (St. Clairsville). Back row, from left, are JR Adams (St. Clairsville), Peyton Gorby (Steubenville), Kaden Johnson (River), Andrew Leiffer (Martins Ferry), Joey Simpson (Edison), Drew White (Bellair), Brendan Grimm (Steubenville Catholic) and Trenton Davis (East Liverpool). Not pictured is Jaxson Mast (Dover).

• Ohio linemen picked for OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star game

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — It's been said that football games are

won in the trenches. If that is so, Ohio has firepower on both sides of the line for Saturday night's 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley

All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kickoff is set for 7:15.

Although positions could switch between now and

game time, the Buckeyes have a bevy of decorated down linemen.

See **OHIO**, Page B2



File Photo

BARNESVILLE'S TAISON Starr reels in a pass during a game this past season. Starr will represent Ohio in Saturday's 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium.

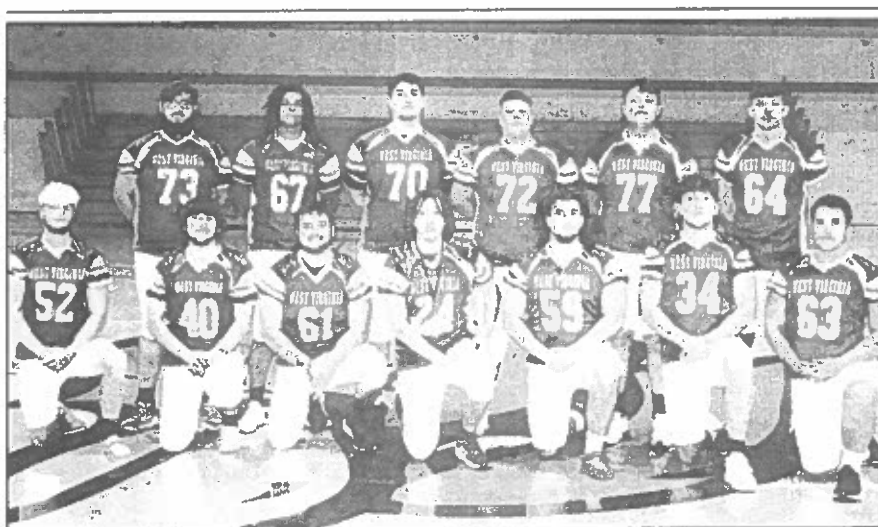


Photo by KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the offensive and defensive line candidates for the W.Va. All Stars when they meet the Ohio All Stars Saturday night at Wheeling Island Stadium in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Kick-off is set for 7:15. Front row, from left, are Hunter Goddard (Magnolia), Ryder Stern (Cameron), Thad Dempewolf (Cameron), Jordan Beasley (Wheeling Park), Anthony Zorbini (Weir), Landon Taylor (Linsly) and Lucca Ferrera (Wheeling Central). Back row, from left, are Ayden Britton (Hundred), Alias Pugh (Weir), Derek Croghan (Wheeling Park), Scott Schenerlein (John Marshall), Jaydin Lynch (Magnolia) and Tyler Wise (Brooke).

• West Virginia linemen tapped for upcoming all-star game

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — There may not be much beef along the offensive and defensive lines of the West Virginia All Stars, but there is plenty of athleticism.

The Mountaineers will square off with their Ohio counterparts Saturday

night inside Wheeling Island Stadium in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Kick off is set for 7:15.

On its training camp roster, West Virginia has just 13 linemen ticketed for duty along both fronts.

JORDAN BEASLEY, Wheeling

Park — A 6-1, 220-pound defensive end for the Patriots, he accounted for 68 tackles, nine tackles for lost yards and had one quarterback sack.

His cousin, Corey Straub, played in the 2007 game.

See **WEST VIRGINIA**, Page B2

• Tradition

Continued from Page A1

"It's obviously a really big opportunity, a ton of people come out to watch this game," Wheelign Park safety Jared Marsh said. "Even though I don't have an interest in playing football at the next level it's still great to be around these guys and this type of competition."

For as far back as the all-star game goes, players are focused on the present, letting their competitive instincts and pride for their state show in their preparation for Saturday.

"It's really an honor, I can't thank [Harrison Central's] coach Hayes and his staff enough for picking me," Barnesville linebacker/runningback Taison Starr said. "It really is a prestigious honor and I'm looking forward to getting after it."

"It means a lot because I grew up watching this game and hoping I'd be chosen for it one day," Weir running-back Corey Lyons said. "They picked me and I'm proud to represent West

Virginia."

Last year, West Virginia defeated Ohio 13-9. While many of the players in this year's outing remember games from far back, the more recent years have held special importance for many others — allowing them to see their own senior teammates take part, and reminding them that it would be their time soon enough.

"I've had a couple of receivers play, and a lineman last year," Isaly said. "Coming to watch them play, I just saw the high level of talent and how awesome it was. People always said good things about the camp and the week, and being able to spend time with these guys and be able to play a football game one more time."

"I had two last year and three the year prior play in this game," Lyons said. "And my cousins played in it."

Last year, Park's Erick Brothers, Weir's Jamari Bass, River's Brody Lollathin and Brayden Strawn, and Barnesville's CJ Hannahs and Quintin

Leasure were each on the team.

"Growing up I always came down to watch this with my uncle," Starr said. "I always said, I'm going to play in this game one day. Here I am. It's really an honor."

"I've been watching Park guys play in this game for 10 years now," Marsh said. "That championship team that we had in 2015. I was there watching this game and some of my favorite guys I've ever met played in it that year. It's an honor to be playing now."

Only a few short days stand in-between now and Saturday, but each year, the OVAC makes sure those days are jam-packed. With Tuesday's George Strager Evening With The Stars, Wednesday's Shriners Social, Thursday's Queen of Queens Pageant, and Friday's pep rally all adding to a week of practice, this year's players are aiming to soak it all in before the big game.

"There's a lot of things to do," Isaly said. "A big schedule, supporting the

cheerleaders and the band, a couple things to go to. It's going to be a busy week but I'm excited."

"That's the plan," Marsh said of staying busy. "I'm a baseball player but now I get a nice week-long break, take a step back and play some football. It's great to be back on the field."

No matter how many socials and pep rallies there are, Saturday will still come. Though, not soon enough for the eager all-stars.

"It's a great opportunity to have a great week and end it by representing West Virginia," Lyons said.

"These guys are all great athletes," Starr said. "And I can't wait for Saturday."

NOTE

The Queen of Queens Pageant for this Thursday has changed venues to the JB Chambers Performing Arts Center at Wheeling Park High School. Tickets are available at <http://ovac.org> and tickets at the door will be cash only.

• Ohio

Continued from Page A1

JR ADAMS — St. Clairsville

— One of three line candidates for the Red Devils, the 6-4, 295-pound Adams saw action along the defensive front. In his career, he recorded 198 tackles, 23 quarterback sacks, 41 tackles for loss, forced a dozen fumbles and recovered five.

He earned all-Buckeye 8 first team honors and was an honorable mention all-Ohio selection.

Adams will attend NCAA Division I Mercyhurst University on a full athletic scholarship.

He is the son of Amy and Rogers Adams. They reside in St. Clairsville.

GRAHAM BAKER, Fort Frye — Baker was selected as a first-team all-Ohioan his senior season for the Cadets. He was also the Eastern District Defensive Player of the Year and first-team all-OVAC.

Last season, the 5-11, 240-pounder charted 133 tackles and 17 quarterback sacks.

He will attend Capital University in the fall.

Baker is the son of Janis and Brian Baker of Beverly.

ALEX BEAVER, Union Local — This 6-0, 235-pounder played on both sides of the ball for the Jets. He was a three-year letterman earning second-team all-Buckeye 8 honors, as well as being honorable mention all-OVAC. He was also OVAC all-Academic.

He will attend Bethany College.

Alex is the son of Rebecca Beaver of Bethesda.

HUNTER BOALS, Harrison Central — A four-year

letterwinner for the Huskies, the 6-0, 230-pound Boals was also a two-way performer.

He was a first-team all-Buckeye 8 performer and also earned four letters in track.

Boals was also Ohio all-Academic.

He is undecided upon his college plans.

Boals is the son of Haley and Bobby Boals of Scio.

TRENTON DAVIS, East Liverpool — A terror on defense, this 5-10, 225-pound Potter amassed 103 tackles, eight TFLs, forced three fumbles, sacked the quarterback twice and picked off a pass.

He was accorded first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-Buckeye 8 laurels.

He will attend Ohio Northern University.

Davis is the son of Kristi and Chris Davis. They reside in Lisbon. His father played in the 1998 game and his uncle, Brian, played in 2003.

GRIFFIN FOGLE, St. Clairsville — This 6-4, 285-pounder has been invited to walk on at West Virginia University after earning first-team all-Buckeye 8, all-OVAC and all-Eastern District. He was a Division IV honorable mention all-Ohio.

He graded out at 87 percent his senior and recorded an eye-popping 40 pancake blocks.

Fogle is the son of Johna and Chris Fogle of St. Clairsville.

BRENDAN GRIMM, Steubenville Catholic — A 6-0, 225-pound defensive end, Grimm was a two-time all-OVAC first-teamer, along with being selected as a Division VII honorable mention all-stater his senior season

when he chalked up 67 tackles and five quarterback sacks.

His cousin, Cullen Marshall, participated in the 2008 game.

Grimm is the son of Karen and Michael Grimm. They reside in Steubenville.

PEYTON GORBY, Steubenville — Primarily a defensive tackle, he was honored with the Calvin Jones and earned first-team all-Eastern District and second-team all-Ohio after a 60-tackle, nine-TFL, eight-quarterback sack performance in 2023. He also recovered a pair of fumbles and had a pick-6.

The 6-0, 220-pounder will attend the New Castle (Pa.) School of Trades.

Gorby is the son of Faith and Eli Gorby of Winterville.

JAVIN HARPER, Steubenville — A 6-2, 300-pound road grader, Harper will continue his academic and athletic careers at West Liberty University.

He graded out at 92-percent blocking in 2023 when he earned all-Eastern District and all-OVAC honors.

Harper is the son of Patricia Harper of Wintersville.

KADEN JOHNSON, River — This multi-talented Pilot saw action at defensive end, tight end and running back during his high school career.

A 5-11, 230-pounder, he had 20 solo tackles, 24 assists, seven TFLs and four quarterback sacks in 2023. He was first-team all-Eastern District and all-OVAC.

He will attend Bethany College.

Johnson is the son of Marcia Adams and David Johnson. He resides in Sardis.

ANDREW LEIFFER, Martins Ferry — A 5-7,

175-pounder, Leiffer will be the lone Purple Rider to participate in the contest. Teammate Baron Lucey is injured.

Leiffer charted 72 tackles, two quarterback sacks, 10 TFLs, caused four fumbles and recovered two as a linebacker. He also graded out at 86 percent on offense.

He was a third-team all-Ohio selection and a first-team all-Eastern District honoree.

He will attend Belmont Tech.

Leiffer is the son of Joann and Neil Leiffer of Martins Ferry.

JAXSON MAST, Dover

— A two-year letterwinner and three-year scholar-athlete honoree, this 6-3, 250-pounder played both ways in the trenches for the Tornadoes.

He recorded 16 tackles, pressured the quarterback four times and had a pair of tackles for minus yardage.

He will attend Baldwin Wallace University.

Mast is the son of Diana and Aaron Mast of Dover.

JASE NORMAN, Caldwell

— Another two-way standout, this 6-0, 275-pounder did not allow a quarterback sack his senior season while also supplying blocking for an offense that ran for more than 2,000 yards and racked up 4,600 yards of offense.

Defensively, he registered 35 tackles, had eight TFLs and half-a-dozen quarterback sacks.

He will attend Bowling Green State University.

Norman is the son of Janae Tucker and Jason Norman. He resides in Sarahsville.

PERRY PATRONE —

St. Clairsville — A Marshall University signee for track,

this 5-10, 225-pounder was an integral part of the Red Devils success. He had 27 pancake blocks as a center last fall, two more than his junior season. He was selected as a third-team Division IV all-Ohioan and was first-team all-Buckeye 8 and all-OVAC. He graded out at 87 percent.

He earned several special awards and placed fifth in the Division II state shot put.

Patrone is the son of Kaura and Christopher Patrone. They live in St. Clairsville.

JOEY SIMPSON, Edison — The lone representative for the Wildcats, Simpson was a two-way stalwart.

The 5-11, 265-pounder graded out at 94 percent. He allowed just one sack and had 34 knockdowns. Defensively, he posted 74 tackles, with 23 being solo stops. He also charted 22 TFLs and sacked the opposing quarterback six times.

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His uncle, John Ferguson, played in the 1987 game.

White is the son of Donna and the late Scott White. He resides in Bellaire.

• West Virginia

Continued from Page A1

He will attend West Virginia Northern.

Beasley is the son of Chasity Beasley and Shayne Saunders. He resides in Wheeling.

AYDEN BRITTON, Hundred — The Hornets

only representative, this 6-3, 250-pounder played offensive line and middle linebacker last fall.

He registered 22 solo

stops, assisted on 41 other tackles and had five tackles for minus yards. He also caused a fumble and recov-

ered one.

Britton is the son of Jen and Brian Britton of Hundred.

DEREK CROGHAN, Wheeling Park — This 6-5, 300-pound Glenville State University recruit was a second-team Class AAA all-stater and was first-team all-Valley.

Defensively, he charted 53 tackles and four TFLs.

He is the son of Marylou Metz and Derek Croghan.

THADDEUS DEMPEWOLF, Cameron

— A two-way standout

for Dragons, the 5-10, 225-pounder was a first-team all-OVAC selection and a second-team Class A All-West Virginia awardee.

He had 54 tackles in his career.

Dempewolf will attend West Virginia Northern.

He is the son of Jessica and David Dempewolf. They reside in Glen Easton.

LUCCA FERRERA, Wheeling Central — This 5-10, 245-pounder is a fourth generation OVAC Rudy Mumley game par-

ticipant. He follows in the footsteps of his grandfather, Larry Ferrera, Jr. (1963); his father, Larry Ferrera III (1990); and his brother, Lorenzo (2023).

Ferrera was a dual threat on both sides of the ball, recording 65 tackles, 12 TFLs and 10 quarterback sacks. He was a first-team all-stater, first-team all-OVAC and a second-team all-Valley product. He also earned all-state honors in Lacrosse.

He is undecided upon his college plans.

Ferrera is the son of Andee and Larry Ferrera. They reside in Benwood.

HUNTER GODDARD, Magnolia — A 5-10, 200-pounder for the Blue Eagles, Goddard managed 40 tackles, 11 quarterback sacks and six TFLs. He also forced four fumbles and recovered three.

He will attend Glenville State University this fall.

Goddard is the son of Nikki and Danny Goddard. They reside in New Martinsville.

SCOTT SCHENERLEIN, John Marshall

— This 6-2, 290-pound anchored the middle of the Monarchs offensive line at

for the Dragons. He was a team captain and earned all-OVAC first team honors.

The 6-0, 200-pounder is the son of Dawnett and Tom Stern of Cameron.

LONDON TAYLOR, Linsly — A 6-3, 240-pounder, Taylor is also an accomplished powerlifter, holding the USPA Ohio State record for squat, bench and total. He is a two-time state champ.

On the football field, Taylor recorded 57 tackles, four TFLs and two quarterback sacks last fall for the Cadets.

He will attend West Virginia University.

Taylor is the son of Sabrina and Richard Taylor.

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SCOTT SCHENERLEIN, John Marshall — This 6-2, 290-pound anchored the middle of the Monarchs offensive line at center.

He is undecided upon his future plans.

Schenerlein is the son of Kendra Tew (Hunter) and Scott Schenerlein Sr. He resides in Moundsville.

RYDER STERN, Cameron — He registered 29 tackles last season

for the Dragons. He was a team captain and earned all-OVAC first team honors.

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LANDON TAYLOR, Linsly — A 6-3, 240-pounder, Taylor is also an accomplished powerlifter, holding the USPA Ohio State record for squat, bench and total. He is a two-time state champ.

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He will attend West Virginia University.

Taylor is the son of Sabrina and Richard Taylor. They reside in Bellaire.

TYLER WISE, Brooke — Primarily a defensive end for the Bruins, this 6-3, 210-pounder registered 51 tackles, nine assists, 10 TFLs and 6.5 quarterback sacks last fall. He also blocked at 88-percent clip.

Wise also won the 2024 West Virginia 215-pound state wrestling title and will attend Fairmont State University to continue his academic and wrestling careers.

Wise is the son of Debra and Greg Wise of Follansbee. His father played in the 1992 game.

ANTHONY ZORBINI, Weir — A Washington and Jefferson University recruit, this 6-0, 250-pound former Red Rider was all-state, all-OVAC and all-Valley.

He is the son of Darcy and Brian Zorbini of Weirton.

• West Virginia

Continued from Page A1

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LUCCA FERRERA, Wheeling Central — This 5-10, 245-pounder is a fourth generation OVAC Rudy Mumley game participant.

He follows in the footsteps of his grandfather, Larry Ferrera, Jr. (1963); his father, Larry Ferrera III (1990); and his brother, Lorenzo (2023).

Ferrera was a dual threat on both sides of the ball, recording 65 tackles, 12 TFLs and 10 quarterback sacks. He was a first-team all-stater, first-team all-OVAC and a second-team all-Valley product. He also earned all-state honors in Lacrosse.

He is undecided upon his college plans.

Ferrera is the son of Andee and Larry Ferrera. They reside in Benwood.

HUNTER GODDARD, Magnolia — A 5-10, 200-pounder for the Blue Eagles, Goddard managed 40 tackles, 11 quarterback sacks and six TFLs. He also forced four fumbles and recovered three.

He will attend Glenville State University this fall.

Goddard is the son of Nikki and Danny Goddard. They reside in New Martinsville.

SCOTT SCHENERLEIN, John Marshall — This 6-2, 290-pound anchored the middle of the Monarchs offensive line at center.

He is undecided upon his future plans.

Schenerlein is the son of Kendra Tew (Hunter) and Scott Schenerlein Sr. He resides in Moundsville.

RYDER STERN, Cameron — He registered 29 tackles last season

for the Dragons. He was a team captain and earned all-OVAC first team honors.

The 6-0, 200-pounder is the son of Dawnett and Tom Stern of Cameron.

LANDON TAYLOR, Linsly — A 6-3, 240-pounder, Taylor is also an accomplished powerlifter, holding the USPA Ohio State record for squat, bench and total. He is a two-time state champ.

On the football field, Taylor recorded 57 tackles, four TFLs and two quarterback sacks last fall for the Cadets.

He will attend West Virginia University.

Taylor is the son of Sabrina and Richard Taylor. They reside in Bellaire.

TYLER WISE, Brooke — Primarily a defensive end for the Bruins, this 6-3, 210-pounder registered 51 tackles, nine assists, 10 TFLs and 6.5 quarterback sacks last fall. He also blocked at 88-percent clip.

Wise also won the 2024 West Virginia 215-pound state wrestling title and will attend Fairmont State University to continue his academic and wrestling careers.

Wise is the son of Debra and Greg Wise of Follansbee. His father played in the 1992 game.

ANTHONY ZORBINI, Weir — A Washington and Jefferson University recruit, this 6-0, 250-pound former Red Rider was all-state, all-OVAC and all-Valley.

He is the son of Darcy and Brian Zorbini of Weirton.

ered one.
Britton is the son of Jen and Brian Britton of Hundred.
DEREK CROGHAN, Wheeling Park — This 6-5, 300-pound Glenville State University recruit was a second-team Class AAA all-stater and was first-team all-Valley.
Defensively, he charted 53 tackles and four TFLs.
He is the son of Marylou Metz and Derek Croghan.
THADDEUS DEMPPEWOLF, Cameron — A two-way standout

for Dragons, the 5-10, 225-pounder was a first-team all-OVAC selection and a second-team Class A Aall-West Virginia awardee.
He had 54 tackles in his career.
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He is the son of Jessica and David Dempewolf. They reside in Glen Easton.

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Tuesday,
July 16, 2024

All-star coaches introduced



Photo by KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the Harrison Central coaching staff that will coach the Ohio team in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday against West Virginia at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Drew Case, Roger Herbert, head coach Anthony Hayes, Ian White and Cain Noble. Back row, from left, are David Nameth, Bill Bryant, AJ Barsch, Ty Kenny and Mark Smith.

• Harrison Central Husky staff set to lead Ohio team

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Anthony Hayes and his Harrison Central staff will lead the Ohio All Stars into Saturday night's clash with West Virginia in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Classic at Wheeling Island.

The Huskies went 9-3 and advanced to the second round of the OHSAA Division V, Region 17 playoffs before falling.

■ **ANTHONY HAYES** — A 1996 graduate of Cadiz

High School, Hayes has been coaching football for 21 years, the last six as head coach of the Huskies. His other stops include Green and Cadiz high schools.

For his team's accomplishments last fall, Hayes was selected the Eastern District Coach of the Year in Division V. He is 31-28 in his career.

Hayes and his wife, Megan, have two daughters, Kendall (12) and Kinsey (10). They reside in Cadiz.

■ **BILL BRYANT** — A graduate of Heidelberg Col-

lege, Bryant also serves as the Huskies head wrestling coach. He is in his 23rd year of coaching.

Bryant is a graduate of Cadiz High School and has also coached track.

Bryant and his wife, Angela, have three children: Cael, Aubrey and Brasen. They reside in Dennison.

■ **TY KENNY** — A former three-sport standout for the Huskies, Kenney played football, basketball and ran track during his high school days.

He has been coaching foot-

ball for 14 years, with eight of those coming at his alma mater.

Kenney serves as the seventh grade boys basketball coach and the head girls track coach at Harrison Central.

Kenney and his wife, Kara, have one daughter: Alivia. They reside in Cadiz.

■ **DAVID NAMETH** — This Cadiz High School graduate was selected to play in the 1992 OVAC Rudy Mumley game, however, the contest was rained out.

See **OHIO**, Page B2

• Coaches of Weir High To Lead West Virginia squad

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The Weir High football staff was rewarded for winning the OVAC Class 4A title and advancing to the W. Va. Class AA semifinals with the announcement that they would lead the West Virginia All Stars in Saturday night's game against Ohio at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The Red Riders went 11-2 under head coach Frank Sisinni, who was, subsequently, named the OVAC Class 4A Coach of the Year.

■ **FRANK SISINNI** — A graduate of Brooke High School, Sisinni has also coached at his alma mater and Steubenville among his 25 years in the sport. He is in his 12th year at Weir, the last four as head coach. He is 22-17 as a head coach.

Sisinni led the Weir High softball team to the regional finals in 2018 as the head coach. They finished 20-8.

He served as an assistant coach on the 2010 W. Va. staff for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game.

Sisinni is a West Liberty University graduate.

He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Weirton.

■ **JOHN LEARY** — A 1980 graduate of Brooke and a 1984 alum of West Liberty, Leary has been coaching football for 38 years, the last 10 at Weir.

He is also the head softball coach at Weir and helped with the boys basketball program. He has also coached baseball, track, golf and wrestling.

He and his wife, Linda, have a daughter: Johnna. They reside in Wellsburg.



Photo by KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the Weir coaching staff that will coach the West Virginia team in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday against Ohio at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Tom Taylor, head coach Frank Sisinni, and David Cowden. Back row, from left, are John Leary and Chris Hill.

ed head coaching stops at Madonna and Oak Glen. He has 25 years experience as an assistant coach and has been with the Red Riders for 22 seasons. He was the Golden Bears head football coach from 2000-2006 and at Weir from 2009-10.

He is currently the head wrestling coach at Weir and has also coached boys track.

Taylor and his wife, Ropberta, have a

ball at Weir for 11 years.

Cowden attended Clarion University.

He and his wife, Allison, have three children: Adam, Kaleigh and Elliana. They reside in Weirton.

■ **CHRIS HILL** — A graduate of Weir High School, Hill has been coaching for 18 years, the past six with the Red Riders. He was a member of the 2015 West Virginia All-Star team.

Corbin Burnes to start against Paul Skenes in All-Star Game

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Baltimore's Corbin Burnes will start for the American League in Tuesday night's All-Star Game against Pittsburgh rookie Paul Skenes.

A 29-year-old right-hander, Burnes is 9-4 with a 2.93 ERA in his first season with the Orioles, who acquired him from Milwaukee just before spring training. The 2021 NL Cy Young Award winner, Burnes is an All-Star for the fourth straight season. He will become the fifth Orioles pitcher to start an All-Star Game, the first since Steve Stone in 1980.

Skenes, who made his major league debut on May 11, is 6-0 with a 1.90 ERA in 11 starts, striking out 89 and walking 13 in 66 1/3 innings. The 11 starts for the 21-year-old right-hander will be the fewest for an All-Star and he will become the fifth rookie starter after Dave Stenhouse (1962), Mark Fidrych (1976), Fernando Valenzuela (1981) and Hideo Nomo (1995).

NL manager Torey Lovullo announced last week he was starting Skenes.

AL manager Bruce Bochy of World Series champion Texas said Monday he has Steven Kwan of Cleveland hitting leadoff and playing left field, followed by Baltimore shortstop Gunnar Henderson, New York Yankees right fielder Juan Soto and center fielder Aaron Judge. Houston designated hitter Jordan Alvarez, Guardians shortstop Jose Ramirez, Toronto first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Orioles catcher Adley Rutschman and Rangers second baseman Marcus Semien.

Ketel Marte bats first and plays second base for the NL, followed by Los Angeles Dodgers designated hitter Shohei Ohtani, Philadelphia shortstop Trea Turner, Phillies first baseman Bryce Harper, Milwaukee catcher William Contreras, Brewers right fielder Christian Yelich, Phillies third baseman Alex Bohm, Dodgers center fielder Teoscar Hernandez and San Diego left fielder Jurickson Profar.

Harman starts his British Open title defense by returning the claret jug

TROON, Scotland (AP) — Of all the recent traditions in the Royal & Ancient game, what Brian Harman took part in on Monday afternoon might be the least enjoyable.

Returning the claret jug. The formal handover of the British Open trophy required a little pomp. Harman was in the back seat of an SUV. The destination was not much

• Ohio

Continued from Page B1

He has coached football for the Huskies for the last five years and has also helped with the wrestling program.

He resides in Cadiz with his girlfriend, Emily Coultrap. Nameth has three daughters: Shianne, Shaniel and Shayla.

■ **ROGER HERBERT** — A graduate of Union Local High School, Herbert served as an assistant coach for the Jets and also was head coach of the UL softball program. He then served as head football coach at Buckeye Local for four years and the head baseball coach for one. He also helped with the Panthers' wrestling program.

He has 21 years as a football coach, 17 as an assistant. He has been with the Huskies for two seasons.

Herbert and his wife, Melanie, have two sons: Lane (21) and Trevor (19). They reside in Dillonvale.

■ **CAIN NOBLE** — He is also a Buckeye Local graduate and has 20 years of football coaching experience, with 13 of those coming at Harrison Central. His other stops include Buckeye Local and Edison.

A Fairmont State University alum, Noble has also coached baseball.

He and his wife, Caitlin, have two children: Jackson (8) and Jordyn (4). They reside in Yorkville.

■ **DREW CASE** — Another graduate of Cadiz High School, Case has been with the Huskies for three of his six seasons coaching football. He also coached three years at Cadiz.

The Ohio University graduate is also an assistant wrestling coach and has coached baseball and softball in the past.

He and his wife, Corisa, have two daughters: Camryn and Kenna. They reside in Adena.

■ **MARK SMITH** — This former Cadiz Cardinal played in the 1994 OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Classic. He has been coaching the Huskies for the last six years.

He served in the United States Army for six-and-a-half years and also attended the EGCC Police Academy.

He and his wife, Christina, have three sons: Mark, Matthew and Michael. They reside in Cadiz.

■ **A.J. BARSCH** — A graduate of Buckeye Local where he coached for two years, Barsch has been with Harrison Central for the past eight seasons.

He was a three-sport performer (football, basketball and baseball) at Buckeye Local. He was a member of the coaching staff on the Harrison Central baseball team that advanced to the Division II state finals in 2023.

He resides in Cadiz.

■ **IAN WHITE** — A graduate of Harrison Central, White has coached with the Huskies for six seasons. He has also coached baseball and basketball.

He was a three-sport performer for the Huskies (football, basketball and baseball).

He and his fiancée, Hannah Mattern, reside in Cadiz. He also has a daughter, Caelyn White (9).

• Hernandez

Continued from Page B1

Hernandez beat Philadelphia's Alec Bohm 16-15 after a tiebreaker when both got three swings — Hernandez hit two out, and Bohm one. They were tied at 14 after the three-minute segment and their bonus rounds, and Bohm came close to avoiding that, but the last ball he hit then landed on the warning track in left-center field.

Ramirez and Bohm both hit 21 homers to pace the first round. Witt started with 20 homers and Hernandez had 19.

The New York Mets' Pete Alonso fell short in his bid to join Ken Griffey Jr. as a three-time derby champion when he hit only 12 homers in the first round.

Instead of a single-elimination bracket like last year, the four hitters with the most homers in the first round advanced to the semifinal round. It then became a bracket-style competition.

Alonso hit a 428-foot homer to left-centerfield on his first swing, but couldn't get into a rhythm. The others knocked out after the first

round were hometown favorite Adolis Garcia of Texas, Atlanta's Marcell Ozuna and Baltimore's Gunnar Henderson.

"It's disappointing, but for me, I think it's really just a blessing and it's just of fun being out there," Alonso said. "At the end of the day, it wasn't my day."

Ozuna did have the longest homer of the night at 473 feet. Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels in 2022, and Oakland's Seth Brown in 2021 have both hit 472 feet homers in games at the stadium that is now in its fifth season.

Bohm, one of a franchise-record eight Phillies named All-Stars, has only 11 homers this season — the fewest among the eight derby competitors. He said he was going to try to hit as many balls as he could to left field and did — pulling all 21 of his homers that way in the first round.

"Who would have thought?" Bohm said after the first round about advancing.

Ramirez hit left-handed, a change from what he has done when hitting in past home run con-

tests, and what he had planned until a round of batting practice Monday.

It still felt like 100 degrees outside Globe Life Park when the derby began, but the retractable roof was closed on the stadium that opened in 2020. When the Rangers hosted the 1995 All-Star Game across the street in their old stadium without a roof, the derby wasn't yet a prime-time event and was held in the sweltering mid-afternoon heat.

Frank Thomas won in 1995 with 15 homers over three rounds in a different format. Albert Belle finished with a total of 16, then a Home Run Derby record, but Thomas beat him 3-2 in the final round.

With Garcia knocked out, there remain only three players who have won the title in their home ballpark. The last was Bryce Harper when he was still with the Washington Nationals in 2018, after Cincinnati's Todd Frazier in 2015 and Ryne Sandberg of the Chicago Cubs in 1990.

• Harman

Continued from Page B1

The homecoming of the claret jug was an unofficial way to launch the start of the final men's major of the year. The 152nd Open Championship begins Thursday on the Scottish links along the Firth of Clyde on the Irish Sea.

Royal Troon is renowned for its pot bunkers that are so deep they effectively serve as a one-shot penalty when tee shots find them on the longer holes. The outward holes are shorter with the prevailing wind, the inward holes are longer and into the wind.

"You have to take them on," Scottie Scheffler said.

Harman had gone six years without a win until putting together a masterpiece last year to lead over the final 51 holes and win by six. He hasn't won since then, a matter of getting his putter to coop-

erate. He hopes that's the case this week.

"You can work and work and work. You just never know when that work is going to pay off," Harman said. "You never know when the peak is coming. You never know when you're going to catch a little bit of momentum. So you just have to hope it's a big week."

No one has won back to back in the British Open since Padraig Harrington in 2007 (Carnoustie) and 2008 (Royal Birkdale). Go back to 1960 and the list of repeat winners includes only Tiger Woods, Tom Watson, Lee Trevino and Arnold Palmer.

"A little sad to give it back, but I'll remember everywhere it's been forever," Harman said. "I'm happy to give it back, happy to be here. Ready to get going."

Royal Troon is green and lush, and the rough

is particularly thick at the base of turf. This isn't likely to be a bright and sunny week along the Ayrshire coast, and the links have been busy.

Woods arrived Sunday and went 18 holes, spending much of his time chipping and putting. His son Charlie is not with him, instead at home preparing for the U.S. Junior Amateur next week outside Detroit.

Scheffler got into the competitive spirit, playing alongside Sam Burns as they took some cash from PGA champion Xander Schauffele and Patrick Cantlay.

After handing off the jug, Harman headed out to see Royal Troon for the first time. Monday was largely a day of reflection and he was eager to move forward.

But it was a good year, even without another win. He took the jug to Geor-

gia Bulldogs football and Atlanta Braves baseball games. He took it everywhere he could, a reminder of reaching the pinnacle of his sport.

"You never know how it's going to go, but just the reception from everyone back home was overwhelming, just how excited everyone was," he said. "I was obviously very excited, but to be able to share that excitement with people that I care about was probably the best."

Harman was among several players who came across the coast from the Scottish Open last week, a list that included Robert MacIntyre, though his immediately whereabouts could not be confirmed. MacIntyre won the Scottish with an eagle-par-birdie finish and promised he would "celebrate hard" as the first Scot to win his national open in 25 years.

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Anderson picked up the win with seven shutout innings, allowing four hits and walking two while punching out 10 batters. "Henry put us on his back there, that was big-time out of him," Post 1 assistant coach Isaac Rine said. "We wouldn't have been in the position that we were if it hadn't been for him, we couldn't get the offense going early. I can't say enough about what Henry did today, it was awesome."

Billick pitched five scoreless innings before Post 1 got to him in the sixth.

"I think Caleb did an amazing job," Post 34 head coach Micah Knisely said. "I'm not surprised, because I know what he's capable of. I'm proud that he stuck it out and he pitched well today."

Billick also got some help from his defense, right fielder Zac O'Mery throwing out a runner at the plate after snagging a fly ball for an inning-ending double play.

Billick induced nine fly outs

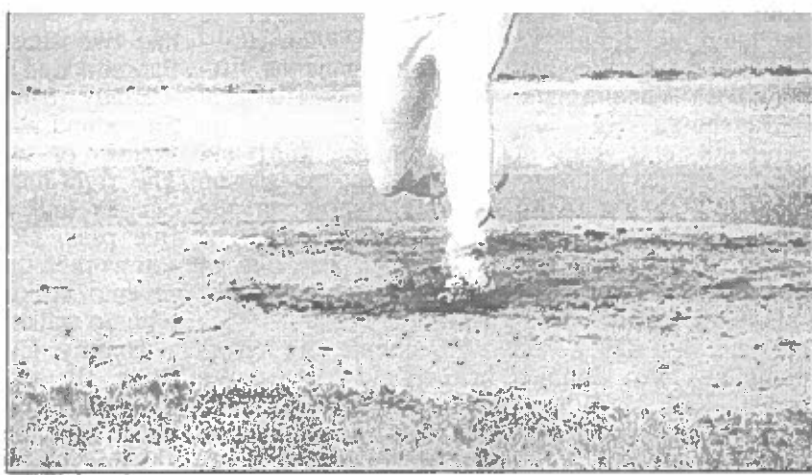


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Post 1's Henry Anderson throws a pitch against Wellsburg Post 34 Monday at the JB Chambers I-470 Complex in each team's first game of the American Legion W.Va. Area One Tournament. Anderson threw a complete game shutout with 10 strikeouts.

Monday.

For Post 8, their big sixth inning started with the top of their lineup, leadoff man Alex Taylor drawing a walk to start the frame, and Braxton Billick and Jaxon

Murray each following up with singles struck the opposite way into right. Taylor scored to break open the scoring on Murray's base knock.

Please see EXPLODES, Page 10

Stung by Errors In Loss To Parkersburg

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer
WHEELING

Moundsville was in the giving mood early in Monday night's West Virginia Area One American Legion baseball tournament, and Parkersburg was more than willing to accept.

Post 3 committed a trio of costly errors and walked two batters and Post 15 took advantage in posting a 7-2 victory on Patriot Field at Wheeling Park High School.

"Offensively we kept pressure on them all night, but give Moundsville credit, they hung in there," Parkersburg manager Mike Goodwin said.

"We were able to steal a couple of bases and get runners in scoring position. That was the difference in the game."

Moundsville, the designated visitor as the No. 4 seed, actually led 1-0 when Cain Martin scored on an error after being hit-by-a-pitch in the top of the first.

Top-seeded Parkersburg (22-11) responded with three runs in the bottom of the inning and never looked back in building a 5-1 lead after two and 7-2 at the end of three.

Evan Swain belted a two-run single to highlight the three-run first.

Please see STUNG, Page 10

Dodgers' Hernandez Wins Home Run Derby, Beats Witt Jr. In Final Round

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Baseball Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — Los Angeles Dodgers' Teoscar Hernandez won the Home Run Derby when he beat local star Bobby Witt Jr. of the Kansas City Royals 14-13 in the final round Monday night.

The 31-year-old Hernandez hit 49 homers over three rounds that totaled 3.98 miles and became the first Dodgers player to win the derby. Kansas City has never had a winner.

Witt, needing one to tie with one out remaining, drove a ball to one of the deepest parts of the park in left-center, where it hit halfway up the wall.

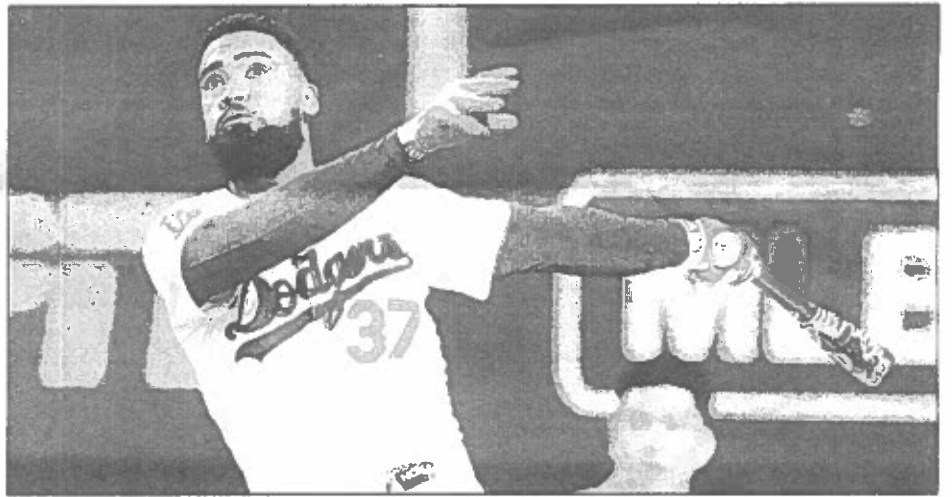
Both finished their two-minute final round with 11 homers, before bonus swings were added. Witt came up short of his first two bonus swings,

then hit two homers in a row — one a 457-foot drive that got him one more swing.

Witt was the No. 2 overall pick by the Royals in 2019 out of Colleyville Heritage High School, about 15 miles north of Globe Life Field. It was his first time in the derby, but he was the high school home run champion in Washington in 2018 — and is the only player to compete in both contests.

Witt had knocked out Cleveland switch-hitter Jose Ramirez 17-12 in the semifinals. Hernandez beat Philadelphia's Alec Bohm 16-15 after a tiebreaker when both got three swings — Hernandez hit two out, and Bohm one.

Please see DERBY, Page 10



AP Photo

National League's Teoscar Hernandez, of the Los Angeles Dodgers, follows through during the MLB baseball All-Star Home Run Derby, Monday, July 15, 2024, in Arlington, Texas.

78TH ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME COACHING STAFFS

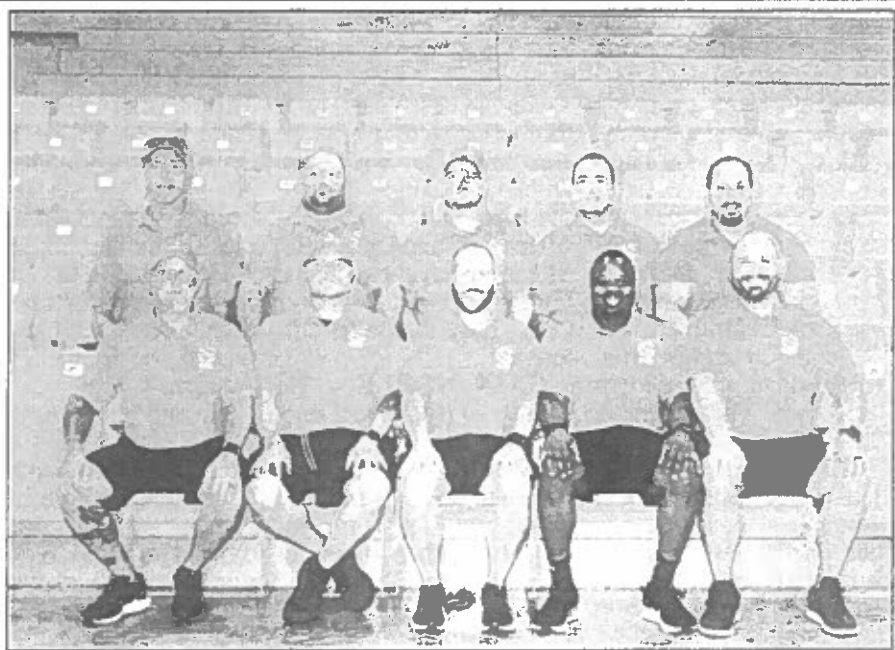


Photo by Kim North

Pictured are the Harrison Central coaching staff that will coach the Ohio team in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday against West Virginia at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Drew Case, Roger Herbert, head coach Anthony Hayes, Ian White and Cain Noble. Back row, from left, are David Nameth, Bill Bryant, AJ Barsch, Ty Kenny and Mark Smith.

Huskies' Hayes To Lead Ohio Squad

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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Bryant is a graduate of Cadiz High School and has also coached track.

Please see HUSKIES, Page 10



Photo by Kim North

Pictured are the Weir coaching staff that will coach the West Virginia team in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday against Ohio at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Tom Taylor, head coach Frank Sisinni, and David Cowden. Back row, from left, are John Leary and Chris Hill.

Weir's Sisinni Heads W.Va. Crew

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Weirton.

JOHN LEARY - A 1980 graduate of Brooke and a 1984 alum of West Liberty, Leary has been coaching football for 38 years, the last 10 at Weir.

Please see WEIR, Page 10

with nobody out, before Skadra was hit by a pitch to bring in Billick. Preston Cole flew out to right field, a sacrifice which brought home Murray.

Quinn Jamison hustled out an infield hit placed awkwardly between third and short, and Billings came home to bring home another run and bring the score to 4-0.

A flyout had Post 34 one out away from stopping the bleeding, but Post 1 still had plenty in the tank.

Rocco Paolina hummed an RBI single to right field to turn the lineup over and bring Taylor to the plate once again. The impending Ohio Bobcat flared a single to right field, but the ball skipped away from the fielder and all the way to the wall, clearing the bases and putting Taylor on third standing. Now 7-0, Braxton Billick smoked a double to right center and allowed Taylor to

burg their long-awaited third out.

"I think it was a long time coming," Rine said of his team's sixth inning. "All year we've been hitting the ball pretty well. We didn't get a couple bunts down there but with two strikes our two and three hitters slapped the ball hard the other way and kept the inning going which was huge. We preach doing your job, but when you don't do your job you've still got to find a way to make something else happen and they did that."

Anderson needed three batters to end the game in the top of the seventh, the game ending on a 6-3 double play.

Wellsburg received two hits from leadoff man Raymond DeFranco, who also stole a base. Brayden McFarland and TJ Decapio also tallied hits for Post 34.

"This is the first game we've had all of our players at the same

and work schedules. The team we had today was the team we should've had all year. We can hang with Wheeling and Parkersburg, we just could not get anybody at the same place and same time. We've got to hit better. They out-hit us in the sixth inning and that's all that it took."

Braxton Billick put together a 4-4 day which included two doubles and an RBI for Wheeling. Paolina also had a multi-hit game.

Post 1 will next face Parkersburg in the Area One tournament on Tuesday.

"This is a grind, it's a long season, but this is the exciting part of the season, when the playoffs start," Rine said. "Every game matters. Parkersburg's going to come ready to play tomorrow and we're excited to get after it."

Wellsburg will play Moundsville Post 3 Tuesday in an elimination game.

Other Post 3 miscues upped the margin to 4-1 before Dylan Holliday doubled in the fifth marker.

Ian Perry singled in a run in the third and came around on Mason Camp's double to the gap in right-center. The two-bagger was one of four in the game for Post 15.

"A couple big errors in the field cost us. We had a couple of walks in the first inning, but we settled down after that," Moundsville manager

and Camp all singled and doubled. Shane Morrall had two singles. Caden Parker added a double.

Brady Swain earned the mound win with five innings of two-hit ball. The right-hander struck out six and issued one free pass. Dan Thompson worked the sixth and seventh, striking out two with no walks.

Tommy Clegg's sacrifice fly in the third accounted for Moundsville's second run.

Babiczuk praised the effort of Hayden Hughes

second inning, he struck out two and walked one.

"He did really well," the manager said. "He located his pitches and got ahead of the batters."

Moundsville will face Wellsburg today at 3:30 p.m. at Wheeling Park High School in an elimination game. Parkersburg and Wheeling will play at 6.

GAME NOTE

The game was delayed twice, once by rain in the fifth and a second time in the seventh by lightning.

WEIR

(Continued from Page 9)

He is also the head softball coach at Weir and helped with the boys basketball program. He has also coached baseball, track, golf and wrestling.

He and his wife, Linda, have a daughter: Johnna. They reside in Wellsburg.

TOM TAYLOR - This 1981 graduate of Weir has coached in the OVAC Rudy Mumley game as a head coach in 2003 and an assistant in 2009.

Taylor has worn many hats during his 34 years of coaching, which has included head coaching stops at Madonna and Oak Glen. He has 25 years experience as an assistant coach and has

been with the Red Riders for 22 seasons. He was the Golden Bears head football coach from 2000-2006 and at Weir from 2009-10.

He is currently the head wrestling coach at Weir and has also coached boys track.

Taylor and his wife, Ropberta, have a daughter: Lydia. They reside in Weirton.

DAVID COWDEN - This former Red Rider quarterback participated in the 1986 OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game. He is the current Weir head baseball coach and has been coaching football at Weir for 11 years.

Cowden attended Clari-

on University.

He and his wife, Allison, have three children: Adam, Kaleigh and Elliana. They reside in Weirton.

CHRIS HILL - A graduate of Weir High School, Hill has been coaching for 18 years, the past six with the Red Riders. He was a member of the 2015 West Virginia All-Star team.

He has also coached football at Oak Glen and was named the 2019 Defensive Coach of the Year by WTOV.

A graduate of Wheeling University, Hill and his wife, Nicolette, have a son, Lowry, and reside in Follansbee.

HUSKIES

(Continued from Page 9)

Bryant and his wife, Angela, have three children: Cael, Aubrey and Brasen. They reside in Dennison.

TY KENNY - A former three-sport standout for the Huskies, Kenney played football, basketball and ran track during his high school days.

He has been coaching football for 14 years, with eight of those coming at his alma mater.

Kenney serves as the seventh grade boys basketball coach and the head girls track coach at Harrison Central.

Kenney and his wife, Kara, have one daughter: Alivia. They reside in Cadiz.

DAVID NAMETH - This Cadiz High School graduate was selected to play in the 1992 OVAC Rudy Mumley game, however, the contest was rained out.

He has coached football for the Huskies for the last five years and has also helped with the wrestling program.

He resides in Cadiz with his girlfriend, Emily Coultrap. Nameth has three daughters: Shianne, Shaniel and Shayla.

ROGER HERBERT - A graduate of Union Local High School, Her-

bert served as an assistant coach for the Jets and also was head coach of the UL softball program. He then served as head football coach at Buckeye Local for four years and the head baseball coach for one. He also helped with the Panthers' wrestling program.

He has 21 years as a football coach, 17 as an assistant. He has been with the Huskies for two seasons.

Herbert and his wife, Melanie, have two sons: Lane (21) and Trevor (19). They reside in Dillonvale.

CAIN NOBLE - He is also a Buckeye Local graduate and has 20 years of football coaching experience, with 13 of those coming at Harrison Central. His other stops include Buckeye Local and Edison.

A Fairmont State University alum, Noble has also coached baseball.

He and his wife, Caitlin, have two children: Jackson (8) and Jordyn (4). They reside in Yorkville.

DREW CASE - Another graduate of Cadiz High School, Case has been with the Huskies for three of his six seasons coaching football. He also coached three years

at Cadiz.

The Ohio University graduate is also an assistant wrestling coach and has coached baseball and softball in the past.

He and his wife, Corissa, have two daughters: Camryn and Kenna. They reside in Adena.

MARK SMITH - This former Cadiz Cardinal played in the 1994 OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Classic. He has been coaching the Huskies for the last six years.

He served in the United States Army for six-and-a-half years and also attended the EGCC Police Academy.

He and his wife, Christina, have three sons: Mark, Matthew and Michael. They reside in Cadiz.

A.J. BARSCH - A graduate of Buckeye Local where he coached for two years, Barsch has been with Harrison Central for the past eight seasons.

He was a three-sport performer (football, basketball and baseball) at Buckeye Local. He was a member of the coaching staff on the Harrison Central baseball team that advanced to the Division II state finals in 2023.

He resides in Cadiz.

IAN WHITE - A graduate of Harrison Central, White has coached with the Huskies for six seasons. He has also coached baseball and basketball.

He was a three-sport performer for the Huskies (football, basketball and baseball).

He and his fiance, Hannah Mattern, reside in Cadiz. He also has a daughter, Caelyn White (9).

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SPORTS

Coaches tapped for all-star game

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — A pair of Ohio Valley high school football coaching staffs have been rewarded for the seasons they had last fall.

Harrison Central and Weir have been selected to lead Ohio and West Virginia, respectively, in the 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday, July 20 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Harrison Central went 9-3 last season under head coach Anthony Hayes. The Huskies finished fourth in Ohio Division V, Region 17 and defeated Wooster Triway in their first playoff game, 40-10. However, they fell to Garrettsville Garfield, 56-35, in the second round.

"On behalf of the Harrison Central football program, Harrison Central high school and all of Harrison County, we are grateful for the incredible honor to coach in one of the finest all star football games in the country," Hayes said. "We understand the tradition of care that goes into this game. We want to be a small part in continuing the

same good work as those who came before us.

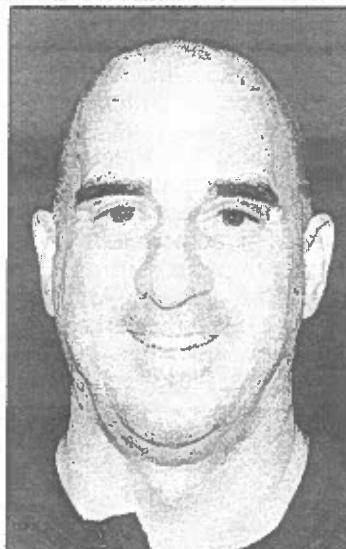
"As young kids and then later as coaches, we have watched many legendary coaches lead Ohio with such class. The list of coaches that have been a part of this amazing all star game is nothing short of a who's who in high school football so we want to honor those great coaches by offering our very best, just as they did," Hayes added.

"We have the great responsibility to uphold the tradition that is Ohio football and we are excited about it. The player commitments are in and we feel good about our roster. It will be nice to coach our own players one more time, as well as have the opportunity to coach all of those great players from other programs around the valley. We have played against many of these players and we are pretty happy about having them on our team this go around. Preparations are already underway and we look forward to meeting with our team."

Joining Hayes will be Harrison Central staff members Mark Smith, Ty Kenny, Drew Case, AJ Barsch, David Nameth, Ian White, Cain No-



HAYES



SISINNI

ble, Roger Herbert, Bill Bryant, Marky Smith, Matthew Smith and Matt Cowser.

The Red Riders had a great run last season, going 11-2 and advancing to the Class AA state semifinals under head coach Frank Sisinni. After a 9-1 regular-season campaign, Weir received the No. 5 seed and hosted No. 12 Frankfort, squeaking out a 23-21 victory at home. It was then on the road to No. 4 Scott and a slim, 35-33, triumph. However, No. 1 North Marion was too powerful in a 48-14 nod.

"Coaching the OVAC All-Star game this summer and representing the state of West Virginia is a huge honor for us at Weir High School," Sisinni said. "Not only is it an honor to represent this side of the

river within the conference, but it is an honor to represent the Weir High football program and the community in this game.

"For us to be OVAC 4A football champions in 2023 and get to be coaches in this game is a huge honor for us. We will get to coach some of the valley's most talented players and see how they practice and play up close and personal throughout the week at Wheeling University. We are looking forward to the preparation for the game and excited to be part of such a storied event that kicks off the football season every year."

In addition to Sisinni, other Weir staff members are Tom Taylor, Chris Hill, John Leary and Dave Cowden.

The Wheeling Nailers prep for Game 4

WHEELING - Wheeling is on the brink of elimination from the ECHL Kelly Cup Playoffs. The Nailers find themselves in a 3-0 hole to the Toledo Walleye as the Central Division Finals enter Game 4 tonight inside WesBanco Arena.

The puck drops at 7:10.

Should Wheeling win tonight and stay alive, Game 5 will be played Saturday night, also at 7:10, inside WesBanco Arena. Games 6 and 7, if necessary, would be played in Toledo on Monday and Tuesday.

The Walleye took Games 1 and 2 in Toledo by the scores of 2-1 in overtime and 5-3, respectively, before collecting a 7-3 win Wednesday night in the Friendly City.

Jaxon Castor has started in net during all seven playoff games for the Nailers this season. However, he was replaced by Garret Sparks in the second period on Wednesday.

Toledo is a perfect 6-0 in this year's postseason.



Two coaches achieve 300 wins

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

A PAIR of Ohio Valley high school baseball coaches achieved milestones this season when Barnesville's D.J. Butler and Linsly's Jay Cartwright won their 300th games.

Cartwright has been a 'lifer' for the Cadets, serving as an assistant to Gary Sprague from 1993 to 2006.

"I started as an assistant with Gary Sprague," Cartwright said with his emotions taking over. "I got a note from him earlier this season wishing me good luck."

Cartwright played collegiately at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa.

"I played the game growing up. I played in college and had a solid career, but I didn't know how to work with kids or teach the game to them. That's what I learned from Coach Sprague."

Cartwright was elevated to head coach for the 2007 season after Sprague retired.

"I've had a great bunch of coaches, some are former players and a lot

of great players over the years," Cartwright noted. "Dom Gorrence is a St. Clairsville kid who played for me and just finished his career at Muskingum University. He has a great future as a high school coach somewhere. Jon-Michael Brunner is our hitting coach and had a great career at West Liberty. Scott Goodnight works with our pitchers and infielders."

"We work well together," Cartwright said.

Butler started his head coaching career at the tender age of 22 at Jewett-Scio before moving on to Barnesville.

"I've been incredibly blessed to be able to coach long enough to reach this milestone," Butler said. "I have been very fortunate to have been blessed with great players at Jewett-Scio and parents who were patient with a 22-year-old first-time head coach learning from mistakes."

"Then I was honored to be given the chance to work in a program at Barnesville that Coach (Brad) Wilson built," Butler continued. "I am very apprecia-

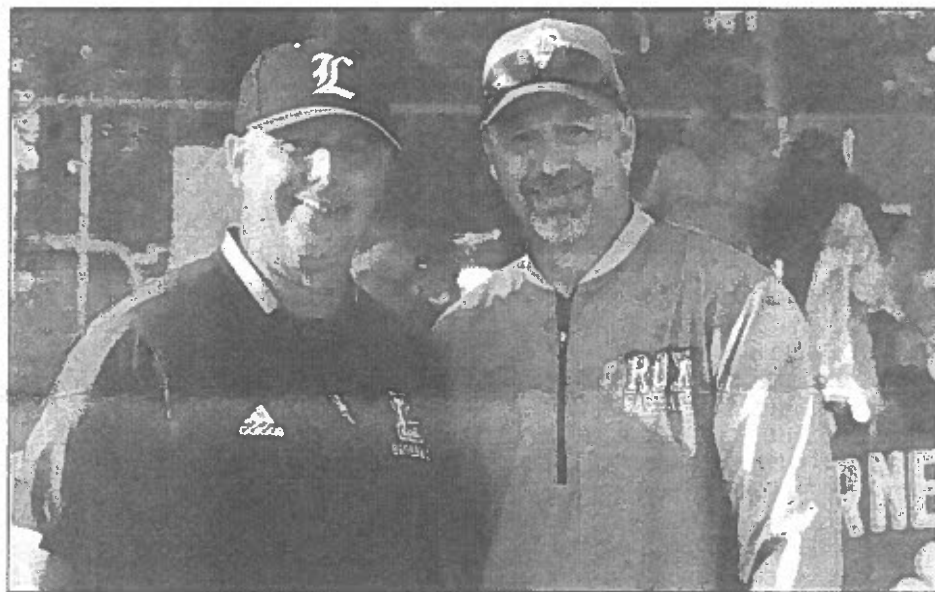


Photo by KIM NORTH

LINSLY'S JAY Cartwright, left, and Barnesville's D.J. Butler both recorded their 300th high school baseball coaching victories this season.

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"It is surreal to think of some of the coaches in the Ohio Valley who have reached that milestone, but I definitely

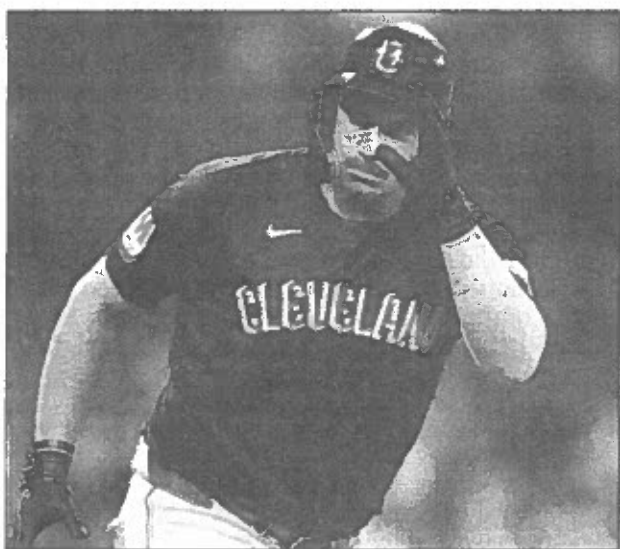
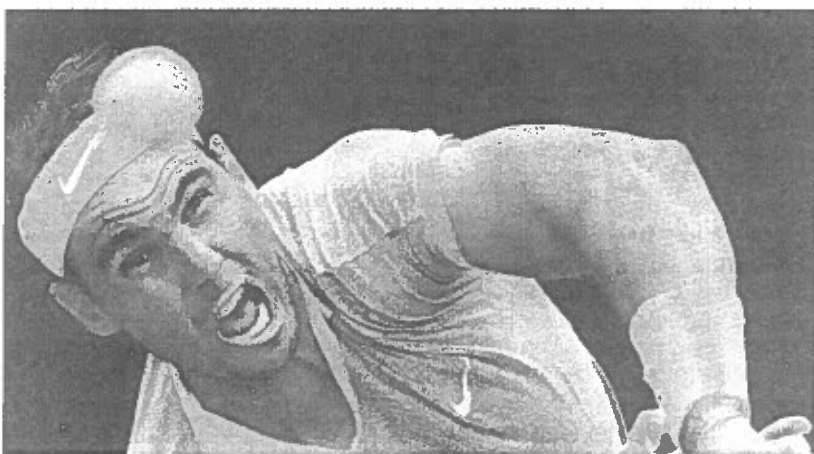
do not see myself at the same level as them. Coach Cartwright, for example, is a great coach who I have the utmost respect for. He has a lot of hardware to go with his win totals. I feel as though that is an area I have come up short in."

Rafael Nadal shows he's not quite ready for retirement in a comeback win at the Italian Open

ROME (AP) — For a brief stretch on Thursday, Rafael Nadal looked every bit of a weary 37-year-old player nearing retirement.

Struggling to produce pace off both sides with his groundstrokes, committing an uncharacteristically high number of unforced errors and unable to stay in rallies, Nadal dropped the first set of his first-round match at the Italian Open against Belgian qualifier Zizou Bergs.

Then the fist-pumping, virtually-unbeatable-on-clay, 22-time



AP Photo

Weir's Sisinni, Harrison Central's Hayes Set To Coach 2024 OVAC All-Star Game

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - A pair of Ohio Valley high school football coaching staffs have been rewarded for the seasons they had last fall.

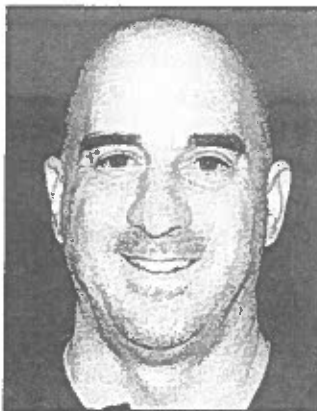
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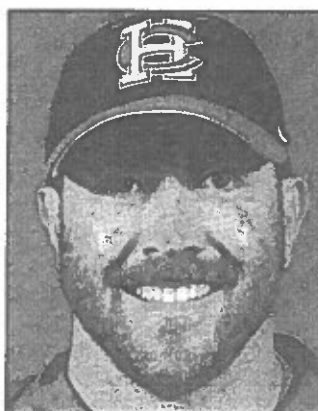
FRANK SISINNI

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ANTHONY HAYES

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Please see OVAC, Page 12

Barnesville's Butler, Linsly's Cartwright Celebrate 300th Wins

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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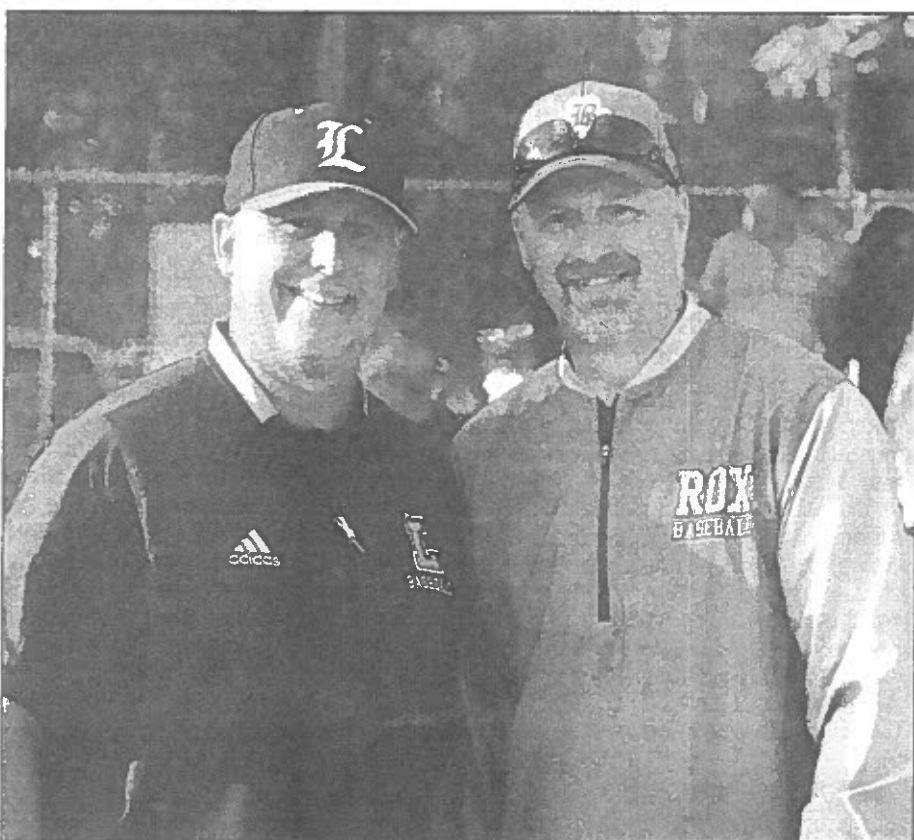


Photo by Kim North

Linsly's Jay Cartwright, left, and Barnesville's D.J. Butler both recorded their 300th high school baseball coaching victories this season.

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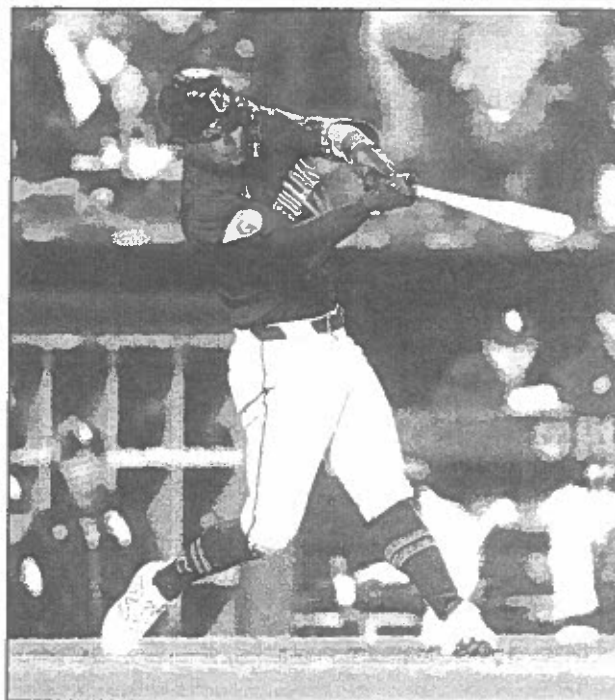
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AP Photo

Cleveland Guardians' Tyler Freeman strikes out with the bases loaded during the seventh inning of the team's game against the Chicago White Sox, Thursday, May 9, 2024, in Chicago.

Guardians Late Rally Comes Up Short vs. Sox

CHICAGO (AP) — Erick Fedde worked six scoreless innings, Tommy Pham had two hits and an RBI and the Chicago White Sox held on to beat the Cleveland Guardians 3-2 on Thursday night.

Chicago won its second straight and for the fourth time in six games to improve to 10-28. The White Sox no longer have the worst record in the majors, moving ahead of the Colorado Rockies, who are 9-28.

Jose Ramirez and Josh Naylor launched back-to-back solo homers off Chicago reliever John Brebbia with two outs in the eighth inning as AL Central-leading Cleveland cut Chicago's lead to 3-2.

The 36-year-old Pham, who doubled, is batting .313 in 12 games since joining the White Sox. Andrew Vaughn and Paul DeJong added RBIs for Chicago.

Please see RALLY, Page 12

WVU Extends Contract Of AD Wren Baker

MORGANTOWN - West Virginia University has agreed to a two-year contract extension with Director of Athletics Wren Baker, according to a report from ESPN's Pete Thamel on Thursday evening.

The extension will keep Baker, who came from North Texas in 2022 when he signed a six-year contract, in Morgantown through December of 2030.

en's basketball coach Mark Kellogg, men's basketball coach Darian DeVries, and volleyball coach Jen Greeny.

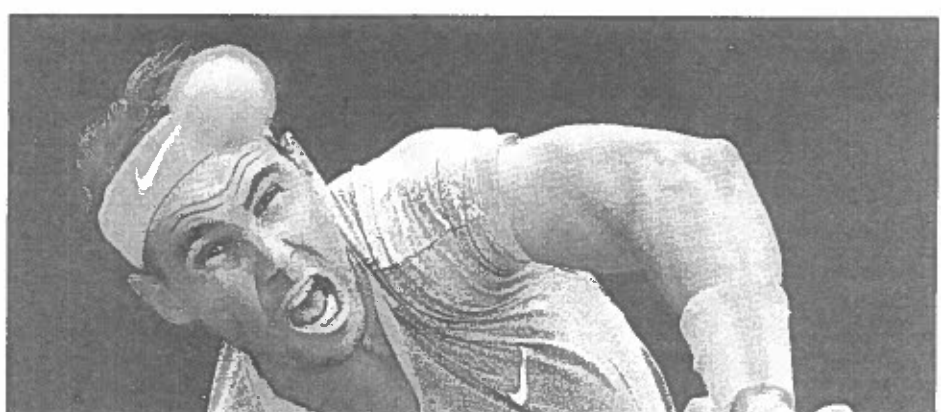
Since the start of the school year, Baker's first full year with the Mountaineers, WVU had their best season in the Neal Brown era of football which included a 30-10 victory in the Duke's Mayo Bowl over North Carolina, and Kellogg's women's basket-

Nadal Silences Retirement Talk With Comeback Win At Italian Open

By ANDREW DAMPF
AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — For a brief stretch on Thursday, Rafael Nadal looked every bit of a weary 37-year-old player nearing retirement.

Struggling to produce pace off both sides with his groundstrokes, committing an uncharacteristically high number of unforced errors and unable to stay in rallies, Nadal



program's short history since its addition in September. Interim athletic director, Brad Forshey, and director of wrestling, Danny Irwin, made the announcement introducing Troy Bell as the program's first head coach on Tuesday morning inside the Boyle Conference Center Room.

"West Liberty University wrestling is rich in history and tradition," stated Forshey. "As we embark on the next chapter with the addition of women's wrestling, we needed a leader that would embrace the passion and standard needed to lead this program. One person checked every box and we're excited to announce Troy Bell as the first head coach in WLU women's wrestling history."

Bell most recently served as the assistant women's

16-7 dual record with 10 national qualifiers, three All-Americans and ten Scholar All-Americans. This past March the UMO program notched a ninth-place team finish at the NCWWC National Championships.

"I am excited to work with Coach Bell to continue making West Liberty a destination for all wrestlers across the country," exclaimed Irwin. "He has such a strong desire to serve student-athletes along with a work ethic that will help raise the bar on the Hilltop. You pair that with the leadership experience he has in the most extreme conditions, and we couldn't have brought in a better person to our family."

Bell served 26 years in the United States Marine Corps, retiring in 2014 at the rank of Master Ser-

ing. He is a former USA Freestyle state champion, two Greco state champions, and 21 freestyle state placers. He is certified by USA Wrestling as a Bronze Freestyle/Greco/Folkstyle coach and was the head coach for the Michigan National Team.

"I will continue to build upon the solid foundation here at WLU and build a women's wrestling program that the university and the fan base will be proud of," added Bell.

West Liberty will be among 23 first-year women's wrestling programs competing on the mats in the 2024-25 season and will be one of 96 teams vying for a NCWWC title at Xtreme Arena in Coralville, Iowa, on February 21-23, 2025.

Bell brings to the Hilltop over 40 years of experience in the sport of wrestling as an athlete and coach, while also serving as the leader of teams at the club, high school, Marine Corps, and collegiate levels. This includes over 27 years of coaching experience where he developed and mentored eight Adidas High School All-Americans, three NHS-CA High School All-Amer-

After Ramirez his his eighth homer and Naylor tagged Brebbia for his 10th in the eighth inning, Michael Kopech entered and got the final four outs for his fourth save.

The White Sox hit the ball hard off Cleveland starter Ben Lively (1-2). The right-hander allowed three runs on eight hits, including four doubles, in 5 2/3 innings.

The Guardians acquired RHP Darren McCaughin from Miami for cash on Thursday, then optioned him to Triple-A Columbus. McCaughin appeared in one game this season for the Marlins, allowing eight runs in 4 2/3 innings.

Chicago rookie Bryan Ramos had a single and double in his sixth game since being recalled from Double-A Birmingham. He is 7 for 18 (.389) in his major league debut season. Eloy Jimenez had two hits, including a double to the base of the wall.

Fedde (3-0) allowed just three singles, walked none and struck out three through sixth innings. But the Guardians lined three straight singles off the 31-year-old right-hander to open the seventh and load the bases. Jordan Leasure entered and struck out Bo Naylor and Tyler Freeman. Kyle Manzardo grounded out to end the threat.

Nadal was coming off a straight-set loss to 31st-ranked Jiri Lehecka in the fourth round of the Madrid Open. But he has never lost consecutive matches on clay in his entire career and now that impressive statistic remains intact during what he has indicated is his final season on tour.

Nadal got out to a strong start, unleashing a 95 mph (153 kph) forehand winner en route to an early break and a 3-1 lead in the first set. But he gave the break right back in the next game when he missed three weak groundstrokes into the net.

Then at 4-4, Nadal double-faulted twice and was broken again to give the 108th-ranked Bergs a 5-4 lead and a chance to serve out the set.

In the first set, Nadal committed 16 unforced errors to Bergs' 10.

During the first game of the second set, the match was briefly suspended when a spectator in the stands required medical treatment. That allowed Nadal to chat with Carlos Moya, his coach.

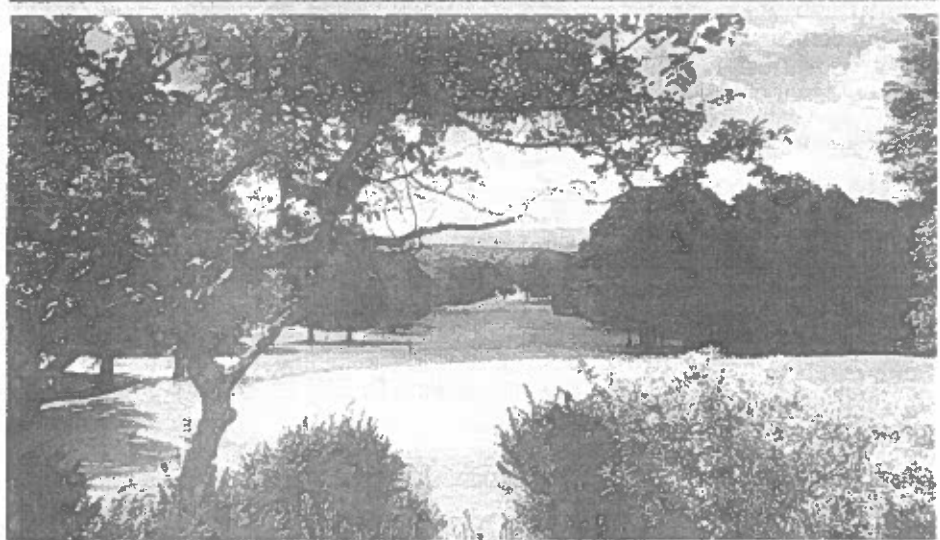
After the 10-minute suspension of play, Nadal raced out to a 3-0 lead in the second set as he upped the power on his shots and became more aggressive.

During the third set, Nadal managed to win a point after he fell to the red clay, quickly getting up to resume the rally and then producing a delicate drop-shot winner. Then he blasted a forehand cross-court winner to break

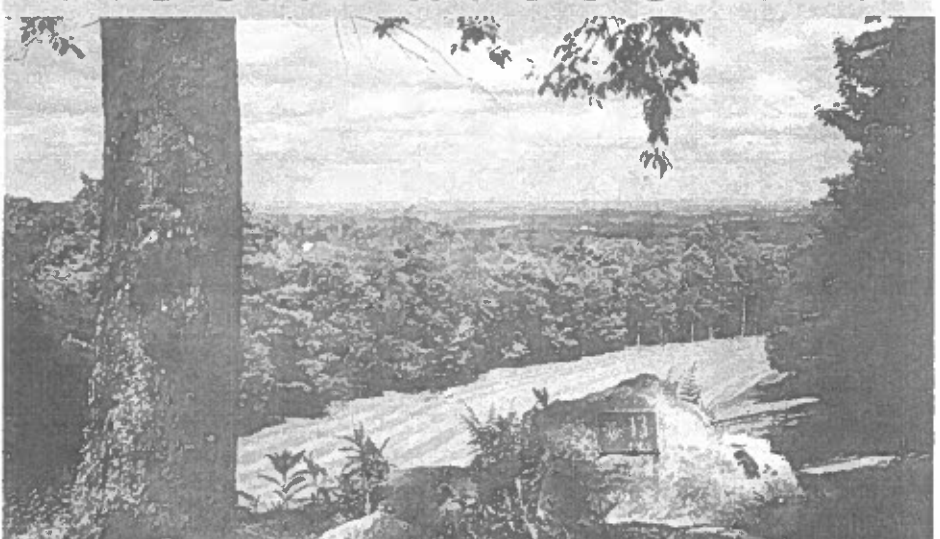
ITALIAN

(Continued from Page 11)

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for a 3-1 lead and unleashed a double-clutch fist pump.

There were more fist pumps when Nadal rallied from 0-40 on his serve to hold for a 4-2 lead in the third.

Nadal's mother and sister sitting behind the court shouted encouragement and his 1-year-old son was also court-side — sitting on the lap of Nadal's father.

The Nadal family can now look forward to a second-round matchup with seventh-seeded Hubert Hurkacz. Top-ranked Novak Djokovic is on the opposite side of the draw, while second-ranked Jannik Sinner and third-ranked Carlos Alcaraz both withdrew because of injuries.

In other matches, Serbian qualifier Hamad Medjedovic beat Alexei Popyrin 6-3, 6-2; Thiago Seboth Wild defeated French qualifier Gregoire Barrere 6-4, 6-2; and Dominik Koepfer eliminated Andrea Vavassori 6-4, 6-3.

In women's play, top-ranked Iga Swiatek routed American qualifier Bernarda Pera 6-0, 6-2, and third-ranked Coco Gauff advanced with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Magdalena Frech.

Two former top-ranked women posted wins over seeded players. Naomi Osaka beat 19th-seeded Marta Kostyuk 6-3, 6-2 in a match that was suspended for about an hour because of rain, and Angelique Kerber ousted 17th-seeded Veronika Kudermetova 6-3, 6-0.

OVAC

(Continued from Page 11)

Joining Hayes will be Harrison Central staff members Mark Smith, Ty Kenny, Drew Case, AJ Barsch, David Nameth, Ian White, Cain Noble, Roger Herbert, Bill Bryant, Marky Smith, Matthew Smith and Matt Cowser.

The Red Riders had a great run last season, going 11-2 and advancing to the Class AA state

semifinals under head coach Frank Sisinni. After a 9-1 regular-season campaign, Weir received the No. 5 seed and hosted No. 12 Frankfort, squeaking out a 23-21 victory at home. It was then on the road to No. 4 Scott and a slim, 35-33, triumph. However, No. 1 North Marion was too powerful in a 48-14 nod.

"Coaching the OVAC All-Star game this summer and representing the state of West Virginia is a huge honor for us at Weir High School," Sisinni said. "Not only is it an honor to represent this side of the river within the conference, but it is an honor to represent the Weir High football program and the community in this game."

"For us to be OVAC 4A football champions in 2023 and get to be coaches in this game is a huge honor for us. We will get to coach some of the valley's most talented players and see how they practice and play up close and personal throughout the week at Wheeling University. We are looking forward to the preparation for the game and excited to be part of such a storied event that kicks off the football season every year."

In addition to Sisinni, other Weir staff members are Tom Taylor, Chris Hill, John Leary and Dave Cowden.

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SPORTS

Tuesday,
July 23, 2024

Circosta taking steps toward recovery after serious injury

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — When Jay Circosta walked on to the newly installed artificial turf at Wheeling Island Stadium as part of the 50-year reunion celebration during a break in the first quarter of Sunday's 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, it marked the first time the

OVAC Hall of Famer had been on a field during a game since Sept. 29 of last season.

What is significant about that date? With Shenandoah driving for perhaps a tying score late in its game against Circosta's beloved Monroe Central squad in Woodsfield, a freak accident caused the then-79-year-old to be hospitalized with some serious injuries.

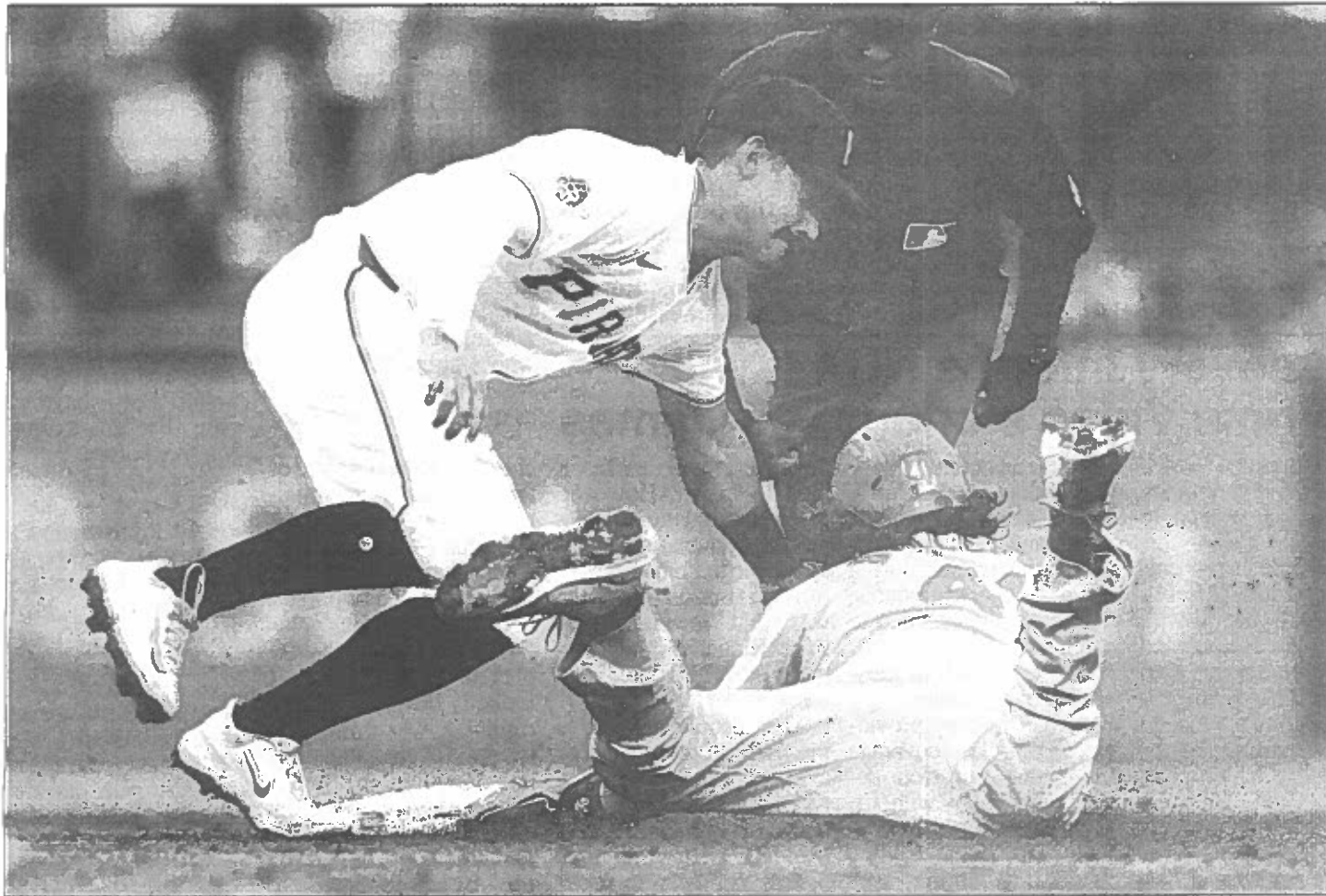
"Having been on the sidelines for 50

years, I knew the key thing was to stay behind the ball. I did that all year. In fact, when we scored to go ahead with 1-minute, 20-seconds left to play, someone took a video and there I was in the background at the 50-yard line jumping up in the air. We went for two and made it to go up by eight points.



CIRCOSTA

See CIRCOSTA, Page B2



PITTSBURGH PIRATES second baseman Nick Gonzales, left, tags out St. Louis Cardinals' Alec Burseson, bottom right, who was attempting to steal second during the third inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh.

Pirates beat Cardinals 2-1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Nick Gonzales hit a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth inning after Mitch Keller allowed one run in the first seven, and the Pittsburgh Pirates won for the seventh time in eight games, 2-1 over the St. Louis Cardinals in a matchup of NL wild card contenders on Monday night.

Bryan Reynolds led off the eighth with a single to left before advancing to second on a wild pitch. With one out, Gonzales sneaked a slow dribbler off John King (3-2) through the right side of the infield.

Gonzales hit a late-inning, go-ahead single for the second time in four games. He did it in the ninth inning against Philadelphia on Friday, giving the Pirates an 8-7 win.

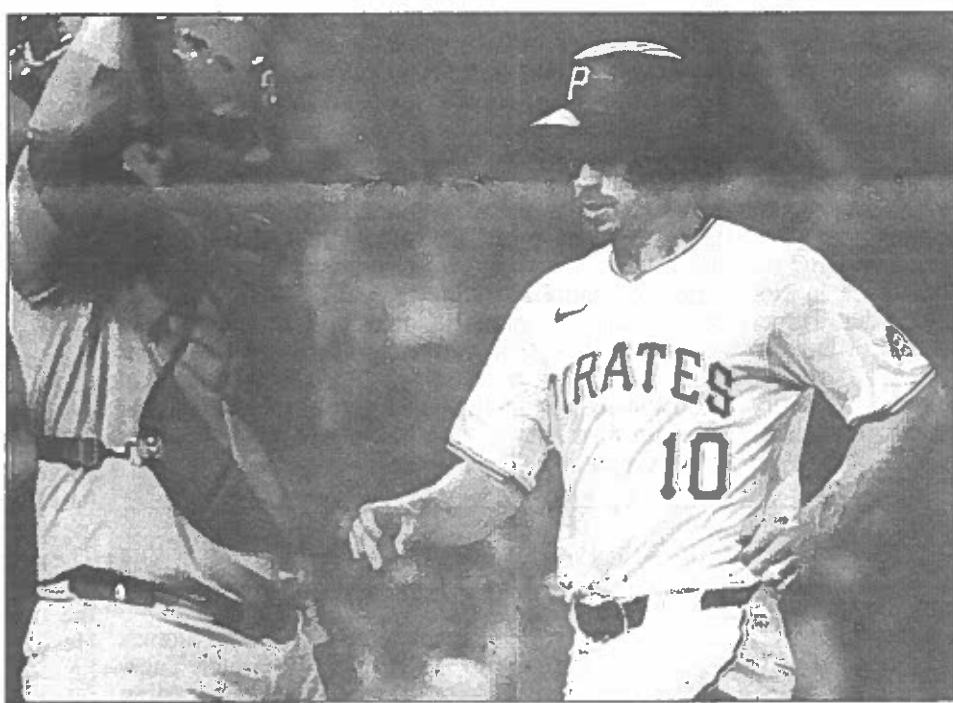
"People that have the ability to slow their heartbeats down and hit in those situations, it's something that can't be taught," Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton said. "It's something that you have to do. I think we've got a couple guys that have it."

Keller gave up six hits in seven innings, striking out three and walking two, before Aroldis Chapman (2-4) pitched a perfect eighth. David Bednar allowed a two-out single to Paul Goldschmidt in the ninth before striking out Nolan Gorman for his 18th save.

"Huge team win, especially against the Cardinals," Keller said. "Every win's great but especially against a division rival. These are games we need to win."

The Cardinals are second in the NL Central, one game ahead of the Pirates. They are in position for the second NL wild card, with Pittsburgh one-half game back of the third and final spot.

"That's why every decision, every



GONZALES HITS go-ahead single in 8th, Keller allows 1 run in 7 innings as Pirates beat Cardinals 2-1.

pitch, every at-bat seems extremely magnified," St. Louis manager Oliver Marmol said. "Because there is no room for error. The margins have been really thin all year. We've played a lot of these games, like the one we played tonight. Yeah, one ball in the dirt leads to the runner moving up and it just changes the game a little bit.

"But listen, their side did a really nice job of scoring a run. So, that's what it comes down to."

Andrew McCutchen doubled to left in the third inning and Oneil Cruz put Pittsburgh ahead on a two-out RBI single to left.

Gorman tied it 1-all with a leadoff home run in the fifth, his 19th, driven 362 feet off the right-field foul pole. Brendan Donovan then hit a sharp grounder off Keller's curveball with runners on first and second, but first baseman Rowdy Tellez made a diving stop to keep it from slipping down the line.

The Pirates left a runner in scoring position in each of the first four innings.

Cruz stole second in the first and third innings ahead of groundouts from Gonzales. Tellez led off the second with a double but only reached third.

See PIRATES, Page B2

Detroit Tigers beat scuffling Guardians 8-2

CLEVELAND (AP) — Tarik Skubal pitched seven innings while continuing to be mentioned in trade rumors and Justyn-Henry Malloy hit a two-run homer, leading the Detroit Tigers to an 8-2 win over the Cleveland Guardians on Monday night.

Skubal (11-3) gave up a season-high 10 hits, but just one run as the All-Star worked out of several jams. The left-hander has been linked to potential trades with several contenders as the July 30 trade deadline nears.

Malloy homered in the first inning off Carlos Carrasco (3-8) as the Tigers beat the AL-Central leaders for the fourth time in five games.

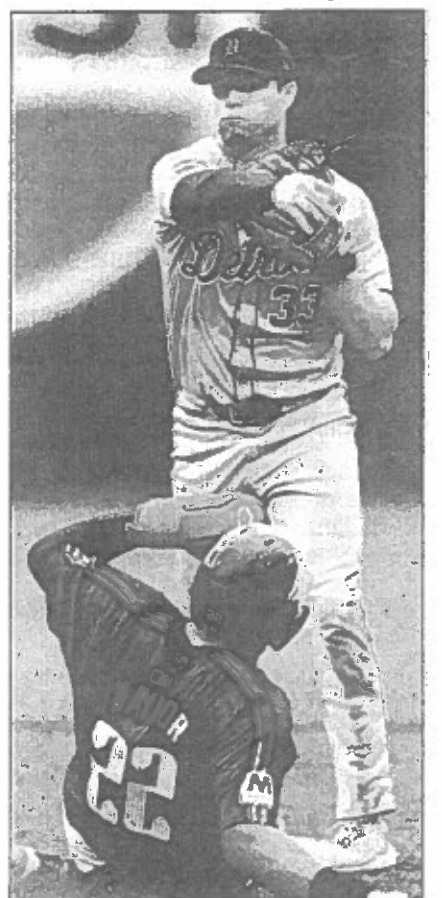
Cleveland has dropped three straight and is just 2-7 since July 10. The teams play five more times in the next eight days.

The Guardians have been scuffling on offense, and they couldn't come up with the key hit against Skubal. Steven Kwan, the majors' leading hitter, popped up with the bases loaded in the second and struck out with two on in the fourth.

Over the weekend, the Guardians went a combined 3 for 55 in losing two straight to the San Diego Padres.

Detroit took a 4-0 lead in the second, helped by two mistakes in center field by Guardians rookie Angel Martinez.

See GUARDIANS, Page B2



DETROIT TIGERS' Colt Keith (33) forces out Cleveland Guardians' Josh Naylor (22) at second base and throws out Guardians' David Fry at first base to complete a double play during the third inning of a baseball game in Cleveland.

SCASA accepting registration for youth soccer • Circosta

The St. Clairsville Area Soccer Association (SCASA) is now accepting registrations for youth soccer. All Belmont county or Ohio Valley youth with birth years from 2011 to 2021 can sign up online at SCASA-Capstone.com. Eighth graders who have turned 15 will be permitted to play.

SCASA is continuing Kiddie Kick for children born in 2020.

Those having difficulty regis-

tering should contact the Registrar Kristina Scott after 5 p.m. at (740) 381-4202 or email kristinak4202@gmail.com. Registration will close Aug. 17 at midnight.

Travel Teams will be formed with the U10 to U14 age groups. Teams will play other recreation teams in the Ohio Valley with the older teams playing within the region. The Kiddie Kick and pre-travel U6 and U8 teams will

not travel outside of St. Clairsville. Travel team play will begin after September 14, Kiddie Kick on September 14, Pre Travel begins September 16 for U6 and September 17 for U8. Parents are encouraged to join the St. Clairsville Area Youth Soccer Association to support the program.

Contact Dave Hahn at 695-4207 or Rick Ferrell at 695-1995 with any other questions.

Continued from Page B1

"Shenandoah got the kick and they've got an outstanding quarterback. They started moving down the field and I was behind the ball. They got down to probably the Monroe Central 40-yard line going in to score and somebody called timeout," he recalled. "I went down to where the players were huddled to see what was going on. That was probably the first mistake."

"After the time out, I backed up. I wasn't directly on the sidelines. I was behind the coaches and players," he said. "What happened was Shenandoah's quarterback threw an out pattern that their kid caught. Our defensive back drove him out of bounds and the players all went like this," Circosta described, spreading his hands wide. "And there they (the two players) were. I had no time to go anywhere. For somebody who's going to be 80 in November, I don't move as quickly as I used to."

"They hit me in my chest area, and some of the guys that were standing there with me told me later that I went airborne. And when I landed on the ground, the two players landed on top of me."

"After they got the players off of me, I looked down and my right leg was completely out of the socket. I had fractured my pelvis in three places, the top, middle and bottom," he explained. "They took me by ambulance to Wheeling, but as soon as they took some X-rays, they said, 'He can't stay here. He needs to go to a trauma center.'"

"So, it was off to Morgantown and WVU Medicine Ruby Memorial Hospital. They didn't operate on me until approximately 6 o'clock the next night," said the second winningest coach in Ohio Valley history (336) behind Steubenville's Reno Saccoccia.

"The doctor told me up front that these are the most difficult surgeries they do here and most of them are from front-end car crashes," he recalled. "It's going to be a long surgery, like four-and-a-half hours, and it's going to be a bloody surgery. They cut me from the middle of my stomach to the middle of my back. He didn't even know if he could get to everything from the front. He said he might have to go in through the back."

"The last thing he told me really threw me," Circosta admitted. "He said I probably wouldn't be able to walk for three to four months. He said I wouldn't be able to put any pressure on my leg." Circosta said he was in the hospital for two weeks and then in a care center for the same amount of time. Then he went home, where he had a home health nurse come to provide care.

"I was in a wheelchair

happened on Sept. 29. I didn't walk until Dec. 14. I took one step at a time. The nurses showed me how to walk and what to do."

"Our daughter is a nurse practitioner, and she told me I was lucky. I told her, 'What do you mean I'm lucky?' She told me that there's an artery that runs down the front of your leg called the femoral artery. If that had ruptured, you probably wouldn't have made it off the field. You would have bled to death," I said. "I guess I am lucky."

He underwent in-patient treatment for three weeks, then they put him in water therapy.

"I did some workouts in the pool when we were on vacation in Florida, and I continue to do them in our pool at our home in Woodsfield," he noted. "In mid-May the doctor in Morgantown told me it would probably be a year-to-a-year-and-a-half before I'd be back to walking a lot better. I still have some pain, but not excruciating like before."

Circosta said he has the X-rays of his repaired injuries, and they show two screws about 4 inches long along with various other medical products.

"My daughter told me I've got about \$10,000 worth of hardware inside me," he smiled.

"I have never, ever felt any pain like that in my life. It was excruciating," he admitted. "I thought at first that both of my hips or legs were broken. I felt instant pain. I was conscious the entire time. I had grass stains on the back of my coaching shirt. When I got to the hospital, my right hand was kind of numb. I thought maybe I had broken something in it when I landed. What had actually happened was I landed on my right elbow and hit the ulnar nerve that controls all the feeling in the hand. To this day I've still got some numbness."

"I'm blessed to be able to walk. The good Lord looked after me," he stressed. "I couldn't have asked for better care and support from my family, friends and a lot of people I didn't even know."

Although he still has a long road to a full recovery ahead, he is thinking forward, as well.

"I just have to take it one step at a time. I believe I'll be in the press box this year."

When asked about Saturday night, the face of the owner of 14 OVAC titles at Woodsfield High and Monroe Central lit up with delight.

"This is a great game. It's great for the Ohio Valley. Every time this game rolls around, I think of Rudy Mumley," he noted. "Rudy had me in school at Shadyside. We had a real close relationship, and he nominated me for enshrinement into the West Liberty Hall of Fame."

Ohio State coach sets non-conference schedule

COLUMBUS — Ohio State head coach Jake Diebler has set his non-conference schedule for his first full season as head coach in 2024-25. The Buckeyes will play seven non-conference home games, three neutral site games and one true non-conference road game.

Ohio State opens the season against Texas in the previously announced Hall of Fame Series in Las Vegas, Nev., on Monday, Nov. 4. That will be just the third all-time meeting between the two programs.

The home opener will be one week later on Monday, Nov. 11 against in-state foe Youngstown

State. The Buckeyes have won the previous five meetings between the two schools with the last meeting coming on Dec. 18, 2018, in Columbus.

Ohio State will also host Evansville (Nov. 19), Campbell (Nov. 22), Green Bay (Nov. 25) and Pitt (Nov. 29) in the month of November. The Pitt game will be a Friday night lead-in to the already anticipated football matchup between Ohio State and Michigan the next day. The Buckeyes will also play on the road at Texas A&M on Friday, Nov. 15.

In December, the Buckeyes will host Valparaiso, Jake Diebler's alma mater, on Dec. 17. They

will then head to Madison Square Garden to play Kentucky in the CBS Sports Classic on Saturday, Dec. 21. The final non-conference game of the season will be against Indiana State on Sunday, Dec. 29.

Ohio State will also play in another non-conference neutral site game that will be announced at a later date.

The complete Big Ten schedule will be announced around Labor Day. The teams traveling to Columbus this season will be Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Michigan State, Nebraska, Northwestern, Oregon, Rutgers and Washington this season.

Warner Bros. Discovery informs NBA it will match Amazon Prime Video's offer to air games

(AP) — Turner Sports intends to continue its longtime relationship with the NBA.

Warner Bros. Discovery informed the league Monday that it will match the \$1.8 billion per year offer by Amazon Prime Video. Turner has had an NBA package since 1984 and games have been on TNT since the network launched in 1988.

"We have reviewed the offers and matched one of them. This will allow fans to keep enjoying our unparalleled coverage, including the best live game productions in the industry and our iconic studio shows and talent, while building on our proven 40-year commitment for many more years," Warner Bros. Discovery said in a statement. "Our matching paperwork was submitted to the league today. We look forward to the NBA executing our new contract."

The NBA's Board of Governors approved the league's 11-year media rights deals with Disney, NBC and Amazon Prime Video at its meeting in Las Vegas last Tuesday. WBD received all three con-

tracts Wednesday, which started the five-day clock for whether it wanted to match.

The new deals — collectively worth \$76 billion — will begin with the 2025-26 season, and include a game being aired or streamed nationally every night during the second half of the season.

The Prime Video offer has games on Thursday night after it is done carrying NFL games. Its other nights are Friday and Saturday.

Amazon Prime Video did not comment on WBD's intention to match.

An NBA spokesperson said the league is reviewing the matching offer.

If the NBA accepts the matching offer, TNT would likely carry games on Thursday with the other nights being streamed on Max.

Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav sounded an ominous note when he said during an RBC Investor Conference in November 2022 that Turner and WBD "don't have to have the NBA."

Warner Bros. Discovery and the league were unable to reach a deal during the

exclusive negotiating period, which expired in April. Zaslav and TNT Sports Chairman/CEO Luis Silberwasser have said during the past couple months, though, that it intended to match one of the deals.

"We're proud of how we have delivered for basketball fans by providing best-in-class coverage throughout our four-decade partnership with the NBA. In an effort to continue our long-standing partnership, during both exclusive and non-exclusive negotiation periods, we acted in good faith to present strong bids that were fair to both parties," WBD said in a statement.

"Regrettably, the league notified us of its intention to accept other offers for the games in our current rights package, leaving us to proceed under the matching rights provision, which is an integral part of our current agreement and the rights we have paid for under it."

People familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press that Amazon's offer included a provision to pay multiple years up front into an escrow account, which many

thought would make it hard to match. However, WBD has told the league it has the financial resources to be able to do that.

The Amazon provision was first mentioned by "The Ringer's" Bill Simmons on "The Town" podcast.

The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they weren't at liberty to discuss such impending matters.

WBD is paying \$1.4 billion per season under the current nine-year deal, which expires after next season.

Even though WBD would be making a huge financial commitment, it is a necessary one. Without the NBA, it would have had a hard time charging its current subscriber fees to cable and satellite companies.

Retaining the NBA would also mean that the popular "Inside the NBA" show would continue. Charles Barkley had been critical of WBD's negotiating posture and was not optimistic about it matching. Barkley announced at the end of this season that he intended to retire after next season.

• Pirates

Continued from Page B1

Jack Suwinski stole second with two outs in the fourth, but Andre Pallante struck out Connor Joe.

Pallante went six innings for St. Louis, allowing one run on three hits with three strikeouts and two walks.

• Guardians

Continued from Page B1

With a runner at first and two outs, Tigers catcher Jake Rogers hit a sinking liner that Mart nez narrowly missed with a dive. The ball got behind him, allowing Wenceel Perez to score easily from first, and when Mart nez slipped trying to retrieve it, Rogers made it all the

Rogers was credited with a triple and Mart nez charged with an error.

Struggling for any offense, the Guardians loaded the bases in the second but only pushed across one run on No. 9 hitter Austin Hedges' surprise bunt single.

The Tigers were up 2-0 after just three batters. Matt Vierling led off

SECOND TO NONE

For the third straight day, second baseman Travis Bazzana, drafted No. 1 overall last week by the Guardians, did fielding drills before the game.

Bazzana, who received an \$8.95 million signing bonus, will soon report to Cleveland's Single-A Lake County affiliate.

Manager Stephen Vogt has been very impressed

as we can keep the game within those three runs." UP NEXT Pirates rookie RHP Paul Skenes (6-0, 1.90 ERA) will pitch Tuesday for the first time since starting the All-Star Game for the National League, going opposite Cardinals RHP Lance Lynn (5-4, 4.39) (strikeouts) at Double-A Akron didn't accelerate his return from Tommy John surgery. The hope is that Boyd can join the rotation in August. "We obviously are excited," Vogt said. "He's with us and want him to pitch for us, but what's most important is that he comes out of his rehab healthy and ready to go." TIP NEXT

The home opener will be one week later on Monday, Nov. 11 against in-state foe Youngstown In December, the Buckeyes will host Valparaiso, Jake Diebler's alma mater, on Dec. 17. They

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Continued from Page B1

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Pallante went six innings for St. Louis, allowing one run on three hits with three strikeouts and two walks.

"You saw Keller," Pallante said. "Keller did a great job. Just trying to compete with him. It was important get every inning we can. ... Especially in a 1-1 game, someone's got to give, right? And our bullpen has been great and will continue to be great. I think we stand a really good chance as long

as we can keep the game within those three runs."

UP NEXT

Pirates rookie RHP Paul Skenes (6-0, 1.90 ERA) will pitch Tuesday for the first time since starting the All-Star Game for the National League, going opposite Cardinals RHP Lance Lynn (5-4, 4.39).

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The Tigers were up 2-0 after just three batters.

Matt Vierling led off by hitting a double off the left-field wall. One out later, Malloy hit a sinker from Carrasco into the bleachers for his seventh homer — and fifth in 15 games. He has 12 RBIs in the span.

SECOND TO NONE

For the third straight day, second baseman Travis Bazzana, drafted No. 1 overall last week by the Guardians, did fielding drills before the game.

Bazzana, who received an \$8.95 million signing bonus, will soon report to Cleveland's Single-A Lake County affiliate.

Manager Stephen Vogt has been very impressed with the 21-year-old.

"Nice kid," Vogt said. "Very, very well spoken. He's motivated."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Guardians: LHP Matthew Boyd's solid outing (four innings, five

strikeouts) at Double-A Akron didn't accelerate his return from Tommy John surgery. The hope is that Boyd can join the rotation in August. "We obviously are excited," Vogt said. "He's with us and want him to pitch for us, but what's most important is that he comes out of his rehab healthy and ready to go."

UP NEXT

Tigers manager A.J. Hinch is planning two bullpen games in the series, with the first coming Tuesday. The Guardians will counter with RHP Xzavion Curry (0-2, 5.19 ERA).

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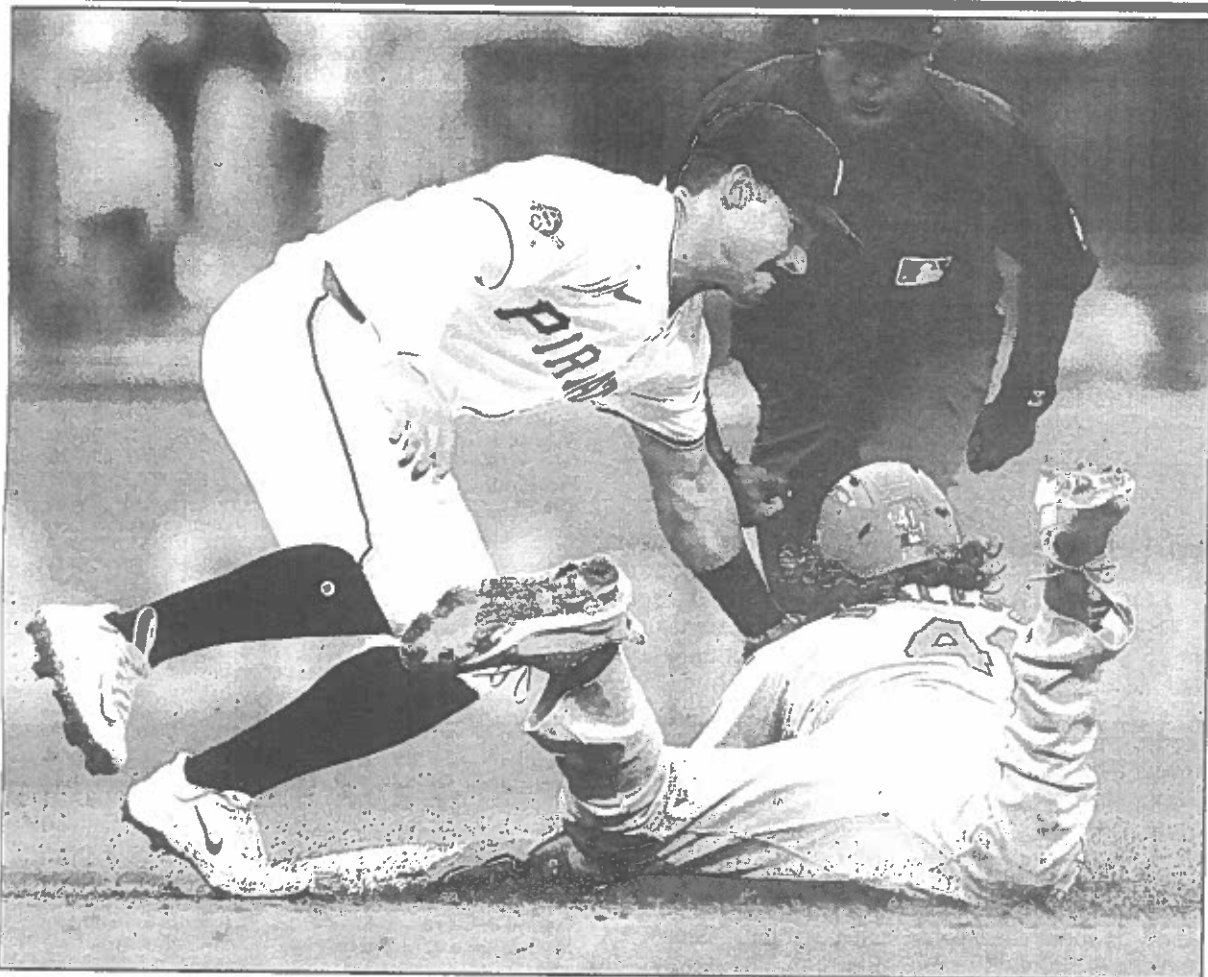
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Pittsburgh Pirates second baseman Nick Gonzales, left, tags out St. Louis Cardinals' Alec Burleson, bottom right, who was attempting to steal second during the third inning of a game Monday, July 22, 2024, in Pittsburgh. AP Photo

Gonzales, Keller Lead Pirates To Seventh Win In Eight Games, Beat Cardinals 2-1

By WES CROSBY
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Nick Gonzales hit a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth inning after Mitch Keller allowed one run in the first seven, and the Pittsburgh Pirates won for the seventh time in eight games, 2-1 over the St. Louis Cardinals in a matchup of NL wild card contenders on Monday night.

Bryan Reynolds led off the eighth with a single to left before advancing to second on a wild pitch. With one out, Gonzales sneaked a slow dribbler off John King (3-2) through the right side of the infield.

Gonzales hit a late-inning, go-ahead single for the second time in four games. He did it in the ninth inning against Philadelphia on Friday, giving the Pirates an 8-7 win.

"People that have the ability to slow their heartbeats down and hit in those situations, it's something that can't be taught." Pittsburgh

manager Derek Shelton said. "It's something that you have to do. I think we've got a couple guys that have it."

Keller gave up six hits in seven innings, striking out three and walking two, before Aroldis Chapman (2-4) pitched a perfect eighth. David Bednar allowed a two-out single to Paul Goldschmidt in the ninth before striking out Nolan Gorman for his 18th save.

"Huge team win, especially against the Cardinals," Keller said. "Every win's great but especially against a division rival. These are games we need to win."

The Cardinals are second in the NL Central, one game ahead of the Pirates. They are in position for the second NL wild card, with Pittsburgh one-half game back of the third and final spot.

"That's why every decision, every pitch, every at-bat seems extremely magnified," St. Lou-

is manager Oliver Marmol said. "Because there is no room for error. The margins have been really thin all year. We've played a lot of these games, like the one we played tonight. Yeah, one ball in the dirt leads to the runner moving up and it just changes the game a little bit."

"But listen, their side did a really nice job of scoring a run. So, that's what it comes down to."

Andrew McCutchen doubled to left in the third inning and Oneil Cruz put Pittsburgh ahead on a two-out RBI single to left.

Gorman tied it 1-1 with a lead-off home run in the fifth, his 19th, driven 362 feet off the right-field foul pole. Brendan Donovan then hit a sharp grounder off Keller's curveball with runners on first and second, but first baseman Rowdy Tellez made a diving stop to keep it from slipping down the line.

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One Step At A Time

Legendary Coach Jay Circosta Returned To The Field Saturday For OVAC All-Star Game Reunion

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - When Jay Circosta walked on to the newly installed artificial turf at Wheeling Island Stadium as part of the 50-year reunion celebration during a break in the first quarter of Sunday's 78th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, it marked the first time the OVAC Hall of Famer had been on a field during a game since Sept. 29 of last season.

What is significant about that date?

With Shenandoah driving for perhaps a tying score late in its game against Circosta's beloved Monroe Central squad in Woodsfield, a freak accident caused the then-79-year-old to be hospitalized with some serious injuries.

"Having been on the sidelines for 50 years, I knew the key thing was to stay behind the ball. I did that all year. In fact, when we scored to go ahead with 1-minute, 20-seconds left to play, someone took a video and there I was in the background at the 50-yard line jumping up in the air. We went for two and made it to go up by eight points."

"Shenandoah got the kick and they've got an outstanding quarterback. They started moving down the field and I was behind the ball. They got down to probably the Monroe Central 40-yard line going in to score and somebody called timeout," he recalled. "I went down to where the players were huddled to see what was going on. That was probably the first mistake."

"After the time out, I backed up. I wasn't directly on the sidelines. I was behind the coaches and players," he said. "What



JAY CIRCOSTA

happened was Shenandoah's quarterback threw an out pattern that their kid caught. Our defensive back drove him out of bounds and the players all went like this." Circosta described, spreading his hands wide. "And there they (the two players) were. I had no time to go anywhere. For somebody who's going to be 80 in November, I don't move as quickly as I used to."

"They hit me in my chest area, and some of the guys that were standing there with me told me later that I went airborne. And when I landed on the ground, the two players landed on top of me."

"After they got the players off of me, I looked down and my right leg was completely out of the socket. I had fractured my pelvis in three places, the top, middle and bottom," he explained. "They took me by ambulance to Wheeling, but as soon as they took some X-rays, they said, 'He can't stay here. He needs to go to a trauma center.'"

"So, it was off to Morgantown and WVU Medicine Ruby Memorial Hospital. They didn't operate on me until approximately 6 o'clock the next night," said the second winningest coach in Ohio Valley history (336) behind Steubenville's Reno Saccoccia.

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Lebron Carries Team USA Down The Stretch To Beat Germany In Final Olympic Warmup

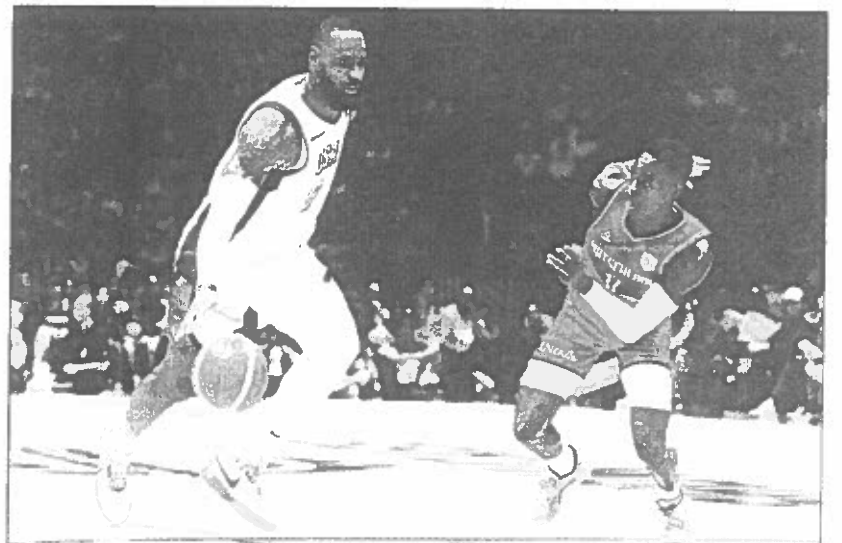
By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

On Friday, LeBron James will carry the U.S. flag. But first, he carried the U.S. men's basketball team.

Again.

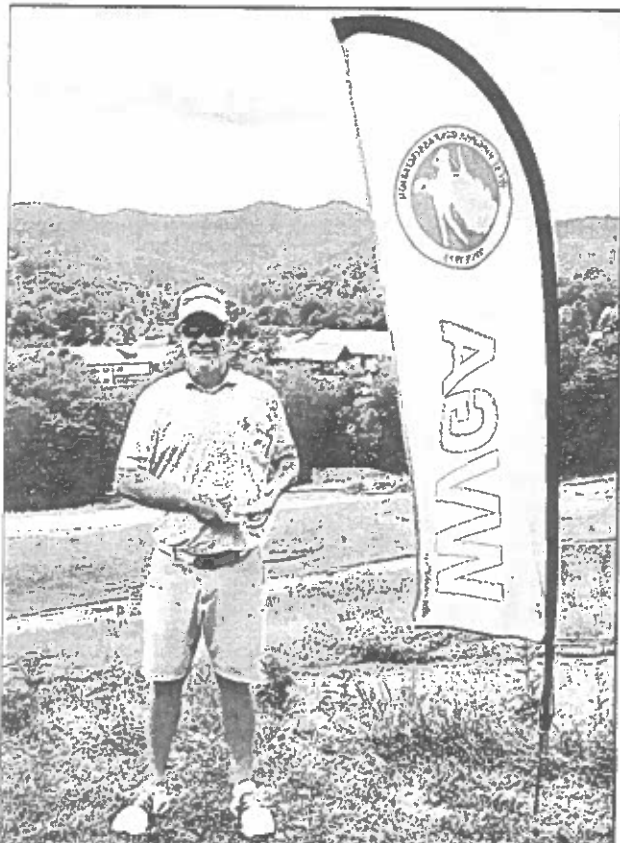
James scored the final 11 points for the Americans down the stretch, and the four-time reigning Olympic gold medalists held off World Cup champion Germany 92-88 in London on Monday night in their final tune-up before the Paris Games start later this week.

Announced earlier in the day as the male flagbearer for the Americans in Friday night's opening ceremony down the River Seine — the female flagbearer will be revealed Tuesday — James came through time and time again down the stretch, just as he did over the



AP Photo

United States' forward LeBron James, left, and Germany's guard Dennis Schroeder challenge for the ball during an exhibition game between the United States and Germany at the O2 Arena in London, Monday, July 22, 2024.



RJ Zitzelsberger, pictured with brothers Palmer and Charlie, holds his trophy after winning the "King of Swat" competition in Cooperstown New York. Zitzelsberger, a member of the Ohio Valley Xpress 12U summer league baseball team, took part in the event while in Cooperstown as part of a tournament in the town involving 86 teams. There were also four skills competitions which each included one member of every team, and RJ was picked for the 86-player field in the "King of Swat." The 12-year old hit three home runs on five pitches in the first round. In the final round against a field whittled down to a dozen competitors, RJ hit five of 10 pitches over the fence. RJ is a soon-to-be seventh grader at the Linsly School in Wheeling.

Cincinnati QB Burrow Cleared For Contact

CINCINNATI (AP) — Joe Burrow and his surgically repaired wrist have been cleared for contact, and the Cincinnati Bengals star quarterback is ready to go for the opening of training camp on Wednesday.

Burrow was sidelined last season when he suffered a torn ligament in his right wrist in the 10th game, a loss to Baltimore on Nov. 16. He had surgery Nov. 27.

"We just need Joe to be out there," new offensive coordinator Dan Pitcher said. "He's going to be out there. He's worked himself in a really good place physically and mentally."

Coach Zac Taylor doesn't know yet if the quarterback — or any of the regulars — will play in the preseason games. But Taylor said he is feeling optimistic about Burrow.

"My impression of him, just seen him over the last several months, has been very positive, and he's ready to go," Taylor said.

Pitcher said having Burrow at 100% or close to it for training camp is critical to the ramping up of the Bengals offense, which will be operating with a new No. 1 running back, likely Zack Moss, right offensive tackle in Trent Brown, and No. 3 receiver following the departure of Tyler Boyd.

"So just having him and, you know, the effect that he has on everyone around him," said Pitcher, who was promoted after Brian Callahan was hired as the head coach at Tennessee. "I think we feel it because we're out there. We're standing there. We know what it does, you know? But that'll be a nice part of having him out there for all of camp."

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 9)

The Pirates left a runner in scoring position in each of the first four innings.

Cruz stole second in the first and third innings ahead of groundouts from Gonzales. Tellez led off the second with a double but only reached third. Jack Suwinski stole second with two outs in the fourth, but Andre Pallante struck out Connor Joe.

Pallante went six in-

nings for St. Louis, allowing one run on three hits with three strikeouts and two walks.

"You saw Keller," Pallante said. "Keller did a great job. Just trying to compete with him. It was important get every inning we can. ... Especially in a 1-1 game, someone's got to give, right? And our bullpen has been great and will continue to

be great. I think we stand a really good chance as long as we can keep the game within those three runs."

UP NEXT

Pirates rookie RHP Paul Skenes (6-0, 1.90 ERA) will pitch Tuesday for the first time since starting the All-Star Game for the National League, going opposite Cardinals RHP Lance Lynn (5-4, 4.39).

STEP

(Continued from Page 9)

"The doctor told me up front that these are the most difficult surgeries they do here and most of them are from front-end car crashes," he recalled. "It's going to be a long surgery, like four-and-a-half hours, and it's going to be a bloody surgery. They cut me from the middle of my stomach to the middle of my back. He didn't even know if he could get to everything from the front. He said he might have to go in through the back."

"The last thing he told me really threw me," Circosta admitted. "He said I probably wouldn't be able to walk for three to four months. He said I wouldn't be able to put any pressure on my leg."

Circosta said he was in the hospital for two weeks and then in a care center for the same amount of time. Then he went home, where he had a home health nurse come to provide care.

"I was in a wheelchair and then I used a walker," he offered. "I had to bend my (right) leg so I didn't put any pressure on it, and I had to lift myself up on my walker. I did that for three months. The accident happened on Sept. 29. I didn't walk until Dec. 14. I took one step at a time. The nurses showed me how to walk and what to do."

"Our daughter is a nurse practitioner, and she told me I was lucky. I told her,

"What do you mean I'm lucky?" She told me that there's an artery that runs down the front of your leg called the femoral artery. If that had ruptured, you probably wouldn't have made it off the field. You would have bled to death." I said, "I guess I am lucky."

He underwent in-patient treatment for three weeks, then they put him in water therapy.

"I did some workouts in the pool when we were on vacation in Florida, and I continue to do them in our pool at our home in Woodfield," he noted. "In mid-May the doctor in Morgantown told me it would probably be a year-to-a-year-and-a-half before I'd be back to walking a lot better. I still have some pain, but not excruciating like before."

Circosta said he has the X-rays of his repaired injuries, and they show two screws about 4 inches long along with various other medical products.

"My daughter told me I've got about \$10,000 worth of hardware inside me," he smiled.

"I have never, ever felt any pain like that in my life. It was excruciating," he admitted. "I thought at first that both of my hips or legs were broken. I felt instant pain. I was conscious the entire time. I had grass stains on the back of my coaching shirt. When I got to the hospital, my right hand was kind of

numb. I thought maybe I had broken something in it when I landed. What had actually happened was I landed on my right elbow and hit the ulnar nerve that controls all the feeling in the hand. To this day I've still got some numbness."

"I'm blessed to be able to walk. The good Lord looked after me," he stressed. "I couldn't have asked for better care and support from my family, friends and a lot of people I didn't even know."

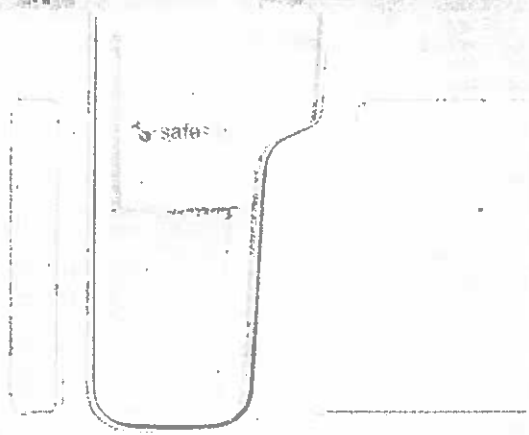
Although he still has a long road to a full recovery ahead, he is thinking forward, as well.

"I just have to take it one step at a time. I believe I'll be in the press box this year."

When asked about Saturday night, the face of the owner of 14 OVAC titles at Woodfield High and Monroe Central lit up with delight.

"This is a great game. It's great for the Ohio Valley. Every time this game rolls around, I think of Rudy Mumley," he noted. "Rudy had me in school at Shadyside. We had a real close relationship, and he nominated me for enshrinement into the West Liberty Hall of Fame."

"It felt great to be out there on the field with those guys," Circosta added. "I coached in this game four times, winning two and losing two. This group of guys was a good group."



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