

Monday,
April 29, 2024

SPORTS



Photo by KIM NORTH

MARTINS FERRY shortstop Danielle Lude cuts a throw to second off and relays to third in an attempt to get a Wheeling Central baserunner Saturday in the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 3A Softball Championship Game on Lisa's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Ballparks in Elm Grove. Wheeling Central won, 9-1.

Wheeling Central girls take down Martins Ferry

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

ELM GROVE — Wheeling Central won its 16th OVAC championship in softball Saturday with a convincing, 9-1, triumph over top-seeded Martins Ferry in the Class 3A title tilt on sun-splashed Lisa's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Ballparks.

However, it was the second-seeded Maroon Knights' (16-4) first crown since 2017 when they made it back-to-back (2016), according to the conference website. Most of the conference-leading 16 titles came in Class AA, with the only other 3A title coming in 2008.

"It's been a while," Wheeling Central head coach Buck Davidson said of the championship drought. "The girls really came together and played an excellent game all the way around."

The combination of outstanding pitching and well-placed base hits was the key for Wheeling Central. Junior Josie Frizzell did the most damage from inside the circle, limiting the Purple Riders (11-4) to just two hits while striking out a dozen and issuing a pair of walks. She needed only 97 pitches (74) in going the distance. She threw a first-pitch strike to 20 of the 26 batters she faced.

"This feels really good. I'm really excited because we've wanted this since before I was here and we're really hyped to, hopefully, carry the momentum over into sectionals and regionals," Frizzell said.

Davidson is getting used to performances like that from his ace.

"I really can't explain it," Davidson admitted. "When it gets around playoff

time, these girls pull together and come through. It was nice to watch. Everyone contributed, from Josie to those girls on the bench that didn't play. Everybody was cheering. It was a great atmosphere."

Martins Ferry's Maddie Lucas had control problems from the very first pitch. The freshman walked the first three batters, but came back to strike out the next two. However, a walk to Trina Baker gave Wheeling Central a 1-0 lead.

"We started off the game with some walks and that's going to happen against a team like Wheeling Central who makes you work," Martins Ferry head coach Jerry Magistro. "You can't give a team like that many runs because of their pitcher. She doesn't give up many runs."

The Maroon Knights scored three times in the top of the third. Maddie Miehle drew a leadoff walk and Erin Maxwell singled to right with one out as Miehle went to third. The throw from the outfield went awry, allowing Miehle to race home as Maxwell advanced to second. Frizzell then dropped a single into shallow left-center as Maxwell went to third. The throw trying to get her got away, letting Frizzell move up 60 feet. With two outs, Jensen Rine lined a double to the gap in left-center as Maxwell and courtesy runner Olivia Stephens to score for a 4-0 advantage.

Wheeling Central sent 10 batters to the plate in a four-run fourth that bumped the margin to 8-0. A leadoff walk to Bella Rine and a one-out seeing-eye single by Brook Edge put the designated visitors in business. Maxwell laid down a sacrifice bunt down

that was thrown wildly to first as Rine scored. Edge went to third and Maxwell to second. Frizzell walked to load the bases. Baker blooped an RBI single down the line in shallow left and Jensen Rine did the same to right before Ava Hanson's run-scoring groundout capped the outburst.

An RBI single by Maxwell, her third hit of the game, made it 9-0 in the top of the seventh.

Martins Ferry scored its lone run with one out in its last at-bat. Kyndahl Richardson's bunt was thrown wide of first and rolled all the way to the right field corner as the Purple Riders senior circled the bases.

Frizzell retired the next two hitters for the championship.

"I thought we prepared well for what she did, but she kept us off guard" Magistro said of Frizzell. "It was just one of those days. I never thought I'd see us play like that because we've worked so hard, but they were the better team today. The pitcher made the difference."

Brook Edge (single, double); Frizzell (2 singles); and J. Rine (single, double) all enjoyed multiple-hit games as the Maroon Knights collected 10 hits.

SJ Koller beat out a bunt single in the second and Lucas doubled to left leading off the sixth for the only hits Frizzell surrendered.

Martins Ferry returns to action Tuesday against Cambridge. They play in the Buckeye 8 crossover against Indian Creek on Wednesday. Wheeling Central, meanwhile, heads straight into W.Va. Class A Region I, Sectional I tournament action on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. versus the winner of Monday's Paden City-Magnolia game.

Nailers advance to next round

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

CRANBERRY, Pa. — A three-goal second period Saturday night was enough to lift the Wheeling Nailers into the next round of the ECHL Kelly Cup Playoffs.

Trailing the second-seeded Indy Fuel 1-0 after 20 minutes, a short-handed goal evened the score and swung the momentum in Wheeling's favor and team captain Justin Addamo tipped in a pair of net-finders in an 8-minute span as the No. 3 Nailers eliminated the Fuel with a 4-2 victory in Game 5 of their best-of-7 Central Division semifinal series, winning 4-1, before a sellout crowd of 800 inside the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex.

"We knew coming in it wasn't going to be easy because it's hard to end a team's season," Addamo said. "It was a good win for us and now we will set our focus on Toledo."

With the win, their fourth straight over the Fuel after dropping the opening contest of the series, the Nailers will now play for the Central Division championship against top-seeded Toledo. The best-of-7 will begin Friday and Saturday at 7:15 p.m. inside the 8,000-seat Huntington Center with Games 1 and 2. Games 3, 4 and 5 will be played in Wheeling at WesBanco Arena on Wed., May 8, Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11. All games start at 7:10. Should a Game 6 be necessary, it will be played inside Indiana Farmers Coliseum in Indianapolis on Monday, May 13 at 7:15. Game 7, also if necessary, would also be played at 7:15 in the Hoosier State.

"I didn't hate our (play in the) first period, but I didn't love it," Wheeling head coach Derek Army said. "Even though we were down 1-0, I thought we had some chances."

Matt Koopman took a pass from David Jankowski on a 2-on-1 short-handed break and beat Indy goaltender Mitchell Weeks on the right side for a 1-1 tie just 2-minutes, 21-seconds into the middle period. Jankowski picked up a loose puck near center ice and sped down the right wing. When he reached the middle of the right face-off circle, he slid the puck through a Fuel defender and Koopman tickled the twine.

See **NAILERS**, Page B2

Estrada and Yastrzemski homers to lead Giants past Pirates

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Thairo Estrada and Mike Yastrzemski hit back-to-back home runs in the third inning, and rookie right-hander Keaton Winn had another strong start to lead the San Francisco Giants to a 3-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Sunday.

Rookie shortstop Tyler Fitzgerald added three hits for the Giants, who took two of three from the Pirates and finished their longest homestand of the season 6-4. Pittsburgh lost for the 10th time in its past 13 games.

Winn (3-3) held the Pirates to one run over six innings, his line over the past three starts, all victories. Winn walked one, struck out five. He also hit Edward Olivares to start the fifth inning, leading to a

Riley's RBI single in 10th lifts Braves to 4-3 win over Guardians and Atlanta takes 2 of 3 in series

ATLANTA (AP) — Austin Riley knocked in Ronald Acuna Jr. with a 10th inning

Stephen Kwan was picked off trying to steal third with one out just before Josiah Ram rez





Photo by Joe Lovell

Wheeling Nailers' Justin Addamo (20) celebrates one of his two tip-in goals during the second period Saturday night with Evan Vierling (41) as the Nailers eliminated the Indy Fuel 4-2 in Game 5 of their ECHL Kelly Cup playoffs Central Division semifinal series inside the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex in Cranberry, Pa. The Nailers won the best-of-7 series, 4-1.

Nailers Knock Out Fuel; Next Up Is Toledo

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

CRANBERRY, Pa. — A three-goal second period Saturday night was enough to lift the Wheeling Nailers into the next round of the ECHL Kelly Cup Playoffs.

Trailing the second-seeded Indy Fuel 1-0 after 20 minutes, a short-handed goal evened the score and swung the momentum in Wheeling's favor and team captain Justin Addamo tipped in a pair of net-finders in an 8-minute span as the No. 3 Nailers eliminated the Fuel with a 4-2 victory in Game 5 of their best-of-7 Central Division semifinal series, winning 4-1, before a sellout crowd of

800 inside the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex.

"We knew coming in it wasn't going to be easy because it's hard to end a team's season," Addamo said. "It was a good win for us and now we will set our focus on Toledo."

With the win, their fourth straight over the Fuel after dropping the opening contest of the series, the Nailers will now play for the Central Division championship against top-seeded Toledo. The best-of-7 series will begin Friday and Saturday at 7:15 p.m. at the 8,000-seat Huntington Center with Games 1 and 2.

Please see **NAILERS**,
Page 12

Central Softball Rolls To A 16th OVAC Title

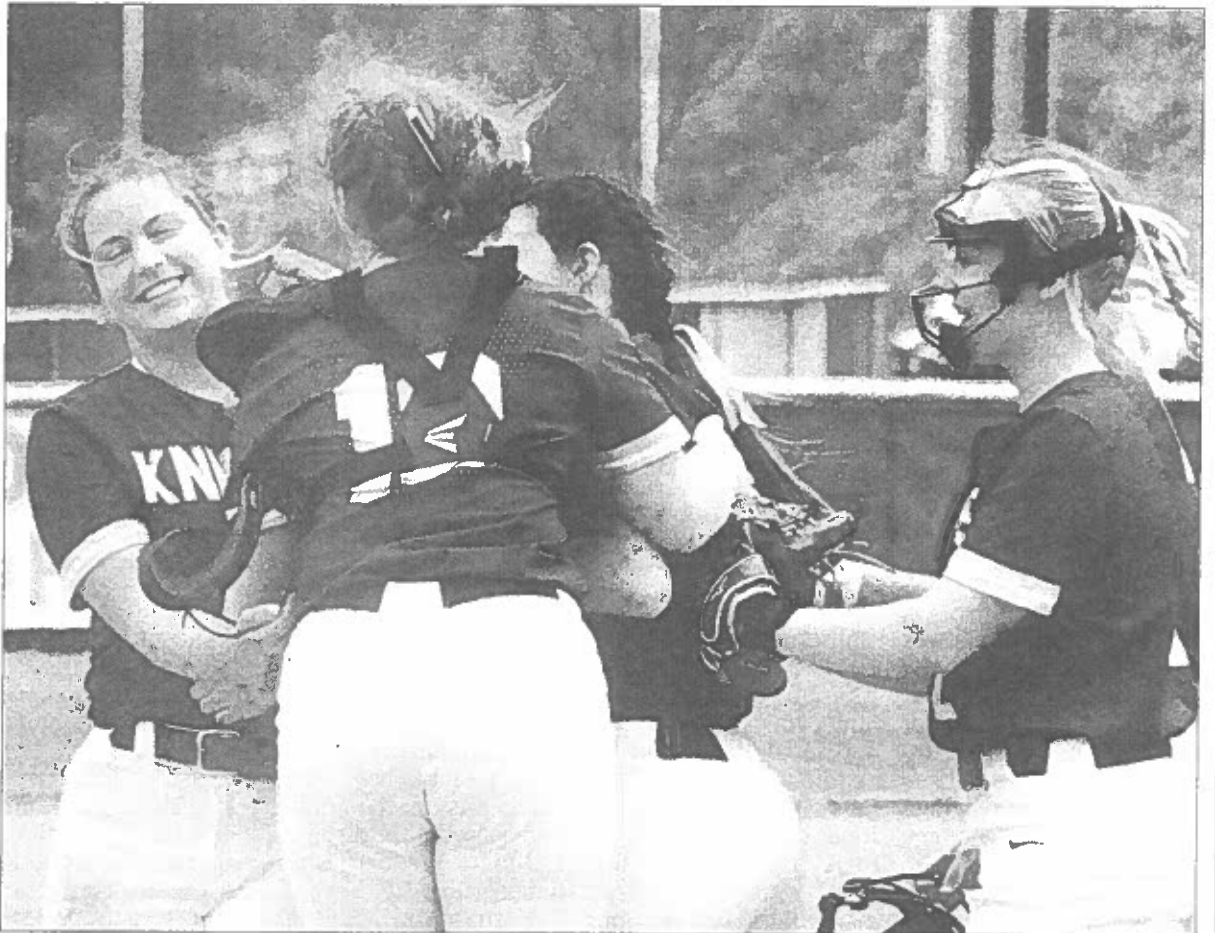


Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Central's Josie Frizzell, left, is congratulated by her Maroon Knight teammates after she struck out 12 and allowed just two hits in a 9-1 victory over top-seeded Martins Ferry in the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 3A Softball Championship Game on Lisa's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Ballparks in Elm Grove.

Josie Frizzell Allows Just 2 Hits To Martins Ferry

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Wheeling Central won its 16th OVAC championship in softball Saturday with a convincing, 9-1, triumph over top-seeded Martins Ferry in the Class 3A title tilt on sun-splashed Lisa's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Ballparks.

However, it was the second-seeded Maroon Knights' (16-4) first crown since 2017 when they made it back-to-back (2016), according to the conference website. Most of the conference-leading 16 titles came in Class AA, with the only other 3A title coming in 2008.

"It's been a while," Wheeling Central head coach Buck Davidson said of the championship drought. "The girls really came together and played an excellent game all the way around."

The combination of outstanding pitching and well-placed base hits was the key for Wheeling Central. Junior Josie Frizzell did the most damage from inside the circle, limiting the Purple Riders (11-4) to just two hits while striking out a dozen and issuing a pair of walks. She needed only 97 pitches (74) in going the distance. She threw a first-pitch strike to 20 of the 26 batters she faced.

"This feels really good. I'm re-

ally excited because we've wanted this since before I was here and we're really hyped to, hopefully, carry the momentum over into sectionals and regionals," Frizzell said.

Davidson is getting used to performances like that from his ace.

"I really can't explain it," Davidson admitted. "When it gets around playoff time, these girls pull together and come through. It was nice to watch. Everyone contributed, from Josie to those girls on the bench that didn't play. Everybody was cheering. It was a great atmosphere."

Please see **CENTRAL**, Page 12

Draft Showed Steelers' Inside-Out Building Approach

By **WILL GRAVES**
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers spent February overhauling their offensive coaching staff, March doing the same to the quarterback room and the last week of April giving the offensive line a massive injection of youth.

The huddle and the sideline will look significantly different this fall when the Steelers take the field in Week 1. How longtime coach Mike Tomlin wants his team to move the ball, however, will not. The proof came over three sometimes-tense days of the NFL draft, when general manager Omar Khan's took his emphasis on building the team from the inside out to the extreme.

The Steelers selected offensive

linemen with three of their first five picks, grabbing Washington tackle Troy Fautanu in the first round, West Virginia center Zach Frazier in the second and South Dakota State guard Mason McCormick in the fourth.

The previous time Pittsburgh used such heavy draft capital on linemen came in 1976 at the height of the "Steel Curtain" dynasty. Doing it again nearly 50 years later highlights that while the game is ever-changing, some aspects remain timeless, particularly in Pittsburgh.

"It was a strong offensive line group," Khan said. "We've talked plenty of times about how we feel about the importance of the offensive line ... it just kind of worked that way for us."

Frazier and Fautanu figure to be

given every chance to earn a starting job in training camp. Fautanu started 27 of 28 games at left tackle during his junior and senior seasons with the Huskies while Frazier was a four-year starter for the Mountaineers. McCormick, who figures to learn behind veterans Isaac Seumalo and James Daniels, suited up a staggering 70 times for the Jackrabbits.

"We're looking for guys with talent," Tomlin said. "Oftentimes that talent is coupled with experience. It's good to have a group that's mature as players and as people. All that means is we should expect those guys to have a high floor and a good presentation of what they're capable of early on."

Please see **DRAFT**, Page 12



AP Photo

West Virginia's Zach Frazier (54) calls signals at the line against Texas Tech on Sept. 23, 2023, in Morgantown. The Steelers made Frazier their second-round pick Friday in the NFL draft.

Giants Slug Back-To-Back



WVU Irons Out Some Wrinkles



tools to potentially re-create the dominant ground game he put together while calling plays with Tennessee in 2019 and 2020.

Instead of Derrick Henry, Smith has Najee Harris and Jaylen Warren one of the best running back tandems in the league. Fautanu, Frazier and tackle Broderick Jones — last year's first-round pick — give the line a core that shares a pedigree with the group the Steelers had in the mid-2010s with center Maurkice Pouncey, guard David DeCastro and tackle Alejandro Villanueva.

"There's a certain style of play and intent we want that fits this team and the history here and the Steelers and the brand of football, a shared vision," Smith said.

A vision Smith will try to see to fruition. While much of the attention during training camp will be on recently acquired quarterbacks Russell Wilson and Justin Fields, all around them it could be the same as it



Pittsburgh Steelers first round draft pick Troy Fautanu, left, and owner Art Rooney II, right, pose at a news conference in Pittsburgh on Friday.

ever was in Pittsburgh.

WAITING FOR WILSON, PART 1

The Steelers didn't neglect

the other positions entirely. Pittsburgh drafted Michigan wide receiver Roman Wilson in the third round, won over

competitiveness.

The 5-foot-11 Wilson isn't afraid to go over the middle and is a willing blocker, a trait not always shared by his new teammates.

Perhaps just as importantly to Tomlin, Wilson comes from a program coming off a national title.

"You can't say enough about the winning component in terms of the way it shapes (players like Wilson's) relationship with the game and what they're willing to do and their mettle," Tomlin said. "He checks a lot of those boxes."

WAITING FOR WILSON, PART 2

Payton Wilson's college resume screamed high-end talent. That's what made the inside linebacker's availability late in the third round all the more startling to Khan and Tomlin.

Wilson won the Butkus Award as the nation's top linebacker after his final season at North Carolina State. Still,

multiple knee surgeries.

Not the Steelers, who could pair Wilson with newly signed Patrick Queen at some point down the road.

"We're really excited about the collection of talent we've been able to assemble," Tomlin said.

WHAT'S MISSING

The Steelers entered the draft with needs at wide receiver and the secondary. They ended the draft by tabbing Roman Wilson and taking a flyer on Texas defensive back Ryan Watts in the sixth round.

While both have potential, Pittsburgh — which is built to win now, as always — could still use a serious talent influx at both positions before they report to training camp at Saint Vincent College in late July.

Outside linebacker Alex Highsmith restructured his contract to free up a little salary cap space, and there's a very real chance Khan could go shopping in the coming weeks.

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 11)

The Giants relied on stifling performances by their starters on the homestand, which left them 14-15, good for second place in the National League West. They are 3 1/2 games behind the first-place Dodgers. The rotation has a 0.95 ERA over the past seven games, a lifeline for a team that has struggled to score.

Manager Bob Melvin said the Giants' start "hasn't been great. But to sit here right at .500, or a game below, we know there's a lot more in there. It's not a horri-

ble place to be. No one's really running away with the division, too."

Pirates right-hander Jared Jones (2-3), making his sixth start in the majors, allowed three runs in five innings. Jones entered with a 2.79 ERA over his first five starts, striking out 39 in 29 innings. But the long ball has been an issue for the 22-year-old. The third-inning homers by Estrada and Yastrzemski were the sixth and seventh that Jones has surrendered.

Estrada hit the first pitch of the inning into

the bleachers in left-center for his fourth of the season. Yastrzemski followed by driving a 2-2 pitch over the wall in straightaway center.

The Giants had three more hits in the inning and scored a third run on LaMonte Wade Jr.'s no-out sacrifice fly.

Yastrzemski had a tough start to the season but has heated up ahead of the Giants' first visit to Boston in five years Tuesday night. As a rookie in 2019, Yastrzemski homered in his first game at Fenway Park in the presence of

his grandfather, Red Sox legend and Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski. Before that game, Carl threw the ceremonial first pitch to Mike.

Yastrzemski hit .409 in 22 at-bats on the homestand, with two homers and eight RBIs, raising batting average from .121 to .236.

Melvin pegged Yastrzemski's slow start to a spring-training shoulder injury. Yastrzemski also took a two-day paternity leave during the first

week of the regular season. Yastrzemski said that was part of it, but added, "I was also just not in a great place mentally, not getting off to the start that I wanted, pressing, trying to do too much. Sometimes it takes a little bit of time to let that go and focus on the things that I needed to instead of the scoreboard and to start having better at-bats."

TRAINER'S ROOM
Giants: Shortstop Nick Ahmed did not start a day after taking Jack Suwins-

ki's 108-mph liner on the left wrist above his glove hand. He was available off the bench.

UP NEXT

Pirates LHP Bailey Falter (2-1, 3.33 ERA) was set to face RHP Joe Boyle (1-4, 7.06) in a series opener at Oakland on Monday night. Giants RHP Logan Webb (3-1, 2.33) will carry a career-high 19-inning scoreless streak into Fenway Park on Tuesday night. The Red Sox have not announced a starter.

NAILERS

(Continued from Page 11)

Games 3, 4 and 5 will be played in Wheeling at WesBanco Arena on Wednesday, May 8, Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11. All games start at 7:10. Should a Game 6 be necessary, it will be played inside Indiana Farmers Coliseum in Indianapolis on Monday, May 13 at 7:15. Game 7, also if necessary, would also be played at 7:15 in the Hoosier State.

"I didn't hate our (play in the) first period, but I didn't love it," Wheeling head coach Derek Army said. "Even though we were down 1-0, I thought we had some chances."

Matt Koopman took a pass from David Jankowski on a 2-on-1 short-handed break and beat Indy goaltender Mitchell Weeks on the right side for a 1-1 tie just 2-minutes, 21-seconds into the middle period. Jankowski picked up a loose puck near center ice and sped down the right wing. When he reached the middle of the right face-off circle, he slid the puck through a Fuel defender and Koopman tickled the twine.

"That was a huge momentum swing. To get a goal like that short-handed ... Army said of Koopman's goal with teammate Lukas Svejksky in the penalty box for tripping. "Our penalty kill was fantastic in the series."

Just over four minutes later, the Nailers took the lead for good when Addamo, the hero of Game 3 with the game-winning goal just 30 seconds into

overtime, deflected a shot from Svejksky past Weeks on the power-play for a 2-1 advantage. Camped in front of the Fuel net, Addamo got his stick on a drive by Martel from the left circle.

Addamo made it 3-1 with another deflection — this time off a Svejksky shot from just inside the blue line — that Weeks never saw at 14:04. David Drake logged the other assist.

"That's my job to get in front of the net and do what I can do to distract the goalie," the 6-6, 248-pound Addamo, the No. 1 star of the game, said.

Indy cut the deficit to 3-2 in the final minute of the middle period on a goal by Santino Centorame, but would get no closer.

Indy kept the pressure on in the third period, earning a 13-5 advantage in shots, but Wheeling's Jaxon Castor continued to stand tall between the pipes.

"That's my job," he said after being named the game's No. 2 star after recording 37 stops on 39 shots. "Our team is mentally tough. You saw that after we got scored on first. I've been preaching that we are mentally tougher than they were. I'm really proud of the guys and glad to be a part of this team."

Koopman, the No. 3 star, sent the puck into the empty net from three-quarters ice with 52 seconds remaining to ice the game, and the series.

"We will celebrate this win tonight and then turn our focus to Toledo," Army said.

CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 11)

Martins Ferry's Maddie Lucas had control problems from the very first pitch. The freshman walked the first three batters, but came back to strike out the next two. However, a walk to Trina Baker gave Wheeling Central a 1-0 lead.

"We started off the game with some walks and that's going to happen against a team like Wheeling Central who makes you work," Martins Ferry head coach Jerry Magistro. "You can't give a team like that many runs because of their pitcher. She doesn't give up many runs."

The Maroon Knights scored three times in the top of the third. Maddie Michle drew a leadoff walk and Erin Maxwell singled to right with one out as Michle went to third. The throw from the outfield went awry, allowing Michle to race home as Maxwell advanced to second. Frizzell then dropped a single into shallow left-center as Maxwell went to third. The throw trying to get her got away, letting Frizzell move up 60 feet. With two outs, Jensen Rine lined a double to the gap in left-center as Maxwell and courtesy runner Olivia Stephens to score for a 4-0 advantage.

Wheeling Central sent 10 batters to the plate in a four-run fourth that bumped the margin to 8-0. A leadoff walk to Bella Rine and a one-out seeing-eye single by Brook Edge put the designated visitors in business. Maxwell laid down a sacrifice bunt down that was thrown wildly to first as Rine scored. Edge went to third and Maxwell to second. Frizzell walked to load

the bases. Baker blooped an RBI single down the line in shallow left and Jensen Rine did the same to right before Ava Hanson's run-scoring groundout capped the outburst.

An RBI single by Maxwell, her third hit of the game, made it 9-0 in the top of the seventh.

Martins Ferry scored its lone run with one out in its last at-bat. Kyndahl Richardson's bunt was thrown wide of first and rolled all the way to the right field corner as the Purple Riders senior circled the bases.

Frizzell retired the next two hitters for the championship.

"I thought we prepared well for what she did, but she kept us off guard" Magistro said of Frizzell. "It was just one of those days. I never thought I'd see us play like that because we've worked so hard, but they were the better team today. The pitcher made the difference."

Brook Edge (single, double); Frizzell (2 singles); and J. Rine (single, double) all enjoyed multiple-hit games as the Maroon Knights collected 10 hits.

SJ Koller beat out a bunt single in the second and Lucas doubled to left leading off the sixth for the only hits Frizzell surrendered.

Martins Ferry returns to action Tuesday against Cambridge. They play in the Buckeye 8 crossover against Indian Creek on Wednesday. Wheeling Central, meanwhile, heads straight into W.Va. Class A Region I, Sectional I tournament action on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. versus the winner of today's Paden City-Magnolia game.

SPRING

(Continued from Page 11)

Now, there is no doubt that Brown didn't leave with that same feeling, for he understood that this was far from the finished product he hoped to put on display along with the new uniforms in the opening game against Penn State.

The play was neither crisp nor error free, the quarterbacks — both Garrett Greene and Nicco

Marchiol — obviously still in the midst of making the necessary corrections from last year.

They combined to complete 18 of 32 passes, which is only 56.3%, not at all the goal they were shooting for. Those two did combine for 172

yards but there also were a couple of interceptions, among them three thrown during the scrimmage by

all WVU QBs.

"Today Garrett was OK, not great, not bad," Brown said.

But this brings us back to our first point, which is how football is not really football — certainly not entertaining football — without tackling. The rules in this game for

most of the play was that the defense only had to touch the ball carrier and

the rules was obvious early.

"It's hard on a guy like Garrett," Brown noted. "He would have had a couple of explosive runs if they had had to tackle him and gone over 100 yards rushing. The stats would look a little different then."

Greene admitted he would have liked to have tried to blow by people

The only thing that really bothered Greene, Brown surmised, was on a trick double reverse play which ended in role reversal with Preston Fox throwing deep for Greene, only to have it go off his fingertips.

"I will say it was the sun," Greene joked. "He threw a good ball and I got to bring that in."

That play was not all

was true, for it was a fun day in the sun, for there were a lot of individuals who made an impression, some of whom helped with the turnaround of the program last year and some who are expected to help carry it into the future.

Josiah Trotter, the heralded linebacker who is the son of a former NFL linebacker for the Phil-

OVAC SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

John Marshall Falls In Nail-Biter To Mohigans

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - The OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 5A softball championship went down to the wire on Friday night, with the John Marshall Monarchs making a bid at a last-chance comeback against the Morgantown Mohigans, but the No. 4-seeded Mohigans stopped the No. 2-seeded Monarchs in the 11th hour, leaving the tying and winning runs stranded in the seventh inning of a 4-3 conference title clinch.

"We pulled this one out," Morgantown head coach Lori Lipscomb said. "We knew John Marshall wasn't going to give up, there's always fight in them. I'm just proud of our girls, that they stayed the course, picked each other up, and it was just an all-around great effort."

Please see Marshall,
Page C2



Photo by Nick Henthorn
John Marshall's AC Cumberledge throws a pitch Friday against the Morgantown Mohigans during the two teams' OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 5A softball championship tilt. The Mohigans won, 4-3.

Weir Holds Off Indian Creek For First Tournament Title

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - The No. 4 Weir Red Riders and No. 2 Indian Creek Redskins both started out slow Friday in their OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 4A softball championship, but the Riders were able to unhitch the wagon first, scoring four runs through six innings before Creek could muster any offense, and securing the gold in a 4-1 victory.

It was Weir's first OVAC championship since the conference adopted a tournament format, and one that the Riders were eager to attain.

"It's very gratifying," Weir head coach John Leary said. "I started coaching softball here with Frank Sissini, he took the program over in 2016, and he was here until he became the head football coach."

Please see Weir,
Page C3



Photo by Nick Henthorn
Weir's Eliza Utt fires a pitch Friday during the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 4A softball championship against Indian Creek. Weir prevailed, 4-1.

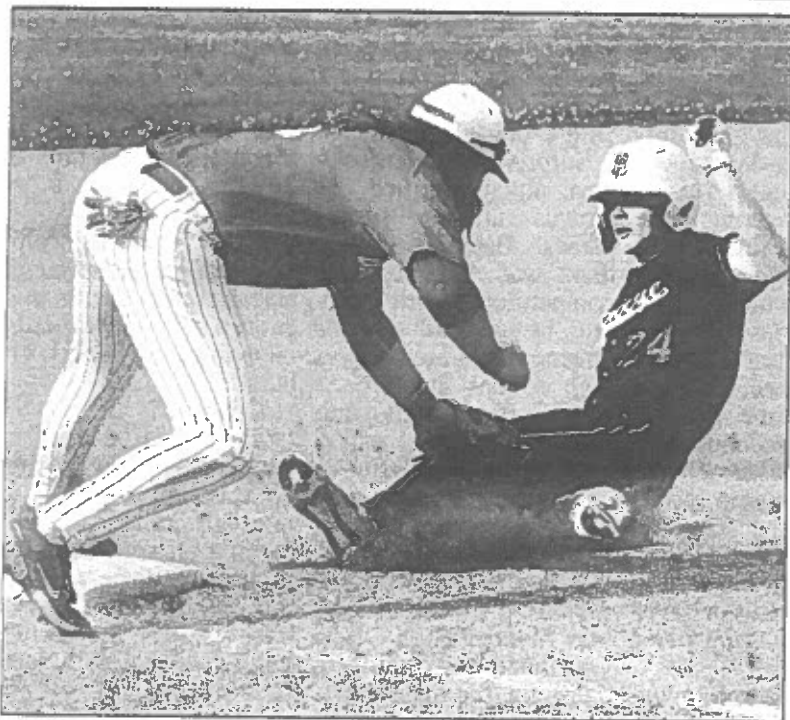


Photo by Kim North
Union Local third baseman Logan Hess tags out Buckeye Local's Mason Griffin during action Friday in Morrystown. The Jets won, 12-2, in four-and-a-half innings.

Union Local Earns Season Sweep vs. Panthers

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

MORRISTOWN - A pair of struggling high school baseball teams met Friday on sun-splashed Jets Field, with one team trying to gain some momentum for the upcoming postseason, while the other continued to hurt itself with mistakes.

Union Local (4-13) batted around in the second and third innings while scoring 11 runs en route to an OHSAA mercy-rule-shortened, 12-2, triumph over visiting Buckeye Local in four-and-a-half innings.

The victory allowed the Jets to earn a regular-season sweep of the Panthers (4-13), the other win coming on April 9 by a 13-8 count in Connorsville.

"We came out early, put

the bat on the ball and put the pressure on Buckeye Local to make the plays," Union Local head coach Jim Hess said of his team's first shortened victory of the campaign. "We're struggling right now, so we'll take a win any way we can get one."

"I told the kids going into tonight to just go out and have fun," Hess noted. "Maybe we can get hot before tournament time and put something together."

Leading 1-0 after scoring an unearned run in the bottom of the first, Union Local sent 10 better to the plate in a five-run second.

The Jets played some station-to-station with consecutive RBI singles off the bats of Braylon Akers, Billy Schumacher, Colby Carpenter and Logan Hess before

winning pitcher Evan White singled down the first baseline to score two runs, making it 6-0.

Alex Moore drew a lead-off walk and Braylon Akers beat out a slow roller to short. Schumacher's bloop single to shallow right-center chased in a run; Carpenter slapped a 0-1 pitch through the left side of the infield; and Logan Hess dropped a hit into shallow right.

Akers started a six-run third with an infield single and Schumacher singled to left. Carpenter laid down a sacrifice bunt that he beat out. With one out and runners on second and third, the left-handed hitting White sliced a single down the left field line that knocked in two more runs.

Please see Sweep, Page C2

Mountaineers Spring Game A Chance For Good First Impressions

By BOB HERTZEL
WV News

MORGANTOWN - While this year's West Virginia University's Blue-Gold Spring Football Game has turned into a concert, food fair, shopping mall and, oh, yes, the game itself, it nonetheless carries that certain intrigue that every spring game carries.

Who, you wonder, will emerge from the shadows of obscurity to become this year's darling of the fans?

The other day, while riding home from football interviews with Greg Hunter of the Blue-Gold News, the name of Brvan Wright some-

when it came out that he had obtained a "dynamite" summer job. While some might think that would be the perfect job for such an explosive runner, Rodriguez wasn't so sure when Wright explained the job.

"I was stacking 50-pound bags of dynamite all day long," he said. "It was thousands of bags."

"He's got to get a better summer job than that," Rodriguez said. "That makes me nervous."

In the overall scheme of things, the "spring game" is more a show than a game, but the history is rich.

Take that 2004 game, a game in which the late Chris Henry stepped

he would be a player in the highest league football has to offer as he completed 26 of 37 for 388 yards and 4 touchdowns.

You go back through the years and there's a whole lot of quarterback names that have come and gone.

Take 2013, when the sides lined up with Paul Millard on one side and Ford Childress on the other.

There was another quarterback on hand that day as a spectator, a young player thinking of transferring from Florida State. His name was Clint Trickett, and by the end of the year he was the Mountaineers' starting quarterback, and a fan



Photo by Joe Lovell
Nailers goalie Jaxon Carter fends off Indiana's...

Giants Walk-Off Pirates 3-0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Patrick Bailey hit a walk-off three-run homer and the San Francisco Giants beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 3-0 on Friday.

The game was scoreless until the ninth, when Michael Conforto walked and Matt Chapman singled to begin the inning off reliever David Bednar (1-2). Bailey then drilled a homer to right field.

Both starters, San Francisco's Kyle Harrison, and Pittsburgh's Quinn Priester, pitched six innings. Harrison struck out seven and gave up five hits. Priester, making his second start of the season after being called up last week to fill the spot of the injured Marco Gonzales, allowed three hits and struck out six in the best start so far of his young career. He struggled in his season debut last Friday in an 8-1 loss at Boston.

Pittsburgh had the bases loaded in both the seventh and ninth innings, but could not score. Brian Reynolds hit into a double play against Giants closer Camilo Doval (2-0) with the bases full and one out in the ninth.

The Pirates, beginning a six-game Bay Area trip against both the Giants and Oakland Athletics, started the season 11-5 but have lost nine of their 11 games to dip below .500 for the first time.

Joey Bart returned to San Francisco for the first time since the Giants traded him to the Pirates earlier this month. The Giants' former top prospect, who is off to a hot start with Pittsburgh, said he is enjoying his new club so far and was looking forward to catching up with his former teammates.

Bart entered the game in the ninth as a defensive replacement.

TRAINERS ROOM

Giants: RHP Alex Cobb (hip/elbow/shoulder) who has yet to pitch this season after undergoing hip surgery last fall, has been held back from throwing with soreness in his right shoulder. ... Second baseman Thairo Estrada (left hamstring) was not in the lineup, but took ground balls and could start on Saturday, ac-

cording to manager Bob Melvin.

UP NEXT

RHP Jordan Hicks (2-0, 1.61 ERA) was set to pitch for the Giants in the second game of the series against LHP Martin Perez (1-1, 3.45 ERA).

Braves Beat Guardians In Battle Of MLB's Best

ATLANTA (AP) — Chris Sale shook off another first-inning homer and Marcell Ozuna kept up his torrid start with two more RBIs, leading the Atlanta Braves past the Cleveland Guardians 6-2 Friday night in the opener of a series matching MLB's two best teams.

The reigning NL East champion Braves won for the 10th time in 11 games to improve to 18-6, pushing them a game ahead of the AL-leading Guardians (18-8).

Sale (3-1) surrendered a homer to the very first hitter, Steven Kwan, whose 389-foot shot down the right-field line bounced around in the Chop House restaurant. Braves right fielder Ronald Acuna Jr. barely moved as Kwan circled the bases with the third leadoff homer of his career.

Sale has give up four homers this season — all in the first inning. It was the second straight start that the leadoff hitter went deep against him.

Otherwise, the 35-year-old left-hander has been stellar, further distancing himself from all the injuries that plagued him the past four seasons with the Boston Red Sox. It was the first time since June 19-30, 2018, that he's gone at least seven innings in three straight starts.

"I really put a lot of emphasis on strengthening my shoulder and getting stronger and just being healthy," said Sale, who was acquired by the Braves for prospect Vaughn Grissom in an off-season trade. "I just wanted to give one more good go at it."

After Kwan's homer, the Guardians managed only one more hit against Sale before the Braves turned it over to their bullpen. He walked one, struck out six and threw 67 of 95 pitches for strikes.

MARSHALL

(Continued from Page C1)

Liz Alsop and Madison Wisman each launched solo home runs for Morgantown, while Wisman also pitched a complete game for the Mohigans as they took home their second OVAC title. Lipscomb coaching another conference champion team in 2021.

After trailing 4-1 midway through the sixth, John Marshall scored runs in the sixth and seventh innings, and put two runners on with two outs in the seventh, but couldn't come through with one more big swing.

"We just fell a little bit short," John Marshall head coach Rob Blake said. "It wasn't our best hitting performance today. We played right into their hands and swung at some pitches that we're not accustomed to going out and swinging at. We'll regroup, get the ship righted. On Monday we'll practice then it's onto the sectionals against Brooke on Tuesday."

AC Cumberledge and Kaylee White each had two hits for John Marshall, and Cumberledge pitched all seven innings for the Monarchs.

Morgantown took an early lead in the top of the second, Anne Robinson taking a pitch for a ride to the right-center

wall for a two-run double which broke open the scoring.

John Marshall got one run back in the bottom of the frame, White being hit by a pitch, making her way around the bases on a combination of wild pitches and productive outs, and finally coming home to score on a passed ball.

Wisman popped the first of a pair of solo shots for Morgantown in the third, launching a ball deep over the left field fence to increase their lead to 3-1.

It was Alsop's turn in the top of the fifth, smoking a two-out, two-strike pitch out of the yard to dead center.

"Doesn't hurt, does it?" Lipscomb said of her team's homers. "Those are huge because it kind of sets the tone, gives confidence to the rest of the players. They've been hitting the ball well lately, and I was glad to see it carry over. We're getting closer to the postseason and they're swinging good bats. That's been key."

Robinson made an impressive defensive play in the bottom of the inning, making the catch of the day on a shallow fly ball which the outfielder had to charge hard for, eventually diving at full

speed, making the catch and ending up in the infield dirt.

John Marshall was stymied by Robinson in the fifth, but they scratched one across in the sixth. Alexis Thayer tallying an RBI with runners on the corners. Thayer smacked a comebacker to Wisman, and beat out a throw from second to turn a possible inning-ending double play into an RBI and a fielder's choice.

Down two heading into the seventh, two of the first three Monarchs up to bat reached on sharp grounders through the infield, and yet another ground ball off the bat of Cumberledge — which took a nasty bounce right over the shortstop's head — scored a run and put two on with two out for the defending state champions.

In a high-pressure situation, Wisman coaxed a pop-out to first base for game, set and match.

"It's the confidence that they have in themselves and the belief that they have in each other," Lipscomb said. "The way they support each other, the defense, the energy in the dugout, I think that carries us through a lot of tough situations and keeps us going. It always feels good to be a champion."

SPRING

(Continued from Page C1)

They decided in 2016 that a change of scenery might be nice in the spring and what better place to be than at the Greenbrier? The game drew about 6,000 fans and it was as exciting as a spring game can be with a final 49-46 score, although it doesn't matter who won.

As topsy-turvy as it was that they weren't playing in Morgantown, why not have the game decided in the final seconds on a pass from David Sills V, of all people, who earned his Mountaineer fame and NFL career by playing wide receiver, but who in those days had not given up on believing he was a quarterback.

Skyler Howard was the quarterback of the moment, though, and he completed 18 of 26 with three touchdowns, which was enough to have Hologorsen name him the starter for the season following the game.

In 2017, there was another quarterback who made some news in the spring. A number of former Mountaineer greats were on hand for the spring game, including Hall of Fame quarterback Major Harris, along with Kevin White and many others.

Hologorsen thought it might be fun to bring in a surprise quarterback, though, and Hologorsen sent Geno Smith in for

a play with Shelton Gibson at the other receiver position and Geno didn't disappoint, hitting Gibson with a long TD throw.

Surprise quarterbacks have always thrilled the crowds at the spring games. Back in 2021, there was a quarterback competition with Jarrett Doege and Garrett Greene and a pretty good high school quarterback coming out and showing off his skills.

They threw at a hoop with a net and that may have helped him, because Deuce McBride made that his life's work in the NBA. It took the former Moeller High QB in Cincinnati some time to warm up, but his last toss into the corner of the end zone went swish.

In 2018, the spring game was canceled due to winter. It seemed as a wintry report of weather led to the cancellation but the fans must have missed it because in 2019, as they broke out new uniforms, a crowd of 18,865 was on hand but you knew it wasn't going to be a very good year when the big play of the game was a 60-yard touchdown pass to TJ Simmons as the high-light.

The 2020 game was also canceled due to COVID and in the past two years a couple of little guys with big futures

showed up, then walk on Preston Fox had five catches for 117 yards including one of 50 yards that introduced him to Mountaineer Nation in 2022, while last year belonged to Jahiem White, the then promising freshman letting the secret of his ability out with seven carries for 91 yards, including a 53-yard TD burst.

This year? Thinking it's time for backup quarterback Nicco Marchiol to live up to the high praise he's been earning all spring, which is important because in this era, a backup quarterback who can play is like having a highly funded IRA account.

"He's matured as a football player, so when he turns on the video he knows what to watch," Neal Brown said. "He knows how to prepare and he's done a really good job of asking for the script so he can be prepared going into each practice."

"I think from a fundamental standpoint he's much more compact right now. His confidence has risen because he's got a lot of repetitions but the game has slowed down a lot. Pre-snap, he has a better understanding of what defenses are trying to do to him. Nicco is right up there with the most improved players on offense."

SWEEP

(Continued from Page C1)

A third runner - the outfield skipped past Hayden Jenkins - tried to score from first when the ball was bobbled in the outfield, but was pegged out on a nice relay throw. Jenkins was initially called safe, but after the umpires got together, the call was overruled, but the damage had already been done.

"Not happy at all," Buckeye Local head coach Jeffery Patrick said of his team's lackluster performance. "Not good enough offensively or defensively."

Schumacher led the Jets' 10-hit attack - nine singles and a triple - with a trio of safeties. Peyton Causby tripled in a run and continued on home when the throw from

the outfield skipped past three Buckeye Local players before bouncing over the third base dugout and out of play.

White, the everyday catcher who was making his first start of the season and only his second mound appearance, pitched his way out of jams in the first and fourth frames while giving up the two runs in the third when he walked the first two batters. Alex McDiffitt walked with the bases loaded to force in the first run, while Jake Berry's flyball to center was deep enough to plate the second.

White struck out two, walked three and hit a pair. He allowed three singles - all off the bat

of leadoff hitter Mason Griffin.

"Mason had a good game at the plate, but he had a pair of baserunning mistakes," Patrick noted. "Other than him at the plate, we were pretty non-existent."

"Evan pitched pretty well. He struggled at times, but battled his way out of trouble," Hess added.

Patrick agreed. "Their pitcher threw strikes," he said. "That's the name of the game."

The Panthers committed five errors and lined into a third-to-first double play with non outs in the seventh.

The Panthers are back in action Saturday as they host Edison.

NAILERS

(Continued from Page C1)

Should the Fuel win Saturday, Game 6 would be Monday inside Indiana Farmers Coliseum at 7 p.m. If a Game 7 is needed, it would be played Tuesday, also in Indiana.

The Fuel will be a man short tonight following the fracas after the final buzzer of game 4.

The ECHL Department of Player Safety announced that Indy's Matthew Cairns has been

suspended for one game as a result of his actions.

Cairns is suspended under Rule #46.22 as the result of being assessed a game misconduct for being the aggressor in the final five minutes of regulation.

Cairns will miss tonight's game.

Wheeling won Game 2 in Indiana 7-1 and used Justin Addamo's goal 30 seconds into overtime in

Game 3 to go up 2-1.

Awaiting the winner is the top-seeded Toledo which had 105 points in the regular season, second only to the Kansas City Mavericks' 114. The Storm eliminated No. 4 Fort Wayne Friday night, 4-2, inside the Wings Event Center to complete their series sweep. Toledo won Game 1 (3-2) in overtime; Game 2 (5-2) and Game 3 (6-2).



Simon Spins No-Hitter vs. Potters; Cadets Topped By Morgantown

EAST LIVERPOOL - Wheeling Park's Nate Simon spun a no-hitter Friday night in a 11-1 high school baseball win over East Liverpool. The contest was halted after five innings due to the OHSAA's 10-run mercy rule.

The Patriots everyday shortstop, Simon struck out five, walked one and hit a pair in his complete-game effort. The righty threw 78 pitches, with 54 finding the strike zone. He also singled and lofted a sacrifice fly that accounted for two runs. Brayden Kupsky plated three runs with a single and double. Rocco Di-giandomenico, singled twice and doubled, while Jed Hunley drove in two runs with a pair of one-base raps from the No. 9 hole.

The Patriots scored seven runs in the top of the fifth to break open a 4-1 game. The Potters' lone run came in the bottom of the first on one of four Wheeling Park errors. East Liverpool also made four errors.

Morgantown 10, Linsly 6
MORGANTOWN - The host Mohigans tallied four runs in the bottom of the fifth and added three in the sixth and then held on as the Cadets scored two in the sixth and four in the seventh.

Andrew Skadra drove in five runs for Linsly with a single, double and home run. Jaxon Murray singled and doubled.

St. Clairsville 9, John Marshall 3

GLEN DALE - The Red Devils completed their regular-season sweep of the host Monarchs as Caleb Keenan went the distance on the mound, striking out seven, walking two and scattering 10 hits. He also drove in three runs with a single and double.

Colton Florence added a two-run single and Rowen Mellott singled in a run.

Lex Wilhelm singled and doubled twice to pace John Marshall. He had a pair of ribbies. Issac Koontz singled twice and Hayden Gaider singled in a run.

Shadyside 6, Cameron 0
CAMERON - The visiting Tigers used a six-hit shutout by Ryan Collins in blanking the host Dragons. The lefty fanned 10 and didn't walk a batter in his 92-pitch effort. Sixty-nine of those offerings were strikes.

Cole Micker singled twice and homered to drive in a run for Shadyside. Tyler Stottlemeyer singled in two runs and Caden Nippert drove in another with a single.

Koy Angel and Zayne Long had two singles each.

River 14, Frontier 6
BEAVERTON - The Pilots trailed 4-3 entering the top of the fifth, but exploded for five runs in the fifth and five more in the sixth.

Carson Makris drove in four runs with a single and double for River. Cooper Cisar singled thrice and knocked in a run. Hunter Nething plated three runs with a pair of one-base knocks. Wyatt Stalder had two singles.

Ty Nething picked up the mound win in relief of older brother, Hunter. He fanned seven and walked a pair.

SOFTBALL
Toronto 17, St. Clairsville 7

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - The visiting Red Knights led 5-4 before scoring six times in each of the fourth and fifth innings.

Rachel Finnical slugged a three-run homer for St. Clairs-

ville. Jolen Brannen singled and doubled, while Lainey Benedict had a pair of ribbies. Emily Duibinsky had a double.

Michelle Anderson slugged a three-run homer for Toronto. Winning pitcher LeighAnn Anderson drove in three runs with a pair of doubles and JJ Rebich singled, doubled twice and knocked in two. Laney Danko had a trio of singles and an RBI.

Brooke 5, Shadyside 2
WELLSBURG - The Bruins tallied three runs in the home half of the third inning to outscore the visiting Tigers.

Alexis Foresha doubled and tripled to drive in a run for Brook. She also fanned eight, walked none and spaced out six hits.

Abby Gorrell singled, doubled and drove in a run for Shadyside. Taylor Fulton doubled in a run.

Union Local 9, East Liverpool 2
Union Local 12, East Liverpool 1

MORRISTOWN - The Jets swept the visiting Potters as Kaylee Stidd won both games inside the circle.

In the first game, she fanned six, walked one and allowed half-a-dozen hits. She collected a double, as well.

Lauren Miller doubled and homered to drive in three runs. Myah Martin had a two-run single and Laken Vinskovich singled in a run.

In the nightcap, Stidd gave up a mere three hits while striking out five and issuing one free pass.

Vinskovich singled, doubled, tripled and plated three runs. Breanne Barbe had a single, triple and RBI.

WEIR

(Continued from Page C1)

"I've been the head coach since 2021, and we've made it here in 2022, we lost to Oak Glen, I made it here back when I coached Brooke 20 years ago, so I was 0-2, two of my assistants were 0-1, I kept saying 'third time's the charm.'"

Rayna Hoover smashed a solo homer for Weir, finishing with a pair of RBI, and Eliza Utt pitched a complete game with eight strikeouts, holding Creek off the scoreboard until the seventh.

Heading into the seventh with a 4-0 lead, Weir ran into some trouble, Creek's Trinity Taylor crossing the plate on Emma Vok's double over the center fielder's head, and getting two on with two out, but the rally was stopped well short.

"A lot of people contributed to this today," Leary said. "Our pitcher did an outstanding job against a team with a very potent lineup. Rayna has been carrying us - the semifinals, she cracked a home run, today that was a big momentum shift, jumping on a pitch and getting us on the board."

The Red Riders got through the seventh inning despite some bumpy riding, giving up a couple hits and almost botching a pop-up in the infield with runners on the corners and one out - Weir dropped the high infield fly, but recovered with a throw to second base for a forceout and an identical outcome as if they'd caught the ball.

"And we made the plays in the field, even in the end after we made a mistake, we were heads-up enough to be able

to throw and get the force and not panic," Leary said. "Just a good group of kids who get along with each other, pull for each other, and usually that's how good teams are."

Defense reigned supreme through the first three innings. Creek's Riley Sadler throwing out a would-be base stealer to extinguish the only scoring threat of the early innings.

The makeup of the game changed on a 1-0 pitch to Hoover in the fourth, the Weir shortstop sending a deep fly to left center to break the scoreless tie.

The Red Riders scored a second run in the fourth. Elle Maley driving in Kylie Dean on a base hit.

Hoover launched a sacrifice fly in the fifth to make it 3-0.

Indian Creek's defense shone through again to end that inning. Creek third baseman Kylie Dray catching a pop up on the run and making a heads up throw to double up the runner retreating back to third base.

Dean scored again in the sixth, coming home on an RBI groundout by Bella Weber.

"It's more relief than anything, because I was hoping we wouldn't get here this time and come away empty-handed," Leary said. "I told the girls right before we went to bat, my exact quote was 'I don't want to be walking out of here with that darn runner-up trophy. I've done that already and I don't want to do it again.' I'm just very proud of them and their effort."

"It's a big step for our program and it's from all the hard work everybody's put in."

NFL Will Allow Players To Wear "Guardian" Helmet Covers During Games

NEW YORK (AP) - The NFL announced Friday it will allow players to wear protective soft-shell helmet covers known as Guardian caps during games next season if they choose.

The league is also expanding the use of the devices during practices. Defensive backs and receivers have joined the position groups now required to wear the caps during all contact practices.

The NFL has mandated the caps' use at practices for some players since 2022. Quarterbacks, kickers and punters are the only remaining position groups not required to wear them during practice.

No players will be required to wear the caps during games, but they now have the option to do so.

"We've got two years of data now showing significant concussion reductions in those players that wear Guardian Caps in the NFL," Dr. Allen Sills, the league's chief medical officer, said during a recent webinar discussion.

According to NFL data, the cap will absorb at least 10% of the force during a hit to the helmet. That doubles to 20% if both players involved in the hit are using the caps.

OGDEN NEWSPAPERS wellnessweekend RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

PRESENTED BY WVU Medicine

OGDEN NEWSPAPERS **HALF MARATHON** Classic
SATURDAY **MAY 25**



Half Marathon
presented by WVU Medicine

5K
presented by WVU Medicine Children's

Ogden Fun Run
8:30 a.m.

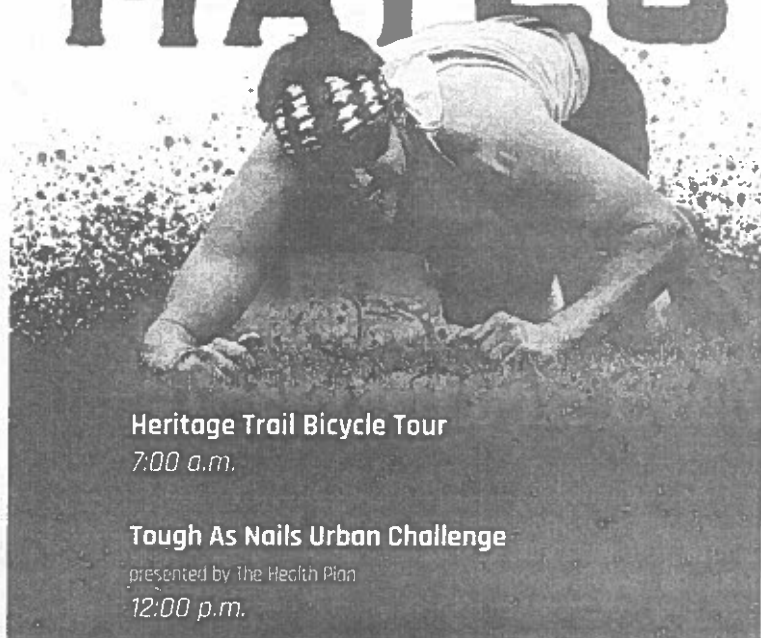
Run - 7:15 a.m.
Walk - 7:30 a.m.

Run - 7:45 a.m.
Walk - 7:50 a.m.

Tiny Tot Trot
10:30 a.m.

OGDEN NEWSPAPERS **TOUGH AS NAILS** Urban Challenge
PRESENTED BY The Health Plan

SUNDAY **MAY 26**



Heritage Trail Bicycle Tour
7:00 a.m.

Tough As Nails Urban Challenge
presented by The Health Plan
12:00 p.m.

SPORTS

C

Sunday,
April 28, 2024

Photo by KIM NORTH

UNION LOCAL'S Hayden Jenkins (24) looks to have avoided the tag of Buckeye Local catcher Alex McDiffitt during the third inning Friday in Morristown.

Union Local tops Buckeye Local in less than five innings

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

MORRISTOWN — A pair of struggling high school baseball teams met Friday on sun-splashed Jets Field, with one team trying to gain some momentum for the upcoming postseason, while the other continued to hurt itself with mistakes.

Union Local (4-13) batted around in the second and third innings while scoring 11 runs en route to an OHSAA mercy-rule-shortened, 12-2, triumph over visiting Buckeye Local in four-and-a-half innings.

The victory allowed the Jets to earn a regular-season sweep of the Panthers (4-13), the other win coming on April 9 by a 13-8 count in Connorville.

"We came out early, put the bat on the ball and put the pressure on Buckeye Local to make the plays," Union Local head coach Jim Hess said of

his team's first shortened victory of the campaign. "We're struggling right now, so we'll take a win any way we can get one."

"I told the kids going into tonight to just go out and have fun," Hess said. "Maybe we can get hot before tournament time and put something together."

Leading 1-0 after scoring an unearned run in the bottom of the first, Union Local sent 10 batters to the plate in a five-run second. The Jets played some station-to-station with consecutive RBI singles off the bats of Braylon Akers, Billy Schumacher, Colby Carpenter and Logan Hess before winning pitcher Evan White singled down the first baseline to score two runs, making it 6-0.

Alex Moore drew a lead-off walk and Braylon Akers beat out a slow roller to short. Schumacher's bloop single to shallow right-center chased in a run; Carpenter slapped a 0-1 pitch through the left side

of the infield; and Logan Hess dropped a hit into shallow right.

Akers started a six-run third with an infield single and Schumacher singled to left. Carpenter laid down a sacrifice bunt that he beat out. With one out and runners on second and third, the left-handed hitting White sliced a single down the left field line that knocked in two more runs. A third runner — Hayden Jenkins — tried to score from first when the ball was bobbled in the outfield, but was pegged out on a nice relay throw. Jenkins was initially called safe, but after the umpires got together, the call was overruled, but the damage had already been done.

"Not happy at all," Buckeye Local head coach Jeffery Patrick said of his team's lackluster performance. "Not good enough offensively or defensively."

See **LOCAL**, Page C3

Weir emerges as Class 4A champs over Indian Creek

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

WHEELING — The No. 4 Weir Red Riders and No. 2 Indian Creek Redskins both started out slow Friday in their OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 4A softball championship, but the Riders were able to unhitch the wagon first, scoring four runs through six innings before Creek could muster any offense, and securing the gold in a 4-1 victory.

It was Weir's first OVAC championship since the conference adopted a tournament format, and one that the Riders were eager to attain.

"It's very gratifying," Weir head coach John Leary said. "I started coaching softball here with Frank Sissini, he took the program over in 2016, and he was here until he became the head football coach. I've been the head coach since 2021, and we've made it here in 2022. We lost to Oak Glen, I made it here back when I coached Brooke 20 years ago, so I was 0-2, two of my assistants were 0-1, I kept saying "third time's the charm."

Rayna Hoover smashed a solo homer for Weir, finishing with a pair of RBI, and Eliza Utt pitched a complete game with eight strikeouts, holding Creek off the scoreboard until the seventh.

Heading into the seventh with a 4-0 lead, Weir ran into some trouble. Creek's Trinity Taylor crossing the plate on Emma Vok's double over the center fielder's head, and getting two on with two out, but the rally was stopped well short.

"A lot of people contributed to this today," Leary said.

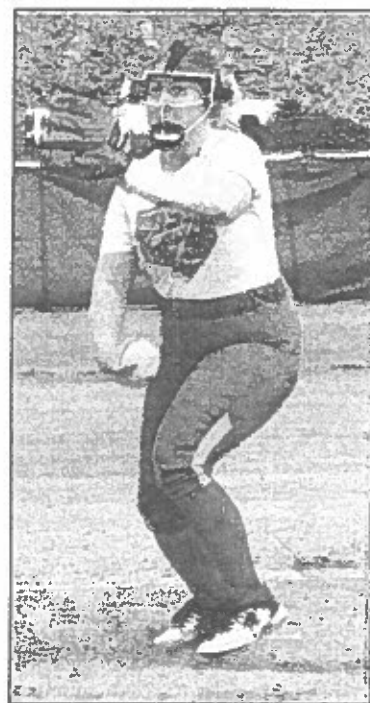


Photo by NICK HENTHORN

INDIAN CREEK pitcher Trinity Taylor throws a pitch Friday during the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 4A softball championship against the Weir Red Riders. Weir prevailed, 4-1.

"Our pitcher did an outstanding job against a team with a very potent lineup. Rayna has been carrying us — the semifinals, she cracked a home run today that was a big momentum shift, jumping on a pitch and getting us on the board."

The Red Riders got through the seventh inning despite some bumpy riding, giving up a couple hits and almost botching a pop-up in the infield with runners on the corners and one out. Weir dropped the high infield fly, but recovered with a throw to second base for a forceout and an identical outcome as if they'd caught the ball.

See **CHAMPS**, Page C3

Wheeling Nailers hoping to clinch semifinal series

WHEELING — After losing Game 1 of the ECHL Kelly Cup Central Division playoff semifinals in Indianapolis, Wheeling has reeled off three straight victories — the last two on home ice inside Wes-Banco Arena — and can clinch the best-of-7 series tonight at the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex in Cranberry, Pa. The puck drops at 7:10.

The game was originally scheduled for the downtown Wheeling venue, but was forced

to move because of the Monster Trucks invading the facility on Friday and Saturday.

Special teams was the key for the third-seeded Nailers in their 3-0 shutout in Game 4 on Tuesday night. They killed off five power-play chances by the second-seeded Indy Fuel and scored a pair of power-play goals — both by Jordan Martel.

Rookie goaltender Jaxon Castor continued to stand tall between the pipes. In earning his first professional playoff

shutout, he stopped all 21 shots he faced.

David Jankowski scored the third goal Tuesday night — an empty-netter in the waning seconds.

Should the Fuel win Saturday, Game 6 would be Monday inside Indiana Farmers Coliseum at 7 p.m. If a Game 7 is needed, it would be played Tuesday, also in Indiana.

The Fuel will be a man short tonight following the fracas after the final buzzer of game 4.

The ECHL Department of Player Safety announced that Indy's Matthew Cairns has been suspended for one game as a result of his actions.

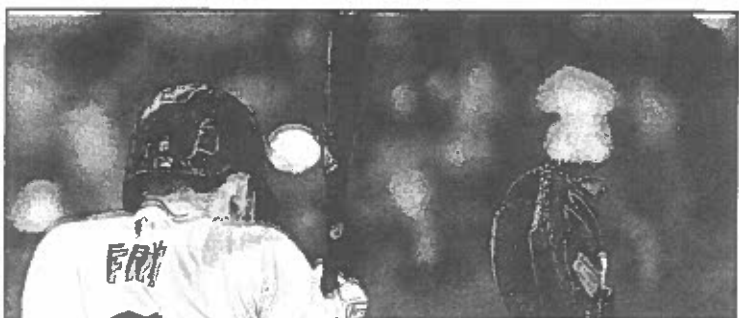
Cairns is suspended under Rule #46.22 as the result of being assessed a game misconduct for being the aggressor in the final five minutes of regulation.

Cairns will miss tonight's game.

Wheeling won Game 2 in Indiana 7-1 and used Justin

Addamo's goal 30 seconds into overtime in Game 3 to go up 2-1.

Awaiting the winner is the top-seeded Toledo which had 105 points in the regular season, second only to the Kansas City Mavericks' 114. The Storm eliminated No. 4 Fort Wayne Friday night, 4-2, inside the Wings Event Center to complete their series sweep. Toledo won Game 1 (3-2) in overtime; Game 2 (5-2) and Game 3 (6-2).



Bills and Chargers get receivers early in day two of the NFL draft

DETROIT (AP) — Defense became the focus of the NFL draft in the second round after a record-setting 23 offensive players were selected on Day 1.



ly in the fourth quarter while Dallas was taking control for good in a game with five technical fouls, a flagrant foul and two ejections.

James Harden scored 21 points for the Clippers, but just seven after halftime, while fellow stars George and Kawhi Leonard had little impact. Normal Powell also had 21.

George dealt with foul trouble and finished with seven points, five rebounds, five assists — and

and had nine points and nine rebounds. Ivica Zubac had 19 points and eight rebounds.

Kyrie Irving scored 19 of his 21 points in the final 13-plus minutes, including eight in the final 1:18 of the third quarter, and was instrumental in Dallas rebuilding an 18-point lead that had been cut to six.

An already testy game reached a boiling point midway through the fourth quarter when Russell

out-rued Westbrook's contact incident.

Doncic, who briefly left the court after limping off while grabbing his right knee in the first quarter, was just 7 of 25 from the field and 3 of 13 from 3-point range.

But Dallas held George and Westbrook to a combined 1 of 10 from deep, while Leonard didn't even have a 3 attempt among just seven shots.

• Guardians

Continued from Page C1

It was the first time since June 19-30, 2018, that he's gone at least seven innings in three straight starts.

"I really put a lot of emphasis on strengthening my shoulder and getting stronger and just being healthy," said Sale, who was acquired by the Braves for prospect Vaughn Grissom in an offseason trade. "I just wanted to give one more good go at it."

After Kwan's homer, the Guardians managed only one more hit against Sale before the Braves turned it over to their bullpen. He walked one, struck out six and threw 67 of 95 pitches for strikes.

Ozuna erased Cleveland's tenuous lead in the fourth with a double to left off Logan Allen (3-1) that brought home Austin Riley and Matt Olson. Both runners reached without benefit of a hit — Riley walked and Olson was hit by a pitch.

Ozuna now has a majors-leading 31 RBIs on the season, the most ever by a Braves player before the month of May. He had been tied with Dale Murphy (29 in 1985) and Hall of Famer Chipper Jones (29 in 1998).

"An absolute monster month," Sale said.

Michael Harris II followed with a blooper to center that drove in Ozuna. The Big Bear initially paused, thinking the ball might be caught, before lumbering home with a flopping, headfirst slide.

Olson tacked on a run-scoring single in the fifth as the Braves knocked out Allen, who was charged with four

runs in 4 2/3 innings. Orlando Arcia homered in the eighth off Pedro Avila.

STANDOUT STARTERS

Sale kept up a stretch of strong starts by Braves pitchers, who have given up just 12 earned runs in 56 1/3 innings over the last nine games — an ERA of 1.92.

Not surprisingly, Atlanta has won all of those games except one.

"If the starters are doing the bulk of your pitching, you're probably doing all right," manager Brian Snitker said.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Guardians: RHP James Karinchak (shoulder) joined the team for the road trip, giving him a chance to work with the big league training staff as he prepares for a rehab assignment. ... RHP Gavin Williams (elbow) will be shut down at least through the middle of next week after getting an injection that the team hopes will alleviate his issues. ... LHP Sam Hentges (middle finger inflammation) is nearing a return after throwing a pair of scoreless innings during his minor league rehab assignment.

Braves: 2B Ozzie Albies came off the 10-day injured list right on schedule after sustaining a fractured toe when hit by a pitch on April 15. He wasted no time making an impact with two hits, an RBI and a run scored.

UP NEXT

RHP Charlie Morton (2-0, 4.70) gets the nod for Atlanta in the second game of the series Saturday night.

He'll be opposed by Guardians RHP Tanner Bibee (2-0, 4.44).

• Local

Continued from Page C1

Schumacher led the Jets' 10-hit attack — nine singles and a triple — with a trio of safeties. Peyton Causby tripled in a run and continued on home when the throw from the outfield skipped past three Buckeye Local players before bouncing over the third base dugout and out of play.

White, the everyday catcher who was making his first start of the season and only his second mound appearance, pitched his way out of jams in the first and fourth frames while giving up the two runs in the third when he walked the first two batters.

Alex McDiffitt walked with the bases loaded to force in the first run, while Jake Berry's flyball to center was deep enough to plate the second.

White struck out two, walked three and hit a pair. He allowed three singles — all off the bat of leadoff hitter Mason Griffin.

"Mason had a good game at the plate, but he had a pair of baserunning mistakes," Patrick noted. "Other than him at the plate, we were pretty non-existent."

"Evan pitched pretty well. He struggled at times, but battled his way out of trouble," Hess added.

Patrick agreed.

"Their pitcher threw strikes," he said. "That's the name of the game."

The Panthers committed five errors and lined into a third-to-first double play with non outs in the seventh.

The Panthers are back in action Saturday as they host Edison.

• Draft

Continued from Page C1

Adonai Mitchell from Texas became the 11th wideout taken when the Colts selected him at No. 52.

The Bills raised plenty of eyebrows in trading the 28th pick to AFC rival Kansas City, which took wideout Xavier Worthy. Buffalo then dealt the 32nd pick to Carolina and watched the Panthers take wideout Xavier Legette.

But the Bills added a third-rounder and more draft capital and still ended up with a receiver in Coleman, who had 50 receptions, 658 receiving yards and 11 receiving touchdowns last season. Coleman, however, ran a disappointing 4.61-second 40-yard dash at the scouting combine.

"I don't think I've ever been caught from behind," Coleman said. "I don't think I've ever had the chance to not be able to run by somebody. More so than that, I don't think there was ever just one DB that just sat when I was running at them. So that pretty much tells you all you need to know."

The Chargers swapped picks with the Patriots to get McConkey, who is a polished receiver with deceptive speed.

"That is just a little bit extra motivation," McConkey said of Los Angeles trading up to get him. "They want me, they came up and got me, so I'm going to give everything that I have to them and make sure that it is worth it."

Teams were wheeling and dealing with seven trades in the second round.

The Titans took a chance on Texas defensive tackle T'Vondre Sweat with the 38th pick after he was arrested for driving while intoxicated. Sweat visited Tennessee after the incident and new coach Brian Callahan along with general manager Ran Carthon and defensive line coach Tracy Rucker went to his home to visit him and his family.

"We had some tough conversations while we were there," Carthon said.

After Florida State defensive tackle Braden Fiske went to the Rams, the Philadelphia Eagles moved up to grab Iowa cornerback Cooper DeJean at No. 40. The Eagles made Toledo's Quynon Mitchell the first cornerback taken at No. 22 and the addition of DeJean fortifies a now-crowded secondary that includes Darius Slay and James Bradberry.

DeJean started a run on

cornerbacks with three more going in a row. Alabama's Kool-Aid McKinstry went to New Orleans, Georgia's Kamari Lassiter was selected by Houston and Arizona chose Max Melton from Rutgers.

The Raiders got a first-round talent at No. 44, selecting Oregon interior lineman Jackson Powers-Johnson.

Texas A&M linebacker Edgerrin Cooper went to Green Bay before Jonathan Brooks became the first running back selected at No. 46 by Carolina.

The Giants got Minnesota safety Tyler Nubin, the Jaguars took LSU defensive lineman Maason Smith and the Bengals chose Michigan defensive lineman Kris Jenkins.

The Commanders, who got picks Nos. 50 and 53 from the Eagles in the deal for No. 40, chose Michigan cornerback Mike Sainristil with the first of the two selections. They went with Kansas State tight end Ben Sinnott at No. 53.

West Virginia center Zach Frazier went to Pittsburgh with the 51st pick, giving Russell Wilson more protection. They took interior lineman Troy Fautanu at No. 20 on Thursday.

The Browns made their first pick of the draft at No. 54, going with Ohio State defensive tackle Michael Hall Jr. The Dolphins took Houston offensive tackle Patrick Paul and the Cowboys selected Western Michigan edge Marshawn Kneeland.

Alabama edge Chris Braswell went to Tampa Bay. The Packers got Georgia safety Javon Bullard. Houston added Notre Dame offensive tackle Blake Fisher.

Utah safety Cole Bishop was Buffalo's pick at No. 60. The Lions chose Missouri cornerback Ennis Rakestraw Jr. Washington offensive tackle Roger Rosengarten was selected by the Ravens.

The second round concluded with the Chiefs taking BYU offensive tackle Kingsley Suamataia and the 49ers choosing Florida State cornerback Renardo Green.

Teams shifted back to offense in the third round with 18 of the first 25 picks on that side of the ball. Highlights included three players from national champion Michigan going in a row.

The Rams took Wolverines running back Blake Corum at No. 83, the Steelers chose wide receiver Roman Wilson and the Browns selected guard Zak Zinter.

runs with a pair of one-base raps from the No. 9 hole

The Patriots scored seven runs in the top of the fifth to break open a 4-1 game. The Potters' lone run came in the bottom of the first on one of four Wheeling Park errors. East Liverpool also made four errors.

Morgantown 10, Linsly 6

MORGANTOWN

— The host Mohigans tallied four runs in the bottom of the fifth and added three in the sixth and then held on as the Cadets scored two in the sixth and four in the seventh.

Andrew Skadra drove in five runs for Linsly with a single, double and home run. Jaxon Murray singled and doubled.

St. Clairsville 9, John Marshall 3

GLEN DALE — The Red Devils completed their regular-season sweep of the host Monarchs as Caleb Keenan went the distance on the mound, striking out seven, walking two and scattering 10 hits. He also drove in three runs with a single and double.

Colton Florence added a two-run single and Rowen Mellott singled in a run.

Lex Wilhelm singled and doubled twice to pace John Marshall. He had a pair of ribbies. Isaac Koontz singled twice and Hayden Gaider singled in a run.

Shadyside 6, Cameron 0

CAMERON — The visiting Tigers used a six-hit shutout by Ryan Collins in blanking the host Dragons. The lefty fanned 10 and didn't walk a batter in his 92-pitch effort. Sixty-nine of those offerings were strikes.

Cole Micker singled twice and homered to drive in a run for Shadyside. Tyler Stottlemyer singled in two runs and Caden Nippert drove in another with a single.

Koy Angel and Zayne

St. Clairsville 7

ST. CLAIRSVILLE

— The visiting Red Knights led 5-4 before scoring six times in each of the fourth and fifth innings.

Rachel Finnical slugged a three-run homer for St. Clairsville. Jolen Brannen singled and doubled, while Lainey Benedict had a pair of ribbies. Emily Duibinsky had a double.

Michelle Anderson slugged a three-run homer for Toronto. Winning pitcher LeighAnn Anderson drove in three runs with a pair of doubles and JJ Rebich singled, doubled twice and knocked in two. Laney Danko had a trio of singles and an RBI.

Brooke 5, Shadyside 2

WELLSBURG — The Bruins tallied three runs in the home half of the third inning to outscore the visiting Tigers.

Alexis Foresha doubled and tripled to drive in a run for Brooke. She also fanned eight, walked none and spaced out six hits.

Abby Gorrell singled, doubled and drove in a run for Shadyside. Taylor Fulton doubled in a run.

Union Local 9, East Liverpool 2

Union Local 12, East Liverpool 1

MORRISTOWN —

The Jets swept the visiting Potters as Kaylee Stidd won both games inside the circle.

In the first game, she fanned six, walked one and allowed half-a-dozen hits. She collected a double, as well.

Lauren Miller doubled and homered to drive in three runs. Myah Martin had a two-run single and Laken Vinskovich singled in a run.

In the nightcap, Stidd gave up a mere three hits while striking out five and issuing one free pass.

Vinskovich singled, doubled, tripled and plated three runs. Breanne Barbe had a single, triple and RBI.

• Champs

Continued from Page C1

"And we made the plays in the field, even in the end after we made a mistake, we were heads-up enough to be able to throw and get the force and not panic," Leary said. "Just a good group of kids who get along with each other, pull for each other, and usually that's how good teams are."

Defense reigned supreme through the first three innings, Creek's Riley Sadler throwing out a would-be base stealer to extinguish the only scoring threat of the early innings.

The makeup of the game changed on a 1-0 pitch to Hoover in the fourth, the Weir short-stop sending a deep fly to left center to break the scoreless tie.

The Red Riders scored a second run in the fourth, Elle Maley driving in Kylie Dean on a base hit.

Hoover launched a

sacrifice fly in the fifth to make it 3-0.

Indian Creek's defense shone through again to end that inning, Creek third baseman Kylie Dray catching a pop up on the run and making a heads up throw to double up the runner retreating back to third base.

Dean scored again in the sixth, coming home on an RBI groundout by Bella Weber.

"It's more relief than anything, because I was hoping we wouldn't get here this time and come away empty-handed," Leary said. "I told the girls right before we went to bat, my exact quote was 'I don't want to be walking out of here with that darn runner-up trophy. I've done that already and I don't want to do it again.' I'm just very proud of them and their effort. It's a big step for our program and it's from all the hard work everybody's put in."

OVAC SOFTBALL SEMIFINALS

John Marshall Grounds Hawks Down The Stretch, Battles Into Final

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - The opening rounds went to University, but it was John Marshall who went the distance.

The Monarchs rallied from a 4-0 deficit to a 6-4 victory in the OVAC 5A semifinals Wednesday at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex, led by a sparkling day at the dish by Ava Blake and a complete game outing by AC Cumberledge.

After going down 3-0 in the first inning, and watching as University tacked on another run in the third to make it 4-0, John Marshall finally got out of the gates in their turn at-bat in the third, putting up five runs to take the lead and shutting out the Hawks the rest of the way.

"We've done that several times this year," John Marshall head coach Rob Blake said. "We always get behind and we've got to battle to get back. That's what I just told the girls, we've got to start faster - it's wearing on me. I think they did a nice job, they just don't quit, that's what I like about this group."

The Hawks took an early lead through a combination of errors in the field, timely hits and cagey baserunning. Lexi Elza scored after the Monarchs couldn't track down a flyball into the outfield, the ball deflecting off the fielder's glove as Elza rounded third and headed home. The throw beat the runner, but the ball popped out of the catcher's glove to give University a 1-0 lead.

A single to left field off the bat of Ally Jansen drove in another run, and Olivia Masoner scored on a groundout to give the Hawks three runs in the first inning.

Jansen drove in another run in



Photo by Nick Henthorn
John Marshall's AC Cumberledge throws a pitch Wednesday during the Monarchs' 6-4 win against University in the OVAC 5A semifinals at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex.

the third inning to put the Hawks ahead 4-0.

John Marshall had gotten baserunners earlier in the game, but hadn't put anyone in scoring po-

sition going into the bottom of the third. University had turned a 4-6-3 double play to end the bottom of the second.

Please see **STRETCH**, Page 10



Photo by Kim North
Steubenville third baseman Gia Bowman throws to first base for an out during Wednesday's OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 5A semifinal loss to Morgantown, 7-1, on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Ballfields.

Big Red Falls To Morgantown 7-1

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ELM GROVE - Steubenville's reign as OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 5A softball champions lasted just one year.

Top-seeded Big Red (12-6) was derailed, 7-1, by fourth-seeded Morgantown Wednesday on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-4370 Ballparks.

"We just didn't come ready to play today. That's my fault. I'm the head coach," Steubenville's Gus DiMarzio said. "I didn't think we would play like

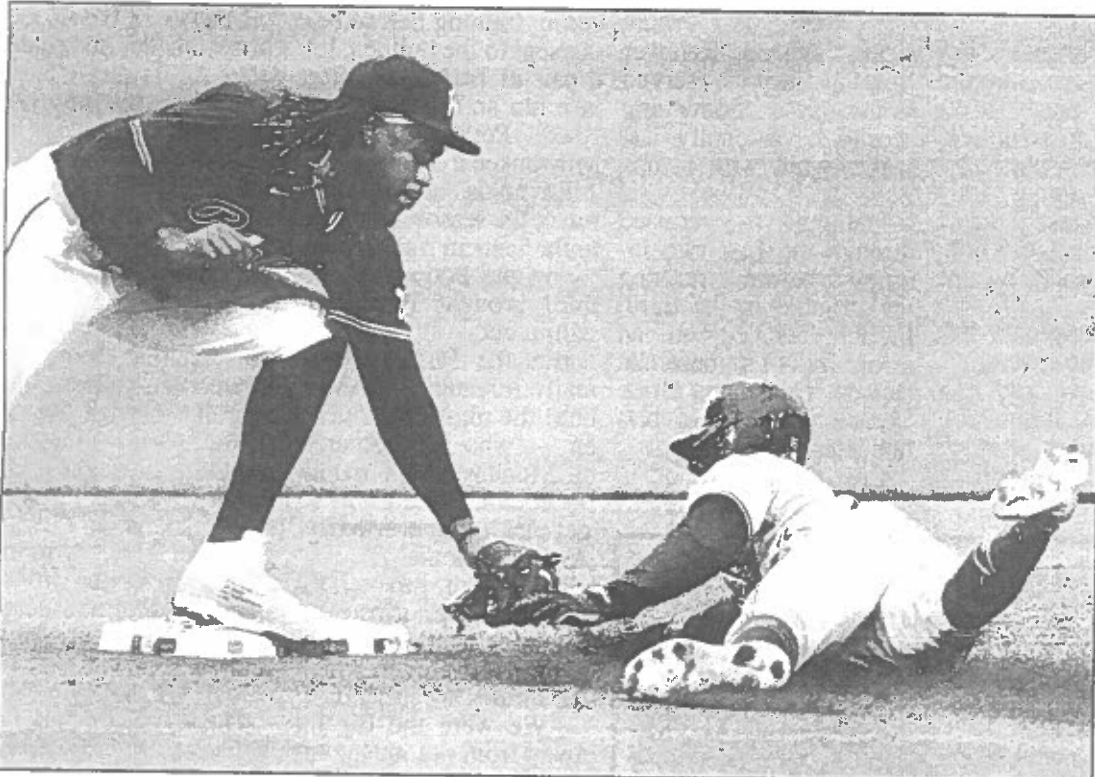
that, but it all comes down to the guy that prepares you to play, and I am that guy.

"This is the second day in a row that we haven't played real well," he added. "That's two days in a row that I have re-evaluate myself."

Morgantown (14-7) scored once in the top of the first as Anne Robinson drew a leadoff walk, went to second on a sacrifice bunt by Emily Peterson and took third on a wild pitch.

Please see **RED**, Page 10

Contreras, Brewers Use One Big Inning To Top Pirates 3-2



AP Photo
Pittsburgh Pirates shortstop Oneil Cruz, left, tags out Milwaukee Brewers' Blake Perkins attempting to steal second during the second inning of a game in Pittsburgh, Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

PITTSBURGH (AP) - William Contreras had three hits and the Milwaukee Brewers used one big inning to edge the Pittsburgh Pirates 3-2 on Wednesday night.

The Brewers took advantage of a sloppy second inning by the Pirates to turn an error, two walks and two hit batters and an RBI single by Contreras into three runs.

Sal Frelick had two hits for Milwaukee, which snapped a two-game skid. Bryan Hudson (2-1) worked 1 2/3 innings of scoreless relief. Joel Payamps overcame a pair of errors in the ninth for his fourth save.

Payamps made the first error, briefly mishandling a comebacker by Edward Olivares that allowed Olivares to reach safely. Frelick, in left field, let a fly ball by Oneil Cruz drop to put two runners on. Payamps then got Jared Triolo to line out then struck out pinch-hitter Andrew McCutchen to end it.

"Everyone's going to make errors and, you know, we're

a team, right?" Payamps said through a translator. "So that's what we have to do. We got to pick each other up. ... The job was to strand that runner on base and that's what we did."

Bryan Reynolds hit a two-run homer for Pittsburgh, but the Pirates managed just four hits against five relievers in a bullpen game that favored the Brewers.

Bryse Wilson worked 4 1/3 innings while making his second start of the season. Wilson allowed two runs on three hits with three walks and three strikeouts. Given the injuries that have ravaged Milwaukee's pitching staff, Wilson could be on his way to becoming a full-time starter, a role he filled earlier in his career.

"I like him as a starter. I think he can do it," Brewers manager Pat Murphy said. "And I think he's, he's just just, getting started at it, you know. And I think he's he's very, very capable. So with our situation right now, he's a good option."

Please see **PIRATES**, Page 10

Cadets, Mohigans In Front Through OVAC Boys Tennis Day One



St. Clairsville Rolls Past Wheeling Park 9-2

games with a bone bruise in his knee. After testing his knee by scoring on a double in the first, he homered in the fifth and the Red Sox piled up a season-high 16 hits to cool off baseball's hottest team with a four-hit shutout.

"Any time that guy is in the lineup it completely changes it," Wong said of Devers. "He can hit the ball really far at any point in the game so it's great when he's in there."

Rookie outfielder Wilner Abreu also had four hits and drove in a run in Boston's second shutout against Cleveland in a week.

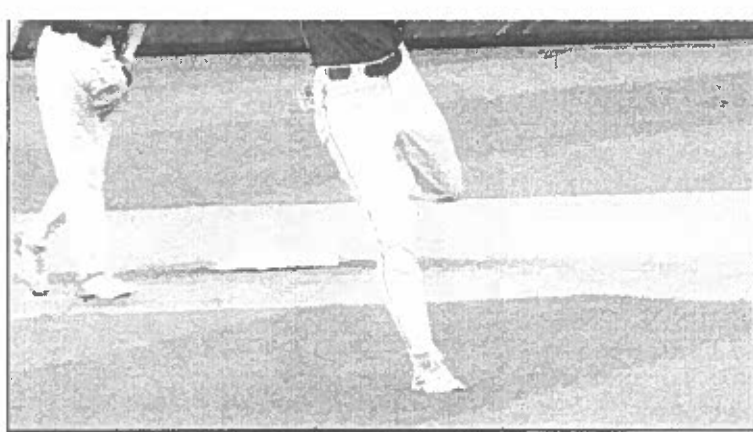
With three starters on the injured list, Red Sox manager Alex Cora was counting on his bullpen to get him through a game or two and rookie Cooper Criswell (1-1) gave him five scoreless innings in

man. That's who we are. We're going to pitch. We will pitch. We're playing better defense."

The Guardians had their winning streak stopped at five straight. They came in with MLB's best record and came one win shy of matching the 1966 team (18-6) for the best start in franchise history through 24 games.

It was Carrasco's 200th career start for Cleveland and 100th at Progressive Field. The 37-year-old returned to the Guardians this season after being traded in 2020.

"It means a lot because I did my first one in September 2009," said Carrasco. "Just getting back here, I just want to do so well to win this game. But it's part of the game, so tomorrow's another day."



ils' 9-2 win against Park on Wednesday on Patriot Field.

Photo by Nick Henthorn

STRETCH

(Continued from Page 9)

With the lineup coming back around, John Marshall's Ava Blake slugged a double to right-center to start what would be the most pivotal inning of the game for the Monarchs. The two-bagger drove in Masyn Inclan and put the defending state titlist on the board. Blake came around to score on a wild pitch, and Cumberledge scored after a throwing error to first base.

Trailing then by only one run and with two on and one out, Carli Yoho blasted a bases-clearing double to lurch the Monarchs ahead 5-4.

University turned a 6-3-4 double play to end the inning.

Ava Blake knocked in two runners and finished with two doubles, a walk and a stolen base to lead John Marshall.

"She swings at good pitches, she'll walk, and when you swing at good pitches good things are going to happen," Rob Blake said. "She got us kickstarted, hitting that double really got us going. That's what I expect out of her and she did a nice job."

After University had completed a couple double plays, it was John Marshall's turn to turn heads on defense in the top of the fourth. Yoho laid out to make a diving catch in centerfield on the first batter of the inning to set the tone for the rest of the way for the Monarchs' point-preventing efforts.

Blake scorched a worm-burner which sheared past the shortstop and went all the way to the left-center wall for an RBI double in the bottom of the fourth to

make it 6-4 Monarchs.

Down in the seventh inning, University got two baserunners on to threaten to extend the game, but Cumberledge induced a groundout to seal the game.

After some misfortunes in the field contributed to a rough first inning for Cumberledge, the Monarchs starter allowed one run the rest of the way, and finished with five strikeouts.

John Marshall will take on Morgantown in the OVAC 5A Championship on Friday.

"We're real excited," Blake said. "This is my first year as head coach and just to come in here and pick up our 19th win this year, to go play in the OVAC finals on Friday, it's pretty cool. I think we'll be fine."

"15 hits is a good day's work, and I thought we were solid in the field," added the Hall of Fame coach. "Brody pitched a whale of a game. He shut down a very good team today."

St. Clairsville gave Saunders all the runs he needed in the first frame, breaking through for a three spot.

Wright State recruit Braylen Blomquist walked and quickly stole second. Walsh University recruit Hunter Hoffman singled before junior Mikey Balgo, who had a big day at the plate, singled in the pair. Balgo eventually scored on Saunders' ground out.

Park plated a run in the first. Jared Marsh launched a double and scored on a Nate Simon sac fly.

The Red Devils wasted no time adding to their lead, pushing across two more runs in the second. Sophomore Rowen

Mellott and Blomquist opened the inning with back-to-back singles. A wild pitch allowed a run before Balgo delivered an RBI single.

St. Clairsville upped its lead to 7-1 in the fourth. Marcus Bush and Hoffman both singled with Bush scoring on another Balgo single. Hoffman came home on a groundout.

The count grew to 8-1 in the fifth. Colton Florence singled and scored on a Bush single. The winners added their final run in the sixth. After Caleb Keenan and Florence singled, Ryan Ivey lofted a sac fly, bringing in Keenan.

Park managed a run in the seventh. Starting pitcher Ryland Robb singled and was plated on a Marsh single.

"When we execute in all three phases, we are a very good ball club. We did that tonight," Sliva noted. "We have some big games coming up so

we need to stay focused and keep working to improve."

Balgo, Bush and Florence paced the Red Devil attack with three singles each. Hoffman reached base four times with two hits, a walk and a beaming.

Robb, the first of four Patriot pitchers, worked three innings. He struck out two and walked three while being saddled with the loss.

"We lost to a very good team today," Park head coach Steve Myers said. "Saunders was excellent on the mound and they also got 15 hits. We tip our hat to them."

"We are sitting in fourth place in the OVAC and the playoff cutoff is Friday. So every game is key for us," he added. "We have to regroup and get ready to play Bridgeport (WV)."

Park is now 14-9. Marsh and Robb each had two hits for the Patriots.

RED

(Continued from Page 9)

With two outs, left-handed hitting Micah Wilson sliced a double down the left field line as Robinson scored easily.

Big Red loaded the bases with two outs in the bottom of the inning on a pair of walks and a hit batter, but the Mohigans' Maddie Wisman induced a comebacker to wiggle her way out of trouble unscathed.

Liz Alsop doubled to deep center with two outs in the third and came around when Wilson singled to right for a 2-0 reading.

Stuebenville cut the deficit in half in the home half of the third. Sena Smith was plunked with a pitch leading off. She was caught stealing second, however, the call was overruled when another umpire called obstruction of the Big Red infielder. With one out, Sadie Edwards singled up the middle as Smith raced home. Edwards took second on the throw home, marking the last time had a runner that far. Sagan Smarrella walked but Wisman once again pitched her way out of

the jam.

Emma Lyons walked with two outs in the fourth; Smarrella was safe on an error in the fifth; and Emily Tuttle reached on an infield single in the sixth. However, pinch runner Addy Myer was erased on an inning-ending 1-6-3 double play turned by the Hawks.

Wisman retired the side in order in the seventh.

Morgantown will now face No. 2 John Marshall on Friday at Ben's Field. The time will be announced Thursday.

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 9)

The Pirates opted to give Quinn Priestner a couple of extra days to rest after making his 2024 major-league debut in a rocky outing last Friday against Boston. Reliever Josh Fleming (1-1) served as the opener, something he did occasionally last season while with Tampa Bay.

Fleming cruised through the first two innings before running into trouble in the third. Frelick reached on an error by first baseman Rowdy Tellez and Brice Turang walked two batters later.

Luis Ortiz came on in

relief and promptly gave up an RBI single to Contreras. Ortiz, who was in the mix for a spot in the starting rotation during spring training before being sent to the bullpen, hit a pair of batters to force in a run and then walked Blake Perkins to give Milwaukee a 3-0 lead.

Reynolds' third home run of the season — a shot to the seats in right-center — in the bottom of the third brought Pittsburgh within one.

But the Pirates never really threatened to tie it until the ninth. McCutchen — who had homered on Monday and Tuesday — couldn't find a way to get pinch-runner Michael A. Taylor home.

Pittsburgh has scored two or fewer runs seven times in its last eight games, a stretch in which the Pirates are just 2-6.

"We were the big hit away from -- I mean, understatement -- but a big hit away from winning that game," Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton

said. "We created some opportunities late in the game but weren't able to capitalize on it."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Brewers: LHP Robert Gasser made his season debut for Triple-A Nashville after missing time with bone spurs in his left elbow. The 24-year-old Gasser, considered one of the top prospects in the organization, allowed one run in four innings with five strikeouts.

Pirates: C Yasmani Grandal (left foot) will remain at Triple-A Indianapolis through the end of the week. Pittsburgh general manager Ben Cherington said the team wants to give Grandal plenty of chances to run the bases in the minors since Grandal missed the vast majority of spring training.

UP NEXT

The series concludes on Thursday. Freddy Peralta (2-0, 1.90 ERA) starts for the Brewers against Pittsburgh's Mitch Keller (2-2, 4.80).

2 Fabulous Properties at Tappan Lake

Discover all Tappan lake has to offer! Tappan Lake covers 2,350 acres of water and 5,000 acres of surrounding land, and is part of MWCD. The lake has a 399 HP limit for boats, 2 public launch ramps and an \$8,000,000 Marina with restaurant completed in 2023. Only 52 minutes from Weirton, WV. Fantastic recreational lake!



86461 Tappan Highland \$879,000
Breathtaking log home with over 5,700 sq. ft on 2.67 Acres. This 5 BDs- 4 1/2 BAs home. Ideal Retreat or Airbnb. Great Rm with stone FP Kitchen with granite countertops. 1st flr MBD Suite with stone FP & French doors to deck, 4- 2nd flr BD's each with access to a BA and a private balcony. Library overlooking the Great Rm. 3rd flr Bonus Rm. Walk out LL Rec Room w/wet bar and FP, Full BA, laundry rm, & exercise rm. 2 car detached garage with 1-2 BD apartment with fireplace. New black aluminum railing enhances the home's decks and balconies. Unbelievable property with privacy and security gate. Quality construction—check out our virtual tour!



86111 Tappan Highland \$680,000
Spacious 6,158 sq. ft. home on secluded 4 Acres setting. Large kitchen with newer cabinets, Granite countertop, tile backsplash, center island pantry/laundry, and sun room leading to a large deck room. Large Living room with fireplace, 21' high ceiling and dining area. 1st Flr master suite with soaking tub and 2 walk-in closets and separate shower. Lrg office with French doors. 3 spacious bed-rooms on the 2nd floor with full bath. Walk-out LL with Rec Room with bar and wood burner, game room, and storage area. In-ground pool with water feature surrounded by stamped concrete and outbdg ideal for changing room. 2 car attached garage. Secluded wooded setting on a dead end

Blennerhasset Island

August 15, 2024

Motor coach to Marietta, Ohio and board the Valley Gem Sternwheeler to Blennerhasset Island with breakfast and lunch included onboard.

Mansion tour upon arrival on Blennerhasset Island also included. \$179 per person

Uniglobe

1165 Market Street, Wheeling • (304) 232-5171

All-Season
HVAC
Expertise

New system installations
System repair & maintenance



Wednesday,
April 24, 2024

Barnesville Shamrocks fall to Wheeling Central girls

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — The Barnesville Shamrocks put the tying run on first base in the top of the seventh inning Tuesday, but couldn't quite complete the comeback in the OVAC softball semifinals at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex against the Wheeling Central Maroon Knights, the No. 2 Knights topping the No. 3 Shamrocks 6-4.

Wheeling Central jumped out to a

4-0 lead after five innings, but Barnesville plated four of their own to tie things 4-4 heading into the bottom of the sixth.

The Maroon Knights struck back with two more to lead 6-4 going into the seventh, and though the Shamrocks came close to prolonging the contest, they fell a run short.

"We're not going to give up too easy," Wheeling Central head coach Buck Davidson said. "We're going to keep fighting until the last out, and

that's what you've got to do, especially in these close games."

Central scored in bunches off of costly Barnesville miscues. The Knights plated two runs after a throwing error on a would-be sacrifice bunt in the third, and two more on a ball off an outfielder's glove in the fifth.

Barnesville seemed to have their best chance to get back into it in the sixth inning, with the top of their order coming up, and get back into it they did.

Maddy Schaffer ripped a double to start the inning, Kylee Powell followed up with a single and Ellie Thompson drove them both in with a double to the wall, advancing to third on a late throw home.

With one out, Payton Dudzik kept things moving with an RBI double of her own, and an error at first base on a bunt scored Dudzik and tied the game 4-4.

See BARNESVILLE, Page B2

Ferry girls take down Fort Frye

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — As the saying goes, it was close — until it wasn't.

No. 1 Martins Ferry scored five runs in the bottom of the sixth to run away with a 10-2 victory over No. 4 Fort Frye in the OVAC Class 3A tournament semifinals Tuesday at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex.

Giana Chirpas smashed a solo home run in the fourth and finished with three RBI and Maddie Lucas pitched a complete game with 11 strikeouts to highlight Ferry's advancement to the OVAC 3A Championship.

Ferry first got on the board in the bottom of the first inning, Danielle Lude and Abbey Snedeker scoring on an error in the outfield.

Fort Frye loaded the bases with nobody out in the top of the fourth. Lucas struck out a batter to put one out on the board, but the Cadets did score on a fielder's choice. Carmen Henniger drew a bases-loaded walk to plate another run and tie the game, but

Lucas worked out of the jam from there with no further damage.

It didn't take long before Ferry capitalized on another mistake to take the lead again — Sam Goddard and Savannah Koller scoring on a similar play as the first inning, a misplayed ball in the outfield.

Chirpas put up Ferry's first earned run in emphatic style, lifting a ball just inside the foul pole in left field for a solo shot which put the Purple Rider up three, 5-2.

Fort Frye stranded a pair of baserunners in the top of the fifth, as leaving meat on the bone had become an unfortunate trend for the Cadets on Tuesday.

Ferry piled on with five more in the sixth — Koller, Lude and Snedeker each recorded RBI knocks, and Chirpas had a two-RBI single to left.

Balls that were pulled foul against inside pitches early in the game became RBI hits and home runs by the end of it for Ferry.

"It took us awhile to adjust to that pitcher," Martins Fer-

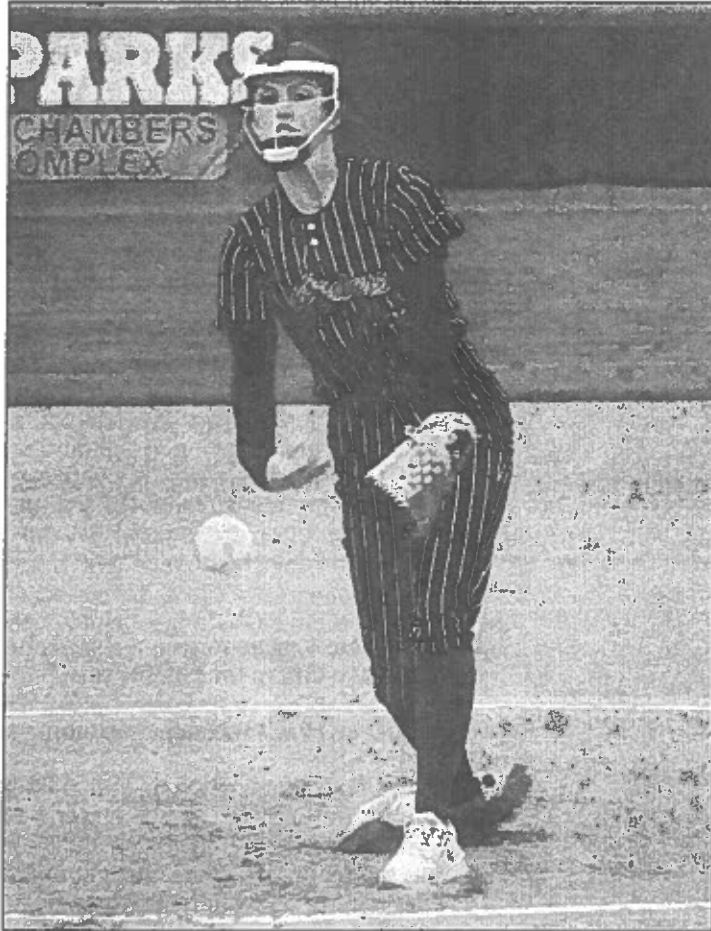


Photo by NICK HENTHORN
MARTINS FERRY'S Maddie Lucas fires a pitch against the Fort Frye Cadets during the teams' OVAC Semifinals matchup on Tuesday at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex.

ry head coach Jerry Magistro said. "She kept us off-balance and everything, but finally once we got her timing down we started hitting good. I thought it was a team win."

"Everybody hit the ball pretty hard, we did good on our fielding and defensive stuff, pitcher did what she had to do and got us out of a lot of tough situations, she pitched well. A lot of the young kids and the older ones did a great

job hitting the ball today, getting timely hits when people were on base."

Martins Ferry will face Wheeling Central, who bested Barnesville earlier in the day, for the conference title.

"Fort Frye played a really good game," Magistro said. "They've got some good hitters, they play pretty good defense and I take my hat off to them because I thought they did well."

Nailers win to push Fuel to brink of elimination

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The Wheeling Nailers moved to within one win of advancing in the ECHL playoffs Tuesday night.

Jordan Martel scored a pair of goals — both on the power play — and goaltender Jaxon Castor recorded his first professional shutout as the Nailers posted a 3-0 blanking of the visiting Indy Fuel in Game 4 of their Central Division semifinal series inside WesBanco Arena.

"Our best players came through tonight," Wheeling head coach Derek Army said. "Justin Martel has been our best scorer all season and he got two tonight."

The victory, Wheeling's third straight after a Game 1 setback, gives the Nailers a 3-1 advantage in the best-of-7 series. Game 5 is set for Saturday night inside the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex in the Pittsburgh suburb of Cranberry. The puck drops at 7:10.

"Jaxon played great and the guys in front of him blocked a lot of shots and didn't give up a whole lot, but when we did he was there," Army praised. "I think the biggest save was the 2-on-1 break there late in the third. I didn't like the way we played it, but Cast was there."

"We're lucky to have him." Castor said he loves playing in Wheeling.

"It feels awesome," he said of the shutout. "I love these guys and I love playing here."

See NAILERS, Page B2

Cambridge boys end St. C. Red Devils' winning streak

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Cambridge ended St. Clairsville's unbeaten streak at 14 with a 3-1 triumph Tuesday in the Buckeye 8 championship baseball game at Memorial Park.

The Red Devils (14-1) only mustered three hits and committed four errors in the defeat.

Caiden Bailey tripled for St. Clairsville. Hunter Hoffman took the mound loss despite seven strikeouts and no walks.

Martins Ferry 8, Edison 1

RICHMOND — Freshman Hunter Shutler went the distance on the mound and singled thrice to lead the Purple Riders over the host Wildcats. He fanned a pair and scattered four singles.

Turner Krol singled twice to drive in three runs and Ayden Ludolph delivered a two-run double.

Martins Ferry scored seven times in the top of the seventh to break the game wide open.

drove in three runs with a single and double while Alex Taylor had a single, double and knocked in two runs.

Dillon Wilson drove in two runs with a single and double, while also picking up the mound win with eight strikeouts and three walks in six innings.

Parkersburg 1, John Marshall 0
PARKERSBURG — Tommy Clegg allowed just six hits, fanned five and walked one but the Monarchs couldn't generate any offense.

Clegg and Hayden Gaiser evenly split four singles.

Paden City 10, Bridgeport 0
PADEN CITY — Kayden Myers struck out 10 in firing a one-hitter against the visiting Bulldogs.

Joey Baker hit a two-run homer for the Wildcats (14-7). Garrett Parrish rapped a two-run double and Myers singled home a run.

River 14, Magnolia 1
HANNIBAL — Kaden Hunt singled four times and drove in four runs as the Pilots scored 12 times in the bottom of the fourth.

The Pilots scored 12 times in the bottom of the fourth.

Wheeling Central 4, Madonna 3
WEIRTON — The Maroon Knights took a close one against the Blue Dons. Braxton Billick, Eli Tucker, Gary Hatfield and Seth Cover — the top four in the Central lineup — each tallied an RBI for the Knights to reach their total. The visitors ran roughshod on the basepaths with five stolen bases.

Steven Brodegard pitched five innings in his start to earn the win, while Brady Ernest pitched three innings in relief. They combined for 11 strikeouts.

SOFTBALL

Union Local 5, Buckeye Local 4
MORRISTOWN — The hosts pushed a run across in the bottom of the seventh for the win.

Alli Kellaway belted a two-run homer for Union Local, while Laken Vinskovich singled twice and Breanna Barbe doubled in two runs.

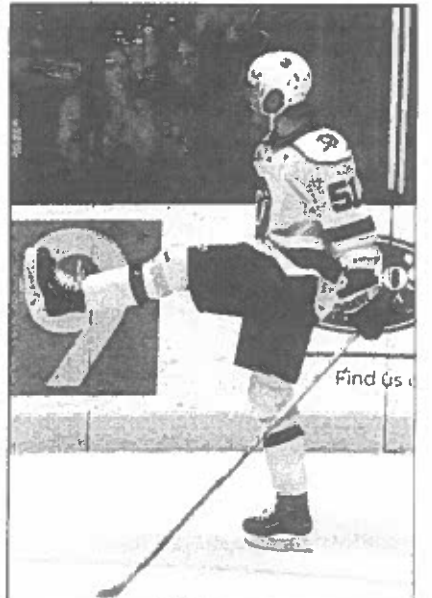


Photo by JOE LOVELL
WHEELING'S JORDAN Martel (51) celebrates after one of his two goals Tuesday night as the Nailers blanked the Indy Fuel 3-0 in Game 4 of their ECHL Central Division

stud. He's a good player. Obviously, I'm not rooting for him but you're in awe. I was like, 'For real, bro?'

"He's amazing and that at-bat tells the whole story. He's one of the best players in baseball."

Cora got no argument from first-year Guardians manager Stephen Vogt, who remembers playing against Ramirez.

"I was in awe of him for years and now I like being in awe of him," Vogt said. "That top tier of player, they do things

"With our pitching and the way our offense is, it's going to be tough to beat us."

Wilyer Abreu homered for the Red Sox, who were held in check for six innings by Ben Lively.

Making his debut at Progressive Field, Lively warmed up to "Yellow Submarine" by the Beatles and then allowed just one run and five hits in 6 1/3 innings. He walked none and struck out seven.

Lively joked that some of his young teammates didn't recog-

Red Sox outfielder Tyler O'Neill went 1 for 4 in his first game back since colliding last week with third baseman Rafael Devers chasing a pop up. O'Neill sustained a concussion and needed eight stitches to close a cut in his head.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Red Sox: 1B Triston Casas (broken rib) is out indefinitely after injuring himself while making a swing on Saturday in Pittsburgh. Casas, who had six homers already this season, told Cora that he had discom-



AP Photo

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS' Jose Ramirez runs the bases after hitting a solo home run off Boston Red Sox relief pitcher Cam Booser in the eighth inning of a baseball game, in Cleveland.

fort last week before getting hurt fouling off a pitch. ... Devers (knee bone bruise) was expected to play for the first time since April 17, but Cora delayed his return because of the wet conditions. Devers will play Wednesday.

Guardians: RHP Gavin Wil-

liams (elbow) has not yet met with the team's medical staff to determine the next step in his rehab. Williams pitched three innings on Saturday in Arizona without any issues before flying to Cleveland. Williams hurt his elbow throwing a weighted ball in March.

• Nailers

Continued from Page B1

Special teams were huge for Wheeling. It killed off all five Indy power-play opportunities while lighting the goal lamp twice.

"I think we missed a couple of power-play opportunities, but it came through when we needed it to," Army continued. "Our penalty kill was superb and you have to credit Jaxon for that."

Martel made it 1-0 at the 13-minute, 19-second mark of the opening period. With the Fuel's Seamus Malone in the penalty box for cross-checking, Lukas Svejkovsky and Justin Addamo worked the puck to the left side of the crease where Martel ripped a one-timer that sailed past Mitchell Weeks and tickled the twine.

"That first goal was crucial," Army said of Martel's fourth of the series. "It was nice to start with the lead."

The Nailers made it 2-0 in the second period when Martel once again found the net with the man advantage. Svejkovsky recorded his second assist of the game as he collected a loose puck, sent it to Martel who unleashed a laser that found the top left corner of the net at 14:21.

Castor, who made 20 saves, came up with his biggest when he denied Matus Spodniak on a 2-on-1 short-handed break with 3:15 remaining to play.

"He's been playing really well for us," Martel said

of Castor. "He's made some huge saves for us. We're proud to have him in the net, for sure."

David Jankowski capped the scoring with an empty-net goal at 19:43 with an assist going to Matthew Quercia.

"We're not taking anything for granted. The last win is the hardest to get, so we're going to give it our best," Martel said.

With the reality of losing three straight setting in, the Fuel tried to take out their frustrations just as the final buzzer sounded, resulting in several misconduct penalties. The Fuel's Matthew Cairns was assessed a 5-minute fighting major, along with a game misconduct. Teammate Christopher Cameron received a double minor for roughing and a 10-minute misconduct and Indy's Jon Martin got hit with a 10-minute misconduct. Wheeling's Quercia and Louis Roehl were given two minutes each for roughing.

PUCK DROPS

— The three stars of the game went to Castor, Martel and Svejkovsky.

— Monday's overtime win was the fifth at home in Wheeling franchise history.

— Prior to Castor's whitewashing Tuesday, the last playoff shutout at home belonged to Mike Condon on April 23, 2014.

— The attendance for Monday night was announced at 1,737. Three more fans attended last night.



Photo by NICK HENTHORN

BARNESVILLE'S ELLA Betts throws a pitch against the Wheeling Central Maroon Knights on Tuesday during the teams' OVAC semifinal matchup at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex.

• Winning

Continued from Page B1

Monroe Central 7, Magnolia 2
WOODSFIELD — Ryleigh Winland drove in two runs with a pair of doubles as the Seminoles topped the visiting Blue Eagles.

River 4, Bellaire 1
ST. JOE — The Pilots bounced back from their OVAC Class 2A

Tournament loss on Monday as Ava Wohnhas fired a one-hitter on the Bellaire Middle School diamond.

Wohnhas struck out 11, walked none and permitted just one hit.

Kelsey Harlan doubled and Alexis Green singled in a run.

Majestique Jackson struck out seven and walked four in taking the loss.

Steubenville 2, Wheeling Park 1

STEUBENVILLE — Big Red walked off their contest against the Patriots with a run in the bottom of the seventh.

Gracey Bowman and Emma Lyons each had RBI for Big Red while Faith Randolph had an RBI triple for Park.

Timberwolves take 2-0 lead on Suns behind 25 points and ace defense from Jaden McDaniels

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) Timberwolves in a 105-93 victory over the Phoenix Suns to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round series on Tuesday night. Mike Conley and Rudy Gobert each had

18 points for the Wolves to offset a smothering of Anthony Edwards by the Suns, who held him to 15 points on 3-for-12 shooting after allowing him 33 in the opener.

The teams head to Phoenix for Game 3 on Friday night. Minnesota has held a 2-0 series lead only one other time in franchise history, against Denver in the first round in 2004 en route to a 4-1 series victory.

"Everyone down the list has shown they'll be willing to do whatever it takes to sacrifice whatever it is for betterment of the team," said Karl-Anthony Towns, who had 12 points.

Devin Booker scored 20 points. Kevin Durant added 18 and sixth man Eric Gordon had 15 for the Suns, who again failed to get their high-octane offense in gear.

"When they're scoring on us and we're not getting the right stops, we can't not be organized offensively," Suns coach Frank Vogel said. "We had too many possessions like that."

The big three of Booker, Durant and Bradley Beal combined to shoot

18 for 45, with McDaniels leading the list of reasons for the slump.

"We can see it. I can feel it. I can see them. It's tough," Gobert said. "No one likes going against the type of defense that we're playing right now."

After building an eight-point lead in the second quarter and taking a 51-50 edge into halftime, the Suns wore down while Towns got going after early foul trouble.

Phoenix lost guard Grayson Allen to an aggravated ankle sprain in the third quarter. Minnesota's momentum carried into the fourth quarter, and the crowd noise came with it. Conley found Gobert with a bounce pass off the pick-and-roll for an easy slam and an 84-76 lead the Wolves later extended to 19 points, before the 17-year veteran point guard swished a corner 3-pointer that electrified the arena.

The "Wolves in 4!" chant popped up in the final minutes.

"The building's been amazing. The fans have been unreal," coach Chris Finch said. "Our guys have risen to their energy, and we were locked in from the start."

• Barnesville

Continued from Page B1

"It was right there in our 2-3-4 spot, we got a bunt laid down and they had an error and I think it just snowballed," Barnesville head coach Kelley Hanlon said. "We started hitting towards the end of the game and we tied it up."

With the game knotted late, it was Wheeling Central's turn to make some plays. Bella Rine blasted a solo home run deep over the left field fence to retake the lead for Central, and Knights starting pitcher Josie Frizzell helped her own cause with an RBI double later in the inning to lead 6-4.

Frizzell seemed determined to end things quickly coming back out into the circle for the top of the seventh, striking out her first two batters, one swinging and one looking, but Powell popped another single to bring the tying run up to the plate, Ellie Thompson.

A sharp grounder by Thompson ate up Central's third baseman, and the intensity was rising with the tying run aboard. But a groundout put an end to the two-out rally, and the game.

Frizzell, Central's ace and an all-stater, struck out 11, but the Shamrocks were not helpless at the dish, securing eight hits and plating four runs. "She did well," David-

son said of Frizzell. "Not as good as she's done at other times, but that's a credit to Barnesville. This second time we faced them, the second time they faced her, they did a great job of hitting the ball."

"We just need to do a better job of catching some of those balls in the outfield then it's not as close as what it was. But we proved that we can win a close ballgame when Josie isn't necessarily doing her best. That's a lot of confidence for our girls."

It was the Shamrocks' second effort against Frizzell.

"Compared to when we played them before, we did a lot better," Hanlon said. "We struck out 16 times before. I don't know what happened to us when we played them here last time, but I thought we played a lot better today. We had them on the ropes until the end."

Wheeling Central will play Martins Ferry in the OVAC Class 3A championship game. Ferry defeated Fort Frye in the game after Central v. Barnesville.

"We're really excited," Davidson said. "No matter who we face next game, whether it's Martins Ferry or Fort Frye, hopefully we'll give them a good game. We've just got to keep playing hard and playing good defense."

Blennerhasset Island
August 15, 2024

Motor, coach to Marietta, Ohio and board the Valley Gem Sternwheeler to Blennerhasset Island with breakfast and lunch included onboard.

Mansion tour upon arrival on Blennerhasset Island also included. \$179 per person

Uniclobe Ohio Valley Travel
1765 Main St. Steubenville, OH 44224

Rumer Loudin INC

Rumer-Loudin, Inc.
Rumer has it!
In business since 1975
Now offering 3 locations to serve you

Barnesville, Ohio • 740-425-3134
Moundsville, WV • 304-845-8354
St. Clairsville, Ohio • 740-695-2487

OVAC SOFTBALL SEMIFINALS



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Central's Brook Edge throws in a ball from the outfield against the Barnesville Shamrocks on Tuesday during the teams' OVAC semifinal matchup at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex.

Wheeling Central Pushes Past Barnesville Into Championship Game

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - The Barnesville Shamrocks put the tying run on first base in the top of the seventh inning Tuesday, but couldn't quite complete the comeback in the OVAC softball semifinals at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex against the Wheeling Central Maroon Knights, the No. 2 Knights topping the No. 3 Shamrocks 6-4.

Wheeling Central jumped out to a 4-0 lead after five innings, but Barnesville plated four of their own to tie things 4-4 heading into the bottom of the sixth.

The Maroon Knights struck back with two more to lead 6-4 going into the seventh, and though the Shamrocks came close to prolonging the contest, they fell a run short.

"We're not going to give up too easy," Wheeling Central head coach Buck Davidson said. "We're going to keep fighting until the last out, and that's what

you've got to do, especially in these close games."

Central scored in bunches off of costly Barnesville miscues. The Knights plated two runs after a throwing error on a would-be sacrifice bunt in the third, and two more on a ball off an outfielder's glove in the fifth.

Barnesville seemed to have their best chance to get back into it in the sixth inning, with the top of their order coming up, and get back into it they did.

Maddy Schaffer ripped a double to start the inning, Kylee Powell followed up with a single and Ellie Thompson drove them both in with a double to the wall, advancing to third on a late throw home.

With one out, Payton Dudzik kept things moving with an RBI double of her own, and an error at first base on a bunt scored Dudzik and tied the game 4-4.

"It was right there in our 2-3-4 spot, we got a bunt laid down and they had an error and I think it just

snowballed," Barnesville head coach Kelley Hanlon said. "We started hitting towards the end of the game and we tied it up."

With the game knotted late, it was Wheeling Central's turn to make some plays. Bella Rine blasted a solo home run deep over the left field fence to retake the lead for Central, and Knights starting pitcher Josie Frizzell helped her own cause with an RBI double later in the inning to lead 6-4.

Frizzell seemed determined to end things quickly coming back out into the circle for the top of the seventh, striking out her first two batters, one swinging and one looking, but Powell popped another single to bring the tying run up to the plate, Ellie Thompson.

A sharp grounder by Thompson ate up Central's third baseman, and the intensity was rising with the tying run aboard. But a groundout put an end to the two-out rally, and the game.

Please see CENTRAL, Page 12

Ferry Explodes Late To Top Fort Frye

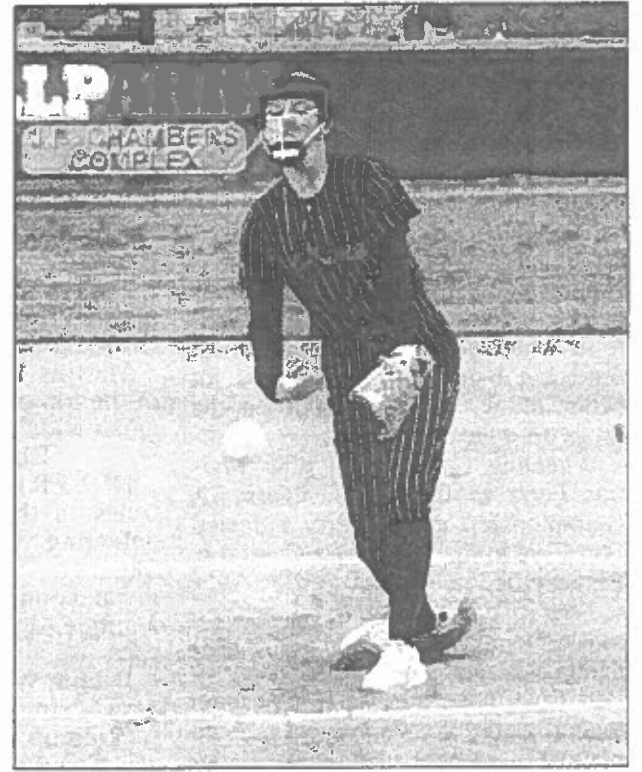


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Martins Ferry's Maddie Lucas fires a pitch against the Fort Frye Cadets during the teams' OVAC semifinals matchup on Tuesday at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex.

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - As the saying goes, it was close-until it wasn't.

No. 1 Martins Ferry scored five runs in the bottom of the sixth to run away with a 10-2 victory over No. 4 Fort Frye in the OVAC Class 3A tournament semifinals Tuesday at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex.

Giana Chirpas smashed a solo home run in the fourth and finished with three RBI and Maddie Lucas pitched a complete game with 11 strikeouts to highlight Ferry's advancement to the OVAC 3A Championship.

Ferry first got on the board in the bottom of the first inning, Danielle Lude and Abbey Snedeker scoring on an error in the outfield.

Fort Frye loaded the bases with nobody out in the top of the fourth. Lucas struck out a batter to

put one out on the board, but the Cadets did score on a fielder's choice. Carmen Henniger drew a bases-loaded walk to plate another run and tie the game, but Lucas worked out of the jam from there with no further damage.

It didn't take long before Ferry capitalized on another mistake to take the lead again - Sam Goddard and Savannah Koller scoring on a similar play as the first inning, a misplayed ball in the outfield.

Chirpas put up Ferry's first earned run in emphatic style, lifting a ball just inside the foul pole in left field for a solo shot which put the Purple Rider up three, 5-2.

Fort Frye stranded a pair of baserunners in the top of the fifth, as leaving meat on the bone had become an unfortunate trend for the Cadets on Tuesday.

Please see LATE, Page 15

McCutchen Leads Off With Homer Again, Pirates Top Brewers 2-1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Andrew McCutchen led off the bottom of the first with a home run for the second straight game. Bailey Falter took a shutout into the eighth inning and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Milwaukee Brewers 2-1 on Tuesday night.

McCutchen hit the first pitch of Tobias Myers' major league career down the left-field line for his 24th career leadoff homer and his 100th long ball at PNC Park. McCutchen connected off Joe Ross on Monday night in the Pirates' 4-2 win.

McCutchen became the first Pirates player to hit a leadoff homer in back-to-back games since Adam Frazier in 2019. McCutchen is 5 for 8 in two games since manager Derek Shelton moved him to the top of the batting or-

.233. "Man, it's unbelievable. He's the man and not surprised at all," Pirates closer David Bednar said. "So yeah, that was awesome. And maybe another one tomorrow."

Pinch-hitter Connor Joe pushed the lead to 2-0 with an RBI single in the sixth inning.

Falter (2-1) was lifted after Gary Sanchez's leadoff home run in the eighth — one of just three hits off the left-hander, who had a career-high eight strikeouts and two walks.

Since the second inning of his season debut on March 31 at Miami, Bailey Falter has posted a 1.73 ERA in 25 innings with a .154 opponents' average in four starts.



AP Photo

Pittsburgh Pirates' Andrew McCutchen runs the bases after hitting a home run against the Milwaukee Brewers during the first inning of a baseball game Tues-

CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 11)

Red Devils' Unbeaten Streak Ends; Purple Riders Top Wildcats

Frizzell, Central's ace and an all-stater, struck out 11, but the Shamrocks were not helpless at the dish, securing eight hits and plating four runs.

"She did well," Davidson said of Frizzell. "Not as good as she's done at other times, but that's a credit to Barnesville. The second time we faced them, the second time they faced her, they did a great job of hitting the ball."

"We just need to do a better job of catching some of those balls in the outfield then it's not as close as what it was. But we proved that we can win a close ballgame when Josie isn't necessarily doing her best. That's a lot of confidence for our girls."

It was the Shamrocks' second effort against Frizzell.

"Compared to when we played them before, we did a lot better," Hanlon said. "We struck out 16 times before. I don't know what happened to us when we played them here last time, but I thought we played a lot better today. We had them on the ropes until the end."

Wheeling Central will play Martins Ferry in the OVAC Class 3A championship game. Ferry defeated Fort Frye in the game after Central v. Barnesville.

"We're really excited," Davidson said. "No matter who we face next game, whether it's Martins Ferry or Fort Frye, hopefully we'll give them a good game. We've just got to keep playing hard and playing good defense."

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Cambridge ended St. Clairsville's unbeaten streak at 14 with a 3-1 triumph Tuesday in the Buckeye 8 championship baseball game at Memorial Park.

The Red Devils (14-1) only mustered three hits and committed four errors in the defeat.

Caiden Bailey tripled for St. Clairsville. Hunter Hoffman took the mound loss despite seven strikeouts and no walks.

Martins Ferry 8, Edison 1

RICHMOND - Freshman Hunter Shutler went the distance on the mound and singled thrice to lead the Purple Riders over the host Wildcats. He fanned a pair and scattered four singles.

Turner Krol singled twice to drive in three runs and Ayden Ludolph delivered a two-run double.

Martins Ferry scored seven times in the top of the seventh to break the game wide open.

Linsly 10, Dover 4

DOVER - Linsly scored seven times in the top of the seventh in defeating the Tornadoes. Andrew Skadra drove in three runs with a single and double while Alex Taylor had a single, double and knocked in two runs.

Dillon Wilson drove in two runs with a single and double, while also picking up the mound win with eight strikeouts and three walks in six innings.

Parkersburg 1, John Marshall 0

PARKERSBURG - Tommy Clegg allowed just six hits, fanned five and walked one but the Monarchs couldn't generate any offense.

Clegg and Hayden Gaiser evenly split four singles.

Paden City 10, Bridgeport 0

PADEN CITY - Kayden Myers struck out 10 in firing a one-hitter against the visiting Bulldogs.

Joey Baker hit a two-run homer for the Wildcats (14-7). Garrett Parrish rapped a two-run double and Myers singled home a run.

River 14, Magnolia 1

HANNIBAL - Kaden Hunt singled four times and drove in four runs as the Pilots mercy-ruled the visiting Blue Eagles. He also earned the win on the mound with seven Ks. Hunter Nething had three singles and an RBI.

The Pilots scored 12 times in the bottom of the fourth.

Wheeling Central 4, Madonna 3

WEIRTON - The Maroon Knights took a close one against the Blue Dons.

Braxton Billick, Eli Tucker, Gary Hatfield and Seth Cover - the top four in the Central lineup - each tallied an RBI for the Knights to reach their total. The visitors ran roughshod on the basepaths with five stolen bases.

Steven Brodegard pitched five innings in his start to earn the win, while Brady Ernest pitched three in-

nings in relief. They combined for 11 strikeouts.

SOFTBALL

Union Local 5, Buckeye Local 4

MORRISTOWN - The hosts pushed a run across in the bottom of the seventh for the win.

Alli Kellaway belted a two-run homer for Union Local, while Laken Vinskovich singled twice and Breanna Barbe doubled in two runs.

Heather Kovalski slugged a two-run homer for the Panthers.

Monroe Central 7, Magnolia 2

WOODSFIELD - Ryleigh Winland drove in two runs with a pair of doubles as the Seminoles topped the visiting Blue Eagles.

River 4, Bellaire 1

ST. JOE - The Pilots bounced back from their OVAC Class 2A Tournament loss on Monday as Ava Wohnhas fired a one-hitter on the Bellaire Middle School diamond.

Wohnhas struck out 11, walked none and permitted just one hit.

Kelsey Harlan doubled and Alexis Green singled in a run.

Majestique Jackson struck out seven and walked four in taking the loss.

Steubenville 2, Wheeling Park 1

STEUBENVILLE - Big Red walked off their contest against the Patriots with a run in the bottom of the seventh.

Gracey Bowman and Emma Lyons each had RBI for Big Red while Faith Randolph had an RBI triple for Park.

OFFICIAL BALLOT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
Ohio County, WV Primary Election May 14, 2024

NATIONAL TICKET		STATE TICKET (continued)	
FOR PRESIDENT (Vote for ONE)		FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> DEAN PHILLIPS Wayzata, MI		<input type="checkbox"/> TERESA TORISEVA Wheeling Ohio Co	
<input type="checkbox"/> STEPHEN P LYONS Damasus, MD		<input type="checkbox"/> RICHIE ROBB South Charleston Kanawha Co	
<input type="checkbox"/> ARMANDO "MANDO" PEREZ-SERRATO Orange, CA		FOR STATE SENATOR 1ST SENATORIAL DISTRICT (Vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR Wilmington, DE		NO CANDIDATE(S) FILED	
<input type="checkbox"/> JASON MICHAEL PALMER Baltimore, MD		FOR MEMBER OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES 3RD DELEGATE DISTRICT (Vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> DON BLANKENSHIP Spring Mingo Co.		<input type="checkbox"/> DAVID CANTRELL Wheeling Ohio Co.	
<input type="checkbox"/> GLENN ELLJOTT Wheeling Ohio Co.		FOR MEMBER OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES 4TH DELEGATE DISTRICT (Vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> ZACHARY SHREWSBURY Princeton Mercer Co.		<input type="checkbox"/> JONATHAN "JOHNNY" HAUGHT Bethlehem Ohio Co.	
FOR U.S. SENATOR (Vote for ONE)		FOR MEMBER OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES 5TH DELEGATE DISTRICT (Vote for ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> DON BLANKENSHIP Spring Mingo Co.		<input type="checkbox"/> SHAWN FLUHARTY Wheeling Ohio Co.	
<input type="checkbox"/> GLENN ELLJOTT Wheeling Ohio Co.		COUNTY TICKET	
<input type="checkbox"/> ZACHARY SHREWSBURY Princeton Mercer Co.		FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER (Vote for ONE) Not more than one resident of any magisterial district may be elected	
FOR U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for ONE)		NO CANDIDATE(S) FILED	
<input type="checkbox"/> STEVEN WENDELIN Lost River Hardy Co.			
STATE TICKET			
FOR GOVERNOR (Vote for ONE)			
<input type="checkbox"/> STEVE WILLIAMS			

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 11)

Falter credits the turnaround to using his four-seam fastball more often. "I've just simplified things," Falter said. "I kind of shied away from being the pitcher that got me to the big leagues in the first place. Just try to go back to that. So far, it's been doing really well for me."

Bednar pitched a perfect ninth for his second save in as many nights and fourth of the season in seven chances, finishing a three-hitter.

Pittsburgh has won the first two games of the four-game series after losing six straight. The Brewers arrived on a four-game winning streak.

McCutchen's homer was the only run Myers (0-1) allowed in five innings. He yielded four hits while striking out four and walking one.

"It felt good to get out there for the first time," Myers said "First-pitch homer certainly settled the nerves, and it was good to see how my stuff plays up here. I was happy with it, and it was relief to finally pitch up here after eight years."

The 25-year-old right-hander was called up from Triple-A Nashville on Monday. He also spent one day with the Brewers

on April 17 but then was sent back down to the minor leagues without having pitched.

Milwaukee is Myers' sixth organization since he was selected by Baltimore in the sixth round of the 2016 amateur draft. He also spent time with Tampa Bay, Cleveland, San Francisco and the Chicago White Sox.

TRAINER'S ROOM
Brewers: RHP Jakob Junis (right shoulder impingement) was back with the team and being observed for a possible head injury after being struck in the neck during batting practice a night earlier and taken to a hospital. Murphy said Junis, who is on the injured list with a right shoulder injury, was doing much better. ... LHP Wade Miley (left elbow inflammation) underwent an MRI on Tuesday but the results were not immediately available.

UP NEXT

RHP Bryse Wilson (2-0, 3.29 ERA) starts for the Brewers on Wednesday night against his former team. LHP Josh Fleming (1-0, 1.74) will be used as an opener by the Pirates and likely be followed by rookie RHP Quinn Priester (0-1, 8.31).

Sport Briefs

JM Seeking Girls Hoop Team For Tourney

John Marshall is hosting a girls basketball holiday tournament on December 30-31, and is still looking for a team to join. Each team will get two games, one each day. Games on the Dec. 31 will start early, so you can be back home in plenty of time for New Year's Eve. If interested please contact Brock Melko at (304)650-6547 or bmelko@k12.wv.us.

BRIDGEPORT, W.Va. - Kennedy Martin of the West Liberty University women's track & field team was recognized by the Mountain East Conference on Monday afternoon with MEC Women's Outdoor Track & Field Athlete of the Week honors, which is presented by The Health Plan. It marks the second consecutive week a Hilltopper has earned the accolade, and it is the first weekly conference honor of Martin's

career. During the week, the Madonna graduate, recorded three event wins and one additional top-10 finish as she competed at the John Papa Invitational and the Mountaineer Twilight.

With a winning throw of 42.23m (138' 6") at the John Papa Invitational on Thursday she clinched her first event win of the week. She also earned a seventh place finish in the shot put at the meet with a throw of 12.08m (39' 7.75").

She notched a pair of event victories at the Mountaineer Twilight as she posted a career-best throw of 44.35m (145' 6") in the discus and then a winning mark of 12.10m (39' 8.5") in the shot put which was a new outdoor season-best.

With the new marks, she now holds the top spot in the discus and is third in the shot put on the MEC Performance List.

TENNIS

(Continued from Page 11)

Wheeling Park's Reese Moores, a junior, finished second at No. 3 singles to Morgantown's Grace Forman, 8-4.

The Patriots finished third in the 8-team field with 17 points. Parkersburg South was fourth

with six, followed by John Marshall (4), Brooke (3) and Steubenville (1).

The boys take over the courts on Wednesday and Thursday, with doubles action beginning Wednesday.

Guardians Continue Franchise-Best Start

CLEVELAND (AP) - Jose Ramirez homered in the eighth and Tyler Freeman and Bryan Rocchio had RBIs in the seventh when Cleveland finally scored against Boston's Tanner Houck as the Guardians kept up their scorching start with a 4-1 win over the Red Sox.

Houck pitched a three-hit shutout against the Guardians last week. He held them scoreless for six more innings before

Freeman hit a run-scoring single and Rocchio added a sacrifice fly off reliever Brennan Bernardino. Ramirez hit an opposite-field homer in the eighth inning against reliever Cam Booser for his fourth homer.

The Guardians won their fifth straight to improve baseball's best record to 17-6, matching the club's best start through 23 games. Cleveland was also 17-6 in 1999 and 1966.

LATE

(Continued from Page 11)

Ferry piled on with five more in the sixth - Koller, Lude and Snedeker each recorded RBI knocks, and Chirpas had a two-RBI single to left.

Balls that were pulled foul against inside pitches early in the game became RBI hits and home runs by the end of it for Ferry.

"It took us awhile to adjust to that pitcher," Martins Ferry head coach Jerry Magistro said. "She kept us off-balance and everything, but finally once we got her timing down we started hitting good. I thought it was a team win."

"Everybody hit the ball pretty hard, we did good on our fielding and de-

fensive stuff, pitcher did what she had to do and got us out of a lot of tough situations, she pitched well. A lot of the young kids and the older ones did a great job hitting the ball today, getting timely hits when people were on base."

Martins Ferry will face Wheeling Central, who bested Barnesville earlier in the day, for the conference title.

"Fort Frye played a really good game," Magistro said.

"They've got some good hitters, they play pretty good defense and I take my hat off to them because I thought they did well."

MAY 14, 2024 OFFICIAL NON PARTISAN TICKET

NONPARTISAN BALLOT ELECTION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS

NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA - DIVISION 1
(Vote for ONE)

HALEY BUNN
Charleston Kanawha Co

Write-in, If Any

NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA - DIVISION 2
(Vote for ONE)

CHARLES S TRUMP IV
Beckley Putnam Co

Write-in, If Any

NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF JUDGE OF THE INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS - DIVISION 1
(Vote for ONE)

S RYAN WHITE
Charleston Kanawha Co

ELGINE HECETA MCARDLE
Wheeling Ohio Co

MYCHAL S. SCHULZ
Charleston Kanawha Co

Write-in, If Any

NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - DIVISION 1
(Vote for ONE)

JOSEPH BARKI
Wheeling Ohio Co

DEAN ELLIOTT WILLIAMS
Trade Ohio Co

RON WILSON
Weirton Hancock Co

Write-in, If Any

NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE 1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - DIVISION 2
(Vote for ONE)

DAVID J. SIMS

NONPARTISAN BALLOT ELECTION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS

NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF FAMILY COURT JUDGE 1ST FAMILY COURT CIRCUIT - DIVISION 1
(Vote for ONE)

JOYCE DUMBAUGH CHERNENKO
Weirton Brooke Co

Write-in, If Any

NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF FAMILY COURT JUDGE 1ST FAMILY COURT CIRCUIT - DIVISION 2
(Vote for ONE)

HEATHER A. WOOD
Weirton Hancock Co

Write-in, If Any

NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF MAGISTRATE - DIVISION 1
(Vote for ONE)

CHESTER "ROGER" BHS
Trade Ohio Co

KEVIN A. STRYKER
Wheeling Ohio Co

Write-in, If Any

NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF MAGISTRATE - DIVISION 2
(Vote for ONE)

PATRICIA "PATTY" MURPHY
Wheeling Ohio Co

Write-in, If Any

NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF MAGISTRATE - DIVISION 3
(Vote for ONE)

JANINE L. VARNER
Wheeling Ohio Co

Write-in, If Any

Tuesday,
April 23, 2024

Caldwell bests River girls at OVAC tournament, 6-0

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
For The Times Leader

ELM GROVE — Caldwell has turned itself into an OVAC Tournament juggernaut.

The Lady Redskins are the reigning OVAC 3A champions. Prior to that, the Noble County crew won two straight 2A conference crowns. Caldwell has returned to the 2A classification this year and is now just one step away from its fourth successive OVAC softball championship.

The Lady Redskins punched their ticket into the title tilt via a sharp 6-0 besting of River at the J.B. Chambers

I-470 Complex Monday afternoon, avenging a regular season loss to the Lady Pilots. Caldwell will face No. 2 Frontier in the championship contest.

Two huge factors propelled Caldwell to its victory.

First, and foremost, Makayla Mumaw was brilliant in the circle for the winners. The talented righthander surrendered just two hits while striking out 12 and walking just one.

Secondly, the Lady Redskins were the beneficiaries of five unearned runs in the first inning, courtesy of four River errors.

Lady Pilot hurler Ava Wohnhas was

deserving of a much better fate. The talented sophomore yielded just four hits. She struck out six and issued just one walk.

"When teams make mistakes you need to make them pay. We did that today," Caldwell head coach Doug Pfeffer noted. "We made the most of our opportunity in the first inning, then our bats went a little silent the rest of the game."

"I thought our defense was exceptional. We made two great plays in the outfield in the fourth inning," he added. "Makayla pitched a whale of a game. She was in total control."

Caldwell improved to 11-2 on the season. River dipped to 7-6.

Mumaw opened the Caldwell first with a single. Laynie Sidwell delivered the only other Lady Redskin hit in the inning, a double. Two throwing errors and two dropped fly balls sabotaged the Lady Pilots hopes.

"You can't give up five unearned runs to a good team, especially in the first inning," veteran River High coach Dave Wright said. "That was the ball game. We had to change our way of thinking after that."

See CALDWELL, Page B2

Shadyside Lady Tigers fall to the Frontier Cougars, 2-1

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

WHEELING — A late push was not quite enough for the No. 3 Shadyside Tigers on Monday against the No. 2 Frontier Cougars at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex. Shadyside falling 2-1 despite rallying in their final turn at bat in the OVAC 2A semifinals.

Down 2-0 going into the seventh, Shadyside revved up what had been an idle offense in their last chance. Taylor Fulton smacked a single to centerfield with one out, and Josey Greenwood followed up with an RBI double over the right fielder's head to place herself as the tying run in scoring position.

Frontier's Grace Arnold batted down the hatches though with back-to-back strikeouts to send her Cougars to the OVAC 2A championship game.

"Our pitcher was pitching well," Frontier head coach Eric Rinard said. "She has a lot of confidence, she knows what pitches to throw usually, and she can command her pitches really well."

Arnold was effective in earning the complete-game win, striking out 10 batters and cruising through the first six innings before running into trouble in the seventh.

"We didn't hit the ball right off the get-go," Shadyside head coach Rober Gorrell said. "That pitcher did a great job, she pitched a great game, hit her spots. We've got to put the ball in play to get girls on-base. They got some girls on-base, and we gave up a run with an error right at the beginning and then we walked another one in. But they put

the ball in play, that made the big difference in the game."

Frontier's defense and pitching was holding up their end of the bargain, but at the plate, the Cougars were leaving a lot of ducks on the pond, twice stranding loaded bases and coming away with one run in each situation.

In the bottom of the third, three singles from Gracie Mendenhall, Savannah Offenberger and Kate Congleton started the inning off to put Frontier in prime position to rack up runs. But a fielder's choice forceout at the plate put one down for Shadyside, and though an error in the infield allowed Offenberger to score, the Tigers straightened up and collected another forceout at the plate before pitcher Ariana Saxton induced a fly out leave the bases juiced for Frontier.

Saxton had 10 strikeouts for Shadyside.

In the bottom of the fifth, with bases loaded and two out, Evelyn Armstrong drew a walk to score Kaycee Berentz and put Frontier up 2-0, but Shadyside third baseman Josey Greenwood ended the inning by securing a chopper and tagging out the runner between second and third, preventing too much damage from being done once again.

Frontier went deep into counts and displayed great patience at the plate, working for each of their two runs.

"Our girls, I told them after the game — we did a super job of working the pitches," Rinard said. "We were seeing the ball well tonight, we didn't swing at hardly any bad ones, and we got ahead. We got good pitches to swing at and we capitalized on those."

The Cougars will face Caldwell in the OVAC 2A champi-

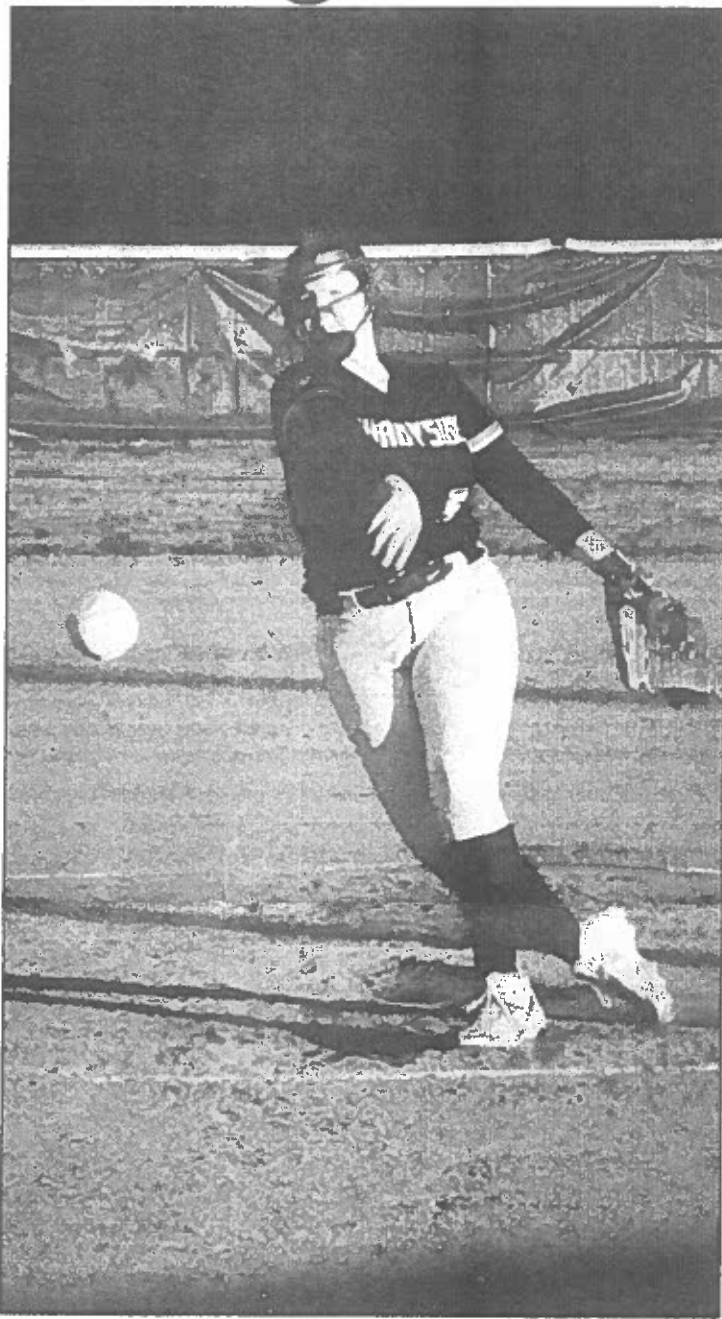


Photo by NICK HENTHORN

SHADYSIDE'S ARIANA Saxton throws a pitch Monday during the OVAC 2A semifinals against Frontier. Saxton had 10 strikeouts but the Tigers fell 2-1 despite a seventh-inning rally.

onship game on Friday at 5 p.m. and we're able to come back this year. It's pretty nice to be able to be back with this team and try it again."



Photo by JOE LOVELL

WHEELING'S DAVIS Bunz (7) celebrates after scoring a goal in the second period Monday night in Game 3 of the ECHL Central Division semifinal series with Indy. The Nailers won, 3-2, in overtime to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-7 series. Also pictured in the Nailers' David Jankowski (10). Bunz had a three-point night with two assists in addition to his goal.

Nailers win in overtime

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Justin Addamo scored a mere 30 seconds into overtime Monday night to give the Wheeling Nailers a thrill-packed, 3-2, decision over the Indy Fuel in Game 3 of their ECHL Central Division semifinal series inside WesBanco Arena.

"The earlier the better," Addamo said of his game-winner. "Davis made a great play in the neutral zone and I ended up with the puck in my stick. Actually, it missed my pass and ended up with Justin Lee and passed it back to me. In my mind, I just wanted to put the puck on net, and it went in."

Game 4 is tonight inside the downtown Wheeling venue at 7:10 with the Nailers looking to extend their lead in the best-of-7 series to 3-1.

Game 5 will be played on Saturday at the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex in Cranberry, Pa.

"Justin Addamo has had big goals for us. There's a reason why he is our captain and our leader," Wheeling head coach Derek Army said. "He comes big in those situations. He's primed for everything."

Addamo took a nifty feed from Justin Lee and Addamo...

Martins Ferry boys take down East Liverpool

MARTINS FERRY — Freshman Elijah Smith blasted a three-run homer to end things in the bottom of the fifth as the Purple Riders (8-5) kept their OVAC Class 3A playoff hopes alive.

Turner Krol singled in two runs while Alex Reese singled twice and plated a pair. Baron Lucey doubled.

Ayden Ludolph picked up the win with eight strikeouts. He allowed a leadoff single and no other hits.

Colton Florence pitched into the seventh as the hosts completed the sweep. He fanned six and walked one.

Braylen Blomquist knocked in three runs with a pair of singles. Keenan singled twice and doubled.

Peyton Causby hit a two-run homer for Union Local.

Indian Creek 6, Cambridge 0

MINGO JUNCTION — Syllus Hyde struck out seven and allowed three hits in

Monroe Central, as did Dylan Landefeld.

SOFTBALL

Martins Ferry 10, Toronto 7

TORONTO — The Purple Riders (10-2) scored six times in the top of the width to rally past the host Red Knights.

Averie Hughes singled twice and drove in three runs for the winners. Giana Chirpas had a two-run single and Maddie Lucas singled twice to knock in one run.

Charlene Anderson drove in four runs

• Nailers

Continued from Page B1

Andrew Perrott unleashed a bullet from the left point that sailed past Wheeling goaltender Jaxon Castor and into the back of the net.

"WANT CAREER SUCCESS? GET CAREER SKILLS!"



www.BHCCenters.com



BELMONT CAREER CENTER
68090 Hammond Rd., St. Clairsville, Ohio
(740) 695-9130

HARRISON CAREER CENTER
82500 Cadiz Jewett Rd., Cadiz, Ohio
(740) 942-2148

Applications are available on our website or through your school counselor.

"It's never ideal that they tie it up, but we never expect it to be easy," Army said. "I thought as a young team, it's time to turn the page and get ready for another chapter. I thought that's what we did."

Wheeling played a pretty good first period as it outshot Indy 1-5 with Isaac Belliveau giving the Nailers a 1-0 lead at 11:40. The defenseman circled behind the Indy net from his left to his right looking for an open teammate, finding none he entered the slot and let loose a wrist shot that Weeks never saw. Matt

• Caldwell

Continued from Page B1

"Ava pitched a tremendous game. She has been terrific all season for us," he continued. "We made it easy for Caldwell today. The first inning was very disappointing."

Caldwell added another run in the fourth inning. Moraco singled and scored on a Sidwell single.

Sidwell delivered half of Caldwell's four hits.

River's two hits came off the bats of senior ace Courtney Wisvari and

Koopman and Addamo logged helpers.

The Fuel evened the count midway through the second period when Kyle Maksimovich backhanded a feed from Matthew Cairns past Castor. Kale Howarth also was credited with an assist.

Five minutes later, Bunz put Wheeling back on top 2-1. Tanner Laderoute sent the puck down the ice where David Jankowski passed it on to Bunz who skated into the left circle and wristed the puck past Weeks on his right side.

Indy enjoyed a 33-25 edge in shots.

Castor stopped 23

to earn the win between the pipes and the game's No. 2 star.

PUCK DROPS

— Addamo was the No. 1 star, with Bunz getting the No. 3.

— Pittsburgh Penguins assistant general manager Jason Spezza was present in the press box.

— Both backup goalies — Wheeling's Ludvig Persson and Indy's Zach Driscoll — watched from chairs adjacent to the doors by the ice leading to each team's locker room.

— One lucky fan received two tickets to Put-in-Bay on Fan Appreciation Night.

Wohnhas.

"We have battled through a lot of adversity this year," Pfeffer said. "Out of our 18 players, 10 have lost time due to injury. Our best hitter is still out and Makayla is not completely healthy either."

"If that wasn't bad enough, we have only had two home games. We have had five home games rained out," he said. "But our girls love to compete. They really want another OVAC championship."

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE										
East Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Baltimore	14	7	.667	—	—	7-3	W-2	8-4	6-3	
New York	15	8	.652	—	+2	5-5	L-1	6-4	9-4	
Boston	13	10	.565	2	—	6-4	W-3	3-7	10-3	
Toronto	13	10	.565	2	—	7-3	W-1	6-3	7-7	
Tampa Bay	12	12	.500	3½	1½	4-6	L-2	7-8	5-4	
Central Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Cleveland	16	6	.727	—	—	7-3	W-4	6-3	10-3	
Detroit	13	10	.565	3½	—	5-5	W-2	4-7	9-3	
Kansas City	13	10	.565	3½	—	4-6	L-3	9-5	4-5	
Minnesota	8	13	.381	7½	4	4-6	W-1	3-6	5-7	
Chicago	3	19	.136	13	9½	1-9	L-4	2-9	1-10	
West Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Texas	12	11	.522	—	—	5-5	W-1	5-5	7-6	
Seattle	11	11	.500	½	1½	7-3	W-1	7-6	4-5	
Los Angeles	9	13	.409	2½	3½	3-7	L-4	2-4	7-9	
Oakland	9	14	.391	3	4	4-6	W-1	4-9	5-5	
Houston	7	16	.304	5	6	3-7	L-2	4-9	3-7	
NATIONAL LEAGUE										
East Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Atlanta	15	6	.714	—	—	8-2	W-1	7-3	8-3	
Philadelphia	15	8	.652	1	+2	8-2	W-7	10-6	5-2	
New York	12	9	.571	3	—	8-2	L-1	6-6	6-3	
Washington	10	11	.476	5	2	5-5	W-2	4-5	6-6	
Miami	6	18	.250	10½	7½	4-6	L-1	2-11	4-7	
Central Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Milwaukee	14	7	.667	—	—	6-4	L-1	4-4	10-3	
Chicago	13	9	.591	1½	+½	6-4	L-1	7-3	6-6	
Cincinnati	12	10	.545	2½	½	6-4	L-1	7-6	5-4	
Pittsburgh	12	11	.522	3	1	3-7	W-1	4-5	8-6	
St. Louis	10	13	.435	5	3	4-6	W-1	4-6	6-7	
West Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Los Angeles	13	11	.542	—	—	3-7	W-1	9-8	4-3	
San Diego	13	12	.520	½	1	6-4	W-2	6-8	7-4	
Arizona	11	13	.458	2	2½	5-5	L-1	7-6	4-7	
San Fran.	10	13	.435	2½	3	5-5	L-1	5-5	5-8	
Colorado	5	18	.217	7½	8	2-8	L-2	3-7	2-11	

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Monday's Games
Oakland 2, N.Y. Yankees 0
Detroit 7, Tampa Bay 1
Minnesota 7, Chicago White Sox 0
Toronto 5, Kansas City 3
Baltimore at L.A. Angels, late

Tuesday's Games

Boston (Houck 3-1) at Cleveland (Lively 0-1), 6:10 p.m.
Detroit (Maeda 0-1) at Tampa Bay (Pepiot 2-2), 6:50 p.m.
Oakland (Blackburn 2-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Stroman 1-1), 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Fedde 1-0) at Minnesota (Lopez 1-2), 7:40 p.m.
Houston (France 0-2) at Chicago Cubs (Wicks 0-2), 7:40 p.m.
Toronto (Gausman 0-2) at Kansas City (Wacha 1-2), 7:40 p.m.
Seattle (Gilbert 1-0) at Texas (Dunning 2-1), 8:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Rodriguez 3-0) at L.A. Angels (Canning 0-3), 9:38 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Baltimore at L.A. Angels, 4:07 p.m.
Boston at Cleveland, 6:10 p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.
Oakland at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Minnesota, 7:40 p.m.
Houston at Chicago Cubs, 7:40 p.m.
Toronto at Kansas City, 7:40 p.m.
Seattle at Texas, 8:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Monday's Games

Philadelphia 7, Cincinnati 0
Pittsburgh 4, Milwaukee 2
Atlanta 3, Miami 0
St. Louis 5, Arizona 3
San Diego 3, Colorado 1
N.Y. Mets at San Francisco, late

Tuesday's Games

Milwaukee (TBD) at Pittsburgh (Falter 1-1), 6:40 p.m.
Philadelphia (Sanchez 1-2) at Cincinnati (Abbott 1-2), 6:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Paxton 2-0) at Washington (Corbin 0-3), 6:45 p.m.
Miami (Rogers 0-2) at Atlanta (Fried 1-0), 7:20 p.m.
Houston (France 0-2) at Chicago Cubs (Wicks 0-2), 7:40 p.m.
Arizona (Henry 0-1) at St. Louis (Matz 1-1), 7:45 p.m.
San Diego (King 2-1) at Colorado (Feltner 1-2), 8:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Severino 2-1) at San Francisco (Webb 2-1), 9:45 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Arizona at St. Louis, 1:15 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at San Francisco, 3:45 p.m.
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cincinnati, 6:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
Miami at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
Houston at Chicago Cubs, 7:40 p.m.
San Diego at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.

PREP LINESCORES

Baseball	
Wheeling Park 5, John Marshall 0	(3), (2K, 3BB) and Rogers; B. Gregg 2S
J. Marshall 000 000 0 - 0 2 0	IC-Hyde wp (7K, 4BB), G. Pownall (6), (0K, 0BB) and Rusnak; L. Pownall S, 2D, 3rbi; Rusnak S, D; Amis rbi
W. Park 212 000 x - 5 5 0	Paden City 21, Valley 3
JM-Hughes lp (2K, 4BB), Coulter (3), (2K, 1BB), Clemmons (5), (3K, 0BB) and Martin WP-Bittinger wp (10K, 2BB) and Rosenthal; March 2S; Kupsy 2S, rbi; Digiandomenico rbi; McGhee rbi; Rosenthal S, rbi	P. City 029 64 - 21 16 5 Valley 101 01 - 3 4 4 PC-Higgins wp (3K, 1BB) and Parrish; Neff 2D, rbi; Sandin rbi; Baker s, rbi; Myers S, 2D, 4rbi; Stackpole S, 3rbi; Parrish 2s, rbi; Higgins 3S, 3rbi; Little S, rbi; Thomas 2S, 3rbi; Nelson rbi; Eichhorst rbi V-Haught lp (2K, 3BB), Myers (4), (0K, 3BB), Soles (5), (1K, 0BB) and Goodrich; Gravette 2S
Martins Ferry 14, East Liverpool 1	SOFTBALL
E. Liver 100 00 - 1 1 3 M. Ferry 700 34 - 14 13 1 EL-Davis lp (0K, 3BB), Remsley (1), (1K, 3BB) and Tice MF-A. Ludolph wp (8K, 3BB) and Smith; Smith S, HR, 3rbi; Lucey D; Krol S, 2rbi; Reese 2S, 2rbi	Martins Ferry 10, Toronto 7
St. Clairsville 15, Union Local 5	M. Ferry 310 006 0 - 10 9 1 Toronto 101 140 0 - 7 14 7
St. Clair 300 015 6 - 15 10 1	MF-Snedeker wp (3K, 2BB), M. Lucas (6), (2K, 1BB) and Chirpas; M. Lucas 2S, rbi; Chirpas S, 2rbi; Snedeker S, rbi; Hughes 2S, 3rbi; G. Lucas rbi
U. Local 101 201 1 - 5 11 2	T-L. Anderson (1K, 1BB), Reeves lp (6), (5K, 4BB) and M. Anderson; Danko 3S, rbi; M. Anderson 3S, D; C. Anderson S, D, 4rbi; Rebich S, rbi
StC-Keenan wp (4K, 1BB), Ivey (6), (0K, 2BB) and Bush; Blomquist S, T; Bush D, rbi; Balgo S, 2rbi; Hoffman 2S, rbi; Keenan S, 2rbi; Mellott D, 2rbi	OVAC Class 1A Semifinal
UL-Hess lp (2K, 3BB), Moore (6), (0K, 3BB) and Jenkins; Schumacher 2S; Hess 3S, rbi; White S, D, rbi; Toohey D, 2rbi	Madonna 8, Cameron 6
St. Clairsville 9, Union Local 4	Cameron 100 012 2 - 6 6 3 Madonna 020 024 x - 8 7 1
U. Local 020 200 0 - 4 6 5	C-Bogard lp (9K, 5BB) and Van Tassell; Gunn D, 2rbi; Thomas D, 2rbi; Van Tassell D, S, rbi; Board D

Horan Family Dentistry

Dental Care for the Whole Family

Offering a Full Range of Dental Services

- Crowns
- Root Canals
- Extractions
- Dentures
- Bridges
- Fillings

Jason B. Horan DMD
(740) 695-4504
250 W. Main St. Suite B, St. Clairsville, OH 43950
HoranFamilyDentistry.com

Something Happening In Sports?

Tell Us in Our Virtual Newsroom at TimesLeaderONLINE.com

OGDEN NEWSPAPERS

TOUGH AS WALLS

Urban Challenge

PRESENTED BY

The HealthPlan

OVAC SOFTBALL SEMIFINALS

Frontier Advances With Narrow 2-1 Escape vs. Tigers

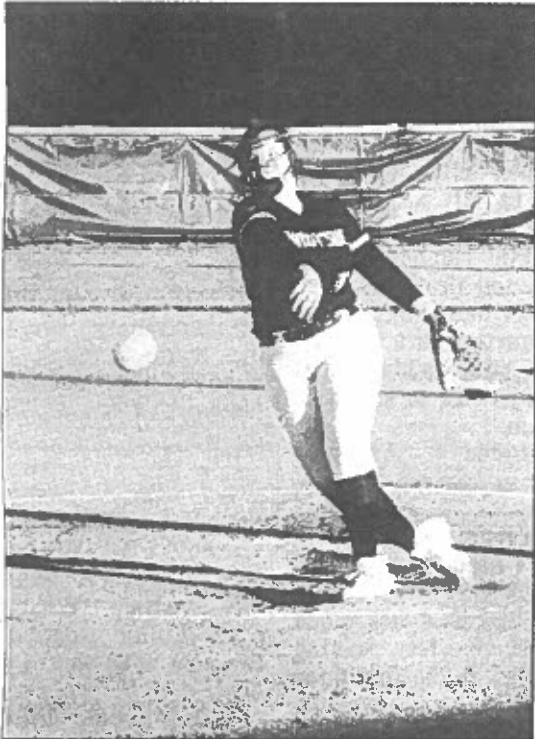


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Shadyside's Ariana Saxton throws a pitch Monday during the OVAC 2A semifinals against Frontier. Saxton had 10 strikeouts but the Tigers fell 2-1 despite a seventh-inning rally.

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

WHEELING - A late push was not quite enough for the No. 3 Shadyside Tigers on Monday against the No. 2 Frontier Cougars at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex, Shadyside falling 2-1 despite rallying in their final turn at-bat in the OVAC 2A semifinals.

Down 2-0 going into the seventh, Shadyside revved up what had been an idle offense in their last chance. Taylor Fulton smacked a single to centerfield with one out, and Josey Greenwood followed up with an RBI double over the right fielder's head to place herself as the tying run in scoring position.

Frontier's Grace Arnold batted down the hatches though with back-to-back strikeouts to send her Cougars to the OVAC 2A championship game.

"Our pitcher was pitching well," Frontier head coach Eric Rinard said. "She has a lot of confidence, she knows what pitches to throw usually, and she can command her pitches really well."

Arnold was effective in earning the complete-game win, striking out 10 batters and cruising through the first six innings before running into trouble in the seventh.

"We didn't hit the ball right off the get-go," Shadyside head coach Rober Gorrell said. "That pitcher did a great job, she pitched a great game, hit her spots. We've got to put the ball in play to get girls on-base. They got some girls on-base, and we gave up a run with an error right at the beginning and then we walked another one in. But they put the ball in play, that made the big difference in the game."

Please see **NARROW**, Page 10



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Madonna's Madi Owens celebrates with her Blue Don teammates after hitting a grand slam in the sixth inning of their OVAC 1A semifinals matchup against Cameron on Monday at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

Owens Lifts Madonna Over Dragons In 1A Semis

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

WHEELING - A persistent Madonna team would not be denied in their OVAC 1A semifinals game against Cameron on Monday at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex, pulling ahead every time the Dragons would catch up in an 8-6 win.

Cameron had come back to tie the game on two occasions, 2-2 and 4-4, coming into the bottom of the sixth inning, but one swing of the bat put enough distance between the Blue Dons and their opponents with two outs and the bases loaded.

Madonna's Madi Owens launched a grand slam to center field to put her team ahead 8-4 with the play of the night.

"When we took the lead back we started with two outs and nobody on," Madonna head coach Jason Bachel said.

"But our girls just battled to get on, and then we had a big hit by Madi Owens."

The four-run bomb was the first of Owens' season - which started Mon-

day. Owens played her first game of the year for Madonna in their semifinal game against Cameron, just now returning to the team after breaking her foot during basketball season.

"She was out for nine weeks and she was just released today by her doctor," Bachel said.

"She comes up with a grand slam in her first game back to win the game. It's huge."

Cameron tried for a two-out rally in the top of the seventh, Brooklyn Pekula smacking a two-run double to left center and making it an 8-6 ball game, but with the tying run at the plate, a fly out iced it for the Blue Dons.

"We made a couple mistakes baserunning, and a couple fielding errors," Cameron head coach Erika Whipkey said.

"They had a nice couple hits and they scored on those, and the girl hit the ball out and that hurt us. We scored two more runs but we fell short at the end."

Please see **MADONNA**, Page 10

Caldwell Blanks River Pilots 6-0

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
For The Intelligencer

ELM GROVE - Caldwell has turned itself into an OVAC Tournament juggernaut.

The Lady Redskins are the reigning OVAC 3A champions. Prior to that, the Noble County crew won two straight 2A conference crowns. Caldwell has returned to the 2A classification this year and is now just one step away from its fourth successive OVAC softball championship.

The Lady Redskins punched their ticket into the title tilt via a sharp 6-0 besting of River at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex Monday afternoon, avenging a regular season loss to the Lady Pilots. Caldwell will face No. 2 Frontier in the championship contest.

Two huge factors propelled Caldwell to its victory.

First, and foremost, Makayla Mumaw was brilliant in the circle for the winners. The talented righthander surrendered just two hits while striking out 12 and walking just one.

Secondly, the Lady Redskins were the beneficiaries of five unearned runs in the first inning, courtesy of four River errors.

Lady Pilot hurler Ava Wohnhas was deserving of a much better fate. The talented sophomore yielded just four hits. She struck out six and issued just one walk.

"When teams make mistakes you need to make them pay. We did that today," Caldwell head coach Doug Pfeffer noted. "We made the most of our opportunity in the first inning, then our bats went a little silent the rest of the game."

"I thought our defense was exceptional. We made two great plays in the outfield in the fourth inning," he added. "Makayla pitched a whale of a game. She was in total control."

Caldwell improved to 11-2 on the season. River dipped to 7-6.

Mumaw opened the Caldwell first with a single. Laynie Sidwell delivered the only other Lady Redskin hit in the inning, a double. Two throwing errors and two dropped fly balls sabotaged the Lady Pilots hopes.

"You can't give up five unearned runs to a good team, especially in the first inning," veteran River High coach Dave Wright said. "That was the ball game. We had to change our way of thinking after that."

"Ava pitched a tremendous game. She has been terrific all season for us," he continued.

Please see **RIVER**, Page 10



OVAC Tennis Day One In The Books



NARROW

(Continued from Page 9)

Frontier's defense and pitching was holding up their end of the bargain. but at the plate, the Cougars were leaving a lot of ducks on the pond, twice stranding loaded bases and coming away with one run in each situation.

In the bottom of the third, three singles from Gracie Mendenhall, Savannah Offenberger and Kate Congleton started the inning off to put Frontier in prime position to rack up runs. But a fielder's choice forceout at the plate put one down for Shadyside, and though an error in the infield allowed Offenberger to score, the Tigers straightened up and collected another forceout at the plate before pitcher Ariana Saxton induced a fly out leave the bases juiced for Frontier.

Saxton had 10 strikeouts for Shadyside.

In the bottom of the fifth, with bases loaded and two out, Evelyn Armstrong drew a walk to score Kaycee Berentz and put Frontier up 2-0, but

Shadyside third baseman Josey Greenwood ended the inning by securing a chopper and tagging out the runner between second and third, preventing too much damage from being done once again.

Frontier went deep into counts and displayed great patience at the plate, working for each of their two runs.

"Our girls, I told them after the game- we did a super job of working the pitches," Rinard said. "We were seeing the ball well tonight, we didn't swing at hardly any bad ones, and we got ahead. We got good pitches to swing at and we capitalized on those."

The Cougars will face Caldwell in the OVAC 2A championship game on Friday at 5 p.m.

"I'm ecstatic, I'm tickled to death. We did it last year in Class 1A, now we're up to 2A and we're able to come back this year. It's pretty nice to be able to be back with this team and try it again."

MADONNA

(Continued from Page 9)

Madonna's Kendall Ryan had broken a 2-2 tie in the fifth inning with a full-count double which went over the left fielder's head and drove in two, but Monday was a game in which Madonna had to keep working to pull away thrice from a Dragons team that kept closing the distance.

"We've been in this semifinal the last two years and we've taken a couple of bad losses," Backel said. "This year was different, we've got a little bit of experience, we're junior and senior-laden. We came back and we beat a good Cameron team who beat us earlier in the year."

Cameron took a 1-0

lead in the top of the first but Madonna put two on the board in the bottom of the second to lurch ahead.

Kendall Ryan was the winning pitcher for the Blue Dons, striking out 11 in a complete game.

The Blue Dons, the No. 2 seed, will face top-seeded Conotton Valley for the OVAC 1A championship on Saturday at 10 a.m.

"I know Conotton Valley's a three or four-time OVAC champion," Buckle said. "They've got a fantastic ballclub and a Division-I pitcher who's going to Bradley if I'm not mistaken. They're a sound team, and we're excited to play them. We're going to battle with them and we're going to do our best."

Park, Ferry Pick Up Big Wins

WHEELING - Nathan Bittinger tossed a two-hit shutout as Wheeling Park blanked John Marshall 5-0 Monday in high school baseball action.

The lefty struck out 10, walked two and surrendered a pair of singles in his route-going effort.

Brayden Kupsy singled twice and drove in a run. Trenton Rosenthal had a run-scoring single, while Jared Marsh singled twice.

Martins Ferry 14, East Liverpool 1

MARTINS FERRY - Freshman Elijah Smith blasted a three-run homer to end things in the bottom of the fifth as the Purple Riders (8-5) kept their OVAC Class 3A playoff hopes alive.

Turner Krol singled in two runs while Alex Reese singled twice and plated a pair. Baron Lucey doubled.

Ayden Ludolph picked up the win with eight strikeouts. He allowed a leadoff single and no other hits.

Williamstown 3, Wheeling Central 2

WILLIAMSTOWN - The Yellow Jackets topped Wheeling Central 3-2 on Monday.

Seth Cover tallied an RBI for Central, while Kade Koroneos pitched 5.1 innings in the start, striking out four for the Knights. Eli Tucker swiped two steals.

Landon Prager was tagged with the loss.

St. Clairsville 15, Union Local 5

St. Clairsville 9, Union Local 4

ST. CLAIRSVILLE

The Red Devils ran their record to 14-0 with a doubleheader sweep of Union Local on Memorial Park.

In the completion of a suspended game from last week, St. Clairsville scored six times in the top of the seventh to pull away.

Caleb Keenan, Mikey Balgo and Rowyn Mellott each drove in two runs.

Logan Hess had three singles and an RBI for Union Local.

In the regularly scheduled contest, Colton Florence pitched into the seventh as the hosts completed the sweep. He fanned six and walked one.

Braylen Blomquist knocked in three runs with a pair of singles. Keenan singled twice and doubled.

Peyton Causby hit a two-run homer for Union Local.

Indian Creek 6, Cambridge 0

MINGO JUNCTION - Sylus Hyde struck out seven and allowed three hits in five innings as the Redskins (11-3) blanked the visiting Bobcats (8-3).

Logan Pownall singled, doubled twice and drove in three runs for Indian Creek. Hunter Rusnak singled and doubled.

River 5, Monroe Central 3

HANNIBAL - A four-run bottom of the fourth was all the Pilots needed to defeat the visiting Seminoles.

Kaden Hunt singled twice to drive in two runs for River. Hunter Nething singled, doubled and fanned one to get the mound win.

Preston Binegar sin-

gled in a run for Monroe Central, as did Dylan Landefeld.

Paden City 21, Valley 3

PINE GROVE - The Wildcats (13-7) broke open a 2-1 game with nine runs in the top of the third, six in the fourth and four in the fifth.

Kayden Myers plated four runs with two singles and a double. Beryson Stackpole added three ribbies, as did Jaxon Higgins and Jeremiah Thomas.

SOFTBALL

Martins Ferry 10, Toronto 7

TORONTO - The Purple Riders (10-2) scored six times in the top of the width to rally past the host Red Knights.

Averie Hughes singled twice and drove in three runs for the winners. Gianna Chirpas had a two-run single and Maddie Lucas singled twice to knock in one run.

Charlene Anderson drove in four runs for Toronto.

Harrison Central 15, Union Local 4

MORRISTOWN - The Huskies struck quick against the Jets, scoring 13 times in the first three innings.

Emma Skinner singled three times to drive in three runs and also scattered seven hits and fanned four to lead Harrison Central. Isabel Yeager slugged a single, double and home run to drive in two runs. Kaily Banal also drove in three runs.

Lauren Miller singled twice and plated a run for Union Local. Laken Vinskovich had a two-run double.

NY Jets Trade Zach Wilson To Broncos

Zach Wilson was expected to be the face of the franchise for the New York Jets. Instead, he became a symbol of disappointment.

And now, the 2021 second overall draft pick will get the chance to rejuvenate his career with the Denver Broncos.

The Jets traded Wilson to the Broncos on Monday, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press. The Jets are sending Wilson and a seventh-round pick in this week's NFL draft to the Broncos for a sixth-rounder, the person said.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the teams haven't announced the deal. NFL Network first reported the trade.

The Jets are parting ways with Wilson after three disappointing seasons. ESPN reported New York and Denver are splitting Wilson's \$5.5 million salary for this season as part of the deal.

Wilson came to the Jets with massive expectations after he was selected out of BYU because of his exceptional athletic ability and knack for making throws on the run from various arm angles. But he struggled mightily in his first two seasons in New York before the Jets acquired Aaron Rodgers to be their starter last off-season.

RIVER

(Continued from Page 9)

"We made it easy for Caldwell today. The first inning was very disappointing."

Caldwell added another run in the fourth inning. Moraco singled and scored on a Sidwell single.

Sidwell delivered half of Caldwell's four hits.

River's two hits came off the bats of senior ace Courtney Wisvari

and Wohnhas.

"We have battled through a lot of adversity this year," Pfeffer said. "Out of our 18 players, 10 have lost time due to injury. Our best hitter is still out and Makayla is not completely healthy either."

"If that wasn't bad enough, we have only had two home games. We have had five home games rained out," he said.

"But our girls love to compete. They really want another OVAC championship."

SERIES

(Continued from Page 9)

Wheeling held a 2-1 advantage until the Fuel pulled even at 13:39 of the third period. Andrew Perrott unleashed a bullet from the left point that sailed past Wheeling

goaltender Jaxon Castor and into the back of the net.

"It's never ideal that they tie it up, but we never expect it to be easy," Army said. "I thought as

a young team, it's time to turn the page and get ready for another chapter. I thought that's what we did."

Wheeling played a pretty good first period as it outshot Indy 1-5 with Isaac Belliveau giving the Nailers a 1-0 lead at 11:40. The defenseman circled behind the Indy net from his left to his right looking for an open teammate, finding none he entered the slot and let loose a wrister that Weeks never saw. Matt Koopman and Addamo logged helpers.

The Fuel evened the count midway through the second period when Kyle Maksimovich backhanded a feed from Matthew Cairns past Castor. Kale Howarth also was credited with an assist.

Five minutes later, Bunz put Wheeling back on top 2-1. Tanner Laderoute sent the puck down the ice where David Jan-

HCR
HOMEBX CUSTOM REMODELING

SOLAR SHINGLES • ROOFING • GUTTERS • SIDING • TRIM • WINDOWS • DOORS

Blennerhasset Island
August 15, 2024

Motor coach to Marietta, Ohio and board the Valley Gem Sternwheeler to Blennerhasset Island with breakfast and lunch included onboard.

Mansion tour upon arrival on Blennerhasset Island also included. \$179 per person

Uniglobe Ohio Valley Travel
1165 Market Street, Wheeling • (304) 232-5171

RISE UP
YOGA

eight, rebounding pitcher tried to take the game.

Faith Randolph drove in three and snagged three hits including a double. Delaney Randolph and Daelyn Crumm each had two hits.

Bridgeport 14, St. Clairsville 1
Bridgeport 8, St. Clairsville 5
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The Bulldogs swept past the host Red Devils Hannah Brewer and Vanessa Mullen evenly divided eight RBI, with Mullen recording three singles and a double. Brooke Stewart knocked in a run with a trio of one-base hits. Brewer had three singles and Rowyn Herman had a two-run single.

Mullen fanned six and didn't walk a batter. She allowed six hits.

Lilyana Price and Kesslee Berrara each singled twice for St. Clairsville. Lainey Benedict drove in the only run.

In the second game, Stewart singled, doubled and drove in a run,

• Nailers

Continued from Page B1

Jaxon Castor backstopped his first career playoff victory for the Nailers, as he thwarted 20 of the 21 shots he faced. Driscoll gave up six goals on 22 shots in the loss for the Fuel, before giving way to Mitchell Weeks, who was 6-of-7 in relief.

The Central Division semifinal se-

TORONTO — The Seminoles scored four times in the third inning in defeating the host Red Knights.

Juana McElroy singled and drove in three runs for Monroe Central. Shyann Baker had the other two ribbies. Winning pitcher Kazziah Cecil struck out seven, walked two and spaced out five singles. She also singled twice.

Barnesville 6, Fort Frye 3
BEVERLY -- The Shamrocks took a 3-0 lead in the first inning and never looked back in a road win over the Cadets.

Maddy Tyson and Lilly Welch each drove in two. Abigail Johnson and Payton Dudzik each smacked doubles.

Johnson, Ella Betts and Sophie Carpenter teamed up inside the circle, Johnson taking the first three innings, Betts earning the win over three innings of relief, and Carpenter shutting the door in the seventh.

ries will shift to WesBanco Arena for games three and four on Monday and Tuesday, both with 7:10 face-offs. Monday's game will feature Fan Appreciation Night festivities, including the vacation giveaway to Put-in-Bay. To purchase tickets for the playoffs or for any questions or concerns about ticketing, please visit wheelingnailers.com or call (304) 234-GOAL.

SPORTS ON TV

Monday, April 22

MLB BASEBALL

1 p.m.

MLBN — Oakland at NY Yankees

7:30 p.m.

FS1 — Chicago White Sox at Minnesota

10:30 p.m.

MLBN — Regional Coverage: Baltimore at LA Angels (9:35 p.m.) OR NY Mets at San Francisco (9:45 p.m.)

NBA BASKETBALL

7 p.m.

NBTV — Eastern Conference First Round Playoff: Orlando at Cleveland, Game 2

7:30 p.m.

TNT — Eastern Conference First Round Playoff: Philadelphia at New York, Game 2

TRUTV — Eastern Conference First Round Playoff: Philadelphia at New York, Game 2 (BetCast)

10 p.m.

TNT — Western Conference First Round Playoff: LA Lakers at Denver, Game 2

TRUTV — Western Conference First Round Playoff: LA Lakers at Denver, Game 2 (BetCast)

NHL HOCKEY

7 p.m.

ESPN — Eastern Conference First Round Playoff: Toronto at Boston, Game 2

7:30 p.m.

ESPN2 — Eastern Conference First Round Playoff: NY Islanders at Carolina, Game 2

9:30 p.m.

ESPN — Western Conference First Round Playoff: Vegas at Dallas, Game 1

10 p.m.

ESPN2 — Western Conference First Round Playoff: Los Angeles at Edmonton, Game 1

SOCCER (WOMEN'S)

6 p.m.

CBSSN — Bundesliga: Werder Bremen at Bayern

NEW YORK	W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	10	11	.476	4½	2	5-5	W-2	4-5
Miami	6	17	.261	9½	7	4-6	W-1	2-11

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	14	6	.700	—	7-3	W-4	4-4
Chicago	13	9	.591	2	+½	6-4	L-1
Cincinnati	12	9	.571	2½	—	6-4	W-3
Pittsburgh	11	11	.500	4	1½	2-8	L-6
St. Louis	9	13	.409	6	3½	3-7	L-4

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	13	11	.542	—	3-7	W-1	9-8
San Diego	12	12	.500	1	1½	6-4	W-1
Arizona	11	12	.478	1½	2	5-5	W-1
San Fran.	10	13	.435	2½	3	5-5	L-1
Colorado	5	17	.227	7	7½	2-8	L-1

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Saturday's Games

Tampa Bay 2, N.Y. Yankees 0, 10 innings

Minnesota 4, Detroit 3

Washington 5, Houston 4, 10 innings

Boston 4, Pittsburgh 2

Cleveland 6, Oakland 3

Philadelphia 9, Chicago White Sox 5

Cincinnati 7, L.A. Angels 5

Atlanta 5, Texas 2

Baltimore 9, Kansas City 7

Seattle 7, Colorado 0

Toronto 5, San Diego 2

Sunday's Games

Washington 6, Houston 0

Philadelphia 8, Chicago White Sox 2

Cincinnati 3, L.A. Angels 0

N.Y. Yankees 5, Tampa Bay 4

Cleveland 6, Oakland 2

Boston 6, Pittsburgh 1

Detroit 6, Minnesota 1

Baltimore 5, Kansas City 0

Colorado 2, Seattle 1, 10 innings, 1st game

San Diego 6, Toronto 3

Texas 6, Atlanta 4

Seattle 10, Colorado 2, 2nd game

Monday's Games

Oakland (Sears 1-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Rodon 1-1), 1:05 p.m.

Detroit (Skubal 2-0) at Tampa Bay (Littel 1-0), 6:50 p.m.

Chicago White Sox (Cannon 0-0) at Minnesota (Paddock 0-1), 7:40 p.m.

Toronto (Kikuchi 1-1) at Kansas City (Singer 2-0), 7:40 p.m.

Baltimore (Suarez 0-0) at L.A. Angels (Detmers 3-0), 9:38 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Saturday's Games

Miami 3, Chicago Cubs 2, 1st game

Milwaukee 12, St. Louis 5

San Francisco 7, Arizona 3

Washington 5, Houston 4, 10 innings

Boston 4, Pittsburgh 2

N.Y. Mets 6, L.A. Dodgers 4

Philadelphia 9, Chicago White Sox 5

Cincinnati 7, L.A. Angels 5

Atlanta 5, Texas 2

Chicago Cubs 5, Miami 3, 2nd game

Seattle 7, Colorado 0

Toronto 5, San Diego 2

Sunday's Games

Washington 6, Houston 0

Philadelphia 8, Chicago White Sox 2

Cincinnati 3, L.A. Angels 0

Boston 6, Pittsburgh 1

Milwaukee 2, St. Louis 0

Miami 6, Chicago Cubs 3

Colorado 2, Seattle 1, 10 innings, game 1

L.A. Dodgers 10, N.Y. Mets 0

San Diego 6, Toronto 3

Arizona 5, San Francisco 3

Texas 6, Atlanta 4

Seattle 10, Colorado 2, game 2

Monday's Games

Milwaukee (Ross 1-1) at Pittsburgh (Jones 1-2), 6:40 p.m.

Philadelphia (Suarez 3-0) at Cincinnati (Greene 0-1), 6:40 p.m.

Miami (Weathers 2-1) at Atlanta (Lopez 2-0), 7:20 p.m.

Arizona (Pfaadt 1-1) at St. Louis (Lynn 1-0), 7:45 p.m.

San Diego (Cease 2-1) at Colorado (Gomber 0-1), 8:40 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Quintana 1-1) at San Francisco (Winn 1-3), 9:45 p.m.

PREP LINESCORES

BASEBALL

Wahama 3,

Tyler Consolidated 2

Tyler C. 101 000 000 - 2 5 2

Wahama 000 020 001 - 3 6 2

TC-Davis (14K, 2BB), Clark Ip (8), (2K, 1BB) and Billings; Davis S, D; Westbrook S, rbi

W-Northup (1K, 6BB), Fields wp (7), (1K, 1BB) and Rickard; McClanahan S, 2rbi; Young 2S

Tyler Consolidated 8,

Wahama 7

Wahama 230 020 0 - 7 7 1

Tyler C. 210 012 2 - 8 11 2

W-Zuspan (8K, 5BB), Fields Ip (7), (1K, 1BB) and Rickard; Zuspan 2S, rbi; Rickard S, 3rbi

TC-Clark (5K, 2BB), B. Miller wp (5), (2K, 2BB) and Billings; Davis 3S, rbi; Billings 2S; Clark 2S, rbi; Westbrook 2S, 3rbi; Ferrell S, rbi; J. Miller S, 2rbi

Mon Valley Classic

(Dale Miller Field, Mylan Park)

Wheeling Park 5,

Musselman 3

W. Park 120 020 0 - 5 9 3

Mussel 001 001 1 - 3 7 3

WP-Simon wp (3K, 1BB), Burkhardt (6), (1K, 0BB) and Hunley; Kupsy S, D; rbi; Di-giandomenico S, rbi; Marsh 2S; Hunley S, 2rbi

M-Dunbar Ip (6k, 1BB), Wol-lum (6), (1K, 0BB) and Boyles; Lore 2S; McClintock rbi; Boyles T; Myers 2S, rbi

Wheeling Park 6,

Spring Mills 0

W. Park 100 302 0 - 6 5 3

S. Mills 000 000 0 - 0 4 2

WP-Gump wp (3K, 0BB), Rosenthal sv (5), (1K, 0BB) and Yanchak; Simon S, rbi; Robb D, rbi; Yanchak S, rbi

SM-Sweeney Ip (3K, 1BB), Swartz (6), (0K, 1BB) and Stanley

Paden City 11, Midland Trail 9

M. Trail 002 420 1 - 9 4 4

P. City 120 512 x - 11 5 11

MT-Kock Ip (5K, 4BB), Strews-berry (5), (1K, 1BB) and Brown; Brown rbi; Cramer 2rbi; Stephens S, rbi; Koch rbi; Strewsberry S, rbi

PC-Baker wp (6K, 2BB), Neff (6), (3K, 0BB) and Parrish; Neff S, D, rbi; Baker S, 2rbi; Myers rbi; Parrish S, 2rbi; Stackpole S, rbi; Little rbi

Paden City 4, Midland Trail 2

M. Trail 001 000 1 - 2 5 2

P. City 111 001 0 - 4 7 0

MT-McGraw Ip (11K, 0BB) and Brown; Cramer 2S; Koch S, rbi

PC-Little wp (6K, 5BB) and Parrish; Myers 2S, rbi; Thom-as S, rbi; Nelson S, rbi

SOFTBALL

Shadyside 8, Beallsville 2

Bealls 100 000 1 - 2 4 4

Shady 322 010 x - 8 8 4

B-Hughes Ip (5K, 6BB) and Trigg; Hughes S, D, rbi

S-Saxton wp (10K, 3BB) and Fulton; A. Gorrell 2S, rbi; Ful-ton rbi; Greenwood D; Hen-dershot D, 2rbi; Zduńczyk S, D; E. Gorrell S, 2rbi; Weatherson

Bealls 002 2 2 - 6 11 4

Shady 20 (11) (10)x - 23 17 2

B-Decker Ip (1K, 10BB) and Showalter; Wells 2S; Showalter 2S, rbi; Hughes 2S, D, 2rbi; Decker S, rbi; McCulley D, rbi; Winkler D, rbi

S-Fulton wp (2K, 1BB), DeF-elice (5), (1K, 0BB) and Saxton; Faulkner S, D, 3rbi; A. Gorrell S, D, 2rbi; Fulton 3S, D, 3rbi; Hendershot S, 3rbi; Saxton 3S, 4rbi; Zduńczyk rbi; Weath-erson S, D, 3rbi; Beegle 2S, 3rbi

Bridgeport 14, St. Clairsville 1

Bridge 334 04 - 14 11 2

St. C. 000 10 - 1 4 4

B-Mullen wp (6K, 0BB) and McElroy; Stewart 3S, rbi; Brewer 3S, 4rbi; Mullen 3S, D, 4rbi; Herman S, 2rbi

STC-Price Ip (3K, 6BB) and Goudy; Berrara 2S; Price 2S; Benedict rbi

Bridgeport 8, St. Clairsville 3

Bridge 103 130 0 - 8 11 1

St. C. 002 000 3 - 5 12 4

B-Brewer wp (5K, 0BB) and Herman; Stewart S, D, rbi; Brewer 2S, rbi; Mullen rbi; Herman 2S; Cooper S, rbi; McElroy S, D

STC-Benedict Ip (2K, 5BB) and Finnical; Price 3S; Finnical S, T, 2rbi; Benedict 2rbi; Dubin-sky D; Habig 2S

Beaver Local 11,

Union Local 10

U. Local 020 052 1 - 10 10 8

Beaver 222 2x2 1 - 11 12 4

UL-Stidd Ip (2K, 0BB) and Jen-newein; Kellaway 2S; Barbe S, rbi; Vinskovich 3S, 2rbi; Mar-tin 2S, 2rbi; E. Blakely S, rbi; Stidd S, rbi

BL-Eels (5K, 2BB), Call wp (5), (4K, 4BB) and Duncan; Bock T; Eels 2S, 2rbi; Wright S, D, 2rbi; Plankett 2S, 2D

Beaver Local 14,

Union Local 10

U. Local 101 040 0 - 10 14 8

Beaver 220 325 x - 14 12 3

UL-Stidd Ip (6K, 5BB), E. Blakely (6), (2K, 0BB) and Jen-newein; Kellaway 2S, D; Miller D; Vinskovich 2S, T; Martin 2S; Stidd S, D

BL-Call wp (5K, 4BB), Eels (6), (2K, 1BB) and Duncan; Call 2S; Eels S, 2D; Wright D; Drushal 2S; Morris 2D

Linsly 8, Wheeling Central 6

W. Central 000 230 1 - 6 10 2

Linsly 071 000 x - 8 11 3

WC-Kiaski Ip (1K, 2BB) and Hanson. Edge 2D, rbi; Miehle D, rbi; Baker D, S; Hanson S, 2rbi; Kiaski 2S; Maxwell S, rbi

L-Applegarth wp (2K, 1BB), Gardill (4), (1K, 2BB), Applegarth (5) and Cook. Monk 2S; Cook 2S, rbi; Finley T, 3rbi; Recrosio S, rbi; Applegarth S, rbi; Van Scyoc D, rbi; Gardill 2S

Monroe Central 5, Toronto 1

M. Central 104 000 0 - 5 6 4

Toronto 001 000 0 - 1 5 1

MC-Cecil wp (7K, 2BB) and

Spring into Savings!

