

Belle Isle Field Hosts All-Star Softball Game Today

Pair from W. Va. Class A state champion Wheeling Central among competitors

The stars will be out in full force tonight at 6 p.m., when Ohio and West Virginia battle it out in the 21st annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star softball game, at Belle Isle Field on Wheeling Island. In all, 53 players will participate, with 35 area high school's having representation.

The Ohio squad, which holds a 13-0 advantage in the series, will be coached by Bellaire St. John's Jerry Magistro. Assisting him are Steubenville Central's Jackie Marook, Beaver Local's Mark Cashdollar and Buckeye Local's Barry Closser.

The West Virginia unit will be headed up by Weirton Madonna's coach Chris Conti. He will be assisted by Wheeling Central's Rick Magruder, Lola Bender of Oak Glen and Wheeling Park's Tammi Higley. At Magistro's disposal is a talented arsenal, including his own Scarlett Lynn and Kayla Magistro, the OVAC Player of the Year in Class A.

Shadyside (Kim Duvall and Sara Merritt) and Beaver Local (Vicky McCoy and Robin Prescott) are the only other two Ohio schools with more than one player competing. Edison, which is set to play in the Ohio State tournament, has no seniors, thus meaning it will not have a representative in the contest.

On the West Virginia side, Conti will have a pair of stars off the seven-time defending Class A state champion Wheeling Central Maroon Knights, in pitcher Michelle Rausch and third baseman Jan Smith, who were each major parts of the Knights' conquest last Saturday in Summersville. Wheeling Park, Oak Glen, John Marshall, Weirton Madonna and Cameron will all have three participants.



All-Star Tilt Reset For Today

Thanks to some ill-timed rain, the OVAC softball all-star game, originally scheduled for Tuesday, has been moved to today at 6 p.m. at Belle Isle field on Wheeling Island.

Following an awards presentation, the two teams were able to finish a half an inning before the rains came, causing the postponement.

John Marshall's Abby West struck out the final three batters she faced during the top half of the first for the West Virginia squad after Beaver Local's Vikki McCoy reached first courtesy of an infield error.

Weirton Madonna's Megan Finneran was at the plate for West Virginia when the rains came.

Prior to the start of the contest, the OVAC players of the year, McCoy (AAA), Lisa Merryman of Shadyside (AA), Kayla Magistro of Bellaire St. John's (A) and coach of the year Tim Merryman of Shadyside were honored. Edison's star-pitcher Stephanie Peddicord was honored for the Class AAAA player of year, but was unable to attend due to prior commitments.

OVAC All-Star softball game set for today

The stars of the OVAC softball ranks will be shining brightly on Tuesday.



That is because the Ohio-West Virginia all-star softball game will be staged at Belle Isle Field on Wheeling Island.

The game is slated for a 6 p.m. first pitch with Ohio leading the all-time series by a 13-7 count over West Virginia.

Ohio will be coached by St. John Central's Jerry Magistro.

He is assisted by Buckeye Local's Barry Closser, Beaver Local's Mark Cashdollar and Steubenville Central's Jackie Marook.

West Virginia is under the direction of Weirton Madonna's Chris Conti. He is helped by Wheeling Central's Rick Magruder, Park's Tammi Higley and Oak Glen's Lola Bender.

OVAC All-Star Softball game rosters selected

The stars of the OVAC softball ranks will be shining brightly on Tuesday.

That is due to the Ohio-West Virginia all-star softball game will be staged at Belle Isle Field on Wheeling Island.

The game is slated for a 6 p.m. first pitch with Ohio leading the all-time series by a 13-7 count over West Virginia.

The rosters for the game are as follows:

OHIO

Jayne Kelley, Buckeye Local; Shana D'Aurora, Steubenville; Jennifer Petry, Zanesville; Valerie Doyle, East Liverpool; Vicki McCry, Beaver Local; Robin Prescott, Beaver Local; Abby O'Karma, Meadowbrook; Jennifer Calabrese, Indian Creek; Michelle Marling, Union Local; Michelle Zavatsky, Martins Ferry; Rachel Frizzi, Bellaire; Melody Jenkins, Buckeye Trail; Becki Oliniski, St. Clairsville; Lauren Clegg, Toronto; Sara Merritt, Shadyside; Kim Duvall, Shadyside; Danielle Harman, Steubenville Central; Kara Bickford, Fort Frye; Denae Imhoff, River; Karin Knowlton, Monroe Central; Wendy Edgar, Frontier; Ashley Mayberry, Barnesville; Hannah

Burns, Wellsville; Kayla Magistro, St. John Central; Scarlett Lynn, St. John Central; Erica Nippert, Beallsville; Westlee Polen, Conotton Valley; Maria Bullock, Bridgeport. Head Coach - Jerry Magistro, St. John Central.

Assistants - Jackie Marook, Steubenville Central; Mark Cashdollar, Beaver Local; Barry Closser, Buckeye Local.

WEST VIRGINIA

Beth Doyle, Wheeling Park; Somer Stephens, Wheeling Park; Michelle Depto, Wheeling Park; Abby West, John Marshall; Melissa Witzberger, John Marshall; Kristen Steinman, John Marshall; Morgan Martin, Weirton; Julie Sobuta, Weirton; Lacy Cashdollar, Oak Glen; Jolene Lamb, Oak Glen; Kara Adams, Oak Glen; Liza Snyder, Magnolia; Kristen Blatt, Magnolia; Samantha Wright, Tyler Consolidated; Michelle Rausch, Wheeling Central; Jen Smith, Wheeling Central; Barb Fink, Linsly; Amy Hudak, Linsly; Megan Finnerman, Weirton Madonna; Alicia Vargo, Weir Madonna; Amber Grubik, Weir Madonna; Megan McCracken, Cameron; Jennifer Strawn, Cameron; Cassie Pierce, Cameron; Lindsey Stoehr, Bishop Donahue; Kate Paul, Bishop Donahue.

Head Coach - Chris Conti, Weirton Madonna.

Assistant Coaches - Rick Magruder, Wheeling Central; Lola Bender, Oak Glen; Tammi Higley, Wheeling Park.

OVAC softball stars



T-L Photo/JEREMY MIDEI

HONORS WERE handed out at the recent OVAC Softball Classic. Pictured, from left to right, are Barry Closser, the conference's softball director, St. John Central's Kayla Magistro, OVAC Class A Player of the Year, Beaver Local's Vicki McCoy, the Class AAA Player of the Year, Shadyside's Lisa Merryman, OVAC Class AA Player of the Year, and Tim Merryman, OVAC Coach of the Year. Not pictured is Edison's Stephanie Petticord, the OVAC Class AAAA Player of the Year.

Ohio pounds W.Va. in OVAC all-star tilt

By GREGG MONTGOMERY
Times Leader Sports Writer

The stars were out a little earlier than usual Wednesday night on Wheeling Island as the OVAC softball all-star game featured the best the Ohio Valley has to offer on the diamond.

Ohio used strong fourth and fifth innings to surge past West Virginia 14-1 on nine hits.

The fourth inning explosion was led by Union Local's Michelle Marling who plated home the first Lady Buckeye's setting the table for five more Ohio runs.

St. Clairsville's Becky Olinski was up next and hammered a single through the gap bringing home another run. Shadyside standout Kim Duvall would follow later in the inning with a bases loaded hit. The Tiger outfielder fought back in the count and lined a base hit down the right field line to score a pair of Ohio runs. After four innings the Ohioans held a 6-0 advantage.

In the fifth it was more Ohio offense and this time it was Bellaire's standout senior Rachel Frizzi doing the damage. Frizzi blasted an RBI single to increase the Lady Buckeye's lead. Steubenville's pitching ace Shannon D'Arrora came up with the bases loaded and drew a walk that stretched the Ohio lead to 9-0 after the top half of the fifth inning.

The Ohio squad would go on to score one run in the sixth inning and add four more in the top of the ninth allowing a variety of Buckeye pitchers to take the mound. Beallsville's Erica Nippert, Olinski, and St. John's Scarlett Lynn all pitched scoreless innings in relief.

Along with the softball the participants were honored by the OVAC and seemed to enjoy playing in the contest as much as the large crowd enjoyed watching it.

"It was nice to play with the best of the best and win," remarked St. Clairsville's Becky Olinski.

A real feel of teamwork and sportsmanship were evident in the contest as regardless of position in the field batting orders were the same throughout. Each player had the opportunity to bat whether they were playing in the field at that time.

See, OVAC, Page 5B



OVAC

Continued from Page 1B

"This game was a really good learning experience for everyone. It was fun to get to play with so much talent on the field" commented Beallsville's Nippert.

"It was great to be around all of these great players" commented Ohio and St. John Head Coach Jerry Magistro. "These girls were so easy to coach and they proved to everybody why they are all-stars."

Magistro was coaching in his first all-star contest and juggled the Ohio lineup getting all players involved in a variety of positions.

"I thought it was a great experience and enjoyed playing with the other girls that you compete against all year and be able to win"

Ohio 000 631 004 1490
West Virginia 000 010 000 144
BATTERIES: McCoy(4) Kelly,
(5) D'Arrora, (6) Nippert, (7) Olinski, (9)
Lynn and Prescott and (5) Marling.
West, (4) Doyle, (6) Martin, (8) Roush and
Seutka