

LEFT: Magnolia's Rachel Mason throws on to first to complete an out during action of Sunday's OVAC All-Star softball game. TOP: Bob Gross, father of JoBeth Gross, throws out the first pitch in memory of his daughter as part of the game's dedication to Bishop Donahue players JoBeth Gross and Danielle Block. BOTTOM: Linsly's Alana Reisinger, left, and Kaleigh Parsons, right, carry flowers onto the field in memory of Lisa Bryson Ames. Officials dedicated Field 3 at I-470 to her memory prior to the game. The field is now known as Lisa's Field.

Photos by Scott McCloskey

Pitching Keys Ohio

Buckeyes top Mountaineers, 9-1; Game dedicated to Donahue players

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

Great pitching in high school softball is a nice luxury to have, and while Bellaire St. John's head coach Jerry Magistro has had the opportunity to watch All-Ohioian Meghan Johnson for four years, he got an even bigger treat Sunday.

Magistro was able to trot out three pitchers who led their respective teams to Ohio regional tournament appearances during the 2005 season at last night's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference softball All-Star affair at Lisa's Field at the Chamber's I-470 complex.

Led by Johnson, Edison's Lakyn Bendle and Martins Ferry's Angie Cerasoli, six Buckeye pitchers were able to limit West Virginia to just

two singles while fanning 14 and walking only two in rolling to a 9-1 victory over the Mountaineers in front of a large crowd.

While softball was on the mind's of all the players, coaches and fans, it was also an emotional night as the newly renovated field was dedicated to former Linsly assistant coach Lisa Bryson Ames who passed away with cancer last year.

Also, the game was dedicated to the memory of a pair of former Bishop Donahue players in JoBeth Gross and Danielle Block. Gross' father Bob threw out the first pitch of the game to his son, Robert, Jr. with the Block family also in attendance for the contest.

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Ohio

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As for the game, Ohio's pitching staff was the big story, however, the Buckeye bats were also able to bash out 12 hits in the game.

An unearned run in the second inning got the designated visitors going. Buckeye Local's Megan Bartrug scored on one of five Mountaineer errors on the night.

Ohio added three runs in the fourth on just one hit, a double by Frontier's Laura Brunoni, and three more West Virginia miscues.

Magistro's squad picked up six hits in the fifth inning to all but put things out of reach in pushing the score to 8-0. Ironically, the first eight Buckeye runs all came with two outs in the inning they were scored in.

The big blast of the frame was a two-run triple by the Wildcats' Annie Kovalesky. Bendle and the Panthers' Tabetha Gretchen also added RBI singles in the stanza.

After struggling at the plate for most of the game, West Virginia got its first hit of the night when Wheeling Park's Jill Wright was able to squeeze a single in down the right-field line to lead off the eighth inning.

Wright eventually scored on a wild pitch just ahead of the Mountaineers' only other hit, a single to center by Linsly's Kaleigh Parsons.

"Man, what can you say about a pitching staff like that," a smiling Magistro said. "That is just unbelievable fire-power on the mound."

"I have coached in this game in all five of my seasons at St. John and I have never seen a pitching staff like we had tonight. And that was including the fact that Monroe Central's Leekyia Brown didn't even show up."

"It is just a joy watching pitchers like that all game long. It is a dream come true and you don't

"I have coached in this game in all five of my seasons at St. John and I have never seen a pitching staff like we had tonight."

Bellaire St. John's coach
Jerry Magistro

have to do much coaching when you are trotting all-staters out to the mound."

Johnson, who was awarded the victory, and Bendle each fanned three and walked one before Cerasoli struck out four and did not issue a walk in her two innings. Gretchen kept the no-hitter going through the seventh before the West Virginia hitters finally got to Conotton Valley's Rachel Cummings for the two eighth inning hits.

Bartrug and Brunoni each had a pair of hits for the winners. Brunoni's double and Kovalesky's triple were the only extra-base hits of the game.

"This was just a joy overall," Magistro added. "We did a good job at the plate, on the mound and in the field."

"It is really an honor to coach in this game, especially for five years, but it means so much more for these kids."

"Just look at the (Hillary) Carnes girl from Beaver Local. She graduated this afternoon and was still able to get here early in the game to play. That shows you how much this game means to these girls."

OVAC All-Star Softball game set

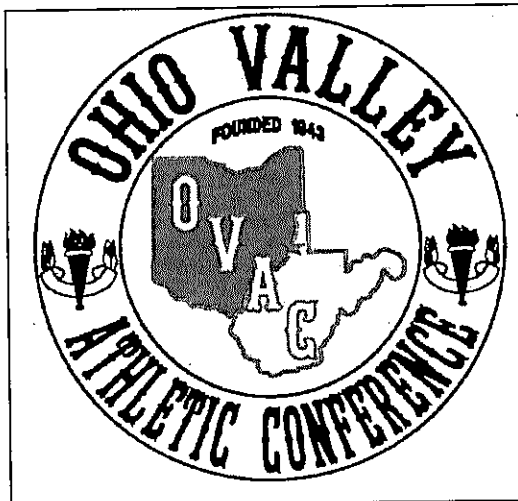
The annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Softball All-Star game is slated for today at 7 p.m. at Lisa's Field at the I-470 complex. If the game is rained out, the make-up date is Tuesday.

This year's game is being dedicated to Bishop Donahue senior softball players JoBeth Gross and Danielle Block, who were tragically killed in an airplane crash in New York last month.

The complete rosters for the game are as follows:

OHIO

Jamie Ankrom, Beallsville; Meghan Johnson, St. John Central; Ellie Swartz, St. John Central; Rachel Cummings, Conotton Valley; Shayla Holenka, Shadyside; Hannah Miller, Buckeye Trail; Lara Brunoni, Frontier; Katie Dickinson, Fort Frye; LeeKycia Brown, Monroe Central; Tiffany Bates, Shenandoah; Rachel DiGregory, Steubenville



Catholic; Mallory Moore, Toronto; Amanda Coulter, Bellaire; Nikki Driscoll, Bellaire; Ashley Cunningham, Harrison Central; Jenna Clapham, Indian Creek; Angie Cerasoli, Martins Ferry; Kelsey Carpenter, Martins Ferry; Tiffany Youell, Meadowbrook; Hillary Carnes, Beaver Local; Tabatha Gretchen, Buckeye

Local; Megan Bartrug, Buckeye Local; Lakyn Bendle, Edison; Annie Kovalesky, Edison; Maelynn Johnson, Steubenville; Elaine Westfall, Steubenville. Head Coach -- Jerry Magistro, St. John Central.

Assistant Coaches -- Spencer Bendle, Edison; Jess Cordery, Martins Ferry; Jackie Rossi, Steubenville Catholic.

WEST VIRGINIA

Johnna Paoloemilio, Madonna; Serena Setcavage, Madonna; Kayla Frye, Cameron; Amanda Hartley, Cameron; Johnelle Campbell, Cameron; Kaleigh Parsons, Linsly; Alana

Reisinger, Linsly; Erica Elliott, Paden City; Jennifer Huggins, Valley; Casey Savage, Wheeling Central; Amanda Orkoskey, Wheeling Central; Maria Reinauer, Wheeling Central; Briana Boyd, Oak Glen; Breanna Harris, Oak Glen; Angie Lowers, Oak Glen; Rachel Mason, Magnolia; Trace Billings, Tyler Consolidated; Jennifer Adams, Tyler Consolidated; Amy Bullock, Brooke; Ree Ann Klein, Brooke; Megan Riggs, Brooke; Megan Gouldsberry, John Marshall; Samantha Stoutt, John Marshall; Emily McDermott, John Marshall; Deven Heilman, John Marshall; Jill Wright, Wheeling Park.

Head Coach -- Mark Witzberger, Cameron.

Assistant Coaches -- Miki Flowers, Bishop Donahue; Rick Magruder and Ambrose Bober, Wheeling Central; James Cicchirillo, Brooke.

Trio of area girls to participate in OVAC Softball All-Star Game tonight in Elm Grove

Several local players honored as conference all-star squads are announced

WHEELING, W.VA. — Several players from the local area are among the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference all-star selections for the 2005 season, and three of those will be taking part in the annual OVAC Softball All-Star Game this evening at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Elm Grove.

The roster for the Ohio squad in the senior all-star game includes the local trio of Hannah Miller (Buckeye Trail), Tiffany Youel (Meadowbrook) and Tiffany Bates (Shenandoah). They'll be part of a 25-player squad selected by the conference coaches in tonight's game, slated for a 7 p.m. first pitch.

The all-star game is being dedicated this year to Jo Beth Gross and Danielle Block, the two Bishop Donahue High School students who tied in a plane crash on May 21 in New York City.

Prior to the game, the newly-renamed Lisa's Field at the I-470 Complex will be dedicated to the memory of former Linsly coach Lisa Bryson Ames, who died in May of 2004.

Here's a look at the Ohio and West Virginia all-star rosters for tonight's contest:

Ohio

Jamie Ankrom, Beallsville; Meghan Johnson, Ellie Swartz, St. John Central; Rachel Cummings, Conotton Valley; Shayla Holenka, Shadyside; Hannah Miller, Buckeye Trail; Lara Brunoni, Frontier; Katie Dickson, Fort Frye; Leekyia Brown, Monroe Central; Tiffany Bates, Shenandoah; Rachel DiGregory, Steubenville Catholic; Mallory Moore, Toronto; Amanda Coulter, Nikki Driscoll, Bellaire; Ashley Cunningham, Harrison Central; Jenna Clapham, Indian Creek; Angie Cerasoli, Kelsey Carpenter, Martins Ferry; Tiffany Youel, Meadowbrook; Hillary Carnes, Beaver Local; Tabetta Gretchen, Megan Bartrug, Buckeye Local; Lakyn Bendle, Annie Kovalesky, Edison; Maelynn Johnson, Elaina Westfall, Steubenville.

Coaches - Jerry Magistro, St. John Central; Spencer Bendle, Edison; Jess Cordery, Martins Ferry; Jackie Rossi, Steubenville Catholic.

West Virginia

Johnna Paoloemilio, Serena



Gilcher



Youel



Ralston



Black



Saling



Bania

Setcavage, Weirton Madonna; Kayla Frye, Amanda Hartley, Johnelle Campbell, Cameron; Kaleigh Parsons, Alana Reisinger, Linsly; Erica Elliott, Paden City; Jennifer Huggins, Valley; Casey Savage, Amanda Orkoskey, Maria Reinauer, Wheeling Central; Briana Boyd, Breanna Harris, Angie Lowers, Oak Glen; Rachel Mason, Magnolia; Trace Billings, Jennifer Adams, Tyler Consolidated; Amy Bullock, Ree Ann Klein, Megan Riggs, Brooke; Megan Gouldsberry, Samantha Stout, Emily McDermott, Deven Heilman, John Marshall; Jill Wright, Wheeling

Park.

Coaches - Mark Witzberger, :Cameron; Miki Maxwell, Bishop Donahue; Rick Magruder and Ambrose Bober, Wheeling Central; Jim Cicchirillo, Brooke.

LOCAL PLAYERS named to the all-OVAC first team include Kaitlyn Gilcher of Cambridge (Class 4-A); Youel of Meadowbrook (Class 3-A); Lacy Black of Buckeye Trail, Stephanie Saling of Caldwell, Katie Bania of Shenandoah and Kayla Ralston of Barnesville (Class 2-A).

Second team picks from the area include Sarah Starr of Cambridge (Class 4-A); Kim Harra of Meadowbrook (Class 3-A); Hannah Miller of Buckeye Trail, sara Bailey of Caldwell, Tiffany Bates of Shenandoah and Bethany Wayble of Barnesville (Class 2-A).

"Player of the Year" honors in each division include Lakyn Bendle of Edison (Class 4-A); Rachel Mason of Magnolia (Class 3-A); Leekyia Brown of Monroe Central and Kayla Gray of Wheeling Central (Class 2-A); and Meghan Johnson of St. John Central (Class 1-A).

St. John Central's Jerry Magistro and Martins Ferry's Jess Cordery, who led their teams to the OHSAA regionals as well as winning OVAC Class 1-A and 3-A

championships, respectively, shared the award for "OVAC Softball Coach of the Year."

Here's a look at the complete All-OVAC softball squads:

Class 1-A

First Team - Carrie Tyo, Beallsville; Meghan Johnson, Ellie Swartz, Ashley Marinacci, St. John Central; Jo Beth Gross, Jen Hill, Bishop Donahue; Sara Wamsley, Bridgeport; Lacey Tustin, Kayla Frye, Amanda Hartley, Cameron; Rachel Cummings, Conotton Valley; Rachel Zane, Madni Szerszen, Linsly; Erica Elliott, Paden City; Brittney Wallace, Shadyside; Jennifer Huggins, Valley; Johnna Paoloemilio, Weirton Madonna.

Second Team - Jamie Ankrom, Beallsville; Amber Irwin, St. John Central; Sarah Edge, Bishop Donahue; Valerie Foose, Bridgeport; Kori Gouldsberry, Cameron; Keri Loudermilk, Conotton Valley; Kaleigh Parsons, Linsly; Rachel Lemasters, Paden City; Stefanie Blinco, Shadyside; Brooke Erb, Valley; Serena Setcavage, Weirton Madonna.

Class 2-A

First Team - Kayla Ralston, Barnesville; Lacy Black, Buckeye Trail; Stephanie Saling, Caldwell; Lara Brunoni, Frontier; Jennifer Stehly, Lacey Best, Fort Frye; Leekyia Brown, Jewell Jones, Monroe Central; Kelsie Tisher, River; Katie Bania, Shenandoah; Molly Darrow, Alexis Ferrera, Kimm Straker, Steubenville Catholic; Andrea Thomas, Toronto; Erin Mock, Wellsville; Kayla Gray, Angela Petros, Amanda Orkoskey, Wheeling Central.

Second Team - Bethany Wayble, Barnesville; Hannah Miller, Buckeye Trail; Sara Bailey, Caldwell; Jayla Walker, Frontier; Kaite Dickson, Fort Frye; Morgan Ramage, Monroe Central; Allison Blake, River; Tiffany Bates, Shenandoah; Alaina Augustine, Steubenville Catholic; Mallory Moore,

Toronto; Ashlee Allison, Wellsville; Valerie Palmer, Wheeling Central.

Class 3-A

First Team - Nikki Driscoll, Amanda Coulter, Bellaire; Chelsea Coconougher, Ashley Cunningham, Katy Leeper, Harrison Central; Jenna Clapham, Indian Creek; Rachel Mason, Brooke Keene, Magnolia; Angie Cerasoni, Megan Ware, Kayla Lewis, Martins Ferry; Tiffany Youel, Meadowbrook; Briana Boyd, Oak Glen; Beth Schroeder, St. Clairsville; Trace Billings, Tyler Consolidated; Laura Griffin, Union Local.

Second Team - Tara Whitely, Bellaire, Andrea Davis, Harrison Central; Ashley Predmore, Indian Creek; Kayla Brill, Magnolia; Stephanie Payne, Martins Ferry; Kim Harra, Meadowbrook; Angie Lowers, Oak Glen; Kayla Pickana, St. Clairsville; Jennifer Adams, Tyler Consolidated, Stacey Dunfee, Union Local.

Class 4-A

First Team -Alexa Smith, Beaver Local; Amy Bullock, Megan Riggs, Brooke; Tabetta Gretchen, Megan Bartrug, Buckeye Local; Kaitlyn Gilcher, Cambridge; Kristina Doyle, East Liverpool; Lakyn Bendle, Annie Kovalesky, Emily Schaefer, Edison; Vanessa Ilovar, Megan Gouldsberry, Samantha Stout, John Marshall; MAelynn Johnson, Steubenville; Lacey Wilson, Weir; Jill Wright, Wheeling Park; Abbey Winland, Zanesville.

Second Team - Erin Dicken, Beaver Local; Ree Ann Klein, Brooke; Erica Stuart, Buckeye Local; Sarah Starr, Cambridge; Kadie Davis, East Liverpool; Kyle Snyder, Edison; Emily McDermott, John Marshall; Karly Saccoccia, Steubenville; Tiffany Bright, Weir; Kaleigh Spragg, Zanesville.

Overall "Coach of the Year"

Jerry Magistro, St. John Central and Jess Cordery, Martins Ferry.



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Monday, June 6, 2005

Ohio pitching too much for Mountaineers

• West Virginia held to two hits in OVAC All-Star game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Mismatch.

There's no better way to describe the annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Softball game held Sunday at the gorgeous Lisa Field at the I-470 Complex in Elm Grove.

The Lady Buckeyes received brilliant pitching from six different hurlers to take the annual affair 9-1 on an emotional night.

"The firepower we had (on the mound) was pretty much unbelievable," said Ohio and St. John Central head coach Jerry Magistro following the game. "It almost wasn't fair and I have coached in this game five years, and I know

'The firepower we had (on the mound) was pretty much unbelievable. It almost wasn't fair...'

— Jerry Magistro

we've never had that good of pitching."

Household pitching names such as St. John Central's Meghan Johnson, Martins Ferry's Angie Cerasoli and Edison's Lakyn Bendle all led their teams deep into the OHSAA post sea-

son.

Needless to say, none have gotten rusty since the end of their respective seasons.

"All of those girls are players of the year either in the OVAC or the district," Magistro said. "All of those girls led their teams far in the tournament, we had all state players and everything else, so you don't need to do much coaching with that kind of talent."

Each of the three Lady Buckeye aces worked two innings. None allowed a hit. Johnson and Bendle each allowed a free pass. All told, they trio fanned 10 Lady Mountaineer hitters.

While they were doing their thing the Ohio offense took advantage of several West Virginia blunders in a critical fourth inning where it scored three runs.

Shenandoah's Tiffany Bates started the rally when she reached with a one-out error. Frontier's Laura Brunoni then rifled a double

into left and Hannah Miller followed by reaching on an error that scored Bates. Conotton Valley's Rachel Cummings also got on on an error that allowed both Brunoni and Miller to race home.

Cerasoli retired West Virginia in order in the bottom of the fourth, brining the high-octane Ohio offense back to the dish.

West Virginia manager Mark Witzberger of Cameron opted to go to his bullpen, replacing John Marshall's Devin Heilman with Valley's Jennifer Cummings.

It was a move that Ohio made him pay for.

Johnson led off the inning with a single and two hitters later Steubenville's Elaina Westfall singled. After the second out of the inning was recorded via the strikeout, Edison's Annie Kovalesky drilled a triple to the left-field wall, scoring both Johnson and Westfall.

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Ohio OVAC All-Stars



PICTURED is the 2005 Ohio squad from the OVAC All-Star Game held Sunday evening. Front row, from left, are Angie Cerasoli (Martins Ferry), Kelsey Carpenter (Martins Ferry), Hillary Carnes (Beaver Local), Ashley Cunningham (Harrison Central), Mallory Moore (Toronto) and Nikki Driscoll (Bellaire). Second row, from left, are Tabettha Gretchen (Buckeye Local), Rachel Cummings (Conotton Valley), Elaine Westfall (Steubenville), Megan Bartrug (Buckeye Local), Hannah Miller (Buckeye Trail) and Tiffany Bates (Shenandoah). Back row, from left, are assistant coach Jackie Rossi (Steubenville Catholic), assistant coach Spencer Bendle (Edison), Jenna Clapham (Indian Creek), Annie Kovalesky (Edison), Lakyn Bendle (Edison), Rachel DiGregory (Steubenville Catholic), Laura Brunoni (Frontier), Katie Dickson (Fort Frye), assistant coach Jess Cordery (Martins Ferry), Meghan Johnson (St. John Central), Maelynn Johnson (Steubenville), Ellie Swartz (St. John Central) and head coach Jerry Magistro (St. John Central).

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

● OVAC

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Bendle then drove in her teammate with a base knock. Buckeye Local's Megan Bartrug got her second hit of the contest, setting the table for her regular-season teammate Tabettha Gretchen - who pitched a hitless seventh for Ohio -- got a hit, scoring Bendle.

"We had a real nice lineup," Magistro said. "We played good defense for the most part and took advantage of (West Virginia's) mistakes."

With Ohio leading by a comfortable 9-0 count, West Virginia got its first hit of the contest in the eighth inning against Conotton's Cummings. Jill Wright of Wheeling Park looped a single down the first-base line, which brought up chalk for a single. She later scored an unearned run.

Buckeye Trail's Hannah Miller pitched a scoreless ninth to seal the deal for the Ohioans.

"This game is an honor for everyone involved," Magistro said. "All of these kids had fun and they'll remember this

their whole lives. There were a lot of good kids."

The six Ohio pitchers combined for 13 strikeouts and two walks. The only other West Virginia base knock came from Linsly's Kaleigh Parsons.

GAME NOTES

IT WAS an emotional pre-game ceremony as Lisa's Field was formally dedicated in honor of former Linsly softball coach Lisa Bryson Ames who lost her battle with cancer in 2004. The Ames family was on hand for the ceremony.

THE ANNUAL OVAC game was dedicated to Bishop Donahue senior players JoBeth Gross and Danielle Block who died last month in an airplane crash in New York. Gross had been selected to play in the game. Her father Bob threw out the first pitch to his son Robert Jr before the start of play.

IT was a busy afternoon for Beaver Local's Hillary Carnes. She arrived at the ball park late after rushing down from her

graduation ceremony, which was held Sunday afternoon.

SPECIAL presentations were made during the course of the game. All of the Player of the Years were recognized. Included were: Johnson (1-A), Wheeling Central sophomore Kayla Gray and Monroe Central's Leekyia Brown (2-A); Magnolia's Rachel Mason (3-A) and Bendle (4-A).

MARTINS FERRY head coach Jess Cordery and Magistro received their plaques for being named OVAC softball co-coaches of the year.

CORDERY and Steubenville Catholic head coach Jackie Rossi also received plaques in honor of reaching their 100th win through the course of the season.

Linescore:

Ohio 010 340 100 9 12 2
W.Va. 000 000 010 1 2 5
BATTERIES: Johnson, Bendle (3), Cerasoli (5), Gretchen (6), Cummings (8), Miller (9), Swartz, Brunoni (3), Swartz (5), Brunoni (6), Swartz (8) and Brunoni (9). Heilman, Huggins (5), Heilman (8) and McDermott.