

STEBENVILLE CENTRAL'S Melissa Costantini is tagged out at the plate by Cameron catcher Kylie Bungard during action from Wednesday night's OVAC girls' All-Star softball game on Lisa's Field at the I-470 Complex in Wheeling. The West Virginia stars won, 6-3. For additional images, see cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

W.Va. Stars shine over Ohio, 6-3

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

It's been said that good hitting will beat good pitching any time.

That was evident Wednesday night on Lisa's Field at the I-470 Complex in Wheeling as the W.Va. All-Stars doubled up the Ohio squad by a 6-3 count in the OVAC All-Star girls' softball game.

The Buckeye State was loaded with pitching as Meadowbrook's Kinsi Tellep, Harrison Central's Sara Pelegreen, Edison's Ashley Bendle, Indian Creek's Lizzy Williamson and Steubenville Central's Melissa Costantini were all scheduled to toe the rubber.

However, Tellep couldn't participate due to the Colts still playing in the Division II

state tournament.

The remaining hurlers took their place inside the circle, but the Mountain Staters were fazed one bit.

Although the Ohio stars recorded 13 strikeouts, they also allowed seven hits -- none bigger than a bases-clearing double by Magnolia's Corrine Murdock that broke up a 2-all deadlock in the bottom of the sixth inning.

"We had some hitters come through in key situations, as they should in a game like this," said West Virginia head coach Mark



Witzberger, of Cameron.

West Virginia didn't waste any time in taking the lead as it score twice in the first inning off of Costantini, the Class AA Player of the Year.

John Marshall's Shelby Wilson reached on an error leading off. After the first out was recorded, Wilson was sacrificed to second by Parkersburg South's Katelyn Porter. John Marshall's Dee Gamble ripped an RBI double to deep left-center and Paden City's Vicki Yurisko followed with a run-producing single to right that plated Gamble.

Ohio got one of those runs back in the top of the third off of Tyler Consolidated's Kaitlyn Goudy as Costantini dropped a single into right-center with two outs. Monroe

See, W.VA., Page B2

SPORTS

● W.Va.

Continued from Page B1

Central's Karlie Davis reached on an error and Costantini raced home on a single up the middle by Beaver Local's Alyson Derenberger.

The Buckeye Staters evened the count in the top of the sixth as Cambridge's Taryn Payton led off with bunt single and was sacrificed to second by Bobcat's teammate Sarah Mahley. Harrison Central's Kristina Brandon walked with two outs to keep the inning alive and Bendle ripped a single to center that plated Payton.

West Virginia took control in the bottom of the frame as Goudy legged out an infield single leading off against Bendle. She advanced to second on an out and took third when Gamble's shot to short was mishandled. Yurisko walked to load the bases and Murdock followed with her three-run two-bagger to deep right-center. She would scoot to third on the throw home and then cross the plate on a single by Cameron's Janet Peterson.

Ohio would conclude the scoring in the top of the seventh when Steubenville Central's Kelly Costantini drew a leadoff walk from Oak Glen's Erin Shuman. Melissa Costantini then singled to right and both

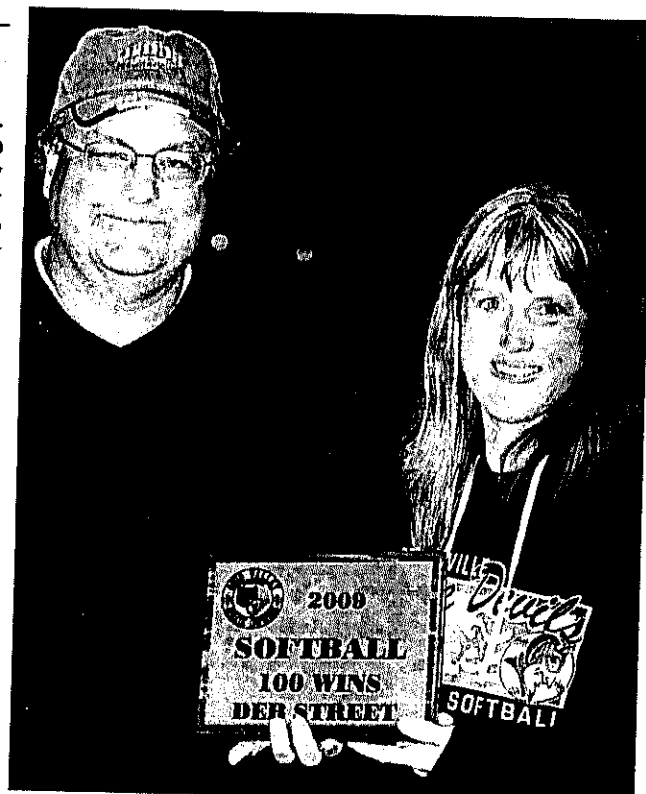
advanced on a wild pitch. Davis then rifled a shot to center that scored Kelly Costantini, but a fine relay throw from Peterson to pitcher Shuman to catcher Kylie Bungard of Cameron that nailed the Crusaders' standout. Shuman wiggled out of the jam without further damage as she recorded a strikeout and ground out.

"That team had some real good athletes and hitters," said Ohio coach Jerry Magistro of St. John Central. "The top part of their order really smacked the ball around, but it's tough in an all-star situation when you have so many different people playing out of position."

Ohio outhit West Virginia 11-7, but all 11 were singles. Melissa Costantini had two of them. In addition to Gamble and Murdock slugging doubles, Porter legged out a triple.

"You don't see a team get 11 hits and have all of them be singles very often, but their defense played deep and they played well," said Magistro.

Of the 13 strikeouts recorded by Ohio pitching, Pelegreen, who is headed to W.Va. State College, chalked up seven of them during her three-inning stint. Costantini added



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

BEALLSVILLE HEAD coach Deb Street was recognized during Wednesday's OVAC girls' softball All-Star game for winning her 100th game this past season. For more images, see cu.timesleaderonline.com

three, Bendle two and Williamson one.

GAME NOTES

■ Witzberger was presented with a plaque for being named the OVAC Coach of the Year.

■ Beallsville's Deb Street was recognized for winning her 100th game this past season.

■ The four Players of the Year were also recognized. They were: Beallsville's Kerri Jo Thomas (A), Tellep (AAA), Melissa Costantini (AA) and Wheeling Park's Angela Johnson (AAAA).

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

THE TIME

Murdock's Bat Leads To Victory

W.Va. tops Ohio in OVAC All-Star softball contest

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — A quick glance at the hits column from the box score of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Softball Game will show Ohio having an 11-7 advantage on their counterparts from West Virginia.

With that, one may be led to believe that the Buckeyes were able to secure a victory in the yearly contest. However, an important statistic in softball is not only hits, but important, meaningful hits.

When that is added to the mix it is not hard to figure out how the Mountaineers were able to put this one in the victory col-



JM's Shelby Wilson crosses the plate as Steubenville Catholic catcher Kelly Costantini awaits a throw.

View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Photo by Josh Strope

umn. Magnolia's Corrine Murdock blasted a three-run double in the sixth inning to snap a 2-2 deadlock and help lead West Virginia to a 6-3 victory against Ohio in a scheduled 10-inning game played in front of a large crowd at Lisa's Field at the Chamber's I-470 Sports Complex on Wednesday night.

While the designated hosts were outit, three of the winner's hits went for extra bases and four of them provided runs. Meanwhile, all 11 of the Buckeyes' hits were singles, and they ended up stranding 10 base runners, including eight in scoring position.

Please See VICTORY, Page 16

Thursday, June 4, 2009

Victory

(Continued from Page 15)

"We had some hitters come through in key situations, as they should in a game like this," OVAC Coach of the Year award winner, and West Virginia head coach, Mark Witzberger of Cameron said. "But the big thing for me was being able to sit back and watch in a big game with no pressure."

It actually didn't take the Mountaineers long to get going as they picked up a pair of first-inning runs off of Steubenville Catholic ace Melissa Costantini.

John Marshall's Shelby Wilson got things started in the bottom of the first when she reached on an error and moved up on a two-out sacrifice bunt by Parkersburg South's Katelyn Porter.

Wilson scored when Monarchs teammate Dee Gamble ripped an RBI double into the gap in left-center field. Paden City's Vicki Yurisko followed with a run-scoring single and it was 2-0.

While the West Virginia bats went into hibernation for the next four innings, Ohio cut the deficit in half in the third. Melissa Costantini singled to center with two out, moved up when Monroe Central's Karlie Davis reached on an error and scored on a single by Beaver Local's Alyson Derenburger.

The Mountaineers got a good dose of Harrison Central standout Sara Pelegreen as she set down nine West Virginia hitters in a row in the third, fourth and fifth innings, including seven on strikes.

Ohio knotted the count in the top of the sixth off Linsly pitcher Megan Byhanna, who ironically became the game's winning pitcher. Cambridge's Taryn Payton led off the inning with a bunt single and scored two outs later on a single to center by Edison's Ashley Bendle. Another bit of irony is that Bendle became the losing pitcher in the bottom of the sixth.

It didn't take long for things to unravel for the Buckeyes as Kaitlyn Goudy of Tyler Consolidated laid down a bunt and reached when the ball found a hole at second. After a fielder's choice, Gamble reached on an error and Yurisko walked to set the stage for Murdock.

The Blue Eagles standout ripped a pitch into the right-center field gap plating Goudy, Gamble and Yurisko and giving the hosts a 5-2 lead. One out later Cameron's Janet Peterson singled home Murdock for a four-run cushion.

Ohio had another rally in the seventh when Kelly Costantini walked and sister, Melissa, singled to right field. Davis chased home Kelly with an RBI single, however, Melissa was gunned down at the plate in a bang-bang play, that ended the scoring.

"That team had some real good athletes and hitters," Bellaire St. John coach Jerry Magistro said. "The top part of their order really smacked the ball around, but it is tough in an all-star situation when you have so many different people playing out of position."

"You don't see a team get 11 hits and have them all be singles very often, but their defense played deep and they played well."

"I really love this game. I have been coaching at St. John for nine years and this is the ninth time I have got to coach in this game and I consider it a luxury. It really is fun every year, and I think it says a lot for my kids that I get to do this every year."

Witzberger, meanwhile, who just directed his Dragons to a runner-up finish in the W.Va. Class A state tournament, also enjoyed the opportunity and wanted to thank his assistants.

"You know, I would truly like to thank (Linsly coach) Liz Hofreter-Landini who took control of this team, the players and the lineup while I was at the state tournament," Witzberger said.

PVC baseball, softball all-stars are announced

League champions Fort Frye (baseball) and Monroe Central (softball) head the 2009 all-Pioneer Valley Conference selections, with several local players also recognized.

In baseball, all-PVC honors locally went to Bob Beros, Pete Gravens, Seth Jones and Evan Beckett of Buckeye Trail; Brandon Starr, Dakota Ginn, Dalton Pritchard and Wes Rataiczak of Shenandoah; and Bobby Schehl of Caldwell.

In softball the local selections included Melissa Matjunga, Megan Grywalski, Ashley Butcher and Paige Ruppel of Shenandoah; Kaylie Warnock and Dani Sells of Buckeye Trail; and Stacey Murgage of Caldwell.

"Coach of the Year" selections were Sonny Bidwell of Fort Frye (baseball) and Missy Knowlton of Monroe Central (softball).

Here's the complete PVC all-star baseball and softball teams and the final league standings:

Baseball

Fort Frye - Jarrod Arnold, Tyler Stevens, Jacob Anderson, Chad Stengel, Josiah Fryman.

Buckeye Trail - Bob Beros, Pete Gravens, Seth Jones, Evan Beckett, Shenandoah - Brandon Starr, Dakota Ginn, Dalton Pritchard, Wes Rataiczak.

Frontier - Brent King, Jacob Beaver.

Monroe Central - Ryan Kuhn, Sean Smithberger.

River - Tyler Brooks, Kasey Indermuhle.

Caldwell - Bobby Schehl.

Coach of the Year - Sonny Bidwell, Fort Frye

Final Standings - Fort Frye, 5-1; Buckeye Trail, 4-2; Shenandoah, 4-2; Frontier, 3-3; Monroe Central, 2-4; River, 2-4; Caldwell, 1-5.

Softball

Monroe Central - Karlie Davis, Stacy Schumacher, Samantha Kilburn, Raven Delong, Sara Lucas.

Fort Frye - Danielle Lang, Kacey Stack, Kelsie Watson, Lacey Hendershot.

Shenandoah - Melissa Matjunga, Megan Grywalski, Ashley Butcher, Paige Ruppel.

Buckeye Trail - Kaylie Warnock, Dani Sells.

River - Erika Williams, Chelsey Wax.

Caldwell - Stacey Murgage.

Frontier - Kaylee Valentine.

Coach of the Year - Missy Knowlton, Monroe Central

Final Standings - Monroe Central, 11-1; Fort Frye, 9-3; Shenandoah, 9-3; Buckeye Trail, 7-5; River, 3-3; Caldwell, 2-10; Frontier, 1-11.

'Macker'



Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Seckman (Cambridge), Abby Goodright (Meadowbrook).

OVAC Ohio Softball All-Stars



THE OVAC girls' softball all-star game will be played Wednesday on Lisa's Field at the I-470 Complex in Wheeling. The first pitch is set for 7 p.m. Pictured is the Ohio team, front row from left, Coach Jerry Maglstro (St. John Central), Lizzy Williamson (Indian Creek), Haley Mayes (Indian Creek), Melissa Costantini (Steubenville Central), Kelli Costantini (Steubenville Central), Ashley Bendle (Edison), Rachel Stahl (Union Local) and Samantha Jefferis (Barnesville). Back row from left, Sara Pelegreen (Harrison Central), Kaitlin Blake (Edison), Megan Grywalski (Shenandoah), Erika Williams (River), Coach Donnie Bethel (Steubenville Central), Danielle Lang (Fort Frye), Taryn Payton (Cambridge), Lacie Mahley (Cambridge), Kinsi Tellep (Meadowbrook) and Coach Jackie Rossi (Steubenville Central). Missing are Kristina Brandon (Harrison Central), Karlen Vinci (Martins Ferry), Kerri Jo Thomas (Beallsville), Karli Davis (Monroe Central) and Alyson Derenberger (Beaver Local).

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

SPORTS

THE TIMES LEADER - Tuesday, June 2, 2009 - B2

OVAC Softball All-Stars



THE OVAC girls' softball all-star game will be played Wednesday on Lisa's Field at the I-470 Complex in Wheeling. The first pitch is set for 7 p.m. Pictured is the W.Va. team. Front row from left, Kaitlyn Goudy (Tyler Consolidated), Corinne Murdock (Magnolia), Erin Shuman (Oak Glen), Meghan Dulaney (Weirton Madonna), Stephanie Rosnick (Weir) and Vickie Yurisko (Paden City). Back row from left, Coach Liz Hofreuter-Landini (Linsly), Alexis Penz (Linsly), Megan Byhanna (Linsly), Dee Gamble (John Marshall), Shelby Wilson (John Marshall), Laken Drake (John Marshall), Alexis George (Bishop Donahue), Breanna Hawkins (Bishop Donahue) and Coach Cris Conti (Weirton Madonna).

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

OVAC softball all-stars vie Wednesday



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The Ohio squad for the OVAC All-Star Softball Game slated Wednesday, June 3 at the I-470 Complex in Elm Grove, W.Va. includes, front row, 1 to r, head coach Jerry Magistro of St. John Central, Lizzy Williamson of Indian Creek, Haley Mays of Indian Creek, Melissa Costantini of Steubenville Catholic, Kelly Costantini of Steubenville Catholic, Ashley Bendle of Edison, Rachel Stahl of Union Local and Sam Jefferis of Barnesville; back row, Sara Pelegreen of Harrison Central, Kaitlin Blake of Edison, Megan Grywalski of Shenandoah, assistant coach Don Bethel of Harrison Central, Erika Williams of River, Danielle Lang of Fort Frye, Taryn Payton of Cambridge, Lacie Mahley of Cambridge, Kinsi Tellep of Meadowbrook and assistant coach Jacki Rossi of Steubenville Catholic. Absent were players Alyson Derenburger of Beaver Local, Karlen Vinci of Martins Ferry, Karlie Davis of Monroe Central, Kristina Brandon of Harrison Central and Kerri Jo Thomas of Beallsville and assistant coach Spencer Bendle of Edison.

day at I-470 Complex in Elm Grove



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The West Virginia squad for the OVAC All-Star Softball Game slated Wednesday, June 3 at the I-470 Complex in Elm Grove, W.Va. includes, front row 1 to r, Kaitlyn Goudy of Tyler Consolidated, Corinne Murdock of Magnolia, Erin Shuman of Oak Glen, Meghan Dulaney of Weirton Madonna, Stephanie Rosnick of Weir and Vicki Yurisko of Paden City; back row, assistant coach Liz Hofreuter-Landini of Linsly, Alexis Penz of Linsly, Megan Byhanna of Linsly, Dee Gamble of John Marshall, Shelby Wilson of John Marshall, Laken Drake of John Marshall, Alexis George of Bishop Donahue, Sarah Blazer of Bishop Donahue, Breanna Hawkins of Brooke and assistant coach Chris Conti of Weirton Madonna. Absent were players Kille Bungard of Cameron, Janet Peterson of Cameron and Katelyn Porter of Parkersburg South, head coach Mark Witzberger of Cameron and assistant coach Jenny Null of Parkersburg South.