



Photo by Tony Viola

John Marshall's Kylie Howard (4) makes the catch on the pickoff throw while Bellaire's Megan Ging (2) avoids the tag by sliding safely into second base.

W.Va. Beats Ohio In OVAC All-Stars

Howard and Rotriga
lead team to victory, 7-2

By TONY VIOLA
Staff Writer

WHEELING — You know that in Kylie Howard's last softball game of her career, the four-time first-team All-Stater was going to kill it.

"Yeah, I wanted to," the John Marshall senior said afterwards.

She didn't disappoint.

Howard finished the OVAC All-Star

With one out in the first and with Kristen Lewicki leading off at second, Howard smacked one into center field to give her JM teammate time to score.

"I had two strikes on me and I was thinking (Ohio starting pitcher Victoria Mimken) is probably going to throw it outside cause she threw the last two outside, so I just tried to go with the pitch and I just ended up driving it up the middle and scoring my teammate, Wick," Howard said. "When she gets on, usually we score."

Rotriga, the OVAC 5A Player of the Year, then fanned five of the next seven



OHIO INFIELDER
Becky Burkhart, of Barnesville, records an out at second base of a West Virginia runner on a force play during Wednesday's OVAC All-Star Softball Game in Elm Grove. The West Virginia squad won the game, 7-2. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photos/KIM NORTH

West Virginia gets by Ohio

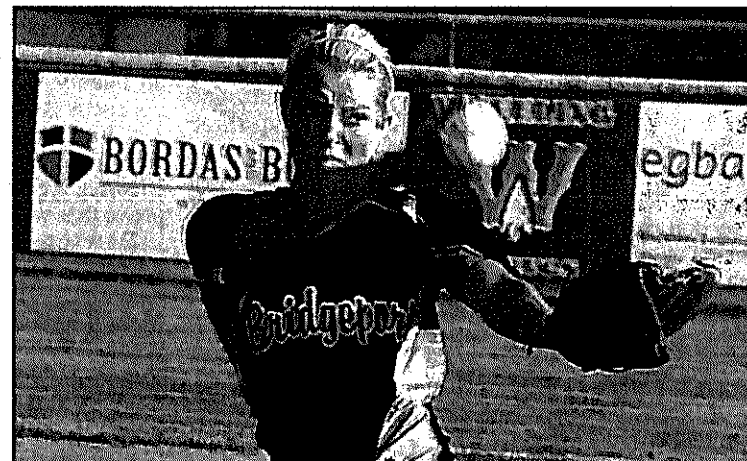
By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE — On a night when the OVAC Softball All-Stars displayed their wares, one star shone brighter than all the others at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

John Marshall's Amy Rotriga lived up to all the lofty statistics she compiled during her career. The lefthander struck out a dozen in West Virginia's 7-2 victory over Ohio on Lisa's Field Wednesday night before a packed house.

"Amy's a really good player and she had an outstanding career for us," John Marshall and West Virginia head coach Ed West said of his ace, who will attend Wheeling Jesuit. "She's been very consistent for four years and I'm glad she got to finish her career with a good season."

"WE JUST couldn't get any offense going. Their pitchers did a very good job"



OVAC

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"She's been really consistent for four years. I'm just glad she had a good game."

Ohio then started to finally see some offensive production in the fifth.

After Edison's Molly McCoy began the inning with a hit into right field and Indian Creek's Paige DeMattio reached on a bunt, Shenandoah's Leah Hill then hit into a 6-3 to give McCoy enough time to score and tie the game at 1-1.

DeMattio then scored on a wild pitch to give the Buckeye's their first lead of the game.

It didn't last long, however.

With two outs and one on in the sixth, Wheeling Park's Kristen Slater doubled to center field to score Weir's Meikka Buffo to tie the game, then John Marshall's Morgan Watson

tripled to score Slater as the Mountaineers began to break the game open.

Watson then scored on wild pitch to give West Virginia a 4-2 lead to end the inning.

The Mountaineers picked up another run in the seventh off a sacrifice fly by Wheeling Central's Vanessa Saseen and scored twice in the eighth courtesy of two wild pitches.

Rotriga, who re-entered the game in the eighth, struckout the last two batters to seal the victory for the Mountain State.

"I was just working hard this past week to just come out here and throw the game I know how to throw," Rotriga, a Wheeling Jesuit recruit, said.

"It's just an honor to be playing in this game. It's going to be really sad, the last time waking up with my uniform on. I'm really going to miss

everyone. We came out with a win and that's the way we wanted to end it."

Howard echoed her teammate's thoughts and added: "I'm really going to miss it. I hope I don't regret not playing in college, but I think I did pretty good job. John Marshall left a good impact the last four years me and my teammates had been there. I'm really going to miss my teammates a lot."

Rotriga along with Mimken, Buckeye Local's Lauren Swiger, Harrison Central's Katie Ellzy, Steubenville Central's Taylor Clark and St. John's Hannah Abasalom were all honored with plaques during the course of the game as being the OVAC Player of the Year in their respective classes.

Ohio and Fort Frye coach Barbara Sleek was also honored as being the OVAC softball coach of the year.

● Softball

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when Monarchs' teammate Kylie Howard singled sharply to center off of Fort Frye ace Victoria Mimken.

It remained that way until the top of the fifth when the Buckeyes plated their only two tallies.

Edison's Molly McCoy smashed a single through the legs of the first baseman. Indian Creek's Paige DeMattio laid down a perfect bunt single as McCoy hustled to third. DeMattio took second on the throw to third.

Shenandoah's Leah Hill struck out, but the third strike was dropped as she headed for first. The throw there beat her, but McCoy raced home to tie the game.

Two pitches later, DeMattio scored on a wild pitch as Ohio took a 2-1 lead.

Bridgeport's Ashley Hadzima took over inside the circle for Mimken to

With one out, Howard, the 2012 OVAC Class 5A Player of the Year, sliced a triple down the rightfield line. She was caught in a rundown between third and home on Weir's Meikka Buffo's comebacker. Buffo, who took second on the play, would scout around the bases on a double to left-center by Wheeling Park's Kristen Slater.

Slater eventually came around and scored on a single by John Marshall's Morgan Watson, making it 4-2.

Wheeling Park's Kelly Albers drilled a double to the fence in left-center leading off the seventh. She would come home on a sacrifice fly off the bat of Wheeling Central's Vanessa Saseen to up the count to 5-2.

Hanson led off the eighth with a double to left-center. After Bishop Donahue's Andrea Guzek sacrificed

Those awards went to: Class A Hannah Absalom (St. John Central); Class 2A Taylor Clark (Steubenville Catholic); Class 3A Victoria Mimken (Fort Frye); Class 4A Lauren Swiger (Buckeye Local) and Katie Ellzy (Harrison Central); and 5A Amy Rotriga (John Marshall).

■ The contest took just over two hours to complete.

■ The Coach of the Year honor went to Barb Sleek (Fort Frye).

■ Donating their time to umpire the game were: John Hamm (Home Plate); Randy Gasaway (First Base); Donnie Martin (Second Base); and Chris Rueckle (Third Base).

■ Ohio was held to three singles. St. John Central's Kaydie Coppa had one. Bellaire's Megan Ging worked two innings in the circle, striking out one.

Linescore: Ohio 000 020 000 = 2 3 3

Rosters set for OVAC Softball All-Star Game

The rosters have been set for the annual OVAC All-Star Softball Game slated Wednesday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the I-470 Complex in Elm Grove, W.Va.

Four local girls will be on the Ohio team — Ashley Montgomery of Meadowbrook, Kayleigh Smith of Buckeye Trail, Leah Hill of Shenandoah and Becky Burkhart of Barnesville.

The rest of the Buckeye squad includes Victoria Mimken, Lexi Huck and Abby Baker of Fort Frye; Taylor Clark and Sammi Giannamore of Steubenville Catholic; Paige DeMattio and Brey Mays of Indian Creek; Kaydie Coppa and Kristeni Russell of St. John Central; Molly McCoy and Mikayla Tice of Edison; Ashley Hadzima of Bridgeport; Mallory Giannamore of Steubenville; Olivia Minamyer of Union Local; Cari Horne of Toronto; and Hayley Holenka of Shadyside.

The Ohio coaching staff includes Joe Soos

of Buckeye Local; Barb Sleek of Fort Frye; Tom Joseph of Bridgeport; and Staci Smith of Buckeye Trail.

West Virginia's roster includes Kylie Howard, Amy Rotriga, Morgan Watson and Kristen Lewicki of John Marshall; Tara Hanson, Heather Mellie and Megan DeBastiani of Morgantown; Andrea Guzek and Selena Ghaphery of Bishop Donahue; Meikka Buffo and Heylee McLaughlin of Weir; Kristen Slater and Kelly Albers of Wheeling Park; Jamie Myers of University; Vanessa Seaseen of Wheeling Central; Marena Cline of Brooke; Martina Parrish of Tyler Consolidated; Stephanie Trippett of Parkersburg South; Audrey Bryan of Cameron;

and Jordan Cunningham of Oak Glen.

The West Virginia coaches are Ed West of John Marshall; Chris Conti of Madonna; Mark Witzberger of Cameron; and Amanda Smith of The Linsly School.



OVAC Softball Stars

OHIO

Taylor Clark, Steubenville Central; Victoria Mimken, Fort Frye; Kaydie Coppa, St. John; Sammi Giannamore, Steubenville Central; Ashley Hadzima, Bridgeport; Molly McCoy, Edison; Paige DeMattio, Indian Creek; Mallory Giannamore, Steubenville; Brey Mays, Indian Creek; Mikayla Tice, Edison; Lexi Huck, Fort Frye; Olivia Minamyer, Union Local; Becky Burkhart, Barnesville; Cari Horne, Toronto; Kristen Russell, St. John; Kayleigh Smith, Buckeye Trail; Abby Baker, Fort Frye; Hayley Holenka, Shadyside; Alijah Marelli, Buckeye Local; Leah Hill, Shenandoah; Ashley Montgomery, Meadowbrook.

Coaches: Joe Soos, Buckeye Local; Barb Sleek, Fort Frye; Tom Joseph, Bridgeport; Staci Smith, Buckeye Trail.

WEST VIRGINIA

Kylie Howard, John Marshall; Amy Rotriga, John Marshall; Audrey Bryan, Cameron; Tara Hanson, Morgantown; Kristin Lewicki, John Marshall; Andrea Guzek, Bishop Donahue;

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WEST VIRGINIA

Kylie Howard, John Marshall; Amy Rotriga, John Marshall; Audrey Bryan, Cameron; Tara Hanson, Morgantown; Kristin Lewicki, John Marshall; Andrea Guzek, Bishop Donahue; Jamie Myers, University; Morgan Watson, John Marshall; Meikka Buffo, Weir; Heather Mellie,

OVAC Softball Honorees



T-L Photos/KIM NORTH

TOP: Harrison Central's Katie Ellzy, left, and Buckeye Local's Lauren Swiger, right, were named the OVAC Class 4A Co-Players of the Year. Presenting their awards are OVAC Softball Commissioner Tom Bechtel. Swiger led the Panthers to the Class 4A championship. Ellzy's Huskies were eliminated in the semifinals.

BOTTOM: St. John Central junior Hannah Absalom was presented with the OVAC Class 1A Player of the Year plaque by OVAC Softball Commissioner Tom Bechtel. Absalom led the Irish to the OVAC Class 1A regular season and tournament titles, along with a berth in the Division IV district tournament finals.



eball, softball r action this week



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian/www.buyjeffphotos.com

The Ohio squad for the annual OVAC Softball All-Star Classic set for Monday at the I-470 Complex in Elm Grove includes, front row l to r, Becky Burkhart (Barnesville), Sammi Giannamore (Steubenville Catholic), Megan Ging (Bellaire), Hayley Holenka (Shadyside), Lexi Huck (Fort Frye), Kaydie Coppa (St. John Central), Leah Hill (Shenandoah), Ashley Hadzima (Bridgeport) and Abby Baker (Fort Frye); second row, Kayla Brown (Toronto), Kayleigh Smith (Buckeye Trail), Alijah Marelli (Buckeye Local), Kristen Russell (St. John Central), Taylor Clark (Steubenville Catholic), Molly McCoy (Edison), Victoria Mimken (Fort Frye) and Ashley Montgomery (Meadowbrook); back row, coach Tom Joseph (Bridgeport) coach Joe Soos (Buckeye Local), Mikayla Tice (Edison), Cari Horne (Toronto), Mallory Giannamore (Steubenville), coach Barb Sleek (Fort Frye) and coach Staci Smith (Buckeye Trail). Absent were players Brey Mays and Paige DeMattio (Indian Creek) and Olivia Minamyler (Union Local).

