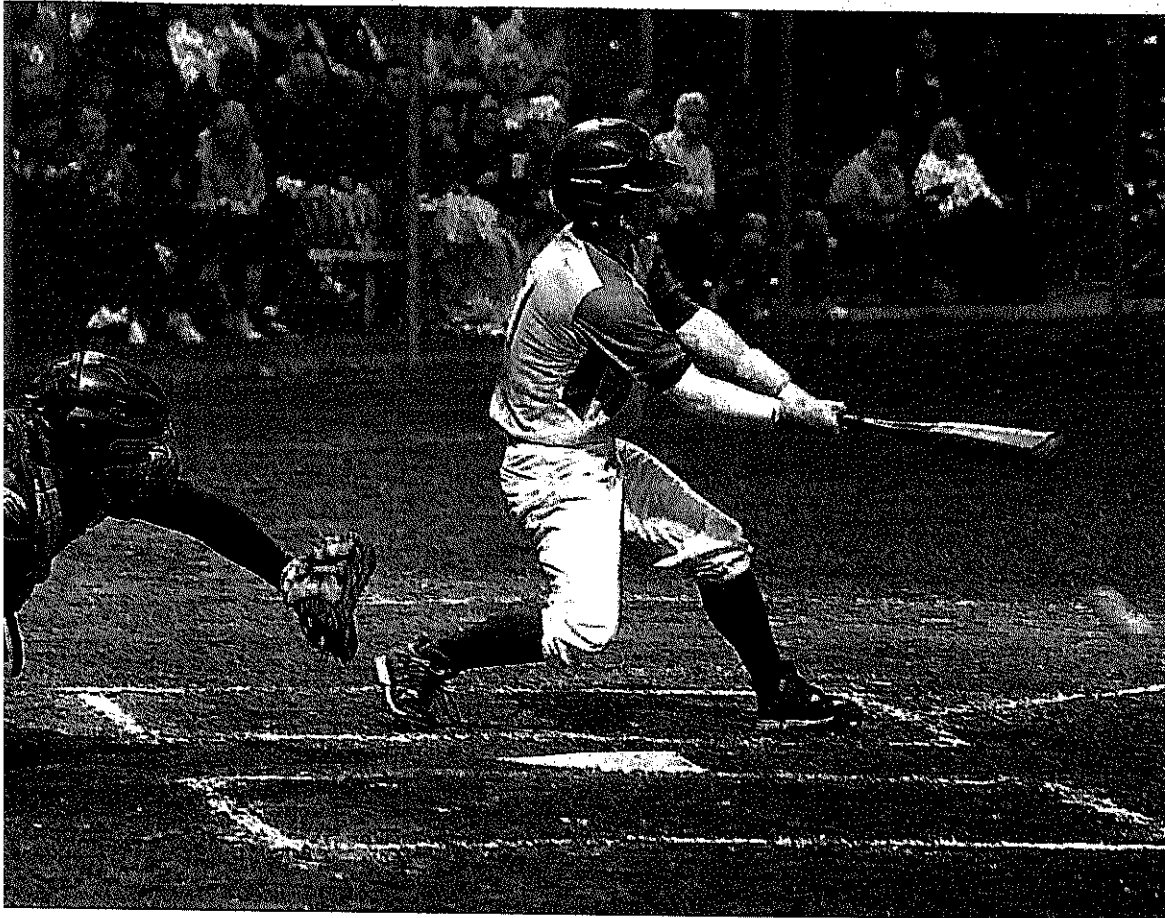


VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL & SOFTBALL — Shahue Claims 1A Title



Shahue swings at a pitch during the OVAC 1-A Championship against Paden City.

Photo by Kyle Lutz

Big Red Takes OVAC Crown

By MIKE MATHISON
For The Intelligencer
WHEELING

Steubenville scored five runs in the first two innings and junior lefty Nick Zorne pitched it hold up in a 5-0 victory against Brooke on Friday at the J.B. Chambers I-26 Youth Sports Complex to capture the OVAC Class 1A Championship.

"He is consistent," Big Red coach Fred Heatherington said of Zorne. "Whether he throws a ball or a strike, I can count on him consistently around the plate. He works fast and keeps the defense on their toes."

"We had a couple of mistakes in the field (the errors) and that's not like we overcame it at the plate. It is the third straight OVAC championship for the Red (fifth in the last seven years) and the 22nd in program history, the last two 5-A."

"I'm happy for the seniors," Heatherington said. "They come to practice and work hard every day and they get on the guys who are working hard."

"They deserve everything they get. They represent the school very well."

Zorne fanned a dozen and walked one and allowed two singles.

"Nicky Zorne threw a great ballgame," Brooke coach Fred Ujcich said. "We didn't hit the ball very well. He kept us off-balance and kept us from getting to the bases, which is key. You can't score if you can't get to base."

Steubenville sent 16 batters to the dish in the first two innings. Gino Pierro doubled and was sacrificed to third

Bellaire's Bats Come Alive

By RICK THORP
For The Intelligencer

GLEN DALE — At 6-15, Bellaire might not look, on paper, like a team poised to do big things in the postseason.

But with their lineup back intact following a season riddled by injuries, head coach John Poilek is hopeful the Big Reds can make a concerted run.

And after Friday's 9-1 triumph against John Marshall, Poilek is starting to believe more and more that his team is in a good place.

"It's hard to speculate what could've been if we'd had everyone all season long," he said. "But I think we're playing some decent ball. I think we might be a tough out in the tournament."

The Big Reds will find out Sunday where they'll play in the Ohio Division III sectional tournament. No matter where it is, or who it's against, Poilek has to feel good, especially the way his team hit against the Monarchs (4-11).

"Top to bottom, everyone put the ball on the bat really well," he said.

Especially in the second inning.

There, Bellaire pounded out six hits and scored six runs to counter JM's first-inning run to grab the lead for good.

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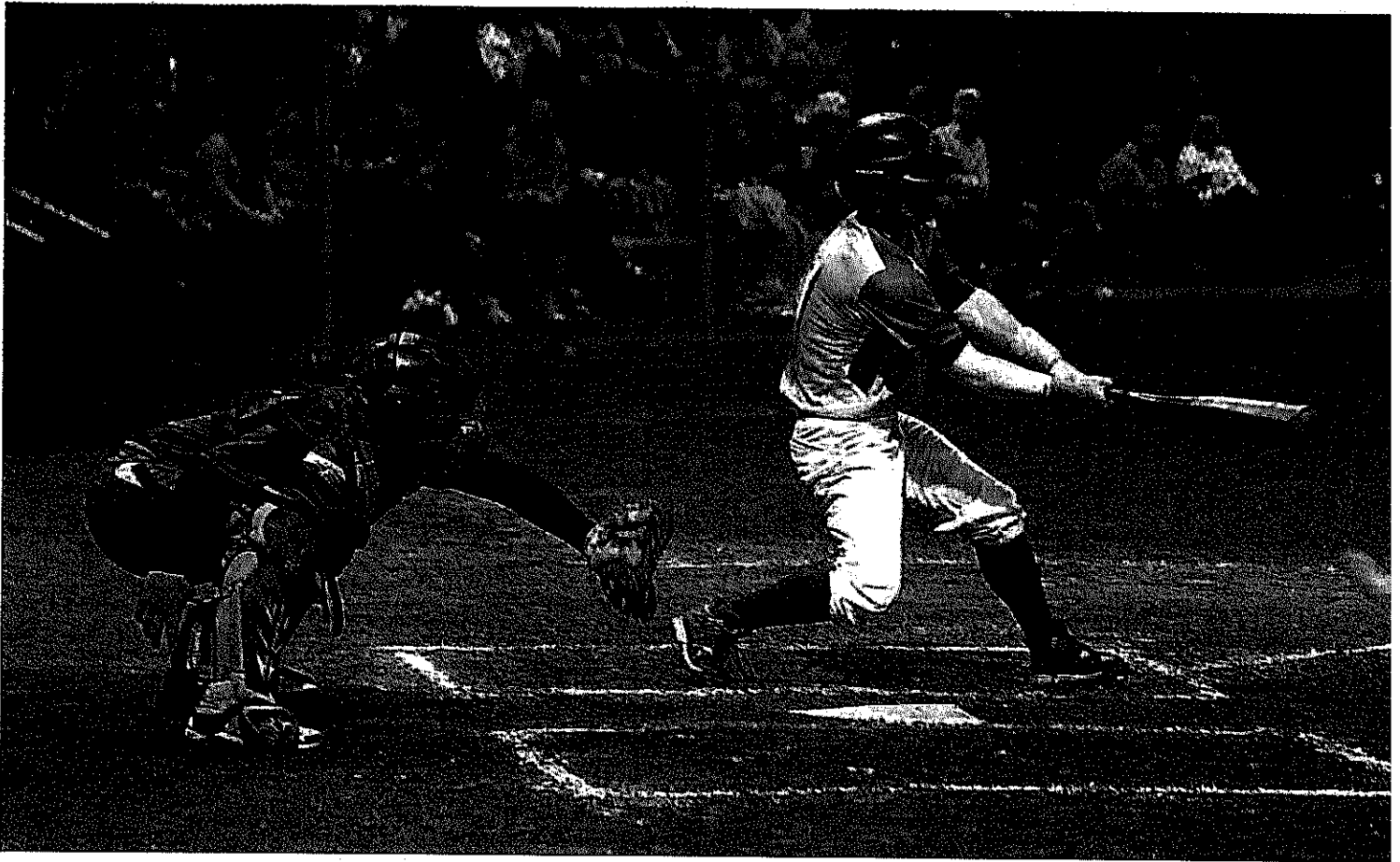
Bellaire head coach John Poilek

After the first three Big Reds hitters singled, Tyler Soos walked. But he drove in Jerod Crawford. A batter later, leadoff hitter Josh Crawford sent a slow roller up the gut that enabled Jacob

(Please see BELLAIRE,
Page 16)

(Please see BIG RED,
Page 16)

Donahue Claims 1A



Bishop Donahue's J.C. Custer swings at a pitch during the OVAC 1-A Championship against Paden City.

Photo by Kyle L

Bishops claim 2nd straight crown

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Throughout the year, it has usually taken Bishop Donahue a couple innings to warm up its bats. Friday night during the OVAC Class 1-A championship game at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex, the Bishops wasted little time. Coach Bob Kleeh's squad tallied seven runs in the first inning and six in the fourth to claim the title with a 13-1 victory against Paden City.

It is the second championship in a row for the Bishops (16-5) and fifth in the last six years.

(Please see DONAHUE, Page 16)

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(Please see BELLAIRE, Page 16)



Photo by Seth Staskey
St. Clairsville's Kyle Storer (8) is congratulated after scoring a run during the pivotal sixth inning for the Red Devils. St. Clairsville posted a 7-6 victory.

St. C. Edges Edison in 4-A

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

STEUBENVILLE — St. Clairsville head coach Tom Sliva's senior class has won a lot of games and racked up a lot of accomplishments during its baseball career.

The veteran Red Devils' skipper couldn't recall a time, however, that he's seen his team any more excited or happy.

And rightfully so, too.

The Red Devils got off the deck to defeat Edison, 7-6, and capture the OVAC Class 4A championship Saturday afternoon at Vaccaro Field on the campus of Franciscan University. The title is the Red Devils' 11th in school history and second consecutive.

"I truly mean it that we never feel like we're out of a game," Sliva said. "We've had four-run innings before. These guys have scored runs and we just needed a burst of momentum."

After watching the Wildcats get to Red Devils' starter for four earned runs before chasing him in the fifth, St. C., which had lost three straight coming into the game, didn't press any panic buttons.

"There's no doubt that things are contagious," Sliva said.

Hitting caught on for the Red Devils and provided that burst against Edison starter Tristan Haught, who had St. C. baffled with a solid offspeed pitch for many of the early innings.

Goletz led off the bottom of the sixth

Two hitters later, Brandon Ducker singled home the first two Red Devil runs. After a walk and perfectly executed drag bunt from Luke Slavik, ninth-hitter Jayden Starks got to Edison reliever Tanner Evans, who took the loss, with a two-run single, knotting the game.

"I can't begin to tell you who did what (in that sixth inning)," Sliva smiled. "It just got contagious and we got a hit, a hit, a hit and a hit. They were some big hits, too."

Senior shortstop Patrick Buchanan singled home a run, putting St. C. on top. Dylan Busby, who had two hits earlier in the game, posted a two-run single past a drawn-in infield.

Edison didn't go quietly in the seventh, however.

After a lead-off single from Colin Scott, Blomquist got the next two hitters with relative ease. St. C. then committed a two-base error on the infield, putting runners on second and third.

"That seventh inning is one of the reasons why coaches end up with gray hairs," Sliva smiled. "

Evans promptly laced a single through the infield, scoring two runs.

However, Blomquist beared down and got a ground out to end the game.

"Early in the game, we had some runners on and we weren't able to capitalize," Edison head coach Mike Collopy said. "We can always look back and say, 'what if?' But, you have to give a lot of credit to



Photo by Seth St

St. Clairsville's Kyle Storer (8) is congratulated after scoring a run during the final sixth inning for the Red Devils. St. Clairsville posted a 7-6 victory.

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Red Devils Blank Ferry, 1-

By KIM NORTH
For the News-Register

WHEELING — For the first time in more than two decades, St. Clairsville has won an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference softball championship. It was the third title overall, but first since 1995.

The Red Devils (20-1) avenged their lone loss of the season to rival Martins Ferry with an identical 1-0 victory in the Class 4A title tilt on Lisa's Field Saturday morning at the 1,470-foot

teams are good hitting teams and both play decent in the field."

St. Clairsville had but one runner through three innings against Martins Ferry senior Shaye DeLeonardis. However, the Red Devils broke through in the fourth when freshman Taylor Gallentine legged on an infield single to the hole at short. She stole second before being sacrificed to third on a perfect bunt by senior Jolyn Shunk, who was safe when the

Castellucci struck out in game 1, while Steffens fanned six in Game 2.

Taylor Simala finished the day with five singles and five RBIs.

BASEBALL
OVAC Class 2-A
Championship

Toronto 2, Caldwell 1
STEUBENVILLE
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"This feels amazing," St. Clairsville head coach Rachel Duncan said. "This is one of the goals we set every year and we've been working towards this all season. I'm just so proud of all the girls ... the effort they put forth and the energy they played with."

Amaya Smith was once again the story for St. Clairsville, both inside the circle and at the plate. The sophomore struck out a dozen, hit Abby Bumbico twice and allowed just two hits — a pair of harmless singles by senior Bri Webb. She also drove in the game's only run in the bottom of the fourth inning.

The Purple Riders (15-7) managed just four baserunners all game. Bumbico drove it to third with two hits in the top of the second, but Smith got a strikeout to end that threat. No other runner reached second.

"I think we knew the game was going to be like this. Both teams have great pitchers," Martins Ferry head coach Paige Williams said. "Offensively, both

teams are good hitting teams and both play decent in the field."

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The Purple Riders were on the verge of escaping the jam when Adrian Smith's bunt was caught by DeLeonardis, who threw to Bumbico covering first for a double play. Amaya Smith was behind 0-2 in the count before lofting a soft single into right-center that easily scored Gallentine.

Class 3-A

Buckeye Trail 5

Steub. Catholic 4

ELM GROVE — Maybelline Rodriguez's RBI single provided the winning run in Buckeye Trail's victory, ending Steubenville Catholic's string of OVAc crowns at three.

The Crusaders jumped out to a 4-1 lead through four innings before the Warriors jumped in front with a big fifth.

Brooke Colvin tripled during the inning for Buckeye Trail (22-2).

Regular Season

East Liverpool 0-0

Brooke 3-9

WELLSBURG — Katie Castellucci and Jerilyn Stevens both threw one-hitters as Brooke twice blanked East Liverpool.

Castellucci struck out 17 in game 1, while Stevens fanned six in Game 2.

Taylor Simala finished the day with five singles and five RBI.

BASEBALL

OVAC Class 2-A

Championship

Toronto 2, Caldwell 0

STEUBENVILLE —

Top-ranked Toronto got a one-hitter from Zdinak and a double from Blaze Glenn.

Riley Keirse and Jake Keenan both drove in runs for the Red Knights (16-1), the No. 1 team in the latest Ohio Division IV poll.

Harrison Central 12,

Steub. Catholic 1

CADIZ — Harrison

Central exploded for eight third-inning runs in jump-starting its five-inning victory against Steubenville Catholic.

Eight players drove in runs for the Huskies, led by Kyle Zaucha, who had two. Dustin Redish doubled.

Redish picked up the win, striking out five and allowing five hits.

Tyler Consolidated 5-2

Ravenswood 0-12

RAVENSWOOD — Jordan Baker fired a two-hitter as Tyler Consolidated took the first game of a twinbill against Ravenswood.

The Silver Knights (14-9) scored four runs in the fifth inning to take command. Colby Buchanan laced two singles and drove in a run.

Weir 5, East Liverpool 2

EAST LIVERPOOL —

Chris Gillette smacked a triple and drove in three runs as Weir topped East Liverpool.

Matt Komorowski added an RBI for the Red Riders (13-8).

Caldwell falls to Toronto in 2A final again

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

STEUBENVILLE — For the second year in a row, Caldwell High pushed state power Toronto to the limit in the OVAC Class 2A Championship Game, but once again it was the Red Knights who came out on top with a 2-0 victory over the

Redskins at Vaccaro Field on Saturday.

Toronto - ranked No. 1 in this week's OHSBCA Division IV state poll - received a "gift" run early and tacked on an insurance tally late to emerge on the plus side in what was otherwise a pitchers' duel.

The Red Knights scored

the game's first run in the bottom of the second without the benefit of a hit.

Sante Carducci reached via a walk before Riley Keirsey hit an infield grounder

which appeared destined for a double-play, but a miscue resulted in both runners being safe.

After a sacrifice bunt by Will Newbold advanced the runners to second and third, Nate Karaffa and Jake Keenan induced back-to-back walks, with the latter forcing in Carducci to five Toronto a 1-0 advantage.

"Coming in, we knew we had to make them earn everything they got and unfortunately we gave them that first run," said Caldwell coach Brian Wheeldin.

Toronto tallied the game's only other run in the sixth.

Three-sport standout Blaze Glenn led off with

OVAC CLASS 2A CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
TORONTO 2, CALDWELL 0
Caldwell: 000 000 0 — 0 1 3
Toronto: 010 001 x — 2 2 2
Caleb Heller (LP 4-3, 2 Ks, 3 BB) and Clark Jennings, Dan Zdiniak (WP, 2 Ks, 1 BB) and Jake Keenan.
RECORDS—Caldwell 13-5; Toronto 16-1.
STATS — For Caldwell, Tanner Clark, single. For Toronto, Blaze Glenn, double, run; Will Newbold, single; Keenan, RBI; Riley Keirsey, RBI; Sante Carducci, run.

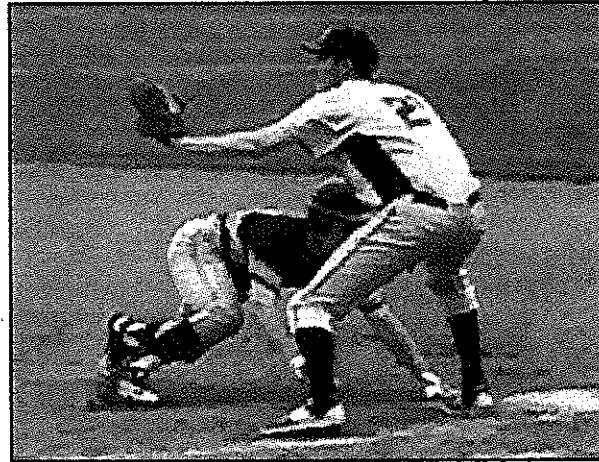
his team's first hit - a double to left-center - and after moving to third on a ground-out, he scored on a sacrifice fly-RBI off the bat of Keirsey to make it 2-0.

From there, Toronto pitcher Dan Zdiniak finished off a one-hit performance with a pair of fly-outs to center surrounding a walk and a fielder's choice grounder. Zdiniak's route-going performance included two strikeouts and one walk, with the only hit a lead-off single by Caldwell senior Tanner Clark.

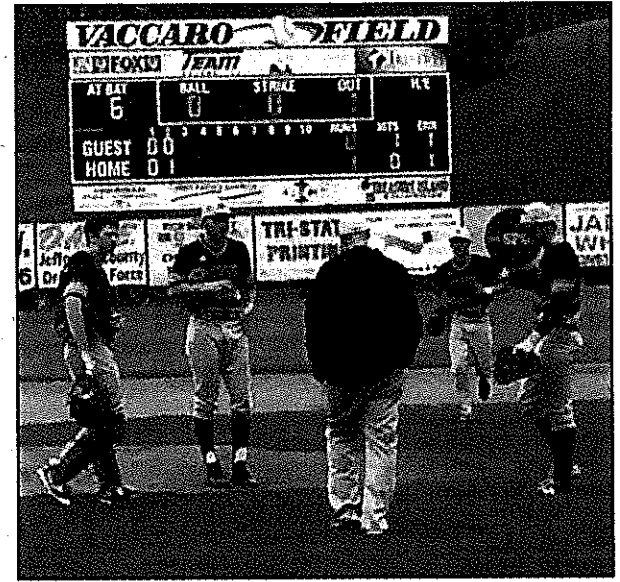
Caleb Heller (4-3) took the loss for Caldwell on a two-hitter with two Ks



CALDWELL



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian/buyjeffphotos.com Caldwell High's Jack Ridenour dives back safely as Toronto first baseman Riley Keirsey awaits the throw during Saturday's OVAC Class 2A Championship Game at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville. Toronto beat Caldwell for the second year in a row, this time by a 2-0 count."



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian/buyjeffphotos.com Caldwell High coach Brian Wheeldin heads to the mound as the entire infield converges around pitcher Caleb Heller during Saturday's OVAC Class 2A Championship Game at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville. The Red Knights beat the Redskins, 2-0.

and the fateful three free passes.

"He pitched well," Wheeldin said of Heller. "He just ran into a little issue in the second inning and we had a couple of mental errors that you can't have against a good team."

Caldwell (13-5) hit the ball "on the screws" sev-

eral times in the loss, but each time Toronto's fielders were up to the challenge.

"I thought we hit the baseball hard all day, but they made plays," said Wheeldin. "We can't hang our heads...we played well."

See FALLS page B-3

Tough loss for 'Skins

FALLS from page B-1

"I'm very proud of the way our kids came out here and battled," he continued. "They're the number one team in the state for a reason, but I think we're a pretty good team, too.

"Hopefully, we'll get another shot at them later on in the tournament," the CHS coach added.

Three straight appearances in the Class 2A title game, including the championship in 2014, were not to be overlooked by Coach Wheeldin.

"This senior group was the first group to get here and win it," he said, "and for them to get here three years in a row is a great accomplishment."

The conference title was the eight overall for Toronto, which is now 16-1.

In the other OVAC title games, it was Bishop Donahue routing Paden City, 13-1, in Class 1A and Steubenville blanking Brooke, 5-0, in Class 5A on Friday while Saturday's other games saw St. Clairsville rally to beat Edison, 7-6, in Class 4A and Linsly down Fort Frye, 8-2, in Class 3A.

NEXT— Caldwell will take on River on Monday at 7 p.m. at Marietta College.