

2016
O.V.A.C.
SOFTBALL
CHAMPIONSHIPS



SATURDAY, APRIL 30
J.B. CHAMBERS COMPLEX
I-470 BALL PARKS
WHEELING, WV

**BISHOP DONAHUE
BISHOPS**

vs.

**MADONNA
BLUE DONS**



1	Tiara Bertrand	FR
2	Mackenzie Gillis	SO
3	Abbey Mele	SR
5	Jamie Emery	SO
6	Josie Bonar	JR
7	Sarah Heller	FR
12	Jennifer Little	JR
13	Elena Polinski	SO
14	Hailey Dobrzynski	FR
20	Maddie Menendez	FR
21	Jewel Purpura	JR
24	Sommer South	SR
37	Hope Ruza	JR
40	Maddie Adkins	SO

HEAD COACH: CURT MELE
ASST. COACH: JOJO MENENDEZ
RON SOUTH

2	Courtney Kaczmarek	SR
3	Rachel Boniti	FR
6	Sarah Travglino	SR
7	Gianna Mascio	SO
8	Mikayla Sole	FR
9	Abriana Fuscardo	SO
13	Becca Holt	SR
14	Maria Rotni	SR
15	Gia Riccadonna	FR
17	Megan Boniti	SR
22	Sophia Recrosio	FR
33	Taylor Thompson	SR

HEAD COACH: CRIS CONTI
ASST. COACH: ANTHONY COLANGELO,
JANNA LAMANTIA, RICK BERNABEI,
REBECCA STEWART

**WHEELING CENTRAL
MAROON KNIGHTS**

vs.

**RIVER
PILOTS**



1	Jordyn Smith	SR
2	Allie Cook	SR
3	Bailey Nixon	FR
4	Julia Padden	SO
5	Hannah Mazingo	JR
6	Emilee Ondrik	SO
7	Marissa Garlitz	SO
8	Kaitlyn Angalich	FR
9	Riley Bennington	SO
10	Kaitlyn Ferns	FR
12	Abigail Davidson	SO
13	Sara Palmer	FR
14	Baily Rehm	SR
15	Alexis Saunders	SO
16	Kayla Gilligan	FR
17	Shayna Caldwell	SO
21	Olivia Carpenter	SO
23	Jai'Ehir Jackson	SR
25	Maria Murphy	SO

HEAD COACH: RICK MAGRUDER
ASST. COACH: AMBROSE BOBER,
ED CIHY, JOHN KABALA

1	Riley Lollathin	FR
2	Kaley Vankirk	FR
3	Candace Caldwell	FR
6	Madie Taylor	SR
7	Live Rose	FR
10	Brissa Marshall	JR
13	Bailey Caldwell	JR
14	Rosey Romick	SR
15	Izi Swords	FR
16	Kylie Cross	FR
17	Faith Ingram	FR
20	Lexi Piatt	JR
24	Morgan Mahoney	FR
26	Emelie Heater	JR

HEAD COACH: DAVID WRIGHT
ASST. COACH: TIM TISHER, CASEY
TISHER, JOHN RUFENER

**STEUBENVILLE
CATHOLIC CENTRAL
CRUSADERS**

vs

**BUCKEYE TRAIL
WARRIORS**

1 Maddy Metcalf	SR
2 Karmen DiBiase	FR
3 Rachel Dziejatkoski	SR
8 Emily Bottegal	FR
12 Shayna Mirabella	JR
13 Brittany Bertoia	JR
14 Tia Taglione	SO
16 Abigail Miller	SR
18 Veronica Phillipson	FR
20 Alleigh Amaismeier	SO
22 Gabby Capaldi	JR
24 Lauren Jones	SO
32 Torrie Grandinetti	SO

0 Alexxys Roe	SO
1 Megan Warne	SR
2 Ally Rogers	SO
3 Amber Colvin	SO
4 Kaitlyn Lallathin	SO
7 Cassidy Dobbins	SO
9 Martha Reitter	SO
11 Alexis Wheeler	JR
12 Jenni Carmichael	SO
14 Alli McVicker	SO
16 Maria Shane	SO
17 Hannah Smith	SO
18 Randi-Leigh Rippeth	SO
24 Brooke Colvin	SO
32 Maybelline Rodriguez	SO

COACHES: PAIGE CREAMER,
BILL DAVIS, JIM DICARLO, JOHN
GIANNAMORE, BILLY LAMANTIA

COACH: STACI SMITH
ASST. COACH: JACK ABRAMS, CHAD
COLVIN, ALEXA ABRAMS

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE
RED DEVILS**

vs

**MARTINS FERRY
PURPLE RIDERS**

1 Bree Bennington	FR
2 Kassidy Stephens	FR
6 Madison Vickers	SO
8 Hailey McCort	FR
9 Jessica Espen	JR
15 Taylor Gallentine	FR
16 Amanda Ballard	SO
19 Jolyn Shunk	SR
20 Ari Reager	SO
21 Adrian Smith	SR
22 Amaya Smith	SO
23 Kaley Garloch	SR
34 Hannah Stachyra	SO
45 Katelynne Davenport	FR

1 Kiersten Meeker	SR
2 Alea Funkhouser	FR
4 Jacie Wells	FR
5 Alexis Walton	FR
7 Kelsey Spielvogel	SR
9 Sydni Trudo	FR
11 Shaye DeLeonardis	SR
13 Amanda Jacob	SO
14 Bri Webb	SR
17 Abby Bumbico	FR
21 Sydney Bridges	JR
22 Justice Hall	FR
23 Tyrah King	SR
25 Mercedes McCleod	JR

HEAD COACH: RACHEL DUNCAN
ASST. COACH: LAUREN FIGURA

HEAD COACH: PAIGE WILLIAMS
ASST. COACH: MEAGAN TOTTERDALE
AMANDA WHITE, PERI POWELL, MIKE
DELEONARDIS



**A
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**JOHN MARSHALL
MONARCHS**

vs.

**WHEELING PARK
PATRIOTS**

2 Taylor Gray FR
3 Mary Tennant SR
4 Bailey Filben SR
5 Kendra Smertneck SO
6 Katie Whorton JR
7 Lydia Knutsen FR
8 Hannah Morris JR
9 Lauren Garcia SO
11 Alyssa Blake SR
12 Carli Lightner SO
15 Ravyn Schultz JR
17 Maddy Mayle SO
18 Cassidy McCord SR

1 Catie Nesbitt FR
3 Skylar Minzler SR
4 Kelsey Chacolas FR
5 Erica Ruth SR
8 Hannah Archer SR
9 Loral Saunders JR
11 Ashley Linder FR
13 Makenzie Amend JR
15 Megan Stanford JR
20 Ateria Walker SO
22 Madlyn Miller SO
23 Haley Flick SO
27 Colleen Tracy SR
30 Kat Donzella JR

COACHES: ED WEST, ERIC BOOTH,
ROD SWOGER, DENNY PHILLIPS,
ROBBIE BLAKE

COACHES: PAT DURKIN, DON
NEWLAND, AMY HENSLER, MIKE
MATHIEU

ALL STAR

GAME

TUESDAY, MAY 31

6:30 P.M.

JB CHAMBERS COMPLEX

I-470 BALL PARKS

OVAC Tom Bechtel Softball Championship



Photo by Seth Staskey

Martins Ferry pitcher Shaye DeLeonardis throws a pitch during the first inning of Tuesday's OVAC Class 4-A semifinal against Edison. The Riders prevailed, 2-1, to advance to Saturday's championship game.

DeLeonardis Powers MF

Purple Riders beat Edison in semifinals

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Martins Ferry and Edison played Monday at Jefferson Lake State Park in a regularly scheduled game.

With an OVAC semifinal slated

ence in Tuesday's meeting in the OVAC Class 4-A Tournament on Ben's Field.

Couple Shaye DeLeonardis' pitching and a huge swing of the bat of senior shortstop Tyrah King and the result was a 2-1 Martins Ferry victory against the Wildcats.

"It happens (in softball)," Edison coach Spencer Bendle said. "We just didn't do anything offensively. Give (DeLeonardis) credit because she

outs and zero walk.

"Shaye wants this pretty bad," Ferry coach Paige Williams said. "She's been throwing really well. She's moving the ball, hitting her spots and her velocity has picked up."

The Riders missed an opportunity to score in the first when they stranded DeLeonardis at third.

King, however, made sure they

Crusaders Oust Noles

McComb is too much in the circle

By **KIM NORTH**
For The Intelligencer
WHEELING — Steubenville Catholic continued its string of playing for a Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference softball tournament championship when it defeated Monroe Central, 7-2, in a Class 3-A semifinal Tuesday on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

The top-seeded Crusaders (16-1) have been in five straight OVAC title tilts while flip-flopping between Class 2-A and Class 3-A. They will be seeking their fourth consecutive championship, and second in Class 3-A. They won the other 3-A title in 2014 when they beat Magnolia and Bellaire. Their 2-A crowns have come in 2013 (Wheeling Central) and 2015 (Shady-side).

"We've had some success here," veteran Steubenville Catholic coach Jim DiCarlo said of playing at I-470. "I

thought we played a decent game."

Steubenville Catholic scored four times in the first inning and added two more in the second in breaking out to a 6-0 advantage.

Brit Bertoia singled in a run and winning pitcher Alex McComb made it 2-0 with a run-scoring groundout. Shayna Mirabella was hit by a pitch and after the second out was recorded, Maddy Metcalf reached on an error as Mirabella took third. Metcalf stole second just before Rachel Dziewatkowski smacked a single up the middle that scored both runners.

Mirabella made it 6-0 in the second with a two-out single that plate Gabby Capaldi and Bertoia.

"We had some real clutch hits with two outs," DiCarlo said. "Rachel had a big one there in the first inning and Shayna had another big one in the second."

The fourth-seeded Seminoles (6-10) threatened in the first, but some poor baserunning took them out of that

Please See
CRUSADERS, Page 15

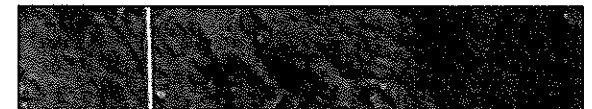




Photo by Seth Staskey

Martins Ferry pitcher Shaye DeLeonardis throws a pitch during the first inning of Tuesday's OVAC Class 4-A semifinal against Edison. The Riders prevailed, 2-1, to advance to Saturday's championship game.

DeLeonardis Powers MF

Purple Riders beat Edison in semifinals

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Martins Ferry and Edison played Monday at Jefferson Lake State Park in a regularly scheduled game.

With an OVAC semifinal slated for 24 hours later neither team tipped its hand, holding ace pitchers out and Edison prevailed, 5-2.

That ace pitching made a differ-

ence in Tuesday's meeting in the OVAC Class 4-A Tournament on Ben's Field.

Couple Shaye DeLeonardis' pitching and a huge swing of the bat of senior shortstop Tyrah King and the result was a 2-1 Martins Ferry victory against the Wildcats.

"It happens (in softball)," Edison coach Spencer Bendle said. "We just didn't do anything offensively. Give (DeLeonardis) credit because she evidently baffled us."

DeLeonardis was sharp from the outset. She sat the first nine down in order and finished with nine strike-

outs and zero walk.

"Shaye wants this pretty bad," Ferry coach Paige Williams said. "She's been throwing really well. She's moving the ball, hitting her spots and her velocity has picked up."

The Riders missed an opportunity to score in the first when they stranded DeLeonardis at third.

King, however, made sure they got a couple of runs in the third. After Jace Wells was plunked to lead off the frame, Edison ace Lucia

Please See MF, Page 14

Red Devils, Smith Blank Colts

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — St. Clairsville felt confident entering its OVAC Class 4-A semifinal against Meadowbrook. Why not?

The Red Devils had already posted a pair of victories against the Colts during the course of the season. The confidence, along with fine pitching, defense and timely hitting, helped guide St. Clairsville to a 4-0 victory and a trip to the conference championship game where they'll meet rival Martins Ferry for the first time since losing to the Riders on March 30.

"We're ready," Red Devils coach Rachel Duncan said.

Before focus could shift completely to the Riders, the Devils had to deal with the Colts. St. C. wasted no time in asserting itself.

Freshman Taylor Gallentine singled and senior JoLyn Shunk drew a walk. Gallentine moved up on a wild pitch and came home when sophomore ace Amaya Smith helped her own cause with a single.

"A big part of (our success) was being able to jump on them early," Duncan said. "Getting (Smith) an early run is very important. It changes the whole game when

everything starts like that because it keeps everyone positive."

A one-run lead with Smith in the circle often times feels like upward of 10 for an opposing team. Smith was on her game again, fanning eight Colts, allowing two hits and was she the beneficiary of error-free defense.

"Our defense did a good job," Duncan continued. "She may not have had as many strikeouts, but she kept them off balance and had good movement on her pitches. It was a good job from everyone."

Please See DEVILS, Page 14

Central, 7-2, in a Class 3-A semifinal Tuesday on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

The top-seeded Crusaders (16-1) have been in five straight OVAC title tilts while flip-flopping between Class 2-A and Class 3-A. They will be seeking their fourth consecutive championship, and second in Class 3-A. They won the other 3-A title in 2014 when they beat Magnolia and Bellaire. Their 2-A crowns have come in 2013 (Wheeling Central) and 2015 (Shady-side).

"We've had some success here," veteran Steubenville Catholic coach Jim DiCarlo said of playing at I-470. "I

on an error as Mirabella took third. Metcalf stole second just before Rachel Dziewatkowski smacked a single up the middle that scored both runners.

Mirabella made it 6-0 in the second with a two-out single that plate Gabby Capaldi and Bertoina.

"We had some real clutch hits with two outs," DiCarlo said. "Rachel had a big one there in the first inning and Shayna had another big one in the second."

The fourth-seeded Seminoles (6-10) threatened in the first, but some poor baserunning took them out of that

Please See
CRUSADERS, Page 15

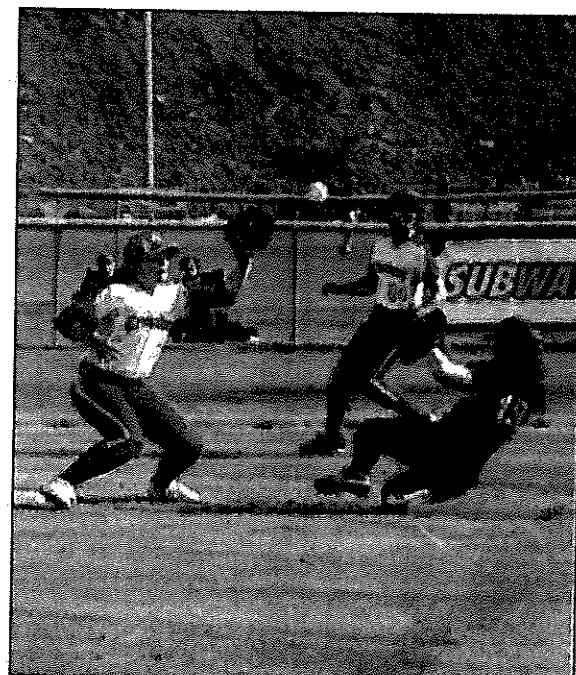


Photo by Kim North

Monroe Central's Gracie Gardner (13) slides into second as Steubenville Catholic's Gabby Capaldi takes a throw.

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Komorowski (7) OSO, OW) and Allen.
Spencer 2S; Rosnick 2D, 3rbi; Mills 2D,
rbi; Gillette D, 2S, 3rbi; Enrietti D, S,
2rbi; Bodrog D, rbi; Allen S, rbi.
S — Vincenzo 1SO, 1W, Starks (3)

E — Kramarich wp (4SO, 1W) and
Scott, Platt 2S, rbi; Blawski 3S; Scott
2S; Siniropi S, D; Evans S, D, 3rbi.
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B — Mancuso Ip (1SO, OW) and
Bennington.
B — A.Rush (4SO, 2W), Beazel (4)
wp (6SO, 1W), Barry (7) (1SO, 1W) and
Nick, Clark 2S.

PREP SOFTBALL

C Class 4-A
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rbi; Reager T, 2rbi; Bennington D.
Tom Bechtel QVAC Class 3-A
Semifinals
at Lisa's Field, J.B. Chambers I-470
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Staubenville Catholic 7
Monroe Central 2
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M — Logston Ip (6SO, OW) and
Kuhn, Williams (3). Logston D; Schnei-
der D; Yoho 2S, rbi.
S — McComb wp (7SO, 1W) and
Mirabella, Bertola 2S, rbi; McComb S,
rbi; Mirabella S, T, 2rbi; Dziewiatkowski
3S, 2rbi; Taglione 2S, rbi.
Buckeye Trail 6, Bellaire 0
Bellaire 000 000 0 — 0 4 2
Buckeye Trail 114 000 x — 6 9 1
Be — McAninch Ip (2SO, OW), Bur-
ney (3) (3SO, 1W) and Garloch, Garloch
T.
Bu — Smith wp (10SO, 4W) and
Rippeth, B.Colvin S, T; A.Colvin S, rbi;
Smith S, rbi; Carmichael S, rbi;
Rodriguez S, rbi; McVicker S, 2rbi.
REGULAR SEASON
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Burgettstown 002 002 6 — 10 14 1
Weir 001 000 2 — 3 6 3
B — Tarr wp (8SO, OW) and
N.Winters. C.Carnes D, 2rbi; T.Carnes
3S; Tarr D, rbi; Thurman D, 2S, rbi;
Abbott S, D, rbi; Elleck 2S, rbi;
C.Winters D; N.Winters S; Hollison
rbi.
W — Rosnick Ip (7SO, 1W), Kacz-
marek (7) (1SO, 2W) and Breneman.
Difuria S, D, rbi; Stevens D; Kaczmarek
D, 2rbi; Kush S, T.

OXES

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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE										
East Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Baltimore	11	8	.579	—	—	4-6	L-3	7-1	4-7	
Boston	11	9	.550	1/2	—	5-5	W-3	4-6	7-3	
Tampa Bay	10	10	.500	1 1/2	1	7-3	W-3	7-5	3-5	
Toronto	10	12	.455	2 1/2	2	5-5	L-2	5-6	5-6	
New York	8	11	.421	3	2 1/2	4-6	L-1	5-7	3-4	
Central Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Chicago	15	6	.714	—	—	7-3	W-5	6-3	9-3	
Kansas City	12	7	.632	2	—	5-5	L-1	8-3	4-4	
Cleveland	9	9	.500	4 1/2	1	5-5	L-2	3-5	6-4	
Detroit	9	10	.474	5	1 1/2	3-7	L-1	3-6	6-4	
Minnesota	7	14	.333	8	4 1/2	5-5	W-2	6-4	1-10	
West Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Seattle	10	9	.526	—	—	7-3	W-2	2-5	8-4	
Oakland	11	10	.524	—	1/2	7-3	W-1	3-7	8-3	
Texas	11	10	.524	—	1/2	5-5	W-1	7-4	4-6	
Los Angeles	9	11	.450	1 1/2	2	4-6	W-1	4-6	5-5	
Houston	6	14	.300	4 1/2	5	3-7	L-2	4-6	2-8	
NATIONAL LEAGUE										
East Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Washington	14	5	.737	—	—	6-4	L-1	8-2	6-3	
New York	12	7	.632	2	—	8-2	W-5	4-4	8-3	
Philadelphia	10	10	.500	4 1/2	1 1/2	5-5	W-1	5-5	5-5	
Miami	7	11	.389	6 1/2	3 1/2	4-6	W-2	2-7	5-4	
Atlanta	4	16	.200	10 1/2	7 1/2	3-7	L-7	1-12	3-4	
Central Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Chicago	15	5	.750	—	—	7-3	W-2	5-2	10-3	
Pittsburgh	12	9	.571	3 1/2	—	7-3	W-3	5-3	7-6	
St. Louis	10	9	.526	4 1/2	1	5-5	L-1	5-4	5-5	
Cincinnati	9	12	.429	6 1/2	3	3-7	L-3	8-5	1-7	
Milwaukee	8	12	.400	7	3 1/2	3-7	L-1	5-6	3-6	
West Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Los Angeles	12	8	.600	—	—	6-4	L-1	4-3	8-5	
Arizona	11	10	.524	1 1/2	1	7-3	W-1	4-7	7-3	
San Francisco	10	11	.476	2 1/2	2	4-6	W-1	6-6	4-5	
Colorado	9	11	.450	3	2 1/2	3-7	L-4	4-7	5-4	
San Diego	7	13	.350	5	4 1/2	4-6	L-3	4-8	3-5	
AMERICAN LEAGUE Monday's Games										
Chicago White Sox 7, Toronto 5										
Tampa Bay 2, Baltimore 0										
Boston 1, Atlanta 0										
Detroit 7, Oakland 3										
N.Y. Yankees 3, Texas 1										
Minnesota 4, Cleveland 3										
L.A. Angels 6, Kansas City 1										
Seattle 3, Houston 2										
Tuesday's Games										
Chicago White Sox 10, Toronto 1										
Tampa Bay 3, Baltimore 1										
Boston 11, Atlanta 4										
Oakland 5, Detroit 1										
Texas 10, N.Y. Yankees 1										
Minnesota 6, Cleveland 5										
Kansas City at L.A. Angels, late										
Houston at Seattle, late										
Tonight's Probable Pitchers										
Chicago White Sox (Quintana 2-1) at Toronto (Estrada 1-1), 7:07 p.m.										
Atlanta (B.Norris 1-3) at Boston (S.Wright 1-2), 7:10 p.m.										
Baltimore (Tillman 1-1) at Tampa Bay (Moore 1-1), 7:10 p.m.										
Oakland (S.Gray 3-1) at Detroit (Verlander 1-2), 7:10 p.m.										
N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 1-1) at Texas (M.Perez 0-2), 8:05 p.m.										
Cleveland (Tomlin 2-0) at Minnesota (Berrios 0-0), 8:10 p.m.										
Kansas City (C.Young 1-3) at L.A. Angels										
NATIONAL LEAGUE Monday's Games										
Boston 1, Atlanta 0										
N.Y. Mets 5, Cincinnati 3										
Pittsburgh 6, Colorado 1										
Arizona 12, St. Louis 7										
Miami 3, L.A. Dodgers 2										
San Francisco 5, San Diego 4										
Tuesday's Games										
Philadelphia 4, Washington 3										
Boston 11, Atlanta 4										
N.Y. Mets 4, Cincinnati 3										
Chicago Cubs 4, Milwaukee 3										
Pittsburgh 9, Colorado 4										
St. Louis at Arizona, late										
Miami at L.A. Dodgers, late										
San Diego at San Francisco, late										
Today's Probable Pitchers										
San Diego (Cashner 1-1) at San Francisco (Samardzija 2-1), 3:45 p.m.										
Philadelphia (Hellickson 1-1) at Washington (G.Gonzalez 1-0), 7:05 p.m.										
Atlanta (B.Norris 1-3) at Boston (S.Wright 1-2), 7:10 p.m.										
Cincinnati (Moscot 0-1) at N.Y. Mets (Harvey 1-3), 7:10 p.m.										
Milwaukee (Jungmann 0-3) at Chicago Cubs (Arrieta 4-0), 8:05 p.m.										
Pittsburgh (Innes 3-0) at Colorado (J.Gray 0-0), 8:40 p.m.										
St. Louis (Wainwright 0-3) at Arizona (Corbin 1-2), 9:40 p.m.										
Miami (Nicolino 0-0) at L.A. Dodgers										

EVERDIAS. Wheeling opened the series with a 6-3 victory in Estero, but dropped 4-1 and 6-3 decisions in the next two games, falling behind 2-1. However, the Nailers staged another dramatic comeback, stunning Florida with five of the last six markers in a 5-4 victory in Game 4, which helped lead to two more one-goal victories, 4-3 in Game 5 and 2-1 in Game 6.

Reading was involved in a back-and-forth series against the Walleye. The Royals came away victorious in Games 1, 3, and 5, while the Walleye took Games 2, 4, and 6, leading to a decisive seventh match at Huntington Center. Kevin Gourmas played the role of hero in that contest, netting a hat trick in a 4-1 win.

The Nailers and Royals are far from strangers, as they faced each other 11 times during the regular season. After splitting the first six matches, Wheeling took care of business in the final five, winning four times,

two sides locked up in the opening round of both the 2004 and 2006 playoffs. In 2004, the Royals escaped with a five-game series win, thanks to a 30-save shutout by Cody Rudkowsky at WesBanco Arena in the decisive fifth clash.

Wheeling got its revenge in 2006, needing only four of the five games to dispose of Reading, completing the set with a 5-4 win at then Sovereign Center.

The tickets that will be utilized during this series will be Game D (April 29), Game E (May 2), Game F (May 9), and Game G (May 11). Fans can purchase playoff packages, starting as low as \$12 per ticket by calling (304) 234-GOAL.

The Nailers office will be open from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. today and Thursday. Season ticket holders must contact the office to reserve their tickets for Round 2.

Similar to the opening round, all kids tickets will be free for the four home games.

MF

(Continued from Page 13)

Eroshevich retired the next two Purple Riders hitters with relative ease.

After getting ahead in the count, King took an Eroshevich fastball well over the right-center fence.

"She can hit it a long way when she gets a hold of it," Williams said. "We've been trying to tell her that she doesn't need to try to kill the ball. She just needs to meet it because she has a powerful bat and it gets out there in a hurry."

The Purple Riders narrowly missed going back-to-back as Mercedez McLeod hit a towering fly ball that clanged directly off the top of the fence and back onto the field of play. She was stranded at second.

Regardless, it was plenty for DeLeonardis.

Edison got a runner to second in both the fourth and fifth innings before breaking through in the sixth. Shortstop Skylar Fankhouser, who had two hits, came around to score on a sacrifice fly by Sam Springer.

The Wildcats didn't go quietly in the seventh either. Eroshevich ripped a double down the left-field

line. She was then sacrificed to third. DeLeonardis didn't even flinch. She induced a come-backer and then a ground out to thwart the rally.

"You think you have a comfortable lead, need only three outs and a lead-off double can put a damper on things," Williams said. "Shaye did a great job of pitching out of the jam. We work a lot on situations in practice, so apparently we're doing something right."

The inability of his team to get a clutch hit left Bendle perplexed.

"We looked at too many good strikes, swung at some bad ones ... I don't know," Bendle said. "We've played a really good schedule and to perform offensively like we did, is disappointing."

Along with King and McLeod, Amanda Jacob also produced two hits for the Riders offense.

Martins Ferry will return to the Chambers' I-470 Complex to meet St. Clairsville for the conference title, but the official start time hasn't been set because the Purple Riders have their prom Saturday.

DEVILS

SPORTS

Wednesday
April 27, 2016

Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Tournament

St. C. shuts down Meadowbrook in Class 4A semi

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

ELM GROVE — St. Clairsville felt confident entering its OVAC Class 4A semifinal against Meadowbrook.

And why not? The Red Devils had already posted a pair of victories against the Colts during the course of the season.

The confidence — along with fine pitching, defense and timely hitting — helped guide the Devils to a 4-0 victory and a trip to the conference championship game where they'll meet rival Martins Ferry for the first time since losing to the Riders on March 30.

"We're ready," Red Devils head coach Rachel Duncan said of the upcoming rubbermatch against Ferry.

Before focus could shift completely to the Riders, however, they had to deal with the Colts. St. C. wasted no time in asserting itself and setting the tone.

Freshman Taylor Gallentine singled and senior JoLyn Shunk drew a walk. Gallentine moved up on a wild

"A BIG PART OF OUR SUCCESS was being able to jump on them early."

*- Rachel Duncan
Red Devils Head Coach*

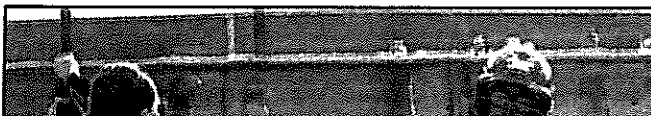


ST. CLAIRSVILLE third baseman Adrian Smith throws to first for an out during the first inning of Tuesday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal against Meadowbrook. The Red Devils prevailed, 4-0.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

See, ST. C., Page B2

MARTINS FERRY

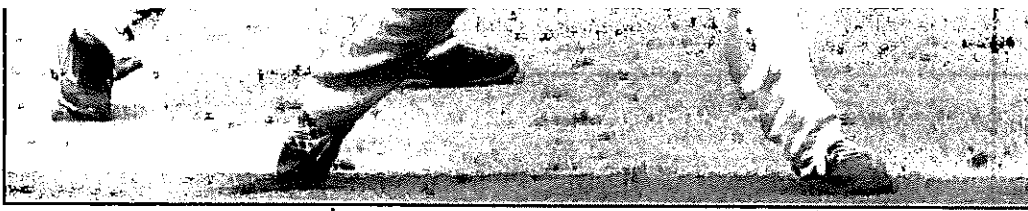


Seniors lead Ferry

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See, ST. C., Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

MARTINS FERRY senior Tyrah King is congratulated by head coach Paige Williams after she hit a two-run home run in the third inning of Tuesday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal at Ben's Field in Elm Grove. The Purple Riders prevailed, 2-1.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

Seniors lead Ferry to OVAC 4A final

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ELM GROVE — Martins Ferry and Edison played Monday afternoon at Jefferson Lake State Park in a regularly scheduled game.

With the OVAC semifinal slated for 24 hours later neither team tipped their hand, holding their ace pitchers out and Edison prevailed, 5-2.

That ace pitching certainly made a difference in Tuesday's meeting in the OVAC Class 4A Tournament on Ben's Field.

Couple Shaye DeLeonardis' pitching and a huge swing of the bat of senior shortstop Tyrah King and the result was a hard-earned 2-1 victory against the Wildcats.

"It happens (in softball)," Edison head coach

Spencer Bendle said. "We just didn't do anything offensively. Give (DeLeonardis) credit because she evidently baffled us today."

DeLeonardis was sharp from the outset. She sat the first nine down in order and finished with nine strikeouts and nary a walk.

"Shaye wants this (OVAC) pretty bad," Ferry head coach Paige Williams said. "She's been throwing really well. She's moving the ball, hitting her spots and her velocity has picked up."

The Riders actually missed an opportunity to score in the first when they stranded DeLeonardis at third.

King, however, made sure they got a couple of runs in the third. After Jace Wells was plunked to lead off the frame, Edison ace Lucia

See, **FERRY**, Page B2

Buckeye Trail blanks Bellaire

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING — There will be no repeat for Bellaire in the Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A softball tournament.

The Big Reds (12-9) continued their downward spiral Tuesday when they dropped a 6-0 decision to second-seeded Buckeye Trail (19-2) in a semifinal contest on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex. It marked the fifth straight loss for Bellaire.

The game was a matchup of state-ranked squads in the latest Division III coaches poll. Buckeye Trail was No. 8, two spots ahead of Bellaire.

After Bellaire left a pair of runners on in the top of the first, Buckeye Trail didn't waste any time in taking a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the inning.

See, **BELLAIRE**, Page B2



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

BELLAIRE'S MORGAN Runyan tags out Buckeye Trail's Hannah Smith (17) as she tried to advance to second on a throw home during the first inning in Tuesday's Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A tournament semifinal on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers Complex in Wheeling. The Big Reds De'Asia Burnev (7) looks on. The Warriors won, 6-0.

Steubenville CC has no issue with Monroe

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING — Steubenville Central continued its string of playing for a Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference softball tournament championship when it defeated Monroe Central, 7-2, in a Class 3A semifinal Tuesday afternoon on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

The top-seeded Crusaders (16-1) have been in five straight OVAC title tilts while flip-flopping between Class 2A and Class 3A. They will be seeking their fourth consecutive championship, and second in Class 3A. They won the other 3A title in 2014 when they beat Magnolia and Bellaire. Their 2A crowns have come in 2013 (Wheeling Central) and 2015 (Shadyside).

"We've had some success here," veteran Steubenville Central head coach Jim DiCarlo said of playing at I-470. "I thought we played a decent game today."

Steubenville Central scored four times in the first

See, **MONROE**, Page B2

Conference Class 3A tournament semifinal against Steubenville at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Wheeling. The Crusaders' Brit Bertoia awaits the throw. Steubenville Central won, 7-2.

nd one. She surrendered eight and lost her shutout with one out seventh. thought Alex pitched effectively e were OK defensively," DiCar- ted. "But there are still some that we need to shore up. I did- ke our bat speed today, but I it will be better on Saturday. We a different style of pitcher Mon- o I think that hurt us a little bit. happy with how we manufac- a couple of runs with stolen and such." la Logston fanned six and did-

n't issue a free pass in taking the loss. She gave up 14 hits.

Dziewatkowski singled three times for the Crusaders and drove in two runs. Bertoia, Mirabella and Tia Taglione all had two hits, with Mirabella driving in three runs.

Sydney Yoho had a single and double for the Seminoles that produced a run. Logston and Shyla Schneider had doubles.

Steubenville Central will now face Buckeye Trail for the 3A title Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the I-470 Complex.

st several years - Zach Robert- Eric James and Tom Hart." he ued. "Most likely I will contin- teach and possibly coach other s at Cameron next year and have a decision to make if a ing opportunity opened in a on closer to John Marshall in ure."

addition to hoops at Cameron, r has been an assistant coach in school baseball (current), volley- id middle school cross country, a middle school science teacher partment head.

utter has coached five 1,000- corers at Cameron and has sent er to the OVAC all-star game year since he has been boys'

tér his prep playing days. Clut- riculated to Elmira (N.Y.) Coln- nd played basketball for one efore transferring to Fairmont where he was graduated from '7 with a Medical Laboratory ology degree, Allied Health istration. He has a teaching in general science and biolo-

is at Fairmont State where he t his coaching teeth. As a stu- e served as a volunteer assis- ach at North Marion High

School under former WVU hoop great Warren Baker.

Clutter will begin to put his staff together in the next several weeks.

Being a John Marshall grad and former Monarch hoopster, Clutter relishes the opportunity presented to him and has a clear focus on the task at hand.

"I want to build a sense of pride and respect, not only for the school but for the game of basketball itself," Clutter said. "I understand what it was like to be a part of a great team at JM and I want the future of JM to experience that excitement of playing in front of a packed house and having the confidence to compete and beat teams that are ranked in the state and become ranked themselves.

"I want to prepare our players to bring their "A" game to sectionals, regionals and states. How long that will take I don't really know," he continued. "I only need two things out of my future players in order to get the ball rolling - players who are coachable and are willing to "run through a wall not just for me but for their team."

Chad has four children. Cole and Ryan are seniors at Cameron High, Zane is an eighth grader while Kenzie is a fourth grader.

riders' Ferry missed thru in the team race. The Purple Riders were led by junior Jacob Bishop's victory in the 1600 meter. He won with a 4:42.89.

The Riders' team of Kevin Simpson, Nick Simpson, Bishop and Terrell Tuttle posted a 8:36.73 for the win.

The Purple's crack 4x2 team of Javon Garriel, Arjay Burress, Jeffrey Lucas and Andrew Hython turned in a 1:34.65 for the win.

Harrison Central's lone winner was Zack Henry. He won the 3200 meters in 10:24.98.

Bellaire

Continued from Page B1

Brooke Colvin reached on an error leading off and went to second on a passed ball. With two outs, Hannah Smith lined a shot to center that scored Colvin. However, Smith was gunned down trying for second on a strong throw from Bellaire catcher Mary Garloch. The Warriors made it 2-0 in the second on Alli McVicker's two-out single.

"In the beginning of the game we got ourselves behind by making a couple of errors and Buckeye Trail capitalized on them," Bellaire head coach Melissa Lahna said. "They've got a good ballclub. There's no doubt about that."

Buckeye Trail made it 6-0 in the third and chased Bellaire starter Sarah McAninch in the process.

Colvin tripled leading off and scored on her sister - Amber Colvin's - single. Alexis Wheeler reached on

an infield single and Jenni Carmichael singled in another run with one out. Randi Rippeth was hit with a pitch to load the bases and Madeline Rodriguez made it 5-0 with a single that sent McAninch from the circle. A bases-loaded walk to McVicker completed the scoring.

Bellaire left 10 runners on bases, including three in the seventh.

"They hit the ball when they needed to and we can't string together any hits. We left eight runners on last night (in a 1-0 loss to East Liverpool Monday) and I don't know how many we left in scoring position tonight?"

"We've got to find it again," she added. "There's a lot of games left. We'll get back in it."

Buckeye Trail will meet Steubenville Central for the title Saturday.

Ferry

Continued from Page B1

Eroshevich retired the next two Purple hitters with relative ease.

After getting ahead in the count, King took an Eroshevich fastball well over the right-center fence.

"She can hit it a long way when she gets a hold of it," Williams said. "We've been trying to tell her that she doesn't need to try to kill the ball. She just needs to meet it because she has a powerful bat and it gets out there in a hurry."

The Purple Riders narrowly missed going back-to-back as Mercedes McLeod hit a towering fly ball, which clanged directly off the top of the fence and back onto the field of play. She was eventually stranded at second.

Regardless, it was plenty for DeLeonardis.

Edison got a runner to second in both the fourth and fifth innings before breaking through in the sixth. Shortstop Skular

was then sacrificed to third. DeLeonardis didn't even flinch. She induced a come backer and then a ground out to thwart the rally.

"You think you have a comfortable lead, need only three outs and a lead-off double can put a damper on things," Williams said. "Shaye did a great job of pitching out of the jam. We work a lot on situations in practice, so apparently we're doing something right."

The inability of his team to get a clutch hit left Bendle simple perplexed.

"We looked at too many good strikes, swung at some bad ones ... I don't know," Bendle said. "We've played a really good schedule and to perform offensively, like we did today, is disappointing."

Along with King and McLeod, Amanda Jacob also produced two hits for the Riders' offense.

Martins Ferry will return

WARRIORS HALF MARATHON CLASSIC

40 years
MAY 28, 2016

USATF CERTIFIED
MAY 28, 2016

Monroe

Continued from Page B1

inning and added two more in the second in breaking out to a 6-0 advantage early on.

Brit Bertolia singled in a run and winning pitcher Alex McComb made it 2-0 with a run-scoring groundout. Shayna Mirabella was hit-by-a-pitch and, after the second out was recorded, Maddy Metcalf reached on an error as Mirabella took third. Metcalf stole second just before Rachel Dziewatkowski smacked a single up the middle that scored both runners.

Mirabella made it 6-0 in the second with a two-out single that plate Gabby Capaldi and Bertolia.

"We had some real clutch hits with two outs," DiCarlo recalled. "Rachel had a big one there in the first inning and Shayna had another big one in the second."

The fourth-seeded Seminoles (6-10) threatened in the first, but some poor baserunning took them out of that inning. They had a pair of runners on in the fourth and fifth innings, but couldn't get the clutch hit they needed.

"That's the kind of stuff we've been doing all season," first-year Monroe Central head coach Mike Brock explained. "We get ourselves in a hole and it's kind of hard for us to dig our way out, especially when you're playing teams the caliber that we've been playing."

"I'm proud of my girls," Brock continued. "We kind of ran ourselves out of an inning in the first and that got our morale down a little, but they continued to battle and battle. We've played a tough schedule thus far, but the girls have battled the entire way."

McComb struck out seven and only

Clutter

Continued from Page B1

three sectional championships (first sectional championship in more than 20 years). His Dragons also won three Mason Dixon Conference championships.

Clutter also was the head coach for the OVAC girls' all-star game in 2004.

His overall Cameron head-coaching record is 193-125, producing winning records in 13 of his 14 seasons. He was named Mason-Dixon Conference coach of the year on five occasions while winning the OVAC Sportsmanship Award three times.

"Even though I am a John Marshall graduate, after 14 years at Cameron High School I will always bleed a little blue and gold. I have met a great number of awesome players, coaches and parents while coaching and teaching at Cameron. It is truly a great place to coach and teach and I will always value the time spent as a Cameron Dragon," Clutter said.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

MONROE CENTRAL'S Cheyenne Williams (14) slides safely into third during the seventh inning of Tuesday's Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A tournament semifinal against Steubenville Central at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Wheeling. The Crusaders' Brit Bertolia awaits the throw. Steubenville Central won, 7-2.

walked one. She surrendered eight hits and lost her shutout with one out in the seventh.

"I thought Alex pitched effectively and we were OK defensively," DiCarlo noted. "But there are still some things that we need to shore up. I didn't like our bat speed today, but I think it will be better on Saturday. We faced a different style of pitcher Monday, so I think that hurt us a little bit. I was happy with how we manufactured a couple of runs with stolen bases and such."

Kayla Logston fanned six and did-

n't issue a free pass in taking the loss. She gave up 11 hits.

Dziewatkowski singled three times for the Crusaders and drove in two runs. Bertolia, Mirabella and Tia Taglione all had two hits, with Mirabella driving in three runs.

Sydney Yoho had a single and double for the Seminoles that produced a run. Logston and Shyla Schneider had doubles.

Steubenville Central will now face Buckeye Trail for the 3A title Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the I-470 Complex.

School under former WVU hoop great Warren Baker.

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"I want to prepare our players to bring their 'A' game to sectionals, regionals and states. How long that will take I don't really know," he continued. "I only need two things

Devils

Continued from P. 4x2.

Union Local's I Megan Bateman. **ON THE BOYS** title thanks to seven events.

Junior hurdler M He won the highs in Junior sprinter Z meters in 11.09 and

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The Red Devils : Isiah Green, Vince a 44.74. Their shut Oberdick, Justin He for a 64.40 and the

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The Bellaire sq Griffen Heatherin 3:38.96 for the win

Martins Ferry fin Riders were led by 1600 meter. He wo

The Riders' tea Bishop and Terrell

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Bellaire

Continued from P

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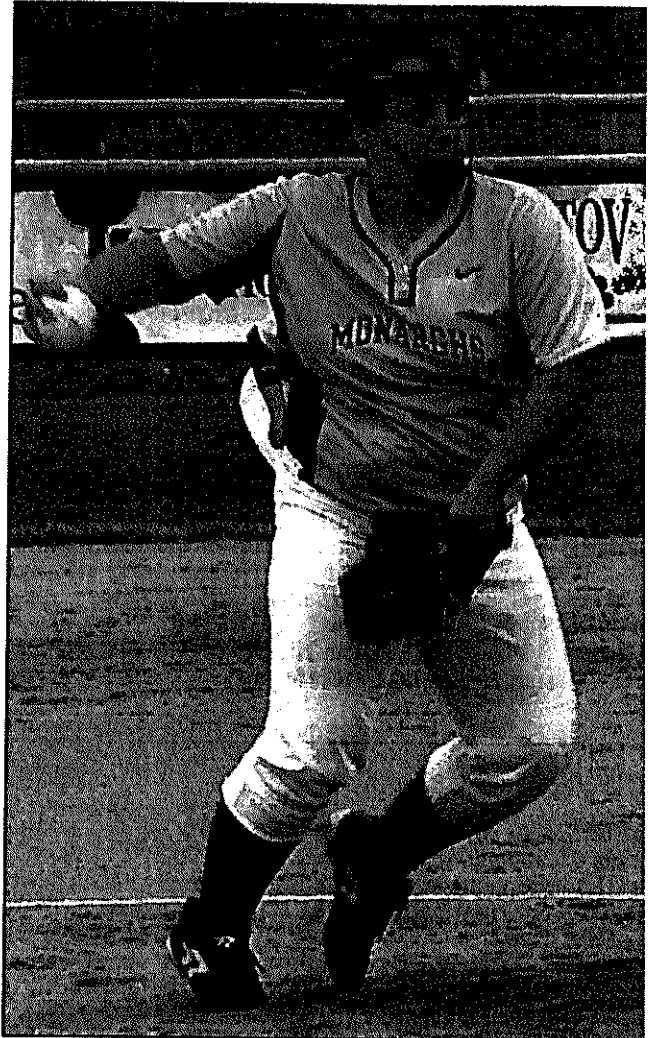
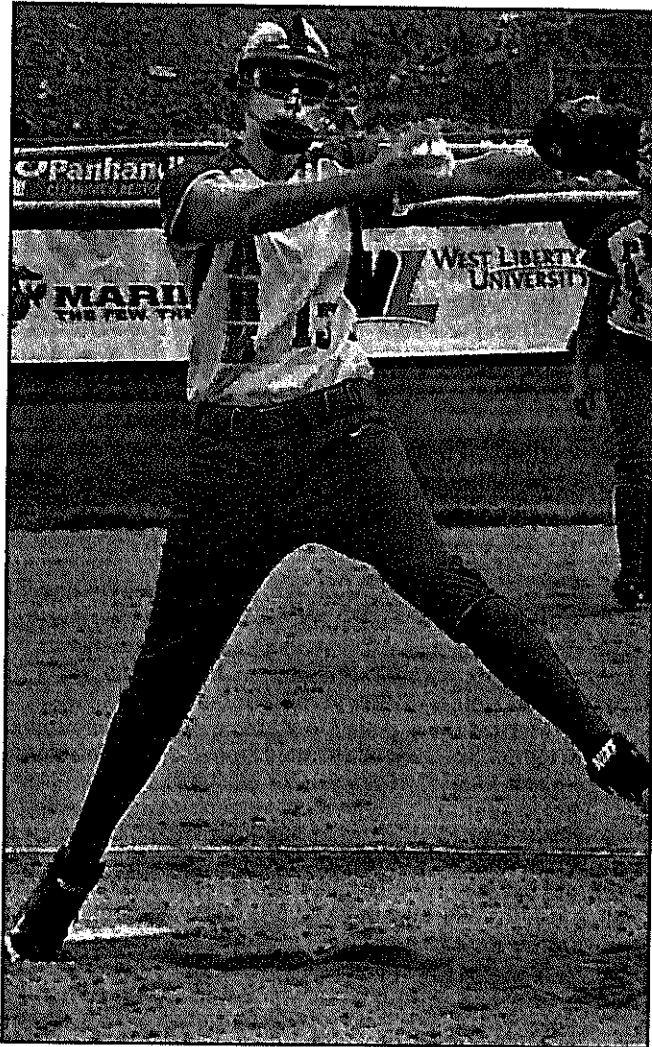
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Colvin tripled le and scored on her Amber Colvin's - Alexis Wheeler re

Ferry

Continued from F

TOM BECHTEL OVAC SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT



WHEELING PARK'S Mackenzie Amend, left, and John Marshall's Lauren Garcia pitched their teams into the Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 5A softball championship game with fine outings inside the circle Wednesday night on Lisa's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex in Wheeling. T-L Photos/KIM NORTH

Wheeling Park, John Marshall to meet for 5A championship

• West Virginia rivals will clash Saturday at 12:30 p.m.

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
Executive Sports Editor

WHEELING — The Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Tournament will have a definite local flavor in the 5A championship game come Saturday afternoon.

Neighboring rivals Wheeling Park and John Marshall both received sparkling pitching performances to punch their respective tickets into the title tilt via wins Wednesday night on Lisa's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers

Complex.

In the opener, the No. 3 seeded Patriots ousted Vincent Warren Local, 2-0, while top-seeded John Marshall proceeded to blank Nightcap, 10-0, in five innings in the nightcap.

Park and JM will vie for the championship Saturday at 12:30 p.m. at the I-470 complex. The teams split a pair of decisions this spring.

Mackenzie Amend was sensational in the circle for Park.

The talented junior bottled up the Warrior bats all evening long. She

allowed just two hits while striking out eight and walking two.

The Patriots gave her the lead before she entered the circle, scoring the game's only two runs in the top of the first frame.

With one out, dynamo Kelsey Chacolas singled but was erased on a fielder's choice by standout catcher Kat Donzella. Amend followed with a single. An error placed runners on second and third, setting the table for a two-run single by Hannah Archer.

PENS, CAPS READY TO CLASH

The Penguins and Capitals square off tonight for Game 1 of the second round/15

The Intelligencer SPORTS

THURSDAY
APRIL 28, 2016

COMICS15

13



Photo by Kim North

John Marshall's Lydia Knutsen is safe at third as University's Rachel Rousak can't hold onto the ball.

Park, JM to Meet in 5-A Final

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With one out, dynamo Kelsey Chacolas singled but was erased on a

fielder's choice by standout catcher Kat Donzella. Amend followed with a single. An error placed runners on second and third, setting the table for a two-run single by Hannah Archer.

The game was void of any further scoring, as both teams failed to take advantage of golden opportunities.

Park stranded two runners in both the third and fifth innings and were sabotaged in two other frames by faulty base-running decisions.

Warren Local failed to threaten through six innings.

The Warriors, however, made the Patriot partisans squirm in the home-half of the seventh.

Please See 5-A Page 17

5-A

Taylor Coss reached an error before Kylee Lynch walked. Amend exhibited her grittiness by retiring the next three batters on easy popups.

"It really feels nice to be playing for an OVAC title. It's been an up-and-down season, so advancing to the finals means a great deal to this team," Park coach Pat Durkin said. "We got a great bunch of girls. They don't quit. I am very happy for them.

"We didn't have one bad inning. We did strand too many runners and we didn't do a good job on the bases," he added. "Makenzie was tremendous. She was in total control and was gritty in the seventh inning."

Chacalos and Laurel Saunders each had two hits to pace Park's seven-hit attack. Donzella smacked a two-bagger.

Sarah Greenlee pitched well in defeat for Jenny Lynch's Warriors.

She fanned two and walked one. She delivered a single while Diamond Decker's double was the only other Warrior hit.

Park improved to 14-11 on the season while Warren dropped to 14-5.

John Marshall will be bidding for its fifth straight OVAC 5A championship after making short work of University.

Coach Ed West's Mon-

archs also received a sharp pitching effort from Lauren Garcia. The hard-throwing righthander yielded just two singles while striking out two and walking a like amount. She got stronger as the game went on, retiring the final eight Hawks she faced.

John Marshall, improving to 20-5, wasted no time in taking control. The Monarchs pushed across two runs in the first inning to give Garcia all the support she would need.

Lydia Knutsen reached on an error. Carli Lightner delivered a sacrifice bunt before Alyssa Blake smacked an RBI single. Rayvn Schultz walked and eventually scored on a Kendra Smertnek single.

John Marshall made it 4-0 in the third. Lightner walked, Blake singled and Schultz walked to load the bases. Mary Tennant plated a run via a fielder's choice and Maddy Mayle singled in the second run of the frame.

The lead grew to 5-0 in the fourth courtesy of an RBI single by Blake.

The Monarchs slammed the door shut on any Hawk hopes with five runs in the fifth.

Smertnek and Mayle opened with singles before a walk loaded the bases. Bailey Filben knocked in a run with a single and Knutsen

coaxed a walk to force in another run. Lightner delivered the curtain-closer by singling to left, plating two runners, while an error by the leftfielder allowed the 10th run to cross.

"Lauren again pitched super. She has been doing that for a good while now. She was in total command," West said. "We had the bats working tonight. It was nice to break loose at the plate. We need to hit that way Saturday.

"Wheeling Park is a good team. Amend pitched real well tonight," he added. "We split with them this season. It should be an exciting game Saturday."

Rachel Rousak had both hits for University.

Alexa Green started in the circle for the Hawks of Mindy Parks. She gave way to Rosuak in the fifth.

SPORTS

B

Tuesday
April 26, 2016

OHIO VALLEY PREP DIAMOND ACTION

Bishop Donahue, Madonna advance in Class 1A play

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ELM GROVE — Madonna and Bishop Donahue were scheduled to meet for a doubleheader on April 9, but Mother Nature reared her ugly head that day.

The two will get their chance to meet on Saturday after both posted victories in the Class 1A semifinals of the Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Tournament Monday evening on Ben's Field.

The Bishops — who are the third seed in the event — avenged two earlier losses when they ousted St. John Central, 6-4, in the opener. Top-seeded Madonna cruised to a 10-0 victory five innings against Conotton Valley.

DONAHUE will be seeking the school's first conference...



Central gets a little payback

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING — You know what they say about paybacks.

Wheeling Central exacted a little revenge Monday when it rolled past Shadyside, 12-2, in six innings on Lisa's Field in a Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 1A...

when they ousted St. John Central, 6-4, in the opener. Top-seeded Madonna cruised to a 10-0 victory five innings against Conotton Valley.

DONAHUE will be seeking the school's first conference softball title since 1998, which was before any member of the current Bishops' roster was born. To get to the title game, however, the Bishops had to remove a thorn from their side.

The Irish, who have won 10 titles since the Bishops' last pennant, have simply had Donahue's number over the years.

After the Bishops had grabbed a 2-0 lead in the first inning, St. John Central, which got one back in the bottom of the first, posted a three spot in the fourth, but this Donahue team didn't blink.

"I thought the girls showed great character by coming out and responding the way they did," Bishop Donahue head coach Curt Mele said. "Jerry Magistro is a great friend of mine, but he's had my number for about eight years now. This was a good, overall team victory."

The game remained knotted at four until the seventh.

Catcher Sommer South and designated player Elena Polinski led off the inning with back-to-back singles. Both moved up 60 feet on a wild pitch and then Hope Ruza lofted a fly ball to right, which brought South across. Jewel Purpura got into the sacrifice fly act to bring home Polinski.

"I thought we did a good job of playing small ball and being able to advance our runners," Mele said. "It wasn't a perfect game by us, but we did what we had to do to beat a good team."

See, **DONAHUE**,
Page B2



ST. JOHN catcher Brook Palmer awaits the throw as Bishop Donahue's Maddie Menendez slides into home plate during the first inning. Menendez was safe on the play. Bisop Donahue rallied from a 4-2 deficit to win, 6-4, in the OVAC Class 1A semifinal.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

River blanks Toronto, 7-0

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING — It's a case of unfinished business for the River softball team.

The Pilots (22-1) lost in the Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A championship game 1-0 to Bellaire last spring. The No. 2 seed will play for the Class 2A title Saturday after blanking No. 4 seed Toronto, 7-0, Monday night on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

"That was a good game against a very good team," veteran River head coach Dave Wright said. "There were balls flying all over the field. From both sides."

The victory marked a milestone in the coaching career of Wright and long-time assistant Tim Tisher. It was the duo's 200th together.

"This is a little added bonus for us," Wright said of the milestone. "We get to play for an OVAC title

See, **RIVER**,
Page B2



RIVER SHORTSTOP Emilee Heater gets ready to relay the ball to first base after forcing out Toronto's Autumn Daniels (13) during Monday's Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A tournament semifinal on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Wheeling. Looking on is River second baseman Riley Lollathin, who started the play by flipping a high chopper to Heater for the force.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

backs.

Wheeling Central exacted a little revenge Monday when it rolled past Shadyside, 12-2, in six innings on Lisa's Field in a Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A softball tournament semifinal. The Tigers had defeated the Maroon Knights in last year's semifinals before falling in the championship game to Steubenville Catholic.

"We didn't have to say anything to them," Maroon Knights head coach Rick Magruder said. "They told us. They started talking about this game last week, but we told them we had a game against Monroe Central (Saturday) to play first."

Trailing 1-0 entering the home half of the fourth inning, Wheeling Central (24-0) exploded for four runs to take a lead it would not relinquish.

Riley Bennington's leadoff triple to right-center got things started. She scored on Marissa Garlitz's single and Ja'Ehir Jackson's triple to center made it 2-1. Kaitlyn Ferns singled in Jackson to chase the Tigers' Kaitlyn Weaver from inside the circle. Julie Padden's infield single made it 4-1.

Garlitz made it 6-1 with a two-run single in the fifth, and the top seeds put the game away with a six-spot in the bottom of the sixth.

Olivia Carpenter had a two-run single, while Bennington, Garlitz and Jackson added run-scoring base hits. Hannah Mazingo ended things with a bloop single down the rightfield line.

"The girls seem more focused this year. They don't get rattled. They just come and play," Magruder said. "They did just like we tell them. Take your cuts. Put the

See, **CENTRAL**,
Page B2

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T-L Photo/**KIM NORTH**

Caldwell earns OVAC 2A finals berth, will face Toronto

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
Executive Sports Editor

HANNIBAL — Caldwell and Toronto have become familiar dance partners in the OVAC 2A baseball finals.

The Redskins and Red Knights will meet again Saturday for the third straight year in the conference finals.

That scenario came to fruition Monday when Caldwell battled

past gutsy River, 9-5, in the final OVAC semifinal to be played. Toronto punched its ticket into the finals Saturday by downing Shady-side.

The Red Knights pocketed the 2015 OVAC crown while the Redskins turned the trick the previous year.

"We know Toronto quite well. We have seen them the last two years in the OVAC finals," Caldwell coach Brian Wheeldin said.

"They have had a great program for a long time. We know we will have our hands full."

The Redskins were pushed to the limit by Mark Romick's ultra-young squad, which features just a lone senior.

The game was 5-5 after five innings. The Noble Countians pushed across one run in the sixth and opened some breathing room via a three-run double by senior standout Tanner Clark in the sev-

enth.

Caldwell received a yeoman's effort from Caleb Heller on the hill. The senior righthander survived nine Pilot hits, two walks and four errors to earn the mound victory.

"Caleb was a bulldog tonight," Wheeldin said. "He didn't have the greatest stuff and we were shaky in the field, but he battled all night long. I am proud of his effort.

"Out bats were good tonight

against Toronto Central (20-1) to play first."

Trailing 1-0 entering the home half of the fourth inning, Wheeling Central (24-0) exploded for four runs to take a lead it would not relinquish.

Riley Bennington's leadoff triple to right-center got things started. She scored on Marissa Garlitz's single and Ja'Ehir Jackson's triple to center made it 2-1. Kaitlyn Ferns singled in Jackson to chase the Tigers' Kaitlyn Weaver from inside the circle. Julie Padden's infield single made it 4-1.

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See, **CENTRAL**,
Page B2

but we were very sloppy in the field," he added. "We have to clean up our fielding if we are going to compete Saturday. It was a nice win. River is a quality and well-coached team."

The loss was a tough pill for River to swallow. The Pilots fell behind 2-0 in the first, and although they tied the score after

See, **CALDWELL**,
Page B2

some offense behind Katie's pitching and you're going to win a lot of games," Conti continued.

The game time and field for the championship game hasn't been determined.

Central

Continued from Page B1

ball in play and see what happens."

Fourth-seeded Shadyside (16-6) took a 1-0 lead in the top of first when Kaitlyn Weaver lined a leadoff triple over the left fielder's head. She raced home on Karly Klug's one-out groundout. However, the Tigers could only muster two more hits — a single by Weaver in the third and an Alyx Baker double in the fifth.

Inside the circle, Bennington struck out 10 without walking a batter. Shadyside scored an unearned run in the fifth.

"Riley and Marissa (Garlitz) have been terrific all year," Magruder praised of his two co-aces. "When it comes to crunch time, they seem to turn it up a notch. They're having fun, but they also know when to be focused."

The Maroon Knights pounded out 18 hits, with Bennington helping herself with three singles and a triple that produced a run. Garlitz added a trio of singles and a double that accounted for four runs.

Allie Cook, Olivia Carpenter and Jackson evenly divided six safeties, with Carpenter and Jackson splitting four runs batted in.

"When one girl hits it seems like they all want to hit," Magruder added. "They've been doing pretty well with that, but they're doing the little things that count, as well. Jules (Padden) is doing a tremendous job as the No. 2 hitter and Bailey Rehm ... I couldn't ask for a better leadoff hitter. Then you get into the meat of our order which is really hitting well."

For Shadyside head coach Jillian Ongley, her team was in the same position last year before going on an unbelievable run that carried all the way to a Division IV state championship.

"They definitely grabbed the momentum and they were hitting the gaps," she said. "There's not much you can do about that."

Wheeling Central will meet No. 2 River (22-1) Saturday at 12:30 p.m. on Lisa's Field for the title.

River

Continued from Page B1

Saturday and this program has never won one in 24 years."

River will now face top-seeded Wheeling Central at 12:30 p.m., also on Lisa's Field, for the championship. The Maroon Knights (24-0) took over fourth-seeded Shadyside, 12-2, earlier in the day in just six innings.

The Pilots came out hitting as Riley Lollathin smacked a one-out single to center and Rosey Romick followed with an infield base hit. Livy Rose drilled a double down the leftfield line that scored both runners.

River made it 5-0 after two frames when Madi Taylor singled in Bailey Caldwell and Lollathin knocked in Taylor with a single to left. Rose picked up her third ribbie with a single up the middle.

"We came out hitting the ball tonight," Wright noted. "I'm very pleased. It was a good effort by our squad."

It became 7-0 in the fifth as Emilee Heater singled with one out and Candace Caldwell walked. Both runners advanced a base on a passed ball, and Bailey Caldwell's single up the middle chased in Heater. Candace Caldwell raced home on an error.

Romick was her steady self inside the circle. She fanned four and walked two, while giving up just four hits.

"She was very strong today. We supported her with the bats and we played outstanding defense," Wright said. "But so was their girl. I told the umpire in that last inning

he bounced back from a clunker in his last outing. He struck out a season-high eight, including five on called third strikes.

That drew the ire of the Rockies, who weren't too pleased with home-plate umpire Lance Barrett's low strike zone. Manager Walt Weiss was ejected after the fourth for arguing and outfielder Ryan Raburn followed in the six.

Chad Bettis (2-1) had his start moved up a day with Jorge De La Rosa under the weather. Bettis gave up four runs in 6 2/3 innings.

A.J. Schugel picked up his first major league save by pitching 2 1/3 innings.

Joyce broke the game open in the seventh with his three-run homer to left-center off reliever Scott Oberg. That gave the Pirates a 5-0 lead and sent them to their sixth straight win over the Rockies at Coors Field.

Caldwell

Continued from Page B1

five, a key hit or play in the field never materialized to get them over the hump.

It was only the second loss in 12 starts for River. The Pilots return to action today at Barnesville.

"It was an entertaining game. Both teams hit the ball well. We just couldn't get that clutch hit when we needed it," Romick said. "In the later innings, I thought we hurt ourselves by not being able to keep their leadoff hitters off base."

"I have never seen a more inconsistent strike zone by the home umpire for both teams. Hitters did not what it

Brady

Continued from Page B1

contest over the Indianapolis Colts, 45-7, and then won the Super Bowl.

Soon after the ruling, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump opened a campaign rally in Rhode Island by sticking up for Brady, a longtime friend and golfing buddy.

"First of all let's start by saying leave Tom Brady alone. Leave him alone. Leave him alone he's a great guy," Trump said. "It's enough. It's enough."

The ruling can be appealed to the full 2nd Circuit or to the U.S. Supreme Court, but it would likely be a steep and time-consuming climb even if the courts took the unusual step to consider it.

In a majority opinion written by Judge Barrington D. Parker, the 2nd Circuit said its review of labor

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TRAINER'S ROOM

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to determining whether the arbitration proceedings and award met the minimum legal standards established by the Labor Management Relations Act."

The 2nd Circuit said the contract between players and the NFL gave the commissioner authority that was "especially broad."

"Even if an arbitrator makes mistakes of fact or law, we may not disturb an award so long as he acted within the bounds of his bargained-for authority," the court said.

In a dissent, Chief Judge Robert Katzmann said Goodell failed to even consider a "highly relevant" alternative penalty.

"I am troubled by the Commissioner's decision to uphold the unprecedented four-game suspension," Katzmann said.

and continue to players' rights a integrity of the g

NFL spokesr McCarthy said ruled Goodell act ly in cases invc

integrity of the g "That authority recognized by m and has been e incorporated in collective ba agreement bet NFL and NFLP past 40 years," said.

The appeals r lows a Septembe by Manhattar Richard Berman against the leagu Brady skip the s last season. Goo ed the suspens deserved.

The appeals co

WHEELING — You know what they say about paybacks.

Wheeling Central exacted a little revenge Monday when it rolled past Shady-

Donahue

Continued from Page B1

The Irish had seven hits in the game, but three of those came in the fourth. They got a one-out double from Taylor Lowe in the seventh, but she moved no further as Abbey Mele got a fly out to center and a ground out to second to end the game.

"The first inning kind of doomed us because the two runs (Bishop) scored, they should have never got," St. John Central head coach Jerry Magistro said. "We came back hitting, but we just weren't able to put it together consistently. It was like a hit here and a hit there. Bishop is a good-hitting team, so we knew we'd have to score some runs to keep up."

Donahue's offense was ignited by lead-off hitter Mad-die Menendez. She had two singles and a double. South had two hits and Polinski had two RBIs.

St. John's offense was sparked by talented freshman Madison DeLuca. She had two doubles, a single and a RBI. Kate Lovinski had a RBI double in the first. Haley LaMotte also had two hits.

MADONNA simply overwhelmed Conotton Valley thanks to hard-throwing pitcher Katie Gasvoda.

She fanned eight, walked none and was a check-swing single to right away from a perfect game.

"Katie pitched a great game," Madonna head coach Chris Conti said. "Our offense kicked in tonight, too."

The Blue Dons certainly gave Gasvoda plenty of run support. They scored three in the third and posted five more in the fourth. Sophia Recrosio had a RBI double and a RBI single, while senior Taylor Thompson delivered a pair of singles, double and drove in a run. Becca Holt had two singles.

"We've told the girls all year that if you can put up some offense behind Katie's pitching and you're going to win a lot of games," Conti continued.

The game time and field for the championship game hasn't been determined.

Central

Continued from Page B1

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Fourth-seeded Shadyside (16-6) took a 1-0 lead in the top of first when Kaitlyn Weaver lined a leadoff triple over the left fielder's head. She raced home on Karly Klug's one-out groundout. However, the Tigers could only muster two more hits — a single by Weaver in the third and an Alyx Baker double in the fifth.

Inside the circle, Bennington struck out 10 without walking a batter. Shadyside scored an unearned run in the fifth.

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Lisa's Field in a Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2-A softball tournament semifinal. The Tigers had defeated the Maroon Knights in last year's semifinals before falling in the championship

Catholic.

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Locke throws 6 scoreless innings as Pirates put down Rockies

DENVER (AP) — Matt Joyce hit a three-run homer, Jeff Locke threw six scoreless innings and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Colorado Rockies 6-1 on Monday night in a game that was briefly delayed by rain.

Locke (1-2) allowed five hits as he bounced back from a clunker in his last outing. He struck out a season-high eight, including five on called third strikes.

That drew the ire of the Rockies, who weren't too pleased with home-plate umpire Lance Barrett's low strike zone. Manager Walt Weiss was ejected after the fourth for arguing and outfielder Ryan Raburn followed in the sixth.

Chad Bettis (2-1) had his start moved up a day with Jorge De La Rosa under the weather. Bettis gave up four runs in 6 2/3 innings.

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Joyce broke the game open in the seventh with his three-run homer to left-center off reliever Scott Oberg. That gave the Pirates a 5-0 lead and sent them to their sixth straight win over the Rockies at Coors Field.

Caldwell

Continued from Page B1

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It was only the second loss in 12

Locke cruised through this game. His only rough in the fifth when he faced one-out jam. He fanned Trevor Story and got Carlos Lez to fly out.

That's quite a contrast to start when he allowed eight runs in three innings at San Diego. as if his spot in the rotation might be in jeopardy.

The game was halted for 45 minutes by a downpour with two outs in the second and a 2-2 count with Mark Reynolds at the plate. The first pitch after the delay bunted the ball foul for a strike.

Colorado scored its only run in the seventh on a choice by Gerardo Parra.

Starling Marte finished with a single. The last time he was at Coors Field he went 20 and tied the club record for most hits in a four-game series accomplished by Pie Traynor in 1928.

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Weaver struck out two and didn't walk a batter. Sam Rosser fanned a pair and walked one in relief.

Wheeling Central will meet No. 2 River (22-1) at 12:30 on Saturday for the title on the same field.

body brought up he's the only one not to sit a game yet. I said, 'Well, let's do that,'" manager Clint Hurdle explained.

Rockies: OF Charlie Blackmon (turf toe) is scheduled to play seven innings Tuesday and a full game Wednesday for Class A Modesto. If he progresses well, Blackmon could be reinstated from the DL on Friday in Arizona.

ROCKIES MOVES

Colorado reinstated catcher Nick Hundley (concussion) from the disabled list and optioned struggling right-hander Jordan Lyles to Triple-A Albuquerque. The team also recalled Oberg from Albuquerque and optioned catcher Dustin Garneau to the Isotopes.

UP NEXT

Pirates: RHP Gerrit Cole (1-2) looks for his second win in a row when he faces the Rockies on Tuesday. He went 19-8 with a 2.60 ERA a season ago as he finished fourth in the NL Cy Young voting.

Rockies: De La Rosa (1-2) is recovered from the stomach flu and will start. He's 1-1 with an 8.44 ERA in two starts at Coors Field this season

tered two singles and an RBI. Zac Smith and Chase Wichterman each had RBI singles for the hosts.

Wichterman started on the hill for River. He gave way to Lukas Isaly with two outs in the fourth. Wichterman had two strikeouts and a walk. Isaly struck out two and walked four.

Caldwell broke a 5-5 tie in the sixth inning, scoring what proved-to-be the game winning run thanks to a River miscue.

Clark opened the frame with a single. He stole second and moved to third on a bunt. Clark came home via an infield error on a groundball.

and continue to fight for players' rights and for the integrity of the game."

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the court

but hasn't made a start.

At oral arguments in March, appeals judges seemed skeptical of arguments on Brady's behalf

Buckeye Trail Blanks Bellaire in OVAC 3-A

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — There will be no repeat for Bellaire in the Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3-A softball tournament.

The Big Reds (12-9) continued their downward spiral Tuesday when they dropped a 6-0 decision to second-seeded Buckeye Trail (19-2) in a semifinal contest on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex. It marked the fifth straight loss for Bellaire.

The game was a matchup of state-ranked squads in the latest Ohio Division III coaches poll. Buckeye Trail was No. 8, two spots ahead of Bellaire.

After Bellaire left a pair of runners on in the top of the first, Buckeye Trail didn't waste any time in taking a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the inning.

Brooke Colvin reached on an error leading off and went to second on a passed ball. With two outs, Hannah Smith lined a shot to center that scored Colvin. However, Smith was gunned down trying for second on a strong throw from Bellaire catcher Mary Garloch. The Warriors made it 2-0 in the second on Alli McVicker's two-out single.

"In the beginning of the game we got ourselves behind by making a couple of errors and Buckeye Trail capitalized on them," Bellaire coach

Melissa Lahna said. "They've got a good ballclub. There's no doubt about that."

Buckeye Trail made it 6-0 in the third and chased Bellaire starter Sarah McAninch in the process.

Colvin tripled leading off and scored on her sister — Amber Colvin's — single. Alexis Wheeler reached on an infield single and Jenni Carmichael singled in another run with one out. Randi Rippeth was hit with a pitch to load the bases and Madeline Rodriguez made it 5-0 with a single that sent McAninch from the circle. A bases-loaded walk to McVicker completed the scoring.

Bellaire left 10 runners on bases, including three in the seventh.

"They hit the ball when they needed to and we can't string together any hits. We left eight runners on (in a 1-0 loss to East Liverpool Monday) and I don't know how many we left in scoring position tonight?"

"We've got to find it again. There's a lot of games left. We'll get back in it."

Buckeye Trail will meet Steubenville Catholic for the title Saturday.

Burgettstown 10, Weir 3

WEIRTON — Courtney Kaczmarek doubled in two runs while Maddie Dilullo doubled in another, but it wasn't enough as Weir fell to Burgettstown.

Alivia Rosnick fanned seven for the Red Riders.

BASEBALL

Bishop Donahue 3, Bridgeport 0

MOUNDSVILLE — David Beazel came on in relief and struck out six in three innings to earn a victory as Bishop Donahue blanked Bridgeport.

Andrew Rush went the first three and fanned four and Chris Barry struck out one in the seventh as the trio combined on a two-hit shutout.

Doug Clark paced the Bishops (15-5) offense with a pair of singles.

Art Mancuso was the hard-luck loser for the Bulldogs, going the distance and striking out one while scattering six hits.

Edison 5, Steub. Catholic 1

RICHMOND — Zac Kramarich went the distance and fanned four to pick up a victory as Edison downed Steubenville Catholic.

Tanner Evans paced a 15-hit Wildcats attacked with a single, double and three RBI. Bryce Piatt drove in a run while Larry Bielawski had three singles. Nick Sinicropi and Collin Scott had two hits apiece.

Luke Neary doubled in the Crusaders run while Tony Barber and Chris Smith had two hits each.

Martins Ferry 11, Indian Creek 1

MARTINS FERRY — Dalton Hoover had two hits, including a double, and two RBI as Martins Ferry downed Indian Creek in six

innings.

Cade Lloyd added a double and an RBI for the Purple Riders, who broke open the game with a four-run third inning.

Union Local 12, Buckeye Trail 2

OLD WASHINGTON — Nick Bilyeu smacked two hits and drove in three runs and Cody Ray had two hits and two RBI to help power Union Local past Buckeye Trail.

Ty Kildow also laced two hits for the jets, as did Timmy Powell.

Weir 12, St. Clairsville 5

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Chris Gillette had three hits and three RBI as Weir handed St. Clairsville its second straight loss.

The Red Riders (12-7) pounded out 14 hits, including seven doubles, in sending the Red Devils to their third loss of the campaign. Weir scored five runs in the fourth inning to take command.

Cody Goletz had two hits and three RBI for the Red Devils (14-3).

John Marshall 3, Bellaire 2

GLEN DALE — Criss Purcell belted three doubles and drove home two runs to help John Marshall edge Bellaire.

Austin Skrzynecki and Dereck Hess both laced two singles for the Monarchs.

John Crawford and mason Ramsay both knocked in runs for Bellaire.

OVAC Softball Championships



Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Central's Allie Cook reaches for a throw to force out River's Brissa Marshall in the top of the eighth inning Saturday afternoon during the Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2-A Softball Championship.

Wheeling Central Downs River In Extras, 2-1

By KIM NORTH

For the News-Register

WHEELING — There was a lot of hype surrounding Saturday afternoon's Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A championship game. And why not? The two teams had a combined record of 48-1 entering the contest.

The contest certainly lived up to its billing, and more.

Kaitlyn Ferns' bad-hop infield single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning allowed pinch runner Bai-

ley Nixon to score the winning run as top-seeded Wheeling Central (25-0) remained unbeaten with a thrilling, 2-1, decision over No. 2 River (24-2) before an overflow crowd at Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

"What a game!" Wheeling Central coach Rick Magruder said. "We knew coming in they (River) were a good team. You don't win 24 games by being bad. They've got a great pitcher and their defense is unbelievable. You can't say enough about them or our

girls. It was two teams they kept battling. Neither one wanted to lose and in a game like this, it's a shame that someone had to lose."

Marissa Garlitz reached on a fielder's choice with two outs and Nixon was inserted as a runner for Garlitz. Jai'Ehir Jackson lined a single to right as Nixon went to third. After Jackson stole second uncontested, Ferns ripped a shot off the glove of River first baseman Bailey Caldwell.

See, Central, Page B3

Bishops Fall



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Bishops Fall to Blue Dons

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

WHEELING — It was about a week and a half ago that the Bishop Donahue softball team was a few games under .500. Within a blink of an eye, the Bishops rolled their way into the OVAC Class 1-A title game against No. 1 seed Madonna. The Bishops, however, had a couple of costly errors and the Blue Dons capitalized and took the hardware in a 6-3 victory at the I-470 Fields Saturday afternoon. It was the first time in school history that Madonna won back-to-back titles.

"It was a hard-fought game," Blue Dons (16-5) coach Chris Conti said. "I knew (Bishop Coach) Curt (Mele) is a great coach and Abbey's (Mele) a great pitcher. They never quit and I told my girls all week if you get a lead on them, they'll come right back on you. I told my girls, 'You have to keep coming back at them because they will keep coming at you. You have to play hard for seven innings.' We did (Saturday). My credit to the girls at Bishop Donahue. We had some key hits in good situations."

See, Bishops, Page B2

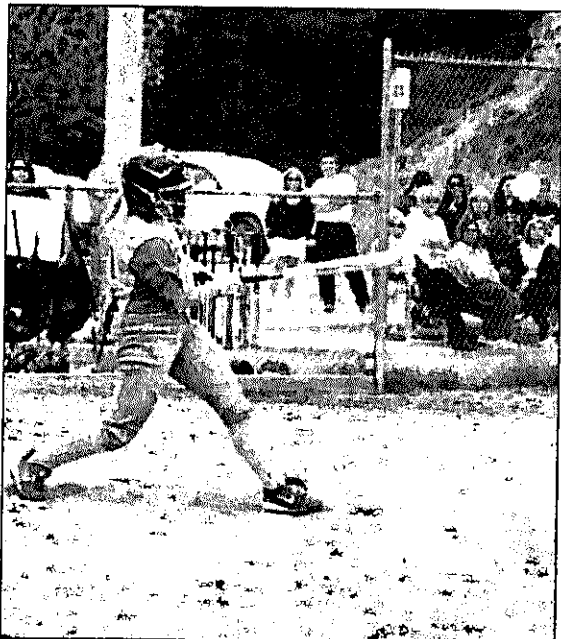


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Bishop Donahue's Jewel Purpura swings at a pitch during the 1-A OVAC Championship game.



Photo by Kyle Lutz

John Marshall pitcher Lauren Garcia scoops up a grounder and looks to throw to first as Mary Tennant looks on.

JM Edges Park

By RICK THORP
For the News-Register

WHEELING — Every time Wheeling Park and John Marshall get together for a high school softball game, it has the potential to be a dandy.

The Patriots and Monarchs had met twice this spring, with each team prevailing on its home field.

Park blanked JM, 3-0, in the April 18th meeting at the J.B. Chambers Youth Sports Complex and was looking for a repeat there in Saturday's Class 5A championship tilt at the Tom Bechtel OVAC Championships.

The Monarchs had different ideas.

JM thwarted a pair of early Patriot threats then pushed across the winning run in the sixth to prevail, 3-2, to capture its fifth straight "big school" crown and 12th overall.

"It feels great," Monarchs head coach Ed West said as raindrops started to fall. "I'm

just glad the girls came through. They deserved this. I'm really pleased in their performance."

With the score knotted 2-2, the contest became a chess match in the bottom of the sixth. Right away, the Monarchs (21-5) had all the right moves.

Mary Tennant led off the inning with a blast to center that resulted in a standup double. Moments later, with Katie Whorton pinchrunning, Wheeling Park pitcher Makenzie Amend uncorked a wild pitch allowing Whorton to scoot to third.

With one out, Amend nicked Maddy Mayle, sending her to first and putting runners at the corners with no outs. That set the stage for pitcher Lauren Garcia.

Garcia sent a shot to first. She grounded out, but Whorton scored on the play.

See, Monarchs, Page B2

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ON THE LINE

Today's Results:

Q. With the Steelers initial draft picks, do you feel like they have a solid foundation for the future?

Yes: 55%

No: 45%

Tomorrow's Poll:

Q. Were you happy with your team's draft picks?

Tell us wh
Register your answer
(The results of this poll are n
opinions of Internet users v

...that put the score at 5-3.
 "We have nothing hang out heads about," Coach Mele said. "We played hard and with as much effort as we could give. Give credit to Chris and his program. We just had too many errors. It's the same old saying, 'You have errors

as a team. We're starting to hit our stride right now. The good thing is what I told the girls. We got them again on Tuesday for sectionals."

Maddie Menendez led off with a single for the Bishops while South also supplied a hit. Hope Ruza brought home two runs

not me. I put the girls together and do what I have to do. They have to play the game. Last year we won and I had a very good team and I have a good team this year. When you have a pitcher like Katie, you're going to win a lot of games."

MONARCHS

Continued from page B1

"Mary has really come around as a hitter from the beginning of the season to the end of the season," West said of Tennant, who recorded one of only two JM hits on the day. "She's been hitting a ton and I'm glad to see her get a hit there to set us up."

Garcia took control from there. She retired the side in the top of the seventh to seal the victory. She finished with 10 strikeouts.

"I thought she wasn't quite as sharp as she has been," West noted, "but she pitched well at the end.

"She got in a couple of jams and pitched herself out of them. I'm proud of her.

She didn't waver."

With two away in the first, the Patriots (14-12) loaded the bases as Kat Donzella and Ateria Walker drew walks sandwiched around an Amend hit to center. But Garcia struck out Hannah Archer to end the threat.

Then, in the third, Laral Saunders and Kelsey Chacalos reached on a hit and an error, respectively, to start the inning. Neither advanced as the next three batters went down in order.

All told, Park left eight runners stranded in the game.

"We left some girls on base that we shouldn't have," Wheeling Park head

coach Pat Durkin said.

Park's fortunes turned in the fifth. Saunders started the inning with an infield single to third. After a Chacalos groundout moved her to second, Donzella was intentionally walked.

With Amend batting, both runners moved up on a passed ball. Amend then grounded out, allowing Saunders to score trimming the Patriots' deficit to one. Donzella moved to third.

With Walker at the plate, a passed ball allowed Donzella to race home, tying the game.

"It was a really good game by us, I thought," West said. "I was a little disappointed in the two passed balls we had that set up their two runs. But, other than that, I thought we played really well."

Park looked to have the momentum, and in the sixth seemed to be on the verge of grabbing the lead.

Skylar Minzler ended up at third with one out following a single and a sacrifice bunt. Megan Stanford came to the plate and laid down a squeeze as Minzler raced home from third.

There was close play at the plate, with Minzler ruled out. Saunders struck out to end the inning.

"Our defense played well," West said. "I told (the team) if we played well on defense we'd win the game. I knew it'd be a close game, and it was."

Durkin is looking forward to possibly playing the Monarchs again in a West Virginia Class AAA Region I final in a few weeks.

"That squeeze play at the plate, I'd like to see a replay of that," Durkin said smiling. "That should've been the tying run.

"But, our girls played well. JM has a nice team. One of us will probably go to the state tournament."

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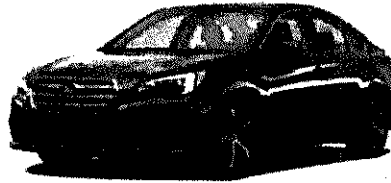
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Martins Ferry's boys, which ran a limited cast because of the prom, was led by the individual victory of junior Jacob Bishop. He ran four laps in 4:35.38 to win the 1600 meter run.

Shadyside freshman Chase Stewart claimed the 3200 meter run in 10:28.47. Magnolia's Brooks Parsons won the 400 meter dash in 52.07.

The OVAC Track and Field Championship opens Monday at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville with qualifying rounds.

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Then some stretching and/or a massage would be very beneficial for recovery of muscle tissue and waste elimination after strenuous exercise.

It would also be important to note not to complete strenuous exercise the day after an athletic event. Rather a very light workout at 50% of the normal workout load.

As a general rule of thumb one should leave the training facility feeling better than when they entered.

In conclusion, athletes need to take care of their bodies before, during and after strenuous training sessions or athletic events. Active recovery is an excellent option for post exercise recovery.

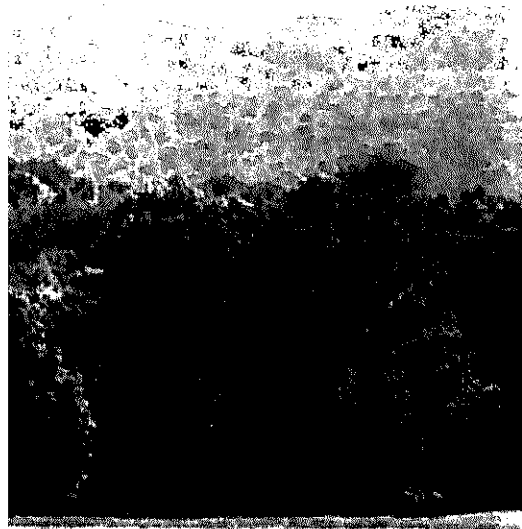


Photo by Seth Staskey

Linsly first baseman Floid Giddings is congratulated by head coach Jay Cartwright after he connected on a two-run home run during the third inning.

LINSLY

Continued from page B1

He raced home on a fielder's choice when the Fort threw down to first after a strikeout.

Jacob Murray resumed the hit parade with a solid single, which set the table for powerful first baseman Floid Giddings. He took a Bradford fastball deep over the left-field fence for his sixth home run of the spring.

"I am really pleased with our kids at the plate," Cartwright said. "John Michael Brunner, our hitting coach, has done an unbelievable job. We're not chasing pitches, working counts and driv-

ing the ball.

We've got some big, strong guys, who can hit the ball hard."

With eight runs in his hip pocket, Goodnight was simply looking for outs in the next five innings. He finished the job, allowing two runs. He struck out just five, but Linsly played error-free defense.

"Logan provides such a boost for us," Cartwright said.

"He was outstanding. He's a four-year letterman and he's been pitching outstanding baseball. He has outstanding velocity and control."

BISHOPS

Continued from page B1

Being down by two runs, that's what the Bishops (12-12) did. In the third inning, Abbey Mele tallied a single followed by Sommer South getting on base after a fielder's choice on a force out to third. Hope Ruza made the score 3-2 with an RBI single.

Jewel Purpura then hit a blooper that found an opening to put across the tying run at 3-3.

Madonna responded in the fourth inning. With the Bishops being able to get two quick outs, Taylor Thompson belted a double. She was then brought home by Katie Gasvoda. Courtney Kaczmarek tallied her second single of the game that put the score at 5-3.

"We have nothing hang out heads about," Coach Mele said. "We played hard and with as much effort as we could give. Give credit to Chris and his program. We just had too many errors. It's the same old saying, 'You have errors

against a good team and it just comes back to haunt you.'"

One of the Bishops errors came in the first inning. Sarah Travingo put down a grounder in between first and second. The ball got between two Bishops and Madonna tallied two runs to put the score at 3-1. In the sixth inning, the Blue Dons scored their final run after a drop pop up in the infield by the Bishops.

"We were a program with two seniors on the team," Mele said. "We started three freshmen. No one expected us to even be playing in the OVAC Championship. These girls have really come together as a team. We're starting to hit our stride right now. The good thing is what I told the girls. We got them again on Tuesday for sectionals."

Maddie Menendez led off with a single for the Bishops while South also supplied a hit. Hope Ruza brought home two runs

along with her hit while Jamie Emery and Josie Bonar both had one single.

For the Blue Dons, freshman catcher Sophia Recrosio had a career day with a double and two singles. Thompson belted a single and a double while Kaczmarek had three singles.

Travalingo, Megan Boniti and Gianna Mascio all had singles as well. Gasvoda went the distance in the circle firing six strikeouts.

"It's a great feeling," Conti said about winning back-to-back championships. "I've been coaching here for 23 years and I won one in '08 and then won two back to back. But my hats off to the girls. It's not me. I put the girls together and do what I have to do. They have to play the game. Last year we won and I had a very good team and I have a good team this year. When you have a pitcher like Katie, you're going to win a lot of games."

MONARCHS

Continued from page B1

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coach Pat Durkin said.

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With Walker at the plate,

SPORTS

Sunday
May 1, 2016



**Robert "Bubba"
Kapral**
Executive Sports Editor

New OHSBCA director recalls days at J-S

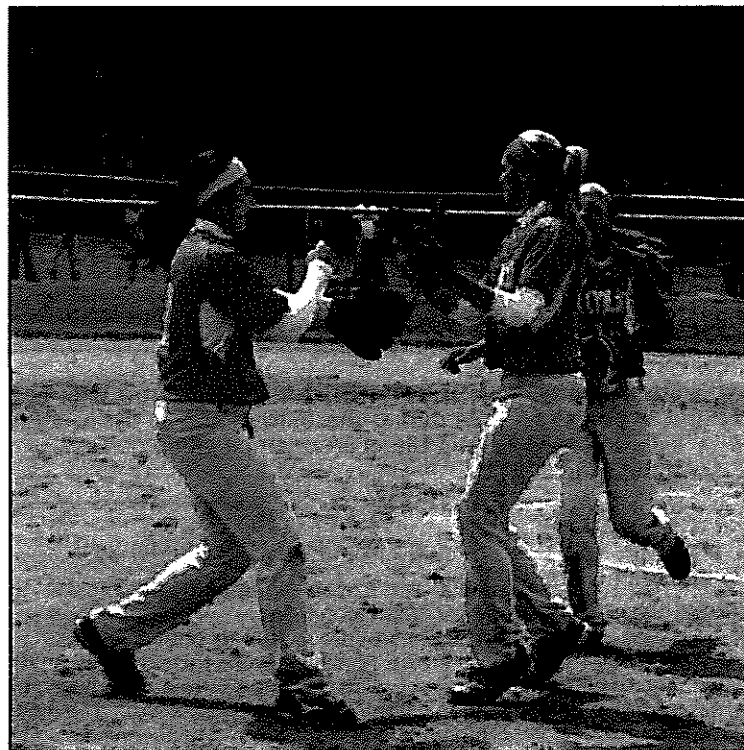
MARTINS FERRY — A former Jewett-Scio High head basketball coach has been appointed to a newly created statewide position.

Tom Barrick, who coached the Vikings for four seasons in the late 1980s, has been chosen as the first executive director for the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association.

He is currently head coach at Eastern Beaver High School in Pike County after a long and successful tenure at Wheelersburg High.

"The executive director's position was developed to help handle some of the business dealings of the association. Over the past 30 years, the OHSBCA has become a huge organization. We had 3,724 coaches in our association this year," Barrick said. "We also have some huge sponsorships with some of the major businesses in the sporting world — Rawlings, Gatorade, Ohio Army National Guard and Sheet & Wall"

OVAC Baseball and Softball Championships



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Amaya Smith, right, is congratulated by her older sister, Adrian, after the Red Devils defeated Martins Ferry, 1-0, for the Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 4A Softball Championships on Saturday on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Wheeling. Amaya Smith had a dozen strikeouts, allowed just two hits and knocked in the game-winning run.

St. C. fights off Ferry for 4A softball crown

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING — For 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 I-470 J.B. Chambers. The Purple Riders, despite being no-hit, won 1-0 in the first week of the season.

"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.

See, ST. C., Page B2

me executive secre- I got a call one day if I'd be interested. I yes. That was about 12 years ago."

his commissioner's Wojcik makes sure season runs smoothly nsures game results med in a timely man- Rick DeLuca, who es the standings. tournament time, he es logistics for the nal and final games ve classes.

n pretty happy with ay the OVAC base- ches have conduct- mselves," Wojcik "They are very pro- al."

is role as commis- Wojcik tries to stay of the latest issues ag to high school ll. He'd like to see nd West Virginia's s mimic each other s of starting. He'd see the trend of bet- ds and better field ions continue, and ve to see more folks ze the talented play- t exist in the Ohio

ant people to realize e a lot of good base- ent in the valley," noting many of the lleges - West Lib- heeling Jesuit and ly - annually

ngle, base error on the infield, putting runners on second and third.

what "That seventh inning is one of the rea- sions why coaches end up with gray hairs," Sliva smiled.

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

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

er in "Early in the game, we had some run- ners 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 St. Clairsville. It just didn't go our way today. Our guys competed every single pitch."



recruit said talent.

Some of that talent has turned to Wojcik for advice and counsel. One of those players, former Wheeling Park and West Virginia University stand-out Corey Walter. Walter currently plays for the Oakland A's Double-A affiliate Midland Rock-Hounds

"We started working together when he was 9 and did so through his junior year in college," Wojcik said. "And, every year, he comes back from playing, we get together and converse about how things are going.

"I also worked with Scott Goodnight and later started working with his son, (Linsly's) Logan Goodnight.

"When someone asks me to give instruction to their grandkid, that's when I know it's time to quit," he laughed.

St. C.

Continued from Page B1

"I knew I could get them if I had my rise ball working," Smith, who has now charted 41 strikeouts in three games against Martins Ferry, said. "I knew I was going to get them today."

Duncan was impressed

with Smith's effort.

"Amaya was absolutely powerful in the circle today. She had so much command and kept their hitters under control," Duncan explained. "Her control was absolutely outstanding. That is huge for her. She was definitely on her game today."

The Purple Riders (15-7) managed just four baserunners all game. Bumbico made it to third with two outs 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."

St. Clairsville had but one runner through three

OHSBCA

Continued from Page B1

His inaugural Pirates' squad advanced to the state title game, bowing to Orrville. He also led

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 throw went to third trying to get Gallentine.

The Purple Riders were on the verge 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.

"I knew I could do it. I was a little nervous, though, but I had to do it for my teammates," Smith said of the winning single.

LINSLEY THIRD baseman Gage Giovengo reacts after ripping a run-scoring triple during the third inning of the Cadets' 8-2 victory against Fort Frye in the OVAC Class 3A championship game.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

Linsly

Continued from Page B1

Cadets' ace Logan Goodnight, the Linsly offense didn't stop there.

The Cadets proceeded to pound out six hits - five of which were for extra bases - and score five times to blow the game open in the third.

Goodnight helped his own cause with a RBI triple, which scored Tyler Ashbrook, who had led off the inning with a double. Gage Giovengo followed Goodnight with a triple of his own down the left-field line. He raced home on a fielder's choice when the Fort threw down to first after a strikeout.

Jacob Murray resumed the hit parade with a solid single, which set the table for powerful first baseman Floid Giddings. He took a Bradford fastball deep over the left-field fence for his sixth home run of

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With eight runs in his hip pocket, Goodnight was simply looking for outs in the next five innings. He finished the job, allowing two runs. He struck out just five, but Linsly played error-free defense.

"Logan provides such a boost for us," Cartwright said. "He was outstanding. He's a four-year letterman and he's been pitching outstanding baseball. He has outstanding velocity and control."

Smith finished by retiring the final five Purple Riders and 17 of the last 19 she faced. She recorded at least one strikeout in all seven frames, and fanned the side in the fifth. She threw 90 pitches, with 73 being strikes. She also a first-pitch strike to 18 of the 25 batters she faced.

DeLeonardis struck out four and walked only one. She was touched up for half-a-dozen hits.

Bree Bennington had a single and double for St. Clairsville.

Martins Ferry's defense kept it in the game while the bats were silent.

Williams admitted that this loss will sting for some time.

"This will be a hard one to overcome," she said. "This was our main goal, not that the sectionals aren't important, but sometimes it's better to get beat 10-0 than 1-0."

Association, becoming the first Ohio coach to serve in this role. He also serves on the OHSBCA board, which is to develop better relationships with the media, so we highlight some of the

"We also have some huge sponsorships with some of the major businesses in the sporting world — Rawlings, Gatorade, Ohio Army National Guard and Shoot-A-Way, etc.) The executive director is going to be working closely with these businesses to strengthen our relationships. The executive director will also work on strengthening the infrastructure of the organization."

Barrick takes great pride in his appointment and understands the importance that it carries.

"The OHSBCA is one of the three largest coaching associations in the nation behind Texas and Michigan. So any job with the OHSBCA is quite an honor. Of course to be the first executive director is something special in itself but with it comes a lot of unique challenges," Barrick noted. "The roles and expectations of the position are still being developed so there are a lot of uncertainties. Hopefully, with the guidance of OHSBCA leadership, the executive director will be a major spokesman for the association as well as the contact person for business related matters."

Barrick launched his coaching career in 1985 as an assistant to Dan Liedtke at Fort Frye. His stay in Beverly lasted all of one year.

He subsequently accepted the head coaching job at Jewett-Scio, proving the springboard for his hall of fame career. The Coshocton native took over a down-trodden program and turned it into a well-respected and competitive outfit.

"I remember a lot about my Jewett-Scio days and it is fond memories. We struggled our first couple years at J-S but I am so thankful for that time. It truly taught me that I didn't know much about coaching and I had to do a lot of work to get better. Regardless I had some of the best kids ever at J-S," Barrick said. "Last spring when I was being honored by the OHSBCA, I actually had three players from my J-S teams attend that awards ceremony. It had been 26 years since I coached at J-S and they still came to the ceremony. It goes to show you how special of kids they were. One of the guys drove in from North Carolina the day of the ceremony, one of them still lives in Jewett and runs the biddy basketball program there and one is a girls basketball coach.

"I still have coaching friends from the Ohio Valley. Joe Dunlevy (Indian Creek) was one of the guys who befriended me in my early years when I was struggling. I have never forgotten that. Joe is a great high school basketball coach and a great person," he added. "Shoot.... I remember coaching against the Masloski twins from Buckeye Local. There were some great teams and great players in the Valley those years. I still have friends (and family) in Harrison County."

His efforts in Harrison County landed him the head coaching job at Morgan High School, where he again exhibited his ability to build a

Class 4A Softball Championships on Saturday on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Wheeling. Amaya Smith drove in the game's only run. had a dozen strikeouts, allowed just two hits and knocked in the game-winning run.

See, ST

Seven-run sixth lifts St. C. to 4A b

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

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 with a single and Tyler Blomquist, who came on in relief of Goletz, followed with a double.

Two hitters later, Brandon Ducker sin-

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Starks go

River comes up short in 2A softball game

By KIM NORTH
For the News-Register

WHEELING — There was a lot of hype surrounding Saturday afternoon's Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A championship game. And why not? The two teams had a combined record of 48-1 entering the contest.

The contest certainly lived up to its billing, and more.

Kaitlyn Ferns bad-hop infield single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning allowed pinch runner Bailey Nixon to score the winning run as top-seeded Wheeling Central (25-0) remained unbeaten with a thrilling, 2-1, decision over No. 2 River (24-2) before an overflow crowd at Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

"What a game!" Wheeling Central coach Rick Magruder said. "We knew coming in they (River) were a good team. You don't win 24 games by being bad. They've got a



Photo/KIM NORTH

WHEELING CENTRAL'S Allie Cook reaches for a throw to force out River's Brissa Marshall in the top of the eighth inning Saturday afternoon during the Tom Bechtel Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A Softball Championships on Lisa's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex. The Maroon Knights won, 2-1, in nine innings.

See, RIVER, Page B2

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River

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great pitcher and their defense is unbelievable. You can't say enough about them or our girls. It was two teams they kept battling. Neither one wanted to lose and in a game like this, it's a shame that someone had to lose."

Marissa Garlitz reached on a fielder's choice with two outs and Nixon was inserted as a runner for Garlitz. Jai'Ehir Jackson lined a single to right as Nixon went to third. After Jackson stole second uncontested, Ferns ripped a shot off the glove of River first baseman Bailey Caldwell. The ball deflected to second baseman Riley Lollathin, but the umpire, after a

brief hesitation and consultation with a fellow umpire, ruled Ferns beat the throw from Lollathin to Caldwell, thus ending the game.

"It just goes to show that when you put the ball in play anything can happen," Magruder noted. "That's what we stress to the girls all the time. Put the ball in play. It worked for us tonight."

The game was scoreless through five-and-a-half innings as River's Rosey Romick and Wheeling Central's Riley Bennington were on their games. The Maroon Knights finally dented their side of the scoreboard in the bottom of the sixth.

Wojcik

Continued from Page B1

that didn't stop him from wanting to help others try to reach theirs.

"I always dreamed about playing in the major leagues and didn't," he said. But I had the opportunity to get a chance at playing. I look back on the career I had. Everyone better, but from where I stand, I couldn't have asked for a much better life."

In 1979, Wojcik began subbing in the Bridgeport school system and, a year later, he started teaching and coaching there.

Wojcik served as the Bulldogs head baseball coach until 1996.

From there, Wojcik turned to specialized coaching, working with pitchers, first at Wheeling Park (1997-98) and then at his collegiate alma mater for his friend Bo McConaughy at West Lib (1998-2006).

It was during that time that he was approached about becoming the OVAC baseball commissioner.

"Sam Mumley (former OVAC executive secretary) had put together a group of guys - Dave Cisar, Bob Montgomery, me, Lefty Hall and Brad Wilson - and we'd discuss the things we discuss today, but there was never a commissioner. When Tom (Rataiczak)

(became executive secretary) I got a call one day asking if I'd be interested. I said yes. That was about 10 or 12 years ago."

In his commissioner's role, Wojcik makes sure the season runs smoothly and ensures game results are turned in a timely manner to Rick DeLuca, who handles the standings. Come tournament time, he oversees logistics for the semifinal and final games in all five classes.

"I'm pretty happy with the way the OVAC baseball coaches have conducted themselves," Wojcik said. "They are very professional."

In his role as commissioner, Wojcik tries to stay on top of the latest issues relating to high school baseball. He'd like to see Ohio and West Virginia's seasons mimic each other in terms of starting. He'd like to see the trend of better fields and better field conditions continue, and he'd love to see more folks recognize the talented players that exist in the Ohio Valley.

"I want people to realize we have a lot of good baseball talent in the valley," he said, noting many of the local colleges - West Liberty, Wheeling Jesuit and Bethany - annually

recruit said talent.

Some of that talent has turned to Wojcik for advice and counsel. One of those players, former Wheeling Park and West Virginia University standout Corey Walter. Walter currently plays for the Oakland A's Double-A affiliate Midland Rock-Hounds

"We started working together when he was 9 and did so through his junior year in college," Wojcik said. "And, every year, he comes back from playing, we get together and converse about how things are going."

"I also worked with Scott Goodnight and later started working with his son, (Linsly's) Logan Goodnight."

"When someone asks me to give instruction to their grandkid, that's when I know it's time to quit," he laughed.

St. C.

Continued from Page B1

"I knew I could get them if I had my rise ball working," Smith, who has now charted 41 strikeouts in three games against Martins Ferry, said. "I knew I was going to get them today."

Duncan was impressed



LINSLEY THIRD baseman Gage triple during the third inning of the OVAC Class 3A championship game.

Linsly

Continued from Page B1

Cadets' ace Logan Goodnight, the I offense didn't stop there.

The Cadets proceeded to pound on hits - five of which were for extra - and score five times to blow the open in the third.

Goodnight helped his own cause with a RBI triple, which scored Tyler Asht who had led off the inning with a double. Gage Giovengo followed Goodnight with a triple of his own down the left-field line, raced home on a fielder's choice when Fort threw down to first after a strikeout.

Jacob Murray resumed the hit parade with a solid single, which set the table for powerful first baseman Floyd Gidding to take a Bradford fastball deep over the left-field fence for his sixth home run

with Smith's effort.

"Amaya was absolutely powerful in the circle today. She had so much command and kept their hitters under control," Duncan explained. "Her control was absolutely outstanding. That is huge for her. She was definitely on her game today."

The Purple Riders (15-7)

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Baseball

Continued from Page B1

Lady Warriors rally with four-run fifth to beat Steubenville Catholic, 5-4

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

ELM GROVE, WV — Leading 4-1 after four innings, Steubenville Catholic Central left the door slightly ajar and Buckeye Trail High kicked it in with a big-time comeback, scoring four runs in the fifth frame to capture the Class 3A title at the OVAC Tom Bechtel Championships on Saturday, giving the Lady Warriors their first-ever softball crown.

The Lady Crusaders had



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian/buyjeffphotos.com

The Buckeye Trail bench shouts encouragement during the latter stages of Saturday's OVAC Class 3A Championship Game against Steubenville Catholic.



scored in each of the first three innings in building their 4-1 advantage, but a one-out fly ball off the bat of Trail's Sophomore Brooke Colvin eluded both two converging outfielders and ended up as a rally-starting triple.

Sophomore Amber Colvin followed with an RBI ground-out to plate Brooke Colvin and cut the margin to 4-2, but the Lady Warriors were just getting started.

Junior Alexis Wheeler got on via an error; sophomore Hannah Smith beat out an infield single and sophomore Jenni Carmichael reached on a strikeout-wild pitch which loaded the bases.

Sophomore Randi-Leigh Rippeth then delivered a bloop single to left that knocked in Wheeler and Smith and sophomore Maybelline Rodriguez followed with an RBI single which plated Carmichael and in a blink of an eye, Trail's three-run deficit had turned into a 5-4 lead.

From there, Smith tossed three scoreless innings allowing just two baserunners - one on a single and one on an error - to secure the victory and set off a wild celebration by the Lady Warriors.

"We got down 4-1 and against a team like that, a lot of teams would throw in the towel but we didn't," said elated Trail coach

OVAC CLASS 3A CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
BUCKEYE TRAIL 5,
STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC 4
Buckeye Trail 100 040 0-593
Steub. Catholic 211 000 0-473
Hannah Smith (WP 14-1, 5 Ka, 2 BB) and Randi-Leigh Rippeth; Alex McComb (LP 7 Ka, 0 BB) and Shayna Mirabella.
RECORDS - Buckeye Trail 22-2;
Steubenville Catholic, 17-2.
STATS - For Buckeye Trail, Brooke Colvin, triple, single, run; Smith, 2 singles, run; Amber Colvin, triple, RBI, run; Jenni Carmichael, single, run; Allie McVicker, single; Rippeth, single, 2 RBI; Maybelline Rodriguez, single, 2 RBI. For Steubenville Catholic, Torri Grandinetti, double, single, 2 RBI; Rachel Dziewatkoski, 2 singles, RBI, run; Mirabella, single, run; Abigail Miller, single; McComb, single; Gabbi Capaldi, run; Karmen DiBlase, run.

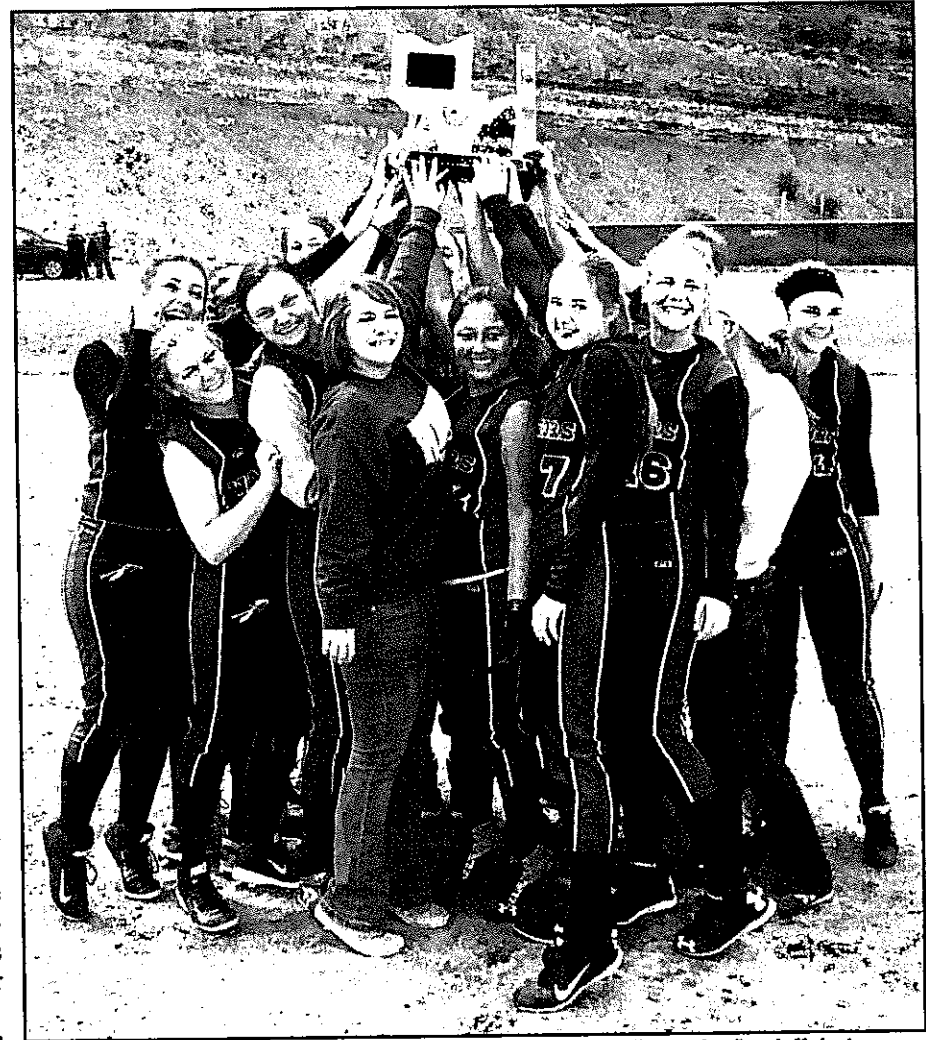
Stacey Smith. "We talked about pushing all the way to the end of seven innings and it paid off today."

Smith credited her team's patience at the plate in the decisive inning as the key.

"Two innings before against the meat of our order, they went change-up, change-up and got two little ground balls," related the Lady Warriors' coach, "so we were focused on leaving the change-ups alone and wait on your pitch...and they did."

The OVAC championship was the latest in a line of memorable accomplishments this week for the Lady Warriors, who also wrapped up the Pioneer Valley Conference title. The team also continues to add to its school-record win total, with state-ranked Trail now sporting a sparkling 22-2 mark.

"I couldn't be more proud of them," said Coach Smith of her sophomore-dominated squad. "Our



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian/buyjeffphotos.com

A happy bunch of Buckeye Trail Lady Warriors hoist the school's first-ever OVAC Class 3A Softball Championship trophy into the air following Saturday's 5-4 victory over Steubenville Catholic at the I-470 Complex in Elm Grove, W. Va.

next goal is to get out of the sectional and I really think this is the team to do it."

Trail tallied in the top of the first inning on a one-out triple by Amber Colvin and an RBI ground-out by Wheeler, but left two on base after Smith and

Carmichael collected two-out singles.

Steubenville Catholic (17-2) responded with two runs in the bottom of the first on a lead-off walk to Gabbi Capaldi; a two-out single by Shayna Mirabella and a two-run double by Torri Grandinetti.

The Lady Crusaders made it 3-1 in the second on singles by Rachel Dziewatkoski and Abigail Miller, with an overthrow on a throw across the infield allowing Dziewatkowski to scamper home.

The margin increased to

See **BTHS** page B-3

Trail finally gets title

BTHS from page B-1

4-1 in the third when Alex McComb reached on an error; Grandinetti singled and Dziewatkowski delivered an RBI single to score courtesy runner Karmen DiBiase and set the stage for Trail's comeback inning.

Hannah Smith turned in a complete-game victory in the circle, striking out five and walking two, but her coach/mother credited the team's ability to take away the Crusaders' "small ball" attack as a big key.

"Hannah struggled a little bit with location today," said Coach Smith, "but we put in a new defense a few days ago because he (veteran Steubenville Catholic coach Jim DiCarlo) plays a lot of short ball and our goal was to take it away as much as possible.

"We also executed pretty well when we got baserunners on," she added. "It was just a total team win."

Brooke Colvin (triple and single) and Smith (two singles) had multi-hit games for the Lady Warriors while Grandinetti (double and single) and Dziewatkowski (two singles) had two safeties for the Lady Crusaders, who had a three-year run of OVAC titles come to an end.

Steubenville Catholic pitcher McComb recorded seven Ks and no walks in a route-going effort.

In the other OVAC title games Saturday, St. Clairsville edged Martins Ferry, 1-0, in Class 4A; Weirton Madonna topped Bishop Donahue, 6-3, in Class 1A; John Marshall nipped Wheeling Park, 3-2, in Class 5A; and Wheeling Central outlasted River, 2-1 in nine innings, in Class 2A.

NEXT — Buckeye Trail treks to Cambridge on Tuesday at 5 p.m.