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The Times Leader

SPORTS

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Monday,
April 24, 2017

Barnesville tops Linsly in OVAC Class 3A semi

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

BARNESVILLE — Nothing has come easy for the Barnesville baseball team the last half week.

Wednesday, the Shamrocks faced St. Clairsville and rallied to top the Red Devils by two. A night later, Jared Kernen belted a walk-off homer to down state-ranked Toronto.

So, when Barnesville entered the bottom of the fourth inning Saturday night trailing Linsly, 4-1, in their OVAC Class 3A baseball semifinal, Barnesville head coach D.J. Butler figured his squad was in a perfect spot.

Indeed it was.

The Shamrocks scored two in that fourth, then

finished with five unanswered runs all told in besting the Cadets, 6-4, on a chilly night before a packed house under the lights at Memorial Park.

"St. Clairsville, Toronto and Linsly — all top programs," an ecstatic Barnesville head coach D.J. Butler said. "Hats off to (Linsly). That's an incredible team. They really are.

"I'm proud of my kids the way they gutted out that performance."

The Shamrocks, the top seed, will play for their fourth conference crown — and first in 20 years — Saturday morning at 11 when they battle Fort Frye at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field. The Cadets thumped Tyler Consolidated, 16-0, in Saturday's other semifinal.

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BARNESVILLE'S GAETAN Sinisgalli works to the plate Saturday night against Linsly in their OVAC Class 3A semifinal at Memorial Park. Sinisgalli drove in the game-winning run and was the winning pitcher in the Shamrocks' 6-4 triumph.

T-L Photo/RICK THORP

• OVAC

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In a contest that was chippy emotionally on both sides, Barnesville found its groove offensively once the chips were down.

Trailing by three, it appeared the Cadets had all the momentum. But in the fourth, Barnesville started to chip away at Linsly starter Frank Favede who, up until that point, had kept Barnesville batters at bay, only allowing four hits — three coming in a first-inning barrage that saw the Shamrocks tie the game at 1-1.

With one out, Aaron Marovich walked. A Kerren groundout sent pinch runner Braydon Reynolds to second.

Gaetan Sinisgalli came through, slapping a single to center, making the score 4-2. Sinisgalli ended up at second on the throw home. With Kaelan Hannahs at the dish, Alex Meade, running for Sinisgalli, went to third on a wild pitch. He later scored on an error, trimming the deficit to one — 4-3.

In the fifth, Sinisgalli

aided his own cause and put Barnesville on top with a two-out single that plated Brady Treherne and Marovich.

Trailing 5-4, Jon Milton singled to leadoff the Linsly sixth. Sinisgalli got leadoff batter Warren Saunders to fly out and Vic Giovengo to strike out before being pulled in favor of reliever Zach Thompson. With Milton at second with the tying run, Thompson, a freshman, got Gage Giovengo to groundout, ending the threat.

"Their reliever came in and did a good job," Linsly head coach Jay Cartwright said. "You have to tip your hat. They were a little better than us.

"They put some balls in the right spot. Give their kids credit. They were up there battling at the plate and our kids were, too. Two teams playing really hard. It's a game that could've went either way and it didn't go our way."

Barnesville plated an insurance run in the sixth

when Treherne was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded. It was the third time on the night a run had scored via a hit-by-pitch with the bases juiced.

In the third, Linsly went up 3-1 when Sinisgalli hit Gavin Ernest and Eli Petho with pitches. Vic Giovengo scored one of those runs. And in the fourth, he scored again when Gage Giovengo sent a blast to center that put Linsly up three.

But Sinisgalli was solid from there, only allowing two more hits. He finished with nine Ks and one walk.

"He would tell you it wasn't his best stuff on the mound," Butler said. "He struggled a bit early finding his spots, but he was able to gut it out."

As did Barnesville's batters, who seemed to rise to the occasion as the emotion started to rise in the stadium.

"I just told them to be themselves," Butler said. "You've been here before. They stayed calm and battled."

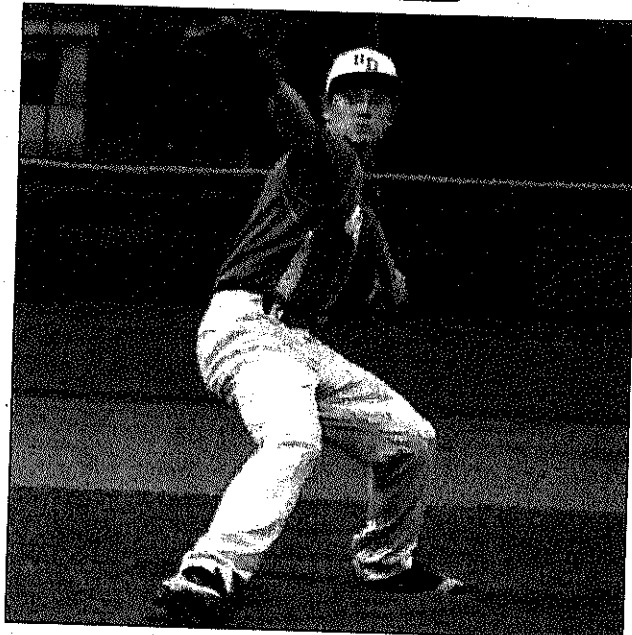


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Bishop Donahue left-hander Doug Clark delivers during Tuesday's game against Paden City.

Donahue Claims Its Final Crown

Clark stars with 12 strikeouts

By **KYLE LUTZ**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — For the past three years, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference has seen two teams dominate the field in Class 1A. Paden City and Bishop Donahue met for the third year in a row for the OVAC Championship. It had the same outcome for the third straight year as the Bishops — behind the stellar pitching performance of Doug Clark and a six-run fourth inning — cruised to a 9-1 victory over the Wildcats on Monday night.

It was also the sixth time in the past seven years the Bishops raised the hardware. This one, however, will be more memorable than others.

"I'm proud of them,"

Bishop Donahue (13-9) coach Bob Kleeh said. "It's a good way to finish off what seems to be like the last year for the school. We had a nice little run in this tournament. Our pitcher did a heckuva job. He has come a long way since last year. He's going to be a fine addition to some school next year and we have a few players that will be. I'm proud of the seniors. It was a good way for them to go out. Paden City, we're going to miss that rivalry too. You're talking deep roots there. Coach (Brent) Croasmun ... good coach, good friend. We've developed a relationship the last six years. He's been down there a long time. It's a fitting way to go out against a good rival like that. It's just been good all the way around. It's a good

Please See **DONAHUE**,
Page 14

Bishop Donahue wins Class 1A baseball title over PC

By KYLE LUTZ
For The Times Leader

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We've developed a relationship the last six years. He's been down there a long time. It's a fitting way to go out against a good rival like that.

"It's just been good all the way around. It's a good team to play and a solid coaching staff. I'm proud to know him."

Clark had a stellar game on the mound as he fired 12 strikeouts and zero walks, and also tallied two hits and a RBI.

The Bishops secured a 2-0 lead going into the fourth inning before opening the flood gates as they scored six runs on four hits. J.C. Custer got things going with a base hit followed by a Clark RBI single.

After a Nate Rush walk, Logan Wells crushed a run-scoring double. John Stocklask then brought home a run followed by a Chris Barry walk.

With the bases loaded, Harrison Nick hit the ball right to the pitcher and a wild throw that got behind the catcher caused two more runs to score for the

Bishops. Dustin Beazel brought home the last run of the inning as he got on base on an error.

"I'm proud of our team," Croasmun said. "We did win the regular season championship. We've been here three years in a row. For a small public school in West Virginia, I'm just real proud of what they accomplished in the last three years.

We've got some good seniors that we are going to lose that are responsible for us being here. You have to give (Bishop Donahue) a lot of credit.

"That's a nice baseball team they got."

Hayden Hizer tallied a double for the Wildcats (12-10) while Kolton Elliott brought home the only run of the day with a RBI-single.

For the Bishops, Stocklask tallied three hits and two RBI while Wells had a single, double and RBI. Custer secured a double and single.

Fort Frye Wins 3A Crown By Blanking Barnesville



Photo by Seth Staskey

Barnesville's Zane Huntsman readies for a throw to first base Friday at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex during the OVAC Class 3A Baseball Championship against Fort Frye.

Bradford spins two-hit shutout as Cadets pull away late

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Barnesville has probably seen all it cares to of Fort Frye for the 2016-17 school year.

The Shamrocks saw their football season end at the hands of the Cadets in the second round of the Ohio Division VI playoffs and the latest athletic meeting, which occurred in Friday's OVAC Class 3A baseball championship game, didn't go much better.

Fort Frye rode the impressive left arm of Tyler Bradford and capitalized on a few late scoring chances to capture the school's second conference title in history and first since 2005 by a 4-0 count, before a large crowd at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

"This was good, solid baseball on both sides," Fort Frye coach Sonny

Bidwell said. "We've been to this game a few times since 2005 and it's really nice to break through. The boys did a great job of getting the victory."

The victory certainly didn't come easy against the top-seeded and now 17-7 Shamrocks, who received splendid pitching of their own from southpaw Gaetan Sinisgalli.

"You have to score to win and we didn't do a good job of putting the ball in play," Barnesville coach D.J. Butler said. "Sonny does a great job and is one of the best coaches in the OVAC. He did a better job than I did, of preparing his kids."

Bradford allowed a leadoff single to Cade Hannahs, but he was later doubled off on a line drive. Bradford faced the minimum through three innings.

But, Sinisgalli was matching him zero for zero. However, the Cadets put more pressure on the Shamrocks on the base paths. Fort Frye went in order in just the fifth inning and left runners in scoring position in the first, third and fourth innings.

In the sixth, Fort Frye was able to break through. Catcher Logan Isner led off the inning with a single, stole second and advanced to third when the throw went into center field. He came home on the ensuing pitch when Jason Heiss bounced out to second.

Though the Shamrocks had two at-bats remaining, the 1-0 deficit felt much larger with the way Bradford was dealing. With the lead, he issued

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OVAC Baseball pairings finalized

• Semifinals scheduled for Saturday

By **JOSH STROPE**
For The Times Leader

WHEELING – Saturday begins championship week in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference as champions will be determined in baseball, softball and tennis.

The baseball pairings were released late Wednesday and were finalized early Thursday. All semifinal games will be held Saturday.

All five returning champions made the field, but only four can defend their crown.

Stuebenville was the champion of Class 5A last season, but Big Red dropped down to Class 4A this season. Coach Fred Heatherington's club opens at 2 p.m. at Vaccaro Field against Harrison Central. When the standings were initially released, Meadowbrook was in the No. 4 spot but an incorrect record put the Huskies into the field, edging out Weir by the smallest of margins.

The defending champion in Class 4A is St. Clairsville, which will travel to Richmond to take on Edison at 11 a.m. in a rematch of last season's title game. The Red Devils won that contest, 7-6.

With Big Red out of Class 5A, a new champion will be crowned.

Top-seeded Parkersburg South brings a 12-4 record and will play host to Warren Local. Like in Class 4A, Indian Creek was initially in the field before an error put the Warriors into the top four instead.

Wheeling Park was on the outside looking in as early as late last week, but Coach Mike McLeod's Patriots made a



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late charge and not only made the field, but will be playing host to Morgantown at 11 a.m. at Patriot Field.

Barnesville is the top seed on Class 3A and draw one of the hottest teams in the OVAC in Linsly. The Cadets have been on a roll with impressive victories against Wheeling Central and Weir.

The defending OVAC champions will have to take to the road against the Shamrocks, who come into the tournament with a 13-5 record. That game will be played at 7 p.m.

The winner of that will face the winner of No. 2 Tyler Consolidated and No. 3 Fort Frye. The Silver Knights have jumped out to an 11-2 start and face a tough task in last season's runnerup.

Toronto is 16-1 and one of the best teams in Ohio. The top-seeded Red Knights won the championship last season and Coach Brian Perkins' club draws Shadyside at 1 p.m. in the Class 2A semifinals. Toronto beat Shadyside, 11-4, on Wednesday.

The other half of the bracket features arguably the most intriguing matchup of the semifinals when No. 2 Wheeling Central faces No. 3 River. The Maroon Knights and Pilots have staged many memorable battles in every sport and Saturday's 3 p.m. game at the I-470 Complex will likely be another.

In Class 1A, Paden City claimed the top seed and will welcome Trinity at noon. The Wildcats look to erase last season's defeat in the title game and the Warriors will be up first. Trinity enters the tournament with a head-to-head tiebreaker on Conotton Valley.

Defending Class 1A champion Bishop Donahue has been red-hot and will welcome Frontier to Valley Fork at 11 a.m.

The Class 1A and 2A championship games will be held Friday, April 28 at I-470 in Wheeling, while the remaining classes will play Saturday, April 29 at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.



AT LEFT: Barnesville third baseman Zan Huntsman through on to first to complete a 5-3 double play as Fort Frye's Garrett Lochary runs toward third. **BELOW:** Barnesville catcher Brady Trehern camps under a pop up during Friday's OVAC Class 3A championship game at the Chambers 470 Complex.

T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY

OVAC Baseball Championship

Shamrocks blanked in 3A

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ELM GROVE — Barnesville has probably seen all it cares to of Fort Frye for the 2016-17 school year.

The Shamrocks saw their football season end at the hands of the Cadets in the second round of the Division VI playoffs and the latest athletic meeting, which occurred in Friday's OVAC Class 3A baseball championship game, didn't go much better for the Belmont Countians.

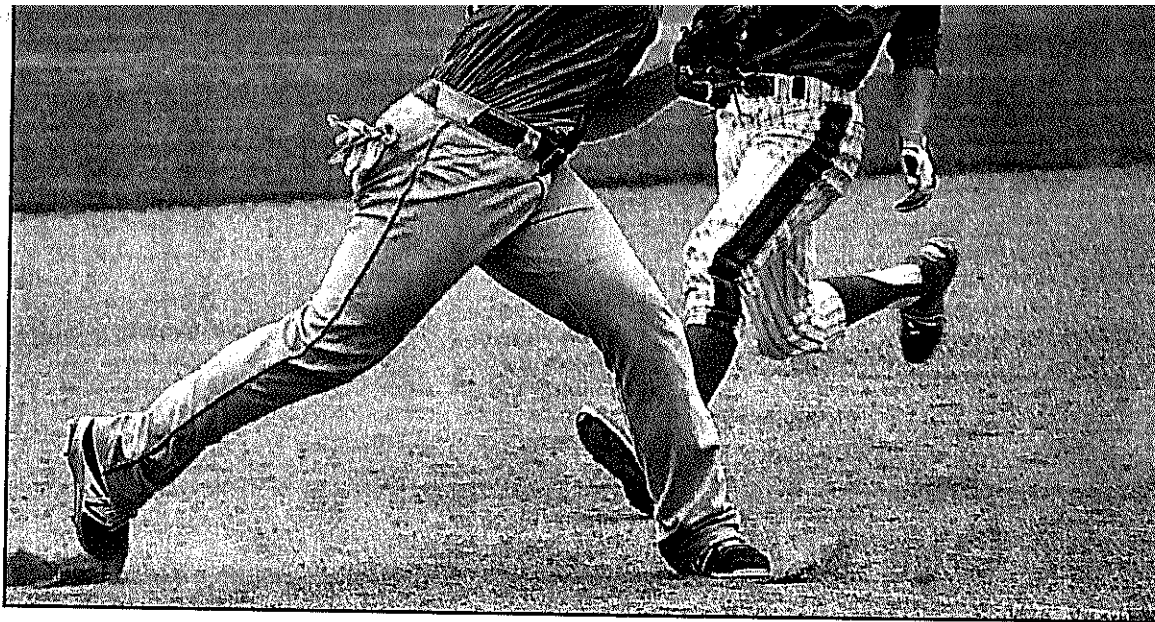
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The victory certainly didn't come easy against the top-seeded and now 17-7 Shamrocks, who received splendid pitching of their own from southpaw Gaetan Sinisgalli.

"You have to score to win and we didn't do a good job of putting the ball in play," Barnesville head coach D.J. Butler said. "Sonny does a great job and is one of the best coaches in the OVAC. He did





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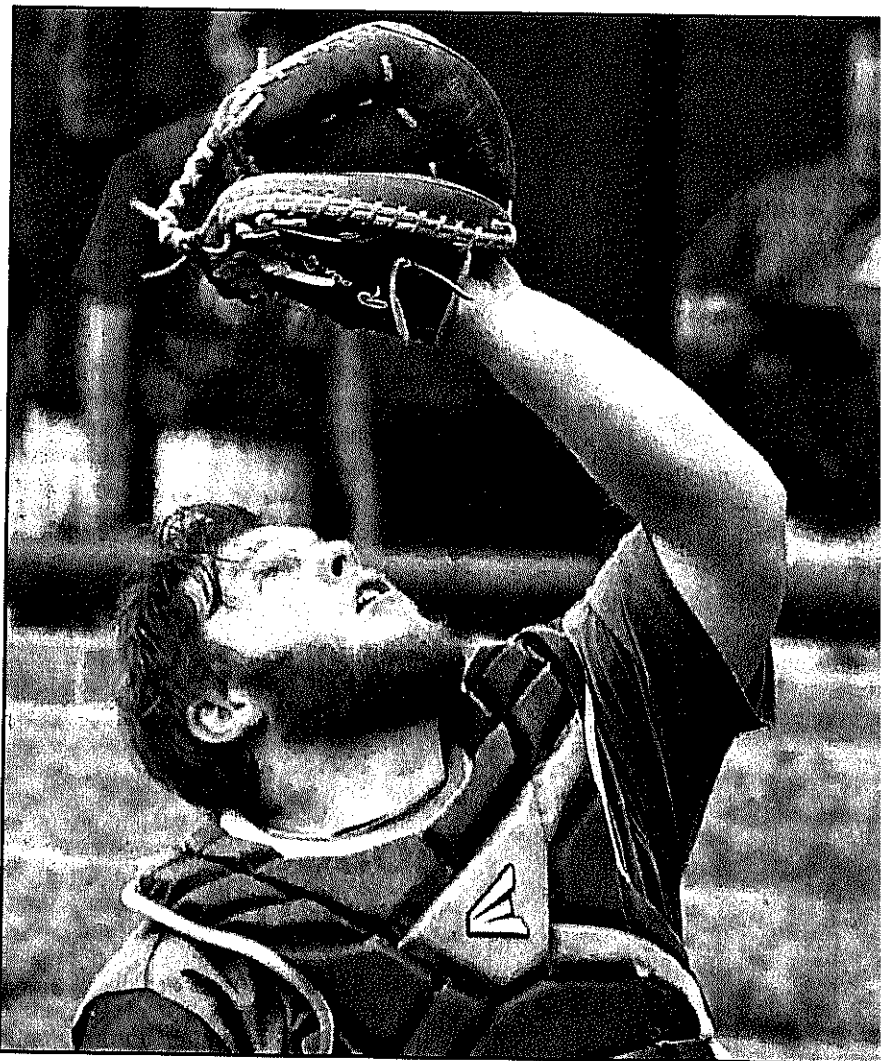
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home on the ensuing pitch when Jas Heiss bounced out to second.

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• Barnesville

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With the lead, he issued a lead-off walk, but allowed that runner to move nary a step further thanks to two strikeouts and a pop out to right.

The Cadets added three insurance tallies in the seventh, two of which were charged to Sinisgalli, who was chased after six-and-a-third innings of work. Garrett Lochary and Luke Nelson drew walks and later scored. Bradford helped his own cause with a RBI single and Isner then doubled to right center, bringing Bradford around.

"Both pitchers worked ahead in the count early and forced hitters to hit their pitches," Bidwell said. "Our battery worked well together and kept their bats silent and kept some runners off the bases. We played well defensively. We didn't move runners well early in the game, but were able to do so late in the game."

The Shamrocks had one runner reach second in the seventh on a two-base error, but Bradford got a fly out to left and a strikeout to end the game and set off a dogpile celebration.

"Bradford pitched a heck of a game," Butler said. "He no hit Tyler last week and two hit us, so they deserved to win. In the last three games, we've not done a real good job at the plate. Our mental approach has been our biggest problem the last couple of games. We didn't do a good job of putting the ball in play and Bradford was getting stronger as he went, gaining velocity."

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Sunday News-Register

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OVAC BASEBALL SEMIFINALS



Shamrocks Beat Cadets

By RICK THORP
For the News-Register

BARNESVILLE — Nothing has come easy for the Barnesville baseball team the last half week.

Wednesday, the Shamrocks faced St. Clairsville and rallied to top the Red Devils by two. A night later, Jared Ker-nen belted a walk-off homer to down state-ranked Toronto.

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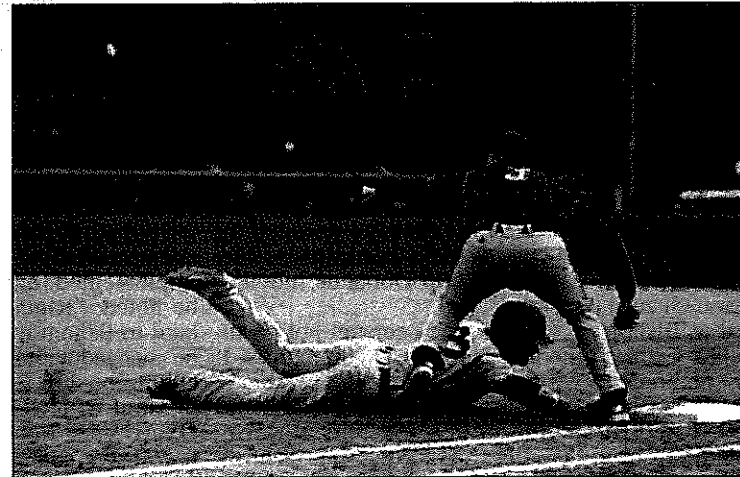
D.J. Butler figured his squad was in a perfect spot.

Indeed it was.

The Shamrocks scored two in that fourth, then finished with five unan-swered runs all told in besting the Cadets, 6-4, on a chilly night before a packed house under the lights at Mem-orial Park.

“St. Clairsville, Toronto and Linsly — all top programs,” an ecstatic Butler said. “Hats off to (Linsly). That’s an incredible team. They really are.

Please see Shamrocks, Page C6



Linsly's Gage Glovengo dives back to first base ahead of the tag by Barnesville's Aaron Marovich during the first inning

Photo by Rick Thorp



Crebs, Central Blank River

Knights Tame Tigers

Toronto to Face



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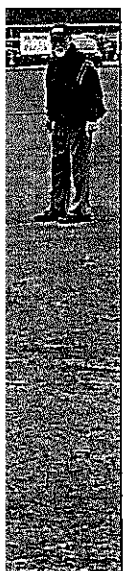
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Aaron Marovich during the first inning

Photo by Rick Thorp

Please see Shamrocks, Page C6



Josh Strobe ends third run in the Class 1A

Crebs, Central Blank River

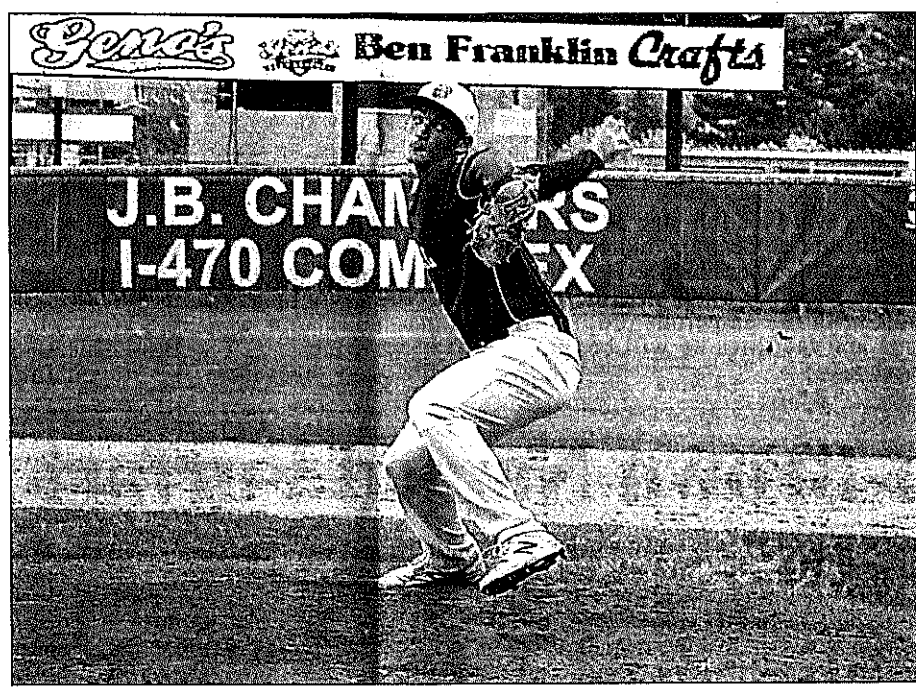


Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Central’s Austin Crebs delivers to the plate during Saturday’s OVAC Class 2A semifinal game against River. The Maroon Knights won, 5-0.

Pitcher Strikes Out Career-High 13 Batters

By KIM NORTH
For the News-Register

WHEELING — Wheeling Central brought its ‘A’ game Saturday against River in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A semifinal. Unfortunately for River, the error-prone Pilots didn’t.

Austin Crebs struck out a career-high 13 batters, walked a pair and scattered three harmless singles in pitching the second-seeded Maroon Knights (17-2) to the championship game with a 5-0 blanking of the No. 3 Pilots (6-3) at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex. Wheeling Central will meet No. 1 Toronto (15-2) next Saturday at a time to be determined.

“Everything kind of fell into place. Once I got out there, I kind of forgot about everything going on around me,” Crebs said. “I concentrated on the game and that was it.”

Wheeling Central coach Bo McConnaughy, who spent three decades as West Liberty’s baseball coach, was very impressed with his senior righthander.

“He’s the kind of pitcher that is always relaxed,” McConnaughy said. “He was really focused. He had his slider working and had a little extra zip on his fastball.”

McConnaughy wasn’t the only coach involved in the game.

Please see Crebs, Page C3

Knights Tame Tigers

Toronto to Face Whg. Central

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

TORONTO — Danny Zdinak set the tone early Saturday afternoon.

The Toronto ace — despite Shadyside coach B.A. Holloway stressing to his club to be aggressive early in the count — needed just nine pitches to strike out the side in the top of the first inning.

Things didn’t get any better for the Tigers from there either.

Toronto struck four times in the bottom of the first and never looked back en route to a 5-0 victory against Shadyside in an OVAC Class 2A semifinal.

“Every year, our semifinal game is after our prom and we had some enthusiasm early and got after it,” Toronto coach Brian Perkins said. “I think we kind of lost our focus, our at-bats weren’t as good as they need to be and our focus in the field wasn’t as good as it needs to be.”

Perkins, who guided the Red Knights to the regional championship game last spring, was spot on in his analysis. The Red Knights put forth just two hits after the first inning and they committed four errors. However, Shadyside couldn’t take advantage of either because of the work Zdinak put forth on the mound.

See Knights, Page C3

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GREAT TREATS FOR ALL
ELM GROVE &
SOUTH WHEELING
DAIRY QUEENS

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Mohigans Throttle Park

By BUBBA KAPRAL
Executive Sports Editor
WHEELING — Mike McLeod could-

The victory propels Coach Mark McCarty’s charges into the conference championship game Friday night against

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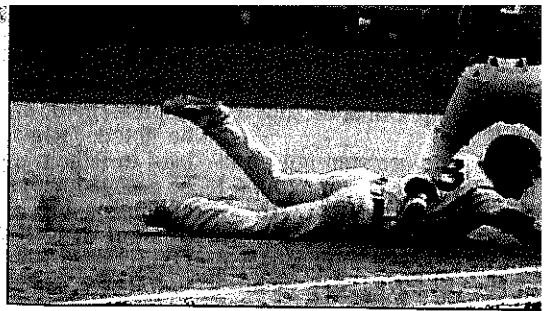


Photo by Josh Strope

Bishop Donahue's Doug Clark rounds third base after hitting a two-run home run in the fourth inning of Saturday's OVAC Class 1A semifinal victory against Frontier.

Bishops To Defend Title

By JOSH STROPE
Sports Editor

MOUNDSVILLE — After struggling out of the gate, Bishop Donahue has caught fire at the right time.

The Bishops began defense of their OVAC Class 1A title with a solid all-around performance Saturday in a 6-1 victory against Frontier at Valley Fork in a semifinal matchup.

Bishop Donahue (11-7) will take on Paden City or Trinity. That game was rained out.

From the pitching to the defense to timely hits to unlikely home runs, this game was about as complete a victory as Bishop Donahue coach Bob Kleeh could have asked for.

"I thought we played pretty solid baseball and John (Stocklask) pitched a pretty solid game for the most part," Kleeh said. "That is a good, solid baseball team we beat. Overall, I thought we made some nice plays in our infield — Gage (Wilson) at second and Nate (Rush) in shortstop made some back-to-back plays. Hit the ball decent, solid pitching, you can't ask for any more than that."

Please see Bishops, Page C3

Crebs, Central Blank River

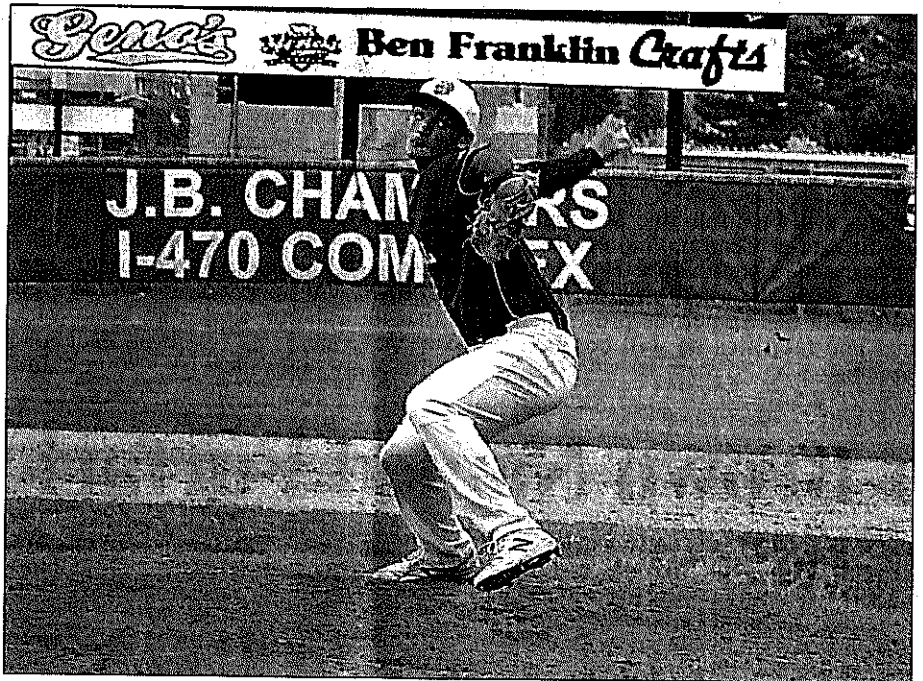


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Please see Crebs, Page C3

Wheeling Park's Jarrett Delbrugge

CARPETS
BY
GREAT TREATS FOR A
ELM GROVE &
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Photo by Josh Strope
 Bishop Donahue's Doug Clark rounds third base after hitting a two-run home run in the fourth inning of Saturday's OVAC Class 1A semifinal victory against Frontier.

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From the pitching to the defense to timely hits to unlikely home runs, this game was about as complete a victory as Bishop Donahue coach Bob Kleeh could have asked for.

"I thought we played pretty solid baseball and John (Stocklask) pitched a pretty solid game for the most part," Kleeh said. "That is a good, solid baseball team we beat. Overall, I thought we made some nice plays in our infield — Gage (Wilson) at second and Nate (Rush) in shortstop made some back-to-back plays. Hit the ball decent, solid pitching, you can't ask for any more than that."

Please see Bishops, Page C3

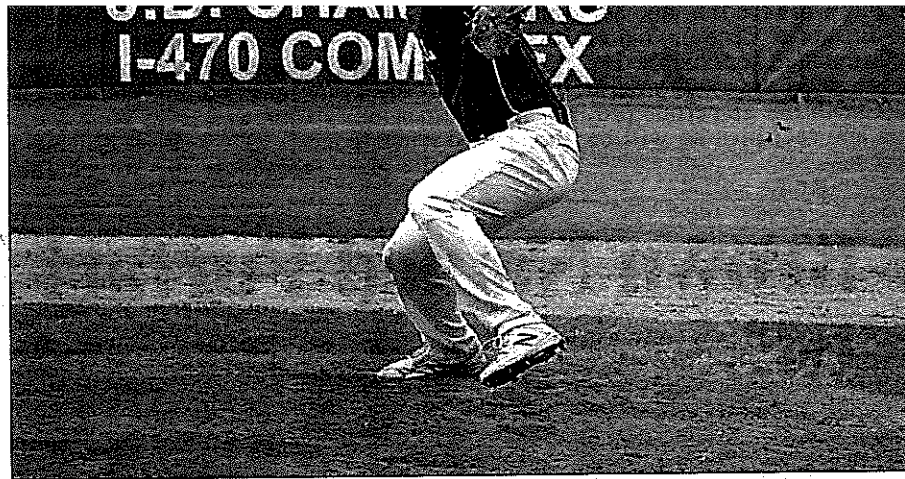


Photo by Kim North
 Wheeling Central's Austin Crebs delivers to the plate during Saturday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal game against River. The Maroon Knights won, 5-0.

Pitcher Strikes Out Career-High 13 Batters

By KIM NORTH
 For the News-Register

WHEELING — Wheeling Central brought its 'A' game Saturday against River in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A semifinal. Unfortunately for River, the error-prone Pilots didn't.

Austin Crebs struck out a career-high 13 batters, walked a pair and scattered three harmless singles in pitching the second-seeded Maroon Knights (17-2) to the championship game with a 5-0 blanking of the No. 3 Pilots (6-3) at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex. Wheeling Central will meet No. 1 Toronto (15-2) next Saturday at a time to be determined.

"Everything kind of fell into place.

Once I got out there, I kind of forgot about everything going on around me," Crebs said. "I concentrated on the game and that was it."

Wheeling Central coach Bo McConnaughy, who spent three decades as West Liberty's baseball coach, was very impressed with his senior righthander.

"He's the kind of pitcher that is always relaxed," McConnaughy said. "He was really focused. He had his slider working and had a little extra zip on his fastball."

McConnaughy wasn't the only coach involved in the game.

Please see Crebs, Page C3

urday afternoon.

The Toronto ace — despite Shadyside coach B.A. Holloway stressing to his club to be aggressive early in the count — needed just nine pitches to strike out the side in the top of the first inning.

Things didn't get any better for the Tigers from there either.

Toronto struck four times in the bottom of the first and never looked back en route to a 5-0 victory against Shadyside in an OVAC Class 2A semifinal.

"Every year, our semifinal game is after our prom and we had some enthusiasm early and got after it," Toronto coach Brian Perkins said. "I think we kind of lost our focus, our at-bats weren't as good as they need to be and our focus in the field wasn't as good as it needs to be."

Perkins, who guided the Red Knights to the regional championship game last spring, was spot on in his analysis. The Red Knights put forth just two hits after the first inning and they committed four errors. However, Shadyside couldn't take advantage of either because of the work Zdinak put forth on the mound.

See Knights, Page C3

Wheeling Park's Jarrett Delbrugge fields a grounder during an OVAC semifinal game against Morgantown Saturday.

Photo by Kyle Lutz



Mohigans Throttle Park

By BUBBA KAPRAL
 Executive Sports Editor

WHEELING — Mike McLeod couldn't have asked for a better start to Saturday's OVAC 5A semifinal against Morgantown.

The Wheeling Park athletic legend saw his second-seeded Patriots take a 3-0 lead after one inning at cold and windy Patriot Field. Unfortunately for the hosts, the balance of the game belonged to the Mohigans as they overcame early jitters to nocket an impressive 11-3 win.

The victory propels Coach Mark McCarty's charges into the conference championship game Friday night against the winner of Monday's Parkersburg South-Warren Local game. That contest was rained out Saturday.

"We started out quite shaky. We had a senior on the mound and another behind the plate. However, it didn't look like it. We had quite a few passed balls and wild pitches," McCarty said.

Please see Park, Page C3

Shadyside can't solve Toronto, 5-0

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

TORONTO - Danny Zdinak set the tone early Saturday afternoon.

The Toronto ace - despite Shadyside head coach B.A. Holloway stressing to his club to be aggressive early in the count - needed just nine pitches to strike out the side in the top of the first inning.

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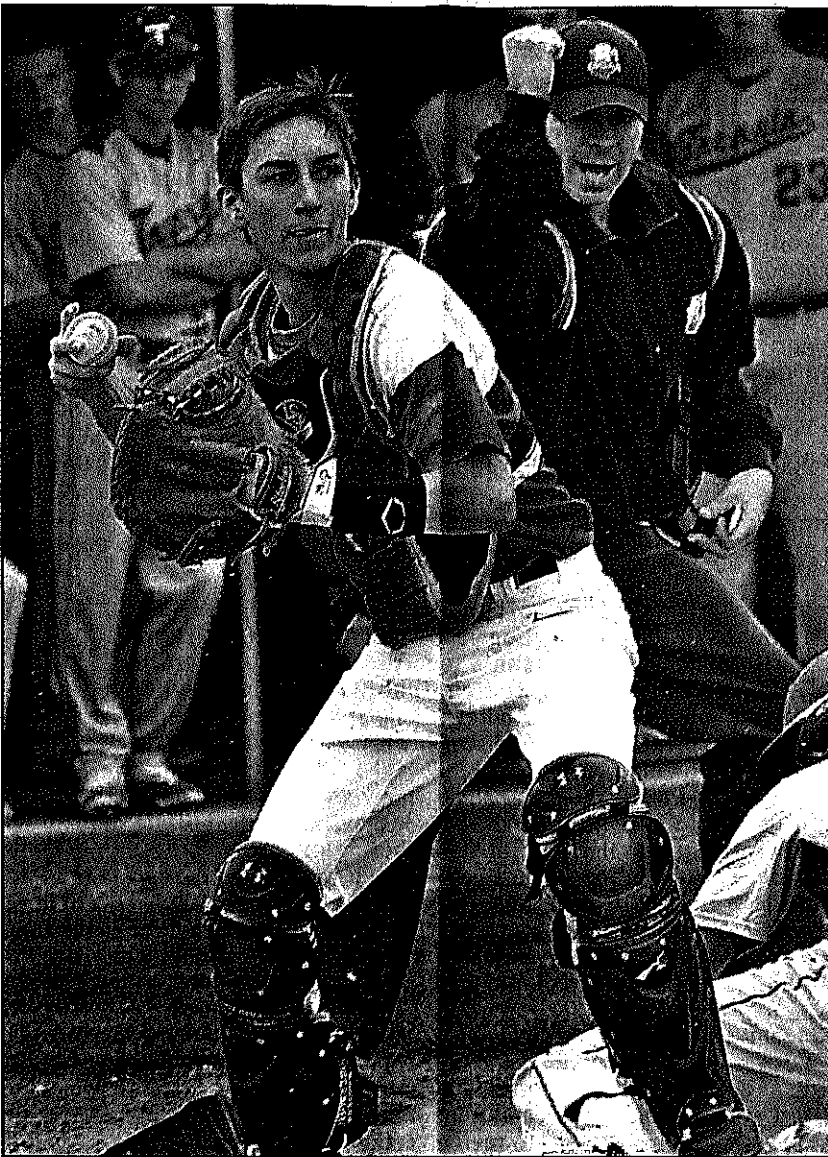
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Perkins, who guided the Red Knights to the regional championship game last spring, was spot on in his analysis. The Red Knights put forth just two hits after the first inning and they committed four errors. However, Shadyside couldn't take advantage of either because of the work Zdinak put forth on the mound.

"We didn't hit the ball like we usually do, but Zdinak is a heck of a pitcher, who spots his pitches well," Shadyside head coach B.A. Holloway said. "We knew that coming in. We just couldn't get a timely hit. We had some chances, but just didn't take advantage."

In the bottom of the first inning, Toronto sent

See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

SHADYSIDE CATCHER Anthony Coggins looks to make a throw to first base after recording an out at home during Saturday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal at Toronto. The Tigers were blanked by the Red Knights, 5-0.

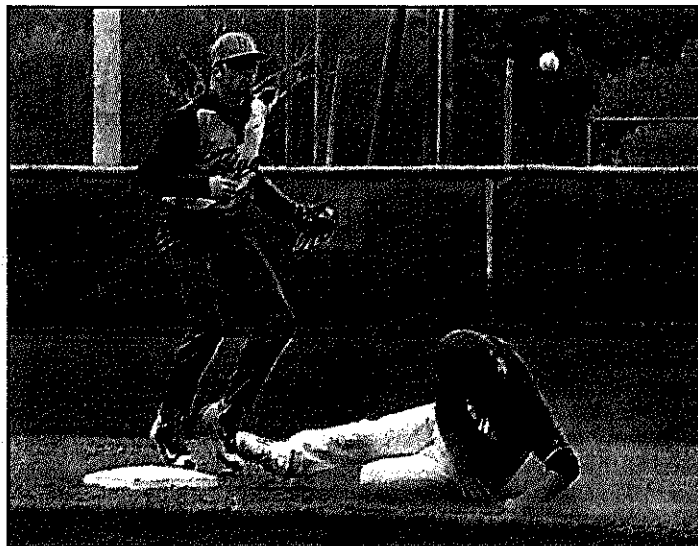
Wheeling Central blanks River, 5-0

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE - Wheeling Central brought its 'A' game Saturday against River in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A semifinal. Unfortunately, the error-prone Pilots didn't.

Austin Crebs struck out a career-high 13 batters, walked a pair and scattered three harmless singles in pitching the second-seeded Maroon Knights (17-2) to the championship game with a 5-0 blanking of the No. 3 Pilots (6-3) at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex. Wheeling Central will meet No. 1 Toronto (15-2) next Saturday at a time to be determined.

"Everything kind of fell into place today. Once I got out there (on the mound) I kind of forgot about everything going on around me," Crebs said. "I con-



RIVER'S ISAAC Curtis awaits the ball at second as Wheeling Central's Tyler Reidel slides during Saturday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

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T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

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See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2

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By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

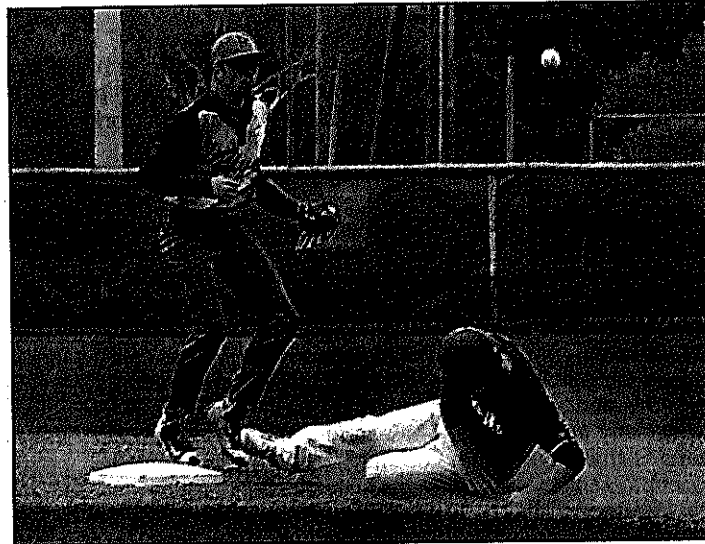
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"He's the kind of pitcher that is always relaxed," McConnaughey said.



RIVER'S ISAAC Curtis awaits the ball at second as Wheeling Central's Tyler Reidell slides during Saturday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

"He was really focused today. He had his slider working and had a little extra zip on his fastball today."

McConnaughey wasn't the only head coach involved in the game. So was veteran River skipper Mark Romick.

"He did an excellent job. He pitches both sides of the plate and changes speeds really well. He does a really nice

job and has a pretty good breaking ball. He worked ahead in the count and his pitch location was very good. That's the first time all season that we've seen a pitcher use the plate in and out."

After Crebs fanned the side in a mere three minutes to start the game, the

See, CENTRAL, Page B2

St. C. falls to Edison in 4A

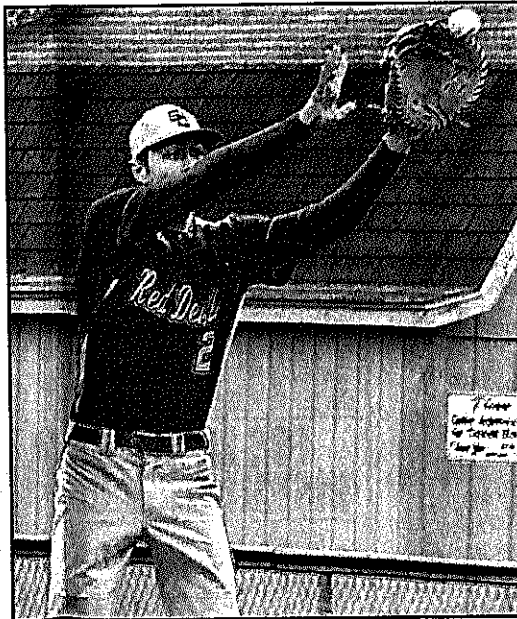
By RALPH COX
For The Times Leader

RICHMOND - The Edison Wildcats plated two insurance runs in the bottom of the sixth inning and, sure enough, they were needed as St. Clairsville scored a pair of runs in the top of the seventh, but it wasn't enough as Edison closed the door for a 5-3 win in the OVAC Class 4A semifinal.

The win puts the Wildcats in the championship game at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Vacarro Field against Steubenville, a 13-1 winner over St. Clairsville.

The defending Class 4A champion Red Devils got only two hits in the game, but had their share of opportunities with nine walks and

See, ST. C., Page B2



Photo/MIKE MATHISON

ST. CLAIRSVILLE first baseman Craig Bober goes up to catch a line drive during Saturday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal at Edison.

Steubenville rolls past HC

By ED LOOMAN
For The Times Leader

STEUBENVILLE - Heading into Saturday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal with Steubenville, Harrison Central coach Mike Valesko had a fairly simple plan - keep the game low scoring.

Unfortunately for Valesko and his fourth-seeded Huskies, things just didn't go as planned.

Nicky Zorne had another solid outing on the hill and the offense knocked the ball all over the yard as Big Red, the Class 4A top seed, cruised to a 13-1 four and a half inning victory at chilly Vacarro Field.

Big Red, now 16-3, will play for their 23rd conference championship this Saturday when it tests second-seeded Edison, a 5-3 winner over St. Clairsville. The first

See, STEUBENVILLE, Page B2

Ohio Valley Unsung Hero

Young Schmidli always willing to help

By RICK THORP

Schmidli, nearing the ending of all over Nelson Field, helping in