

# St. John holds off Frontier in Class 1A

By **KYLE LUTZ**  
For The Times Leader

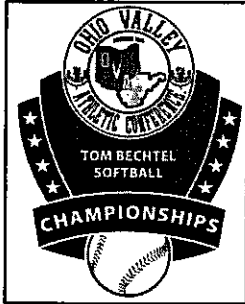
ELM GROVE – The first 1A semifinal game of the OVAC softball tournament will be one to remember. St. John secured a 5-0 lead going into the sixth inning over Frontier. The Cougars, however, tallied five runs of their own in the final two innings of regulation to force extras as the score read 5-5.

The Irish then secured four runs in the top of the eighth and when they took the field, did not allow another comeback as they came away with a 9-5 victory on Monday at Lisa's Field.

St. John will face Madonna in the 1A championship game Saturday. The Blue Dons took down Conotton Valley 10-0 in the other 1A semifinal game.

"We beat a good team," St. John coach Jerry Magistro said. "We followed them all year. They knocked off a Buckeye Trail that is one of the better teams in the valley. I don't think anyone got near the runs on them all year long. I was happy the way the bottom of our order hit. Everybody in the order came up hitting. They hit to opposite field. They did everything I wanted them to do. I was proud of them. Pitching was good and fielding was good."

See, **SJC**, Page B2



Photo/KYLE LUTZ

**ST. JOHN** catcher Madison DeLuca prepares to throw to first to complete a strikeout during Monday's OVAC Class 1A semifinal at Lisa's Field at the Chambers I-470 Complex in Elm Grove. The Irish knocked off Frontier, 8-5, in eight innings to advance to Saturday's final.

# Central stymies Shadyside, 3-0

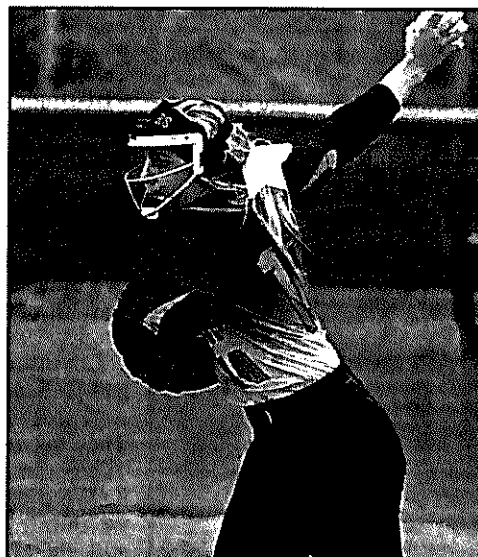
By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

ELM GROVE – Wheeling Central just rises to the occasion when it enters tournament mode.

Such was the case Monday afternoon when it began the tournament portion of its schedule in the OVAC Class 2A semifinals against Shadyside.

The Maroon Knights manufactured runs and rode strong pitching from Marissa Garlitz en route to a 3-0 victory against the Tigers on Ben's Field at the Chambers I-470 Complex. The win sends Wheeling Central to the OVAC Class 2A title game against Toronto, which outlasted River, 8-7, in nine innings.

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Central got on the board in the top of the third. Julie Padden drew a one-out walk and Riley Bennington then reached on a fielder's choice, which set the tables for talented sophomore Kaitlyn Ferns. She promptly laced a single through the left side for a RBI.

In the fourth, the Knights produced another run despite missing a chance to blow the game open when they loaded the bases with nary an out. Olivia Carpenter, who led off the inning with a walk, was driven home on a sacrifice fly by Maria Murphy.

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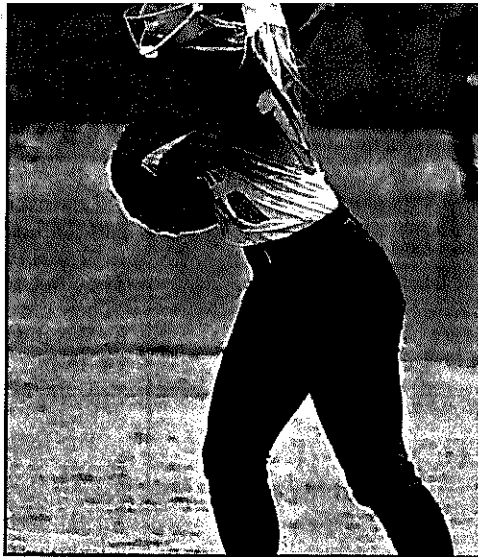
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The Maroon Knights didn't touch up the Shadyside pitching by any means. They produced only four hits, but they were able to take advantage of eight walks and were able to produce a few runs.

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**SHADYSIDE PITCHER** Kaitlyn Weaver works to the plate during Monday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal on Ben's Field at the Chambers I-470 Complex.

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The Knights added an insurance run in the seventh when Murphy scored on a sacrifice fly to left by Bennington. Garlitz sat the Tigers down quietly in the seventh.

Shadyside's offense had only three runners reach scoring position. Jaelyn Greenwood had a double in the second.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**RIVER THIRD** baseman Candace Caldwell comes up throwing on a ground ball during Monday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal against Toronto. The Red Knights rallied from a run down in the seventh and then won in the ninth to advance to the OVAC championship game.

# Toronto outlasts River in 2A semi

By **SETH STASKEY**  
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**ELM GROVE** – En route to earning the top seed in the OVAC Class 2A tournament, Toronto has been red hot and winning in all sorts of ways.

Head coach Steve Trifonoff and his Red Knights added another chapter to that narrative Monday night on Ben's Field at the Chambers I-470 Complex.

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"The girls just found a way and they've been doing for the last several weeks," Trifonoff said. "It's been a while for our program to get to this point and it's exciting. I just told the girls

before the game to play hard and they battled."

Toronto (15-4) will go after its first OVAC softball title since 2001 on Saturday back at the I-470 Complex against Wheeling Central, which ousted Shadyside in the opener.

There was absolutely no time to begin thinking about the Maroon Knights until Gina Fogle crossed the plate in the ninth after Autumn Daniels ripped a single into left.

The score was tied at 6-6 after three and turned into a pitcher's duel of sorts between Toronto freshman Jamie Anderson, who came out of the pen, and River's Bailey Caldwell.

The Pilots took the lead with a run in the fifth when talented sophomore Riley Lollathin produced a RBI single to score Lexi Piatt. That lead stood up until the seventh.

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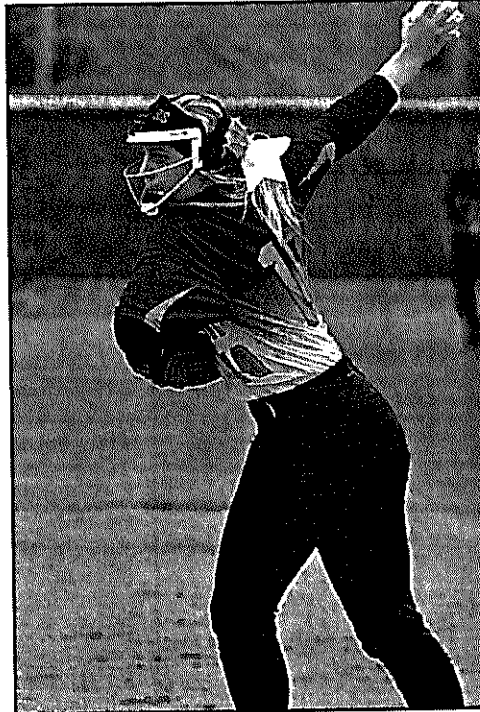
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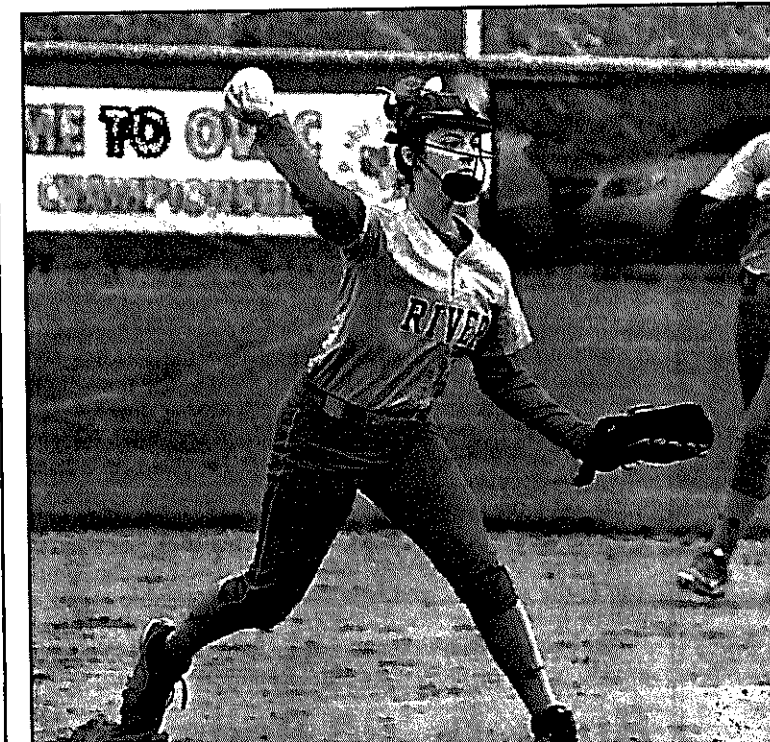
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# ugh up Pirates, 14-3 • River

Continued from Page B1

great to see. It's not over. I'm not looking at it that way."

Addison Russell had a career-high four hits for the Cubs, who set a season-high total for runs and tied their season-high total with 17 hits. A little over two years after going 0-5 in his major league debut at PNC Park, Russell singled four times while spraying the ball to all fields.

"I just put it in play and see where it goes," Russell said. "It's working out. Seems like a pretty easy approach."

Ben Zobrist added three RBIs for Chicago. Anthony Rizzo had three hits to extend his hitting streak to 13 games. Kyle Schwarber, Kris Bryant and Miguel Montero all had two hits apiece. The Cubs are starting to get it going after a sluggish start, averaging 8.8 runs during their recent surge to first in the NL Central. It has helped take some of the pressure off a pitching staff that is struggling to get any sort of consistency from its starters.

"Some pieces are changed around

but all in all if I'm producing, have Schwarbs here, him settled in for a whole year, there's a lot of good things that can come from it," Heyward said.

Chicago scored four runs with two outs in the first inning off Chad Kuhl (1-2) and added five more in the second to give Brett Anderson (2-0) all the breathing room he would need.

Anderson struggled at times with his command, walking six in six innings while striking out three and allowed three runs, one earned. Though Chicago manager Joe Maddon said he was "encouraged" by what he saw from Anderson, Anderson didn't exactly agree.

"I'd like to have a start where I don't have to battle, to grind, do all the things of that nature," Anderson said.

## ROUGH NIGHT

Rookie Jose Osuna had three of Pittsburgh's seven hits and drove in a run. Kuhl lasted just 1. 2/3 innings, giving up nine runs.

Toronto got the lead-off hitter aboard with a single and moved her to second on a ground out. However, she broke for third and was thrown out stealing by River catcher Livi Rose for the second out of the inning.

Fogle, however, singled to extend the inning. Catcher Alyson Kuntz drove a ball over the center fielder's head to the fence, which allowed Fogle to race all the way around and knot the game.

"We had two outs and just couldn't get the third one," River head coach David Wright said. "I am proud of my girls. They played very, very hard. I wish it would have come out differently, but give Toronto credit."

The Pilots put two runners aboard in the eighth, but Anderson, who had a huge game at the plate with a double, home run, single and two RBI, got a ground ball for the final out of the inning. Anderson then worked around a two-out double by Lollathin in the ninth. The Red Knights avoided allowing a Lollathin's double to drive in a run thanks to web gem by third baseman Serena Burkey, who robbed Piatt of extra bases when she snared a line-drive rocket.

In the home half of the ninth, Toronto was very patient against Caldwell. The Red Knights loaded the bases with three consecutive walks, which set the stage for Autumn Daniels.

"It makes it so tough on the pitcher when the bases are loaded because she has to throw strikes," Trifonoff said. "She has to throw the ball over the plate because she couldn't risk walking in the game-winning run. Autumn Daniels got a good pitch to hit and put a good swing on it."

Daniels' good swing was laced into left, which allowed Fogle to trot home.

Kuntz finished with two singles and three RBI for the Red Knights.

River, meanwhile, received an impressive day at the plate from Lollathin. She had two doubles, two singles and three RBI. Livi Rose had a trio of singles, while both Candace Caldwell and Emelie Heater both had a RBI double.

## • SJC

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It did take some time for the Irish's bats to warm up as they were held to a no-hitter until the fourth inning. Kate Lovinski led it off with a single. Gillie Johnson followed her with a RBI-triple while Haleigh Boyer contributed with a double that brought home a run. Shay Horvath tallied the fourth straight hit with a RBI-single as the score read 3-0 in favor of St. John.

The Irish tacked on another run thanks to a sacrifice fly by Boyer in the fifth.

Lovinski then tallied her third hit of the game as she secured a RBI-single in the sixth to put the score at 5-0.

"They started being more patient, discipline," Magistro said about the fourth inning. "It's all about discipline. At the plate and all that. Some kids want to go out and be in front of the ball. I told them that you have to have discipline. You have to wait to see what you see and take it. They listened and really did a great job. No doubt about it."

Frontier showed their discipline as they started a rally in the sixth inning. Kylie Daugherty started the inning off with a double followed by a Nikki Haught single. Katelyn Tidd secured the first run of the game for the Cougars on a

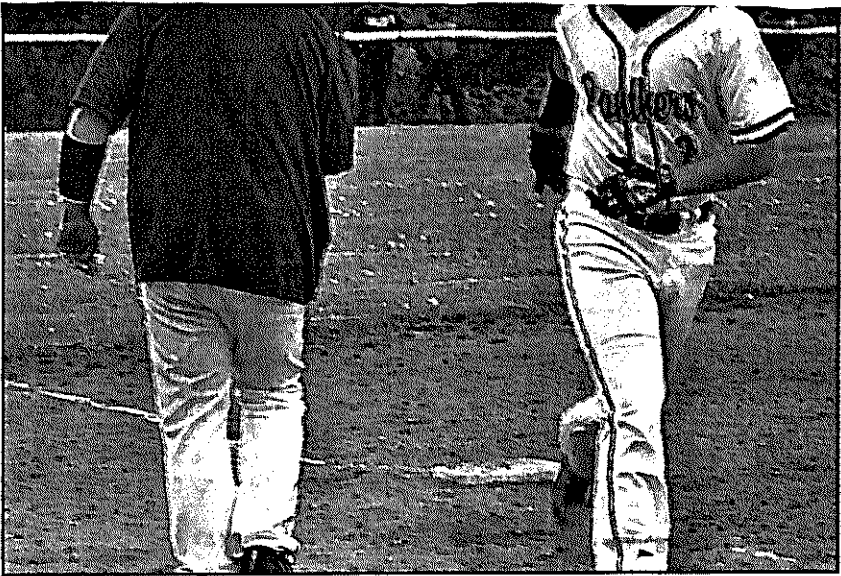


T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

**BUCKEYE LOCAL'S** Owen Long rounds third and heads for home after slugging a three-run homer in the top of the seventh that lifted the Panthers to a 12-8 victory over Bellaire Monday night at Chase Field.

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In the seventh, Sammi Morris lead off with a double. Daugherty then brought her home with her second hit of the game. After a strikeout, Tidd came up to the plate with two outs and came in clutch.

With one swing, she tied the game at 5-5 with a RBI-single.

Lovinski and the Irish regrouped and got a strikeout to end the inning to force the game to go to extras.

"I was really proud of our kids on how they came back. They got a lot of heart," Frontier coach Russ Morris said. "They didn't quit. They fought back and we talked about it. We didn't play our best game. We had several errors, we didn't hit the ball as great as we're capable of. But still, the effort we gave in coming back, I was very proud of them."

The Irish led the eighth inning off with two straight hits. Boyer secured a two-run single to put her team up for good. Lovinski was solid both at the plate and in the circle for St. John as she tallied two singles, one double while tallying six strikeouts. Johnson secured a triple and single; Boyer had a double, single and four RBI and Horvath tallied two singles to round out the players with multiple hits for the Irish.

"I just told them that it happens in these games," Magistro said to his team after the seventh inning. "We're not done, now we have to go and score some runs. They came out and responded. There were a few people that stepped it up in the hitting. I was happy with that part of it. I just wasn't happy that we left too many stranded where we should have got more runs."

Sammi Morris tallied two doubles and retired nine batters for the Cougars while Daugherty had a double and single. Tidd was solid with three singles.

• **OVAC**

Continued from Page B1

north as East Liverpool and as far south as Parkersburg and Morgantown to participate in the contest.

"You try to keep things as central as you can so it's convenient for everybody to get there, get back out and get home," he said.

Wheeling Island Stadium has hosted the OVAC All-

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Gasvoda matched her as she retired the first four batters she faced and five of the first six.

"I feel like we hit really well," Gasvoda said. "And we really worked together as a team and that's what you need to do pull through some of these games."

The Blue Dons scored four more

Please See DONS, Page 14



Photo by Kyle Lutz

Madonna ace Katie Gasvoda locks and loads with a pitch during action of the Blue Dons' game Monday against Conotton Valley at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

## Red Knights in Rarified Air

### Toronto can win 1st crown since 2001

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

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"The girls just found a way and they've been doing that for the last several weeks," Trifonoff said. "It's been a while for our



Photo by Seth Staskey

Toronto's Serena Burkey scoops and readies to fire during Monday's extra-inning victory against River.

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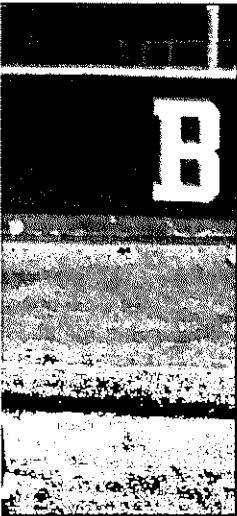


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Photo by Kyle Lutz

St. John's Shay Horvath prepares to make contact Monday against Frontier.

## SJC Knocks Off Frontier in Eight

By KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

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Madonna in the 1A championship game Saturday. The Blue Dons took down Conotton Valley 10-0 in the other 1A semifinal game.

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Please See SJC,  
Page 14

inside-the-park home run to apply the mercy rule as Madonna downed Conotton Valley 10-0 on Monday night.

The Blue Dons will face St. John in the championship game Saturday. The Irish defeated Frontier in extra innings, 9-5.

"I thought we hit the ball very well," Blue Dons coach Chris Conti said. "We made some very good defensive plays. Katie

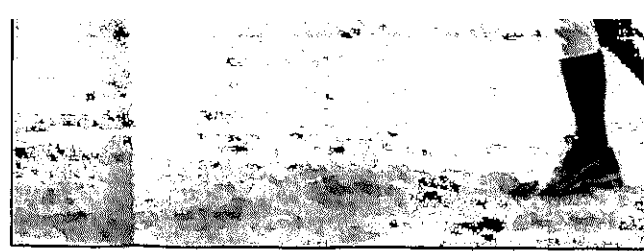
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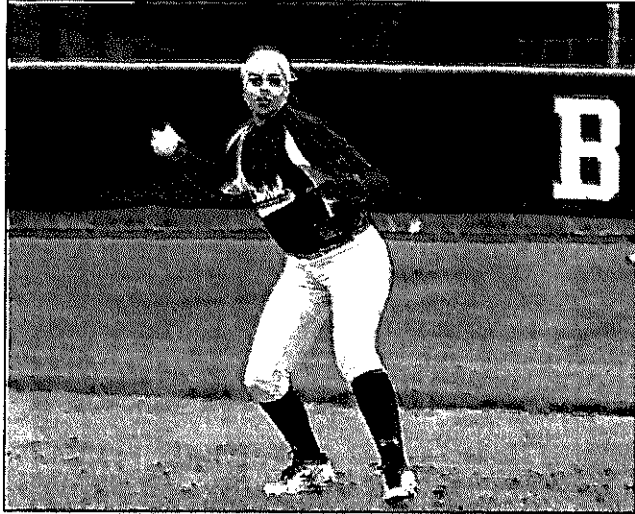


Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Central's Riley Bennington readies to make a throw Monday against Shadyside.

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"We had a few runners, but we just couldn't connect for a hit when we needed it," Shadyside coach Jillian Ongley said. "We just couldn't pull it together. Offensively, we didn't have it. When we did hit the ball, we hit it right at them. The 10 strikeouts is a high number for us, but (Garlitz) is a good pitcher. She's probably the best pitcher we've faced all season."

*Please See WC, Page 14*

## Red Knights in Rare

### Toronto can win 1st crown since 2001

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — En route to earning the top seed in the OVAC Class 2A tournament, Toronto has been red hot and winning in all sorts of ways.

Coach Steve Trifonoff and his Red Knights added another chapter to that narrative Monday night on Ben's Field at the Chambers I-470 Complex.

Toronto got off the deck in the seventh when it found a way to score a run despite having two outs and no one on base to knot the game and force extras, where it eventually secured an 8-7 victory against fourth-seeded River (16-6) in nine innings.

"The girls just found a way and they've been doing that for the last several weeks," Trifonoff said. "It's been a while for our



Toronto's Serena Burkey scores Monday's extra-inning victory ag

program to get to this point and it's exciting. I just told the girls before the game to play hard and they battled."

Toronto (15-4) will go after its



Photo by Kyle Lutz

St. John's Shay Horvath prepares to make contact Monday against Frontier.

## SJC K Fronti

By KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — first 1A semifinal of the OVAC so tournament will be remember. St. secured a 5-0 lead into the the sixth i on Frontier. The Co however, tallied five of their own in the two innings of regu to force extras a score read 5-5.

The Irish then se four runs in the top eighth and when took the field, di allow another com as they came away 9-5 victory on Mon Lisa's Field.

St. John will

# Madonna Earns A Shot at Three-Peat

Gasvoda no-hits Conotton Valley

By KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — In the second 1A OVAC Tom Bechtel softball semifinal game, Madonna proved why it is the No. 1 seed. Katie Gasvoda was brilliant in the circle like she has been all year, firing 11 strikeouts and securing a no-hitter while Sophia Recrosio hit an inside-the-park home run to apply the mercy rule as Madonna downed Conotton Valley 10-0 on Monday night.

The Blue Dons will face St. John in the championship game Saturday. The Irish defeated Frontier in extra innings, 9-5.

"I thought we hit the ball very well," Blue Dons coach Chris Conti said. "We made some very good defensive plays. Katie

pitched good ... she pitched a very good game. We put the ball in play and we put it in play at the right times."

The Blue Dons wasted little time as they scored four runs in the first inning. Recrosio walked to lead off followed by a Keara Kush single. After Gianna Mascio walked, Karli Sutton tallied a two-run single to get Madonna on the board.

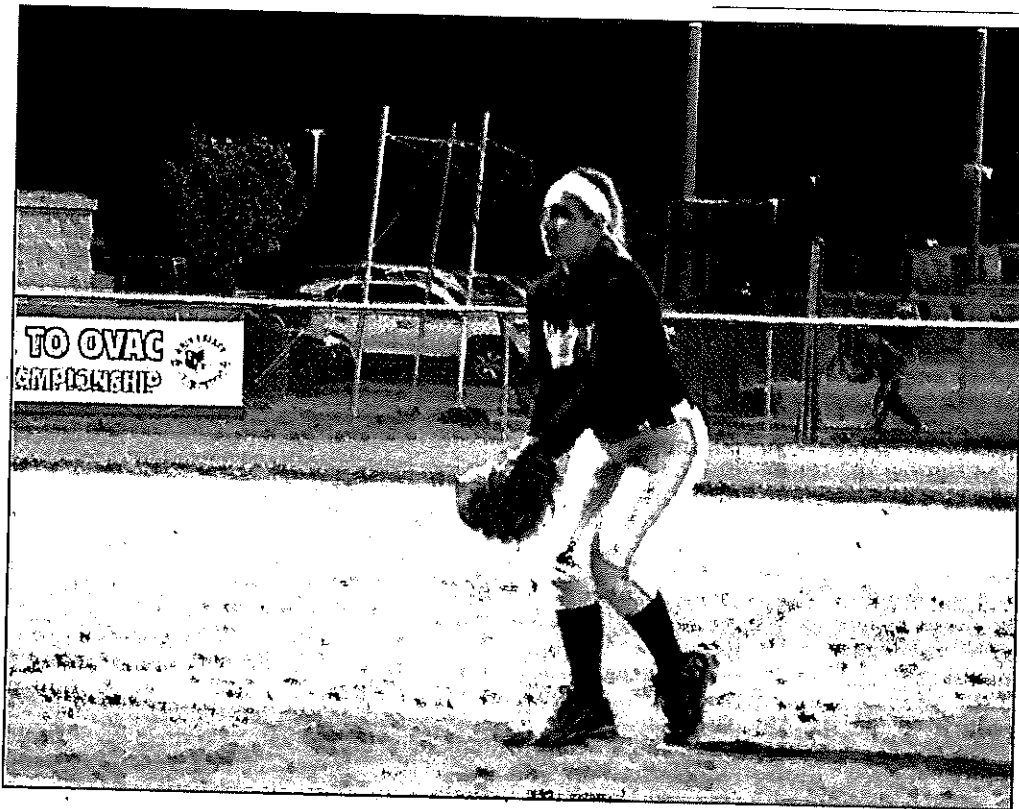
After a couple of errors by the Rockets that resulted in a couple of runs, Kyndsley Hendershot got three straight strikeouts to get her team out of the inning.

Gasvoda matched her as she retired the first four batters she faced and five of the first six.

"I feel like we hit really well," Gasvoda said. "And we really worked together as a team and that's what you need to do pull through some of these games."

The Blue Dons scored four more

*Please See DONS, Page 14*



Madonna ace Katie Gasvoda locks and loads with a pitch during action of the Blue Dons' game Monday against Conotton Valley at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

Photo by Kyle Lutz

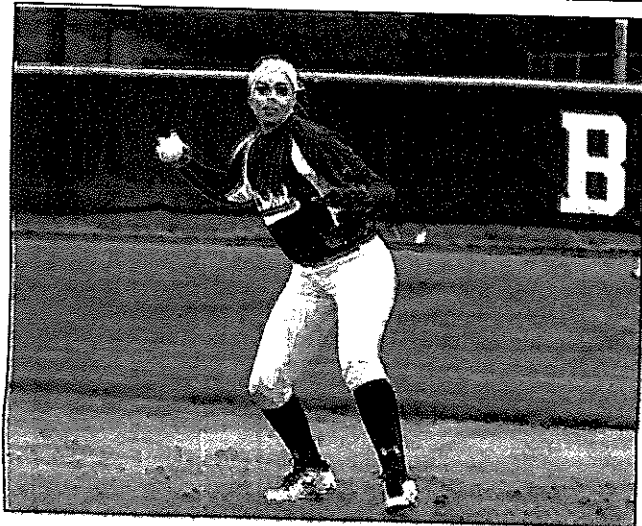


Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Central's Riley Bennington readies to make a throw Monday against Shadyside.

## Central. Garlitz

# Red Knights in Rarified Air

Toronto can win 1st crown since 2001

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — En route to earning the top seed in the OVAC Class 2A tournament, Toronto has been red hot and winning in all sorts of ways.

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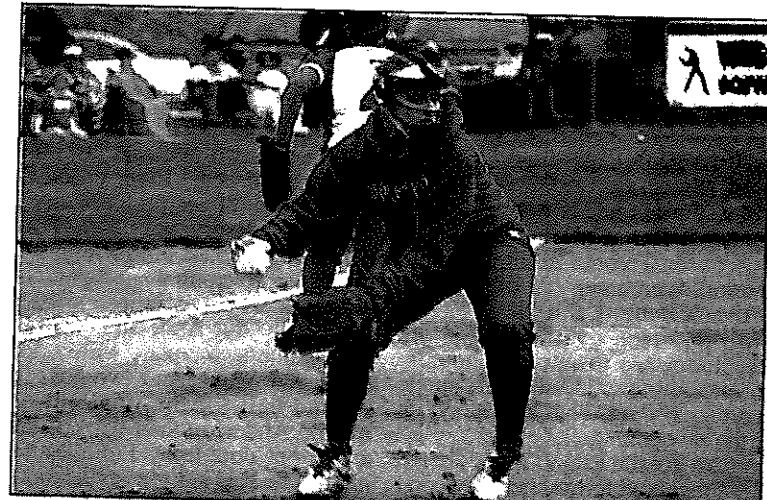


Photo by Seth Staskey

Toronto's Serena Burkey scoops and readies to fire during



(Continued from Page 13)

to do. I was proud of them. Pitching was good and fielding was good."

It did take some time for the Irish's bats to warm up as they were no-hit until the fourth inning. Kate Lovinski led it off with a single. Gillie Johnson followed her with a RBI triple while Haleigh Boyer contributed with a double that brought home a run. Shay Horvath tallied the fourth straight hit with a RBI single as the score improved to 3-0 in favor of St. John.

The Irish tacked on another run thanks to a sacrifice fly by Boyer in the fifth.

Lovinski then tallied her third hit as she secured a RBI single in the sixth to make it 5-0.

"They started being more patient, disciplined," Magistro said about the fourth inning. "It's all about discipline. At the plate and all that. Some

kids want to go out and be in front of the ball. I told them that you have to have discipline. You have to wait to see what you see and take it. They listened and really did a great job. No doubt about it."

Frontier showed its discipline as it started a rally in the sixth inning. Kylie Daugherty started the inning off with a double followed by a Nikki Haight single. Katelyn Tidd secured the first run for the Cougars on a RBI single. Maddie Greathouse made the score 5-2 after bringing home a run with a groundout to first. Tiffany Graham then secured a run-scoring single to put the score at 5-3.

In the seventh, Sammi Morris lead off with a double and Daugherty brought her home with her second hit. After a strikeout, Tidd came up to the plate with two outs and came up

clutch.

With one swing, she tied the game at 5-5 with a RBI single.

Lovinski and the Irish regrouped and got a strikeout to end the inning to force the game to go to extras.

"I was really proud of our kids on how they came back. They got a lot of heart," Frontier coach Russ Morris said. "They didn't quit. They fought back and we talked about it. We didn't play our best game. We had several errors, we didn't hit the ball as great as we're capable of. But still, the effort we gave in coming back, I was very proud of them."

The Irish led the eighth inning off with two straight hits. Boyer secured a two-run single to put her team up for good.

Lovinski was solid both at the plate and in the circle for St. John as she tal-

lied two singles and a double while tallying six strikeouts. Johnson secured a triple and single; Boyer had a double, single and four RBI and Horvath tallied two singles to round out the players with multiple hits for the Irish.

"I just told them that it happens in these games," Magistro said after the seventh inning. "We're not done, now we have to go and score some runs. They came out and responded. There was a few people that stepped it up in the hitting. I was happy with that part of it. I just wasn't happy that we left too many stranded where we should have got more runs."

Sammi Morris tallied two doubles and retired nine batters for the Cougars while Daugherty had a double and single. Tidd was solid with three singles.

## KNIGHTS

(Continued from Page 13)

Central, which ousted Shadyside in the opener.

There was no time to begin thinking about the Maroon Knights until Gina Fogle crossed the plate in the ninth after Autumn Daniels ripped a single into left.

The score was tied at 6-6 after three and turned into a pitcher's duel of sorts between Toronto freshman Jamie Anderson, who came out of the pen, and River's Bailey Caldwell.

The Pilots took the lead with a run in the fifth when talented sophomore Riley Lollathin produced a RBI single to score Lexi Piatt. That lead stood up until the seventh.

Toronto got the leadoff hitter aboard with a single and moved her to second on a groundout. However, she broke for third and was thrown out stealing by River catcher Livi Rose for the second out of the inning.

Fogle, however, singled to extend

the inning. Catcher Alyson Kuntz drove a ball over the center fielder's head to the fence, which allowed Fogle to race all the way around and knot the game.

"We had two outs and just couldn't get the third one," River coach David Wright said. "I am proud of my girls. They played very, very hard. I wish it would have come out differently, but give Toronto credit."

The Pilots put two runners aboard in the eighth, but Anderson, who had a huge game at the plate with a double, home run, single and two RBI, got a ground ball for the final out of the inning. Anderson then worked around a two-out double by Lollathin in the ninth. The Red Knights avoided allowing Lollathin's double to drive in a run thanks to a web gem by third baseman Serena Burkey, who robbed Piatt of extra bases when she snared a line-drive rocket.

In the home half of the ninth, Toronto was patient against Caldwell. The Red Knights loaded the bases with three consecutive walks, which set the stage for Autumn Daniels.

"It makes it so tough on the pitcher when the bases are loaded because she has to throw strikes," Trifonoff said. "She has to throw the ball over the plate because she couldn't risk walking in the game-winning run. Autumn Daniels got a good pitch to hit and put a good swing on it."

Daniels' good swing was laced into left, which allowed Fogle to trot home.

Kuntz finished with two singles and three RBI for the Red Knights.

River, meanwhile, received an impressive day at the plate from Lollathin. She had two doubles, two singles and three RBI. Rose had a trio of singles, while both Candace Caldwell and Emelie Heater both had a RBI double.

## DONS

(Continued from Page 13)

runs in the fourth inning to increase their lead to 9-0. The Rockets were able to get the first two outs in as many batters, but the bats came to life for the Blue Dons.

Mikalya Sole got things going with a hit followed by two straight walks. Mascio tallied a RBI single while Sutton brought home a run with a double.

"We started off kind of slow," Conotton Valley coach Jay Caldwell said. "We had some fielding errors

They're a good team. You're going to have to come here and bring your 'A' game."

### REGULAR SEASON

**John Marshall 10, Weir 0**

**GLEN DALE** — Lauren Garcia fired a no-hitter with seven strikeouts and one walk, en route to leading John Marshall past visiting Weir.

Anna Blake paced the Monarchs (21-3) offense with two doubles and three RBI, Hannah Morris plated two on two hits and Garcia added two

Jaylin Jones amased two hits and three RBI to lead Harrison Central (13-8) past visiting Bellaire.

**Buckeye Local 11, Beaver Local 6**

**RAYLAND** — Alaire Destifanes provided two singles and a triple to lead Buckeye Local over Beaver Local.

Lexie Swiger singled and tripled, while Destiny Christian singled and doubled for Buckeye Local (10-8).

**Stuebenville 4, East Liverpool 1**  
**STUEBENVILLE** — Havley

single into cent fourth for John and after a pair-scrampered hor passed ball to cut to 5-2.

The Patriots ( that run back in t half of the frame v brugge came thro with a RBI knoc Park a 6-1 cushion

McLeod's club pair of insurance r fifth when Rusl smacked a two-run give Wheeling P lead for good.

"I believe John is young and wor and we are also McLeod said. " been teaching ou be patient at the we just need to c get better and t goal every day t ionals.

Wheeling Par Brooks started a out three, while four in three an innings, befor relieved by Stephe who whiffed walked a pair.

Dobbs tossed a game for John l striking out three ing nine.

"He has walk but he is working that," Montgome thought he did we something for hir on."

The four Whe seniors honored l game included J brugge, Jub De Hlad and Seidler.

"Senior Day special," McLeod is sad and spec same time. I hav Delbrugge boys with me since the tle and Rush (Se been around since omore year.

"They are goin on to bigger an things in life a what we prepare t

**OVAC 1A Se**

**Paden City 8, J**

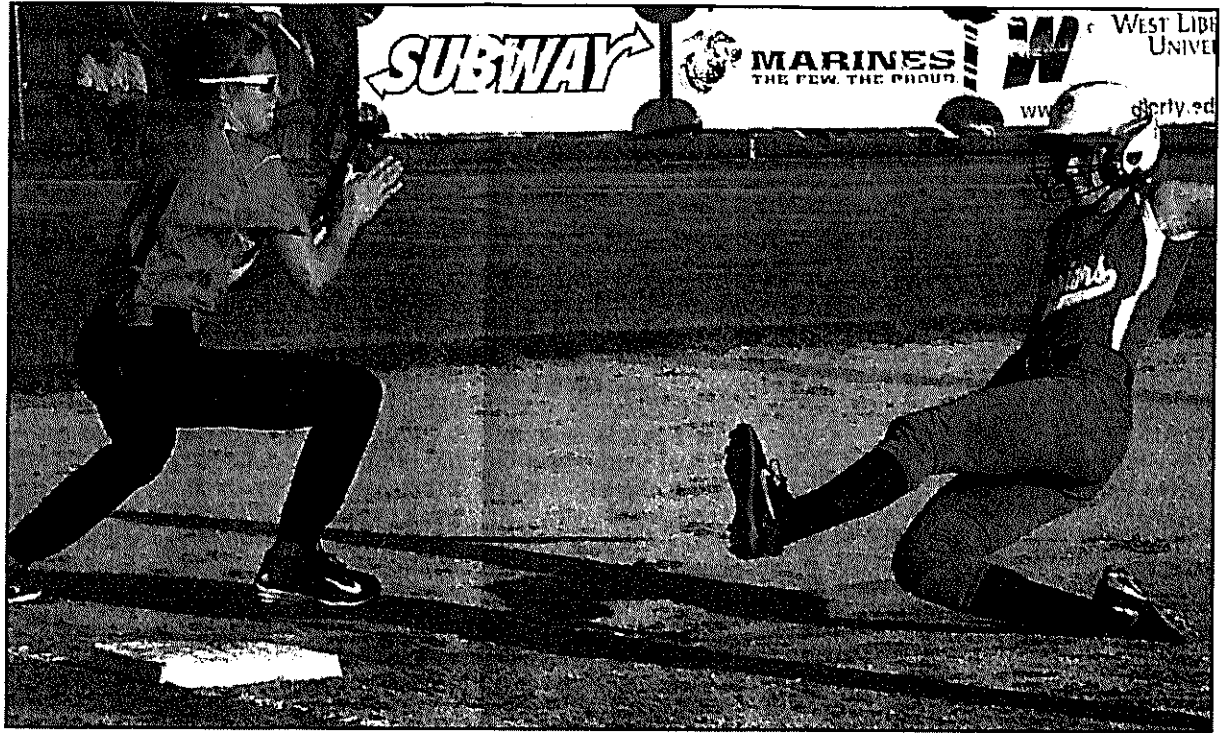
**PADEN CITY**

Slider was lights struck out 11 ar one to lead Pad victory over visiti Christian.

Hayden Hize doubled and belte run home run in and led the Wil four RBI. Matt S erred two singles ble, while Clayt and Kolton Elliot a hit and two RBI

## OVAC TOM BECHTEL SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**BELLAIRE  
THIRD**  
baseman  
Natalie  
Stoner, left,  
races  
Buckeye  
Trail's Jenni  
Carmichael  
to the base  
Sunday  
night.  
Carmichael  
was ruled  
safe on the  
play. The  
Warriors  
won, 8-2.



T-L Photo/KIM  
NORTH

# Errors doom Bellaire in 3A tilt as Buckeye Trail repeats

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**ELM GROVE** — Buckeye Trail made it back-to-back Class 3A OVAC Tom Bechtel Softball Championships with a little help from Bellaire.

The top-seeded Warriors (18-4) took banded out nine hits and took advantage of six errors by the No. 3 Big Reds in posting a 7-2 victory on sun-filled Lisa's Field Sunday at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Youth Complex.

"This is exciting," Buckeye Trail head coach Staci Smith said. "This was one of the girls goals. Now that we've achieved it, it's on to the next one."

The second of the half-a-dozen fielding miscues — both fielding and throwing — gave Buckeye Trail a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the second. With two outs, Brooke Colvin's fly ball was dropped as Jenni Carmichael and Maybelline

Rodriguez both raced home. Carmichael had reached on an error with one out.

"We're an aggressive team," Smith said. "We try and teach them the next-play mentality. That's the way we play and we've got some aggressive baserunners."

The Warriors tallied five runs on five hits — three of the infield variety — in the fifth as 11 batters went to the plate in building a 7-0 lead. A trio of Bellaire errors and RBI singles by Amber Colvin and winning pitcher Hannah Smith highlighted the frame. Cassidy Dobbins picked up an RBI when she was hit with a pitch with the bases loaded.

Bellaire avoided being shutout when freshman Katrina Davis singled in Abbey Cusick and Natalie Stoner with two outs in the top of the sixth, making it 7-2.

However, the Big Reds also lost junior shortstop/pitcher D'Asia Burney to a knee injury she sustained running the

bases. She was carried off the field and spent the remainder of the contest in the dugout with an ice bag on her left knee.

Buckeye Trail capped the scoring in the bottom of the inning when Alexis Wheeler drove in Amber Colvin with a sacrifice fly to center.

Smith fanned nine and walked a pair. She allowed five singles, with four coming in the final two innings.

"I don't think she was dominating, but once again she was effective," Coach Smith said of her pitcher/daughter. "It wasn't one of her better outings, but she was effective and our defense was solid."

Sarah McAninch suffered the loss although she deserved a better fate. She struck out two and didn't walk a batter.

Burney had a pair of Ks and no base-on-balls in an inning of relief.

Bellaire head coach Melissa Lahna declined comment.

# Monarchs Move On To 5A Title Game

## John Marshall takes down Morgantown

By JOSH STROPE  
Sports Editor

WHEELING — John Marshall has a lineup that features a lot of power. So if someone told you the Monarchs plated four runs in the first inning of their OVAC Tom Bechtel Softball Championships Class 5A semifinal against Morgantown, you would think someone got a hold of one and trotted around the bases.

You would be wrong.

The Monarchs jumped out to an early lead without the ball ever leaving the infield in a dominating 11-1 victory on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

"We played really well and executed really well," John Marshall coach Ed West said. "We got them with the small ball. We really weren't trying to get on base with the bunts, we just wanted to move the runners up and it ended up that they didn't make the play and bases were loaded. We will take it any way we can get it."

A hard-hit ball by Lydia Knutsen that Morgantown pitcher Ally Hawkins couldn't handle started the inning, followed by bunt singles from Carli Lightner and Garcia to load the bases.

Then John Marshall (22-3) just had to sit there and watch. Literally.

Hawkins issued three straight bases-loaded walks as Maddy Mayle, Ravyn Schultz and Anna Blake each picked up an RBI without having to take the bat off their shoulders.

A sacrifice fly by Hannah Morris



John Marshall's Carli Lightner tags out Morgantown's Amber Kusch trying to steal second during Wednesday's OVAC Class 5A semifinal in Wheeling. The Monarchs won, 11-1

pushed it to 4-0.

That was more than enough for John Marshall pitcher Lauren Garcia, who had another stellar outing.

She struck out eight and allowed one hit, a single by Mohigans lead-off hitter Julia Zaph to lead off the fourth. She was stranded at third.

Shultz led off the bottom of the third with a single and scored on an

RBI triple from Blake. After being caught in a rundown, Blake was able to score on an errant throw to make it 6-0.

The freshman had a solid day, going 2-for-2 with a single, triple, two RBI, two walks, two stolen bases and three runs.

See MONARCHS, Page 10

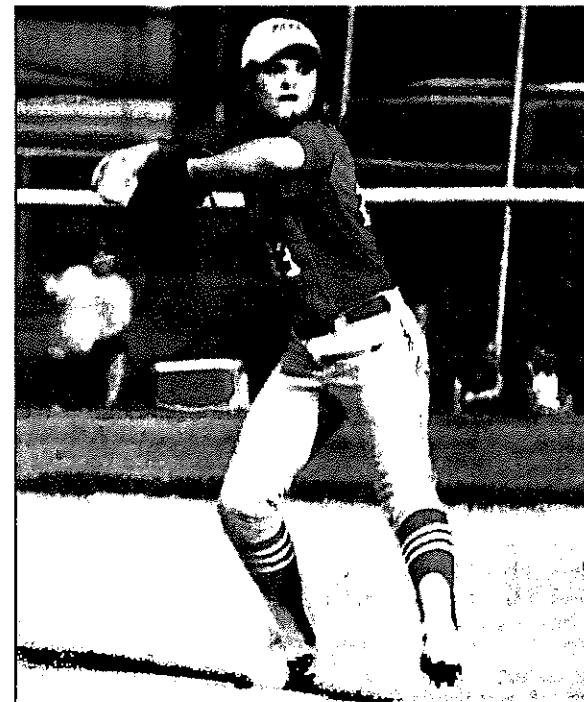


Photo by Josh Strobe  
Wheeling Park's Kieran Johnson looks to throw a runner out at first base during Wednesday's game.

## Park Defeats Indian Creek

By TRACY WATSON  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — When Wheeling Park senior pitcher Makenzie Amend is at her best in the circle she normally doesn't allow teams many opportunities to score. So, when you do get the chance, you better take advantage of them.

Wednesday afternoon Indian Creek had plenty of opportunities, including leaving nine runners on and six in scoring position, but the Redskins couldn't take advantage of any of them and it cost them dearly.

Amend allowed just two hits, while fanning 11, and also contributed a two-run, first inning double, while classmate Kat Donzella had three singles and a RBI as the Patriots raced to a 9-0 victory over Indian Creek in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 5A semifinal on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chamber's I-470 Sports Complex.

See PARK, Page 10

walking none, as Monroe Central got back in the win column with a blanking of PVC foe Caldwell.

Allison Kuhn belted two singles and knocked in three runs for the Seminoles (15-5), while Shaylei Giesey had three singles.

**St. John 9, Steubenville Catholic 8, 9 Inn.**

**BELLAIRE** — Steubenville Catholic was led to an extra inning victory over Steubenville Catholic behind three hits from Torrie Grandinetti.

Gabby Capaldi supplied two hits and three RBI and Shayna Mirabella garnered two hits and a RBI.

Kate Lovinski and Gillie Johnson each belted home runs and provided three hits as Lovinski knocked in four and Johnson drove in three.

#### BASEBALL

**St. Clairsville 7, Wheeling Central 6**  
**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** — St. Clairsville received two hits and a RBI from Kyle Storer, Dustin Carrothers, Zac Clark and Craig Bober as the Red Devils edged visiting Wheeling Central.

Pat Brown paced the Maroon Knights with three hits and three RBI.

**Brooke 12, Indian Creek 1**

**WINTERSVILLE** — Zac Sacripanti contributed with three singles as Brooke defeated Indian Creek. Nick Leonard, Jacob Bailey and Justin Shelton all tallied two hits and two RBI for the Bruins (6-14) while Chris Turner brought home two runs with a single. Josh Richie was also in on the action as he tallied a runs-scoring single.

**Tyler Consolidated 9**

**Parkersburg Catholic 2**

**MIDDLEBOURNE** — Dylan Roberts belted a single and triple as Tyler Consolidated defeated Parkersburg Catholic. Kyle Mason had a single, double and RBI for the Silver Knights (15-3) while Nate Lantz had two hits while bringing home a run. Noah Smith tallied a double and RBI and Tyler West secured a single and brought home a run.

**Steubenville 10, Harrison Central 0**

**STEBENVILLE** — Johnny Agresta secured a triple, two singles and two RBI as Steubenville shut out Harrison Central. Michael Pierro had a double, single and two RBI for Big Red while Nicky Zorne belted a RBI-

**RICHMOND** — In this high scoring affair, Dominic Rogers doubled, singled twice and drove in a pair of runs, while teammate Larry Bielawski tallied three hits and a RBI to lead Edison past visiting Martins Ferry.

Cade Lloyd blasted a home run and knocked in two for the Riders.

**Toronto 9, Steubenville Catholic 0**  
**TORONTO** — Danny Zdinak smacked two singles and a double for two RBI to pace host Toronto in a shutout of Steubenville Catholic.

**Union Local 8, Barnesville 0**  
**MORRISTOWN** — Cody Ray tossed a three-hitter, striking out four, as Union Local slowed down a hot Barnesville team.

Shane Smolenak had two singles, a double and two RBI for the Jets, while Ty Kildow added a double and two singles.

**Bellaire 13, Buckeye Local 0**  
**CONNORVILLE** — Brennon Conroy's one-hitter and Cole Porter's four-hit effort helped get Bellaire back on the winning side of the ledger and helped the Big Reds avenge a Monday loss at home against Buckeye Local.

Conroy struck seven and walked none in earning the victory.

Alex Bradshaw helped Bellaire's 16-hit effort with two singles and three RBI, while Mason Ramsay had two singles and two RBI. Gabe Rejonis added two singles and two RBI.

**Shadyside 9, Cameron 1**  
**SHADYSIDE** — The Tigers scored three runs in an inning three times against Cameron.

Anthony Coggins paced Shadyside with two singles and two RBI. Josh Zandron — also the winning pitcher — had a single and an RBI, as did Colton Stutzman.

**Oak Glen 5, Bridgeport 1**  
**BROOKSIDE** — Oak Glen scored four second-inning runs and that's all the Golden Bears needed to down the Bulldogs at Niekro Diamond.

Jeremiah Booker had three singles for Bridgeport, while Emilio Saldana added two.

**River 8, Paden City 2**  
**WASHINGTON, Pa.** — River scored five sixth-inning runs to cement its victory against Paden City at Wild Things Park.

Trey Isaly smacked two singles and knocked in two runs for the Pilots, while Lukas Isaly had two singles and earned the win on the mound. Chase Wichterman had two hits, including a double, and two RBI.

PNC Park usher Phil

Conley (1-1, 3.00).

## PARK

(Continued from Page 9)

With the win coach Pat Durkin's Patriots move to 15-4 on the season and will take on either five-time defending conference champion John Marshall Saturday for the big-school crown.

"These are the kind of games you work all season for and it is really fun to be here," Durkin said with a smile. "There are some very nice schools in Class 5A and most teams have some real good hitters up-and-down the lineup."

It took just one inning for the tone of the game to be set as Coach Ang Penner's Redskins missed a huge chance to get to Amend early on. Rachel Cooper worked a lead-off walk and went to second one out later when Haylie Scott's bunt single got past Amend.

Both runners moved up on Taylor Scott's sacrifice bunt, however, Amend recorded a strikeout to end the threat and the inning without any harm.

In the bottom of the frame the Patriots had an opportunity of their own, but unlike their visitors, they were able to take full advantage. Laral Saunders also walked to lead things off and went to second on Kieran Johnson's base-hit to left.

Donzella followed with a RBI single to left and the runners moved up when the ball got past the catcher. Amend then ripped a two-run double down the first base line and just like that Wheeling Park had all the runs they needed.

The Patriots made it 4-0 in the third on Ateria Walker's run-scoring single and added another in the fifth on a Megan Stanford RBI base-hit. But Park really broke it open in the sixth, sending 10 batters to the plate and adding four tallies, including a RBI single from ninth-hitter Ashley

then stranded runners in scoring position in the first, second, fifth and sixth innings.

Amend went the distance in the circle, even after getting drilled by a pitch in her non-throwing, left elbow in the bottom of the third. The senior dandy was in obvious pain the remainder of the game, holding her arm and occasionally catching the ball bare-handed on throwbacks from Donzella.

"We played pretty well (Wednesday)," Durkin said. "And Mac really pitched well and overmatched them the entire game. She was really hurting, and it took a big, gutsy performance for her to finish the game after getting hit in the elbow."

"I felt like it took some time for us to get to their pitcher, and we missed a lot of pitches that could have been hits, but we eventually did get to her. It was nice to get some big hits when we needed them and you could really feel the confidence the girls had."

Amend allowed only Haley Scott's first inning bunt single and a sixth inning base hit to center by off the bat of pitcher Kaydee Kinsey.

"Give a lot of credit to their pitcher," Penner said. "She is very good, but we knew that coming in. I felt like the biggest play early on was the play at the plate in the first inning where they score and the ball gets away. Who knows, if we get an out there it could have changed that inning and kept it close."

"But you can't fault our kids, we play all sophomores in the infield and all juniors in the outfield and we are still learning some things. I can tell you that our girls go out and scrap, fight and work hard the entire game."

"We had some mental breakdowns, but we will get better at those things. I

of determination and drive that these kids have.

"Plus, they are athletes and beautiful young women. Their future is open.

a new meet record of 1:56.58. Laila Clark won the 100 (13.01) for Wheeling.

Moundsville's Penny Gemensky claimed top honors in the shot put (30

# Wheeling Central claims Class 2A softball title

By CODY TOMER  
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — Once the bats got rolling for Wheeling Central, there was no stopping them as the Maroon Knights swung their way to a 12-6 victory against top-seeded Toronto at Lisa's Field on Tuesday to claim the 14th OVAC championship in school history.

With the victory, Wheeling Central (18-6) repeats as 2A champions and also brings home its fifth OVAC title in the last seven years.

"There is some pressure because everyone expects it now," Wheeling Central coach Rick Magruder said. "I just tell the girls to have fun, play hard and see what happens."

Marissa Garlitz was strong in the circle for Central, striking out 13 and walking six, while pitching herself out of two bases-loaded jams.

Garlitz allowed six hits but Toronto stranded nine base-runners.

"Marissa has been our workhorse," Magruder said. "She has pitched every game for us lately and hopefully we are getting tuned in at the right time."

Toronto (16-5) entered the game on a 10-game winning streak and quickly grabbed the momentum early as Shanna Reed delivered a RBI single in the first to give the Red Knights a 1-0 edge.

Then, with the bases loaded and only one out, Garlitz struck out the final two batters of the inning to get out of the jam.

"We have been playing really well the

last three weeks," Toronto coach Steve Trifonoff said. "We had a big missed opportunity in the first where we could have busted the game open, but Central pitched really well and you have to hit to beat them. I want to congratulate Wheeling Central. They have a nice team and they are well coached."

The Maroon Knights got the bats out in the second inning as Ally Davidson and Emilee Ondrik smacked back-to-back singles and No. 9 hitter Maria Murphy clubbed a two-run double to put Central on top 2-1.

In the third, it was Garlitz, Olivia Carpenter and Ally Davidson supplying three consecutive RBI knocks to extend the Central advantage to 5-1.

Toronto scored on a wild pitch in the third but the Maroon Knights pushed across five runs on five hits in the sixth, which included three consecutive RBI hits from Riley Bennington, Kaitlyn Ferns and Garlitz, along with another Murphy RBI double.

"We got off to a slow start but we really hit the ball well (Tuesday)," Magruder said. "The bottom of the order came through big for us and Murphy had a great game."

Hannah Mozingo belted a RBI triple and Julie Padden added a RBI double in the seventh to give Central a 12-2 cushion.

Toronto rallied to plate four in the bottom of the seventh but Garlitz got out of another bases-loaded jam to end Toronto's 10-game winning streak and give Wheeling Central another OVAC title.

# JM takes OVAC 5A softball title and sectional upperhand

By JOSH STROPE  
For The Times Leader

WELLSBURG — Tuesday against Wheeling Park, Lauren Garcia struck out looking twice. She looked stunned both times.

The third time at bat, she wasn't going to leave anything to chance.

Garcia jumped on a pitch from the Patriots' Makenzie Amend and there was no doubt about it, a towering home run that broke a 1-1 tie and proved to be the difference as John Marshall topped Wheeling Park, 2-1, in a W.Va. Class AAA Region One, Section One battle at Brooke High School.

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Added West: "It was huge. It took the life out of (Park) and that is what a big hit does."

Garcia sat down the Patriots in order in the top of the seventh to seal a victory. She finished with eight strikeouts and allowed three hits.

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John Marshall took the lead in the fourth on an RBI single from Rayyn Shuter. Park tied it in the fifth on a hit

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Marissa Garlitz was strong in the circle for Central, striking out 13 and walking six, while pitching herself out of two bases-loaded jams.

Garlitz allowed six hits but Toronto stranded nine base-runners.

“Marissa has been our workhorse,” Magruder said. “She has pitched every game for us lately and hopefully we are getting tuned in at the right time.”

Toronto (16-5) entered the game on a 10-game winning streak and quickly grabbed the momentum early as Shanna Reed delivered a RBI single in the first to give the Red Knights a 1-0 edge.

Then, with the bases loaded and only one out, Garlitz struck out the final two batters of the inning to get out of the jam.

“We have been playing really well the

and I was glad I was able to get around on it.

Toronto scored on a wild pitch in the third but the Maroon Knights pushed across five runs on five hits in the sixth, which included three consecutive RBI hits from Riley Bennington, Kaitlyn Ferns and Garlitz, along with another Murphy RBI double.

“We got off to a slow start but we really hit the ball well (Tuesday),” Magruder said. “The bottom of the order came through big for us and Murphy had a great game.”

Hannah Mozingo belted a RBI triple and Julie Padden added a RBI double in the seventh to give Central a 12-2 cushion.

Toronto rallied to plate four in the bottom of the seventh but Garlitz got out of another bases-loaded jam to end Toronto’s 10-game winning streak and give Wheeling Central another OVAC title.

## JM takes OVAC 5A softball title and sectional upperhand

By JOSH STROPE  
For The Times Leader

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Along with taking the driver’s seat in the sectional, the victory also proved double sweet as it gave John Marshall its sixth straight OVAC 5A championship.

Because of the postponements due to the weather, both teams agreed that Tuesday’s matchup would also count as the conference title game.

“We have played exceptionally well in the OVAC Tournament the past few years and to win No. 6 is quite a feat,” John Marshall coach Ed West said. “I am really so proud of them. The sectional is the top priority at this point and the OVAC is an added bonus. To get the upperhand in the sectional is the most important thing. We hope we can come out (today) and play as well.”

Most Wheeling Park-John Marshall games are all about the pitching and Tuesday was no different.

Garcia and Amend battled back and forth in the circle, keeping both lineups in check.

In the bottom of the sixth, it was Garcia that got the better of Amend, this time from the batter’s box.

“Striking out two times, it just really brought me back up,” Garcia said. “(The pitch) was inside and I was lucky to get my hands around on it. She throws pretty hard

and I was glad I was able to get around on it.

“(Striking out) was my fault. I should have swung at those two. This time I just wanted to get out on that first pitch because that is usually the best pitch out of all of them.

“I can’t thank my teammates enough for all the defense they play behind me.”

Added West: “It was huge. It took the life out of (Park) and that is what a big hit does.”

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“I thought Mak pitched her heart out and she made one mistake and that was the home run ball,” Wheeling Park coach Pat Durkin said. “Garcia pitched a nice game, but we had chances to score and we have to capitalize on those chances.

“Our girls can (come back). We have a lot of great senior leadership. The sting will get out of it and we will talk about it (today). We will be back up here (today) and we are not going to go quietly.”

Wheeling Park will play Brooke at 5 p.m. in an elimination game with the winner taking on John Marshall at 6:30. If John Marshall loses, a winner-take-all game will be played Thursday.

The Patriots defeated Brooke, 16-0, earlier Tuesday.

Sharise West had a big game with two singles, a double and five RBI. Kieran Johnson hit two singles, a double and three RBI and Laral Saunders had two singles and a double. Ashley Linder was the winning pitcher and limited the Bruins to two singles.

# OVAC Spring Championships Garcia's Blast Helps JM Kill Two Birds With One Stone

Monarchs beat Park for sixth OVAC title in a row, leg up in sectional

By **JOSH STROPE**  
 Sports Editor

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Photo by Josh Strobe

John Marshall players mob winning pitcher Lauren Garcia at home plate after she hit a solo home run in the sixth inning against Wheeling Park on Tuesday in Wellsburg.

and Tuesday was no different.

Garcia and Amend battled back and forth in the circle, keeping both lineups in check.

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Please See JM, Page 14



## Dons Ascend To 1A Hierarchy

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"I can't thank my teammates enough for all the defense they play behind me." Added West: "It was huge. It took the life out of (Park) and that is what a big hit does." Garcia sat down the Patriots in order in the top of the seventh to seal a victory. She finished with eight strikeouts and allowed three hits. Please See JM, Page 14



Photo by Cody Tomer

Wheeling Central's Hannah Mozingo bats during the first inning of the OVAC Class 2A title game.

# Central Is On Top Yet Again

Maroon Knights mow down Toronto for conference supremacy, 12-6

By CODY TOMER  
Staff Writer  
WHEELING — Once the bats got rolling for Wheeling Central, there was no stopping them as the Maroon Knights swung their way to a 12-6 victory against top-seeded Toronto at Lisa's Field on Tuesday to claim the 14th OVAC championship in school history. With the victory, Wheeling Central (18-6) repeats as 2A champions and also brings home its fifth OVAC title in the last seven years.

sure because everyone expects it now," Wheeling Central coach Rick Magruder said. "I just tell the girls to have fun, play hard and see what happens." Marissa Garlitz was strong in the circle for Central, striking out 13 and walking six, while pitching herself out of two bases-loaded jams. Garlitz allowed six hits but Toronto stranded nine base-runners. "Marissa has been our workhorse," Magruder

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Please See WC, Page 14

# Dons Ascend To 1A Hierarchy

Big first a key to Madonna victory

By KIM NORTH  
For The Intelligencer  
WHEELING — Madonna continued its dominance in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tom Bechtel Softball Championships. Coach Chris Conti's talented squad used a four-run first inning en route to a 7-5 victory against St. John Central in the Class A final on windy and chilly Ben's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex. The victory marked the third consecutive championship banner for the Blue Dons.

Canei singled through the right side of the infield to drive in Kush and Sutton as Mascio went to third. Jaedyn Kush's flyball to left was deep enough to plate Mascio for a 4-0 reading. Both coaches agreed that was the key to the game. "That was special. I told the girls that we had to score first, and we did. We jumped on them right away. That was the key, I think," Conti said. Veteran St. John Central coach Jerry Magistro echoed his counterpart's thoughts.

"This is a special group. We only have 10-11 girls on this team and they all play hard," Conti said of his team which is made up of all underclassmen. "I'm very proud of them for the way they play as a team, and (Tuesday) they played together as a team. When you play together as a team, you're going to win."

"We gave them the four runs in the first inning. They had some good shots, but they also had a few that we shouldn't have let happen," he said. "When you get behind a team with someone like her (Gasvoda) pitching, it's hard to come back, but our kids have done that all year and they did it again today. We hit the ball. That's one thing I can about my kids, we were really ready and prepared and they worked hard."

After Katie Gasvoda retired the Irish (12-5) in order to start the game, her teammates gave her a cushion to work with in their first at-bat.

"I can't be any prouder of them. They hit some pretty good shots off a pretty good pitcher. Did she give up five runs all year? I don't think she did. We just needed a couple of timely hits and we could have tied it or won it."

Sophia Recrosio doubled over the center fielder's head leading off and Keara Kush walked. With one out, Karly Sutton singled up the middle as Recrosio raced home to make it 1-0. Gianna Mascio singled to load the bases before Kasey

Gasvoda struck out 11 and walked just one. She scattered seven hits and

Please See DONS, Page 14

# Big Red Pockets 4A Championship

Steubenville takes control in fifth inning

"They love the game and they practice hard and play hard. You have to lay back and let them play."

By MATTHEW PEASLEE  
For The Intelligencer





Photo by Cody Tomer

Wheeling Central's Hannah Mazingo bats during the first inning of the OVAC Class 2A title game.

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*Please See WC, Page 14*

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*Please See DONS, Page 14*

# Big Red Pockets 4A Championship

## Steubenville takes control in fifth inning

By MATTHEW PEASLEE  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Whenever his Steubenville softball team seems to press and stress too much, Coach Gus DiMarzio poses a question to the squad.

"A lot of them also play travel ball and I ask them, 'How many of you have played in big games?' All their hands shoot up. It's just like any other game," he said. "The field has white lines all around, there's a yellow stripe on the fence, there's a batter's box and there's a pitcher's mound. Every game we play is the same. They just need to realize that sometimes."

In the fifth inning of Tuesday's OVAC 4A championship game, Big Red seemed to settle in. Steubenville "let loose and had some fun," according to DiMarzio as it batted

**"They love the game and they practice hard and play hard. You have to lay back and let them play."**

Steubenville coach Gus DiMarzio

around and collected eight of its 12 hits in the fifth for an 8-0 victory over Oak Glen at the I-470 Complex.

"They love the game and they practice hard and play hard," DiMarzio said. "You have to lay back and let them play. In the end, if they just play, they'll come around and do good things."

Prior to the fifth inning, Steubenville (17-1) stranded seven runners on base.

Much of the frustration was because of Oak Glen pitcher Hannah Clunk. The Fairmont State recruit threw 129 pitches and was efficient

with eight strikeouts.

Big Red finally got to Clunk in the fifth inning when Jaliyah Hubbard led off with a walk. The next batter, Kameron DiMarzio, hit a sharp line drive to straightway center field, which scored Hubbard.

Hayley Stamps followed with an RBI double and Na Banks hit an RBI single. The hit parade continued with one out when Leah Ferguson beat out a bunt single before Sam Cucarese and Rhiannon Petrisko also singled. Hubbard came back around to hit with an RBI single and

*Please See BIG RED, Page 14*

this spring who are poised to have standout seasons beginning this fall:

#### BAYLOR

WR Blake Lynch, sophomore. The speedy Lynch will get a chance to be a top receiving target sooner rather than later after KD Cannon and Ishmael Zamora both left school early, signing NFL free agent rookie deals after going undrafted

three touchdowns last season behind his teammates who were 1-2 in the Big 12 for receptions per game.

#### IOWA STATE

RB David Montgomery, sophomore. Montgomery was so good as a freshman that he supplanted Mike Warren — who led all freshman nationally in rushing yards in 2015 — toward the end of last season.

Ehambe dazzled in the spring game after moving back to his natural position from linebacker, where he played for the Jayhawks last season. He had three sacks while showing he could provide a dynamic bookend to last year's breakout star, Dorance Armstrong.

#### KANSAS STATE

RB Alex Barnes, sophomore. After beginning last season buried on the depth chart, Barnes wound up rushing for 442 yards and six touchdowns on just 56 carries. That was good enough for second in school history in both categories by a freshman running back.

#### OKLAHOMA

RBs Abdul Adams and/or Rodney Anderson, sopho-

Samaje Perine both picked in the NFL draft after leaving Oklahoma early, there is a clear opening for the young, talented running backs. Adams had 283 yards rushing on 53 carries (5.3 yards per carry) in limited chances last season.

#### OKLAHOMA STATE

WR Tyron Johnson, sophomore. The transfer from LSU already has established himself as a favorite target for Heisman contender quarterback Mason Rudolph. The speedy Johnson was a five-star recruit coming out of high school. With so many talented players around him.

#### TCU

WR KaVontae Turpin, junior. Poised for a breakout

avera yards misse pract sons, son s back, has a kick yards two' recei in 2C

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## DONS

(Continued from Page 13)

didn't allow a base hit until Taylor Lowe's infield single to the hole at short leading off the fourth.

"Katie pitched an excellent game," Conti said of junior ace inside the circle. "I give a lot of credit to her, but I also give a lot of credit to my catcher, Jaedyn. She's only a freshman and she called the entire game. She called an excellent game. Catchers don't get a lot of credit for anything, but she did a very good job."

The Blue Dons made it 5-0 with an unearned run in the second.

St. John Central sliced into the deficit with two runs in the fourth. After Lowe's safety, Jenna Sawinski singled up the middle. Kate Lovinski's fly ball to right moved Lowe to third. Gille Johnson followed with a single to right that scored both runners.

Recrosio tripled with one out in the bottom of the fourth. She missed the cycle by a home run. She did, however, score three runs, including the sixth tally on Keara Kush's infield single.

The Irish drew to within 6-5 in the fifth as Rachel Zaccirey doubled to right leading off. With one out, she would race home when Madison DeLuca reached on an error. DeLuca would make it 6-4 as she raced around on Lowe's double down the left-field line. They pulled even closer in the sixth when Zaccirey's high popup in the infield went for a wind-blown RBI single, slicing the margin to 6-5.

However, Recrosio walked with two outs in the bottom of the inning. She advanced to second on a wild pitch and third on a passed ball. She score on the third Irish error.

## WC

(Continued from Page 13)

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Toronto (16-5) entered the game on a 10-game winning streak and quickly grabbed the momentum early as Shanna Reed delivered a RBI single in the first to give the Red Knights a 1-0 edge.

Then, with the bases loaded and only one out, Garlitz struck out the final two batters of the inning to get out of the jam.

"We have been playing really well the last three weeks," Toronto coach Steve Trifonoff said. "We had a big missed opportunity in the first where we could have busted the game open, but Central pitched really well and you

"There is some pres

WC CC

have to hit to beat them. I want to congratulate Wheeling Central. They have a nice team and they are well coached."

The Maroon Knights got the bats out in the second inning as Ally Davidson and Emilee Ondrik smacked back-to-back singles and No. 9 hitter Maria Murphy clubbed a two-run double to put Central on top 2-1.

In the third, it was Garlitz, Olivia Carpenter and Ally Davidson supplying

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## JM

(Continued from Page 13)

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## DONAHUE

(Continued from Page 13)

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

had a single, double and secured a double and sir

**Bridgeport 8, Bucks**  
BRIDGEPORT — 1 RBI single to left with bottom of the seventh Bridgeport to a thrilling

The hit drove in Jerigan from third and put touches on a three-run first the Bulldogs.

Geno Cizmada paced with two singles and a **Steubenville 8, St. C**  
STEUBENVILLE  
Pierro hit two singles while driving in four a warmed up for its OV. today with a victory Clairsville.

TRACK



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

**BELLAIRE'S SARAH** McAninch, left, and Kelsey Jarvis, right, race to congratulate head coach Melissa Lahna after the Big Reds defeated Monroe Central, 2-1, in nine innings in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A semifinal Tuesday night on Lisa's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex.

# Bellaire outlasts Monroe in 9 to advance in 3A

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

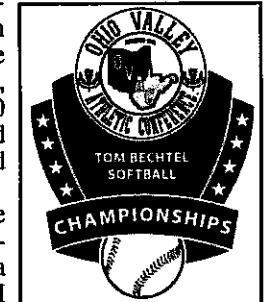
**ELM GROVE** – The longer the game went, the stronger Sarah McAninch got. Through three innings of Tuesday night's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A softball semifinal against second-seeded Monroe Central, Bellaire's senior had thrown 77 pitches and trailed 1-0.

However, she settled into a groove and retired 18 of the final 20 Seminoles she faced – one reached on an error and the other walked – as the Big Reds rallied for a thrilling, 2-1, victory on Lisa's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex. She finished with 130 pitches, fanning eight and walking three. She scattered five hits.

"I think that might be the best game Sarah Mac has pitched all year," veteran Bellaire head coach Melissa Lahna allowed. "She buckled down. I think once we started making some plays defensively, it was indeed ugly at times, she settled in after the nerves went away. She pitched well.

"We've been up-and-down all season," Lahna noted. "We've played at-them ball the last 7-8 games. We haven't been able to get on a streak to get some runs. We've been leaving a lot of runners on base, but not today."

With neither team able to generate any offensive firepower after the fourth inning, Bellaire's Natalie Stoner singled to



See, **BELLAIRE**, Page B2

# St. C. falls to Steubenville in Class 4A, 7-5

By **SHAWN RINE**



# Trail tops Tyler, 10-0 in 3A semi

**BELLAIRE'S SARAH** McAninch, left, and Kelsey Jarvis, right, race to congratulate head coach Melissa Lahna after the Big Reds defeated Monroe Central, 2-1, in nine innings in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A semifinal Tuesday night on Lisa's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

## St. C. falls to Steubenville in Class 4A, 7-5

By **SHAWN RINE**  
For The Times Leader

**WHEELING** – Almost to a fault, coaches are generally tougher on their own children than they are anyone else. Steubenville's Gus DiMarzio is no different.

But the other side of the equation is when that child comes through in the clutch, it makes it all the more rewarding. Again, DeMarzio is no different.

With the bases loaded and two outs in the sixth inning of a tie game, DiMarzio watched as his daughter, Kameron, laced the winning hit, a two-run, two-strike single through the left side to give Big Red a 7-5 victory against St. Clairsville in a Class 4A OVAC Tom Bechtel Softball Championship semifinal Tuesday on Ben's Field at the I-470 Complex. Steubenville will meet Oak Glen, which blanked Edison in the nightcap, Saturday for the title.

"Here's why it makes it more special: as a dad, you want to push your kids to be the best," Coach DiMarzio said. "I have all girls, so a friend of mine – Reno Saccoccia – told me to raise them like boys so they're tough ... so that when they leave the nest you *know* they're tough.

"She got in tough spots – 0-2, 1-2 – but she told me, 'Dad, I am not going to let her get me.'

"It's awesome because in the end I get to go home and say 'I was a jerk, but I love you.' And she says, 'I know, Dad.'"

Kameron DiMarzio's hit capped what was a hard-fought game, befitting the stage on which it was played. The teams battled through three scoreless innings before the offenses began to take off.

The Red Devils (9-6) struck first with a pair of runs in the top of the fourth. They loaded the bases with nobody out

*"ALL WE had to do was get one more hit, but we stranded her on third.."*

- Ron Hummel  
St. C. Head Coach



Photo/SHAWN RINE

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** ace pitcher Amaya Smith works to the plate during Tuesday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal against Steubenville. Big Red defeated the Red Devils, 7-5 to advance to Saturday's title game.

See, **ST. C.**, Page B2

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## Trail tops Tyler, 10-0 in 3A semi

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**ELM GROVE** – Outstanding pitching. Steady hitting. Solid defense. Those are three ingredients to becoming a very good softball team.

Top-seeded Buckeye Trail (16-4) combined all three Tuesday night in dispatching No. 4 Tyler Consolidated, 10-0, in six innings in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3A semifinal on Lisa's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex. With the victory, the Warriors will meet Bellaire Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the complex with a shot of defending their championship.

"We played very well," Buckeye Trail head coach Staci Smith assessed of her team's performance. "We're peaking at the right time."

Hannah Smith, daughter of the head coach, fired a one-hitter while striking out a dozen and issuing just two free passes. She yielded a single to Kiley Martin with one out in the first inning and allowed two runners to reach third – one in each of the first two frames. She retired 13 of the final 14 batters she faced.

"She was very effective," Smith said of her daughter. "I'm very pleased with the way she pitched tonight. The one hit she gave up she left it out over the plate."

Buckeye Trail jumped all over the debuting Silver Knights with five runs in the first inning. They coupled two hits with

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• **Bellaire**

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right-center leading off the top of the ninth. A wild pitch would advance her to second and a perfectly timed delayed-steal with one out moved her to third. Kelsey Jarvis lined the first pitch she saw with two outs to right-center as Stoner raced home.

"Kelsey Jarvis steps up as a senior and hits a shot out there," Lahna said. "That was a really big hit for us."

Monroe Central head coach Michael Brock thought the delayed steal was the key.

"If she doesn't steal there, she probably doesn't score," he said.

McAninch struck out the first two batters in the bottom of the ninth before walking No. 9 hitter Kaitlyn Matz. The next batter bounced to Stoner at third and her throw to Hannah Applegarth at first was in time to seal the deal.

"We've got to hit the ball better with runners on base," Brock admitted. "We left a lot of runners on base early. Our pitching has kept us in a lot of games this season and today was no different as Kayla did a great job. I told the girls after the game that we need more than one run to win games against good teams, and Bellaire's a good team."

Logston, the tough-luck loser, struck out 11 and issued a trio of free passes. She permitted just four hits, with half of them coming in the final inning.

The Seminoles led 1-0 after three innings on Cheyenne Williams groundout scored Allison Kuhn who had tripled down the rightfield line leading off.

The lead was short-lived as Bellaire drew even when Stoner lined a leadoff triple to right-center in the fourth. Applegarth lofted a flyball to right that was deep enough for Stoner to score.

Including that sacrifice fly, Logston set down 15 of the next 17 Big Reds she faced heading into the fateful ninth.

Bellaire will be playing for its second championship in three years. The Big Reds blanked River, 1-0, in 2015. They also defeated Buckeye Trail, who they will meet Saturday at 10:30 a.m., in the semis that year.

• **St. C.**

Continued from Page B1

before Ari Reager bounced back to Big Red (15-1) pitcher Maddie Fields, who fired to the plate for the first out. The throw to first to attempt a double play got away, allowing Maddie Vickers to come around to score. Brooke Reager's sacrifice fly to right made it 2-0.

However, Steubenville responded by putting four on the board in the bottom half. Hayley Stamps drew a one-out walk and after St. Clairsville's Amaya Smith registered one of her 14 strikeouts, Rhiannon Petrisko reached on an infield single despite a diving stop by Devils shortstop Taylor Gallentine.

Fields helped her own cause with a RBI single and Seana Ragusa tied it with another. No. 9 hitter Sammi Cucarese drove in two more with a shot down the leftfield line.

Jalayah Hubbard and Kameron DiMarzio led off the fifth with back-to-back singles and the former came around to score on a wild pitch to make it 5-2 Big Red.

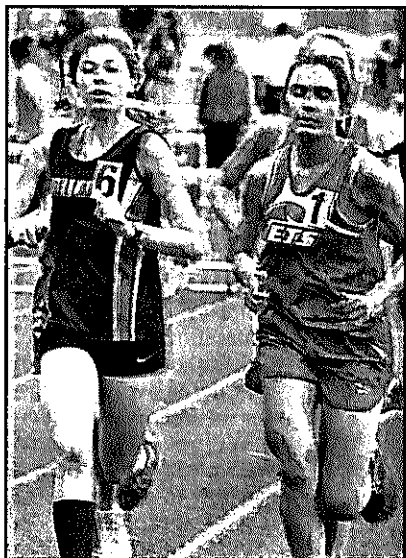
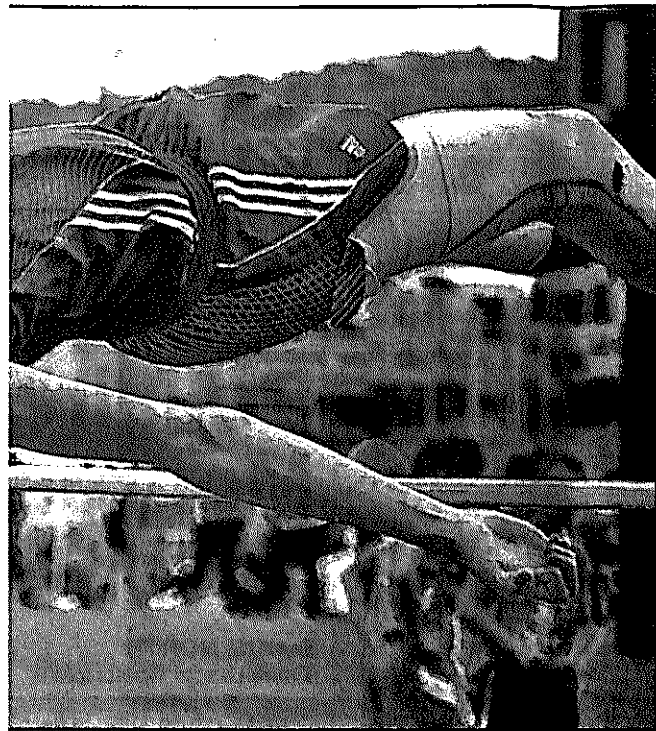
Just when it looked like St. Clairsville was finished, it found a way to tie the game in the top of the sixth, sending eight batters to the plate. Brooke Reager and Hannah Stachyra brought in a run each on a sacrifice fly and double, respectively. A second run scored on the Reager play when the throw home got away.

"The bottom of our lineup came through and got clutch hits when we needed it," St. Clairsville coach Ron Hum-

**AT LEFT:** St. Clairsville's Justin Heatherington soars over the high jump bar en route to victory Tuesday afternoon at Nelson Field.

**BELOW:** Bellaire's Shaye Beckett and Union Local's Megan Bateman race in the 3200 meter run at the Buckeye 8 Championship.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY



As has been the case for much of the season, senior hurdler Justyn Keyser led the way for the Big Reds. He won the high hurdles in 14.95 and later claimed the intermediates in 40.60.

In the field, the Big Reds received a victory from Jordan Mehlman in the discus with a mark of 124-10 and Josh Sabinski in the shot put with a toss of 45-feet.

Bellaire also captured the 4x2, 4x4 and shuttles along the way. The 4x2 team, which was comprised of Chase Yoho, Keyser, Tyson Camsky and Deondre Burney ran a 1:34.13 en route to victory, while the 4x4 team, which consisted of Burney, Trenton Gibson, Griffen Heatherington and Yoho, posted a 3:35.72.

The shuttles team was made up of Gage Eden, A.J. McCarthy, Zach Lowe and Keyser. It posted a 63.81.

Martins Ferry produced four Buckeye 8 championships. Senior speedster Javon Garriel was responsible for two of those with his wins in the 100 and 200. He ran 11.24 and 23.20, respectively.

Senior standout Jacob Bishop was impressive in winning the 3200 meter run. He cruised eight laps in 9:57.32.

The Riders' 4x8 team of Jeffrey Lucas, Terrell Tuttle, Kevin Simpson and Bishop set a meet record with its season-best time of 8:23.97.

Harrison Central had a pair of winners on the track. Senior Zack Henry won the 1600 meter run in 4:44.95

Loase won the pole vault at 9-feet.

**ON THE BOYS' SIDE,** St. Clairsville scored early and often en route to the title. The defending Division II state champions — for the first time all season — had all of their weapons available. However, head coach Tony Ciroti and his staff opted to limit defending state high hurdle champion Malachi Mellema to just a leg on the shuttle team.

Still, however, the Devils had more than enough firepower.

All told, the Red Devils won only three events, but scored in all 18.

Sophomore high jumper Justin Heatherington got things started when he cleared 6-feet to win the high jump. Senior Zach Riglow won the



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Edison's lone wins came in the field. In the long jump, Michael Speedy handed St. Clairsville's Jordan Vincent his first loss of the season. Speedy marked the pit at 20-ft-8, which was two inches further than the defending Division II state champion.

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"The bottom of our lineup came through and got clutch hits when we needed it," St. Clairsville coach Ron Hummel said. "But it's a shame we couldn't have our top of the order on base when we needed them to score."

"All we had to do was get that one more hit, but we stranded her on third."

That set the stage for the young DiMarzio, who Hummel didn't want to see at the plate in that situation.

"Of all the kids to come up," he said. "We had had a plan for her to keep her jammed and there were a couple pitches where I thought Amaya didn't hit her spots."

There weren't many of those situations, according to Coach DiMarzio.

"With her pitching you're fighting for every inch," the coach said. "She's as good as they come."

"I've got four seniors who are as tough as nails and they refuse to let the other kids back up."

Smith surrendered 11 hits, but struck out 14 and walked a pair.

"You've got to give her credit," Hummel said. "She pitched well with fourteen strikeouts and she never got rattled."

On the other side, Fields allowed six hits and struck out three without walking a batter.

"She's tough, isn't she?" Coach DiMarzio asked. "She's a freshman and she battles."

"She is the type of kid that if I would have gone out there and said 'hey, I am going to take you out,' she would have argued about it."

"She wants the ball. She's a tough kid and I love her."

Vickers led the Devils with three singles. Kameron DiMarzio, Fields, Ragusa and Cucarese had two each for Big Red.

## • John

on the pole vault at 9-feet.

**THE BOYS' SIDE**, St. Clairsville scored early and often en route to the title. The defending Division II state champions — for the second year in a row — had all of their state titles available. However, head coach Tony Ciroti and his staff opted to defend the state high hurdle title with Malachi Mellema to just a few shuttles team.

However, the Devils had more firepower.

And, the Red Devils won only one state title, but scored in all 18.

More high jumper Justin Wington got things started when he led 6-feet to win the high jump. Senior Zach Bigelow won the 100-meter dash in 52.23.

St. Clairsville's crack 4x1 team of senior Oberdick, Jordan Vincent, Harris and Bigelow ran a 1:34.13 to win the title by more than 10 seconds.

The Devils scored 70 of its points on the field.

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T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

**BUCKEYE TRAIL'S** Hannah Smith fires a pitch plateward Tuesday during the OVAC Class 3A semifinal against Tyler.

# OVAC softball games reset; baseball is not as fortunate

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING — Mother Nature was the winner Saturday as the ruler of the weather postponed Ohio Valley Athletic Conference baseball and softball championships at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field and Elm Grove's I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex, respectively.

According to Baseball Director Steve Wojcik, there has been no timetable to finish the three championship games in Class 1A, Class 2A and Class 4A due to today's sectional tournament draws. A decision will be made some time today after the sectional tournament draws are finalized.

In Class 1A, Bishop Donahue and Paden City are set to meet, while Toronto and Wheeling Central will decide the Class 2A title. In Class 4A, Jefferson County rivals Edison and Steubenville are paired together.

The Tom Bechtel softball championships are much clearer as Bellaire and Buckeye Trail will tangle for the Class 3A crown tonight at 6:30 on Lisa's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex. The Warriors are the defending champions, while the Big Reds won in 2015.

The remainder of the softball championships are scheduled for Monday at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex.

On Lisa's Field at 5 p.m., northern panhandle rivals John Marshall and Wheeling Park collide for the Class 5A title. That game will be followed by the Class 2A clash between Toronto and Wheeling Central, which is set for approximately 6:45.

On Ben's Field, the Class 1A encounter between Catholic rivals Madonna and St. John Central kick things off at 5:15. The Class 4A contest between Oak Glen and Steubenville follows at approximately 7.

## OVAC Baseball, Softball Games Are Postponed

WHEELING — Rain, rain, go away.

That is what OVAC officials were likely saying Saturday morning as storms wiped away the baseball and softball championship games.

The baseball games, originally to be held at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field, were postponed early Saturday morning. Make-up dates and times will be determined today pending the Ohio sectional meetings.

Meanwhile, the softball championships have been rescheduled. All the games will still take place

at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

The Class 3A matchup between Buckeye Trail and Bellaire will take place at 6:30 p.m. today.

The remainder of the games will take place Monday. On Lisa's Field, Wheeling Park and John Marshall go at it for the 5A title at 5 p.m., followed by Wheeling Central vs. Toronto (2A). On Ben's Field, St. John and Madonna meet for the Class 1A title at 5:15, with Oak Glen and Steubenville facing off for the 4A title immediately after.