

Starling Marte's game-winning single in the 11th inning gives Pittsburgh a 6-5 victory against the St. Louis Cardinals/15

OVAC Baseball, Softball

Linsly Rolls To Class 2A Crown



Photo by Cody Tomer

Linsly players celebrate after claiming the OVAC Class 2A baseball championship with a 12-1 victory against Toronto on Friday at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

Cadets pound out 14 hits, 12 runs to beat Toronto

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — If you don't understand what playing for OVAC championships means to Linsly, it was on full display Friday afternoon with a huge dog pile on the mound following the Cadets' baseball victory over powerful Toronto.

Linsly pounded out 14 hits, getting six hits and six RBI from the bottom three in its order, while taking advantage of five Red Knights' errors and numerous other mistakes to record a much easier than expected 12-1 five-inning triumph over Toronto and captured the Class 2A title at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

With the win, Coach Jay Cartwright's Cadets improved to 11-4 on the season and captured the school's seventh OVAC baseball crown since 2009 and third in the last five years.

"We are not members of any state affiliations and we want to compete any chance we get, so this is a game that we point to and strive to get to every season," Cartwright said with a smile. "And the OVAC has been great to us."

Each team had opportunities go by the board in the first with Linsly stranding a runner at third and Toronto (14-3) wasting a pair of base hit and leaving a pair in scoring position.

See LINSLY, Page 11

LINSLEY

(Continued from Page 9)

The Cadets stranded another in scoring position in the second, however, they also managed to score the first run of the contest. Hunter Kelly was hit by a pitch with one out and advanced to second on a wild pitch. Kelly scored two batters later when Jon Milton singled, with Milton advancing to second on an error.

Linsly added to the lead in the third after Nate Rush dropped a double down the right-field line to lead-off the inning and Vic Giovengo fol-

lowed with a run-scoring single to right to make it 2-0.

For the second time in three frames the Red Knights managed to get Nate Karaffa and Nolan Clegg on the bases with one out, only to leave them stranding as Toronto failed to score.

The Cadets chased Ohio State recruit Nate Karaffa from the mound in the fourth, recording five consecutive hits and scoring three runs to run the margin to 6-0. In all, Linsly sent 11 to plate and pushed across five runs in the inning.

Kobe Hill's two-run triple was the big hit in the fourth while Jules Giovengo and Rush had run-scoring base hits and Papadimitriou added another on a fielder's choice.

Toronto looked like it might be ready to break through in the bottom of the inning, thanks in large part to three hit-batsmen. Karaffa's second single of the game scored the Knights' first run, however, Clegg's long fly ball to right-center was tracked down by Milton, who made a diving grab with two down.

Cartwright's club got that run back plus four additional in the fifth with three Toronto errors paving the way. After a pair of walks and a fielder's choice put runners at second and third, it appeared the Red Knights were out of the inning on a Clegg strikeout. However, the catcher dropped the ball and could not make the play at first, allowing the first two runs to score. Papadimitriou also had a two-run single in the fifth as the lead ballooned to 12-1.

Senior Jake Auten kept the

Red Knights off-balance at the play all day, fanning three and walking two, but limiting Toronto to just five hits and the one run in picking up the complete game victory on the hill.

"Obviously Toronto is another quality opponent for us," Cartwright said. "But any time we can hit the ball like that, get good pitching for a senior and solid defense, we can be pretty tough to beat also."

"We have had some really rocky starts this season, but these kids just keep coming and keep playing hard and getting it done. The bottom three in our lineup really came up huge (Friday) and Jon Milton, a kid we didn't even know if he would be playing this year due to an injury, makes a play that saves multiple runs."

"Our guys just played great overall baseball (Friday), but give Toronto some credit as well, that is a team that is very good and can really hit and field the ball, but had a rough game."

Veteran Toronto coach Brian Perkins, who has watched his team lose back-to-back OVAC championship games on the same field, wasn't at a loss for words, but also wasn't sure what happened to his team.

"You have to give Linsly a lot of credit, they came out ready to play and they got the job done," Perkins said. "And we just made so many errors and mental mistakes, which is very uncommon for us."

"This is actually very humbling, but we will continue to grow and this team is not done yet."

L LINESCORES

ak D, S, rbi.
I — Kinsey lp (2SO, 1W) and Scott. Beatty 3S; Shannon rbi.

Weir 12, Southern Local 2
Southern Local 002 0 — 2 4 1
Weir 352 2 — 12 12 0

S — Michael lp (0SO, 2W), Felton

(4) 1SO, 1W) and Berta. Michael D, rbi.

W — Mikula wp (1SO, 3W), Rosnick

(4) (3SO, 0W) and Brenneman.

Aperfine S, D, T, rbi; Webster S, D, 3rbi;

Mikula 2S, 2rbi; Phillips rbi; Ditullo rbi.

Beallsville 8, Valley 1

Valley 001 000 0 — 1 3 7

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V — Brown lp (3SO, 3W) and Bas-

sett, West, Harris 2S.

B — Muncy wp (4SO, 7W) and

Clary. Steele D, S; Muncy D, S; Otto D,

S.

River 10, Shenandoah 6

River 204 112 0 — 10 15 4

Shenandoah 111 200 1 — 6 7 0

R — Lively wp (6SO, 1W), Swords

(7) (1SO, 1W) and Rufener. C. Caldwell

2HR, 2S, 5rbi; Swords 3S; Lively 3S,

2rbi; Lollathin D, T.

S — Dimmaring lp (2SO, 2W) and

Trenner. Mackie S, D; Blubaugh S, D.

Youngstown Ursuline 5, Edison 4

Ursuline 100 201 1 — 5 9 2

Edison 013 000 0 — 4 6 3

U — Kenneally wp (5SO, 3W) and

Caldrone. Caldrene 2S; Parbato D; Nut-

ter D; Erickson S, rbi.

E — Clifton lp (1SO, 1W),

McConnell (5) (0SO, 1W) and McIlroy.

Christoff HR, rbi; Springer D; Petrisko S,

rbi.

Brooke 3, Harrison Central 1

Brooke 000 020 1 — 3 9 0

Harrison Central 100 000 0 — 1 2 2

B — Kazmirski wp (12SO, 4W) and

Lusk. Cooper S, D; Kazmirski 2S, 2rbi;

Lamantia S, rbi; Lusk 2S.

H — Kuhn wp (1SO, 2W) and

Young. Peshek S, rbi.

Barnesville falls in 3A tournament by Fort Frye, 5-1

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

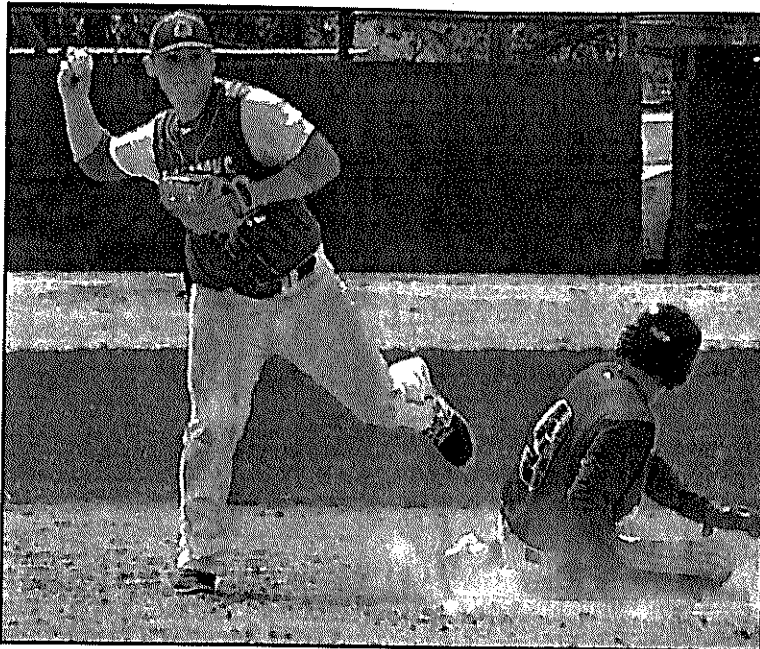
BARNESVILLE — So much for the third being a charm. It sure wasn't for Barnesville.

Second-seeded Shamrocks (11-2) lost for the third year in a row to Fort Frye in the OVAC Class 3A baseball tournament when they dropped a 5-1 semifinal decision Saturday at sun-splashed, but chilly, Memorial Park. The No. 3 Cadets (14-3) bested the Shamrocks in last year's championship tilt after eliminating them in the 2016 semifinals.

"Sonny (Bidwell) outcoached me for the third time," Barnesville's D.J. Butler admitted. "That was very uncharacteristic of the way we play. A lot of that's on me. I didn't do a very good job of having us prepared. We made some mistakes we don't normally make."

"Fort Frye is always ready to play," Butler contin-

See, **BARNESVILLE**, Page C2



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

BARNESVILLE SECOND baseman Zane Huntsman throws to first base to complete one of the two double plays the Shamrocks turned during Saturday's 5-1 loss to Fort Frye in a OVAC Class 3A semifinal contest at Memorial Park in Barnesville.

Steubenville fights off St. Clairsville in 4A

By ED LOOMAN
For The Times Leader

STEUBENVILLE — The big inning made a big difference in Saturday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal between St. Clairsville and Steubenville.

Big Red, the defending 4A champion and the tournament's top seed, did all its scoring in the home half of the second then held on for a 6-5 victory over the fourth-seeded Red Devils.

Fred Heatherington's club improved to 9-2 and will go after the school's 24th all-time conference championship when it entertains Edison, which clipped Meadowbrook 2-1 in nine innings, next Saturday at Vacarro Field. The first pitch is set for 11 a.m.

"We're happy with the win and happy to be moving on," said Heatherington, who coached in his 800th game and now sports an all-time record of 594-

206. "We had a playoff atmosphere today and it gives our kids that tournament feel. We'll see what happens and get ready for next week."

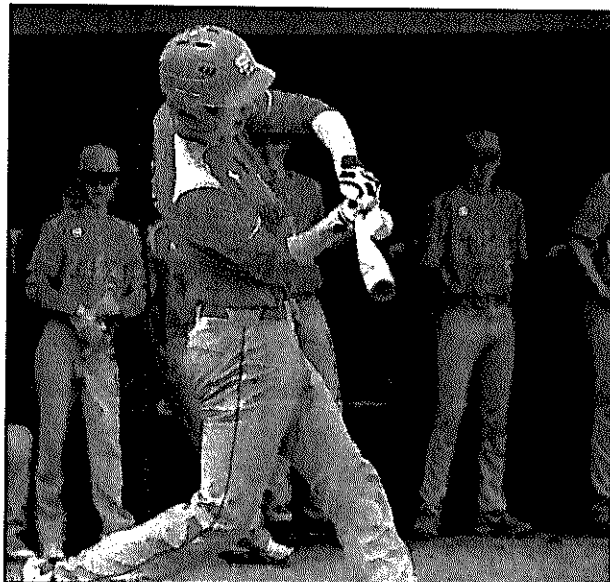
St. Clairsville struck first on Derek Witsberger's RBI single in the top of the second.

Clayton Criss got Steubenville's big second going with a one-out single. He advanced when Carlo Biasi drew a walk and both scored on Mason Rubish's double down the left field line. Three batters later, Alec Taylor delivered a run-scoring double to right-center.

Johnny Agresta delivered a two-run single to left and Jacob Bernard contributed a RBI base hit to complete the rally. The hosts sent 10 batters to the plate during the uprising.

After that, St. Clairsville starter Dustin Carrothers held the

See, **ST. C.**, Page C2



Photo/JOE CATULLO

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Peyton Drake makes contact during the Red Devils' OVAC Class 4A semifinal Saturday afternoon against Steubenville at Vacarro Field. Big Red advanced to the championship game, holding on for a 6-5 victory.



Toronto has no issue with River in Class 2A

By AARON PETCHAL
For The Times Leader

TORONTO - Nate Karaffa hurled a gem, and he was backed up by plenty of offense as No. 1

"Toronto has got a great program," River (5-3) head coach Mark Romick said. "They have a couple of Division I players. They have a couple of guys going to Ohio State. They also

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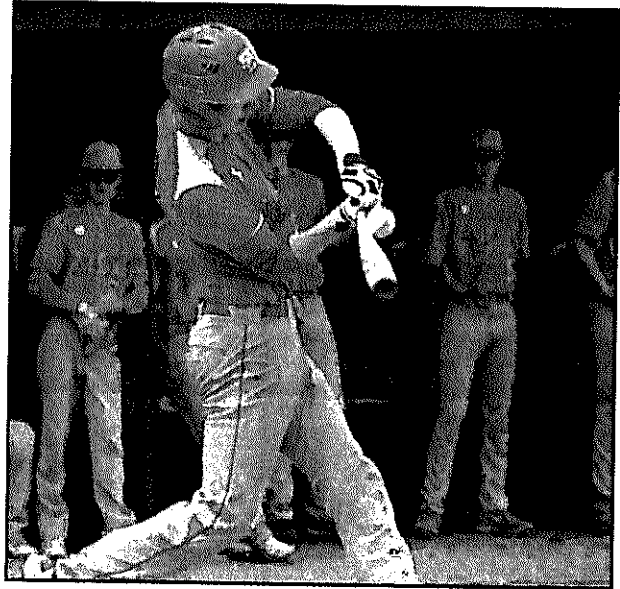
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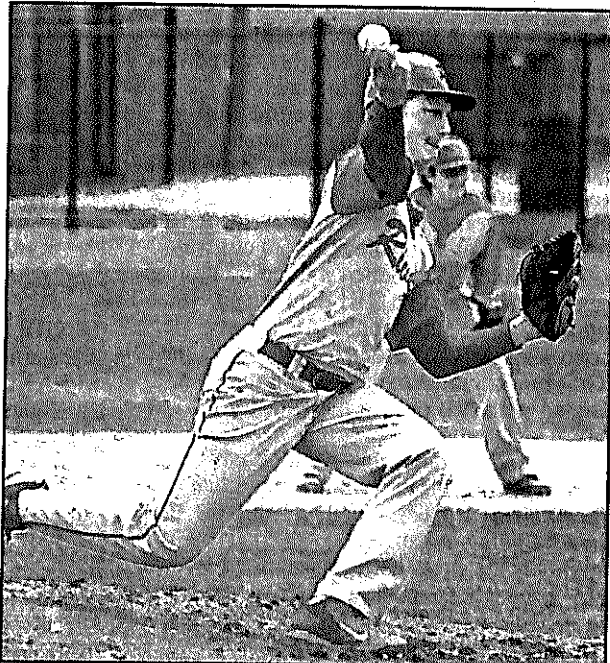
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Photo/JOE CATULLO

RIVER'S COLTON Lawrence works to the plate Saturday afternoon during the Pilots' OVAC Class 2A semifinal against Toronto at the Red Knights Baseball Complex.

Toronto has no issue with River in Class 2A

By **AARON PETCHAL**
For The Times Leader

TORONTO - Nate Karaffa hurled a gem, and he was backed up by plenty of offense as No. 1 seeded Toronto blanked No. 4 River, 11-0, in five innings in an OVAC Class 2A baseball tournament semifinal Saturday afternoon at the Knight Baseball Complex.

"It was a good day," Toronto (12-1) head coach Brian Perkins said. "Our kids had prom last night, and the kids really showed up ready to play today. Our kids knew it was tournament time, and they looked to get after it."

Karaffa pitched 4 2/3 innings of no-hit ball, and only a bad bounce prevented him from throwing a no-hitter.

"Toronto has got a great program," River (5-3) head coach Mark Romick said. "They have a couple of Division I players. They have a couple of guys going to Ohio State. They also have some other nice ballplayers who will probably play Division I baseball."

"We are very, very young, and our youth showed. We were not in position to make some plays. When you do things like that against a team like Toronto that has high baseball IQ, you are in trouble."

With the win, Toronto will now play Linsly in the tournament final at 5 p.m. Friday at the I-470 Complex. Linsly, the No. 2 seed, defeated third-seeded Catholic Central, 5-3, Saturday

See, **RIVER**, Page C2

Wheeling Park Rally Comes Up Short Vs. South

Four unearned runs doom McLeod's club

By CODY TOMER
Staff Writer

WHEELING — All season long, Wheeling Park has thrived under pressure.

Park tried its hand again Friday to excite the crowd with another comeback victory but the talent of Parkersburg South stood strong as it held on for a 7-6 triumph to capture the OVAC 5A Championship at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

Four of the first five runs that crossed the plate for Parkersburg South were unearned after several defensive miscues by Park.

"When you play upper-level competition, you can't bury yourself in a hole," Park coach Mike McLeod said. "We booted it around a little bit but make no mistake, they are a good team and they have a lot more baseball left to go."

South held a 4-0 lead after two innings and a 6-1 advantage after four but the resilient Park squad continued to

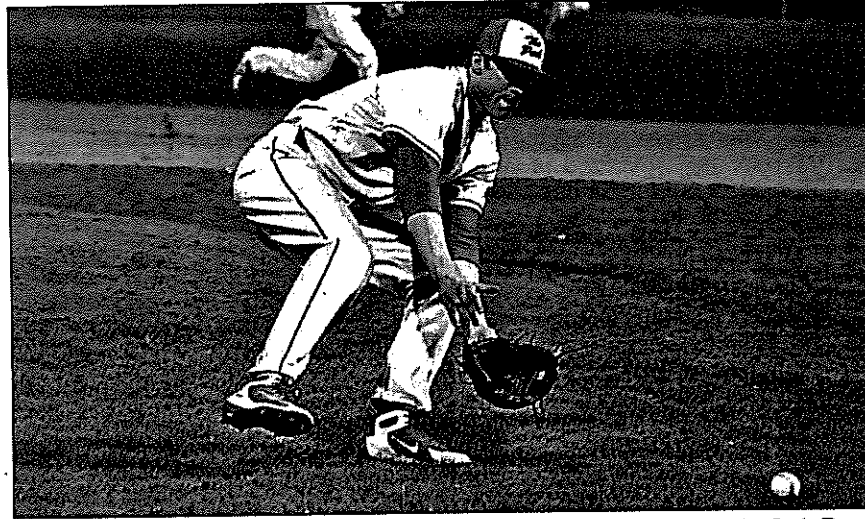


Photo by Cody Tomer

Wheeling Park's Trevor Thomas comes off the mound to make a play during Friday's OVAC 5A Championship in Wheeling.

game and the Park rally. "That's the neat thing about coaching here is that we aren't going to quit," McLeod said. "We won't give up. We had some guys with bad at-bats early but we made some in-game adjustments and

Wheeling Park cut the deficit to one in the bottom of the seventh and put the tying run on third with two outs, but Parkersburg South pitcher Chase Freshour induced a flyout to end the

we're never out of a game.

"We're going to keep working. There is a lot of pride here and we're going to get ready for sectionals now and a nice run in the playoffs."

The victory marks the first OVAC title in the history of the Parkersburg South baseball program.

"I've been with these seniors here for a few years and this is what they wanted," South coach Todd Burner said. "They wanted to try to get to the state championship and this is the first step toward it."

"Wheeling Park is a good baseball team. They could have easily given up and they didn't and we could have very easily folded and we didn't. That was just two good ball teams right there."

A key play came in the bottom of the fifth. After Park plated three runs in the frame and loaded the bases with one out, Freshour induced a 6-4-3 double play to escape the jam and stop the momentum.

"That was huge," Burner said. "(Brett Donohew) hit the ball on the nose in a pinch-hit situation and it just went right to our shortstop for the double play."

See PARK, Page 10

Dons Hold Off Cougars

Madonna moves to OVAC final

By RALPH COX
For The Intelligencer

WEIRTON — The Madonna baseball team squandered a five-run lead but rebounded to take a 9-6 victory against Frontier in the semifinals of the annual OVAC baseball tournament Friday night at Bowman Field.

The Blue Dons went ahead 6-1 in the second inning, and senior lefty Chayce Lemley was cruising along with a one-hitter through the first four innings. Freshman Dom Bmcic replaced Lemley on the hill and the Cougars, who had scratched out two runs in the second and fourth innings, plated four in the fifth (three were unearned) and tied the score at 6-6.

The Blue Dons, who hold the top seed in Class 1A, must wait until a week from today to play in the championship game at 4 p.m. at the I-470 baseball diamond in Wheeling against the winner of the Paden City-Cameron game played today.

This was the first time the Blue Dons made it into the OVAC baseball tournament since they won it in 2013, and Coach Tim Provenzano said the way the game went it was an interesting way to get back in it.

"They had four hits and we gave up six runs," he said. "The biggest things are the unearned runs. We had to control things and not let the game get out of hand and that's what we did. We have enough pitching that we can make those adjustments if a team comes back like that."

Provenzano, whose team expanded its record to 10-5, brought junior right-hander Domenic Mazur out of the bullpen to shut down the Cougars' fifth-inning uprising and his offense went back to work scoring three in the bottom of the inning.

"I'm not worried about the hitting whatsoever," Provenzano said. "We're hitting the ball just fine. I'm very happy with our hitting. Tyler (Wright) is playing great this year. He's bating about .600. He hit an opposite-field shot (Friday) for a home run and the bottom part of our lineup is helping us out. Chayce Lemley has been hitting the ball very well this year, too. He's hitting about .450. We moved him into the 2-hole and he's adjusted well

Please See DONS, Page 10

B

Sunday News-Register

APRIL 22, 2018

SPORTS

INSIDE:

Prep Roundup/Page B3

Pirates Fall/Page B4

All-Valley Boys/Page B5

Saturday's Scores/Page B6

Central Too Much For Magnolia

Another Chance at Crown For Maroon Knights

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
Executive Sports Editor

WHEELING — Prior to Bo McConnaughy's taking the Wheeling Central baseball reins last spring, the Maroon Knights had just two OVAC baseball crowns to its credit — those coming in 1988 and 1991.

Bo's Boys will bid to make it two in two seasons when the Maroon Knights meet Fort Frye at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field in the 3A title tilt. That scenario became reality when Central disposed of a young but scrappy Magnolia squad at the J.C. Chambers complex Saturday night while the Cadets ousted Barnesville earlier in the day.

Central, which captured the 2A crown a year ago, received a strong mound effort from sophomore Adam Murray in improving to 10-2-1. The talented right-hander went six innings, yielding four hits while striking out six and walking two.

He left with two runners on in the seventh after feeling some slight pain in his pitching elbow. Senior third-base standout Chris Eulke made his first career mound effort in



Photo by Kyle Lutz

Paden City's Ethan Cross tags Cameron's Trin Scott out at second during a OVAC Baseball Tournament Class 1A semifinal game Saturday at Paden City. The Wildcats held on for a 5-4 victory.

Paden City Holds On to Knock Off Cameron by 5-4 Count

from sophomore Adam Murray in improving to 10-2-1. The talented right-hander went six innings, yielding four hits while striking out six and walking two.

He left with two runners on in the seventh after feeling some slight pain in his pitching elbow. Senior third-base standout Chris Furka made his first career mound effort in closing out the Blue Eagles.

Murray aided his cause with a two-run double in a five-run Knights third inning.

"Adam gave us a real strong effort. We took him out after he tweaked something in his elbow," McConaughy said. "Chris has been asking me all year if he could pitch. He came in and did a nice job."

The loss was the sixth in 10 starts for Dave Cisar's Blue Eagles. They will visit Shady-side on Monday.

Both teams scored a run in the first inning.

Magnolia's Pat Mirandy swatted the game's first pitch for a double and scored on an infield single by Leo Herrick. Central quickly evened matters. George Cupp and Angelo Gentile opened with back-to-back

See, Central, Page B3

seminal game Saturday at Paden City. The wildcats held on for a 5-4 victory.

Paden City Holds On to Knock Off Cameron by 5-4 Count

1A Title Game Will Feature the Wildcats

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

PADEN CITY — Paden City coach Brent Croasmun has noticed a habit with his team this year. Multiple times, the Wildcats put together consecutive hits and score multiple runs in one inning, which turns out to be the difference of the game.

Saturday's, Class 1A OVAC semifin- al game against Cameron was no exception. Paden City scored four runs

on five hits in the second inning and held off a Dragons comeback in a 5-4 victory.

The Wildcats will be in their fourth consecutive championship game, taking on Madonna on Saturday.

"I'd say in about three of our wins, we had one big inning right in the middle of the ballgame," Croasmun said. "Don't know why, it's just that one inning where we got a few hits in a row. We've had pretty solid pitching all year long and our defense has been good, but our offense has been slacking a little bit. But that's been a trend for us to get runs in bunches in one inning and try to hold on. Cameron's got a nice baseball team.

I told Coach Matt Carnahan, if we played each other 10 times, we probably go 5-5. I think that's how close we are."

The Wildcats scored all four runs in the second inning with two outs. Jordan Stackpole started it out with a single. After two consecutive strikeouts, the bats came to life for Paden City. Marcus Allen led the charge with his first hit of the game. Matt Saxon, Ethan Cross and Trey Slider all followed with RBI singles to make it 3-1. After a wild pitch, Cross came home and it was 4-1. However, after two straight walks to load the bases, Cameron was able to get the final

See, Paden City, Page B2



Photo by Josh Strobe

Linsly's Vic Giovengo steals second base ahead of the tag of Steubenville Catholic shortstop Noah Fayak during Saturday's Class 2A semifinal at Holloway Field.

Cadets Will Play for Title

Park Advances to Class 5A Championship Contest

Patriots Clip Hawks With Walk-Off Win

By CODY TOMER
Staff Writer

WHEELING — There are days on the diamond when a team must find a way to score runs when the clutch hits aren't falling.

Wheeling Park did just that on Saturday as it rallied from two runs down for a 3-2 walk-off victory over University in an OVAC 5A semifinal at Patriot Field. The Patriots will play Parkersburg South, a 1-0 winner



Photo by Cody Tomer

Wheeling Park's Jarrod Jones slides into third base as University's Austin Forbes (2) awaits a throw during Saturday's OVAC semifinal at Patriot Field.

things that you normally wouldn't do to get over the hump.

"That is something we work on to make for the

seventh as he reached on an error with two outs and hustled to second on the play. He continued to use his speed as he darted



Photo by Josh Strope

Linsly's Vic Giovengo steals second base ahead of the tag of Steubenville Catholic shortstop Noah Fayak during Saturday's Class 2A semifinal at Holloway Field.

Cadets Will Play for Title

Auten Strikes Out Nine Against Steub. Catholic

By JOSH STROPE
Sports Editor

WHEELING — Linsly baseball coach Jay Cartwright really liked what he saw from his squad during Saturday's 5-3 victory at Holloway Field against Steubenville Catholic in an OVAC Class 2A semifinal.

Sure, a win is always nice and the main goal. But it was how they did it.

- Senior pitcher dealing: Check
- Timely hitting: Check
- Responding to adversity: Check
- Solid defense: Check
- Playing with the lead: Check

"We played seven innings and we played it hard," Cartwright said. "At times, we have had tendencies to get up on teams and then just coast. I think these guys knew they couldn't afford to do that (Saturday). We put the pressure on them late.

"We scratched out a few runs, ran the bases well and got a few key hits. We were able to pull it out and it is nice to have the lead early, especially with a senior pitcher on the mound."

That senior pitcher was Jake Auten, who continued his solid season with nine strikeouts, allowing two runs on three hits to earn a victory.

"He is a veteran guy, has been with us forever, and it is nice to have that veteran presence on the mound," Cartwright said.

See, Cadets, Page B2

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In four straight innings, the Patriots got their lead-off hitter on base but runs just weren't coming. That was until Park coach Mike McLeod went to the hit-and-run.

Park tied the game and scored the game-winning run on hit-and-run plays, a strategy that McLeod says comes from just believing in his players.

"You have to instill the trust in your players," McLeod said. "When you get to these big games where the teams are equal, you have to do some

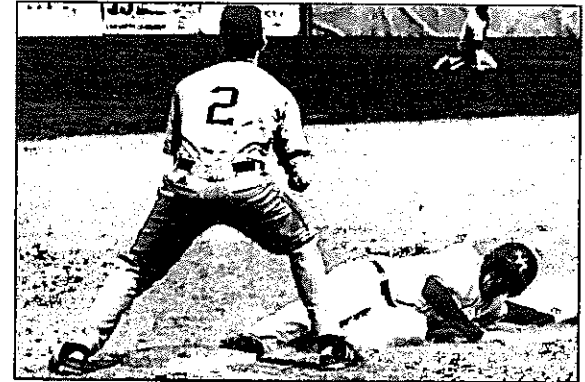


Photo by Cody Tomer

Wheeling Park's Jarrod Jones slides into third base as University's Austin Forbes (2) awaits a throw during Saturday's OVAC semifinal at Patriot Field.

things that you normally wouldn't do to get over the hump.

"That is something we work on to make for the ultimate surprise. We have a lot of speed and we try to utilize that speed. Their catcher was pretty good, so to straight steal on them is tough. We also have a lot of guys with a lot of control with the bat, so we just put a lot of faith in our kids to get the job done no matter who is in there."

As Park trailed 2-0 entering the fifth, its first three hitters reached base to cut the deficit in half. Then, Nolan Mattern took off for second and Zach Kahle delivered a perfectly placed RBI single to right to knot the score at 2-2.

Kahle did his damage on the basepaths in the

seventh as he reached on an error with two outs and hustled to second on the play. He continued to use his speed as he darted toward third as teammate Jacob Shia sent a grounder to University shortstop Casey Smith, who fielded the ball but sent an errant throw to first, allowing Kahle to race home with the game-winning run.

"We have a great team and a great coach," Kahle said. "We were just thinking that the pitcher was tired and he is not giving us any attention on the bases, so, let's take every base we can until we get a run to win the game. Then, Shia had a perfect hit and the error got me home. That was a big play."

See, WP, Page B2

WP

Continued from page B1

The hit-and-run might have served as a distraction on the play but Shia's hustle down the line also caused Smith to hurry the throw.

"Anyway I could get on or get the ball in the alley or something is what I was trying to do," Shia said. "I was looking for a fastball and I got one. Anything can happen when you run out the play and it worked out for us. It is a good feeling."

On the mound, the tandem of starter Zach Hickman and Trevor Thomas did their part to keep a potent Hawks lineup at bay.

Hickman surrendered a run in each of the first two innings but that was it, as he worked his way out of trouble with five strikeouts to leave seven Hawks' runners stranded on base.

Thomas finished the game and picked up the win with two punch outs in two innings.

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WLU

Continued from page B1

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The speedy Kargbo was the game's leading rusher with 103 yards on 23 carries, sharing the bulk of the duties with freshman Bryan Milligan. Milligan also impressed, running for 79 yards and another score on 16 carries.

"I know we're going to be able to run the football," Waialae said. "We can play Osman anywhere and Milligan had some really nice runs. Charles (Westbrook) only had a couple of carries today but he's a difference maker. Savion (Johnson) will be back in the fall and we have some other guys coming in that we really like."

With returning starter Brenton Colabella sidelined until August after off-season surgery, Gannon transfer Zach Phillips and returning junior Lukas O'Connor took the bulk of the snaps at

quarterback.

O'Connor led four scores completing 18 of 28 pass yards and a pair of TDs while shaking off a slow start to a total of 26 throws for 142 yards and a touchdown.

"I thought they both did a good job," Waialae said. "Lukas is a little more methodical on the field, hit a couple of big plays and had some missed connections."

"Lukas threw some really good ones and was able to move the ball consistently. It was good to see him come on strong after struggling in the early series. The two rules we have protecting the cost him at least one touchdown. You can see how well he c

PADEN CITY

Continued from page B1

out without any more damage being done.

"The third out was a really tough one for us in two or three innings," Carnahan said. "I think we get a little too comfortable once we get two outs and it happens when we get up in games, too. We get three, four, five runs on somebody. Sometimes we get a little bit comfortable and it comes back to bite us like that. That's a good team. Trey Slider is one of the best pitchers we will see all year. That's the second time we've seen him. He's beaten us twice now."

After giving up a double on the first pitch to Trin Scott, Slider kept the Dragons off balance for the majority of the day. He fired eight strikeouts while tallying a single, double and RBI.

He saw his last batter in the seventh after Noah Neely led off with a double

that put him in scoring position as Saxon came in.

With two outs and a runner on first, Croasmun went to the mound to talk to Saxon. I Cross fielded a grounder to first to secure a win.

"We talked about what the deck had done," Croasmun said. "We decided to go with all Matt has a real good curve ball. That was what we decided to do. It ended up grounding out to first and it paid off right there."

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CADETS

Continued from page B1

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From there, Auten was nearly unhittable.

During the next three innings, he allowed one hit and three baserunners, one coming because of an error and the other a hit batter.

Stubenville Catholic (5-5) finally got to him in the

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Linsly answered right back in the home half of the inning.

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with a double, went to third on a wild pitch and scored on a Rush sacrifice fly to make it 4-2.

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<p>TATES CO-OP HARDEN 1923 375 at 8-2</p>	<p>20#-30#-40# & 100# Propane Cylinder Fillups</p>	<p>GREAT SELECTION</p>	<p>Double Shredded Bark Hardwood Mulch</p>
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Continued from page B1

The hit-and-run might have served as a distraction on the play but Shia's hustle down the line also caused Smith to hurry the throw.

"Anyway I could get on or get the ball in the alley or something is what I was trying to do," Shia said. "I was looking for a fastball and I got one. Anything can happen when you run out the play and it worked out for us. It is a good feeling."

On the mound, the tandem of starter Zach Hickman and Trevor Thomas did their part to keep a potent Hawks lineup at bay.

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"They knew the task at hand," McLeod said. "Hickman pitched in the regional final last year and it didn't work out for him. I told him that is not what defines you. Keep pushing and keep working your tail off and he is going to be our leader. If we have one game to win, he is going to start it."

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"Lukas threw some really good balls and was able to move the sticks pretty consistently. It was good to see Zach come on strong after struggling in some of the early series. The two-hand touch rule we have protecting the quarterback cost him at least one touchdown but you can see how well he can run with

it."

The quarterbacks spread the ball around among 10 receivers. Redshirt freshman TE Ridge Durbin led all receivers with seven catches for 63 yards — including a 14-yard TD toss from O'Connor — while freshman WR Maezi Mosby added 50 yards on four grabs, highlighted by a 10-yard scoring strike from Phillips. Freshman TE Kyle Ritz had the other touchdown catch, a 17-yarder from O'Connor.

"Durbin was probably our most improved player on the offensive side of the ball and he was already pretty good," Waialae said. "Mosby made some plays and so did some of our other guys but I still want to see more consistency from our wide receivers, especially in terms of route-running."

PADEN CITY

Continued from page B1

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that put him in scoring position to tie the game as Saxon came in relief.

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"We talked about what the batter on deck had done," Croasmun said. "And we decided to go with all curveballs. Matt has a real good curveball, so that was what we decided to do. And he ended up grounding out to first base and it paid off right there."

Cameron started its comeback attempt in the fourth as it scored one run in three consecutive innings. In the fourth, Jessop Broughton grounded out to first, but was able to secure an RBI to put the score at 4-2. The Wildcats responded with a run in the bottom half of the fourth on a RBI single from Ryan Cross.

In the fifth, Scott scored on a pair of errors by the Wildcats. The Dragons put their final run on the board in the sixth on hits from Broughton (single) and Aidan Lucey (double).

"We're never out of a game," Carnahan said. "I think three times this year we've come back from six- or seven-run deficits and ended up winning. We're confident in ourselves even when we get down, so we know we can come back and win. We've got good bats and we got the arms to keep them where they're at so that we can score and come back. We never feel like we're out of a game. Unfortunately, our comeback came up just a little bit too short (Saturday)."

Broughton secured seven strikeouts for the Dragons while Garrett Scott tallied two singles.

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to our lead. That was a key part of the game."

Any thought that Auten was rattled by the tough inning went away as he struck out the side in the sixth.

Linsly tacked on an insurance run in the bottom of the sixth as Kobe Hill added an RBI single.

Anthony LeFever scored Steubenville Catholic's final run off an error in the seventh, only to see Linsly respond with a 6-4-3 double play to end it and send the Cadets into Friday's championship game against Toronto.

"I am really proud of my guys and we hung in there with a real good team and a real good pitcher," Steubenville Catholic coach Don Young said. "We had our opportunities but we couldn't get that clutch hit off their pitcher."

"We had too many called thirds (strikes) and we needed to put the ball in play more. We had some good swings on him, but just too many strikeouts and that is something we have been battling all year. We hit it pretty good when we swing it, but you can't hit it when you don't swing it."

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Linsly rolls past Toronto for OVAC baseball crown

By TRACY WATSON
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — If you don't understand what playing for Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championships means to Linsly, it was on full display Friday afternoon with a huge dog pile on the mound following the Cadets baseball victory over powerful Toronto.

Linsly pounded out 14 hits, getting six hits and six RBI from the bottom three in their order, while taking advantage of five

Red Knights' errors and numerous other mistakes to record a much easier than expected 12-1, five inning, triumph over Toronto and capture the Class AA title at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

With the win Coach Jay Cartwright's Cadets improved to 11-4 on the season and captured the school's seventh OVAC baseball crown since 2009 and third in the last five years.

"We are not members of any state affiliations and we want to compete any chance we get, so this is a game that we point to

and strive to get to every season," Cartwright said with a smile. "And the OVAC has been great to us."

Each team had opportunities go by the board in the first with Linsly stranding a runner at third and Toronto (14-3) wasting a pair of base hit and leaving a pair in scoring position.

The Cadets stranded another in scoring position in the second, however, they also managed to score the first run of the contest. Hunter Kelly was hit by a pitch with one out and advanced to second on a wild

pitch. Kelly scored two batters later when Jon Milton singled, with Milton advancing to second on an error.

Linsly added to the lead in the third after Nate Rush dropped a double down the right field line to lead-off the inning and Vic Giovengo followed with a run-scoring single to right to make it 2-0.

For the second time in three frames the Red Knights managed to get Nate Karaffa and Nolan Clegg on the bases with one out, only to leave them stranding as Toronto

See, LINSLY, Page B2

• Linsly

Continued from Page B1

once again failed to score.

The Cadets chased Ohio State recruit Nate Karaffa from the mound in the fourth, recording five consecutive hits and scoring three runs to run the margin to 6-0. In all, Linsly sent 11 to plate and pushed across five runs in the inning.

Kobe Hill's two-run triple was the big hit in the fourth while Jules Giovengo and Rush had run-scoring base hits and Papadimitriou added another on a fielder's choice.

Toronto looked like it might be ready to break through in the bottom of the inning, thanks in large part to three hit-batsmen. Karaffa's second single of the game scored the Knights' first run, however, Clegg's

long fly ball to right-center was tracked down by Milton, who made a diving grab with two down.

Cartwright's club got that run back plus four additional in the fifth with three Toronto errors paving the way. After a pair of walks and a fielder's choice put runners at second and third, it appeared the Red Knights were out of the inning on a Clegg strikeout. However, the catcher dropped the ball and could not make the play at first, allowing the first two runs to score. Papadimitriou also had a two-run single in the fifth as the lead ballooned to 12-1.

Senior Jake Auten kept the Red Knights off-balance at the play all day, fanning three and walking two, but limiting Toronto to just five

hits and the one run in picking up the complete game victory on the hill.

"Obviously Toronto is another quality opponent for us," Cartwright said. "But any time we can hit the ball like that, get good pitching for a senior and solid defense, we can be pretty tough to beat also.

"We have had some really rocky starts this season, but these kids just keep coming and keep playing hard and getting it done. The bottom three in our lineup really came up huge (Friday) and Jon Milton, a kid we didn't even know if he would be playing this year due to an injury, makes a play that saves multiple runs.

"Our guys just played

day); but give Toronto some credit as well, that is team that is very good and can really hit and field the ball, but had a rough game."

Veteran Head Coach Brian Perkins, who has watched his team lose back-to-back OVAC championship games on the same field, wasn't at a loss for words, but also wasn't sure what happened to his team.

"You have to give Linsly a lot of credit, they came out ready to play and they got the job done," Perkins admitted. "And we just made so many errors and mental mistakes, which is very uncommon for us.

"This is actually very humbling, but we will continue to grow and this team