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Sunday News-Register

APRIL 29, 2018

SPORTS

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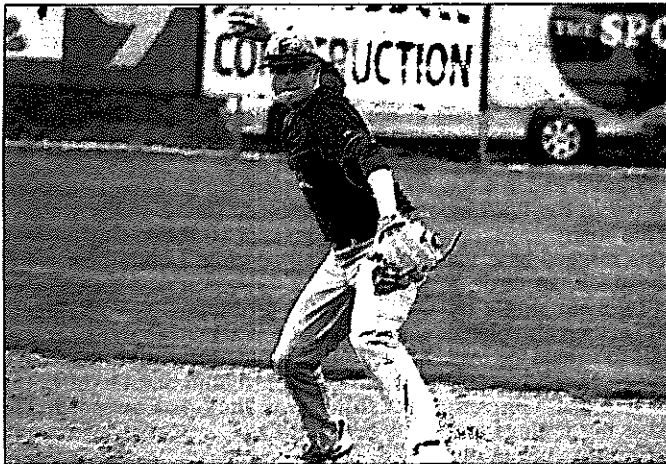


Photo by Cody Tomer

Wheeling Central second baseman Pat Brown makes a play during the OVAC 3A Championship at Vaccaro Field.

Central Falls in 3A Title Game

Maroon Knights Get Edged by Fort Frye

By CODY TOMER
 Staff Writer

STUEBENVILLE — The longest game of the OVAC Tournament came down to executing the fundamentals.

In an 11-inning marathon, Fort Frye's Devin Layton dropped down the game-winning RBI bunt single to lift the Cadets over Wheeling Central 3-1, in the OVAC 3A Championship at Vaccaro Field on Saturday.

The go-ahead run was followed by a Maroon Knights error that allowed a second run to cross the plate.

Wheeling Central left 12 runners stranded on base, including four in scoring position from the sixth inning on. The Knights also failed to execute on several bunt attempts that could have moved runners up.

"It was a great game by both teams," Central coach Bo McConnaughey said. "I'm disappointed in our guys because of our inability to get the bunt down, our inability to hit with men on base and our execution on defense on a bunt play. If we execute it properly, they

don't score.

"This type of game is anybody's game but if you look back, we had so many opportunities prior to the 11th inning where we gave them two runs.

"Take nothing away from them. That is a good club we played. It just didn't come out on our end."

After Fort Frye grabbed the lead in the top of the 11th, the Knights geared up for one last shot at a rally.

Paul Denard led off the bottom of the frame by reaching on an error and Sonny Peluchette followed with a single. With no outs, Bryan Courts

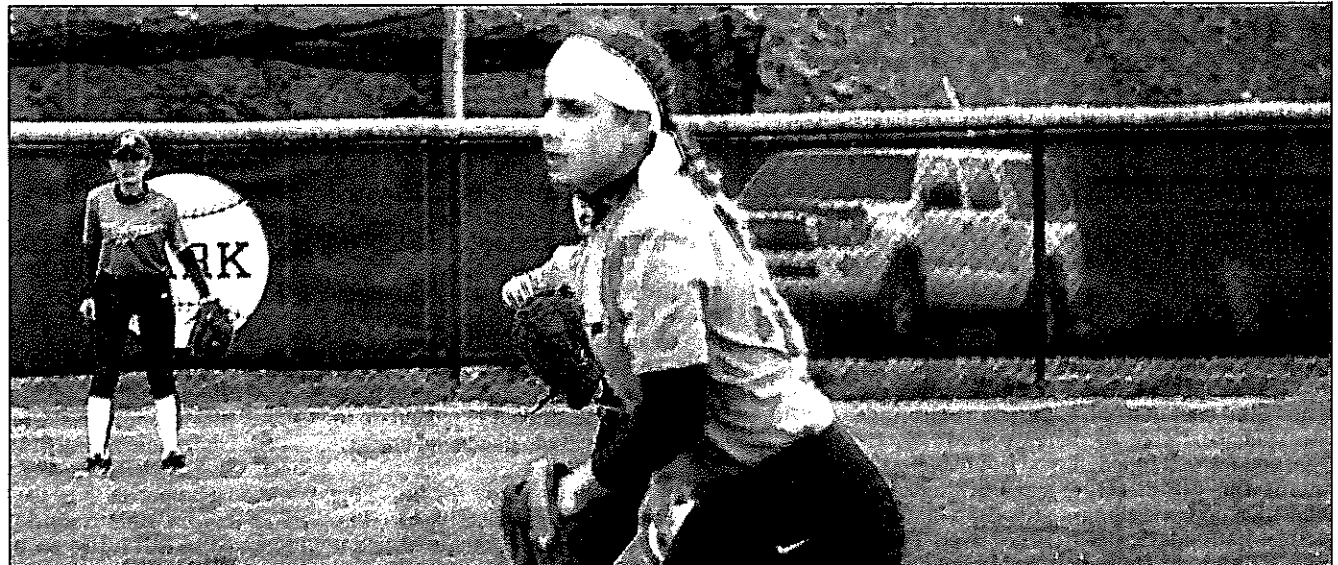
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Bulldogs Win First Since 1991 Season

By KIM NORTH
 For the News-Register

WHEELING — Dominant pitching. Rock-solid defense and timely hitting. Those three aspects of softball are the keys to victory.

Bridgeport utilized all of them to its advantage Saturday at an overcast J. B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex to capture the school's first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship since 1991. The second-seeded Bulldogs (10-2) took out No. 1 Toronto, 2-0, on Ben's



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Bridgeport utilized all of them to its advantage Saturday at an overcast J. B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex to capture the school's first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship since 1991. The second-seeded Bulldogs (10-2) took out No. 1 Toronto, 2-0, on Ben's Field in the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 2A championship contest before a nice gathering despite the chilly temperatures.

"It's been a long time but these girls have worked hard from day one," second-year Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash praised. "Our motto was being all-in, trusting and believing in each other, backing each other and finishing. We didn't finish many games last year and it resulted in a ton of one-run losses.

"This year we've handled adversity a lot and that has made us that much better."

The championship is also just the second for a female sport at Bridgeport.

The visitors didn't waste anytime in jumping ahead as senior Shelby Matheny slugged a 3-2 pitch into the left field corner that easily chased Angie Sommer home from second. Sommer had drawn a one-out walk before stealing second.

"It was good to get a good start. We talked at the school about jumping ahead and making Toronto play our game," Cash noted. "That's

See, Bulldogs, Page B2

It's been a long time but these girls have worked hard from day 1. Our motto was being all-in, trusting and believing in each other, backing each other and finishing. We didn't finish many games last year and it resulted in a ton of one-run losses. This year we've handled adversity a lot and that has made us much better."

— Donnie Cash Jr.

Bridgeport softball coach on winning an OVAC championship



Photo by Josh Strope

Madonna pitcher Katie Gasvoda struck out 18 in leading the Blue Dons to an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 1A title Saturday on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

Gasvoda Fans 18 as Madonna Wins Fourth Straight Crown

Senior Right-Hander Allows One Base Hit

By JOSH STROPE
Sports Editor

WHEELING — Katie Gasvoda struck out 18, allowing one hit. The Madonna bats broke out early. The result was a familiar one.

Madonna claimed its fourth straight OVAC Class 1A championship — and fifth overall — with an 8-1 victory against Frontier on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

"These never get old, especially when you are winning OVAC championships,"

Madonna coach Chris Conti said. "The OVAC is a great conference to win a championship in. I enjoy playing in this tournament."

The Blue Dons senior class of Gasvoda, Keara Kush, Gianna Mascio, August Adkins, Kasey Canei and Gasvoda completed a rare feat in the history of the conference in any sport, winning the title in all four seasons.

For Gasvoda, it was a point of emphasis for the team leading up Saturday's title tilt.

"I started crying because I was so happy," Gasvoda said. "We are undefeated in OVACs and I am blessed to be a part of it. We think about it a lot. We want to leave our footprint and set an

example for the little girls under us that you can do it."

The Madonna bats were on fire to begin the game, scoring four runs in the first inning.

Karena Recrosio scored on a fielder's choice to open the scoring, Jaedn Kush hit a two-run single and Keara Kush scored on a passed ball.

"Jumping on a team in the beginning, that was a big plus," Conti said. "You score the first couple runs and they have to catch you."

You never want to say a game is over in the first inning, but giving the ball to Gasvoda with a four-run lead is a pretty

See, Madonna, Page B2

Edison Adds To Its Glory



Haught, Cats Take Hardware

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— Donnie Cash Jr.
Bridgeport softball coach on winning an
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See, *Madonna*, Page B2

Edison Adds To Its Glory In Softball

Wildcats Find Their Way Back to the Top

By **SETH STASKEY**
For the News-Register

ELM GROVE — Edison owns an
illustrious softball tradition.

It added another chapter Saturday
morning at the Chambers I-470 Com-
plex.

For the first time since 2010 and
ninth time in school history, Edison is
calling itself Ohio Valley Athletic
Conference champion after a 7-4 victo-
ry against county rival Steubenville
on Ben's Field.

"It's about time," Edison coach
Spencer Bendle said of the conference
title. "It had been a while. We've been
stale for a while in the OVAC. It's
always nice for our kids."

The Wildcats seized control in the
first, taking advantage of some com-
mand struggles by Big Red pitching.
Steubenville starter Mady Fields
issued four walks in the first inning.
The final two forced home Emily
Andreozzi and McKenzie Morrison,
who had reached on an error and by a
walk, respectively.

"I felt it was important to score
first," Bendle said. "In softball, for the
most part, the team that scores first
gets the early momentum and then you
try to hold on it, which we were able to



Photo by Seth Staskey

Edison's Sami Springer slides into home plate as Steubenville catcher
Kameron DiMarzio takes the throw and readies to apply a tag.

do (Saturday)."

While Bendle was pleased with his
team's early production, which didn't
require a hit, Steubenville coach Gus
DiMarzio simply couldn't believe
what he was seeing after he watched
his ace pitch so well against St.
Clairsville during the semifinal game
on Thursday.

"You can't come out of the gate,
walk the bases loaded and give (a
team) two runs," DiMarzio lamented.
"We didn't come to play (Saturday). I
don't know. I'm losing my mind."

Steubenville clawed back into the
game with a run in the third, but Edi-
son regained the momentum with a
three-spot in the fourth.

Emily Ferrell started the rally with a
lead-off single. Sophomore Gabby
Carpenter was plunked. Both runners
advanced on a ground out. Andreozzi
singled home Ferrell and ace pitcher
Tommi McConnell helped her own
cause with a two-run base knock.

Edison extended its lead to 7-1 in
the fifth. Sophomore Hannah Christoff
led off the inning with a towering solo
home run. Walks again reared their
ugly head for Big Red as they walked
the bases loaded. Andreozzi hit a loop-
er over the shortstop, which brought
home a run.

That was plenty of offense for

See, *Edison*, Page B2

Haught, Cats Take Hardware

By **ED LOOMAN**
For the News-Register
STEUBENVILLE —

The third time was the
charm for Edison's baseball
team.

Thanks to a superb pitch-
ing performance by Tristan
Haught and a couple of
timely Dalton Cresap hits,
the Wildcats blanked top-
seeded Steubenville, 2-0,
on Saturday at Vacarro
Field to capture an Ohio
Valley Athletic Conference
Class 4A championship.

Edison (11-5) came up
short in title games the past
two seasons, dropping a 3-
1 verdict to Big Red in
2017 and falling to St.
Clairsville, 7-6, in 2016.
The conference crown is
the eighth overall for the
Wildcats.

"It feels good to be able
to put together a good game
in a championship setting
against a really good oppo-
nent," veteran Edison
coach Mike Collopy said.
"I'm just really happy for
our guys."

"These kids work their
tails off basically year-
round. They are very com-
mitted guys. We haven't
played well the last couple
of games (Edison lost three

straight coming into Satur-
day). (Saturday) was a tes-
tament to these guys, their
approach and how they
keep moving forward, tak-
ing it one pitch at a time."

Haught was strong on
the hill, limiting Big Red to
one hit (a Ryan Neely sing-
le to start the fourth) and
fanning five. The senior
righty, who is heading to
Wright State, also got plen-
ty of help from his defense,
which played errorless
baseball.

Issac Schmitz made a
couple of nifty catches in
left, while Alec McBane
did the same in right. A
potential Steubenville
threat in the fifth was
snuffed out by a 6-4-3 dou-
ble play, shortstop Connor
Hyndman getting the twin
killing started when he
fielded a grounder off the
bat of Ty Arlesic.

"He was clutch and rose
to the occasion," Collopy
said of Haught's perform-
ance. "There's no bones
about it; he's our best play-
er. He knows that, and he
has delivered this year
every single time he has
been called upon."

See, *Cats*, Page B2

BULLDOGS

Continued from page B1

what we did. That was a huge hit by one of our senior leaders."

Matheny said she wasn't really looking for a certain pitch.

"I just wanted to make contact. I swung and was lucky enough to hit it where I did," Matheny said.

With the lead, ace Brooklynn Ruble, who fanned 14 and walked just one and yielded a mere two harmless singles, was allowed to pitch her game, and did she ever. The junior fireballer struck out 14 Red Knights, including six of the first seven before yielding a soft single to left by Sam Swearingen with one out in the third. After another punchout, Ruble issued her lone walk of the game to leadoff hitter Shannon Reed, who then took second uncontested. Ruble's eighth K ended the threat.

Toronto also threatened in the fifth when Madison Sapp singled sharply to center leading off and Jenna Leasure was hit-by-a-pitch while trying to bunt. A foul out and strikeout looking after failing to get a bunt down preceded a shot to second to end the inning.

"I just concentrated and threw strikes," Ruble explained of her escape from damage.

"The play of the game, in my opinion, came when Toronto had runners on second and third with one out," Cash explained. "They tried to bunt and the ball rolled in front of the plate. (Our catcher) Danielle (Hollingshead) let it roll foul instead of picking it up. In the heat of the moment some girls might've picked that ball up and try to make a play. We ended up striking that batter out and then got a grounder right at Angie at second to get out of it."

Toronto head coach Steve Trifonoff was left

shaking his head.

"We had our chances there in the third and fifth innings," he recalled after watching his squad lose for the second consecutive year in the title tilt. "In the fifth we had second and third with no outs, but then our leadoff hitter hit a shot right at their second baseman with two outs. That's the way it goes."

Toronto's Jamie Anderson was the tough-luck loser as she struck out eight and walked a pair.

"She walked those two batters and those are the two runs Bridgeport scored," Trifonoff added.

"I told the girls the big part of our season is still to come," Trifonoff said of the postseason. "I'm sure we'll see them (Bridgeport) again. We're 1-1 right now. Hopefully, we get another shot at them."

Bridgeport added an insurance marker in the sixth when Hollingshead doubled to deep left-center. The two-bagger scored Briana Conaway with a throw.

Cash knows his team has a lot of work left to do.

"We're playing very good right now, but with Brooklynn inside the circle ... she's been a stud for us this season," Cash added. "We told her in the preseason that she was going to have to carry the workload. She has responded and responded and responded."

"I'm happy where we are and I'm excited and let the girls enjoy it, but the season is not over. The (sectional) tournament draw is tomorrow (today) and we've got makeup games all, so we can't get all fat and happy. We need to continue to play better and get ready for the postseason."

Hollingshead had two of Bridgeport's six hits. Somer had a double.

GASVODA

Continued from page B1

safe bet.

Gasvoda was on top of her game, mowing down

Rinard to begin the inning, only to see a batter reach base for the first

Madonna Tops Paden City

By CODY TOMER
Staff Writer

STEUBENVILLE — Four years ago, a group of freshman arrived in the Madonna baseball program hungry for an OVAC title.

That same group, now seniors, walked off of Vaccaro Field on Saturday hoisting an OVAC trophy, following a 9-4 victory over Paden City in the OVAC 1A Championship.

It is Madonna's fifth OVAC championship in the school's history and first since 2014.

"It has been awhile for us so it is good to be back here," Madonna coach Tim Provenzano said. "This was a good win. These kids came in as freshmen and this has been their goal ever since then. They got it (Saturday)."

"Getting here is not easy and I am very proud of our team. This is a good feeling."

The Wildcats (10-6) were dealt a heavy blow in the first inning. As catcher Ryan Cross laced a double to deep left field, Matt Saxon raced home with pitcher Trey Slider following behind him with what should have been the second run.

However, Slider hit the ground grabbing his hamstring as he rounded third. He left the game without throwing a pitch and the run never scored from

third.

"That was a huge loss when Slider went down," Croasmun said. "He is our top pitcher and our top hitter and to lose him in the first was huge."

"I am very proud of my team for playing hard, though. Adversity was the key word of the day and I am proud of the way we played."

Saxon took over on the mound for Paden City but the Dons struck quickly in the bottom of the first as Luke Beatty smacked a RBI single and Tyler Wright crossed the plate on an error to secure a 2-1 edge.

Madonna (11-7) gave Paden City another crushing blow in the third by putting six runs on the board.

The first six Dons reached base via two walks, a hit-by-pitch, an error, a bunt single and a two-run single by Dom Mazur. Gavin Dietrich also plated a run on a RBI single to extend the lead to 8-1.

"We are streaky like that," Provenzano said. "We have big innings and then we go flat for a little bit but our hitting has been good all year."

Despite the loss of his starting pitcher early in the game, Croasmun believed the Dons' explosive third inning was the deciding factor in the game.

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3A

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laid down a sacrifice bunt to move both runners up as all-stater Doug Clark stepped up to the plate.

Clark sent a deep fly ball to right field for an out and Denard scampered home. However, the Cadets threw to third to appeal that he had left the base early. They were right.

The double play ended the contest as the Fort Frye dugout exploded on to the field to celebrate its second consecutive OVAC title.

"This is two in a row for us," Fort Frye coach Sonny Bidwell said. "The OVAC has been very good to us and it is an outstanding league."

"That was a great game and hats off to Wheeling Central. They have a heck of a team and both teams did a great job of battling through."

It was a battle of all-state pitchers as Clark faced off against Tyler Bradford.

Bradford fanned 11 in his seven innings.

"Our pitchers did a great job," Bidwell said. "That was one of the best games of Tyler's career. He is a competitor and his mental presence is outstanding."

Clark held the Cadets to two hits in seven innings without allowing a walk. He also struck out a pair.

Both pitchers were lifted in the

scored on an error to deadlock the game at 1-1.

The Knights had more opportunities to cash in during the fifth, sixth and seventh innings but a caught stealing, a double play and a bunt popup left a total of five runners stranded in the three consecutive innings.

The win gives the Cadets their third OVAC title in school history.

St. Clairsville 8, Barnesville 3

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Kyle Storer came up a homer short of the cycle and drove in four runs Saturday to help power St. Clairsville to a triumph against Barnesville at Memorial Park.

Jacob Jarvis added two doubles for the Red Devils (9-6), while Kaden Blomquist and Peyton Drake both singled and knocked in a run.

Jagger Jefferis laced three singles for the Shamrocks.

Cameron 12, Beallsville 0

CAMERON — Garret Scott drove in four runs, while Trey Scott added three more RBI as Cameron routed Beallsville.

Shadyside 4, Cameron 1

CAMERON — Shadyside was held scoreless until the seventh inning when it broke out for four runs in besting Cameron.

Zane Merryman hit a single, double

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strikeout.

"She did a fantastic job," Conti said of Gasvoda. "She was zoned in from Pitch No. 1 to the last pitch of the game. She had it in her mind that she was going to win this game and she did it."

Not that Gasvoda needed any more run support, but the Blue Dons tacked on a few more in the sixth, the big hit a two-run single by Sophia Recrosio to make it 6-0. An error allowed Run No. 7 to cross the plate.

In the seventh, Jaedn Kush crushed a mammoth home run over the left-center field fence to make it 8-0.

By then, the only thing left to decide was if Gasvoda was going to make history with a no-hitter. The senior entered the final inning with 16 strikeouts, having struck out all but three batters.

She struck out Isabella

was retired with a groundout and Madonna reclaimed its throne atop the Class 1A division.

"I got on a roll and the adrenaline started going," Gasvoda said. "When we got those runs in the first inning, I knew we had it. It is a little disappointing (I didn't get the no-hitter) because I was on a roll, but it is OK because we won and it is a team effort."

With the way Gasvoda was dealing, all Frontier coach Eric Rinard could do was tip his hat.

"She is a great pitcher, came out and threw strikes like we knew she would," Rinard said. "That's a great ball team. We got in that hole and I told the kids that we couldn't get them back all at once."

"Try to chip away. We just weren't able to. We tried our best but congratulations to Weirton Madonna."

fort frye and finished the final four frames to earn a win, while Pat Brown suffered the defeat after four solid innings of relief.

The Cadets struck for the first run of the game in the third after the first two batters were hit by pitches. Another error on a bunt attempt loaded the bases and Bradford grounded out to give his squad the 1-0 edge.

Central answered in the fourth via a leadoff double by Brown, who dashed to third on a Logan Wells single and

two singles and a double, driving in four as Indian Creek exploded in the late innings to get past Weir.

Josh Speaker hit two singles and drove in three runs for the Redskins, while Clay Cottis hit three singles with an RBI.

Elijah Gillette paced the Red Riders with a single, two doubles and two RBI.

Frontier 10, Magnolia 3

NEW MATAMORAS — Leo Herrick and Eli Nice each hit a single and

two singles and a double, driving in four as Indian Creek exploded in the late innings to get past Weir.

For the Huskies, Joclyn Peshek secured a RBI single.

Beallsville 8, Valley 1

BEALLSVILLE — Marissa Steele, Olivia Muncy and Macy Otto both tallied a double and single as Beallsville defeated Valley.

Kensley Harris secured two singles for the Lumberjills.

CATS

Continued from page B1

Edison got the only run it needed in the third when designated hitter Myles Drake reached on a Big Red error. He moved up on McBane's sacrifice bunt and scored on Cresap's first single.

McBane started the Wildcat fifth with a double to right center. He moved to third thanks to a wild pitch and scampered home on another Cresap base knock.

"Dalton delivered when we needed him," Collopy said. "We have three seniors (Haight, Cresap and Andrew Kinney), and they all have been clutch for us. They each lead in their

own way.

"If we could just bottle them, their attitudes, their outlook on things and have that from here until whenever, we would be pretty lucky because this is a good group of guys. I'm very proud of them."

Haight led Edison's 12-hit offensive attack with three singles. Kinney and McBane each delivered a double and a single, while Cresap and Hyndman both singled twice. George Ash added a base hit.

"We had lost three in a row, so this performance was good to see," Collopy said. "Sometimes when you lose

a few games, your approach can change, and you can kind of go defensive.

"These guys have just kept playing. From a coaching standpoint, that's really all you can ask for."

Steubenville (11-3) was looking for its 24th all-time OVAC championship and fifth in a row (Big Red captured Class 5A crowns in 2015 and 2016, while earning 4A titles in 2017 and 2014).

Sophomore Calvin Bickerstaff went the route for Heatherington's club. He recorded five strikeouts and didn't issue a free pass.

EDISON

Continued from page B1

McConnell, who other than a three-run rally in the sixth, was brilliant in the circle for the Wildcats. She fanned 12 and issued just two walks.

"McConnell was strong and challenged

their hitters," Bendle said. "Steubenville has a very good lineup and we felt the only way we'd be able to combat that would be by challenging them ourselves and Tommi did a very nice job."



DiMarzio was also highly complimentary to his team's circle opponent.

"Tip your hat to Tommi McConnell," DiMarzio said. "She was awesome. She's a great kid and she went out there and did





what she had to do."

Steubenville (8-7) was led at the plate by Seana Ragusa, who had a double, single and drove in a run. Fields singled home a run and Lakyn Blackburn also had two singles.

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postseason. "I'm sure we'll
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again. We're 1-1 right now.
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shot at them."

Bridgeport added an
insurance marker in the
sixth when Hollingshead
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ana Conaway with a throw.

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had a double.

Rinard to begin the
inning, only to see a bat-
ter reach base for the first
time since the first inning
thanks to an error. Gasvo-
da got Bland to strike out
for the third time on the
afternoon and was one out
away.

Unfortunately for her,
pinch hitter Abby Eddy
laced a double into left-
center field that not only
broke up the no-hitter, but
also ended the shutout,
scoring Kylie Daugherty.

Still, the next batter
was retired with a ground-
out and Madonna
reclaimed its throne atop
the Class 1A division.

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adrenaline started going,"
Gasvoda said. "When we
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heavy blow in the first inning. As
catcher Ryan Cross laced a double to
deep left field, Matt Saxon raced home
with pitcher Trey Slider following
behind him with what should have
been the second run.

However, Slider hit the ground grab-
bing his hamstring as he rounded third.
He left the game without throwing a
pitch and the run never scored from

3A

Continued from page B1

laid down a sacrifice bunt to move
both runners up as all-stater Doug
Clark stepped up to the plate.

Clark sent a deep fly ball to right
field for an out and Denard scampered
home. However, the Cadets threw to
third to appeal that he had left the base
early. They were right.

The double play ended the contest
as the Fort Frye dugout exploded on to
the field to celebrate its second consec-
utive OVAC title.

"This is two in a row for us," Fort
Frye coach Sonny Bidwell said. "The
OVAC has been very good to us and it
is an outstanding league."

"That was a great game and hats off
to Wheeling Central. They have a heck
of a team and both teams did a great
job of battling through."

It was a battle of all-state pitchers as
Clark faced off against Tyler Bradford.

Bradford fanned 11 in his seven
innings.

"Our pitchers did a great job," Bid-
well said. "That was one of the best
games of Tyler's career. He is a com-
petitor and his mental presence is out-
standing."

Clark held the Cadets to two hits in
seven innings without allowing a walk.
He also struck out a pair.

Both pitchers were lifted in the
eighth due to the pitch count rule.

"Dougie had control of all of his
itches," McConnaughey said. "He
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frames to earn a win, while Pat Brown
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innings of relief.

The Cadets struck for the first run of
the game in the third after the first two
batters were hit by pitches. Another
error on a bunt attempt loaded the
bases and Bradford grounded out to
give his squad the 1-0 edge.

Central answered in the fourth via a
leadoff double by Brown, who dashed
to third on a Logan Wells single and

putting her back on the board.
The first six Dons reached base via
two walks, a hit-by-pitch, an error, a
bunt single and a two-run single by
Dom Mazur. Gavin Dietrich also plated
a run on a RBI single to extend the lead
to 8-1.

"We are streaky like that," Proven-
zano said. "We have big innings and
then we go flat for a little bit but our
hitting has been good all year."

Despite the loss of his starting pitch-
er early in the game, Croasmun
believed the Dons' explosive third
inning was the deciding factor in the
game.

"That bad inning was really the dif-

ferred in a run, but Mag
Frontier.

Late Friday
Buckeye Local 8, Ed
RAYLAND — Jerem
secured two singles, one
three RBI as Buckeye Lc
Edison.

For the Wildcats, Conn
had two singles, a double ;

SOFTBALL
Bellaire 13-6, Union I
BELLAIRE — Kaylan
single, double and drove
to lead Bellaire to a Gar
against Union Local.

Kaitlyn Kosky hit a
three RBI, while Natalie
three singles and an RBI
Reds.

Union Local took the
Bailey Rinkes, who hit tw
in the opener, added two
an RBI for the Jets.

Barnesville 14-15, L
BARNESVILLE — A
drove in three runs with
while Erin Hannahs anc
each hit three singles for I
a sweep of Linsly.

Sarah Powell hit a gra
run in the nightcap, finish
RBI.

Meghan Goodnight hi
for the Cadets in Gam
Menendez had two single

Weir 6-2, East Liver
WEIRTON — Alivia
the distance, striking ou
won the opener against E
In the nightcap, Maddi
a solo home run and drov
as the Red Riders edged
Allie Phillips hit a single ;

Brooke 3, Harrison
CADIZ — Rachel Ka
12 strikeouts and also ta
gles and two RBI as Br
Harrison Central. Jenna
piled a single and double
ins while Krissa Lusk hac

For the Huskies, Jo
secured a RBI single.

Beallsville 8, Va
BEALLSVILLE — M
Olivia Muncy and Macy
lied a double and single
defeated Valley.

Kensy Harris secure
for the Lumberjills.

Frontier 10, Magnolia 3
NEW MATAMORAS — Leo Her-
rick and Eli Nice each hit a single and

front of the plate. (Our catcher) Danielle (Hollingshead) let it roll foul instead of picking it up. In the heat of the moment some girls might've picked that ball up and try to make a play. We ended up striking that batter out and then got a grounder right at Angie at second to get out of it."

Toronto head coach Steve Trifonoff was left

GASVODA

Continued from page B1

safe bet.

Gasvoda was on top of her game, mowing down Frontier batter after batter.

After allowing a two-out walk in the first inning, she got opposing pitcher Alexis Bland to whiff to end the inning. Gasvoda then struck out the side in the next two innings and seven straight.

She also struck out the side in fifth and sixth innings. Each of the first six innings ended with a strikeout.

"She did a fantastic job," Conti said of Gasvoda. "She was zoned in from Pitch No. 1 to the last pitch of the game. She had it in her mind that she was going to win this game and she did it."

Not that Gasvoda needed any more run support, but the Blue Dons tacked on a few more in the sixth, the big hit a two-run single by Sophia Recrosio to make it 6-0. An error allowed Run No. 7 to cross the plate.

In the seventh, Jaedn Kush crushed a mammoth home run over the left-center field fence to make it 8-0.

By then, the only thing left to decide was if Gasvoda was going to make history with a no-hitter. The senior entered the final inning with 16 strikeouts, having struck out all but three batters.

She struck out Isabella

and I'm excited and let the girls enjoy it, but the season is not over. The (sectional) tournament draw is tomorrow (today) and we've got makeup games all, so we can't get all fat and happy. We need to continue to play better and get ready for the postseason."

Hollingshead had two of Bridgeport's six hits. Somer had a double.

Rinard to begin the inning, only to see a batter reach base for the first time since the first inning thanks to an error. Gasvoda got Bland to strike out for the third time on the afternoon and was one out away.

Unfortunately for her, pinch hitter Abby Eddy laced a double into left-center field that not only broke up the no-hitter, but also ended the shutout, scoring Kylie Daugherty.

Still, the next batter was retired with a ground-out and Madonna reclaimed its throne atop the Class 1A division.

"I got on a roll and the adrenaline started going," Gasvoda said. "When we got those runs in the first inning, I knew we had it. It is a little disappointing (I didn't get the no-hitter) because I was on a roll, but it is OK because we won and it is a team effort."

With the way Gasvoda was dealing, all Frontier coach Eric Rinard could do was tip his hat.

"She is a great pitcher, came out and threw strikes like we knew she would," Rinard said. "That's a great ball team. We got in that hole and I told the kids that we couldn't get them back all at once."

"Try to chip away. We just weren't able to. We tried our best but congratulations to Weirton Madonna."

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CATS

Continued from page B1

Edison got the only run it needed in the third when designated hitter Myles Drake reached on a Big Red error. He moved up on McBane's sacrifice bunt and scored on Cresap's first single.

McBane started the Wildcat fifth with a double to right center. He moved to third thanks to a wild pitch and scampered home on another Cresap base knock.

"Dalton delivered when we needed him," Collopy said. "We have three seniors (Haight, Cresap and Andrew Kinney), and they all have been clutch for us. They each lead in their

own way.

"If we could just bottle them, their attitudes, their outlook on things and have that from here until whenever, we would be pretty lucky because this is a good group of guys. I'm very proud of them."

Haight led Edison's 12-hit offensive attack with three singles. Kinney and McBane each delivered a double and a single, while Cresap and Hyndman both singled twice. George Ash added a base hit.

"We had lost three in a row, so this performance was good to see," Collopy said. "Sometimes when you lose

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Kyle Storer came up a homer short of the cycle and drove in four runs Saturday to help power St. Clairsville to a triumph against Barnesville at Memorial Park.

Jacob Jarvis added two doubles for the Red Devils (9-6), while Kaden Blomquist and Peyton Drake both singled and knocked in a run.

Jagger Jefferis laced three singles for the Shamrocks.

Cameron 12, Beallsville 0

CAMERON — Garret Scott drove in four runs, while Trey Scott added three more RBI as Cameron routed Beallsville.

Shadyside 4, Cameron 1

CAMERON — Shadyside was held scoreless until the seventh inning when it broke out for four runs in besting Cameron.

Zane Merryman hit a single, double and added an RBI for the Tigers.

Harrison Central 16, Bellaire 4

BELLAIRE — Caden Arbaugh hit a home run and finished with three RBI and Harrison Central routed Bellaire thanks to an 11-run fourth inning.

J.R. Heavlin had two singles, a double and drove in five, while Ronnie Bowers added four RBI and hit a single.

Cole Porter and Cole Runyan each drove in two runs for the Big Reds.

Indian Creek 16, Weir 7

WEIRTON — Colton Wiefeld hit two singles and a double, driving in four as Indian Creek exploded in the late innings to get past Weir.

Josh Speaker hit two singles and drove in three runs for the Redskins, while Clay Cottis hit three singles with an RBI.

Elijah Gillette paced the Red Riders with a single, two doubles and two RBI.

Frontier 10, Magnolia 3

NEW MATAMORAS — Leo Herrick and Eli Nice each hit a single and

EDISON

Continued from page B1

McConnell, who other than a three-run rally in the sixth, was brilliant in the circle for the Wildcats. She fanned 12 and issued just two walks.

"McConnell was strong and challenged

their hitters," Bendle said. "Steubenville has a very good lineup and we felt the only way we'd be able to combat that would be by challenging them ourselves and Tommi did a very nice job."

DiMarzio was also highly complimentary what sh to his team's circle opponent. Steu

"Tip your hat to Tommi McConnell," Seana B DiMarzio said. "She was awesome. She's a drove in great kid and she went out there and did and Lak

Central blanks 'Rocks

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE - Through six innings Thursday night, Wheeling Central's Riley Bennington had struck out 14, allowed just two hits and walked none in the Maroon Knights' Class 3A OVAC semifinal tussle against Barnesville.

But, as the Shamrocks came out for the top of the seventh, they still had life, thanks to a stifling defense and a pitcher in Regan Hanlon who bent a little, but didn't break.

Sarah Powell walked to start the inning. But Bennington slammed the door with her 15th and 16th Ks and got Baylie MacMillan to pop out as Wheeling Central emerged with a 2-0 triumph on Lisa's Field.

"They played hard the whole game," Maroon Knights head coach Buck Davidson said of his squad. "Now, we'll get ready for the next one."

That will come against Buckeye Trail, which disposed of Bellaire, 7-3, in the evening's second game, and other 3A semifinal, on the diamond as the Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Championships resumed after two days off due to rain.

A final decision on the time and day of the championship game - today or Saturday - is expected by 1 this afternoon,



T-L Photo/RICK THORP

BARNESVILLE'S Regan Hanlon goes into her windup during Thursday night's Class 3A semifinal in the Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Championships at the J.B. Chambers Youth Sports Complex. Hanlon allowed four hits, but Wheeling Central's Riley Bennington allowed two and struck out 16 in a 2-0 Maroon Knights' triumph.

according to tournament officials.

"We knew, we knew what we were facing when we came in here," Barnesville head coach Leslie Skinner said of Bennington. "(The team) put in a ton of work leading up to this game to prepare. We just didn't catch up to her.

"It's no secret she's a doggone good pitcher. I'm proud of my

girls. They kept battling."

And Bennington kept delivering, with a ferocity the likes of which Barnesville hadn't seen this season.

"I'll tell you one thing that we did do," Skinner said. "And that was swing at a lot of high pitches. The girls know that. You

See, CENTRAL, Page B2

Steubenville unloads on St. C. in 4A

By TRACY WATSON
For The Times Leader

WHEELING - "Roll Red Roll" may be a phrase most commonly associated locally with Steubenville's perennial powerful football team, but Thursday night the Big Red softball borrowed it for a Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Tournament steamrolling of top-seeded St. Clairsville.

Winning pitcher Madi Fields led a three-home run barrage with a pair of her own and five RBI while stymying the Red Devils from the circle, firing a three-hitter, as Steubenville advanced to the Class 4A championship game with a 10-0 blanking of the previously once-beaten Red Devils on Ben's Field.

It will mark Big Red's fourth trip to the championship game in the last six years, however, Coach Gus DiMarzio's squad had to squeeze in at No. 4, improving to 8-6, before taking out the top-seed.

"I'm not going to lie, this entire season has been a struggle for us," DiMarzio said. "We have been a good hitting team, but we have had trouble fielding the ball and in the circle.

"(Thursday) it just all came together for us. I really have to tip my hat to my kids, because I haven't been the nicest guy on the planet to them this season. Everything just paid off for us in this one."

Steubenville broke out in a big way in the top of the first, using its speed to score a run and its power for two more. Jaliyah Hubbard led off with a walk, stole second

See, ST. C., Page B2

Trail stymies Bellaire in 3A



BELLAIRE

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

Trail stymies Bellaire in 3A

By **RICK THORP**
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE – The quest for a threepeat remains alive for the Buckeye Trail softball team.

To do it, though, it'll have to best a Wheeling Central program seeking the same goal.

Behind a solid performance by pitcher Hannah Smith and the potency of its bats, the Warriors again baffled Bellaire in a Class 3A semifinal Thursday evening to earn a spot in another Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Championship contest.

The Maroon Knights, which

blanked Barnesville, 2-0, and winner of the last two 2A crowns, in the nightcap on Lisa's Field, will be the opponent either today or Saturday. A decision on game day and time will be made this afternoon by tournament officials.

"They're hungry," Warriors head coach Staci Smith said of her team. "It seems like when we get one going ... they know what their job is.

"That's just maturity. We have nine seniors and they've gotten to this level because they've played a lot of games."

See, **BELLAIRE**, Page B2



BELLAIRE THIRD baseman Katrina Davis, left, awaits a throw as Buckeye Trail's Brooke Colvin makes her way toward the bag as umpire Greg Sanders looks on during Thursday's OVAC Class 3A semifinal at Lisa's Field. Colvin scored twice in the Warriors' 7-3 victory.

T-L Photo/RICK THORP

And then the versatile safety from Virginia Tech's phone rang on Thursday night. Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin was on the other end.

Moments later Edmunds didn't just hear his name called after Pittsburgh selected him with the 28th overall pick, he heard it from injured Pro Bowl linebacker Ryan Shazier after Shazier slowly but steadily walked onto the stage to hand the draft card with Edmunds' name on it to commissioner Roger Goodell, Shazier's

• St. C.

Continued from Page B1

and moved to third on a passed ball before scoring on Seana Ragusa's base hit to make it 1-0.

Just two batters later Fields blasted a two-run homer to deep, straightaway center field to push the early count to 3-0.

Big Red didn't let up in the second frame, pushing across five more runs to extend its lead to 8-0. The No. 9 hitter, Leah Ferguson, and Ragusa each chased home runs with base hits before Fields launched another bomb to dead center, this time plating three.

Another home run, this time a two-run blast off the bat of Lakyn Blackburn, gave Steubenville a 10-run lead in the third. It was all Big Red needed.

"During the game I was talking to the third base umpire and I told him

• Bellaire

Continued from Page B1

Experience showed throughout the contest and especially at the plate. Buckeye Trail pounded out 12 hits, including four extra-base ones, in pulling away from the eager Big Reds.

"I told (my team) all week that the only way they'll beat us is if they out us," Bellaire head coach Melissa Lahna said. "Well, their sticks provided."

Especially in the latter innings.

After the Big Reds trimmed their deficit to two in their half of the sixth, the Warriors came right back with two in their half.

Behind four hits - all singles - the Warriors opened up another four-run lead. And they did it using both power and small ball.

"The kids executed," Smith said. "I thought that was the big thing. They manufactured runs.

to begin your professional career.

"I was surprised, honestly" to be picked, Edmunds said.

"I'm ready. I'm telling you I'm ready."

The AFC North champions need Edmunds to be if they want their latest attempt at overhauling the secondary to be a success. The Steelers cut safeties Mike Mitchell and Rob Golden in March and signed veteran Morgan Burnett as a stopgap.

Enter Edmunds, who has the size (6-foot-1, 217 pounds) and the speed

that we have faced six very good teams and six very good pitchers coming into this one," DiMarzio said. "But as great a pitcher as Amaya Smith is, hitting wasn't the concern coming in, it was every other facet.

"This will be our fourth trip in six years to the championship game, which is a big deal for our program, having struggled for a while before that. But it isn't just about getting there, this is Steubenville High School and we aren't just happy about getting to championship games. We are looking to win them."

Fields, Blackburn and Ragusa combined for six hits and nine RBI on the day.

For St. Clairsville coach Ron Hummel, Thursday night's loss was one that left him at a loss for words.

While Edmunds might have been stunned by his selection, the Steelers were not. After all the top inside linebackers were taken - a spot of considerable need with Shazier already ruled out for 2018 - Pittsburgh wasted little time turn its attention to Edmunds.

"We felt this was the best player," general manager Kevin Colbert said after the Steelers used a first-round pick on a safety for the first time since taking Troy Polamalu 16th in 2003. "This was plain for us."

"Give Steubenville and their pitcher credit, they played very well and she kept us off-balance the entire game," Hummel said. "But that was a very uncharacteristic showing for us and I think we just left our bats on the bus.

"They got hits when they needed them and we just couldn't get any. Amaya threw the ball hard, but she just wasn't hitting her spots. I really am a little bit speechless. I really can't believe that not only did we give up 10 runs, but we only got one runner to third all day.

"This is a little bit of an eye-opener with the sectionals coming up. But I believe that we will get right back and track and be playing well when we need to be."

allowed five hits the final six innings.

"Bellaire is a good team and I think they were prepared for us," Smith said. "When they got the first couple of hits off Hannah they were expecting where she was throwing. I thought she pitched extremely well after that."

The Big Reds made a 5-1 game 5-3 in the sixth with an RBI triple by Mia Gavarkavich and an RBI single by Tenley Hughes. It wasn't enough to overcome the extra-base hits, many to the fence, the Warriors produced in the early innings.

"They just outthit us," Lahna said. "We put the ball in play. We just couldn't get the inch we needed to get the go-ahead.

"We didn't give up. We fought all the way through. We're young. We'll be back."

against these Capitals. "There's going to be g and there's going to be b Murray said. "It's about 1 job of that."

The Capitals gave th punches in the series ope: some bounces went aga deflection goal by Ho Ovechkin's stick to Cr Guentzel took the air o strong start by Holtby.

"Obviously, some thir Holtby, who stopped all before allowing three on their goals they scored, t especially the last one. I weird bounce."

Washington blew a tw: seven games in these pla dled this better than situ Columbus.

"Those three shifts, the goal was the second-faste feel like they got momen and again."

As even as the play w enough to put the Pengui afternoon. Sullivan ahead on chances against, and h ter as the series goes on.

"It's one game, we did "I think in any playoff se with every game."

NOTES: The Capital penalties dating to Game skated Thursday morning did not make the trip. Mal 2 if his apparent leg injury

• Draft

Continued from Page B

and success.

"We feel he has a ver, Mike Maccagnan said of put the whole thing toget lyze them from an abilit from a character standpo think they can grow into, t from that standpoint."

So what are the challen franchise quarterbacks?

BROWNS

History certainly plays : NFL in 1999, the Browns stopgap QBs. That's alr with the last two seasons' gets.

Enter Mayfield, who ev acquired veteran Tyrod Ta Dorsey adeptly evaluate

"It is a combination of t has 9 6-8th (inch) hands. in November and Decem play. He has really good a He has a strong arm. His e is uncanny.

"You know what else s: wants to be a really good to be a really good football

Mayfield also is short foot. He has to adjust to Hue Jackson. He must sh college players couldn't de

And while teammates skills, there's also a cocki ness that can take a slow

OGDEN NEWSPAPERS HALF MARATHON

Classic



12 years

Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Championships Semi Patriots Earn Spot In 5A Title Game



Photo by Rick Thorp

Wheeling Park's Catie Nesbitt, right, applies the tag on Warren's Chloe Corser during Thursday's OVAC 5A semifinal at Ben's Field of the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

Park blanks Warren, will face JM at 5:30 today

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — One of Thursday afternoon's Class 5A semifinals in the Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Tournament came down to nothing more than opportunities.

Wheeling Park managed to take advantage of its while Warren Local could not, leading to another championship game berth for Coach Pat Durkin's Patriots.

Ashley Linder scattered nine hits, fanned five without walking any, and Ree Walker's first of three hits, this

one with the bases loaded in the first, provided all the runs Park needed in rolling to a 5-0 blanking of the Warriors on Ben's Field.

The victory moves Durkin's crew to 16-4 on the season and into the championship game again against arch-rival John Marshall this afternoon at 5:30 p.m. back on Ben's Field. The defending champion Monarchs disposed of Indian Creek by a 9-1 margin.

"Getting to the championship game never gets old, but we are looking to win this one," Durkin said

with a smile. "While playing in the game never gets old taking home the second place trophy sure does."

Wheeling Park got things rolling in the top of the first thanks to three base hits, a walk and a huge Warren Local error. Kieran Johnson and Ashley Linder sandwiched singles around a one-out walk to Shea Wright to load the bases.

Walker then drilled a 3-2 pitch into center for a run-scoring single, with Wright and courtesy runner

See PATRIOTS, Page 12



Wheeling Central's Riley in leading the Maroon Knights

Central Barnes

Bennington slams
as Maroon Knights

By RICK
For The Intelligencer

ELM GROVE — Three night, Wheeling Central's Patriots out 14, allowed just two hits. Maroon Knights' Class 3A game against Barnesville.

But, as the Shamrocks of Barnesville, they still had life, and a pitcher in Regan Hill didn't break.

Sarah Powell walked to Bennington slammed the door and got Baylie MacMillan to emerge with a 2-0 triumph.

"They played hard throughout the interim coach Bennington we'll get ready for the next game."

That will come against Barnesville of Bellaire, 7-3, in the other 3A semifinal, of the Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Championships two days off due to rain.

A final decision on the championship game — today or Saturday afternoon, according to

See CENTRAL

Monarchs Rock Redskins, 9-1

By CODY TOMER
Staff Writer

WHEELING — John Marshall softball coach Ed West described his team in one word on Thursday — Efficient.

The efficiency was clear as the Monarchs jumped out



Steube Blanks

By TRACY

Bechtel OVAC Softball Championships Semifinals

Warriors Earn Spot in Title Game



Photo by Rick Thorp

...right, applies the tag on Warren's Chloe Corser during Thursday's OVAC game at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

Warren, will face JM at 5:30 today

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The victory moves Durkin's crew to 16-4 on the season and into the championship game again against arch-rival John Marshall this afternoon at 5:30 p.m. back on Ben's Field. The defending champion Monarchs disposed of Indian Creek by a 9-1 margin.

"Getting to the championship game never gets old, but we are looking to win this one," Durkin said

with a smile. "While playing in the game never gets old taking home the second place trophy sure does."

Wheeling Park got things rolling in the top of the first thanks to three base hits, a walk and a huge Warren Local error. Kieran Johnson and Ashley Linder sandwiched singles around a one-out walk to Shea Wright to load the bases.

Walker then drilled a 3-2 pitch into center for a run-scoring single, with Wright and courtesy runner

See PATRIOTS, Page 12

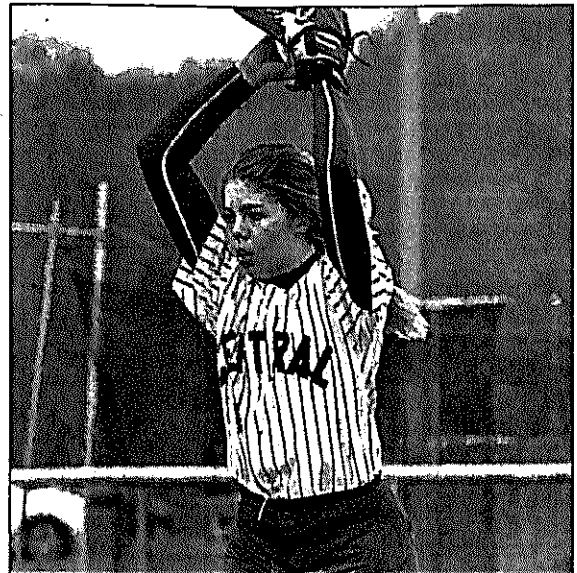


Photo by Rick Thorp

Wheeling Central's Riley Bennington struck out 16 in leading the Maroon Knights past Barnesville.

Central Blanks Barnesville

Bennington strikes out 16 as Maroon Knights win 2-0

By RICK THORP
For The Intelligencer

ELM GROVE — Through six innings Thursday night, Wheeling Central's Riley Bennington had struck out 14, allowed just two hits and walked none in the Maroon Knights' Class 3A OVAC semifinal tussle against Barnesville.

But, as the Shamrocks came out for the top of the seventh, they still had life, thanks to a stifling defense and a pitcher in Regan Hanlon who bent a little, but didn't break.

Sarah Powell walked to start the inning. But Bennington slammed the door with her 15th and 16th Ks and got Baylie MacMillan to pop out as Wheeling Central emerged with a 2-0 triumph on Lisa's Field.

"They played hard the whole game," Maroon Knights interim coach Buck Davidson said. "Now, we'll get ready for the next one."

That will come against Buckeye Trail, which disposed of Bellaire, 7-3, in the evening's second game, and other 3A semifinal, on the diamond as the Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Championships resumed after two days off due to rain.

A final decision on the time and day of the championship game — today or Saturday — is expected by 1 this afternoon, according to tournament officials.

See CENTRAL, Page 13

St. Rock wins, 9-1

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...fter
...shall softball coach Ed
...ne word on Thursday —

the Monarchs jumped out



Steubenville Blanks St. C.

By TRACY WATSON



Photo by Rick Thorp

Wheeling Park's Catie Nesbitt, right, applies the tag on Warren's Chloe Corser during Thursday's OVAC 5A semifinal at Ben's Field of the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

Park blanks Warren, will face JM at 5:30 today

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — One of Thursday afternoon's Class 5A semifinals in the Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Tournament came down to nothing more than opportunities.

Wheeling Park managed to take advantage of its while Warren Local could not, leading to another championship game berth for Coach Pat Durkin's Patriots.

Ashley Linder scattered nine hits, fanned five without walking any, and Ree Walker's first of three hits, this

one with the bases loaded in the first, provided all the runs Park needed in rolling to a 5-0 blanking of the Warriors on Ben's Field.

The victory moves Durkin's crew to 16-4 on the season and into the championship game again against arch-rival John Marshall this afternoon at 5:30 p.m. back on Ben's Field. The defending champion Monarchs disposed of Indian Creek by a 9-1 margin.

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See PATRIOTS, Page 12

Monarchs Rock Redskins, 9-1

By CODY TOMER
Staff Writer

WHEELING — John Marshall softball coach Ed West described his team in one word on Thursday — Efficient.

The efficiency was clear as the Monarchs jumped out to an early lead and never looked back in a 9-1 victory over Indian Creek at Lisa's Field of the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in an OVAC Class 5A semifinal.

The win sends John Marshall on to play Wheeling Park at 5:30 p.m. tonight for the OVAC 5A Championship at Ben's Field of the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

John Marshall's winning streak has reached 19, just nine shy of the team record of 28 set in 2012, the last time the Monarchs won a state championship.

"We are efficient," West said. "We have had good execution. We play good defense most of the time. We put the bat on the ball and our pitchers are usually pretty good, too.

"This is probably the best hitting year we have had in a long time."

John Marshall accumulated 14 hits, while starting pitcher Lauren Garcia held the Redskins to two hits.

See MONARCHS, Page 12



Photo by Cody Tomer

John Marshall's Mack Hall takes a swing during an OVAC 5A semifinal at Lisa's Field of the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

as Maroon Knights win 2-0

By RICK THORP
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Steubenville Blanks St. C.

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — "Roll Red Roll" may be a phrase most commonly associated locally with Steubenville's perennial powerful football team, but Thursday night the Big Red softball borrowed it for a Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Tournament steamrolling of top-seeded St. Clairsville.

Winning pitcher Madi Fields led a three-home run barrage with a pair of her own and five RBI while stymying the Red Devils from the circle, firing a three-hitter, as Steubenville advanced to the Class 4A championship game with a 10-0 blanking of the previously once-beaten Red Devils on Ben's Field.

It will mark Big Red's fourth trip to the championship game in the last six years, however, Coach Gus DiMarzio's squad had to squeeze in at No. 4, improving to 8-6, before taking out the top-seed.

See STEUBENVILLE, Page 12

series lead in typical Penguins fashion.

Playing without injured forwards Evgeni Malkin and Carl Hagelin, Pittsburgh naturally fed off Crosby, who had a goal and an assist.

"Right from Sid, he led the way for us and it's right down the line-up," said Guentzel, who had a goal and two assists and leads the playoffs with 16 points. "You can't get down. There's going to be highs and lows throughout the

Pittsburgh Penguins center Sidney Crosby (87) celebrates his goal during the third period in Game 1 on Thursday against the Washington Capitals.

whole series. You've got to stick with it to the end and we were happy to get three and end up winning the game."

Matt Murray stopped 32 of 34 shots, keeping the Penguins in the game and maintaining the lead late with a sprawling stick save on Brett Connolly with 2:30 left.

Unsure of what would happen at the other end of the rink with Braden Holtby dialed in, Murray could only keep the puck out as much as possible after allowing the early-period goals to Kuznetsov and Ovechkin.

Murray denied Michal Kempny from point-blank range and kept

the Capitals gave the Penguins a couple of solid punches in the series opener but didn't respond well when some bounces went against them early in the third. A deflection goal by Hornqvist, a puck that went off Ovechkin's stick to Crosby and then a redirection by Guentzel took the air out of the building and ruined a strong start by Holtby.

"Obviously, some things we'd like to work on," said Holtby, who stopped all 17 shots through two

PATRIOTS

(Continued from Page 11)

Izzy Miller both scoring when the ball went between the outfielder's legs for a quick 3-0 start for the Patriots.

"I thought the girls really came out ready to play," Durkin said. "And it was real nice to get some big hits, something we haven't done all season long. And I can't say enough about how our defense played and Ashley pitched.

"We were hoping coming into the season that our defense was going to be solid, and it has been, but it is also very nice to see the bats coming around."

Park manufactured another run in the third on a one-out Linder single, a stolen base, Walker's infield base hit and a run-scoring fielder's choice from Catie Nesbitt.

The Warriors (9-3) missed a golden opportunity in the home half of fourth, loading the bases on singles by Diamond Decker, losing pitcher Sarah Greenlee, and Josie Yoho before Linder got a fly ball out to end the threat.

The following frame Warren had another chance, putting runners at first and second after Park recorded and an 8-4 put-out. However, a sharp roller to second turned into an inning-ending double-play.

Park added a little cushion in the sixth, putting a runner at second just ahead of Johnson's long fly ball to center that skipped off the fielder's glove for an RBI double and a 5-0 Patriots upperhand.

"It felt right away like we came out flat," Warren coach Jenny Lynch said. "And we plain just could not string any hits together all day. And that is not how this team plays at all.

"We just need to pick it up and go on from here."

MONARCHS

(Continued from Page 11)

Garcia struck out 11 in the circle and also delivered at the plate with a home run, three singles and four RBI.

"Garcia was hitting the outside corner pretty well," West said. "She had good velocity and did a good job of getting ahead of hitters, which set up her other pitches."

The Monarchs ace struck out the side in the first inning and fanned at least two hitters in three different frames.

"We knew Garcia was a good pitcher," Indian Creek coach Angela Penner said. "I am proud of our kids for batting through all seven innings. The last time we played John Marshall, we were done in five.

"We wish John Marshall good luck in the OVAC Championship."

After punching out the side in the top of the first, Garcia showed what she could do with the bat. Abby Blake swatted a two-out triple and Garcia followed with a two-run blast to put her squad up 2-0.

The lone Redskins run came in the second when Taylor Scott belted a leadoff homer to cut the deficit in half.

"She was aggressive on the first pitch," Penner said. "We always try to get our kids to be aggressive on the first pitch and she was there."

From that point, Garcia held Creek without a hit until Rachel Cooper singled in the sixth.

The Monarchs turned up the heat in the bottom of the second by plating four runs behind three consecutive two-out RBI hits.

Carli Lightner and Garcia garnered RBI singles and Abby Blake clubbed a two-run single to give John Marshall a 6-1 advantage.

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STEUBENVILLE

(Continued from Page 11)

"I'm not going to lie, this entire season has been a struggle for us," DiMarzio said. "We have been a good hitting team, but we have had trouble fielding the ball and in the circle.

"(Thursday) it just all came together for us. I really have to tip my hat to my kids, because I haven't been the nicest guy on the planet to them this season. Everything just paid off for us in this one."

Steubenville broke out in a big way in the top of the first, using its speed to score a run and its power for two more. Jaliyah Hubbard led off with a walk, stole second and moved to third on a passed ball before scoring on Seana Ragusa's base hit to make it 1-0.

Just two batters later Fields blasted a two-run homer to deep, straight-away center field to push the early count to 3-0.

Big Red didn't let up in the second frame, pushing across five more runs to extend its lead to 8-0. The No. 9 hitter, Leah Ferguson, and Ragusa each chased home runs with base hits before Fields launched another bomb to dead center, this time plating three.

Another home run, this time a two-run blast off the bat of Lakyn Blackburn, gave Steubenville a 10-run lead in the third. It was all Big Red needed.

"During the game I was talking to the third base umpire and I told him that we have faced six very good teams and six very good pitchers coming into this one," DiMarzio said. "But as great a pitcher as Amaya Smith is, hitting wasn't the concern coming in, it was every other facet.

"This will be our fourth trip in six years to the championship game, which is a big deal for our program, having struggled for a while before that. But it isn't just about getting there, this is Steubenville High School and we aren't just happy about getting to championship games. We are looking to win them."

Fields, Blackburn and Ragusa combined for six hits and nine RBI on the day.

For St. Clairsville coach Ron Hummel, Thursday night's loss was one that left him at a loss for words.

"Give Steubenville and their pitcher credit, they played very well and

she kept us off-balance the entire game," Hummel said. "But that was a very uncharacteristic showing for us and I think we just left our bats on the bus.

"They got hits when they needed them and we just couldn't get any. Amaya threw the ball hard, but she just wasn't hitting her spots. I really am a little bit speechless. I really can't believe that not only did we give up 10 runs, but we only got one runner to third all day.

"This is a little bit of an eye-opener with the sectionals coming up. But I believe that we will get right back and track and be playing well when we need to be."

Edison 6, Meadowbrook 3

WHEELING — Tomi McConnell struck out 12, while driving home four RBI with a double to lead Edison past Meadowbrook.

Emily Andreozzi garnered two hits and a pair of RBI for the Wildcats.

Regular Season

Brooke 4, Harrison Central 2

WELLSBURG — Rachel Kazmirski fanned seven to earn the win and Sydney Virtue doubled and drove in a run to pace a Brooke (14-5) home victory over Harrison Central.

Shaniel Nameth accounted for two hits and a RBI for the Huskies (6-10).

River 16, Valley 6

HANNIBAL — Isi Swords paced River (11-7) with a double, three singles and a RBI, while teammate Livi Rose added two hits and three RBI in a win over visiting Valley.

The Lumberjills were led by Alex Bassett's home run and single.

BASEBALL

Tyler Consolidated 9 Ritchie County 2

SISTERSVILLE — Noah Smith turned in two singles, a double and two RBI to lead Tyler Consolidated to victory over Ritchie County.

Luke Daugherty provided three hits, a RBI and struck out five to earn the win.

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Lydia Knutsen got the offense rolling again in the fourth with a leadoff single and later scored on a RBI knock off the bat of Garcia.

The 7-1 cushion grew in the sixth as Maddy Mayle and Anna Blake collected back-to-back RBI singles, scoring Lightner and Garcia.

"We really work hard on hitting and get a lot of reps in," West said. "We have five coaches who watch the girls and work on certain things with them."

"Our girls are disciplined and my thing is to just get a good swing on a good pitch. That's what we've been doing lately."

Kaydee Kinsey struck out a pair and walked three in the circle for Indian Creek.

"Our kids work hard day in and day out," Penner said.

"They just don't quit. We just have to learn how to calm down in the beginning of games."

"Toward the middle of the game we finally did and so did Kaydee. We are having some growing pains but we are working on it."

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ANDERSON

(Continued from Page 11)

"I was really happy when I won," Anderson said. "I wasn't expecting it. After working really hard it paid off."

The Maroon Knights also came in second place in the 1A-4A division getting bested by conference powerhouse Linsly. St. Clairsville came in third place.

The Cadets scored a total of 15 points to secure their eighth straight conference championship. It is also Cadets coach Dave Riethmiller's 13th championship as Linsly's coach.

"We won almost every

work for every point. The girls really battled and almost every match we could win, we did win."

Two Cadets — both were No. 2 seeds — secured a spot in the championship match in No. 2 singles Lakin Snider and No. 3 singles Caitlin Mead. Snider defeated John Marshall's Miranda Taylor, 8-3 to play in the final round while Mead bested Parkersburg South's Alli Barber, 8-1.

Unfortunately, the two fell to a pair of Mohigans. Snider was ousted by Cat Wassick and Vinitha Joseph secured the championship

Augustine and Mia Ca played in the final round No. 3 doubles, but were defeated by Morgantown Joseph and Ashalia Agga al, 8-3.

"I've been blessed with a lot of great players over the years," Riethmiller said about winning eight straight conference championships. "It's been a real blessing to be able to coach not only talented players, but great individual players with great attitudes and work hard at it."

Morgantown was the school winner as the McGans secured 27 out of possible points to bring

SPORTS

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Sunday,
April 29, 2018



AT LEFT: Bridgeport catcher Danielle Hollingshead and pitcher Brooklynn Ruble embrace after recording the final out in Saturday's OVAC Class 2A final in Elm Grove. Also pictured is Briana Conaway, who is the third baseman. **BELOW:** Ruble throws to the plate. She struck out 14 in the win over Toronto.

T-L Photos/KIM NORTH

A long time coming

• Bridgeport wins first OVAC softball title since '91

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE — Dominant pitching. Rock-solid defense and timely hitting. Those three aspects of softball are the keys to victory.

Bridgeport utilized all of them to its advantage Saturday afternoon at an over-cast J. B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex to capture the school's first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship since 1991. The second-seeded Bulldogs (10-2) took out No. 1 Toronto, 2-0, on Ben's Field in the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 2A championship contest

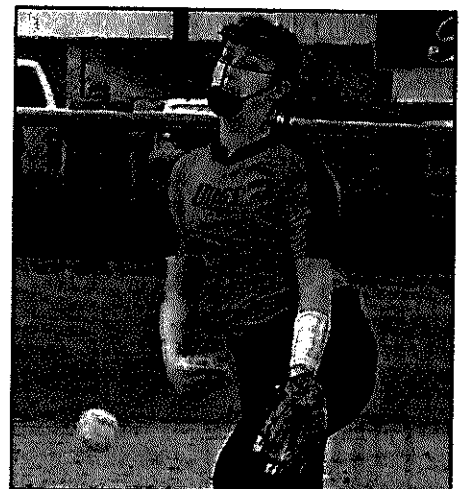
before a nice gathering despite the chilly temperatures.

"It's been a long time but these girls have worked hard from day one," second-year Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash praised. "Our motto was being all-in, trusting and believing in each other, backing each other and finishing. We didn't finish many games last year and it resulted in a ton of one-run losses.

"This year we've handled adversity a lot and that has made us that much better."

The visitors didn't waste anytime in

See, **BRIDGEPORT**, Page C2



Red Knights Edge Past Tigers, 2-1

Toronto doesn't get a hit, but uses walks to advantage

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Toronto's motto all season has been "finish."

The Red Knights had a pretty good season in 2017, but losses in the OVAC Tom Bechtel Tournament Class 2A championship game to Wheeling Central and a season-ending setback to Strasburg in the Ohio Division IV district tournament left them wondering what if?

Coach Steve Trifonoff's top-seeded squad (11-2) advanced to the OVAC final for the second year in a row Monday night with a 2-1 nod over No. 4 Shadyside on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Complex. It wasn't a surprise they made a repeat appearance, but how they did it is.

"Those are two storied programs and perennial state powers you're talking about," Trifonoff said of Wheeling Central and Strasburg. "Losing to them two is nothing to hang your head about, but these girls are on a mission. This was just one step on it."

"It's going to be a battle Friday (against Bridgeport), but other than my pitcher in my opinion, they have the best pitcher that we've seen."

The usually potent Toronto bats were silenced by the Tigers' Kaitlyn Weaver, who endured an off-night inside the circle despite tossing a no-hitter. The senior right-hander, who has been bothered by back problems all season, couldn't find the strike zone at times. She issued 11 walks and hit a pair of batters.

"You've got to throw strikes and we even helped her out some," Trifonoff, who took a line drive to his left cheek during pregame batting practice and spent time in the emergency room prior to the game, said. "We were getting runners on second and third with one out or two outs and the bases loaded with one out, but we just couldn't put the ball in play. We had a couple balls land just foul and we hit a line drive right at the shortstop."

After Weaver fanned the side in the top of the first, she issued five of her free passes in the second. Three of those came with two outs and forced in the only Red Knights runs. Kendall Thomas watched a 3-2 pitch miss the zone as Autumn Daniels scored. Shannon Reed followed with a

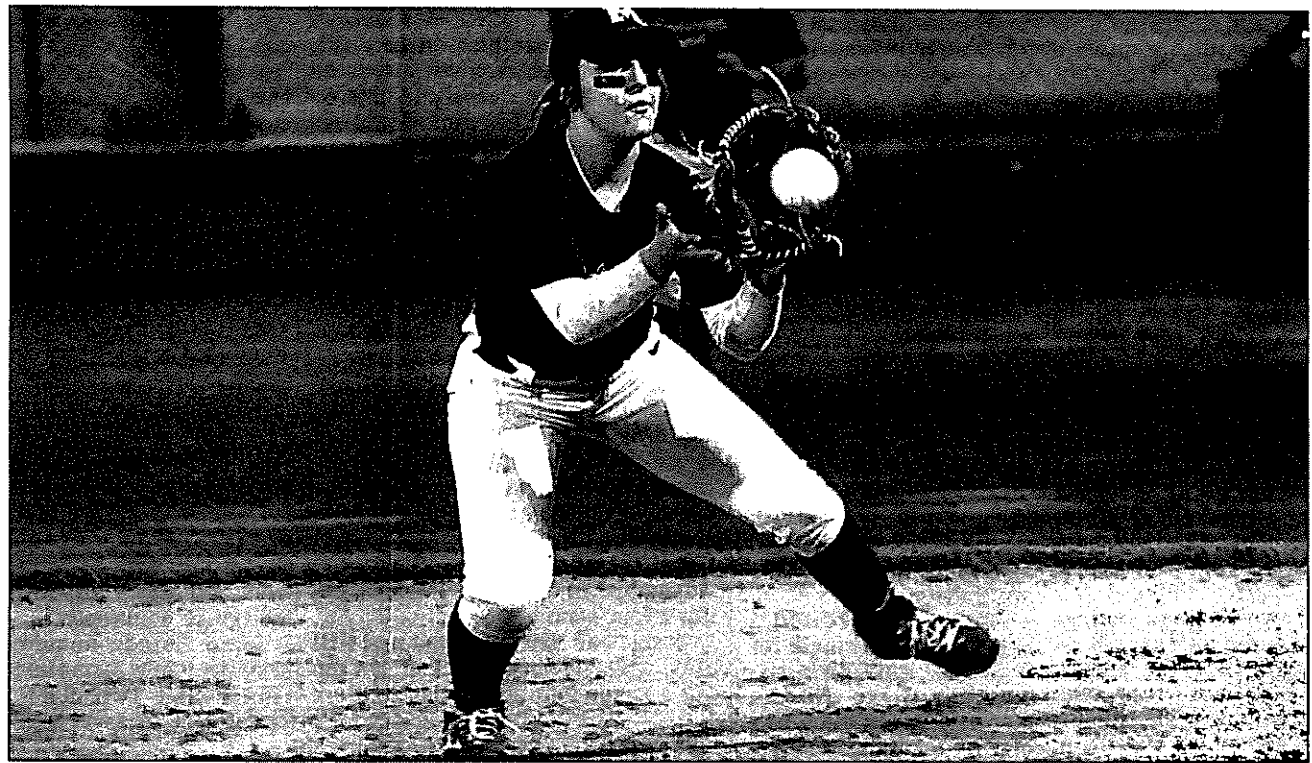


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Welrton Madonna second baseman Karena Recrosio fields a ground ball during Monday night's OVAC Class 1 semifinal victory against Paden City at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

Dons Beat Cats in 1A Semi

A fourth straight trip to final for Madonna

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Madonna was staring adversity in the face in the early going of a Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Tournament semifinal game against Paden City. An errant throw by the Blue Dons in the top of the first gave the Wildcats two runs and ace pitcher Katie Gasvoda had a little trouble in the circle.

However, the Madonna bats came to life and Gasvoda settled in as it defeated Paden City, 10-4, on Monday night at Lisa's Field at the I-470 Complex.

This is the fourth consecutive trip to

the 1A championship game for Madonna as it will take on Frontier. The Blue Dons have also won the last three championships.

"It's just exciting. It's exciting for the girls," Madonna coach Chris Conti said. "It's about the girls. The girls, they get excited, hoping they can bring a fourth one home. I'm just excited for them. They're get excited to play and it's great to be in the OVAC Championship. It's a great conference to get into the championship."

With the score tied at 2-2, the Blue Dons bats started to heat up in the top of the third inning as they compiled four consecutive hits as Karena Recrosio led it off with a single.

Gasvoda and Maddie Daugherty mirrored Recrosio with a single of their

own. Daugherty also brought home a run to give Madonna the lead for good. Keara Kush belted a triple that plated two runs to put the score at 5-2.

Gianna Mascio and Kasey Canei were thrown out at first, but were able to secure a RBI for the final runs of the inning to make it 7-2 in favor of the Blue Dons.

"That was a big inning for us," Conti said. "That was one of the innings we started going. It's contagious. Once one person gets a hit, then everybody gets a hit."

Gasvoda went the distance for the Blue Dons and fired a solid 12 strikeouts compared to four walks. After giving up a single to leadoff batter Hannah Loy to

Please See DONS, Page 14

Wheeling Park. JM Split Twinbill

watched a 3-2 pitch miss the zone as Autumn Daniels scored. Shannon Reed followed with a

Please See RED KNIGHTS, Page 14



Photo by Kim North

Bridgeport second baseman Angie Sommer tags out Clay-Battelle's Rhonda Petrucci during the sixth inning of a 1-0 victory in 11.

Bulldogs Will Play for Crown

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Bridgeport hadn't qualified for the OVAC Tom Bechtel Softball Championships in nearly a decade. Monday the Bulldogs decided to make the most of their first appearance since 2010.

Kamden Dulesky scored on Angie Sommer's infield grounder in the bottom of the 11th inning as second-seeded Bridgeport (9-2) outlasted No. 3 Clay-Battelle (14-3) by a 1-0 count in a Class 2A semifinal on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Complex.

"That was one heckuva softball game. That was a great pitcher's duel and it's a shame someone has to lose, but we talked all preseason about being 'all-in,' keeping our heads up and playing through adversity," second-year Bridgeport coach Donnie Cash said. "We did that when they got runners on base ... we battled back and made some plays. We turned a double play and threw a couple of runners out trying to steal.

"The last thing we talked about in the preseason

Please See BULLDOGS Page 14

Wheeling Park, JM Split Twinbill

Patriots take opener, Monarchs the nightcap

By CODY TOMER
Staff Writer

GLEN DALE — John Marshall and Wheeling Park both took their share of positives and negatives away from Monday's doubleheader.

The Patriots captured a pitcher's duel in the opener by a 5-0 count as they plated four runs in the seventh to widen the margin of victory.

The Monarchs responded in an offensive awakening in the nightcap with an 8-5 triumph that was called after 5 and-a-half innings due to darkness, at John Marshall.

The Monarchs put runners on base in every inning except the sixth in the first game but could not get them home.

"They just didn't have timely hits," Park coach Mike McLeod said. "That was the difference because it was a one-run ballgame most of the game."

The Monarchs made up for it in Game 2 by batting around in the third and leaving only one runner on base.

Errors were also a factor in both games as John Marshall combined for seven and Park turned in a total of four miscues.

"We still have to clean up our defense," John Marshall coach Mark Cisar said. "We can't give them extra



Photo by Cody Tomer

Wheeling Park's Zach Kahle, left, dives back into first as John Marshall first baseman Josh Schramm takes a pickoff throw during Game 1 Monday.

outs. It has hurt us all year, giving up unearned runs. I know it's high school baseball and you are going to have that but the good teams don't have that."

In Game 1, the Patriots plated a run in the first, a lead that held up for the entirety of the game.

Trevor Thomas delivered a single, swiped second and raced home on a RBI knock from Bryce Bauer to secure the edge.

Wheeling Park starting pitcher Billy Gooch and John Marshall starter Shane Dobbs took over from that point.

Gooch continued to work out of jams to keep the opposition off the scoreboard, while Dobbs did not allow a hit for four straight frames.

"Dobbs threw great," Cisar said. "He threw strikes, worked fast and had great

Please See SPLIT, Page 14

Frontier Qualifies for Its First Finale

Daugherty delivers the game-winner for Cougars

By RICK THORP
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Kylie Daugherty smacked a double to left field in the bottom of the seventh Tuesday giving Frontier a 3-2 triumph against St. John in the first of two Class 1A semifinals of the Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Championships at Lisa's Field.

With one out and Isabella Rinard at first, Daugherty — batting third and already with two RBI — sent a Kyla Kull pitch into left field. After stranding five runners combined in the previous

three innings, Frontier coach Eric Rinard, coaching at third, didn't hesitate in sending Rinard home.

"I saw the little bobble there out by the fence and went ahead and sent her," he said. "Let's all see if the throw could get her or not."

It didn't, and the Cougars (12-2) secured their spot in Saturday's final opposite Madonna, which ousted Paden City, 10-4, in the night's other semifinal.

"It was a good hit," said Irish coach Jerry Magistro, who's squad fell to 5-9.

"We just came up short. Our team is improving and that's all you can ask from a very young team. We're getting better each game and that's all you can ask"

Frontier, in the semis for the first time in 11 years, 10-run ruled St. John in their previous meeting, but on this evening the Irish showed just how far they'd come as a squad, especially early on.

The Irish grabbed a 1-0 lead in the first inning on Kull's RBI single that scored Jayden Lowe.

Frontier had runners at second and third in the bottom of the inning, but Kull recorded one of her 10 strikeouts to end the threat.

From there, Kull and her counterpart in the circle, Kylie Ruble, took over. During the next three innings, the duo

Please See FRONTIER Page 14

lasting a home run, two singles and two RBI to lead John Marshall over most Edison.

Anna Blake belted a home run and a single for our RBI, while twin sister Abby Blake added a homer, a single and a pair of RBI for the Monarchs (24-1).

Sami Springer accounted for two hits for the Wildcats (12-4).

Union Local 3 Barnesville 2
MORRISTOWN — Taylor Myers and Kaden Mercer both singled and drove in a run as Union local edged Barnesville.

Skylar Lucas knocked in the other run for the Jets (6-7), who also received a double from Bailey Rinkes.

Baylie MacMillan had two hits, including a double, and an RBI for the Shamrocks (11-4).

Martins Ferry 9
Buckeye Local 3
MARTINS FERRY — Abby Bumbico starred in the circle and at the plate. Martins Ferry bested Buckeye Local.

Bumbico picked up the story, striking out seven and walking none. She also belted a homer, a single and drove in three runs.

Madison DeLuca added two doubles and a single for the Purple Riders, while Haleigh Boyer and Den Stalder both singled and knocked in two runs. Ashley Burkett and Brooke Miller both had two hits for the Panthers.

Magnolia 5, River 4
NEW MARNSVILLE — Ashlyn Dekarski singled, doubled and drove in three runs to lead Magnolia at visiting River.

Ashley Tharp struck eight, while supplying two doubles and two RBI for the Blue Eagles. Riley Lollathin paced Pilots with two hits.

manager's choice to create a 7-1 cushion.

In the fifth, it was Park taking advantage of a pair of JM mistakes for a four-spot.

Kahle and Salvatori produced RBI hits, while Thomas knocked in a run on a groundout and Nolan Mattern

Cade and Ayden Hannahs both had two singles for two RBI for the Shamrocks (13-2), who rebounded from Saturday's loss to Fort Frye in the OVAC semifinals.

Jared Kernan homered for Barnesville, while Zane Huntsman had a single and two RBI and Zach

triple shy of the cycle as he homered, doubled, singled and drove in three to lead Harrison Central past visiting Edison.

Andrew Clelland followed with a single, a double and two RBI.

Ryan Higgs paced Edison with two singles, a double and a RBI.

BULLDOGS

(Continued from Page 13)

was finishing. We lost nine games by one run last year. The last thing I said to them was 'we're all in' and we finished. My four assistants deserve all the credit. They did a great job of getting the girls ready and keeping them up." Dulesky, a four-year mainstay, led off the 11th with a sharp shot to short that was bobbled. She promptly swiped second base before going to third on a wild pitch. With the count 2-2, Sommer sent a slow bouncer to the second baseman as Dulesky raced home without a throw, setting off a wild celebration by the Bulldogs.

"We didn't do a very good job of bunting runners over earlier in the game. We had the top of the order up and told the girls this is our time. Let's do it," Cash said. "Kamden put the ball in play, beat it out and then got to third on a stolen base and wild pitch. All Angie had to do was put the ball in

play, and she did."

The loss spoiled an outstanding pitching performance by the Cee-Bees' Caitlyn Cassey who struck out 17 Bulldogs, walked none and allowed five hits. She didn't allow a runner past second until the final frame.

Bridgeport's Brooklynn Ruble held her own inside the circle. The junior fanned 13, walked three, hit two and permitted six hits.

Her defense bailed her out on several occasions and Clay-Battelle stranded nine runners, including two each in the third, fifth and 11th innings when it had second and third with one out on all three times and couldn't produce.

After Petrucci was hit by a pitch leading off the sixth, Sommer fielded a grounder, tagged the runner and relayed to first for a double play.

FRONTIER

(Continued from Page 13)

combined to allow four hits, with Kull allowing one, a Daugherty double leading off the fourth.

In the fifth, however, the Cougars loaded the bases with no outs. With the top of the Frontier order up, things looked bleak for the Irish. But, the next two batters popped out to first and third, respectively. Daugherty came through, though, with a single plating two runs, giving the Cougars a 2-1 lead. Kull struck out Frontier's cleanup hitter to end the inning.

That proved big because in the top of the sixth, St. John threatened. Shay

Horvath led the inning off by smacking a ball to center. The ball went through the legs of the center fielder, allowing Horvath to move all the way to third. She scored moments later on a passed ball, tying the game at 2-2.

Frontier looked poised to break the deadlock in the bottom of the sixth with runners at the corners and no outs. Kull responded by getting the third batter of the inning to strike out swinging, then followed that with a pop out to short and a K looking to end things.

St. John advanced a runner to third in the top of the seventh with two

gone, but wasn't able to get it home before Frontier's heroics in the bottom of the inning.

"Kull did a heckuva job for a freshman," Magistro said. "I don't know how many times there bases loaded, no outs and all of that. We fought back and I'm proud (of the team) for that."

"I thought we could've won this game, but we had our chances."

Frontier will have a opportunity to win its first OVAC crown Saturday.

"I told the girls to enjoy this one, but we have to get ready for Saturday," Coach Rinard said.

CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 13)

Aside from the opportunity to highlight individual dominance and athleticism, a wrestling program can also serve as a means by which to stay active and condi-

tioned. It is often used by athletes who play football and baseball or lacrosse to build strength and dexterity between those seasons. Murray sees this as an added bonus for CCHS athletes, many of whom participate in numerous sports.

"If you're a football player and you also participate in a spring sport like baseball or lacrosse, wrestling is an ideal way to keep active and in shape during those winter months," he said. "There's no question it's a great conditioning sport."

CCHS has seen considerable success in its wrestling program over the years, tout-

Doyle (1973) and an OVAC Wrestler of the Year in Zach Basich (2008).

Officials have tapped wrestling veteran and West Liberty University standout David Doyle to serve as the head coach. Doyle has more than 20 years of experience in wrestling, most recently serving as a middle school head coach in Ohio County.

"It an honor and with excitement that I accept the position as head wrestling coach at CCHS," Doyle said. "I can't help but feel a sense of pride that the opportunity comes from the school that started my family's healthy obsession with

in during the 2018-2019 season by participating in invitational and tournament settings, as well as large-scale meets. Based upon participation, they will consider dual, triangular and quad meets. By 2020-2021, they expect to have grown to the point where they are ready, not only to participate in a wide variety of meets and tournaments, but also to host some. Doyle is confident the school has athletes who can compete immediately.

"We have an incredible pool of athletes, so I have no doubt that we'll be competitive," he said. "Wrestling

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Bridgeport outlasts C-B in 2A semis

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE – Bridgeport hadn't qualified for the OVAC Tom Bechtel Softball Championships in nearly a decade. Monday the Bulldogs decided to make the most of their first appearance since 2010.

Kamden Dulesky scored on Angie Sommer's infield grounder in the bottom of the 11th inning as second-seeded Bridgeport (9-2) outlasted No. 3 Clay-Battelle (14-3) by a 1-0 count in a Class 2A semifinal on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Complex.

"That was one heckuva softball game. That was a great pitcher's duel and it's a shame someone has to lose, but we talked all preseason about being 'all-in,' keeping our heads up and playing

See, BRIDGEPORT, Page B2



BRIDGEPORT SHORTSTOP

Kamden Dulesky throws to first base for an out as Angie Sommer covers second base while Clay-Battelle's Alicia Keener slides in. The Bulldogs won 1-0 in 11 innings when Dulesky scored on Sommer's infield grounder with no outs.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

Shadyside falls short

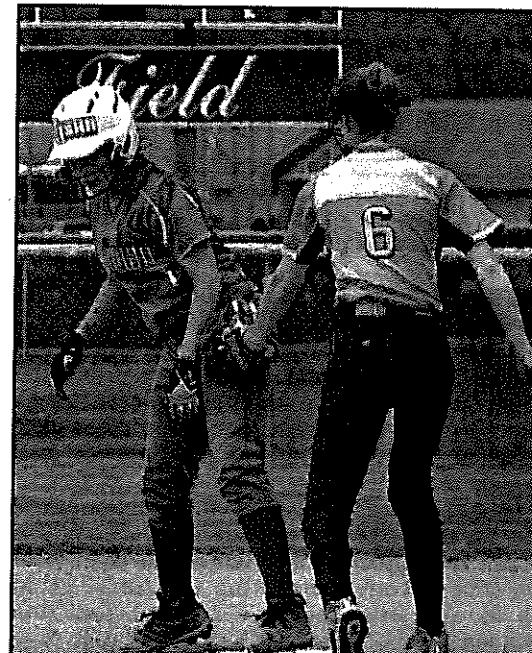
• Toronto gets no hits in 2-1 victory

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE – Toronto's motto all season has been "finish."

The Red Knights had a pretty good season in 2017, but losses in the OVAC Tom Bechtel Tournament Class 2A championship game to Wheeling Central and a season-ending setback to Strasburg in the Division IV district tournament left the Jefferson Countians wondering what if?

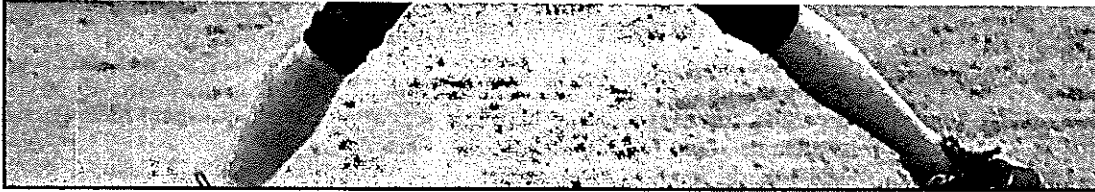
Head coach Steve Trifanoff's



ST. JOHN'S Jayden Lowe arrives into second safely Tuesday afternoon ahead of the tag by Frontier's Logan Haught during their OVAC Class 1A semifinal at Lisa's Field. The Cougars emerged victorious, 3-2.

...ground
with no outs.

T-L Photo/KIM
NORTH



2A semifinal on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Complex.

"That was one heckuva softball game. That was a great pitcher's duel and it's a shame someone has to lose, but we talked all preseason about being 'all-in,' keeping our heads up and playing

See, BRIDGEPORT, Page B2

Shadyside falls short

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Head coach Steve Trifonoff's top-seeded squad (11-2) advanced to the OVAC Tom Bechtel Tournament finals for the second year in a row Monday night with a 2-1 nod over No. 4 Shadyside on Ben's Field Monday at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Complex. It wasn't a surprise they made a repeat appearance, but how they did it is.

"Those are two storied programs and perennial state powers you're talking about," Trifonoff said of Wheeling Central and Strasburg. "Losing to them two is nothing to hang your head about, but these girls are on a mission. This was just one step on it.

"It's going to be a battle Friday," he said of the title tilt against Bridgeport, which outlasted Clay-Battelle, 1-0, in 11 innings in the other semifinal. "We beat them earlier in the sea-



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

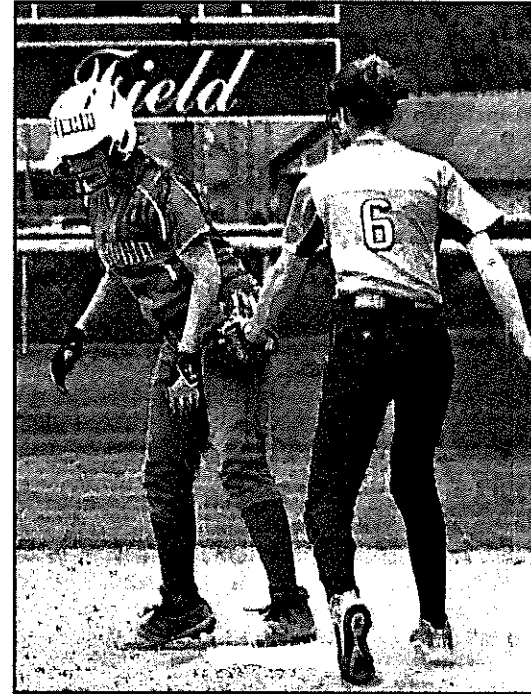
SHADYSIDE THIRD baseman Jaelynn Greenwood throws to the plate for a force out during the Tigers' 2-1 loss to Toronto in a OVAC Tom Bechtel Tournament semifinal on Ben's Field Monday at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Complex.

son 4-3 in 9 innings, but, other than my pitcher in my opinion, they have the best pitcher that we've seen."

The usually potent Toronto bats were silenced by the Tigers' Kaitlyn Weaver, who endured an off-night inside the circle despite

tossing a no-hitter. The senior righthander, who has been bothered by back problems all season, couldn't find the strike zone at times. She issued 11 base-on-balls and hit a pair of batters.

See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2



ST. JOHN'S Jayden Lowe arrives into second safely Tuesday afternoon ahead of the tag by Frontier's Logan Haught during their OVAC Class 1A semifinal at Lisa's Field. The Cougars emerged victorious, 3-2.

T-L Photo/RICK THORP

St. John denied by Frontier in 1A semi

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE – Kylie Daugherty smacked a double to left field in the bottom of the seventh Tuesday evening giving Frontier a 3-2 triumph against St. John in the first of two Class 1A semifinals of the Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Championships at Lisa's Field.

With one out and Isabella Rinard at first, Daugherty – batting third and already with two RBI – sent a Kyla Kull

pitch into left field. After stranding five runners combined in the previous three innings, Frontier head coach Eric Rinard, coaching at third, didn't hesitate in sending Rinard home.

"I saw the little bobble there out by the fence and went ahead and sent her," he said. "Let's all see if the throw could get her or not."

It didn't, and the Cougars (12-2) secured their spot in Saturday's 1A final opposite

See, SJC, Page B2

13 hitters, striking out five. He gave up two runs and four hits in seven innings.

YANKEES 14, TWINS 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Striking rookie Miguel Andujar homered and

to beat Atlanta for their first victory under interim manager Jim Riggleman.

The Reds are 4-18, the worst start in the majors since Baltimore opened with an identical mark in 2010. They

PAUKES 13, ROCKIES 5
DENVER (AP) — Carlos Asuaje homered and had a career-high four RBIs, Franchy Cordero went deep during a nine-run seventh inning and San Diego romped past Colorado.

such a big part of our lives unknown of what's next. After posting a 90-48 record at St. Clairsville struggling on the hardware, "I thought (St. Clairsville) applied because all of these kids, we just had to get Obviously, football and here, but I just thought, 'party?'"

Clifford certainly works into one of the area's grams. That happens with a win in 20 of 27 seasons.

Though Clifford isn't entailed, he felt fairly confident his career was over. However, he completely ruled out a return to coaching — down the road.

"I still really like the way things are, but I just do a year job, and I just do it," Clifford said.

Along with his stint at Bellaire, he stepped moved up to the varsity head coaching position at

"I got to coach at three had the pleasure of working assistants and for sure had some really good players even need mentioned because of the competition, they you could do it again next ate the best experience with it didn't work out in the first

As for the future of the Ryan Clifford — Kim's assistant under his father position at the May board Clairsville High School a

So, while he's not required Kim will certainly see watch his sons coach the Ryan's expected promotion coach at Harrison Central high coach for his father's

When, where and how remains a mystery. "It's yet to be seen how Clifford said. "I want to them as much as I can. A games and just be invisible

When Clifford's not in this winter, he and his wife or rooting on one their friends in a myriad of sports and

• Bridgeport

Continued from Page B

through adversity," said Donnie Cash said. "We double base we battled back and double play and threw a steal.

"The last thing we talked finishing," he continued. last year. The last thing I and we finished. My four They did a great job of getting

Dulesky, a 4-year major sharp shot to short that was second base before coming

• Indians

Continued from Page B1

inning with a drive to center field after Edwin Encarnacion hit a leadoff single.

Baltimore got a run back in the bottom half on singles by Adam Jones, Chris Davis and Chance Sisco before Carrasco snagged Santander's liner.

The Indians had only two baserunners over the final seven innings, and Baltimore ended up going 1 for 8 with runners in scoring position.

Cleveland took three of four from the Orioles and is 9-2 against Baltimore over the last two seasons.

"They probably have got one of the best pitching staffs in all of baseball and a really good bullpen," Gausman said. "So every one of these games their starter pitched really well. Then they've got guys like Andrew Miller coming out. Just tough matchup for

our hitters."

MORE MANNY

Machado extended his hitting streak to 11 games with a single and walked twice. Though he was easily doubled up by Zimmer in the sixth, Showalter gave his star shortstop a pass on the play.

"The way we're struggling to score runs, you're trying to score on everything," the manager said. "Take a chance here or there. I understand what his thinking is."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Indians: Zimmer (ankle) returned to the lineup after sitting out Sunday. ... 3B Gio Urshela (hamstring) is nearing the end of his rehabilitation assignment with Triple-A Columbus, but his season debut with Cleveland is not necessarily imminent. "In the

• SJC

Continued from Page B1

Madonna, who ousted Paden City, 10-4, in the night's other semifinal.

"It was a good hit," said Irish head coach Jerry Magistro, who's squad fell to 5-9 with the loss.

"We just came up short. Our team is improving and that's all you can ask from a very young team. We're getting better each game and that's all you can ask."

Frontier, in the semis for the first time in 11 years, 10-run ruled St. John in their previous meeting, but on this evening the Irish showed just how far they'd come as a squad, especially early on.

The Irish grabbed a 1-0 in the first inning on Kull's RBI single that scored Jayden Lowe.

Frontier had runners at second and third in the bottom of the inning, but Kull recorded one of her 10 strikeouts to end the threat.

From there, Kull and her counterpart in the circle, Kylie Ruble, took

over. During the next three innings, the duo combined to allow just four hits, with Kull allowing only one, a Daugherty double leading off the fourth.

In the fifth, however, the Cougars loaded the bases with no outs. With the top of the Frontier order up, things looked bleak for the Irish. But, the next two batters popped out to first and third, respectively. Daugherty came through, though, with a single plating two runs, giving the Cougars a 2-1 lead. Kull struck out Frontier's cleanup hitter to end the inning.

That proved big because in the top of the sixth, St. John threatened. Shay Horvath led the inning by smacking a ball to center. The ball went through the legs of the center fielder, allowing Horvath to move all the way to third. She scored moments later on a passed ball, tying the game at 2-2.

Frontier looked poised to break the

next week or so we're going to have to make a decision" on whether to call him up, Francona said.

Orioles: OF Trey Mancini (knee) missed a third straight start but entered as a pinch hitter in the eighth. ... DH Mark Trumbo (quad strain) went 1 for 3 with a walk and played first base for Double-A Bowie.

UP NEXT

Indians: Open an 11-game homestand Tuesday night against the Chicago Cubs, the first meeting between the teams since Cleveland lost the 2016 World Series in seven games.

Orioles: RHP Alex Cobb (0-2, 15.43 ERA) vies for his first win with the Orioles on Tuesday night in the opener of a three-game series against visiting Tampa Bay.

deadlock in the bottom of the sixth with runners at the corners and no outs. Kull responded by getting the third batter of the inning to strike out swinging, then followed that with a pop out to short and a K looking to end things.

St. John advanced a runner to third in the top of the seventh with two gone, but wasn't able to get it home before Frontier's heroics in the bottom of the inning.

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Frontier will have a opportunity to win its first OVAC crown Saturday.

"I told the girls to enjoy this one, but we have to get ready for Saturday," Coach Rinard said.

• Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

balls and hit a pair of batters.

"You've got to throw strikes and we even helped her out some," Trifonoff, who took a line drive to his left cheek during pre-game batting practice and spent time in the emergency room prior to the game,

After Weaver fanned the side in the top of the first, she issued five of her free passes in the second. Three of those came with two outs and forced in the only Red Knights runs. Kendall Thomas watched a 3-2 pitch miss the zone as Autumn Daniels scored.

Anderson, who struck out seven, didn't walk a batter and allowed two hits — a double and triple to Kiley Jo Baker. "She pitched an outstanding game."

Anderson lost her bid for a perfect game, no-hitter and shutout in the bottom of the fourth when Baker

and strikeout continued the Belmont Countians struggles in the OVAC Tournament.

"Too many to count," Shadyside head coach Jillian Ongley said when asked how many semifinal losses this is for her squad. "We couldn't get our

Edison wins 4A softball title

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ELM GROVE – Edison owns an illustrious softball tradition.

It added another chapter Saturday morning at the Chambers I-470 Complex.

For the first time since 2010 and ninth time in school history, Edison is calling itself Ohio Valley Athletic Conference champions after a 7-4 victory against county-rival Steubenville on Ben's Field.

"It's about time," Edison head coach Spencer Bendle said of the conference title. "It had been a while. We've been stale for a while in the OVAC. It's always nice for our kids."

The Wildcats seized control in the first, taking advantage of some command struggles by Big Red pitching. Steubenville starter Mady Fields issued four walks in the first inning. The final two forced home Emily Andreozzi and McKenzie Morrison, who had reached on an error and by a walk, respectively.

"I felt it was important to score first," Bendle said. "In softball, for the most part, the team that scores first gets the early momentum and then you try to hold on it, which we were able to do (Saturday)."

While Bendle was pleased with his team's early production, which didn't require a hit, Steubenville head coach Gus DiMarzio simply couldn't believe what he was seeing after he watched his ace pitch so well against St. Clairsville during the semifinal game on Thursday.

"You can't come out of the gate, walk the bases loaded and give (a team) two runs," DiMarzio lamented. "We didn't come to play today. I don't know. I'm losing my mind."

Steubenville clawed back into the game with a run in the third, but Edison regained the momentum with a



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

STEUBENVILLE catcher Kameron DiMarzio records a force out of Edison's Sammi Springer during the first inning of Saturday morning's OVAC Class 4A final in Elm Grove. Looking on is umpire Randy Whitlatc.

three-spot in the fourth.

Emily Ferrell started the rally with a lead-off single. Sophomore Gabby Carpenter was plunked. Both runners advanced on a ground out. Andreozzi singled home Ferrell and ace pitcher Tommi McConnell helped her own cause with a two-run base knock.

Edison extended its lead to 7-1 in the fifth. Sophomore Hannah Christoff led off the inning with a towering solo home run. Walks again reared their ugly head for Big Red as they walked the bases loaded. Andreozzi hit a looper over the short-stop, which brought home a run.

That was plenty of offense for McConnell, who other than a three-run rally in the sixth, was brilliant in the circle for the Wildcats. She fanned 12 and issued just two walks.

"McConnell was strong and challenged their hitters," Bendle said. "Steubenville has a very good lineup and we felt the only way we'd be able to combat that would be by challenging them ourselves and Tommi did a very nice job."

DiMarzio was also highly complimentary to his team's circle opponent.

"Tip your hat to Tommi McConnell," DiMarzio said. "She was awesome. She's a great kid and she went out there and did what she had to do."

Steubenville (8-7) was led at the plate by Seana Ragusa, who had a double, single and drove in a run. Fields singled home a run and Lakyn Blackburn also had two singles.

Park advances in 5A softball

By TRACY WATSON
For The Times Leader

WHEELING – One of Thursday afternoon's Class 5A semifinals in the Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Tournament came down to nothing more than opportunities.

Wheeling Park managed to take advantage of its while Warren Local could not, leading to another championship game berth for Coach Pat Durkin's Patriots.

Ashley Linder scattered nine hits, fanned five without walking any, and Ree Walker's first of three hits, this one with the bases loaded in the first, provided all the runs Park needed in rolling to a 5-0 blanking of the Warriors on Ben's Field.

The victory moves Durkin's crew to 16-4 on the season and into the championship game again against arch-rival John Marshall this afternoon at 5:30 p.m. back on Ben's Field. The defending champion Monarchs disposed of Indian Creek by a 9-1 margin.

"Getting to the championship game never gets old, but we are looking to win this one," Durkin said with a smile. "While playing in the game never gets old taking home the second place trophy sure does."

Wheeling Park got things rolling in the top of the first thanks to three base hits, a walk and a huge Warren Local error. Kieran Johnson and Ashley Linder sandwiched singles around a one-out walk to Shea Wright to load the bases.

Walker then drilled a 3-2 pitch into center for a run-scoring single, with Wright and courtesy runner Izzy Miller both scoring when the ball went between the outfielder's legs for a quick 3-0 start for the Patriots.

"I thought the girls really came out ready to play," Durkin said. "And it was real nice to get some big hits, something we haven't done all season long. And I can't say enough about how our defense played and Ashley pitched."

"We were hoping coming into the season that our defense was going to be solid, and it has been, but it is also very nice to see the bats coming around."

Park manufactured another run in the third on a one-out Linder single, a stolen base, Walker's infield base hit and a run-scoring fielder's choice from Catie Nesbitt.

The Warriors (9-3) missed a golden opportunity in the home half of fourth, loading the bases on singles by Diamond Decker, losing pitcher Sarah Greenlee, and Josie Yoho before Linder got a fly ball out to end the threat.

The following frame Warren had another chance, putting runners at first and second after Park recorded and an 8-4 put-out. However, a sharp roller to second turned into an inning-ending double-play.

Park added a little cushion in the sixth, putting a runner at second just ahead of Johnson's long fly ball to center that skipped off the fielder's glove for an RBI double and a 5-0 Patriots upperhand.

"It felt right away like we came out flat," Warren coach Jenny Lynch said. "And we plain just could not string any hits together all day. And that is not how this team plays at all."

"We just need to pick it up and go on from here."

IM services to

By CODY TOMER
For The Times Leader

WHEELING – John Marshall softball coach Ed West described his team in one word on Thursday – Efficient.

The efficiency was clear as the Monarchs jumped out to an early lead and never looked back in a 9-1 victory over Indian Creek at Lisa's Field of the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in an OVAC Class 5A semifinal.

The win sends John Marshall on to play Wheeling Park at 5:30 p.m. tonight for the OVAC 5A Championship at Ben's Field of the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

John Marshall's winning streak has reached 19, just nine shy of the team record of 28 set in 2012, the last time the Monarchs won a state championship.

"We are efficient," West said. "We have had good execution. We play good defense most of the time. We put the bat on the ball and our pitchers are usually pretty good, too.

"This is probably the best hitting year we have had in a long time."

John Marshall accumulated 14 hits, while starting pitcher Lauren Garcia held the Redskins to two hits.

Garcia struck out 11 in the circle and also delivered at the plate with a home run, three singles and four RBI.

"Garcia was hitting the outside corner pretty well," West said. "She had good velocity and did a good job of getting ahead of hitters, which set up her other pitches."

The Monarchs ace struck out the side in the first inning and fanned at least two hitters in three different frames.

"We knew Garcia was a good pitcher," Indian Creek coach Angela Penner said. "I am proud of our kids for batting through all seven innings. The last time we played John Marshall, we were done in five.

"We wish John Marshall good luck in the OVAC Championship."

After punching out the side in the top of the first, Garcia showed what she could do with the bat. Abby Blake swatted a two-out triple and Garcia followed with a two-run blast to put her squad up 2-0.

The lone Redskins run came in the second when Taylor Scott belted a leadoff homer to cut the deficit in half.

"She was aggressive on the first pitch," Penner said. "We always try to get our kids to be aggressive on the first pitch and she was there."

From that point, Garcia held Creek without a hit until Rachel Cooper singled in the sixth.

The Monarchs turned up the heat in the bottom of the second by plating four runs behind three consecutive two-out RBI hits.

Carli Lightner and Garcia garnered RBI singles and Abby Blake clubbed a two-run single to give John Marshall a 6-1 advantage.

Lydia Knutsen got the offense rolling again in the fourth with a leadoff single and later scored on a RBI knock off the bat of Garcia.

The 7-1 cushion grew in the sixth as Maddy Mayle and Anna Blake collected back-to-back RBI singles, scoring Lightner and Garcia.

"We really work hard on hitting and get a lot of reps in," West said. "We have five coaches who watch the girls and work on certain things with them.

"Our girls are disciplined and my thing is to just get a good swing on a good pitch. That's what we've been doing lately."

Kaydee Kinsey struck out a pair and walked three in the circle for Indian Creek.

"Our kids work hard day in and day out," Penner said. "They just don't quit."

Championships



Photo by Kyle Lutz

John Marshall coach Ed West congratulates Lauren Garcia as she rounds third after hitting a two-run home run in the first inning against Wheeling Park in the OVAC 5A title game.

Monarchs Earn 7th Straight Title

JM bests Park with three runs in sixth

By **KYLE LUTZ**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Winning conference titles have come second nature to the John Marshall softball team.

The Monarchs will add another championship to the trophy case as they scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to defeat Wheeling Park, 5-2, in the Class 5A OVAC championship game Friday night at Ben's Field at the J.B Chambers I-470 Complex.

The Monarchs have claimed the past seven OVAC championships and are on a 20-game winning streak.

"We had our backs against the wall a little bit, we hit the ball and put some runners on base," John

Marshall coach Ed West said. "We got some key hits. I can't say I expected it, but that's what they've been doing all year long."

Lauren Garcia put the Monarchs on the scoreboard in the first inning as she hit a two-run home run. The John Marshall bats then went silent until the sixth inning.

Anna Blake led off the bottom of the sixth with a double, followed by a RBI double by Kameryn Skrzyneki. Taylor Gray got her first hit of the evening with a single. In her first at-bat, Mack Hall brought both Skrzyneki and Gray in on a two-run single to make 5-2.

"The bottom of the lineup really came through. It was 6,7,8,9. I'm really pleased with those girls. They've worked really hard," West said.

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MONARCHS —

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The victory did not come without some adversity, though, as Wheeling Park was able to tie the game in the fourth inning. Ateria Walker reached base after a Monarchs error. After a sacrifice bunt, Dori Kins got her first hit to bring Walker home and make it 2-1. Two batters later, the Patriots were able to tie it on a Monarchs throwing error.

"It was a good game," Wheeling Park coach Pat Durkin said. "I was really proud of our girls. They never gave up. Coach West's kids never gave up either. They got a good team."

Blake had two singles and a double to lead the way for the Monarchs, while Carli Lightner tallied two singles.

"We're just riding a wave right now and we hope to keep it going and take it all the way," West said. "It's a unique situation to be in and I'm just pleased the girls sucked it up and got the job done."

For the Patriots, Kelsey Chacalos and Kins both had two singles. Kins also had a RBI.

"That was a good learning game," Durkin said. "It gave our kids some hope and we know we can play with John Marshall. I don't think anybody else realized that, but we have a nice ball team. I think we had runners on in all seven innings. We just didn't have back-to-back hits (Friday)."