

HAMPIONSHIPS



Photo Joe Catullo

Steubenville's Dom DeFrances attempts a slide during the OVAC Class 5A Championship game against Morgantown.

Big Red Stuns Mohigans, 8-7

Steubenville Captures 24th OVAC Title

By ED LOOMAN
For the News-Register
STEUBENVILLE

Steubenville captured its 24th Ohio Valley Athletic Conference baseball crown with one improbable comeback Saturday at Vaccaro Field.

Down by four runs heading into the seventh inning, third-seeded Steubenville put a seven spot on the board, then survived a Morgantown rally to stun the top-seeded Mohigans, 8-7, in the Class 5A title game.

"It ranks up there with one of the best," Big Red coach Fred Heatherington said about the championship-clinching victory. "The credit goes to our coaches who were here at 6:15 in

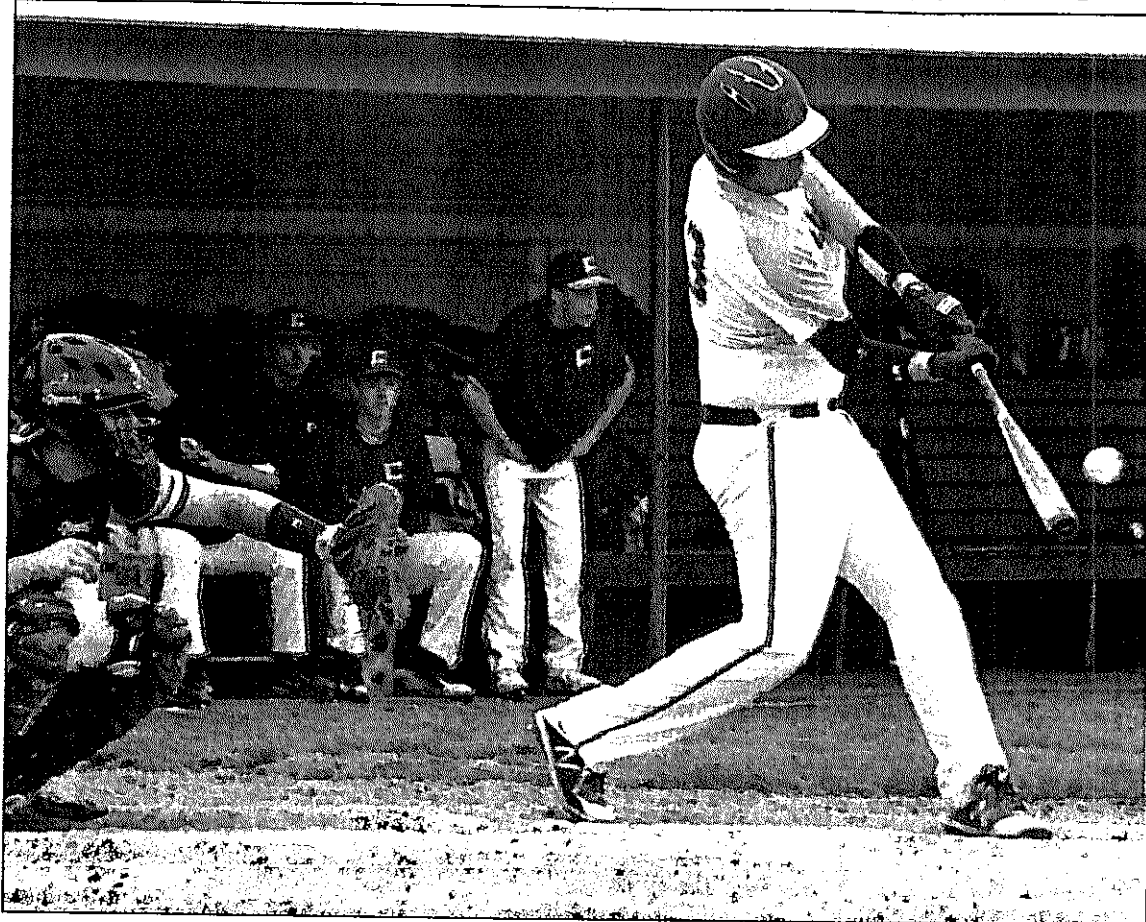
the morning getting the field ready so we could play. And, credit our kids — we never died. We always talk about the fact that we are never out of a game, and (Saturday) was proof of that philosophy."

Morgantown starter Caleb Taylor, who no-hit Big Red during a doubleheader sweep earlier this month, held Steubenville in check through six innings. Coach Mark McCarty's club led 5-1 after Devin Neal blasted a three-run home run in the fifth.

Ethan Duggan got Big Red's seventh going with a single. Luke Zorne then drew a walk, the first surrendered by Taylor. Scotty Mitchell's infield hit loaded the bases. Dom DeFrances delivered a two-run base hit followed by a Niko Kausky sacrifice fly to make it 5-4.

Please see Big Red,
Page C2

OVAC BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL C Madonna Beats Cameron To Claim 1A Hardware



Madonna's Dom Mazur takes a swing at a pitch against Cameron during the OVAC Class 1A Championship game Saturday. The Blue Dons won back-to-back titles for the first time in school history. Photo Joe Catullo

Provenzano's Squad Secures Back-to-Back Championships

By AARON PETCHAL
For the News-Register

STEUBENVILLE — Sparked by two big innings, No. 3 seeded Madonna defeated No. 1 seed Cameron, 8-2, to claim the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 1A championship at Vaccaro Field.

The victory gave the Blue Dons back-to-back conference tournament titles. Madonna has won six baseball championships overall, winning titles in 1992, 2004, 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2019.

"Winning the championship back-to-back makes it even more special," Madonna (14-13) coach Tim Provenzano said. "That had not been done before in the history of the school. To be able to do it in my last year is a really good thing."

Madonna scored the first two runs of the game before Cameron responded with a run in the bottom of

the fourth. However, the Blue Dons answered right back with three runs in the fifth and three more in the sixth to gain firm control of the contest.

"We stress to the kids that when a team gets a run back against us that we need to go out and get one — if not more — back," Provenzano said. "Our goal is to win every inning. We did a good job of that (Saturday)."

Seven Blue Dons collected at least one hit in the victory, and all nine batters reached base safely, en route to a big day at the plate.

"Madonna does a really good job of putting the ball in play," Cameron (15-11) coach Matt Carnahan said. "Everyone in their lineup does that. They had some bloop that found holes, and we had some hard-hit balls that found gloves."

Please see Madonna, Page C3

MADONNA

Continued from Page C1

"That's baseball. That happens sometimes."

Dom Brncic delivered a strong outing on the mound, en route to picking up the win for Madonna. The sophomore struck out three, walked two and allowed two runs on five hits in six innings of work. Gavin Dietrich pitched the seventh inning. He struck out one, walked one and did not allow a run or give up a hit.

"Dom pitched lights out," Provenzano said. "He also pitched the semifinal for us. He got up there with his pitch count, but it is nice to be able to bring Gavin in and shut the door."

Noah Neely started and finished the game for the Dragons, pitching a total of six innings in two stints on the mound. Neely, who took the loss, pitched the first four innings. The junior struck out two, walked one and allowed two runs on five hits. Jessop Broughton came on to pitch at the start of the fifth inning, and he pitched into the sixth. Broughton struck out one, walked two and allowed five runs on two hits in one inning.

Broughton started the sixth inning on the mound, but he was unable to record an out. Neely was brought back in to pitch. He did not record a strikeout or a walk in the final two innings, but he did allow one run on three hits.

"I figured their No. 9 hitter was up, and then it was back to the top of the order," Carnahan said about why he made the pitching change going into the fifth. "It was going to be the third time through for their order, so we brought Jessop in to pitch. We don't really have an ace, but we do have two guys in Noah and Jessop who are our top two guys, and we have a lot of confidence in both of them. They were going to see Noah for the third time, so I decided to pull him."

Four of Madonna's 10 hits went for extra bases. Christian Ridgway recorded two singles, a double and a RBI. Dylan McDaniels delivered a single, a double and a RBI. Luke Beatty and Dom Mazur each tallied a single and two RBI. Dietrich and Brncic belted doubles.

Four of Cameron's five hits went for extra bases. Garrett Scott collected a triple and a solo home run. Trin Scott tallied a single and a double. Broughton brought home a run with a sacrifice fly, while Logan Burkett belted a double.

After a scoreless first inning, Madonna led off the second inning with three straight doubles that resulted in the first run of the game.

Ridgway started the inning with a double, but he was thrown out at the plate on Brncic's double. McDaniels then delivered his double, scoring Brncic to give the Blue Dons a 1-0 lead.

Dietrich reached on an error with one out in the third, and he ended up scoring on a sacrifice fly by Beatty to give Madonna a 2-0 advantage.

"At the beginning of the game, we hit the ball well, and we kept it rolling," Provenzano said. "We did a good job with situational hitting. We were able to move base runners. That was huge. If you are able to perform like that, you are going to come out on top on most days."

Garrett Scott put the Dragons on the scoreboard when he hit a home run over the fence in right field to lead off the fourth inning to cut Cameron's deficit to 2-1.

Madonna gained control with its three-run fifth inning. The first run scored on a balk with the bases loaded, and the next two runs were scored on base hits by Mazur and Ridgway.

Beatty and Mazur had RBIs in Madonna's three-run sixth. An error resulted in one run, while Beatty plated a run with a base hit. Mazur brought home the last run with a sacrifice fly, making the score 8-1.

Garrett Scott tripled to start the sixth, and he scored on Broughton's sacrifice fly to account for the final run of the game.

"Baseball is a funny game," Carnahan said. "You can out-play a team and still lose. We hit the ball hard. We saw their pitchers well. We had some hard-hit balls that found their gloves."

"You have to give them credit. They made the plays they needed to defensively. If a couple of those balls fall in, it could have been a different game."

The win was Madonna's second against Cameron this season. The Blue Dons defeated the Dragons, 6-5, on April 10 on the road.

"Yeah, they are in our section," Provenzano said. "They are a good team. The last time we played them we scored five runs to beat them, but the sectional is a different monster."

The Dragons are hoping to get another shot at the Blue Dons.

"Our sectionals start in about a week," Carnahan said. "This is the second time we lost to them in a high-intensity heartbreaker. We want another shot at them."

BIG RED

Continued from Page C1

Caesen Sutton singled to put runners on second and third. A shallow fly to center - missing the dirt by inches - off the bat of Quinn McCoy fell in to reload the bases. Morgantown's staff argued McCoy should have been called out on the infield fly rule, but the umpiring crew didn't agree.

DeFrances was forced out at home when Hayden Savage bounced a grounder to short. With two out, Carlo Biasi delivered a two-run double. Duggan's second hit of the frame scored another run, and Zorne capped the rally with a run-scoring hit.

All told, Steubenville sent 12 batters to the plate and recorded eight hits.

"I think their pitcher ran out of gas a little in the seventh, and we were taking until we got a strike," Heatherington said. "Then, when he started throwing strikes, we hit the ball, and we really hit the ball hard.

"Offensively, our phi-

losophy going in was just get the next guy to the plate. We were able to do that in the seventh inning and get the win."

Morgantown, which had its 17-game win streak halted by Ripley Friday night in the Mon County Classic, didn't go down easy in its half of the seventh.

Quintin Smith worked Big Red's Kausky for a leadoff walk. Carter Patrick also drew a free pass. Kausky's first pitch to Caleb Taylor missed the strike zone, and Heatherington decided to make a pitching change, bringing in Dylan Cunningham.

Smith and Patrick moved up when Taylor hit a slow roller to second. Neal drove a Cunningham pitch to deep center, scoring both Smith and Patrick. Colton Matthews followed with an infield single. On the play, Morgantown's pinch runner gambled on Matthews' hit and was tagged out

at third. Biasi, Big Red's shortstop, threw a strike to Duggan who applied the tag.

The next Morgantown hitter flied out to center, and Big Red celebrated the come-from-behind victory.

Kausky allowed nine hits and recorded six strikeouts in recording the win.

"Niko kept us in the game," Heatherington said. "He didn't have the great stuff he's had in his last couple of outings. His job was to keep us in the game, and he did his job.

"Defensively, we played well. That was one heads-up play we made in the last inning."

Neal had a monster day at the plate for Morgantown (22-4). He finished with three hits and drove home five runs. Smith and Taylor each recorded two hits.

"We did not play well at all today," McCarty said. "We didn't play well Fri-

day night either. Basically, we just lost the game, and there's not really much else to say about it. We just have to go ahead and get ready to play again."

The Mohigans jumped out to a 2-0 lead thanks to Taylor's RBI double in the first and Ethan Smith's run-scoring base hit in the second.

Big Red's first run came in the fifth. With one out, Luke Zorne got a bloop double to left. He scored when DeFrances reached on an error.

Quintin Smith and Carter Patrick both singled to start the Mohigan fifth. A batter later, Neal cleared the bases with a blast to deep right.

Big Red, which was playing in its 10th consecutive OVAC final, out-hit Morgantown 15-11. Biasi led the attack with two doubles and a single. Duggan finished with three base hits. Zorne, Mitchell, DeFrances and McCoy all had a pair of safeties.

DONS

Continued from Page C1

"The bunt worked. It's not all about hitting. You have to do all the fundamentals of what you learn and they did that. I'm very proud of them."

After getting the lead, Maddie Daugherty locked down the win in the bottom of the seventh with her fourth 1-2-3 inning of the game.

She finished with five strikeouts and four walks (two intentional) as she kept hitters guessing.

"I was liking the way I was throwing my changeup," Maddie Daugherty said. "I could place it wherever I wanted and got a lot of batters off balance."

Despite setting hitters down in order on four occasions, the right-hander did face some challenges. In the first, second and sixth innings, the Cougars put runners at third base but left them stranded.

"No matter what kind of position you are in as a single person, I think it's important to realize that your team has your back and I trusted them to get me out of those innings, as well.

"My sister (Nina) saved my butt

in center field a couple of times in the last inning so I was really proud of her."

In the sixth, Frontier had a runner on third with one out. Conti elected to intentionally walk the No. 3 and 4 hitters Bland and Katelyn Tidd.

The decision paid off as shortstop Michaela Battista hauled in a line drive up the middle and stepped on second for the inning ending double play.

"We had to do that," Conti said of the intentional walks. "We had to get in that situation and we made some fantastic plays to get out of trouble (Saturday).

"Our girls remained calm. They didn't get excited and they just played the game. This gives us momentum going into sectionals next week."

Frontier left five runners on base in the loss.

"We left some opportunities out there a couple of times," Frontier coach Eric Rinard said. "We just didn't get the timely hit and they got the timely hit when they need-

ed it there in the seventh.

"I'm proud of the girls for both teams. They both played excellent and I take my hat off to them. They did a nice job."

Bland threw a complete game, striking out eight and walking four.

"She came out with a mindset that she wanted to do it," Rinard said. "She came out early and was really bringing it and she did a fabulous job the whole game."

After a rainy Friday night, the OVAC 1A contest was the only softball championship played on Saturday with the 3A, 4A and 5A games rescheduled for Monday.

"I really want to thank the OVAC for getting this field ready for us," Conti said.

"We weren't supposed to play (Saturday) but my mother-in-law passed away two days ago. We could not play on Monday with everybody else so I give them and the people down here credit.

"They are top of the line people and I really appreciate that we got to fit this game in. My hat's off to the OVAC."

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OVAC BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL Cadets Take Care Of Shamrocks, 4-1



Photo by Kyle Lutz

Linsly's Kobe Hill is caught in a rundown as Barnesville's Aaron Marovich chases after him during Monday's OVAC Class 3A championship game. The Cadets handed the Shamrocks their first loss of the season.

Linsly hands Barnesville first loss of season

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
Executive Sports Editor

WHEELING — It will be a performance Eli Petho won't soon forget — if ever.

Linsly's pit-bull of a pitcher has been unblemished on the hill all season. His latest mound masterpiece took on added significance Monday night.

The talented senior righthander scattered six hits while fanning seven in a route-going 4-1 triumph over previously unbeaten Barnesville in the OVAC 3A championship game at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex. It proved a repeat of championships for Jay Cartwright's Cadets as they pocketed the 2A crown last spring.

"Eli is a great competitor. I don't think he had his best stuff (Monday) but he gutted it out," Cartwright said. "He is battler. He also came up with a key hit for us. He has had a tremendous season."

ONLINE EXTRA

See more OVAC softball and baseball championship photos at www.theintelligencer.net

Petho is now 7-0 with one save to his credit this spring.

The championship is Cartwright's eighth OVAC crown at the Linsly helm.

Barnesville, which has been knocking at the OVAC title door for the last several seasons under D.J. Butler's deft tutelage, fell for the first time in 17 starts. The Shamrocks entered the game as the No. 1 team in Ohio Division III.

"We didn't take advantage of our opportunities. We left too many runners on base," Butler said. "Jagger (Jefferis) pitched well enough to win. We left him in a little too long."

Please see **CADETS**, Page 13

"Maddie is as tough as they come. I got up off the bucket in the seventh inning and she told me to sit back down. So I sat back down and she got out of it. She has confidence in herself, she's tough and she works hard. What can you say? She fought her way out."

Brooke, though, did not go down without a fight. In the fifth inning, Jaycee Mitchell blasted a three-run home run over the left field fence to put the score at 5-3 in favor of Big Red. Mitchell also had a double in the fourth inning that broke up Fields' no-hit bid.

"I think we were a little nervous early," Brooke

down 5-0 to a team like that and having a chance to win it in the last inning."

Carli Julio supplied the other hit for the Bruins. She also plated the final run of the game.

Kazmirski went the distance as she had three strikeouts and gave up four hits.

"As the game goes on, she seems to get better," DiCarlo said. "And we changed some philosophy as the game went on and it seemed to help us there to give us a chance."

Fields also went the distance for Steubenville tallying four strikeouts in the process and only giving up three hits.

CADETS

(Continued from Page 11)

One of those ill-fated scoring opportunities came in the first inning. Cade Hannahs singled and Jared Kernen doubled, placing Shamrocks on second and third with one out. Petho, however, was up to the task, inducing a popout to third before recording a strikeout.

The two teams traded zeroes through the first four innings before each pushed across a run in the fifth.

Linsly drew first blood when rising sophomore Zac Taylor rocketed a double to deep left before a wild pitch and an error yielded a Cadet run. Barnesville answered immediately in the home-half. Hannahs singled and scored on a double to right by Jefferis.

Cartwright's crew mustered up some seventh inning lightning to pull out the verdict.

Taylor opened the frame by crushing another double. Scrappy junior Lee Paull produced a perfect sacrifice bunt before Kobe Hill delivered a RBI single for what proved to be the game-winning run.

Jules Giovengo added fuel to the uprising with a single before Petho delivered the dagger with a two-run single for a 4-1 cushion.

The Shamrocks didn't go quietly in their seventh frame. With two outs, Kernen launched a double to deep right center before Jefferis drew a walk. Petho again answered the call, recording his 21st out

on a soft pop-up to second base.

All told, Barnesville left 10 runners on base.

"I felt really confident going into the game, both individually and for the team," Petho said. "We have a great group of players and our coaches do a super job of teaching us. I couldn't ask for a better senior season."

Jefferis did pitch superbly before leaving with one out in the seventh. The junior southpaw allowed just four hits while striking out five and walking three.

"It is a great feeling to repeat as OVAC champions. We beat a real good team in Barnesville," Cartwright said. "We have a great group of kids who come to practice and play hard day-in and day-out. My coaches (Scott Goodnight and Eric Petho) are great at what they do. I am really happy for my players and staff."

Linsly improved to a sparkling 18-5.

"Give Linsly credit. They made the plays and Petho pitched a good game," Butler said.

"I am not worried about my team bouncing back. This game may help us refocus.

"We have great senior leadership on this team. We will be fine. We have a lot of baseball yet to play. We are looking forward to it."

Karaffa's Gem Lifts Toronto

Senior ace throws 1-hitter as
Red Knights beat Crusaders

By JOE CATULLO
For The Intelligencer

STEUBENVILLE — Nate Karaffa's senior season has been tough to say the least.

Bouncing back from a partially torn hamstring, the Ohio State commit missed most of the football season but came back in time to become a Division IV co-player of the year in the Eastern District in basketball.

On the diamond, though, Toronto coach Brian Perkins has been cautious. Monday's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A title contest against Steubenville Catholic was his second start on the mound this season (third time overall).

To say Karaffa was well-rested is an understatement. He was one walk and one hit away from throwing a perfect game, while striking out 13 hitters during the Red Knights 4-0 victory.

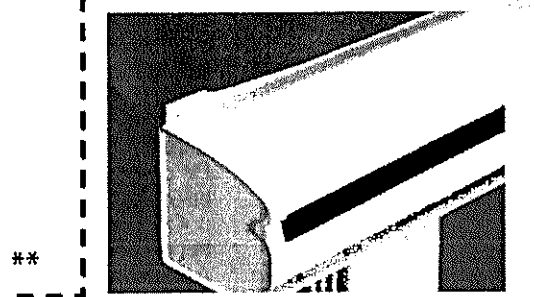
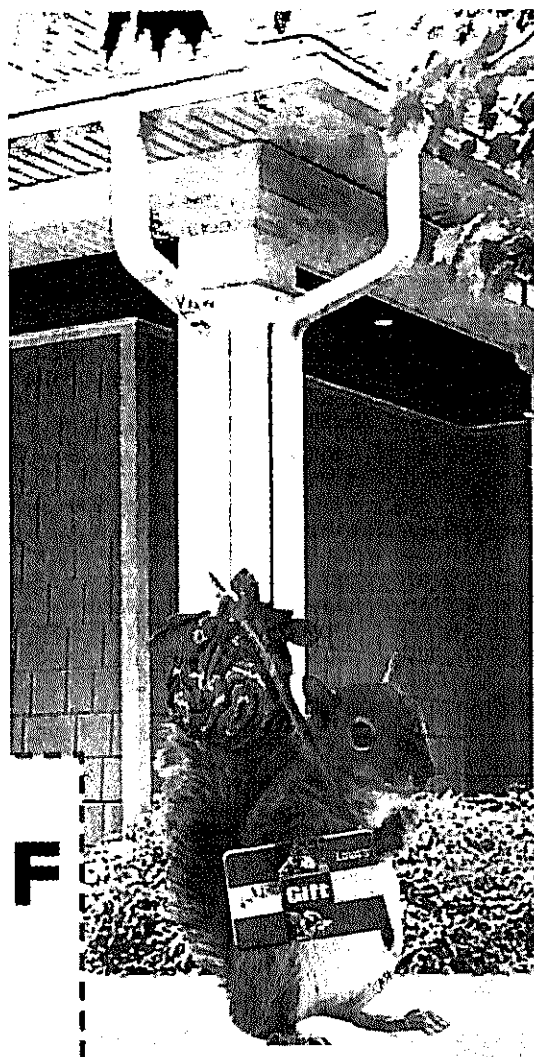
"Injuries are tough, especially playing three sports. It happens to athletes working hard every day," Karaffa said. "I'm just happy to be able to come back out with my friends and pitch with confidence against a very good hitting team like that. They've been playing some good baseball and against good teams throughout the season. Just to get a win against that team is really good."

The only time the Crusaders (9-7) had a runner in scoring position was the second inning.

Please see KARAFFA, Page 12

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open with a host of teams in position to challenge for the top trophy. Eight of the 10 schools in the field led at least one event.

The Maroon Knights also led the 4x1 by more than a second. Steubenville Catholic Central's Karlie Vandeborne

Wheeling Central (4x2), Cameron (shuttles) and Steubenville Catholic (4x4) each posted the top qualifying time in a relay.

KARAFFA

(Continued from Page 11)

Matt Bell, the opposing pitcher, walked to lead off and later stole second.

Steubenville Catholic's lone hit was a two-out single by Noah Fayak in the sixth inning and was stranded on first. In the seventh, a screaming line drive from Dom Argentine found Karaffa's glove.

"Obviously he's been dealing with an injury all year, so we knew we had to get him on the bump and fire a few innings before this one," Perkins said. "He came out (Monday) against a very good Central team and did a fantastic job of commanding his pitches, throwing strikes and keeping them off balance. Our kids really fed off of that.

"Nate's pitched for us for four years now. He's been throwing all year, but we had to get him more game experience. We don't expect anything different. We knew he was going to come out and throw well (Monday)."

Offensively, Bell matched Karaffa for four of his six innings of work. The other two are a different story.

Nick Sninchak led off the bottom of the second inning with a home run to left field, giving Toronto a 1-0 advantage.

"That was a big hit from someone who's been my best friend forever," Karaffa said. "That's just a big hit, and he deserved it."

The sixth inning is when the Red Knights (14-5) finally strung hits together. With the bases loaded and one away, Lucas Gulczynski hit a sacrifice fly to

St. C.

(Continued from Page 11)

"She is able to pitch hard and play hard. It was a matter of putting runs through. They had that inning against us that we couldn't fix.

"(Taylor Gallentine) is a left-hander and she was on it at the right time and made it happen but it was an excellent game."

St. Clairsville only collected two hits, both coming off the bat of Taylor Gallentine.

In the midst of the pitcher's dual, Taylor Gallentine launched a deep fly ball to center and raced around the bags for a triple to start the sixth.

After a walk to Hannah Thoburn, Bennington dropped down a squeeze bunt and Gallentine slid in safely to home to give the Red Devils the lead.

Jaskowiak added insurance with a RBI groundout on another squeeze bunt.

"We worked on our small game," Coach Gallentine said. "We laid down two key suicide squeeze bunts and if it wasn't for that, I don't know what would have happened. We came through in clutch situations."

Oak Glen did not go quietly in the bottom of the seventh as Hannah Walker singled

right. Then, Karaffa helped his own cause with a two-run double to center field.

Karaffa is the first to admit he didn't get all of it, as the ball was blooped. However, the Crusader center fielder slipped, and the two middle infielders were unable to get there in time.

"Whatever it takes to win, I'm not worried about individual stats," he said. "Those two RBI helped. It helped my case on the mound a little, too."

"We always talk about working pitch counts and getting good pitches," Perkins said. "Hopefully, we can work good pitchers and break through by the end. Our guys were able to that.

"Nick did a great job of getting that home run to loosen things up. That kind of got us going."

Besides those two frames, Bell was dominant. He struck out three, walked one and hit a batter over the complete-game defeat.

"You're not going to beat many teams with only one hit. All the credit goes to Nate for throwing a heck of a game, Steubenville Catholic coach Don Young said. "I thought Matt threw a heck of a game, minus one pitch in the second inning and the three runs. That little bit of room really helped them.

"I thought it was a good effort in a good game against two well-matched teams. We just didn't put the ball in play enough. You have to get the ball in play hard. It's tough to do that against a guy who's very talented."

and Alexa Andrews doubled but a diving catch on a pop-up by St. C. catcher Dakotah Namack and a grounder to third ended the threat and the game.

"I'm very proud of our girls," Garner said. "They tried to make some things happen at the end and that's why you play seven innings, because anything can happen."

"There is a lot of maturity on our team with four seniors and a field of juniors. We have some freshmen on the field and they blend very well together.

"Congrats to (St. Clairsville). They played an excellent game. They have an excellent pitcher, as well. She was able to move the ball and hit her spots. She kept us guessing."

NOTE

All three championship winning teams in Monday's OVAC finals — Steubenville (5A), St. Clairsville (4A) and Crestview (3A) did not commit a single error.

"We talked about minimizing errors," Coach Gallentine said.

"I said that 'if we get our errors down to one or none, we have a shot' and the girls did a really nice job."

Meadowbrook captures 4A baseball crown

CADIZ — Brady Blatner supplied a walkoff single in the eighth inning as Meadowbrook defeated Edison, 3-2 to claim the OVAC Class 4A championship Tuesday at Robert Mazeroski Memorial Field inside Sally Buffalo Park.

Peyton Neff led the way for the Colts (15-4) with four singles while Logan Fox fired eight strikeouts.

For the Wildcats (14-3), Anthony Sinicropi delivered with a single and two doubles while Noah Woods secured two singles.

Cameron 1, Bridgeport 0

BRIDGEPORT — Travis Mickey fired a complete game no-hitter as Cameron needed just one hit to beat Bridgeport.

Mickey struck out four and walked three in his no-no and Trin Scott collected the only Dragons' hit of the game.

Noah Neely (who also spun a no-hitter earlier in the season) drove in Cameron's only run on a sacrifice fly.

Dylan Gregorcic struck out seven and held Cameron to one hit.

Wheeling Central 1 Martins Ferry 0

MARTINS FERRY — Jordan Waterhouse plated the only run of the contest as he tallied a RBI on a groundout to help Wheeling Central beat Martins Ferry.

Avery Lee supplied two singles for the Maroon Knights (14-6) while Angelo Gentile belted a double and Josh Custer had six strikeouts.

For the Purple Riders, Mason Goddard racked up three singles, Jake Probst tallied a double and Drake Dobson fired 11 strikeouts.

Brooke 7, Harrison Central 3

WELLSBURG — Jakob Bailey came one out away from a complete game but he struck out nine to lead Brooke over Harrison Central.

Mason Thompson paced the Bruins with three hits and Alex Lilly roped a double, a single and two RBI.

Andrew Clelland led the Huskies with a pair of hits.

Frontier 12, Monroe Central 6
WOODSFIELD — Talin Babcock belted a three-run home run but Monroe Central fell short to Frontier.

SOFTBALL

Bellaire 10, Linsly 5

BELLAIRE — Andrea Booker was a single away from the cycle as she supplied a home run, triple, double and four RBI as Bellaire defeated Linsly. Natalie Stoner was also solid for the Big Reds (12-10) with a double triple and two RBI while Katrina Davis secured a double, two singles and two RBI.

For the Cadets, Karena Recrosio (double, single) and Sarah Heller (two singles) each had two hits.

Union Local 17, Steub. Catholic 3

MORRISTOWN — Kaden Mercer belted two triples, one single and brought home two runs as Union Local crushed Steubenville Catholic.

Hannah Merritt contributed with a double, triple and two RBI for the Jets (7-11) while Madi Sells had a single, triple and RBI.

had his best stuff (Monday) but he gutted it out," Cartwright said. "He is battler. He also came up with a key hit for us. He has had a tremendous season."

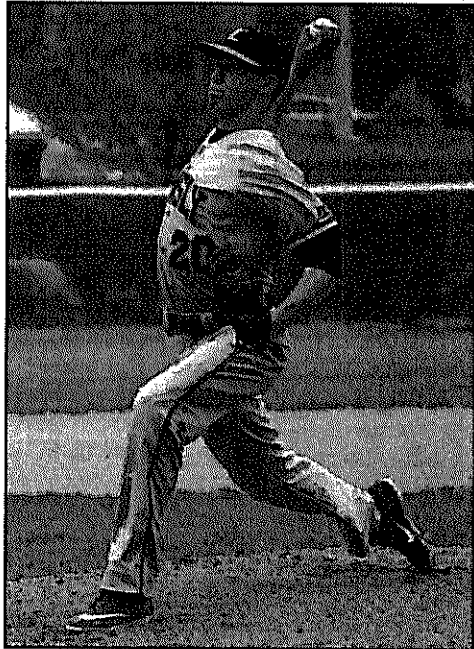
Petho is now 7-0 with one save to his credit this spring.

The championship is Cartwright's eighth OVAC crown at the Linsly helm.

Barnesville, which has been knocking at the OVAC title door for the last several seasons under D.J. Butler's deft tutelage, fell for the first time in 17 starts. The Shamrocks entered the game as the No. 1 team in Ohio Division III.

"We didn't take advantage of our opportunities. We left too many runners on base," Butler said. "Jagger (Jefferis) pitched well enough to win. We left him in a little too long."

One of those ill-fated scoring opportunities—
See, LINSLY, Page B2



Photo/KYLE LUTZ

LINSLY'S ELI Petho delivers during Monday's 3A title game.

Toronto bests SCC for 2A championship

By **JOE CATULLO**

For The Times Leader

STEBENVILLE — Nate Karaffa's senior season has been tough to say the least.

Bouncing back from a partially torn hamstring, the Ohio State commit missed most of the football season but came back in time to become a Division IV co-player of the year in the Eastern District in basketball.

On the diamond, though, Toronto coach Brian Perkins has been cautious. Monday's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2A title contest against Steubenville Catholic was his second start on the mound this season (third time overall).

To say Karaffa was well-rested is an understatement. He was one walk and one hit away from throwing a perfect game, while striking out 13 hitters during the Red Knights' 4-0

See, **TORONTO**, Page B3

• Toronto

Continued from Page B1

victory.

"Injuries are tough, especially playing three sports. It happens to athletes working hard every day," Karaffa said. "I'm just happy to be able to come back out with my friends and pitch with confidence against a very good hitting team like that. They've been playing some good baseball and against good teams throughout the season. Just to get a win against that team is really good."

The only time the Crusaders (9-7) had a runner in scoring position was the second inning. Matt Bell, the opposing pitcher, walked to lead off and later stole second.

Steubenville Catholic's lone hit was a two-out single by Noah Fayak in the sixth inning and was stranded on first. In the seventh, a screaming line drive from Dom Argentine found Karaffa's glove.

"Obviously he's been dealing with an injury all year, so we knew we had to get him on the bump and fire a few innings before this one," Perkins said. "He came out (Monday) against a very good Central team and did a fantastic job of commanding his pitches, throwing strikes and keeping them off balance. Our kids really fed off of that."

"Nate's pitched for us for four years now. He's been throwing all year, but we had to get him more game experience. We don't expect anything different. We knew he was going to come out and throw well tonight."

Offensively, Bell matched Karaffa for four of his six innings of work. The other two are a different story.

Nick Sninchak led off the bottom of the second inning with a home run to left field, giving Toronto a 1-0 advantage.

"That was a big hit from someone who's been my best friend forever," Karaffa said. "That's just a big hit, and he deserved it."

The sixth inning is when the Red Knights (14-5) finally strung hits together. With the bases loaded and one away, Lucas Gulczynski hit a sacrifice fly to right. Then, Karaffa helped his own cause with a two-run double to center field.

Karaffa is the first to admit he didn't get all of it, as the ball was blooped. However, the Crusader center fielder slipped, and the two middle infielders were unable to get there in time.

"Whatever it takes to win, I'm not worried about individual stats," he said. "Those two RBI helped. It helped my case on the mound a little, too."

"We always talk about working pitch counts and getting good pitches," Perkins said. "Hopefully, we can work good pitchers and break through by the end. Our guys were able to that."

"Nick did a great job of getting that home run to loosen things up. That kind of got us going."

Besides those two frames, Bell was dominant. He struck out three, walked one and hit a batter over the complete-game defeat.

"You're not going to beat many teams with only one hit. All the credit goes to Nate for throwing a heck of a game," Steubenville Catholic coach Don Young said. "I thought Matt threw a heck of a game, minus one pitch in the second inning and the three runs. That little bit of room really helped them."

"I thought it was a good effort in a good game against two well-matched teams. We just didn't put the ball in play enough. You have to get the ball in play hard. It's tough to do that against a guy who's very talented."

Linsly claims OVAC 3A baseball title

• Barnesville suffers first loss

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
Executive Sports Editor

WHEELING – It will be a performance Eli Petho won't soon forget – if ever.

Linsly's pit-bull of a pitcher has been unblemished on the hill all season. His latest mound masterpiece took on added significance Monday night.

The talented senior righthander scattered six hits while fanning seven in a route-going 4-1 triumph over previously unbeaten Barnesville in the OVAC 3A championship game at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex. It proved a repeat of championships for Jay Cartwright's Cadets as they pocketed the 2A crown last spring.

"Eli is a great competitor. I don't think he had his best stuff (Monday) but he gutted it out," Cartwright said. "He is battler. He also came up with a key hit for us. He has had a tremendous season."

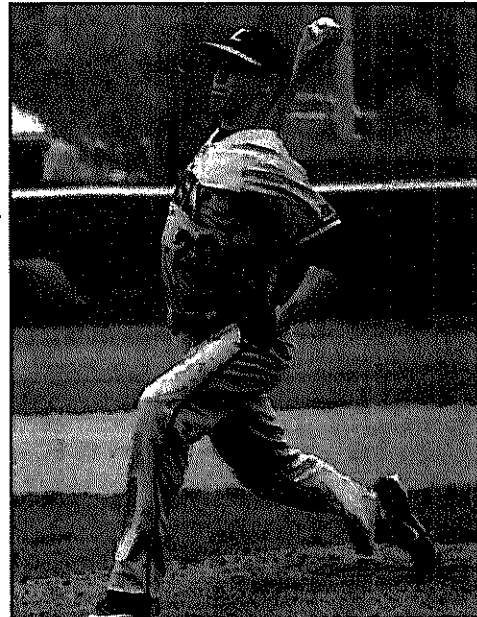
Petho is now 7-0 with one save to his credit this spring.

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One of those ill-fated scoring opportunities.
See, **LINSLY**, Page B2



body to block slow burning on instead of creating it



flex producers are making these new pills as
as possible to meet the growing and increas-
demand.

top seller Celebrex, it
blocks one variation
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And that's because
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Every VeraFlex capsule
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Piling on the Clinical Research

Remarkably, the key
ingredient in VeraFlex is
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s with rheumatoid ar-
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joints to hurt and BiAloe,
an absorption enhancer
(accelerator) that ensures
maximum potency.

Research shows that
severe joint discomfort
arises when the immune
system goes haywire and
releases COX and LOX
into your blood stream,
two enzymes that causes
tremendous swelling and
inflammation around
cartilage and protective
tissue.

Over time, this inflam-
mation overwhelms the
joint and it begins to
deteriorate resulting in a
daily battle with chronic
pain.

Unfortunately, modern
day pain pills are only
able block only one of
these enzymes, resulting
in marginal relief and
continued suffering.

The Uninvestin in
VeraFlex is one of the
only known substances
which has been proven
successful in blocking
both enzymes, resulting
in phenomenal relief
from the worst kinds of
discomfort.

The addition of BiAloe,
a unique aloe vera extra,

blocked his 3 from behind in the closing
minute to keep the Trail Blazers from clos-
ing in.

Jamal Murray added 23 points for Den-
ver, which was making its first appearance
in the second round in a decade, and Paul
Millsap scored 19.

• Linsly

Continued from Page B1

nities came in the first in-
ning. Cade Hannahs singled
and Jared Kernen doubled,
placing Shamrocks on sec-
ond and third with one out.
Petho, however, was up to
the task, inducing a popout
to third before recording a
strikeout.

The two teams traded ze-
roes through the first four
innings before each pushed
across a run in the fifth.

Linsly drew first blood
when rising sophomore Zac
Taylor rocketed a double to
deep left before a wild pitch
and an error yielded a Cadet
run. Barnesville answered
immediately in the home-
half. Hannahs singled and
scored on a double to right
by Jefferis.

Cartwright's crew must-
ered up some seventh in-
ning lightning to pull out
the verdict.

Taylor opened the frame
but crushing another dou-
ble. Scrappy junior Lee
Paull produced a perfect

sacrifice bunt before Kobe
Hill delivered an RBI single
for what proved-to-be the
game-winning run.

Jules Giovengo added
fuel to the uprising with a
single before Petho deliv-
ered the dagger with a two-
run single for a 4-1 cushion.

The Shamrocks didn't
go quietly in their sev-
enth frame. With two outs,
Kernen launched a double
to deep right center before
Jefferis drew a walk. Petho
again answered the call, re-
cording his 21st out on a
soft pop to second base.

All told, Barnesville left
10 runners on base.

"I felt really confident go-
ing into the game, both indi-
vidually and for the team,"
Petho said. "We have a great
group of players and our
coaches do a super job of
teaching us. I couldn't ask
for a better senior season."

Jefferis did pitch superbly
before leaving with one out
in the seventh. The junior

southpaw allowed just four
hits while striking out five
and walking three.

"It is a great feeling to re-
peat as OVAC champions.
We beat a real good team
in Barnesville," Cartwright
said.

"We have a great group
of kids who come to practice
and play hard day-in and
day-out. My coaches (Scott
Goodnight and Eric Petho)
are great at what they do.
I am really happy for my
players and staff."

Linsly improved to a
sparkling 18-5.

"Give Linsly credit. They
made the plays and Petho
pitched a good game," But-
ler said.

"I am not worried about
my team bouncing back.
This game may help us re-
focus.

"We have great senior
leadership on this team. We
will be fine. We have a lot of
baseball yet to play. We are
looking forward to it."

• Crown

Continued from Page B1

had that inning against us that we
couldn't fix.

"(Taylor Gallentine) is a left-hander and
she was on it at the right time and made it
happen but it was an excellent game."

St. Clairsville only collected two hits,
both coming off the bat of Taylor Gallen-
tine.

In the midst of the pitcher's dual, Taylor
Gallentine launched a deep fly ball to cen-
ter and raced around the bags for a triple to
start the sixth.

After a walk to Hannah Thoburn, Ben-
nington dropped down a squeeze bunt and
Gallentine slid in safely to home to give the
Red Devils the lead.

Jaskowiak added insurance with a RBI
groundout on another squeeze bunt.

"We worked on our small game," Coach
Gallentine said. "We laid down two key
suicide squeeze bunts and if it wasn't for
that, I don't know what would have hap-
pened. We came through in clutch situa-
tions."

Oak Glen did not go quietly in the bottom
of the seventh as Hannah Walker singled

and Alexa Andrews doubled but a diving
catch on a pop-up by St. C. catcher Dakotah
Namack and a grounder to third ended the
threat and the game.

"I'm very proud of our girls," Garner
said. "They tried to make some things hap-
pen at the end and that's why you play sev-
en innings, because anything can happen.

"There is a lot of maturity on our team
with four seniors and a field of juniors. We
have some freshmen on the field and they
blend very well together.

"Congrats to (St. Clairsville). They
played an excellent game. They have an
excellent pitcher, as well. She was able to
move the ball and hit her spots. She kept us
guessing."

NOTE

All three championship winning teams
in Monday's OVAC finals - Steubenville
(5A), St. Clairsville (4A) and Crestview
(3A) did not commit a single error.

"We talked about minimizing errors,"
Coach Gallentine said. "I said that 'if we
get our errors down to one or none, we have
a shot' and the girls did a really nice job."

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

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Scoreboard/B3

SPORTS

Monday,
April 22, 2019

Barnesville tops UL in OVAC 3A semifinal

• Shamrocks await Linsly-Fort Frye winner

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

BARNESVILLE — The third and fourth innings of Saturday evening's OVAC Class 3A baseball semifinal presented both Barnesville and Union Local with an opportunity to get the upper hand on snapping what was a 1-1 deadlock.

In the two innings combined, the Shamrocks put six runners on base, while the Jets sent five on to the bags.

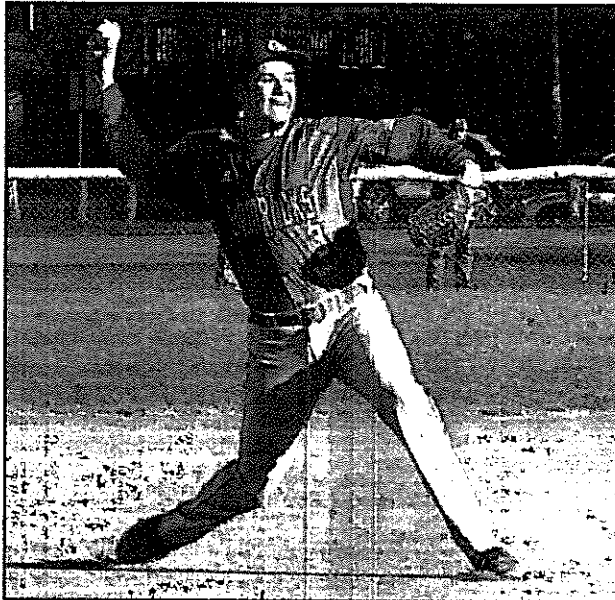
Barnesville was able to bring two home, and that, plus an insurance run in the late

innings, secured a 4-1 victory and a berth in Friday's OVAC championship game.

"We got the big hits when we needed them," smiled Shamrocks head coach D.J. Butler as dusk descended on Memorial Park. "The guys stepped up and put the ball in play when we needed it."

In staying unbeaten at 14-0, the Shamrocks will play the winner of today's other semifinal between Linsly and Fort Frye at the J.B. Chambers Youth Sports Complex. Their Saturday game was postponed by rain.

See, 3A, Page B2



BARNESVILLE THIRD baseman Aaron Marovich makes a throw to first during Saturday evening's OVAC Class 3A baseball semifinal against Union Local at Memorial Park. The Shamrocks prevailed 4-1 and will face the winner of today's other semifinal between Linsly and Fort Frye for the title.

T-L Photo/RICK THORP

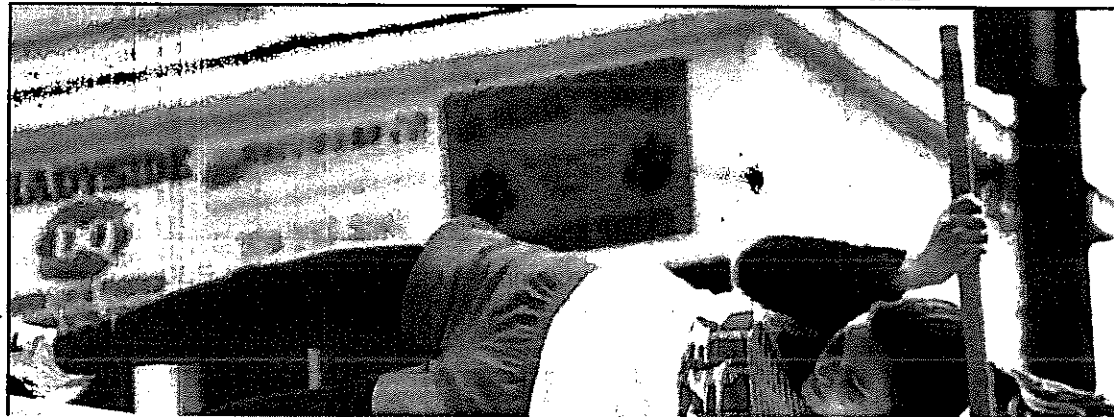
Pan rallies for first win on PGA tour

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — C.T. Pan watched the Masters last week with his wife, and sometimes caddie, Yingchun Lin, thrilled by Tiger Woods' stirring victory at Augusta National.

His wife, Pan recalled, told him point blank, "Hey, I'm not patient, so you better get me (to Augusta) as soon as possible."

Pan complied quickly, taking advantage

48TH ANNUAL SHADYSIDE RELAYS



LEFT: Union Local's Allison Loase soars over the pole vault bar en route to winning the title at Saturday's 48th annual Shadyside Relays.

BOTTOM: St. Clairsville's David Mellema skims the last hurdle en route to victory in the

Continued from Page B1

"It's huge," Butler said of reaching the title tilt and having an opportunity to win the school's first baseball crown in 22 years. "Winning the OVAC is one of our goals and we're now a step closer to that. And, obviously, whomever wins (the other semifinal) will be a great opponent. We're looking forward to it."

The Jets, who were seeking to win an OVAC baseball championship for the first time in 12 years, will have to wait another year because, unlike the Shamrocks, they failed to cash in when they had chances, according to their head coach.

"We had some missed opportunities early," UL's second year head coach Wade Smolira said. "And then, Jagger (Jefferis) is a really good pitcher."

It's true.

The Barnesville hurler didn't make things any easier on the Jets, striking out 13 and walking one in going the distance. He allowed a first-inning run on two hits by Cody Morrison and Dakota Hess (rbi), but settled down nicely after that, giving up two hits the rest of the game.

"He's been great all year," Butler said. "We've had injuries and other guys have stepped up. He was able to go seven innings and that was huge."

Jefferis encountered some trouble in the aforementioned third and fourth innings, but was able to emerge unscathed.

In the third, the Jets had Hunter McCort and Morrison at third and second, respectively, with one out. Jefferis forced a groundout to second for out No. 2. Then, after an intentional walk loaded the bases, a UL batter sent a comebacker to him that ended the threat.

An inning later, UL had runners at the corners with two outs, but Jefferis got a punch out to end things.

Jefferis retired the final nine batters of the game — the last six by strikeout.

Barnesville left two on in the third, but came back in the fourth by getting its first two batters — Ayden Hannahs and Alex Meade on. Uryan Meade's sac bunt sent both runners to third and second. And when pinch hitter Jake Edwards walked, the bases were loaded.

Two batters later, with two out, leadoff batter Cade Hannahs hit a hard shot to short that bounced up hard and into shallow left. Two runs to scored giving Barnesville a 3-1 lead.

"Cade got a hard-hit ball to short and then Alex scored (in the sixth on a sac fly by Uryan Meade) that gave us an insurance run," Butler said. "There's a big difference between a two-run lead and a three-run lead going into the seventh."

Hess, the Jets starter worked into the sixth, leaving after Alex Meade's leadoff triple. He allowed five hits and fanned four.

"He had a heckuva game," Smolira said. "He pitched well. He's only a freshman."

Despite falling to 7-11, Smolira was happy his young team was able to experience a tournament atmosphere and said it will only benefit it going forward.

"It's going to be good for the kids because we only have one senior leaving," he said. "I think we can build on this for next year."

The Shamrocks will start tuning up for the OVAC title game today by playing host to Bridgeport. Union Local makes the trek to Weir.

Shadyside denied in 2A baseball

By ED LOOMAN
For The Times Leader

SHADYSIDE — The old adage of it's hard to beat a team three times rang true for Shadyside's top-seeded Tigers in Monday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal contest with Catholic Central.

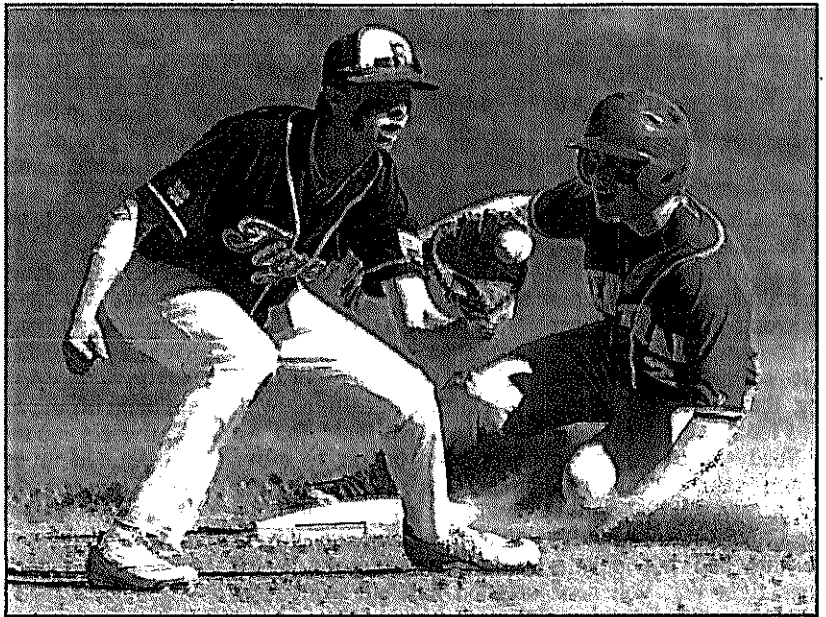
The fourth-seeded Crusaders rode a gutsy pitching performance from senior Matt Bell, some timely hitting and a couple of defensive gems to a 9-3 victory at sun-splashed Fleming Field.

With the win, Don Young's club, which dropped two regular season games to the Tigers, advance to the Class 2A championship game against third-seeded Toronto, which dispatched Wheeling Central, 7-5, in nine innings on Monday.

"I'm real happy with this win against a quality team like Shadyside," Young said after watching his Crusaders improve to 9-5. "We played a good game and did a lot of good things. At the same, we made a lot of mistakes that we have to shore up going forward.

"It goes back to expectations. My expectations, at times, seem to be a lot higher than I believe the expectations of my players are."

Central took the lead for good with three runs in the second. Ryan Gorman and Jayden Keeder drew walks



Photo/BROOKE SELMON

SHADYSIDE THIRD baseman Corey Beckett receives a throw at third base as a Steubenville Central runner slides in safely during Monday's OVAC Class 2A semifinal at Fleming Field. The Crusaders posted a 9-3 victory to advance to this Saturday's title game.

off losing pitcher Collin Holmes. Anthony Sprochi then delivered a two-run single. He would score on Noah Fayak's double to center.

The score moved to 4-0 in the third when Dom Argentine led off with a triple to left. Bell earned a free pass, and Argentine touched home thanks to a Shadyside throwing error on an attempted pickoff at first.

Luca Connor's RBI single and another Shadyside miscue allowed Young's club to go up 6-0 in the top of the fourth. Shadyside got on the board in the home half of the frame when Kelly Hendershot delivered a run-scoring triple to left-center.

The Crusaders added three more in

the sixth thanks to another Connor hit and Argentine's two-run single. The Tigers completed the scoring on RBIs from Ryan Florence and Mason Van-Nest.

Bell worked six innings, scattering seven hits and fanning six. He got plenty of help from his defense. Van-Nest led off the Shadyside fifth with a double to center. He was cut down at third thanks to an outstanding relay throw from Connor to Anthony Simmons. First baseman Paul Carapellotti dug a throw out of the dirt in the fifth to help keep Shadyside's leadoff man off base.

"He battled all night," Young said

See, DENIED, Page B2

test with a single. Jon Milton was then able to drive him in on a single to make it 3-0.

"That's the name of the game," Fort Frye (9-6) coach Rob Nelson said. "Their kid (Petho) did a really nice job and kept us off-balance. He pitched a heckuva game. It's just a very good program and Coach Cartwright always does a really great job. We didn't get

"I just trust my catcher," Petho said. "I try to hit my spots, it doesn't always work out, but the defense was great. I threw (strikes), but there were a lot of balls that could have been hits. It was good job by them."

Luke Nelson also had a solid game on the mound for Fort Frye. Although taking the loss, he went the distance and struck out five Linsly batters.

Kelley was the lone Linsly played to provide a multi-hit game with his double and single along with his two RBI. Lee Paull put Linsly's fourth run on the board in the sixth inning with a sacrifice fly to right field.

Linsly will have a chance to secure two straight OVAC championships. Last year, it won the 2A championship with a 12-1 victory over Toronto.

• Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

The Tigers (8-8) led 1-0 as Destifanes doubled down. She scored when Davis's sac to first.

Clay-Battelle, which has decision to Wheeling Cent 1, scored four times in its first inning, paving the way.

Rylee Burnette doubled winning pitcher Caitlyn Kasball moved Burnette to third. Statler followed with a RBI. Keener singled through pitcher scored two runs as the result.

"That was definitely a nerves or what?" Shady said. "It's rough when you score four runs, but I'm proud. That's the good thing they never hung their head. They still give it their all."

The score remained tied. Reager and Kassay were tied.

With one out, Destifanes stole second. Davis picked up as Destifanes raced home. Linsly rolled up the middle result and Baker crossed the plate.

Shadyside got a runner thrown out at the plate. runner on third with one out.

• St. John

Continued from Page B1

But the Blue Dons were error in the second.

Gia Riccardonna led off. Two batters later, Mikayla the infield. A throw to first was over, she ended up safe.

Madonna went up 3-0 as Morgan Owens scored on a she moved up on a passed ball.

Conti praised his team for opportunities presented in various situations.

"They played as a team. I've stressed that all year."

"We had baserunners on balls. We were aggressive together, and Maddie played well."

While Madonna was slow, Daugherty was doing the job. kept them off the scoreboard with five Ks and two walks.

St. John had runners at first and fourth in the fourth and fifth innings with two outs.

Madonna, meanwhile, was 5-0. Then, triggered by a ty, she tacked on two more in the fifth.

Danniele Yaegel and Keener scored seventh for the Irish, with 10 runs.

"They played hard right through the game. The kids didn't get tired."

"I can't say enough about it for making the top four."

Madonna, meanwhile, is 5-0. "They all get along together," Conti said. "That's

• St. C.

Continued from Page B1

in succession to load the bases with one out and, after a strikeout, speedy Boston Black came up with a surprise two-out bunt single to plate Moore. Blattner coaxed yet another free pass which forced in Norman to make it 6-0.

In the sixth, Clendenning opened with a walk which ended the day for Carrothers. After reliever Kyle Storer posted a "K", he walked Moore and Norman delivered an RBI single to drive in Clendenning for a 7-0 Colts' lead.

St. C. (8-7) finally broke through in the top of the fifth with two outs. Tyler Tonkovich was hit by a pitch followed by singles from John Luke DeFilippo and Matt Busby, with Busby's hit driving in Tonkovich.

A walk loaded the bases, but Meadowbrooks' Fox induced a flyout to right to end the threat and the Red Devils were retired in order in the final two innings.

Meadowbrook's ability to take charge early changed the complexion of the game, according to both coaches.

"We want to make people chase us, because we're not built to come from behind," said Meadowbrook's Engle. "We executed and they didn't in the

short game, and it really helps when we do that because I'm blessed to have kids who can really get down the line.

"Our kids are playing the game mentally right," he continued. "When they see a pitcher struggling, they know what they need to do. That makes managing the game fun because you don't have to worry about the fundamentals too much...they get it."

"Their kid (Fox) threw well, but I thought we learned a little from our first time through and had some good at-bats after that but we hit some balls hard right at them," said St. C. coach Tom Sliva. "A close play, a bunt and an error and the next thing you know they've got four runs (in the first) and I'm not sure the ball had left the infield at that point."

The Colts' use of "small ball" was not unexpected, however.

"We had one report and saw them play once, so we knew they'd do that," said Sliva. "Our third baseman can't play any closer...they've just got some good speed and they were plays that were hard to make."

"It changes the whole complexion of the game because when you get down like that, you can't play for one run," he added.

Fox boosted his season record to a

perfect 5-0 with a complete-game effort that included six strikeouts, one walk and one hit batsman.

"Logan filled up the (strike) zone great today," said Engle. "He was a little off with his command last week at Coshocton, but he had it going today."

Carrothers (3-2) took the loss with three Ks and five walks in three-plus innings while Storer had one strikeout and one walk.

The only players with more than one hit were Meadowbrook's Neff and St. C.'s Busby.

For the Colts, Friday's title game will be a chance to avenge a tough semifinal loss to Edison last year.

"They (the Wildcats) won 2-1 in nine innings in semifinals last year," said Engle, "so we're looking forward to playing them again."

Engle expects Edison to send ace George Ash, who tossed a three-hit shutout against Cambridge in the semis, to the mound for the title game.

For St. C., there's plenty of season remaining.

"I told the guys it's only April 22nd and the tournament doesn't start until May 12th," said Sliva, "so there's a long way to go."

• Denied

Continued from Page B1

of Bell. "That's a real good team, and we lost to them twice. He held them in check. We knew they would get some hits off him, but I was proud of the way he battled the whole game."

Nick Kissinger worked the seventh for Central.

Fayak led Central's nine-

hit attack with two doubles and a single. Argentine, Connor and Sprochi all finished with two hits apiece.

"Early on, we were pretty focused at the plate," Young said. "The sixth inning really was a key for us. Being able to add three runs to our lead was huge."

Central's cause was aided by five Shadyside errors and six walks. In addition, the Crusaders dodged a bullet in the seventh thanks to a Tiger base running mistake.

"It seemed like everything that could go wrong for us today went wrong for us," Shadyside coach Shawn Selmon said. "You can't play a team like Steubenville Central in a big game like this and not do the things right that you need to do."

VanNest led Shadyside's offense with a double and

a single. Anthony Coggins also doubled. The Tigers, now 14-3, stranded eight base runners.

"It's been a thing we have struggled with all year," Selmon said. "We get guys in scoring position with less than two outs, and we have been unable to move them. That's been one of our downfalls all year. Once we figure that out, we'll be a little bit better team. We're a good baseball team right now - we're not a great baseball team."



Hurricanes

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY

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Wednesday
April 24th



St. C. falls in 4A baseball semi to Meadowbrook

By JEFF HARRISON
For The Times Leader

BYESVILLE — An early dose of "small ball" and patience at the plate paid off for the top-seeded Meadowbrook Colts as they punched their ticket to the OVAC Class 4A championship game with a 7-1 victory over visiting St. Clairsville on Monday.

Coach Tyler Engle's Colts jumped on top 4-0 after one inning and cruised to their 14th win in 16 starts to earn a spot in Friday's title game (7:30 p.m. at the I-470 Complex in Elm Grove) against second-seeded Edison, which defeated Cambridge by a 6-0 score in the other 4A semifinal on Saturday.

After Meadowbrook right-handed ace Logan Fox struck out the side in the top of the first, the Colts went right to work in the bottom half.

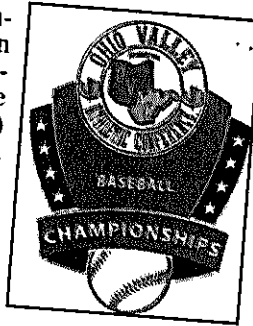
Brady Blattner led off with a single before Peyton Neff and Garrett Clendenning both put down bunt singles, with an overthrow on Clendenning's allowing Blattner to score the game's first run.

Fox then reached on a fielder's choice which failed to record an out and loaded the bases, setting the stage for a two-run single by CJ Moore and an RBI double by Hayden Loy which gave the Colts their early four-run advantage.

Meadowbrook took advantage of control issues by St. C. starter Dustin Carrothers in the third frame to tally twice.

Carrothers walked Moore. Devon Norman and Lov

See, ST. C., Page B2



Petho's gem lifts Linsly by Fort Frye

By KYLE LUTZ
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — It all comes down to timely hits when a pitching duel takes place.

Fortunately for Linsly, it was able to come up with a few early on. Linsly scored three runs in the first three innings while Eli Petho fired a two-hitter in a 4-1 victory over Fort Frye on Monday in a OVAC 3A semifinal matchup at Holloway Field.

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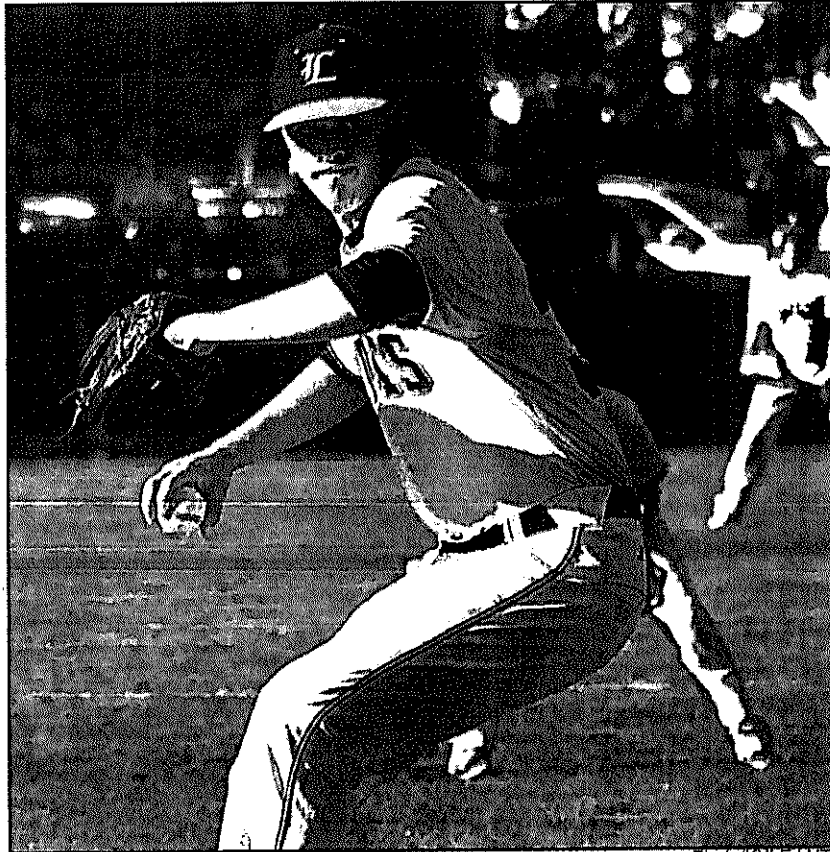
"It was just two good pitchers going at it," Linsly (16-4) coach Jay Cartwright said. "Both sides played defense. I was pleased with our guys at the plate. We hit situationally and put the ball in play against a really good pitcher. So it was a very good night for us. We played well, worked some deep counts and Eli was just a horse (Monday).

"It was just one of those nights where he was moving around, changing speeds and making all those pitchers. That's a good club right there. Fort Frye is always strong. We have played them in this tournament for years. It's the kind of baseball you want to see."

Petho also gave Linsly the first scoring opportunity and it delivered.

After his single, Hunter Kelley drove him in with a RBI double. Linsly followed with a couple of insurance runs in the third. Jules Giovengo led off with a single followed by a Petho sacrifice bunt to move the runner. Kelly drove in his second run of the contest with a single. Jon Milton was then able to drive him in on a single to make it 3-0.

"That's the name of the game," Fort Frye (9-6) coach Rob Nelson said. "Their kid (Petho) did a really nice job and kept us off-balance. He pitched a heckuva game. It's just a very good program and Coach Cartwright always does a really great job. We didn't get



LINSLY SENIOR Eli Petho delivers to the plate during Monday's OVAC Class 3A semifinal against Fort Frye. Petho worked the route and led the Cadets to the victory, sending them to the championship Friday against Barnesville.

Photo/KYLE LUTZ

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Fort Frye — the reigning 3A champion — had a couple of scoring opportunities midway through the game. Tate Engle led the fourth inning off with a single to end Petho's no-hit bid. He was able to make it to third base, but the Linsly defense did not break. The following inning, Brenden Huck led the fifth off with a walk. However, a 6-4-3 double play after a strikeout gave Linsly all the momentum.

Petho went the distance for Linsly as he fired four strike outs in the process.

"I just trust my catcher," Petho said. "I try to hit my spots, it doesn't always work out, but the defense was great. I threw (strikes), but there were a lot of balls that could have been hits. It was good job by them."

Luke Nelson also had a solid game on the mound for Fort Frye. Although taking the loss, he went the distance and struck out five Linsly batters.

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While managing to score on a groundout, Linsly ended the threat by capturing three straight outs, including a strikeout to end it.

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Kelley was the lone Linsly player to provide a multi-hit game with his double and single along with his two RBI. Lee Paull put Linsly's fourth run on the board in the sixth inning with a sacrifice fly to right field.

Linsly will have a chance to secure two straight OVAC championships. Last year, it won the 2A championship with a 12-1 victory over Toronto.

• Bridgeport

Continued from Page B1

the better she performed. Ruffalo said of Ruffalo that we didn't expect to do so again tonight.

Trailing 1-0 entering the top of the first, the home team struck for three runs in the first inning, committing three of its errors.

Jaren Tucker drove in the first run when Angie Sommer's ball moved each runner home when the catcher threw to the catcher. She slid into home but the throw back to the pitcher. Sommer alertly stepped on the runner then struck out Sommer, ending up at third base on a single up the middle of the field.

"The first game on the bases and in the game we didn't hit what the heck, let's go."

"I like the way we wanted us to get in there for a while, now and we need to win."

With Ruble down the middle, the Bulldog scored three times in the first of the runs came and Kayleigh Rolfe scored.

"You could tell that's for sure. I committed. That's a play and the other is what is going on."

He dismissed the Tigers in one season, scoring two runs in both prior games.

"We played bad," he continued. "They played good."

Bridgeport will have revenge on its mind next season.

"They hit the ball," Cash said of his revenge game on is this year. I just of them. They are

• Shady Side

Continued from Page B1

The Tigers (8-1) nie Destifanes drove in the first run. She scored when to first.

Clay-Battelle, decision to Wheeler, scored four times paving the way.

Rylee Burnett winning pitcher. The ball moved Burnett to the left side. Statler followed.

• St. Clair

Continued from Page B1

in succession to load the bases with one out and after a strikeout, speedy

short game, and it really helps when we do that because I'm blessed to have

perfect 5-0 with a complete-game effort that included six strikeouts, one

Toronto outlasts Central in 2A baseball semis

By CODY TOMER
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — A comeback, suspense and a thrilling finish — Monday's OVAC 2A semifinal delivered all three.

After Wheeling Central (12-6) rallied from 4-0 down to take the lead, Toronto tied the game in the seventh and won it in the ninth, 7-5 at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

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Despite blowing the early lead, Toronto coach Brian Perkins saw his team weather the storm in the end.

"This says a lot about our kids and how resilient they are," Perkins said. "They came out with a lot of emotion and were excited to come down here and play.

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There were many missed chances for both teams but a golden opportunity for the Maroon Knights was squandered in the bottom of the seventh.

With the bases loaded and only one out, Toronto pitcher Nick Sninchak abruptly left the mound with what looked to be a serious injury.

Enter Tristan Thomas into a pressure packed situation and he delivered. Thomas struck out the first batter and received a diving catch from right fielder Aaron Clegg to escape the bases-loaded jam.

"Tristan came in cold but he's been a big game pitcher for us all year," Perkins said. "He did a great job of calming the game down and keeping Central off balance. He gave us a chance to win."

The Maroon Knights stranded runners in scoring position in five different innings and suffered from several base-running miscues.

"The biggest thing is that we loaded the bases in the seventh and couldn't put any pressure on the defense," Central coach Bo McConnaughy said. "But that's baseball. Hats off to coach Perkins. His team fought back. I want to wish him and his team good luck. He has a great club."

Toronto grabbed the upper hand early with a three-run second on five hits. Kobe Herrick led off with a double and Thomas, Nick Chetock and Gulczynski followed with RBI knocks.

Clegg added a RBI single in the third to give the Red Knights the 4-0 cushion.

After the slow start, Central erased the deficit in the fifth by batting around and scoring five to take a 5-4 edge.

Pinch-hitter Mike Toepfer sparked the outburst with a leadoff double. Avery Lee followed by dropping a RBI double into shallow right field chasing Sninchak from the game.

Ohio State signee Nate Karaffa came in to relieve his teammate but the Central bats were not fathomed. Angelo Gentile blistered a two-run single to left and Kyle Newmeyer tied it with a laser off of first baseman Zac Berger's glove and into right.

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Dominic Pompeo gave Central its first lead with a RBI double and Sninchak stepped back on the mound to get the final two outs.

"Both teams played a great game," McConnaughy said. "They had five hits in one inning and we came back and took the lead."

Petho's Gem Lifts Linsly Into Title Tilt



Photo by Kyle Lutz

After touching second base, Linsly's Lee Paul throws the ball over to first to convert on a double play while Fort Frye's Brenden Huck slides Monday during a 3A semifinal.

Senior limits Fort Frye to two hits in 4-1 win

By **KYLE LUTZ**
Staff Writer

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"It was just two good pitchers going at it," Linsly (16-4) coach Jay Cartwright said. "Both sides played defense. I was pleased with our guys at the plate. We hit situationally and put the ball in play against a really good pitcher. So it was a very good night for us. We played well, worked some deep counts and Eli was just a horse (Monday).

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ONLINE EXTRA

See more photos of Linsly's quest to repeat as OVAC champions with a semifinal victory vs. Fort Frye at www.theintelligencer.net

After his single, Hunter Kelley drove him in with a RBI double. Linsly followed with a couple of insurance runs in the third. Jules Giovengo led off with a single followed by a Petho sacrifice bunt to move the runner. Kelly drove in his second run of the contest with a single. Jon Milton was then able to drive him in on a single to make it 3-0.

"That's the name of the game," Fort Frye (9-6) coach Rob Nelson said. "Their kid (Petho) did a really nice job and kept us off-balance. He pitched a heckuva game. It's just a very good program and Coach Cartwright always does a really great job. We didn't get timely hits or didn't get very many hits at all. (Petho) kept us off-balance and that's the name of the game right there."

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RUBLE

(Continued from Page 11)

Jen Anderson with two outs in the third. Toronto's three runs came via a pair of groundouts and a Bridgeport error.

"I'm actually proud of my team. We hit the ball and we played together," Ruble said while downplaying her own performance.

"I'm really proud of them. We're excited to be going for back-to-back titles, but it is nerve-wracking, as well."

The date and time for the championship game will be announced later today as Clay-Battelle has prom Saturday night.

"She definitely rises to the occasion. The bigger the game the better she pitches," Toronto coach Steve Trifonoff said of Ruble. "She proved that last year. It's not that we didn't expect it. She pitches well in big games, and did so again (Monday)."

Trailing 1-0 entering the home-half of the

first, Bridgeport struck for three runs on just one hit as Toronto committed three of its five errors.

Jaren Tucker drew a leadoff walk and went to second when Angie Sommer's grounder was misplayed. A passed ball moved each runner up 60 feet, and Tucker broke from home when the next pitch got away from the Red Knights catcher. She slid across home plate safely to tie the game, but the throw back to the pitcher covering also got away as Sommer alertly sprinted home for a 2-1 lead. Bri Conaway then struck out swinging, but the ball was dropped. She ended up at third and raced home when Ruble bounced a single up the middle as the Bulldogs grabbed a 3-1 advantage.

"The first game we played them we were very aggressive on the bases and we lost 9-7," Cash recalled. "The second game

we didn't hit for nothing and we lost. I figured today what the heck, let's roll the dice and see what happens.

"I like the way we've been playing the last week or so. I wanted us to get in a good rhythm ... we were up-and-down there for a while, but I feel we're in a great rhythm right now and we need to continue that."

With Ruble doing her thing in the middle of the diamond, the Bulldogs added to their margin as they scored three times in the bottom of the third for a 6-1 lead. Two of the runs came across on an error while Halee Aubrey and Kayleigh Roberts pulled off a double steal as Aubrey scored.

"You could tell what team wanted to win this game. That's for sure. Right from the beginning," Trifonoff said. "That's what happens when one team comes to

play and the other doesn't. Whether you're favored or not, this is what is going to happen."

He dismissed the fact that it's hard to beat a team three times in one season. The Red Knights had beaten the Bulldogs in both prior meetings this year.

"We played bad and they played good. That's all it was," Trifonoff said. "The first two games they played bad and we played good."

Bridgeport will be facing a Clay-Battelle team with revenge on its mind for a semifinal setback in extra innings last season.

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in time to flip to set baseman Madison D for the forceout. By time Davis received throw, Alivia Amm the runner that had on second, never hesitating rounding third and scoring easily, setting on a celebration among Cee-Bees.

"In a ballgame like when you get a chance you've got to go all in and try to make a play," Varner said his decision to send Ammons. "I did it a couple of innings before and it backfired. Fortunately for us, made one more play they did."

The Tigers (8-8) 1-0 after half an inning as Sydnie Destifor doubled down the right field line leading off. scored when Davis' sacrifice bunt was thrown wildly to first.

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LINSLY

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TORONTO

(Continued from Page 11)

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"I didn't know my cancer was tied to asbestos"
 From the attorney, Dave Orsvench

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ENT SEMIFINALS



Photo by Cody Tomer

Toronto's Lucas Gulczynski drives in the go-ahead run in the ninth as Wheeling Central catcher Dominic Pompeo looks on during the OVAC 2A semifinal at the I-470 Complex.

Gulczynski Drives In Winner for Toronto

Wheeling Central falls in extra innings

By CODY TOMER
Staff Writer

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fifth as Reager and Kas-say were trading goose eggs.

With one out, Destifanes singled to center and promptly stole second. Davis picked up an RBI with an infield single as Destifanes raced home. Baker singled and Izzy Swords' roller up the middle resulted in an infield single as Davis and Baker crossed the plate tie things at 4.

Shadyside got a runner to second in the sixth; had a runner thrown out at the plate to end the seventh; and had a runner on third with one out in the eighth and didn't score.

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(Continued from Page 11)

The Maroon Knights stranded runners in scoring position in five different innings and suffered from several base-running miscues.

"The biggest thing is that we loaded the bases in the seventh and couldn't put any pressure on the defense," Central coach Bo McConnaughy said. "But that's baseball. Hats off to Coach Perkins. His team fought back. I want to wish him and his team good luck. He has a great club."

Toronto grabbed the upper hand early with a three-run second on five hits. Kobe Herrick led off with a double and Thomas, Nick Chetock and Gulczynski followed with RBI knocks.

Clegg added a RBI single in the third to give the Red Knights the 4-0 cushion.

After the slow start, Central erased the deficit in the fifth by batting around and scoring five to take a 5-4 edge.

Pinch-hitter Mike Toepfer sparked the outburst with a leadoff double. Avery Lee followed by dropping a RBI double into shallow right field chasing Sninchak from the game.

Ohio State commit Nate Karaffa came in to relieve his teammate but the Central bats were not

fathomed. Angelo Gentile blistered a two-run single to left and Kyle Newmeyer tied it with a laser off of first baseman Zac Berger's glove and into right.

Dominic Pompeo gave Central its first lead with a RBI double and Sninchak stepped back on the mound to get the final two outs.

"Both teams played a great game," McConnaughy said. "They had five hits in one inning and we came back and took the lead."

"(Toepfer) got the big hit and got us going. We save him for that situation. He can hit and he is also a pitcher."

Adam Murray started and went six innings with five strikeouts and three walks, before being relieved by Sonny Peluchette in the seventh.

With Toronto three outs from elimination, back-to-back walks came back to haunt the Maroon Knights as Brendan Matyas dropped down a sacrifice bunt and a Chetock sacrifice fly sent the game to extras.

"This team has faced a lot of adversity between injuries and the flu bug," Perkins said. "But it's just a great group and the senior leaders have been pulling it all together for us."


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Stocks.....10-11

OVAC Baseball Tournament Pairings Are Set

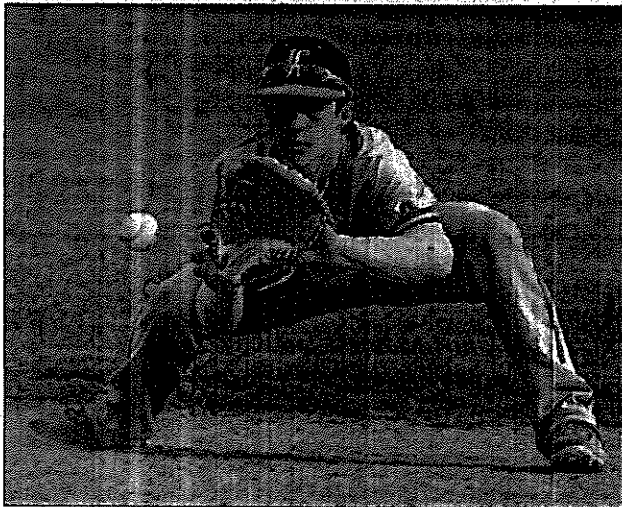


Photo by Cody Tomer
Linsly's Alex Papadimitriou and the Cadets will face Fort Frye in Saturday's OVAC Tournament game.

Semifinals start Saturday, four games to be played Monday

By CODY TOMER
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Let the games begin.

The 2019 OVAC Baseball Tournament gets underway this weekend and there are some dandies on tap, including a battle of defending champion Cadets.

Class 3A

No. 3 Fort Frye at No. 2 Linsly
Saturday, 1 p.m.

Last year's 2A champion, Linsly Cadets, has moved up a class to 3A this year where it will take on the defending champion Fort Frye Cadets at Holloway Field.

Linsly entered Wednesday's tournament deadline with a 15-4 record, while Fort Frye sat at 9-5.

No. 4 Union Local at No. 1 Barnesville
Saturday, 6 p.m.

Barnesville has been untouchable this year so far. The Shamrocks carried a perfect 12-0 record into Wednesday's tournament deadline and will host Union Local (7-

10). Barnesville defeated UL, 7-1, earlier in the campaign.

Class 5A

No. 3 Steubenville at No. 2 Wheeling Park
Saturday, 2 p.m.

These two powerhouses will be meeting for the third time already this season, with both road teams winning the previous contests. Big Red (9-5) took the first by a 5-2 count before the Patriots (14-5) won a slugfest, 18-12, last week.

Both teams will be hungry following OVAC title game losses last year as Steubenville fell in the 4A final to Edison before moving up to 5A and Park dropped a nail biter to Parkersburg South.

No. 4 Warren Local at No. 1 Morgantown
Monday, 6 p.m.

With last year's 5A defending champion Parkersburg South falling short of the tournament, there will be a new winner this year. The journey runs through Morgantown as the top seeded Mohigans held a respectable 17-2 record at the time of seeding and will host Warren Local (8-6).

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OVAC

(Continued from Page 7)

Class 4A

No. 4 St. Clairsville at No. 1 Meadowbrook

Saturday, 11 a.m.

Despite being the No. 4 seed, St. Clairsville (8-5) returns nine lettermen and seven starters from last year's squad, which fell 6-5 to Steubenville in the OVAC semifinals. The Red Devils will be looking to pull the upset of the top-seeded Colts (13-2) and get back to the title game for the first time since winning it in 2016.

No. 3 Cambridge at No. 2 Edison
Saturday, 1 p.m.

Last year's 4A champion will once again be hosting an OVAC tournament game as Edison puts its 9-2 record and last year's title on the line against Cambridge (10-5).

Class 2A

No. 3 Toronto at No. 2 Wheeling Central

Monday, 5 p.m.

With Linsly moving up to 3A, there will be a new Class 2A champion this year and it is wide open. All four teams are capable of pulling off victories. Toronto (10-4) takes its talented lineup on the road to Wheeling Central (12-5).

Both teams were downed in OVAC

title games a season ago and will go toe-to-toe for the right to play for another this year.

No. 4 Steubenville Catholic at No. 1 Shadyside

Monday, 5 p.m.

After missing out on the tournament a year ago, Shadyside (13-2) is back at the top seed in Class 2A. The Tigers will host Steubenville Catholic (8-5) with a trip to the final on the line.

Class 1A

No. 4 Conotton Valley at No. 1 Cameron

Saturday, Noon

The top-seeded Dragons (12-9) have proven to be lethal all the way down their lineup this year. Will they be celebrating their first OVAC baseball title in school history? Conotton Valley (6-9) will be their first test this weekend at the 12th Street Field in Moundsville.

No. 3 Madonna at No. 2 Paden City

Monday, 6 p.m.

A rematch of last year's OVAC championship headlines Class 1A's semifinal matchups. The Blue Dons (11-13) took last year's title but Paden City (12-10) will be aiming to reach its fifth straight title game and capture its first trophy since 1994.

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

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OVAC Baseball semifinal schedule set

By **CODY TOMER**
For The Times Leader

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See, **BASEBALL**, Page B2

