

Magnolia shortstop Paige Brill reaches out to field a ball during Monday's OVAC 3A final game at the I-470 Complex.

Photo by Cody Tomer

# Magnolia Falls to Crestview

## Rebels claim first OVAC title

By CODY TOMER  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — It didn't take long for the Crestview softball program to add an OVAC championship plaque to its trophy case.

In its second year in the conference, the Rebels locked up the OVAC 3A crown by virtue of a 1-0 win over Magnolia on Lisa's Field at the I-470 Complex on Monday.

It's just the school's second overall OVAC title — the first coming this past season in volleyball.

"This is my third year coaching and our second year in the OVAC," Crestview coach Greg Eskra said. "It's great."

"We've been playing very loose and I told them 'if they are going to beat us, make them beat us and don't beat ourselves.'"

"We played loose and didn't have any errors. They are just a fun group to coach."

The lone run of the contest came in the bottom of the first when leadoff hitter Haley Eskra reached on an error and came around to score on a passed ball.

Crestview (17-4) only notched two hits in the game but as it turned out, they didn't need any.

"Whoever would have *Please see MAGNOLIA, Page 12*

thought it would come down to one run in the first inning on a passed ball," Coach Eskra said.

"This was a pitcher's dual and (Ashley Tharp) threw a great game for them."

Magnolia (16-5) had its opportunities but couldn't capitalize as it stranded six runners on base and had a runner thrown out at third trying to steal in the first.

"We shot ourselves in the foot," Magnolia coach Angela Johnson said. "Take away that first inning and I felt like we could have gone to extra innings for sure."

"But their catcher (Karsyn Moore) has a really nice arm."

# CHAMPIONSHIPS



Photo by Kyle Lutz  
Steubenville's Stef Blackburn slides into home safely after a passed ball as Brooke's Rachel Kazmirski awaits a throw during Monday's game.

## Steubenville Edges Brooke

### Big double play in 7th helps Big Red

By KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — One big play can change the momentum of the game in the blink of an eye. Hence was the case during the OVAC Class 5A championship game between Brooke and Steubenville Monday. With the base loaded and no outs in a one run game, Lakyn Blackburn caught a soft line drive and threw the ball to third base to convert a double play. The sequence gave Big Red a little bit of breathing room as it was able to get out of the jam and hold off a fierce Bruins rally to secure the 5A title, 5-4 at the J.B. Chambers Complex.

"I have no clue what to say other than you tell your kids to make a play," Steubenville coach Gus DiMarzio said. "We made a play. Lucky for us their baserunner was a little too far away from the base on a soft liner. We caught it, made a play at third. It bailed us out really. I'm not saying we didn't deserve to win this

game because we fought and played hard the whole game. It's just sometimes you need breaks and you need Lady Luck on your side."

Steubenville held a comfortable 5-0 lead after three innings. Thanks to a couple of errors in the first inning by Brooke, Big Red scored three runs, one coming from a RBI single from Mary Marshall.

She capped the scoring in the opening frame as she crossed home plate thanks to a throwing error by the catcher.

Big Red continued to add to its lead in the third inning thanks to back-to-back RBI singles from Raven Banks and Sadie Carduci.

However, Brooke pitcher Rachel Kazmirski kept Big Red in check and did not allow a hit for the rest of the game.

Maddie Fields, showed her resiliency for Steubenville as she was able to get out of a pair of jams.

With one out and the bases loaded, the Big Red defense bent, but did not break. A strikeout and a fly out to left field ended the threat.

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Page 13

## STEBENVILLE

(Continued from Page 11)

The junior pitcher faced a similar situation in the seventh with the bases loaded and no outs. She started the inning off with four straight walks, but the big double-play saved the day for Big Red.

"There's probably not two better pitchers in the Valley than these two (Kazmirski and Fields)," DiMarzio said. "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

coach Jim DiCarlo said. "I'm so proud of the kids and the community for coming out. The support of the kids, the parents and the fans were just great. We sure had our chances there at the end, but sometimes things just don't go your way. Big Red is a great team. I congratulate them. I give our kids a million credits for being 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 Paul 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

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."

# St. C. Hoists 4A Hardware

Two-run sixth  
wins it for

**Red Devils**

By **CODY TOMER**  
Staff Writer

**WHEELING** — St. Clairsville sophomore pitcher Jenna Jaskowiak was lights out in the circle and a pair of seniors had her back at the plate.

Three-year letterwinner Taylor Gallentine tripled to lead off the sixth and classmate Bree Bennington bunted her home for the go-ahead run and St. Clairsville defeated top seeded Oak Glen 2-0 to claim the OVAC 4A championship on Monday at Lisa's Field at the I-470 Complex.

It's the fourth OVAC title for the St. C. softball program and its second in the last four years.

"This is the best game we've played all year," St. Clairsville coach Rob Gallentine said. "We talk-

ed about a couple things coming into this one. Number 1, we have to reduce the walks and get that first strike. Jenna did a spectacular job in the circle and had no walks.

"We were facing a really good pitcher and hats off to (Madison McKay). She did really well. We tried to prepare for her all week and she was still very effective against us. We only had two hits."

Jaskowiak lit up the strike zone all game, punching out nine hitters and walking none.

She struck out the side in the first and fanned at least two in three different innings.

"Jenna had a nice drop ball and a changeup that were working," Coach Gallentine said.

"She has been working extremely hard, not just this week but through the offseason.

"All that work pays off and she deserves it."



Photo by Cody Tomer  
St. Clairsville pitcher Jenna Jaskowiak delivers to the plate during Monday's OVAC 4A championship game at the I-470 Complex.

McKay was just as dominate for the Golden Bears.

She struck out 13 and walked two, including punching out the side in the third and leaving two runners stranded in scoring

position.

"Maddie McKay does an excellent job," Oak Glen coach Sherrie Garner said.

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Page 12



# Crestview earns first first title; tops Magnolia

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For The Times Leader

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# Steubenville edges Brooke for 5A plaudits

By KYLE LUTZ  
For The Times Leader

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Lakyn Blackburn caught a soft line drive and threw the ball to third base to convert a double play. The sequence gave Big Red a little bit of breathing room as it was able to get out of the jam and hold off a fierce Bruins rally to secure the 5A title, 5-4 at the J.B. Chambers Complex.

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See, 5A, Page B3

Continued from Page B1

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The junior pitcher faced a similar situation in the seventh with the bases loaded and no outs. She started the inning off with four straight walks, but the big double-play saved the day for Big Red.

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"I think we were a little nervous early," Brooke coach Jim DiCarlo said. "I'm so proud of the kids and the community for coming out. The support of the kids, the parents and the fans were just great. We sure had our chances there at the end, but sometimes things just don't go your way. Big Red is a great team. I congratulate them. I give our kids a million credits for being down 5-0 to a team like that and having a chance to win it in the last inning."

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## • Crestview

Continued from Page B1

could have gone to extra innings for sure.

"But their catcher (Karsyn Moore) has a really nice arm. She caught us there in the first inning, too. That was a big out."

Kaelyn Sutton struck out six and walked two in the shutout win, while Tharp fanned nine and walked two in a complete game effort.

"Ashley had a really good game," Johnson said. "I knew they had some good hitters but she kept them off balance. Everything was working for her."

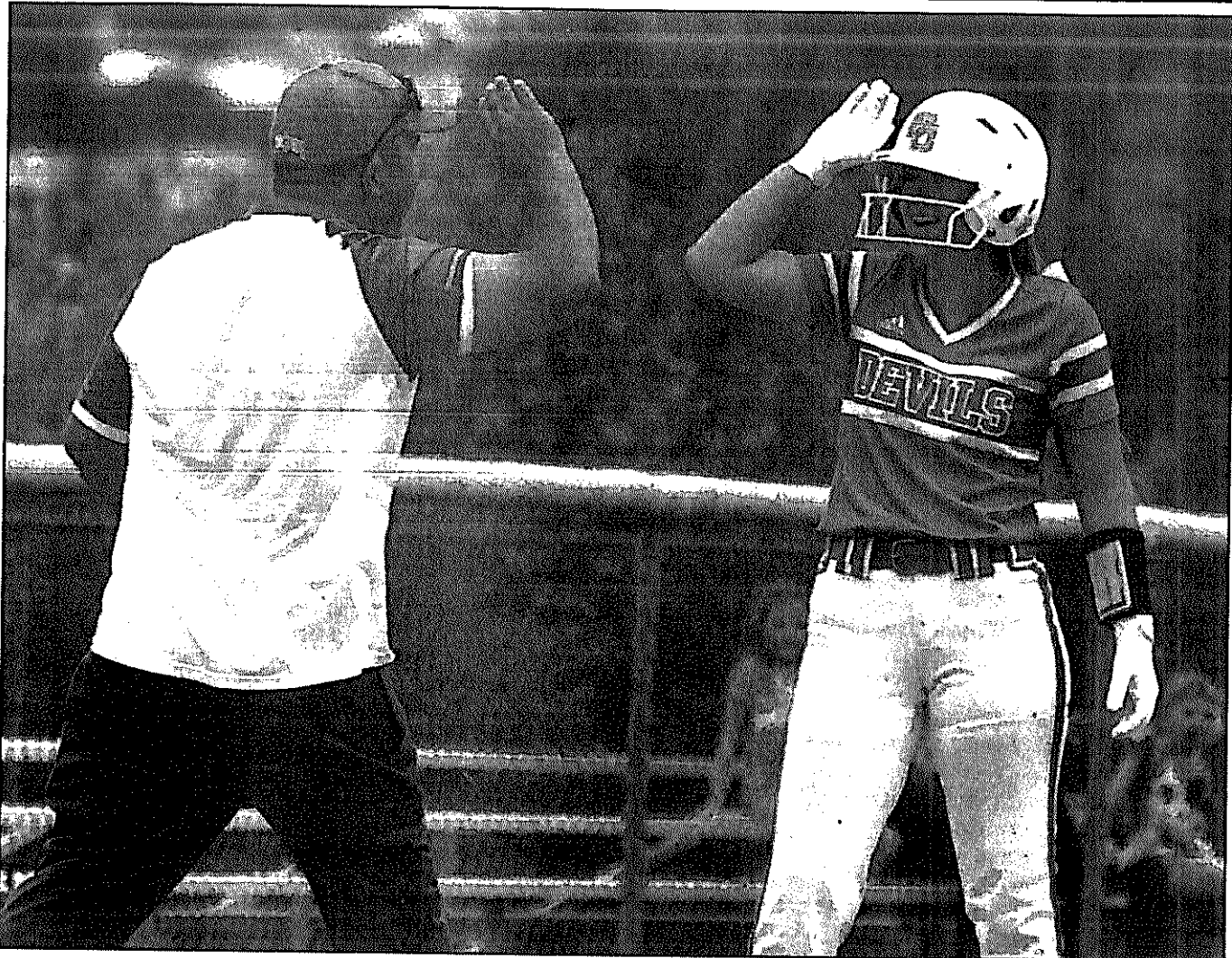
Sutton is only a freshman and with the help of her sister, Moore, catching behind the plate, they were ready for the big moment.

"Kaelyn is a freshman and her sister is the catcher," Eskra said.

"Those two have played together for six or seven years and I was happy when they came on board as freshmen.

"Kaelyn did a good job and pitched a heckuva game. Being a freshman in a position like this, that's huge for her."





Photo/CODY TOMER

ST. CLAIRSVILLE head coach Rob Gallentine, left, congratulates Taylor Gallentine on a play she made during Monday's OVAC 4A title game at the J.B. Chambers Youth Sports Complex.

## Red Devils claim 4A crown

• Jaskowiak hurls gem as St. Clairsville blanks Oak Glen, 2-0

By CODY TOMER  
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — St. Clairsville sophomore pitcher Jenna Jaskowiak was lights out in the circle and a pair of seniors had her back at the plate.

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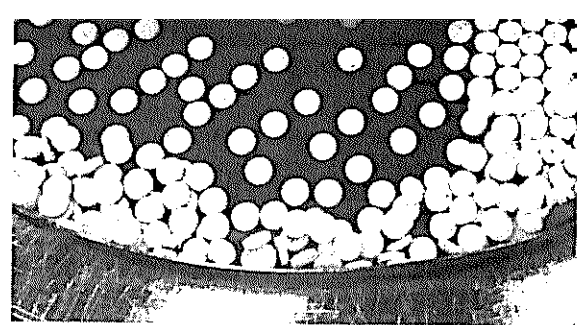
McKay was just as dominate for the Golden Bears.

She struck out 13 and walked two, including punching out the side in the third and leaving two runners stranded in scoring position.

"Maddie McKay does an excellent job," Oak Glen coach Sherrie Garner said. "She is able to pitch hard and play hard. It was a matter of putting runs through. They

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Veraflex producers are making these new pills as fast as possible to meet the growing and increasing demand.

the top seller Celebrex, it only blocks one variation of the COX enzyme" explains Leal.

"And that's because they have focused on using chemicals instead of natural substances like VeraFlex."

"Every VeraFlex capsule contains an ultra-high dose of a patented plant extract which has been clinically shown to block both enzymes, bringing relief to every joint that hurts!

"The kind of relief most people have never experienced. I often say two enzymes, twice the relief. People think I'm kidding until they try it."

### Piling on the Clinical Research

Remarkably, the key ingredient in VeraFlex is protected by 8 patents that spread from the US into Canada. And as would one guess, it's backed by an enormous amount of research, including two patient clinical trials.

In the first, 60 participants with rheumatoid arthritis and/or osteoarthritis were randomly placed into four groups.

Two groups were given the patented ingredient in VeraFlex, one was given the drug Celecoxib, and the last group a placebo. The results were monitored at 30, 60, and 90 days.

The data collected by researchers was stunning.

The groups taking the VeraFlex ingredient saw

powerful immune modulator which blocks the enzymes which cause your 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 inflammation 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 Univestin 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, maximizes the delivery of the plant based Univestin extract to every joint in the body because it is proven to improve nutrient absorption for maximum results.

Aloe Vera also is immu-

### Continued from Page B1

nities 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.

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Taylor opened the frame but crushing another double. 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 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 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.

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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."

## • 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 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

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."

## • OVAC

### Continued from Page B1

the top mark.

Magnolia was next in line with a trio of top finishes. The Blue Eagles were sparked, individually by Mady Winters in the shot put and Jaci Rohde in the long jump. Magnolia also led the 4x1 and shuttles.

The Cadets also set the tone in the 4x8, 4x2 and

dashes.

Linsly's speed forces teamed to lead the 4x1 and 4x2 relays as well.

Magnolia, one of the presumptive favorites coming in, led three events, but only one individual race. Jason Beisel was the fastest in the 100 meter field.

The Blue Eagles also led

led the 4x1 by more than a second.

Steubenville Catholic Central's Karlie Vandeborne and Rebecca Bodo led the long jump and 400, respectively to fuel the Crusaders.

River's Livi Beard was a busy young lady. She paced the 1600 and 3200 meter

# Bulldogs Fall in OVAC Title Tilt

By BUBBA KAPRAL  
Executive Sports Editor

WHEELING — Bridgeport ran into a buzz-saw Saturday afternoon in the person of Caitlyn Kassay.

Clay-Battelle's talented junior right-hander spun a gem against the Bulldogs in the OVAC 2A championship game at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex. Kassay struck out 1.7 and allowed just two hits in carrying the Cee-Bees to their first OVAC softball title in school annals by a 4-0 count.

Kassay allowed just two Bulldogs to reach second base in her dominating effort. The win was the 23rd against a single defeat for Clay-Battelle.

The loss dropped Don Cash's defending OVAC champion Bulldogs to 13-6 while spoiling a sharp pitching effort from Brooklyn Ruble. The talented senior fanned 12 and allowed just three hits but was victimized by three unearned runs.

"This really feels special. Winning an OVAC title is great but being the first in school history makes it that much nicer," Clay-Battelle coach Butch Varner said. "Our motto all year has been 'stay humble and stay hungry.' I think we displayed that (Saturday).

"We beat a good team with a real talented pitcher. It made things easier getting a couple runs early."

Clay-Battelle broke through for a pair of runs in the first inning, both of the unearned variety. After Ruble recorded a strikeout to start the frame, Madison Statler reached on an error. A walk and another Bulldog error enabled two Cee-Bees to touch the plate.

Clay-Battelle added an insurance run in the third, again thanks to a Bridgeport miscue. Ruble fanned the first batter before Kassay singled. She stole two bases and scored on a throwing error, making it a 3-0 lighting.

The Cee-Bees pushed across their final run in the fourth inning. Cameron Watson walked with one out and scored on a Rylee Burnette single.

"I tip my hat to Kassay. She pitched a super game," Cash said. "We just couldn't put the ball into play enough:

"We made some mistakes in the first inning which put us in an early hole. That is not where you want to be against a pitcher like Kassay. Brooklyn pitched good enough to win."

The title game had been on hold for a week due to weather issues and Clay-Battelle sectional tournament ob-

ligations.

Bridgeport mounted two scoring opportunities.

In the first inning, senior dandy Angie Sommer singled with one out. She advanced to second on a wild pitch but Kassay struck out the next two Bulldogs.

In the sixth, Jaren Tucker opened the frame drawing a walk and quickly stole second. Kassay again was up to the task, fanning three successive Bulldogs.

"Caitlyn pitched one tremendous game (Saturday). She is a model of total dedication," Varner said. "Her work ethic and leadership skills are second to none."

Cash, who has guided the Bulldog softball program to much success during his tenure, is not ready to put the wraps on the campaign.

"This loss is going to sting for a while. But back in early April when we were 3-3 it was doubtful we would be playing for another OVAC title," he said. "We still have a lot of softball left to play. We host Conotton Valley in a sectional game Monday, and if we win that we will host another sectional game."

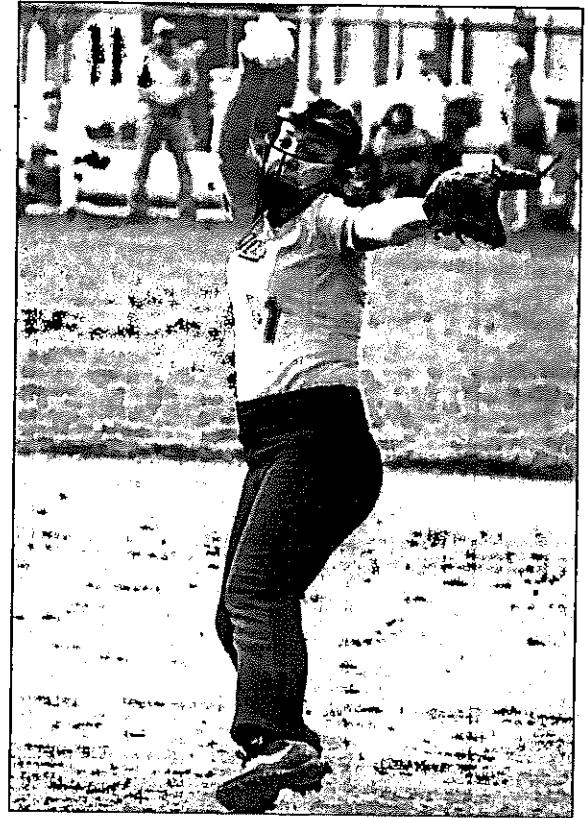


Photo by Kristin Mazzug  
Bridgeport pitcher Brooklyn Ruble takes aim and fires during Saturday's OVAC 2A Championship game against Clay-Battelle at the I-470 Complex.

## REPEAT

Continued from Page C1

Park officially wrapped up its conference title in the shuttles with a 1:06.13 to capture both the overall and class titles.

For good measure, the Lady Patriots notched the final victory of the meet in the 4x4 with a time of 4:11.05. That win was also an overall victory for the Lady Patriots.

Steubenville picked up a class win in the shot put thanks to the work of freshman Amya Livingston in the shot put. She marked at 36-3

sprint sweep with a 200 victory in 26.90.

St. C.'s speed shined brightly in the 4x1 when the Red Devils posted a 50.89.

Oak Glen's first victory came in the long jump thanks to senior Maggie Kovalcik, who also claimed the overall title with her 17-0 1/2.

The Golden Bears, who finished with 125 points, got into the winning act on the track in the 4x2 when they clocked 1:49.27. Abigail Myers prevailed in the

tory on the oval came from Sydney Glessner, who won the 100 in 13.16. She later added the 200 title in 27.21.

The Linsly 4x2 made it four in a row with a victory in the time of 1:50.95. Another win came in the 4x1 with a 53.30.

Maddie Campsey notched a victory in the 400 with a 60.82.

Pell made it a hurdle sweep for the Cadets when she won the lows in 51.17.

The Cadets kept on com-



## Central Downs Dons

WHEELING — After rain halted the action on Thursday, Wheeling Central pitcher Kyla Tharp picked up right where she left off when the action resumed in the top of the third on Saturday.

Tharp fanned three and gave up just one run as the

# St. Clairsville, Linsly race to girls' championships

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE** – As it pertained to track and field in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference, Saturday's championship meet was simply more of the same.

Track and field's OVAC Cal Giffin Track and Field Championship wrapped up Saturday at Red Devil Stadium with the same four teams hoisting the team trophies that did last season.

Wheeling Central (1A/2A), Linsly (3A), St. Clairsville (4A) and Wheeling Park (5A) ran away from their respective classes and hid en route to the championships.

Here's a look at each class:

**5A**

Wheeling Park collected its 14th title in

school history and second straight thanks to 156 points, which was 54 better than runner-up Morgantown.

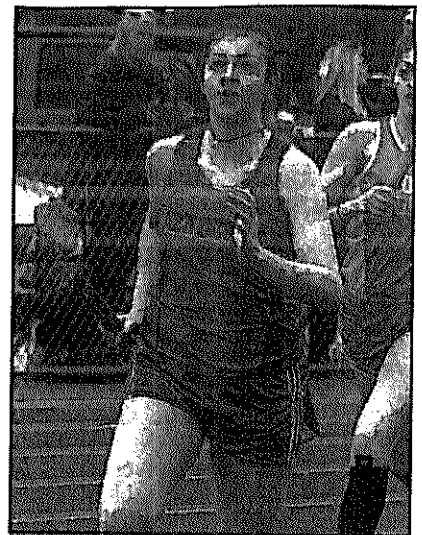
The Patriots got their scoring rolling in a big way when junior Aaliyah Speights won the long jump with a 15-9 leap.

On the track, sophomore Aubrey Wiethe was impressive in the hurdles. She won the highs in 15.40. She later added the class and overall title in the low hurdles as well with a 46.62.

Wiethe's efforts also earned her the girls' Butch and Donna Joseph High Point Track Award.

The Patriots' relay strength was demonstrated with a win in the 4x2 with a time of 1:47.00 and they later added the 4x1 in 50.62.

See, **RACE**, Page C5



Photo/KRISTIN MAZGAJ

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Kerri Klinkoski runs in the 4x8 during Saturday's OVAC Cal Giffin OVAC Track and Field Championship Meet Saturday at Red Devil Stadium.

# Cee-Bees blank Bulldogs in 2A

• Clay-Battelle wins first OVAC softball title championship, 4-0

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
Executive Sports Editor

**ELM GROVE** – Bridgeport ran into a buzz-saw Saturday afternoon in the person of Caitlyn Kassay.

Clay-Battelle's talented junior right-hander spun a gem against the Bulldogs in the OVAC 2A championship game at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex. Kassay struck out 17 and allowed just two hits in carrying the Cee-Bees to their first OVAC softball title in school annals by a 4-0 count.

Kassay allowed just two Bulldogs to reach second base in her dominating effort. The win was the 23rd against a single defeat for Clay-Battelle.

The loss dropped Don Cash's defending

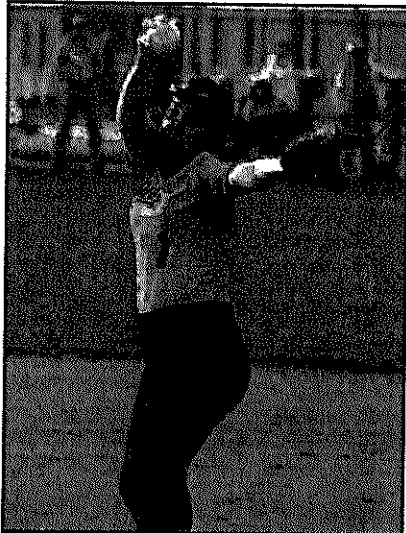
OVAC champion Bulldogs to 13-6 while spoiling a sharp pitching effort from Brooklyn Ruble. The talented senior fanned 12 and allowed just three hits but was victimized by three unearned runs.

"This really feels special. Winning an OVAC title is great but being the first in school history makes it that much nicer," Clay-Battelle coach Butch Varner said. "Our motto all year has been 'stay humble and stay hungry.' I think we displayed that today.

"We beat a good team with a real talented pitcher," he added. "It made things easier getting a couple runs early."

Clay-Battelle broke through for a pair of runs in the first inning, both of the unearned variety. After Ruble recorded a strikeout to

See, **2A**, Page C2



Photo/KRISTIN MAZGAJ

**BRIDGEPORT'S** BROOKLYN Ruble delivers Saturday.

## Ohio Valley Unsung Heroes

# Goode always there for Magnolia athletics

By **RICK THORP**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**NEW MARTINSVILLE** –

If you ever attend a Magnolia High School sporting event, chances are you'll see RJ Goode there.

Wearing glasses and a hat, Goode has done nothing but good things for the Blue Eagles the past decade-plus – both as

a student and alumnus.

He might not be the school's biggest booster, but he's right up there.

"My passion for sports is really what I love to do," he said. "It's giving something back to the school that's done so much for me."

Goode has assisted in a variety of roles, but his main duty now is keeping stats for the



I was walking home and my phone rings," Good recalled.

football program. It's an arduous position, he said, but one that provides great joy.

"In late July or early August of 2011

"It was Bruce Crawford (sports editor at The Wetzel Chronicle). He said he had a proposition for me. He told me that Coach (Mark) Batton wanted to know if I'd be willing to keep football stats for him."

Of course, Goode, being the go-getter that he is, said yes.

"To tell you the truth, I had no idea what I was getting myself into," Goode said. "I had no idea what I was getting myself into."

See, **UNsung**, Page C2

# ports Foundation facing staffing concerns

folks to keep it solvent. And because of that, President Rick Ferri issued a letter last week stating just how perilous the situation is

on December 31, 2019."

Ferri said during a telephone conversation Friday that his letter stunned many

will absolutely not let this booster club go under," said Ferri, nearing two decades as the organization's head. "They

involved. And, if they follow through, we'll be fine.

"If they don't..."

# Bell wins second-straight race at Dover in Xfinity contest

DOVER, Del. (AP) – Christopher Bell raced to his third Xfinity Series victory of the season, winning an extra \$100,000 for taking the checkered flag at Dover International Speedway.

Bell also won at Dover for the second straight time, though he led only 44 laps in the No. 20 Toyota

on Saturday compared with 110 last fall. Bell also won this season at Atlanta and Bristol and has 11 career wins in NASCAR's second-tier series in just 51 starts.

"We've had really fast race cars, but we just haven't been able to capitalize on it," Bell said. "This one is really out to my pit

crew. They did a great job of getting me out first there where I could control the restarts. I knew if we could get out front, we were going to be tough to beat."

Bell matched Kyle Busch, who stars in the elite Cup series, for most Xfinity wins this season. He gave his checkered flag to a young fan in the stands.

The 2017 Truck Series champion, Bell earned a \$100,000 bonus for scoring the highest finish among a field of four drivers in the "Dash 4 Cash" incentive program and already has plans for the money.

"That sprint car team is a long way down the road, but it's definitely a dream

of mine to have one," he said.

The 24-year-old Bell is seemingly ready to move up to the Cup series but faces a logjam at Joe Gibbs Racing. Denny Hamlin, a two-time Daytona 500 winner, is signed beyond 2020 and so are Busch and Martin Truex Jr.

Erik Jones said at Bristol

he is discussing a contract extension with JGR. Bell will likely find a Cup ride in 2020 but it's unclear for which organization he'll drive.

"Winning races doesn't seem to be an issue for us," Bell said.

Justin Allgaier was second and Tyler Reddick third.

## • 2A

Continued from Page C1

start the frame, Madison Statler reached on an error. A walk and another Bulldog error enabled two Cee-Bees to touch the plate.

Clay-Battelle added an insurance run in the third; again thanks to a Bridgeport miscue. Ruble fanned the first batter before Kassay singled. She stole two bases and scored on a throwing error, making it a 3-0 lighting.

The Cee-Bees pushed across

their final run in the fourth inning. Cameron Watson walked with one out and scored on a Rylee Burnette single.

"I tip my hat to Kassay. She pitched a super game," Cash said. "We just couldn't put the ball into play enough.

"We made some mistakes in the first inning which put us in an early hole. That is not where you want to be against a pitcher

like Kassay," he added. "Brooklyn pitched good enough to win."

The title game had been on hold for a week due to weather issues and Clay-Battelle sectional tournament obligations.

Bridgeport mounted two scoring opportunities.

In the first inning, senior dandy Angie Sommer singled with one out. She advanced to second on a wild pitch but Kassay struck out

the next two Bulldogs.

In the sixth, Jaren Tucker opened the frame drawing a walk and quickly stole second. Kassay again was up to the task, fanning three successive Bulldogs.

"Caitlyn pitched one tremendous game today. She is a model of total dedication," Varner said. "Her work ethic and leadership skills are second to none."

Cash, who has guided the Bull-

dog softball program to much success during his tenure, is not ready to put the wraps on the campaign.

"This loss is going to sting for a while. But back in early April when we were 3-3 it was doubtful we would be playing for another OVAC title," he said. "We still have a lot left to play. We host Conotton Valley in a sectional game Monday, and if we win that we will host another game."

## • Unsung

Continued from Page C1

self into," he laughed. "It's a fun job, but it's hard, especially being on the sideline."

But there's no place he'd rather be than at Alumni Field at Bill Stewart Memorial Stadium on a Friday or Saturday, or even Thursday night. In fact, with an encyclopedic knowledge of all things Blue Eagles, serving as a statistician is right up

Goode's alley. He's worked for three coaches – Batton, Josh Sims and 'Doc' Chapman.

"I've seen a lot of great games at Magnolia," he said. "And I've seen a lot of great players. I've enjoyed every minute of it."

Although he's not actively helping a spring sport at Magnolia this season, he noted he's always at the

ready, if needed.

"I did some of the book this past season for the girls' (basketball) team, and I'm always ready to help Dave (boys basketball coach Tallman), if he needs it."

Goode was member of the band during his tenure at Magnolia, where he graduated in 2006. Still, he was always close to the sports teams, either through the

coaches or Crawford.

"I love it and I've made so many good friends," he said.

Although he's long since graduated, Goode said he considers the kids which is works with sort of like family.

"I had a younger cousin that graduated two years ago and I had a younger cousin that graduated three years ago," he said. "So, I know a

lot of the kids and I want to see them succeed.

"Basically, I do the things I do for the kids. I don't do it for the acknowledgment."

Goode would, basically, give his right arm for Magnolia and its sports programs. His devotion is deep-rooted in family and that's what keeps him coming back year after year.

"I've made a lot of great

friends," he said. "I do it all for the kids. I have a great relationship with the guys and build bonds that last a lifetime."

*If you know of someone in sports in the Ohio Valley whom I could feature as an Ohio Valley Unsung Hero, drop me a line at rthorp@timesleaderonline.com or via Twitter @RickThorp1*

## • Huskies

Continued from Page C1

Among the items the foundation provides, according to Ferri, are – shoes for all athletes in

kids and we spend it on facilities." The real issue is with an aging membership, Ferri said.

need help."

That, in essence, is the heart of the matter.

my treasurer wants to resign."

The foundation's vice president has already stepped down.

er parents to help out," Ferri said. "When you lose three or four officers and I can't get anyone to

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PORT, Page B2



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

NN Ruble fires a pitch platew-  
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# Shadyside comes up short to C-B

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**ELM GROVE** - For the first time in school history, Clay-Battelle will play for an OVAC Class 2A Softball championship.

The top-seeded Cee-Bees (18-1) won for the 12th straight time Monday afternoon with a 5-4 triumph over No. 4 Shadyside in 8 innings in semifinal action on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex. They will now meet No. 2 Bridgeport for the title either Friday or Saturday. The date and time will be announced later today as Clay-Battelle has prom Saturday night.

"I'm not sure it has sunk in yet," Clay-Battelle head coach Butch Varner said of the hard-earned vic-

tory. "I have a lot of respect for that program (Shadyside) over there. Their coaches do a great job. We've played the last two or three years and it really announces where our program is moving that we are capable of competing at this type of level with that type of program."

With the score deadlocked at 4 and runners on first and second and two out in the bottom of the eighth, Varner called Ronda Petrucci down the third base line before she settled into the batter's box. She was 0-for-4 to that point with a trio of pop outs.

"All we need is a hit. Put the ball in play. Get in there and get your feet set. Put it in play and we'll see what happens," he recalled of his brief pep talk. "And she did."

Petrucci hit a rope that was head-

ed for centerfield, but Shadyside shortstop Kiley Jo Baker made a diving stab. However, she couldn't get the ball out of her glove in time to flip to second baseman Madison Davis for the forceout. By the time davis received the throw, Alivia Ammons, the runner that had been on second, never hesitated rounding third and scored easily, setting on a wild celebration among the Cee-Bees.

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

See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2

# St. John ousted by Madonna in 1A

By **RICK THORP**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**ELMGROVE** - Maddie Daugherty threw a five-hitter and Madonna took advantage of a plethora of St. John miscues in the field Monday afternoon in besting the Irish 7-1 in a 1A semifinal of the Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Championships.

The four-time defending champion Blue Dons will return to the J.B. Chambers Youth Sports Complex on Saturday to battle Frontier, a 3-2 winner against Conotton Valley in the nightcap on Ben's Field.

"I love it," exclaimed Madonna head coach Chris Conti. "I'm excited for the girls. They're ecstatic. A lot of teams counted us out this year. But guess what? They're here to play and to have fun. That's exactly what they're doing."

The Blue Dons only mustered two hits off the Irish pitching tandem of Kyla Kull and Jayden Lowe under clear, blue skies, but mistakes of some type by St. John led to all of their runs.

"It just wasn't a good time to play like this," veteran Irish head coach Jerry Magistro lamented. "But, you



**ST. JOHN** pitcher Jayden Lowe works to the plate during Monday's OVAC 1A semifinal contest against Madonna at Ben's Field. Lowe fanned five in relief and teamed with starter Kyla Kull to craft a two-hitter, but the Irish fell 7-1.

T-L Photo/RICK THORP

know, that's part of the game. You have to be able to not have errors. We left a lot of people on base and you can't do that in a game like this and against a team like this.

"It just seemed like nothing went right for us from the beginning on."

Kull recorded all five of her strikeouts in the first two innings.

See, ST. JOHN, Page B2



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

By **JEFF HARRISON**  
For The Times Leader

**BYESVILLE** - An early dose of "small ball" and



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 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

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."

ack with two doubles a single. Argentine, or and Sprochi all finished with two hits apiece. rly on, we were pretty ed at the plate," Young "The sixth inning really a key for us. Being o add three runs to our vas 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."

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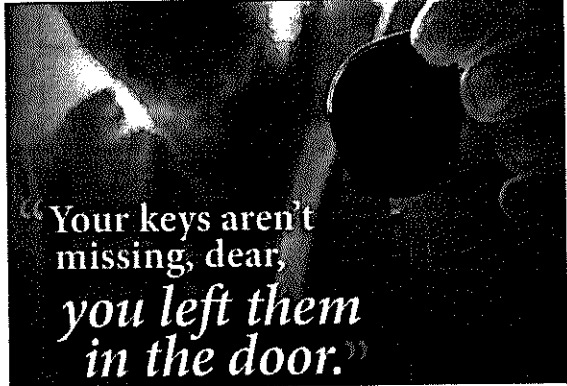


Reservations

**hopsticks**

ling Island

8




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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.

## • St. John

Continued from Page B1

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Madonna went up 3-0 an inning later when pinch runner Morgan Owens scored on a passed ball - the second time she moved up on a passed ball during the frame.

Conti praised his team for taking advantage of the opportunities presented to them and staying aware of the various situations.

"They played as a team," he said. "There's no 'I' in team. I've stressed that all year.

"We had baserunners on and they had a couple of passed balls. We were aggressive on the bases. They just played together, and Maddie played a great game."

While Madonna was slowly, but surely, building a lead, Daugherty was doing the same with the Irish lineup. She kept them off the scoreboard until the seventh and finished with five Ks and two walks.

St. John had runners at third and second in the first and fourth innings with two out, but were unable to capitalize.

Madonna, meanwhile, added a run in the sixth to go up 5-0. Then, triggered by a two-base error to begin the frame, tacked on two more in the seventh.

Danniele Yaegel and Kasi Gillespie reached to start the seventh for the Irish, with Yaegel, who had three hits, later scoring.

"They played hard right until the last out," Magistro stressed. "The kids didn't want to lose.

"I can't say enough about this group. I have to give credit for making the top four. They've always made it."

Madonna, meanwhile, is now in the top two again. "They all get along together and they all support each other," Conti said. "That's what I love about this team."

## Hurricanes force Game 7

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) - Jordan Staal scored the go-ahead goal and added an assist in the third period, and the Carolina Hurricanes beat the Washington Capitals 5-2 on Monday night to force Game 7 in their first-round playoff series.

Justin Williams scored an insurance goal seconds after the Capitals had the tying goal disallowed, Warren Foegele and Teuvo Teravainen also scored, Dougie Hamilton added an empty-netter and Petr Mrazek made 23 saves.

The Hurricanes scored three third-period goals in bouncing back from a 6-0 beatdown in Game 5 and prolonging their first playoff appearance in a decade by one game.



## rt earns ance in -2 victory

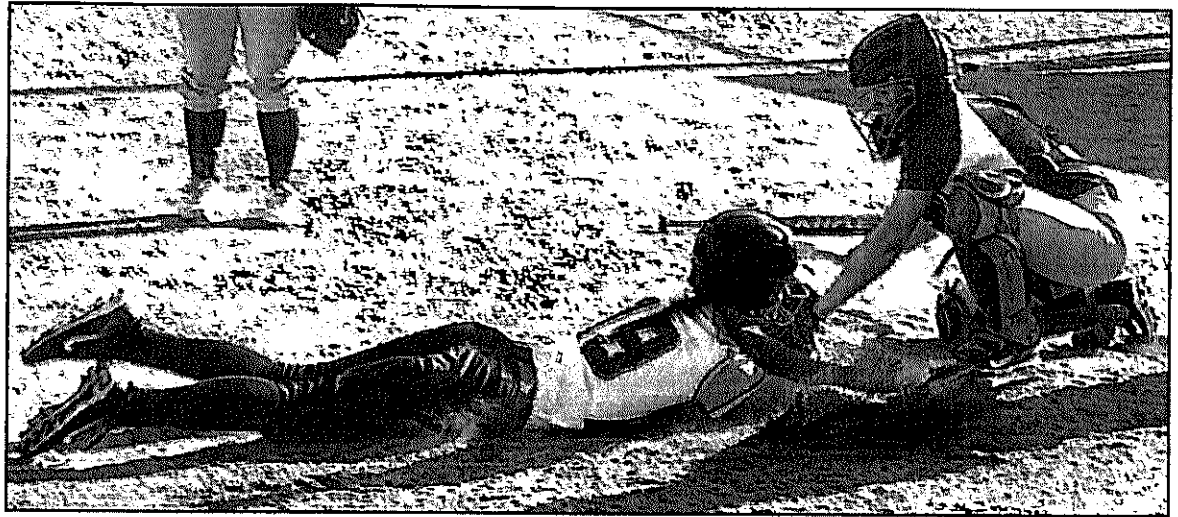
in Ruble likes pitching in the Softball Tournament. out 16 - including the final lay night - as No. 2-seeded ed Toronto, 6-3, in a semifinal a's Field. The game was a re-ship tilt, in which the Bulldogs

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n. We hit the ball and we played nplaying her own performance. e excited to be going for back- icking, as well." nampionship game will be an- telle has prom Saturday night. asion. The bigger the game the

ORT, Page B2



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

**SHADYSIDE'S MADISON** Davis slides safely into home plate Monday afternoon in an OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 2A Softball Tournament semifinal game against Clay-Battelle on Lisa's Field. The Cee-Bees posted a 5-4 nod in 8 innings.

## Shadyside comes up short to C-B

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Times Leader Sports Writer

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See, **SHADYSIDE**, Page B2

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Linsly 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 a 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.

"They hit the ball pretty well against Shadyside today," Cash said of his scouting on Clay-Battelle. "It will be a revenge game on their part, but that was last year and this is this year. I just told my three seniors that I'm very proud of them. They are our leaders."

## • Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

The Tigers (8-8) led 1-0 after half-and-inning as Sydnie Destifanes doubled down the rightfield line leading off. She scored when Davis's sacrifice bunt was thrown wildly to first.

Clay-Battelle, which hasn't lost since dropping a 6-4 decision to Wheeling Central on the same field on April 1, scored four times in its first at-bat, with a two-out error paving the way.

Rylee Burnette doubled to right-center leading off and winning pitcher Caitlyn Kassay drew a one-out walk. A fly-ball moved Burnette to third before Hannah Hall's ground-er to the left side was misplayed as a run scored. Madison Statler followed with a RBI double to left-center and Alicia Keener singled through pitcher Brooke Reager's legs that scored two runs as the designated hosts went up 4-1.

"That was definitely a rough start. I don't know if it was nerves or what?" Shadyside head coach Jillian Ongley said. "It's rough when you only give up one hit and they score four runs, but I'm proud of the way the girls battled back. That's the good thing about these girls all season, they never hung their heads, not even when we were 0-4. They still give it their all and that's all you can ask."

The score remained that way until the Shadyside fifth as Reager and Kassay 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.

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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 of 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."

attack with two doubles and a single. Argentine, Minor and Sprochi all finished with two hits apiece. "Early on, we were pretty used at the plate," Young said. "The sixth inning really was a key for us. Being able to add three runs to our total 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."

**RELATIVE  
ALS DAY**  
Family Invites  
**Secretary**



## Bridgeport earns repeat chance in 2A with 6-2 victory

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE — Brooklynn Ruble likes pitching in the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 2A Softball Tournament.

The fireballing senior struck out 16 — including the final seven batters she faced Monday night — as No. 2-seeded Bridgeport defeated third-seeded Toronto, 6-3, in a semifinal contest under the lights on Lisa's Field. The game was a rematch of last year's championship tilt, in which the Bulldogs (11-5) also prevailed in.

"I can't say enough about her," Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash said of his ace in the circle. "She's pitched just about every game for us the last two years. In my opinion, if she's not the best, she's one of the top 3 (pitchers) in the Ohio Valley. In this tournament she's just been lights-out for two years in a row. We need another performance either Friday or Saturday when we play Clay-Battelle for the championship."

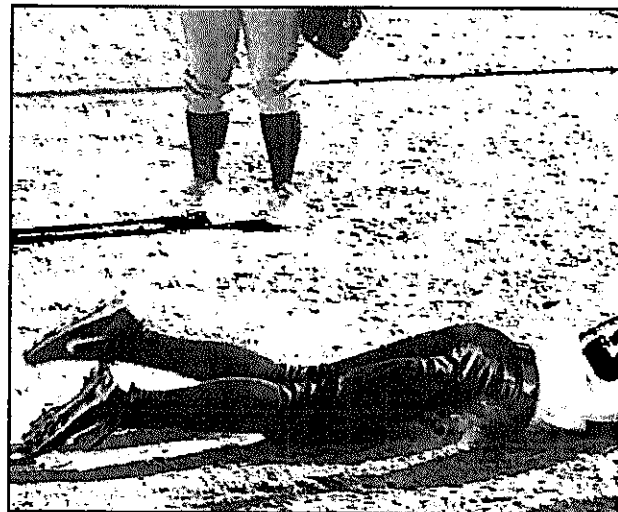
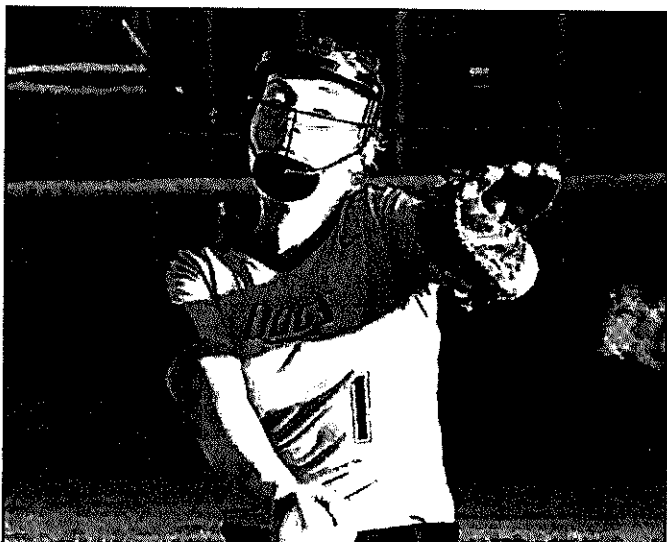
Ruble, who twirled a pair of no-hitters last week, allowed just one hit — a clean single up the middle by opposing pitcher Jen Anderson with two outs in the third. Toronto's three runs came via a pair of groundouts and a Bridgeport error.

"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

See, BRIDGEPORT, Page B2



SHADYSIDE'S MADISON Davis slides safely into home plate during the Tom Bechtel Class 2A Softball Tournament semifinal game. The Bees posted a 5-4 nod in 8 innings.

## Shadyside comes

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"I'm not sure it has sunk in yet," Clay-Battelle head coach Butch Varner said of the hard-earned vic-

tory. "I have a lot of pride in this program (Shadyside). Their coaches do a great job and they really announced their program is moving to the next level of competing at the state level with that type of program. With the score differential, two out in the bottom of the inning, Varner called Ronda to bunt the third base line into the batter's box. It tied into the batter's box. 0-for-4 to that point. Pop outs.

"All we need is a little more in play. Get in there and get the feet set. Put it in play. What happens," he said in a brief pep talk. "And so Petrucci hit a rope

## St. John ousted by

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Times Leader Sports Writer

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See, **BRIDGEPORT**, Page B2



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

**BRIDGEPORT'S BROOKLYNN** Ruble fires a pitch plateward Monday night against Toronto. The senior struck out 16 in tossing a 1-hitter as the Bulldogs advanced to the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 2A Softball Tournament championship game with a 6-3 victory over the Red Knights on Monday at Lisa's Field.

## Shadyside denied in 2A baseball

By **ED LOOMAN**



**SHADYSIDE'S MADISON** Davis slides safely into Bechtel Class 2A Softball Tournament semifinal game. Bees posted a 5-4 nod in 8 innings.

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The Blue Dons only mustered two hits off the Irish pitching tandem of Kyla Kull and Jayden Lowe under clear, blue skies, but mistakes of some type by St. John led to all of their runs.

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## • Bridgeport

Continued from Page B1

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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 tallied 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 admitted. "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.

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

"They hit the ball pretty well against Shadyside today," Cash said of his scouting on Clay-Battelle. "It will be a revenge game on their part, but that was last year and this is this year. I just told my three seniors that I'm very proud of them. They are our leaders."

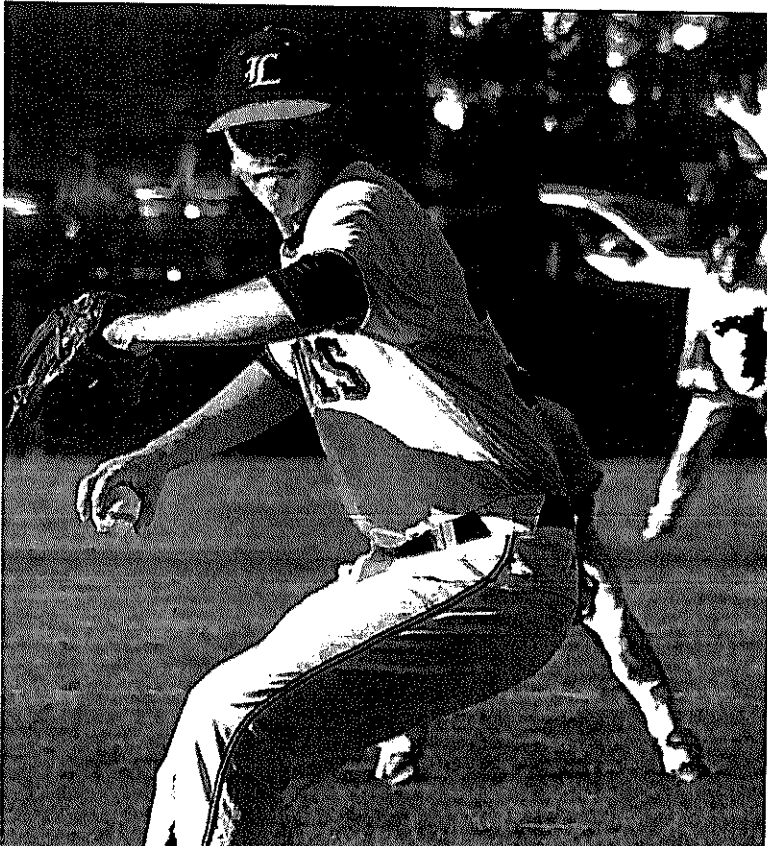
## • Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

The Tigers (8-8) led 1-0 after half-and-inning as Sydnie Destifanes doubled down the rightfield line leading off. She scored when Davis's sacrifice bunt was thrown wildly to first.

Clay-Battelle, which hasn't lost since dropping a 6-4 decision to Wheeling Central on the same field on April 1, scored four times in its first at-bat, with a two-out error paving the way.

Rylee Burnette doubled to right-center leading off and winning pitcher Caitlyn Kassay drew a one-out walk. A flyball moved Burnette to third before Hannah Hall's grounder to the left side was misplayed as a run scored. Madison Stafler followed with a RBI double to left-center and Alicia



Photo/KYLE LUTZ

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

hits or didn't get very many all. (Petho) kept us off-balance at's the name of the game right

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

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st trust my catcher," Petho said. o hit my spots, it doesn't always ut, but the defense was great. I strikes), but there were a lot of at could have been hits. It was b by them."

e Nelson also had a solid game ound for Fort Frye. Although the loss, he went the distance ick out five Linsly batters.

Engle provided both hits for Fort Frye.

Fort Frye put forth one final push and managed to get a run across in the seventh. Devin Layton got on base with an error, followed by a Huck walk to put two men on with no outs.

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

"We just have to go back to the grind. I thought we played very well defensively," Nelson said. "We pitched well and we'll use this as a positive to move on and hopefully we bring our best the next couple of games and make a little run in the tournament."

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.

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# The Game

## Dons take advantage of St. John errors

By RICK THORP  
For The Intelligencer

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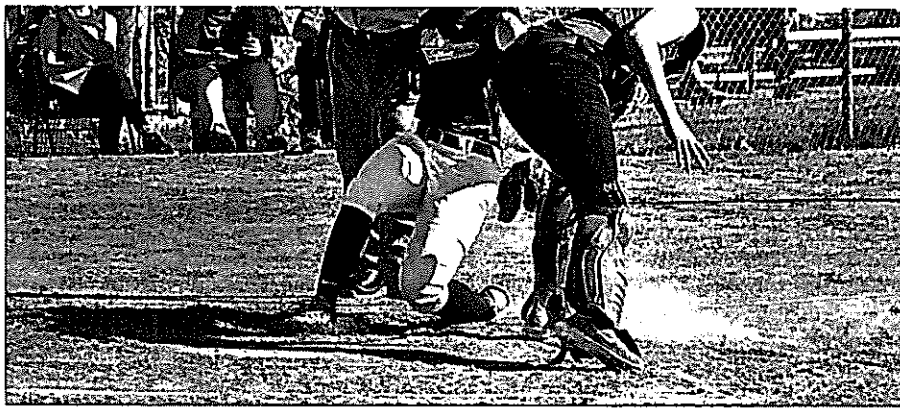


Photo by Andrew Grimm

Madonna's Gia Riccadonna slides into home plate as the ball gets past St. John catcher Kaley Bryan in a OVAC 1A semifinal at the I-470 Complex.

"It just wasn't a good time to play like this," veteran Irish coach Jerry Magistro lamented. "But, you know, that's part of the game. You have to be able to not have errors. We left a lot of people on base and you can't do that in a game like this and against a team like this."

"It just seemed like nothing went right for us from the beginning on."

Kull recorded all five of her strikeouts

in the first two innings. But the Blue Dons went up 2-0 thanks to a four-base error in the second.

Gia Riccadonna led off the inning with a bunt single. Two batters later, Mikayla Sole hit a shot to the left side of the infield. A throw to first went high and, before the play was over, she ended up safe at home.

Please see MADONNA, Page 13

# Shadyside

## Clay-Battelle in title game for first time

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"I'm not sure it has sunk in yet," Clay-Battelle coach Butch Varner said of the hard-earned victory. "I have a lot of respect for that program (Shadyside) over there. Their coaches do a great job. We've played the last two or three years and it really announces where our program is moving that we are capable of competing at this type of level with that type of program."

Please see CEE-BEES, Page 12

# Ruble Leads Bulldogs

## Ace whiffs 16 in leading Bridgeport past Toronto

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For The Intelligencer

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Ruble, who twirled a pair of no-hitters last week, allowed just one hit — a clean single up the middle by opposing pitcher

Please see RUBLE, Page 12



Bridgeport's Jaren Tucker (8) slides safely across home plate Monday after scoring on a wild pitch in the first inning against Toronto. Red Knights pitcher Jen Anderson awaits the throw.

Photo by Kim North



**MEADOWBROOK 7, St. Clairsville 1**  
**BYESVILLE** — Logan Fox pitched a complete game with five strikeouts as Meadowbrook downed St. Clairsville.

Peyton Neff supplied two singles for the Colts (14-2) while Hayden Loy had a RBI double. CJ Moore brought in two runs on a hit.

Brady Blattner, Devon Norman and Boston Black all had a single and RBI.

For the Red Devils (8-7) Matt Busby tallied two singles.

**Regular Season**  
**John Marshall 11**  
**Wheeling Park 8**

**MOUNDSVILLE** — Despite pitching 18 walks, John Marshall held off Wheeling Park.

The Monarchs scored six runs in the second inning while scoring four in the fourth.

Izac Babiczuk totaled three singles and two RBI for the Monarchs (9-14) while John Davis tallied two hits and brought home a run, Chas McCool also plated two runs with a single.

For the Patriots James Salvatore supplied a two-run double while Brock Archer had a RBI single.

**Cameroon 11**

**Jefferson County Christian 5**

**MOUNDSVILLE** — Logan Burkett struck out eight and led Cameroon over Jefferson County Christian.

Jessop Broughton drove in three on three hits, Garrett Scott was a

**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.

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"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

**LINSLEY**

(Continued from Page 11)

Tate Engle led the fourth inning off with a single to end Petho's no-hit bid.

**AYDEN SIMONIA, COY MOLLISON,** Luke Merritt and Hunter McCort all delivered RBI for the Jets (7-12).

**Barnesville 8, Bridgeport 1**

**BARNESVILLE** — Riley Tubaugh threw a two-hitter, striking out 11 and walking two as Barnesville improved to 15-0 with a win against Bridgeport.

The following players all contributed two singles and an RBI for Barnesville — Aaron Marovich, Jared Kernen, Jagger Jefferis and Hunter Carpenter.

Tubaugh scattered two singles.

**Martins Ferry 9, Indian Creek 2**

**MARTINS FERRY** — Jake Probst belted a grand slam and tripled en route to knocking in five runs as Martins Ferry evened its record at 7-7 with a victory against Indian Creek.

Drake Dobson added a triple and two RBI for the Purple Riders.

**SOFTBALL**

**Tyler Consolidated 5**

**Doddridge County 3**

**SISTERSVILLE** — JoLee Walton belted a home run, single and brought home two runs as Tyler Consolidated defeated Doddridge County.

Allie Miller supplied a two-run single in the sixth inning for the Silver Knights (10-10) while Madison DeV Vaughn tallied five strikeouts.

**Magnolia 9, St. Marys 0**

**ST. MARYS** — Paige Brill (two singles, double) and Ashely Kelly

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

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**Union Local 10**

**MORRISTOWN** — Barnesville rallied from a six-run deficit by exploding for 10 combined runs between the fourth and sixth innings en route to claiming the milk pitcher for the first time against rival Union Local.

Erin Hannahs smacked two singles, a triple and knocked in a run for the Shamrocks (11-11), who scored seven times in the fifth.

Cayleigh Reynolds added two singles and two RBI for Barnesville, while Shayla Hunter had two singles and an RBI.

Bailey Rinkes belted a 3-run homer for the Jets (4-11), while Keira Gregor doubled, singled and knocked in two.

**Monroe Central 5, River 3**

**SARDIS** — Kristen Friday homered and knocked in two runs and Allee Zwick doubled and singled as Monroe Central edged River.

Rymie Bishop added a double and an RBI for the Seminoles.

Jonayah Moeller and Canadace Caldwell both homered for the Pilots.

**River 12, Beallsville 0**

**SARDIS** — Katie Rufener belted three singles, a double and knocked in three runs as River blanked Beallsville behind a two-hitter by Katie Lively.

Riley Lollathin was a homer short of the cycle for the Pilots, while Moeller tripled, singled and plated two.

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**CEE-BEE!**

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**TORONTO**

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"I just trust my catch-

taking the loss, he went the distance and struck out five Linsly batters.

# Madonna Ousts Paden City

**PADEN CITY** - Madonna capitalized on seven Paden City errors en route to a 5-0 victory in a 1A OVAC semifinal matchup.

The Blue Dons will play against Cameron in the title game.

Domenic Brncie fired 10 strikeouts for Madonna while Matthew Amaismeier had two singles and two RBI.

For the Wildcats (12-11), Trey Slider tallied two singles while throwing eight strikeouts and Carson Palmer supplied a double.

2A

## Steubenville Catholic 9 Shadyside 3

**SHADYSIDE** - Despite a single, double and a RBI from Mason VanNest, top seed Shadyside (14-3) was upset by No. 4 Steubenville Catholic (9-5) in the OVAC 2A semifinal.

Noah Fayak supplied two doubles, a single and one RBI for the Crusaders.

4A

## Meadowbrook 7, St. Clairsville 1

**BYESVILLE** - Logan Fox pitched a complete game with five strikeouts as Meadowbrook downed St. Clairsville.

Peyton Neff supplied two singles for the Colts (14-2) while Hayden Loy had a RBI double. CJ Moore brought in two runs on a hit.

Brady Blattner, Devon Norman and Boston Black all had a single and RBI.

For the Red Devils (8-7) Matt Busby tallied two singles.

## Regular Season John Marshall 11 Wheeling Park 8

**MOUNDSVILLE** - Despite pitching 18 walks, John Marshall held off Wheeling Park.

The Monarchs scored six runs in the second inning while scoring four in the fourth.

Izac Babiczuk totaled three singles and two RBI for the Monarchs (9-14) while John Davis tallied two hits and brought home a run, Chas McCool also plated two runs with a single.

For the Patriots James Salvatore supplied a two-run double while Brock Archer had a RBI single.

## Cameron 11

## Jefferson County Christian 5

**MOUNDSVILLE** - Logan Burkett struck out eight and led Cameron over Jefferson County Christian.

Jessop Broughton drove in three on three hits, Garrett Scott was a

home run shy of the cycle with a single, double and a triple and a RBI and Trin Scott supplied a double, two singles and two RBI.

Noah Neely, Aidan Lucey and Travis Mickey each added RBI doubles.

## Hundred 2, Harman 0

**HUNDRED** - Bryce Bartrug delivered on the mound with 10 strikeouts as Hundred shut out Harman.

Hunter Tustin compiled a single, double and two RBI for the Hornets (5-8) while Travis McCoy belted two singles.

Christian Fluharty relieved Bartrug as he struck out three in the final two innings.

## Weir 7, Union Local 4

**WEIRTON** - Tyler Kelly fanned 10 and Drew Curtis drove in two on a single and a double as Weir defeated Union Local.

Zak Wypasek added a single, a double and a RBI for the Red Riders (9-10).

Ayden Smolira, Cody Morrison, Luke Merritt and Hunter McCort all delivered RBI for the Jets (7-12).

## Barnesville 8, Bridgeport 1

**BARNESVILLE** - Riley Tubaugh threw a two-hitter, striking out 11 and walking two as Barnesville improved to 15-0 with a win against Bridgeport.

The following players all contributed two singles and an RBI for Barnesville - Aaron Marovich, Jared Kernen, Jagger Jefferis and Hunter Carpenter.

Tubaugh scattered two singles.

## Martins Ferry 9, Indian Creek 2

**MARTINS FERRY** - Jake Probst belted a grand slam and tripled en route to knocking in five runs as Martins Ferry evened its record at 7-7 with a victory against Indian Creek.

Drake Dobson added a triple and two RBI for the Purple Riders.

## SOFTBALL

## Tyler Consolidated 5 Doddridge County 3

**SISTERSVILLE** - JoLee Walton belted a home run, single and brought home two runs as Tyler Consolidated defeated Doddridge County.

Allie Miller supplied a two-run single in the sixth inning for the Silver Knights (10-10) while Madison DeV Vaughn tallied five strikeouts.

## Magnolia 9, St. Marys 0

**ST. MARYS** - Paige Brill (two singles, double) and Ashley Kelly

(three singles) both tallied three hits as Magnolia shut down St. Marys. Kelly also had three RBI for the Blue Eagles.

Kayna Anderson supplied two singles and two RBI while Kady Fluharty had two singles.

## Brooke 8, Beaver Local 0

**EAST LIVERPOOL** - Rachel Kazmirski laced two singles and a double for two RBI and Landyn Haynes added a double as Brooke (15-8) shut out Beaver Local (6-10).

Earning the win with seven strikeouts was Maleaha Misch.

## John Marshall 14, Edison 1

**RICHMOND** - Joey Mangino belted a home run, provided and single and drove in three as John Marshall upended Edison (9-10).

Anna Blake tripled and laced two singles for four RBI and Taylor Gray garnered two singles, a double and four RBI for the Monarchs (15-12).

## Barnesville 12 Union Local 10

**MORRISTOWN** - Barnesville rallied from a six-run deficit by exploding for 10 combined runs between the fourth and sixth innings en route to claiming the milk pitcher for the first time against rival Union Local.

Erin Hannahs smacked two singles, a triple and knocked in a run for the Shamrocks (11-11), who scored seven times in the fifth.

Cayleigh Reynolds added two singles and two RBI for Barnesville, while Shayla Hunter had two singles and an RBI.

Bailey Rinkes belted a 3-run homer for the Jets (4-11), while Keira Gregor doubled, singled and knocked in two.

## Monroe Central 5, River 3

**SARDIS** - Kristen Friday homered and knocked in two runs and Allee Zwick doubled and singled as Monroe Central edged River.

Rymie Bishop added a double and an RBI for the Seminoles.

Jonayah Moeller and Canadace Caldwell both homered for the Pilots.

## River 12, Beallsville 0

**SARDIS** - Katie Rufener belted three singles, a double and knocked in three runs as River blanked Beallsville behind a two-hitter by Katie Lively.

Riley Lollathin was a homer short of the cycle for the Pilots, while Moeller tripled, singled and plated two.



Shadyside turn a double  
Clay-Battell  
8 innings of  
Youth Sports  
Wheeling.

## CEE-BE

(Continued)

With the  
locked at 4  
on first ar  
two out in  
the eighth,  
Ronda Petri  
third base  
settled int  
box. She  
that point  
pop outs.

"All we  
Put the bal  
there and g  
Put it in  
see what  
recalled o  
talk. "And

Petrucci  
that was b  
ter field,  
shortstop  
made a div  
ever, she  
the ball o  
in time to  
baseman  
for the fo  
time Dav.

**RUBLE**

(Continued from Page 11)

... didn't hit for nothing, play and the other doesn't.

## OVAC TOM BECHTEL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT SEMIFINALS

# Madonna Back To Title Game

Dons take advantage of St. John errors

By RICK THORP  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Maddie Daugherty threw a five-hitter and Madonna took advantage of a plethora of St. John miscues in the field Monday afternoon in besting the Irish, 7-1, in a 1A semifinal of the Tom Bechtel OVAC Softball Championships.

The four-time defending champion Blue Dons will return to the J.B. Chambers Youth Sports Complex on Saturday to battle Frontier, a 3-2 winner against Conotton Valley in the nightcap on Ben's Field.

"I love it," Madonna coach Chris Conti exclaimed. "I'm excited for the girls. They're ecstatic. A lot of teams counted us out this year. But guess what? They're here to play and to have fun. That's exactly what they're doing."

The Blue Dons only mustered two hits off the Irish pitching tandem of Kyla Kull and Jayden Lowe under clear, blue skies, but mistakes of some type by St. John led to all of their runs.

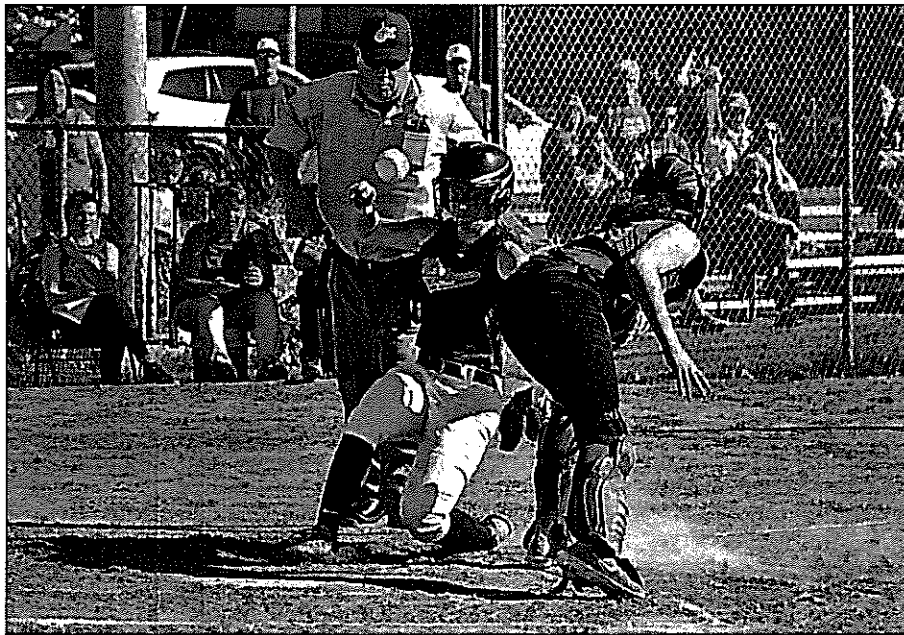


Photo by Andrew Grimm

Madonna's Gia Riccadonna slides into home plate as the ball gets past St. John catcher Kaley Bryan in a OVAC 1A semifinal at the I-470 Complex.

"It just wasn't a good time to play like this," veteran Irish coach Jerry Magistro lamented. "But, you know, that's part of the game. You have to be able to not have errors. We left a lot of people on base and you can't do that in a game like this and against a team like this."

"It just seemed like nothing went right for us from the beginning on."

Kull recorded all five of her strikeouts

in the first two innings. But the Blue Dons went up 2-0 thanks to a four-base error in the second.

Gia Riccadonna led off the inning with a bunt single. Two batters later, Mikayla Sole hit a shot to the left side of the infield. A throw to first went high and, before the play was over, she ended up safe at home.

Please see MADONNA, Page 13

# Cee-Bees Eliminate Shadyside Clay-Battelle in title game for first time

By KIM NORTH  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — For the first time in school history, Clay-Battelle will play for an OVAC Class 2A Softball championship.

The top-seeded Cee-Bees (18-1) won for the 12th straight time Monday afternoon with a 5-4 triumph over No. 4 Shadyside in 8 innings in semifinal action on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex. They will meet No. 2 Bridgeport for the title either Friday or Saturday. The date and time will be announced later today as Clay-Battelle has prom Saturday night.

"I'm not sure it has sunk in yet," Clay-Battelle coach Butch Varner said of the hard-earned victory. "I have a lot of respect for that program (Shadyside) over there. Their coaches do a great job. We've played the last two or three years and it really announces where our program is moving that we are capable of competing at this type of level with that type of program."

Please see CEE-BEES, Page 12

# Ruble Leads Bulldogs

Ace whiffs 16 in leading Bridgeport past Toronto

By KIM NORTH  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Brooklynn Ruble likes pitching in the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 2A Softball Tournament.

The fireballing senior struck out 16 — including the final seven batters she faced

dogs (11-5) also prevailed in.

"I can't say enough about her," Bridgeport coach Donnie Cash said of his ace. "She's pitched just about every game for us the last two years. In my opinion, if she's not the best, she's one of the top 3 (pitchers) in the Ohio Valley. In this tournament she's just been lights-out for two years in a row. We need another performance either Friday or Saturday when we play Clay-Battelle for the championship."

Ruble, who struck a pair of no hitters



Bridgeport's Jaren Tucker (8) slides safely across home plate Monday after scoring on a wild pitch in the first inning against Toronto. Red Knights pitcher Jen Anderson awaits the

# a Ousts Paden City

home run shy of the cycle with a single, double and a triple and a RBI and Trin Scott supplied a double, two singles and two RBI.

Noah Neely, Aidan Lucey and Travis Mickey each added RBI doubles.

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The following players all contributed two singles and an RBI for Barnesville — Aaron Marovich, Jared Kernan, Jagger Jefferis and Hunter Carpenter.

Tubaugh scattered two singles.

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### Doddridge County 3

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Allie Miller supplied a two-run single in the sixth inning for the Silver Knights (10-10) while Madison DeVaughn tallied five strikeouts.

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Cayleigh Reynolds added two singles and two RBI for Barnesville, while Shayla Hunter had two singles and an RBI.

Bailey Rinkes belted a 3-run homer for the Jets (4-11), while Keira Gregor doubled, singled and knocked in two.

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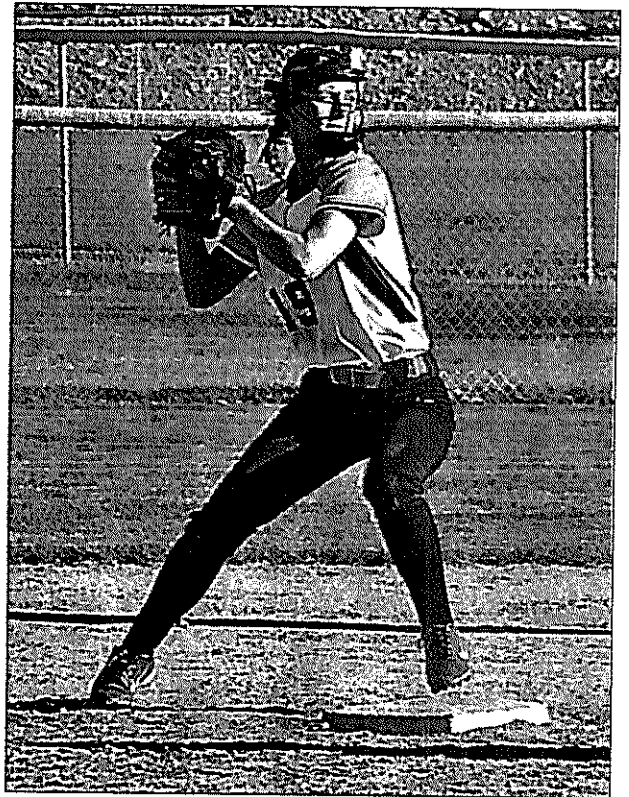


Photo by Kim North

Shadyside second baseman Madison Davis tries to turn a double play during Monday's OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 2A Softball Tournament semifinal against Clay-Battelle. The Tigers fell to the Cee-Bees, 5-4, in 8 innings on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex in the Elm Grove section of Wheeling.

## CEE-BEES

(Continued from Page 11)

With the score deadlocked at 4-4 and runners on first and second and two out in the bottom of the eighth, Varner called Ronda Petrucci down the third base line before she settled into the batter's box. She was 0-for-4 to that point with a trio of pop outs.

"All we need is a hit. Put the ball in play. Get in there and get your feet set. Put it in play and we'll see what happens," he recalled of his brief pep talk. "And she did."

Petrucci hit a rope that was headed for center field, but Shadyside shortstop Kiley Jo Baker made a diving stab. However, she couldn't get the ball out of her glove in time to flip to second baseman Madison Davis for the forceout. By the time Davis received the throw, Alivia Ammons, the runner that had been

four times in its first at-bat, with a two-out error paving the way.

Rylee Burnette doubled to right-center leading off and winning pitcher Caitlyn Kassay drew a one-out walk. A flyball moved Burnette to third before Hannah Hall's grounder to the left side was misplayed as a run scored. Madison Statler followed with a RBI double to left-center and Alicia Keener singled through pitcher Brooke Reager's legs that scored two runs as the designated hosts went up 4-1.

"That was definitely a rough start. I don't know if it was nerves or what?" Shadyside coach Jillian Ongley said. "It's rough when you only give up one hit and they score four runs, but I'm proud of the way the girls battled back. That's the good thing about these girls all sea-

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FOX  
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made a diving stab. How-  
ever, she couldn't get  
the ball out of her glove  
in time to flip to second  
baseman Madison Davis  
for the forceout. By the  
time Davis received the  
throw, Alivia Ammons,  
the runner that had been  
on second, never hesitated  
rounding third and scored  
easily, setting on a wild  
celebration among the  
Cee-Bees.

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

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

Clay-Battelle, which  
hasn't lost since dropping  
a 6-4 decision to Wheel-  
ing central on the same  
field on April 1, scored

four times in its first at-  
bat, with a two-out error  
paving the way.

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one hit and they score four  
runs, but I'm proud of the  
way the girls battled back.  
That's the good thing  
about these girls all sea-  
son, they never hung their  
heads, not even when we  
were 0-4. They still give  
it their all and that's all  
you can ask."

The score remained that  
way until the Shadyside  
fifth as Reager and Kas-  
say were trading goose  
eggs.

With one out, Desti-  
fanes singled to center  
and promptly stole sec-  
ond. Davis picked up an  
RBI with an infield single  
as Destifanes raced home.  
Baker singled and Izzy  
Swords' roller up the mid-  
dle 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.

Bridgeport struck  
three runs on just one  
as Toronto committed  
two of its five errors.  
Tucker drew a  
walk and went  
second when Angie  
mer's grounder was  
played. A passed ball  
led each runner up 60  
and Tucker broke  
home when the next  
got away from the  
Knights catcher. She  
crossed home plate  
to tie the game,  
he throw back to the  
er covering also got  
as Sommer alertly  
ed home for a 2-1  
Bri Conaway then  
out swinging, but  
ball was dropped.  
nded up at third and  
home when Ruble  
ed a single up the  
e as the Bulldogs  
ed a 3-1 advantage.  
e first game we  
d them we were very  
ssive on the bases  
e lost 9-7," Cash re-  
."The second game

we didn't hit for nothing  
and we lost. I figured to-  
day 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 begin-  
ning," 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 go-  
ing 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 fac-  
ing a Clay-Battelle team  
with revenge on its mind  
for a semifinal setback in  
extra innings last season.

"They hit the ball pret-  
ty well against Shadyside  
(Monday)," Cash said of  
his scouting on Clay-Bat-  
telle. "It will be a revenge  
game on their part, but  
that was last year and this  
is this year. I just told my  
three seniors that I'm very  
proud of them. They are  
our leaders."

nsly as he fired four  
outs in the process.  
ust trust my catch-  
tho said. "I try to hit

taking the loss, he went the  
distance and struck out five  
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Engle provided both hits

hit game with his double and  
single along with his two  
RBI. Lee Paull put Linsly's  
fourth run on the board in

The Maroon Knights  
stranded runners in scor-  
ing position in five differ-  
ent innings and suffered  
from several base runs

fathomed. Angelo Gentile  
blistered a two-run single  
to left and Kyle New-  
meyer tied it with a laser

## TORONTO

(Continued from Page 11)

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

1 batter in the 7th  
 McNeil, by Nicasio (Alonso).  
 Mark Carlson, First, Scott Barry,  
 man; Third, Tripp Gibson.  
 3 (41,922).

Houston

more about the Steak  
 visit our Facebook event,  
 DP Steak Fry  
 and/or additional in-  
 contact:  
 orzano; justin@camer-  
 304-281-5649.

**J Basketball Tourney**  
 1 Virginia AAU is having  
 etball tournament April  
 sonville High School for  
 4th, 6th and 7th.  
 e information please  
 421-6318.

**all Officials Training**  
**Course**  
 st Virginia and Ohio  
 Officials Association is  
 a 28 hour course in fun-  
 f volleyball officiating.  
 successfully complet-  
 rse if study will be eli-  
 ciate in the 2019 school  
 register by May 7. The  
 ns on May 28 from 5-8  
 i have any questions,  
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 0 or Greg.Chesonis@  
 1.

**announces West Liberty**  
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(at J.B. Chambers  
 Youth Sports Complex)  
 Semifinals  
 Class 1A

**Madonna 7, St. John 1**  
**Madonna** 021 101 2 — 7 2 1  
**St. John** 000 000 1 — 1 5 3  
 M — Ma. Daugherty wp (5K, 2BB)  
 and Mir. Sole. Backel rbi.  
 S — Kull lp (5K, 3BB), Lowe (4)  
 (5K, 2BB) and Bryan. Yaegel D, 2S;  
 Ruza rbi.

**Class 2A**  
**Clay-Battelle 5, Shadyside 4, 8 inn.**  
**Shadyside** 100 030 00 — 4 6 2  
**Clay-Battelle** 400 000 01 — 5 10 6  
 S — Reager lp (4K, 4BB) and Hendershot. Destifanes S, D; Davis S, rbi; Swords S, rbi; Butler D.  
 C — Kassay wp (12K, 3BB) and Petrucci. Burnette S, D; Petrucci S, rbi; Wilson S, D; Statler S, D, rbi; Keener 2S, 2rbi.

**Bridgeport 6, Toronto 3**  
**Toronto** 100 110 0 — 3 1 5  
**Bridgeport** 303 000 x — 6 5 1  
 T — J. Anderson lp (6K, 3BB) and Reed; Sapp 2rbi.  
 B — Ruble wp (16K, 5BB) and Tucker. Ruble 2S, rbi; Stockwell rbi.

**Regular Season**  
**Barnesville 12, Union local 10**  
**Barnesville** 002 172 0 — 12 11 2  
**Union Local** 512 000 2 — 10 12 5  
 B — Hanlon (3K, 2BB), Detling (4) wp (0K, 1BB) and Johnson and Hunter (5). Hannahs 2S, T, rbi; Hanlon D; Reynolds 2S, 2rbi; Hunter 2S, rbi.  
 U — Mercer (2K, 5BB), Rinkes (3) (1K, 1BB), Gregor (5) lp (3K, 2BB) and Powell. Kildow 2S, rbi; Mercer S, rbi; Rinkes HR, 3rbi; Robb S, D, rbi; Thomas 2S, rbi; Gregor S, D, 2rbi.

**John Marshall 14, Edison 1**  
**John Marshall** 212 036 — 14 14 0  
**Edison** 000 10x — 1 3 1  
 J — Morgan wp (1K, 0BB), Wise (4) (4K, 0BB), South (6) (1K, 0BB) and Mangino. An. Blake 2S, T, 4rbi; Gray 2S, D, 4rbi; Mangino S, HR, 3rbi.  
 E — Meadows lp (0K, 4BB) and McElroy. Christoff HR, rbi.

**Magnolia 9, St. Marys 0**  
**St. Marys** 000 00 — 0 3 1  
**Magnolia** 104 40 — 8 12 2  
 S — Nichols lp (11K, 0BB) and King.  
 M — Piekarski wp (1K, 0BB), Postlethwait (4) (1K, 0BB) and B. Fluharty. Brill 2S, D; Anderson 2S, 2rbi; Kelly 3S, 3rbi; Piekarski S, rbi; White rbi; K. Fluharty 2S.

**Brooke 8, Beaver Local 0**  
**Brooke** 120 121 1 — 8 6 0  
**Beaver Local** 000 000 0 — 0 5 2  
 B — Misch wp (7K, 0BB) and Veltri. Kazmirski 2S, D, 2rbi; Haynes D.  
 BL — Keller lp (6K, 7BB) and Bowersock. Pancake S, D.

**Tyler Consolidated 5**  
**Doddridge County 3**  
**Doddridge Co.** 200 010 0 — 3 8 5  
**Tyler Consol.** 001 103 x — 5 7 6  
 D — Sanford lp (3K, 5BB) and Carter. Heisman S, HR, 2rbi; D. Haven 2S.  
 T — DeVaughn wp (5K, 0BB) and S. Miller. Walton HR, S, 2rbi; A. Miller S, 2rbi.

**Monroe Central 5, River 3**  
**Monroe Central** 000 122 0 — 5 8 0  
**River** 000 003 0 — 3 4 2  
 M — Giesey wp (6K, 2BB) and Hamiholt. K. Friday HR, 2rbi; Zwick D, S; R. Bishop D, rbi; Kalista Friday D.  
 R — Rose lp (2K, 4BB) and Rufener. Caldwell HR, 2rbi; Moeller HR, rbi.

**River 12, Beallsville 0**  
**Beallsville** 000 00 — 0 4 3  
**River** 261 3x — 12 16 2  
 B — Perkins lp (1K, 1BB) and Cleary. Cleary 2S.  
 R — Lively wp (6K, 0BB) and Rufener. Riley Lollathin S, D, T; Rufener D, 3S, 3rbi; Rose S, D, rbi; Moeller S, T, 2rbi; Reed T, S.

annis Antetokounmpo scored 41 points, and the Milwaukee Bucks beat Detroit 127-104 on Monday night, completing a four-game sweep of the Pistons and advancing to the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 2001.

Milwaukee closed the third quarter with a 17-3 run, taking a 10-point lead into the fourth after the Pistons had led much of the way. Detroit set an NBA record with its 14th consecutive playoff loss, a skid that began in 2008.

The Bucks will face Boston in the second round. The Celtics are coming off a sweep against Indiana.

"I think it's important that we take a second tonight. Enjoy it," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "It's a good night for Milwaukee. It's a good night for the Bucks."

Reggie Jackson scored 20 of his 26 points in the first half for Detroit. Blake Griffin fouled out with 7:06 remaining after scoring 22. The home fans gave him a nice ovation — then many headed for the exits. Griffin

**MADONNA**

(Continued from Page 11)

Madonna went up 3-0 an inning later when pinch runner Morgan Owens scored on a passed ball — the second time she moved up on a passed ball during the frame.

Conti praised his team for taking advantage of the opportunities presented to them and staying aware of the various situations.

"They played as a team," he said. "There's no 'I' in team. I've stressed that all year."

"We had baserunners on and they had a couple of passed balls. We were aggressive on the bases. They just played together, and Maddie played a great game."

While Madonna was slowly, but surely, building a lead, Daugherty was doing the same with the Irish lineup. She kept them off the scoreboard until the seventh and finished with five Ks and two walks.

St. John had runners at

of the series with knee problems.

"Blake played his heart out with basically one leg," said Pistons coach Dwane Casey, whose voice was hoarse at his postgame news conference. "He fought through a lot of pain, swelling."

Griffin was on the bench for much of Milwaukee's crucial run. He sat for the final 4:35 of the third. Antetokounmpo scored 16 points in that quarter, half of which came on free throws.

Detroit led 20-8 early on after a dunk by Griffin. The Pistons were up 62-56 at halftime but still couldn't prevent a fourth straight blowout at the hands of the team that had the NBA's best regular-season record. Milwaukee won the four games by a total of 95 points, and no game was closer than 16.

**TO THE LINE**

Milwaukee went 31 of 41 on free throws, while Detroit was only 9 of 12. Casey was called for a technical foul in the third, and the fans weren't at all pleased with the officiating.

third and second in the first and fourth innings with two out, but were unable to capitalize.

Madonna, meanwhile, added a run in the sixth to go up 5-0. Then, triggered by a two-base error to begin the frame, tacked on two more in the seventh.

Danniele Yaegel and Kasi Gillespie reached to start the seventh for the Irish, with Yaegel, who had three hits, later scoring.

"They played hard right until the last out," Magistro said. "The kids didn't want to lose."

"I can't say enough about this group. I have to give credit for making the top four. They've always made it."

Madonna, meanwhile, is in the top two again.

"They all get along together and they all support each other," Conti said. "That's what I love about this team."



# OVAC TOM BECHTEL SOFTBALL TOURNA Magnolia Rallies to Defeat Linsly, 5-4



Photo by Kyle Lutz

Magnolia's Ashlyn Piekarski takes a swing at a pitch during an OVAC 3A semifinal matcup against Linsly. Piekarski's two-run single in the seventh inning proved to be the game-winner for the Blue Eagles.

## Piekarski's two-run single proved to be winner

By TRACY WATSON  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Before her fourth-seeded Magnolia team took the field against top-seeded Linsly in an OVAC softball semifinal Tuesday night, Blue Eagles' coach Angela Johnson told her team that the seeds meant nothing and that her girls should just, "go out and do their thing and get the job done."

And while Magnolia struggled to get anything going through four innings, it came to life over the final three frames and just as their coach had asked, got the job done.

Ashley Tharp fanned eight without issuing a walk, and made an amazing catch to help secure the lead in the sixth inning, while Ashlyn Piekarski's one-out, two-run single in the top of the seventh proved to be the game-winner as Magnolia rallied for a thrilling 5-4 victory over the Cadets in a Class AAA semifinal on Ben's Field at the J.B. Cham-

## ONLINE EXTRA

See more photos of Magnolia's big victory against Linsly at [www.theintelligencer.net](http://www.theintelligencer.net)

ber's I-470 Sports Complex.

The victory moves the Blue Eagles to 15-4 on the season and sends them into the 3A championship game that will be played either Friday night or Saturday morning. Their opponent will be the survivor of tonight's other semifinal between Crestview and Monroe Central.

While Coach Darryl Crews' Cadets (14-6) left three runners in scoring position and had another thrown out at third over the initial three innings Linsly did manage to grab a quick 2-0 lead.

Please see **MAGNOLIA**, Page 12

## MENT SEMIFINALS

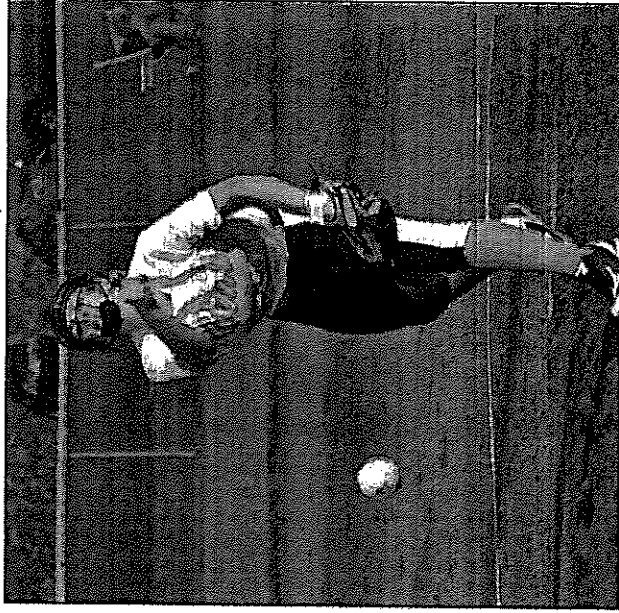


Photo by Kim North  
Oak Glen's Maddie McKay delivers a pitch to the plate Tuesday against Martins Ferry.

# Mckay Leads OG Past Ferry

## Freshman pitcher delivers with 17 strikeouts on night

By KIM NORTH  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Maddie McKay struck out 17 as Oak Glen advanced to the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 4A softball championship game with a 4-1 come-from-behind semifinal triumph over Martins Ferry Tuesday under the lights on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex.

McKay, a freshman, allowed just two infield singles — both to Alea Funkhouser — in hurling the top-seeded Golden Bears back to the finals for the second time in three seasons. She faced three batters over the minimum as she walked one and Oak Glen was charged with a trio of errors. One Purple Rider runner was picked off.

"This was a very tough game. We had to come up with some clutch hits and we had to make some plays when they challenged us," Oak Glen coach Sherrie Garner said.

"Martins Ferry made us make every effort we had to win. My girls didn't quit and that's all I can ask of them."

Oak Glen (16-6) will meet St. Clairsville, a 7-4 victor over Harrison Central in the other semifinal. That game will be played Friday at 6:45 p.m. on Ben's Field. The same two schools met for the 2016 title, with the Red Devils prevailing.

"This group has matured as the season has progressed," Garner said.

Please see MCKAY, Page 12



Photo by Kim North  
St. Clairsville second baseman Hannah Thoburn makes a throw to first during Tuesday's OVAC Class 4A semifinal.

# Red Devils Down Huskies, 7-4

## Bennington supplies big hit for St. C.

By KIM NORTH  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Veteran players always seem to come up huge in big games. Such was the case Tuesday night during an OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 4A softball tournament semifinal.

With No. 2 seed St. Clairsville already leading third-seeded Harrison Central 4-2 in the bottom of the fourth inning, third baseman Bree Bennington gave the Red Devils some additional insurance runs. The senior

slugged a bases-clearing double that bumped the count to 7-2 and would end up being the deciding blow in a 7-4 victory on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex.

The win not only propelled St. Clairsville (11-5) to the championship game opposite top-seeded Oak Glen Friday at 6:45 p.m., but it also gave them the rubber-game as both teams had split a pair of earlier contests.

"That was absolutely a clutch hit. She really came through when we needed it," first-year St. Clairsville coach Rob Gallentine said of Bennington.

"She was focused. She's hitting around .500 for the season.

"Our two seniors, Bree and Taylor (Gallentine) have been there before," he said of experiencing an OVAC championship. "They were major contributors on an OVAC championship team as freshmen. We talked about how their experiences could help these younger girls. Bree came through and I'm tickled to death she did."

The Huskies were their own worst enemy as they stranded nine runners on base and made a couple of costly errors.

Please see DEVILS, Page 12

out a sea-  
the Detroit  
or their first  
Park since  
five shut-  
eague win,  
he nightcap  
ns at 9-15.

two-run homer in the first inning off the fa-  
cade of the second deck in left-center field,  
and Cincinnati wasted an early lead and then  
rallied to beat Atlanta.

Jose Peraza had his first RBI since hom-  
ering on opening day, and Tucker Barnhart  
homered for the Reds, who have won four of  
five following a four-game losing streak. Cin-  
cinnati led 3-0 in the fifth inning, fell behind  
4-3 in the sixth, then scored four runs in the  
bottom half.

#### ORIOLES 9, WHITE SOX 1

BALTIMORE (AP) — Dwight Smith Jr.  
hit a three-run homer, one of four long balls  
off Iv'n Nova (0-3), and Baltimore overpower-  
ed Chicago to end a four-game losing streak.

Andrew Cashner (4-1) gave up one run,  
five hits and a walk over seven innings to win  
his fourth straight decision. Just as important,  
he provided much needed rest to a bullpen  
that was drained in a 12-2 loss to Chicago one  
night earlier.

#### GIANTS 7, BLUE JAYS 6

TORONTO (AP) — Pablo Sandoval went  
3 for 4 and homered for the first time this  
year, one of a season-high four home runs for  
San Francisco.

Joe Panik, Evan Longoria and Brandon  
Belt also homered for the Giants, who came  
in 29th in the majors in batting and ahead of  
just one team in home runs.

#### Tyler Consolidated 3, St. Marys 2

ST. MARYS — Jacob Rice compiled three  
singles and two RBI as Tyler Consolidated de-  
feated St. Marys.

Case Landis had two hits for the Silver  
Knights (10-6).

#### Barnesville 6, Martins Ferry 5

BARNESVILLE — Aaron Marovich sup-

#### Shadyside 13, Froner 1

SHADYSIDE — Kylie Jo Baker collected  
three singles and two RBI as Shadyside defeat-  
ed Fronter.

Isabella Swords brought home three runs  
with a single and triple for the Tigers while  
Madison Davis had a single, double and three  
RBI.

## MAGNOLIA

(Continued from Page 11)

With two down in the top  
of the first Sophia Recrosio  
reached on an infield single  
and scored when senior Sarah  
Heller ripped a RBI double  
into the right-center field gap  
for a 1-0 advantage.

Linsly had a shot to blow  
the game wide open in the  
third with Maddy Menendez  
reaching on a one-out single  
then stealing second and third  
before scoring on Karena Re-  
crosio's base-hit to make it  
2-0. Recrosio's sister Sophia  
then reached on a bunt sin-  
gle with the duo ending up at  
second and third with one out  
and the Cadets No. 4 and 5  
hitters due up.

Tharp, however, settled in  
and recorded back-to-back  
strikeouts to end the threat.

The Blue Eagles cut the  
deficit in half in the fifth  
when Sydney Scott reached  
on a one-out fielder's choice  
and No. 9 hitter Natalie  
Fletcher reached when the  
centerfielder could not come  
up the great diving play to put  
two runners on. Paige Brill  
then drilled a run-scoring sin-  
gle up the middle to make it a  
2-1 game.

Magnolia got things go-  
ing again in the sixth with

Ashley Kelly collecting a  
lead-off single and Pikarski  
being hit by a pitch. Lindsay  
Whiteman's sacrifice bunt  
put runners on second and  
third with one away.

Designated player Shayna  
White then reached on an er-  
ror allowing one run to score  
and moved to second as an-  
other run scoring on another  
Linsly miscue on the play as  
the Eagles moved ahead 3-2.

Johnson's squad put up a  
pair of much needed insur-  
ance runs in the seventh with  
a pair of singles, a fielder's  
choice and Piekarski's two-  
run single to left that put  
Magnolia up by a 5-2 margin.

Linsly, however, did not  
go away easy in the home-  
half of the seventh. Following  
a pair of quick outs Menen-  
dez reached on an error and  
scored on Karena Recrosio's  
triple to right-center. Sophia  
Recrosio then followed with  
her fourth hit of the day, plat-  
ing her sister and making it a  
5-4 count before Tharp got  
Heller to pop out to second to  
end the contest.

"Unfortunately, we  
weren't able to get much  
going early on, but we did a  
good job adjusting to things

and we had some girls make  
some big plays in the field as  
well," Johnson said. "And no  
question, we got some timely,  
big hits.

"Defensively their third  
baseman (Karena Recrosio)  
and centerfielder (Sophia  
Recrosio) hurt us both of-  
fensively and defensively.  
They are really great play-  
ers. Ashley (Tharp) also  
did an outstanding job in  
the circle, but she is always  
strong and I have so much  
confidence in her."

Kayna Anderson and  
Tharp each had a pair of hits  
for Magnolia while the Re-  
crosio sisters combined for  
six hits and three RBI in the  
contest.

"I told the girls to hold  
their heads high," Crews  
said. "This team has had  
a tremendous turnaround  
since last year, and even  
since the beginning of this  
season.

"They didn't quit, they  
kept fighting to the end and  
that is all you can ask. This  
is just a lesson learned that  
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But overall I could not be  
more proud of these kids as  
their coach."

## McKAY

(Continued from Page 11)

"We've got four seniors that have seen it all  
the way through (their careers) and their matu-  
rity is what we're proud of."

McKay fanned eight of the first nine Purple  
Riders she faced, including the side in the sec-  
ond and third. She also whiffed three batters  
in fourth and sixth innings while throwing an  
even 100 pitches, of which 72 were strikes.

"She gives a great spark to the other girls.  
She adds a lot of confidence to them and she's  
a hard worker," Garner said. "She's our work-  
horse and you can't ask for anything more than  
she gives us."

Fourth-seeded Martins Ferry (10-11),  
which limped into the Final Four by losing five  
of its last six contests, took a 1-0 lead in the  
top of the fourth. The left-handed hitting Funk-  
houser led off with a slap single to the hole at  
short. Abby Bumbico bunted and was ruled  
safe at first when the ball was bobbled. With  
two outs, Martins Ferry coach Paige Williams  
decided to try and make something happen. A  
double steal resulted in the Purple Riders lone  
run as Funkhouser swiped third as the throw  
sailed into left field. Funkhouser got up and  
sprinted home ahead of the throw in a bang-  
bang play at the plate.

Oak Glen evened things an inning later when  
McKay singled up the middle with two outs.  
Alexa Andrews sent a shot to deep right-center

A strikeout prevented further damage.

The Golden Bears sealed the deal in the  
bottom of the sixth with a little help from their  
opponents.

Jayana Montgomery legged out an in-  
field single leading off and was replaced by  
pinchrunner Grace Smith. Aidin Hall reached  
on a fielder's choice and Britney Giorgini  
looped a single to shallow left-center to load  
the bases. McKayla Goodlin's comeback-  
er was fielded and thrown to the plate for the  
force, but the ball was dropped as a run scored.  
Hannah Patterson followed with a flyball deep  
enough to left that plated Hall, and Goodlin  
would cross the plate on Hannah Walker's  
two-out single.

"I'm proud of my team," Williams said.  
"We had a terrible game against Indian Creek  
(Monday) and I was proud to see them come  
back and have the fight that I've seen in them.  
Obviously, I was a little nervous before the  
game, but once I saw the desire the girls had  
to try and make it to the championship game I  
was certainly happy with."

Walker finished with three hits and an RBI  
while McKay, Andrews and Montgomery all  
had two.

Bumbico struck out five and walked two in  
six-plus innings of work.

Oak Glen has OVAC softball titles in 1998

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The Blue Eagles cut the deficit in half in the fifth when Sydney Scott reached on a one-out fielder's choice and No. 9 hitter Natalie Fletcher reached when the centerfielder could not come up the great diving play to put two runners on. Paige Brill then drilled a run-scoring single up the middle to make it a 2-1 game.

Magnolia got things going again in the sixth with

### McKay

(Continued from Page 11)

"We've got four seniors that have seen it all the way through (their careers) and their maturity is what we're proud of."

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Oak Glen evened things an inning later when McKay singled up the middle with two outs. Alexa Andrews sent a shot to deep right-center that resulted in a triple as McKay easily scored.

### DEVILS

(Continued from Page 11)

"We stranded a lot of baserunners and made too many mistakes to beat a good team like St. Clairsville," Harrison Central coach Darrin Young said. "We didn't take advantage of certain opportunities when they were presented to us."

"In order to win championships, you've got to play fundamentally-sound softball. We did it at times tonight, but we did get it for seven innings."

After Harrison Central left the bags loaded in the top of the first, St. Clairsville went to work.

Taylor Gallentine and Hannah Thoburn drew back-to-back leadoff walks from Harrison Central starter, and loser, Kaylee Elliott. Bennington sacrificed both run-

ners up a base before Alexis Hines bunted down the first base line. Gallentine scored easily as the ball slowly rolled to first baseman Jenna Young who tagged Hines. However, Thoburn never stopped chugging around third and slid in safely as the ball was jarred loose from catcher Madison Young for a 2-0 advantage.

The Huskies evened things in their second at-bat when Sarah Touville singled up the middle with two outs to score Jenna Young and Lexi Ferguson.

St. Clairsville re-gained the lead in the third as Thoburn singled to center leading off. Bennington singled to right and when the ball got past the rightfielder, the speedy Thoburn circled the bags. Bennington was eventually

tagged out at the plate, but Jenna Jaskowiak's two-out base hit batted through the box plated Dekotah Namack for a 4-2 margin.

Harrison Central cut the deficit to 7-4 in the sixth when Britton Positano launched a two-run homer over the fence in deep left-center.

"The second half of our season starts tomorrow I told them," Young said.

"I know this one hurts, but we've got to shake it off and get ready for sectionals."

Thoburn laced three singles and scored three times to pace St. C. Gallentine had a pair of singles and two runs scored.

Jaskowiak fanned three, walked just one and scattered seven hits to seven different Huskies.

their heads high, Crews said. "This team has had a tremendous turnaround since last year, and even since the beginning of this season."

"They didn't quit, they kept fighting to the end and that is all you can ask. This is just a lesson learned that you have to play to the end. But overall I could not be more proud of these kids as their coach."

A strikeout prevented further damage. The Golden Bears sealed the deal in the bottom of the sixth with a little help from their opponents.

Jayana Montgomery legged out an infield single leading off and was replaced by pinchrunner Grace Smith. Aidin Hall reached on a fielder's choice and Britney Giorgini looped a single to shallow left-center to load the bases. McKayla Goodlin's comebacker was fielded and thrown to the plate for the force, but the ball was dropped as a run scored. Hannah Patterson followed with a flyball deep enough to left that plated Hall, and Goodlin would cross the plate on Hannah Walker's two-out single.

"I'm proud of my team," Williams said. "We had a terrible game against Indian Creek (Monday) and I was proud to see them come back and have the fight that I've seen in them. Obviously, I was a little nervous before the game, but once I saw the desire the girls had to try and make it to the championship game I was certainly happy with."

Walker finished with three hits and an RBI while McKay, Andrews and Montgomery all had two.

Bumbico struck out five and walked two in six-plus innings of work.

Oak Glen has OVAC softball titles in 1998 and 2002.



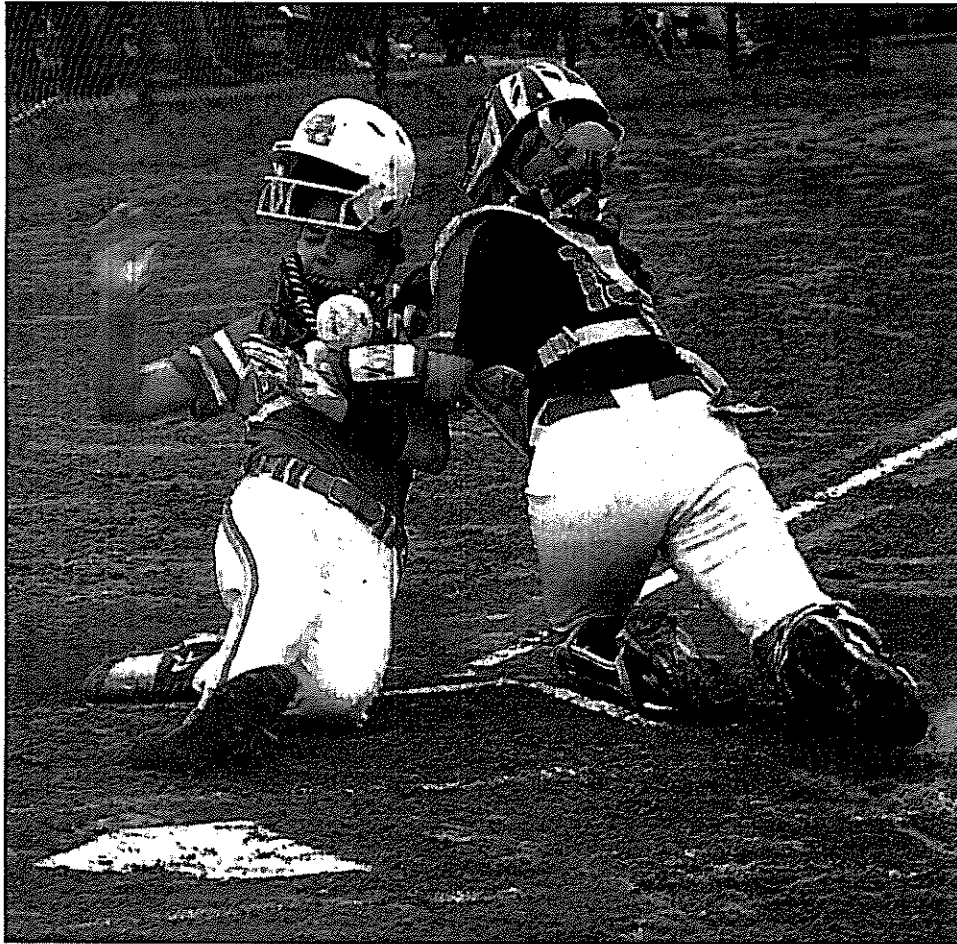
Scoreboard/B3

## SPORTS

Wednesday,  
April 24, 2019

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Hannah Thoburn jars the ball away from Harrison Central catcher Madison Young during Tuesday night's OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 4A semifinal on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex in Wheeling. Thoburn was safe and the Red Devils won, 7-4.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH



## St. Clairsville to play for 4A title

• Red Devils knock off Harrison, 7-4

By KIM NORTH

Times Leader Sports Writer

**WHEELING** – Veteran players always seem to come up huge in big games. Such was the case Tuesday night during an OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 4A softball tournament semifinal.

With No. 2 seed St. Clairsville already leading third-seeded Harrison Central 4-2 in the bottom of the fourth inning, third baseman Bree Bennington gave the Red Devils some additional insurance runs. The senior slugged a bases-clearing double that bumped the count to 7-2 and would end up being the deciding blow in a 7-4 victory on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex.

The win not only propelled St. Clairsville (11-5) to the championship game opposite top-seeded Oak Glen Friday at 6:45 p.m., but it also gave them the rubber-game as both teams had split a pair of earlier contests.

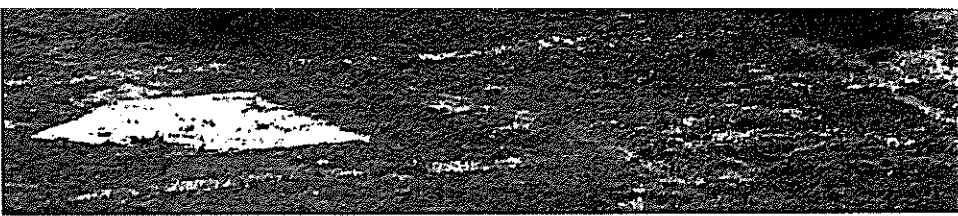
"That was absolutely a clutch hit. She really came through when we needed it," first-year St. Clairsville head coach Rob Gallentine said of Bennington. "She was focused. She's hitting around .500 for the season.

"Our two seniors, Bree and Taylor (Gallentine) have been there before," he said of experiencing an OVAC championship. "They were major contributors on an OVAC championship team

See, ST. C., Page B2

## Fourth-seeded Magnolia upsets





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"Our two seniors, Bree and Taylor (Gallentine) have been there before," he said of experiencing an OVAC championship. "They were major contributors on an OVAC championship team

See, ST. C., Page B2

# Fourth-seeded Magnolia upsets Linsly in Class 3A

• Blue Eagles await winner of Monroe and Crestview

By TRACY WATSON  
For The Times Leader

**WHEELING** – Before her fourth-seeded Magnolia team took the field against top-seeded Linsly in an OVAC softball semifinal Tuesday night, Blue Eagles' coach Angela Johnson told her team that the seeds meant nothing and that her girls should just, "go out and do their thing and get the job done."

And while Magnolia struggled to get anything going through four innings, it came to life over the final three frames and just as their coach had asked, got the job done.

Ashley Tharp fanned eight without issuing a walk, and made an amazing catch to help secure the lead in the sixth inning, while Ashlyn Piekarski's one-out, two-run single in the top of the seventh proved to be the game-winner as Magnolia rallied for a thrilling 5-4 victory over the Cadets in a Class AAA semifinal on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chamber's I-470 Sports Complex.

The victory moves the Blue Eagles to 15-4 on the season and sends them into the 3A championship game that will be played either Friday night or Saturday morning. Their opponent will be the survivor of tonight's other semifinal between Crestview and Monroe Central.

While Coach Darryl Crews' Cadets (14-6) left three runners in scoring position and had another thrown out at third over the initial three innings Linsly did manage to grab a quick 2-0 lead.

With two down in the top of the first Sophia Recrosio reached on an infield single and scored when senior Sarah Heller ripped a RBI double into the right-center field gap for a 1-0 advantage.

See, MAGNOLIA, Page B2



**MARTINS FERRY** catcher Hunter Pollock makes a throw to first after stepping on the plate for a forceout against Oak Glen Tuesday during semifinal action in the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 4A Tournament on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex in Wheeling. The Purple Riders fell, 4-1.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

# Ferry can't solve OG's McVay

By KIM NORTH  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**WHEELING** – Maddie McKay struck out 17 as Oak Glen advanced to the OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 4A softball championship game with a 4-1 come-from-behind semifinal triumph over Martins Ferry Tuesday under the lights on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Youth Sports Complex.

McKay, just a freshman, allowed

just two infield singles – both to Alea Funkhouser – in hurling the top-seeded Golden Bears back to the finals for the second time in three seasons. She faced only three batters over the minimum as she walked one and Oak Glen was charged with a trio of errors. One Purple Rider runner was picked off.

"This was a very tough game. We had to come up with some clutch hits and we had to make some plays when they challenged us," Oak Glen

head coach Sherrie Garner said. "Martins Ferry made us make every effort we had to to win. My girls didn't quit and that's all I can ask of them."

Oak Glen (16-6) will meet St. Clairsville, a 7-4 victor over Harrison Central, earlier in the day in the other semifinal. That game will be played Friday at 6:45 p.m. on Ben's Field. The same two schools met for

See, FERRY, Page B2

# Steubenville CC



## • Linsly

Continued from Page B1

Linsly had a shot to blow the game wide open in the third with Maddy Mendez reaching on a one-out single then stealing second and third before scoring on Karena Recrosio's base-hit to make it 2-0. Recrosio's sister Sophia then reached on a bunt single with the duo ending up at second and third with one out and the Cadets No. 4 and 5 hitters due up.

Tharp, however, settled in and recorded back-to-back strikeouts to end the threat.

The Blue Eagles cut the deficit in half in the fifth when Sydney Scott reached on a one-out fielder's choice and No. 9 hitter Natalie Fletcher reached when the centerfielder could not come up the great diving play to

put two runners on. Paige Brill then drilled a run-scoring single up the middle to make it a 2-1 game.

Magnolia got things going again in the sixth with Ashley Kelly collecting a lead-off single and Pikarski being hit by a pitch. Lindsay Whiteman's sacrifice bunt put runners on second and third with one away.

Designated player Shayna White then reached on an error allowing one run to score and moved to second as another run scoring on another Linsly miscue on the play as the Eagles moved ahead 3-2.

Johnson's squad put up a pair of much needed insurance runs in the seventh with a pair of singles, a fielder's choice and Pikarski's two-run sin-

gle to left that put Magnolia up by a 5-2 margin.

Linsly, however, did not go away easy in the home-half of the seventh. Following a pair of quick outs Mendez reached on an error and scored on Karena Recrosio's triple to right-center. Sophia Recrosio then followed with her fourth hit of the day, plating her sister and making it a 5-4 count before Tharp got Heller to pop out to second to end the contest.

"Unfortunately, we weren't able to get much going early on, but we did a good job adjusting to things and we had some girls make some big plays in the field as well," Johnson said. "And no question, we got some timely, big hits.

Continued from Page B1

the 2016 title, with the Red Devils prevailing.

"This group has matured as the season has progressed," she added. "We've got four seniors that have seen it all the way through (their careers) and their maturity is what we're proud of."

McKay fanned eight of the first nine Purple Riders she faced, including the side in the second and third. She also whiffed three batters in fourth and sixth innings while throwing an even 100 pitches, of which 72 were strikes.

"She gives a great spark to the other girls. She adds a lot of confidence to them and she's a hard worker," Garner said of her prized frosh. "She's our workhorse and you can't ask for anything more than she gives us."

Fourth-seeded Martins Ferry (10-11), which limped into the Final Four by losing five of its last six contests, took a 1-0 lead in the top of the fourth. The left-handed hitting Funkhouser led off with a slap single to the hole at short. Abby Bumbico bunted and was ruled safe at first when the ball was bobbled. With two outs, Martins Ferry head coach Paige Williams decided to try and make something happen. A double steal resulted in the Purple Riders lone run as Funkhouser swiped third as the throw sailed into left field. Funkhouser got up and sprinted home ahead of the throw in a bang-bang play at the plate.

Oak Glen evened things an inning later when McKay singled up the middle with two outs. Alexa Andrews sent a shot to deep right-center that resulted in a triple as McKay easily scored. A strikeout prevented further damage.

The Golden Bears sealed the deal in the bottom of the sixth with a little help from their opponents.

Jayana Montgomery legged out an infield single leading off and was replaced by pinchrunner Grace Smith. Aidin Hall reached on a fielder's choice and Britney Giorgini looped a single to shallow left-center to load the bases. McKayla Goodlin's comebacker was fielded and thrown to the plate for the force, but the ball was dropped as a run scored. Hannah Patterson followed with a flyball deep enough to left that plated Hall, and Goodlin would cross the plate on Hannah Walker's two-out single.

"I'm proud of my team," Williams said. "We had a terrible game against Indian Creek yesterday (Monday) and I was proud to see them come back and have the fight that I've seen in them. Obviously, I was a little nervous before the game, but once I saw the desire the girls had to try and make it to the championship game I was certainly happy with."

Walker finished with three hits and an RBI while McKay, Andrews and Montgomery all had two.

Bumbico struck out five and walked two in six-plus innings of work.

Oak Glen has OVAC softball titles in 1998 and 2002.

TIMES LEADER - Wednesday, April 24, 2019 - B2

## • St. C.

Continued from Page B1

as freshmen. We talked about how their experiences could help these younger girls. Bree came through and I'm tickled to death she did."

The Huskies were their own worst enemy as they stranded nine runners on base and made a couple of costly errors.

"We stranded a lot of baserunners and made too many mistakes to beat a good team like St. Clairsville," Harrison Central head coach Darrin Young assessed. "We didn't take advantage of certain opportunities when they were presented to us.

"In order to win championships, you've got to play fundamentally-sound softball," he added. "We did it at times tonight, but we did get it for seven innings."

After Harrison Central left the bags loaded in the top of the first, St. Clairsville went to work.

Taylor Gallentine and Hannah Thoburn drew back-to-back leadoff walks from Harrison Central starter, and loser, Kaylee Elliott. Bennington sacrificed both runners up a base before Alexis Hines bunted down the first base line. Gallentine scored easily as the ball slowly rolled to first baseman Jenna Young who tagged Hines. However, Thoburn never stopped chugging around third and slid in safely as the ball was jarred loose from catcher Madison Young for a 2-0 advantage.

The Huskies evened things in their second at-bat when Sarah Touville singled up the middle with two outs to score Jenna Young and Lexi Ferguson.

St. Clairsville re-gained the lead in the third as Thoburn singled to center leading off. Bennington singled to right and when the ball got past the rightfielder, the speedy Thoburn circled the bags. Bennington was eventually tagged out at the plate, but Jenna Jaskowiak's two-out base hit back through the box plated Dekotah Namack for a 4-2 margin.

Harrison Central cut the deficit to 7-4 in the sixth when Britton Positano launched a two-run homer over the fence in deep left-center.

"The second half of our season starts tomorrow I told them," Young said. "I know this one hurts, but we've got to shake it off and get ready for sectionals."

Thoburn laced three singles and scored three times to pace St. C. Gallentine had a pair of singles and two runs scored.

Jaskowiak fanned three, walked just one and scattered seven hits to seven different Huskies.

# SPORTS

Scoreboard/B4

Athlete of the Week/B5

## Monroe falls to Crestview in 3A semis

By RICK THORP  
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE — Plenty of two-out lightning struck the J.B. Chambers Youth Sports Complex on Wednesday evening.

Four of the five runs scored in the OVAC 3A semifinal pitting No. 2 seed Crestview and No. 3 seed Monroe Central came with two away. The Rebels tallied three of those runs, however, and left Ben's Field with a historic 4-1 victory.

Crestview returns to the J.B. Chambers Youth Sports Complex at 7 Friday night to face Magnolia for one of four Tom Bechtel Softball Championships slated to be contested at the complex that evening.

"This is great for our seniors," Crestview head coach Greg Eskra said. "We have four leaders; very good girls."

"This is good for our program and our team. We improve to 17-3, which ties a school record for wins."

Kaedyn Sutton shined in the circle and at the plate for the Rebels, whose losses have come against LaBrae, Southeast and Girard. She struck out 10 and walked one on the rubber and aided her own effort by singling twice and driving in two runs.

"She's a freshman and we ask a lot of her," Eskra said. "She's one of our better hitters and she's definitely our No. 1 pitcher."

Sutton's complete-game outing was out-See, **MONROE**, Page B2



T-L Photo/RICK THORP

**MONROE CENTRAL** pinch runner Gillian Leonard (4) and Crestview first baseman McKenna Schultz (10) watch a pitch during the sixth inning of Wednesday evening's OVAC 3A softball semifinal at Ben's Field. Leonard advanced to third, but failed to score — one of five runners left stranded in the Seminoles' 4-1 loss.

## Steubenville ousts Creek to reach 5A final

By ANDREW GRIMM  
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — Sometimes hot bats can make up for a tough day in the field.

That was the case for the Steubenville softball team in Wednesday's OVAC Class 5A semifinal with Indian Creek, as coach Gus DiMarzio's club hammered out 17 hits in a 13-9 win to advance to Friday's title game.

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"We're running through rain drops right now, but eventually we are going to get hit."

Big Red (15-4) made a couple of errors that turned into Redskins (12-4) runs, and a few other miscues that DiMarzio was not happy with.

Mary Marshall led the Steubenville offense with three hits and four RBI. She had two-run singles in each the third and fifth

Madi (Fields), Lakyn (Blackburn) and Raven (Banks) are hot as can be behind her. She drives the ball and runs like a deer. She is just a good kid and a good athlete."

Madison Fields went the distance in the circle, striking out 11, while at times fighting control problems with two walks and six hit batters. She plunked Indian Creek's Megan Kelley all three times she batted before an injury in the field removed her from the game.

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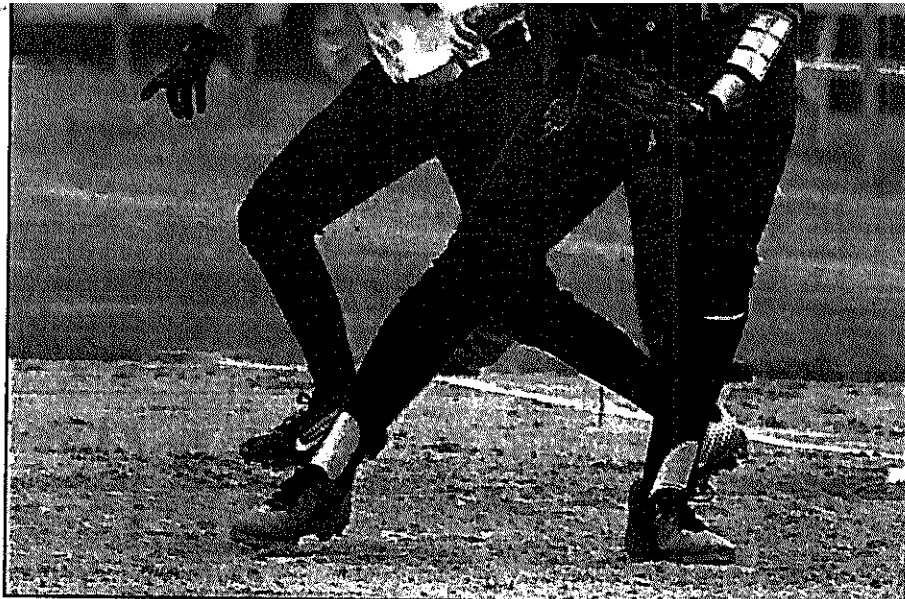
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T-L Photo/RICK THORP  
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For The Times Leader

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That was the case for the Steubenville softball team in Wednesday's OVAC Class 5A semifinal with Indian Creek, as coach Gus DiMarzio's club hammered out 17 hits in a 13-9 win to advance to Friday's title game.

"Thank God," DiMarzio said of the batting performance. "We made some bone-headed plays in the field. It was one thing after another and when you are playing in big games like these, you can't do

these things.

"We're running through rain drops right now, but eventually we are going to get hit."

Big Red (15-4) made a couple of errors that turned into Redskins (12-4) runs, and a few other miscues that DiMarzio was not happy with.

Mary Marshall led the Steubenville offense with three hits and four RBI. She had two-run singles in each the third and fifth innings.

"Mary is a kid that just sneaks up on you," DiMarzio said. "She has been in the five hole all year. She's hitting about .400. She doesn't get a lot of attention because of

Madi (Fields), Lakyn (Blackburn) and Raven (Banks) are hot as can be behind her. She drives the ball and runs like a deer. She is just a good kid and a good athlete."

Madison Fields went the distance in the circle, striking out 11, while at times fighting control problems with two walks and six hit batters. She plunked Indian Creek's Megan Kelley all three times she batted before an injury in the field removed her from the game.

"Not one of her better days spots-wise," DiMarzio said. "She got outs when she needed them. I think it gets a little frus-

See, **STEUBENVILLE**, Page B2

**BELLAIRE SHORT-STOP** Cole Porter tags out Bridgeport's Zach McKivigan (18) trying to steal second base in the first inning of Wednesday night's game on Niekro Diamond inside Bill Jobko Stadium.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

## Bellaire expected to rout Bridgeport

By **KIM NORTH**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

**BROOKSIDE** — It was a good old-fashioned pitcher's duel Wednesday afternoon on the Niekro Diamond inside Bill Jobko Stadium. Bellaire's Cody Albaugh and Bridgeport's Matt Fouty matched goose eggs for four innings as Albaugh had yielded two harmless singles while Fouty had faced just one batter (a walk) over the minimum.

That all changed in the top of the fifth, fortunately for the Big Reds and not so for the Bulldogs, as Bellaire scored seven runs on four hits while taking advan-

**Big Ben inks extension to**



**CBJ | after |**

## • **Monroe**

Continued from Page B1

standing, but her opponent in the circle – Shay Gieseey – wasn't too bad herself. She fanned five and walked two and allowed five hits.

"She threw a good game," Eskra noted. "She kept us off-balance the first time through the lineup."

Indeed.

Gieseey retired the first eight batters, but ran in trouble starting with the Rebels' No. 9 hitter – Taylor Mellington. The right fielder doubled to deep left with two gone in the third, setting the table for what would be the big inning for the Columbiana Countians.

With leadoff batter Haley Eskra up, Mellington attempted to steal third. But the Seminoles' throw there went off the helmet of the batter and Mellington scored on the dead ball. Then, two batters later, Sutton rapped a two-run shot to center that cleared the bases giving Crestview a 3-0 advantage.

"That was a big inning there," Coach Eskra said. "We got kickstarted there."

Monroe Central (14-7) created its own 2-out magic in the fourth. Allee Zwick reached third on a single and a two-base error. Regan Hamilton followed a run-scoring double. From there, Hamilton and the next two runners in scoring position (including two in the sixth) failed to score. All told, Monroe Central left five runners on base.

"We have to hit the ball with runners in scoring position," Seminoles head coach Michael Brock said. "We've been struggling with that for about a week-and-a-half."

The Rebels tacked on an insurance run in the fifth on an RBI single by Sutton that plated Olivia Strank.

"They're a good team," Brock said. "It took us about three to four innings to get to their pitcher."

"We just made too many mistakes; the little ones that don't seem to matter, but end up coming back to bite you."

Despite the loss, Brock lauded his squad's never-say-die attitude and is looking forward to what his players can accomplish the next few weeks.

"We're looking forward to taking the PVC and getting into the tournament and making some noise there," he said. "The girls played hard and kept their heads up all the way until the end against a good team."

## • **Steubenville**

Continued from Page B1

ing when you are out there battling and balls that should be outs aren't outs. She showed a lot of toughness and a lot of character."

Raven Banks and Maggi Cucarese had two RBI each, while Stef Blackburn had three hits.

Indian Creek, which had a 3-1 lead after the first inning, scored six runs in the final four innings to claw back into it, but the deficit was too great to overcome. Steubenville had a seven-run outburst in the third to take command.

"We dug too deep of a hole," Indian Creek coach Angie Penner said. "Their bats were hotter than ours. You can't have the bats not going against a good-hitting Steubenville team. We didn't score runs when we needed to. We left a lot of people on base. We have to keep working on that."

"We fought until the end. We're proud of the effort."

Taylor Scott belted a solo homer in the fifth inning and finished with four RBIs for Indian Creek.



Photo by Cody Tomer  
Madonna pitcher Maddie Daugherty fires to the plate during Saturday's OVAC 1A Championship game at Ben's Field at the I-470 Complex.

## Blue Dons Win 5th Straight Title

Madonna scores two runs in seventh inning

By CODY TOMER  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — For Madonna coach Chris Conti, it wasn't the expectations that mattered — it was the heart of his team.

Despite losing first team all-state pitcher Katie Gasvoda to graduation and another first-teamer and a second-teamer transferring out, the Madonna softball team did what some said couldn't be done.

On Saturday, the Blue Dons won their fifth consecutive OVAC 1A Championship with a 2-0 victory over top-seeded Frontier at Ben's

Field at the I-470 Complex.

With only three seniors and one junior, a young Madonna squad made its coach very proud.

"There were a lot of people saying we weren't going to be that good this year," Conti said. "But this is a great team to coach. They have heart. They have soul. They have everything. They just play together as a team and they have fun. That is why they are winning."

As Madonna starting pitcher Maddie Daugherty and Frontier starter Alexis Bland were locked in a pitcher's duel, the game came down to manufacturing runs.

In a scoreless contest in the top of the seventh, Addie Backel drew a leadoff walk.

Conti then looked at his No. 9 hitter Adriana Lenhart and gave her the sign.

Lenhart laid down a perfect bunt to put pressure on the defense. A bad throw to first bounced down the right field line and Backel slid into home for the go-ahead run.

Two batters later, Nina Daugherty placed a RBI single on the chalk of the right field line to provide the Dons an insurance run.

"You have to make things happen," Conti said. "Adriana was nervous about bunting but she put down a fantastic bunt. We tell the girls every day in practice that it's going to come down to a bunt and (Saturday) it did.

*Please see Dons, Page C2*



## 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 fled 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 wanted 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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