

Mohigans Sweep OVAC Girls' Doubles

GLEN DALE - Morgantown began the OVAC championship tennis week by completing a sweep during the girls' doubles championships on Tuesday at John Marshall High School.

Three local duos made it to the championship round as Rachel Ekanem and Caitlin Mead of Linsly secured a spot in No. 1 doubles along with John Marshall's Emily Wright and Randa Omeare (No. 2) and Wheeling Park's Erin Rice and Towne Moores (No. 3).

The Mohigans, though, proved to be too strong as Emme McKnight and Cat Wassick won at No. 1 doubles, 8-2 while Mackenzie Sorton and Bella Mascari

claimed the No. 2 doubles title winning, 8-1.

Ashalia Aggarwal and Kassie Regules completed the sweep with an 8-0 victory.

Morgantown leads the way in the 5A schools with a total of 12 points followed up by John Marshall with 7 Wheeling Park (6).

Rounding out the 5A division was Brooke with 3 points, University (2) and Indian Creek and Parkersburg South (1 each).

In the 1A - 4A schools, the leader after the first day was Linsly with 5 points followed by Magnolia, St. Clairsville and Steubenville Central Catholic (2 each) and Trinity Christian and Wheeling Central (1 each).

Oak Glen Takes 1A-4A OVAC Title

Park's Castellucci, Keen win at No. 3 Doubles

By **KYLE LUTZ**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The Oak Glen boys' tennis team continued its successful season Friday during the OVAC Singles Championship at the Wheeling Park Bubble. After a 14-hour day full of matches, it was the Golden Bears who came away with the 1A-4A championship with 14 points while University took home the 5A title.

"I'm extremely pleased that all the boys on the team contributed to this victory," Oak Glen coach Tammi Brown said. "It has probably been since the late 1980s since Oak Glen has performed this well on the boys' side during OVACs.

"The boys worked as teammates, they pulled together and everybody contributed. Lucca (Contin) really surprised us with a huge victory. But more importantly, they all worked hard this season to get this far and work together as teammates probably makes this victory the most enjoyable."

Contin was the lone Golden Bear that made it to the finals. He secured a championship spot in No. 1 singles before falling to Morgantown's Ben Rosiello, 8-3.

"Lucca is our foreign exchange student



Photo by Kyle Lutz
Wheeling Park's Michael Castellucci, left, and Braeden Keen pose with their championship plaques for No. 3 Doubles after OVACs concluded on Friday.

ONLINE EXTRA

See more photos of the OVAC Tennis Tournament at www.theintelligencer.net

this year and it has been a pleasure to have him on the team," Brown said. "He has boosted the confidence of the other players on the team. He takes everything in stride, he smiles all the time, he doesn't get nervous or upset and we all, including myself have learned a lot from watching him on the court."

Parker Provenzano (No. 3) and Zack Alley (No. 4) also made it to the semifinals for the Golden Bears.

Three other local athletes made it to the championship match as Wheeling Park's Jitesh Pujara (No. 2) and David Croft (No. 4) secured a spot. Pujara was defeated by University's Andre Barcinas, 8-1 while Croft's comeback attempt fell just short against Morgantown's Yechan Kweon, 8-6.

Linsly's Nick White fell to University's Tommy McClellan at No. 3 singles, 8-4.

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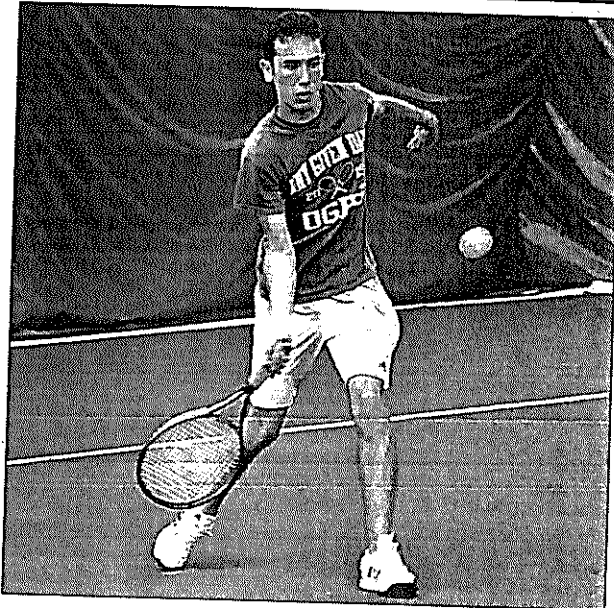


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Oak Glen's Lucca Contin returns a hit during a championship match at the OVAC Singles' Championships at the Wheeling Park Bubble.

OAK GLEN

(Continued from Page 7)

Wheeling Park, though, did experience a championship on Thursday as Michael Castellucci and Braeden Keen took home the hardware at No. 3 doubles. The title was the lone one for a local team as University captured the No. 1 and No. 2 doubles titles.

Kyle Hawthorne and Barcinas captured the No. 1 doubles while Jameson Walters and McClellan grabbed the No. 2 title.

The Hawks tallied a total of 19 points, five points better than second place Morgantown. Wheeling Park also scored 14 points, but the Mohigans won the tie-breaker as they had two total champions compared to the Patriots' one.

"It was a great team victory. We got No. 1 and 2

doubles as well as No. 2 and 3 singles," University coach Tom McClellan said. "I can't say enough about this team. They really pulled together. It was a very tight victory, but when we needed it, we got it. We got two strong performances out from 2 and 3 singles. I was very happy."

Cambridge secured the small school runnerup (12 points) while Linsly finished third.

Other local athletes making it to the semifinals were Wheeling Park's Ryan Payne (No. 1), Linsly's Felipe Garcia (No. 1) and Wheeling Central's Carmen Alexander (No. 2).

St. Clarisville's Alex Douglass was awarded the Carol Strasser Sportsmanship Award.

OVAC Boys Tennis Championships
1A-4A
Oak Glen 14, Cambridge 12, Linsly 9,
Wheeling Central 8, East Liverpool
4, Madonia 2, St. Clairsville 2, Steu-
benville Catholic 0
5A
University 19, Morgantown 14,
Wheeling Park 14, West 4, Indian
Creek 3, Brooke 2, Steubenville 1,
John Mearns 1
No. 1 Semifinals
Rostello (Mor) d. Payne (WP), 8-2;
Contin (OG) d. Garcia, 8-2;
No. 1 Finals
Rostello (Mor) d. Contin (OG),
8-3
No. 2 Semifinals
Barcinas (Uni) d. Earle (Cam), 8-2;
Pujara (WP) d. Alexander (WC), 8-2;
No. 2 Finals
Barcinas (Uni) d. Pujara (WP), 8-1;
No. 3 Semifinals
White (Lin) d. Lingafelter (Cam),
8-6; McClellan (Uni) d. Provenzano
(OG), 8-4;
No. 3 Finals
McClellan (Uni) d. White (Lin), 8-4;
No. 4 Semifinals
Kweon (Mor) d. Alley (OG), 8-2;
Croft (WP) d. Walters (Uni), 8-3;
No. 4 Finals
Kweon (Mor) d. Croft (WP), 8-8.
Based off thebraker

OVAC TENNIS

SPORTS

Thursday,
April 25, 2019

Linsly wins yet another OVAC girls tennis title

By CODY TOMER
For The Times Leader

GLEN DALE — It just gets better with age.

The Linsly girls' tennis team extended its OVAC small school championship streak to nine straight on Wednesday at John Marshall and this one was just as sweet.

"I'm just so proud of our girls," Linsly coach Dave Riethmiller said. "From No. 1 to No. 6, they all fought for every point. They have such character and I'm just proud of every one of them."

It's the 14th OVAC title for the Linsly girls' tennis program and the nine straight victories is an OVAC record for consecutive titles.

"It's been quite a ride," Riethmiller said. "I have just been blessed with a lot of good players."

"Half of our team is made of seniors and we're going to miss them like crazy. I'm just so happy for our seniors to win this year. They all played great."

The Cadets tallied 14 points to earn the win, eight points ahead of runner-up Magnolia, while Morgantown put on a dominant performance to win the big school title with a perfect score of 28, while sweeping the individual titles.

Wheeling Park was the big school runner-up at 16 points.

Leading Linsly was No. 1 singles stand-out Rachel Ekanem.

The freshman was the No. 2 seed in the bracket and journeyed all the way to the title match, where she fell in an epic bout to Morgantown sophomore Emme McKnight — the bracket's No. 1 overall seed.

McKnight has been on a mission since falling last year in the title to Wheeling Central's Laina Anderson.

"I could tell all year long that she had a different attitude," Morgantown coach Ted Greenlee said of McKnight. "She was real-



TL Photo/RICK THORP

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

Indian Creek to reach 5A final

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

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

John Marshall led the Steubenville offense with three hits and four RBI. She had 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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Creek to reach 5A final

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"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

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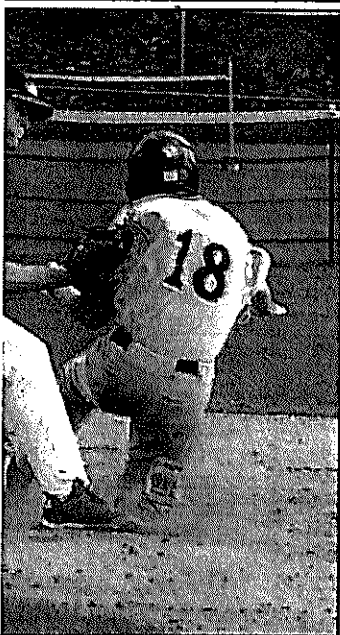
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"I could tell all year long that she had a different attitude," Morgantown coach Ted Greenlee said of McKnight. "She was real- ly upset after losing last year but she had a different attitude this year and was gearing up for this tournament.

"(Ekanem) almost came back but some-

See, **LINSLY**, Page B2



Bellaire explodes late to rout Bridgeport, 13-0

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.

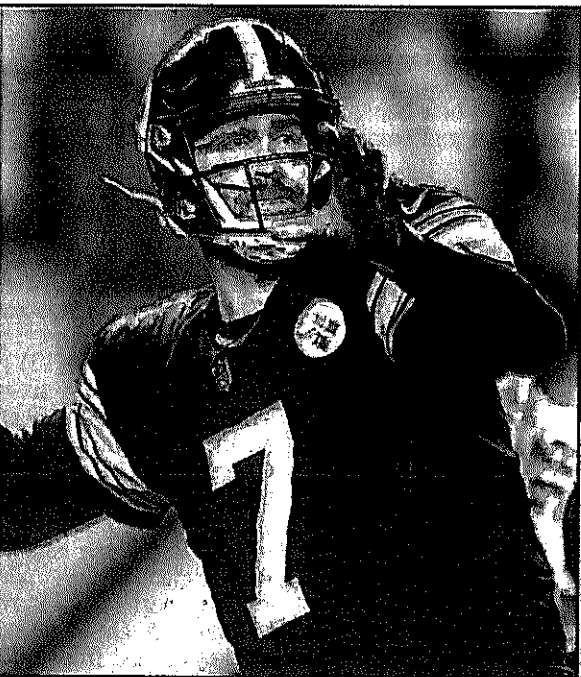
That all changed in the top of the fifth, fortunately for the Big Reds and not so for the Bulldogs, as Bellaire scored seven runs on four hits while taking advan-

tage of four crucial Bridgeport errors en route to a 13-0 victory in a game called after six innings due to the 10-run merc- y-rule.

Fouty retired the first batter on a rou- tine infield popup but hit the next batter, Mason Badia, with a 2-2 pitch. Vince Patrone's grounder to third was mis- played for an error which opened the flood gates, a sight all too common for the Bulldogs faithful.

Austen Rejonis tried to bunt the run- ners ahead 90 feet, but Fouty's throw to third sailed down the left field line and out of play as Badia scored. Patrone

See, **BELLAIRE**, Page B2



CBJ back in action after lengthy layoff

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Bruins have home-ice advantage through a potential trip to the Stanley Cup Final, and they have the Columbus Blue Jackets to thank for it.

They'll get a chance to show their gratitude in the TD Garden on Thursday night.

The Bruins host Columbus in Game 1 of the second round — the first postseason matchup between the Orig- inal Six franchise and the 2000 expansion team that has advanced in the playoffs for the first time in its history.

The Blue Jackets got there by ousting the Tampa Bay Lightning in four games, the first time a Presidents Trophy winner has been swept in the first round.

"I thought Tampa was lights out and solid," Boston coach Bruce Cassidy said after the Bruins beat Toronto 5-1 in Game 7 of the first-round series. "So, clearly, we've got our hands full."

With the Lightning and the Calgary Flames both going out in the first round, the Bruins have the best remaining record in the playoffs. They will open at home for Games 1 and 2 on Thursday and Saturday; more importantly, they will host a potential seventh game if the series lasts that

• Linsly

Continued from Page B1

thing clicked at the end for Emme. She settled down and won the last two.

"All of our girls just played like champions (Wednesday)."

McKnight was clicking on all cylinders early as she raced out to a convincing 6-0 advantage over Ekanem but the Linsly leader gave her team hope with a thrilling comeback effort.

Ekanem won the next five sets to cut the deficit to 6-5 but McKnight regrouped and finished the match with an 8-5 triumph.

Despite the loss, Ekanem left the court with a smile after leaving everything on it.

"She almost pulled off the greatest comeback," Riethmiller said of Ekanem. "She just really fought back. She is a great athlete and loves tennis. She works hard at it all year round, which is what it takes."

In the No. 1 singles semifinals, Ekanem upended Anderson for the third time this season by an 8-6 advantage, while McKnight downed Wheeling Park senior Abby Jones, 8-3.

"There were four really good players at the No. 1 spot this year," Park coach Stephanie Sada said. "It was tough competition but Abby worked really hard. She played really well but it just didn't end in our favor. Emme is a really strong player and all of Morgantown's girls are really good."

"They deserve everything they get."

Linsly's Selina Zhu also made a run to the No. 4 singles championship but fell to Morgantown senior Bella Mascari 8-1 in the title.

Zhu defeated Park's Emma Ihlenfeld 8-6 in a marathon during the semifinal.

For Park, No. 2 Teresa Simon and No. 3 Ashley Trischler each appeared in their respective championships. Simon fell to Morgantown's Cat Wassick 8-1 and Trischler was ousted 8-0 by Morgantown senior Mackenzie Sorton, who are both repeat champions.

"I'm super proud of Teresa and Ashley," Sada said. "They worked hard all season and came in (Wednesday) and did what they had to do to get to the finals."

Other locals to reach the semifinals were John Marshall's No. 2 Mackenzie Whorton, Linsly's No. 3 Caitlin Mead and Magnolia No. 3 Raegan Hale.