

Central's Frizzell Named All-State as a Freshman

By JAY W. BENNETT
The Parkersburg News & Sentinel
CHARLESTON — A stellar freshman season netted high honors for one local softball standout as Wheeling Central's Josie Frizzell was named a first team All-State pitcher by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association.

Frizzell led the Maroon Knights into the regional while pitching 99 innings with just a 1.27 ERA. She struck out 130 in those 99 innings.

She was also effective at the plate, where she hit .409 with 10 doubles.

Tyler Consolidated outfielder Leah Loudin was honored on the All-State second team after hitting .376 with six extra-base hits, 14 RBI and 29 runs scored.

The Wahama White Falcons of head coach Chris Noble once again stood atop the Class A field when all was said and done, securing a repeat state championship.

Junior Mikie Lieving, who went 3-0 with 42 strikeouts in 21 innings of work at Little Creek Park, was named captain of the all-state first team as selected by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association.

"Mikie has had another incredible season, both pitching and offensively," admitted Noble, who watched his ace go 21-2 with a 1.63 ERA and 269 strikeouts in 154 2-3 innings to go along with a .644 average, 15 doubles, 10 triples, a dozen round-trippers, 42 runs-batted-in and 12 stolen bases. "She has natural talent, plus she puts in the work."

For the second straight spring, the White Falcons had three players earn a nod on the top unit — batter mate Amber Wolfe, a junior, and senior shortstop Lauren Noble.

Wolfe threw out 13 runners (38.1% caught stealing) and finished with a .538 average, 17 doubles, one triple, 12 home runs and 56 RBIs. Noble, who had just two errors and fielded .968, led WHS with 57 runs-batted-in. She had a .636 average, 15 doubles, one triple and 10 bombs.

"They have had an incredible year," said the coach, whose team finished 29-2. "Amber behind the plate, she really helps Mikie back there."

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Photo by Cody Nespor
Wheeling Central freshman Josie Frizzell was named a first team All-State pitcher after posting a 1.27 ERA and 130 strikeouts in 99 innings.



File Photo

Left-handed pitcher Chris Vargo will be back on the mound for Wheeling Post 1 this summer.

Post 1 Expects More of the Same

By CODY NESPOR
Sports Writer

WHEELING — A new Legion baseball season begins today, but you can expect to see much of the same out of Wheeling Post 1 this summer.

Under fifth-year head coach Jon-Michael Brunner and with a veteran-laden roster, Post 1 will continue its tradition of small-ball tactics and looks to be just as competitive as always.

"The makeup of the team kind of changes year in and year out, but we like to think the way we play and the way we approach the game will always stay the same," Brunner said. "Those

older guys know how we do things, and so that expectation kind of rolls through the program that way.

Post 1 is scheduled to open its season today in Parkersburg — as long as the weather holds up — with many of the same faces that made up its roster last summer, drawing from the three high schools in the city, Wheeling Park, Wheeling Central Catholic and Linsly.

"We have a lot of good talent and we're just looking forward to competing, like we always do," Brunner said.

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West Virginia Tops Ohio 5-2



Photo by Kim North

John Marshall's Adriana Skrzyenski steals second base during Monday night's OVAC Tom Bechtel All-Star Softball Game on Ben's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex in Elm Grove. Harrison Central's Sarah Touville fields the ball while Union Local's Hannah Merritt backs up the play. Making the call is umpire Bruce Dunn.

Montaineers strike out 18 in OVAC All-Star win

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

ELM GROVE — Good pitching will beat good hitting any day. It did once again on Monday night.

A trio of West Virginia pitchers combined to strike out 18 Ohio batters and the Mountaineers scored five times in the fourth and fifth innings in defeating the Buckeyes, 5-2, in the annual OVAC Tom Bechtel All-Star Softball Game on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

Oak Glen's Maddie McKay

fanned seven, including the side in the top of the ninth. University's Autumn Stemple recorded six punchouts and Weir's Madison Angus chalked up five as the trio yielded just four base hits and walked only three.

"It was a nice showcase for the girls," Oak Glen's Sherry Garner said. "This is a great opportunity for the girls. I think they had fun."

New Philadelphia's Julia Miller, who is headed to Ohio State University to pitch, kept West Virginia off the board in her three-inning stint. The Quak-

ers standout struck out nine and walked two.

However, the Mountain State broke through in the fourth against Harrison Central's Tristen Kovarik with a pair of tallies.

John Marshall's Adriana Skrzyneki reached on an infield single leading off and promptly stole second. Stemple drew a walk before Linsly's Haley Heitz bunted both runners up 60 feet. Parkersburg South's Cassidy Trimble grounded out as Skrzyneki scored the first run.

Please see TOPS, Page 11

Avalanche Sweep Oilers, 6-5 in Overtime

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Artturi Lehkonen scored 1:19 into



OVAC All-Star Softball
West Virginia 5, Ohio 2
OH 000 000 110 - 2 4 2
WV 000 230 00x - 5 6 0
OH-Miller (9K, 2BB), Kovarik (4), (0K, 2BB), Penner (6), (2K, 0BB), Hancock (8), (2K, 1BB) and Congleton, Goodman (4), Brown (6), Congleton (8); Miller HR, rbi; Goodman D, rbi
WV-Stemple (6K, 2BB), McKay wp (3), (7K, 0BB), Angus (5), (5K, 1BB), Stemple (7), Angus (8), McKay (9) and Jones, Kooz (3), (Jones (5), Kooz (7), Jones (9); Marietta D, rbi; Calahan rbi; Rosnick SF, rbi; Trimble rbi; Adkins S, T, rbi

ALL-STATE
West Virginia Softball
Class A All-State Team
First team
P - Mikie Lieving, Wahama, Jr. (captain)
P - Morgan Cooper, Man, Jr.
P - Sam Colaw, Petersburg, So.
P - Josie Frizzell, Wheeling
Central, Fr.
IF - Lauren Noble, Wahama, Sr.
IF - Taylor McHenry, Gilmer, Sr.
IF - Josalyn Lipscomb, Doddridge County, Jr.
IF - Hailea Skeens, Sherman, Sr.
IF - Zoey Winland, St. Marys, So.
OF - Katie Darnley, Buffalo, Sr.
OF - Shannon Phipps, James Monroe, Sr.
C - Hattie Kennedy, Ravenswood, Jr.
C - Amber Wolfe, Wahama, Jr.
UTIL - Abby Darnley, Buffalo, Sr.
UTIL - Autumn Hall, Tug Valley, Sr.
UTIL - Braylee Corbin, Petersburg, Jr.
UTIL - Meghan Gill, Midland Trail, Sr.
UTIL - Cali Masters, St. Marys, Fr.

Second team
P - Ella Smith, St. Marys, Jr.
P - Chloe Treadway, Sherman, Jr. (captain)
P - Alex Hill, Buffalo, So.
IF - Mickala Taylor, Petersburg, Sr.
IF - Kameron Beck, Williamstown, Jr.
IF - Ashlee Tomblin, Man, Sr.
IF - Aubrey McCoy, Charleston Catholic, So.
IF - Breanna Price, St. Marys, So.
OF - Leah Loudin, Tyler Consolidated, Jr.
OF - Baylee Muncy, Man, Sr.
OF - Sterling Kump, Moorefield, Jr.
C - Emily Hatfield, Tug Valley, Sr.
C - Jayci Gray, Ritchie County, Sr.
C - Sydney Sheets, Midland Trail, Jr.
UTIL - Maddie Morris, Charleston Catholic, Fr.
UTIL - Lauren Guthrie, Sherman, So.
UTIL - Emma Wilcox, Van, Jr.
UTIL - Macy Casto, Ravenswood, Fr.

Honorable Mentions
Karlie Fenstermacher, South Harrison; Kenna Curran, Doddridge County; Makenna Post, South Harrison; Olivia See, Doddridge County; Abby Kelley, Doddridge County; Madison Campbell, Midland Trail; McKenzie Kitzmiller, Petersburg; Chezney Skaggs, Midland Trail; Darryn Loughridge, Webster County; Gabby Miller, East Hardy; Natalie Simon, Montcalm; Cheyenne Gooden, Tucker County; Julia Herndon, Greenbrier West; Bryleigh Thomas, James Monroe; Brooke Fuller, River View; Cassidy Griffey, Tug Valley; Jazmyn Gibson, Van; Olivia Ramsey, Man; Zoey Steele, Sherman; Kiersten Ellis, Man; Kinlee Cline, Man; Haleigh Muncy, Tug Valley; Kenzie Rinchich, Sherman; McKenzie Thomas, Paden City; Carmela Pulice, Madonna; Lainey Statler, Clay Battele

SPORTS ON TV
Tuesday, June 7
MLB BASEBALL
7 p.m.
ATT - Detroit at Pittsburgh
8 p.m.
TBS - LA Dodgers at Chicago White Sox
11 p.m.
MLBN - Colorado at San Francisco OR Boston at LA Angels (Joined in Progress)
NHL HOCKEY
8 p.m.
ESPN - Eastern Conference Final: NY Rangers at Tampa Bay, Game 4
SOCCER (MEN'S)
12 p.m.
FS2 - UEFA Nations League Group Stage: Finland vs. Montenegro, Group G, Helsinki
2:30 p.m.
FS1 - UEFA Nations League

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Minnesota	32	24	.571	—	—	4-6	W-1	17-11	15-13
Cleveland	24	25	.490	4 1/2	1/2	6-4	W-1	11-8	13-17
Chicago	25	27	.481	5	1	4-6	W-2	11-13	14-14
Detroit	21	33	.389	10	6	5-5	L-3	15-15	6-18
Kansas City	17	35	.327	13	9	3-7	L-1	9-17	8-18

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Houston	35	19	.648	—	—	7-3	W-1	14-6	21-13
Los Angeles	27	28	.491	8 1/2	1/2	0-10	L-11	15-13	12-15
Texas	25	28	.472	9 1/2	1 1/2	5-5	L-1	13-16	12-12
Seattle	24	30	.444	11	3	6-4	W-1	12-10	12-20
Oakland	20	36	.357	16	8	1-9	L-6	7-23	13-13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
New York	37	19	.661	—	—	8-2	W-2	19-8	18-11
Atlanta	28	27	.509	8 1/2	2	7-3	W-5	14-14	14-13
Philadelphia	25	29	.463	11	4 1/2	5-5	W-4	15-15	10-14
Miami	22	30	.423	13	6 1/2	4-6	L-1	12-14	10-16
Washington	21	35	.375	16	9 1/2	5-5	W-3	9-18	12-17

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Milwaukee	33	23	.589	—	—	4-6	L-3	15-9	18-14
St. Louis	32	23	.582	1/2	—	7-3	W-2	16-11	16-12
Pittsburgh	24	28	.462	7	4 1/2	7-3	W-2	13-15	11-13
Chicago	23	32	.418	9 1/2	7	4-6	L-2	11-20	12-12
Cincinnati	19	35	.352	13	10 1/2	5-5	W-1	11-15	8-20

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Los Angeles	35	19	.648	—	—	5-5	L-2	17-10	18-9
San Diego	33	21	.611	2	—	5-5	W-3	13-10	20-11
San Francisco	29	24	.547	5 1/2	—	5-5	W-1	13-11	16-13
Arizona	26	30	.464	10	4 1/2	3-7	L-3	14-16	12-14
Colorado	23	31	.426	12	6 1/2	3-7	L-4	16-16	7-15

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Sunday's Games
N.Y. Yankees 5, Detroit 4, 10 innings
Cleveland 3, Baltimore 2
Minnesota 8, Toronto 6
Chicago White Sox 6, Tampa Bay 5
Philadelphia 9, L.A. Angels 7
Houston 7, Kansas City 4
Seattle 6, Texas 5, 10 innings
Boston 5, Oakland 2
Monday's Games
Seattle at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
Toronto at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
Boston at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.
Texas at Cleveland, p.p.d.
Tuesday's Games
Texas (Gray 1-2) at Cleveland (Quantrill 2-3), 3:10 p.m., 1st game
Texas (Hearn 3-4) at Cleveland (TBD), 6:45 p.m., 2nd game
Chicago Cubs (Thompson 6-0) at Baltimore (Bradish 1-3), 7:05 p.m.
Detroit (Skubal 4-2) at Pittsburgh (Quintana 1-2), 7:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Hudson 4-2) at Tampa Bay (Springs 2-2), 7:10 p.m.
Oakland (Irvin 2-2) at Atlanta (Wright 5-3), 7:20 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Taillon 6-1) at Minnesota (TBD), 7:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (White 1-1) at Chicago White Sox (Kopech 1-2), 8:10 p.m.
Seattle (Flexen 2-6) at Houston (Verlander 6-2), 8:10 p.m.
Toronto (Manoah 6-1) at Kansas City (Keller 1-6), 8:10 p.m.
Boston (Whitlock 2-1) at L.A. Angels (Detmers 2-2), 9:38 p.m.
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San Francisco 5, Miami 1
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Sunday's Games
Pittsburgh 3, Arizona 0
San Francisco 5, Miami 1
Washington 5, Cincinnati 4
Philadelphia 9, L.A. Angels 7
San Diego 6, Milwaukee 4, 10 innings
Atlanta 8, Colorado 7
N.Y. Mets 5, L.A. Dodgers 4, 10 innings
St. Louis 5, Chicago Cubs 3, 11 innings
Monday's Games
Cincinnati 7, Arizona 0, 7 innings
N.Y. Mets at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.
Tuesday's Games
Arizona (Gilbert 0-2) at Cincinnati (Ashcraft 2-0), 6:40 p.m.
Washington (Adon 1-9) at Miami (Cabrera 1-0), 6:40 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Thompson 6-0) at Baltimore (Bradish 1-3), 7:05 p.m.
Detroit (Skubal 4-2) at Pittsburgh (Quintana 1-2), 7:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Hudson 4-2) at Tampa Bay (Springs 2-2), 7:10 p.m.
Oakland (Irvin 2-2) at Atlanta (Wright 5-3), 7:20 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (White 1-1) at Chicago White Sox (Kopech 1-2), 8:10 p.m.
Philadelphia (Suarez 4-3) at Milwaukee (Alexander 0-0), 8:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Walker 3-1) at San Diego (Darvish 4-3), 9:40 p.m.
Colorado (Marquez 1-5) at San Francisco (Rodon 4-4), 9:45 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 12:35 p.m.
Arizona at Cincinnati, 6:40 p.m.
Washington at Miami, 6:40 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
St. Louis at Tampa Bay, 7:10 p.m.
Oakland at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.
Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.
Colorado at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m.

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Minnesota	32	24	.571	—	—	4-6	W-1	17-11	15-13
Cleveland	24	25	.490	4 1/2	1/2	6-4	W-1	11-8	13-17
Chicago	25	27	.481	5	1	4-6	W-2	11-13	14-14
Detroit	21	33	.389	10	6	5-5	L-3	15-15	6-18
Kansas City	17	35	.327	13	9	3-7	L-1	9-17	8-18

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away
Houston	35	19	.648	—	—	7-3	W-1	14-6	21-13
Los Angeles	27	28	.491	8 1/2	1/2	0-10	L-11	15-13	12-15
Texas	25	28	.472	9 1/2	1 1/2	5-5	L-1	13-16	12-12
Seattle	24	30	.444	11	3	6-4	W-1	12-10	12-20
Oakland	20	36	.357	16	8	1-9	L-6	7-23	13-13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L
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Counsel/B3

Comics/B4

Classified/B5-6

SPORTS

Tuesday,
June 7, 2022

St. Clairsville Post 159 debuts tonight at Marietta

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE -- With 10 players returning from a 20-9 team that advanced to the American Legion state tournament, St. Clairsville Post 159 should prove to be a tough out this summer.

"We're really excited for this summer. There are 10 guys returning that have experience with us under their belts," Manager Mike Muklewicz said. "We have 16 guys on our roster that can help us compete on any given day in a variety of positions."

The roster is comprised of

players from half-a-dozen high schools across Belmont County. They are Braylen Blomquist, Mason Myers, Drew Sefsick, Hunter Hoffman, Jarren Starks, Zachary Vickers, Robby Kain and Will Balgo (St. Clairsville); Jake Heatherington, Chance Maffe and Kaden Banal (Bellaire); Collin

Snedeker and Colby Shriver (Martins Ferry); Dylan Gregorcic (Bridgeport); Tyler Stottemyer (Shadyside) and Evan White (Union Local).

Kain, Balgo and Gregorcic all graduated in 2021.

"One of our strongest areas is definitely going to be our pitching staff. That feels good

to say because we have had a nice group of arms every year but when you play a schedule like we do it's tough day-in and day-out," Muklewicz added. "We don't have the luxury of looking ahead to some easier games because they just aren't there."

See, 159, Page B2

W. Va. strikes out Ohio, 5-2

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE - Good pitching will beat good hitting any day. It did once again on Monday night.

A trio of West Virginia pitchers combined to strike out 18 Ohio batters and the Mountaineers scored five times in the fourth and fifth innings in defeating the Buckeyes, 5-2, in the annual OVAC Tom Bechtel All-Star Softball Game on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex.

Oak Glen's Maddie McKay fanned seven, including the side in the top of the ninth. University's Autumn Stemple recorded six punchouts and Weir's Madison Angus chalked up five as the trio yielded just four base hits and walked only three.

"It was a nice showcase for the girls," Oak Glen's Sherry Garner said. "This is a great opportunity for the girls. I think they had fun."

New Philadelphia's Julia Miller, who is headed to Ohio State University to pitch, kept West Virginia off the board in her three-inning stint. The Quakers standout struck out nine and walked two.

However, the Mountain State broke through in the fourth against Harrison Central's Tristen Kovarik with a pair of tallies.

John Marshall's Adriana Skrzyneki reached on an infield single leading off and promptly stole second. Stemple drew a walk before Linsly's Haley Heitz bunted both runners up 60 feet. Parkersburg South's Cassidy Trimble grounded out as Skrzyneki scored the first run. John Marshall's Sophie Adkins tripled down the line in right to drive in Stemple for a 2-0 lead.



MARTINS FERRY'S Maria Clark applies a late tag on Oak Glen's Makayla Zoellers during Monday night's OVAC Tom Bechtel All-Star Softball Game on Ben's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex in Elm Grove. West Virginia defeated Ohio, 5-2.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

West Virginia added to its margin an inning later with a three-spot as the bulge increased to 5-0.

Brooke's Emilee Knorr reached on an error leading off and McKay, who is headed to the University of Toledo, drew a walk. Morgantown's Breonna Marietta doubled to deep left-center as Knorr raced home, making it 3-0. Oak Glen's Kenna Calahan drove in the fourth run and Weir's

See, W.VA., Page B2

Celtics hope to protect ball, home court edge

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — If the Boston Celtics want to do a better job of protecting home court than they did in the last two rounds, they will need to start doing a much better job of protecting the ball.

Sloppy ball handling once again proved costly to the Celtics, whose propensity for committing turnovers has been a recurring problem during this playoff run. Boston gave it away 19 times in a 107-88 loss to the Golden State Warriors in Game 2 of the NBA Finals on Sunday night to tie the series at one game apiece.

"It's just kind of as simple as we've just got to take care of the ball," star Jayson Tatum said. "We've done it, and we're a really good team when we take care of the ball. But we have those lapses where we, snowball effect, we pile on turnovers and dig ourselves into a hole."

The Celtics managed to shoot their way out of their turnover woes in the first half of Game 2 by making 10 of 19 3-pointers to stay close to the Warriors.

But when the shots stopped falling in the third quarter, the turnovers were too much to overcome, sending the Celtics home disappointed despite a Game 1 victory.

"For whatever reason, the previous series that happened to us. On our wins, we didn't turn it over; on our losses, we turned it over excessively," forward Al Horford said. "It's something that we'll have to look at this game individually and just see how we can be better. I know we can prevent a lot of those, and in order for us to be in a better chance of winning, we have to cut those down."

The Celtics have committed an average of nearly four more turnovers per game, leading to nine more points per game for the opponent in their losses compared to their wins.

Boston is 1-5 this postseason when committing at least 16 turnovers, compared to 12-2 when giving it up 15 times or fewer.

The problems started early Sunday night with Boston giving it away seven times in the first quarter, leading to 13 points for Golden State to offset a fast shooting start by the Celtics.

There were four more turnovers in the second quarter and then five in the third that led to 11 more points as Golden State outscored Boston 35-14 in the period.

The Celtics made one fewer basket than turnovers but coach Ime Udoka pointed to the first-half sloppiness as the major issue.

"We had our opportunities," Udoka said. "Come out, jumped out up nine early. Then turnovers started happening. Let them back in the game. Then the offense wasn't as crisp with the ball movement and passing. Like I said, 11

Browns' Watson named in 24th lawsuit

HOUSTON (AP) — A 24th woman filed a civil lawsuit Monday alleging sexual misconduct by Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson, who is also awaiting possible discipline from the NFL.

The latest lawsuit was filed in Houston by attorney Tony Buzbee, who is representing all 24 women.

"Lost in the media frenzy surrounding Deshaun Watson is that these are twenty-four strong, courageous women who, despite ridicule, legal shenanigans, and intense media scrutiny, continue to stand firm for what is right," Buzbee said in a statement.

Watson has been accused by massage therapists of harassing, assaulting

or touching them during appointments when he was with the Houston Texans.

The latest lawsuit makes similar allegations as the woman, a massage therapist, accuses Watson of assaulting and harassing her during an August 2020 session in her apartment. The woman alleges that during the massage session, Watson exposed himself and masturbated and "offered no apology or explanation for his conduct."

The woman has quit being a massage therapist because of what happened to her and now suffers from depression and anxiety, according to the lawsuit.

Rusty Hardin, Watson's lead attorney, said he could not immediately comment on the latest lawsuit.

"Our legal team has not had time to investigate this new filing and had not heard her name until today. Deshaun continues to deny he did anything inappropriate with any of the plaintiffs," Hardin said in a statement Monday.

Hardin has previously said Watson had consensual sexual activity with three of the women and did not force any of his accusers to have sexual contact.

The first 22 lawsuits were filed in March and April of 2021, with the latest two being filed since two of the women detailed encounters with Watson while being interviewed on HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel."

See, WATSON, Page B2

Alo blasts Sooners into WCWS finals

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Jocelyn Alo wasn't going to let Oklahoma lose twice in one day.

The record-setting slugger hit two homers, including a grand slam, and the top-seeded Sooners beat No. 5 UCLA 15-0 in the second game of a doubleheader on Monday to advance to the Women's College World



Alo, the two-time USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year, increased her Division I career-record home run total to 120. She went 4-for-4 and scored three runs.

"It's just impressive," UCLA coach Kelly Inouye-Perez said. "The strength factor is one thing. There's different types of

Best-of-7
x-if necessary
Boston 1, Golden State 1
 Thursday, June 2
 Boston 120, Golden State 108
Sunday, June 5
 Golden State 108, Boston 88, series tied 1-1
Wednesday, June 8
 Golden State at Boston, 9 p.m., ABC
Friday, June 10
 Golden State at Boston, 9 p.m., ABC
Sunday, June 12
 Boston at Golden State, 9 p.m., ABC
x-Thursday, June 16
 Golden State at Boston, 9 p.m., ABC
x-Sunday, June 19
 Boston at Golden State, 8 p.m., ABC

NHL Playoffs
CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
N.Y. Rangers 2, Tampa Bay 1
 Wednesday, June 1: N.Y. Rangers 6, Tampa Bay 2
 Friday, June 3: N.Y. Rangers 3, Tampa Bay 2
 Sunday, June 5: Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Rangers 2
 Tuesday, June 7: N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, 8 p.m.
 Thursday, June 9: Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.
x-Saturday, June 11: N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, TBA
x-Tuesday, June 14: Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, TBA
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Colorado 4, Edmonton 0
 Tuesday, May 31: Colorado 8, Edmonton 6
 Thursday, June 2: Colorado 4, Edmonton 0
 Saturday, June 4: Colorado 4, Edmonton 2
 Monday, June 6: Colorado 6, Edmonton 5, OT

Transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Optioned RHP Marcos Diplan to Norfolk (IL).
BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated OF Jackie Bradley Jr. from the paternity leave list. Optioned OF Jarren Duran to Worcester (IL).
HOUSTON ASTROS — Agreed to terms with OF Yordan Alvarez on a six-year contract for 2023.
MINNESOTA TWINS — Reinstated OF Max Kepler. RHPs Trevor Megill, Emilio Pagan and LHP Caleb Thielbar from the restricted list. Optioned RHPs Jharel Cotton, Ian Hamilton and OF Mark Contreras to St. Paul (IL). Placed RHP Bailey Ober on the 15-day IL, retroactive to June 2.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Selected the contract of LHP Matt Gage from Buffalo (IL). Optioned RHP Jeremy Beasley to Buffalo. Trans-

fers (Detmers 2-2), 9:38 p.m.
Sports on TV
Tuesday, June 7
MLB BASEBALL
 7 p.m.
 ATTSN--Detroit at Pittsburgh
 8 p.m.
 TBS — LA Dodgers at Chicago White Sox
 11 p.m.
 MLBN — Colorado at San Francisco OR Boston at LA Angels (Joined in Progress)
NHL HOCKEY
 8 p.m.
 ESPN — Eastern Conference Final: NY Rangers at Tampa Bay, Game 4
SOCCER (MEN'S)
 12 p.m.
 FS2 — UEFA Nations League Group Stage: Finland vs. Montenegro, Group G, Helsinki
 2:30 p.m.
 FS1 — UEFA Nations League Group Stage: Italy vs. Hungary, Group C, Cesena, Italy
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
 7 p.m.
 ESPN2 — Coverage of the 2022 Special Olympics U.S. Games, Orlando, Fla. (Taped)
WNBA BASKETBALL
 8 p.m.
 CBSN — Minnesota at New York
 10 p.m.
 CBSN — Atlanta at Seattle

OVBL Schedule
(all weekday Games start at 6 p.m.; Sunday games start at 1 p.m.)
Wednesday, June 8
 Wheeling at Martins Ferry
 Moundsville at Barton
Friday, June 10
 Martins Ferry at Barton
 Wheeling at Maynard
Sunday, June 12
 Moundsville at Maynard
 Wheeling at Barton
 Moundsville at Barton, 3 p.m.

ferred RHP Nate Pearson to the 60-day IL.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Signed TE Isaiah Likely to a rookie contract.
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Re-signed WR Keith Kirkwood. Waived WR Talolo Limu-Jones.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Re-signed RB D'Ernest Johnson.
HOUSTON TEXANS — Announced the retirement of senior assistant coach Romeo Crennel. Signed G Tre'Vour Wallace-Simms.
LOS ANGELES RAMS — Signed OG Logan Bruss, CBs Decobie Durant, Derion Kendrick, RB Kyren Williams, Ss Quentin Lake, Russ Yeast, LB Daniel Hardy and OT A.J. Arcuri to rookie contracts.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed WR Calvin Austin III.

Wheeling 4, Moundsville 3
AT WEST LIBERTY -- Garth Charlton's sacrifice fly score Jack Skantze with the winning run in the bottom of the seventh.

WCWS

Continued from Page B1
 In the second game, Jayda Coleman hit a three-run homer in the first inning off UCLA starter Holly Azevedo (21-3), and Oklahoma rolled from there.
 After Azevedo allowed the first two baserunners to reach in the second, Megan Faraimo relieved and retired two batters before Alo blasted the first pitch for a three-run homer to make it 6-0.
 Alo's grand slam was the highlight of an eight-run fifth inning for the Sooners.
 Faraimo (24-5) was the winning pitcher in Game 1 for the Bruins, and Azevedo held the Sooners hitless for the final three innings to earn her first save.

Continued from Page B1
 Nicole May (15-1) allowed five runs in 2 1/3 innings for the Sooners in the first game, including a two-run homer in the first inning by Delanie Wisz that gave the Bruins a lead they would not relinquish.
 The Sooners have outscored opponents 39-0 in their three games following losses this season.

Celtics

Continued from Page B1
 Now they face a Warriors team that has set an NBA record by winning at least one road game in all 26 playoff series during the Stephen Curry era.
 "Just playing with a sense of urgency, I think," Tatum said when asked about the key to being better at home. "Human nature plays a part when you go on the road. Obviously it's a tough environment. I feel like recently we've kind of relaxed at home. Whether we thought because we had home-court advantage, we came out a

empty netter in front of me, so tap it in." scored 1:19 into overtime, a goal that Cale Makar, Devon Toews Gabriel stood up after review for a high stick.

Watson

Continued from Page B1
 As the 24th lawsuit was being formally announced, Watson took part in the Browns' charity golf outing in Rocky River, Ohio. Watson did not speak to the media.
 Before Watson arrived at Westwood Country Club, Browns coach Kevin Stefanski was asked if the latest lawsuit causes the organization to revisit with the quarterback about his legal situation.
 "With that, we're trying to just be respectful of the process and let that take care of it," Stefanski said.
 Two separate Texas grand juries in March declined to indict Watson on criminal complaints stemming from the allegations.
 But Watson could still be suspended if the NFL determines he violated the league's personal conduct policy. The three-time Pro Bowler has been interviewed by league

investigators, who will present their findings to disciplinary officer Sue L. Robinson. Commissioner Roger Goodell said last month the investigation was nearing a conclusion.
 League spokesman Brian McCarthy said there was no update on the investigation or any timeline.
 "We will decline comment as the matter remains under review," he said in an email to The Associated Press.
 Watson has maintained his innocence, saying any sexual activity was consensual.
 At his introductory news conference with the Browns in March, Watson denied any wrongdoing. "I've never assaulted or disrespected or harassed any woman in my life," Watson said. "I've never done these things people are alleging."
 Stefanski said Monday the team is prepared

to handle whatever the league decides.
 "I think all along we're just going to take those things day-by-day and when we have information, then we'll act on said information," he said.
 Watson was traded from the Texans to Cleveland in March and then signed a fully guaranteed five-year, \$230 million contract with his new team despite his ongoing legal problems.
 Cleveland signed veteran quarterback Jacoby Brissett to back up Watson. Baker Mayfield remains on the team, but the Browns are looking to trade the No. 1 overall pick in 2018.
 Watson has been participating in the Browns' offseason team activities, which will continue this week. The team has a mandatory minicamp scheduled from June 14-16.

159

Continued from Page B1
 Post 159 opens its season tonight at Marietta College against Marietta Post 64.
 "Speaking just from this year's area prep talent, when you have Shriver, Hoffman and Heatherington any where in your rotation you know you're going to have a shot every game," he stressed.
 "Colby had a really dominate spring. He's a great kid and deserves everything he's achieving right now. The other two are both young and have really bright futures in their own right."
 "Then you take into consideration Kain, who returns from Otterbein, and a graduated Gregoric who has logged some very high-quality outings for us over the past couple years, it makes things a little bit easier."
 "With that being said, you still have to hit and field."
 Returning in the infield at the corners are Snedeker, Balgo and Sefsick, who missed his entire senior season with a knee injury suffered during football season. Hoffman also will play some first.
 In the middle are Blomquist, Heatherington, Maffe and Stottlemeyer.
 "Three of those four pitch so we can continue to do some things," Muklewicz explained. "Braylen is our only returner out of that group and he's a special kid to watch defensively. He's really come along being only a sophomore."
 White and Banal will split duties be-

hind the plate.
 "It's a long hot summer and it will be great to have two dependable guys back there," he noted. "Both great kids and we like what we've seen so far."
 In the outfield are Starks and Myers.
 "These two were huge parts of what we were able to accomplish last year. Jaren is the voice of the team. A total team player that keeps everyone going in the right direction," he continued. "Mason has a phenomenal summer at the plate last year."
 Vickers will also contribute some time in the outfield, as well as on the mound.
 Muklewicz, who is 112-48 as the manager, is assisted by Dave Blomquist and Bruce Myers.
 "There's a lot of talent here. As a coaching staff I'm looking forward to getting a solid system in and lining these guys up in the right matchups. We now been to the state tourney three times without much to show for it. It's tough up there. It's a gauntlet," he added. "The kids know from day one what our goals are and I've laid it out very clearly to them. Next year will be year 10 of being a part of this team and I can say I'm excited for this group to get going."
 St. Clairsville's home opener at Memorial Park will be Wednesday when Steubenville visits.

W.Va.

Continued from Page B1
 Mallory Rosnick lifted a fly ball to center that was deep enough to plate Marietta.
 Ohio avoided being shut out when Miller lined a laser over the fence in right-center that cut the deficit to 5-1 in the seventh. The Buckeyes would score once in the eighth as Monroe singled to left with one out. She went to second on a groundout and scored on a double to center by Cambridge's Ryleigh Goodman.
 "There was a lot of good pitching here tonight," Ohio head coach Doug Pfeffer of Caldwell said. "You don't see many 5-2 scores in all star games. Usually there

are more runs scored, but tonight there were a lot more strikeouts than runs."
 McKay earned the win inside the circle while Kovarik suffered the loss.
 Adkins was the lone batter with two hits as she singled in addition to her three-bagger.
 The Buckeye State was held hitless until Indian Creek's Carly Penner slapped a single through the left side of the infield with one out in the sixth.
GAME NOTES
 --Player of the Year awards were presented during breaks in the action. The winners were Conotton Valley's Masy Baker (Class 1A); Caldwell's Madi Mumaw (Class 2A); Martins Fer-

ry's Maria Clark (Class 3A); Oak Glen's McKay and Indian Creek's Penner (Class 4A); and New Philadelphia's Miller (Class 5A).
 --The OVAC Coach of the Year was presented to Caldwell's Doug Pfeffer.
 --The win is the second straight in the series for West Virginia, but Ohio still holds a 16-7 advantage overall.

West Virginia 5, Ohio 2
 Ohio 000 000 110 - 2 4 2
 West Virginia 000 230 00x - 5 6 0
 OH--Miller (9K, 2BB), Kovarik (p, 4), (0K, 2BB), Penner (6), (2K, 0BB), Hancock (8), (2K, 1BB) and Congleton, Goodman (4), Brown (6), Congleton (8); Miller HR, rbi; Goodman D, rbi
 WV--Stemple (6K, 2BB), McKay wp (3), (7K, 0BB), Angus (5), (5K, 1BB), Stemple (7), Angus (8), McKay (9) and Jones, Koontz (3), (Jones (5), Koontz (7), Jones (9); Marietta D, rbi; Calahan rbi; Rosnick SF, rbi; Trimble rbi; Adkins S, T, rbi

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Counsel/B3

Comics/B4

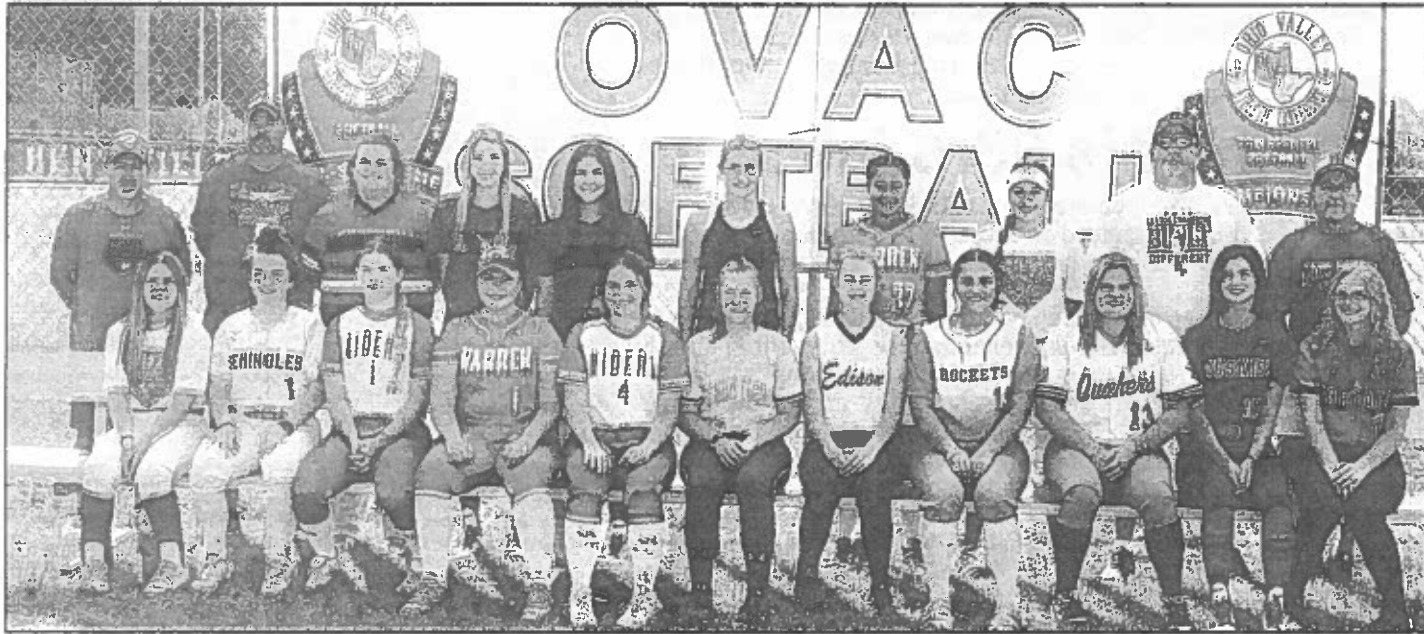
Classified/B5-6

SPORTS

Wednesday,

June 1, 2022

2022 OVAC TOM BECHTEL ALL-STAR SOFTBALL GAME



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

THE OHIO all-stars are, front row from left, Brooke Grant (Indian Creek), Kalista Friday (Monroe Central), Maria Clark (Martins Ferry), Olivia Congleton (Warren Local), Hunter Pollock (Martins Ferry), Grace Rinard (Frontier), Savanna Ankrom (Edison), Ellie Bower (Conotton Valley), Julia Miller (New Philadelphia), Jenna Young (Harrison Central) and Ryleigh Goodman (Cambridge). Back row, from left, are Coach Jeremy Bleininger (Conotton Valley), Coach Doug Pfeffer (Caldwell), Adrianna Brown (Steubenville), Tristen Kovarik (Harrison Central), Sarah Touville (Harrison Central), Hannah Merritt (Union Local), Alayana Hancock (Warren Local), Carly Penner (Indian Creek), Coach John Dupke (New Philadelphia) and Jerry Magistro (Martins Ferry).

NCAA Div. I pitchers inside circle could mean a lack of runs scored

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

ELM GROVE - Runs should be at a premium Monday night when the OVAC Tom Bechtel All-Star Softball game is held on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex. The 9-inning contest will begin at 6:30 and will consist of players who recently graduated.

Both Ohio and West Virginia have NCAA Division I signees inside the circle in New Philadelphia's Julia Miller and Oak Glen's Maddie McKay. Miller is headed to Ohio State University after a sterling career with the Quakers, while McKay will take her talents to the Uni-

versity of Toledo after leading the Golden Bears for the last four seasons.

"Ohio has an outstanding pitcher in Julia Miller," the event's namesake - Tom Bechtel - said Tuesday night following media night as the teams played three scrimmage innings. "For fans who love fastpitch softball, it will be worth the trip up here to watch her pitch."

The other dugout also has a D-I ace in Oak Glen's Maddie McKay who is headed to the University. "She is a pretty darn good pitcher as well," Bechtel noted of McKay.

"The pitching on both sides seems to be pretty strong, but just as I say that, the teams will come out and hit the ball all over the field," Bechtel added.

Bechtel said he didn't want to start throwing names out because "there are a lot of all stars here."

The Ohio roster includes, in addition to Miller, Brooke Grant and Carly Penner (Indian Creek); Kalista Friday (Monroe Central); Maria Clark and Hunter Pollock (Martins Ferry); Olivia Congleton and Alayana Hancock (Warren Local); Grace Rinard (Frontier); Savanna Ankrom (Edison); Ellie Bower (Conotton Valley); Jenna Young, Sarah Touville and Tristen Kovarik (Harrison Central); Adrianna Brown (Steubenville); Ryleigh Goodman (Cambridge) and Hannah Merritt (Union Local).

See, **NCAA**, Page B2



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

THE WEST Virginia all-stars are, front row from left, Haley Heitz (Linsly), Cassidy Temple (Parkersburg South), Shelby Koontz (John Marshall), Sydney Scott (Magnolia), Meysa Heitmann (University), Mallory Rosnick (Weir), Grace Landini (Linsly), Kenna Calahan (Oak Glen), Madison Angus (Weir), Breonna Marietta (Morgantown) and Adrianna Skrzynecki (John Marshall). Back row, from left, are Coach Paul Recrosio (Linsly), Coach Sherri Garner (Oak Glen), Katelyn Jones (Parkersburg South), Autumn Stemple (University), Makayla Zoellers (Oak Glen), Madi Kline (Paden City), Maddie McKay (Oak Glen), Emilee Knorr (Brooke) and Coach Tim Burch (Parkersburg South). Not pictured is Sophie Adkins (John Marshall).

Guardians crown KC

CLEVELAND (AP) - Austin Hedges hit a three-run homer and rookie Oscar Gonzalez doubled in two runs, sending the Cleveland Guardians to an 8-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals on Tuesday night.

Hedges' third-inning drive, which barely cleared the 19-foot wall in left, scored Ernie Clement and Oscar Mercado to extend Cleveland's lead to 6-2. The Guardians put 11 men on base in the first three frames against Daniel Lynch (2-4).

Gonzalez, who is 9 for 21 through five games in the majors, tacked on a two-run double in the sixth off Dylan Coleman. Cleveland has won three of four, including the first two in its three-game set with AL-worst Kansas City.

"It's not all that often when a young kid comes up and gives you a huge boost, but Oscar has really given us a lift and some energy," Guardians manager Terry Francona said.

Cal Quantrill (2-3) worked 6 1/3 innings, allowing three runs, to remain unbeaten in his career at Progressive Field and against the Royals. The right-hander struck out five without a walk in improving to 6-0 in Cleveland and 5-0 all-time against Kansas City.

Hedges is hitting just .155 on the season, but three of his four homers have occurred in games when he catches Quantrill.

"Hedges is starting to hit home runs when I pitch, and I'm totally fine with that," Quantrill said while chuckling.

Guardians third baseman Jose Ramirez, who leads the majors with 51 RBIs, was intentionally walked in his first two plate appearances and finished 1 for 2 with a stolen base. They were the first two intentional passes by a Cleveland player in 2022.

Lynch was lifted in the fourth after Andres Gimenez led off with a single. The left-hander gave up six runs, three in the first, in dropping his third straight decision for the 16-32 Royals.

"Right now, we're having trouble putting it all together," Kansas City manager Mike Matheny said. "All the guys are tired of walking out of here, feeling the way they're feeling now."

The Royals got on the board in the second when Kyle Isbel's seeing-eye single drove in Hunter Dozier, then pulled within 3-2 in the third on Andrew Benintendi's single to left. Benintendi was later thrown out at the plate by right fielder Gonzalez.

"The throw wasn't on the money accurate, but it was a laser beam and, obviously, it was a big situation," Hedges said. "He just needed to get it there on time and let me take care of the rest."

Bobby Witt Jr. and Dozier were both hit by pitches from Quantrill. See, **GUARDIANS**, Page B2

Nadal tops Djokovic in epic men's quarterfinal thriller at French Open

PARIS (AP) - Rafael Nadal insists he can't know for sure whether any match at Roland Garros might overall, adding to records that he already owns. "One of those magic nights for

The only missing ingredient: There was no trophy handed to the winner.



two of those cases recently received national attention when two of the women were interviewed for a segment on HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel."

Both women provided graphic details of their encounters with Watson, who was traded from Houston to Cleveland in March. The Browns sent five draft picks — including three first-rounders — to the Tex-

The only thing new about her contentions is the embellishment making them more extreme than prior versions. Deshaun's denial remains the same."

Watson is also facing a possible suspension from the NFL, which is independently investigating his behavior to see if he violated the league's substance-abuse policy.

Guardians

Continued from Page B1

near their left wrist, but remained in the game. Kansas City is 2-6 on a nine-game, 10-day trip that wraps up Wednesday in Cleveland.

Royals reliever Jose Cuas, who began last season with Long Island in the independent Atlantic League, made his big league debut by retiring all three batters he faced.

"It was everything you dream about as a kid," Cuas said. "When I got through the first pitch, I was able to breathe and relax. It was fun."

TORRID PACE

Ramirez was select-

ed the AL Player of the Week for the second time this year after batting .348 with 11 RBIs in six games. The three-time All-Star has driven in 51 runs on the season, the third most in franchise history before the end of May. Cleveland's record is 63 by Manny Ramirez in 1999.

"Manny and Josey are so different, but when you're talking about Josey in those comparisons, that's a pretty big compliment, probably to both guys," Francona said.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Royals: C Cam Gal-

agher (left hamstring strain), who has been on the 10-day injured list since May 2, joined Triple-A Omaha on a rehab assignment. Gallagher has missed 28 games. "He's got a little ways to go," manager Mike Matheny said. "Cam has to get behind the plate."

Guardians: RHP Aaron Civale (left gluteal soreness) underwent a procedure to aspirate blood from the affected area. Civale was hurt on May 20 when he fell twice while mishandling a grounder against Detroit.

"Hopefully, that will speed things up for him," Francona said.

UP NEXT

Royals: RHP Brad Keller (1-5, 3.95 ERA) seeks his first road victory since Aug. 20, 2021, against the Cubs. Keller is 0-3 with a 6.33 ERA in four starts away from Kansas City this season.

Guardians: LHP Connor Pilkington (0-0, 3.75 ERA) makes his sixth appearance in the majors since debuting on April 15. Pilkington has allowed five runs in seven innings over two starts, both in May.

Nadal

Continued from Page B1

Nadal's 3-0 lead in the second set did him no good; Djokovic ended up taking it and would say later, "I thought, 'OK, I'm back in the game.'"

But Djokovic's 3-0 lead in the fourth did him no good, even though he served for it at 5-3, even standing one point from forcing a fifth twice. Nadal saved those set points and broke there, then ran away with the closing tiebreaker, seizing a 6-1 edge and never losing focus after his first three match points went awry.

"I lost to a better player today," said Djokovic, who had won 22 sets in a row until the 49-minute opener against Nadal. "Had my chances. Didn't use them. That's it."

This showdown was their 59th, more than any other two men have played each other in the Open era. Nadal narrowed Djokovic's series lead to 30-29 while improving to 8-2 against his rival at Roland Garros.

Nadal is now 110-3 for his career at the place. Two of those losses came against Djokovic, including in last year's semifinals. This time, Nadal made sure Djokovic remains behind him in the Slam count with 20. Nadal broke their three-way tie with Roger Federer at that number by capturing the Australian Open in January, when Djokovic was not able to play because he had not been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Before Nadal advanced to his 15th semifinal in Paris, Zverev reached his second in a row by holding off 19-year-old rising star Carlos Alcaraz 6-4, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6

(7). "Not really getting easier from here," Zverev said after putting an end to Alcaraz's 14-match winning streak.

"I told him at the net, 'You're going to win this tournament a lot of times, not just once,'" said Zverev, the runner-up at the U.S. Open in 2020 and the gold medalist at the Tokyo Olympics last summer. "I hope I can win it before he starts ... beating us all."

In women's action Tuesday, 18-year-old American Coco Gauff and 28-year-old Martina Trevisan of Italy reached their first Grand Slam semifinals. The 18th-seeded Gauff beat 2017 U.S. Open champion and 2018 French Open runner-up Sloane Stephens 7-5, 6-2, while the 59th-ranked Trevisan eliminated U.S. Open finalist Leylah Fernandez 6-2, 6-7 (3), 6-3.

The nightcap was saved for two players who know each other so well. The tendencies and tactics. The mannerisms and moods.

So it should come as no surprise they engaged in points so involved, so lengthy — 57 of at least nine strokes, with one that went 25 — that before some were concluded, folks in the stands would let out a gasp or an "Aaaaah!" or "Aww-ww!", drawing rebuking hisses of "Shhhhh!" in response.

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Nadal heard far more support in the form of yells of "Ra-fa!" or "Vamos!" or "Te quiero!" Only

once Djokovic began to assert himself in the second set was his nickname "No-le!" heard with any frequency.

As time passed and the air became colder — below 60 degrees Fahrenheit (15 Celsius) — Nadal and Djokovic embodied the words in clay-colored capital letters in French and English along the facing of the lower level of the arena, attributed to Roland Garros, the World War I fighter pilot for whom the facility is named: "Victory belongs to the most tenacious."

In the early going, and down the stretch, it was Nadal getting the better of the baseline back-and-forths, pushing and pulling Djokovic this way or that, up and back, until an opening for a clean winner presented itself.

Djokovic reacted to his miscues by rolling his eyes, shaking his head or putting his palms out as if to say, "What's going on?"

Nadal showed zero signs of being slowed or bothered one bit by the chronic pain in his left foot that flares up every so often and kept him off the tour for the last half of 2021 and arose again before the French Open.

Nor did Nadal betray a trace of fatigue from his five-set tussle against No. 9 seed Felix Auger-Aliassime in the fourth round on Sunday that lasted 4 hours, 21 minutes, nearly twice as long as Djokovic's matter-of-fact win that day.

"I'm not surprised at all," Djokovic said. "It's not the first time that he is able, a few days after he's injured and barely walking, to come out 100% physically fit."

NCAA

Continued from Page B1

The Buckeyes are coached by John Dupke (New Philadelphia-5A); Jerry Magistro (Martins Ferry-3A); Doug Pfeffer (Caldwell-2A); and Jeremy Bleininger (Conotton Valley-1A). All four won OVAC titles this past spring.

"I think that is neat, especially when three of them coached in last year's game," Bechtel advised. "They love to do it and enjoy doing it."

The West Virginia roster consists of the aforementioned McKay, Sophie AdkinsShelby Koontz and Adrianna Skrzynecki (John Marshall); Haley Heitz and Grace Landini (Linsly); Cassidy Trimble and

Katelyn Jones (Parkersburg South); Sydney Scott (Magnolia); Meysa Heitmann and Autumn Stemple (University); Mallory Rosnick and Madison Angus (Weir); Kenna Calahan and Makayla Zoellers (Oak Glen); Breonna Marietta (Morgantown); Madi Kline (Paden City) and Emilee Knorr (Brooke).

The Mountaineers coaches are Sherrie Garner (Oak Glen); Tim Burch (Parkersburg South); and Paul Recrosio (Linsly).

Garner led the Golden Bears to the OVAC Class 4A crown, while the other two West Virginia coaches had their teams in the

OVAC playoffs.

"I've felt over the past few years that Ohio should have the advantage because they have 30 schools to pick from and West Virginia only has 20, but somehow the games seem to even out," Bechtel said.

"It's a nice way to end their seasons, let's be honest," he stressed.

When asked if West Virginia has an advantage because of the state tournament concluding just last week while the Ohio girls have been sitting around for a week or more, he didn't think so.

"It only pertains to a couple of girls from John

Marshall and Oak Glen, so I don't think that will come into play.

"It's a great way to end the OVAC season," he said as the game is the last OVAC affiliated event of the school year.

According to the OVAC website, Ohio leads the all-time series, which dates back to 1982, 16-6.

However, there are no results listed for 1994-95, 1997, and from 1999-2012. The 2020 game was postponed due to COVID-19.

The Buckeyes are currently on a six-game winning streak, including a 15-6 victory last spring.

p.m.; Sunday games start at 1)

Wednesday
Barton at Martins Ferry
Maynard at Wheeling
Friday
Maynard at Moundsville
Barton at Wheeling
Sunday
Barton at Maynard
Martins Ferry at Moundsville

NBA Playoffs

(Best-of-7)
x-if necessary
Thursday, June 2
Boston at Golden State, 9 p.m., ABC

Sunday, June 5
Boston at Golden State, 8 p.m., ABC

Wednesday, June 8
Golden State at Boston, 9 p.m., ABC

Friday, June 10
x-Golden State at Boston, 9 p.m., ABC
State, 9 p.m., ABC

x-Thursday, June 16
Golden State at Boston, 9 p.m., ABC

x-Sunday, June 19
Boston at Golden State, 8 p.m., ABC

NHL Playoffs

CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
N.Y. Rangers vs. Tampa Bay

Wednesday, June 1
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m., Friday, June 3

Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m., Sunday, June 5

N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, 3 p.m., Tuesday, June 7

N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, 8 p.m., x-Thursday, June 9

Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, TBA x-Saturday, June 11

N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, TBA x-Tuesday, June 14

Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Colorado 1, Edmonton 0

Tuesday, May 31
Colorado 2, Edmonton 6

Thursday, June 2
Edmonton at Colorado, 8 p.m., Saturday, June 4

Colorado at Edmonton, 8 p.m., Monday, June 6

Colorado at Edmonton, 8 p.m., x-Wednesday, June 8

Edmonton at Colorado, TBA x-Friday, June 10

Colorado at Edmonton, TBA x-Sunday, June 12

Edmonton at Colorado, TBA

NCAA Softball

Division I World Series
At OGE Energy Field at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex, Oklahoma City

Double Elimination
Thursday, June 2
Game 1 - UCLA vs. Texas, Noon, ESPN

Game 2 - Oklahoma vs. Northwestern, ESPN

Game 3 - Florida vs. Oregon St., ESPN

Game 4 - Oklahoma St. vs. Arizona, ESPN

Friday, June 3
Game 5 - Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser, ESPN2

Game 6 - Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser, ESPN2

Saturday, June 4
Game 7 - Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, ABC

Game 8 - Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner, ESPN

Sunday, June 5
Game 9 - Game 5 winner vs. Game 8 loser, ABC

Game 10 - Game 6 winner vs. Game 7 loser, ESPN2

Area Sports Briefs

Bellaire Basketball Camp Slated to Begin June 6

The Bellaire Basketball Camp will begin Monday, June 6 and run through Thursday, June 9. Camp times are 9 a.m. until noon at the Bellaire High School gym. It is open to both boys and girls' in grades K-8 and open to all school districts. Camp directors are J.R. Battista and John Farrier.

Special emphasis will be given to the fundamentals: Body balance and pivoting, starting and stopping, ball handling and dribbling, passing and catching, screening and cutting, boxing out and shooting. Lectures will be delivered on drug and alcohol prevention, teamwork, attitude, scholastic achievement, goal setting, success and more. Fun activities like dribble tag, lay-up competitions, full court basketball games, etc. will also be included. Each participant will receive a Bellaire Basketball t-shirt. Smaller basketballs and lower hoops will be available for younger campers.

Cost of the camp is \$30 if pre-registered and \$40 at the door. For more information or an application, call J.R. Battista at Bellaire High School at 740-676-3652 ext. 201.

Bellaire Touchdown Club Scramble Set

The Bellaire Touchdown Club annual Golf Scramble will be held on June 25 at the Fairway River Links. The entry fee is \$65 per person or \$260 per team. The cost includes cart, lunch, beverages and a dinner after the outing. Entry forms can be picked up at the Bellaire Party Center on Union St., Gulla's Lunch, Around The World Gourmet in West Bellaire or the Quick Stop in Neffs. For more information contact Jim at 740-676-7937 or Norm at 740-699-0313.

All games at Akron Firestone Stadium.
All games live on the NFHS Network.
Home Team Listed First.
Rankings are from the final Ohio High School Football Softball Coaches Association State Poll released on May 16.

Division I
Pataskala Watkins Memorial (28-2) vs. Holland Springfield (24-6), Thursday, 3 p.m.
North Canton Hoover (19-6) vs. West Chester Lakota West (26-4), Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
Championship Game: Saturday, 1 p.m.

Division II
Heath (23-5) vs. Wooster Triway (28-1), Thursday, 10 a.m.
Oak Harbor (24-8) vs. Plain City Jonathan Alder (25-1), Thursday, 12:30 p.m.
Championship Game: Saturday, 10 a.m.

Division III
Massillon Tuslaw (20-5) vs. Cass-town Miami East (24-4), Friday, 3 p.m.
Cardington-Lincoln (24-4) vs. Wheelersburg (25-1), Friday, 5:30 p.m.
Championship Game: Saturday, 7 p.m.

Division IV
Bradford (23-5) vs. Strasburg-Franklin (25-4), Friday, 10 a.m.
Jeromesville Hilldale (23-3) vs. Van Wert Lincolnview (24-4), Friday, 12:30 p.m.
Championship Game: Saturday, 4 p.m.

OHSAA Baseball

Home Team Listed First.
Rankings are from the final Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association State Poll released May 16.

Division II
Region 5
Chagrin Falls vs. Chardon, at Canton Thurman Munson Memorial Stadium, Thurs., 2 p.m.
Louisville vs. No. 13 Hunting Valley University School, at Canton Thurman Munson Memorial Stadium, Thurs., 5 p.m.

Region 6
No. 1 Defiance vs. No. 10 Tiffin Columbian, at Bowling Green Carter Park, Thurs., 2 p.m.

No. 18 Akron Archbishop Hoban vs. Norwalk/Sandusky Perkins, at Bowling Green Carter Park, Thurs., 5 p.m.

Region 7
Steubenville vs. New Philadelphia, at Gnadenhutzen Indian Valley High School, Thurs., 5 p.m.
Washington Court House Washington vs. Columbus Bishop Hartley, at Ashville Teays Valley High School, Thurs., 5 p.m.
Regional Final: at Ashville Teays Valley High School, Fri., 5 p.m.

Region 8
Cleveland Taylor vs. No. 7 Hamilton Badin, Thurs., at Mason High School, Thurs., 2 p.m.
No. 20 Delaware Buckeye Valley vs. Eaton, at Mason High School, Thurs., 5 p.m.

Division III
Region 9
Gates Mills Hawken vs. Canfield South Range, at Massillon Washington High School, Thurs., 2 p.m.
No. 5 Apple Creek Waynedale vs. Youngstown Ursuline, at Massillon Washington High School, Thurs., 5 p.m.

Region 10
No. 3 Pemberville Eastwood vs. No. 8 Toledo Ottawa Hills, at Elida Middle School, Thurs., 2 p.m.
No. 11 Milan Edison vs. Fredericktown, at Elida Middle School, Thurs., 5 p.m.

Regional Final: at Elida Middle School, Fri., 5 p.m.

Region 11
Minford vs. Proctorville Fairland, at Chillicothe VA Memorial Stadium, Thurs., Noon

No. 4 Baltimore Liberty Union vs. West Lafayette Ridgewood, at Mount Vernon High School, Thurs., 5 p.m.

Regional Final: at Lancaster High School, Fri., 3 p.m.

Region 12
No. 1 Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy vs. Springfield Northeastern, at Wright State University, Thurs., 5 p.m.

Reading vs. St. Bernard Roger Bacon, at Wright State University, Thurs., 2 p.m.

Division IV
Region 13
Tiffin Calvert vs. Bristolville Bristol, at Gates Mills Gilmour Academy, Thurs., 2 p.m.
No. 5 Jeromesville Hillsdale vs. Warren John F. Kennedy, at Gates Mills Gilmour Academy, Thurs., 5 p.m.

Regional Final: at Gates Mills Gilmour Academy, Fri., 5 p.m.

Region 14
Plymouth vs. No. 15 Antwerp, at Hamler Patrick Henry High School, Thurs., 2 p.m.

No. 3 Van Wert Lincolnview vs. Leipsic, at Hamler Patrick Henry High School, Thurs., 5 p.m.

Regional Final: at Hamler Patrick Henry High School, Fri., 5 p.m.

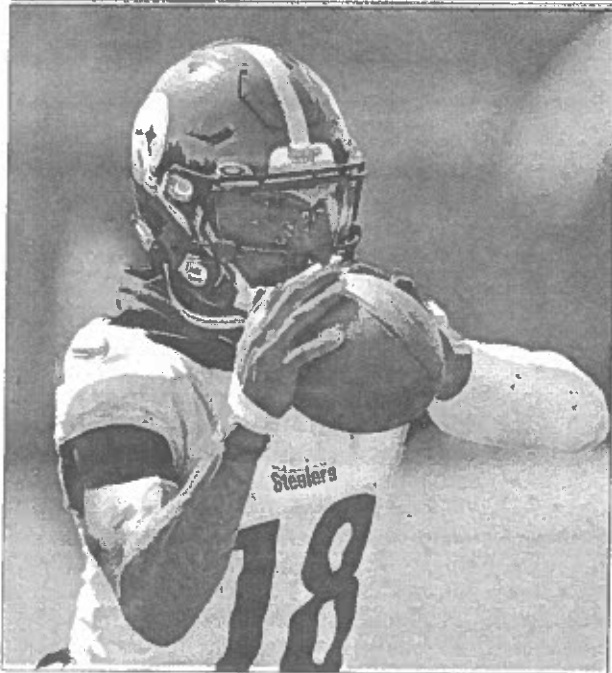
Region 15
No. 11 Berlin Hiland vs. No. 13 Mowrystown Whiteoak, at Lancaster High School, 2 p.m.

No. 4 Newark Catholic vs. No. 1 Lucasville Valley, at Lancaster High School, 2 p.m.

Regional Final: at Lancaster High School, Fri., 6 p.m.

Region 16
South Charleston Southeastern vs. Russia, at Cincinnati Princeton High School, Thurs., 2 p.m.

No. 6 Fort Loramie vs. No. 12 Howard East Knox, at Cincinnati Princeton High School, Thurs., 5 p.m.



AP Photo
Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Diontae Johnson makes a catch as he goes through drills during a practice, Tuesday in Pittsburgh.

Johnson Joins Steelers OTAs

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Diontae Johnson returned to work on Tuesday, joining his teammates for the second week of organized team activities.

Johnson, a Pro Bowler last season, did not participate during last week's three OTA sessions. The sessions, as coach Mike Tomlin has noted repeatedly, are voluntary. The 25-year-old Johnson is ready to enter the final season of the rookie contract he signed after the Steelers selected him in the third round in 2019.

Pittsburgh as a rule does not negotiate contracts during the regular season, meaning the Steelers have a little more than three months to get an extension done with Johnson if they consider him an important part of the club's future.

The Steelers did select two wide receivers during last month's draft, taking

George Pickens in the second round and Calvin Austin III in the fourth. Johnson declined interview requests on Tuesday, saying he would talk next week during the team's mandatory minicamp.

Still, his presence meant he was given a chance to work with rookie quarterback Kenny Pickett for the first time since the Steelers selected him with the 20th overall pick. "You can see off the bat how special a player (Johnson) is," Pickett said. "I am excited to get more time to work with him and see what I can do to help his game out."

Johnson caught a career-best 107 passes for 1,161 yards and eight touchdowns last season and is now the most-established wide receiver in the room after JuJu Smith-Schuster left for Kansas City in free agency.

Pitchers Highlight OVAC ASG Rosters



Photo by Cody Tomer
John Marshall's Adrianna Skrzyneki, right, was selected to play in the this year's OVAC All-Star Softball Game after a strong season for the state runner-up Monarchs.

Ohio State signee, Miller, to face Toledo commit, McKay

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

ELM GROVE — Runs should be at a premium Monday night when the OVAC Tom Bechtel All-Star Softball game is held on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex. The 9-inning contest will begin at 6:30 and will consist of players who recently graduated.

Both Ohio and West Virginia have NCAA Division I signees inside the circle in New Philadelphia's Julia Miller and Oak Glen's Maddie McKay.

Miller is headed to Ohio State

University after a sterling career with the Quakers, while McKay will take her talents to the University of Toledo after leading the Golden Bears for the last four seasons.

"Ohio has an outstanding pitcher in Julia Miller," the event's namesake - Tom Bechtel - said Tuesday night following media night as the teams played three scrimmage innings. "For fans who love fastpitch softball, it will be worth the trip up here to watch her pitch."

The other dugout also has a D-I ace in Oak Glen's Maddy

McKay who is headed to the University "She is a pretty darn good pitcher as well," Bechtel noted of McKay.

"The pitching on both sides seems to be pretty strong, but just as I say that, the teams will come out and hit the ball all over the field," Bechtel added.

Bechtel said he didn't want to start throwing names out because "there are a lot of all stars here."

The Ohio roster includes, in addition to Miller, Brooke Grant

Please see OVAC, Page 10

Nadal Tops Djokovic in Quarterfinal Thriller

PARIS (AP) — Rafael Nadal insists he can't know for sure whether any match at Roland Garros might be his very last at a place he loves, a place he is loved.

For now, if he keeps winning and keeps performing the way he did during his monumental quarterfinal victory over longtime rival Novak Djokovic that began in May and ended in June, Nadal will have more chances to play.

With a mix of brilliant shot-making and his trademark resilience, Nadal got past the top-seeded defending French Open champion Djokovic 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (4) to move a step closer to his 14th championship at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament and what would be a 22nd

major trophy overall, adding to records that he already owns.

"One of those magic nights for me," Nadal said.

For anyone lucky enough to be there, too — provided they were able to stay awake — or even anyone watching from afar.

The match began a little past 9 p.m. Tuesday and concluded more than four hours later, after 1 a.m. Wednesday.

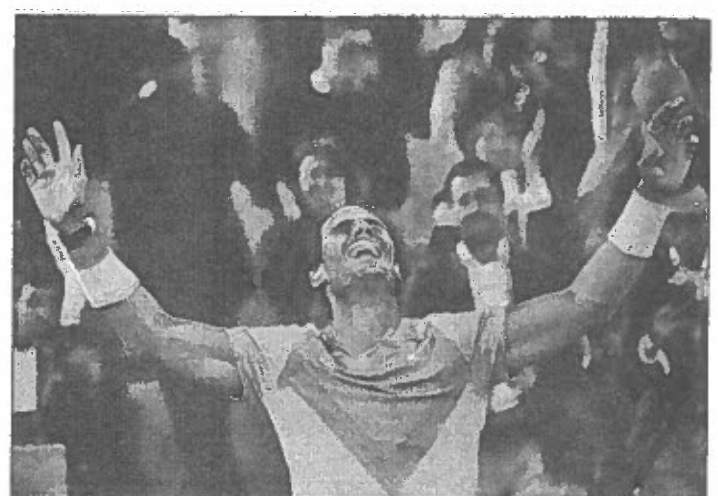
"TV decides," Djokovic said about the late start. "That's the world we are living in."

The bracket said this was a quarterfinal, yes, but it felt like a final, from the quality of play to the quality of effort, from the anticipation that preceded it to the atmosphere that enveloped it.

The only missing ingredient: There was no trophy handed to the winner. Nadal turns 36 on Friday; when he will face third-seeded Alexander Zverev in the semifinals. When the subject of Nadal's future was brought up during his on-court interview, he smiled.

"See you, by the way, in two days," Nadal said. "That's the only thing that I can say."

It'll be difficult for any match the rest of the way to live up to this one. Nary a game, a point, a stroke or, indeed, a step came with a hint of insouciance. Both men gave their all. Nothing came easily.



AP Photo
Rafael Nadal celebrates winning his quarterfinal match against Novak Djokovic in four sets at the French Open tennis Wednesday.

Please see NADAL, Page 10

Hedges Belts
3-Run HR To



Wheeling University Rugby
Finishes Sixth In The Nation

NADAL

(Continued from Page 9)

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Nor did Nadal betray a trace of fatigue from his five-set tussle against No. 9 seed Felix Auger-Aliassime in the fourth round on Sunday that lasted 4 hours, 21 minutes, nearly twice as long as Djokovic's matter-of-fact win that day.

"I'm not surprised at all," Djokovic said. "It's not the first time that he is able, a few days after he's injured and barely walking, to come out 100% physically fit."

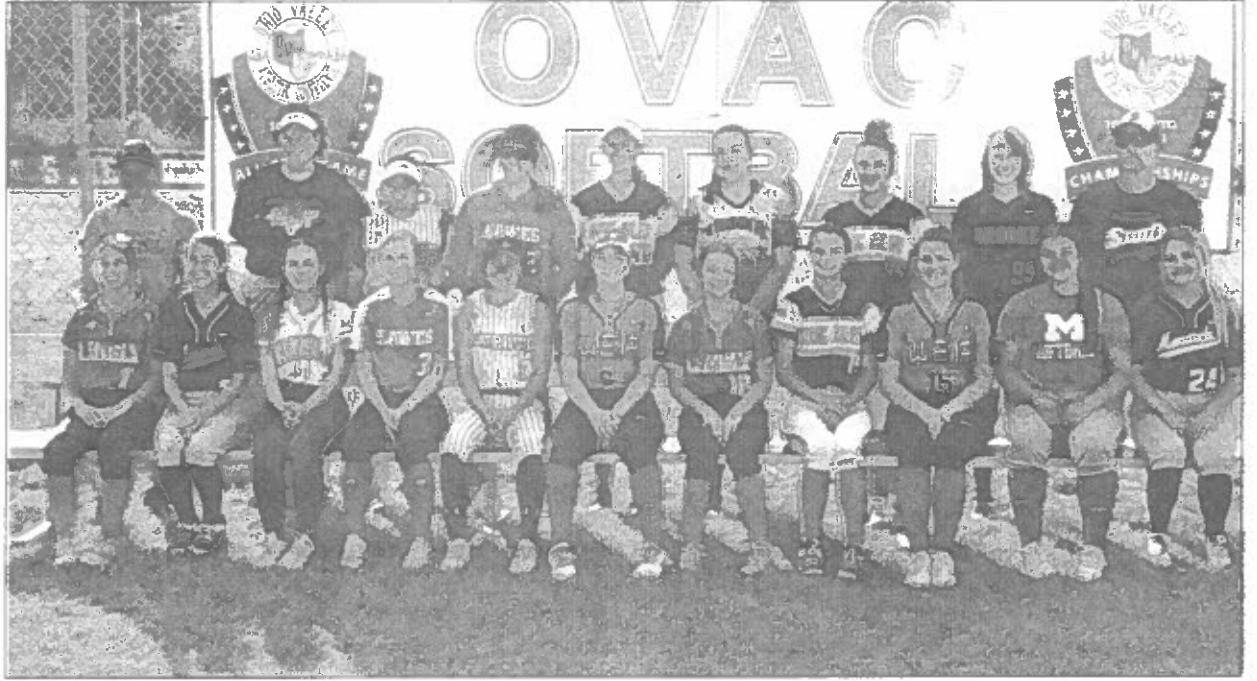


Photo by Kim North

The West Virginia all-stars are, front row from left, Haley Heitz (Linsly), Kassidy Temple (Parkersburg South), Shelby Koontz (John Marshall), Sydney Scott (Magnolia), Meysa Heitmann (University), Mallory Rosnick (Weir), Grace Landini (Linsly), Kenna Calahan (Oak Glen), Madison Angus (Weir), Breonna Marietta (Morgantown) and Adrianna Skrzyneki (John Marshall). Back row, from left, are Coach Paul Recrosio (Linsly), Coach Sherri Garner (Oak Glen), Katelyn Jones (Parkersburg South), Autumn Stemple (University), Makayla Zoellers (Oak Glen), Madi Kline (Paden City), Maddie McKay (Oak Glen), Emilee Knorr (Brooke) and Coach Tim Burch (Parkersburg South). Not pictured is Sophie Adkins (John Marshall).



Photo by Kim North

The Ohio all-stars are, front row from left, Brooke Grant (Indian Creek), Kalista Friday (Monroe Central), Maria Clark (Martins Ferry), Olivia Congleton (Warren Local), Hunter Pollock (Martins Ferry), Grace Rinard (Frontier), Savanna Ankrom (Edison), Ellie Bower (Conotton Valley), Julia Miller (New Philadelphia), Jenna Young (Harrison Central) and Ryleigh Goodman (Cambridge). Back row, from left, are Coach Jeremy Bleininger (Conotton Valley), Coach Doug Pfeffer (Caldwell), Adrianna Brown (Steubenville), Tristen Kovarik (Harrison Central), Sarah Touville (Harrison Central), Hannah Merritt (Union Local), Alayana Hancock (Warren Local), Carly Penner (Indian Creek), Coach John Dupke (New Philadelphia) and Jerry Magistro (Martins Ferry).

OVAC

(Continued from Page 9)

and Carly Penner (Indian Creek); Kalista Friday (Monroe Central); Maria Clark and Hunter Pollock (Martins Ferry); Olivia Congleton and Alayana Hancock (Warren Local); Grace Rinard (Frontier); Savanna Ankrom (Edison); Ellie Bower (Conotton Valley); Jenna Young, Sarah Touville and Tristen Kovarik (Harrison Central); Adrianna Brown (Steubenville); Ryleigh Goodman (Cambridge) and Hannah Merritt (Union Local).

The Buckeyes are coached by John Dupke (New Philadelphia-5A); Jerry Magistro (Martins Ferry-3A); Doug Pfeffer (Caldwell-2A); and Jeremy Bleininger (Conotton Valley-1A).

All four won OVAC titles this past spring.

"I think that is neat, especially when three of them coached in last year's game," Bechtel advised. "They love to do it and enjoy doing it."

The West Virginia roster consists of the aforementioned McK-

ay, Sophie Adkins, Shelby Koontz and Adrianna Skrzyneki (John Marshall); Haley Heitz and Grace Landini (Linsly); Kassidy Trimble and Katelyn Jones (Parkersburg South); Sydney Scott (Magnolia); Meysa Heitmann and Autumn Stemple (University); Mallory Rosnick and Madison Angus (Weir); Kenna Calahan and Makayla Zoellers (Oak Glen); Breonna Marietta (Morgantown); Madi Kline (Paden City) and Emilee Knorr (Brooke).

The Mountaineers coaches are Sherri Garner (Oak Glen); Tim Burch (Parkersburg South); and Paul Recrosio (Linsly).

Garner led the Golden Bears to the OVAC Class 4A crown, while the other two West Virginia coaches had their teams in the OVAC playoffs.

"I've felt over the past few years that Ohio should have the advantage because they have 30 schools to pick from and West Virginia only has 20, but somehow the

games seem to even out," Bechtel said.

"It's a nice way to end their seasons, let's be honest," he stressed.

When asked if West Virginia has an advantage because of the state tournament concluding just last week while the Ohio girls have been sitting around for a week or more, he didn't think so.

"It only pertains to a couple of girls from John Marshall and Oak Glen, so I don't think that will come into play."

"It's a great way to end the OVAC season," he said as the game is the last OVAC affiliated event of the school year.

According to the OVAC website, Ohio leads the all-time series, which dates back to 1982, 16-6. However, there are no results listed for 1994-95, 1997, and from 1999-2012. The 2020 game was postponed due to COVID-19.

The Buckeyes are currently on a six-game winning streak, including a 15-6 victory last spring.

GUARDIANS

(Continued from Page 9)

"Hedges is starting to hit home runs when I pitch, and I'm totally fine with that," Quantrill said while chuckling.

Guardians third baseman Jose Ramirez, who leads the majors with 51 RBIs, was intentionally walked in his first two plate appearances and

the money accurate, but it was a laser beam and, obviously, it was a big situation," Hedges said. "He just needed to get it there on time and let me take care of the rest."

Bobby Witt Jr. and Dozier were both hit by pitches from Quantrill near their left wrist, but remained in the game.

is 63 by Manny Ramirez in 1999.

"Manny and Josey are so different, but when you're talking about Josey in those comparisons, that's a pretty big compliment, probably to both guys," Francona said.

METS 10 NATIONALS 0
NEW YORK (AP)

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) - Martin Perez retired all 16 batters after taking a 97 mph liner off his right leg, lowering his majors-leading ERA with seven scoreless innings in Texas' victory over Tampa Bay.

TWINS 8, TIGERS 2
1ST GAME
TIGERS 4, TWINS 0