

Counsel/B3

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SPORTS

Tuesday,
May 17, 2022

MARTINS FERRY second baseman Hunter Pollock looks to turn a double play after recording a force out at second base during Monday's Division III district tournament game against Garaway at Harrison Central. The Purple Riders rallied from a 9-6 deficit to win, 10-9, and advance to Wednesday's district title game.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

Park's Leggett wins OVAC Coach of the Year accolade

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

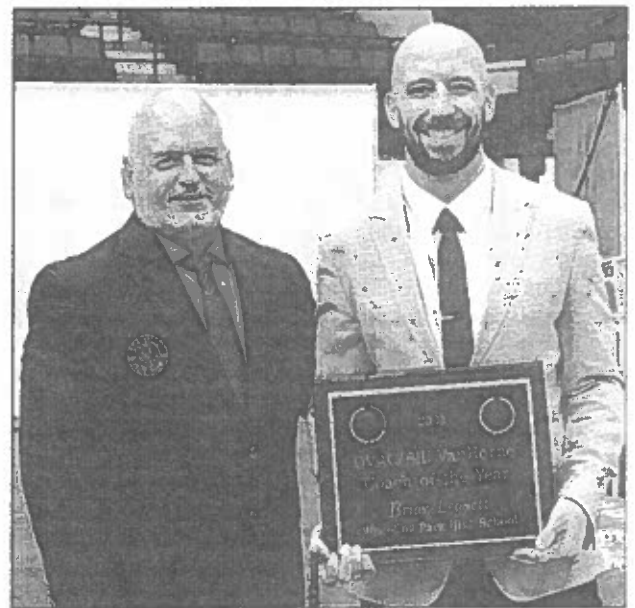
WHEELING - The Wheeling Park wrestling team was virtually unbeatable during the 2021-22 season, winning multiple championships in convincing fashion.

For all the success the Patriots enjoyed, head coach Brian Leggett was named the OVAC Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year Monday night inside WesBanco Arena during the annual Banquet of Champions.

"This award is a direct reflection on the investment so many great people make to our program. From our top-notch coaching staff, that I rely on heavily, to our wrestlers and their supportive families, to our school administration and community who rally around our team and this amazing sport of wrestling," Leggett stressed.

"Seasons like what these young men accomplished don't happen by chance. They have been putting in work for years and it shows," he added. "We are

See, **LEGGETT**, Page B2



Photo/KRISTIN MAZGAJ

WHEELING PARK wrestling coach Brian Leggett was named the 2022 OVAC/ Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year during Monday's annual OVAC Banquet of Champions. Presenting the award is OVAC Executive Director Dirk DeCoy (left).

Ferry survives in D-III district

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

CADIZ - It's safe to say that none of the players on Martins Ferry's softball team have ever heard Yogi Berra's famous quote. However, they proved once again Monday that a high school softball game isn't over until the 21st out is recorded.

Such was the case as the top-seeded Purple Riders watched a 6-0 lead disappear as No. 4 Ga-

raway scored nine times in the top of the sixth inning following a 30-minute lightning delay. However, displaying a never-say-no attitude once again, Martins Ferry plated four runs in the bottom of the inning to pocket a cherished, 10-9, victory in a Division III Eastern District semifinal on the artificial surface at Harrison Central High School.

"I've never seen anything like this team. How many times are we going to do this?" a very re-

lieved Martins Ferry head coach Jerry Magistro said while shaking his head. "But as long as we come out on top, that's all that matters.

"These kids bailed me out today. They have no quit in them and the seniors, along with the others, don't want to lose. They got in that little circle in the middle of the sixth and the seniors told everyone that they didn't want this to be their last game. They talked about it and then went out and did

See, **FERRY**, Page B2



AP PHOTO

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS center Sidney Crosby and goaltender Tristan Jarry skate off the ice after losing to the New York Rangers in overtime of Game 7 in an NHL hockey playoff series, Sunday at Madison Square Garden in New York.

End of an era? Penguins at crossroads after playoff exit

PITTSBURGH (AP) - For the better part of two decades, Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and Kris Letang have served as the foundation upon which the Pittsburgh Penguins built three Stanley Cup champions.

For the better part of a year, all three understood the 2021-22 season could be their last ride together.

And for the better part of a month, Crosby did his best to block it out. He can't anymore. Neither can anyone else. Not after a gut-wrenching playoff loss to the New York Rangers, when a 3-1 series lead ended with the Penguins being on the wrong end of the handshake line at raucous Madison Square Garden after the Rangers pulled off one staggering comeback after

another. The last was a 4-3 overtime victory in Game 7 that marked Pittsburgh's fourth straight one-and-done during a time of year Crosby, Malkin and Letang have helped define.

"They're all different," said Crosby, who missed a portion of Game 5 and all of Game 6 after getting hit in the head by New York's Jacob Trouba. "It's kind of hard to go through all of them. I think if we were to group all of them, I'd think this one, I probably feel like we deserved if I was to categorize all of them."

Crosby is well aware this could have been the last time Malkin and Letang are among those wearing a Penguins sweater. Both are free agents this summer, as is forward Bryan Rust,

whose dynamic play helped the Penguins to consecutive Stanley Cups in 2016 and 2017. All three could be too expensive to keep.

"I think we knew that coming into the playoffs," Crosby said. "But I think you try not to really think about that. You hope that we can make a good run."

In a way, they did. Pittsburgh led in six of seven games during the series, including two-goal advantages in both Game 5 and Game 6 and a one-goal edge with less than six minutes to go in regulation in the finale.

"It's disappointing," said Penguins forward Jake Guentzel, who scored eight goals during the series. "We were right there. We put ourselves in a good spot

See, **PENGUINS**, Page B2

Pirates blanked



Browns' Watson to meet with NFL

CLEVELAND (AP) - NFL officials will meet

running 13 and working around four free passes.

He was a little bit better than Shamrocks senior ace Gavin Carpenter, who worked into the sixth, allowing both Bellaire runs.

Bellaire's offensive attack was led by Jaden Kesterso's two singles and a RBI, while Danny Zwack had a RBI hit.

Harrison 6, West M. 4
CADIZ — The Huskies fended off the Tornadoes in a Division III sectional opener at Maze-roski Field.

Trace Rutter picked up the win on the mound, working the distance. He had six strikeouts and had three walks.

Offensively, Kaden Jurrosko drove in two runs. Jonathan Vermillion had two singles, while Cabot Arbaugh had a double and a single. Treston Nemeth had a double.

sumed Kelsie's magic took over and the junior didn't have her best stuff.

She yielded six hits and was charged with six runs before McFarland was summoned back to the middle of the diamond. McFarland gave up an inside-the-park grand slam to the Pirates' Jordyn Keim that put the designated visitors ahead, 9-6. Keim had tripled in a run earlier in the outburst and finished with five RBI.

With a Garaway runner on first and only one out in the seventh, McFarland struck out Lily Sprecht for the second

time and she really hit a good eye at the plate."

When asked about the pitching change, Magistro took all the blame.

"I need to go with my heart and I really didn't go with it there. That's my fault," he said. "I just thought that maybe Lauren was getting a little tired and they were starting to time her up, but Kelsie has done a great job all year. That was my mistake and nobody else's."

Martins Ferry will now await the winner of today's other semifinal between Harrison and Tusky Valley at Conotton.

• Pirates

Continued from Page B1

ing a double in the first, and scored three runs as Chicago ended a six-game slide at home and improved to 5-11 at Wrigley Field. Yan Gomes also had three hits, including a double.

Contreras led off with a double off Dylan Peters (3-2) and scored Chicago's first run, then lined his fourth slam to left-center off Bryse Wilson on the first pitch of his second at-bat. Happ also had two hits in the first as the Cubs chased Peters, who faced seven hitters

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Wilson was charged with the next three Chicago runs.

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PIRATES MOVE

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• Penguins

Continued from Page B1

to be up 3-1."

New York's consistent ability to pounce on Penguin miscues helped. The last of those, Danton Heineman's turnover and ensuing penalty that gave the Rangers a power play in overtime, set up a sequence that ultimately ended with Artemi Panarin's winner.

In a way, the series was symbolic of a wildly uneven season. A gritty start in which role players like Evan Rodrigues filled in spectacularly while Crosby and Malkin (among others) recovered from injuries. Then a two-month stretch where they were arguably the best team in the league, followed by a limp to the finish that included three mostly listless losses to the Rangers.

It's one of the reasons New York entered the series as the prohibitive favorite. While Crosby stressed his team couldn't just flip a switch and get going, that's precisely what the Penguins did in taking three of four to start the series.

And then suddenly, leads, momentum and a promising postseason vanished in the hockey equivalent of a New York minute. An offseason of potentially seismic turnover looms.

"A lot of people didn't expect us to get this far, let alone get in the playoffs," Crosby said. "We had high expectations. We battled through a lot. And so many guys contributed. I think for all those reasons we thought we'd still be playing."

• Leggett

Continued from Page B1

building something special here at Wheeling Park High School and we aim to keep this momentum rolling.

"Thank you to the OVAC. I have been around a lot of wrestling organizations and I have never seen a conference like this at any level," Leggett continued. "Our wrestlers dream about walking out for their OVAC finals match and standing on top of that podium. The OVAC tournament is so special to each one of them."

In his fourth year at the helm of the Patriots, Leggett returned Wheeling Park to its glory days.

With a lineup full of talent, Wheeling Park, which was state runnerup in 2021, rolled through the West Virginia Class AAA regional with an astounding 277.5 points. En route to that total, the Patriots qualified 13 of their 14 individuals to the state tournament.

In Huntington, the Patriots didn't slow down inside Mountain Health Arena. They produced five state champions and had nine total placers. It resulted in 207.5 points, which was a run-away winner for the state title, which was the seventh in school history, but first since 2006.

Before entering the postseason, Park flexed his muscles locally, too. Leggett's squad won the overall title at the OVAC Ron Mauck Wrestling Championship and then claimed the 5A title in the OVAC Bill Hingardner Dual Championships. They also finished undefeated in the prestigious Park Duals in December, claiming the title for the first time since 2007.

Many people didn't know what Leggett was going through off the mat as his wife, Lindsay, was going through a battle with cancer even before the season began.

"I would like to dedicate this award to my wife. When she got her cancer diagnosis last fall my first instinct was that I needed to take a step back from wrestling to be there for her and our family. When I brought it up to her she told me 'absolutely not!' "I am so thankful for her and grateful for the way our wrestling community has supported her in her fight. She is a true inspiration."

In addition to Leggett, other finalists for the award included D.J. Butler (Barnesville baseball), Dan Ifft (Dover football), Holly Pettit (Cameron girls basketball) and Lou "Scooter" Tolzda (Union Local girls basketball).

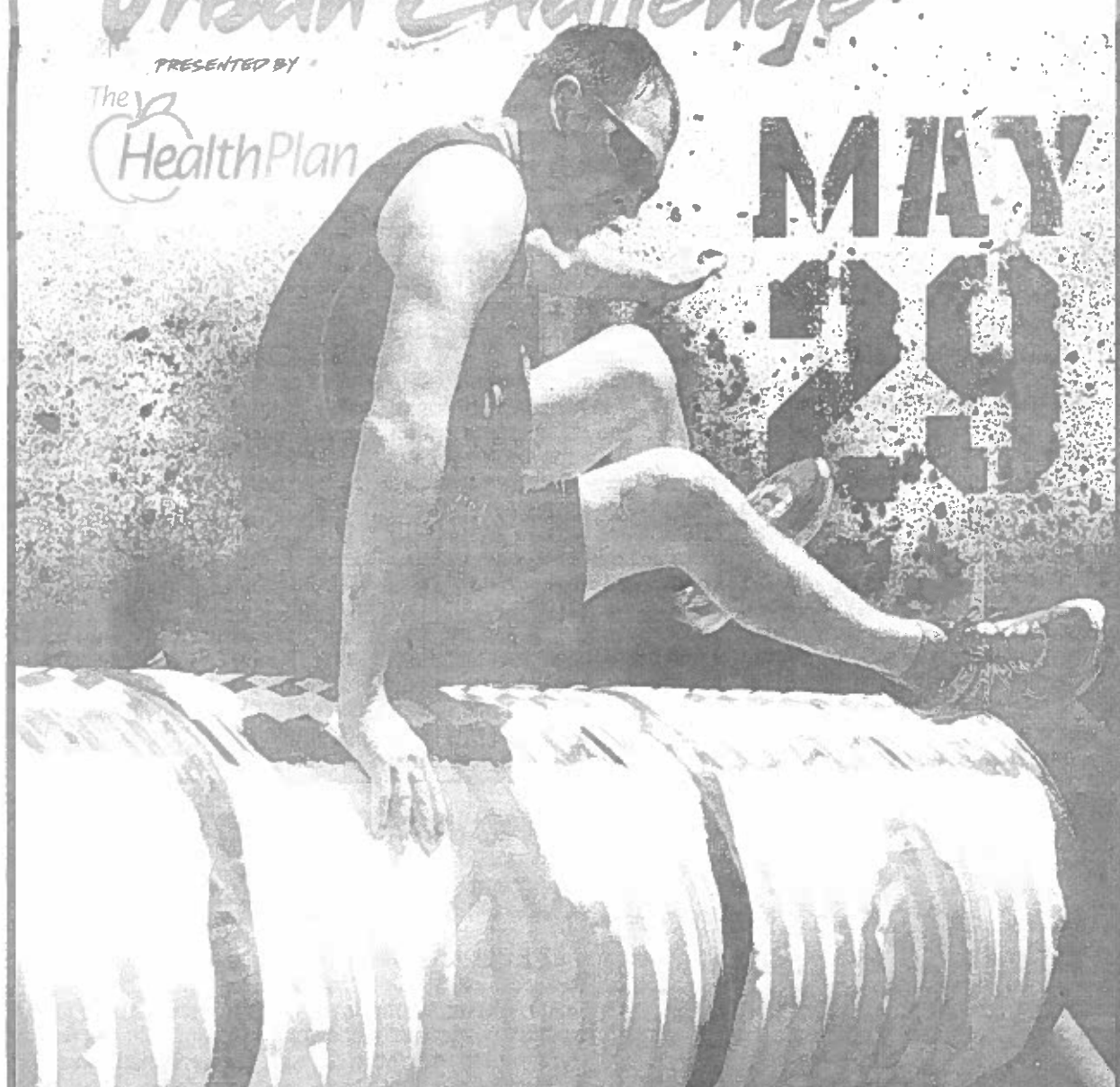
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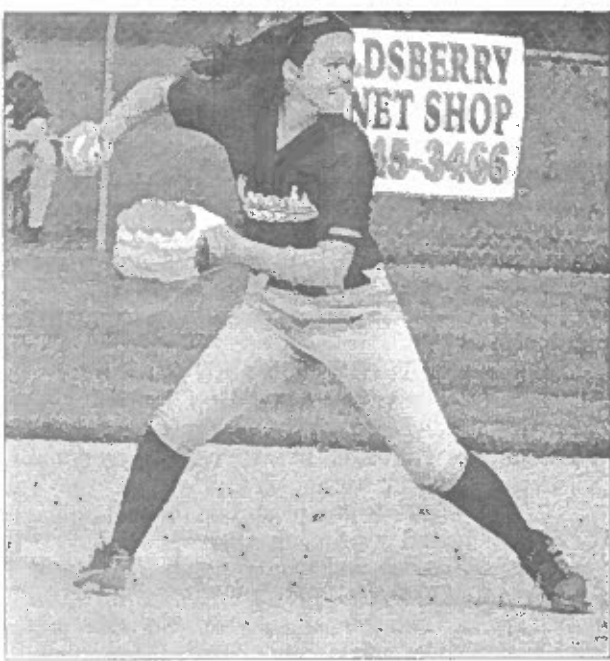


Photo by Cody Tomer

John Marshall shortstop Ava Blake loads up to throw to first base during the Monarchs' Region 1 Championship Series against University Monday.

Monarchs Drop Game 1 in Extras

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

GLEN DALE — Monday afternoon's West Virginia Class AAA Region One championship series between University High and John Marshall opened with a pitcher's duel that over three hours later turned into an instant classic.

Senior pitcher Autumn Stemple fanned 20, including the final eight batters she faced, and freshman pinch-hitter Paige Conrad reached on a lead-off bunt single in the top of the ninth and scored what turned out to be the game-winning run on Anna Argabrite's rbi fielder's choice as the Hawks claimed a prized 4-3 victory over the Monarchs in game one of the best-of-three regional series at John Marshall High School.

"This is all about her," University Coach Mindy Parks said of Stemple. "This is her time, we believe in her and we believe

she is going to make history by taking us to the state tournament for the first time since 1994."

While game two will be played this afternoon in Morgantown it will be hard to top the events from Monday. While John Marshall (19-8) suffered the hard-luck loss pitcher Kandance Pettit was every bit as impressive as Stemple, striking out 18 University hitters while walking four and scattering five hits. The two pitchers combined to throw nearly 300 pitches in the contest, which also featured a 30-minute lightning delay in the fourth frame.

The Hawks got the early lead, pushing across two runs in the top of the first without the benefit of a hit. Argabrite and Meysa Heitman each walked on close 3-2 pitches to get things started before moving up on a fielder's choice.

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Page 11

Madonna Wins Section Title

Sixth-inning rally lifts Blue Dons over Dragons

By CODY NESPOR
Sports Writer

CAMERON — Madonna's baseball team has gotten used to having its back against the wall over the past week. Since they fell into the losers' bracket of the Class A, Region 1, Section 1 tournament last Tuesday, the Blue Dons have won five straight elimination games — including a second-straight over top-seeded Cameron 15-5 Monday night — to claim their first sectional championship in a decade and the fourth in school history.

"It says a lot about the seniors because honestly, it really started with them in the dugout," Madonna coach Jeff Baire said after Monday's win. "You never want to lose, you never want to put yourself in a position where you have to battle through. However, on the other side, it happened to us last year when Wheeling Central got hot, came in and beat us twice (in the section championship). We had the opportunity to do the same thing and I can't say enough about the guys."

Madonna came into the section championship needing two wins against the Dragons in order to claim the section title. A 20-9 victory on Saturday forced a winner-take-all game on the Dragons' home field Monday night. After trailing by three runs throughout the game and sitting through a 30-minute weather delay, the Blue Dons exploded for a 12-run sixth inning that propelled them to their first section championship since 2012.

"We don't do anything easy," Baire laughed. "A couple of errors in the first inning and we go down three runs and have to battle back the whole way. We

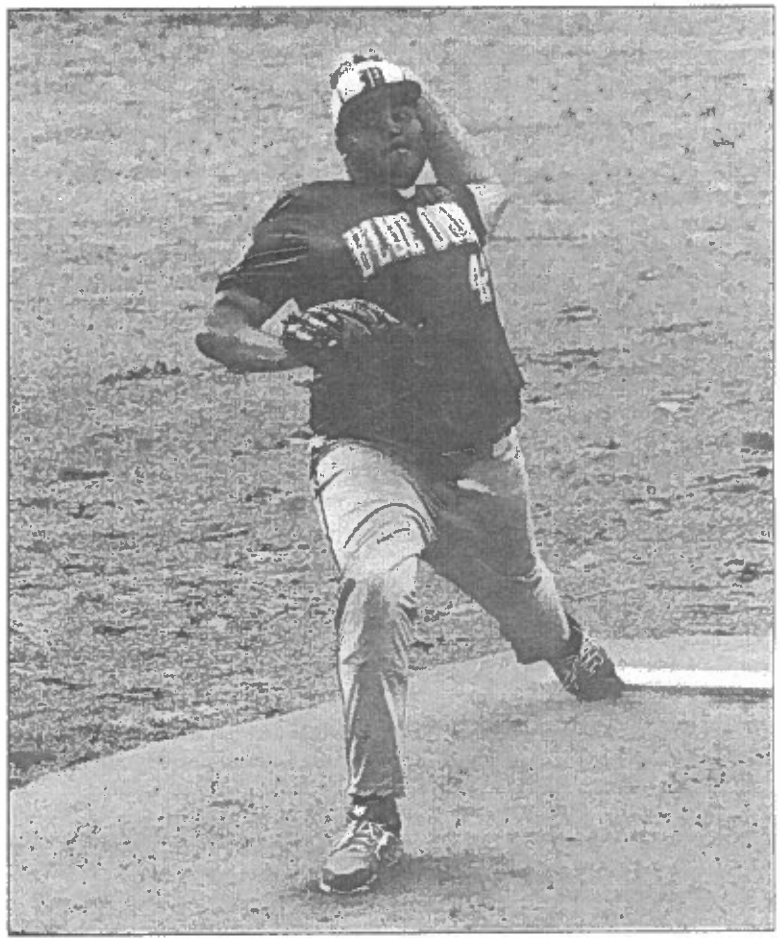


Photo by Cody Nespor

Marquese Parker was the winning pitcher for Madonna Monday as the Blue Dons defeated Cameron 15-5, claiming their first section championship since 2012.

battled, it's what we've done all year."

Two Blue Don errors and a double steal gave Cameron a 3-0 lead after the first inning. With their ace, Coy Angel, on the mound, the Dragons were feeling good about their chances.

"We were where we wanted to be coming into the game," explained coach Adam Angel. "We had the pitching set up the way we wanted and then came out and scored three runs early and we were sitting in the driver's seat."

Coy Angel had already gotten the Blue Dons a couple of times this season, including in the OVAC Class A championship,

where he struck out nine batters over five innings in a 6-5 Cameron win.

Baire said the gameplan Monday was to work counts to try and elevate Angel's pitch count and get into Cameron's bullpen as soon as possible.

"That was our main goal, that's what we talked about (Monday) and what we talked about after the game on Saturday," Baire said. "When you're facing guys that are buzzsaws, you really have to work them, and if you're able to push the pitch count up and get into the bullpen, then it's all bets are off."

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Park's Leggett Named OVAC Coach of the Year

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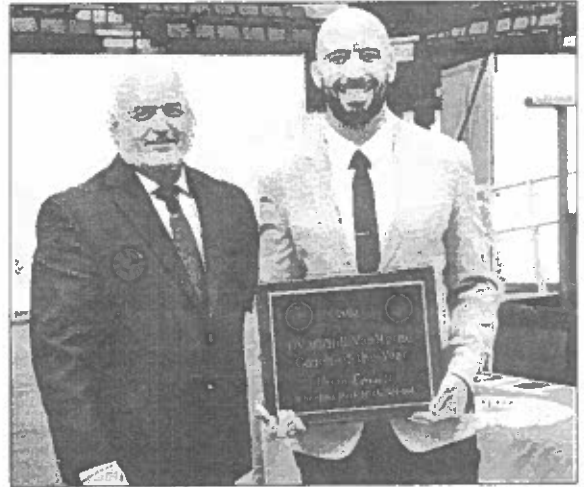


Photo by Kristin Mazgaj

Wheeling Park wrestling coach Brian Leggett was named the 2022 OVAC/Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year during Monday's annual OVAC Banquet of Champions. Presenting the award is OVAC Executive Director Dirk DeCoy (left).

Ferry Softball Rallies Again

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

CADIZ — It's safe to say that none of the players on Martins Ferry's softball team have ever heard Yogi Berra's famous quote. However, they proved once again Monday that a high school softball game isn't over until the 21st out is recorded.

Such was the case as the top-seeded

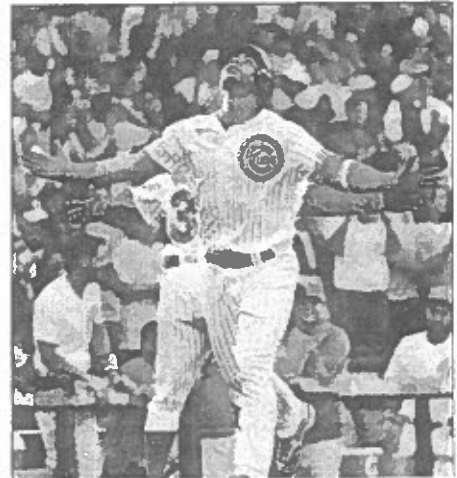


Cubs Beat Pirates 9-0

MATT CARLSON
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Willson Contreras led off with a double and became a rare leadoff hitter with a first-inning grand slam as the Chicago Cubs burst to an eight-run lead and beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 9-0 on Monday night.

Contreras became the 10th leadoff hit-



one that they didn't want this to be their last game. They talked about it and then went out and did it."

On the short end of a 9-6 count, Hunter Pollock drew her third base-on-balls of the game leading off the bottom of the sixth. With one out, Maria Clark lined a double to the gap in left-center that plated Pollock. Taylor Bell then reached on an error as Clark went to third. Bell took second on catcher's indifference and both runners scored on Nevaeh Hall's single up the middle. When the ball got past the centerfielder, Hall raced around to third and was replaced by courtesy runner Riley Doyle. After Ella McFarland walked, Eve Agnew legged out an infield single as Doyle raced home with what proved to be the game-winning run.

Leading 6-0 before the lightning delay, Lauren McFarland was dealing inside the circle. The senior had allowed just four hits, struck out four and didn't walk a batter. However, when play resumed Kelsie Gillespie took over and the junior didn't have her best stuff.

She yielded six hits and was charged with six runs before McFarland was summoned back to the middle of the diamond. McFarland gave up an inside-the-park grand slam to the Pirates' Jordyn Keim that put the designated visitors ahead, 9-6. Keim had tripled in a run earlier in the outburst and finished with five RBI.

With a Garaway runner on first and only one out in the seventh, McFarland struck out Lily Sprecht for the second out.

"That was probably the biggest strike-out of my career," she admitted.

The next batter sent a popup to the middle of the infield that McFarland gloved for the final out before being mobbed by

coming down into her glove for the 21st out.

"Lauren was a warrior today ... a warrior," Magistro praised. "She did it. She was a leader."

"I've never wanted to get back inside the circle so bad," Lauren McFarland said while wiping away tears of joy. "I like winning. I don't want to stop playing."

Pollock scored four times from the leadoff spot.

"That's why she is there," Magistro said of Pollock. "I know Hunter can hit the ball, and it's not just home runs. She always seems to come up with clutch hits and she really has a good eye at the plate. That's why she is our leadoff hitter."

When asked about the pitching change, Magistro took all the blame.

"I need to go with my heart and I really didn't go with it there. That's my fault," he said. "I just thought that maybe Lauren was getting a little tired and they were starting to time her up, but Kelsie has done a great job all year. That was my mistake and nobody else's."

Martins Ferry will now await the winner of today's other semifinal between No. 2 Harrison Central and No. 5 Tusky Valley at Conotton Valley High School. That game was postponed Monday due to rain.

"Whoever wins, you know they're going to be a good team," Magistro said when asked whether it matters who is up next. "We've beaten Harrison Central twice already, but both games were battles. Tusky Valley is always up there it seems."

The district winner travels to Unioto High School in Chillicothe on Wed., May 25 for regional action against the winner of Wheelersburg-Ironton.

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 9)

He allowed just the one runner in seven innings and struck out six, throwing 83 pitches.

Miley's previous win was on Sept. 7, 2021 at Wrigley Field when he beat the Cubs as a member of the Reds.

Michael Rucker finished with two-hit relief, and the Cubs won their third straight.

Pittsburgh is batting .223 this season.

Ian Happ had three hits, including a double in the first, and scored three runs as Chicago ended a six-game slide at home and improved to 5-11 at Wrigley Field. Yan Gomes also had three hits, including a double.

Contreras led off with a double off Dillon Peters (3-2) and scored Chicago's first run, then lined his fourth slam to left-center off Bryse Wilson

on the first pitch of his second at-bat. Happ also had two hits in the first as the Cubs chased Peters, who faced seven hitters and retired only two. All five Cubs who reached against Peters scored.

Wilson was charged with the next three Chicago runs.

The Cubs added an unearned run in the fourth when Happ scored from third on Gomes double-play grounder.

PIRATES MOVE

Pittsburgh claimed 30-year old C Tyler Heinman off waivers from Toronto. Heinman has appeared in 30 major league games with three teams. The Pirates designated C Andrew Knapp for assignment.

UP NEXT

Pittsburgh RHP JT Brubaker (0-3, 5.34) starts on Tuesday night.

with a 15-5 victory over Williamstown to force a decisive Class A Section 2 championship later today.

Tyler scored six runs in the top of the first and third innings to take a commanding 12-2 lead. Three more runs in the top of the fifth truncated the affair with a 15-5 mercy-rule ending.

Hayden Brown and Ty Walton each drove in four runs for the Knights as Brown hit two doubles and Walton smacked a home run. Zade Billings added two more RBI.

Alec Chaplin pitched four innings on the mound, allowing four runs while striking out three and walking two. Walton threw the final inning, punching out a pair to secure the victory.

The teams will meet again tonight for a Class A, Region 1, Section 2 championship game. The winner will advance to play Madonna in the Region 1 Championship Series.

BELLAIRE 2, BARNESVILLE 1

BARNESVILLE — The pitching matchup that people pointed to from the moment the brackets were set more than a week ago didn't disappoint at Memorial Park.

Bellaire junior Jake Heatherington was

champion Barnesville, 2-1, on Monday in a Division III sectional opener.

Heatherington worked the route for the Big Reds, fanning 13 and working around four free passes.

He was a little bit better than Shamrocks senior ace Gavin Carpenter, who worked into the sixth, allowing both Bellaire runs. He struck out two and walked two.

Bellaire's offensive attack was led by Jaden Kesterson, who had two singles and a RBI, while Danny Zwack had a single and a RBI. Heatherington added two base hits.

The Shamrocks were limited to two singles.

HARRISON CENTRAL 6 WEST MUSKINGUM 4

CADIZ — The Huskies fended off the Tornados in a Division III sectional opener at Mazeroski Field.

Trace Rutter picked up the win on the mound, working the distance. He had six strikeouts and had three walks.

Offensively, Kaden Jurosko drove in two runs. Jonathan Vermillion had two singles, while Cabot Arbaugh had a double and a single. Treston Nemeth had a double.

LEGGETT

(Continued from Page 9)

They also finished undefeated in the prestigious Park Duals in December, claiming the title for the first time since 2007.

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wrestling to be there for her and our family. When I brought it up to her she told me 'absolutely not!' 'I am so thankful for her and grateful for the way our wrestling community has supported her in her fight. She is a true inspiration.'

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MADONNA

(Continued from Page 9)

Following the three-run first inning, Madonna turned the ball over to left-hander Marquese Parker, who has been rock-solid in relief for the Dons this season. Parker held the Dragons to two runs across 4 1/3 innings of work — his longest appearance of the season — to keep his team in the game.

"I wanted to try to hold them," Parker said. "Give up no more runs and give my team a chance to come back with hits."

A Lance Hartley double in the bottom of the third gave the hosts a 4-0 advantage before Matt Amaismeier hit a bases-loaded single in the top of the fourth to get Madonna on the board and make it a 4-2 game. Hartley singled home another run in the bottom of the inning to maintain a three-run lead.

Madonna's plan against Angel had worked, however, as Coach Angel made a move to the bullpen with one out in the top of the fifth. As he brought Hartley to the mound to warm up however, the home plate umpire called for a 30-minute weather delay due to thunder in the area with the score still sitting at 5-2.

"I felt like we were having good at bats even with Coy in there," Baire said. "We pushed his pitch count up and were fouling off a lot of good pitches. That's what we talked about."

When play resumed, Lucas McAllister immediately hit a double down the left field line that scored David Connors and Cameron's lead was down to one run.

After Parker threw a scoreless bottom of the fifth, Madonna's bats broke out in a major way in the sixth inning.

After loading the bases with just one out, Brycen Hair hit into a run-scoring fielder's choice as the tying run scored when a throw home was not in time, tying the game 5-5. Connors followed with a swinging bunt that died in the infield, allowing him to reach first base safely and give Madonna a 6-5 lead, its first of the game. From there, the Blue Dons were off to the races. McAllister drew a bases-loaded walk, Luke and Matt Amaismeier had back-to-back RBI singles, and Brock Reinarcher and Hair had consecutive two-run hits to complete a 12-run top of the sixth.

"Hats off to them, they just don't quit," Coach An-

gel said of Madonna. "No lead is ever good enough with them. They grit it out, they fight and they battle. I watched them do it to (Wheeling) Central the other night and they did it to us twice. They just figure out a way to win."

Chase Littleton got the final two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning as Madonna picked up the 15-5 mercy-rule victory.

Parker picked up the win throwing 4 1/3 innings, scattering five hits and two runs while striking out six.

"Marquese has been doing that all year for us: coming in for us in tough situations and working his way through," Baire said. "He messaged me last night saying he wanted the ball. He definitely got his opportunity and didn't waste it."

Matt Amaismeier led the team with four RBI on two singles, following up his eight RBI game on Saturday.

"He just doesn't want to lose," Baire said. "He did the same thing in basketball. That's a senior right there."

Hair finished with a single, double and three RBI while Reinarcher drove in two on a single. Seven of Madonna's nine starters drove in a run in the contest and all nine spots in the order scored at least once.

For Cameron, Coy Angel struck out seven across 4 2/3 innings, yielding three runs on four hits.

"Coy's been our leader on and off the field," Coach Angel said of his son. "To have him come up short is pretty tough because I know, on the personal side of it, what it meant to him. He's got them twice and they finally got him today."

Hartley drove in three runs on a single and double.

After playing in the los-



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Seth Staskey
Sports Editor

OVAC Coach of the Year finalists set

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

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Barnesville



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Dover



BRIAN LEGGETT
Whg Park



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(Wheeling Park wrestling), Holly Pettit (Cameron girls basketball) and Lou "Scooter" Tolzda (Union Local girls basketball).

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Shamrocks may end up being his most memorable when his career is said and done.

It was during that season when Butler guided the Shamrocks to heights that hadn't been reached since 2004. Finishing with an impressive 25-8 record. See, COACHES, Page C2

Bellaire native Leigh using RL Training to give back to the OV

Rick Leigh admits that he wasn't always the model child when he was growing up in Bellaire.

He also remembers, quite well, that he had a strong desire to become more active in different sports, but simply didn't have the means or feasibility to do much more beyond what was offered through the school district.

Leigh is now trying to do his part to help kids avoid trouble, maintain their academics and provide a physical outlet for kids, who wish to receive training beyond their normal practices or conditioning.

Now in its second year, RL Strength and Conditioning - Lions Only is currently working with 42 youngsters from school districts such as Bellaire, Bridgeport, Martins Ferry, Shadyside, Wheeling Park and John Marshall twice a week at Nelson Jordan Center in Wheeling.

"Kids have been able to use this (program) as a tool to better themselves for sports, at school, or just to give them something to do," Leigh said.

The program, which is held on Wednesday afternoons at 5 and on Saturday mornings at 10, is totally free and requires just a waiver of consent to be signed in case of injury.

"It's really grown through word-of-mouth," Leigh said. "We started with three and we've outgrown both Nelson Field and the Martins Ferry Recreation Center."

The training last two hours and focuses on strength and conditioning and even delves into boxing.

"I wanted to be able to provide a help to kids who needed it and wanted it, but didn't have the financial means," Leigh said. "We're helping kids to be better trained and ready for their sports and helping kids to get stronger and faster."

RL Strength and Conditioning - Lions Only actually started with three boys working out at Nelson Field in Bellaire.

One of those was apparently on his way to dropping out of high school, but as he continued with the program, he made tremendous strides, got back in school and graduated.

"That was our first success story," Leigh said.

According to Leigh, the program isn't just for "troubled kids." However, it's having an impact on all kids who have signed up, which is something that Leigh takes great pride in.

"The parents I've spoken with seem to think it's helping the kids," Leigh said. "We've had several really good success stories and hopefully we'll continue to have those."

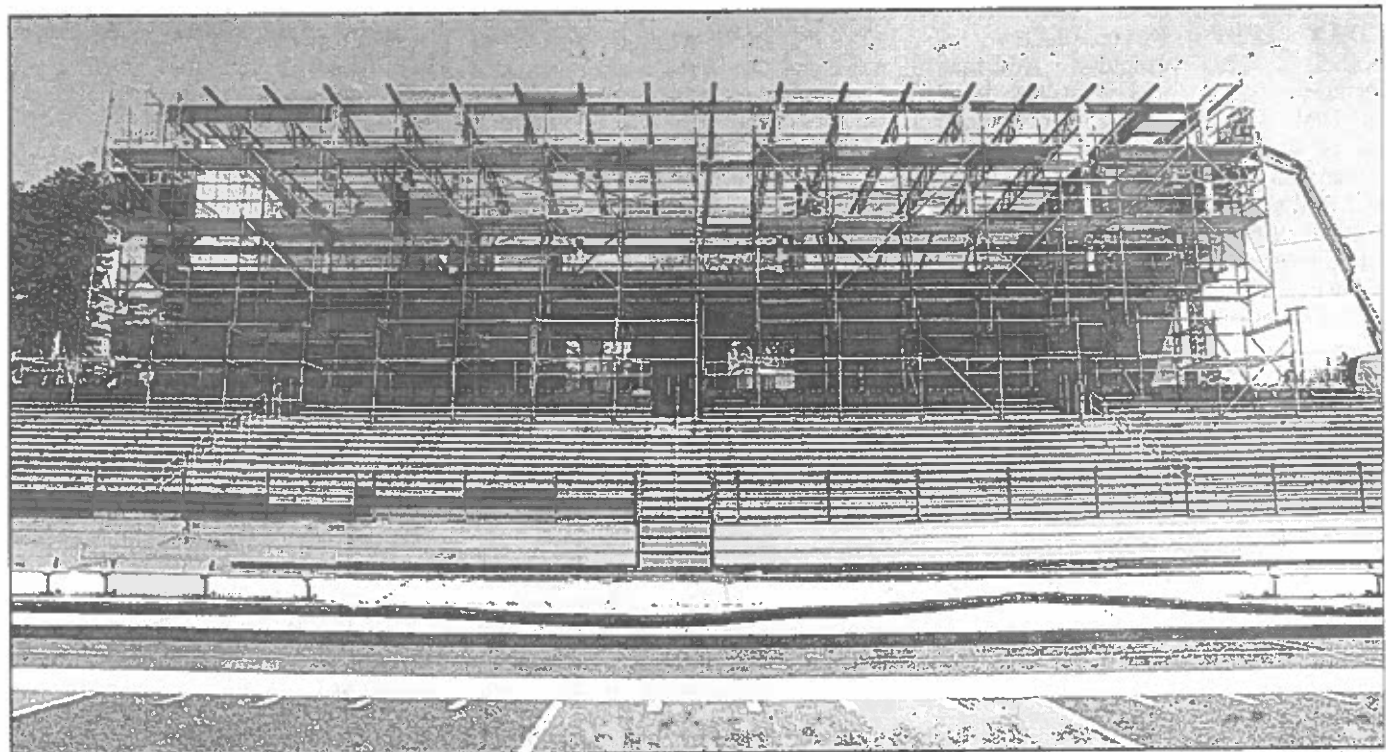
Leigh is on hand for all of the workouts and has a couple of buddies who help with the different programs, too.

"Sometimes I can't believe it's gotten as big as it has," Leigh said.

To help motivate the kids, who are entered in the program, Leigh has solicited sponsorships from area individuals and businesses. Basically, if an enrollee doesn't miss a workout, maintains his or her grades, the individual gets a sponsor who provides equipment, gear, gift cards, etc.

"The sponsorship program kind of shows the kids that hard work pays off," Leigh said. "To have anything good in life, you have to work hard to receive it."

In 2021, RL Strength and Conditioning-- Lions Only held its inaugural



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED IS the new state-of-the-art pressbox at Harrison Central's Wagner Field in Cadiz. The facility measures 7,833 square feet and has a price tag between \$4-5 million. The building will be two floors and have an elevator. The completion date is late July.

Work continues on HC pressbox

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

CADIZ - The Harrison Hills School District is updating another piece of its state-of-the-art athletic facilities.

With artificial turf at its baseball, football and the softball fields, a mammoth press box is under construction at Wagner Field that will rival most in the Ohio Valley. It will be ready prior to the start of the 2022-23 school year.

According to Superintendent Dana Snider, the project has an estimated cost of between \$4 and 5 million dollars. It measures 7,833 square feet.

"I can't wait to see what it looks like when it's finished. It's going to be spectacular," Harrison Central Di-

rector of Athletics Ray Hibbs said earlier in the week while standing at the 50-yard line and admiring the view. "It should be very comparable to other press boxes around the Ohio Valley."

The new two-story structure extends high above the home bleachers and spans from the 25-yard line on the south end of the stadium to the opposite 40-yard line.

"The front will be totally glass ... kind of similar to the front of the new high school building. It will have the same brick and color scheme," Hibbs added.

"The main entrance will be through the middle of the first floor. The entrance will also have a glass front and

spectators will enter the stadium under the press box," he continued. "The access point will be more visible to everyone who is attending whatever function we are having."

He said that there will be eight rooms on the front of the press box that can be used by home coaches, visiting coaches, scoreboard staff, TV stations, media, video board operations, etc...

"There will be a large meeting room on the top floor that can host a variety of meetings," Hibbs noted.

"The new facility will be a lot less cozy than the old press box. That's for sure."

Hibbs said the new press box will See, HC, Page C2

Rangers score late to top Penguins, force a Game 7

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Chris Kreider's long slap shot bounced over Louis Domingue and into the net with 1:28 left and the New York Rangers beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 5-3 on Friday night to push their thrilling first-round series to a deciding Game 7.

Kreider's second of the game and fourth of the playoffs sent the series back to New York. Andrew Copp



• Coaches

Continued from Page C1

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That win set the stage for a 10-7 victory against Minford to send the Shamrocks to the state.

Butler's club also qualified for the OVAC Tournament, but fell to Martins Ferry in the semifinals.

The Shamrocks actually avenged that loss, however, by defeating the Purple Riders in the district championship game.

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During the course of the regular season, Dover completed an undefeated campaign with an average margin of victory of 25 points a game. The

Tornadoes finished second in the OVAC Class 5A standings, percentage points behind University.

In the playoffs, Dover had a couple of close encounters, including an 18-15 win against Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary and then they fended off Aurora, 43-42, in the second round before defeating Kenston in the regional semifinal.

BRIAN LEGGETT, Wheeling Park wrestling - In his fourth year at the helm of the Patriots, Leggett returned Park to its glory days.

With a lineup stacked with talent, Park, which was state runnerup in 2021, rolled through the West Virginia Class AAA regional with an astounding 277.5 points. En route to that total, the Patriots qualified all 14 of its wrestlers to the state tournament.

In Huntington, the Patriots didn't slow down. They produced five state champions and nine total placers.

Add that up and it resulted in 207.5 points, which was a run-away winner for the state title, which was the seventh in school history, but first since 2006.

Before entering the postseason, Park flexed its muscles locally, too. Leggett's squad won the overall title at the Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Championship and then claimed the 5A title in the OVAC Bill Hingardner Dual Championships. The Patriots also finished undefeated in the prestigious Park Duals in December, claiming the title for the first time since 2007.

HOLLY PETTIT, Cameron girls basketball

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In the regional, the Jets took down Wheelersburg, which had been ranked No. 1 in the final Division III Associated Press Poll, 56-45 to set up a date with Fairland in the Elite 8.

The Jets built a 19-point lead in that game before having to pull out a 69-67 victory on a Reagan Vinskovich shot, which set off a wild celebration.

In the state tournament, the Jets ran into a buzzsaw in eventual state champion Cincinnati Purcell Marian. The Jets fell, 59-43.

OV bowling legend Craycraft dies at 71

NEW MARTINSVILLE--Keith Craycraft, long-time owner-operator of Bruce Bowling Lanes and former professional bowler, has died. He was 71.

Craycraft, and his family, operated the 65-year-old facility from 1968-2015 before closing and selling the property to Century Equities of Wheeling. A Microtel currently operates on the property.

Craycraft, a 1969 graduate of Magnolia High School, ran the Pro KC Shop inside the bowling facility and organized numerous bowling tournaments at the site and elsewhere in the area.

Keith bowled on the Professional Bowling Tour from 1972-82 and appeared on five PBA-style television shows with one second place finish, two thirds and two fifth places. He appeared on ABC's Saturday "Wide World of Sports."

He won six state championships including two in the doubles category with older brother Mike.

A competitive bowler for 37 years, he recorded 16 perfect 300 games and four 800 series scores with a high season average of 233 and a high 837 series.

He won a PBA Regional event in Sandusky, Ohio, singles and doubles titles in Hershey, Pa., eight state Moose titles and numerous New Martinsville Local Association crowns.

Craycraft was inducted into the W.Va. State Bowling Association Hall of Fame in 1996 and was the second person inducted into the Wetzel County Hall of Fame in 2016. Former West Virginia U. football coach Bill Stewart was the first honoree.

St. C. wins at Ridgewood

WEST LAFAYETTE -- St. Clairsville bounced back from a loss on Thursday to top Ridgewood, 9-2.

St. Clairsville received solid pitching from Zac Vickers, who struck out six and didn't issue a walk.

Offensively, the Red Devils got a home run and three RBI from Joey Balgo. Mason Myers doubled home a run, while Braylen Blomquist had a pair of singles and a RBI. Marcus Bush had two doubles. Jarren Starks had a RBI single. Hunter Hoffman singled twice.

• HC

Continued from Page C1

also contain a concession stand and restrooms for the fans, as well as restrooms for the press box workers. There will also be an elevator and two stairwells.

"It's going to be a very nice place. It can be used for more than just soccer games and football games," he stressed.

The projected completion date is July 26.

"Hopefully that gives us enough time to get moved in and get everything organized before we host the "Friday Night Football" on Aug. 12.

The work is being oversaw by SHP Architects of Cincinnati. Hammond Construction and Beaver Construction are completing the work.

Hibbs said two football scrimmages are planned for August. The first home football game will be in Week 2 against Buckeye Trail.

• Leigh

Continued from Page C1

- the area's premier discus thrower - another opportunity to compete and a chance to reset the Nelson Field stadium record, which had stood since the Bellaire Relays of 1979.

Sechrest and the Big Reds haven't had the chance to compete in any home meets this season because of the on-going construction at Nelson Field.

However, they were given permission to use the throwing areas and Sechrest made the most of his chance, launching the discus to a mark of 189-2, which broke the old mark of 185-6 and also gave Sechrest a new personal and all-time Ohio Valley record.

Thinking outside the box to give Sechrest a chance to break the record amid the construction deserves to be recognized. High school sports and coaching is about the kids and Vallo-ric as well as the Bellaire

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Five Finalists Named for OVAC Coach of the Year

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

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