

SPORTS

Monday,
March 20, 2023

Ohio bowlers sweep OVAC All-Star match

By MIKE HUGHES
For the Times Leader

WHEELING - The Ohio boys and girls recorded a sweep during the inaugural OVAC All-Star Bowling Match held Sunday afternoon at the Rose Bowl Lanes in Wheeling.

Sixteen girls and 13 boys performed before a packed bowling house with near shoulder-to-shoulder capacity for the events maiden voyage.

Ohio entered the competition with a somewhat decided advantage.

While the Buckeye State has recognized bowling as an official state association sport since 2007, West Virginia has yet to make the jump.

That means most of the Ohio programs have been around longer and faced stiff competition during postseason tournaments.

Ohio programs also outnumber West Virginia schools in the OVAC itself,

18-7.

With the conference's all-star events slated for seniors only, it was tougher for the West Virginia side to field a full complement of bowlers. The girls' side managed to find eight, but the boys competed with just six.

That required a few minor adjustments during the alternate shot portion of the competition, but all in all, the first all-star event in bowling went off without a hitch.

The Ohio boys' roster featured three state qualifiers in East Liverpool's Nate Kelly and Conotton Valley's Robet Myer and Noah Caldwell. Caldwell placed individually at 8th while the Rockets finished third overall.

The team also sported two other district qualifiers, which amounted to a strong start out the gate for the Buckeye boys.

Myer and Kelly were battling for See, OHIO, Page B2



AP PHOTO

MICHIGAN STATE guard Tyson Walker (2) and guard A.J. Hoggard (11) celebrate defeating Marquette in a second-round college basketball game in the men's NCAA Tournament in Columbus, Ohio, Sunday.

Michigan State outlasts Marquette

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - Tom Izzo leaned on star guard and native New Yorker Tyson Walker to get Michigan State to Madison Square Garden for the Sweet 16.

Walker, a fourth-year player who grew up in Westbury on Long Island, delivered against Marquette in March Madness on Sunday night, scoring 23 points and punctuating Michigan State's 69-60 victory with a steal and his first ever collegiate dunk late in the game.

And Walker wants to make sure his 68-year-old, Hall of Fame coach has a quintessential Big Apple experience.

"It means everything," said Walker, who played two years at Northeastern before transferring to Michigan State. "Just growing up, seeing everything, playing at the Garden. Just to make those shots, look over see my dad, see how excited he was. That means everything. And I just owe Coach some pizza now. And a cab ride."

Joey Hauser - a Marquette transfer - had 14 points and A.J. Hoggard had 13 as seventh-seeded Michigan State (21-12) took over in the last three minutes. The Spartans advanced to the Sweet 16 for the first time in four years and will play third-seeded

Kansas State in the East Region semifinals on Thursday.

"I've been in Elite Eight games; I've been in the Final Four - that was as intense and tough a game as I've been in my career," Izzo said. "And a lot of credit goes to Marquette and (coach) Shaka (Smart) and how they played, too."

Izzo reached his 15th regional semifinal and won his record 16th March Madness game with a lower-seeded team - one more than Syracuse's Jim Boeheim, who retired after this season.

This one was particularly meaningful.

See, SPARTY, Page B2



AP PHOTO

XAVIER FORWARD Jack Nunge scores against Pittsburgh during the second half of a second-round college basketball game in the NCAA Tournament on Sunday in Greensboro, N.C.

Xavier eliminates Pitt, 84-73

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) - Sean Miller has unselfish Xavier back in the Sweet 16.

Jack Nunge scored 18 points, Adam Kunkel added 15 on five first-half 3-pointers, and No. 3 seed Xavier beat 11th-seeded Pittsburgh 84-73 on Sunday to advance to the NCAA Tournament's second week for the first time since 2017.

Colby Jones had 10 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists, and Souley Boum and Jerome Hunter each chipped in with 14 points as all five Xavier starters scored in double digits.

Xavier entered the game leading the country in assists per game (19.2) and had 17 on 19 baskets in the first half to build a 48-34 lead at the break. The Musketeers finished with 22 assists. The victory came exactly one year

after Miller agreed to return as Xavier's coach.

He had coached the Musketeers from 2004-09, helping them reach the Sweet 16 twice and the Elite Eight once before leaving for Arizona. This will be Miller's first regional semifinal appearance since 2018 with the Wildcats.

Miller said he never doubted he could still win, but gave the credit to his players.

"I have an amazing group to work with," Miller said. "There's a lot of coaches that could win with this team, and I recognize that. My hope is that we have more in us, that we're able to have a great week and make what we already feel good about even better."

Xavier (27-9) moves on to play No. 10 Duke.

See XAVIER, Page B2

Late charge lifts Logano to the win

HAMPTON, Ga. (AP) - Joey Logano and Brad Keselowski gave Atlanta and NASCAR a rare clean last-lap battle.

For a change there were no late wreck.

No overtime.

Just a clean finish between hard racers.

Logano dominated early and then passed Keselowski on the final lap to win NASCAR's race at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Sunday and end the early season domination of Chevrolet and Hendrick Motorsports.

Logano won the pole and led a strong showing of three straight Team Penske drivers in qualifying, but Keselowski looked like the Ford driver to beat late in the race. Keselowski had help from Corey LaJoie, but Logano got a push from Christopher Bell that proved decisive on the final lap.

"It was lane versus lane, that's what it was, inside versus outside," Logano said, adding it was natural to expect that conflict would inevitably lead to contact.

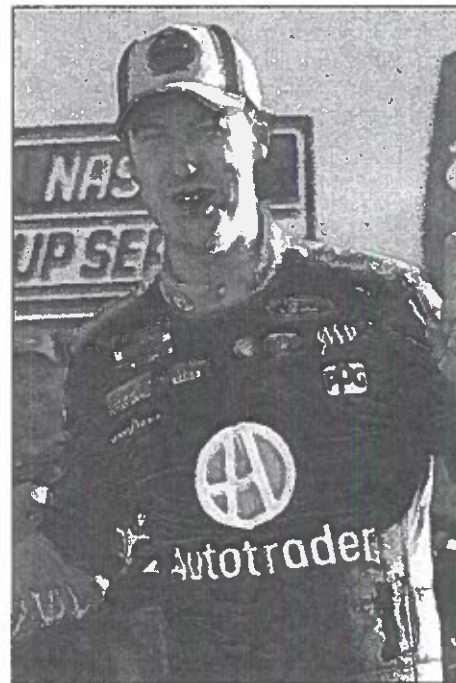
"Yeah, because it happens just about every time," Logano said of Cup drivers propensity to wreck late in races.

Bell finished third in a Toyota and LaJoie finished a career-best fourth in a Chevrolet.

"The first win of the season always feels better," said Logano, the reigning Cup champion, who led 141 of the 260 laps.

Logano's win ended a streak of four consecutive victories by Chevrolet to open the NASCAR Cup season, including

See, LOGANO, Page B2



AP PHOTO

JOEY LOGANO celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Atlanta Motor Speedway, Sunday in Hampton, Ga.

Moore delivers surprise, tops Spieth, Schenk at Innisbrook • OSU

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP) — Taylor Moore was never really the star attraction Sunday at the Valspar Championship until he had finished hitting all the right shots and posed with the trophy for his first PGA Tour title that sends him to the Masters.

Adam Schenk and

Jordan Spieth provided enough compelling theater for so much of the day, locked in a battle on the back nine of the Copperhead course at Innisbrook.

Moore surged into the mix with a 9-iron to 5 feet for birdie on the 15th hole and a 25-foot birdie putt on the 16th hole, fol-

lowed by two tough pars for a 4-under 67.

That turned out to be a winner when Spieth hit his tee shot into the water on the 16th and Schenk, going for his first PGA Tour victory, hit a drive on the final hole that settled next to a large pine tree. He made bogey and finished one shot behind.

Moore was on the practice range anticipating a playoff when he realized he had won at 10-under.

"I might have been under the radar to some people watching, but I felt like I was in the golf tournament from the time I teed off today and was just excited to control what I could control."

• Ohio

Continued from Page B1

high score through the first 10-pin game as the two both eclipsed the 200-pin mark. Kelly nearly struck out in the 10th frame, leaving one pin on his third throw to leave him at 214. Myer held fast to roll a 228.

Not far behind was Kelly's teammate Gavin Maze at 192. It was Maze who turned in the 200-plus tally in the second game, finishing with 202 to give him the high series for the boys at 394.

West Virginia tried to keep pace behind John Marshall's Tayven Yeater, who led the Mountaineers with a 371, including a 194 in his first game.

Ohio held an 1812-1545 lead after the 10-pin games, a lead the Buckeye crew expounded on in the Baker rounds as they average 200-plus for five Baker games, including a 266 in the third game.

West Virginia, meanwhile, man-

aged only 796 pins to 1,065 in the Bakers.

The scores were closer in the alternate shot competition, with Ohio on top 722-600.

Girls

Ohio came out on top on the girls' side as well, but the final pin totals were much closer, 3,253 to 2,900.

Like their boys' team counterparts, the Buckeye girls boasted a couple state placers in Conotton Valley's Daphne Stuber, who led her team to a state team title whilst also finishing fourth individually in Division II. In Division I, OVAC 4A-5A champion Kaylie Gibson from Dover finished third overall.

No surprise those two had the top performances during the 10-pin games, with Stuber finished with a 439 series, the top score for boys or girls.

Gibson didn't start out her best,

rolling only a 155, but battled back in the second game to fire an afternoon best 234, also the peak performance for boys or girls on the afternoon.

The second-highest series, however, belonged to Parkersburg South's Allison Curtis, who finished with a 395 series, thank to a 215 out of the gate.

Ohio led by 198 points after the 10-pin games, and was able to expand its lead thanks to a more consistent performance during the Baker games.

The West Virginia squad had the highest individual Baker score with a 211 in the third round, but the remaining four rounds all came less than 150 pins each.

Ohio, meanwhile, kept all of its scores at 150 or above.

The Buckeyes held the edge the alternate shot portion of the competition, 612 to 544.

• Buckeyes

Continued from Page B1

"We didn't make any shots early yesterday so we have to make sure we are, one, executing at a high level on the offensive end, and two, getting some balance in our offense where we're not settling for threes," he said. "Usually, if we're not getting balance, we're settling for 3s. So we have to try to get to the rim, maybe get to the free-throw line, just to generate some offense early to allow us to

get in an offensive rhythm."

No strangers to comebacks, the Buckeyes would prefer not to keep challenging themselves with uphill climbs. A home crowd was a bonus Saturday, but a 4 p.m. EDT Monday game might not draw as well.

"Definitely work on trying not to dig ourselves a hole or be in a deficit every single game," Taylor Thierry, who scored 15 against James Madison, said. "That's not

going to work against every single team. That's just something we are working on and try to play our best game and try to execute things as best as possible."

Thierry also said things will only get more urgent: "This is a crazy month. There's upsets. So we are just going to approach every game like it's going to be our last, so I think we just have to go in with that mindset and we'll be pretty good."

Continued from Page B1

named the Frozen Four's most outstanding player. "I give a lot of credit to Cami, our goaltender," Wisconsin coach Mark Johnson said. "I mean, she came up big."

"She took the torch this year. She has worked hard for five years and this is the first year she really got an opportunity to play," he continued. "She wanted the baton, she took us to the end and today she was the difference in the game."

Kronish, a fifth-year senior who came into this season with 82 career saves and no shutouts, stopped 16 first-period shots and finished with her eighth shutout of the season.

Ohio State (33-6-2), which entered play having scored at least two goals in every game but one this season, was shut out for the first time in the last 57 matches, dating to a 1-0 loss to Minnesota-Duluth — which the Buckeyes later beat in the 2022 national championship game — on Jan. 21, 2022. Ohio State finished the season tied with the Badgers for second in the country with 169 goals, seven fewer than Minnesota.

"I thought in the last month we've been in a good space and in a good position, playing very well," Johnson said. "You look at our body of work over the last three games, at (No. 3 seed) Colgate, (second-seeded) Minnesota and then Ohio State, three of the best teams in the country and we were able to get by them."

Wisconsin improved to 27-1-1 this season when leading after two periods.

The Buckeyes won three of four games against the Badgers in the regular season by a combined score of 15-8, with their lone loss coming 6-5 in overtime at Wisconsin on Feb. 18.

• Xavier

Continued from Page B1

2 seed Texas on Friday in the Midwest Region semifinals in Kansas City, Missouri.

Blake Hinson scored 18 points and Jamarius Burton had 16 for Pitt (24-12).

It was the second straight game Nunge came up big for Xavier. The 7-foot center had a critical blocked shot in the closing seconds of the Musketeers' 72-67 first-round win over 14th-seeded Kennesaw State.

"I've been dreaming about this moment ever since I started watching basketball," Nunge said. "When you are in school, you are thrilled when your teachers let you turn on the game and not have to focus on class. And so March Madness is a special time of year. It's the best tournament in the world."

Nunge set the tone early, dominating the paint with eight points in the first 10 minutes while Jones knocked down two 3s as the Musketeers bolted to a 28-18 lead.

The Musketeers blew the game open with a 12-2 run behind Kunkel, who made two 3s and threw an alley-oop dunk to Nunge. Kunkel followed with his fifth 3 of the first half to give Xavier a 19-point lead with 1:26 left.

"We really rode the wave of Adam Kunkel," Miller said. "He was 5 for 5 from the 3-point line. We really shared the ball and played at our pace throughout the game. We talked a lot about that before the game."

Pitt did not get closer than eight points in the second half even after Nunge fouled out with 3:18 remaining.

• Sparty

Continued from Page B1

ingful. Izzo became the face of a grieving school where three students were killed in a campus shooting on Feb. 13.

"It's been a long year," an emotional Izzo said in a courtside interview. "I'm just happy for our guys."

Olivier-Maxence Prosper led second-seeded Marquette (29-7) with 16 points and Kam Jones had 14 points, including three 3-pointers, for the Big East champions.

Michigan State led by as many as 12 in the first half, but Ben Gold and Prosper made back-to-back 3-pointers to help the Golden Eagles close within 33-28 at halftime.

Prosper hit two more 3s in the first minute of the second half to give Marquette its first lead of the day. Michigan State grabbed back the lead with an 8-0 run and didn't relinquish it.

Back-to-back baskets in the paint by Hoggard and then Walker, both times as the shot clock expired, gave the Spartans a 60-55 lead with 2:20 left. Mady Sissoko then blocked shots on consecutive Marquette possessions, and Walker had a steal followed by a game-sealing dunk with 39 seconds left.

Marquette's nine-game winning streak ended, concluding a season in which the Golden Eagles exceeded expectations under coach Smart, who has referred to Izzo as a mentor.

• Logano

Continued from Page B1

ing back-to-back wins by William Byron of Hendrick.

OBDEN NEWSPAPERS

SK TWIN POPS RUN

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NG, WV



AP Photo

West Virginia head coach Dawn Plitzuweit gestures in the second half of a first-round NCAA Tournament game against Arizona on Friday. Minnesota on Saturday hired Plitzuweit to be its next women's head basketball coach.

Plitzuweit's Time With WVU Short, Though Impactful

On Saturday, West Virginia's women's basketball team lost a basketball game.

Best way to put it would be one and done.

On Sunday, West Virginia's women's basketball team lost its coach.

Same thing — one and done. After one promising year, Dawn Plitzuweit has left West Virginia and taken the same job at Minnesota with a sizable raise.

Why, after rebuilding the team, getting into the NCAA Tournament and earning about a half million dollars this year, including her bonuses and incentives?

It was like everyday people were coming to work at the basketball practice facility singing the lyrics of that old Frankie Valli song:

"Dawn, go away, I'm no good for you."

Quite the contrary. She was a popular addition to the WVU sports scene, seemingly dedicated to her job, pleasant to deal with and for those of you who weren't sportswriters and had to spell Plitzuweit every time her team played, had few drawbacks.

Well, the money played a big role in that and hopefully that will get through to new athletic director Wren Baker, who now is looking at his first major hire.

See, if you are going to play with the big folks, you have to pay like the big folks.

He didn't hire Plitzuweit — Shane Lyons did — but he must hire her replacement and, make no doubt about it, money was involved in her decision to go to a team that this past year went 11-19 — the exact reversal of her regular season record at WVU.

Please see PLITZUWEIT, Page 10



BOB HERTZEL
WV News

Xavier Defeats Pitt To Reach Sweet 16



AP Photo

Xavier forward Jerome Hunter drives to the basket past Pittsburgh forward Blake Hinson during the first half of a second-round game in the NCAA Tournament on Sunday in Greensboro, N.C.

Michigan St., K-State Also Among Those Moving On

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Jack Nunge scored 18 points, Adam Kunkel added 15 on five first-half 3-pointers, and No. 3 seed Xavier beat 11th-seeded Pittsburgh 84-73 to reach its first Sweet 16 since 2017.

Colby Jones had 10 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists, and Souley Boum and Jerome Hunter each chipped in with 14 points as all five Xavier starters scored in double digits.

Xavier had 17 assists on 19 baskets in the first half to build a 48-34 lead at the break. The Musketeers finished with 22 assists.

Xavier (27-9) moves on to play No. 2 seed Texas on Friday in the Midwest Region semifinals in Kansas City, Missouri.

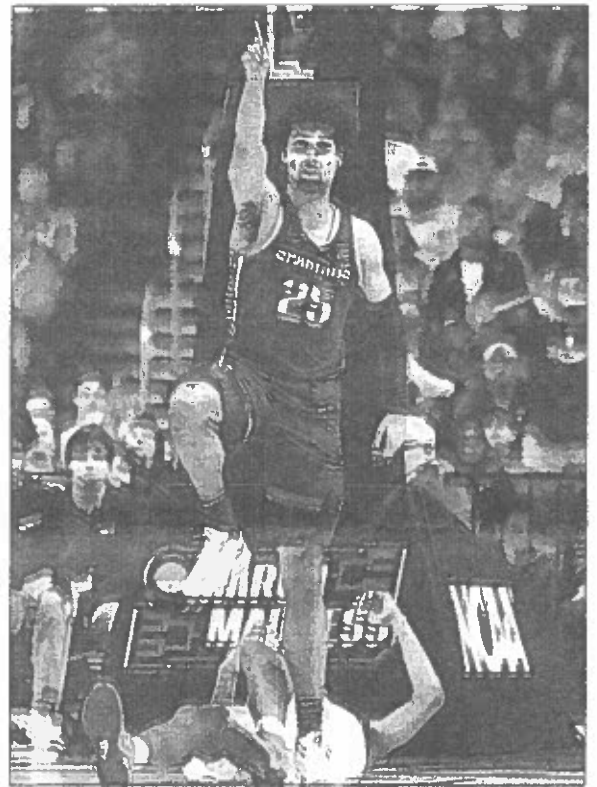
Blake Hinson scored 18 points and Jamarius Burton had 16 for Pitt (24-12).

EAST REGION

KANSAS STATE 75, KENTUCKY 69
GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Markquis Nowell scored 23 of his 27 points after halftime, and Kansas State overcame a horrid start from outside by hitting a couple of clutch 3-pointers and topping Kentucky 75-69 in Sunday's second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Third-seeded Kansas State (25-9) heads to the Sweet 16 for the first time since 2018, where it will play Michigan State in the East Region semifinals at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Please see SWEET 16, Page 10



AP Photo

Michigan State forward Malik Hall celebrates a turnover by Marquette in the second half of a second-round game in the NCAA Tournament in Columbus, Ohio, Sunday.

INSIDE

• Updated NCAA men's tournament bracket/12

Ohio Gets Sweep In OVAC All-Star Bowling Event

By MIKE HUGHES
For The Intelligencer

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Sixteen girls and 13 boys performed before a packed bowling house with near shoulder-to-shoulder capacity for the event's maiden voyage.

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That means most of the Ohio programs have been around longer and faced stiff competition during postseason tournaments.

Ohio programs also outnumber West Virginia schools in the OVAC itself, 18-7.

With the conference's all-star events slated for seniors only, it was tougher for the West Virginia side to field a full complement of bowlers. The girls' side managed to find eight, but the boys competed with just six.

That required a few minor adjustments during the alternate shot portion of the com-

petition, but all in all, the first all-star event in bowling went off without a hitch.

The Ohio boys' roster featured three state qualifiers in East Liverpool's Nate Kelly and Conotton Valley's Robert Myer and Noah Caldwell. Caldwell placed individually at 8th while the Rockets finished third overall.

The team also sported two other district qualifiers, which

amounted to a strong start out the gate for the Buckeye boys'

Myer and Kelly were battling for high score through the first 10-pin game as the two both eclipsed the 200-pin mark. Kelly nearly struck out in the 10th frame, leaving one pin on his third throw to leave him at 214. Myer held fast to roll a 228.

Please see BOWLING, Page 10

SWEET 16

(Continued from Page 9)

Ismael Massoud buried a 3 from the right wing at the 2:21 mark that gave Kansas State the lead for good. Keyontae Johnson followed with another 3 with 1:23 left to put Kansas State ahead by five.

Oscar Tshiebwe had 25 points and 18 rebounds for sixth-seeded Kentucky (22-12), which shot 55% after halftime and led by eight early in the second half.

MICHIGAN STATE 69, MARQUETTE 60

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Tyson Walker scored 23 points and No. 7 seed Michigan State beat second-seeded Marquette, sending coach Tom Izzo's squad back to the Sweet 16 for the first time in four years.

Joey Hauser — a Marquette transfer — had 14 points and A.J. Hoggard had as 13 Michigan State (21-12) took over in the last three minutes. The Spartans advanced to play third-seeded Kansas State.

Izzo, the 68-year-old Hall of Fame coach, reached his 15th regional semifinal and won his record 16th March Madness game with a lower-seeded team — one more than Syracuse's Jim Boheim, who retired after this season.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC 78, FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON 70

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Johnell Davis had 29 points, 12 rebounds, five assists and five steals, and Florida Atlantic ended 16th-seeded Fairleigh Dickinson's magical March.

The ninth-seeded Owls (33-3) needed everything they had to put away the Knights (21-16), the nation's smallest team and a winner Friday night over Purdue, the second 16-over-1 upset in tournament history.

FAU will play Tennessee in the East Region semifinals on Thurs-

day at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Demetre Roberts scored 20 points and Sean Moore had 14 for FDU, which didn't even win the Northeast Conference tournament before becoming an NCAA team that won't soon be forgotten.

MIDWEST REGION MIAMI 85, INDIANA 69

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Isaiah Wong and Jordan Miller led a decisive second-half spurt for Miami, which beat Indiana to reach its second straight Sweet 16.

Wong, the Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year who was limited to five points in a first-round win over Drake, had 27 points and eight rebounds for coach Jim Larranaga's fifth-seeded Hurricanes (27-7), the only ACC team left in March Madness.

Miller scored 19 points and Indianapolis native Nijel Pack had 10 of his 12 points in the first half as Miami got off to a fast start, led most of the game and ended fourth-seeded Indiana's hopes of a sixth national title.

Miami will face top-seeded Houston in the Midwest Region semifinals in Kansas City, Missouri, on Friday.

WEST REGION UCONN 70, SAINT MARY'S 55

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Adam Sanogo scored 24 points and Jordan Hawkins delivered from the 3-point line in the second half as UConn pulled away from Saint Mary's to reach the Sweet 16 for the first time in nine years.

No. 4 seed UConn (27-8) advanced to the West Region semifinals in Las Vegas on Thursday. Next up is eighth-seeded Arkansas, which knocked off No. 1 seed Kansas.

Sanogo followed up his 28-point game in the Huskies' NCAA tournament opener against Iona with another powerful and efficient performance in the paint. The 245-pound junior was 11 for 16 from the floor and grabbed eight rebounds, dominating a big-man matchup with Mitchell Saxen (six points, three rebounds and four fouls).

GONZAGA 84, TCU 81

DENVER (AP) — Drew Timme extended his one-of-a-kind college career by at least one more game, scoring 28 points to help third-seeded Gonzaga make its eighth straight Sweet 16 with a come-from-behind 84-81 win over TCU.

After TCU pulled within three late, Timme made a twisting shot in the lane with a defender draped all over him.

Gonzaga will face UCLA in the West Region semifinals in Las Vegas. Mike Miles Jr. scored 24 points for TCU.

SOUTH REGION

CREIGHTON 85, BAYLOR 76

DENVER (AP) — Ryan Nembhard scored a career-high 30 points and No. 6 seed Creighton found its shooting touch to beat third-seeded Baylor and earn a spot in the Sweet 16 for the second time in three seasons.

With Baylor heavily focused on containing big man Ryan Kalkbrenner, Nembhard and the Bluejays went to work from outside. They shot 45.8% from 3-point range after a 3-for-20 showing in a first-round win over North Carolina State. They also went 22 of 22 from the free throw line, including 10 for 10 from Nembhard.

The Bluejays (23-12) will meet 15th-seeded Princeton in Louisville, Kentucky, on Friday in the South Region semifinals in Louisville, Kentucky.

WBC

(Continued from Page 9)

St. Louis third baseman Nolan Arenado left after he was hit on a hand by a pitch in the fifth inning, briefly raising another injury concern before X-rays came back as negative. Mets closer Edwin Diaz sustained a season-ending knee injury during the celebration that followed Puerto Rico's win on Wednesday and Houston second baseman Jose Altuve broke a thumb when hit by a pitch while playing for Venezuela on Saturday.

Fans in the sellout crowd of 35,779 at Loan-Depot Park sounded evenly split between the U.S. and Cuba. Several hundred people gathered before the game outside the ballpark in Miami's Little Havana section to protest the presence of the Cuban team, whose island nation has been under communist rule since 1959.

Play was briefly interrupted in the sixth, seventh and eighth innings when fans ran onto the field. The first held a banner that read "Libertad Para Los Presos Cubanos del 11 de Julio (Freedom for the Cuban Prisoners of July 11)" referring to the date of 2021 demonstrations.

Cuban fans roared in the early going when their team's first four batters strung together three infield hits and a bases-loaded walk off Wainwright, who contributed to his early troubles when

he failed to field a pair of grounders. Wainwright allowed one run and five hits in four innings. Cardinals teammate Miles Mikolas pitched the final five innings.

An Olympic gold medalist in 1992, 1996 and 2004, Cuba's national team has struggled in recent years as many top players left for MLB. Cuba failed to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Games.

Cuba for the first time this year is using some players under contract with MLB clubs, including Chicago White Gold Glove centerfielder Luis Robert and third baseman Yoan Moncada. Former All-Star outfielder Yoenis Cespedes also is on the roster.

"It's a dream for us to mix these players," manager Armando Johnson said. "We want these players to join us in any championship."

Cuba and the U.S. met for the first time in the WBC. In the 2008 Olympics, which did not include active big leaguers, Cuba beat manager Davey Johnson's Americans 5-4 in 11 innings en route to a silver medal. The U.S. took bronze.

OTHER SIDE OF THE BRACKET

In the other semifinal, Japan starts 21-year-old sensation Roki Sasaki against Mexico and the Los Angeles Angels' Patrick Sandoval on Monday night.

BOWLING

(Continued from Page 9)

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GIRLS

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PLITZWEIT

(Continued from Page 9)

See, if you are going to play with the big folks, you have to pay like the big folks.

He didn't hire Plitzowitz — Shane Lyons did — but he must hire her replacement and, make no doubt about it, money was involved in her decision to go to a team that this past year went 11-19 — the exact reversal of her regular season record at WVU.

There was no mention of a buyout in a statement about her departure put out by Baker. Her contract calls for her to pay the school 25% of the remaining time on her contract — which is four years. She would owe \$612,500 on that.

It's possible that Minnesota will pay that off or pay part of it, just as WVU

have a proud tradition and our program is well positioned for the future. I am confident we will identify an outstanding leader to build on our success and take WVU women's basketball to even greater heights."

Plitzowitz replaced Mike Carey, who retired after 21 seasons with a 462-254 record at WVU.

According to one source, Carey would be interested in getting back into coaching after sitting out this year, and there has been some interest in him from both WVU and TCU.

Plitzowitz came to WVU after six years at South Dakota, where she dominated with a 158-36 record and with a run to the Sweet 16 last year.

Ohio Valley Event Gun Blast

23rd Annual MOUNDSVILLE GUN BLAST
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023
DOORS OPEN AT 11AM
 Moundsville Training Center (Old Prison) 8th St., Moundsville, WV
TICKET REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION
 Limited number of tickets available

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- 12:30- BERETTA 92X PERF DEFENSIVE 2-15RD
- 12:45- BERETTA CX4 STORM 92 1-20RD
- 1:00- CASH -\$500 IF PRESENT/\$250 IF NOT
- 1:15- COLT 357/MAG-4" SS/WAL6R ARS
- 1:30- CA CA5FIVE6 16.25IN TUNG
- 1:45- BENELLI ETHOS SUPERSPORT 20/28
- 2:00- S & W GOVERNOR .410/.45 COLT/.45ACP
- 2:15- CASH -\$500 IF PRESENT/\$250 IF NOT
- 2:30- RUG PREC RIFLE 6.5 CREED BATTLE FLAG
- 2:45- BR FALLOUT 15 PIST. 5.5MM
- 3:00- RUG KSRH7 44MM 7.6 SS W/RINGS 6
- 3:15- CZ SHADOW 2 9MM FO OPTRDY BLK/BLUE 1
- 3:30- WEA MKV 6.5-300MAG-26" BKGRY
- 3:45- CASH -\$500 IF PRESENT/\$250 IF NOT

Inaugural OVAC All-Star Bowling Match To Roll On Sunday

By MIKE HUGHES
For the Sunday News-Register

WHEELING A new all-star event is about to transpire for the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference

Scheduled for Sunday afternoon on March 19 in Wheeling will be the inaugural Ohio v. W.Va. OVAC All-Star Bowling Match.

The first of what OVAC Bowling Director Ken Campanizzi hopes will be many All-Star matches is being held at Wheeling's Rose Bowl Lanes.

"This was one our goals at the beginning of the season," Campanizzi said. "So we decided to give it a shot. There are not a lot of seniors in West Virginia as they are limited in the number of teams in the conference.

"I asked the Rose Bowl if they would host it and they agreed. They've been very good to us and have been around when we started the local bowling league back in 2004-05. They've been

a big part since then."

Like all OVAC All-Star events, this match is limited to current seniors. Campanizzi admitted getting the correct number of bowlers on the West Virginia side was a little challenging this season.

"We only have seven (West Virginia) schools competing, and we're limited because we have to eight seniors, both for the boys' and girls' teams.

The Mountaineers' girls roster is set, featuring Brooke's Madison Tuttle, John Marshall's Faith Watchner and Alex Holmes. Wheeling Park's Hannah Sievertson, Weir's Savannah Moore, Linsly Chyanne Delong and Parkersburg South duo Allison Curtis and Rylea Mercer.

For the boys' team, Weir's Josh Byers and David Bloomer are participating, as is Wheeling Park's Mikel Henderson, John Marshall duo Trevor Cawthorn and Tayven Yeater, and Linsly's Anthony Flynn. The conference is waiting

to hear back from one other Monarchs' bowler, which would give the WV boys seven bowlers.

The boys' side will consist of a pair of OVAC individual champions in Nate Kelley from East Liverpool and Robert Mayer from Conotton Valley. Mayer will be joined by teammate Noah Caldwell, while Gavin Maze, another Potter bowler, will be joining. The Ohio boys' team is rounded out by Gaige Thomas from Union Local, Matt Hall from Barnesville and St. Clairsville's Chas Anderson.

Caldwell and Mayer recently finished eighth and 14th, respectively, at the Ohio Division II bowling championships.

The Buckeyes' girls team is fairly loaded as well, led by Daphne Stuber and Katie Scharr of Conotton Valley. Stuber finished fourth at the state tournament in Division II while being joined by Scharr and her teammates to

win the Division II team championship. Also on the team is Dover's Natalie Nealey, Harrison Central duo Cami Basich and Lauren Best, plus Barnesville Julie Johnson and Union Local regional district Chloe Porter

Stuber was the OVAC small school runner-up champion. She'll be joined by the big school individual champion, Kaylie Gibson of Dover, who also finished third at the state in the Division I finale.

The format will consist of two 10-frame rounds, followed by five Baker rounds, plus one alternating shot round, similar to a golf scramble.

The teams will be split in half so all competitors get to roll in the 10-frame rounds. The top five scores will be taken and factored into the overall final tally.

Doors open at 12:30 p.m. on the 19th, with bowling set to get underway. Tickets may be purchased in advance by visiting www.ovac.org

Bethany College Names Brad Johnson New Men's Basketball Coach

BETHANY Brad Johnson has been named the new head men's basketball coach at Bethany College and marks the 29th head coach in program history.

"We are excited to welcome Brad to the Bethany College family. It was important to find a coach who was committed to leading our men's basketball program back to PAC success while embracing the Bethany community as a whole," says Director of Athletics Brian Sansom. "Brad's enthusiasm and dedication to his student-athletes were apparent during the interview process, and our program will benefit from his developmental approach. I

am confident that Brad will bring back the Bethany College men's basketball tradition of excellence both on the court and in the classroom in the near future."

Johnson comes to Bethany after a two-year stint at Nebraska Wesleyan. Prior to Nebraska Wesleyan, Johnson spent three years at Seton Hill, an NCAA Division II member. In his first two seasons at SHU, the Griffins advanced to the PSAC Tournament once. The team also had three All-PSAC performers.

Before that, Johnson spent three seasons with the Frostburg State University men's basketball program. In his first season at Frostburg State, he



served as a graduate assistant coach before being named the top assistant coach for his final two years with the program.

In 2017-18, Johnson helped the Bobcats to eleven wins, the program's best season record since the 2011-12 season. Additionally, it was the first time in five seasons that the Bobcats made it to the CAC tournament. Johnson coached two CAC All-Conference players and two players who were part of Johnson's first recruiting class that made

contributions to the team's success.

In 2016-17, Johnson helped the Bobcats to lead the nation in blocks per game (5.8) and finished seventh nationally in total blocks (146). The Bobcats also finished 17th in Division III in field-goal percentage defense (39.8), 19th in offensive rebounds per game (14.6), and 25th in total rebounds per game (42.24). The Bobcats capped the season by upsetting No. 11 Salisbury 86-80 in overtime on senior day.

In his first season with the Bobcats, he helped the

team to seven wins, including five Capital Athletic Conference victories over Mary Washington, Marymount (Va.), St. Mary's (Md.), and York (Pa.). Johnson helped the Bobcats finish first in the CAC in rebounds (38.4) and blocks (5.5). FSU also finished fifth in the CAC in three-pointers (162) and fourth in steals (7.4).

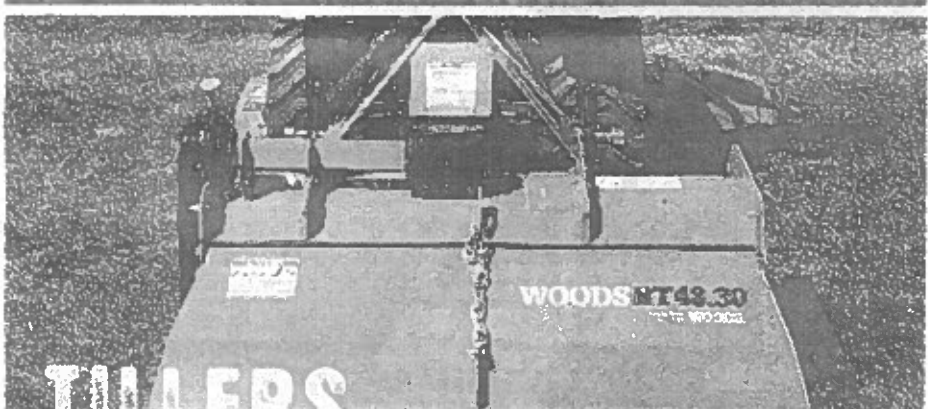
Johnson, a 2015 graduate of Baldwin Wallace University with a bachelor's degree in finance and a minor in athletic coaching, went to Frostburg State University after serving as a student

assistant coach at BW for four years. He oversaw skill development and ball handling drills, and also helped players with private, individual workouts. Johnson furthered his degree at Frostburg State University, where he earned a master's degree in business administration.

Johnson also spent six seasons as a head AAU basketball coach (2011-2016) and in 2012, he founded his own AAU program - the North Coast Runnin' Rebels. As a head coach and director, he helped develop athletes in fourth through 11th grades.



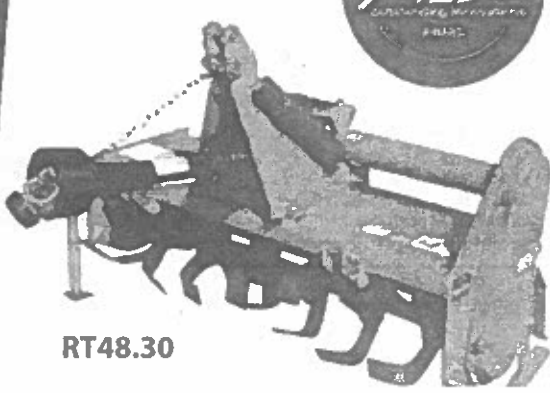
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• State

Continued from Page C1

At 132, two-time All-Ohio junior Dakota King began his quest to improve on his bronze-medal finish from a season ago with relative ease. He posted a pin for his 45th win of the campaign at the 2:50 mark.

Junior dandy Skyler King scored early and often en route to a 12-0 blanking and major decision against Rittman's Joey McGuire. The win improved King to 48-5.

Junior Reese Stephen picked up where he left off in the district and that was by having his arm raised once again at 150. Stephen, who is the son of the head coach, improved to 49-2 when he pinned McComb's Montana Pierce at the 3:07 mark.

Sophomore Ayden King notched victory number 47 in 55 tries with a win by major decision at 157. He posted a 10-2 victory against Antwerp's Eli Reinhart.

Freshman Hines Ford put himself within a win of All-Ohio accolades by winning a wrestle-back Friday evening. He was pinned at the 1:29 mark in the opening round, but bounced back with a 13-4 major decision victory at 126.

Junior Karson Milhoan's season came to an end for the Shamrocks.

He was defeated by a technical fall in the opening round and then fell, 10-5, in the consolation match at 165. He finishes an impressive campaign at 38-16.

"Hines winning in the consolation round with a major to get to day two was great, but Karson getting knocked out wasn't part of the plan," Stephen said.

HARRISON CENTRAL, which is being represented by two wrestlers and one family, went 2-0 on the opening day.

Junior Lucas Thomas — a returning All-Ohioan at 215 pounds — prevailed with a 10-6 decision in the opening round.

His younger brother, Landen, who is just a sophomore, picked up win number 38 in 41 tries by virtue of a 6-5 decision.

MARTINS FERRY'S Alexander Finsley finds himself within a victory of All-Ohio status at 190 pounds.

After dropping a tough 5-4 decision in the opening round, the Purple Rider senior returned to the mat and posted a

4-2 decision to earn the right to wrestle again Saturday.

SHENANDOAH had a strong day with both Drake Kanyuch (126) and Tristin Rossiter (113) advancing to the quarterfinals.

Kanyuch, who is now 41-5, was a 6-2 victory, while Rossiter improved to 42-3 by virtue of a pin at 1:39.

UNFORTUNATELY, several area wrestlers saw their seasons come to a close during the opening day of action.

Union Local sophomore Gavin Bolock dropped a pair of matches and finishes 33-15 for the season.

Bolock was pinned in the first round at the 1:27 mark of the first period and then dropped a 5-0 decision at the hands of Versailles' Trey Huber in the first round of consolations.

Martins Ferry senior Dylan Ward was pinned twice on Friday and finishes with a 48-7 record. In the first round, the match ended at the 2:35 mark and just 1:22 into the match in the first consolation bout to Covington's Michael Hagan.

Senior George Hulsey was eliminated at 175 pounds and finishes his sea-

son with a 43-13 mark.

The Purple Rider senior, who won the district tournament last weekend at Harrison Central, was edged out by a 3-1 decision in the opening round and then was edged, 5-4, in the wrestle backs by Elmwood's Cannon Endicott.

River senior Marshal Bier saw his impressive season and career come to a close with a 43-5 mark.

Bier dropped a tough, 1-0, setback in the opening round and then was pinned at the 4:34 mark by Defiance Tinora's Javen Gaines.

Edison's Ethan Waggoner was ousted at 165 pounds and finishes with a 40-11 record. He was pinned in the opening round and fell, 6-3, in the wrestle-back match.

Fort Frye's first appearance at the state tournament didn't get the opening day. Austin Powell fell twice at 138 and closes the season with a 41-13 mark.

Caldwell's Marshal Sayre was eliminated at 190. He was decided, 5-3, and then by a 9-3 score.

• Players

Continued from Page C1

"Kind of glad this rain delay and thunder came in and let the putter rest a little bit and hopefully come out hot tomorrow," Morikawa said.

Players were to return at 7 a.m. Saturday to finish the second round. The third round is schedule for threesomes off both tees and should be able to finish before sundown. That depends on the pace of play, and some of that depends on Sawgrass.

Jon Rahm missed all of this. The world's No. 1 player had a bad stomach bug and withdrew about 30 minutes before his tee time. That puts his ranking in jeopardy, as Scottie Scheffler and Rory McIlroy can overtake him.

The advantage goes to Scheffler, who looked shaky early and settled into his round. He birdied his last two holes of the day before the suspension — Nos. 9 and 10 — to get to 5 under. He has a 15-foot eagle putt on the 16th hole when play resumes.

McIlroy, meanwhile, took a double bogey on the sixth hole and was at 6 over for the tournament. He had eight holes to try to shave off four strokes that likely will be needed to make the cut.

Rahm made every cut last year, and he last missed a cut on the PGA Tour at the Fortinet Championship in September 2021, right before the Ryder Cup.

The course handed out some brutal punishments in the second round.

Start with Max McGreevy, who was 20 shots worse than his opening round. He shot 89, tying the wrong kind of course record as the highest ever posted at the TPC Sawgrass. The other player who shot 89 was Michael Campbell in the first round in 2003.

round through 11 holes, even getting a break when his tee shot on the par-3 17th bounced off the wooden frame of the island and onto the green. But then he ran into trouble over his final seven holes and had to settle for a 71.

Hovland was at 4-under 140 along with Will Gordon (67) and the resurgent Jason Day (70), a former world No. 1 who is slowly working his way back. Day began the year at No. 112 in the world, and he could take a big step this week in assuring he stays in the top 50 the next two weeks to get into the Masters.

As for Jordan Spieth, he saw his tee shot in the air on his final hole at the par-5 ninth and figured it was time to clean out his locker. But instead of going into water — it was so far right the water typically isn't in play — it hit a spectator in the leg and bounced back to the fairway. Spieth hit 3-wood to the collar of the green and chipped in for eagle.

That allowed him to salvage a 75, and he was safe to make the cut.

"I got an extremely lucky break on 9 or I wouldn't be playing the weekend," said Spieth, who was at even-par 144. "Trying to get that guy's information and see literally whatever he wants this weekend. Because everything from here on out is because it hit him."

Ramey opened with a 64 on Thursday and birdied two of his opening three holes to reach 10 under, expanding his lead to three. After his quintuple-bogey on the 17th, he had to make a 30-foot putt to save par on the 18th, and the dropped another shot on the first with a wild drive to the right. He was 4 under



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