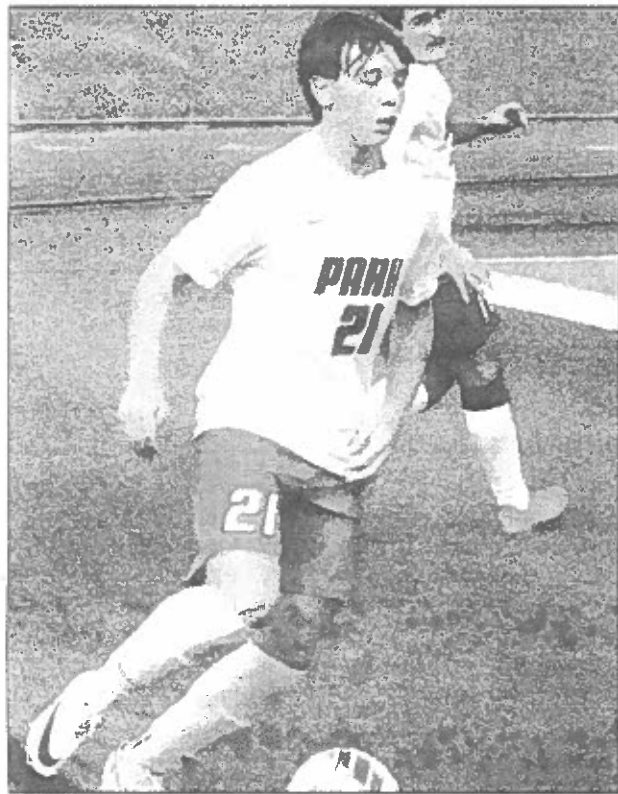


OVAC Tournament Champions



Wheeling Park's Sam Rockey possesses the ball during Saturday's OVAC Class 5A boys' soccer championship game on the artificial pitch inside Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville. Rocky scored the first goal in the Patriots' 3-1 win. It was their third straight title and 12th in school history.

Photo by Kim North

Park Three-Peats Over Mohigans

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - For the third straight fall, Wheeling Park is the OVAC Class 5A boys' soccer champions. The second-seeded Patriots (13-2-1) upset No. 1 seed Morgantown by a 3-1 score on the artificial pitch inside St. Clairsville's Red Devil Stadium.

With the hard-earned victory, which avenged a 2-1 setback in Morgantown earlier this season, Wheeling Park pulled into a tie with Linsly and Weir for the most boys' soccer titles. All three schools have 12. The Patriots' other titles came in 1991, 1993, 1997, 1999, 2008-11, 2019, 2021-22.

"This is always a goal of ours when each season begins," Wheeling Park head coach Mario Julian, who recorded his eighth title as the coach, said. "We had two games to win it, and we got it done today."

"We battled and battled. That is a good Morgantown team," he added.

Sophomore midfielder Sam Rockey gave the Patriots, ranked No. 2 in the Mountain State's Class AAA behind the Mohigans (11-3-1), a 1-0 lead midway through the first half when he found the back of the net off an assist by Wilson Hanna.

"We played the ball to our center midfielder, Luke Dunaway, and he played a perfect ball to Wilson. He sent a great cross to Sam and he banged it home," Julian said of the first goals.

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er Gavin Border.

But before the fans got settled back into the seats, the Patriots took the lead for good a minute later. Hanna netted the goal on an incredible effort.

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Morgantown threatened several times in the final 20 minutes. Border stood tall between the pipes. The junior recorded nine saves on 18 shots.

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While Border was keeping the Mohigans at bay with some acrobatic saves, the offense continued to put balls into the back of the net.

Junior sensation Tresz McLeod used some fancy footwork before sending the ball past the Morgantown keeper. The unassisted net-finder came in the 76th minute and took the wind out of the visitors' sails.

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Photo by Nick Henthorn

The Linsly Cadets, pictured after winning the OVAC 1A-3A Tournament on Saturday against the Wheeling Central Catholic Maroon Knights, 4-2.

Cadets Hold Off Maroon Knights

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WHEELING - What was a fairly straight-forward affair for the first 70-odd minutes turned into a bonafide rollercoaster for the last 10.

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Linsly were the aggressor from the opening kickoff, building an edge in shots on goal and possession time Saturday.

The Cadets' Haylen Cook made the first of two first-half Linsly strikes, scoring in just the fourth minute.

Linsly's Aaliyah Siegel followed up with another goal in the seventh minute, and the three seed was in business, up 2-0 within the first 10 minutes of play.

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Still down 3-1, Mansuetto continued to step up for her team in the 76th minute, knocking a header that just barely dribbled by a diving keeper for a score.

Now down just one goal, 3-2 with just over three minutes to play, Wheeling Central continued to aggressively position their players, not leaving many back for defense, a strategy which Linsly managed to capitalize on, gaining a crucial early possession after the ensuing kickoff and getting deep into Wheeling Central territory.

Cook came up big for the Cadets, scoring her second goal of the night in the 77th minute, silencing the Wheeling Central faithful in the crowd and putting the nail in the coffin for a Knights comeback attempt.

Please see CADETS, Page 10

St. Clairsville Rallies Past Bellaire With Big Second Half Effort

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

BELLAIRE - St. Clairsville outscored Bellaire 29-7 in the second half Saturday afternoon at sun-soaked Nelson Field to extend its winning streak to six straight with a 34-14 victory. The loss ended the Big Reds' three-game win streak.

The victory also continued the Red Devils' dominance in the series. They have now won 10 consecutive times, the Big Reds last prevailing in 2013.

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Trailing 14-7 after Bellaire's Mac Mac Pettigrew dashed around his left end, tight-roped down the sideline, broke a few tackles and sprinted 49 yards for a touchdown on the Big Reds opening possession of the third quarter.

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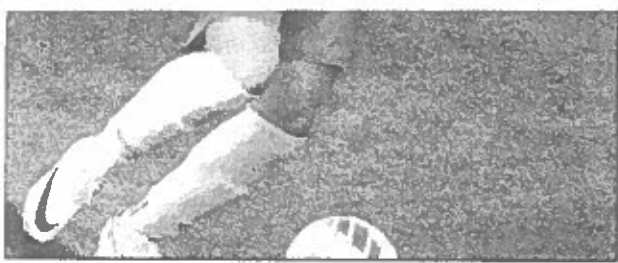


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a wide-open Tyson Pastor on a 50-yard pitch-and-catch. Burk's scoring runs covered 3, 17 and 2 yards. He finished the day with 164 yards on 30 carries.

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Please see RALLIES, Page 10



Photo by Kim North

St. Clairsville's Dino Burk (44) prepares for a hit from Bellaire's Mac Mac Pettigrew (3) Saturday's Buckeye 8 South contest at sun-drenched Nelson Field in Bellaire.

Patriots Defeated In Hard-Nosed OVAC 5A Championship Showdown

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - After a first half of near misses and close calls, the Morgantown Mohigans finally answered a couple in the second half of their 5A OVAC Championship contest against the Wheeling Park Patriots, pulling out a 2-1 victory in a highly physical confrontation at Wheeling Island Stadium on Saturday.

Playing without reigning state Player of the Year Gracie Brown, the No. 1-seeded Mohigans did just enough to get by No. 3 Wheeling Park with what they had.

"That was a battle," Morgantown head coach Brianna Frontuto said. "We weren't at full strength either, so I think it says a lot that the girls pushed through and came away with the win in that second half."

The game remained scoreless 0-0 throughout the first half, but not for lack of scoring opportunities. Both teams came within razor-thin margins of scoring in the first 40. Park keeper Hailey Hastings and Morgantown keeper Camdyn Smith playing a heavy hand in the double zero's on the scoreboard for the first half. Fearless play in the box and quick reactions on high-difficulty saves showed that either goalie was of championship game-caliber Saturday.

There were also a fair few misplays by either side as well which factored into the scoreless tie, Wheeling Park eeking a close-range shot just outside of goal in the 19th minute and Morgantown narrowly missing a header in the 26th minute.

Please see PATRIOTS, Page 10

Wheeling Central Boys' Tourney Run Ends In Finals Against Warriors

By MIKE HUGHES
For The Intelligencer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Trinity Christian is back on top.

The Warriors put two goals past Wheeling Central keeper Tino Sperlizza in the first half and then put their focus on the defensive end, hanging on for a 2-1 victory Saturday morning in the OVAC Class 1A-3A final.

Trinity limited upstart Central's looks at goal all morning, with Warriors' keeper Ben Lohmann needing on seven saves to preserve the victory. The Knights' best shot attempt - a penalty kick for Luke Minor in the second half - rung true, but many didn't require heroics from Lohmann to turn away.

"We always start with defense. That's been our calling card," Trinity head coach Dan Lohmann said. "We knew

we needed to be strong at the back and limit chances and we man-marked (Saturday), which we don't typically do.

"We knew they'd try to feed (No.) 14. He's a big player up top and from there, they can get a lot of chances once they are going forward and going downhill. They always play hard and we'd know this would be a battle."

The No. 14 in question is central's 6-3 senior Jeremy Ratcliffe. The Knights tried to run through Ratcliffe at various pieces, but Trinity was working to limit his effectiveness.

Ratcliffe and fellow senior Luke Minor were doing their best to generate offense, but team-wide, Central head coach Brian Komorowski knew his team could have game more, but didn't - especially early.

Please see CENTRAL, Page 10

John Marshall, Union Local Pick Up Weekend Victories

VINCENT - John Marshall forced three red-zone turnovers by host Warren Local Saturday afternoon and the Monarchs ran for 238 yards and three touchdowns in picking up their first win of the season, 31-20.

"First win of the year.. it is always a good feeling," John Marshall head coach Mark Cisar said. "Wish it would have come a little earlier. I thought our kids played really hard. They deserve this."

Trailing 7-0 entering the second quarter, John Marshall (1-5) drew even on a 11-yard run by Mason Markonich and Conor Fitzpatrick's placement.

After the Vikings (2-5) took a 14-7 lead, tied the game 14-all at the half as Kayden Knapp threw a 22-yard scoring strike to Maverick Lemasters and Fitzpatrick split the uprights.

Fitzpatrick gave John Marshall a 17-14 advantage when he boomed a 46-yard field goal in the third quarter, but Warren re-took the lead on a 20-yard TD pass from Jacob Sealey to Landyn Summers.

Knapp scored from a yard out in the fourth quarter and Lemasters ran in from 4. Fitzpatrick was perfect on both PATs.

Lemasters ran 27 times for

141 yards and a touchdown while also scoring on the aforementioned pass play.

The Monarchs travel to Keyser on Friday

Union Local 44, Cambridge 14
CAMBRIDGE - Colby Carpenter passed for 260 yards and three TDs on 11-of-12 accuracy as the Jets (5-2) won for the second week in a row.

Carpenter, starting for the injured Isaiah Tomolonis, fired a pair of scoring passes to Dre Saunders in the second quarter that covered 60 and 33 yards. Gannon Kerns got the third from 17 yards out.

Brody Perzanowski ran the

ball 21 times for 175 yards, scoring on a 47-yard jaunt. Saunders finished with seven receptions for 178 yards.

Kerns also picked off a pass.

The Jets travel east on I-70 Friday night to face Belmont County rival St. Clairsville in a 7:30 kickoff.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
West Liberty 23, Concord 21

ATHENS, W.Va. - The Hill-toppers secured their first win of the season on Saturday afternoon, defeating the Mountain Lions at Callaghan Stadium. West Liberty ate up 14 minutes of possession on its first two drives of the game to jump out to an early 14-0 lead and held the advantage until just under two minutes was left in the

game when the Mountain Lions took the lead on a 33-yard touchdown run. WLU kept its composure and drove down the field to set up a 10-yard touchdown pass from Rudy Garcia to Rashawn Harvey on the final play of the game that clinched the win.

UNC Pembroke 41, Wheeling 20

PEMBROKE, NC. - After back-to-back Mountain East Conference wins, the Cardinals (3-2, 2-2) looked to stay hot on the road. They fell to the Braves. The Cardinals battled throughout the afternoon and kept it close through three quarters, but were unable to get on the board in the final quarter.

RALLIES

(Continued from Page 9)

Saunders pounced on a Big Reds fumble four plays later at the Bellaire 39. However, the Red Devils returned the turnover as Burk fumbled inside the 5 as Pettigrew fell on it at the 3.

Bellaire, which managed a mere 20 yards of total offense in the second half not counting Pettigrew's jaunt.

"That was an amazing run by Mac Mac," McLean said. "I don't know how he stayed in bounds and how we didn't tackle him."

Starting at the Bellaire 26 after a punt out of the end zone, the Red Devils needed just three

plays to reach the promised land. Gavin Schoolcraft did the honors this time with a 10-yard scamper around the left side of the line. Makenna Booth's PAT made it 21-14 and the visitors would never look back.

The Big Reds punted on their first two possessions of the fourth quarter and the Red Devils scored after each.

Burk capped a 9-play, 64-yard march with a 2-yard burst. On first-and-10 from midfield in its next series of downs, Schafer handed to Burk on a sweep right. However, Burk pulled up and lofted the ball to a wide-open

Pastor at the 30 and he outran the defender for six. Booth made 1-of-2 kicks.

"They beat us. They were the better team today," Bellaire head coach Mark Bonar said. "That's about it."

St. Clairsville amassed nearly 400 yards of total offense, with 292 of it coming on 45 carries. Schafer completed half of his six tosses for 42 yards. Bellaire finished with 149 total yards, with just four coming through the air on 1-of-5.

Saunders also picked off a pass on a fake punt in the first half.

CADETS

(Continued from Page 9)

"They've played well." Neighoff said of his team's season to this point. "We play a strong schedule and they've continued to get better. We're

playing the game we want to play, and I'm very happy for them, they've really come together." Returning to their regularly-scheduled programming after the conference tournament, Linsly next faces Magnolia on Oct. 2, while Wheeling Central plays Oak Glen on Oct. 3.



The Wheeling Park Patriots, pictured after their match against the Morgantown Mohigans in the OVAC 5A Tournament Championship on Saturday. The Patriots were defeated 2-1.

Photo by Nick Henthorn



Photo by Mike Hughes

Wheeling Central Catholic's Thomas Komorowski winds up for a kick on Saturday during the two teams' 1A-3A OVAC Tournament Championship at Red Devil Stadium.

CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 9)

"It was a good game as we are pretty evenly matched," Komorowski said. "But we were asleep at the beginning and came out and started playing. In the second half, we played really well and put a lot of pressure on them, but couldn't put one in the net."

Trinity's first goal came off a direct kick. Carter Hartsock fielded the kick and sent it rocketing opposite side high past Sperlazza.

The second saw Carmelo Kniska lift a perfect ball up and behind him where a streaking Brock Shuba put it in for a 2-0 reading.

"We did a good job of finishing," Lohmann said. "We knew we needed to bet back and defend as much as we could."

Soon after, Shuba and Sperlazza collided on a shot attempt, with both going down to the turf.

Shuba needed helped off. Sperlazza managed to walk off under his own power, but it was obvious that he'd been kept out for fear of a concussion.

Enter Matt Criniti. The sophomore proved early he was up to the challenge and played with confidence, turning away a few shots quickly and finishing with five saves, keeping Trinity from striking a third time.

"We don't know if he was concussed, but you have to consider player safety," Komorowski said. "Matt did a phenomenal job. He's not a backup, our keepers are 1(a) and 1(b). He did a lot last year for us and (currently) it just happens to be the way it is. He did a great job."

Trailing 2-0, Trinity was whistled for a foul in the box, giving Minor a penalty kick attempt with less than two minutes remaining till the break.

Trinity's keeper made his choice on impact, diving to his right. But Minor gambled that Lohnmann might dive, and instead struck low and straight ahead for the goal.

Neither team managed a goal in the final 40 minutes, giving the Warriors their second title in three seasons.

PATRIOTS

(Continued from Page 9)

"We created a lot of opportunities in the first half, and that's potentially a different game if we put one of those opportunities away when we created plenty of chances in the first half," Wheeling Park head coach Carrie Hanna said. "We continued to create them in the second half, we were just off offensively."

Out of halftime, Morgantown began to build an edge in possession, and really started putting pressure on the Patriots.

"I think the girls kind of settled at halftime and knew that they had to play their game," Frontuto said. "Toward the end of the first half we really found what worked, if we stretched them across the field there were more gaps to play to. I think they saw that and they were able to capitalize in the second half."

Hastings continued to make plays in goal for Park, including a quick-twitch deflection on a uncontested close-range shot in the 49th minute, but the opportunities kept mounting for the Mohigans.

A Wheeling Park foul induced a free kick from around 20 yards

away for Morgantown in the 56th minute, and Ariana Borneo lined up to take it.

Lofting a shot high, the ball was deflected by a leaping Hastings, but still powered through into the back of the net to give Morgantown a 1-0 lead.

The Mohigans stayed on the attack, Borneo taking a corner kick in the 68th minute. The junior once again took matters into her own hands, pin-pointing the shot over the defense, her own teammates and the keeper before bending into the back of the net. 2-0 Morgantown.

"Ariana Borneo is an amazing player," Frontuto said. "She's been practicing both of those shots all season, so to see her actually get some turnout for them is really exciting for me as a coach, and she's really excited as well, she gave me a big hug because she finally got to hit those shots that she'd been practicing."

"I can't say enough about our defensive effort, they did a great job," Hanna said. "And credit to [Morgantown], they put in two perfectly executed set plays on

the free kick and bending that corner kick in. Borneo's a great player."

Wheeling Park changed their strategy in the last minutes, going for an all-out assault which panned out in the 78th minute, a score by Kaylee Davis coming after the Park senior narrowly beat the Morgantown keeper to a pass by Julia Dunaway.

"I think that could've gone a different way offensively, but defensively we did what we needed to do to give ourselves opportunities to finish," Hanna said. "We just struggled to finish until we pushed two of our centerbacks up. Julia Dunaway and Kaylie Davidson, they're the ones who connected for our goal late. Just kind of ran out of time there, I thought we had momentum but didn't have the time to get another and equalize."

The conference tourney championship was Morgantown's sixth in program history. The Mohigans go back to the regular season grind on Oct. 2, home against Brooke. The Patriots play Linsly on Oct. 5.

Best of the Ohio Valley 2023 Timeline

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FINAL VOTING ROUND FOR THE TOP 3 OCT. 4TH-10TH



Maroon Knights advance to 1A-3A OVAC championship

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

TRIADELPHIA — Taking to the Highlands Sports Complex on Thursday for a OVAC semifinals matchup, the Wheeling Central Catholic Maroon Knights (5-4-6) defeated the Linsly Cadets (8-1-3) 2-1 in the second overtime period of their conference, courtesy of a walkoff goal by Jeremy Ratcliffe.

It's been a Cinderella-esque run for the Maroon Knights, seeded No. 6 in the OVAC Tournament, only to down No. 3 Caldwell in the quarterfinals and now slay the top-seeded Cadets in the semi's.

Wheeling Central held a 1-0 lead at halftime, Luke Minor's goal in the 25th minute the sum of all scoring to that point, and indeed until the last few minutes of regulation.

The Maroon Knights were tireless in matching Linsly on defense and cutting off crossers and through-balls throughout the night, in a point-preventing performance that Wheeling Central head coach Brian Komoroski was very pleased with.

"It was a hard-fought battle by both teams," he said. "[Linsly's] an exceptionally good team. We knew what they did offensively so we put a plan in place to try and counter that. It worked for the first 78 minutes of the game, we let in a goal late. We didn't change any-

thing going into overtime and Jeremy scored a great game-winner."

The Knights were able to match an increasingly aggressive Linsly attack—that is, until the 79th minute, on one of several corner kicks the Cadets attempted in the second half. The ball whirled through the air and dropped amongst a herd of players from both sides, one side desperate to clear the ball, the other to put it through the back of the net.

One shot came off the foot of a Linsly player, body-blocked by a Maroon Knight. A second shot, this one stymied almost as soon as it was kicked by a stray leg.

Finally, with the ball still ricocheting around the crowd gathered just in front of the Wheeling Central goal, Linsly's Alessandro Cimigotto straightened out a shot, which avoided defenders, teammates and the Knights keeper alike in zipping through for a score.

There would be no further late fireworks in regulation, and the two teams headed for a five-minute overtime knotted at 1-1.

Then, after five fruitless minutes, a second overtime.

It was a fitting script for a Wheeling Central Catholic group that has finished six games this season in a draw, including four ties in a row between Sept. 13 and Sept. 20.

Komoroski said that the stalemates have been the result of a tough sched-

ule, which has prepared his team for any opponent.

"We've played a really strong schedule, and it's completely to put this in place for this type of game," Komoroski said. "It's what we want to do. We told our kids after our last game before the OVAC tournament that it's the second half of the season, it's a new season, and we've got to be ready to play. That's why we play a hard schedule, for this tournament and going into states."

Midway through the second overtime, Linsly was keeping the ball on the Wheeling Central side of the field, much as they had done all night. The Knights repelled an attempted through pass by Linsly with a fairly innocuous clear out to midfield— but a whiff on a kick by a Cadet midfielder was all Wheeling needed for a chance at victory.

The ball bouncing into Linsly territory, Jeremy Ratcliffe raced after the ball, gathered and sent a shot just barely by the Cadet keeper to end the game and send Wheeling Central to the conference championship.

The Maroon Knights boys have not won an OVAC title dating back to 1998. They get their chance Saturday.

"We haven't been there," Komoroski said. "We always seem to be on the losing end of a semi-final game as long as I've been coaching. It's a great feeling to be playing on Saturday. Not sure who

we'll be playing, Steubenville Central or Trinity. We played them both, we match up well with both of them, and it'll be a fun game."

Linsly is left with a sour taste in their mouth, dropping a game where they out-possessed and out-shot their opponent by a wide margin.

"That's soccer," Linsly head coach Greg Martin said. "It's defined by big moments, big goals. We created a lot of chances tonight. That's kind of been the story of our season, we create a lot but struggle to score goals. Credit to them for defending and taking their chances. I think they had two or three shots on goal and they made two goals. That's efficiency, right? Congratulations to them."

Credit belongs to Maroon Knights freshman keeper Tino Sperlazza, who racked up high-difficulty saves while being peppered by the Cadets, and played fearlessly on corner kicks in a high-pressure environment.

"Tino, to play like that as a freshman, outstanding," Komoroski said. "He played really well, I can't say enough. It's tough to go in there with all the nerves, knowing you're going against your city rival. He played a really good game."

The 1A-3A Championship is set for Saturday September 30, 2023 at 10:00 AM at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville.

The Golden Knights can't look to Lightning for playbook

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Golden Knights don't have to look far to find inspiration when it comes to trying to repeat as Stanley Cup champions.

Vegas' problem is it can't copy what the Lightning accomplished just two seasons ago because Tampa Bay's repeat was achieved in a much different fashion than what the Knights are trying to do.

The Knights are trying to go back to back after a short off-season, following the NHL's more traditional timeline.

Tampa Bay won the 2020 Cup in the bubble in Edmonton, Alberta, in September of that year after the end of the season was disrupted by the

COVID-19 pandemic. The Lightning's 2021 championship didn't begin until January and was reduced from 82 to 56 games.

But the Knights also have the advantage of bringing back nearly their entire roster. Reilly Smith is the only player who skated in Vegas' five-game title series victory over the Florida Panthers who isn't back. Captain Mark Stone, Conn Smythe Trophy winner Jonathan Marchessault and Jack Eichel return as does goalie Adin Hill, who won 11 of 14 starts in the postseason after an injury put him in the net.

Salary-cap issues forced the Lightning to make some tough

decisions, including exposing and losing Yanni Gourde to the Seattle Kraken in the expansion draft, watching Blake Coleman depart in free agency and waiving Tyler Johnson. Tampa Bay not only overcame those losses to repeat, but almost made it three in a row, appearing in the 2022 final as well before losing to the Colorado Avalanche in six games.

"The salary cap and to a certain extent the NHL entry draft is set up to level the playing field, prop up some teams and make it harder for some teams to sustain success," Lightning general manager Julien Brise-Bois said.

"I think (the cap) does bring a certain level of parity right

now ... a competitive balance that we haven't seen before."

As different as the situations are for Vegas and Tampa Bay, Knights GM Kelly McCrimmon said the way Lightning put together their roster hits home.

"Great top-end forwards, really strong on defense and then — not the same group for each of their two championships — but really well-defined bottom-six forwards that really help that team play to an identity," McCrimmon said. "I think that we're constructed in a lot of respects somewhat similarly."

Knights coach Bruce Cassidy spoke with Lightning coach Jon Cooper about what to ex-

pect after a championship, but said the two situations were too different to glean much information.

Cassidy also reached out to Avalanche coach Jared Bednar, but Colorado's injury situation last season didn't make that a perfect comparison. The Avalanche most notably lost captain Gabriel Landeskog for the entire season because of knee surgery. He will miss this season as well after another operation in May.

Cassidy can get insight from his own players who have won the Cup elsewhere as well, while assistant coach John Stevens was part of two championship runs with the Los Angeles Kings.

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coach's job. Picked 14th, not in the nation but just in the conference.

school with Hal Mumme at the er 5 coach," Brown recalled. "We had a real-

West Virginia head coach Neal Brown takes into the field during the first half of an NCAA football game against Duquesne, Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, in Morgantown, W.Va.

Please see **BROWN**, Page 14

WVU Seeking To Snap TCU Conference Winning Streak

TCU hasn't lost a Big 12 regular-season game under coach Sonny Dykes, who is in his second season. The winning streak reached 10 with a victory at Houston two weeks ago. West Virginia is going for its first 2-0 conference start since 2018 following a 20-13 victory over Texas Tech at home.

KEY MATCHUP

TCU QB Chandler Morris vs. West Virginia defense. Morris leads the Big 12 in total offense at 326 yards per game, which includes 280 passing. He had a career-high three TD passes in last week's 34-17 victory over SMU.

The Mountaineers have held their past two opponents to fewer than 200 yards through the air. Texas Tech had 161 after Pitt was held to 81.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

West Virginia: Mobile QBs Nicco Marchiol or Garrett Greene. Coach Neal Brown said Greene, who injured an ankle two weeks ago and missed last week's 20-13 win over Texas Tech, won't play unless he can run at full speed.

If Greene can't go, Marchiol would get his second career start. Marchiol rushed for 72 yards and completed 12 of 21 passes for 78 yards with one TD and two interceptions against the Red Raiders.

TCU: RB Emani Bailey has three 100-yard games already this year after getting just one in his first three seasons, the first two of which were at Louisiana. Bailey has consecutive 126-yard games with a touchdown after rushing for a career-high 164 yards in the 45-42 loss to Colorado in the opener.

He entered the week in the top 10 nationally with 483 yards rushing.

FACTS & FIGURES

TCU TE Jared Wiley and West Virginia WR Hudson Clement are among the 10 players in the Big 12 with at least three receiving TDs. Both have three.

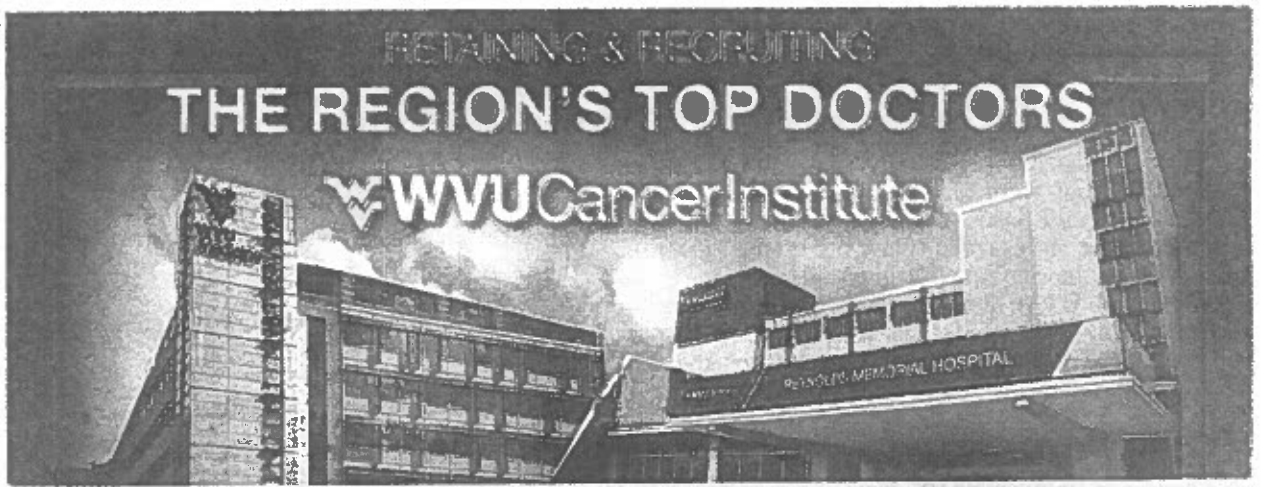
With a win, Brown would even his career record at 26-26.

The Frogs lead the Big 12 and are tied for second nationally with 16 sacks.

Over the past two games, West Virginia's defense has allowed a total of one touchdown, but the Mountaineers' offense was held to less than 260 yards each time.

TCU's 41-31 victory in Morgantown last season ended West Virginia's four-game winning streak in the series.

The Mountaineers have intercepted five passes, one more than all of last season. TCU is 16-0 under coach Sonny Dykes when winning the turnover battle. The Frogs were plus-2 against SMU.



WHEELING HOSPITAL REYNOLDS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

No. 11 Notre Dame Hits The Road To Face Upstart No. 17 Duke Blue Devils

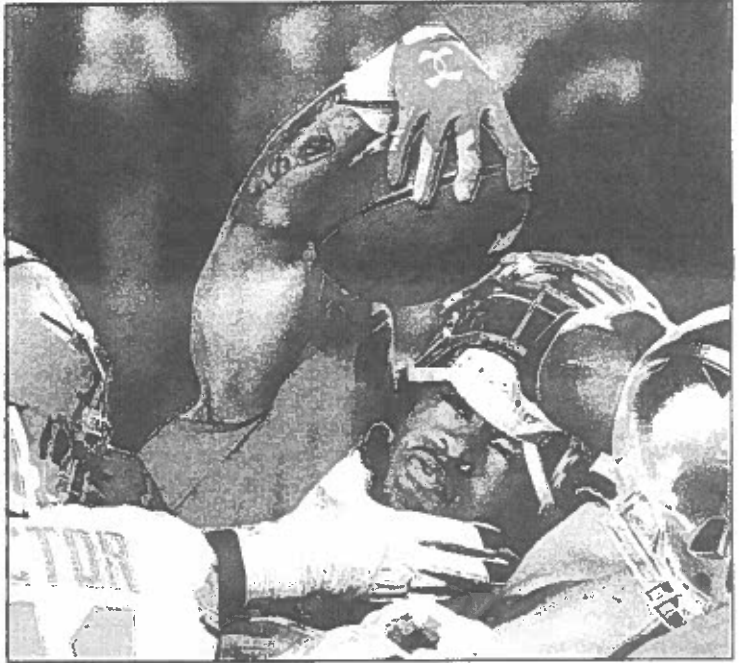
DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Duke thrived in its last prime-time, nationally televised game against a marquee opponent. The 17th-ranked Blue Devils have the chance to do it again.

Duke hosts No. 11 Notre Dame on Saturday night, a game that quickly grew in magnitude after the Blue Devils blew out preseason Atlantic Coast Conference favorite Clemson in its 4-0 start. The immediate challenge is stopping the Fighting Irish's long regular-season winning streak against ACC teams, though it also includes managing the hype that includes luring ESPN's "CollegeDay" for its first appearance in Durham for a football game after multiple stops there for basketball.

"I told the guys this morning: we're getting a lot of congratulations for 'GameDay' coming here," second-year coach Mike Elko said. "I'd rather wait and get some congratulations for how we play the football game Saturday night."

Duke has a chance to reach 5-0 for the first time since winning the first seven games of the 1994 season. That comes just two years after Duke closed a three-win season with eight straight losses, seven of which coming by at least 25 points.

Please see **DUKE**, Page 14



AP Photo

Notre Dame running back Gi'Bran Payne reaches over the Ohio State defensive line for a touchdown as his helmet comes off during the second half of an NCAA college football game Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023, in South Bend, Ind.

Border, McLeod Give Patriots Chance To Defend 5A Title

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Wheeling Park has a chance to defend its OVAC Class 5A boys' soccer championship Saturday thanks to the efforts of Tresz McLeod and Gavin Border.

McLeod worked his magic around the net, scoring all three goals and Border recorded his eighth shutout of the season as the No. 2 seeded Patriots (12-2-1) blanked third-seeded Brooke, 3-0, in a semifinal match on the artificial pitch inside rainy Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We go into every season hoping we get a chance to play for the OVAC Class 5A title," Wheeling Park head coach Mario Julian said. "We got the job done tonight."

With the win, the Patriots, who are also ranked No. 2 in Class AAA in the Mountain State, will meet top-seeded Morgantown, which blanked Steubenville, 5-0.

"We've got a really good goalkeeper in Gavin," Julian added. "He defends that box like no other. We were a little undisciplined fouling



Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Park's Wilson Hanna goes high above Brooke's Devin Cipoletti to head the ball during action from Thursday night's OVAC Class 5A boys' soccer tournament semifinal on the artificial pitch inside rainy Wheeling Island Stadium.

today and that gave them (Brooke) some big balls, and in a game like that you need a strong goalkeeper.

"All in all, it was a good performance," Julian assessed.

After a scoreless battle, Wheeling Park's Wilson Hanna took a feed from Graham Loy on the left

sidelines. Wilson dribbled the ball deep into the left corner and just before reaching the end line, he sent a cross to McLeod low in the box and he banged it home in the 32nd minute.

"I got an amazing pass from my striker and put it

Please see **PATRIOTS**, Page 14

Maroon Knights Outlast Linsly In Double Overtime Semifinal Match

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

TRIADELPHIA

Taking to the Highlands Sports Complex on Thursday for a OVAC semifinals matchup, the Wheeling Central Catholic Maroon Knights (5-4-6) defeated the Linsly Cadets (8-1-3) 2-1 in the second overtime period of their conference, courtesy of a walkoff goal by Jeremy Ratcliffe.

It's been a Cinderella-esque run for the Maroon Knights, seeded No. 6 in the OVAC Tournament, only to down No. 3 Caldwell in the quarterfinals and now slay the top-seeded Cadets in the semi's.

Wheeling Central held a 1-0 lead at halftime, Luke Minor's goal in the 25th minute the sum of all scoring to that point, and indeed until the last few minutes of regulation.

The Maroon Knights were tireless in matching Linsly on defense and cutting off crossers and through-balls throughout the night, in a point-preventing performance that Wheeling Central head coach Brian Komoroski was very pleased with.

"It was a hard-fought

battle by both teams," he said. "[Linsly's] an exceptionally good team. We knew what they did offensively so we put a plan in-place to try and counter that. It worked for the first 78 minutes of the game, we let in a goal late. We didn't change anything going into overtime and Jeremy scored a great game-winner."

The Knights were able to match an increasingly aggressive Linsly attack - that is, until the 79th minute, on one of several corner kicks the Cadets attempted in the second half. The ball whirled through the air and dropped amongst a herd of players from both sides, one side desperate to clear the ball, the other to put it through the back of the net.

One shot came off the foot of a Linsly player, body-blocked by a Maroon Knight. A second shot, this one stymied almost as soon as it was kicked by a stray leg.

Finally, with the ball still ricocheting around the crowd gathered just in front of the Wheeling Central goal, Linsly's Allesandro Cimigotto straightened out a shot, which avoided defend-

ers, teammates and the Knights keeper alike in zipping through for a score.

There would be no further late fireworks in regulation, and the two teams headed for a five-minute overtime knotted at 1-1.

Then, after five fruitless minutes, a second overtime.

It was a fitting script for a Wheeling Central Catholic group that has finished six games this season in a draw, including four ties in a row between Sept. 13 and Sept. 20.

Komoroski said that the stalemates have been the result of a tough schedule, which has prepared his team for any opponent.

"We've played a really strong schedule, and it's completely to put this in place for this type of game," Komoroski said. "It's what we want to do. We told our kids after our last game before the OVAC tournament that it's the second half of the season, it's a new season, and we've got to be ready to play. That's why we play a hard schedule, for this tournament and going into states."

Please see **KNIGHTS**, Page 14

PATRIOTS

(Continued from Page 13)

in the back of the net," McLeod said of the eventual game-winning tally. "I can't miss those."

The score remained that way until the 49th minute when McLeod settled down a pass from Matteo Gattesco and drilled it into the net.

The goal came moments after the Bruins nearly tied the contest on a lob into the middle of the crease where Border rose above a crowd to gobble it up.

Wheeling Park could've made it 3-0 in the 62nd minute but Brooke's Evan Urso stepped in between the pipes when Brozstek went out to play the ball and headed a Hanna shot out of harms way.

McLeod capped his fine outing in the 78th minute, also off an assist from Gattesco.

Border finished with just four saves on seven shots, but the Bruins were buzzing around the cage like bees on a honeycomb.

"He's amazing. He should be first team all-state," McLeod said of Border. "He has saved our butts numerous times this season. We're lucky to have him."

Julian had high praise for Hanna.

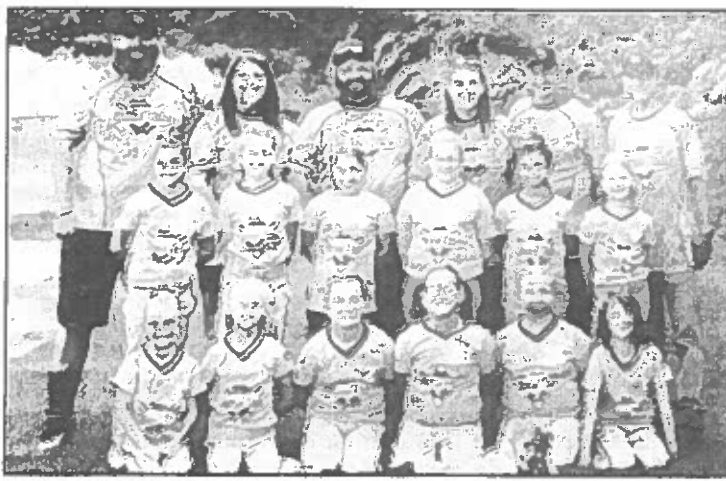
"Wilson is pretty good. He's really good at taking guys one-on-one which he did on that first goal," the coach noted. "He probably should've had more assists because he made some great one-on-one moves on the outside to get some good looks in the box."

The margin could've been even greater if not for a few outstanding saves by Brooke goalkeeper Chance Brozstek. He finished with seven saves on 17 shots.

Veteran Brooke head coach Joe Pepe said his team played well despite the loss.

"You can't take anything away from Wheeling Park. They are a good team," he said. "But you can't take anything away from Brooke, either. My kids played extremely well, and I'm proud of them."

"My goalkeeper played well. The entire team played well. We did have some chances in both halves. A couple of times we misconnected on shots, but that's why you play the game. Overall, I'm proud of this team. To come from a 6-2 beating earlier this season to holding them to three goals tonight, I'm satisfied."



2023 Diamond Divas

The 2023 Diamond Divas fall ball team, pictured, went 9-1 this season in their 6-8 year-old youth league.

Middle row, left to right: Avery Nelson, Lillian Brown, Leah Livingston, Fiona Levitt, Briasha Fortney, Emileigh Gramlich

Bottom row, left to right: Myla Ruckh, Carter Mencer, Malayna Metz-Pugh, Arianna Gramlich, Tenzlee Metz-Pugh, Rosalee Bentz

Batboy Watsyn Ruckh in front.

Photo Provided

Magnolia Tops Trinity, Pilots Refute Frontier

NEW MARTINSVILLE - Magnolia swept Trinity Christian on Thursday, 25-21, 25-13, 25-19.

Jessa Anderson tallied 12 total points served, two aces and nine digs in the victory. Magnolia's Jenna Blain had five total points served and six kills. Mallo-ry McDiffitt finished with seven total points served.

River def. Frontier 28-26, 25-18, 12-25, 27-25.

HANNIBAL - The River Pilots toppled Frontier in four sets on Thursday, 28-26, 25-18, 12-25, 27-25.

Hallie Hammel racked up 19 kills for the Pilots, followed by Reese Hobbs with nine and Kaylee Hagan with seven.

Hagan led the team with four blocks, while Hammel had three.

Emma Reed, Maci Isaly and Aubrey Fetty each had three aces.

Fetty also paced the Pilots with 29 digs, while Reed totaled 20 and Hobbs 17.

Isaly tallied a team-high 36 assists Thursday.

Wheeling Central sweeps triangular

WHEELING -- The Maroon Knights improved to 8-7 on the season thanks to scoring wins over St. Marys and Cameron in a triangular in the Knights gymnasium Thursday evening.

Against St. Marys, Central prevailed by scores of 25-16 and 25-23.

Junior Sydney Doyle had eight kills, while senior Alexis Hood handed out 12 assists.

Against the Dragons, the Knights prevailed by a 25-12 and 25-11 score.

Helene Crall had eight kills, while Doyle added five. Hood handed out nine assists and Lainey Peters posted seven.

John Marshall def. Parkersburg South

JOHN MARSHALL - John Marshall defeated Parkersburg South in five sets Thursday.

Kayli Derrow led the Monarchs with 20 kills and five blocks against the Patriots. Nia Miller followed with 16 kills and three blocks.

Danica Deem had 50 assists and 20 service points, including four aces.

Reese Ward led the defense with 18 digs.

St. Clairsville def. Harrison Central 25-20, 17-25, 25-16, 26-28, 15-9

CADIZ - The St. Clairsville Red Devils took down the Harrison Central Huskies on Thursday, 25-20, 17-25, 25-16, 26-28, 15-9.

Lauren Doane led Harrison Central in kills with 12 and blocks with three. Olivia Tonkovich had a team-high 17 assists, Nessa Culver led the way with 14 digs, Maddie Zeroski piled up 17 points.

For St. Clairsville, Brooke Biancarelli totaled 14 kills and 16 digs to lead her team. Rachel Finnical had five kills, 24 assists and 19 digs. Ella Carpenter had five kills and eight digs. Makenna Moran finished with six kills and four blocks.

KNIGHTS

(Continued from Page 13)

Midway through the second overtime, Linsly was keeping the ball on the Wheeling Central side of the field, much as they had done all night. The Knights repelled an attempted through pass by Linsly with a fairly innocuous clear out to mid-field - but a whiff on a kick by a Cadet midfielder was all Wheeling needed for a chance at victory.

The ball bouncing into Linsly territory, Jeremy Ratcliffe raced after the ball, gathered and sent a shot just barely by the Cadet keeper to end the game and send Wheeling Central to the conference championship.

The Maroon Knights boys have not won an OVAC title dating back to 1998. They get their chance Saturday.

"We haven't been there," Komoroski said. "We always seem to be on the losing end of a semi-final game as long as I've been coaching. It's a great feeling to be playing on Saturday. Not sure who we'll be playing, Steubenville Central or Trinity. We played them both, we match up well with both of them, and it'll be a fun game."

Linsly is left with a sour taste in their mouth, dropping a game where they

out-possessed and out-shot their opponent by a wide margin.

"That's soccer," Linsly head coach Greg Martin said. "It's defined by big moments, big goals. We created a lot of chances tonight. That's kind of been the story of our season, we create a lot but struggle to score goals. Credit to them for defending and taking their chances. I think they had two or three shots on goal and they made two goals. That's efficiency, right? Congratulations to them."

Credit belongs to Maroon Knights freshman keeper Tino Sperlazza, who racked up high-difficulty saves while being peppered by the Cadets, and played fearlessly on corner kicks in a high-pressure environment.

"Tino, to play like that as a freshman, outstanding," Komoroski said. "He played really well, I can't say enough. It's tough to go in there with all the nerves, knowing you're going against your city rival. He played a really good game."

The 1A-3A Championship is set for Saturday September 30, 2023 at 10:00 AM at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville.

BROWN

(Continued from Page 13)

"He played baseball, was really fun and we played on a JV team at UK of which he was head coach. We had fun with that when I was a freshman."

The two men, of course, went off their own journeys. Brown transferred to Massachusetts, then began coaching while Dykes traveled a winding road which we will soon discuss here.

"We stayed in touch and I was really happy for him," Brown said.

Dykes began as a high school baseball coach in Texas but soon moved to football. He worked his way from the bottom up, coaching running backs, receivers and quarterbacks over a couple of years at Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas.

In 1997, he went to Kentucky as a graduate assistant, left for a year to become a full-time coach at Northeast Louisiana, then in 1999 returned to Kentucky to become the wide receivers coach and special teams coordinator at the school.

In 2000, he returned home to Lubbock. His father had retired and became wide receiver coach, later adding co-offensive coordinator duties.

After six years, he left to become offensive coordinator at Arizona for three years, then spent three years as head coach

at Louisiana Tech before moving on to coach at California in the Pac-12.

"He did a great job at Louisiana Tech," Brown noted.

The Cal situation was a tough one, though.

"He took a really hard job at Cal and probably wasn't given enough time," Brown said.

At Cal, he suffered through a 1-11 first season before making strides, coaching four years there and finishing with a 19-30 record and a minor bowl bid.

SMU was at the bottom of the football food chain at the time and he was hired on to try and fix that.

"He went to SMU and turned that around. He built it to another level and then went to the national championship game last year at TCU," Brown said. "There was nobody more fired up for him than me."

Dykes came into TCU from across town at SMU in a difficult spot, following what almost certainly will be a Hall of Fame coach in Gary Patterson, the all-time top winner at TCU.

Interestingly, in light of Deion Sanders' debut in Colorado this year, Dykes beat Colorado, 38-13, in his debut with the Horned Frogs.

He carried it on to a stunning 12-0 regular season, something Sanders can't do now that he's

lost, but suffered a bitter overtime defeat to Kansas State in last year's Big 12 title game.

While that ruined the dreams for a perfect season, his team had built up enough equity that it was included in the College Football Playoffs, then pulled off a thrilling surprise, a 51-45 victory over Michigan in the Fiesta Bowl.

That led the Horned Frogs into the National Championship game against Georgia, but turned into a startling 65-7 defeat for Dykes.

Still, being so close sent them into this year on a mission. They lost the opener - get this - to Sanders and Colorado, 45-42, but they have run off three straight wins since then.

When WVU comes in on Saturday it will mark the team's fifth straight game in Texas and Dykes knows they should have their hands full after narrowly escaping Morgantown last year with a 41-31 victory.

"We know we're in for a big challenge Saturday. I think if you go look at the history between TCU and West Virginia, I think we lost four games in a row against them. We had a really hard-fought game up in Morgantown last year and were fortunate to get the win. We know it's been a tough game for TCU in the past."

DUKE

(Continued from Page 13)

"There's so much more we have in us," linebacker Dorian Mausl said. "When you take a step back and look at it, yes, we can be proud of how far we've come. But it's still an innate sense of knowing we have so much more to get to and so much more to accomplish."

The most notable change this year has been the play of Duke's defense, which has allowed just five touchdowns in four games. The Blue Devils will need another strong showing from that unit

secondary. He played a crucial role in holding Ohio State's superstar wideout Marvin Harrison Jr. to three receptions for 32 yards last Saturday.

Overall, Notre Dame has limited opposing quarterbacks to a national-best 47.4% completion rate for two touchdowns compared to five interceptions. And the Blue Devils are allowing a national-best 4.4 yards per pass attempt.

CONTAINING LEONARD

Duke's dual-threat quarterback Riley

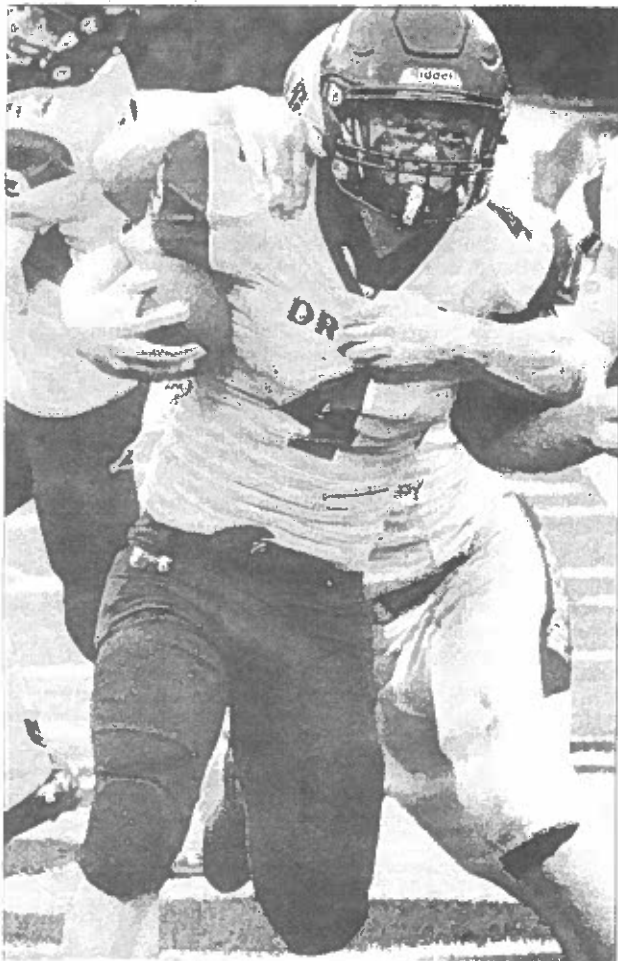


Photo by Bill Ferguson

Cameron's Klypsan Wallace (4) carries the ball against West Greene, Pa., in the season opener. He has been a huge addition to the Dragons roster after transferring from John Marshall. Cameron hosts Madonna on Friday for Homecoming 2023.

Cameron Hosts Madonna Friday On Homecoming

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

CAMERON — After a week off, Cameron will celebrate Homecoming 2023 Friday night when Madonna visits Dragon Field in a Class A matchup.

The Dragons (3-1) enter the contest tied for 14th with Valley in the latest WVSSAC state rankings. They are riding a four-game winning streak after dropping the season opener to West Greene, Pa., 28-26. They have since rolled past Hundred (56-20), Frontier (52-0) and Magnolia (54-6).

"We got a couple of kids healthier during the week off," Cameron head coach Tim Brown said. "We still haven't had J. Ross play. He was injured during the preseason, and Camden Frye is just getting back."

Brown said Madonna "is very athletic. I think their entire basketball team plays football. They move really well. They've got an athletic quarterback and two tall receivers who are pretty agile. Defensively, they will pressure the quarterback and they have two pretty good linebackers who are hard to block."

Please see CAMERON, Page 10

RETAINING & RECRUITING
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WHEELING HOSPITAL REYNOLDS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Red-Hot Beallsville Seeks 5th Straight Triumph At Bridgeport's Homecoming

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

BROOKSIDE — Bridgeport will host red-hot Beallsville on Friday night as it celebrates Homecoming 2023 at Perkins Field inside Bill Jobo Stadium. Kick off is set for 7:30 p.m.

This small-school matchup features a pair of teams headed in different directions. The Blue Devils (5-1) have won four consecutive games after a week 2 loss to Newcomerstown. They rebounded with wins over Frontier (25-13), Hundred (14-8), Clay-Battelle (34-31) and previously undefeated Valley (36-30) in overtime in a thriller last week. Beallsville defeated Millersport (41-14) in its opener.

Head coach Rusty Bondy's squad is currently ranked No. 4 in Ohio Division VII, Region 27. It's been a decade since the Big Blue have made the playoffs.

"This little town is rockin'. A little bit of success goes a long way," he said. "We're trying to keep the kids grounded because there is a lot on the line this week and there's a long way to go



Photo by Kim North

Bridgeport's Law Chambers, left, and Avery Jackson, right, sandwich a Frontier ball carrier during the season-opener in Beaverton. The Bulldogs welcome Beallsville for Homecoming 2023 on Friday at Perkins Field inside Bill Jobo Stadium in Brookside.

in the season. We're taking it one game at a time."

On the opposite sideline, the Bulldogs limp into the contest on a three-game losing streak. They haven't tasted victory since week 3 when they outscored East Palestine (32-25). They opened with a win at Frontier (27-25), but lost to Mon-

roe Central (43-0) before. Since their last triumph, they've dropped games to Bradford (48-14), Conotton Valley (46-39) and River (41-20).

Bridgeport (2-4) is ranked 17th in the latest Region 27 poll, just one spot from the playoff picture.

"They are doing some good things down there,"

Bridgeport head coach Fred Ray said of Beallsville. "They are playing really well right now."

Ray said the Bulldogs will be healthier this week than they have been.

"We had seven starters out of last week's game," he said, not using it as an excuse. "It's next-man-up. Everyone has to be ready to play."

Bridgeport has been playing without starting quarterback Aiden Kinsey who is sidelined with an injury. Jaki Threet has been thrust into that role and has held his own, according to Ray.

"Jaki has done some good things at quarterback, but he's a young kid still learning the position," the coach said. "We just need to play error-free football. We have had too many turnovers and penalties."

Michael Marshall is Bridgeport's leading rusher. Avery Jackson is a threat on the outside with his height (6-4).

The Blue Devils have been led by quarterback Garrett Perkins, a four-year starter, but Bondy said it doesn't stop there.

Please see 5TH, Page 10

Wheeling Central Blanks Madonna In Girls OVAC 1A-3A Soccer Tourney

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — The Wheeling Central Catholic Maroon Knights started their OVAC Tournament play with a 5-0 win over the Madonna Blue Dons on Wednesday, dominating possession and cruising through the second half after vaulting themselves ahead 4-0 in the first.

"We were moving the ball phenomenally," Wheeling Central head coach Mackenzie Smith said. "Our team, our offense, they were talking, they just kept communicating and sending the ball out wide. A lot of our plays were made from outside balls, sending the balls in, crossing the ball. Our outsiders did a great job putting the ball back in the center which gave our center-mid and forward enough opportu-

nities to score in front of the net."

Wheeling Central put 16 shots on-goal, while Madonna finished with four.

It only took until the fourth minute for the Knights to strike, senior captain Ramsay Mansuetto sniping through a 20-yard shot.

Long-range shots were a frequent occurrence for Wheeling Central on Wednesday — at times, the Knights had better luck converting from far out than in-close.

Though they led 4-0 at the half, Wheeling Central had multiple other opportunities to score. In



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Central's Mariah Ratcliffe chases the ball Wednesday night during an OVAC Class 1A-3A soccer tournament semifinal at the East End Fields in Wheeling. She scored twice in the Maroon Knights' 5-0 victory.

the 14th minute, Wheeling Central's Brooke Porter crashed down on the goal after a deflection and tried to push through a

shot with her hip at point blank, but the strike angled just inches outside the goal.

Please see CENTRAL, Page 10

Phillies' Harper Homers In Rally Against Pirates

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bryce Harper hit a go-ahead solo homer in the seventh inning as one of the few regulars in Philadelphia's lineup, and the Phillies rallied to beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 7-6 on Wednesday night, a day after clinching the NL's top wild-card spot.

Surviving the game without incident was the goal for the Phillies.

Manager Rob Thomson said, yes, it would be nice if the Phillies — now with 89 victories — could reach 90 over their final four games. A night after the Phillies secured a spot in the postseason, and with the knowledge they will open Game 1 of the playoffs Tuesday at home, Thomson said the goal was simply getting to the playoffs in one piece.

Wins and losses don't necessarily matter. "Not now. Not one bit," Thomson said ahead of the game. "I mean, it'd be nice to get to 90 wins. But to put people in jeopardy to get 90 wins, I'm not going to do that."

A night after a raucous late-night celebration that saw outfielder Brandon Marsh ride a mechanical bull, designated hitter Kyle Schwarber, third baseman Alec Bohm, catcher J.T. Realmuto and right fielder Nick Castellanos all took the night off.

Harper played first base, had three hits, and slugged his 21st homer of the season off reliever Jose Hernandez (1-3) for the 7-6 lead.

Gregory Soto struck out the side in the ninth inning for his third save.

Couch Pat Linsly. During Howley's three years playing with the varsity, WVU compiled a 21-8-1 mark.

the Baltimore Colts. Although Dallas lost the game 16-13, Howley still won game MVP honors. It was the first time and only time in Su-

displayed on the facade of Puskas Stadium's Diversified Energy Terrace with the other five retired numbers.

| Team | W | L | T | Pct | Points | Yards | TDs | Opp. Pct | Opp. Yards | Opp. TDs |
|-----------|----|-----|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|----------|------------|----------|
| Arizona | 84 | 74 | .532 | 13½ | +2 | 8-2 | W-2 | 43-35 | 41-39 | |
| San Diego | 78 | 80 | .494 | 19½ | 4 | 8-2 | W-1 | 44-37 | 34-43 | |
| San Fran. | 78 | 80 | .494 | 19½ | 4 | 3-7 | L-1 | 44-33 | 34-47 | |
| Colorado | 57 | 100 | .363 | 40 | 24% | 2-8 | L-1 | 35-41 | 22-59 | |

x-clinched division
y-clinched wild card
z-clinched playoff berth

LINSLY

(Continued from Page 9)

"That was the first time we had ever done it, and it was a very close game," DePew said. "Back-and-forth down the stretch. Each team had a turnover late. The difference in the ballgame was a blocked extra point. It was that kind of battle, and we're looking forward to that type of game."

The historical pedigree of Steubenville has not diminished this season, with Big Red currently outscoring their opponents by nearly two touchdowns through six games, winning their last five after losing to Ursuline (6-0) in week one.

Big Red's running game is one constant through their historical success, and this year it has been Saver Faulks at the helm. Appearing in four of Big Red's six games, Faulks has rushed for 602 yards and 10 touchdowns behind an imposing offensive line, and constitutes a big part of Linsly's defensive "priority one."

"Any time you line up against Steubenville Big Red, you've got to be ready to stop the run," Depew said. "That's got to be your mentality first, they are a great running team, their linemen are so well-coached and strong, they're athletic. If you can't stop the run, it's a long night for any Big Red opponent. That's priority one. We need to be very aware of the passing game. But when in doubt, Big Red is going to run the football, and you've got to be able to stop that."

"(Saver) Faulks, No. 24, is a really good running back with a speed element that is something we're going to have to contend with. They use a variety of guys at running back who are all very good. This year it feels like they have the ability to break a big run maybe a little bit more than in past years."

As tall a task as stopping Faulks and Co. may be,

the Steubenville passing game will make Linsly's life even more challenging Friday.

"At the same time, you've got Isaac Hill at wide receiver who's as good as there is in this valley, he's a threat. It's difficult to focus on either one when they can mix the run and the pass."

Hill has caught 40 passes for 571 yards and four touchdowns for Big Red, the unquestionable No. 1 target for Steubenville through the air.

Linsly, though, has their own stars to lean on. Defensively, the Cadets have pitched two shutouts already, and Depew is seeing improvement week-over-week in his team's point-preventing unit.

"We've definitely developed defensively in terms of our physicality and our knowledge of the game and the way our defense is playing together," Depew said. "We've had some great defensive performances really each week so far this year. Even in the loss to DeSales, we did a great job stopping the run. Given that that's a top priority for us, I'm happy where we are."

Offensively, Depew said he'd seen some "inconsistencies," but the Cadets have still topped 40 points in three of their four games.

Against Fort Frye, sophomore Braden Wade made his first varsity start for the Cadets. He threw for 254 yards and two touchdowns.

"I'm so happy for Braden to be able to have his moment," Depew said following the Fort Frye victory. "He had two really good weeks of practice. I'm thrilled for him. He's shown patience and is doing what we are asking him to do."

Kevin Stanisi rushed for 85 yards on six carries and scored twice. Ramello Derr caught four Wade passes for 101 yards.

CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 9)

Mariah Ratcliffe fired through two goals in the 24th and 40th minutes, the first a worm-burner by the keeper, and the second the longest shot of the day, 20+ yards into the net.

Class 1A-3A Semifinal

Linsly 5, Steubenville Catholic 3

STEBENVILLE - The Crusaders put up a fight against the cadets, but an early deficit was too much to overcome.

Riley Maroney recorded two early goals leading the Cadets to a victory against the Crusaders in an OVAC Class 1A-3A Tournament Semifinal Wednesday evening at the Tony Recinella Soccer Field.

Class 4A

Weir 3, St. Clairsville 0

WEIRTON - The last time someone other than Oak Glen won the OVAC Girls 4A Championship was the 2016 season. That team was Weir, which beat the Golden Bears as the No. 4 seed, then took down East Liverpool to win the championship. Since then, Oak Glen has dominated, winning six in a row including a shootout victory against the Red Riders in the 2022 championship.

This year may be different. Courtesy of Weir's victory against No. 4 seeded St. Clairsville on Wednesday, the Red Riders get another shot at knocking off the champs. It's a feat they accomplished earlier during a regular-season match, 4-3.

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5TH

(Continued from Page 9)

"We have a lot of weapons on offense and our line has really come along," he stressed. "Coming into the season we knew we had some pretty good skill players, but we weren't real sure about the line. We knew we had to develop some linemen," he admitted. "They have really

come on and everybody has bought in to what we, the coaching staff, have been preaching to them."

The linemen Bondy referred to include center Dalton Fulton; short side guard Brandon Necessary; long side guard Aaron Baker; inside tackle Jayden Billingsley; outside tackle

Colton Shriver; and tight end Marky Loudon.

Blake Johnson, Joe Osborne and Anthony Dunn have filled in along the front.

Fullback Conor Hagan had a huge game last week, while tailback Reed Smith and utilityman James Palmer have had strong seasons. Thorn Stoffel is

also a target at tight end.

Bondy said he has been impressed with what he has seen of Bridgeport.

"They are a very good team. Their record isn't indicative of what type of season they've had. They've lost some close games," he said. "They've had some tough losses."

CAMERON

(Continued from Page 9)

Cameron's success thus far can be attributed to senior quarterback Colson Wichterman, who is a four-year starter. The addition of tailback Klypsan Wallace, who transferred in from John Marshall, has made a big difference in the Dragons offense.

"Colson is just as valuable on defense as he is on offense," Brown allowed. "He's our leading tackler and he is our quarterback on defense. Klypsan has done a great job thus far. He's a strong runner who is hard to tackle. His leadership has been a big help. He's also learning to play linebacker, as well."

Wichterman has passed for 376 yards on 20-33 and has thrown six TDs to just one INT. He has also rushed for 392 yards and six TDs on 35 carries. Wallace has gained 633 yards on 75 carries and has reached the end zone 10 times. Wallace has a trio of two-point

runs, while Wichterman has two.

"Wallace was huge addition for them. He's a load," Fetty noted. "Their quarterback is very athletic and their offensive line is big and experienced. Defensively, they fly all over the place."

The Blue Dons (2-2), meanwhile, checked in tied for 19th with Moorefield. After taking down Wellsville (32-0) and Hancock, Md., (49-8), they have dropped back-to-back contests to Toronto (47-13) and Steubenville Catholic (20-0).

"Toronto and Steubenville Catholic are leaps and bounds better than Wellsville and Hancock, Md. Toronto is very talented despite its starting quarterback being done for the season and Steubenville Catholic is a very physical team," first-year Madonna head coach Troy Fetty said. "We are in the meat of our schedule right now and it doesn't get any easier."

"Cameron is coming off a bye week so they've had two weeks to scout and prepare for us," he added. "We need to meet that challenge. We need to play 48 minutes of hard, physical football. We are improving but we're still not there."

Quarterback Chase Littleton triggers the Blue Dons offense. He has run for 211 yards and four touchdowns on 45 totes, while also completing 28 of 50 passes for 461 yards, seven TDs and a pick.

His favorite target is Koleton Grishkevich who has 13 receptions for 205 yards and three touchdowns. Luca Muzzi has scored four touchdowns. Placekicker K.J. Ward has six PATs.

"We can't have turnovers and must limit big plays on defense," Brown added. "I think our special teams are a little better than theirs."

Cameron will decide its Homecoming queen prior to the game.

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SPORTS

Thursday,

September 28, 2023

Magnolia and Shamrocks win River Cross County meet

HANNIBAL — Eight schools met up Tuesday at Hannibal Locks & Dam Park for a race to the finish, with the Magnolia Blue Eagles and Barnesville Shamrocks taking first-place finishes. River, Shadyside, Barnesville, Steubenville Catholic Central, Magnolia, Paden City, St. John, and Bridgeport participated in Tuesday's River XC Meet, with the Blue Eagles placing first in the boys race, and the Shamrocks grabbing the gold in the girls race. Barnesville's boys placed second, while Shadyside girls placed second. Atop the competition for the boys side of Tuesday's meet was Magnolia's Landen Davis, the junior running the

route in 16:15. River senior Mara Beard finished first in the girls race, running a 19:16. Local harriers in the top 10 for the boys included, in descending order from second to 10th, Magnolia senior Shiv Patel, Barnesville junior Conner Starr, Barnesville junior Shepherd Richey, Paden City sophomore Riley

Dennis, Magnolia sophomore Parker Werkau, Steubenville Catholic sophomore Cash Dobson, Barnesville junior Braedon Willis, St. John sophomore Logan Weber and Barnesville freshman Mad-dox Whaley. Proceeding Mara Beard in the girls race, in descending order from second to 10th, were Shadyside freshman

Chloe Mehlovitch, River sophomore Mallory Brake, Barnesville senior Marah Bethel, Steubenville Catholic senior Emiliana McCalister, Barnesville sophomore Lyida Fuchs, Barnesville freshman Makayla Vitale, Barnesville senior Ayla Yater, Magnolia sophomore Bindy Campbell and Barnesville junior Delana Jenkins.

Weirton girls soccer beats St. C. Red Devils

By **MIKE HUGHES**
For The Times Leader

WEIRTON — The last time someone other than Oak Glen won the OVAC Girls 4A Championship was the 2016 season.

That team was Weir, which beat the Golden Bears as the No. 4 seed, then took down East Liverpool to win the championship. Since then, Oak Glen has dominated, winning six in a row including a shootout victory against the Red Riders in the 2022 championship.

This year may be different. Courtesy of Weir's 3-0 victory against No. 4 seeded St. Clairsville on Wednesday at Weirton, the Red Riders get another shot at knocking off the champs.

It's a feat they accomplished earlier during a regular-season match, 4-3.

Now can the Riders do it when it counts. The Bears did their part, besting Beaver Local 3-1 a few miles north in New Manchester to set the stage for another title-game rematch.

The two rivals will square off Saturday at 10 a.m., the first of three championship games taking place at Wheeling Island Stadium.

To make that possible, Weir needed to defeat St. Clairsville a second time. A few weeks ago, on the

same field, the Red Riders scored often in a dominant 6-0 win. It wasn't nearly as easy this time around and head coach Jeremy Angelo was pleased with his team's output against a team he felt was ready to play.

"There's some things we have to clean up, but this team was hungry," Angelo said of St. C. "They wanted to come out and prove they could play with us and they proved it."

"We did have some opportunities and we need to put those away and finish them. We beat this team 6-0 two weeks ago, but they schemed a little different and made it a little tougher."

It was the Red Devils playing aggressor early, controlling the midfield and putting a few shots at Weir keeper Reyna Hoover. St. C. made a few lineup changes from the previous meeting, and it paid dividends early. "We played a lot better than we did last time," St. Clairsville head coach Wes Stoner said. "We were actually dominating the first few minutes and then they settled and moved the ball the way they can, but still, we defended well."

"We gave up three goals on three one-on-one defensive lapses, but (keeper) Kiya (Kyer) played out of her mind, even while hurt."

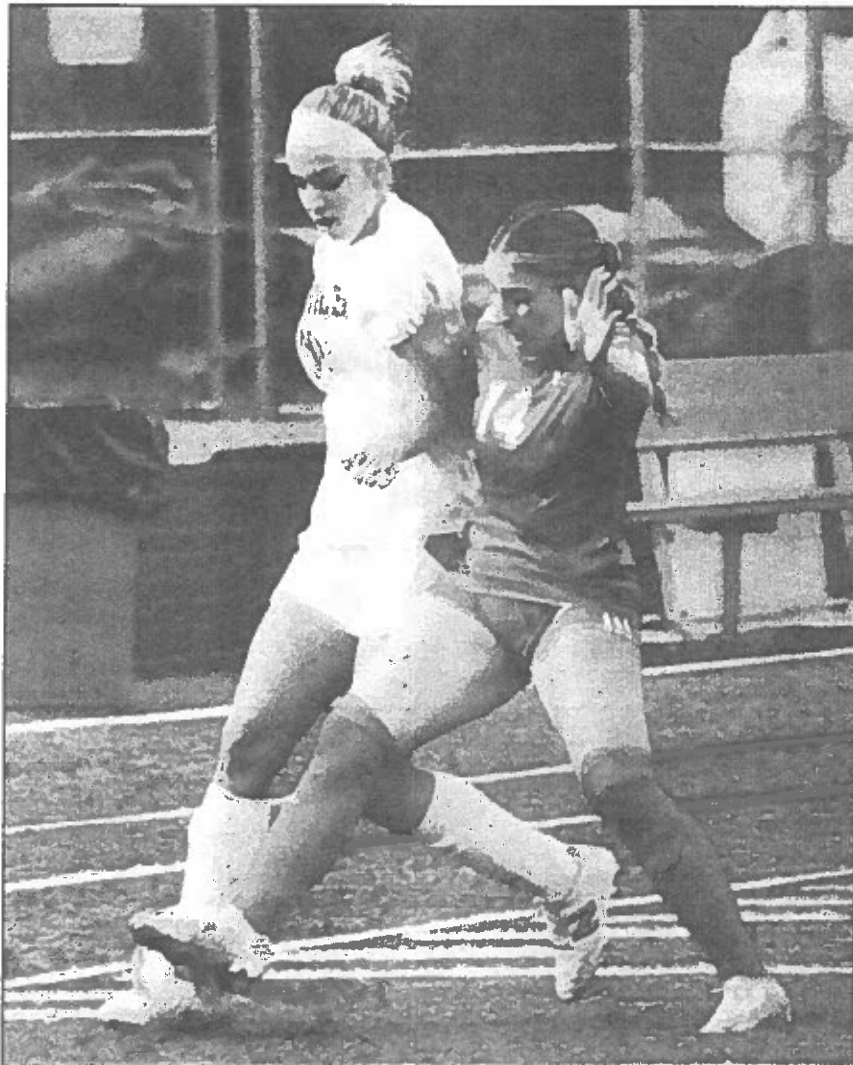


Photo by **MIKE HUGHES**

WEIR'S CATHERINE Glodowski (12) tries to shield St. C. midfielder Delaney Florence from the ball during Wednesday night's OVAC Class 4A semifinal at Jimmy Carey Stadium in Weirton. The Red Riders won, 3-0.

Kyer, playing through a right knee injury, finished with 14 saves including a few brilliant diving stops late in the game. Even with that, Weir managed to push three past her.

The first, and last, came off the foot of junior Jaidyn Kelly. Kelly took the ball on the right side with around 36:26 left, weaved her way toward and in front of the goal, and slipped a shot past Kyer on the left side for a 1-0 score.

Senior Olivia Bak-

er notched the second goal with 11:42 left in the half, and Kelly tacked on the final goal after Kyer made a stop in the second half, but Kelly managed to put the rebound past the freshman.

Next up for St. C. is senior night on Thursday when the Red Devils play host to Cambridge.

Hoover finished with four saves to preserve another shutout and clean sheet for the junior keeper. It also helped secure the 11th win in a row for the Riders.

The number of con-

secutive wins isn't important to Angelo. But what is important is how his team is playing. "I'm not going to complain about scoring three goals and during our last few wins here, it's been us finding and finish and that makes the game easier," Angelo said. "When we create opportunities and put them away, it makes everything easier. When we don't finish, it makes it harder and the other team can get hungry and get the momentum and then anything can happen."

The playoff-bound Phillies pass the Pirates 7-6

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bryce Harper hit a go-ahead solo homer in the seventh inning as one of the few regulars in Philadelphia's lineup, and the Phillies rallied to beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 7-6 on Wednesday night, a day after clinching the NL's top wild-card spot.

Surviving the game without incident was the goal for the Phillies.

Manager Rob Thomson said, yes, it would be nice if the Phillies — now with 89 victories — could reach 90 over their final four games. A night after the Phillies secured a spot in the postseason, and with the knowledge they will open Game 1 of the playoffs Tuesday at home, Thomson said the goal was simply getting to the playoffs in one piece.

Wins and losses don't necessarily matter.

"Not now. Not one bit," Thomson said ahead of the game. "I mean, it'd be nice to get to 90 wins. But to put people in jeopardy to get 90 wins, I'm not going to do that."

A night after a raucous late-night celebration that saw outfielder Brandon Marsh ride a mechanical bull, designated hitter Kyle Schwarber, third baseman Alec Bohm, catcher J.T. Realmuto and right fielder Nick Castellanos all took the night off.

Harper played first base, had three hits, and slugged his 21st homer of the season off reliever Jose Hernandez (1-3) for the 7-6 lead.

Gregory Soto struck out the side in the ninth inning for his third save.

And yes, Garrett Stubbs also played.

The backup catcher became a social media hit in Philadelphia after videos of him dancing and drinking in overalls in the clubhouse on Tuesday night were unleashed into the viral universe, and there was faux concern that he could actually play.

Was he really hydrated? Was he rested?

Stubbs took a healthy cut on a four-seam fastball from Pirates starter Johan Oviedo in the fourth and hammered a three-run homer to right, his first of the season.

Phillies fans went wild for their cult hero, and he was welcomed at home with a warm embrace from Bryson Stott.

That cut the Phils' deficit to 5-4, the second time in as many years the Phillies trailed early in the first game after a clincher.

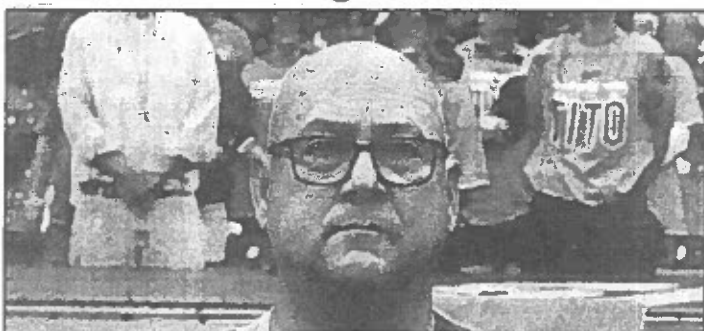
A year ago, the Phillies secured a wild-card spot in Houston, then Ranger Suarez went out and got rocked for six runs in two innings the next game. It happened again against the Pirates.

Suarez gave up three runs in the first and two in the second against the Pirates. The 28-year-old left-hander was chased in the fifth after

Guardians give retiring manager Terry Francona win in final home game, 4-3 to damage the Reds' slim playoff hopes

CLEVELAND (AP) — Shane Bieber shut down Cincinnati for six innings and the Cleveland Guardians sent manager Terry Francona off with a victory Wednesday night in his final home game, 4-3 over the Reds, whose playoff hopes are hanging by a thread.

Bieber (6-6) limited the



on the career list and his two World Series titles in Boston — along with a memorable run in 2016 with the Guardians that came just short — all but guarantee enshrinement in the Hall of Fame.

After the final out, Francona was serenaded with "Tito! Tito!" chants from the crowd with many of the fans wearing

Parkersburg South falls to Brooke • Guardians

Continued from Page B1

WELLSBURG — Brooke dealt a first-round OVAC defeat to visiting Parkersburg South on Tuesday, blanking the Patriots, 6-0, in an OVAC Class 5A boys soccer tournament quarterfinal.

Ben Ferguson secured the hat trick for the third-seeded Bruins, as well as assisting on another goal. Chase Hile had two goals of his own along with an assist. Christian Packer scored the remaining goal.

Devin Cipoletti had three assists on the day. Goalkeeper Sam Mockbee had two saves in the shutout.

Brooke (10-3) meets No. 2 Wheeling Park on Thursday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The winner advances to the championship match at noon Saturday at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville.

BOYS SOCCER

Wheeling Central Advances

CALDWELL — Sixth-seeded Wheeling Central advanced to the semifinals of the OVAC Class 1A-3A tournament Tuesday evening by virtue of a 3-1 victory over third-seeded Caldwell.

The Maroon Knights (4-4-6) received a pair of goals from senior standout Luke Minor. Jeremy Ratcliffe recorded the other Knights' tally. Minor and T Ryncarz both had an assist.

Tino Sperlazza picked up the win in net.

The win sends Central to Thursday's semifinal against top-seeded Linsly.

Stubenville Comes Back Against University

STUEBENVILLE — After trailing at halftime 1-0, Stubenville scored two goals in the second half to advance past the OVAC quarterfinals against the University Hawks, 2-1.

Joey Rice tied the game by connecting in close on an assist from Aidan Morales less than four minutes

into the second half.

With the game knotted at 1-1, Matt Loot raced through the middle of the Hawks' defense and added to his program record scoring total by ripping a low, hard shot past a diving University keeper Connor Montgomery just inside 19 minutes to go.

The Big Red travels to No. 1 seed Morgantown, who had a bye, on Thursday in the semifinals.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Bellaire Sweeps Bridgeport

WOLFHURST — The Big Reds (10-7) rolled by the host Bulldogs by scores of 25-12, 25-19 and 25-15.

Leading the way was Gianna Schmidt with 14 kills and three digs. Sidney Rowson added seven kills, while Ava Marinacci had 14 assists and six digs. Gracelyn Maupin finished with 12 assists and half-a-dozen aces. Madison Miller charted 12 digs.

Tyler Consolidated Outlasts Magnolia

The Silver Knights (7-5) rallied from down two sets to stun the Blue Eagles by scores of 25-27, 15-25, 27-25, 25-21 and 15-12.

Braeden Wall was all over the court with 17 kills, 16 assists, 16 digs, 11 points, six aces and four blocks. Katie Grimm added 15 kills, seven points, six digs and two blocks. Macie Highley had 27 digs and four points, while Mya Fetty recorded 24 assists, six digs and five points. Jules Lattea chipped in 11 kills, eight blocks and a trio of digs.

Wheeling Central Sweeps Madonna

WHEELING — The Maroon Knights (6-7) put the brakes on a four-game skid with a sweep of invading Madonna Tuesday evening by scores of 25-17, 25-11 and 25-16.

Fueling Central were Helene Crall and Sydney Doyle.

They went for 11 and 10 kills, respectively. Doyle also had six aces.

Alexis Hood handed out 19 assists.

(Late Monday)

UL Sweeps Past Cambridge

The Jets continued their impressive run with a clean sweep of Cambridge by the scores of 25-7, 25-3 and 25-12.

Delaney Butler led Union Local with 13 assists, four aces and four digs. Alayna Logan added 10 assists and eight aces, while Laken Vinskovich chartered eight kills and a trio of blocks. Julie Broussard had eight digs; Ameera Saunders six kills; Ella Pietranton six kills; and Emma Yager four aces.

The Jets finished with 34 kills and 19 aces.

Martins Ferry Tops Bellaire

The Purple Riders (9-6) won for the fifth straight time with a 25-16, 25-14 and 25-22 sweep of the Big Reds.

Sydney Koller had 10 digs, seven aces and a like number of kills to lead Martins Ferry.

Lindsey Best contributed 13 kills, eight digs and a pair of aces, while Gianna Chirpas added six kills and three blocks. Hannah Meeker finished with seven digs and five kills.

Zara Harvath led Bellaire with eight digs, four kills and a pair of blocks, while Gracelyn Maupin had 12 assists and a trio of aces.

Gianna Schmidt added nine kills and nine digs. Ava Marinaczi charted eight assists and Allie Ault and Sidney Rowson had six and four kills, respectively.

St. Clairsville Falls To Beaver Local

The Red Devils lost 25-14, 25-14 and 25-23 to the Beavers.

Rachel Finnical had 18 assists, 13 digs and two kills for St. C. Brooke Biancarelli added 10 digs, nine kills and a pair of aces, while Makenna Moran had seven kills, six digs and two blocks.

• Phillies

Continued from Page B1

No doubt, the ballpark will again rock as it did last October. Phillies manager Rob Thomson said a rival coach told him during the playoffs that a game in Philly was "four hours of hell." The Phillies won their first six home playoff games last season, setting the tone for what they called Red October.

Pirates starter Mitch Keller (13-10) tried to play spoiler by taking a no-hitter into the sixth. But on the first pitch of the inning, Keller threw one high and outside and shook his right arm. The training staff came out and Keller tossed a few warmup pitches. On the second pitch, Marsh took him deep for his 11th homer of the season. He still struck out six and has 210 on the season, a franchise record (since 1887) for most by a right-handed pitcher.

Harper tacked on a sacrifice fly in the sixth for a 2-0 lead.

Thomson earned laughs in the aftermath of last season's wild-card clinch. Thomson went to take a swig out of his bottle of bubbly and — doink! Much to the delight of fans who saw the video on social media, the cork was still inside.

• Factory

Continued from Page B1

Loveland has plenty of company again this fall in the conference.

Erick All (Iowa), Corey Dyches (Maryland), Thomas Fidone II (Nebraska), Max Klare (Purdue), Johnny Langan (Rutgers), Brevyn Spann-Ford (Minnesota) and Cade Stover (Ohio State) all join Loveland as Big Ten tight ends who've accounted for more than 15% of their team's catches, according to Sportradar data.

block and can run routes really well," Loveland said, "it's just a pain in the butt for defenses, really." Most Big Ten teams like to employ "12" or "13" personnel packages to buttress their ground game, which means either one running back and two tight ends or one running back and three tight ends. The least glamorous of the skill positions and the most glorified of the blocking roles, the path to becoming a tight end typically has a few different origins.

a receiver or anything, so tight end was my job."

As for teammate Hayden Rucci?

"In youth football, I started as o-line. I did a little fullback. So I just decided to combine 'em and play tight end," Rucci said. "I always had good size and good speed, and I was kind of a natural blocker."

Both Ashcraft and Rucci unequivocally said they picked the Badgers because of their history — and the Big Ten's — of producing pro-caliber

Cincinnati right-hander Hunter Greene matched his shortest start of the season, allowing seven runs in three innings, six of them scoring on homers.

Naylor's three-run homer to right put Cleveland ahead 3-0 in the second, but the Reds answered with four runs in the third on blasts by Maile and Encarnacion-Strand and an RBI triple from Spencer Steer.

The Guardians jumped back in front 6-4 in the bottom half of the third on Calhoun and Andres Gimenez's back-to-back homers. Gimenez left in the seventh after fouling a pitch off his right knee.

TITO APPRECIATION NIGHT

The Guardians are honoring Francona at a pre-game ceremony Wednesday. Fans will receive "Thank you Tito" t-shirts upon entering Progressive Field.

Francona's 919 victories and six postseason appearances are franchise records.

"Once you give out t-shirts, man, you can't be going back," he said. "It was an honor of a lifetime to be here for 11 years. My 11 years here have been so good, I'm grateful for them."

The 64-year-old Francona still hasn't officially announced his departure, but spoke with his players about the situation Tuesday.

"I did take a minute and talk to the guys because I felt like I owed them that," he said.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Reds: SS Matt McLain (right intercostal strain), who was two games into a rehab assignment with Triple-A Louisville, re-aggravated his injury and will not be activated during the regular season. "Matt did the best that he could," manager David Bell said.

Guardians: C Bo Naylor (right thumb bruise) was in the lineup for the first time since Friday against Baltimore. Francona held the rookie out of the final two games of the Orioles series in order to give him a three-day break between appearances.

UP NEXT

Guardians RHP Shane Bieber (5-6, 3.91 ERA) takes on Reds LHP Andrew Abbott (8-5, 3.70 ERA). Bieber, the 2020 AL Cy Young winner, will make his second start since returning from a two-month stint on the injured list with right elbow inflammation.

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Park To OVAC Tournament Finals



Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Park's Audrey Lantz (1) looks for a goal as Steubenville goalkeeper Mady Thacker makes a diving save during Tuesday night's OVAC Class 5A girls soccer quarterfinal match at Wheeling Island Stadium. Lantz, however, struck for four goals and assisted on two others as the Patriots rolled to a 10-1 victory.

Patriots Roll Past Big Red In Quarterfinals, Skip Straight To Championship

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - It's not very often, if at all, that a team wins a quarterfinal tournament game - or match in this case - and advances straight to the championship. It just so happened Tuesday night on the pitch inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

Following a 10-1 rout of No. 6 Steubenville, Wheeling Park girls head coach Carrie Hannah informed her team that instead of traveling to Parkersburg on Thursday to face the second-seeded South Patriots, they will be staying home and playing for the OVAC Class 5A championship on Saturday at noon.

"Parkersburg South pulled out due to too many injuries. They said they had seven girls injured and their best move was to pull out and get healthy," OVAC Soccer Director Gary Watt said in a telephone interview Tuesday night. "Wheeling Park will automatically

advance to the championship match."

Ironically, Wheeling Park blanked Parkersburg South 1-0 in early September on a Merritt Delk penalty kick in the 78th minute.

The third-seeded Patriots (12-2-1) will meet the winner of top-seeded Morgantown and No. 3 Brooke (they play Thursday night in Morgantown) at noon on Saturday inside Wheeling Island Stadium. Wheeling Park will be seeking its first OVAC title since 2017 and its 11 overall.

Senior Audrey Lantz has taken on a new role this season for the Patriots. She has moved from defender to striker and the switch proved dividends as she found the net four times and assisted on two others. Delk, her high-scoring linemate who is headed to the University of Toledo, added a brace and three assists.

"We've been talking about this senior class finishing

strong like they started as freshmen. Audrey actually got every game-winning goal on our way to the Class AAA state championship in 2020," Hanna said of the senior. "She's been a trooper and played everywhere for us. She played in the back last year and we said we needed to get that connection together up front.

"We needed another scorer up front because Merritt is receiving all kinds of attention, so Audrey has added that spark."

Also scoring for the Patriots were Lily Hanna (2 goals) and Kathryn Prather (goal). Charting assists were Allison Thomas, Caroline L'Ecuyer, Lauren Spears and Elliana McCabe. Goalkeeper Hailey Hastings recorded five saves on six shots. The sophomore didn't face a Big Red shot until Sagan Smarella found the net in the 63rd minute. The assist went to Gianna Thomas.

Please see PARK, Page 16



AP Photo

Philadelphia Phillies second baseman Bryson Stott, right, throws to first after forcing out Pittsburgh Pirates' Henry Davis at second on a double play hit into by Liover Peguero during the sixth inning of their Tuesday game.

Phillies Beat Pirates In Extras, Clinch NL Wild-Card Spot

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - The National League champion Philadelphia Phillies clinched a wild-card berth, beating the Pittsburgh Pirates 3-2 in 10 innings on Tuesday night on Johan Rojas' RBI single that set off a wild celebration in the outfield.

Rojas' single off Pirates reliever David Bednar (3-3) scored pinch-runner Cristian Pache and sent the crowd of more than 30,000 fans into a frenzy. "Phillies CLINCHED Wild Card" flashed on the scoreboard and the Phillies mobbed each other in celebration.

Jeff Hoffman (5-2) tossed a scoreless 10th for the win.

The Phillies were set for another wild clubhouse bash after clinching series victories in the NL Division Series and NLCS at home last season. They lost the World Series to Houston in six games last year and carried the weight of unfinished business into this year.

Step 1, complete.

Pittsburgh's Bryan Reynolds hit a solo shot in the seventh and Henry Davis hit one off All-Star closer Craig Kimbrel that tied the game at 2 in the eighth.

Brandon Marsh homered for the Phillies.

Phillies starter Aaron Nola,

Philadelphia's longest-tenured player, had earned the win in last season's wild-card clincher against Houston. Nola struck out Ji Hwan Bae in the sixth of this one to reach 200 strikeouts for the third straight season. Nola, set to enter free agency at the end of the season, tipped his cap as he walked off the mound to a standing ovation after he fanned eight in 6 2/3 innings.

The Phillies celebrated their first clinch of a postseason spot at Citizens Bank Park since Sept. 18, 2011, when they won their fifth straight NL East title.

A decade of lean years followed, but Bryce Harper's celebrated arrival in 2019 helped usher in excitement, enthusiasm for the future and eventually the postseason. The Phillies added free-agent shortstop Trea Turner this season and his second-half surge propelled the Phillies to the wild card.

They are poised to earn the No. 1 seed and host all games next week in the second year of the NL wild-card series.

No doubt, the ballpark will again rock as it did last October. Phillies manager Rob Thomson said a rival coach told him during the playoffs that a game in Philly was "four hours of hell."

Please see PIRATES, Page 16

Patriots Qualify Two For States



Photo Provided

Wheeling Park senior Campbell Koegler and sophomore Andrew Pennybacker, pictured, each shot a 78 at Pines Country Club in the Region 1 tournament on Monday. Both qualified for the state meet next week, Oct. 3 and 4, at the Speidel Golf Club at Oglebay. Wheeling Park finished third as a team, while Morgantown finished first, their first-ever Region 1 title. John Marshall finished fourth, led by Brandt Blake

Ferry's Hancock, Lude, St. C's Baker Qualify for District Championships

By MIKE HUGHES
For The Intelligencer

CARROLLTON - Martins Ferry came a few strokes away from pushing its full girls team through the district tournament during Tuesday's Division II Girls Sectional championship at Carroll Meadows in Carrollton.

Garaway ran away with the team championship after the entirety of the Pirates' all-senior team finished in the Top 13, including Brooklyn Numbers, who tied Carrollton's Claire Hostetler for medalist honors with a 71.

The Pirates edged the Carrollton Warriors 295-333, with Tuscarawas Valley (343), Fort Frye (377), Meadowbrook (388) and River View (400) rounding out the Top 6.

While the top six teams

District Championships at the Cambridge Country Club, the Purple Riders were three strokes off the pace for the sixth spot, coming in seventh at 403.

All was not lost for the Riders, however, as head coach Mike Beck's Purple pushed two individuals through to Cambridge.

Junior Julia Hancock advanced during her third attempt at the districts after missing the cut by five strokes as a sophomore. That day, Hancock shot a disappointing 51 on the front nine at Carroll Meadows, but no such problem existed Tuesday.

Hancock shot a 40 on the front nine and 42 on the back to finish with an 82 and a three-way tie for 13th.

"She was pretty confident coming in and I believe she



Photo Provided

Martins Ferry's Julia Hancock and Danielle Lude, pictured after qualifying for the district tournament Tuesday at Carroll Meadows in Carrollton, Ohio. Hancock shot an 82 while

STEUBENVILLE - After trailing at halftime 1-0, Steubenville scored two goals in the second half to advance past the OVAC quarterfinals against the University Hawks, 2-1.

Joey Rice tied the game by connecting in close on an assist from Aidan Morales less than four minutes into the second half.

With the game knotted at 1-1, Matt Loot raced through the middle of the Hawks' defense and added to his program record scoring total by ripping a low, hard shot past a diving University keeper Connor Montgomery just inside 19 minutes to go.

The Big Red travels to No. 1 seed Morgantown, who had a bye, on Thursday in the semifinals.

VOLLEYBALL

Bellaire Sweeps Bridgeport

WOLFURST - The Big Reds (10-7) rolled by the host Bulldogs by scores of 25-12, 25-19 and 25-15.

Leading the way was Gianna Schmidt with 14 kills and three digs. Sidney Rowson added seven kills, while Ava Marinacci had 14 assists and six digs. Gracelyn Maupin finished with 12 assists and half-a-dozen aces. Madison Miller charted 12 digs.

Tyler Consolidated Outlasts Magnolia

charter eight kills and a trio of blocks. Julie Broussard had eight digs; Ameera Saunders six kills; Ella Pietranton six kills; and Emma Yager four aces.

Martins Ferry Tops Bellaire

The Purple Riders (9-6) won for the fifth straight time with a 25-16, 25-14 and 25-22 sweep of the Big Reds.

Sydney Koller had 10 digs, seven aces and a like number of kills to lead Martins Ferry. Lindsey Best contributed 13 kills, eight digs and a pair of aces, while Giana Chirpas added six kills and three blocks. Hannah Meeker finished with seven digs and five kills.

Zara Harvath led Bellaire with eight digs, four kills and a pair of blocks, while Gracelyn Maupin had 12 assists and a trio of aces. Gianna Schmidt added nine kills and nine digs. Ava Marinaczi charted eight assists and Allie Ault and Sidney Rowson had six and four kills, respectively.

St. Clairsville Falls To Beaver Local

The Red Devils lost 25-14, 25-14 and 25-23 to the Beavers. Rachel Finnical had 18 assists, 13 digs and two kills for St. C. Brooke Biancarelli added 10 digs, nine kills and a pair of aces, while Makenna Moran had seven kills, six digs and two blocks.

At the end of the day, they are going to find out the truth. With me, it's the first day [that the cards are laid open on the table].

He was seen as someone who could help make

guy who makes the play. "It was definitely an exciting moment for my teammates and myself to finish the game like that." And, he says, his days as a quarterback helped

could help when Garret Greene went down? "Ah, no," he said, flashing a big grin at the thought, before adding, "but I definitely was ready if they needed me."

DISTRICT

(Continued from Page 15)

shot a 40 on the front, she was ready to go and had put last year behind her," Beck said. "She's worked so hard to get here and I'm happy for her because she narrowly missed last year."

Meanwhile, senior newcomer Danielle Lude continues to impress as she qualified for the districts in her first season of competitive golf.

A standout on the Riders' basketball and softball teams, Lude decided to pick up golf as a junior recreationally and for her senior season, decided to join the team.

The result? Lude shot an 81, tying for 11th place and earning one of the six individual qualifying spots to join her teammate.

"This is her first year fully playing," Beck said. "She's just an athlete and it comes naturally too her. It's kind of easier to coach her because she's raw and new to the game and she doesn't have those bad habits you have to break her out of. Plus she's a good listener. She does whatever you ask her to do."

"She's like a sponge." They will be joined in

Cambridge by St. Clairsville sophomore Olivia Baker, whose 76 was good enough for a three-way tie for sixth place with Garaway's Sydney Porysi and West Holmes' Kenzie Woods.

Baker started strong on the back nine and came out firing a 35, but struggled a bit on the front nine with a 41. Still, by that point, scores were coming and Baker and Red Devils' head coach Ryan Clifford knew there was no need to push the panic button.

Baker was moving on. "She started on the back nine and by the time we got to the front, we started getting back scores," Clifford said. "There's a three-hole stretch that's the hardest part of the course which wasn't great. It's survive and advance, but we'll take a 76 all day."

Baker came seemingly out of nowhere a season ago when, as a freshman, she advanced all the way to the Division II state championship match.

Now a household name in local golf circles, many are expecting Baker to equal her feet from a season ago, if not build upon.

Still, the 76 is also an improvement — six strokes worth, actually — from last season when Baker shot an 82 at Carroll Meadows to finish in a tie for 7th.

Clifford tries to keep his sophomore focused on the task ahead while blocking out all other distractions.

"We try not to talk about last year very much," Clifford said. "Last year, no one knew who she was, but now she's the defending (district) champion and she's worn that pressure a bill all year but I think she's finally getting used to playing with that burden."

Hancock snagged the final of the six individual qualifying spots, 11 shots back was local duo Olivia Poziviak of St. C. and Harrison Central's Kaily Banal. Banal actually qualified as a sophomore for the district, but missed the cut this time. Poziviak narrowly missed a spot last year and will no doubt be gunning for one in 2024.

River's Jamie Smith shot a 98 to finish in 36th to lead the Pilots' contingent.

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 15)

The Phillies won their first six home playoff games last season, setting the tone for what they called Red October.

Pirates starter Mitch Keller (13-10) tried to play spoiler by taking a no-hitter into the sixth. But on the first pitch of the inning, Keller threw one high and outside and shook his right arm. The training staff came out and Keller tossed a few warmup pitches. On the second pitch, Marsh took him deep for his 11th homer of the season. He still struck out six and has 210 on the season, a franchise record (since 1887) for most by a right-handed pitcher.

Harper tacked on a sacrifice fly in the sixth for a 2-0 lead.

Thomson earned laughs

in the aftermath of last season's wild-card clinch. Thomson went to take a swig out of his bottle of bubbly and — doink! Much to the delight of fans who saw the video on social media, the cork was still inside.

"I didn't know that anybody knew until I got back in my office and my daughter texted me," he said ahead of Tuesday's game.

Thomson joked he learned his lesson and was ready to uncork before he took a swig.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Phillies 1B Rhys Hoskins remained a long shot to make the postseason roster as he recovers from a torn ACL in his left knee. Thomson said Tuesday that the slugger still is not likely to be

get cleared and activated ahead of the World Series, if at all.

HAPPY RETURNS

The Pirates recalled infielder Nick Gonzales from Triple-A Indianapolis. The 24-year-old Gonzales finished the 2023 season leading all Pirates minor leaguers in extra base hits (49) while ranking fourth in batting (.281) and total bases (191) and was third in slugging (.507) and OPS (.886).

This is Gonzales' second stint with the Pirates this season (June 23 to August 3).

UP NEXT

The Pirates send RHP Johan Ovedo (9-14, 4.12 ERA) to the mound against Phillies LHP Ranger Suarez (4-6, 3.89 ERA).

PARK

(Continued from Page 15)

"Knowing just what I know about Delk, she's going NCAA Division I, she is an amazing player," Steubenville (4-7) head coach Annie Cutri said. "We tried to shut her down by man-marking her, but she still got past us. We knew they were a strong team, and we're a really young team that is trying to figure things out on our side."

"Like I've been saying all season, our girls won't

quit," Cutri noted. "They didn't quit tonight and I'm very proud of them for that."

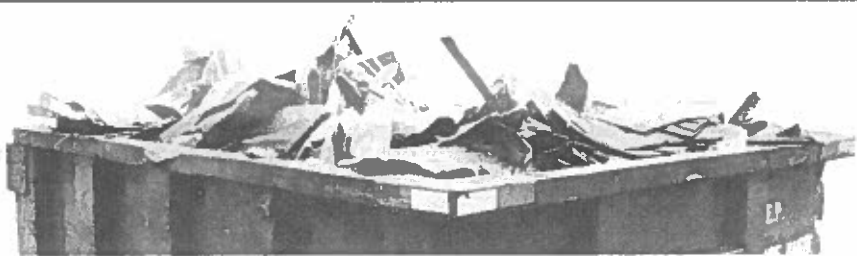
Cutri was also pleased with the effort of backup goalkeeper Tessa Rusnak who recorded 10 saves in the second half. Rusnak replaced Mady Thacker who notched eight saves, some of the highlight reel variety.

"She's only a freshman. She did all the things we asked of her,"

Cutri praised. "It's not easy coming into a match like this, so I'm proud of her."

Brooke 2, University 1
WELLSBURG - Ella McCullough scored on a direct kick and Lucia Rubio made it 2-0 in the Bruins favor, but they had to weather a strong challenge by the Hawks down the stretch.

Goalkeeper Franki Neff recorded 12 saves for Brooke (9-5).



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| Glen Dale | City Garage | October 20 & 21, 2023 |
| Moundsville | Sam Shaw Walking Trail | October 20 & 21, 2023 |
| Cameron | Elementary School | October 28, 2023 |
| Roberts | Ridge VFD Headquarters | October 28, 2023 |
| Sherrard | Jr. High Hilltop Elementary | November 4, 2023 |
| Limestone | Rt. 250 VFD Headquarters | November 4, 2023 |

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Photo by Lauren Florence

St. Clairsville's Lanie Gardner races down the field, ball in-tow, with Indian Creek's Aubrey Duggan on her hip during the Red Devils' 3-0 win at Red Devils Stadium in the OVAC quarterfinals.

Red Devils Advance Past Creek

By MIKE HUGHES
For The Intelligencer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The last time Indian Creek made the trek south to St. Clairsville, head coach Danny Lawrence's Redskins returned home after a 7-0 shutout.

The 'Skins were shutout again in an OVAC quarterfinal round matchup at Red Devils Stadium, but Lawrence saw vast improvement in his team's play, and effort, from that mid-August opener until present.

While the 3-0 loss sends Creek into the consolation matchup with East Liverpool via the Pottery 9-1 loss against No. 3 seed Beaver Local, Lawrence came away glad with his team's effort. "I told them before that (Monday) was a litmus test," Lawrence said as his team fell to 3-6-1. "Week one when we played, it didn't go well at all and today we gave up three goals in a game instead of three goals in a half."

"We are a better team than we were in August and that was definitely what I wanted to see, how we stacked up."

"It's a mental thing coming down here sometimes, and I was worried that we might check out before the game, and then it started to rain a little bit. But I was happy with our performance."

The same can't be said for the

opposite sideline.

St. Clairsville head coach Wes Stoner wasn't upset, per se, as his team did win 3-0 and advance to the Class 4A semifinal matchup with top-seeded Weir on Wednesday.

A shutout win is a shutout win and he felt his team dominated throughout, holding a large advantage in possession time in the Indian Creek end.

But finishing has been an issue for his team recently, and Monday was no different.

"We're still not finishing," Stoner said. "We dominated the whole game and controlled it start to finish, but we probably had 30-some chances and we're not finishing and it's a little concerning."

"It's a win, so I'm not going to complain about a 3-0 win, but we can't miss those chances against a better team."

Creek keeper Elizabeth Hope made 14 saves on what amounted to far greater than 20 shots toward the net. Some sailed high, some sailed wide and 14 made their way into Hope's waiting gloves — and three made it past.

The first came in the second half on what would be the first of multiple, multi-shot opportunities directly in front of Hope.

Hope saved the first attempt, and second, but St. C. sophomore Maxim Lussier fired the third out

of the air with a sideways swing of her leg for the first score. That was with 21:83 in the first half.

The next came with 28:25 left in the match off the foot of senior co-captain Delaney Florence. The final goal was another rebound opportunity with freshman Isabella Cunningham connecting with 11:44 left in regulation.

St. C. will need to finish on more of its opportunities Wednesday in Weirton, as the Red Riders aren't going to allow that many opportunities in front of keeper Reyna Hoover.

"The first time we played them, we lacked effort," Stoner said. "That's not something I or (assistant coach) Alyssa (Otto) can coach. If they show up with effort, it could be a lot closer. But we also have some things we need to tweak."

"We moved the ball really well (Monday), and we can do that against Weir, but we have to do it faster because they are a very quick team. It'll be tough for sure."

The win Monday gave Stoner his 100th career victory as the girls' coach at his alma mater. Stone took over the program in 2013 and has guided one of the school's more successful programs since.

Please see DEVILS, Page 10

Marchiol Thrust Under The Spotlight For Energized WVU

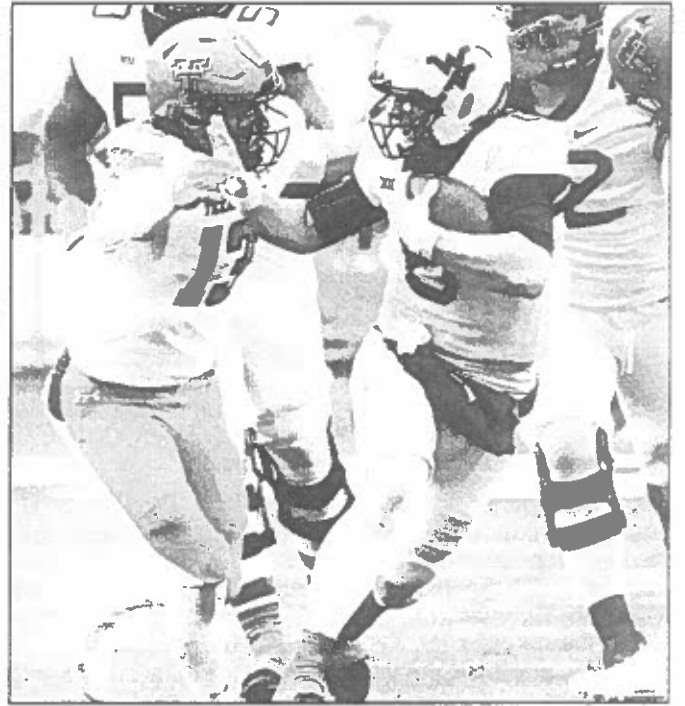


Photo by Frank Salucci/BlueGoldNews.com

Mountaineer quarterback Nicco Marchiol (#8) tries to fend off Texas Tech's Ben Roberts.

By BOB HERTZEL
WV News

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — He is football's Bruce Springsteen and Taylor Swift; Tiger Woods and Michael Jordan.

He is the quarterback, and when he walks into a room, he fills it with his presence, just as those superstars do.

Even in West Virginia, where the All-American is the center, Zach Frazier, the center of attention is the quarterback, at the present moment, Nicco Marchiol.

On the field, everything he does is done out in the open. From the moment when the ball is snapped to him until he makes his judgments, his decisions, until he runs or throws or hands off or pitches out, 50,000 to 60,000 are focused on him.

But at the position, it is what fans don't see, what the TV cameras can't see, that molds him into the player he is.

Today we go not into the pass completions or interceptions, not into incompletions or long runs, but instead into the mind of Nicco Marchiol,

who became a starter with a leg injury to Garrett Greene and who has had extensive playing time in three games since he arrived on campus — Oklahoma State, Pitt and Texas Tech.

WVU has won all three, the latest a grueling 20-13 victory over Texas Tech on Saturday night to go 3-1 on the year.

He's still young, a redshirt freshman, and as such, still learning ... learning about playing and learning about communicating. We're not talking about communicating with his teammates but with the media and his fans.

Right now, he is refreshingly open with his deepest, innermost thoughts and emotions and after his first start at home under difficult circumstances in which he made his share of mistakes and performed enough heroics at the most critical of moments to produce a key victory he shared what goes on throughout a week in the mind of a major college quarterback.

Please see MARCHIOL, Page 10

Shadyside Girls Take Gold In Cameron Invitational

NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

CAMERON — In one of the more unique annual events of the cross country season, the Shadyside girls and Parkersburg South boys cross country teams placed first in the Wild and Wet Cross Country Invitational at Cameron High School on Saturday, Sept. 23.

In an unorthodox, challenging course with multiple creek crossings baked into the race path, the Shadyside Tigers girls placed two runners in the top five of the 41-woman race to finish atop the competition, including a first-place finish from Tigers freshman Chloe Meholovitch.



Photo Provided

The Shadyside girls cross country team, pictured with the first-place trophy from the Wild and Wet Cross Country Invitational. On the Tigers is freshman Chloe Meholovitch, freshman Maya Filburn, freshman Laken Miller, junior Maddie Ringer, junior Val Boltz, sophomore Cady Weber, and junior Addie Sims.

South's first-place finisher, Marshall junior, Cameron

Blake Named Softball Coach At John Marshall

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

GLEN DALE — Rob Blake has been named the head softball coach at John Marshall after Ed West retired following the Monarchs run to the W.Va. Class AAA state championship last spring.

However, Blake is not new to the program one bit. In fact, his four daughters have played softball at John Marshall, with twins Abby and Anna both earning first-team all-state status during their playing days, and his youngest — Ava — is a senior and has already committed to Marshall University. The oldest, Aubrey, played from 2013-15 while the twins played from 2017-20.

"All four of my daughters have played at John Marshall," Rob Blake said. "I even coached here a year when I didn't have a daughter on the team."

"I've been at John Marshall 11 going on 12 years now," he added. "I've coached softball for 21 years. My oldest was 5 when I started."



ROB BLAKE

excited about the possibilities here at John Marshall. We only lost two starters to graduation from the state championship team.

"We've developed a new identity this year. I coached the team in that three-week period where I'm allowed to and we came up with this new identity," he continued. "They are buying in and playing fall ball, so I sit back and evaluate. They are playing pretty well."

four other individuals qualified on Monday at the Cadiz Country Club for the Ohio Division II boys golf district tournament next week at Eaglestix Golf Course in Zanesville.

St. Clairsville, which advanced to the state meet last fall, shot a 300 to easily outdistance Steubenville by 21 strokes. Barnesville was third at 335 and West Muskingum fourth at 337. Buckeye Local just missed at 361.

Foster was the sectional medalist with a 69. Also heading to the district are Mavrik Malin (74), Andrew Abel (76) and Evan Fix (81). Ethan Turner was the fifth player at 82.

The Big Red were led by Christopher Elliott with a 75. Nick Nurczyk followed with an 80 while Waylon Hayes carded an 81. Bubby Reese was the fourth player at 85. Evan Liggett shot 100.

Leading the Shamrocks

70. Hayden Hreadway (82), Ayden Van Horn (85) and Caden Sellers (92) were the top 4. Graham Spence shot a 94.

Reid Lemity's 78 paced the Tornados.

Also making the cut were Buckeye Local's Preston Lindsay (84) who won a playoff between East Liverpool's Preston Dawson (84) and Cambridge's Jackson Reed (84). Reed was the odd man out.

The Cincinnati defense was outstanding. Stafford was sacked twice by defensive end Trey Hendrickson, and Wilson intercepted him once in each half, the second two-interception game of the four-year linebacker's career.

"Our defense kept us right in this thing,"

"I thought the defense kept us in the game the whole night, and I thought it was really unfortunate, especially early on where we had to settle for field goals where we had some of the looks and some of the opportunities to be able to execute, and we just weren't able to get it done."

RING OF HONOR

Rams: OL Alaric Jackson left late in the first half with a thigh injury and didn't return. ... OL Joe Noteboom (knee) went out in the third quarter and didn't return.

UP NEXT

Rams: At Indianapolis (2-1) on Sunday. Bengals: Plays Sunday at Tennessee (1-2).

MARCHIOL

(Continued from Page 9)

We begin at the key moment in the game, a moment after Texas Tech had just scored to narrow the margin to 13-10 for WVU. It was time for him to take the ball and try to answer and, as the defense came to the bench, the veteran Sean Martin approached him.

"Sean comes off the field after that touchdown and he got after me a little bit," Marchiol revealed. "He got me fired up and said, 'Hey, this is it and this is on you. What are you going to do?'"

It was a challenge: a textbook definition for the young quarterback of what this Big 12, Power 5 college football is all about and how the quarterback, be he named Marchiol, Greene, Brady or Maholmes, carries the ultimate responsibility of winning or losing.

"I perform a little better when there's that tension, when it's 'This is your moment, what are you going to do with it?'" Marchiol said.

Took the game into his teeth like a police dog grabs hold of an escaping suspect.

He carried the ball on first down and while he gained no yardage there was a facemask call on Texas Tech.

Two plays later, on second and 9, he rushed for 17 yards and first down. Then he threw for 15 yards to Preston Fox for another first down. Then to CJ Donaldson for 8.

Next came a key play, one he didn't make, having Fox open downfield but badly underthrowing him. Fox, however, drew a pass interference call as he slowed to come back for the ball.

Two plays later Marchiol threw to tight end Kole Taylor for a 7-yard touchdown.

Marchiol had shown his good and bad sides, but in

the end, it was seven points, enough to assure victory.

The pass to Fox might have been a touchdown if completed, but Marchiol let it roll off his back like the rain that was falling was rolling off his helmet.

"I usually come back with the same message every time. 'It's a long game. It's four quarters. We're not the only ones that make mistakes. Their defense made mistakes tonight. Our defense made mistakes tonight. Every unit made mistakes.'

"It's about capitalizing on those mistakes; exposing where they're weak. I think we happened to hit them where they ain't. It's that next-play mentality. There's always going to be another drive and if there's not, there's those clutch moments."

Let's go back now into the early days of the week, days when Marchiol was pretty sure Greene would not make the start and it would be his.

Nerves? You bet there were.

"I personally think if you're not nervous you don't love what you're doing," he explained. "You have to have that fear of failure, of letting those down around you."

By game time, the pre-kick-off pressure was mounting, rain was beginning to fall, and it was cool. His parents were in for the game, as they have been for every game he's played since he was 5 or 6.

"Obviously it wasn't the best elements. Obviously, I didn't want to play in the rain. You make things happen. You trust the people around you, I trust CJ Donaldson, I trust Cortez Braham, I trust Kole Taylor. You trust them to make plays. That makes my job easy."

You hope for a fast start, and he got one. On his first play, he threw

a 9-yard completion; his second play produced a 16-yard run.

But that drive stalled when he sacked on third down and then, on the next possession, he made just a terrible read and was intercepted.

"Tough situation for a young quarterback," he would admit after the game. "You have two positive plays to start the game off and you are on top of the world and think you've got them. Then you figure out that they got scholarships, too. They got players, too."

"No. 24, didn't even see him. Just an outstanding play by him. He had great coverage the whole route."

This can be troubling to a young QB, turning his whole night around, but he avoided that.

"You get to that moment and, all right, you think 'That play's over. How are we going to respond to this?' You have to have that one-play memory. You got to have the memory of a goldfish. That's how you play quarterback."

The memory of a goldfish ... And so the game went on with Marchiol having big plays and some the size of a goldfish.

"Obviously, not a good quarterback performance on my end," he said, despite the win and the praise that was being heaped upon him. "I got the reps all week. There's no excuse for some of the mistakes I made out there. But what matters is the critical moments, those 'have-to-have moments' ... fourth downs, big-time catches. Those are the things that matter in the Big 12."

"When you are playing in the Big 12, it's a toss-up every week. This is one of the best leagues in the nation. You don't know what's going to happen from moment to moment."

BLAKE

(Continued from Page 9)

for the West Liberty team this fall. Returnees A.C. Cumberland and Kaylee White will fill from inside the circle.

"The cupboards aren't bare. We've told them if you hit your spots, we're going to get them out," Blake noted. "We return nearly our entire infield and outfield. Our defense will be the key."

Sophomore catcher Masyn Inclan is also a big cog for the Monarchs, not only with her handling of the pitchers, but with her bat.

"Masyn had 48 hits. That's unheard of," Blake said. "Right now we are pretty solid 1-8 in hitting, and we've got some other girls that are getting there. It will be interesting."

Assistant coach Rod Swoger is returning, but, according to Blake, he has added some experience with three new coaches.

"We have added Curt Mele, Donnie Gillis and former Monarch Kylie Benson," Blake said. "Curt has coached at Bishop Donahue, Linsly and Martins Ferry. That's a pretty strong resume. Gillis will be our head JV coach and varsity assistant. Kylie will help with both."

Blake knows his team will have a target on its back every time it takes the field as defending state champions, but that's okay with him.

"We've talked about that with the girls. We don't have Kaden any more so teams are going to think we're just going to roll over, but that's not going to be the case," he stressed. "We're going to be the underdogs, but that's the mentality we're taking. Let them all find out. We're still pretty good."

GOLD

(Continued from Page 9)

Cameron's Jenelle Shabdue finished sixth in her home turf, Tyler's Lilly Haught finished seventh, John Marshall's Taylee Sipin finished eighth, and Wheeling Central Catholic's Ellie Manning finished 10th.

John Marshall finished second, Parkersburg South third and Wheeling Central Catholic fourth in the girls race. Eight other schools competed but did not have enough finishers to qualify as a team, including Tyler, Magnolia, Cameron, Buckeye Local, Paden City and St. John.

On the boys' side of the action, Parkersburg South finished first, John Marshall second, Tyler third, Brooke fourth and Wheeling Central Catholic fifth, Magnolia, Cameron,

Paden City, Shadyside and Buckeye Local were among the eight schools who competed but did not qualify as a team.

The Maroon Knights' A Scott finished first among 51-man field, the senior running a 17:18.38, putting comfortable margin between he and second-place An Kimble (17:34.13) from Ty Consolidated, Magnolia junior Landen Davis (17:35.12) finished third, Brooke freshman Gavin Scott (18:50.87) finished fourth, and Tyler freshman Travis Moore (18:52.75) finished fifth.

Paden City's Riley Dennis finished sixth, John Marshall's Aidan Nelson finished eighth and Tyler's Brody Nice finished ninth to round out the top 10.

DEVILS

(Continued from Page 9)

Beaver Local advanced to face No. 2 seed Oak Glen, also on Wednesday. The Beavers previously lost to the Golden Bears, 3-1 back on August 28 at home.

The winners of Wednesday's semifinal contests will play for the

OVAC 4A Championship on Saturday at 10 a.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium. **St. Clairsville 3, Indian Creek 0**

1 - Goalkeeper: Hope (14 saves). S - Goals: Lussier, Florence, Cunningham. Goalkeeper: Kyer (2 saves).

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DEVILS

(Continued from Page 9)

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SPORTS

Monday,

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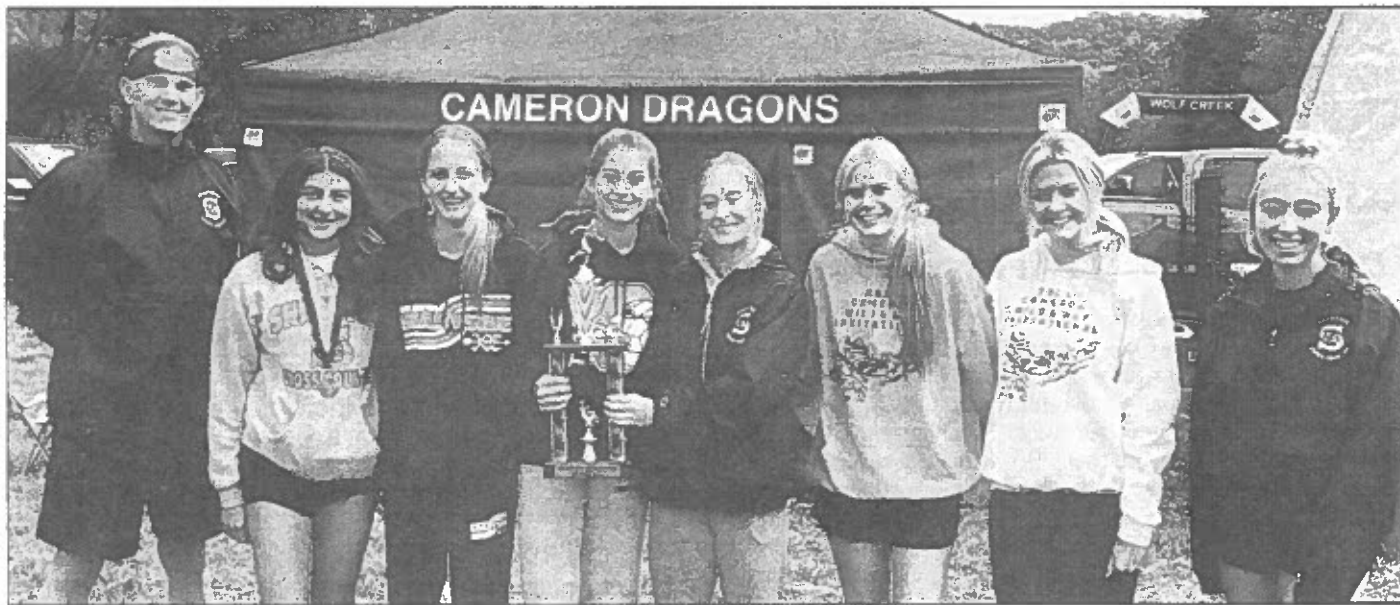


Photo Provided

THE SHADYSIDE girls cross country team, pictured with the first-place trophy from the Wild and Wet Cross Country Invitational. On the Tigers is freshman Chloe Meholovitch, freshman Maya Filburn, freshman Laken Miller, junior Maddie Ringer, junior Val Boltz, sophomore Cady Weber, and junior Addie Sims.

Shadyside girls take gold in Cameron Invitational

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

CAMERON — In one of the more unique annual events of the cross country season, the Shadyside girls and Parkersburg South boys cross country teams placed first in the Wild and Wet Cross Country Invitational at Cameron High School on Saturday, Sept. 23.

In an unorthodox, challenging course with multiple creek crossings baked into the race path, the Shadyside Tigers girls placed two runners in the top five of the 41-woman race to finish atop the competition, including a first-place finish

from Tigers freshman Chloe Meholovitch.

Meholovitch ran the race in 22:26.49, powering through to the gold just under two seconds in front of Parkersburg South's Lexi McKinney. Tyler Consolidated's Lilly Dillaman (24:11.83), fellow Shadyside freshman Maya Filburn (24:47.52) and John Marshall junior Cameron McCord (24:49.87) finished third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

Cameron's Jenelle Shabdue finished sixth in her home turf. Tyler's Lilly Haught finished seventh, John Marshall's Taylee Sipin finished eighth, and Wheeling Central Catholic's Ellie

Manning finished 10th.

John Marshall finished second, Parkersburg South third and Wheeling Central Catholic fourth in the girls race. Eight other schools competed but did not have enough finishers to qualify as a team, including Tyler, Magnolia, Cameron, Buckeye Local, Paden City and St. John.

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The Maroon Knights' Aidan Scott finished first among the 51-man field, the senior running a 17:18.38, putting a comfortable margin between he and second-place Amos Kimble (17:34.13) from Tyler Consolidated. Magnolia junior Landen Davis (17:35.12) finished third, Brooke freshman Gavin Scott (18:50.87) finished fourth, and Tyler freshman Travis Moore (18:52.75) finished fifth.

Paden City's Riley Dennis finished sixth, John Marshall's Aidan Nelson finished eighth and Tyler's Brody Nice finished ninth to round out the top 10.

The Beallsville Blue Devils best Valley in overtime

By **MARK DIERKES**
For The Times Leader

BEALLSVILLE — Celebrating homecoming at Dave Caldwell Field is one thing, but knocking off West Virginia's previously-unbeaten Valley 36-30, Friday in an overtime thriller, is a giant step in the Blue Devils' chase for a Division VII playoff spot.

Coach Rusty Bondy's 5-1 record Big Blue took the opening kickoff and drove the distance for a TD, built a 22-6 halftime lead with some stout defensive play, but Valley and its talented junior QB Gavin Derby stormed back to force OT.

In the extra time, Beallsville relied on senior Conner Hagan, who led the hosts with 108 rush stripes. The senior carried twice, the second a seven-yard TD dash for a 36-30 advantage as the PAT run failed.

Valley kept it in Derby's hands on their possession with totes of three and four yards, and after a one-yard loss, a fourth down pass fell incomplete to set off a wild celebration on the cowbell-ringing home side.

"We played with a lot of heart, but that number 3 (Derby) is a stud quarterback and probably the best QB we'll

see," said Bondy, whose club is primed to end a 10-year playoff drought. "Our O-line has come a long way and has helped our QB (Garrett Perkins) tremendously."

"We wanted to play ball control, but coaches (John) Yocum and (Rusty) Lucas wanted to hit them right off the bat on the opening drive," Bondy added. "our D-backs showed improvement and we had a big INT from a freshman (Hunter Cole) to set up a late first half TD."

Beallsville needed five plays to open the scoring as Reed Smith took a late pitch from Perkins for 38 to the Valley 23-yard line. After a Perkins keeper for 19, the Devil senior QB kept for a one-yard TD at 9:38. He added the PAT for an 8-0 lead.

"We only have one senior and we've been slow out of the gates," said Valley coach Logan Miller, "but give Beallsville credit. I'm disappointed in the result, but not discouraged by our second half effort."

The 'Jacks hit paydirt with 6:36 left in the half when Derby found senior Dallas Preat for a 21-yard TD catch. The PAT pass failed to leave it 8-6.

The hosts responded after Smith's 24-yard kick return to his 41. Big Blue

stayed with the infantry attack and it paid off at 3:18 when Smith scored from the 13 with two key blocks from Hagan and James Palmer to make it 14-6.

A major turning point came when freshman corner Cole intercepted a Derby pass at his 23 and nearly took it the distance before he was pulled down at the Valley 15.

Perkins kept twice, the second a five-yard TD scamper with 26 seconds showing until halftime. Hagan's bonus run made it 22-6.

After a third quarter punt exchange, Valley used Derby's zigzagging effort to score from 21 yards out with 4:33 on the clock. The do-it-all Derby, who led all rushers with 169, added the PAT to slice it to 22-14.

A misplayed kick return was bobbled inside the hosts' 15 and pinned the Devils at its nine-yard line. Valley forced a punt and began its next TD march from the BHS 41.

Derby connected arials to Landen Jerico and Preat to move to the 20, where the elusive 'Jacks' QB tacked on a TD from the four at 10:34 of the fourth. His keeper on the PAT tied it 22-all.

See **BEALLSVILLE**, Page B2

St. Clairsville advances past Indian Creek

By **MIKE HUGHES**
For The Times Leader

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The last time Indian Creek made the trek south to St. Clairsville, head coach Danny Lawrence's Redskins returned home after a 7-0 shutout.

The 'Skins were shutout again in an OVAC quarterfinal round matchup at Red Devils Stadium, but Lawrence saw vast improvement in his team's play, and effort, from that mid-August opener until present.

While the 3-0 loss sends Creek into the consolation matchup with East Liverpool via the Potters 9-1 loss against No. 3 seed Beaver Local, Lawrence came away glad with his team's effort.

"I told them before that (Monday) was a litmus test," Lawrence said as his team fell to 3-6-1. "Week one when we played, it didn't go well at all and today we gave up three goals in a game instead of three goals in a half."

"We are a better team than we were in August and that was definitely what I wanted to see, how we stacked up."

"It's a mental thing coming down here sometimes, and I was worried that we might check out before the game, and then it started to rain a little bit. But I was happy with our performance."

The same can't be said for the opposite sideline.

St. Clairsville head coach Wes Stoner wasn't upset, per se, as his team did win 3-0 and advance to the Class 4A semifinal matchup with top-seeded Weir on Wednesday.

A shutout win is a shutout win and he felt his team dominated throughout, holding a large advantage in possession time in the Indian Creek end.

But finishing has been an issue for his team recently, and Monday was no different.

See **ST. CLAIRSVILLE**, Page B2



Photo by LAUREN FLORENCE

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Donnie Yeager Jr. controls the ball by the sideline, with Indian Creek's Aubrey Duggan in pursuit during the Red Devils' 3-0 win at Red Devils Stadium in the OVAC quarterfinals.



Burrow throws for a season-high 259 yards as Bengals beat the Rams 19-16

CINCINNATI (AP) — Joe Burrow threw for a season-high 259 yards and two touchdowns as the Bengals' first offensive series, the Bengals beat the Rams 19-16. The injury occurred early in train-

...time in a whopping 10 years.

Turns out that wasn't the end of Europe's run. It was only the start.

The Americans now have gone 30 years without winning the Ryder Cup away from home, a losing streak the entire team knows all too well. Never mind that five players on the U.S. team that arrived Monday in Italy were not even born when Team USA last won in Europe.

"It's not really at the forefront of the messaging," said U.S. captain Zach Johnson, who has played on three of those losing teams in Ireland, Wales and Scotland. "The obvious bullet points don't need to be mentioned, and that's one of them."

The context of this losing streak can be presented in so many ways. Half of Europe's 12-man team wasn't born when the American last celebrated away from home. Deane

hasn't seen a U.S. team win overseas since then," Hicks said.

It hasn't been from a lack of ability. Those six consecutive road losses featured 12-man combinations of 41 players, 26 of whom went on to combine for 57 major championships.

The losing streak began in Spain in 1997, the year Tiger Woods won the Masters by 12 shots and captivated the entire sports world. Justin Leonard won the British Open and Davis Love III won the PGA Championship that year. They combined to go 1-9-3 at Valderrama.

Woods played on five losing road teams. Phil Mickelson was there for all six losses during the losing streak. He was beaten by Phillip Price, the No. 119 player in the world, in a one-point loss at The Belfry in 2002.

Why does it keep happening? For starters, Eu-

rope has become a focal point. "Given the amount of great American players, individually, you'd think collectively they'd have gotten it done over there at some point in 30 years," Spieth said. He has played on two losing road teams, in Scotland and France.

There have been a few close calls — a one-point loss at Valderrama in 1997 and at Wales in 2010, and The Belfry in 2002 probably would have been another except that Sergio Garcia was making snow angels in a bunker when Europe clinched and the last two matches walked in and agreed to a halve.

Azinger always felt as though Europe, even if it is not the favorite on paper, shows up with enough of an edge to make a difference. "Europe shows up with a 1% advantage," Azinger said. "I would compare it to being in Vegas. There's only a 1% advantage in blackjack, but they're building some pretty nice hotels on it."

Johnson has said what other U.S. captains have mentioned going on the road. This is a new team. These are old memories. It still hasn't changed anything.

The 30-year drought

from a home crowd, the serenade of "Ole, ole, ole, ole" that can be as inspiring as a scoreboard filled with European blue. It's what prompted Rory McIlroy to say, "I think one of the greatest accomplishments in our game now is to win an away Ryder Cup."

McIlroy believes fans understand the value of a home crowd.

"I don't know if they appreciate the value of a home golf course," he said. "It's like chalk and cheese the way a U.S. Ryder Cup golf course is set up compared with a European course. I contrast Hazeltine in 2016 to France in 2018. You could hit it anywhere at Hazeltine — Medinah (2012) was not much different.

"I feel like in Europe, it's more a war of attrition in terms of who doesn't make mistakes, whereas in America, it's who can make the most birdies."

Continued from Page B1

a factual error occurs, however, a correction or clarification will be published in this space. Errors should be brought to the attention of Sports Editor Nick Henthorn, ext. 293.

• Beallsville

Continued from Page B1

Beallsville relied on Hagan for the majority of ground yards on the ensuing series and he made it 30-22 with a four-yard burst and the conversion run at 6:31.

Valley battled back to send it to OT when Jerico hauled in a 16-yard toss from Derby at 3:21, while Joseph Barr caught the PAT.

The hosts' Colton Shriver, Brandon Necessary, Dulton Fulton, Carter Tatsch, Aaryn Baker, along with Marky Loudon stood out in the trenches, while Valley's Cameron Derico, Aidan Daniels, Sam Brown and Alan Cain did yeoman's work up front.

Beallsville visits Bridgeport, Friday, while Valley visits South Harrison.

GAME NOTES — Homecoming queen drawing the blue rose Isabella Laudermilt, while Thorn Stoffel was named king at a

school assembly.

Saturday, Sept. 23 Martins Ferry 36, Fairfield Christian Academy 7

The Purple Raiders' Tev'n Williams rushed for 187 yards on 20 carries as Martins Ferry moved to 4-2 on the year.

Williams had two touchdowns on the ground — including a 50-yard score — and also reeled in six receptions for 71 yards.

Ayden Ludolph completed 11 of 20 passes Saturday, throwing for 154 yards and rushing for 74 on 16 carries. He rammed through a one-yard touchdown rush.

Also scoring for Ferris against the Knights were Travis Trout on a 20-yard fumble return, and Jase Mahoney on a 30-yard rush.

Jordi Lavall went 4/4 on extra points.

Martins Ferry next faces Berne Union (2-4) on the road.

• St. Clairsville

Continued from Page B1

"We're still not finishing," Stoner said. "We dominated the whole game and controlled it start to finish, but we probably had 30-some chances and we're not finishing and it's a little

concerning.

"It's a win, so I'm not going to complain about a 3-0 win, but we can't miss those chances against a better team."

Creek keeper Elizabeth Hope made 14 saves on what amounted to far greater than 20 shots toward the net. Some sailed high, some sailed wide and 14 made their way into Hope's waiting gloves — and three made it past.

The first came in the second half on what would be the first of multiple, multi-shot opportunities directly in front of Hope.

Hope saved the first attempt, and second, but St. C. sophomore Maxim Lussier fired the third out of the air with a sideways swing of her leg for the first score. That was with 21:83 in the first half.

The next came with 28:25 left in the match off the foot of senior co-captain Delaney Florence. The final goal was another rebound opportunity with freshman Is-

abella Cunningham connecting with 11:44 left in regulation.

St. C. will need to finish on more of its opportunities Wednesday in Weirton, as the Red Riders aren't going to allow that many opportunities in front of keeper Reyna Hoover.

"The first time we played them, we lacked effort," Stoner said. "That's not something I or (assistant coach) Alyssa (Otto) can coach. If they show up with effort, it could be a lot closer. But we also have some things we need to tweak."

"We moved the ball really well (Monday), and we can do that against Weir, but we have to do it faster because they are a very quick team. It'll be tough for sure."

The win Monday gave Stoner his 100th career victory as the girls' coach at his alma mater. Stone took over the program in 2013 and has guided one of the school's more successful programs since.

Beaver Local advanced to face No. 2 seed Oak Glen, also on Wednesday. The Beavers previously lost to the Golden Bears, 3-1 back on August 28 at home.

The winners of Wednesday's semifinal contests will play for the OVAC 4A Championship on Saturday at 10 a.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

St. Clairsville 3, Indian Creek 0

I — Goalkeeper: Hope (14 saves). S — Goals: Lussier, Florence, Cunningham. Goalkeeper: Kyer (2 saves).

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE? WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOTE BY MAIL?

A General Election will be held Tuesday, November 7th, 2023 in Belmont County.

You may register to vote in our office at 52180 National Road, St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950. The Belmont County Board of Elections is open Monday-Friday 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Additional places to register are:

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- At any public high school or vocational school
- At offices of designated agencies which provide public assistance or disability programs
- Public libraries
- County Treasurer's Office

If you would like to register to vote online or update your voter registration, go to our website www.boe.ohio.gov/belmont/ or to the Ohio Secretary of State's Website www.sos.state.oh.us

Voter Registration Deadline for the November 7th, 2023 General Election, is Tuesday, October 10th, 2023.

The Belmont County Board of Elections will be open from 8:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. on October 10th, 2023 for the close of voter registration.

Early Voting Begins October 11th, 2023.

See our website for hours and voting information.

All 70 Precincts in Belmont County will be open for the 2023 General Election.

The polls will be open from 6:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M. on Election Day

If you would like to request an absentee application to vote by mail, please contact our office at 740-526-0188.

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