

Photos by KIM NORTH

BARNESVILLE'S ELLIE Thompson awaits the ball as Wheeling Park's Faith Randolph slides in safely during Monday night's OVAC Tom Bechtel All-Star Softball Game on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Ballfields in Elm Grove. Ohio won, 10-2. Umpire Kelly Rine eyes the play.

Ohio girls claim victory at OVAC all-star game

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

ELM GROVE — Ohio brought its bats to the annual OVAC Tom Bechtel All-Star Softball Game Monday night.

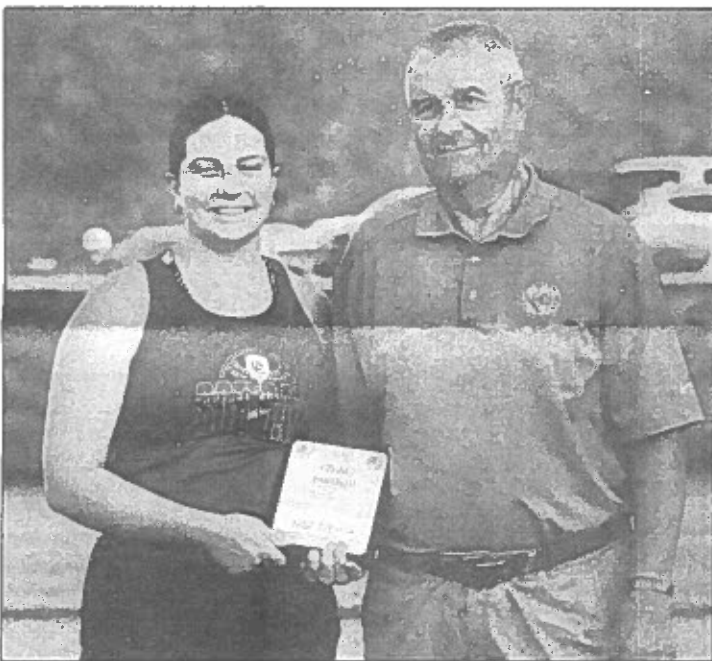
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"You want to go out and have fun in a game like this. I think the girls all had fun and did so by winning," Magistro added.

Edison's Rebecca Evans drew a leadoff walk and Cambridge's Jazz Bell followed suit to jump-start the eruption. Caldwell's Katie Franklin tried to advance the runners with a bunt, but she popped in up in front of the plate and Linsly catcher Alayna Cook made a spectacular diving catch to prevent the runners from going anywhere. However, Indian Creek's Trinity Taylor lined a shot down the right field line that chased home Evans and Bell for a two-run double. Toronto's Michelle Anderson ripped a single up the middle



WHEELING CENTRAL junior Josie Frizzell, left, was recognized during Monday night's OVAC Tom Bechtel All-Star Softball Game as the Class 3A Player of the Year. She is pictured with Ed Cihy, assistant OVAC softball director.

as Taylor raced home. Anderson would come around on a double to right-center by Beallsville's Kinley Hughes, who was thrown out trying for a triple. Union Local's Lauren Miller reached on an error and stole second. She would score when Caldwell's Jadyn Haught singled through the right side of the infield to make it 7-1.

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"It was a good game. It's all about having fun, and I think all of the girls did that," Morgantown head coach Lori Lipscomb said of the W.Va. players. "The camaraderie in the dugout was great. That's what it's all about."

EXTRA INNINGS

— The OVAC Players of the Year in each of the five classes were presented with plaques during breaks in the action. The five were Conotton Valley's Masey Baker (1A); Toronto's Michelle Anderson (2A); Wheeling Central's Josie Frizzell (3A); Indian Creek's Trinity Taylor (4A); and John Marshall's Ava Blake (5A).

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Cindric gives Team Penske first NASCAR win

(AP) — Even amid the elation of finally winning a NASCAR Cup Series race again, Austin Cindric found himself a bit heartbroken.

It should have been a banner day for Team Penske on Sunday just outside St. Louis. Defending series champ Ryan Blaney was leading in the closing laps, Cindric was poised to give a team that has struggled all season a 1-2 finish and Joey Logano was just one spot away from giving Team Penske all three of its cars in the top five at the checkered flag.

But as the white flag flew, Blaney slowed to a crawl — out of fuel, it turned out — and Cindric went right by, leading the final lap for his second Cup Series victory and first since the season-opening Daytona 500 more than two years ago.

"They deserved to win this race," said Cindric, who nevertheless was happy to lock the No. 2 car into the Cup Series playoffs. "Ryan has been a hell of a leader on this team. This weekend was a great weekend for everybody involved."

See **CINDRIC**, Page B2

Djokovic wins his 370th Grand Slam match

PARIS (AP) — Novak Djokovic was not sure whether he would be able to play in the French Open quarterfinals after injuring his right knee and needing anti-inflammatory pills Monday to be able to finish beating No. 23 Francisco Cerundolo 6-1, 5-7, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 in the fourth round at Roland Garros for his record 370th win in a Grand Slam match.

"Good thing about the Slam is that you have a day between that will allow hopefully the healing process to happen more efficiently for me," Djokovic said. "That's it. I don't know what will happen tomorrow — or after tomorrow, if I'll be able to step out on the court and play. You know, I hope so. Let's see what happens."

Djokovic said he has been bothered by the knee for a couple of weeks, but it got worse after he tweaked it early in the second set Monday. He took a medical timeout, then was visited a few other times by a trainer and a doctor, who gave him the medicine — both during the second set and again after the third — that Djokovic said eventually helped him feel better and move without restrictions. According to Djokovic, the doctor said he was taking the maximum number of anti-inflammatories allowed.

This was the second consecutive five-set comeback victory that lasted about 4 1/2 hours for Djokovic, who is ranked No. 1 and the defending champion in Paris. He said that accumulation of time on court was not a problem; his knee was, however. It was painful enough that Djokovic considered quitting against Cerundolo.

"I didn't know, to be honest, whether I should continue or not," he said.

See **DJOKOVIC**, Page B2

Vikings reach agreement with Jefferson to give him NFL's richest non-QB contract



MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Justin Jefferson became the latest player to cash in on the league-wide push for elite pass catchers.

Matching the historic start to his career, Jefferson will be paid — for now — like no one

the 2020 draft out of LSU.

"Justin has consistently proven to be one of the best players in the NFL on and off the field and we are excited about having him as a cornerstone of our team for a long time to come."



Photo by Kim North

Linsly second baseman Lexie Finley throws to first after forcing out Conotton Valley's Delaney Peters during action from Monday night's OVAC Tom Bechtel All-Star Softball Game on Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Elm Grove, Ohio. Ohio won, 10-2.

Ohio Has Big Day In OVAC All-Star Win

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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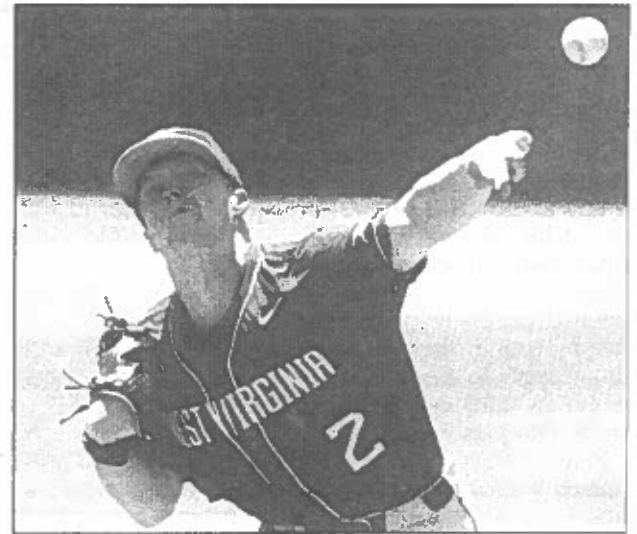
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Please see OVAC, Page 10

WVU Pitching Stepping Up With Team Stepping Onto Historic Ground



AP Photo

West Virginia pitcher Derek Clark (2) during an NCAA regional game against Dallas Baptist on Friday, May 31, 2024, in Tucson, Ariz.

Mountaineers Set For First-Ever Super Regional Appearance

By BOB HERTZEL
WV News
MORGANTOWN -

Two pitchers. In the end, that's what West Virginia's victory over Grand Canyon University came down to Sunday night, a 10-6 triumph that sends them to their first NCAA Super Regional ever.

One is a right-hander, the other a left-hander. One can push 97 on the radar gun. One looks up at 90.

One, Aiden Major, hadn't pitched in a month. The other, Derek Clark, hadn't pitched in a day.

Very different, yet very much the same are Major and Clark, each personifying the grit and drive that is carrying the Mountaineers into uncharted territory as it tries to send its retiring coach Randy Mazey off with a championship.

In Sunday's game that

clinched the Tucson Regional title. Major got the first out for the Mountaineers and it well may have been the biggest out of the season; Clark got the last out just one day after opening the tournament on Friday with a 101-pitch complete game victory.

Toss in the middle game victory which belongs to freshman Tyler Switalski and wrap up the real story of West Virginia's greatest baseball triumph ever, three unheralded pitchers on a team that had ridden the heroics of superstar shortstop JJ Wetherholt and a home-run oriented offense throughout an emotional season centered upon Mazey's surprising retirement announcement filled with injury landmines could have blown apart any team's postseason dreams.

Please see WVU, Page 10



AP Photo
Austin Cindric celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series at World Wide Technology Raceway Sunday, June 2, 2024, in Madison, Ill.

Cindric Gives Team Penske First NASCAR Win— And Much-Needed Momentum

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

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W.Va. Class A All-State Softball Teams Released

By JAY W. BENNETT
For The WWSWA

CHARLESTON - It's been a process for the St. Marys High School softball program of head coach Lacy Riggs.

For the first time in school history the Blue Devils not only won the Little Kanawha Conference title, but the program from Pleasants County finally emerged as Class A state champions for the first time ever.

A key cog to that success was junior left-handed pitcher Cali Masters, who was named captain of the all-state first team as selected by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association.

"She's a huge asset and she's just mentally tough," expressed coach Riggs, who knows trying to repeat next year will be a challenge after placing third at state in 2022 and taking second behind Wahama last spring.

"She was surround-

helped the Vikings to a state runner-up finish.

Frizzell went 15-3 with a 0.95 ERA and 203 strikeouts. Colaw sported a 20-6 record with a 2.24 ERA and 173 punchouts in 166 frames. A utility selection, the Viking also carried a .439 average with 11 doubles, eight bombs and 32 RBIs.

Masters and Frizzell were joined on the first team at pitcher by Buffalo senior Kimmie Dillman and Doddridge County senior Makena Curran. The Bulldog, whose team was ousted by Petersburg in the regional, finished 22-11 with 307 punchouts in 198 innings. Dillman finished with a 17-10 record, striking out 185 batters to go along with a .344 batting average and seven home runs at the plate.

The only four-time honoree on the first team was St. Marys infielder Zoey Winland. To

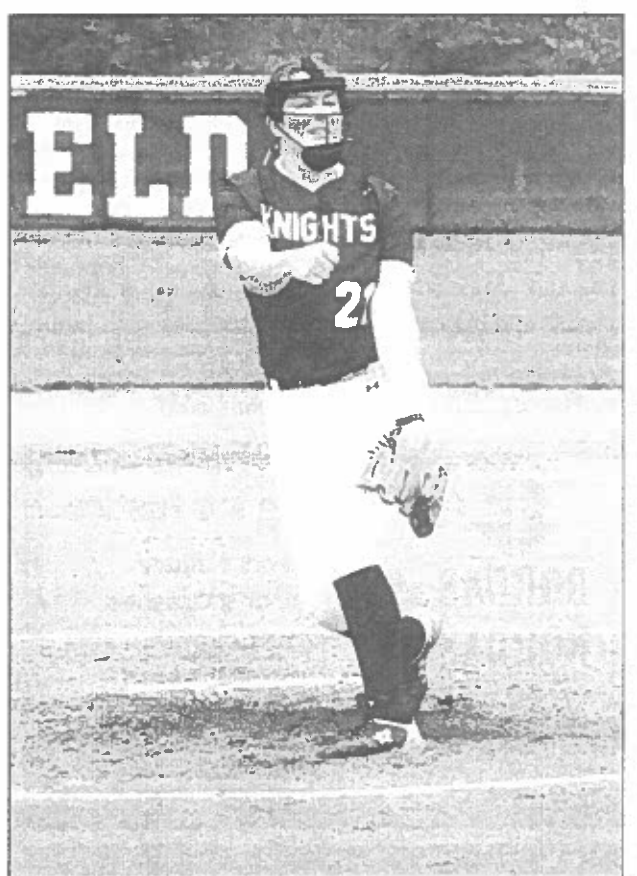


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Central's Josie Frizzell throws a pitch during the Maroon Knights' sectional championship game against Magnolia. Frizzell was named to the WWSWA

OVAC

(Continued from Page 9)

Meadows accounted for Ohio's first run with a solo home run to deep left in the fourth.

W.Va. drew even when Madonna's Carmella Pulice grounded out but University's Ashlyn Warner scored on the play.

Ohio went back ahead in the sixth with a pair of two-out singles by Cambridge's Abby Mann and Caldwell's Sydney Saling. There was a walk to Haught in between as Saling's hit to left plated Mann.

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ALL-STATE

(Continued from Page 9)

Casto was joined on the first team infield by Buffalo junior Kiera Cochran (.378 AVG, 8 HRs), Petersburg freshman Miley Tingle (.407 AVG, 7-6-7, 31 RBIs, 9 SBs) and Wahama sophomore Fiona VanMatre (.516 AVG, 11-0-1, 21 RBIs, 9 SBs).

The other two utility selections were filled by Pendleton County junior Baylee Beachler and Midland Trail freshman Madison Rader. MTHS, which reached the state tournament for the third time in four years, watched Rader go 15-6 with a 2.40 ERA and 157 strikeouts in 131 innings. She also batted .500 with six doubles, one triple, 21 RBIs and five steals. Beachler was 10-3 with a 0.89 ERA and 123 punchouts in 78 1-3 innings. She also had a .438 average with 10 doubles, four three-baggers, nine home runs, 45 runs-batted-in and 10 stolen bases.

Wahama junior outfielder Payton Staats (.389 AVG, 5-3-1, 18 RBIs, 10 SBs) was honored as captain of the second team.

Sherman junior Summer Harvey and Charles-

ton Catholic sophomore Hannah Vriendt joined her in the outfield.

Moorefield senior Amber Williams, Greenbrier West sophomore Brilee Redden and Ritchie County freshman Rocklyn Marcum were the second team pitchers, while Ravenswood senior Emily Wrachford and Petersburg sophomore Ella Chew were the catchers.

Second team infield honors were shared by a trio of seniors in St. Marys' Breanna Price, Magnolia's Haidyn Bland and Williamstown's Ava Johnson along with Midland Trail sophomore Nevach Hall and two freshmen in Ravenswood's Anna Casto and Sherman's Lexi Lowe.

The quartet of second team utility spots were occupied by Magnolia junior Mallory McDiffitt, Doddridge County sophomore Riley Myers, Trinity freshman Paige Hopkins and Buffalo freshman Morgan Cobb.

All-State honorees can obtain state-shaped, wood plaques with name, school, year and honor at wvsua.org or bearwood-company.com.

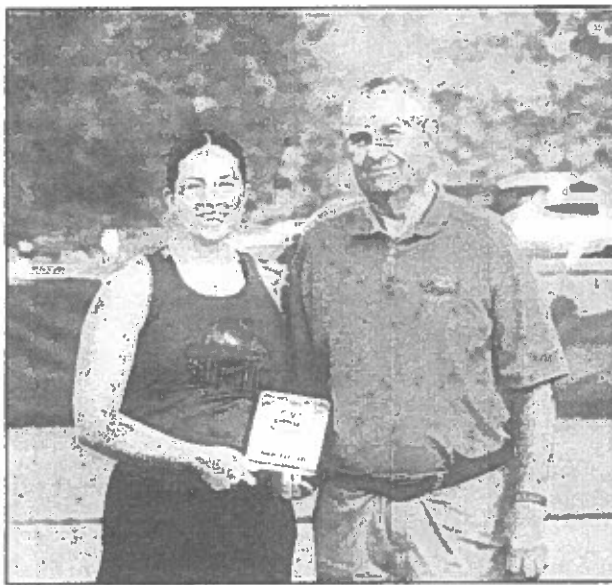


Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Central junior Josie Frizzell, left, was recognized during Monday night's OVAC Tom Bechtel All-Star Softball Game as the Class 3A Player of the Year. She is pictured with Ed Cihy, assistant OVAC softball director.

NASCAR

(Continued from Page 9)

But that is how the season has gone for Team Penske, one of the perennial contenders in NASCAR's top series. Cindric had just one top-five finish, and that was in February at Atlanta. Blaney had three straight top fives early on but had finished 36th and 39th in the previous two points-paying races. Logano won the All-Star race at Charlotte, but when he passed out-of-gas Blaney and finished fifth on Sunday, it was only his second top-five run in a points race all year.

That's a far different story from last season, when Blaney won three times on his way to the title, and Logano had 11 top-five finishes along with a second-place run in the Daytona 500 and a victory at Atlanta.

The meager results by Team Penske have been mirrored by Ford teams as a whole. The manufacturer, which switched from the sixth-generation Mustang to the Mustang

Dark Horse body style this season, didn't reach victory lane until Brad Keselowski last month at Darlington, and that remained its only win until Cindric on Sunday.

"I'm proud for Team Penske and Ford. I'm really happy with our showing today," said Blaney, who may have used more fuel than he thought while battling for several laps with Christopher Bell, who faded late when his engine started having trouble.

"I don't know what I've got to do to get some luck on our side," Blaney added. "I've wrecked the last two points races and thought we had a great shot to win and I ended up bad, so I just appreciate the effort. We just have to keep sticking with it."

It's been a topsy-turvy year for Team Penske beyond NASCAR, too.

The biggest scandal to hit IndyCar in years came after the season-opening race at St. Petersburg, Florida, when Team

Penske's three cars were found to have an illegal version of push-to-pass software installed, giving them a horsepower boost they could use when rivals could not.

Newgarden had his win stripped and teammate Scott McLaughlin also was disqualified, and team - and series - owner Roger Penske suspended four of the organization's key personnel.

Among them was Cindric's father, Tim Cindric, the president of Team Penske and Newgarden's race strategist.

"Newgarden never should have had to worry about it because our team missed it, but it was not malicious," Penske told The Associated Press in an interview last week in Detroit. "By the way, it was available for everybody to look at it at all the races. So at the end of the day, we took our medicine and we're moving on."

That was evident in the Indy 500. Team Penske locked out the front row

er this year after 10 NFL seasons with the Rams.

Saban retired earlier this year after 17 seasons as Alabama coach. He won six national championships with the Crimson Tide and one with LSU in 2003 for a record seven career titles. In 28 years as a college head coach with Toledo, Michigan State, LSU and Alabama, Saban was 297-71-1.

Meyer won three national titles during his 17-season career as a college head coach, two with Florida and one with Ohio State in 2014. He also had stops at Bowling Green and Utah. He retired from Ohio State after the 2018 season with a record of 187-32.

Saban, Meyer, Donald, Te'o On College Football Hall Of Fame Ballot

WVU

(Continued from Page 9)

None of these pitchers would ever be mistaken for Paul Skenes or Stephen Strasberg, but when they had to be there or go home, they did credible imitations of the two best collegiate pitchers of modern times.

If Clark's got WVU going and finished off the task and if Major's was so stunning as it came out of nowhere from a pitcher who had been eating his heart out while healing and rehabbing an injury, Switalski's should not be skipped over.

"It was an unbelievable performance at a huge moment," Mazey had said of his ability to keep WVU in the winner's bracket to set the scene for the championship game.

In mid-season, it seemed as though Major would be a key weekend starter for the Mountaineers after serving as a relief pitcher but then on May 5 at

Cincinnati his arm would allow him only one inning of work with four runs charged to him, taking him out of the rotation and out of action.

He had become the forgotten man and as Sunday's game started with senior Hayden Cooper on the mound, WVU took a quick 2-0 lead but Cooper could not retire a batter and left with the score tied at 2-2 and the bases loaded with none out. Major emerged from the bullpen, returning to the season at a time when it could have slipped away.

"I can't even remember the last time he's pitched," Mazey said following the game. "It's been a month."

Mazey couldn't know what he would get but he knew he had to make a move and Major wiggled out of the jam allowing only one more run and held sway through 4.2 innings

of relief with no further damage.

It was a victory of mind over matter.

"There's been a lot of emotional ups and downs; days when I feel like my world's ending but there's also been brighter days," Major admitted.

It was, he said, the whole coaching staff got him through it.

"It's been 'Hey, just take care of yourself; do what you need to do but get ready. We don't know when the moment is going to come but it's going to be a big moment, so be ready to go.' I'm just glad that the coaches and this guy next to me (Mazey) still had the trust in me to give me the ball."

The performance by Major was typical of what WVU had come to expect of him when he was healthy.

Last year, in the NCAA Tournament, he came out of the bullpen after WVU erased a 5-0 deficit to take a 7-5 lead over Ball State he came in and spun five innings of shutout, one-hit ball with eight strikeouts

in qualifying. Newgarden won his second straight 500 with a daring last-lap pass of Pato O'Ward and pole sitter McLaughlin finished sixth after leading early on.

While the IndyCar teams had trouble last weekend in Detroit, where Will Power led the way with a sixth-place finish, the Cup Series teams finally stepped up. Cindric may have felt like he was gifted the win, but the No. 2 car led the second-most laps with 53, while Blaney spent 20 laps running out front and Logano also led a lap.

Perhaps it was a sign that things are finally turning around for the organization.

"We were able to grab some points, which we need to do, and a Penske car got in victory lane," Logano said. "so you've got to be happy about that. Obviously, we'd rather it be us, but that momentum goes through the whole shop. It's still a good day."

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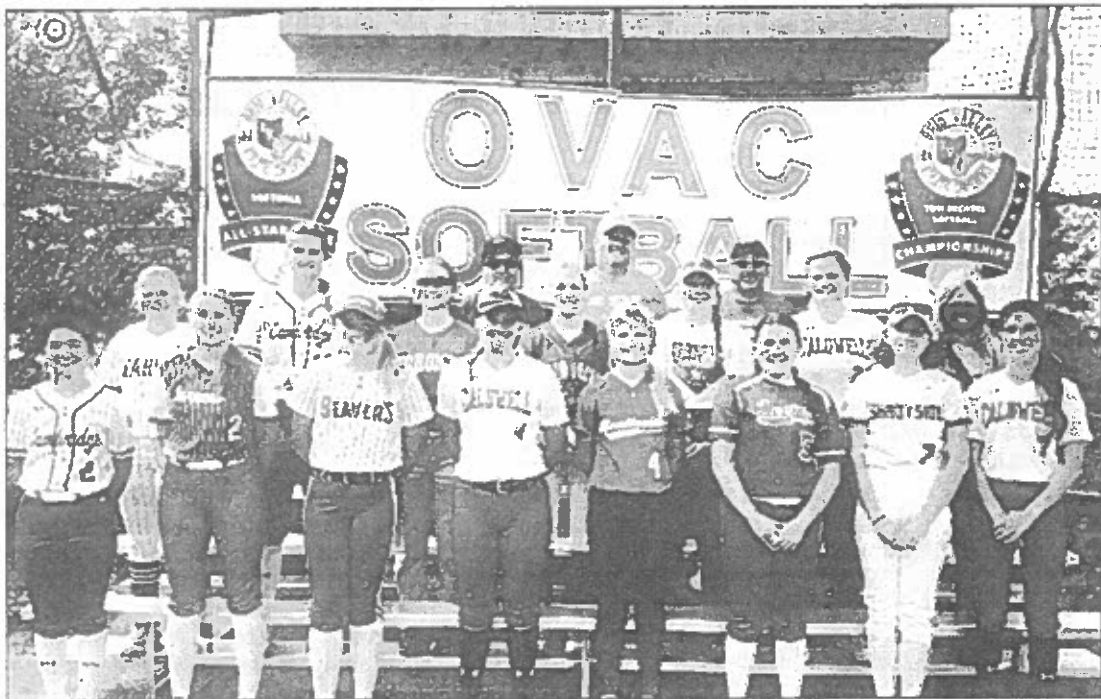
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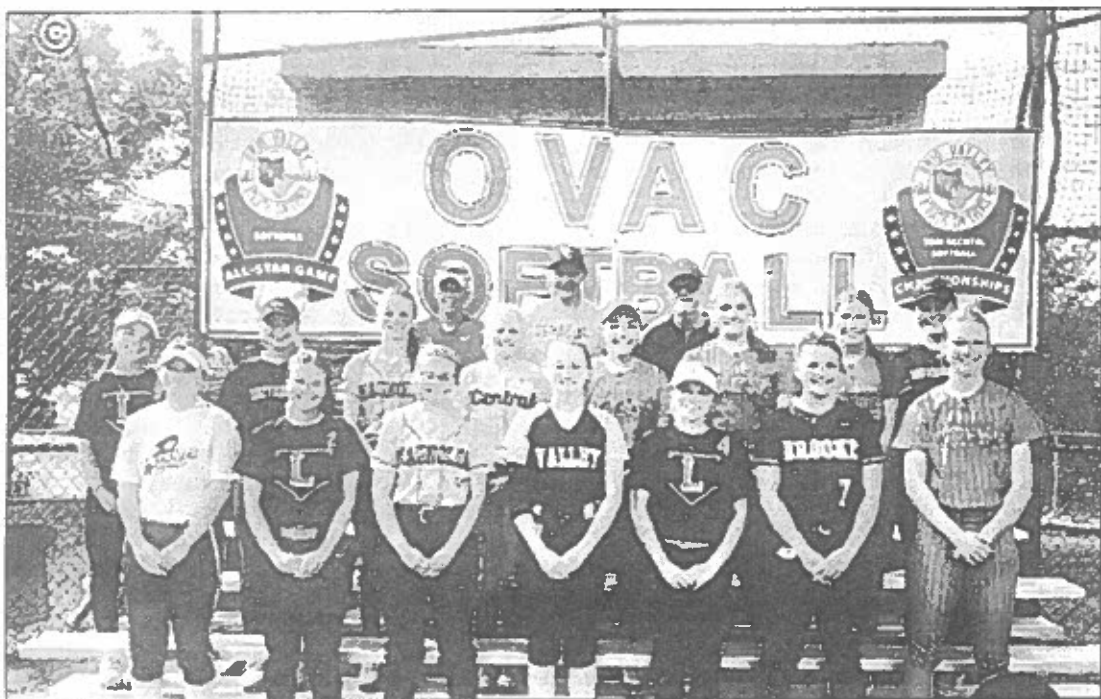
June 23, 2024

Motor coach to Pittsburgh's Heinz

OVAC ALL-STAR SOFTBALL TEAMS



TOP: The Ohio squad for the upcoming OVAC All-Star Softball Game. Front row from left, Cambridge's Jazz Bell, Barnesville's Ellie Thompson, Beaver Local's Addison Eells, Caldwell's Sydney Salling, Beallsville's Kinley Hughes, St. Clairsville's Rachel Finnical, Shadyside's Abygail Gorrell and Caldwell's Kate Franklin. Back row from left, Warren's Mya Miller, Cambridge's Abby Mann, Toronto's Michelle Anderson, Union Local's Lauren Miller, Indian Creek's Trinity Taylor, and Caldwell's Jaden Haught. Not pictured are Conotton Valley's Delaney Peters, Buckeye Trail's Morgan Watson, Edison's Pressly Meadows and Edison's Rebecka Evans. Coaches are Indian Creek's Angela Penner, Martins Ferry's Jerry Magistro, Frontier's Erik Rinard and Conotton Valley's Jeremy Bleininger.



BOTTOM: The West Virginia squad for the upcoming OVAC All-Star Softball Game. Front row from left, Parkersburg South's Becca Beatty, Linsly's Alayna Cook, Valley's Kasey Barker, Linsly's Lexie Finley, Brooke's Alexa Foresha, and Morgantown's Kate Larimer. Back row from left, Linsly's Gia Recrosio, University's Ashlyn Weaver, Magnolia's Haldyn Bland, Wheeling Central's Brook Edge, Morgantown's Emily Peterson, Morgantown's Micah Wilson, Wheeling Park's Faith Randolph, and University's Ally Jansen. Not pictured are Wheeling Park's Kate Kozlowski, John Marshall's Carlee Yoho, Madonna's Carmela Pullice and John Marshall's A.C. Cumberledge.

The 2024 OVAC All-Star Softball Game is set for Monday, June 3 at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex at 6:30 p.m. on Lisa's Field.

Photos provided

Tyler Buchner Rejoining Notre Dame As Walk-On Receiver

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Former Alabama and Notre Dame quarterback Tyler Buchner is returning to the Fighting Irish team as a walk-on wide receiver.

Buchner, who announced his decision Friday in an open letter to Notre Dame fans, was a starter for the Fighting Irish to begin the 2022 season before missing 10 games with an injury. He returned to lead the team to a Gator Bowl victory against South Carolina.

Buchner followed offensive coordinator Tommy Rees to Alabama and wound up starting the third game of last season against South Florida, going 5 of 14 for 34 yards. Buchner ended last season behind starter Jalen Milroe and backup Ty Simpson.

He then went back to South Bend as a lacrosse player. Buchner wrote that coach Marcus Freeman and his staff embraced his return.

"It would have been easy for the football coaching staff to see me just as a player who had left, but instead, I am grateful they were able to see me as a young man eager to return and contribute in any way I could for the greater good of the team," he wrote in a letter posted on the Notre Dame web site.

Bears To Feature On 'Hard Knocks'

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bears are set to be featured on "Hard Knocks" for the first time. HBO and the NFL announced Thursday the founding NFL franchise was chosen for the 19th edition of the Emmy-winning series that first aired in 2001. The five-episode

series debuts Aug. 6, with subsequent episodes airing on Tuesdays through Sept. 3. Bears president Kevin Warren said the show will "provide our passionate fans across the world the ability to experience this unique and critical time in the history of our fran-

chise." Chicago drafted quarterback Caleb Williams with the No. 1 pick. It also traded for six-time Pro Bowler Keenan Allen and drafted Washington's Rome Odunze ninth overall, giving it a deep group of wide receivers to go with DJ Moore.



Poland's Iga Swiatek plays a shot against Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic during their third round match of the French Open at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Friday, May 31, 2024.

Tsitsipas Eases In To French Open; Swiatek, Gauff, Sinner Also Advance

PARIS (AP) — Stefanos Tsitsipas was in a reflective mood after beating Zhang Zhizhen 6-3, 6-3, 6-1 to reach the fourth round of the French Open on Friday.

The 2021 runner-up says tennis plays a fundamental part in shaping his thinking.

"I get the feeling that without tennis my life would have been so much different, with regards to challenging myself and setting personal goals for myself," Tsitsipas said. "Tennis helps me fill out those dreams and fulfill my deepest desires as a human being."

The ninth-seeded Tsit-

appointed with myself. with the way I behaved, the way I performed, and I can't remember ever behaving worse in a Grand Slam tournament," he said. "It was the first time I ever behaved that badly."

Arnaldi disagreed. "He does those things almost every match. Personally, I don't pay too much attention," Arnaldi said. "But it definitely does give me a little confidence, because it means I am giving him trouble, and what I was doing was working."

No. 2 Jannik Sinner of Italy progressed by downing Pavel Kotov 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. The Australian Open champion next fac-

ing Frenchman Corentin

shyly, then lifted it up and smiled broadly. The match was not the thrill-a-minute contest she had with Naomi Osaka in the second round, when Swiatek saved a match point and grabbed the last five games.

Still, Bouzkova held on. She saved one match point with a forehand winner, and Swiatek hit a forehand wide on another. A crisp forehand down the line sealed Swiatek's win at the fourth attempt.

Next for Swiatek was unseeded Anastasia Potapova.



No. 3-seeded Coco Gauff beat Australian Open semifinalist Dayana Yastremska 6-2, 6-4 but


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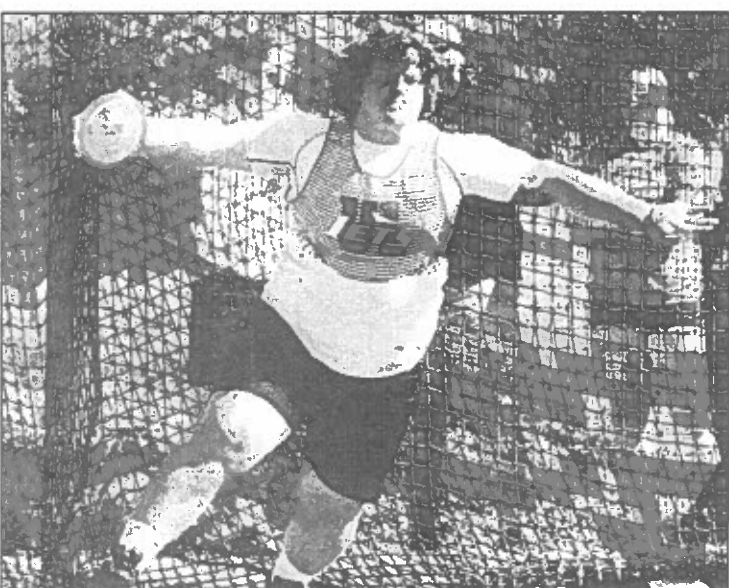
ished eighth in 15.75.
 "It felt amazing," Nathan said after receiving his Gold medal atop the awards podium. "There are no words to describe it, really."
 "This might have been my best start of my career in the biggest race of my career," he added.
 "I led from the start and felt good going over every hurdle."
 Entered with the top qualifying time from Thursday's preliminaries, Booth led from the start in achieving his season-long goal. He was 11th as a junior.
 "This definitely feels better than last year," Booth admitted. "A lot better."
 He also said it was nice to be able to run his final high school race with his brother.
 "It's amazing because he's been out all year with a back injury, so I didn't get to run with him as much as we had planned, but it was really neat to run together in our final race — the state finals."



SHADYSIDE'S NATHAN Booth, right, wins the Ohio Division III 110-meter high hurdles Friday night during the state track and field championships at the University of Dayton.

Photos by KIM NORTH

Dylan echoed the sentiment. "It was cool. I loved it," he said. "It's my first time placing at state, so it feels good with the way my season went with the back injury."
 Shenandoah's Braxton Barnett finished third at 14.72.
 Union Local's Johnny Sabinski was a double medal winner again.
 Last year he was second in the shot put and fourth in the discus. He reversed those trends Friday when he took second in the discus with a toss of 173-feet, 6-inches in the morning.
 A few hours later the University of Louisville recruit placed third in the shot put with a heave of 56-7.



UNION LOCAL'S Johnny Sabinski prepares to throw the discus Friday morning in the Ohio Division III during the state track and field championships.

See STATE, Page C2

pitched 1 2/3 innings for the win as the Blue Jays matched a season-best with their fourth straight victory and won in the debut of their new City Connect uniforms.
 After Pittsburgh's Bryan Reynolds hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the top of the 11th, Toronto tied it in the bottom half when George Springer hit a two-out RBI single.
 Blue Jays right fielder Springer made a sensational diving catch on Reynolds' drive into the corner in the top half but couldn't stop automatic runner Ji Hwan Bae scoring from third.
 Hayes made it 3-2 with a sacrifice fly but Kevin Kiermaier answered with a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the 12th.
 Toronto loaded the bases with two out in the 13th but Carmen Mlodzinski caught Cavan Biggio looking at strike three.

See PIRATES, Page C2

Union Local sets shootout for June 7

By KIM NORTH
 Staff Writer

MORRISTOWN — The first-ever Union Local Jets Lady's Shootout will take place on Friday, June 7.
 Twenty of the finest Ohio Valley teams will converge on three different sites — Union Local High School (two courts); Union Local Middle School (one court); and The ECO Center (two courts) just west of St. Clairsville.
 Games will begin at 9 a.m. and will be played every hour until 2 p.m. Games will consist of two 18-minute halves with a running clock until the last minute of each half when it will be a regulation clock.
 Each team will get one timeout per half. It cannot be carried over from the first half to second half.
 Event coordinator Lou "Scooter" Tolzda said "we are trying to promote girls high

school basketball. Each team will receive T-shirts. We are trying to make this an annual event."
 He said the OVAC Basketball officials really stepped up and helped us out," Tolzda added.
 Following the shootout, a single-elimination tournament will be held at 3:30. Teams must notify Tolzda prior to 1 if they plan to participate.
 Teams entered include Wheeling Park Red, Claymont, Buckeye Trail, Union Local, Wheeling Park White, Fort Frye, Steubenville, Indian Creek, Barnesville, St. Mary's, Bellaire, Martins Ferry, Wheeling Central, John Marshall, Monroe Central, St. Clairsville, Cameron, Caldwell and Mead-owbrook.
 Each team is guaranteed three games.
 Admission is \$5 for the entire day. Concessions will be available.

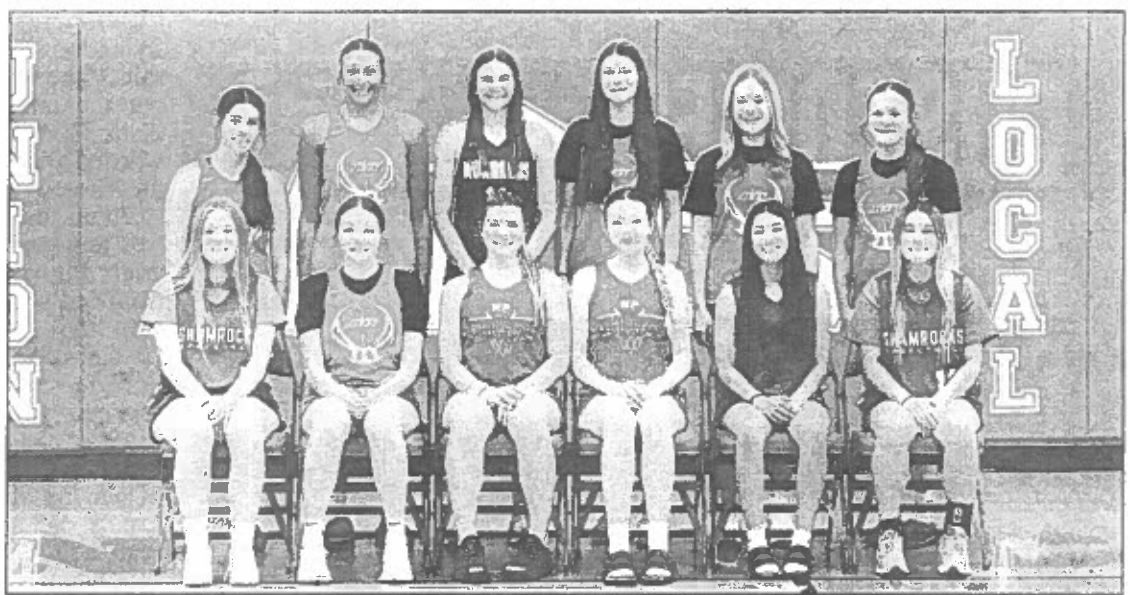


Photo Provided

FRONT ROW, from left, are Olivia Phillips (Senior, Barnesville), Ella Pietranton (Senior, Union Local), Alexis Bordas (Senior, Wheeling Park), Margaret Hupp (Senior, Wheeling Park), Lindsey Sidon (Senior, Martins Ferry), and Zoey Fritter (Senior, Barnesville); back row, Myah Martin (Junior, Union Local), Ameera Saunders (Sophomore, Union Local), Rilee Storm (Junior, Union Local), Laken Vinskovich (Junior, Union Local), Delaney Butler (Junior, Union Local), and Alli Kellaway (Junior, Union Local.)

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|---------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Union Local Court 1 | 9 a.m. — Shadyside vs. Wheeling Park Red | Noon — Wheeling Park vs. Steubenville | 9 a.m. — Indian Creek vs. Barnesville |
| 10 — Claymont vs. Buckeye Trail | 11 — Union Local vs. Fort Frye | 1 p.m. Martins Ferry vs. Monroe Central | 10 — St. Mary's vs. Bellaire |
| | | 2 — Wheeling Central vs. Barnesville | 11 — Shadyside vs. Claymont |
| | | Union Local Court 2 | See SHOOTOUT, Page C2 |

OVAC All-Star Softball Game set for Monday



Photos provided

LEFT: The Ohio squad for the upcoming OVAC All-Star Softball Game. Front row from left, Cambridge's Jazz Bell, Barnesville's Ellie Thompson, Beaver Local's Addison Eells, Caldwell's Sydney Salling, Beallsville's Kinley Hughes, St. Clairsville's Rachel Finnical, Shadyside's Abygail Gorrell and Caldwell's Kate Franklin. Back row from left, Warren's Mya Miller, Cambridge's Abby Mann, Toronto's Michelle Anderson, Union Local's Lauren Miller, Indian Creek's Trinity Taylor, and Caldwell's Jaden Haught. Not pictured are Conotton Valley's Delaney Peters, Buckeye Trail's Morgan Watson, Edison's Pressly Meadows and Edison's Rebecka Evans. Coaches are Indian Creek's Angela Penner, Martins Ferry's Jerry Magistro, Frontier's Erik Rinard and Conotton Valley's Jeremy Bleininger.

RIGHT: The West Virginia squad for the upcoming OVAC All-Star Softball Game. Front row from left, Parkersburg South's Becca Beatty, Linsly's Alayna Cook, Valley's Kasey Barker, Linsly's Lexie Finley, Brooke's Alexa Foresha, and Morgantown's Kate Larimer. Back row from left, Linsly's Gia Recrosio, University's Ashlyn Weaver, Magnolia's Haidyn Bland, Wheeling Central's Brook Edge, Morgantown's Emily Peterson, Morgantown's Micah Wilson, Wheeling Park's Faith Randolph, and University's Ally Jansen. Not pictured are Wheeling Park's Kate Kozlowski, John Marshall's Carlee Yoho, Madonna's Carmela Pulice and John Marshall's A.C. Cumberlandge. The 2024 OVAC All-Star Softball Game is set for Monday, June 3, at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Sports Complex at 6:30 p.m. on Lisa's Field.