

SPORTS

B

Wednesday,
May 22, 2024

BARNESVILLE WRESTLING coach Jayson Stephen, third from left, is pictured with his family after being named the OVAC Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year Tuesday night during the OVAC Banquet of Champions inside WesBanco Arena. From left, are sons Griffen and Bentley, Stephen, his wife Jamie, and sons Easton and Reese.

Photo by KIM NORTH

Stephen named OVAC Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Jayson Stephen has built a dynasty in western Belmont County over the past decade or so, but the 2023-24 school year was the culmination of all that hard work as Barnesville finished as state runner up at the 87th annual Ohio Division III wrestling tournament while producing a pair of state champions.

For those lofty accomplishments, Stephen was named the OVAC Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year on Tuesday night during the 39th annual OVAC Banquet of Champions which was held on the main floor inside WesBanco Arena.

"This is unbelievable," Stephen admitted. "Being up for it last year was an honor. Being up for it again ... I never thought it would happen. Our accomplishments were pretty good as were those of the other finalists. It means a lot."

The other finalists were Ken Maisel (University High wrestling); Holly Pettit (Cameron girls' basketball); Jayson Stephen (Barnesville wrestling); Dave Tallman (Morgantown boys' basketball); Ed West (John Marshall softball) and Ryan Young (Wheeling Park girls' basketball).

All but one of the finalists — ironically Stephen — won a state championship in their respective sports this past school

year. However, what his team accomplished was nothing short of amazing. The Green Machine went 20-1 in dual meet action, the lone loss coming to Milan Edison in the Division III state duals championship match. They also won the OVAC Ron Mauck overall title and the Class 3A Division with an impressive 259 points and three titlists, as well as the OVAC Bill Hinegardner Class 3A Dual Meet crown.

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"I can't believe they are gone," Stephen said of his superb senior class. "It was a special group that was a rare breed. I'll definitely miss them, but we're not going anywhere. We have a lot to look forward to."

Two Shamrocks, Reese Stephen and Skyler King, won state championships. It was the second straight for Stephen.

"Reese winning those state titles was incredible coming from a small school like Barnesville, especially when it went back-to-back," his father/coach said.

This marks the second consecutive year that the prestigious award was won by a western Belmont County head coach as Union Local volleyball coach

Kaye Sechrest won in 2023. It is also the second time in the last three years that a wrestling coach has prevailed. Wheeling Park's Brian Leggett was the winner in 2022. It is the sixth time a wrestling coach has been the recipient.

"Like I said in my speech, I don't think wrestling gets the publicity that it should," Stephen added. "I'm just one of the many coaches that are trying to get the word out about the sport."

More than \$45,000 within 40 scholarships — ranging from \$250 to \$3,000 — were presented to worthy recipients during the banquet, with 54 individuals representing 29 conference schools receiving funds to further their college educations. Six of the scholarships were wrestling-related.

"This is the Banquet of Champions for champions by champions," OVAC Executive Director Dirk DeCoy told the large gathering.

Bob Koch was honored with the OVAC OverTime Award for his work as the long-time OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Classic Game Director, along with a variety of other things he has done for the bi-state conference.

Basketball official Amaya Williams was recognized as being the first female African American to officiate a game in the OVAC.

See **STEPHEN**, Page B2

Nick Gonzales' single in the 10th inning gives Pirates 7-6 victory over Giants

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Nick Gonzales' run-scoring single in the bottom of the 10th inning lifted the Pittsburgh Pirates to a 7-6 victory over the San Francisco Giants on Tuesday night.

Gonzales' leadoff hit up the middle off Erik Miller (0-2) scored automatic runner Connor Joe from second base and ended the Giants' season-high four-game winning streak. The Pirates have won four of their last five games.

The Pirates scored four runs in the bottom of the ninth to tie the game at 6-all and pin Camilo Doval with his first blown save in nine opportunities this season.

Ji Hwan Bae singled in the first run, rookie shortstop Marco Luciano's fielding error brought another in and Bryan Reynolds' RBI fielder's choice got the Pirates within 6-5. Oneil Cruz then pulled a two-out double to right field with an exit velocity of 122 mph, to tie it up.

David Bednar (3-3) worked a scoreless top of the 10th. Cruz had three hits and Andrew McCutchen and Gonzales finished with two.

Cruz's dropped pop-up at shortstop in the first inning with two outs allowed the Giants to score the game's first two runs. Thairo Estrada and Matt Chapman homered in helping the Giants build a 6-2 lead.

Estrada's two-run shot to left-center field in the fourth inning off Martin Perez pushed the Giants' lead to 4-1. Chapman's solo shot in the seventh made it 5-2.

Estrada also drove in a run with an eighth-inning groundout to finish with three RBIs.

Giants starter Logan Webb allowed two runs in six innings. He has pitched at least six innings in eight of his 11 starts this year.

Perez lasted just 4 1/3 innings, giving up four runs, two earned. He is winless in eight starts since April 4.

Chapman also doubled. He, Wilmer Flores and Luciano had two hits each for the Giants.

The Pirates' first two runs came on Jared Triolo's sacrifice fly in the second inning and Reynolds' force-out grounder in the fifth.

PIRATES HALL OF FAME

Barry Bonds, baseball's career home run leader with 762, will be inducted into the Pirates Hall of Fame on Aug. 24 along with Jim Leyland and Manny Sanguillen, the team announced before the game.

See **PIRATES**, Page B2

Ramírez drives in 3 runs as the AL Central-leading Guardians edge the Mets 7-6



CLEVELAND (AP) — Jose Ramirez connected on a two-run homer and an RBI double as the Cleveland Guardians beat the New York Mets 7-6 on Tuesday night, matching their longest win streak of the season at five games.

David Fry added his first career pinch-hit home run, a two-run shot in the sixth inning, for the AL Central-leading Guardians. Cleveland has the fourth-best record in the majors at 32-17 and has won six straight at Progressive Field.

Jeff McNeil and Starling Marte

game-ending double play.

New York never led, but pulled within one run in the top of the fifth, sixth and eighth. Marte's homer onto the left field porch off Scott Barlow cut the Guardians' lead to 7-6.

Cleveland used six relievers after Xzavion Curry lasted 4 1/3 innings following his recall from Triple-A Columbus. Right-hander Carlos Carrasco was scheduled to start, but was placed on the 15-day injured list with an acute neck spasm.

New York right-hander Adrian

in the top of the fifth on Vientos' 430-foot homer to straightaway center and a run-scoring single by Francisco Lindor. Former Cleveland shortstop Lindor went 1 for 5 and is in a 4-for-37 slump.

Johnathan Rodriguez went 0 for 4 in his major league debut for Cleveland.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Mets: RHP Kodai Senga (right triceps tightness) played light catch and "felt better today," according to manager Carlos Mendoza. Senga, who has been on the IL all sea-

be marginalized. All young players always think they can do it all by themselves, but in this league nobody can. He's been on many teams where he's had to do a lot, and he's got incredible skill to do so, but he's really bought in to doing all the other things we need him to do."

The Wolves host the Dallas Mavericks in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals on Wednesday night. Anthony Edwards and Luka Dončić will be the featured attraction on either side, but the Wolves wouldn't be here without Towns.

The four-time All-Star's overachievement on defense against Kevin Durant helped spur a first-round sweep of Phoenix. His close guarding of three-time league MVP Nikola Jokić contributed to the takedown of Denver. Towns is averaging 18.8 points and 9.3 rebounds over the 11 playoff games, with a 44% hit rate on 3-pointers and just 20 turnovers.

"Ant's game complements KAT's game and vice versa. When you talk about whose team it is, it's kind of a

said, "it's just super satisfying."

Towns was drafted by executive and coach Flip Saunders, who died of cancer four months later. The only time the Wolves made the playoffs in his first six years was 2018, when Jimmy Butler sparked a 47-35 record — before instigating a conflict around contract demands and disparate personalities on his way out soon after that. The Wolves had a cumulative .361 winning percentage in those other five years.

After Towns played in all 82 games in his first three seasons, the injury bug began to find him. His overall performance in first-round series losses in 2018, 2022 and 2023 was mixed at best. Personally, the biggest blow of all came at the beginning of the pandemic when his mother, Jacqueline Cruz-Towns, died of complications from COVID-19.

"He's been through a lot. I've seen the work he puts in every day. He's an amazing person, an amazing human being, and I want to see him win," teammate Rudy Gobert said.

When the Wolves traded for Gobert



AP Photo

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES center Karl-Anthony Towns, left center, celebrates with guard Anthony Edwards, right center, after Game 7 of an NBA second-round playoff series against the Denver Nuggets in Denver.

before last season, the future for Towns in Minnesota turned cloudier. Their collection of maximum contracts has them headed for hefty luxury tax payments, making Towns a natural subject of trade speculation around the league. But president of basketball operations Tim Connelly believed in the two-big strategy that has flourished this season after a rough debut.

"It's not often you ask your All-NBA player to kind of accommodate others as they come in, but he was one of the first to form a fast chemistry with Rudy," Finch said.

PUTTING THE 'D' IN DALLAS

The acquisition by the Mavericks of Kyrie Irving to form a dashing pick-and-roll duo with the prodigious Don-

cic didn't take off on the first try, either. They've hit their stride this spring, with trade deadline pickup P.J. Washington Jr. deftly complementing them as a third scorer and the recently formed center tandem of Daniel Gafford and Dereck Lively II providing stout defense around the rim. The Mavericks have held their opponents to 101 points or fewer in seven of their 12 playoff games.

TRIPLE-DOUBLE RUN

Doncic finished the last series with three consecutive triple-doubles, capped by 29 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in the clinching victory over Oklahoma City. The 25-year-old has four in these playoffs and seven in his postseason career.

• Pirates

Continued from Page B1

Bonds is the only Pirates player to win two NL MVP awards. He failed to gain induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame during his 10 years on the ballot that ended this year.

TRANSACTIONS

Bae was recalled from Triple-A Indianapolis and RHP Ryder Ryan was optioned to the same club. Bae was leading the International League in hitting with a .367 average. He started in center field.

Giants: OF Ryan McKenna was added to the roster three days after being claimed off waivers from Baltimore and was 0 for 2 while playing right field. OF/INF Tyler Fitzgerald was optioned to Triple-A Sacramento on Monday to clear a roster spot.

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UP NEXT

Giants LHP Blake Snell (0-3, 11.57 ERA) is slated to be activated from the 15-day IL before Wednesday night's game and start against Pirates rookie RHP Jared Jones (3-4, 2.89). Snell, the reigning NL Cy Young Award winner, has been sidelined since April 23 with a left adductor strain.

• Stephen

Continued from Page B1

The student-athlete achievement award was presented to Madonna (Class 1A); Shadyside (Class 2A); Linsly (Class 3A); St. Clairsville (Class 4A); and Morgantown (Class 5A).

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• NCAA

Continued from Page B1

The conference commissioners from leagues that do not compete at the highest tier of Division I football, the Bowl Subdivision, have taken issue with the \$1.6 billion in withheld distribution portion of the settlement. The 27 conferences not named in the lawsuit are expected to cover 60% of withheld distributions, with the other 40% coming from power conferences that are currently comprised of 69 schools.

The commissioners of the 22 non-FBS conferences sent a memo to NCAA leadership, proposing the finance structure be flipped so power conference withheld distributions cover 60% of the \$1.6 billion.

Big Sky Commissioner Tom Wistrucill said Tuesday the non-FBS conferences were holding out hope for reconsideration.

"We're fighting uphill," he said.

The Big Sky is one of the most successful conferences in the Championship Subdivision, with schools such as Montana, Montana State, Eastern Washington, Idaho State and Weber State.

The settlement proposal still needs approval from the Division I Board of Directors, which was scheduled to meet later Tuesday and the NCAA's Board of Governors.

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By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

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Please see **OVAC**, Page 12

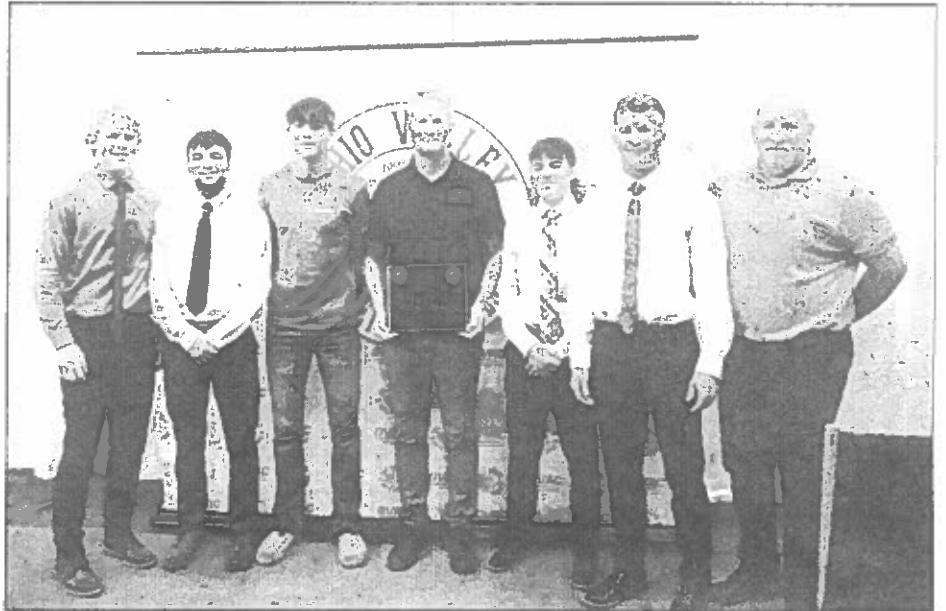


Photo by Kim North

Barnesville wrestling coach Jayson Stephen is pictured with his five seniors after being named the OVAC Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year Tuesday night during the OVAC Banquet of Champions inside WesBanco Arena. From left are Karson Milhoan, Dakota King, Sklyer King, Stephen, Jonathan Huntsman, Reese Stephen and assistant coach Rick Milhoan.

Rosnick Walk-Off Seals Central Win

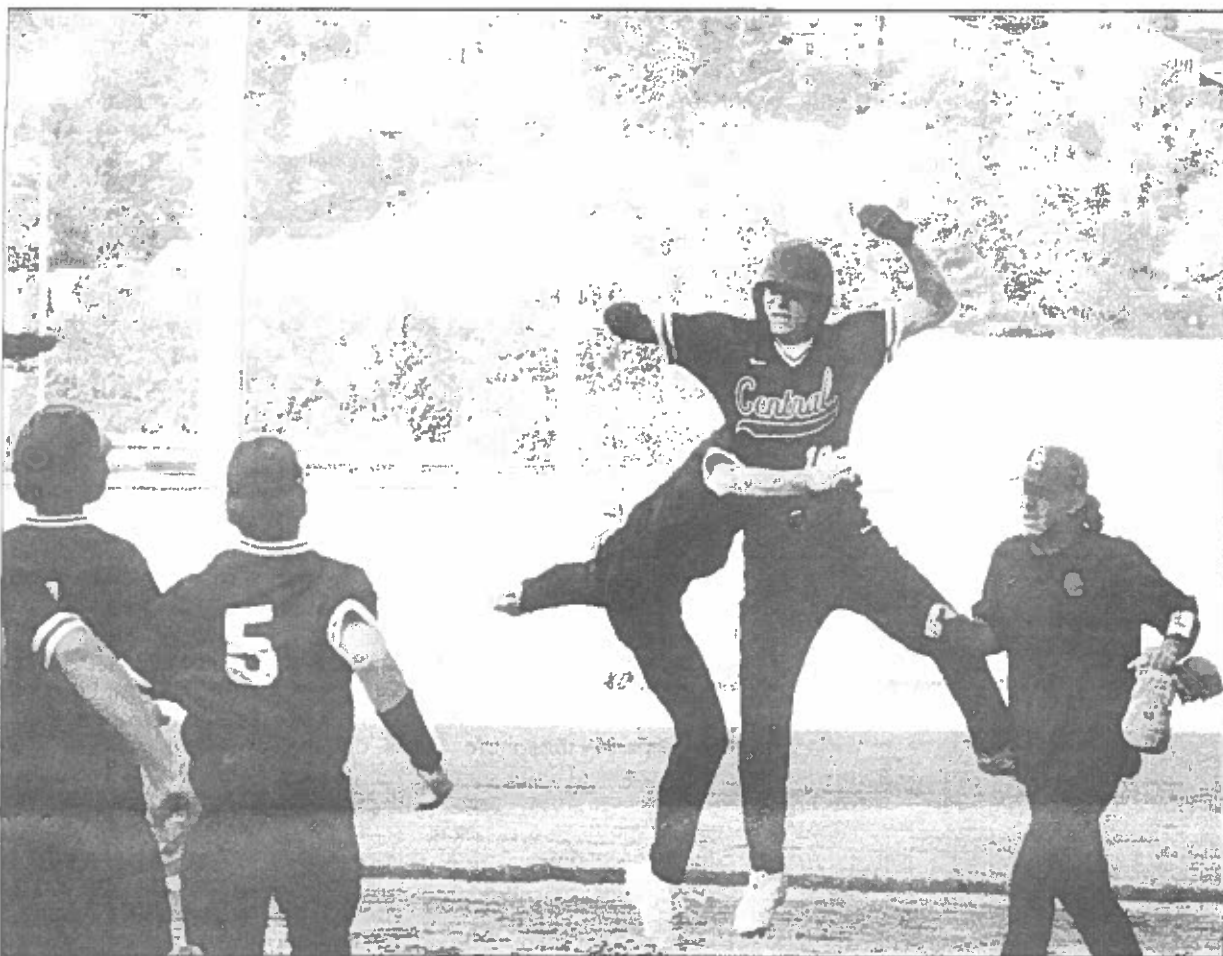


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Central's Zayne Rosnick celebrates with teammates after delivering a 10th-inning walk-off hit Tuesday against the Williamstown Yellowjackets in game two of the W.Va. Class A Region I Finals.

Maroon Knights Beat Williamstown 1-0 In Game Two Of Regionals

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

WHEELING - The Class A Region I championship series between Wheeling Central and Williamstown has been, in a word, extreme.

After Williamstown defeated Central in game one on Monday by a hearty 17-16 score, neither team could plate a run in regulation and beyond in Tuesday's game two.

A scoreless tie persisted into the bottom of the 10th, where Central's Gary Hatfield led off the inning with a single to right field. Seth Cover followed with his own hit to right to move Hatfield to third with nobody out.

As the Maroon Knights' Zayne Rosnick stepped up to the plate, all he had to do was hit the ball deep enough to score Hatfield on a sacrifice fly.

Rosnick did that and more, smashing the first pitch he saw over the right fielder's head and to the wall, a walk-off smack which gave Central a 1-0 victory and knotted the series 1-1, with a decisive game three scheduled for Wednesday.

"I was just thinking I've got to get the run in from third, just hit it far," Rosnick said. "[Yellowjackets pitcher Ty Ott'd] been throwing inside all game, I just had to get under the ball and get the run in."

"We've got one more game left, it's not over."

The burst of offense was preceded by two impressive pitching performances from Central's pair of Brayden Cover (eight innings pitched, 12 strikeouts) and Matt Criniti (two innings pitched, no hits, one walk), and Williamstown's Ty Ott (nine innings pitched, two strikeouts, no walks) who, though saddled with the loss in the scorebook, did more than enough to put his team in position to win.

"It was the complete opposite of yesterday," Williamstown head coach Levi Maxwell said.

Please see **CENTRAL**, Page 13

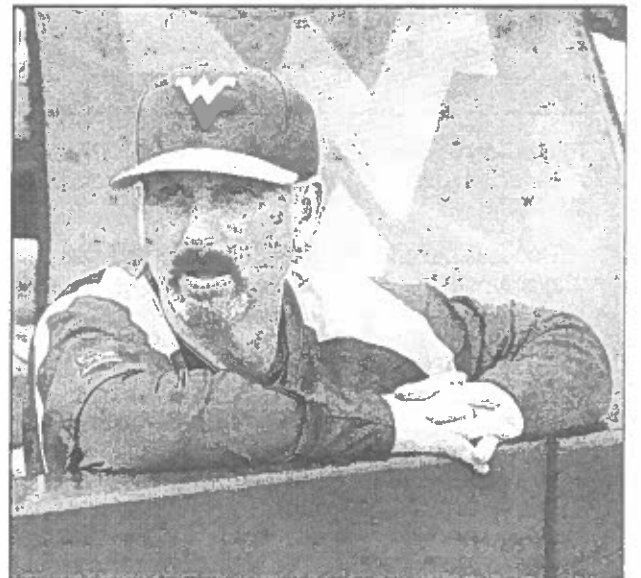


Photo Provided

West Virginia head coach Randy Mazey, pictured in the dugout during the Mountaineers' 5-2 loss to TCU on Tuesday in the Big 12 Tournament.

WVU Bounced To Losers Bracket With Loss To TCU

By **BOB HERTZEL**
WV News

MORGANTOWN - Randy Mazey's been coaching baseball for a long time and if there's one lesson he's learned is that sometimes the less said the better it is and so it was Tuesday afternoon after his West Virginia baseball team dragged itself into the loser's bracket of the Big 12 Championship with a 5-2 loss to TCU that was both uninspired and uninspiring.

All season long if WVU had been anything it was powerful on offense as it put together a 19-11 Big 12 record to earn the No. 4 seed and almost certainly clinch itself a spot in the NCAA Regional but, after his Mountaineers spent most of the day dragging their

bats back to the dugout against two dominant Horned Frog pitchers, the only thing Mazey found offensive was his team's performance.

It set up a 10 a.m. elimination meeting with Kansas State on Wednesday, meaning the wake up calls will come early but not early enough to erase the bad dream they had gone through against TCU.

The Mountaineers managed only three hits all day - just one from any player not named Logan Suave, who homered and doubled. It was only the second time all season WVU had been held to fewer than 4 hits in a game, the other time being on March 22 when Oklahoma no-hit WVU.

Please see **WVU**, Page 12

Gibson To Hold Serve With West Liberty



Gonzales, Pirates Triumph In Extra Innings Against Giants

By **JOHN PERRICCI**

homered in helping the Giants build a 6-2

Wembanyama Makes History On All-Defense Team

NEW YORK (AP) — Victor Wembanyama's latest accolade was like none other.

The San Antonio center has become the first player in NBA history to make the league's All-Defensive first team as a rookie. The league announced the teams on Tuesday, and Wembanyama appeared on 98 of the 99 ballots cast.

Defensive player of the

year Rudy Gobert of Minnesota headlined the team and was the only unanimous selection. He was joined on the first team by Wembanyama, Miami's Bam Adebayo, New Orleans' Herb Jones and the Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis.

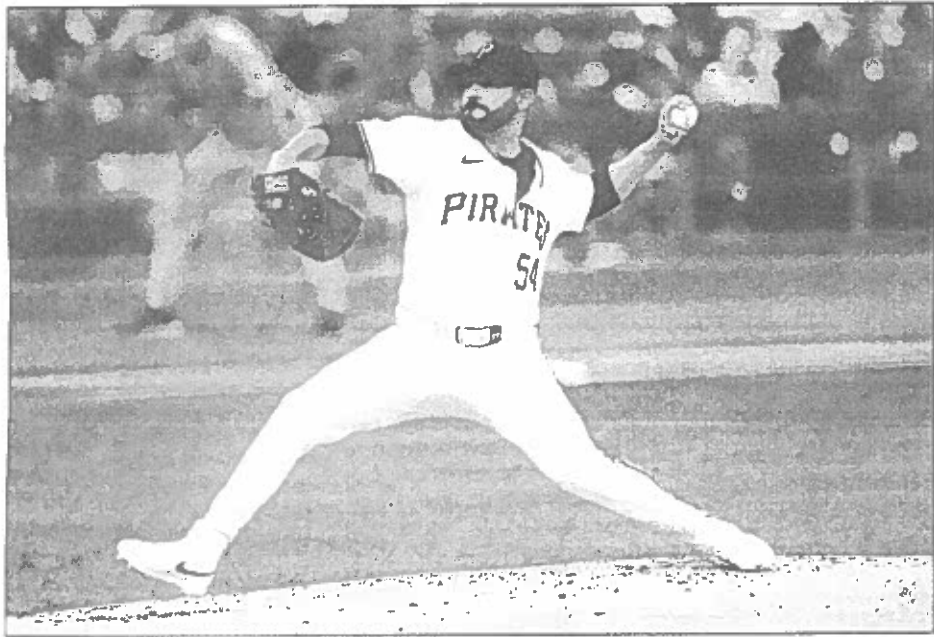
The second-team All-Defense picks were Chicago's Alex Caruso, Orlando's Jalen Suggs, Minnesota's Jaden Mc-

Daniels and Boston teammates Derrick White and Jrue Holiday.

It was Gobert's seventh All-Defense pick, all of them as a member of the first team. Davis is now a five-time All-Defense player, and a three-time first-team selection. Adebayo made All-Defense for the fifth time, and his first as a member of the first team. Jones made the team for the first time.

PIRATES

(Continued from Page 11)



AP Photo

Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Martin Perez delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants in Pittsburgh, Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

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OVAC

(Continued from Page 11)

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WVU

(Continued from Page 11)

Asked what adjustments could be made to change things against Kansas State, Mazey was brief and to the point in a press conference that lasted less than 3 1/2 minutes.

"More hits and strike out less," he said. "That would be ideal."

Kansas State's winner Caedmon Parker and reliever Braeden Sloan completely mystified WVU.

"They made us swing at a lot of pitches that weren't strikes and made us take a lot of pitches that were strikes and that's when your pitchers are having a good day. I don't know how many pitches we swung at out of the strike zone, but it was significant."

West Virginia was a team that had hit 19 home runs in the last seven games, but there was a bit of a tipoff that disaster lay ahead in the final regular season game, also against TCU. The Mountaineers won that game but had

only four hits and with this three-hit performance against the Horned Frogs, they now have gone just 7 for 69, a .117 average, over the past two games.

Two games don't make a slump but they sure don't inspire the kind energy you need to win in postseason play.

The performance was so atypical of what you expect out of a WVU team, that Mazey was asked if he thought his team was ready to play, an idea he rapidly brushed aside.

"That's indoor baseball for you," Mazey said, referring to playing in the Texas Rangers' enclosed Globe Life Field. "In a 40,000-seat stadium with only a couple of thousand people here, that's the atmosphere that's created. If you sat and watched the first game, you probably would have said those two teams didn't show up, either."

"Everyone shows up when you play in this atmosphere. Every kid

knows how to motivate themselves. I think that's just the indoor baseball aspect of it that gives you that impression. We're never not ready to play."

Not to second guess (and yes, here comes a second guess), matters weren't helped as early one out into the bottom of the first inning when JJ Wetherholt, the Mountaineers' most dangerous hitter, thought he had to try and jump start a rally by bunting against the shift TCU had put on.

Not that it might not have done something positive if he hadn't been thrown out on the bunt attempt, when on a tournament stage WVU's excitement has to come from Wetherholt hitting baseball into the gaps.

The shift was inviting Wetherholt to bunt, almost begging him to, so why oblige them?

Anyway, taking the dangerous bat out of Wetherholt's hands there wasn't an aggressive sign you like to see early in a game and Parker finished his five innings on the mound allowing two hits, one of them Suave's two-run homer to narrow the game to 3-2.

Sloan came on and took over in the sixth, almost was undressed by a vicious line drive hit back at him by Sammy White as the first batter he faced. Somehow, Sloan managed to catch the ball that was going out faster than it was coming into the plate.

He went on to pitch four innings of one-hit relief with seven strikeouts.

Meanwhile, WVU wound up having to use three pitchers, none of whom pitched terribly and none of who overwhelmed. TCU had enough to get single runs in the fourth through seventh innings and then a final insurance run in the ninth.

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Buffalo Creek

Six nominated for OVAC Coach of the Year

By **KIM NORTH**
 Staff Writer

WHEELING — Six very worthy candidates have been announced as nominees for the prestigious Bill Van Horne OVAC Coach of the Year award which will be presented during Tuesday night's Banquet of Champions inside Wes-Banco Arena. The event begins at 5:30 p.m.

All but one of the finalists won a state championship in their respective sports this past school year.

The nominees include Ken Maisel (University High wrestling); Holly Pettit (Cameron girls' basketball); Jayson Stephen (Barnesville wrestling);



MAISEL



PETTIT



STEPHEN



TALLMAN



WEST



YOUNG

Dave Tallman (Morgantown boys' basketball); Ed West (John Marshall softball) and Ryan Young (Wheeling Park girls' basketball).

MAISEL led the powerful Hawks to the W.Va. Class AAA state championship in Huntington. They had a trio of

state champions and 11 overall place-winners. University also won the Region I Tournament title and the Class AAA state dual meet championship, as well as the OVAC Ron Mauck Class AAAA Division and the Wheeling Park Duals titlists. The Hawks also finished

atop the team standings at the Amityville (N.Y.) Tournament; the Union Local Rick Link Invitational; and the Nurse Pro Plus Tournament. They were a sparkling 22-1 in dual meets and had half-a-dozen wrestlers win at least 40 matches.

PETTIT led the Dragons to

their third consecutive W.Va. Class A state championship in Charleston. It was the program's fourth straight appearance in the title game and Cameron became the first public school to win three straight Class A crowns. The Dragons finished with a superb 23-5 record against a very challenging schedule. Cameron had not appeared in the state tournament until recently.

STEPHEN coached Barnesville to its first OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament overall title since 1985. The Shamrocks piled up an impressive 259 points and had a trio of champions.

See **COACH**, Page C2

Patrone heading to Marshall

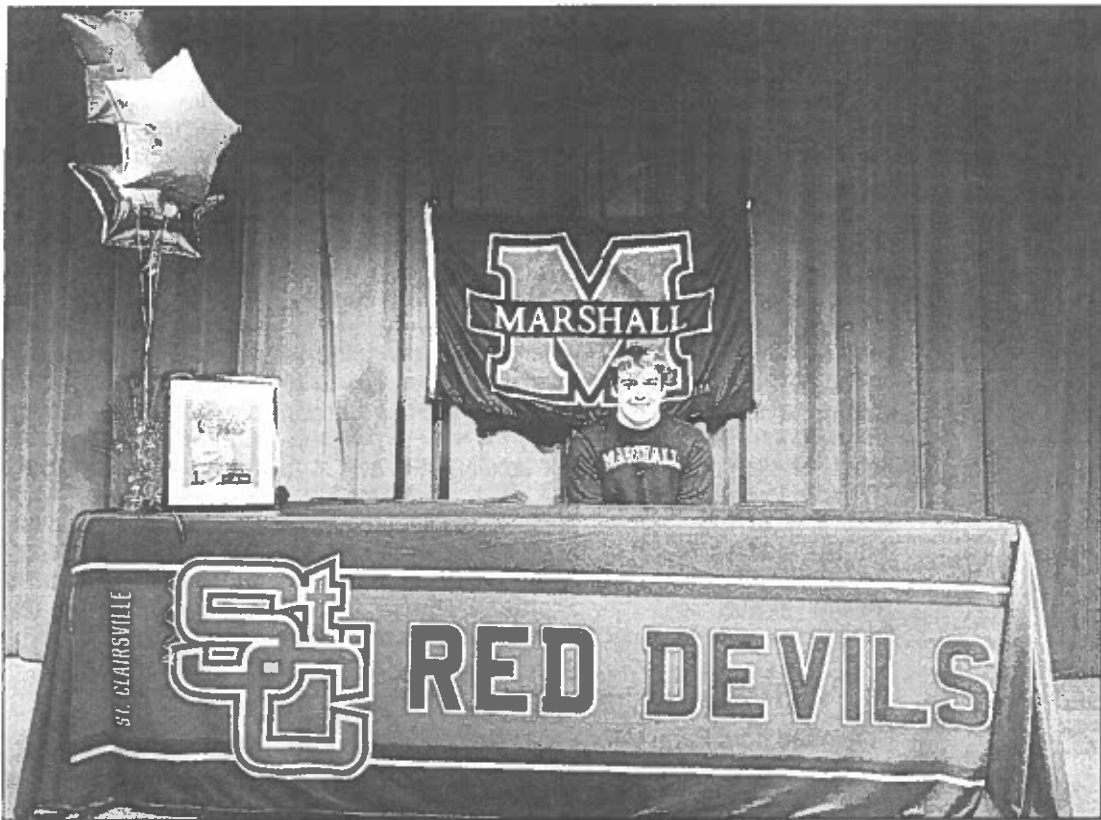


Photo Provided

PERRY PATRONE committed to the Marshall University track team on Wednesday. He plans to major in computer engineering or electrical engineering. He will be a thrower on the track and field team. Last year, Patrone placed fifth in the state in the shot put. He is also in the top ten in his graduating class at St. Clairsville, ranked fifth overall. Patrone is a fourth generation college athlete. His great-grandfather, Perrin Steele, wrestled at Ohio University for four years 1928-1932; his grandfather, Howard Yunghans, was a thrower at Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio; his mother, Laura Patrone, ran Cross Country and Track at Ohio as a walk-on 1993-1997, and Perry will start his academic and athletic careers this fall of 2024.

Bordas & Bordas Golf Classic set for June 8-9

WHEELING — The 7th annual Bordas & Bordas Amateur Golf Classic is scheduled for June 8-9 at Oglebay Park's par-71 Crispin Golf Course.

A purse of \$10,000 is up for grabs in the 36-hole Medal and Best-Ball event, along with championship and senior (50+) flights.

There's also a Junior Flight (must be enrolled in high school or lower) where the John B. Wilson Memorial Award is up for grabs. The trophy is named in honor of the late golf teacher and coach.

The tournament is one of the longest-running two-day tournaments in the tri-state area, dating back to the late 1930s. It's also part of the year-long Oglebay Park Men's Golf Club Tour.

"I love this time of year," said Scott Blass of Bordas & Bordas Attorneys. "Crispin is in great shape and it's the 'player-friendly' course where birdies are plentiful. The tournament is a good mix of 20-somethings and seniors, which makes it interesting."

Defending champion Bryan "B.T." Myers, 51, of Wheel-

ing looks to win another trophy. The three-time winner and five-time runner-up fired back-to-back rounds of 65 last year (-12) to end Howie Petersen's (-11) two-year run as champion. Peterson, the former Weirton Madonna and West Liberty University star, made a wild run shooting a 30 on the back nine to put a scare into Myers but came up one stroke short. Peterson will once again be teamed with his father Trey this year.

Myers, 51, will be the hunted by a slew of young guns, including Petersen.

"I like battling these young guys," Myers said. "They hit it a long way, but I can still compete with them."

Marshall University's Ryan Bilby, a Brooke High School alum and current Marshall University golfer, was a distant third (-7) last year but edged Myers for the victory in the golf club's other "major tournament" the Kalkreuth Amateur Golf Championship in July. West Liberty's Noah Seivertson (-7) tied Bilby for third.

See **BORDAS**, Page C2



AP Photo

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER watches his tee shot on the 11th hole during the second round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at the Valhalla Golf Club on Friday in Louisville, Ky.

Scheffler arrested outside PGA tournament; returns

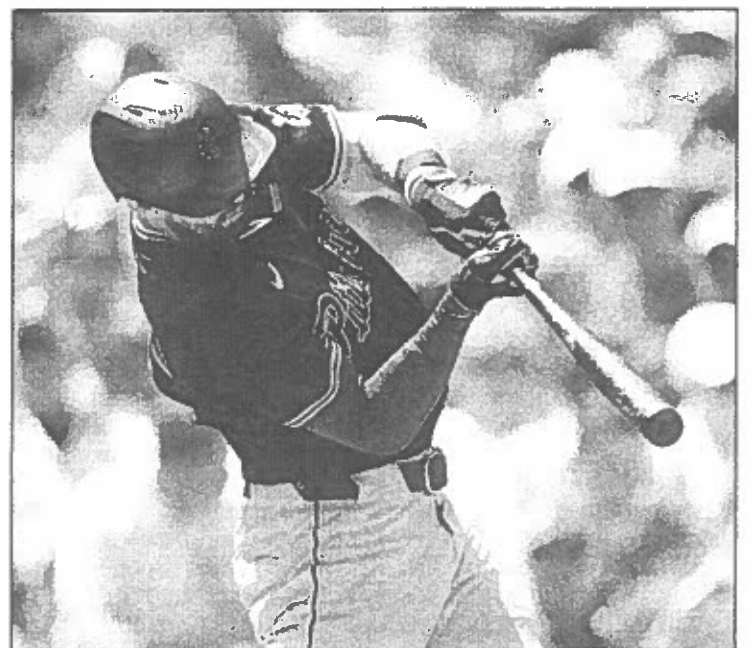
Paul Skenes strikes out 11 in six no-hit innings as the Pirates beat the Cubs 9-3

CHICAGO (AP) — Paul Skenes struck out 11 over six no-hit innings in his second major league start, and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Chicago Cubs 9-3 on Friday.

Skenes allowed just one baserunner — Michael Busch on a full-count walk on the eighth pitch of the fifth-inning plate appearance — in an utterly dominant performance.

After pitching through some nerves in his big league debut against the Cubs last weekend, he looked quite comfortable on a picturesque day at Wrigley Field.

"It's really tough to compete without fastball execution, no matter who you are," Skenes said. "It was a lot better today, something I could lean on



leads the Guardians to 3-2 win

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jose Ramirez homered with two outs in the eighth inning, sending the Cleveland Guardians to a 3-2 win on Friday night over the Minnesota Twins in a game featuring the first infield shift violation this season.

Ramirez connected for his 10th homer on a 2-1 pitch from Jhoan Duran (0-1), driving it into the seats in right field to delight a Progressive Field crowd that came out to see Cleveland's new uniforms and fireworks.

It was the 226th career homer for Ramirez, moving him into a tie for fourth in club history with Hall of Famer Earl Averill. Only Jim Thome (337), Albert Belle (242) and Manny Ramirez (236) have more.

Ramirez's homer also came after the Twins won a video challenge to wipe out a stolen base at second.

Tim Herrin (2-0), who allowed the Twins to tie it in the eighth, got the win. Emmanuel Clase worked the ninth for his 13th save.

Guardians starter Triston McKenzie allowed just two hits — one a homer — in 6 2/3 innings. The right-hander also got three double plays and a nice diving catch by center fielder Tyler Freeman to start the game.

David Fry belted a two-run homer for the Guardians in the sixth shortly after Twins shortstop Carlos Correa was ruled to be illegally out of position

while fielding a grounder. McKenzie only gave up one run — a homer to Alex Kiriloff — as Minnesota continued to struggle offensively and dropped its fourth straight. McKenzie induced double plays in three straight innings.

The Twins stumbled into Cleveland. They were swept at home in a three-game series earlier this week by the New York Yankees, who shut out them out in the final two games and outscored Minnesota 14-1.

Twins rookie Simeon Woods Richardson was pulled in the sixth following an unusual matchup against Ramirez, who appeared to ground out to Correa for the first out.

However, the Guardians felt Correa was to the left side of second base when the pitch was released.

They challenged and the play was overturned by replay with Ramirez returning to the batter's box — he was awarded a ball and runner Andres Gimenez returned to first — before hitting a foul pop the Twins let drop.

Ramirez then pulled a pitch down the right-field line that just missed being a two-run homer by feet. He eventually struck out, but Gimenez, who opened the inning with a single, stole second and went to third on a throwing error.

Okert came on and the Twins cut down Gimenez at the plate on a fielder's choice before the versatile Fry, who has played first,

outfield, catcher and DH, connected on an 0-2 pitch for his fourth homer.

Kiriloff's homer leading off the third ended Minnesota's scoreless streak at 28 consecutive innings, the fourth longest streak in club history (since 1961).

NEW JERSEYS
The Guardians debuted their new City Connect Series uniforms.

The blue tops are emblazoned with "CLE" across the front in art-deco style letters and numbers inspired by the nearby Guardians of Traffic pillars on the Hope Memorial Bridge outside Progressive Field.

TRAINER'S ROOM
Twins: CF Byron Buxton is expected to be activated from the injury list for Saturday's game after being sidelined since May 3 with right knee inflammation.

Buxton played back-to-back games this week at Triple-A St. Paul without any issues, clearing his return.

Guardians: RHP Gavin Williams (elbow) threw another bullpen session as he continues to build up arm strength after being hurt in training camp.

He threw 50 pitches Wednesday in his first session since receiving an anti-inflammatory injection.

UP NEXT
Twins RHP Bailey Ober (4-1, 3.77 ERA) goes for his fifth win in six starts, matching up against Guardians LHP Logan Allen (4-2, 5.56).

crossing the road in a lane that was dedicated to tournament traffic.

Mills, 69, was working for a PGA Championship vendor. He was pronounced dead at the scene about 5:09 a.m.

ESPN reporter Jeff Darlington witnessed the incident and said Scheffler, the No. 1 player in the world who was to start the second round at 8:48 a.m., drove past a police officer a little after 6 a.m. in his SUV with markings on the door indicating it was a PGA Championship vehicle.

The officer screamed at him to stop and then grabbed onto the car until Scheffler stopped about 10 yards later, Darlington said. The officer, identified in the arrest report as Det. Gillis, was dragged "to the ground" and suffered "pain, swelling, and

Darlington said police pulled Scheffler out of the car, pushed him up against the car and immediately placed him in handcuffs.

"Scheffler was then walked over to the police car, placed in the back, in handcuffs, very stunned about what was happening, looked toward me as he was in those handcuffs and said, 'Please help me,'" Darlington said. "He very clearly did not know what was happening in the situation. It moved very quickly, very rapidly, very aggressively."

Scheffler was released by police and returned to the course at 9:12 a.m. He made his way to the practice area around 9:30 a.m. and was welcomed by fans — one shouted "free Scottie!" and others arrived later wearing "Free Scottie" T-shirts.

Scheffler seemed like

do. He's going to jail." Darlington said another police officer later approached with a notepad and asked if he knew the name of the person they put in handcuffs.

Scheffler said he never told police who he was except to say, "I'm sorry. I'm just trying to get to my tee time."

Louisville police have attracted negative national attention in recent years after the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor in 2020 and a federal investigation into its policing practices.

PGA of America, which runs the PGA Championship, offered sympathies for Mills' family and said in a statement. "As it relates to the incident involving Scottie Scheffler, we are fully cooperating as local authorities review what took place."

• Pirates

Continued from Page C1

Hendricks has allowed seven earned runs in three of his seven starts this season. Asked about the right-hander's spot in the rotation, manager Craig Counsell was non-committal.

"I think we got to look at the start a little closer and see what's going on. ... We've got to keep doing our best to help Kyle turn the corner," he said.

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Cubs: SS Dansby Swanson (right knee

sprain) took batting practice against LHPs Drew Smyly (right hip impingement) and Jordan Wicks (forearm strain). ... RHP Colten Brewer (low back strain) was placed on the 15-day injured list, and RHP Porter Hodge was recalled from Triple-A Iowa. ... RHP Julian Merryweather (rib stress fracture) has "turned a corner a little bit," Counsell said. The plan is for Merryweather to begin a throwing program on Monday. ... RHP Yency Almonte

(shoulder strain) is doing a strengthening progression. Counsell said Almonte could begin throwing next week.

UP NEXT
Shota Imanaga (5-0, 0.96 ERA) pitches on Saturday for the Cubs, and fellow left-hander Bailey Falter (2-2, 4.15 ERA) starts for the Pirates. Imanaga struck out eight in five scoreless innings in a no-decision at Atlanta on Monday night. Falter is going for his first win since April 23.

Guardians' Steven Kwan takes batting practice while recovering from May 4 hamstring injury

CLEVELAND (AP) — Guardians leadoff hitter and left fielder Steven Kwan took batting practice on Friday for the first time since hurting his left hamstring and going on the injured list.

Kwan was leading the AL in hitting when he was pulled from a May 4 game with tightness in his hamstring.

He got hurt while chasing after a fly ball headed down the left-field line.

The two-time Gold

Glove winner was placed on the 15-day IL on May 6, and the team said at the time it would be at least four weeks before he returned to the lineup.

"He's progressing well," manager Stephen Vogt said before Friday's series opener against Minnesota. "Still don't have a timetable, but the fact that he's already back to baseball activity is a good sign. He's feeling well and been running relatively pain-free, so he's on a good track."

The Guardians have managed to stay atop the AL Central without Kwan, who was batting .353 with 47 hits, three homers and 11 RBIs before he got hurt.

Kwan dealt with hamstring injuries while at Oregon State.

The 26-year-old Kwan has become one of the league's best top-of-the-order hitters in just over two seasons.

He batted .298 as a rookie and .268 last season while playing 158 games.

• Bordas

Continued from Page C1

Glen Robbins, Ohio, native Andrew Strope, 2016 champ B.J. Tulodziecki, and Seth Vanoy tied for fifth.

A bunch of former champions are in this year's field, including Floyd Shuler who won the tournament 40 years ago in 1984, as well as 1981 Larry Lis Jr., a three-time champion (2002, 2005, 2008) is playing this year, and will pair with his son Austin, a former West Liberty golfer.

Former Wheeling Park High School and University of Indianapolis golfer turned assistant golf coach Jacob Nickel won in 2017 and 2019. Linsly School golf coach Joey Seabright, a two-time champion (2011, 2020) will team

with his brother Scott once again. Tulodziecki, the Wintersville native is back to try and win a second title, since winning in 2016 and Wheeling veteran Mike Ricci Sr. won the championship in 2009.

Terry Dubois ('87, '88, '90, '96, & '98) and Evo Petri ('45, '51, '54, '57 & '59) are tied for the most championships with 5.

Wheeling's Bobby Clark has won the last five Senior Division championships ('19-'23).

West Liberty men's golf coach Thad Obecny II set a tournament and course record in 2015, when he shot a 59 in the final round to win the crown with a two-day total (126).

For the seventh straight year, the law firm will donate proceeds of the event to the Oglebay Foundation's Access to the Parks Project, which allows underprivileged kids to use Oglebay and Wheeling Park for free.

The two-day tournament is open to the public, who can feel free to check out the action.

The tournament started out as the Bernhardt's from 1945-1999.

It was called the Welty Buick Classic from 2000-2006 and the Kalkreuth Roofing and Sheet Metal Tournament from 2007-2017.

You can still sign up to play in this year's tournament until June 1 at bordaslaw.com/golf or oglebaygc.com.

• Coach

Continued from Page C1

Barnesville went on to win the Ohio Division III sectional and district titles before finishing as state runner up in Columbus. The Shamrocks also won their 13th consecutive OVAC Ron Mauck Class AAA crown, as well as their third straight OVAC Bill Hinegardner Class AAA Dual Meet championship.

Two Shamrocks, Reese Stephen and Skyler King, won state championships. It was the second straight for Stephen.

TALLMAN and the Mohigans won the W.Va.

Class AAAA state championship for the third consecutive year. It was their fourth straight appearance. They avenged their lone loss to Spring Mills in the championship game in Charleston. Morgantown also made it back-to-back titles in the OVAC Class 5A tournament.

WEST led the Monarchs to the W.Va. Class AAA title last spring in South Charleston with a 3-2 win over Cabell Midland.

The Monarchs finished with an impressive 30-5 record. They defeated

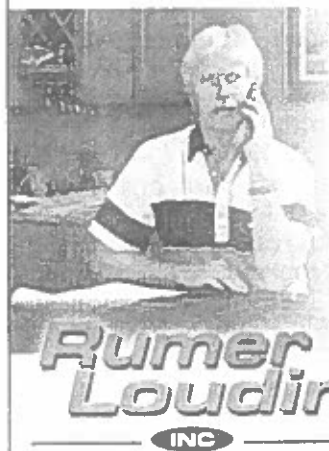
Morgantown in the Section I Tournament and then University in the Region I Tournament.

Four Monarchs earned all-tournament.

YOUNG coached the Patriots to the OVAC Class 5A championship and W.Va. Class AAAA state title, both victories coming against Morgantown. The Mountain State title came by a 65-51 margin and avenged a loss in the 2022 state championship game to the Mohigans.

Wheeling Park finished with a sensational 25-4 record.

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Bill Van Horne OVAC Coach Of The Year Finalists Named

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer
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The nominees include Ken Maisel (University

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KEN MAISEL



HOLLY PETTIT



JAYSON STEPHEN



DAVE TALLMAN



ED WEST



RYAN YOUNG

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Please see OVAC, Page C2

Skenes Fans 11, Earns First Win In Pirates Victory

CHICAGO (AP) — Paul Skenes struck out 11 over six no-hit innings in his second major league start, and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Chicago Cubs 9-3 on Friday.

Skenes allowed just one baserunner — Michael Busch on a full-count walk on the eighth pitch of the fifth-inning plate appearance — in an utterly dominant performance. After pitching through some nerves in his big league debut against the Cubs last weekend, he looked quite comfortable on a picturesque day at Wrigley Field.

"It's really tough to compete without fastball execution, no matter who you are," Skenes said. "It was a lot better today, something I could lean on a little bit more than the last week."

Skenes (1-0), who turns 22 on May 29, struck out his first seven batters, including the side in the first on pitches of at least 100 mph. He struck out Mike Tauchman on a 100 mph fastball on his 100th and final pitch — his 12th to reach triple digits.

The No. 1 overall pick in the 2023 amateur draft became the third rookie with seven strikeouts to start a game, joining Jacob deGrom on Sept. 15, 2014, and Jim Deshaies on Sept. 23, 1986. He also became the first rookie with an outing of at least six no-hit innings and 10-plus strikeouts since Chris Heston threw a no-hitter for San Francisco against the New York Mets on June 9, 2015.

"It was extremely impressive," Pirates manager Derek Shelton said. "I mean he went right after them."

Andrew McCutchen and Jared Triolo homered for Pittsburgh, which held on for a 5-4 victory in the opener of the four-game series on Thursday night. Triolo and Yasmani Grandal each had two hits and three RBIs.

Chicago played without second baseman Nico Hoerner, who missed his fourth consecutive game because of left hamstring tightness. He is day to day.

Please see Skenes, Page C2



AP Photo
Scottie Scheffler lines up a putt on the 13th hole during the second round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at the Valhalla Golf Club,

W.VA. STATE TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Magnolia's Jenna Blain competes in the Class A girls 100-meter hurdles preliminaries Friday on Laidley Field. Blain tied for first and qualified for the finals on Saturday.

Oak Glen's Kliner Wins 3200; Paden City Relay Takes Gold

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

CHARLESTON — It was the climax for some, and the set-up for others Friday at Laidley Field in Charleston as day one of the West Virginia state track meet provided champions in some events, and set the final field for others.

Local athletes will be coming home with gold in two events from Friday, one being a runaway favorite coming into the meet, and the other coming away with the win as an underdog.

Oak Glen's Hannah Kliner, after scoring points in the 1600 and 3200-meter runs in the state meet her junior year, stood alone atop the podium Friday with a first-place finish in the 3200-meter run.

The top seed coming into the event, Kliner ran the race in 11:30.33 to claim the gold.

More is yet to come for the senior Golden Bear, who is due to compete in the 1600 and 800-meter on Saturday. Kliner is the top seed in the 1600 and third-seed in the 800.

The biggest story coming out of the first day for the Ohio Valley came from an underdog.

The Paden City Wildcats' relay team in the girls 4x102.5-meter shuttle hurdles came into the race Friday with a seed time which placed them third, behind top-seeded Tyler and East Hardy.

When it came to the actual race though, the Wildcats had every other team watching their backs by the end.

The Wildcats' relay team won the Class A state championship in the event with a 1:08.85, the

team of Jocelyn Sawinski, Haven Anderson, Katie Householder and Mady Still delivering the gold to their school.

"It's amazing," Still said. "Four girls on the track team who run. I think it's pretty wild that we made it this far, no alternates. There is a couple girl throwers but just four runners. I feel like that's extremely wild for us four to make it to state."

"Shocked," Sawinski said of winning the race. "And proud of my team for all the hard work we've put in."

Sawinski and Still are seniors while Anderson and Householder are sophomores. The elder statesmen were understandably happy to go out on top, while the underclassmen were elated to help them end their careers on a high note.

"It feels good," Sawinski said. "We've never gotten first in an event. I know my sophomore year we were in this same event and we got state runnerup, but we'd never won. It feels good, especially because we worked hard on this relay for two years now, and it feels really good to have all that hard work go into something, and for it to pay off."

"I wouldn't have done it for anyone else," Anderson said of her senior teammates. "These two girls are probably two of my best friends, my future bridesmaids, and I love them so much. I wouldn't have wanted to do it with anybody else in the world. It really sucks seeing them go but they're going to do great in life. I'm just so proud of them."

Please see Gold, Page C2



under the circumstances.

"As far as best rounds of my career, I would say it was pretty good," Scheffler said. "I definitely never imagined ever going to jail, and I definitely never imagined going to jail the morning before one of my tee times for sure."

He practiced a bit after his round, signed a few autographs and was trying to get back into a routine to prepare for what Scheffler expects to be a grind.

That much was evident by the scores. Valhalla is soft and defenseless, and hardly any wind made it even easier.

Morikawa posted from the morning wave at 11-under 131, and Schauffele had moved past him as he headed to the back nine.

Scheffler was at 133 along with Thomas Detry (67) and Mark Hubbard, who had three bogeys and three birdies over his last seven holes in a round of 68.

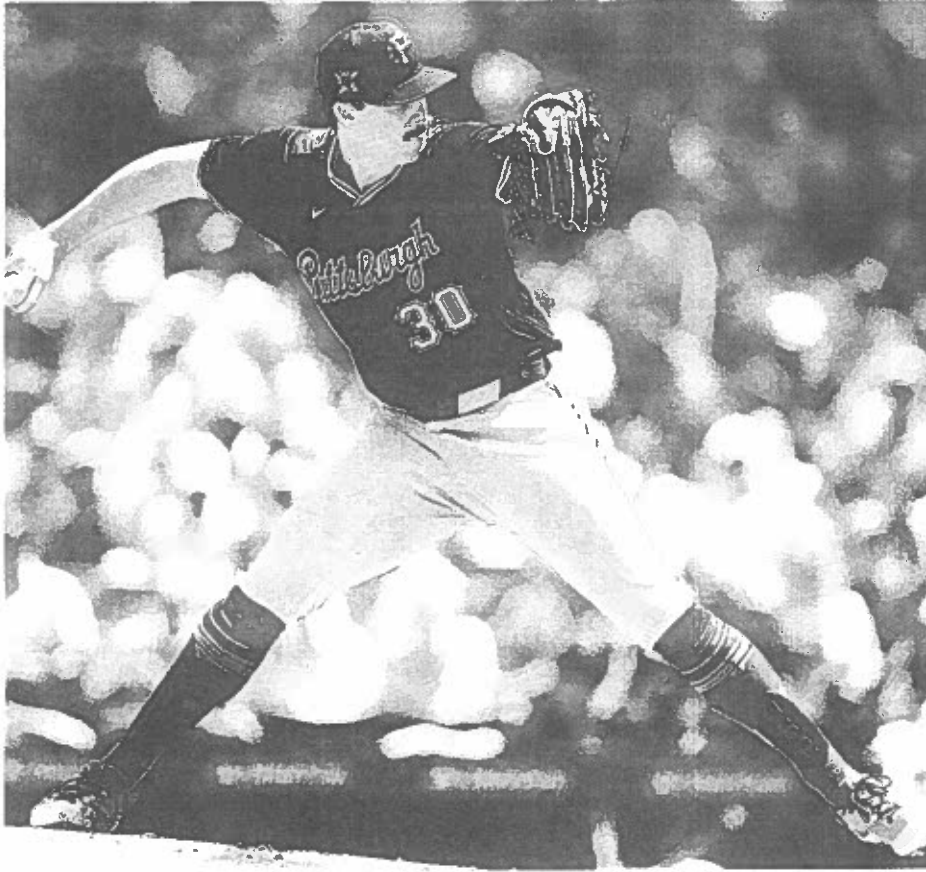
The only normalcy was the golf. Schauffele is still going strong. Morikawa keeps moving closer to the form that brought him two majors. And Scheffler still looks like the player to beat.

He couldn't discuss many details of the arrest for legal reasons. In the three hours he spent away from the course, Scheffler had three wardrobe changes — gym clothes, jail garb and golf clothes — took a mug shot and hired an attorney. He got back to Valhalla 56 minutes before his tee time.

And the cheers and support for him were never louder or unusual, especially the chants of "Free Scottie!" and quickly fashioned T-shirts that said the same.

"I've kept myself in the tournament now with a pretty chaotic day, so I'm going to go from here and focus on getting some rest and recovery and get ready for a grind the last two days," Scheffler said.

Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Paul Skenes delivers a pitch during the first inning of a game against the Chicago Cubs Friday, in Chicago.



AP Photo

SKENES

(Continued from Page C1)

The Cubs got their first hit when Christopher Morel lined a single into right against Carmen Mlodzinski with two outs in the seventh. Miguel Amaya homered and Morel added a two-run double in the eighth.

Chicago finished with four hits in its fourth loss in five games.

Triolo connected for a two-run drive in the third against Kyle Hendricks, and Pittsburgh broke it open with three more runs in each of the next two innings. Grandal's two-run single made it 8-0 in the fifth.

Hendricks (0-4) was tagged for a season-high eight runs and 11 hits in 4 2/3 innings in his second start since returning from of a low back strain.

"Just bizarre. So many soft hits, falling in front," Hendricks said.

"So just got to stick with the process, stick with down in the zone, stick with executing, and hopefully that's got to switch."

Hendricks has allowed seven earned runs in three of his seven starts this season. Asked about the right-hander's spot in the rotation, manager Craig Counsell was non-committal.

"I think we got to look at the start a little closer and see what's going on. ... We've got to keep doing our best to help Kyle turn the corner," Counsell said.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Cubs: SS Dansby Swanson (right knee sprain) took batting practice against LHPs Drew Smyly (right hip impingement) and Jordan Wicks (forearm strain). ... RHP Colten Brewer (low back strain)

was placed on the 15-day injured list, and RHP Porter Hodge was recalled from Triple-A Iowa. ... RHP Julian Merryweather (rib stress fracture) has "turned a corner a little bit," Counsell said. The plan is for Merryweather to begin a throwing program on Monday. ... RHP Yency Almonte (shoulder strain) is doing a strengthening progression. Counsell said Almonte could begin throwing next week.

UP NEXT

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GOLF

(Continued from Page C1)

Tyler finished sixth, an unfortunate spill on a hurdle setting them back. The Madonna Blue Dons finished seventh to pick up points.

It doesn't end here for Paden City. Still tied for first overall in the Class A 100-meter preliminaries, and she will be competing for more hardware tomorrow. The same four Wildcats are also set to compete in the girls 4x100-meter relay Saturday.

In the Class A shotput, Magnolia's Hunter Goddard took bronze with a third-place finish. Tyler's Tristen Tuttle was right behind him in fourth, and Magnolia's Matthew Anderson finished fifth.

Wheeling Central's Lucca Ferrera placed eighth to round off the scoring placements.

Tuttle finished in second place in the Class A discus throw, while Magnolia's Dubale Great-house finished third and teammate Matthew Anderson finished fourth. A third Blue Eagle got points in the event, as Magnolia's Darin Shimp placed eighth.

Among local athletes in Class A, few were busier than Valley's Gavin Derby. He qualified for the 100-meter, the 200-meter and finished fourth in the long jump.

Wheeling Central's Braden McWreath also qualified for the 100-meter dash finals Saturday.

Valley's Joey Barr finished in seventh in the Class A long jump, while Cameron's Slaton Pettit finished eighth.

Also in Class A, Tyler's Lily Dillaman, Valley's Madelyn Campbell and Magnolia's Jenna Blain qualified for the 100-meter hurdles finals Saturday. Blain also qualified for the 200-meter dash in preliminary action Friday, along with the Wheeling Central duo of Aniah Maltony and Kayleigh Whittington.

Whittington also qualified for the 100-meter dash finals align with teammate Ally Jefferson and Valley's Laken Dawson.

Valley's Sean Bates qualified for the 110-meter hurdles on the boys

side. Tyler's Amos Kimble took third place in the Class A boys 3200-meter run finals, while Magnolia's Landen Davis placed fourth and teammate Shiv Patel placed eighth.

Tyler's Juliana Lattea finished as state runner-up in the Class A girls shot put.

In Class AA, Weir's Maleigha Stromile qualified for Saturday's finals in the 100-meter hurdles.

Weir's Olivia Baker finished first in both the girls 100-meter and 200-meter dash preliminaries, boding well for the finals of both on Saturday.

The Red Riders continued their success Friday with Devan Colson qualifying for the Class AA boys 100-meter and 200-meter dash finals.

teammate Jacob Taylor also qualifying in the 200-meter.

In finals competition, Weir's Anthony Zorbini came in third in the Class AA boys shot put. The

Weir girls 4x102.5-meter shuttle hurdle team of Myleigh Clevenger, Maleea Faulks, Kiana Luevano and Maleigha Stromile were state runner-ups.

The Oak Glen boys 4x110-meter shuttle hurdle team of Aiden Flowers, Kyle Greenleaf, Christian Francis and Logan Murray finished fifth

In Class AAA, Wheeling Park's Mykel Davis was state runner-up in the high jump, clearing 6-foot-6. Park's Jillian Huffman tied for seventh in the girls' high jump.

The Patriots picked up yet more points with Adam Carman finishing fourth in the Class AAA boys pole vault.

Wheeling Park's team of Lily Hanna, Ra'myah Askerneese, Molly Brinker and K'Lyn Neider finished fifth in Class AAA 4x102.5-meter shuttle hurdles.

Neider will be back in action Saturday after qualifying in the 100-meter hurdles. Teammate Kaylee Davis qualified in the 100-meter dash.

Action on the second and final day of state competition is set to pick up Saturday at 9 a.m. on Laidley Field.

OVAC

(Continued from Page C1)

Two Shamrocks, Reese Stephen and Skyler King, won state championships. It was the second straight for Stephen.

TALLMAN and the Mohigans won the W.Va. Class AAAA state championship for the third consecutive year. It was their fourth straight appearance. They avenged their lone loss to Spring Mills in the championship game in Charleston.

Morgantown also made it back-to-back titles in the OVAC Class 5A tournament.

WEST led the Monarchs to the W.Va. Class AAA title last spring in South Charleston with a 3-2 win over Cabell Midland. The Monarchs finished with an impressive 30-5 record. They defeated Morgantown in the Section I Tournament and then University in the Region I Tournament.

Four Monarchs earned all-tournament.

YOUNG coached the Patriots to the OVAC Class 5A championship and W.Va. Class AAAA state title, both victories coming against Morgantown. The Mountain State title came by a 65-51 margin and avenged a loss in the 2022 state championship game to the Mohigans.

Wheeling Park finished with a sensational 25-4 record.