



AP Photo

Ohio State wide receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. poses with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell after being chosen by the Arizona Cardinals with the fourth overall pick during the first round of the NFL football draft, Thursday, April 25, 2024, in Detroit.

DETROIT (AP) — Caleb Williams swiftly walked on stage, looked out and screamed “Woooo! Yeah!”

Long-suffering Bears fans felt his joy.

Williams is heading to the Windy City, aiming to become the franchise quarterback Chicago has sought for decades.

“My goal is to get into as far as February as I can,” Williams said, referring to playing in a Super Bowl for a team that hasn’t hoisted the Lombardi Trophy in nearly 40 years.

The 2022 Heisman Trophy winner kicked off an historic NFL draft Thursday night that had five other teams selecting quarterbacks among the top 12 picks, setting a record with five in the top 10 and tying a record for the most in the first round.

Nearly the entire first half of the draft was offensive players.

A defensive player wasn’t selected until UCLA edge rusher Laiatu Latu

went at No. 15 to Indianapolis. That’s the latest a first defensive player has ever gone.

The Bears opened with the easy choice, taking Williams at No. 1 after deciding weeks ago to bank on the 2022 Heisman Trophy winner from USC.

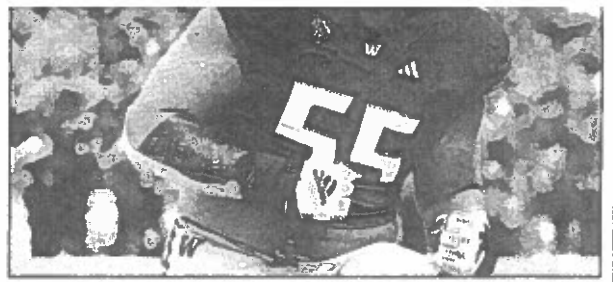
“Care, love and support and want to win,” Williams said about what he’s bringing to Chicago.

The Washington Commanders followed up by taking 2023 Heisman Trophy winner Jayden Daniels from LSU and the New England Patriots took North Carolina’s Drake Maye at No. 3, making it the fourth draft with quarterbacks going with the first three picks.

The 22-year-old Williams is the third quarterback Chicago has selected in the first round in the past eight years, joining Mitch Trubisky and Justin Fields.

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- 2. Washington Commanders - Jayden Daniels, QB, LSU
- 3. New England Patriots - Drake Maye, QB, North Carolina
- 4. Arizona Cardinals - Marvin Harrison Jr., WR, Ohio State
- 5. Los Angeles Chargers - Joe Alt, OT, Notre Dame
- 6. New York Giants - Malik Nabers, WR, LSU
- 7. Tennessee Titans - JC Latham, OT, Alabama
- 8. Atlanta Falcons - Michael Penix Jr., Washington
- 9. Chicago Bears - Rome Odunze, WR, Washington
- 10. Minnesota Vikings - J.J. McCarthy, QB, Michigan
- 11. New York Jets - Olu Fashanu, OT, Penn State
- 12. Denver Broncos - Bo Nix, QB, Oregon
- 13. Las Vegas Raiders - Brock Bowers, TE, Georgia
- 14. New Orleans Saints - Taliese Fuaga, OT, Oregon State
- 15. Indianapolis Colts - Laiatu Latu, DE, UCLA
- 16. Seattle Seahawks - Byron Murphy II, DT, Texas
- 17. Minnesota Vikings - Dallas Turner, OLB, Alabama
- 18. Cincinnati Bengals - Amarius Mims, OT, Georgia
- 19. Los Angeles Rams - Jared Verse, DE, Florida State
- 20. Pittsburgh Steelers - Troy Fautanu, OT, Washington
- 21. Miami Dolphins - Chop Robinson, DE, Penn State
- 22. Philadelphia Eagles - Quinyon Mitchell, CB, Toledo
- 23. Jacksonville Jaguars - Brian Thomas, WR, LSU
- 24. Detroit Lions - Terrion Arnold, CB, Alabama
- 25. Green Bay Packers - Jordan Morgan, OT, Arizona
- 26. Tampa Bay Buccaneers - Graham Barton, OT, Duke
- 27. Arizona Cardinals - Darious Robinson, DE, Missouri
- 28. Kansas City Chiefs - Xavier Worthy, WR, Texas
- 29. Dallas Cowboys - Tyler Guyton, OT, Oklahoma
- 30. Baltimore Ravens - Nate Wiggins, Clemson
- 31. San Francisco 49ers - Ricky Pearsall, WR, Florida
- 32. Carolina Panthers - Xavier Legette, WR, South Carolina



AP Photo

Washington offensive lineman Troy Fautanu reacts after a touchdown by running back Dillon Johnson against Utah during the first half of a game Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, in Seattle.

## Steelers Select Fautanu With First Round Pick

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers selected offensive tackle Troy Fautanu with the 20th overall pick in the first round of Thursday’s NFL draft, giving them a potential bookend to last year’s top pick Broderick Jones.

The 6-foot-4, 317-pound Fautanu started 15 games at left tackle last season as the Washington Huskies reached the College Football Playoff final against Michigan.

He won the Joe Moore Award, given annually to the top offensive lineman in the country, in the process.

The 23-year-old Fautanu joins an offense that hit the reset button in the offseason, signing quarterback Russell Wilson, trading for quarterback Justin Fields and hiring former Atlanta Falcons head

coach Arthur Smith as offensive coordinator.

The Steelers still plan on relying heavily on one of the top running back tandems in the NFL in Najee Harris and Jaylen Warren, both of whom topped 1,000 total yards last season.

Pittsburgh had several needs coming into the draft, including at center and wide receiver.

The Steelers opted for the versatile Fautanu, who has the talent to play multiple positions, though head coach Mike Tomlin stressed Fautanu would remain at tackle.

Which tackle — right or left — will be determined later.

Tomlin said Fautanu caught his eye while casually watching Washington games last season.

Please see **STEELERS**, Page 12

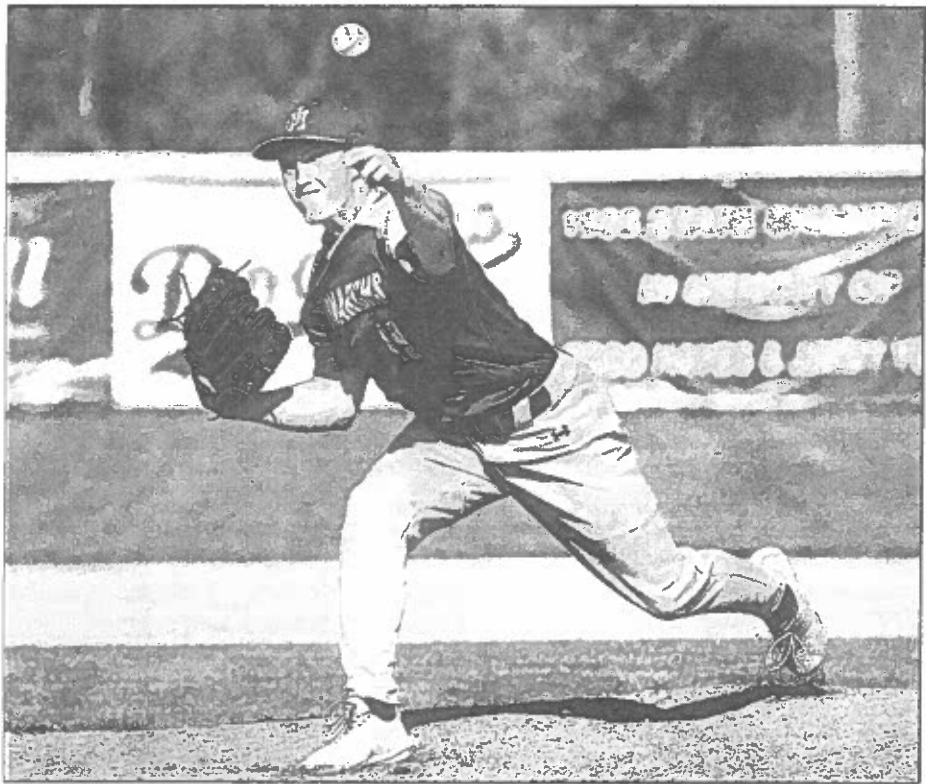


Photo by Robert Ovies Sports Photography

John Marshall’s Lex Wilhelm fires a pitch Thursday against Brooke. Wilhelm picked up the win on the mound with seven strikeouts on the Monarchs’ senior day.

## John Marshall Defeats Brooke Bruins On Senior Day, 6-5

By **NICK HENTHORN**  
Sports Editor

GLEN DALE - It was senior night for the John Marshall Monarchs, but it was not the typical senior night game as they welcomed sectional foe Brooke to Monarch Field.

The Monarchs survived for a 6-5 win against the visiting Bruins on Thursday, helped by a quick first inning where the hosts scratched across three runs.

John Marshall senior Lex Wilhelm pitched 6.2 innings in picking up the win, striking out seven and carrying a no-hitter into the fourth.

“This was a very good highschool baseball game, first of all, and it was about the same way up there last time with them,” John Marshall head coach Mark Cisar said. “They always battle us, we battle them, win or lose. We had a chance to score some more runs there and we didn’t, and then they battled back.”

“Wilhelm’s a little more today but he wanted the ball and we gave it to him. I thought he battled his butt off the whole day.”

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## Linsly Triumphs At OVAC Tennis



Photo by Kim North

The Linsly trio of Jaycob Sauvageau (No. 3), Luis Brulles (No. 2) and Andrew Hoang (No. 4) all captured singles titles Thursday as the four-day OVAC Tennis Championships came to a close at the sun-filled John Marshall courts in Glen Dale. The Cadets won the Class 1A-4A team title for the third straight year with 23 points, 14 ahead of second-place Cambridge and six in front of Class 5A titlist Morgantown.

By **KIM NORTH**  
Staff Writer

GLEN DALE - The third time was certainly a charm for the Linsly and Morgantown boys tennis teams Thursday. Both won OVAC Boys Tennis titles for the third straight year.

The Cadets had all four singles players in their respective finals - three won titles - as they piled up 23 points in the two-day event. They had an international on the John Marshall High School courts to run away with the Class 1A-4A team title.

They also had a doubles team prevail on Wednesday. Cambridge was a distant second with nine points as only two other schools - Steubenville Catholic (5) and East Liverpool (1) - scored in the eight-team field.

In the Class 5A portion of the two-class event, the Mohigans tallied 17 points despite only having only a doubles team win a crown.

They had two second-place finishers in singles. City rival University High was runner up with 13 points, one ahead of Marietta. They

had a doubles champ.

“It was a fun couple of days,” Linsly head coach Rebecca Upton said in her return. “It’s all the kids.”

“There’s no secret to it. It’s them. They play every day in their free hours. They love the game. They worked really, really hard to get here.”

Luis Brulles (No. 2), Jaycob Sauvageau (No. 3) and Andrew Hoang (No. 4) all claimed a singles title, but did so in a variety of ways.

Please see **LINSLY**, Page 12

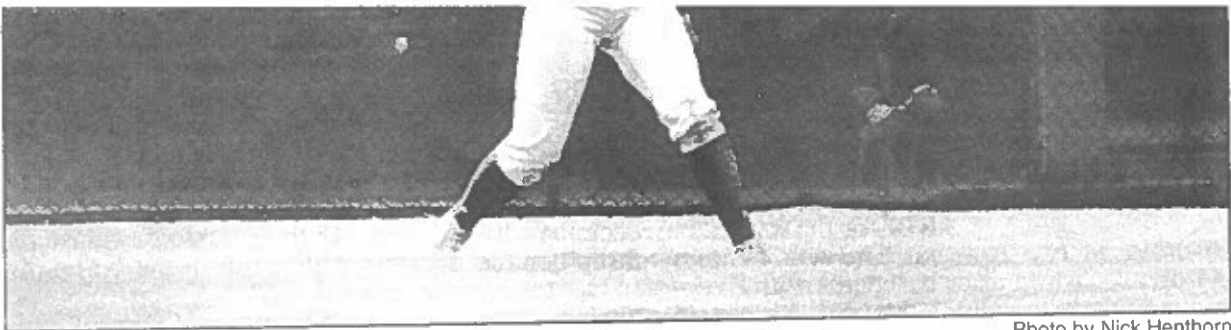


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Central's Brook Edge throws in a ball from the outfield against the Barnesville Shamrocks on Tuesday during the teams' OVAC semifinal matchup at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex.

## Wheeling Central Pushes Past Barnesville Into Championship Game

By NICK HENTHORN  
Sports Editor

WHEELING - The Barnesville Shamrocks put the tying run on first base in the top of the seventh inning Tuesday, but couldn't quite complete the comeback in the OVAC softball semifinals at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex against the Wheeling Central Maroon Knights, the No. 2 Knights topping the No. 3 Shamrocks 6-4.

Wheeling Central jumped out to a 4-0 lead after five innings, but Barnesville plated four of their own to tie things 4-4 heading into the bottom of the sixth.

The Maroon Knights struck back with two more to lead 6-4 going into the seventh, and though the Shamrocks came close to prolonging the contest, they fell a run short.

"We're not going to give up too easy," Wheeling Central head coach Buck Davidson said. "We're going to keep fighting until the last out, and that's what

you've got to do, especially in these close games."

Central scored in bunches off of costly Barnesville miscues. The Knights plated two runs after a throwing error on a would-be sacrifice bunt in the third, and two more on a ball off an outfielder's glove in the fifth.

Barnesville seemed to have their best chance to get back into it in the sixth inning, with the top of their order coming up, and get back into it they did.

Maddy Schaffer ripped a double to start the inning, Kylee Powell followed up with a single and Ellie Thompson drove them both in with a double to the wall, advancing to third on a late throw home.

With one out, Payton Dudzik kept things moving with an RBI double of her own, and an error at first base on a bunt scored Dudzik and tied the game 4-4.

"It was right there in our 2-3-4 spot, we got a bunt laid down and they had an error and I think it just

snowballed," Barnesville head coach Kelley Hanlon said. "We started hitting towards the end of the game and we tied it up."

With the game knotted late, it was Wheeling Central's turn to make some plays. Bella Rine blasted a solo home run deep over the left field fence to retake the lead for Central, and Knights starting pitcher Josie Frizzell helped her own cause with an RBI double later in the inning to lead 6-4.

Frizzell seemed determined to end things quickly coming back out into the circle for the top of the seventh, striking out her first two batters, one swinging and one looking, but Powell popped another single to bring the tying run up to the plate, Ellie Thompson.

A sharp grounder by Thompson ate up Central's third baseman, and the intensity was rising with the tying run aboard. But a groundout put an end to the two-out rally, and the game.

Please see CENTRAL, Page 12



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Martins Ferry's Maddie Lucas fires a pitch against the Fort Frye Cadets during the teams' OVAC semifinals matchup on Tuesday at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex.

By NICK HENTHORN  
Sports Editor

WHEELING - As the saying goes, it was close-until it wasn't.

No. 1 Martins Ferry scored five runs in the bottom of the sixth to run away with a 10-2 victory over No. 4 Fort Frye in the OVAC Class 3A tournament semifinals Tuesday at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex.

Giana Chirpas smashed a solo home run in the fourth and finished with three RBI and Maddie Lucas pitched a complete game with 11 strikeouts to highlight Ferry's advancement to the OVAC 3A Championship.

Ferry first got on the board in the bottom of the first inning, Danielle Lude and Abbey Snedeker scoring on an error in the outfield.

Fort Frye loaded the bases with nobody out in the top of the fourth. Lucas struck out a batter to

put one out on the board, but the Cadets did score on a fielder's choice. Carmen Henniger drew a bases-loaded walk to plate another run and tie the game, but Lucas worked out of the jam from there with no further damage.

It didn't take long before Ferry capitalized on another mistake to take the lead again - Sam Goddard and Savannah Koller scoring on a similar play as the first inning, a misplayed ball in the outfield.

Chirpas put up Ferry's first earned run in emphatic style, lifting a ball just inside the foul pole in left field for a solo shot which put the Purple Rider up three, 5-2.

Fort Frye stranded a pair of baserunners in the top of the fifth, as leaving meat on the bone had become an unfortunate trend for the Cadets on Tuesday.

Please see LATE, Page 15

## McCutchen Leads Off With Homer Again, Pirates Top Brewers 2-1

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Andrew McCutchen led off the bottom of the first with a home run for the second straight game. Bailey Falter took a shutout into the eighth inning and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Milwaukee Brewers 2-1 on Tuesday night.

McCutchen hit the first pitch of Tobias Myers' major league career down the left-field line for his 24th career leadoff homer and his 100th long ball at PNC Park. McCutchen connected off Joe Ross on Monday night in the Pirates' 4-2 win.

McCutchen became the first Pirates player to hit a leadoff homer in back-to-back games since Adam Frazier in 2019. McCutchen is 5 for 8 in two games since manager Derek Shelton moved him to the top of the batting order, boosting his average from .173 to

.233.

"Man, it's unbelievable. He's the man and not surprised at all," Pirates closer David Bednar said. "So yeah, that was awesome. And maybe another one tomorrow."

Pinch-hitter Connor Joe pushed the lead to 2-0 with an RBI single in the sixth inning.

Falter (2-1) was lifted after Gary Sanchez's leadoff home run in the eighth — one of just three hits off the left-hander, who had a career-high eight strikeouts and two walks.

Since the second inning of his season debut on March 31 at Miami, Bailey Falter has posted a 1.73 ERA in 25 innings with a .154 opponents' average in four starts.

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AP Photo

Pittsburgh Pirates' Andrew McCutchen runs the bases after hitting a home run against the Milwaukee Brewers during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 23, 2024, in Pittsburgh.

Linsly's Ava Bartlett stretches to return a shot during Tuesday's OVAC girls' tennis singles championships at the John Marshall courts in Glen Dale. The Cadets' junior defended her title at No. 3 with an 8-5 victory over University's Brooklyn Rutledge.

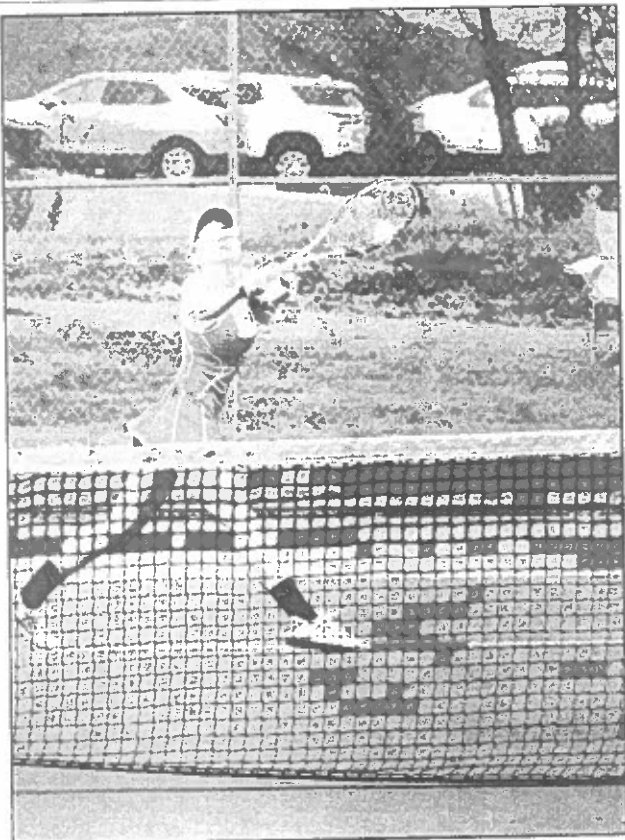


Photo By Kim North

## Linsly Surges At OVAC Tennis

By KIM NORTH  
Staff Writer

GLEN DALE - The No. 13 is unlucky for some people. It wasn't for the Linsly girls' tennis team.

After posting just four points during the doubles competition on Monday, the Cadets added eight more on Tuesday in singles play to capture their 13th consecutive OVAC Class 1A-4A championship at the wind-swept courts at John Marshall High School.

Leading Tuesday's surge was junior Ava Bartlett who defended her title at No. 3 singles with an 8-5 win over University's Brooklyn Rutledge.

"We were able to squeeze this one out," said long-time head coach Dave Reithmiller, who announced recently that

he is stepping down as head coach after 36 years. "We received points from all seven positions. It was truly a team effort."

"I've been blessed with a lot of very good tennis players," he added when asked about the streak and 300-plus wins. "It's such a joy to work with these girls."

Reithmiller began coaching girls tennis at Linsly when the private school went co-ed in the 1988-89 school year. He's been the only coach the program has ever had.

"It's time," he said of retiring. "It's been a long, but enjoyable time," he added.

Bartlett trailed Rutledge 4-1 before storming back with six straight points for a 7-4 lead. They traded points to end the match.

Oak Glen finished sec-

ond to Linsly in the 8-team field with eight points, one ahead of Hancock County rival Weir, Indian Creek, St. Clairsville, Steubenville Catholic and Wheeling Central all had one point.

In Class 5A, University edged past Morgantown 23-20 for the title as No. 1 singles player, Lyla Byers was the lone winner after the Hawks swept all three doubles crowns on Monday.

Byers, the W.Va. reigning state titlist, is ranked No. 1 in the Mountain State. The senior rallied past Wheeling Park sophomore, Madeline Bradshaw, by an 8-5 count. Bradshaw held a 3-2 lead before Byers rallied with five straight points to defend her title.

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PIRATES

(Continued from Page 11)

Falter credits the turnaround to using his four-seam fastball more often. "I've just simplified things," Falter said. "I kind of shied away from being the pitcher that got me to the big leagues in the first place. Just try to go back to that. So far, it's been doing really well for me."

Bednar pitched a perfect ninth for his second save in as many nights and fourth of the season in seven chances, finishing a three-hitter.

Pittsburgh has won the first two games of the four-game series after losing six straight. The Brewers arrived on a four-game winning streak.

McCutchen's homer was the only run Myers (0-1) allowed in five innings. He yielded four hits while striking out four and walking one.

"It felt good to get out there for the first time," Myers said "First-pitch homer certainly settled the nerves, and it was good to see how my stuff plays up here. I was happy with it, and it was relief to finally pitch up here after eight years."

The 25-year-old right-hander was called up from Triple-A Nashville on Monday. He also spent one day with the Brewers

on April 17 but then was sent back down to the minor leagues without having pitched.

Milwaukee is Myers' sixth organization since he was selected by Baltimore in the sixth round of the 2016 amateur draft. He also spent time with Tampa Bay, Cleveland, San Francisco and the Chicago White Sox.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Brewers: RHP Jakob Junis (right shoulder impingement) was back with the team and being observed for a possible head injury after being struck in the neck during batting practice a night earlier and taken to a hospital. Murphy said Junis, who is on the injured list with a right shoulder injury, was doing much better. ... LHP Wade Miley (left elbow inflammation) underwent an MRI on Tuesday but the results were not immediately available.

UP NEXT

RHP Bryse Wilson (2-0, 3.29 ERA) starts for the Brewers on Wednesday night against his former team. LHP Josh Fleming (1-0, 1.74) will be used as an opener by the Pirates and likely be followed by rookie RHP Quinn Priester (0-1, 8.31).

Sport Briefs

JM Seeking Girls Hoop Team For Tourney

John Marshall is hosting a girls' basketball holiday tournament on December 30-31, and is still looking for a team to join. Each team will get two games, one each day. Games on the Dec. 31 will start early, so you can be back home in plenty of time for New Year's Eve. If interested please contact Brock Melko at (304)650-6547 or bmelko@k12.wv.us.

BRIDGEPORT, W.Va. - Kennedy Martin of the West Liberty University women's track & field team was recognized by the Mountain East Conference on Monday afternoon with MEC Women's Outdoor Track & Field Athlete of the Week honors, which is presented by The Health Plan. It marks the second consecutive week a Hilltopper has earned the accolade, and it is the first weekly conference honor of Martin's

career. During the week, the Madonna graduate, recorded three event wins and one additional top-10 finish as she competed at the John Papa Invitational and the Mountaineer Twilight.

With a winning throw of 42.23m (138' 6") at the John Papa Invitational on Thursday she clinched her first event win of the week. She also earned a seventh place finish in the shot put at the meet with a throw of 12.08m (39' 7.75").

She notched a pair of event victories at the Mountaineer Twilight as she posted a career-best throw of 44.35m (145' 6") in the discus and then a winning mark of 12.10m (39' 8.5") in the shot put which was a new outdoor season-best.

With the new marks, she now holds the top spot in the discus and is third in the shot put on the MEC Performance List.

TENNIS

(Continued from Page 11)

Wheeling Park's Reese Moores, a junior, finished second at No. 3 singles to Morgantown's Grace Forman, 8-4.

The Patriots finished third in the 8-team field with 17 points. Parkersburg South was fourth

with six, followed by John Marshall (4), Brooke (3) and Steubenville (1).

The boys take over the courts on Wednesday and Thursday, with doubles action beginning Wednesday.

Guardians Continue Franchise-Best Start

CLEVELAND (AP) - Jose Ramirez homered in the eighth and Tyler Freeman and Bryan Rocchio had RBIs in the seventh when Cleveland finally scored against Boston's Tanner Houck as the Guardians kept up their scorching start with a 4-1 win over the Red Sox.

Houck pitched a three-hit shutout against the Guardians last week. He held them scoreless for six more innings before

Freeman hit a run-scoring single and Rocchio added a sacrifice fly off reliever Brennan Bernardino. Ramirez hit an opposite-field homer in the eighth inning against reliever Cam Booser for his fourth homer.

The Guardians won their fifth straight to improve baseball's best record to 17-6, matching the club's best start through 23 games. Cleveland was also 17-6 in 1999 and 1966.

LATE

(Continued from Page 11)

Ferry piled on with five more in the sixth - Koller, Lude and Snedeker each recorded RBI knocks, and Chirpas had a two-RBI single to left.

Balls that were pulled foul against inside pitches early in the game became RBI hits and home runs by the end of it for Ferry.

"It took us awhile to adjust to that pitcher," Martins Ferry head coach Jerry Magistro said. "She kept us off-balance and everything, but finally once we got her timing down we started hitting good. I thought it was a team win."

"Everybody hit the ball pretty hard, we did good on our fielding and de-

fensive stuff, pitcher did what she had to do and got us out of a lot of tough situations, she pitched well. A lot of the young kids and the older ones did a great job hitting the ball today, getting timely hits when people were on base."

Martins Ferry will face Wheeling Central, who bested Barnesville earlier in the day, for the conference title.

"Fort Frye played a really good game," Magistro said.

"They've got some good hitters, they play pretty good defense and I take my hat off to them because I thought they did well."

MAY 14, 2024 OFFICIAL NON PARTISAN TICKET

**NONPARTISAN BALLOT ELECTION OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS**

**NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA - DIVISION 1**  
(Vote for ONE)

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Charleston Kanawha Co

Write-in, If Any

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(Vote for ONE)

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**CHESTER "ROGER" BISE**  
Triadelphia Ohio Co

**KEVIN A. STRYKER**  
Wheeling Ohio Co

Write-in, If Any

**NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF MAGISTRATE - DIVISION 2**  
(Vote for ONE)

**PATRICIA "PATTY" MURPHY**  
Wheeling Ohio Co

Write-in, If Any

**NONPARTISAN BALLOT OF ELECTION OF MAGISTRATE - DIVISION 3**  
(Vote for ONE)

**JANINE L. VARNER**  
Wheeling Ohio Co

Write-in, If Any

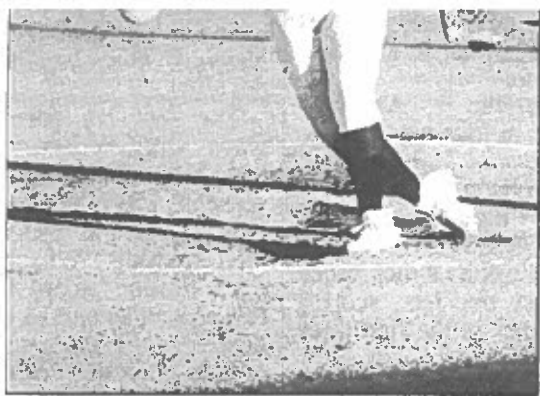


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Shadyside's Ariana Saxton throws a pitch Monday during the OVAC 2A semifinals against Frontier. Saxton had 10 strikeouts but the Tigers fell 2-1 despite a seventh-inning rally.

By **NICK HENTHORN**  
Sports Editor

**WHEELING** - A late push was not quite enough for the No. 3 Shadyside Tigers on Monday against the No. 2 Frontier Cougars at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex, Shadyside falling 2-1 despite rallying in their final turn at-bat in the OVAC 2A semifinals.

Down 2-0 going into the seventh, Shadyside revved up what had been an idle offense in their last chance. Taylor Fulton smacked a single to centerfield with one out, and Josey Greenwood followed up with an RBI double over the right fielder's head to place herself as the tying run in scoring position.

Frontier's Grace Arnold batted down the hatches though with back-to-back strikeouts to send her Cougars to the OVAC 2A championship game.

"Our pitcher was pitching well," Frontier head coach Eric Rinard said. "She has a lot of confidence. She knows what pitches to throw usually, and she can command her pitches really well."

Arnold was effective in earning the complete-game win, striking out 10 batters and cruising through the first six innings before running into trouble in the seventh.

"We didn't hit the ball right off the get-go," Shadyside head coach Rober Gorrell said. "That pitcher did a great job. She pitched a great game, hit her spots. We've got to put the ball in play to get girls on-base. They got some girls on-base, and we gave up a run with an error right at the beginning and then we walked another one in. But they put the ball in play, that made the big difference in the game."

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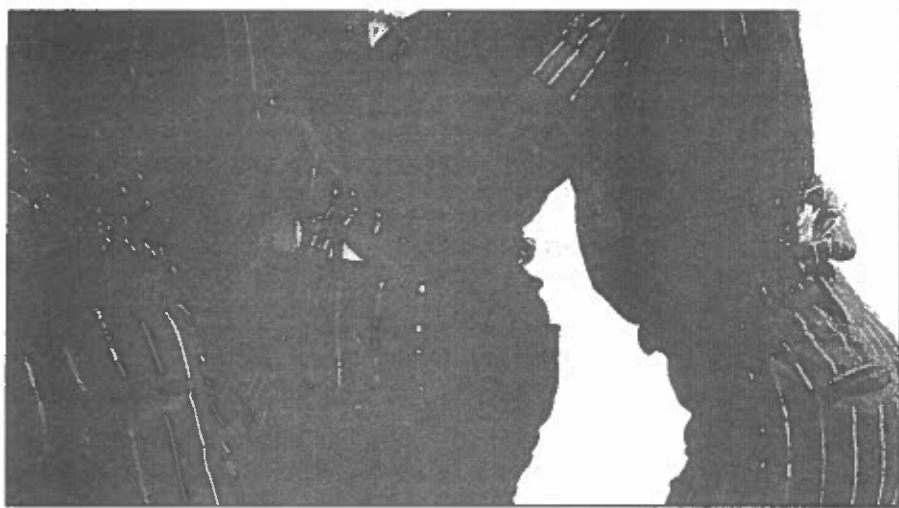


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Madonna's Madi Owens celebrates with her Blue Don teammates after hitting a grand slam in the sixth inning of their OVAC 1A semifinals matchup against Cameron on Monday at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

## Owens Lifts Madonna Over Dragons In 1A Semis

By **NICK HENTHORN**  
Sports Editor

**WHEELING** - A persistent Madonna team would not be denied in their OVAC 1A semifinals game against Cameron on Monday at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex, pulling ahead every time the Dragons would catch up in an 8-6 win.

Cameron had come back to tie the game on two occasions, 2-2 and 4-4, coming into the bottom of the sixth inning, but one swing of the bat put enough distance between the Blue Dons and their opponents with two outs and the bases loaded.

Madonna's Madi Owens launched a grand slam to center field to put her team ahead 8-4 with the play of the night.

"When we took the lead back we started with two outs and nobody on," Madonna head coach Jason Bachel said.

"But our girls just battled to get on, and then we had a big hit by Madi Owens."

The four-run bomb was the first of Owens' season - which started Mon-

day. Owens played her first game of the year for Madonna in their semifinal game against Cameron, just now returning to the team after breaking her foot during basketball season.

"She was out for nine weeks and she was just released today by her doctor," Bachel said.

"She comes up with a grand slam in her first game back to win the game. It's huge."

Cameron tried for a two-out rally in the top of the seventh, Brooklyn Pekula smacking a two-run double to left center and making it an 8-6 ball game, but with the tying run at the plate, a fly out iced it for the Blue Dons.

"We made a couple mistakes baserunning, and a couple fielding errors," Cameron head coach Erika Whipkey said.

"They had a nice couple hits and they scored on those, and the girl hit the ball out and that hurt us. We scored two more runs but we fell short at the end."

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sharp 6-0 besting of River at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex Monday afternoon, avenging a regular season loss to the Lady Pilots. Caldwell will face No. 2 Frontier in the championship contest.

Two huge factors propelled Caldwell to its victory.

First, and foremost, Makayla Mumaw was brilliant in the circle for the winners. The talented righthander surrendered just two hits while striking out 12 and walking just one.

Secondly, the Lady Redskins were the beneficiaries of five unearned runs in the first inning, courtesy of four River errors.

Lady Pilot hurler Ava Wahnhas was deserving of a much better fate. The talented sophomore yielded just four hits. She struck out six and issued just one walk.

"When teams make mistakes you need to make them pay. We did that today," Caldwell head coach Doug Pfeffer noted. "We made the most of our opportunity in the first inning, then our bats went a little silent the rest of the game."

"I thought our defense was exceptional. We made two great plays in the outfield in the fourth inning," he added. "Makayla pitched a whale of a game. She was in total control."

Caldwell improved to 11-2 on the season. River dipped to 7-6.

Mumaw opened the Caldwell first with a single. Laynie Sidwell delivered the only other Lady Redskin hit in the inning, a double. Two throwing errors and two dropped fly balls sabotaged the Lady Pilots hopes.

"You can't give up five unearned runs to a good team, especially in the first inning," veteran River High coach Dave Wright said. "That was the ball game. We had to change our way of thinking after that."

"Ava pitched a tremendous game. She has been terrific all season for us," he continued.

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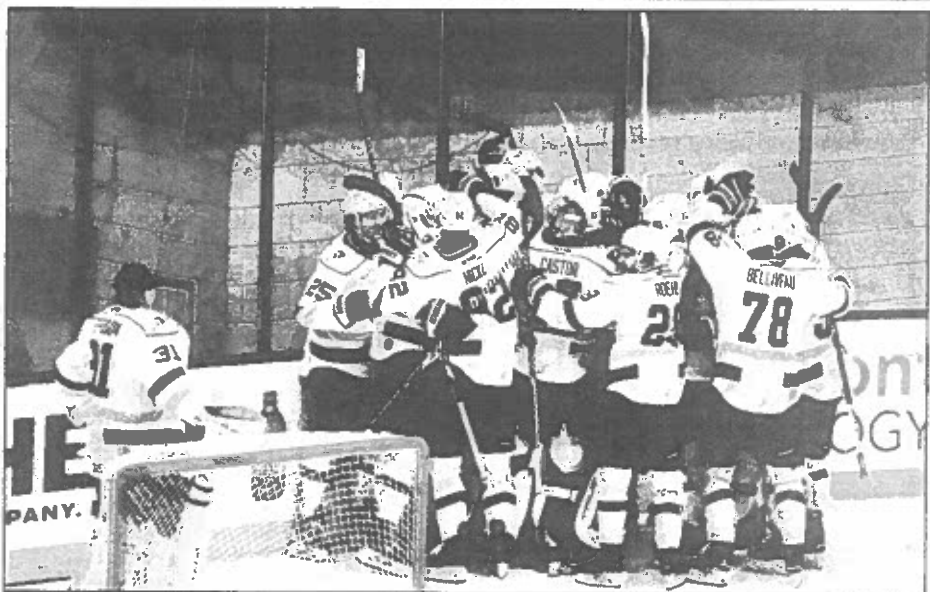


Photo by Joe Lovell

The Wheeling Nailers celebrate around team captain Justin Addamo after he scored the game-winning goal 30 seconds into overtime Monday night inside WesBanco Arena as the Nailers took a 2-1 lead in their ECHL Central Division semifinal series with a 3-2 victory.

## Nailers Take Series Lead vs. Fuel

By **KIM NORTH**  
Staff Writer

**WHEELING** - Justin Addamo scored a mere 30 seconds into overtime Monday night to give the Wheeling Nailers a thrill-packed, 3-2, decision over the Indy Fuel in Game 3 of their ECHL Central Division semifinal series inside WesBanco Arena.

"The earlier the better," Addamo said of his game-winner. "Davis made a great play in the neutral zone and I ended up with the puck in my stick. Actually, it missed my pass and ended up with Justin Lee and passed it back to me. In my mind, I just wanted to put the puck on net, and it went in."

Game 4 is tonight inside the downtown Wheeling venue at 7:10 with the Nailers looking to extend their lead in the best-of-7 series to 3-1. Game 5 will

be played on Saturday at the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex in Cranberry, Pa.

"Justin Addamo has had big goals for us. There's a reason why he is our captain and our leader," Wheeling head coach Derek Army said. "He comes big in those situations. He's primed for everything."

Addamo took a nifty feed from Justin Lee and Addamo one-timed the puck from the low right circle to the left of Indy goalie Mitchell Weeks, who got a piece of the rubber disc, but not enough as it trickled across the goalline. Davis Bunz also earned an assist to complete his three-point night.

"Overtimes usually end quickly or go on forever," Army noted. "Justin made a great pass."

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## OVAC Tennis Day One In The Books

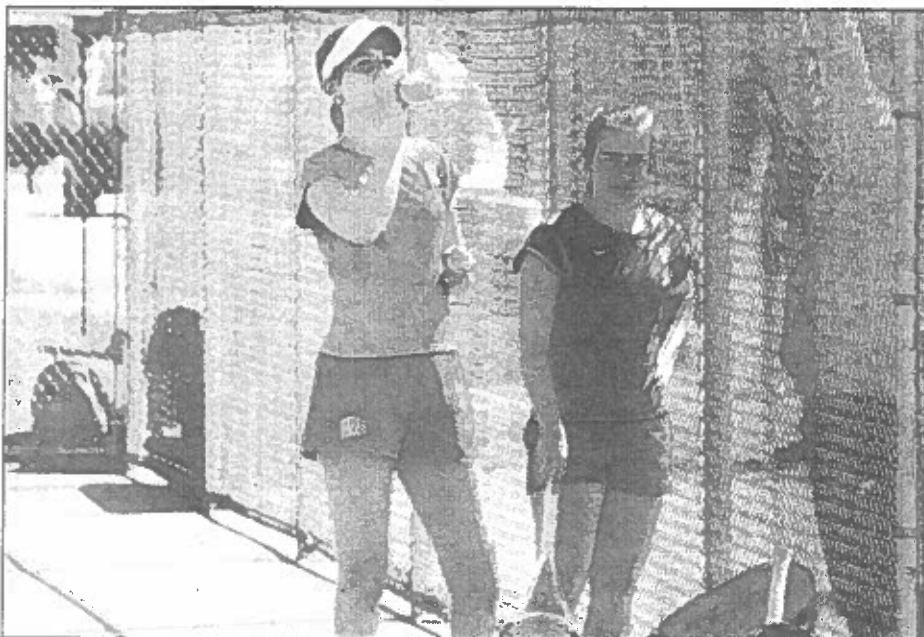


Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Park's No. 1 doubles team of Madeline Bradshaw, left, and Taylor Broadwater take a break in between sets of their OVAC championship match Monday against University's Lyla Byers and Emma Daffner. The Hawks' duo prevailed, 8-4.

By **KIM NORTH**  
Staff Writer

**GLEN DALE** - University took the lead after the first day of the OVAC girls' tennis tournament at the sun-splashed John Marshall High School courts.

The Hawks swept all three doubles titles to lead the Class 4A.

At No. 1, University's top-seeded Lyla Byers and Emma Daffner posted an 8-4 win over the second-seeded duo of Madeline Bradshaw and Taylor Broadwater. The Patriots actually led 3-2 but the Hawks reeled off wins in six of the final seven games, breaking Wheeling Park's serve at 5-3.

Byers, a NCAA Division I prospect who has verbally committed to Wofford but is still exploring her options, won at No. 1 doubles last year with her sister.

She is also the defending No. 1 singles champion.

At No. 2, second-seeded Emma Rusiecki and Julianne Minchau teamed for an 8-4 victory over

top-seeded crosstown rivals Natalia Cassim and Grace Forman from Morgantown.

At No. 3, Brooklyn Rutledge and Hannah Stemple defeated the fourth-seeded Oak Glen twosome of Kaylex Gibson and Reese Witherow, 8-6. The Golden Bears had taken down No. 1 Morgantown in the semifinals.

The girls portion of the four-day event concludes today with singles matches. The boys take over the court on Wednesday for doubles competition, with boys singles completing the week on Thursday.