

SPORTS

Ohio
wins
OVAC
game

By RICH MATERKOSKI
Times Leader Sports Writer

A scorekeeper's nightmare!
In a game with more than its share of substitutions, Ohio was able to stave off a furious late inning rally by West Virginia as the Buckeyes were able to hold on for a 10-8 win in Monday night's OVAC George Kovalyk Classic.

Despite the over use of the substitution rules in the contest, which was of concern to Mountaineer manager, and John Marshall head coach, Bob Montgomery, the West Virginians put up one heck of a fight in later innings to make it a game.

"The kids really came out and did a good job and played nice ballgame," noted Montgomery. "We tried to play as fair as we could, letting each kid play about half the game and I think that we did that."

"What was good was that we had everyone here," smiled Montgomery. "A few years back when we had some rain and only eight guys showed up, that wasn't good for this game. But, we had all the guys come and they did an excellent job for us today," expressed Montgomery.

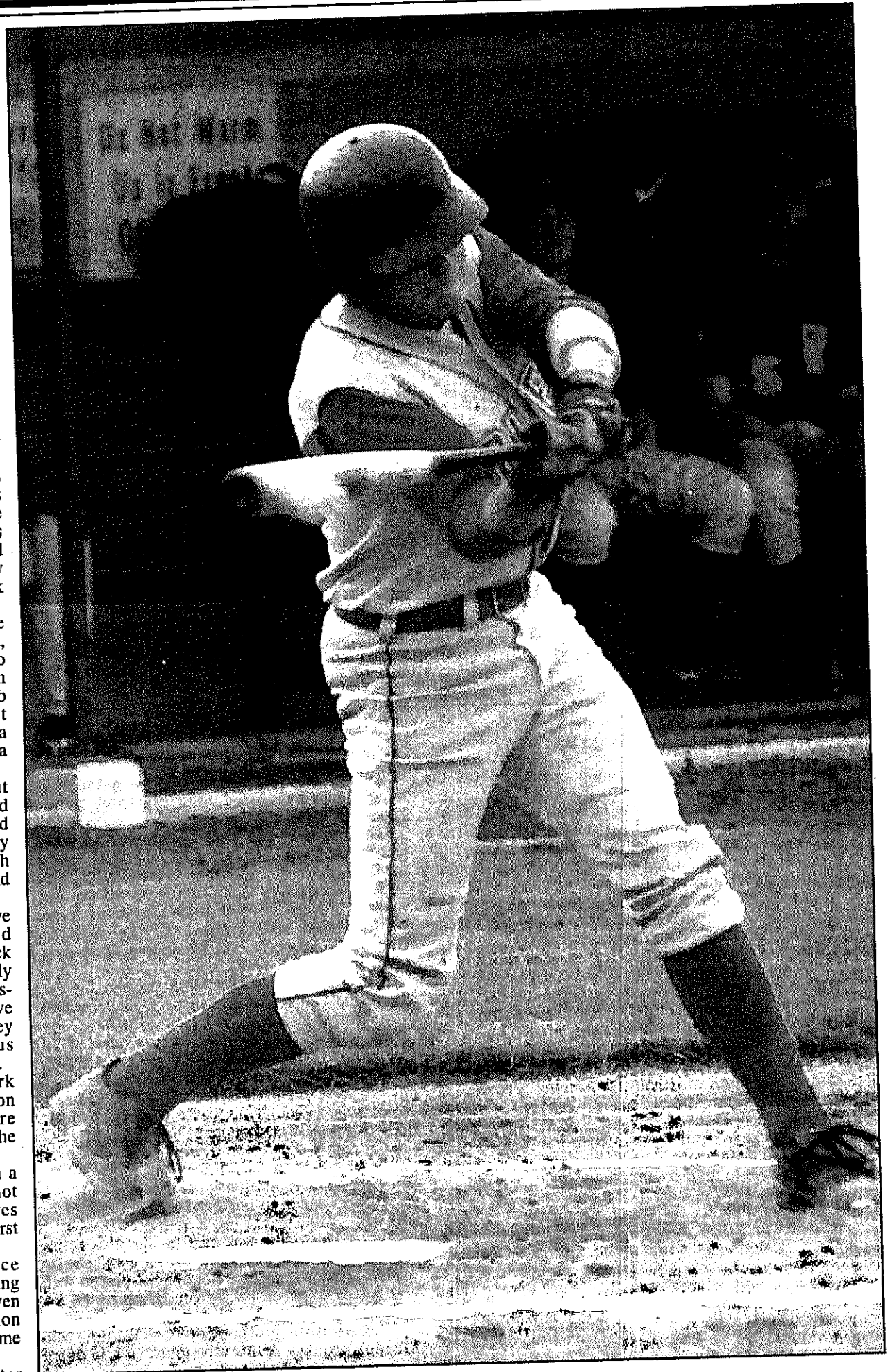
The Ohio coaches, Mark Spigarelli of Bellaire and Ron Street of Beallsville, were unavailable for comment at the conclusion of the game.

Ohio started the game with a bang, and were seemingly not looking back as the Buckeyes mounted a 4-0 lead after the first inning of play.

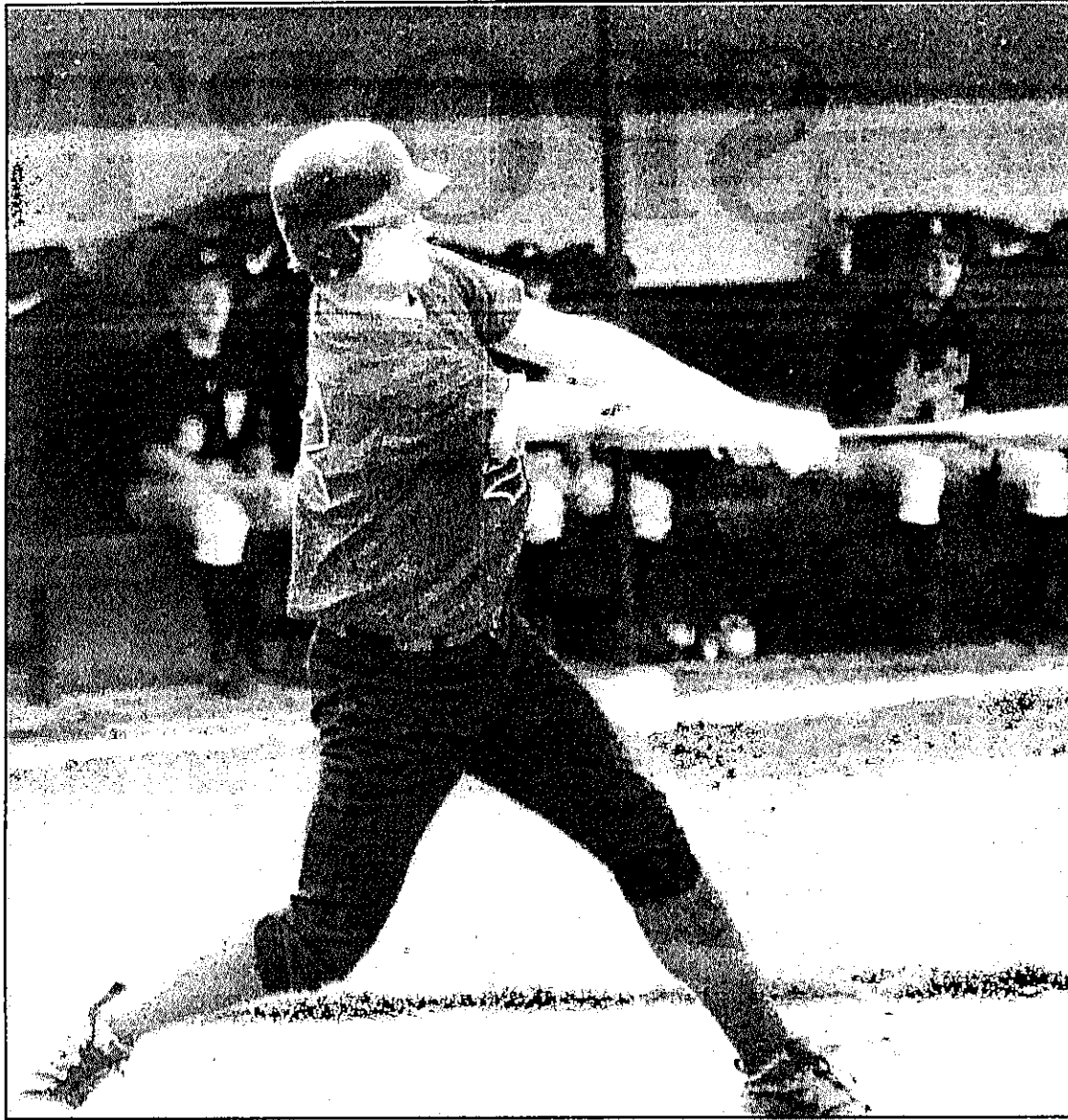
Bridgeport's Vince Stemkowski started the evening off with a walk, only to be driven in one batter later when Union Local's Chad Litten single home the Bulldog.

The second run came after Steubenville Central's Steve Spence reached on a fielder's choice, setting up a RBI single

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T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA
RIVER senior standout Jason Rosnick makes contact with a pitch during the early innings of Monday night's OVAC All-Star Baseball game at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville. The Buckeye State posted a 10-8 victory in the game.



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

BELLAIRE senior standout Clay Boston connects for one of his three hits in Monday night's OVAC All-Star Baseball Game at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville. The Buckeye State earned an 10-8 victory.

● OVAC

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from Bellaire's Clay Boston, which scored the Crusader.

Boston was then able to cross the dish on the next at-bat as Central's Drew Mihalyo drilled a single. The final score of the inning allowed the Big Reds star to come across as Edison's Justin Richards hammered a single.

In the bottom half, Richards made quick work of the West Virginia squad striking out the side as Ohio held a 4-0 upperhand.

In the second, neither team could muster any offense, yet Ohio still had the 4-0 edge.

The Buckeyes scored one in the top half of the third as Boston led off the frame with a big fly, that traveled well over the left field fence. Ohio held on in the bottom half to own a 5-0 lead.

The fourth was another big inning for the Ohio squad putting three more runs on the scoreboard.

Buckeye Trail's Adam Bear led off the inning with a double to right, and went to third on an infield single by Stenkowski. Bear then scored on a fielder's choice, in which Litten garnered an RBI.

Boston again came up huge for the Ohioan as he ripped a double off the centerfield wall to score both Stenkowski and Fort Frye's Jared Morganstern, who had walked during the inning.

Ohio held a sizeable 8-0 lead at the end of the fourth, and the Buckeye pitchers were still working on a no-hitter.

In the fifth, Ohio could get nothing going, but West Virginia's bats finally came alive.

Weirton's Cory Pepler led off the inning with a walk, but it was his high school teammate Jordan Pate that would face a triple to earn the Mountaineers first hit and initial run.

West Virginia was not done, though, as the next batter Oak Glen's David Wharton cracked a single that scored Pate. The Mountaineers cut the lead to 8-2 heading into the sixth.

Ohio again put a zero on the board in the top of the sixth, while West Virginia was able to plate one more.

Tyler's Zack Watson drove in the run for West Virginia as he scored John Marshall's Chris Brooks on a single.

The bottom of the seventh was the most important for the Mountaineers putting up a five-spot on the Buckeyes.

John Marshall's Cole Taylor started the rally with an inside-the-park homer to dead center, while Brooks later singled driving in Bishop Donahue's Adam Turner, who had walked earlier in the inning.

Wheeling Park's Brian Main drove in the third run of the frame driving a single to center scoring Brooks.

The final two runs came in dramatic fashion as Tyler Consolidated's Rob Jones drilled a two-run homer of the leftfield fence to tie the game.

The game would not be knotted for long, though, as the Ohioans quickly scored the deciding runs in the top of the eighth.

Despite the loss, Montgomery was quick to point out the meaning of the game was to just have fun.

"This game was nice for the kids to just come out and have fun playing baseball," explained Montgomery. "Both teams played well, and for us to come back from being down 8-0 made it good for the fans that came out tonight"

The winning pitcher for the Ohioans was Meadowbrook's Aubrey Neuhart, while Jason Suter of Tyler took the loss.

Richards shined for the Ohio team as he earned six strikeouts on the evening.

Boston was the game's offensive star going three-for-three with a solo home run, double and a single, good for three RBI.

Linescore:
OHIO 10 WEST VIRGINIA 8
Ohio 401 300 020 -- 10 11 0
West Virginia 000 021 500 -- 8 9 2

BATTERIES: Richards, McFarland (3), Boston (4), Stenkowski (5), Durben (6), Neuhart (7), LeMaster (8), Richards (9) and Rosnick, Morganstern (4), Congrove (7), Lucey, Kusich (2), Taylor (4), Norman (5), Suter (6), Tysk (9) and Beresford, Brooks (5th).





Photos by Alex Kozlowski

Above, Oak Glen's Matt Wharton slides into second base as Steubenville Central's Steve Spence leaps with the ball during the OVAC All-Star baseball game Monday. Below, Cambridge's Brandon Durben waits for the throw as Weir's Cory Pepler goes back to first base.

Ohio Bucks W.Va.

Key hits propel Ohio squad to 10-8 win in OVAC clash

By JIM ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

Cambridge's Brandon Durben and Meadowbrook's Aubrey Neuhart each delivered RBI singles in the top of the eighth inning, helping Ohio pull out a 10-8 victory over West Virginia in the OVAC All-Star baseball game Monday at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

It was a game that featured plenty of good pitching — the two staffs combined to whiff 24 batters. There was plenty of offense — the two teams combined for 18 hits, including three homers. And there was plenty of chaos — like when Wellsville's G.C. Congrove made two plate appearances in the pivotal eighth inning — once in the No. 3 hole, and again in the No. 8 hole. In between his plate appearances the Ohio stars rapped three singles and bounced into a fielder's choice.

There was more where that came from.

St. Clairsville's Tyler McFarland appeared in the leadoff spot and as a No. 7 hitter. Edison's Justin Richards, the OVAC Class 4A Player of the Year, batted seventh and ninth, and re-entered the game three times.

John Marshall's veteran coach Bob Montgomery, who was one of three coaches in charge of the West Virginia squad, didn't want to talk about any of the moves in what he was told was an exhibition game that was to be played "straight," only saying the approach was "very interesting."

Ohio coaches Mark Spigarelli of Bellaire and Ron Street of Beallsville were unavailable for comment after the game.

But the game wasn't about lineup cards, or the final score, really.



It was about having fun.

And there was also plenty of that.

Just ask Bellaire's Clay Boston, easily the game's Most Valuable Player after he homered, doubled, singled, drove in three runs, and worked a scoreless fourth inning on the mound.

The rest of his teammates had a hard time wiping that smile off their faces after they shot out to an 8-0 lead four innings into the game.

Ohio got to W.Va. starter Jed Lucey, of Cameron, early by putting four runs on the board in the top of the first. A walk and an error put enough runners on for Boston, Steubenville Central's Drew Mihaylo, and Richards all to drive in runs.

Boston's home run, a shot down the left-field line, put Ohio up 5-0 in the third. In the fourth, he mashed a two-run double that lifted his team's lead to 8-0.

The next inning, it was West Virginia that started having some fun.

Montgomery started out the game the way any reputable Little League coach would — he wrote out his lineup according to position. The pitcher bats first and the right fielder bats last. And he started the game with no W.Va. Class AAA players, just single-and double-A.

And those guys had their hands full with Richards, who started the game and posted two perfect innings.

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Ohio

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In the fifth, the starters slowly began to trickle out, and the backups quickly made some noise for the Mountain State team.

Weir's Jordan Pate, one of the few remaining starters, hit a booming triple to right that scored Tyler Consolidated's Zack Watson. Oak Glen's Matt Wharton followed that up with a liner to left, bringing home Pate.

Still chipping away, Watson added an RBI single in the seventh before the bats started stirring in the eighth.

Against Neuhart, the eventual winning pitcher, John Marshall's Cole Taylor hit an inside-the-park home run that just eluded the glove of a sprawled out T.J. Coffland on the warning track in center field. Taylor raced around the bases and just beat the relay throw

home as W.Va. cut the lead in half.

Later, JM's Chris Brooks and Wheeling Park's Brian Main blasted RBI singles, bringing the score to 8-6, just before Tyler Consolidated's Rob Jones strolled to the plate representing the tying run.

That's when he belted a deep fly ball just to the left of the scoreboard and well out of Vaccaro, tying the game at 8.

"They (kids from Tyler) gave us a real nice lift," Montgomery said.

Ohio added the two runs in the eighth and West Virginia wasn't able to get much going in the bottom half of the innings. Just to make sure, Richards came back out and worked a scoreless ninth, giving up a harmless single to Brooke's Josh Kusich.

OVAC All-Star Games Will Be Played This Week

Many of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's top senior baseball and softball players will be wrapping up their high school careers in this week's OVAC Baseball and Softball All-Star Games.

The baseball all-star game — the annual George Kovalick All-Star Classic — will be played Monday night at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville with the softball all-star tilt set for Tuesday at the I-470 Complex in Wheeling.

Starting time for Monday's baseball game has been set for 7 p.m.

Tuesday is the rain date.

The George Kovalick All-Star Classic

will once again be a nine-inning affair pitting the West Virginia stars against Ohio.

Players from teams still involved in their state's playoffs are not permitted to participate.

With state tournament play coming up in both West Virginia and Ohio this week, players from Wheeling Central, Magnolia and the winner of today's Ohio Division II regional between Edison and Steubenville will have to sit out Monday night's contest.

The same rule holds true for Tuesday's girls' all-star game and could affect players from Monroe Central, whose Division III regional final against Sycamore Mohawk

was postponed Saturday and rescheduled for this afternoon.

State tournament play concluded in West Virginia Friday, freeing up players from Wheeling Central and Brooke to participate in the all-star game.

The girls' all-star game is set for a 6 p.m. start Tuesday.

The OVAC reminds fans that OVAC passes were honored for all OVAC Tournament games but will not be honored at either all-star game.

Admission prices for both all-star games have been set at \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

OVAC ALL-STAR ROSTERS

SOFTBALL Ohio Roster			West Virginia			BASEBALL Ohio Roster			West Virginia Roster		
Player	School	Position	Player	School	Position	Player	School	Pos.	Player	School	Pos.
Ericka Alloggia	Edison	OF	Sasha Burkhart	Beallsville	1B-P	J.J. Troiani	Linsly	OF	Doug Ohalek	Toronto	3B
Jess Shepherd	Edison	1B	Coty Marcum	Beallsville	SS	Jenna Fulmer	Weirton Madonna	1B	Andy LeMasters	Toronto	OF
Jessica DaGrava	Buckeye Local	CF	Jonni Jo Magistro	St. John Central	OF	Aliscia Smitsky	Weirton Madonna	OF	Trevor Kalinowski	Steubenville	P-1B
Nikki Rinko	Beaver Local	3B	Richelle Thoburn	Shadyside	C	Brittany Henry	Paden City	1B	Jon Micheal Rea	Steubenville	1B-P
Jada Tyson	Zanesville	OF	Dawn Zoladz	Bridgeport	RF	Mallory Zearott	Bishop Donahue		Tyler McFarland	St. Clairsville	P
Hope Foraker	Cambridge	P	Rachelle Cole	Conotton Valley	3B-P				J.T. Coffland	Harrison Central	OF
Leanne Westfall	Steubenville	P									
Nikki Fiest	East Liverpool	CF									
Lysa Breedon	Bellaire	P-1B									
Rosa Zeno	Bellaire	RF-1B									
Ashley Carpenter	Meadowbrook	C									
Jenny Wright	Meadowbrook	3B									
Danielle Holt	Union Local	2B									
Jen Molinaro	Indian Creek	1B-C									
Amanda Hannahs	Barnesville	C									
Brittany Bovenizer	Harr. Central	3B-SS									
Jenny DePalma	St. Clairsville	C									
Becky Moore	Shenandoah	3B									
Sara Franckhauser	Steub. Central	P-2B									
Jamie LaSavage	Steub. Central	OF-1B									
Lindsay Price	Toronto	SS									
Lindsay Romick	River	C									
Danielle Polk	Fort Frye	C									
Tiffany Barlow	Caldwell	C									
Shana Williams	Wellsville	OF									
			Meredith Bourne	John Marshall	SS	Jason Rosnick	River	C	Adam Turner	Bishop Donahue	P-IF
			Tara Marsh	John Marshall	OF	Matt Abbott	River	OF	Josh Kusich	Brooke	P-OF
			Stephanie Luzader	John Marshall	CF	Clay Boston	Bellaire	1B-P	Justin Beresford	Cameron	C
			Nicole Seffert	Wheeling Park	2B	Justin Richards	Edison	P-IF	Jed Lucey	Cameron	P-CF
			Dani Rhem	Wheeling Park	OF	Caleb Myer	Edison	P-IF	Chris Brooks	John Marshall	C
			Katlyn Gretz	Wheeling Park	OF	Chad Litton	Union Local	3B	Cole Taylor	John Marshall	P-IF
			Gina Lastoria	Brooke	OF	Walter Cochran	Union Local	CF	Josh Norman	Linsly	P-IF
			Mandy DiPasquale	Brooke	SS	Vince Stenkowski	Bridgeport	CF-P	James Wallace	Linsly	1B
			Tiffany Latimer	Brooke	1B	Tyler Brown	Beallsville	SS-2B	Matt Wharton	Oak Glen	P-IF
			Kerri Phillips	Weir	P-OF	Adam Bear	Buckeye Trail	SS	Corey Slider	Paden City	P-IF
			Jessica Platt	Weir	1B	G.J. Congrove	Wellsville	C-P	Jason Suter	Tyler Cons.	P-OF
			Susan Cashdollar	Oak Glen	P	Pat McKittrick	Steub. Catholic	SS	Zack Watson	Tyler Cons.	P-SS
			Jenna Eckleberry	Oak Glen	SS	Steve Spence	Steub. Catholic	2B-P	Rob Jones	Tyler Cons.	P-IF
			Kim Sandoval	Oak Glen	RF	Drew Mihalyo	Steub. Catholic	OF	Cory Peppler	Weir	3B
			Anna Mackley	Tyler Cons.	C-3B	Doug Edwards	Cambridge	P-OF	Jordan Pate	Weir	P-OF
			Ashley Ferguson	Tyler Cons.	2B	Brandon Durben	Cambridge	P-C	Luke Myers	Madonna	SS-2B
			Jessica Howell	Magnolia	C	Aubrey Neuhart	Meadowbrook	P	Brian Main	Wheeling Park	1B
			Allison Conklin	Magnolia	P-CF	Jared Morganstern	Fort Frye	C	Josh Tysk	Wheeling Park	P-SS
			Beth Wycherly	Wheeling Central	C				Jason West	Wheeling Park	P-OF
			Kristen Bandi	Linsly	SS						