

Ohio wins OVAC All-Star Baseball Game

ROD JOHNSON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

STEUBENVILLE
Capitalizing on a five-run eruption in the fifth inning, the Ohio team cruised to a 7-3 triumph over West Virginia in the annual George Kovalick/Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Baseball Game on Sunday evening at the University of Steubenville's Vaccaro Field.

After the Mountaineers posted an early 1-0 lead in the second, Ohio pitching kept the foes at bay until the Buckeye bats could get working, which they did in the fifth frame.

The Steubenville Big Red duo of Mike Giannamore and Ryan Straker got Ohio on the board when Giannamore led off with single and Straker followed by hitting a round-tripper down the left field line to vault Ohio into a 2-1 lead.

The Buckeyes weren't finished, however, and some local players stepped up at this point.

After West Virginia retired the next two hitters, Caldwell's Rob Kress reached second on an error, then advanced to third on a wild pitch.

Harrison Central's Jarryd Ridgeway followed by reaching



Representing the local area in the George Kovalick/OVAC All-Star Baseball Game which took place Sunday at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville were, front row l to r, Rob Kress of Caldwell and Nathan Hedge of Shenandoah. In back are Brock Huntsman and Craig Miller of Barnesville, coach Chad Briggs of Caldwell, Jesse Froehlich and Wes Mercer of Meadowbrook, and Kyle Harbin of Cambridge. The Ohio all-stars won, 7-3.

on an error, which chased Kress home. Barnesville's Craig Miller then singled, and fellow Shamrock Brock Huntsman drove Ridgeway and Miller home with a two-run double. All of a sudden, Ohio was staked to a 5-1 lead and they never looked back.

A committee of Ohio hurlers combined to keep West Virginia from posting any crooked numbers. Starter Ridgeway worked

the first two innings followed by Meadowbrook's Jesse Froehlich, who tossed two scoreless frames, yielding just one hit in the process.

Buckeye Local's C.J. Besce followed, pitching the fifth and sixth stanzas, and benefitting from the Ohio runs to pick up the mound win.

Cambridge's Kyle Harbin worked two innings of relief, allowed a run on two hits, but

fanned a pair to wriggle out of a seventh inning jam.

Steubenville Catholic's Joe Antinone worked a scoreless ninth to nail down the win for the Buckeyes. The five Ohio hurlers combined for five strikeouts and just one walk.

After West Virginia tallied single runs in the sixth and seventh frames, Ohio answered with a

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Ohio all-stars prevail

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solo run in its seventh when Edison's David Ujcich reached via the third Mountaineer error of the game, then was driven home by a double off the bat of Harrison Central's Tom Snyder.

A final Ohio insurance run came in the eighth when Giannamore scored on an Antinone sac fly.

Ohio pounded out 10 hits in the game, but W.Va. had a dozen. The Mountaineers could not get a big hit with runners in scoring position. Weirton's Brandon Coxen, Cameron's Mike Cain and Wheeling Park's Bud Hercules each had two hits for West Virginia.

Despite not collecting a hit, local all-stars Wes Mercer of Meadowbrook and Nathan Hedge of Shenandoah both played flawlessly in the field.

GAME NOTES — Prior to the game, the OVAC presented awards to the "Players of the Year" in the respective classes. The 4-A winner was John Marshall's Zac Campbell (who started and worked three scoreless

innings for the West Virginia); the 3-A winner was Harrison Central's Ridgeway; the 2-A winner was Josh Yager from River; the 1-A winner was Weirton Madonna's Anthony Gianni...

Named as the 2004 "Coach of the Year" was Bob Montgomery, the longtime mentor at John Marshall...



Sunday's contest was completed in just 2:05, making it, quite possibly, the quickest OVAC all-star baseball game ever...

Three schools who made it to their state's "Final Four" were represented. Ohio side schools Barnesville and Steubenville were denied a state title, but Weirton did take top laurels in West Virginia big school baseball on Saturday...

One of the Ohio coaches was Caldwell's Chad Briggs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

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It also marked the fifth consecutive win for the Scarlet-and-Gray in the series.

"This was a lot of fun today,

but we also had a lot of tradition to uphold for Ohio," Buckeye Local head coach Chris Blackburn mentioned. "The kids always want to play hard in a game like this, it is the final high school baseball game they will be associated with."

West Virginia got the scoring started in the second on a bases-loaded sacrifice fly from Wheeling Park's Bud Hercules. However, a fielder's choice and a groundout ended the visitor's threat with only one tally.

That lead held until the fifth when Giannamore and Straker, playing on the home turf, gave Ohio the lead for good. Giannamore led off the home-half of the inning with a single before Straker took a big swing at a pitch from Linsly's Chris Banal and deposited it over the left field

fence for a 2-1 count.

The Cadet standout retired the next two batters before his defense did him in. Caldwell's Rob Kress and Harrison Central's Jarryd Ridgeway both reached on errors, with Kress scoring. Miller then singled to put runners at the corners with two down.

Ohio ... 7
W.Va.... 3

Huntsman drilled a 3-1 pitch into the right-center field gap, scoring a pair and upping the margin to 5-1.

Wheeling Park catcher Todd Krasevec worked a bases-loaded walk off winning pitcher C.J. Besece of Buckeye Local

in the sixth before John Marshall's Robbie Kinkade tripled and scored on an error to make it 5-3 in the seventh.

But Ohio added single runs of its own in the seventh and eighth to close the scoring. Another two-out Mountaineer error followed by a run-scoring double from Harrison Central's Tom Snyder made it 6-3.

The Buckeyes closed the scoring an inning later on a sacrifice fly off the bat of Steubenville Central's Joey Antinone.

"Errors will kill you, even in an all-star game," admitted Tyler Consolidated coach John Rush. "I dealt with this all year long, and it can be very costly.

"We hit well today, but we just didn't get them in a timely manner and Ohio did. That is

also a big difference maker.

"I think all-in-all this was truly an all-star game with some very good players and some nice pitching performances. There was just a lot of overall good play."

W.Va. outhit its cross-river counterparts by an 11-10 margin, but committed three costly miscues to two for the hosts. Ohio pitchers fanned three and walked two while Mountaineer hurlers struck out three and issued one free pass.

The Blue-and-Gold, however, stranded six in scoring position and eight in the game.

"These were two very good groups of kids, the best in the Ohio Valley on both sides," Blackburn added.

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OVAC

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Ohio baseball stars prevail

FOR THE TIMES LEADER

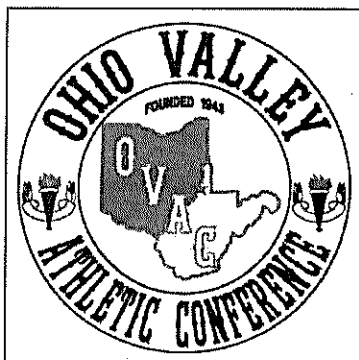
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Wheeling Park catcher Todd

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the designated hosts. Ohio pitchers fanned three and walked two while Mountaineer hurlers struck out three and issued one free pass.

The Blue-and-Gold, however, would strand six in scoring position and eight in the game.

"These were two very good groups of kids, the best in the Ohio Valley on both sides," Blackburn added. "The pitchers were phenomenal and we got some good hitting also.

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WEST VIRGINIA 010 001 100 - 3 11 3
OHIO 000 050 11X - 7 10 2
W - Campbell (3SO, 0W), Banal Ip (4) (0SO, 1W), Kemp (5) (0SO, 0W) and Carroll, Krasevec (4), Marple (7), Hercules 2S, rbi; Kemp 2S; Cain 2S; Coxen 2S; Kinkade T; Banal S; Downs S.
O - Ridgeway (0SO, 0W), Froelich (3) (0SO, 1W), Besece wp (5) (2SO, 1W), Harbin (7) (2SO, 0W), Antinone (5) (1SO, 0W) and Huntsman, Yosick (3), Straker (5), Yosick (8), Huntsman (9), Straker HR, 2rb; Huntsman D, 2rb; Snyder D, rbi; Giannamore S, D; Miller S; Yager S; Froelich S; Daily S; Frazier S.

COMING TUESDAY:

■ The Pirates take on the Rangers as MLB interleague play begins.

SPORTS

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 200

Ohio downs West Virginia

By **TRACY WATSON**
Special to the Herald-Star

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- Wild Things fall 3
- Mountaineer's victory 3
- Softball championships 3

B

in All-Star game

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Ohio

Continued from Page 1B

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OVAC All-Star Baseball

(at Vaccaro Field)

Ohio 7, West Virginia 3

West Virginia 010 001 100 —

3 11 3

Ohio 000 050 11x —

7 10 2

Ohio: Ridgeway (OK, OBB), Forelich (3) (OK, 1BB), Beseca wp (5) (2K, 1BB), Harbin (7) (2K, OBB), Antinone (9) (1K, OBB) and Huntsman, Yosick (3), Straker (5), Yosick (8), Huntsman (9). Straker HR, 2RBIs; Huntsman 2B, 2RBIs; Snyder 2B, RBI; Giannamore 1B, 2B; Miller 1B; Yager 1B; Froelich 1B; Daily 1B; Frazier 1B.

West Virginia: Campbell (3K, OBB), Banal Ip (4) (OK, 1BB), Kemp (5) (OK, OBB) and Carroll, Krasevec (4), Marple (7). Hercules 2-1B, RBI; Kemp 2-1B; Cain 2-1B; Coxen 2-1B; Kinkade 3B; Banal 1B; Downs 1B.