

# Mountaineers Roll

## West Virginia tames Ohio in all-star contest

By TRACY WATSON  
For The Intelligencer

After watching his Wheeling Central team roll to a West Virginia Class A state title last Friday afternoon, first-year Maroon Knight head coach Jim Wodusky has seen his share of hitting.

Monday at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville, Wodusky got to witness yet another solid display of hitting and pitching as he coached the Mountain State squad to victory in the OVAC-George Kovalick All-Star baseball classic.

Weir High's Joel Marino collected three hits and Red Rider teammate Tom Martin blasted a home run to lead a 13-hit West Virginia attack as the Mountaineers rolled to a 13-5 rout of the Ohio All-Stars.

"This was just a total team effort," Wodusky said. "The kids really did their job and you can't ask for any more than that."

"Our hitters had selective swings and they were hitting the ball hard all night."

"These kids also got a little excited when they saw (Robert) Shannon was going to start the game for Ohio. It really seemed to get them a little more aggressive and our hitters couldn't wait to get in there to face him."

Shannon, a Beaver Local graduate who has signed to play baseball at Miami, Ohio, allowed five hits and six runs while walking a pair in two innings of work in taking the mound loss for the Buckeyes.

John Marshall's Cody Koontz ripped a run-scoring single in the first, Monarch Aaron Simmons scored on a wild pitch and Tyler Consolidated's Robbie Rine pounded a two-run double as the designated hosts exited the first frame with a 4-1 advantage.

Indian Creek's Seth Fluharty had given Ohio a 1-0 lead with an RBI double in the top of the frame.

John Redd of Bishop Donahue singled home a run in the second before Martin's RBI fielder's choice made it a 6-1 count after two.

The Buckeye's cut the deficit to four on a single by Barnesville's Chris Wells in the third, but Marino's run producing double in the bottom of the frame took the margin back to 7-2.

Steubenville Central's John Koehnlein homered leading off the fifth and Jake Booth of Toronto added a run-scoring double to make it 7-4.

Martin sent a towering shot over the right-field fence in the sixth while the Mountaineers would put things away with a three-run eighth, highlighted by RBIs from Jack Crow of Weir and Bryan Berger and Chaz

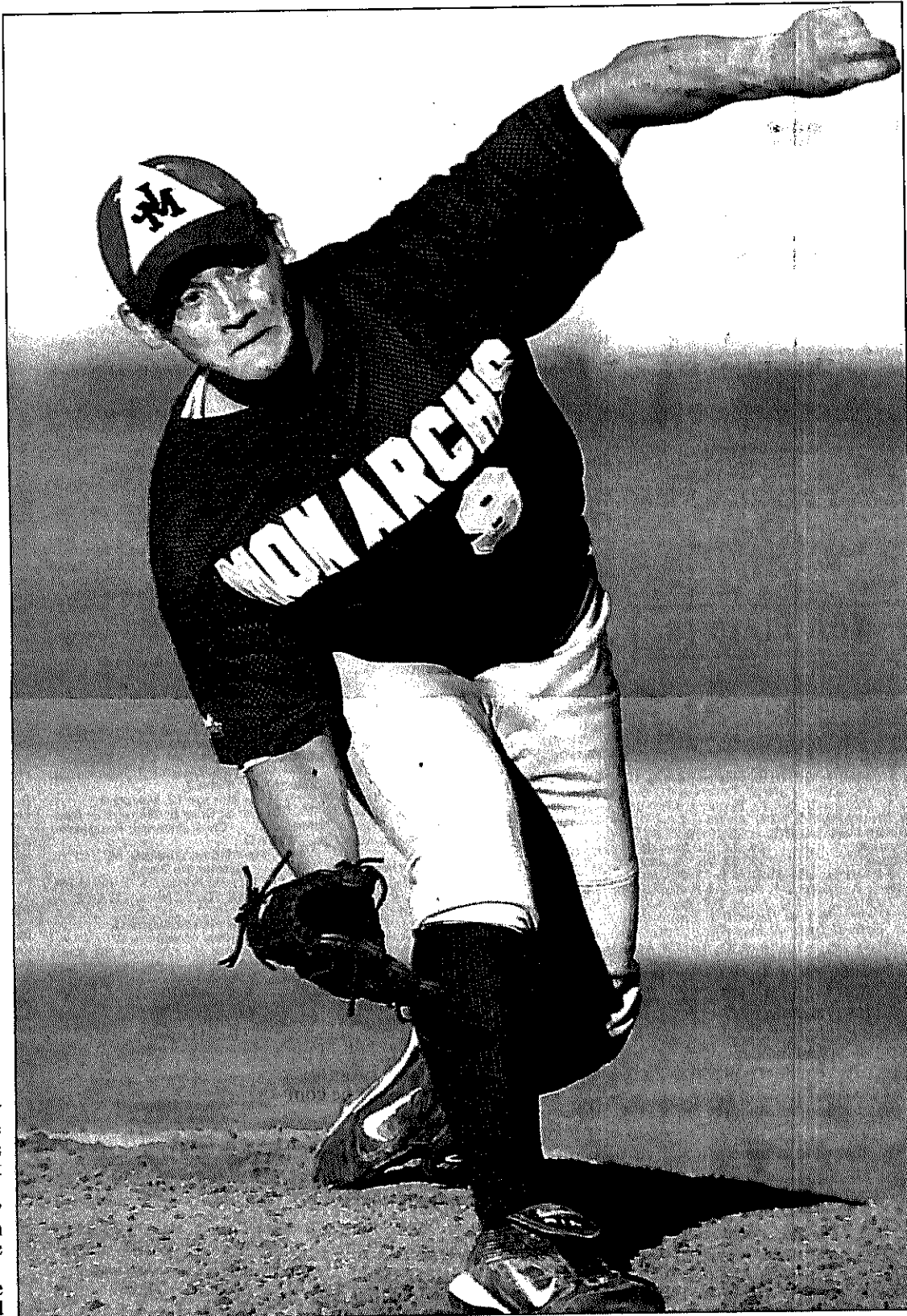


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

West Virginia's Chaz Shultz of John Marshall works from the mound during action of the OVAC all-star baseball game Monday evening at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

Schultz, both of John Marshall. West Virginia scored at least on run in every inning it batted with the exception of the fourth.

Overall, the Red Rider foursome of Marino, Joe Quattrochi, Crow and Martin combined for four singles, a double, a home run and five runs batted in. That group helped lead Weir to a state championship last year and a runnerup finish in W.Va. Class AA this season.

"I think everyone was just excited about playing against the other top seniors in the OVAC," Wodusky added. "While we hit

the ball very well, you could not ask for a better pitching performance."

"Our kids threw strikes and had good control the whole game."

"Our defense was also there to back them up in the field when they needed plays."

As for winning a state title just three days earlier, Wodusky could only grin about his good fortune.

"It hasn't been a bad couple of days," he added. "This game is all about having fun and I am still coming down from last Fri-

day. "I could not ask for a better first year and then to finish things up like this is just great."

Marino finished with a single and double while Quattrochi singled twice and Rine collected a single and double for the winners. Koontz pitched the first three innings for West Virginia and was credited with the mound win.

For the Buckeyes, Koehnlein singled and homered while Steubenville's Chad Bauman had a single and triple on the night.

# Meadowbrook's Zifzal gains OVAC 3-A 'Co-Player of the Year' honor

## Several area baseball players to play in George Kovalik All-Star Game

WHEELING, W.VA. — The All-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference baseball team has been announced and Meadowbrook High School senior pitcher Zach Zifzal was honored by being named the 3-A "Co-Player of the Year" with Martins Ferry's Zach Fairbanks.

Other "Players of the Year" included Steubenville's Lee Bainbridge (4-A); Fort Frye's Tyler Engle (2-A); and Madonna's Anthony Fianni (1-A).

Here's a look at the All-OVAC squads:

Class 4-A — Cambridge junior catcher Rick Harvey and sophomore first baseman Sean Mahley; John Marshall senior pitcher Cody Koontz, senior outfielder Arron Simmons and junior infielder Ryan Zelinski; Steubenville senior outfielder Chad Bauman and junior third baseman Lee Bainbridge; Wheeling Park senior infielder Doug Brown and senior pitcher E.J. Schram; Edison senior outfielder Patrick Blankenship; Brooke senior outfielder Dante Fuscardo; Buckeye Local senior pitcher Stan Doabranetski; East Liverpool senior pitcher Cory Carr; Beaver Local senior pitcher Tim Shannon; and Zanesville senior infielder Matt Boggs.

Class 3-A — Harrison Central senior pitcher Mark Dulkoski, junior shortstop Dan Milleson and junior pitcher Donald Morris; Indian Creek senior catcher Seth Fluharty and senior second baseman Ricky Bell; Bellaire senior infielder Keith Secrest and senior pitcher Jay Ofat; Martins Ferry senior shortstop Jon Nagel; St. Clairsville senior infielder Josh

Waggle; Tyler Consolidated senior pitcher Bobby Rine; Oak Glen senior first baseman Steve Young; Magnolia junior infielder Josh Sims; and Union Local senior second baseman Kevin Girty.

Class 2-A — Buckeye Trail sophomore infielder Jordan Thompson; Shenandoah senior outfielder Jacob Zerkle; Caldwell senior catcher Alex Hayes; Barnesville senior second baseman Chris Wells and senior pitcher Tony Yarnall; Fort Frye senior pitcher Garrett Fleming, senior third baseman Jared Hawson and sophomore shortstop Tyler Engle; Wheeling Central senior pitcher Ricky Szeligo and senior pitcher Noah Mull; Monroe Central senior catcher Dane Merckle

and senior shortstop Chris Jeffers; Toronto senior pitcher Jake Booth; Steubenville Catholic senior infielder John Koehnlein; Frontier senior shortstop Jake Amos; Wellsville senior infielder Josh Congrove; and River senior infielder Ryne Romick.

Class 1-A — Linsly senior pitcher Addison Sherich, junior infielder Jason Pyles and junior infielder Bill Zavatsky; Beallsville junior pitchers Tony Stephens and Bryan Bilyeu; Weirton Madonna senior catcher Anthony Gianni; Cameron senior pitcher Matt Coe and junior infielder Brandon Rush; Shadyside senior shortstop Michael Meintel; Paden City senior shortstop Remington Dabbs; Bishop Donahue senior infielder Jon Radd; Valley senior shortstop Adam Cunningham; Bridgeport senior shortstop Corey Daughty; and Conotton Valley senior outfielder Ryan Scott.

The OVAC's "Coach of the



Harvey



Mahley



Zifzal



Thompson



Zerkle



Hayes



Wells



Yarnall



Year" was Fort Frye's Sonny Bidwell.

The OVAC George Kovalik All-Star Game will take place on Monday at 6 p.m. at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field.

Here's a look at the rosters from both Ohio and West Virginia:

Ohio — Derek Daugherty (Meadowbrook), Fluharty (Indian Creek) and Hayes (Caldwell), catchers; Shannon (Beaver Local), Koehnlein (Steubenville Catholic), Dulkoski (Harrison Central) and Fairbanks (Martins Ferry), pitchers; Ben Fowler (Cambridge), Aaron Carpenter (Buckeye Trail), Wells (Barnesville), Zifzal (Meadowbrook), Romick (River), Carr (East Liverpool), Ofat (Bellaire) and Jeffers (Monroe Central), infield; and Patrick Baker (Edison), Josh Graham (St. Clairsville), Bauman (Steubenville), Girty (Union Local), Doabranetski (Buckeye Local) and Booth (Toronto), outfielders. Coaches for the Buckeye

squad included Paul Arick (Cambridge), Mike Cottis (Indian Creek), Gary Cunningham (Shadyside) and Bidwell (Fort Frye).

West Virginia — Joe Caveney, Schram and Brown (Wheeling Park); Szeligo (Wheeling Central); Chaz Shultz, Bryan Berger, Koontz and Simmons (John Marshall); Jack Crow, Tom Martins, Joel Marino and Joe Quattrochi (Weirton); D.J. Shorts (Brooke); Young (Oak Glen); Stewart Leasure (Magnolia); Bobby Koerber and Rine (Tyler Consolidated); Sherich (Linsly); Michael DiCaria and Gianni (Weirton Madonna); John Lilley and Coe (Cameron); Redd (Bishop Donahue); and Cunningham (Valley). The Mountaineers' coaching staff will be comprised of Wheeling Park's Doug Tush, Wheeling Central's Jim Wodusky, Weirton Madonna's Tony Magnone and Brooke's Robbie Robinson.

## OVAC All-Star Baseball Game Set for Monday

The OVAC George Kovalik Ohio-West Virginia All-Star Classic.

First pitch is slated for Monday at 6 p.m. at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field.

Jim Wodusky, who will lead Wheeling Central into today's Class A championship game against Clarksburg Notre Dame, will be one of the coaches for the Mountaineers.

Also on the bench will be Wheeling Park's Doug Tush, Weirton Madonna's Tony Magnone and Brooke's Rob Robinson.

Fort Frye's Sonny Bidwell, the OVAC Coach of the Year, will be one of four coaches on the Buckeye bench.

Bidwell led the Cadets to the OVAC Class AA championship, the first for the school.

Bidwell will be joined on the bench by Cambridge's Paul Arick, Indian Creek's Mike Cottis and Shadyside's Gary Cunningham.

Tickets at the gate are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. OVAC passes will not be honored.

## SPORTS

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

## WV All-Stars overwhelm Ohio

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Writer

West Virginia doesn't get the best of Ohio too often during Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Games.

One of those times was Monday evening at Vacarro Field in Steubenville when the Mountaineer baseball stars pinned a 13-5 setback on the Buckeyes in the annual Kovalick Classic.

"The kids were excited to be playing against and with the best players in the OVAC," said Wheeling Central and West Virginia head coach Jim Wodusky. "We were aggressive at the plate, played good defense and



got outstanding pitching."

The all-star game was little less trying on Wodusky seeing that he just finished leading the Maroon Knights to a state title last Friday in Charleston.

"It's been a nice couple of days," Wodusky smiled. "This game was all about having fun and I am still coming down off of Friday's win, and I couldn't ask for a better initial season. To watch the best players in the area in both Ohio and West Virginia play against each other was a real thrill for me as it was the kids I'm sure."

The Buckeyes - who had two of their scheduled pitchers bypass the game for various reasons - handed the ball to Beaver Local

ace Robert Shannon to start.

Needless to say, the Miami of Ohio recruit didn't have his best stuff. He was touched up for four hits and four earned runs in the first inning. The Mountaineers got to him again in the second, scoring twice more, making it a 6-1 game.

"Our kids were really excited when they found out (Shannon) was pitching," Wodusky said. "They were really aggressive at the plate, got some good swings and made things happen."

While Shannon and the rest of the Buckeye pitchers were struggling to get anything going, the Mountaineers' staff had it cranked up early and often.

John Marshall's Cody Koontz started the game before giving way to Cameron's Matt Coe. Other pitchers that contributed to the West Virginia win included John Marshall's Chaz

Shultz, Tyler's Robbie Rine and Central's Ricky Szeligo.

"Our pitchers threw real well," Wodusky admitted. "They got hit a little bit, but this is an all-star game. Our defense didn't commit an error and whenever you can do that in high school baseball, you give yourself a chance."

Steubenville Catholic's John Koehnlein had a big day at the plate for the Buckeyes. He led off the fifth with a solo home run and then drove in Big Red's Chad Baumann with a single in the seventh.

Barnesville's Chris Wells drove in a run in the third for Ohio with a base hit.

Indian Creek's Seth Fluharty plated the first run of the game when he doubled in Bauman in

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the first inning.

West Virginia's offensive attack was sparked by Weir High's Tom Martin who had a solo home run and two total RBI. Rine drove in a pair with a double in the first. Red Rider Joel Marino had three hits in the game, including a double and two singles.

JM's Bryan Berger had a single and two RBI for the Mountaineers.

## GAME NOTES

SEVERAL coaches were recognized for achieving milestone win marks during the course of the season. Monroe Central's Junior Winland, St. Clairsville's Tom Sliva, Barnesville's Brad Wilson and Linsly's Gary Sprague were amongst the honorees.

PRIOR to the game a moment of silence was held for long-time OVAC baseball director Bob Solar who passed away last year.

BISHOP DONAHUE'S John Redd remembered classmates JoBeth Gross and Danielle Block by wearing their initials on his jersey.

Lifescore:  
Ohio 101 020 100 5 8 2  
W.Va. 421 011 13X 13 13 0

BATTERIES: Shannon, Koehnlein (3), Hayes (5), Booth (7), Ofat (8), Fluharty, Daugherty (4) and Hayes (7), Kcoontz, Coe (3), Shultz (6), Rine (8), Szeligo (9), Berger, Martin (4), Berger (8) and Martin (9).