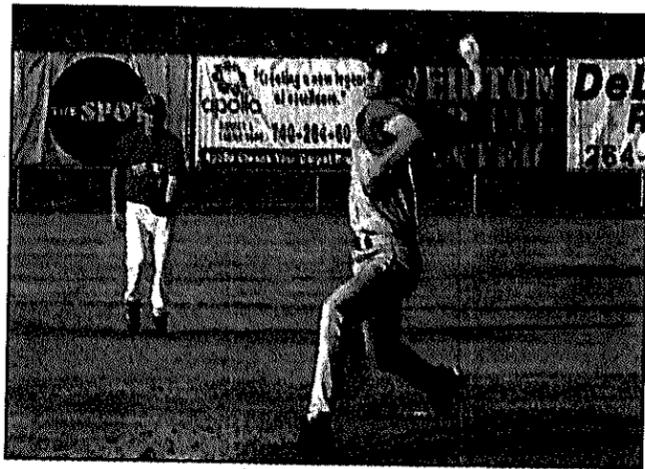
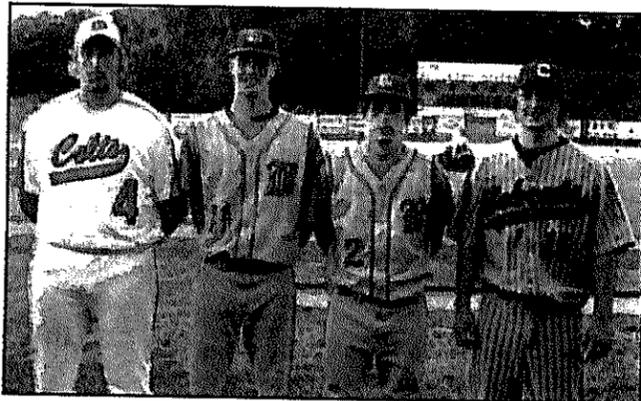


Jason Miller/The Daily Jeffersonian
Cambridge High's Kirk Wetherell takes a swing during Monday's OVAC Baseball All-Star Game in Steubenville. The West Virginia catcher is Jesse Persinger of John Marshall and the home plate umpire is Ron Colby.



Jason Miller/The Daily Jeffersonian
Shane Crosier of Barnesville delivers a pitch during Monday's OVAC Baseball All-Star Game in Steubenville. Ohio scored a 10-9 victory against West Virginia.



Jason Miller/The Daily Jeffersonian
The local area's four representatives in Monday's OVAC Baseball All-Star Game in Steubenville were, 1 to r, Zac Coulter of Meadowbrook, Shane Crosier and Chad Stephen of Barnesville, and Kirk Wetherell of Cambridge.



Jason Miller/The Daily Jeffersonian
The Cambridge Umpires Association donated their services at the OVAC Baseball All-Star Game on Monday at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field. Working the game were, 1 to r, Ron Miller, Ron Colby, Mike McKee and Rick Stillion.

Ohio wins OVAC All-Star Game

JASON MILLER
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

STEBENVILLE — After surrendering a three-run lead in the top of the seventh inning, the Ohio all-stars plated three tallies in the bottom of the seventh to edge West Virginia, 10-9, in the annual George Kovalick Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Game on Monday at A.J. Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

Barnesville head coach D.J. Butler reflects on his experience coaching the Ohio squad.

"Anytime you get to do one of these games, you get to be around great kids and great coaches," he mentioned. "It's



just a fun atmosphere, and it's always enjoyable."

Pitching proved to be the staple for the Ohio all-stars. Martins Ferry's Fred Owens started on the rubber, tossing two innings of hitless baseball. Owens also registered three strikeouts during his appearance. Cory Carpenter of Union Local entered in the third inning and fanned two batters in two more hitless frames. Barnesville hurler Shane Crosier was the third pitcher.

He allowed four runs on seven hits with two Ks in two innings of work. Norman Wright of Buckeye Local picked up the victory in relief for Ohio. Wright threw one frame and gave up five runs on three hits with one

strikeout and two base-on-balls. Shadyside's Billy Merryman picked up the save, tossing the final two innings giving up three hits with one K and one walk.

"All those kids pitched well," Butler offered. "It's was just unfortunate for (Norman) that they caught up to the pitching by the time he got in. That was all it was."

The Ohio all-star pitching staff also got a lot of supports from the offense.

Frontier's Tyler Harris had a double and a single, while Cory Wickham of Edison had a pair of singles and an RBI. Bridgeport's Ryan Kreiter and Zach Stewart of Toronto each recorded a double. Crosier notched an RBI single, while

OHIO 10; WEST VIRGINIA 9
West Virginia 000 022 500 — 9 13 4
Ohio 210 100 300 — 10 12 2
Steven Butts (Wheat) (2 Ks, 0 BB); Warren Hammel (Linsley) (3rd, 2 Ks, 0 BB); Chad Kimpel (Wheeling Park) (5th, 1 K, 1 BB); Clark Sambuco (Wheeling Park) (7th, 2 Ks, 1 BB); Mike Angelich (Bishop Donahue) (8th, 0 K, 2 BB); Fred Owens (Martins Ferry) (3 Ks, 0 BB); Cory Carpenter (Union Local) (3rd, 2 Ks, 0 BB); Shane Crosier (Barnesville) (5th, 2 Ks, 0 BB); Norman Wright (Buckeye Local) (WP, 7th, 1 K, 2 BB); Billy Merryman (Shadyside) (SV, 8th, 1 K, 1BB); and Nelson Lang (Fort Frye).
Dustin Hynes (St. Clairsville); Ryan Kreiter (Bridgeport).
STAT LEADERS—For West Virginia, Jesse Persinger (John Marshall), single; Andrew Kozusko (Linsley), single, run; Cory Meadows (Paden City), single; Butts, single, RBI; Hammel, single, RBI; Sambuco, single, run; Angelich, single, run, stolen base; Taylor Coell (Linsley), run; Jordan Simons (Cameron), run, RBI; Heath Beecher (Wheeling Park), home run, 4 RBI, run; Matt Anderson (Cameron), single, run; Carson Koontz (John Marshall), single, RBI, run; Pat Duke (Wheat), single; Matt Nagy (Wheat), single, run. For Ohio, Chad Stephen (Barnesville), 2 runs; Cory Wickham (Edison), 2 singles, RBI, run; Hynes, run; Lance Pierpont (Buckeye Local), single, run, stolen base; Long, single, RBI, run, stolen base; Kirk Wetherell (Cambridge), run; Kreiter, double, run, RBI; Crosier, single, RBI; Merryman, single; Zach Stewart (Toronto), double, run; Cody Grimes (Indian Creek), single, stolen base; Max King (Toronto), RBI; Tyler Harris (Frontier), double, single, run; Carpenter, single.

See OVAC page B-6

Ohio bags OVAC All-Star Game, 10-9

OVAC from page B-1

fellow Shamrock Chad Stephen scored a pair of runs. Cambridge's Kirk Wetherell scored once after being walked.

"These kids have finally got some Legion games under their belts, so the hitting is starting to catch up with the pitching, unlike in earlier all-star games where the hitting was behind," the BHS skipper stated. "These are good kids, they were able to battle back and they played really hard like it was a real game."

Ohio took advantage of some W.Va. miscues to jump out to an early 2-0 lead after one frame. Stephen reached via throwing error before a base hit by Wickham advanced Stephen to second. A throwing error by the pitcher on an attempted pick-off allowed both runners to advance. With one out, Owens reached first safely thanks to another throwing error, scoring both Stephen and Wickham. West Virginia then turned a double-play to get out of the inning only down 2-0.

Ohio increased its lead in the second frame. Buckeye Local's Lance Pierpoint led the inning off with an infield single. After he stole second, Mason Lang of Fort Frye hit a two-out single to drive him home.

The Buckeye all-stars tacked on another run in the fourth. Stewart led the frame off with a double to left field. Cody Grimes of Indian Creek followed that up with a single to shallow right-center to put runners on the corners. After Grimes stole second, Max King of Toronto hit a sacrifice fly to center field which scored Stewart from third, putting Ohio up 4-0.

West Virginia cut the lead in half with a two-run fifth. The inning began with a single to right by Matt Andenora of Cameron. With one out, John Marshall's Carson Koontz belted a triple to deep right-center. Koontz eventually scored when the throw from right was misplayed at third.

Ohio answered in the bottom half of the inning. Harris led things off with an infield single and Wickham hit a one-out single that scored Harris. With bases loaded, Owens hit a fielder's choice that scored Stephen, and, on an errant throw, Dustin Hynes of St. Clairsville also came around to score, giving Ohio a 7-2 advantage.

However, West Virginia wouldn't roll over and die. Weir's Steven Buffo hit an RBI single through the middle to score teammate Matt Nagy, and Linsly's Warren Hammel followed that up with another single, scoring Andrew Kozusko of Linsly. The two-run fifth trim the margin to 7-4 in

favor of Ohio.

West Virginia took its first lead in the seventh inning. Clark Sambuco of Wheeling Park led the frame off with a single to left. Following a wild pitch that moved Sambuco to second, Mike Angelich had a base hit to center putting runners on the corners. Angelich eventually took second, and, after back-to-back walks, the Mountaineers were only down 7-5 with the bases still loaded. However, they wouldn't stay that way for long as Wheeling Park's Heath Beecher crushed a pitch off the scoreboard for a grand slam. The homer gave West Virginia a 9-7 lead.

The Ohioans were able to keep their composure and reclaim the lead in the bottom half of the frame. Lang got things going when he was struck by a Sambuco pitch. Lang stole second, but Sambuco walked Wetherell, putting two on with one out. Consecutive wild pitches brought home Sambuco and moved Wetherell to third before Kreiter blasted a double to score Wetherell, tying the game at 9-9. With two down, Crosier laced an RBI single that plated Kreiter with the go-ahead run.

West Virginia posed a serious threat in the eighth, but Merryman was able to out of the bases-loaded jam.

For West Virginia, Sambuco suffered the loss as he pitched in the seventh, giving up three runs on three hits, striking out two and walking one. Buffo started and went two frames allowing three runs (one earned) with two strikeouts. Hammel gave up another run in two innings of work while fanning two. Chad Kimpel threw the fifth and sixth innings, giving up three runs on three hits, registering one strikeout and one base-on-balls. Bishop Donahue's Mike Angelich closed out the final frame with a pair of walks.

At the dish, Beecher had a home run and four RBI, while Koontz notched a triple and a single.

Also recognized at the game were the OVAC players and coach of the year. Stewart was the 1-A "Player of the Year", while Shadyside's Kraig Kubancik and Steubenville Catholic's Brian DeFranco shared the 2-A honor. Hynes was the 3-A recipient and Steubenville's Jeremy Banks won the 4-A accolade. The 2008 "Coach of the Year" award was awarded to Cambridge's Matt Johnson.

This year's umpiring crew was from the Cambridge Umpires Association. The group consisted of Ron Colby (home plate), Rick Stillion (first), Mike McKee (second) and Ron Miller (third).

SPORTS

Ohio OVAC all stars complete sweep

By AARON PETCHAL
For The Times Leader

STEUBENVILLE - The sweep is complete.

Monday evening, the Ohio baseball team followed in the footsteps of the Ohio softball team as Ohio defeated West Virginia, 10-9, in the annual OVAC All-Star Baseball Game at Vaccaro Field.

Ohio scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to rally from a two-run deficit to pull out the victory.

"Things went very well," Ohio coach and Bellaire head coach Bruce Young, who is retiring, said following the game. "Everybody probably played about the same amount. We got good pitching throughout. We played really well on defense, really well on defense, and we had some timely hits. I enjoyed playing them. They are a nice bunch of kids."

West Virginia coach and John Marshall head coach Bob Montgomery said it was a good game.

"It is a special night for all of us," he said. "The guys are all real good. Several different schools come together on both sides of the river. It was a beautiful evening. It was a one-run ballgame. It was a fast game. They just told us it was 10 or 15 after 8 for nine innings."

"The kids in particular are real good to us as coaches. It is my sixth or seventh time I think. It is always a pleasure."

Ohio opened the scoring in the game with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first inning. Ohio added

to its lead with runs in the second and fourth innings to go up 4-0.

West Virginia closed the gap to two runs by plating a pair in the top of the fifth, but Ohio came right back to score three more runs in the bottom half of the inning to take a 7-2 advantage.

Montgomery said the outcome was not important.

"No. It is not about winning and losing," he said. "When we are with our own schools, we sweat those Ws and Ls. No. There were no losers tonight."

Young said the game means something to some people.

"It does in a way," he said. "You like the idea of defeating your counterpart across the river. So, you like that idea. You don't like to hear coach Monty say he beat Ohio all of the time. We were worried about him wanting to say that he beat us again. So, we enjoyed that."

West Virginia scored two more runs in the sixth to pull within 7-4. Then, West Virginia scored five runs in the seventh to go up 9-7.



T-L PHOTO/MIKE PALMER

THE OHIO team consists of Mason Lang, Fort Frye; Ryan Kreiter, Bridgeport; Kirk Wetherell, Cambridge; Zac Coulter, Meadowbrook; Norman Wright, Buckeye Local; Shane Crosier, Barnesville; Cory Carpenter, Union Local; Billy Merryman, Shadyside; Zach Stewart, Toronto; Fred Owens, Martins Ferry; Lance Pierpoint, Buckeye Local; Cody Grimes, Indian Creek; Max King, Toronto; Ross Palicka, Shadyside; B.A. Holloway, Shadyside; Chad Stephen, Barnesville; Jade Waligura, Buckeye Local; Jamie Brown, River; Cory Wickham, Edison; Tyler Harris, Frontier; Brian DeFranco, Steubenville Catholic; Dustin Hynes, St. Clairsville; and Jeremy Banks, Steubenville.



T-L PHOTO/MIKE PALMER

THE WEST Virginia team consists of Jesse Persinger, John Marshall; Andrew Kozusko, Linsly; Coty Meadows, Paden City; Steven Buffo, Weir; Warren Hammel, Linsly; Brad Evans, Brooke; Clark Sambuco, Wheeling Park; Mike Angalich, Bishop Donahue; Taylor Cecil, Linsly; Heath Beecher, Wheeling Park; Brad Guckert, Wheeling Park; Matt Andenora, Cameron; Sam Hoyt, Oak Glen; Carson Koontz, John Marshall; Pat Duke, Weir; Dave Thomas, Weirton Madonna; Matt Nagy, Weir; Chad Kimpel, Wheeling Park; Jordan Simens, Cameron; and Matt Marsh, Tyler Consolidated.