



Photo by Fred Younce

Wheeling Central's Patrick Biega rips a run-scoring double Tuesday night during action of the George Kovalick OVAC All-Star Baseball Classic at Steubenville's Vaccaro Field.

Ohio Squeaks By W.Va.

Pitching name of game as Buckeyes take OVAC Classic

By FRED YOUNCE
For The Intelligencer

STEUBENVILLE — Fans in attendance at Monday's George Kovalick Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Baseball Classic were treated to a display of dominant pitching by both sides of the river.

In the end, the Ohio hurlers had just a bit more as the Buckeyes topped West Virginia 3-2 at Vaccaro Field.

"I told them it was nice to come here and sit down in the dugout," said West Virginia coach Jeff Baire, who coached Madonna to a Class A state title Sunday. "Not being stressed, not worrying about calls and, not giving signs at third base. It was just enjoy-

Ohio 3, West Virginia 2

able."

Five Ohio pitchers combined to strike out 14 batters while walking just one and giving up two runs on five hits. Edison's Greg Stagani and St. Clairsville's Sam Vincenzo each took the hill for three innings to take the Buckeyes through the first six. Stagani gave up one run while striking out four. Vincenzo put up a goose egg and struck out seven.

"When you come to an all-star game you don't feel like you're the best player anywhere," Stagani said. "You have 22 kids that are all good so its just fun to be a part of such a bunch of great kids."

Fort Frye's Zach Eddy, Edison's Mark Smyth, and Big Red's JoJo Pierro pitched the final three innings, each striking out one with Pierro giving up a run.

"I give West Virginia credit because they pitched well, but Stagani pitched great. Vincenzo was unbelievable. Smitty pitched great, Eddy pitched well, and JoJo made it interesting at the end, but pitching wins games and we had a little more," Martins Ferry coach Anthony Reasbeck, one of Ohio's coaches said.

While not quite as impressive, the Mountaineers staff was great in its own right striking out 10 and walking five while giving up three runs on seven hits. John Marshall's Jacob Lucas, University's Zac Hart, Madonna's Logan Linder, the Monarchs' Todd Schmidt, and the Blue Dons' Connor Mogan all dealt for West Virginia.

"There was a lot of great pitching," said Linder, who won a state title the day before. "You don't see that every game. There was nothing but aces out there."

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OHIO

(Continued from Page 13)

Hart was charged with one run and Schmidt with two with each picking up four strikeouts. Linder had the other two.

"It was an honor," said Brooke's Nick Breen, who caught some of the game. "It's been a lot of fun getting to play with a bunch of my buddies."

"We played hard and almost won, but there's nothing you can do. It was just a good time."

West Virginia scored the game's first run in the top of the second. Linder led off with a single and three batters later Wheeling Central's Patrick Biega drove him in with a double.

"All the time we've only had the chance to play against each other, so to come out and be on the same team makes it fun," said Linder. "We got to see a lot of great players. It was a pretty competitive game."

The Buckeyes tied the game at 1-1 in the bottom of the third. Indian Creek's Ty Yocum blasted a triple to start things and the next batter, Cambridge's Jimmy Antalis, sent him home on a sacrifice fly to left.

"It felt great," Yocum said. "On the triple the kid threw me a hanging curve ball, I sat back on it and drove it in the left-center gap. As a team I think we hit pretty good."

Things stayed that way until the bottom of the seventh. St. Clairsville's B.J. Busby kicked things off with a double. The next two Ohio batters went down on strikes bring to the plate Barnesville's Zack Dornon, who laced a two-out double to plate Busby and give the Buckeye's a 2-1 lead.

"It was great," said Busby of his experi-

ence. "Everyone knows each other, it was a great atmosphere, and it's like we were a team already."

Ohio picked up an insurance run an inning later. Yocum drew a walk and Antalis reached on an error to put two on and no outs. The duo pulled off a successful double steal to put runners at second and third and Yocum later scored on a passed ball to make the score 3-1. West Virginia got out of the inning with no more damage, but that run proved huge.

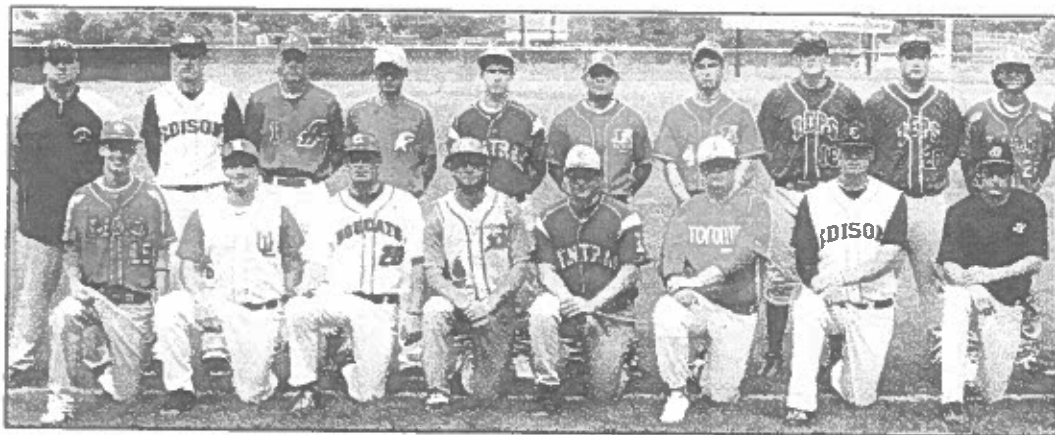
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With one out in the top of the ninth, John Marshall's Aaron Fonner hit a blast over the left-field fence to pull the Mountaineers within one at 3-2. Brooke's Steven Jeffries then reached when he swung at a third strike, but the ball went to the backstop. University's Trey Shreve then singled and Mogan pushed the runners to second and third with two outs. Wheeling Central's Andrew Keane then laced a ground ball to short where Busby scooped it, threw to first and secured a victory.

"This was one of the funnest things I've done in coaching," Reasbeck said. "It's a lot of fun when you have these guys playing for you instead of against you."

"I'm very excited to be around these guys. They're great ball players, they bring a lot of energy, and you can't say enough about them. I wish them all a lot of luck down the line because they all can play."

OVAC BASEBALL ALL-STARS



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian. www.buyjeffphotos.com

The Ohio All-Star team for the George Kovalick OVAC All-Star Baseball Classic slated Monday at 5:30 p.m. at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville includes, front row l to r, Sam Vincenzo of St. Clairsville, Tyler McGary of Union Local, RyLee Rogers of Cambridge, Zack Dornon of Barnesville, Jimmy Panella of Steubenville Catholic, Spenser Sninchak of Toronto, Greg Stagani of Edison, Nick McMahon of Bellaire and JoJo Pierro of Steubenville. Back row, coach Bryan Conlon of Meadowbrook, Mark Smyth of Edison, Zach Eddy of Fort Frye, Brandon Price of River, Kalob Davis of Shenandoah, Stephen Mihalyo of Steubenville Catholic, Ty Yocom of Indian Creek, Sammy Orr of Indian Creek, Kalob Davis of Shenandoah, Seth Thompson of Shenandoah, DJ Busby of St. Clairsville, Cory Kotopka of St. Clairsville and coach Anthony Reasbeck of Martins Ferry. Absent were players Jimmy Antalis and Tyler Ford of Cambridge and coaches Ed Trifonoff of River and Ryan Rosnick of Monroe Central.



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian. www.buyjeffphotos.com

The West Virginia All-Star team includes, front row l to r, Nick Breen of Brooke, Ryan Hughes of Cameron, Aaron Fonner of John Marshall, Jacob Lucas of John Marshall, Alex Stephens of Linsly, Austin Ghaphrey of Bishop Donahue and Mitchel French of Cameron. Back row, Coach Jay Cartwright of Linsly, Jeff Hissom of Oak Glen, Wylie Koontz of Bishop Donahue, Andrew Keane of Wheeling Central, Steven Jeffries of Brooke, Nathaniel Tinney of Clay-Battelle, Dillon Williams of Linsly and Patrick Biega of Wheeling Central. Absent were players Todd Schmidt of John Marshall, Dustin Helmick of Parkersburg South, Logan Linder and Connor Mogan of Madonna, and Trey Shreve and Zac Hart of University and coaches Bob Montgomery of John Marshall, Jeff Baire of Madonna and Jeremy Kelch of Hundred.

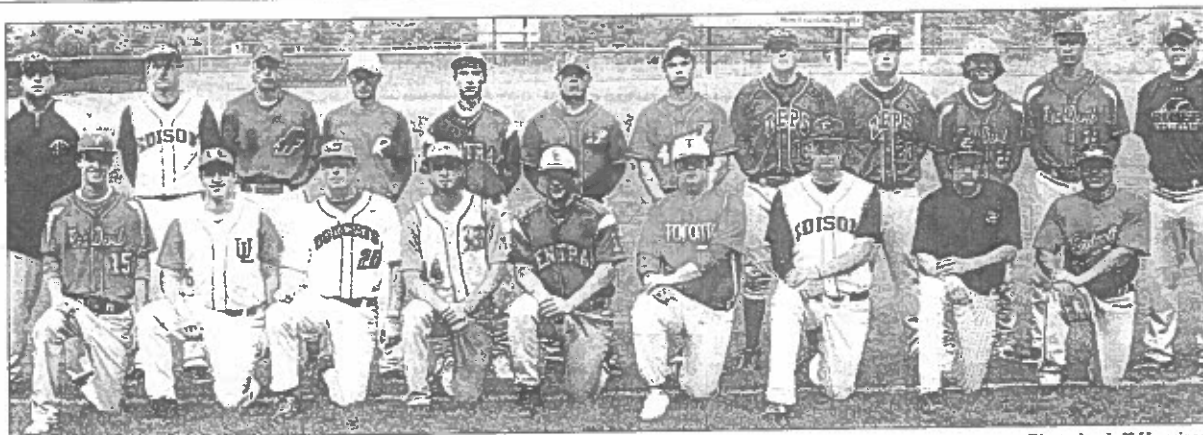


Photo by Jeff Harrison

OVAC Ohio Baseball

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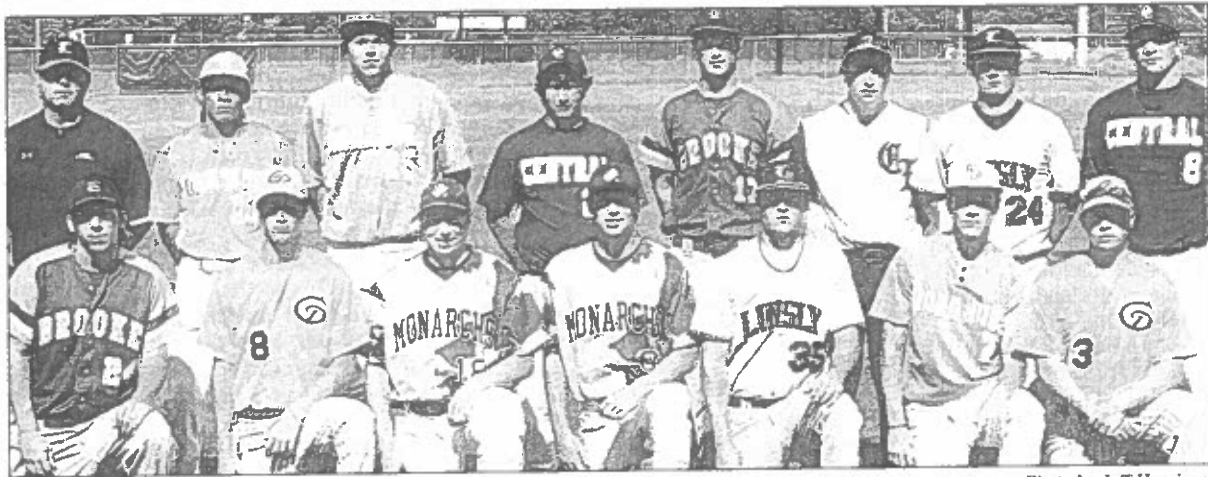


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OVAC All-Star Games

Pitching leads Ohio past W.Va. in baseball

By FRED YOUNCE
For The Times Leader

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'... pitching wins games and we had a little more.'

— Anthony Reasbeck



OHIO shortstop D.J. Busby, of St. Clairsville, turns a double play as second baseman Nick McMahon, of Bellaire, backs up the play as Wheeling Central's Patrick Biega slides into second. Ohio prevailed, 3-2 during Monday's OVAC All-Star Game held at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville.

Photo/FRED YOUNCE

Baseball

Continued from Page B1

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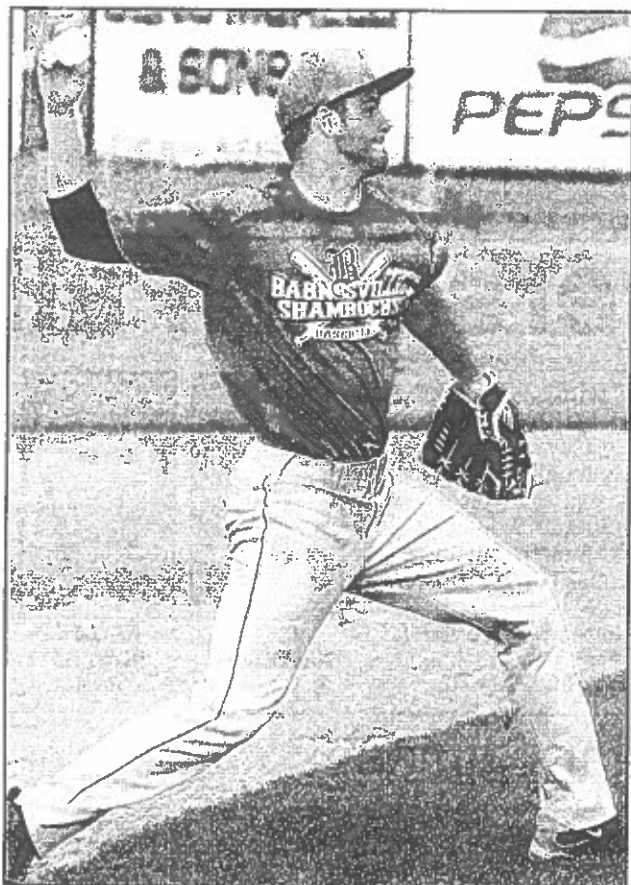
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Photo/FRED YOUNCE

OHIO third baseman Zach Dornon, of Barnesville, throws to first during Monday's OVAC All-Star Baseball Game held at Vacarro Field in Steubenville.

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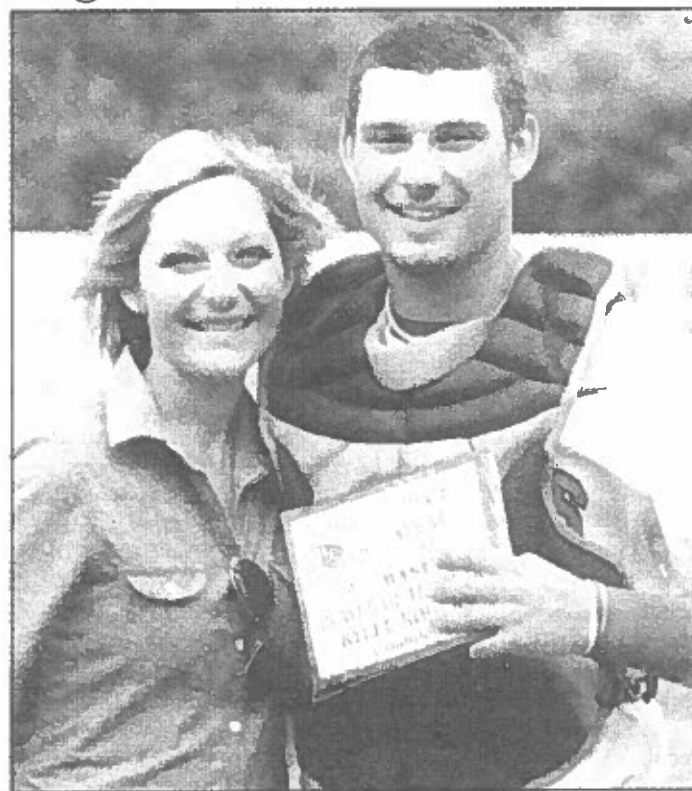
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Added Steve Mihalyo of the chance not only play in the game, but to get the win. "It's just a dream to play in an all-star game like this, but it always feels good to be able to win for the Ohio side. It really is a privilege to play in the game."

Continued a smiling Busby, "It feels pretty good. We don't really like them very much."

Rogers receives POY Award



Cambridge High senior catcher RyLee Rogers is congratulated by his mother, Angel, after receiving his award for being named Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 5A "Player of the Year" at Monday's George Kovalick OVAC All-Star Baseball Game in Steubenville.

OVAC All-Star Baseball and Softball Teams

2012 Kovalick OVAC All-Star Baseball Game (Monday at Steubenville, 5:30 p.m.)		OVAC All-Star Softball Game (Wednesday at Wheeling, 6:30 p.m.)	
OHIO		OHIO	
Sam Vincenzo, St. Clairsville	P-OF	Kim Rietellini, Beaver Local	1B
Tyler McGary, Union Local	P-INF	Dana Bettencuschi, Buckeye Local	SS
RyLee Rogers, Cambridge	C	Tori Nest, Buckeye Local	SS
Zack Dornon, Barnesville	3B-P	Brittany Berger, Cambridge	F
Jimmy Panella, Steub. Catholic	P-3B	Kayla Prokopakis, Edison	3B
Spencer Sninchak, Toronto	3B	Kristin Prokopakis, Edison	OF/C
Greg Stagani, Edison	P-1B	Trisha Trofonoff, Edison	1B
Jimmy Antalis, Cambridge	OF-3B	Nicole Miller, Fort Frye	2B
Nick McMahon, Bellaire	INF-P	Devan Vaughn, Fort Frye	2B
Mark Smyth, Edison	P-1B	Brooke Shultz, Harrison Central	SS
Zach Eddy, Fort Frye	P-INF	Ashley Starr, Indian Creek	P
Brandon Price, River	CF		
Kalob Davis, Shenandoah	C-P		
Tyler Ford, Cambridge	OF		
Stephen Mihalyo, Steub. Cath.	P-2B-3B		
Ty Yocum, Indian Creek	2B		
Sammy Orr, Indian Creek	C		
Seth Thompson, Shenandoah	1B		
D.J. Busby, St. Clairsville	SS		
Cory Kotopka, St. Clairsville	OF		
WEST VIRGINIA		WEST VIRGINIA	
Nick Breen, Brooke	C	Jessica Kennedy, Brooke	OF
Todd Schmidt, John Marshall	CF-P	Shannon Reardon, Brooke	C
Ryan Hughes, Cameron	OF-P	Tara Paczewski, Cameron	P
Logan Linder, Madonna	CF	Cassidi Richmond, Cameron	SS
Aaron Fonner, John Marshall	RF-P	Taylor Whipkey, Cameron	1B
Dustin Helmic, Pksg. South	2B	Mercedez Goff, Hundred	SS/2B
Jake Lucas, John Marshall	SS-P	Megan Garcia, John Marshall	P/IF
Alex Stephens, Linsly	SS	Sara Lyons, Madonna	1B
Austin Gaphery, Bishop Donahue	P	Marissa Bosley, Magnolia	C
		Tori Tharp, Magnolia	P
		Taylor Maxwell, Oak Glen	SS
		Amanda Heasley, Paden City	3B
		Ce Ce Bailey, South	P
		Ganna Trippett, South	C
		Taylor Wittekind, South	SS
		Tyler Anderson, University	SS
		Monique Rowe, University	1B
		Dani Hayes, Valley	C/OF
		Danica Rasicci, Weir	3B/OF
		Alie Dailer, Wheeling Park	OF
		Kayla Kimmings, Wheeling Park	OF

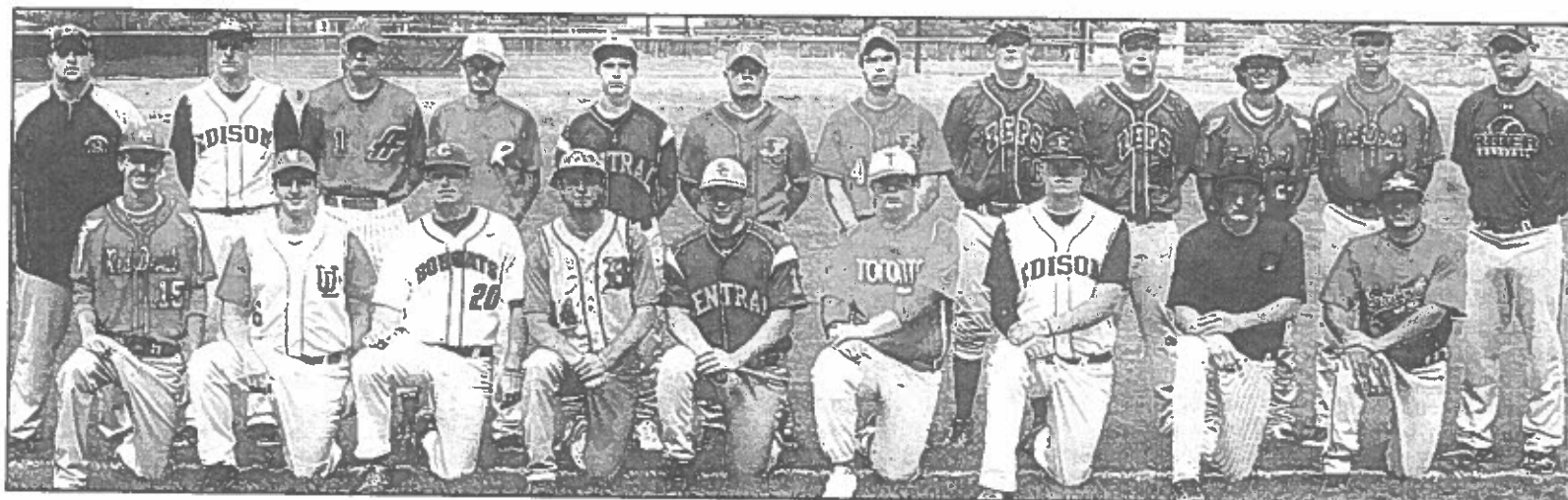


Photo Provided

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Kovalick-OVAC Baseball Classic scheduled for Monday

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

The area's premier diamond stars will be shining brightly Monday in the annual George Kovalick/OVAC Baseball Classic.

Steubenville's Vaccaro Field will host the nine-inning game matching senior players representing Ohio and West Virginia.

"The Kovalick Classic is among our most popular events of the school year and permits valley fans one more opportunity to witness an outstanding collection of talent," said OVAC official Steve Wojcik.

Five athletes recently named their respective division players of

the year are expected to participate in Monday's game with the first pitch scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

"We're asking players and coaches to report between 4-4:30," Wojcik noted. "Both teams will be allocated time for warm-up periods."

Coaches selected for Monday's game are as follows: Ohio - Anthony Reasbeck (Martins Ferry); Bryan Conlon (Meadowbrook); Ryan Rosnick (Monroe Central); Ed Trifonoff (River). West Virginia - Jeff Baire (Weirton Madonna); Jay Cartwright (Linsly); Bob Montgomery (John Marshall); Jeremy Kelch (Hundred).

Admission for Monday's classic

is \$6 (adults) and \$4 (students). Ohio is serving as home team. Complete rosters follow:

OHIO ALL STARS

Barnesville - Zack Dornon; Bellaire - Nick McMahon; Cambridge - Jimmy Antalis, Tyler Ford, Rylee Rogers; Edison - Mark Smyth, Greg Stagani; Fort Frye - Zach Eddy; Indian Creek - Sammy Orr, Ty Yocom; River - Brandon Price; Shenandoah - Kaleb Davis, Seth Thompson; St. Clairsville - D.J. Busby, Cory Kotopka, Sammy Vincenzo; Steubenville Central - Stephen Mihalyo, Jimmy Panella; Steubenville - Jo Jo Pierro; Toronto - Spenser Sninchak; Union Local - Tyler McGary.

WEST VIRGINIA ALL STARS

Bishop Donahue - Austin Ghaphery, Wylie Koontz; Brooke - Nick Breen, Steven Jeffries; Cameron - Mitchell French, Ryan Hughes; Clay-Battelle - Nathaniel Tinney; John Marshall - Aaron Fonner, Jacob Lucas, Todd Schmidt; Linsly - Alex Stephens, Dillon Williams; Oak Glen - Jeff Hissom; Parkersburg South - Dustin Helmick; University - Zac Hart, Trey Shreve; Wheeling Central - Patrick Biega, Andrew Keane; Weirton Madonna - Logan Linder, Connor Mogan.