



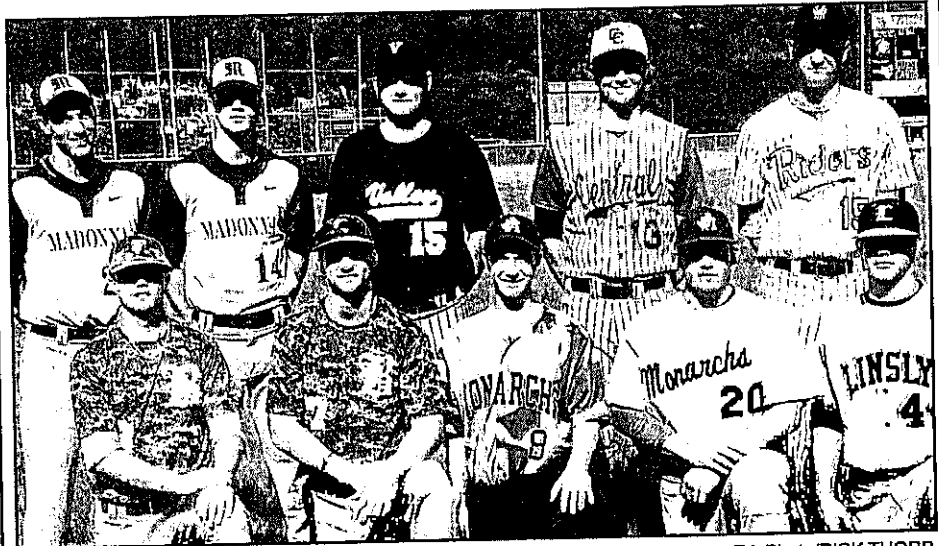
Ohio squads set for OVAC bas



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The Ohio squad for the George Kovalick OVAC All-Star Baseball Game, slated Monday at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville includes, front row l to r, Jonathan Borkoski of Buckeye Local; Chase Hopkins of Buckeye Local; Ryan Johnson of Conotton Valley; Nolan Marcus of Edison; Chandler Lang of Fort Frye; Dalton Rutter of Harrison Central and Nick Staten of Harrison Central; back row, Robert Ryer; Ryan Lovette of Shenandoah; Lewis Mitchell of St. Clairsville; Justi Corsi of Steubenville; Bryan Pierro of Steubenville and Jarin McIntosh of Toronto. Absent were Spencer Badla and Nick Patrone of Bellaire; Trevor Wilkinson of Cambridge; and Brenton Colabella and Josh Merriman of Steubenville Catholic.

OVAC Diamond Stars



T-L Photo/RICK THORP

OHIO WILL meet West Virginia on Monday night at 6 in the annual OVAC George Kovalick All-Star Baseball Game at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville. Pictured is the West Virginia squad. Kneeling, from left, Heath Hildreth, Brooke; Russell Schwertfeger, Brooke; Cody Frazier, John Marshall; Trevor Hardesty, John Marshall; and Jameson Murray Linsly. Standing, from left, Will Bowser, Madonna; Luca Fuscardo, Madonna; Valley's Brandon Stoneking; Wheeling Central's Marlo Peroni; and Weir's Mitch Viakley. Not pictured are Bishop Donahue's Hunter Kaschke and Bryce Jones, Cameron's Austin Pegg, Oak Glen's Vincent Haddox, South's Tyler Barry, University's Travis Renner, Magnolia's Grant Cain and Zach Wilhoit, and Wheeling Park's Matthew Brooks, Grove Calvert and Justice Jackson. The Mountaineers will be coached by Parkersburg South's Matt Null, Trinity's Darrell Barnett, University's Don Riggelman, and Valley's Jeremy Boucher.

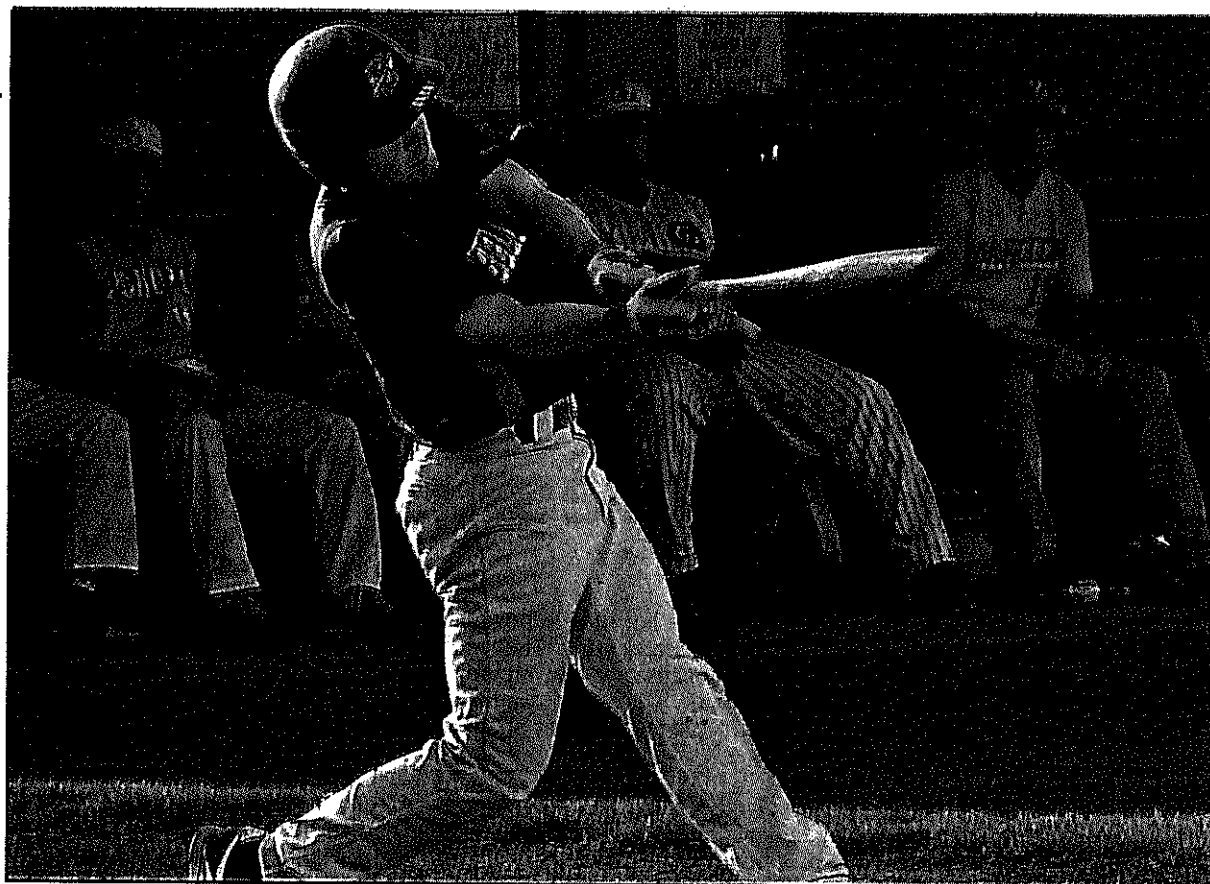
OVAC Baseball Stars



OHIO WILL meet West Virginia on Monday night at 6 p.m. in the annual OVAC George Kovalick All-Star Baseball Game at Vaccaro Field in Steubenville. Pictured is the Ohio squad. Kneeling, from left, Jonathan Borkoski, Buckeye Local; Chase Hopkins, Buckeye Local; Ryan Johnson, Conotton Valley; Nolan Marcus, Edison; Chandler Lang, Fort Frye; Dalton Rutter, Harrison Central; Nick Staten Harrison Central. Standing, from left, Robert Vargo, Martins Ferry; Cameron Summers, Meadowbrook; Eric Dierkes, River; Ryan Lovette, Shenandoah; Lewis Mitchell, St. Clairsville; Justin Corsi, Steubenville; Bryan Pierro, Steubenville; and Jarin McIntosh, Toronto. Not pictured are Bellaire's Spencer Badia and Nick Patrone, Buckeyes will be coached by Steubenville's Fred Heatherington, Steubenville Catholic's Don Young, Toronto's Brian Perkins and Union Local's Pec Schmitt.

T-L Photo/RICK THORP

George Kovalick OVAC All-Star Game



AT LEFT: Bellaire's Nick Patrone gets hit during Monday's OVAC All-Star Game.
BELOW: River's Eric Dierkes thro a runner out after a strike out in Ohio's 4 victory. Additional images may found at cu.timesleadonline.com

T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY

Ohio gets past West Virginia

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

STEUBENVILLE — As darkness set on Vaccaro Field on Monday night, it also did so for the prep baseball careers of a handful of the Ohio Valley's finest.

Not before they had once last chance to shine, however.

Ohio scored three runs in the first inning and never trailed in posting a 7-4 triumph against West Virginia in the annual OVAC George Kovalick All-Star Game.

The Buckeyes weren't able to muster an extra-base hit before the large crowd, but nine Ohio players collected singles, with Conotton

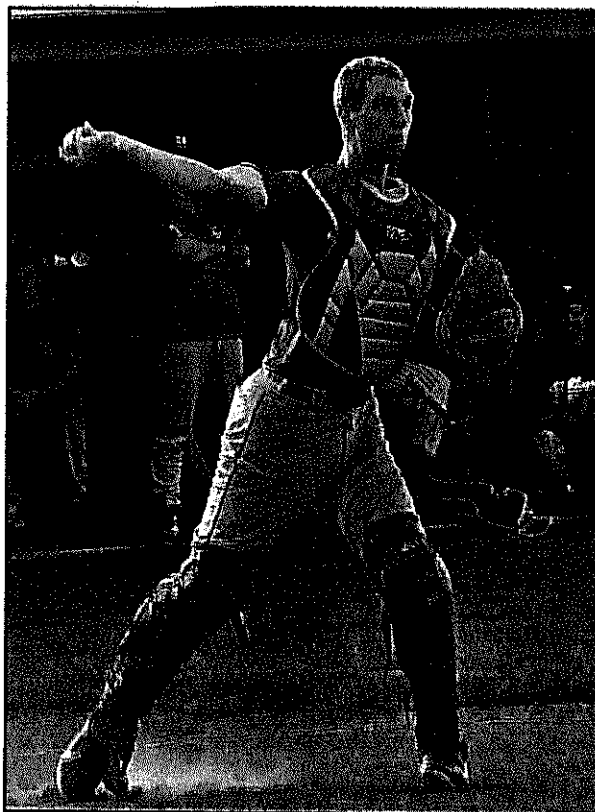
Valley's Ryan Johnson driving in two runs on his base knock.

Martins Ferry's Robert Vargo, Bellaire's Nick Patrone and Toronto's Jarin McIntosh also plated runs for the Buckeyes, who led by as much as 7-2 after seven of the nine innings played.

It was Vargo who gave the Buckeyes the lead in the opening frame.

With the bases juiced, the Purple Riders' standout third-baseman laced a single scoring Buckeye Local's Chase Hopkins, making the score 1-0. On that same play, an error in the outfield by the centerfielder allowed Steubenville Catholic's Brenton Colabella to score from second,

See, OHIO, Page B2



McLeod wins 'Rich Gibson OVAC Baseball Coach of the Year

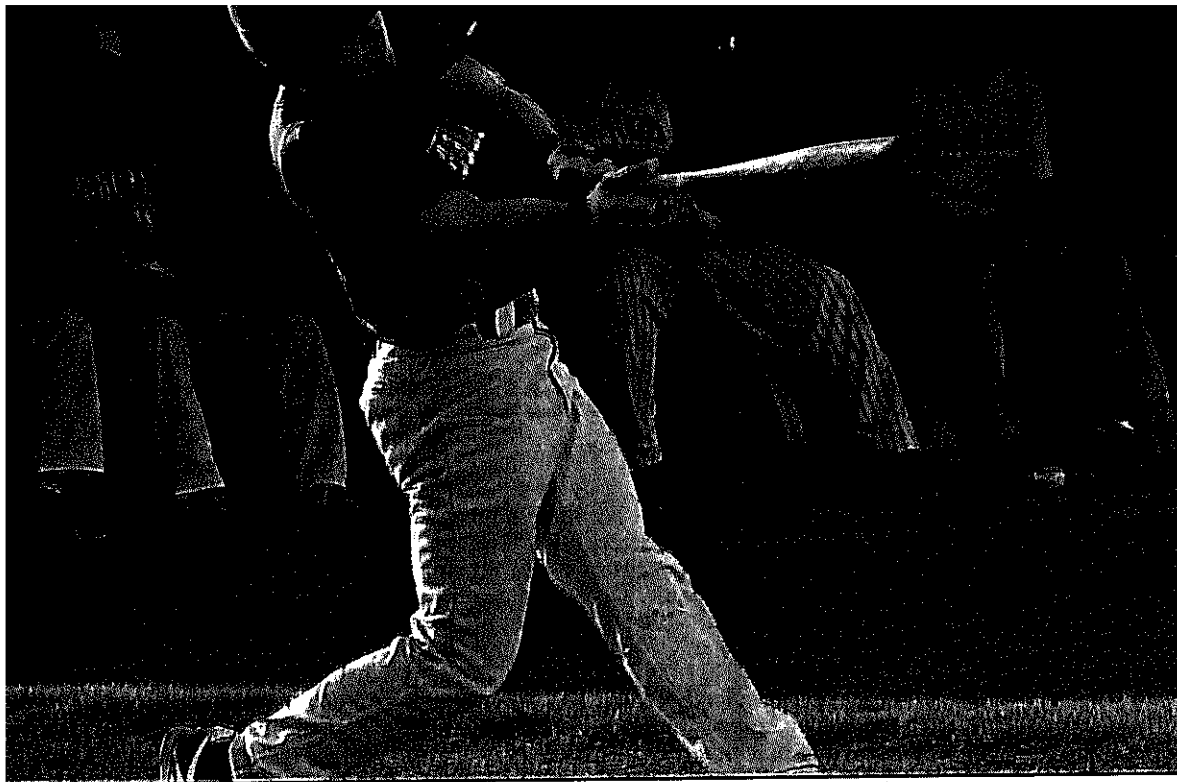
By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

Athletic Conference.

The conference officially re-

tournament this weekend in Charleston.

"This is a great hono-



AT LEFT: Bellaire's Nick Patrone gets a hit during Monday's OVAC All-Star Game.

BELOW: River's Eric Dierkes throws a runner out after a strike out in Ohio's 7-4 victory. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

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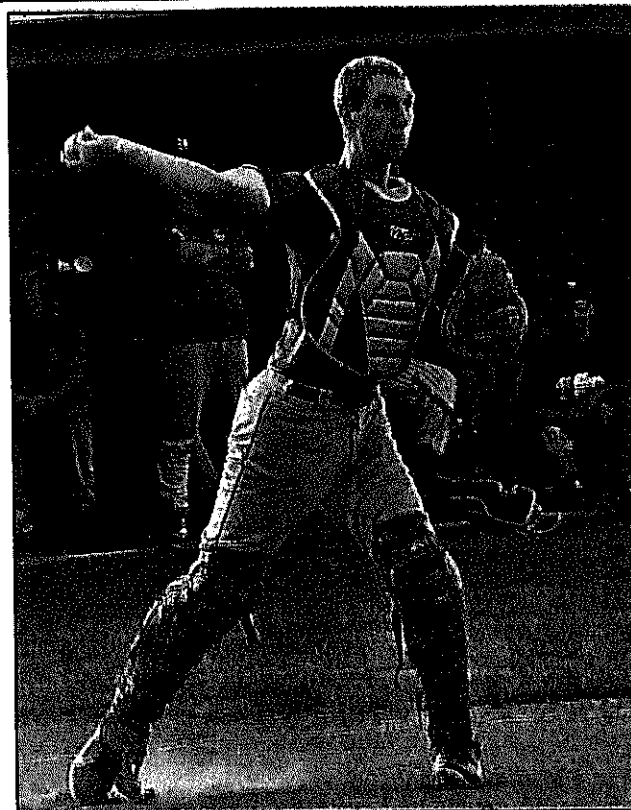
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See, **OHIO**, Page B2



McLeod wins 'Rich Gibson OVAC Baseball Coach of the Year'

by **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

STEUBENVILLE — Long-time Times Leader Sports Writer Rich Gibson was a baseball junkie.

No matter if it was the Pirates, Indians, VBL, American Legion or high school, Gibson simply loved the game.

Gibson passed away last July after less than a year-long battle with cancer, but his memory and love for the game will forever live on thanks to the Ohio Valley

Athletic Conference.

The conference officially renamed its baseball coach of the year award as the OVAC Richard "Hoot" Gibson Coach of the Year prior to the start of this season.

The award was presented Monday evening during the annual George Kovalick OVAC All-Star Classic at Vaccaro Field, going to Wheeling Park head coach Mike McLeod, who has directed the Patriots to the state baseball

tournament this weekend in Charleston.

"This is a great honor," McLeod said. "Anytime you're recognized by your peers and fellow competitors, it's always nice. The OVAC does a lot of great things for our area, our players and kids, so anything that's a positive in that regard, I am all for."

McLeod has directed the Patriots to a 19-6 record thus far and they captured the Region I

See, **MCLEOD**, Page B2





T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

OHIO'S Lewis Mitchell, of St. Clairsville, swings during Monday's George Kovalick OVAC All-Star Baseball Game. The Ohio squad prevailed, 7-4. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● McLeod

Continued from Page B1

Championship last Friday against Morgantown, 9-6.

Wheeling Park will now take on Riverside in the Class AAA state semifinal.

After receiving plenty of congratulations over the weekend, Park got back to work on Monday morning with a practice and began preparing for Friday's semifinal.

"We're excited," McLeod said. "We got back to the drawing board, the kids were running around and making plays (Monday). We're still challenging one another because we're not just happy to being going (to Charleston).

This is the Patriots' first trip to the state tournament since 1989.

McLeod, who is arguably the best male athlete to ever come out of Wheeling Park, was in middle school the last time Park took part in the state tournament.

"To be able to coach (and have success) at my alma mater makes it even more special," McLeod said. "You never know where you're going to end up in life, so I am numb a little bit when I think about it. To go full circle and be back home and coaching at Park is just special to me."

Park won the OVAC 5A title on Vacarro Field last month by soundly defeating Edison in the title game.

"I consider these types of awards as team things because the job is easy to do when you have kids who can play," McLeod said. "When you come up with a game-plan, implement it and then have the horses. I think I could have won the Derby if I was riding California Chrome because the horses make it easy. These kids believe in each other."

Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

● Ohio

Continued from Page B1

increasing the advantage to 2-0.

"It was nice," Vargo said of the all-star experience. "This team gained chemistry so fast. We just had fun.

"We just really clicked and enjoyed playing ball. It was nice to get the win and that's how I wanted things to end for me."

Both teams converged for the first time about an hour-and-a-half before first pitch. Vargo said the message he and his teammates got from their coaches was simple — have fun.

"I just wanted to come out and put the ball in play and see what I could do."

Edison's Nolan Marcus scored Ohio's final run in the first just before Vargo was tagged out trying to sneak into third on a Nick Patrone groundout.

Speaking of Patrone, the Bellaire representative started on the mound for the Buckeyes, pitching the first two frames. His RBI single in the fifth plated Marcus and gave Ohio a 5-2 lead.

Patrone pitched less than a week after taking the hill for the Big Reds against Elgin in a Division III regional semifinal against Elgin at Ohio State.

"It's really an honor to get to play with all these guys," he said. "There's a lot of good players in this game. Not everyone gets to play in it.

"We did pretty well. I was happy to get out with a win."

Johnson's big hit came in the seventh, scoring River's Eric Dierkes and Meadowbrook's Cameron Summers, and gave Ohio a 7-2 lead. But the Mountaineers made a run in the top of the eighth.

With two out and Valley's Brandon Stoneking at the plate, Oak Glen's Vincent Haddox scored from third on a wild pitch by Summers making the score 7-3. Moments later, Stoneking cut the Ohio lead to three when he slapped a single that scored University's Travis Renner.

That's as close as West Virginia got as Steubenville's Bryan Pierro relieved Summers and got Magnolia's Jake Starkey to ground out to end the inning.

Bishop Donahue's Hunter Kaschke paced the Mountaineers with a single and two RBI, while John Marshall's Trevor Hardesty laced two singles.

Linescore:

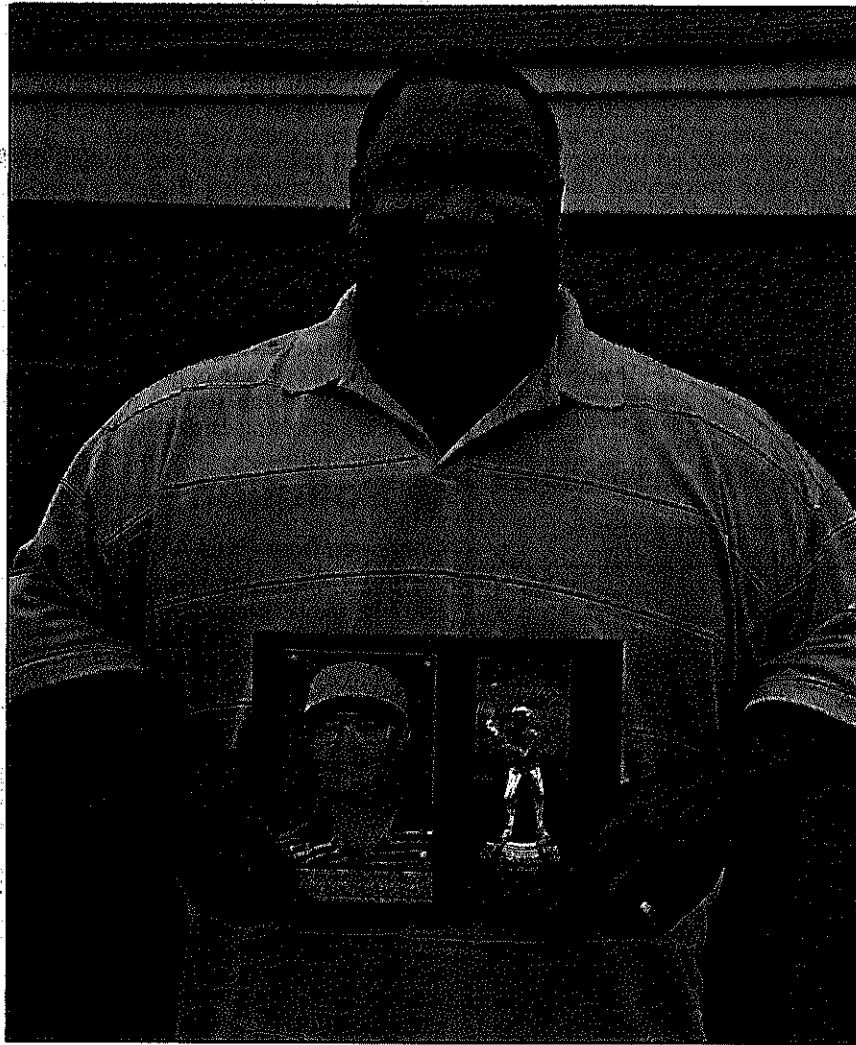
West Virginia	000	020	020	-	4	6	5
Ohio	300	110	20x	-	7	9	0

W — Stoneking 1p (0K, 1W), Fuscardo (2) (3K, 0W), Schwertfeger (4) (1K, 2W), Peroni (5) (1K, 1W), Murray (6) (0K, 0W), Viakley (7) (1K, 3W), Kaschke (8) (1K, 0W) and Renner and Cain (5). Kaschke S, 2rbi; Hardesty 2S; Stoneking S, rbi.

O — Patrone wp (2K, 0W), McIntosh (3) (0K, 1W), Corsi (4) (0K, 1W), Borkoski (5) (3K, 3W), Marcus (7) (1K, 0W), Summers (8) (0K, 2W), Pierro (8) (0K, 0W), Lovette (9) (2K, 1W) and Staten and Dierkes (6). Vargo S, rbi; Patrone S, rbi; Johnson S, 2rbi; McIntosh S, rbi.

Thorp can be reached at rthorn@timesleaderonline.com

Coach of the Year



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

WHEELING PARK head baseball coach Mike McLeod was the winner of the inaugural Richard "Hoot" Gibson OVAC Baseball Coach of the Year award. It was presented Monday evening at the annual George Kovalick All-Star Baseball Game in Steubenville. See additional coverage on Page B1.

Ohio Stars Knock Off W. Va. Stars

Buckeye State grabs 7-4 OVAC victory

By RICK THORP
For the Intelligencer

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Please See OHIO Page 15

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(Continued from Page 13)
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Photo by Seth Staskey
Bishop Donahue's Bryce Jones is congratulated by Magnolia's Jake Starkey after scoring a run for West Virginia in the the annual OVAC George Kovalick All-Star Game Monday. Ohio won 7-4.

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