

Photo by Cody Tomer

Wheeling Park's Jarrod Jones (3) slides into home as Edison's Dalton Cresap awaits a throw during Monday's annual George Kovalick OVAC All-Star Game at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

Ohio Too Strong for W.Va. In All-Star Baseball Game

Buckeyes win OVAC for 10th time in 13 tries

By **CODY TOMER**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — In a four-year span, coaches have to gameplan to face some talented athletes on a daily basis.

On Monday, Harrison Central baseball coach Mike Valesko had the privilege to pencil in many of his opponents throughout the season into his own lineup.

Valesko enjoyed every minute of it as his Ohio squad laced 13 hits and his pitchers fanned seven and surrendered three runs to defeat West Virginia, 8-3, in the Annual George Kovalick OVAC All-Star Game at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

"It was a pretty good ballgame and it

was a lot of fun," Valesko said. "We see these guys and play against them for four years, so to be able to play with them and joke and share stories from over the last four years has been pretty fun.

"A lot of these guys are from Steubenville and Edison. It seems like we play them every other night, so it's nice to see Tristen Haight pitch for our team and guys from Steubenville swing the bat for us."

The win gave the Buckeye State its 10th all-star game conquest in the last 13 years. Ohio leads the series 25-10-1.

"We have a lot of good ballplayers in our dugout," Valesko said. "We have a lot of guys over here who can throw strikes and hit the ball hard. We put the ball in play and made them field it and we got some runs out of it."

The Mountaineers' pitchers kept the

Buckeyes scoreless in six of the nine frames but three big innings proved to be the difference.

"They had some innings where they strung some hits together and that's the thing about playing in the all-star game, there are no weaknesses in the lineup anywhere," Paden City and W.Va. coach Brent Croasmun said. "At any point during the course of the game, you can have a big inning and they had three where they scored runs."

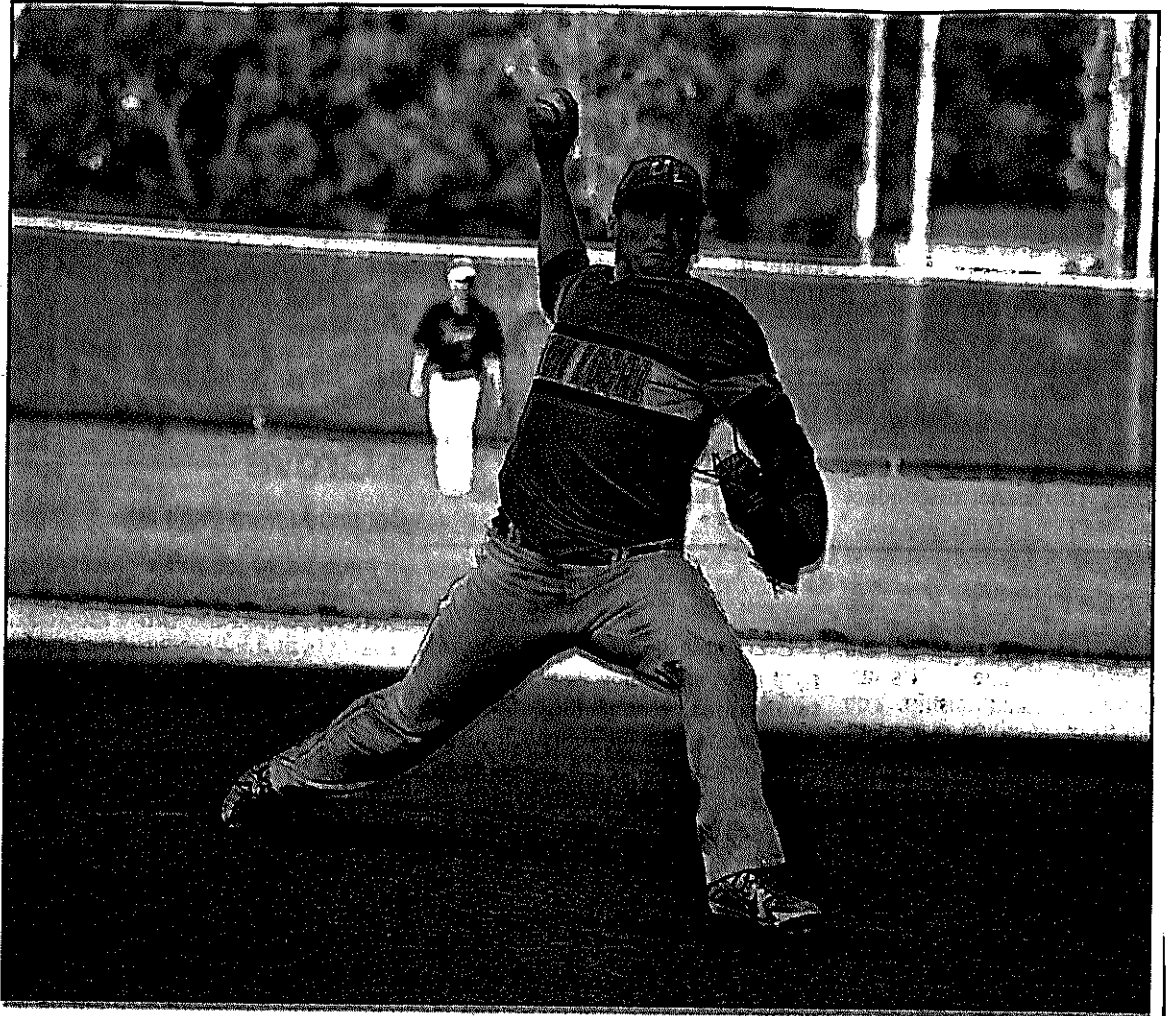
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Wheeling Park's Zach Hickman and

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OHIO PITCHER
Cody Ray of Union Local works to the plate during Monday's annual George Kovalick OVAC All-Star Game at the Chambers I-470 Complex in Elm Grove.

Photo/CODY TOMER



OVAC George Kovalick All-Star Baseball Game

Ohio too much for W.Va., 8-3

By **CODY TOMER**
For The Times Leader

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On Monday, Harrison Central baseball coach Mike Valesko had the privilege to pencil in many of his opponents throughout the season into his own lineup.

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to see Tristan Haight pitch for our team and guys from Steubenville swing the bat for us."

The win give the Buckeye state its 10th all-star game win in the last 13 years. Ohio now leads the series 25-10-1.

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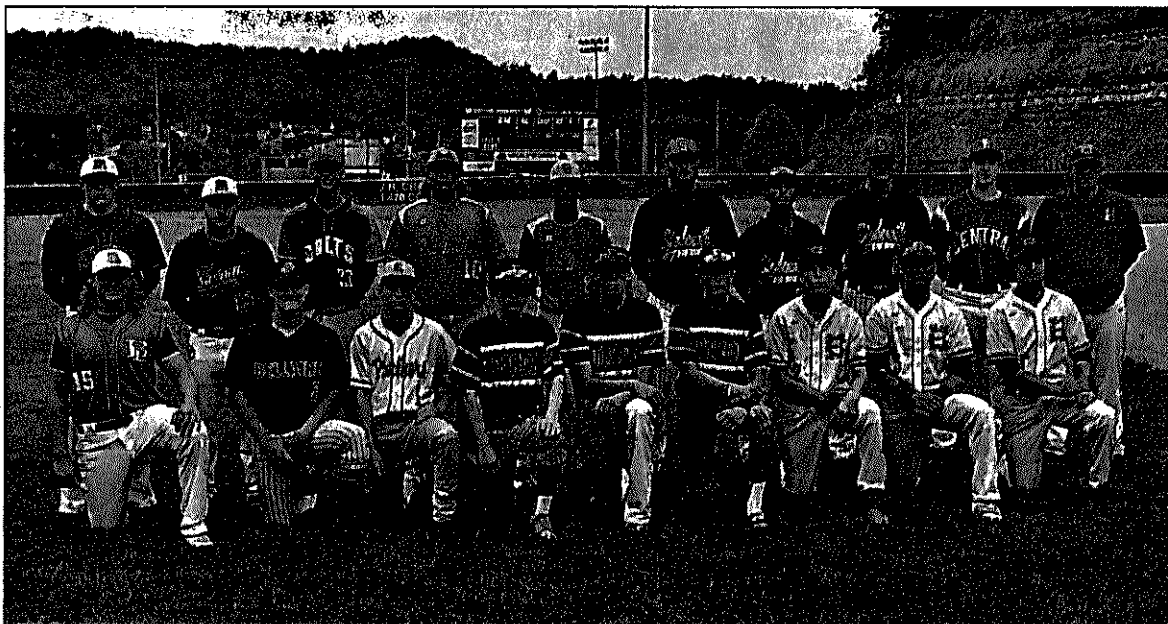
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West Virginia All-Stars

Photo by Kyle Lutz

Pictured are the George Kovalick Baseball All-Stars from West Virginia. Front row, from left, Joe Dawson (Brooke), Trey Scott (Cameron), Dustin Beazel (John Marshall), John Santimarinno (John Marshall), Jake Auten (Linsly), Vic Giovengo (Linsly), Nate Rush (Linsly), Chayce Lemley (Madonna) and Tyler Wright (Madonna). Back row: Coach TJ Miller (Oak Glen), Colton Elliott (Paden City), Bryce Eagle (Parkersburg South), Chris Gillette (Weir), Pat Brown (Wheeling Central), Brett Donohew (Wheeling Park), Zac Hickman (Wheeling Park), Jarrod Jones (Wheeling Park) and Coach Brent Croasmun (Paden City). Not pictured are Josh Richie (Brooke), Ross Mulhall (University), Cam Stoldt (University) and Ryan Bodrog (Weir). The All-Star game will be played at 6 p.m. Monday at I-470 Fields at the J. B. Chambers Complex.



Ohio All-Stars

Photo by Kyle Lutz

Pictured are the George Kovalick Baseball All-Stars from Ohio. Front row, from left, Noah West (Beaver Local), Gabe Rejonis (Bellaire), Johnny Marelli (Buckeye Local), Dalton Cresap (Edison), Tristen Haught (Edison), Connor Hyndman (Edison), Logan Elliott (Harrison Central), JR Heavilin (Harrison Central) and Chance Hursey (Harrison Central). Back row: Cory Bennett (Martins Ferry), Gerald Pintarich (Martins Ferry), Easton Black (Meadowbrook), Caden Blomquist (St. Clairsville), Jayden Starks (St. Clairsville), Johnny Agresta (Steubenville), Gino Pierro (Steubenville), Alec Taylor (Steubenville), Josh Costello (Steubenville Catholic) and Coach Mike Valesko (Harrison Central). Not pictured are Logan Isner (Fort Frye), Jake Keenan (Toronto) and Cody Ray (Union Local).

• Ohio

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Things were looking up for the Mountain state early as Jarrod Jones of Wheeling Park and Ross Mulhall of University delivered back-to-back hits and an error allowed Jones to race home for the 1-0 edge after one.

Wheeling Park's Zach Hickman and Wheeling Central's Pat Brown kept Ohio scoreless through the first three frames but in the fourth, the Buckeye state plated a trio of runs.

The big hits came off the bats of Johnny Marelli of Buckeye Local and Gabe Rejonis of Bellaire, who recorded a RBI single and a two-run double, respectively.

Ohio continued to extend its lead in the fifth as St. Clairsville's Caden Blomquist, Martins Ferry's Cory Bennett and Edison's Dalton Cresap each supplied RBI singles for another three-run stanza.

West Virginia got a run back in the sixth on a RBI double by University's Cam Stoldt to cut the deficit to 6-2.

However, a pair of runs scored on passed balls for Ohio in the seventh to stretch the advantage to 8-2.

The final Mountaineer run crossed the dish in the ninth on a passed ball.

Cody Ray of Union Local chalked up the victory with his two innings pitched, while Weir's Chris Gillette took the loss in his two frames.

"Both teams have very talented pitchers," Croasmun said. "I just think they were a little better than us (Monday)."

During the game, Barnesville head coach D.J. Butler, who collected his 200th win of his career this season, was honored as the OVAC Coach of the Year.

OVAC Players of the Year were also named as Madonna's Tyler Wright (A), Toronto's Nolan Clegg (2A), Fort Frye's Luke Nelson (3A), Edison's Logan Tonkovich (4A) and Mulhall (5A) took home the honors for their respective classes.

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