

Mitchell Used Redshirt Year As Learning Experience

Kobe Mitchell found himself in adjustment mode last season.

Obviously, the Class of 2021 Harrison Central High School graduate had the normal adjustments that every college freshman has to make. But, his went even deeper than learning how to fully function away from home.

Mitchell's adjustments in basketball where he shined for four seasons for the Huskies were much greater. And even by that, it's not necessarily the speed of the game, size of the players, etc., which are definitely a factor.

Simply just sitting and watching may have been the toughest thing for Mitchell, who had never sat on the bench for any sport since he first joined a t-ball team in Cadiz. Quite simply, Mitchell was normally the best player on the team.

When he arrived on campus at the University of Akron, Mitchell owned a resume that included more than 2,000 career points, multiple-time All-Ohio honors and litany of other accolades.

None of those mattered, however. Quite simply, pretty much every player on the Zips roster had similar stats and accolades during their prep days.

Mitchell learned shortly before the season opener last year, at Ohio State, that he was going to be red shirted. He didn't quit. He didn't put his name in the transfer portal. He didn't even pout. He simply went to work.

"It was a great learning experience," Mitchell said during a brief phone interview. "I was able to watch, get better, get stronger and now I am hoping that translates to the court this season."

The Zips opened their season last

Monday with an overtime win against South Dakota State. Mitchell saw action in the game, but didn't record a stat.

But, again, it's part of the process.

"Obviously, when you're used to playing your whole life, it's tough," Mitchell said. "But, it was really a great thing for me

and my development. I was able to get a chance to see what it takes to win and be a successful player at this level. It was challenging at first, but I believe it's going to pay off in the long run."

Mitchell truly believes that he's seen his game grow during his red-shirt season. And when he said that, he meant in all capacities, too.

"I am shooting the ball a lot better and with more confidence. I am definitely better on the defensive end," Mitchell said. "The defensive end is a big part of being able to get to play at this level. I have a full grasp of the system and I think my leadership qualities have improved."

Though he wasn't in uniform, Mitchell traveled to basically every game last season, practiced daily and went through the same meetings and work as the active players. He got to experience March Madness, which he called a "dream come true" after the Zips won the Mid-American Conference title last March.

Mitchell received his championship ring on Monday night.



SETH STASKEY
TIMES LEADER
SPORTS EDITOR

"Obviously, everyone watches March Madness on television, but to get to experience it and be involved and see what it's like from a player's perspective was great," Mitchell said. "It was just a crazy experience and one that my team and I sure hope we get to feel again this year."

Though several key players from last year's team have either graduated or moved on via the portal, the Zips are picked third in the MAC behind Kent State and Toledo. However, as most realize, a poll in late October means about as much as the paper it's printed on when the first week of March and the conference tournament rolls around.

"I think we have a great group of guys," Mitchell said. "Our togetherness and chemistry are really good. I believe that bond is going to be what makes us a great team in the end. That togetherness was a big factor in lifting us to the conference title last year because you could really see it come together in the last 10 games or so. I think we were a bit ahead of schedule and now we have to keep improving and building."

The Zips played their only Power Five opponent of the season Friday night when they met Mississippi State in Philadelphia. Mitchell will get to make a pretty cool trip in the few days leading up to Thanksgiving when the Zips take part in the Cayman Islands Classic. They open MAC play on Jan. 3 against Northern Illinois.

GOBBLE TILL WE WOBBLE 5K

A new 5K is set for St. Clairsville on Thanksgiving morning (Nov. 24). The inaugural Gobble Til You Wobble 5K

will be held with proceeds set to benefit St. Clairsville High School graduate O.J. Diomedi and his fight against leukemia.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. with a run and walk. The entry fee is \$25. Each participant will receive a t-shirt and the number of awards to be presented will be determined based on entries.

Diomedi is a 2006 graduate from St. Clairsville and he played football at Muskingum where he earned his degree in 2010. He and his wife, Courtney (Stewart) have two children, Evelyn and Quinley.

SETH'S SCOOPS

ST. CLAIRSVILLE grad Macie Hothem was named to the Presidents Athletic Conference Sportsmanship Team. She plays for Waynesburg.

UNION LOCAL grad Hannah Kemp, who is a runner at West Liberty University, placed third in the Mountain East Conference Championship meet last weekend at Oglebay Park. She's a multiple-time All-MEC performer.

WHEELING PARK grad Emma Delk, who plays soccer at Fairmont State, is a member of the Falcons' conference-championship winning team.

SHADYSIDE GRAD Caroline Mercer is a member of Bethany College's PAC-winning volleyball squad and will play in the NCAA Division III national tournament this weekend.

ANTHONY CARMAN, a John Marshall graduate, and current wrestler at West Virginia, began his season with a championship in the Southeast Open held in Salem, Va.

He posted a 7-3 decision in the 184-pound title match.

OVAC All-Star Soccer Match Between Ohio And W.Va. Set For Sunday

The annual OVAC All-Star Soccer Match will take to the pitch at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville on Sunday, Nov. 13.

The stars from both Ohio and West Virginia will play one more match with the boys getting the day's action started at 1 p.m. and the girls will begin at 3:30 p.m.

The recognition of player of the year and coach of the year — for

both boys and girls — will take place between the two games.

Below are the rosters for the games:

BOYS Ohio

Anthony Persohn, Beaver Local; Broc Taylor, Beaver Local; Ryan Tice, Beaver Local; Luke Figel, Caldwell; Briley Hamm, Cambridge; Lucas Parson, Cambridge; Steeler Sylvis, Cambridge; Preston Dawson, East Liver-

pool; Connor Loosemore, East Liverpool; Kaden Jurrosko, Harrison Central; Jace Madzia, Harrison Central; Elijah Llewellyn, Indian Creek; Jacob Smearman, Indian Creek; Connell McBurney, Monroe Central; Trevor Efaw, Shenandoah; Jayson Clark, St. Clairsville; Karl Kain, St. Clairsville; Sean O'Grady, St. Clairsville; Leon Zaleski, Steubenville CC; Michael Duff, Steubenville CC;

Anthony Vendetti, Steubenville; JP Walsh, Steubenville.

Head Coach: Steve Kopcha, Steubenville CC. Assistant Coaches: Joseph Zirillo, Beaver Local; Greg Bowers, Steubenville.

West Virginia

William Cruny, Brooke; Tyler McMahon, Brooke; Cam Anderson, John Marshall; Quinn McKenzie, Linsly; Stefan Mihajlovic, Linsly; Cameron Neighoff, Linsly; Fernando Hernandez, Magnolia; James Percifield, Morgantown; Alex Tadros, Morgantown; Christian Altizer, South; Gage Piggett, South; Kyle Knight, Trinity; Stefan DeMoss, University; Drew Greathouse, University; Pham Homklin, University; Michael Iafate, Weir; Alex Orris, Weir; John Wansack, Weir; Ethyn Taylor, Wheeling Central; Hayden Barbour, Wheeling Park; Mike Blanton, Wheeling Park; Brody Wall, Wheeling Park.

Head Coach: Greg

Martin, Linsly. Assistant Coaches: Chris LeFever, Weir; Michael Smith, University.

GIRLS Ohio

Jordan Palmer, Beaver Local; Victoria Saphore, Beaver Local; Miranda Sinsley, Beaver Local; Adrienne Clark, Cambridge; Renae Hupp, Cambridge; Gabby Green, East Liverpool; Emily Wright, East Liverpool; Collette Downs, Harrison Central; Gracie Rogers, Harrison Central; Lexi Smith, Harrison Central; Rebecca Blackburn, Indian Creek; Abby Starkey, Indian Creek; Kathryn Mannix, Marietta; Riley Medley, Marietta; Mackenzie Niles, Shenandoah; Megan Malin, St. Clairsville; Lacy Tuttle, St. Clairsville; Rileigh Wood, St. Clairsville; Ellen Rohde, Steubenville CC; Hailey Neeley, Steubenville; Sophia Riley, Steubenville; Jaleys Scales, Steubenville; Hailey Romshak, Union Local.

Head Coach: Jonathan Hoover, Steubenville CC

Assistant Coaches: Liz Connor, Beaver Local; Bill Mannix, Marietta.

West Virginia

Hannah Buterbaugh, Brooke; Grace Ridenhour, Linsly; Julie Wingett, Madonna; Bella Conner, Magnolia; Georgia Blake, Morgantown; Madysen Scheller, Morgantown; Ashleigh Weaver, Morgantown; Carson Barr, Oak Glen; Sydney Brown, Oak Glen; Alexis Greenleaf, Oak Glen; Mia Miller, South; Mackenzie Mott, South; Erin Riesbeck, South; Rebecca Chmiel, University; Samantha Rector, University; Sophia Afferfine, Weir; Reagan Hoover, Weir; Adriana Pompeo, Wheeling Central; Adlie Abraham, Wheeling Park; Lauren Gongola, Wheeling Park; Ellie Reasbeck, Wheeling Park; Casey Ticich, Wheeling Park; Angela Hartline, Wood Co. Christian.

Head Coach: Chuck Neighoff, Linsly.

Assistant Coaches: Bill Watts, Oak Glen; Carrie Hanna, Wheeling Park.

WHEELING COUNTRY CLUB

THANKSGIVING

BUFFET

This Thanksgiving, gather together with your loved ones and a stunning view from the top of Country Club Hill. We will do all of the cooking and cleaning while you focus on one another.



APPLE, PARSNIP & POTATO SOUP
Pumpkin Crema

HARVEST SALAD STATION
Mixed Greens | Roasted Butternut Squash | Goat Cheese | Red Onion | Toasted Pepitas | Heirloom Tomato | Brown Sugar Vinaigrette

ROASTED TURKEY
House-Made Stuffing | Turkey Gravy | Cranberry Sauce

WHEELING COUNTRY CLUB RESTAURANT

West Liberty Men Win In Crossover Hoops Event; Wheeling Loses Opener

WEST LIBERTY, W.Va. - The 8th-ranked West Liberty University men's basketball team opened its 2022-23 campaign with a 91-68 win over visiting Shepherd inside the Academic, Sports, and Recreation Center on Friday night.

It took a little bit for the Hilltoppers to get going, as Shepherd jumped ahead 6-0 two minutes in holding West Liberty to 0-for-6 shooting. Alek West checked in the game and went right to the hoop for the 'Toppers first score of the game and season.

After getting the lid off, West Liberty stormed ahead 11-10 for its first lead of the game just about three minutes later. Shepherd went up 22-19 at the midpoint in the first half, but back-to-back three pointers by Zach Rasile tied

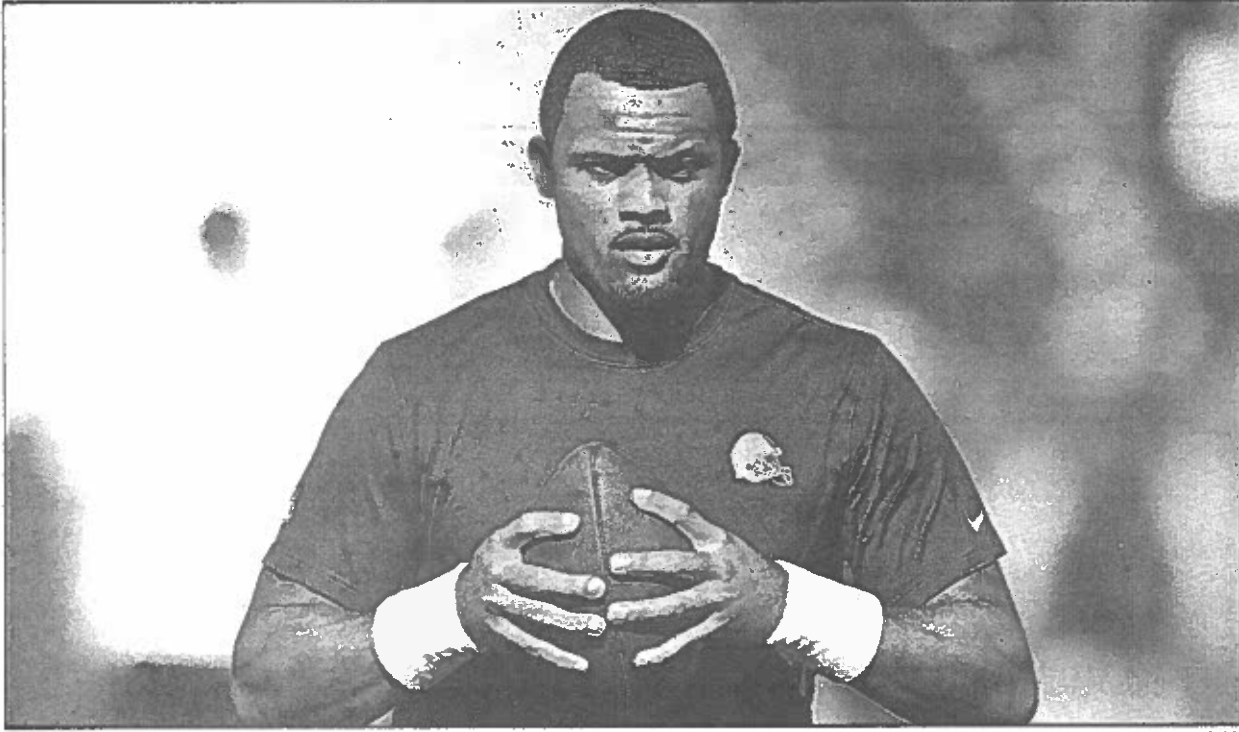
a 31% mark.

West Liberty is right back at it Saturday night to close out the Atlantic Region Crossover against California (Pa.) at 8 inside the ASRC.

California, Pa. 82 Wheeling University 73

The Cardinals (0-1) kicked off the 2022-23 season on Friday at the West Liberty Crossover. They battled hard in the opening match against California University of Pennsylvania, but fell in a close one. It was a big debut for sophomore Marcus Johnson, as he paced the Cardinals offense in the game.

Johnson led the way with 28 points in the opener, going 10-13 from the floor including a 4-5 mark from beyond the arc. He added a 4-4 showing from the



AP PHOTO

CLEVELAND BROWNS quarterback Deshaun Watson stands on the field before an NFL preseason football game against the Chicago Bears, on Aug. 27, 2022, in Cleveland. Watson can begin practicing on Monday, as part of his agreement with the NFL on an 11-game suspension after being accused of sexual misconduct by two dozen women when he played for Houston.

Watson set to practice with Browns

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Deshaun Watson has one last weekend off the field.

The Cleveland Browns' suspended quarterback can begin practicing on Monday as part of his settlement with the NFL after he was accused of sexual misconduct by two dozen women when he played for Houston.

Watson, who was acquired by the Browns in a controversial trade in March, was banned for 11 games in August for violating the league's personal conduct policy. He agreed to the suspension, a \$5 million fine and to undergo counseling and treatment.

He returned to the team last month, but the three-time Pro Bowler has been limited to attending meetings, weight-room workouts and conditioning sessions with members of Cleveland's training staff.

That changes on Monday, when he'll be allowed to practice.

The Browns (3-5) play at Miami on Sunday and won't have their next on-field workout until Wednesday when Watson, who will be eligible to play on Dec. 4 — against Houston — can rejoin his teammates.

"I've been waiting. We're still waiting. I'm ready to play with him," said Browns defensive end

Jadeveon Clowney, who was also Watson's teammate with the Texans. "I've played with him before. He's a big energy booster for a team. He can go out there make some crazy throws, make some plays, and I think when he gets back we can open up our playbook with him a little different."

"It's going to be exciting to see when he gets back. I'm just ready for it."

Watson has always denied being inappropriate with the women, who claim he exposed himself and touched them inappropriately during massage therapy sessions. The 27-year-old settled 23 of 24 civil lawsuits brought against him. (In October, another civil lawsuit accusing Watson of sexual misconduct was filed in Texas.)

Two grand juries in Texas declined to indict him on criminal charges.

Watson was courted by other teams and initially turned down a trade to the Browns before changing his mind after the team offered him a five-year, \$230 million contract that's fully guaranteed. The Browns sent three first-round draft picks to the Texans for Watson, and are counting on him to become a franchise QB.

Jacoby Brissett has played well while filling in at quarterback, but

he'll soon step aside for Cleveland's final six games.

Browns coach Kevin Stefanski declined to specify the team's immediate plans for Watson when he comes back next week.

"We kind of have a plan for that moving forward," Stefanski said. "Deshaun is a great, great teammate. He has been awesome having him back in the building and in the meetings rooms."

The Browns can't afford many more losses or their playoff hopes will vanish before Watson comes back. There's obvious incentive to play well to set up Watson's return to games, but All-Pro defensive end Myles Garrett said that can't be the focus.

"We've got to win regardless if he comes back or not," Garrett said. "Anything can happen, praying to God that he's healthy and everything goes right when he comes back, but I don't plan on handing it to anyone."

"He's coming back to us, so we're all going to do our part and he's going to come in and do an exceptional job, and we fully believe that. But we've got to win for the sake of winning, wanting to be great and do great for the sake of this city. Not just for him coming back."

OVAC Soccer ASGs set for Sunday at Red Devil Stadium

The annual OVAC All-Star Soccer Match will take to the pitch at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville on Sunday, Nov. 13.

The stars from both Ohio and West Virginia will play one more match with the boys getting the day's action started at 1 p.m. and the girls will begin at 3:30 p.m.

The recognition of player of the year and coach of the year — for both boys and girls — will take place between the two games.

Below are the rosters for the games:

Ohio Boys

Anthony Persohn, Beaver Local; Broc Taylor, Beaver Local; Ryan Tice, Beaver Local; Luke Figel, Caldwell; Briley Hamm, Cambridge; Lucas Parson, Cambridge; Steeler Sylvius, Cambridge; Preston Dawson, East Liverpool; Connor Loosemore, East Liverpool; Kaden Jurosko, Harrison Central; Jace Madzia, Harrison Central; Elijah Llewellyn, Indian Creek; Jacob Smearman, Indian Creek; Connell McBurney, Monroe Central; Trevor Eflaw, Shenandoah; Jayson Clark, St. Clairsville; Karl Kain, St. Clairsville; Sean O'Grady, St. Clairsville; Leon Zaleski, Steubenville CC; Michael Duff, Steubenville CC; Anthony Vendetti, Steubenville; JP Walsh, Steubenville.

Head Coach: Steve Kopcha, Steubenville CC.

Assistant Coaches: Joseph Zirillo, Beaver Local; Greg Bowers, Steubenville.

West Virginia

William Cruny, Brooke; Tyler McMahon, Brooke; Cam Anderson, John Marshall; Quinn McKenzie, Linsly; Stefan Mihajlovic, Linsly; Cameron Neighoff, Linsly; Fernando Hernandez, Magnolia; James Percifield, Morgantown; Alex Tadros, Morgantown; Christian Altizer, South; Gage Piggett, South; Kyle Knight, Trinity; Stefan DeMoss, University; Drew Greathouse, University; Pham Homklin, University; Michael Iafate, Weir; Alex Orris, Weir; John Wansack, Weir; Ethyn Taylor, Wheeling Central; Hayden Barbour, Wheeling Park; Mike Blanton, Wheeling Park; Brody Wall, Wheeling Park.

Head Coach: Greg Martin, Linsly.

Assistant Coaches: Chris LeFever, Weir; Michael Smith, University.

Ohio Girls

Jordan Palmer, Beaver Local; Victoria Saphore, Beaver Local; Miranda Sinsley, Beaver Local; Adrienne Clark, Cambridge; Renae Hupp, Cambridge; Gabby Green, East Liverpool; Emily Wright, East Liverpool; Collette Downs, Harrison Central; Gracie Rogers, Harrison Central; Lexi Smith, Harrison Central; Rebecca Blackburn, Indian Creek; Abby Starkey, Indian Creek; Kathryn Mannix, Marietta; Riley Medley, Marietta; Mackenzie Niles, Shenandoah; Megan Malin, St. Clairsville; Lacy Tuttle, St. Clairsville; Raleigh Wood, St. Clairsville; Ellen Rohde, Steubenville CC; Hailey Neeley, Steubenville; Sophia Riley, Steubenville; Jaleys Scales, Steubenville; Hailey Romshak, Union Local.

Head Coach: Jonathan Hoover, Steubenville CC

Assistant Coaches: Liz Connor, Beaver Local; Bill Mannix, Marietta.

West Virginia

Hannah Buterbaugh, Brooke; Grace Ridenhour, Linsly; Julie Wingett, Madonna; Bella Conner, Magnolia; Georgia Blake, Morgantown; Madysen Scheller, Morgantown; Ashleigh Weaver, Morgantown; Carson Barr, Oak Glen; Sydney Brown, Oak Glen; Alexis Greenleaf, Oak Glen; Mia Miller, South; Mackenzie Mott, South; Erin Riesbeck, South; Rebecca Chmiel, University; Samantha Hector, University; Sophia Afferfine, Weir; Reagan Hoover, Weir; Adriana Pompeo, Wheeling Central; Adlie Abraham, Wheeling Park; Lauren Gongola, Wheeling Park; Ellie Reasbeck, Wheeling Park; Casey Ticich, Wheeling Park; Angela Hartline, Wood Co. Christian.

HOST YOUR OWN THANKSGIVING

Organize your Thanksgiving holiday

A large meal is customary come Thanksgiving. Planning an impressive Thanksgiving menu can be enjoyable for many people, while others get a little nervous when tasked with such an undertaking. But getting a head start and staying organized can make planning a Thanksgiving meal much easier than it looks.

Begin by jotting down ideas of which dishes you want to make this year. Traditional foods like turkey and candied yams may be expected, but it's perfectly acceptable to think outside the box as well. If you won't be hosting a large crowd, you may want to serve more manageable Cornish hens in place of a larger turkey.

Root vegetables and squash are seasonal foods that can add some autumn flavor to your Thanksgiving dinner table. Potatoes, corn, turnips and parsnips can be served baked or turned into soups and casseroles.

Thanksgiving is a great time to celebrate local foods as well. If certain items are native to your area, such as grains or game, incorporate these foods into the planning.

Once you have established the menu, you can make a list of what can be prepared in advance and what will need to be made shortly before the holiday or the day of. Separate your shopping accordingly. Any frozen or canned products can be purchased in advance of the holiday rush and stored until use. Frozen turkeys also can be bought weeks before and then thawed out when they need to be cooked. Any dairy products or fresh produce should be purchased a few days before Thanksgiving and freshly prepared for optimal flavor.

frozen, then reheated on Thanksgiving. Some foods actually taste better when flavors have had an opportunity to meld. Even some baked goods can be made in advance and refrigerated or frozen until use. Think about preparing batters for cookies or cakes and then storing them in the refrigerator before finishing them on Thanksgiving. Any work you can handle in advance will save you time in the kitchen come the big day.

Timing can be challenging on Thanksgiving. Whenever possible, free up your oven for side dishes and desserts so that you will have ample space inside. A turkey can take up valuable real estate in the oven, so you may want to consider investing in a rotisserie or a deep-fryer so the turkey can be cooked more efficiently elsewhere. Then you will have plenty of oven space for heating side dishes and desserts.

Dense foods should be placed in the oven first to enable them to heat thoroughly. Finger foods and appetizers may only need brief heating. Do not underestimate the power of the outdoor barbecue for quickly heating up foods if you are short on space in the kitchen.

Delegate some of the work to others on Thanksgiving so you and your family can better enjoy the holiday. Encourage guests to bring their favorite items to serve buffet- or potluck style for Thanksgiving. This not only cuts down on the amount of work for the host and hostess, but gives guests an opportunity to showcase their culinary skills as well.

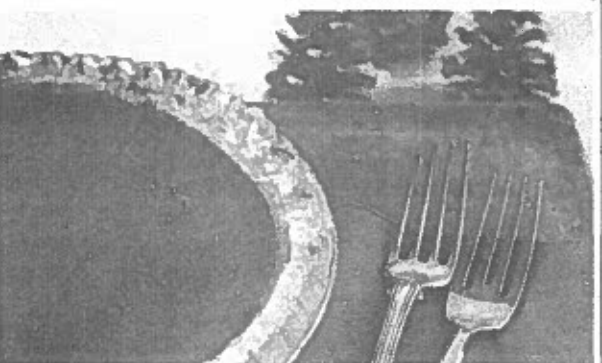
Desserts are often labor-intensive elements of entertaining. Precision in measuring and preparing helps guarantee success. If

desserts so you can focus your attention on the main meal.

While prepping for the Thanksgiving dinner, keep the dishwasher empty so you can easily load items as they are used and keep kitchen clutter to a minimum. Increasing the number of finger foods can help reduce the number of dishes used while cutting down on post-holiday clean-up.

When preparing for the meal, keep storage containers at the ready. Have guests fill up take-away containers with leftovers before the table is cleared so that no food goes to waste. Promptly refrigerate all leftovers so that they are safe to enjoy later on.

Thanksgiving is a time when big meals are customary and a good deal of work is required. Breaking down the work into manageable tasks helps the holiday go off without a hitch.



AP Photo

Pittsburgh Steelers running back Najee Harris gets past New Orleans Saints safety Tyrann Mathieu during the first half in Pittsburgh Sunday.

Steelers Defeat Saints With Run Game, Defense

By WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — T.J. Watt felt the familiar and still indescribable jolt the moment he emerged from the tunnel.

Two months spent standing on the sideline while his torn left pectoral muscle healed deprived the Pittsburgh star linebacker of the lifeblood that sustains him and the Steelers of a player that can change the arcs of games, if not entire seasons.

No wonder Watt took a second on Sunday to bask in a moment that seemed far away during his lengthy rehab, one that not coincidentally was in lockstep with his team's worst start in eight years.

"You wish you could freeze time for just one second," Watt said.

That may be beyond

Watt's control. Something far more attainable is the formula the Steelers rediscovered against New Orleans, one they hope could serve as the foundation of a second-half push.

Kenny Pickett and George Pickens ran for 1-yard touchdowns and Pittsburgh's rejuvenated defense — the one with Watt's No. 90 once again a blur coming off the edge — shut down the Saints late in a 20-10 victory that provided fuel to Watt's belief there is still time for the Steelers to make something out of 2022.

"I'm here to make plays and help make a difference in the game," said Watt, who had four tackles and a quarterback hit.

Please see **STEELERS**,
Page 11

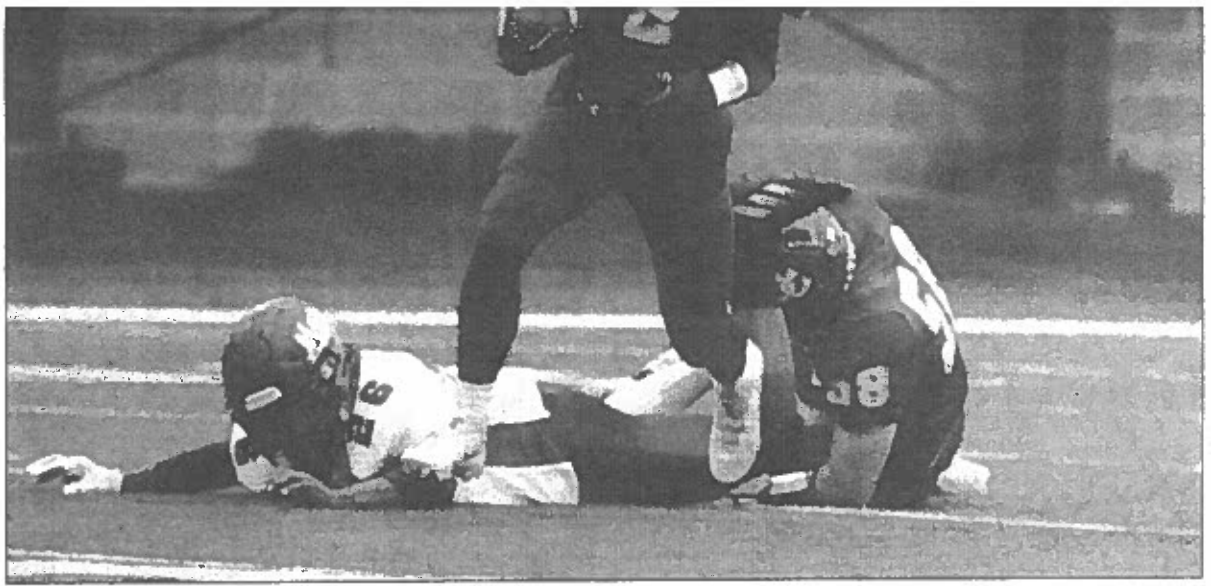


Photo by Delaney O'Connell

Wheeling Central running back Lorenzo Ferrera breaks a tackle during Saturday's Class A first-round playoff game against Man at Wheeling Island Stadium. The Maroon Knights rolled to a 41-7 victory.

Central Hits Road To Face Wahama In Quarterfinals

By BUBBA KAPRAL
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — It could have been worse — much worse.

Wheeling Central scored on its first six possessions Saturday afternoon in manhandling Man, 41-7, at Wheeling Island Stadium in a WVSSAC opening-round Class A playoff game.

The fifth-seeded and now 9-1 Maroon Knights will next face Wahama, which hammered St. Marys, 52-21. That game will be played at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Point Pleasant High School.

The Central-Man game was originally scheduled for Friday

night but was moved back a day due to poor weather.

Coach Mike Young's well-schooled charges performed flawlessly in all phases against the 7-4 and 12th-seeded Hillbillies.

Central rushed for 307 stripes, using nine different ball-toters, while attempting just three passes, completing two. The Knights' suffocating defense allowed just 172 total yards, with 146 on the ground, most of which came in the second half against the Maroon reserves.

Central rolled to a 41-0 upperhand in the early stages of the second quarter, at which point Young

began to sprinkle in the subs.

"I am extremely happy with our performance today. We played hard, executed well and were physical," Young said. "Man was huge up front but our line stepped up to the challenge on both sides of the ball."

"Defensively we read our keys well, reacted and ran to the ball. Our coaches did a great job of scouting what they like to do," he added. "Getting Parker Watkins back at linebacker really helped and I thought Paxton (Marling) played extremely well on defense."

Please see **CENTRAL**, Page 11

Big 2nd Quarter Sends Steubenville To Region 15 Final

By ED LOOMAN
For The Intelligencer

NEW PHILADELPHIA — Steubenville High School's dreams of playing for a state championship remain alive following Saturday's 41-22 Division IV, Region 15 semifinal victory over Columbus East inside Woody Hayes Quaker Stadium.

Big Red, now 11-2, used a second quarter scoring explosion (Reno Saccoccia's crew put 22 points on the board in just over four minutes) to eliminate the Tigers, who dropped the curtain at 10-2. Big Red led 34-8 at the intermission.

Next up for the second-seeded Big Red is a date this Saturday with Indian Valley, 10-3 and the fourth seed, for the regional title. The opening kick is set for 7 p.m. at St.

Clairsville's Red Devils Stadium. Indian Valley advanced by taking down Columbus Bishop Ready 34-10.

"This is the furthest we have gone in five years," Saccoccia said following the semifinal victory (Big Red's last regional championship came in 2017). The whole team but especially our seniors had two goals in mind — we reached the first but getting two home games. Our second goal and we will see what happens next week is to be regional champions.

"Great things don't come easy. Great things take a lot of hard work, enthusiasm and preparation. We now have five days to get that done."

Big Red took the opening kick and

drove 65 yards for the game's opening score. Kyjhaun Hopkins capped the 12-play march when he found the end zone from 3 yards away. A pass for the extra points failed.

The score stayed at 6-0 until the nine minute mark of the second quarter when Spenser Ostovich bulled his way over on a 4-yard run. His touchdown ended a 52-yard Big Red march.

East quickly answered on a nifty 12-yard run by quarterback Tre Lindsay. Taizaun Burns made it 12-8 with his run for the two-pointer. The big play on the drive was a 70-yard completion from Lindsay to Solomon Vaughn.

Please see **STEUBENVILLE**,
Page 11

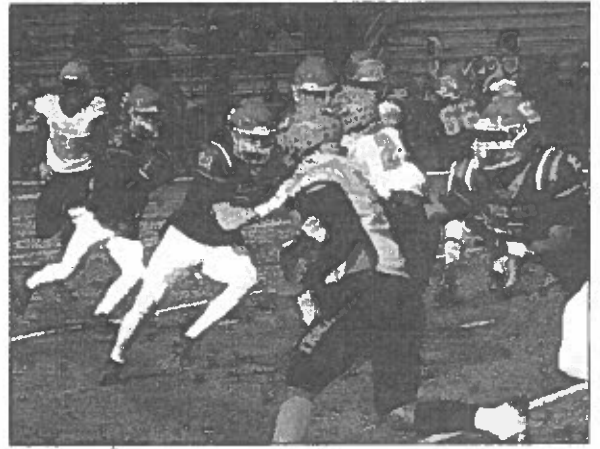


Photo by Andrew Grimm

Hakim Edwards finds room behind a block from Gavin Bozica on a two-point conversion during Saturday's Division IV, Region 15 playoff game against Columbus East at New Philadelphia.

OVAC'S BEST PUT ON A SHOW



Photo by Kim North

St. Clairsville's Megan Malin (4) dribbles the ball as Wheeling Park's Adlie Abraham (2) pursues the play during Sunday afternoon's OVAC All-Star girls soccer game at frigid Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville. Earlier in the day, the West Virginia boys outscored Ohio, 5-1.

Big Reds Get The Shutout To Advance

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

DUNCAN FALLS, Ohio — Not since 2006 had Bellaire advanced to the regional finals in football. The just over a decade-and-a-half wait is over.

Using an opportunistic offense and a tough-as-nails defense, the third-ranked Big Reds (9-4) punched their ticket to the Ohio Division VI, Region 23 championship game with a 20-0 blanking of No. 2 Nelsonville-York (10-2) Saturday night at chill-filled Philo High School's Sam Hatfield Stadium.

"It might not have been our prettiest game of the year, but at this time of the season, a win is a win is a win," Bellaire head coach Mark Bonar said. "We capitalized off of a couple of their mistakes and our defense pitched a shutout."

On the Buckeyes first play from scrimmage, tailback Gavin Richards put the ball on the turf and Bellaire senior RayRay Pettigrew pounced on it at the Nelsonville-York 31.

Seven plays, 31 yards and 3-min-

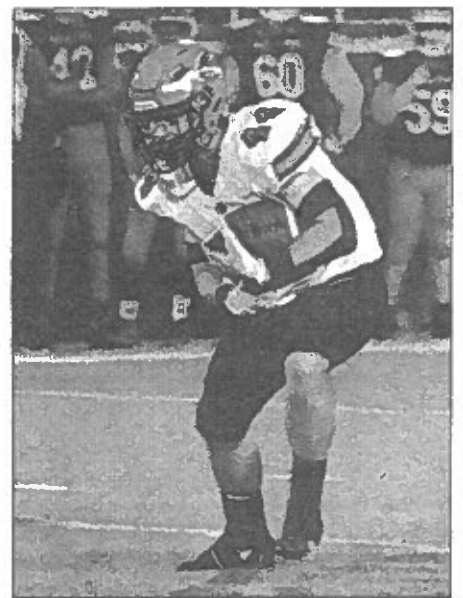


Photo By Kim North

Bellaire's Brayden Roth runs through a gaping hole Saturday night in the first quarter against Nelsonville-York in a Division VI, Region 23 semifinal at Philo High School's Sam Hatfield Stadium. The Big Reds won, 20-0

utes, 12-seconds later, Pettigrew took a swing pass in the right flat from quarterback Jake Heatherington, got to the outside and waltzed into the end zone to complete a 12-yard pitch-and-catch.

Please see **SHUTOUT**, Page 11