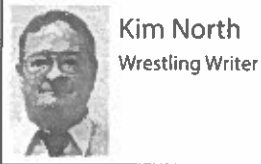


Spring Training/B2
Penguins Fall/B4
Classified/B7-8

SPORTS

Thursday,
March 24, 2022



Kim North
Wrestling Writer

Wilson proud of his career at N.C. State

Although Tariq Wilson had completed his four years of wrestling at N.C. State last winter, he was afforded the opportunity for a fifth year due to COVID-19. He jumped at the chance with one goal in mind ... a national championship.

Although he came up a little short of that goal, he is still proud of what he accomplished in a Wolfpack singlet.

The Steubenville product bumped up to 149 pounds and was undefeated (15-0) and seeded No. 2 entering the recent NCAA Division I Championships inside Little Caesars Arena in Detroit. However,

after winning his first two matches, he was pinned in the quarterfinals.

Sure, he was down as his goal faded away, but he battled back like a true champion.

He won his first consolation bout, but lost the next to send him into the seventh-place match where he prevailed by a major decision. It was his 101st career victory for the Raleigh-based university, which is seventh all-time in program history.

"I went into the nationals thinking I was going to win, but I just couldn't reach my goal of being in the finals and having my hand raised," he said in a telephone interview Wednesday afternoon. "I really can't be down on myself because I did earn All-American and I've accomplished a lot during my career. I had a great career, it could've been better, but I'm proud of the legacy I'm leaving here."

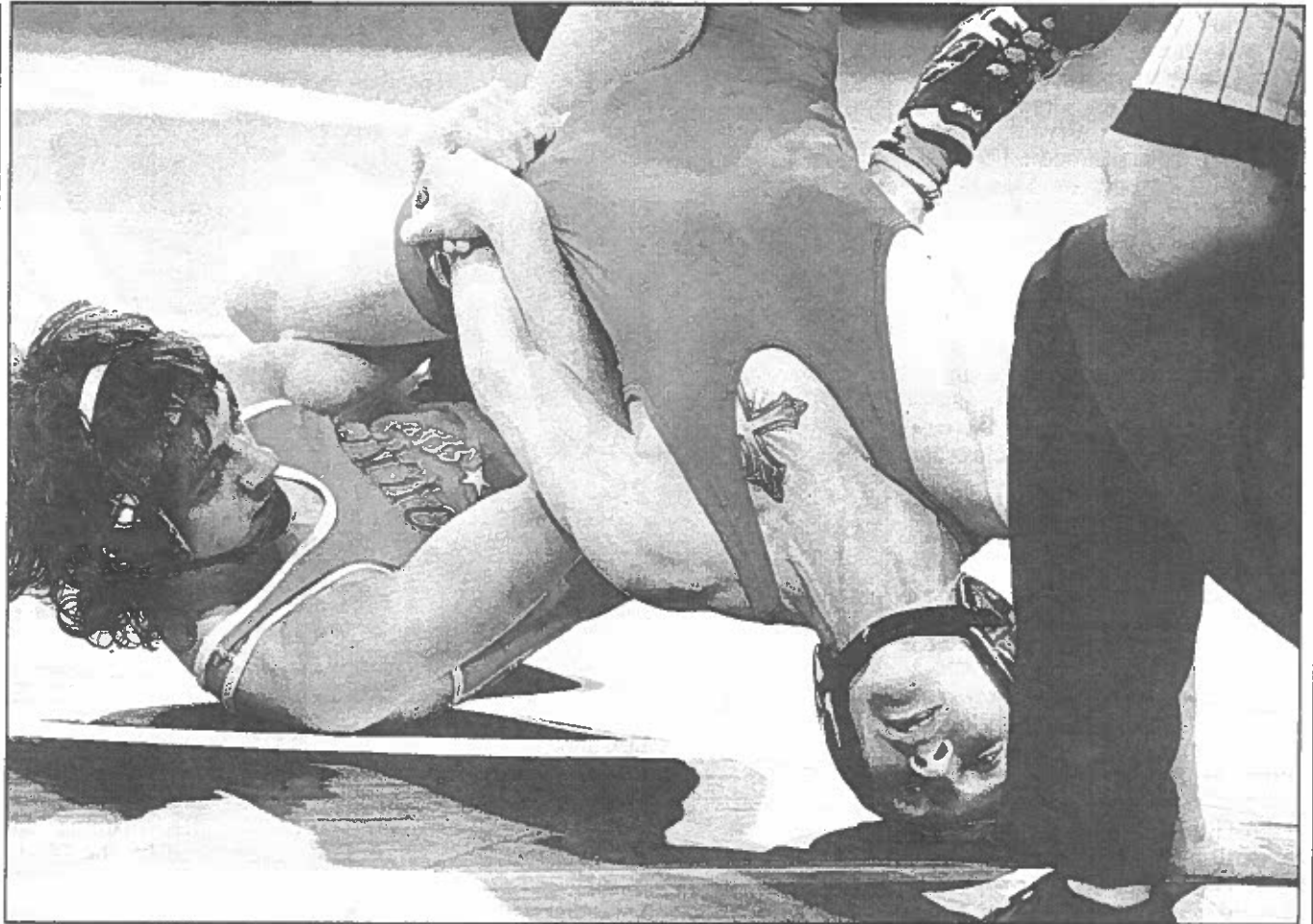
Wilson, a three-time Division II place-winner at Big Red, finished as a three-time NCAA All-American. He placed third at 133 as a freshman in 2018 and also took the bronze medal in 2021 at 141. In 2020 he was a NWCA honorable mention A-A. He was also a two-time ACC titlist.

Wilson was a member of a huge recruiting class for the Wolfpack and they lived up to the billing.

"We were able to do something big during our time," he said of classmates Hayden Hilday, Thomas Bullard and Nick Reenan.

"We helped to continue building the program. We took the reins. I'm proud to have been a part of it."

See, **WILSON**, Page B4



TOP: St. Clairsville's Gannon Kazmirski earns back points against Montour's James Walzer during their 113-pound match Wednesday night at the 25th annual Tri-State "Clash of Champions" inside West Liberty University's ASRC. Kazmirski won, 14-2.

BOTTOM: Wheeling Park's Gabe Carman has control of Montour's Aaron DeLuca at 160 pounds. Carman won, 7-6.

T-L Photos/KIM NORTH

OVAC matmen fall in Clash

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

WEST LIBERTY -- Not even a tornado warning could stop the 25th annual Tri-State Wrestling "Clash of Champions" Wednesday night.

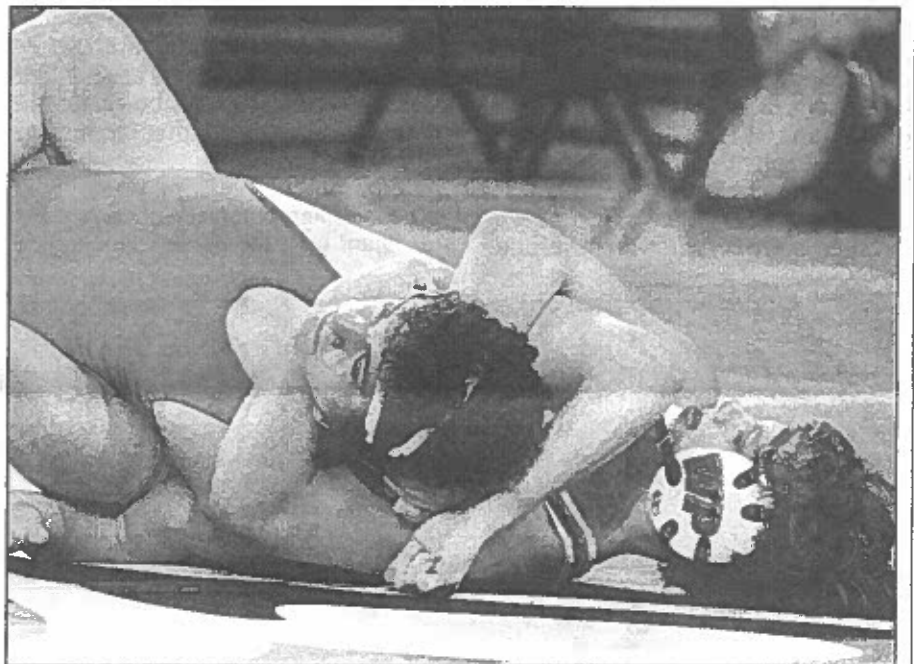
However, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Stars couldn't weather a late flurry by the Midwestern Athletic Conference from western Pennsylvania in dropping a razor-thin, 26-25, decision inside the ASRC on the campus of West Liberty University.

The locals held a commanding 25-9 advantage with three matches remaining, but the Keystone Staters received a pair of pins and a technical fall to eke out the victory, their first since 2018.

The OVAC leads the all-time series 17-8.

Trailing 25-21, Moon's Khyvon Grace put on a takedown clinic in the third period against Beaver Local's Mark Emmerling Jr. Leading 9-2 after two periods, Grace got a reversal, five takedowns and a key penalty point for a 22-6 technical fall and the winning points. His final takedown came just before the final buzzer.

"I really didn't pay much attention to the team score until it got close there," Cameron's Tim Jones, who



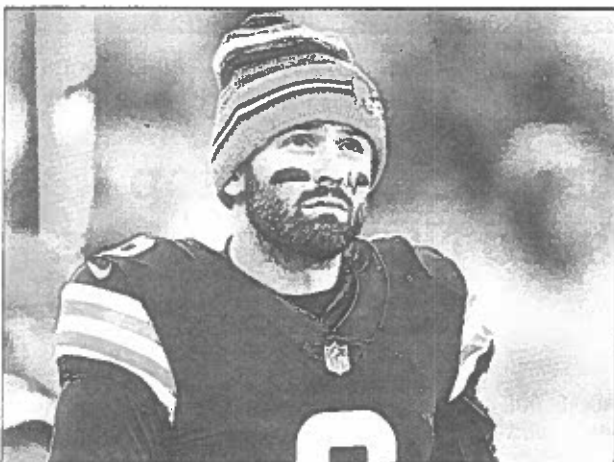
served as the OVAC's head coach, said. "We had a pretty good lead there, but give the MAC credit. They battled back and got the job done."

The OVAC enjoyed its 16-point lead after St. Clairsville's Gannon Kazmirski earned a 14-2 major decision over Montour's James Walzer at 113 pounds. Kazmirski, the Red Devils' flyweight who won the OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament and finished

eighth in the Division II OHSAA State Tournament, didn't waste any time in taking control with eight first-period points.

The senior-only dual started at 138 and the MAC took a 3-0 lead on a 4-0 decision by Ambrose Boni (Central Valley) over Emmerling Jr., who wrestled twice for the short-handed OVAC squad.

See, **OVAC**, Page B4



Sacked: Mayfield waits as Browns look to trade unwanted quarterback

CLEVELAND (AP) -- Baker Mayfield was once the No. 1 overall draft pick. He's not anyone's choice at the moment.

He's a quarterback without a team.

Cleveland's starter the past four seasons, Mayfield lost his job last week when the Browns pulled off a trade that shook the NFL by acquir-

al trades and free agent signings eliminating possible landing spots for Mayfield, who is looking to resurrect his career after a dreadful 2021 season.

It's an astonishing fall for Mayfield, the top pick in 2018 who led the Browns to the playoffs in 2020 and seemed to have finally solved the franchise's two-decade-long

Mayfield went from under center to out the door -- in an instant.

After the Watson trade was announced, Mayfield needed a new football home, and Indianapolis appeared to be a possibility for Mayfield. But the Colts weren't interested and traded for Atlanta veteran Matt Ryan. The Falcons then signed free agent Marcus Mariota,

got to get a feel for him." Browns cornerback Greg Newsome II said Wednesday night at the Greater Cleveland Sports Awards. "We don't know him as anything as of right now, so we've just got to get to know him."

Watson's on his way. The three-time Pro Bowl quarterback, who is still facing 22 civil lawsuits from women accusing him of sexual misconduct during massage therapy sessions, was acquired last week by Cleveland in a stunning trade from Texans.

The blockbuster deal, which included the Browns sending three first-round draft picks to the Texans, only happened after Watson initially turned the Browns down.

It caught Newsome off guard.

"It definitely came as a surprise as soon as you saw that he kind of declined us at first," Newsome said. "We kind of thought that it was over, so definitely it was a surprise."

While Watson's acquisition — and his \$230 million guaranteed contract — have been hotly discussed topics around town for several days, his name wasn't mentioned once from the stage in Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse during the two-hour ceremony hosted by NBC's Maria Taylor.

Watson is expected to be in Cleveland this week for a physical and introductory news conference. As of Wednesday, plans were still being finalized by the Browns, who were as stunned as anyone when Watson changed his mind and picked them over the Panthers, Falcons and Saints.

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

Beaver Local's Dorian Jackson gave the OVAC a 6-3 nod with a pin in 5:32 while leading Ambridge's Tyler Holman at 145.

Chartiers Valley's Christopher Beatty held off St. Clairsville's Division II state 150-pound champion Caden Stout, 9-7, at 152. It was Beatty's 100th career win and tied the score at 6.

Back-to-back decisions by Gabe Carman (Wheeling Park) and Elijah Wellings-Osha (University) gave the hosts a 12-6 margin.

Carman, a West Virginia Class AAA state champion, used a late takedown to edge Montour's Aaron DeLuca, 7-6, while Wellings-Osha dominated Quaker Valley's Mason Diemert, 10-3, at 170.

• Wilson

Continued from Page B1

Hall Earns A-A Honors
Oak Glen graduate Peyton Hall became the 34th All-American in West Virginia University wrestling history with his eight-place finish at 165 pounds.

Hall, the No. 9 seed, registered a 3-3 overall record at the tournament to end the season 28-6. He notched an 11-3 major decision over No. 18-ranked Justin McCoy of Virginia to seal his place on the podium on day two of the three-day event.

The Chester native joins Jimmie Cox, Mike Mason, Sam Kline, Brandon Rader and Noah Adams as the sixth WVU wrestler from the Mountain State to earn All-American status. In addition, Hall is the first WVU grappler to take home the honor at 165 pounds; Mark Banks reached the feat twice at 167 pounds back in 1990 and 1991.

Academic Honors

The entire Martins Ferry team and Barnesville's Griffen Stephen were named academic all-Ohio.

Freshman State Champs

Barnesville's Ayden King (145), Harrison Central's Landen Thomas (285) and Barnesville's Ladin Hines (73) won state titles at the recent OAC State Tournament inside Youngstown State University's Covelli Center.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS goalie Casey Desjardins (11) looks for the puck after a save as defenseman Mike Matheson (5) and left wing Jake Guentzel (59) defend during the second period of a game against the Buffalo Sabres in Buffalo, N.Y., Wednesday.

Sabres skate past Pens for third straight victory

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Tage Thompson had two goals in regulation and scored in the shootout, Alex Tuch also had a shootout goal, and the Buffalo Sabres beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-3 on Wednesday night for their third consecutive win.

Zemgus Girgensons also scored in regulation for the Sabres, who have won five of six in their best stretch of the season. Craig Anderson made 23 saves and stopped both shots he faced in the shootout.

Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin each had a goal and an assist for the Penguins, who had won three in a row. Kris Letang had Pittsburgh's other goal. Bryan Rust had two assists, and Casey DeSmith stopped 29 shots. Playing on the second night of a back-to-back, Pittsburgh opened a two-game trip by dropping its league-best road record to 21-7-5.

Thompson scored his team-leading 27th goal to put the Sabres ahead 3-2 one minute into the third period, one-timing a pass from Tuch at the front of the right circle.

Letang tied it for the Penguins on a power play with 4:56 left in the third. Precise passing by Crosby and Malkin set up Letang at the top of the right circle for his seventh goal.

The Penguins got tying goals from Crosby and Malkin to open and close the second. Crosby netted his 23rd on a power play 26 seconds into the period.

Mahle chosen to start Reds' opener

GOODYEAR, Ariz. (AP) — Right-hander Tyler Mahle will start for the Cincinnati Reds on opening day April 7 in Atlanta against the World Series champion Braves.

Manager David Bell gave the four-year veteran the news on Wednesday

morning ahead of his second spring training start.

"It means a lot," Mahle said. "Some people never get to do this. I may only get to do it once. I don't know so, I will try to make the most of it and have a lot of fun."

The 27-year-old Mahle

Malkin scored his 13th with 1:14 remaining when his backhand pass from beside the net hit Sabres defenseman Henri Jokiharju and Anderson before bouncing in.

Girgensons gave Buffalo a 2-1 lead with 4:04 left in the second, converting in front on a feed from Kyle Okposo. It was the eighth of the season for Girgensons and his first in four games back since missing seven weeks an undisclosed injury.

Thompson's first goal was set up by Mattias Samuelsson's pass from behind the net with 2:45 remaining in the first.

NOTED ACHIEVEMENTS

Anderson was recognized in a pre-game ceremony for becoming the 39th NHL goalie with 300 victories. Sabres general manager Kevyn Adams presented a golden stick and commemorative jersey to the 19-year veteran who has won games for six franchises.

U.S. women's national team member Hayley Scamurra was shown on the video scoreboard wearing her silver medal from last month's Beijing Olympics during a stoppage in the first period. Scamurra, a western New York native, plays for the Buffalo Beauts in the NWHL.

UP NEXT

Penguins: Conclude their two-game trip at the New York Rangers on Friday night.

Sabres: Host the Washington Capitals on Friday night.

led with 33 starts last season, finishing with a team-best 13-6 record with a 3.75 ERA.

"It was a real honor to give him the news," Bell said. "He doesn't always show it, but he was really excited."

for Francona, Shaw's depth of knowledge and experience makes him invaluable to one of baseball's youngest teams.

• Mayfield

Continued from Page B1

It's all left Mayfield out.

He is due to make \$18.8 million next season, and his contract makes it nearly impossible for the Browns to find a trade partner. There isn't a team willing to pay that hefty price for a backup quarterback, never mind one coming off shoulder surgery, a lousy season and with an image problem.

There's the possibility Cleveland might have to pay a big chunk of Mayfield's salary or throw in a draft pick just to be rid of him.

At this point, a quick separation would be ideal for both sides.

Unfortunately, this could drag on for a while.

A positive for Mayfield, as has been emphasized multiple times over the past week, is that the quarterback roulette wheel spins often and he'll get another chance somewhere — eventually. Things happen. Depth charts at quarterback are frequently changing due to injuries, trades and performance.

He'll get another chance to start somewhere. But before that, Mayfield may have to swallow hard and be someone's backup.

Mayfield has shown he's a capable QB and sometimes better than that. He is 29-30 as a starter and passed for more than 3,000 yards in

each season. He followed a record-setting rookie season with a clunker in Year 2, but he worked on his game, bounced back and played well in 2020.

Last year went sideways for Mayfield and the Browns after the 26-year-old suffered a torn labrum in his left shoulder in Week 2. Mayfield gutted it out and played hurt. But in doing so, he exposed several on-field shortcomings — his size, decision-making and an inability to avoid pressure.

Wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr.'s messy exit briefly revived Mayfield. But it wasn't long before he was forcing passes into double coverage and taking sacks he couldn't avoid.

There was also a major disconnection with coach Kevin Stefanski. Mayfield publicly questioned Stefanski's play-calling, and even if he had valid reasons for the criticism, it was a bad look for him and the team. It also underscored a troubled relationship between quarterback and coach.

Mayfield's image may need as much of a makeover as his mechanics.

A two-time college walk-on who went on to win the 2017 Heisman Trophy while playing for Oklahoma, he's got to prove himself all over again.

It won't be in Cleveland.

• Pirates

Continued from Page B1

The Pirates have finished in last place in the NL Central three consecutive years and are coming off a 101-loss season. Last week, Reynolds said he wants to win with the Pirates. On Wednesday, Reynolds said he remains open to signing a long-term agreement.

"It doesn't change anything the way I feel about Pittsburgh or anything like that," Reynolds said. "Any of my teammates or the team or anything like that, I understand it's part of the game."

Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton isn't concerned about the case getting to Reynolds, whose low-key approach has made him consistent at every level he's played save for 2020.

"I don't think anything affects Bryan Reynolds," Shelton said. "I think that's the one beautiful thing about him is he stays the same all the time. And it's wise, the caliber player he is."

Area Sports Briefs

Youth Soccer

Signup Deadline Nearing

All Belmont county or Ohio Valley youth with birth years from 2007-2018 can sign up on line at <https://stclairsvillesoccer.demosphere-secure.com/registration>. Children born in 2018 are eligible for Kiddie Kick, which is continuing.

Eighth graders, who have turned 15, are eligible to play. Those having difficulty with registration should contact the Kristina Scott after 5 p.m. at 740-381-4202 or email kristinak4202@gmail.com.

Travel Teams will be formed with the U-10 to U-15 age groups. Teams will play other recreation teams in the Ohio Valley with the older teams playing within the region.

The Kiddie Kick and Pre-Travel U-6 and U-8 will not travel outside of St. Clairsville. Travel Team play will begin after April 11, Kiddie Kick April 9, Pre-Travel begins April 11.

Parents are encouraged to join the St. Clairsville Area Youth Soccer Association to support the program.

Contact Dave Hahn 695-4207, Rick Ferrell 695-1995 with any questions or see the web site for registration and organization information.

St. C. Slates Baseball Camp

St. Clairsville's high school baseball team will hold a two-day camp on Saturday, March 26 and Sunday March 27 for children in grades K-6. There will also be a parents clinic on both days from 9 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. on Saturday and from 1 until 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

After the parents' camp, the kids will participate from 9:30 a.m. until noon and then on Sunday from 1:30 p.m. until 4. The camp will focus on drills, fundamentals, rules, strategy, teamwork, fun and games.

The cost of the camp is \$40 for the first camper and \$20 for each additional camper.

The cost of the camp includes a t-shirt, baseball, door prizes and foods provided by Saints Club after each session.

The staff for the clinic will include head coach Tom Sliva, as well as other St. C. baseball coaches and players (former and present).

Shadyside Boosters

Golf Scramble Slated

The 8th Annual Shadyside Boosters Golf Scramble will be held on May 14 at Moundsville Country Club, starting at 8 a.m. The entry fee is \$300 per team. To sign up, contact Eddie's Barber Shop (740) 676-2100 or Jerry Miller (740) 312-5023 or Cork Gehrig (740) 296-8405

St. C. Junior Sports

Hosting Tournaments

St. Clairsville Junior Sports will be hosting the following All-Star tournaments: Pinto from June 29 through July 3 and a Mustang Tournament from July 13-17. Entry fee for each tournament is \$300.

Baseballs and umpires fees are included in the entry fee. These tournaments are for community/recreation league players only (no travel teams).

St. Clairsville Jr. Sports reserves the right to deny/remove any entrants at their discretion. Please contact Matt Lucki at mjlucki@gmail.com or Matt King at mking2@comcast.net for more information

King, who qualified for the OHSAA state tournament and came with a victory of placing, claimed his title with an 8-2 decision over Kyser Kostoff, while Thomas, who finished sixth in the D-IV District Tournament and fourth in the OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament, decided Luke Cox, 7-4, for his crown.

Hines, competing in the girls portion of the event, won her Division 2 weight class with a 8-0 major decision over Wauseon's Julia Lugabihl.

Staubenville's Talea Guntrum (90) won junior high weight class with a pin in 1:30.

Grade School State Entries

Martins Ferry has eight youth entered in this weekend's OAC state tournament at the Covelli Center on the campus of Youngstown State University.

They are Gavin Saxton (45 lbs.); Michael Patterson (58); Tucker Finnicum (61); Jayce Nixon (70); Anthony Alexander (71); Brycen Yourkovich (80); Colton Nixon (90); and Nate Shreve (130).

Good luck to all.

Ferry Native in Hall of Fame
Joe Reasbeck, Superior, was inducted into the National Wrestling

Hall of Fame Wisconsin Chapter with nine other coaches, each for Lifetime Service. Reasbeck will have the added distinction of being honored as an Outstanding American for his wrestling accomplishments and his service to the country. He is one of only three such individuals honored in this manner since 1997.

Originally from Martins Ferry, Reasbeck wrestled for legendary Ohio Valley coach John "Corky" Vrotsos who helped shape the trajectory of the young Reasbeck's career. His efforts were rewarded as Reasbeck was inducted into the Martins Ferry High School Hall of Fame in 2002.

In college, Reasbeck wrestled for UW-Superior where he won two WSUC championships and consequently was inducted into the UW-Superior Hall of Fame in 2008 and was selected as a member of the All-University team.

His list of wrestling accomplishments is lengthy, both as a coach and a competitor. He placed fourth in the 1968 Olympic Trials and in 1970 was the Interservice champion for the Marine Corps, while also the coach for the Marine Corps team.

This will be my final installment until next fall.

has become the first wheeling Central archer in school history to reach the High School Archery State Championships, where he will compete inside the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center on Saturday at 10 a.m.

"This is only my second year of archery," Looney said. "Coach (Ed Crockard) asked me if I was interested and I said, 'Sure, I'll try it out.' Our wrestling program at Central left so I wanted to find something else during the winter time. So, I picked it up and found a talent that I didn't know I had."

Looney shot a score of 280 with 13 bullseyes at Cameron to qualify for the state championships.

"That was the highest score I've shot," Looney said of the 280. "It was a goal of mine so it was an overwhelming feeling of happiness."

The success didn't come overnight for Looney, though. The senior worked tirelessly on perfecting his skill, which is making this season even more enjoyable for him.

"I made this my goal and I've been working toward it all season," Looney said. "It can be kind of challenging some-

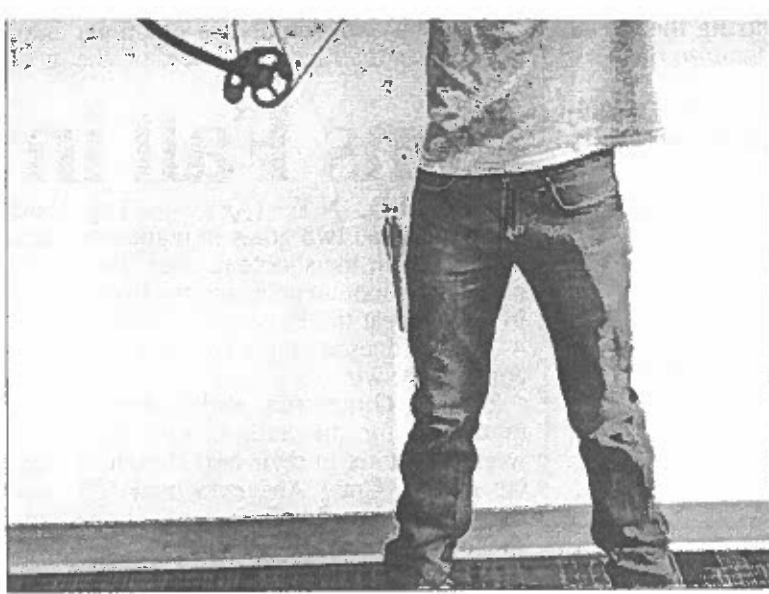


Photo Provided

Wheeling Central archer Shannon Looney earned a spot in the High School State Archery Championships where he will compete on Saturday in Charleston. Looney fired a score of 280 to qualify for the event and he became the first Wheeling Central archer to qualify for state in school history.

times.

"I do better on some days and sometimes I shoot worse. You have to learn to not let that get you down when you shoot worse."

"You have to keep pushing and just know that you will do better."

Looney also takes great pride in the fact that he is the first ar-

cher in Wheeling Central school history to earn a trip to Charleston.

"It's a great feeling," Looney said. "I've been working for it and to be the first one at Central to qualify is really cool. Nobody has ever gone to state for archery here but the program is only 4 years old I think. It's just such a great feeling."

Knows Arbitration Could Get Messy

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) — Pittsburgh Pirates center fielder Bryan Reynolds knows he earned a hefty raise after making the All-Star team and becoming a finalist for both the Gold Glove and the Silver Slugger awards, all while playing for \$601,000 last season, just above the major league minimum.

How much of a raise, however, remains uncertain. Reynolds submitted a proposal for \$4.9 million for 2022. The Pirates countered with an offer of \$4.25 million.

The two sides failed to split the \$650,000 difference, leading to a potentially thorny fight in arbitration for the best player on a rebuilding team still searching for an identity.

The Pirates are a "file and trial" team, opting to stop negotiations and go to an arbitration hearing. Reynolds is coming off his best season, batting .302/.390/.522 with 35 doubles, eight triples, 24 home runs and 90 RBIs in 159 games last season.

The 27-year-old Reynolds is aware that arbitration hearings can get "messy" as teams attempt to lower a player's value, so he expects the Pirates to hold the 2020 season against him.

The sport was shut down for nearly four months by the COVID-19 outbreak, and Reynolds' timing was off in a shortened season in which he hit .189 with seven homers and 19 RBIs.

"I mean, I made it pretty apparent," Reynolds said. "I feel like since then, it would be silly to put a bunch of emphasis on a 60-game pandemic season. I guess when it comes down to it, we'll see."

Please see REYNOLDS Page 12

Tingle Earns All-American Honorable Mention

ATLANTA — Record-setting West Liberty University women's basketball standout Audrey Tingle earned yet another prestigious honor on Wednesday when the Women's Basketball Coaches' Association (WBCA) released its annual NCAA Division II All-America Team.

A first-team All-Mountain East Conference and All-Atlantic Region selection, the 5-6 senior guard was included on the honorable mention list compiled by the WBCA's National Selection Committee.

Considered the most exclusive of the annual All-America teams selected by various groups and organizations, the WBCA All-America Team is chosen by a 10-person national selection committee. The committee selects a 10-woman First Team All-America unit and a 30-woman Honorable Mention All-America unit. Tingle is the

first WLU woman to earn WBCA All-America recognition since Marissa Brown earned back-to-back honors following the 2018 and 2019 seasons.

Honored earlier this month as the NCAA Division II Academic All-American of the Year for women's basketball, the West Lafayette, Ohio native saved her best for last in a spectacular senior campaign. A 4-time MEC Player of the Week, Tingle set an NCAA Division II season record with six triple-doubles - twice posting triple-doubles in back-to-back games - and is tied for the all-time NCAA D2 career mark with 7 triple-doubles.

Her 19 double-doubles ranked third in the nation and she averaged a double-double for the season: 14.1 ppg., 10.5 rpg. and 7.1 assists/game. Tingle ranked No. 2 nationally with 212 assists and 7.1

assists/game and was 12th in the nation with 314 rebounds despite her diminutive stature. She was the only NCAA woman to post 200-plus assists and 300-plus rebounds during the regular season.

Tingle closed out her career ranked near the top of the Hilltoppers' career leaderboard in multiple categories. She is 15th on the career scoring list with 1,241 points, 2nd in career rebounds with 998 retrieves and 4th in assists (856) and steals (198).

Her 856 assists rank among the Top 10 career totals in NCAA Division II history.

The West Liberty standout was the only player from the Mountain East Conference to receive All-America recognition from the WBCA this season.

Please see TINGLE, Page 12



Photo by Cody Nespor

West Liberty's Audrey Tingle was named an All-American Honorable Mention on Wednesday after a stellar 2022 season.

MAC Edges OVAC

By KIM NORTH
For the News-Register
WEST LIBERTY —

Not even a tornado warning could stop the 25th annual Tri-State Wrestling "Clash of Champions" Wednesday night.

However, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Stars couldn't weather a late flurry by the Midwestern Athletic Conference from western Pennsylvania in dropping a razor-thin, 26-25, decision inside the ASRC on the campus of West Liberty University.

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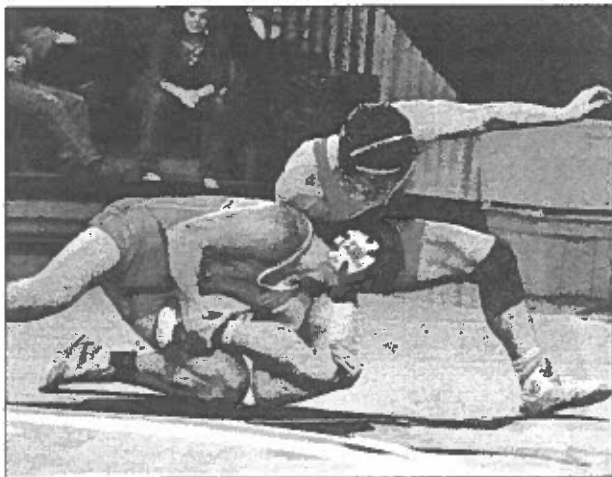


Photo by Cody Tomer

Gabe Carman, left, of Wheeling Park won by 7-6 decision.

pair of pins and a technical fall to eke out the victory, their first since 2018. The OVAC leads the all-time series 17-8.

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nical fall and the winning points. His final takedown came just before the final buzzer.

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Please see OVAC, Page 12

Parkersburg Catholic's Huffman Captains Class AA All-State Team

By JAY W. BENNETT
Sports Writer

CHARLESTON — Parkersburg Catholic and Wyoming East were on a collision course to the Class AA state championship game all season long.

The top two ranked teams banged heads for the second straight year, but this season it was the Crusaderettes who bested the Warriors and cut down the nets. Although both programs landed two first team all-staters, PCHS senior Leslie Huffman was honored Wednesday as captain by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association.

"Being named the all-state captain is a dream come true," admitted Huffman, who started all 95 career games as a Crusaderette and helped her team go 92-3. "I always strive to be the best of the best and I am far from there but being awarded captain reminds me that my hard work is paying off and doesn't go unnoticed."

"My team this year has really helped me to understand my role as a basketball player and a leader. I owe them a lot of the success we've had at Parkersburg Catholic these past four years and I wouldn't trade my experience there for the world."

Huffman, who also wanted to thank her coaches and family for their ongoing support, was a three-time Little Kanawha Conference Player of the Year.

In her final season for head coach Marty Vierheller, Huffman finished with averages of 23.4 points, 7.2 rebounds, 6.3 steals, a better than 2.5-to-1 assist-to-turnover ratio (6.3-2.5) while shooting 76% from the line, 52% from the field and 38% from 3.

The Crusaderette, who was joined on the first unit by fellow senior teammate Lainie Ross, played for three state titles (2019 runner-up) and the 2020 squad was 26-0 following a state quarterfinal win versus Tucker County.

In three games at the state tournament, Huffman was credited with just one turnover in 79 minutes of playing time, while dishing out 17 assists.

"I have seen firsthand what Leslie has invested into her career," Vierheller admitted of his three-time, first team all-stater. "This honor could not have been bestowed on a more special or deserving young woman."

Please see ALL-STATE, Page 12



Tekely Takes Golf Game to W&J

Photo Provided

John Marshall's Lauren Tekely of Glen Dale has signed a Division III letter of intent to continue her academic and athletic careers at Washington and Jefferson College. Tekely is a four year member of the JM Golf team and has the rare distinction of earning varsity golf letters in both boys and girls golf her junior and senior seasons at John Marshall averaging under 47 shots per 9 hole rounds for both teams. During the season, she helped the girls to a 20-8 record and helped lead the team to their second consecutive OV Athletics Girls Championship.

Pictured are, front from left, Vickie Tekely, Lauren Tekely, Jim Tekely. Back, Cassie Berner, Principal; Bridget Carnahan, Girls Coach; David Gaudino, Head Coach; Roger Simmons, Athletic Director.

OVAC

Continued from Page 11

"They battled back and got the job done."

The OVAC enjoyed its 16-point lead after St. Clairsville's Gannon Kazmirski earned a 14-2 major decision over Montour's James Walzer at 113 pounds. Kazmirski, the Red Devils' flyweight who won the OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament and finished eighth in the Division II OHSAA State Tournament, didn't waste any time in taking control with eight first-period points.

The senior-only dual started at 138 and the MAC took a 3-0 lead on a 4-0 decision by Ambrose Boni (Central Valley) over Emmerling Jr., who wrestled twice for the short-handed OVAC squad.

Beaver Local's Dorian Jackson gave the OVAC a 6-3 nod with a pin in 5:32 while leading Ambridge's Tyler Holman at 145.

Chartiers Valley's Christopher Beatty held off St. Clairsville's Division II state 150-pound champion Caden Stout, 9-7, at 152. It was Beatty's 100th career win and tied the score at

6.

Back-to-back decisions by Gabe Carman (Wheeling Park) and Elijah Wellings-Osha (University) gave the hosts a 12-6 margin.

Carman, a West Virginia Class AAA state champion, used a late takedown to edge Montour's Aaron DeLuca, 7-6, while Wellings-Osha dominated Quaker Valley's Mason Diemert, 10-3, at 170.

Quaker Valley's Patrick Cutchember rallied from a 4-3 deficit against Cameron's two-time OVAC Ron Mauck titlist and two-time WVSSAC Class A state champ, 5-4. Trailing 4-3, Cutchember secured a takedown with 10 seconds left for the win.

A 9-3 decision at 195 by Steubenville's Brandon Kinney over Freedom's Landon Millward began a three-match win streak as Big Red teammate Peyton Tuttle pinned Central Valley's Lance Crawley in 45 seconds before Kazmirski's victory.

PIN FALLS

--The match was officiated by Chester's Derrick Stickles and Wheeling's Jim Copney.

TINGLE

Continued from Page 11

Shepherd's Abby Beeman and Dejah Terrell from California (Pa.) were first-team selections from the Atlantic Region while Kutz-

town's Rylee Derr and Samantha Pirosko of Gannon joined Tingle in representing the Atlantic Region on the honorable mention list. North Georgia's Julianne Sutton was selected as the NCAA Division II National Player of the Year while Glenville State's Kim Stephens earned National Coach of the Year honors.

ALL-STATE

Continued from Page 11

"What makes this particularly special is the fact that Leslie is so humble. She has always put her heart and soul into her team's success with no regard to personal accolades or glory.

"The results of her humility and dedication speak for themselves. I am elated that she has been named captain of the all-state team. Undoubtedly, Leslie Huffman is one of the greatest players to ever wear the Parkersburg Catholic Columbia blue and white."

The Warriors landed Maddie Clark, a sophomore who averaged 13.7 points, 5 rebounds, 4.4 assists and 3.9 steals. Junior teammate Kayley Bane put up

10.6 points, 4.4 rebounds and 1.9 assists.

Ross, who led the Mid-Ohio Valley by shooting 61%, posted 12 points, 8.5 rebounds and 3.1 steals an outing.

Half of the first team was comprised of LKC players.

St. Marys freshman Addie Davis was a key cog in helping the Blue Devils to a state semifinal.

Along with shooting 73% at the free-throw line, she put up 10.7 points, 5.8 rebounds, 4.5 assists, 3.5 steals and 1.5 blocks a night.

Junior Rebekah Rupert, who averaged a double-double, earned a first

team nod after putting up 15.1 points, 10.9 boards, 1.7 assists, 2.8 steals and 2.3 blocks a game for Ritchie County.

Addie Smith of Mingo Central joined Davis as a freshman honoree. The Miner, a 78% foul shooter, averaged 20.4 points, 3 caroms, 4.7 dimes and 2.3 thefts.

Potomac Valley Conference POY Halley Smith of Frankfort earned first team status.

The Falcons advanced to the state tournament with the help of Smith. The senior averaged 20.2 points, 3.9 caroms, 3 assists and 4.3 steals.

Parkersburg Catholic sophomore

the two points in this particular contest, as Seamus Malone snapped a 1-1 deadlock at the ten-minute mark of the second period, then Spencer Watson and Bryan Lemos added third period strikes for the 4-1 win in favor of the home side. Matt Alfaro scored Wheeling's lone goal in his return from the AHL.

Both teams found the twine in the opening stanza, and the two tallies came 1:09 apart from each other. Wheeling struck first at the 8:46 mark.

Matt Alfaro scooped up the puck behind the offensive goal and strolled his way around the zone to the high slot.

second period came right at the midway mark, as Indy took the lead. Chad Yetman swiped away a loose puck in the left corner, then proceeded to center a pass to Seamus Malone, who stepped into a one-timer in the slot, which he drilled into the right side of the net.

The Fuel added to their lead at the 9:02 mark of the third period. Jacob LeGuerrier booted a puck away at his own blueline, which led to a transition rush in the other direction.

Jan Mandat plated a drop pass for Spencer Watson, who slammed a one-timer into the left side of the goal. Bryan

snouts. The Nailers will return home on Friday night for Throwback Night at 7:10 against the Kalamazoo Wings. Former players Louis Dumont and Paul Bissonnette will be at the game, the Nailers will wear specialty jerseys, and it will be a Frosty Friday.

Wheeling will also play at home on Saturday, which will be a 7:10 face-off against Indy. The opponent that evening is Kalamazoo.

Season memberships, single game tickets, and partial packages are available, and fans can get more information by calling (304) 234-GOAL.

Pens Fall in Shootout

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Tage Thompson had two goals in regulation and scored in the shootout. Alex Tuch also had a shootout goal, and the Buffalo Sabres beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-3 on Wednesday night for their third consecutive win.

Zemgus Girgensons also scored in regulation for the Sabres, who have won five of six in their best stretch of the season. Craig Anderson made 23 saves and stopped both attempts in the shootout.

Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin each had a goal and an assist for the Penguins, who had won three in a row. Kris Letang had Pittsburgh's other goal, Bryan Rust added two assists and Casey DeSmith stopped 29 shots.

Playing on the second night of a

back-to-back, Pittsburgh opened a two-game trip by dropping to a league-best 21-7-5 on the road.

MAPLE LEAFS 3, DEVILS 2

TORONTO (AP) — Pierre Engvall scored a short-handed goal with 4:42 left to lead Toronto over New Jersey.

Engvall moved in on a 2-on-1 rush with Ilya Mikheyev off serving a double minor for high-sticking, delayed and then fired his 11th goal of the season past Nico Daws.

Mikheyev also scored a short-handed goal and Mitch Marner had the other score for the Maple Leafs, who got 20 saves from Petr Mrazek.

Nico Hischier had a goal and an assist, and Damon Severson also scored for the Devils. Daws stopped 28 shots.

REYNOLDS

Continued from Page 11

"Yeah, I don't want to be defined by that. I feel like I've kind of turned a page on that."

Reynolds said the Pirates didn't offer a long-term contract extension. He's turned down previous offers but has maintained that he's open to staying with the Pirates even as he's the subject of trade rumors.

"They didn't say anything about an extension, so it wasn't really on our minds," he said. "I would have obviously liked to reach an agreement so we

didn't have to do this now. But, like I said, that's part of the game, too."

The Pirates have finished in last place in the NL Central three consecutive years and are coming off a 101-loss season. Last week, Reynolds said he wants to win with the Pirates. On Wednesday, Reynolds said he remains open to signing a long-term agreement.

"It doesn't change anything the way I feel about Pittsburgh or anything like that," Reynolds said. "Any of my teammates or

the team or anything like that. I understand it's part of the game."

Pittsburgh manager Derek Shelton isn't concerned about the case getting to Reynolds, whose low-key approach has made him consistent at every level he's played save for 2020.

"I don't think anything affects Bryan Reynolds," Shelton said. "I think that's the one beautiful thing about him is he stays the same all the time. And it's wise, the caliber player he is."

WHEELING NAILERS

FRIDAY MARCH 25
7:10P VS KALAMAZOO

SPECIALTY JERSEY AUCTION

COMMEMORATIVE PUCK GIVEAWAY

FEATURING **PAUL BISSONNETTE**
OF BARSTOOL SPORTS

THROWBACK NIGHT



PITTSBURGH PENGUINS' Brian Boyle (11) is checked into the goal crease behind Columbus Blue Jackets goaltender Joonas Korpisalo (70) by Andrew Peeke (2) during the first period of a hockey game in Pittsburgh, Tuesday. AP PHOTO

Penguins skate by CBJ

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jake Guentzel scored twice during a furious second-period surge, and the Pittsburgh Penguins breezed past the Columbus Blue Jackets 5-1 on Tuesday night.

Radim Zohorna and Bryan Rust also scored during the second for Pittsburgh. Evgeni Malkin added a power-play goal in the third as the Penguins won their third straight. Tristan Jarry stopped 26 shots to improve to 7-1 in his last eight starts.

Rickard Rakell played 14:08 in his first game with Pittsburgh after being acquired from Anaheim at the trade

deadline on Monday.

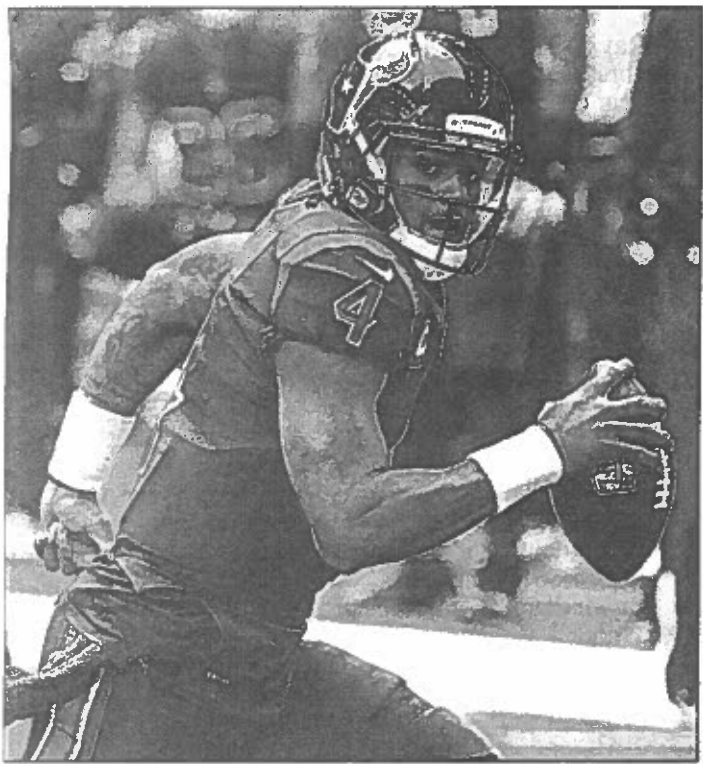
Gustav Nyquist gave the Blue Jackets an early lead with a power-play goal but Columbus simply couldn't keep up. Joonas Korpisalo had trouble handling the heavy traffic in front of him. Korpisalo made 32 saves but Pittsburgh's relentlessness and some shaky play in front of him dropped his record to 1-5-1 all-time against the Penguins.

Pittsburgh general manager Ron Hextall insisted he liked the make-up of his team as the deadline approached. He still sent fourth-liners Dominik Simon and Zach Aston-Re-

ese along with goaltending prospect goalie Calle Clang and a second-round draft pick to Anaheim for Rakell, a speedy, versatile wing Hextall believes will help his team take some of the scoring burden off the top line anchored by Guentzel and Sidney Crosby.

Rakell received an ovation when he skated out for his first shift on the third line with Jeff Carter and Kasper Kapanen. The 10-year NHL veteran also saw time on the second line with Rust and Malkin, something coach Mike Sullivan experimented

See, **PENGUINS**, Page B4



FORMER HOUSTON Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson (4) scrambles against the Bengals during a game in Houston in 2020. Cleveland's blockbuster trade for the legally entangled quarterback became official Sunday. AP FILE PHOTO

Trade for Watson ends up costing Browns a little more

CLEVELAND (AP) — The price for Deshaun Watson went up for the Cleveland Browns in 24 hours. Call it football inflation.

Cleveland's trade for the legally entangled quarterback became official Sunday, when the Browns finalized the complex deal and released statements from owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam explaining their decision to add him to their roster following the team's own extensive investigation.

A three-time Pro Bowler, Watson has been accused of sexual misconduct by 22 female massage therapists.

The Browns' announcement also included terms of the deal that turned out to be inaccurate.

On Monday, when the trade hit the NFL transac-

tions wire, the Browns had sent first- and fourth-round draft picks in 2022 (Nos. 13 and 107), first- and third-rounders in 2023 and first- and fourth-rounders in 2024 to the Texans.

In exchange, the Browns got Watson and a sixth-rounder in 2024.

The original deal didn't include the fourth-round pick this season and had Cleveland getting back a fifth-rounder in '24.

The team did not provide any reason for the change.

Watson is expected to be in Cleveland later this week for a physical and to be introduced by the Browns at a news conference. Plans are still being finalized by the team, which has received some backlash for their decision to trade for him and

See, **BROWNS**, Page B4

There's a few things to watch as the tournament shifts to San Francisco, San Antonio, Chicago and Philadelphia for the regional rounds:

TOP SEEDS

Gonzaga (1 seed). The Zags needed a while to get going against Georgia State and had a stiff test against Memphis, but found a way to reach the Sweet 16 for the seventh straight season.

Arizona (1). These swashbuckling Wildcats have a flair for the dramatic and, as their coach has said, a razor-thin margin for error. But know this: Tommy Lloyd's bunch is fun to watch when they get rolling.

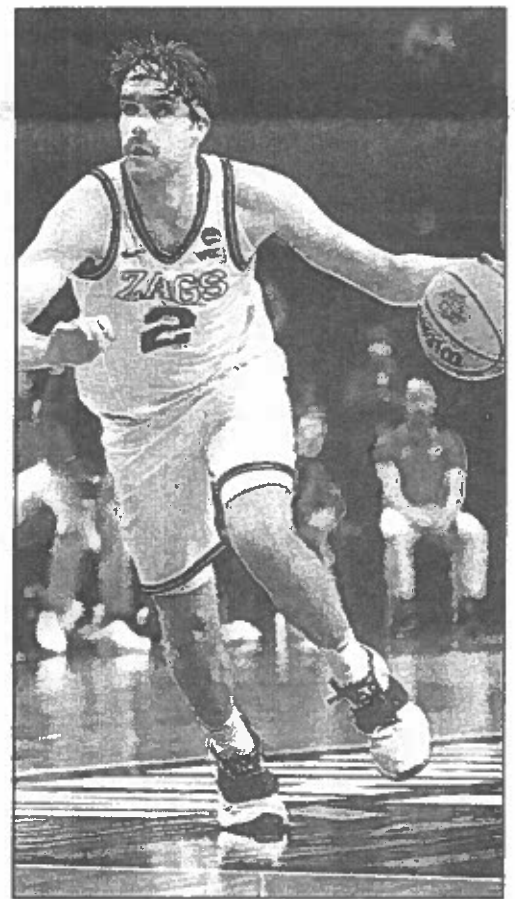
Kansas (1). Another NCAA Tournament, another Sweet 16. That's 32 now for the Jayhawks, who have the type of roster to keep it going.

Duke (2): The Blue Devils had to wrestle out a win against Michigan State to keep Coach K's final run through the bracket going. They face another grinder against Mark Adams' roughneck Red Raiders.

Villanova (2). Any team led by Jay Wright and Collin Gillespie is going to be a tough out.

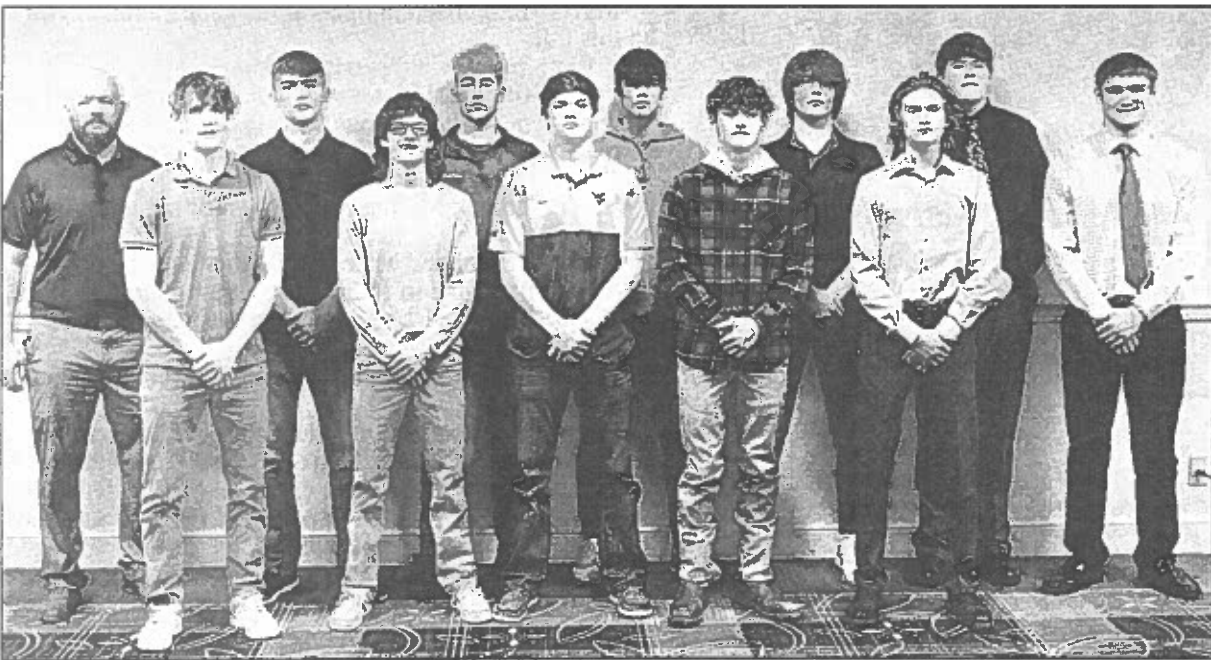
UNDERDOGS

Saint Peter's. The small Jesuit school in Jersey has quickly become America's hoops crush. Taking down No. 2 seed Ken-See, **MARCH**, Page B4



GONZAGA FORWARD Drew Timme (2) drives during the second half of a second-round NCAA college basketball tournament game, last Saturday in Portland, Ore. AP PHOTO

Clash of Champions



Photo/KRISTIN MAZGAJ

THE ANNUAL OVAC vs. MAC Clash of Champions wrestling event will be held this evening at West Liberty University's ASRC, starting at 7 p.m. The OVAC team consists of St. Clairsville's Caden Stout, Wheeling Park's Nate Shelek (132), Cameron's Ian Bush (182), St. Clairsville's Gannon Kazmirski (113), Beaver Local's Logan Ours (160), Indian Creek's Austin Starr (195) and Steubenville's Peyton Tuttle (285), Indian Creek's Tyler Sipes (120); Beaver Local's Mark Emmerling Jr. (138) and Dorian Jackson (145); and University's Elijah Wellings-Osha (170). OVAC coaches include Cameron's Tim Jones; Beaver Local's Johnny McComas; and Wheeling Park's Brian Leggett.

Staley's NCAA fix for inequities? Pay women's teams like men

By **TERESA M. WALKER**
AP Sports Writer

The phrase "March Madness" is everywhere this women's NCAA Tournament.

On scoreboards in place of team names during practices. Scrolling on video ribbon boards. On banners inside the arenas. On the courts themselves with a bit of TV magic through the first two rounds. On hats given to both women and men with swag boxes that are equal for both men's and women's players this spring after an uproar at the tourney a year ago.

It's a start. It's also not enough for the coaches and players — and presumably the NCAA. Growing women's basketball is more than logos, gifts and an equal number of teams, now 68 for both for the first time. South Carolina coach Dawn Staley has an idea the NCAA can implement immediately to really help women close the gap with the men.

"The units," Staley explained, meaning money. "Like men's basketball, they get units, and those units equal dollar signs. I would like for us to divvy it up like the 68 teams get (their money) divvied up once the tournament ends."

Men's conferences get a unit valued this year at \$338,210.96 for each NCAA Tournament game one of their teams plays. The money goes to each team's conference paid out over six years with a true value around \$2.03 million. That means the Big Ten will

See, **NCAA**, Page B4

Counsel/B3

Comics/B4

Classified/B5-6

SPORTS

Monday,
March 21, 2022

'Clash of Champions' set for Wednesday at WLU

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

WEST LIBERTY -- The 26th Tri-State Wrestling "Clash of Champions" between the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference and Pennsylvania's Midwestern Athletic Conference All Stars will be held Wednesday. After a year off due to COVID-19, the seniors-only event will take place inside the ASRC on the campus of West Liberty University at 7 p.m.

The pre-match banquet will be held on Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Undos in Weirton.

The OVAC lineup, which still had two empty weight classes (126 and 215) as of Sunday night, is led by a trio of state

champions, including St. Clairsville's Caden Stout who won the Ohio Division II 150-pound state title. He will compete at 152. The others are Wheeling Park's Nate Shelek (132) and Cameron's Ian Bush (182), both two-time Mountain State champs.

Shelek and Bush are two of six OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament titlists on the local squad, with Stout finishing second. The others are St. Clairsville's Gannon Kazmirski (113), Beaver Local's Logan Ours (160), Indian Creek's Austin Starr (195) and Steubenville's Peyton Tuttle (285). Kazmirski also placed eighth in the D-II state tournament, while Ours -- the OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament Bierkorte Award winner -- was third

and Starr second. Tuttle was a state qualifier.

Rounding out the OVAC roster are Indian Creek's Tyler Sipes (120); Beaver Local's duo of Mark Emmerling Jr. (138) and Dorian Jackson (145); and University's Elijah Wellings-Osha (170). Sipes finished fourth in the OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament, while Emmerling Jr. was sixth and a state qualifier. Jackson and Wellings-Osha were OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament runners-up.

As in the past, there will be no 106-pound match contested.

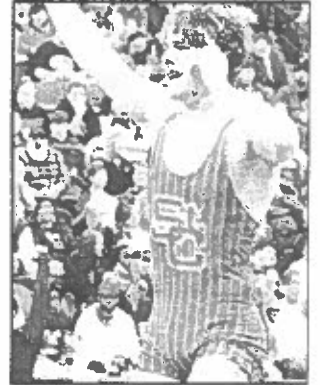
OVAC coaches include Cameron's Tim Jones; Beaver Local's Johnny McComas; and Wheeling Park's Brian Leggett. Jones and Leggett were the Class A and

Class AAA Coaches of the Year, respectively, this year at the 75th annual WVSSAC state tournament when they led the squads to state championships.

The MAC has wrestlers from nine different schools. Central Valley, Montour and Quaker Valley each have two, while Ambridge, Carlynton, Chartiers Valley, Freedom, Moon and South Fayette all have one.

Five Keystone State wrestlers won MAC Tournament titles this season, with Quaker Valley's Patrick Cutchember (189) winning the MAC, WPIAL and finishing fourth at the PIAA's this season. He has 141 career wins and was seventh in the 2020 PIAAs.

See, CLASH, Page B2



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH
ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Caden Stout will lead the OVAC All-Stars against the MAC All-Stars Wednesday in the Tri-State "Clash of Champions."

Byron wins crazy race at Atlanta

HAMPTON, Ga. (AP) -- William Byron had a freight train in his rear-view mirror. A sitting duck, it seemed. Fortunately for him, all those challengers started jostling against each other rather than working together to take down the leader.

While Byron cruised to the checkered flag for the third victory of NASCAR Cup career, one last crash unfolded behind him Sunday in an appropriate finish to a chaotic, thrilling race at remodeled Atlanta Motor Speedway.

"Pretty wild," 24-year-old Byron said. "I'm out of breath. It was crazy."

The reconfigured track -- with new pavement and steeper banking -- lived up to predictions of frenzied pack racing at blistering speeds approaching those seen at Talladega and Daytona.

It was like a short-track race at a superspeedway.

There were 46 lead changes among an Atlanta-record 20 drivers, a traffic jam of tightly bunched cars that never got too far away from each other over a more than four-hour race, nine wrecks that took out several top contenders, and a bunch of smashed-up race cars to lug home.

"It's difficult, it's stressful, it's a different type of racing," said Rudy Fugle, the winner's crew chief.

Byron was leading off the final restart with 13 laps to go. Bubba Wallace briefly grabbed the top spot, only to have the No. 24 Rick Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet pass him right back.

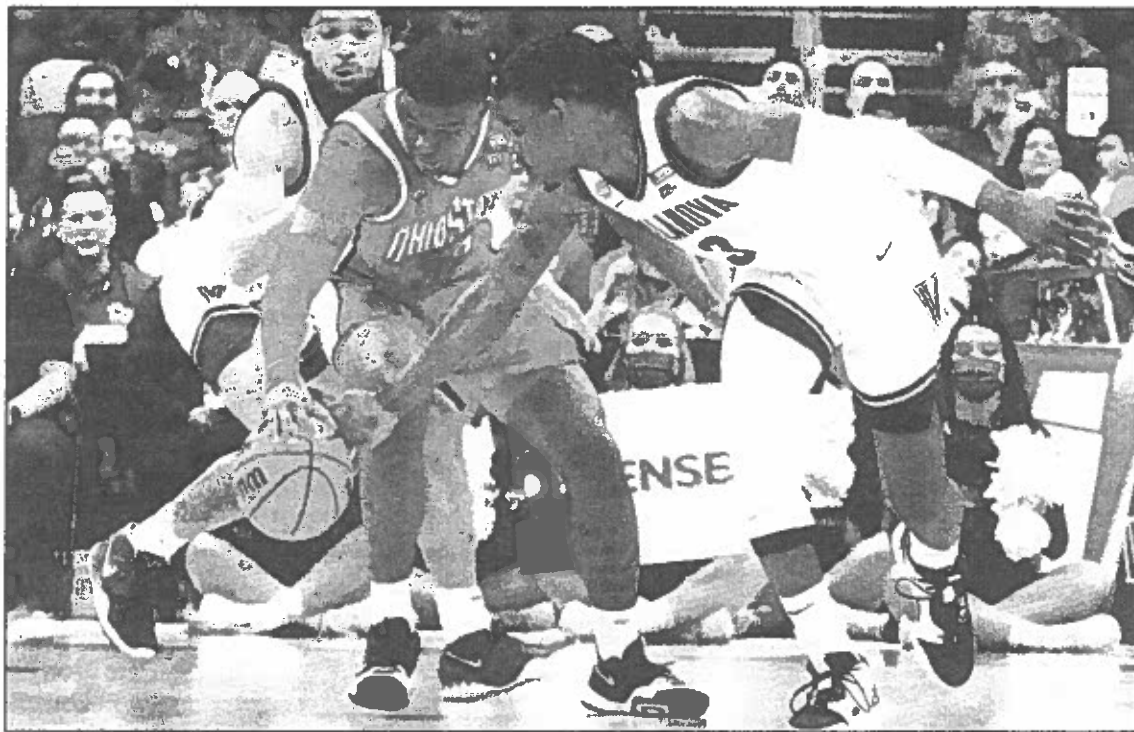
Going for his second career victory, Wallace still seemed to be in the most enviable position, especially if he could get a helpful push for a slingshot on the final lap. But everyone behind Byron started dueling for position, all of them wanting to put themselves in position to make the winning move.

That worked out perfectly for Byron, who pulled away to win by 0.145 seconds over Ross Chastain while the final wreck of the day sent four cars -- including Wallace -- spinning across the line.

"It's tough to be the leader," Fugle said. "We just had a lot of things go right for us."

Wallace finished 13th. The remainder of the top five was Kurt Busch, Daniel Suarez, and Corey LaJoie in his best career showing.

In one last twist, Christopher Bell actually crossed the line second, but



VILLANOVA'S BRANDON Slater (3) knocks the ball away from Ohio State's E.J. Liddell (32) during the first half of a game in the second round of the NCAA tournament in Pittsburgh, Sunday.

AP Photo

Black Sunday for Big 10 squads as four are ousted from tourney

• Ohio State falls to No. 2 Villanova in South Regional

PITTSBURGH (AP) -- Collin Gillespie saw Eric Dixon out of the corner of his eye and sent a cross-court pass that doubled as permission to let it fly.

So Dixon did, knocking down the biggest shot of his team's season, one that sent the second-seeded Wildcats back to familiar territory against a familiar opponent on a familiar stage.

Dixon's 3-pointer from the wing with 1:38 to go gave Villanova the breathing room it needed in a 71-61 win over seventh-seeded Ohio State in the second round of the NCAA Tournament on Sunday, propelling the Wildcats (28-7) back to San Antonio to face 11th-seeded Michigan (19-14) in the South Regional semifinal on Thursday.

Four years ago, Gillespie was a

freshman on the Villanova team that held off the Wolverines for the program's second national title in three seasons. Now he's a two-time Big East Player of the Year and the unquestioned leader of a group that seems to feed off Gillespie's "follow me" vibe, one on full display in the final moments.

The Wildcats led by 64-59 when Gillespie backed into the post. The Buckeyes scrambled to double-team him, freeing up the 6-foot-8 Dixon. Gillespie had options.

The fact he sent it over to a player with just 28 3-point attempts on the season hardly mattered. It was the smart play. Gillespie made it. It's what he does.

Dixon caught the ball and drilled the shot, buoyed by the show of faith from

Gillespie.

"I think they have the confidence if 'Collin is giving it to me, that's telling me, Go ahead and shoot it,'" Villanova coach Wright said.

Gillespie finished with 20 points, four assists with a steal and a rebound against just one turnover in 38 minutes. Dixon's 3-pointer gave him 13 points and eight rebounds as the Wildcats fended off a second-half push from the Buckeyes (20-12), who trimmed a 15-point deficit to two before Villanova regained its footing.

"They had a stretch where they were hitting shot after shot, and we just stuck together and came together on the defensive end and told each other, 'Let's get this next stop, let's get this next stop' and tried to make the next play."

See, OHIO, Page B2

• No. 7, Michigan St., No. 4 Illinois, No. 3 Wisconsin bow out

By The Associated Press

Duke survived a tense finish against Michigan State and extended Mike Krzyzewski's final NCAA Tournament run, beating Tom Izzo's Spartans 85-76 on Sunday in the Hall of Fame coaches' bittersweet last tussle.

Star freshman Paolo Banchero scored 19 points and muscled in the go-ahead drive through contact with 2:05 left, putting the Blue Devils (30-6) ahead to stay in the record-extending 1,200th win of Krzyzewski's career. Duke reached the Sweet 16 for the 26th time under Coach K.

Jamal Sheard added 18 and Houston, a Final Four team last season, advanced to the Sweet 16 by beating Illinois, which bowed out in the opening weekend for the second straight year.

The fifth-seeded Cougars (31-5), who lost their two best players to season-ending injuries, are headed home to Texas for the South Region semifinals, which will be in San Antonio, about a three-hour drive from Houston. They will face Arizona or TCU.

For Illinois, it's another year of deep disappointment. The fourth-seeded Fighting Illini (23-10) were determined to

They got no closer. Jermaine Samuels hit a layup and Gillespie knocked down a pull-up jumper before Dixon delivered the knockout punch.

"Credit to (Villanova), they played hard," Ohio State star E.J. Liddell said. "I thought we went out there and played hard but we've got to take care of the ball a little bit more."

Liddell scored 17 points and six rebounds in likely his final game with the Buckeyes before heading to the NBA. Big Ten Freshman of the Year Malachi Branham — who could be joining Lid-

was forced to play the final 8:55 without forward Kyle Young, who was being evaluated for a concussion after taking a blow to the head. Young missed several games late in the season while in the concussion protocol.

The Buckeyes found a way to keep it close after he left but never got over the top while falling to 0-3 in the second round under coach Chris Holtmann.

"Gotta keep getting here, gotta keep growing," Holtmann said, later adding, "You keep getting you get here consistently, and it will happen."

the Big East Tournament title, the Wildcats won their first two tournament games in Pittsburgh by double digits, just as they did in 2018 on their way to a national title that culminated with a blowout over Michigan.

Gillespie and Samuels both said they didn't consider the parallels between 2018 and 2022 until someone brought it to their attention. It's a different team than the one that was never tested on its way to a championship.

Yet just like that group, this one appears to be peaking, led by the unas-

Ohio State had no answers. Two days removed from a dominant win over Loyola Chicago, the Buckeyes' swagger vanished against the more polished and poised Wildcats.

"When (Ohio State) makes the run if you haven't been there before and know that you can withstand that, that this is what happens when you play great teams and it's happened to you before, and you can fight through it, if you haven't done it, it's hard, you can panic," Wright said. "But all these guys have been there."

It's the Villanova way.

ESPN — NCAA Tournament: UCF at UConn, Second Round 10 p.m.
 ESPN2 — NCAA Tournament: North Carolina at Arizona, Second Round 7 p.m.
 SECN — South Carolina at Auburn 1 p.m.
 MLB BASEBALL
 MLB — Spring Training: Philadelphia vs. NY Yankees, Tampa, Fla. 4 p.m.
 MLB — Spring Training: Texas vs. Cleveland, Goodyear, Ariz. 7:30 p.m.
 NBA BASKETBALL
 NBATV — Utah at Brooklyn 7 p.m.
 NHL HOCKEY
 NHLN — Boston at Montreal

Duke 85, Michigan St. 76
 At Chase Center
 San Francisco Regional Semifinals Thursday, March 24
 Gonzaga vs. Arkansas, TBA
 Duke vs. Texas Tech, TBA
 Regional Championship Saturday, March 26
 TBA
 FINAL FOUR
 At Caesars Superdome New Orleans National Semifinals Saturday, April 2
 TBA
 National Championship Monday, April 4
 Semifinal winners, TBA

Watson deal done; Cleveland defends decision to add QB

By TOM WITHERS
 AP Sports Writer

Deshaun Watson's complicated past didn't dissuade the Cleveland Browns from betting on the quarterback's future.

He is on Cleveland's roster, and at this point that is the only certainty with the talented yet controversial QB.

Watson's stunning trade to the Browns became official Sunday, capping a whirlwind few days during in which the three-time Pro Bowler — accused by 22 women of sexual harassment or assault — agreed to come to Cleveland after initially telling the team he wouldn't.

The Browns are taking heat for bringing in Watson with his legal baggage, but the team feels comfortable with its decision.

"We spent a tremendous amount of time exploring and investigating the opportunity to trade for Deshaun Watson," Browns owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam said in a team news release. "We are acutely aware and empathetic to the highly personal sentiments expressed about this decision. Our team's comprehensive evaluation process was of utmost importance due to the sensitive nature of his situation and the complex factors involved."

"We also understand there are still some legal proceedings that are ongoing and we will respect due process."

Desperate to win, the Browns have gone all in for Watson, sending first-round picks the next three seasons to Houston along with a 2023 third-rounder and 2024 fourth-rounder. The Texans will part with Watson and a 2024 fifth-round pick.

Cleveland is also giving Watson, who is still facing civil lawsuits, public scorn and possible NFL discipline, a fully guaranteed \$230 million contract.

Last week, the Haslams flew to Houston with general manager Andrew Berry and coach Kevin Stefanski and met with Watson to discuss his situation and future. The 26-year-old was also courted by Atlanta, Carolina and New Orleans.

The Browns came away satisfied with Watson's character.

"He was humble, sincere and candid," the Haslams said. "In our conversations, Deshaun detailed his commitment to leading our team; he understands and embraces the hard work needed to build his name both in the community and on the field. ... We are confident in Deshaun and excited about moving forward with him as our quarterback and supporting his genuine and determined efforts."

It's still not known when Watson will be in Cleveland, where fans have been debating the trade for days. The Browns are still working on plans for a possible news conference.

Now that the trade is complete, Watson and the Browns are facing tough questions about their new partnership.

For Watson, Cleveland represents a fresh start. For the Browns, he brings hope along with criticism.

While they become an instant possible Super Bowl contender following another disappointing season, the Browns are also being condemned for taking a player with ongoing legal issues. Nearly two dozen female massage therapists have alleged he assaulted them during rehab sessions.

• Clash

Continued from Page B1

Other MAC champs are Moon's Khyvon Grace (132), Central Valley's Rodriguez (126); Ambrose's Tyler Holman (145); Chartiers Valley's Diemert (172) and Freedom's Landon Millward (215). Boni was sixth at the PIAAs.

ette's Jimmy Anderson (120); Carlynton's Bryce Rodriguez (126); Ambrose's Tyler Holman (145); Chartiers Valley's Christopher Beatty (152); Montour's Aaron DeLuca (160); and Central Valley's Lance Crawley (285).

The MAC roster is filled by Montour's James Walzer (113); South Fay-

The OVAC leads the all-time series, 18-7.

OGDEN NEWSPAPERS

SK TWIN POPS RUN

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Paterson worked the first six innings of no-hit ball to earn the win in the first game, striking out 7 and walking just one before handing the ball to Amend, who struck out the side in the seventh to complete the gem.

Paterson helped her own cause at the plate with a two-run homer and a single. Grace Swigart also launched a two-run circuit blast and added a single for a multi-hit game. Katelynn Blair chimed in with a solo shot and Jairika Baylor contributed a run-scoring triple.

Alderson Broaddus took a 2-1 lead into the fifth inning of the second game but that's when the WLU bats rumbled to life.

Beeman got things started with a two-run double and came trotting home to score on an RBI two-bagger from Paterson. Swigart capped the inning with an RBI single for a 5-2 West Liberty lead.

Taylor Bonnett came on in relief of winning pitcher Riley Bennington in the sixth and earned the save with two scoreless innings.

Kieran Johnson had two hits and drove in a run to put the Black and Gold on the board in the bottom of the fourth.

The Hilltoppers return to



Photo by WLU Athletics

West Liberty's Makenzie Amend pitches in a past game. She helped combine for a no-hitter for the Hilltoppers on Sunday.

the WLU Softball Complex on Monday for another MEC doubleheader against Notre Dame (Ohio). First pitch is set for noon.

Wheeling 7-11

Notre Dame 6-18

Wheeling — The Wheeling University Softball team (8-9, 1-1) opened up Mountain East Conference (MEC) play with doubleheader action on Sunday against Notre Dame College at the J.B. Chambers Softball Com-

plex. They split the two games and brought the bats, scoring a come from behind 7-6 victory in game one before falling to the Falcons 18-11 in the second game of the day.

After an early outburst by both teams in the first, it was a back and forth affair in the first game of the day for the Cardinals.

Please see NO-NO, Page 10

scored 20 points, Eric Dixon hit a big 3-pointer late and second-seeded Villanova fended off seventh-seeded Ohio State 71-61 on Sunday.

The Wildcats (28-7) earned their eighth trip to the Sweet 16 under Jay Wright after surviving a second-half push from the Buckeyes (20-12), who trimmed a 15-point deficit to two before Villanova regained its footing.

The Wildcats will continue their quest for a third national title in seven seasons when they face 11th-seeded Michigan in the South Region semifinals on Thursday night in San Antonio.

Malachi Branham scored 15 of his 23 points in the second half. E.J. Liddell added 17 in likely his final game with the Buckeyes before heading to the NBA.

WEST REGION DUKE 85, MICHIGAN STATE 76

Duke survived a tense finish against Michigan State and extended Mike Krzyzewski's final NCAA Tournament run,

coaches Dittersweet last tussle.

Star freshman Paolo Banchero scored 19 points and muscled in the go-ahead drive through contact with 2:05 left, putting the Blue Devils (30-6) ahead to stay in the record-extending 1,200th win of Krzyzewski's career. Duke reached the Sweet 16 for the 26th time under Coach K, who announced last summer that his 42nd season with the Blue Devils would be his last.

Those coaching milestones came against his longtime friend and frequent rival. The 75-year-old Krzyzewski — who has five NCAA titles and a record-tying 12 Final Four appearances — improved to 13-3 against the 67-year-old Izzo, who won the 2000 national championship and has reached eight Final Fours.

Krzyzewski will continue his push for a career-capping championship when the second-seeded Blue Devils

Please see OSU Page 10

Nailers Split Weekend Contests on the Road

KALAMAZOO, MI- Sunday afternoon's game at Wings Event Center was a wild one, which featured lots of emotions. Trailing 4-1 early, the Wheeling Nailers probably felt fortunate to get a point out of the game. However, tying and winning goals for the Kalamazoo Wings on the power play left the visitors with a sour taste in their mouths, as the Wings came away with a 7-6 overtime decision. Patrick Watling had a fantastic day for Wheeling with four goals, while Sam Houde added five assists.

The majority of the first period was okay for the Nailers, but there was also a very forgettable 61-second span. Kalamazoo got on the board first at the 1:17 mark on a close call. Logan Lambdin gloved down a pass from Kyle Blaney, and was able to get a whisker

of his stick blade on the puck to direct it into the right side of the net. Wheeling answered that goal at the 4:48 mark. Cam Hausinger tossed a backhander under Jake Kielly's arm, which sat in the crease, before Jesse Lees eventually pushed the puck in over the line. Raymond Brice put the Wings back on top with a left side snap shot off the rush at the 8:32 mark. Four seconds later, Max Humitz roofed a forehand shot on a breakaway, and 57 seconds after that, Jake Slaker whizzed a shot into the top-right corner, after speeding down the left side of the ice. The Nailers got a goal back with under two minutes to go, as Patrick Watling wired in a pass from Sam Houde on the left side of the slot.

That late strike gave Wheeling serious momentum into the middle frame. Specifically, Watling was a man on a

mission. He tipped in a net front feed by Justin Almeida to cut the deficit to one, then he completed his natural hat trick by slamming in a centering feed from Houde on the power play. Anthony Collins briefly gave the Wings the lead 33 seconds later, when he deposited the rebound of Giovanni Vallati's point shot. Three minutes after that, the Nailers drew even again, as Justin Almeida slid a power play wrist shot in from the top of the right circle. Wheeling then took its first lead of the day, as Watling got his fourth of the contest by tipping in a right side slap shot by Cam Hausinger.

Midway through the third, Kalamazoo tied the score, after goaltender Trevor Gorsuch sold a goaltender interference penalty on Shaw Boomhower. Erik Bradford converted on the man advantage by scoring from the left circle.

In the extra period, the Nailers were victimized by another penalty call, as Patrick Watling and Eric Kattelus were involved in a 50-50 puck battle and Watling was assessed the minor. 37 seconds into the power play, the Wings got the win, as Kyle Blaney sifted a pass into the slot, which was redirected in by Justin Taylor for the 7-6 final.

SATURDAY

Nailers 4, Indy 1

INDIANAPOLIS, IN- The Wheeling Nailers needed a win in a big way on Saturday night at Indiana Farmers Coliseum, and they got it, thanks to a solid performance in all three zones. Tim Doherty opened and closed the scoring, plus he assisted on Justin Almeida's eventual game winner, while Alex

Please see NAILERS, Page 10

Malkin And Crosby Lift Penguins

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Evgeni Malkin is starting to get his game back, which means trouble for the Pittsburgh Penguins' opponents.

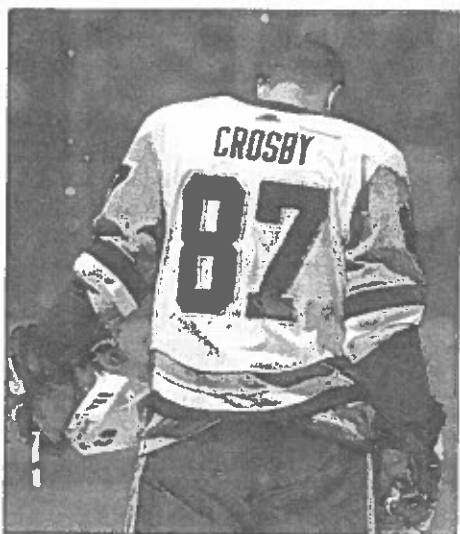
Malkin broke a tie with 7:24 remaining and Sidney Crosby added a pair of goals in the Penguins' 4-1 victory over the Arizona Coyotes on Saturday.

"His last three games have been his best since he's been back," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said about Malkin. The Russian center hadn't scored in his last six games and has 11 goals this season in 27 games after missing the first three months while recovering from offseason surgery on his right knee.

Malkin was stopped on a drive to the net against Scott Wedgewood, but finally corralled the puck and chipped it in.

He was especially excited, as were the many Penguins fans among the 14,507 for the matinee game.

"He loves to score. There aren't too many guys who get more excited about



AP Photo

Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby (87) during the National Anthem before their NHL hockey game against the Arizona Coyotes Saturday.

scoring goals," Sullivan said. "But he's also a real competitive guy."

Crosby picked up a rebound off Jake Guentzel's shot to score with 3:37 left and added an empty-net goal with 1:50 to play, giving him 22 goals for the season.

The Penguins outshot the Coyotes 48-21 for the game but had trouble finding the net.

Please see PENGUINS, Page 10

Clash of Champions To Be Held on Wednesday

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

WEST LIBERTY — The 26th Tri-State Wrestling "Clash of Champions" between the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference and Pennsylvania's Midwestern Athletic Conference All Stars will be held Wednesday. After a year off due to COVID-19, the seniors-only event will take place inside the ASRC on the campus of West Liberty University at 7 p.m.

The pre-match banquet will be held on Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Undos in Weirton.

The OVAC lineup, which still had two empty weight classes (126 and 215) as of Sunday night, is led by a trio of state champions, including St. Clairsville's Caden Stout who won the Ohio Division II 150-pound state title. He will compete at 152. The others are Wheeling Park's Nate Shelek (132) and Cameron's Ian Bush (182), both two-time Mountain State champs.

Shelek and Bush are two of six OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament t-tlists on the local squad, with Stout finishing second. The others are St.

Clairsville's Gannon Kazmirski (113), Beaver Local's Logan Ours (160), Indian Creek's Austin Starr (195) and Steubenville's Peyton Tuttle (285). Kazmirski also placed eighth in the D-II state tournament, while Ours — the OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament Bierkorte Award winner — was third and Starr second. Tuttle was a state qualifier.

Rounding out the OVAC roster are Indian Creek's Tyler Sipes (120); Beaver Local's duo of Mark Emmerling Jr. (138) and Dorian Jackson (145); and University's Elijah Wellings-Osha (170). Sipes finished fourth in the OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament, while Emmerling Jr. was sixth and a state qualifier. Jackson and Wellings-Osha were OVAC Ron Mauck Tournament runners-up.

As in the past, there will be no 106-pound match contested.

OVAC coaches include Cameron's Tim Jones; Beaver Local's Johnny McComas; and Wheeling Park's Brian Leggett.

Please see CLASH, Page 10

Tyler's Walton Fires No-Hitter

SISTERSVILLE — Knights were led by Mason Nichols with a hit and two RBI, while Tyler Ferrell added a RBI. In the nightcap, Tyler fell 14-2 but Walton provided both RBI with a single.

Walton struck out 16 of the 26 hitters in the masterpiece and walked four. At the plate, the Silver

Knights were led by Mason Nichols with a hit and two RBI, while Tyler Ferrell added a RBI. In the nightcap, Tyler fell 14-2 but Walton provided both RBI with a single.



WALTON

Weir 2, John Marshall 0 WEIRTON — Weir only had two hits but it was enough to upend visiting John Marshall.

Jack Scopel delivered both hits for the Red

Raiders and added a RBI in the win. Dillon Wright fanned nine for the Monarchs.

SOFTBALL Weir 9, Brooke 4 WELLSBURG — Madison Angus provided a RBI double and Malloory Rosnick tallied a RBI single as Weir upended Brooke.

Creighton Downs Iowa Late

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Lauren Jensen scored 19 points against her former team, including the go-ahead 3 with 12.9 seconds left that lifted No. 10 Creighton over Caitlin Clark and second-seeded Iowa 64-62 Sunday in the second round of the women's NCAA Tournament.

GREENSBORO REGION IOWA STATE 67 GEORGIA 44 — Lexi Donarski scored 20 points and third-seeded Iowa State raced to its first Sweet 16 appearance since 2010 with a win over sixth-seeded Georgia.

SOUTH CAROLINA 49 MIAMI 33 — Aliyah Boston had 10 points

rebounds for her 26th double-double in a row as top-seeded South Carolina used its strong defense to hold off Miami.

SPOKANE REGION STANFORD 91 KANSAS 65 — Lexie Hull scored a career-high 36 points with six 3-pointers and made six steals, leading No. 1 seed Stanford past eighth-seeded in the second round of the NCAA Tournament on Sunday night.

MARYLAND 89 FLORIDA GULF COAST 65 — Diamond Miller scored 24 points as fourth-seeded Maryland used a 19-0 run spanning parts of both halves to pull away from 12th-seeded Florida Gulf Coast.

TEXAS 78, UTAH 56 — AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Aaliyah Moore scored 21 points and Texas shut down Utah's prolific 3-point shooting as the Longhorns earned another trip to the Sweet 16.

WICHITA REGION LOUISVILLE 68 GONZAGA 59 — LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Hailey Van Lith scored 21 points and Louisville advanced to the Sweet 16 after a 68-59 win over Gonzaga.

SOUTH DAKOTA 61 BAYLOR 47 — WACO, Texas (AP) — Hannah Sjerven scored 16 points and Chloe Lamb had 15 as 10th-seeded South Dakota shocked Baylor to advance to the Sweet 16 for the first time ever.



Pepe Enters HOF

Brooke soccer coach Joe Pepe speaks this weekend as he was inducted into the West Virginia Soccer Association Hall of Fame. Joining Pepe in this year's class were Kathryn "Kittie" Chandler, Gavin Donaldson and Tom Plymale.

No-No

(Continued from Page 9) However, they entered the bottom of the seventh trailing 6-5 and looking for a way to push that extra run across to win the game. Taylor Hradek singled to start the inning, but was caught stealing for the first out, and Makie Paxson picked her up with a one-out double to give Wheeling a runner in scoring position. That was enough as Brooke Slomkowski pushed a single to center scoring Paxson and tying the game at 6-6. Gina Fogle then stepped in and won the game with a walk-off RBI double to give Wheeling a big boost as they won 7-6.

Game two saw both offenses bring the bats in a game where Wheeling tried to go swing for swing with the potent Falcons lineup. Madison Macy got the start for Wheeling and things didn't go her way early on as Notre Dame put up six first inning runs.

BASEBALL

West Liberty Earns First Win — WEST LIBERTY — Justin Pennybacker hurled a masterful two-hit shutout and the West Liberty University baseball team handed regionally-ranked Glenville State a 2-0 loss in the first game of Sunday's doubleheader at Kovalick Field.

The Pioneers (13-3, 1-1), No. 7 in the most recent NCAA Division II Atlantic Region rankings, got their bats going in the second game to earn a split with Coach Eric Burkle's Hilltoppers (1-14, 1-1) in the mutual Mountain East Conference opener.

Pennybacker, a junior from Brooke, held the Pioneers to a bad-hop infield single and a line drive single to right. He needed less than 90 pitches to go the distance for the complete-game shutout win, striking out 5 and walking one.

CLASH

(Continued from Page 9) Jones and Leggett were the Class A and Class AAA Coaches of the Year, respectively, this year at the 75th annual WVSSAC state tournament when they led the squads to state championships.

The MAC has wrestlers from nine different schools. Central Valley, Montour and Quaker Valley each have two, while Ambridge, Carlynton, Chartiers Valley, Freedom, Moon and South

Fayette all have one. Five Keystone State wrestlers won MAC Tournament titles this season, with Quaker Valley's Patrick Cutchember (189) winning the MAC, WPIAL and finishing fourth at the PIAA's this season. He has 141 career wins and was seventh in the 2020 PIAAs. Other MAC champs are Moon's Khyvon Grace (132), Central Valley's Ambrose Boni (138), Quaker Valley's Mason Diemert (172) and Freedom's Landon Millward (215). Boni was sixth at the PIAAs. The MAC roster is filled by Montour's James Walzer (113); South Fayette's Jimmy Anderson (120); Carlynton's Bryce Rodriguez (126); Ambridge's Tyler Holman (145); Chartiers Valley's Christopher Beatty (152); Montour's Aaron DeLuca (160); and Central Valley's Lance Crawley (285). The OVAC leads the all-time series, 18-7.

NAILERS

(Continued from Page 9) D'Orio made 24 saves, as the Nailers upended the Indy Fuel, 4-1.

The Nailers had a great first period, as they jumped out to a 2-0 lead. The first marker came on the man advantage, following an undisciplined penalty by Indy's Riley McKay. Tim Doherty swatted at a loose puck at the right dot, and was able to guide a shot through goaltender Justin Kapelmaster. Doherty was also involved on the next goal, as he took a pass from Sean Josling to create a 2-on-1 break. Doherty delivered a perfect feed through the slot to Justin Almeida, who picked his

spot and roofed a wrist shot from the left side.

Indy got a goal back in the early stages of the middle frame, but Wheeling carried its lead through the rest of the period. Bryan Lemos was the scorer, as he wired in a one-time feed from the slot, which was set up by Spencer Watson.

The Nailers maintained their one-goal advantage until the closing minutes of the contest, when they tacked on two empty netters to put the exclamation points on the 4-1 triumph. Jared Cockrell and Doherty were responsible for the final daggers.

PENGUINS

(Continued from Page 9) **SUNDAY RANGERS 2 HURRICANES 0** — RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Alexander Georgiev made a season-high 44 saves for his seventh career shutout. Chris Krieder broke a scoreless tie late in the second period and the New York Rangers beat the Carolina Hurricanes 2-0 on Sunday night.

FLYERS 2 ISLANDERS 1 — PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Kevin Hayes scored both goals for Philadelphia and the Flyers beat the New York Islanders in their first game since trading long-time captain Claude Giroux.

STAR 3 CAPITALS 2 — WASHINGTON (AP) — Roope Hintz scored twice on the power play to compensate for Alex Ovechkin's 40th goal of the season, leading Dallas past Washington.

JETS 6 BLACKHAWKS 4 — CHICAGO (AP) — Jansen Harkins scored twice. Kyle Connor got his 39th goal of the season and Winnipeg beat Chicago.

SHARKS 4 COYOTES 2 — SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Noah Gregor had the go-ahead goal in the third period and added an assist to help San Jose rally past Arizona and snap a three-game losing streak. Phil Kessel also had a goal for the Coyotes.

OSU

(Continued from Page 9) head to San Francisco to play Texas Tech next week in the West Region semifinals.

TEXAS TECH 59, NOTRE DAME 53

defense to hold off Johnny Davis and company in front of a raucous pro-Wisconsin crowd about 80 miles away from the school's Madison campus.

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