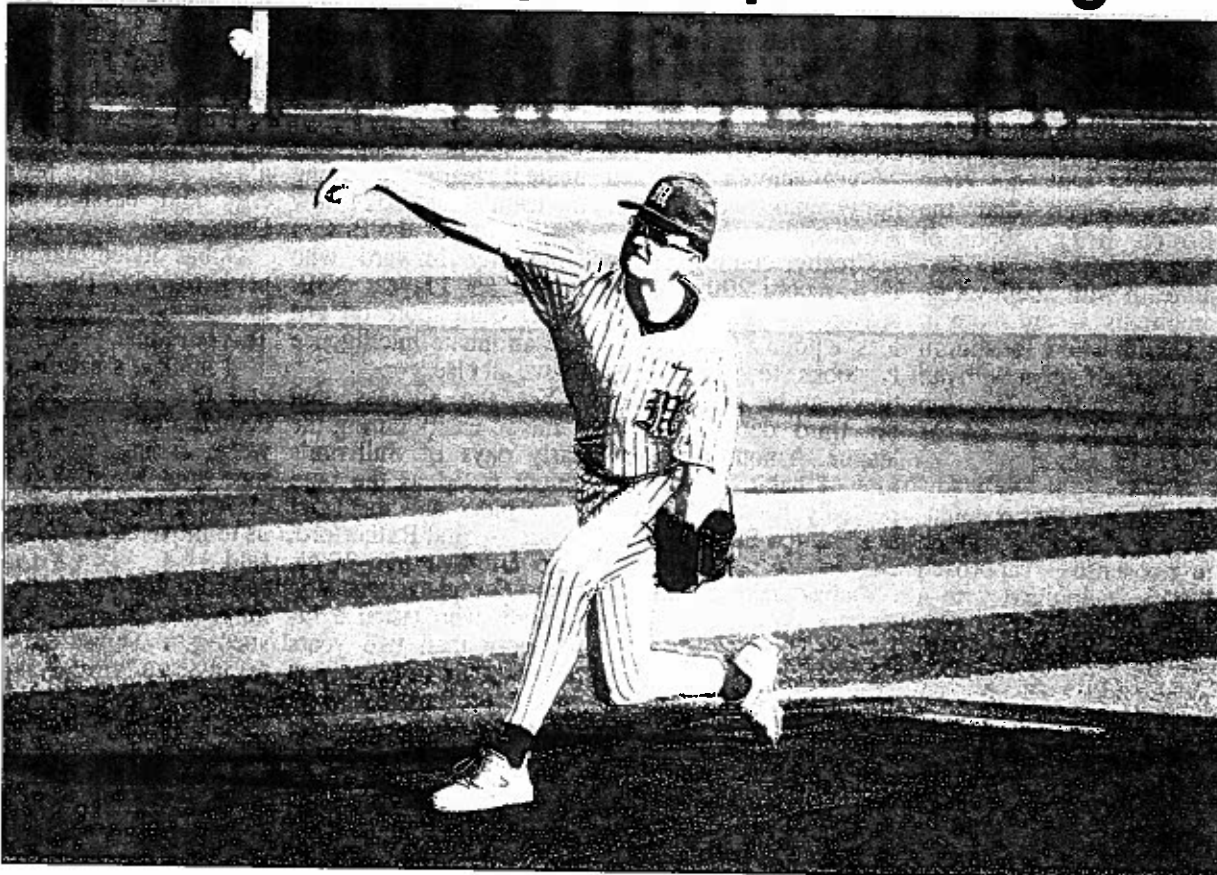


Madonna Comes Through In Seventh, Claims 1A Championship Over Dragons



Madonna's Reed Wilharm throws a pitch during the Blue Dons' OVAC 1A championship matchup against Cameron on Monday at the Edison Unified Sports Complex. Wilharm was named the game's MVP and fired a no-hitter on the mound.

Photo by Andrew Grimm

**By ANDREW GRIMM
For The Intelligencer**

RICHMOND - It's not over 'til it's over.

The Madonna baseball team proved that old adage to be true on Monday in the OVAC Class A championship game.

Going to the bottom of the seventh without a hit, the Dons were down to their last out against rival Cameron and in a two-run hole when Jacob Lazear came up and sent a two-out, two-run triple to the fence in right center to tie the game, then Koleton Grishkevich came up next and walked-it-off with an RBI single to plate Lazear and give the Blue Dons a thrilling 3-2 victory and stun the Dragons.

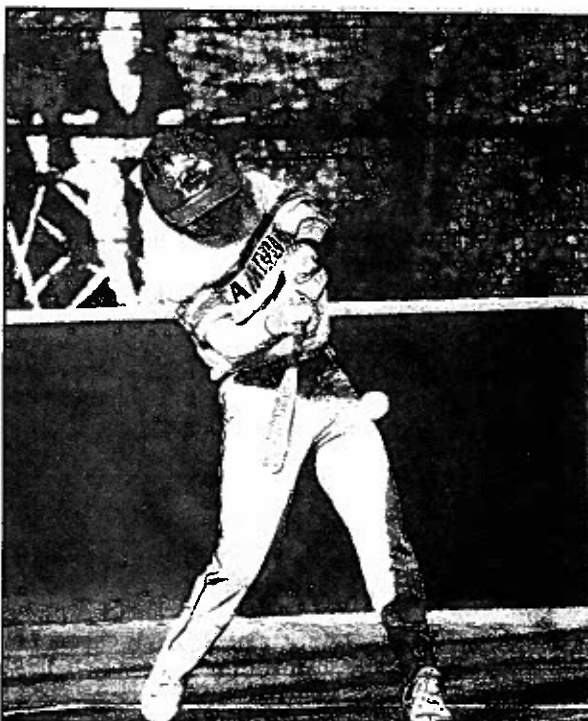
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handled the adversity and these guys stayed patient against a really good pitcher and were able to come through at the end. They never lost hope.

"Koleton is a phenomenal athlete, if I could pick who I would want up in that situation he would definitely be one of them. He did a great job. We talked (before the at bat) and I told him to hunt fastballs, hunt strikes, we just needed and single and he did a great job and come through."

The game was an epic dual on the mound.

The Dons' starter, Reed Wilharm, fired a no-hitter and was awarded game MVP, while Cameron starter Kason Angel had held Madonna's powerful lineup out of the hit col-



River's Mallorie made a two-run homer in the night in an OVAC Class A championship game at the 1-470 J.B. Chambers Com. However, the

Caldwell River In 2

By I
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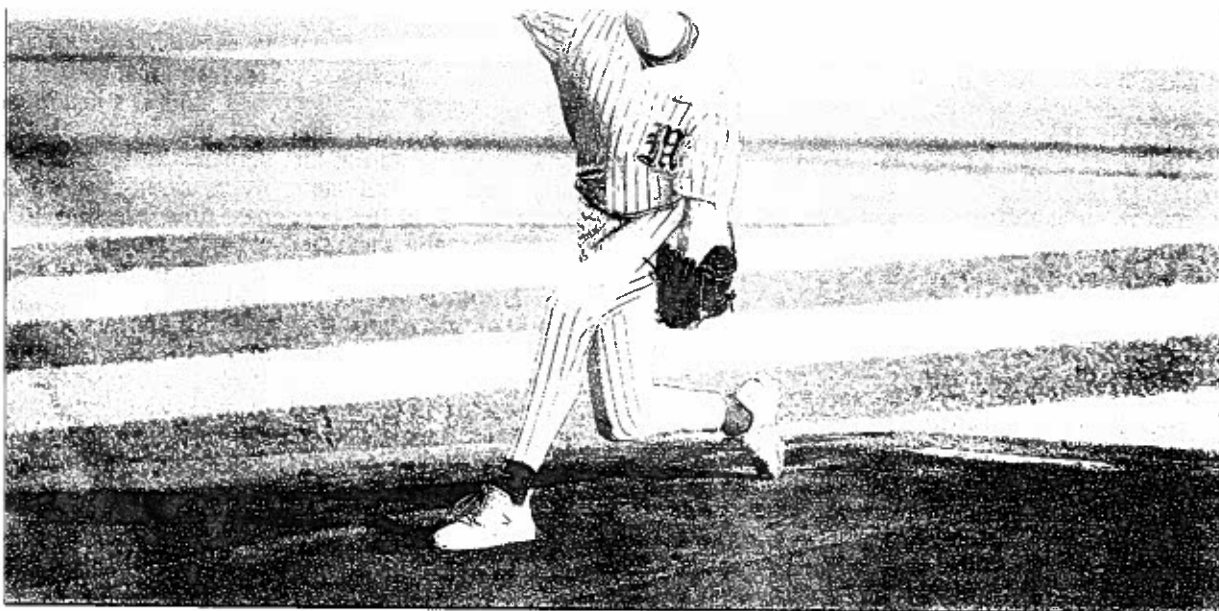
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"These guys handle adversity very well and they battle," Madonna head coach TJ Miller said. "I can't say enough about these guys. We know Cameron is always going to give us their best, we

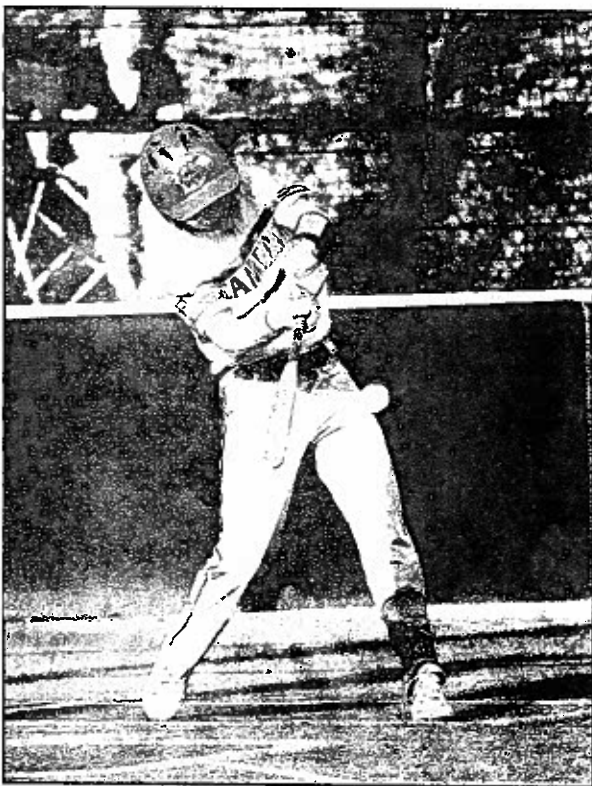
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The game was an epic dual on the mound.

The Dons' starter, Reed Wilharm, fired a no-hitter and was awarded game MVP, while Cameron starter Kason Angel had held Madonna's powerful lineup out of the hit column through six innings, but was up against the pitch count limit going to the final inning.

Please see **SEVENTH**,
Page 10



Cameron's Wes Starcher connects with a pitch during the Dragons' OVAC 1A championship matchup against Madonna on Monday at the Edison Unified Sports Complex.

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Please see



Morgantown, Linsly Lead OVAC

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

GLEN DALE - Dover and Morgantown have made the OVAC 'Big School' tennis division a two-team race, while Linsly tops the 'Small School' field after the first of four days of competition on the John Marshall



ened to go out.

Yet with the Penguins in the middle of an inevitable reset that has no tentative end date, general manager Kyle Dubas felt it simply was time to go in another direction, parting ways with Sullivan in something that felt less like a firing and more like a shift change.

"Sometimes the class

"There's a reason why it's essentially impossible, (why) it has not been done, where a coach has led a team to winning and being in contention and through a transition all the way back," Dubas said. "And I think that two things can be true: That someone can be a great head coach and then they'll move on to become a great coach on

whose profiles — a veteran team with Stanley Cup ambitions — are more in line with where Pittsburgh found itself when Sullivan replaced Mike Johnston in the early stages of the 2015-16 season.

The longtime NHL forward known for his defensive play brought a direct, no-nonsense approach that — combined with a

Crosby, coming off an NHL-record 20th straight season of averaging at least a point a game, hardly looks to be slowing down as he prepares for his third decade in the league. A notorious creature of habit, Crosby repeatedly backed Sullivan even as the Penguins faded into also-rans.

Dubas said he had a

University forward forged an 11-year career built more on and an innate intelligence above all else.

Yet the success came so easily during early days of Sullivan tenure faded as the grew older and the office — first Ruthert who left in early 20 then his replacement Hextall, who lasted a little more than two years before being fired — unable to find the pieces to fill out a roster that quickly became and top heavy.

Pittsburgh narrowly missed the postseason in 2023. The franchise missed it by a little more in 2024, and a little more still this year, undon a combination of sh goaltending and a shakier defense.

Yet a week ago, bas said that as long Sullivan was all in on team's commitment look to the future,

SEVENTH

(Continued from Page 9)

Kaiden Wells leadoff single in the seventh broke up the no-hitter, and Angel was forced to depart with one out after striking out 11 batters, though he walked six and hit one which ran up his pitch count.

Soier Reed came on and, after walking a batter, fired a strikeout to put the Dragons (14-8) one out away, but the Blue Dons (16-2) had other plans.

"Kason Angel threw a great game for them, he's a great kid" Miller said. "We knew going to the last inning he was at 105 so we wanted to be patient at the plate and wait for strikes. They had to change and we got some timely hits. These guys were hyped up and got it done."

Wilhelm struck out 10 batters, walked four, and gave up just one earned run. Cameron scored on a two-out error in the first inning and

went ahead 2-0 on a Hunter Evans sac bunt in the fourth. Over the final three innings, though, Wilhelm shut things down, retiring the last nine-straight batters he faced, working a 1-2-3 sixth and striking out the side in the seventh to set up the rally.

"I can't speak highly enough Reed," Miller said. "He's a great pitcher, he's one of our top dogs. He wanted the ball today and was hungry. We had a little bit of adversity and he battled through. He pitched a phenomenal game and put us in a great position to have a chance to win this game."

"He didn't want to come out. Usually I don't like to go three times through a lineup, but he was a man on a mission and we let it ride and he did a phenomenal job. He got better as the game went and that's Reed, he's a bulldog."

It is the second-straight OVAC

title for the Blue Dons and their fifth in the last eight years. The Blue Dons and Dragons have combined to win the last seven Class A titles

The teams, who are ranked No. 1 and No. 5 in West Virginia Class A by MetroNews, will likely meet again, potentially twice, in the Region 1 tournament.

"We thought we had them," Cameron coach Adam Angel said. "They got us when they had to, so good for them. We will see them again, I told the kids we know what they got, we know we're right there with them and we'll try to get them back in the tournament and make this sting a little bit less."

UP NEXT

Cameron: Hosts Clay-Battelle today.

Madonna: Hosts Weir High in the annual city championship game on Wednesday.

RIVER

(Continued from Page 9)

Ava Wohnhas fielded the ball and looked the runner back to third but as she turned and threw to first for the second out, Sidwell broke from third and slid in just before the throw from Kilburn arrived.

"I'm very disappointed that we lost, but I'm happy that they fought as hard as they did," Wright offered. "I hope we can bounce back from this. We've got a game every day this week."

"Caldwell is a very, very talented team. They hit the ball and they can run. How many ground balls did they turn into infield singles?" Wright asked. "They are a veteran team and we are a very young team. We played young in the sixth inning."

River took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first when Wohnhas was hit with the second pitch of the game from Makayla Mumaw and Maddy

sent a 1-1 pitch over the fence in dead center.

Actually, I was trying to bunt her but she didn't see the sign," Wright noted.

However, they would only get three more hits off of Mumaw who struck out 14 and didn't walk a Pilot.

Maddy also singled in the fourth to break up a streak of 10 straight River batters set down by Mumaw.

Caldwell scored on an

RBI single by Morocco in the first and drew even in the second when Colie Arick raced home on Addyson Lake's groundout.

Wohnhas, who pitched well enough to win, struck out nine and didn't issue a free pass. She retired 10 in a row at one point.

Caldwell will face No. 2 Bridgeport on Saturday at 3 p.m. The Bulldogs blanked No. 3 Shadyside, 10-0.

They were deadlocked at nine entering the first. A team is awarded point for each match wins. Morgantown is defending team champion.

Morgantown prevailed at No. 1 as the team Andrew McClellan Solas Chhin-Kre topped Dover's duc Gabe Pavick and Jer Cappell by an 8-1 count. The top-seeded Mohi breezed to the finals 8-0, 8-0 and 8-2 victories, while the Tornado upset the No. 2 University in the quarterfinals (8-4) and the on-d-seeded Linsly in the semis (8-3).

At No. 2, Morgantown's second-seeded duo of Max Chen Max Warner teamed to knock off the No. 1 from Dover of AJ Klaiber and Lake Sickie, 8-6. The Morgans had won their previous three matches identical 8-1 scores.

Dover finally put a match out at No.

PUNCH

(Continued from Page 9)

Bridgeport's offense was methodical, scoring in every inning save the first. Carman lifted a two-run home run over the centerfield fence in the second to break open the scoring. Addie Snodgrass shellacked two dou-

hits- two singles from Kaylie Warnock, and one base hit apiece from Kamryn Parker and Ali Weatherson.

Brewer ended the game in the bottom of the sixth by shooting a hit to center field, scoring Katie

let it get away from us. Credit to Bridgeport, they played hard and they've been good this year."

Bridgeport, the two-seed in the four-team 2A playoff field, will play top-seeded Caldwell for the championship. Caldwell defeated

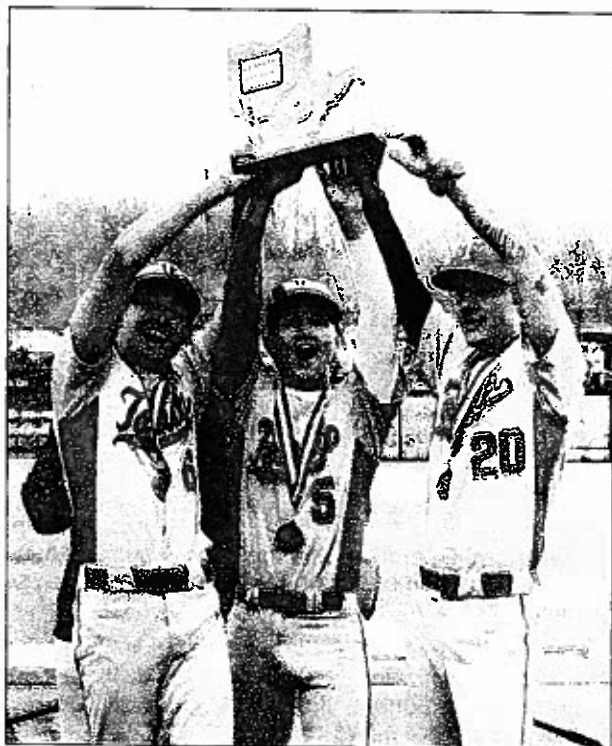


Photo by Kim North

Toronto's three seniors hoist the OVAC Class 2A Championship Baseball Trophy high into the air Saturday afternoon at the Edison Unified Sports Complex in Richmond. From left are Russ Dickinson, Cole Barcus and Aiden Filby.

Toronto Defends OVAC Baseball Title In Class 2A

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

RICHMOND — For the second consecutive season, Toronto stands alone atop the OVAC Class 2A baseball world.

The Red Knights (15-2) made it back-to-back championships with a 4-3 victory over Caldwell Saturday afternoon at the overcast Edison Unified Sports Complex.

The victory also marked the second straight time Toronto has defeated the Redskins (11-1) for the title, doing so in walk-off fashion last year.

"This was a really exciting game. Our kids battled for seven innings after facing some adversity early on," veteran Toronto head coach Brian Perkins said. "I couldn't be any prouder of our three seniors (Aiden Fil-

by, Russ Dickinson and Cole Barcus. They've been great leaders for us.

"This was one of our goals to start the season ... to represent Toronto at the OVAC Baseball Championships and we're ecstatic to go home with the trophy."

After Caldwell scored two unearned runs in the top of the first, Toronto answered back with a 4-spot in the top of the third and never looked back.

Cole Barcus singled and Tanner Newbold doubled to start the four-run third. Heath Thomas was hit with a pitch to load the bases. However, Caldwell starting pitcher Jacob Laswell struck out the next two batters.

Please see **TORONTO**,
Page 10

St. C. Three-Peat OVAC 4A Cham



Members of the St. Clairsville baseball team rush the field after the final out of the 4A Championship Baseball game at the Edison Unified Sports Complex in Richmond. St. Clairsville defeated Indian Creek for a 3-peat.

Red Devils Knock Off Indian Cree

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

RICHMOND — Entering the 2025 high school baseball season, there were a lot of unknowns about the St. Clairsville baseball team following the large numbers the graduated senior class had put up the season before. However, someone forgot to inform the group of current Red Devils.

Saturday afternoon at the cloud-covered Edison Unified Sports Complex, St. Clairsville and Indian Creek renewed their rivalry in the OVAC Class 4A championship game. For the third year in a row, the second-seeded Red Devils (12-2) defeated

the No. 1 Redskins (11-2). This time, however, they had to work a little longer with a 10-4 victory in eight innings.

"I couldn't be any prouder of this senior group ... this team," veteran St. Clairsville head coach Tom Sliva said. "To beat a quality team like that three times in a row for the OVAC championship is something. This is a big win for these kids. They've worked very hard for this and they deserve it."

It appeared as though St. Clairsville's Brody Saunders was going to continue his mastery of Indian Creek as the senior righthander was trying to

close the game. He had a RBI in the eighth inning, but he was out of the game after the first out. He had a hit in the eighth inning, but he was out of the game after the first out. He had a hit in the eighth inning, but he was out of the game after the first out.

from Sal Barcalow and Matheson King reached when his sacrifice bunt was thrown late to first. Both runners advanced on a wild pickoff attempt at second and Niko Jacob walked to load the bases. With one out, Jaxon Starks bounced into a fielder's choice as Florence was forced at the plate. Caiden Bailey legged out a slow roller to short that made it 5-4 and Roby Hanna walked for a 6-4 reading. Gavin Pownall relieved Barcalow and issued a free pass to Saunders as another run crossed to make it 7-4. Balgo slapped the first pitch he saw through the left side of the infield as Bailey and Hanna scored for a 9-4 advantage. Florence, batting for the second time in the inning, singled to right as Saunders came in to cap the six-run explosion.

"Obviously, the final score doesn't indicate how close of a game it was," Indian Creek head coach Mike Cottis said. "I thought it was a very well pitched game by our two guys and, obviously, their guy threw great."

Marshall University recruit Ty Householder had given Indian Creek a 1-0 lead with a solo home run leading off the bottom of the first. A single by Hunter Rusnak, a stolen base and a run-scoring base hit by Hyde bumped the count to 2-0.

St. Clairsville got one of those runs back in the second when Balgo turned on a 3-1 pitch and sent it well over the fence in deep left.

"It feels amazing. Coming into this

istic half of their six errors in the third inning as the Red Devils scored three times to take a 4-2 lead. Hanna had an RBI single, with the other two tallies being unearned.

"We picked a bad game to play our worst defensive game of the year," Cottis lamented. "We haven't committed six errors all season."

Indian Creek threatened in the bottom of the third, but Balgo threw out Householder trying to steal third. Then, after Rusnak walked, St. Clairsville turned a 5-4-3 inning-ending double play.

The Red Devils tried to add to their margin in the fourth when Jacob and Rowan Mellott reached with no outs, but Hyde retired the next three batters to escape unscathed.

Saunders faced some serious trouble in the fourth when Indian Creek had two on and no out, but the Ashland University recruit fanned the next three batters, the final two looking, to snuff out the rally.

Barcalow came on in relief of Hyde to start the fifth and held the Red Devils in check until the eighth. He struck out four and walked three.

Meanwhile, Saunders escaped a delicate situation in the sixth when Indian Creek loaded the bases with no outs. However, a strikeout preceded a ground ball to third that resulted in a 5-2-3 double play.

"That was another huge play for us defensively," Sliva added. "We played really well on defense today."

before giving up a leadoff walk to start the fifth. That would come back to haunt him as Carter Wheeldin doubled to left as Dominic Fry, who had walked, circled the bases to make it 4-3. The senior finished strong, retiring eight of the last nine batters he faced, including the final six after Kyler Starr doubled leading off the sixth.

"Aiden is a senior. He's been throwing well all year," Perkins said of Filby. "He has pitched in a lot of big games. We did expect anything less from him today and he delivered."

Meanwhile, J.R. Curry, who relieved Laswell to end the second, struck out 12 and didn't walk a batter. He set down 16 of the 18 Red Knights he faced, including 14 in a row from the final out of the second until Bouscher singled with one out in the seventh.

Wheeldin singled and doubled and drove in two runs for Caldwell. Cameron Sidwell had two singles.

Henry also doubled for Toronto.

riod goals to help the St. Louis Blues beat the Winnipeg Jets 5-1 on Sunday to tie their playoff series at 2-all.

Robert Thomas and Jake Neighbours also scored, and Jordan Binington made 30 saves for St. Louis, which has won 14 straight regular season and playoff games at home dating back to Feb. 23.

Kyle Connor scored, and Connor Hellebuyck made 13 saves for Winnipeg before being pulled after Thomas scored his second goal of the playoffs 2:01 into the third period.

his last 13 playoff appearances and has been put in consecutive games just the second time in career counting the regular season.

HURRICANES 5, DEVILS 2

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Andrei Svechnikov scored three goals as Carolina beat New Jersey to take a 3-1 lead in the first-round playoff series.

Brent Burns had a goal and an assist, and Jacob Slavin also scored for Hurricanes, who bounced back after a 3-2 loss two overtimes two nights earlier. Sebastian Aho

Timberwolves Rally To Pushing LA To Brink

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jaden McDaniels converted a three-point play with 39.5 seconds left for the lead and stole the ensuing inbound pass from LeBron James, leading a rally by the Minnesota Timberwolves for a 116-113 win over the Los Angeles Lakers that put them up 3-1 in the first-round series on Sunday.

Anthony Edwards, who had 43 points to lead Minnesota in scoring for the first time in this edition of the NBA playoffs, drew a foul on James during a drive to the lane with 10 seconds left and hit both free throws.

With Luka Dončić and James well-defended along the arc, the 19-year-old went to Austin Reaves for the corner for the attempt that rimmed and was rebounded by McDaniels at the buzzer.

Julius Randle added 25 points and McDaniels had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who trailed 12 points late in the third quarter.

Dončić bounced back from a bad stretch with 38 points on 13-for-28 shooting, but the Lakers were headed home after a win-or-be-eliminated Game 5 on Wednesday.

Sanders To Be Part Of Browns' Future

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Andrew Berry said Friday night that it was less about where Shedeur Sanders got picked than what he would do with the opportunity after getting selected.

It turns out, the Browns' general manager was prophetic in describing what he expects out of the player who became his fifth-round pick the next day.

Sanders, who was 14th overall with the 144th-overall selection by Cleveland on Saturday, comes to a team that will have a quarterback competition going into training camp in July.

"I know I'm going to be in perfect," Sanders said on a conference call. "I feel like it's first getting in, showing the respect to the vets, showing that I'm here ready to work."

TORONTO

(Continued from Page 9)

A walk to Drake Bouscher forced in a run and it became 2-2 on a balk call. Russ Dickinson's grounder to short got through as two runs scored, making it 4-2.

Those were all the runs that Toronto ace Aiden Filby would need as he went the distance, fanning seven, walking one, hitting one and scattering six hits. He threw 101 pitches, of which 68 were strikes. He pitched his way out of a two-on, no-out situation in the third with a trio of punchouts.

"It's the best feeling in the world. There's nothing close to matching it right now," Filby offered. "I just needed to stay calm and collected when they rallied and let my defense do the work behind me."

"Caldwell scored the two runs early and we were able to be resilient and come back to push four across. We ended up needing all four of them to win it," Perkins said.

Filby set down six straight Redskins



Photo by Kim North
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Defends Baseball Class 2A

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Please see TORONTO.
Page 10

St. C. Three-Peats As OVAC 4A Champions

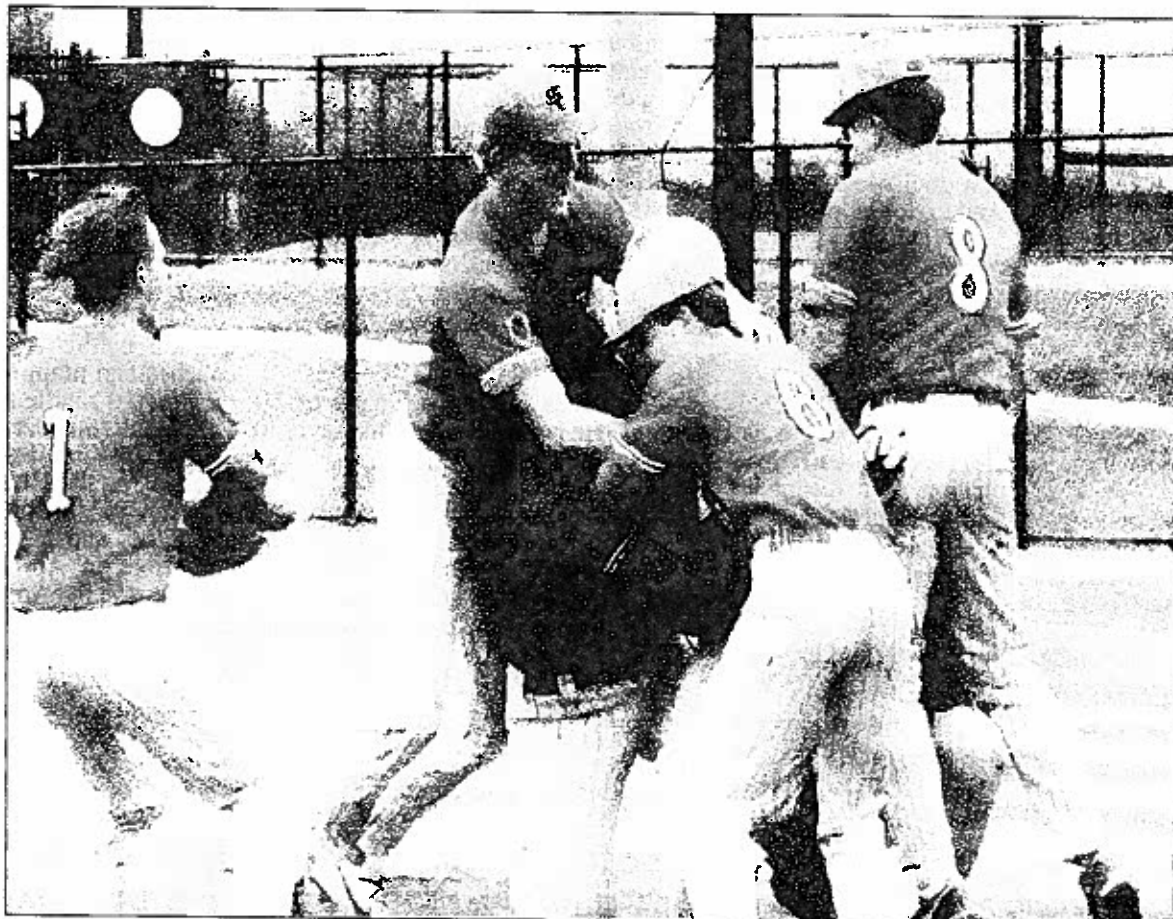


Photo by Kim North
Members of the St. Clairsville baseball team rush the field after the final out of Saturday's OVAC Class 4A Championship Baseball game at the Edison Unified Sports Complex in Richmond. The Red Devils defeated Indian Creek for a 3-peat.

Red Devils Knock Off Indian Creek In 8 Innings

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

RICHMOND — Entering the 2025 high school baseball season, there were a lot of unknowns about the St. Clairsville baseball team following the large numbers the graduated senior class had put up the season before. However, someone forgot to inform the group of current Red Devils.

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It appeared as though St. Clairsville's Brody Saunders was going to continue his mastery of Indian Creek as the senior righthander was trying to

close out a 4-3 victory when the Redskins drew even on a two-out RBI triple to the gap in right-center off the bat of Sylus Hyde. He retired the next batter to end the inning, but he had also reached the OHSAA 125-pitch limit, thus preventing him from continuing. He finished with a dozen strikeouts, five walks and allowed six hits.

"Brody always gives us all he can," Sliva added. "We knew that he would come and be the dude and we were fortunate enough to put up some huge numbers in that last inning."

Please see ST. C., Page 10

rates and has multiple hits in four of his last five games.

KEY STAT

Hernandez's home run gave him 200

ST. C.

(Continued from Page 9)

Saunders' teammates responded for their leader with six runs on just two hits in the top of the eighth to blow the game wide open. Game MVP Mickey Balgo had the big hit with a two-run single to left, but a couple of perfectly placed hits also keyed the outburst.

Colten Florence drew a leadoff walk from Sal Barcalow and Matheson King reached when his sacrifice bunt was thrown late to first. Both runners advanced on a wild pickoff attempt at second and Niko Jacob walked to load the bases. With one out, Jaxon Starks bounced into a fielder's choice as Florence was forced at the plate. Caiden Bailey legged out a slow roller to short that made it 5-4 and Roby Hanna walked for a 6-4 reading. Gavin Pownall relieved Barcalow and issued a free pass to Saunders as another run crossed to make it 7-4. Balgo slapped the first pitch he saw through the left side of the infield as Bailey and Hanna scored for a 9-4 advantage. Florence, batting for the second time in the inning, singled to right as Saunders came in to cap the six-run explosion.

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St. Clairsville got one of those runs back in the second when Balgo turned on a 3-1 pitch and sent it well over the fence in deep left.

"It feels amazing. Coming into this

Monday against the Miami Marlins. The Pirates have not announced a starter for Tuesday's home game against the Chicago Cubs.

season this was one of our big goals," Balgo said. "A lot of people were down on us this year but we wanted to show everyone that we are contenders. We lost a lot last year, but we also have 'Boogie' Saunders on the mound, we can hit 1 through 9 and we can pitch."

The Redskins made an uncharacteristic half of their six errors in the third inning as the Red Devils scored three times to take a 4-2 lead. Hanna had an RBI single, with the other two tallies being unearned.

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Those were all the runs that Toronto ace Aiden Filby would need as he went the distance, fanning seven, walking one, hitting one and scattering six hits. He threw 101 pitches, of which 68 were strikes. He pitched his way out of a two-on, no-out situation in the third with a trio of punchouts.

"It's the best feeling in the world. There's nothing close to matching it right now," Filby offered. "I just need-

before giving up a leadoff walk to start the fifth. That would come back to haunt him as Carter Wheeldin doubled to left as Dominic Fry, who had walked, circled the bases to make it 4-3. The senior finished strong, retiring eight of the last nine batters he faced, including the final six after Kyler Starr doubled leading off the sixth.

"Aiden is a senior. He's been throwing well all year," Perkins said of Filby. "He has pitched in a lot of big games. We did expect anything less from him today and he delivered."

Meanwhile, J.R. Curry, who relieved Laswell to end the second, struck out 12

15 games in April, second-most in the American League.

Nolan Jones had a three-run homer in the sixth inning for Cleveland, which dropped a home series for the first time this season.

Blues Beat Jets 5-1 T

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Brayden Schenn, Tyler Tucker and Justin Faulk each scored second period goals to help the St. Louis Blues beat the Winnipeg Jets 5-1 on Sunday to tie their playoff series at 2-all.

Robert Thomas and Jake Neighbours also scored, and Jordan Binnington made 30 saves for St. Louis, which has won 14 straight regular season and playoff games at home dating back to Feb. 23.

Kyle Connor scored, and Connor Hellebuyck made 13 saves for Winnipeg before being pulled after Thomas scored his second goal of the playoffs 2:01 into the third period.

steal home in consecutive games since the Mar in August 2020.

KEY STAT

The Guardians their first four-error game since Aug. 16, 2020 against Cincinnati. AJ Martinez was the n

Eric Comrie made saves in relief of Hellebuyck, who has allowed at least four goals in 11 of his last 13 playoff appearances and has been pulled in consecutive games just the second time in career counting the regular season.

HURRICANES 5 DEVILS 2

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Andrei Svechnikov scored three goals as the Carolina Hurricanes beat the New Jersey Devils 5-2 on Sunday to take a 3-1 lead in the first-round playoff series.

Brent Burns had a goal and an assist, and Jacob Slavin also scored for the Hurricanes, who bounced back after a 3-2 loss in the first overtime of the previous game.

Timberwolves Rally To Pushing LA To Brink

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Jaden McDaniels converted a three-point play with 39.5 seconds left for the lead and stole the ensuing inbound pass from LeBron James, leading a rally by the Minnesota Timberwolves for a 116-113 win over the Los Angeles Lakers that put them up 3-1 in the first-round series on Sunday.

Anthony Edwards, who had 43 points to lead Minnesota in scoring for the first time in this edition of the NBA playoffs, drew a foul on James during a drive to the lane with 10 seconds left and hit both free throws.

With Luka Dončić and James well-defended along the arc, the Timberwolves went to Austin Reaves for the tying attempt that rimmed out and was rebounded by McDaniels at the buzzer. Julius Randle added 25 points and McDaniels had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who trailed 12 points late in the third quarter.

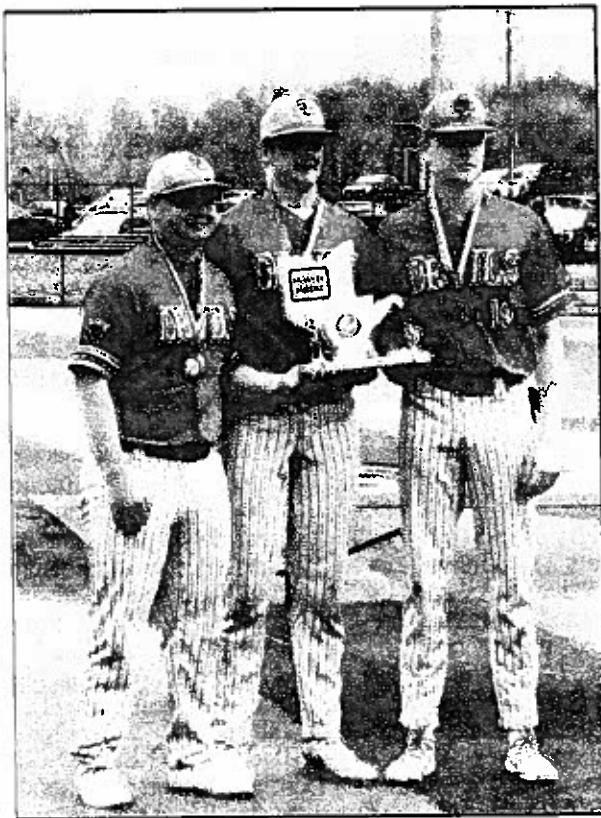
Dončić bounced back from a bad stretch with 38 points on 13-for-28 shooting, but the Lakers were headed home after a win-or-be-eliminated Game 5 on Wednesday.

Sanders To Be Part Of Brown

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Andrew Berry said Friday night that it was less about where Shedeur Sanders got picked than

Sanders, who was selected with the 144th-overall pick by Cleveland on Saturday, comes to a team that will have a quar

Norfolk ends Wheeling's in Game 5 of Kelly Cup



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE seniors, from left, Ryan Ivey, Mickey Balgo and Brody Saunders hold the OVAC Class 4A Championship Baseball Trophy after the Red Devils defeated Indian Creek, 10-4, Saturday at the Edison Unified Sports Complex in Richmond. The Red Devils earned a three-peat.

St. Clairsville 3-peats its OVAC Class 4A baseball championship

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

RICHMOND — Entering the 2025 high school baseball season, there were a lot of unknowns about the St. Clairsville baseball team following the large numbers the graduated senior class had put up the season before. However, someone forgot to inform the group of current Red Devils.

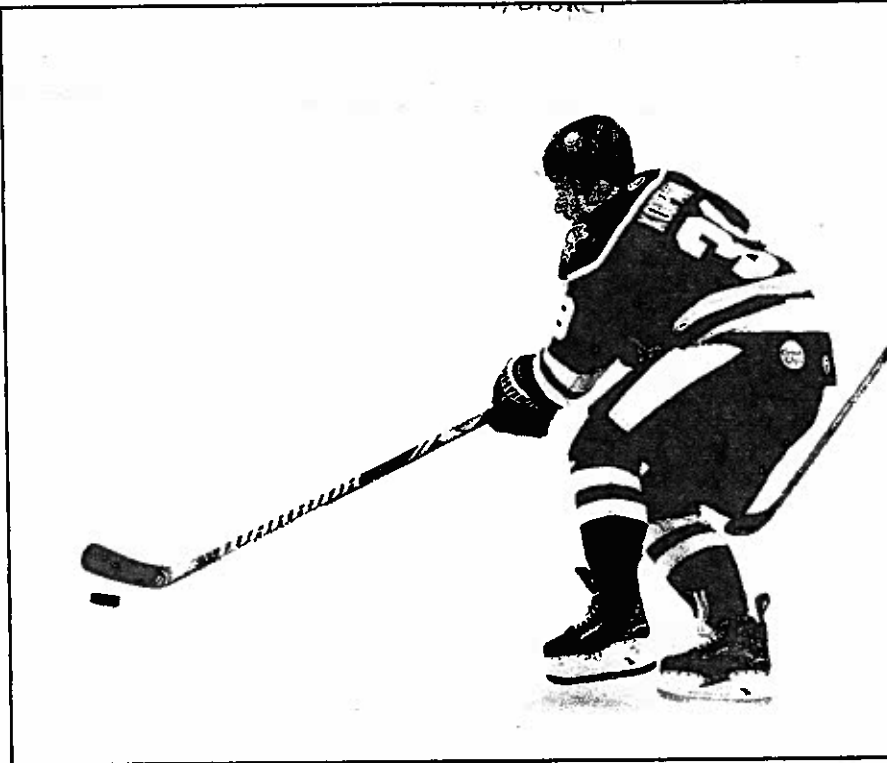
Saturday afternoon at the cloud-covered Edison Unified Sports

Complex, St. Clairsville and Indian Creek renewed their rivalry in the OVAC Class 4A championship game. For the third year in a row, the second-seeded Red Devils (12-2) defeated the No. 1 Redskins (11-2). This time, however, they had to work a little longer with a 10-4 victory in eight innings.

"I couldn't be any prouder of this senior group ... this team," veteran St. Clairsville head coach Tom Sliva said.

See **OVAC**, Page B2

OVAC softball pairings



THE WHEELING Nailers' Matt Koopman speeds down the ice with the puck in Game 5 of the ECHL Eastern Conference North Division semifinal matchup inside WesBanco Arena. The Nailers defeated the Norfolk Admirals 5-2.

• Nailers' head coach displeased with officiating

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The Wheeling Nailers saw a promising season come to an abrupt halt Saturday night as the Norfolk Admirals navigated their way to a 5-2 victory in Game 5 of the ECHL's Eastern Conference North Division semifinal series before a crowd of 2,095 inside WesBanco Arena.

With the win, Norfolk advances to the North Division Finals against Trois-Rivieres, while Wheeling is left to wonder what could have been after a good regular season.

Saturday night's fireworks started before the puck even hit the ice as Wheeling's Cole Tymkin and Phip Waugh and Norfolk's German Yavash and Darick Louis-Jean dropped the gloves. Each was assessed two minutes for roughing.

However, the Nailers quickly found themselves with four players in the 'sin bin' after Chase Pitelila and Louis Roehl were sent off for roughing and boarding minors, respectively, in a 21-second span.

It didn't take long for the Admirals to take a 1-0 lead as Denis Smirnov lifted his own rebound

over top of a sprawl for Gauthier who attempted, but the rebound went to Smirnov for the puck.

The early penalty displeased Wheeling head coach.

"This wasn't how we wanted to play," Army stressed with the officiating of the series to go for five (for them) yesterday to come out tonight and we right away that they decided to not play the game. You saw control of the game on our heels.

"That's not what we want at any level, so that what really should be an amped up build-up and wind right out of our hands. I think it's disappointing. I think it's into how that was handled.

See B2

Shedeur Sanders will be part of the Browns' QB spot despite drop

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

"To beat a quality team like that three times in a row for the OVAC championship is something. This is a big win for these kids. They've worked very hard for this and they deserve it."

It appeared as though St. Clairsville's Brody Saunders was going to continue his mastery of Indian Creek as the senior righthander was trying to close out a 4-3 victory when the Redskins drew even on a two-out RBI triple to the gap in right-center off the bat of Syllus Hyde. He retired the next batter to end the inning, but he had also reached the OHSAA 125-pitch limit, thus preventing him from continuing. He finished with a dozen strikeouts, five walks and allowed six hits.

"Brody always gives us all he can," Sliva added. "We knew that he would come and be the dude and we were fortunate enough to put up some huge numbers in that last inning."

Saunders' teammates responded for their leader with six runs on just two hits in the top of the eighth to blow the game wide open. Game MVP Mickey Balgo had the big hit with a two-run single to left, but a couple of perfectly placed hits also keyed the outburst.

Colten Florence drew a leadoff walk from Sal Barcalow and Matheson King reached when his sacrifice bunt was thrown late to first. Both runners advanced on a wild pickoff attempt at second and Niko Jacob walked to load the bases. With one out, Jaxon Starks bounced into a fielder's choice as Florence was forced at the plate. Caiden Bailey legged out a slow roller to short that made it 5-4 and Roby Hanna walked for a 6-4 reading. Gavin Pownall relieved Barcalow and issued a free pass to Saunders as another run crossed to make it 7-4. Balgo slapped the first pitch he saw through the left side of the infield as Bailey and Hanna scored for a 9-4 advantage. Florence, batting for the second time in the inning, singled to right as Saunders came in to cap the six-run explosion.

"Obviously, the final score doesn't indicate how close of a game it was," Indian Creek head coach Mike Cottis said. "I thought it was a very well pitched game by our two guys and, obviously, their guy threw great."

Marshall University recruit Ty Householder had given Indian Creek a 1-0 lead with a solo home run leading off the bottom of the first. A single by Hunter Rusnak, a stolen base and a run-scoring base hit by

Hyde bumped the count to 2-0.

St. Clairsville got one of those runs back in the second when Balgo turned on a 3-1 pitch and sent it well over the fence in deep left.

"It feels amazing. Coming into this season this was one of our big goals," Balgo said. "A lot of people were down on us this year but we wanted to show everyone that we are contenders. We lost a lot last year, but we also have 'Boogie' Saunders on the mound, we can hit 1 through 9 and we can pitch."

The Redskins made an uncharacteristic half of their six errors in the third inning as the Red Devils scored three times to take a 4-2 lead. Hanna had an RBI single, with the other two tallies being unearned.

"We picked a bad game to play our worst defensive game of the year," Cottis lamented. "We haven't committed six errors all season."

Indian Creek threatened in the bottom of the third, but Balgo threw out Householder trying to steal third. Then, after Rusnak walked, St. Clairsville turned a 5-4-3 inning-ending double play.

"That was a huge play by Mickey," Sliva said of the caught stealing. "He had a big game and his home run really helped out because it put some life back into our dugout and not let them build on what they had started in the first inning."

The Red Devils tried to add to their margin in the fourth when Jacob and Rowan Mellott reached with no outs, but Hyde retired the next three batters to escape unscathed.

Saunders faced some serious trouble in the fourth when Indian Creek had two on and no out, but the Ashland University recruit fanned the next three batters, the final two looking, to snuff out the rally.

Barcalow came on in relief of Hyde to start the fifth and held the Red Devils in check until the eighth. He struck out four and walked three.

Meanwhile, Saunders escaped a delicate situation in the sixth when Indian Creek loaded the bases with no outs. However, a strikeout preceded a ground ball to third that resulted in a 5-2-3 double play.

"That was another huge play for us defensively," Sliva added. "We played really well on defense today."

Cottis agreed.

"We had our chances. We took too many third-strike calls," he noted.

Of the dozen strikeouts, seven came looking.

• Pairings

Continued from Page B1

TUESDAY Class 3A

Second-seeded Barnesville (15-5) and No. 3 Wheeling Central (16-6) will meet in one semifinal at 5 p.m. while top-seeded Martins Ferry (17-3) and No. 4 Union Local (14-7) play in the other at 7.

Both games are at Lisa's Field.

Class 4A

Weir (21-6) claimed the top seed and will

Beaver Local (15-3) at 7 p.m.

Those games are on Ben's Field.

WEDNESDAY Class 5A

Third-seeded Parkersburg South (14-6) faces No. 2 University (17-3) at 5 p.m. and No. 1 Steubenville (17-3) goes against No. 4 Morgantown (15-9) at 7.

Those contests are set for Lisa's Field.

The championship

• Kelly

Continued from Page B1

Norfolk grabbed a 2-0 lead 53 seconds after the first goal when Brandon Osmundson poked a loose puck past Gauthier.

Five minutes later, Wheeling sliced the deficit in half when David Jankowski finished off a perfect pass from Pietila from the left doorstep.

Pietila sailed down the right wing before sending the puck into

again early in the third period when Colton Young wristed the puck past Gauthier's glove hand on a breakaway for a 3-1 advantage.

Jack Beck pulled the Nailers back to within 3-2 when he banged home a rebound of a Gabe Klassen shot, but Young collected his second lamp-lighter and Darick Louis-Jean capped the scoring with an empty-netter.

Gauthier, who made the trip to Wheeling



AP Photo

their team announces a pick during the third round of the NFL football draft, Bay, Wis.

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drew closer, con-
s began to emerge.

• Ohio State Has Seven Players Selected In First Two Rounds



AP Photo

Tampa Bay Buccaneers first round draft pick Emeka Egbuka holds up a jersey as he poses with head coach Todd Bowles, left, and general manager Jason Licht, right during andraft news conference in Tampa, Fla.

By MAURA CAREY
AP Sports Writer

Ohio State rode the deepest, most talented roster in college football to a national title last season. NFL evaluators took notice.

hed Sports Complex.



Photo by Kim North

St. Clairsville's Brody Saunders throws a pitch during a regular-season game against Wheeling Park. The Red Devils meet Indian Creek on Saturday at the Edison Unified Sports Complex for the OVAC 4A championship.

St. C., Creek Head For Third Straight Championship Clash

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

RICHMOND - St. Clairsville and Indian Creek have cultivated a real rivalry on the diamond in recent years. In the latest chapter of what is becoming a full-length novel, Indian Creek got the better of St. Clairsville, 10-8, in the regional semifinals, with Creek going on to the state semifinals.

But when it comes to the OVAC championship, it's the Red Devils who have had bragging rights.

On Saturday at 1:45 p.m. at the Edison Unified Sports Complex, St. C. and Creek will battle for the OVAC 4A title for the third year in a row, with the Red Devils winning each of the last two meetings.

ty well," St. Clairsville head coach Tom Sli-va said of Indian Creek in an interview Friday. "They're a well-coached team with a lot of talent and we have our work cut out for us. The kids are pretty pumped to get back to [the championship] for the third year in a row. We know it's a really tough opponent and a tall task but we're excited."

"The last couple of years we've had some really big games against each other," Indian Creek coach Mike Cottis said on Friday. "We know some of the guys they have back from last year's team - Brody Saunders is their top arm, that's who we expect to see tomorrow. He's one of the best in the Valley and we're excited for the matchup with him."

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ase see Falls, Page C3

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Please see Seven, Page C6

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"Third year in a row, we sure know them pret-

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Please see Third, Page C2

First Place At Invitational

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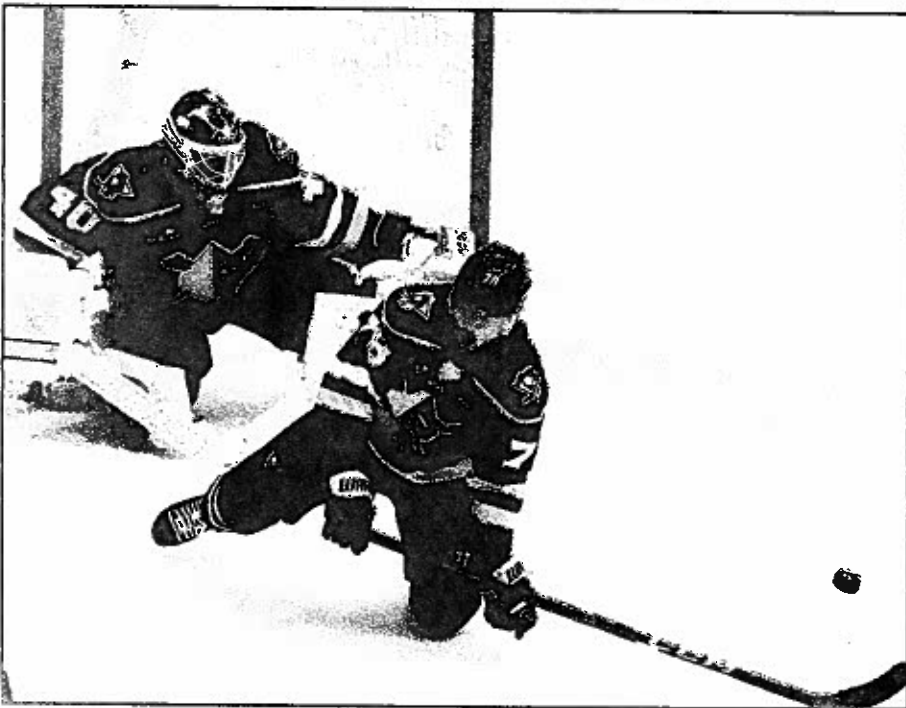
Nailers Stay Alive With Clutch Win Over Norfolk In Game Four

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - There's not a player or a coach on the Wheeling Nailers that was alive when the Bee Gees had their hit song "Stayin' Alive." However, that's exactly what the Nailers did Friday night.

With their backs to the wall, the Nailers made sure they lived to play another day with a clutch 4-1 victory over visiting Norfolk before a crowd of 2,143 in an Eastern Conference North Division semifinal.

With the much-needed win, Game 5 of the series is Saturday once again inside WesBanco Arena. The Admirals still hold a 3-1 advantage in the best of 7 series. The



angle to the left of Castor. His shot found its way between Castor and the post to his left.

Cole Tymkin scored what turned out to be the game-winner at the 18:38 of the second period.

With the puck lying loose to the right of the Admirals' goal, Tymkin, the game's No. 3 star, went backhand-to-forehand before banging it home.

THIRD

(Continued from Page C1)

Indian Creek is 11-1 heading into the game, while St. Clairsville is 11-2. Creek, the top seed in 4A, defeated Harrison Central in their OVAC quarterfinal, while second-seeded St. C. defeated Edison.

The two teams will bring similar records into a game that may revolve around the matchup on the mound.

"This is one of those games where, we've got Sylus Hyde on the mound for us, of course they've got Brody," Cottis said. "On-paper, you look at the statistics with those two, runs could be hard to come by. We've got to take advantage of any opportunity we get, when we get baserunners on we need to cash in. Hopefully we can do that early."

Hyde and Saunders have been bonafide aces for their squads this year, though both teams have strong contributors top-down.

"We've been riding the arms of Sylus Hyde, Sal Barcalow, Gavin Pownall has come in and closed games for us. We've relied on those three on the mound, if we have to use all three tomorrow we will," Cottis said.

"Offensively, Ty Householder is one of the top bats in the area, a Marshall recruit, he's really been hitting well- he's over .500 right now and has hit a couple home runs. We have Hunter Rusnack, our No. 2 hitter who's come up big in clutch situations. Barcalow and Hyde are both swinging the bat really well, those are our top four."

secutive breakways.

Early in the third period Castor robbed Denis Smirnov with a huge glove save.

Wheeling, which didn't have a power play goal in the series, went ahead 3-1 on De St. Phalle's lamp-lighter with the man advantage at 8:24.

With Chyzowski in the sin bin for slashing, it only took the Nailers seven sec-

conds on the face off. De St. Phalle explained, "I just tried to catch him before he was ready."

Less than two minutes later, Eli Lieffers blasted a drive from the right circle that zipped past Milic and tickled the twine for a 4-1 advantage.

When asked if Castor earned a start in Game 4, Army didn't hesitate when answering.

Cottis also shouted-out third baseman Dom Degruittola, who he said has come on strong at the plate recently.

St. Clairsville has been led by players like Saunders, power-hitting seniors Micky Balgo and Colten Florence, speedy leadoff Caiden Bailey and first baseman Roby Hanna.

"It really has been a team effort," Sliva said. "All the way down the order- sometimes the top, the middle, sometimes the bottom- it's been a team effort and that's what we'll need tomorrow against a quality opponent."

Saunders had a big part to play in the championship last year, pitching a complete game and hitting a bases-clearing double.

Though they've come tantalizingly close, Indian Creek is searching for their first conference OVAC championship since 2003. Meanwhile, St. Clairsville is seeking yet another conference crown in what would be a historic achievement for the Red Devils upperclassmen.

"We're excited for the opportunity for sure," Cottis said. "The boys, they've been working hard all off season to get to this point, and they're playing with a lot of confidence right now, with a lot of guys back from last year's team. It certainly helps having experience."

"They'd like to end it on a good note," Sliva said of his seniors. "They know they've got a lot of work to do on Saturday to get there. I hope they're ready."

York Rangers.

Wheeling could receive some reinforcements after Wilkes-Barre/Scranton

prevail in Game 5. Game 6 would be played a day in Wheeling, as Game 7 on Tuesday.

Wheeling Park Be 12 Innings; Jets T

WEIRTON - The Weir softball team's bats went silent against Wheeling Park.

An errant Red Rider throw led to the first run of the game, and the Patriots tacked on a pair of insurance runs on a home run as Wheeling Park shut out Weir, 3-0, in 12 innings on an overcast Friday evening up at the Roberta "Birdie" DeFrancis Softball Field.

The girls from Hancock County collected seven hits in 45 at-bats, while the girls from Ohio County collected seven hits in 38 at-bats.

Catcher Kylah Cunningham drew a walk to lead off the top of the 12th. Brenna Tipton followed with a sacrifice bunt, and Tipton was out on the play as the runner moved up to second, however, an errant Weir throw to second ended up going all the way to the fence in left-center allowing the visitors to score the first run of the game.

Following the run, Bryn Ernest singled, and Gracie Tamburin followed with a two-run home run enabling the Patriots to increase their advantage to 3-0.

Sam Tunno singled with one out in the bottom half of the inning as the hosts

attempted to mount a comeback. A strikeout the visitors one out from ending the game and the end came with next batter as a controversial check swing call Wheeling Park's was resulting in the third being called ending game.

Both pitchers pitched complete games.

Eliza Utt took the for Weir. Utt struck four and walked two.

Delaney Ran picked up the win at Wheeling Park. She struck out 10 without walk batter.

Tamburin's home was the only one of the hits in the game to get extra bases.

BASEBALL

Union Local 11 Maysville 7

ZANESVILLE -

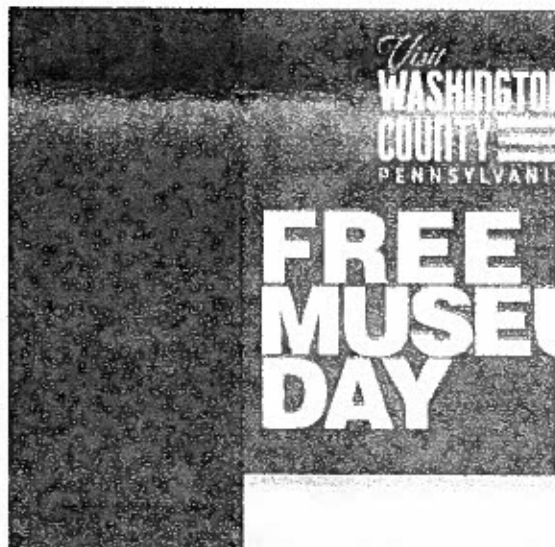
Jets' offense was too for the Panthers on Friday the visitors scoring runs across the first innings to start hot road win.

Braylon Akers struck out six starting for Union Local. He, Logan and Karson Grigaitis bined for the win.

Brody Gregor struck three hits, including a double, in finishing

HERCO

TRADITIONAL WOOD CABINETRY
LOCALLY CRAFTED



ellaire and ran away tional team 129 points ents and a stance sec- otalled 98. ntinued her y winning 12.93 and

ey Duggan, tentional Bickerstaff and Natalie Romanyak who clocked out in 4-minutes, 27.16-seconds.

Duggan also won the 400 in 1:02.57 and ran a leg on the winning 4x200 team of Za'Herryah Herring, Bickerstaff and Addison Snyder that won in a time of 1:55.65.

Romanyak prevailed in the 800 in 2:33.20.

Three of the titles came in the field events where Alivia Vostatek jumped

9-inches and Sarah Ostovich putted the shot 35-3.

The Tigers had individual titlists in Chloe Mehlovitch who ran 5:33.02 to win the 800 and Kaci Tsoras with a leap of 8-6 to win the pole vault.

River's Brooke Huffman captured the high jump with a leap of 5-2, while also running the opening leg of the shuttle hurdles foursome that times out in 1:09.25. She was joined by Mallo- ry Brake, Ashley Miller and Maci Isa-

Carleigh Tritonoff won with a time of 52.92, while Trifonoff won the long jump in 15-10.

Martins Ferry's 4x800 team con- tinued its winning ways with a time of 10:33.41. The foursome includes Lakyn Call, Cadence Oberle, Madison Oberle and Ireland Jennette.

Linsly had a pair of champions in Brid- get Zimmerman who ran a 14:20.85 in the 3200 and Haylen Cook who topped the 300 hurdles in 50.18.



Photo by JOE LOVELL

abrate after their win Friday night over the Norfolk Admirals inside WesBanco the Nailers' season, as the series stands at 3-1 Norfolk heading into the next sBanco Arena.

Stay alive with clutch over Norfolk in game 4

more day," Wheeling head coach Derek Army said. "It was a great game all around. You can go up and down the lineup, I thought everybody played well."

Matty De St. Phalle scored twice. Jaxon Castor stopped 29 of 30 shots and the Nailers penalty kill was perfect on five tries.

"Jaxon is a Nailer through and through no matter what," Army praised. "He's always going to rise to the occasion. He is a guy who is beloved in that locker room. They all love him. We knew he was going to give us a gutsy effort."

Castor also closed out the first- round series against Indy last year in the Pittsburgh suburb of Cran- berry.

"It was fun. They guys played well, especially on the penalty kill," Castor, the game's No. 2 star. "It wasn't the start I wanted

personally, but the guys had my back and we never looked back after that."

Wheeling struck first — the first time it had led in the series — just 2-minutes, 5-seconds into the game when St. De Phalle stuffed a loose puck past Thomas Milic, who had been a brick wall so far in the series.

"It was a great play by Q (Mat- thew Quercia) over to Marty (Ja- son Martel) on a great executed line rush," De St. Phalle said of his first goal. "I got lucky because the puck was right there for me."

Norfolk responded less than a minute later when Chyzowski scored on a bad angle to the left of Castor. His shot found its way between Castor and the post to his left.

See **NAILERS**, Page C3



Photo by KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Roby Hanna slides safely into third base during a regular season game against Union Local. The Red Devils meet Indian Creek on Saturday at the Edison Unified Sports Complex for the OVAC 4A championship.

St. C., Indian Creek prepare for third championship clash

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

RICHMOND — St. Clairsville and Indian Creek have cultivated a real rivalry on the diamond in recent years. In the latest chapter of what is becoming a full-length novel, Indian Creek got the better of St. Clairsville, 10-8, in the regional semifinals, with Creek going on to the state semifinals.

But when it comes to the OVAC championship, it's the Red Devils who have had bragging rights.

On Saturday at 1:45 p.m. at the Edison Unified Sports Complex, St. C. and Creek will battle for the OVAC 4A title for the third year in a row, with the Red Devils winning each of the last two meetings.

"Third year in a row, we sure know them pretty well," St. Clairsville head coach Tom Sliva said of Indian Creek in an interview Friday. "They're a well-coached team with a lot of talent and we have our work cut out for us. The kids are pretty pumped to get back to [the championship] for the third year in a row. We know it's a really tough opponent and a tall task

ders falls to day 3 of NFL draft

OVER NATION IN GAME 4

more day," Wheeling head coach Derek Army said. "It was a great game all around. You can go up and down the lineup, I thought everybody played well."

Matty De St. Phalle scored twice, Jaxon Castor stopped 29 of 30 shots and the Nailers penalty kill was perfect on five tries.

"Jaxon is a Nailer through and through no matter what," Army praised. "He's always going to rise to the occasion. He is a guy who is beloved in that locker room. They all love him. We knew he was going to give us a gutsy effort."

Castor also closed out the first-round series against Indy last year in the Pittsburgh suburb of Cranberry.

"It was fun. They guys played well, especially on the penalty kill," Castor, the game's No. 2 star. "It wasn't the start I wanted

personally, but the guys had my back and we never looked back after that."

Wheeling struck first — the first time it had led in the series — just 2-minutes, 5-seconds into the game when St. De Phalle stuffed a loose puck past Thomas Milic, who had been a brick wall so far in the series.

"It was a great play by Q (Matthew Quercia) over to Marty (Jason Martel) on a great executed line rush," De St. Phalle said of his first goal. "I got lucky because the puck was right there for me."

Norfolk responded less than a minute later when Chyzowski scored on a bad angle to the left of Castor. His shot found its way between Castor and the post to his left.

See **NAILERS**, Page C3

Sanders falls to day 3 of NFL draft picked ahead of Coach Prime's son

Sanders' dad at both schools and finished eighth in Heisman trophy voting last season. The pair revitalized the Buffaloes program.

NFL talent evaluators were apparently less impressed than draft analysts. Few if any mock drafts had Jaxon Dart, Tyrone Shough, Jalen Milroe or Dillon Gabriel getting picked before Sanders, but that's what happened.

"Thank you GOD for EVERYTHING," Sanders posted on X during the first round.

Wherever he ends up, Sanders will make millions of dollars less than he would have if he'd been selected in the first round.

For example, if he'd gone to the quarterback-needy Pittsburgh Steelers at No. 1 overall, he'd be in line for an \$18 million contract.

A fourth-round pick can expect a rookie deal worth between \$4.9 million and \$5.3 million.

President Donald Trump mused in a social media post that teams were "STUPID" for passing on Sanders — before the second round began.

Sanders initially was rated by some draft analysts as a better QB prospect than Miami's Cam Ward, who ultimately went No. 1 overall to Tennessee. But as the draft drew closer, concerns began to emerge.

One issue: Sanders was sacked 94 times over his last two college seasons. There also were worries about his arm strength and questions about how well he would adapt to playing for someone other than his dad. And given his high profile, teams might be re-

luctant to pick him if they view him as a backup.

"All I can say is this," said Cleveland Browns general manager Andrew Berry, who took Gabriel in the third round. "The time that we spent with Sheedeur and what he's done throughout his college career is impressive. He's an impressive young man. He's a really good quarterback. Sometimes fit comes into play. I'd also say this — there are three or four more rounds of the draft. It's less about where you get picked than what you do after you get picked. Getting to know him over the course of the spring, he has a ton of resolve. And I think he's going to find himself in a really good spot."

See **DRAFT**, Page C2

St. C., Indian Creek prepare for third championship clash

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

RICHMOND — St. Clairsville and Indian Creek have cultivated a real rivalry on the diamond in recent years. In the latest chapter of what is becoming a full-length novel, Indian Creek got the better of St. Clairsville, 10-8, in the regional semifinals, with Creek going on to the state semifinals.

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"The last couple of years we've had some really big games against each other," Indian Creek coach Mike Cottis said on Friday. "We know some of the guys they have back from last year's team — Brody Saunders is their top arm, that's who we expect to see tomorrow. He's one of the best in the Valley and we're excited for the matchup with him."

Indian Creek is 11-1 heading into the game, while St. Clairsville is 11-2. Creek, the top seed in 4A, defeated Harrison Central in their OVAC quarterfinal, while second-seeded St. C. defeated Edison.

The two teams will bring similar records into a game that may revolve around the matchup on the mound.

"This is one of those games where, we've got Sylus Hyde on the mound for us, of course they've got Brody," Cottis said. "On-paper, you look at the statistics with those two, runs could be hard to come by. We've got to take advantage of any opportunity we get, when we get baserunners on we need to cash in. Hopefully we can do that early."

Hyde and Saunders have been bonafide aces for their squads this year, though both teams have strong contributors top-down.

"We've been riding the arms of Sylus Hyde, Sal Barcalow, Gavin Pownall has come in and closed games for us. We've relied on those three on the mound, if we have to use all three tomorrow we will," Cottis said.

See **ST. C.**, Page C3

Isaiah Salinda and Kevin Velo remain atop Zurich Classic leaderboard

PGA — "Overall, really solid," Velo said. "I think we played really to our strengths today. We both missed a couple short ones that kind of led to our bogeys, but besides that, we played pretty flawless. We feed off each other really easily, and I know how to club off him, and we're talking through shots

kind of our strength."

Playing the back nine first, Salinda and Velo made the turn at 1 over, then rallied with four birdies on the easier front nine.

Novak is coming off a playoff loss last week to Justin Thomas in the RBC Heritage, his second straight top-three

strong for alternate shot."

McIlroy, making his first start since winning the Masters, and Lowry were tied for 16th at 11 under after a 69.

The Irish stars eagled the par-5 second and played the first 12 holes in 6 under. They were 3 over on the last six, dropping strokes on the par-4

The 2025 football divisional breakdowns and regional playoff assignments will be announced in our student-athletes section.

Division IV: Bellaire, Caldwell, Fort Catholic.

• Nailers

Continued from Page B1
Cole Tymkin scored what turned out to be the game-winner at the 18:38 of the second period.

With the puck lying loose to the right of the Admirals' goal, Tymkin, the game's No. 3 star, went backhand-to-forehand before banging it home. Chase Pietila and Phip Waugh logged assists.

The second 20 minutes was scoreless despite both teams having golden opportunities.

Castor was huge in denying Norfolk's Colton Young from point-blank range. Milic stopped De St. Phalle and Martel on consecutive breakaways.

Early in the third period Castor robbed Denis Smirnov with a huge glove save.

Wheeling, which didn't have a power play goal in the series, went ahead 3-1 on De St. Phalle's lamp-lighter with the man advantage at 8:24.

With Chyzowski in the sin bin for slashing, it only took the Nailers seven seconds to make the Admirals pay.

Jack Beck won the face off to Brent Johnson who found De St. Phalle in the left circle. He put the puck between Milic and the post to his right.

"We talked about hitting the goal line because Norfolk likes to push up on the flanks off the face

off," De St. Phalle explained. "I just tried to catch him before he was ready."

Less than two minutes later, Eli Liefers blasted a drive from the right circle that zipped past Milic and tickled the twine for a 4-1 advantage.

When asked if Castor earned a start in Game 4, Army didn't hesitate when answering.

"Yes he did. We're going to ride the big guy while he is hot."

Norfolk outshot Wheeling 30-29.

LOOSE PUCKS

— Former Wheeling head coach Peter Laviolette was in attendance to watch his son, Peter Jr., play for the Nailers. Peter was recently let go by the New York Rangers.

— Wheeling could receive some reinforcements after Wilkes-Barre/Scranton was eliminated by Lehigh Valley, 3-2, Friday night in their best-of-3 AHL Calder Cup series. Sergei Murashov was the losing goaltender.

— Murashov and Logan Pietila were recalled by the Baby Penguins after Wednesday's 5-1 Wheeling loss.

— The attendance was announced at 2,143.

— Should the Nailers prevail in Game 5, Game 6 would be played Monday in Wheeling, as would Game 7, if necessary, on Tuesday.

Continued from Page B1

"Offensively, Ty Householder is one of the top bats in the

area, a Marshall recruit, he's really been hitting well — he's over .500 right now and has hit a couple home runs. We have Hunter Ruskack, our No. 2 hitter who's come up big in clutch situations."

Barcalow and Hyde are both swinging the bat really well, those are our top four."

Cottis also shout-out third baseman Dom Deguttola, who he said has come on strong at the plate recently.

St. Clairsville has been led by players like Saunders, power-hitting seniors Micky Bal-

go and Colten Florence, speedy leadoff Caiden Bailey and first baseman Roby Hanna.

"It really has been a team effort," Sliva said. "All the way down the order — sometimes the top, the middle, sometimes the bottom — it's been a team effort and that's what we'll need tomorrow against a quality opponent."

Saunders had a big part to play in the championship last year, pitching a complete game and hitting a bases-clearing double.

Though they've come tantalizingly close, Indian Creek is searching for their first conference OVAC championship since 2003. Meanwhile, St. Clairsville is seeking yet another

conference crown in what would be a historic achievement for the Red Devils upperclassmen.

"We're excited for the opportunity for sure," Cottis said. "The boys, they've been working hard all off season to get to this point, and they're playing with a lot of confi-

dence right now, with a lot of guys back from last year's team. It certainly helps having experience."

"They'd like to er it on a good note," Sliva said of his senior. "They know they've got a lot of work to do on Saturday to get there. I hope they're ready."

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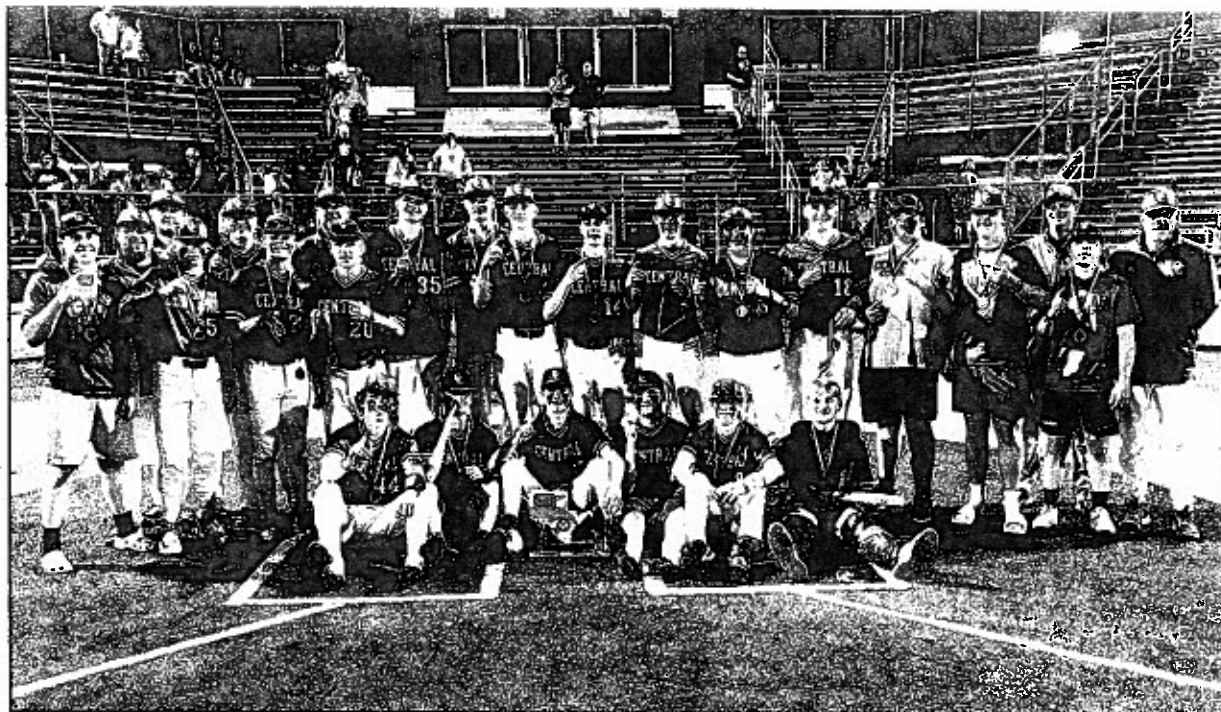


Photo by Seth Staskey

The Wheeling Central Maroon Knights, pictured following their victory over Martins Ferry in the OVAC 3A championship on Thursday at the Edison Unified Sports Complex.

Wheeling Central Defends OVAC Class 3A Championship With Win Maroon Knights Double Up Martins Ferry, 8-4

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

CADIZ - Wheeling Central defended its OVAC Class 3A baseball championship but it wasn't easy.

The top-seeded Maroon Knights rallied from a 1-0 deficit to score all of their runs in the second through fifth innings in an 8-4 doubling up of third-seeded Martins Ferry (6-6) Thursday nights under the lights at Mazerowski Field inside Sally Buffalo Park.

"I knew it was going to be a battle. We knew Martins Ferry was going to give us their best shot," Wheeling Central head coach Todd Cover said. "I thought we played pretty well."

Martins Ferry took a 1-0 lead in its first at-bat as Ayden Ludolph drew a leadoff walk and raced around the bases when Hunter Shutler sent a double to the gap in left-center.

A three-run third by Wheeling Central put it ahead as Koy Lipinski was hit with a pitch and Brady Ernest banged a single through the left side of the infield. With one out, Matt Criniti singled sharply to cen-

ter to load the bases. Luke Tiu followed with an RBI single to shallow right and Braxton Billick chased home two runs with a double to right-center.

Luca Shane's two-run, two-out triple down the right field line evened the count in the third, but the Maroon Knights kept adding on.

Lipinski, who had a single and two doubles, doubled leading off the third. Ernest and Kade Koroner drew back-to-back walks to load the bases before Tiu roped a two-run double to left.

Eli Smith drew the Purple Riders to within 7-4 with a ground-rule double to left-center in the fifth, but Wheeling Central got the run back in the bottom of the inning when Tiu raced home from third on a wild pitch.

Lipinski had three of the Maroon Knights' 13 hits, while Tiu, the No. 9 hitter, had two. He also drove in three runs. Billick also singled twice.

Brayden Cover earned the win with nine strikeouts and three walks in five innings. Old brother, Seth, finished up with a trio of Ks. They

teamed on a six-hitter.

"I thought both of my pitchers pitched well," Coach Cover noted. "Brayden struggled a little but they put the bat on a couple of balls. Seth came in and did what we asked of him."

Shutler collected two doubles while Smith singled and doubled.

Shutler also took the loss, striking out five and issuing one walk.

"I thought we played pretty good," Martins Ferry head coach Anthony Reasbeck offered. "If I was a betting man, I'm gonna say this game will happen again in the next two years. They know we're here now. We're getting better and better as the games progress. We're playing hard. We're coaching our butts off. We're not going to run and hide from Wheeling Central."

"This is fun. This is who you are supposed to play," he added. "We've got the toughest schedule in the (Ohio) Valley. We are going to be after them for the next two years."

"Congratulations to them," he said of Wheeling Central. "They are a really good baseball team."

Morgantown Comeback T In OVAC 5A



Wheeling Park's Jaxso Morgantown's Quincy tag for a play at the pla championship at the Edi

By KI
Stal

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"I have not questione season," he said. "They at bats with nothing to s the fight the whole time.

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Please see

Familiar Foes Cameron, Madonna Set For OVAC 1A Champio

By NICK HENTHORN

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Maroon Knights, pictured following their victory over Martins Ferry in the OVAC 3A championship at the Edison Unified Sports Complex.

Photo by Seth Staskey

Central Defends OVAC Championship With Wins Knights Double Up Martins Ferry, 8-4

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Morgantown Mounts Late Comeback To Defeat Park In OVAC 5A Championship

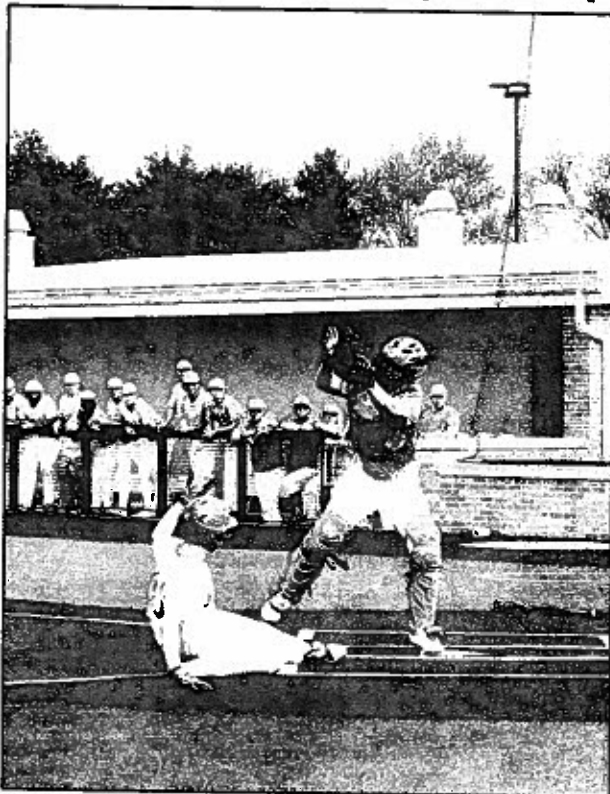


Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Park's Jaxson Updegraff slides in while Morgantown's Quincy Joseph looks to lay down a tag for a play at the plate Thursday in the OVAC 5A championship at the Edison Unified Sports Complex.

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

CADIZ — Just when it appeared Wheeling Park was headed for a third straight win over Morgantown this season, the Mohigans pulled a victory from the jaws of defeat.

Jackson Bredeson's bases-loaded double with two outs in the top of the seventh sparked a four-run outburst as the Mohigans (16-8) rallied for a 4-2 triumph in the OVAC Class 5A championship game at Maze-roski Field. The come-from-win allowed Morgantown to defend their title.

"Obviously, those two games were regular season but any time you get a chance to win a championship it's a different type of game," Morgantown head coach Pat Sherald said. "I just complimented the guys for their maturity and poise. They brought a ton of energy today."

"I have not questioned their focus in one game this season," he said. "They went out and had some quality at bats with nothing to show for it. But they stayed in the fight the whole time."

The Patriots, who owned a pair of regular-season victories over the Mohigans, scored single runs in the first and second innings as they tagged Lucas Shinn for six hits. However, the junior retired 13 batters in a row from the last out of the second through sixth to keep the Mohigans close.

Please see PARK, Page 13

Ernest banged a single through the left side of the infield. With one out, Matt Criniti singled sharply to center.

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Familiar Foes Cameron, Madonna Set For OVAC 1A Championship Meeting

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

RICHMOND - The Cameron Dragons and Madonna Blue Dons have gotten very familiar with each other over the last four years.

"Over the last three years we've played each other four or five times a year, being in the same section, same region, we schedule games during the regular season," Cameron head coach Adam Angel said in a phone interview Thursday. "Then we play in the OVAC semi final or final. The last four years, we've probably played them about 16 times."

They say familiarity breeds contempt, but as the Dragons and Blue Dons prepare to face

each other in the OVAC 1A championship for the third time in four years, the feeling surrounding either team is one of mutual respect.

"I've known their coaching staff for a number of years," Angel said. "Madonna is very well-coached, very disciplined. They get the absolute best out of their players which is exactly what you want as a coach."

"I know Adam pretty well, he does a great job, have a lot of respect for Coach Angel and what he's done with his team," Madonna head coach TJ Miller said in a phone interview Thursday. "I know he has a little bit of a younger team this year, a bit of a mix with some older guys too."

"[...] Our guys are locked in, they know what's coming, we have respect for Cameron. They've been putting together some wins coming into this game. We know they're going to put forward their best and we have to give them ours."

Indeed, Cameron (14-7) is riding a seven-game win streak heading into their title bout against Madonna (15-2), including an OVAC semifinal victory over Conotton Valley, and they've been doing it during an on-the-fly retooling job.

"We lost a lot of arms, a lot of athletes over the last couple of years and we're kind of in a rebuild," Angel said.

Please see MADONNA, Page 12



Photo by Andrew Grimm
Madonna pitcher Reed Wilharm fires a pitch during a regular season game against Clay-Battelle on March 26. The Blue Dons meet Cameron on Friday at the Edison Unified Sports Complex for the OVAC 1A championship.

Cam Ward Goes No. 1, Travis Hunter No. 2 And Shedeur Sanders Still Waiting After First Round Of NFL Draft

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. - Cam Ward went from zero-star recruit to No. 1 pick in the NFL draft. Travis Hunter cost Jacksonville a premium. Jaxson Dart was selected before Shedeur Sanders.

While Ward, Hunter and Abdul Carter went 1-2-3 as expected, Sanders wasn't picked at all in the first round.

Sanders was passed over by every team that had a need for a potential franchise quarterback, even though some draft analysts had him rated higher than Ward. The New York Giants had two opportunities to take Sanders - who starred at Colorado under his father, coach Deion Sanders



AP Photo
Oregon defensive lineman Derrick Harmon runs a drill at the NFL combine in Indianapolis, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025.

Steelers Pass On Sanders, Pick Derrick Harmon In NFL Draft



AP Photo



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Mason Crosby, Ahman Green and James Jones, as well as rap megastar and Green Bay superfan Lil Wayne.

As usual, fans booed Goodell when he opened the extravaganza.

Titans fans cheered inside the draft theater after hearing Ward's name called. An overlooked high school player out of Texas, Ward began his college career at Incarnate Word, an FCS school in San Antonio. He played two seasons at Washington State after transferring there in

the scouting combine. He caught 96 passes for 1,258 yards and 15 touchdowns while making 35 tackles, breaking up 11 passes and picking off four.

The San Francisco 49ers took Georgia edge rusher Mykel Williams with the 11th pick. Alabama guard Tyler Booker went to the Dallas Cowboys at No. 12.

Michigan defensive tackle Kenneth Grant was selected by the Miami Dolphins with the 13th pick. The Indianapolis Colts snagged Penn

picked by the defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles, who moved up one spot to No. 31.

The Kansas City Chiefs finished off the first round by taking Ohio State offensive tackle Josh Simmons, who could provide Patrick Mahomes some much-needed protection.

The first round featured four trades and ended with Michigan cornerback Will Johnson and Alabama quarterback Jalen Milroe still in the green room.

MADONNA

(Continued from Page 11)

"We don't have the same power pitching that we've had, so we're going to have to play very clean defense, we can't give [Madonna] any extra outs. Offensively we're going to try to generate a run an inning, if we can get a big inning that'll be great. Last time we played we were unable to do that, but that's the goal. I like our odds if we do that and we score seven runs, but you need to find a way."

The Dragons lost to the Blue Dons 7-1 on April 9, as Madonna has encountered very few setbacks on their way to a top-three ranking in W.Va. Class A statewide polls.

"We've had a great year so far, we're 15-2, we're playing very good baseball right now," Miller said. "The kids are buying into what we're coaching, they're rolling right now. Hopefully we stay hot and keep moving in the right direction. Ultimately, our goal is a state championship this season and these guys are bought-in and giving everything they have to reach that goal."

Madonna has gotten contributions up and down their roster.

Jacob Lazear, Reed Wilharm, David Connors and Matthew Geer have made up an impressive pitching staff. "Any time those guys start on the hill we're typically in a great spot," Miller said - while Connors, Geer, Lazear, Koleton Grishkevich, Reno Fuscardo and Caleb Wells have produced plenty of offense at the plate.

Connors is sitting at a batting average above .500 for the year and an OBP of over .600.

"He's hitting lights-out this year," Miller said.

"Pitching has been our strongest suit this year so if our pitchers show up Friday like we expect them to, that'll be

key. Playing fundamental baseball on defense, which we've been doing better at, that'll be another key. Being patient at the plate, our approach at the plate this year has gotten better and better as far as working counts and being better two-strike hitters. As long as we keep that approach at the plate, that'll put us in a good position."

As for Cameron, they bring their own firepower into the game with Kason Angel the best bet to start on the mound - though others like Wes Starcher have played an important pitching role as well.

"Kason Angel came in as our hard throwing, most consistent pitcher coming into the season," Angel said. "We knew we were going to have to get some innings from some younger guys or older guys who didn't have the experience."

"When Kason Angel is pitching they're an extremely tough team to beat," Miller said. "Kason does a great job - we faced Cameron earlier in the year but they didn't pitch Kason. We were able to jump on them a little bit and capitalize on some mistakes."

Soier Reed has been wielding a hot bat as of late - Angel said he had gone 11-13 at the plate in the team's four-game stretch leading up to the OVAC semifinals, and Zayde Long has led the team in RBI all season. The pair, along with Angel and Starcher, are vital to Cameron's offense. Angel also shouted out freshman catcher Anthony Bellanco, whose development offensively and defensively has impressed the Dragons coaches.

Friday's game, the lone championship on Friday before a two-game slate on Saturday, is set for a 6 p.m. start at Edison Unified Sports Complex in Richmond, Ohio.

LINESCORES

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OVAC Class 3A Championship Wheeling Central 8, Martins Ferry 4

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**John Marshall 13,
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C-Florence (7K, 6BB), Hill
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0BB) Hanna lp (7) (3K, 0BB)
and Balgo. King D, 2rbi;
Saunders D, HR, 3rbi; Flor-
ence 2D, 4rbi; Bailey D; Han-
na 3S; Balgo 2S; Ivey S, rbi;
Jacob S, rbi; King S, 2rbi;
Stars S.

JM-Coulter (2K, 1BB), Mar-
konich (5) (1K, 2BB), Clegg
wp (7) (0K, 0BB) and Martin.
Markonich 2D, 2S, rbi; Asti-
palitis D; Gaiser D, S; Martin
3S, rbi; McDowell S, rbi; Cis-
ar S, 2rbi.

SOFTBALL

River 6, Magnolia 5

Magn 111 100 001 -- 5 7 3
River 002 020 002 -- 6 12 4
M-McDiffitt lp (12K, 2BB)
and Heil. Anderson S, 2D,
rbi; Heil D; McDiffitt S, D,
2rbi; McKeever D.
R-Wohnhas wp (12K, 4BB)
and Hagan. Wohnhas S, D;
Maddy T, HR, 3rbi; Hagan
3S, D, T, 2rbi; Kinney-Blair
2S.

Martins Ferry 16, Barnesville 4

Barnesville 002 20 -- 4 7 3
Martins Fer 523 06 -- 16 16 4
B-Betts lp (1K, 4BB), John-
son (2) (0K, 0BB) and Welch.
Loudin D, S, rbi; Johnson D,
2rbi; Dudzik S; Smolira S;
Anderson S; Welch S, rbi.
MF-Lucas wp (3K, 1BB) and
Chirpas. Goddard 2D, S, 4rbi;
Hughes D; Chirpas 2HR, S,
6rbi; Snedeker 2HR, S, 2rbi;
Lucas HR, S, 2rbi; Lucas S;
Cole 2S; Brandon S.

University 5, Wheeling Central 3

University 201 020 0 -- 5 8 1
Whg Cent 010 002 0 -- 3 4 2
U-Campbell (12K, 1BB) and
Masones. Park D; Campbell
D; Masones D; Elza D; Royce
T; Stevens S; Shaver S; Cox
D.
WC-Kiaski (5K, 1BB) and
Hanson; Rine S; Miehle S;
Maxwell S, HR.

2025 NFL DRAFT

Thursday, April 24 First Round

Tennessee, Cam Ward, qb,
iami.
Jacksonville (from Cleve-
nd), Travis Hunter, cb/wr,
olorado.
N.Y. Giants, Abdul Carter,
Penn State.
New England, Will Camp-
ell, ot, LSU.
Cleveland (from Jackson-
ille), Mason Graham, dt,
ichigan.
Ashton Jeanty, rb, Boise
ate.
N.Y. Jets, Armand Mem-
ou, ot, Missouri.
Carolina, Tetairoa McMil-
n, wr, Arizona.
New Orleans, Kelvin Banks
., ot, Texas.
Chicago, Colston Love-
nd, te, Michigan.
San Francisco, Mykel Wit-
ms, de, Georgia.
Dallas, Tyler Booker, g, Al-
ama.
Miami, Kenneth Grant, dt,
ichigan.
Indianapolis, Tyler War-

17. Cincinnati, Shemar Stew-
art, de, Texas A&M.
18. Seattle, Grey Zabel, g,
North Dakota State.
19. Tampa Bay, Emeka Egbu-
ka, wr, Ohio State.
20. Denver, Jahdae Barron,
cb, Texas.
21. Pittsburgh, Derrick Har-
mon, dt, Oregon.
22. L.A. Chargers, Omarion
Hampton, rb, North Carolina.
23. Green Bay, Matthew Gold-
en, wr, Texas.
24. Minnesota, Donovan Jack-
son, g, Ohio State.
25. N.Y. Giants (from Hous-
ton), Jaxon Dart, qb, Missis-
sippi.
26. Atlanta (from L.A. Rams),
James Pearce Jr. de, Tennes-
see.
27. Baltimore, Malaki Starks,
s, Georgia.
28. Detroit, Tyleik Williams, dt,
Ohio State.
29. Washington, Josh Conerly
Jr., ot, Oregon.
30. Buffalo, Maxwell Hairston,
cb, Kentucky.
31. Philadelphia (from Kansas

TOWNS SCORES 31, BRUNSON 30 AS KNICKS Take 2-1 Series Lead Over Pistons

DETROIT (AP) — Karl-Anthony Towns was aggressive early and Jalen Brunson was effective late.

Towns scored 11 of his 31 points in the first quarter and Brunson had 12 of his 30 in the fourth to help the New York Knicks hold on for a 118-116 win over the Detroit Pistons on Thurs-
day night to take a 2-1 lead in the first-
round series.

"I thought the way we started the game was much better," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "And, we made
timely plays down the stretch."

Game 4 is on Sunday in Detroit.

The Pistons have lost eight straight home playoff games since 2008, pull-
ing within one of an NBA record set by Philadelphia from 1968 to 1971.

When Detroit won at New York in Game 2, the franchise ended a league-re-
cord, 15-playoff game losing streak to take home-court advantage, but the
Knicks snatched it back.

Brunson, who won the NBA's Clutch Player of the Year award on Wednes-
day, made consecutive layups late in the game to give the Knicks a seven-point
lead.

Brunson made one of two free throws

with 3.5 seconds left for a four-point lead after Detroit's coaches, players and fans were screaming for an over-and-back violation to be called.

"If you catch the ball, have possession and put it down, to me, that's possession in the front court," Pistons coach J.B. Bickerstaff said.

Brunson made another free throw with 0.5 seconds left and after missing the second intentionally, the Pistons were given the ball in front of their bench af-
ter the buzzer sounded prematurely.

"It doesn't seem right to me," Thibo-
deau said. "It's unfortunate. That should never happen in a playoff game."

Detroit, though, didn't get a final shot off because Jalen Duren's pass from in front of his team's bench went out of bounds on the other side of the court.

Towns, a 7-foot center, made 4-of-8 3-pointers after combining to shoot 1 of 5 beyond the arc over the first two games.

"He bounced back," Thibodeau said. "He can score a lot of different ways and he used his versatility to his strength."

Detroit's Cade Cunningham scored 24 points and had 11 assists, but missed 15 of 25 shots and had six turnovers.

PARK

(Continued from Page 11)

"He really didn't have his best stuff today, but he found a way to pitch and not just throw," Sherald added.

With one out in the seventh, Kai Henkens and Elijah Boggs drew consecutive walks from Wheeling Park's Ryland Robb. Wheeling Park head coach Steve Myers brought in freshman Jax-
son Updegraff who hit Ryan Nipper to load the bases. A fielder's choice by Weston Mazey made it 2-1 but another base-
on-balls to Mason Bow-
ers re-loaded the bags. Bredeson turned on an 0-1 pitch, driving it to the

fence in right-center as all three runners scored.

"That was a huge hit for a freshman in that spot," Sherald said.

Wheeling Park put a pair of runners on in the bottom of the seventh, but Judd Messerly relieved Shinn with one out and retired the two batters he faced to earn the save. Shinn threw 99 pitches and drew praise from both head coaches.

"I thought both pitch-
ers pitched really good games," Wheeling Park head coach Steve Myers said. "It was a good base-
ball game. They got the big hit when they needed

it. The Patriots got their runs on a run-scoring sin-
gle by Rocco Digiando-
menico in the first and an RBI single from Kolten Whitmire in the second. However, they didn't re-
cord another hit.

"If we're playing good baseball and they are playing good baseball, then we'll probably meet each other again this year," Sherald added.

Whitmire and Upde-
graff had two singles each for Wheeling Park.

Shinn struck out four and walked two.

Robb fanned six and is-
sued three free passes.

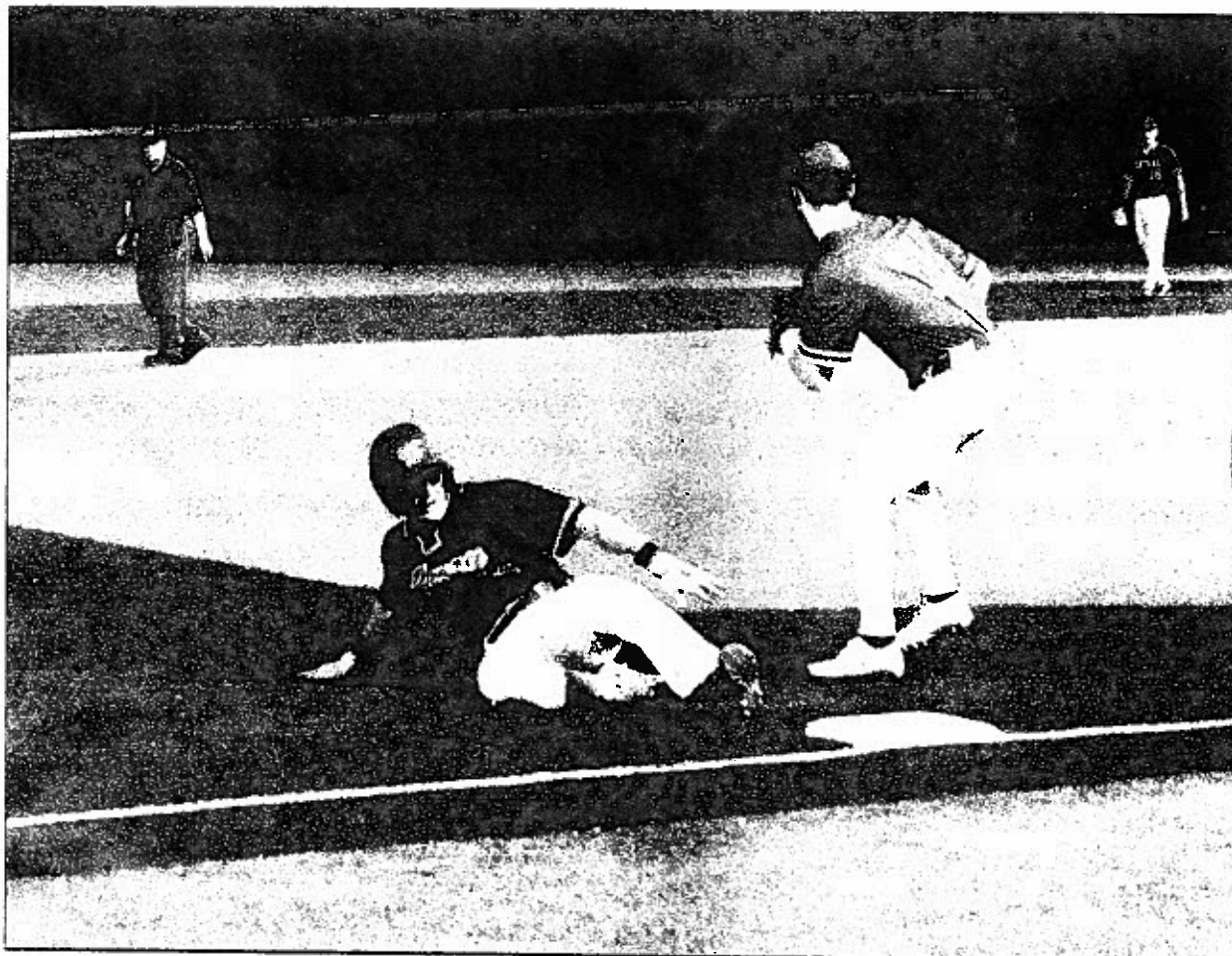
STEELERS

(Continued from Page 11)

Yet with Aaron Rodg-
ers still potentially avail-
able — the four-time MVP visited the Steel-
ers' facility in March but is taking his time before
deciding whether to play a 21st season — Pitts-
burgh addressed another
glaring need instead.

frequently manhandled during a five-game los-
ing streak to end the season, the nadir being a first-round playoff loss to Baltimore in which Pittsburgh gave up 299 yards rushing to Lamar Jackson, Derrick Henry and companv.

time last fall after rack-
ing up eight sacks at age 35 — the Steelers have been unable to provide him with a consistent-
ly productive partner. They cut Larry Ogunjo-
bi in a salary cap move in March and while Kee-
anu Benton has shown



MARTINS FERRY'S Luca Shane slides safely into third base Thursday night with a triple that scored two runs against Wheeling Central in the OVAC Class 3A Championship game at Mazeroski Field in Cadiz. However, the Maroon Knights doubled up the Purple Riders, 8-4, to win their second title in as many seasons.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

Wheeling Central defends OVAC Class 2A championship with win

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

CADIZ — Wheeling Central defended its OVAC Class 3A baseball championship but it wasn't easy.

The top-seeded Maroon Knights rallied from a 1-0 deficit to score all of their runs in the second through fifth innings in an 8-4 doubling up of third-seeded Martins Ferry (6-6) Thursday nights under the lights at Mazeroski Field inside Sally Buffalo Park.

"I knew it was going to be a battle. We knew Martins Ferry was going to give us their best shot," Wheeling Central head coach Todd Cover said. "I thought we played pretty well."

Martins Ferry took a 1-0 lead in its first at-bat as Ayden Ludolph drew a leadoff walk and raced around the bases when Hunter Shutler sent a double to the gap in left-center.

A three-run third by Wheeling

out, Matt Criniti singled sharply to center to load the bases. Luke Tiu followed with an RBI single to shallow right and Braxton Billick chased home two runs with a double to right-center.

Luca Shane's two-run, two-out triple down the right field line evened the count in the third, but the Maroon Knights kept adding on.

Lipinski, who had a single and two doubles, doubled leading off the third. Ernest and Kade Koroneros drew back-to-back walks to load the bases before Tiu roped a two-run double to left.

Eli Smith drew the Purple Riders to within 7-4 with a ground-rule double to left-center in the fifth, but Wheeling Central got the run back in the bottom of inning when Tiu raced home from third on a wild pitch.

Lipinski had three of the Maroon Knights' 13 hits, while Tiu, the No. 9 hitter, had two. He also drove in three runs. Billick also

Seth, finished up with a trio of Ks. They teamed on a six-hitter.

"I thought both of my pitchers pitched well," Coach Cover noted. "Brayden struggled a little but they put the bat on a couple of balls. Seth came in and did what we asked of him."

Shutler collected two doubles while Smith singled and doubled.

Shutler also took the loss, striking out five and issuing one walk.

"I thought we played pretty good," Martins Ferry head coach Anthony Reasbeck offered. "If I was a betting man, I'm gonna say this game will happen again in the next two years. They know we're here now. We're getting better and better as the games progress. We're playing hard. We're coaching our butts off. We're not going to run and hide from Wheeling Central."

"This is fun. This is who you are supposed to play," he added. "We've got the toughest schedule in the (Ohio) Valley. We are going to be after them for the next two

Can't we No. 1, T Hunter Shedeu not pick

GREEN BAY, W. from zero-star recruit Travis Hunter cost Ja Dart was selected bef

While Ward, Hunte as expected, Sanders round.

Sanders was passe a need for a potent though some draft ana Ward. The New York to take Sanders — wh father, coach Deion S State edge rusher Carl ing an already strong

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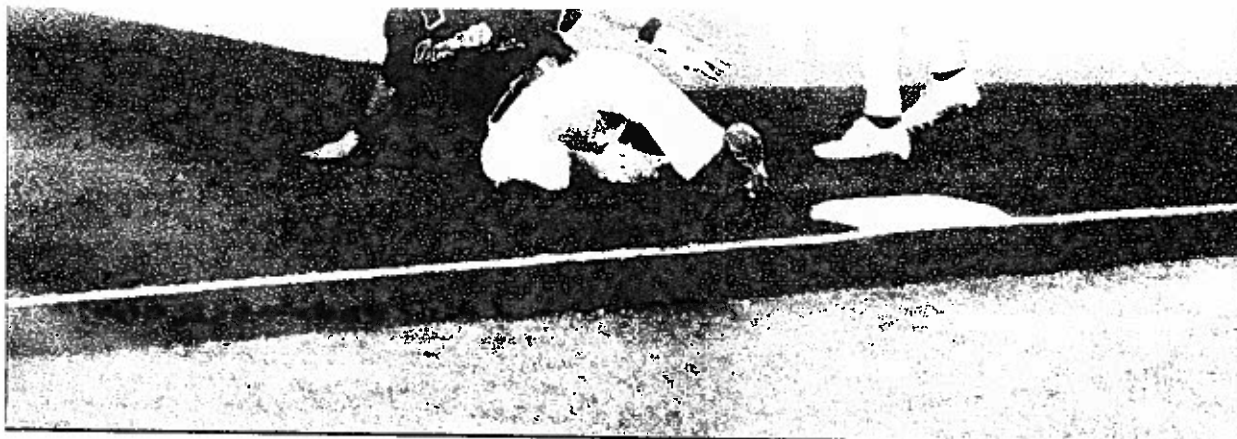
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See Df

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PITTSBURGH (A



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T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

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Martins Ferry took a 1-0 lead in its first at-bat as Ayden Ludolph drew a leadoff walk and raced around the bases when Hunter Shutler sent a double to the gap in left-center.

A three-run third by Wheeling Central put it ahead as Koy Lipinski was hit with a pitch and Brady Ernest banged a single through the left side of the infield. With one

out, Matt Criniti singled sharply to center to load the bases. Luke Tiu followed with an RBI single to shallow right and Braxton Billick chased home two runs with a double to right-center.

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Lipinski had three of the Maroon Knights' 13 hits, while Tiu, the No. 9 hitter, had two. He also drove in three runs. Billick also singled twice.

Brayden Cover earned the win with nine strikeouts and three walks in five innings. Old brother,

Seth, finished up with a trio of Ks. They teamed on a six-hitter.

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"This is fun. This is who you are supposed to play," he added. "We've got the toughest schedule in the (Ohio) Valley. We are going to be after them for the next two years."

"Congratulations to them," he said of Wheeling Central. "They are a really good baseball team."

Cleveland's Evan Mobley wins NBA Defensive Player of the Year award

(AP) — Evan Mobley said his goal coming into the season with the Cleveland Cavaliers was to win the NBA Defensive Player of the Year award.

He got it done.

The Cavs consider Mobley to

Saying "finally" might be a bit of a stretch. Mobley is only 23 — the fifth-youngest player to win the award, joining fellow 23-year-olds Dwight Howard, Jaren Jackson Jr., Alvin Robertson and Kawhi Leonard as winners of the

and prowess. So, I feel like I did a good job this year and it clearly shows."

But the case Cleveland coach Kenny Atkinson made for Mobley was how different the Cavaliers' defensive numbers were with Mo-

round.

Sanders was passed a need for a potent though some draft and Ward. The New York to take Sanders — with father, coach Deion S State edge rusher Carting an already strong

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The Jaguars gave to give Hunter that opportunity

"I'm super excited whose hometown is means a lot that they believe in me."

The New England Will Campbell with tackle Drake Maye more

Campbell broke down "I'm gonna fight and

Michigan defensive fifth to Cleveland. Bo Jeanty was picked at N

The New York Jet tackle Armand Moten Arizona wide receiver T Carolina Panthers with

See DF

Steelers: Shedeu for Derrick Harmon

PITTSBURGH (AP) gave their defensive Derrick Harmon from pick in the NFL draft

While the Steelers quarterback, they opt Shedeu Sanders, with the draft and receiver coach Mike Tomlin.

Yet with Aaron Rodgers — the four-time facility in March but ciding whether to play addressed another game

Pittsburgh is hoping Harmon can help a frequently manhandled streak to end the season round playoff loss to

...t. Clair-
g the girls
e 8 Track
uesday at
ssed 129
ambridge

to win the high jump, while Ava Crum took the pole vault with a jump of 11-6. The 4x100 relay of Olivia McKeever, Emma Gasber, Crum and Meila King ran a 52.32 seconds to break the tape, while Olivia Perzanowski, Crum, McKeever and Gasber ran a 4-minutes, 20.32-seconds to win the 4x400.

The Red Devils finished with five second-placers, two thirds, three fourths, four fifths, three sixths and a pair of sevenths.

by clocking out in 2:15.89 to win the 800 and 5:26.32 to take the 1600. Her 800 time was an elite performance, according to Ohio MileSplit. The Purple Riders' 4x800 relay team of Lakyn Call, Claire Eddy, Cadence Oberle and Madison Oberle posted a 10:37.98 for first place.

Barnesville's Lydia Welch putted the shot 35-10.75 and Bellaire's Alyson Vingia twirled the discus 130-2 to win the weight events.

Indian Creek's Trinity Greene won the 100 in 13.22; Dalana Bove ran a 1:02.10 to win the 400 and the Redskins' 4x200 relay clocked out in 1:53.23.

Buckeye Local's Jenna Delvecchio captured the 110 high hurdles in 15.15.

Martins Ferry finished third in the team race with 73 points, one more than Barnesville. Bellaire had 64.

See CROWN, Page B3

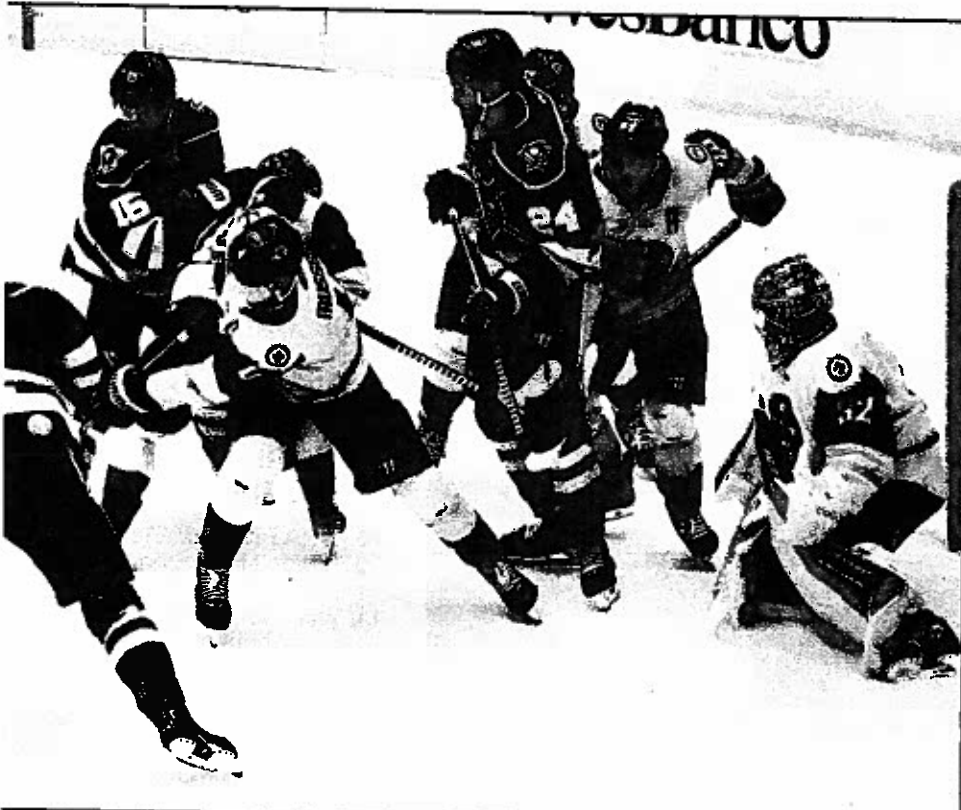


Photo by JOE LOVELL

id Drake moves in for a shot against the Norfolk Admirals on Wednesday inside Wes-
opped their Kelly Cup playoff game 5-1 to trail the Admirals 3-0 in the series.

Have backs to the wall ing behind 3-0 in series

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Wheeling head coach Der-
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nitely surprising."

After a scoreless first 20
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Wheeling finally solved
Thomas Milic, who had
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empty net.

"I think we have given
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Milic, who stopped 35 of
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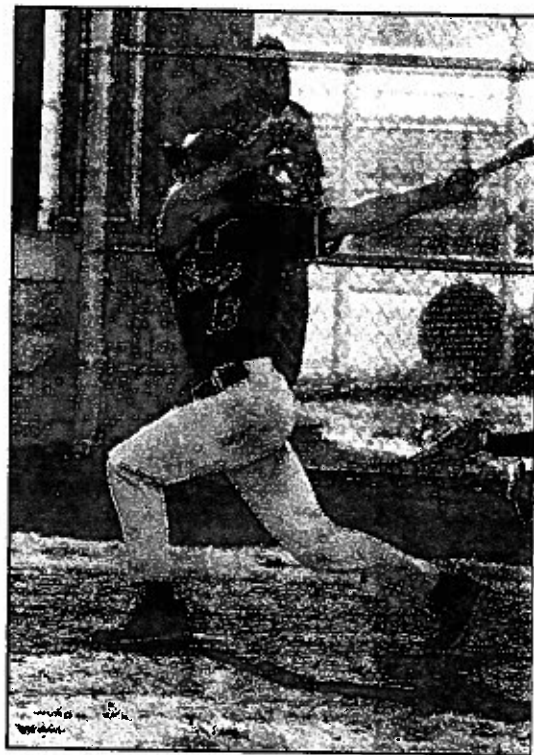


Photo by NICK HENTHORN


MARTINS FERRY'S Kolson Ludolph connects
with a pitch during a regular season game
against Bellaire on April 7. The Purple Riders
meet the Wheeling Central Maroon Knights on
Thursday on Mazeroski Field for the OVAC 3A
championship.

Martins Ferry to take on Wheeling Central for OVAC 3A championship

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

CADIZ — The Wheeling Central Maroon
Knights' and Martins Ferry Purple Riders' first
meeting this season will be for all the
marbles.

The top-seeded Knights and third-seeded
Riders will meet in Thursday's OVAC 3A
championship game on Harrison Central High
School's Mazeroski Field under the lights, set
for a 7:30 p.m. start. Wheeling Central, last
year's champions in 3A, won their semifinal
against Monroe Central in decisive fashion,
while Martins Ferry upset Linsly to reach the



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The puck ticked off the
post and into the cage for a
3-1 advantage.

"The very next shift we
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took a penalty," Army re-
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See **NAILERS**, Page B3



Photo by NICK HENTHORN

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year's champions in 3A, won their semifinal
against Monroe Central in decisive fashion,
while Martins Ferry upset Linsly to reach the
title game.

"Being the No. 1 seed is nice, because it
means you have a good record to this point in
the season, but when it comes to the champion-
ship none of that means anything," Wheeling
Central head coach Todd Cover said. "It's two
teams out there battling and whoever makes
the most plays is going to win. We hope to be
on the winning side tomorrow."

"Before the tournament, we had to beat
Barnesville to get in," Martins Ferry Anthony
Reasbeck explained. "We told the kids, we've
got to win 21 innings to win the champion-
ship. We've got it down to seven now. I guess
that makes us feel a helluva lot better than 21.
We got in, we got to the finals, now we've got
to win seven more innings."

While either team took different paths to the
final, with the game on the horizon, their game
plans for Wednesday are aligned.

"We're going to have to limit Central's of-
fense," Reasbeck said. "Their pitching staff is
lights out, we might have a tough time scor-
ing, so we need to keep them at bay as much
as possible. We have to throw strikes and play
tremendous defense behind [Hunter] Shutler. If
we can do that and make it a 2-1 game, a 3-2
game, we've got a puncher's chance. If they
score six or seven runs we'll have a problem."

See **FERRY**, Page B3

Bulldogs blank Paden City, 24-0

et was
ednes-
isiting
school

Class 1A championship game with
a five-inning win over the visiting
Lumberjacks.

Billy Patterson earned the mound
win, striking out four and walking
three. Brody Smith singled thrice
and knocked in a run. Zayde Long
plated a pair of runs with a single
and double. Wes Starcher belted a
two-run double.

Barnesville 9, Martins Ferry 0
MARTINS FERRY — Dylan
Blon struck out nine and walked
just one in a complete-game effort
against the Purple Riders. He gave
up four singles.

Caleb Powell singled twice to

drive in three runs. Brayden Watters
had a two-run triple and Max Miller
doubled twice.

Indian Creek 2, Indian Valley 0
GNADENHUTTEN — The
Redskins (11-1) warmed up for
their OVAC Class 4A final on Sat-
urday with a blanking of the host
Braves.

Sy Barcalow, Max Lane and
Gavin Pownall combined on a five-
hit shutout.

Barcalow had an RBI single and
Sylus Hycde singled in the other
tally.

See **BRIDGEPORT**, Page B3

NFL draft, the biggest question surrounds Shedeur Sanders and where he's going

on Wednesday.

In a draft loaded with talent-

they're taking Miami quarter-
back Cam Ward at No. 1.

Browns are poised to select er in the draft, take their pick
two-way star Travis Hunter of offensive linemen or trade

• Ferry

Continued from Page B1

"Our pitchers are going to have to get ahead in counts — we can't always throw fastballs in fastball counts because they're too good of a hitting team for that," Cover said. "For us, it's always throw strikes, make the routine plays and get timely hits. I know they're going to throw their best at us and it's probably going to be a low-scoring game, so whoever gets a couple runners on and gets the timely hits, they're going to end up ahead."

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"What can't I say about them? They're the best around, I think," Reasbeck said. "We played them in the semis last year and the game lasted five innings, we got drilled. We had five freshmen playing in that game. They're about as good as you get as a baseball team and we know that coming in. But if we can get seven innings to six innings, six innings to five, five to four — you just never know."

The Purple Riders' freshman-filled team last year has turned into a sophomore-laden squad

this year, with second-year players like Hunter Shutler, Christian Shutler and Eli Smith all tallying RBI in Ferry's semifinal against Linsly, Smith belting a two-run home run. Senior Ayden Ludolph, one of three seniors on the team along with first baseman Alex Reese and second baseman Hunter Theil, struck out five in that game and had an RBI at the plate as well.

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Martins Ferry won the OVAC championship in 2022, while Wheeling Central is seeking to defend the title.

"As a program — and I don't mean to sound overconfident — but I expect us to be there every year," Cover said. "It's an expectation of ours, we want to play for championships, that's where we want to get our program to. There's two big ones, that's OVAC's and the state championship. I think we're talented enough to take a shot at both of them and it starts tomorrow against a really talented Martins Ferry team."

"They had to grow up a little faster than usual," Reasbeck said of his team. "We're starting five sophomores and a freshman. There was a plan for these guys, but we're a little ahead of schedule. But, now we're here, so we might as well win."

Monday and OVAC championship appearance Thursday.

Cade Koroneos tallied 3 hits for Central, while Jake Brown and Seth Cover each drove in one.

Williamstown's Wy-Siley was a thorn in Central's side, finishing with three hits, including a double, and three RBI. Williamstown scored four the top of the seventh to break open a 3-3 tie.

SOFTBALL

Wheeling Central 6, Barnesville 4

BARNESVILLE — Central's Maddie Miehle cracked a home run and three singles to power the Aaron Knights to a win over the Shamrocks.

The Knights' Josie Izzell struck out 20 and closed up the win.

Barnesville's Ella Betts started the game for Barnesville, tagged with a loss though three Barnesville errors resulted in three unearned runs charged to her account.

Abby Johnson pitched the final two frames for the Shamrocks, stringing it three and not allowing any hits or issuing any walks.

'Rocks catcher Lily Welch hit a single and a triple and drove in three.

Barnesville 13, St. Clairsville 3

BARNESVILLE — Abby Johnson and Ella Betts each came through with big hits to help deliver a five-inning win to the Shamrocks against the visiting Red Devils.

Johnson cracked a double to finish with two RBI and Betts walloped a home run to finish with three. Maddy Tyson and Lily Welch each had two hits for Barnesville.

Keslee Berrara hit a home run for St. Clairsville, one of her three hits.

Peyton Loudin pitched the full game for Barnesville, striking out six.

Edison 7, Martins Ferry 6, 10 inn.

MARTINS FERRY — The Wildcats pushed across a run in the top of the 10th to end the Purple Riders' 16-game winning streak.

Samantha Goddard blasted a three-run homer for Martins Ferry.

Weir 7, Harrison Central 3

CADIZ — The Red Riders scored three times in the third and four times in the fifth to defeat the Huskies.

Eliza Utt went the distance inside the circle with four strikeouts. She also tripled home a run.

Kara Blackburn and Bailee Smith had RBI singles for Harrison Central.

Shadyside 7, Monroe Central 2
Monroe Central 13, Shadyside 4

SHADYSIDE — The Seminoles and Tigers split their doubleheader on Wednesday.

Shadyside's victory came from a complete game pitching performance from Ariana Saxton (5K, 1BB) and an offense that pounded out 11 hits.

Kamryn Parker, Kaylie Warnock, Brianna Harris, Reese Burkhart and Jourdan Walker each had two hits for Shadyside, with Walker and Harris each driving in a pair.

In Monroe Central's victory, 'Noles starter Karlie Haslam pitched the full seven innings with eight strikeouts, while leadoff batter Jadyn Miller collected two hits and

three RBI.

Shadyside committed eight errors. Warnock finished with a double, a single and three RBI, while Parker tallied three hits.

River 12, Valley 3

PINE GROVE — The Pilots blasted out 19 hits in rolling past the host Lumberjills.

Kaylee Hagan singled and tripled to account for three RBI while Presley Kilburn also drove in three with a single and double. Ava Wohnhas singled twice and doubled to knock in two runs.

Magnolia 5, Cameron 3

NEW MARTINSVILLE — The Blue Eagles offense came alive late Wednesday to help them defeat the visiting Dragons.

Mallory McDiffitt fired nine strikeouts for Magnolia in a complete game victory. She also doubled and drove in three runners as a batter.

Skye Dobbs collected three hits for Cameron, while Lexi Bogard struck out 12 inside the circle.

Magnolia scored two in the fourth and three in the fifth to account for their total.

(Late Tuesday)

SOFTBALL

Harrison Central 12, Cambridge 8

CAMBRIDGE — The Huskies scored seven times in the top of the seventh inning to stun the Bobcats at City Park.

Kelcey Powers singled three times, doubled and drove in two runs for the winners, while Mikayla Pelegreen doubled in three more. Bailee Smith singled twice, doubled and knocked in a run.



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Barnesville Central's...
Thompson both jumped...
Barnesville Central's...

played at home. Game 1 is Friday at 7:10 p.m.. Should the Nailers stay alive, Game 5 would be Saturday and game 6, if necessary, on Sunday.

from the right circle that zipped past Sergei Murashov. It became 2-0 moments later when Sean Montgomery took a feed

spark the hosts as Murashov came up big moments later, but the Admirals weren't finished. Chyzowski collected a

Admirals, with the last coming into an empty net.

Please see **HOME**,
Page 12

this was it. Philosophers — and include this in their kirer argued that there is

Please se

Maroon Knights And Purple Riders In OVAC 3A Championship

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

CADIZ - The Wheeling Central Maroon Knights' and Martins Ferry Purple Riders' first meeting this season will be for all the marbles.

The top-seeded Knights and third-seeded Riders will meet in Thursday's OVAC 3A championship game on Harrison Central High School's Mazeroski Field under the lights, set for a 7:30 p.m. start. Wheeling Central, last year's champions in 3A, won their semifinal against Monroe Central in decisive fashion, while Martins Ferry upset Linsly to reach the title game.

"Being the No. 1 seed is nice, because it means you have a good record to this point in the season, but when it comes to the championship none of that means anything," Wheeling Central head coach Todd Cover said. "It's two teams out there battling and whoever makes the most plays is going to win. We hope to be on the winning side tomorrow."

"Before the tournament, we had to beat Barnesville to get in," Martins Ferry Anthony Reasbeck explained. "We



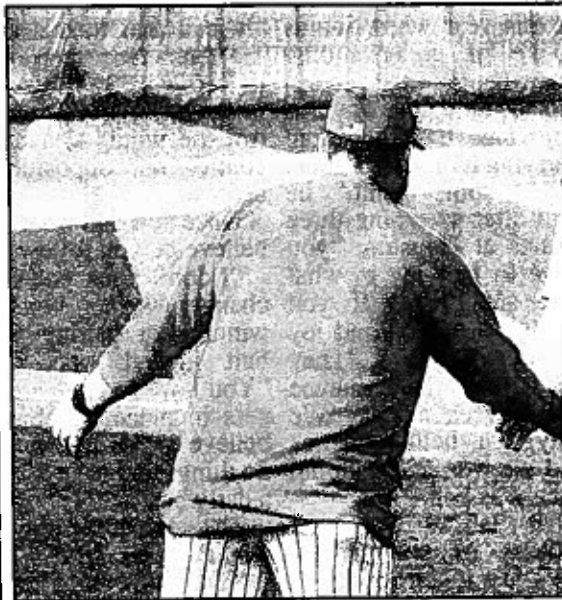
Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Central's Luke Tiu awaits a pitch during a regular season game against Linsly on April 8. The Maroon Knights meet the Martins Ferry Purple Riders on Thursday on Mazeroski Field for the OVAC 3A championship.

told the kids, we've got to win 21 innings to win the championship. We've got it down to seven now. I guess that makes us feel a helluva lot better than 21. We got in, we got to the finals, now we've got to win seven more innings."

While either team took different paths to the final, with the game on the horizon, their game plans for Wednesday are aligned.

Please see **KNIGHTS**,
Page 12



Wheeling Park's Cordin Burkhardt high-fives his teammates after a win in the Patriots' OVAC 5A semifinal game against Park. The Patriots will face Morgantown for the 5A championship on Thursday at Harrison Central High School's Mazeroski Field.

Round Three Of Wheeling Park vs Morgantown For OVAC 5A Championship

By **NICK HENTHORN**
Sports Editor

CADIZ - Wheeling Park has had a strong first half of their season, and an explosive liftoff point to their OVAC 5A championship game against Morgantown, but the Patriots are hoping the climax of their storybook has yet to come.

"Any time you play a sport, one of your main goals is to win the conference," Wheeling Park head coach Steve Myers said. "So anytime you get to the conference championship it's exciting. We have a great group of young men and players, I'd love to see it for them, that's for sure."

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Parker finals, higans son C Field. A g senior walk Yanch ers wa backv

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St. Clairsville Girls Use Depth To Capture Buckeye 8 Track and Field Championships

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - St. Clairsville used its depth in winning the girls portion of the annual Buckeye 8 Track and Field Championships Tuesday at Red Devils Stadium. It amassed 129 points to easily outdistance Cambridge which finished with 92.5.

Two individual champs and a pair of winning relay squads powered St. Clairsville, but it

4x100 relay of Olivia McKeever, Emma Gasber, Crum and Meila King ran a 52.32 seconds to break the tape, while Olivia Perzanowski, Crum, McKeever and Gasber ran a 4-minutes, 20.32-seconds to win the 4x400.

The Red Devils finished with five second-placers, two thirds, three fourths, four fifths, three sixths and a pair of sevenths.

formance, according to Ohio MileSplit. The Purple Riders' 4x800 relay team of Lakyn Call, Claire Eddy, Cadence Oberle and Madison Oberle posted a 10:37.98 for first place.

Barnesville's Lydia Welch putted the shot 35-10.75 and Bellaire's Alyson Vingia twirled the discus 130-2 to win the weight events.

win the 400 and the Redskins 4x200 relay clocked out in 1:53.23.

Buckeye Local's Jenn Delvecchio captured the 11 high hurdles in 15.15.

Martins Ferry finished third in the team race with 73 points, one more than Barnesville. Bellaire had 64.

BOYS

East Liverpool won the team title with 130 points, which

carried the puck down the left wing before dropping a pass for Hank Crone who then found Denis Mirnov for a one-timer from the right circle that slipped past Sergei Murashov. It became 2-0 moments later when Sean Montgomery took a feed

Koopman picked up a loose puck near center ice and beat Milic on a short-handed breakaway. That goal seemed to spark the hosts as Murashov came up big moments later, but the Admirals weren't finished. Chyzowski collected a

up in the back of our net again." Colton Young and Bryce Brodzinski scored third-period goals for the Admirals, with the last coming into an empty net.

Please see **HOME**,
Page 12

State College, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday night after losing, 3-2, to Penn State, putting an end to the 14-game winning streak they had constructed on their way to a No. 17 ranking this season.

But, if there is such a thing as a good loss, maybe this was it.

Philosophers — and the really good coaches often include this in their kind of philosophy — have forever argued that there is value in defeat.

Please see **VALUE**, Page 12

Whites And Purple Riders Championship



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Central's Luke Tiu awaits a pitch during a regular season game against Linsly on April 8. The Maroon Knights meet the Martins Ferry Purple Riders on Thursday on Mazerowski Field for the OVAC 3A championship.

"Old the kids, we've got to win in 21 innings to win the championship. We've got down to seven now. I guess that makes us feel a little better than 21. We got in, we got to the nals, now we've got to win in seven more innings."

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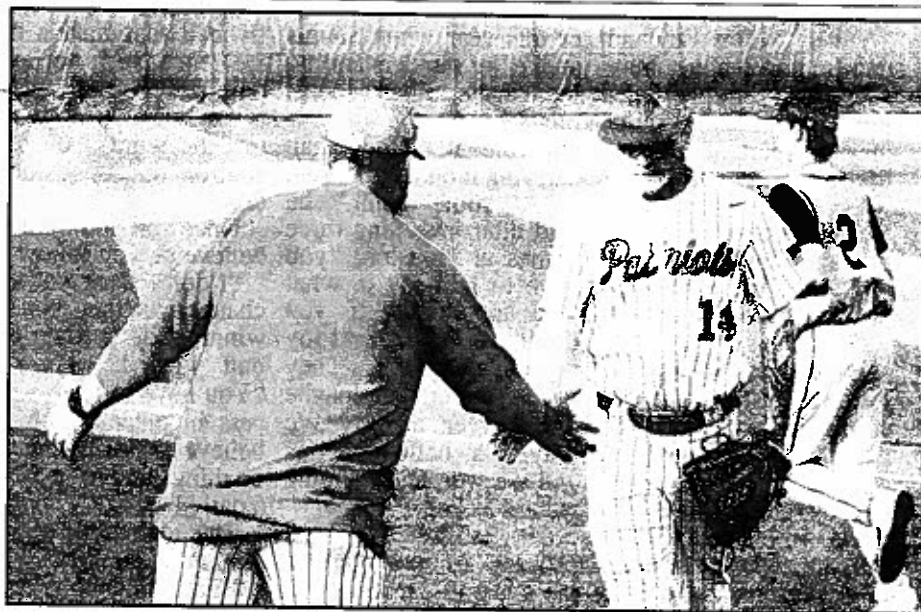


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Park's Coldin Burkhart high-fives head coach Steve Myers during the Patriots' OVAC 5A semifinal game against Parkersburg South on Tuesday night. The Patriots will face Morgantown for the 5A championship on Thursday at Harrison Central High School's Mazerowski Field.

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After a dramatic walk-off win against

Parkersburg South in the OVAC semifinals, the Patriots will take on the Mohicans on Thursday at 5 p.m. on Harrison Central High School's Mazerowski Field.

A game-tying two-run home run by senior Nate Simon and eighth-inning walk off home run by junior Nolan Yanchak got Park to the final, but Myers wants his team looking forward, not backwards.

"Every game's a different game," Myers said. "It's a new one on Thursday, but it was an exciting game in the semifinals and now we're looking forward to the next one."

Please see **PARK**, Page 12

Alle Girls Use Depth To Capture Buckeye 8 Crown

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respectively.

Bellaire's Raekwon Pettigrew and Harrison Central's Jacob Quito ran 1-2 in the 100 and 200, with Pettigrew winning the 100 in 11.53. Quito ran 11.59. In the 200, Quito posted a 22.84 while Pettigrew

It just as easily could have been written by Earl Weaver or Jim Leyland, two major league managers who simply hated losing but understood that they are part of baseball life.

Steve Sabins, West Virginia's baseball coach, probably has never heard of Schopenhauer, but his philosophy does not differ much.

He understood that the loss was just another day at the ballpark, that his team had played hard and considering that group already reeled off a 14-game win streak and a 13-game win streak in the same season to sit at 34-5 overall, it well may have been for the best.

It was, after all, a non-conference game, so it did not hurt the Moun-

become a one-game losing streak.

There was a time earlier this year when Sabins spoke of understanding just what you had accomplished along the way and enjoying it, rather than carrying it on as a burden.

"At some point," he said after sweeping three games at Houston, "you have to feel joy in what you are doing. If you don't, you don't find joy in your daily life. They need to reflect, maybe once a week, and say 'We played a helluva series and we won and winning is hard as hell.'"

To Sabins, there's a process to winning. It isn't just talent going on the field and performing.

"We're not winning games just because we're good or more talented," he said. "You win more

Sometimes the other team just plays better than you. Sometimes that fly ball that travels over the fence 365 feet away only travels 364 feet and is caught. You can't control the wind. You can't control the opposition's defense.

Once you find what you believe in, you follow it.

"I don't think you ever change whether you are winning or getting your butt kicked," he said. "You have to have a process in place which you believe is the right way to do things and follow it on a daily basis."

The idea is to play to win. Period.

"You have to play to win, always," he said. "I demand from myself and from the players. Every player has to play to win. Every coach has to coach

ing to the team bus and said "Wasn't that a great game? Aren't we lucky? Is there anything you'd rather be doing than this?" He was not deterred by the result, spent the night resting, prepared the next day and was ready to go that night and won the world title.

That's how you handle it. You study the loss, what you did, what was right, what was wrong. What could you have controlled that you didn't? Did you get enough sleep, eat well going into the game, and have your mind in the right place?

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DEPTH

(Continued from Messenger preva in the 300 lows 42.36.

St. Clairsvil 4x100 team of Ian Lean, Bruno DeFra Ollie Muhly and Hu Orum ran 44.79 for place.

Buckeye Loc Shane Griffith took long jump with a lea 20-7.25, while Harri Central's Trenten / son won the pole v

PARK

(Continued from Page 11)

Park's opponent is a familiar one, the Mohigans and Patriots having already played each other twice this season. Wheeling Park has narrowly come out on top in each, 6-5 on March 25 and 3-2 on April 7. The two rival schools have seen plenty of each other in most every sport in recent years, and with their third meeting of the season on-tap, Myers knows the challenges which his team should expect.

"Always a good team," the veteran head coach, who recently surpassed 100 coaching wins, said. "Very well-coached team, usually a very well-balanced team. They have multiple pitchers who always are in the strike zone, and they make you earn every run that you get. They're good on the bases, they can play a

good brand of small ball but also have some guys with power."

Wheeling Park was beaten by Morgantown in the OVAC semifinals last year, were OVAC champs in 2023, were beaten by Morgantown in the finals in '22 and defeated the Mohigans in the finals in '21.

The Mohigans made it to the championship this year after defeating Brooke 5-1 in their semifinal game. In that game, Starting pitcher Vinnie Aloji tossed a complete game with six hits allowed, only one earned run, and eight strikeouts.

The Patriots this year has been a mix of young and old, with junior Kolten Whitmire often batting leadoff and taking the pill on the mound, sophomore Jaxson Upde-

graff often batting second as a DH who gets plenty of barrels, athletic shortstop Nate Simon hitting third and fellow senior Ryland Robb hitting cleanup and manning third base every day.

Seniors Rocco Digiandomenico, Cordin Burkhart, Noah Short, Paul McGee and Mason Charlton, and juniors Nolan Yanchak and Miles Gorby round out much of Park's core.

For the group to pull off a third win over Morgantown, the second seed in 5A, the top-seeded Patriots are looking at the intangibles.

"I think it'll come down to the little things, things you may not see in a boxscore, but the little things that you have to do game-to-game to be successful," Myers said.



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to the this settlement was (all but) locked in, released a daunting statement. "We will work hard to convince the NCAA and the conferences to address the court's concerns," Steve Berman said. "If we are unable to do so, then we are off to trial and we will return to fighting the NCAA in court with next steps."

The NCAA and five defendant conferences released a joint statement saying they were closely reviewing the order.

"Our focus continues to be on securing approval of this significant agreement, which aims to create more opportunities than ever before for student-athletes while fostering much-needed stability and fairness in college sports," it said.

Steven Molo, an attorney who represented more than 190 athletes at Wilken's hearing earlier this month, viewed the order as a victory of sorts.

scheduled out through September — underscored the idea that, indeed, there's at least a chance this lawsuit could be resolved with a trial.

Not that any of this should have surprised the attorneys.

Wilken made clear toward the end of the daylong settlement hearing April 7 that she would like the parties to find a way to gradually implement the roster-limit rules. She suggested "grandfathering in" athletes who already had roster spots. In her order Wednesday, she insisted that wasn't as impossible as the attorneys made it sound.

"One way of achieving that could be to modify the settlement agreement to ensure that no (athletes) who have or had a roster spot will lose it as a result of the immediate implementation of the settlement agreement," she wrote. "Limits could be accomplished gradually by attrition."

five wins carried this year for Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, had 17 saves on 21 shots.

KNIGHTS

(Continued from Page 11)

"We're going to have to limit Central's offense," Reasbeck said. "Their pitching staff is lights out, we might have a tough time scoring, so we need to keep them at bay as much as possible. We have to throw strikes and play tremendous defense behind [Hunter] Shutler. If we can do that and make it a 2-1 game, a 3-2 game, we've got a puncher's chance. If they score six or seven runs we'll have a problem."

"Our pitchers are going to have to get ahead in counts — we can't always throw fastballs in fastball counts because they're too good of a hitting team for that," Cover said. "For us, it's always throw strikes, make the routine plays and get timely hits. I know they're going to throw their best at us and it's probably going to be a low-scoring game, so whoever gets a couple runners on and gets the timely hits, they're going to end up ahead."

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He understood also that winning streak, just like losing streak, can build ressure as it goes on. No one wants nine losses in row to become 10, just as no one wants to see a 4-game winning streak become a one-game losing streak.

There was a time earlier this year when Sabins poke of understanding just what you had accomplished along the way and enjoying it, rather than carrying it on as a burden.

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To Sabins, there's a process to winning. It isn't just talent going on the field and performing.

"We're not winning games just because we're good or more talented," he said. "You win more

games because you prepare better and are fresher and play with an aggressiveness and have a chip on your shoulder."

It's the process.

Losing at Penn State didn't show a lack of preparation or a crack in the process.

"Sometimes there are things that are out of your control," Sabins noted.

Sometimes the other team just plays better than you. Sometimes that fly ball that travels over the fence 365 feet away only travels 364 feet and is caught. You can't control the wind. You can't control the opposition's defense.

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"You have to play to win, always," he said. "I demand from myself and from the players. Every player has to play to win. Every coach has to coach

to win."

But you accept the results.

After the sixth game of the 1975 World Series, no less a competitor than Pete Rose, with World Championship at stake until Carlton Fisk's home run in extra innings sent the Series to a seventh game, turned to Joe Morgan as the two were walking to the team bus and said "Wasn't that a great game? Aren't we lucky? Is there anything you'd rather be doing than this?"

He was not deterred by the result, spent the night resting, prepared the next day and was ready to go that night and won the world title.

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He understood also that winning streak, just like losing streak, can build ressure as it goes on. No one wants nine losses in row to become 10, just as no one wants to see a 4-game winning streak become a one-game losing streak.

There was a time earlier this year when Sabins poke of understanding what you had accomplished along the way and enjoying it, rather than carrying it on as a burden.

"At some point," he said after sweeping three games at Houston, "you have to feel joy in what you are doing. If you don't, you don't find joy in your daily life. They need to reflect, maybe once a week, and say 'We played a helluva series and we won and winning is hard as hell.'"

To Sabins, there's a process to winning. It isn't just talent going on the field and performing.

"We're not winning games just because we're good or more talented," he said. "You win more

games because you prepare better and are fresher and play with an aggressiveness and have a chip on your shoulder."

It's the process.

Losing at Penn State didn't show a lack of preparation or a crack in the process.

"Sometimes there are things that are out of your control," Sabins noted.

Sometimes the other team just plays better than you. Sometimes that fly ball that travels over the fence 365 feet away only travels 364 feet and is caught. You can't control the wind. You can't control the opposition's defense.

Once you find what you believe in, you follow it.

"I don't think you ever change whether you are winning or getting your butt kicked," he said. "You have to have a process in place which you believe is the right way to do things and follow it on a daily basis."

The idea is to play to win. Period.

"You have to play to win, always," he said. "I demand from myself and from the players. Every player has to play to win. Every coach has to coach

to win."

But you accept the results.

After the sixth game of the 1975 World Series, no less a competitor than Pete Rose, with World Championship at stake until Carlton Fisk's home run in extra innings sent the Series to a seventh game, turned to Joe Morgan as the two were walking to the team bus and said "Wasn't that a great game? Aren't we lucky? Is there anything you'd rather be doing than this?"

He was not deterred by the result, spent the night resting, prepared the next day and was ready to go that night and won the world title.

That's how you handle it. You study the loss, what you did, what was right, what was wrong. What could you have controlled that you didn't? Did you get enough sleep, eat well going into the game, and have your mind in the right place?

If not, how can you fix it?

A loss, the philosopher said, isn't a loss at all, just part of the learning process.

The manager seconds that opinion.

"Our pitchers are going to have to get ahead in counts - we can't always throw fastballs in fastball counts because they're too good of a hitting team for that," Cover said. "For us, it's always throw strikes, make the routine plays and get timely hits. I know they're going to throw their best at us and it's probably going to be a low-scoring game, so whoever gets a couple runners on and gets the timely hits, they're going to end up ahead."

Wheeling Central brings a lineup with a ton of depth into the championship game, with 14 returning lettermen from last year's OVAC championship team. They are led by their senior quartet of Gary Hatfield, Seth Cover, Braxton Billick, and Luke Tiu. Steven Brodegard has been a great arm for Central - the junior threw a five-inning perfect game in the semis against Monroe Central, striking out 13 - and Central has plenty of arms behind him too, like Seth Cover and Brayden Cover.

"What can't I say about them? They're the best around, I think," Reasbeck said. "We played them in the semis last year and the game lasted five innings, we got drilled. We had five freshmen playing in that game. They're about as good as you get as a baseball team and we know that coming in. But if we can get sev-

"They're talented," Cover said of Martins Ferry. "I've coached some of the kids on that team so I know they're talented, they've been playing well. They've got good pitching and they can hit the ball. I expect a tight game tomorrow and hopefully we can make one more play than they do."

Martins Ferry won the OVAC championship in 2022, while Wheeling Central is seeking to defend the title.

"As a program - and I don't mean to sound overconfident - but I expect us to be there every year," Cover said. "It's an expectation of ours, we want to play for championships, that's where we want to get our program to. There's two big ones, that's OVAC's and the state championship. I think we're talented enough to take a shot at both of them and it starts tomorrow against a really talented Martins Ferry team."

"They had to grow up a little faster than usual," Reasbeck said of his team. "We're starting five sophomores and a freshman. There was a plan for these guys, but we're a little ahead of schedule. But, now we're here, so we might as well win."

1)

ar one, good brand of small ball but also have some guys with power."

Wheeling Park was beaten by Morgantown in the OVAC semifinals last year, were OVAC champs in 2023, were beaten by Morgantown in the finals in '22 and defeated the Mohigans in the finals in '21.

The Mohigans made it to the championship this year after defeating Brooke 5-1 in their semifinal game. In that game, Starting pitcher Vinnie Alois tossed a complete game with six hits allowed, only one earned run, and eight strikeouts.

The Patriots this year has been

graff often batting second as a DH who gets plenty of barrels, athletic shortstop Nate Simon hitting third and fellow senior Ryland Robb hitting cleanup and manning third base every day.

Seniors Rocco Digiandomenico, Cordin Burkhart, Noah Short, Paul McGee and Mason Charlton, and juniors Nolan Yanchak and Miles Gorby round out much of Park's core.

For the group to pull off a third win over Morgantown, the second seed in 5A, the top-seeded Patriots are looking at the intangibles.

"I think it'll come down to the lit-

DEPTH

(Continued from Page 11)

Messenger prevailed in the 300 lows in 42.36.

St. Clairsville's 4x100 team of Ian McLean, Bruno DeFranco, Ollie Muhly and Hunter Orum ran 44.79 for first place.

Buckeye Local's Shane Griffith took the

at 13-feet.

Beaver Local's Landen Wheatley and Martins Ferry's Jermale Thompson both jumped 6-feet in the high jump, but Wheatley won on fewer attempts.

Bellaire's Kayse Rejonis won the shot put with a heave of 49-

WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 23, 2025

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The Intelligencer. SPORTS

Brought
WV

Simon Ties It, Yanchak Walks It Off For Wheeling Park In OVAC Semis

By NICK
HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - It was pandemonium atop the Palace on the Hill on Tuesday, as the No. 2 Wheeling Park Patriots mounted a dramatic come-from-behind victory in the OVAC 5A semifinals against the No. 3 Parkersburg South Patriots, 6-5.

The game came down to two swings of the bat - a two-run home run by shortstop Nate Simon to tie the game 5-5 in the bottom of the seventh, and a walk-off solo shot by catcher Nolan Yanchak in the bottom of the eighth, after the junior had already been hobbled sliding into second base a few innings earlier, and was noticeably still bothered by his ankle during the at-bat.

"We're going to start calling him Kurt Gibson," Wheeling Park head coach Steve Myers joked after the game.

On a 3-1 count, Yanchak took a fastball far over the left field wall, and was mobbed by his teammates upon reaching home plate. The home run sent Wheeling Park to the OVAC 5A championship game against No. 1 Morgantown on Thursday at Harrison Central High School's Mazeroski Field.



Photo by Nick Henthorn
Wheeling Park's Nolan Yanchak rounds third base after hitting a walk-off solo home run in the bottom of the eighth inning Tuesday during Park's OVAC 5A semifinal game against Parkersburg South.

"I felt good going into it, a little nervous," Yanchak said. "It was a great opportunity. The first swing, I pulled it foul and rolled my ankle, which I'd also done earlier in the game. The next time, I saw it well and went for it. It came off the bat hard."

"One of the best moments I've seen in high school baseball," Myers said. "The young man

hurts his ankle going into second, but he's a catcher, he's a tough kid, and to see him have that moment and for our team to have that moment was fantastic."

Wheeling Park went down 5-1 after South's turn at-bat in the top of the sixth, but plated two in the bottom half of the inning on a RBI single by Yanchak and sacrifice fly by Noah Short, and

brought in two more with their backs against the wall, with one out in the bottom of the seventh.

Jaxson Updegraff had singled to right field to bring Nate Simon to the plate, representing the tying run.

Simon took the first pitch he saw deep over the left field wall to send the game into extras.

Please see PARK, Page 12



Wheeling Central's throw at first base a hustles down the line day's softball game c bers I-470 Complex i won, 5-2.

Martins 16th Win Over Ma

By KIM NORT
Staff Writer

ELM GROVE
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Central's Brodegard Hurls No-Hitter vs. Seminoles

By BUBBA KAPRAL

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Please see **PARK**, Page 12

Wheeling Central's throw at first base as hustles down the line of day's softball game on batters I-470 Complex in won, 5-2.

Martins F 16th Win Over Mar

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ELM GROVE - A pair of Ohio Valley Athletic Conference softball heavyweights Tuesday on sunny Be Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex what could have been preview of next week's Class 3A Tournament. Top-seeded Mar Ferris (16-1) continued its red-hot play with a 5-2 decision over No. 1 Wheeling Central (15-5). The victory was the 16th in a row for the Ferris Riders and avenged a 9-1 loss to the Mar Knights in last year's OVAC championship game.

"Maddie did her job inside the circle and played really well behind her," veteran Mar Ferris head coach Jeff Magistro said. "We had that one error at the end where one girl called the ball and the other didn't hear her, but other than that, we played solid."

Scoreless after two innings, Martins Ferris took the lead for good when Giana Chirbel scored a two-run double to the fence in right in the top of the third. The hit scored Maddie Lutz who was hit by a pitch and Makayla Cole who had reached on a bunt single.

Central's Brodegard Hurls No-Hitter vs. Seminoles

By BUBBA KAPRAL
For The Intelligencer

ELM GROVE - Steven Brodegard hurred a masterpiece Tuesday afternoon at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex.

As a result, Wheeling Central is now positioned to repeat as OVAC 3A baseball champions.

Brodegard tossed a five-inning no-hitter as the Maroon Knights ousted Monroe Central, 14-0, in the conference semifinals. The hard-throwing right-hander was one hit-batsman away from a perfecto.

He was the model of efficiency, striking out 13 Seminoles while tossing 47 strikes compared to just 16 balls. Brodegard fanned the first nine Seminoles he faced.

Top-seeded Central will now take on Martins Ferry in the OVAC championship game on Friday at 7:30 p.m. on Mazeroski Field in Cadiz. Anthony Reasbeck's third-seeded Purple Riders ousted Linsly in Monday's other semifinal contest.

Coach Todd Cover's Maroon Knights improved to an impressive 13-1 on the campaign. Their lone

setback was to unbeaten Caldwell. The Redskins are top-seeded and finalists in OVAC Class 2A.

"I have to give credit to my defense and to Koy (catcher Lipinski). He does a great job calling the game for me. I am just happy we won and got to play for another title," Brodegard said. "I went to Monroe Central when I was in grade school. So, it was kind of neat to be pitching against some guys I knew."

While Brodegard was dealing from the outset, it took the Central offense one inning to get untracked. The Knights were retired in order in the first frame. However, the Maroon bats came to life in the second.

Central scored three runs in each of the second and third frames before sealing the Seminoles' fate with an eight-spot in the fourth.

In the second inning, Lipinski walked before Brayden Cover singled. Brady Ernest singled to load the bases. Jake Brown delivered an RBI single before Ernest scored on a wild pitch. Luke Tiu plated the third run via a sacrifice fly.

Central doubled its lead in the third.

With one out, Seth Cover singled and came home on a crushing triple off the bat of Zayne Rosnick. Brayden Cover walked, setting the table for a two-run double by Ernest, making it a 6-0 count.

The Maroon Knights pushed across eight runs in the fourth on the strength of five hits, four walks and two hit-batters. Gary Hatfield produced the biggest blow with a two-run triple. Ernest capped his fine three-for-three day with a run-scoring single.

"Steven was in command of both of his pitches. When he does that, he is tough to beat," Todd Cover offered. "He pitched an excellent game. I am proud of him."

"I was a little worried about our bats after the first inning. We took Easter break off and I think we were a little rusty," he added. "But we started to get untracked in the second inning and it became contagious. We did a nice job at the plate over the final three innings."

Please see **NO-HITTER**, Page 12

College Football Playoff Meetings Could Impact WVU's Future Postseason Path

By SPENCER RIPCHIK

will be the same. With that said, WVU



PARK

(Continued from Page 11)

"I think it was an old saying from Babe Ruth - 'It's hard to beat somebody who never gives up.' These guys never gave up," Myers said. "Nate Simon hits a big two-run home run that puts us within striking distance, and the guys, our motto was 'keep the line moving.' Don't give in, don't give up. I couldn't be happier for these guys."

"This team fights," Yanchak said. "We've come back in a lot of games this year. We played a double header against [Parkersburg South] earlier in the season, came back to win the game then, and it feels good to come away with the win again. We keep fighting."

In the top of the eighth, CJ McCartney reached, and Parkersburg South

was set on manufacturing a run. McCartney stole second before the visiting Patriots attempted a sacrifice bunt to move the runner over. The bunt came to pitcher Myles Gorby, who made a quick throw to third to cut down McCartney at the bag. Then, Yanchak fired up the Park dugout by throwing out another would-be base stealer at second to end the top half of the inning.

"This one stings," Parkersburg South head coach Bryan Youngblood said. "We haven't been to the championship at South in probably 11 years, but still this one stings, it's not a 'hey, we were there' thing, we wanted to be here and we wanted to win this thing. Kudos to them, they're a great baseball team, a state-caliber base-

ball team and they came through in the clutch."

Tied 1-1 after four innings, Ashton Burr brought a run in for South in the fifth inning on a slow roller groundout to second base, and in the sixth, Youngblood's crew drove in three more by taking advantage of a Park miscue. With two outs, a sky-high fly ball to shallow center resulted in a fielding error by Park, and Dylan Holliday scored to increase his team's advantage to 3-1. Easton Walker laced a ball to right-center next to clear the bases, a two-run double which forced Park's hand at the mound, putting in Myles Gorby to pitch. The junior stopped the damage, striking out the first batter he faced.

"When we went up 5-1, I knew it wasn't going to stay like that because they

can hit the ball," Youngblood said of Park. "They hit the ball against us earlier in the season at our place. We were hoping that we could throw somebody who they hadn't seen, get them to pop up - which we did, we got some outs."

"Kudos to those two kids who went yard to bring it to even and then to put them up. Their catcher was hurt, he was hobbling around. He put a swing on a fastball and did what he was supposed to do. That's baseball."

Kolten Whitmire pitched 5.2 innings for Park, striking out six. Gorby struck out two and allowed just one hit and no walks the rest of the way to pick up the win.

Parker Vannoy started the game for Parkersburg South, pitching five frames and striking out two. Ben Howell was saddled with



Wheeling Park's Nate for home after hitting 5A semifinal vs. Park

the loss.

For Parkersburg S they look to regroup a regular season pick again.

"We still have se left. We still have re als," Youngblood said. "I'd like to do some age in regionals, n surprise a few people not a failed season f one game does not m failed season. We get on the horse and w play baseball tomo That's what you ha

MEETINGS

(Continued from Page 11)

West Virginia won't get the same level of opportunity in the Big 12 compared to if it were in the SEC and Big Ten.

There is skepticism that a format like this would work because the conferences with fewer bids might think it's unfair. Just this year, West Virginia politicians were upset because the men's basketball team was left out over North Carolina, which was in because of the strength of the conference. This could be the case again if there are more than two Big 12 teams that deserve bids.

This format might seem slanted, but the Big 12 and

the rest of the conferences agreed to give the SEC and Big Ten the most control over the format in the last contract, so they can't be too upset.

A 14-team playoff with this format seems unlikely to be agreed upon during the spring meetings, but it will be discussed. The final deadline for any significant change will most likely be during the summer meetings in June, according to Dinich, so there'll be more time to decide if this is the right direction.

WVU's path might seem unjust, but at least there'll be two auto bids with this format than just the one, so that's a plus.

NO-HITTER

(Continued from Page 11)

Monroe Central utilized three pitchers. Brayden Baker started and gave way to Joby Henthorn in the fourth. Noah Marshall also came on in the fourth. The trio combined for one strikeout and eight walks.

"We lost to a very good team today," Monroe Central coach Chris Leasure noted. "Brodegard pitched very well. He was in total control."

"After the first inning, they hit the ball well. You have to give them credit," he added. "We will try and get back on track tomorrow (today) at Shadyside. We have only

played three home games this year. We are looking to get home soon."

Monroe Central is now 6-6.

Supporting Ernest's three-hit day were Seth Cover and Braxton Billick with two hits each.

"You always want to play for championships and we have a chance to do that again. It would be nice to repeat," Todd Cover said. "But Martins Ferry will be a challenge. We scrimmaged them early in the year and they have improved a great deal. They are playing very well now."

WIN

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However, Baker thrown out trying for on a fine relay from dard to Grace Luc. Addy Snedeker.

Maddie Lucas e the win in the circle half-a-dozen strik She did not walk a ter and scattered five Chirpas supplied th fense with two single a double. Keegan Br singled twice.

"I was happy wit girls' effort. They f hard," Wheeling C head coach Buck I

NAILERS

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"You always kno ing into a series that aren't always going





a Cole (5) slides safely into second base as Wheeling Central's Bella Rine awaits softball game on Ben's Field at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex in Elm Grove. umpire Donnie Martin. The Purple Riders won, 5-2.

Photo by KIM NORTH

Ferry softball defeats Central for 16th win

"Maddie did her job inside the circle and we played really well behind her," veteran Martins Ferry head coach Jerry Magistro said. "We had that one error at the end where the girl called for the ball and the other didn't hear her, but other than that, we played solid."

Scoreless after two innings, Martins Ferry took the lead for good when Aiana Chirpas belted a two-run double to the fence in right in the top of the third. The hit scored Maddie Lucas who was hit by a pitch and Makayla Cole who had reached on a bunt single.

Wheeling Central lifted the deficit in half in the bottom of the third

as Trina Baker reached on a throwing error and came around on Ava Hanon's double to the gap in right-center. However, the Maroon Knights couldn't do more damage as Lucas retired the next three batters.

The Purple Riders scored solo runs in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings to build a 5-1 lead as Keegan Brandon singled in Sam Goddard; Averi Hughes doubled home Chirpas and Keegan Brandon scored on a Cole single.

"We thought we could hit her," Magistro said of Wheeling Central ace Josie Frizzell. "We got some key hits from some girls. Our bunters did

what they had to do. We stole a base when we had to. Just an all-around effort by everyone.

"The Frizzell girl is a really good pitcher. She throws hard," Magistro noted. "I have a lot of respect for that program."

Wheeling Central, which wasted a leadoff double by Erin Maxwell in the second, made it 5-2 in the seventh when Chlope Groome singled to left with one out and raced around the bases on Trina Baker's double to left. However, Baker was thrown out trying for third on a fine relay from Goddard to Grace Lucas to Addy Snedeker.

See FERRY, Page B2

Brodegard hurls no-Hitter against Monroe

• Wheeling Central will meet Martins Ferry Friday in Cadiz for 3A title

By BUBBA KAPRAL
For The Times Leader

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See MONROE, Page B2



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See FERRY, Page B2

Steelers draft plans don't rely on the playing status of Aaron Rodgers

Steelers the team reports to training camp in late July, and that "all options are on the table" on how the club might add whoever those two quarterbacks end up being to the roster.

The 41-year-old Rodgers toured Pittsburgh's facility in March and said last week that he remains in contact with the Steelers, but added that current circumstances in his personal life have taken precedence over whatever might be left of his career.

The group of quarterbacks in the draft isn't particularly deep, though Khan said multiple times it's a "good group." The Steelers brought in four prospects for a pre-draft visit, including potential

first-rounders Jaxson Dart and Shedeur Sanders.

Tomlin called his time with Sanders "productive" and said that the focus was on football, not Sanders' father, Colorado coach and Hall of Famer Deion Sanders.

"There's a toughness there (in Shedeur) that doesn't get talked about enough," Tomlin said. "There's a competitive spirit there that doesn't get talked about enough. I know he is very talented and has made a lot of plays for his university and his team, but the intangible qualities displayed on tape were impressive to me."

See STEELERS, Page B2

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See MONROE, Page B2



Photo by KIM NORTH
WHEELING CENTRAL'S Luke Tiu dives back into first base against Monroe Central Tuesday at the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex during an OVAC Class 3A semifinal. The Maroon Knights won, 14-0.



The Wheeling Nailers hoping return home will pay off in huge dividends

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The Wheeling Nailers are sure hoping Dorothy on the Wizard of Oz was right when she said "There's no place like home."

The Nailers find themselves in a 2-0 hole

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Scope Arena is not available for the Admirals to use this week, thus all of the five remaining games of the series, if necessary, will be played inside WesBanco Arena where the Nailers were a sparkling 24-10-2 during the regular season.

"We love being at home in front of our fans and sleeping in our own beds" Armv said

improve with one out. As Steven Kwan neared third, Leiter's pitch got past catcher J.C. Escarra. Kwan never stopped and slid home safely ahead of Escarra's throw to Leiter, pulling Cleveland to 2-1.

Kyle Manzardo followed with an RBI double — on a ball Judge nearly caught — and came around to score on Angel Martinez's infield single, which skipped away from Yankees Gold Glove shortstop Anthony Volpe.

Rice sent Bibee's first pitch over

Judge covered 51 feet in right field before making a lunging catch to rob Brayan Rocchio of possible extra bases in the fifth.

Key stat

Judge has reached base in 20 straight games, batting .413 (31 of 75) over the span.

Up next

A matinee on Wednesday to complete the series with the Yankees starting RHP Carlos Rodon (2-3, 4.34 ERA) against Guardians RHP Luis Ortiz (2-2, 5.48).



AP Photo

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS second baseman Daniel Schneemann, top, throws to first base after forcing out New York Yankees' Jazz Chisholm Jr. at second base during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, in Cleveland. Anthony Volpe was out at first base for the double play.

• Ferry

Continued from Page B1

Maddie Lucas earned the win in the circle with half-a-dozen strikeouts. She did not walk a batter and scattered five hits. Chirpas supplied the offense with two singles and a double. Keegan Brandon singled twice.

"I was happy with the girls' effort. They played hard," Wheeling Central head coach Buck Davidson said. "We had just that one baserunning error there at the end, but other than that I thought we played a really good game. They got the hits and we didn't."

Frizzell suffered the loss. She struck out a dozen, didn't walk a batter and gave up 11 hits.

Martins Ferry hosts Edison today, Barnesville on Thursday and Cambridge on Friday. Wheeling Central, meanwhile, heads to Barnesville today before hosting University on Thursday.

• Monroe

Continued from Page B1

The Maroon Knights pushed across eight runs in the fourth on the strength of five hits, four walks and two hit-batters. Gary Hatfield produced the biggest blow with a two-run triple. Ernest capped his fine three-for-three day with a run-scoring single.

"Steven was in command of both of his pitches. When he does that, he is tough to beat," Todd Cover offered. "He pitched an excellent game. I am proud of him."

"I was a little worried about our bats after the first inning. We took Easter break off and I think we were a little rusty," he added. "But we started to get untracked in the second inning and it became contagious. We did a nice job at the plate over the final three innings."

Monroe Central utilized three pitchers. Brayden Baker started and gave way to Joby Henthorn in the fourth. Noah Marshall also came on in the fourth.

• Nailers

Continued from Page B1

"He's been phenomenal in net for them," Army said of Milic. "I think he's probably feeling really confident, but there have been a couple of bounces that haven't gone our way, as well. That always plays into it, but on top of that, we need to put more of a volume of pucks on net and put him back into his crease to maybe not let him play as aggressive as he has been."

Army said some rein-

The trio combined for one strikeout and eight walks.

"We lost to a very good team today," Monroe Central coach Chris Leasure noted. "Brodegard pitched very well. He was in total control."

"After the first inning, they hit the ball well. You have to give them credit," he added. "We will try and get back on track tomorrow (today) at Shadyside. We have only played three home games this year. We are looking to get home soon."

Monroe Central is now 6-6.

Supporting Ernest's three-hit day were Seth Cover and Braxton Billick with two hits each.

"You always want to play for championships and we have a chance to do that again. It would be nice to repeat," Todd Cover said. "But Martins Ferry will be a challenge. We scrimmaged them early in the year and they have improved a great deal. They are playing very well now."

driven our offense so having those guys back is great. It's nice to get that offensive boost."

De St. Phalle led the Nailers with 55 points (20g-35a) in the regular season. Beck had eight goals and 28 assists in just 36 games.

Wheeling goaltender Sergei Murashov has stopped 56 shots in the first two games.

The Admirals have been led by Brady Fleurent with a goal and four assists so far, while

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SPORTS

Top-seeded St. C. boys closer to title with win over Edison

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — New year, same destination.

Winners of OVAC championships the last two seasons, top-seeded St. Clairsville is on their way back to the conference title game after defeating No. 4 Edison 5-0 on the turf field of the St. Clairsville Jr. Sports Complex on Monday.

Brody Saunders limited the Wildcats to two hits in an impressive pitching performance, striking out 13, while also going 2-3 at the plate with a double and two RBI to help his cause.

"We ran into a really good pitcher," Edison head coach Mike Collopy said. "St. Clairsville is well-coached every year. They had some timely hits. We had some mental mistakes that kind of hurt us. But when you have someone who's striking out

double-digits, then we didn't do enough at the plate. I thought our kids competed, but today he was better than us."

It was all clicking for Saunders on Monday.

"That's as good as I've seen a game pitched in a long time," St. Clairsville head coach Tom Sliva said. "He was phenomenal, he had complete control, lots of pop, he was outstanding today. Today he showed why he's the senior leader bulldog that he is."

Saunders struck out the side to start the game, but Edison starting pitcher Brady Haight also kept St. Clairsville off the scoreboard until the third inning. Rowan Mellott started the inning being hit by a pitch, and moved to second after a textbook sacrifice bunt by Jaxon Starks.

See ST. C., Page B2



Photo by NICK HENTHORN
ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Roby Hanna connects for an RBI single in the third inning against Edison in the OVAC semifinals on Monday, a 5-0 St. C. victory. Hanna finished the day 3-3 at the plate.

Riders post 8-4 OVAC win over Cadets

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Martins Ferry was the last team to punch its ticket into the OVAC Class 3A Baseball playoffs last Friday. Now the Purple Riders will play in their third championship game in the 100

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Photo by KIM NORTH

MARTINS FERRY'S Eli Smith, right, is congratulated by head coach Anthony Reasbeck after belting a three-run homer in the top of the second inning Monday against Linsly in an OVAC Class 3A semifinal on Holloway Field. The Purple Riders knocked off the Cadets, 8-4.

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Martins Ferry was the last team to punch its ticket into the OVAC Class 3A Baseball playoffs last Friday. Now the Purple Riders will play in their third championship game in the last five seasons.

That came about Monday afternoon on cloud-covered Holloway Field as the third-seeds doubled up host Linsly, the No. 2 seed, by an 8-4 count before a nice-sized crowd on the Linsly campus.

With the cherished victory, Martins Ferry (6-4) advances to the championship game this weekend against the winner of Tuesday's matchup between No. 4 Monroe Central and top-seeded Wheeling Central. The game, which was rained out on Monday, will begin at 5 p.m. on the Wheeling University diamond at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex above Elm Grove.

Veteran Martins Ferry head coach Anthony Reasbeck found himself in a dilemma shortly before game time as starting pitcher Eli Smith developed a sore shoulder while warming up. Enter Ayden Ludolph.

"I wanted the ball the whole time," Ludolph said after working into the fifth before handing the ball over to Colby Kropka. "I just wanted to go out there and mow them down. I want to thank God for helping me do what I did. I didn't have my 'A' game today, but I did what I could do and let my defense make the plays.

See **RIDERS**, Page B2

Jose Ramirez homers, drives in 4 runs for Guardians in 6-4 win over AL

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jose Ramirez hit a three-run homer and Kyle Manzardo went deep on the next pitch in the third inning, helping the Cleveland Guardians beat the American League-leading New York Yankees 6-4 on Monday night.

Ramirez and Manzardo both cleared the fence in right off Clarke Schmidt (0-1), who gave up five runs in four innings. Manzardo has homered in three straight games and has a team-high seven.

Cleveland led 6-0 before Jasson

Dom nguez hit a two-run homer in the seventh and Jazz Chisholm Jr., who had been in a 1-for-18 slide, had a two-run drive in the eighth. The Yankees went 0 for 5 with runners in scoring position.

New York, playing Cleveland for the first time since winning last year's AL Championship Series, lost for the second time in eight games.

Aaron Judge extended his on-base streak to 19 games, going 1 of 4 with a walk, but struck out against Cade Smith with a runner on second for the

final out. The reigning AL MVP leads the majors with a .384 average, 33 hits and 25 RBIs.

Gavin Williams (2-1) allowed two runs and seven hits over 6 1/3 innings in his first win over an AL East squad in eight career starts and Smith worked the ninth for his second big league save, his first this season.

Key moment

Schmidt, who made his season debut last Wednesday, held the Guardians hitless in the first two innings before allowing two homers, two doubles and

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Penguins GM Kyle Dubas won't put a timeline on return to contention, but believ

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, Pa. It was

Resident

hits a hole
in one at
Moundsville
Country Club

ERIC BANAI hit a hole in one Sunday on hole No. 1 at Moundsville Country Club. He used a driver to ace the par-4, 312-yard hole. His feat was witnessed by Jesse Padlow.

Continued from Page B1

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That was all the damage done in the frame, and where the score stood until the bottom of the fifth, which once again began with Mellott reaching via hit-by-pitch, and moving to second on a

Starks sac bunt. Leadoff man Caiden Bailey poked a single to left field, and a fumbled fielding effort allowed Mellott to score on the play. Hanna singled up the middle, and Saunders followed with a single to right field. Either hit scored the man before them, and St. Clairsville was left with a comfortable 5-0 lead.

"We got some guys on, we moved them up and we got them in," Silva said. "We did a really

nice job. That's a very good baseball team, well-coached, and you better make things happen when you have opportunities. We were fortunate enough to do that today."

Hanna finished the day going 3-3 with a double and two singles. Saunders struck out the side in the sixth and struck out two of three in the seventh. Third baseman Niko Jacob made a catch in foul ground up against the St. C. dugout to record the final out of the game.

St. Clairsville reaches the OVAC championship with a chance at a three-

peat on the line. They are set to face the same opponent of the last two years as well — Indian Creek, who defeated Harrison Central 5-2. The Red Devils will have some of the same faces from last time around, as well as some new ones, when they rematch Creek.

"We'll approach the game the same as we have," Sliva said of his team's third straight championship appearance. "It's a testament to our kids, the families they come from, our coaching staff — we did lose a ton of quality players, but these guys are their

own team. They're excited about it and they can't wait for the opportunity."

The OVAC championship games will be played Friday and Saturday at Edison High School.

Edison has little time to dwell on the game. They play at Steubenville on Tuesday.

"We play tomorrow so we have to be ready to play," Callopy said. "That's all there is to it. It's good for our kids to be here, to be in a tournament situation, we just didn't get it done. We have a lot of season left and we're going to keep getting better."

Riders

Continued from Page B1

"We put all of our cards on the table and said let's go," he added. "We battled and battled."

Ludolph, who has signed to play football at the University of Rio Grande, said he never received any offers to play baseball.

The senior lefty struck out five and walked two. He worked his way out of a jam in the third when the Cadets (10-8) had runners on second and third with no outs after Chris Upton reached on an error and Carson Gessler belted the first of his two doubles. However, Ludolph got a strikeout, induced a grounder to third and another roller to first to escape unscathed.

"That was huge," Reasbeck stressed. "Ayden asked me earlier

out there today. He has grown up over the years. He's played in so many big games for us, I knew he would have a good game today."

Although he wasn't able to use his arm to help his team, the sophomore catcher didn't have any problem with his bat with his first home run of the season, a two-out, three-run shot that capped a five-run top of the second. Sophomore Christian Shuttler had an earlier RBI single, as did Ludolph.

"The first at-bat I was just thinking of getting a base hit," Smith explained of his first-inning single. "But the second at-bat I was thinking right-center. I made good contact and the ball just happened to go over the fence."

Of the nine sports in the order eight record

scored single runs in the fourth and fifth frames to inch to within 5-3 on a fielder's choice and an RBI single by Patrick Christ, but Hunter Shuttler, another promising sophomore, slapped a two-run single in a three-run sixth as the Purple Riders provided Kropka with some breathing room.

Gessler's second two-bagger preceded a run-scoring single by Jaxon Murray in the sixth to make it 8-4, but Kropka retired the final four batters to earn the save.

"Evan has battled for us all season," Linsly head coach Jay Cartwright said of starting pitcher Evan Zido. He left a couple of pitches up early and they've got some really good hitters. It was a good baseball game. We met came in

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• Riders

Continued from Page B1

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Of the nine sports in the order, eight recorded at least one base hit, with Smith and Christian Shutler having two each.

"This was a total team effort. These guys are fun to be around but with us still being rather young, we start five sophomores, two juniors and a freshman, I still do not know what to expect. We can look like the Yankees one night and the Pirates the next. That's what makes it so difficult because you never know what might happen."

Leading 5-1, Martins Ferry watched as Linsly

scored single runs in the fourth and fifth frames to inch to within 5-3 on a fielder's choice and an RBI single by Patrick Christ, but Hunter Shutler, another promising sophomore, slapped a two-run single in a three-run sixth as the Purple Riders provided Kropka with some breathing room.

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"Evan has battled for us all season," Linsly head coach Jay Cartwright said of starting pitcher Evan Zido. He left a couple of pitches up early and they've got some really good hitters. It was a good baseball game. We just came up a few runs short. We stranded a lot of runners."

Zido took the mound instead of senior Rocco Paolina, the Cadets ace who was injured over the weekend while running the bases.

Martins Ferry finished runner up in 2021 before winning the title a year later. It was eliminated in the semifinals the past two seasons.

Linsly lost in the championship game last summer to Wheeling Central.



SPORTS

Cameron tops Conotton Valley; Bellaire falls to Union Local

THE TIMES LEADER - Tuesday, April 22, 2025 - B2

BOWERSTON — Cameron scored six times in the top of the eighth inning to stun No. 2 Conotton Valley, 9-3, in an OVAC Class 1A semifinal Monday night.

The third-seeded Dragons will now play Madonna on either Friday or Saturday at Edison's Unified Sports Complex in Richmond. It is Cameron's fourth consecutive trip to the finals, with the Blue Dons being the opponent three times. The Dragons have won one title.

Anthony Bellanco singled in two runs to give Cameron the lead in the top of the eighth, while Brody Smith followed with a single to score Bellanco. Ike Yoho chased a run in with a sacrifice bunt and Soier Reed grounded out as another run scored. Wes Starcher capped the outburst with an RBI single.

Kasun Angel, who struck out eight and walked six in five

innings, singled four times as Cameron banged out 13 hits. Zayde Long singled three and drove in three runs, while Starcher had a pair of singles and a run batted in.

Indian Creek 5, Harrison Central 2

CADIZ — For the third time in five days the Redskins have defeated the Huskies. However, the third time was in an OVAC Class 4A semifinal.

Sylus Hyde scattered three hits and struck out 11 for Indians. He also singled in a run.

Dom DeGruttolla belted a two-run homer as the Redskins scored four times in the first and once in the second. Hunter Rusnak doubled in a run and Sy Barcalow singled in another.

Harrison Central's Coleton Rutter fanned nine and allowed just four hits in taking the loss. Kayden Dunkle drove

in a run with a triple and Gage Stoneking singled in a run. Rutter had a double.

Indian Creek will now face St. Clairsville for the championship.

(Regular Season)

Union Local 14, Bellaire 4 MORRISTOWN — The Jets erupted for eight runs in the bottom of the fourth in cruising past the visiting Big Reds.

Billy Schumacher launched a three-run home as Union Local collected 14 hits. Hayden Jenkins drove in four runs with a single and double, while Peyton Causby doubled, tripled and knocked in two runs. Logan Hess and Karson Grigatis each singled, doubled and plated two runs.

Brayton Akers struck out eight, walked one and yielded five singles.

Grant Vasey and Brae Schmidli each singled in a run

for the Big Reds.

Jefferson County Christian 15, Beallsville 0

MINGO JUNCTION — Lee Gump threw a no-hitter facing the minimum number of batters and the Royals bats came alive, belting out 18 hits in a five-inning game vs. the Blue Devils.

Gump struck out two and issued no walks. Beallsville's only runner came via error, and was doubled off.

At the plate, Aiden Howard was 4-4 with two doubles. Wyatt Hervey was 3-4 with a triple and a double. Carl Bonecuter was 3-4 with a triple. The Royals are 10-4 and take on Bridgeport tomorrow.

SOFTBALL

Wheeling Central 11, Tyler Consolidated 2

KIDWELL — Josie Frizzell and Olivia Kiaski combined on a one-hitter as the Maroon Knights rolled past the host Sil-

ver Knights. Frizzell struck out eight in three innings and Kiaski punched out another three. Each walked a batter.

Erin Maxwell singled and doubled for Wheeling Central. Kiaski had a pair of one-base raps.

Union Local 13, Bellaire 7 MORRISTOWN — The Jets plated six runs in the bottom of the third and tacked on seven more in the fifth to take down the visiting Big Reds.

Myah Martin drove in three runs with a pair of doubles. Alli Kellaway also had three runs batted in with a single and double. Winning pitcher Kylie Stidd singled twice and drove

in two runs, while Eve Blakley had a two-run single.

Addison Kovach singled twice and slugged a solo home run for Bellaire. Emilee Mendez had a two-run double.

• St. C.

Continued from Page B1

Roby Hanna came up with two outs and shot a single to right field, scoring Mellott. Saunders followed him and belted a double to the centerfield fence to bring round Hanna and make it 2-0.

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Martins Ferry Upsets Linsly, Earns Entry Into OVAC 3A Championship

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Martins Ferry was the last team to punch its ticket into the OVAC Class 3A Baseball playoffs last Friday. Now the Purple Riders will play in their third championship game in the last five seasons.

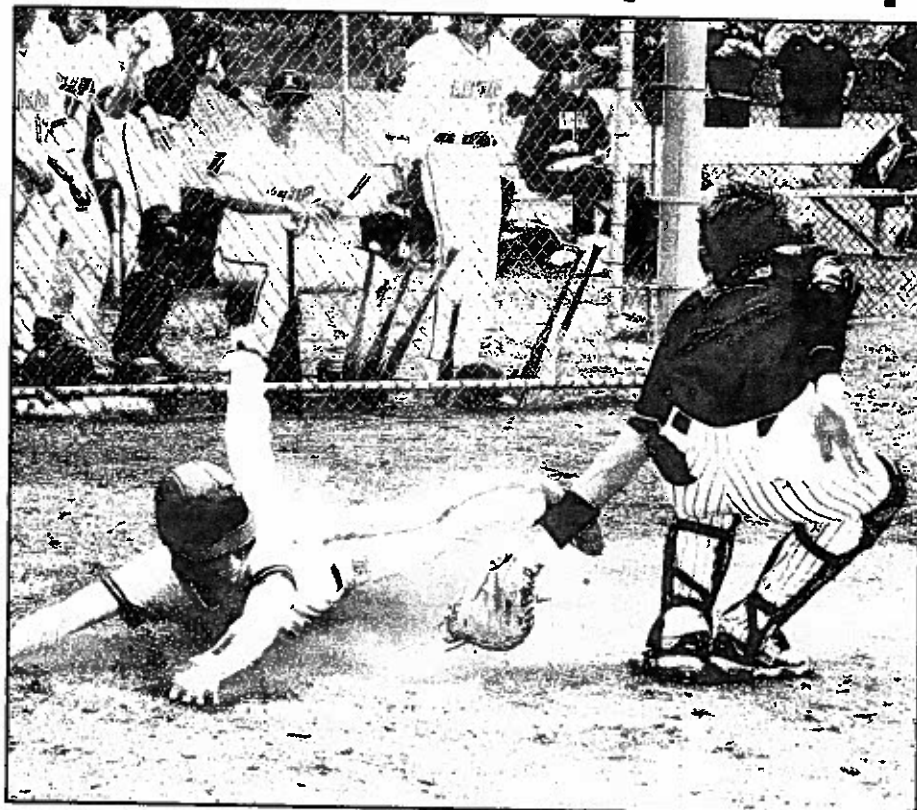
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"We put all of our cards on the table and said let's



Linsly's Chris Upton slides safely across home plate as Martins Ferry's Eli Smith fields an errant throw. Upton gave the Cadets a 1-0 lead in the first inning, but the Purple Riders rallied for an 8-4 victory in an OVAC Class 3A semifinal on Holloway Field.

Photo by Kim North

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day when I thought he would pitch. I told him I wasn't sure. I was planning on breaking them up because I knew neither one of them was going seven innings. He deserves a lot of credit. He was a senior stud out there today. He has grown up over the years. He's played in so many big games for us, I knew he would have a good game today."

Although he wasn't able to use his arm to help his team, the sophomore catcher didn't have any problem with his bat with his first home run of the season, a two-out, three-run shot that capped a five-run top of the second. Sophomore Christian Shutler had an earlier RBI single, as did

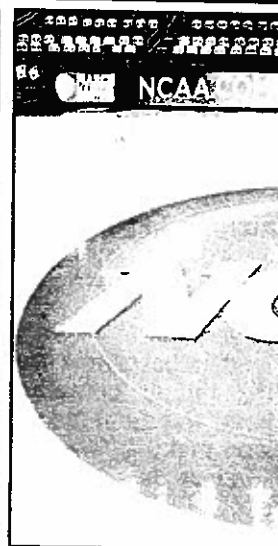
Ludolph.

"The first at-bat I was just thinking of getting a base hit," Smith explained of his first-inning single. "But the second at-bat I was thinking right-center. I made good contact and the ball just happened to go over the fence."

Of the nine sports in the order, eight recorded at least one base hit, with Smith and Christian Shutler having two each.

"This was a total team effort. These guys are fun to be around but with us still being rather young, we start five sophomores, two juniors and a freshman, I still do not know what to expect."

Please see **FERRY**,
Page 12



The NCAA logo is displayed at the Consol Energy Center.

NCAA Passes Table To Pay Play

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

The NCAA passes rules Monday that would upend decades of precedent by allowing colleges to pay their athletes per terms of a multi-billion-dollar lawsuit settlement expected to go into effect this summer.

The nine proposals passed by the NCAA board were largely expected but still mark a defining day in the history of college sports. An athlete's ability to be paid directly by his or her university is on track to be enshrined in a rule book that has forbidden that kind of relationship for decades.

For the NCAA rules to officially go into effect the changes prescribed by the House settlement still have to be granted final approval by a federal judge, whose hearing earlier this month led to questions about potential tweaks before the new guidelines are supposed to go into play on July 1.

New Year, Same Game: St. C. Back In OVAC Championship With Chance

One change allows for the creation of technology platforms for schools to monitor payments to the bigger conferences have sought more decision-making power in some areas.

FERRY

(Continued from Page 11)

"We can look like the Yankees one night and the Pirates the next. That's what makes it so difficult because you never know what might happen."

Leading 5-1, Martins Ferry watched as Linsly scored single runs in the fourth and fifth frames to inch to within 5-3 on a fielder's choice and an RBI single by Patrick Christ, but Hunter Shuttler, another promising sophomore, slapped a two-run single in a three-run sixth as the Purple Riders provided Kropka with some breathing room.

Gessler's second two-bagger preceded a run-scoring single by Jaxon Murray in the sixth to make it 8-4, but Kropka retired the final four batters to earn the save.

"Evan has battled for us all season," Linsly head coach Jay Cartwright said of starting pitcher Evan Zido. He left a couple of pitches up early and they've got some really good hitters. It was a good baseball game. We just came up a few runs short. We stranded a lot of runners."

Zido took the mound instead of senior Rocco Paolina, the Cadets ace who was injured over the weekend while running the bases.

Martins Ferry finished runner up in 2021 before winning the title a year later. It was eliminated in the semifinals the past two seasons.

Linsly lost in the championship game last summer to Wheeling Central.

FATES

(Continued from Page 11)

There's only really one player that'll be guaranteed taken in this year's draft, offensive lineman Wyatt Milum, with a couple having the potential to sneak in the later rounds.

It's not surprising there is a low number of projected Mountaineers drafted, since they didn't have the best season last year, and there was a coaching turnover. Rich Rodriguez produced over 10 NFL Draft picks in his first tenure at West Virginia, so maybe there'll be an increase of WVU players drafted in the years to come.

Here are predictions of where West Virginia players might land.

WYATT MILUM, OFFENSIVE LINE

Prediction: No. 81 overall (Round 3) to the Cincinnati Bengals
Wyatt Milum has been projected as a third-round pick in this year's

draft at guard by multiple NFL Draft experts.

His versatility to play all of the positions on the offensive line will draw attention from NFL front offices and boost his draft stock this year. But, with the shorter 32 1/8-inch arm length, he might only see action as a guard.

Being taken in the third round, Milum won't be a Day 1 starter for most teams, but will have a chance to become a backup this year.

Milum has a lot of experience after playing 32 games over four seasons. He didn't allow a sack in his final three seasons and was All-Big 12 Conference second team.

There are a lot of teams that could use a boost to the offensive line in this year's draft. Experts have the Arizona Cardinals and the Miami Dolphins as possible suitors to add Milum in the third

round, but the Cincinnati Bengals have a pick between the two and could use a guard also.

Cincinnati's offensive line allowed the fourth most sacks in the NFL last year, so they could use some help, or at least depth at the position. Milum provides a versatile lineman who can play anywhere on the line for the Bengals.

SEAN MARTIN, DEFENSIVE TACKLE

Prediction: Undrafted
Defensive tackle Sean Martin is the only WVU player who has a chance to be drafted, it's unlikely.

ESPN draft expert Dan Reid listed Martin as the 275th-best prospect in this year's draft. There are 257 picks in this year's draft, so Martin being selected would be a reach for teams, according to Reid.

Martin showed production with 3.5 sacks, five quarterback hurries and 23 tackles in 2023. He's consistent, playing every game four out of five years.

There are a lot of teams that could use interior defensive help, and Martin could find a spot on a roster, but it might come in the form of a free agency pick instead of being drafted. This year's draft is deep at defensive line, so it will be harder for Martin to hear his name called.

Some teams he could sign with or be drafted by.

DUBAS

(Continued from Page 11)

"If you look at every metric measuring performance, we also conceive of what was expected to be given up, but we allowed more than expected," Dubas said. "That's a really poor combination. Both need to be rectified."

Better play in front of them would help. Pittsburgh's defensive coordinator attached to make

the **Vindys**

FREE CONCERT

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 1:30 - 3:30

ON THE WHEELING WATERFRONT

"She's amazing. That girl can sing ..."

-Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Pat Benatar on lead singer, Jackie Popovec

"One of the 10 Best Concerts I Saw in 2024"

-The Washington Post's Marc Thiessen

2023 Editor's Pick for "Best Indie Rock Band."

New Year, Same Game: St. C. Back In OVAC Championship With Chance At Three-Pea

By NICK HENTHORN

Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - New year, same destination.

Winners of OVAC championships the last two seasons, top-seeded St. Clairsville is on their way back to the conference title game after defeating No. 4 Edison 5-0 Monday on the turf field of the St. Clairsville Jr. Sports Complex in a 4A semifinal.

Brody Saunders limited the Wildcats to two hits in an impressive pitching performance, striking out 13, while also going 2-3 at the plate with a double and two RBI to help his cause.

"We ran into a really good pitcher," Edison head coach Mike Collopy said. "St. Clairsville is well-coached every year. They had some timely hits. We had some mental mistakes that kind of hurt us. But when you have someone who's striking out double-digits, then we didn't do enough at the plate. I thought our kids competed, but today he

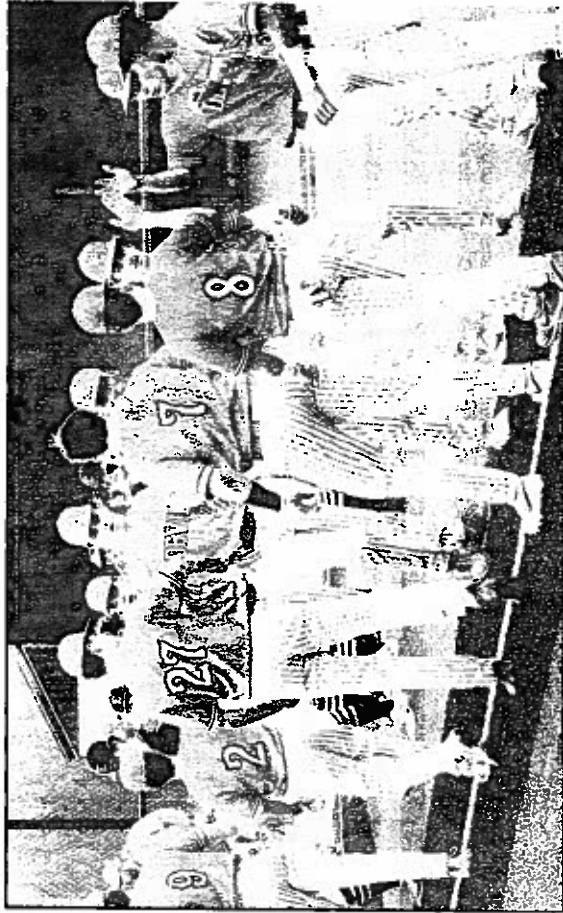
was better than us." It was all clicking for Saunders on Monday.

"That's as good as I've seen a game pitched in a long time," St. Clairsville head coach Tom Sliva said. "He was phenomenal, he had complete control, lots of pop, he was outstanding today. Today he showed why he's the senior leader bulldog that he is."

Saunders struck out the side to start the game, but Edison starting pitcher Brady Haught also kept St. Clairsville off the scoreboard until the third inning. Rowan Mellott started the inning being hit by a pitch, and moved to second after a textbook sacrifice bunt by Jaxon Starks.

Roby Hanna came up with two outs and shot a single to right field, scoring Mellott. Saunders followed him and belted a double to the centerfield fence to bring 'round Hanna and make it 2-0.

Please see SAME, Page 14



The St. Clairsville Red Devils serve up high-fives after their 5-0 victory over Edison in the OVAC 4A semifinals on Monday. Back-to-back OVAC champions, St. Clairsville earned the opportunity for a third straight conference crown with the win over the Wildcats.

Photo by Nick Henthorn



AP Photo
West Virginia offensive lineman Wyatt Millum runs a drill at the NFL scouting combine in Indianapolis, Sunday, March 2, 2025.

Predictions For Mountaineers' Fates In Upcoming NFL Draft

By SPENCER RIPCHIK there's only been one West Vir-

Penguins GM Kyle Dubas Won't Put A Timeline On Return To Contention, But Believes The Worst Is Over

By WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

CRANBERRY TOWN-

SHIP, Pa. — The standings in an effort to restore a prospect pool decimated by years of trading away picks in hopes of extending a near two-decade run of excellence that included three Stanley Cups.

The pace of prospect and pick acquisition has only picked up over the last 14 months. The Penguins have a whopping 30 selections over the next three NHL drafts and their minor league teams are contending. Dubas believes it's only a matter of time before that success cascades up to Pittsburgh.

"I'm more optimistic going into next year than I was organizationally (last year)," Dubas said Monday. "The results

teammates.

It was a move Dubas deemed a necessary part of the process in an effort to restore a prospect pool decimated by years of trading away picks in hopes of extending a near two-decade run of excellence that included three Stanley Cups.

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acades ago. Only Chicago at San Jose gave up more goals and only three teams had fewer wins in regulation.

There are plenty of areas that need to be addressed at the time Pittsburgh reports its training camp in September. The goaltending tandem of Tristan Jarry and Alex Nedeljkovic ranked among the worst in the league. Jarry, a two-time All-Star, endured a demotion to the American Hockey League in January and Nedeljkovic couldn't seize the opportunity to establish himself as a bona fide No. 1.

Yet given Jarry's contract carries more than a \$5 million cap hit, don't expect teams to call Dubas to offer a lifeline. Dubas has already told his goaltenders they will be cor-

singles, a home run and four RBI, Keen Wilhelm delivered three singles and four RBI and David Connors contributed a single, a double, a triple and an RBI. Also, Kaiden Wells tallied two doubles and an RBI.

(Regular Season)

Union Local 14, Bellaire 4

MORRISTOWN - The Jets erupted for eight runs in the bottom of the fourth

na. Conney struck out three and walked two. She kept Weir off the scoreboard in the final three innings of the game.

The Red Riders recorded nine hits in the game - two of which were doubles.

Individually, Utt tallied a single, a double and an RBI, Loganne Barton, Brayley Lash and Zoey Spencer each had an RBI.

Rylee Birkhimer belted a home run for the Blue Dons.

West Liberty Men's Golf Set For Atlantic/East Regional Preview

WEST LIBERTY, W.Va. - The West Liberty University men's golf team will wrap up its spring regular season at the Atlantic/East Regional Preview, set for Monday and Tuesday at Whispering Woods Golf Club in Erie, Pa.

The Hilltoppers are coming off a 12th-place finish at the Cecil C. Spadafora Invitational, hosted at the Indiana Country Club. Brogan Bennett led the charge for WLU, posting a +12 (154) to secure a 15th-place finish in the individual standings.

West Liberty's lineup for the Regional Preview will feature Brogan

Bennett, Justin Doerr, Noah Seivertson, Jayson Beckner, and Ethan Cook.

Through four spring tournaments, Bennett has been a consistent performer for the Hilltoppers, averaging a 13th-place finish with a 75.6 scoring average per round. Doerr follows with an average finish of 23rd and a 77.0 scoring average.

Seivertson has posted an average round of 78.7 with an average finish of 37th this spring. Beckner, competing in three events, has recorded an average round of 78.4, while Cook has appeared in two events, averaging 80.0 per round.

SAME

(Continued from Page 11)

That was all the damage done in the frame, and where the score stood until the bottom of the fifth, which once again began with Mellott reaching via hit-by-pitch, and moving to second on a Starks sac bunt. Leadoff man Caiden Bailey poked a single to left field, and a fumbled fielding effort allowed Mellott to score on the play. Hanna singled up the middle, and Saunders followed with a single to right field. Either hit scored the man before them, and St. Clairsville was left with a comfortable 5-0 lead.

"We got some guys on, we moved them up and we got them in," Sliva said. "We did a really nice job. That's a very good baseball team, well-coached, and you better make things happen when you have opportu-

nities. We were fortunate enough to do that today."

Hanna finished the day going 3-3 with a double and two singles.

Saunders struck out the side in the sixth and struck out two of three in the seventh. Third baseman Niko Jacob made a catch in foul ground up against the St. C. dugout to record the final out of the game.

St. Clairsville reaches the OVAC championship with a chance at a threepeat on the line. They are set to face the same opponent of the last two years as well - Indian Creek, who defeated Harrison Central 5-2. The Red Devils will have some of the same faces from last time around, as well as some new ones, when they rematch Creek.

"We'll approach the game the same as we have," Sliva said of his

team's third straight championship appearance. "It's a testament to our kids, the families they come from, our coaching staff - we did lose a ton of quality players, but these guys are their own team. They're excited about it and they can't wait for the opportunity."

The OVAC championship games will be played Friday and Saturday at Edison High School.

Edison has little time to dwell on the game. They play at Steubenville on Tuesday.

"We play tomorrow so we have to be ready to play," Callopy said. "That's all there is to it. It's good for our kids to be here, to be in a tournament situation, we just didn't get it done. We have a lot of season left and we're going to keep getting better."

ESPN - Western Conference First Round Playoff: Minnesota at Vegas, Game 2

SOCCER (MEN'S)

11:50 a.m.

FS2 - Saudi Pro League: Al Nassr at Damac FC

3 p.m.

USA - English Premier League: Aston Villa at Manchester City

SOCCER (WOMEN'S)

10:30 p.m.

CBSSN - NWSL: NJ/NY at Portland

TENNIS

5 a.m.

TENNIS - Madrid-WTA Early Rounds

6 a.m.

TENNIS - Madrid-WTA Early Rounds

5 a.m. (Wednesday)

TENNIS - Madrid-WTA ATP Early Rounds

6 a.m. (Wednesday)

TENNIS - Madrid-WTA Early Rounds

ECHL PLAYOFFS

Divisional Semifinals

(Best-of-7)

Norfolk 2, Wheeling 0

x-if necessary

Wednesday, April 16: Norfolk 4, Wheeling 0

Thursday, April 17: Norfolk 4, Wheeling 0

Wednesday, April 23: Norfolk at Wheeling, 7:10 p.m.

Friday, April 25: Norfolk at Wheeling, 7:10 p.m.

x-Saturday, April 26: Norfolk at Wheeling, 7:10 p.m.

x-Monday, April 28: Norfolk at Wheeling, 7:10 p.m.

x-Tuesday, April 29: Norfolk at Wheeling, 7:10 p.m.

MLB MOVES

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS

— Designated RHP Triston McKenzie for assignment. Selected the contract of RHP Zak Kent from Columbus (IL).

DETROIT TIGERS — Recalled 3B Jace Jung from Toledo (IL). Optioned CF Ryan Kreidler to Toledo.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Placed CF Trent Grisham on the paternity list. Recalled 2B Jorvit Vivas from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).

CINCINNATI REDS — Optioned RHP Randy Wynne to Louisville (IL). Activated LHP Nick Lodolo from the paternity list.

CHICAGO CUBS — Optioned LHP Jordan Wicks to Iowa (IL). Acquired LHP Drew Pomeranz from Seattle for cash considerations.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Acquired RHP Cesar Espinal from Kansas City. Transferred LHP Nestor Cortes from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Optioned RHP Logan Henderson to Nashville (IL).

— 2B: Florence S. Indian Creek 5, Harrison Central 2
H. Cent 002 000 0 - 2 3
I. Creek 410 000 x - 5 4
HC-Rutter 1p (9K, 15 and Palegreen; Dunkle 7, 7 Stoneking S, rbi; Rutter D
IC-Hyde wp (11K, 2BB) at Rusnak; Rusnak D, rbi; Bz calow S, rbi; Hyde S, rbi; D Gruttola HR, 2rbi

Class 3A

Martins Ferry 8, Linsly 4

Ferry 050 003 0 - 8 10

Linsly 100 111 0 - 4 7

MF-A. Ludolph wp (5

2BB), Kropka sv (5), (2K, 2B

and Smith; A. Ludolph S, rt

H. Shutler S, 2rbi; Smith

HR, 3rbi; C. Shutler 2S, rbi

L-Zido 1p (0K, 0BB), Hal

ley (4), (6K, 3BB) and Hartle

Zido (4); Murray S, rbi; Chri

S, rbi; Gessler 2D

Class 1A

Cameron 9, Conotton Valle

NBA PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7)

Eastern Conference

New York 1, Detroit 1

Saturday, April 19: New Yo 123, Detroit 112

Monday, April 21: Detroit 10 New York 94

Cleveland 1, Miami 0

Sunday, April 20: Cleveland 121, Miami 100

Indiana 1, Milwaukee 0

Saturday, April 19: Indian 117, Milwaukee 98

Boston 1, Orlando 0

Sunday, April 20: Boston 10 Orlando 86

Western Conference

Houston vs. Golden State Sunday, April 20: Golde State at Houston, late.

Denver 1, L.A. Clippers 0

Saturday, April 19: Denv 112, L.A. Clippers 10, OT

Monday, April 21: L.A. Cli pers at Denver, late

Oklahoma City 1, Memphis Sunday, April 20: Oklahon City 131, Memphis 80

Minnesota 1, L.A. Lakers 0

Saturday, April 19: Minneso 117, L.A. Lakers 95

WVADA NORTH

2025 South Girls:

Brooke Adkins (Wayne)

Addyson Amick (Logan)

Alexandra Anderson (Hur cane)

Cadee Blackburn (Wyomir East)

Maggie Boroski (James Moir oe)

Kynadee Britton (Sissonville)

Laila Campbell (Riverside)

Brooke Christian (Chapma ville)

Halle Crouse (Logan)

Allie Daniels (Spring Valley)

Jaycee Elzy (St Albans)

Addysn Smith (Mingo Central)

Natalie Smith (Nitro)

Preslee Treadway (Greenbri West)

Cameron, Indian Creek Score OVAC Semifinal Victories

BOWERSTON - Cameron scored six times in the top of the eighth inning to stun No. 2 Conotton Valley, 9-3, in an OVAC Class 1A semifinal Monday night.

The third-seeded Dragons will now play Madonna on either Friday or Saturday at Edison's Unified Sports Complex in Richmond. It is Cameron's fourth consecutive trip to the finals, with the Blue Dons being the opponent three times. The Dragons have won one title.

Anthony Bellanco singled in two runs to give Cameron the lead in the top of the eighth, while Brody Smith followed with a single to score Bellanco. Ike Yoho chased a run in with a sacrifice bunt and Soier Reed grounded out as another run scored. Wes Starcher capped the outburst with an RBI single.

Kasun Angel, who struck out eight and walked six in five innings, singled four times as Cameron banged out 13 hits. Zayde Long singled thrice and drove in three runs, while Starcher had a pair of singles and a run batted in.

Indian Creek 5, Harrison Central 2

CADIZ - For the third time in five days the Redskins have defeated the Huskies. However, the third time was in an OVAC Class 4A semifinal.

Sylus Hyde scattered three hits and struck out 11 for Indian Creek. He also singled in a run.

Dom DeGruttolla belted a two-run homer as the Redskins scored four times in the first and once in the second. Hunter Rusnak doubled in a run and Sy Barcalow singled in another.

Harrison Central's Coletton Rutter fanned nine and allowed just four hits in taking the loss. Kayden Dunkle drove in a run with a triple and Gage Stoneking singled in a run. Rutter had a double.

Indian Creek will now face St. Clairsville for the championship.

Madonna 17, Trinity Christian 1

WEIRTON - The Madonna baseball is on a roll as the Blue Dons look to defend their OVAC championship.

Madonna -- the No. 1 seed -- scored four runs in the bottom of the first inning against No. 4 seed Trinity Christian and never looked back en route to a victory in five innings against the Warriors in an OVAC Class 1A tournament semifinal Monday evening at Edwin J. Bowman Field.

The win was Madonna's 10th straight of the season.

Madonna defeated Cameron 10-4 in the final last year.

Lazear picked up the win for Madonna against Trinity Christian (7-0).

in cruising past the visiting Big Reds.

Billy Schumacher launched a three-run home as Union Local collected 14 hits. Hayden Jenkins drove in four runs with a single and double, while Peyton Causby doubled, tripled and knocked in two runs. Logan Hess and Karson Grigatis each singled, doubled and plated two runs.

Braylon Akers struck out eight, walked one and yielded five singles.

Grant Vasey and Brae Schmidli each singled in a run for the Big Reds.

Jefferson County Christian 15, Beallsville 0

MINGO JUNCTION - Lee Gump threw a no-hitter facing the minimum number of batters and the Royals bats came alive, belting out 18 hits in a five-inning game vs. the Blue Devils.

Gump struck out two and issued no walks. Beallsville's only runner came via error, and was doubled off.

At the plate, Aiden Howard was 4-4 with two doubles. Wyatt Hervey was 3-4 with a triple and a double. Carl Bonecutter was 3-4 with a triple. The Royals are 10-4 and take on Bridgeport tomorrow.

SOFTBALL

Wheeling Central 11, Tyler Consolidated 2

KIDWELL - Josie Frizzell and Olivia Kiaski combined on a one-hitter as the Maroon Knights rolled past the host Silver Knights.

Frizzell struck out eight in three innings and Kiaski punched out another three. Each walked a batter.

Erin Maxwell singled and doubled for Wheeling Central. Kiaski had a pair of one-base raps.

Union Local 13, Bellaire 7

MORRISTOWN - The Jets plated six runs in the bottom of the third and tacked on seven more in the fifth to take down the visiting Big Reds.

Myah Martin drove in three runs with a pair of doubles. Alli Kellaway also had three runs batted in with a single and double. Winning pitcher Kylie Stidd singled twice and drove in two runs, while Eve Blakley had a two-run single.

Addison Kovach singled twice and slugged a solo home run for Bellaire. Emilee Menendez had a two-run double.

Weir 5, Madonna 1

WEIRTON - City bragging rights once again belong to the Weir softball team.

Weir scored five runs in the first three innings on its way to a 5-1 victory against city-rival Madonna Tuesday evening at the Roberta "Birdie" DeFrancis Softball Field.

LOCAL CARD

(all events begin at 5 p.m. unless noted)

Tuesday, April 22

BASEBALL

Magnolia at Wirt County
Barnesville at River
Cambridge at St. Clairsville
Oak Glen at Beaver Local
Bellaire at Wheeling Central,
6:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Martins Ferry at Wheeling Central
River at Bellaire
Buckeye Local at Barnesville,
5:30 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

WTTL Meet at Tyler Consolidated, 4 p.m.
Buckeye 8 Championships,
4:30 p.m.

SPORTS ON TV

Tuesday, April 22

COLLEGE BASEBALL

5 p.m.
ACCN - Stetson at Florida St.

6 p.m.
BTN - West Virginia at Penn St.

8 p.m.
ESPNU - Georgia at Clemson
SECN - Georgia Tech at Auburn

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

6 p.m.
ACCN - W. Kentucky at Louisville
ESPNU - Clemson at Tennessee
SECN - Louisiana-Lafayette at Texas A&M

8 p.m.
ACCN - Georgia at Georgia Tech

MLB BASEBALL

7:10 p.m.
TBS - Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets

10 p.m.
MLBN - Regional Coverage: Texas at Athletics (10:05 p.m.) OR Tampa Bay at Arizona (9:40 p.m.)

NBA BASKETBALL

7 p.m.
NBATV - Eastern Conference First Round Playoff: Milwaukee at Indiana, Game 2

7:30 p.m.
TNT - Western Conference First Round Playoff: Memphis at Oklahoma City, Game 2

TRUTV - Western Conference First Round Playoff: Memphis at Oklahoma City, Game 2 (DataCast)

10 p.m.
TNT - Western Conference First Round Playoff: Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, Game 2

TRUTV - Western Conference First Round Playoff: Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, Game 2 (DataCast)

NHL HOCKEY

8 p.m.
ESPN - Eastern Conference First Round Playoff: New Jersey at Carolina, Game 2

MAJOR LE

	W	L	Pct	GB	W
New York	14	9	.609	—	
Toronto	12	10	.545	1½	
Boston	13	11	.542	1½	
Baltimore	9	12	.429	4	
Tampa Bay	9	13	.409	4½	

	W	L	Pct	GB	W
Detroit	14	9	.609	—	
Cleveland	13	9	.591	½	
Kansas City	9	14	.391	5	
Minnesota	7	15	.318	6½	
Chicago	5	17	.227	8½	

	W	L	Pct	GB	W
Texas	13	9	.591	—	
Seattle	12	10	.545	1	
Los Ang.	11	10	.524	1½	
Houston	10	11	.476	2½	
Athletics	10	12	.455	3	

	W	L	Pct	GB	W
New York	16	7	.696	—	
Philadel.	13	10	.565	3	
Miami	10	12	.455	5½	
Atlanta	9	13	.409	6½	
Wash.	9	13	.409	6½	

	W	L	Pct	GB	W
Chicago	14	10	.583	—	
Milwaukee	12	10	.545	1	
Cincinnati	11	12	.478	2½	
St. Louis	9	14	.391	4½	
Pittsburgh	8	15	.348	5½	

	W	L	Pct	GB	W
Los Ang.	16	7	.696	—	
San Diego	16	7	.696	—	
San Fran.	14	8	.636	1½	
Arizona	13	9	.591	2½	
Colorado	4	17	.190	11	

AMERICAN LEAGUE Monday's Games

Boston 4, Chicago White Sox 2
Cleveland 6, N.Y. Yankees 4
Detroit 6, San Diego 4
Toronto at Houston, late

Tuesday's Games

N.Y. Yankees (Warren 1-0) at Cleveland (Bibee 1-2), 6:10 p.m.
San Diego (Pivetta 3-1) at Detroit (Flaherty 1-1), 6:40 p.m.
Baltimore (Kremer 2-2) at Washington (Parker 2-1), 6:40 p.m.
Seattle (Miller 1-2) at Boston (Newcomb 0-2), 6:45 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Martin 1-2) at Minnesota (Ober 1-1), 7:40 p.m.
Colorado (Feltner 0-1) at Kansas City (Bubic 2-1), 7:40 p.m.
Toronto (Bassitt 2-0) at Houston (Blanco 1-2), 8:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Falter 1-2) at L.A. Angels (Soriano 2-2), 9:38 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Littell 0-4) at Arizona (Pfaadt 3-1), 9:40 p.m.
Texas (Corbin 1-0) at Athletics (Bido 2-1), 10:05 p.m.

PREP L

BASEBALL

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Dom DeGruttola belted a two-run homer as the Redskins scored four times in the first and once in the second. Hunter Rusnak doubled in a run and Sy Barcalow singled in another.

Harrison Central's Coleton Rutter fanned nine and allowed just four hits in taking the loss. Kayden Dunkle drove in a run with a triple and Gage Stoneking singled in a run. Rutter had a double.

Indian Creek will now face St. Clairsville for the championship.

Madonna 17, Trinity Christian 1

WEIRTON - The Madonna baseball is on a roll as the Blue Dons look to defend their OVAC championship.

Madonna -- the No. 1 seed -- scored four runs in the bottom of the first inning against No. 4 seed Trinity Christian and never looked back en route to a victory in five innings against the Warriors in an OVAC Class 1A tournament semifinal Monday evening at Edwin J. Bowman Field.

The win was Madonna's 10th straight of the season.

Madonna defeated Cameron 10-4 in the final last year.

Lazear picked up the win for Madonna against Trinity Christian (7-9). Lazear struck out nine without walking a batter in his three innings of work on the mound. Sam Brooks came on to pitch the fifth. Brooks struck out three and walked one in his two innings of work.

Individually, Matt Geer collected two singles, a home run and four RBI, Reed Wilharm delivered three singles and four RBI and David Connors contributed a single, a double, a triple and an RBI. Also, Kaiden Wells tallied two doubles and an RBI.

(Regular Season)

Union Local 14, Bellaire 4

MORRISTOWN - The Jets erupted for eight runs in the bottom of the fourth

error, and was doubled off.

At the plate, Aiden Howard was 4-4 with two doubles. Wyatt Hervey was 3-4 with a triple and a double. Carl Bonecuter was 3-4 with a triple. The Royals are 10-4 and take on Bridgeport tomorrow.

SOFTBALL

Wheeling Central 11, Tyler Consolidated 2

KIDWELL - Josie Frizzell and Olivia Kiaski combined on a one-hitter as the Maroon Knights rolled past the host Silver Knights.

Frizzell struck out eight in three innings and Kiaski punched out another three. Each walked a batter.

Erin Maxwell singled and doubled for Wheeling Central. Kiaski had a pair of one-base raps.

Union Local 13, Bellaire 7

MORRISTOWN - The Jets plated six runs in the bottom of the third and tacked on seven more in the fifth to take down the visiting Big Reds.

Myah Martin drove in three runs with a pair of doubles. Alli Kellaway also had three runs batted in with a single and double. Winning pitcher Kylie Stidd singled twice and drove in two runs, while Eve Blakley had a two-run single.

Addison Kovach singled twice and slugged a solo home run for Bellaire. Emilee Menendez had a two-run double.

Weir 5, Madonna 1

WEIRTON - City bragging rights once again belong to the Weir softball team.

Weir scored five runs in the first three innings on its way to a 5-1 victory against city-rival Madonna Tuesday evening at the Roberta "Birdie" DeFrancis Softball Field.

Eliza Utt picked up the win for Weir. Utt struck out nine and walked one, while limiting Madonna to four hits on the day. During the game, Utt surpassed the 400 strikeout mark for her career. The junior now had 407 Ks in her career.

Peyton Conley took the loss for Madonna. Conley struck out three and walked two. She kept Weir off the scoreboard in the final three innings of the game.

The Red Riders recorded nine hits in the game - two of which were doubles.

Individually, Utt tallied a single, a double and an RBI, Loganne Barton, Brayley Lash and Zoey Spencer each had an RBI.

Rylee Birkhimer belted a home run for the Blue Dons.

West Liberty Men's Golf Set For Atlantic/East Regional Preview

WEST LIBERTY, W.Va. - The West Liberty University men's golf team will wrap up its spring regular season at the Atlantic/East Regional Preview, set for Monday and Tuesday at Whispering Woods Golf Club in Erie, Pa.

The Hilltoppers are coming off a 12th-place finish at the Cecil C. Spada Invitational, hosted at the Indiana

Bennett, Justin Doerr, Noah Seiverson, Jayson Beckner, and Ethan Cook.

Through four spring tournaments, Bennett has been a consistent performer for the Hilltoppers, averaging a 13th-place finish with a 75.6 scoring average per round. Doerr follows with an average finish of 23rd and a 77.0 scoring average.

Penn St.

8 p.m.

ESPNU — Georgia at

Clemson

SECN — Georgia Tech at

Auburn

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

6 p.m.

ACCN — W. Kentucky at

Louisville

ESPNU — Clemson at Ten-

nessee

SECN — Louisiana-Lafay-

ette at Texas A&M

8 p.m.

ACCN — Georgia at Geor-

gia Tech

MLB BASEBALL

7:10 p.m.

TBS — Philadelphia at N.Y.

Mets

10 p.m.

MLBN — Regional Cover-

age: Texas at Athletics (10:05

p.m.) OR Tampa Bay at Arizo-

na (9:40 p.m.)

NBA BASKETBALL

7 p.m.

NBTV — Eastern Confer-

ence First Round Playoff: Mil-

waukee at Indiana, Game 2

7:30 p.m.

TNT — Western Confer-

ence First Round Playoff:

Memphis at Oklahoma City,

Game 2

TRUTV — Western Confer-

ence First Round Playoff:

Memphis at Oklahoma City,

Game 2 (DataCast)

10 p.m.

TNT — Western Confer-

ence First Round Playoff: Min-

nesota at L.A. Lakers, Game 2

TRUTV — Western Confer-

ence First Round Playoff: Min-

nesota at L.A. Lakers, Game 2

(DataCast)

NHL HOCKEY

6 p.m.

ESPN — Eastern Confer-

ence First Round Playoff: New

Jersey at Carolina, Game 2

7:30 p.m.

ESPN2 — Eastern Confer-

ence First Round Playoff: Ot-

tawa at Toronto, Game 2

8:30 p.m.

ESPN — Eastern Confer-

ence First Round Playoff:

Florida at Tampa Bay, Game

1

11 p.m.

ESPN — Western Confer-

ence First Round Playoff: Min-

nesota at Vegas, Game 2

SOCCER (MEN'S)

11:50 a.m.

FS2 — Saudi Pro League:

Al Nassr at Damac FC

3 p.m.

USA — English Premier

League: Aston Villa at Man-

chester City

SOCCER (WOMEN'S)

10:30 p.m.

CBSSN — NWSL: NJ/NY at

Portland

TENNIS

5 a.m.

TENNIS — Madrid-WTA

Early Rounds

6 a.m.

TENNIS — Madrid-WTA

Early Rounds

5 a.m. (Wednesday)

TENNIS — Madrid-WTA/

ATP Early Rounds

6 a.m. (Wednesday)

TENNIS — Madrid-WTA

Early Rounds

ECHL PLAYOFFS

Divisional Semifinals

	W	L	Pct	GB	W
Los Ang.	10	1	.909	—	
San Diego	10	1	.909	—	
San Fran.	12	0	.636	1½	
Arizona	13	0	.333	2½	
Colorado	1	17	.100	11	

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Monday's Games

Boston 4, Chicago White Sox 2
Cleveland 6, N.Y. Yankees 4
Detroit 6, San Diego 4
Toronto at Houston, late

Tuesday's Games

N.Y. Yankees (Warren 1-0) at Cleveland (Bibee 1-2), 6:10 p.m.
San Diego (Pivetta 3-1) at Detroit (Flaherty 1-1), 6:40 p.m.

Baltimore (Kremer 2-2) at Washington (Parker 2-1), 6:40 p.m.
Seattle (Miller 1-2) at Boston (Newcomb 0-2), 6:45 p.m.

Chicago White Sox (Martin 1-2) at Minnesota (Ober 1-1), 7:40 p.m.
Colorado (Feltner 0-1) at Kansas City (Bubic 2-1), 7:40 p.m.

Toronto (Bassitt 2-0) at Houston (Blanco 1-2), 8:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Falter 1-2) at L.A. Angels (Soriano 2-2), 9:38 p.m.

Tampa Bay (Littell 0-4) at Arizona (Pfaadt 3-1), 9:40 p.m.
Texas (Corbin 1-0) at Athletics (Bido 2-1), 10:05 p.m.

PREP I

BASEBALL

OVAC Semifinals

Class 4A

St. Clairsville 5, Edison 0
Edison 000 000 0 - 0 2 3
St. Clairsville 000 0 - 5 7 0
E- Haight 1p (3K, 0BB) at Henderson. Long S, SB; Piman S;

SC- Saunders wp (13 1BB) and Balgo. Bailey S, r; Hanna D, 2S, rbi; Saunders S, 2rbi; Florence S.

Indian Creek 5, Harrison Central 2
H. Cent 002 000 0 - 2 3
I.Creek 410 000 x - 5 4 ;
HC-Rutter 1p (9K, 1B

and Pelegreen; Dunkle T, r; Stoneking S, rbi; Rutter D
IC-Hyde wp (11K, 2BB) at Rusnak; Rusnak D, rbi; Barcalow S, rbi; Hyde S, rbi; DGruttola HR, 2rbi

Class 3A

Martins Ferry 8, Linsly 4
Ferry 050 003 0 - 8 10 ;
Linsly 100 111 0 - 4 7
MF-A. Ludolph wp (5

2BB), Kropka sv (5), (2K, 2B and Smith; A. Ludolph S, r; H. Shutler S, 2rbi; Smith HR, 3rbi; C. Shutler 2S, rbi

L-Zido 1p (0K, 0BB), Harteley (4), (6K, 3BB) and Hartle Zido (4); Murray S, rbi; Chris S, rbi; Gessler 2D

Class 1A

Cameron 9, Conotton Valle

NBA PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7)

SPORTS

B

Monday,
April 21, 2025

OVAC baseball semifinals begin Monday at higher seeded teams

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer*FOR THE final standings
and pairings, please see
page B4*

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — After some number-crunching and last-minute results, the OVAC Baseball playoffs have been determined by conference officials.

The semifinal games will be played on Monday at 5 p.m.

fields being utilized in semifinal action (Indian Creek, Wheeling Park, Morgantown, St. Clairsville and Toronto) have turf playing surfaces, with two being infield surfaces-only.

All five defending champions are in the playoff field. They are Morgantown (5A), St. Clairsville (4A), Wheeling

Central (3A), Toronto (2A) and Madonna (1A). However, No. 1 seed and will host No. 4 Parkersburg South (10-7) Blue Dons are the top seeds at Patriot Field high atop the this year. The Mohigans, Red Devils and Red Knights are all No. 2.

Class 5A
All four qualifiers won 10-6-5 earlier this season. All plus games and played at least 17 as Wheeling Park (13-6)

See SEMIFINALS, Page B2



Manzardo's sac fly in 10th helps Guardians beat Pirates 5-4, sweep 3-game series

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Steven Kwan and Kyle Manzardo hit two-run homers and Manzardo added a sacrifice fly in the 10th to rally the Cleveland Guardians to a 5-4 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Sunday for a three-game sweep.

Manzardo drove in Jhonkensy Noel, who started the inning at second, with a one-out fly to left off Dennis Santana (0-1).

The Pirates (8-15) rallied for three runs in the ninth off Emmanuel Clase (3-0), who was go-

Most Monroe Central girls • Semifinals

mony Bittner.

Harrison Central 3,
ady Valley 0

Harrison Central 17,
Cambridge 6

CADIZ — The Hus-
s swept a split double-
ader with the Cardinals
1 Bobcats to keep pace
an OVAC Class 4A
yoff berth.

In the first game, Mi-
yla Pelegreen fanned
, walked a pair and gave
three singles. Kamryn
others had the game's
ie RBI.

In the second game, Ol-
a Tonkovich belted a
und slam and sacrifice
to account for five runs
ted in. Kelcey Powers
ve in four runs with
o singles and a triple.
egreen and Halei Toker
h drove in two runs.

River 3, Tyler
Consolidated 1
River 15, Tyler
Consolidated 5

KIDWELL — The Pi-
s took a pair of games
m the host Silver
ights.

In the opener, Ava
ohnhas struck out 12,
lked three and scattered
o hits while battery-
te Kaylee Hagan sin-
d twice and homered to
ve in three runs. Mal-
ie Maddy had a trio of
igles.

In the nightcap, Maddy
ocked in six runs with
single, double and home
n. She was also the win-
ing pitcher.

Wohnhas knocked in
ee runs with a pair of
ubles while Macy Or-
orff singled three times
d drove in two runs.
nna Talbot also singled
ice and plated a run. Ha-
n added a single, double
d RBI.

Union Local 20,
Beallsville 10
Union Local 12,
Beallsville 0
MORRISTOWN —

The Jets continued their
winning ways with a twin-
bill sweep of the visiting
Blue Devils.

In the first game, Union
Local took advantage of
15 walks by Beallsville
pitching while Lil Blakley
drove in three runs with
two singles and a double.

Khloe Gallagher earned
the win inside the circle
with seven Ks and two
walks in four innings.

In the second game,
Edyn McGary doubled
in two runs and Laken
Vinskovich singled in two
more as the Jets soared.
Kylie Stidd fanned seven
and walked one in the
five-inning affair.

BASEBALL

Cameron 15, Greater
Beckley Christian 3
Cameron 9,
Westside 0

BECKLEY — The
Dragons swept a pair of
games on Saturday.

In the first game, Soier
Reed had two singles and
a home run that account-
ed for three RBI and An-
thony Bellanco drove in
three with two singles.
Zayde Long singled and
doubled to plate two runs
and Hunter Evans singled
twice to knock in a pair.

In the second game,
Reed slapped three singles
and Wes Starcher went
the distance on the mound
with four strikeouts and
four walks/. He also sin-
gled twice.

Barnesville 8,
Garaway 6

BARNESVILLE —
The Shamrocks bounced
back from a tough loss to
Martins Ferry a night ear-
lier as they took a 7-0 lead
after two innings at Me-
morial Park.

Winning pitcher Casey
Carpenter (2 singles) and
Brayden Watters (single)
each drove in two runs.
Marshall Meade had a
run-scoring double.

Continued from Page A1

Wheeling Park started 5-0 and 11-1 but
have lost six of their last eight. Head coach
Steve Myers won his 100th career game
on Friday.

Parkersburg South, meanwhile, has
won four straight and eight of nine.

In the other semifinal, second-seeded
Morgantown (11-7) will entertain No. 3
Brooke (12-7) on Dale Miller Field inside
Mylan Park. The two have not played this
season.

The Bruins were 7-2 at one point but
have won three in a row after a four-game
losing streak.

Morgantown has lost two of its last four,
including a 2-1 nod to Linsly last week.

Class 4A

None of the four qualifiers have reached
the 10-win mark yet, but all four easily ad-
vanced to the semifinals.

Top-seeded Indian Creek (8-1) will
face a familiar foe in No. 4 Harrison Cen-
tral (8-4). The two teams met in a home-
and-home series on Thursday and Friday,
with the Redskins prevailing 5-0 and 9-2.
Their lone loss came to Columbus St.
Francis DeSales, 3-2, in a PBR event at
Oregon Clay High School.

No. 2 St. Clairsville (9-1), which has
won eight straight and defeated Indian
Creek in last year's championship game,
will welcome No. 3 Edison (9-2) to the
Junior Sports Complex on North Market
Street. They also have not met this year.

The Red Devils opened the season with
a home-and-home split against Martins
Ferry but scored four times in the top of
the seventh with two out and nobody on to
stun Wheeling Park last week.

The Wildcats have won four of their last
five and are seeking to play in the finals on
their home field.

Class 3A

Top-seeded Wheeling Central (12-1)
has been the top team in their class since
the first pitch was thrown this season.
It hosts No. 4 Monroe Central (6-4) on
the Wheeling University diamond at the
I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex.

The Maroon Knights, who defeated
Linsly 5-1 in last year's title tilt, won their
first 11 games before falling to unbeaten

• Thomas

Continued from Page A1

His game was back in order — he
cracked the top 10 again — and need-
ed only a victory to confirm his game
was back among the elite.

"I think it was the last thing missing,
if you will," Thomas said. "It's hard to
say, because obviously careers are so
long and there's so much up and down
and lots going on that you never know

Caldwell, the No. 1 seed in Class 2A.

The Seminoles got a late start due to the
state championship run of the basketball
team, but started off 5-0 before hitting a
slump. They have only won once in their
last five outings and scored just one run in
that span.

Wheeling Central won 12-2 earlier this
season.

No. 2 Linsly (10-7) got off to a 1-2
start but has won six in a row, with four of
those victories coming over OVAC play-
off entrants. The Cadets will welcome No.
3 Martins Ferry (5-4) to Holloway Field.

The Purple Riders nipped Barnesville
late Friday to punch their ticket. They
have won two of their last four, losing to
Bellaire and Union Local last week.

Class 2A

The top-seeded Redskins (8-0) will
host No. 4 Shadyside (6-3) in a re-match
of their April 9 game won by Caldwell,
5-0. The Redskins have allowed only 12
runs in their eight games.

No. 2 Toronto (8-2) is seeking a repeat
title when it welcomes No. 3 East Pales-
tine (8-3) to the Red Knights Complex.
The Red Knights two losses are to Wheel-
ing Central (2-1 in 10 inn.) and Board-
man.

The Bulldogs are making their first-ever
playoff appearance in their first year as an
OVAC member. They dropped a 4-3 de-
cision at Mathews on Thursday to snap a
six-game winning streak.

Class 1A

Top-seeded Madonna (12-2) seems
primed for another tournament title run as
it was the lone team to win more than eight
games in this classification. The Blue
Dons welcome No. 4 Trinity Christian (7-
8) to Edwin Bowman Field in downtown
Weirton.

The other semi has No. 2 Conotton Val-
ley (8-4) hosting third-seeded Cameron
(9-7) in Bowerston. The Rockets have lost
three of their last four. The Dragons have
won four of their last five.

Championships

The winners will advance to the finals
on Friday and Saturday at the Unified
Sports Complex at Edison High School
in Richmond. Pairings and times will be
announced later in the week.

Nealy.

Daniel Berger closed with a 65 to
tie for third with McNealy (70), Mack-
enzie Hughes (67) and Brian Harman
(69).

Defending champion Scottie Schef-
fler even got in on the act, just brief-
ly. He started four shots behind and
was even for the round through eight
holes. But he ran off three birdies in a

Dentistry



SOFTBALL
Magnolia at Linsly
Barnesville at Martins Ferry
Beallsville at Shadyside
River at Caldwell
Indian Creek at Oak Glen, 5:30 p.m.

OVAC BASEBALL

FINAL STANDINGS

CLASS 5A					
W	L	TG	CP	AVE	
WP	13	6	191064	56.00	
Morg.	11	7	18 846	47.00	
Brk	12	7	19 814	42.84	
PS	10	7	17 718	42.24	
Univ.	8	10	18 582	32.33	
Steub.	4	6	10 282	28.20	
JM	6	10	16 446	27.88	
Mari.	4	9	13 250	19.23	
*Warr	6	2	8		
#Dover	5	2	7		

CLASS 4A					
W	L	TG	CP	AVE	
IC	8	1	9 556	61.78	
St. C.	9	1	10 598	59.80	
ED	9	2	11 588	53.45	
HC	8	4	12 516	43.00	
Weir	6	8	14 360	25.71	
Camb.	5	7	12 300	25.00	
BuL	2	7	9 156	17.33	
OG	6	10	16 274	17.13	
EL	1	10	11 60	5.45	
BeL	0	6	6 0	0.00	

CLASS 3A					
W	L	TG	CP	AVE	
WCC	12	1	13 752	57.85	
Linsly	10	7	17 698	41.06	
Ferry	5	4	9 326	36.22	
MC	6	4	10 296	29.60	
UL	5	6	11 310	28.18	
Barn	6	6	12 334	27.83	
Bell	3	6	9 190	21.11	
Colum	5	8	13 230	17.69	
Shen.	0	9	9 0	0.00	
#Un.	9	4	13		
*FF	6	4	10		
*BT	6	3	9		

CLASS 2A					
W	L	TG	CP	AVE	
Cald.	8	0	8 504	63.00	
Tor.	8	2	10 414	41.40	
EP	8	3	11 444	40.36	
Shad.	6	3	9 272	30.22	
CB	7	3	10 284	28.40	
River	6	5	11 290	26.36	
Mag.	3	9	12 110	9.17	
Well.	1	8	9 44	4.89	
#Lis.	4	6	10		
*Bpt	2	3	5		
*So.	1	5	6		
*SCC	2	4	6		

CLASS 1A					
W	L	TG	CP	AVE	
Mad.	12	2	14 618	44.14	
CV	8	4	12 352	29.33	
Cam.	9	7	16 372	23.25	
Trinity	7	8	15 306	20.40	
Front	3	4	7 114	16.29	
Valley	3	10	13 98	7.54	
Bealls.	2	8	10 68	6.80	
PC	1	9	10 32	3.20	
#Lee.	5	2	7		
*HC	3	6	9		
*Hun.	1	4	5		

#not competing in OVAC Championships
*Not enough OVAC games per format

Semifinals

All games are scheduled for Monday, April 21 at 5 p.m. unless otherwise noted or weather issues arise

Class 5A
No. 4 Parkersburg South at No. 1 Wheeling Park
No. 3 Brooke at No. 2 Morgantown

Class 4A
No. 4 Harrison Central at No. 1 Indian Creek
No. 3 Edison at No. 2 St. Clairsville

Baltimore	9	12	.429	4½	2½	4-6	L-1	5-6	4-6	98	118
Tampa	9	13	.409	5	3	4-6	L-1	9-10	0-3	94	86

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
Detroit	13	9	.591	—	—	6-4	L-1	8-2	5-7	100	76
Cleveland	12	9	.571	½	+½	7-3	W-3	5-1	7-8	86	90
Kan. City	9	14	.391	4½	3½	2-8	W-1	6-4	3-10	67	91
Minn.	7	15	.318	6	5	3-7	L-3	4-5	3-10	75	95
Chicago	5	16	.238	7½	6½	3-7	W-1	4-8	1-8	68	94

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
Texas	13	9	.591	—	—	5-5	L-1	10-3	3-6	67	81
Seattle	12	10	.545	1	—	8-2	W-2	8-5	4-5	98	93
Los Ang.	11	10	.524	1½	½	4-6	W-1	4-2	7-8	88	97
Houston	10	10	.500	2	1	6-4	W-2	6-5	4-5	75	76
Athletics	10	12	.455	3	2	5-5	L-1	2-7	8-5	95	113

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
New York	15	7	.682	—	—	7-3	W-4	9-1	6-6	91	61
Phila.	13	9	.591	2	—	5-5	L-1	9-4	4-5	103	101
Miami	9	12	.429	5½	3½	4-6	W-1	6-7	3-5	94	116
Wash.	9	12	.429	5½	3½	4-6	W-2	5-4	4-8	92	110
Atlanta	8	13	.381	6½	4½	6-4	W-3	6-2	2-11	77	87

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
Chicago	14	10	.583	—	—	5-5	L-1	6-5	8-5	143	101
Milwaukee	12	10	.545	1	1	5-5	W-1	9-4	3-6	112	101
Cincinnati	11	11	.500	2	2	6-4	W-1	6-6	5-5	117	85
St. Louis	9	13	.409	4	4	4-6	L-4	8-4	1-9	103	103
Pittsburgh	8	15	.348	5½	5½	3-7	L-3	6-7	2-8	78	103

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
San Diego	15	6	.714	—		6-4	L-2	12-1	3-5	94	60
Los Ang.	16	7	.696		+2½	7-3	W-1	10-2	6-5	100	90
San Fran.	14	8	.636	1½	+1	5-5	L-1	4-2	10-6	111	81
Arizona	13	9	.591	2½		7-3	W-1	6-4	7-5	117	101
Colorado	3	17	.150	11½	9	1-9	L-8	2-6	1-11	65	118

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Saturday's Games

Detroit 3, Kansas City 1
Texas 4, L.A. Dodgers 3
Cleveland 3, Pittsburgh 0
Seattle 8, Toronto 4, 12
innings
Boston 4, Chicago White Sox 3, 10
innings
Baltimore 9, Cincinnati 5
Tampa Bay 10, N.Y. Yankees 8, 10
innings
Athletics 3, Milwaukee 1
Houston 3, San Diego 2
Atlanta 4, Minnesota 3
San Francisco 3, L.A. Angels 2

Sunday's Games

Atlanta 6, Minnesota 2
N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 0
Chicago White Sox 8, Boston 4
Cleveland 5, Pittsburgh 4, 10
innings
Kansas City 4, Detroit 3, 10
innings
Seattle 8, Toronto 3
Cincinnati 24, Baltimore 2
Milwaukee 14, Athletics 1
L.A. Dodgers 1, Texas 0
L.A. Angels 5, San Francisco 4
San Diego at Houston, late.

Monday's Games

Chicago White Sox (Cannon 0-2) at Boston (Buehler 2-1), 11:10 a.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Schmidt 0-0) at Cleveland (Williams 1-1), 6:10 p.m.
San Diego (Vasquez 1-1) at Detroit (Montero 0-1), 6:40 p.m.
Toronto (Gausman 2-1) at Houston (Brown 2-1), 8:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Saturday's Games

Philadelphia 11, Miami 10
Chicago Cubs 6, Arizona 2
Texas 4, L.A. Dodgers 3
N.Y. Mets 3, St. Louis 0
Cleveland 3, Pittsburgh 0
Washington 12, Colorado 11
Baltimore 9, Cincinnati 5
Athletics 3, Milwaukee 1
Houston 3, San Diego 2
Atlanta 4, Minnesota 3
San Francisco 3, L.A. Angels 2

Sunday's Games

Atlanta 6, Minnesota 2
N.Y. Mets 7, St. Louis 4
Cleveland 5, Pittsburgh 4, 10
innings
Miami 7, Philadelphia 5, 10
innings
Cincinnati 24, Baltimore 2
Milwaukee 14, Athletics 1
L.A. Dodgers 1, Texas 0
Washington 3, Colorado 2, 1st
game
Arizona 3, Chicago Cubs 2, 11
innings
L.A. Angels 5, San Francisco 4
San Diego at Houston, late.
Washington at Colorado, late, 2nd
game

Monday's Games

Cincinnati (Lodolo 2-1) at Miami (Meyer 1-2), 6:40 p.m.
San Diego (Vasquez 1-1) at Detroit (Montero 0-1), 6:40 p.m.
Philadelphia (Nola 0-4) at N.Y. Mets (Megill 2-2), 7:10 p.m.
St. Louis (Fedde 1-2) at Atlanta (Schwollenbach 1-1), 7:15 p.m.
Milwaukee (Priester 1-0) at San Francisco (Ray 3-0), 9:45 p.m.

PREP LINESCORES

BASEBALL

Barnesville 8, Garaway 6
Gara 000 123 0-6 8 1
Barnes 340 010 x-8 9 1
G-E. Miller 1p (1K, 5BB), Gintz (6), (2K, 1BB) and A. Miller; Hartzler 2S; Speedy 3S; A. Miller 2S
B-Cs. Carpenter wp (3K, 4BB), Martin (5), (0K, 3BB), C. Carpenter sv (R) (2K, 3BB) and

River 3, Tyler Consolidated 1
River 101 000 1-3 9 0
Tyler 000 100 0-1 2 0
R-Wohnhas wp (12K, 3BB) and Hagan; Maddy 3S; Hagan 2S, HR, 3rbi
TC-Sandy Ip (5K, 2BB) and Shuman; Gump D
River 15, Tyler Consolidated 5
River 00(10) 05-15 5 1
Tyler 00 1 10-5 5 0

Thursday, April 17: Norfolk 4, Wheeling 0
Wednesday, April 23: Norfolk at Wheeling, 7:10 p.m.
Friday, April 25: Norfolk at Wheeling, 7:10 p.m.
x-Saturday, April 26: Norfolk at Wheeling, 7:10 p.m.
x-Monday, April 28: Norfolk at Wheeling, 7:10 p.m.
x-Tuesday, April 29: Norfolk at Wheeling, 7:10 p.m.

NHL PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Tampa Bay vs. Florida

Tuesday, April 22: Florida at Tampa Bay, 8:30 p.m.
Washington vs. Montreal
Monday, April 21: Montreal at Washington, 7 p.m.

Carolina 1, New Jersey 0

Sunday, April 20: Carolina 4, New Jersey 1

Toronto 1, Ottawa 0

Sunday, April 20: Toronto 6, Ottawa 2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Colorado 1, Dallas 0

Saturday, April 19: Colorado 5, Dallas 1

Los Angeles vs. Edmonton

Monday, April 21: Edmonton at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.

Vegas vs. Minnesota

Sunday, April 20: Minnesota at Vegas, late.

Winnipeg 1, St. Louis 0

Saturday, April 19: Winnipeg 5, St. Louis 3

NBA PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7)

Eastern Conference

New York 1, Detroit 0

Saturday, April 19: New York 123, Detroit 112

Cleveland 1, Miami 0

Sunday, April 20: Cleveland 121, Miami 100

Indiana 1, Milwaukee 0

Saturday, April 19: Indiana 117, Milwaukee 98

Boston 1, Orlando 0

Sunday, April 20: Boston 103, Orlando 86

Western Conference

Houston vs. Golden State

Sunday, April 20: Golden State at Houston, late.

Denver 1, L.A. Clippers 0

Saturday, April 19: Denver 112, L.A. Clippers 110, OT

Oklahoma City 1, Memphis 0

Sunday, April 20: Oklahoma City 131, Memphis 80

Minnesota 1, L.A. Lakers 0

Saturday, April 19: Minnesota 117, L.A. Lakers 95

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Recalled RHP Cody Poteet from Norfolk (IL). Optioned RHP Brandon Young from Norfolk.

BOSTON RED SOX — Assigned RHP Michael Fulmer outright to Worcester (IL).

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Assigned C Omar Narvez outright to Charlotte (IL).

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Assigned SS Nicky Lopez outright to Salt Lake (PCL).

NEW YORK YANKEES —

after birth

ARLINGTON, Texas — ers manager Dave Roberts back to his lineup. St. strength" could lead to from the two-way star's. Instead, Roberts said ious," going 0 for 3 wi win over the Texas Ran

The 30-year-old Ohtani list after his wife g child in Southern Calif leadoff spot.

Ohtani's eighth-inning game's lone run. It adv to second base. Smith r right field hit by Mooki fice fly to left field by F

The Dodgers took the wins being shutouts. St lievers following Tyler into the fifth inning wi

Ohtani, who arrived didn't address reporters Roberts characterize plate as "overly aggress

"Having two days off a little anxious." Robert Roberts added he didi arrival affected Ohtani.

"I think he was goo really show too much a kind of comes in the sa

Before the game, Ro a father, expect some " "Dad strength is real

how hard Shohei hits th father, you might see sc

Roberts said he has s from fatherhood.

"Some of the attribu translate to the basebal sweating the small stuf important and I think I in how they look at life fathers."

Ohtani appeared in al games, is hitting .277 w scored.

"I am so grateful to former professional bas ka) who gave birth to ter," Ohtani wrote on Ir daughter, thank you fo super anxious parents."

Classic enc as United S women's h 4-3 in OT a

CESKE BUDE

IL	8	1	9	500	01.78
St. C.	9	1	10	598	59.80
ED	9	2	11	588	53.45
HC	8	4	12	516	43.00
Weir	6	8	14	360	25.71
Camb.	5	7	12	300	25.00
BuL	2	7	9	156	17.33
OG	6	10	16	274	17.13
EL	1	10	11	60	5.45
BeL	0	6	6	0	0.00

CLASS 3A					
W	L	TG	CP	Ave	
WCC	12	1	13	752	57.85
Linsly	10	7	17	698	41.06
Ferry	5	4	9	326	36.22
MC	6	4	10	296	29.60
UL	5	6	11	310	28.18
Barn	6	6	12	334	27.83
Bell	3	6	9	190	21.11
Colum	5	8	13	230	17.69
Shen.	0	9	9	0	0.00
#Un.	9	4	13		
*FF	6	4	10		
*BT	6	3	9		

CLASS 2A					
W	L	TG	CP	Ave	
Cald.	8	0	8	504	63.00
Tor.	8	2	10	414	41.40
EP	8	3	11	444	40.36
Shad.	6	3	9	272	30.22
CB	7	3	10	284	28.40
River	6	5	11	290	26.36
Mag.	3	9	12	110	9.17
Well.	1	8	9	44	4.89
#Lis.	4	6	10		
*Bpt	2	3	5		
*So.	1	5	6		
*SCC	2	4	6		

CLASS 1A					
W	L	TG	CP	Ave	
Mad.	12	2	14	618	44.14
CV	8	4	12	352	29.33
Cam.	9	7	16	372	23.25
Trinity	7	8	15	306	20.40
Front	3	4	7	114	16.29
Valley	3	10	13	98	7.54
Bealls.	2	8	10	68	6.80
PC	1	9	10	32	3.20
#Lee.	5	2	7		
#HC	3	6	9		
*Hun.	1	4	5		

All games are scheduled for Monday, April 21 at 5 p.m. unless otherwise noted or weather issues arise

Class 5A
No. 4 Parkersburg South at No. 1 Wheeling Park
No. 3 Brooke at No. 2 Morgantown

Class 4A
No. 4 Harrison Central at No. 1 Indian Creek
No. 3 Edison at No. 2 St. Clairsville

Class 3A
No. 4 Monroe Central at No. 1 Wheeling Central
No. 3 Martins Ferry at No. 2 Linsly

Class 2A
No. 4 Shadyside at No. 1 Caldwell
No. 3 East Palestine at No. 2 Toronto

Class 1A
No. 4 Trinity Christian at No. 1 Madonna
No. 3 Cameron at No. 2 Conotony Valley

SPORTS ON TV

Monday, April 21
COLLEGE SOFTBALL
5 p.m.
BTN — Penn St. at Iowa
7 p.m.
BTN — Minnesota at Wisconsin

West Division										
W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
San Diego	15	6.714	—	—	6-4	L-2	12-1	3-5	94	60
Los Ang.	16	7.696	—	+2½	7-3	W-1	10-2	6-5	100	90
San Fran.	14	8.636	1½	+1	5-5	L-1	4-2	10-6	111	81
Arizona	13	9.591	2½	—	7-3	W-1	6-4	7-5	117	101
Colorado	3	17.150	11½	9	1-9	L-8	2-6	1-11	65	118

AMERICAN LEAGUE										
Saturday's Games										
Detroit 3, Kansas City 1										
Texas 4, L.A. Dodgers 3										
Cleveland 3, Pittsburgh 0										
Seattle 8, Toronto 4, 12 innings										
Boston 4, Chicago White Sox 3, 10 innings										
Baltimore 9, Cincinnati 5										
Tampa Bay 10, N.Y. Yankees 8, 10 innings										
Athletics 3, Milwaukee 1										
Houston 3, San Diego 2										
Atlanta 4, Minnesota 3										
San Francisco 3, L.A. Angels 2										

Sunday's Games										
Atlanta 6, Minnesota 2										
N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 0										
Chicago White Sox 8, Boston 4										
Cleveland 5, Pittsburgh 4, 10 innings										
Kansas City 4, Detroit 3, 10 innings										
Seattle 8, Toronto 3										
Cincinnati 24, Baltimore 2										
Milwaukee 14, Athletics 1										
L.A. Dodgers 1, Texas 0										
L.A. Angels 5, San Francisco 4										
San Diego at Houston, late.										

Monday's Games										
Chicago White Sox (Cannon 0-2) at Boston (Buehler 2-1), 11:10 a.m.										
N.Y. Yankees (Schmidt 0-0) at Cleveland (Williams 1-1), 6:10 p.m.										
San Diego (Vasquez 1-1) at Detroit (Montero 0-1), 6:40 p.m.										
Toronto (Gausman 2-1) at Houston (Brown 2-1), 8:10 p.m.										

NATIONAL LEAGUE										
Saturday's Games										
Philadelphia 11, Miami 10										
Chicago Cubs 6, Arizona 2										
Texas 4, L.A. Dodgers 3										
N.Y. Mets 3, St. Louis 0										
Cleveland 3, Pittsburgh 0										
Washington 12, Colorado 11										
Baltimore 9, Cincinnati 5										
Athletics 3, Milwaukee 1										
Houston 3, San Diego 2										
Atlanta 4, Minnesota 3										
San Francisco 3, L.A. Angels 2										

Sunday's Games										
Atlanta 6, Minnesota 2										
N.Y. Mets 7, St. Louis 4										
Cleveland 5, Pittsburgh 4, 10 innings										
Miami 7, Philadelphia 5, 10 inn.										
Cincinnati 24, Baltimore 2										
Milwaukee 14, Athletics 1										
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Washington 3, Colorado 2, 1st game										
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St. Louis (Fedde 1-2) at Atlanta (Schwellenbach 1-1), 7:15 p.m.										
Milwaukee (Priester 1-0) at San Francisco (Ray 3-0), 9:45 p.m.										

PREP LINESCORES

BASEBALL										
Barnesville 8, Garaway 6										
Gara 000 123 0 - 6 8 1										
Barnes 340 010 x - 8 9 1										
G-E. Miller 1p (1K, 5BB), Gintz (6), (2K, 1BB) and A. Miller; Hartzler 2S; Speedy 3S; A. Miller 2S										

B-Cs. Carpenter wp (3K, 4BB), Martin (5), (0K, 3BB), Cm. Carpenter sv (6), (2K, 3BB) and Powell; Miller 2S; Brayden Watters S, 2rbi; Blon S, rbi, Cs. Carpenter 2S, 2rbi, Meade D, rbi										
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SOFTBALL
Union Local 20, Beallsville 10
 Beall 124 03 - 10 3 5
 UL 892 1x - 20 7 6
 B-Winkler (0K, 11BB), Anderson (2), (0K, 4BB) and Lucas; Lucas S, rbi; Hill S, rbi
 UL-Gallagher wp (7K, 2BB), Stidd (5), (4K, 1BB) and L. Blakley; L. Blakley 2S, D, 3rbi;

SPORTS

OVAC Baseball Semifinals Get Going Today

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — After some number-crunching and last-minute results, the OVAC Baseball playoffs have been determined by conference officials.

The semifinal games will be played on Monday at 5 p.m. with the top two teams in each classification earning home games.

In the case of inclement weather, only five of the fields being utilized in semifinal ac-

tion (Indian Creek, Wheeling Park, Morgantown, St. Clairsville and Toronto) have turf playing surfaces, with two of those being infield surfaces only.

All five defending champions are in the playoff field. They are Morgantown (5A), St. Clairsville (4A), Wheeling Central (3A), Toronto (2A) and Madonna (1A). However, only the Maroon Knights and Blue Dons are the top seeds this year.

The Mohigans, Red Devils

MORE INSIDE

• Final OVAC baseball standings and pairings/11

and Red Knights are all No. 2. CLASS 5A

All four qualifiers won 10-plus games and played at least 17 as Wheeling Park (13-6) used a strong start to earn the No. 1 seed and will host No. 4 Parkersburg South (10-7) at Patriot Field high atop the Friendly City. The Ohio Coun-

ty Patriots swept a doubleheader from the Wood County Patriots by the scores of 8-4 and 6-5 earlier this season.

Wheeling Park started 5-0 and 11-1 but have lost six of their last eight. Head coach Steve Myers won his 100th career game on Friday.

Parkersburg South, meanwhile, has won four straight and eight of nine.

In the other semifinal, second-seeded Morgantown (11-7) will entertain No. 3 Brooke (12-7) on Dale Miller Field in-

CLASS 4A

None of the four qualifiers have reached the 10-win mark yet, but all four easily advanced to the semifinals.

Please see OVAC, Page 10

Steubenville Sweeps At Shadyside Relays



OVAC

(Continued from Page 9)

Top-seeded Indian Creek (8-1) will face a familiar foe in No. 4 Harrison Central (8-4). The two teams met in a home-and-home series on Thursday and Friday, with the Redskins prevailing 5-0 and 9-2. Their lone loss came to Columbus St. Francis DeSales, 3-2, in a PBR event at Oregon Clay High School.

No. 2 St. Clairsville (9-1), which has won eight straight and defeated Indian Creek in last year's championship game, will welcome No. 3 Edison (9-2) to the Junior Sports Complex on North Market Street. They also have not met this year.

The Red Devils opened the season with a home-and-home split against Martins Ferry but scored four times in the top of the seventh with two out and nobody on to stun Wheeling Park last week.

The Wildcats have won four of their last five and are seeking to play in the finals on their home field.

CLASS 3A

Top-seeded Wheeling Central (12-1) has been the top team in their class since the first pitch was thrown this season. It hosts No. 4 Monroe Central (6-4) on the Wheeling University diamond at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Sports Complex.

The Maroon Knights, who defeated Linsly 5-1 in last year's title tilt, won their first 11 games before falling to unbeaten Caldwell, the No. 1 seed in Class 2A.

The Seminoles got a late start due to the state championship run of the basketball team, but started off 5-0 before hitting a slump. They have only won once in their last five outings and scored just one run in that span.

Wheeling Central won 12-2 earlier this season.

No. 2 Linsly (10-7) got off to a 1-2 start but has won six in a row,

with four of those victories coming over OVAC playoff entrants. The Cadets will welcome No. 3 Martins Ferry (5-4) to Holloway Field.

The Purple Riders nipped Barnesville late Friday to punch their ticket. They have won two of their last four, losing to Bellaire and Union Local last week.

CLASS 2A

The top-seeded Redskins (8-0) will host No. 4 Shadyside (6-3) in a re-match of their April 9 game won by Caldwell, 5-0. The Redskins have allowed only 12 runs in their eight games.

No. 2 Toronto (8-2) is seeking a repeat title when it welcomes No. 3 East Palestine (8-3) to the Red Knights Complex. The Red Knights two losses are to Wheeling Central (2-1 in 10 inn.) and Boardman.

The Bulldogs are making their first-ever playoff appearance in their first year as an OVAC member. They dropped a 4-3 decision at Mathews on Thursday to snap a six-game winning streak.

CLASS 1A

Top-seeded Madonna (12-2) seems primed for another tournament title run as it was the lone team to win more than eight games in this classification. The Blue Dons welcome No. 4 Trinity Christian (7-8) to Edwin Bowman Field in downtown Weirton.

The other semi has No. 2 Conotton Valley (8-4) hosting third-seeded Cameron (9-7) in Bowlerston. The Rockets have lost three of their last four. The Dragons have won four of their last five.

The winners will advance to the finals on Friday and Saturday at the Unified Sports Complex at Edison High School in Richmond. Pairings and times will be announced later in the week.

Martins Ferry's Alanna Williams continued her torrid start to the season as she won the 400-, 800- and 1,600-meter runs in 59.41, 2:20.39 and 5:18.75, respectively. All three of her times were top 50 in Ohio this season and her 800 clocking was a top 10 time.

The junior also anchored the winning 4x400 relay comprised of Cadence Oberle, Ireland Jennette and Lakyn Call. They timed out in 4:17.86.

River's Brooke Huffman took home a pair of golds in the 100-me-

ly. The 4x2 set a new meet record, breaking the old mark of 1:31.50 set by Bellaire in 1985. The foursome also included Jalen Minniefield, Colton Henderson and Jemier Faulks.

The 4x4 team also featured Landon Bowers, Orlando Anderson and Faulks.

The 4x100 foursome of Henderson, Minniefield, Faulks and Juan Bryant ran a 44.78 which was a couple ticks better than Weir's 44.83.

Faulks claimed the 100 in 11.40 the

PLAYOFF

(Continued from Page 9)

CELTICS 103, MAGIC 86

BOSTON (AP) — As the Celtics were taking control of their playoff opener against the Orlando Magic, Boston's best player was on his back in pain and tugging at his wrist.

As chants of "MVP!" rained down on him, Jayson Tatum eventually rose to his feet and was loudly cheered as he paced toward the bench.

"I just landed on it. It was throbbing for a second," Tatum said. "It kind of went away."

And brought a sigh of relief for a Boston team just starting its quest to repeat as NBA champions.

Derrick White scored

30 points, Tatum had 17 points and finished the game after a scary late fall, and the Celtics beat the Magic 103-86 in Game 1 of their first-round playoff series Sunday.

Payton Pritchard added 19 points off the bench for Boston, which hosts Game 2 on Wednesday night. Jaylen Brown played 31 minutes and had 16 points on 6-of-14 shooting after missing the final three games of the regular season due to a lingering knee issue.

Paolo Banchero led the Magic with 36 points and 11 rebounds. Franz Wagner added 23 points for Orlando, which has not made it out of the

first round of the playoffs since the 2009 season.

THUNDER 131, GRIZZLIES 80

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Oklahoma City Thunder beat Memphis Grizzlies 131-80 in Game 1 of their first-round Western Conference playoff series Sunday, the fifth-big margin of victory in NBA postseason history.

The 51-point margin was seven points shy the record and was the largest Game 1 win in NBA playoff history.

Aaron Wiggins scored 21 points, Jalen Williams scored 20 points and Chet Holmgren had 19 points and 10 rebounds.

DRAFT

(Continued from Page 9)

Jeanty was projected in the final AP mock draft to go sixth to Las Vegas, which would be the highest pick for a running back since Barkley was taken second overall in 2018 by the New York Giants.

"We just saw Saquon Barkley just change the Eagles in one year," Raiders GM John Spytek said. "Now they had a great team around him and it was adding an elite player. I think when you sit where we sit, I mean the idea is to add elite players at any position. I don't try to devalue any certain position. ... There's certain ways to build a team, and I don't know where we got to a place where we don't feel like running backs are valued. I come from the University of Michigan to my core, and those guys were certainly really valued there. So, it's hard for me to get away from that."

Only one running back in the

of two running backs taken in the top 50 in the past six drafts, down from a peak of 12 in 1990.

This year's class of running backs is one of the deepest in recent memory with several players after Jeanty and Hampton projected to be picked either late in the first round or on day two of the draft including Ohio State's duo of TreVeyon Henderson and Quinshon Judkins; Iowa's Kaleb Johnson; Arizona State's Cam Skattebo, Tennessee's Dylan Sampson; Virginia Tech's Bhayshul Tuten; and Central Florida's RJ Harvey.

The shift from a running to a passing league began with rule changes in 1978 that made passing easier and has continued for more than four decades.

The rate of running dropped from a post-merger high of nearly 58% in 1977 to a low of just more than 40% in 2014 before under-