

Photo by Kim North
Wheeling Park junior Madeline Bradshaw won the OVAC Class 5A No. 1 singles championship Thursday with an 8-0 decision over Morgantown's Maya Greenlee on the John Marshall courts in Glen Dale. It was her 100th career victory.

Oak Glen Finally Wins OVAC Tennis Class 1A-4A Title; Morgantown Tops 5A

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

GLEN DALE - The fourth - and final - day of the OVAC Tennis Tournament provided some new faces atop the leaderboard at the sun-filled, but wind-swept courts at John Marshall High School.

In the 'Small School,' Class 1A-4A division, Oak Glen ended Linsly's 13-year dominance as it ripped the Cadets, 11-10. In the 'Big School' Class 5A race, Morgantown won for the 10th time in the 12 years with a 25-19 triumph over Wheeling Park. Defending champion University was a close third at 17.

BIG SCHOOL

While the Mohigans captured three of the four singles titles, Wheeling Park's Madeline Bradshaw won the other. The Patriots top-seeded junior prevailed at No. 1 with an 8-0 blanking of Morgantown's No. 2 seed Maya Greenlee in quick fashion.

"It finally feels good to get over the hump. I've been in the finals a couple of times but never won until today," Bradshaw said. "I think the wind kind of helped me. I think I played a pretty consistent game that helped me get through the match."

"I felt my serve was pretty good today and I was able to put away some shots," she added. "That's what you have to do at this level."

The win was also Bradshaw's 100th of her career.

Morgantown won at No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4 as top-seeded Natalia Cassim defeated Wheeling Park's No. 3 seeded Harper Moores 8-6; No. 1 Annika Chadha topped Wheeling Park's Reese Moores, 8-2; and No. 1 seed Annabell Goodkootz downed University's third-seeded Hannah Stemple, 8-3.

SMALL SCHOOL

The Golden Bears didn't have a finalist, and only had one semifinalist in Reese Witherow, but, according to veteran head coach Kenneth Keller, "used a total team effort" in securing the top hardware.

This was absolutely a total team effort. Everybody contributed in some way," Keller noted. "I'm very pleased. We have a very young team with only one senior. We have four sophomores and a freshman in the starting lineup."

Reese Witherow advanced to the semifinals at No. 4 singles but fell to University's Hannah Stemple in a hard-fought, 9-7, match.

Please see TENNIS, Page 12

Cubs Pull Away In Fifth Inning To Take Series vs. Pirates

By WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer
PITTSBURGH - Swanson led off the fifth with his sixth homer. Tucker added his eighth two batters later and Seiya Suzuki put Chicago Pirates ace go in front to stay with Paul Skenes deep in the fifth inning as the Cubs bleachers, Ian Happ, a pulled away for an 8-3 Pittsburgh native, had victory on Thursday.

Suzuki later added a zuki and Michael Busch two-run shot off reliever had two hits apiece for Kyle Nicolas as Chicago the Cubs.

Never Too Early: WVU Football Players Who Could Be Picks In 2026 NFL Draft

By SPENCER
RIPCHIK

For The Intelligencer

The NFL Draft was a little over a week ago, find a way to gain an extra year of college, but just one West Virginia player was selected for the second-straight year. Here are some of the

This was the final year



However, after the 2015 graduate and current starting right tackle for the San Francisco 49ers got into the NFL, he, like many other professional athletes, took up the sport.

way to give back to those who helped him reach where he is. Members of the Union Local Touchdown Club, which I belong to, began talking with him and we discussed a couple

the football program, wanted to keep the event as small as possible but still have a big-time feel.

"We wanted to make sure we put on a quality tour-

ers don't show up. Dinner will be served immediately following the conclusion of the tournament, as will an auction. "At that point in time,

FORCES

(Continued from Page 11)

"We hit the ball really well. We pitched really well and I thought we played really well on defense," Magistro added. "We had some really nice catches in the outfield and infield."

The Purple Riders scored twice in the first inning and tacked on four more in the second to stake winning pitcher Maddie Lucas to a 6-0 lead. With one out, Makayla Cole drew a walk before Giana Chirpas lined a laser that nearly took the glove off of Union Local second baseman Ella Pietranton. The throw to third was wild as Cole scored and Chirpas raced to third. With two outs, Averi Hughes' bouncer back up the middle deflected off the glove of Union Local pitcher

Kylie Stidd as Chirpas scored to make it 2-0.

With two out and runners on first and second in the bottom of the second inning, Cole lined a triple to the gap in right-center as the margin increased to 4-0. Chirpas was walked and with the count 2-0 on Abby Snedeker, the throw back from the catcher got away from the pitcher as Cole raced home. When the ball was kicked around in the infield, Chirpas alertly scampered home to make it 6-0.

"The only person that beat us today was us, defensively," lamented Union Local head coach Melissa Lahna. "Offensively, I thought we hit the ball really well and, late, I thought we made some really good defensive plays. Honestly, (Ky-

lie) Stidd deserved a better outcome.

"We've very young. It's exciting," Lahna added. "It's a great group of kids. They are a fun bunch to be around."

Union Local (14-9) made a game of it with four runs in the fourth, three coming on one swing of the bat by freshman Kloe Gallagher. Following an RBI single by Liv Blakley, Gallagher turned on an 0-1 pitch and sent it deep into the night in left-center.

"That was a big home run by a freshman," Lahna noted.

Martins Ferry got those four runs back an inning later and added an insurance marker in the seventh.

Samantha Goddard belted an RBI double and

Keighan Brandon added a two-run double. The fourth tally came across on an error.

Snedeker doubled home Chirpas in the seventh to cap the scoring.

Maddie Lucas struck out nine and walked two. The sophomore gave up all four hits in the fourth. She threw 113 pitches, with 78 being strikes.

Chirpas and Hughes evenly split four singles. Ella Mamone singled and doubled.

The championship game is tentatively set for Saturday at Lisa's Field. The Class 2A game - between No. 1 Caldwell and No. 2 Bridgeport - will follow at 3 on the same field. In case of inclement weather, the games could be moved to Wheeling Park's all-turf field.

Reds Option Alexis Diaz To

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Cincinnati Reds optioned struggling catcher Alexis Diaz to Triple-A Thursday hoping he regain the form that he him earn 37 saves an NL All-Star nod in 2011. "We decided to let try to figure out, get right Triple-A," manager Brian Francona said. "The sistency just isn't there difficult to hear that, sure. We don't want th

RETURNS

(Continued from

Barnesville entered Thursday as the No. 1 seed, Wheeling Central No. 3, as the two teams have been mainstays in the OVAC tournament.

"All year we've been looking forward to Barnesville head coach Kelley Hanlon said. "We were watching the stats, everything like that. We knew that it would be us getting in and knew it would be Fairport and Wheeling Central getting in too. We wanted to be a part of it, seniors have been in every year.

"It's just kind of a let game. We were excited to play Tuesday, then get rained out after second batter. Our hitters weren't in it. It's no excuse but we have of our starters out, we've had to do a lot moving around of players and I think mentally just weren't prepared. Ella Betts and Ben Lee Oliver were un-

PULL

(Continued from Page 11)

KEY STAT

1 — the number of home runs Skenes had allowed in his first six starts.

UP NEXT

Cubs: visit NL Central rival Milwaukee this weekend. Ben Brown (2-2, 6.04 ERA) starts

against the Brewers' Quinn Priester (1-0, 3.79).

Pirates: Pittsburgh welcomes San Diego for a three-game series beginning Friday. Mitch Keller (1-2, 3.97) gets the ball for Pittsburgh in the opener.

TENNIS

(Continued from Page 11)

Other members of the Oak Glen team are Leah McMahon, Elle Monaco, Zoey Caughey, Ruby Chaney and Roxye Brown.

"It's very exciting to finally win the title," Keller said. "I've got plenty of

OVAC runner up plaques at the school, so this feels very good."

The Carol Strasser Sportsmanship Award was presented to St. Clairsville's Makayla Hancock.

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SMALL SCHOOL

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WVU

(Continued from Page 11)

White doesn't have a lot of size at 5-foot-7, but he's a quick, low-to-the-ground back who has had a lot of production in just two years in college. White rushed for over 840 yards over two seasons and had 11 rushing touch-

need to Wide non-qual there we the draft picks a



Seasons

to be aggressive it works, bottom of the second inning, sent it deep into the night in 1964.

Oak Glen finally wins OVAC Tennis Class 1A-4A title

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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See TENNIS, Page B2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Dansby Swanson, Kyle Tucker and Seiya Suzuki all took Pirates ace Paul Skenes deep in the fifth inning as the Cubs pulled away for an 8-3 victory on Thursday.

Suzuki later added a two-run shot off reliever Kyle Nicolas as Chicago took two of three from the last-place Pirates. Skenes (3-3), fresh off a masterful performance in a win over the Los Angeles Dodgers last Friday, labored through his shortest start of the season.

The 22-year-old reigning National League Rookie of the Year lasted just five innings. His four walks matched his total on the season coming in and the aggressive Cubs pounced in the fifth to turn a two-run deficit into a 3-2 lead.

See CUBS, Page B2

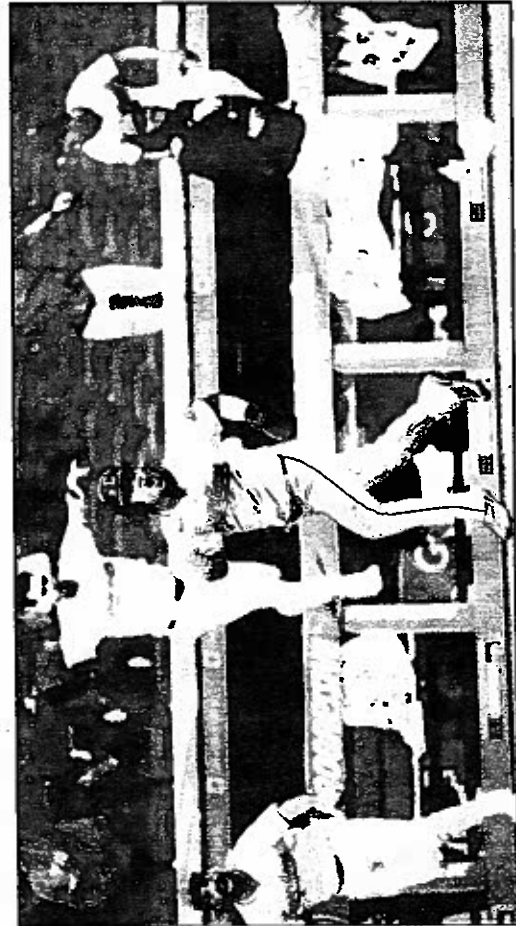
Ramírez reaches milestone, then scores Guardians' game-winning run

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jose Ramirez became the first player in Cleveland franchise history to reach 250 career homers and 250 steals and then scored the winning run in the 10th inning as the Guardians rallied for a 4-3 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Thursday.

Ramirez's single drove in Steven Kwan to tie it at 3. Ram rez then stole second base to become the 24th player in major league history — and only active one — to reach the milestone.

After Kyle Manzardo was intentionally walked, pinch-hitter Angel Martinez hit a sharp grounder into right field off Justin Topa (1-2) to score Ramirez and give Cleveland its second walk-off win of the four-game series.

Kolby Allard (1-0) got the win as



AP Photo

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS' Jose Ramirez, center front, runs home with the winning run on a hit by Angel Martinez in the 10th inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins in Cleveland, Thursday.

the Guardians took three games in the four-game set and went 6-4 on their 10-game homestand. There were two rain delays totaling 2 hours, 23 minutes on what was ironically Weather Education Day.

An 18-minute rain delay between the sixth and seventh innings ended up benefiting the Twins. Minnesota scored a pair of runs in the seventh and took advantage of Cleveland's fielders struggling with damp conditions.

Harrison Bader led off the inning with an infield single after Cleveland third baseman Will Wilson slipped while fielding the grounder. Bader scored on an RBI single by Christian Vazquez after Noel slipped in right center.

See GUARDIANS, Page B2

Elia Betts and Beck-lee Oliver were unable to play Thursday for the Shamrocks. Wheeling Central's innings. Filby finished the game with a 2-3 record.

WOODSFIELD — Olivia Earley singled in Brylee McFrederick with the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the seventh to lift the Seminoles over the rival Pilots. McFrederick tripled on a 2-2 pitch before the

pair the only blemishes for the Central defense. "We'll take that every day," Wheeling Central head coach Buck David-

out, so we've had to do a lot of moving around of players and I think mentally we just weren't prepared."

Ella Betts and Becklee Oliver were unable to play Thursday for the Shamrocks.

Wheeling Central's offense was powered by Chloe Groom (three RBI, three hits), Maddie Miehle (three hits, two RBI) and Bella Rine (two RBI). Groom, Miehle and Ava Hanson all whacked doubles for the Maroon. Groom hitting two.

Central and Ferry's conference championship date will be a rematch of last year's game, which the Knights won. Martins Ferry won the two team's regular season meeting earlier this year and the Purple Riders are the No. 1 seed in the 3A field.

"So excited- we were nervous about just making it to OVACs, and we were really hyped when we made it," Frizzell said of making the finals. "We were really hoping to get back and win it again, it'd be really great for our season before sectionals. Now we have the chance to take it home."

base in the seventh, but Aiden Filby was able to shut the door and the Red Knights was able to escape Brooke County with a 6-4 victory Thursday night in the first game of the season played on Brooke's new turf field.

The victors used two pitchers in the game.

Bouscher started on the mound, and the sophomore pitched the first 5 1/3 innings. He struck out five and walked one. Bouscher was replaced with one out in the bottom of the fifth by Filby. Filby pitched the final 1 2/3 innings. Filby finished the game with two strikeouts and no walks.

Bouscher and Filby combined to pick off four Brooke base runners. Toronto picked off five base runners in a game two years ago against Mathews.

Brooke recorded eight hits - five of which went for extra bases.

Aiden Provenzano produced two doubles and an RBI, Gino Provenzano ended up with a single and two RBI and Parker McMahon recorded a single and an RBI. Also, Garrett Moore tallied a single and a double, Zac O'Mery contributed a triple and Andrew Murdock collected a double.

(Late Wednesday)

BASEBALL

Bridgeport 17, Padon City 2

PADON CITY — For the third time in 10 days, a

• Tennis

Continued from Page B1

SMALL SCHOOL

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This was absolutely a total team effort. Everybody contributed in some way," Keller noted. "I'm very pleased. We have a very young team with only one senior. We have four sophomores and a freshman in the starting lineup."

Reese Witherow advanced to the semifinals at No. 4 singles but fell to University's Hannah Stemple in a hard-fought, 9-7, match.

Other members of the Oak Glen team are Leah Mc-

Shadyside's Ariana Saxton struck out a dozen. St also drove in a run with a single and double. Kylie Wainock doubled twice and knocked in a run.

Monroe Central 3, River 2

WOODSFIELD — Olivia Earley singled in Bryce McFrederick with the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the seventh to lift the Seminoles over the rival Pilots.

McFrederick tripled on a 2-2 pitch before Earley delivered the game-winner. McFrederick added a pair of singles, as well.

Jadyn Miller singled twice to drive in a run and McElroy singled twice to knock in another. Winning pitcher Karlie Haslam singled twice and struck out eight.

Mallorie Maddy belted a two-run homer for River with one out in the third. Ava Wohnhas fanned a dozen and walked one.

John Marshall 13, Union Local 4

GLEN DALE — Lily Dijkstra singled three times and drove in three runs while striking out seven inside the circle as the Monarchs defeated the visiting Jets.

Masyn Inclan drove in two runs with a single and triple, while Kaylee White (single, sac. fly) also driving in two runs. Nora Shock also recorded a pair of RBI.

Kylie Stidd singled twice and drove in a run for Union Local.

Mahon, Elle Monaco, Zoey Caughey, Ruby Chaney and Roxye Brown.

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a shot to the left-field bleachers. Ian Happ, a Pittsburgh native, had three hits. Swanson, Suzuki and Michael Busch had two hits apiece for the Cubs.

Colin Rea (2-0) al-

lowed two runs in a season-high six innings for Chicago.

Bryan Reynolds hit his ninth home run for Pittsburgh. The Pirates have dropped four of five.

Fallen fan aftermath

A crowd of 13,633 turned out for the matinee, including some in the same front-row seats in right field above the 21-foot high Clemente Wall where a fan fell

from on Wednesday night. The unidentified male was in critical condition at Allegheny General Hospital on Thursday after what Pittsburgh Police described as an accident.

The public address announcer read a statement from Pirates owner Bob Nutting before the first pitch in which Nutting called the incident "one of the most difficult moments many of us have ever experienced."

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• Guardians —

Continued from Page R1





Photo by Kim North

Wheeling Park's No. 1 singles duo of Lauren Eskers, left, and Madeline Bradshaw shake hands between points during their championship match against Morgantown's Maya Greenlee and Annika Chadsha at the OVAC Tennis Championships on the John Marshall courts Wednesday afternoon. The Mohigans won, 8-3.

Morgantown, Wheeling Park Girls Battle For 'Big School' Top Spot

• OVAC Tennis Concludes Thursday With Girls Singles

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

GLEN DALE - The OVAC Tennis Tournament returned to the John Marshall courts on Wednesday for Day 3 under sun-filled skies with action in girls doubles.

The four-day event saw Day 2's competition forced to be completed inside the Bubble at Wheeling Park due to inclement weather. The event concludes Thursday with action in girls singles.

University and Linsly are the defending 'Big School' and 'Small School' champions.

All three doubles titles reside in Morgantown as the Mohigans won at No. 1 and No. 2, while University took the No. 3. As a result, Morgantown finished with 10 points, which was two better than Wheeling Park and University.

Oak Glen leads Linsly, 6-4, in the 'small school' race.

Please see **BATTLE**,
Page 13

Mountaineers' Success Un

By BOB HERTZEL
WV News

MORGANTOWN — Randy Mazey was getting ready for a Wednesday trip to Charleston, another leg on his journey through retirement. His former team, West Virginia's Mountaineers, were about to play their in-state rival, Marshall, and he was slated to make the first pitch.

This retirement stuff hasn't been so bad for the man who put WVU baseball back on the national map.

"I probably couldn't have written a better script about how all this is supposed to go," he said.

Retirement, the book says, is a time of leisure; a time to do all those things you had missed be-

cause you were busy working. It was supposed to be a life change. but it hasn't been boring, that is for sure.

"I've actually been busier since I retired than I was before I retired," he said with a soft laugh.

He's dived into family life as he never was able to before while basking in the warmth of the glow his former baseball team has been emitting under new coach Steve Sabins, his former assistant for nine years and hand-picked successor.

"It's been amazing. It's been amazing to see how good the team is; how good Coach Sabins is doing. I've got to see my kids play at all their baseball games and all their hockey games,"

McCutchen's Two-Run Double Lifts Pirate

By JOHN PERROTTO
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Andrew McCutchen hit a go-ahead two-run double in the seventh inning just seconds before a fan fell off the 21-foot Clemente Wall in right field at PNC Park in the Pittsburgh Pirates' 4-3 win over the Chicago Cubs 4-3 on Wednesday night.

With the Pirates trailing 3-2 in the seventh, Isiah Kiner-Falefa reached on a fielding error by third baseman Jon Berti and took second on Bryan Reynolds' single.

McCutchen then hit a grounder up the middle that deflected off the leg of sliding shortstop Dansby Swanson and into right-center field.

Then the fan flipped over the railing from the first row of seats. Players frantically waved for medical attention and the fan was removed from the field on a cart.

The Cubs scored three runs in the fifth inning to pull ahead 3-2. Ian Happ hit an RBI single, Kyle Tucker drove in a run with a groundout and the third scored on Ryan Borucki's wild pitch.

Oneil Cruz doubled and scored on Ke'Bryan Hayes' single in the first inning and Joey Bart doubled and scored on Jared Triolo's sacrifice fly in the fourth as the Pirates, who snapped a three-game losing streak, built a 2-0



Pittsburgh Pirates' Andrew McCutchen hitting a double off Chicago Cubs pitcher during the seventh inning of April 6, 2025.

lead. Swanson had three hits for the NL Central-leading Cubs, who lost for the third time in four games.

Caleb Ferguson (1-0) pitched

doubles for Wheeling Central, driving in three. Jake Brown also had three RBI,

first, St. Clairsville scored in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings to take the win.

RBI for John Marshall.
**River 9,
Monroe Central 0**

ADVANCE

(Continued from Page 11)

"We were able to hit against their pitchers, we had to time some things up throughout the game, but we were able to come through and get some runs."

MORGANTOWN 9, STEUBENVILLE 3

WHEELING - The Morgantown Mohigans will have the chance to defend their OVAC 5A Championship after an upset victory over top-seeded Steubenville.

Liz Alsop was the prime suspect in Morgantown's productive night on offense, tallying six RBI and walloping two home runs and a double to do it.

On the mound, Maddie Wisman pitched a complete outing for the Mohigans, striking out seven.

Kira Smith also drove a home run, a solo shot in the fourth inning.

Alsop's three-run blast broke open what had been a scoreless game with one out in the third inning. Morgantown scored five more in the fourth inning thanks to Alsop and Smith.

"Bats came alive tonight, pitching was great by Maddie Wisman," Morgantown head coach Lorri Lipscomb said. "Even though we had some defensive miscues, they picked each other up and came back strong. That's the key."

"They're better than us," Steubenville head coach Gus DiMarzio said. "They pitched better than us, they fielded better than us, they hit better than us."

Each team tacked on one run apiece in the final frame, a sac fly from Steubenville's Riley Zorne serving to cut into the Mohigan lead, but Morgantown would retire the following batter to advance to the 5A final, currently slated for 5 p.m. on Friday at the JB Chambers Sports Complex on field four.

"We're excited we're back to defend the OVAC championship, we want to make it two in a row."

Sophia Zorne and Riley Zorne each finished with RBI for Steubenville.

Morgantown won last year's OVAC championship 4-3 against John Marshall. The Mohigans entered that game as the four-seed in the tournament bracket as well.

signing with Potomac State baseball earlier in the day. Blue came to the diamond and hammered a home run, finishing with two hits and five RBI as well as a stolen base and two runs scored. Leadoff man Lucas Dennis scored four times. Hunt had a double and two RBI

hits and two RBI. Kendra Thomas tallied hits and three RBI.

Jessa Anderson finished with two hits for Maga with two hits for Maga a double and a single

(Late Tuesday)
BASEBALL

Brooke 9,
E. Fairmont 8, 8 i

THRILLER

(Continued from Page 11)

The victory gives the Huskies (18-7) line up a return trip to the I-470 Complex for Friday night's conference championship game against Oak Glen. Harrison Central did just what it needed to advance to the semifinals four of the last five seasons but had not been able to reach the championship game.

"I told them on the way down here we've been here four times and never gotten to come back for the championship, so it's a big deal for the program," Young said. "I'm really happy for this group, they deserve it and this program deserves it. We've been waiting a while for this, but the work is not done. We want to come back and win one more down here."

After taking the lead, the Huskies had to hold on for dear life to get to the final. The Red Riders' last gasp came with the bottom of the order up, and a single and an error put two runners on, a sac bunt giving the Red Riders (21-7) runners on second and third with just one out and the top of the order coming up.

Pelegreen, though, fired her third strikeout in her two scoreless innings of relief work, getting Utt, the No. 1 hitter, looking for a pivotal second out. The Huskies intentionally walked Rayna Hoover, then got a pop up to end the game on a great running catch in foul territory by first baseman Kamryn Crothers.

Weir's lone run of the game came in the fourth inning on a Brayley Lash sac fly. Outside of that, Emma Skinner (five innings, one strikeout, one walk) and Pelegreen (two scoreless innings, three strikeouts, one walk) kept the Riders line up at bay.

"The two of them complement each other beautifully," Young said of his pitcher. "That is a great team and a tough start."

BATTLE

(Continued from Page 11)

At No. 1, the second-seeded duo of Maya Greenlee and Annika Chadha defeated the No. 1 Wheeling Park tandem of Madeline Bradshaw and Lauren Eskins by an 8-3 count. Both teams advanced with 8-0 quarterfinal victories before Morgantown prevailed 8-3 in its semifinal and Wheeling Park 8-2.

At No. 2, Morgantown's No. 1 seeded pairing of Natalia Cassim and Annabelle Goodykoontz topped Park's second-seeded sister duo of Harper and Reese Moores, 8-0.

The Mohigans won 8-2 in the quarters and 8-0 in the 4th semifinals. The Patriots prevailed 8-0 and 8-6, respectively.

At No. 3, the Hawks' No. 2 tandem of Vanessa Wiesinger and Izzy Ringler held off Oak Glen's fourth-seeded team of Roxye Brown and Zoey Caughey.

Both teams had to battle their way to the finals as Brown/Caughey won 8-1 in the quarterfinals before upsetting top-seeded Morgantown (8-5) in the semis. University won 8-3 and 8-5 to reach the finals.

John Marshall's Akwasi Braun was the Carol Strasser Sportsmanship Award winner on the boys side. The girls winner will be announced following Thursday's action.

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Visit

WASHINGTON COUNTY

PENNSYLVANIA

RUNNING



as win thriller vs. Weir ance to OVAC finals

"That was a tough game, we knew it was going to be a tough game," Harrison Central head coach Darrin Young said. "The first time we didn't have our full line up and they beat us pretty good, the second time we were closer and it was a heck-of-a ballgame in Cadiz and I knew tonight would be a good ballgame, too."

"We've started seeing the ball better and hitting the ball — if you can get enough to beat (Utt), that's a tough task. We left a lot of runners on, but we kept scrapping and I told them this is the time of year where you have to be scrappy."

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"I told them on the way down here

we've been here four times and never gotten to come back for the championship, so it's a big deal for the program," Young said. "I'm really happy for this group, they deserve it and this program deserves it. We've been waiting a while for this, but the work is not done. We want to come back and win one more down here."

After taking the lead, the Huskies had to hold on for dear life to get to the final. The Red Riders' last gasp came with the bottom of the order up, and a single and an error put two runners on, a sac bunt giving the Red Riders (21-7) runners on second and third with just one out and the top of the order coming up.

Pelegreen, though, fired her third strikeout in her two scoreless innings of relief work, getting Utt, the No. 1 hitter, looking for a pivotal second out.

See **HUSKIES**, Page B3

Blue commits to Potomac State College



Photo Provided

mitted to Potomac State College on Wednesday to continue his academic and athletic career. Blue is a three-time All-OVAC first teamer, a former OVAC 2A Player of the Year, a three-time All-OVAC first teamer, and a three-time All-Ohio second teamer. Blue is also a four-year letterwinner in baseball. Peyton is the son of Tim and Lisa Blue.

which I belong to, began talking with him and we discussed a couple of different options with him," organizer Dave Phillips said. "We settled on doing a golf scramble with the proceeds going to improvements at the Union Local weight room."

See **CLASSIC**, Page B3

OVAC Tennis Tournament concludes with girls singles

By **KIM NORTH**
Staff Writer

GLEN DALE — The OVAC Tennis Tournament returned to the John Marshall courts on Wednesday for Day 3 under sun-filled skies with action in girls doubles.

The four-day event saw Day 2's competition forced to be completed inside the Bubble at Wheeling Park due to inclement weather. The event concludes Thursday with action in girls singles.

University and Linsly are the defending 'Big School' and 'Small School' champions.

All three doubles titles reside in Morgantown as the Mohigans won at No. 1 and No. 2, while University took the No. 3. As a result, Morgantown finished with 10 points, which was two better than Wheeling Park and University. Oak Glen leads Linsly, 6-4, in the 'small school' race.

At No. 1, the second-seeded duo of Maya Greenlee and Annika Chadha defeated the No. 1 Wheeling Park tandem of Madeline Bradshaw and Lauren Eskins by an 8-3 count.

Both teams advanced with 8-0 quarterfinal victories before Morgantown prevailed 8-3 in its semifinal and Wheeling Park 8-2.

At No. 2, Morgantown's No. 1 seeded pairing of Natalia Cassim and Annabelle Goodykoontz topped Wheeling Park's second-seeded sister duo of Harper and Reese Moores, 8-0.

The Mohigans won 8-2 in the quarters and 8-0 in the 4 semifinals. The Patriots prevailed 8-0 and 8-6, respectively.

At No. 3, the Hawks' No. 2 tandem of Vanessa Wiesinger and Izzy Ringler held off Oak Glen's fourth-seeded team of Roxye Brown and Zoey Caughey.

See **OVAC**, Page B3

walk, and the Golden Bears Kira Smith also drove a as the four-seed in the tournament bracket as well.

ing at the plate. After signing with Potomac State baseball

OHSAA Basketball State Tournaments returning to traditic

COLUMBUS — Next March, the Ohio High School Athletic Association girls and boys basketball state tournaments will return to the traditional format of the Final Four, with all state semifinalists converging in the same area in one weekend for the state tournament.

The University of Dayton Arena will continue to host all seven state championship games, along with several semifinal games, but UD Arena cannot host all 21 games of the state tournament with the new seven division format in basketball.

Additional sites in the Dayton area will be announced as host sites for some state semifinal games. The

OHSAA Board of Directors approved the change at its April meeting.

"We looked at several options on how to conduct this year's state tournament with seven divisions, because UD Arena is not available to host all 21 games," said Doug Ute, OHSAA Executive Director. "We settled on the football model, with the state semifinals held on the weekend prior to the state finals. The feedback we received from the coaches at this year's state tournament led us to make this proposal to the board to go back to the traditional final four model, which will require additional sites. There are some great options in that area and we are already working

on those details."

Last fall, the girls volleyball state tournament, which also had 21 contests, utilized three additional sites to supplement Wright State University. This coming June, the baseball state tournament will use one additional site. Firestone Stadium in Akron is available that week to host the 21 games of the softball state tournament.

Last division state s week a Histori pionshi The schedu announ

• Huskies

Continued from Page B1

The Huskies intentionally walked Rayna Hoover, then got a pop up to end the game on a great running catch in foul territory by first baseman Kamryn Crothers.

Weir's lone run of the game came in the fourth inning on a Brayley Lash sac fly. Outside of that, Emma Skinner (five innings, one strikeout, one walk) and Pelegreen (two scoreless innings, three strikeouts, one walk) kept the Riders line up at bay.

"The two of them complement each other beautifully," Young said of his pitcher. "That is a great team and a tough line up one-through-nine. They're all hard outs. I'm just real proud of my team, we pitched well and played good defense and did just enough offensively."

Utt took the tough luck loss in the circle, striking out six and walking just one in going all seven innings.

"You're not going to beat anyone scoring one run," Weir High head coach John Leary said. "Give all the credit in the world to Harrison Central, they came down here ready to play and they beat us. There is no excuses to be

made, they out-played us and made all the plays they needed to make, they pitched well and they got the runs they needed. It's disappointing because we basically brought back the same team that won it last year and one of our goals was to repeat, and we didn't get that done.

"I'm not satisfied with our hitting approach the last couple of games. We've got to figure that out or it's going to be a short postseason for us.

"Eliza pitched great, she got a little tired toward the end but she had a lot of tough situations to battle though. You can't go out and put up one run and just say to you pitcher, 'Alright, go hold them down now.' You've got to give her run support and we didn't. Even in the last inning, she did a good job of keeping it at 2-1.

"We had the tying run at third and the winning run at second with one out and we didn't make good contact at all. Hopefully they'll remember situations like that in the tournament. We've got to take it as a lesson and get ready for the tournament now."

Friday's championship game between the Huskies and Golden Bears is slated to start at 7 p.m.

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

Both teams had to battle their way to the finals as Brown/Caughey won 8-1 in the quarterfinals before upsetting top-seeded Morgantown (8-5) in the semis. University won 8-3 and 8-5 to reach the finals.

John Marshall's Akwasi Braun was the Carol Strasser Sportsmanship Award winner on the boys side. The

girls winner will be announced following Thursday's action.

Team scoring is as follows:

BIG SCHOOL

1. Morgantown 10; 2. (tie) Wheeling Park, University 8; 4. Parkersburg South 1

SMALL SCHOOL

1. Oak Glen 6; 2. Linsly 4; 3. (tie) Weir, Indian Creek 3; 5. Wheeling Central 2; 6. Steubenville Catholic 1

• Classic



The Times I

Mental Health A Month Q

Winner receives a \$30 Ama
a \$50 Thrive gif
Enter between M

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kota State), the Bruins' Nico Iamaleava (Tennessee) and the Badgers' Billy Edwards Jr. (Maryland).

Julian Sayin appears to have an edge over Lincoln Kienholz at Ohio State, where coach Ryan Day is waiting until August to name his starter. Sayin, a dual-threat rated as a five-star prospect out of high school, has been

day, Nov. 9, 2024, in Columbus, Ohio.

the presumed 2025 starter since he left Alabama when Nick Saban announced his retirement in January 2024.

Dante Moore is favored to beat out Austin Novosad for the Oregon job. Moore was a five-star who transferred from UCLA after the 2023 season and played 29 snaps over five games

last year. Novosad played a total of 16 snaps over three games.

Heralded freshman Bryce Underwood has the inside track at Michigan against Mikey Keene and Jady Davis. Keene, who started 23 games at Fresno State the past two years, missed the spring game because of injury. The Wolverines hope to

have more of a vertical passing game with new offensive coordinator Chip Lindsey.

No starter has been named at Minnesota, but it would be a surprise if it weren't Drake Lindsey following the transfer of Zach Pyron two weeks ago.

Please see STATE, Page 8

Ten Con

By I
AP Colle

A look at football players who are poised to have

TE Cole Rusk was but a major knee injury. He could make a transition that needs to be made. A 250-pounder was one at Murray State in 2 yards and six touchdowns.

WR Omar Cooper was Price last season after catches. His seven touchdowns behind star brought in the production. Lachian State, but Price gone and that should increase his numbers.

WR Jacob Gill stars addition of South I Gronowski, easily the three-year starter. Na 35 catches for 411 yards but still the best among will be delivered by backs in FCS history.

S Lavain Scruggs is as a backup the last time the leading contender Dante Turner at place of an injured player and had six tackles to set up a touchdown.

TE Jalen Hoffmann two seasons behind like a potential security. The 6-foot-3, 245-pounder in the spring game 88-yard touchdown reverse flea flicker.

Please

Linsly Boys Defend OVAC Tennis 'Small School' Title

End Of Tuesday's Competition Moved To Wheeling Park Bubble

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

WHEELING - Mother Nature interrupted the OVAC Tennis Tournament on Tuesday, forcing the completion of the boys' singles competition to the Bubble at Wheeling Park after starting on the John Marshall courts in Glen Dale.

Despite an almost entirely new lineup, the Linsly boys captured the 'Small School' title by a single point, 11-10, over Cambridge. It is the Cadets fourth consecutive title. Neither team had a player reach the finals in the four divisions.

"We essentially had to replace everyone except Andrew Hoang," Linsly head coach Rebecca Upton said. "Winning the championship was a little

unexpected, but the kids fought hard. We have some tennis players and we have some athletes. They fought hard."

The Cadets earned six points in boys' doubles on Monday and then added five more on Tuesday in singles play. The Bobcats, meanwhile, only managed three points in doubles action but rallied, and even took the lead, during the singles format.

In the 'big school' division, there was another close finish, with Morgantown winning the title over Dover, 24-22. Morgantown claimed two singles champions, Max Chen in #3 Boys Singles and Larry Du in #2 Boys Singles.

Please see BOYS, Page 8

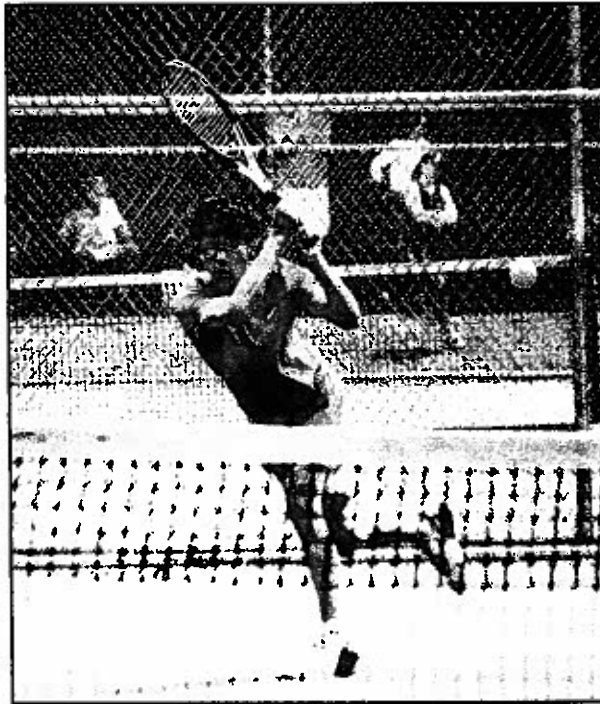


Photo By Kim North
Wheeling Park's Aaron Chao watches his return shot during Tuesday's singles competition during the OVAC Tennis Tournament. The event started at John Marshall's courts in Glen Dale, but finished up inside the Bubble at Wheeling Park due to inclement weather.



Brooke Graduate Ho As Softball Freshman

BRIDGEPORT, W.Va. — On the eve of the 2025 Mountain East Conference Softball Championship, the league announced its all-conference team and individual award-winners.

Among the four top honors, a different MEC school is represented among the winners. Davis & Elkins' Linzey Allard is Player of the Year; Charleston's Addison Mass is Pitcher of the Year; Fairmont



CLEVELAND (AP) — Guardians reliever Paul Sewald was placed on the 15-day injured list before Tuesday's game against the Minnesota Twins with a right shoulder strain.

The right-hander was removed during the fifth inning of Monday night's game against the Twins with right shoulder inflammation. Sewald retired the two batters he faced, including a strikeout of Ty France, before coming out of the game.

Sewald is 1-1 with a 6.17 ERA in 14 appearances this season.

The 34-year-old struggled with injuries last season with Arizona.

Joey Cantillo was recalled from Triple-A Columbus to fill Sewald's roster spot. Cleveland also selected the contract of right-hander Vince Velasquez from Columbus and sent down right-hander Cody Bolton.

Shane Bieber was moved to the 60-day injured list as he continues to come back from last year's Tommy John surgery to his right elbow.

Boys

(Continued from Page 7)

Du defeated Dover's Nathan Ricker 8-1, while Chen defeated Dover's Jeremy Cappel by a like 8-1 final.

University's Kalman Nagy was the champion at #1 Boys Singles, defeating Dover's Gabe McDade-Povich 8-0.

Linsly's 11 points as a team was third-highest after Dover and Morgantown. Cambridge and University each finished with 10 points, while John Marshall, Steubenville Catholic and Wheeling Park were tied for next-highest total with

five points apiece.

Complete scoring is as follows:

BIG SCHOOL

1. Morgantown 24; 2. Dover 22; 3. University 10; 4. (tie) Wheeling Park and John Marshall 5; 6. (tie) Parkersburg South and Marietta 4; 8. (tie) Brooke and Steubenville 0

SMALL SCHOOL

1. Linsly 11; 2. Cambridge 10; 3. Steubenville Catholic 5; 4. Weir 4; 5. St. Clairsville 3; 6. (tie) Wheeling Central and East Liverpool 1; 8. Indian Creek 0

STATE

(Continued from Page 7)

Max Shikenjanski and Dylan Wittke also are in the mix.

Northwestern has a three-man race between SMU transfer Preston Stone and holdovers Jack Lausch and Ryan Boe.

Malachi Singleton looked like the guy at Purdue until Ryan Browne, who started two games last season, transferred back after going through spring practice at North Carolina. Singleton, Browne and Washington State transfer Evans Chuba will compete for the job.

Freshman Malik Washington appears to be the front-runner at Maryland, where UCLA transfer Justin Martin also is competing.

ODOM'S ODYSSEY

Barry Odom takes the momentum of leading UNLV to its best back-to-back seasons in its Division I history into his new job at Purdue, which was 5-19 overall and 3-15 in Big Ten play in two years under Ryan Walters.

Odom has signed 44 players out of the transfer portal to help replace the 56 who left. Leading rusher Devin Mockobee and defensive lineman Jamarius Dinkins are the only returning starters.

Walters, fired on Dec. 1, is now defensive coordinator at Washington. Purdue visits the Huskies on

times in a 9-0 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Tuesday night.

Shota Imanaga (3-1) gave up six hits with three strikeouts in five scoreless innings before leaving with leg cramps after a leadoff double from Andrew McCutchen in the sixth.

Suzuki followed an RBI single from Kyle Tucker with his seventh homer of the season, pushing the lead to 7-0 in the seventh inning. His double with two outs in the fourth was the first hit off Pirates starter Andrew Heaney (2-2). He led off the ninth with a triple and scored on a single from Carson Kelly.

Kelly followed Suzuki's double in the fourth with a 418-foot drive into the left-field bleachers and Pete Crow-Armstrong doubled the lead in the fifth on another two-run homer. Dansby Swanson added a solo shot in the eighth.

Heaney extended his career-long scoreless streak to 20 innings before Kelly's homer. He allowed four runs on five hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Oneil Cruz walked to load the bases for Pittsburgh with two outs in the fifth but Imanaga struck out Bryan Reynolds on three pitches.

KEY MOMENT

Cardinals-Reds Postponed; To Be Made Up In Wednesday

CINCINNATI (AP) — The game between the St. Louis Cardinals and Cincinnati Reds was postponed due to inclement weather on Tuesday. The teams will play a day-night doubleheader on Wednesday.

Tuesday night's game was called off about an hour before the scheduled first pitch of 6:40 p.m.

Wednesday's first game is



Pittsburgh Pirates center fielder Oneil Cruz catches a ball during the game against the Chicago Cubs' Kyle Tucker on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, in Pittsburgh.

Cruz made a leaping backhand grab in center for the second out in the fourth to rob Tucker and keep Heaney perfect.

That ended when Suzuki doubled and Kelly homered. Heaney gave up two more runs the next inning on Crow-Armstrong's homer and was pulled after loading the bases with a pair of two-out walks.

scheduled for 12:40 p.m., and the second at 6:40 p.m.

Brady Singer (4-0, 3.62 ERA) will start the first game for Cincinnati.

Reds manager Terry Francona has not announced his starter for the nightcap.

Miles Mikolas (0-2, 5.70 ERA) will start for the Cardinals in the opener, and Steven Matz (2-0, were

WATCH

(Continued from Page 7)

MICHIGAN STATE

CB Joshua Eaton transferred from Texas State for his sixth season, and he'll be given an opportunity to win one of the two open cornerback spots. Eaton was a four-star recruit coming out of high school but played sparingly in three years at Oklahoma. He started 20 of 25 games at Texas State and, at 6-1 and 187 pounds, gives the Spartans some size at the position.

to get the job back if he can beat out Jacksonville State transfer Fred Davis II and Braden Turner in the fall. In 2023, Adeyi played in all 13 games with one start and made 20 tackles, including a career-high four against Penn State.

OHIO STATE

DE Logan George transferred from Idaho State in January and has made a big impression in a short amount of time. He saw time on

catches over the past two seasons. He also is an accomplished kick and punter.

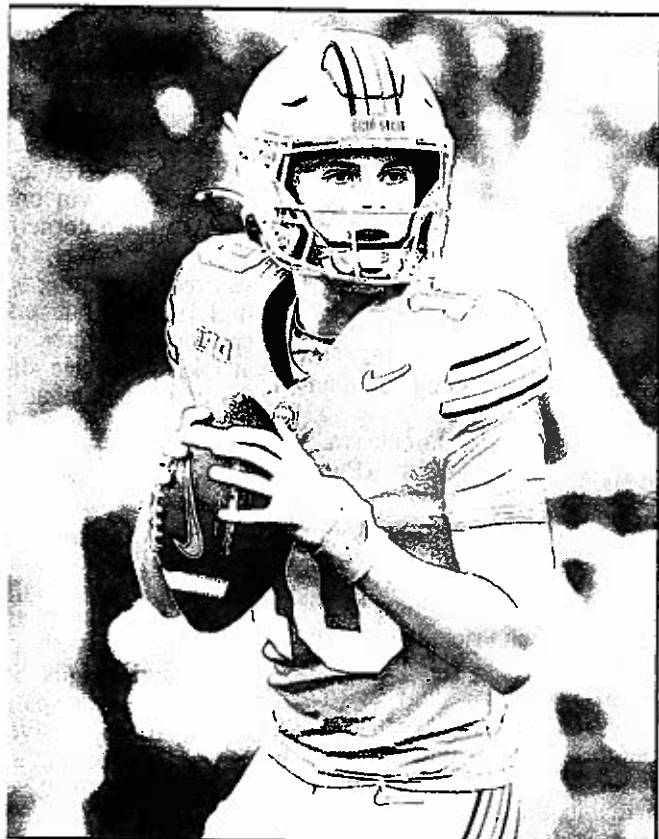
PURDUE

OL Bradyn Joi was named to the SEC all-freshman team after taking over as Auburn starting left guard second half of the season. The 6-foot-2, 328-pound Joiner is a key addition as the Boilermakers to upgrade their offensive line, which allowed 32 sacks to rank 14th

Wednesday,
April 30, 2025

SPORTS

6 other teams will carry their back competitions into the fall

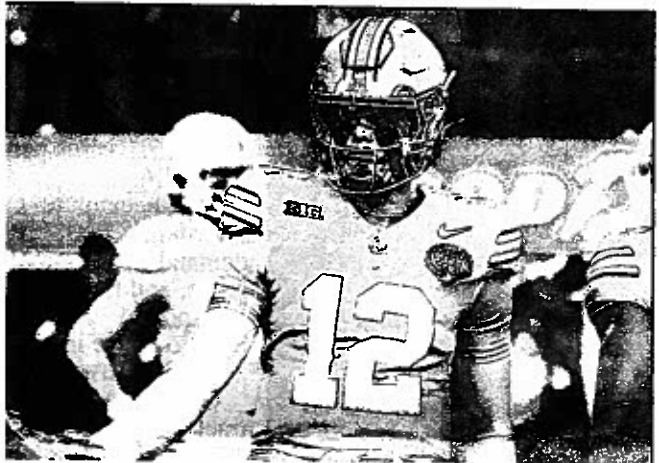


AP Photo

OHIO STATE quarterback Julian Sayin plays against Purdue during an NCAA college football game Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024, in Columbus, Ohio.

sumed 2025 starter since ment in January 2024.
he left Alabama when Nick
Saban announced his retire-

See **OHIO**, Page B2



• Here are 18 football players to watch next season in the Big Ten Conference

A look at football players in the Big Ten this spring who are poised to have breakout seasons this fall:

Illinois

TE Cole Rusk was expected to be a starter last year, but a major knee injury ended his season before it began. He could make an immediate impact at a position that needs to be more productive. The 6-foot-5, 250-pounder was one of the top tight ends in the FCS at Murray State in 2023, catching 39 balls for 507 yards and six touchdowns.

Indiana

WR Omar Cooper Jr. was mostly a backup to Myles Price last season and averaged 21.2 yards on his 28 catches. His seven touchdowns were second among receivers behind star Elijah Sar-ratt's eight. Indiana brought in the productive Makai Jackson from Appalachian State, but Price and Ke'Shawn Williams are gone and that should give Cooper an opportunity to increase his numbers.

Iowa

WR Jacob Gill stands to benefit greatly from the addition of South Dakota State transfer QB Mark Gronowski, easily the best pure passer at Iowa since three-year starter Nate Stanley (2017-19). Gill had 35 catches for 411 yards last season, modest numbers but still the best among Iowa receivers. Now the ball will be delivered by one of the most prolific quarterbacks in FCS history.

Maryland

S Lavain Scruggs has appeared in 23 games mostly as a backup the last two seasons and entered spring as the leading contender to take



Photo By KIM NORTH

STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC'S Miguel Jauregui returns a shot during Tuesday's singles competition during the OVAC Tennis Tournament. The event started at John Marshall's courts in Glen Dale, but finished up inside the Bubble at Wheeling Park due to inclement weather.

Linsly defend OVAC tennis 'small school' Championship

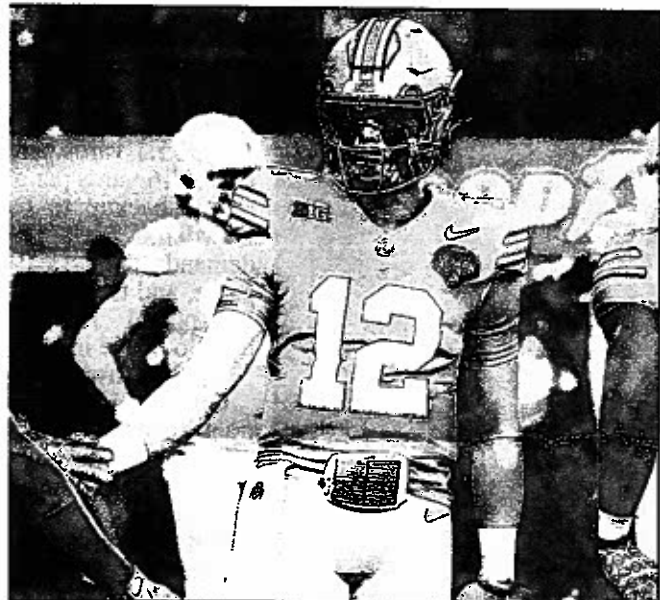
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See OHIO, Page B2



AP Photo
Viltrell Hartson (30) greets quarterback Lincoln Kienholz in Bowl NCAA college football game against Missouri on Monday in Houston, Texas.

tunity to increase his numbers.

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Maryland

S Lavain Scruggs has appeared in 23 games mostly as a backup the last two seasons and entered spring as the leading contender to take over for three-year starter Dante Turner at strong safety. Scruggs started in place of an injured Turner against Southern California and had six tackles and a 51-yard interception return to set up a touchdown in a 29-28 win.

See PLAYERS, Page B2

Championship

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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The Cadets earned six points in boys' doubles on Monday and then added five more on Tuesday in singles play. The Bobcats, meanwhile, only managed three points in doubles action but rallied, and even took the lead, during the singles format.

In the "big school" division, there was another close finish, with Morgantown winning the title over Dover, 24-22. Morgantown claimed two singles champions, Max Chen in #3 Boys Singles and Larry Du in #2 Boys Singles. Du defeated Dover's Nathan Ricker 8-1, while Chen defeated Dover's Jeremy Cappel by a like 8-1 final.

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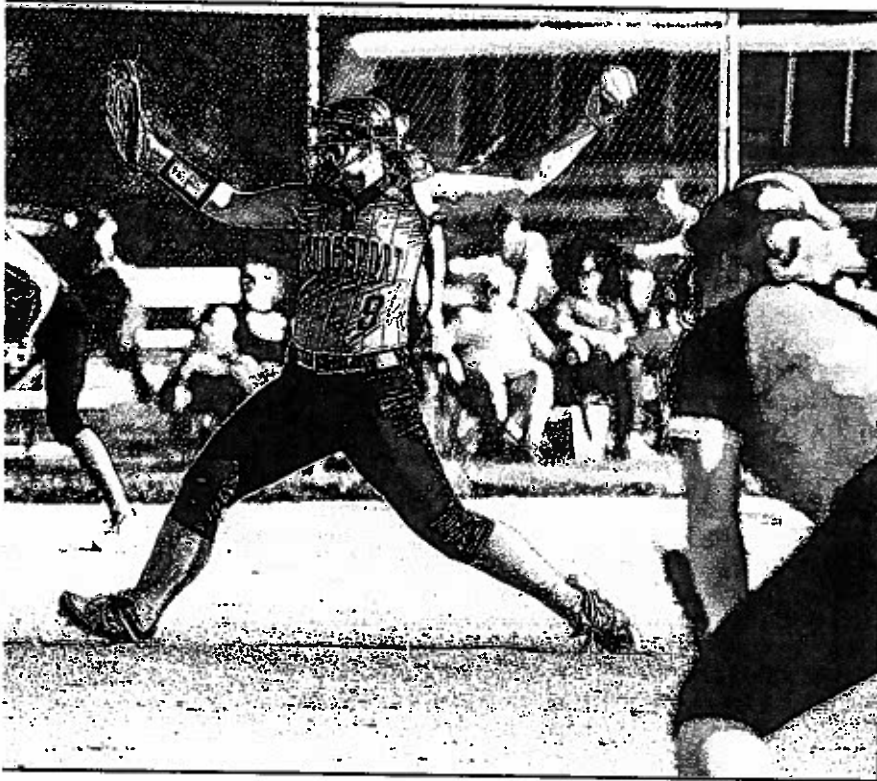


Photo Provided

ers, pictured front-middle, committed on Monday to continue his academic and football career. He is a talented receiver, returner and defensive back. Saunders finished his senior season with 1,418 yards, 10 touchdowns, as well as four interceptions. Pictured back row from left to right is coach Anthony Street, and head coach Bernie Thompson. Pictured front row is grandmother Tonja Sampson, and grandfather Street.

s a single short of the cycle, Cubs go deep four times in 9-0 rout of Pirates

Teams take the mound



BRIDGEPORT'S VANESSA MULLEN fires in a pitch on Monday during the Bulldogs' OVAC 2A semifinal victory over Shadyside at the I-470 JB Chambers Sports Complex. Mullen pitched a complete game and earned the win inside the circle.

Photo by JEFF Campbell

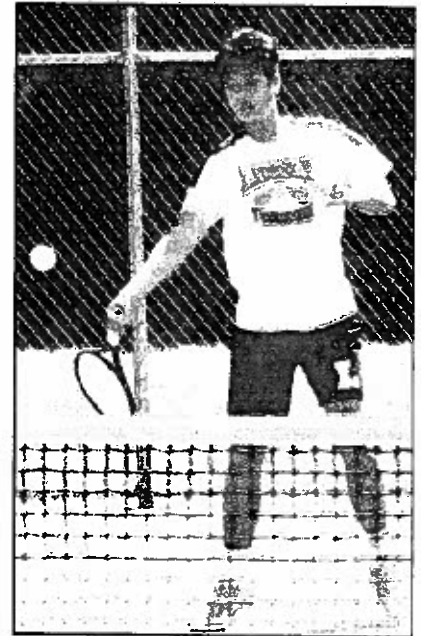


Photo by KIM NORTH

LINSLEY'S ANDREW HOANG returns a shot during boys' doubles action from Monday's OVAC Tennis Tournament at the John Marshall courts in Glen Dale. Hoang, a St. Clairsville resident, and his partner, Javi Vizuete, advanced to the semifinals before falling. Action continues today through Thursday.

Port cages the Shadyside Tigers

Bridgeport Bull-
the OVAC
d blew the
Shadyside

10-0 in six innings on Monday at the I-470 JB Chambers Sports Complex in their conference semifinal, advancing to the 2A title game which is to be held on Saturday at 3 p.m. at Lisa's Field inside the I-470 Complex.

"My team showed up to play today," Bridgeport head coach Hannah Boyer

said. "They came here and they knew what they had to do, knew we had to hit the ball and play good defense and that's exactly what we did."

Bridgeport's offense and defense were both clicking on Monday.

See **BRIDGEPORT**, Page B3

Morgantown, Linsly lead OVAC tennis after day 1

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 courts. Action continues Tuesday with boys' singles, with the girls taking to the courts Wednesday and Thursday for doubles and singles action, respectively. Action starts at 8:30 each morning.

In case of inclement weather, matches will be moved to the Wheeling Park Bubble.

In boys' doubles action, the Mohigans defeated the Tornados in two of the three matches to take a 11-10 edge in team scoring. They were deadlocked at nine entering

•Caldwell squeaks past River in OVAC Class 2A semifinal

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ELM GROVE — Veteran River softball coach Dave Wright is just like every other coach, he's not really into moral victories. However, at the same time, he was very proud of his Pilots Monday night.

Defending champion and No. 1 seed Caldwell scored twice in the bottom of the sixth to edge past No. 4 River, 4-3, in an OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 2A semifinal on Ben's Field at the I-470 J.B.

"We had a chance to win. We just made a couple of mental mistakes in the bottom of the sixth that cost us, other than that, I'm very proud of the girls," Wright said. "They fought hard. I couldn't have asked for any more out of them."

Caldwell's Breighlee Morocco tripled to deep right to start the game-winning rally. Layne Sidwell grounded back to Ava Wohnhas inside the circle. She caught Morocco off the bag at third, but the third baseman's throw home was errant, allowing Morocco to score the tying run as



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In boys' doubles action, the Mohigans defeated the Tornadoes in two of the three matches to take a 11-10 edge in team scoring. They were deadlocked at nine entering the finals. A team is awarded one point for each match it wins. Morgantown is the defending team champion.

Morgantown prevailed at No. 1 as the team of Andrew McClellan and Solas Chhin-Kreiner topped Dover's duo of Gabe Pavick and Jeremy Cappell by an 8-1 count. The top-seeded Mohigans breezed to the finals with 8-0, 8-0 and 8-2 victories, while the Tornadoes upset the No. 2 from University in the quarterfinals (8-4) and the second-seeded Linsly team in the semis (8-3).

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

Dover finally pulled a match out at No. 3 as the team of Max Banbeck and Nathan Ricker upset top-seeded Amari Knights and Ronan Rogers from Morgantown, 8-3. Banbeck and Ricker were unseeded and won 8-0 in their semifinal match against Linsly's Matt Shanley and Jaxon Milam as upsets ruled the bottom half of the bracket.

Linsly leads the 'Small School' with six points. The Cadets are seeking their fourth consecutive title.

See **TENNIS**, Page B2

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Staff Writer

ELM GROVE — Veteran River softball coach Dave Wright is just like every other coach, he's not really into moral victories. However, at the same time, he was very proud of his Pilots Monday night.

Defending champion and No. 1 seed Caldwell scored twice in the bottom of the sixth to edge past No. 4 River, 4-3, in an OVAC Tom Bechtel Class 2A semifinal on Ben's Field at the I-470 J.B. Chambers Complex. The Redskins had mercy-ruled the Pilots in their earlier two meetings this season.

The youthful Pilots had taken a 3-2 advantage in the top of the inning when Mallorie Maddy raced home on a two-out single by Presley Kilburn, who had taken a line drive off her left wrist earlier in the game. However, it wasn't meant to be.

"We had a chance to win. We just made a couple of mental mistakes in the bottom of the sixth that cost us, other than that, I'm very proud of the girls," Wright said. "They fought hard. I couldn't have asked for any more out of them."

Caldwell's Breighlee Morocco tripled to deep right to start the game-winning rally. Layne Sidwell grounded back to Ava Wohnhas inside the circle. She caught Morocco off the bag at third, but the third baseman's throw home was errant, allowing Morocco to score the tying run as Sidwell advanced all the way to third. With one out, Cecelia Marshall grounded back to the mound. 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.

See **RIVER**, Page B3



Photo By **KIM NORTH**
(16) celebrates after in the top of the first in Class 2A semifinal on Chambers Complex high celebration are team-Bri Wiley (9). However,

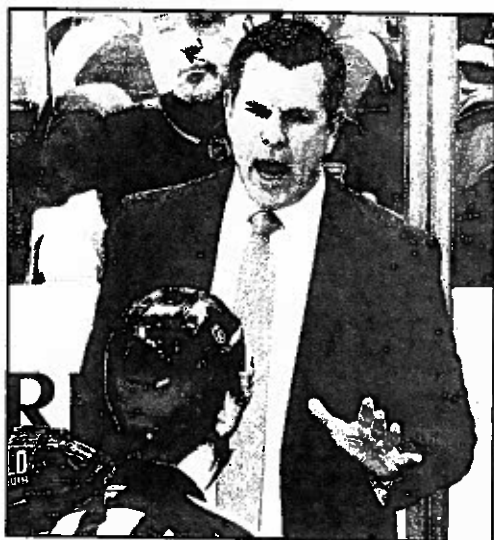
with Stanley Cup-winning coach Mike Sullivan

ike Sulli- postseason meetings between Dubas and Sullivan, the second one occurring in Sullivan's native Boston on Sunday. During a discussion that Dubas described as "amicable," it became apparent to Dubas that Sullivan's many strengths might be better served leading a team that's not evolving from one generation to the next.

"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 the next stop. And it could also be time for change here."

Sullivan, whose 409 wins with Pittsburgh are a franchise record, had two seasons remaining on the contract extension he signed in late 2022.

multiple See **PENGUINS**, Page B2

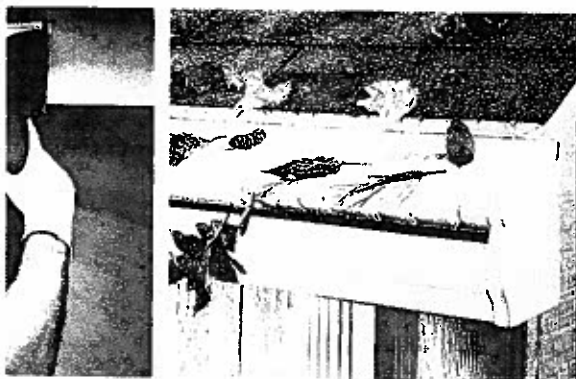
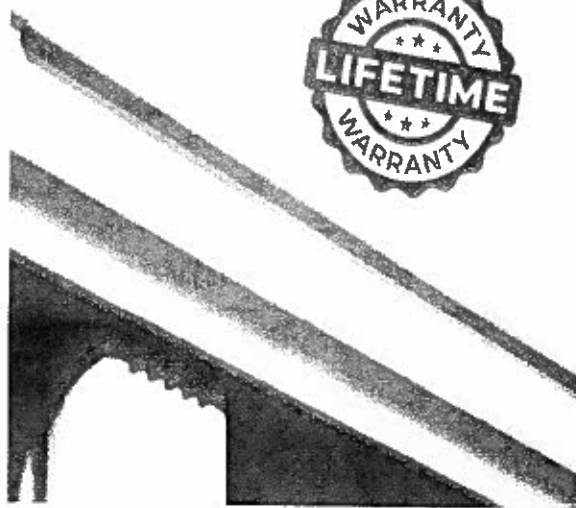


AP Photo
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS head coach Mike Sullivan talks with referee Brandon Schrader during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Washington Capitals in Pittsburgh, Thursday, April 17, 2025.

rsive coordinator Jim Knowles settling in quickly with the Nittany Lions

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ard is part of the Great Day Improvements family of brands.

in which the Penguins were playoff fixtures.

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 five-minute conversation with Crosby before meeting with Sullivan. Asked if he was concerned that Crosby, who turns 38 in August and has two years left on an extension he agreed to last September, may ask for a trade, Dubas flatly replied "no."

Still, the move came somewhat as a surprise given Sullivan's resume, his relationship with Crosby and the fact that Fenway

Rutherford, who left in early 2021, then his replacement Ron Hexall, who lasted a little more than two years before being fired — was unable to find the right pieces to fill out a roster that quickly became old 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, undone by a combination of shaky goaltending and even shakier defense.

Yet a week ago, Dubas said that as long as Sullivan was all in on the team's commitment to look to the future, "we will roll with that."

Pressed on what changed in the interim, Dubas did not point to one specific moment.

The reality is he had seen signs that a change might be needed throughout the sea-

"I think it's just in general the feeling that the demands of this and what we're asking, it was, to me, time for him to go elsewhere to apply and for us to move on as well," he said.

There appears to be no hurry to find Sullivan's successor. Dubas expects to line up virtual interviews with candidates at the end of May, with the hope of making a hire by early June.

The next Penguins coach will take over a club that has 30 draft picks over the next three years, including 18 in the first three rounds.

Turning those picks into viable NHL players — either by using them to draft players or as trade bait for team willing to part with current NHLers in their early to mid-20s — will be Dubas' challenge.

Turning whatever group arrives for training camp in September back to relevancy will be the challenge of a coach who will have to replace someone hired to give an underachieving group a wake-up call and who left with a Hall of Fame-worthy resume and his spot in Penguins lore secure.



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• Tennis

Continued from Page B1

Linsly has won 13 straight girls championships.

Scoring is as follows:

BIG SCHOOL

1. Morgantown 11;
2. Dover 10; 3. Parkersburg South 4; 4. Marietta; 5. (tie) John Marshall, University and Wheeling Park 2; 8. (tie) Brooke, Steubenville 0

SMALL SCHOOL

1. Linsly 6; 2. (tie) Cambridge and Weir 2; 4. (tie) East Liverpool and Steubenville Catholic 1; 6. (tie) Indian Creek, St. Clairsville and Wheeling Central 0

d was awarded game VP, while Cameron urther Kason Angel had ld Madonna's powerful eup out of the hit col- in through six innings, t was up against the ch count limit going to e final inning.

Please see **SEVENTH**,
Page 10



Photo by Andrew Grimm

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

that cost us, other than that, I'm very proud of the girls," Wright said. "They fought hard. I couldn't have asked for any more out of them."

Caldwell's Breighlee Morocco tripled to deep right to start the game-winning rally. Layne Sidwell grounded back to Ava Wohnhas inside the circle. She caught Morocco off the bag at third, but the third baseman's throw home was errant, allowing Morocco to score the tying run as Sidwell advanced all the way to third. With one out, Cecelia Marshall grounded back to the mound.

Please see **RIVER**, Page 10



Photo by Jeff Campbell

Each Hannah Boyer hugs first baseman Jayde Carman after a 2A semifinal victory over Shadyside at the I-470 Complex.

Hot Ticket To OVAC 2A Title Bridgeport Win Over Shadyside

BRIDGEPORT — Bridgeport's offense and defense were both clicking on Monday.

Vanessa Mullen pitched the full six innings for the Bulldogs, striking out two and issuing zero walks. Her defense was in top form behind her, including first baseman Jayde Carman who turned an inning-ending unassisted double play in the top of the third.

With a runner on first and one out, Shadyside's Kamryn Parker shot a line drive down the first base line, which Carman plucked out of the air before stepping on first to double up the runner who'd advanced away from the bag.

Please see **PUNCH**, Page 10

Morgantown, Linsly Lead OVAC Tennis After Day 1

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 courts. Action continues Tuesday with boys' singles, with the girls taking to the courts Wednesday and Thursday for doubles and singles action, respectively. Action starts at 8:30 each morning.

In case of inclement weather, matches will be moved to the Wheeling Park Bubble.

In boys' doubles action, the Mohigans defeated the Tornadoes in two of the three matches to take a 11-10 edge in team scoring.

Please see **LEAD**, Page 10

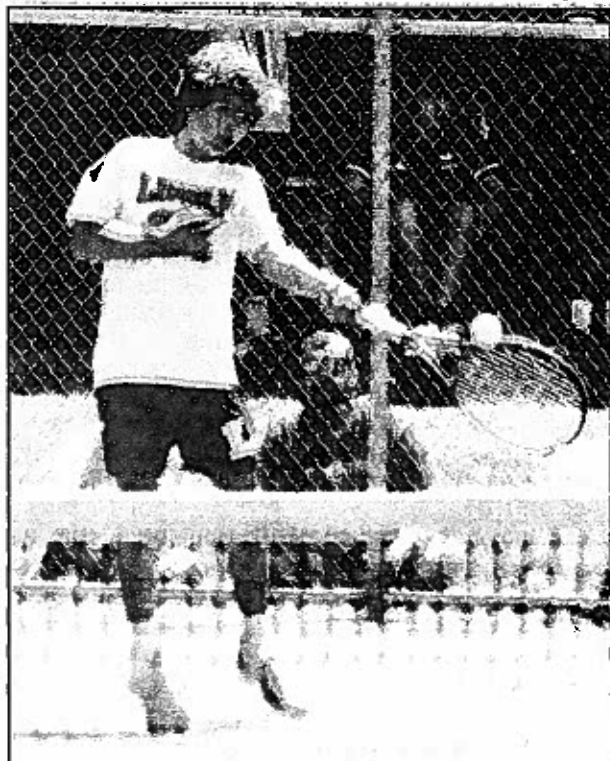


Photo by Kim North

Linsly's Javi Vizuite returns a shot during boys' doubles action from Monday's OVAC Tennis Tournament at the John Marshall courts in Glen Dale.

West Virginia Adds Two More In Transfer Portal

By **SPENCER**
RIPCHIK

For The Intelligencer

West Virginia and Rich Rodriguez remained active in the portal, picking up their first running back commitment.

SMU running back Jaylan Knighton and Jacksonville State receiver Jordan McCant are reportedly committing to the Mountaineers for the 2025 season, making the portal additions this period over 10.

Knighton has one more year of eligibility left after playing for five years

at the collegiate ranks for SMU and Miami. He missed most of last year with an injury, allowing him to redshirt and add another year of eligibility. In 2023, he recorded 745 yards on 136 carries for seven touchdowns. Before SMU, he played three seasons at Miami and rushed for over 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns. Knighton was a three-star transfer prospect, according to 247Sports, and was a four-star out of high school as the 12th-ranked running back in the class of 2020.

Knighton, the Florida native, is a dual-threat back, having experience catching passes out of the backfield. He had five receiving touchdowns and over 300 yards in five seasons. More importantly, he provided depth and experience to a running back room that needs depth since starter Jahiem White was banged up this spring, not playing in the Gold-Blue Spring Showcase.

McCant isn't the first receiver Rodriguez has added.

Please see **ADDS**, Page 10

o-hit- sac bunt in the fourth. Over the
o de- final three innings, though, Wil-
g out harm shut things down, retiring the
d six last nine-straight batters he faced,
pitch working a 1-2-3 sixth and striking
out the side in the seventh to set up
the rally.

after "I can't speak highly enough
keout Reed," Miller said. "He's a great
ie out pitcher, he's one of our top dogs.
16-2) He wanted the ball today and was
great hungry. We had a little bit of ad-
: kid" versity and he battled through. He
ng to pitched a phenomenal game and
05 so put us in a great position to have a
plate chance to win this game.

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

g and It is the second-straight OVAC

one to the Blue Dons and then
fifth in the last eight years. The
Blue Dons and Dragons have com-
bined 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 Re-
gion 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.

9)

"Caldwell is a very,
ry talented team. They
t the ball and they can
n. How many ground
ills did they turn into
field singles?" Wright
ked. "They are a vet-
an team and we are a
ry young team. We
ayed young in the sixth
ning."

River took a 2-0 lead
the top of the first
hen Wohnas was hit
ith the second pitch of
e game from Makay-
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 Riv-
er batters set down by
Mumaw.

Caldwell scored on an

RBI single by Moroc-
co 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.

9)

me- hits- two singles from Kaylie
ming Warnock, and one base hit apiece
ed a from Kamryn Parker and Ali
cen- Weatherson.

Brewer ended the game in the
bottom of the sixth by shooting a
hit to center field, scoring Katie
Jackson from second base.

"Bridgeport came to hit the
ver's ball today," Shadyside head
coach Robert Gorrell said. "They
wanted it. We didn't play our
game today, we didn't hit the
ball. Big games like this, you've
got to play hard, you've got to
be in the game with them. We

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
the River Pilots 4-3 on Monday.

"They have to do what they did
today," Boyer said of her team
going into the championship
game. "We have to stay confi-
dent, we have to believe we can
do exactly what we did today - hit
the ball, pitch well and play good
defense, that leads to wins."

that quickly became old
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, undone by
a combination of shaky
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Yet a week ago, Du-
bas said that as long as
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The next Penguins
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including 18 in the first
three rounds. Turning
those picks into viable
NHL players - either by
using them to draft players
or as trade bait for teams
willing to part with cur-
rent NHLers in their early
to mid-20s - will be Du-
bas' challenge.

LEAD

(Continued from Page 9)

They were deadlocked
at nine entering the finals.
A team is awarded one
point for each match it
wins. Morgantown is the
defending team champi-
on.

Morgantown prevailed
at No. 1 as the team of
Andrew McClellan and
Solas Chhin-Kreiner
topped Dover's duo of
Gabe Pavick and Jeremy
Cappell by an 8-1 count.
The top-seeded Mohigans
breezed to the finals with
8-0, 8-0 and 8-2 victo-
ries, while the Tornadoes
upset the No. 2 from
University in the quarter-
finals (8-4) and the sec-
ond-seeded Linsly team
in the semis (8-3).

At No. 2, Morgan-
town's second-seeded
duo of Max Chen and
Max Warner teamed to
knock off the No. 1 team
from Dover of Arden
Klaiber and Lake Van
Sickle, 8-6. The Mohi-
gans had won their pre-
vious three matches by
identical 8-1 scores.

Dover finally pulled
a match out at No. 3 as
the team of Max Ban-
beck and Nathan Ricker

upset top-seeded Amari
Knights and Ronan Rog-
ers from Morgantown,
8-3. Banbeck and Ricker
were unseeded and won
8-0 in their semifinal
match against Linsly's
Matt Shanley and Jaxon
Milam as upsets ruled the
bottom half of the brack-
et.

Linsly leads the 'Small
School' with six points.
The Cadets are seeking
their fourth consecutive
title.

Cambridge and Weir
both have two.

Linsly has won 13
straight girls champion-
ships.

Scoring is as follows:

BIG SCHOOL

1. Morgantown 11;
2. Dover 10; 3. Parkers-
burg South 4; 4. Mariet-
ta; 5. (tie) John Marshall,
University and Wheeling
Park 2; 8. (tie) Brooke,
Steubenville 0

SMALL SCHOOL

1. Linsly 6; 2. (tie)
Cambridge and Weir 2; 4.
(tie) East Liverpool and
Steubenville Catholic 1;
6. (tie) Indian Creek, St.
Clairsville and Wheeling
Central 0

ADDS

(Continued from Page 9)

Rodriguez has added
a couple of receivers al-
ready this opening, but
he's the first this spring
to have experience with
Rodriguez, playing with
the Gamecocks. He saw
limited action in three
years at Jacksonville
State with just 29 grabs
and primarily saw time
on special teams. Mc-

The need for a wide
receiver has been a point
of emphasis this period,
and was warranted since
Rodriguez mentioned he
didn't have a 1-on-1 guy
yet earlier this spring.
McCant might not be
that option at 5-foot-11,
but definitely adds depth
to the receiver room and
on special teams. He has

Perfect Fit!

use from over



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	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
New York	15	10	.600	—	—	7-3	W-1	8-4	7-6	137	106
Boston	14	13	.519	2	½	6-4	L-2	8-6	6-7	124	128
Toronto	12	13	.480	3	1½	4-6	L-5	8-5	4-8	88	104
Atlanta	10	14	.417	4½	3	4-6	W-1	5-6	5-8	103	130
San Francisco	10	14	.417	4½	3	4-6	W-1	9-10	1-4	102	97

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
Detroit	15	10	.600	—	—	6-4	W-1	10-3	5-7	112	82
Cleveland	14	10	.583	½	+1	6-4	L-1	7-2	7-8	96	101
San Diego	12	14	.462	3½	2	4-6	W-4	9-4	3-10	84	100
Minnesota	9	16	.360	6	4½	5-5	L-1	6-6	3-10	85	103
Chicago	6	19	.240	9	7½	2-8	W-1	4-8	2-11	78	108

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
Texas	14	10	.583	—	—	5-5	L-1	10-3	4-7	77	91
Seattle	14	11	.560	½	+½	7-3	W-2	8-5	6-6	113	109
Houston	13	11	.542	1	—	7-3	W-3	9-6	4-5	92	81
Los Angeles	11	12	.478	2½	1½	3-7	L-2	4-4	7-8	91	109
Philadelphia	11	13	.458	3	2	6-4	W-1	3-8	8-5	105	123

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
New York	18	7	.720	—	—	8-2	W-7	12-1	6-6	105	69
Philadelphia	13	12	.520	5	1½	4-6	L-4	9-4	4-8	111	115
Miami	11	13	.458	6½	3	4-6	L-1	8-8	3-5	106	127
Washington	11	14	.440	7	3½	5-5	L-1	7-5	4-9	105	118
Atlanta	10	14	.417	7½	4	6-4	W-1	8-3	2-11	192	104

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
Chicago	16	10	.615	—	—	7-3	W-2	8-5	8-5	163	120
Milwaukee	13	13	.500	3	2	5-5	L-2	9-4	4-9	132	119
Cincinnati	12	13	.480	3½	2½	5-5	W-1	6-6	6-7	128	97
Pittsburgh	10	15	.400	5½	4½	5-5	W-2	6-7	4-8	90	106
St. Louis	10	15	.400	5½	4½	3-7	L-1	8-4	2-11	120	118

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
San Diego	17	8	.680	—	—	5-5	L-1	12-1	5-7	103	74
San Francisco	17	9	.654	½	+2	5-5	W-2	7-3	10-6	129	101
Los Angeles	16	9	.640	1	+1½	5-5	L-2	10-2	6-7	116	108
Arizona	14	10	.583	2½	—	7-3	L-1	7-5	7-5	131	111
Colorado	4	20	.167	12½	10	1-9	L-3	3-6	1-14	77	136

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Thursday's Games

Chicago White Sox 3, Minnesota 0, 7 innings
Seattle 4, Boston 3
San Diego 7, Colorado 4, 1st game
San Francisco 6, Colorado 2, 2nd game
Baltimore 2, Washington 1
Pittsburgh at L.A. Angels, late
San Francisco at Arizona, late
Texas at Athletics, late

Friday's Games

Atlanta (Young 0-0) at Detroit (Mize 3-1), 6:40 p.m.
Toronto (Berra 0-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Carrasco 2-1), 7:05 p.m.
Boston (Houck 0-2) at Cleveland (Lively 1-2), 7:10 p.m.
Houston (Wesneski 1-1) at San Diego (King 3-0), 7:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Hendricks 0-2) at Minnesota (Lopez 1-1), 7:40 p.m.
Miami (Quantrill 1-2) at Seattle (Gilbert 1-1), 9:40 p.m.
San Francisco (Baz 2-0) at San Diego (King 3-0), 9:40 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Burke 3-3) at Athletics (Severino 3-3), 10:05 p.m.
Texas (Eovaldi 1-2) at San Francisco (Verlander 0-1), 10:15 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Thursday's Games

Kansas City 7, Colorado 4, 1st game
San Francisco 6, Milwaukee 5
Kansas City 6, Colorado 2, 2nd game
Baltimore 2, Washington 1
Pittsburgh at L.A. Angels, late
Tampa Bay at Arizona, late

Friday's Games

Philadelphia (Walker 1-1) at Chicago Cubs (Rea 0-0), 2:20 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Senga 3-1) at Washington (Irvin 2-0), 6:45 p.m.
Milwaukee (Patrick 1-1) at St. Louis (Liberatore 1-2), 8:15 p.m.
Cincinnati (Abbott 2-0) at Colorado (Freeland 0-4), 8:40 p.m.
Atlanta (Sale 0-2) at Arizona (Gallen 1-3), 9:40 p.m.
Miami (Quantrill 1-2) at Seattle (Gilbert 1-1), 9:40 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Baz 2-0) at San Diego (King 3-0), 9:40 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Skenes 2-2) at L.A. Dodgers (Yamamoto 3-1), 10:10 p.m.
Texas (Eovaldi 1-2) at San Francisco (Verlander 0-1), 10:15 p.m.

LINESCORES

BASEBALL OVAC Class 5A Championship Morgantown 4, Wheeling Park 2

Morgan 000 000 4 -- 4 4 1
Park 110 000 0 -- 2 6 2
1—Shunn wp (4K, 2BB),
lessnerly sv (7I, 10K, 0BB)
nd Josselyn Bredeson D.
nd Josselyn Bredeson D.
nd Josselyn Bredeson D.

0BB) Hanna 1p (7) (3K, 0BB)
and Balgo. King D, 2rbi;
Saunders D, HR, 3rbi; Florence
2D, 4rbi; Bailey D; Hanna
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 (7I) (0K, 0BB) and Martin.
Markonich 2D, 2S, rbi; Asti-
nais D; Galan D; St. Martin

Transfer Offensive Lineman

By SPENCER RIPCHICK
For The Intelligencer

West Virginia picked up an SEC offensive lineman out of the transfer portal Thursday morning.

Oklahoma offensive lineman Josh Aisosa announced he is transferring to the Mountaineers with four years of eligibility left. Aisosa recently took an official visit to Morgantown this week.

Aisosa didn't see action in his freshman year, allowing him to redshirt, but was a consensus three-star high school prospect out of Oklahoma.

The second-year player stands at 6-foot-3 and 331 pounds and joins an offensive line room that's limited after graduation and the portal departures.

Rich Rodriguez looked for more depth at the offensive line and the line struggled during the Gold-Blue Spring Showcase, with the quarterbacks scrambling a lot. Aisosa might not start this fall, but he'll be a developmental piece that could play a bigger role in the future.

Aisosa becomes the seventh transfer addition this spring for WVU and the second offensive lineman.

2025 OVAC Tennis Championships Set For Monday At John Marshall

GLEN DALE - The 2025 OVAC Tennis Championships will be held at the John Marshall High School tennis facility beginning Monday, April 28 and running through Thursday, May 1. This year's event begins with boy's doubles action on Monday followed by boy's singles play on Tuesday. Girl's doubles matches will be contested on Wednesday and wrap up on Thursday with girl's singles competition. All match play begins each morning at 8:30 a.m..

Match play will be moved each day to the Wheeling Park Tennis Bubble on any day that weather does not permit play at John Marshall High School.

A team champion and runner up in both girls and boys school competition will be decided over the course of the 4-day event in two divisions again this year, 1A-4A (small school) and 5A (large school). Each match win in singles or doubles scores a team point for the school being represented. A special team trophy will be awarded to the girls and boys champion in both 1A-4A and 5A divisions. Runner-up teams in both divisions will be awarded a special plaque. Singles and doubles champions in all divisions, girls and boys, will also be awarded individual medals.

The defending champions from 2024

are the Linsly girls in the 1A-4A division for their 13th straight OVAC title. The University High girls are the defending champions in the 5A division. The 2024 boys defending champions in the 1A-4A division are the Linsly boys and the Morgantown High boys are defending champions in the 5A division.

During the OVAC Tennis Championships, coaches will be evaluating sportsmanship by all players to determine a special award for the one female and one male who exhibits the utmost in fairness, attitude and sportsmanship throughout the tournament for the prestigious Carol Strasser Sportsmanship Award. Carol was a long-time Ohio Valley outstanding tennis player and former OVAC Tennis Director. This award was created to honor her work and commitment to tennis and her outstanding character on and off the court!

The tournament seeding for all divisions by coaches will be held Sunday, April 27 at Wheeling Park High School beginning with the boy's seeding at 4:30 p.m. followed by the girl's seeding at 6.

Questions can be forwarded to George Frazier, OVAC Tennis Director, at 304-639-3294 or email at runningracquet@aol.com.

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 Thursday night to take a 2-1 lead in the first-round series.

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 shot, the Knicks won.