

Monday,
September 29, 2025

The Times Leader

SPORTS

St. Clairsville seniors finally are able to claim 4A gold

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Oh home sweet home. Playing on the familiar artificial pitch inside Red Devil Stadium, St. Clairsville showed why it was the No. 1 seed in the OVAC Class 4A boys' soccer tournament.

Saturday morning the Red Devils (9-1-1) captured their fifth conference championship in program history with a 3-0 victory over second-seeded Beaver Local. They had blanked the Beavers (9-3) by a 1-0 count earlier in the season in Lisbon.

The championship was the first since St. Clairsville went back-to-back in 2019 and 2020. They lost to Weir in the 2021 finals.

"It was a great match," St. Clairsville head coach Jeff Roberts said. "We came out firing from the start and we kept the pressure on. Our set-pieces looked pretty good today and Lucas Causey had two assists and Parker Galloway got two goals."

Trevor Tuttle and Parker Galloway scored first-half goals on back-to-back shots to give St. Clairsville a lead it would never relinquish. Tuttle scored on a tap-in in the 30th minute and the high-scoring Galloway found the net four minutes later.

"He doesn't score much but he's been going up for us and he's been able to get his head on the ball," Roberts recalled. "That was a big goal for us."

Galloway, who also doubles as the Red Devils' placekicker in football, upped the count to 3-0 in the 60th minute. Breaking in all alone on the left wing, he nudged the ball forward with his right toe just before a charging Beaver Local goalkeeper Cole Long could get to it. The ball slowly trickled across the goal line.

St. Clairsville senior goalkeeper Talan Rice earned the shutout by denying all five shots he faced, including just one in the second half. It was his fourth consecutive shutout and eighth this season.

"Another clean sheet for Talan," Roberts said. "I think we limited them to the amount of shots they had."

The whitewashing was the fourth in a row for the lanky Rice, who charted six saves, but only two after the intermission.

"It feels great," Rice said of finally being able to hold the championship trophy. "We lost in the semifinals three previous times, and twice to Beaver Local, so to be able to beat them for this title makes it even sweeter. This is what we've been working for for the last four years."



Photo by KIM NORTH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE goalkeeper Talan Rice (in blue) celebrates with teammate Brennan Rice (5) after the Red Devils blanked Beaver Local, 3-0, Saturday morning to win the OVAC Class 4A Boys Soccer Championship. Looking on is the Red Devils' Quentin Stora (11).

St. Clairsville girls fall to Beaver Local in OVAC championship

minutes later.

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4A Boys Soccer Championship. Looking on is the Red Devils' Quentin Stora (11).

St. Clairsville girls fall to Beaver Local in OVAC championship

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor



ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Emma Gasber streaks toward the goal Saturday during the Red Devils OVAC 4A girls soccer championship match against Beaver Local inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

Photo by NICK HENTHORN

WHEELING — The St. Clairsville Red Devils put together a strong pair of performances in getting to the OVAC 4A girls soccer championship on Saturday inside Wheeling Island Stadium, beating Linsly in the quarterfinals in a rematch of a regular season game which the Red Devils had lost, and then going on the road to defeat Cambridge, who was seeded higher than St. C. going into their conference semifinals game.

However, St. Clairsville could not complete their odyssey on Saturday, falling 4-0 to Beaver Local and ending tournament play as OVAC runners-up.

"They got talented kids that scored on us obviously," St. Clairsville head coach Wes Stoner said. "I mean, we played pretty well. First 10 or 15 minutes I thought we did excellent. We

missed a lot of chances, unfortunately, with a couple breakaways. That could have made it at least a little bit closer. But, just some breakdowns on defense. It happens. We had breakdowns and they capitalized on most of them."

Beaver Local's Jansen Ours found a shot in-close through a dense crowd in the 19th minutes to break open the day's scoring.

Peyton Dunn put through another goal for the Beavers in the 26th minute to send St. C. into the locker room down 2-0.

A very well-placed through ball by Leah Stewart allowed Dunn to get off another clean shot in the 47th minute for a Beaver goal, and Dunn made it a hat trick with a long-range snipe which snuck just under the crossbar in the 57th minute.

See ST. CLAIRSVILLE, Page B2

Maroon Knights wins OVAC 1A/3A girls soccer title rematch vs. Crusaders

By NICK HENTHORN
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WHEELING — Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium was a rematch of last year's OVAC 1A-3A girls soccer championship, and at the end of 80 minutes, the repeat meeting between the Wheeling Central Maroon Knights and Steubenville Catholic Crusaders yielded the same result.

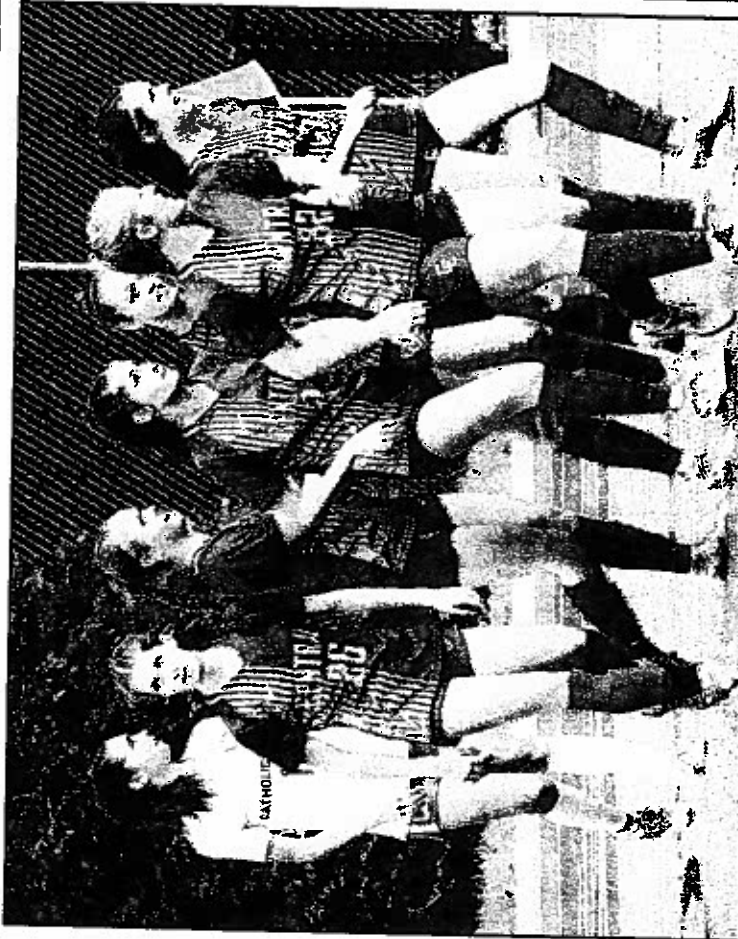
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"Super proud of them," Wheeling Central head coach Ashley Winters said. "They played phenomenal. So,

Oregon moves to behind Buckeyes in AP poll; Rebels, and Sooners join top 5; Alabama back in top 10

(AP) — Oregon moved up to No. 2 in The Associated Press college football poll on Sunday, Mississippi earned its highest ranking since 2015, Alabama jumped back into the top 10 and Virginia was in the Top 25 for the first time in six years in the wake of a volatile weekend in which four top-10 teams lost.

Ohio State won at Washington and remains No. 1 for the fifth straight week. The Buckeyes received 46 first-place votes, six fewer than a week ago, and their 37-point lead over Oregon is the closest margin between the top



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Wheeling Central quickly built their lead Saturday, receiving two goals from sparkplug Loni Kusic and one goal from Rylee Wright all within the first 18 minutes of the game.

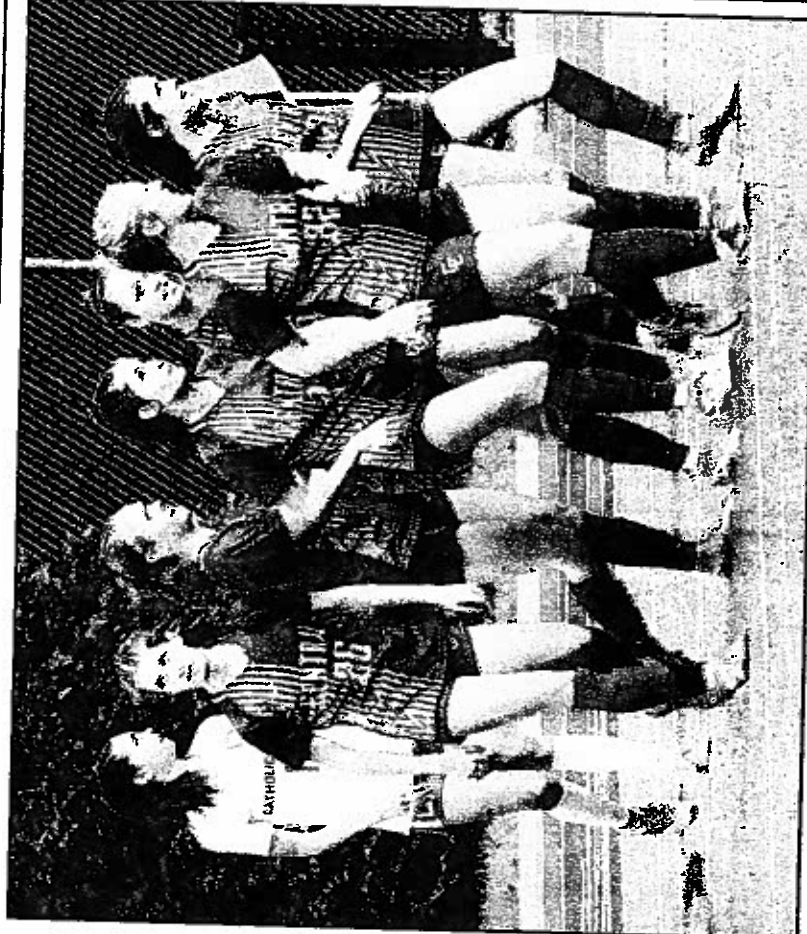
"I thought we tried something different to start, but we just made too many mistakes and gave them good shots early," Steubenville Catholic head coach Jonathan Hoover said. "We played hard, every one of my players did, we just weren't where we needed to be."

Wheeling Central defends boys Class 1A/3A soccer title

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Wheeling Central went nearly a quarter-of-a-century without a boys' soccer title last fall.

ville Catholic (7-4) Saturday afternoon on the sun-filled, but breezy artificial pitch inside Red Devil Stadium. They prevailed in a penalty kick shootout last fall.



THE WHEELING Central Maroon Knights, pictured after a Rylee Wright goal Saturday during their OVAC 1A-3A girls soccer championship game against Steubenville Catholic inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

Photo by NICK HENTHORN

Wheeling Central got great looks off of set pieces, with two goals in the second half coming off of designed plays on corner kicks — one that yielded Elah Konkle a clean center-cut shot after some nifty weaving and passing, and another perfectly executed set piece play which resulted in a Seneca Heller header goal in the 59th minute.

"We executed the game the way that we planned to execute it," Winters said.

See **KNIGHTS**, Page B2

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Oregon's two-overtime win at Penn State earned the Ducks 16 first-place votes, 15 more than last week, and gave them their highest ranking since they were No. 1 for two months last year.

Miami, which had an open date, slipped one spot to No. 3 and was followed by Mississippi and idle Oklahoma.

See **BUCKEYES**, Page B2



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Wheeling Central defends boys Class 1A/3A soccer title

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Staff Writer

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However, the top-seeded Maroon Knights (10-2) had an easier time this year as they continued their fine season with a dominating, 5-0, triumph over No. 2 Steuben-

ville Catholic (7-4) Saturday afternoon on the sun-filled, but breezy artificial pitch inside Red Devil Stadium. They prevailed in a penalty kick shootout last fall.

"It was a little bit easier, but it was just as hard if you know what I mean," Wheeling Central head coach Brian Komorowski said. "They (Steubenville Catholic) played hard. We haven't been giving up many scoring opportunities, but today they had a couple where we had to defend."

The Maroon Knights Once we got the 2-0 lead it

scored on their second shot of the game as Maddox Ochap leaped high above the crowd to head in a corner kick by Mason Smith. Moments later, Smith was awarded a penalty kick. When the Crusaders goalkeeper broke to his left, Smith pounded the ball right down the middle of the crease to make it 2-0 in the 36th minute.

"Scoring early was one of our goals," Komorowski added. "Our next objective was to get a second goal and we were able to accomplish that. Once we got the 2-0 lead it

made it that much more difficult for them because they've had some trouble possessing the ball."

Luke Magruder would tickle the twine twice in the second 40 minutes as the margin grew to 4-0. Ochap capped the scorefest with a blast from the box.

With the game well in hand, Komorowski sent Cade Taylor between the posts to relieve Tino Sperlazza who was credited with just one save.

See CENTRAL, Page B2

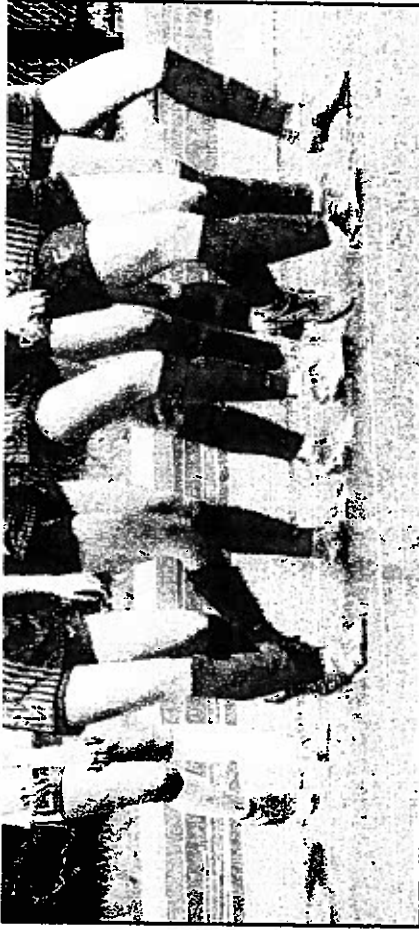


Photo by NICK HENTHORN
THE WHEELING Central Maroon Knights, pictured after a Rylee Wright goal Saturday during their OVAC 1A-3A girls soccer championship game against Steubenville Catholic inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

Wheeling Central got great looks off "We knew what they were going to do. They did exactly what they should have bought. They wanted to take a more defensive stance. They were going to park the bus. They were going to play more physical to prevent us from getting on the scoreboard. I give them a tremendous amount of credit. These first 40 minutes, they held us to 3-0.

"We executed the game the way that we planned to execute it," Winters said.

See KNIGHTS, Page B2

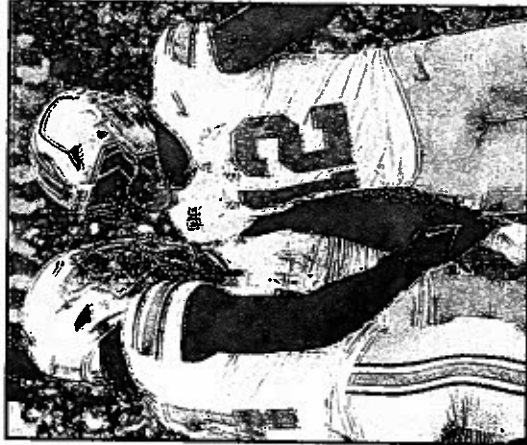
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See BUCKEYES, Page B2



AP Photo
OHIO STATE wide receiver Jeremiah Smith (4) celebrates with running back CJ Donaldson (12) after scoring on a pass run play against the Washington during the first half of an NCAA college football game, Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, in Seattle.

• St. Clairsville

Continued from Page B1

St. Clairsville, who have been without multiple starters for the whole season or parts of the season, went into the game at less than full-strength, but Stoner was happy with the fight his team has shown this season.

"We've played great so far," Stoner "I mean, especially the last couple games without those three [Kendall Sall, Ashlynn Lednik and Ava Borkoski], they played well. They did well

• Knights

Continued from Page B1

"I give them all the credit in the world to coach Hoover seeing them here again for the second year in a row. But our girls came out ready. They came out prepared. They knew how they needed to play. They knew what they needed to do. They accomplished that. They can call themselves back-to-back champions."

Between their two corner kick goals, Gianna Konkle put through a score on a free kick following a hand ball violation inside the penalty box.

One more score from Elah Konkle in the 60th minute brought the score to 7-0.

Despite one team having to take a

today too, we were just on the wrong side of several really good shots and a couple breakdowns defensively."

Keeper Kiya Kyer had an even 10 saves for the Red Devils.

St. Clairsville was looking for back-to-back OVAC Championships after defeating Weir in the 4A title game last year, but will have to settle for second this time around. The Red Devils get back into the regular season swing on Monday at John Glenn.

loss, both squads are happy with where their teams are with the home stretch of the regular season coming down the pipeline.

"They've been playing well- the team has taken a couple of losses, some ties, but we've always bounced back," Hoover said. "This was a tough match-up, they're a good team, but I'm happy with how our team is performing."

"Our team is just fantastic," Winters said. "They've been amazing all year long. You know, this was one of our goals that we had for this year. This being the first goal, the second goal was making it to states. So we're a little more than halfway through the season. The girls accomplished what we had set out to do since June."

rowski said of his defense. "It took a total team effort. It all starts with Tino and he played great again today, but in front of him is Carter Oliver who cleans up all the messes. They've both got another year, so that's a good thing."

Staubenville Catholic head coach Steve Kopcha had nothing but praise for the Maroon Knights.

"They got off to a good start and kept putting pressure on us the entire game. We weren't able to really get into our game. They deserve a lot of credit for the way they played."

He said the penalty kick denial was just the way the day went.

"That was typical of the day. We were just a little off today and didn't have enough to challenge today."

• Central

Continued from Page B1

However, Taylor was immediately put to the test to keep the shutout intact. Staubenville Catholic's Santiago Descalzo was awarded a penalty kick in the waning minutes, but Taylor was a stone wall, blocking the shot with his chest before diving to smother the loose ball.

"Cade is the ultimate trooper," Komorowski stressed. "He started playing (soccer) last year and decided he wanted to be a goalie. He has put everything he has into it. He could be a starting keeper for a lot of teams. He just has Tino in front of him."

"Our back six were all phenomenal. They all played great today," Kom-

• Buckeyes

Continued from Page B1

The No. 4 Rebels got a nine-rung promotion for beating LSU and have their highest ranking since they were No. 3 in late September 2015. LSU fell to No. 13, swapping places with Mississippi.

Texas A&M, Penn State, Indiana, Texas and Alabama round out the

son.

Florida State's loss at Virginia was the latest development in an up-and-down season for the Seminoles. They went from unranked to No. 14 for beating 'Bama, were in the top 10 for three weeks and plunged 10 spots to No. 18 this week.

In and out

Week 1, but three of the four top-10 teams had to lose that week because there were three top-10 matchups.

— Mississippi's nine-spot rise into the top five was the biggest by any team since the Rebels jumped 12 spots to No. 3 for beating Alabama in 2015.

Wellsville at David Anderson	83	79	512	14
Canton CC at Edison	78	84	481	19
Indian Creek at Harrison Central	71	91	438	26
Tyler Consolidated at Magnolia				
Buckeye Local at Martins Ferry				
Shenandoah at Monroe Central				
Staubenville Catholic at Oak Glen				
River at Shadyside				
Leetonia at Southern Local				
Tuslaw at Toronto				
East Palestine at United Local				
John Marshall at Warren Local				
Youngstown East at Beaver Local				
Keyser at Weir				
Caldwell at Rosecrans				
Valley at Bridgeport				
Greenbrier West at Fort Frye				
COLLEGE				
WVU at BYU, 10:30 p.m.				
Saturday, Oct. 4				
PREP				
Columbiana at Valley Christian				
St. Clairsville at Bellaire, 12:30 p.m.				
COLLEGE				
Minnesota at Ohio State, TBD				
West Virginia State at West Liberty, 1 p.m.				
Bethany at Westminster, 1 p.m.				
W.Va. Wesleyan at Wheeling, 3:30 p.m.				

W L Pct GB	
x-Los Ang.	93 69 .574 —
x-San Diego	90 72 .556 3
San Fran.	81 81 .500 12
Arizona	80 82 .494 13
Colorado	43 119.265 50
x-clinched division	
x-clinched wild card	

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Saturday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 6, Baltimore 1
Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 1
Detroit 2, Boston 1
Washington 6, Chicago Wb Sox 5
Minnesota 5, Philadelphia 3
Cleveland 3, Texas 2
Houston 6, L.A. Angels 1
L.A. Dodgers 5, Seattle 3
Kansas City 4, Athletics 2

Sunday's Games

Chicago WS 8, Washington 4
Boston 4, Detroit 3
Philly 2, Minnesota 1, 10 in
N.Y. Yankees 3, Baltimore 2
Kansas City 9, Athletics 2
Houston 6, L.A. Angels 2
L.A. Dodgers 6, Seattle 1
Toronto 13, Tampa Bay 4
Cleveland 9, Texas 8, 10 in

SPORTS ON TV

Monday, Sept. 29
COLLEGE SOCCER (MEN'S)

6 p.m.
BTN — UCLA at Ohio St.

8 p.m.
BTN — Washington at Northwestern

7 p.m.
MLB BASEBALL

2025 All-MLB Team Nominees

7:15 p.m.
NFL FOOTBALL

ESPN — N.Y. Jets at Miami

8:15 p.m.
ABC — Cincinnati at Denver

7 p.m.
NHL HOCKEY

NHLN — Preseason: N.Y. Rangers at N.Y. Islanders

10 p.m.
NHLN — Preseason: Calgary at Seattle

3 p.m.
SOCCER (MEN'S)

USA — English Premier League: West Ham United at Everton

3:45 p.m.
FS2 — 2025 FIFA U-20 World Cup Group Stage: France vs. South Africa, Group E, Rancagua, Chile

6:45 p.m.
FS2 — 2025 FIFA U-20 World Cup Group Stage: Colombia vs. Saudi Arabia, Group F, Talca, Maule, Chile

6:55 p.m.
FS1 — 2025 FIFA U-20 World Cup Group Stage: U.S. vs. New Caledonia, Group E, Rancagua, Chile

8 a.m.
TENNIS

TENNIS — Tokyo-ATP Semifinals; Beijing-ATP Quarterfinals, WTA 3rd Round

11 p.m.
TENNIS — Beijing-WTA Round of 16

1:30 a.m. (Tuesday)
TENNIS — Beijing-ATP Semifinal 1; Beijing-WTA Round of 16

5 a.m. (Tuesday)
TENNIS — Tokyo-ATP Final; Beijing-WTA Round of 16

ML

American League

BOSTON RED SOX — lected the major league tract of RHP Jose De Leon f Worcester (IL). Optioned Chris Murphy to Worcester SEATTLE MARINERS Recalled INF/OF Miles Ma buoni from Tacoma (PCL).

National League

LOS ANGELES DO ERS — Recalled RHP Lan Knack from Oklahoma (PCL). Optioned LHP Anc

AP Top 25 Po

The Top 25 teams in Associated Press coll football poll, with first-p votes in parentheses, rec through Sep. 27, total po based on 25 points for a f place vote through one p for a 25th-place vote, and vious ranking:

	Rec	Pts
1. Ohio St. (46)	4-0	1626
2. Oregon (16)	5-0	1599
3. Miami (FL) (4)	4-0	1529
4. Mississippi	5-0	1354
5. Oklahoma	4-0	1313
6. Texas A&M	4-0	1308
7. Penn St.	3-1	1179
8. Indiana	5-0	1156
9. Texas	3-1	1071
10. Alabama	3-1	1057
11. Texas Tech	4-0	967
12. Georgia	3-1	965
13. LSU	4-1	838
14. Iowa St.	5-0	830
15. Tennessee	4-1	697
16. Vanderbilt	5-0	640
17. Ga. Tech	5-0	549
18. Florida St.	3-1	535
19. Missouri	5-0	528
20. Michigan	3-1	422
21. Notre Dame	2-2	333
22. Illinois	4-1	271
23. BYU	4-0	191
24. Virginia	4-1	125
25. Arizona St.	4-1	107

Others receiving vo South Florida 53, Utah Mississippi St. 46, Mem



Photo by Kim North

Members of the Wheeling Central boys' soccer team celebrate their OVAC Class 1A/3A championship Saturday following a 5-0 shutout of Steubenville Catholic at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville.

Central Boys Defend Title

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

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Please see DEFEND, Page 22

Park Girls' Under Season Marche



Wheeling Park's Maggie Miller gathers the ball near midfield on Saturday girls soccer championship match against University inside Wheeling Island

Patriots Shut Out University 4-0 In 5

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — The Wheeling Park Patriots have been dominant during their girls soccer season, compiling an unbeaten record going into their OVAC 5A championship game vs. University. When the dust settled on the two teams' title bout, it was more of the same from the Patriots.

Wheeling Park delivered their school an OVAC title on Saturday inside Wheeling Island Stadium with a 4-0 victory over the rival Hawks. The Patriots received two goals from all-stater

Julia Dunaway, and one apiece from Corin McFarland and Aria Swartz.

"We played well today," Wheeling Park head coach Tom Smith said. "We could have used a little more motion. We were kind of flat at times, but we straightened it out — and University is a good team, they're well coached. I think we have a little bit more experienced players today and that kind of showed in the result."

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Patriots Win Fifth Straight Boys' Title



Central Girls Repeat As Champions



Park Girls' Undeateated Season Marches On



Photo by Kim North
Central boys' soccer
class 1A/3A champion-
10 shutout of Steuben-
adium in St. Clairsville.

Boys Title

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ID, Page 22



Photo by Nick Henthorn
Wheeling Park's Maggie Miller gathers the ball near midfield on Saturday during the Patriots' OVAC 5A girls soccer championship match against University inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

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Wheeling Park lost in the OVAC championship game last year, falling to Parkersburg South, but were able to claim the

title this year. For University, a young team with seven starters who are either freshmen or sophomores, the conference tournament has proven a good experience, even if the Hawks did not capture the gold.

"Wheeling Park is a very, very good team and a very deserving champion," University head coach Alan Peace said. "The summary of the game is, they were a better team than us on the day and they deserved to win. We're thrilled that we got to the final."

Please see MARCHES, Page 22

in



Central Girls



Patriots Win Fifth Straight Boys' Title

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE -- There's no truth to the rumor that the OVAC Class 5A boys' soccer championship is being re-named the Wheeling Park Invitational. However, when looking over the past decade's results, one would beg to differ.

For the fifth consecutive season and the ninth time in the last 10 years, the top-seeded Patriots (9-3) have claimed the top hardware, doing so Saturday afternoon at sun-baked Red Devil Stadium with a 2-0 blanking of No. 2 Steubenville.

The hard-fought victory marked the second time Wheeling Park has shut-out Big Red (7-4-1) this season. The first time was 5-0.

"Steubenville played really well today. Their defense took us out of our game plan. We usually get good scoring opportunities but their defense



Photo by Kim North
Wheeling Park's Ike Aderholt (12) controls the ball as Steubenville's Kingsten Kaufman (21) pursues during Saturday afternoon's OVAC Class 5A Boys Soccer Championship at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville.

played us tough," Wheeling Park head coach Mario Julian said.

Please see FIFTH, Page 22

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Please see REPEAT, Page 22



Photo by Nick Henthorn
Wheeling Central's Gianna Konkle strikes a header Saturday during the Maroon Knights' OVAC 1A-3A girls soccer championship game against Steubenville Catholic inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

Aaron Go Bragh: Rodgers, Steelers Hold Off Vikings For Win In Ireland

By KEN MAGUIRE
AP Sports Writer

DUBLIN -- Even though he's relatively new to the Pittsburgh Steelers, Aaron Rodgers fully understands the Rooney family's connections to the Emerald Isle.

"They didn't want to disappoint Sunday against the Minnesota Vikings in Ireland's first regular-season NFL game.

much affection they have for this area," Rodgers said.

The Steelers' victory gave quarterback Rodgers his first international win and capped a Rooney family homecoming in front of a decidedly pro-Steelers crowd of 74,512.

Rodgers was 18 for 22 for 200 yards and the touchdown to Metcalf, who had five catches for 126 yards.

ceptions for the Vikings (2-2). T.J. Watt's interception of

Wentz's pass -- tipped by Cam Heyward at the line of scrimmage -- set up the Steelers on the Minnesota 35 in the third quarter, and Gainwell scored from 4 yards for a 21-6 lead. It was nearly identical to Gainwell's 1-yard touchdown run in the first quarter.

DeShon Elliott had the other



St. Clairsville Seniors Finally Able To Claim 4A Gold In Boys' Soccer

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Oh, home sweet home.

Playing on the familiar artificial pitch inside Red Devil Stadium, St. Clairsville showed why it was the No. 1 seed in the OVAC Class 4A boys' soccer tournament.

Saturday morning the Red Devils (9-1-1) captured their fifth conference championship in program history with a 3-0 victory over second-seeded Beaver Local. They had blanked the Beavers (9-3) by a 1-0 count earlier in the season in Lisbon.

The championship was the first since St. Clairsville went back-to-back in 2019 and 2020. They lost to Weir in the 2021 finals.

"It was a great match," St. Clairsville head coach Jeff Roberts said. "We came out firing from the start and we kept the pressure on. Our set-pieces looked pretty good today and Lucas Causey had two assists and Parker Galloway got two goals."

Trevor Tuttle and Parker Galloway scored first-half goals on back-to-back shots to give St. Clairsville a lead it would never relinquish. Tuttle scored on a tap-in in the 30th minute and the high-scoring Galloway found the net four minutes later.

"He doesn't score much but he's been going up for us and he's been able to get his head on the ball," Roberts recalled. "That was a big goal for us."

Galloway, who also doubles as the Red Devils' placekicker in football, upped the count to 3-0 in the 60th minute. Breaking in all alone on the left wing, he nudged the ball forward with his right toe just before a charging Beaver Local goalkeeper Cole Long could get to it. The ball slowly trickled across the goal line.

St. Clairsville senior goalkeep-



Photo by Kim North

St. Clairsville's Parker Galloway (3) is congratulated by teammates Lucas Causey (0) and Mavrik Malin (6) after scoring his second goal Saturday in a 3-0 victory over Beaver Local in the OVAC Class 5A Boys Soccer Championship match. Brennan Rice is pictured behind Galloway.

er Talan Rice earned the shutout by denying all five shots he faced, including just one in the second half. It was his fourth consecutive shutout and eighth this season.

"Another clean sheet for Talan," Roberts said. "I think we limited them to the amount of shots they had."

The whitewashing was the fourth in a row for the lanky Rice,

who charted six saves, but only two after the intermission.

"It feels great," Rice said of finally being able to hold the championship trophy. "We lost in the semifinals three previous times, and twice to Beaver Local, so to be able to beat them for this title makes it even sweeter. This is what we've been working for for the last four years."

Rodriguez 'Embarrass' WVU In L

By SPENCER
RIPCHIK

For The Intelligence
MORGANTOWN —

West Virginia needs a bounce-back after a loss on the road to Kansas and did nothing of the sort against Utah.

The Mountaineers were dominated 48-14 after other poor offensive performance, falling to below .500 for the first time this season at 2-3. WVU is now 0-2 in the Big 12 and has lost its last two. Utah is back in the win column at 4-1 and 1-1 in conference.

The offense looked lost again, like it did against Kansas. The defense showed promising flashes this season, but it eventually looked bad. It was bad in all areas, and there was much positive to take away.

"It's disappointing," Rich Rodriguez said. "It's embarrassing how we failed to execute. We didn't really have anything that was really good."

After struggling against Texas Tech, Utah's offense bounced back in time and pieced together a WVU defensive coordinator Zac Alley's defense. New Utah offensive coordinator Jason Beck led a perfect start. The first drive, Utah marched 7 yards on 12 plays for 7-yard J.J. Buchanan, Utah.

The next Utah drive was similar. Utah won 65 yards on 11 plays, ended with quarterback Devon Dampier scoring on a 7-yard keeper. Quickly, it was 14-0.

Then, again, Utah drove right down the field. At a quarter and a couple minutes, Dampier threw his second touchdown pass, 32 yards. 21-0 Utah with not much resistance.

The defense finally got a stop, intercepting Dampier, but that was only a stop in the first

St. Clairsville Girls Fall To Beaver Local In OVAC 4A Championship Match, 4-0

By NICK HENTHORN
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St. Clairsville Girls Fall To Beaver Local In OVAC 4A Championship Match, 4-0

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — The St. Clairsville Red Devils put together a strong pair of performances in getting to the OVAC 4A girls soccer championship on Saturday inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

They beat Linsly in the quarterfinals in a rematch of a regular season game which the Red Devils had lost, and then going on the road to defeat Cambridge, who was seeded higher than St. C. going into their conference semifinals game.

However, St. Clairsville could not complete their odyssey on Saturday, falling 4-0 to Beaver Local and ending tournament play as OVAC runners-up.

"They got talented kids that scored on us obviously," St. Clairsville head coach Wes Stoner said. "I mean, we played pretty well. First 10 or 15 minutes I thought we did excellent. We missed a lot of chances, unfortunately, with a couple breakaways. That could have made it at least a little bit closer. But, just some breakdowns on defense. It happens. We had breakdowns and they capitalized on most of them."

Beaver Local's Jansen Ours found a shot in-close through a dense crowd in the 19th minutes to break open the day's scoring.

Peyton Dunn put through another goal for the Beavers in the 26th minute to send St. C. into the locker room down 2-0.

A very well-placed through ball



St. Clairsville's Isabella Cunningham winds up for a pass Saturday during the Red Devils OVAC 4A girls soccer championship match against Beaver Local inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

Photo by Nick Henthorn

by Leah Stewart allowed Dunn to get off another clean shot in the 47th minute for a Beaver goal, and Dunn made it a hat trick with a long-range snipe which snuck just under the crossbar in the 57th minute.

St. Clairsville, who have been without multiple starters for the whole season or parts of the season, went into the game at less than full-strength, but Stoner was happy with the fight his team has shown this season.

"We've played great so far," Stoner said. "I mean, especially the last couple games without those

three [Kendall Sall, Ashlynn Lednik and Ava Borkoski], they played well. They did well today too, we were just on the wrong side of several really good shots and a couple breakdowns defensively."

Keeper Kiya Kyer had an even 10 saves for the Red Devils.

St. Clairsville was looking for back-to-back OVAC Championships after defeating Weir in the 4A title game last year, but will have to settle for second this time around. The Red Devils get back into the regular season swing on Monday at John Glenn.

The next play was similar. Utah was 65 yards on 11 plays ended with quarterback Devon Dampier scoring on a 7-yard keeper. Quickly, it was 14-0.

Then, again, Utah drove right down the field. At a quarter and a couple minutes, Dampier threw his second touchdown 32 yards. 21-0 Utah with not much resistance.

The defense finally got a stop, intercepting Dampier, but that was only a stop in the first drive. The Utes scored two more, scoring a touchdown in five of their first six drives, making it 31-0 after the first drive out of the second half.

WVU's offense, again, didn't help. After the defense was on the field four-plus minutes, it had to run back out pretty quickly after the offense couldn't get anything.

The offense wasn't up for success, even for the game.

WVU has a lot of injuries. Just a couple of days before the game, WVU ruled out four-game starting quarterback Nick Marchiol because of a foot injury that he had looked at by a specialist in Colorado. Center Landon Livingston didn't play, and Pitt game star running back Tye Edwards also didn't play.

Linsly Falls Magnolia V Two Victories

NEW PHILADELPHIA — The football team took a loss falling to New Philadelphia.

The loss moves the Linsly stays on the road Barnesville, which last year season win streak started.

Braden Wade passed for a team-high 32 yards touchdown on one of 1 had 34 receiving yards. in receiving with 44 yards.

Matteo Lorini pulled Linsly.

VOL Magnolia Wins 1
WILLIAMSTOWN
downed two opponents sweeps. Magnolia defeated who hosted the tri 25-

Europe Withstands American Rally To Win The Ryder Cup

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Staked to the largest lead in history, Europe fully expected to win the Ryder Cup on Sunday. The surprise was how much emotion poured out of the team on a final day that produced a furious American charge and, ultimately, another Irish hero.

What looked to be only a matter of time before the European celebration

ry, who endured so much abuse from a hostile and vulgar New York crowd, had the last word. He holed a 6-foot birdie putt against Russell Henley to earn the half-point Europe needed to make sure it kept that 17-inch gold chalice.

He couldn't contain himself, pumping his fists and spinning around the green and squeezing every teammate he could find.

imagined did not take away from a reminder who dominates these matches. Europe has won 11 times in the last 14 Ryder Cups, and this was its fifth time winning on U.S. soil in the last 10 tries.

"They'll be talking about this team for a long time," Luke Donald said after joining Tony Jacklin (1985 and 1987) as the only European captains to

"Shoutout to the Americans," Donald said, his players draped in flags of their home countries. "We knew they'd be tough. I didn't think they would be this tough on Sunday. They fought so hard, and all the respect to them."

"This means a lot, obviously, to me and the team. We came here knowing that the task was going to be very difficult. Couldn't

DEFEND

(Continued from Page 13)

The Maroon Knights scored on their second shot of the game as Maddox Ochap leaped high above the crowd to head in a corner kick by Mason Smith.

Moments later, Smith was awarded a penalty kick. When the Crusaders goalkeeper broke to his left, Smith pounded the ball right down the middle of the crease to make it 2-0 in the 36th minute.

"Scoring early was one of our goals," Komorowski added. "Our next objective was to get a second goal and we were able to accomplish that. Once we got the 2-0 lead it made it that much more difficult for them because they've had some trouble possessing the ball."

Luke Magruder would tickle the twine twice in the second 40 minutes as the margin grew to 4-0. Ochap capped the scorefest with a

blast from the box.

With the game well in hand, Komorowski sent Cade Taylor between the posts to relieve Tino Sperlazza who was credited with just one save. However, Taylor was immediately put to the test to keep the shutout intact. Steubenville Catholic's Santiago Descalzo was awarded a penalty kick in the waning minutes, but Taylor was a stone wall, blocking the shot with his chest before diving to smother the loose ball.

"Cade is the ultimate trooper," Komorowski stressed. "He started playing (soccer) last year and decided he wanted to be a goalie. He has put everything he has into it. He could be a starting keeper for a lot of teams. He just has Tino in front of him."

"Our back six were all phenom-

enal. They all played great today," Komorowski said of his defense. "It took a total team effort. It all starts with Tino and he played great again today, but in front of him is Carter Oliver who cleans up all the messes. They've both got another year, so that's a good thing."

Steubenville Catholic head coach Steve Kopcha had nothing but praise for the Maroon Knights.

"They got off to a good start and kept putting pressure on us the entire game. We weren't able to really get into our game. They deserve a lot of credit for the way they played."

He said the penalty kick denial was just the way the day went.

"That was typical of the day. We were just a little off today and didn't have enough to challenge today."

FIFTH

(Continued from Page 13)

"We were able to a couple of bounces go our way there, but wasn't easy. It was very difficult."

Steubenville head coach Greg Bowers thought team played well.

"Their defense is really tough," he said. "A lot of time you have a lot of time with the ball at your feet. That's a credit to them. We did enough to give ourselves a shot. I'm proud of the kids."

If there's a silver lining for Big Red, their season isn't over.

"We'll use this as a learning lesson," Bowers added. "If we play like in the sectional and district, we'll be a tough opponent."

Aiden McCroskey's goal at Wheeling Park all goals it would need when he scored in the 17th minute off an assist from Aderholt. McCroskey's blast from the right wing sailed past a diving Lamantia and into the corner of the net.

"Aiden's not one of our leading scorers, but he's really good," Julian added. "He's starting to show in big games, though."

Steubenville had

REPEAT

(Continued from Page 13)

Wheeling Central quickly built their lead Saturday, receiving two goals from sparkplug Loni Kusic and one goal from Rylee Wright all within the first 18 minutes.

"I thought we tried something different to start, but we just made too many mistakes and gave them good shots early," Steubenville Catholic head coach Jonathan Hoover said. "We played hard, every one of my players did, we just weren't where we needed to be."

Wheeling Central got great looks off of set pieces, with two goals in the second half coming off of designed plays on corner kicks - one that yielded Elah Konkle a clean center-cut shot after some nifty weaving and passing, and another perfectly executed set piece play which resulted in a Seneca Heller header goal in the 59th minute.

"We executed the game the way that we planned to execute it,"

Winters said. "We knew what they were going to do. They did exactly what they should have bought. They wanted to take a more defensive stance. They were going to park the bus. They were going to play more physical to prevent us from getting on the scoreboard. I give them a tremendous amount of credit. These first 40 minutes, they held us to 3-0."

"I give them all the credit in the world to coach Hoover seeing them here again for the second year in a row. But our girls came out ready. They came out prepared. They knew how they needed to play. They knew what they needed to do. They accomplished that. They can call themselves back-to-back champions."

Between their two corner kick goals, Gianna Konkle put through a score on a free kick following a hand ball violation inside the penalty box.

One more score from Elah Konkle in the 60th minute brought the score to 7-0.

Despite one team having to take a loss, both squads are happy with where their teams are with the home stretch of the regular season coming down the pipeline.

"They've been playing well - the team has taken a couple of losses, some ties, but we've always bounced back," Hoover said. "This was a tough matchup, they're a good team, but I'm happy with how our team is performing."

"Our team is just fantastic," Winters said. "They've been amazing all year long. You know, this was one of our goals that we had for this year. This being the first goal, the second goal was making it to states. So we're a little more than halfway through the season. The girls accomplished what we had set out to do since June."

STEELERS

(Continued from Page 13)

"There was always someone in his face, and he was uncomfortable."

Rodgers found Metcalf on a crossing route and the wide receiver zoomed by safety Theo Jackson and into the end zone for a 14-3 lead early in the second quarter.

Minnesota's Isaiah Rodgers blocked Chris Boswell's 30-yard field goal attempt with 1:42 left

touchdown pass. The 2-point conversion made the score 24-14 midway through the fourth quarter.

Pittsburgh then drove and went for it on fourth-and-goal from the 3 from the Gainwell was stopped short, leaving the Vikings with the ball on their 1-yard line with just over four minutes remaining.

Wentz hit a wide open Jordan

to overcome either our own execution or the injuries or whatever," Minnesota coach Kevin O'Connell said.

ROONEY LEGACY

Tomlin addressed the team Saturday to remind them of the late Steelers chairman Daniel M. Rooney's love of Ireland. He was the U.S. ambassador to Ireland

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"We're a very young team and this will be good for us in our development. Wheeling I showed today they're a candidate to win the championship and the a great team."

"We've got a lot of freshmen starting, four sophomores. We really didn't know what to expect from our team. It started off a little rough as you would expect of a young team, but they've been growing together as a group as the season goes on. Got some wins which gave us some confidence and we were just thrilled to be here."

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"Aiden's not one of our leading scorers, but he is really good," Julian added. "He's starting to score in big games, though."

Steubenville had a

golden opportunity to draw even in the 55th minute, but Landon Bowers' penalty from 12 yards out sailed wide right.

"That was pretty nerve-racking," Wheeling Park senior goalkeeper Cooper Abraham said. "I'm just glad it worked out the way it did."

Lamantia faced eight shots, recording four saves.

Six minutes later, Wilson Hanna lasered a penalty kick of his own into the back of the net to the right of Lamantia.

"It was nice to see Wilson get that goal to put us up 2-0," Julian noted. "It didn't make for an easy finish, but we were able to relax a little more and enjoy the last 5-6 minutes of the match."

Steubenville finished with six shots on goal and Abraham was up to the task on each attempt, recording a pair of saves.

Julian was very happy for his seniors who have been OVAC champions every year of their career.

"I can't say enough about our seniors. They are really competitive," he praised. "They are really good players."

MARCHES

(Continued from Page 13)

"We're a very young team and this will be good for us in our development. Wheeling Park showed today they're a candidate to win the state championship and they're a great team."

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Wheeling Park had nine shots on goal Saturday; University had two. Hawks keeper Caitlyn Stout finished with five saves on the day.

McFarland got the scoring started by cleaning up a deflection in the sixth minute. McFarland has been a key piece of Park's attack this year.

"[McFarland] is starting to make some runs up top," Smith said of the

junior "More importantly, she kind of cleans up the mess that's in front of the box as far as following up shots, she's trying to be a playmaker up there also as a point man, just getting the ball over her foot quickly and then dropping it back when the opportunities aren't there."

Duanway showed off her speed in a breakaway opportunity which she converted in the 17th minute to make it 2-0 Patriots.

Swartz scored off of another deflection in the 21st minute- both her and McFarland's scores came off of deflected shots from Dunaway- and Dunaway punctuated the game with a second-half goal in the 62nd minute.

Though they celebrated with the trophy Saturday, Smith said his team is deadset on never settling.

"Every game is a learning process," Smith said. "We have to get better formationally. The girls know that. ... Every game we're striving to get to that stage, and we want to go into whatever's next with the best opportunity to win every game."

in his touchdown pass. The 2-point conversion made the score 24-14 midway through the fourth quarter.

Pittsburgh then drove and went for it on fourth-and-goal from the 3 from the Gainwell was stopped short, leaving the Vikings with the ball on their 1-yard line with just over four minutes remaining.

Wentz hit a wide-open Jordan Addison for an 81-yard reception before he was tackled at the 1, setting up Jalen Nailor's 2-yard touchdown reception on fourth down.

The comeback came up short when Wentz threw an incomplete pass on fourth-and-17 from the Vikings 32, and the Steelers ran out the clock.

Justin Jefferson had 10 catches for 126 yards and Addison had four catches for 114 yards in his first game of the season after a three-game suspension.

The Vikings were 4 of 14 on third down.

"We just didn't do enough things

to overcome either our own execution or the injuries or whatever," Minnesota coach Kevin O'Connell said.

ROONEY LEGACY

Tomlin addressed the team Saturday to remind them of the late Steelers chairman Daniel M. Rooney's love of Ireland. He was the U.S. ambassador to Ireland from 2009-12.

"I know he's smiling at us today," Tomlin said. "I've been thinking about him a lot on a personal level."

LUCK OF THE IRISH?

Late in the first half, the 41-year-old Rodgers scrambled on third down from the Minnesota 31, then fumbled when he was tackled, but the ball bounced to Broderick Jones and the lineman took it 4 yards to the 15. The quarterback said this week that he has some Irish heritage. But the drive ended with no points because of the blocked field goal.

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	SHRIVERS W 40 FT LT 9	817.37	WALTON TOMOTHY RAY &	CALD DIV 38-39	78.42
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will make their first visit to the field on Saturday. Coach, who has yet to lose a game for the challenge. "the game," Fisch said. "We have a fantastic opponent in the country." which has yet to play a game. Ohio State (3-0) already has a 1 victory over them.

Donah Coleman leads the defense, and quarterback Dean an efficient dual-threat. Jermaine Mathews Jr. and others could be anything unfamiliar. "You come here, to play at some of the best players," said. "But I tell y'all, I'm in the country every day,

Page 12

months since their 45-37 loss to the Ducks in the conference title game. They're retooling their wide receiving corps and reimagining their defense. Their goal? Keep pace with the high-flying team currently riding the longest regular-season winning streak in college football.

"We didn't have enough tools in our tool belt," Franklin said. "Sometimes they were able to get matchups that were in their favor. If we're not able to solve that issue with a sack or pressure, then we had some challenges."

Fresh off a bye week,



AP Photo
Penn State wide receiver Trebor Pena (8) runs after catching a pass during the second half of a game against Villanova, Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025, in State College, Pa.

the Nittany Lions haven't been tested yet this season.

They've piled up points against non-conference opponents,

working in transfer wideouts Trebor Pena, Kyron Hudson and Devonte Ross.

They've also deployed a new defense coordinat-

ed by Jim Knowles, who helped lead Ohio State to the NCAA championship last season.

Please see REMATCH, Page 12



Out Parkersburg To Familiar Championship Game

to play in the championship of the OVAC," Wheeling Park head coach Mario Julian said. "It's a big moment in the year for them. These seniors have had some success in the OVAC, and in the championship game. In their last year, they wanted the opportunity to win another one. Now they're getting that chance, and we'll see how it goes."

Wheeling Park, the top seed in 5A, will face No. 2 Steubenville, who defeated No. 3 John Marshall on Thursday night.

ace

Please see HEAD, Page 12

Criniti's OT Goal Propels Wheeling Central To OVAC 1A/3A Finals

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

EAST WHEELING - Eighty minutes wasn't enough to decide Thursday night's OVAC Class 1A/3A boys' soccer tournament semifinal between No. 1 Wheeling Central and No. 4 Wood County Christian on the artificial pitch at the 16th Street Field.

The first 5-minute extra session nearly wasn't enough, either. However, there was enough time on the clock for Matt Criniti's golden-goal late in the 84th minute that lifted the Maroon Knights (9-2) to a thrill-packed, 1-0, triumph over the Wildcats (9-4).

"I honestly didn't think it was going to go in at first," the senior admitted. "It was a long shot. I was probably a good 30 yards out. I'm thankful enough that I placed it just right to get it by the keeper."

The hard-earned victory earns Wheeling Central a chance at repeating against No. 2 Steubenville Catholic (7-4), which blanked No. 3 Trinity Christian, 2-0, Thursday night in the other semifinal. The Maroon Knights defeated the Crusaders, 2-1,



Photo by Kim North
Wheeling Central's Luke Magruder (11) jostles with Wood County Christian's Holden Misel (14) for possession of the ball early in the first half of the OVAC Class 1A/3A tournament semifinal on the 16th Street Field in East Wheeling. The Maroon Knights outlasted the Wildcats, 1-0, in overtime.

a year ago in penalty kicks for their first-ever championship.

"Saturday is going to be a huge game ... a rematch from last year," Criniti said. "Hopefully, we don't take it to penalty kicks like we did

last year."

Criniti is no stranger to pressure situations as he is a relief pitcher for the W.Va. Class AA state baseball champions..

Please see GOAL, Page 12

to Washington in nearly two decades on Saturday.

Washington coach Jedd Fisch, who has yet to lose at home in his brief tenure, is eager for the challenge.

"We're really excited about the game," Fisch said this week. "We know we have a fantastic opponent coming in. No. 1 team in the country."

Unlike Washington (3-0), which has yet to play a Power Four team this season, Ohio State (3-0) already has a defining win from a Week 1 victory over then-No. 1 Texas.

Washington running back Jonah Coleman leads the nation with nine rushing TDs, and quarterback Demond Williams Jr. has been an efficient dual-threat option. Ohio State cornerback Jermaine Mathews Jr. recognizes that Coleman, Williams and others could pose challenges - but it won't be anything unfamiliar.

"I always say this is why you come here, to play these types of games, go against some of the best players in the country," Mathews said. "But I tell y'all, I play against the best players in the country every day, so I'm not worried."

Please see TOWN, Page 12

37 loss to the Ducks in the conference title game retooling their wide receiving corps and reimagining their defense. Their goal? Keep pace with the high-flying team currently riding the longest regular-season winning streak in college football.

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Penn State wide receiver Trebor Pena (8) runs after second half of a game against Villanova, Saturday, College, Pa.

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wideouts Trebor Pena, Kyron Hudson and Devonte Ross. They've also deployed a new defense coordinat

Pictured from left is Parkersburg South's Aidan Garrett, Wheeling Park's Aidan McCroskey, and Parkersburg South's Ashton Garrett, during a OVAC 5A semifinals match Thursday inside Wheeling Island Stadium.



Photo by Nick Henthorn

Patriots Blow Out Parkersburg South, Head To Familiar OVAC Championship Game

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING — The Wheeling Park Patriots have won the last four OVAC 5A boys soccer championships, and after Thursday, they'll have a chance for a five-peat.

The Patriots mercy-ruled Parkersburg South, 10-0, inside Wheeling Island Stadium in their OVAC 5A semifinals contest as Wheeling Park punched their ticket to Saturday's conference championships, which this year will take place at St. Clairsville High School.

"Kids always want a chance

to play in the championship of the OVAC," Wheeling Park head coach Mario Julian said. "It's a big moment in the year for them. These seniors have had some success in the OVAC, and in the championship game. In their last year, they wanted the opportunity to win another one. Now they're getting that chance, and we'll see how it goes."

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Wheeling Central's Luke Magrui scores a goal during the match against Wood County Christian's Holden Misenbarger in the first half of the semifinal on the 16th Street Field.

a year ago in penalty kicks for their first-ever championship.

"Saturday is going to be a huge game ... a rematch from last year," Criniti said. "Hopefully, we don't take it to penalty kicks like we did

touchdown passes.

"They challenge you formationally with all the different things that they do," Knowles said. "A lot of times against these teams that do so much, if you're not in the right place, you don't have a chance."

QUIETING THE CROWD

Knowles' defense has a unique edge in this game. The Whiteout.

The Nittany Lions will have more than 100,000 fans clad all in white, contrasting against an inky black sky, bellowing collectively at nearly 120 decibels every time the Ducks have the ball.

It is Lanning's intent to shut them up quickly. So far, Oregon has scored touchdowns on all but

heading into Saturday's game.

Allar, who's yielded the quarterback spot to backup Ethan Grunkemeyer every weekend as games have gotten more lopsided, completed 20 of 39 passes for 226 yards and three touchdowns and ran five times for 54 yards and another score. He also threw two interceptions.

He's grown more comfortable as he, Hudson, Ross and Pena have developed chemistry. Tight end Luke Reynolds has also proven himself to be a sturdy target in an offense that has moved quickly at times.

The Nittany Lions will likely look to keep Oregon's defense on its heels with tempo. Penn

freshmen corners Brandon Finney Jr. and Ify Obidegwu.

They haven't allowed a touchdown pass and are permitting just 120 yards per game to opposing offenses.

Although Penn State has just 10 passing plays of 20 yards or more, Lanning is wary of Allar's arm and the speed on the outside. Hudson, Pena and Ross have all caught a touchdown and are all averaging more than 11 yards per catch. All three are physical players who could push Oregon's new corners.

"Experience develops confidence and confidence is going to lead to good execution and the ability to take risks at times when it's needed,"

That could be tougher against Oregon.

The Ducks' replaced three starters in the off-season, but so far transfer tackles Isaiah World and Alex Harkey and guard Emmanuel Pregon have been nearly perfect. Flanking center Iapani Laloulou, who allowed no sacks and just 10 pressures on a team high 970 plays last season, Oregon has allowed just one sack through four games this year.

"They're a great team," Dennis-Sutton said. "(Dante Moore's) been doing a great job of running and stepping up in the pocket as well. So we have to be a disciplined D-line in our rush lanes and not let him use his legs as much as he can."

TOUGH IN

The Huskies' run defense in the nation in 2025, yards per game (62.7). They stop three different Ohio players, CJ Donaldson. have each rushed for at

Fifth-year Washington confident his squad has ' Buckeyes' run game and

"I just want respect," said. "I think that's what to be recognized that ' Hopefully, there's a lot of people will start to realize

BIG DAY

Jeremiah Smith has tied in games and tied a career two weeks ago against (

Smith could extend Washington secondary cornerback Tacario Davis. "I mean, they run a lot, gotta be prepared when

ROA

Ohio State is 23-3 in with more than one week since Day became head

GOAL

(Continued from Page 11)

"It feels good to have that one moment of glory," Criniti said of the game-winner. "I've been in some big situations before, and that right there was another one of them."

Wheeling Central dominated possession of the ball all match long, but just couldn't find its shooting touch due to a tenacious defense from the Wildcats.

"When a team parks the bus, they pretty much have seven defenders in the box. It's tough to penetrate. It really is," Wheeling Central head coach Brian Komorowski said. "Our combinations weren't working and their goalkeeper was phenomenal. He was able to come out and gobble up Everything."

Wood County Christian's Andrew Seigneur was fabulous between the pipes, keeping his team in the match with some highlight reel denials. He finished with 15 saves.

Meanwhile, Wheeling Central's Tino Sperlazza

was only tested a couple of times, but stood tall in the net.

"Tino didn't have a lot of shots on him tonight, but he played well," Komorowski added. "The entire team played well. We just couldn't get into the finishing part of it. It's that final third where we had a problem tonight. They (Wood County) had a good game plan and executed it."

The match between the Maroon Knights and Crusaders will wrap things up Saturday at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville at 2 p.m. The Class 4A tilt between No. 1 St. Clairsville and No. 2 Beaver Local begins the day at 10 a.m., with No. 1 Wheeling Park and No. 2 Steubenville battling for the Class 5A crown at noon.

STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC 2, TRINITY CHRISTIAN 0

STEUBENVILLE - The Catholic Central boys' soccer team won the one that mattered the most.

Trinity Christian shut out Catholic Central in the two team's first meeting on the pitch, however, Santi Descalzo tallied a goal in each half to lift the No. 3 seed Crusaders to a 2-0 victory against the third-seeded Warriors in an OVAC Class 1A-3A Semifinal Thursday evening on the Tony Recinella Soccer Field.

Descalzo delivered his first goal of the match midway through the first half. The senior standout then collected an insurance goal with about six minutes to give the Blue and Gold some much needed breathing room.

Connor Long and Brendan Kuebler assisted on the goals.

Joe Vranish made eight saves in goal en route to the shutout.

Trinity's goalie made nine saves, and a defender saved a goal by kicking the ball out from in front of the goal in the second half.

The Warriors defeated the Crusaders, 1-0, Aug. 26 on the road.

HEAD

(Continued from Page 11)

Seven Patriots scored on Thursday, with one Wheeling Park goal going down as an own goal by Parkersburg South, seeded fourth in 5A.

Ike Aderholt started the scoring in the fifth minute, as Wheeling Park dominated possession right from the onset. Dani Brazal Morcillo scored off of a deflected shot in the seventh minute, and JT Pockl made it three goals within three minutes, scoring in the eighth minute.

An own goal in the 15th minute made it 4-0.

Wilson Hanna rumbled down the left wing and hit a right-foot shot to the opposite post in the 20th minute to get halfway to Park's eventual total. A nifty back-tap pass from Brazal Morcillo set up a goal from Samuel Rockey in the 25th minute.

Wheeling Park led 6-0 at the half.

Aiden McCroskey got involved in the action with a score shortly after play resumed, in the 41st minute. Hanna scored his second goal in the 43rd minute, Rocky scored his second goal in the 44th minute, despite the shot deflecting off a defender's hip. Park subbed out several of their starters later in the second half. Noah Lloyd ended the game prematurely, in the 72nd minute, with Park's 10th goal.

"I think we played team soccer. I mean, we passed the ball, we moved it, and we made it really difficult for them," Julian said.

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"Just gotta have better eyes, better eyes on the quarterback if he scrambles," safety Caleb Downs said.

TOUGH IN THE TRENCHES

The Huskies' run defense has been among the best in the nation in 2025, yielding the ninth-fewest yards per game (62.7). They have the tall task of trying to stop three different Ohio State running backs — Bo Jackson, CJ Donaldson Jr. and James Peoples — who have each rushed for at least 125 yards this season.

Fifth-year Washington edge rusher Zach Durfee is confident his squad has what it takes to slow down the Buckeyes' run game and offense at large.

"I just want respect for our whole team," Durfee said. "I think that's what our whole team wants, just to be recognized that we're a good football team. Hopefully, there's a lot of eyes on us on Saturday, people will start to realize that."

BIG DAY FOR SMITH?

Jeremiah Smith has two straight 100-yard receiving games and tied a career high with nine receptions two weeks ago against Ohio.

Smith could extend his streak to three, facing a Washington secondary that could be missing senior cornerback Tacario Davis because of injury.

"I mean, they run a lot of man, so I mean, we just gotta be prepared when we get one-on-one."

ROAD RULES

Ohio State is 23-3 in true road games and 20-4 with more than one week to prepare for an opponent since Day became head coach in 2019.

HEAD

(Continued from Page 11)

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"I think we played team soccer. I mean, we passed the ball, we moved it, and we made it really difficult for them," Julian said.

"A lot of different guys got a chance to score. A lot of different guys got assists, and it was nice being able to get as many passes as we did. I think that's what we're good at, is possession. And it was nice to have that work today."

Wheeling Park had 15 shots on goal while Parkersburg South was held without a shot on goal.

"We came up against a really good team in Wheeling Park and I don't know that our boys were completely ready to play tonight," Parkersburg South head coach Rick George said. "Not quite sure what it was, but we started the game about half asleep and they jumped on us from the start."

The OVAC 5A championship is set for noon Saturday. Wheeling Park, who has never known anything but conference gold since the turn of the decade, is looking to keep their streak of excellence alive and well with a well-seasoned team.

"We've got six, seven guys back from last year's team that went to the state tournament," Julian said.

"They've got a lot of experience. And it's a good mix of a lot of seniors and juniors, and throw in a couple of sophomores in on it. It does make for a very experienced team and one that, they enjoy being together. They like sharing the ball and having people score goals and be successful. They like playing together."

on Falls Through, Martins ds Another New Opponent

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according to Athletic
Director Greg Hark-
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called Thursday stating
they were not coming to
Belmont County.

lds Of Tying Homer, Reds lose On Mets For Wild Card

i Marte Marte had all three putouts as Emilio
g home Pagan got three straight outs for his car-
Cincin- reer-high 30th save in 36 chances.

ates 2-1 Lodolo (9-8) got 27 swings and
game of misses, including 15 on curveballs. He
ld card. allowed two hits and walked one, leav-
gh with ing due to the injury after 6 1/3 innings
a right and 81 pitches. Lodolo also struck out
12 at Philadelphia on April 8, 2023.

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KEY STAT

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irst-row losing 10 of 13 games but has won 10
48-foot of its last 17.



Photo by Andrew Grimm

Steubenville's Drew Stimpert moves upfield with the ball while John Marshall's Cash McLendon trails during Thursday's OVAC 5A semifinal match inside Harding Stadium.

Steubenville Defeats John Marshall, Advances To OVAC Title Game For First Time Since 2020

By ANDREW GRIMM
For The Intelligencer
STEUBENVILLE —

The Big Red boys soccer team is going back to the OVAC Championship Game.

In a much closer game than the first meeting between the teams, Big Red was able to find the back of the net twice in each half to take a 4-0 victory over upstart John Marshall Thursday night at Harding Stadium in the Class 5A semifinals.

"It's a challenge any time you've played a team already," Big Red head coach Greg Bowers said. "John Marshall has a lot going for them, they have a lot of momentum. We were worried about a letdown, but we came in focused and took care of business."

"We didn't let up in the second half after getting up. We try to learn from the past, we had a 2-0 lead against Beaver Local

seed Wheeling Park in the noon game. The Patriots won the regular season meeting between the teams 5-0 at Wheeling Island Stadium earlier this month.

"Last time it was 2020, the COVID year, so it's been a while," Bowers said. "We're excited. We've got some things to work on. We did some positive things against (the Patriots) the first time, we have some things to clean up."

"We're going to have a good, solid practice (today) and be ready to give it our all on Saturday."

It was once again the brothers Bowers leading the way for the Crimson and Black. Cole Bowers, the senior standout and Army football commit, tallied a hat trick and an assist, while Landon Bowers tallied the other Steubenville (7-3-1) goal. Tad Loot, Gabe Martin and Drew Stimpert each

guys, they played hard the whole game and didn't give up. (Big Red) had two kind of fluke goals, and in the past when we would get down two or three, we would hang our heads. They didn't do that tonight, they kept fighting and I'm very proud of that.

"It meant a lot to get here, but we weren't just here to be here. We wanted to show we could hang with a team like that. We have a senior-laden team, this is a different team. We felt like this was a chance for these guys to try to put a trophy in the case, but it didn't happen. We still have the regionals to look forward to and we'll try to get a winning season."

Strope hopes testing themselves against a team like Big Red will pay dividends in the postseason.

"I think it helps tremendously," he said. "That is one of the most phys-

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Steubenville's Drew Stimpert moves upfield with the ball while John Marshall's Cash McLendon trails during Thursday's OVAC 5A semifinal match inside Harding Stadium.

Photo by Andrew Grimm

Steubenville Defeats John Marshall, Advances To OVAC Title Game For First Time Since 2020

By ANDREW GRIMM
 For The Intelligencer
 STEUBENVILLE —

The Big Red boys soccer team is going back to the OVAC Championship Game.

In a much closer game than the first meeting between the teams, Big Red was able to find the back of the net twice in each half to take a 4-0 victory over upstart John Marshall Thursday night at Harding Stadium in the Class 5A semifinals.

"It's a challenge any time you've played a team already," Big Red head coach Greg Bowers said. "John Marshall has a lot going for them, they have a lot of momentum. We were worried about a letdown, but we came in focused and took care of business."

"We didn't let up in the second half after getting up. We try to learn from the past, we had a 2-0 lead against Beaver Local we let get away so we reminded them at halftime we needed to put it away and finish. I'm proud of them for being able to do that."

With the win, No. 2 seed Big Red will play for a conference championship on Saturday at St. Clairsville's Red Devil Stadium. It is Big Red's first trip to the title match since winning it in 2020.

They will take on top

seed Wheeling Park in the noon game. The Patriots won the regular season meeting between the teams 5-0 at Wheeling Island Stadium earlier this month.

"Last time it was 2020, the COVID year, so it's been a while," Bowers said. "We're excited. We've got some things to work on. We did some positive things against (the Patriots) the first time, we have some things to clean up."

"We're going to have a good, solid practice (today) and be ready to give it our all on Saturday."

It was once again the brothers Bowers leading the way for the Crimson and Black. Cole Bowers, the senior standout and Army football commit, tallied a hat trick and an assist, while Landon Bowers tallied the other Steubenville (7-3-1) goal. Tad Loot, Gabe Martin and Drew Stimpert each had an assist, while JJ Lamantia tallied five saves for the shutout in goal.

For the Monarchs (8-6), getting back into the tournament and into the semis was a step in the right direction, and they showed improvement from an 8-1 loss to Big Red earlier in the season.

"They're a pretty good team, we knew we were in for a battle," Strope said. "I'm super proud of our

guys, they played hard the whole game and didn't give up. (Big Red) had two kind of fluke goals, and in the past when we would get down two or three, we would hang our heads. They didn't do that tonight, they kept fighting and I'm very proud of that."

"It meant a lot to get here, but we weren't just here to be here. We wanted to show we could hang with a team like that. We have a senior-laden team, this is a different team. We felt like this was a chance for these guys to try to put a trophy in the case, but it didn't happen. We still have the regionals to look forward to and we'll try to get a winning season."

Strope hopes testing themselves against a team like Big Red will pay dividends in the postseason.

"I think it helps tremendously," he said. "That is one of the most physical teams we're going to see, so this makes us battle-tested. Playing in this kind of environment against that type of team is going to help us."

The Monarchs, who were the No. 3 seed in the tournament, got eight saves in goal from Tripp Bonds.

JM will resume regular season action next week, traveling to Morgantown on Tuesday.

Even Without Playing In High School, WVU CB Michael Coats Is A Top Corner In Big 12

By SPENCER RIPCHIK
 For The Intelligencer

West Virginia corner Michael Coats Jr. played running back in Pop Warner, and he was pretty good at it, too. Everyone around Louisville, Mississippi, knew the little back. He had a bright future in football.

When Coats was in ninth grade, he stopped playing football and sports altogether. His future was uncertain.

everything happened for a reason."

In just four games for the Mountaineers, Coats is already a top corner in the Big 12. He doesn't have crazy pass break-up numbers or tackles because quarterbacks refuse to throw his way. Coats was graded in the 80s, according to Pro Football Focus, which is a high grade, against Kansas. It was one of the best grades by any player in the game. He's been named to a couple of All-Big 12 defense teams each week by PFF

88 carries so far this season. It has been reported that he broke all of the GW Junior High records of Ryan Switzer, who played collegiately at the University of North Carolina and professionally for Dallas, Las Vegas, Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

Senior Cy Persinger (6-3, 190) is the quarterback. He has completed 34 of 55 passes for 371 yards and five touchdowns. He also has thrown three interceptions. His favorite targets are 5-10, 140-pound senior Samaje Wesley (12-125) and 6-3, 175-pound senior Kai Martin (7-123-3tds).

Please see POWER, Page 10

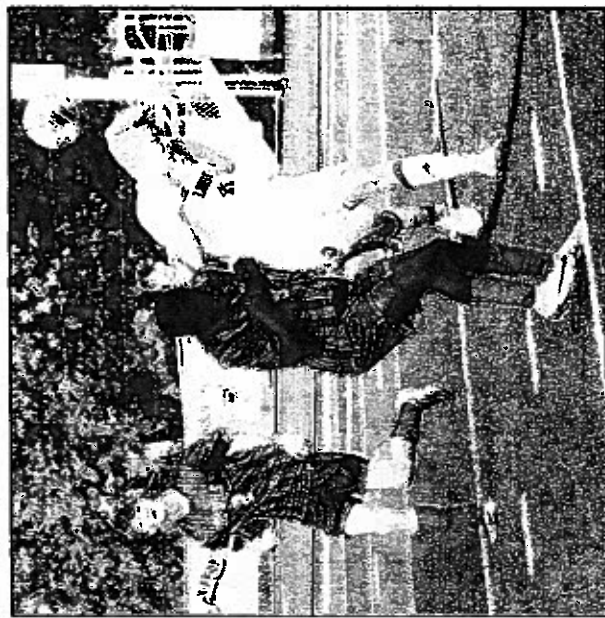


Photo by Kim North

Linsly's Jamie Loudermilk (11) heads the ball as St. Clairsville's James Parsons defends Wednesday during their OVAC Class 4A semifinal match night in Red Devil Stadium.

St. Clairsville Heading To OVAC Class 4A Boys Finals

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - fallen in the semifinals in the first time in their careers, the seniors on the St. Clairsville boys' soccer team will be playing

Please see BOYS, Page 10

seasons, but both also understand the long road ahead.

"If someone would have told me, hey, you're going to be 3-1 after that stretch, I would have taken it," Wheeling Park head coach Chris Daugherty said. "That's a tough stretch of games, and we've got another tough

Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Park's Isaac Sands reaches out for the end zone following a catch during a game earlier this season. The Patriots (3-1) will host the St. Clairsville Red Devils (4-1) on Friday inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

game this week. So, our thinking. You know, I'd continue to grow. We've schedule is very demanding, and to believe that but at the same time, we and get a little bit better we wouldn't have any feel good about where at what we do."

we've got another tough we are. But, we've got to *Please see HIGH, Page 10*

Wheeling Park Advances To OVAC Championship Over Brooke

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

WHEELING - The Wheeling Park Patriots made it to the OVAC 5A girls soccer championship last year, and have earned another shot at the title after the top-ranked Patriots defeated No. 4 Brooke 5-1 on Wednesday inside Wheeling Island Stadium.

Brenna Tipton and Julia Dunaway each scored twice for Wheeling Park, who led 3-0 at the half and built a 5-0 lead before Brooke's Aaliyah Siegel put through a penalty kick to put the Bruins on the board.

It was Dunaway that scored first Wednesday, earning a penalty kick herself in the eighth minute to put the Patriots on the board.

Time ticked by with Park nursing a single-score lead, with the game being played in Brooke's crowded half of the field, with the Bruins keeping nine of their 11 players back on the defense throughout the whole first half.

"We had good possession, but they were doing it on purpose as far as basically parking the bus back there," Wheeling Park head coach Tom Smith said. "So, they weren't going to come north-to-south to let us open up the lanes. So we have to work east-to-west, left-to-right to actually open up the lanes in or-

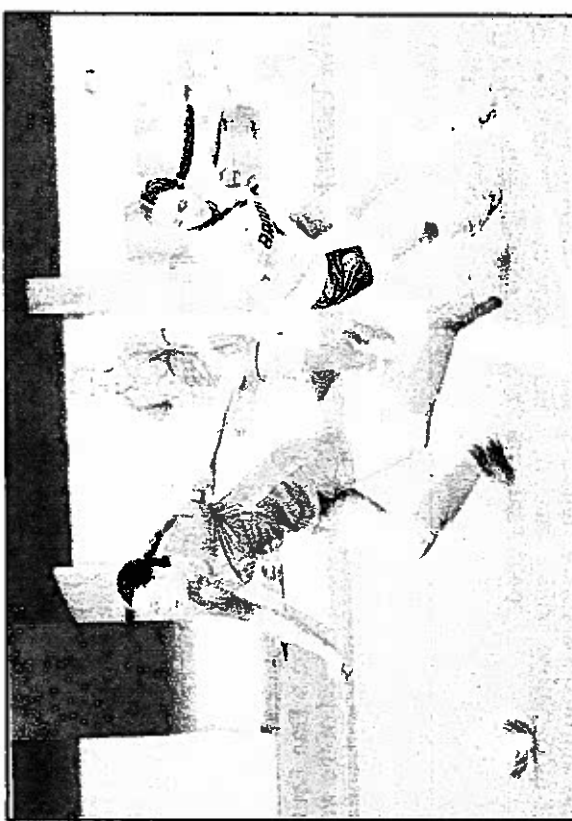


Photo by Nick Henthorn

Wheeling Park's Hailey Hastings maneuvers down the field Wednesday at Wheeling Island Stadium during the Patriots' 5-1 win over Brooke in their OVAC semifinals match. Hastings put through one goal in Park's win.

der to have opportunities to score Myers, who had nine saves on the on them. Otherwise, just all long distance shots. They did a good job of it for a good while. And once we broke through, then it kind of opened things up."

Park's Hailey Hastings scored goal post - right to Dunaway, who next, in the 25th minute, on a chip punched through a cleanup-goal to shot that managed to get through a save attempt by Brooke keeper Ivy

Please see ADVANCES, Page 10

Boys

(Continued from Page 9)

However, with Wednesday night's 3-0 blanking of No. 4 Linsly (6-5) in a semifinal match on the artificial pitch inside Red Devil Stadium, top-seeded St. Clairsville (8-1-1) will play for the title on its home turf face Saturday at 10 a.m. against second-seeded Beaver Local, which shut out No. 3 Union Local, 2-0, Wednesday night in Lisbon.

"It's so important to be playing the finals at home. The last three years we lost in the semifinals every time, so this feels amazing to be in the finals and to be playing them at home," senior Parker Galloway said. "It's a chance to show everyone who we really are."

Galloway suffered a gruesome ankle injury in the season-opener last year that sidelined him for the season and put him through months of constant rehab and had him questioning himself on a return.

"I wasn't going to play

NEW

(Continued from Page 9)

"Going to Independence, they are as good of a team that we will play this season no matter how far we go, it was going to be rough, and we knew that, but I was disappointed in the fact that I thought they beat us twice because we came out against Edison and

said of playing in the finals. "We've been young for a long time, but this year it is our time. Teams tend to out-possess at times, but we are gritty and we don't give up a lot of goals."

"Tonight was a great showing by our defense," Roberts added. "Linsly has some quality athletes from all over. Getting the shutout was important. It was another statement win for us."

Linsly had several golden scoring opportunities early on. The Cadets hit the post and then drove the rebound wide of the net in the fourth minute, but it was St. Clairsville that tickled the twine first.

In the 29th minute, Lucas Causey's free kick from 45 yards out sailed over top of a scrum of players in the box. Somehow the ball eluded the grasp of goalkeeper Max Iglesias before trickling across the goal line.

"I'm not sure what happened on that shot," Rob-

point in the game. Once we got our confidence, we started rolling. We lost our confidence at Independence and against Edison, but I think we got it back last week."

The Purple Riders are led by sophomore tailback Walkquem Cox (81-760-8tds) and ju-

erts offered. "On the sideline it appeared as though Parker got a head on it, but he said he didn't."

St. Clairsville nearly scored again before the first half ended as Camden Judge was denied by defenseman Tucker Hard-

en as Iglesias was out of position. It didn't take long for the Red Devils to assert themselves in the second half. Two minutes in, Galloway's spinning right-footed blast sailed into the net as the count rose to 2-0. Causey also assisted.

"I thought we had some good possessions in the first half and they scored on the only good opportunity they created," Linsly head coach Greg Martin 10 players on the pitch,

HIGH

(Continued from Page 9)

Wheeling Park has wins over Spring Mills, University and Parkersburg South, while St. Clairsville has won four straight against Brownsville, Beaver Local, Linsly and East Liverpool.

Ripping off a win streak after a week-one loss, does St. Clairsville—who had to replace a large and impactful senior class—feel like they've found themselves?

Yes and no.

"Honestly, it's mid-season and I feel like we're in the middle of that process still," St. Clairsville head coach Geoff Martin

said. "I thought we had 5 or 6 shots on target in the first half, and we felt like

we were right there with them. But that early second goal really hurt. Then our discipline problems started."

Galloway banged a shot off the post to Iglesias's left in the 47th minute of Causey and James Parsons, especially on the defensive end of the field. Talon Rice made five saves, all in the first half, to earn the shutout.

Iglesias finished with seven stops. St. Clairsville defeated Beaver Local 1-0 early in the season on the road. The Beavers are the defending champions, having rolled past Weir 8-1 last fall at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The match got a little chippier than it already was late as a total of eight yellow cards and three red cards were handed out. St. Clairsville finished with 10 players on the pitch,

so far—starting with their passing attack, where senior Sam McLean has tossed 13 touchdowns and completed 72% of his passes. Senior Ollie Muhly has shined as both a pass-catcher and runner, scoring four touchdowns on the ground, where he has averaged over six yards a carry in totaling 294 yards, while through the air he has 229 yards and three touchdowns, tied for the team lead with Luke Schafer, who also has a gaudy four interceptions already—including a pick-six.

Senior Owen Do-

we had another long road trip to Lucas. I felt like a lot of people underestimated them because they were a good team. We got down early, but after

POWER

(Continued from Page 9)

"They are really good. It's going to be a challenge, but I think we are pretty good, too," Allen admitted. "I don't like to compare teams, but I think this is the biggest and strongest team we've had since I've been here. These kids really worked in the offseason to get better, and they have."

George Washington also has some size up front, mainly in 6-8, 425-pound Elijah Krason who lines up at right guard.

"Outside of him, we match up pretty well size-wise," Allen said. "They want to run the ball, but they have a tall receiver that they like to go to. The quarterback throws a nice ball."

The Patriots have beaten Spring Valley (27-7), Hurricane (45-12), Cabell Midland (27-12) and South Charleston

change and they are you play St. Clairsville. And so, we've got to do a good job of eliminating our own mistakes because, that's how St. Clairsville is going to beat you. They've got athletes. They always have talent, but they're going to beat you because they're not going to make many mistakes."

"Winning the line of scrimmage is always important, trying to have some explosive plays on our end, taking control of our own mistakes. We've had a couple spots, especially when you look at the Musselman game, we lost that game because of our own problems that we caused, whether it was offense or defense. So, if we play pretty clean, we're not a bad football team. And so hopefully we can play clean this Friday."

Wheeling Park's own look like on the field."

St. Clairsville has put up impressive numbers

leading rusher in their school's history, right? And a very rich history with some big time Division I running backs that came prior to him. I think he's just great. I know the family a little bit, he comes from a great family, he's a good kid. He's the heart and soul of them. But, what you could be fooled by is - they are extremely athletic as a team. They can throw the ball well. They've got a multi-year starter quarterback who's a very heady player, a great kid too.

"I think that they're a very dangerous team on both sides of the ball. I think that their coaches do a terrific job. Coach [Keith] Phillips has been a DC for a long time. He has them prepared. They fly to the ball. They're what a good team should look like on the field."

ADVANCES

(Continued from Page 9)

At halftime, Brooke tried to did pretty good."

Brenna Tipton scored both of Wheeling Park's goals in the second half, her second goal coming on an impressive shot from over 20 yards away, her teammate erupting after the shot meandered through the air and just inside the goal post. Her goals came in the 45th minute and 55th minute.

Wheeling Park's Riley Perry finished with two saves. The Patriots and Bruins played the last year in the first round of the OVAC tournament, Wheeling Park prevailing 7-1. Wheeling Park lost 3-0 to Parkersburg South in the 5A championship last year, and will have another chance in the girls."

title game on Saturday against No. 2 University, who defeated No. 3 Steubenville on Wednesday, 2-0.

"It's always fun to play in a championship game," Smith said right after the game. "There's obviously more pressure for all the players, which hopefully brings out the best in both teams, really. And all you can hope for is a good quality championship game."

"I'm not sure who we're playing yet, whether it's University or Steubenville, but we need to come ready to play and prepare for games in the future. And like I said, playing a championship game is always a thrill for the girls."



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Wheeling Central Overwhelms United Local In OVAC Tournament; Ferry Scores Sweep

WHEELING - Top-seeded Wheeling central rolled into the OVAC Class 1A/3A girls' soccer finals with a 10-0 blitzing of No. 4 United Local Wednesday night on the artificial surface at 16th Street.

Loni Kusic had a brace and an assist to lead the Maroon Knights (12-1) Elizabeth Steele scored twice and assisted on a third, while Elah Konkle had two goals and a pair of helpers. Seneca Heller found the net once and assisted on three others. Rylee Wright added a goal and an assist.

Maddie Kirchner also lit the lamp, while Mariah Ratcliffe logged an assist.

Bella Fitzsimmons charted two saves in the shutout.

VOLLEYBALL

Martins Ferry Spikes Buckeye Local
CONNORVILLE - Martins Ferry swept past host Buckeye Local by scores of 25-4, 25-10 and 25-17 Wednesday

night in high school volleyball action.

Giana Chirpas led the way with 14 kills while Nicole Hammerquist added seven kills and a pair of blocks. SJ Koller had 19 digs and two service aces, while Olivia Harkness added 34 assists and four aces. Lexi Carte finished with half-a-dozen kills.

(Late Tuesday)

VOLLEYBALL

Monroe Central Sweeps Rival Magnolia

NEW MARTINSVILLE - The Seminoles Dealt the Blue Eagles a three-set setback on Tuesday, 25-11, 25-23, 25-19.

Magnolia's Jessa Anderson led her team in kills with nine, and had seven digs, behind only Hallee Baisel's 13 and Sidney Knights' nine. Knight added six kills. Sydney Quinet finished with 20 assists.

Pirates Top Reds 4-3 In 11 Innings From Gaining Ground In NL W

CINCINNATI (AP) - Spencer Horwitz hit an run-scoring double in the 11th inning and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat Cincinnati 4-3 on Wednesday night, preventing the Reds from gaining ground in the race for an NL wild card.

The Reds entered Wednesday's action tied with Arizona, one game behind the New York Mets, in the battle for the third wild card. The Mets lost 10-3 to the Chicago Cubs, and the Diamondbacks faced the Los Angeles Dodgers later Wednesday.

The Pirates took the lead in the 11th when Bryan Reynolds scored his third run of the game on Horwitz's double. In the bottom of the inning, the Reds loaded the bases before Yohan Ramirez got Noelvi Marte to ground into a force play.

Pirates starter Paul Skenes allowed four hits and struck out seven in six in-

nings in season. at 1.97 pitcher Justin V 23 bec 2.00 E

Gooden finished strikeout Cincinnati heading a pair o

In the to center rolled i the base park he added a ninth to double

3-2, but a sacrific

Boys

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"It's so important to be playing the finals at home. The last three years we lost in the semifinals every time, so this feels amazing to be in the finals and to be playing them at home," senior Parker Galloway said. "It's a chance to show everyone who we really are."

Galloway suffered a gruesome ankle injury in the season-opener last year that sidelined him for the season and put him through months of constant rehab and had him questioning himself on a return.

"I wasn't going to play

this year but I saw something with this team and I wanted to be a part of it," he admitted after scoring two goals Wednesday night. "I never thought I was going to play soccer again. All of my focus was towards football (where is the placekicker this season) and soccer was a second thought, but I'm glad I decided to play."

The driving factor behind his decision?

"To win. Looking back at our sophomore year, we had it in the bag, but we were missing a piece or two," he added. "In looking at this team, I was the missing piece. We are dominating now."

He said, with a slight grin, that the ankle "hurts every once in a while."

St. Clairsville head coach Jeff Roberts is glad to be back in the finals. St. Clairsville last won a title when it went back-to-back in 2019 and 2020. The Red Devils have four overall.

"It's been a minute," he

said of playing in the finals. "We've been young for a long time, but this year it is our time. Teams tend to out-possess at times, but we are gritty and we don't give up a lot of goals."

"Tonight was a great showing by our defense," Roberts added. "Linsly has some quality athletes from all over. Getting the shutout was important. It was another statement win for us."

Linsly had several golden scoring opportunities early on. The Cadets hit the post and then drove the rebound wide of the net in the fourth minute, but it was St. Clairsville that tickled the twine first.

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St. Clairsville nearly scored again before the first half ended as Camden Judge was denied by defenseman Tucker Harden as Iglesias was out of position.

It didn't take long for the Red Devils to assert themselves in the second half. Two minutes in, Galloway's spinning right-footed blast sailed into the net as the count rose to 2-0. Causey also assisted.

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Galloway banged a off the post to Iglesias left in the 47th minute and caromed off a Linsly player and out of bounds for a corner kick. Brennan Rice's third in, Galloway leaped above the crowd of players to head the ball the back of the net.

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High

(Continued from Page 9)

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SPORTS

St. Clairsville advances to OVAC Class 4A boys finals

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — For the first time in their careers, the seniors on the St. Clairsville boys' soccer team will be playing for the OVAC Class 4A title. The Red Devils had fallen in the semifinals in each of the last three seasons.

However, with Wednesday night's 3-0 blanking of No. 4 Linsly (6-5) in a semifinal match on the artificial pitch inside Red Devil Stadium, top-seeded St. Clairsville (8-1-1) will play for the title on its home surface Saturday at 10 a.m. against second-seeded Beaver Local, which shutout No. 3 Union Local, 2-0, Wednesday night in Lisbon.

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Galloway suffered a gruesome ankle injury in the season-opener last year that sidelined him for the season and put him through months of constant rehab and had him questioning himself on a return.

"I wasn't going to play this year but I saw something with this team and I wanted to be a part of it," he admitted after scoring two goals Wednesday night. "I never thought I was going



ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Lucas Causey (0) battles for possession of the ball with Linsly's

Photo by KIM NORTH

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"Tonight was a great showing by our defense,"



ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Lucas Causey (0) battles for possession of the ball with Linsly's John Adamsky (2) during first-half action of their OVAC Class 4A semifinal match Wednesday night on the artificial pitch at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville. The Red Devils prevailed, 3-0.

Photo by KIM NORTH

Roberts added. "Linsly has some quality athletes from all over. Getting the shutout was important. It was another statement win for us."

Linsly had several golden scoring opportunities early on. The Cadets hit the post and then drove the rebound wide of the net in the fourth minute, but it was St. Clairsville that tickled the twine first.

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ball into the back of the net.

The match got a little chippier than it already was late as a total of eight yellow cards and three red cards were handed out. St. Clairsville finished with 10 players on the pitch, while the Cadets had just nine.

Both coaches agreed discipline problems are a concern moving forward.

"That is something we need to clean up. We'll be playing a man down on Saturday," Roberts said.

Roberts cited the play of Causey and James Parsons, especially on the defensive end of the field.

Talon Rice made five saves, all in the first half, to earn the shutout.

Iglesias finished with seven stops.

St. Clairsville defeated Beaver Local 1-0 early in the season on the road. The Beavers are the defending champions, having rolled past Weir 8-1 last fall at Wheeling Island Stadium.

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Fry recovering after sustaining broken nose, fractures from bei

CLEVELAND (AP) — Cleveland Guardians designated hitter David Fry was released from the hospital Wednesday afternoon and resting comfortably after he was hit in the face by a pitch from Detroit's Tark Skubal in the sixth inning of Cleveland's 5-2 win over the Tigers, a victory that deadlocked the AL Central division race.

Manager Stephen Vogt visited Fry in the hospital Tuesday night and said Fry was in great spirits.

The Guardians said imaging and clinical examination showed Fry sustained multiple, minimally displaced, left-sided facial and nasal fractures. A timeline for recovery is six to eight weeks without the need for surgery.

Fry was placed on the 10-day injured list with outfielder Johnathan Rodr guez called up from Triple-A Columbus.

"He's a tough kid and we're just super thankful that he's home resting," Vogt said before Wednesday's game. "We said

Campus for further testing and observation before being discharged.

Fry squared around to try to bunt a 99 mph fastball from Skubal on Tuesday night and the pitch struck him in the nose and mouth area. As Fry collapsed in the batter's box and immediately grabbed his bloodied face, a visibly shaken Skubal threw off his glove and cap as Vogt and trainers rushed onto the field.

Fry laid in the dirt for several minutes before being slowly helped to his feet. He gave a thumbs-up signal as he sat up and was driven off in a cart.

"I haven't watched the replay. I don't really care to," Vogt said. "When you put yourself into a position to bunt correctly, you're putting yourself in a vulnerable position. And he threw a fastball and it just happened to be right at him and there was nothing he could do."



OVAC Soccer Tournament Quarterfinals



Photo by Kim North

John Marshall's Ethan Corvino (10) is denied a goal by Brooke goalkeeper Bronson Pack during action from Tuesday's OVAC Class 5A boys soccer tournament match on the artificial pitch at Monarch Stadium in Moundsville.

•Corvinos' Brace Leads John Marshall By Brooke, 6-0

By KIM NORTH
Staff Writer

MOUNDSVILLE - The world can be a small place at times. Take Tuesday night's OVAC Class 5A boys' quarter-final soccer match between Brooke and John Marshall won by the host Monarchs, 5-0, on the artificial pitch at Monarch Stadium.

Not only was it the first OVAC Tournament home match in program history for the third-seeded Monarchs (8-5), but the victory was even sweeter for head coach Josh Strope.

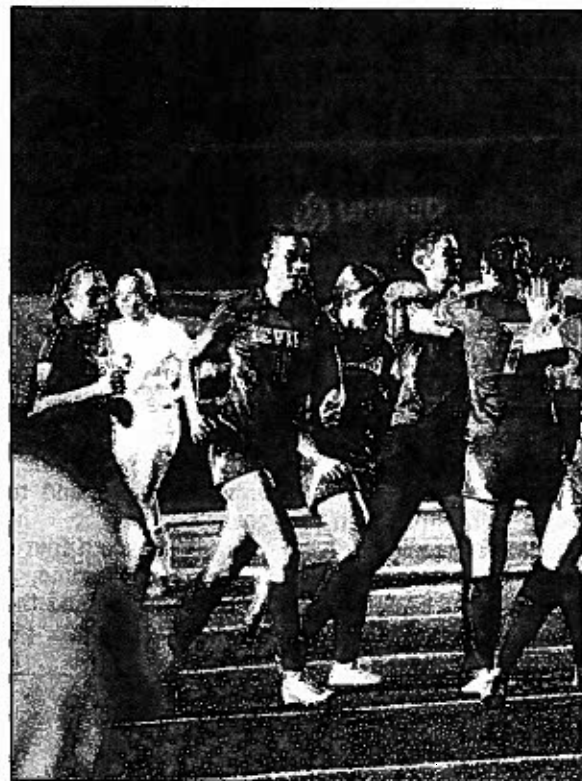
"I played for (Brooke) coach (Joe) Pepe at Weir High from 1996-99, so it's kind of cool that my first OVAC Tournament win as a coach came against him," Strope offered.

With the triumph, John Marshall moves on to semifinal action on Thursday on the artificial pitch at Harding Stadium against No. 2 Steubenville, which received a bye.

"I think this win was good for the school because we're trying to build this program," Strope said. "John Marshall isn't known for its boys soccer, so this is a big deal for these guys, and I've been trying to get into their heads all year that making the (OVAC) tournament is a goal.

"Obviously, we're in a tough division with Wheeling Park, Steubenville, Morgantown, University ... it's just hard to get in. When we got in we found out we'd be able to host a game. That's huge for these guys."

Please see **BRACE**, Page 10



The Red Devils celebrate one of Emma Gasber's Red Devils' 6-1 first-round OVAC 4A tournament. St. Clairsville advances to face Cambridge in the

•Gasber, St. Clairsville Rematch vs. Linsly

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - St. Clairsville and Linsly drew each other for a first-round OVAC girls soccer matchup Tuesday - a rematch of the two teams' regular-season game just last week.

While the Cadets won their previous encounter, it was the Red Devils who prevailed, 6-1, on the tournament stage inside Red Devil Stadium as third-seeded St. Clairsville began their bid to return to the OVAC cham-

pionship game.

"Girls stepped up day," St. Clairsville head coach Wes Stoner said. "We have three starters out now. We got another one that was just injured against East Liverpool a few days ago. So starting center back Eva [Muns] was out. We had girls step up and we played well. We played with efficiency, and I think that's what we wanted this one after losing the last one to them when they came in here and beat us 3-2 not even a week ago."

The Intelligencer.

SPORTS

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WVU

9

Soccer Tournament Quarterfinals Continue



Photo by Kim North

(10) is denied a goal by Brooke goalkeeper Bron-
nesday's OVAC Class 5A boys soccer tournament
Monarch Stadium in Moundsville.

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Please see BRACE, Page 10

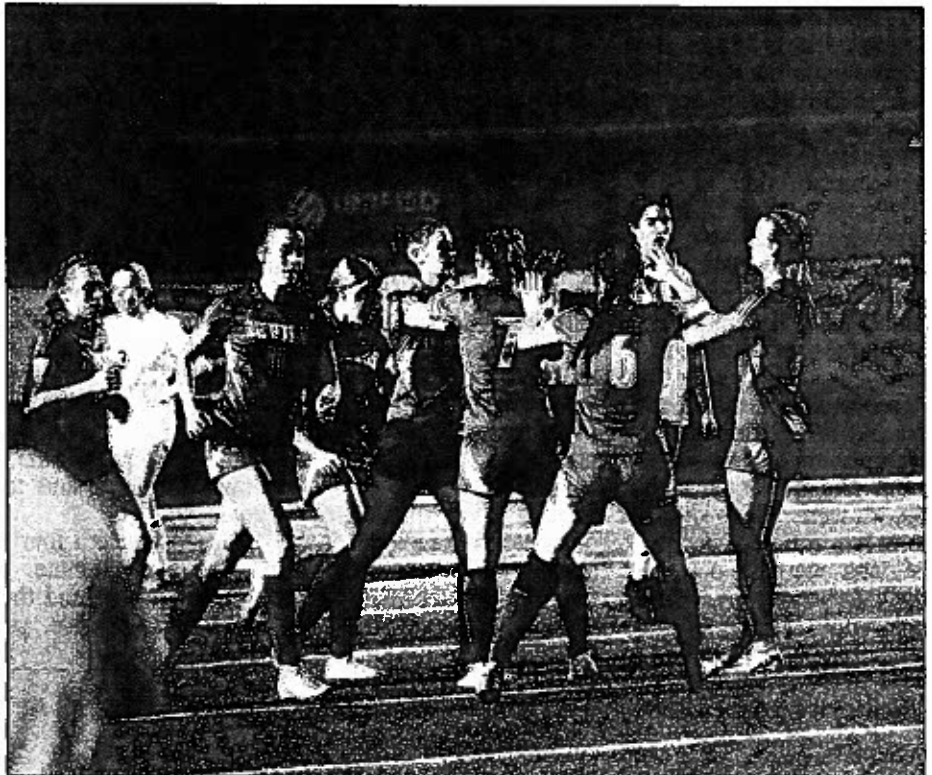


Photo by Nick Henthorn

The Red Devils celebrate one of Emma Gasber's four goals Tuesday during the
Red Devils' 6-1 first-round OVAC 4A tournament win over Linsly. With the win,
St. Clairsville advances to face Cambridge in the OVAC semifinals.

•Gasber, St. Clairsvilles Wins Rematch vs. Linsly To Advance

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE —
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urgency, and I think they
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ing the last one to them
when they came in here
and beat us 3-2 not even
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St. Clairsville was also
without juniors Kendall
Sall and Ashlynn Lednik
on Tuesday.

After Linsly's Makena
Aiello lofted up a long-
range shot that found the
back of the net in the 19th
minute of Tuesday's game,
St. Clairsville scored six
unanswered the rest of the
way, starting with Emma
Gasber pounding through
the first of her four goals
in the 23rd minute to tie
the contest.

Please see REMATCH,
Page 10

REMATCH

(Continued from Page 9)

"I thought we started out really well, we came out strong," Linsly head coach Morgan Kost said. "I think we lost energy through the first half and St. Clairsville is good enough to capitalize on just one lapse in focus."

After Linsly defeated St. Clairsville in the regular season, the Red Devils thought that they were better prepared for the Cadets in their tournament fight.

"Poppy [Yendell], we knew her speed now, obviously, which we didn't know going into that last game," Stoner said. "I think she had a couple breakaways on us last week, so we kind of had it prepared for that a little bit and talked through how we're going to prevent that. I felt like it worked a little bit, we were able to keep her to only a couple shots, maybe, and we just possessed the ball, which was what we didn't do last time."

"To be frank, it was more about us than about them, and how we wanted to play against them. We wanted to play how we play, which is possession, moving the ball around and just always staying available for each other. And we worked the ball pretty well and got some good chances and got some goals."

St. Clairsville scored twice more in the first half, both quick-hitters where St. Clairsville flipped field quickly and struck fast. Isabella Cunningham found Elizabeth Morgan for a center-cut shot in the 35th minute.

Gasber found herself on a breakaway just two minutes later, and wound up a shot with great velocity, enough to blast through the outstretched hands of Linsly keeper Elaina Pusz, who had three saves Tuesday.

Her counterpart, St.

Clairsville's Kiya Kyer, made an impressive save with 10 seconds left in the half, venturing a few steps out from goal and taking a shot straight to the stomach for one of her 10 saves.

"We had a lapse at the very beginning," Stoner said. "Credit to the girls, they didn't get down going down one-nothing kind of early in the game, they stuck with it and played our game and passed well and finished finally."

Elizabeth Morgan scored on a free kick from the right wing in the 47th minute to go ahead 4-1, and Gasber completed a hat trick in the 51st minute, playing a back-and-forth two-man-game with Morgan all the way down the field and to the goal.

Gasber made it four goals in the 65th minute, gathering a pass behind the entire Linsly defense, getting

around the advancing keeper and tapping through an uncontested shot for the eventual final 6-1 mark.

With the win, St. Clairsville will face No. 2 Cambridge tomorrow on the road. St. Clairsville defeated Cambridge 3-1 earlier in this season, but as Tuesday demonstrated, regular season outcomes are not guaranteed to repeat in the tournament.

"It should be a good game," Stoner said. "They've got some talented girls, so we'll see how it ends up. But they're the two seed, they're ranked higher than us, so we're headed there and hopefully we can beat them and get to the final."

St. Clairsville made it to the 4A OVAC finals last season, falling to Weir.

"Hopefully we can get back there this year," Stoner said.

WVSSAC Baseball (Marshall's

The WVSSAC Cook Field, on versity in Hunting host site for the from 2026 thro 2029.

The City of Hsity's successful bid process that plans for hosting selection was fi WVSSAC Board meeting.

"We are grate communities ac the baseball cha Executive Direc Huntington and a strong proposa with them to pro ship experience and fans at a pre

Jack Cook Fi opened in 2024 3,500.

The 2026 Sta be held June 6-1

BRACE

(Continued from Page 9)

Senior Ethan Corvino scored the first three Monarch goals, giving him 14 on the season. He made it 1-0 halfway through the first 40 minutes off an assist by Cooper Berlin. It was the sixth shot on goal by the Monarchs.

Six minutes later Corvino made it 2-0 and it stayed that way until early in the second half, but not without the sixth-seeded Bruins (1-13) trying.

Cooper Byers banged a shot off the football upright in the 41st minute and Jacob High was denied by JM goalkeeper Tripp Bonds with a diving save in the 45th minute.

"We didn't quit. We didn't quit," Pepe said. "We're riding our two seniors (Cooper Byers and Gabe Keener) as far as we can go. It's tough when you're playing the schedule we do with freshmen

and sophomores.

"We're in the midst of a rebuilding year, but it's not the first rodeo for me," Pepe, who has been coaching high school soccer for 39 years, said. "I've been down this road before. We're getting better and the kids are learning. That's what is important."

Brooke lost eight players to graduation last spring, including its top two goal scorers.

Corvino upped the margin to 3-0 for a brace in the 48th minute.

"He's been our leading scorer all season after struggling last year that resulted in him getting benched. He never complained," Strobe admitted. "He came back this year more dedicated - not that he wasn't last year - but he came back with a purpose of showing he was better than that. His

motor never stops."

After Byers knocked one off the crossbar, John Marshall scored on its next two shots - both off the foot of Daniel Pena - for a 5-0 reading.

"He's still trying to work his way in a little bit. He didn't start the season with us because he didn't have enough practices in, but he's been a sparkplug for us off the bench. He has some of the best foot skills that I've ever seen."

Trent Burton closed out the scoring in the 72nd minute.

Pena added an assist to his goal, while Berlin finished with a pair of helpers. Burton also notched an assist, as did Quinton West and Connor Fromhart. Bonds made seven saves, with six coming in the second 40 minutes to earn the shutout.

Bronson Pack had 11 saves for Brooke.

ROBOT

(Continued from Page 9)

"You can like it, dislike it, it doesn't matter," Vogt said as Cleveland prepared to open a critical three-game series with Detroit. "It's coming. It's going to change the game. It's going to change the game forever."

ABS, which utilizes Hawk-Eye cameras, has been tested in the minor leagues since 2019. The independent Atlantic League trialed the system at its 2019 All-Star Game and MLB installed the technology for that year's Arizona Fall League of top prospects. The ABS was tried at eight of nine ballparks of the Low-A Southeast League in 2021, then moved up to Triple-A in 2022.

At Triple-A at the start of the 2023 season, half the games used the robots for ball/strike calls and half had a human making decisions subject to appeals by teams to the ABS.

MLB switched Triple-A to an all-challenge system on June 26, 2024, then used the challenge system this year at 13 spring training ballparks hosting 19 teams for a total of 288 exhibition games. Teams won 52.2% of their ball/strike challenges (617 of 1,182).

"I love it. I loved it in spring training," Phillies manager Rob Thomson said. "Not all of the players, but most of the players, if you ask them, they really liked it too. I think it keeps everybody accountable. It keeps everybody on their toes."

At Triple-A this season, the aver-

ent shap strike zo sions tha rently, it where th the plate, the back.

53.5% o 27%.

"Throu worked a way t Commis statemen players f using the was a key tem we a

This w change s 2024. T larger ba sive shift such as p

The c ABS wil ing, a sub body anc line pitc ing has l league ca that full-l strong de

"Unles ... only g a lot of tl

Back by Popular Demand!
SHOWER FACK

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
o 90	67	57	3	—	—	5-5	L-1	50-26	40-41	769	706
rk89	68	56	7	1	+	7-3	W-3	45-31	44-37	819	674
86	71	54	8	4	+	5-5	W-1	46-32	40-39	769	661
lay76	81	48	14	9	+	4-6	L-1	41-40	35-41	696	653
e 74	83	47	16	11	+	5-5	W-1	38-41	36-42	662	760

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
d 85	72	54	1	—	—	9-1	W-1	42-34	43-38	621	627
85	72	54	1	—	—	1-9	L-7	46-35	39-37	745	675
City78	78	50	6	6	+	4-6	L-1	43-38	35-40	616	618
ata 67	89	42	17	17	+	3-7	W-1	38-43	29-46	661	763
58	99	36	27	27	+	1-9	L-3	33-48	25-51	620	714

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
87	69	55	1	—	—	9-1	W-4	48-27	39-42	741	673
84	72	53	3	1	+	5-5	L-3	46-35	38-37	659	642
79	77	50	8	5	+	3-7	L-7	47-31	32-46	662	580
73	83	46	14	11	+	7-3	L-2	33-42	40-41	709	789
70	86	44	17	14	+	1-9	L-1	37-38	33-48	655	803

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
el. 92	64	59	1	—	—	6-4	L-2	51-24	41-40	756	634
rk 81	76	51	11	1	+	5-5	W-1	49-32	32-44	748	690
76	80	47	16	4	+	9-1	W-6	36-42	40-38	692	774
75	83	47	18	6	+	10-0	W-10	38-39	37-44	713	717
64	94	40	29	17	+	3-7	L-2	31-47	33-47	668	873

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
akee95	62	60	5	—	—	6-4	L-2	51-27	44-35	794	614
jo 88	69	56	7	7	+	4-6	L-5	46-30	42-39	757	634
ati 80	77	51	15	1	+	6-4	L-1	44-35	36-42	699	667
s 77	80	49	18	4	+	5-5	W-2	44-37	33-43	673	721
gh 68	89	43	27	13	+	4-6	W-3	44-37	24-52	565	632

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
ng. 88	68	54	1	—	—	6-4	L-1	52-29	36-39	794	668
iego86	71	54	2	+	+	6-4	W-3	48-28	38-43	670	609
79	77	50	9	1	+	7-3	W-2	42-36	37-41	773	744
n. 77	80	49	11	4	+	2-8	L-1	38-38	39-42	679	666
lo 43	113	27	45	37	+	3-7	W-1	25-56	18-57	584	988

ed division
ed playoff berth

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Tuesday's Games

re 6, Tampa Bay 0
nd 5, Detroit 2
Yankees 3, Chicago
Sox 2
4, Toronto 1
ota at Texas, late
City at L.A. Angels,

do at Seattle, late
n at Athletics, late

Wednesday's Games

ay (Baz 10-12) at Bal-
(Wells 2-0), 6:35 p.m.
(Flaherty 8-14) at
nd (Bibee 11-11), 6:40

o White Sox (TBD) at
Yankees (Fried 18-5),
m.

i (Crochet 17-5) at To-
(Scherzer 5-4), 7:07

ota (Bradley 6-8) at
(deGrom 12-8), 8:05

s City (Kolek 5-6) at L.A.
(Kikuchi 6-11), 9:38

ido (Gordon 6-7) at Se-
Castillo 10-8), 9:40 p.m.

on (Brown 12-8) at Ath-
Ginn 4-6), 10:05 p.m.

Thursday's Games
a Bay at Baltimore, 1:05

ota at Texas, 2:35 p.m.
on at Athletics, 3:35

t at Cleveland, 6:40

at Cleveland, 6:40

at Cleveland, 6:40

at Cleveland, 6:40

at Cleveland, 6:40

at Cleveland, 6:40

W.VA. FOOTBALL

Class AAAA

1. Morgantown	15.00	4-0
2. G. Washington	14.25	4-0
3. Wheeling Park	13.13	3-1
4. Huntington	12.63	3-1
(tie) University	12.63	3-1
6. Spring Mills	12.13	3-1
7. Oak Hill	11.35	3-1
8. Wood. Wilson	9.28	2-2
9. Parkersburg	9.23	2-2
10. Washington	9.10	2-2
11. Musselman	7.88	1-3
12. Martinsburg	7.75	2-2
13. Riverside	4.88	1-3
14. Jefferson	4.00	0-3
15. Park. South	3.75	0-4
16. Hurricane	3.38	0-4
17. Hedgesville	3.15	0-4
18. Buck. Upshur	3.08	0-4
19. Preston	2.70	0-4
20. Cabell Midland	2.18	0-4

Class AAA

1. Fairmont Sr.	14.67	3-0
(tie) Princeton	14.67	3-0
3. Bridgeport	14.00	4-0
4. Green. East	12.20	2-1
5. Chapmanville	12.00	3-0
6. Elkins	11.75	4-0
7. Nitro	11.65	3-1
8. Herb. Hoover	11.40	3-1
9. North Marion	10.65	3-1
10. John Marshall	10.00	3-0
11. Winfield	9.90	3-1
12. Capital	9.80	2-1
13. Hampshire	9.68	3-1
14. Spring Valley	9.50	2-2
15. Keyser	9.40	2-1
16. Ripley	8.55	3-1
17. R.C. Byrd	8.50	2-2
18. Pikeview	6.93	2-1
19. S. Charleston	6.80	1-2
20. Nicholas Co.	6.43	2-2
23. Brooke	4.35	1-3

Class AA

1. Independence	11.75	4-0
2. Frankfort	11.50	4-0
3. Bluefield	10.35	3-1
4. Petersburg	9.50	4-0
(tie) S. Harrison	9.50	4-0
(tie) Mingo Cent.	9.50	4-0
7. Logan	9.25	4-0
8. James Monroe	8.93	3-1
9. Doddridge Co.	8.75	4-0
10. Midland Trail	8.55	3-1
11. P. Barbours	8.25	2-2
12. Westside	7.95	3-1
13. Oak Glen	7.75	3-1
14. Roane Co.	6.63	2-1
15. Poca	6.10	2-2
16. Clay Co.	5.90	2-2
17. Williamstown	5.17	1-2
18. Wayne	5.15	2-2
19. Berkeley Spr.	4.98	2-2
20. Braxton Co.	4.85	2-2
25. Tyler Conso.	3.45	1-3
29. Weir	2.50	0-3

Class A

1. Cameron	8.33	3-0
2. Wabasha	8.25	4-0
3. Whg Central	8.20	3-1
4. Meadow Bridge	8.00	3-0
5. Pendleton Co.	7.57	2-1
6. Sherman	7.05	3-1
7. Wirt Co.	5.70	3-1
8. Tucker Co.	5.43	3-1
9. Tug Valley	5.40	2-2
10. Clay-Battelle	5.27	2-1
11. St. Marys	5.15	2-2
12. Montcalm	4.93	2-1
13. Webster Co.	4.73	2-1
14. Green. West	3.98	2-2
15. Gilmer Co.	3.70	2-2
16. Calhoun Co.	2.85	1-3
(tie) Man	2.85	1-3
18. Tygarts Valley	2.55	1-3
19. East Hardy	1.80	0-3
20. Tolsia	1.73	1-3
22. Magnolia	1.60	0-3
24. Valley	1.00	0-3

St. Clairsville's Baker Wins Ohio D-II Girls Golf Sectional

CARROLLTON - St. Clairsville's Olivia Baker finished atop the leaderboard once again Tuesday during Ohio Division II girls sectional golf action. The Red Devils senior shot a 76 at the Carroll Meadows Golf Club to win by two strokes over Garaway's Sara Weaver.

Baker, who won the OVAC championship last week for the second time in three years, shared medalist honors in last year's sectional.

She and Edison's Kallie McKeegan were the lone individual qualifiers. McKeeegan carded an 81.

However, the Wildcats finished third in the team race with a score of 399 and will advance to District Tournament action on Oct. 1 at the Cambridge Country Club.

Also representing Edison were Bella Evans (101), Madysen Cornell (107) and Teagan Reynolds (110).

Garaway won the team title with a 345. Sandy Valley was second at 396, while Edison tied with Tuscarawas Valley for third.

BOYS SOCCER

Class 4A Quarterfinals
Union Local 4, Harrison
Central 3

MORRISTOWN - In the continuation of a suspended match on Monday due to inclement weather, the No. 3 seeded Jets rallied from an early 2-1 on Tuesday by scoring three unanswered goals to nip the sixth-seeded Huskies.

Dominic Crum had two goals and an assist for Union Local. Brady Roe and Izayha Hall also scored goals for the Jets, while

Mason Fowkes and Liam Roe charted assists.

Union Local now travels to Lisbon to meet No. 2 Beaver Local in semifinal action on Wednesday.

BOYS GOLF

Wheeling Park Wins Tri
MOUNDSVILLE

The Patriots slipped past St. Clairsville 326 to 327 Tuesday at the Moundsville Country Club. John Marshall was third at 358.

Wheeling Park's Andrew Pennybacker and St. Clairsville's Mavrik Malin tied for medalist honors as both shot 76. Brayden Kempkens and Brandt Blake both carded 87 to lead the Monarchs.

(Late Monday)

VOLLEYBALL

Martins Ferry Tops

Barnesville

BARNESVILLE - The visiting Purple Riders prevailed by scores of 25-20, 22-25, 25-17 and 25-12 over the Shamrocks.

Olivia Harkness charted 48 assists and had a pair of service aces to lead Martins Ferry. SJ Koller added 29 digs, while Lexi Carte finished with 14 kills. Giana Chirpas added 21 kills and a trio of aces, while Maddie Lucas added 17 digs and five kills. Nicole Hammerquist contributed nine kills and three blocks while Gracie Lucas had nine digs and two aces.

Barnesville's Aubrey Johnson broke the program record for career digs previously held by Kynlie Cline at 1,392. She had 14. Aiva Leasure had seven kills, while Caydence Stephen blocked four shots and Londyn Gibson charted 25 assists. Makenna Marley had 12 digs.

West Virginia's Injuries Piling Up
As Rich Rodriguez Looks To DepthBy SPENCER RIPCHIK
For The Intelligencer

Rich Rodriguez usually starts off his press conference with an opening statement by going over the last

Kansas. Rodriguez said he might also work in some slot receivers.

But if the offensive line can block well, anyone can play running back. Well,

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
Onto	90	67	.573	—	—	5-5	L-1	50-26	40-41	769	706
York	89	68	.567	1	+4	7-3	W-3	45-31	44-37	819	674
n	86	71	.548	4	+1	5-5	W-1	46-32	40-39	769	661
a Bay	76	81	.484	14	9	4-6	L-1	41-40	35-41	696	653
nore	74	83	.471	16	11	5-5	W-1	38-41	36-42	662	760

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
land	85	72	.541	—	—	9-1	W-1	42-34	43-38	621	627
it	85	72	.541	—	—	1-9	L-7	46-35	39-37	745	675
as City	78	78	.500	6½	6½	4-6	L-1	43-38	35-40	616	618
esota	67	89	.429	17½	17½	3-7	W-1	38-43	29-46	661	763
go	58	99	.369	27	27	1-9	L-3	33-48	25-51	620	714

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
le	87	69	.558	—	—	9-1	W-4	48-27	39-42	741	673
ton	84	72	.538	3	½	5-5	L-3	46-35	38-37	659	642
s	79	77	.506	8	5½	3-7	L-7	47-31	32-46	662	580
tics	73	83	.468	14	11½	7-3	L-2	33-42	40-41	709	789
ng.	70	86	.449	17	14½	1-9	L-1	37-38	33-48	655	803

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
adel.	92	64	.590	—	—	6-4	L-2	51-24	41-40	756	634
York	81	76	.516	11½	—	5-5	W-1	49-32	32-44	748	690
li	76	80	.487	16	4½	9-1	W-6	36-42	40-38	692	774
ita	75	83	.475	18	6½	10-0	W-10	38-39	37-44	713	717
l.	64	94	.405	29	17½	3-7	L-2	31-47	33-47	668	873

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
waukee	95	62	.605	—	—	6-4	L-2	51-27	44-35	794	614
cago	88	69	.561	7	+7	4-6	L-5	46-30	42-39	757	634
nnati	80	77	.510	15	1	6-4	L-1	44-35	36-42	699	667
ouis	77	80	.490	18	4	5-5	W-2	44-37	33-43	673	721
burgh	68	89	.433	27	13	4-6	W-3	44-37	24-52	565	632

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	WCGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	RS	RA
Ang.	88	68	.564	—	—	6-4	L-1	52-29	36-39	794	668
Diego	86	71	.548	2½	+5	6-4	W-3	48-28	38-43	670	609
na	79	77	.506	9	1½	7-3	W-2	42-36	37-41	773	744
Fran.	77	80	.490	11½	4	2-8	L-1	38-38	39-42	679	666
rado	43	113	.276	45	37½	3-7	W-1	25-56	18-57	584	988

ched division
ched playoff berth

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Tuesday's Games

more 6, Tampa Bay 0
eland 5, Detroit 2
Yankees 3, Chicago
e Sox 2
on 4, Toronto 1
esota at Texas, late
as City at L.A. Angels,

rado at Seattle, late
ston at Athletics, late
Wednesday's Games
pa Bay (Baz 10-12) at Bal-
re (Wells 2-0), 6:35 p.m.
oit (Flaherty 8-14) at
eland (Bibee 11-11), 6:40

ago White Sox (TBD) at
Yankees (Fried 18-5),
p.m.
ton (Crochet 17-5) at To-
o (Scherzer 5-4), 7:07

nesota (Bradley 6-8) at
as (deGrom 12-8), 8:05
sas City (Kolek 5-6) at L.A.
els (Kikuchi 6-11), 9:38
rado (Gordon 6-7) at Se-
o (Castillo 10-8), 9:40 a.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Tuesday's Games

Pittsburgh 4, Cincinnati 2
Atlanta 3, Washington 2
N.Y. Mets 9, Chicago Cubs 7
Miami at Philadelphia, late
Colorado at Seattle, late
L.A. Dodgers at Arizona, late
Milwaukee at San Diego, late
St. Louis at San Francisco,
late

Wednesday's Games

Washington (Alvarez 1-1) at
Atlanta (Elder 8-10), 12:15
p.m.
Milwaukee (Priester 13-2) at
San Diego (Cease 8-12), 4:10
p.m.
Pittsburgh (Skenes 10-10) at
Cincinnati (Greene 7-4), 6:40
p.m.

Miami (Weathers 2-1) at Phil-
adelphia (Luzardo 14-7), 6:45
p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Tong 2-2) at Chi-
cago Cubs (Boyd 13-8), 8:05
p.m.
Colorado (Gordon 6-7) at Se-
attle (Castillo 10-8), 9:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Snell 5-4) at Ar-
izona (Nelson 7-3), 9:40 p.m.
St. Louis (Grav 14-8) at San

W.VA. FOOTBALL

Class AAAA

1. Morgantown	15.00	4-0
2. G. Washington	14.25	4-0
3. Wheeling Park	13.13	3-1
4. Huntington	12.63	3-1
(tie) University	12.63	3-1
6. Spring Mills	12.13	3-1
7. Oak Hill	11.35	3-1
8. Wood. Wilson	9.28	2-2
9. Parkersburg	9.23	2-2
10. Washington	9.10	2-2
11. Musselman	7.88	1-3
12. Martinsburg	7.75	2-2
13. Riverside	4.88	1-3
14. Jefferson	4.00	0-3
15. Park. South	3.75	0-4
16. Hurricane	3.38	0-4
17. Hedgesville	3.15	0-4
18. Buck. Upshur	3.08	0-4
19. Preston	2.70	0-4
20. Cabell Midland	2.18	0-4

Class AAA

1. Fairmont Sr.	14.67	3-0
(tie) Princeton	14.67	3-0
3. Bridgeport	14.00	4-0
4. Green. East	12.20	2-1
5. Chapmanville	12.00	3-0
6. Elkins	11.75	4-0
7. Nitro	11.65	3-1
8. Herb. Hoover	11.40	3-1
9. North Marion	10.65	3-1
10. John Marshall	10.00	3-0
11. Winfield	9.90	3-1
12. Capital	9.80	2-1
13. Hampshire	9.68	3-1
14. Spring Valley	9.50	2-2
15. Keyser	9.40	2-1
16. Ripley	8.55	3-1
17. R.C. Byrd	8.50	2-2
18. Pikeview	6.93	2-1
19. S. Charleston	6.80	1-2
20. Nicholas Co.	6.43	2-2
23. Brooke	4.35	1-3

Class AA

1. Independence	11.75	4-0
2. Frankfort	11.50	4-0
3. Bluefield	10.35	3-1
4. Petersburg	9.50	4-0
(tie) S. Harrison	9.50	4-0
(tie) Mingo Cent.	9.50	4-0
7. Logan	9.25	4-0
8. James Monroe	8.93	3-1
9. Doddridge Co.	8.75	4-0
10. Midland Trail	8.55	3-1
11. P. Barbours	8.25	2-2
12. Westside	7.95	3-1
13. Oak Glen	7.75	3-1
14. Roane Co.	6.63	2-1
15. Poca	6.10	2-2
16. Clay Co.	5.90	2-2
17. Williamstown	5.17	1-2
18. Wayne	5.15	2-2
19. Berkeley Spr.	4.98	2-2
20. Braxton Co.	4.85	2-2
25. Tyler Conso.	3.45	1-3
29. Weir	2.50	0-3

Class A

1. Cameron	8.33	3-0
2. Wahama	8.25	4-0
3. Whg Central	8.20	3-1
4. Meadow Bridge	8.00	3-0
5. Pendleton Co.	7.57	2-1
6. Sherman	7.05	3-1
7. Wirt Co.	5.70	3-1
8. Tucker Co.	5.43	3-1
9. Tug Valley	5.40	2-2
10. Clay-Battelle	5.27	2-1
11. St. Marys	5.15	2-2
12. Montcalm	4.93	2-1

St. C.'s Baker wins Ohio D-II girls golf sectional

CARROLLTON — St. Clairsville's Olivia Baker finished atop the leaderboard once again Tuesday during Ohio Division II girls sectional golf action. The Red Devils senior shot a 76 at the Carroll Meadows Golf Club to win by two strokes over Garaway's Sara Weaver.

Baker, who won the OVAC championship last week for the second time in three years, shared medalist honors in last year's sectional.

She and Edison's Kallie McKeegan were the lone individual qualifiers. McKeegan carded an 81.

However, the Wildcats finished third in the team race with a score of 399 and will advance to District Tournament action on Oct. 1 at the Cambridge Country Club.

Also representing Edison were Bella Evans (101), Madysen Cornell (107) and Teagan Reynolds (110).

Garaway won the team title with a 345. Sandy Valley was second at 396, while Edison tied with Tuscarawas Valley for third.

BOYS SOCCER

Class 4A Quarterfinals

Union Local 4, Harrison Central 3

MORRISTOWN — In the continuation of a suspended match on Monday due to inclement weather, the No. 3 seeded Jets rallied from an early 2-1 on Tuesday by scoring three unanswered goals to nip the sixth-seeded Huskies.

Dominic Crum had two goals and an assist for Union Local. Brady Roe and Izayha Hall also scored goals for the Jets, while Mason Fowkes and Liam Roe charted assists.

Union Local now travels to Lisbon to meet No. 2 Beaver Local in semifinal action on Wednesday.

BOYS GOLF

Wheeling Park Wins Triangular

MOUNDSVILLE — The Patriots slipped past St. Clairsville 326 to 327 Tuesday at the Moundsville Country Club. John Marshall was third at 358.

Wheeling Park's Andrew Pennybacker and St. Clairsville's Mavrik Malin tied for medalist honors as both shot 76. Brayden Kempkens and Brandt Blake both carded 87 to lead the Monarchs.

(Late Monday)

VOLLEYBALL

Martins Ferry Tops Barnesville

BARNESVILLE — The visiting Purple Riders prevailed by scores of 25-20, 22-25, 25-17 and 25-12 over the Shamrocks.

Olivia Harkness charted 48 assists and had a pair of service aces to lead Martins Ferry. SJ Koller added 29 digs, while Lexi Carte finished with 14 kills. Giana Chirpas added 21 kills and a trio of aces, while Maddie Lucas added 17 digs and five kills. Nicole Hammer-

**dians
1 Tigers
to tie for
with 5
es left**

AND (AP) — Jose
ove in a run with a
int when Cleveland
strange sixth inning
oit ace Tarik Skub-
Guardians beat the
on Tuesday night to
tie for first place in
ral.
caught Detroit after
! games back on July
dians, who were still
es behind the Tigers
have won 11 of 12.
-5 in September.
s have dropped sev-
nd 10 of 11 as their
is shrunk to zero.
13-6), the reigning
ung Award winner,
the sixth, becoming
en when Cleveland's
as struck in the face
ph fastball.

DIANS, Page B2



AP Photo
ID GUARDIANS'
ez breaks his bat as
out in the fourth in-
seball game against
Tigers in Cleveland,
ept. 23, 2025.

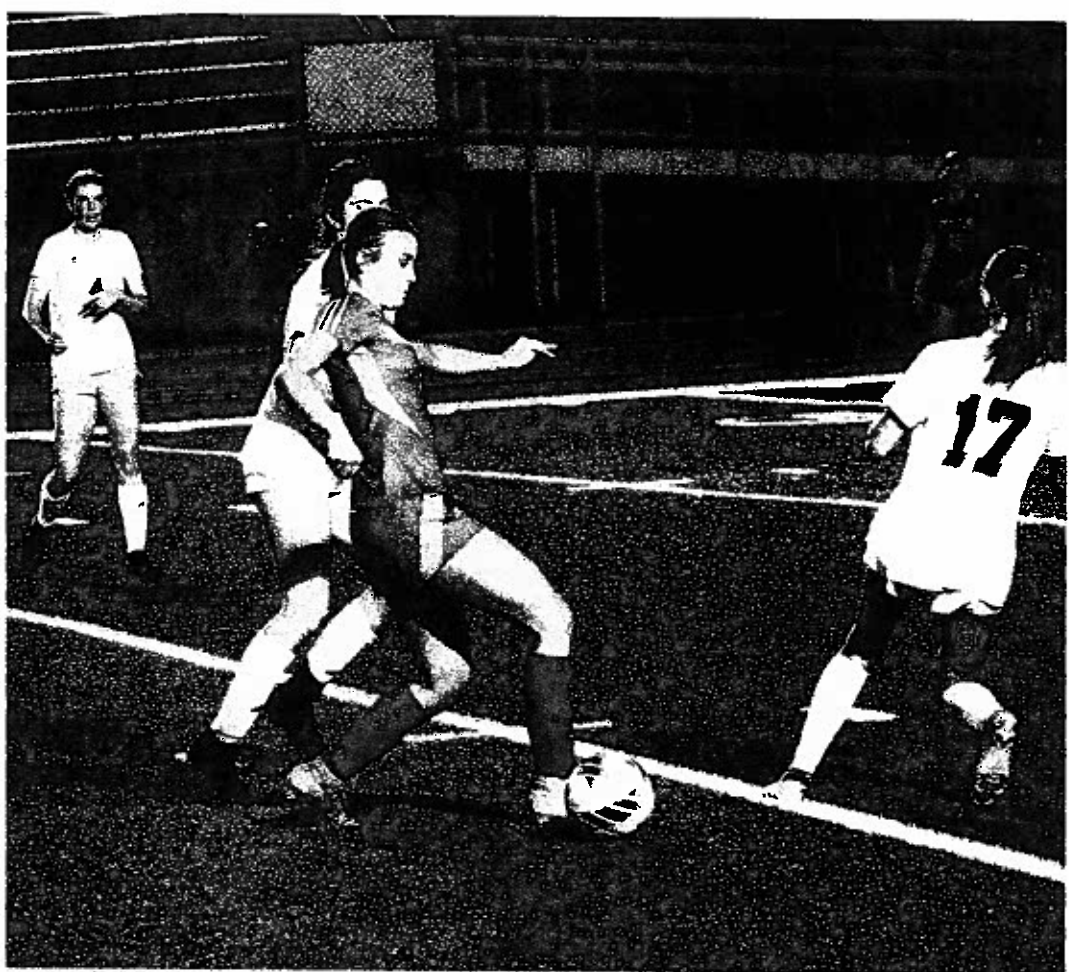


Photo by NICK HENTHORN
ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Emma Gasber moves through the Linsly defense Tuesday during the Red Devils' 6-1 first-round OVAC 4A tournament win over Linsly. Gasber scored four goals in helping St. Clairsville advance to face Cambridge in the OVAC semifinals.

Red Devils advance past Linsly in OVAC tournament

By NICK HENTHORN
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — St. Clairsville and Linsly drew each other for a first-round OVAC girls soccer matchup Tuesday — a rematch of the two teams' regular-season game just last week.
While the Cadets won their previous encounter, it was the Red Devils who prevailed, 6-1, on the tournament stage inside Red Devil Stadium as third-seeded St. Clairsville began their bid to return to the OVAC championship game.
"Girls stepped up today," St. Clairsville head coach Wes Stoner said. "We have

three starters out now. We got another one that was just injured against East Liverpool a few days ago. So starting center back Eva [Munson] was out. We had girls step up and we played well. We played with effort, urgency, and I think they wanted this one after losing the last one to them when they came in here and beat us 3-2 not even maybe a week ago."
St. Clairsville was also without juniors Kendall Sall and Ashlynn Lednik on Tuesday.
After Linsly's Makena Aiello lofted up a long-range shot that found the back of the net in the 19th minute of Tuesday's game, St. Clairs-

ville scored six unanswered the rest of the way, starting with Emma Gasber pounding through the first of her four goals in the 23rd minute to tie the contest.
"I thought we started out really well, we came out strong," Linsly head coach Morgan Kost said. "I think we lost energy through the first half and St. Clairsville is good enough to capitalize on just one lapse in focus."
After Linsly defeated St. Clairsville in the regular season, the Red Devils thought that they were better prepared for the Cadets in their tournament fight.
See LINSLY, Page B2

es snap Reds' 5-game win streak with 4-2 victory

NATI (AP) Mets played the Cubs
Cruz hit a on Tuesday night.



PITTSBURGH

A TRACKMAN de
the Automated Ba
tem is posted on th
hind home plate b
training baseball g
the Kansas City R
Los Angeles Dodg
Feb. 22, 2025, in P

The ML introdu robot u in 2026

NEW YORK (A
umpires are gettin
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man competition
Tuesday approve
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Human plate
still call balls an
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per game and get
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by a pitcher, cat
— signaled by
helmet or cap —
retains its challen
ful. Reviews will
digital graphics o
eoboards.
New York Yank
Austin Slater, one
ers on the compet
tee, said three v
after getting supp
the 30 teams. Al
ment reps voted in
"I think with an
nology, there's n
tainty of the accu
system," Slater sa
same can be said
I think it's just co
with the impact th
is going to have a
not we were willi
that error that w
with the system,
ror is very, very r
Big league
roughly 94% of
rectly, according
cards.
Adding the re
likely to cut down
MLB said 61.5%
among players,
coaches last yea
ed to balls and ..

unit specialist.

The "Chain Gang",

who have been guardians

of the sidelines during

Cadiz and Harrison Cen-

tral football games, have

current officials still in-

volved after 50 years ser-

vice. Those recognized

are Dane Morgan, Ken-

ny Zitko, Tim Kenny,

Rich McKinney, Chuck

George, John Ridgeway,

Gary Myers, Raymond

Jones and Dave Morgan.

1992 Cadiz Wrestling

Teamis one of the best

teams in School histo-

ry, winning the OVAC

"AA" Championship, the

Sectional Tournament,

the District Tournament,

and finished the season as

1992 Division III State

Runner-up.

Members of that team

are: Members of that

special team were: Head

Coach Joel Davia, Asst

Coach Frank Sabo, Mat

Maids: Cindy Erbacher,

Jolene Jones, Carie Rose,

Sara Tabacchi, Michelle

Tipton Janelle Zimmer-

man, Managers: Cole

Davia, Jonathan Davia.

Wrestlers:

Bill Ash, Ben Bombo-

ris, Matt Brooks, Drew

Case, Mike, Cheveuront,

Nash Coleman, Tim Dun-

fee, Matt Hennis, Tom

Hilligas, Jeremy Jacobs,

Chris McKeever, Jeremy

Myers, David Nameth,

Tom Ott, Michael Re-

iss, Justin Ryder, Willie

Sedgmer, Ryan Swan,

Lee Tipton, Carle Tuck-

er, Mitch Tucker, Lucas

Wallace, Paul Woodward,

Clay Zimmerman.

• Linsly

Continued from Page B1

"Poppy [Yendell], we knew her speed now, obviously, which we didn't know going into that last game," Stoner said.

"I think she had a couple break-aways on us last week, so we kind of had it prepared for that a little bit and talked through how we're going to prevent that. I

felt like it worked a little bit, we were able to keep her to only a couple shots, maybe, and we just possessed the ball, which was what we didn't do last time.

"To be frank, it was more about us than about them, and how we wanted to play against them. We wanted to play how we play, which is possession, moving the ball around and just always staying available for each other. And we worked the

• Pirates

Continued from Page B1

Elly De La Cruz, who snapped a 43-game homeless streak on Saturday, got the Reds' on the board with a two-run homer off Johan Oviedo to make the score 4-2 in the bottom of the second.

The Reds had runners on first and third with two outs in the sixth, but Pirates rookie Hunter Barco (1-0), making his major league debut, got Matt McLain to ground into a force play. Barco earned his first career victory.

The Reds managed only five hits and grounded into three straight in-

ning-ending double plays including in the ninth to help Dennis Santana secure his 15th save.

Key moment
Suwinski appeared to make a diving catch on Will Benson's drive in foul territory down the left field line with two outs in the fourth. The Reds challenged and the ruling of a catch was overturned.

Key stat
The loss snapped Cincinnati's season-high five-game winning streak. The Reds have won five straight games four times this season.

ball pretty well and got some good chances and got some goals."

St. Clairsville scored twice more in the first half, both quick-hitters where St. Clairsville flipped field quickly and struck fast. Isabella Cunningham found Elizabeth Morgan for a center-cut shot in the 35th minute.

Gasber found herself on a breakaway just two minutes later, and wound up a shot with great velocity, enough to blast through the outstretched hands of Linsly keeper Elaina Pusz, who had three saves Tuesday.

Her counterpart, St. Clairsville's Kiya Kyer, made an impressive save with 10 seconds left in the half, venturing a few steps out from goal and taking a

shot straight to the stomach for one of her 10 saves.

"We had a lapse at the very beginning," Stoner said. "Credit to the girls, they didn't get down going down one-nothing kind of early in the game, they stuck with it and played our game and passed well and finished finally."

Elizabeth Morgan scored on a free kick from the right wing in the 47th minute to go ahead 4-1, and Gasber completed a hat trick in the 51st minute, playing a back-and-forth two-man-game with Morgan all the way down the field and to the goal.

Gasber made it four goals in the 65th minute, gathering a pass behind the entire Linsly defense, getting around the advancing keeper and tapping through an

uncontested shot for the eventual final 6-1 mark.

With the win, St. Clairsville will face No. 2 Cambridge tomorrow on the road. St. Clairsville defeated Cambridge 3-1 earlier in this season, but as Tuesday demonstrated, regular season outcomes are not guaranteed to repeat in the tournament.

"It should be a good game," Stoner said. "They've got some talented girls, so we'll see how it ends up. But they're the two seed, they're ranked higher than us, so we're headed there and hopefully we can beat them and get to the final."

St. Clairsville made it to the 4A OVAC finals last season, falling to Weir.

"Hopefully we can get back there this year," Stoner said.

• Umpire

Continued from Page B1

"Throughout the year, I've been a little not totally on board with it or exactly how it's going to be implemented but it's going to be here and hopefully that's a good thing," he said. "A lot of the things that Major League Baseball has done I think have been really successful in the changes they've made and hopefully this is another one of them."

Guardians manager Stephen Vogt said players will have to adjust.

"You can like it, dislike it, it doesn't matter," Vogt said as Cleveland prepared to open a critical three-game series with Detroit. "It's coming. It's going to change the game. It's going to change the game forever."

ABS, which utilizes Hawk-Eye cameras, has been tested in the minor leagues since 2019. The independent Atlantic League trialed the system at its 2019 All-Star Game and MLB installed the

At Triple-A at the start of the 2023 season, half the games used the robots for ball/strike calls and half had a human making decisions subject to appeals by teams to the ABS.

MLB switched Triple-A to an all-challenge system on June 26, 2024, then used the challenge system this year at 13 spring training ballparks hosting 19 teams for a total of 288 exhibition games. Teams won 52.2% of their ball/strike challenges (617 of 1,182).

"I love it. I loved it in spring training," Phillies manager Rob Thomson said. "Not all of the players, but most of the players, if you ask them, they really liked it too. I think it keeps everybody accountable. It keeps everybody on their toes."

At Triple-A this season, the average challenges per game increased to 4.2 from 3.9 through Sunday and the success rate dropped to 49.5% from 50.6%. Defenses were successful in 53.7% of challenges this year and offenses in 45%.

The Intelligencer.

SPORTS

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WVU

9

'They Do That?' Victories And for Steelers Under Tomlin



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (8) and head coach Mike Tomlin leave the field after a game against the New England Patriots, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2014, in Foxborough, Mass.

AP Photo

ls, failed to produce single first down on of their eight drives including kneel downs the end of each half) let Drake Maye & spend most of the moon moving up and n the field with regu-y if not ease. et when it mattered, sburgh found a way, by luck, but by doing things the coaching f instills from the first

day of offseason work-outs to the final snap of the season. The five takeaways the Steelers produced against the Patriots were exactly that: takeaways. New England didn't gift Pittsburgh the ball by being sloppy. The Steelers earned every one of them — a hand up to deflect a pass, by lowering their shoulder to dislodge the ball from a running back

or by punching at it in hopes of knocking it free. It wasn't luck. It was practice habits turning into tangible results. "We spend a lot of time on our ball search culture," Tomlin said. "But it's just words, it's an agenda. The efforts of the guys make it real, not only on Sunday but during the course of the week."

Please see ART, Page 10



Photo by Kim North

Union Local's Mason Fowkes (1) controls the ball as Harrison Central's Andrew Mattern (24) defends during early action in Monday night's OVAC Class 4A boys' soccer tournament match in Morristown.

OVAC Soccer Tournament Encounters Cancellations

MORRISTOWN - Sophomore Dominic Mother Nature was the big winner Monday night as the OVAC Soccer Tournament saw several matches either postponed or cut short due to inclement weather.

In boys Class 4A quarterfinal action at Jets Stadium, No. 3 Union Local and No. 6 Harrison Central were deadlocked at one late in the 16th minute when nearby lightning strikes forced both teams into the adjacent locker room facility and left fans scrambling to their respective cars.

Following numerous lightning strikes, the match was suspended and tentatively re-scheduled for Tuesday at 4:45 p.m., pending the availability of referees.

Sophomore Dominic Crum scored the Union Local goal in the sixth action off a cross from Ian Thornton.

The Huskies tied the count less than 10 minutes later when Cooper Thompson headed the ball into the net.

In the other boys 4A quarterfinal, No. 4 Linsly blanked No. 5 Weir, 5-0, on the outdoor field at The Highlands Sports Complex.

On the girls' side of Class 4A, No. 6 Linsly vs. No. 3 St. Clairsville was also postponed. The Red Devils and Cadets are tentatively rescheduled for Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Red Devil Stadium.

Please see SOCCER,
Page 10

Ryder Cup Off To Emotional Start For Team USA

... teammate Brady
lagger finishing
1 with a 77.
ne top eight individ-
not on one of the
lifying teams also
ance to district ac-
...
addition to Malin,
r Red Devils were
u Mooney (78),
n Mooney (80) and
on Conway (85).
ie Shamrocks also
Dylan Gallagher
and Graham Spen-
(91) scoring, while
ter Shutler led the
le Riders with an

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's pet
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up 369
n huge

... Connor Best (90).
Union Local's Lin-
coln Smith (78) and
Landen Hanasky (82
also qualified.
The district tourna-
ment is Monday, Sept.
29 at Eaglesticks Golf
Club in Zanesville.
VOLLEYBALL
Union Local Wins On
Senior Night
MORRISTOWN -
The red-hot Jets contin-
ued the drive towards
an OVAC Class 4A
playoff berth with their
fifth straight victory as
they made quick work
of visiting Bellaire in-

chance to force a mistake, something
the Steelers did regularly. Of those five
extended drives, two ended in touch-
downs, two ended in turnovers and one
in a failed fourth-down attempt.

WHAT NEEDS HELP
Those "splash" plays by the defense
helped cover up what needs help: the
ability for the defense to get off the
field. The Steelers are allowing op-
ponents to convert 47% of their third
downs and have forced just three three-
and-outs through three games. As op-
portunistic as they were against New
England, producing five takeaways a
week is not sustainable.

STOCK UP
Rookie first-round pick Derrick
Harmon looked every bit the player
Pittsburgh thought it was getting when
it drafted him 21st overall last spring.
Harmon's NFL debut after missing
the first two games with a knee injury
didn't disappoint. He collected his first
sack and added two tackles while play-
ing about half the game.

STOCK DOWN
Whatever momentum wide receiver
Roman Wilson built during train-
ing camp has vanished. He played
just nine snaps in New England and
has one catch for seven yards through
three games, not exactly a ringing en-
dorsement from the coaching staff that
he's ready to make an impact.

INJURIES
Pittsburgh escaped Foxborough
relatively healthy and there's opti-
mism that cornerback Joey Porter Jr.
(hamstring) and safety DeShon Elliott
(knee) could return as soon as this
week.

KEY NUMBER
682 - Pittsburgh's winning per-
centage in one-score games (eight
points or fewer) since the start of
2017, the best in the NFL.

NEXT STEPS
Try to do something they couldn't

... Lauren Vinskovich
led the way with nine
kills, four blocks and
a trio of digs, while
Ameera Saunders added
six kills and eight digs.
Alli Kellaway contrib-
uted five digs and a like
number of service aces,
while Delaney Butler
charted 15 assists.

River Swept By Visit-
ing Caldwell
HANNIBAL - The
invading Redskins re-
corded a sweep over
the Pilots by scores of
25-21, 25-14 and 25-
12 inside the R.E. Potts
Memorial Gym.

River was led by Hal-
lie Hammel with 10
kills, 12 digs and a pair
of service aces. Maci
Isaly added 10 digs and
seven assists.

(Late Saturday)
BOYS SOCCER

SOCCER
(Continued from Page 9)
The OVAC soccer
championships, both
boys and girls, are set
to be played throughout
Saturday, with the boys
championship games
slated for St. Clairs-

START
(Continued from Page 9)

"I think it's always
important to rally around
something," Donald
said. "We always have
things that we come up
with that are important
to us. History and our
unity and celebrating
what we've done in the
past and the legends that
have kind of come be-
fore us is really import-
ant."

"This is going to be a
difficult challenge."
There were not many
surprises in the way
Bradley grouped his
three groups of four
players for the only full
practice round they play
this week.

Justin Thomas and
Cameron Young were
together, as they were
in the Procore Champi-
onship two weeks ago
in Napa, California. Ben
Griffin, one of four Ry-
der Cup rookies, was
with Brvson DeCham-

HUNTINGTON -
Wilson Hanna record-
ed a brace while Aiden
McCroskey added a
goal and an assist in the
Patriots' road victory.
Dani Brazal Morcillo
had a pair of helpers as
Cooper Abraham made
four saves.

VOLLEYBALL
Union Local Rallies
By Buckeye Trail
MORRISTOWN -
The Jets won a thriller
over the visiting War-
riors 20-25, 21-25, 25-
18, 25-21 and 15-12.

Saunders charted
34 kills and 15 digs.
Vinskovich added 18
kills and 22 digs, while
Butler finished with 47
sets and 14 digs.

CROSS COUNTRY
Shadyside, JM Win
Titles
CAMERON - The
Tigers won the girls

Country Invitational
Saturday as Chloe
Meholovitch and Gab-
by Kosky ran 1-2 in
23-minutes, 12.90-sec-
onds and 23:56.40, re-
spectively.

Shadyside finished
with 25 points. Wheel-
ing Central was a dis-
tant second with 64,
one more than John
Marshall.

Brooke's Elizabeth
Edgell finished third,
followed by John Mar-
shall's Lily Wright and
Wheeling Central's
Rylee Wright.

In the boys' race,
Brooke's Gavin Scott
ran 19:28.40. He was
followed by Wheeling
Central's Michael Hut-
nick in second; Magno-
lia's Riley Dennis was
third and John Mar-
shall's Carson Fitzpat-
rick fifth.

ville's Red Devil Stadi-
um, and the girls cham-
pionship games slated
for Wheeling Island Sta-
dium.
In the girls tourna-
ment's other 4A quar-

terfinal, Weir defeat-
ed Oak Glen 1-0 in a
weather-shortened affair
shortened game which
ended prematurely after
two separate weather de-
lays.



AP Photo
United States captain Keegan Bradley, left, and Eu-
rope captain Luke Donald pose for a photo with the
Ryder Cup trophy after a press conference in New
York, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, in New York.

Cup.
Schauffele and De-
Chambeau have gone
about a month since last
competing. DeCham-
beau finished the LIV
He felt that sentiment
as his team gathered on
the first tee to listen to
Mascali.
"It was a powerful
moment" Bradley said

occasionally beyond) is that the Steelers have more points next to their name than the opponent does next to theirs.

How Pittsburgh gets there is immaterial, at least to Tomlin. So, forgive him if he didn't offer an apology after the Steelers improved to 2-1 with a 21-14 victory over New England on Sunday that had all the hallmarks of one of those "how did they do that?" performances that Tomlin's teams find a way to churn out a couple of times each



AP Photo

PITTSBURGH STEELERS quarterback Aaron Rodgers (8) and head coach Mike Tomlin leave the field after an NFL football game against the New England Patriots, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025, in Foxborough, Mass.

fall.

"It's good to win in the NFL," Tomlin said after beating the Patriots on the road for the first time in 17 years.

The Steelers did it on a day they were outgained by more than 160 yards, failed to produce a single

first down on four of their eight drives (excluding kneel downs at the end of each half) and let Drake Maye & Co. spend most of the afternoon moving up and down the field with regularity if not ease.

Yet when it mattered,

Pittsburgh found a way, not by luck, but by doing the things the coaching staff instills from the first day of offseason workouts to the final snap of the season.

See **STEELERS**,
Page B2

Rain and lightning halts OVAC soccer

MORRISTOWN — Mother Nature was the big winner Monday night as the OVAC Soccer Tournament saw several matches either postponed or cut short due to inclement weather.

In boys Class 4A quarterfinal action at Jets Stadium, No. 3 Union Local and No. 6 Harrison Central were deadlocked at one late in the 16th minute when nearby lightning strikes forced both teams into the adjacent locker room facility and left fans scrambling to their respective cars.

Following numerous lightning strikes, the match was suspended and tentatively re-scheduled for Tuesday at 4:45 p.m., pending the availability of referees.

Sophomore Dominic Crum scored the Union Local goal in the sixth action off a cross from Ian Thornton.

See **SOCCER**, Page B2



Photo by KIM NORTH

HARRISON CENTRAL'S Hunter Fulton (34) battles with the Union Local tandem of Mason Fowkes (1) and Ian Thornton (13) during early action in Monday night's OVAC Class 4A boys' soccer tournament match in Morristown. The game was suspended in the 16th minute with the score tied at 1. It will resume at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday.

MLB's reg

(AP) — Right around Major League Baseball's snooze fest.

September had other intentions. The standings in both the National League and American League have tight action over the final week in Ohio.

Here's a look at some regular season comes to arrives:

What are the

1. The National League heat as of Monday morning and Cincinnati Reds tie 80-76. The Reds own the end of the 162-game season. Arizona Diamondbacks behind both teams. The for a playoff spot on September month, which allowed them into the race.

2. The American League with four teams — in Detroit Tigers, Cleveland Indians — fighting for the Guardians have a stunning climb to one game behind the AL Central.

3. Seattle's Cal Rale season on Sunday, extended a season by a player who has six games remaining. Philadelphia's Kyle Schwarber have 53 homers, while has 49.

What is the

There are 12 teams this season, including six teams three division winners in through No. 3, ranked three wild-card teams also ranked by win-loss.

The top two teams in AL and NL automatically qualify. The other eight teams which is a best-of-three Sept. 30. In both the AL travel to face the No. 3 to No. 4. The higher seed.

The winners then advance to the Division Series, followed by the Championship Series and the World Series.

See **SEA**

Team Penske turns the tables on Joe Gibbs Racing in 2nd-

Joe Gibbs Racing has two drivers feuding, but another pair of teammates were the primary concern after the NASCAR Cup Series playoff race at New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Sunday.

While the JGR Toyotas were struggling and spinning each other on the 1.058-mile oval, the Team Penske Fords of Ryan Blaney and Joey Logano were dominating at a

1-mile racetrack, the Penske cars are completely untouchable again," JGR director of competition Chris Gabehart said. "The reality is we've got a lot of work to do."

After a virtually perfect first round of the playoffs with three consecutive victories, Joe Gibbs Racing opened the second round dealing with an internal squabble of Denny Hamlin vs. Ty Gibbs and



also HUNTINGTON — Wilson Michael Hutnick in second; Mag- Hanna recorded a brace while Aid- nolia's Riley Dennis was third and on- en McCroskey added a goal and John Marshall's Carson Fitzpatrick 30lf assist in the Patriots' road victory. fifth.

and maybe one more run for the Cup," Malkin said. "It's a great story when you see it on TV, but I don't know how I feel if team wants to trade me."

Seattle the previous week.

"Like, say you had an off week (in the previous game), and you get a turn-over (in practice), coming into the next week and you have that before you leave to go to the next game, it helps you get your vibes back," inside linebacker Patrick Queen said earlier this season.

And the vibes were high after T.J. Watt's fumble recovery midway through the fourth quarter of a tied game opened the door for Aaron Rodgers to wake up a sluggish offense by leading a nine-play go-ahead touch-down drive that ended with a perfect lob to the end zone for wide receiver Calvin Austin.

One more stop — this one on a text-book tackle by cornerback Brandin Echols to stuff a fourth-and-1 — and Pittsburgh remained unbeaten on the road on a day it looked beatable everywhere but the scoreboard.

Same as it ever was for a coach whose teams are often defined by regularly finding a way to find a way, even when maybe they didn't deserve to.

"It cannot be going the way that you

desire, but you'd better have enough emotion, you'd better have enough belief," Tomlin said. "You'd better stay the course in an effort to do that."

What's working

To borrow one of Tomlin's pet phrases, the ability to "keep a lid on it." While the Patriots piled up 369 yards, the yards didn't come in huge chunks but rather nibbles. New England had five drives of eight plays or more. Longer drives give defenses the chance to force a mistake, something the Steelers did regularly. Of those five extended drives, two ended in touchdowns, two ended in turnovers and one in a failed fourth-down attempt.

What needs help

Those "splash" plays by the defense helped cover up what needs help: the ability for the defense to get off the field. The Steelers are allowing opponents to convert 47% of their third downs and have forced just three three-and-outs through three games. As opportunistic as they were against New England, producing five takeaways a week is not sustainable.

Stock up

Rookie first-round pick Derrick Harmon looked every bit the player Pittsburgh thought it was getting when it drafted him 21st overall last spring. Harmon's NFL debut after missing the first two games with a knee injury didn't disappoint. He collected his first sack and added two tackles while playing about half the game.

Stock down

Whatever momentum wide receiver Roman Wilson built during training camp has vanished. He played just nine snaps in New England and has one catch for seven yards through three games, not exactly a ringing endorsement from the coaching staff that he's ready to make an impact.

Injuries

Pittsburgh escaped Foxborough relatively healthy and there's optimism that cornerback Joey Porter Jr. (hamstring) and safety DeShon Elliott (knee) could return as soon as this week.

Key number

.682 — Pittsburgh's winning percentage in one-score games (eight points or fewer) since the start of 2017, the best in the NFL.

• Soccer

Continued from Page B1

The Huskies tied the count less than 10 minutes later when Cooper Thompson headed the ball into the net.

In the other boys 4A quarterfinal, No. 4 Linsly blanked No. 5 Weir, 5-0, on the outdoor field at The Highlands Sports Complex.

On the girls' side of Class 4A, No. 6 Linsly vs. No. 3 St. Clairsville was also postponed. The Red Devils and Cadets are tentatively rescheduled for Tuesday at 7

p.m. at Red Devil Stadium. The OVAC soccer championships, both boys and girls, are set to be played throughout Saturday, with the boys championship games slated for St. Clairsville's Red Devil Stadium, and the girls championship games slated for Wheeling Island Stadium.

In the girls' other 4A quarterfinal, Weir defeated Oak Glen 1-0 in a weather-shortened affair shortened game which ended prematurely after two separate weather delays.

• Season

Continued from Page B1

What is the MLB postseason schedule?

Wild Card Round: Sept. 30-Oct. 2 (ESPN)
Division Series: Oct. 4-11 (NL on TBS, AL on FOX/FS1)

Championship Series: Oct. 12-21 (NL on TBS, AL on FOX/FS1)
World Series: Oct. 24

to grabbing the fifth spot. In the American League, only the Toronto Blue Jays know they will play October baseball. The New York Yankees and Seattle Mariners are in excellent position to clinch a spot in the next few days.

Who are the favorites to win the World

next two (races), but I felt good about our performance coming into here and it didn't turn out."

As Blaney advanced with a victory, Bell remained a solid bet to be among the other seven contenders who will reach the third round. He is ranked fourth among the 12 playoff drivers and a spot ahead of Hamlin, who finished 12th after his dustup with Gibbs.

Hamlin had some choice words on his team radio for the grandson of team owner Joe Gibbs, who is out of the playoffs but seemed to impede the progress of his teammates early in the race. Gabehart downplayed the dissension, which he said would be defused in team meetings this week.

"I think there's a reasonable etiquette to follow," Gabehart said. "But at the same time, you can't create an atmosphere where everybody just has to roll over and play nice all the time, either, or you won't hang as many banners as Joe Gibbs Racing has hung over the years."

Hamlin was focused more on his disappointing performance than patching things up.

"Certainly, we didn't come here with our best," Hamlin said. "Got to get a little faster, get the car han-

"I didn't think they had the pace that I expected," Blaney said. "This sport is just ebbs and flows, ups and downs. We just hit it really good this weekend. When you have a big tire change, it can really turn you around."

The same tire will be used for the 2025 season's final two races at Martinsville Speedway and Phoenix, where Bell won in March.

But Logano clinched his past two titles by winning the championship race at Phoenix, and Blaney captured the 2023 title with a second in the season finale and was runner-up last year.

"The reality is it's playoff season, and here come the (Penske) cars," Gabehart said. "Those guys know how to get it done when it counts, and we'll just have to race them the rest of the year and see how it goes. They're going to be very tough."

23XI struggles

Kansas Speedway has been a good track at 23XI Racing, which needs a boost after stumbling badly at New Hampshire. Tyler Reddick (21st) and Bubba Wallace (26th) fell to the last two spots in the play-off points standings.

Wallace, who won at Kansas in 2022, said New Hampshire was