

Walking win: Rams sweep UC

Shepherd remains unbeaten in West Virginia Conference play

By BEN GUELL
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Even with some pitching struggles and challenges throughout the contests, Shepherd's offense lifted the Rams past the University of Charleston in a West Virginia Conference doubleheader Sunday in Shepherdstown. Shepherd's Tiffany Farmer drew a bases-loaded walk in extra innings to score freshman Jess Mason and lift the Rams to a 5-4 win in Game 1.

The Rams won 3-1 in Game 2 behind a 2-for-2 outing by Chelsie Oals and a strong effort on the mound by Brooke Shambaugh to remain

undefeated in conference play. "There was some inconsistency that went both ways today, but we just had to make good choices in the game," Shepherd coach Leslie Lopez said.

In the first game, the Rams and Golden Eagles found themselves in a pitching battle.

Shepherd pitcher Nichole Pitcock and Charleston pitcher Stefanie Rossman fought throughout the contest.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

CHARLESTON 4, 1

GOLDEN EAGLES 14-16

SHEPHERD 5, 3

RAMS 19-8



During the first inning, both pitchers didn't allow the ball to get out of the infield and only issued a combined one walk.

At the start of the second inning, Pitcock found herself struggling, but her teammate picked her up during her challenges.

With an opening walk in the inning, Charleston's Samantha Macias bunted to move Samantha Herdnon to second base. Sierra Curley then hit a shot to left field to score Macias for a 1-

0 lead. Pitcock hit a Charleston batter to place runners in scoring position. Then with the defense of shortstop Courtni Williams, Shepherd got out of an early challenge.

"Nichole (Pitcock) is a very strong mental player," Lopez said. "We never need to say something to her, and she is always able to bounce back fairly quickly."

Rossman then shut down the Rams in the bottom of the inning with three consecutive strikeouts.

Following a tough second inning, Pitcock recovered nicely with one strikeout and two groundouts in the third.

See RAMS C3

Rams

FROM PAGE C1

The Rams' offense exploded in the bottom of the inning. Cammie Orlandi hit a double to right field. Farmer doubled to score Orlandi and tie the game 1-1.

Oals hit a monstrous shot to left field that stayed inside the park, scoring Farmer and giving the Rams a 2-1 lead.

In the fourth inning, both pitchers produced shutout efforts.

At the top of the fifth, Shepherd's infield helped Pitcock's cause by making outstanding defensive plays.

The Rams opened their lead in the fifth by advancing runners and playing smart. Bianca Biondillo doubled and Farmer walked to set the stage. Then with a strong hit toward the Charleston shortstop, Oals brought in Biondillo, and the Rams gained a 3-1 advantage.

Shepherd loaded the bases, and Amber Dudek singled in another run for a 4-1 lead.

The Eagles managed to place runners on second and third base in the sixth. Curley tied the game for the first time since the third inning with a three-run home run.

Shepherd and Charleston fought to regain the lead but great pitching pushed the game into extra innings.

In the eighth, the Rams made quick work of the Eagles. Shepherd loaded the bases to set up Farmer, who drew a walk to bring the final tally.

In Game 1, Orlandi and Farmer each went 2 for 2 and Oals added a pair of hits to lead the Rams. Curley led the Golden Eagles with a 2-for-2 effort.

During Game 2, Oals sparked the Rams' offense, going 2 for 2 with a pair of runs scored.

After Shepherd took an early lead, Stambaugh shut down the Golden Eagles.

In the sixth, Dudek broke a 1-1 tie with a two-run double.

Amber Jarvis led the Golden Eagles with a 2-for-3 outing.

"(In order to remain highly ranked in the WVC), we just have to take it one day at a time and one game at a time," Lopez said. "We've got to practice hard and make some adjustments when needed."

Shepherd improved to 19-8 overall and 8-0 in conference play, while Charleston fell to 14-16, 2-3.



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SHEPHERD MEN'S GOLF: The Shepherd University men's golf team placed 12th in a 13-team field at the WVIAC Southern Regional at Edgewood Country Club. Concord University took team honors with a two-day total of 599 (+31). Junior Chris Gilkey (Arundel) fired a 159 to finish in a tie for 20th place to pace the Rams.

Shepherd University football schedule announced

Shepherd University head football coach Monte Cater recently announced the 2011 Ram football schedule. The 11-game slate includes six home contests.

The Rams open the season at home against rival Shippensburg on Sept. 3 for the Great Valley Classic/Ram Gridiron Club Day. Other home games include Seton Hill (Sept. 17 — Hall of Fame Weekend/ Military Appreciation Day), Charleston (Sept. 24), West Liberty (Oct. 15), West Virginia State (Oct. 22 - Homecoming) and Bowie State (Oct.

29 — Senior Day). All home games will have a noon kickoff.

For information on season tickets log on to www.shepherdbook.com or call 304-876-5219.

2011 Shepherd Football Schedule

• September

3 Shippensburg - 12 p.m.
10 @ St. Joseph's (IN) - 12 p.m.
17 Seton Hill - 12 p.m.
24 Charleston - 12 p.m.

• October

1 @ Concord - 1 p.m.
8 @ WV Wesleyan - 12 p.m.
15 West Liberty - 12 p.m.
22 WV State (Homecoming) - 12 p.m.
29 Bowie State - 12 p.m.

• November

5 @ Glenville State - 12 p.m.
12 @ Fairmont State - 1 p.m.

— From staff reports

THE NASH MASHER



Hutter homers Rams to win

By NATE MACZUZAK
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Nash Hutter came up big for the Shepherd University Rams time and time again.

There is little or no room for defeat in league play with the Rams teetering precariously close to missing the postseason, and no contribution was bigger in walking that fine line than Hutter's final stroke of brilliance in a West Virginia Conference doubleheader split with West Liberty on Saturday.

The Shepherd junior broke a 13th-inning tie with his third home run of the game to lift the Rams to an 8-7 win in the nightcap at Fairfax Field.

Hutter went 4 for 5 with three home runs, a double and six RBI. It was the first time in his career he posted three home runs in one contest. He now has six on the season.

Aaron Scoville went 4 for 6 with an RBI, Nathan Minnich went 2 for 2 and Morgan Lantz added a pair of hits and an RBI to pace the Rams' attack.

West Liberty posted a 12-4 win in Game 1 to split the day's action.

Shepherd, which is in sixth place of the WVC's North Division, improved to 10-14 overall and 6-11 in conference play, while West Liberty fell to 9-22, 7-8.

"This is a huge win for us, especially losing the first game," Hutter said. "I had some good knocks today. The last one was needed."

COLLEGE BASEBALL

WEST LIBERTY 12-7

HEDOPPERS 9-22

SHEPHERD 4-8

RAMS 10-14

Shepherd right fielder Nash Hutter, left, receives congratulations from Brandon Coffey after hitting his second of three home runs Saturday during the second game of a doubleheader against West Liberty. Hutter's third home run won the game in the 13th inning.

Journal photo by Pam Agre

See RAMS C6

Injured Collins makes return to view victory

By NATE MACZUZAK
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Brian Collins was happy to get out of the house and see his team play again on Saturday at Fairfax Field.

It has been two weeks since Collins' standout college baseball career at Shepherd University came to an abrupt and premature end.

The Shepherd senior suffered a season-ending injury in the Rams' game against Wheeling Jesuit two weeks ago.

"I went sliding in to try to break up a double play, and my cleat got caught in the dirt," Collins said. "It dislocated my ankle and broke my tibia."

Collins had surgery the following morning.

"There are two plates and eight screws in there," he said. "They said I'm going to be out eight to 12 weeks — can't put any weight on it."

Collins was having another spectacular season. A threat at the plate and a force on the mound, he was batting .386 with 18 RBI and had just pitched his best game.

"He had just had his best outing of the

year on the mound against D&E, and the next weekend he broke his leg and his career is over," Shepherd coach Wayne Riser said. "It was tragic. It was just a surreal situation — never been involved in anything like that."

"I made the best of it while I was here," Collins said. "It is shocking that it ended that way, but I've just got to be here when I can to support the guys and finish up classes. I'll be student-teaching in the fall and getting my teaching job. Go with life, I guess."

Collins was put in a fracture cast on Friday and made it out of the house for the first time to see his team win a 13-inning affair, 8-7, against West Liberty on a Nash Hutter game-ending home run Saturday.

"I almost left in the ninth inning because it's freezing cold," Collins said. "This is the first time I've been out of the house besides doctor appointments in two weeks. And I just wanted to be here and try to show some support."

"(Nash's home run) was awesome. Ironically, not that it was his fault, but he hit the ball when I slid and broke my leg.

See COLLINS C6



Journal file photo by Chris Jackson

Senior Brian Collins saw his career end recently after he broke his leg.

Rams FROM PAGE C1

We needed to get out of here. It was a good time. I just helped the team out.

"That was the best feeling we've had all year. Hopefully, this will carry on for the rest of the season."

"Thank goodness," Shepherd coach Wayne Riser said. "It is the first time we've come out on the good end of one, the first time we've had some fun in a while, the first time we've had a chance to smile."

Shepherd pitcher Justin Byrd earned the win in eight innings of relief to improve to 3-3. He gave up one earned run on five hits while striking out eight and walking one.

Byrd retired 18 of 20 batters and didn't allow a runner to advance past first base from the eighth inning on.

"He was phenomenal,"

Riser said of Byrd. "He threw extremely well. He threw a lot of pitches and hung us in there. He did an excellent job."

West Liberty's Robbie Stewart took the loss for the Hilltoppers in a relief effort to fall to 1-3. He gave up one earned run on four hits.

Paul Hvozdovic started for the Rams. He went five innings, giving up five earned runs on nine hits while striking out four and walking one.

Josh Graham started for the Hilltoppers. He went 5 1/2 innings, giving up seven earned runs on nine hits.

Shepherd was out hit 14-13, but Riser said the Rams got the big hits when they needed them.

Shepherd started fast, batting around in the first inning and scoring five runs. Hutter had a three-run home run,

and Lantz and Scoville added an RBI each.

West Liberty scored one run in the second before Shepherd extended its lead to 7-1 on Hutter's second home run, a two-run shot in the fourth.

But the Hilltoppers came roaring back to force extra innings.

West Liberty scored a run in the fifth, four in the sixth and one in the seventh to tie the game at 7-7 and keep its chance of a sweep alive.

Shepherd threatened in the eighth, 10th, 11th and 12th innings with a runner in scoring position each time, but the rallies stalled.

The teams combined to strand 23 runners.

Shepherd stranded 14, nine in scoring position, and had the potential game-winning run thrown out at home

plate in the eighth.

Lantz advanced to third on a Hutter double and tried to score when the Hilltoppers' relay got by third baseman Josh Nagel. But Nagel made what Riser called an "ESPN-highlight-reel play," sliding to get the ball along the fence and blindly throwing over the Rams' dugout to beat Lantz home and keep the game going.

From there, Byrd and Stewart battled back and forth until Hutter homered with one out in the 13th.

"I felt real comfortable today," Hutter said. "I've been feeling pretty comfortable, but this was the first time I felt nothing was too tough for me to handle."

"I'm just proud of the way we played," Riser said. "From the eighth inning on, we played really well. We

made the plays, made the pitches and we got a big knock when we had to."

In the first game, Hutter went 2 for 3 with two RBI to pace the Rams' offense.

Trent Chapman went 3 for 5 with six RBI, and Rudy Nagy went 3 for 5 with four RBI to pace the Hilltoppers.

Mike Roof went the distance to earn the victory and improve to 2-3. He gave up four earned runs on four hits, striking out one and walking two.

Shepherd's Andrew Gallant took the loss in 2 1/2 innings of work. He gave up six runs, four earned, on six hits and fell to 1-5.

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Collins FROM PAGE C1

To come here today and he has a day like that, it's pretty awesome."

Hutter was equally happy to see his friend and credited Collins with providing the emotional boost that lifted Shepherd.

"I was so happy to see him," Hutter said. "I was thinking of visiting him soon, and then he came to the game. That's why we won, because he was here."

With a young bullpen and a pair of injuries already sidelining Mike Lott and Trevor Appleby, no one understands the confluence of adversity facing the Rams better than Riser.

"We were young out of the gate," Riser said. "We have 15 new players and two new assistant coaches, and that scenario is just magnified when you lose guys the caliber of Lott, Appleby and Collins."

"Multiply that by two with Brian. You're losing leadership and a 4.0 student. It's like losing two guys — a pitcher and a No. 4 hitter."

Collins was a model player on and off the field. In addition to being one of two Rams chosen for preseason all-region honors, he was also selected as a third-team CoSIDA Academic All-American.

"He has something to hang on his mantle that not too many guys in college got," Riser said. "He's an academic All-American and probably would have been the first ever two-time academic All-American at Shepherd. There aren't too many of them running round the WVC, period."

"A lot went out the window when he went down. There is no doubt in my mind he'd have the numbers on the field and also have the academic

numbers."

But Riser is confident Collins will rebound, recover and succeed.

"He will have a full recovery, and Brian Collins will be successful past Shepherd University and Shepherd baseball," Riser said. "I'm sure he will go out in the community and be a great influence on young men."

Riser said it's tough for a young team to recover from losing such experience — a situation that may take time to rebound from.

"We just don't have the scholarship resources to replenish our personnel as quick as other people in the league and other programs in our department," Riser said.

"We lost Lott on opening day. Appleby beats West Virginia State and then hasn't thrown a pitch since. We went from having three weekend

starters to having none. Three season-ending injuries — never went through that in my career at Shepherd."

Riser is hoping the team can use the challenges to develop the ability to overcome adversity.

"In the short term, we are growing as people and as a baseball team, although it's very difficult," Riser said. "A lot of the time, guys can't realize or see it. I hope a win like today's helps in the long term, but as dynamic and fluid as college athletics are, you never know. You hope you can carry that tradition forward. Today was a step in the right direction."

Collins said Hutter and the Rams' dramatic victory certainly made taking that first step and braving the cold well worth it.



Journal photo by Chris Jackson
Shepherd's Nichole Pitcock delivers a pitch during the Rams' first game against West Virginia State Sunday in Shepherdstown. Shepherd swept the doubleheader, winning 1-0 and 6-5.

Rams prove No. 1 rank

Shepherd first team to sweep Yellow Jackets

BY SPENSER LEATHERMAN
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd University Rams became the first team to sweep the West Virginia State Yellow Jackets this season.

Shepherd won 1-0 in the opener and 6-5 in the nightcap of a West Virginia Conference doubleheader on Sunday.

It was a pitcher's duel in a matchup of a pair of the conference's top teams, and the Rams solidified their

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

WV STATE 0, 5

YELLOW JACKETS 22-10

SHEPHERD 1, 6

RAMS 23-8

place atop the conference rankings. In both games, the Rams needed to score runs in crucial situations to win. The Rams and Yellow Jackets went scoreless for the first three

innings of the opening game.

Shepherd pitcher Nichole Pitcock and West Virginia State's Kelsey Lorraine traded impressive innings.

Pitcock held the Yellow Jackets scoreless in the top of the fourth inning.

But Lorraine was unable to keep her scoreless effort alive as Tiffany Farmer drove in Pitcock on a single to left field in the bottom half, accounting for the only scoring during Game 1.

See RAMS C2

WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE BASEBALL



Journal photo by Chris Jackson
Shepherd's Tristan Beyer delivers a fastball during the Rams' game against West Liberty on Sunday in Shepherdstown. Shepherd won 8-5.

Minnich, Scoville lift Shepherd

Rams step up, win pair in weekend series against Hilltoppers

BY BEN GUELL
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd is looking for players to step up in huge ways.

Whether it is from the batter's box or from the pitching mound, Shepherd coach Wayne Riser will keep searching until he finds what he is looking for.

Fortunately for Riser and the Rams, Nathan Minnich

and Aaron Scoville brought their best games during Sunday's contest against West Liberty.

By powering through the Hilltoppers' pitching staff, Minnich and Scoville led the Rams to an 8-5 victory at Fairfax Field.

The Rams went 2-1 in

MEN'S BASEBALL

WEST LIBERTY 5

HILLTOPPERS 9-23

SHEPHERD 8

RAMS 11-14

carry your team and, without a doubt, when he plays well we are successful," Riser said. "Scoville does a good job for us, and he has a very

bright future." Minnich went 3 for 3 with a pair of singles and a home run, and Scoville went 2 for 5 with four RBI to pace the Rams.

Even with the bright offensive effort, Shepherd's pitching staff was challenged. "Our pitching is throwing and executing better, but we are still searching," Riser said.

See SHEPHERD C3

Shepherd lacrosse ends three-game skid

Carta scores five goals, Tippett adds four in another home win for Rams

By BEN GIBSON
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd Rams ended a three-game losing skid with a 21-4 victory over the Urbana Blue Knights on Sunday.

The Rams had a 33-17 shot advantage as Shepherd once again piled on the goals as it defended its home turf.

Shepherd freshman Shannon Carta scored five goals, and sophomore Krista Tippett added four to pace the Rams' attack.

"When were at home, it's a big advantage," Carta said. "After our losses, picking up the momentum with a win at home was big."

The win was Shepherd's sixth overall and fourth at home, where the Rams have outscored their opponents 79-26 this season.

"It's awesome, we've defended our home really well," Shepherd coach Tammy Butler said. "We're hot at home. To be home on our own field and defending Shepherd is a big deal to us."

The Rams quickly took the lead as

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

URBANA 4

BLUE KNIGHTS 2-12

SHEPHERD 21

RAMS 6-6

Carta racked up three goals in the first six minutes of play. Shepherd freshman Jenna Benke added a goal and Carta found the net again to give the Rams a 5-0 lead with 19:48 remaining in the first half.

Freshman Christina Ferrara and Tippett alternated the next four goals to give the Rams a comfortable 9-0 lead over the Blue Knights.

Freshman Taylor Smith added a goal. Sophomore Nicole Ruane tacked on two more scores to give Shepherd a commanding 12-0 lead.



CARTA

The Blue Knights got on the board with a pair of goals by sophomore Emily Boeger and freshman Brittany Mazzu to make it a 12-2 game with under 10 minutes to play in the first half.



TIPPETT

The Rams answered with a goal by Ferrara, but Urbana bounced back with a goal by Mazzu to make it a 13-3 game.

Carta, Smith and Benke tacked on goals in the final minutes of the half to give Shepherd a 16-3 lead at halftime.

See LACROSSE C3

Lacrosse

FROM PAGE C1

Coming out of the locker room, the Rams extended the lead with two goals by Tippett before sophomore Maddie Sullivan scored to give Shepherd a 19-3 lead with 15:09 left in the second half.

Mazzu got her third goal and the Blue Knights' final goal with just under nine minutes remaining in the second half as the Rams cruised to a win.

Shepherd stretched its lead out to 17 with goals by senior Lindsay Russell and freshman Hanna Wharton.

After Shepherd's offensive assault and victory, the Rams hope to keep the momentum

going as they face the Shippenburg Red Raiders at 4 p.m. today.

"We look to finish our run at home," Butler said. "We're excited to be at home for the rest of the season."

Shepherd was led by Carta with five goals. Tippett added four, Ferrara three and Ruane, Smith and Benke each a pair.

The Rams' defense made freshman goal keeper Emily Melanson's job a bit easier, but she still racked up six saves before Katherine Lambert took over midway through the second half and recorded one.

Shepherd

FROM PAGE C1

"We have lost some pitchers due to injury, and right now we are trying to see who has quality pitches that we can consistently start," Riser said.

After having two innings of shutout baseball, West Liberty opened the scoring in the third.

Trent Chapman tripled. Zane Madden doubled to bring home Chapman for a 1-0 lead, and Ryan Zelinski brought in Madden for a 2-0 lead.

Shepherd answered with a run in the bottom half.

Derek Gussell advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt and a wild pitch. Scoville brought him in to cut West Liberty's advantage to 2-1.

West Liberty scored another run in the fourth inning to regain a two-run lead, but the Rams turned up the offensive heat in the bottom of the fifth inning.

After a single by Aaron Lee, Minnich homered to tie the game.

Morgan Lautz posted a base hit, and Jake Cook singled to center to score Lautz, giving

Shepherd its first lead at 4-3.

In the sixth inning, West Liberty defused a possible Ram rally with sharp defense.

The Rams tipped the scale in their favor in the bottom of the seventh, however.

Shepherd loaded the bases for Scoville, who tripled to score Nash Hunter, Travis Slaggar and Brandon Coffey for a 7-4 lead.

Shepherd added another run on a Hunter sacrifice fly that scored Minnich for an 8-4 advantage.

The Hilltoppers trimmed the lead to 8-5 in the final inning.

The game featured seven different pitchers.

Shepherd's Trevor McClain picked up the win with 2 1/2 innings of scoreless work.

West Liberty's Josh Welsh was the pitcher of record for the Hilltoppers. Welsh worked 6 1/2 innings, allowing four earned runs.

West Liberty fell to 9-23, 6-9.

Rams

FROM PAGE C1

In Game 2, Shepherd and West Virginia State each scored five runs to carry a tie in the seventh inning.

A Ram double gave Shepherd the victory and completed the sweep.

The Rams began the first inning with a five-run rally. Chelsea Oals scored on a sacrifice fly by Megan Holmes after singling to start the game.

Pitcock singled to bring in Amber Dudek and was brought in on an error that put Cammie Orlandi on base. A pair of bases-loaded walks by Jess Mason and Oals brought in Sam McQuade and Bianca Biondillo, giving Shepherd the 5-0 lead.

The lead began to slip away from the Rams as the Yellow Jackets came back, tying the game by scoring three runs in the second and two more in the fourth.

Marlena Frye-Runyon led off the second inning with a solo home run to left. Kelsey Lorraine scored on a Shepherd passed ball, and Desiree Giffin came home on a sacrifice fly after reaching base on an error, cutting the Rams' lead to two runs.

The Yellow Jackets tied the game at 5-5 in the fourth.

Kayla Sturms hit a single to right center field, bringing in Mattie Best, who was hit by a pitch, and Brittany Hyatt.

Scoreless fifth and sixth innings were thrown by Shepherd's Brooke Stambaugh and West Virginia State's Jade Weinkauff.

Stambaugh got into a jam in the seventh with no outs and two runners in scoring position.

Pitcock entered in a relief role and retired the side in order, leaving it up to the Yellow Jacket defense to make a stop.

Shepherd needed only three batters to bring in the go-ahead run.

After a Pitcock flyout, back to back doubles by McQuade and Biondillo brought the game-winning run around to score. Biondillo saw the opportunity and took advantage.

"I was due for a big hit," she said. "As soon as the ball landed fair down the third-base line, I knew that Tiffany (Farmer), who pinch ran for McQuade, was fast enough to get around third and score."

Shepherd coach Leslie Lopez was pleased with the players that stepped up in key moments of the game.

"We had a lot of players step up in different ways," she said. "We hit well with the bases loaded, bringing in runs. We played great defense and pitched well, preventing their runners from scoring, especially when they were in scoring position."

Pitcock pitched eight scoreless innings, allowing only three hits in the double header. The mix of the pitch location kept the Yellow Jackets off the

scoreboard.

"We threw a great mix at them," Pitcock said. "Our pitches stayed low, but painted the inside and outside corners to give us the strikes we needed."

The Yellow Jackets fell to 22-10 overall and 7-3 in West Virginia Conference play.

"I was disappointed in our pitching and defense," West Virginia State coach Bob Allen said. "We gave up too many walks, which gave them free runs. Even though we had chances to redeem ourselves offensively, the mistakes we made defensively did us in."

The Rams keep their undefeated conference record intact as they improve to 23-8, 12-0 with a pair of hard-earned wins.



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NIKE Softball Camps Announces New Locations for Summer 2011

NIKE Softball Camps now offers twenty-nine summer softball camps for players ages 6-18 with top coaches and locations nationwide.

San Rafael, CA (Vocus/PRWEB) April 13, 2011

Nike Softball Camps provide focused, intensive training that is essential to improvement for all skill levels. Every facet of the game is covered with an emphasis on fundamentals to help players become valuable team members. At each location, campers are broken into groups with other players of similar age, abilities and goals. Each camp director does his or her best to advance players to the next level, keeping in consideration each camper's experience and desire to improve.

For the summer of 2011, US Sports Camps, Inc. is pleased to offer six new summer Nike Softball Camp locations at Regis University (CO), Shimberg Sports Complex (FL), Principia College (IL), NIKE Dot Richardson Softball Camp (FL), Embry Riddle University (AZ), and Shepherd University (WV).

"Each summer we look to improve our offerings of NIKE Softball Camp across the country. This summer is no exception with the addition of so many quality coaches and locations," says Mike de Surville, Vice President of US Sports Camps. "Our camp Directors are our partners and as such have a major stake in providing camps of the highest quality; camps that are fun and improve the skills of each camper."

NIKE Softball Camp locations include: UC Santa Barbara (CA), San Diego City College (CA), Just Softball-Mt. Sac (CA), Twin Creeks (CA), University of the Pacific (CA), Cal State Monterey Bay (CA), Reno Sports Complex (NV), Willamette University (OR), University of Dallas (TX), UW-Platteville (WI), Gettysburg College (PA), Curry College (MA), Amherst College (MA), Fairfield University (CT), SUNY Cortland (NY), Adelphi University (NY), Lawrenceville School (NJ), College of New Jersey (NJ), New Jersey Jackals (NJ), Greensboro College (NC), Salisbury University (MD), Columbus State (GA), Regis University (CO), Shimberg Sports Complex (FL), NIKE Dot Richardson Softball Camp (FL), Southeastern University (FL), Principia College (IL), Embry Riddle University (AZ), and Shepherd University (WV).

About US Sports Camps

US Sports Camps (USSC), headquartered in San Rafael, California, is America's largest sports camp network and the licensed operator of Nike Sports Camps including softball and baseball camps, as well as summer camps in eleven other sports. The company has offered summer camps since 1975 with the same mission that defines it today: to shape a lifelong enjoyment of athletics through high quality sports education and skill enhancement.

Players, Coaches, Parents and others interested in the 2011 Nike Softball Camps can visit <http://www.ussportscamps.com/softball> or by phone at 800-645-3226.

Shepherd's Hutter shows off hitting power

By ERIC JONES
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Somebody had to end the madness during Shepherd's extra-inning affair with West Liberty.

The Rams were up six runs, then let the Hilltoppers tie the game in the seventh to prolong Game 2 of a doubleheader, one that was supposed to only go seven innings.

The winning hit could've been expected to come from one of Shepherd's more experienced, more renowned hitters. That wasn't the case.

Instead, it came from a solid, but lesser-known hitter, junior outfielder Nash Hutter. And it came in the form of



a solo home run in the bottom of the 13th to give the Rams' a much-needed win over West Liberty.

The hit also capped a career day for Hutter, which

included a three-home run performance.

For his performance, he's been named The Journal/Gold's Gym Athlete of the Week (April 3-April 9).

The win over the Hilltoppers was necessary to keep Shepherd's postseason hopes alive, and it was a victory that could have and should have been taken by the Rams well before the 13th inning.

The Rams left 14 runners on base, including nine in scoring position.

That set up the chance for Hutter to be a hero, and he followed through on that opportunity.

See HUTTER D3



Journal file photo by Ron Aguir

Shepherd's Nash Hutter has been named The Journal/Gold's Gym Athlete of the Week after a career game against West Liberty.

Hutter

FROM PAGE D1

In the final inning, Hutter came to the plate with one out and smacked the game-winning home run to left field off West Liberty's Robbie Stewart.

The solo blast was the third home run of the game for Hutter, who also had a three-run home run in Shepherd's five-run first inning and a two-run shot in the fourth inning as the Rams extended their lead to 7-1.

Beside the three home runs, Hutter's career day also included six RBI.

In the first game of the doubleheader, Hutter also led the Shepherd with two hits and two RBI, bringing his two-game total to six hits and eight RBI.

Ram women stumble, fall to second

BUCKHANNON — Shepherd University dropped a pair of games to 25th-ranked West Virginia Wesleyan in West Virginia Conference softball play on Thursday. The Bobcats earned a 6-1 win in Game 1 and added an 8-4 win in the nightcap to end Shepherd's 12-game winning streak and drop the Rams from first to second in the conference standings.

Rashilia Young went 2 for 2 with three runs batted in and three runs scored to lead the Bobcats in Game 1. Amber Dudek went 2 for 2 to lead the Rams.

Hilary Perez-Ashley (8 Ks, 0 BB) scattered five hits to improve to 16-1. Nichole Pitcock (7 Ks, 2 BB) took the loss to fall to 18-4 on the year.

The Bobcats broke a 4-4 tie with four runs in the bottom of the sixth inning in the nightcap to gain the sweep.

A two-run double by Sarah Smith and a two-run double by Alex Whisner keyed the rally.

Courtney Williams went 2 for 4 with a three-run homer and a pair of runs scored to pace the Rams. Pitcock added a 2-for-3 effort and drove in a run.

Smith and Stephanie St. Peter each had a pair of hits for Wesleyan.

Kaitlyn Carey (5 Ks, 0 BB) picked up the win for the Bobcats to improve

to 13-4. Brooke Stambaugh (3 Ks, 5 BB) took the loss for the Rams to fall to 7-6.

Shepherd fell to 25-10 overall, 14-2 in WVC play, while West Virginia Wesleyan improved to 32-5, 11-1.

H.S. GIRLS TENNIS

Patriots sweep

MORGANTOWN — Washington defeated University 5-2 and Morgantown 6-1 in girls tennis play.

Kaitlyn Mansaw, Angela Pattinger and Jill Spuria won singles matches against each opponent to lead the Patriots (12-2).

H.S. BOYS TENNIS

Washington sweeps

MORGANTOWN — Washington yielded just one win in two matches as the Patriots downed University 7-0 and Morgantown 6-1.

Adam Crum, Tanner Robison and Blake Pindell each won their two singles matches for Washington (12-1).

H.S. TRACK

Washington falls in triangular
WINCHESTER — Speed alone wasn't enough to carry the Washington girls track team on Wednesday. Although the Patriots won each of

the speed events — including the 100- and 200-meter races by Devyn Hosby — Washington finished third in a triangular with Sherando, Va., and host James Wood, Va.

Sherando tallied 67 points, James Wood 51 and Washington 48.

James Wood won the boys meet, scoring 57.5 points, Sherando was second with 45 and Washington managed 42.5.

Beside Hosby, Nikki Ashbaugh won the 400 for Washington, the 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams were victorious and Shakara Ellis won the shot put.

Seconds for the Patriots were claimed by Ashbaugh in the 800, Kaitlyn Weaver in the 100 hurdles and Amber Wynn in the 300 hurdles.

Thomas White and Marquel Hosby provided a 1-2 finish for Washington in the boys 100. Hosby ran second in the 200.

Josh Davis and Cameron Russell did the same thing in the 400, going 1-2, and Davis ran seconds with Russell third in the 800. Washington also won the 4x100 but was nipped in the 4x400.

COLLEGE LACROSSE

Shepherd 16, Frostburg 13
SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd University rallied from an 8-7

halftime deficit to record a win over Frostburg State in women's lacrosse action.

The contest featured eight ties and seven lead changes.

Shepherd took the lead for good at 12-11 on an unassisted tally by sophomore attack Nicole Ruane with 14:20 left in the second half.

The Bobcats rallied to within a goal at 14-13 on a Taylor Cassatt goal with 4:15 remaining, but freshman attack/midfielder Shannon Carta and freshman attack Jenny Carvey each added insurance goals in the game's final minutes to seal the win.

Carta paced the Rams with four goals, Ruane had three goals and three assists, while Krista Tippett added three goals and an assist.

Christina Ferrara posted two goals and a game-high five assists, Carvey notched two goals and two assists, while Kaitlin Drake.

Cassatt scored a game-high five goals and Rachel Dwyer added three for the Bobcats.

Emily Melanson had eight saves in goal for the Rams. Karoline Miller had 14 saves for Frostburg State.

Shepherd had a 40-23 advantage in shots and a 17-14 edge in draw controls. The Rams had a 31-28 advantage in ground balls.

Shepherd moved to 7-7, while

Frostburg State fell to 4-12.

COLLEGE GOLF

Rams seventh

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — Shepherd University finished seventh at the Gettysburg Spring Invitational at The Links in Gettysburg.

Messiah fired a 311 (+23) to take the team title, while Messiah's Matt Burkhardt shot a 71 (-1) to gain individual honors.

Junior Cameron Beckner fired a 77 to tie for fifth place to lead the Rams. Senior Aaron Sienta and sophomore Bryan Milburn each carded an 82 to finish in a tie for 16th place. They were followed by junior Jon Agee (88, T-30th) and classmate Chris Gilkey (89, T-32nd).

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Girdiron picnic canceled

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The annual Ram Girdiron Club Picnic scheduled for Saturday following the Blue-Gold game has been canceled because the threat of inclement weather.

The Blue-Gold game will go on as scheduled with a noon start at Ram Stadium.

— Staff reports