



Photo by Jeff Baughn

Shepherd's Nichole Pitcock delivers a pitch during the Rams' 3-2 loss to West Virginia State in the West Virginia Conference softball tournament loser's bracket finals Saturday in Vienna.

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### **WOMEN'S SOFTBALL**

**SHEPHERD 2**

RAMS 32-15

**WEST VIRGINIA STATE 3**

YELLOW JACKETS 32-13

fourth to go ahead 3-1.

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Delaney Bell drew a free pass to put the tying run on base. Kris Durham entered the game as a pinch runner, but Cammie Orlandi hit a lazy fly ball to center, Jess Mason grounded out and leadoff hitter Chelsie Oals was retired on a popup to the shortstop.

Nichole Pitcock was the hard-luck loser, scattering six hits in her complete-game loss. She walked five and recorded four strikeouts.

Both Pitcock and Biondillo were selected to the all-tournament squad.

— Staff reports



NATE  
MACZUZAK

Instant  
Karma

## Rams serve a bevy of local fare

Home cooking is always the best.

The Shepherd University softball team served up some local fare this season, getting contributions from a number of former Eastern Panhandle high school softball standouts en route to an amazing year.

The Rams wrapped up their 2011 campaign with a mark of 32-15 overall and 19-5 in conference play, falling a game short of reaching the West Virginia Conference tournament final, but they enjoyed another record season, reaching 30 wins for only the third time in program history (2007, 2010 and 2011). The Rams' 19 conference wins also broke the program record of 18 set last season.

A bevy of former area high school standouts played important roles.

Shepherd's Jess Mason, Chelsie Oals, Courtni Williams, Megan Holmes and Tiffany Farmer honed their skills here in the Eastern Panhandle.

It wasn't that long ago that the five Rams headlined the high school sectional softball tournament that is currently underway. Now they have moved on to successful softball careers in college.

They have played a major hand in helping Shepherd coach Leslie Lopez set a program record in career wins.

The Rams have enjoyed some of their most successful seasons under Lopez's guidance.

Lopez's use of local talent has certainly paid off.

Mason, Oals and Holmes were recently named to the 2011 All-WVC Softball Team. Mason and Oals garnered second-team honors, while Holmes was an honorable-mention selection.

Mason, a former Hedgesville Eagle, worked her way into the Rams' starting lineup and batted .290 with 27 hits in 93 at-bats. She scored 18 runs and had 13 RBI. She finished the year with three doubles and a triple.

Oals, also a former Hedgesville Eagle, batted .280 with 44 hits in 157 at-bats. She scored a team-high 30 runs and added 20 RBI. Oals finished with five doubles and tied for the team lead with two triples. Her 17 walks led the Rams.

Holmes, a former Musselman Applemen, batted .244 with 29 hits in 199 at-bats. She drove in 21 runs and scored 19. Holmes finished with three doubles, a triple and tied for the team lead in home runs with four.

Farmer, a former Martinsburg Bulldog, hit .311 in 61 at-bats with 10 RBI and a home run.

Williams, a former Musselman Applemen, hit .270 in 111 at-bats with three home runs and 15 RBI.

## SU basketball recruits

Shepherd has signed two basketball players to NCAA Division II grants-in-aid. A third prospective player was also announced.

Eric Savage is a 6-foot-1 guard from Old Mill High School in Maryland. Savage reportedly averaged 16.5 points a game. He scored over 1,000 points at Old Mill and made 42 three-point field goals.

Chauncey Burgazi is a 6-foot-9 center from Bruton

High in Williamsburg, Virginia. Burgazi reportedly averaged 12 points a game and had 11 rebounds per outing.

A third player SU coach Justin Namolik announced will be with the 2011-12 team is 2010 Martinsburg High graduate Kirk Hairston, a 6-foot-6, 240-pound inside player. Hairston did not play basketball in 2010-11. He averaged about 5.5 points as a senior at Martinsburg in the 2009-10 season.

## SU announces in-house athletic awards for year

Shepherd recently announced several athletic award winners for the 2010-11 academic year.

Baseball player Brian Collins and softball player Nichole Pitcock were selected as the WVI-AC Senior Scholar-Athletes for the school.

Football player Keon Robinson was named the Male Athlete of the Year and Pitcock was selected as the Female Athlete of the Year.

Football player Deante Steele was selected as the Senior Male Athlete of the Year and Pitcock was selected as the Senior Female Athlete of the Year.

Women's basketball player Emily Daniel was chosen as the first-ever Ram Award, an award given to the Shepherd student-athlete who exemplifies the best attributes of an NCAA Division II athlete.

Football coach Monte Cater was selected as the Coach of the Year.

The men's and women's tennis teams earned awards as the male and female teams with the top grade point average. The Rams Cup award was selected by Student Athlete Advisory Committee was presented to the women's basketball team.

## Rams salvage third game of WVIAC series

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. -- With Nathan Minnich crashing his 12th and 13th home runs of the season, Shepherd was able to win the last game of a three-game WVIAC series against Pitt Johnstown, 9-6, in 11 innings on Sunday at Point Stadium.

After dropping a doubleheader to the Mountain Cats on Saturday, the Rams used Minnich's

two home runs, three hits, three RBIs, and two runs scored as the impetus to getting one win in the three-game series.

Trailing 6-3 after seven innings of the scheduled nine inning game, the Rams scored twice in the eighth with hits by Nick Impellizzeri, Morgan Lautz and Dillon Berger. Behind, 6-5, in the ninth, Shepherd sent the

game into extra innings by getting a two-out RBI single from Impellizzeri.

In the Shepherd 11th, Derek Gunsell got his first extra base hit of the entire season when he hit a solo homer. After Impellizzeri walked, Minnich slugged a two-run home run to push the Rams' lead to three runs.

Impellizzeri, Lautz, Val Ardui-

ni, and Berger all had two hits for the Rams.

Shepherd had 14 hits.

Andrew Gallant pitched the last four innings to get the win. Gallant allowed only one hit and one walk while striking out five and holding the Mountain Cats scoreless.

Gallant's record moved to 2-5.

Minnich had a .454 batting average and 37 RBIs.

## Shepherd Hall of Fame member dies at 67

One of the members of the Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame, basketball player Bill Thompson, has died while residing in Weirton. Mr. Thompson was 67. He played four seasons (1962-65 and then 1968-69) at Shepherd after graduating from Weir High in 1961.

Weir High was undefeated in the 1960-61 basketball season and met equally undefeated Beckley Woodrow Wilson in the big-school state championship game. Woodrow overcame a 14-point deficit at the close of the third quarter to win by a point. Mr. Thompson also participated

in football and track and field at Weir High.

He is still eighth on Shepherd's all-time basketball scoring list with 1,837 points in 87 games for a 21.1 points per game scoring average. He scored 650 points as a senior. He was selected to All-WVIAC team in two different seasons.

Thompson had a tryout with the Baltimore Bullets but had sprained an ankle just prior to his workout and was not signed by the NBA team.

He graduated from Shepherd in 1971 and was selected to the college's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008.

## SV players commits to W.V

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Published on: Thursday, May 05, 2011

By Brandy L. Simms

Seneca Valley senior Bernard Wolley, a first-team All-Sentinel defensive lineman, has verbally committed to play college football at Shepherd University in West Virginia.

The three-year starter, who helped guide Seneca Valley to a 26-8 record during his high school career, joins a Division II football program that finished the 2010 campaign with a 12-2 overall record, including a 7-1 mark in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

"It's a great fit for me," said Wolley, who also considered Fairmont State University, Stevenson University and the Naval Academy. "I had a lot of fun up there. I like the education part of it. I feel I should fit in."

Wolley was named the Seneca Valley's team MVP last season after leading the Germantown public school to an 8-3 record. The two-way starter helped open holes for tailback Eddie Cunningham, who rushed for more than 1,500 yards and was an immovable force on defense at nose tackle, where he registered 80 tackles, including 14 for a loss and had six quarterback sacks.

Wolley joins fellow Germantown product Carson Ingle of Good Counsel in Shepherd's 2011 recruiting class and reunites with former Seneca Valley teammate Cody Walko on the West Virginia gridiron.

A standout also on the wrestling mat, Wolley twice captured the 4A/3A state title at 215 pounds and went 109-9 during his career. He registered a 66-2 record over the last two years, including a 33-0 mark as a senior.

The two-sport star said he will participate in club wrestling at Shepherd but looks forward to suiting up on the gridiron this fall.

"They did real well last year," he said. "They have a lot of tradition. I hope I bring a lot of enthusiasm, a lot of tenacity and hard work."

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## NFF Announces Members of the 2011 Hampshire Honor Society



Andy Dalton - photo courtesy NFF/TCU Athletic.

National Football Foundation  
& College Hall of Fame  
May 4, 2011

**DALLAS** - The National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) announced today the members of the 2011 NFF Hampshire Honor Society, which is comprised of college football players from all divisions of play who each maintained a 3.2 GPA or better. A total of 671 players from 241 schools qualified for membership in the society's fifth year, showing a steady increase in membership each year since the inaugural class in 2007.

"In just the fifth year of this initiative, it gives the NFF great pride to honor so many qualified and accomplished collegiate players as members of this year's Hampshire Honor Society," said NFF President & CEO **Steve Hatchell**. "The number of players we are able to recognize has nearly doubled since the first year of the program, showing that you can play football at the highest level and still be a standout student."

The NFF Hampshire Honor Society capitalizes on the NFF's current National Scholar-Athlete program, greatly expanding the number of scholar-athletes the NFF can recognize each year and further strengthening the organization's leadership role in encouraging academic performance by the student-athletes who play football at the more than 700 college and universities with football programs nationwide. **Jon F. Hanson**, the chairman and founder of The Hampshire Companies, provided an endowment to launch the NFF Hampshire Honor Society in 2007. He made the contribution as part of his legacy to the organization after serving as NFF chairman from 1994-2006. Each of the 671 players awarded with membership in this year's Honor Society will receive a certificate commemorating the achievement.

"We encourage every football-playing school in the country to get involved in this most important initiative," said NFF Chairman **Archie Manning**. "Thanks to the generosity of Jon F. Hanson, we have honored nearly 3,000 of our nation's best and brightest college players over the past five years. This program truly shows the power of football in building tomorrow's leaders."

Qualifications for membership in the NFF Hampshire Honor Society include:

- Being a starter or a significant substitute in one's last year of eligibility at an accredited NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision, Football Championship Subdivision, Division II, Division III, or an NAIA college or university;
- Achieving a 3.2 cumulative grade point average throughout entire course of undergraduate study; and
- Meeting all NCAA-mandated progress towards degree requirements and graduation.

The Hampshire Honor Society represents a powerful component in the organization's rich history as an innovator in promoting the scholar-athlete ideal. Launched in 1959 with a donation from Hall of Fame coach Earl "Red" Blaik, the NFF's National Scholar-Athlete Awards program became the first initiative in history to grant postgraduate scholarships based on a player's combined academic success, football performance and community leadership. And, since its inception, the NFF National Scholar-Athlete Awards program has awarded \$9.5 million to 740 top scholars and community leaders.

Currently, the NFF distributes more than \$300,000 a year at the national level through the

program to 15 individuals. Each winner of a National Scholar-Athlete Award receives a \$18,000 post-graduate scholarship. Additionally, the William V. Campbell Trophy, endowed by HealthSouth, is given to one member of each year's class as the absolute best. The winner of the Campbell, claimed by Texas defensive end **Sam Acho** in 2010, receives a total scholarship of \$25,000 and a 24-inch, 25-pound bronze trophy. Through its chapter network the NFF also awards an additional \$1 million to local high school student-athletes, bringing the NFF's annual scholarship distribution total to more than \$1.3 million. A record-high nine National Scholar-Athletes were selected in last week's NFL Draft.


### The 2011 NFF Hampshire Honor Society

SCHOOL	NAME
Shepherd University (W.Va.)	Rob Ciancaglini
Shepherd University (W.Va.)	Bryan Hansel
Shepherd University (W.Va.)	Jordan Tucker
Shepherd University (W.Va.)	Will Wheeler



**Dates: May 11, 2011**

**Publication: The Capital**

 **DESTINATIONS:** Meade defensive back Aaron Barr and Arundel wide receiver Tyler Washington signed to play football at Shepherd University, a Division II school in West Virginia.

Barr, an All-County pick, had 24 tackles, five interceptions and 10 pass breakups for the Mustangs, one of the area's best defensive units. Washington, who caught 66 passes for 1,129 yards and 21 touchdowns for the Wildcats, was the top receiver in the county.

Pasadena resident Tim Gaia, a junior lineman at Gilman School, verbally committed to play football at Penn State.

# NFL wannabe lucks out, gets practice with Giants

By Tom Canavan

The Associated Press

Published: May 11, 2011 07:44PM

Updated: May 12, 2011 12:10AM

Hoboken, N.J. • With NFL teams unable to sign undrafted players because of the lockout, West Chester receiver Dan DePalma has been looking for almost anyone to throw him passes.

DePalma found an unexpected partner Wednesday: New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning.

The 21-year-old New Jersey native joined Manning and five other Giants at Hoboken High School for the penultimate workout of the quarterback's two-week passing camp.

The chance to catch passes from Manning and backup Sage Rosenfels was somewhat of a fluke. DePalma had been working at a training center in Mahwah and met Giants tight end Kevin Boss, who invited him to take part in the camp.

"Obviously I jumped at the opportunity. Anything that helps me get ready for the next level is what I am looking for," DePalma said.

DePalma is one of those long shots looking to make the jump from a Division II program to NFL. He started his career at Shepherd University in West Virginia and transferred to West Chester, where he played cornerback before switching to wideout.

He caught 50 passes for 962 yards and nine touchdowns this season, averaging an impressive 19.2 yards.

Before the draft, he participated in pro days at Lehigh and Temple and was timed in an 4.38 for the 40-yard dash.

He also worked out for the Giants, Jets and Eagles.

His dream would have been being a seventh-round draft pick, but he never got a call, and teams are not allowed to talk to him because of the lockout.

"It's been pretty quiet," DePalma said. "I have been staying in touch with my agent, kind of waiting and hoping.



New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning, right, talks to a group of teammates during an unofficial practice hosted by Manning at Hoboken High School, Tuesday, May 10, 2011 in Hoboken, N.J. The workout gives the players an opportunity to practice together during the NFL labor lockout. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

There is really nothing you can do. The most I can do now is to keep working and training, stay in shape and catch the ball. That's about all I can do and all I can control."

DePalma has most of his time working out at Velocity Sports Performance, where he has done a lot of work with Packers running back Ryan Grant, another player who made it to the NFL after not being drafted.

"He has been giving me all the tips, keeping me calm, and telling me everything I have to know, which is a big help," DePalma said. "When I go home I am not as worried or stressed out. I kind of sit back and relax. It had helped me through this process, a lot more than if I was on my own."

Meeting Boss also didn't hurt.

"I was just trying to get Dan a little work," Boss said. "You know, he is getting ready to get hopefully picked up."