Shepherd baseball

MANSFIELD, Pa. — Shepherd University split a doubleheader with Mansfield in baseball Tuesday. The Mountaineers took game one with a 10-7 win while Shepherd ended a nine-game losing skid with a 7-2 triumph in game two.

Shepherd (13-15) scored six runs in the fourth inning of game two, highlighted by a Ryan Brady two-run single.

Collin Brown led the Rams with a 3-for-4 performance. Nicky Brown and Jameson Jarvis added a pair of hits. Steve Kozak (1-2) earned the win.

Mansfield (18-12) scored seven runs in the fifth inning to take command in game one.

David Toth went 3 for 4 in the second game. Brown, Joe Cook and Jerry Jubb each had two hits. Austin Bowie (1-3) took the loss.
Bradshaw bags historic putt

Name: David Bradshaw  
Class rank: Senior  
School: Shepherd University  
Sport: Golf

Accomplishment: Bradshaw wasn't aware how big his 6-foot putt was on the 18th hole of the Northern Regional championships was, but he had some idea.

Bradshaw canned the putt at Speidel Golf Course in Wheeling to give Shepherd a one-stroke victory over Fairmont and its first regional title in school history.

The senior from Harpers Ferry, a 2001 graduate of Jefferson High School, shot a 2-under-par 69, the lowest round of the day.

Bradshaw: "No one had specifically told me (the putt was for the win), but coach (Jim Carpenter) told me we were playing well. I knew it had some importance. I didn't realize it was for the win.

"We'd never won it before. Any success as a team is a shock to us. It was pleasant, though. We had a good time.

"I started out, had a couple pars, birdied 5 and 7 and parred in. It was a bogeyless round, which is always nice to have no bogeys on your scorecard. I never really made any mistakes. I played it ridiculously safe."

What the future holds: Though he isn't sure the team's success will escalate to levels so far unachieved, Bradshaw can be sure his game will keep getting better. In four meets, the lowest individual ranking he's finished with is second. He was also the medalist in the nine-team Glenville State/Oxbow Spring Invitational.

"In most of our minds we have potential to win (the conference title)," Bradshaw said. "Regionals are only a one-day event. You have to wonder if it was a one-hit wonder."

"Three days (at the conference championships) is a long time to play golf. That's a lot of shots."

Other top performances: Martinsburg senior Brandon Armentrout picked up two wins on the mound and hit three home runs in the Bulldogs' 5-0 week. He struck out 13 in a 8-2 win over Fort Hill, Md., and got a win in relief during an 8-5 win over Berkeley Springs. He hit two home runs in a doubleheader sweep of Middletown, Md., and another in the win over Berkeley Springs. ... Jefferson sophomore Jonathan Hash pitched five innings, striking out 10, in the team's combined no-hitter of Tuscarora, Md. He also went 2 for 2 with a walk, RBI and run in a 6-1 win over Hedgesville. ... Jefferson senior Shardal Twyman won the long jump, 100-

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meter race and 200-meter race at the Cumberland Valley Athletic League championships. ... Musselman sophomore Mark Darlington pitched a complete-game eight-hitter in a 13-3 win over No. 10 Hampshire. He was also 4 for 4 with a two-run home run.

— Compiled by John O'Brien

Do you want to recommend someone for The Journal's athlete of the week award? Contact sports editor Matthew Tabeek at 263-9831, Ext. 134, or e-mail mtabeek@journal-news.net.
Shepherd golf

INDIANA, Pa. — Shepherd finished fifth among 17 teams in the Cecil Spadafore Golf Invitational Wednesday.

While the Rams didn't win, they did best three Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference teams they will be competing with for a spot in the eight-team postseason regional tournament.

Clarion and West Liberty tied for first with 293, while IUP was third at 294. West Liberty's Matthew Hicks was medalist with a 4-under-par 67.

Shepherd was led by David Bradshaw and Bryan Snow, who had 73s. Trevor Hedges shot a 75, while Spencer Bird had 76.

"We were only three shots off our best score of the year," Shepherd coach Jim Carpenter said. "We played extremely well."

The Rams are at the Slippery Rock Invitational today.
Shepherd tennis

CHARLESTON — Top-seeded Shepherd will face West Virginia State in today’s West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference men’s tennis tournament.

State defeated West Virginia University-Tech in a play-in game on Thursday.

The Rams have a 39-match conference winning streak going into the tournament.

The winner of the 9 a.m. game will face the winner of Concord-Charleston around 3 p.m. today.

Shepherd golf

SLIPPERY ROCK, Pa. — Shepherd accomplished some of what the Rams set out to do in the Slippery Rock Invitational golf event Thursday at the Oak View Country Club.

The Rams finished fourth of 16 teams, beating several Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference schools in the process.

“Our goal going in was to position ourselves in the regional,” Shepherd coach Jim Carpenter said. “But one team we needed to beat won the thing.”

That was Millersville, which scored 303.

Second was Indiana, Pa., at 305, followed by West Liberty at 307 and Shepherd at 309.

Millersville’s Scott Michaelbright won the tournament individually with a round of 1-under 69.

Shepherd’s top scorer was David Bradshaw at 71.

He was followed on his squad by Brian Snow (77), Spencer Bird (78), Trevor Hedges (85) and Jesse Hoffman (85).

“We did well,” Carpenter said. “Just a little bit better and we could’ve almost won the thing.”

Shepherd plays in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at Capon State Park.

“If we can hold our own, finish in the top two, three or four, we’ll make it to the regionals for the first time in school history,” Carpenter said. “But we have to play well.”

Shepherd baseball

SHEPHERDSTOWN — One Shepherd comeback bid fell short, but the Rams salvaged a split of a baseball doubleheader with St. Vincent Thursday at Fairfax Field.

Shepherd lost the first game 5-4 after managing single runs in the sixth and seventh innings after the Bearcats went ahead. The Rams won the second game 10-7, improving their record to 14-16.

In the first game, Steve Kozak went 3 for 3 for Shepherd, while Nicky Brown and Ryan Brady each had a pair of hits.

Josh Morrow led St. Vincent in the first game with two hits.

The Bearcats won despite being outhit 11-6.

Todd Coder suffered the loss for Shepherd, while Christian Necheff got the win and Brad Sanders the save for St. Vincent (15-17).

In the nightcap, each team scored five runs in the first inning and two in the second, but Austin Bowie settled in and the Rams stopped the Bearcats. Scott McCormick and Scott Koscielnik provided additional relief help.

Brown and Joe Cook each had three hits. Kozak drove in three runs and Josh Bowers had three hits for Shepherd.

Wes Hughes had a 4-for-4 outing for St. Vincent.

Shepherd hosts Davis & Elkins, the Northern Division-leading team in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Saturday for a doubleheader.
Alderson-Broaddus pitcher shuts out Rams — twice

By RICK KOZLOWSKI
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Alderson-Broaddus pitcher Casey Waskey wears No. 44 with a nod to Jerry West.

Just as the basketball legend from Charleets, W.Va., could knock them down, so can Waskey.

And when Casey’s on the mound, the results for the opposition turn out just like “Casey at the line.”

The Rams junior ran her consecutive scoreless streak to 51 innings Thursday by twirling a pair of shutouts as the Rams downed Shepherd 8-0 in five innings and then 7-0 in a battle of conference heavyweights.

The Rams entered the doubleheader in first place in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference while A-B was third.

"For us, every game is important," Waskey said. "We need to play the best to our ability, no matter who it is."

Shepherd offered barely a whisper to slip behind the defending conference tournament champions in the standings. A-B improved to 17-7 overall and 15-1 in league play.

The Rams (18-10, 12-3 conference) managed just seven baserunners through the two games.

Included in that total was four hits, two of them by Shepherd freshman Jamie Griffin.

“(Waskey)’s a little quicker than we’ve seen, and she keeps it down at the knees,” Shepherd coach Dave Trail said. “We have enough good hitters, we should’ve caught up.

“We have a couple of new players and we got quite a few underclassmen. But we have kids who have played travel ball, select ball. They’ve seen pitching like that before.

Jennifer Casey opened the first game for Shepherd with a hit. She was erased on a double play, and then the Rams only got a bunt single from Griffin and an error when Miss Zappacosta reached when her fly ball was dropped.

In the second game, Waskey had a perfect game going into the fourth inning when another fly ball was dropped. Zappacosta followed by bouncing a single up the middle to end the no-hit bid.

“I figured they’d get a hit because they had faced me two times before,” said Waskey, who has been close to no-hitters and perfect game this year, but has none on her docket.

“We are just looking more for wins,” Waskey said. “Warm weather, it gets warm. When I pitch two games, I get warmer.

“Today was a good day for everyone. We played to our full potential.”

The Rams made it easy for a pitcher like Waskey, who ranks among the top 10 in the NCAA in earned run average, to find her comfort zone. She opened the week with an 0.58 ERA.

A-B tagged Shepherd starter Karen Burnett for four runs in the first inning. Ken Lowe, who went 3 for 3 in the opener and was a home run shy of the cycle, tripled to lead off. Casey Kuhl singled, Mary Ann Thompson doubled and Jessica Howell singled.

Burnett departed in the second as Amanda Ferguson singled and Lowe doubled her home.

Reliever Shannon Leighty also gave up four runs, both coming on a two-run home run.

Kara Newton homered after Thompson’s second double in the third inning and Thompson homered as part of her 3-for-3 effort after Lowe singled in the fourth.

“They found the gaps,” Shepherd assistant coach Ray Meeker said. “And the Rams got a critical two-out dink shot that broke up a scoreless game in the third inning.

The trouble for Shepherd started when Ashley Mooney singled to left on a no-hit bid by Shepherd starter Zappacosta. Mooney went to second on a bad throw back to the infield and moved to third on Amanda Ferguson’s two-strike sacrifice bunt.

Zappacosta got a soft liner to third for the second out and was carefully pitched around Lowe before walking her to bring up Katie Rosch — a player who hadn’t much of an offensive threat in four previous plate appearances.

But Rosch looped the ball over third base, and it fell just in front of an amblering left fielder to bring home the first run. Casey Kuhl tripled in two runs and scored on a bad relay throw to third base, giving Alderson-Broaddus a 4-0 lead.

Kuhl tripled again after Rosch was awarded first as a hit batsman in the fifth, and another error brought home Kuhl. An error and a two-out Lowe single finished the scoring in the sixth.

“The Rams are not playing to their full potential; the competition level is going to pick up,” Trail said, “and it has. How we go to (West Virginia) Westsweep, the defending conference regular-season champ.

“The last time I looked, I see they haven’t lost.”

— Rick Kozlowski can be reached at 263-3381.
AREA ROUNDUP

Rams tennis advances in WVIAC tournament

CHARLESTON — Shepherd University's tennis team breezed through Friday's action at the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament at Watt Powell Park, defeating No. 8 West Virginia State 6-0 and No. 4 Charleston 6-0.

The top-seeded Rams will face the winner of West Virginia Wesleyan-West Liberty today at 9 a.m. Should they win, the Rams will qualify for the NCAA Division II Tournament.

Below are the results. Individual matches were suspended once teams got a fifth and clinching win.

**Quarterfinals**
Shepherd 6, West Virginia Wesleyan 0

**Doubles**

**Singles**

**Semifinals**
Shepherd 6, Charleston 0

**Doubles**

**Singles**

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**Shepherd baseball**

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Point Park-Shepherd University baseball doubleheader scheduled for 1 p.m. next Tuesday has been canceled.

— Compiled from staff reports
Shepherd 2-8, Davis & Elkins 1-3

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Scott McCormick and Tony Magnanelli earned complete-game victories as Shepherd University swept Davis & Elkins in a West Virginia Conference doubleheader.

In the opener, McCormick allowed three hits and one run on a Mark Ruscello home run — his first of two in the doubleheader. Dirk Webb and David Toth had RBI singles to lead Shepherd (16-16, 8-3).

In the nightcap, Magnanelli scattered six hits and struck out eight. Collin Brown went 3-for-4 with three RBI, while Ryan Brady, Toth and Ryan Harju each had two hits.

MEN’S TENNIS

Shepherd wins WVIAC title

Shepherd University blanked West Liberty State 7-0 on Saturday to win the West Virginia Conference championship, earning an automatic bid into the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional. The Rams have won 42 straight WVIAC dual meets.
WVC SOFTBALL: Shepherd and Wesleyan split a double-header Saturday in Buckhannon.

In the opener, Wesleyan jumped on the visitors early, taking a 7-0 lead into the seventh before Shepherd scored two to make the final 7-2. Alyssa Miller knocked in two runs for Wesleyan. East Fairmont native and Bobcat freshman Brittany Sphar (12-2) got the win, fanning seven and walking one. Stephanie Sims (3-2) took the loss.

In the nightcap, the Rams exploded for five runs in the top of the seventh on the way to a 5-4 victory. Mia Zappacosta (4-4) got the win and drove in two runs for Shepherd (19-11, 13-4 WVC). Cory Kerceley (9-8) pitched six strong innings but took the loss for Wesleyan (28-15, 15-1).

WVC TENNIS: Shepherd won the West Virginia Conference men's tennis tournament title 7-0 over West Liberty Saturday in Kanawha City.

The Rams receive an automatic bid to the upcoming NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional tournament.

The University of Charleston's Adam Flintoff, from Hampshire, England, and Mark O'Neill of Dublin, Ireland, were named WVC Co-Players of the Year on Saturday. Each player completed his conference season undefeated.

Shepherd's Casey Moser was named WVC Freshman of the Year and coach Chris Stanbaugh was named Coach of the Year. Under Stanbaugh, the Rams have won 42 consecutive conference matches.

The 2005 All-WVC included UC's Michael Bumgarner and Flintoff. Other honorees include Brian Clarke and Tim Halter of Shepherd, Zach Stubna and Justin Thomas of West Liberty, Kim Kanginnadh (Salem), David Marquette (Fairmont State), Paul Nelson (WV Wesleyan) and Mark O'Neill (Concord).
ELKINS — The Shepherd softball team followed its custom on Sunday in sweeping a West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference doubleheader from Davis & Elkins.

The Rams pulled off the second-game win with a late run — much like they have in many conference sweeps this season.

Shepherd won the second game 5-4 after winning 7-0 in the first game.

In the first game, the Rams scored all seven runs in the sixth inning, supporting the two-hit pitching of Karen Burnette.

Burnette struck out six, while Mia Zappacosta went 3 for 3 and Jenn Canby and Stephanie Sims each went 2 for 2.

In the nightcap, Canby had three of Shepherd’s 12 hits. Brooke Small doubled and homered, while Zappacosta and Julie Sherpf each had a pair of hits. Sherpf drove in three runs.

Shannon Leighty picked up the win for Shepherd in relief of Karen Hall. She entered the game as Davis & Elkins went head 4-3.

The Rams tied the game a half inning later and went ahead in the seventh, improving their overall record to 21-11 and their conference mark to 15-4.

Shepherd baseball

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd got off to a good start Sunday, then the Rams offense stopped during a 7-3 loss to Davis & Elkins in West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference baseball at Fairfax Field.

The Rams scored three first-inning runs, but the Senators tied the game in the fourth and then went ahead in the seventh to improve to 25-16 overall and 8-3 in the league. The Rams are 16-17 and 8-4.

In the Shepherd first, Collin Brown doubled and came home on Joe Cook’s double. After Dirk Webb walked, Ryan Brady tripled home both runners to give the Rams a 3-1 lead.

But Scott Koscielniak, who came on in relief of Travis Mumaw couldn’t hold the lead, giving up five straight singles as Davis & Elkins went ahead 6-3.

Sean Bruce, who had a two-run single in the decisive seventh, paced the Senators by going 3 for 5. Four others added two hits apiece as a part of a 14-hit attack.

Nicky Brown and Webb each had two of Shepherd’s eight hits.

Shepherd visits Salem International for a doubleheader on Saturday.

— Staff reports
Shepherd golf

BERKELEY SPRINGS — The Shepherd golf team is tied for fifth after the first day of the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championships Monday at the Cacapon State Golf Course.

The Rams have a score of 307, tied with West Virginia Wesleyan. Ohio Valley is in first with a 298, Charleston is in second with a 299 and West Liberty is in third with a 300.

Shepherd was led by David Bradshaw, who shot an even-par 72, good for fifth place. Trevor Hedges shot a 75, Chip Clusman shot a 79 and Bryan Snow an 81 for Shepherd.

Ohio Valley’s Greg Lemonchik in is first overall with a 70. West Liberty’s Blake Shamblin (71), Concord’s Dorsey Donaldson (71) and Ohio Valley’s J. van Henkleon (71) are tied for second.
MEN'S GOLF
Shepherd 5th in WVIAC

BERKELEY SPRINGS, W.Va. — David Bradshaw shot an even-par 72 to lead Shepherd University to fifth place after the first day of the WVIAC Conference Championship at Cacapon Golf Club.

The Rams fired 307 to trail Ohio Valley by nine strokes with two rounds remaining.

Trevor Hedges shot a 75 for the Rams while Chip Clusman shot a 79 and Bryan Snow shot an 81.
MEN'S GOLF
Rams' Bradshaw shoots 75

BERKELEY SPRINGS, W.Va. — Shepherd University's David Bradshaw shot a 75 for Shepherd University in the second day of the WVIAC Tournament held at Cacapon Golf Course.

Concord leads with a two-day score of 596 while Shepherd is in sixth with 611.

Bryan Snow and Spencer Byrd each shot 76 for the Rams while Chip Clusman shot 77 and Trevor Hedges shot 80. The tournament concludes today.
AREA ROUNDUP

Rams golf in sixth at WVIAC

BERKELEY SPRINGS — Shepherd University's men's golf team improved on its second-day total Tuesday but still remains in sixth place at the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference gold championship at Capon State Park Golf Course.

Concord University sits atop a crowded leaderboard with 36 of 54 holes completed. The Mountain Lions carded a 295 Tuesday for a two-day total of 596 at the par-72, 6,827-yard Course.

The Rams, who combined for scores of 304, shot a combined 307 on Monday. David Bradshaw led Shepherd with a 75. Bryan Snow and Spencer Byrd each shot a 76 and Chip Clusman added a 77 for Shepherd.

Concord's Matt Horn and Brett Hambleton of Wheeling Jesuit are knotted for individual medalist honors at 2-under par 142. Horn's 69 on Tuesday was one of three sub-70 rounds on the afternoon.

West Liberty's Matt Hicks is third at an even-par 144, while Ohio Valley's Justin Van-Heukelom stands fourth with a 145 total. Bradshaw is fifth, five strokes out of the lead at 147.

First round leader Greg Lemenchick (OVC) fell to a tie for eighth following a 79. The day's low round belonged to Micah Morrison of Fairmont State with a 4-under par 68. Morrison's Falcon teammates also posted the best-team score of the day with a 291 that brought the FSU into fifth — only five shots out of the lead.

West Liberty State sits second in the team race with a 598, while Charleston and Ohio Valley are tied for third with matching 600 totals. Play concludes today. The team champion receives an automatic bid to the May 2-4 NCAA East Region Tournament at Pine Barrens Golf Club in Jackson, N.J.
Mc Cormick, Magnanelli Give Rams Pitching Wins

Shepherd had to win at least two games of its three-game weekend series with Davis & Elkins to have any chance of overtaking the WVIAC Northern Division leaders.

The Senators came to Fairfax Field with a 7-1 league record, while Shepherd was at 6-3 in the conference.

The Rams used the stellar, low-run pitching of Scott McCormick and Tony Magnanelli to win both ends of Saturday's doubleheader...taking the first game, 2-1, and the nightcap, 8-3.

When the teams left sun-drenched Fairfax Field, Shepherd was in first place in the Northern Division with its 8-3 record and the Senators had dropped in to second with their 7-3 mark.

McCormick held the Senators in check in the first game, limiting them to Mark Russello's solo home run in the top of the seventh...long after Shepherd had taken a 2-0 lead with single runs in the first and fourth innings.

McCormick finished his seven-inning complete game with a three-hitter. He struck out five Senators.

Russello had two of Davis & Elkins' three hits.

Shepherd had a 1-0 lead in the first when leadoff batter Collin Brown singled off hard-throwing Senators' ace Tobi Stoner and rode home on Dirk Webb's single.

McCormick protected his 1-0 lead until given another run in the Shepherd fourth.

Ryan Brady pumped a long double to the base of the fence in left. David Toth scored Brady with his RBI single.

Shepherd only had five hits off Stoner...but the clutch safeties by Webb and Toth were enough to compliment McCormick's effective pitching.

McCormick was 3-2 with the win.

In the nightcap, Magnanelli was locked in another pitcher's duel with Senators' starter Eric Lassiter.

Shepherd scored a run in the third to assume a 1-0 lead through 3 1/2 innings.

In the Shepherd fourth, the Rams rallied for another five runs to stake Magnanelli to a 6-0 lead.

Magnanelli was sailing along with an 8-0 lead when the Rams, who had 15 hits in the second game, scored two more runs in the fifth.

Davis & Elkins avoided being shut out when Russello banged a solo homer in the sixth and Brian Thompson had a two-run home run in the top of the seventh.

Shepherd was credited with 15 hits in the nightcap.

Collin Brown, who was batting a crisp .467 following Saturday's sweep of the Senators, went 3-for-4 in the nightcap.

Brown had three RBIs in the 8-3 win.

Nicky Brown, batting .350 after the twin victories, collected two hits off Lassiter (who lasted 3.2 innings) and two relievers.

Ryan Harju had a pair of Shepherd hits and scored twice to go with an RBI. Harju was at .315 after Shepherd had improved its overall record to 16-16.

Steve Kozak, a .277 hitter, had an RBI single.

Magnanelli finished off a six-hitter that showed three earned runs with eight strikeouts.

The Rams had a power rating of 107.27 as compared with second-place Davis & Elkins' rating of 97.00 following Saturday's two games.

Fairmont was third in the Northern Division with a 94.00 rating, followed by Salem (65.83), Alderson-Broadus (27.00) and West Liberty (18.57).
Lady Rams Stun WV Wesleyan

BUCKHANNON -- Shepherd became the first WVIAC women's softball team to beat West Virginia Wesleyan this season, handing the Lady Bobcats a 5-4 loss in the second game of a conference doubleheader on Saturday.

West Virginia Wesleyan won the opener, 7-2, behind the pitching of Brittany Spahr.

Shepherd was 13-4 in the WVIAC and 19-11 overall, while the Lady Bobcats were 13-1 in the league and 28-15 overall.

Mia Zappacosta was credited with the pitching win, making her record 4-4. Karen Burnette got the save by pitching a scoreless seventh inning.

Megan Zahnow had two RBIs for the Lady Rams and Jennifer Canby and Zappacosta each had two hits.

Both Zappacosta and Canby drove in one run.

The Lady Rams trailed, 4-0, until they erupted for all five of their runs in the seventh inning. With a one-run lead, Burnette was called on to nail down the win.

The Lady Bobcats had won 18 straight games before Shepherd's stunning last-inning rally broke that string of wins.

Spahr improved her record to 12-2 by going 6.1 innings in the opener. She allowed the Lady Rams just four hits and one earned run.

Canby and Alyssa Rowe each drove in a run and had one hit for the Lady Rams.

Shepherd trailed only West Virginia Wesleyan and Alderson-Broaddus in the WVIAC standings after moving over to Elkins on Sunday and sweeping a doubleheader from the contending Lady Senators.

The Lady Bobcats still held a grip on first place over second-place Alderson-Broaddus, a team that had twin shutouts over Shepherd.
Comeback In Nightcap Gives Shepherd Another Sweep

ELKINS -- Shepherd all but clinched one of the top three spots in the WVIAC women's softball standings on Sunday when it took both ends of a doubleheader from homestanding Davis & Elkins.

Lady Rams' pitcher Karen Burnette fired a two-hit shutout in the opener as Shepherd posted a 7-0 win. In the nightcap, Shepherd had to rally for two runs in the last three innings to get a 5-4 win over the Lady Senators.

With a 15-4 WVIAC record, Shepherd only has conference doubleheaders remaining at West Liberty and at Wheeling Jesuit before the post-season tournament is slated to begin on May 5 in Vienna.

The Lady Rams are 21-11 overall.

The first game was scoreless until Shepherd plated all of its runs in the sixth. Mia Zappacosta was 3-for-3 and both Stephanie Sims and Jennifer Canby contributed two hits.

Burnette improved her overall record to 6-2 and finished with six strikeouts.

Shepherd trailed, 4-3, when it batted in the fifth. The Lady Rams scored once and turned the game over to relief pitcher Shannon Leighty, who had come on in relief of Karen Hall when Davis & Elkins scored twice in the fourth to take the lead.

Leighty blanked the Lady Senators in the last three innings.

In the Shepherd seventh, the Lady Rams scored the tie-breaking run and then Leighty kept Davis & Elkins off the scoreboard in the last half of the inning to get her fifth win of the season against one loss.

Brooke Small homered and doubled for Shepherd.

Canby had another three-hit game. Zappacosta and Julie Scherpf both had two hits and Scherpf drove in three runs.

Shepherd had 12 hits in the nightcap.
Shepherd Takes WVIAC Tennis Title

Shepherd won its 42nd consecutive WVIAC tennis match and with it the conference men's championship.

The tournament was played under a new format for the first time to conform with the NCAA format. The “team format” was used for the first time since the WVIAC became an NCAA Division II conference a decade ago.

As the top-seeded team, Shepherd defeated eighth-seeded West Virginia State in the quarterfinal round.

The Rams then defeated fourth-seeded Charleston to advance to the conference finals against third-seeded West Liberty.

In the finals, Shepherd posted a 7-0 win over the Hilltoppers. Singles wins by Tim Halter, Brian Clarke, David Seifarth, and Luis Gomes gave the Rams an insurmountable lead.

In the doubles matches, the Rams’ Halter-Clarke, Seifarth-Cassey Moser, and Gomes-Wray Sherman all defeated their opponents from West Liberty.

Shepherd next moves to regional tournament play in the Great Lakes Region in Michigan.
Casie Waskey was too formidable for Shepherd's women's softball batters.

The Alderson-Broaddus pitcher proved that her 15-5 record was no illusion when she hurled two shutouts as the Lady Battlers bumped Shepherd back in the WVIAC standings with 8-0 and 7-0 wins in a crucial conference doubleheader.

Waskey allowed only two hits in each game as she proved to be the focal point in the Lady Battlers improving their WVIAC record to 15-1 and Shepherd seeing its league record dimmed to 12-3.

The goose eggs Shepherd saw on its scoreboard were the same as many other conference teams have been seeing in late March and early April. Waskey now has 51 straight scoreless innings on her pitching resume.

Alderson-Broaddus won the opener in only five innings, the game being halted by softball's eight-run mercy rule.

Jennifer Canby and Jamie Griffin had Shepherd's two hits in the opener. Karen Burnette was the losing pitcher and left in the second inning, trailing 4-0, in favor of Shannon Leighty. Leighty gave up two home runs.

Burnette's record was 5-4 and Shepherd's overall record was 18-10.

Mia Zappacosta allowed only six hits in a route-going pitching performance in the nightcap, but even one run allowed was going to beat her.

The Lady Battlers erupted for four runs in the third and added three more runs in all.

Zappacosta was 3-5 after the loss.

Waskey didn't really need all the run support she received as her low-in-the-strike-zone pitches were never fathomed by the Shepherd lineups.
Rams’ Losing Streak Is Finally Ended

MANSFIELD, (Pa.) -- Shepherd finally snapped a nine-game losing streak when it defeated homestanding Mansfield, 7-2, in the second game of a non-conference baseball doubleheader.
Mansfield won the opener, 10-7.
Shepherd had won a doubleheader over Mansfield in Shepherdstown earlier in the season.
The split left the Rams with a 13-15 overall record. Mansfield was 18-12.
Steve Kozak picked up his first win of the season by pitching into the fourth inning. Kozak was replaced by Chris Anderson, who in turn gave way to Josh Bowers in the seventh.
The Rams banged out 12 hits in the nightcap and Mansfield committed four errors.

A six-run fourth inning broke a 1-1 tie and enabled the Rams to defeat the Mountaineers for the third time in four games this season.
Ryan Brady's two-run single sparked the six-run rally.
Collin Brown, coming off a 7-for-12 weekend performance against Fairmont, went 3-for-4 in the nightcap and Nicky Brown and Jameson Jarvis both added two hits to the Shepherd offense.
Mansfield and the Rams traded scoring innings in the opener. Shepherd had leads of 3-1, 4-2, 5-3, and 7-3 before the roof caved in on pitcher Travis Mumaw in the Mansfield fifth.
The Mountaineers would score seven runs off Mumaw and relief pitchers Austin Bowie and Collin Brown.
When the inning started, Mansfield trailed by four runs and when it ended the Mountaineers held a three-run lead.
Bowie (1-3) was charged with the loss.
Brady's homer in the first gave the Rams a 2-0 lead.
David Toth went 3-for-4. Collin Brown, Joe Cook, and Jerry Jubb all had two hits for the Rams, who outhit Mansfield, 13-9, but were beaten by the big inning.
Shepherd is scheduled to play its final home games of the regular season on April 26 (Shippensburg) and April 28 (Bluefield) before the WVIAC tournament.
Senators Reclaim Top Spot in North

By Bob Madison

After Shepherd shoved past Davis & Elkins and into first place in the conference’s Northern Division with a doubleheader sweep of the Senators on Saturday, the Rams had to win again the next day or lose their temporary grip on leadership.

Pitching was going to decide the outcome of the season’s most pivotal game.

Shepherd sent out junior college transfer Travis Mumaw, who had not started a Northern Division game ... and followed him with senior Scott Koscielniak, an eight-game winner in 2004. The Senators tried Ryan Flanigan, who had been routed in his previous outing against West Virginia State.

Mumaw took a 1-2 record and a 6.66 earned run average to the mound with him.

His waist-high straight balls and rarely-in-the-strike-zone breaking pitches would not carry the crucial afternoon for the Rams. Mumaw departed after four innings ... leaving after the Senators had seven hits, three earned runs, and eight baserunners against his tall lefthanded slants.

Koscielniak inherited a 3-3 score, but would eventually be tagged with a loss as Davis & Elkins combed his predictable pitches for four runs in his four innings. And the Senators crept back into first place ahead of the Rams with a 7-3 win.

Koscielniak threw about 85 pitches. Of the 20 batters he saw, he started off all 20 of them with his fastball.

And fewer than five of those fastballs visited the knees ... and most were above the waist of the eagerly awaiting Senators’ batters.

Pitches much above the knees to batters armed with aluminum bats can be ugly sights for pitchers, coaches, and fans of the player doing the throwing.

Koscielniak was often behind in the count, which meant more fastballs delivered from the same arm angle and release point as the other waist-high pitches.

Few strikes with a breaking pitch. A first-pitch fastball to every batter. Behind in the count the majority of the time. The same arm slot and release point on every delivery. And not enough difference between the speeds of his fastball and breaking pitch meant Koscielniak and the Rams were in trouble.

Flanigan threw a wider variety of pitches from differing release points. He was not as predictable.

But he was fortunate, at times very fortunate.

Shepherd had three first-inning runs on a two-RBI triple from Ryan Brady and Joe Cook’s RBI double.

But the Rams lost a run and an out when David Toth’s safety squeeze bunt was turned into an out at the plate.

Later, Jerry Jubb was thrown out stealing and Toth was thrown out at second, trying to stretch his single when the Rams trailed by four runs and had only six outs remaining.

Flanigan was serviceable enough. He was replaced in the seventh inning (of the nine-inning game) by Tobi Stoner, who had pitched six strong innings the day before in losing, 2-1, to the Rams.

Stoner was summoned with the Senators holding a 7-3 lead, but with Rams’ runners at first and second and nobody out.

Stoner was just as hard on the Shepherd bats on Sunday with no rest as he had been on Saturday.

He got out of the seventh by retiring Dirk Webb, Cook, and Brady without either Shepherd baserunner moving.

In the eighth and ninth, Stoner faced the minimum number of Rams ... aided by Toth’s being gunned down at second to begin the eighth.

Stoner had his 83 mph fastball. He had control. And he had an economy of pitches. All his assets added up to a loss for the Rams.

Now, Shepherd travels to Salem to close its Northern Division schedule. Trailing Davis & Elkins by a few power rating points, the Rams could use a three-game sweep of the Tigers -- the same as they had in March when Salem was at Fairfax Field for three games.
By Bob Madison

In what has become a season of frustration for the Shepherd baseball team, the first game, 5-4, loss to the team from Arnold Palmer country (Latrobe, Pennsylvania’s St. Vincent College) only increased the growing negative feelings.

St. Vincent is an NAIA school with no special emphasis on baseball. And even though it won a one-run game, its hitters were mostly baffled by the four Shepherd pitchers.

Of the 21 outs the Bearcats had in the seven-inning game, there were 12 strikeouts by pitchers who don’t normally record many “K’s” in the scorebook.

And there were just six hits and a .222 team batting average by the team that was winning for the 15th time against 17 losses.

But the Bearcats made two stellar defensive plays, both by rightfielder Brad Hill.

Protecting a 5-2 lead in the Shepherd half of the fifth, the Bearcats saw the Rams load the bases with two outs.

The Rams’ David Toth send a long fly toward the warning track in right. Hill turned his back to the infield and went after the drive.

With his back and his number “42” the only ways to identify Hill, he stuck out his gloved hand and caught Toth’s bid for a bases-clearing extra base hit.

Nobody ever made a better catch at Shepherd’s Fairfax Field.

And St. Vincent’s three-run lead was still intact.

Later, after the Rams had left three more runners stranded in the sixth, Hill made a game-saving throw in the seventh to cut down Toth by 15-feet at the plate on Jameson Jarvis’s single.

Shepherd scored once in the seventh after the first four batters reached base. Hill’s throw resulted in the first out of the inning ... and Shepherd still had runners on first and second.

Eric Chrisman grounded into a force play at second and then Collin Brown grounded out to second to end the game.

There were 12 baserunners left stranded in seven innings. And Shepherd had 11 hits and 18 baserunners in all ... and could still manage only four runs.

Shepherd was 11-for-31 as a team (.355) and somehow was kept off the scoreboard enough times to waste the 3-for-3 game given it by Steve Kozak, the 2-for-4 from Nicky Brown, and the 2-for-3 from Ryan Brady.

Freshman Josh Bowers made the start ... and had to be lifted with two outs in the second after he had walked three and been victimized by Kip Watkins’ two-run double.

Todd Coder was clever enough to give the Rams time to get even at 2-2 before he was rocked in the fifth by three straight line-drive hits. All three of those runners scored ... the last on a safety squeeze bunt that Coder couldn’t retire either the batter or the runner scoring from third.

The worst of Shepherd’s frustrations were saved for the final three innings when the Rams left eight runners on base ... leading to their 10th loss in the last 11 games.

The second game of the doubleheader appeared to be more of the same when freshman Dirk Webb was solved for five hits — including two home runs — that led to five Bearcats’ runs in the first inning.

But Shepherd had five runs waiting in the bottom of the first as Nicky Brown, Joe Cook, and Bowers all had singles and Toth, Brady, Kozak, and Matt Noll also reached base.

When Webb saw Wes Hughes double off the top of the fence and Hill send another home run into the far reaches of the snarl of trees beyond the Shepherd bullpen, he was lifted after 1.1 innings.

Webb’s pitching line read: eight hits, one walk, seven runs, seven earned runs, 13 batters faced, nine batters reaching base ... and a .667 batting average against him.

But Shepherd caught up again with two more runs in the second inning, finally using the pitching of Austin Bowie, Scott McCormick, and Scott Koscielniak to get itself a doubleheader split by winning the second game, 10-7.

There were 11 Shepherd hits in the nightcap and Brady and Kozak each drove in three runs.

Cook was 3-for-3, Bowers added two hits, Nicky Brown did the same, and Toth was on base three times.

Shepherd reached for division-leading Davis & Elkins, which was at Fairfax Field for a three-game WVIAC series last weekend.

The frustration level may have receded a few notches. But not many, as the Rams had a 14-16 overall record and were still stewing from the series three-game sweep they suffered in Fairmont on April 9 and 10.
McDaniel 4-1, Shepherd 1-4

WESTMINSTER, Md. — Karen Burnette fired a three-hitter with seven strikeouts as Shepherd University defeated McDaniel College in the second game to salvage a doubleheader split.
Megan Zahnow, Jenn Canby and Charla Wacker each had two hits to pace the Rams (22-12) in the second game.
Mary Abrams and Karyn Curley led McDaniel (16-13) with two hits each in the first game. Abrams scattered seven hits for the win.
Brooke Small had three hits to lead Shepherd in the opener.

MEN'S GOLF
Shepherd at WVIAC Championship
BERKELEY SPRINGS, W.Va. — Shepherd University placed sixth with a team score of 918 — 20 strokes behind first-place Concord University.
David Bradshaw finished three shots behind the individual champion and was the top finisher for the Rams with a three-round score of 223 (72-75-76). Bradshaw also was named to the ALL-WVIAC First Team.
Shepherd softball

WESTMINSTER, Md. — Junior pitcher Karen Burnette fired a three-hitter in the second game of a doubleheader against McDaniel College Wednesday as Shepherd salvaged a split with a 4-1 victory. McDaniel took game one by the same score.

All of Burnette’s run support came on four runs on four hits in the first inning. Megan Zahnow had an RBI double, Julie Scherpf had a sacrifice fly and Stephanie Sims added an RBI single to highlight the inning.

Zahnow, Jenn Canby and Charla Wacker had two hits each for the Rams (22-12).

McDaniel (16-13) used a three-run fourth inning to pull away for its win. Two of the three runs came because of a Shepherd error.

The Rams only run came when Canby singled and later scored on a Brooke Small single. Small went 3 for 4. Mia Zappacosta (4-5) took the loss.

Shepherd is next in action at 1 p.m. Saturday for a doubleheader at West Liberty. Before then, however, the Rams will receive news today if they will earn their first regional ranking in school history. Shepherd’s softball team, unlike the baseball team, is in the Great Lakes Region.
**CHIPSHOTS**

**Rams softball earns first D-II ranking**

**INDIANAPOLIS** — The Shepherd University softball team received its first ranking in history of the NCAA-Division II regional polls.

The Rams are ninth in the Great Lakes Region Poll.

Shepherd (22-12) is one of four West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference teams in the top 10. Leading the poll is undefeated Northern Kentucky (36-0).

Northern Kentucky is followed by Southern Illinois-Edwardsville (33-9), Alderson-Broaddus (20-8), West Virginia Wesleyan (30-15), Wayne State (Mich.) (18-16), Ashland (27-13), Northwood (20-8), Fairmont State (17-9), Shepherd and Indianapolis (17-11).

Meanwhile, the Rams' scheduled doubleheader for Thursday against Columbia Union was canceled because the Pioneers, the result of injuries, couldn't field a team.

— *Staff reports*

**AREA ROUNDUP**

**Ram football names Herbert 2004 MVP**

**SHEPHERDSTOWN** — Defending West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference football champion Shepherd named senior running back Alex Herbert as its most valuable player for last season.

That and several other awards were announced at the team's annual football banquet.

Herbert, who completed his career as Shepherd's third all-time leading rusher, finished third in the WVIAC with 1,052 yards and led the league in scoring with 102 points.

Junior return specialist Dustin Dudinski and kicker/punter Ricky Schmitt shared special teams player of the year honors.

Dudinski led the Rams in punt returns with an 11.3-yard average. He managed a touchdown in 32 returns and also topped the team in kickoff returns with a 20.8-yard average.

Schmitt led the league in punting with a 38.3 average and had 20 of his punts downed inside the 20-yard line. He finished with 60 points as a kicker.

Freshman Bubba Brady won rookie of the year honors after moving from the defensive line and into a starter's position on the offensive line.

Also during the banquet, coach Monte Catet announced the Dudinski and to-be-fellow senior James Violand, an offensive lineman, and redshirt juniors Todd Edmondson, an inside linebacker, and Bobby Jarvis, an outside linebacker, have been named as team captains for the coming season.