MEN’S BASKETBALL
Shepherd 79, Concord 76

ATHENS, W.Va. — Sophomore Chad Moore posted a double-double with 21 points and 14 rebounds to guide Shepherd University over Concord for a WVIAC victory.

Posting his 10th double of the year, Moore hit 6 of 11 from the field and all eight of his free throws and added five assists and two steals.

Chambersburg graduate Jonathan Moticha scored 17 points for the Rams (9-12, 6-10).

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
Shepherd 80, Concord 73

ATHENS, W.Va. — Boonsboro graduate Jenica Hewitt was one of three Shepherd University players to post 13 points in a win over Concord to snap a five-game losing streak.

Carrie Saunders and Hannah Safren also had 13 points for the Rams (11-9, 9-7) in the WVIAC victory.
Precision-like West Liberty scores 126 against Shepherd

The many first-and last-time visitors to Shepherd’s Butcher Center were treated to the surgical precision they came to see.

West Liberty’s unselfish and top-ranked Hilltoppers were even better than textbook when they wowed the crowd and the Rams with what might be called “Press, Pelle, and Phenomenal Shooting.”

When the attention-to-detail Hilltoppers had made the last of their quick-to-the-basket layups or three-pointers, they had sagged the Rams and the hundreds of one-season visitors to the bleachers with a hard-shaking 126-97 exhibition of a win . . . and Shepherd was not a docile convenience to the West Liberty performance.

When the Hilltoppers scored the Rams by making 34 of their 33 (75.7 percent) first-half field goal attempts, it was easy to say, “They can’t keep it up.”

How right you would have been.

In the equally highlight-arroyed second half, the Hilltoppers “sagged” to a 72.4 percent showing, making a stunning 21 of their 29 field goal attempts.

And Shepherd wasn’t falling in its defensive effort.

It was just that the Rams gobbled too many turnovers that led directly to driving layup scores by near-perfect Corey Pelle and near-perfect Alex Falk. Or Pelle simply jetted past any of the three Shepherd defenders that had the unenviable task of trying to keep him from getting his body angled past them and then reaching the basket for still another ascending layup.

Or the Hilltoppers were strafing the hard-pressed Rams from the perimeter, finishing with an 11-for-19 showing on three-point attempts – most of which were unattended because of the constant scrutiny Shepherd had to show in trying to keep Pelle or Falk from scoring inside on nearly every possession.

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TOPPERS
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The Hilltoppers used a full-court zone press that didn’t wait for any activity from Shepherd but attempted to deny any inbound passes and then double-teamed the Ram that had received that first pass.

Turnovers were gained by the forceful Hilltoppers. So vigilant was West Liberty that it even pressured when Shepherd secured a defensive rebound, a tactic rarely seen . . . but a useful one in the Hilltopper arsenal of sharp weapons.

When faced with a Shepherd half-court defense, the Hilltoppers were so well-tuned that they hadn’t taken a mid-range shot-attempt in the game’s first 30 minutes.

Everything was a driving layup against a lone defender who couldn’t get help from a teammate or an unhurried long-range attempt.

There was no need for anything from six-feet to 16-feet.

West Liberty had 62 points at the half. It had missed all of nine shots. And Shepherd was clawing at the Hilltoppers with a two-platoon system of players that was used for about two minutes at a time . . . and then replaced by five new players.

Shepherd’s use of the two-platoon system was successful enough at the outset for it had a 15-12 lead with about 13 minutes left in the half.

But after eight straight Hilltopper points and a blinding array of quick-to-the-basket layups that brought points in bushels and storms.

The scoreboard blinked in recognition of West Liberty’s undeniable prowess.

Only a quality showing from the foul line (10-of-12) and its own 50-percent (15-of-30) field goal shooting allowed the Rams to trail by a 62-45 margin at the half.

Down by 17 points with more rebounds, finely tuned shooting, and a workaholic team attitude! What would come next if the Rams couldn’t produce another half of more of the same?

Getting outsized 64-52 in the second half is what came next.

The Rams made 50 percent of their shots (16-of-32), but their free throw accuracy was dimmed and their rebounding edge was blunted.

Pelle scored another 11 points after roasting the Rams with 18 in the opening half. Falk anchored the offense again with another nine points to add to his 14 first-half markers.

Barry Shetzer poured through 13 points to give him 26 on the night.

Looking at Shepherd’s statistics, it’s hard to imagine a team that went 31-for-62 from the field, 24-of-36 from the foul line, had seven more rebounds, the same number of personal fouls as the Hilltoppers, and just seven turnovers in the second half getting scalded by 29 points.

Chad Moore made his imprints on the game, scoring 28 points and getting 10 rebounds. And Marcus Pilgrim fared well on the offensive end with 18 points.

But there was no Shepherd player who could harness any of the Hilltopper offensive wizards.

And the Hilltoppers left the 700 one-time visitors to the Butcher Center with a jaw-dropping performance that had moved them to 19-0 on the season . . . and made the crowd wonder if there was anything else the unbeatens could do to better that two hours of superlative Division II basketball.
Lady Rams’ scoreless beginning settles their fate vs. Hilltoppers

BOB MADISON Sports Editor

The losing slide was getting steeper. It was slippery enough for the Shepherd women before first-place West Liberty came to the Butcher Center.

Four straight games had been lost. And West Liberty was atop the WVIAC. The complexities of winning for the Lady Rams had become many and varied.

Conference teams had solved Shepherd’s up-tempo style and actually turned it back against the Lady Rams. Shepherd has a general lack of quickness . . . and without anything other than veneer when on defense the Lady Rams hadn’t survived when opponents backed them into a half-court mode.

Jenica Hewett and Jenn Prine can keep opponents from shooting four-footers. No other player can.

After dropping four straight conference games, the Lady Rams had to avoid a sluggish and uncertain start against the Lady Hilltoppers.

When West Liberty leaped into a 17-0 lead, the slippery slope had gotten beyond Shepherd’s capabilities.

Although it moved sporadically toward the Lady Hilltoppers’ jump-start lead, Shepherd wouldn’t menace it appreciably, and fell, 93-66, to keep the Lady Rams going headlong in the opposite direction.

West Liberty just kept scoring inside. Just kept getting around-the-basket scoring.

Shepherd couldn’t score in the first 4:30 of the half. It misfired from every direction and with nearly every player. Worst of all, there were no offensive rebounds for minutes at a time.

From 17-0, Shepherd had its only span of effective minutes.

Combining West Liberty’s first spate of turnovers with the first-seen team scoring from Hewett and Prine, Shepherd worked its way into momentary contention by getting to within 26-19 of the Lady Hilltoppers.

But then coach Lynn Ullom’s team returned to caring for the ball . . . and then throwing it inside to receptive scorers. With outside beacon Laura Malerne scoring 12 points on accurate three-pointers joining the inside point-makers, West Liberty outscored Shepherd, 33-9, in the last 9:39 of the half.

All the smoke and sulphur from around the basket had equated to a 59-28 West Liberty lead by halftime.

The Lady Hilltoppers actually led by more points (31) than Shepherd had scored.

Disregarding Shepherd’s inner defense had helped the Lady Hilltoppers make 64.7 percent of their field goal attempts (22-for-34). While Shepherd was only 9-for-34 (26.5 percent) and was outrebounded 25-17.

A 31-point lead at the half is usually a definitive one.

West Liberty’s lead was in its match against Shepherd.

The Lady Hilltoppers had closed out the half with such a rush that Shepherd’s five consecutive turnovers were only fodder added to everything else the visitors were doing right or taking full advantage of from the very outset.

It would have taken an effort worthy of Samson holding the pillars in place for Shepherd to become seaworthy.

Going 13-for-42 from the field in the last half as Shepherd did couldn’t have been saved even by Samson.

West Liberty was much more listless than it had been in the noteworthy first half. It had minutes-long periods of poor shooting and it lacked offensive rebounds as Shepherd’s Emily Daniel secured enough to finish the night with 13 missed shots.

There was little if any solace found by Shepherd in outscoring the visitors, 38-34, in the second half.

Tori Hansen, Meghan Wiseman, and Malerne combined for 62 points. Hewett and Prine combined for 32 points (Hewett 20 herself).

It was Shepherd’s fifth straight loss. It was West Liberty’s 12th win in 14 conference games and 17th in 20 games overall.

A 17-0 lead in the first 4:30 was easily enough for West Liberty.
Shepherd women snap five-game losing streak

ATHENS — Despite losing point guard Jerica Hewett to five fouls and having three other players finish with four personals, Shepherd was able to snap a five-game losing streak on Saturday when it defeated Concord, 80-73, in a WVIAC women’s basketball game played at the Carter gym in Athens.

In snapping its losing skid, Shepherd moved its overall record to 11-9 and its WVIAC record to 9-7. Concord fell to 10-9 overall and 7-8 in conference games.

Hewett was joined by starter Carrie Saunders and reserve guard Hannah Safren as Shepherd’s leading scorers with 13 points each.

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WOMEN
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Emily Daniel was one of the players finishing with four fouls. She scored 11 points and had six rebounds. Jena Dorsey also had four fouls and scored 10 points. She had six rebounds.

Iolysa Brown was Concord’s featured player as she went 7-for-15 from the floor, 11-for-14 from the foul line, claimed a game-high 16 points, had three assists, two steals, and 25 points.

Reserve Amanda Smith totaled 19 points and had five rebounds. Sidney Lindsey added 11 points and four rebounds. But Lindsey was 3-for-11 from the field as Concord made only 22-of-57 (38.6 percent) field goal attempts. But Concord compensated for this with making 25-of-32 (78 percent) of its foul shots.

Shepherd was 29-for-65 (44.6 percent) from the floor and was 17-for-25 (68 percent) from the foul line.

The Lady Rams committed 21 turnovers and Concord had 22.

After nearly seven minutes of the first half, Shepherd had a 15-6 lead when Hewett made a three-pointer.

Concord reversed the flow by outpointing the Lady Rams 12-3 to forge an 18-18 tie with 8:12 left in the first half.

With 3:01 left in the half, Shepherd had moved back in front at 31-25. The lead was still 36-30 with 1:23 showing...and neither team could score again before the half closed.

After 12 minutes of the second half, Shepherd had only a 57-54 lead after Concord’s Lindsey made a jump-shot.

But then Shepherd erupted to outscore the Mountain Lions, 14-4, in the next four minutes to move ahead, 71-58.

With 43 seconds remaining, the Lady Ram lead was at 75-70. Safren made 3-of-4 free throws in the final minute.

Concord never got closer than 75-70 in the latter stages.

The Lady Rams come back home on Saturday to face conference rival West Virginia Wesleyan at 2 p.m. at the Butcher Center.
Moore, Rams hang defeat on CU

ATHENS — Despite missing critical free throws in the last 15 seconds of its WVIAC game, Shepherd was able to hold off a last-minute rally by the Concord men on Saturday and posted a 79-76 conference win over the Mountaineers.

Leading by three points, the Rams saw Sidney McCray miss a pair of free throws with only 14 seconds left. However, Concord’s Javon Acree-Manuel misfired on an open 23-footer as time ran out that would have forced a tie.

The three-point win improved Shepherd’s overall record to 10-2 and moved its WVIAC mark to 6-1. Concord went back to 8-11 overall and 5-10 in the WVIAC.

Shepherd had an immediate 8-0 lead and was ahead 13-2 when the Mountaineers went on a 17-7 scoring run to get within 20-19 about half-way through the first half.

Shepherd had blunted Concord’s momentum long enough to assume a 36-31 lead at the half.

The second half began much the same as the first had with Shepherd quickly sprinting in front by 11 points. The Rams still led, 53-48, with 11:51 left.

But Concord moved again, outscoring the Rams 9-2 (Rick Alderman scored seven of the nine points) to make it only a 55-52 lead.

It was 70-70 with 2:52 remaining as Alderman counted a driving layup.

Shepherd answered with consecutive three-pointers from McCray and Jonathan Motichka. The Rams led, 76-70, with only 1:03 showing.

Aaron Fluellen’s layup with 17 seconds to play brought Concord to within three points again, trailing, 79-76.

That’s when McCray was fouled and missed two free throws. Acree-Manuel missed final shot.

Shepherd had a win despite committing 29 turnovers but badly outrebounded the Mountain Lions, 43-26. The Rams prevailed even though they were 0-for-12 on three-point attempts.

Chad Moore was guilty of eight turnovers but showed 21 points and claimed 14 rebounds. Motichka added 17 points and was 4-for-8 on three-point tries. Aaron Spencer and Dave Carlson both had 11-point games.

The loss was Concord’s fourth straight. It had a 29-point performance from Alderman who was 9-for-14 from the field and 11-for-16 from the foul line. Acree-Manuel added 11 points, Fluellen another 10 points and Rafee Smith had 10 points.

Concord had 18 steals as compared with Shepherd’s seven steals.

Shepherd was 25-for-54 (46 percent) from the floor and 20-for-26 (77 percent) from the free throw line. Concord was 28-for-60 (47 percent) from the floor and went 20-for-30 (67 percent) from the free throw line.

The Rams return home to the Butcher Center this Saturday for a 4 p.m. game against a conference team they defeated on the road, West Virginia Wesleyan.
Arndt in a rush to play for Rams

BY RICK KOZLOWSKI
JOURNAL-NEWS

MARTINSBURG — When Darren Arndt heads off to football camp at Shepherd in August, he'll rekindle a lifelong rivalry.

The senior at Martinsburg will join his older brother, David, on the Rams roster after signing his letter-of-intent on Wednesday to join the program that reached the Division II national semifinals in 2010.

David, a wide receiver, redshirted last season during his first year at Shepherd. "We'll have some brotherly competition to see who gets to play first," Darren Arndt said.

It didn't hurt that Arndt had some brotherly influence in making his decision to become a Ram as he ended what he described as a "stressful last couple months" of recruiting.

"(David) said he felt right at home and felt like part of the team as soon as he got there," Arndt said. "It was a Shepherd team that had the See ARNDT D2

Arndt

Arndt has a great season in school history, much like Arndt's at Martinsburg. The Bulldogs captured their first state championship in football, winning all 14 games they played.

"I want to make it in the D-II national championship as my next goal after my high school state championship," Arndt said. "I felt almost everyone back, so it should be a great year again.

He'll join teammates from this season, David Gladden and Nick Lopez, who signed letters-of-intent last week to Shepherd. As well as former Martinsburg teammates David of course, Ryan Pets and Chris Burg, who were all freshmen.

"If it all started in the midget league," Arndt said, "we all played with each other.

Now it continues.

"It's a great opportunity for him to play in a great program," Martinsburg coach David Walker said. "Shepherd plays at a high level. If he can be successful there, that'll be a big accomplishment for him.

Besides the state championship in Class AAA, Arndt earned all-state honors at defensive end, where he was a terror as a pass rusher and was a finalist for both of the statewide Hunt and Huff awards.

"I'm glad I'm going to get a great opportunity at Shepherd. It's a great school, and I have a great opportunity of playing as soon as possible. That will be good." - Darren Arndt

Martinsburg senior

"Darren had a great career at Martinsburg High School," Walker said. "He came from a big football family. I'm real excited about him going to Shepherd to continue to play.

The 6-foot-2, 235-pound Arndt and Walker both think he will see action for the Rams early in his career. Arndt said Shepherd coaches expect him to make an "immediate impact.

"I'm glad I'm going to get a great opportunity at Shepherd," Arndt said. "It's a great school, and I have a great opportunity of playing as soon as possible. That will be good."

Arndt just doesn't know where he'll be playing, however.

"The O-line coach wants me to play tight end," Arndt said. "The O-line coach wants me to play defensive end.

"I'll play wherever I can get on the field."

Nearly one-quarter of his 104 tackles this past season were sacks or stops for losses. He also returned an interception and a blocked punt for touchdowns. As a tight end, he caught three passes for 19 yards and had a pair of two-point conversion receptions.

While Bowling Green, Virginia Military, Dartmouth, The Citadel and the United States Naval Academy were showing interest, some of it was to walk on, though.

Arndt ultimately chose Shepherd over spending a year at prep school Fork Union Military Academy, Va., with the idea of getting bigger and attracting more attention from colleges.

He saw a better opportunity at Shepherd, where he will study exercise science in hopes of being a conditioning coach at a college or a fitness instructor.

- Rick Kozlowski can be reached at 304-265-3381, ext. 116, or rkozlowski@journal-news.net
Shepherd men, women down Cards

WHEELING — Sophomore forward Chad Moore had game-highs of 15 points and 15 rebounds to lead Shepherd University to a 65-62 win over Wheeling Jesuit in West Virginia Conference men’s basketball action.

Moore hit on 6 of 12 field goals with a 3-of-4 effort from the foul line. He added three assists and a season-high three blocks. Moore recorded his 11th double-double.

The Rams had five players in double figures as guard Brantley Osborne tossed in 13 points, senior forward Dave Karlton had 12, freshman guard Marcus Pilgrim added 11 and senior guard Jonathan Motchka had 10.

Oh Ukwurah had 13 points and nine rebounds and Steve Cathey had 12 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Cardinals.

Shepherd rallied from a 14-point second half deficit for the win.

Clinging to a one-point lead with 1:10 on the clock, senior guard Sidney McCoy hit a pair of free throws for the Rams with seven seconds left to give the Rams a three-point advantage. The Cardinals tried a pair of 3-pointers in the game’s final seconds, but neither hit the mark.

Shepherd had a 38.6 percent (22 of 57) field goal percentage, while Wheeling Jesuit recorded a 51 percent (26 of 51) effort. The Rams drained nine 3-pointers, while the Cardinals hit on just three. Wheeling Jesuit had a 55-32 rebounding advantage.

Shepherd improved to 10-12 overall, 7-10 in WVC action, while Wheeling Jesuit is 12-9, 9-9.

WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Shepherd 81, Wheeling 67

WHEELING — Sophomore guard Emily Daniel posted game-highs with 22 points and 10 rebounds to lead Shepherd University to an 81-67 win over Wheeling Jesuit in West Virginia Conference women’s basketball action at Wheeling Jesuit on Thursday night.

Daniel hit on 9 of 18 shots from the floor with a 4-of-4 effort from the foul line. Her 22-point effort is a career-high.

Senior guard Jerica Hewett tossed in 16 points, while junior forward Shelby Fiehe added 12 points and seven boards.

Megan Shriver scored 16 points and grabbed six rebounds to lead the Cardinals. Kristy Sivley added 11 points and six assists.

Shepherd shot 43.5 percent (30 of 69) from the floor, while Wheeling Jesuit had a 47.3 percent (25 of 53) effort. The Rams dominated the boards with a 47-27 advantage. Shepherd led 42-33 at halftime.

Shepherd improved to 12-9, 10-7 in conference action, while Wheeling Jesuit fell to 6-16, 5-13.

H.S. GIRLS BASKETBALL
Hamshire 63, Bishop Walsh 33

CUMBERLAND, Md. — Lindsey Miller scored a team-high 14 points to lead Hamshire past Bishop Walsh, Md., on Thursday.

Hollie Riggles led the Trojans (6-9) with seven rebounds. Ashley Turnball paced Bishop Walsh with 16 points.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL
Faith 48, Paw Paw 43

Paw Paw — Sam Romine and David Delawder played a virtual game of one-on-one.

Romine scored 39 points to lead Faith Christian (6-7) in the victory, while David Delawder had 33 points and 17 rebounds for Paw Paw (8-11).

Seventh Grade
North 58, Musselman 35

Martinsburg — North wrapped up the regular season title in the Mountainaire Athletic Conference with a 14-2 record. Brandon Roberts scored 20 points and Nathan Monrose 12 for North.

Case Stroop led Musselman’s 10 points lead.

With its title in hand, North earned a bye for the first-round of the six-team MAC tournament that begins on Feb. 21.

Eighth Grade
North 50, Musselman 39

Martinsburg — Daniel Delaware scored 14 points and Steve Brown 10 as North ended the regular season with a 12-4 record.

Blake Mausser’s 14 points led all scorers.

Seventh Grade
Charles Town 11

Charles Town — DAVID ELLIS scored 13 points as South ended the season at 3-5.

Ryan French scored six points for Charles Town.

Seventh Grade Girls Basketball
Faith 32, Paw Paw 21

Paw Paw — Maddie Smits led with 13 points and Carolyn Castle added nine points as Faith Christian defeated Paw Paw on Thursday.

Faith improved to 8-5.

Eighth Grade
South 38, Charles Town 21

Martinsburg — Carolyn Hill scored 12 points, Brandi James eight and Alexis Bonner six, with nine assists. South completes an undefeated regular season.

Hill had 10 rebounds.

South is 16-0 after most of the same team went undefeated as seventh-graders a season ago.

Kristie Golden scored nine points for Charles Town.

South will have a bye for the six-team Mountainaire Athletic Conference playoffs beginning on Monday.

Seventh Grade
South 22, Charles Town 15

Martinsburg — Courtney Conner scored a game-high 10 points to lead South past Charles Town.

Daniella Hatcher added six points and 14 rebounds for South, while Tania Jackson led Charles Town with five points.

— Staff reports