Morgantown's Daniel Berry Signs with Shepherd

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By Katie Smith, Anchor/Reporter - email

MORGANTOWN - Many senior high school athletes are still deciding their futures and another local one made his decision public Monday morning.

Morgantown senior Daniel Berry has signed to play football at Shepherd University. The standout center was a key player on the Mohigan's offensive line and helped pave the way to Morgantown's state semifinal appearance.

Berry, who is a former MVY Athlete of the Week by the way, is projected to stay on the offensive line for the Rams and believes his time at MHS has helped prepare him for the next step.
Rams rope Lions

SHEPHERDSTOWN—"20-20" is a smile-producing result when a person takes an eye exam. Finding a "20-20" basketball player will produce a smile of another kind.

When Shepherd ran off to a rare easy win over Concord on Saturday afternoon at the Butcher Center, it was forward Chad Moore securing 20 rebounds and also scoring 20 points.

Shepherd's 83-61 win over the hard-used Mountain Lions was the result of a combustible first half where Moore reached his kindling temperature on the boards and running mate Sidney McCray was true enough from the field to score 15 points before an intermission that had the Rams sailing aloft with a 46-24 lead.

Moore had taken down 14 rebounds in the first half. Right from the beginning, Moore rebounded like a motivated pogo stick — taking control of missed shots on both ends. He claimed five rebounds in the first six minutes. And he had retrieved eight rebounds in the first 10 minutes.

While Moore was refusing to allow the struggling Mountain Lions any second-shot points, McCray was accurate on 6-for-8 from the field. Three of his baskets were of the three-point variety.

The Rams had a 25-9 lead when reserve Malik Dauda bounced off the bench and immediately contributed. With Dauda aiding the "M & M Rams", Shepherd rapidly broke contact with the startled Mountain Lions.

Shepherd's 22-point halftime lead was a product of its 30-9 rebounding advantage ... its 53 percent field goal percentage as compared with Concord's meager 34.5 percent showing ... its 8-of-9 form at the foul line ... and its jet-assisted takeoff at the very outset.

Brantley Osborne, averaging better than 14 points a night, was scoreless at the half. And yet Shepherd had a huge lead.

When Osborne's shooting form returned in the second half and he scored 14 points, Concord couldn't make any real inroads in the direction of the Shepherd lead.

Aeron Spencer had three Shepherd assists early in the second half as Shepherd moved its advantage to 59-35 with 14:40 to play.

Once Concord chose a course that was designed to free it for many more shots and possessions — going to a fullcourt zone press — it at least spread the flow of players so wide that Moore wasn't able to dominate the flow of either the halfcourt defense or defense.

The domination had already been carried out.

Shepherd had raced away into the night. And it had accomplished a long and definitive lead and evened its record at 10-10 behind Moore and McCray.
Lady Rams make rally count for win over Concord

SHEPHERDSTOWN—The slough through the first half had been marred by the continuous exits of Shepherd’s Emily Daniel, Jenn Prine, Gabby Flinchum, and Jimyse Brown. All had two fouls and were routinely removed by Coach Melanie Ford. Without those four players for as much as 12 minutes of the first half, Shepherd simply did not have enough scorers or decent-percentage shooters, and visiting Concord had a five-point halftime lead.

When Daniel was tagged with a third foul early in the second half and Flinchum a fourth foul with only 12 minutes to play, the Lady Rams found themselves trailing by nine points.

It was then that the Lady Rams finally found some continuity and could field enough scorers to right themselves. Nine straight Shepherd points were wrung out against the Mountain Lions.

Shepherd was beating Concord down the floor. It was scoring with what basketball coaches call “the secondary break”. And when the Lady Rams went in front with 6:26 remaining, they kept it at just well enough to hold off any second-wind coming from Concord to secure a vital West Virginia Conference victory, 66-59.

With so many usually-featured players being held on the sidelines with two fouls, it meant eight of Shepherd’s players received at least 11 minutes of playing time in the opening half and that three reserves were on the floor for as many as 24 minutes.

The disjointed Shepherd lineups didn’t shoot well from the floor (39 percent) and there were 20 turnovers in all to jumble the flow of any possible comeback. But Brown’s 24 minutes were used to claim nine rebounds as Shepherd outrebounded the Mountain Lions, 46-37.

Another reserve, Priscilla Moseh, was used for 20 minutes, scoring six points and grabbing six rebounds. Senior Shelby Fayak played 17 minutes and went 0-for-5 from the field and didn’t score while committing three first-half fouls.

The game’s last 2:02 were strife-filled and fraught while being fueled by the emotion of both sides.

Trailing by three points, Concord got a three-point play from Rachel Artrip. But with only 38 seconds left and the shot-clock all but spent of time, Shepherd’s Brown found herself facing the basket and about 13-feet away. Brown got off her jumper before a shot clock violation was sounded . . . and it fell through as she was fouled. Brown entered the night making 38.8 percent of her free throws, but she made that one giving Shepherd a 62-59 lead.

Concord couldn’t score with any of its four possessions in the final 38 seconds. Brown would miss two Shepherd free throws, Moseh would make one-of-two free throws and a casual and unguarded layup fell with a second left for the deceptive six-point final margin at the end.

It was Shepherd’s fourth straight win and kept the Lady Rams (10-6 in the league) in fourth place in the conference. It was Concord’s third straight loss, but the Mountain Lions (11-5 in the conference) remained in third place.

The unwritten “two-foul rule” where any player with two fouls in the first half is removed for the remainder of the half almost made Shepherd’s come-from-behind win too steep a climb to negotiate. But, fortunately for the Lady Rams, some usually quiet or unseen performers had game-saving contributions on Saturday against Concord.
Rams catch fire to defeat Seton Hill

February 8, 2012 | Filed under: Sports | Posted by: BOB MADISON Spirit Staff

SHEPHERDSTOWN—Bring out the fire hoses! Shepherd's shooters were on fire in the second half of its 74-53 conference win over Seton Hill, a win that moved the Rams into a tie for seventh place in the WVIAC and nudged the overall record to 11-10.

Shepherd's starters were a combined 18-for-27 (66.7 percent) in the second half...a scintillating half where the Rams thoroughly erased a two-point halftime deficit by outscoring the flagging Griffins, 46-23.

It was in the more meaningful second half that most of Shepherd's starters were able to leave behind the ordinary first half of little scoring and little productivity.

Brantley Osborne made all but one of his six shots, scoring 11 of his game-high 20 points. Chad Moore was 5-for-8 after a goose-egg 0-for-5 in the first half. Moore had 12 second-half points. Sidney McCray jumped in three of his four shots to finish with 14 points.

Once it took command, leaving far behind a 34-34 knot, Shepherd outgunned the Griffins, 23-2, to hastily charge out to a 57-36 advantage. The scoring surge had been fueled by points from starters Osborne, Moore, McCray, Marcus Pilgrim, Kirk Hairston, and reserve Aeron Spencer.

Seton Hill had counted only two points in 8:15 of clock time.

One of Shepherd's helpmates was staying relatively free from fouls, therefore not having to substitute because players had to be saved for later use. There were only five fouls whistled against the Rams in all of the first half.

The 2-3 halfcourt zone defense Coach Justin Namolik employed for the last 12:15 of the opening half bridled Seton Hall's number of shot-attempts and was responsible for a pedestrian pace. In completely erasing the Griffins' two-point halftime lead, Shepherd moved the tempo at its leisure and conveniently found a higher gear that allowed it to find high-percentage shots that it didn't often miss.

When Moore shed his first-half shooting problems, he could join with McCray and Osborne and threesome literally wore out the still-trying Griffin defenders.

Only two more home dates were left on the Shepherd calendar. Only five more games of any kind or at any place were left on the schedule. The Rams were in seventh place in the conference and should they somehow maintain that niche there would be a home game at the Butcher Center in the fast-approaching WVIAC tournament.
Point runs finally favor Shepherd

Shepherdstown — More often than not, basketball games feature scoring streaks that go unstopped for minutes at a time.

In Shepherd’s 69-61 win over Seton Hill on Monday at the Butler Center, there were streaks — one after another. Eight point runs. Seven points without a break. And six points at a time before the other side could find some points for itself.

In fact, most of the second half was colored by the continuous scoring of one side or the other. An unbroken 11-point scoring spree once lifted the Griffins from a five-point deficit to a 41-35 lead. Shepherd searched in the right places — inside and in transition — for its seven straight points and a 42-41 lead.

Back came the Griffins of fiery Coach Ferne Labati. They counted eight consecutive points to still the moderate Shepherd following and give Seton Hill at 49-42 advantage. It was Shepherd’s turn to claw its way back or be drowned by the latest Seton Hill flood of points.

Shepherd responded with six straight points, but still trailed 49-48.

With about four minutes to play, the scoring streaks had stopped.

But the tension had only risen.

Seton Hill had a 55-50 lead with 3:59 remaining when Shepherd’s non-nonsense guard Jenn Prine made a pair of free throws. Katie Biggs (5-for-15 from the field) made a medium-range jumper. And Shepherd was down by only a single point.

For two minutes, missed opportunities ruled the night. Finally, with 1:51 showing, Shepherd’s Gabby Flinchum made only her third close-in field goal and the Lady Rams were in front, 56-55.

A three-pointer from Anne Marie Olesky gave the Griffins a 58-56 lead.

It was time for the old sports bromide that says, “I’d rather be lucky than good,” popped into mind.

Biggs sent off a three-point attempt from nearly straight way. When the shot cascaded off the backboard and fell through the net ... Shepherd had a serendipitous 59-58 lead it wouldn’t again cede.

A total of four successful free throws from Hannah Safren and Shelby Fayak came in between misses by Seton Hill’s Paige Alviana and Clare Berenato.

When the cheering had subsided but the smiles were still in full evidence, Shepherd had won for the fifth straight time and was still in the WVIAC’s top four teams with a 11-6 league record and 14-9 overall mark.

A brutal stretch of unproductive offense against Seton Hill’s 2-3 zone defense was nearly Shepherd’s undoing in the first half.

With no players stationed near the lane, Shepherd was in no position to have a lead. But they did at 26-24 only because the Griffins had made only 9-of-27 (33 percent) of their field goal attempts ... and only 4-of-8 free throws. Shepherd owned a 24-19 rebounding edge.

Shepherd was 10-for-33 from the field. And it led by two points.

A survey of the statistics showed that Coach Labati could have murmured loudly: “For the want of a free throw the game was lost”, because her team went 10-for-19 from the foul line. The Lady Rams were 16-of-18 from the foul line.

Shepherd literally crushed the beleaguered Griffins on the boards, claiming 49 missed shots as compared to Seton Hill’s 34 rebounds. Emily Daniel, Flinchum, and Biggs all had eight rebounds for the Lady Rams.

Streaks. Streaks. And Shepherd’s last-minute three-pointer off the backboard were the clear pictures remaining from the night.
Shepherd scrambles middle ranks of WVC race

February 8, 2012 | Filed under: Sports | Posted by: SprRt@DniN

WEST LIBERTY — Shepherd used its accurate field goal shooting in the first half (making 18-of-32 attempts) to build a double-figure lead against homestanding West Liberty . . . and then refused to allow the Lady Hilltoppers to find any lasting momentum when the Lady Rams grabbed a 71-60 WVIAC women’s basketball win on the road last week.

Shepherd improved to 12-9 overall and had a 9-6 conference record that moved it all the way to fourth place in the league standings. The Lady Hilltoppers continued to slide down in the conference standings and were left with an 11-9 overall mark and an 8-6 league record.

Emily Daniel had 11 first-half points and was helped by the 10 points of Gabby Flinchum and the eight points contributed off the bench by Alex Tamez as the Lady Rams went out to a 41-30 lead at the intermission. Even though it cooled considerably in the second half (scoring only 30 points on 37 percent shooting from the field), Shepherd wasn’t in any imminent danger of losing all its lead because the Lady Hilltoppers also scored only 30 points in the second half.

Hillary Southworth was a one-woman gang for West Liberty as she tossed in 29 points in 12-of-19 from the field, including 4-of-9 from three-point range. Her accuracy far outpaced teammate Kayla Ayers, who was just 6-for-20 (30 percent) while adding 17 points. Ayers was 3-for-11 from long range.

Shepherd shattered the Lady Hilltoppers on the boards, outbounding them, 46-30, as Daniel claimed seven rebounds, Flinchum seven more, Tamez six more, Morgan Johnson five, and Katie Biggs five.

Both teams were 14-for-19 from the foul line.

Shepherd moved ahead, 53-31, with 14:18 remaining and never had its lead move any lower than 59-53 (with 3:23 left to play) after that.

Daniel would finish with a team-high 18 points while Flinchum added her 14 points. Jenn Prine chipped in her 10 points as did Tamez.
Charges dropped against former South Charleston quarterback
by Derek Taylor
Daily Mail sports writer

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Charges against former South Charleston High School quarterback and 2009 Kennedy Award winner Tyler Harris were dropped Wednesday in Jefferson County.

Harris, who was arrested on Jan. 27 in Shepherdstown, was facing felony charges of possession with the intent to distribute a controlled substance. His attorney said Thursday that Harris was actually in the process of helping an intoxicated friend when the arrest was made, and that the controlled substance was found to not belong to the former Black Eagles star.

"He was arrested for driving a car that didn't belong to him with a passenger that didn't own the car. They searched the car and found some pills that were not in the bottle that they were supposed to be in," said defensive attorney Kevin Mills, who is based in Martinsburg.

As it turned out, the car belonged to a female Shepherd University student who had called Harris for a ride home from a campus-area hangout, Tony's Pizza, Mills said. The unnamed student was intoxicated, and Harris picked her up from the restaurant and took her back to her dormitory.

"We have written statements from witnesses, we have the book where he had signed her back in," Mills said. "After he did, he was driving around the block and looking for a place to park when he got pulled over."

Mills said Harris was pulled over for speeding, but was not even ticketed for the offense.

"When we got to court (the prosecution) had no evidence of his knowledge of his exercise of dominion over control of the controlled substance," Mills said, explaining that a key element in achieving a conviction in possession cases is the ability to prove that the defendant knows he is in possession of a controlled substance.

"There was no money, there was no acknowledgement of an amount, nothing. The prosecutor saw the case in a way that clarified some of the on-the-spot judgments made by the police and agreed with my motion to dismiss the charges."
Prosecutor Kim Crockett presented the state's case to Magistrate Gail Booher, who in turn threw it out.

"Our investigation confirmed that it was her car, and her pills," Mills said. "We got it in a statement from her, and also from text messages that we have recovered."

While Harris walked away with his charges dismissed, Mills said the entire case sends a bad message to the public.

"Here was a guy who was doing what we all the time tell people to do when a friend is intoxicated, and he gets arrested for it," Mills said.

"My view of it was that it was a case that was charged on suspicion, and conclusion-jumping. Really, it deserved to be investigated further to find out what the facts were.

"I don't want to ascribe any racial motive to the stop and the suspicion, but it certainly was irregular to my way of understanding how the law operates."
Minnich named to watch list

February 10, 2012
Shepherdstown Chronicle

Minnich named to Tino Martinez Award watch list

Senior first baseman Nathan Minnich (Waynesboro, PA/Waynesboro Area Sr.) of the Shepherd University baseball team has been named to the 2012 Tino Martinez Award Watch List for the most outstanding player in DII college baseball. Minnich finished eighth in the final balloting in 2011.

Over 130 exceptional student-athletes comprise the initial watch list. The annual honor is named after the former University of Tampa Spartan, Olympian, and MLB All-Star, Tino Martinez.

Nominations for the award were made by baseball sports information directors and media members. Omission from the initial list does not exclude additional players from future consideration.

The list will be updated with a mid-season release in mid April. Semifinalists will be announced on May 7 and finalists will be named on May 21.

After the finalists are chosen the fans will once again be invited to vote online at tinoaward.com to help determine the winner. The winner will be announced after the conclusion of the DI baseball Championship held in Cary, NC from May 26 - June 2.
Roundup: Rams football signs 16 new recruits

February 11, 2012
From staff reports, journal-news.net

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd University head football coach Monte Cater announced today that 16 student-athletes have signed letters-of-intent to play football for the Rams in 2012. Among the group are 10 from Maryland, two each from Washington, D.C. and Virginia and one each from Delaware and West Virginia.

Billy Brown, a wide receiver, was a standout at Gaithersburg. Brown gained Washington Post First Team All-Met honors as he had had 40 receptions for 935 yards and 13 touchdowns last season. He also added 20 sacks and 75 tackles on defense.

Charles Brown, a fullback/linebacker, was a four-year starter and also excelled on the baseball diamond at Dunbar. He was a First Team all-Metro choice in both sports. Brown was a member of three state champion football teams. He was ranked 12th in the nation as a fullback by ESPN.

Austin Browne, a linebacker/fullback, was a standout at Yorktown. He was a two-time Team MVP and was named Arlington Sun Gazette Defensive Player of the Year in 2011. Browne was a Second Team All-Northern Region selection. He helped lead Yorktown to a district championship last season.

Lynn Coffee, a fullback, was rated the number one fullback in DC by Mdhig.com. He earned training camp and Blue-Gold game MVP accolades. A team leadership award winner, Coffee helped lead Friendship Collegiate Academy to a 9-1 overall mark in 2011.

Adam Coles, a defensive back/running back, lettered in football and track at Potomac. He was recognized by Washington Redskins Tim Hightower as a Hightower Hometown Hero. Coles had two four-touchdown outings and ran for 222 yards in one contest in 2011.

Allen Cross, a running back, lettered three years in football and four years in track. Cross is a two-time All-County choice who gained First Team honors in 2011. He rushed for 1,401 yards and 17 touchdowns in 2011.

Austin Eagle, an offensive/defensive lineman, was a standout at Arundel. He gained First Team All-County honors and was an Honorable Mention All-State and All-Met choice in 2011.

Karl Gall, a linebacker, was a standout at University. Gall gained Second Team TRAC All-Conference accolades and was a Special Mention All-State selection.

Jon Hammer, a fullback, was a standout at North Harford. He gained Honorable Mention all-state honors. Hammer was selected to play in the Crab Bowl for Maryland’s senior all-stars. He also played in the
Baltimore Touchdown Club All-Star Game.

Nelson Harris, a wide receiver, was a three-year letterwinner in football at James River. A three-time all-District choice, Harris gained First Team honors as a senior. He was also an Honorable Mention all-Metro selection as he had 34 receptions for 701 yards. Harris was named Team Offensive Player of the Year honors.

Tre Henley, a running back, earned five letters in football and track at McDonogh School.

Ahja Lancaster, a linebacker, helped lead Friendship Collegiate Academy to a 9-1 mark in 2011. Lancaster is one of two Shepherd signees from the school.

Ryan Patrick, a linebacker, was a four-year letterwinner in football at South Carroll. He also competed in wrestling and track. Patrick, who recorded 102 tackles in 2011, was selected to play in the Baltimore Touchdown Club Senior All-Star game and was named to the Baltimore All-Metro team. A two-time team captain, Patrick was a member of three conference champion teams.

Will Smith, an offensive lineman, lettered three years in football at Paint Branch. He also gained four letters in both baseball and wrestling. Smith gained First Team all-county and all-area honors and was an Honorable Mention All-State selection.

Michael Spahr, a quarterback, lettered in football and lacrosse at Urbana. Spahr led Urbana to the state championship title in 2010. He was an Honorable Mention All-State choice in 2011. Spahr tossed three touchdown passes in the Baltimore Touchdown Club All-Star Game to gain the BTC MVP Award.

Jeff Ziemba, a quarterback, lettered in football, basketball, and baseball at St. Mark’s. He led the St. Mark’s football squad to a state championship title in 2010. Ziemba was an all-state selection in baseball.
Hairston back on the court

Former Bulldog finds time for basketball again

February 13, 2012
By Ben Gibson - For The Journal , journal-news.net

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Over a year ago, Kirk Hairston was in the gym shooting a basketball like he had always done, but for the first time in years, he wasn't playing on anyone's team.

Unless you count his physical education class at Shepherd University.

"I saw him in the gym shooting around in his lifetime fitness class," Shepherd assistant coach Casey Weitzel said. "I told him to come talk to me. I just saw him shooting around and thought he had a nice little stroke and looked like he'd played before."

That conversation led to Hairston taking part in the Rams' spring tryouts and finding himself on Shepherd's roster for the 2011-2012 season.

The 6-foot-7 forward was part of Martinsburg's state championship basketball team in 2009 before graduating in 2010. He said he was burned out after playing sports year-round during high school.

After spending his first year on campus working hard in the classroom, Hairston found that he still had plenty of time left on his hands after his studying was finished.

"It was really weird. That's why I came back out. I had too much free time, and I just sat in my room a lot and did homework - and that's just really boring," Hairston said.

Hairston doesn't have as much time on his hands as a member of the Rams. He's appeared in 18 games, three of which have been starts.

"We thought he had a skill set we could use and size we could use. He's totally surpassed our expectations for him," Shepherd coach Justin Namolik said. "From Day One, he's stepped up for us. I feel really comfortable with him out there."

Hairston's contributions may not always show up in the box score, but having a big man patrolling the paint underneath the basket has allowed Namolik more flexibility on offense and given him a defensive presence in the low post.

"He's been a pleasant surprise this year for us," Namolik said.

Along with getting back into the hyper-competitive sports world, Hairston missed being part of a team and the friendships built on the court and in the locker room.

"You can't get that other ways. You meet so many more people and just makes the college experience more enjoyable," Hairston said.

Another positive was the fact that Hairston didn't have any problems...
fitting in with the rest of the team.

"He formed great chemistry with everybody, he’s one of the guys now," Namolik said.

While Hairston size and strength have been an asset for the Shepherd basketball team, Namolik is just glad he got his hands on him first.

"We just tried to get to him first, we know they’d like him to play football, so I’m glad his heart is in basketball." Namolik said.

Namolik may have to keep coach Monte Cater away from Hairston when football season begins, but Hairston is happy with his spot on the basketball team.

"I just wanted to come back out and play, it’s just fun to be back " Hairston said.
Millbrook's Kaczmarzewski To Play Football at Shepherd

Millbrook senior Boomer Kaczmarzewski announced Monday he will attend Shepherd University on a football scholarship.

Posted: 7:16 PM Feb 13, 2012
Reporter: Matt Estreich

Kaczmarzewski received a half scholarship and was recruited to the division two program as an athlete.

Kaczmarzewski was a two-time all-state punter with the Pioneers, and an all-district wide receiver and defensive back during his tenure at Millbrook.

Kaczmarzewski played 43 games in his Millbrook career and holds virtually every record for receivers, defensive backs and punters.

He will make the decision official at a letter of intent signing-ceremony Friday at Millbrook High School
Baseball Rams split games on trip

ASHBORO, N.C.— Shepherd was able to play two of the three baseball games it had scheduled on last weekend’s trip to North Carolina. Sunday’s scheduled game against Tusculum (Tennessee) was rained out.

Despite 10 hits, including Michael Lott’s homer, the Rams dropped the season opener, 5-4, to Pfeiffer when the Falcons scored the winning run in the bottom of the ninth off Andrew Gallant. After two outs, Gallant hit Preston Lyon with a pitch and then served up Dalton Lindley’s RBI double to left-center that plated Lyon with the game-winning run.

Sophomore Brandon Coffey went 3-for-5 and transfer catcher Chad Murphy was 2-for-3 to account for half of Shepherd’s 10 hits. Lott was 2-for-5. First-year player Ryan Messina had two RBIs.

Pfeiffer improved to 3-3 overall. Rams’ sophomore lefthanded starter Paul Hvozdovic authored six innings, yielding five hits, three walks, and two earned runs while fanning three. Gallant took over in the eighth and took the loss.

In its second game, the Rams trailed, 2-0, before rallying for nine runs in the fourth inning and continued scoring to get a 15-8 victory over Barton College. Shepherd was 1-1 and Barton was 3-4 overall.

The Rams had 10 hits with Lott going 2-for-3 and Nash Hutter going 2-for-5. Murphy scored three runs and had two RBIs. Coffey, Nathan Minnich, and Travis Sluger all scored two runs. Minnich, Hutter, and Messina all drove in two runs.

Sophomore right-hander Trevor Appleby went the first five innings and received credit for the win. He allowed two earned runs, seven hits, and one walk while fanning one.

Shepherd followed its nine-run inning with a four-run fifth where Lott, Coffey, and Murphy all had singles and the Barton defense committed four errors on the raw day where the temperature was 38-degrees and the wind was blowing at 20 miles per hour.

Shepherd travels to Alabama this weekend to play a three-game series against West Alabama in Livingston.
Rams announce group of football recruits

The first group of 19 football signees at Shepherd have been announced. Ten of the recruits are from Maryland, two from Washington, D.C., two from Virginia, and Karl Gall (a linebacker from University High) from the state of West Virginia. Jeff Ziemba (quarterback) is from Newark, Delaware.

The two players from Friendship Collegiate Academy in Washington, D.C. are linebacker Ahja Lancaster and fullback Lynn Coffee.

Austin Browne (fullback/linebacker from Yorktown High) and Nelson Harris (wide receiver from James River High) are the two players from Virginia.

Small-school state champion Dunbar High of Baltimore had fullback/linebacker Charles Brown sign with the Rams. Other Maryland high school signees include Billy Brown (wide receiver from Gaithersburg High), Michael Spahr (quarterback from Urbana), Will Smith (offensive lineman from Paint Branch High), Ryan Patrick (linebacker from South Carroll High), Tre Henley (running back from McDonogh High), Jon Hammer (fullback from North Harford High), Austin Eagle (lineman from Arundel High), Allen Cross (running back from Long Reach High), and Adam Coles (defensive back/running back from Friendly High) are all from Maryland schools.

Annually, Shepherd releases its football recruits in groups and this is just the first group of 16 players.
Long-time Rams’ coach Roger Parker dies

February 15, 2012 | Filed under: Sports | Posted by: $prRIt@DmaIN

The founder of the men's and women's tennis programs at Shepherd University has died. Roger Parker, the man who coached Shepherd to five tennis championships in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WVIAC), passed away earlier this week. It was Coach Parker who pioneered tennis at Shepherd after he had once been the head coach of the school's football team for four seasons, as well as heading the shortlived cross country and track and field programs.

Coach Parker led the Rams to conference tennis championships in 1977, 1979, 1985, 1987, and 1988. Four of those teams went on to win District 28 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) titles. Five times, he was selected as the WVIAC Tennis Coach of the Year. While he was Shepherd’s tennis coach from 1970-1994, there were over 50 players to win individual WVIAC championships. He still holds the record for the most coaching wins in Shepherd tennis history. His NAIA District championship teams competed in that organization’s national tournaments in Kansas City.

Coach Parker was inducted into the Shepherd Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002.

Shepherd tennis now has in place the “Roger Parker Classic”, an open tournament that was in its eighth year in 2011.

Coach Parker came to Shepherd after graduating from Romney High School where he participated in several varsity sports. His son, Chris, is the long-time head football coach at Clarke County High.
Sluggish Lady Rams ease by Wheeling Jesuit

February 15, 2012 | Filed under: Sports | Posted by: $prRIt@DmiN

SHEPHERDSTOWN—After shoving off the starting blocks with 14 of the game’s first 16 points, Shepherd slowed considerably in the game’s last 34:30 before escaping with a 60-53 win over last-place Wheeling Jesuit in a WVIAC women’s basketball game played on February 9 at the Butcher Center.

Shepherd lost its zest and bite after assuming a 14-2 lead over the visiting Cardinals (4-16 overall and 1-15 in their conference games). The Lady Rams (12-6 in the WVIAC and 14-9 in all games) were pulled back by the Cardinals because Shepherd made only 32 percent of its field goal attempts in the second half.

The 14-2 lead was still at 12 points (24-12) at the 5:31 mark of the first half. The longest lead of the half was at 32-17.

After Shepherd took a 37-21 lead with 17:30 to play, Wheeling Jesuit went on 16-6 scoring run to draw within 43-37 with 12:37 remaining. The Cards could have been even more threatening had they bettered a 19-for-55 (34.5 percent) showing from the floor.

With both teams experiencing shooting problems the scoring pace was slowed considerably. Shepherd’s precarious lead was at 53-48 with only five minutes left.

The closest the one-conference-win Cards came was at 55-53 with 2:10 showing. Shepherd survived on free throws from Emily Daniel and Priscilla Moseh.

Gabby Flinchum (5-for-8 shooting) and Jenn Prine (4-for-6) helped save the Lady Rams from the woes experienced by Katie Bigg (4-for-15) and Shelby Fayak (2-for-7).

Daniel claimed 10 rebounds as Shepherd made its 52-29 advantage on the boards definitive enough to win its sixth straight game.
Shepherd goes Cards as Moore, Osborne lead

February 15, 2012 | Filed under: Sports | Posted by: $piR1t@DmiN

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd moved to sixth place in the WVIAC with a rousing 97-88 win over Wheeling Jesuit last Thursday at the Butcher Center. Chad Moore had 28 points and 10 rebounds for his 11th double-double of the 22-game season.

Brantley Osborne helped lift Shepherd to a 51-point first half by making 5-of-8 three-point attempts for 17 of his 23 points as the Rams took a nine-point lead at intermission.

The Rams improved to 12-10 overall and 10-8 in the conference as they moved forward in the standings.

Shepherd went 19-for-34 (55.9 percent) from the field in the first half and needed that accuracy because the fourth-place Cardinals (15-7 overall and 11-5 in the league) were nearly as hot, going 16-for-30 (53.3 percent) from the field.

Moore made 11 of his 15 field goal attempts. Osborne was 8-for-15 overall.

Shepherd outrebounded the Cardinals, 36-30, as Sidney McRae helped out with eight rebounds. The Rams totaled 22 assists (Marcus Pilgrim had six and reserve point guard Aeron Spencer had four). Wheeling Jesuit had only 15 assists with Ben Seifert totaling eight.

Shepherd’s only two substitutes played well with Spencer scoring six points, getting a pair of steals, and adding three rebounds in his 19 minutes. Malik Dauda played 26 minutes and totaled 12 points, had four rebounds, and three assists.

Wheeling Jesuit committed 20 turnovers and Shepherd had 15. The Cards committed 19 fouls and Shepherd was tagged with but 14 fouls.

A 31-22 Shepherd lead with 8:39 left in the first half became a 42-33 lead with only 3:19 remaining before intermission.

Shepherd’s scant 58-55 advantage with 13:37 showing was erased and the Cardinals actually took a 66-64 lead with 10:32 to play.

The game was knotted at 74-74 with 6:23 left, but in the next three minutes Shepherd broke away to a 85-77 lead at the 3:10 mark. Shepherd rode that three-minute spurt to the end to post its nine-point win.
Parker: Father Tennis

Late coach gave Rams start

February 16, 2012

By Rick Kozlowski - Journal Sports Editor (rkozlowski@journal-news.net)

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Impressionable Shepherd tennis players got this idea into their heads that their coach, Roger Parker, just about knew everybody and anybody in the state of West Virginia.

They watched him hobnob with myriad folks everywhere he went.

If ever they needed convincing of just who Parker knew, it came in the middle of the night on virtually deserted Interstate 79 when the team van broke down.

With no help available from the very rare passing motorist, Parker and team saw lights illuminated in the windows of a farm house off in the distance and heard the barking of dogs.

It was worth a try.

"We're walking through a field, and we go to somebody's house," said Chris Stambaugh, a former player and coach at Shepherd. "What's going on?" they say.

"Sure enough, he knows the people there. We're sitting at the dinner table, and they're bringing us coffee and stuff.

"We're randomly cast somewhere along Interstate 79, and they know the coach."

Parker, the man who came to Shepherd to coach the football team and wound up as the founder of the men's and women's tennis programs for the Rams, died on Monday at the age of 76.

"I'd say he was highly respected and well-liked by his colleagues," said Bob Starkey, a former Shepherd basketball coach who served as an assistant football coach with Parker when he became the school's football coach in 1967.

"I was always pleased to be around him."

Stambaugh was, at times, frazzled to be around Parker when the coach was driving - and not breaking down.

"He drove the thing pretty fast," Stambaugh said. "He was a little more daring than I would've liked."

Eventually, Stambaugh convinced the coach to let him behind the wheel his senior year.

"Coming back in Cumberland (Md.) one night, it's raining and icy," Stambaugh said. "We're going up and down those hills on 1-68, and he's going real fast. I'm just gritting my teeth. I told him to stop at a rest stop, and I was going to take over, and I took over driving."

The small size of the team made the team very familiar with each. 
"The van trips, we got to know the coach a little better than if we were a football team," Stambaugh said, "because he talked about his family and old stories.

"He had a lot of stories."

Parker's two sons both played football at Shepherd.

A native of Romney, Parker made his mark as a successful coach in Hampshire County, where he was inducted into the county's hall of fame last October, before moving on to Shepherd. He relinquished his tennis coaching position in 1993 and retired as a professor five years later.

As the tennis coach, he led Shepherd to five West Virginia Conference championships between the men's and women's team, was a five-time conference coach of the year and pulled off the rare feat of guiding two conference championship teams in the sport in the same school year - the women's squad in the fall of 1987 and the men's team, in which Stambaugh was a member, in the spring of 1988.

He was inducted into the Shepherd Hall of Fame in 2002.

"On behalf of the entire Shepherd University Department of Athletics, we pass along our condolences to the Parker family," Shepherd athletic director B.J. Pumroy said in a statement issued by the university. "Roger Parker was a true gentleman and had many successes during his tenure.

"He was one of the many coaches and friends who cheered for the Rams even after their days of coaching had concluded. He will be missed not only by the Shepherd community, but by those whose lives he touched throughout the area."

His mentoring helped lead Stambaugh into the profession, and Parker was never far from his protege.

"After college, I still saw him," Stambaugh said. "He played in a lot of tennis leagues and tournaments I had run.

"When I took over in '97, he came out a couple of times and hit with the players. All the players got to know him, people who didn't know who he was before that."

Even though they were on the football team, Parker and fellow Shepherd professor Ed Fincham played plenty of tennis together as undergraduates at Morris Harvey College, now the University of Charleston.

"We spent many, many evenings at Watt Powell Park," Fincham said. The pair played baseball together, too, when Fincham took a coaching position at Van High School and Parker was working on his masters degree at Marshall.

They eventually became running buddies, along with Starkey and former Shepherd football coach Walter Barr.

"We didn't hook up and play much tennis (at Shepherd), but we did do some jogging on the C&O Canal," Fincham said. "We were all pretty busy, but we made sure to stay in contact for some physical fitness."

Fincham visited with his longtime friend last week.

"He is -quote -the father of tennis at Shepherd University," Fincham said. "He took both the male and female teams alike and did an outstanding job."

A "Celebration of Life" service for Parker will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Bedington United Methodist Church.
"He was a very good coach," Stambaugh said, "and we were always on time for the matches."
Roundup: Tusculum beats diamond Rams

February 16, 2012
From staff reports

GREENEVILLE, Tenn. - Tusculum used a 13-hit attack en route to a 9-3 win over Shepherd University in baseball action at Pioneer Park on Wednesday.

The Pioneers took a 2-0 lead in the second inning behind RBI-singles from Nate Reid and Lukas Graves.

Tusculum added an unearned run in the fourth to take a 3-0 advantage.

Shepherd cut the lead to 3-2 in the fifth on a two-run double off the bat of sophomore outfielder Aaron Scoville.

After Tusculum added a run in the top of the sixth, the Rams answered back on a solo home run from senior first baseman Nathan Minnich to cut the lead to 4-3.

The Pioneers added a pair of insurance runs in the seventh and three in the eighth to gain the 9-3 triumph.

Matt Hendriksen went 3 for 3 with a pair of runs scored to lead the Pioneers.

Scoville went 2 for 4 to pace the Rams.

Shepherd starter Brandon Coffey took the loss to fall to 0-1. Michael Franklin (2-0) gained the win for the Pioneers.

Shepherd fell to 1-2, while Tusculum improved to 7-0. The Rams return to action on Friday when they continue on the road to face West Alabama in a single game at 4 p.m.
Rams can't scale Mountain Cats

Shepherd's loss frustrates Namolik

February 16, 2012
By Ben Gibson - For The Journal

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Frustration simply sums up the emotions and feelings of the Shepherd Rams as they just couldn't cut away enough of the Pitt-Johnstown lead in the second half falling 89-77 to the Mountain Cats.

"We have to figure out what to do when things don't go our way," Shepherd coach Justin Namolik said. "For people who don't know, that's how we play on the road. If something goes wrong for us, we can't find a way to get over that obstacle."

The obstacle on Wednesday for the Rams was allowing the Mountain Cats to shoot 67.3 percent from the field, while shooting only 35.3 percent.

"I don't think we have to play perfect, we just had to have a better effort defensively," Namolik said. "We have to have that fight on defense. We don't have it."

Getting over the hump and above the .500 mark has been the unwritten goal of Shepherd's fourth season with Namolik at the helm. It seemed to be a microcosm of the current season as the Rams struggled to do more than dent the Mountain Cats' double digit lead.

After a back-and-forth first half that ended with a 7-0 run for Pitt-Johnstown to give it a 42-31 lead at the intermission, the Rams had kept pace with the nation's second-rated team in field goal percentage and looked to finally break through the Pitt-Johnstown lead.

Shepherd's best chance came with 8:11 remaining in the game after Chauncey Burgazi tipped in a missed jumper by Chad Moore and cut the lead to eight after a 7-0 run by the Rams.

After the Mountain Cats answered with a Matt Palo jumper from 15 feet, Shepherd clawed back again and cut the lead to eight with two Moore free throws.

That was the closest Shepherd came the rest of the night, however.

Pitt-Johnstown continued to knock down seemingly every shot its players took no matter how well the Rams were guarding them. They made 33 of their 49 shots.

"When we don't turn the ball over, we are a pretty efficient offensive team," Pitt-Johnstown coach Bob Rukavina said. "We did a good job handling the pressure since they are a pretty good defensive team."

The full-court defensive pressure slowed but didn't stop the Mountain.
Cats, who led by as many as 17 before easing their way to a double-digit win.

Moore led all scorers with 26 points with Shepherd teammates Sidney McCray scoring 12 and Brantley Osborne putting up 11.

Nick Novak led Pitt-Johnstown with 25 points while Jordan Miller scored 21. They were followed by Patrick Grubbs and Bill Luther with 14 points each.

"It feels good to win on the road after we lost three in a row," Rukavina said. "This is the toughest finishing schedule I've had in 23 years."

Shepherd's last two games come on the road against Ohio Valley and Davis & Elkins. The Rams are looking for their first road win since Nov. 27 when they knocked off Shippensburg.

"We just have to figure it out, how to will our way to victory when things aren't going our way - that's the bottom line," Namolik said. "They are going to have to respond and step up as a group to not let this define them. They deserve more."

Namolik's frustration was evident after the game as he felt his team had been in the driver's seat to host a home playoff game. Now he feels like his team let a chance to all but lock up that position in the conference with a win at home to get away.

"We've been a middle of the pack team," Namolik said. "To get to the top has been so tough. Tonight was a setback, and that's why it's so frustrating for me and hard to deal with."

The Rams fell to 12-12 for the season and 10-10 in the West Virginia Conference.

Namolik and the Rams have two more games left in the regular season to prove whether they belong at the top or the bottom half of the conference.
Harris charges dismissed

February 17, 2012
By Kelly Cambrel, Chronicle Staff, Shepherdstown Chronicle

Charges against former Shepherd University football player Tyler Harris have been dismissed in court.

Harris faced two counts of felony charges for possession with intent to distribute schedule I and II narcotics, after police found Hydrocodone and Oxycodone in a vehicle he was driving, during a routine traffic stop Jan. 27.

According to Kevin Mills, Harris’s attorney, the case was dismissed by Magistrate Gail Booher in light of newly presented evidence, including witness testimony from the owner of the vehicle.

The unidentified witness provided written testimony that claimed both substances belonged to her and were in the vehicle without Mr. Harris’s knowledge.

"There was not evidence to support the charges if the case were to go to trial," Mills said.

He explained that in order to charge Harris with either felony, the court had to find intent and clear knowledge of possession, neither of which could be proven.

Ultimately, Mills said that Harris, who has no history of distributing drugs, was appreciative of the "reasonable" view taken by the assistant prosecuting attorney Kim Crockett and arresting officers Harper and Cook.

Mills said they gave Harris the opportunity to move on and finish his education "without being bogged down."

Mills described the decision made as an opportunity for Harris to "prove himself with his future good conduct."

"He assured the court that he will take full advantage of this opportunity and successfully complete his education."
Shepherd football signs 16 new players

February 17, 2012
Shepherdstown Chronicle

Shepherd University head football coach Monte Cater announced this week that 16 student-athletes have signed letters-of-intent to play football for the Rams in 2012. Among the group are 10 from Maryland, two each from Washington, D.C. and Virginia, and one each from Delaware and West Virginia.

Billy Brown (Gaithersburg, Md./Gaithersburg), a wide receiver, was a standout at Gaithersburg. Brown gained Washington Post First Team All-Met honors as he had had 40 receptions for 935 yards and 13 touchdowns last season. He also added 20 sacks and 75 tackles on defense.

Charles Brown (Baltimore, Md./Dunbar), a fullback/linebacker, was a four-year starter and also excelled on the baseball diamond at Dunbar. He was a First Team All-Metro choice in both sports. Brown was a member of three state champion football teams. He was ranked 12th in the nation as a fullback by ESPN.

Austin Browne (Arlington, Va./Yorktown), a linebacker/fullback, was a standout at Yorktown. He was a two-time Team MVP and was named Arlington Sun Gazette Defensive Player of the Year in 2011. Browne was a Second Team All-Northern Region selection. He helped lead Yorktown to a district championship last season.

LLynn Coffee (Washington, D.C./Friendship Collegiate Academy), a fullback, was rated the number one fullback in DC by Midhigh.com. He earned training camp and Blue-Gold game MVP accolades. A team leadership award winner, Coffee helped lead Friendship Collegiate Academy to a 9-1 overall mark in 2011.

Allen Cross (Elkridge, Md./Long Reach), a running back, lettered three years in football and four years in track. Cross is a two-time All-County choice who gained First Team honors in 2011. He rushed for 1,401 yards and 17 touchdowns in 2011.

Austin Eagle (Odenton, Md./Arundel), an offensive/defensive lineman, was a standout at Arundel. He gained First Team All-County honors and was an Honorable Mention All-State and All-Met choice in 2011.

Karl Gail (Morgantown, WV/University), a linebacker, was a standout at University. Gail gained Second Team TRAC All-Conference accolades and was a Special Mention All-State selection.

Jon Hammer (Jarrettsville, Md./North Harford), a fullback, was a standout at North Harford. He gained Honorable Mention All-State honors. Hammer was selected to play in the Crab Bowl for Maryland's senior all-stars. He also played in the Baltimore Touchdown Club All-Star Game.
Nelson Harris (Richmond, Va./James River), a wide receiver, was a three-year letterwinner in football at James River. A three-time All-District choice, Harris gained First Team honors as a senior. He was also an Honorable Mention All-Metro selection as he had 34 receptions for 701 yards. Harris was named Team Offensive Player of the Year honors.

Tre Henley (Hanover, Md./McDonogh School), a running back, earned five letters in football and track at McDonogh School.

Ahja Lancaster (Washington, D.C./Friendship Collegiate Academy), a linebacker, helped lead Friendship Collegiate Academy to a 9-1 mark in 2011. Lancaster is one of two Shepherd signees from the school.

Ryan Patrick (Woodbine, Md./South Carroll), a linebacker, was a four-year letterwinner in football at South Carroll. He also competed in wrestling and track. Patrick, who recorded 102 tackles in 2011, was selected to play in the Baltimore Touchdown Club Senior All-Star game and was named to the Baltimore All-Metro team. A two-time team captain, Patrick was a member of three conference champion teams.

Will Smith (Silver Spring, Md./Paint Branch), an offensive lineman, lettered three years in football at Paint Branch. He also gained four letters in both baseball and wrestling. Smith gained First Team All-County and All-Area honors and was an Honorable Mention All-State selection.

Michael Spahr (Ijamsville, Md./Urbana), a quarterback, lettered in football and lacrosse at Urbana. Spahr led Urbana to the state championship title in 2010. He was an Honorable Mention All-State choice in 2011. Spahr tossed three touchdown passes in the Baltimore Touchdown Club All-Star Game to gain the BTC MVP Award.

Jeff Ziemba (Newark, Del./St. Mark's), a quarterback, lettered in football, basketball, and baseball at St. Mark's. He led the St. Mark's football squad to a state championship title in 2010. Ziemba was an All-State selection in baseball.