Calvert Hall's Yarborough picks Shepherd

Calvert Hall lineman Dan Yarborough, The Baltimore Sun's All-Metro Defensive Player of the Year, will sign a National Letter of Intent on Wednesday to attend Shepherd University, which has one of the top Division II football teams in the country.

Yarborough said the choice came down to pair of Division II schools: Bowie State and Shepherd in West Virginia.

"It came down to my future," he said. "They had all the majors I wanted and you can't argue with their success. They were the No. 7 team in the country last year with mostly underclassmen."

Last fall, the 5-foot-10, 300-pounder played a critical role in the Cardinals winning the MIAA A Conference championship and finishing with the No. 1 ranking. He was the cornerstone of a defense that gave up just 10.4 points per game and held six opponents to seven points or fewer.

One of his best games was the 26-21 victory over No. 2 Gilman in early October — a game the Cardinals trailed 21-7 early in the fourth quarter and that ultimately decided the A Conference title. Yarborough played the pivotal role in the second-half turnaround. He finished with 92 tackles (43 solo), three sacks and a forced fumble.

Calvert Hall coach Donald Davis said he felt Shepherd was a good fit for Yarborough, adding that he had drawn a lot of interest from Howard before its coaching staff was fired. Davis felt Yarborough was under-recruited because he wasn't tall enough for major college recruiters.

"I just think [college] guys place too much sometimes on the measurables," Davis said. "I try to explain to some of those guys that I watched this kid push around major 1A players. Don't tell me he would struggle with major 1A players. I just watched him handle guys that are going to be playing major 1A football in a year or two years and he handled himself quite well. He has leverage. When I look at [the Ravens'] Kelly Gregg and [the Steelers'] Casey Hampton, I don't get it."

Yarborough, who plans to major in sports marketing and would like to coach defensive linemen in the NFL someday, is happy with his choice and happy to get the pressure over with. He said he likes the family atmosphere at Shepherd.

He also said he expects to have the chance to compete for a starting spot in the lineup.

"It's a place where I can just come in and work really hard and have success early," he said. "I believe I can play right away, but it's going to take a lot of hard work."
Cold-shooting Lady Rams fall to Yellow Jackets

INSTITUTE -- Homestanding West Virginia State dealt Shepherd a 68-49 loss on Saturday in a WVIAC women’s basketball game. The 19-point loss was Shepherd’s fourth consecutive defeat and left the Lady Rams with a 10-8 overall record that showed an 8-6 WVIAC mark.

The Yellow Jackets improved to 7-13 overall and just 5-9 in their conference games.

West Virginia State’s Asia Greenleaf had a game-high 16 rebounds to go along with her six points. Chelsey Davis led the Yellow Jackets with her 16 points. She added 10 rebounds.

Melissa Ford (14 points), Avery Hale (14 points), and Janelle Williams (14 points) completed the list of West Virginia State double-figure scorers.

Jericia Hewett had 13 points for the Lady Rams. Carrie Saunders also had 13 points. Shelby Fayak and Katie Biggs each added eight points.

Emily Daniel led Shepherd with nine rebounds and Hewett had six rebounds.

West Virginia State led 30-18 at the half as Shepherd’s errant shooting had already kept them off the scoreboard for the most part.

Shepherd made just 27.7 percent of its field goal attempts.

The Yellow Jackets held a 46-40 edge on the boards.

Saunders was the only Shepherd player who made a comfortable percentage of her field goal tries going 4-for-8.

There were a telling 25 Shepherd turnovers. West Virginia State committed 23 turnovers.

The Yellow Jackets even blocked 13 shots as compared to Shepherd’s six blocked shots.

Going 26-for-60 from the field, West Virginia State made 43 percent of its shots.

Midway through the first half, the Yellow Jackets went on a 16-2 run that effectively broke scoring contact with Shepherd.

Shepherd could get no closer than 42-34 in the second half.

The Lady Rams were in seventh place in the conference standings and West Virginia State was in 11th place after the win.

On Tuesday (February 2), Shepherd is scheduled to face conference-leading West Liberty at its Butcher Center at 6 p.m.
Yellow Jackets defeat Shepherd, 81-72

INSTITUTE -- Despite a career-high 27 points from senior Dave Karlson, Shepherd couldn’t contain West Virginia State in a WVIAC game mens basketball game and the visiting Rams fell, 81-72.

West Virginia State, the conference’s second-place team, improved its league record to 11-2 and its overall mark to 13-5. The Rams fell to 8-11 overall 5-9 in the WVIAC.

Shepherd’s nine-point deficit at halftime, was partially because the Rams had made only 10-of-30 (33 percent) from the field. West Virginia State had made 62 percent of its first-half shots, going 18-for-29.

Other than Karlson’s 18 field goal attempts, no other Shepherd player attempted more than reserve Sidney McCray’s 10 attempts. Brantley Osborne tried only nine shots from the floor and scored 10 points. Osborne was Shepherd’s only other double-figure scorer.

Jonathan Motichka attempted eight shots, making but two. Aaron Spencer tried seven shots from the floor and made three.

Shepherd was 13-for-17 from the foul line and West Virginia State was 10-for-18 from the foul line.

Rams
FROM PAGE 2C

Josh “Cookie” Miller and Will Thomas led the balanced Yellow Jacket offense with 15 points each. Miller is a transfer from Division I Nebraska and Thomas is a transfer from West Virginia University.

Bo King scored 14 points, Will Collins had 11 points, and Fred Harris another 11 points for the Yellow Jackets.

Miller was credited with a game-high eight assists.

The Yellow Jackets hurt the Rams with their accurate field goal shooting -- going 33-for-57 for 57.9 percent.

Shepherd made only 26-of-68 of its field goal attempts for just a 38 percent showing.

Even though Shepherd out-rebounded the Yellow Jackets, 40-32, the Rams committed 20 turnovers while West Virginia State had but 16 turnovers.

West Virginia State led, 41-32, at intermission.

The Yellow Jackets sprinted ahead, 18-4, to establish the game’s tempo. At the 9:28 mark, West Virginia State was in front, 27-10.

Shepherd closed to within 36-28 with 2:30 remaining in the first half.

After the second half opened, the Yellow Jackets moved in front, 65-39, with 24-7 scoring tear that broke the game open.

Karlson was 13-for-18 from the field, by far his best showing this season. Karlson also collared 15 rebounds.

Shepherd’s ten-point deficit at halftime, was partially because the Rams had made only 10-of-30 (33 percent) from the field. West Virginia State had made 62 percent of its first-half shots, going 18-for-29.

Other than Karlson’s 18 field goal attempts, no other Shepherd player attempted more than reserve Sidney McCray’s 10 attempts. Brantley Osborne tried only nine shots from the floor and scored 10 points. Osborne was Shepherd’s only other double-figure scorer.

Jonathan Motichka attempted eight shots, making but two. Aaron Spencer tried seven shots from the floor and made three.

Shepherd was 13-for-17 from the foul line and West Virginia State was 10-for-18 from the foul line.
Late rally carries Shepherd past Charleston men, 76-73

CHARLESTON -- Trailing by nine points against home-standing Charleston with only 6:29 remaining, Shepherd managed a 16-6 run of points to take a one-point (74-73) lead on Sidney McCray's three-pointer.

Marcus Pilgrim made a three-pointer and Chad Moore made two free throws in the waning seconds to keep the Rams in front. Moore had a steal on Charleston's last possession and Shepherd had a 79-76 win in the WVIAC game.

Charleston had defeated the Rams in Shepherdstown just three weeks ago. The Rams were 5-8 in the WVIAC and improved to 8-10 overall. The Golden Eagles were 5-9 in the WVIAC and fell to 7-11 overall.

Even though it was behind Charleston in many statistical categories, Shepherd was able to make its comeback in time to avoid a road victory.

Charleston made 49 percent (28-of-57) of its field goal attempts. Shepherd made 46 percent (26-of-56) of its field goal attempts.

The Golden Eagles were 17-for-21 from the foul line while Shepherd was only 15-for-24 (62.5 percent). Shepherd even trailed in rebounds, 36-29.

Both teams committed 16 turnovers. Charleston had one more steal, but the Rams did have a 23-16 advantage in assists.

Charleston surged to an immediate lead at 6-2 and led, 16-10, 14:15 left in the first half. But Shepherd rallied and went ahead, 24-22, with 10:07 remaining in the first half. Shepherd would finally move in front by a point (34-33) with three minutes showing. The teams were tied at 40-40 when the session closed.

There was another tie at 55-55 at the 12:21 mark. Charleston outscored the Rams 14-8 to take a 69-63 lead with 5:30 showing.

It was still Charleston leading by three (73-70) with only 1:58 to play.

Brandt Osborne made a free throw and then McCray bombed in a critical three-pointer in the final seconds. Moore's steal became necessary when the Rams' Dave Kurlon missed two free throws with only four seconds to play.

Moore totaled 23 points (9-for-14 from the field and 3-of-8 free throws) to pace Shepherd's scoring.

McCray had 14 points on 5-of-7 from the floor (four of those were three-pointers). Osborne was Shepherd's other double-figure scorer with 11 points.

Jon Liggins and James Everstey both scored 16 points for the Golden eagles. Philip Outley had 13 points and John White and Maro Richardson both notched 10 points giving Charleston five players in double figures.

The Rams moved into sixth place in the 15-team league. Charleston settled into 12th place with the loss.

Charleston deals Lady Rams another loss

CHARLESTON -- Moving to a seven-point halftime lead, Charleston's women were able to deal Shepherd a third straight loss on Thursday when the Golden Eagles defeated the Lady Rams, 89-72, at the on-campus Eddie King gym.

The Golden Eagles improved to 15-5 overall and 11-3 in the WVIAC while Shepherd was 10-7 overall and 8-5 in the conference.

After making 58 percent of its first-half shots, Charleston finished its winning effort with an overall 52.4 percent norm from the field on 33-for-63.

Lindsey Kentner made 11 of her 17 shots from the floor and both her free throws to score a game-high 29 points for the Golden Eagles. Tiana Beatty added 15 points while Charleston's other three starters -- Tarenna Dixon (14 points), Ali Tobias (14 points), and Erika Rousculp (10 points) -- also scored in double figures.

Jerica Hewett was 6-for-12 from the field and accounted for 18 of Shepherd's 72 points. Two non-starters -- Jimyse Brown and Alex Tamez -- and starter Shelby Fayak all scored 11 points. Katie Biggs added nine points off the bench.

Charleston had a resounding 51-29 rebounding advantage. Dixon had 15 rebounds and Rousculp claimed 10 more. Beatty also had eight rebounds.

No Shepherd player had more than Hewett's five rebounds.

The Lady Rams shot only 40 percent (29-for-72) from the floor. They didn't help their cause by making only 10-of-16 free throws. Charleston made 14-of-19 free throws.

Charleston jumped out to a 16-6 lead with 16:17 remaining in the first half as Kentner and Rousculp just kept on scoring in the first three minutes.

Shepherd came back to lead, 23-22, with 9:28 remaining in the first half.

In the next seven minutes, Charleston outscored the Lady Rams 21-11 to move ahead, 43-34, with just 2:08 left in the first half.

Charleston's lead ranged between five and 10 points down to the 12:18 mark in the second half.

Leading 73-64 with 5:45 showing, Charleston went on an 11-1 run to surge in front at 84-65 with only 3:18 remaining.

The teams traded the few points registered in the last three minutes of the game.
Rams face D2’s top-ranked team

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The West Liberty University men’s basketball team completed its first month as the nation’s No. 1-ranked team in unanimous fashion on Tuesday.

Coach Jim Crutchfield’s unbeaten Hilltoppers (18-0) received all eight first-place votes for the fourth consecutive week when the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) released its weekly NCAA Division II national Top 25 coaches poll.

West Liberty faces Shepherd at 8 p.m. today at the Butler Center. Rapidly closing in on the first back-to-back West Virginia Conference championships in school history, West Liberty has won its 18 games by an average of nearly 40 points per game and heads into the final month of the regular season scoring at a blistering 120.1 ppg pace.

The Hilltoppers, who also lead the nation in eight other offensive categories, continued to pull away from the West Virginia Conference pack last week with three blowout wins in the friendly confines of the ASBC. West Liberty posted wins over Davis & Elkins, 129-86; Bluefield State, 100-74 and Concord, 133-82, to remain one of just two unbeaten NCAA Division II teams in the nation. Lincoln Memorial (Tenn.), which moved up to No. 6 this week, also boasts an 18-0 unblemished mark.

The top three teams remained unchanged for the second straight week in the coaches Top 25 with Bellarmine, Ky. (19-1) hanging on to the No. 2 spot and Augusta State, Ga. (19-1) staying at No. 3. Findlay, Ohio (17-1) and Alabama-Huntsville (18-2) round out the top five.

West Liberty, which is also No. 1 in the Atlantic Region rankings, is the only West Virginia Conference team receiving votes this week’s Top 25. Mercyhurst, Pa. (15-3), which made its Top 25 debut at No. 25 this week, is the only other Atlantic Region team to crack the national poll. Bowie State, Md., is listed among other teams receiving votes.

The Hilltoppers hit the road today to face Shepherd before returning home to host arch rival Wheeling Jesuit on Saturday afternoon. Tipoff for the Cardinals’ game is set for 4 p.m. at the ASBC.

— Staff report
Hilltoppers start fast, defeat Ram women

Dates: February 3, 2011
Publication: The Journal

Shepherd University

Jessica Dodson won the 500 free, and Ashleigh Orr won the 100 backstroke to improve to 13-1.

H.S. BOYS BASKETBALL
Berkeley Springs 51, Frankfort 30
SHORT GAP — Zach Wise scored 15 points for Berkeley Springs and Ryan Tyler added 11 as the Indians defeated Frankfort Wednesday. Brian Mills led Frankfort with 10 points. Berkeley’s B.J. Michael grabbed 10 rebounds and Brady Spelman added eight boards as the Indians improved to 7-6.

HANCOCK 77, Paw Paw 34
PAW PAW — Paw Paw’s Dylan Rowse led the Pirates with 19 points during a loss to Hancock, Md., Wednesday. Paw Paw fell to 6-13.

BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY
Berkeley Springs 55, Frankfort 54
SHORT GAP — Brandon Malone scored 20 points for Berkeley Springs, and Michael Kearney added 14 as the Indians defeated Frankfort to improve to 12-2.

H.S. GIRLS BASKETBALL
Handley 48, Washington 36
WASHINGTON — Rebea Wells led Washington with 10 points and eight rebounds, but the Patriots fell to Handley, Va., on Wednesday. Corrine Scott led the Judges with 15 points. The Patriots fell to 0-14.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL
GIRLS
Shalom 37, Faith 21
CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. — Amanda Denesreus led Faith Christian with 10 points, Ally Romine added seven but the Falcons (6-4) fell to Shalom, Pa., Saturday. Shalom’s Tori Yoder scored 18 points.

SEVENTH GRADE
Harpers Ferry 31, Charles Town 29
HARPERS FERRY — Tori Bouseman scored 14 points and Stephanie Brown eight as Harpers Ferry nipped Charles Town on Monday. Harpers Ferry is 9-2 and Charles Town 5-7.

EIGHTH GRADE
Spring Mills 36, Musselman 18
SPRING MILLS — Spring Mills’ Kristen Nunn scored 23 points and pulled down nine rebounds, Rachel Chapman added seven points and 12 boards and Spring Mills defeated Musselman Wednesday to improve to 9-2.

No other information was reported.

BOYS EIGHTH GRADE
St. Joe’s 39, Wakefield 26

Tim Johns scored 19 for Wakefield.

Spring Mills 46, Musselman 40
OT MUSSELMAN — Matthew Cusinara, Lane Riner and Cody Hotle scored 10 points apiece as Spring Mills defeated Musselman Wednesday. Hotle added 14 rebounds. Musselman’s Delontae Glover scored 11 points. Spring Mills improved to 4-7, while Musselman fell to 5-6.

Wildwood 59, Spring Mills 32
CHARLES TOWN — Jahid Jenkins and Travis Finley led Wildwood with 10 points as Wildwood improved to 12-1 Monday. No other information was reported.

SEVENTH GRADE
Musselman 52, Spring Mills 39
INWOOD — Isaac Heaton scored 12 points as Musselman with a game-high 14 points, Cadin Whitehurst added 11 and Musselman defeated Spring Mills on Wednesday. Ulysses Magone paced Spring Mills with 13 points. Musselman improved to 6-6.

No other information was reported.

COLLEGE SPORTS
Ram-azing accomplishments

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd University Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations will be hosting a day of celebrating Shepherd’s Ram-azing athletic accomplishments Feb. 12.

For more information, contact the Shepherd Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations at alumni@shepherd.edu or 304-876-5524.

Also on Feb. 12, the women’s basketball team will be hosting their Alumni Game/Fish Zone Day (breast cancer awareness).

— Staff reports
High octane

No. 1 West Liberty routs Rams, stays unbeaten this year

By Rick Kozlowski
Journal Sports Editor

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The United States celebrated its bicentennial the last time Shepherd welcomed a top-ranked basketball team to its campus.

No. 1 and undefeated West Liberty came in capable of producing 1976-like fireworks.

The Hilltoppers delivered their typical explosion Wednesday night, too, as they surpassed their 120-points average during a 126-97 win over the Rams in West Virginia Conference play.

It wasn’t necessarily bombs bursting in the air, however.

Shepherd held West Liberty below its normal production of 17.5 3-pointers by allowing just 11, and the Rams managed their top scoring output of the season.

See OCTANE D4

Shepherd’s Morgan McDonald puts up a shot against No. 1 West Liberty Wednesday night at the Butcher Center.
It still wasn’t enough as the Hilltoppers drove frequently one-on-one to the basket from the perimeter and found assorted cutters moving through the back door to win their 19th game.

“Going into the game, we didn’t want them hitting a lot of 3s,” Shepherd coach Justin Namolik said. “I feel like we did, but they did hit 6 of 10 from 3 in the first half.”

The significant statistic from the from the first half in which West Liberty led 62-45 were Shepherd’s 13 turnovers.

“Our stats guy had them scoring every single time after a turnover,” Namolik said. “If we held them under 10 (turnovers), maybe we score a time or two, and it’s single digits.”

It was single digits for the first 10 and a half minutes.

Shepherd actually led 15-12 with 13 minutes, 41 seconds remaining in the first half and had its largest crowd of the season (1,128) energized and vocal.

Barry Shetzer, one of three Hilltoppers to score at least 20 points, hit a 3-pointer from atop the key to knot the game and begin an 18-2 run that put West Liberty on top 29-17 with 9:30 remaining.

Shepherd opened the game running units of five players in and out hockey-style trying to keep up with West Liberty’s end-to-end style of offense and defense, maybe wear down the Hilltoppers a little.

When the Hilltoppers began to pull away, Namolik scrapped that plan.

“I was committed to doing that until the 12-minute mark, then see who was handling the pressure best and go from there,” Namolik said. “You gotta try something against West Liberty.”

Teams are trying.

West Liberty coach Jim Crutchfield has seen it all, including similar strategies to that of Shepherd.

“We pass well and shoot well,” Crutchfield said. “Those are probably are two biggest strengths.”

A pair of free throws by Marcus Pilgrim trimmed Shepherd’s deficit under double digits at 32-24 with 7:28 remaining in the first half, but Jordan Fortney’s 3-pointer five seconds later pushed the Hilltoppers lead to double digits — where it stayed the rest of the game.

“I thought Shepherd came out and played hard the whole game,” Crutchfield said. “They never gave up, what made it a good ballgame tonight.”

However, not good enough for the Rams, who shot 50 percent from the floor and scored enough to win many games.

The Hilltoppers are different than most teams, however.

West Liberty shot a Butcher Center record 72.6 percent, converting 45 of 62 field goals. The Hilltoppers actually shot better from the field than the free throw line.

“They’re very good at what they do,” Namolik said. “They wear on you with the press. It’s only a matter of time.”

The Hilltoppers were held under 100 points in two road games, both of them their closest games of the season — a two-point win over Wheeling Jesuit and a one-point win over Fairmont.

Corey Pelle finished with 29 points and eight assists to lead West Liberty. Shetzer added 26 points, Alex Falk 23 and Jordan Fortney 13.

Chad Moore, who delivered a handful of acrobatic and athletic plays for the Rams, scored 28 points to lead his team. Pilgrim scored 18, Dave Karlson 14 and Brantley Osborne 10.