Rams complete three-game sweep of Mountain Cats

February 27, 2012
By Ben Gibson - For The Journal, journal-news.net

SHEPHERDSTOWN - The Shepherd Rams did a bit of spring cleaning with a sweep of the Pitt-Johnstown Mountain Cats this weekend, capping the three-game series off that began with a 10-0 shutout on Saturday.

"We're getting our rotations in there and get our innings in there. We're going to keep playing and get rolling," Shepherd coach Wayne Riser said. "We played a bit cleaner this weekend. That's really important."

The two wins on Sunday leveled the Rams’ record at 4-4 and has them set to continue a strong defense of their home field.

"I feel good about where we're at, compared to where we thought we were at in the fall," first baseman Nathan Minnich said. "We've came out hard this spring, and if we continue to play like that, we'll be good."

After holding on for a 9-7 win in the first game of the afternoon, the Rams sent Brandon Coffey to the mound for his second start of the season, and he delivered with three strikeouts while allowing two hits and no runs in his first win.

"It feels good. I was locating my fastball and doing what we do in the bullpen every day. It's only gonna get better," Coffey said.

Mountain Cat batters were declawed by Coffey, while the Rams’ offense got going with Minnich grounding out to bring in center fielder Aaron Scoville in the first inning for a 1-0 lead.

Coffey gave himself some insurance when he doubled to left field to score catcher Chad Murphy, giving the Rams a 2-0 advantage in the third inning.

Shepherd held onto the narrow lead going into the fifth inning before exploding for eight runs on four hits.

The inning's scoring got started with right fielder Michael Lott getting hit by a pitch to bring in Scoville.

Left fielder Ryan Messina sent a single into center field to score Coffey and Minnich followed by another blast to center field by shortstop Nash Hutter. Hutter's triple score Messina and Lott.

A pitching change didn't help the Mountain Cats slow down the Rams as Scoville launched a deep double to left center to score catcher Cody Bumbaugh, third baseman Travis Sluger, and Huter for a 10-0 lead.

Bryan DiRoserio came in the sixth inning to relieve Coffey, pitching two innings while only allowing a hit and no runs to close out the 10-
First baseman Nathan Minnich looked to surpass the career mark of 40 home runs set by Mike Spry after tying Spry earlier this weekend, but Minnich was unable to send the ball over the fence in either game on Sunday.

"Nathan's a good hitter, everyone knows that. And that's an understatement," Riser said. "It will come, he'll get it and take it care of."

The double digit victory had the dugout in a good mood as they playfully mocked Minnich's inability to hit the long ball, but on a day where Minnich had four hits and three runs batted in, it was easy for the first baseman to laugh it off.

"They were trying to give me a hard time, but you have to hit the ball before you worry about a home run. Minnich said. "They want to hit it just bad as I do."
Shepherd sweeps Mountain Cats

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. - Shepherd University swept a doubleheader from visiting Pitt-Johnstown on Sunday.

The Rams (4-4) won 9-7 in the opener and 10-0 in the second game. The Mountain Cats, who dropped all three games in the weekend series, slipped to 2-3 this season.

Drew Westover got his third home run of the season in the opener, going 3-for-4 and adding a double and two RBIs to lead Pitt-Johnstown. Jake Warner had two hits and Andy Ebersole drove in two. John Fees took the loss for the Mountain Cats and slipped to 0-1 after allowing six earned runs on seven hits in 3 2/3 innings. Joe Novotny pitched the final 2 2/3 innings and gave up three runs.

In the nightcap, the Rams used an eight-run fifth inning to break open a 2-0 game on their way to the win.

The Mountain Cats were held to just three hits, one apiece by Kyle Morrow, Brett Marabito and Mike Palkovitz. Pitt-Johnstown freshman right-hander Elliott Chamberlain surrendered just two runs on three hits in four innings.
Shepherd women roll in West Virginia Conference tourney opener

February 28, 2012
By Spencer Leathem, journal-news.net

SHEPHERDSTOWN- Following a 3-pointer by Charlene Diggs of Bluefield to tie the game at 25 at halftime, Shepherd coach Melanie Ford implored her Rams to have an emotional change of heart.

"I told them that emotions and fear cannot be the reason that we played the way we did," Ford said. "Going into a game like that, we had to go in with nothing to lose and got down to the things that we needed to change."

The Rams' defensive adjustments held the Blues to 15 points in the second half, enabling Shepherd to gain a 72-40 victory in the West Virginia Conference Tournament's first round.

The fourth-seeded Rams face No. 5 Fairmont on Wednesday in Charleston in the tournament quarterfinals.

Shepherd struggled to hang onto a solid lead in the first half. Shepherd carried a lead as large as six points with 8:11 remaining before the Blues took the lead with 4:48 to play in the half on a 3-pointer by Diggs. Shepherd regained a three-point lead before Diggs made her 3-pointer to knot the game up at halftime.

Shepherd held Bluefield to 15 points in the final 20 minutes, not giving the Blues any chances of a tying shot of any sort.

"The first half was a little rough for everyone," Alex Tamez said. "They may have been taller and faster than us, (but) we still were able to lock down and get the win."

A pair of scoring runs in the first 10 minutes of the second half sparked the Rams' victory.

After a basket by Shea Mebane, the Rams ran off the next 10 points before Kelli Morgan made a free throw for Bluefield. Shepherd went on a 12-point run to increase its lead to 20 points before a 3-pointer by LaWanna Gravely stopped the spree with 10:53 to play.

Tamez, a 5-foot-5 junior, showed signs of playing bigger than her height as she blocked a pair of shots to keep the Blues from scoring.

"She plays a lot bigger than her height. Her speed and athleticism helps her to do that," Ford said of Tamez. "She used that with her heart in this game as she wanted it more than the other team and did what she had to do."

As both sides exchanged basket for basket, Katie Biggs, who shot 0 of
5 from 3-point range in the first half, began to close in on a record.

"I tried not to psyche myself out and talk about it before the game, because I knew I was going to be antsy about it," Biggs said of the pregame anticipation of breaking Carrie Saunders' single-season record of 51 3-pointers.

"Once I got the first one down, I gained confidence to make the second."

Biggs only shot twice from the arc in the second half, making both of them set the mark at 52 3-pointers with 4:52 to play.

"Anytime a player can excel individually, it means a lot for us as a team," Ford said. "We take as much pride in anyone getting an award, such as Katie (Biggs) and Emily (Daniel) earning second team all-WVC in the conference and Gabby (Flinchum) making the all-freshman team, as if it were a team award."

Shepherd continued to increase its lead to as many as 32 before time expired to win their 19th game of the season, the most wins for Ford in a season as coach.

Biggs led the Rams with a game-high 12 points and nine rebounds. Shelby Foyak and Jenn Prine each added 10 points, and Daniel led all rebounders with 13 for Shepherd. The Blues were paced by Diggs with a game-high 12 points.
Roundup: Shepherd men advance

February 29, 2012
journal-news.net

INSTITUTE - Sophomore guard Marcus Pilgrim scored a career- and game-high 26 points, and junior forward Chad Moore added 18 points and a game-high 12 rebounds to lead Shepherd University to a 77-66 win over West Virginia State in first-round action of the WVC tournament at West Virginia State on Tuesday night.

Pilgrim, coming off a 17-point outing against Davis & Elkins, gave a stellar performance for the Rams (14-13) as he connected on 6 of 11 field goals with a 3-of-6 effort from three-point range. He was a perfect 11 of 11 from the free throw line.

Moore posted his 14th double-double of the season. He hit 6 of 9 field goals with a 6-of-7 effort from the foul line. He added four assists, three steals, and a blocked shot.

Sophomore guard Brantley Osborne also recorded a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Corey Bethea had 25 points and eight rebounds, while Delrico Lane added 15 points to pace the Yellow Jackets.

The Rams had a 32-26 lead at the break behind 11 first half-points from Pilgrim. Shepherd opened the second half on a 20-6 run to take a 20-point lead at 52-32 with 13:51 left.

Shepherd hit on 48.1 percent (25-52) of its shots from the floor with a 26.7 percent (4-15) effort from three-point range. The Rams hit 23 of 28 foul shots (82.1 percent).

The Rams had a 44-33 advantage on the boards.

Shepherd advances to the quarterfinals on Thursday to face No. 4-ranked and top-seeded West Liberty at 8:30 p.m. at the Charleston Civic Center.
It's today’s quarterfinals for Shepherd

February 29, 2012 | Filed under: Sports | Posted by: 8prIt@DmiN

SHEPHERDSTOWN—Shepherd broke free from visiting Bluefield as soon as the second half began. Going on an extended 23-3 run, the Lady Rams pushed the Big Blues out of the WVIAC women’s tournament with a 72-40 first-round win over the 13th-seeded entry.

Shepherd held only a one point lead at the half but then outscored the Big Blues, 47-16, in the second half to advance to today’s (Wednesday) tournament quarterfinals in Charleston against fifth-seeded Fairmont.

A distinct 59-28 rebounding advantage buoyed Shepherd.

Shepherd carried a 19-10 overall record against Fairmont, while the Big Blues bowed out with a 7-22 overall record.

Emily Daniel had a Shepherd-high 13 rebounds with Katie Biggs collecting nine rebounds with Shelby Fayak also contributing nine rebounds.

All 12 Shepherd players received playing time and the revolving lineup partially was responsible for the 24 turnovers the Lady Rams committed. Bluefield had 20 turnovers.

Shepherd was 17-for-31 (54.8 percent) from the field in the breakaway second half.

The other six first-round games saw Concord thrash Wheeling Jesuit, 85-57; Glenville hammer Alderson-Broaddus, 85-56; Fairmont edge Ohio Valley, 73-66; Davis & Elkins escape West Virginia State, 66-64; Charleston go on the road to eliminate Pitt-Johnstown, 56-51; and West Liberty get a 71-62 road win at Seton Hill.
Shepherd evens record with sweep of UPJ

February 29, 2012 | Filed under: Sports |Posted by: $puR1t$DmIN

SHEPHERDSTOWN—Another pair of transplanted baseball games played on Sunday by Shepherd at its Fairfax Field were turned into a doubleheader sweep when the Rams downed visiting Pitt-Johnstown 9-7 and 10-0 in non-conference games originally scheduled to be held at Point Stadium in Johnstown.

Shepherd had posted a shutout win over the Mountain Cats on Saturday and had a stellar weekend when all three games were quickly moved to Shepherdstown because of unfavorable weather forecasts in central Pennsylvania.

On Sunday, a day where the high winds of Saturday were gone and the temperature was nearly 20 degrees warmer, Shepherd hammered out 12 hits in winning the opener, including three doubles and a single by Nathan Minnich. Minnich had two RBIs. Chad Murphy went 3-for-4 with three RBIs and three runs scored for the Rams. Murphy had his first home run of the season.

Trevor Appleby improved his pitching record to 2-1 with five innings of work in the seven-inning game. Appleby allowed two earned runs, five hits, and fanned four.

Shepherd had three multi-run innings.

In winning 10-0 in the nightcap, Shepherd pitcher Brandon Coffey worked the first five innings and yielded only two harmless hits while fanning three. Bryan DiRosario pitched the final two shutout innings and allowed one hit.

An eight-run fifth inning extended a 2-0 Shepherd lead to 10-0. In the huge inning, Shepherd had hits from Aaron Scoville, Ryan Messina, Nash Hutter, and Scoville again to help plate the eight runs.

Scoville had a pair of doubles as did winning pitcher Coffey. Hutter had a three-run triple in the fifth.

The Rams evened their record at 4-4. Pitt-Johnstown was unbeaten coming into the weekend, but left Fairfax Field with a 2-3 overall mark.

Shepherd hosts games on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at Fairfax Field.

Nathan Minnich has three homers and a .346 batting average.
Shepherd football signs additional 14 players

February 29, 2012 | Filed under: Sports | Posted by: $puR!t@DmiN

SHEPHERDSTOWN—Shepherd has announced another 14 football recruits have signed letters-of-intent with the school.

High school players from Maryland were wide receiver Michael Wingard (Gwynn Park High), defensive back Tre’vaughn Sullivan (Gwynn Park High), defensive back Tony Squirewell (Bishop McNamara High), tight end Olumide Sokoya (Long Reach High), defensive end Shaneil Jenkins (Suitland High), and defensive back Carlton Davis (South Hagerstown High).

The players from Virginia include tight end/defensive end Matthew Wood (Patrick Henry of Roanoke), tight end Michael Reaves (W.T. Woodson High), lineman Hunter VanMeter (Sherando High), and defensive back/wide receiver Boomer Kaczmarzewski (Millbrook High).

Ben Mitchell is an offensive tackle from Altoona High.

From West Virginia schools are lineman Daniel Berry (Morgantown High), linebacker Tyreck Collier (Washington High), and defensive lineman Josh Harwood (Martinsburg High).
51-point half gets Rams back to .500

February 29, 2012 | Filed under: Sports | Posted by: SpRtIF@DiNi

ELKINS— A 51-point second half lifted the Shepherd men past homstanding Davis & Elkins, 87-67, last Wednesday in the Rams’ final regular season outing.

Shepherd finished the campaign with a 13-13 overall record and an 11-11 WVIAC mark. The Rams were the only team in the 15-team conference to complete their season, and there were seven league games played on Saturday, February 25 that helped determine the final regular season standings and the WVIAC tournament’s first-round pairings for Tuesday, February 28.

The Senators were 8-17 overall and 4-17 in the conference with the loss to Shepherd.

Chad Moore was 9-for-14 from the floor and scored 20 points for the Rams. Moore handed out five assists and claimed 10 rebounds as Shepherd badly outrebounded the home side, 42-29.

Brantley Osborne had 19 points on 7-for-16 from the floor. He had four assists. Marcus Pilgrim played 39 minutes and added 17 points on 4-of-9 from the floor and 7-of-8 free throws. He also had six rebounds. Chauncey Burgazli totaled 12 points and had five rebounds.

Reserve forward Malik Dauda was 4-for-6 from the floor, had nine points and seven rebounds.

Shepherd was 34-for-64 (53 percent) from the floor, including a 21-for-35 (60 percent) second-half showing that was greatly responsible for its 51-point half.

Ian Pinckney had 18 points, PJ Turner 17 points, and Malik Tinsley 11 points for the Senators. Turner was credited with 11 assists and was 6-for-6 from the foul line. The Senators were 27-for-57 (47.4 percent) from the field but only 1-for-9 (11 percent) from three-point range.

The Senators couldn’t overcome their rebounding deficiencies.
Shepherd women use free throws to beat Senators

February 29, 2012 | Filed under: Sports | Posted by: $ptRlt@DmiN

ELKINS—The Shepherd women closed out the regular season with a 68-62 win on the road over Davis & Elkins. The win was Shepherd's ninth in its final 10 games of the regular campaign and had it in fourth place in the WVIAC standings with a 15-7 conference record and an 18-10 overall mark.

After the teams were tied at 34-34 at the half, Shepherd outscored the Lady Senators, 34-28, in the second half.

Shepherd went 17-for-20 (85 percent) from the foul line while Davis & Elkins attempted only 12 free throws and made 10 (83.3 percent). The Lady Rams attempted only 50 shots from the field, made 25 (50 percent), and tried only five long-range shots. Davis & Elkins was 23-for-60 (38 percent) from the floor and was 6-for-24 (25 percent) from three-point range.

While the Lady Senators' Paqe Turner was the game's high scorer with her 25 points, Shepherd offset that individual performance with double-figure contributions from freshman center Gabby Flinchum (17 points in only 18 minutes), senior forward Katie Biggs (15 points on 6-for-9 from the field), and reserve center Jimyse Brown (12 points and 6-for-6 from the foul line in 16 minutes).

Reserve guard Priscilla Moseh added nine points and seven rebounds, and Emily Daniel had seven points and four assists. Flinchum had seven rebounds.

With one game remaining, Davis & Elkins was 11-10 in the WVIAC and 12-13 overall.

The conference tournament opened on Monday and Shepherd hosted a first-round game at its Butcher Center facility.
Schedule change, high winds = shutout win

February 29, 2012 | Filed under: Sports | Posted by: p1Rl@DmiN

SHEPHERDSTOWN—Shepherd's first home baseball games originally were to come this weekend—spread over three days against Pennsylvania teams.

But late last week, games scheduled in Johnstown, Pennsylvania at Point Stadium against Pitt-Johnstown were transferred to Fairfax Field on the Shepherd campus.

At first, it was just going to be a single, nine-inning game on Saturday. The teams were to go to Johnstown on Sunday for two games at Point Stadium. Much later, even the doubleheader planned for Point Stadium on Sunday was also switched to Shepherdstown for a noon twinbill.

In Saturday’s high winds, the Rams were able to win the home-opener, 6-0, as sophomore left-hander Paul Hvozdojew won for the first time this season when he went the first seven innings and allowed the Mountain Cats only two harmless hits.

The stinging winds and low temperature made playing baseball an uncomfortable proposition at best, yet the Rams were able to win for the second time against four losses they suffered in games in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama.

Shepherd had a 4-0 lead after the first four innings against Mountain Cats’ starter Kody Reighard and reliever Derek Younker; Reighard lasted only 2.2 innings while yielding three runs on three hits.

Nathan Minnich clubbed his third homer of the season for one of Shepherd’s runs. Shepherd’s last two runs were unearned.

Pitt-Johnstown lost for the first time and was 2-1 overall in the non-conference game.
Ram women roll

March 1, 2012
From staff reports, journal-news.net

CHARLESTON - Senior guard Katie Biggs scored a game-high 25 points to lead Shepherd University to an 83-58 win over Fairmont State in the quarterfinals of the West Virginia Conference tournament at the Charleston Civic Center Coliseum on Wednesday afternoon.

Biggs was 6 of 9 from the floor with a 5 of 7 effort from 3-point range. She was a perfect 8 of 8 from the foul line.

Junior forward Emily Daniel added 15 points and seven rebounds, while freshman center Gabby Flinchum had 10 points and game-highs of eight rebounds and three blocked shots.

Senior guard Hannah Safren handed out a game-high five assists, while senior forward Shelby Fayak contributed six points and four assists.

WVC Player of the Year Kaitlin Snyder and Hailey Garrett each had 19 points to lead the Falcons. Snyder also added a team-high three assists and three steals.

Shepherd took a 41-30 lead into the break behind 11 first-half points from Biggs.

Shepherd shot 52.6 percent (30 of 57) from the floor, with a 56.3 percent (9 of 16) effort from 3-point range. The Rams connected on 14 of 15 (93.3 percent) foul shots.

Shepherd dominated the boards 47-27.

The Rams advance to the tournament semifinals on Friday when they face top-seeded West Virginia Wesleyan at 1 p.m. at the Charleston Civic Center.

The Rams have won five straight and 13 of their last 15 games. Shepherd reached the 20-win mark for the first time since the 2007-08 team posted a 24-7 record. The Rams matched a season best with the 52.6 percent field goal percentage.
Shepherd eliminates Lady Falcons, 83-58
(http://timeswv.com/sports/x1888223247/Shepherd-eliminates-Lady-Falcons-83-58)

By Duane Cochran
For the Times West Virginian (http://timeswv.com)

CHARLESTON — Less than eight minutes into its quarterfinal round West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Tournament basketball game with fifth-seeded Fairmont State here at the Charleston Civic Center, one got the feeling it was going to be fourth-seeded Shepherd University’s day.

And it was.

The hot-shooting Lady Rams raced to an early lead, staved off every FSU comeback attempt and dominated the Lady Falcons in nearly every phase of the game as they cruised to an impressive 83-58 victory.

The win improved Shepherd to 20-10 on the year. The Lady Rams will tangle with top-seeded West Virginia Wesleyan Friday in the semifinals at 1 p.m. at the Charleston Civic Center. The Lady Bobcats (22-6) eliminated ninth-seeded West Liberty Wednesday, 82-59.

“A lot of credit has to go to Shepherd and Melanie Ford because I thought they played with a tenacity which is what you have to do at tournament time,” said FSU coach Steve McDonald, whose team ended the season with an 18-10 record. “We were on our heels virtually from the opening tip. They were aggressive and on their toes. We were off balance the entire game. Even when we made a couple of runs at them and had cut it to 11 or 10, there late we just could never seem to make the play which would make the difference for us.

“Sometimes coaches will talk about how poorly their team played and not give credit to the other team Today I thought we played poorly and a great deal of it had to do with Shepherd.”

The Lady Rams aren’t known for either their 3-point or foul shooting, but Wednesday Shepherd did both to near perfection. Led by senior guard Katie Biggs, who finished with a game-high 25 points, Shepherd drained seven 3-pointers in the first half to open a 41-30 lead on FSU at the break. Shepherd did lead by 20 at one point in the first half before Fairmont closed out the half on a 13-4 run to cut it to 11.

In the second half Shepherd’s shooting got even better. The Lady Rams drained 15-of-22 field goals (68.2 percent) in the final 20 minutes and finished the game 14-of-15 at the foul line. Shepherd also
out-rebounded Fairmont State, 47-27.

"Shepherd has good post players and the way we were trying to defend in the post today forced them to take threes and they made them," said McDonald. "They had some kids hit some shots today, which surprised us."

Fairmont, on the other hand, struggled offensively for much of the contest. The Lady Falcons missed eight layups in the first half alone. Freshman center Hailey Garrett shouldered much of the offensive load for the Lady Falcons early on. She scored 13 of her 19 points in the first half and then battled foul trouble in the final 20 minutes when she picked up her fourth foul with 15:40 remaining.

Shepherd also did a masterful job of keeping FSU's Kaitlin Snyder, the WVIAC's Player of the Year, in check. Snyder, who also finished with 19 points, had just six points in the first half and didn't connect on her first field goal until the 1:31 mark of the opening half.

"I don't think I came out and played my best by any means," said Snyder, who was just 7-of-23 from the field. "I'm disappointed in myself because I know my teammates look to me to do things and when I don't perform I do feel like it hurts us. We did make a little run to come back there at the end of the first half, but we didn't come out in the second half and build off of it."

Fairmont was never able to get Shepherd's lead to single digits in the final half. The closest FSU came was 57-47 with 8:37 remaining.

"We did a good job of not getting frustrated or losing our confidence when they kept trying to come back on us," said Shepherd's Emily Daniel, who finished with 15 points. "Every time they made a run at us we went right back at them."

FSU did lose the services of standout freshman forward Emily Lohr in the game due to a knee injury. The WVIAC All-Freshman Team selection suffered the injury when she was fouled driving to the basket with 16:24 left in the contest.

The Shepherd win avenged a 66-63 loss to the Lady Falcons during the regular season.

"The most disappointing thing to me today is we didn't represent our season with the way we played," said McDonald. "Our team was 10-7 at one point this year and we battled back and improved a lot over the last few weeks. Today, though, we didn't show that and that was disappointing."
Collier rushing to Rams

March 2, 2012
By Rick Kozlowski - Journal Sports Editor, journal-news.net

CHARLES TOWN - When coach Mark Hash began to build his football program at Washington four years ago, he probably wished he could've had a locker room full of Tyrek Colliers.

"He's a great kid, probably the best kid I've been been around in my time in Jefferson County," said Hash, who worked at Jefferson long before Washington opened.

That's the kind of legacy Collier, the four-year starter, has left in the eyes of Hash.

Talented, too, is Collier, who was being recruited as a football player and a basketball player and was seen by some observers as capable of playing football at a higher level.

Collier, a 6-foot-2, 220-pounder, chose football and has signed to play at Shepherd for reasons of academic value and athletic worth.

In fact, when you ask him what he hopes to accomplish at Shepherd, he doesn't mention numbers of tackles or all-conference honors. Rather, he said, "I hope I get a good education and begin the next chapter of my life."

Collier's real happy with Shepherd, too.

"Shepherd's a top Division II school, so I'm not worried about it at all," Collier said.

He anticipates playing outside linebacker for the Rams, though his Hash thinks he'd be a quality fullback or tight end, but just marvels at how "he can come off that edge."

"I don't care for being tackled," Collier said.

He'd rather blow up plays before they even get started, which he did frequently over his four seasons playing for the Patriots.

"I guess it's my speed that helps me to blow it up," he said. "If I don't make the tackle, somebody else will. I just try to disrupt it."

Now that basketball season has ended for him, Collier's headed to the weight room "to get stronger so I can defend against the run and the pass."

At the forefront of the Washington program, he's proud of how the team came together and finished .500 for the first time this season.

"I've never really help to start a program like that," Collier said. "It was tough, real tough. I stuck it out, and last year we went .500, and, hopefully, we can keep it going."

Beating Jefferson during his junior year meant much to Collier.

"That's the first time the tables started turning with us and
Jefferson,” he said. “We already beat them in basketball my sophomore year. From then on, we haven't lost to Jefferson (in football or basketball)."

The Patriots actually won the first game they ever played when they defeated homestanding Hedgsville.

“That was nice,” Collier said. “That was a good feeling, because my freshman year, we didn’t have anywhere to practice. We practiced at the middle school and were trying to figure out who plays where. It was a struggle to figure out where we were at."

Collier plans to study computer science at Shepherd.
Harwood joining Shepherd

March 2, 2012
By Andrew Bartoldson - For The Journal, journal-news.net

MARTINSBURG - There is a new Ram in town as Josh Harwood is set to join the Shepherd football roster this coming fall.

The senior at Martinsburg recently accepted an invitation to attend Shepherd University and join the football team.

He started his football career at Martinsburg during his senior year after playing for three years in Boonsboro, Md.

"I got to play with the same players for the state championship that I had played against for the last three years," Harwood said.

It was a pretty successful campaign for Harwood, a stalwart in the middle who earned all-state honors at nose guard for the Bulldogs as they defended their state championship with a second straight 14-0 season.

Harwood, who plans to major in education with a focus in behavioral disabilities, also finished fourth at the recent state wrestling tournament in Huntington.

With his high school career coming to an end, he is optimistic of his future.

"Basically I’m just ready to start the second turn of my life," Harwood said. "I just want to play football and get an education while I do it."

Harwood is also looking forward to seeing some familiar faces while at Shepherd.

Teammates from both of his high school teams have gone on to play for Shepherd, making him excited to join the team’s ranks and get reacquainted with those players.

While deciding which school he was going to attend, Harwood found that Shepherd was the perfect fit for him.

"Shepherd just seemed like the right place for me," Harwood said. "The school is close to home and right in between my mom’s house and my dad’s house."

With the school year ending and his college career rapidly approaching, he plans on taking what time he has to put himself in top physical condition before the start of the football season.

"With the wrestling season over, I plan to start lifting with some of the guys from Shepherd and start getting as big as I can for the season and college," he said.
West Liberty races past Rams in WVC playoffs

March 2, 2012
journal-news.net

CHARLESTON - Junior forward Chad Moore posted game-highs of 27 points and 16 rebounds, but fourth-ranked West Liberty recorded a 115-74 win over Shepherd Thursday in quarterfinal action of the West Virginia Conference Men’s Basketball Tournament at the Charleston Civic Center Coliseum.

Moore hit on 11 of 22 field goals with a 5-of-10 effort from the foul line. He added a game-high five steals, an assist and a blocked shot. Moore recorded his 15th double-double of the season.

Sophomore guard Brantley Osborne added 19 points, while junior forward Sidney McCray contributed seven points and seven boards.

The Rams, at No. 9, the lowest seed still alive in the league quarterfinals, held an early 5-4 lead, but soon after, the Hilltoppers were on their way to their 27th win in 29 outings.

Alex Falk had 20 points and C.J. Hester added 19 to pace the Hilltoppers.

The Hilltoppers had a 72-40 lead at the break.

Shepherd hit on 36.2 percent (25 of 69) of its shots from the floor with a 12.5-percent (2 of 16) effort from 3-point range. The Rams hit 22 of 40 foul shots (55 percent).

West Liberty shot 54.7 percent (47 of 86) from the floor with a 43.3-percent (13 of 30) performance from beyond the arc. The Hilltoppers connected on 8 of 11 foul shots (72.7 percent).

The Rams had a 48-45 advantage on the boards. Hedgesville High School graduate Michael Lopez came off the bench to snare seven rebounds for the Hilltoppers, second on his team.

Shepherd completed its season at 14-14.

West Liberty will take on fourth-seeded West Virginia Wesleyan in one semifinal today after the Bobcats defeated No. 5 Alderson-Broaddus 56-40.

The other semifinalists include No. 2 Charleston, a 77-66 winner over Pitt-Johnstown, and No. 6 Concord, which stunned third-seeded Wheeling Jesuit 89-84 in overtime.

Wheeling had dealt West Liberty only its second loss of the season last week.
Moore gains hoops honors

March 2, 2012
Shepherdstown Chronicle

Junior forward Chad Moore (Winchester, VA/John Handley) of the Shepherd University men’s basketball team has been named a first team All-WVIAC selection as announced by the conference office. Moore is the first Ram to gain first team All-Conference honors since Danley Shank in 2007.

Moore leads the Rams and is ranked sixth in the WVIAC in scoring (20.7 ppg), second in rebounding (9.7 rpg), and fifth in steals (2.0 spg). He also leads the team in blocked shots (23) and is second in field goal percentage (.511) and Moore leads the WVIAC with 13 double-doubles on the year.