Area Roundup: Rams sweep doubleheader

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SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd University swept Davis & Elkins in West Virginia Conference softball doubleheader action at Shepherd on Saturday afternoon. The Rams gained a 9-0 win in Game 1 and added a 10-2 triumph in the nightcap.

The Rams ?(15-12) plated nine runs in Game 1 on only two hits. The Rams took advantage of 11 walks and two hit-by-pitches.

Junior outfielder Bianca Donidillo went 1 for 3 with a run scored and sophomore first baseman Sam McQuade added a 1-for-2 effort with a run scored to lead the Rams.

Junior pitcher Tricia Bittura tossed a one-hitter to gain the win for the Rams to improve to 6-8. Alanna Jones took the loss for the Senators.

Devon Pugh led off the fifth with a single for the Senators to break up the no-hit bid.

Sophomore outfielder Jess Mason went 1 for 3 with two RBI and three runs scored to lead the Rams in the nightcap. She also had two stolen bases.

McQuade and freshman outfielder Taylor Schaefer also drove in a pair of runs.

Mallory Wishard and Amanda Serafini each had a pair of hits for the Senators.

Junior pitcher Tiffany Biggs (5.0 IP, 6 H, 2 ER, 4 Ks, 2 BB) earned the win to improve to 7-3.
Rams split with Bobcats

March 26, 2012
By Spencer Leatherman - For The Journal, journal-news.net

SHEPHERDSTOWN - In the second game of a doubleheader between the Shepherd Rams and the West Virginia Wesleyan Bobcats Sunday, Bianca Bonadillo hit a fly ball to centerfield that fell out of Nicole Friedmann's glove.

The error resulted in Tiffany Biggs and Jess Mason coming in to score and gave the Rams a 3-1 lead, scoring their first runs of the day.

The Rams left 10 runners on base in Game 1 to fall to the Bobcats 2-0 but overcame their scoring woes in the nightcap, winning 5-1.

"The difference between the first and second game is that we didn't hit as well," Rams coach Leslie Lopez said. "We hit in the first game, but left 10 runners on and didn't cash in on the opportunities. We hit better in the second game, but need to show up like that in both games."

Wesleyan got off to an early lead in the first game.

Aleandrea Furr walked and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Brittanie Goyd before Paige Cummings singled to right to score Furr for a 1-0 lead.

The Bobcats scored again in the third.

Furr reached base on an error and advanced to second on a passed ball before a Goyd sacrifice bunt moved Furr to third. Cummings singled and was caught in a rundown, but slid safely on first to plate in Furr and make the score 2-0.

The Rams had one last attempt in the bottom of the seventh, but they left the bases loaded.

Delaney Bell singled, Chelsie Oals reached on an error and Mason beat out a fielder's choice. Bonadillo came up to the plate with two out, but struck out swinging to end the first game.

In the nightcap, Wesleyan started off with a 1-0 lead in the second inning before Shepherd responded.

"We were told to keep our heads up and come back from the first game," Biggs said. "We needed to come back with a strong attitude to beat them."

Jacqueline Omichinski singled to left and advanced to second on a Kaitlyn Carey walk before being brought around to score on a Kelli McColough single.

Shepherd responded with three runs in the third, taking advantage of Wesleyan's only error in the nightcap.

Biggs walked and advanced to second on a Jess Mason single with two outs. Bonadillo reached base on a dropped fly ball that popped out of the glove of Friedmann to bring Biggs and Mason around and slide safely into third base to give the Rams their first runs and lead of the day. Taylor Schaefer singled to left to bring Bonadillo in, making the score 4-1.

Shepherd scored two more runs in the sixth. Taylor Bolton hit an infield single before Shanan Plunkett tripled to centerfield to bring Bolton around to score. Bell doubled to left-center to bring Plunkett in to make the score 5-1.

Biggs pitched a complete game, striking out seven with her offspeed pitches.

"Tiffany's been working a lot on her breaking pitches, and it showed today," Lopez said.

"She was able to use them and was successful."
Shepherd Wins Two Against Wheeling Jesuit

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. -- Shepherd University swept Wheeling Jesuit in WVAC baseball doubleheader action at Fairfax Field on Sunday. The Rams gained a 10-3 win in game one and added an 8-1 victory in the nightcap.

The Cardinals took a 3-0 lead in the first inning of game one. Patrick Ammar had an RBI-double and Robbie Davia hit a two-run homer.

Shepherd answered back in the bottom of the first on a two-run blast off the bat of senior first baseman Nathan Minnich (Waynesboro, PA/Waynesboro Area Sr).

The Rams tied the game at 3-all in the second on a solo blast down the right field line by freshman shortstop Bryan DiRosario (Alexandria, VA/Hayfield Secondary School).

Shepherd plated five runs in the fourth to take an 8-3 lead. Minnich and junior second baseman Chad Murphy (North Olmsted, OH/North Olmsted) had RBI-doubles, while sophomore third baseman Brandon Coffey (Manassas, VA/Osbourn) added a two-run double to highlight the rally.

The Rams added a pair of insurance runs in the fifth behind RBIs from Minnich and Coffey.

Minnich went 2-for-4 and drove in four runs, while Coffey was 2-for-4 with three runs batted in.

Sophomore pitcher Paul Hvozdvic (Herndon, VA/Herndon) (6.0 IP, 9 H, 4 Ks, 0 BB, 3 ER) picked up the win to improve to 5-2. Brenden Gillies took the loss to fall to 1-2.

The Rams plated six runs in the first inning in the first inning en route to an 8-1 nightcap victory.

Senior designated hitter Nash Hutter (Sunland, CA/Verdugo Hills/Glendale CC) went 2-for-4 with two runs scored and two RBIs and senior third baseman Travis Sluger (Germantown, MD/Williamsport/Hagerstown CC) added a 3-for-3 performance with a pair of runs scored to pace the Rams.

Coffey (4.0 IP, 2 H, 2 Ks, 0 BB) picked up the win to improve to 2-2. Jordan Kraus (2-1) took the loss for Wheeling Jesuit.
Jeremy Bell Signs With Shepherd

Parkersburg High School's Jeremy Bell is headed to Shepherd University on a football scholarship

**Posted:** 10:55 PM Mar 29, 2012  
**Reporter:** Jim Whart on  
**Email Address:** sports@wtap.com

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Jeremy Bell has wrapped up a great academic and athletic career at Parkersburg High and now he's ready to take his game to the next level.

Jeremy is the newest member of the Shepherd University Rams football program

He put pen to paper Thursday accepting a scholarship offer from the NCAA Division II West Virginia Conference school

A couple or 3 dozen family members, friends, and former coaches were on hand for the
signing ceremony..

The Rams are getting a record setting receiver in Bell.

He owns the single season record for touchdown receptions
and the careerTD record at Parkersburg High and he's second in career receiving yards

Jeremy was All State and All Conference and now is looking forward to joining a highly successful Shepherd football program in the fall.
Five-run inning gets Shepherd past Cardinals

By RICK DUFF

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Wheeling Jesuit had the game’s first home run. In fact, the Cardinals had the game’s first three runs.

But Shepherd had Nathan Minich’s two-run homer . . . and the game’s last 16 runs as the Rams made the most of a five-run fourth inning to win the WVIAc baseball game, 10-3.

After having a scheduled doubleheader on Saturday washed away, the Rams and Cards set up a North Division twinbill that should prove to be important in the conference’s final standings.

Prior to Sunday’s games, Shepherd was positioned in second place in the North Division. But the Rams were just one game over .500 in the standings. Wheeling Jesuit was also just a game over .500. And the league’s rules call for the first four teams in the seven-team conference to make the WVIAc tournament, an event that gives the conference its champion.

Trailing, 3-0, after Robbie Davis hit a two-run home run off Shepherd starter Paul Hvezdovic and Patrick Ammir had doubled in a run in the first inning, the Rams rebounded with Minich’s long two-run blast in the first to bring them right back.

When Bryan Rocco lofted a drive that carried out just inside the foul pole, the Rams had made it 3-3.

It would have been more but there would been five runners stranded in the first two innings.

After the near-disastrous first, Hvezdovic began to have some success with both his pitches and threw strikes at the Cardinals with considerable help from his defense.

But the Rams began to show signs of life. Aaron Scoville threw out Andrew Nemecek at the plate when he collected Jordan Medley’s single and threw a strike to catcher Ryan Meneski. Hvezdovic had been nickel for six hits in three innings, but the game was still even at 3-3.

A five-run Shepherd fourth became the game’s deciding factor.

Minich’s double scored Scoville, who had walked. Chad Murphy followed with a run-scoring double. After Nash Hutter had a single, it was Coffey driving in two more. Shepherd runs with a double he rifled into the left field corner. Coffey scored on an infield error. And the Rams had assumed an 8-3 lead with most of the scoring damage done against reliever Parker Lang.

Just to make things easier for one-inning reliever Justin Byrd, the Rams used Scoville’s triple, Minich’s fourth RBI, and Coffey’s RBI hit that scored Meneski to move in front, 10-3.

Hvezdovic went six innings and allowed seven hits while walking three. He fanned four and improved his record to 5-2.

Shepherd had trumped Wheeling Jesuit’s 3-0 lead by scoring the game’s last 16 runs and overcoming having 15 baserunners stranded in six innings.

Shepherd goes 3-1 in first WVIAc games

By RICK DUFF

SHEPHERDSTOWN — When nobody else was able to play softball or baseball on Saturday, the Shepherd softball team was able to defeat visiting Davis & Elkins, 9-0, and 10-2, in a WVIAc doubleheader.

The games were the first conference games for both teams.

In winning 9-0 in five innings, Shepherd had two hits but received 11 walks and had two hit batters. There were 10 wild pitches by the two Senators’ pitchers.

Tricia Berta limited the Senators to one hit in moving her pitching record to 6-8.

In winning 10-2 in five innings, the Lady Rams received 12 walks and had six hit batters. Shepherd scored five times in the second and ended the game with four runs in the fifth.

Tiffany Biggs had a complete game six-hitter and went to 7-3.

On Sunday, Shepherd split a doubleheader against visiting West Virginia Wesleyan.

The Bobcats won the first game, 2-0, behind the eight-strikeout pitching of Jacqueline Omichinski. She walked only one in the shutout win.

Paige Cummings drove in both runs for the Bobcats.

Bettura’s six-hitter was not good enough and her record went to 6-9.

Biggs authored a complete-game, five-hitter as Shepherd won the second game, 5-1.

Biggs was 8-3 after stunning seven and yielding only one walk.

Hillary Perez-Ashley was the losing pitcher.

Shepherd was 3-1 in the WVIAc and 16-13 overall.

West Virginia Wesleyan was 1-1 in the WVIAc and 16-8 overall.
Cards’ Kraus enters with 0.00 ERA, leaves after eight Shepherd runs

BOB MADISON Sport Staff

SHEPHERDSTOWN—Shepherd completed a double-header sweep of Wheeling Jesuit when it battled 10 men in the first inning against Cardinal pitcher Jordan Kraus, scoring six runs, before turning that lead over to pitcher Brandon Coffey. Coffey went four scoreless innings in the Rams’ 8-1 win.

Kraus had pitched 27.1 innings in the 2012 season and his ERA was a spotless 0.00. Shepherd drowned him in a six-run, first-inning deluge. All the runs were earned.

Seven straight batters reached safely against Kraus. After Michael Lott and Aaron Scoville both grounded out, Kraus walked Nathan Minnich on four pitches.

Chad Murphy doubled to the wall in the right field corner. With runners at second and third, Ryan Messina lined a two-run double against the fence in deepest left. Nash Hutter’s line-drive single gave the Rams a 3-0 lead.

Jake Cook drew a walk and Travis Sluger drilled a hard single in front of the left-fielder. When the outfielder kicked Sluger’s hit, Hutter scored the fourth run. Bryan DiRosario rammed a two-run triple that was finally stopped by the fence . . . and Shepherd had scored six runs after its first two batters in the opening inning had been retired.

Kraus no longer had a perfect 0.00 ERA. Shepherd had a 6-0 lead that Coffey protected through his four innings of shutout pitching.

By the time Coffey was replaced, the Rams had an 8-0 lead because Hutter had hammered a solo home run and Lott had plated Sluger with an RBI single.

The last three innings saw Shepherd use pitchers Trevor Appleby and Andrew Gallant for one scoreless inning apiece and Byrd for a six-batter, one-run inning.

Coffey’s record was 2-2. Sluger, who had recently been replaced at third base because his number of hits had dwindled and dwindled, went 3-for-3 and scored twice.

Shepherd collected 11 hits. Hutter also had three hits in going 3-for-4, Messina, Hutter, and DiRosario all had two.

RBIs.

The two teams were supposed to have a three-game weekend series, but could get in only two because of Saturday’s showers. Shepherd came out of Sunday’s sweep with a 7-4 record the conference’s North Division, good for second place behind only Seton Hill. And the overall record was 14-10. Wheeling Jesuit was 5-6 in the North Division and 10-11 overall.

A huge first inning rally had exploded the ERA of Wheeling Jesuit’s Kraus . . . and had positioned Shepherd in a place where it could reach the WVIAC tournament after failing to qualify for last year’s event.

Appleby, Minnich lead Rams to conference split at Davis & Elkins

From staff reports

ELKINS — Pitcher Trevor Appleby and first baseman Nathan Minnich led Shepherd to a 12-10 win in the first game of a WVIAC double-header against Davis & Elkins last Wednesday at Harpertown Field.

The Senators routed Shepherd starting pitcher Jamie Driver in the nightcap and posted a 12-6 win over the Rams to gain a split of the two games.

Shepherd was 12-10 overall and 5-4 in the North Division of the WVIAC. Davis & Elkins was 9-12 overall and 5-4 in the South Division of the league.

In its first-game win, the Rams’ Appleby had his first good outing in several starts and worked five innings while allowing only five hits and one run (earned) in getting credit for the win. Appleby fanned three and walked just one. He left with a 7-1 lead.

Shepherd scored three times in the third inning on just one hit.

Minnich was 3-for-4 and had three RBIs. Nash Hutter had two hits and so did Michael Lott. Aaron Scoville scored three runs, and Chad Murphy drove in a pair of runs.

In the second game, Davis & Elkins jumped on Shepherd starter Driver, who was roughed up for six earned runs while allowing six hits and two walks. Driver lasted just three innings.

Shepherd reliever Brian Martin went 2.1 innings and yielded six earned runs on four hits and three walks.

Davis & Elkins had both a five-run and a four-run inning. Shepherd had only five hits off the combined efforts of two Senator pitchers.

Ryan Messina was 2-for-3 with three RBIs and two runs scored for the Rams. Minnich scored two runs and Hutter had two RBIs.