
For The Tribune-Democrat (http://tribune-democrat.com)

SHEPHERD, W.Va. — Josh Campanella, Nick Barbera and Drew Westover all belted home runs to help the Pitt-Johns-town baseball team open its season with a nonconference doubleheader split at Shepherd University on Saturday.

After winning Game 1 10-2, UPJ suffered a 14-4 loss in the nightcap.

In the opener, Campanella went 3 for 5 with a homer and two RBIs while Jeff Campbell and Seth Roy of Bedford each added two hits. Andy Rubel of Johnstown drove in two runs. Drew Shaulis of Somerset picked up the win after giving up two runs on four hits in four innings of work.

Shaulis also fanned six and walked three.

Alex Naggy pitched three shutout innings in relief to earn the save.

In Game 2, Shepherd opened-up a 9-1 lead after two innings and went on to win.

Barbera was 3 for 3 with a home run, while Westover was 2 for 3 with a home run and two RBIs. Rubel added two more hits for the Mountain Cats. Kody Reighard of Salix took the loss after surrendering eight runs (7 earned) in one-plus innings.

The Mountain Cats finish the three-game series at Shepherd today before traveling to Florida for their annual spring trip.
Shepherd's Michael Lott slides safely into thirdbase as Pitt Johnstown's Josh Campanella waits for the throw.
Shepherd softball splits DH

BY BEN GEUELL
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — With the beautiful spring-like weather in the region, Shepherd made the most of it and split a doubleheader with West Chester, Pa., in its home opener on Sunday evening.

During the first game, Shepherd and West Chester’s pitching staffs battled, with the Golden Rams earning the victory.

Shepherd found themselves down by a few runs late in the ballgame and fought hard to challenge West Chester. Even with several opportunities in the sixth and seventh innings, the Rams could not find holes in West Chester’s defense.

As a result, Shepherd fell 8-6 in the first game of the evening.

Even with the early loss, Shepherd coach Leslie Lopez did not find the need for a lineup change.

“We really did no changes to our lineup between the first and the second game,” Lopez said. “The only major change was obviously our pitching.”

The Rams took the field during the second game and looked to power through West Chester with excellent pitching from Nichole Pitcock and sturdy hitting from the rest of the team.

In the first inning, West Chester’s Jillian Murray drove in a run to quickly make the score 1-0. After that score, Pitcock started to find the zone and kept the game close for Shepherd.

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After several innings of strikeouts from Pitcock, Shepherd was still looking for the offense to come alive.

In the fifth inning, the Rams’ Delaney Bell and Cammie Orlandi reached base to upstart Shepherd’s offense. However, with West Chester’s catcher Kate Kniecinski catching a ball in foul territory, the Rams inning came to a close with runners stranded.

With being in a must-win situation, the Rams tightened up their offense in the next two innings. By having strong pitching in the seventh inning, Shepherd set themselves up for an exciting time in the batter’s box.

Pitcock got on base with a hit to center field and then was quickly replaced with a pinch runner. After working the count, Megan Holmes got on base.

Following a wild pitch, all of Shepherd’s runners moved over and the Rams found themselves with a player in scoring position. After another walk, Shepherd sent Bell to the plate with bases loaded.

With a sacrifice bunt by Bell, pinch runner, Bianca Biondillo raced home and the score was tied at 1-1.

Shepherd then placed Orlandi in the batter’s box to try to get the runs they need to win. After taking a cut at the ball, Orlandi placed down a bunt. With West Chester fumbling to get the ball to home plate, Holmes raced pass and scored the winning run to make the score 2-1.

Lopez said, “We just simply had the right people at the right time. We substituted in some faster people and executed the bunts well.”

Shepherd’s Pitcock ended the day with 15 strikeouts and helped guide the Rams to a 3-3 record. West Chester fell to 1-1 on the season.
NCAA reprimands W.Va. coaches over tobacco use

March 2, 2011 - AP

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Two Shepherd University football coaches and the school's athletic director have been reprimanded for violating the NCAA's rules against tobacco.

Head football coach Monte Cater, defensive coordinator and assistant coach Bob Haley and Athletic Director B.J. Pumroy were reprimanded Tuesday.

The NCAA said Cater and Pumroy had been warned about smokeless tobacco use prior to December's NCAA Division II semifinal game against Delta State and failed to ensure compliance.

Haley was later seen on television spitting tobacco juice during the game while on Shepherd's sideline.

The NCAA says Shepherd won't be reimbursed for $600 in travel expenses to the game for the three.

Cater referred questions to Pumroy, who did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.
Ram women top Fairmont in WVC tourney

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Senior guard Jerica Hewett scored 19 points and junior forward Shelby Fayak added 16 to lead Shepherd University to a 59-50 win over Fairmont State in first-round action of the West Virginia Conference Women’s Basketball Tournament Monday at the Butcher Center.

Hewett scored 13 second-half points as the Rams rallied from a 29-27 halftime deficit. She hit on 7 of 14 field goals for the game with a 5-of-8 performance from the line.

Fayak was 7 of 9 from the floor and went 2 for 2 from the foul line.

Shepherd improved to 15-12, while Fairmont State completed its season at 15-12. The Rams advance to face top-seeded University of Charleston at 6:30 p.m. in tournament quarterfinal action at the Charleston Civic Center.

Hewett honored by conference

PRINCETON — Senior guard Jerica Hewett of the Shepherd University women’s basketball team has been selected to the 2010-11 All-West Virginia Conference team. Hewett gained second-team accolades.

Hewett, an honorable mention choice last season, leads the Rams in scoring (13.7 ppg), assists (3.0 apg) and steals (2.0 spg). She is third on the team in rebounding (5.9 rpg) and fourth in three-pointers (19).

MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Moore, Osborne get WVC honors

PRINCETON — West Liberty senior guard Corey Pelle has been named the West Virginia Conference’s Player of the Year, as voted on by the league coaches. Seton Hill guard Matt Miller has garnered Freshman of the Year honors while West Liberty’s Jim Cutchfield ran away with the Coach of the Year award.

Shepherd’s Chad Moore earned second-team honors, while Brentley Osborne was named to the all-freshman team.

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Class A, Sectionals

W.Va. School for the Deaf 65, Paw Paw 62

PAW PAW — Patrick Lee scored 28 and Jonathan Stokes added 24 to lift the West Virginia School for the Deaf to a win against Paw Paw in Class A sectional boys basketball. Paw Paw’s Frank Robinette scored 18 points, and Ethan Holliday added 17 for the Pirates (0-22)

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Suns, Senators to face-off

HAGERSTOWN — The Hagerstown Suns and the Harrisburg Senators are pleased to announce an two-year agreement to play a pre-season exhibition game, beginning this season.

The inaugural game will be played at 6 p.m. April 5 at Municipal Stadium in Hagerstown.

The game will resemble a spring training scrimmage, and Bryce Harper, the Nationals 2010 No. 1 draft pick, is expected to make his Hagerstown debut in this contest.

— Staff report
Tribe, Rams fall in playoffs

PETERSBURG — Josh Evans’ 31-point effort lifted Petersburg to a 61-35 win over Berkeley Springs in the Class A-A Region II, Section 1 boys basketball tournament on Tuesday.

The Vikings jumped out to a 21-4 lead after the first quarter, and the Indians were never able to recover. Berkeley Springs trailed 29-14 at halftime and 44-26 after three quarters.

The Indians were led by Zach Wise with 11 points and got nine points from Jared Spielman. Petersburg will face Keyser Thursday in the sectional championship game.

MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Wheeling Jesuit 74, Shepherd 50

WHEELING — Ben Seifert scored 22 points and Recardo Gaddy added 21 to lead Wheeling Jesuit to a win over Shepherd University in first-round action of the West Virginia Conference Men’s Basketball Tournament on Tuesday night.

Guard Brantley Osborne led the Rams with 14 points with 12 coming from 3-point range.

Guard Marcus Pilgrim added 12 points, while forward Chad Moore just missed recording a double-double with nine points and a game-high nine rebounds.

Guard Jonathan Motrichka added eight points.

The Cardinals used a 15-7 run midway through the second half capped by a 3-pointer by Seifert with 7:19 remaining to take a 64-53 lead.

The Rams cut the lead to seven points at 66-59 with 1:45 left after a Pilgrim jumper, but they would get no closer.

Shepherd had a 36.1 percent (22 of 61) field goal percentage for the game after hitting at 50 percent in the first half. The Rams posted a 32.1 percent (9 of 28) effort from 3-point range and shot 42.9 percent (6 of 14) from the foul line.

Wheeling Jesuit recorded a 53.3 (26 of 47) field goal percentage with a 50 percent (8 of 16) effort from beyond the arc. The Cardinals shot 66.7 percent (14 of 21) from the foul line and had a 38-32 rebounding advantage.

Shepherd completed its season at 13-16, while Wheeling Jesuit improved to 16-11. The Cardinals advance to face top-seeded West Liberty for a 6:30 p.m. contest on Thursday in quarterfinal action of the WVC tournament.

Moore, Osborne earn honors

PRINCETON — Forward Chad Moore and guard Brantley Osborne of the Shepherd University men’s basketball team have been honored by the West Virginia Conference. Moore is a second team all-WVC selection, while Osborne was named to the all-freshman team.

Moore leads the Rams in scoring (17.7 ppg), rebounding (9.4 rpg) and steals (2.1 spg). He is among the team leaders in field goal percentage with a .566 mark. Moore tops the team in blocked shots with 22. He leads the WVC in double-doubles with 14. His 24-rebound effort against Edinboro was the most in a game this season by any conference player.

Osborne is second on the team in scoring with a 12.7 average. Osborne paces the team in 3-pointers (69), 3-point attempts (148) and 3-point field goal percentage (.466). He leads the team in assists with a 2.7 average and is the top free throw shooter with a .865 (42-52) free throw percentage.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Rams’ Pitcock honored

PRINCETON — Pitcher Nichole Pitcock of the Shepherd University softball team was named West Virginia Conference Pitcher of the Week for her stand-out play for the Rams last week.

Pitcock established a school record with 15 strikeouts in a 2-1 victory over West Chester while walking just two.

With her victory, Pitcock now stands at 2-1 on the season.

COLLEGE LACROSSE

Shepherd’s Ruane recognized

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Nicole Ruane of the Shepherd University women’s lacrosse team was named to the Synapse Sports Division II honor roll for her superb play for the Rams in a 16-15 win over Shennandoah University on Saturday. Ruane tallied five goals and two assists to lead the Rams.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ram coaches reprimanded

CHARLESTON — Two Shepherd University football coaches and the school’s athletic director have been reprimanded for violating the NCAA’s rules against tobacco.

Head football coach Monte Caster, defensive coordinator and assistant coach Bob Haley and athletic director B.J. Pumroy were reprimanded Tuesday.

The NCAA said Caster and Pumroy had been warned about smokeless tobacco use prior to December’s NCAA Division II semifinal game against Delta State and failed to ensure compliance.

Haley was later seen on television spitting tobacco juice during the game while on Shepherd’s sideline.

The NCAA says Shepherd won’t be reimbursed for $600 in travel expenses to the game for the three.

Caster referred questions to Pumroy, who did not immediately return a telephone call from The Associated Press seeking comment.

— Staff and wire reports
It wasn’t a rousing Senior Night at Shepherd on Saturday when the Rams lost their regular season finale to Washington Adventist, 72-68, as the Shock mostly led from the opening tip to the very end where they scored the night’s last four points in the final minute.

The Rams only had two seniors, Jonathan Motichka and Dave Karlson, and saluted them before taking on the Shock, a team located in Takoma Park, Maryland that had beaten Shepherd on its home court.

Once the Shock took a 2-3 lead, it extended it to 8-4 before Shepherd could score.

Motichka’s layup brought Shepherd back to within 13-9 with 9:05 left in the first half. The closest the Rams came to the Washington Adventist lead was at 22-20 with 4:22 to play in the first half. The Shock had a 31-26 lead at intermission.

Shepherd was able to even it 39-39 when Chad Moore scored on a lay up with 14:35 showing. But the Rams could never get in front as Washington Adventist forged ahead at 60-51 with 8:49 left. Shepherd had one run remaining.

Trailing, 68-60, with only 1:27 showing, the Rams were able to score the next eight points on Motichka’s two free throws, Brantley Osborne’s three-pointer, and Moichka’s three-pointer. It was 68-68 with just 59 seconds to play.

But the Shock scored the game’s last four points to preserve what they had carved out for fully 39 minutes before the belated Shepherd rally.

Khalid Martin led the Shock with his 22 points. Reserve Brandon Washington added 16 points. Antonio Ortega had 10 points and both Eric Peguero and Jamie Newton scored eight points.

Motichka led the Rams with 22 points while reserve Morgan McDonald had a season-high 16 points, Chad Moore (who had 10 first-half points) added 12 points and Osborne another 11 points.

Shepherd was outrebounded, 42-34, even though Moore had 12 rebounds. Peguero and Washington both had 10 rebounds for the Shock.

The Shock was 20-for-29 (69 percent) from the free throw line and Shepherd was only 6-for-10 (60 percent).

Shepherd closed its regular season with a 13-15 overall record and the Shock was 16-16 overall.

The Rams finished ninth in the 15-team WVIAC. They played at eighth-place Wheeling Jesuit on Tuesday in the conference tournament’s first round. The rest of the tournament will be played in Charleston on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.
Lady Rams get balanced scoring in win

With five players scoring in double figures, the Shepherd women closed out the regular season portion of their schedule with a 69-62 win over Davis & Elkins. The WVIAC victory left the Lady Rams with a 12-10 league record and clinched a home date in the first round of the annual conference tournament. Shepherd was in seventh place in the league after improving its overall record to 14-12.

Davis & Elkins was in 13th place in the 15-team conference and had 3-18 WVIAC mark and a 5-22 overall record.

Shepherd played its first-round game in the WVIAC tournament this past Monday. If the Lady Rams won, they will continue play in the tourney today (Wednesday) in the quarterfinals in Charleston. The event continues on through Saturday when the championship game is scheduled.

Shepherd’s double-figure scorers against the beleaguered Senators were Shelby Fayak (15 points), Jerica Hewett (12 points), Emily Daniel (11 points), Carrie Saunders (11 points), and reserve guard Hannah Safita (10 points).

Page Turner led Davis & Elkins with her 19 points on only 5-of-14 from the field. Turner was 6-for-7 from the free throw line.

Shepherd outrebounded the Senators, 40-31, with Hewett and Fayak both nailing nine missed shots. Daniel collared seven rebounds. Daniel and Hewett each had five assists to pace Shepherd in that category. Daniel had four steals.

Fayak’s 6-for-8 shooting from the floor was Shepherd’s best field goal effort, but Daniel was 5-for-7, Safita was 4-for-7, and Saunders was 4-for-8.

The Lady Rams were 27-for-57 (47.4 percent) from the floor as a team while Davis & Elkins was only 20-for-53 (37.7 percent). The Senators were much better than the Lady Rams at the foul line, going 15-for-19 (78.9 percent), while Shepherd was only 9-of-17 (52.9 percent).

Shepherd led only 32-30 at the half.

Davis & Elkins took a 43-40 lead with 13:38 to play. But Shepherd outscored the Senators, 12-4, over the next four minutes to assume a 52-49 lead.

Davis & Elkins was able to get ties at 57-57, 61-61, and 62-62, the last at the 1:04 mark.

Hewett’s three-pointer with only 1:29 remaining pushed Shepherd into a 65-55 lead.

Shepherd actually counted the game’s last five points as Hewett made a layup. Fayak’s two successful free throws closed out the game’s scoring.

Hewett and Saunders were the Shepherd seniors playing their final regular season game. Saunders had a pair of three-point field goals to establish a single season record with 48 for the 2010-11 campaign.

Rams level Senators in league finale

Shepherd took an early seventh place lead and then extended its advantage all the way to 18 points by halftime as it closed out its regular season with a 78-53 win over visiting Davis & Elkins last Wednesday at the Butcher Center.

The Rams finished their 22-game WVIAC season with a 10-12 record and their regular season with a 13-14 mark. The Senators were 9-12 in the conference with one league game remaining. They were 10-15 overall.

Chad Moore led a five-player group of Shepherd scorers in double figures with his 19 points. He also had a team-leading six rebounds and team-leading six assists.

Also scoring in double figures for the Rams were Brantley Osborne (15 points), Dave Karbon (14 points, six rebounds), Jonathan Mote (10 points), and Aeron Spencer (10 points).

Moore was 7-for-10 from the floor, Osborne was 6-for-10, and Karbon was 6-for-9 as Shepherd was 28-for-56 (50 percent) as a team. The Rams made 9-of-19 (47.4 percent) of their three-point attempts and went 13-for-16 (81 percent) from the free throw line.

Shepherd’s turnover total was only 12 as compared with the Senators’ 19.

Davis & Elkins got 15 points from Reggie Cook and 11 from Malik Tinsley.

In losing for the 15th time in the 2010-11 season, Davis & Elkins fared poorly from the field where it made only 20-of-57 (35 percent) attempts, including a raw 4-of-18 (22 percent) from three-point range. Converting only 9-of-14 (64 percent) of its free throws also hurt the Senators.

In the first half, Shepherd held a slender 15-13 lead but then ran off 15 unanswered points to get away from the struggling Senators.

The 18-point halftime lead was once extended to 60-39 with 7:25 remaining.

The Rams outscored the Senators 14-6 in the final 5:42 of the second half.

Shepherd temporarily moved into eighth place in the WVIAC standings and Davis & Elkins was in 10th place in the 15-team conference with the loss.
Eagles end Tribe’s season

Office of Student Life

Shepherd University

March 3, 2011

Publication: The Journal

FLATWOODS — The Berkeley Springs girls suffered a painful finish to their basketball season on Wednesday.

The second-ranked Indians dropped their second straight postseason game, falling 50-53 to Braxton County, after completing the regular season at 21-1.

The Indians dealt with one more bout of an illness/injury that saddled them down the stretch as leading scorer Dierdra Burch suffered from flu-like symptoms with a chance to make the Elite Eight in Charleston on the line.

She scored 16 points in limited play before fouling out as the Indians watched the Eagles pull away after holding an 18-16 lead at halftime.

Berkeley Springs lost second-leading scorer Sarah Haynes to an injury on Friday in a sectional final loss to Frankfort and also lost third-leading scorer Harlie Stotler to an injury over the last couple of weeks. Stotler played briefly against Braxton.

"It was kind of a disappointing end, but I haven’t been more proud of a group of girls we had," Berkeley Springs coach Dale McCummee said. "They faced a lot of adversity at the end of the season."

They won last and did it with class.

Casey Solomon added eight points for the Indians.

Cort Phillips scored all of her game-high 17 points in the fourth quarter for Braxton County. The Eagles’ leading scorer, Taylor Bragg, scored 11 of her 13 points in the first half. Hunter Sodaro added 10 points for Braxton.

“We had a lot of kids physically hurt,” McCummee said. “It just wasn’t to be.

“They had a great regular season, something to be proud of.”

Martinsburg seeded 8th PARKEESBURG — The Martinsburg girls received the No. 8 and last seed for the Class AAA girls basketball tournament in Charleston, it was announced Wednesday.

The Bulldogs will play two-time defending state champion North Marion at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

They’ll be hoping for a better result than two regular-season meetings with the Huskies.

Martinsburg lost 74-48 at home and 77-41 at North Marion during two games played five days apart.

Martinsburg qualified for the round of eight after a 53-43 win on Tuesday over Robert C. Byrd in the Region II tournament.

WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Charleston 74,

Shepherd 62

CHARLESTON — Lindsey Kenter scored 18 points and Tarena Dixon and Ali Tobias each added 17 to lead top-seeded University of Charleston to a win over Shepherd in quarterfinal action of the West Virginia Conference women’s basketball tournament at the Civic Center.

Junior forward Shelby Gayak scored 14 points and grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds to lead the Rams.

Senior guard Carrie Saunders also was in double figures with 11 points.

Senior guard Jerica Hewett added eight points, six boards and three assists. Junior guard Katie Biggs tossed in nine points, while sophomore guard Emily Daniel had six points and grabbed eight rebounds.

UC led by as many as 17 points in the second half, but Shepherd rallied late to close to within seven points at 67-60 on a 3-pointer by Saunders with 3:03 left.

The Rams would get no closer.

Charleston shot 41.4 percent (23 of 56) from the floor while limiting Shepherd to a 27.4 percent (24 of 88) shooting performance.

The Golden Eagles had a 54-44 advantage on the boards.

Charleston had a 38-31 lead at halftime behind a 50 percent (15 of 30) shooting effort from the floor.

Shepherd completed its season at 15-13, while Charleston improved to 23-6.

The Golden Eagles advance to face Seton Hall at 11 p.m. in tournament semifinal action on Friday.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Shepherd splits with IUP

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd University split a doubleheader with Indiana University of Pennsylvania on Wednesday. IUP won the opener with an 11-0 victory, while the Rams gained the split with a 9-2 win in the nightcap.

Pitcher Nicole Fitcock scattered six hits to improve to 3-1 in the Shepherd win.

Fitcock fanned seven and walked only two in a complete-game victory. Kelly King took the loss for the Crimson Hawks.

Trailing 1-0 in the nightcap, Shepherd rallied with four runs in the fourth inning.

Outfielder Casie Mand had an RBI single, while infielder Cammie Orlandi and outfielder Amber Duleck each drove in runs on a fielder’s choice to key the rally. Indiana (Pa.) cut the lead to 2-1 in the fifth when Madella Ciaschini singled and later scored on RBI single by Megan McCormick.

Shepherd sealed the win with five runs in the bottom of the frame.

A two-run single up the middle by catcher Kris Durham highlighted the rally.

Fitcock, Durham, Duleck and Mand each had a pair of hits for the Rams.

Iachini went 2-for-4 to lead IUP.

Erin Holloway (5.0 IP, 9Ks, 1 BB) tossed a complete game one-hitter for IUP in the opener.

Sophomore pitcher Brooke Staunbaugh (Stykesville, MD) (0.1 IP, 5 Ks, 3 BB) took the loss for the Rams to fall to 1-3.

Fitcock singled in the fourth for Shepherd’s only hit.

McCormick had two hits and drove in four runs, while Indiana (Pa.) went 2-2.

The Rams return to action Saturday when they host Concord for a noon doubleheader.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Washington Adventist 18, Shepherd 7

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd University dropped a decision to Washington Adventist in non-conference baseball action at Fairfax Field on Tuesday afternoon.

Jasyn Czurylas went 3 for 5 with four runs batted in and a pair of runs scored to lead a 14-hit attack for The Rock.

Will Nelson added a 4-for-6 outing with three runs scored and a pair of runs batted in.

Shepherd took a 2-0 lead in the inning behind a sacrifice fly from Dillon Regalia and an RBI single off the bat of outfielder Nash Hatter.

The Rams added a run in the third when infielder Aaron Scoville led off with a single and later scored on an RBI single by infielder Jake Cook.

The Shock took the lead for good in the fourth with five runs on five hits.

Cook led the Rams with a 2 for 4 performance with two RBIs and a pair of runs scored.

Shepherd hosts Elizabeth City State today in one nine-inning game.

— Staff reports
Minnich, Shepherd slam ECS

By Eric Jones
Journal Sports Writer

Shepherdstown — Shepherd’s Nathan Minnich entered Thursday’s game against Elizabeth City State with two home runs. With two swings of the bat, Minnich doubled his team-leading home run total to four, all part of a monster day at the plate for the junior first baseman.

Minnich finished 4 for 4 with six RBI as he helped power Shepherd past the Vikings, 18-4, at Fairfax Field.

"It felt good," said Minnich of his afternoon. "Coach gave us a little pep talk before the game saying that we had to lead by example, and I guess I was able to do that today."

"Today was a big win for us, a big confidence booster."

While Minnich put on a hitting clinic against Elizabeth City, it was in the Rams’ eighth-inning third inning that he did most of his damage. He started off the inning with a single, his second hit of the day, then scored when Brandon Coffey walked with the bases loaded.

The big blow to the Vikings came later in the inning from Minnich with two outs and the bases loaded. Minnich took a pitch from Elizabeth City starter Michael Duke and sent it over the center field scoreboard for a grand slam, giving the Rams a 12-1 lead.

Dillon Regalia, Nick Impellizzeri and Val Ardulài also picked up RBI in the third inning. Minnich also homered in the first inning, as he and Brian Collins hit back-to-back bombs to give Shepherd (3-2) its first two runs of the game. He drove in his final run of the game with a single in the fourth inning.

"I thought he had a great day at the plate and made some good swings," Shepherd coach

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Rams

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Wayne Riser said, "He’s a doggone good hitter. And that’s not just me saying that, the numbers speak for themselves. He’s played two years and has something like 27 home runs."

"He’s made some changes and is off to a great start this season."

Shepherd as a team hit the ball well with a total of 15 hits and four players with multiple hits. Regalia finished right behind Minnich with three hits and five RBI, while Collins and Jake Cook had two hits apiece.

Edward Tamarez had three hits to lead Elizabeth City (5-8).

Another positive for the Rams was Shepherd’s performance on the mound, specifically starter Derek Buckley, who in his first college start, held the Vikings in check. The freshman pitched four innings, allowing just one earned run on three hits and striking out two.

"I was encouraged by Buckley’s performance. For his first-ever start, he did all the fundamental things and gave us a chance to win," Riser said.

Riser was pretty happy with the overall performance of the Rams, who rebounded from a 9-run loss to Washington Adventist.

"We caught the ball well, which has hurt us early in the season. We did some things better and seem to be heading into a good direction. I’m still not ready to call us a good baseball team, but we’re getting there."

Shepherd next hosts Boonsburg on Saturday and Sunday.

"We have a big three-game series coming up, and that will be a great indicator of where we’re at as team early on," he said.
Shepherd's Nathan Minnich connects on a grand slam home run in the third inning of the Rams' win over Elizabeth City State on Wednesday.