Jeremy Bell signs with Shepherd University

PHS tight end set school record for TD receptions

April 15, 2012
By KERRY PATRICK (kpatri@newsandsentinel.com), Parkersburg News and Sentinel

PARKERSBURG - Shepherd University plans to throw the football more and that could mean additional air time for Jeremy Bell.

The tight end from Parkersburg High School recently signed a national letter of intent to play for the Rams' football program. "They want me to play as a freshman at H-back," Bell said.

At 6-foot-5, Bell provided PHS with a perfect target, especially against smaller defensive backs. In his senior season, he caught 49 passes for 754 yards and 10 touchdowns. Bell completed his high school career setting a Big Red record for career touchdown receptions and finished second in receiving yards.

"Jeremy is just a great athlete," PHS coach Don Reeves said. "We were fortunate that he was one of our taller kids, but he also jumps really well. That enabled him to catch balls for us in the underneath coverage."

Bell will learn from one of the most successful Division II coaches in Monte Cater, who is the school's all-time winningest coach after leading the program for the past 25 seasons.

Last fall, the Rams finished 9-2.

"From the beginning, I felt like there was a connection with (coach Cater) and I," Bell said. "That should help me throughout my four years at Shepherd."

Coach Cater and his staff signed 14 recruits for the upcoming season. Bell was the lone tight end, but there were three other wide receivers on the list.

"I'll definitely work my butt off to earn a playing role," Bell said.

Even though Shepherdstown is located 4 hours away, Bell will actually be within shouting range of his older brother (Justin) who lives in New Jersey. Justin Bell has served as a motivational source throughout Jeremy's career.

"Justin's always pushed me in ways no one else could and that helped a lot," Jeremy Bell said. "Because he is in the Air Force, he couldn't go to my games my junior and senior year. But it's a big thing that he will be able to come to some of my college games."

Not only did Bell excel on the gridiron, but he also was a major contributor for the PHS basketball team. On the Class AAA all-state team, he earned honorable mention honors while averaging 10.6 points and 8.3 rebounds for a Big Red squad that advanced to the state semifinals this past winter.

"We really did have a successful season in both sports," Bell said. "It was definitely an experience I would love to do it over again. I wish I could, but it's time to move on to the next thing."

Bell, who is the son of Mike and Missy Bell, plans to major in business.
Shepherd 11, Alderson-Broaddus 9
PHILIPPI, W.Va. — Aaron Scoville hit a two-run double in the fifth inning to give Shepherd University the lead on Sunday as the Rams held on for a WVIAA victory over Alderson-Broaddus.

Shepherd (25-13, 18-6) used a 13-hit attack to pull out the victory. Bryan DiRosario went 3-for-4 and scored three times, while Scoville and Michael Lott added two hits each.
The Rams jumped out to a 6-0 lead in the second, highlighted by Scoville’s two-run single.

Reliever Trevor Appleby (5-3) recorded the win, allowing a run on seven hits in 3 2/3 innings of work. Paul Hvozdovic pitched a hitless inning for his third save.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Rams lose two
INSTITUTE, W.Va. — Shepherd University dropped a pair of games to West Virginia State, 8-0 and 1-0.

Sam McQuade, of McConnellsburg, Pa., had three hits in the opener for Shepherd (29-20, 16-6 WVIAA).

WOMEN’S LACROSSE
Slippery Rock 22, Shepherd 13
SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. – Holly Webb tallied four goals as Slippery Rock defeated Shepherd University on Sunday.

Slippery Rock opened the game on a 11-2 run, leading to a 17-6 halftime lead.

Junior midfielder Nicole Ruane led the Rams (10-4) with four goals to set a school record for goals in a season with 59. Krista Tippett, Jenny Cavey, and Hayley Roper added two goals each for Shepherd.
Lady Rams divide games with Fairmont

SHEPHERDSTOWN—Shepherd and Fairmont divided a WVIAC softball doubleheader last Wednesday. The Fighting Falcons used a seventh inning run to snap a tie and get a 4-3 win in the opener, but then Shepherd used the shutout pitching of Tiffany Biggs to secure a 1-0 win in eight innings in the nightcap.

The splitting of the two WVIAC games left Shepherd with a 27-18 overall record and a 14-4 conference mark. The Lady Rams were in third place in the league standings. Fairmont was 23-16 overall and stood in fifth place in the conference with a 12-4 record.

In the opener, Shepherd had a 3-0 lead behind the pitching of Tricia Betura. But the Fighting Falcons scored runs in the sixth (to make it a 3-3 game) and then went in front, 4-3, with a run in the seventh. Terri Lynn Wolfe had an RBI triple to plate the tie-breaking run in the seventh.

In the low-scoring nightcap, Biggs went eight innings and fanned 11 to keep Fairmont at bay. She yielded only two hits.

Shepherd scored in the eighth when Elisa Orlandi scored from third on an infield hit by Chelsie Oals. The win in the nightcap snapped a short three-game losing skid the Lady Rams found themselves in after dropping a doubleheader to visiting Lock Haven of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference on April 9.
Shepherd baseball coach Wayne Riser is given a plaque by university president Suzanne Shipley commemorating his 500th win in 22 seasons with the Rams.
More honors for Shepherd’s Minnich

April 20, 2012
Shepherdstown Chronicle

Senior first baseman Nathan Minnich of the Shepherd University baseball team has been named National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Atlantic Region Player of the Week for the second consecutive week.

Minnich posted a .692 batting average on the week, helping the Rams to a 5-0 week. Minnich belted a pair of home runs and had a double while raising his batting average to .531 for the season. In a sweep of West Liberty, he went seven-for-seven with six RBI and six runs scored. Minnich was walked five times and hit by four pitches on the week as well. He still posted six RBI and scored nine runs in the week.
The Shepherd University Department of Athletics has announced its upcoming 2012 Summer Athletics Sports Camps schedule.

Shepherd has an excellent variety of low cost sports camps coming up in June and July. Included for girls are volleyball, soccer, basketball and softball; boys’ camps include baseball, football, soccer and basketball plus coed soccer camps. For more information or to register a camper, go to www.shepherdbook.com or phone 304-876-5219.

Enrollment in these camps is limited.
From Inwood:

Come out and support your local schools at 3 p.m. Sunday at Shepherd University for the first full-contact alumni football game. Martinsburg vs. Musselman. Rosters include graduates from 1986 to 2011.
Area Roundup: Shepherd tennis falls in conference semis

April 22, 2012
journal-news.net

CHARLESTON - Shepherd University dropped a 5-1 decision to Bluefield State on Saturday night in the semifinal round of the West Virginia Conference men's tennis tournament in Charleston.

The Big Blues jumped out to a 2-1 lead after the doubles matches. BSC won at No. 2 and No. 3, but the Rams posted a stellar win at the No. 1 spot.

At No. 2, Shikhar Kapur and Piotr Kruk notched an 8-3 win over Steve Kolumban and Michael Lesko. Third-seeded Conner Pickering and Gautam Sreearam downed Steve Lesko and Al Starlings by an 8-4 score. SU's Chris Pratt and Taylor Boyle registered an 8-6 come-from-behind win over the Big Blues' Vlad Catlan and Niklas Sparr 8-6.

In singles action, third-seeded Kruk accounted for a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Kolumban while Sparr downed Steve Lesko 6-2, 6-1 at the No. 5 slot. The winning point came from the No. 2 seed, Catlan. He amassed a 6-3, 6-2 win over Michael Lesko.
Best of the Best

Rams’ Minnich among nation’s top Division II baseball players

April 24, 2012
By Eric Jones - Journal Sports Writer (ejones@journal-news.net), journal-news.net

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Nathan Minnich stepped to the plate with the bases loaded twice in a game earlier this season against Ohio Valley.

Members of both teams and those in the stands watching were expecting nothing less than a big hit from Shepherd’s first baseman, who has come through so many times for the Rams.

So when Minnich, the 6-foot-3, 240-pound senior, popped out both times and didn’t produce that big hit, there was a definite look of surprise on the faces of those in attendance.

It was a rare occurrence.

Rare because nine times out of ten, Minnich would have delivered in that situation, situations clutch hitters like Minnich salivate over.

"Those are the kinds of situations I want to be up there for," Minnich said.

And the situations he delivers in.

Minnich came into the 2012 season with major expectations after putting together a 2011 campaign that ranks as one of the best in Shepherd history. Minnich finished as the West Virginia Conference Player of the Year and garnered several regional player of the year awards.

He also was among Division II’s best players, finishing eighth in final voting for the Tino Martinez Division II Player of the Year Award.

So, needless to say, there were a lot of expectations for him to live up to.

"Expectations were set high, especially with the season I had last year. As far as pressure, I put pressure on myself, it’s not really coming from anyone else.

"Coming in as a senior, I knew I was expected to come up with the big hit. That was my role, and I took it as a challenge. I just have to come out and hit like I know I’m capable of."

"We expected Nathan to do what he’s done since he’s been here - come out, be a good teammate and play to his potential," Shepherd coach Wayne Riser said. "It’s hard to repeat what he did last year, but he got in a groove early, and he’s swinging the bat well, just like he’s done from Day 1 when he got here."

Not only is Minnich living up to last year’s performance, he’s actually topped his numbers from last season.

Through 41 games, with 122 at-bats, Minnich has racked up 61 hits, 57 RBI, 19 home runs and has scored 54 runs.

He’s the Division II leader in on-base percentage (.652), slugging percentage (1.041) and home runs per game (.46). He’s also top five in the nation in walks (43), batting average (.500) and walks (43) and ninth in the country in RBI.
Minnich leads eight categories in the WVC and is the Rams’ leader in nine different categories, after leading them in seven categories last year.

One of those categories is walks, which Minnich has seen plenty of this season, part of being a top-notch hitter.

“It can be frustrating,” said Minnich of the walks. “I understand why they’re doing it, but it’s frustrating because you want to go up there and get a hit. But it’s part of the game, and I take it as a sign of respect.”

With a lot of work in the offseason, Minnich has taken his game to a whole new level, putting him as one of Shepherd’s all-time best hitters. Earlier this year, he established a new career home run mark, and last weekend, he tied the school record for single-season home runs with his 19th of the year.

“The baseball gods are on my side,” Minnich said.

Or maybe all the hard work of the past four years has paid off.

“First, he’s just a talented guy,” Riser said. “He also has a great work ethic, and he’s coachable. He’s willing to listen to any instruction given to him – he’s not above being coached.”

Minnich also credits his confidence level at the plate for his success.

“The biggest improvement is probably just my confidence. You have to come out and be confident when you step to the plate, and that’s what I try to do,” Minnich said.

What’s left to do for Minnich is help Shepherd win the WVC tournament. Then, he’ll have to prepare for a number of postseason honors that are most certainly coming his way.
COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Rams earn No. 4 seed

SHEPHERDSTOWN - The Shepherd softball team will be the No. 4 seed in this weekend's West Virginia Conference softball tournament.

The Rams (31-22) will open the tournament against Fairmont State at 10 a.m. Thursday. Shepherd split a doubleheader with the Falcons earlier this season.

West Virginia Wesleyan is the top seed as the regular-season champion.

COLLEGE GOLF

Shepherd finishes sixth

MOUNDSVILLE - The Shepherd University men's golf team finished sixth out of 10 teams at the Wheeling Jesuit Spring Invitational at the Moundsville Country Club. Davis & Elkins took team honors with a two-day total of 619, while Ryan Thomson of West Liberty was the individual winner with a 143.

Senior Cameron Beckner fired a two-round total of 156 to finish in a tie for eighth place.

He was followed by sophomore Bryan Milburn, senior Chris Gilkey (162, T-20th), and freshman Tim Wilson (182, 41st).
Kids meet Shepherd baseball team

April 24, 2012
journal-news.net

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd University's baseball team and President Suzanne Shipley hosted 60 second-grade students from Shepherdstown Elementary School on March 18.

Students from Nicole Austin, Steve Emshiler, and Liza Jonczak's classes attended as part of their recent reading of "Just like Josh Gibson," a story about Josh Gibson's successes that serve as a catalyst to a young African-American girl. The reading program was part of Shepherdstown Elementary's cultural, diversity, and tolerance lessons.

The students were greeted by coach Wayne Riser and then joined by Shipley as they watched the Rams play Concord.
Shepherd Baseball Forfeits Four Games

WVIAC
MetroNews Sports

The WVIAC baseball standings have been adjusted to address a situation involving Shepherd University. Shepherd impermissibly allowed an ineligible student-athlete to participate in two contests on March 21 and two contests on March 25, 2012.

For WVIAC standing purposes only, the games in which the student-athlete impermissibly played will be considered forfeited wins to the opposing team. The games will be forfeited to allow for proper calculation in the Power Rating system and for seeding the WVIAC baseball tournament. The matter has been reported to the NCAA for action by the Enforcement and Championship staffs.
Three Rustburg Football Players Will Play in College

The Rustburg High School football program is proud to announce that three of its players will continue their playing careers at the next level. Billy Bogolin, a 6'5" 320lb 2nd Team All-Seminole District Center, will continue his career at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Billy has also been selected to play in the Central/Southwest Virginia All-Star classic in Roanoke on June 22.
Shepherd fifth in region baseball poll

After splitting six games in a pair of three-game series against Alderson-Broaddus and Fairmont, the Shepherd baseball team is currently rated fifth in the NCAA Division II Atlantic Region.

The Rams are 26-15 overall going into Tuesday’s doubleheader against conference rival Glenville.

Atop the Atlantic Region is season-long pace-setter Seton Hill, now 37-7 overall.

Following the Griffins are three Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference teams — second-ranked West Chester, third-ranked Mercyhurst, and fourth-ranked Kutztown.

Shepherd is fifth and then come Winston-Salem State, Shippensburg, West Virginia Wesleyan, East Stroudsburg, and California of Pennsylvania.

Shepherd is slated to wrap up its original schedule this weekend with three conference games against Pitt-Johnstown in Shepherdstown at Fairfax Field. There is a 1 p.m. doubleheader scheduled on Saturday and a 1 p.m. single game slated for Sunday afternoon.
SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd and Fairmont divided a WVIAC softball doubleheader last Wednesday. The Fighting Falcons used a seventh inning run to snap a tie and get a 4-3 win in the opener, but then Shepherd used the shutout pitching of Tiffany Biggs to secure a 1-0 win in eight innings in the nightcap.

The splitting of the two WVIAC games left Shepherd with a 27-18 overall record and a 14-4 conference mark. The Lady Rams were in third place in the league standings. Fairmont was 23-16 overall and stood in fifth place in the conference with a 12-4 record.

In the opener, Shepherd had a 3-0 lead behind the pitching of Tricia Bettura. But the Fighting Falcons scored runs in the sixth (to make it a 3-3 game) and then went in front, 4-3, with a run in the seventh. Terri Lynn Wolfe had an RBI triple to plate the tie-breaking run in the seventh.

In the low-scoring nightcap, Biggs went eight innings and fanned 11 to keep Fairmont at bay. She yielded only two hits.

Shepherd scored in the eighth when Elisa Orlandi scored from third on an infield hit by Chelsie Oals.

The win in the nightcap snapped a short three-game losing skid the Lady Rams found themselves in after dropping a doubleheader to visiting Lock Haven of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference on April 9.
Baseball Rams tread water in North Division

In the past fortnight, Shepherd traded baseball wins and losses like they were playing the Dow Industrials on the New York Stock Exchange.

First of all, the Rams won two of three games in Phillipi against WVIAC North Division rival, Alderson-Broaddus. But then when they were back in Shepherdstown at Fairfax Field they dropped two of three games against another North Division rival, Fairmont.

The results of those six conference games left the Rams with an 18-8 North Division mark -- good for second place behind only Seton Hill -- and a 26-15 overall record.

In the three game set against Alderson-Broad- dus, Shepherd outlasted the Battlers, 11-9, in a single game played on April 15. Bryan DiRosario went 3-for-4 and Aaron Scoville had two hits and drove in four runs. Travis Sluger homered and drove in a pair of runs.

Trevor Appleby pitched 3.2 innings in relief for the win and Paul Hvozdovic registered a four-out save.

In the opener of a April 14 doubleheader, it was Hvozdovic notching his ninth win as the Rams downed the Battlers, 7-1. Hvozdovic improved his record to 9-2 with a three-hitter

◆ See RAMS Page B2
Rams
FROM PAGE B1

while fanning five. He walked none.

Nathan Minnich clubbed two home runs (his 17th and 18th of the season) and scored three runs. Nash Hutter homered, had two hits and four RBIs. Ryan Messina homered and was 2-for-3.

The Battlers won the nightcap of the April 14 doubleheader, 10-9, when they scored three last-inning runs off Shepherd losing pitcher Justin Byrd. Byrd had also allowed runs in the six-run sixth inning the Battlers had when they chased Shepherd starter Andrew Gallant.

Byrd allowed six earned runs in 2.1 innings.

Hutter was 2-for-2 with two RBIs. Brandon Coffey drove in three runs and Sluger went 2-for-4, but Shepherd collected only seven hits.

On Friday, April 20 at Fairfax Field, the Rams were swept in a doubleheader by Fairmont. The Fighting Falcons posted a 5-3 win in the first game then completed their sweep with a 9-8 win in the nightcap.

In the opener, Hvozdovic suffered only his third loss when he yielded five runs (four earned) in five innings. He left, trailing 5-2.

Of the eight hits Shepherd had, Chad Murphy was 2-for-4 with two RBIs and Jake Cook went 2-for-3.

In the one-run loss in the nightcap, Shepherd actually scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh to take the game into extra innings at 8-8. But the Fighting Falcons plated an eighth-inning run off Rams’ pitcher Byrd to seal the victory.

Michael Lott and Cook had Shepherd homers and Lott had three hits and three RBIs.

Sluger, Coffey, and Cook all contributed two hits.

Shepherd made five errors in the game.

Salvaging at least one win in the three-game series, the Rams managed 18 hits last Saturday to get an 18-8 conference win over the Fighting Falcons.

Reliever Brian Martin went the last four innings of the nine-inning game to register his first save of the campaign. Even though he was tagged for two runs in 2.2 innings, Byrd was credited with the win after starter Appleby could only go 2.1 innings while allowing six runs.

Murphy was 3-for-4 with three RBIs and Minnich was 3-for-5 with three RBIs and three runs scored while hammering another home run, his 19th of the year.

Lott went 3-for-5 and scored three times. Kenny Beyer, Travis Sluger, and Coffey all had two hits with Sluger scoring four runs and Coffey scoring three times.

The Rams close out their home schedule with a 1 p.m. doubleheader at Fairfax Field on Saturday against North Division rival Pitt-Johnstown and then a 1 p.m. single game on Sunday against the same Mountain Cats.
Express Receiver Gets NFL Shot

Current Express wide receiver and former Shepherd University student Dominique Jones has been a household name so far this season. While leading the team in receiving and making spectacular grabs, Jones has caught the eye of the NFL's Indianapolis Colts.

Jones left Tuesday night for Indianapolis where he will get a chance to try out and make the Colts roster.

Jones uses his combination of height and strength along with his reliable hands to snatch footballs away from defenders. Through seven games with the Express, he leads the team with 39 receptions and 349 receiving yards. Holding a spot as a top 10 receiver in the IFL this season, Jones has hauled in seven touchdowns.

During his senior year at Shepherd University, Jones racked up 34 receptions for a total of 403 yards and nine touchdowns. He also helped Shepherd advance to the Division II National Semi-Finals and a school record 12 wins. Jones was a third team All-American selection and a second team All-Conference selection as a senior.

Prior to playing with the Express, Jones gained professional football experience as a tight end for the UFL's Sacramento Mountain Lions.
Rams forfeit baseball games

Three wins become losses because of player-eligibility issue

April 25, 2012
By Rick Kozlowski - Journal Sports Editor (rkozlowski@journal-news.net) , journal-news.net

SHEPHERDSTOWN – Shepherd's position in the West Virginia Conference baseball standings took a hit on Tuesday when the league announced the Rams forfeited a pair of March doubleheaders in which an ineligible player participated.

The Rams had won three of the four games in question, splitting a doubleheader with Davis & Elkins and sweeping two games from Wheeling Jesuit.

However, all four games now count as losses on Shepherd's record.

As a result of the forfeits, Shepherd's position in the Northern Division standings was bumped to third before the Rams swept a doubleheader from Glenville State on Tuesday.

The league announced, "Shepherd impermissibly allowed an ineligible student-athlete to participate in two contests on March 21 and two contests on March 25."

Shepherd director of athletics B.J. Pumroy declined to name the player in question, saying, "I can't get into that," and the player's identity could not be determined accurately.

Pumroy said the player in question "dropped below full-time status" in the classroom, making him ineligible to play baseball. Student-athletes must carry 12 credit hours in the classroom to be considered a full-time student to maintain their eligibility.

However, the player has picked up the class, regained his eligibility and is with the team.

Shepherd officials discovered the academic situation concerning the player on March 26 and reported the development to the conference and NCAA, Pumroy said.

The league said "the matter has been reported to the NCAA for action by the Enforcement and Championship staffs."

Pumroy said he doesn't expect any further action from the NCAA.

"This is something that unfortunately occurs occasionally," said Pumroy, who noted he encountered a similar situation at a previous school in which he worked.

"We've been upright and upfront with the conference and the NCAA," Pumroy said. "We're doing things to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Shepherd dropped to third in the Northern Division standings, but it has a power rating of 141.65, compared with fourth-place Fairmont State's 117.41. The top four teams in each division advance to the WVC's postseason tournament.

"It was unfortunate, there's a mistake made and it was an administrative clerical error," Shepherd coach Wayne Riser said.

Riser said he was told to refer any other questions to the athletic
director.

Shepherd closes out the regular season with a three-game slate on Saturday and Sunday against visiting Pitt-Johnstown.

The Rams are 25-18 overall and 17-11 in the conference.

"We still can get in the league tournament," Pumroy said. "It's definitely in our hands."

The WVC tournament will be held May 10-13 in Johnstown, Pa.
COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Shepherd splits with A-B

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd University split with Alderson-Broadus in West Virginia Conference softball doubleheader action Tuesday. The Rams gained a 3-1 win in game one, while Alderson-Broadus earned a 2-1 victory in the nightcap.

Shepherd (10-21, 17-7) took a 1-0 lead in the first inning in game one when senior third baseman Chebbie Oals walked and later scored on a single by freshman outfielder Tayler Schaefer.

The Rams added a run in the second when freshman designated player Savannah Snyder singled and later came home on a single off the bat of freshman catcher Elisa Orlandi.

Alderson-Broadus cut the lead to 2-1 when Adrienne Daniels singled and later scored. The Rams added a run in the sixth when junior outfielder Banca Biondillo led off with a single and scored when freshman pinch-hitter Shanice Plunkett reached base on a fielder's choice.

Schaefer paced the Rams with a 2-for-3 effort.

Tricia Bettura (7 IP, 7 Ks, 0 BB) allowed only two hits as she improved to 13-13. Kat Powell (6 IP, 3 K, 1 BB) took the loss for the Battlers.

The Battlers took a 1-0 lead in the first in the nightcap when Kristy Kellogg led off with a single and was later plated on a double by Powell.

Shepherd scored in the sixth when Oals reached on a walk and later scored on an infield error.

Junior pitcher Tiffany Biggs (7 IP, 3 Ks, 1 BB) took the loss to drop to 15-7. Ali Neace (7 IP, 4 Ks, 3 BB) tossed a three-hitter to pick up the win for A-B to improve to 11-4.
MEN'S COLLEGE

TENNIS

Shepherd advances

CHARLESTON - Fourth-seeded Shepherd held off West Liberty 5-3 in a
3 1/2 hour marathon in the quarterfinals of the West Virginia
Conference men's tennis championship.

The Rams posted two victories in doubles action for a 2-1 lead heading
into singles play.

In the doubles competition, the Hilltoppers' Ivan Irazabal and Ayman
Barakat garnered an 8-4 win over Chris Pratt and Taylor Boyle.
Shepherd responded with wins in the other two doubles matches.
Michael Lesko and Steven Kolumban downed Erik Jahreskog and Jesus
Gimenez 8-5 at No. 2 while Steven Lesko and Al Starlings defeated
Tyler McCullough and Logan Jarrett 8-6 at No. 3.

WLU won the top two singles matches. Irazabal notched a 6-4, 6-4
victory at the top spot while Jahreskog won 6-3, 6-3 at the No. 2
position.

The Rams picked up wins at No. 3, No. 5 and No. 6. Kolumban won at
No. 3 6-1, 3-6, 6-4. Kent Thomas won at the No. 5 slot 7-6 (2), 6-1
while Steven Lesko posted a 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (9) victory at No. 5.

Shepherd will face top-seeded Bluefield State in semifinal action today.

Shepherd's Pratt

all-conference

PRINCETON Sophomore Chris Pratt of the Shepherd University men's
tennis team gained all-conference honors as announced by the league
office on Friday. Pratt gained first team honors for the second
consecutive year.

Pratt posted a 14-6 mark at No. 1 singles and added a 12-9 record at
No. 1 doubles.
SU Softball to host Junior Day Prospect Camp, Showcase

April 27, 2012
Shepherdstown Chronicle

Shepherd University head softball coach Leslie Lopez announced that Shepherd will host the Junior Day Prospect Camp, Showcase and Recruiting Education Seminar. Junior Day is for 2013 and 2014 high school graduates who are interested in playing intercollegiate softball. The one-day event will be held on Wednesday, June 20, at Shepherd's softball field. The Butcher Center will be used in case of inclement weather as the event will be held rain or shine. Junior Day is strictly limited to 64 high school softball players.

The Junior Day Prospect Camp, Showcase and Recruiting Education Seminar is an event designed to be productive and educational for student-athlete and her family. The camp will feature coaches from all levels of NCAA softball as Towson University, University of Maryland Baltimore County and Shenandoah University have all had coaches commit to attend this event. In all, there will be approximately seven different colleges represented at Junior Day. Shepherd University is currently one of three host sites for this event nationwide. Other events are also being held at the University of Hartford in Connecticut and Bellarmine University in Kentucky.

For the student-athlete the day will feature intense instruction from the college coaches, games, evaluations and lecture. For parents, family and players there will be the highly regarded Recruiting Education Seminar. The goal of the seminar is to help answer questions, bust myths and learn the recruiting rules of the NCAA. The camp will feature topics such as:

"How to promote yourself" and "What college coaches look for."

All interested student-athletes can visit www.JuniorDaySoftball.com to register for camp and learn all of the details. Contact Coach Lopez at or (304) 671-7032.
Rams down Fairmont Falcons

April 27, 2012
By James P. Whipple - Special to the Chronicle, Shepherdstown Chronicle

It was a game that had everything but a no hitter. After the dust settled the Shepherd Rams were the winners over Fairmont State Falcons by a score of 18-8 on Saturday.

Shepherd University took on Fairmont State in an afternoon game at Fairfax Field. The Rams got the game in before the rains came.

The ball game which was played in just under three hours produced 26 runs, 30 hits and six errors. This did not include several passed balls, wild pitches and hit batters. Senior first baseman Nathan Minnich in the second inning belted a two run homer.

The third inning was the turning point of the game. By the end of the second inning the Rams were down 6 to 5 to the Falcons. In the third Shepherd got six runs on seven hits to take a 12 to 5 lead. A two-run homer by sophomore outfielder Aaron Scoville and a two-run double by sophomore third baseman Brandon Coffey started the Rams on their comeback.

In the fourth inning, Fairmont picked up two runs on a double by the Falcons shortstop Trevor Funk. In the bottom of the fourth, the Rams continued their attack by getting four more runs on a single by first baseman Nathan Minnich and an RBI double from second baseman Chad Murphy. The score at the end of four was Rams 15, Falcons 8.

The final score of the game was the Rams 18 and the Falcons 8.

Trevor Appleby started for the Rams and pitched two and 1/3 inning allowing six runs. Justin Byrd (2-2) got the win while Brian Martin closed out the game and got the save. The losing pitcher for the Falcons was Ryan Fenwick, who has a 4-6 record.

The stars of the game for shepherd were Chad Murphy who had three hits and drove in three and Brandon Coffey who hit a two run homer in the fifth and drove in four runs.

Nathan Minnich (19 homers) tied the single season mark for most home runs set by Charlie Drummond in 2004.

Minnich went 3-for-5 with three runs batted in. He belted a two-run homer in the second inning.

The final line score was Fairmont State Falcons with eight runs on 12 hits and three errors while the Shepherd Rams had 18 runs on 18 hits with three errors. After losing a double header the night before the Rams improved their record to 26-15. In the WVLAC the Rams improved their record to 18 and 8.
Handley Basketball Star Lawler To Play At Shepherd

Handley High School basketball star Robbie Lawler will continue his career at Shepherd University.

Posted: 1:33 AM Apr 27, 2012
Reporter: Matt Estreich

Lawler accepted a basketball scholarship to division two Shepherd late Thursday night. Lawler was a unanimous first team All-Northwestern District selection this past season with the Judges.