Shepherd drops pair to A-B

By Spenser Leatherman
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd-Broadus Battlers took advantage of Shepherd Ram errors in a 5-1 and 10-2 sweep Sunday at Fairfast Field.

The Rams started the first game ahead 4-1 going into the top of the fourth, but a rally by the Battlers scored 5 runs. The Battlers also rallied late in the nightcap to post a 10-2 win. Shepherd started with a two-run lead in the bottom of the first. Aaron Sockel scored on a single to center field by Norgaard's Laurs, but another run scored on an Alderson-Broaddus error, scoring Nathan Munsch, who reached safely on a fielder's choice. The Rams led in the bottom half of the inning with two runs on back-to-back doubles. Aaron Lee, who singled to start the inning, scored on a two-bagger by Latz. Munsch drove in Latz on a double to right field, giving Shepherd a 1-0 lead.

The Rams gained the lead in the top of the fourth with a four-run rally. See SHEPHERD C2

Shepherd wins finale

By Ben Gunter
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd Rams lacrosse team finished off its season with a 24-13 win over the Tiffin Dragons to earn a winning record — 8-7 — after only winning two games last season.

The Rams were able to end the season on a high note, as well as their first group of seniors off in winning fashion. "These three seniors are so instrumental to this program," said Coach Tommy Butler. "They helped get all this started, and all three were captains this year, and provided leadership as well as great players.

The seniors on this year's team are the first group of players to come from the program's beginning as a club team, and through this year's many successes, help make this winning season a reality. "It's been an honor to be a part of the team and being part of the way the team has grown," senior Korey Saffin said. But for the Rams to clinch a winning season, they needed to earn a final victory on their home turf against the Dragons.

See RAMS C6

Rams sweep D&E

Shepherd is victorious on Senior Day

By Ben Gunter
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — After taking last week against two key West Virginia Conference opponents, the Shepherd Rams swept Davis and Elizabeth in a doubleheader on Sunday, winning the first game 3-1 and the second 4-2.

After a pair of losses last week, Shepherd coach Leslie Lopez said her team "did a lot of hitting, and we talked about our goals and what we need to be done to obtain those goals." With standout pitching, Lopez and a few impressive defensive plays, the Rams overpowered the Senators on Senior Day to improve to 28-1 overall and 17-3 in WVC play.

Even with emotions running high, Lopez said her team could handle the pressure.

"At first I thought it would be a little difficult for the seniors, but they did a good job," Lopez said.

In Game 1, Shepherd's Nichole Fitchcock went the distance to earn the win and improve to 23-4. Amber Dodd went 2 for 3 to lead the Rams, and Samantha Capone went 1 for 2 to lead the Senators.

Fitchcock breezed through the Davis and Elizabeth starting lineup, and the Shepherd offense put the Rams on the board in the first inning. After Courtiss Williams and Jess Manewaited, Dodd doubled to center field to score both runners for a 2-0 lead.

In the second and third, Fitchcock and Davis and Elizabeth pitcher Alanna Jones took over.

Fitchcock powered through three straight batters to keep her team ahead. See RAMS C6
**Rams**

"We do not worry about records being made. We focus on the future business. Without working hard now, there could be no future."

Leslie Lopez
Shepherd coach

Shepherd jumped out to a 2-0 lead with goals by the freshman duo of Shannon Carr and Christina Ferreras in the first three minutes of the play. The Tiffany defense stood firm until the 18:20 mark when junior Cara Parks notched a goal for the Rams, tying the game at 2-1. The Dragonsanswered back with a pair of goals by Taylor DeMinto and Elyse Brown to cut Shepherd’s lead to one with just under a minute left in the first half.

The two teams alternated on the next pair of goals, with Cara scoring her second goal of the game, followed by a Tiffany goal by Melissa Cooper to make it 3-3 at the half.

The Rams built their lead by going on a quick three-goal run, starting with sophomore Krissa Tippett and ending with a pair of goals by Ferreras and Cara to make it 7-3. A&M-Commerce answered back with a goal, but Tippett scored a pair of goals to give the Rams a 9-4 lead with under three minutes left.

Tiffany’s Kelley Miller scored an early lead. In the second half, the Rams scored two runs to back pitcher Brooke Stanbaugh. In the fourth inning, Davis and Ekins tied the score at 2-2.

Shepherd scored twice to regain the lead and finish the game. With the victory, Stanbaugh improved to 6-7. Shepherd proved to be a powerhouse at home, posting a 13-3 record on its own diamond. The Rams have four remaining games in Shepherdstown.

"We do not worry about records being made," Lopez said. "We focus on the future business. Without working hard now, there could be no future."

The Senators fell to 17-16, 10-6.

**Finale**

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**Shepherd**

A Comb sacrifice fly scored Nick Centenera, who reached on a bent single. Hurley singled to center field, scoring Daniel Ray Bryan, who reached safely on a fielder’s choice. Roy drove in Hurley and Justin Anderson with a double to center, giving the Senators a 3-4 lead.

The Rams were unable to score a run for the rest of the game and left seven runners stranded.

The Senators continued to pick apart the Shepherd defense and take advantage of the offensive pressures of the Rams in a 10-2 win in the second game.

After a pair of scoreless innings, Alston-Broaddus broke the ice with a run in the top of the third. Bryan doubled to right-center field and advanced to third on a Shepherd error, scoring on a Hurley groundout.

The Rams loaded the bases in the fourth inning on a sacrifice fly by Bobby McLoughlin and Mike Hadders, scoring on an error, putting Derek Foutz on base. In the top of the fourth, Cooley posted a no-batter going into the bottom half of the inning, but the no-batter and runner were both broken. Last doubled to right-center field, breaking the no-batter, and Minchini smacked a two-run single to right, stopping the shutout and cutting the lead to one in the second game.

The Rams were unable to shake up the Rams at any point.

The Rams loaded the bases in the fifth inning on a single by Roy, scoring on a single to right by Hackett, who advanced to second on a Rams error in the sixth inning.

Foutz opened the sixth inning rally with a solo home run to left field. After reaching on base on a Shepherd error, Bryan stole second and advanced to third on a wild pitch on ball four of a Roy walk, scoring on a Comb double to right. A Hackett single brought around Roy and Comb. Shepherd’s second error of the sixth inning scored Hackett and Comb on the errant throw. Another defensive miscue by Shepherd scored McLoughlin, giving the Senators a 10-2 lead that the Rams couldn’t overcome.

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The Senators improve to 10-20 with a conference record of 6-8. While the Rams fall to 12-17 with a conference record of 8-14. Shepherd assistant coach Bill Barr felt like both games could have been any one’s to win.

"Shepherd played tough baseball," he said.

"We were fortunate to have our defense and pitching, just keep the scoreboard, while also putting in runs on time. We got honest. These two games could have gone either way."

Rams coach Wayne Riner felt that they were in the game, but a loss of focus was rewarded.

"We’re young and are expected to be competitive the entire season, but lost our way," he said.

"Our players either want to compete or not and what I thought we needed was the competitive edge thing."

"There’s no hiding in baseball," Riner added.

"We don’t have a clock or flags to stop a play from happening. Our lack of competitive desire led to the errors and effective ones, and we had to compete mentally, could have avoided most of them."

Shepherd’s Nathan Minchini makes contact for a hit during the Rams game against Alston-Broaddus Sunday at Fairfax Field.
Doubleheader split moves Rams to third in WVIAC

VIENNA -- Shepherd and home-based Ohio Valley split one-run verdicts in a WVIAC baseball doubleheader played last Wednesday.

The Rams held off a late-game series of innings where the Fighting Scots kept scoring single runs to post a 6-5 win in the opener. Ohio Valley used the three-run homer by Joseph Hallinan in the first inning of the nightcap as the impetus it needed to finally secure a 4-3 win and a split of the two games.

Shepherd was 8-12 in the conference and had moved into third place in its seven-team North Division. Ohio Valley was 6-10 in the conference and stationed in fifth place in the seven-team South Division.

In the opener, the Rams were able to post five runs in the first inning -- scoring all their runs after two outs with nobody on base.

Nathan Minnich walked and Nash Hutter walked to give the Rams two base runners. Morgan Lautz singled to drive in Minnich and give Shepherd a 1-0 lead. Jake Cook singled to load the bases. When Derek Gunsell drew a walk, it forced in Hutter with the inning's second run.

With the bases still loaded, Brandon Coffey came through with a clutch, three-run double and the Rams had scored five times after there were two outs and nobody on base.

Ohio Valley answered immediately against Shepherd starter Paul Hvozdovic, scoring two runs on three hits.

Shepherd moved ahead, 6-2, in the second when Aaron Lee doubled and Hutter had a one-out RBI single.

Hvozdovic left after just two innings with soft-throwing submariner Jonathan Painter replacing him. Michael Shepherd greeted Painter with a solo homer that cut the Rams' lead to 6-3.

Sean Wiles replaced Painter to begin the Ohio Valley fourth. With one out, Shawn Brand singled. Brand moved to second on Wiles' error. When Joshua Saavedra tripled, it was only a 6-4 Shepherd lead.

In the Ohio Valley fifth, two singles and two ground outs produced another run off Wiles. After five innings, Shepherd's lead had shrunken to 6-5.

Wiles was able to strike out the side in the Ohio Valley sixth.

When the Rams couldn't score again in the seventh, they had been blanked for five straight innings.

Ohio Valley had two outs in the seventh, Tyler Welch had a single. And Shayne Miller reached safely on shortstop Aaron Scoville's error. Kyle Fleck struck out against Wiles to end the game.

Shepherd had only seven hits. Wiles went four innings, yielded five hits and walked only one. Both runs he gave up were earned.

In the nightcap, Justin Byrd was Shepherd's starting pitcher. Byrd was rocked for Hallinan's three-run homer in the first.

Shepherd trailed by those three runs until the third when Gunsell had a single with one out and Scoville followed by reaching on a walk. With runners at first and second, Lee delivered an RBI single to give the Rams a run. But Minnich skied out to center and Hutter struck out.

Byrd was gone after just two innings. Left-hander Trevor McClain replaced him to begin the Ohio Valley third.

In the Shepherd fifth, Lee had a sacrifice fly to bring the Rams to within a run of the lead at 3-2. Meanwhile, McClain was blanking the Fighting Scots through the sixth.

Still trailing by a run going to the top of the seventh, the Rams got even at 3-3 when Scoville delivered a two-out single that plated the game-tying run.

McClain had been unscorched on his four innings. But in the Ohio Valley seventh Saavedra had a lead-off single and then stole second. Saavedra moved over to third on a wild pitch charged to McClain.

Hugo Oliva struck out, and Shepherd coach Wayne Risser elected to intentionally walk both Shepherd and Hallinan to load the bases and set up a force play at the plate.

Tyler Wharton foiled the strategy when he singled in Saavedra with the game-winning run.

Shepherd was limited to just six hits (all singles) by the combined effort of four Ohio Valley pitchers.

Lee and Gunsell each had two hits for the Rams.

Shepherd had moved to third place in its division with the split. It had a three-game weekend series at home at Fairfax Field with Alderson-Broaddus being menaced by the weather forecast.
Rams win low-scoring DH

BY SPENCER LEATHERMAN
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd University Ram offense was slow to start but turned it up late in a pair of one-run wins to sweep the Glenville State Pioneers in a doubleheader Wednesday.

In Game 1, the Rams scored a run in the bottom of the sixth inning to win 1-0. Sheph

ed scored a pair of runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to win by the score of 2-1 in the

ightcap.

Shepherd and Glenville were unable to take advantage of opportunities with runners in scoring position as both sides were held score-

less in the first five innings of the opening game.

The Rams broke Ally Southard’s slumber in the bottom of the sixth inning by scoring the only run of the game, thanks to a pair of errors by Glenville.

Kris DeCham reached on an error and was removed for pinch runner Courtney Williams, who moved to third on a sacrifice bunt by Jess Mason and a double by Amber Dudek. Williams scored as Nichole Potock’s grounder was booted at second base.

With the 1-0 win, Potock picked up her first collegiate softball record-setting 21st win of the season. She allowed four hits and struck out nine.

The Rams faced adversity early but came back with clutch hitting in a 2-1 victory in the nightcap of the doubleheader.

The Pioneers scored the first run of the game on a Kayleigh Huck groundout that scored Brittany Handley, who singled to start the first inning.

Shepherd didn’t score until the fifth inning, but the Rams’ two runs proved just enough for the West Virginia Conference’s second-place team to gain the sweep.

Bianca Baldisso doubled to open the inning and went to third as Megan Holmes reached on an error. Cammie Orlind’s single scored Blandello. After a double play, Chelsea Oates’ infield single broke the tie, as pinch runner Stephanie Hadlow scored.

The Rams improved to 30-11 and 19-3 in the WVC by playing great defense.

“We haven’t hit the ball well as of late,” Rams coach Leslie Lopez said. “As a team, we are very fortunate to have our defense be able to stop rallies from the other team when we need to.”

“We would like to give our pitchers more run support,” Orlind added. “Our pitching and defense do a great job of preventing runs from coming in and playing with the run support we have, but a little more at times wouldn’t hurt.”

The Rams also took advantage of scoring opportunities late in each game.

“Different players come up with a big moment at different points in a particular game,” Lopez said. “As a team, we can count on the one player whose time it is to shine to step up and contribute in a big way.”

“It’s all about taking advantage of opportunities,” Orlind added. “Any one of us could be set up with the opportunity to change a game when the bat is in our hands. We were very successful as a team in coming up with the big runs when we need them the most.”

While Shepherd took advantage of scoring chances, Glenville left 14 runners on base, eight of them in the first game as they fell to 14-20 with a conference record of 10-8.

“We left way too many runners on base,” Pioneers coach Tim Spencer said. “The lack of timely hits to score runs caused most of the runners being stranded, but we also were up against a Shepherd team that pitches and defends well.”

Glenville committed three errors, two of them leading to scoring opportunities for the Rams.

“Errors late in both games hurt us,” Spencer said. “We made a mistake late in both games that led to their runs. Shepherd did a great job of taking advantage of our miscues, as few as there were.”

License photo by Tom Agnew

Shepherd’s Courtney Williams scores the only run of the first game as the ball bounces away from Glenville catcher Lacey Williams as the Rams swept a doubleheader. Both players are graduates of Musselman High School.
FSU enters WVC’s as No. 4 seed
(http://timeswv.com/fairmont_state_sports/x1250115023/FSU-enters-WVC-s-as-No-4-seed)

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

FAIRMONT — Fairmont State University’s softball team opens play in the annual West Virginia Conference Tournament Thursday at the Vienna Softball Complex as the No. 4 seed in the 12-team tourney.

The Falcons finished the regular season 19-21 overall and 10-8 in league play. Fairmont finished with a power rating of 107.65.

FSU earned an opening-round bye and will face the winner of No. 5 Glenville State (15-21, 11-9) and No. 12 Ohio Valley (7-28, 4-14) at noon Thursday.

Fairmont and Glenville split their regular-season series. The Falcons won the first game 2-0 and dropped the nightcap 6-1 back on April 9. FSU and Ohio Valley did not meet during the regular season. Their scheduled doubleheader on April 13 was postponed due to inclement weather and was not able to be made up.

The Falcons head into the annual WVC Tournament having won six of their last eight games. FSU’s only setbacks since April 17 came in a doubleheader loss to top-seeded West Virginia Wesleyan on the road on April 20. Wesleyan, which is ranked 19th in the nation in NCAA Division II, finished the regular season 42-5 overall and 21-1 in league play.

Shepherd University (30-13, 19-5) is the second seed for the tournament, while West Virginia State (28-12, 13-5) is seeded third.

Fairmont State is led offensively by a trio of .300-plus hitters. Leading the way for the Falcons is junior shortstop Abbey Wilson who is batting a team-high .325. Wilson also leads FSU in home runs (11), triples (3), RBI (29), runs scored (25) and stolen bases (8-of-9). She’s second on the team in doubles with seven.

Junior center fielder Chelsea Simon is second on the team in batting with a .319 average. Simon has scored 23 runs, leads the Falcons in doubles with nine, has two triples, a pair of homers and 12 RBI.

Junior first baseman Brittany Tallhamer is batting .303 with five doubles, two homers, one triple and 25 RBI.

Sophomore Chelsea Cobb, last season’s WVC Freshman of the Year, is FSU’s pitching leader. Cobb has a 10-3 record this spring. She’s worked a team-high 108.1 innings and has 102 strikeouts, while allowing just 20 walks. Cobb has a 2.52 ERA and opponents are batting just .278 against her.

True freshman Nikki Nuzum is Fairmont’s second pitcher. The former East Fairmont High School standout is 7-7 this season with a 3.75 ERA. She’s worked 89.2 innings and has 54 strikeouts.