COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Rams sweep Hilltoppers

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd University swept West Liberty in West Virginia Conference softball doubleheader action at Shepherd on Saturday afternoon. The Rams gained a 16-0 win in game one and added an 8-2 win in the nightcap.

Holding an 8-0 lead after three innings in game one, Shepherd put the game away with eight more runs in the fourth. Junior outfielder Daniella Biondillo hit a two-run homer and added a three-run triple to key the output.

Biondillo went 2 for 4 with five RBI to lead the Rams.

Senior second baseman Delaney Bell added a 1-for-2 effort with three RBI, while freshman catcher Elisa Orlandi went 2 for 3 with four RBI.

Junior pitcher Tricia Bettura (5 IP, 10 Ks, 0 BB) tossed a two-hitter for the Rams to improve to 8-9. Angela Johnson (1-5) took the loss for West Liberty.

Orlandi went 2 for 2 and drove in a pair of runs, while Biondillo added a 2-for-4 outing with two RBI in the nightcap.

Bell went 1 for 2 and drove in a pair of runs, while sophomore first baseman Sam McQuade added a 2-for-2 effort.

Stacey Sumner had a two-run triple to lead West Liberty.

Junior pitcher Tiffany Biggs (7 IP, 3 H 2 ER, 10 Ks, 3 BB) gained the victory for the Rams to improve to 9-4. Becky Fortuna (2-11) took the loss for the Hilltoppers.

Shepherd improved to 19-14, 6-2 in WVC action, while West Liberty fell to 7-23, 2-4. The Rams return to action on Sunday when they host Wheeling Jesuit for a 1 p.m. doubleheader. The games were originally scheduled for a noon start.
COLLEGE LACROSSE

Shepherd 25,
WVU Wesleyan 7

BUCKHANNON - Junior midfielder Nicole Ruane scored four goals and added three assists to lead Shepherd University to a 25-7 win over West Virginia Wesleyan in women's lacrosse action at West Virginia Wesleyan on Saturday.

Junior midfielder Krista Tippett, junior attack/midfielder Alexandra Coates, sophomore midfielder Jenny Covey and freshman attack Georgia Karr each contributed three goals for the Rams. Karr also had a pair of assists.

Sophomore attack Hanna Wharton and sophomore attack Christina Ferrara each recorded a pair of goals. Ferrara also contributed three assists.

Erin Guthall had a pair of goals while Ashley Ferguson added a goal and an assist to lead West Virginia Wesleyan.

Shepherd opened the game on a 10-3 run and held a 13-5 advantage at the break.

Freshman netminder Lily Schmulowitz recorded 11 saves for the Rams, while Michelle Bissell had 28 saves for the Bobcats.

Shepherd had a 58-23 advantage in shots with a 40-24 edge in ground balls.

The Rams improved to 9-3 on the season, while West Virginia Wesleyan fell to 2-9. The Rams return to action on Saturday when they host Wheeling Jesuit for a 1 p.m. contest.

Notes: Shepherd's ninth win on the year set a record for most wins in a season eclipsing the old mark of eight set by the 2011 team. The Rams halted a three-game losing skid with the win.
From Inwood:

The alumni football game is officially set for 3 p.m. on April 22, at Shepherd University: Martinsburg vs. Musselman. Alumni can still sign up at www.gridironalumni.com. The game promises to be entertaining.
Wheeling 4-2, Shepherd 1-5

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W.Va. — Bianca Biondillo had three hits and three RBIs to lead Shepherd University to a win in the nightcap of a doubleheader split with Wheeling Jesuit.

Wheeling won the opener of the WVIAC twinbill, 4-1.

Biondillo had a two-run triple in the first and an RBI single in the fourth to lift the Rams (20-15, 7-3).

Sam McQuade had a pair of hits to lead the Rams in the opener.
Area Roundup: Colonials rally past Shepherd

April 2, 2012

ARLINGTON, Va. - George Washington rallied past Shepherd University for an 8-5 win in baseball action at Barcroft Park on Sunday.

The Rams took a 1-0 lead in the first inning when sophomore outfielder Michael Lott led off with a single, stole second base and scored on a single by senior first baseman Nathan Minnich.

The Rams extended their lead to 3-0 with a pair of runs in the third on a two-run single by junior outfielder Jake Cook.

The Colonials got on the board in the bottom of the third on an RBI single by Derek Brown.

Sophomore designated hitter Ryan Messina drove in a run in the fourth and Lott had an RBI single in the fifth to give Shepherd a 5-1 lead.

George Washington plated five runs in the bottom of the fifth to take a 6-5 advantage. Grant Brown’s two-run double keyed the rally.

The Colonials added a pair of insurance runs in the sixth on a two-run single by Grant Brown.

Minnich, Cook and senior shortstop Travis Slager each had a pair of hits for the Rams.

Sophomore pitcher Trevor Appleby (4.0 IP, 0 Ks, 3 BB) took the loss to fall to 3-3 on the year. Reliever Kenny O’Brien (5.0 IP, 1 K, 2 BB) earned the win for the Colonials with Eric Lara (1.0 P, 0 K, 0 BB) picking up the save.

Shepherd fell to 17-11, while George Washington improved to 10-17. The Rams return to action on Tuesday when they travel to Charleston for a 1 p.m. doubleheader.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Shepherd splits DH

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Junior outfielder Bianca Biondillo went 3 for 3 and drove in three runs to lead Shepherd University to a 5-2 win over Wheeling Jesuit in the nightcap in West Virginia Conference softball doubleheader at Shepherd on Sunday afternoon. The Cardinals rallied for a 4-1 win in game one.

Shepherd took a 2-0 lead in the first inning of the nightcap behind a two-run triple off the bat of Biondillo.

The Rams added three runs in the fourth as they took advantage of four Cardinal errors. Biondillo’s RBI single highlighted the rally.

Jarah Ice had an RBI triple and scored when she stole home in the sixth as Wheeling Jesuit scored two runs.

Junior pitcher Tiffany Biggs (7 IP, 3 H 2 ER, 2 Ks, 1 BB) gained the victory for the Rams to improve to 10-4. Sydney Mencke (1-3) took the loss for the Cardinals.

Shepherd took a 1-0 lead in the first in game one when sophomore outfielder Jess Mason walked and later scored on a single by freshman
outfielder Tayler Schaefer.

The Rams held that lead until the sixth when Wheeling Jesuit plated three runs on four hits. Lorian Tharp, Angie Reddick and Erika Jusko each drove in a run during the rally.

The Cardinals added an insurance run in the seventh on an RBI-single by Tharp.

Sophomore first baseman Sam McQuade had a pair of hits to lead the Rams.

Mencke went the distance for the Cardinals to earn the win in game one. Junior pitcher Tricia Bettura (7 IP, 5 Ks, 2 BB) took the loss for the Rams to fall to 8-10.

Shepherd moved to 20-15, 7-3 in WVC action, while Wheeling Jesuit is now 12-16, 1-7.
Rams' Minnich honored

PRINCETON - Senior first baseman Nathan Minnich of the Shepherd University baseball team has been named the West Virginia Conference Player of the Week.

Minnich picked up his third WVC Player of the Week honor of the 2012 season. He was hot at the plate, batting .727 in a 3-1 week for the Rams. He had six RBI and crossed the plate six times himself. For the week, Minnich was eight-for-11 and registered a two-run round-tripper in a 2-1 win over Division I George Washington on Saturday.

Shepherd ninth in regional rankings

SLIPPERY ROCK, Pa. - The Shepherd University baseball team is ranked ninth in the latest National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Division II Atlantic Regional Poll for April 2. The Rams have a 17-11 record.
Roundup: Shepherd’s Beckner golfs to regional title

April 4, 2012
From staff reports

SOUTH CHARLESTON - Shepherd senior Cameron Beckner fired a 6-over par total of 146 for two days to win individual honors in men’s golf action at the West Virginia Conference Southern Regional at Berry Hills Country Club in South Charleston.

Beckner won the tournament by one stroke.

Shepherd University placed 10th in a 13-team field. University of Charleston took the team title with a two-round total of 596.

Sophomore Bryan Milburn and senior Chris Gilkey followed with a 169 to tie for 47th. Freshman Chris Ferrell shot a 172 to place 52nd, while freshman Tim Wilson fired a 178 to tie for 59th.
Two Park View football players to walk on for college teams

Thursday, Apr. 5 by Carl Lukac | 0 comments | email this story

Park View High School seniors Ryan Plowman and Brian McManus will walk on to college football programs. Plowman will play linebacker at Shepherd University and McManus will play wide receiver at Bridgewater University.

Plowman was a team captain in 2011 and earned second team All-Dulles District honors. Plowman, a three-year varsity starter, recorded 102 total tackles as a senior with four tackles for a loss, a sack and a fumble recovery. Plowman maintains a 3.66 grade point average.

McManus was a defensive back and wide receiver for the Patriots in 2011. He hauled in 25 receptions for 196 yards and three touchdowns offensively, and totaled 17 tackles and seven pass breakups on defense. McManus maintains a 3.42 grade point average.

Plowman and McManus join three Park View teammates who will continue their football careers in college. Wide receivers Ryan McCarter (Liberty University) and Dante Absher (Glenville State) and defensive end Marcus Smith (Glenville State) previously finalized their college destinations.

Photos: Ryan Plowman and Brian McManus are joined by Park View football coach Ferris Eways and family members.
Shepherd softball gains nothing from split with Ohio Valley

From staff reports

VIENNA — Tricia Bettura pitched a complete game seven-hitter as the Shepherd softball team defeated host Ohio Valley, 5-2, in the opener of a WVIAC doubleheader. The Fighting Scots gained a split by defeating the Lady Rams, 8-0, in the nightcap.

Shepherd was 4-2 in the WVIAC and 17-14 overall while the Fighting Scots were 2-2 in the WVIAC and 11-9 overall. Bettura had five strikeouts and did not allow a walk. Taylor Schaefer had a three-run homer among the seven hits Shepherd managed.

In the nightcap, Ohio Valley shutout pitcher Kayla Linger fired a two-hitter as the game was abbreviated to only 5.2 innings by the eight-run mercy rule in softball. Linger fanned three and didn’t walk a batter. Shepherd’s Tiffany Biggs, who allowed 12 hits and seven earned runs in 5.2 innings, was the losing pitcher. Biggs’ record was 8-4.

Elora Oprim went 4-for-4 and had three RBIs for the Fighting Scots.

Children’s day, delay: Rams finally sweep

BOB MADISON  Spirit Staff

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The energetic children were on hand at Fairfax Field for a field day outing. They were hurried off just before a rain delay of 70 minutes interrupted some shoddy baseball being shown them by both Shepherd and its WVIAC opponent, Concord.

Before the rain came, there had been 18 runs scored in just two innings of pitcher-poor baseball.

After the game was rejoined, there was more unsightly pitching from Shepherd’s Justin Byrd and Concord’s Ryan Weatherholz, Will Zuspan, and Justin Willard.

Shepherd survived against the rain, the 17 hits its pitchers allowed, the five walks those pitchers gifted, the four errors it committed, the rain storm, and a partridge in a pear tree. The Rams won by the football-like score of 19-12.

The win came because of an 11-run inning the Rams had before rain calmed the wildness just a little, because of a five-run inning the second-grade field trippers missed, because it had 20 hits and was gifted with six walks, two hit batters, and the three errors the Mountain Lions committed.

In going over the offensive statistics created by Shepherd’s 19 runs and 20 hits, the individual numbers of some of the Rams make it clearer how the team’s mostly inept pitching was overcome.

Nathan Minnich was on base five times, going 2-for-2 with a home run (his 13th in Shepherd’s 26-game season), and three RBIs. Brandon Coffey was on base four times, scored three times, and drove in two runs. Michael Lott was on base four times. He had three hits, scored three times, and drove in four runs from his leadoff spot. Lott had a triple and double.

Getting three hits for the Rams was ninth-place hitter Kenny Beyer. Scoring three runs were Jake Cook and Nash Hatter. Hatter had a solo home run.

The Rams had nine extra base hits and 33 total bases with their 20 hits. Nineteen runs were gleaned from the 28 baserunners.

Concord’s Jerrod Groves went 5-for-5 getting at least one hit off all four of the Shepherd moundsmen -- starter Trevor Appleby, Byrd, Paul Hvozdovic, and Andrew Gallant.

Devin Smith had two solo home runs for the Mountain Lions, who actually closed the score to 12-11 at one point. Getting two hits for Concord were T. J. Brockway, Keith Morrisroe, Bret Blevins, and Smith.

Kevin Mack was the Concord starter. He lasted 13 batters and was lifted with two outs in the second after surrendering five hits, a walk, a hit batter, and eight baserunners. Justice prevailed when Mack was charged with the loss.

The field day was enjoyed by the second graders. A field day was enjoyed by the hitters of both teams.
Shepherd clips George Washington nine

ARLINGTON, Va.—On Saturday at Barcroft Park, Shepherd used the two-run home run from Nathan Minnick and the stingy pitching of Paul Hvozdovic, Justin Byrd, and Andrew Gallant to clip homestanding George Washington, 2-1.

Minnick’s home run was his 14th in Shepherd’s 17-10 season.
Hvozdovic pitched the first four innings, Byrd the next three, and Gallant the final two innings for the save. Byrd got credit for the win in the nine-inning game.

Minnick was 2-for-3 and Jake Cook was 2-for-4 to lead Shepherd’s offense. The NCAA Division I Colonials were 9-17.

On Sunday at Barcroft Park, the Colonials defeated Shepherd, 8-5, as they had 15 hits. The Colonials jumped on Shepherd starter Trevor Appleby for nine hits and six runs in four innings. Byrd yielded five hits and two runs in two innings.

Shepherd had nine hits. Minnick was 2-for-4, Travis Sluger 2-for-4, and Cook 2-for-5 with two RBIs.

The Rams’ most productive inning was the third where they scored two runs when Minnick had a single, Nash Hutter drew a walk, Brandon Coffey was hit by a pitch, and Cook had a two-run single.

Shepherd was 17-11 overall and the Atlantic 10 Conference Colonials were 10-17 overall.

Minnick came out of the two weekend games with a .506 batting average.

---

14 more football recruits for Shepherd

Another list of 14 football recruits has been revealed by Shepherd.

The latest list has two players from West Virginia (lineman Bryant Currence from Washington High and tight end Jeremy Bell from Parkersburg High), six from Maryland and six from Virginia.

The six players from Maryland on the latest list are Matthew Winklein (a long snapper/lineman from Archbishop Spaulding), Jerry Lindsey (a defensive lineman from Great Mills High), Jaylen Johnson (a defensive back from Bowie High), Christopher Mukasa (a defensive end from Howard High), Tyler Wise (a defensive back from Williamsport High), and Alex Fridley (a defensive linemen from Williamsport).

The six recruits from Virginia are Osiris Black (a defensive lineman from North Stafford High), William Bogolin (an offensive lineman from Rustburg High), Christopher Boteler (a punter/place kicker from Osbourn High), Alexander Figueroa (a wide receiver/linebacker from Brooke Point High), and DeShawn Wells (a wide receiver/defensive back from Benedictine High in Richmond)
SHEPHERD'S MINNICH HONORED: Shepherd University baseball player Nathan Minich was named the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Atlantic Region player of the week Thursday.

Minich was 8-for-11 at the plate with one home run, six RBIs and scored six runs as the Rams posted a 3-1 record last week.
Shepherd crushes Cardinals

April 7, 2012
by Andrew Bartoldson - For The Journal, journal-news.net

SHEPHERDSTOWN - The Shepherd Rams soared above the Wheeling Jesuit Cardinals 23-7 in Saturday afternoon's contest at Shepherd University.

The Rams started strong with Christina Ferrara racing down the middle of the field to score an early unassisted goal and start a seven-consecutive goal streak in the first 14 minutes of the game to give them an early advantage.

Shepherd's Hannah Wharton and Ferrara played well, leading their team in goals with four each.

Teammates Nicole Ruane and Krista Tippett were behind them with three and two goals, respectively.

The Cardinals' Haley Rush led her team in goals with two well-placed shots that found the back of the net.

The Cardinals' rocky start allowed the Shepherd lead to balloon, and they could never recover.

Rush finally found some room to fire a shot past the Rams' goalkeeper to put the first tally on the board for Wheeling Jesuit at the 15-minute mark.

Shepherd continued to find the back of the net through the first half, with Ferrara setting up a pass from behind the net to Georgia Karr. Karr placed her shot perfectly into the net to bring the score to 14-2 with six minutes left in the first half.

With 6:4 seconds left in the first half, the Rams' Jenna Benke had the last word with a goal to make the score 19-3 at the break.

The Rams slowed down just a bit in the second half, but their defense proved key in keeping the Cardinals' score in single digits.

Three minutes in, Maddie O'Leary scored a free-position goal to start up Shepherd's momentum once more.

Fourteen minutes into the second half, the Cardinals finally found the net on Hannah Lazuka's free-position goal.

The Rams defense held strong and the Cardinals failed to find the momentum.

With no goals scored in the last five minutes of the game, the Rams walked off the field victorious.

Shepherd coach Meghan Keelan was pleased with her team's performance, but afterward, she was already focused on the next game.

"We're looking to take the momentum into our next game at Slippery Rock," Keelan said.

Nicole Ruane set a new Shepherd season record for draw controls with 58, breaking her old mark of 56 set in 2011. Ruane (55 goals) needs just two more goals to set a new Shepherd season mark for goals. Shannon Carta scored a record 56 goals for the Rams in 2011.
COLLEGE

BASEBALL

Shepherd 19,

West Liberty 3

WEST LIBERTY - Senior third baseman Travis Sluger went 4 for 5 with five runs scored and five RBI, and senior designated hitter Nash Hutter added a 3-for-6 effort with four RBI and a pair of runs scored to lead Shepherd University to a win over West Liberty in West Virginia baseball action at Kovalick Field on Saturday.

The Rams took advantage of 17 hits and six West Liberty errors in the win.

Holding a 2-0 lead, Shepherd scored eight runs in the fourth inning to take control of the game. A three-run homer by Sluger and solo homer and three-run double by Hutter keyed the scoring outburst.

Junior outfielder Jake Cook went 3 for 6 with three runs scored, while sophomore outfielder Michael Lott went 3 for 5 with a pair of runs scored and two RBI.

Sophomore outfielder Aaron Scoville added a 1 for 3 outing and drove in three runs.

Scott Castlow went 3 for 4 and Taylor Snare belted a solo blast to lead West Liberty.

Sophomore pitcher Paul Hvozducic (5 IP. 3 H. 7 Ks. 0 BB. 0 R) picked up the win to improve to 8-2. West Liberty starter Brandon Polanski took the loss.

Shepherd improved to 22-11, 14-4 in WVC play, while West Liberty fell to 6-19, 4-12. The Rams return to action on Tuesday when they host Ohio Valley for a 1 p.m. doubleheader.
Shepherd sweeps

West Liberty

WEST LIBERTY - Shepherd University had 30 hits on the day en route to a doubleheader sweep over West Liberty in West Virginia Conference baseball action at Kovalick Field on Friday.

The Rams had a 17-7 victory in Game 1 and added an 8-3 triumph in the nightcap.

Clinging to a 7-4 lead, Shepherd scored six runs in the sixth inning in game one to pull away for the win. Sophomore pitcher Brandon Coffey had a two-run triple and senior shortstop Nash Hutter senior third baseman Travis Sluier and freshman outfielder Steve Ferguson each drove in a run to highlight the rally.

The Rams added four more runs in the seventh with sophomore catcher Ryan Messina smacking a two-run double to key the scoring outburst.

Junior second baseman Chad Murphy went 4 for 5 and drove in two runs, while Mininch was 3 for 3 with a solo homer, two RBI, and four runs scored. Messina, Hutter, Coffey, and Ferguson each added a pair of hits.

Josh Nagel and Taylor Snare each had three hits and drove in a pair of runs for the Hilltoppers.

Coffey (5 IP, 9 H, 0 R, 2 BB, 3 ER) picked up the win to improve to 3-2. Jared Taylor took the loss for the Hilltoppers.

Mininch went 4 for 4 with a three-run homer to pace the Rams in the nightcap. Sophomore outfielder Michael Lott went 3 for 5 with a pair of runs scored, while Murphy and Coffey each had a pair of hits.

Mike Johnson went 3 for 4 and scored a pair of runs to lead West Liberty.

Sophomore pitcher Trevor Appleby (7 IP, 4 Ks, 1 BB, 7 H, 1 ER) gained a complete game win to improve to 4-3 on the year. Drew Peterson took the loss for West Liberty.

Shepherd improved to 21-11, 13-4 in WVC play, while West Liberty fell to 6-18, 4-11. The two teams return to action on Saturday at West Liberty for a 1 p.m. contest.

Notes: Mininch became the Shepherd all-time career leader in runs batted in. He now has 185 for his career, surpassing the old mark of 179 set by Charlie Drummond (2001-04).
COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Shepherd drops DH

SHEPHERDSTOWN - Shepherd University dropped a pair of games to Lock Haven in softball doubleheader action at Shepherd on Monday. Lock Haven recorded a 3-0 win in Game 1 and added a 4-2 victory in the nightcap.

Lock Haven took a 2-0 lead in the fifth inning in Game 1. Erin Clary walked and later scored on an error. Alyssa Smith singled and later scored on a single by Nikki Weaknecht.

The Lady Eagles added a run in the seventh on a bases-loaded walk by Nicole Smith.

Junior pitcher Tricia Batten (7 IP, 8 H, 2 ER, 3 Ks, 4 BB) took the loss for the Rams to fall to 11-11. Sarah Morse picked up the win for the Lady Eagles.

Lock Haven took a 2-0 lead in the third inning of the nightcap on a two-run homer by Smith.

The Lady Lions increased their lead to 4-0 behind a two-run blast by Weaknecht in the fifth.

The Rams got on the board in the bottom of the fifth on a solo homer by freshman shortstop Taylor Bolton.

Shepherd added a run in the sixth.

Sophomore outfielder Jess Mason singled and raced to third on an outfield error. She later scored on a single off the bat of freshman outfielder Taylor Schaefer.

Schaefer had a pair of hits to pace the Rams.

Junior pitcher Tiffany Biggs (7 IP, 5 H, 4 ER, 3 Ks, 2 BB) took the loss to drop to 13-5. Smith picked up the win to improve to 8-4.

Shepherd fell to 26-17, while Lock Haven improved to 17-14. The Rams return to action today when they host Fairmont State at 3 p.m.

Minnick named JWU

PRINCETON - Senior first baseman Nathan Minnick of the Shepherd University baseball team has been named the West Virginia Conference Player of the Week, as announced by the league office.

Minnick earned his fourth WVC Player of the Week honor of the 2012 season. He posted a .692 batting average on the week, helping the Rams to a 5-0 week. Minnick belted a pair of home runs and had a double while raising his batting average to .351 for the season. In a sweep of West Liberty, he went 7 for 7 with six RBI and six runs scored. Minnick 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.

COLLEGE TENNIS

Shepherd 5,

Millersville 4

MILLERSVILLE, Pa. - Shepherd University posted a win over Millersville in men's tennis action on Monday.

Juniors Taylor Boyle and Kent Thomas and sophomores Michael Lesko and Al Starlings all gained singles wins for the Rams.

Thomas and Starlings combined for an 8-4 win at number three doubles to lift the Rams to the victory.
Ohio Valley stops Rams' streak

April 10, 2012
By Eric Jones - Journal Sports Writer (ejones@journal-news.net)

SHEPHERDSTOWN - The way Shepherd was playing heading into Tuesday's doubleheader with Ohio Valley, it would have been hard to image the Rams coming away with anything other than a sweep.

Shepherd was in the midst of the five-game winning streak, one in which it was beating teams by an average of eight runs. The Rams were also playing at home, where they've lost just twice this season, and playing a team with a sub-.500 record in the West Virginia Conference.

So a doubleheader sweep was inevitable, right?

Not necessarily.

The Fighting Scots, after dropping the first game 2-1, fought back for an 8-4 win in Game 2 to split the doubleheader and end the Rams' winning streak at six games.

After a strong effort in Game 1, Shepherd couldn't get things going in the second game.

"Andrew Gallant pitched extremely well in the first game and so did their pitcher," Shepherd coach Wayne Riser said. "It was a 2-1 game, a great college baseball game, and we were fortunate to come away with a win.

"In Game 2, we didn't play very well. We had some defensive miscues and had a few bad pitches in crucial situations. They simply played better than we did."

The offense that was missing in the first game appeared in the finale as both teams combined for 12 runs and 18 hits.

The lead went back and forth for the first four innings, with Ohio Valley clinging to a 4-3 lead after four frames. From that point on, the Fighting Scots did most of the scoring, getting four runs in the sixth inning.

The biggest difference in the game, and especially down the stretch, was Ohio Valley's ability to take advantage of its scoring opportunities and Shepherd's inability to do the same.

In the sixth inning, the Fighting Scots' first three batters reached to load the bases. After Justin Wharton struck out, Hugo Olivaes doubled to score Marlon Belmas and Troy Wharton to give Ohio Valley a 6-3 lead. Tyler Proctor followed with another double to left field that scored Olivas and Mason Rine to extend the Fighting Scots' lead to 8-3.

The Rams had several opportunities to put runs on the scoreboard but couldn't get a clutch hit to break through. Shepherd had the bases loaded in the fourth inning, but Nathan Minnich popped up for the final out. In the sixth, the Rams scored a run on an RBI single by Aaron Scoville but left two runners on when Minnich flew out to right field to end the inning.
SHEPHERD SOFTBALL: Shepherd University dropped a pair of games to Lock Haven in a softball doubleheader, 3-0 and 4-2.
SHEPHERD RANKED: The Shepherd University baseball team climbed to No. 7 in the latest National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Division II Atlantic Region poll Monday. The Rams (22-11) received 47 points.
Rams’ All-America

BOB MADISON Spirit Staff

A case has to be built. And then it has to be presented. Sometimes, it takes two years or even more.

Unless the player is just a freshman or a sophomore with statistics that are rarely seen, All-America selections have been groomed for presentation for years by sports information directors.

In the case of Shepherd first baseman Nathan Minnich, the compiling of his credentials has been a compilation of four years.

Minnich is now a senior. He joined the Rams in 2009 as a freshman, coming from Waynesboro, Pa, where he had played in high school for one-time Shepherd outfielder, Greg Chandler.

Finding immediate success, Minnich thundered onto the WVIAC scene with home runs, RBIs, and a batting average that threatened to hover above the .400 mark. Reaching double figures in home runs was a good foundation for a future push toward national honors.

Freshman aren’t often called to NCAA All-America teams. Having never made an impression on any college field, a freshman would need to bat .500 and do it from the outset of his 50-game season.

Minnich laid a high-average foundation as a freshman. The home runs were enough to catch the attention of everybody. His first season had impressed those voters in the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Minnich was given all-conference recognition. But he hadn’t batted .500 . . . so his star drew little notice outside his own league.

Shepherd had won the conference

◆ See ALL AMERICA Page C2
Tennis

From Page 1

Charleston — Two low-run-pitching performances by Paul Hvozdovic and Andrew Gallant helped Shepherd sweep a WVIAC doubleheader from Charleston by scores of 2-1 and 7-2 with complete-game four-hit. Hvozdovic improved his second to 7-2 with a complete-game four-hitter. He fanned four and did not walk any. Hvozdovic out-hit Charleston’s Alex Austin, who had a three-hit, for six innings. Austin was 0-4 with the loss.

Shepherd’s runs came in the seventh when Nathan Minnick was hit by a pitch, Chad Murphy doubled, Ryan Messina walked, and Nash Hutter had a two-run single. Shepherd only has three hits.

In the nightcap, Gallant went the first five innings to improve his record to 2-2.

Justin Byrd went the last two innings. He yielded three hits, no walks and fanned three in two scoreless innings.

The Rams had 10 hits, including a 3-for-5 game from Aaron Scoville, who scored twice. Jake Cook was 2-for-2.

Rams dismantle Hilltoppers a third time

West Liberty — After longtime Couch Wayne Riser registered his 500th career win at Shepherd the afternoon before, the Rams swept a conference doubleheader from West Liberty, completing a three-game sweep of the hilltoppers in the WVIAC.

In Riser’s 501st win at Shepherd, the Rams rattled 17 hits around Kovalick Field. Third baseman Travis Sliger enjoyed his most productive game of the season going 4-for-5 while driving in in five runs and scoring five runs. Michael Lotz was 4-for-5, Jake Cook was 3-for-5, and Nash Hutter was 3-for-6. Riser drove in four runs and Aaron Scoville had three RBIs.

West Liberty committed six errors in the rout and five of the Shepherd runs were unearned. An eighth-run fourth inning boosted Shepherd’s lead to 10-0. Hutter and Sliger had Rams’ home runs. Shepherd also had four doubles.

First baseman Nathan Minnick went 4-for-4 and emerged from the weekend leading the nation in batting with a .531 average. Minnick is also the nation’s NCAA Division II leader with 16 home runs, 16 total bases and a 1.102 slugging percentage. His 14 walks are also the most in the country as his OBP is .671 on-base percentage. Shepherd was 32-11 overall with its latest win. In conference record was 14-4 and it trailed only nationally ranked Seton Hall in its division of the WVIAC.
End of the line
Shepherd finally breaks through against Fairmont

April 12, 2012
By Ben Gibson - For The Journal

SHEPHERDSTOWN - All it took was one swing of the bat for the Shepherd Rams to earn a 1-0 victory to snap an eight-game losing streak to the Fairmont Falcons.

"It was definitely on me and Chelsie Oals' bucket list," Shepherd's Delaney Bell said, who along with Oals are the only seniors on the team.

It was only fitting that Oals stepped to the plate in the eighth inning to hit the ball just right of second base and just far enough to give freshman pinch runner Elisa Orlandi enough time to sprint home from third.

Oals' single went right back toward the pitcher and back to second baseman Carly Mudzie, who tried to throw Orlandi out at home.

Orlandi sprinted down the line and dove headfirst to the far outside corner of home plate to avoid Fairmont catcher Brittany Williams' tag, barely avoiding the glove as she scored the game's only run.

"I hesitated at first, but when I saw she had to step to the right a little bit, I went," Orlandi said. "That was our seniors' goal - to beat Fairmont."

With the run and the win, the Ram upperclassmen were able to close a chapter of their careers while the underclassmen started one of their own.

"It was a huge relief," Bell said. "They've never really been better than us; we just struggled in that game against them."

The losing streak to Fairmont stretched to April 22, 2008.

"It feels very good as a senior to go out and beat them," Oals said. "We all deserved it as a team."

Though Oals, who played at Hedgesville feels good now, she was undoubtedly nervous as the game stretched into extra innings.

The game had been locked up at 0-0 through seven innings of play as Shepherd's Tiffany Biggs, a Jefferson graduate, struck out 11 and only allowed two hits while Fairmont's Nikki Nuzum answered with five strikeouts.

Both pitchers' tasks got significantly harder in extra innings as college rules put a runner on second base to encourage scoring.

The Rams held the Falcons at bay in the top of the inning before breaking through on Oals' fielder's choice to score Orlandi for a 1-0 victory.

"We just didn't get the key hit when needed them, but our girls have no reason to hang our heads," Fairmont coach Rick Wade said. "I knew even under perfect conditions, it was going to to take a heck of a play.

"We knew the breaks had to change eventually, and during that streak, a lot of them went our way."
While the Rams won the nightcap, they faced the possibility of going more than four years without beating the Falcons as Fairmont rallied from a three-run deficit to win the first game of the doubleheader 4-3.

The Rams took the early advantage with a Tayler Schaefer single to center field to score Oaks for a 1-0 lead.

Shepherd added to its lead in the second inning after Savannah Snyder scored on a Bell triple, followed by Jess Mason slapping down a single to score Bell for a 3-0 lead.

But the Falcons kept the Rams from scoring the rest of the game while slowly but surely fighting their way back.

Fairmont got on the board in the fourth inning with Abbey Wilson scoring on an error.

The Falcons waited until the sixth inning to tie the game.

Fairmont tied the game at 3-3 with Mundie doing the first bit of damage with a single to score Terri Lynn Wolfe, followed by a sacrifice fly by Brittany Talhamer to score Wilson in the sixth inning.

The winning run came an inning later with Wolfe ruffling a triple to right center to score Kayla Leach for the narrow victory.