

Baseball

Trojans

■ CONTINUED FROM 17 North) made sure that Butler wouldn't be winning the GWOC North this season, sweeping the Aviators 8-4 and 10-5. The Indians (10-7, 7-1 GWOC North) split their season series with Butler — their only loss in divisional play — setting up next week's championship series. Troy, which was swept by Greenville but won all of its other divisional games, must sweep Piqua to claim the title. All the Indians need is one win either Monday or Tuesday.

"Knocking them (Butler) off was a nice accomplishment. We played different in those two games. We didn't play not to lose. We played to win," Welker said. "We prepared for those two games, and the guys stepped up.

"We've got to take that same mentality into the Piqua series."

Before that, though, the Trojans have plenty of other things to keep themselves occupied.

Today, Troy hosts the 16-3 Springboro Panthers — the team that knocked the Trojans out of the postseason in the first round last season. Then on Friday, Troy travels to Miamisburg — the only team to hand the GWOC South-leading Panthers a



STAFF FILE PHOTO/ANTHONY WEBER
Troy's Ben Langdon pitches against Butler earlier this season.

divisional loss this year.

And finally on Sunday, the night before the Piqua series kicks off at Hardman Field in Piqua, the Trojans take on Fairfield under the lights at the Dayton Dragons' Fifth Third Field at 7

p.m.

Even with all of those potential distractions in the way, Troy has its eyes on the prize.

"The guys and I have talked about keeping our focus and how important Monday and Tuesday are.

But We're still going to go out and compete before then," Welker said. "We schedule good teams like Springboro, Miamisburg and Fairfield to get better. Games like that are prepping us for potential league title games and for the tournament. That's our mindset.

"The challenge is going to be pitching. We'll be setting up the guys we want on the mound for Monday and Tuesday, so we'll have to watch who's throwing."

And when Troy does face Piqua, there will be a little added incentive, also.

The Indians swept the season series from Troy last season, ending the Trojans' eight-game winning streak against Piqua. Before then, the last time Piqua beat Troy was in 2006.

"We feel like we owe them a little," Welker said. "But we feel that we're competing with the team in our dugout, not the other one. When we lose, we feel like we didn't do the things we needed to do to win. If we play our game, we're tough to beat.

"If we play our game and get beat by a better team, then we get beat by a better team. But we know we're going to be in every game."

College Signings

Signings

■ CONTINUED FROM 17 athletic scholarship. They made it hard to pass up," Subler said. "Also, I'm looking to study physical therapy, and Iowa has the third-best physical therapy school in the country. That was a big factor.

"I liked it a lot when I visited there. They've got a great program and great coaches, and all of the girls on the team seemed nice"

So what was the draw for such big-name programs?

"They've had great success getting tall, athletic girls, and swimming is an aerobic sport like rowing," Subler said. "Swimmers have made good transitions into rowing. So swimming really paid off for me."

Subler still hasn't rowed

competitively yet, but her focus before leaving for school will be fitness.

"They want me to be in prime shape when I get there," she said. "Mostly, I have to get into really good shape. I'll be working a lot on the erg (rowing) machine and doing a lot of running and cross training."

Another Red Devil, Josh Bechtol, also signed his letter of intent to play college sports, committing to Urbana University to play men's soccer. He joins a long list of Devils that will be moving on to the next level in soccer — team captain Connor Harmer signed earlier this year to play for Findlay's men's team, while Jenna Nelson will be playing for Hiram's women's team.

Major League Baseball

Reds

■ CONTINUED FROM 17 tough time in a game on Saturday. He could rejoin the team in San Francisco next weekend.

Pablo Sandoval singled in the third inning, giving him a hit in each of the first 18 games. That matches Johnny Rucker's mark with the 1945 New York Giants for best season-opening streak in franchise history.

Neither team did much through the first six

innings, when a steady rain forced the grounds crew to spread bags of drying material around the infield at each changeover.

Angel Pagan hit a solo homer in the third off Bronson Arroyo, giving him a 10-game hitting streak that matches his career high. Arroyo lasted five innings, giving up at least one hit in each of them. He allowed nine in all and one walk, but escaped with only two runs one earned.

Major League Baseball

Royals snap skid

KC belts 4 homers, beats Cleveland 8-2

CLEVELAND (AP) — Billy Butler hit two of Kansas City's four home runs to help the Royals snap a 12-game losing streak by beating the Cleveland Indians 8-2 Wednesday night.

Butler's two-run blast off Ubaldo Jimenez (2-1) put the Royals ahead in the first. He added a solo shot in the ninth off reliever Jairo Asencio, following Alex Gordon's three-run homer against the reliever.

Eric Hosmer's two-run shot in the fifth made it 4-0 the Royals' largest lead since April 8, when they beat the Los Angeles Angels 7-3.

Luke Hochevar (2-1) allowed four hits and two runs over 6 1-3 innings, recovering from a horrendous home opener start April 13 when he gave up seven runs in the first inning of an 8-3 loss to Cleveland.

The Royals went 0-10 on the homestand.

Their 12-game loss streak tied for the third longest in team history, seven short of the record worst in 2005.

Gordon had three hits,



AP PHOTO
Cleveland Indians' Carlos Santana, right, is tagged out in a rundown by Kansas City Royals first baseman Eric Hosmer during the first inning in Cleveland Wednesday.

raising his average 30 points to .197.

In the first, Chris Getz drew a leadoff walk and Butler belted a 2-1 pitch for his third homer and first hit in seven career at-bats against Jimenez.

In the fourth, Gordon reached on a one-out single when his grounder went between shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera and second baseman Jason Kipnis, who both pulled up and appeared to think the other had it. One out later, Hosmer hit his fifth homer to left.

Even in victory, the young Royals had one gaffe. In the sixth, Mike Moustakas was on second with one out when Mitch Maier flied out to center. Moustakas tagged up and beat the throw to third.

Third baseman Jack Hannahan thought Moustakas left too early and alertly threw to second

baseman Kipnis, who stepped on the bag for the unusual 8-5-4 double play.

Cleveland loaded the bases with one out in the bottom half on a single by Michael Brantley and walks to Cabrera and Carlos Santana. Hosmer made a diving stop of a sharp grounder by Travis Hafner and threw to second for a force as Brantley scored to make it 4-1. Hochevar then struck out Shelley Duncan on a breaking ball well off the plate to end the threat.

Hochevar left after walking Kipnis with one out in the seventh.

Tommy Hottovy, called up from Triple-A Omaha, promptly hit Casey Kotchman, in an 0-for-21 slump, with his first pitch.

Aaron Cunningham followed with a single up the middle to score Kipnis, cutting the Royals' lead to 4-2.