

## Baseball

# Trojans



Troy catcher Ian Nadolny throws a Sidney runner out trying to steal Wednesday at Fifth Third Field.

### CONTINUED FROM 15

but the Green Wave was forced to forfeit those victories. It was also the first time Troy, which had won four in a row entering the game, had been shut out since a 5-0 loss to Bellefontaine on April 20, 2012.

Echols walked four, gave up six hits and only struck out three, throwing only one one-two-three inning and a total of 99 pitches. But it never really felt like he was in any danger except when he walked the first two batters of the fifth inning and let Troy load the bases in the seventh with one out.

Each time, though, the Trojans harmlessly flew out to the outfield to take the pressure off of Echols, and he found ways to work out of it.

"We got beat today due to a lack of offense and a complete lack of discipline at the plate," Welker said. "I'm not taking away from him (Echols). He threw a really nice game. But we just had absolutely no plan at the plate.

"We'd be in a fastball count and then take a fastball for a strike. He was throwing high in the zone, and we were swinging pop-up swings and popping the ball up. We lacked an offensive approach today."

Sidney (5-6, 2-2), meanwhile, was fortunate enough to get to Troy starter Zach Kendall early.

Kaleb Dotson led off with a single and stole second, and with one out Echols drove him in with an RBI single in the middle, with Echols taking second on an errant throw on the play. And with two outs, Jacob Lochard brought in Echols for an insurance run with another RBI single.

It was all Sidney could manage against Kendall, as he was lights out from there. Kendall gave up six hits in the game — three



Troy shortstop Dylan Cascaden throws a runner out at first Wednesday night at Fifth Third Field in Dayton.

PHOTOS COURTESY LEE WOOLERY/SPEEDSHOT PHOTO



Troy's Nick Sanders tags out a Sidney runner at second base Wednesday at Fifth Third Field.

in the first inning — and walked none while striking out five.

And when the Jackets did get runners on, catcher Ian Nadolny made sure they didn't matter. With Sidney runners on first and second and none out in the fourth, a Sidney batter missed on a bunt attempt and Nadolny threw to second, catching the lead runner in a rundown. And in the fifth, a one-out single led to nothing as Nadolny caught a runner trying to steal second.

"We've got to come out and start," Welker said. "Slow starts like we had today will get you. Zach had a slow start focus-wise, but he settled down and threw a heck of a

game. We just didn't help him out.

"You can't pitch a victory if you don't score any runs."

Troy's best threats came in the fifth and seventh. In the fifth, Collin Moeller and Cam Weaver — who was 2 for 2 in the game — led off the inning by working back-to-back walks. But flyouts to left and right field by the next two batters took the heat off, and Echols struck out the final hitter of the inning to escape.

Greg Johnson then led off the seventh with a single, and Weaver singled with one out to put runners on first and second. Dylan Cascaden (1 for 3) walked to load the bases, but Echols struck out the



Troy's Cam Weaver follows through on a single Wednesday against Sidney at Fifth Third Field.

next hitter and induced a groundout to short to end the game.

"We posed a threat, but it was too little, too late," Welker said.

And while perennial GWOC North champ Butler now sits atop the division with a 4-0 record, Welker wanted to ensure that his Trojans aren't looking ahead to that series, which isn't until the end of the month.

"We have Greenville Monday and Tuesday next week. We'll worry about them first," he said.

Before that, though, the Trojans travel to Centerville on Friday.

Sidney ...200 000 0 — 2 6 0  
Troy .....000 000 0 — 0 6 2  
Echols and Niswonger. Kendall and Nadolny. WP — Echols. LP — Kendall. Records: Sidney 5-6, 2-2, Troy 8-4, 3-1.

## Softball/Baseball

# Roundup

CONTINUED FROM 15 ready to keep moving forward."

Troy hosts Wayne today.

Sidney .....200 000 0 — 2  
Troy .....150 211 x — 10  
Vernon and Snay. WP — Vernon. Records: Troy 5-6, 2-2.

### Tippecanoe 4, Tecumseh 0

TIPP CITY — Bri Eichbaum struck out seven, walked one and gave up five hits Wednesday, finishing off Tippecanoe's first shutout of the year in a 5-0 Central Buckeye Conference victory over Tecumseh.

"That's the best game Bri's pitched all year so far. She pitched a great game," Tippecanoe coach Charles Tackett said.

And she got all the support she needed when the Devils (10-4, 6-0) scored twice in the first inning. Cassie Gingerich had three hits, two runs and three stolen bases to pace the attack, Kristin Mace had a hit and two RBIs and Ali Muse had two hits, a double and scored a run.

Tippecanoe travels to Ben Logan today for a key CBC test.

Tec .....000 000 0 — 0 5 0  
Tipp .....200 002 x — 4 6 0  
Eichbaum and Kostyal. WP — Eichbaum. 2B — Muse (Tipp). Records: Tecumseh 5-5, 0-5, Tippecanoe 10-4, 6-0.

### Carlisle 4, Milton-Union 3

CARLISLE — Three errors proved costly to Milton-Union Wednesday as Carlisle took advantage of its chances in a 4-3 Southwestern Buckeye League Buckeye Division victory.

"Our defense hurt us again today," Milton-Union coach Curt Schaefer said.

Chloe Smith — who took the loss on the mound — was 2 for 4 in the game, Jessie Bowman was 2 for 4 with a double, Haley Martens doubled and Christine Heisey tripled.

Milton-Union (6-7, 2-4) travels to Preble Shawnee Friday.

M-U .....000 012 0 — 3 9 3  
Car .....020 020 x — 4 4 2  
Chl. Smith and K. Courtright, B. Courtright (3). Morris and Summers. WP — Morris. LP — Chl. Smith. 2B — Martens (M), Bowman (M). 3B — Heisey (M). Records: Milton-Union 6-7, 2-4.

### Baseball

#### Bethel 5, Southeastern 2

S O U T H CHARLESTON — Bethel's offense did enough Wednesday.

The way Luke Veldman threw, it even did a little too much.

Veldman struck out 15, walked one and gave up five hits at Southeastern

Wednesday, throwing a complete game and leading the Bees to their sixth straight win, 5-2, after they started the season with three straight losses.

"Luke has struggled with his control a little this year, but today he was just on," Bethel coach Brett Brookhart said. "This is what we've been waiting for from him. Hopefully a game like this gets him rolling. He was just excellent today."

With Bethel (6-3) leading 3-1 in the top of the fifth, Zach Baughman had a clutch two-out, two-run single that sealed the game. Brandon Nesbitt also had a nice day, going 3 for 4 at the plate.

Bethel returns to Cross County Conference play when it hosts National Trail today.

Bethel .....201 020 0 — 5 7 4  
SE .....000 101 0 — 2 5 1  
Veldman and Pelphrey. Smith, Spears (5) and Moeller. WP — Veldman. LP — Smith. Records: Bethel 6-3, Southeastern 1-8.

### Tecumseh 2, Tippecanoe 0

TIPP CITY — Even when the bats haven't been working, Tippecanoe has been able to count on its pitching and defense this season.

Wednesday, one of those two things went awry at a bad time.

The Red Devils (11-2, 5-1 Central Buckeye Conference) committed six costly errors Wednesday on the way to their first loss in league play, a 2-0 defeat at the hands of rival Tecumseh (9-3, 3-2) that snapped a nine-game winning streak.

"We've had 19 errors in 12 games before today. In high school baseball, that's pretty good," Tippecanoe coach Bruce Cahill said. "But we played really sloppy defense today, and those errors cost us."

And with the Devils managing only three hits, those two Tecumseh runs — both of which were unearned, scoring on errant throws to first base — were more than enough.

Steven Calhoun suffered the loss despite combining with Cameron Johnson, who pitched the seventh inning, to strike out 13 and give up only four hits.

The Red Devils look to start another winning streak today at Ben Logan.

Tec .....001 010 0 — 2 4 3  
Tipp .....000 000 0 — 0 3 6  
High and Nicwaner. Calhoun, Johnson (7) and Donathan. WP — High. LP — Calhoun. 2B — Cain (Tec). Records: Tecumseh 9-3, 3-2, Tippecanoe 11-2, 5-1.

## Women's College Basketball

# New OSU coach wants to compete with elite teams

COLUMBUS (AP) — Both Kevin McGuff and Ohio State have a lot of money riding on their new union.

The 43-year-old McGuff made his first official appearance as the new women's basketball coach of the Buckeyes on Wednesday.

"For somebody who grew up in Ohio and coaches women's basketball, this is always the job I've looked at as saying if there was one job I could ever have it would be that one," McGuff said at mid-court of the team's arena. "And if there's one job where I thought I'd be an amazing fit and could do a fantastic job, it was Ohio State."

After spending nine years as the head coach at Xavier and the past two at Washington, the Hamilton, Ohio, native said it was good to be back home. He takes over for Hall of Fame coach Jim Foster, who was fired after an 18-13 season his first

during his 11-year tenure without 20 wins or a trip to the NCAA tournament.

Ohio State is paying McGuff \$850,000 a year, not counting performance and academic bonuses, along with \$500,000 in retention payments if he remains on the job through the 2020-21 season. He also received a \$700,000 signing bonus.

He can earn up to \$150,000 more if his team has a high grade-point average. If the Buckeyes win at least a share of the Big Ten's regular-season title, he gets \$20,000 plus an additional year onto his contract. Win the conference tournament, he receives \$40,000 and an additional year. Plus, if he gets Ohio State into the NCAA tournament where it had been for Foster's first 10 seasons he'll get \$40,000. Subsequent steps in the NCAAAs would fatten his paycheck by \$20,000 on up to \$100,000 for winning the school's first national championship.

## Golf

# Els ready for RBC Heritage

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — Ernie Els might've been the second happiest golfer at Augusta National last Sunday night when good friend Adam Scott slipped on the green jacket as the Masters' champion.

Els, who tied for 13th last week, is part of a strong field at the RBC Heritage, which begins Thursday. The 2012 British Open champion has had several close calls at Harbour Town Golf Links, but brings plenty of confidence and the satisfaction of watching Scott win his first major championship into this year's tournament.

Els earned his fourth career major at Royal Lytham & St. Anne's this past July when Scott threw away a four-stroke lead with four holes remaining. Els consoled Scott before hoisting the claret jug, then made sure the Australian didn't let the collapse derail him from contending in future majors.

"I've really made a point of getting on him a little bit and keeping him going forward," Els said Wednesday. "We played a lot of golf and talked quite a bit. He really

was motivated for it."

Scott rallied to the top of the leaderboard in Sunday's final round, then defeated Angel Cabrera in a playoff to become Australia's first Masters champion.

It was a different sort of conversation the two shared after this major.

"Yeah, we had quite a few beers, both of us, when we spoke to each other," said Els, smiling. "He's very delighted, I can promise you, that he got a green jacket and I was delighted for him."

The RBC Heritage features 14 of the world's top 29 golfers in a week that's typically a chance for the game's best to grab a breather before the run-up to the U.S. Open. Several, including Scott and world No. 1 Tiger Woods, are doing just that. But there's lots of star power and talented golfers at Harbour Town.

Brandt Snedeker, the 2011 champion here who shared the 54-hole lead a week ago, is the world's highest-ranked player at No. 5. Luke Donald (No. 6), Matt Kuchar (No. 9) are others from the top 10 playing here.

Defending U.S. Open

champion Webb Simpson, ranked 20th joins Els as current major winners here.

Jason Day, third at the Masters, was encouraged by another strong showing at Augusta National and by his countryman's victory. Day tied for second with Scott at the 2011 Masters and the two exchanged texts in the midst of Scott's demanding post-Masters media whirlwind.

Scott told Day he understood the disappointment at coming close again, yet appreciated the class Day showed in defeat.

"And I texted him back and said, 'I'm glad it was you to be the first. It goes down in history forever, mate,'" Day recalled.

Day said Harbour Town's layout fits his game and hopes to take advantage of the work he put in getting ready for the Masters.

Snedeker, who famously cried after coming close at the Masters in 2008, found himself resolved to keep improving after this defeat. He had his first over-par round of the tournament with a 75 on Sunday and tied for sixth, five strokes out of the playoff.

"I think this one is easier because I know I'm going to be back," he said.

Still, Snedeker had trouble sleeping Sunday night and didn't go searching TV or the Internet for accounts of what happened. "I definitely didn't seek out The Golf Channel," he said.

He believes Harbour Town's narrow fairways and postage-stamp sized greens could be the perfect pick-me-up after Augusta National.

"Obviously, the drive down is a big relief after last week," Snedeker said. "The breath of fresh air after the stress."

Els will be in the spotlight this week. On Friday, tournament organizers will team with "Els for Autism" on a number of initiatives to raise awareness of autism, highlight the importance of early detection and raise funds to help build the Els Center of Excellence which will serve people on the autism spectrum from ages 3-21.

Els' 10-year-old son was diagnosed with autism. "It's something we want to do," Els said of the center. "It will keep finding its legs as we go along."