

Baseball

Trojans

**CONTINUED FROM 13** still had a chance if they got some help from Sidney during Butler's final divisional series of the year.

Instead, the Aviators (14-6, 7-1) took advantage of four Troy errors over the course of the first two innings, taking control with a 6-0 lead and never looking back.

"When it rains, it pours," Welker said. "Early on, we failed to execute. We have control over a lot of the stuff that happened. We were just on our heels."

"We played very defensively today, aggression-wise. I've had teams that maybe didn't have a lot of talent, but that's not this group. So to see that defensive kind of play in a team like this is disappointing."

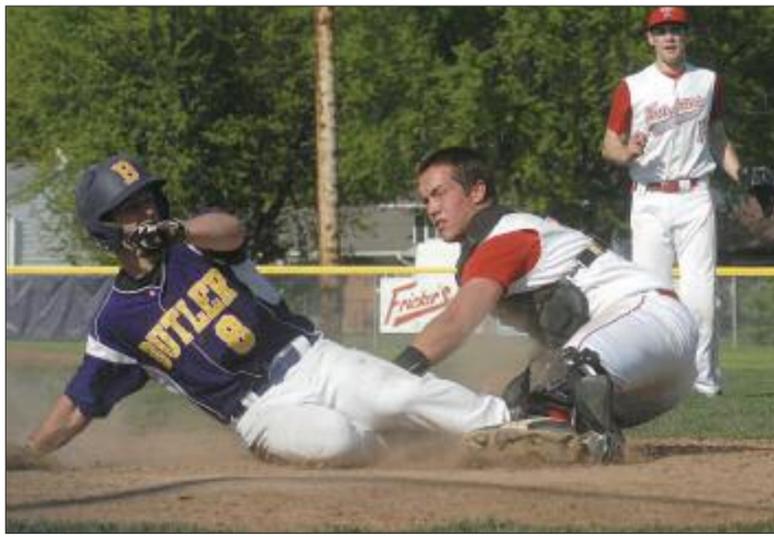
And Butler did it with patience and the ability to extend at-bats at the plate.

The Aviators worked a pair of walks to start the game, and a dropped fly ball in right plated Butler's first run. Then on a grounder to short, Troy tried to get the runner at the plate, but the throw was a split second too late. After a bloop RBI single, Troy gave up another run on a delayed double steal by throwing the ball into center field, and it was 4-0 Butler after one.

After another Troy error led off the second inning, Butler got another runner on with a hit-and-run, catching Troy's fielder out of position. After a balk moved those runners into scoring position, a two-out error brought them both in to make it 6-0.

All told in the game, Butler forced Troy's two pitchers to throw 134 pitches — 40 in the first inning alone — drawing six walks, getting hit by a pitch and fouling off a whopping 15 pitches with two-strike counts to keep at-bats alive.

"There were two teams out here today: one that



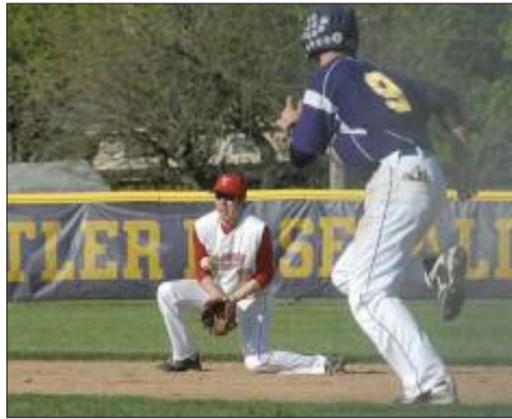
Troy catcher Ian Nadolny (middle) applies a tag to a Butler player during a game Tuesday in Vandalia.

competed at the plate and made things happen, and one that waited for things to happen to it," Welker said. "We know Butler's tough to get out. That's the kind of team they are. We just can't sit back and wait for good things to happen to us."

But once Butler started scoring earned runs in the third and fourth, they did so with dribblers, infield hits, seeing-eye singles and bloopers. The Aviators scored six times in the third on six hits, then added two more insurance runs in the fourth on two hits and three walks.

Troy managed to get on the board in the third. After singles by Dylan Cascaden and Nick Sanders to lead off the inning, a fielder's choice put runners on the corners. Butler starter Mitch Gremling — who also got out of a bases-loaded jam in the first inning — struck out the next batter for the second out, but a wild pitch brought in Cascaden and an RBI double by Ian Nadolny plated Sanders.

Nadolny added an RBI



Troy second baseman Nick Sanders fields a ground ball against Butler Tuesday.

single in the top of the fifth, but the Trojans left runners on second and third as the Aviators finished the game early.

Coupled with Sidney's 4-2 loss to Piqua Tuesday, Butler wrapped up the outright league championship with the win.

And with a makeup game at Centerville on Thursday before hosting Lebanon on Friday and Kenton Ridge on Saturday, the Trojans are left looking for a way to find their

intensity and aggressiveness again.

"That's a good question," Welker said. "We've just got to try to focus on what happens in our dugout. We've got to make sure we're working to make adjustments and compete. Because we didn't compete today."

**Troy...** 002 01 — 3 7 4  
**Butler...** 426 2 — 14 10 2  
Langdon, Croft (3) and Nadolny. Gremling and Yorgen. WP — Gremling. LP — Langdon. 2B — Nadolny (T). **Records:** Troy 12-7, 4-4, Butler 14-6, 7-1.

Softball/Baseball

Roundup

**CONTINUED FROM 13** Kostyal. After Shawnee recorded an out, Mace came through in the clutch to win the game in style. "They're a good team with a really good pitcher," Tackett said. "We had to make plays to get back into this game and win it ... and we did."

Tippecanoe travels to Northwestern Thursday before a huge Monday-Tuesday series against Kenton Ridge, which trails the Devils by one game in the standings.

**Shaw 001 031 0 — 5 11 3**  
**Tipp...** 000 104 1 — 6 10 1  
Eichbaum and Kostyal. WP — Eichbaum. **Records:** Tippecanoe 18-4, 12-0.

**Covington 4, Bradford 0**

**BRADFORD** — Bradford made it as tough as possible against Cross County Conference rival Covington, but the Bucces were able to scatter four runs over seven innings and pitcher Casey Yingst held the Railroaders in check in a 4-0 victory Tuesday night.

"We hit the ball on the nose, but she threw a good game," Covington coach Dean Denlinger said. "She kept us off balance and we didn't get some bunts down. We played solid defense, though, and we have done that all year."

For Covington, Heidi Snipes went 2 for 4 with a pair of stolen bases and Connor Schaffer went 1 for 3 with an RBI. For Bradford, pitcher Haley Patty struck out three in a complete-game effort.

Covington (16-0, 6-0) returns to action today against Mississinawa Valley. Bradford hosts Franklin Monroe today.

**Cov...** 200 100 1 — 4 8 0  
**Brad...** 000 000 0 — 0 5 1  
Yingst and Schaffer. Patty and Dunlevy. WP — Yingst. LP — Patty. **Records:** Covington 16-0, 6-0.

**Newton 5, Tri-Village 4**

**NEW MADISON** — Newton scored five runs through five innings and held off a seventh-inning rally by Tri-Village to emerge with a 5-4 victory in Cross County Conference play Tuesday night.

Pitcher Kirsten Burden went the distance to get the win, striking out four compared to one walk. She also was the leading hitter, going 3 for 4 with an RBI. Also for Newton, Kasey Thompson went 2 for 4 with an RBI and Megan Rutledge added a double.

The Indians (11-8, 4-3) travel to take on the Bethel Bees today.

**New ...** 120 110 0 — 5 10 1  
**TV...** 111 000 1 — 4 10 2  
WP — K. Burden. 2B — Rutledge (N). **Records:** Newton 11-8, 4-3.

**Miami East 2, Arcanum 0**

**ARCANUM** — Miami East followed a familiar formula to another Cross County Conference win Tuesday against Arcanum.

Pitcher Paige Kiesewetter went the distance, allowing two hits and striking out six as the Vikings defeated the Trojans 2-0. Olivia Edgell led East at the plate, going 2 for 2.

"It was another solid defensive effort all around," Miami East coach Brian Kadel said. "Paige pitched a real good game. We didn't hit the ball necessarily well, but our defense played well, and that will keep us in games."

Miami East (13-4, 6-1) hosts Bradford Thursday.

**ME ...** 101 00 0 — 2 7 1  
**Arc ...** 000 000 0 — 0 2 0  
Kiesewetter and O'Neal. Bruns and Weaver. WP — Kiesewetter. LP — Weaver. **Records:** Miami East 13-4, 6-1.

**Baseball**  
**Miami East 7, Arcanum 4**

**ARCANUM** — Seven games into Cross County Conference play and the Miami East Vikings find themselves in a familiar position — on top of the standings.

And the Vikings moved a step closer to winning their third consecutive CCC title Tuesday, beating Arcanum, who was unbeaten in league play heading into the game, by a score of 7-4.

"I don't like looking ahead," Miami East coach Barry Coomes said. "I like to take it one game at a time, and that's how I want my players to approach every game. We just have to keep focusing on one game at a time and let the rest take care of itself."

Miami East pitcher Garrett Mitchell threw a complete game with five strikeouts, four hits and two earned runs. He was also 1 for 3 with a pair of RBIs. Evan Bowling went 2 for 3 with an RBI, Brandon Kirk was 2 for 5, Michael Fellers had a double and a pair of RBIs and Braxton Donaldson added a double.

Miami East (12-2, 7-0) hosts Bradford Thursday.

**ME...** 111 101 2 — 7 7 2  
**Arc ...** 200 100 1 — 4 4 7  
Mitchell and Fellers. Garno, Albaugh (4) and Habel. WP — Mitchell. LP — Garno. 2B — Fellers (ME), Donaldson (ME). **Records:** Miami East 12-2, 7-0. Arcanum 11-1.

**Bethel 7, FM 3**

**PITTSBURGH** — Alex Wilson drove in five runs and Luke Veldman found ways out of trouble on the mound as Bethel (11-6, 4-3 Cross County Conference) shut down Franklin Monroe 7-3 Tuesday.

Wilson led the offense, going 2 for 3 with a double and five RBIs. Veldman, meanwhile, struck out eight but walked seven and gave up three hits — but he was never really in trouble as Bethel scored three in the top of the first and tacked on four for good measure in the fifth.

Bethel takes on Newton today.

**Beth...** 300 040 0 — 7 7 0  
**FM ...** 000 100 2 — 3 5 2  
Veldman and Pelphrey. McCoy and Wiseman. WP — Veldman. LP — McCoy. 2B — Wilson (B). **Records:** Bethel 11-6, 4-3.

**Spr. Shawnee 2, Tippecanoe 0**

**TIPP CITY** — Springfield Shawnee (13-7, 9-3) closed back to within one game in the Central Buckeye Conference Kenton Trail Division Tuesday, shutting out Tippecanoe for a 2-0 victory.

Tippecanoe (17-4, 10-2) travels to Northwestern Thursday.

**Tri-Village 9, Newton 4**

**NEW MADISON** — Newton took a 4-3 lead on Tri-Village into the bottom of the sixth inning, but the Patriots reeled off six runs in the inning to come away with a 9-4 Cross County Conference win Tuesday.

For Newton, Mitchell Hussong went 2 for 4 with two runs, Cody Alexander was 2 for 4 and Bryan Delcamp added two RBIs. Right fielder Brandon Delcamp added a pair of diving catches and threw out a runner at the plate on defense.

"We competed with one of the top teams in our conference," Newton coach Gregg Carnes said. "We just ran out of gas again during a (string) of eight games in eight days. The team gave a good effort."

Newton (9-12, 3-5) returns to action today at Bethel.

**Newton** 010 003 0 — 4 6 1  
**TV...** 200 016 x — 9 6 1  
Courtney, Hussong (6) and Schwartz. Brubaker and Frech. WP — Brubaker. LP — Courtney. 2B — Schlechty (TV), Pipenger (TV), Husson (N).

National Basketball Association

Collins' big test will be joining team

By the Associated Press

The coming-out part is over.

Now Jason Collins needs a job.

Collins' stunning announcement that he was a gay athlete in a major sport won overwhelming support from other players, coaches and executives even a phone call from the president.

But it also came after the season ended for the 7-foot center and his Washington Wizards.

The 34-year-old journeyman becomes a free agent on July 1 meaning that he will first have to sign with an NBA team and wait until next season to see if teammates, coaches, opponents and fans will treat him any differently.

"I think the real response will be once he gets a job," said Brooklyn Nets veteran Jerry Stackhouse, who has called Collins a friend for years.

"It's not like he's under

contract next year and guaranteed to go back to a team. I think once that happens, then public opinion or whatever or players' opinion will start to loom a little larger then. But right now we've got the summer to kind of digest what has happened, and I'm pulling for him."

Perhaps only when he starts seeing offers from teams will he get an idea of what coming out will mean for his career. He only played in 38 games last season his 12th year

in the NBA with averages of 1.1 points, 1.6 rebounds and 10.1 minutes per game for Boston and Washington.

He may not be an All-Star, but he has built a career by being a big, smart, physical player who can come off the bench and help defend some of the few remaining dominant centers the league like the Lakers' Dwight Howard, Brooklyn's Brook Lopez and Marc Gasol of Memphis.

National Football League

Tebow now a free agent

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Tim Tebow is free to sign with any NFL team that might want him.

The popular but polarizing quarterback cleared waivers Tuesday, a day after being let go by the Jets following an embarrassingly unsuccessful year in New York.

Tebow is now a free agent, but his NFL future is uncertain. It was expected he would clear waivers since a team would have had to pick up the remainder of Tebow's contract, about \$1.9 million over the next two seasons.

The Jets must still pay the Broncos, from whom they acquired Tebow in March 2012, \$1.53 million as a result of their trade agreement.

It's unclear if any NFL team will give Tebow an

opportunity for next season. His inaccurate passing, in addition to the relentless media attention he draws, makes for a tricky mix.

The Omaha Beef, an indoor football team, have offered him to play for them, as have the Orlando Predators of the Arena League. The Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League hold his rights, but general manager Jim Popp said he could come compete for a job as a backup.

It's quite a fall for Tebow, who led the Broncos to the postseason in 2011, but became expendable when Denver signed Peyton Manning as a free agent. The Jets acquired him for a fourth-round draft pick and \$1.5 million in salary, and he was

expected to be a vital part of New York's offense. Instead, it was a miserable season for Tebow as the Jets failed to find an effective way to use him, and he didn't impress Rex Ryan and his coaching staff enough in practice to force them to give him more playing time. Tebow was also leapfrogged by third-stringer Greg McElroy when starter Mark Sanchez was benched for a game late in the season.

"We really didn't take advantage, in my opinion, of his skill set," Ryan said on ESPN Radio on Tuesday. "It's nobody's fault. Ultimately, it's my fault."

Tebow attempted eight passes and completed six for 39 yards and rushed 32 times for 102 yards and stunningly had no touchdowns.

NBA

Nuggets hold off Warriors

**DENVER (AP)** — Kenneth Faried brought the energy and the Denver Nuggets rediscovered their toughness in time to stave off elimination Tuesday night with a 107-100 win over the Golden State Warriors.

The Nuggets slowed down Golden State's guards, jumpstarted their transition game and got under Andrew Bogut's skin in Game 5, jumping out to a 22-point lead before weathering the Warriors' frenetic fourth quarter rally.

Game 6 is Thursday night in Oakland. Golden State leads the series 3-2.

Andre Iguodala had 25 points and 12 rebounds, Ty Lawson had 19 points and 13 points and 10 boards.

Stephen Curry, whose 18 3-pointers were the most by any player in NBA history in the first four playoff games of his career, went ice cold, missing his first five 3-pointers before finally hitting with 5:09 left to pull Golden State to 96-91.

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