

Softball

Softball

**CONTINUED FROM 16** striking out four, walking none and giving up seven hits and zero earned runs. “She threw 74 pitches the whole game,” Tackett said. “And we had a couple of line-drive double plays behind her, some one-two-three innings. We played well defensively.” Tippecanoe begins a two-game series against Kenton Ridge Monday and Tuesday that will decide the CBC Kenton Trail Division title. **Tippecanoe 030 0 — 6 10 1** NW.....100 000 0 — 1 7 3 WP — Eichbaum. 2B — Mace (T). HR — Kostyal (T). **Records:** Tippecanoe 19-4, 13-0.

**Covington 10, Franklin Monroe 0** COVINGTON — Covington scored four in the bottom of the first inning and cruised to a 10-0 victory in five innings over visiting Cross County Conference foe Franklin Monroe, improving to 18-0 on the season and maintaining the CCC lead with an 8-0 record. Casey Yingst got the win, throwing a one-hitter. She struck out seven and walked none. The Buccaneer offense, meanwhile, spread out its damage. Heidi Snipes doubled and stole a base and

a host of other Buccs had one hit apiece in the win. Covington takes on Twin Valley South today. **Miami East 10, Bradford 0** CASSTOWN — A three-run home run by Paige Kiesewetter opened up the flood gates Thursday as Miami East run-ruled visiting Bradford 10-0 in Cross County Conference play. “We were up 3-0 going into the fifth. We started it off with a walk and a couple of singles, and then Paige hit a three-run homer,” Miami East coach Brian Kadel said. “That

kind of took the wind out of their sails.” Lindsey Brookhart was also 2 for 3 with a double and three RBIs, Madison Linn was 2 for 2 with a double and Olivia Edgell was 2 for 3. Kiesewetter struck out 10 and gave up three hits on the mound to record the shutout. “It was a good game going into the fifth,” Kadel said. “(Haley) Patty threw a good game for them and they were making plays. We just hit a couple of hard shots.” Miami East (14-4, 7-1) takes on Franklin Monroe

today. **Brad .....000 000 — 0 3 4** ME.....021 043 — 10 10 1 Patty and Dunlevy. Kiesewetter and O’Neal. WP — Kiesewetter. LP — Patty. 2B — Linn (M), Brookhart (M). HR — Kiesewetter (M). **Records:** Miami East 14-4, 7-1. **Newton 4, Ansonia 0** PLEASANT HILL — Newton (13-8, 6-3 Cross County Conference) jumped on Ansonia early and Kirsten Burden and the defense did the rest in a 4-0 victory Thursday. Burden struck out nine, walked one and gave up three hits and the defense committed no errors in the shutout.

“It was a good defensive game both ways. We played very well on defense again,” Newton coach Kirk Kadel said. “Offensively, we got ahead and seemed to relax — and we can’t do that. We’ve got to keep pushing for more.” Rose Studebaker was 3 for 3 with a double, Tiara Jackson was 2 for 4 and Kasey Thompson doubled. Newton hosts Dunbar Monday. **Ans .....000 000 0 — 0 3 2** New.....210 100 0 — 4 9 0 K. Burden and Studebaker. WP — K. Burden. 2B — Studebaker (N), Thompson (N). **Records:** Newton 13-8, 6-3.

Baseball

Vikings



Miami East’s Brandon Kirk rounds the bases Thursday against Bradford.



Miami East’s Michael Fellers steals second base as the throw comes in late to Bradford’s Bryce Arnett Thursday at Miami East.

**CONTINUED FROM 16** the game at 3-3 with a run in the bottom of the fifth, McKinney led off the seventh by beating out an infield single. He moved to second on a balk and, after Evan Bowling was hit by a pitch, took third on a flyout to left. Mitchell then hit a grounder to short, and Bradford’s Bryce Arnett quickly fired the ball home. Catcher Jake Cline attempted to swipe a tag at the runner’s chest behind him after he caught the ball, but McKinney’s foot touched first, and the Vikings celebrated. “It’s great,” McKinney said. “We really needed this win.” “We were fortunate to get this one — and the one the other night,” Coomes said. “That’s two kind-of ugly ones in a row.” Freshman Damien Mackesy got the win, taking over for starter Brandon Kirk in the second inning after he left with an injury. Mackesy struck out eight, walked two and gave up one hit and one run — setting down the final 13 consecu-

tive batters he faced in the game. “Damien came in and did another great job in relief on short notice,” Coomes said. “He just shows such great composure for a freshman.” Despite the tough loss, Bradford (14-5, 3-4) didn’t have much to hang its head about. T.J. Pullins threw a strong game, giving up only five hits, walking one and striking out four in going the distance. And the defense — despite three errors which led to three unearned runs — made some huge plays in clutch situations to keep the Vikings from pulling too far ahead early. “T.J. threw a heck of a game,” Bradford coach Shane Snyder said. “This was probably his third time on the mound this season, and it was probably the best game he’s thrown. And we made some great catches in the outfield in big situations tonight. The

defense helped him out at times. “We can’t make those errors early on and let ourselves get behind, and we’ve got to learn how to finish games. Out of our four league losses, this was the third that came in the seventh or eighth inning. We made some great plays, too, though. You take the good with the bad.” Miami East took a 2-0 lead in the first inning, scoring on a pair of errors — one of which directly plated a run, and another that led to an RBI infield single by Dylan Kinnison with the bases loaded and two outs. But Pullins caught the next batter looking to keep the score from getting worse. The the Roaders answered with two in the top of the second. An RBI sac fly by Paul Chapman with the bases loaded cut the lead in half, but Miami East catcher Michael Fellers then picked the runner of second. A walk

put runners on first and second with two outs, though, and a double by Arnett brought in the tying run. Bradford took the lead in the top of the third on an RBI single by Austin Lear, then both pitchers settled in and started cruising. While Mackesy didn’t allow Bradford another baserunner the entire game, Pullins set down the next eight straight Vikings before an error in the bottom of the fifth led to the game-tying RBI single by Fellers — which set up McKinney’s heroics in the seventh. “Give Bradford credit. They made some great plays,” Coomes said. “Kirk getting hurt kind of had us start out flat after that, but the kids stayed with it and found a way to pull it out.” **Brad .....021 000 0 — 3 4 3** ME.....200 010 1 — 4 5 0 Pullins and Cline. Kirk, Mackesy (2) and Fellers. WP — Mackesy. LP — Pullins. 2B — Arnett (B). **Records:** Bradford 14-5, 3-4, Miami East 14-4, 7-1.

Baseball

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**CONTINUED FROM 16** down,” Welker said. “We didn’t give up. We didn’t quit. We were outmatched at times, but we kept working hard, and that’s great to see.” **Troy.....000 001 2 — 3 8 1** Cville.....200 210 x — 5 7 1 Wood and Nadolny. Hendrixson, Holland (7) and Murphy. WP — Hendrixson. LP — Wood. 2B — Sanders (T), Holland (C). **Records:** Troy 12-8, Centerville 19-1. **Tippecanoe 7, Northwestern 0 (8)** SPRINGFIELD — After seven innings without a run, Tippecanoe more than made up for it in extras. Carter Langdon hit an RBI triple to open the flood gates in the top of the eighth inning Thursday at Northwestern, breaking open a scoreless tie as the Red Devils finished off a 7-0 Central Buckeye Conference crossover win. Cole Quillen got the win, pitching seven shutout innings and striking out 11. Cameron Johnson — who was 3 for 5 at the plate — pitched the eighth. “Cole pitched a great game,” Tippecanoe coach Bruce Cahill said. “He didn’t walk anybody and gave up three hits. He just had great control.” Austin Hadden was 3 for 3 with three stolen bases, Brad Bruns was 2 for 3 and Ben Hughes was 2 for 5 as the Devils (18-4, 11-2) finally found a way to break through in the eighth. The Devils host Fort Loramie in a doubleheader Saturday. **Tippecanoe 000 000 07 — 7 12 0** NW.....000 000 00 — 0 3 3 WP — Quillen. 3B — Langdon (T). **Records:** Tippecanoe 18-4, 11-2, Northwestern 10-9, 6-6. **Newton 12, Ansonia 2** PLEASANT HILL — Cody Alexander drove in

three runs and was the winning pitcher Thursday against Ansonia as Newton (10-12, 4-6 Cross County Conference) run-ruled Ansonia 12-2 at home. Mitchell Husson was 2 for 3, while Chase Courtney, Brandon Delcamp and Trenton Lavy all scored two runs in the win. “It was a nice league win, and it was great to get all 18 kids into the game,” Newton coach Gregg Carnes said. “It’s tournament prep time now. Defensively we were sound, and we have to continue that trend the rest of the season. “The kids were happy about getting to double digits in wins. Now we need to keep building that confidence and belief in winning.” Newton is back in action on Saturday in a tri-match at Tri-County North. **Ans.....010 100 — 2 6 4** New.....413 031 — 12 7 1 WP — C. Alexander. LP — Burnfield. 2B — C. Alexander (N). **Records:** Newton 10-12, 4-6. **Covington 14, Franklin Monroe 4** COVINGTON — “Without a doubt,” Covington coach Mitch Hirsch said after being asked if his Buccaneers had played their best game of the year Thursday, a 14-4 run-rule victory over Franklin Monroe. Kyler Deeter and Justin Williams both hit home runs in the game and drove in two runs apiece. Bryton Lear had two hits and two RBIs and Brock Smith, Austin Angle and Sheldon Rank all doubled. Matthew Hubbard hit a two-run single that ended the game early. Covington (8-10) hosts Twin Valley South today.

National Hockey League

Caps knock off Rangers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alex Ovechkin’s franchise-record 31st career playoff goal got the Capitals started before less-heralded teammates Marcus Johansson and Jason Chimera scored 46 seconds apart, and Washington beat the New York Rangers 3-1 Thursday night in Game 1 of their first-round series. Ovechkin, a two-time MVP who led the NHL with 32 goals this season, crashed the net to score on a power play about seven minutes into the second period to tie the game. Carl Hagelin had put New York ahead 1-0 in the first period the only puck that made it past Braden Holtby, who finished with 35 saves. Game 2 of the best-of-seven series is Saturday in Washington. It’s the third consecutive season these two teams are facing each other in the playoffs and the fourth time in five years. The Rangers eliminated the Capitals in seven games in the second round last season.

**Senators 4, Canadiens 2** MONTREAL — Craig Anderson made 48 saves in a spectacular goaltending performance in Game 1. Jakob Silfverberg and Marc Methot scored early in the third period to lift the Senators into the lead. Game 2 set for Friday night at the Bell Centre. Erik Karlsson and Guillaume Latendresse also scored for the Senators, who were outshot 50-31 but saw Anderson easily win the goaltending duel with Carey Price, who was beaten twice through the pads. Rene Bourque and Brendan Gallagher replied for Montreal, which set a team record for shots in a regulation-time playoff game. Montreal center Lars Eller was wheeled off on a stretcher bleeding heavily from the nose and was taken to a hospital with what the team said were head and facial injuries after he was caught with a shoulder to the face on an open-ice hit from Senators defenseman Eric Gryba.

National Basketball Association

Brooklyn holds on, forces Game 7

CHICAGO (AP) — Deron Williams, Brook Lopez and Joe Johnson each scored 17 points, and the Brooklyn Nets again avoided elimination, beating the short-handed Chicago Bulls 95-92 Thursday to tie their first-round series at 3. The series goes back to Brooklyn for Game 7 on Saturday. The winner gets Miami in the second round.

The Bulls hung in until the end even though they were missing Luol Deng and Kirk Hinrich. A layup by Nazr Mohammed cut the Nets’ lead to 93-92 with 25.2 seconds remaining. Nate Robinson then fouled Andray Blatche, who had missed a free throw only moments earlier. This time, he hit both to make it a three-point game with 19.2 seconds left.

The Bulls had a chance to tie it, but Marco Belinelli missed a 3-point shot and Joakim Noah stepped out of bounds with about six seconds left. Chicago still had a chance, though. Noah tied up Williams after the inbounds, resulting in a jump ball with 3.6 seconds left. Johnson controlled the ball, and the Nets hung on. Gerald Wallace added

15 points as Brooklyn won its second straight. Only eight NBA teams have come back from a 3-1 deficit to win a best-of-7 series, but the Nets are in position to do just that. It helped that Hinrich missed his second straight game with a bruised left calf and that Deng was sidelined with flu-like symptoms, forcing the Bulls to shuffle their lineup.

National Football League

Poll: Redskins shouldn’t change name

WASHINGTON (AP) — It’s been a rough offseason for the Washington Redskins, and not just because of the knee injury to star quarterback Robert Griffin III. The team’s nickname has faced a new barrage of criticism for being offensive to Native Americans. Local leaders and pundits have called for a name change. Opponents have launched a legal challenge intended to deny the team federal trademark protection. A bill introduced in Congress in March would do the same, though it appears unlikely to pass. But a new Associated Press-GfK poll shows that nationally, “Redskins” still enjoys wide support.

Nearly four in five Americans don’t think the team should change its name, the survey found. Only 11 percent think it should be changed, while 8 percent weren’t sure and 2 percent didn’t answer. Although 79 percent favor keeping the name, that does represent a 10 percentage point drop from the last national poll on the subject, conducted in 1992 by The Washington Post and ABC News just before the team won its most recent Super Bowl. Then, 89 percent said the name should not be changed, and 7 percent said it should. The AP-GfK poll was conducted from April 11-15. It included interviews

with 1,004 adults on both land lines and cellphones. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points. Several poll respondents told The AP that they did not consider the name offensive and cited tradition in arguing that it shouldn’t change. “That’s who they’ve been forever. That’s who they’re known as,” said Sarah Lee, a 36-year-old stay-at-home mom from Osceola, Ind. “I think we as a people make race out to be a bigger issue than it is.” But those who think the name should be changed say the word is obviously derogatory.

“With everything that Native Americans have gone through in this country, to have a sports team named the Redskins come on, now. It’s bad,” said Pamela Rogal, 56, a writer from Boston. “Much farther down the road, we’re going to look back on this and say, ‘Are you serious? Did they really call them the Washington Redskins?’ It’s a no-brainer.” Among football fans, 11 percent said the name should be changed the same as among non-fans. Among nonwhite football fans, 18 percent said it should change, about double the percentage of white football fans who oppose the name.