

## Volleyball victory



Bowling Green's Julia Walz jumps in the arms of Petra Indrova after celebrating volleyball victory over Miami Friday night at the Stroh Center. BG met Miami in the first match of the MAC tournament semi-final, with Jaqueline Askin and Petra Indrova leading the Falcons to a five-set victory (25-15, 25-21, 27-25, 25-22, 15-12). The Falcons will take on the winner of the second semi-final match between WMU and Ohio today at 5 p.m. for the MAC tournament championship and a birth in the NCAA Tournament. The Falcons are looking for their first conference tournament crown and a birth in the NCAA tournament since 2012.

J.D. Pooley | Sentinel-Tribune

## Return of Love, Dellavedova gives Cavs hope

By Tom Withers  
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — They've been teammates on a historic championship team and counted on to lead some really bad ones. Kevin Love and Matthew Dellavedova were also linked this season by injuries that kept them off the court for months.

They came back Thursday night — together.

"Kind of serendipitous," Love said.

And, just maybe, in time to save the Cavaliers' season.

Love and Dellavedova made their long-delayed returns in Cleveland's 114-94 loss to the Philadelphia 76ers. Although it was the Cavs' fourth straight loss, fifth in six games and dropped them to 17-31, the game also felt something like a restart for a young team ravaged by injuries.

With Love spacing the floor, Cleveland's offense looked more in sync, even dangerous. He scored 13 points in the first quarter and played 20 minutes in just his fifth game this season.

And with Dellavedova diving for loose balls in his season debut and first game in more than a year, there was a level of needed toughness. Of course,



Cleveland Cavaliers' Matt Dellavedova, left, ties up Philadelphia 76ers' Shake Milton for a jump ball during the second half Thursday in Cleveland.

Ron Schwane | AP

there were some of the same usual problems — turnovers, forced shots and a third-quarter meltdown — that have plagued the Cavs.

But with Love and Dellavedova out there, they looked better.

"They make their teammates better and they make their teammates comfortable," coach J.B. Bickerstaff said. "They know they can depend on them and they know they can lean on them. That makes us better as a group because they can make plays in critical moments."

"Obviously, we've got to get there, get their minutes up a little bit so they can play more

in the third and fourth quarter, which will be helpful. But our guys are learning to play with them and watching two pros, two high-level pros at that."

Love's return ended one of the most frustrating junctures of the five-time All-Star's career.

He severely strained his calf in late December, missed 33 games and returned in March only to suffer a setback, the result of scar tissue breaking down. Love could have stopped there, but he was determined to salvage his season.

He drained a 3-pointer on his first shot and made his next two. On each trip down the

court, the 32-year-old rediscovered some of old joy.

"It just made me so happy to go out there and just play basketball," he said. "That was the first thing I said, after my first blow was just man, I just missed the game so much."

His minutes are expected to increase in coming games.

"I felt a lot more like myself," he said. "I'm obviously not there yet, but I knew that I was coming into this game. I felt confident that I could get in some sort of a rhythm."

Love will likely play more on Saturday night in Miami, where the Cavs have lost 19 straight. Now that he's back, Love insists he never lost confidence that he'd be able to return and contribute at a high level.

"I'm not gonna let that doubt creep into my head," he said. "Adversity makes us stronger. Like, I truly believe that."

Dellavedova does, too.

His hard-nosed play has resulted in a history of head injuries. And in December he sustained a concussion in Cleveland's exhibition opener. The 30-year-old's symptoms were so severe he was unable to attend games. His wife, Anna, had to put away some of their baby boy's noisy toys so as not to bother Dellavedova.

## Black Keys drummer to fill in for Indians regular

By Tom Withers  
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — The Indians will use a pinch-drummer for their home opener.

With long-time drummer and ballpark fixture John Adams recovering from heart surgery and unable to attend his first opener in Cleveland in 48 years, Black Keys drummer and life-long Indians fan Patrick Carney will fill in and pound away from the left-field bleachers at Progressive Field during Monday's game against Detroit.

"When I found out that John Adams wouldn't be able to make Opening Day in Cleveland for the first time in almost fifty years, I reached out to the team," Carney said. "I share John's love of baseball and the Cleveland Indians franchise, and drumming for him during the home opener when he can't physically be there feels like a meaningful way to show John the love and respect he deserves."

"I want to be there for John."

The Indians said Adams, who first started banging away on his drum in 1973, will bestow drumming duties and his bleacher seat for the day to Carney during an in-game video presentation.

A rocking duo from Akron, The Black Keys (Carney and lead singer Dan Auerbach) have produced plenty of their own hits, such as "Lonely Boy," "Gold on the Ceiling," "Little Black Submarines" and "Tighten Up."

## Join Links Lassies for the golf season

The Links Lassies golf league announces the start of golf season and is accepting new players. The league is played at the Bowling Green Country Club on Fairview Avenue. No club membership is required for participation.

An organizational meeting will be held on April 20 at 6:30 p.m. New players are always welcome.

The league features 9-hole play with professional handicapping. No partners or substitutes needed, in the event of absence on Tuesday mornings. Minimal dues are paid at the start of the season to cover weekly prizes.

League members pay their own greens fees when they play. The first day of play is scheduled for April 27 with tee times starting at 9 a.m.

For further information, contact Becky Ridgely 419-346-2111 or Cindy Gerken 419-575-0800.

## COVID hits MLB opening day; positive tests scrap Mets-Nats

By Howard Fendrich  
AP National Writer

WASHINGTON — In case anyone thought, or at least hoped, the new baseball season would go off without a coronavirus-related hitch, there was bad news on opening day:

The Washington Nationals' game against the New York Mets was postponed Thursday after at least three of the 2019 World Series champions' players tested positive for COVID-19.

"We're still in the midst of a pandemic, and people need to still take this seriously. Unfortunately, it hit us, and we've got to take care of our own now," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. "All I can say is:

Be safe, continue to wear your masks like they ask and know that this still can happen to anyone. It's tough for us right now, but we're going to get through it."

General manager Mike Rizzo said Washington also has a fourth player considered a "likely positive." He did not identify any of the players involved.

"For the most part, the whole team has been — we put them — in lockdown and they're self-quarantining," Rizzo said.

He said it was not yet known when the game will be made up, other than that it would not be played Friday, originally set up as a day off to allow for a makeup contest if there were an issue with Game 1, such as a rainout.

Rizzo said one of the players testing positive had a fever, while the others were not displaying COVID-19 symptoms. Contact tracing was continuing to see who else might have been exposed.

The teams are supposed to play Saturday and Sunday in Washington.

The Mets worked out at Nationals Park on Thursday, with pitchers throwing live to hitters.

"To be honest, it wasn't a surprise. We've been in situations like this since last year," Mets manager Luis Rojas said. "The health is the No. 1 thing still in the world. We're taking care of ourselves. Everyone's taking their mask everywhere. We're doing

everything we need to do."

The news rippled across baseball as the 2021 season began.

"We have to tend to business and not let up," Atlanta Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "It's just a reminder that this thing is still out there and real."

Getting going during this portion of the calendar, and with plans to play a full 162-game slate, is quite a contrast from 2020, when spring training exhibitions were halted in March as the COVID-19 outbreak gripped the world. The sport eventually staged a truncated, 60-game regular season that began in July with zero spectators in stadiums and fake crowd noise coursing through speakers.