

Tennis
Novak Djokovic
wins the
Australian Open.
Page B4



Ohio State's C.J. Walker looks for an opening against Michigan's Eli Brooks.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: MICHIGAN 92, OHIO STATE 87

Final run does the job

Wolverines pull out
back-and-forth win

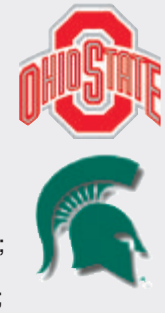
Mitch Stacy
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS — In a virtually empty Value City Arena, the matchup between No. 3 Michigan and No. 4 Ohio State in February looked more like an intense NCAA Tournament game in March: good shooting, timely 3-pointers, fierce play under the rim, few mistakes and some late drama.

After six ties in the second half, Michigan pulled away in the final minutes and held off Ohio State

NEXT UP

WHO: Ohio State at Michigan State
WHEN: 9 p.m. Thursday
WHERE: Breslin Students Event Center
TV/RADIO: ESPN; WKNR 850-AM; WMMS 100.7-FM; WQKT 104.5-FM; WEOL 930-AM



92-87 Sunday in a meeting that showcased two teams aiming for No. 1 seeds next month.

"It was like a boxing match," Michigan coach Juwan Howard

said. "One team delivered a blow. The other team delivered another blow. It went back and forth. Our guys showed their mental toughness through some of those ups and downs."

The win also highlighted the importance of Michigan's 7-foot-1 freshman center, Hunter Dickinson, who had several inches and considerable reach on Ohio State's big men. He led the Wolverines with 22 points and nine rebounds, hitting all six of his foul shots.

"I thought his length and size bothered us," Ohio State coach Chris Holtmann said.

See **OSU, B3**

**BOYS BASKETBALL:
CLOVERLEAF 69,
STREETSBORO 67 (30T)**

Amazing

Colts rally from 20 down
in wild, bloody MAC battle

Albert Grindle
The Gazette

STREETSBORO — Cloverleaf point guard Ashton Newton needed eight stitches to close a boxer-esque cut above his left eye that bled so profusely the game was delayed for five minutes late in the second quarter.

Streetsboro standouts Zamar Harris and Devin Reese ended the night wearing different jersey numbers due to blood stains that, ironically, were unrelated to Newton.

Even the Colts' iPad couldn't handle the madness, as it malfunctioned in the final minute and forced panicked junior varsity player/cameraman Devan Stallard to use his phone.

What began as a run-of-the-mill Metro Athletic Conference game slowly turned absurd Saturday, when left-for-dead Cloverleaf methodically rallied and the Rockets continued to implode in a 69-67 triple-overtime masterpiece of hysteria.

The Colts (8-8, 7-7) trailed 41-21 with four minutes left in the third quarter but over the next 9:33 went on a 22-2 run fueled by poor decisions and indecisiveness from Streetsboro (11-4, 11-3), which was playing its eighth game in 11 days. Cloverleaf then got seemingly every lucky break, played textbook man defense at the end of each overtime and ultimately won on a chase-down block and dime outlet pass from Nate Riley to a streaking Philip Hamilton with 34 seconds left.

The insanity finally ended when the Rockets' Chris Golson was double-teamed, bobbled the ball and fired a turn-around 22-foot prayer that banked off glass, lipped around the front of the rim, hit back iron and spun off. Even normally stone-faced Colts forward Jake Trampush high-stepped to the bench in celebration, and Riley bolted up the visiting bleachers for high-fives.

"I feel amazing," said Dylan Pavlovicz, the Colts' hero at the end of regulation and double overtime. "I don't even know what to say. I'm just so happy ... so happy."

So was everyone else wearing green and white.

See **COLTS, B3**

DISTRICT BOWLING



Highland's Dylan Esterle celebrates a strike.

AARON JOSEFCZYK / GAZETTE

Above the rest

Esterle becomes first Hornet to qualify for state

Brad Bournival
The Gazette

AKRON — Anyone looking for Dylan Esterle over the next 10 days may want to head to Riviera Lanes.

The sophomore became Highland's first state boys bowling qualifier Sunday when he fired a 688 three-game series

(245-232-211) to advance as an individual for the March 6 Division I tournament.

Esterle took Stonehedge Lanes by storm at the Northeast District to finish fourth overall and second among individual qualifiers.

"This year, I practiced a lot more," Esterle said. "I'm not a

big fan of practicing, but this week I practiced four times. That was a lot for me, but I wanted to advance."

Now that Esterle knows perfect practices make for near-perfect bowling, he'll probably never leave the lanes.

See **BOWLING, B2**

**THUNDER 117,
CAVALIERS 101**

Getting ugly fast

Allen lone standout,
but Cleveland falls

Rick Noland
The Gazette

CLEVELAND — Start the office pool: When will the Cavaliers win their next game?

Playing one of the few teams in the NBA as bad as they are — at least on paper — the Cavs fell 117-101 to the Oklahoma City Thunder on Sunday at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse.

"You can win any game, but when you look, I think they're 14th in the Western Conference," Cleveland center Jarrett Allen said of the Thunder.

"They're in a similar position as we're in from rebuilding. It's like looking in the mirror across the other side of the court. Those are the games you want to go out and you want to fight and you want to win and you want to play your hardest, your best against those teams."

"We're on a 10-game losing streak now. This is one of the nights when you look across and say, 'Yeah, I can guard this man. We can beat this team and we can break this streak.'"

It didn't happen. In fact, it didn't come close to happening.

Once 8-7 and playing solid basketball, Cleveland (10-21) did not lead over the final three quarters and trailed by 20 in the fourth. It has not only lost 10 straight but 14 of its last 16.

The remainder of the Cavs' first-half schedule looks like this: home vs. Atlanta (Tuesday) and Houston (Wednesday), at Philadelphia (Saturday) and Houston (March 1) and home vs. Indiana (March 3).

See **CAVALIERS, B3**

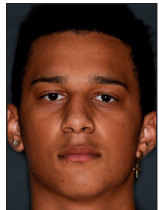


Allen



NEXT UP

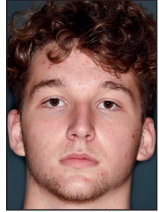
WHO: Atlanta at Cleveland
WHEN: 7 p.m. Tuesday
WHERE: Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse
TV/RADIO: Fox Sports Ohio; WTAM 1100-AM; WQKT 104.5-FM; WMMS 100.7-FM



Riley



Pavlovicz



Forbes



Hamilton



Black River's Daniel Jeske, Eric Groesser and John Kray, left to right, defend a shot from Open Door Christian's Mitchell Wiley.

AARON JOSEFCZYK / GAZETTE

BOYS BASKETBALL: OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN 81, BLACK RIVER 78 (OT)

Another heartbreaker

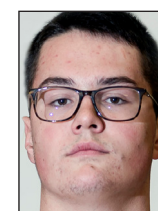
Pirates allow buzzer-beater at end of regulation, fade late in OT

Brad Bournival
The Gazette

SULLIVAN TWP. — After the final buzzer sounded in an 81-78 overtime win by Open Door, Black River boys basketball coach Randy Endsley II slammed the ball to the court with two hands.

Had it been made out of something other than leather, athletic director Ted Gordon probably would be calling a fix-it man today to repair the hole in the gym floor.

That's how emotional the non-league loss was Saturday. "It got away, but not for lack of effort," Endsley said. "Man,



D. Jeske



P. Jeske

the senior still had 31 points, six rebounds and four assists.

No shot was bigger than the guard's 3-pointer at the regulation buzzer. Well, no shot was bigger until Mitchell Wiley's 3-pointer with 34 seconds left in overtime gave Open Door the lead for good.

"This was very frustrating," Pirates center Daniel Jeske said. "They had two contested 3-pointers. They don't hit those shots, we win. That one at the end of regulation was big for them. He had two dudes on him, but he hit it. That gave them the momentum heading to overtime."

See **PIRATES, B2**



The Cavaliers' Jarrett Allen and the Thunder's Al Horford battle for the ball.

CAVALIERS

From B1

Translation: It's possible Cleveland will be 10-26 and on a 15-game losing streak when the first half of the season ends, especially if someone — Kevin Love, Taurean Prince and/or Larry Nance Jr. — doesn't get healthy in the near future.

The schedule for the second half has not yet been announced.

"Nobody (in the NBA) is coming to bail us out," Cavs coach J.B. Bickerstaff said. "Nobody is coming to rescue us. The rest of the league does not care about our streak. They see us as an opportunity to get right, right now."

"We've got to find that grit and that determination where we actually draw the line in the sand and not only hold the line but push forward and cross the line. That's the only way you get out of this. The harder you play, the more gritty you play, the better you give yourself an opportunity to win games in this league."

The lone bright spot for the Cavs was the 22-year-old Allen, who went 11-for-11 from the floor while finishing with a career-high 26 points, 17 rebounds and three blocks. In his last two games, Allen is 19-for-20 from the field.

Guards Collin Sexton (27 points, 4 turnovers) and Darius Garland (21 points, 8 assists) had their normal good games in the box score, but neither was as good as their statistics would suggest on a night when the Thunder's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (31 points, 9 assists) was clearly the best guard on the floor.

Cleveland's bench was non-existent, scoring nine points on 3-for-13 shooting. Oklahoma City, meanwhile, got 42 points from reserves like Mike Muscala, who scored 13 points and attempted nine 3-pointers in 17 minutes, Hamidou Diallo (15), Isaiah Roby (6) and Kenrich Williams (8).

The Thunder also went 13-for-28 on 3-pointers, with Cleveland going 8-for-35. Cavs starting forward Cedi Osman was 0-for-8 from deep and Sexton was 1-for-6.

"We've got to make open shots," Bickerstaff said. "At the end of the day, that's what this

game comes down to."

The best — and sometimes only — thing the Cavs had going through three periods was Allen, who was 8-for-8 from the field and had 18 points and 14 boards. Without him, Cleveland's 86-75 deficit entering the fourth would have been much more.

"I thought it was lost in the physicality department," Bickerstaff said. "Too often, they went with one-on-one rotations and broke us down and got into the paint."

Sexton scored the Cavs' first seven points as they raced to a 20-10 lead, but when he went to the bench, Cleveland's offense collapsed and the Thunder went on an 18-4 run before settling for a 31-28 lead after the opening quarter.

The Cavs added to their bad offensive repertoire in the second quarter, when they twice threw simple outlet passes right to Oklahoma City players while falling behind 62-51 at intermission.

Cleveland was particularly terrible with reserves Dylan Windler, Lamar Stevens, Damyean Dotson and JaVale McGee on the floor, as the Thunder bench held a 29-4 scoring advantage at halftime.

"There were key possessions where we played Cleveland basketball," Allen said. "Then we'd have four or five possessions where they'd eat us up."

Tip-ins

The Cavs defied the percentages when Oklahoma City got a technical foul for illegal defense in the second period. With Garland (.903) and Sexton (.799) both on the floor, Sexton took the free throw and missed.

● Power forward Love, who has played in just two games this season due to a strained calf but had been progressing toward a return to action, reported some discomfort prior to a practice on Saturday and was limited to shooting drills as a precaution. He did not play against the Thunder.

● Cleveland guard Matthew Dellavedova, who has been out all season with a concussion, underwent an appendectomy Saturday at Hillcrest Hospital.

● The Cavs also were minus forwards Prince (ankle) and Nance (hand) against Oklahoma City, as well as center Andre Drummond, who continues to sit out while the team looks to trade him.

Contact Rick Noland at (330) 721-4061 or r.noland@medina-gazette.com. Follow him @RickNoland on Twitter.

OSU

From B1

Michigan (16-1, 11-1) had pulled away and led by nine with 23 seconds left, but a pair of 3-pointers from Duane Washington Jr. around a layup by C.J. Walker got the Buckeyes within three points with three seconds to go.

Ohio State was forced to foul, and Eli Brooks hit both of his free throws to seal Michigan's fifth straight win, a run that came around a three-week break due to COVID-19 issues.

Brooks had 17 points, Chaundee Brown Jr. came off the bench to score 15 and Isaiah Livers added 12 for Michigan, which snapped Ohio State's seven-game win streak.

Washington had a career-high 30 points and went 5-for-10 on threes for the Buckeyes (18-5, 12-5). E.J. Liddell had 23 to go along with 10 rebounds.

"It was a great game, man," Washington said. "Two top-five teams, and I thought we competed at a really high level. We were in a good position to bring it home. Basketball is a game of runs, and they had theirs toward the end there. We just got to be a little better in the closing stretch."

Both teams shot 53% from the floor.

Hot then not

The Wolverines came out launching 3-point shots, hitting 10-of-13 in taking a 45-43 lead at



Ohio State's Kyle Young drives against Michigan's Isaiah Livers.

halftime. Brown was 3-for-3, and Brooks and Mike Smith each hit two. But Michigan cooled off in second half, hitting just 1-for-10.

More on Hunter

Howard said Dickinson has worked hard to improve and it is showing. The coach said they have an "amazing relationship."

"In all the areas of group work, one-on-one of film session, team workouts, big man workouts, he is growing before our eyes," Howard said. "It takes a freshman a little longer to figure it out. Hunter has a high basketball IQ due to his passion for the game. Hunter wants to be coached."

WRESTLING

Vogt-Shields third at state tourney

HILLIARD — A week ago, Katie Vogt-Shields made some noise when she became the first girls wrestling state qualifier for Buckeye.

On Saturday, she took the next step by becoming the Bucks' first state placer, finishing third.

The 131-pounder became the second Medina County athlete to place. Brunswick's Kalee Falkenberg finished third last season.

"Being the first girl from Buckeye to place at state is something I'll never forget because I was the first girl to start wrestling for Buckeye, let alone state," Vogt-Shields

said. "I hope the legacy I leave behind is a sense of courage to work towards your goals because it'll be worth it in the end. Sometimes it will get hard and you may even hate it at times, but if you stick with it it'll prepare you for the hardships of life."

Vogt-Shields rolled to the semifinals with pins over Clermont Northeastern's Ivy Stephan and Marysville's Emily Signer. The senior lost 15-5 to returning state runner-up and eventual champion Cassia Zammit of Miamisburg.

Undaunted, Vogt-Shields pinned two-time state placer Elisa Reese of Western Brown in the consolation final to finish her postseason with six wins and six pins.



Vogt-Shields

— Brad Bournival

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Black River finishes with 6-12 record

WELLINGTON — The Black

River girls basketball team fell behind by double digits at halftime and never recovered Saturday in a 57-30 Lorain County League



Kalman

loss to Wellington.

Senior guard Ashley Kalman led the Pirates (6-12, 6-8), who were searching for their first .500 league record since 2002, with 12 points, while freshman guard Riley Kubitz added 10.

The Dukes (6-8, 6-7) got 14 points from Karlie Frenk.

Result

Lorain County League
Wellington 57, Black River 30
BLACK RIVER 8 16 13 17 — 30
WELLINGTON 11 16 13 17 — 57
Black River — Zoey Bungard 1-0-2, Lilly Stief 2-1-5, Abbie Graves 0-1-1, Ashley Kalman 2-7-12, Riley Kubitz 4-2-10, Tedi Vonderau 0-0-0, Kiersten Hendershot 0-0-0. TOTALS: 9-11-30.
Wellington — Jill Laposky 4-0-8, Ally Zvara 0-0-0, Karlie Frenk 5-0-14, Amanda Spiekerman 3-0-7, Payton Regal 2-0-4, Tori Parmore 5-3-13, Hope Dudziak 0-1-1, Taylor Morris 0-0-0, Morgan Lehmkuhl 0-0-0, Lily Oswald 0-0-0, Tedi Hardoby 2-1-5, Savannah Gundert 2-0-5. TOTALS: 23-6-57.
3-point goals — Kalman, Frenk 4, Gundert, Spiekerman. Records — Wellington (6-8, 6-7), Black River (6-12, 6-8).

INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Medina 4x8 relay wins by 22 seconds

YOUNGSTOWN — A dominating win by Medina's girls 4x800-meter relay highlighted a strong Saturday for Medina County athletes at the Youngstown State High School Meet.

Valerie Suttman, Reagan Kole, Elly Heine and Jenna Razavi cruised in 9:53.40 to win by 22 seconds. Cloverleaf's Paige Munchick, Maria Porras, Allison Yagersz and Lauren Jensch were fifth in 11:24.01.

Highland's Gregory McKee took fourth in the

400 (51.62), while the Cloverleaf boys 4x8 of Nolan Freeland, Brett Gucker, Cole Yagersz and Andrew Hibler was sixth.

Medina's Hannah Neiger was seventh in the 200 and 10th in the 60, while the Bees boys 4x2 took ninth and Razavi was 10th in the 800.

Brunswick's Jake Piecuch was ninth in the 60 hurdles to round out the county's top-10 finishes.

— Dan Brown

COLTS

From B1

Cloverleaf freshman center Logan Forbes scored eight of his career-high 22 points during the 22-2 run and added nine rebounds despite missing time to clean blood off his shooting hand. Riley was scoreless for the first 22:32 and shot 2-for-12 — "I couldn't hit water if I fell out of a boat," he joked — but still finished with 10 points, nine boards, 11 assists and five blocks, while Pavlovicz pumped in a career-high 15 points after averaging 0.3 over the previous nine games.

Harris, who switched from No. 24 to injured Bryce Vecchio's No. 15 with three seconds remaining in the first quarter, led all scorers with a season-high 29 points but gave Cloverleaf a chance to force OT by missing two free throws with nine seconds left in the fourth quarter. Harris (20 points, 4 assists) had changed from No. 1 to No. 30 during a timeout 5.2 seconds earlier — leading to mass confusion because No. 30 belonged to Maysun Klimak in the official scorebook — and did not score the rest of the night.

"That's the best feeling after a win I've ever had," Riley said. "I mean, we were down 20, came back, went back and forth in the overtimes and were missing our starting point guard."

"I'm not going to lie to you. I thought we looked like we had quit, too. I think we started to hit some shots and play some defense, and once we got it to 10, we were like, 'We can do this.'"

Cloverleaf took a 65-61 lead in triple overtime on a 70-foot, side-armed bullet pass from Riley to Trampush (8 points, career-high 7 assists) for a layup. The Rockets then sandwiched Golson and Reese 3-pointers around a Forbes layup to tie the score at 67, and a cutting Trampush couldn't handle a Riley pass underneath the basket to give Streetsboro possession with 1:12 left.

The Rockets elected to run a four-corner offense, and Reese isolated Riley well above the 3-point line. Reese attacked middle, got Riley leaning on a hesitation move and gained position for a go-ahead layup,

but Riley, who had four fouls, scrambled and blocked the shot off the backboard.

The 6-foot-7 Riley then snatched the rebound away from the 6-8 Forbes and bombed a football-style rain-bow over a leaping Harris and into the hands of the 5-9 Hamilton, who gained possession at the top of the 3-point arc, took one dribble and banked in a layup for the final points.

Cloverleaf finished with defense of coach Jack Banks' dreams — the Rockets made no effort toward anything other than a game-winning 3-pointer — to walk off with a miracle victory.

"(Reese) is fast and I have four (fouls), so he got around me and I didn't want to foul him," Riley said. "I figured I was going to go over him and try to get the block."

"I got it, I saw Philly, I saw (Harris) running with him and I was like, 'You know, Philly plays wide receiver. Might as well throw it up to him.' He got it, finished it and we walked away with a dub after a great defensive possession. It felt amazing."

The Colts would have never been in position to get that dub without Pavlovicz, a 6-2 trigger-happy wing who hadn't scored in 19 days but was the team leader with six points at halftime and scored five straight to make the score 41-37 Streetsboro midway through the fourth quarter.

Still, Cloverleaf appeared to be dead in water after Riley made 1-of-2 free throws to make the score 48-46 with 16 seconds remaining in regulation. The Colts only had two fouls and faced long odds to put the Rockets into the bonus before time ran out.

Cloverleaf got to four fouls quickly, but Reese shook free at midcourt and went for the jugular by driving in for a layup attempt. Hamilton fouled from behind with nine seconds left, Reese missed both free throws and the Colts advanced to midcourt before calling time with 5.1 seconds left.

A lob pass to Riley was not open, so Pavlovicz inbounded to Forbes and eventually got the ball back in front of the Cloverleaf bench. He let loose a low-release 3-pointer that appeared to be blocked by Harris — the buzzer sounded

and the Rockets celebrated — but a foul was called and 0.6 seconds were put back on the clock.

Entering the night just 5-for-9 at the line on the season, Pavlovicz made the first two free throws and missed the third, sending the game to OT.

Pavlovicz was needed again in double overtime after Trampush missed an NBA-range 3-point attempt with the Colts trailing 61-59. Reese soared over Forbes and Pavlovicz for a long rebound but tripped as he landed and was called for traveling, giving Cloverleaf the ball underneath its basket with 4.4 seconds remaining.

Pavlovicz came off a screen at the elbow, took the inbounds pass from Trampush and made a double-teamed baby hook on the block to send the game to a third OT.

"The game was so back and forth, and everyone was just talking trash," Pavlovicz said. "We were battling. We were really battling. We kept believing and never gave up."

As the teams walked out of the school afterward, the moods were naturally contrasted with Streetsboro players in silence and Cloverleaf players still bouncing in excitement. A Colts team that struggled mightily during a five-game losing streak has momentum out of seemingly nowhere heading into a Division II tournament game against Firelands or Akron East this week.

That realization hit a Cloverleaf player as he approached the parking lot.

"Guys," he said. "We have a two-game winning streak!"

Only one of the wildest games in school history was needed to get there.

Contact Albert Grindle at (330) 721-4043 or agrindle@medina-gazette.com.

Cloverleaf 69, Streetsboro 67 (3OT)

CLOVERLEAF 9 10 9 20 7 6 8 — 69
STREETSBORO 15 12 14 7 7 6 6 — 67
Cloverleaf — Jake Trampush 3-2-8, Nate Riley 2-6-10, Logan Forbes 10-2-22, Logan Tierney 1-0-2, Ashton Newton 2-0-4, Dylan Pavlovicz 5-2-15, Colton Sadowski 1-0-3, Philip Hamilton 2-1-5, Blake Benko 0-0-0. TOTALS: 26-13-69.
Streetsboro — Chris Golson 3-0-9, Devin Reese 11-5-29, Donovan Washington-Pardue 0-0-0, Colin Boldin 1-0-3, Zamar Harris 7-1-20, Tyler Hall 2-0-4, Alec Edgington 0-0-0, Sam Abuhni 1-0-2, Brevyn Nobles 0-0-0, Mason Kamlovsky 0-0-0, Deven Grabill 0-0-0. TOTALS: 25-6-67.
3-point goals — Pavlovicz 3, Harris 5, Golson 3, Reese 2, Boldin. Rebounds — Cloverleaf 28 (Riley, Forbes 9), Streetsboro 32 (Reese 9). Assists — Cloverleaf 20 (Riley 11), Streetsboro 15 (Harris 4). Records — Cloverleaf (8-8, 7-7), Streetsboro (11-4, 11-3). Junior varsity — Streetsboro 56, Cloverleaf 44 (C: Steven Manbeck 16).

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