



HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

JFK wins state title

Eagles claim school's first championship in baseball

By **BRIAN YAUGER**
 Staff writer

AKRON — Coming into the 2021 season, Kennedy's baseball team had plenty of question marks.

On Sunday, the Eagles changed those question marks into exclamation points.

With six freshmen, only four returning letterwinners, 11 players and no 2020 season, the current season could have gone in any direction. But Kennedy was the only Division IV team in the state to end its 2021 season with a victory, beating Van Wert Lincolnview 4-0 at Canal Park to win the first state title in the school's baseball history.

"We've got a great team, and I had a lot of trust coming in with them," pitcher Gavin Shrum said. "Cam got it done for us yesterday and brought us here, I just felt like I had to do the job, and I think I got that done today."

"We knew we had a good team coming in, we knew they threw their best pitcher yesterday, but they still had another good pitcher. Honestly, we like harder pitching, we like faster pitching and we just really got on them and we stayed on. We stayed

within ourselves, and we won." Caleb Hadley broke open the Eagles' semifinal win on Saturday, and Sunday's hero was junior Michael Mauro.

Lincolnview knew about the three and four slots in the lineup (Shrum and Cam Hollobaugh) and wanted to make someone further down the lineup beat them.

That is exactly what happened. Mauro hit a single that kickstarted the team, scoring Hollobaugh and opening the floodgates.

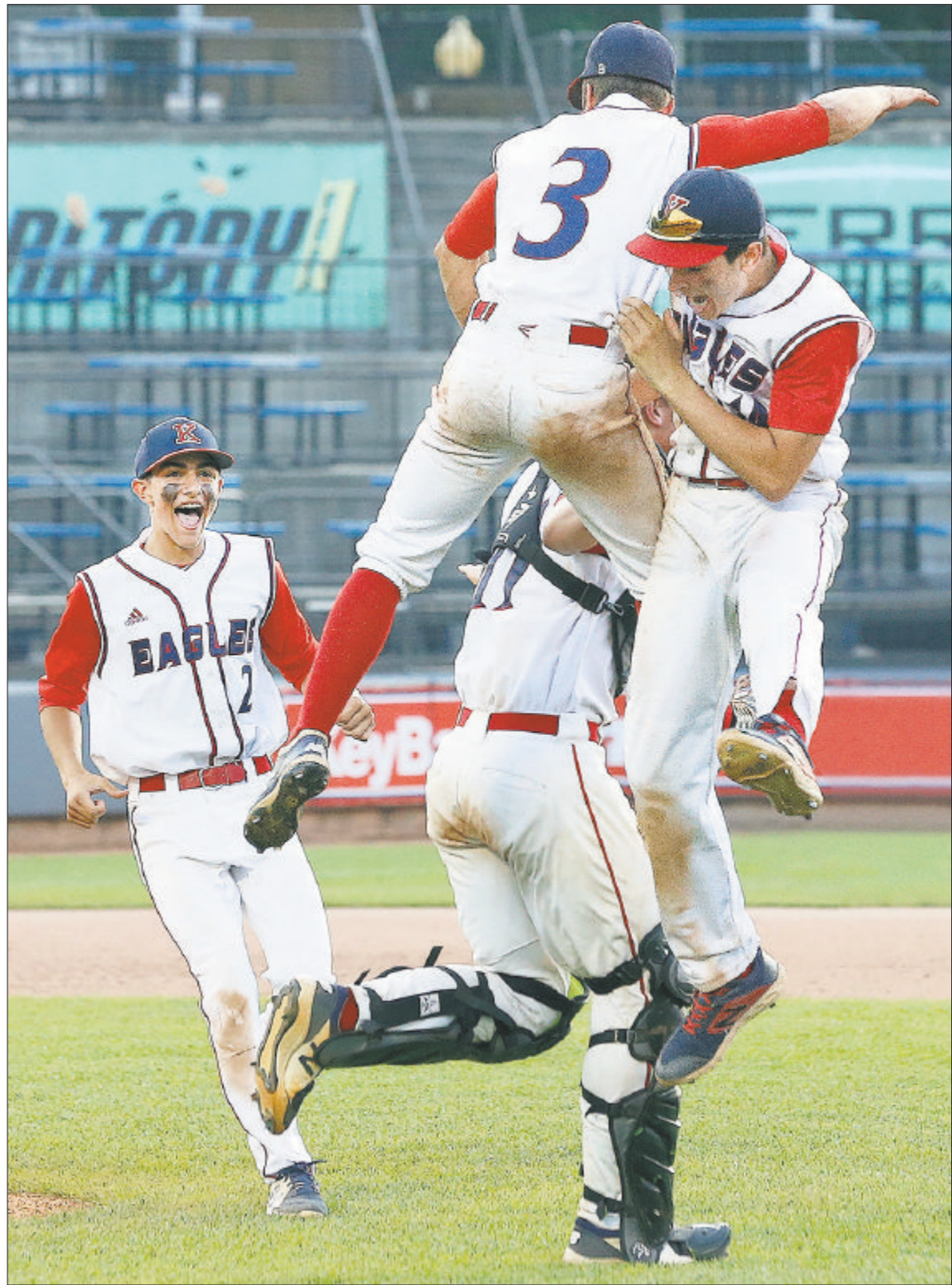
After Hollobaugh scored, Aidan Rossi and Santino Ciambotti each hit RBI singles to score runs and put the team up 3-0.

In the next inning, Rossi hit a ball to left field for his second RBI of the afternoon.

"That's what good teams do, they pick each other up," first-year coach Jim Ciambotti said. "They knew our middle of the order, they were gonna try to work around, and Mike made them pay for it."

Shrum, who scored the fourth and final run for the Eagles on Rossi's hit, manned the mound for Kennedy, striking out seven and surrendering only five hits.

See **Eagles**, B2



Correspondent photo / Michael Taylor



Junior hurler Gavin Shrum fires to the plate during his shutout victory over Lincolnview on Sunday.



Staff photo / Brian Yauger

ABOVE: **The John F. Kennedy Eagles celebrate on Sunday at Canal Park in Akron after winning the Division IV state title game, 4-0, over Van Wert Lincolnview and bringing another state championship to the Mahoning Valley. Gavin Shrum (3), who pitched a complete-game shutout, is greeted by Aidan Rossi, right, catcher Caleb Hadley and Michael Condoleon, left.**

LEFT: **JFK's first-year coach Jim Ciambotti, wearing blue, celebrates the victory with assistant coaches Patrick Mokros and Carmen DeChristofaro.**

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Bieber bopped by Mariners

By **STEVE HERRICK**
 The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Jake Fraley homered off AL Cy Young Award winner Shane Bieber after replacing the injured Mitch Haniger, and the Seattle Mariners beat the Cleveland Indians 6-2 on Sunday.

The Mariners, coming off a blown late lead and a 10-inning loss on Saturday, had to deal with more bad news two batters into the game when Haniger fouled a pitch off his left knee and had to be helped from the field.

Mariners manager Scott Servais said X-rays showed a deep bone bruise and Haniger will likely have more tests on Monday with the team back in Seattle. The injury

is another setback for the Mariners, who have used a major-league high 51 players this season. Haniger leads the team in homers and RBIs.

J.P. Crawford, who singled and stole second to begin the game, had a clear view of Haniger's at-bat.

"I just knew," Crawford said. "It didn't look good. I felt bad for him, but we need him. Hopefully he gets back sooner than later."

Fraley completed the at-bat with a strikeout and flied out in the second, but his two-run homer in the fourth pushed Seattle's lead to 5-0. Kyle Seager hit a solo homer in the third off Bieber, who gave up five runs in 5 2/3 innings.

Seattle has beaten Bieber twice this season, scoring eight runs on 15

hits in 10 1/3 innings, but Seager doesn't believe the Mariners have figured him out.

"He's a tough pitcher," Seager said. "The curveball is so tight. It's so hard. He's that good for a reason. We had some really good at-bats. We really battled him and worked. It was a good offensive performance by us."

Logan Gilbert (2-2) out-pitched Cleveland's ace, allowing one run and four hits in 6 2/3 innings. The right-hander was removed after Harold Ramirez's two-out single in the seventh.

Bieber (7-4) gave up 10 hits, struck out eight and walked two. He retired the side in order only once and threw 107 pitches.

See **Bieber**, B3

Red-hot Brewers top sliding Pirates

By **JOE TOTORAITS**
 The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Avisail Garcia hit a two-run homer, Christian Yelich added a pinch-hit sacrifice fly on his bobblehead day and the Milwaukee Brewers completed a three-game sweep of the Pittsburgh Pirates with a 5-2 win on Sunday.

Despite getting outhit 10-5, Milwaukee won for the 14th time in 16 games, including seven in a row at home.

"We had opportunities today and left people on base," Pirates manager Derek Shelton said after his team left 10 on base and went 1 for 7 with runners in scoring position. "We left too many guys on base."

The Pirates have lost seven straight. They were swept in back-to-back series after losing three at home against the Dodgers before heading to Milwaukee.

Brent Suter (8-3) picked up the win, getting the final out in the sixth. Brad Boxberger handled the seventh, Devin Williams the eighth and Josh Hader struck out the side in the ninth for his 17th save in as many chances.

Wil Crowe gave the Pirates beleaguered rotation a big lift with five impressive innings, but the bullpen couldn't match his effort.

"We get to play a kid's game for a living," Crowe said. "I got to use that as my mentality."

Crowe allowed a leadoff single to Luis Urias and an RBI double by Daniel Vogelbach in the first, then retired the next 15 batters, striking out a career-high eight, before walking Tim Lopes to start the sixth.

"Crowe, he was sensational and gave them a great opportunity," Brewers bench coach Pat Murphy said. "(He) stifled us for a while."

Murphy filled in for manager Craig Counsell who was at his son's high school graduation.

Pittsburgh turned to David Bednar (0-1) to protect the 2-1 lead and Urias hit a run-scoring triple to tie it at 2. Garcia then drove the first pitch just over the right-field wall for his 13th home run of the season.

See **Pirates**, B3