



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.

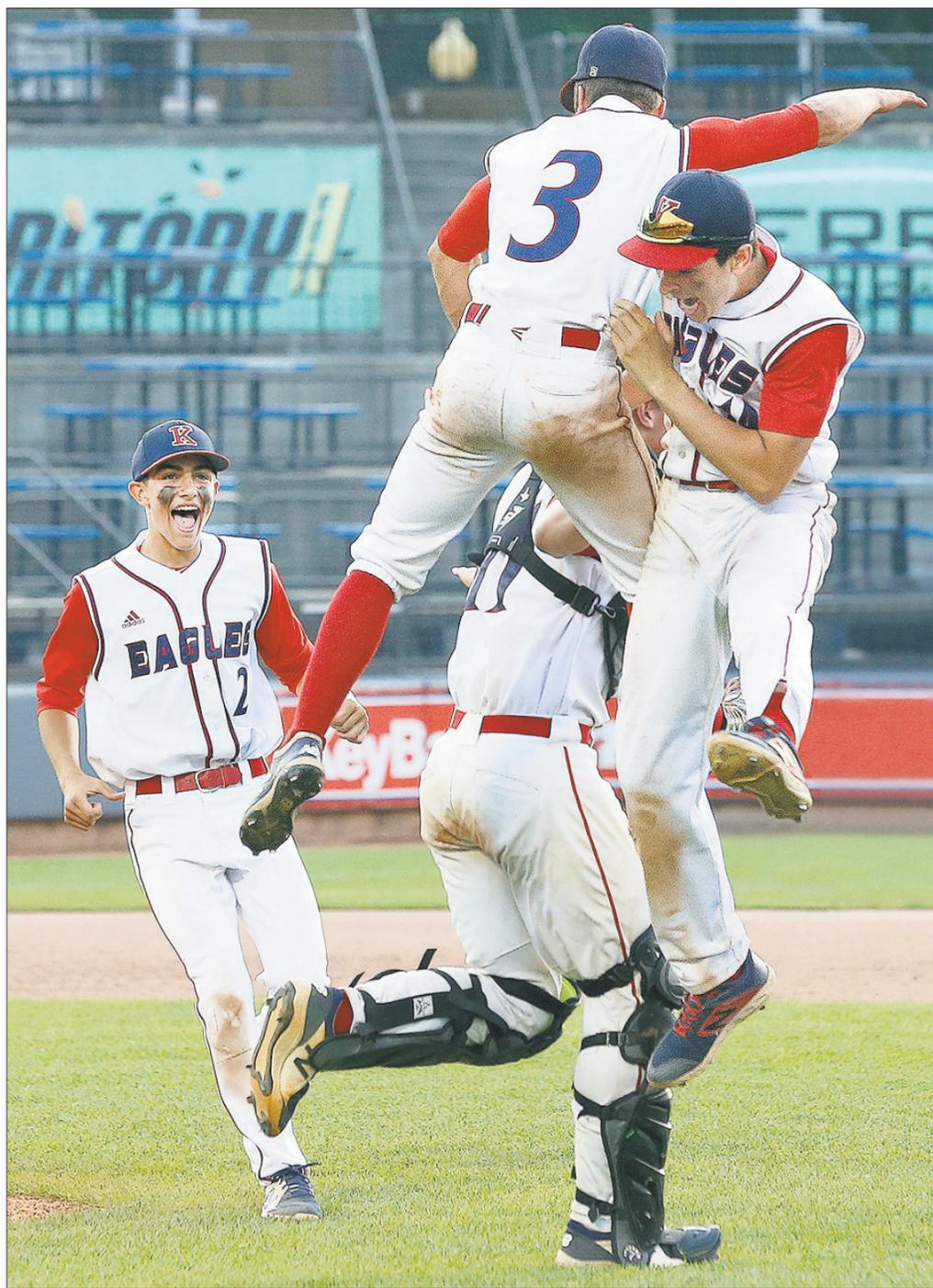
After Hollobaugh scored, Aiden Rossi and Santino Ciambotti each hit RBI singles to score runs and put the team up 3-0.

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



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 Aiden 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

AUTO RACING

Larson captures All-Star race

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Kyle Larson was back in the NASCAR All-Star race, and got another \$1 million by winning it again.

Larson held off a hard-charging Brad Keselowski during the final 10-lap shootout at Texas on Sunday night, after a slippery three-wide pass to get back in front and push Hendrick Motorsports to its second consecutive win, and 10th overall, in the annual non-points race with the seven-figure prize.

Defending All-Star winner and reigning Cup champion Chase Elliott, who started the sixth and final segment out front, didn't stay there long. Larson pushed his teammate, then got in front on the outside through the fourth turn. They were three-wide while Keselowski pulled ahead briefly at the line before Larson finally got ahead to stay for the last eight laps.

There were no points on the line, but Larson went to Victory

Lane for the third weekend in a row.

Larson was with Chip Ganassi Racing when he won the 2019 All-Star race, but missed last year's big event while serving a six-month suspension after using a racial slur during the livestream of a virtual race during the pandemic. That nearly cost him his career, but Hendrick gave him an opportunity this season to get back into the Cup Series.

Second in points with 10 races to go before the playoffs, Larson now is only the eighth driver to be a two-time All-Star race winner.

Elliott finished third with Joey Logano fourth, ahead of Ryan Blaney and Alex Bowman.

Hendrick drivers Elliott, Byron and Larson started the final segment 1-2-3. Elliott had moved from third to first during the 30-lap fifth segment that included a required four-tire stop and \$100,000 prize for his crew that had the fastest stop.

Byron won the fourth

segment, and had the lowest cumulative finish through the first four 15-lap segments. Kyle Larson, Ryan Blaney and Alex Bowman finished in front for the first three segments.

Larson, who won the last two Cup races, was on the pole by a random draw and was still in front at the end of the first segment. After a random inversion of the top 12 finishers in that first stage, Blaney was moved from 12th to first to start the next 15 laps.

Blaney stayed in front, even holding on after wiggling because of contact from behind by Ross Chastain, one of three drivers who advanced to the main event from the earlier open qualifying race.

After a full-field inversion going to the third stage, Aric Almirola, who also got in through the qualifying race, went from last to first, but it was Bowman — after getting pushed up from 17th to fifth — in the lead after that 15 laps.

O'Ward wins 2nd Detroit race

DETROIT (AP) — Pato O'Ward closed an emotional weekend for Arrow McLaren SP by becoming IndyCar's first repeat winner of the season with a victory dedicated to his injured teammate.

Felix Rosenqvist was injured a violent crash in the first race of the doubleheader weekend and hospitalized overnight. O'Ward called his teammate Sunday morning and promised to win the second race for him.

"I'm a man of my word, I wanted to get it done for him," O'Ward said. "I truly wanted to get it because (Saturday) was very mixed emotions. I consider Felix very close, and it's not a cool feeling to see that."

Making good on his promise required a masterful drive in which the 22-year-old from Mexico restarted fifth on the final restart with seven laps remaining in a race completely dominated by pole sitter Josef Newgarden.

O'Ward picked off Graham Rahal in the first turn, then Alex Palou in the second turn.

Two down, two to go.

He next caught Colton Herta, leaving only two-time IndyCar champion Newgarden in his sight. O'Ward caught him in turn 7 with a little over two laps to go and Newgarden tried to use his experience to run O'Ward down to the marbles.

Wheel to wheel they battled and the cars even touched. "I think it makes it more exciting whenever there's a little rubbin'," O'Ward said with a smile.

He completed the pass and drove away to beat Newgarden by 6.7595 seconds, confident he never crossed the line between clean racing and aggressively chasing a win and the IndyCar championship.

O'Ward, who earned his first career victory last month, took a one-point lead over Palou in the championship standings. He has now won on an oval and a street course, and he finished third Saturday for two podiums at Detroit.

Newgarden led 67 of the 70 laps before O'Ward ran him down and dropped him to a second-place finish.

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