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Steelers, Cardinals should live up to hype

A few thoughts from the week in sports ...
Oftentimes our country is one of excess. The U.S. is known for extra-big vehicles, houses and value meals, to name a few examples.
So it comes as no surprise that our biggest annual sporting event is one that seems to get bigger and bigger every year: the Super Bowl.

Tonight's Super Bowl XLIII will be broadcast in more than 200 countries in front of an audience of an estimated 100 million people.
In addition to the game itself, the entertainment that goes along with the Super Bowl makes it a day like no other.

The halftime show has attracted some of the world's best. Tonight my all-time favorite musician, Bruce Springsteen, will be rocking the audience at halftime.

Many people look forward to the release of new big-budget commercials during the game. This year a 30-second ad will set companies back \$3 million.

People gather at parties around the country and even non-sports fans wind up paying at least some attention to the game.

Unfortunately, all the hype and hoopla hasn't always resulted in the game itself being super.

However, tonight's matchup between the "Cinderella" Arizona Cardinals (9-7) and the vaunted Pittsburgh Steelers (12-4) in Tampa should be a highly competitive game.

The Cardinals have almost no history to brag about, while the Steelers are trying for a record sixth Super Bowl trophy.

It's the ultimate David vs. Goliath, even bigger than last year when the Giants upset the Patriots and blocked their bid for a perfect season.

The Cardinals, who haven't won a title since 1947, have a fittingly unlikely hero in 37-year-old quarterback Kurt Warner.

Warner played at tiny University of Northern Iowa and had to prove himself in the Arena Football League before getting a shot with the Rams, who he won the Super Bowl MVP for in 2000.

In recent years Warner had been counted out again by most, relegated to a backup role for the Giants and Cardinals behind hot young prospects. When Arizona's Matt Leinart couldn't get the job done, though, Warner took over this season and has the Cards peaking at just the right time.

Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt is also an interesting story as he was the former Steelers offensive coordinator, but was

See Pg. C5 — DORKSEN

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Wooster limps in, out of Delaware

By MIKE PLANT
Daily Record Sports Writer

The College of Wooster men's basketball team limped into Ohio Wesleyan for a Saturday afternoon North Coast Athletic Conference contest. The Scots limped home tied for second in the NCAC.

Ohio Wesleyan took control of the game midway through the first half and went on to an 83-65 win in Delaware. The victory puts OWU into a tie for second with the Scots at 8-2, a game behind upstart Hiram, which went on the road and collected a huge 79-75 win at Wittenberg.

The Battling Bishops (13-6 over-



Bishops 83
Scots 65

all), winners for the sixth straight time, grabbed a 29-16 lead with 8:30 remaining in the first half. The Scots could manage just five points the rest of the half to trail 33-22.

Wooster did get within six in the first minute of the second half, but OWU regained control

to go back up 14 (46-32) at the 15:00 mark, then stayed in command from there.

The Scots (13-6 overall) committed nine of their 19 turnovers in the critical first-half stretch when they dropped behind by double digits.

"We were not very good offensively over that period," Scot coach Steve Moore said, noting the turnovers. "We really didn't keep our composure very well, didn't play with very much poise when we got behind. We hurried our shooting, our passing."

"While we were playing that way, they were playing very well. Ohio Wesleyan was really well prepared today, they were highly motivated. As well as we played in December and as poorly as they played (82-65 Wooster win), that

was turned around today."

While Wooster played without top rebounder Bryan Wickliffe (ankle) and had top scorer Ian Franks hobbled by an ankle injury of his own, OWU had seniors Kyle Holliday and Kyle Miller step up and lead the Bishops to just their second win over Wooster in the last 26 meetings.

Holliday scored a game-high 27 points and had five rebounds, while Miller scored 18 points, had eight of OWU's 15 steals to go with six rebounds and six assists, and 6-foot-8 Brent Plieman added 11 points.

See Pg. C2 — LIMPS IN, OUT



Dan Starcher photo

West Holmes' Andy Fox (21) comes down with a rebound in front of Orrville's Zach Wasson (33) and Chase Hoobler as the Knights' Stewart Sabine (44) looks on. The Red Riders blew open a close game in the second half to win 59-39.

Wasson awesome in win Orrville pulls away from West Holmes in second half

By ZACH BOLINGER
Daily Record Sports Writer

ORRVILLE — Zach Wasson was bloodied Saturday night.

Only after Orrville's 6-foot-5 sophomore made sure West Holmes was beaten.

Before he had to stuff cotton up his nose to halt bleeding from a fourth-quarter elbow, Wasson keyed a late third-quarter surge as Orrville pushed its lead



Riders 59
Knights 39

West Holmes coach Kelly Seboe, whose

to double digits. And the Riders followed with no turnovers in the fourth quarter en route to a 59-39 victory over West Holmes.

"In the first half we missed some shots, but we were right where we wanted to be," said

team trailed by just three at halftime and only 28-25 midway through the third. "We didn't necessarily give the game away in the second half, either. Zach Wasson had a big part in taking it from us."

Along with Wasson's 15 points and six rebounds, Jacob Bolyard had 11 points and Josh Graber 10 off the bench for

See Pg. C2 — PULLS AWAY

Kacere plays role of hero for WHS

By DAN BROWN
Daily Record Sports Writer

WOOSTER — On the heels of a three-game losing streak, Wooster High boys basketball coach Craig Martin felt his team needed to refocus.

A pregame talk helped the Generals do just that as they bounced back from a six-point fourth-quarter deficit to force overtime and take down the Colts 54-52.

"We talked earlier today about a recommitment to the team by the players and the coaches," the rookie bench boss said. "We told them that we needed to play hard together and have mental toughness. "We won tonight because of that."

That focus helped Wooster (6-7, 5-4) hold off a run by Clear Fork late to win their first extra session game of the season.

And it was Alex Kacere who sent the home fans away with something to smile about.

The 6-foot junior power forward came up with the rebound of his life late in the OT and headed to the free throw line with an opportunity to end the

game. "As I was walking to the line, (Alex) Londre told me to take a deep breath and make them like I do in practice," Kacere said. "I just told myself to bend my knees and follow through."

Kacere made the pair and the Colts (4-9, 1-8) had to take the ball the length of the court with 1.6 seconds remaining. Clear Fork chucked the ball down the floor to forward Kalen Tackett who missed a desperation shot in the right corner as time expired.

"I told our guys that we ran that play before and executed, so we can do it again," Colts coach Steven Bechtel said. "This time we got the pass, but we just missed the shot."

Kacere's clutch charity tosses were just one of a handful of big shots hit by Wooster down the stretch.

See Pg. C2 — HERO



Joel Troyer photo

Wooster High's Duke Price drives on Clear Fork's John Thompson during Saturday's Ohio Cardinal Conference game at Wooster High. The Generals nipped the Colts 54-52 in overtime.

Maiwurm up to finals challenge

By CHAD CONANT
Daily Record Sports Writer

MILLERSBURG — Jeremy Maiwurm is aware of what he did Saturday at the West Holmes Invitational.

Orrville's returning state placer met West Holmes' Trey Jacobs in a meeting of returning state qualifiers in the championship match at 135 pounds that was expected to have all the suspense and intensity of a state match.

For once, the anticipation lived up to the hype.

The two went at each other for three low-scoring periods in a match that was determined when Maiwurm scored a takedown in overtime for a 6-4 win to become one of three Orrville wrestlers to win individual titles Saturday.

"He's a kid I know I'm going to see at the state tournament," Maiwurm said. "He's definitely good enough to make it down there. I know I'm going to have to win those type of matches against those type of kids to get back to what I want to do."

Maiwurm was joined at the top of the podium by teammates Jake Strausbaugh (130 pounds) and Dennis Raber (171 pounds) as the Riders raced to fourth place in the 11-team event.

Medina Buckeye won with 235 points. Carrollton was second, Loudonville third and West Holmes fifth. Triway got individual titles from Cole Drake at 152 and Colton Zody, who won his 100th match as a high school wrestler on the way to a dominant win at 189, to finish ninth.

Maiwurm and Strausbaugh took their titles within 10 minutes of each other in a not-so-subtle reminder that the Riders bring some strength. After that, West Holmes' Eric Mellott won at 140 with a pin for the Knights' lone individual championship and Dylan Bender dominated his match to give Loudonville its lone title.

Bender was the only Redbird to win his class. But, with second-place finishes from Scott Spreng at 112 and Randy Duncan at 119 setting a tone, Loudonville sped its way to the highest finish for an area team by getting wrestlers on the podium across the board.

"We did fairly well," Loudonville coach Steve Furlong said. "We finished third in a good event against some good teams. I'm fairly pleased with how we wrestled today. Throughout a day like this, we are going to have some things we did really well and other things we need to do better. Now, we keep working to get better next week and keep

See Pg. C2 — CHALLENGE



West Holmes Invite



Maiwurm