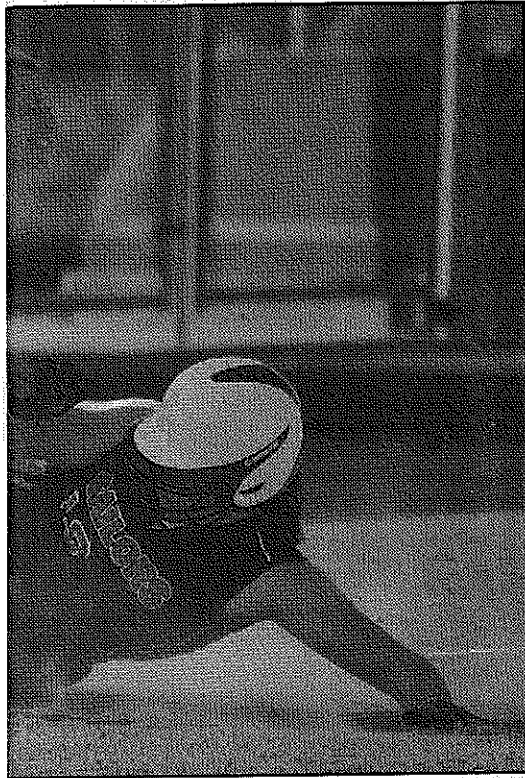


SPORTS

... a close one



MORNING JOURNAL/NATE PARSONS

Avon's Mackenzie Wentz in the third inning of

early lead. In the first inning, Ambo scored. The game was bobbing and weaving through the second and third innings. Vermilion took the lead in the sixth inning, but Christine was unable to get any closer.

When you get yourself in a hole early in the game, it makes it tougher on your pitcher to hit her marks and you have to battle back, Vermilion coach Roger Wright said. "I thought we did that. I thought when we got on defense we relied too much on our pitcher and lost our focus in the seventh inning." "My hat's off to Rogers. She is filling some big shoes this year and is doing real well. She pitched a great ball game." Avon will continue WSC action when they host Midview tomorrow. Vermilion will travel to face Edison today in non-conference play.

Shoremen pick up big win over Bees

By JAMES BRADY

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AVON LAKE — Avon Lake went into last night's Southwestern Conference contest against Brecksville one of the hottest teams in the county with seven straight victories.

The Shoremen came back from deficits of 2-0, 4-2 and 5-4 to pull out an instant-classic win against the Bees on what turned out to be a broken play on Tyler Beck's hit bases-loaded shot deep to left-center to give the Shoremen a stunning 6-5 win.

Avon Lake improves to 10-4 on the season and 3-2 in the SWC. Brecksville falls to 12-2, 4-2.

The Shoremen faced University of Georgia recruit Mike Mancuso and didn't flinch getting a run in the third on a Ben O'Connor single and a run-scoring base hit from Jamie Kauffman in the fourth to knot the game at 2-2.

Mancuso pitched into the eighth inning after the Bees scored a pair of unearned runs in the top of the 8th to give Brecksville a 4-2 lead on hits by Matt Galland and Steve Parr.

Mancuso got a strikeout to start the eighth, but then walked pinch-hitter Nick Brady and senior outfielder Ian Grosel. Mancuso was lifted after the second walk finishing the night with an amazing 155 pitches and a no-decision.

Kevin Morissette knocked in the first run with a fielder's choice off reliever Rich Brown and Ben O'Conner laced a 2-out single to keep the game alive for Avon Lake as it tied the score at 4-4.

After a stellar five-inning outing by University of Akron recruit Danny Becks and reliever Zack Sherman, TJ Thompson came in to provide three innings of relief to pick up the win to improve to 2-1 on the season.

Things looked grim for Avon Lake when the go-ahead run came home on a wild-pitch for the Bees in the top of the 12th, but Avon Lake had Brecksville right where it wanted them with the sun fading.

Grosel singled to start the 12th inning, moved to second on a Kauffman bunt and scored on a Morissette base hit, his third of the game.

O'Connor walked and pinch-hitter Alex Dillon dropped a single into left to load the bases. With the count at 1-1, Morissette broke for home on an admitted squeeze play, but Beck missed the sign and crushed a shot to the left-center field fence to give the Shoremen the wild victory.

COMMUNITY SCOREBOARD

Week

The Morning Journal is now accepting Player of the Week for football, softball, boys and girls track and tennis. Emailed no later than Sunday night to sports@morningjournal.com. I should include the athlete's name, stats from the game and the date. Also stats for all the

Midview (4-7, 1-3)

000 0210 — 353

TWO HITS OR MORE — Rocky River: Hollis (3); Soltes; Midview: Pullio; 2B — RR: Hollis; HR — RR: Soltes; M: Lauer; WP — Scott (4-0); LP — Stracensky (1-2).

Vermilion 4, Avon 1

West Shore Conference

Southwestern Conference

Avon Lake (5-7, 1-4) 000 0010 — 142

North Olmsted (9-1, 4-1) 000 3000 — 351

TWO HITS OR MORE — 3B — AL: Laura Fraser; WP — Ashley

Kessler (6-1); LP — Alexis Thomas (3-2).

Amherst 7, Brecksville 3

SOIN INQUIRY