

## **BLUE RAIDERS SPORTS REPORT APR 19 TO 24**

**BY LARRY ETTER**

The MAHS girls' softball team and the boys' baseball team each picked up a victory last week outside of Capital Division play. The boys went 1-1 for the week while the girls went 1-2 on the diamonds. Schedules are still being adjusted and changed as the teams try to complete their schedules midway through the current season.

### **BASEBALL**

#### **Middletown 15, Williams Valley 12**

The Blue Raiders took a lengthy road trip to upper Dauphin County on Saturday afternoon which turned into a successful journey for the Middletown squad that claimed its third win of the season.

The Middletown bats really came alive in the game and the box score showed 15 runs on 8 hits in the victory. The Blue Raiders scored 7 runs in the top of the second inning, 7 more in the top of the fourth and a single run in the fifth that pushed the team up to a 15-6 lead. But Williams Valley made things interesting in the last inning. The Vikings, after scoring one run in the sixth, plated 5 more in the bottom of the seventh in a late rally. But reliever Mike Tuffy ended the threat and the Raiders held on for the win.

Offensive leaders for the Middletown side were Tim Wagner with 2 hits, 2 walks and 2 RBIs, Tyson Leach, Max Dupes and Ryan Souders with a pair of RBIs each and Gavin Hickoff with two walks. Seven runs came against Vikings starter Braydon Shadle and 7 against reliever Bronson Kelly. Hickoff threw 4.1 innings and Tuffy pitched 2.2 for the winners.

#### **Boiling Springs 7, Middletown 4**

Earlier in the week the Blue Raiders hosted Boiling Springs and came out on the short end of a 7-4 score. The game went scoreless through the first two innings in the tight contest. But the Bubblers broke the drought by plating two runs in the top of the third. In the home half of the frame the Raiders had a great chance to put up some runs but it just did not happen.

In the inning Braelen Huber led off with an infield single and Caden Paul followed with a successful bunt single to put the first two runners on base. Cam Wegert's sacrifice bunt moved both runners up and Jonah Troup drew a base on balls to load the bases with Raiders with one out. But a fielder's choice grounder forced Huber out at home and Boiling Springs pitcher Maddex Labuda struck out Jayden Benner on a high fast ball to end the threat.

The Bubblers scored five more runs off five hits, a walk an error and a hit batsman in the top of the fourth that pushed the visitors to a 7-0 lead. In the home half of the frame Hickoff led off with a double to right center and later scored on a fielder's choice for the Raiders' first run. A. J.

Stains came on in relief to start the fifth inning and gave up a pair of singles, but got out of trouble, keeping the score at 7-1.

In the bottom of the fifth Wegert led off with a walk against new B.S. pitcher Joe Serafin and Troup followed with a single to right. With one out pinch hitter Kaden Sweeney singled to load the bases as the home team threatened. Hickoff's single drove in Wegert from third and Leach's single to left drove in Troup for Middletown's second and third runs. But the Raiders left the bags full when Serafin sat down the next two batters.

Stains again pitched out of trouble in the top of the sixth after the Bubblers loaded the bases with two outs. A force out at second ended the inning with no scoring. In the bottom of the sixth the Raiders left two men stranded keeping the score unchanged. In the top of the seventh the Bubblers threatened again. A leadoff single, a Middletown error and a one-out walk loaded the bases, but Stains induced a pair of infield popups to end it.

In the bottom of the seventh Hickoff led off with a base on balls and Leach ripped a double to left to put two runners on. But a lineout and strikeout held the runners in place. Paul walked on six pitches to once again load the bases for the Blue Raiders and Wegert's single to center drove in Hickoff for the Raiders' fourth run. But they would get no more as Troup flied out to shallow center for the third out.

## **SOFTBALL**

### **Trinity 15, Middletown 4**

On Monday at home the Lady Raiders hosted the visiting Trinity Shamrocks, one of the top teams in the league, and suffered a five-inning, 15-4 defeat. Trinity scored 4 runs in the first inning, four more in the second and three more in the third to take a commanding 11-0 lead before the Raiders broke the ice with a 4-run fourth inning to keep the game going.

In the bottom of the fourth Cadence Lines stroked a one-out double to center and Chloe Kahler walked to put two runners on base. Jenna Alford's single up the middle drove in Lines for the first run and Cam Martinez ripped a double to right to knock in Kahler for the second run. With two outs Mehliia Rinesmith walked to load the bases. Carly Dupes walked on four pitches to force in run number three and Martinez scored on a wild pitch for the fourth run. The inning ended on a strikeout.

With rain falling in the top of the fifth the Shamrocks struck for four more runs by way of four hits and a passed ball to push their lead up to a commanding 15-4 count. The Blue Raiders went down in order in the home half of the fifth to end the game early.

### **Annville-Cleona Tournament**

On Saturday the Lady Raiders traveled to Annville to play in the A.C. tournament. In the first game the Middletown squad was successful, eking out a 5-4 victory over Spring Grove. The

Raiders scored 4 runs in the bottom of the third inning and one in the bottom of the sixth for the win. The Middletown crew recorded 10 hits and made just one error in the game. In the sixth, Martinez doubled in Allie Cleland for what turned out to be the winning run.

Dupes went 2 for 4 with a run scored, Rinesmith drew two walks and Dintiman did well at the plate for the Raiders. Dupes also picked up the pitching victory in relief of Alford, going 2.2 innings and giving up just one hit.

In the second game the Lady Raiders did not fare well against Annville-Cleona as the Lady Dutchmen secured a four-inning, 11-1 win against the Middletown side. The Raiders were held to just 4 hits and one run in the shortened game. Annville-Cleona scored 2 runs in the first inning, 2 in the second and 7 in the fourth to win their own tournament.