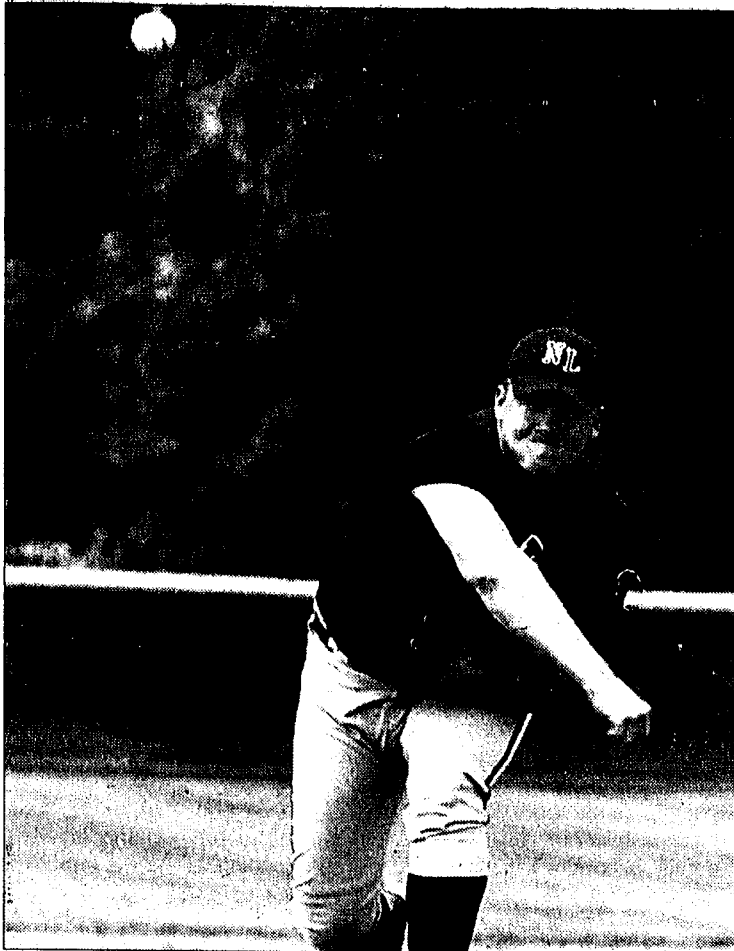




Wildcats advance to regional tournament



New London pitcher Chad Blake fires the ball against Sandusky St. Mary Central Catholic Saturday in Division IV district final action at Colonel Crawford High School.

■ Chad Blake leads New London past St. Mary CC

By **DAN ANGELO**
Sandusky Register

NORTH ROBINSON — Chad Blake was pretty nervous at the start of one of the biggest games of his high school career.

It didn't take the New London junior long to settle down Saturday as he blasted a two-run homer in the first inning and worked seven shutout innings on the mound to hand the Wildcats a 3-0 win over St. Mary Central Catholic in the Division IV district championship game at Col. Crawford High School.

"I just went out there and blocked everything else out," Blake said. "I have a job to do, and did it which is the main thing."

Blake did his job very well, allowing four hits with eight strikeouts and a walk.

"(Blake) has been a little inconsistent this year, but I blame that on the weather," New London coach Glen Morse said. "He could never get any rhythm, and he's not the only one."

BASEBALL

"But we're lucky to have some depth, and we're jelling at the right time."

New London, which improved to 21-4 overall, claimed its first district title.

They now advance to regional semifinals, scheduled to take on Cortland Maplewood at 2 p.m. Friday at George Day Field in Elyria.

"New London has never been to the regional in baseball and has only been to the district finals twice since I've been here," Morse said.

"We booted a couple of balls we shouldn't have, but the bottom line is when we needed to make plays, we made them."

Maplewood downed Ashtabula Sts. John and Paul 7-1 to win the Euclid district.

That inconsistency, along with a bit of shoddy defense, was on display early as the Panthers (17-9) had runners on second and third with just one out on a hit and two errors in the first inning.

St. Mary CC also had runners on second and third with one gone in the fifth and first and second with an out in the seventh, but Blake responded to every challenge.

"This is what we've worked for all year," Blake said. "But this was an adrenalin rush. In the first inning, I was shaking like a leaf."

He induced back-to-back strikeouts to end the threat in the first inning, then set down 11 straight St. Mary CC batters before Aaron Kowaleski opened the fifth with a single. Joseph Whelan followed with a single, with both runners moving up on a wild pitch before Blake got Cameron Whelan to ground to short.

Blake followed by striking out Jason Fresch and walking Ryan Montgomery to load the bases for A.J. Fresch, who grounded to short to end the threat.

In the seventh, the Panthers had two runners reach safely on errors.

But Blake fanned Jason Fresch on strikes and induced a grounder to second from Montgomery to erase the lead runner and grounder to short from A.J. Fresch to end the game.

Blake also did the job at the plate, following a two-out single from Karl Ferber in the first with an opposite-field shot over the right-center field fence to give the Wildcats a 2-0 lead. Corey Chaffins then opened

the second with a solo home run to left off Joseph Whelan to make it a 3-0 advantage.

"The second guy (Chaffins) hit a good pitch," St. Mary CC coach Denny Link said. "We had a fastball in on his hands and he turned on it."

"We felt capable of winning right up until the seventh inning when we ran out of Lady Luck."

Whelan only allowed singles to Chris Hamilton and Justin Lukes the rest of the way, fanning three and walking two.

"We hit the ball and (Blake) is obviously one of our stars," Morse said. "But I think another key was Tommy McCoppin at first base. He made three big stretches to make bang-bang plays."

"St. Mary is a quality baseball team and has more real good arms than I've seen a high school baseball team have in a long time."

"Making the plays to beat a team like that, one that went even farther than the regional last year, makes this even better."

Kowaleski led the Panthers, who advanced to the Division IV state semifinals last spring, at the plate with a pair of singles with Whelan and Montgomery adding hits.

Second for Monroeville at D-III district meet

By **DON HOHLER**
Reflector Sports writer

BUCYRUS — Second-place is not bad either.

After Monroeville won the district championships last season, it picked up a second-place Saturday during Division III district competition at Bucyrus High School.

Wynford edged the Eagles 81-76 for the team title.

Monroeville senior speedster Nick Wise had the most to do with Bernie Yoder's team putting the pressure on the Royals over the last 30 minutes.

Wise and teammate Brad Pierce had drawn the Eagles into contention after a first and fourth in the 100-meter dashes at 11.67 and 12.1, respectively. The two were then joined by Zak Hancock and Aaron Robinson in winning 400 relay at 44.63.

In between, high jumper Derek Sitterly added points after placing third at 6-0. Josh Perry, who earlier in the week qualified to the regional in the shot put, stamped his ticket to the next level with a fourth in the discus at 151-1.

Freshman Devin Siesel scored huge points in the 3200 with a third at 10:41.

The Eagles were still in contention, but a fourth place the 1600 relay team of Wise, Pierce, Aaron Robinson and Hancock at 3:43.11 just fell short.

"We got about as much out of them as we could," Yoder said. "Again, this was a strong field. Points were hard to come by. We got our share. Wynford was just a little bit better."

The best showing by the Western boys came from Jake Dellisanti, who captured third in the 400 at 52.26.

He was also the leadoff runner in the 800 relay, which included Brad Pickens, Matt Martineau and Anthony Elliot at fourth in 1:36.29.

BOYS' TRACK AND FIELD

New London is sending one relay team and one individual to the next level.

The same 800 relay team of Brian Sheller, Duane Berry, Brent Dearth and Chris Foor garnered second at 1:35.09.

Distance-runner Zac Sendelbach kept his season going after a fourth in the 3200 at 10:56.79.

Plymouth's Lucas Keaton is no longer a surprise to anyone. His win in the 300 hurdles in 41.38 stamps him as one of the best in the region. Prior to this win, he ran anchor on Marty McKenzie's 1600 relay team, along with Richard Reed, Mike LaCroix and Skylar Branstool for third in 3:35.70.

Earlier, Branstool grabbed the last spot in the 800 at 2:05.63.

South Central also continues to make noise. After Jordan Ray advanced in the pole vault with a second Thursday, three more Trojans advanced.

Jordan Lucal, with a second in at 6-0, and Tyler Wilhelm, fourth 6-0, gave Jeff Ray's team two of the four place in the high jump.

Earlier, Clint Hackney ran fourth in the 1600 at 4:41.63.

The regional schedule at Fostoria is also a two-day event, starting Wednesday.

Finals in the boys' pole vault, long jump and discus, along with the girls' high jump and shot put are scheduled to start at 4 p.m.

The girls 3200 meter relay final will be run at 4:30 p.m., followed by the boys 3200.

Semi-finals in both the 100 and 300 hurdles, 100, 200 and 400 and the 400, 800 and 1600 meter relays will also be contested.

There will be no qualifying in the 800, 1600 and 3200.

Running finals are slated for 6 p.m. Friday with the remaining field events going at 5 p.m.

Team standings: 1. Bucyrus Wynford 81. 2. Monroeville 76. 3. St. Mary CC 70.5. 4. Ashland Crestview 58. 5. Seneca East 53. 6. Col. Crawford 41.5. 7. Lucas 35. 8. South Central 34. 9. Carey 32. 10. New London 30. 11. Plymouth 25. 12. Western Reserve and Tiffin Calvert 24. 14. St. Peter's 22. 15. Crestline 21. 16. Buckeye Central 18. 17. Mohawk 7. 18. St. Paul 4. (Top four and area placers; top four advance to regional)

100-meter dash: 1. N. Wise (Mon) 11.67. 2. O'Dell (AC) 12.03. 3. Kraft (BW) 12.07. 4. B. Pierce (Mon) 12.1. 5. Kissling (BC) 12.20. 6. Cotsamire (BW) 12.21. 7. Welsh (CC) 12.27

200: 1. N. Wise (Mon) 23.83. 2. Glennon (Crestline) 23.96. 3. Dye (SMCC) 24.27. 4. W. Cotsamire (BW) 24.7. 5. Thomas (L) 24.71. 6. Kissling (BC) 24.90. 7. Hines (AC) 25.60

400: 1. Berger (MSP) 51.96. 2. Herringhaus (MSP) 51.99. 3. Dellisanti (WR) 52.26. 4. Allgrye (SE) 53.26. 5. Sheller (NL) 53.96. 6. VanBuren (CC) 55.03. 7. Owen (BW) 55/50. 8. B. Baum (SM) 56.03

800: 1. McQuillen (CC) 2:04.66. 2. Smith (TC) 2:05.13. 3. Ringler (AC) 2:05.29. 4. Branstool (P) 2:05.63. 5. J. Beebe (SP) 2:05.89. 6. K. Schaffer (Mon) 2:07.66. 7. Kaple (BC) 2:08.46. 8. Fulk (AC) 2:08.93

1600: 1. McQuillen (CC) 4:38.86. 2. Reinhardt (Carey) 4:40.33. 3. Ferber (SM) 4:41.1. 4. C. Hackney (SC) 4:41.63. 5. McCarron (AC) 4:42.70. 6. Z. Sendelbach (L) 4:48.7. 7. Kromer (Carey) 4:59.18. 8. Keller (Mohawk) 5:01.42

3200: 1. Dotson (BW) 1:32.53. 2. Ferber (SM) 1:40.21. 3. Siesel (Mon) 1:41.27. 4. Sendelbach (NL) 1:56.79. 5. Kamm (NL) 1:53.86. 6. Crall (BW) 1:56.73. 7. Meltzer (AC) 1:22.21. 8. D. Kaman (SM) 1:24.75

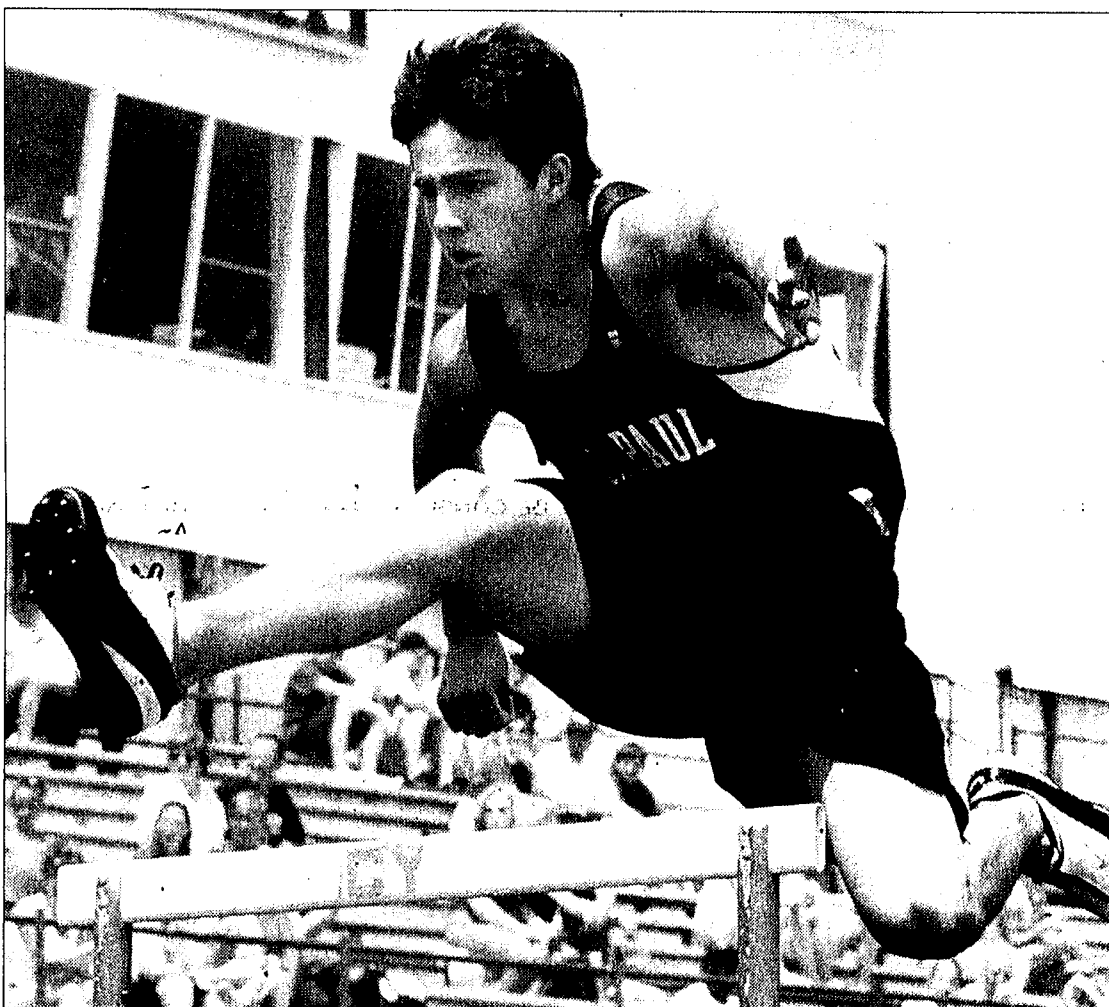
110 hurdles: 1. Wentling (Carey) 15.82. 2. O'Dell (AC) 16.16. 3. Garlock (SE) 16.62. 4. VanMeter (L) 16.69. 5. Canfield (L) 16.72. 6. Leal (SM) 42.98. 7. Coburn (SC) 16.96. 8. D. Thayer (WR) 17.09

300 hurdles: 1. Keaton (P) 41.38. 2. Barlsen (SM) 42.68. 3. Leal (SM) 42.98. 4. Z. Canfield (L) 43.21. 5. Duffner (BW) 43.61. 6. C. Ehler (SC) 44.35. 8. M. Coburn (SC) 45.02

400 relay: 1. Monroeville (Z. Hancock, A. Robinson, Pierce, N. Wise) 44.63. 2. St. Mary CC 45.36. 3. Ash. Crestview 45.43. 4. Lucas 45.83. 5. Western Reserve 45.9. 6. Seneca East 46.36. 7. Wynford 46.86. 8. Col. Crawford 46.90

800 relay: 1. Wynford 1:34.86. 2. New London (Sheller, Berry, Dearth, Foor) 1:35.09. 3. Seneca East 1:35.56. 4. Western Reserve 1:36.29. 5. Lucas 1:36.56. 6. Carey 1:39.36. 7. Col. Crawford 1:40.13

1600 relay: 1. Seneca East 3:34.63. 2. St. Mary CC 3:35.3. 3. Plymouth (Reed, LaCroix, Branstool, Keaton) 3:35.7. 4. Monroeville (Heyman, N. Ryan, N. Wise, A. Robinson) 3:43.11. 5. Col. Crawford 3:43.11. 6. Carey 3:46.08



St. Paul's Nathan Myers goes over the hurdles in the 100-meter event Saturday during Division III district competition Saturday at Bucyrus High School.

3200 relay: St. Mary CC 8:37.03. 2. Col. Crawford 8:38.56. 3. Carey 8:40.9. 4. Crestview 8:41. 5. Plymouth (Rowe, Fackler, Branstool, Keaton) 8:42.5. 6. Western Reserve (Camman, Martineau, Stoll, Zimmerman) 8:46.57. 7. Tiffin Calvert 8:52.84. 8. Seneca East 8:54.84

High jump: 1. Swartz (TC) 6-3 1/2. 2. Lucal (SC) 6-0. 3. Sitterly (Mon) 6-0. 4. T. Wilhelm (SC) 6-0. 5. Dearth (NL) 5-10. 6. Kurtz (Mohawk) 5-8. 7. A. Robinson (Mon) 5-8. 8. (tie) Kaman (SM) and Courtland (CC) 5-6

Pole vault: 1. Nichols (SE) 13-0. 2. Ray (SC) 13-0. 3. Dyer (BW) 12-0. 4. Stanfield (SE) 11-6. 5. Buckingham (TC) 11-6. 6. McGraw (AC) 11-0. 7. Herold (NL) 10-0. 8. Roberts (SC) 10-0

Long jump: 1. O'Dell (AC) 21-7. 2. VanMeter (L) 20-6 1/2. 3. A. Robinson (Mon) 19-10 1/2. 4. Nichols (SE) 19-2 1/2. 5. Herringhaus (MSP) 19-0 1/2. 6. Martineau (WR) 19-0. 7. Hahler (SE) 18-11. 8. Arthur (CC) 18-10 1/2

Shot put: 1. Baxter (BW) 53-7 1/4. 2. Perry (Mon) 53-3. 3. Perry (BW) 49-9. 4. Crawford (Crestline) 49-1 2/4. 5. T. Dillinger (SM) 48-5 1/2. 6. Niedermeier (BC) 48-5. 7. Beck (AC) 48-0 3/4. 8. Howell (AC) 47-2

Discus: 1. Baxter (BW) 164-9. 2. Hoffer (Crestline) 162-6. 3. Niedermeier (BC) 154-7. 4. J. Perry (Mon) 151-1. 5. D. Perry (BW) 144-4. 6. Kurtz (Mohawk) 143-3. 7. G. Patrick (WR) 139-4. 8. Dillinger (SM) 139-0

Northcutt to sign new contract with Browns

CLEVELAND (AP) — Wide receiver Dennis Northcutt, who was denied free agency when his agent missed a deadline this winter, agreed to terms on a new, three-year contract with the Cleveland Browns on Saturday.

Financial terms were not immediately known, but Northcutt had been seeking a deal worth more than \$3 million per season.

He had been scheduled to make about \$700,000 per season over the next three years.

Cleveland's top playmaker the past two seasons, Northcutt expected to be a free agent in March.

But his agent, Jerome Stanley, failed to file the proper paperwork in February that would have void-

ed the final three years of Northcutt's original seven-year contract with the Browns.

After weeks of negotiations, the sides finally reached a deal on Saturday.

"I am very pleased that we have been able to resolve Dennis Northcutt's contract situation and have him return to the team," Browns coach Butch Davis said in a statement. "Dennis is a versatile player who is a threat to make great things happen every time he touches the ball on offense and as a punt returner."

Northcutt will sign his deal today and then be on the field when the Browns resume their four-week voluntary quarterback school.

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SAFETY TOWN Open Registration

Where: Norwalk Police Dept.
When: May 19-June 7
Who: For any child entering Kindergarten this fall.
What: A week long safety education course. Beginning June 7th. Three classes to choose from.

Open registration is for any Norwalk child who missed sign-up at Kindergarten screening and to all other children outside the Norwalk School District.

This program is free to all who attend and is sponsored by the **NORWALK ROTARY CLUB**.