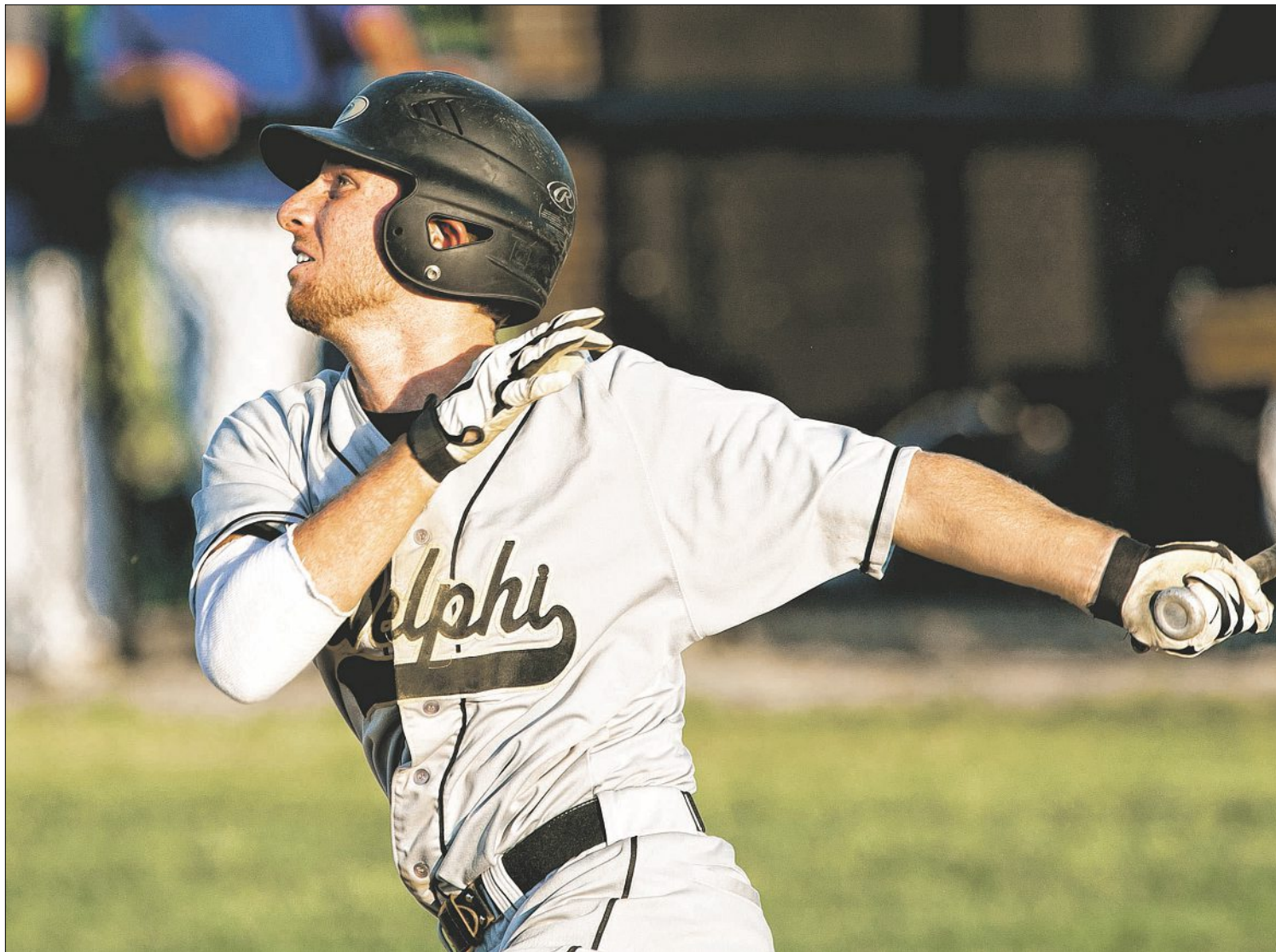




HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL: CLASS 2A DELPHI SECTIONAL



Brent Hawn and Delphi cruised past Carroll, 16-1, to wrap up a sectional title on Wednesday. BRENT DRINKUT/JOURNAL & COURIER



## LeBron gathers wrong attention

LeBron James likely did himself no favors with the refs by fueling the debate over flopping just ahead of Game 4.

Little more than 12 hours after he breezily labeled the practice "not even a bad thing, you're just trying to get the advantage," the Miami Heat star collected his sixth foul and took a seat on the bench with the game on the line and just under a minute left against the Indiana Pacers.

"I didn't believe it was an offensive foul," he said about the last call. "I was going to set a screen, and I felt like I was stationary. ... Lance (Stephenson, the Pacers' guard) actually ran into me."

The call was made after James attempted to set a screen for teammate Dwyane Wayne at the top of the key then stuck out his left leg to make it tougher for Stephenson to get around him. For good measure, he also stepped on Stephenson's foot. While you rarely see an illegal screen called late in a tight game, when Stephenson stumbled to regain his balance the officials were forced to sort out the damage.

Right after the whistle, James put both hands to his head in a gesture that suggested both surprise and disbelief. It was a little late for both. That was his fourth foul in the final 12 minutes, and Indiana's soon-to-be-cemented 99-92 win marked just the second time he's fouled out in a playoff game.

This one cost the Heat mightily.

James actually had a beef with three more of the six fouls he accumulated, and it wasn't without some merit. One came with two seconds left in the third quarter, after he collected a loose ball close to Indiana's basket, then swung both arms to protect it from David West and grazed the

See DELPHI, Page B4

See FLOPPING, Page B5

# MAKING IT RAIN

## Delphi unloads on Carroll, 16-1, for fourth championship in six years

By Jeff Washburn  
jwashburn@jconline.com

DELPHI — Delphi's sixth-ranked Class 2A baseball team won't soon forget the 2013 Memorial Day thunderstorm that pounded Carroll County.

Without it, the Oracles might be making summer vacation plans instead of preparing for Saturday's Wabash Regional matchup with Alexandria.

Trailing ninth-ranked Seeger, 4-1, through three innings of Monday's semifinals when heavy rain forced postpone-

ment, Delphi outscored the Patriots and Carroll by a combined 23-1 Tuesday and Wednesday nights to secure the program's fourth sectional championship in six years.

After scoring five times in the top of the seventh Tuesday for a dramatic 8-4 come-from-behind victory against Seeger, Delphi (22-6) rode that momentum to a 16-1, five-inning championship game victory against Carroll on Wednesday.

Senior left-handed pitcher Erik Carpenter, who bats ninth in the Oracles' lineup, was 3-for-3 with three runs and two RBIs.



Erik Carpenter was all smiles after going 3-for-3 and getting the win on the mound for Delphi. BRENT DRINKUT/JOURNAL & COURIER

He improved to 7-1 by limiting the Cougars (13-10) to four hits and a single run in three innings. Brent Hawn worked two innings of shutout relief.

"It's absolutely right that we picked up tonight right where we left off," Carpenter said of Delphi's post-rainstorm sectional effort. "We hit the ball really well at the end of the game Tuesday night against Seeger, and it continued here. To put up 16 runs, you can't ask for any more than that."

"I was very pleased with my batting. I

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL



Shortstop Alex Spitznagle has provided Harrison with a strong presence in the middle of the infield this season. BRENT DRINKUT/J&C

## Spitznagle keys Cinderella run

By Sam King  
sking@jconline.com

She's 5 feet, 2 inches. Alex Spitznagle has never been the tallest player in the dugout, but she's the one everybody else looks up to.

Every great team needs the leader.

When Spitznagle got to high school, it was pitcher Brooke Jordan who captained the Harrison Raiders and was idolized by the young defensive whiz, who learned she didn't have to post the highest batting average or drive in the most runs to be the centerpiece of a champion-

### CLASS 4A SEMISTATE

At Harrison  
Harrison (15-14) vs.  
Huntington North (25-2)

When: Saturday, 1 p.m.

What's next: The winner will play in the 7 p.m. championship on Saturday.

ship team.

"I know that I am never going to be the person who hits a triple. I just want to come in and do the best I can for my team and give 100 percent on the field every single game. That's my motto," said Spitznagle, who has

just three extra-base hits among her 31 total this season.

"I want to leave and have the younger girls say, 'Hey, I want to be like Alex.'"

You can't measure Spitznagle's four years at Harrison by statistics. Well, maybe you can. She's been a part of three sectional championships and now a regional championship with a team building a reputation as upset specialists in the postseason.

"We need someone like that on the team to push us, and she makes sure that everyone

See SPITZNAGLE, Page B4



HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TENNIS

# Bison duo enjoying final postseason together

By Sam King  
sking@jconline.com

OXFORD — Arthritis caused problems for Sophie Marquie as a fifth-grader, and after going into remission, it returned near the end of her junior year.

She gave up basketball because she was unsure she wanted to put that much stress on her body, but she continued to play the sport she was most passionate about: tennis.

"It was hard, but I got through it, and I'm here now playing the sport I love," Marquie said.

By here now, the senior

means tennis practice is still happening, an irregular situation for the Benton Central tennis team.

Marquie and Alissa Brouillette (14-7) have played their way into the individual regional tournament on Saturday at Kokomo, where they'll play Alexandria's No. 1 doubles team of sophomores Allie Houston and Abbie Miller (27-2).

The BC senior tandem reached this point with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Lexi Heck and Hannah Corder of Owen Valley last week at Greencastle.

"We've been saying since freshman year that it would be



Alissa Brouillette



Sophie Marquie

awesome to be playing past sectional, but we didn't think we could actually do it," Marquie said. "This year, we got the chance to do it, so it's so exciting."

It's their final run together as Bison.

Since their freshman year, they've been paired together. Sometimes, coach Carly Butler would split them up as freshmen, a concept that didn't go well for the lifelong best friends.

"We weren't always together freshman year. She would always switch us up," Brouillette said. "We would always be mad when we got switched."

Butler can attest to that, joking that sometimes threats would be directed at her unless she paired them back together.

All joking aside, Butler has known her No. 1 doubles team for a long time. She used to

babysit them while she was in high school.

"They kind of instantly made that connection, so it never really gave me the option to split them up," Butler said.

It's paid dividends. The two know each other so well, they can often read each other's next move.

They never thought it'd take them to this point, and anything from here on out is just icing on the cake.

"There's nothing to lose. We can just go out and have fun," Brouillette said.



Alex Spitznagle hasn't been known for her prowess at the plate, but the senior has delivered some clutch hits for Harrison. BRENT DRINKUT/JOURNAL & COURIER

## SPITZNAGLE

Continued from Page B1

wants to win," junior Kaitlyn Carnahan said.

She leads the team with 13 errors this year, but for every mistake she makes, there's a spectacular defensive gem she's made to take a hit away.

"She makes some errors, but she also makes the plays that no one else can make," Harrison coach Dick Mitchell said.

As an eighth-grader, she watched Harrison advance all the way to the 2009 Class 4A state championship game before their magical run ended, and she never envisioned she'd be a senior before the Raiders won another regional title.

Harrison may never have been the sectional favorite in the four-year run with Spitznagle and fellow seniors Sam Scott and Reghan Lerch, yet they've managed to pull out the victories when they've mattered.

It happened again on Tuesday, when the Raiders upset No. 6 Hamilton Southeastern on the road for the regional title. Spitznagle was saddened after the sectional championship that she may have played her last game on her home field.

The unlikely victory over the Royals

gives her another chance to pilot the squad as the shortstop, leadoff hitter and unquestioned leader at Harrison's diamond.

"I played basketball with her, too, and she is always upbeat and trying to get everyone going," sophomore Maggie Shandrick said. "She is definitely someone I look up to."

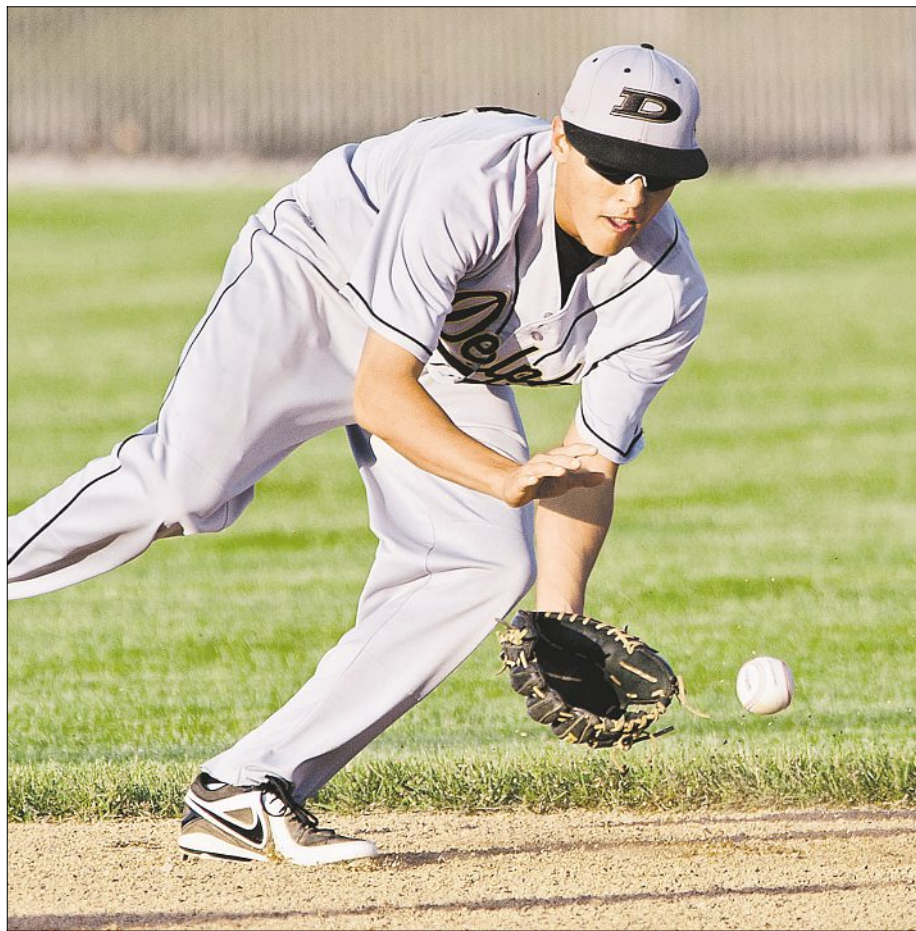
Harrison (15-14), which began the postseason with a record of 11-14, has put together three consecutive one-run victories. They're again

the underdog against fifth-ranked Huntington North and ace pitcher Erin Rethlake, who has given up just two earned runs all season and committed to the University of Kentucky last year as a sophomore.

That's OK. Spitznagle has been in the underdog role well before Saturday's Harrison Semistate — and succeeded. The rest of her team has carried on that same mantra.

An upset against the Vikings seems unlikely, but Mitchell learned long ago that you don't count out a team with that outstanding senior leader, one synonymous with winning.

"She is the one you want at the plate or in the field making the play every time, because you know she is going to come through," he said. "She's got that mentality that she will not lose. She's a senior who is going to be impossible to replace."



Delphi second baseman Kolby Myer helped keep the Carroll offense at bay with his glove and also drove in three runs. BRENT DRINKUT/JOURNAL & COURIER

## DELPHI

Continued from Page B1

haven't hit the ball well the last few games. But to come out here tonight and hit the ball as well as I did feels great. To have my teammates hit as well as they did, I can't ask for anything more."

Kolby Myer, Jason Sterrett and Ostin Clark each drove in three runs, with Clark's coming on a three-run homer over the center-field fence during a seven-run third that gave Delphi a 13-1 lead.

"We were dialed in as a unit," Carpenter said. "We all were looking to hit the ball and had great approaches. It showed out here tonight. I really was surprised by the final score. They had a decent pitcher on the mound, so I don't think we expected to score this many runs. We did it, and we're proud of it. We're ready to continue to do this."

Delphi coach Kerry Yoder wasn't

quite sure what to expect after his team left the field Monday with rain pounding the playing surface.

"That could go either way," Yoder said. "Sometimes you can get complacent, and sometimes it will springboard. Tonight, our kids came out and were relaxed and ready to go. We got the job done from the get-go. Carpenter was the key to the game. He is a kid that gets up for big games. He produced tonight when we really needed him."

Delphi finished with 16 hits, including five for extra bases. Codey Sattler, whose grand slam won the Seeger game, singled in a run with two outs in the top of the first Wednesday, and Delphi never trailed. Sattler was 2-for-3 against Carroll.

"All around, we had a good approach at the plate," Yoder said. "We faced a very good pitcher in Seth Eldridge, who has good off-speed stuff. We got to him. We took pitches, and when they got the pitch that they could handle, they did something with it."

# FRIDAY GOLF

## KAMPEN COURSE

**\$50**

On Friday, May 31st present this coupon to play the Kampen Course for \$50 per player with cart. Advanced reservations are required.

Expires May 31, 2013

765.494.3139

[www.PurdueGolf.com](http://www.PurdueGolf.com)

