

Upcoming prep games announced
 Wednesday
 Softball
 Sullivan @ Clinton 4:30 p.m.
 Okaw Valley @ South Piatt (AHHS) 4:30 p.m.
 Thursday
 Softball
 Sullivan vs. Stew-Stras (Senior Night) 4:30 p.m.
 Friday
 Softball
 Okaw Valley @ Shiloh (Newman) 4:30 p.m.
 Saturday
 Softball
 Okaw Valley vs. Shelbyville 10 a.m.
 Monday
 Track
 U of I Invitational - Champaign
 Tuesday
 Softball
 Okaw Valley in Windsor Regional 4:30 p.m.

First Mid promotes Jordan Lindenmeyer
 First Mid-Illinois Bank and Trust announced that Jordan Lindenmeyer has been promoted to assistant vice president, trust investment officer. He joined the Trust & Wealth Management Division at First Mid in 2006, working with individual and business clients to provide quality investment services. He is also First Mid's investment research specialist.

Lindenmeyer has a Bachelor of Science degree in business with a major in finance from Eastern Illinois University. He holds Series 7 and Series 66 Securities Licenses as well as the Accredited Investment Fiduciary (AIF) designation, having trained in fiduciary responsibility. While attending EIU, Lindenmeyer was named to the dean's list. He is active in the community, serving as a volunteer for the Arcola Broom Corn Festival. Jordan and his wife, Heather, live in Sullivan.



Okaw Valley pitcher Aaron Fruchtl warms up in the bullpen before Wednesday's game against Villa Grove. Fruchtl only allowed three hits in the fifth inning while striking out eight Blue Devil hitters.



The Sullivan Blue Dolphins hosted a youth triathlon on April 26 at the Sullivan Civic Center. A day of decent weather greeted the 60 participants that came from as far away as Chicago, and 57 of them made it to the finish line. Here, a series of riders wind their way through Wyman park during the cycling part of the event.

Clutch hits send OV to victory

by Scott Lockwood
 sportsdesk@newsprogress.com
 From the time they took infield practice on Wednesday, the Okaw Valley Timberwolves looked like they were a team on a mission.

Strong pitching, great defense and clutch hits in key situations were the reason that Okaw Valley came away with an 11-3 Little Okaw Valley Conference win over Villa Grove on Wednesday.

The Timberwolves set the tone of the game right away, when Seth Calhoun lined the first pitch he saw to left for a single. He then stole second, advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt by Kyle Blakey, and scored the game's first run when Dallas Kirkwood reached on an error.

Tim Suddarth led off the second with a single, and pinch runner Alex Rothrock scored on Colton Cloyd's single to left. Calhoun then walked to put runners on first and second with two outs, then Blakey delivered with a single past the shortstop into the gap that scored both Cloyd and Calhoun.

The hits kept coming for

OVHS in the fourth Josh McLain singled to left to lead off the inning, then scored on a throwing error on Cloyd's second single. Calhoun stepped up and hit a two-run bomb to left that made it a 7-0 game.

"As soon as I hit it I knew it was gone," Calhoun said of his blast. "It was a no-doubter type of thing."

Timberwolves started Aaron Fruchtl took a no-hit bid into the fifth, only to see Jesse Shrum belt a single on the second pitch of the inning. Shrum eventually scored, and the Blue Devils tagged Fruchtl for another pair of runs before the end of the inning.

VGHS errors helped OVHS put runners in scoring position in the bottom of the fifth. Alex Corrington tried to take advantage of an error by Shrum on a hit by Kyle Pierce, but the ball made its way back to home in time for Corrington to be tagged out at the plate. Cloyd then delivered another two-out, run-scoring single to give OVHS what would turn out to be an insurmountable 9-3 lead. They added two more runs in the sixth, while Fruchtl retired the final six batters

in succession to seal the win.

"When you've got a guy throwing strikes like Aaron was and really controlling the strike zone, it gives you the confidence that if you put a few runs up you're going to win the game," Okaw Valley head coach Andrew Hagerman said. "That gave us confidence offensively when we knew we had a guy in control on the mound and that we could just go out there and take a few good cuts. We just hit the ball real well tonight."

Fruchtl gave up only three hits, all in the fifth inning, while going the distance and striking out eight and not issuing a single walk. Calhoun was 3-for-3 and with a homer and two more runs scored. Cloyd produced three run-scoring singles and scored twice.

"It's big for him, because I've used a designated hitter for him some this year," Hagerman said of Cloyd, a freshman. "He's a natural athlete, a good hitter and a program guy for us that's going to be in our two or three spot as he gets older. It's good to see him come through."



These members of the Sullivan Blue Dolphins participated in the youth triathlon at the Sullivan Civic Center on April 26. Pictured from left to right in the front row are Aryn Rousser, Charlotte Bowsher, Charlie Goss, Ethan Foster, Dalton Rogers and Drew Rogers. In the back row are Brodie Goss, Dalace Ray, Brynna Sentel, Cole Bowsher, Connor Russell, Sam Rousser and Abby Williams.

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