

■ Baseball**Trojans**

Troy catcher Ian Nadolny throws a Sidney runner out trying to steal Wednesday at Fifth Third Field.

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but the Green Wave was forced to forfeit those victories. It was also the first time Troy, which had won four in a row entering the game, had been shut out since a 5-0 loss to Bellefontaine on April 20, 2012.

Echols walked four, gave up six hits and only struck out three, throwing only one one-two-three inning and a total of 99 pitches. But it never really felt like he was in any danger except when he walked the first two batters of the fifth inning and let Troy load the bases in the seventh with one out.

Each time, though, the Trojans harmlessly flew out to the outfield to take the pressure off of Echols, and he found ways to work out of it.

"We got beat today due to a lack of offense and a complete lack of discipline at the plate," Welker said. "I'm not taking away from him (Echols). He threw a really nice game. But we just had absolutely no plan at the plate."

"We'd be in a fastball count and then take a fastball for a strike. He was throwing high in the zone, and we were swinging pop-up swings and popping the ball up. We lacked an offensive approach today."

Sidney (5-6, 2-2), meanwhile, was fortunate enough to get to Troy starter Zach Kendall early.

Kaleb Dotson led off with a single and stole second, and with one out Echols drove him in with an RBI single up the middle, with Echols taking second on an errant throw on the play. And with two outs, Jacob Lochard brought in Echols for an insurance run with another RBI single.

It was all Sidney could manage against Kendall, as he was lights out from there. Kendall gave up six hits in the game — three



Troy shortstop Dylan Cascaden throws a runner out at first Wednesday night at Fifth Third Field in Dayton.



Troy's Nick Sanders tags out a Sidney runner at second base Wednesday at Fifth Third Field.

in the first inning — and walked none while striking out five.

And when the Jackets did get runners on, catcher Ian Nadolny made sure they didn't matter. With Sidney runners on first and second and none out in the fourth, a Sidney batter missed on a bunt attempt and Nadolny threw to second, catching the lead runner in a rundown. And in the fifth, a one-out single led to nothing as Nadolny caught a runner trying to steal second.

"We've got to come out and start," Welker said.

"Slow starts like we had today will get you. Zach had a slow start focus-wise, but he settled down

and threw a heck of a

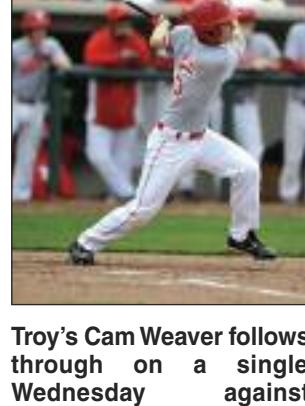
game. We just didn't help him out.

"You can't pitch a victory if you don't score any runs."

Troy's best threats came in the fifth and seventh. In the fifth, Collin Moeller and Cam Weaver — who was 2 for 2 in the game — led off the inning by working back-to-back walks. But flyouts to left and right field by the next two batters took the heat off, and Echols struck out the final hitter of the inning to escape.

Greg Johnson then led off the seventh with a single, and Weaver singled with one out to put runners on first and second.

Dylan Cascaden (1 for 3) walked to load the bases, but Echols struck out the



Troy's Cam Weaver follows through on a single Wednesday against Sidney at Fifth Third Field.

next hitter and induced a groundout to short to end the game.

"We posed a threat, but it was too little, too late," Welker said.

And while perennial GWOC North champ Butler now sits atop the division with a 4-0 record, Welker wanted to ensure that his Trojans aren't looking ahead to that series, which isn't until the end of the month.

"We have Greenville

Monday and Tuesday next week. We'll worry about them first," he said.

Before that, though, the Trojans travel to Centerville on Friday.

Sidney 200 000 0 — 2 6 0
Troy 000 000 0 — 0 6 2
Echols and Niswonger.
Kendall and Nadolny. WP —
Echols. LP — Kendall. Records:
Sidney 5-6, 2-2, Troy 8-4, 3-1.

■ Softball/Baseball**Roundup****■ CONTINUED FROM 15**

ready to keep moving forward.

Troy hosts Wayne today.

Sidney 200 000 0 — 2 0 0
Troy 150 211 x — 10
Vernon and Snay. WP —
Vernon. Records: Troy 5-6, 2-2.

Tippecanoe 4, Tecumseh 0

TIPP CITY — Bri

Eichbaum struck out seven, walked one and gave up five hits

Wednesday, finishing off Tippecanoe's first shutout

of the year in a 5-0 Central Buckeye Conference victory over Tecumseh.

"That's the best game

Bri's pitched all year so

far. She pitched a great game," Tippecanoe coach

Charles Tackett said.

And she got all the support she needed when the Devils (10-4, 6-0) scored twice in the first inning.

Cassie Gingerich had three hits, two runs and three stolen bases to pace the attack, Kristin Mace had a hit and two RBIs and Ali Muse had two hits, a double and scored a run.

Tippecanoe travels to Ben Logan today for a key CBC test.

Tec 000 000 0 — 0 5 0
Tipp 200 002 x — 4 6 0
Eichbaum and Kostyal. WP — Eichbaum. 2B — Muse (Tipp).

Records: Tecumseh 5-5, 0-5, Tippecanoe 10-4, 6-0.

Carlisle 4, Milton-Union 3

CARLISLE — Three errors proved costly to Milton-Union Wednesday as Carlisle took advantage of its chances in a 4-3 Southwestern Buckeye League Buckeye Division victory.

"Our defense hurt us again today," Milton-Union coach Curt Schaefer said.

Chloe Smith — who took the loss on the mound — was 2 for 4 in the game, Jessie Bowman was 2 for 4 with a double, Haley Martens doubled and Christine Heisey tripled.

Milton-Union (6-7, 2-4) travels to Preble Shawnee Friday.

M-U 000 012 0 — 3 9 3
Car 020 020 x — 4 4 2
Chl. Smith and K.

Courtright, B. Courtright (3).

Morris and Summers. WP — Morris. LP — Chl. Smith. 2B —

Martens (M), Bowman (M). 3B — Heisey (M). Records: Milton-

Union 6-7, 2-4.

• Baseball**Bethel 5, Southeastern 2**

S O U T H E A S T E R N —

Bethel's offense did

enough Wednesday.

The way Luke Veldman

threw, it even did a little

too much.

Veldman struck out 15,

walked one and gave up

five hits at Southeastern

Records: Tecumseh 9-3, 3-2, Tippecanoe 11-2, 5-1.

Golf**Golf****HILTON****HEAD****ISLAND, S.C. (AP)**

— Ernie Els might've been the second happiest golfer at

Augusta National last

Sunday night when good

friend Adam Scott slipped

on the green jacket as the

Masters' champion.

Els, who tied for 13th

last week, is part of a strong

field at the RBC Heritage,

which begins Thursday. The

2012 British Open champion

has had several close

calls at Harbour Town Golf

Links, but brings plenty of

confidence and the satisfaction

of watching Scott win his

first major championship into this year's tournament.

Els earned his fourth

career major at Royal

Lytham & St. Anne's this

past July when Scott threw

away a four-stroke lead

with four holes remaining.

Els consoled Scott before

hoisting the claret jug, then

made sure the Australian

didn't let the collapse derail

him from contending in

future majors.

"I've really made a point

of getting on him a little bit

and keeping him going for

ward," Els said Wednesday.

"We played a lot of golf and talked quite a bit. He really

was motivated for it."

Scott rallied to the top of the leaderboard in Sunday's final round, then defeated

Angel Cabrera in a playoff to become Australia's first Masters champion.

It was a different sort of conversation the two shared after this major.

"Yeah, we had quite a few beers, both of us, when we spoke to each other," said Els, smiling. "He's very delighted. I can promise you, that he got a green jacket and I was delighted for him."

The RBC Heritage features 14 of the world's top 29 golfers in a week that's typically a chance for the game's best to grab a breather before the run-up to the U.S. Open. Several, including Scott and world No. 1 Tiger Woods, are doing just that. But there's lots of star power and talented golfers at Harbour Town.

Brandt Snedeker, the 2011 champion here who

shared the 54-hole lead a week ago, is the world's highest-ranked player at

No. 5. Luke Donald (No. 6), Matt Kuchar (No. 9) are others from the top 10 playing here.

Defending U.S. Open

champion Webb Simpson, ranked 20th joins Els as current major winners here.

Jason Day, third at the Masters, was encouraged by another strong showing at Augusta National and by his countryman's victory.

Day tied for second with Scott at the 2011 Masters and the two exchanged

texts in the midst of Scott's demanding post-Masters media whirlwind.

Scott told Day he understood the disappointment at coming close again, yet appreciated the class Day showed in defeat.

"And I texted him back and said, I'm glad it was you to be the first. It goes down in history forever, mate," Day recalled.

Day said Harbour

Town's layout fits his game

and hopes to take advantage of the work he put in

getting ready for the Masters.

Snedeker, who famously

cried after coming close at

the Masters in 2008, found

himself resolved to keep

improving after this defeat.

He had his first over-par

round of the tournament with a 75 on Sunday and tied for sixth, five strokes

out of the playoff.

Els' 10-year-old son was

diagnosed with autism.

"It's something we want to do," Els said of the center.

"It will keep finding its legs

as we go along."

■ Women's College Basketball**New OSU coach**