

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

WWW.EXAMINER.ORG



**TRACK BATTLES**

BHS girls, WL-S boys place first at Tiger Invitational



FORECAST

▲ 70  
▼ 56

**CALENDAR**

**Democrats to meet**

Logan County Democrats host their open monthly meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, in the open area of the Main Street Marketplace at 130 S. Main St., Bellefontaine.



For more information on community resources/assistance, visit [Logandems.org](http://Logandems.org). Click on "who we are" then scroll down to "social resources."

**'Wild, Wonderful Warbler Walk' planned for May 11**

The Romans 1:20 Christian Retreat & Environmental Education Center, 1041 N. County Road 142, West Mansfield, hosts a "Wild, Wonderful Warblers Walk" at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 11.

Come see how amazingly colorful these migrating beauties are in all their breeding plumage. The program will start with an introduction in the pavilion followed by a guided walk through the various habitats at Romans 1:20. Participation fee is \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Take binoculars, if possible.

**City school board changes meeting time, location**

The Monday, May 13, meeting of the Bellefontaine City Schools Board of Education has been changed to 5:30 p.m. The meeting venue also has been changed to the Bellefontaine Elementary School library.

**Drive thru chicken and noodle dinner planned**

The Concord United Methodist Church, 2963 N. State Route 560, Urbana, serves a home-made chicken and noodle dinner from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14.

The meal also includes mashed potatoes, green beans, roll and dessert. The cost is by donation.

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

The Lavender Underground Salon and Grooming Parlor is welcoming new customers, after the salon celebrated its opening with a ribbon cutting Friday, May 3, alongside the Logan County Chamber of Commerce.

Located at 131 W. Columbus Ave., Bellefontaine this unique establishment promises an elevated salon experience with the convenience of walk-in service.

Owner Darcy Tontonoz has been behind the chair for over 23 years. As an experienced beautician, she is excited to venture out on her own and open her very own salon.

The space, uniquely placed underground and previously used as a barbershop, is newly renovated and offers a distinct experience for customers seeking quality services.

"People love to see the transformation that's happening here," said Tontonoz. "I really love this space. I think there's a lot of history here."

**Lavender Underground adding to beauty scene in downtown Bellefontaine**



Lavender Underground owner Darcy Tontonoz, left, is pictured in her new salon alongside Nick Davis, Small Nation business development associate. (SMALL NATION PHOTO)

In addition to traditional hair services, the Lavender Underground will also offer curl management, eye lashing services, and more.

The owner also hopes to

welcome a new licensed barber to the parlor, further enhancing the offerings and catering to a wider clientele.

Saturdays will be ded-

icated to walk-in traffic, giving people with busy schedules or kids the opportunity to find time without the hassle of appointments.

**BMS Robotics Team excels at VEX World Championship**

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

The Bellefontaine Middle School Robotics Team 7865E - The Slurp-Ez excelled in the VEX World Championship in Dallas, Texas, this week.

The Slurp-Ez made history as the first team from BMS to qualify and travel to compete in the World Championship.

The Slurp-Ez team members are Trinity Fout, Marek Frazier, Brody Miranda and Cody Robb.

The team competed against 494 teams (out of

**Continued >**

Team 7865E - The Slurp-Ez members are, from the left, Cody Robb, Trinity Fout, Marek Frazier, and Brody Miranda. (BCS PHOTO)



## From Previous >

over 15,000) across the globe from the countries of China, Paraguay, Turkey, UK, New Zealand, Canada, Singapore, Kuwait, Mexico, Columbia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Spain, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Australia, and the United States.

The VEX World Championship features the top 2 percent of the teams around the world.

Slurp-Ez went head-to-head with some of the top teams around the world and won 8 out of 10 matches in their division.

The team went on to the Round of 16 in 10th place with their alliance partners Team Straits from Canada, where they lost in the first round.

The Slurp-Ez team was very excited to do so well at their very first World VEX Competition and could not wait to get home and start planning their robot for

the next season.

The team extended their appreciation to their generous sponsors as well.

The Slurp-Ez advanced to the World VEX competition with a strong finish at the Ohio State VEX event in Marion in early March. The team earned the THINK Award – a judged award for clean, consistent, and reliable programming.

The BMS robotics coaches are Sandi Chervenak and Jordan Reser.

## Large sums of cash found in two Marysville restrooms in less than a week

MARYSVILLE — Marysville police are trying to solve the mystery of thousands of dollars being found in two separate business restrooms in the city in less than a week.

On April 27, An employee of Avalon Theatre, 121 S. Main St., Marysville, found \$25,000 hidden in the restroom after noticing a person acting suspiciously the night before during a hypnosis show at the theatre, according to various sources.

An employee of the KFC restaurant, 839 Delaware Ave., Marysville, contacted police Thursday, May 2, to report finding \$12,000 in the restaurant's bathroom.

Police have yet to determine if the incidents are connected, but are working with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the U.S. Secret Service to



Cash found Thursday, May 2, in restroom of the KFC restaurant in Marysville. (PHOTO | MARYSVILLE POLICE DIVISION)

see if the cash found is connected to any criminal investigations.

Anyone with infor-

mation about the incidents please contact the Marysville Police Division at (937) 645-7300.

## Free garage sale days announced



The Bellefontaine Service-Safety Director has established the free “home and garage sale” days for 2024 as follows:

- **Saturday June 1 and 8** — No permit required for anyone located north of Columbus Avenue.
- **Saturday June 15 and 22** — No permit required for anyone located south of Columbus Avenue.

## 778 survivors already helped by Indian Lake Tornado Relief Fund

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

More than 3,000 donors have given \$1,447,641 to the Indian Lake Tornado Relief Fund over the last six weeks, officials from the United Way of Logan County reported Friday, May 3.

Donations have poured into our community from 40 states coast-to-coast, including California, Maine, Washington, and Florida.

Businesses, schools, churches, and groups around Ohio have conducted special fundraisers. Several donors have written letters expressing fond memories of growing up here. One woman reminisced about meeting her husband one summer at Indian Lake.

These donations are a difference-making bridge in this gap between the storm and long-awaited government assistance and insurance claims.

“You’ve helped hundreds of survivors start the rebuilding process, move to new homes, or make down payments on new cars,” United Way EDirector Dave Bezusko said. “We’ve been the recipient of dozens of grateful hugs as victims thank donors from afar whom they will never meet.

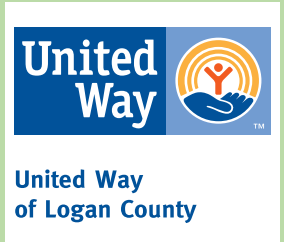
Since Wednesday April 10, the local team of case workers has met with 368 households who made appointments for direct assistance through the Tornado Relief Fund.

A total of \$879,293.78 has been distributed to help 344 households (778 tornado victims); 24 cases are in process, awaiting decisions or verifications from applicants; and 10 additional households are already scheduled for in-take, with additional appointments available and expected.

Here is the breakdown in how tornado victims are choosing to use their United Way help:

- 172 Home Insurance Deductibles - \$262,541.86.
- 124 Home Repairs - \$218,117.88.
- 64 Rents for new or existing homes - \$95,016.64.
- 36 Security Deposits for new homes - \$57,418.33.
- 26 Down payments for New Autos - \$50,186.53.
- 32 Auto Repairs - \$36,476.09.
- 50 Auto Insurance Deductibles - \$38,257.18.
- 21 Auto Loan payments - \$21,691.67.
- 44 Mortgage payments - \$38,808.94.
- 19 Hotel Stays - \$13,184.11.
- 35 Utility Bills - \$10,148.84.
- 5 Student / Youth Participation Fees - \$1,117.46.
- 7 Pet Cares - \$1,350.37.
- 5 Prescription Medications - \$682.50.
- 53 Other items, such as storage, moving expenses, generators, furniture, appliances, etc. - \$34,295.38

Appointments occur at the Multi-Agency Resource Center in conjunction with other state and local agencies so that victims can bundle and maximize the help they can receive. Residents needing transportation to an appointment can call Lift Delivery at (937) 722-1347 for a free ride.



# Bellefontaine girls, WL-S boys win Tiger Invitational titles

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

A highly competitive West Liberty-Salem Tiger Invitational was won by a pair of local squads Friday night.

Bellefontaine won the girls meet, while the host Tigers claimed the top spot in the boys meet.

## GIRLS RESULTS

The Lady Chiefs tallied 142.5 points to win the championship. Versailles was second (104), Benjamin Logan took third (103), WL-S was fourth (101) and Botkins was fifth in the 10-team field with one point.

Kelsie Snapp led the Lady Chiefs with wins in the discus (129-4) and the shot put (35-18.5).

Also recording wins for BHS were the 400 relay team of Parker Penhorwood, Ava Reeves, Kylie Adams and Callie Shumaker (stadium and meet record time of 49.74), Reeves in the 200 (25.91) and Grace Brown in the 1,600 (5:20.47).

Taking second for the Chiefs were Alexis Robinson in the discus (124-1), Adams in the long jump (16-10.5) and 300 hurdles (46.48), Reeves in the 100 (12.44), Shumaker in the 200 (26.83) and the 100 hurdles (15.83) and Brown in the 3,200 (11:42.16).

Finishing in third for BHS were Robinson in the shot put (35-1.5), Rylie Reames in the high jump (4-8), Adams in the 100 hurdles (15.85) and Shumaker in the 300 hurdles (47.0).

Taking fourth for the Chiefs was Reeves in the long jump (15-8).

Seventh-place finishes went to Parker Penhorwood in the pole vault (8-0), the 800 relay team of Parker Penhorwood, Jillian Ullom, Claire McDaniel and Maddie Christman (1:57.35) and the 1,600 relay



Benjamin Logan's Isabel Henderson, Bellefontaine's Ava Reeves and West Liberty-Salem's Delaney Jones compete in the 100-meter dash at Friday's Tiger Invitational. (EXAMINER PHOTOS | TONY BARRETT)

team of Parker Penhorwood, Ella Reier, Kaileigh Flora and Ullom (4:45.84).

Finishing in eighth were Kaileigh Flora in the pole vault (8-0) and Kailyn Newman in the 1,600 (5:51.47).

Delaney Jones powered the WL-S girls with a first-place finish in the 100 in a new stadium record time of 12.14.

Isabel Henderson had a sensational performance to power the Lady Raiders.

Henderson was named the meet MVP after winning the 100 hurdles, 300 and long jump.

Henderson won three events and was third in another, breaking numerous records in the process.

She won the 100 hurdles in a school, stadium and meet record time of 15.18, won the 300 hurdles in a meet and stadium record of 46.35, was first in the long jump in a meet and stadium record time of 17-07.50) and finished third in

the 100 in a school record time of 12.46.

Georgia Bates earned a win in the 800 (2:24.30) and she was fourth in the 1,600 (5:31.18) for the Raiders.

The Raiders' 800 relay team of Ella Chamberlain, Mya Burrey, Storm LeVan and Scarlett Elliott was fifth (1:54.88), the 3,200 relay team of Lexi Archer, Mylee Boyssel, Elliott Butler and Peyton Smith was sixth (11:00.05), the 400 relay team of Kate Gulick, Burrey, Chamberlain and Nora Elliott was sixth (53.98) and the 1,600 relay team of Chamberlain, Burrey, Mylee Boyssel and Bates finished fifth (4:28.52).

Also for the Lady Raiders, Lauren Hemmelgarn was fifth in the shot put (30-02) and seventh in the discus (98-06), Abby Vance was fifth in the high jump (4-06), fifth in the 200 (27.0), sixth in the 100 (13.17) and sixth in the long jump (15-04), Nora Elliott was fifth in the pole vault



West Liberty-Salem's Jackson Steider clears a hurdle during the 110-meter competition Friday.

(8-06), Scarlett Elliott finished fifth in the pole vault (8-06), Kate Gulick was fifth in the 100 hurdles (16.70) and sixth in the 300 hurdles (51.12), Lauren Kennedy

placed sixth in the 400 (1:06.52) and Estella Wenger was eighth in the 3,200 (13:07.33).

See **TRACK >>>**

# Lady Raiders rally for win over London

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Benjamin Logan's softball team scored four runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to rally for a 6-5 victory over London in a Central Buckeye Conference game Friday.

The Raiders improve to 15-6 overall and wrap up league play at 10-6. London drops to 13-11, 7-9.

Ben Logan scored twice in the third inning to lead 2-0, but the Red Raiders scored three runs in the fourth inning to move ahead 3-2.

London scored two more runs in the top of the seventh to lead 5-2.

Ben Logan then came



up with its four-run bottom of the seventh flurry to pull out the win.

Bailee Stover had a game-winning triple and drove in three runs to power the Raiders.

Keeli Rostorfer went 3-4 with two RBI and Brooks Myers had a double and an RBI.

Adilynne Gregg was the winning pitcher.

## BEN LOGAN 6, LONDON 5

Red Raiders	000	300	2-5	7 1
Raiders	002	000	4-6	9 1

WP—Gregg.

## Chiefs derail Falcons

Bellefontaine defeated

host Graham 6-2 in a Central Buckeye Conference baseball game Friday.

The Chiefs are now 14-9 overall and 9-7 in the CBC. The Falcons fall to 9-17, 4-12.

The Chiefs scored two runs in the top of the first inning to take an early 2-0 advantage.

Bellefontaine scored twice in the fourth and again in the top of the fifth to lead 5-0.

Graham scored both of its runs in the bottom of the fifth to make it 5-2.

Bellefontaine added an insurance run in the sixth.

Averie Vigansky went the distance in the pitching circle for the Chiefs. She al-

lowed six hits, two earned runs and had six strikeouts while not walking a batter.

Offensively for the Chiefs, Kassi Prine went 2-3 with a double, Addison Wical went 2-3 with two doubles, Airiana Young went 2-4 with an RBI, Emma Crabtree had a double and an RBI and Vigansky added a double.

## BELLEFONTAINE 6, LONDON 2

Chiefs	200	211	0	-	6 10 2
Falcons	000	020	0	-	2 7 1

WP—Vigansky.

## Jets top Pirates

Host Northeastern earned a 7-0 win over Riverside in a non-league softball game Friday.

The Pirates fall to 9-12 on the season.

The Jets jumped out to a

5-0 lead after two innings and they added a run in the sixth and another in the seventh.

The Pirates had six hits. Jayden Hoffer was 3-3 to lead the way.

## NORTHEASTERN 7 RIVERSIDE 0

Jets	140	001	1	-	7 9 1
Pirates	000	000	0	-	0 6 6

LP—R. Dillon.

Knights edge Tigers West Liberty-Salem's softball team fell to Greenon 4-3 in Ohio Heritage Conference play Friday.

The Tigers are now 6-10 overall and 4-10 in the OHC. Greenon improves to 5-13, 4-11.

## GREENON 4, WL-S 3

Knights	100	102	0	-	4 6 3
Tigers	000	020	1	-	3 8 1

WP—Henderson.

## Track

Continued from <<<

Delaney Jones led the WL-S girls by finishing first in the 100 in a new stadium record time of 12.14.

Placing second for WL-S were Elise Longshore in the pole vault (10-0) and the 3,200 relay team of Malia Miller, Addie McAuley, Ashley Yoder and Mallory Bostick (9:53.96) and the 400 relay team of Tori Douthwaite, Jones, Gwen McCullough and Chloe Griffith (50.19).

Third-place finishers for the Lady Tigers included Miller in the 1,600 (5:30.06) and the 3,200 (11:45.41), the 800 relay team of Tori Douthwaite, Hattie Jacobs, Claire Longshore and Gwen McCullough (1:51.40) and the 1,600 relay team of Ashley Yoder, McCullough, Jones and Mallory Bostick (4:13.79).

Claire Longshore chipped in two fourth-place finishes for WL-S in the 100 hurdles (16.52) and the 300 hurdles (49.18). Also placing fourth were Griffith in the 100 (12.86), Mallory Bostick in the 400 (1:03.93) and McCullough in the 800 (2:30.21).

Seventh-place finishes

went to Addie McAuley in the 800 (2:33.6) and Lyndee Harrison in the shot put (28-10.5), while Alaina Irving placed eighth in the 100 hurdles (17.01).

The WLS B team saw the 3,200 relay team of Lily Smith, Mariska Smith, Mylee Dooley and Taylor Kennedy place seventh (11:25.77) and the 1,600 relay team of Lily Smith, Emma Smith, Mariska Smith and Kennedy place eighth (4:56.87).

## BOYS RESULTS

The WL-S boys had 143.33 points to run away with the meet title. Versailles was second (104), Bellefontaine took third (91.5), Ben Logan was fourth (88.83) and Anna was fifth (73.33).

WL-S was powered by wins from Jackson Steider in the 110 hurdles (15.58), Jack Bahan in the 100 (11.14) and 200 (23.02), Asher Knox in the 1,600 (4:33.28) and 800 (2:04.85), Troy Bradley in the 400 (51.98) and the 400 relay team of Henderson, Bahan, McGill and Steider (44.72).

Bahan was named the boys meet MVP.

Taking second for WL-S were Dylan King in the

1,600 (4:39.65), Quentin Rudolph in the 800 (2:05.22), Troy Bradley in the 200 (23.42) and Mark Bair in the discus (155-7) and shot put (43-6.5).

Slayde Merriman was third in the pole vault (10-06).

Finishing in fifth for the Tigers were Casey Boyer in the high jump (5-6), the 3,200 relay team of Q. Rudolph, LaRoche, Wallen and King (8:47.55) and the 1,600 relay team of Loudon, Lauck, Rudolph and Henderson (3:41.90).

Taking sixth were Brevin Loudon in the 400 (53.94), the 800 relay team of Henderson, Troy Bradley, Myers and McGill (1:34.54) and Craig Stanford in the pole vault (10-06).

Taking seventh were Bradley Petry in the 100 (11.89), Taryn Bradley in the 300 hurdles (44.43) and Joey LaRoche in the 3,200 (10:30.93).

Adding eighth-place finishes were Taryn Bradley in the 110 hurdles (17.76) and Caleb Larson in the 1,600 (4:58.39).

Haiden Manns led the Chieftain boys with wins in the shot put (51-8.5) and discus (163-4). Carter Kuhn

won the pole vault (12-0).

Also getting wins for the Chiefs were Tony Stewart in the 3,200 (9:54.41) and the 3,200 relay of Tony Stewart, Hayden Maus, Wes Dunn and Seth Taylor (8:28.11).

The Chiefs' 800 relay team of Caiden Snapp, Jacob Henry, Kaiden Foulk and Harper Scott was third (1:34.08), the 400 relay team of Caiden Snapp, Henry, Foulk and Scott was fourth (45.5) and the 1,600 relay team of Wes Dunn, Alex Crabill, Blake Loomis and Zavier May finished seventh (3:47.62).

Kailyn Organ finished third in the high jump (5-6), Snapp was sixth in the 100 (11.74), Foulk placed fourth in the 400 (52.95), Jake Moreland was sixth in the 1,600 (4:44.16), Hayden Maus was fourth in the 3,200 (10:08.69) and Henry was sixth in the 300 hurdles (44.13).

Ben Logan's boys team was led by second-place finishes from Grahsyn Bailey in the pole vault (11-0), Ben Chamberlain in the 400 (PR of 52.37), the 800 relay team of Collin Powell, Chamberlain, Carter Buck

and Dylan Vance (PR of 1:33.50), the 400 relay team of Powell, Chamberlain, Vance and Candin Tucker (PR of 45.39) and the 1,600 relay team of Vance, Eric Hughes, Shoopman and Chamberlain (PR of 3:35.12).

Taking third for the Raiders were Powell in the long jump (18-7), Gus Bibart in the shot put (PR of 42-9) and Roman Maxwell in the high jump (5-6).

Fourth-place finishes went to Powell in the 100 (PR of 11.59), Carter Buck in the 200 (PR of 23.80) and Shoopman in the 800 (2:08.92).

Finishing in fifth for BL were Ethan Miller in the long jump (18-0) and Vance in the 200 (24.09), while a sixth-place finish went to the 3,200 relay team of Hughes, Shoopman, Landon Zehner and Eli Rhodes (PR of 8:50.1).

Taking seventh for the Raiders were Evan Carpenter in the pole vault (11-0), Carter Buck in the 110 hurdles (17.70) and Eric Hughes in the 800 (2:09.75).

Carter Buck added an eighth-place finish in the 300 hurdles (44.45).

# Chiefs fall short against Graham 5-3

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Bellefontaine's baseball team lost to host Graham 5-3 on Friday in a Central Buckeye Conference game.

The Chiefs drop to 12-9 overall and 7-9 in the CBC. The Falcons improve to 14-6, 9-5.

The Falcons struck early with four runs in the first inning.

The Chiefs scored a run in the second frame to trail 4-1.

Bellefontaine added a run in the third inning and another in the top of the

fifth to pull within a run at 4-3.

However, the Falcons scored a run in the bottom of the fifth to lead 5-3 and they held on the rest of the way to get the win.

Jose Sandoval went 3-4 with a double, Beckham Harmon went 2-4 with a double and an RBI, Owen Larison went 2-4 and Chris Fogan had an RBI to lead Bellefontaine's offense.

## GRAHAM 5 BELLEFONTAINE 3

Chiefs.	011.	010	0	-	3	11	1
Falcons.	400	010	0	-	5	7	1

LP—Fogan.



## BASEBALL ROUNDUP

### London blanks Ben Logan

Visiting London shut out Benjamin Logan 3-0 in a Central Buckeye Conference contest Friday.

The Raiders drop to 2-16 overall and 2-14 in the CBC. London is now 16-7, 10-5.

London scored a run in the first and another run in the third to lead 2-0.

The Red Raiders tacked on a run in the sixth inning. Carter Lyden and

Bryden Morris had the lone hits for the Raiders.

### LONDON 3, BEN LOGAN 0

Red Raiders	101	001	0	-	3	5	0
Raiders	000	000	0	-	0	2	0

WP—Nickell; LP—Peterson.

### Bees sting Pirates

Riverside's baseball team fell behind early and could not catch visiting Bethel in a 10-7 loss on Friday.

The Pirates fall to 9-9 overall and 4-9 in the Three Rivers Conference. The Bees improve to 15-6, 12-0.

Bethel scored two runs in each of the first four innings for an 8-0 advantage.

The Bees scored another

run in the fifth and another in the sixth to lead 10-0.

Riverside battled back, getting two runs in the sixth and five in the seventh to provide a scare, but the Bees were able to hold on.

Landon Purtee went 2-4 with two RBI and Gavin Orsborne had a double and an RBI to lead the Riverside offense.

The Pirates host Troy Christian today.

### BETHEL 3, RIVERSIDE 0

Bees.	222	211	0	-	10	9	4
Pirates.	000	002	5	-	7	7	8

LP—King.

# Mitchell has 39, Cavs finish off Magic

CLEVELAND (AP) — Donovan Mitchell brought redemption and relief to himself and the Cavaliers.

A year after being bullied and bounced in the first round of the NBA playoffs, Cleveland is moving on.

Mitchell made sure.

"This is why I'm here," he said. "It's my job."

Mitchell scored 39 points, Caris LeVert added 15 and Cleveland avoided a potentially franchise-shifting loss by rallying for a 106-94 win over the Orlando Magic on Sunday in Game 7 to advance in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

The Cavs trailed by 18 in the first half and were in danger of being eliminated early for the second year in a row — a scenario that may have led to firings.

But Mitchell, who scored 50 in a Game 6 loss at Orlando and has been battling a left knee injury for months, put the Cavs on his back. He carried them past an up-and-coming Orlando team whose playoff inexperience showed in the second half.

"I don't mean this disrespectful, but it doesn't really mean much," Mitchell said. "We didn't come in just to win the first



Cleveland Cavaliers guard Donovan Mitchell gestures to the crowd in the second half of Game 7 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Orlando Magic on Sunday in Cleveland. (AP PHOTO/SUE OGRICKI)

round. We accomplished one goal, now we have to do it again. That's the mindset."

According to the NBA, Cleveland's comeback is the largest in a Game 7 since the league began tracking play-by-play in 1997-98.

Evan Mobley grabbed 16

rebounds and Darius Garland hit a critical 3-pointer — after getting a pep talk from Mitchell — in the fourth for Cleveland, which won its first playoff series without LeBron James since 1993.

The Cavs will begin the second round on the road against the top-seeded

Celtics in Game 1 on Tuesday. Boston went 2-1 against Cleveland this season.

In the closing minutes, the towel-waving crowd inside Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse chanted, "We want Boston!" — a matchup that didn't look likely an hour earlier.

"I'm pretty sure everybody thinks they're going to come in and kick our ass," Mitchell said. "So for us to continue to stay level-headed throughout, and just be who we are, that's the biggest thing."

Paolo Banchero scored 38 — just 14 after halftime — and added 16 rebounds to lead the Magic, who grew up in the series but couldn't figure out how to win in Cleveland as both teams held serve on their floors.

Orlando's Franz Wagner and Jalen Suggs went a combined 3 of 28 from the field.

The moment turned out to be too much for the Magic, who pushed the Cavs to the limit.

"After the first game, people were like, I don't know if they're ready," Banchero said. "To come back the way we did, it shows where we're headed and shows what we're able to do."

Down by 10 at halftime, Cleveland raised its defensive intensity in the third quarter and outscored Orlando 33-15. The Magic went just 4 of 24 from the field in the period and seemed hesitant while waiting for Banchero to do more.