

10th OVAC Classic Unfolds Today

Today marks the 10th edition of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Basketball Classic — and the old gal never looked much better.

For the first time in its existence, the Classic will be staged at St. John Arena in Steubenville — which just happens to be the town which did such a fine job last summer hosting the OVAC All-Star Football Game.

The four-game set between Ohio and West Virginia teams begins at 1 p.m. with the girls' Small School

game. The afternoon session concludes with the girls' Big School contest. The arena will be cleared prior to the start of the boys' Small School game at 6. The nightcap features the boys' Big School matchup at 8.

Also, for the first time in recent memory, nearly all of the hardwood stars and standouts will be on hand from the conference's member schools. Very few cagers have been forced to drop out of the game due to

injury, vacation or summer jobs.

The only recent deletions from the Classic rosters have been Shadyside pivot Roger Crozier, Wellsville center Phil McCall and Mingo wing Shawn Grimes — all from the Ohio boys' AA-A squad — along with Wheeling Park's Lisa Norman on the West Virginia Big School girls' team.

Grimes is on hand at the OVAC pre-game camp at West Liberty State College this weekend, but a badly sprained ankle has made him a doubtful participant. Norman has an injured foot.

In addition, Barnesville Coach Mark Cook has a conflict with summer employment, so he won't be able to share bench duties in the boys' Big School game. Meadowbrook's Brad Oviat will do a solo coaching job for Ohio.

Clyde DiAngelo, the Steubenville

Central coach who is in his first year as game director, has been impressed by what he's seen at West Liberty this week.

"We've got 82 kids here — 44 boys and 38 girls — and they've been scrimmaging both interstate and intrastate," he said Friday evening. "They'll be ready to go pretty hard tomorrow."

Ohio leads the all-time boys' series 14-3 and also maintains an 8-5 edge in the girls' series.

Advance tickets for the games will be sold until noon today at Zide's Sporting Goods in the Ohio Valley Mall and at Seditz Sports in the Hollywood Plaza in Steubenville.

The price of advance tickets is \$2 for students and \$4 for adults per session. At the arena, tickets are \$3 per session for students and \$5 for adults.

THE POINT AFTER



No Excuses For Missing OVAC Classic Today

By RICK RYAN
The Intelligencer Staff

Ahh ... the rites of spring. It's an annual thing. Barbecues heat up, swimming pools open, thoughts turn to vacation time.

Hardly anyone thinks of trekking to an indoor arena and watching a basketball game. Alas, that's been one of the thorns of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Basketball Classic — another springtime repast, albeit often ignored by large numbers of Ohio Valley fandom.

The OVAC Classic, now a robust 10 years old, will stage its show for the first time at St. John Arena in Steubenville today. If Steubenville does for the Basketball Classic what it has done for other area events, the hoop showcase may never leave that sports-happy town.

So, with the OVAC Classic getting a fresh start in a fresh place, let's refute — one-by-one — the excuses people tend to give for not attending this yearly Ohio vs. West Virginia rivalry.

1. *"The games are never that close."* Wrong. Only four of the 17 boys' games in the history of the OVAC Classic have been decided by more than eight points — and six of the last seven contests have been won by five points or less, including two overtime contests. Eight of the 13 girls' games, likewise, have been decided by seven points or fewer. Last year, the total winning margin in all four games was 20 points.

2. *"It costs too much money to go."* Well, if an adult showed up on the day of the Classic and wanted to see all four games, it *would* cost \$10. But most fans are specialized — they only want to see a certain game or two. Still, if you pay \$5 for either session, you get to see two games — that's \$2.50 a game, which is a less than most schools charge during the regular season. Anyway, this *is* a charity event ... remember?

3. *"Ohio always wins."* Not exactly. Only twice in the previous nine years has Ohio swept every game in the Classic. The last two have been split 2-2. This year, West Virginia's boys' teams are bolstered by eight players from three state championship squads (Brooke, Wheeling Central, Paden City), while the Mountaineer girls draw five players from a pair of state runner-up units (Brooke, Weirton Madonna).

4. *"The good players always drop out."* Not this year. Of the 12 senior boys in the area who averaged 20 points or more last season, 11 are on hand — with only River's Jim Eveland among the missing. There was but one 20-point girls' senior scorer on either side of the Ohio River — Wheeling Central's Cathy Sorg — and she is present. The upperclass girls' scoring leader in Ohio, Wellsville's Vicki Pullie, is missing because of a higher honor: she will play in the inaugural Ohio-Michigan series later in June.

5. *"It's not exciting enough."* Well, if having 19 players who have already been recruited to play college ball — five at NCAA Division I institutions — isn't enough, then consider the esoteric. There will be dunking allowed in warmups of the boys' games, with a special slam-dunk contest to be held between games of the boys' session.

6. *"I've got better things to do when the sun is out."* You won't miss much of Old Sol today. The forecast is for mostly cloudy skies, a chance of showers and a high near 75.

7. *"It's too hot watching basketball indoors in June."* To the best of my knowledge, no one has ever accused drafty St. John Arena of being a sweatbox. Most people in the stands keep their jackets on during the regular season.

8. *"I have things to do. I have to get groceries. My son (or daughter) has a little league game."* No problem! There are four games at the Classic, remember? You can watch hoops from 1 p.m. to 5 or from 6 to 10.

9. *"But I'll miss lunch or dinner."* Don't worry. St. John Arena has probably the best concession stand in the Ohio Valley. They serve a wide variety of foods.

10. *"I don't know how to get there."* It's simple. From the north or south, get on Ohio 7 until you reach Ohio 22. Take it west. This brings you right up the hill to St. John Arena. Take a left turn at the light when you see signs for St. John Medical Center. From the west, get on Ohio 22 east. There's plenty of parking available.

The Rules

1. Each game will consist of four eight-minute quarters.
2. Man-to-man defense must be played in the normal attack area.
3. Zone presses may be used, but must end after the first trap past halfcourt.
4. Each player must play one complete, uninterrupted quarter during the game. The only exceptions to this rule would be if a player suffers from illness or injury, or accumulates his or her third personal foul during the first half. Also, all players must be inserted into the game at least once at some other point.
5. Dunking is permitted during pre-game warmups.
6. In the event of a tie score at the end of regulation play, a three-minute overtime period will follow. If the game remains tied after the first OT, a sudden-death format will follow. The first team to score TWO CONSECUTIVE points by either field goal or free throw will be the winner.
7. Each player is allowed six personal fouls.
8. A slam-dunk contest will be held between the two boys' games during the evening session. The competitors will be selected during the final day of the pre-game workout camp at West Liberty State College.
9. The three-point field goal will not be used, due to the refinishing process being performed on the St. John Arena playing floor.

The Officials

Girls' Class AA-A: Bob Firm and Rich Pernel
Girls' Class AAA: Pat Ballog and Bob Narrish
Boys' Class AA-A: Mike Coyne and Tom Wilson
Boys' Class AAAA-AAA: Bob Burdette and Andy Mihalyo

Past Honorees

At halftime of the final contest, the OVAC will honor one of its coaching standouts.

Past OVAC Coaching Honorees:

1987 — Frank Baxter, Bridgeport
1984 — Hank Lazasz, Buckeye South
1985 — Claire Cribbs, Bellaire
1984 — Dick Potts, River
1983 — Earl Haberfield, Meadowbrook



Past Scores

1978 at Wheeling Civic Center
Girls: West Virginia 74, Ohio 71 (2OT)
Boys AA-A: Ohio 108, West Virginia 101
Boys AAAA-AAA: Ohio 86, West Virginia 76

1979 at Wheeling Civic Center
Girls: Ohio 67, West Virginia 42
Boys AA-A: West Virginia 65, Ohio 59
Boys AAAA-AAA: Ohio 89, West Virginia 83

1980 at Wheeling Park High School
Girls: Ohio 48, West Virginia 42
Boys AA-A: Ohio 87, West Virginia 80
Boys AAAA-AAA: Ohio 73, West Virginia 68

1981 at Bellaire High School
Girls: West Virginia 66, Ohio 62
Boys AA-A: Ohio 86, West Virginia 68
Boys AAAA-AAA: Ohio 76, West Virginia 68

1982 at Wheeling Civic Center
Girls: Ohio 85, West Virginia 72
Boys: West Virginia 119, Ohio 96

1983 at Wheeling College Fieldhouse
Girls AA-A: Ohio 82, West Virginia 29
Girls AAA: West Virginia 50, Ohio 45
Boys AA-A: Ohio 83, West Virginia 72
Boys AAAA-AAA: Ohio 80, West Virginia 78
(2OT-sudden death)

1984 at Wheeling College Fieldhouse
Girls AA-A: Ohio 44, West Virginia 43
Girls AAA: Ohio 60, West Virginia 43
Boys AA-A: Ohio 80, West Virginia 76
Boys AAAA-AAA: Ohio 79, West Virginia 77 (ot)

1985 at Wheeling Park High School
Girls AA-A: Ohio 50, West Virginia 29
Girls AAAA-AAA: West Virginia 55, Ohio 48
Boys AA-A: West Virginia 67, Ohio 66
Boys AAAA-AAA: Ohio 81, West Virginia 76

1986 at Wheeling Park High School
Girls AA-A: Ohio 56, West Virginia 49
Girls AAA: West Virginia 56, Ohio 53
Boys AA-A: Ohio 75, West Virginia 67
Boys AAAA-AAA: Ohio 72, West Virginia 70

Girls' Series: Ohio leads 8-5
Boys' Series: Ohio leads 14-3