

Track Champs



T-L photo/SETH STASKEY

CLAIMING A SHARE of the OVAC Class A boys' track title last week was this team from Linsly. The Cadets are coached by Dave Plumby.

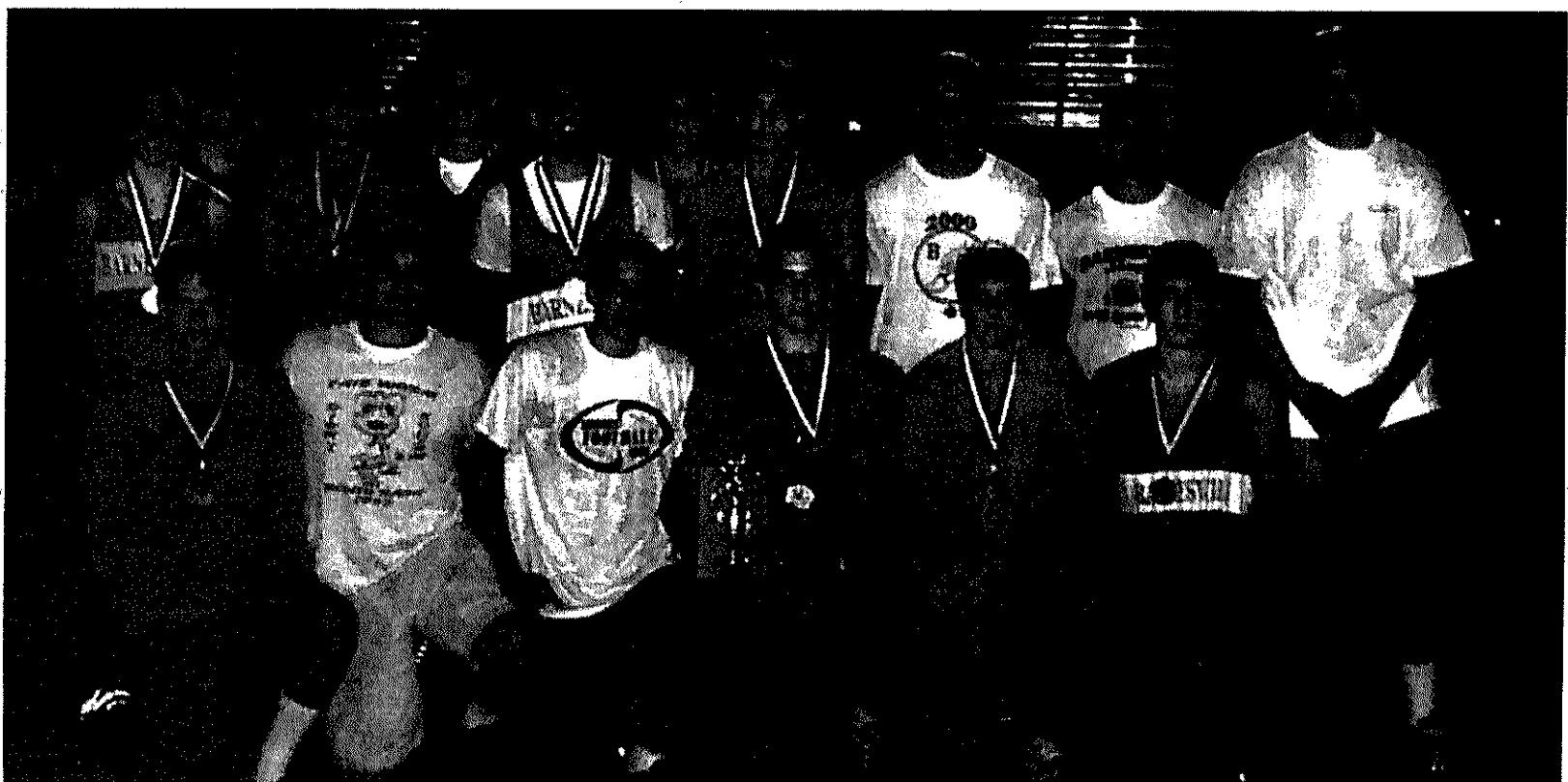
Track Champions



T-L photo/SETH STASKEY

WINNING THE OVAC Class 1-A girls' track title earlier this month was this team from Linsly School. The Lady Cadets are coached by Brenda Buffington, far left.

OVAC Kingpins



Big schools set to open OVAC competition Thursday

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

The gun has sounded on the action at Fleming Field in Shadyside for the small schools, the big schools must now begin to prepare as their meet is just a mere 24 hours away.

The big school event will begin Thursday at 4 p.m. with field events, while running will get under way at 4:30 p.m.

The order of the field events will be as follows 4-A girls shot put, 3-A boys discus, 4-A boys long jump, 3-A girls high jump, 3-A and 4-A girls pole vault.

At 5 p.m. the 4-A boys' pole vault will begin, while at 6 p.m. the 3-A girls shot put, 4-A boys discus, 3-A boys long jump, 4-A girls high jump, and 3-A boys pole vault will all begin.

The first two running events of the day will both be finals as the 3-A and 4-A girls' 4X800 meter relay will be held.

Following the 100 meter dash semifinals both of the boys 4X800 relays will start. Those races will be followed by the semi's in the high hurdles, while girls 3200 meter run in both classes will follow that, which will set the stage for the semifinals in the 200 meter dash. The final events of the evening will be the boys' 3200 meter runs.

Action on Saturday will begin at 10:30 a.m. with final events, while the running finals will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Cast in the role of defending champions are Martins Ferry's boys and St. Clairsville's girls in AAA, and Wheeling Park's boys and Cambridge's girls in AAAA.

The Class AAA conference this year in both boys and girls is arguably the most well-balanced class from top to bottom in the history of the OVAC.

All 12 teams in the class have a legitimate shot of earning the hardware. Yes, there are some teams that seem to stick out based on early season accomplishments.

On the girls' side, Union Local, Martins Ferry, Bellaire and St.

Clairsville are all formidable squads.

Union Local appears the front runner for the favorite label as the Lady Jets have already this season captured the Bellaire Early Bird, their own UL Invitational and just this past weekend captured the Brooke Relays.

"It is going to be a very competitive meet. It will be a tough meet for everybody and everyone will have to run their best," Union Local boss Randy Thompson said.

Leading the list of performers from Union Local is super junior Amanda Mercer who is the favorite in the 100, 200 and 400 and will also be one a sprint relay for the Lady Jets.

"Amanda is a great kid and a tremendous athlete, but she has a lot of support on this team. I think that depth is one of our strengths," Thompson continued.

Juniors Rachael Schumacher and Miranda Thompson should also score well in the 400 and 800, respectively.

The Lady Jets have strength in the field events as sophomore Jenny Campbell has become one of the valley's best discus twirlers.

The Lady Jets also have a crack shuttle team along with all the other sprint relay as all rank near the top of the conference.

The Lady Jets have two pole vaulters that should do well as Missy Bethel and Keisha Feaster have enjoyed success this season.

Another team with high title aspirations is Martins Ferry. The Lady Riders, who finished third a year ago, have strength in almost every event and there are no visible weaknesses.

The strongest area of the Lady Riders is probably their distance contingent as junior Mandy Bruney continues her banner campaign and has a chance of sweeping all three long races. Senior Heather Stewart is also a strong addition as she could very easily rack up second place points right behind her teammate.

The Lady Riders have strength in the hurdles as senior Melissa De-

Gasperis and sophomore Ashley Bruney have had solid seasons thus far in both the high and low hurdles.

The Ferrians have a crack shuttle team of DeGasperis, Bruney, Danielle Neavin and Jennifer Zoc.

Neavin is also a strong sprinter for coach Dirk Fitch's troops.

In the field, Susan Suriano could score some big-time points for the Lady Riders.

"I think that in the girls event the top four of five teams could come down to five points. The girls have done real well this season, but we need to get some of our second kids to score for us," the Ferry coach responded.

Bellaire could also put up a fight as the Lady Big Reds were surprise winner of the Burger King Girls Invitational held a week ago.

The Lady Big Reds own the area's and maybe the state's best high hurdler in Kacie Vavrek.

Vavrek continues to shine meet in and meet out. She has already turned in a 14.8, which by nearly a second leads the OVAC.

Vavrek's prowess is not all hurdles as she is a standout high jumper, who has already cleared 5-6 this season.

"Kacie is really in a class by herself. Her high jump has been off a little bit, but we have been working on that," Bellaire boss Monte Miller said.

Senior Ashley Davolio is another Lady Red who should fare well as she will be among the favored in the 300 hurdles and the pole vault.

Davolio along with Leighann Workman, Marissa Vaglianti and Jocelyn Houston combine to form one of the area's best 4X800 squads.

Freshman Kayla Johnson, who is coming into her own as a sprinter, could also fare well for the Lady Reds.

"I have to favor Union Local in the girls meet. They have a lot of depth. I really think we can be right up in there," Miller offered.

Lost in the shuffle is defending champion St. Clairsville, which was hit hard by graduation, but could still make some noise in the OVAC.

St. Clairsville has one of the area's best long jumpers, high jumper and all around athletes in junior dandy Bethany Piccolini.

Piccolini has already long jumped

and Josh Baldwin should still be competitive.

Materkoski could also make some noise in the high and intermediate hurdles, while the Big Reds' distance points will probably come from freshman ace Jed Perko.

In the field, the Big Reds' hope to get points from junior Clayton Cwalinski in the discus and Baldwin in the high jump. Senior Drew Spencer is the Guersney Street gang's second 20-foot plus long jumper.

"I think it will be really close. I think we have more depth, but there are some teams with better individual talent and that is why getting the second through sixth places are vital and I really think we can get some of those," Bellaire boss Monte Miller said.

Another team with a strong shot is Martins Ferry. The Purple Riders, who won last year's meet, may not have the depth of the Bellaire thinclads, but the talent is definitely there.

The Riders are paced by their sprint contingent. Included in that are seniors Ron Hill, Tony Collette, Zac Bruney and Ron Wilson.

Hill, an Ohio University track recruit, is the defending OVAC champion in the 400 meter dash and 200 meter dash. Hill will look to protect those titles again this week.

Collette could be one of the first people to break the finish line in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes.

Wilson and Bruney will see a lot of action on the dynamite Rider sprint relay squads.

The Ferrian 4X1 team, which is made up of Hill, Collette, Bruney

and John Yoder could receive a lift as senior dandy Jay Wallace, who has missed all season with a groin injury could be back in the lineup.

Wallace, who is a state runnerup in the high hurdles and a University of Pittsburgh football recruit, anchored last year's state champion 4X1 team.

The Purple people will receive big points from senior long leaper Ty Allen who surpassed the 21-foot plateau last week at the Bellaire Relays.

In the field, the Riders will look for big things from senior strong man Jay Agnew who has been getting consistently better from the season's outset.

"Our depth concerns me, veteran Ferry boss Dirk Fitch said. If we can get some of our younger kids to step up and score some points we could be up near the top."

Another local team looking for big things in the OVAC is St. Clairsville. The Red Devils could score some big points before the meet comes to a close.

The Red Devils will get big points in the hurdles as senior standout Greg Cook will be the favorite in both the high and intermediate hurdle event. Cook owns a valley best 14.6 already this season in the 110 meter highs.

Junior standout Drew Turner will be one of the favorites in the 800 meter run as he has consistently been in the low two-minute range.

Junior Shane Wamsley will be another in the long jump field with big aspirations.

Union Local is home to probably the favorite in all three distance events as senior-dandy Matt Abel will look to continue his fine campaign.

Abel will be entered in the 800, 1600 and 3200 meter runs and could for all intents and purposes sweep all three of those events.

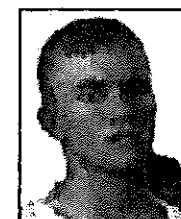
The Jets' sophomore Dave Thomas is yet another in the long



MERCER



PICCOLINI



HILL



BOLOCK

jump field with a chance of placing high.

Other teams to watch in 3-A are Oak Glen, Magnolia, Tyler Consolidated and Beaver Local.

All four of those teams have some super individuals who will score a lot of points.

The 4-A race will be a battle between Buckeye Local, Steubenville, Brooke, Cambridge and Zanesville.

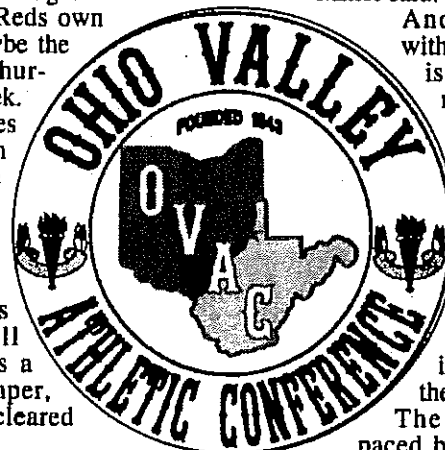
The Panthers have some serious talent as senior Nathan Kish could be one of the favorites in the 100 and 200 meter dash.

Junior distance dandy Ben Bolock will be near the front in the 1600 and 3200 as will be senior Dustin Mecker.

A.J. Twardoski will be in the hunt in both of the hurdling events.

The complete list of AAA squads are as follows: Bellaire, Martins Ferry, Buckeye Trail, Harrison Central, Oak Glen, Beaver Local, Magnolia, St. Clairsville, Union Local, Tyler Consolidated, Meadowbrook and Indian Creek.

The AAAA division shapes up as follows: Buckeye Local, Steubenville, East Liverpool, Zanesville, Cambridge, Brooke, Wheeling Park, John Marshall, Weirton and Edison.



crack
other
he top
pole
s Mis-
r have
le as-
Lady
a year
every
weak-
Lady
stance
Bruney
n and
three
tewart
is she
econd
team-
gth in
a De-

leads the OVAC.
Vavrek's
prowess is not all
hurdles as she is a
standout high jumper,
who has already cleared
5-6 this season.
"Kacie is really in a class by
herself. Her high jump has been off
a little bit, but we have been work-
ing on that," Bellaire boss Monte
Miller said.
Senior Ashley Davolio is another
Lady Red who should fare well as
she will be among the favored in
the 300 hurdles and the pole vault.
Davolio along with Leighann
Workman, Marissa Vaglianti and
Jocelyn Houston combine to form
one of the area's best 4X800
squads.
Freshman Kayla Johnson, who is
coming into her own as a sprinter,
could also fare well for the Lady
Reds.
"I have to favor Union Local in
the girls meet. They have a lot of
depth. I really think we can be right
up in there," Miller offered.
Lost in the shuffle is defending
champion St. Clairsville, which was
hit hard by graduation, but could
still make some noise in the OVAC.
St. Clairsville has one of the
area's best long jumpers, high
jumper and all around athletes in ju-
nior dandy Bethany Piccolini.
Piccolini has already long jumped
17-7 this season and has cleared 5-
7 in the high jump and has ran im-
pressive times in both the 100 and
200 meter dashes.
"The sky is the limit for
Bethany. When she is there, we are
right in the thick of things. She is
just a joy to coach," Devil mentor
John Vrotsos said.
Sophomore Lindsay Piccolini is
also a standout high jumper and can
run on the Lady Devil relay units.
Senior Stephanie Pifer is the
main ingredient to the Lady Devil
sprint recipe. She will be in the 400
meter dash and will also be on the
Devil relay units.
Junior distance-dandy Cara De-
Palma should be near the front of
the pack in the 1600 and 3200.
"We lost quite a few seniors
from a year ago, but I still think we
will be right up in there. I really
think we can make some noise,"
Vrotsos continued.
The 4-A girls competition
should be interesting as well as
Cambridge appears primed to de-
fend its title.
The Lady Bobcats will have the
top distance runner in the field as
sophomore dandy Ashley Dunnigan
will be in all three long races.
Buckeye Local will also enter a
formidable squad as the Lady Pan-
thers' have one of the top sprinters
in the field with Lacy Kolkedy.
Kolkedy has pumped out a 12.7
already this spring in the 100 meter
dash and also has some quality
times in the 200.
The Lady Panthers also have se-
nior Tina Signorini who will be in
both hurdling events.
Senior Julie Hajny should be
right near the front of the pack in
the distance races.
The 3-A girls' meet is not the
only class to watch at Brooke this
weekend. The boys' race in AAA
should be just as entertaining and
exciting as the girls event.
Entering the boys meet, Bellaire
appears to be the early favorite as
the Big Reds have enjoyed some
early season success as they cap-
tured the Shadyside Relays, Bellaire
Early Bird and Union Local Invi-
tational.
The Big Reds will be without
one of their main cogs as junior
sprinter Courtney Redman will be
in the Bahamas during the OVAC.
The Big Reds still have many
weapons in the arsenal and leading
the way is senior standout Tony
Lekandous who should be a factor
in the long jump, 400 meter dash
and could be a main piece of the
Bellaire relay puzzle.
The Big Reds will also enter a
crack 4X8 and shuttle team to this
weekend's activities.
The 3200 meter relay squad is
comprised of Matt Wise, Josh Tut-
tle, Percy McGhee and Sean Hous-
ton.
The shuttle team could take a hit
as Redman is the leadoff leg, but ju-
nior Matt Materkoski, Lekandous



thinclads,
but the talent
is definitely
there.
The Riders are
paced by their sprint
contingent. Included in that
are seniors Ron Hill, Tony Collette,
Zac Bruney and Ron Wilson.
Hill, an Ohio University track re-
cruit, is the defending OVAC cham-
pion in the 400 meter dash and 200
meter dash. Hill will look to protect
those titles again this week.
Collette could be one of the first
people to break the finish line in
both the 100 and 200 meter dashes.
Wilson and Bruney will see a lot
of action on the dynamite Rider
sprint relay squads.
The Ferrian 4X1 team, which is
made up of Hill, Collette, Bruney

vorite in the high and interme-
diate hurdle event. Cook owns a
valley best 14.6 already this season
in the 110 meter highs.
Junior standout Drew Turner
will be one of the favorites in the
800 meter run as he has consisten-
ly been in the low two-minute
range.
Junior Shane Wamsley will be
another in the long jump field with
big aspirations.
Union Local is home to probably
the favorite in all three distance
events as senior-dandy Matt Abel
will look to continue his fine cam-
paign.
Abel will be entered in the 800,
1600 and 3200 meter runs and
could for all intents and purposes
sweep all three of those events.
The Jets' sophomore Dave
Thomas is yet another in the long

courtesy of the Ferrians' 4X800
team of Richie Hathaway, Kellen
Shane, Mike Manone and David
Schram as the foursome was clocked
in a 9:03.24
The Purple also received a boost
when senior Jay Wallace made his
season debut in the high hurdles and
qualified to the finals with the third
best time. Seniors Ron Hill and
Tony Collette both qualified in the
200, while Collette and Allen are in
the 100 dash field.
St. Clairsville ended Thursday
evening with 14 markers. The Red
Devils received a big boost when
their 4X800 team of Drew Turner,
Cody Creamer, Matt Sabatino and
Brett Jordan cranked out an
8:28.84, which was good enough
for the gold medal.
The Devils' senior hurdling ace
Greg Cook punched his ticket into
the high hurdle finals and will be sit-
ting in lane five with the second best
time.
THE AAA GIRLS' meet also
got off to a strong start as the day's
only record fell.
Bellaire once again filed to get a
first place in any of the events con-
tested on the opening night, but did
score in all but one event.
Sophomore sensation Kacie
Vavrek continued her fine season as
she placed second in the high jump
as she went over the bar, while it
rested at 5-6. Vavrek also will be in
the high hurdle final as she will be
in lane four with the top time.
The Reds also picked up a second
place in the girls' pole vault event as
senior dandy Ashley Davolio earned
the honor by virtue of a jump of sev-
en feet.
The Lady Reds 4X8 team of
Davolio, Jocelyn Huston, Leighann
Workman and Marissa Vaglianti
was the third team to finish the
meet's long relay. They crossed the
line in 10:32.54.
The shot put was a very kind
event to coach Monte Miller's
charges as Traci Jones and Ashley
Flanagan went second and third, re-
spectively. Jones heaved the iron
ball 31-7, while her teammate put
the iron ball 30-9.
The Big Reds also had a strong
afternoon of qualifying as freshman
dynamo Kayla Johnson continued to
impress as she will be entered in the
100 and 200 meter dashes.
Martins Ferry put together a
strong showing as the Lady Riders
claimed a first place and a runnerup
finish to pace the effort.
Junior ace Mandy Bruney sup-
plied the gold medal as she captured
the 3200 meter with a time of
12:06.59. Hard-working senior
Heather Stewart placed third in the
two mile as she ran eight laps in a

talent as senior Nathan Kish could
be one of the favorites in the 100
and 200 meter dash.
Junior distance dandy Ben
Bolock will be near the front in the
1600 and 3200 as will be senior
Dustin Meeker.
A.J. Twardoski will be in the
hunt in both of the hurdling events.
The complete list of AAA
squads are as follows: Bellaire,
Martins Ferry, Buckeye Trail, Har-
rison Central, Oak Glen, Beaver
Local, Magnolia, St. Clairsville,
Union Local, Tyler Consolidated,
Meadowbrook and Indian Creek.
The AAAA division shapes up
as follows: Buckeye Local,
Steubenville, East Liverpool,
Zanesville, Cambridge, Brooke,
Wheeling Park, John Marshall,
Weirton and Edison.

time of 12:26.49.
The Lady Rider 4X8 team of
Bruney, Stewart, Katrina Jones and
Lauren Moynihan placed second in
the 3200 meter relay as they com-
bined for a 10:17.14 reading.
Susan Suriano added the other
Lady Purple points as she placed
fourth in the shot put.
The Lady Riders also had several
thinclads advance to the finals on
Saturday afternoon. In the high hur-
dles, senior Melissa DeGasperi is in
the field, while Danielle Neavin will
be in the 100 and 200 field.
Union Local produced an indi-
vidual winner as sophomore Jenny
Campbell took home the shot put ti-
tle with a heave of 32-7.
The Lady Jets placed fourth in
the 4X8 event in 10:43.48.
The Lady Jets also raked in nice
points in the pole vault as Keisha
Feaster and Missy Bethel both
scored in the pole.
The Morristown-based school al-
so had a strong afternoon of qualify-
ing as junior dandy Amanda Mercer
will be a favorite in the 100 and
200 meter dashes.
St. Clairsville, which scored 20
points, was fueled by record-setting
junior Bethany Piccolini.
Piccolini captured the high jump
record with an effort of 5-foot-6-
inches. Piccolini won over Vavrek
on the number of misses.
"Kacie jumped really well. I was
a little disappointed that I did not
clear 5-8, because I was over it, but
hopefully I will get it soon. I am
happy to have the record," an elated
Piccolini said.
Bethany's younger sister Lindsey
also placed in the high jump as she
went over the bar at 4-10, which
was good enough for fifth.
IN THE 4-A class, Zanesville
used a dominating performance to
soar to the lead in both the boys and
girls' races.
Buckeye Local scored just eight
points in the boys' competition and
just one on the girls' side.
The Panthers received a third
place from junior Ben Bolock who
ran a 10:00.8 to gain the bronze in
the 3200 meter run. Senior Dustin
Meeker placed fifth in the same
event with a time of 10:19.46.
Senior Nathan Kish will be in the
title hunt in both the 100 and 200
meter dash. Kyle Twardoski has the
third best time entering the 110 me-
ter high hurdle final.
The Lady Panther's lone point
came from senior Julie Hajney who
placed sixth in the 3200 meter run.
The Lady Panthers did qualify se-
nior Tina Signorini to the finals of
the high hurdles, while Lacy
Kolkedy earned a spot in the finals
in both the 100 and 200.

Bellaire, Zanesville jump to OVAC lead after one day

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

The Ohio Valley Athletic Confer-
ence championships are now in
full swing as the AAA and AAAA
got off and running in their meet.
The big schools opened their
first day of competition Thursday at
Brooke Memorial Stadium.
Bellaire's boys and girls are off
to a fast start as both the Big Reds
and the Lady Big Reds grabbed
opening day leads in the 3-A event.
The 'Reds tallied 32 points,
while the Lady Reds scored 36.
Bellaire's boys lead Union Local
and Tyler Consolidated, as both
closed opening night with 20
points.
The Lady Reds hold a slim
eight-point lead over Martins Ferry.
Union Local is in third as the Lady
Jets racked up 22 points.
The 4-A class is paced by
Zanesville as both the Blue Devil
boys and girls are up early on the
remainder of the field.
The Blue Devils' boys unit hold
a 20-point advantage over
Steubenville, while the Lady Devils
lead Cambridge.
IN 3-A, Bellaire's boys did not
gain a first place, but did score in
every event but one.
The long jump fueled the 'Reds
as they took places two and three as
seniors Tony Lekandous was run-
nerup and Drew Spencer was right
behind.
Lekandous soared 20-6 3/4 to
gain the silver medal, while
Spencer went 20-6 for the bronze.
The Big Reds' Andy Bresinger
took second place honors in the
pole vault as he soared over 8-6 for
the second place medal.
The Bellaire 3200-meter relay
team of Matt Wise, Percy McGhee,
Sean Huston and Josh Tuttle com-
bined to run two miles in a time of
8:36.03 for the third place in the
conference.
Freshman distance-dandy Jed
Perko took home fourth place in the
3200-meter run as he toured the
Wellsburg oval in 10:32.4.
Union Local received a first-
place effort from senior distance
ace Matt Abel as he picked up the
hardware in the 3200 meter run
with a time of 10:04.23.
Martins Ferry enjoyed a produc-
tive first day as the Purple Riders
fared very well in the time trials on
the track and also managed to tally
14 points on the opening day.
The Riders' got their first indi-
vidual winner as senior long leaper
Ty Allen soared to a win the long
jump. He landed in the sand 21-2
1/2 feet from where he started.
The other four Rider points came

courtesy of the Ferrians' 4X800
team of Richie Hathaway, Kellen
Shane, Mike Manone and David
Schram as the foursome was clocked
in a 9:03.24
The Purple also received a boost
when senior Jay Wallace made his
season debut in the high hurdles and
qualified to the finals with the third
best time. Seniors Ron Hill and
Tony Collette both qualified in the
200, while Collette and Allen are in
the 100 dash field.
St. Clairsville ended Thursday
evening with 14 markers. The Red
Devils received a big boost when
their 4X800 team of Drew Turner,
Cody Creamer, Matt Sabatino and
Brett Jordan cranked out an
8:28.84, which was good enough
for the gold medal.
The Devils' senior hurdling ace
Greg Cook punched his ticket into
the high hurdle finals and will be sit-
ting in lane five with the second best
time.
THE AAA GIRLS' meet also
got off to a strong start as the day's
only record fell.
Bellaire once again filed to get a
first place in any of the events con-
tested on the opening night, but did
score in all but one event.
Sophomore sensation Kacie
Vavrek continued her fine season as
she placed second in the high jump
as she went over the bar, while it
rested at 5-6. Vavrek also will be in
the high hurdle final as she will be
in lane four with the top time.
The Reds also picked up a second
place in the girls' pole vault event as
senior dandy Ashley Davolio earned
the honor by virtue of a jump of sev-
en feet.
The Lady Reds 4X8 team of
Davolio, Jocelyn Huston, Leighann
Workman and Marissa Vaglianti
was the third team to finish the
meet's long relay. They crossed the
line in 10:32.54.
The shot put was a very kind
event to coach Monte Miller's
charges as Traci Jones and Ashley
Flanagan went second and third, re-
spectively. Jones heaved the iron
ball 31-7, while her teammate put
the iron ball 30-9.
The Big Reds also had a strong
afternoon of qualifying as freshman
dynamo Kayla Johnson continued to
impress as she will be entered in the
100 and 200 meter dashes.
Martins Ferry put together a
strong showing as the Lady Riders
claimed a first place and a runnerup
finish to pace the effort.
Junior ace Mandy Bruney sup-
plied the gold medal as she captured
the 3200 meter with a time of
12:06.59. Hard-working senior
Heather Stewart placed third in the
two mile as she ran eight laps in a

time of 12:26.49.
The Lady Rider 4X8 team of
Bruney, Stewart, Katrina Jones and
Lauren Moynihan placed second in
the 3200 meter relay as they com-
bined for a 10:17.14 reading.
Susan Suriano added the other
Lady Purple points as she placed
fourth in the shot put.
The Lady Riders also had several
thinclads advance to the finals on
Saturday afternoon. In the high hur-
dles, senior Melissa DeGasperi is in
the field, while Danielle Neavin will
be in the 100 and 200 field.
Union Local produced an indi-
vidual winner as sophomore Jenny
Campbell took home the shot put ti-
tle with a heave of 32-7.
The Lady Jets placed fourth in
the 4X8 event in 10:43.48.
The Lady Jets also raked in nice
points in the pole vault as Keisha
Feaster and Missy Bethel both
scored in the pole.
The Morristown-based school al-
so had a strong afternoon of qualify-
ing as junior dandy Amanda Mercer
will be a favorite in the 100 and
200 meter dashes.
St. Clairsville, which scored 20
points, was fueled by record-setting
junior Bethany Piccolini.
Piccolini captured the high jump
record with an effort of 5-foot-6-
inches. Piccolini won over Vavrek
on the number of misses.
"Kacie jumped really well. I was
a little disappointed that I did not
clear 5-8, because I was over it, but
hopefully I will get it soon. I am
happy to have the record," an elated
Piccolini said.
Bethany's younger sister Lindsey
also placed in the high jump as she
went over the bar at 4-10, which
was good enough for fifth.
IN THE 4-A class, Zanesville
used a dominating performance to
soar to the lead in both the boys and
girls' races.
Buckeye Local scored just eight
points in the boys' competition and
just one on the girls' side.
The Panthers received a third
place from junior Ben Bolock who
ran a 10:00.8 to gain the bronze in
the 3200 meter run. Senior Dustin
Meeker placed fifth in the same
event with a time of 10:19.46.
Senior Nathan Kish will be in the
title hunt in both the 100 and 200
meter dash. Kyle Twardoski has the
third best time entering the 110 me-
ter high hurdle final.
The Lady Panther's lone point
came from senior Julie Hajney who
placed sixth in the 3200 meter run.
The Lady Panthers did qualify se-
nior Tina Signorini to the finals of
the high hurdles, while Lacy
Kolkedy earned a spot in the finals
in both the 100 and 200.

OVAC Track Results



T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER
BUCKEYE LOCAL'S Derek Haggerty is airborne as he competes in the long jump at the OVAC 4-A Championship meet Thursday at Brooke. See page 2B.

OVAC Class 3-A Results

Finals

Girls

TEAM SCORING: BeLaire, 36; 2. Martins Ferry, 28; 3. Union Local, 22; 4. Magnolia, 21; 5. St. Clairsville, 20; 6. Tyler Consolidated, 15; 7. Meadowbrook, 8; Oak Glen, 5.
4X800M Relay — 1. Magnolia, (Kelleigh Smith, Paige Robinson, Denise Phillips, Sarah Peard), 10:02; 2. Martins Ferry, 10:17.14; 3. BeLaire, 10:32.54; 4. Union Local, 10:43.48; 5. Meadowbrook, 10:49.22; 6. Oak Glen, 10:51.57.
High Jump — 1. Bethany Piccolini (St.C), 5-6; 2. Kacie Vavrek (Bell), 5-6; 3. Heidi Sichina (Meadow), 5-4; 4. Heidi Mercer (TC), 5-2; 5. Lindsey Piccolini (St.C), 4-10; 6. Erin Mooney (OG), 4-8.
Pole Vault — 1. Heidi Mercer (TC), 8-0; 2. Ashley Davoko (Bell), 7-0; 3. Kasha Feaster (UL), 6-6; 4. Jill O'Neil (Mag), 6-6; 5. Missy Bethel (UL), 6-6; 6. Arika Deweyer (Mag), 6-6.
3200M Run — 1. Mandy Bruney (Ferry), 12:08.59; 2. Cara DePalma (St.C), 12:15.33; 3. Heather Stewart (Ferry), 12:28.49; 4. Sarah Peard (Mag), 12:36.25; 5. Paige Robinson (Mag), 12:38.97; 6. Laura Fitzsimmons (Tyler), 12:43.84.
Shot Put — 1. Jenny Campbell (UL), 32-7; 2. Traci Jones (Bell), 31-7; 3. Ashley Flangan (Bell), 30-9; 4. Susan Suriano (Ferry), 30-9; 5. Megan Allison (OG), 30-5; 6. Jennifer Decker (OG), 29-10.

Boys

Qualifiers to Saturday's Finals

100M — Heidi Sichina (Meadow), 13.37; 2. Mandi Weese (Tyler), 13.44; 3. Emily Williams (Beaver), 13.71; 4. Amanda Mercer (UL), 13.76; 5. Bethany Piccolini (St. C), 13.58; 6. Kayla Johnson (Bell), 13.59; 7. Esther Hardwick (IC), 13.93; 8. Trisha Wells (OG), 14.22.
100M H#1 — Kacie Vavrek (Bell), 15.57; 2. Jennifer Shrive (IC), 17.31; 3. Heidi Mercer (TC), 16.35; 4. Reyna Thomas (UL), 17.51; 5. Melissa DeGasparis (MF), 16.88; 6. Kelly Singleton (Meadow), 17.28; 7. Amanda Maple (OG), 17.13; 8. Sarah Phillips (UL), 17.67.
200M — 1. Emily Williams (BL), 26.76; 2. Amanda Mercer (UL), 26.80; 3. Mandi Weese (TC), 28.83; 4. Brittany Haggerty (TC), 27.78; 5. Kayla Johnson (Bell), 27.43; 6. Rachael Schumacher (UL), 27.73; 7. Stephanie Pifer (St.C), 27.88; 8. Sarah Ellis (Ferry), 28.36.

Boys Finals

TEAM SCORING: BeLaire, 32; 2. Union Local, 20; 3. Tyler Consolidated, 18; 4. Magnolia, 18; 5. Martins Ferry, 14; 6. St. Clairsville, 14; 7. Meadowbrook, 12; Indian Creek, 11; Oak Glen, 9; Harrison Central, 2.
Discus — 1. Patrick Hickman (IC), 150-0; 2. David Blair (Mag), 142-8; 3. Josh Herra (Meadow), 136-9; 4. Luke Mehl (St.C), 131-2; 5. Brad Walters (Meadow), 127-4; 6. Shaun Ford (IC), 125-0.
4X800 — 1. St. Clairsville (Cody Creamer, Drew Turner, Brett Jordan, Matt Sabatino), 8:28.84; 2. Magnolia, 8:30.21; 3. BeLaire, 8:36.03; 4. Martins Ferry, 9:03.24; 5. Meadowbrook, 9:09.7; 6. Harrison Central, 9:12.57.
Long Jump — 1. Ty Allen (Ferry), 21-2 1/2; 2. Tony Lekanodous (Bell), 20-6 3/4; 3. Drew Spencer (Bell), 20-6; 4. Dave Thomas (UL), 20-0 1/2; 5. Jason Baxter (Mag), 19-10 1/2; 6. Curt Simcox (OG), 19-10 1/2.
3200M Run — Matt Able (UL), 10:04.54; 2. Justin Simpson (OG), 10:23.37; 3. Adam Wells (TC), 10:29.68; 4. Jed Perko (Bell), 10:32.4; 5. Todd Casey (Meadow), 10:38.24; 6. Matt Kidd (HC), 10:45.13.
Pole Vault — 1. Andrew Mercer (TC), 12-0; 2. Andy Bresinger (Bell), 9-6; 3. Preston Whaley (UL), 8-6; 4. Justin Gaiser (TC), 8-6.

Boys Qualifiers to Saturday's Finals

100M — Jeff LeMasters (Mag), 11.41; 2. Tony Coletta (MF), 11.59; 3. Paul Gabel (Meadow), 11.63; 4. Jamie Omstead (Beaver), 11.84; 5. Ty Allen (MF), 11.83; 6. Steve Norman (St.C), 11.88; 7. Anthony Farmer (IC), 11.97; 8. Ryan Hesson (Meadow), 11.99.
110M H#1 — 1. Doug Dillaman (TC), 15.05; 2. Greg Cook (St.C), 15.16; 3. Jay Wallace (Ferry), 15.38; 4. John Decker (Meadow), 15.45; 5. Matt Volino (OG), 15.68; 6. Matt Matarokski (Bell), 15.92; 7. Justin Krise (Meadow), 16.45; 8. Josh Natalie (Mag), 16.63.
200M — 1. Ron Hill (Ferry), 22.84; 2. Paul Gabel (Meadow), 23.17; 3. Rich Schilling (OG), 23.34; 4. Jeff LeMasters (Mag), 23.43; 5. Tony Coletta (Ferry), 23.34; 6. Ryan Hesson (Meadow), 23.75; 7. Jamie Omstead (BL), 23.85; 8. Ed Shuman (OG), 23.9.

4-A RESULTS

Girls

TEAM SCORING (After 5 events): 1. Zanesville, 36; 2. Cambridge, 30; 3. Wheeling Park, 27; 4. East Liverpool, 16; 5. Steubenville, 14; 6. Brooke, 14; 7. Edison, 11; 8. Weirton, 3; 9. Buckeye Local, 1.
4X800 — 1. East Liverpool (Rachel Thayer, Leah Kreider, Heather Brick, Amber Soko), 10:28.93; 2. Brooke, 10:30.93; 3. Wheeling Park, 10:33.15; 4. Zanesville, 10:43.66; 5. Steubenville, 10:58.91; 6. Weirton, 11:22.68.
Pole Vault — 1. Kristen Hustend (Park), 8-6; 2. Stephanie Shaffer (Park), 8-0; 3. Valerie Dobbins (Edison), 7-0; 4. Brandi Hollins (Cam), 6-0.
Shot Put — 1. Keturah Lofton (Zanes), 39-1; 2. Tanya Jones (Steub), 35-6; 3. Jamie Byers (Cam), 32-10; 4. Emily Ingold (Ed), 32-3; 5. Debra Davis (Brooke), 31-7; 6. Amanda Radtler (Park), 31-6.
3200M Run — Ashley Dunnigan (Cam), 11:48.9; 2. Mandi Robb (Zanes), 12:50.83; 3. Kim Picoock (Zanes), 12:55.57; 4. Amanda Morris (Brooke), 12:58.34; 5. Nicole Lumei (Weir), 13:08.02; 6. Julie Hairy (Buckeye), 13:15.19.
High Jump — 1. Ashley Hollins (Cam), 5-2; 2. Heather Rognon (Zanes), 5-0; 3. Amber Semko (EL), 4-10; 4. Jamie Guilan (Steub), 4-10; 5. Christy Malet (Park), 4-10; 6. Kristan Goddard (Ed), 4-10.

Boys' Finals

TEAM SCORING: Zanesville, 28; 3. Cambridge, 25; 4. East Liverpool, 19; 5. Wheeling Park, 15; 6. Buckeye Local, 8; 7. Brooke, 7; 8. John Marshak, 2; 9. Edison, 2; 10. Weirton, 1.
Long Jump — 1. AJ. Law (Cam), 20-9; 2. Clarke Hart (Cam), 20-6 3/4; 3. Robert Christian (Steub), 20-6 3/4; 4. Chris Storkay (Zanes), 19-11 1/2; 5. Carlos Dandango (Zanes), 19-9 3/4; 6. Gino Williams (EL), 19-1.
4X800 — East Liverpool (Daniel Seikop, Chris Campbell, Jake Kinsey, Justin Campbell), 8:20.67; 2. Zanesville, 8:22.72; 3. Steubenville, 8:25.72; 4. Wheeling Park, 8:39.55; 5. Cambridge, 8:43.15; 6. Weirton, 8:50.18.
Discus — 1. Andrew Zapornik (Steub), 137-9; 2. Jason Haser (Zanes), 137-2; 3. Ryan Doran (Steub), 134-0; 4. Devin Masters (Cam), 133-6; 5. Anthony Grimm (Ed), 133-4; 6. Jerome Maynard (Park), 126-8.
Pole Vault — 1. Brian Albaugh (Park), 13-0; 2. Jake Fuhart (Zanes), 12-8; 3. John Ross (Brooke), 12-0; 4. Dustin Fuller (Zanes), 10-0; 5. Mike Higgs (JM), 10-0; 6. Luke High (Cam), 10-0.
3200M Run — 1. Eric Davy (Zanes), 9:46.65; 2. Mark Montgomery (EL), 9:59.55; 3. Ben Bobok (BL), 10:00.80; 4. Kyle Brookover (Zanes), 10:01.75; 5. Dustin Meeker (BL), 10:19.46; 6. Ryan Smith (Brooke), 10:21.91.

Girls

Qualifiers

100M — Tynetta Anderson (EL), 12.82; 2. Natalie Anderson (EL), 13.13; 3. Victoria Hamilton (Ca), 13.40; 4. Lacy Kolkedy (BL), 13.64; 5. Mocha Bangor (Steub), 13.37; 6. Jennifer Gornick (Park), 13.47; 7. Alicia Strong (Park), 13.77; 8. Marcia Brown (Steub), 14.04.
100M H#1 — 1. Hope Bishopgrigs (Weir), 16.0; 2. Andi Rose (Park), 16.23; 3. Annie Blake (JM), 17.11; 4. Brooke Walker (EL), 18.15; 5. Tina Signorini (BL), 16.93; 6. Sara Gurshey (Weir), 17.68; 7. Lindsey Arick (Cam), 17.69; 8. Andrea Holbert (Zanes), 18.18.
200M — 1. Hope Bishopgrigs (Weir), 26.26; 2. Yvonne Hamilton (Cam), 26.98; 3. Tomasha Nance (Steub), 27.58; 4. Tasha Pullie (EL), 27.91; 5. Jennifer Gornick (Park), 27.31; 6. Lacy Kolkedy (Buckeye), 27.51; 7. Erin Blankenship (EL), 28.03; 8. Nicole Means (Park), 28.19.

Boys Qualifiers to Saturday's Finals

100M Dash — Nathan Kish (BL), 11.39; 2. Dino Cardinali (Park), 11.47; 3. Brian Dick (Brooke), 11.49; 4. Robert Christian (Steub), 11.6; 5. Jon Pulido (EL), 11.56; 6. Dustin Loeper (Cam), 11.7; 7. Cini Falduto (Park), 11.74; 8. LaVale Howard (BL), 11.77.
110M H#1 — Ben Sutt (Cam), 15.69; 2. Lamy Gilliam (Weir), 16.13; 3. Kyle Twardoski (BL), 16.78; 4. Josh Wade (JM), 16.98; 5. Aaron Gilmore (Park), 17.11; 6. Craig Selt (Cam), 17.15; 7. Andrew Kaylor (Weir), 17.19; 8. Kevin Saarie (Zanes), 17.8.
200M — 1. Dino Cardinali (Park), 22.87; 2. Brian Dick (Brooke), 23.2; 3. Dustin Loeper (Cam), 23.3; 4. Cini Falduto (Park), 23.53; 5. Robert Christian (Steub), 22.92; 6. Nathan Kish (Buckeye), 23.39; 7. LaVale Howard (Buckeye), 23.95.

Champion Riders



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
WINNING THE OVAC 3-A Girls' Track Championship last weekend at Brooke High was this team from Martins Ferry. The Lady Riders are coached by Dirk Fitch.

Bellaire, Zanesville Lead OVACs

Class AA-A champions will be crowned at Shadyside tonight

By RICHARD STEVENS
Sports Editor

So far, it's a two-team race at the OVAC Class AAAA-AAA Track Championships at Brooke Memorial Stadium.

Bellaire in Class AAA and Zanesville in Class AAAA lead the action, which was contested under sunny skies at the Wellsburg facility.

Only 16 points separate places one through five in the Class AAA girls' race, with the Big Reds holding off rival Martins Ferry by eight points entering Saturday's finals.

The finals at the OVAC Class AA-A championships will be held today beginning at 4 p.m. at Shadyside's Fleming Field.

Bellaire didn't win any single finals Thursday when there were five contested in each division, but the Big Reds scored strong in the shot put, as Traci Jones and Ashley Flanagan finished second and third respectively. Kacie Vavrek came through with a second-place finish in the high jump, losing out to St. Clairsville's Bethany Piccolini by virtue of misses. They both reached 5-6 in the event, but Piccolini won the title by virtue of less miscues.

It was a record for Piccolini, who broke the old mark held by Meadowbrook's CoCo Schrader, who accomplished a 5-3 way back in 1986.

Another Bellaire second place was had by Ashley Davolio, who reached 7-feet in the pole vault the first time it has entered OVAC competition.

Winning the event in the Class AAA girls' competition was Tyler Consolidated's Heidi Mercer, whose attempt was obviously a record, at 8-feet.

Martins Ferry did have a championship on Thursday, with Mandy Bruney winning the 3,200-meter run in a

time of 12:06.59.

The other champions crowned on Thursday were the Magnolia 3200-meter relay team of Shelly Smith, Paige Robinson, Denise Phillips and Sarah Peard. Their time of 10:02.01 in the event shattered the old mark of 10:07.91 held by Meadowbrook from 1991, and in fact broke the stadium record of 10:03 held by John Marshall in 1988.

Union Local's Jenny Campbell claimed first place in the shot put. The Bellaire boys were even more impressive in their quest for the Class AAA crown, leading second-place Union Local by 12 points.

Certainly not insurmountable but comfortable nonetheless, the Big Reds acquired their lead the same way the Bellaire girls' team did - depth.

Without a single Thursday champion, Bellaire scored in every final but one, and had a second and third place finisher in the long jump with Tony Lekanudos and Drew Spencer going No. 2 and No. 3. Martins Ferry's Ty Allen won the event with a 21-2 1/2.

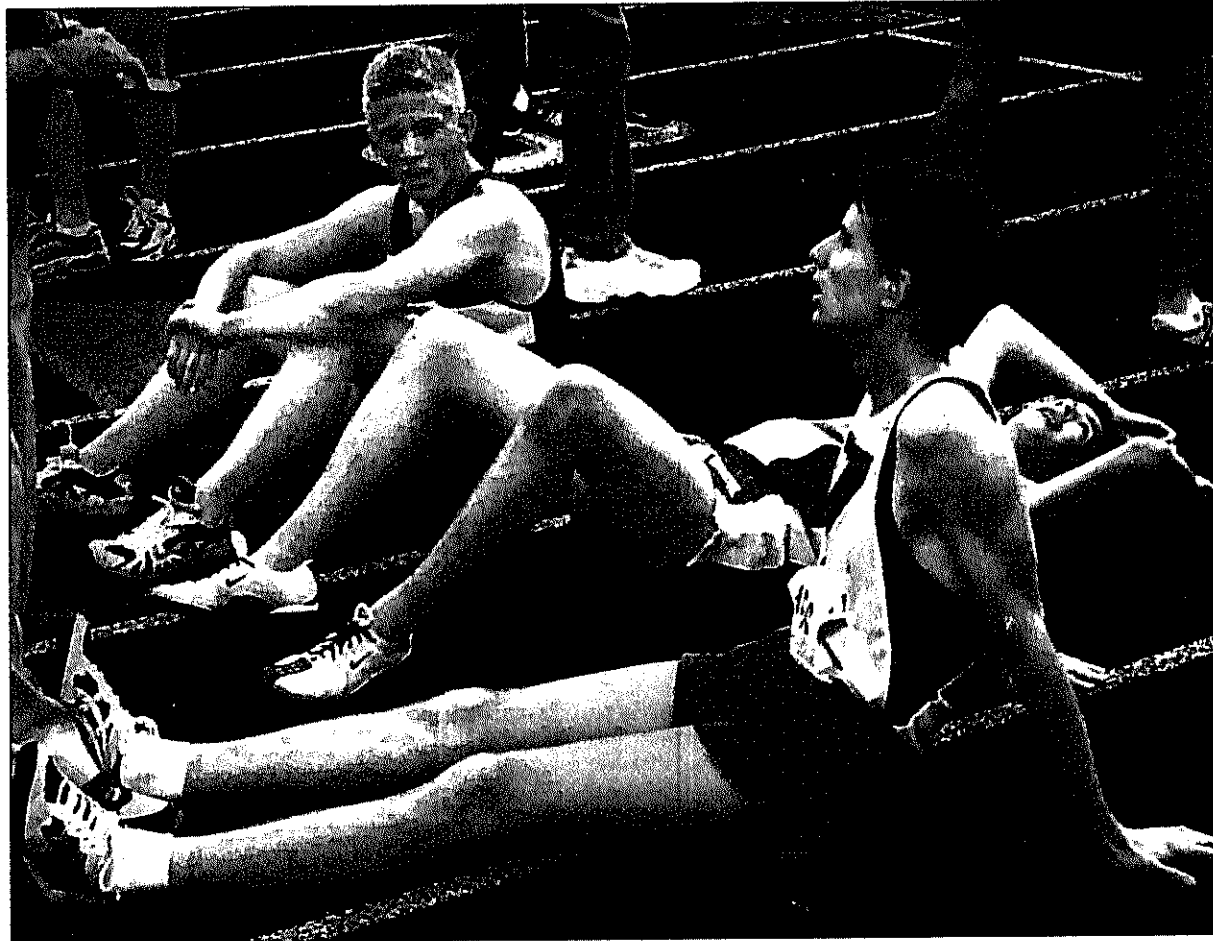
Andy Bresiger finished a distant second behind Tyler Consolidated's Andrew Mercer in the pole vault.

Mercer easily won the event with an impressive 12-foot effort, while Bresiger was second at 9-6.

The Big Reds' Jed Perko was third in the 3200-meter run, an event won by Union Local's Matt Abel in 10:04.54.

St. Clairsville won the 3200-meter relay and Patrick Hickman of Indian Creek claimed the discus crown.

Out of all the teams at the championship, the Zanesville boys were the most dominant, scoring a 20-point advantage in the Class AAAA competition.



Scott McCloskey/The Intelligencer

Buckeye Local's Ben Bolock, left, East Liverpool's Mark Montgomery, center, and Zanesville's Eric Davy take a well-deserved break after running the 3200-meter run in the OVAC Class AAAA-AAA Championships at Brooke Memorial Stadium Thursday. Davy won the event as the Blue Devils took the first day lead.

Eric Davy won the 3200-meter run to score big for the Blue Devils.

Steubenville is in second place with 28 points, as Andrew Zapolnik won the discus.

Wheeling Park's Brian Albaugh reached 13-feet in the pole vault to easily win the event for the Patriots, who are in fifth place entering Saturday's finals.

East Liverpool's foursome of Daniel Seilkop, Chris Campbell, Jake Kinsey and Justin Campbell won the 3200-meter relay. Meanwhile, A.J. Law of third-place

Cambridge won the long jump with a 20-9.

The Blue Devils edged out Cambridge and Wheeling Park for the top spot of the Class AAAA girls' competition.

Zanesville leads second-place Cambridge by six points and third place Park by nine.

The Patriots scored mostly in the pole vault, where there were four scorers. Kristin Hustend and Stephanie Shaffer from Wheeling Park finished first and second, with Hustend's 8-6 effort being an OVAC

record. East Liverpool's 3200-meter relay team of Rachel Thayer, Le Kreider, Heather Brick and Ami Semko finished first with a time 10:28.93.

Zanesville's Keturah Lofton was impressive in the shot put, coming 4 1/2 inches short of the stadium record and 5 1/2 inches shy of 1 meet record with an effort of 39-1. Cambridge's Ashley Hollins won the high jump with a 5-2, and Martins Ferry's Ashley Dunigan won the 3200-meter run in 11:48.9.

Purple Power



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

WINNING THEIR third straight OVAC 3-A boys' track title were the Purple Riders of Martins Ferry High School. The Riders are coached by Dirk Fitch.

OVAC Giffin meet to begin Wednesday at 5

• Big schools open Thursday at Brooke

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

What some coaches look at as the biggest meet of the year is set to get under way at two sites this week.

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference is set to crown its 2000 track and field champions and the race to the banner will begin Wednesday afternoon at Shadyside's Fleming Field.

The 3-A and 4-A schools will have to wait 24 hours to get their competition started as they will hear the sounding of the gun on Thursday afternoon at Brooke High.

The 1-A and 2-A finals will be held Friday evening with the bigger schools reconvening on Saturday afternoon.

Cast in the role of defending champions in the small school events are Bridgeport's girls and Shadyside's boys in Class A while in the Class AA ranks, River's boys and Barnesville's girls captured titles a year ago.

Action is slated to get going on Wednesday at 4 p.m. with the trials and finals in pole vault, 2-A boys long jump, 1-A girls high jump, 2-A girls shot put and 1-A boys discus.

At 5 p.m. trials and finals in 1-A boys long jump, 2-A girls High Jump, 1-A girls shot put, 2-A boys discus, 1-A boys pole vault.

The first running event will also be held at 5 p.m. with the final of the 2-A boys 4X800 relay, which will be followed by the 1-A boys 3200 meter run. The 100 meter dash semifinals in all classes, both boys and girls will follow then the 1-A girls 4X800 meter relay, which is followed up by the high hurdle semifinals.

The 2-A girls 3200 meters will follow the hurdles, and that will be followed by the 400 meter dash semis. The 3200 meter run for 2-A boys will also be staged on opening day as will semifinals in the 300 hurdles and 1-A boys 4X800. The semifinals of the 200 meter dash will close out the opening night.

Several schools will be entering the small school race with high aspirations.

Leading the list of contenders is odds on favorite Linsly. The Lady Cadets have been solid all season long and will look to continue their success this week.

When one thinks about the Lady Cadets, Michelle Curry comes to mind. Curry will take part in the 100, 200, 400 and 4X200 events

at the OVAC.

Other keys to the Linsly puzzle include: Molly Parsons, Sara McKain, Jesse Werner, Kara Blacker and Megan Govindan.

"The girls have worked really hard for this. This team has been the most well-rounded group I have had," Linsly boss Brenda Buffington said. There is also more depth on this team than I have had in the past. Winning the OVAC has been our goal all season long."

Shadyside is another school with title hopes, but the Lady Tigers have been hit hard by the injury bug.

The Lady Tigers' distance contingent of Jessica Melanko, Ashley Holenka and Whitney Brown have been battling injuries all spring long.

"When you have three of your top four distance runners injured, it definitely leaves some holes in the armor," Shadyside boss Joel Joseph said.

Junior Andrea Lewis is the one piece of the distance puzzle that has not been hampered by injuries and she should do some big things at the annual Giffin meet.

"Linsly has to be the favorite going in, but I really think we should be up near the top," Joseph said. "This a big meet for the kids. Everyone wants to win the OVAC, but this is not the most important meet of the year."

The defending champion Lady Bulldogs could also be a force to be reckoned with as the Bridgets have strength in the field and a premier sprinter on the track.

In the field, Holly Hamlin and junior Valerie Reed should score big in the shot put, while Hamlin is the favorite in the discus toss.

The Lady Bulldogs are in good hands on the track as sophomore hurdling ace Tabitha Price will look to win her second straight 300 hurdle title and will also be in the high hurdle field.

Price can also run the 400 meter dash and should be successful.

"I think we can score some points, but I really think that the team race is between Linsly and Shadyside. I think that our relays should score some points for us," veteran Bridgeport mentor Paul Xenakis said.

St. John Central is yet another school that should tally a lot of points during the week.

The Lady Irish's junior phenom Belinda Ronevich will look to improve her OVAC 400 meter dash

winning streak to three this week. She could also be a factor in the 200 meter dash.

The Lady Irish foursome of Ronevich, Brandi Callarik, Marri Kajfez and Andre Ehni could also be a strong unit in the 4X4 event.

When track enthusiasts around the Ohio Valley think about the Double A race the first school that pops into mind is Barnesville.

The Lady Shamrocks, who placed second in last year's competition, will be the favorite as activities unfold this week.

The Western Belmont County school should receive a lot of points from junior phenom Jennie Castle as she will run the 300 hurdles and could take part in anything from the 100 up to the 3200 meter run.

Castle owns OVAC best times in the hurdles, 800 meter run, 400 meter dash and 1600 meter run.

The Lady 'Rocks should also receive a lot of scoring from senior stand-out Rachael Miller who will be in the 800, 1600 and 3200 meter fields.

Sophomore ace Ruthie Morgan is yet another with high aspirations and is almost as versatile as Castle. Morgan will be entered in the 200 meter dash this weekend.

The Shamrocks crack 4X4 and 4X8 teams are also strong favorites in the double A race.

"I think we probably stand a pretty good chance," veteran Barnesville boss Darrel Davis said. "We are not real strong in the field events. We have not done much scoring there this year."

"We approach each week as it comes and we go in with pretty good confidence," Davis continued.

River also has a strong girls' team and could be up near the team leaders come Friday evening.

The Lady Pilots hurdling duo of Brandi Walker and Leighann Fry should fare well at the OVAC.

Junior Jessica Gehrig will be a favorite in the girls' pole vault as well as the 300 hurdles.

The Pilots also own a solid 4X200 squad along with a strong shuttle team.

Monroe Central will enter two quality long jumpers that should score well for the Lady Seminoles.

Marlena Merckle and Carlie

Nippert should both have strong showings for the Woodsfield-based school.

Steubenville Central and Wheeling Central are two other schools with big-time aspirations. The Lady Crusaders have a strong middle-distance program, while the Lady Knights have some superb sprinters and sprint relay squads.

The boys' side should be just as entertaining as several top performers are in the small school boys' division.

The Single A title is likely to stay in the same place it has been for the past several years.... Shadyside.

The Tigers are not as talented as years past, but the numbers are still there and that should pay big dividends come Friday evening.

The Orange has a distinct advantage in the opening event of the meet as it will likely get a quick 18 thanks to Jonathan O'Grady and Donnie Van Dyke in the pole vault. O'Grady is undefeated this season and has already cleared

14-feet.

The Tiger distance contingent should also fare well as junior phenom Andrew Lewis will be the favorite in the 800, 1600 and 3200

Junior Matt Beltrondo will look to win his second straight 300 meter hurdle title as he will have one of the top times entered in the event. Classmates John Bobek and Jim Amato will be two of the better high hurdlers in the field.

The Tigers also have a crack shuttle team that could score some serious points.

"The last couple of years we have won by a good many points. A lot of the teams have some super athletes and they will score a lot of points. We know we are going to have a super meet to win. In any big meet the depth factor is important because we think we have a lot of kids that can score," Tiger boss John Triveri said.

Another school that should make a strong push of the Tigers will be St. John Central.

The Irish have the quality, but depth may hurt the Green a bit before it is all said and done.

The Irish will have the best shot put and discus thrower in the field as senior Kenny Howell will look to win his third straight discus crown and second straight shot put title.

The West Virginia University

track recruit has already laid the plate 174-feet and the shot distance of 56-7 1/4.

Senior sprinter Pat Gulla is favorite in the 200 and 400 dashes along with his classmate Daniel Koch.

Senior Derek Koch, a wre state champion, will be entering the 100 meter and will be one of Green's fine relay squads.

The Irish's 4X4 and 4X2 will be two of the better units in the field.

"We will bring a lot of quality to the meet. Our sprinters, throwers are exceptional, but we have too many dead events," Kapral, bidding for his fifth C track title. "Shadyside will prevail on the strength of its depth. Linsly, Bridgeport and us will be for second."

Bridgeport's boys are yet another team with quality over quantity. The Bulldogs have a fine 4 squad which is favored to home gold.

The 'Dogs shuttle squads Thomas, Tiger, Price and Davies have been among the area's best all season long and should continue that through OVAC.

Thomas should also do well in the two open hurdling events, Davies will be one of the top high jumpers in the field.

Senior discus thrower R. Asbury should be in the top three in that event as he has already thrown over 150 this season.

Linsly could also enjoy a showing as the Cadets have numbers, but the talent is not high.

"I think we could have a great meet. I really believe that John's, Bridgeport and Shadyside all have excellent teams. We very young team, but this is a meet that we prepare for all year long," veteran Linsly boss Plumbo remarked.

The days of Eddie Drummond are long gone for the Wheeling-based school, but still there are some Cadets with good shot placing high.

Jaret Chapman should do well in the 800 meter run as he has cleared a 2:04 already this spring. Pappas could be one of the pre sprinters in the 100 and 200 field.

The Double A field should be just as strong as it has been in the past few years.

Barnesville will also be favored in the boys meet as well as the meet.

The Shamrocks possess one of the valley's best distance sq



Meet to begin Wednesday at Shadyside on Thursday at Brooke

C. eyes to the Linsly puzzle. Polly Parsons, Sara McK-Werner, Kara Blacker and vindan. Girls have worked really is. This team has been the -rounded group I have ly boss Brenda Buffing- There is also more depth m than I have had in the ing the OVAC has been l season long."

side is another school with s, but the Lady Tigers hit hard by the injury

dy 'Tigers' distance con- Jessica Melanko, Ashley and Whitney Brown have ing injuries all spring

you have three of your distance runners injured, it leaves some holes in the hadyside boss Joel Joseph

Andrea Lewis is the one e distance puzzle that has hampered by injures and l do some big things at the ff in meet.

has to be the favorite go- t I really think we should ar the top," Joseph said. big meet for the kids. wants to win the OVAC. s not the most important e year."

defending champion Lady could also be a force to be with as the Bridgets have n the field and a premier n the track.

field, Holly Hamlin and alerie Reed should score shot put, while Hamlin is e in the discus toas.

ady Bulldogs are in good the track as sophomore ace Tabitha Price will look r second straight 300 hur- nd will also be in the high ld.

can also run the 400 meter should be successful. nk we can score some out I really think that the e is between Linsly and le. I think that our relays core some points for us," ridgeport mentor Paul Xe- l.

hn Central is yet another hat should tally a lot of ring the week. ady Irish's junior phenom Ronevich will look to im- r OVAC 400 meter dash

winning streak to three this week. She could also be a factor in the 200 meter dash.

The Lady Irish foursome of Ronevich, Brandi Callarik, Marri Kajfez and Andre Ehni could also be a strong unit in the 4X4 event.

When track enthusiasts around the Ohio Valley think about the Double A race the first school that pops into mind is Barnesville.

The Lady Shamrocks, who placed second in last year's competition, will be the favorite as activities unfold this week.

The Western Belmont County school should receive a lot of points from junior phenom Jennie Castle as she will run the 300 hurdles and could take part in anything from the 100 up to the 3200 meter run.

Castle owns OVAC best times in the hurdles, 800 meter run, 400 meter dash and 1600 meter run.

The Lady 'Rocks should also receive a lot of scoring from senior stand-out Rachael Miller who will be in the 800, 1600 and 3200 meter fields.

Sophomore ace Ruthie Morgan is yet another with high aspirations and is almost as versatile as Castle. Morgan will be entered in the 200 meter dash this weekend.

The Shamrocks crack 4X4 and 4X8 teams are also strong favorites in the double A race.

"I think we probably stand a pretty good chance," veteran Barnesville boss Darrel Davis said. "We are not real strong in the field events. We have not done much scoring there this year."

"We approach each week as it comes and we go in with pretty good confidence," Davis continued.

River also has a strong girls' team and could be up near the team leaders come Friday evening.

The Lady Pilots hurdling duo of Brandi Walker and Leighann Fry should fare well at the OVAC.

Junior Jessica Gehrig will be a favorite in the girls' pole vault as well as the 300 hurdles.

The Pilots also own a solid 4X200 squad along with a strong shuttle team.

Monroe Central will enter two quality long jumpers that should score well for the Lady Seminoles.

Marlena Merckle and Carlle

Nippert should both have strong showings for the Woodsfield-based school.

Steubenville Central and Wheeling Central are two other schools with big-time aspirations. The Lady Crusaders have a strong middle-distance program, while the Lady Knights have some superb sprinters and sprint relay squads.

The boys' side should be just as entertaining as several top performers are in the small school boys' division.

The Single A title is likely to stay in the same place it has been for the past several years.... Shady-side.

The Tigers are not as talented as years past, but the numbers are still there and that should pay big dividends come Friday evening.

The Orange has a distinct advantage in the opening event of the meet as it will likely get a quick 18 thanks to Jonathan O'Grady and Donnie Van Dyke in the pole vault. O'Grady is undefeated this season and has already cleared 14-feet.

The Tiger distance contingent should also fare well as junior phenom Andrew Lewis will be the favorite in the 800, 1600 and 3200

Junior Matt Beltrondo will look to win his second straight 300 meter hurdle title as he will have one of the top times entered in the event. Classmates John Bobek and Jim Amato will be two of the better high hurdlers in the field.

The Tigers also have a crack shuttle team that could score some serious points.

"The last couple of years we have won by a good many points. A lot of the teams have some super athletes and they will score a lot of points. We know we are going to have a super meet to win. In any big meet the depth factor is important because we think we have a lot of kids that can score," Tiger boss John Triveri said.

Another school that should make a strong push of the Tigers will be St. John Central.

The Irish have the quality, but depth may hurt the Green a bit before it is all said and done.

The Irish will have the best shot put and discus thrower in the field as senior Kenny Howell will look to win his third straight discus crown and second straight shot put title.

The West Virginia University

track recruit has already launched the plate 174-feet and the shot put a distance of 56-7 1/4.

Senior sprinter Pat Gulla is a favorite in the 200 and 400 meter dashes along with his classmate Daniel Koch.

Senior Derek Koch, a wrestling state champion, will be entered in the 100 meter and will be one the Green's fine relay squads.

The Irish's 4X4 and 4X2 teams will be two of the better units in the field.

"We will bring a lot of quality to the meet. Our sprinters and throwers are exceptional, but we have too many dead events," said Kapral, bidding for his fifth OVAC track title. "Shadyside will prevail on the strength of its depth while Linsly, Bridgeport and us will battle for second."

Bridgeport's boys are yet another team with quality over quantity.

The Bulldogs have a fine 4X100 squad which is favored to take home gold.

The 'Dogs shuttle squad of Thomas, Tiger, Price and John Davies have been amongst the area's best all season long and should continue that through the OVAC.

Thomas should also do well in the two open hurdling events, while Davies will be one of the better high jumpers in the field.

Senior discus thrower Robert Asbury should be in the top of the heap in that event as he has already thrown over 150 this season.

Linsly could also enjoy a strong showing as the Cadets have big numbers, but the talent is not as high.

"I think we could have a good meet. I really believe that St. John's, Bridgeport and Shadyside all have excellent teams. We are a very young team, but this is the meet that we prepare for all year long," veteran Linsly boss Dave Plummy remarked.

The days of Eddie Drummond are long gone for the Wheeling-based school, but still there are some Cadets with good shots of placing high.

Jaret Chapman should do well in the 800 meter run as he has cranked out a 2:04 already this spring. Jon Pappas could be one of the premier sprinters in the 100 and 200 dash field.

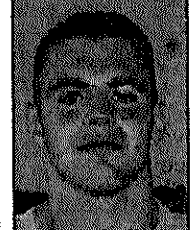
The Double A field should be just as strong as it has been in the past few years.

Barnesville will also be favored in the boys meet as well as the girls meet.

The Shamrocks possess one of the valley's best distance squads



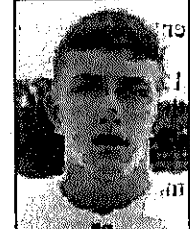
PRICE



HOWELL



CASTLE



NIPPERT



and two of the better leapers.

Sophomore sensation Chris Perun will be one to watch in the 3200 and 1600 meter runs, while junior Derek Allar will also be a favorite in the 800 meter run.

Sophomore Travis Taylor should fare well in the 1600 and 800, while senior Ben Fisher will be in the two mile field.

The Barnesville 4X8 unit of Perun, Allar, Taylor and Ronnie Heskett have consistently been among the valley's best this spring.

The jumping comes from senior Josh Bilyeu, who took his talent to the state meet a year ago. Bilyeu has already cleared 6-5 this spring will look to better that this week. He has also done well in the long jump.

Anthony Hannahs is yet another high jumper that the 'Rocks will expect big points out of this weekend.

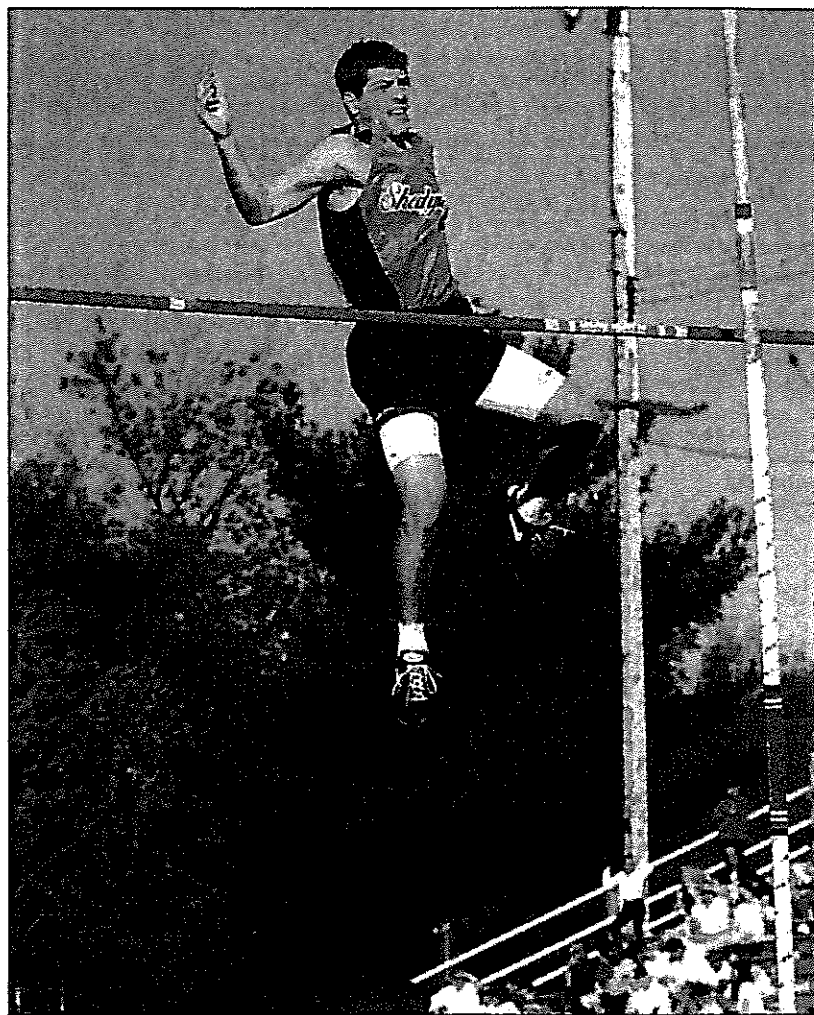
River High, which was hit hard by graduation a year ago, will bid for its second straight title.

The Pilots hope to get big points out of senior hurdling ace Josh Conner, who will be in both hurdling events.

Monroe Central's Jesse Nippert will enter his final OVAC event as the favorite in the long jump. Nippert has reached 20-10 already this season. Nippert can also sprint and will probably be in the 100 and 200 fields.

Teams set to take part in the Class A race are: Mount DeChantal, Bishop Donahue, Weir Madonna, Paden City, Hundred, Beallsville, Valley, St. John Central, Cameron, Linsly, Bridgeport and Shadyside.

The AA field looks like this: Wellsville, Wheeling Central, Toronto, Caldwell, Steubenville Central, Monroe Central, River, Shenandoah, Fort Frye and Barnesville.



Alex Kozlowski/The Intelligencer

Shadyside pole vaulter Jonathan O'Grady clears the pole in the event during Wednesday's OVAC Class AA-A Track Championships at Shadyside's Fleming Field.

Leave It to Brother

Shadyside's Jonathan O'Grady breaks brother's OVAC pole vault record

By RICHARD STEVENS
Sports Editor

Maybe Shadyside pole vaulter Jonathan O'Grady hasn't quite reached his brother's level.

Then again, the OVAC numbers say otherwise.

The younger O'Grady reached 14-8 1/4 in the pole vault on Wednesday to not only win the event, but break the OVAC Class A record of 14-7 at Fleming Field in the OVAC championships.

The 14-7 was accomplished three years ago by brother Tim, who has

helped Jonathan and was at Fleming Field offering encouragement and assisting in raising the bar every time Jonathan would get a little closer.

Unfortunately, three attempts at the Ohio Valley pole vault record of 15-2 - which is also owned by big brother - were off the mark.

"That's my best right there," said Jonathan O'Grady, who actually reached the record on his first real attempt, although he scratched after his pole broke the plane without an actually vault. "They had to take that as a miss."

Barnesville, River, Linsly, Shadyside Pace OVACs

By RICHARD STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Barnesville boys were dominating in Class AA as the OVAC Class AA-A Track Championships got underway at Shadyside's Fleming Field on Wednesday.

The remainder of the finals, which will be contested on Friday, will be sandwiched between the first and second day of the Class AAA-AAAA Championships, slated to begin today at Brooke Memorial Stadium and set to conclude on Saturday at the Wellsburg facility.

Friday's finals in the small school event will have the Shamrocks sitting pretty with a whopping 53 points, a 26-point lead on second-place Caldwell and three champions in their back pockets.

Under clear skies and temperatures in the mid-70s, Chris Perun won the 3200-meter run, Josh Bilyeu claimed the long jump and the Shamrocks won the 3200-meter relay. The only final contested Wednesday that did not have a Shamrock at the top was the discus, which didn't have a Barnesville athlete score.

Leading the way in the Class AA girls action was River, as Jessica

Gehrig won the pole vault with a mark of 8-feet.

Host Shadyside, on the strength of a record-breaking performance by pole vaulter Jonathan O'Grady, scored 45 points to hold off Linsly after the first day.

O'Grady's 14-8 1/4 effort was enough to break the OVAC pole vault record by 1 1/4 inches, a mark held by older brother Tim O'Grady, who set that mark back in 1997. The younger O'Grady made three attempts at the Ohio Valley record of 15-2 - also owned by Tim O'Grady - but came up short.

Andrew Lewis won the 3200-meter run to help the Tigers' cause, as did the Shadyside 3200-meter relay team.

In the Class A girls' field, Linsly scored 35 points to stay in front of the host Tigers by nine points.

Ashley Walker had an effort of 4-10 in the high jump to score a title.

One other record fell during the first day at Shadyside.

One of the Ohio Valley's most impressive marks, held by former Steubenville Central hurdling great Barb Baker, was broken by Barnesville's Jennie Castle in the semifinals.

His brother Tim O'Grady tried to argue that his body had to break the plane, but to no avail.

"He's good, he's real good," said Tim O'Grady.

"I don't know how I would've felt about two records in one day, but one record was good."

The day Tim O'Grady broke the OVAC record stands out in his mind. "I was kind of unsure the day I broke the OVAC record," he said.

"I got on to a bigger pole. I didn't know I was even going to get into the pit. I was pleased with it, definitely.

"I'm sure he's (Jonathan) pleased, especially since it was his big brother's record. I'd rather see him do it than anybody else."

The Valley record still stands 4 inches away for the younger O'Grady, who didn't come close in his three tries after easily clearing the pole for the OVAC mark.

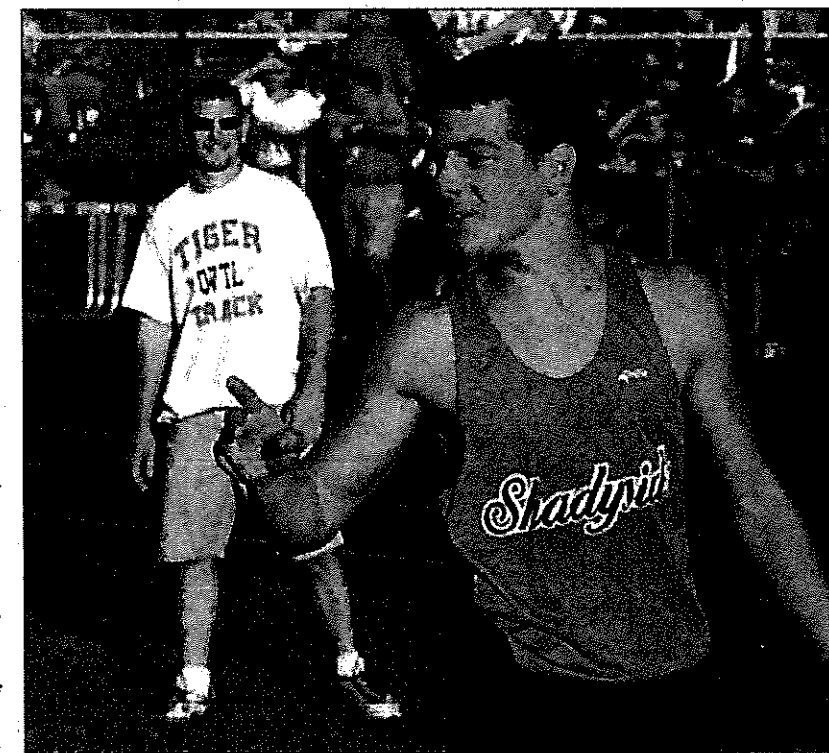
Jonathan O'Grady refuses to believe the Valley record is out of his reach. He figures an adjustment here or there will get him over the top.

"I don't think I had enough pole to get it," he explained. "My brother seems to think differently. Getting back farther and shooting up makes all the difference. If you get straight up, you get more height if you even shoot off the pole a little bit at an angle. That makes a foot difference sometimes."

That's not the only thing Tim and Jonathan disagree on when it comes to pole vaulting.

They are brothers, after all. But, one thing holds true for Jonathan, much of what he's accomplished hasn't come without the help of his brother.

"I have to give him his due. He's helped me quite a bit, and I can't take that away from him," Jonathan O'Grady added.



Alex Kozlowski/The Intelligencer

Former Shadyside pole vaulter Tim O'Grady, left, watches his younger brother Jonathan walk away a winner, and a record-holder, during Wednesday's OVAC Class AA-A Track Championships at Shadyside's Fleming Field.

Baker, whose 47.2 was the OV record in the 300 low hurdles, went by the wayside when Castle ran the event in 45.6, four seconds ahead of the next-closest qualifier for Friday's finals.

Cadets, Tigers Tie

Three new champs
crowned at OVACs

By SHAWN RINE
The Intelligencer Staff

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Track Championships wrapped up at Fleming Field in Shadyside Friday and with its conclusion came the crowning of three new champions, as the Steubenville Central girls and Barnesville boys ran away from their respective competition to grab Class AA titles.

While on the single-A side, Linsly's girls outdistanced host Shadyside, while Linsly and the Shadyside boys — defending champions — each racked up 118 points to share the championship.

Linsly's Michelle Curry made Fleming Field her personal home and her opponent's house of horrors.

Curry scored victories in the 100 and 200 meter dashes and then had to hold off Bellaire St. John's Belinda Ronevich to capture the 400 by a mere tenth of a second.

"This is what it is all about," said Curry. "This is the reason you work and you train so hard."

Linsly captured both the 400 relay and the 800 relay with times of 1:12.4 and 1:50.5.

Kara Blacker's time of 5:38.7 in the 1600 meter run was good enough



Alex Kozlowski/The Intelligencer

Wheeling Central's Eric Belancic stretches over the pole in the boys' high jump at the OVAC Class AA-A Track Championships at Shadyside's Fleming Field Friday.

for first place.

Tori Campbell of Cameron won the long jump with a jump of 14-4, while Holly Hamlin of third place Bridgeport captured the discus event with an effort of 109-7.

One of the more intriguing matchups of the final day occurred in the girls Class A 3200 meter run. Teammates Andrea Lewis and Ashley Holenka battled to the wire, before Lewis lunged across the line just ahead of Holenka to capture the title.

Holenka finished second there, but redeemed herself with a first place finish in the 800, finishing five tenths of second ahead of Linsly's Jesse Byrum.

For anyone who has paid any attention whatsoever to high school track over the past three years, the name Kenny Howell of Bellaire St. John's has become quite a familiar one. Over the course of the past three springs, Howell has dominated anyone who dared to stand beside him when it comes to both the shot and

discus events.

After two subpar tosses by Howell in Friday's finals, Bridgeport's Greg Honecker understandably thought he had the event wrapped up after his 42-9 showing. That was before Howell stepped up for his final toss and tossed the shot right out of Fleming Field — not really, it just seemed that way. Howell shattered the OVAC record with an effort of 56-0 1/4.

(Continued on Page 23)

OVAC Track

(Continued from Page 21)

But according to Howell, this is all great, but it isn't exactly what he has on his mind.

"State's," he said fashioning a giant grin. "I keep that in the back of my mind."

"I want to be the state discus champion and the state shot put champion," he continued.

Patrick Gulla, also of Bellaire St. John's was a multiple winner, scoring victories in the 200 and 400 meter dashes, showcasing the type of speed that made him a terror to defend on the football field.

Linsly's John Pappas and Jarrett Champman took home titles in the 100 and 800 meter dashes respectively with times of 2:05.6 and 11.4.

Bridgeport's Robert Thomas was also a multiple winner. He scored victories in the 110 meter high hurdles (15.2) and the 300 intermediate hurdles (40.8).

Beallsville's Kyle Falkenstein was the winner in the Class A high jump with an effort of 6-0.

The Crusader girls racked up 121 points, 41 more than second place River, despite not having the benefit of a single individual or relay team title.

The relays are where they chalked up a huge portion of their points, finishing in second place in each of the 400 meter shuttles, 400 relay, 800 relay and 1600 meter relays.

On four other occasions, the Crusaders had individuals claim sec-

ond place laurels. Freshman Mary Gilloon was runner-up in both the 800 and 1600 meter runs, just two days after taking second in the 3200. Teammates Bridget Plesich (400) and Johnna Fabian (200) each were also runner-ups.

Rachel Miller of Barnesville captured both the 800 and 1600 meter runs. Her time of 2:31.5 in the 800 was just enough to edge Gilloon. It was Gilloon once again finishing behind Miller in the 1600.

On the boys AA side, Barnesville amassed a whopping 160 points, some 66 more than River, who once again took runner-up honors.

Wheeling Central's Kristin Roman won the 100 meter dash (12.5) and the 200 meter dash (26.5).

The Shamrocks shined in the distance portion of the annual event. Individual titles were claimed by a pair of Shamrocks, Derek Allar in the 800 meter run and Chris Perun in the 1600 with times of 2:04.9 and 4:38.2 respectively. Ironically, Perun finished just ahead of Allar in the 1600, winning by a mere 2 seconds.

Josh Conner of River dominated the hurdle action. Conner defeated Barnesville's Josh Bilyeu in the 110 high hurdles, crossing the line at 15.4 seconds, just ahead of Bilyeu's 15.6.

Steubenville Central's boys, who tied for third with Caldwell, received a solid effort from Alex Lamour.

OVAC Track Meets Begin

Class AA-A opens today
at Shadyside's Fleming Field



The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference is set to crown its 2000 track and field champions and the competition gets underway in Class A and Class AA today at 4 p.m. at Fleming Field in Shadyside.

The 3-A and 4-A portion of the event opens Thursday at Brooke.

The Bridgeport girls and the Shadyside boys are the defending champions in Class A while in the Class AA ranks, River's boys and Barnesville's girls will look to defend their titles.

Several schools enter the small school portion of the competition with high hopes of leaving with a title.

Leading the list of contenders is odds on favorite Linsly. The Cadets have been as solid as anyone this season and will look to continue their success this week.

Keys to the Linsly team will be Michelle Curry, Molly Parsons, Sara McKain, Jessie Werner, Kara Blacker and Megan Govidan.

Shadyside will also be looking to

gain a championship.

The Tigers' distance contingent of Jessica Melanko, Ashley Holenka and Whitney Brown have been battling injuries all season.

The defending champion Bulldogs of Bridgeport could also be a force to be reckoned with as they have strength in the field and a premier sprinter on the track.

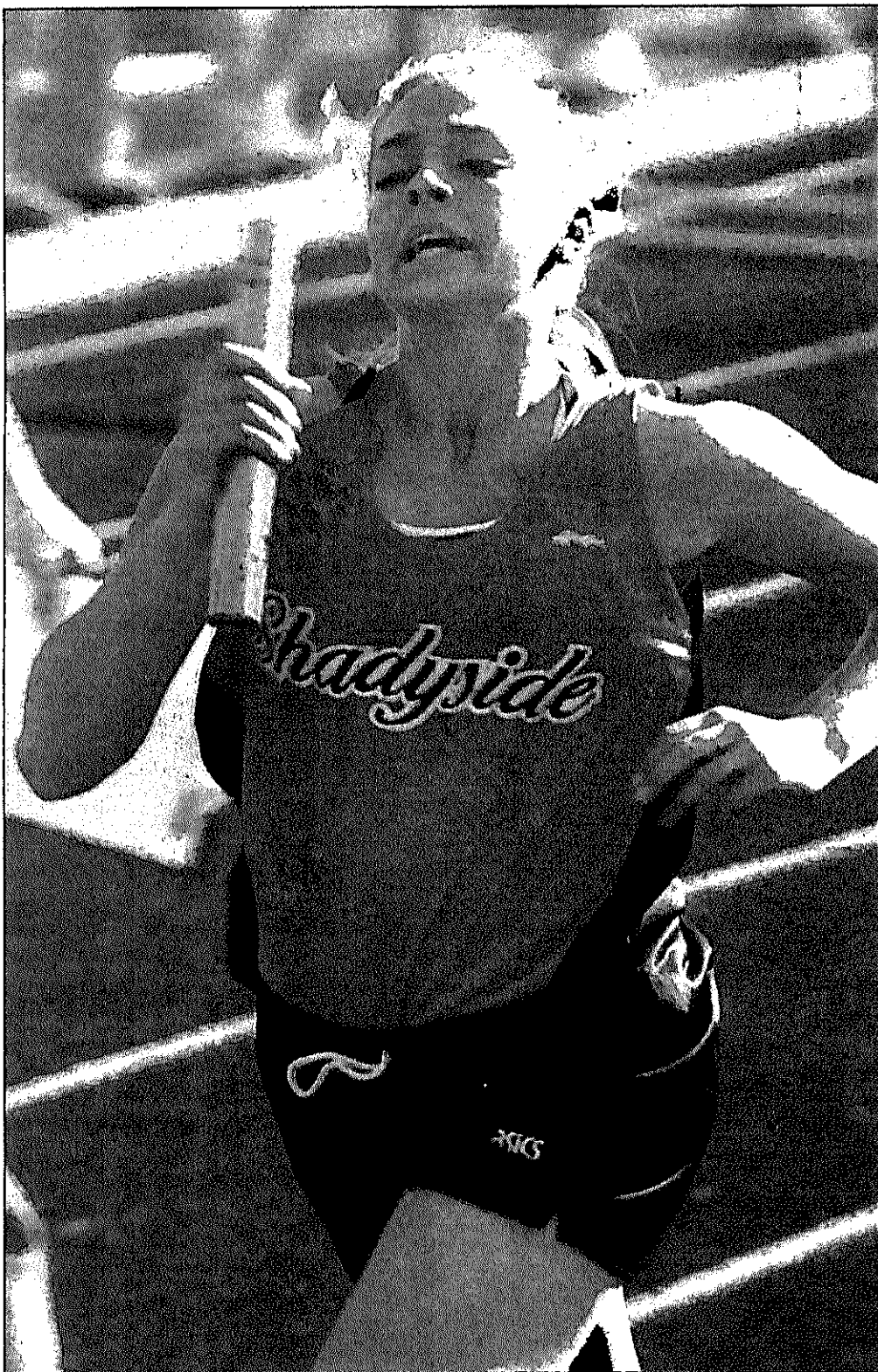
The boys side should be just as entertaining as several top performers are in the small school division.

The defending champion Tigers are once again the favorites.

Junior Matt Beltrondo will look to win his second straight 300 meter hurdle title as he will have one of the top times entering the fray.

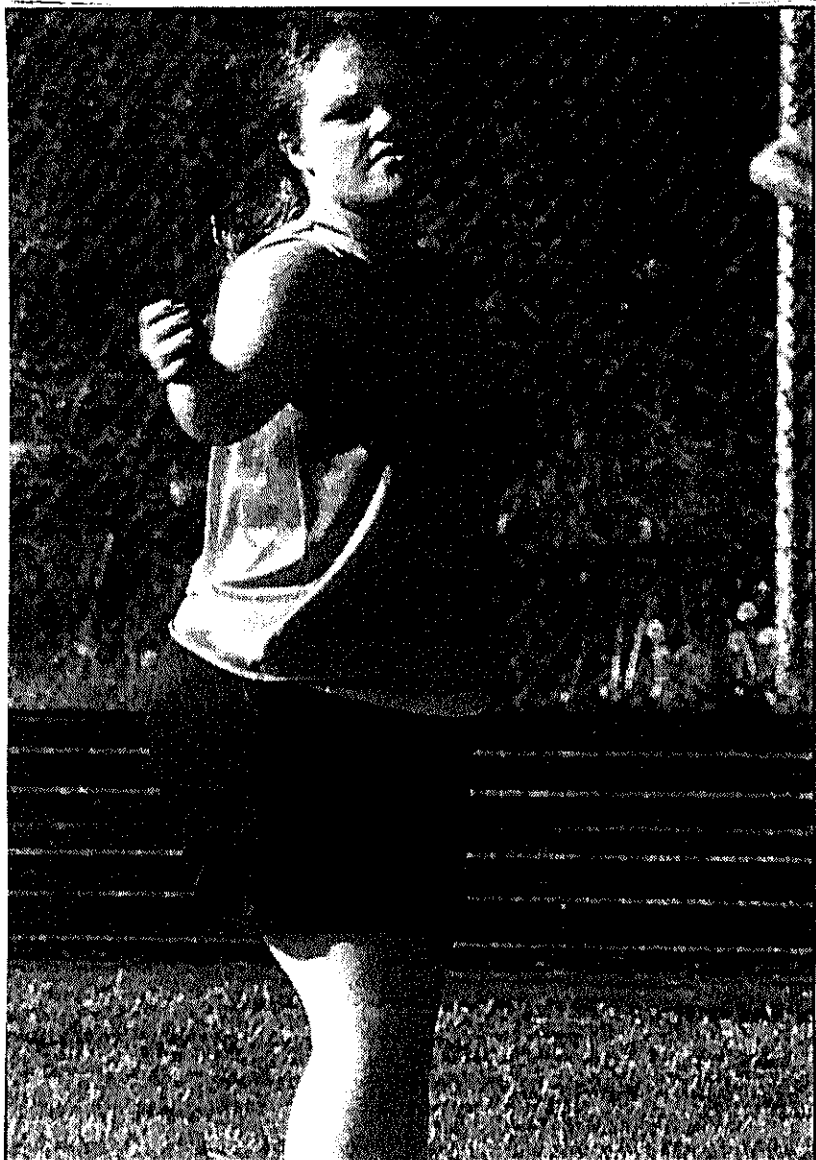
The Bellaire St. John's boys should give the Tigers a run for their money.

The Irish have the best shot and discus thrower in the field in the form of WVU recruit Kenny Howell, who will look to win his third consecutive discus crown and second straight shot put title.



ANCHORING Shadyside's victorious 4x800 meter relay team during Wednesday's OVAC Championship meet at Fleming Field is Ashley Holenka. The Lady Tigers clocked 10:25.9. See page 3B.

T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER



WATCHING HER third-place throw in the shot put is Bridgeport's Valerie Reed during Wednesday's OVAC track meet at Shadyside. The Lady Bulldog junior unleashed a 33-10 effort.

T-L Photo/PAULA GINTHER

OVAC Class 2-A Results

OVAC Griffin Relays AA Girls Finals

3200M Run — 1. Rachael Miller, Barnesville 11:53.8; 2. Mary Gilloon, Steubenville CC 12:43.4; 3. Tiffany Fogle, Caldwell Hig 12:50.3; 4. Heidi Schoepner, Caldwell 12:51.0; 5. Joanna Keenan, Toronto 13:12.7; 6. Cyndee Jones, Monroe Central 13:18.8.

HIGH JUMP — 1. Jamie Keenan, Toronto 5-0; 2. Erica Hamn, Wheeling Central 4-10; 3. Heidi Schoepner, Caldwell, 4-08; 4. Alicia Corabi, Steubenville CC 4-08; 5. Terri Bedarczyk, River S 4-08; 6. Michelle Skipper, Steubenville 4-06.

POLE VAULT — 1. Jessica Gehrig, River 8-0; 2. Freda McIntire, River 6-08; 3. Allison Hamn, Wheeling Central 6-0.

SHOT PUT — 1. Misty Leach, Shenandoah 37-11.25; 2. Sarah Hartline, River 33-08.50; 3. Taisha Higgins, Wellsville 32-10.25; 4. Jill Johnson, Barnesville 32-07.50; 5. Sarah Smith, Caldwell 30-04.75; 6. Courtney Kutcherenko, Fort Frye 30-01.

Boys Finals

3200M Run — 1. Chris Perun, Barnesville 10:08.8; 2. T.J. Olyer, Shenandoah 10:30.8; 3. Ben Fisher, Barnesville 10:36.4; 4. David Hesson, Caldwell 10:42.0; 5. Jacob Trombetta, Steubenville CC 10:43.9; 6. Brian Hill, Caldwell 10:45.5.

4X800 — 1. Barnesville 8:44.8; 2. Steubenville CC 8:49.0; 3. Caldwell 8:54.2; 4. Wheeling Cen 8:55.1; 5. River 9:08.7; 6. Shenandoah 9:10.3.

POLE VAULT — 1. Tom Frye, River 12-0; 2. Ryan Potts, River High 11-06; 3. Chad Barker, Barnesville 11-0; 4. Nate Smith, Barnesville 10-0; 5. Mark Flehman, Fort Frye 9-06; 6. Josh Weihe, Wheeling Cen 8-08.

LONG JUMP — 1. Josh Blyssu, Barnesville 20-08; 2. Jesse Nippert, Monroe Central 20-06; 3. Anthony Hannahs, Barnesville 19-00.50; 4. Nate Walker, Toronto 18-08; 5. Ryan Chavez, Wheeling Central 18-06; 6. Brian Jones, Wellsville 17-09.50.

DISCUS — 1. Ben Jenkins, Caldwell 135-08; 2. Andy Kidwell, Toronto 131-01; 3. Tom Brown, Caldwell 128-04; 4. Jeremy Beardmore, Monroe Central 125-10; 5. Aaron Paige, Wellsville 125-07.50; 6. Matt Phillips, Barnesville 118-03.50.

Qualifiers to Friday's Finals According to Lane Assignments

100M — 1. Johanna Fabian, Steubenville Central; 2. Beth

Wilson, Shenandoah; 3. Christy Roman, Wheeling Central; 4. Natalie Parkins, Steubenville Central; Rachael Thatcher, Monroe Central; Rena Podmyer, Fort Frye.

200M — 1. Alana Combs, Fort Frye, 28.7; 2. Johanna Fabian, Steub. Central, 28.0; 3. Jennie Castle, Barnesville, 28.4; 4. Kristin Roman, Wheeling Central, 27.2; 5. Bethany Wilson, Shenandoah, 28.2; 6. Natalie Parkins, Steub. Central, 28.3.

400M Dash — 1. Kim Schoedling, Caldwell, 68.1; 2. Lauren Komisak, Steub. Central, 64.8; 3. Ruthe Morgan, Barnesville, 62.0; 4. Ashley Stephens, Fort Frye, 63.7; 5. Bridget Pleach, Steub. Central, 64.1; 6. Amber Korte, Shenandoah, 68.0.

100M HH — 1. Almee Kozusni, Wheeling Central, 17.8; 2. Karri Anderson, Barnesville, 17.8; 3. Brandi Walker, River, 16.7; 4. Jamie Keenan, Toronto, 17.1; 5. Leighann Fry, River, 17.1; 6. Ashley Barker, Steub. Central, 17.7.

300M LH — 1. Almee Kozusni, Wheeling Central, 53.9; 2. Alana Combs, Fort Frye, 50.8; 3. Jennie Castle, Barnesville, 45.8; 4. Jamie Keenan, Toronto, 49.8; 5. Jessica Gehrig, River, 49.8; 6. Alicia Corabi, Steub. Central, 51.4.

Boys

100M — 1. Ryan Dimmerling, Caldwell, 12.0; 2. Victor Williams, Whg. Central, 11.7; 3. Alex Lamont, Steub. Central, 11.5; 4. Nate Walker, Toronto, 11.7; 5. Ryan Chavez, Whg. Central, 11.9; 6. David Cook, Steub. Central, 11.8.

200M — 1. Steve Neal, Barnesville, 24.2; 2. David McIntire, River, 23.6; 3. Alex Lamont, Steub. Central, 23.1; 4. Jesse Nippert, Monroe Central, 23.5; 5. David Cook, Steub. Central, 23.8; 6. Ryan Dimmerling, Caldwell, 24.3.

400M — 1. Brandon Marcum, Barnesville, 58.8; 2. Brian Barnhart, River, 55.3; 3. David McIntire, River, 53.1; 4. Ryan Dimmerling, Caldwell, 53.8; 5. Travis Taylor, Barnesville, 54.8; 6. Nick Matanzo, Steub. Central, 55.5.

110M HH — 1. Jacob Stanley, Wellsville, 18.9; 2. Jason Carroll, Steub. Central, 18.1; 3. Anthony Hannahs, Barnesville, 15.9; 4. Josh Conner, River, 18.0; 5. Josh Blyssu, Barnesville, 18.1; 6. Josh Lee, River, 18.5.

300M IH — 1. Josh Conner, River, 42.3; 2. Brian Bledt, River, 43.0; 3. Jason Carroll, Steub. Central, 43.5; 4. Joel Robertson, Toronto, 44.1; 5. Jason Leach, Barnesville, 44.8; 6. Mark Davis, Wellsville, 45.1; 6. Matt Thelmer, Whg. Central, 45.1.

* — is not in lane assignment due to a tie for the sixth best time.

OVAC Class 1-A Results

FINALS

4X800 — 1. Shadyside 10:25.9; 2. Linsly 10:33.5; 3. Paden City 11:05.5; 4. Bridgeport 11:58.0; 5. Cameron 12:57.9; 6. Valley 15:18.4.

HIGH JUMP — 1. Ashley Walker, Linsly 4-10; 2. Sarah McKain, Linsly 4-08; 3. Jenna Johnson, Shadyside 4-08; 4. Erin Campbell, Paden City 4-08; 5. Tara Loy, Bridgeport 4-04; 6. Lindsey Hooker, Bridgeport 4-02; 5. Jillian Johnson, Shadyside 4-02.

POLE VAULT — 1. Sherie McLane, Shadyside 6-0; 2. Sarah Martin, Linsly 6-0.

SHOT PUT — 1. Holly Hamlin, Bridgeport 36-08.25; 2. Alicia Vucelick, Cameron 35-00.75; 3. Valerie Reed, Bridgeport 33-10; 4. Jessica Adams, St. John's 33-0; 5. Shanda Mason, Cameron 31-00.75; 6. Mary Yaso, Linsly 28-05.50.

3200M Run — 1. Andrew Lewis, Shadyside 10:23.7; 2. Eddie Sargus, St. John's 10:48.8; 3. Dane Runyon, Shadyside 10:53.4; 4. Paul Carpenter, Linsly 11:25.1; 5. Jacob Horstman, Warton Madonna 11:48.3; 6. Anthony Giovinazzo, Paden City 11:48.7.

Boys

4X800 — 1. Shadyside 8:48.9; 2. Linsly 9:07.2; 3. Bealeville 9:22.3; 4. St. John's 9:40.3; 5. Bridgeport 9:50.7; 6. Cameron 10:16.8.

POLE VAULT — 1. Jonathan O'Grady, Shadyside 14-08.25; 2. Donnie Vandyke, Shadyside 12-0; 3. Tony Martindale, Linsly 10-0; 4. Luke Long, Valley 10-0.

LONG JUMP — 1. Chris Mahan, Linsly 19-02.50; 2. Steve Lemley, Bealeville 18-07; 3. Anthony Cline, Paden City 18-07; 4. Golin-Mason, Valley 18-01; 5. Chris Caldwell, Bealeville 17-08.50; 6. Josh Franklin, Cameron 17-07.

DISCUS — 1. Kenny Howell, St. John's 157-01; 2. Robert Aubury, Bridgeport 138-04.50; 3. Donnie Wilson, Bridgeport 122-9; 4. Trevor Smith, Linsly 120-07; 5. Dave Hatcher, Paden City 120-02; 6. Derek Ritchie, Shadyside 117-02.

Qualifiers to Friday's Finals According to Lane Assignments Girls

100M Dash — Jesse Crucioti, Shadyside; 2. Tori Campbell,

Cameron; 3. Michelle Curry, Linsly; 4. Natalie Reusser, Linsly; 5. Nikki Glovengo, Blahop Donahue; 6. Stacey Eberle, Shadyside.

200M Dash — 1. Tori Campbell, Cameron, 29.0; 2. Belinda Ronevich, St. John's, 28.0; 3. Michelle Curry, 27.0; 4. Natalie Reusser, Linsly, 27.3; 5. Nikki Glovengo, Blahop Donahue, 28.8; 6. Stacey Eberle, Shadyside, 29.0.

400M — 1. Alicia Cain, Valley, 68.7; 2. Brandi Callarik, St. John's, 65.7; 3. Michelle Curry, 60.9; 4. Belinda Ronevich, St. John's, 62.3; 5. Molly Parsons, Linsly, 63.8; 6. Sarah Fisher, Shadyside, 68.4.

100M Hurdles — 1. Courtney Leach, Bridgeport, 18.6; 2. Lauren Griffin, Shadyside, 18.1; 3. Tabitha Price, Bridgeport, 17.3; 4. Lacie Krupa, Shadyside, 17.7; 5. Sarah McKain, Linsly, 18.1; 6. Alison Tomlin, Paden City, 18.3.

300M Hurdles — 1. Tealee Fazzo, Madonna, 54.5; 2. Danielle Rinkas, St. John's, 53.3; 3. Tabitha Price, Bridgeport, 49.4; 4. Jessie Werner, Linsly, 51.0; 5. Lauren Griffin, Shadyside, 52.5; 6. Andrea Elni, St. John's, 54.1.

Boys

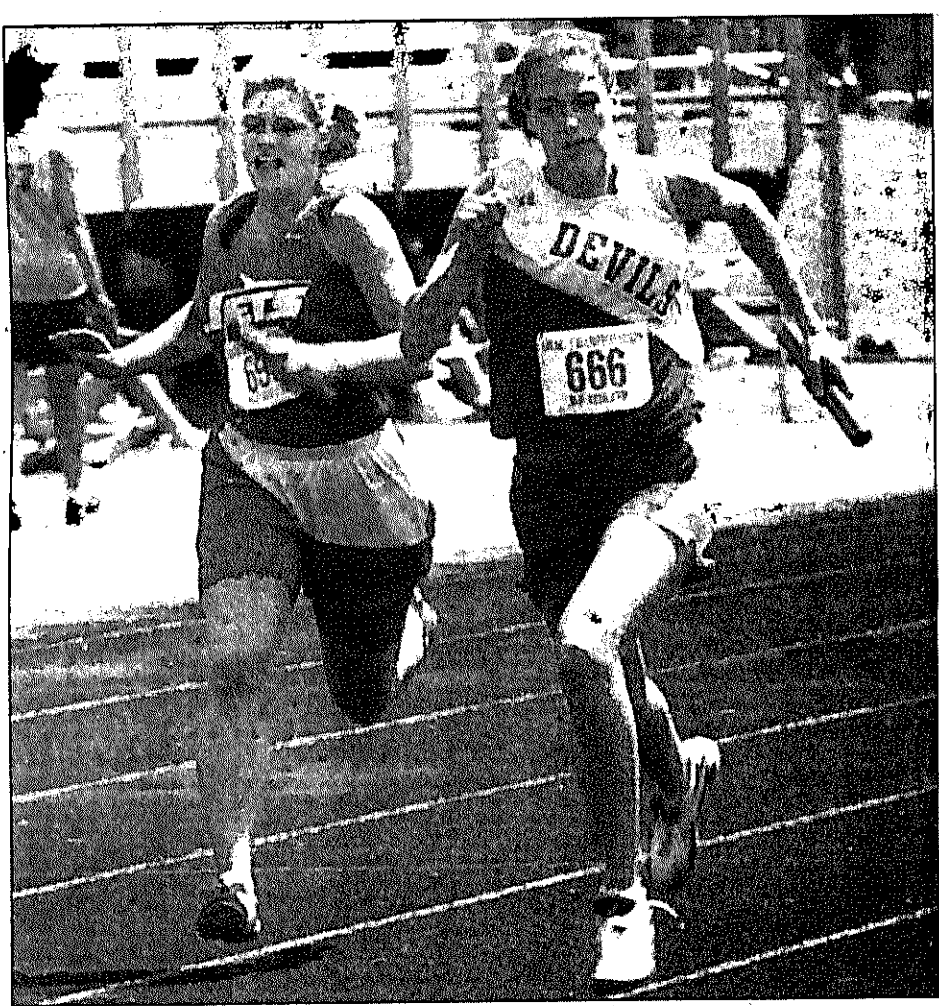
100M — 1. Matt Beltrondo, Shadyside, 12.0; 2. Jon Pappas, Linsly, 11.8; 3. Levi Tiger, Bridgeport, 11.5; 4. Anthony Cline, Paden City, 11.7; 5. Steve Lemley, Bealeville, 11.9; 6. Anthony Cataland, Blahop Donahue, 11.8.

200M — 1. Steve Lemley, Bealeville, 23.8; 2. Matt Devore, Bridgeport, 23.7; 3. Pat Guile, 23.3; 4. Levi Tiger, Bridgeport, 23.5; 5. Daniel Koch, St. John's, 23.7; 6. Jon Pappas, Linsly, 23.9.

400M — 1. Simon Selcavage, Medoona, 54.1; 2. Jarrett Chapman, Linsly, 53.6; 3. Pat Guile, St. John's, 52.3; 4. Daniel Koch, St. John's, 52.7; 5. Matt Devore, Bridgeport, 52.8; 6. Steve Lemley, Bealeville, 53.8.

110M HH — 1. Jason Morgan, Linsly, 17.5; 2. Jim Amato, Shadyside, 18.3; 3. Robert Thomas, Bridgeport, 15.2; 4. John Bobek, Shadyside, 15.9; 5. Josh Franklin, Cameron, 18.2; 6. Matt Knox, St. John's, 18.7.

300M IH — 1. Jim Bable, Bealeville, 44.7; 2. Chris Ney, Shadyside, 43.7; 3. Robert Thomas, Bridgeport, 41.2; 4. Matt Beltrondo, Shadyside, 41.4; 5. Matt Knox, St. John's, 43.6; 6. Jason Morgan, Linsly, 44.0.



T-L Photos/PAULA GINTHER

TOP LEFT: St. Clairsville's Bethany Piccolini sprints down the home-stretch just ahead of Union Local's Jenny Campbell during the last leg 4x100 meter relay. Piccolini and her Red Devil teammates finished second behind Bellaire, while Union Local took third.

ABOVE: Martins Ferry senior Julius Wallace takes the Riders home to victory in the 4x100 meter relay. Wallace and his teammates cruised to a 44.21 clocking in the event. Martins Ferry captured its third consecutive boys 3-A title.

LEFT: Martins Ferry senior Heather Stewart heads to the finish line during the 800 meter finals. Stewart claimed the race in a time of 2:27.93. Bellaire's Ashley Davollo is trailing Stewart and finished third in the event. Stewart's effort helped Martins Ferry claim the girls' 3-A title.

Track Champs



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

SHARING THE OVAC 1-A boys' track championship is this team from Shadyside High School. The Tigers and Linsly each totaled 118 points in tying as champions. The Orange also captured the Ohio Valley Track League championship Monday evening. Shadyside is coached by John Triveri, far right, and Phillip Richardson, far left.

Shadyside, Barnesville boys; River, Linsly girls set pace in opening day of OVAC meet

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference is one-fourth of the way through its annual Cal Giffin Track Meet, but for teams in contention for 1-A and 2-A titles, the race has just begun.

That is the story of the opening night at a sun-splashed Fleming Field in Shadyside on Wednesday.

Barnesville's boys in the AA class have jumped out to a commanding lead as the Shamrocks hold a 53-27 edge over Caldwell with five events in the books.

The girls' 2-A race is being led by River as the Lady Pilots hold a 28-18 cushion over Caldwell.

In Class A, Shadyside has vaulted into the early lead as the Tigers have a 45-32 edge over Linsly.

In the girls' race in the smallest class, it is Linsly with a 35-26.5 over the Lady Tigers.

The Shamrocks used strong efforts in the distance races ran on the opening evening. The 'Rocks captured the 3200 meter relay and also won the 3200 meter run.

The team of Chris Perun, Derek Allar, Travis Taylor and Ronnie Heskett combined their talents for a time of 8:44.8.

Perun then came back and won the two mile as circled the paved surface on eight occasions for a clocking of 10:08.8, which was some 22 seconds better than his nearest competitor.

The western-Belmont County School did not just use a strong dis-

tance effort as senior jumping standout Josh Bilyeu pocketed the long jump gold as he soared to a 20-8 reading.

Anthony Hannahs also placed in the long jump as he picked up third place with an effort of 19-0.5.

The 'Rocks also put together a strong effort in the semifinals as coach Sean McCrate's team qualified at least one person to Friday evening's finals in all, but one event.

River also enjoyed a strong showing in the first session as the Pilots are sitting in third with 20 points.

The majority of those markers came in the pole vault as the Hannibal-based school took the top two spots in the event.

Tom Frye and Ryan Potts went one and two, respectively as Frye cleared 12-feet and Potts soared over the bar at 11-6.

Monroe Central's Jesse Nippert placed second in the long jump as he leaped 20-6.

The other individual winner in the boys' double A event was Caldwell's Ben Jenkins who won the discus throw with a heave of 135-8.

IN THE girls' race in the double A division, River used an impressive showing in the field, as the Lady Pilots did not score a point in the track.

The Lady Pilots, did however, take the top two spots in the pole vault as junior Jessica Gehrig and Freda McIntire went one-two, respectively.

Gehrig cleared 8-feet, while her

teammate got over the bar at 6-6.

Sarah Hartline took second in the shot put with a heave of 33-8 1/2.

The Lady Pilots have just three runners qualified on the track and all are in the hurdling events.

Barnesville, which has the possibility of scoring a lot of points during Friday's session, is currently in third with 14 points.

The Lady Shamrocks produced one individual champion as senior distance standout Rachael Miller captured the 3200 meter run with a time of 11:53.8.

The Lady Shamrocks saw one of their performers set one of only two records broken on the first evening of competition.

Junior sensation Jennie Castle set a record, in the event that is slowly becoming her specialty, the 300 hurdles.

Castle cleared the hurdles in a time of 45.6 and that broke the old mark of Barbara Baker, which was formerly 47.2 and it was a mark that had stood since 1996.

Castle also qualified in the 200 meter dash, while sophomore Ruthie Morgan will be in the 400 meter dash finals. The Lady Rocks' Karri Anderson is also in the mix for the 100 high hurdle final.

IN SINGLE A Shadyside appears headed to yet another title as the Tigers tallied 45 points.

Shadyside used a dynamite performance in the pole vault as senior standout Jonathan O'Grady remained perfect on Wednesday.

O'Grady also established a new meet record breaking his brother

Tim O'Grady record. Jonathan jumped 14-8 1/4 to etch his name in the OVAC history book.

"The record means a lot to me. It is hard to PR (Personal Record) twice in the same day. My brother has really helped me out a lot this season and it means a lot to me to be able to break his record," an elated Jonathan O'Grady said.

The Tigers also took second in the pole as junior Donnie Van Dyke went over 12-6 in the vaulting event to take home second place.

The Orange distance contingent continued to shine on Wednesday as junior standout Andrew Lewis won the 3200 meter run.

Lewis, who led wire-to-wire, eight laps in 10:23.7, which was good enough for the gold medal.

The Tigers also won the 3200 meter relay as the team of Lewis, Dan Schmelick, David Jack and Dane Runyon passed the baton to a time of 8:48.9 and the OVAC title.

The Tigers also have two hurdlers in the high finals and two in the intermediate finals set for Friday's action.

Linsly, which is currently in second place with 32 points, produced one winner on the night as junior Chris Mahan took home the long jump championship with a leap of 19-2 1/2.

St. John Central had a strong evening as the Irish produced one winner as West Virginia University track recruit Kenny Howell won his third straight OVAC discus crown with a heave of 157-1.

Freshman Eddie Sargus also do-

nated nice points as he placed second in the two mile with a time of 10:48.6.

The Irish also qualified two into both the 200 meter dash and lap dash finals.

Bridgeport had one of the stronger performances and scored just 16 points.

The Bulldogs had senior Robert Asbury pocket second place honors in the plate-throwing event as he twirled the discus 136-4 1/2. Donnie Wilson was right behind Asbury in third with a heave of 122-0.

The 'Dogs qualified two into the 200 meter dash finals, have the top entrant in the 110 meter high hurdles as well as the 300 meter intermediate hurdles.

Beallsville also tallied 16 points as the Blue Devils' senior Steve Lemley was second in the long jump with a leap of 18-7.

LINSLY used a strong field event showing to get out of the blocks early toward the title.

The Lady Cadets took the top two spots in the high jump and also placed second in the pole vault and in the 3200 meter relay.

The Wheeling-based school saw Ashley Walker take the high jump as she cleared 4-10 for the title.

Sarah McKain was second in the high jump with a height of 4-8.

Sarah Martin was runnerup in the pole vault with a jump of 6-feet.

Senior sprint dandy Michelle Curry will score serious points in the sprint events as she owns the top time in the 100, 200 and 400 meter dashes.



CASTLE



O'GRADY

Shadyside, which produced two individual winners, tallied 26.5 points on the first night of action.

The Lady Tigers' crack 4X800 relay team of Tristin Miracle, Jessica Melanko, Andrea Lewis and Ashley Holenka combined to pass the baton to a season's best time of 10:25.9.

Freshman Sherrie McClane took home the pole vault title by virtue of a leap of 6-feet.

The Lady Orange qualified two in the 100 meter hurdles, one in the 400 meter dash, two in the 100 meter dash and one in the 300 meter hurdles and one in the 200 meter dash.

Bridgeport produced one champion as senior strong woman Holly Hamlin took home the iron ball with a put of 36-6 1/4.

The Lady Bulldogs qualified sophomore-dandy Tabitha Price to the finals in both the 100 meter hurdles and 300 meter low hurdles.

Action in 1-A and 2-A will resume on Friday at 4 p.m. with field events. The big schools kicked off their meet at Brooke today and will conclude Saturday.