

# Ohio wins eighth straight OVAC Classic

• Buckeyes prevail, 19-12

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Another OVAC Rudy Mumley Charity All-Star Classic and another Ohio win.

But it did not come quite as easy as some of the previous 30 OVAC games, the Buckeyes pulling out a hard-fought 19-12 win Sunday evening at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"This was an exciting game for the fans, but it was a little too close for comfort on my end of it," Ohio head coach Dave Everson said. "This game was a battle and I give Coach Linsky and his staff credit because they were big underdogs and their kids really came to play."

Though the Mountaineers fell short in the game for the eighth consecutive summer, West Virginia head coach Mike Linsky could not have been prouder of the way his kids performed.

"We can't ask for anymore out of our kids," Linsky explained. "They absolutely played their hearts out. I told the kids I was happy that they left everything they had out on the field."

Both teams seemed to use the opening panel to feel each other out, but in the second quarter, both squads were unable to uncork their offenses.

Ohio was able to score the game's first two touchdowns thanks to adept passing from Shadyside's Mike Kernik.

"Mike Kernik is a good quarterback," Everson said. "We were able to put some points on the board and he did a good job for us."

For the first Buckeye touchdown, Kernik threw a fade route to Steubenville's John Lester, who used all of his 6-ft-2 frame to haul in the 22-yard scoring play. Wellsville's Matt Engle tacked on the PAT and with 7:36 to play in the opening half, Ohio led 7-0.

After Lester came up with an interception on the next Mountaineer possession, Ohio set up shop on its own 36.

The Buckeyes needed 11 plays and 3:23 before Kernik found St. John Central's Joey Vavra on a short four-yard pass after Vavra looped out of the backfield into the flat. The point after play went astray and Ohio found itself with what appeared a commanding 13-0 lead.

See, OVAC, Page B2



REALITY CHECK

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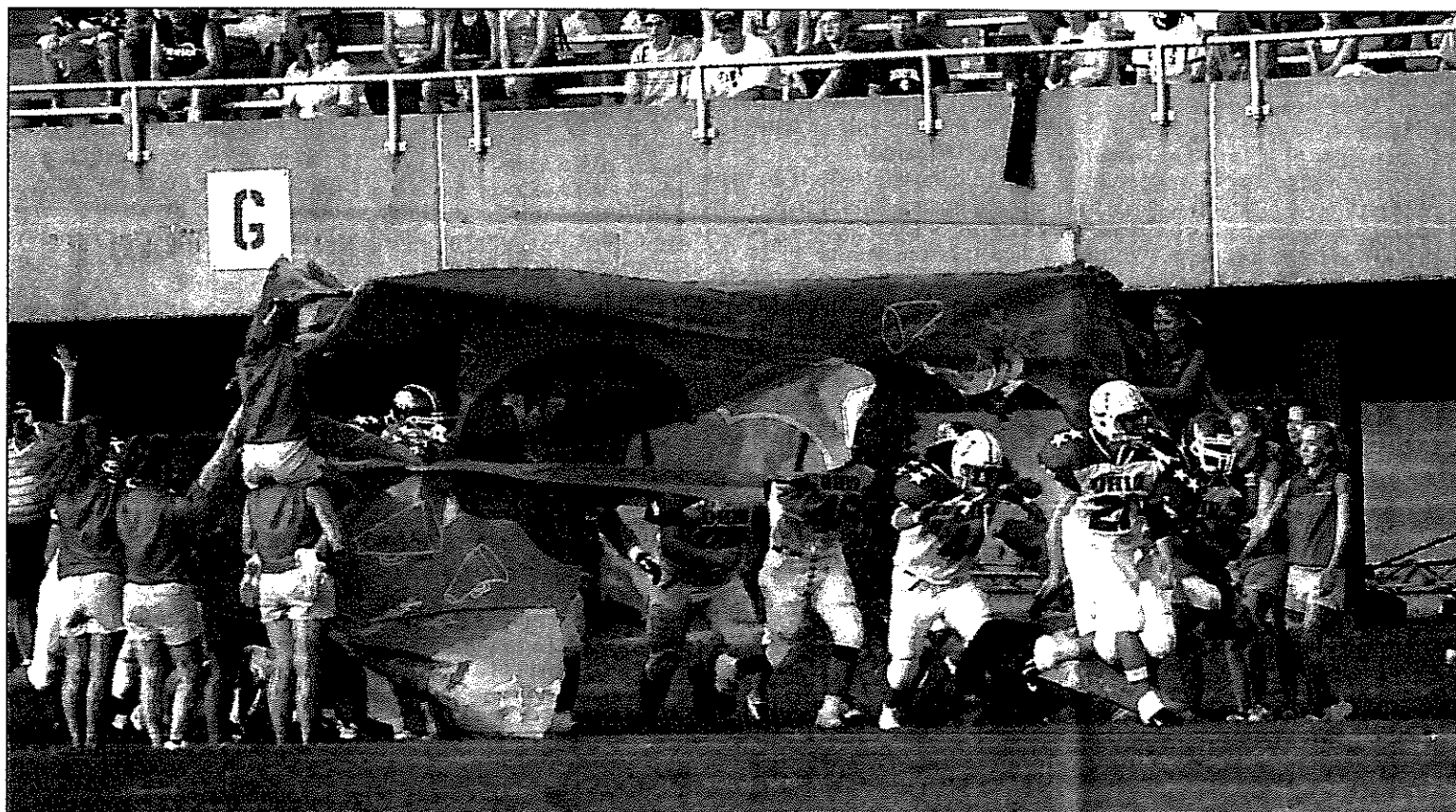
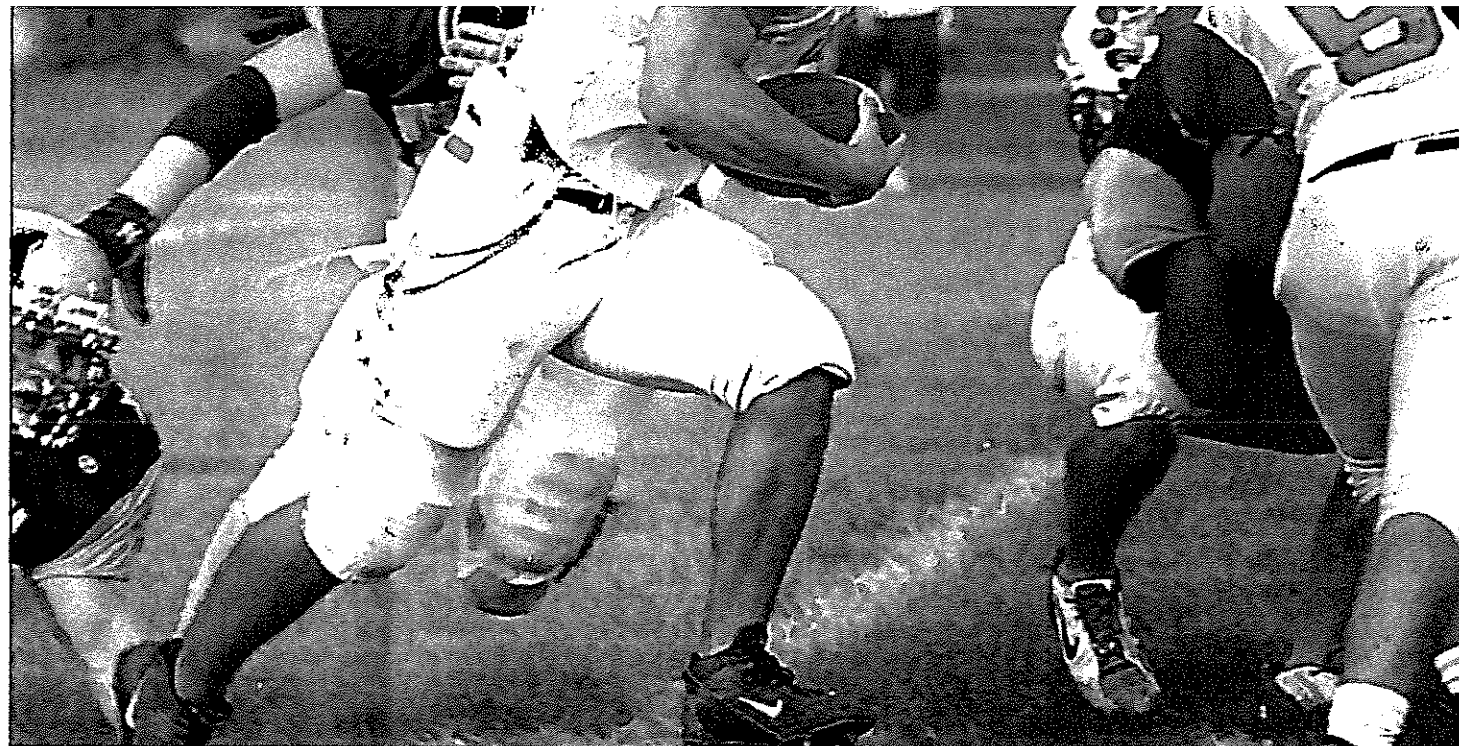
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See, OVAC, Page B2



## REALITY CHECK

# OVAC stays the course



By  
**RICH GIBSON**  
Times Leader  
Sports Editor

Forget about that format change. At least for now.

The idea of turning the annual OVAC mid-summer classic into a potential North-South series has been an appealing idea to many — most notably among West

Virginia supporters who have some live ammo in their muskets to back such suggestions.

Ohio with its wide-reaching base of OVAC member schools, has been known to dominate this game in a given year.

Much to the delight of 6,000-plus in attendance Sunday evening, the neighboring rivals produced a highly-entertaining affair, the Buckeyes prevailing by a touchdown.

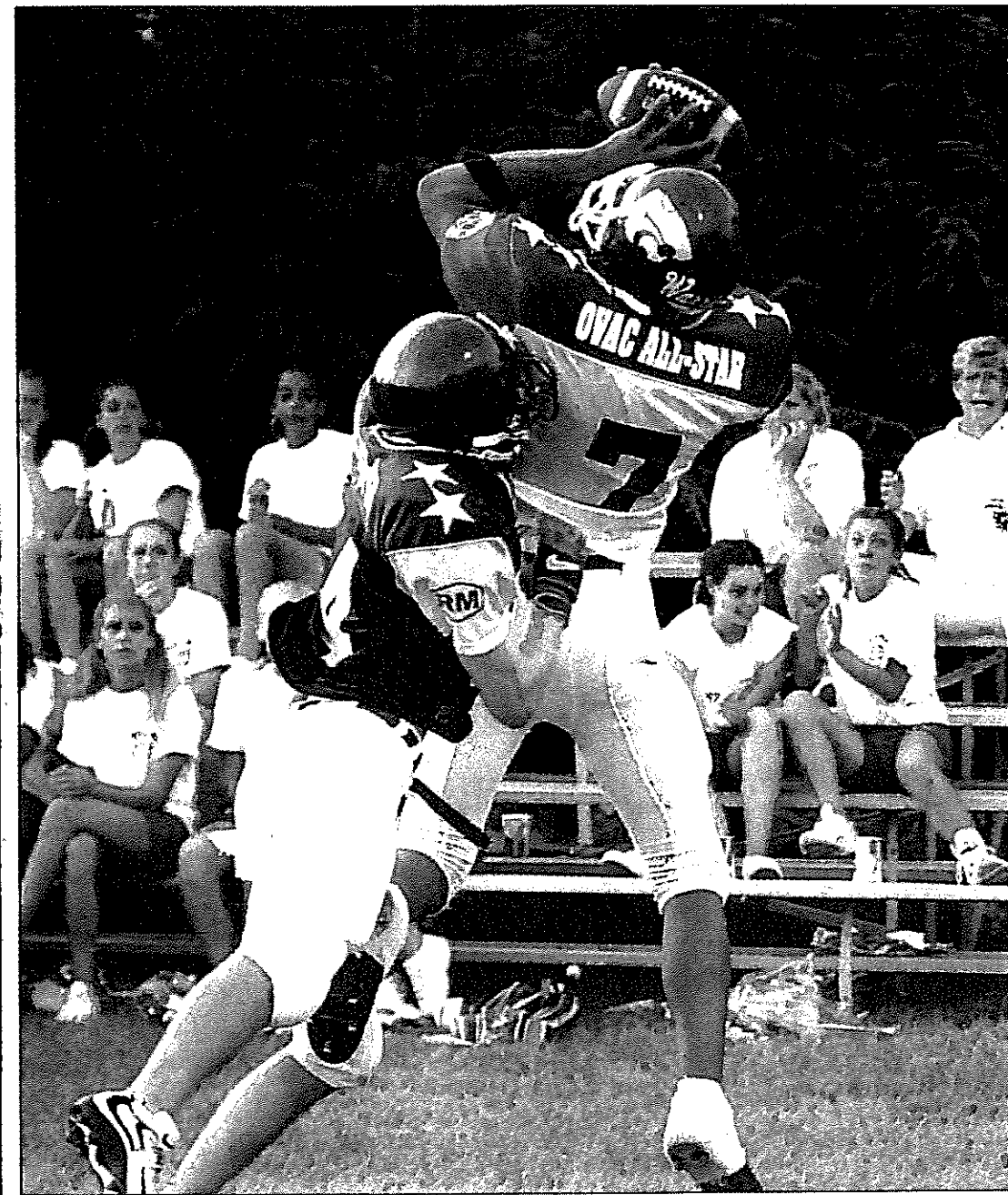
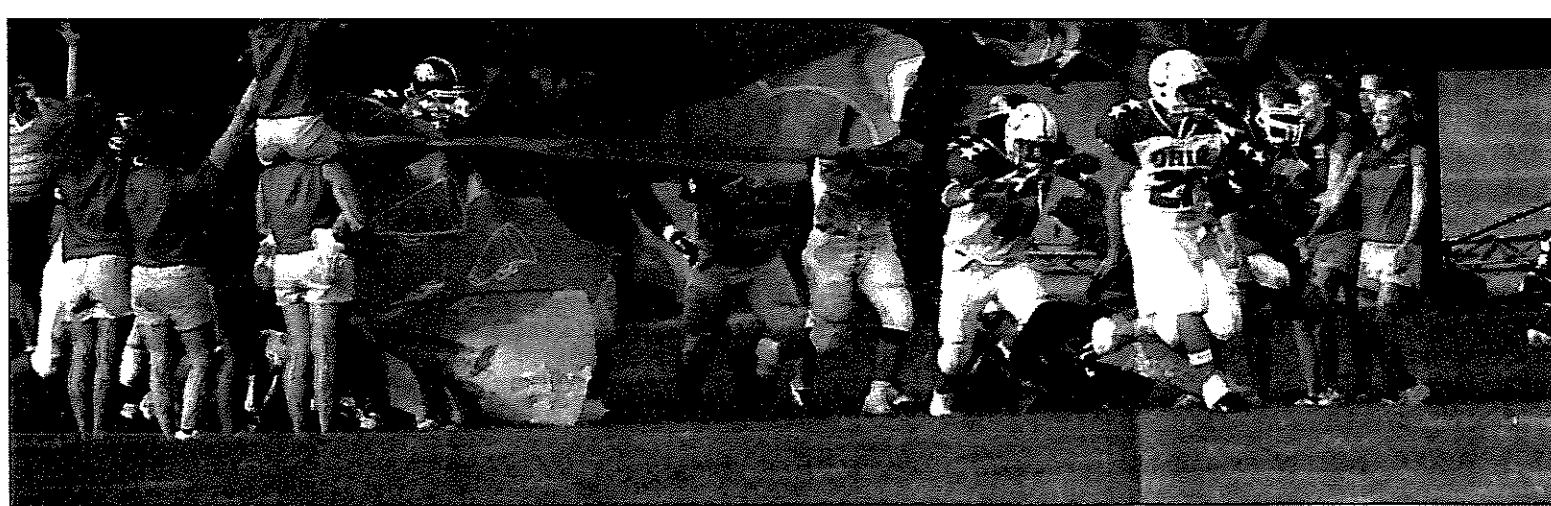
"What you saw (here tonight) is the reason we should never consider anything but a Ohio-West Virginia format," reasoned former game director Ron Mauck who currently serves as an all-star adviser.

"We know West Virginia is going to be underdog more times than not, but there's a unique quality associated with Ohio vs. West Virginia that wouldn't be there if (we) were to go to North/South."

Mauck's right-on concerning the built-in rivalry Buckeyes against Mountaineers generates.

On the other hand, Blue and Gold fans are used to driving off the Island disappointed and will likely continue to do so, considering Sunday's triumph was Ohio's eighth consecutive.

"I just think plusses far outweigh the minuses leaving the game where it's at," added Mauck.



T-L Photos/MICHAEL HARVILLA

**TOP: SHADYSIDE'S** Mike Kernik scrambles out of the pocket, behind a block of Cambridge's David Marlatt (54), during the first half of Sunday evening's 31st annual Rudy Mumley Charity All-Star Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kernik was the Buckeyes' leading rusher and led Ohio two a pair of touchdowns.

**MIDDLE: TEAM** Ohio comes racing onto the field before the annual OVAC all-star Classic Sunday. Leading the way onto the field is Martins Ferry's Joey Danehart (21) and Dustin Holt (44).

**BOTTOM: LEAPING** into the air to bring down a touchdown reception during the Mumley All-Star Classic is Steubenville's John Lester (7). Defending for West Virginia is John Marshall's Luke Cunningham. The touchdown was Lester's only catch of the game, but he also had an interception on defense.



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The 31st Mumleyfest was one of the most competitive in recent years.

"I think the fans had to enjoy this one," offered Ohio coach Dave Everson of Edison. "We had to play in some humid conditions and the kids seemed to handle it pretty well."

Everson, who played under the late George Strager, Ohio's head coach in the 1987 game, was victorious in his initial tenure as Buckeye boss.

"If they asked me to coach this game again tomorrow, I'd do it in a second," Everson related. "Realistically, you can't possibly get execution and timing down in such a short period of time. As a result, there's likely going to be some turnovers as there was (tonight). But everyone got to see a pretty good football game."

Said Buckeye Local's Jack Otto, one of many Ohio defensive stars, "This game was everything and more I thought it would be. It was awesome out there...a defensive battle...the kind of game I love to play in."

Otto blasted through to block an extra point placement following West Virginia's first touchdown just before halftime.

St. Clairsville's Brett Jordan was a major contributor with seven catches. "The middle was open about all night," said Jordan, bound for Mount Union College. "It was a great game to play in. It was real competitive out there."

Barnesville's Jon Miller agreed. "I felt like it was going to be close and I'm glad it was," said Miller, whose 18-yard TD reception completed the game's scoring.

See, **REALITY**, Page B2

## ● Reality

Continued from Page B1

### EXTRA POINTS

**BUCKEYE TRAIL'S** Cody Lenarz is a widebody at 6-1, 300. Still, Lenarz had to look up at the Warriors' Queen of Queen candidate, Bethany Lucas, who stands six-foot-two. The attractive Lucas, a resident of Bethesda, will enroll at Ohio State this fall and major in business....

**CALDWELL'S** Tricia Hayes was selected Queen of Queens during halftime festivities which included another stellar presentation by the OVAC/McDonald's All-Star Band..

**CONGRATULATIONS** to St. Clairsville resident Dr. Luis Vazquez, long-time supporter and consultant to the OVAC who received an appreciation plaque for 31 years of service to the conference....

**SO MUCH** for the Pirates' 9-3 start following the all-star break. The Bucs who went belly-up in Houston, scored three runs last Friday but were shut out in three of four outings at hitter friendly Minute Maid Park...Hopefully Lloyd McClendon read his team the riot act following Sunday's pitiful performance....

**SHOULD** the Indians deal Jim Thome in the next few hours, expect an uproar on the lakefront from Tribe fans who continue to watch their team dismantled....

## OVAC

(Continued from Page 14)

After Oak Glen's Derrick Stickles picked off his second Kernik pass of the first half and returned it 56 yards to the Ohio 27, West Virginia was in scoring position once again with 1:15 remaining in the half.

On the first play from scrimmage, John Marshall's Luke Cunningham caught an Edwards pass of a deflection, giving the Mountaineers a first-and-10 at the Ohio 15-yard line. But two running plays and a pair of incompletions netted just 1 yard, giving the ball back to Ohio.

"We had a hard time neutralizing (Weir's) Vince Magnone and Stickles," Everson explained. "They were fast on defense, probably a little faster than we anticipated."

"We hit it with some plays, but we just couldn't get any consistency offensively (in the first half)."

West Virginia hit the big plays at the outset of the third quarter.

Cameron's Roger Kupfer returned the second-half kickoff 35 yards, allowing the Mountaineers to set up shop at their own 48.

Edwards found Wheeling Park's Keith Banks for a 14-yard gain to the Ohio 45, and then scrambled for 15 more down to the Buckeyes' 30.

After Banks and Edwards hooked up again — this time for 15 yards — Stickles took it over from the 1 to bring West Virginia to within a point at 13-12.

However, Linsky elected to go for two and Stickles — out of the same formation — was stopped short of the end zone.

West Virginia, which limited Ohio to just five second-half first downs — it allowed 20 in the first half — got the ball back with 5:49 remaining in the third, when Cameron's Tucker Brown intercepted St. Clairsville's Adam Quirk and returned the ball to the W.Va. 29.

The Mountaineers were penalized 17 yards on the drive and Edwards was

sacked by Cambridge's Joel East for seven yards, bringing the ball all the way back to the W.Va. 16. Edwards was then picked off by Indian Creek's Keith Keenan, who returned the ball all the way to the Mountaineers' 29.

"It came down to Keith Keenan making a couple of big plays for us there in the fourth quarter and that was probably the difference," Everson said.

Fast forward to the fourth, when Wheeling Central's Jon Gordon — the only three-time all-stater in Maroon Knight history — got a hand on a Devon Singleton punt, giving West Virginia the ball back at its own 36 with 6:52 remaining in the contest.

But three plays later, Edwards, who was in the shotgun, had the snap go over his head. Edwards attempted to dive on the loose football, but had it go off his leg.

Ten yards later, Steubenville's Luke Hartman fell on it at the Mountaineer 7.

"The snap, which all the kid was trying

to do was beat the clock ... the kid was trying to make an intelligent play," Linsky said. "Justin said, 'I was thinking timeout, timeout.'"

"But hey, that's football."

West Virginia got the football back four plays, and a penalty later, when Engle missed a 26-yard field goal.

Edwards found Banks over the middle for a 20-yard gain, but Banks, who attempted to spin, had the ball jarred loose by Keenan and picked up by Martins Ferry's Dustin Holt.

Ohio had dodged its final bullet.

Quirk then found Barnesville's Jon Miller down the left sideline for the game-clinching 18-yard score.

"This is my first game and I have four new coaches on my staff," Everson said. "I think we had them ready to play, but coach Linsky is a great coach and he came out and motivated his kids."

"They had nothing to lose. They played hard and I give them credit."



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

**THE COACHES** for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity Football Classic shake hands at Monday afternoon's media day at West Liberty State College. John Marshall's Mike Linsky (left) will handle the West Virginia squad while Edison's Dave Everson is in charge of the Ohio troops.

### OVAC All-Star Game set Sunday

# Time for some football

By **RICH GIBSON**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

Ready for some football?

The answer, on a steamy Monday afternoon on the campus of West Liberty State College was an emphatic yes from players and coaches participating in this year's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Classic.

Because of Monday's excessive heat and humidity, Ohio's Dave Everson and West Virginia's Mike Linsky were relegated to light workouts with their respective teams.

Still, Everson feels anticipation will build as game day draws near.

"The first few days here, we're in the process of working on timing and execution," he remarked. "I think by the end of the week, we'll have a pretty good idea what we want to do."

And the Edison Wildcats' grid boss is harboring no secrets.

"We want to and intend to throw the football," he said. "We have a couple capable passers in (Shadyside's Mike

Kernik and St. Clairsville's Adam Quirk) and a third young man (Meadowbrook's Devon Singleton) who gives us another dimension."

Everson admits his initial selection to coach the mid-summer classic appears a case of exceptional timing.

"Looking over our roster, we have some great athletes blessed with skill. You have to try and take advantage."

The Buckeye coach also likes what he sees of the Mountaineer roster.

"Don't think they have fewer weapons," Everson warned. "On paper, I'd have a project a high scoring game and that's usually what fans want to see in an all-star format."

Various players, meanwhile, share similar sentiments towards the game.

"Ten years ago, I was Ohio's team manager when (Buckeye Local's) Billy West played in this game," recalled Linsky's versatile R.J. Zitzelsberger. "This is the one (we) look forward too as kids. Now, it's an opportunity to play one final high school game."

See, **OVAC**, Page B2

## Evening with the Stars kicks off OVAC week

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

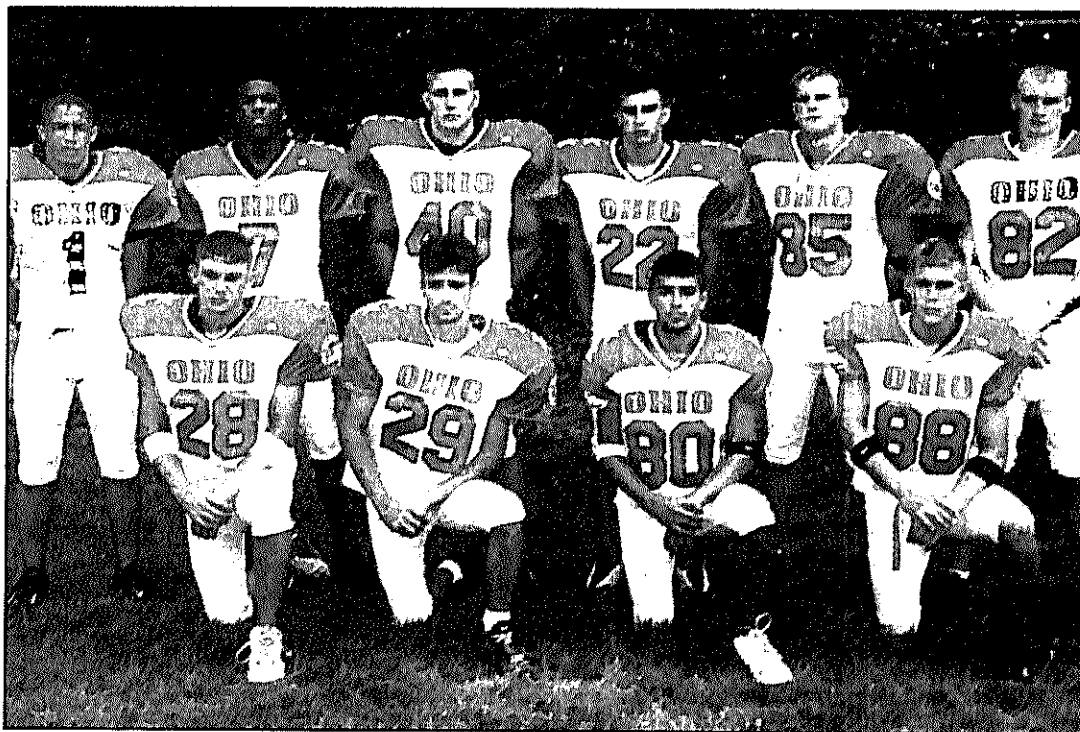
The events leading up to the 31st annual Rudy Mumley Charity All-Star Classic kicked into full swing Wednesday evening.

The 16th annual George Strager Evening with the Stars took place at the Ramada City Center Plaza in downtown Wheeling with players, cheerleaders, queen candidates, major corporate sponsors and guests gathering.

As for the game, kickoff is slated Sunday evening at 7:15 at Wheeling Island Stadium and according to both Ohio head coach Dave Everson and West Virginia mentor Mike Linsky, preparations are going very well in both teams' camps.

"Preparation is going really well," Everson said. "We had some hot weather early in the week, but caught a little bit of a break (today) and everything is really starting to come together."

In the West Virginia camp, things are also going very well as the Mountaineers try to grasp Linsky's system.



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

**EXPECTED** to play prominent roles in Sunday night's OVAC All-Star Game at Wheeling Stadium is this group of Ohio receivers. Front row, from left: Matt Ludewig (Toronto), Michael Yanni (Steubenville Central), Jon Miller (Barnesville), Kyle Rankin (Meadowbrook). Standing, from left: Brett Jordan (St. Clairsville), John Lester (Steubenville), Jason Sanders (Edison), Garrett Carter (Edison), Ben Doyle (Bellaire) and David Thomas (Union Local).

See, **OVAC**, Page B2

## ● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

Said Barnesville's diminutive 5-ft. 8 Jon Miller, the Washington & Jefferson (Pa.) College bound receiver.

"I don't think I grew an inch between my freshman and senior years, but I always felt I could go out and play. I'm definitely looking forward to Sunday. I'm hoping a few passes come my way."

Union Local's Dave Thomas says his selection achieved a long-running goal. "From my first varsity game as a sophomore, one of my biggest goals was playing (here). It's a dream come true."

In addition to two-a-days at West Liberty, players, cheerleaders and OVAC/McDonald's All-Star Band participants have several activities to look forward to.

The 16th Annual George Strager Evening With The Stars

unfolds Wednesday at downtown Wheeling's Ramada Plaza City Center Hotel.

The Queen of Queens Talent Show takes place Friday (7:00) at the Wheeling Civic Center. Admission is \$5 at the door.

At Saturday evening's (6:00) pep rally at West Liberty State's Russek Field, players, cheerleaders, Queen of Queens candidates and band personnel will be formally introduced. Gates open at 5:00 for the free event.

Fans are reminded advance tickets at \$7 are available at various locations, including Kroger Stores; DeFelice Brothers Pizza (Shadyside) and Weber's Drug Store (Woodsfield).

All tickets at the gate Sunday are priced \$10. Children under the age of five are admitted free.

## ● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

"The kids are really picking things up quite well," Linsky said. "We decided early in the week to let the kids bang around a little bit and now we will just try to polish things up."

The Buckeye State mentor, who is the head coach at Edison and also served on the Ohio State staff when the Buckeyes won the Rose Bowl, is starting to piece his puzzle together in terms of lineups.

"We are starting to figure things out personnel wise with what we want to do both offensively and defensively," Everson pointed out.

One battle for a starting job which hasn't been decided yet is the quarterback with Shadyside's Mike Kernik and St. Clairsville's Adam Quirk both taking reps with the first team.

"We still have to decide who is going to start, but there is no question that both guys are going to play," Everson admitted. "Both are intelligent young men and both have picked the system up quite well."

Linsky has already named his starting quarterback for Sunday's tussle. Wheeling Central's Justin Edwards has been named to the starting spot for the Mountaineers.

"Justin will be the starter, and Jimmy (Scherich) will play some receiver and be the top backup," Linsky said. "When the kids got into camp, we told them that we may ask some of them to try different positions and all have done really well."

Not that any coach in an all-star game puts a lot into a game plan, but both Everson and Linsky report that fans on the Island Sunday can expect the ball to be in the air.

"We are going to spread it out and throw the ball, then try to create a numbers advantage and then run the ball," Everson said. "We want to get the ball into our athletic kids' hands. Our receiving corps and running backs are all excellent athletes and we want to get the ball into their hands as much as possible."

Linsky, who is known for his throwing offense at John Marshall, expects it to be a game of speed against speed.

"The big thing is our speed against their speed especially out on the perimeter and the kids are doing a good job," Linsky said.

Injuries always prove to be a factor and both camps are happy to report nothing more than a sprain or two, but nothing serious enough for any of the players to miss the game.

The Evening with the Stars also featured the presentation of five \$400 scholarships to athletes who attended the George Strager Camp last summer and then reached the all-star game.

Kelly Rine, athletic director at Meadowbrook High and camp director for the Strager, presented Barnesville's Jon Miller, Buckeye Trail's Cody Lenarz, Harrison Central's Brendan Nunner Cambridge's David Marlett and Wheeling Central's Jonathan Gordon all with a scholarship.

The all-star events continue this week for the players with an ice cream social at West Liberty tonight.

Friday's scene shifts to the Wheeling Civic Center where the Queen of Queens Pageant takes place and there will be a pep rally held at West Liberty Saturday, starting at 6 p.m.

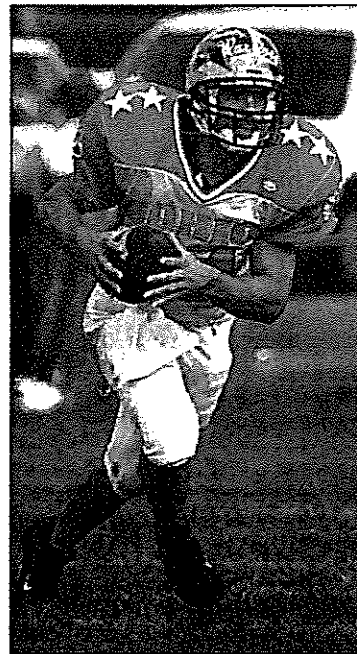


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

MIKE KERNIK

## Kernik On The Run

By SAM AMICO  
Sports Editor

Ohio quarterback Mike Kernik had a theory.

"When you see a huge gaping hole, you gotta make a run for it," he said.

**OVAC NOTEBOOK** Kernik, of Shadyside High School, was the Buckeyes' starter in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic on Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Ohio won 19-12 and Kernik finished with 74 yards on 12 carries. He also completed 14 of 21 passes for 170 yards — but on this night, his passing stats were almost beside the point.

That's because every time the Buckeyes needed a big run, Kernik gave it to them.

"The line gave me a lot of room to run, it's that simple," said Kernik, who led the Tigers to the state's Division VI semifinals last fall. "I got the ball in the shotgun, and it was just wide open out there."

Kernik also credited Ohio's

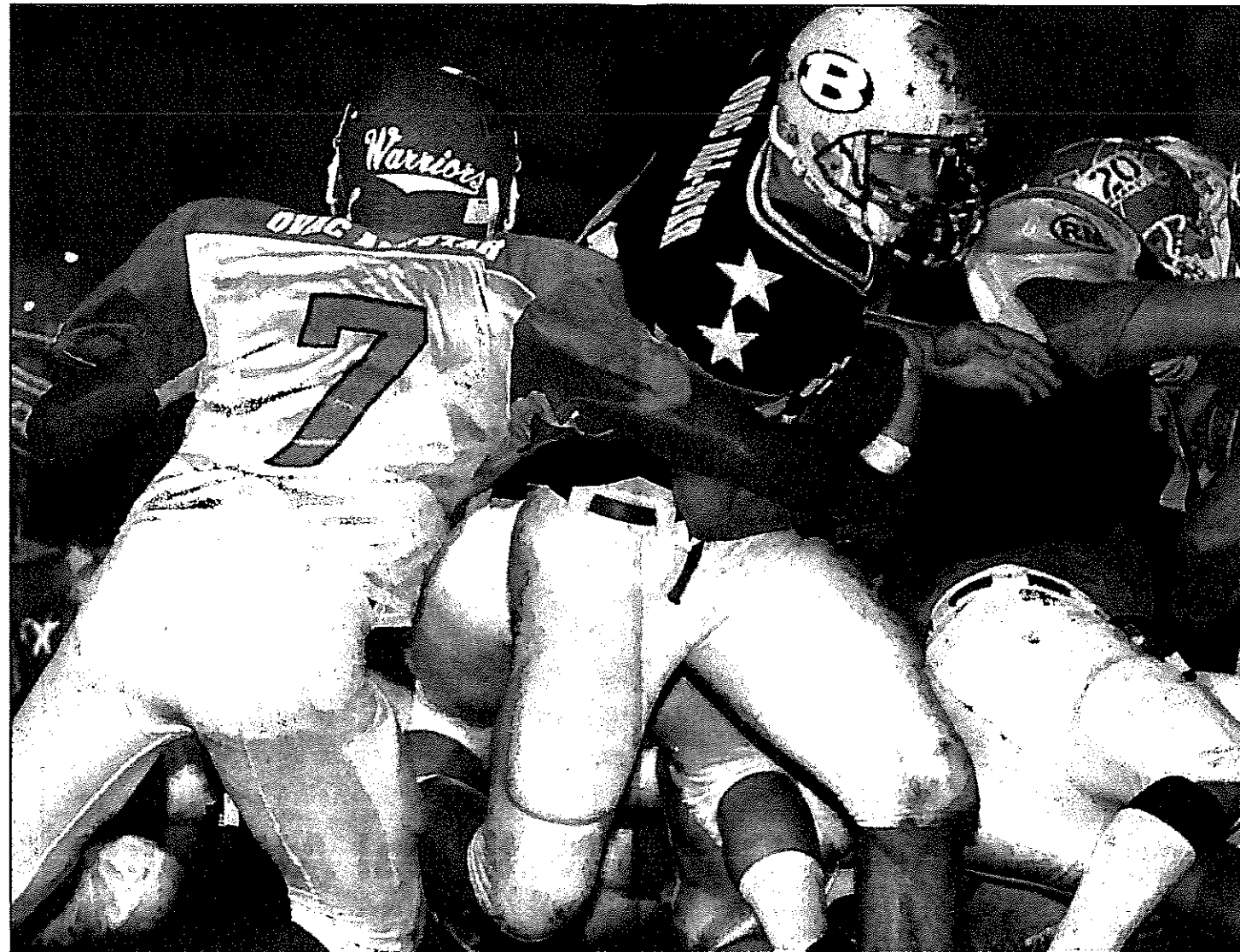


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

West Virginia's Derrick Stickles rushes through the line and tries to avoid an arm tackle by Ohio's John Lester during action Sunday of the 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. Ohio won the game 19-12, running its current win streak in the series to eight games.

# Ohio Wins Eighth Straight

## Turnovers doom West Virginia's upset bid in OVAC All-Star Classic

By SHAWN RINE  
Staff Writer

Most had West Virginia pegged as decided underdogs.

But for three quarters and some change, the Mountaineers gave a lesson on why the game isn't played on paper.

However, two costly fourth-quarter fumbles changed the tide, enabling Ohio to pick up its eighth straight win Sunday night, 19-12, in the 31st Annual

fourth quarter, that was the difference right there."

Linsky didn't want to focus on the negatives, but rather he chose to touch on the great week of preparation his squad gave him and the effort it put forth Sunday night.

"We felt like when we picked this team, we picked the quickest bunch of kids we could, because there was no way we could match up with (Ohio) size-

Kernik completed 14-of-21 passes for 170 yards and two touchdowns, and broke free on numerous scrambles and quarterback draws for 74 yards on 12 carries.

"It's a great feeling; we had lots of fun this week," Kernik said. "We all got along great with the West Virginia team, they are a great bunch of guys and I just had a lot of fun."

"There were great athletes all

The Buckeye defense gave Kernik and Co. the ball back three plays later, when Lester stepped in front of a reverse pass attempt by Brooke's Jim Scherich, and returned it to the Ohio 36.

Eleven plays and 64 yards later, Kernik found Bellaire St. John's Joey Vavra out of the backfield with a 3-yard toss to make it 13-0 in favor of Ohio. The two-point conversion pass



SAM AMICO

Sports Editor

## W.Va. Feels The Pain

After three quarters, West Virginia could feel it.

After three quarters, the Mountaineers trailed by one measly point.

And after three quarters, it seemed like this would finally ... be ... the year.

Then came The Snap.

The came The Fumble.

Then came West Virginia quarterback Justin Edwards sitting on the bench at the end of the game, an icepack on his ankle and a grimace on his face.

Next thing you knew, Ohio was celebrating its eighth straight win in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic.

The final score was 19-12.

"It hurts just to hear that," said West Virginia lineman Justin Tarovisky. "This is a horrible feeling."

Tarovisky just completed a remarkable career at Wheeling Park High School. He will now play defensive end for California University, a Division II school in Pennsylvania.

But don't try to convince him that this was supposed to be nothing more than a fun way to kill a summer night.

"It was only supposed to be an all-star game," he said, wiping sweat from his head and staring at the ground. "But I feel like we just lost the state championship."

Then Tarovisky paused. He tried to force a smile, to look on the bright side.

"They can't say that they wumped us, I guess," said the 6-foot-5, 230-pounder. "We played our hearts out. We had the game in our grasp."

Tarovisky speaks the truth, as West Virginia trailed 13-12 with the ball and 4:52 on the clock.

But the snap went over

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Kernik also credited Ohio's receivers for running their pass routes "to near perfection."

Actually, a lot of things worked to near perfection when Kernik was on the field for the entire first half, as that is when the Buckeyes scored two of their three touchdowns.

Kernik will now head to Mount Union, where he'll play for the NCAA Division III champion Purple Raiders.

But first, he's going to savor the week — and game — that was.

See **NOTEBOOK** Page 17



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

West Virginia's Derrick Stickles rushes through the line and tries to avoid an arm tackle by Ohio's John Lester during action Sunday of the 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. Ohio won the game 19-12, running its current win streak in the series to eight games.

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Both coaches — Ohio's Dave Everson of Edison, and West Virginia's Mike Linsky of John Marshall — concurred: the turnovers were the difference in an otherwise well-played football game.

"West Virginia, I give them all the credit in the world," Everson said afterward. They came in as big underdogs, but they fought hard and they played hard.

"The two turnovers in the

fourth quarter, that was the difference right there."

Linsky didn't want to focus on the negatives, but rather he chose to touch on the great week of preparation his squad gave him and the effort it put forth Sunday night.

"We felt like when we picked this team, we picked the quickest bunch of kids we could, because there was no way we could match up with (Ohio) size-wise," Linsky pointed out. "We picked kids with great character and I think they went out there and distinguished themselves with their effort."

"We had chances — it went right up there to the last 40 seconds — we got chances and you can't ask anything more of them."

Everson and his coaching staff couldn't have asked any more in the first half of former Shadyside quarterback Mike Kernik.

West Virginia had no answer for the Mount Union-bound star.

Kernik completed 14-of-21 passes for 170 yards and two touchdowns, and broke free on numerous scrambles and quarterback draws for 74 yards on 12 carries.

"It's a great feeling; we had lots of fun this week," Kernik said. "We all got along great with the West Virginia team, they are a great bunch of guys and I just had a lot of fun."

"There were great athletes all over the field. We knew it was going to be a close game, and we knew we weren't going to run away with it."

After the two teams played to a scoreless tie through one quarter, the Buckeyes got on the board at the 7:30 mark of the second.

Kernik capped a eight-play, 78-yard drive when he found Steubenville's John Lester in the right corner of the end zone from 22 yards out. Wellsville's Matt Engle connected on the PAT, to give Ohio a 7-0 advantage.

The Buckeye defense gave Kernik and Co. the ball back three plays later, when Lester stepped in front of a reverse pass attempt by Brooke's Jim Scherich, and returned it to the Ohio 36.

Eleven plays and 64 yards later, Kernik found Bellaire St. John's Joey Vavra out of the backfield with a 3-yard toss to make it 13-0 in favor of Ohio. The two-point conversion pass by holder Adam Quirk was no good.

However, West Virginia struck back immediately, as Wheeling Central's Justin Edwards hit Linsky's R.J. Zitzelsberger on a quick screen. The Washington & Jefferson-bound Zitzelsberger raced 72 yards untouched for the Mountaineers' initial score of the evening.

Zitzelsberger's PAT was blocked and West Virginia trailed 13-6.

See **OHIO** Page 17

The came The Fumble.

Then came West Virginia quarterback Justin Edwards sitting on the bench at the end of the game, an icepack on his ankle and a grimace on his face.

Next thing you knew, Ohio was celebrating its eighth straight win in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic.

The final score was 19-12.

"It hurts just to hear that," said West Virginia lineman Justin Tarovisky. "This is a horrible feeling."

Tarovisky just completed a remarkable career at Wheeling Park High School. He will now play defensive end for California University, a Division II school in Pennsylvania.

But don't try to convince him that this was supposed to be nothing more than a fun way to kill a summer night.

"It was only supposed to be an all-star game," he said, wiping sweat from his head and staring at the ground. "But I feel like we just lost the state championship."

Then Tarovisky paused. He tried to force a smile, to look on the bright side.

"They can't say that they wumped us, I guess," said the 6-foot-5, 230-pounder. "We played our hearts out. We had the game in our grasp."

Tarovisky speaks the truth, as West Virginia trailed 13-12 with the ball and 4:52 on the clock.

But the snap went over Edwards' head and into Ohio territory.

Edwards tried to do the right thing and simply fall on the ball — somehow, though, his foot got to it before his hands. Ohio recovered.

After a defensive stand, the Mountaineers had another chance.

But receiver Keith Banks of Wheeling Park had the ball popped from his grip with 2:55 left. The Buckeyes recovered.

It was hardly Banks' fault, as he made a nice catch and an even better move. The ball just came loose.

"We played so hard, had so much momentum," Banks said, his voice trailing. "We never felt like we were underdogs. Not for one second."

Ohio scored on the next possession, widening its lead to 19-12.

But the final blow didn't really come until Wheeling Central's Edwards was undercut near the Mountaineers' sideline with 55 seconds left.

Edwards had to be carried off the field and eventually, into the locker room. There was no official word on the injury as of late Sunday night.

The only thing known was a lot of young men were in pain.

"It was a letdown," said linebacker Jonathan Gordon, a teammate of Edwards and the only three-time all-stater to come out of Wheeling Central.

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"It was a letdown," said linebacker Jonathan Gordon, a teammate of Edwards and the only three-time all-stater to come out of Wheeling Central.

Gordon is a big kid with a big heart who always wears a big smile.

"But I was mad before the game," Gordon said.

And why was that?

"Well, a lot of people said that West Virginia didn't have the talent to compete; they said the only way we could beat Ohio was to out-coach them," Gordon said.

Then the smile came back.

"We didn't beat them. But we could have," he added. "We know it, and they know it."

Don't misunderstand. Gordon wasn't talking trash.

In fact, he tipped his hat to the other guys — and spent a lot of time complimenting players on both squads.

He even talked about how proud he was to follow in the footsteps of his father Gordon, who played in this very game 25 years ago.

"Still, it should be made clear that we never felt like we were the underdogs," Gordon said. "And I still don't."

That doesn't necessarily make it any easier.

"Not when we came so close," Tarovisky concluded. "So close that it just has to hurt."

"Even if it was supposed to be just another all-star game."

Sam Amico can be reached via e-mail at [samico@theintelligencer.net](mailto:samico@theintelligencer.net).

## Notebook

(Continued from Page 14)

"As soon as I pulled in the parking lot last week for practice, I knew this was going to be a great time," he said. "And it was. It's something I'll always remember."

### THE JORDAN RULES:

Kernik received a glimpse of the next four years, as he was joined in the Ohio backfield by St. Clairsville running back Brett Jordan.

Like Kernik, Jordan is headed for Mount Union in the fall.

Jordan also had a very effective night Sunday, finishing with 29 yards rushing and a team-high 92 yards receiving.

### STICKLES DOES IT ALL:

Whenever Ohio looked like it would pull away, along came Derrick Stickles of Oak Glen.

Stickles intercepted two Kernik passes, the second of which was returned 56 yards to keep the Mountaineers in the game.

He also led West Virginia in rushing with 32 yards on eight carries, including a touchdown.

Stickles will play for West Liberty State College next season.

### HARD HITS:

There was a scary collision on the final play of the first quarter when Ohio tight end Jason Sanders (Edison) threw a monster block on West Virginia linebacker Matt Burch (Brooke).

Both players were motionless

on the field for three minutes following the play — but each walked to the sidelines without any help.

"I think Matt's ribs are gonna be sore for a long time," predicted Mountaineers teammate Jonathan Gordon of Wheeling Central.

### BONAR TAKES BREAK:

Ohio Valley Greyhounds coach Mark Bonar was in attendance, having made his way over from practice in Bellaire.

Bonar and the Greyhounds are busy preparing for this week's National Indoor Football League championship game, which they host this Saturday.

### GAME NOTES:

Both West Virginia quarterbacks had their first pass picked off. Justin Edwards (Wheeling Central) was intercepted in the first quarter, and Jim Scherich (Brooke) was intercepted after receiving a toss from Edwards in the second. ... Ohio's Jack Otto of Buckeye Local blocked the point-after attempt following the Mountaineers' first TD. ... Players and coaches from the 1992 game were honored following the third quarter. Fans may remember that game as the one that was washed out. ... Edwards and Cambridge linebacker David Marlatt were the recipients of the \$500 Rudy Mumleys Scholarship Award during Saturday's pep rally.

# Ohio adds linemen to OVAC roster

By RICH GIBSON  
Times Leader Sports Editor

The Ohio-All Star team for next Sunday evening's annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Classic is rounding into form. Quite literally.

Buckeyes' head coach Dave Everson today named nine linemen who figure to do much more than take up space when confronting their West Virginia counterparts at Wheeling Stadium in the 7:15 p.m. kickoff.

"To go with a talented, athletic number of quarterbacks, running backs and receivers previously announced, we feel this group of outstanding linemen will help us get the job done," said Everson, welcoming his squad to training camp Saturday at West Liberty State College.

Ohio trenchmen selected include: Jesse Wells (Shenandoah), Jeff Clark (Wellsville), Joel East (Cambridge), Doug Farmer (Edison), Dave Johnston (Beaver Local), Cody Lenarz (Buckeye Trail), David Potenzini (Steubenville Central), Randall Sefert (Monroe Central) and Sam Snodgrass (Bellair St. John's).

JESSE WELLS made life miserable for Zeps' opponents during an outstanding prep career for coach Dan Wesson's Noble County club.

The 6-1, 270-pound defensive tackle, often double and sometimes triple-teamed, was a sec-

ond team all-Ohio selection by the Associated Press.

Jesse also earned all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-Pioneer Valley Conference honors.

In addition to his gridiron expertise, Jesse was a two-time OVAC wrestling champion. He placed fourth in the Ohio state meet this past winter and was fifth as a junior.

Wells, a National Honor Society member at Shenandoah High, has signed to continue his athletic and academic careers at national power Mount Union College.

WELLSVILLE'S Jeff Clark was a two-way standout for coach Eric Meek at Wellsville High.

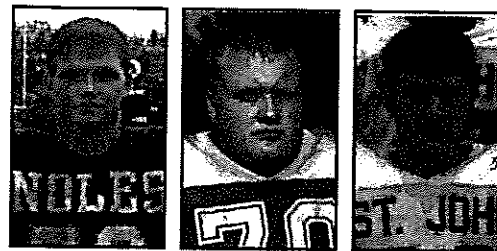
An honorable mention all-Eastern District selection, Jeff also was named first team all Quad County and second team all-Valley.

One of the most versatile athletes at the Columbiana County school, Clark lettered four years in both football and basketball. He also earned letters in baseball and track.

An honor roll student, Clark intends to continue his athletic and academic careers at college.

JOEL EAST was among the Ohio Valley's most honored athletes following a stellar career under coach Rick Goodrich at Cambridge.

At 6-4, 230, East's impressive frame and



SEFERT      LENARZ      SNODGRASS

play attracted numerous college scouts before the Bobcats' defensive end opted to sign with Duke University.

Named to the all-Midwest Region All-Star team by Prep Star Magazine, East was also honored by the Associated Press' all-Ohio team in addition to all-OVAC, all-ECOL and all eastern District.

Prior to participating in the OVAC game, East was selected to participate in the prestigious Big 33 All-Star Game, played in Hershey, Pa.

East, who graduated with high honors at the Jefferson County school, was a Buckeye Boys State nominee and member of the student council.

BEAVER LOCAL'S Dave Johnston was a major player in the many successes produced by Beavers' teams guided by Rich Wright.

The 6-0, 275-pound guard/nose guard earned

See, OHIO, Page B3

# Ohio All-Stars report to OVAC football camp

By RICH MATERKOSKI  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Very anxious.

That was the mood of both players and coaches from the Ohio All-Star team as the Buckeyes and Mountaineers reported to camp Saturday afternoon at West Liberty State College.

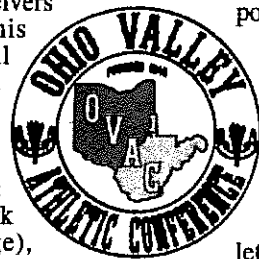
One week from tonight, these two teams will tangle in the annual Rudy Mumley All-Star Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kickoff is 7:15.

Reporting to camp Saturday was just the start of a long and eventful week for the stars who will take part in a host of activities during the course of their stay.

After beginning practice, which both coaches and players are eagerly anticipating, they will take part in such events as the Evening With the Stars and the OVAC Queen of Queens Pageant. There will also be a pep rally on Saturday the 27th.

Ohio Head Coach Dave Everson, who also holds the reigns at Edison High School, is awaiting the time when players can hit the field and showcase their talents.

See, OVAC, Page B3



Continued from Page B1

honorable mention all-Ohio honors from the Associated Press, was a first team all Quad County and all-OVAC selection.

Clark, who intends to study Criminal Justice at Jefferson Community College, was a three-year letterman at Beaver Local and president of the Varsity B Club.

DOUG FARMER was a co-captain for Everson's Wildcats at Edison High.

The 6-0, 200-pounder played a starring roll along the defensive line, helping the Richmond-based school compile a 6-4 record against a rigid schedule.

A first team all-County selection, Farmer was also an honorable mention OVAC selection.

In addition to his athletic productivity, Doug was a National Honor Society member at Edison. He also participated in Spanish Club and Ski Club.

This fall, Farmer will attend Bethany College.

BUCKEYE TRAIL'S Cody Lenarz wasn't hard to find of the field of play.

At 6-1, 305, Lenarz generally had his way with Warriors' opponents, handling both offensive guard and defensive tackle positions for coach Randy Thompson's Old Washington based ballclub.

A first team all-Eastern District selection, Lenarz earned similar laurels on the OVAC unit and was a special mention all-Ohio selection.

In addition to playing football, Lenarz also lettered in track at Trail.

Lenarz was recipient of the United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award.

DAVID POTENZINI was among the most versatile linemen for the Crusaders of coach Gregg Bahen, seeing time as a two-way tackle and also at cen-

ter. The 6-3, 250-pound standout was highly thought of among college recruiters before inking to play with the Penguins of Youngstown State University.

Honored by the Associated Press and all-Eastern District teams, David was named first team all-Quad County, second team all-Valley and second team all-Steubenville Herald Star.

MONROE CENTRAL'S Randall Sefert played a pivotal roll for coach Jay Circosta's Seminoles who advanced to the state semifinals last fall.

The 5-11, 215-pounder starred at both offensive guard and defensive tackle en route to earning numerous postseason honors.

Randall was a Pioneer Valley Conference All-Star and earned mention on the all-Eastern

District unit. In addition to his gridiron talents, Sefert lettered for coach Mark Huffman's basketball Seminoles.

Sefert will enroll this fall at the University of Akron.

SAM SNODGRASS was a two-way all-star for coach Steve Daley at St. John Central.

The Fighting Irish's 6-2, 185-pound ace manned positions of offensive guard and defensive end.

In addition to his gridiron expertise, Sam was a classroom standout as well. He was a National Honor Society member and graduated this past spring Magna Cum Laude at the Guernsey Street school.

At St. John's, Snodgrass also participated in baseball and track.

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

"Myself and the rest of our coaching staff is probably just as anxious as the players to hit the field and see what is going to transpire the rest of the week leading to the game," noted Everson.

"It's just an honor to be coaching in a game like this with so many great players and great people involved. We really want to have a good week of practice and allow the kids to enjoy themselves and the atmosphere and end it with a nice weekend before the game."

Everson does have one dilemma though...but it is a pleasant one.

"On offense, we have so many talented players I wish we had two balls out there so that we could spread the ball around to all the playmakers we have on the squad.

"It's nice to have so many weapons to work with and we will try to utilize them as best as we can. I also think we are going to be very big on the offensive line which should help out a great deal," Everson said.

Some of the local prep stars are also getting geared up for next week's contest with the Blue and Gold.

"I'm definitely ready to get back out on the field," said former Shadyside trigger-man Mike Kernik. "I've been at the feild every day watching the high school team practice and compete in 7-on-7 passing scrimmages and it's just making me that more excited to play again."

Kernik who also starred in the North-South game in Columbus last month says that Sunday's game will be more special because of the local support that

all the players will receive. "The North-South game was nice, but I walked in and knew no one. I got here and as soon as I walked through the door I was greeted by people that I knew. It is also going to be great to play one last time in front of the Ohio Valley fans," Kernik said.

The St. Clairsville duo of Adam Quirk and Brett Jordan share the same enthusiasm as Kernik heading into the week's festivities.

"I'm definitely ready to get back in the pads and get back into the swing of things," said Jordan. "I've been working out and waiting all summer for the game and now that I am here at camp we are ready to show that Valley what we can do."

Quirk echoed the sentiment of his former teammate, and hopes the two can hook up a few times....just for old times sake.

"It's great to be playing with all the talent that this team possesses. When you get guys together like this, there is not many weak points to your team so I'm excited about meeting the other guys and playing with them.

"Me and Brett hooked up quite a few times during the season...48 times I think" chuckled Quirk. "Hopefully I can get the ball to him a few times during the game and show that "Q. J." can still play."

Reporting to camp is just the beginning of what will be a memorable week for the players and coaches of both squads. Wednesday's Evening with the Stars will be held at the Ramada Plaza in Wheeling.



# Everson adds final players to OVAC roster

By RICH GIBSON  
Times-Leader Sports Editor

Ohio head coach Dave Everson appears well stocked with offensive talent for this Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic at Wheeling Stadium.

Today, Everson announced the completion of the Buckeyes' roster with a talented linebacking corps and a two-way line standout.

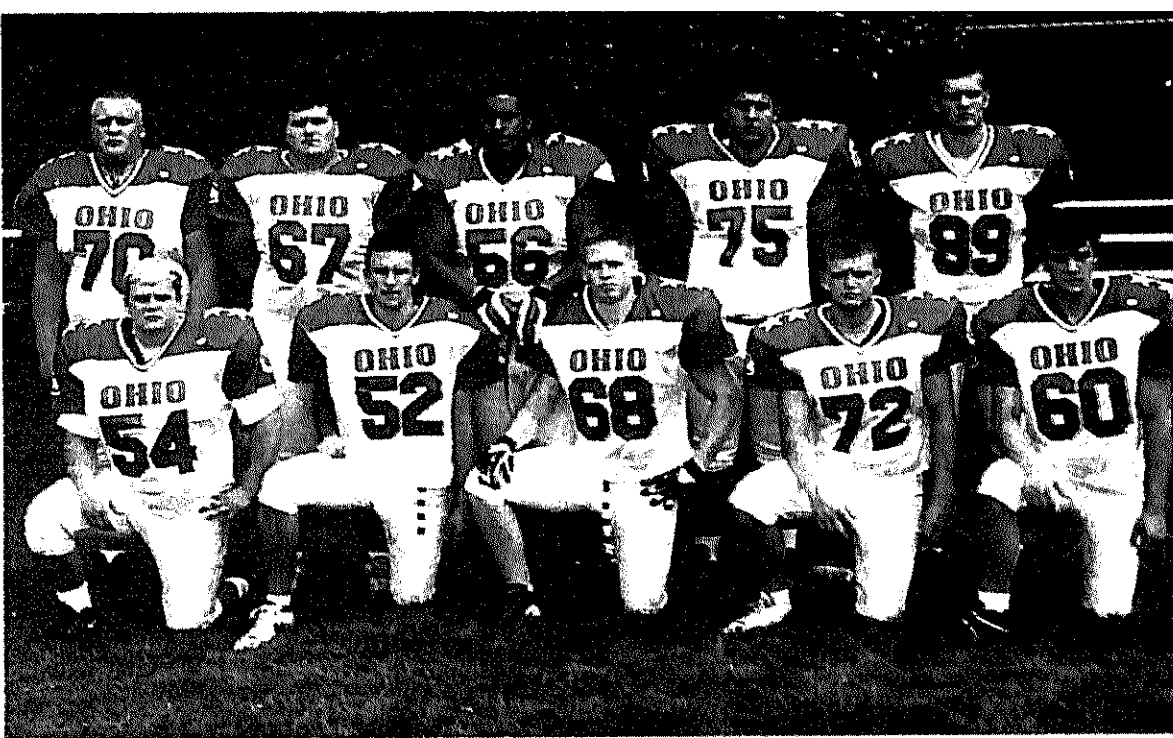
"We feel this group of outstanding defensive players is solid top to bottom," Everson remarked.

"We've already said the accent could be on offense in this game. Hopefully, that gives our defensive unit some extra incentive to play well."

Serving as 'hitmen' for the Buckeyes are Dustin Holt (Martins Ferry), Luke Hartman (Steubenville), David Marlatt (Cambridge), Brendan Nunner (Harrison Central), Jack Otto (Buckeye Local), Matt Engle (Wellsville) and Zac Williams (East Liverpool).

BUCKEYE LOCAL'S Otto was a rugged defend-

See, OVAC, Page B2



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

**MANNING** offensive and defensive line positions for Sunday night's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic are: front row, from left, David Marlatt (Cambridge), Jeff Clark (Wellsville), Doug Farmer (Edison), Randall Sefert (Monroe Central), Sam Snodgrass (St. John Central). Standing, from left: Cody Lenarz (Buckeye Trail), Jesse Wells (Shenandoah), Zac Williams (East Liverpool), David Potenzini (Steubenville Central), Joel East (Cambridge).

## ● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

er for the Panthers of coach Mike Groves.

The 6-1, 187-pound Otto, who will enroll at Muskingum College and play football for the Muskies, earned all-Ohio special mention recognition by the Associated Press.

Otto, also an offensive back at Buckeye, gained first team all-Eastern District laurels and earned similar accolades with the OVAC stars.

During his prep tenure, Otto also participated in baseball, track and wrestling.

Jack was a class president and member of the Varsity Club, FCA and Student's Against Drunk Drivers.

ZAC WILLIAMS is taking his considerable talents to the Mid American Conference and the University of Akron.

At 6-2, 285, the Potters' guard/tackle was a force to be reckoned with for coach Bob Thayer's Columbiana County team.

A two-time all-Ohio selection, Williams earned similar accolades from the Eastern District and OVAC.

Zac was a Top 30 award winner after attending the Jerome Bettis Football Camp.

At East Liverpool High, Williams' activities included: African American Club, Booster Club, Varsity Club and Young Democrats Club.

HARRISON CENTRAL'S Brendan Nunner was a two-way standout for the Huskies of coach Rich Saccoccia.

The 5-8, 180-pounder, regarded as one of the area's hardest hitters, will enroll this fall at Capital University in Columbus.

Aside from his defensive exploits, Nunner was HC's fullback, compiling well over 1,000 career yards including 800 as a senior.

A three-year letterman in football, Nunner was a first team all-OVAC selection and gained all-Eastern District special mention.

Brendan also was awarded four varsity letters in track at the Cadiz-based school.

MATT ENGLE was one of the Tigers' most versatile players.

The 5-9, 155-pounder logged duty at inside linebacker, wide receiver and place-kicker for coach Eric Meek's Bengals.

Engle, expected to handle kicking duty for the Buckeyes in Sunday's game, was a special mention all-Ohio selection by the Associated Press.

Matt earned similar honors on the Eastern District and all-OVAC units.

CAMBRIDGE HIGH'S David Marlatt who will join Nunner at Capital University, compiled 49 solo tackles and assisted on 15 others for the Bobcats of coach Riek Goodrich.

The 5-9, 210-pounder was accorded second team all-Ohio honors by the Associated Press. He was named first team all-Eastern District, OVAC and East Central Ohio League.

In addition to starring on the gridiron, David lettered in wrestling at the Guernsey County school.

DUSTIN HOLT is another in a long line of two-way standouts performing for veteran Purple Riders' boss Dave Bruney and becoming the school's first four-year football letterman in over 40 years.

Holt (5-10, 195) a rugged linebacker, also did major offensive damage at fullback.

Postseason recognition included special mention all-Ohio (two seasons). Dustin was also twice honored by the OVAC and Eastern District.

Headed to Robert Morris College in the fall, Holt was a student council and Spanish Club member at Ferry High.

STEUBENVILLE'S Luke Hartman who'll continue his grid career this fall at Waynesburg College, was a team captain for coach Reno Saccoccia's Big Red.

The 5-10, 200-pound middle linebacker topped the team in tackles en route to earning three varsity letters.

Following the 2001 season, Luke was presented the prestigious "Tough as Nails Award."

Hartman's talents also resulted in first team all-Ohio accolades by the Associated Press. Luke was similarly honored by the Eastern District, OVAC and all-Quad County All-Stars.



HOLT



NUNNER



OTTO

# Ohio Finalizes OVAC Roster

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Otto, also a running back at Buckeye Local, gained first team all-Eastern District laurels and earned similar accolades with the OVAC Stars.

During his prep tenure, Otto also played baseball, wrestled and ran track. Otto was also class president and a member of the Varsity Club, FCA and Student's Against Drunk Drivers.

ZAC WILLIAMS is taking his talents to the University of Akron.

At 6-2, 285-pounds, the Potters' guard/tackle was a force to be reckoned with for coach Bob Thayer at East Liverpool.

Please See OHIO Page 21



Photo by Art Limann

The head coaches for the 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic are Mike Linsky, left, of John Marshall and Dave Everson of Edison. With the rosters now completed, the game will take place at 7:15 p.m. Sunday evening at Wheeling Island Stadium. Related story/21.

## Ohio

(Continued from Page 19)

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Mason, who plans to continue his education at WVU, was also a member of the National Honor Society and the Service Club.

LUCIOUS: The former Wheeling Park Patriot wreaked havoc on many teams from his nose guard position while under coach Mark Nardone.

The 6-ft-1, 210-pounder put together a strong senior season, while earning his third football letter from Park.

A versatile athlete, he also lettered three times in track and



Photo by Art Limann

These Marshall County players will represent West Virginia in the 2002 Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic. Front row kneeling: Cameron's Roger Kupfer (46), John Marshall's Geoff Wysocki (33) and the Monarchs' Luke Cunningham (14). Back row from left: Cameron's Tucker Brown (88) and John Marshall's Chris Taylor (63).

## W.Va. Defensive Line, Secondary Set

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

The West Virginia roster for Sunday's OVAC All-Star game continues to take shape. West Virginia head coach Mike Linsky has announced his defensive secondary and defensive line for the charity game, which is slated for a 7:15 kickoff, at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"All of our defensive backs are good athletes and they move really well and that is what we want," Linsky explained. "We really like this group and all of these kids are versatile and could see some time on the offensive side at wide receiver."

As for the defensive line, Linsky does not think size is the key factor, but how they move is what he and his West Virginia staff looked for.

"When we picked our defensive kids we wanted kids that could run," Linsky said. "For our linemen, size didn't really matter, but it was a plus if they had it."

The three defensive backs set to patrol the secondary for the Mountaineers include: Cameron's Tucker Brown, Linsky's Colin Walsh and Magnolia's Craig Mason.

The group of defensive linemen that Linsky is looking at

include: Wheeling Park's Jermaine Lucious, Weir's Vince Magnone and Magnolia's Joe Weaver.

Here is an individual look at the players:

**BROWN:** One of the most versatile players for last year's West Virginia all-star coach and Cameron head coach Jim Rogers. Brown handled a multitude of duties for the Dragons, serving as quarterback, defensive back, kicker and punter. Under center, Brown completed 51-of-125 passes for 715 yards, 12 touchdowns and four interceptions.

The 6-0, 160-pounder, who will continue his education at Bethany, was a first-team all-stater, all-OVAC, all-Valley and all-Mason Dixon Conference as a defensive back.

As a DB, Brown holds Cameron records for interceptions in a game (4) and in a season (14).

Along with his football talents, Brown lettered in baseball, wrestling and track at the Marshall County school. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Wrestling Club and he serves a volunteer for Special Olympics and Little League softball.

Please See LINE, Page 22

## Line

(Continued from Page 19)

WALSH: The former Linsly Cadet was one of the most versatile performers for Coach Terry DePew's team.

During his four-year stint with the Cadets, Walsh saw time at quarterback, wide receiver and defensive back.

The 6-0, 190-pounder received the Coach's Award, Offensive Award and was named to the All-Valley, All-OVAC and All-State teams.

Walsh will continue his aca-

demic career at Case Western Reserve.

MASON: The 6-0, 185-pounder played a strong role on Magnolia's season this past fall, starring at both outside linebacker and strong safety. Valedictorian of his graduating class from the New Martinsville school, Mason earned several postseason accolades during his final prep season.

He was named Special Mention all-West Virginia and all-OVAC 3-A.

Mason, who plans to continue his education at WVU, was also a member of the National Honor Society and the Service Club.

LUCIOUS: The former Wheeling Park Patriot wreaked havoc on many teams from his nose guard position while under coach Mark Nardone.

The 6-ft-1, 210-pounder put together a strong senior season, while earning his third football letter from Park.

A versatile athlete, he also lettered three times in track and

for the Blue Eagles.

Weaver was a first team all-OVAC, all-Valley and was a second team all-Mid Ohio Valley, second team all-State.

In wrestling, Weaver finished third in the state and seventh in the OVAC as a senior. He was a state runnerup as a junior and fifth as a sophomore.

Joe, who plans to attend Bethany, was also active in the Art Club, New Martinsville Youth Baseball Umpire, Young Life and the Outdoor Club.

field.

**MAGNONE:** A state champion wrestler at 215 pounds, Magnone also excelled on the gridiron for the Red Riders.

The 5-9, 220-pounder played both fullback and nose guard at Weir, but is expected to focus on the defensive side of the ball this week.

Magnone, who plans to attend Robert Morris in the fall, was an OVAC First-Team defensive selection, all-Valley and Honorable Mention all-West

Virginia.

In addition to his state title, was a two-time runnerup in the OVAC wrestling tournament at 215 pounds.

He is a member of the National Honor Society, Who's Who in Sports and is a four-year member of Hi-Y.

**WEAVER:** The Magnolia High product enjoyed a tremendous career on both sides of the ball for Coach Mark Batton.

The 6-ft-1, 230-pounder was a rugged fullback and nose tackle

# OVAC All-Star Game One of a Kind

## ALL-STAR GAMES.

Organizers of other high school football all-star football games can learn a lot from the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference.

The OVAC, for the last 31 years, has sponsored the annual Ohio Valley All-Star Charity Football Classic.

And, judging from comparable results, the conference has devised a winning formula.

For most of the past 30 years of the event, attendance has ranged from 7,000 to 10,000 spectators. Compare this to other similar ventures which are struggling to attract fans to a gridiron event during the hot summer months.

What separates the OVAC event from the others?

Consider this package:

(1) It has a natural close-proximity rivalry between two states with the schools competing in the nation's largest, multi-sport conference.

(2) It gives fans of one or a few schools to see, first-hand many of the athletes they only read about during the season.

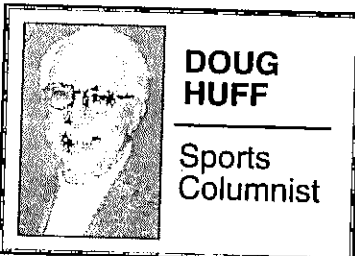
(3) It signals the kickoff for another season with a playing date late in July before many high schools open pre-season drills the following week.

(4) It combines the best of local football with an all-star band plus cheerleaders and the annual Queen of Queens contest to add to the fan base.

Many of the other all-star contests are fortunate to have one of those ingredients, much less all four.

With a tradition-laden event held at a centrally located facility in the area, the OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic has proved to be one of the Ohio Valley's most popular annual sporting events.

Much of the credit, of course, has to be directed toward the



**DOUG HUFF**

Sports Columnist

OVAC officials, volunteers and member schools who have made sure it remains that way year-in and year-out.

The founding fathers of the event were the late uncle-nephew duo of RUDY and SAM MUMLEY, who had the vision in the early 1970s to resurrect the annual Ohio-W. Va. event after a two-year lapse.

The annual football game was staged, except for three years, by area boosters clubs from 1940-69 before NCAA regulations forced the sponsors to yield control.

After the game was not staged in 1970 or 1971, the OVAC took charge and turned it into a charity event, much to the approval of the NCAA. Since 1972, the OVAC not only has been the organizer of the event but has affiliated with various corporate partners to increase and improve the experience for the participants.

It's a winning formula which a lot of other similar ventures would do well to follow.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL.

If you don't think the teenage game has expanded its interest base in the media, consider this: The Sporting News, which started operations in 1886, is publishing its first-ever National High School Football preview magazine.

The 128-page Student Sports/Sporting News publication is scheduled for newsstand release on Aug. 6 and features

about anything wanted by the prepaaholics: recruiting, rankings and records.

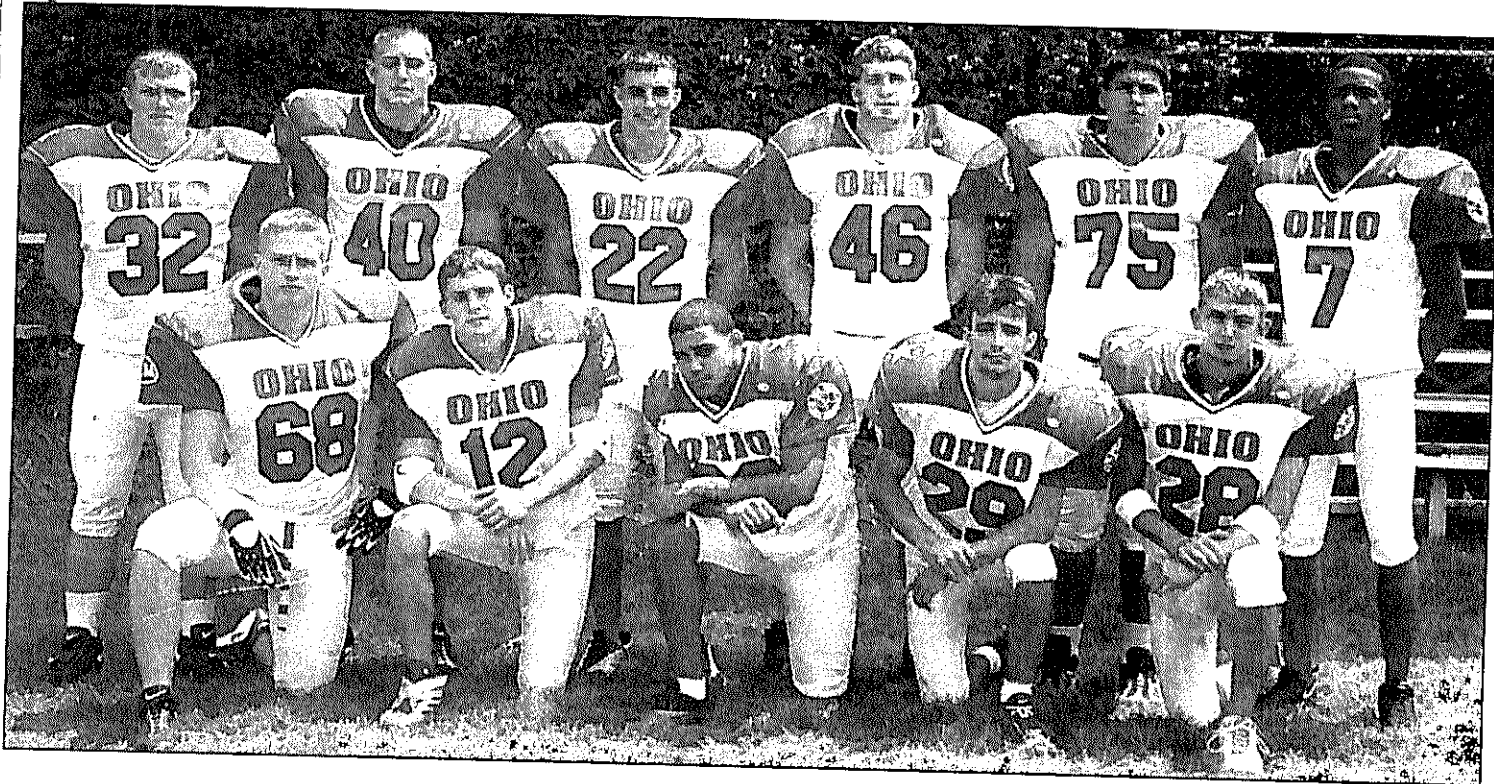
The most inclusive recruiting report will pinpoint the nation's Hot 100 recruits plus top prospects in five regions of the land with 1,000 rated seniors, and the best underclassmen and junior college prospects plus foreign prospects. Also, the 25 Best Recruits ever are revealed along with high schools producing the most recruits and the best stadiums to watch high school games.

Also, 250 high school teams are ranked - the annual Student Sports FAB 50 national selections plus a Top 50 for each of five regions and the No. 1 team in each state.

Record-wise, the national team, player and coaching records will also be listed.

ENJOY the weekend.

## JEFFERSON COUNTY STARS



Jefferson County All-Stars preparing to play in Sunday evening's OVAC Rudy Mumley Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium and, back row from left: Steubenville's Luke Hartman; Edison's Jason Sanders and Garrett Carte; Buckeye Local's Jack Otto; Steubenville Central's David Potenzini; and Steubenville's John Lester. Front row from left: Edison's Doug Farmer; Indian Creek's Keith Keenan; Steubenville's Jesse Turner; Steubenville Central's Mike Gianni; and Toronto's Matt Ludewig.

Photo by Art Limann

# West Virginia OVAC roster taking shape

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

The West Virginia roster for Sunday's OVAC All-Star game continues to take shape with head coach Mike Linsky's latest additions.

Linsky has announced his defensive secondary and defensive line for the charity game, which is slated for a 7:15 kick, at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"All of our defensive backs are good athletes and they move really well and that is what we want," Linsky explained. "We really like this group and all of these kids are versatile and could see some time on the offensive side at wide receiver."

As for the defensive line, Linsky does not think size is the key factor, but how they move is what he and his West Virginia staff looked for.

"When we picked our defensive kids we wanted kids that could run," Linsky said. "For our linemen, size didn't really matter, but it was a plus if they had it."

The three defensive backs set to patrol the secondary for the Mountaineers include: Cameron's Tucker Brown, Linsky's Colin Walsh and Magnolia's Craig Mason.

The group of defensive linemen that Linsky is looking at include: Wheeling Park's Jermaine Lucious, Weir's Vince Magnone and Magnolia's Joe Weaver.

Here is an individual look at the players:

**BROWN** -- One of the most versatile players for last year's West Virginia all-star coach and Cameron head coach Jim Rogers.

Brown handled a multitude of duties for the Dragons, serving as quarterback, defensive back, kicker and punter.

Under center, Brown completed 51-of-125 passes for 715 yards, 12 touchdowns and four interceptions.

The 6-foot, 160 pounder, who will continue his education at Bethany College, was a first-team all-stater, all-OVAC, all-Valley and all-Mason Dixon Conference as a defensive back.

As a DB, Brown holds Cameron records for interceptions in a game (4) and in a season (14).

Along with his football talents, Brown lettered in baseball, wrestling and track at the Marshall County school. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Wrestling Club and he serves a volunteer for Special Olympics and Little League softball.

**WALSH** -- The former Linsky Cadets was one of the most versatile performers for Coach Terry DePew's team.

During his four-year stint with the Cadets, Walsh saw time at quarterback, wide receiver and defensive back.

The 6-foot, 190 pounder received the Coach's Award, Offensive Award and was named to the All-Valley, all-OVAC and all-State teams.

Walsh, who resides in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, will continue his academic career at Case Western Reserve.

**MASON** -- The 6-foot, 185 pounder played a strong roll on Magnolia's season this past fall, starting at both outside linebacker and strong safety.

The Valedictorian of his 2002 graduating class from the New Martinsville school, Mason earned several post-season accolades during his final prep season.

He was named Special Mention all-West Virginia and all-OVAC 3-A.

Mason, who plans to continue his education at WVU, also served as a member of the Magnolia National Honor Society and the Service Club.

**LUCIOUS** -- The former Wheeling Park Patriot wreaked havoc on many teams from his nose guard position while under Coach Mark Nardone.

The 6-ft-1, 210 pounder put together a strong senior season, while earning three letters from Park. He also lettered three times in track and field.

**MAGNONE** -- The state champion wrestler this past winter, enjoyed a strong football career for Coach Dan Enich at Weirton High School.

The 5-ft-9, 220 pounder played both fullback and nose guard for the Red Riders, but will see mostly defensive work under Linsky.

Magnone, who plans on attending Robert Morris University next fall, was an OVAC First-Team defensive selection, all-Valley and Honorable Mention all-West Virginia.

Magnone captured the West Virginia state 215-pound crown this past winter and was a two-time runnerup in the giant OVAC tournament at the same weight.

He is a member of the National Honor Society, Who's Who in Sports and is a four-year member of Hi-Y.

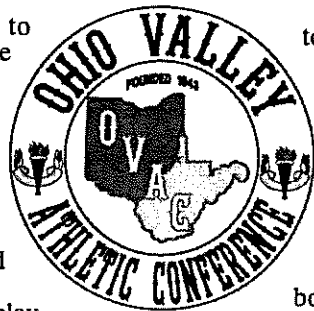
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Joe, who plans to attend Bethany College, was also active in the Art Club, Homeroom officer, New Martinsville Youth Baseball Umpire, Young Life and the Outdoor Club.



# Linsky adds linebackers to West Virginia roster

• Rudy Mumley All-Star Charity Classic set Sunday

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

With both the West Virginia and Ohio squads in training camp for the 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, Mountaineer head coach Mike Linsky has announced his final group of players for the annual affair.

The game is set for Sunday with a 7:15 p.m. kickoff at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Linsky, who leads the John Marshall grid team during the fall, expects his defense to be solid in all aspects.

The Mountaineers will play a base 50 defense with a nose tackle and that is something that Linsky knows his linebackers will have to adjust to since most never played that format during their high school careers.

"We will play the 50, where we read the guards with no blitz and our linebackers are all adjusting to that and all get to the football pretty well," Linsky added.

"We want people who are going to fly to the football. We are pleased with the kids. Ohio can run three reverses for touchdowns, but I guarantee there will be a bunch of kids on that side of the field."

The linebacking corps involves: Brooke's Matt Burch, Wheeling Central's Jonathan Gordon, Oak Glen's Bill Ware, John Marshall's Geoff Wysocki, Oak Glen's Derrick Stickle and Cameron's Roger Kupfer.

Here is an individual look at the players:

**BURCH** -- The 6-ft-2, 217 pound linebacker made his presence felt on almost every defensive possession for now retired Brooke coach Bud Billiard.

Burch led the Bruins in tackles from his inside linebacker position and will continue both his education and playing career at Mercyhurst.

For his fine senior season, Burch was named first team all-OVAC, all-Valley and is a member of Who's Who in Sports and is a Gridiron Great. He also received the Father Dan Egan Award and the WTOV-9 Tough as Nails Award.

He is also an active member in the Brooke High National Honor Society and has earned Academic Achievement Awards. He also enjoys fishing, basketball and playing video games.

**GORDON** -- The former Maroon Knight was one of the finest linebackers to ever grace the field for Wheeling Central and head coach Jim Thomas.

The 5-ft-9, 202 pound inside linebacker was an impact player during the Knights' run to the state title in 2000 and their trip back to the state title game last fall.

He was accredited with First Team all-State and served as the Single A captain of the all-West Virginia team. He was also a first-team all-stater as a junior. He was a three-time all-Valley pick and three-time all-OVAC selection. He was also voted MVP during his sophomore, junior and senior seasons.

Along with his football skills, Gordon also lettered in track and wrestling.

**WARE** -- The former Golden Bear had a very solid senior season under head coach Tom Taylor.

The 6-ft-1, 215 pound defensive end enjoyed a quite productive senior campaign.

Ware was honored as a first-team all-OVAC pick and first team all-Area selection.

He is also a member of the National Honor Society and he attended West Virginia Boys' State.

**WYSOCKI** -- The John Marshall product was solid on both sides of the ball for Linsky.

The three-year letterwinner at John Marshall served as a running back and linebacker.

The 5-ft-8, 170 pounder, who plans to attend the University of Northwestern in Ohio, was an Honorable Mention all-OVAC pick. He also took part in wrestling, baseball and track.

Along with his athletics, Wysocki was active in Student Council, Young Life, Letter Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, L.I.F.E. Counselor and Special Olympics volunteer.

**STICKLES** -- The 6-ft-1, 195 pounder enjoyed a fine senior season and career while playing for the Golden Bears and coach Tom Taylor.

The all-West Virginia player was a force on both sides of the ball, rushing for more than 1,500 yards and then laying the pads on opposing players from his linebacker slot.

Stickles was named OVAC 3-A Player of the Year and was the Weirton Daily Times' Player of the Year and was all-conference and all-valley.

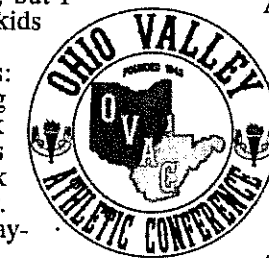
The future West Liberty Hilltopper was a three-time West Virginia State Wrestling champion and was an OVAC wrestling and track sprint champion.

**KUPFER** -- The former Cameron Dragon had quite a memorable career for head coach Jim Rogers.

The 5-ft-11, 165 pounder was a force both running the ball and tackling other people running the ball from his defensive end position.

Headed to West Virginia University in the fall, Kupfer was a first-team all-OVAC, all-Mason Dixon Conference and was Honorable Mention all state.

Along with his football talents, Kupfer was a two-time state champion wrestler and was the bronze medalist in the West Virginia state track meet in the 100.



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Sunday News-Register

JULY 28, 2002

## SPORTS

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## OVAC All-Star Game Tonight

*West Virginia hopes to scratch seven-year itch*

By DON CLEGG  
Sports Editor

The West Virginia will face a problem no other all-star team has ever faced tonight when it takes on Ohio in the 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic.

Namely, how do you scratch a seven-year itch?

Kickoff is set for 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The best and the brightest of the OVAC's graduated football seniors have been coming out to shine one final time on Wheeling Island just about every year since 1940 but for the past seven summers, it's been Ohio's stars that have shined the brightest.

The Buckeye Staters haven't lost West Virginia won back-to-back games in 1993 and 1994.

Those victories by the Mountain State team closed Ohio's lead in the OVAC portion of the series to 12-10 at the time.

With the seven-game win streak the longest in the series for either side - West Virginia won five straight from 1973-77 - the Buckeyes have now stretched that series lead out to a commanding 19-10.

Both West Virginia head coach Mike Linsky of John Marshall and Ohio bench boss Dave Everson of Edison have OVAC All-Star Game experience.

Linsky coached the West Virginia team for the first time in 1986 and watched his underdog team battle to the wire only to come out on the short end of a 14-6 score.

The following year, Everson played in the game for Ohio, helping the Buckeyes eke out a 13-11 victory.

Both men say they came

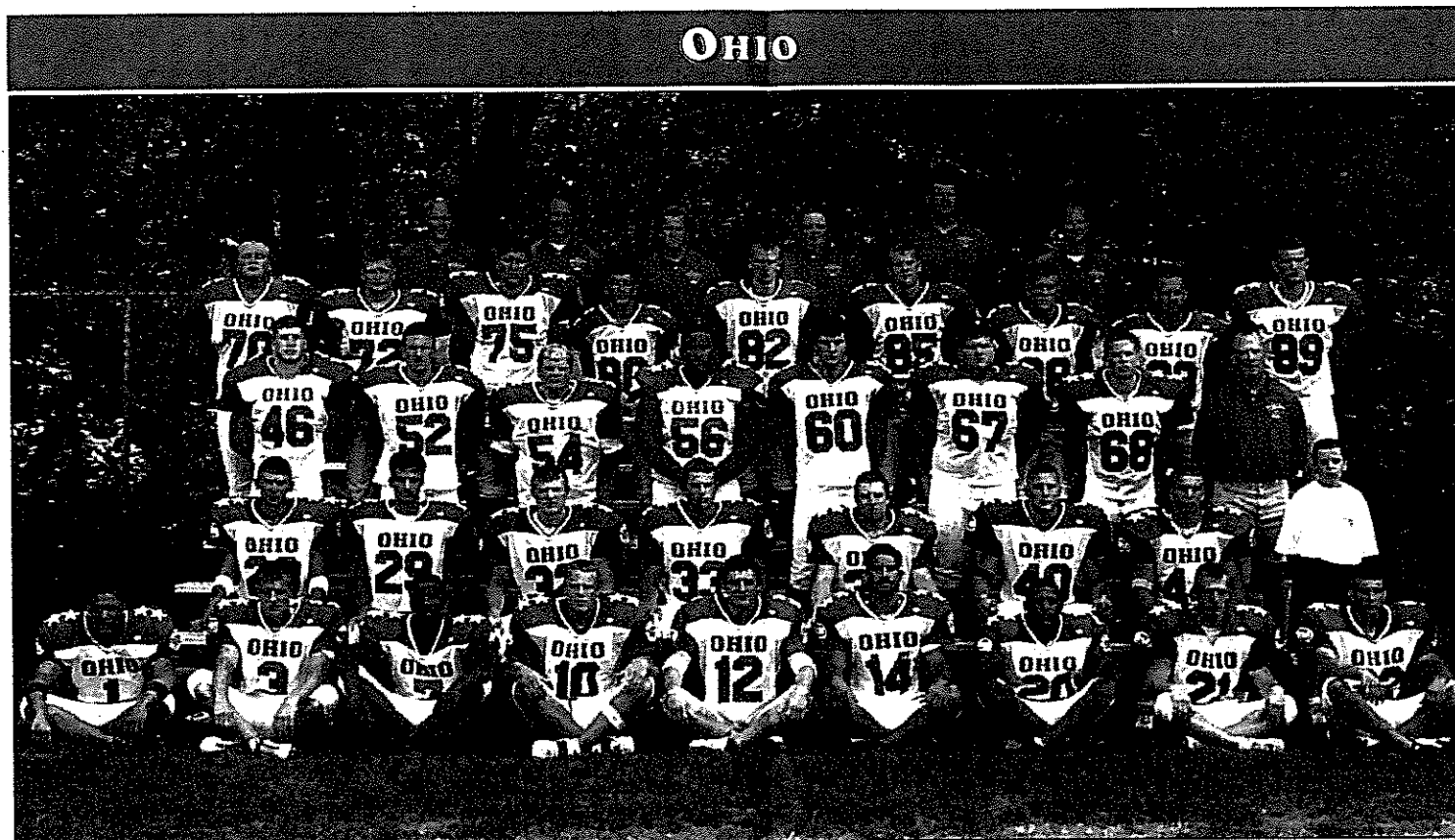


Photo by Art Limann

These young men will be representing Ohio in tonight's 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic. First row: St. Clairsville's Brett Jordan (1), Meadowbrook's Devon Singleton (3), Steubenville's John Lester (7), St. Clairsville's Adam Quirk (10), Indian Creek's Keith Keenan (12), Shadyside's Mike Kernik (14), Steubenville's Jesse Turner (20), Martins Ferry's Joey Danehart (21) and Edison's Garrett Carter (22). Second row: Toronto's Matt Ludewig (28), Steubenville Central's Mike Yanni (29), Steubenville's Luke Hartman (32), Bellaire St. John's Joey Vavra (33), Harrison Central's Brendan Nunner (34), Edison's Jason Sanders (40), Martins Ferry's Dustin Holt (44) and manager Derek Wickham. Third row: Buckeye Local's Jack Otto (46), Wellsville's Jeff Clark (52), Cambridge's David Marlatt (54), East Liverpool's Zac Williams (56), Bellaire St. John's Sam Snodgrass (60), Shenandoah's Jesse Wells (67), Edison's Doug Farmer (68) and head coach Dave Everson. Fourth row: Buckeye Trail's Cody Lenarz (70), Monroe Central's Randall Sefert (72), Steubenville Central's David Potenzini (75), Barnesville's Jon Miller (80), Union Local's David Thomas (82), Bellaire's Ben Doyle (85), Meadowbrook's Kyle Rankin (88), Wellsville's Matt Engle (93) and Cambridge's Joel East (99). Back row: trainer Herb Minch, assistant coaches Greg Taglieri, Terry Wickham, Dan Rovira, B.J. Ash and Brian Connelly. Beaver Local's Dave Johnston (55) was unavailable for the photo.



WEST VIRGINIA

The  
Bottom  
Line



By DON CLEGG

Tonight's going to be a big night for Mike Linsky as he leads his West Virginia all-stars into battle against Ohio in the 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

But the veteran John Marshall grid boss has an even bigger weekend in store for himself next week.

Mike Linsky is going to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Linsky has chosen as West Virginia's state delegate to the NFL's second annual Youth Football Summit, held in conjunction with the Pro Football Hall of Fame Weekend.

He'll be one of 150 select coaches, administrators and supporters of high school and youth football programs nationwide being brought in by the NFL for a series of educational seminars on topics vital to the success of youth and high school football.

"High school and youth football are the foundations of our game," said NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue in a prepared statement.

"This weekend is dedicated to recognizing those coaches and administrators who are committed to developing that foundation and inspiring young people to excel both on and off the field."

A former football and baseball player at Hampden-Sydney (Va.) College, Linsky has compiled an impressive 169-119 record in 27 years as a high school head football coach.

He's won West Virginia state championships at tiny Duval High School in Griffithsville and at John Marshall, one of the 10 largest



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Linsky coached the West Virginia team for the first time in 1986 and watched his underdog team battle to the wire only to come out on the short end of a 14-6 score.

The following year, Everson played in the game for Ohio, helping the Buckeyes eke out a 13-11 victory.

Both men say they came through pregame preparation relatively injury-free and expect their teams to put on a good show tonight.

"We did a lot of hitting early in the week," said Linsky, "then we went pretty light the rest of the way."

"This is an all-star game. All of these kids are good football players but, more importantly, they've been good people."

"They picked up our schemes really well and we've had a lot of fun."

Everson spent six years as a student assistant and graduate assistant under John Cooper at Ohio State - he has a Rose Bowl ring to show for it - but had no trouble getting excited about the OVAC All-Star Game.

"I still remember how exciting it was for me as a player," he said.

"This is one of the most anticipated events in the Ohio Valley every year and I feel very honored to have had the opportunity to work with these young men this week."

There's certainly no lack of star power on either side of the football.

Many observers have pegged Ohio as the favorite.

It's a familiar role for the Scarlet and Gray but perhaps well warranted.

After all, Everson has been dealing with an embarrassment of riches at several key positions, including quarterback.

St. Clairsville's Adam Quirk



Photo by Art Limmann

These young men will be representing Ohio in tonight's 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic. First row: St. Clairsville's Brett Jordan (1), Meadowbrook's Devon Singleton (3), Steubenville's John Lester (7), St. Clairsville's Adam Quirk (10), Indian Creek's Keith Keenan (12), Shadyside's Mike Kernik (14), Steubenville's Jesse Turner (20), Martins Ferry's Joey Danehart (21) and Edison's Garrett Carter (22). Second row: Toronto's Matt Ludewig (28), Steubenville Central's Mike Yanni (29), Steubenville's Luke Hartman (32), Bellaire St. John's Joey Vavra (33), Harrison Central's Brendan Nunner (34), Edison's Jason Sanders (40), Martins Ferry's Dustin Holt (44) and manager Derek Wickham. Third row: Buckeye Local's Jack Otto (46), Wellsville's Jeff Clark (52), Cambridge's David Marlatt (54), East Liverpool's Zac Williams (56), Bellaire St. John's Sam Snodgrass (60), Shenandoah's Jesse Wells (67), Edison's Doug Farmer (68) and head coach Dave Everson. Fourth row: Buckeye Trail's Cody Lenarz (70), Monroe Central's Randall Sefert (72), Steubenville Central's David Potenzini (75), Barnesville's Jon Miller (80), Union Local's David Thomas (82), Bellaire's Ben Doyle (85), Meadowbrook's Kyle Rankin (88), Wellsville's Matt Engle (93) and Cambridge's Joel East (99). Back row: trainer Herb Minch, assistant coaches Greg Taglieri, Terry Wickham, Dan Rovira, B.J. Ash and Brian Connelly. Beaver Local's Dave Johnston (55) was unavailable for the photo.



## WEST VIRGINIA

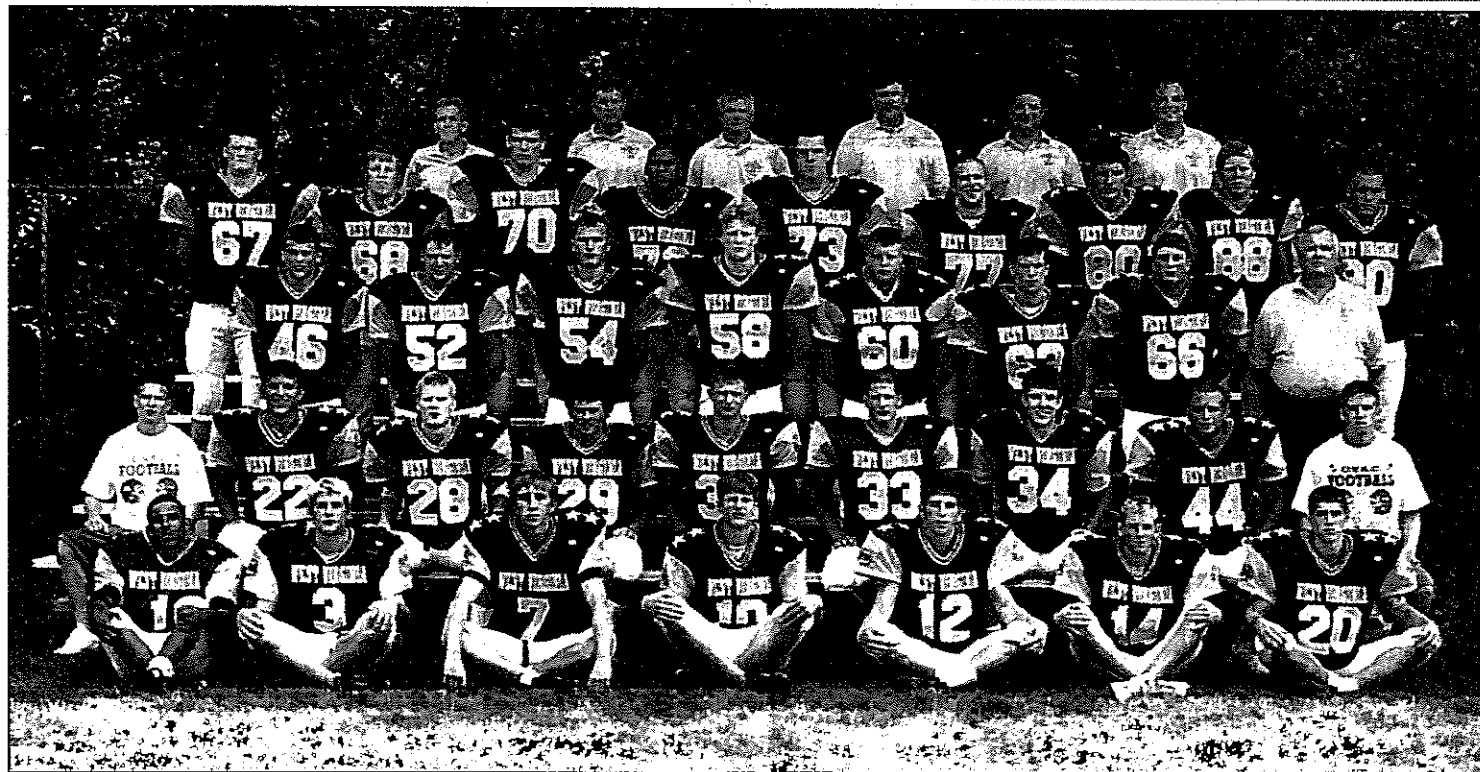
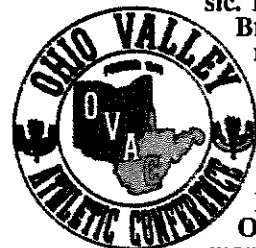


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Kernik connected on 96-of-177 aerials for 1,626 yards with an eye-popping 27-5 touchdown to interception ratio.

they are, they're both going to play a lot."

They'll have some inviting targets to work with as Bar-

for 691 yards on 123 carries.

Ohio may not have to throw the ball to move it as Everson has plenty of talented ball carri-

simple," said Linsky. "It's basically just a wing-T run out of shotgun formation."

Justin and (Brooke's) Jim

Virginia's state delegate to the NFL's second annual Youth Football Summit, held in conjunction with the Pro Football Hall of Fame Weekend.

He'll be one of 150 select coaches, administrators and supporters of high school and youth football programs nationwide being brought in by the NFL for a series of educational seminars on topics vital to the success of youth and high school football.

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He's won West Virginia state championships at tiny Duval High School in Griffithsville and at John Marshall, one of the 10 largest schools in the state.

Linsky will be in some pretty elite company in Canton next weekend - and I'm not just talking about the Pro Football Hall of Fame inductees.

The NFL conducted a nomination and essay contest on its high school Web site - nflhs.com - in order to come up with its delegates.

One active high school coach from each state was selected by a blue-ribbon panel to serve as state delegates at the summit.

Ten former NFL players currently coaching at the high school level - men like Mike Martin (Cincinnati Taft) and Pete Metzelaars (Charlotte, N.C. Christian) - were also invited.

Twenty football and academic coaches from the National Football Foundation's Play It Smart program; 27 youth football coaches and administrators from such youth sports programs as Pop Warner football and YMCA flag football; and five international high school coaches round out the list of invitees.

Participants in the summit, which runs from Thursday through Sunday, have also been invited to attend Saturday's Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremony.

Later on, they'll wrap

the way.  
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St. Clairsville's Adam Quirk led the valley in passing each of the past two years, completing 126-of-236 passes for 1,893 yards and 18 TDs last fall.

Shadyside's Mike Kernik was the valley's top small-school passer during the regular season last year.

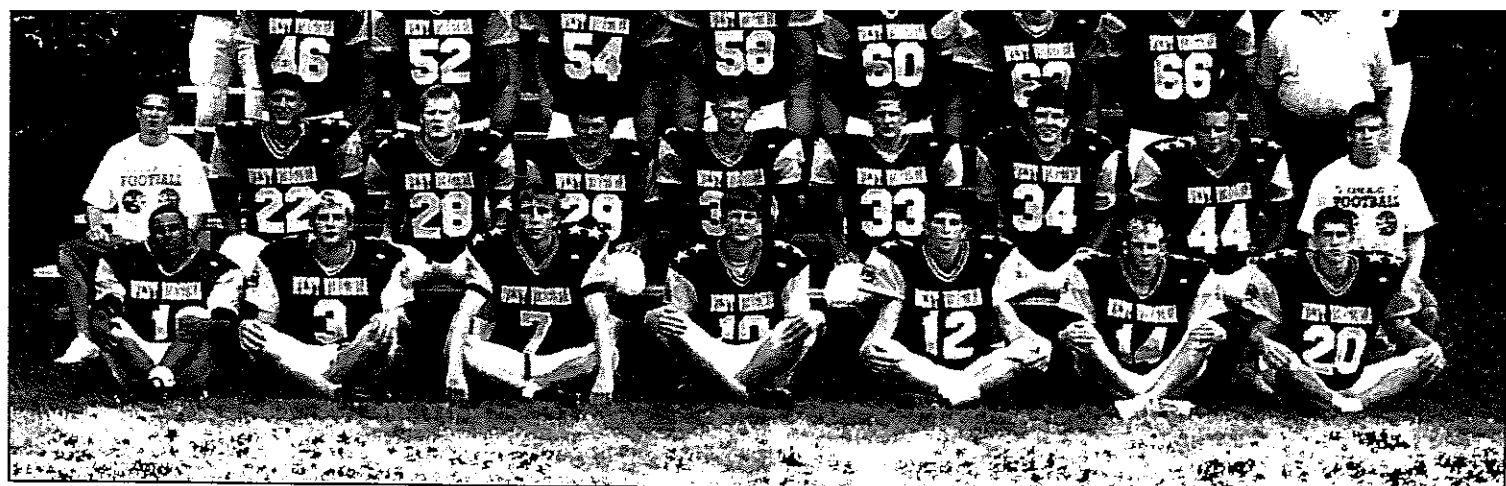


Photo by Art Limann

These young men will be representing West Virginia in tonight's 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic. First row: Wheeling Park's Keith Banks (1), Wheeling Central's Justin Edwards (3), Weirton Madonna's Brandon Battista (7), Brooke's Jim Scherich (10), Magnolia's Craig Mason (12), John Marshall's Luke Cunningham (14) and Brooke's Bobby Musulin (20). Second row: manager Zach Amedro, Linsly's R.J. Zitzelsberger (22), Linsly's Collin Walsh (28), Paden City's Tony Cline (29), Oak Glen's Derrick Stickles (32), John Marshall's Geoff Wysocki (33), Magnolia's Joe Blatt (34), Oak Glen's Ronnie Hebrock (44) and manager Brad Goddard. Third row: Cameron's Roger Kupfer (46), Wheeling Central's Chris Sengewalt (52), Oak Glen's Bill Ware (54), Brooke's Matt Burch (58), Weir's Art Pernell (60), John Marshall's Chris Taylor (63), Magnolia's Joe Weaver (66) and head coach Mike Linsky. Fourth row: Wheeling Park's B.J. Cook (67), Linsly's Scott Hitchens (68), Wheeling Park's Justin Tarovisky (70), Wheeling Park's Jermaine Lucious (72), Oak Glen's Justin Swiger (73), Wheeling Central's Jonathan Gordon (77), Tyler Consolidated's Lance Hickman (80), Cameron's Tucker Brown (88) and Weir's Vince Magnone (90). Back row: trainer Randy Elliott, assistant coaches Mark Hinerman, Gerald Miller, Jim Brinkman, Bob Triveri and Dan Wilson.



Kernik connected on 96-of-177 aerials for 1,626 yards with an eye-popping 27-5 touchdown to interception ratio.

He then went on to throw for nearly 1,000 more yards in the playoffs, leading the Tigers all the way to the Ohio Division VI semifinals.

"It really doesn't matter who starts," said Everson at midweek. "With two kids as talented as

they are, they're both going to play a lot."

They'll have some inviting targets to work with as Barnesville's Jon Miller led the valley in receiving with 63 catches for 838 yards and 7 TDs while Quirk's backfield runningmate at St. Clairsville, Brett Jordan, caught 48 passes for 727 yards and 7 scores.

The versatile Jordan also ran

for 691 yards on 123 carries.

Ohio may not have to throw the ball to move it as Everson has plenty of talented ball carriers at his disposal.

Steubenville's Jesse Turner ran for 1,243 yards and 12 TDs - including a 288-yard performance against Wheeling Park - while Martins Ferry's Joey Danehart averaged nearly 7 yards a carry while rumbling for 1,430 yards and 18 rushing TDs.

Bellaire St. John's Joey Vavra and Steubenville Central's Mike Yanni also topped the 1,000-yard rushing mark.

The cupboard certainly isn't bare on the West Virginia side.

Linsky has installed the spread offense that John Marshall used to such good effect last year and says the players picked it up very quickly.

"The hardest thing for me the first day was getting the snap," said Wheeling Central quarterback Justin Edwards, "but I love the offense."

"You can do a lot of things with it."

Edwards - who opted to play in tonight's game despite having signed to play college baseball at West Virginia - will get the starting nod under center.

Better make that behind center. "Our offense is really pretty

simple," said Linsky. "It's basically just a wing-T run out of shotgun formation."

Justin and (Brooke's) Jim Scherich have been working at quarterback this week. They both throw the ball pretty well and we'll probably run Jim some at wide receiver, too."

Linsky has talent at wide receiver but not a lot of depth.

John Marshall's Luke Cunningham averaged over 21 yards a catch last season, hauling in 28 passes for 590 yards and 7 TDs, while Wheeling Park's Keith Banks made a successful midseason transition from running back to wideout and finished with 26 catches for 355 yards.

Weirton Madonna's Brandon Battista had 21 grabs for 369 yards and 5 scores.

The running back spot could be a key for West Virginia.

"In a one-back offense," said Linsky, "your back has to be able to catch the ball as well as run it."

"That's the kind of backs we went looking for."

West Virginia does boast the valley's leading rusher from a year ago in Oak Glen's Derrick Stickles, who ran for 1,518 yards and 14 scores while averaging more than 7 yards a carry for the Golden Bears.

See, OVAC, Page B2

## MEMORY LANE

### Ohio leads OVAC series, 19-10

2001: Ohio 36, West Virginia 0	1986: Ohio 14, West Virginia 6
2000: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7	1985: West Virginia 28, Ohio 26
1999: Ohio 32, West Virginia 0	1984: Ohio 22, West Virginia 6
1998: Ohio 41, West Virginia 14	1983: Ohio 26, West Virginia 16
1997: Ohio 24, West Virginia 14	1982: West Virginia 7, Ohio 6
1996: Ohio 43, West Virginia 21	1981: Ohio 17, West Virginia 14
1995: Ohio 21, West Virginia 0	1980: Ohio 10, West Virginia 7
1994: West Virginia 19, Ohio 14	1979: Ohio 47, West Virginia 13
1993: West Virginia 34, Ohio 32	1978: Ohio 21, West Virginia 13
1992: No game (washout)	1977: West Virginia 21, Ohio 0
1991: Ohio 30, West Virginia 6	1976: West Virginia 33, Ohio 20
1990: Ohio 42, West Virginia 0	1975: West Virginia 8, Ohio 0
1989: West Virginia 22, Ohio 14	1974: West Virginia 13, Ohio 6
1988: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7	1973: West Virginia 38, Ohio 20
1987: Ohio 13, West Virginia 11	1972: Ohio 24, West Virginia 6

inductees.

The NFL conducted a nomination and essay contest on its high school Web site - nflhs.com - in order to come up with its delegates.

One active high school coach from each state was selected by a blue-ribbon panel to serve as state delegates at the summit.

Ten former NFL players currently coaching at the high school level - men like Mike Martin (Cincinnati Taft) and Pete Metzelaars (Charlotte, N.C. Christian) - were also invited.

Twenty football and academic coaches from the National Football Foundation's Play It Smart program; 27 youth football coaches and administrators from such youth sports programs as Pop Warner football and YMCA flag football; and five international high school coaches round out the list of invitees.

Participants in the summit, which runs from Thursday through Sunday, have also been invited to attend Saturday's Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremony.

Later on, they'll wrap things up with a dinner at Glenmoor Country Club in Canton.

Although he's been coaching for the better part of 30 years, Linsky still can't keep the excitement out of his voice when he starts talking about football.

"There's no better classroom in the world than a football field," he said in his winning essay.

"Students learn the value of hard work, planning, goal-setting and sacrifice."

"The best thing about high school coaching is seeing young men succeed in life and come back to tell you that high school football was a great foundation for their success."

That's a Hall of Fame mindset if ever I've heard one. Congratulations, coach.

### Memory Lane

Although tonight's game is billed as the 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic, all-star games and Wheeling Island Stadium have been linked for more than 60 years.

See, BOTTOM LINE, Page B3

# OVAC

Continued from page B1

Linsly's R.J. Zitzelsberger is another 1,000-yard rusher, having run for 1,107 yards and 13 scores a year ago.

Paden City's Tony Cline also cracked four figures, running for 1,081 yards and 21 TDs in lead-

ing the Wildcats to a West Virginia Class A playoff berth.

Both coaches agree that speed will be a big factor tonight.

"The big thing is our speed against their speed," said Linsky, "especially on the perimeter."

"We want to be aggressive on defense and fly to the football and we've done a good job of that all week."

Everson hopes to be able to bring all his weapons to bear in a balanced attack.

"The main thing we want to do," he said, "is get the ball into the hands of our best athletes as often as possible."

"We have very talented receivers and running backs so we have to find ways to get the ball to them."

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P205 65 R15	Michelin Rain Force MX4	\$88.88
P215 65 R15	Kelly Navigator Gold	\$46.96
P215 60 R15	Cordivan HR4	\$49.88
P215 60 R16	Continental Touring	\$49.96
P225 60 R16	General G4S BLK	\$59.88
P225 60 R16	Michelin Symmetry	\$84.96
P175 70 R13	General G4S BLK	\$33.96
P185 70 R14	Private Brand BLK	\$29.88
P185 70 R14	Dunlop SP20 BLK	\$36.90
P195 70 R14	Private Brand BLK	\$29.96
P195 70 R14	General G4S BLK	\$39.96
P205 70 R14	Firestone FR360 WSW	\$38.96
P205 70 R14	Firestone FR680 R1K	\$39.96



## OVAC All-Star Coaches, Rosters



Photo by Art Limann

The Edison High coaching staff hopes to extend Ohio's OVAC All-Star Game win streak to eight games in tonight's 31st annual interstate tilt. Standing behind head coach Dave Everson are assistant coaches Terry Wickham, Brian Connolly, B.J. Ash, Greg Taglieri and Dan Rovira. Assistant coach Josh Meyer was unavailable for the photo.



Photo by Art Limann

The John Marshall High School coaching staff will lead West Virginia into battle in tonight's 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. Standing behind head coach Mike Linsky are trainer Randy Elliott and assistant coaches Mark Hinerman, Gerald Miller, Dan Wilson, Jim Brinkman and Bob Triveri.

Ohio					
HEAD COACH					
Dave Everson, Edison					
Assistant Coaches					
Greg Taglieri, Terry Wickham, B.J. Ash, Dan Rovira, Brian Connolly and Josh Meyer					
PLAYERS					
No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	School
1	Brett Jordan	5-11	185	RB	St. Clairsville
3	Devon Singleton	6-2	180	QB	Meadowbrook
7	John Lester	6-2	170	DB	Steubenville
10	Adam Quirk	6-1	185	QB	St. Clairsville
12	Keith Keenan	5-11	155	WR/DB	Indian Creek
14	Michael Kemik	5-11	190	QB	Shadyside
20	Jesse Turner	5-9	175	TB/S	Steubenville
21	Joey Danehart	5-10	178	TB/LB	Martins Ferry
22	Garrett Carter	6-1	180	WR/DB	Edison
28	Matt Ludewig	5-10	170	QB/DB	Toronto
29	Matt Yann	5-10	160	RB/DB	Steub. Central
32	Luke Hartman	5-10	200	LB	Steubenville
33	Joey Vavra	5-10	195	RB/LB	Bellaire St. John
34	Bredan Nunner	5-8	180	FB	Harrison Central
40	Jason Sanders	6-2	190	TE/FS	Edison
44	Dustin Holt	5-10	195	FB/LB	Martins Ferry
46	Jack Otto	6-1	187	RB/R	Buckeye Local

West Virginia					
HEAD COACH					
Mike Linsky, John Marshall					
Assistant Coaches					
Mark Hinerman, Gerald Miller, Bob Triveri, Jim Brinkman and Dan Wilson					
PLAYERS					
No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	School
1	Keith Banks	5-7	150	WR/DB	Wheeling Park
3	Justin Edwards	6-0	195	QB/P	Wheeling Central
7	Brandon Battista	6-2	175	SE/DB	Weirton Madonna
10	James Scherich	6-3	190	QB/WR	Brooke
12	Craig Mason	6-0	185	SS/LB	Magnolia
14	Luke Cunningham	5-11	145	WR/DB	John Marshall
20	Bobby Musulin	6-1	180	S	Brooke
22	R.J. Zitzelsberger	6-2	230	RB/LB	Linsly
28	Colin Walsh	6-0	190	WR/DB	Linsly
29	Tony Cline	5-7	157	RB	Paden City
32	Derrick Stuckles	6-1	195	TB	Oak Glen
33	Geoff Wysocki	5-8	170	RB/LB	John Marshall
34	Joe Blatt	6-1	200	TB/DE	Magnolia
44	Ronnie Hebrock	6-1	205	FB	Oak Glen
46	Roder Kuofer	5-11	165	TB/DE	Cameron

# BOTTOM LINE

Continued from page B1

In fact, the first recorded West Virginia vs. Ohio football all-star game at the stadium was played all the way back in 1940.

Not only was it the first West Virginia vs. Ohio all-star game played at the stadium, it was also the first chance for area grid fans to check out a new "state-of-the-art" lighting system at the stadium.

They must not have had total faith in those lights, however, as they still made use of the white leather football we sometimes see in vintage NFL films.

More than 8,000 fans reportedly came out to watch and they saw legendary Union High great Charlie Helinski lead the West Virginia stars on two touchdown drives in the last seven minutes to escape with a 13-7 victory.

The game became more or less a fixture on the Ohio Valley summer scene until 1970 when difficulties arose concerning NCAA eligibility.

After no game was played in 1970 or 1971, the

OVAC received permission from the NCAA to resurrect the summer all-star game as a charity event starting in 1972.

Ohio won the first game but West Virginia won the next five and the rest is history.

With yet another chapter to be written tonight.

## All-Star Vets

A number of the players on both sides of the ball in tonight's OVAC All-Star Game will be playing in their second all-star game of the summer.

The only difference is that the kids on the West Virginia team won.

Nearly a third of Coach Linsky's Mountain State squad were selected for the North in last month's annual West Virginia North-South Game at Laidley Field in Charleston.

Wheeling Park's Justin Tarovsky and Jermaine Lucious; Weir's Art Pernell and Vince Magnone; Cameron's Tucker Brown; Brooke's Matt Burch;

Tyler Consolidated's Lance Hickman and Justin Swiger of Oak Glen were on the North roster for a 39-12 thrashing of the South.

It's a little different story on the Ohio side.

Shadyside's Mike Kernik and Steubenville's Jesse Turner were named to the South roster for the Ohio North-South Game.

The South led most of the way only to see the North come up with a last-minute score to steal a 27-26 victory.

Cambridge's Joel East, who's headed to Duke to pursue his college football dream, played for Ohio in last week's Big 33 Game in Hershey, Pa.

East and his Buckeye State boys had a tough night as Pennsylvania scored early and often en route to a 40-17 rout.

## Farewell To A Friend

Those of us in the Sunday News-Register sports department was deeply saddened by the untimely passing of Steve Hannig last weekend.

We had the privilege of working with Steve on some of the projects that were near and dear to his heart - almost all of which involved making things better for our valley's children.

Through his work with the Chambers foundation and his diligent efforts as a driving force behind the OVAC soccer program, it's hard to believe that a child could grow up in the local area without being touched by something Steve had a hand in creating.

It has been said that a man never stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child.

Steve Hannig stood taller than most.

The members of the Sunday News-Register sports department extend our deepest sympathies to Steve's wife Kathy; son T.J.; daughter Mary Beth and the rest of Steve's friends and family.

He will be missed.

Don Clegg can be reached via e-mail at [Clegg@news-register.net](mailto:Clegg@news-register.net)

## OVAC FOOTBALL

31st Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic

West Virginia	0	6	6	0	—	12
Ohio	0	13	0	6	—	19

### First Quarter

No scoring

### Second Quarter

O — Lester 22 pass from Kernik (Engle kick), 7:30

O — Vavra 3 pass from Kernik (pass failed), 3:25

W — Zitzelsberger 72 pass from Edwards (kick blocked), 3:12

### Third Quarter

W — Stickles 1 run (run failed), 8:08

### Fourth Quarter

O — Miller 18 pass from Quirk (kick failed), 1:16

### Individual Statistics

**RUSHING:** West Virginia 22-67-td (Stickles 8-32-td, Edwards 8-25, Banks 2-14, Zitzelsberger 3-2, Scherich 1-(-6)); Ohio 39-175 (Kernik 12-74, Turner 10-61, Jordan 6-29, Danehart 7-18, Quirk 5(-7)).

**PASSING:** West Virginia 8-22-180-td-3x (Edwards 7-18-149-td-2x, Scherich 1-4-31-0td-1x); Ohio 18-28-217-3td-3x (Kernik 14-21-170-2td-2x, Quirk 4-6-48-td-x, Singleton 0-1).

**RECEIVING:** West Virginia 8-180-td (Zitzelsberger 1-72-td, Banks 4-46, Stickles 1-31, Hickman 1-19, Cunningham 1-12); Ohio 18-218-3td (Jordan 7-92, Miller 5-41-td, Danehart 2-39, Lester 1-22-td, Turner 1-11, Doyle 1-10, Vavra 1-3-td).

**FIRST DOWNS:** West Virginia 11, Ohio 25.

**PENALTIES:** West Virginia 6-60, Ohio 7-50.

**FUMBLES:** West Virginia 5-2, Ohio 0-0.



**THE** Ohio linebacking and defensive backfield corps will hope to help the Buckeyes post a victory in Sunday's OVAC All-Star Game. That group includes, front row, from left, Jon Miller, Keith Keenan, Jesse Turner, Michael Yanni, Matt Ludewig and Kyle Rankin. Second row, from left, are Luke Hartman, Dustin Holt, Devon Singleton, Jack Otto, Brendan Hunner and John Lester.

T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

# West Virginia names line

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

West Virginia head coach Mike Linsky took another big step toward completing his roster for the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic.

The OVAC all-star tilt is slated for Sunday, July 28 at Wheeling Island Stadium with a 7:15 p.m. kickoff.

The current John Marshall Monarch head man has added his group of offensive lineman which will protect when the Mountaineers drop back to throw the football.

"We wanted to select quick kids with good feet," Linsky said. "We need our lineman to be able to spread out and pass block, trap or block on screens."

The Mountaineer offensive line is all too big, but it does have four players weighing in at more than 220 pounds.

"We think size is kind of over-rated with what we are trying to do," Linsky explained. "We are not totally small, we will not be afraid to line up and run the ball if we have to, but we are primarily going to throw the ball."

Searching for playing time on the West Virginia offensive front will be: Wheeling Park's B.J. Cook, Linsly Scott Hitchens, Weir's Art Pernel, Wheeling Central's Chris Sengewalt, Oak Glen's Justin Swiger, Park's Justin Tarovisky and John Marshall's Chris Taylor.

Here is a look at the individual players:

**COOK** -- One of Coach Mark Nardone's trenchmen, Cook enjoyed a stellar senior campaign.

The 6-ft-1, 220 pound center anchored the Patriots' offensive line and opened holes and pass protected well all season.

Cook was a two-year letterman in football and a four-time monogram winner in wrestling, where he qualified to the state tournament as a junior and placed in the OVAC tourney the same season.

Cook -- who plans to attend Bethany College -- was not limited to athletic prowess, while at Park. He served as the Class President as a senior and a junior and as Vice President as a freshman and sophomore. He has also taken part in the Principal's Leadership Forum, Student Council, Sergeant at Arms, Young Life, 4-H, Newspaper/Yearbook staff, Key Club, Math tutor, STARS and Student Ambassador.

**HITCHENS** -- The former Linsly Cadet was a very solid member of a formidable offensive and defensive line for Coach Terry Depew's charges.

The 5-ft-10, 230 pounder served as the Cadets' center and then shifted to defensive end on the other side of the ball.

Hitchens, who plans to attend Wittenberg University, earned three varsity letters for Linsly in football. He is a member of the National Honor Society, President's Education Awards Program.

He also earned academic recognition from the West Virginia Top of the Mountain Academic Scholar, Luthern Scholar Award, JETS, West

Virginia AP Rising Scholar and is a member of the OVAC All-Conference Academic team. He received the Wittenberg University Scholar Award.

**PERNELL** -- The offensive guard enjoyed four productive seasons for Weir High and head coach Dan Enich.

The 6-ft-1, 244 pounder was one of the main cogs on the Red Riders' offensive fronts.

He was an Honorable Mention all-OVAC pick and he also took part in the North-South All-Star Game.

He also excelled in wrestling where he qualified to the state tournament.

**SENGEWALT** -- The two-way lineman enjoyed a most productive career for Jim Thomas and the Maroon Knights.

The 5-ft-11, 195 pounder served as a guard and defensive end for Wheeling Central.

He was a first-team all-Valley, all-OVAC and all-West Virginia pick and was also named as a Wally and Wimpy's Player of the Week.

Aside from his athletic achievements, Sengewalt took part on G.U.T.S., Peer Ministry, Young Life, Track and was a volunteer for YMCA.

**SWIGER** -- The huge two-way lineman enjoyed a very sound season for Oak Glen and head coach Tom Taylor.

The 6-ft-5, 265 pounder paved the way for Golden Bears from his center position and served as a defensive end.

Swiger was a second-team all-OVAC pick, First Team all-Area and was selected for the North-South All-Star Game.

The West Virginia University Institute of Technology football recruit is a member of the National Honor Society.

**TAROVISKY** -- The Wheeling Park product was a solid two-way lineman for Coach Mark Nardone and the Patriots.

The 6-ft-5, 235 pounder was a solid offensive lineman and defensive tackle, opening holes and protecting the passer all season.

Tarovisky, who is bound for California University of Pennsylvania, was a second-team all-West Virginia pick as a defensive tackle. He was also first-team all-Valley and all-OVAC.

Along with his football talents, Tarovisky was a starter for the Pats' hoop squad.

He has been a member of the Park Honor Roll with an accumulative 3.5 GPA.

**TAYLOR** -- Another solid lineman for the Mountaineers after the superlative career he had under Linsky at John Marshall.

The 5-ft-11, 190 pound linebacker and guard was solid on both sides for the Monarchs.

Taylor was both the OVAC and West Virginia wrestling champion and was named OVAC Outstanding Wrestler at the conference tourney.

The West Liberty State bound student-athlete was solid in the classroom, graduating fifth out of his class of 363 this past spring.

He is also active in the Heath, Science and Technology Academy and FCA.



## Ohio announces quarterbacks, running backs

By **RICH GIBSON**  
Times-Leader Sports Editor

One football may not be enough to go around for Ohio's Dave Everson.

Not when the Buckeyes' head coach begins drawing up plays for this month's annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Game.

Everson today announced a talent-laden backfield scheduled to wear the Scarlet and Gray Sunday evening July 28 at Wheeling Stadium.

"Obviously, I like the looks of our offensive capabilities," said Everson a few days before Ohio reports to training camp at West Liberty State College.

Calling signals for the Buckeyes are St. Clairsville's Adam Quirk and Shadyside's Mike Kernik.

"These are a couple of young men who lead by example," Everson remarked. "In the case of Adam and Mike, both are exceptional passers, but they also create problems with their running abilities as well."

Also lining up in Ohio's backfield are running backs Jesse Turner (Steubenville Big Red); Joey Danehart (Martins Ferry) and Joey Vavra (St. John Central).

"All three runners have their own unique

style. As a result, that should make our offense even more versatile," Everson added.

**KERNIK**, the Mount Union College bound QB, worked wonders for coach Ty Fleming's wide open offense at Shadyside.

The 5-11, 190-pounder continually gave opposing defenses fits with his quick strike capabilities.

En route to engineering one of the most memorable post-season runs in Ohio Valley history, Kernik passed for 1,626 yards and an amazing 27 touchdowns as the Orange advanced to the state semifinals.

Known for his uncanny accuracy, Kernik was intercepted but six times.

Kernik earned virtually every postseason accolade. He was named all-Ohio by the Associated Press and was first team all-eastern District.

The Tigers' ace was named to the all-Valley, all-Times Leader and all-OVAC units. Earlier this summer, Mike played in the prestigious Ohio North/South All-Star Game in Columbus.

In addition to his athletic prowess, Kernik



QUIRK

KERNIK

DANEHART

VAVRA

achieved with regularity in the classroom. Mike's academic excellence included an honor roll position for each grading period through high school.

**ADAM QUIRK** took the Red Devils' grid program to new heights, shattering virtually every passing and total yardage record at the hill-top school.

Quirk tormented St. C. opponents, capping a brilliant prep career with just under 5,000 passing yards.

As a senior, Quirk led all OV passers, firing for 1,893 yards, including 19 touchdowns.

Headed to Ohio Northern University to continue his athletic and academic careers, Quirk

See, OVAC, Page B2

was a two-time all-Ohio honoree by the Associated Press.

St. C.'s 6-1, 185-pound talent gained first team all-Eastern District honors and earned similar laurels on the all-OVAC team. He was named to the all-Valley and all-Times Leader squads as well.

A three-sport standout, Quirk's achievements in the classroom were just as noteworthy.

A fixture on the Principal's List at St. C., Quirk was the recipient of the St. Clairsville Alumni Scholarship Award and also received the prestigious Harold "Tiger" Flowers Scholarship honor.

**STEBENVILLE** High's Jesse Turner consistently wreaked havoc with his elusive, break-away running abilities.

Big Red's 5-9, 170-pound tailback was among the Ohio Valley's standout backs as a senior. Turner amassed 1,250 rushing yards, averaging just under seven yards per carry.

As a result, the Big Red rocket was accorded numerous post-season accolades, including all-Ohio by the Associated Press.

Turner also earned first team all-Eastern District laurels and was named Eastern District Player of the Year.

Playing for veteran Steubenville High coach Reno Saccoccia, Turner found the end zone a dozen times.

In addition to his gridiron exploits, Turner was a talented track star and rated among the Ohio Valley's premier sprinters.

At Steubenville High, Turner was also valuable member of Big Red's wrestling squad.

**AT MARTINS FERRY** High, Joey Danehart was noted for his relentless running style, resulting in numerous break-away TD runs.

Under the guidance of long-time Purple Riders' head coach Dave Bruney, Danehart delighted Ferry followers on Friday nights as a two-way standout.

In his senior season, Danehart dazzled the opposition, piling up just under 1,500 yards, ranking the 5-10, 178-pound ace second among all Ohio Valley running backs.

The durable Danehart recorded in excess of 200 carries en route to an 18-touchdown performance. In all, the Ferry flyer totaled some 122 points.

The Associated Press recognized Danehart on its all-Ohio second team unit. Joey also was named to the all-Eastern District, all-Valley and all-Times Leader postseason squads.

**JOE VAVRA** capped a highly productive prep tenure with the Irish, amassing nearly 1,100 yards and scoring 10 touchdowns.

The 5-10, 195-pound Vavra will continue his grid career at the next level, suiting up for The College of Wooster.

At St. John's, Vavra earned three varsity letters in both football and basketball.

Joey was a first team all-eastern District honoree and also was named to the special mention all-Ohio list by the Associated Press.

In addition to earning all OVAC honors in two sports, Vavra was also an all-East Ohio Baseball League selection.

President of the Senior class at St. John's, Joe earned the prestigious Delbert "Fish" Merryman Leadership Award and also earned the Valloric Award, symbolic of top senior athlete.

Vavra was also a member of the Spanish Club at St. John's.

OVAC ALL-STAR FOOTBALL

# Edison's Everson to Lead Buckeye Stars

Ohio coach was quarterback in 1987 gleam game

Dave Everson is taking it to the next level.

A player in the 1987 Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game, Everson returns to the sideline — this time as head coach for Ohio — when the 2002 Classic kicks off two weeks from tonight at Wheeling Stadium.

Everson, who begins his second season as head coach this fall at Edison High, is obviously thrilled to draw the Mumley assignment.

"I recall how exciting it was being selected as a player 15 years ago," Everson said. "It's an even greater honor having an opportunity to coach this group of outstanding players."

The Buckeye North High product guided Edison to a 6-4 mark last fall as the Wildcats confronted one of the valley's most formidable schedules.

Serving as assistants to Everson in the OVAC game are: Greg Taglieri, Terry Wickham, George (B.J.) Ash, Dan Rivera, Brian Connolly and Josh Meyer.

Everson labels the Mumley game, "one of the most anticipated sporting events of the year in the Ohio Valley."

"This game has always served as an unofficial kickoff to the upcoming season."

"It's not unusual to see the stands filled. It's a game players, coaches and fans alike look forward to."

Named Coach of the Year by the Steubenville Herald-Star/Weirton Daily Times for his 2001 achievements at Edison, Everson played football two seasons at West Liberty State before going on to Ohio State.

Everson was a student coach four years at OSU before becoming a graduate assistant for two seasons.

Everson remained in the Columbus area and served as defensive coordinator for two seasons at Capital University before returning to the Ohio Valley.

Dave and his wife, Melissa reside in Brilliant with their chil-



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

John Marshall head football coach Mike Linsky, left, and Edison head football coach Dave Everson, right, are joined by game director Bob Koch as they discuss plans for this month's annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic. Everson will coach the Ohio stars while Linsky will guide the Mountain Staters' fortunes.

dren Andrew, 3; Sydney, 19 months and Benjamin, two months.

**TAGLIERI** will start his sixth season at the Richmond-based school.

A graduate of Wintersville High, Taglieri went on to attend both Bethany College and Franciscan University.

Taglieri starred in football at Wintersville High and lettered two years at Bethany with the Bison.

His football duties at Edison include coaching offensive linemen and outside linebackers. Greg also serves as offensive coordinator.

Taglieri, who resides in Wintersville, has also served as assistant varsity basketball coach and as head freshman hoops coach.

**ASH** is a Weir High and Fairmont State College product who joined Everson's staff last fall at Edison.

A former grid standout with the Red Riders, Ash has also served as wrestling coach.

At Edison, Ash is responsible for coaching offensive and defensive linemen.

George and his wife, Kristina, are the parents of one child.

**WICKHAM** was a three-sport performer during the 1980s at Jefferson Union High which eventually consolidated into Edison High.

In addition to football, Terry has coaching experience in boys and girls' varsity track. With the Wildcats, Wickham works with cornerbacks and wide receivers.

Wickham attended Muskingum before enrolling at Kent State. He also studied at Franciscan University.

Terry and his wife, Lori, and the parents of one son: 12-year-old Derek and one daughter, 8-year-old Alex. They reside in Bloomingdale.

**CONNOLLY** is a 1987 graduate of Jefferson Union High where he was a grid standout.

Prior to joining Everson at Edison, Brian served one season as offensive coordinator at Toronto. He's also worked on the grid staff at Steubenville Central.

Connolly is responsible for coaching running backs and inside linebackers.

**RIVERA**, defensive coordinator at Edison, was a two-time NCAA Division III All-American at defensive tackle for Bethany.

Dan joins the Edison program after serving as defensive coordinator at Weir High.

**MEYER** is a 2000 graduate of Edison and played two seasons collegiately at Washington and Jefferson before recently transferring to West Liberty State.

Josh will work with wide receivers and safeties.

# Linsky Unveils W.Va. Backfield

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

As the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic draws closer to its 7 p.m. kickoff on July 28th at Wheeling Island Stadium, the rosters for both West Virginia and Ohio are beginning to take shape.

John Marshall head coach — and this year's West Virginia mentor — Mike Linsky has announced his quarterbacks and running backs for the annual summer showcase.

"We really like the group of quarterbacks and running backs we have put together," Linsky said. "We tried to pick this team, so we could put 22 different kids on the field. We don't want kids playing both ways if we don't have to."

Entering the game, Wheeling Central's Justin Edwards and Brooke's Jim Scherich rank as the top two signalcallers on the Mountaineers' roster.

"With the type of offense we run, it gives the quarterbacks a chance to shine," Linsky explained. "We like to sit back in the shotgun and we kind of put the quarterback on a rocking chair with this style of play."

The Mountaineers, who obviously expect to obviously throw the ball more than run it, will enter training camp with four top running back candidates.

Those expected to see time lugging the leather include Linsky's R.J. Zitzelsberger, Magnolia's Joe Blatt, Oak Glen's Ronnie Hebrock and Paden City's Tony Cline.

"We're concerned with the quality of running back we have," said Linsky.

"We want kids to be able to both run and catch the ball out of the backfield."

**EDWARDS:** The West Virginia University bound baseball player enjoyed three productive seasons for Coach Jim Thomas and the Maroon Knights.

Edwards helped Central to a West Virginia Single A state title as a junior and led the Knights back to Wheeling Island Stadium as a senior, only to fall short to Moorefield.

The 6-0, 195-pounder put up decent numbers as a senior, but wasn't asked to throw as often as he was during his junior campaign. He completed 47-of-120 passes for 757 yards and four touchdowns.

Edwards earned all-Valley, all-West Virginia and was named Most Valuable Player on his high school team.

"Justin can do a lot of things," Linsky said. "He throws well and he's big enough to run well."

"He didn't throw as much this past season, but we know he can throw the football and he is a great leader."

Justin also helped the Knights to two state baseball titles, while playing under his dad, Terry.

Aside from his athletic prowess, Edwards was also president of his senior class and a member of the National Foreign Language Society.

**SCHERICH:** The quarterback put together a fine final season for head coach Bud Billiard last fall.

The 6-3, 190 pounder completed 91-of-190 aeriels for 1,349 yards and 9 TDs as a senior.

Scherich, who also plans to continue his education at WVU in the fall, earned a host of postseason accolades, including second-team All-Valley.

"Jim's a tall and mobile kid who has played a lot of football," Linsky said. "He's an adept passer and we really think he can help us."

**ZITZELSBERGER:** The Washington and Jefferson-bound gridder had a fine senior campaign

and career for the Cadets and head coach Terry DePew.

After battling injuries as a junior, Zitzelsberger (6-2, 230) came back with a vengeance as a senior, rushing for 1,107 yards and 13 TDs on 181 totes.

The baseball and basketball letter winner, while at Linsky, was a two-time All-Valley and All-OVAC selection after being named Sophomore of the Year by The Intelligencer.

Zitzelsberger more than held his own in the classroom, taking part in the National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, Key Club, S.A.D.D., Who's Who Among American High School Students, Math Club and FCA.

"R.J. is a big, strong back who can run inside and outside of the tackles and also has very good hands," Linsky said.

**BLATT:** This Blue Eagle put together a most memorable senior campaign under Magnolia head coach Mark Batton.

The 6-1, 200-pounder rushed 114 times for 647 yards and 5 TDs from his fullback position.

Blatt, who will be attending Notre Dame this fall, was a first-team Mid-Ohio Valley and All-OVAC honoree this past season and was also nominated for the Wendy's High School Heisman Award.

Blatt was also a standout baseball player for Coach Dave Cisar's program. He was a four-year letterman who earned second-team All-State and All-Valley honors as a senior along with being named first-team All-OVAC.

An outstanding student, Blatt was valedictorian of Magnolia's Class of 2002 and also served as president of the student body.

He was also a National Merit semifinalist and was named to the Who's Who and the National Honor Roll.

"If we run a two-back set, Joe and R.J. are almost mirror images of one another. He is a very powerful runner who can go inside and outside," Linsky said.

**HEBROCK:** This Golden Bear didn't put up mind-boggling statistics, but what he brought to the table for Coach Tom Taylor did not go unnoticed.

The 6-1, 205 pounder was one of the area's premier lead blockers, paving the way for fellow West Virginia all-star Derrick Stickle to rush for more than 1,500 yards.

Hebrock earned several postseason awards, including being chosen as a second-team all-West Virginia pick twice and was first-team all-OVAC and he earned the Mark Wright and Dennis Huff Awards.

Hebrock was also a standout wrestler for Coach Larry Shaw's Golden Bears. He was a two-time state champion and a three-time OVAC placer.

"Ronnie's a really good lead blocker who can run the ball when needed," Linsky said.

Hebrock plans on continuing his education at West Liberty State College in the fall.

**CLINE:** The former Wildcat put up impressive numbers in helping Paden City and Coach Brent Croasmum to a berth in the West Virginia Single A playoffs.

The 5-7, 157-pounder ran for 1,081 yards and 21 TDs on 144 carries.

Cline, who plans to major in physical therapy at WVU, was a second-team All-State selection and first-team All-OVAC honoree.

"Tony is a kind of jitterbug back who has pretty good speed," said Linsky. "We think he will really help us."



# Linsky To Lead W.Va. All-Stars

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Sunday News-Register

With the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic just three weeks away, the coaching staff for West Virginia has been named.

John Marshall's Mike Linsky has been selected to guide the Mountain State's team for the second time in his illustrious career.

The Monarchs' head man was also the West Virginia mentor in 1986.

"I always enjoy coaching all-star games," Linsky said. "It is a good experience. There are quality kids from top to bottom of the roster."

Linsky led the Monarchs to a 6-4 record and a second-place finish in the OVAC 4-A race, behind only Steubenville.

The personable Monarchs' mentor owns a career record of 169-119 during his 27 years as a high school football coach.

Linsky, who has been at the helm of the Glen Dale-based school for the past 19 years, won a West Virginia Class AAA state championship in 1996, leading the Monarchs to a 13-1 record that season.

Before coming to John Marshall, Linsky served as the head coach at Duval High School where he won Single A state championships in both 1978 and 1982.

"We are going to go to the (OVAC) game and have a good time," Linsky said. "There is really no pressure on winning and losing and we aren't going to beat the kids to death or anything."

"We just think they should have a good time and enjoy the experience."

Linsky is a 1968 graduate of Sherman High School, where he played football, basketball and baseball.

He then went on to earn his bachelor's degree at Hampden-Sydney College in 1972, where he played two years of football and a season of baseball.

Linsky earned his masters degree from Marshall in 1980 and then earned a master coach certification from West Virginia University.

Mike and his wife Sandy have four children, Jeremy (29), Lori (26), Mika (16) and Chelsea (10). The Linskys reside in Glen Dale.

Linsky will surround himself with familiar faces, as he is taking his entire Monarch coaching staff to the All-Star Game.

The rest of the West Virginia staff includes Dan Wilson, Bob Triveri, Gerald Miller, Jim Brinkman and Mark Hinerman.

"We have been together as a staff a long time," Linsky said.

"We're not just a staff, but we are best friends and work really well together."



Mike Linsky

**HINERMAN** is a veteran assistant who has been with the Monarch program for the past 22 years and has been a football coach for 28 seasons.

Hinerman handles the quarterbacks and secondary and also serves as the unofficial assistant head coach at JM.

The Cameron High School graduate, who teaches driver's education at JM, earned his bachelors and masters degrees from WVU.

Mark and his wife Deborah have one son, Mark and they reside in Glen Dale.

**MILLER** is another veteran assistant who has been one of Linsky's top aides the past 16 years.

The 1980 John Marshall graduate works with the wide receivers and defensive backs.

Miller earned his bachelors degree from West Liberty and went on to earn a masters at WVU.

Gerald and his wife Ann have two children, Machele (10) and Alan (6). They reside in Moundsville.

**TRIVERI** is another one of Linsky's veteran assistants, having spent the past 16 seasons with the JM program.

Handling the running backs and the secondary for the Monarchs, Triveri has been a football coach the past 27 seasons.

The Warwood High School graduate went on to earn degrees from West Liberty and West Virginia University.

Bob and his wife Charlene have three sons, Frankie, Bobby and Michael.

**BRINKMAN** is a Wheeling High School graduate who has been on board with Linsky the past eight years.

Brinkman, who works with quarterbacks and defensive ends, played in the 1969 OVAC All-Star game, serving as a quarterback for the Mountaineers.

Brinkman earned his bachelors degree from West Liberty State College and currently teaches physical education at Bridgeport.

Jim and his wife Cinda reside in Wheeling.

**WILSON** is a 1993 John Marshall graduate who is set to begin just his second season on the Monarchs' coaching staff this coming fall.

The linebacker and offensive line coach helped the Monarchs to an OVAC Class AAAA championship in 1992.

Before joining the high school staff, Wilson served on the Union Junior High staff.

Wilson, who currently teaches special education at Union Junior High, earned his degree from West Liberty after transferring from Concord College.

Dan and his wife Kylie have one daughter Whitney. They reside in Wheeling.



# Linsky announces WV backfield for OVAC game

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

As the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic draws closer to its July 28th, 7 p.m. kickoff at Wheeling Island Stadium, the rosters for both West Virginia and Ohio begin to take shape.

John Marshall head coach and this year's West Virginia mentor Mike Linsky has announced his quarterbacks and running backs for the annual summer showcase.

"We really like the group of quarterbacks and running backs we have put together," Linsky said. "We tried to pick this team, so we could put 22 different kids on the field. We don't want kids playing both ways if we don't have to."

Entering the game, Wheeling Central's Justin Edwards and Brooke's Jim Scherich rank as the top two signal callers on the Mountaineers' roster.

"With the type of offense we run, it gives the quarterbacks a chance to shine," Linsky explained. "We like to sit back in the shot gun and we kind of put the quarterback on a rocking chair with this style of play."

The Mountaineers, who expect to obviously throw the ball more than they expect to run it, will enter training camp with four top running back candidates.

Those expecting to see time lugging the leather include Linsky's R.J. Zitzelsberger, Magnolia's Joe Blatt, Oak Glen's Ronnie Hebrock and Paden City's Tony Cline.

Here is a look at individual look at the players.

**EDWARDS** - The West Virginia University bound baseball player enjoyed three productive seasons for Coach Jim Thomas and the Maroon Knights.

Edwards helped Central to a West Virginia Single A state title as a junior and led the Knights back to Wheeling Island Stadium as a senior, but fell short to Moorefield.

The six-foot, 195 pounder put up decent numbers as a senior, but wasn't asked to throw as often as he was a junior. He completed 47-of-120 passes for 757 yards and four touchdowns.

Edwards earned all-Valley, all-West Virginia and was named Most Valuable Player

on his high school team.

Edwards was also a first-team all-West Virginia, all-Valley and all-OVAC selection as a junior. He was all-Valley and all-OVAC as a sophomore.

Justin also helped the Knights to three state baseball titles, while playing under his dad, Terry.

Aside from his athletic prowess, Edwards was also a member of the National Foreign Language Society President, senior class President, G.U.T.S. and Senior Bike-a-thon.

**SCHERICH** - The quarterback put together a fine final season for head coach Bud Billiard last fall.

The 6-ft-3, 190 pounder completed 91-of-190 aerials for 1,349 yards as a senior. He landed nine touchdown passes, but was picked off 16 times.

Scherich, who plans to continue his education at West Virginia University in the fall, earned a host of post-season accolades.

He was named to the all-Valley Big School offensive second team, Herald Star's all-Area team and was honored as an Athlete of the Week both in the Herald Star and on the WTOV-9.

**ZITZELSBERGER** - The Washington and Jefferson bound gridder had a fine senior campaign and career for the Cadets and head coach Terry DePew.

After battling injuries as a junior, Zitzelsberger (6-ft-2, 230) came back with vengeance as a senior, rushing for 1,107 yards on 181 totes. He found the endzone 13 times on the ground.

The baseball and basketball letter winner, while at Linsky, was a two-time selection to the all-West Virginia state team, all-OVAC team, and all-Valley team. He was a all-Times Leader performer as well. He was named Sophomore of the Year by the Intelligencer.

Zitzelsberger more than held his own in the classroom, taking part in the National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, Key Club, S.A.D.D., Who's Who Among American High School Students, Math Club and FCA.

**BLATT** - The Blue Eagle put together a most memorable senior campaign under Magnolia head coach Mark Batton.

The 6-ft-1, 200 pounder

rushed 114 times for 647 yards from his fullback position. He found paydirt on five different occasions.

Blatt, who plans to continue his education at the University of Notre Dame, was named First-Team Mid-Ohio Valley, First-Team all-OVAC and was a Special Mention all-West Virginia selection. He was also nominated for the Wendy's High School Heisman Award.

Blatt is also a standout baseball player for Coach Dave Cisar's program. He was a four-year letterman and was named second-team all-West Virginia, second-team all-Valley and first-team all-OVAC.

Joe also had a successful four-year career in the classroom. He served as the Magnolia Class of 2002 Valedictorian and was the Student Body President. He was a National Merit semifinalist and was named to the Who's Who and the National Honor Roll.

**HEBROCK** - The Golden Bear didn't put up mind boggling statistics, but what he brought to the table for Coach Tom Taylor did not go unnoticed.

The 6-ft-1, 205 pounder was one of the area's premier lead blockers, paving the way for fellow West Virginia all-star Derrick Stickle to rush for more than 1,500 yards.

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Hebrock plans on continuing his education at West Liberty State College in the fall.

**CLINE** - The former Wildcat put up impressive numbers in helping Paden City and Coach Brent Croasmum to a berth in the West Virginia Single A playoffs.

The 5-ft-7, 157 pounder accumulated 1,081 yards rushing, lugging the leather 144 times. He scored an impressive 21 touchdowns on the ground.

Cline, who plans to attend West Virginia University to major in physical therapy, was named to the all-West Virginia second team, all-OVAC first-team.



# Edison's Everson to guide Ohio in OVAC all-star game

By RICH GIBSON  
Times Leader Sports Editor

Dave Everson is taking it to the next level.

A player in the 1987 Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game, Everson returns to the sideline - this time as head coach for Ohio when the 2002 Classic kicks off two weeks from tonight at Wheeling Stadium.

Everson, who begins his second season as head coach this fall at Edison High, is obviously thrilled to draw the Mumley assignment.

"I recall how exciting it was being selected as a player 15 years ago," Everson commented. "It's an even greater honor having an opportunity to coach this group of outstanding players."

The Buckeye North High product guided Edison to a 6-4 mark last fall - as the Wildcats confronted one of the valley's most formidable schedules.

Serving as assistants to Everson in the OVAC game are: Greg Taglieri, Terry Wickham, George (B.J.) Ash, Dan Rivera, Brian Connolly and Josh Meyer.

Everson labels the Mumley game, "one of the most anticipated sporting events of the year in the Ohio Valley. This game has always served as an unofficial kickoff to the upcoming season. It's not unusual to see the stands filled. It's a game players, coaches and fans alike look forward to."

**NAMED** Coach of the Year by the Steubenville Herald Star/Weirton Daily Times for his 2001 achievements at Edison, Everson played football two seasons at West Liberty State before going on to Ohio State.

Everson was a student coach

four years at OSU before becoming a graduate assistant for two seasons.

Everson remained in the Columbus area and served as defensive coordinator two seasons at Capital University before returning to the Ohio Valley.

Dave and his wife, Melissa reside in Brilliant with their children Andrew, 3; Sydney, 19 months and Benjamin, two months.

**TAGLIERI** will start his sixth season at the Richmond-based school.

A graduate of Wintersville High, Taglieri went on to attend both Bethany College and Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Taglieri starred in football at both Wintersville High and lettered two years at Bethany with the Bison.

His football duties at Edison include coaching offensive linemen and outside linebackers. Greg also serves as offensive coordinator.

Taglieri has also served as assistant varsity basketball coach and as head freshman hoops coach.

Greg resides in Wintersville. **ASH** is a Weir High and Fairmont State College product who joined Everson's staff last fall at Edison.

A former grid standout with the Red Riders, Ash has also served as wrestling coach.

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George and his wife, Kristina, are the parents of one child.

**WICKHAM** was a three-sport performer during the 80s at Jefferson Union High which eventually became Edison High.

In addition to football, Terry has coaching experience in



boys and girls' varsity track. With the Wildcats, Wickham works with cornerbacks and wide receivers.

Wickham attended Muskingum College before enrolling at Kent State. He also studied at Steubenville's Franciscan University.

Terry and his wife, Lori, and the parents of one son: 12-year old Derek and one daughter, 8-year old Alex. They reside in Bloomingdale.

**CONNOLLY** is a 1987 graduate of Jefferson Union High where he was a grid standout.

Prior to joining Everson at Edison, Brian served one season as offensive coordinator at Toronto High. He's also worked on the grid staff at Steubenville Central.

Connolly is responsible for coaching running backs and inside linebackers.

**RIVERA**, defensive coordinator at Edison, was a two-time all-American at defensive tackle for the Bethany Bison.

Dan joins the Edison program after serving as defensive coordinator at Weir High.

**MEYER** is a 2000 graduate of Edison and played two seasons collegiately at Washington and Jefferson before recently transferring to West Liberty State.

Josh will work with wide receivers and safeties.

## OVAC seeking 1992 grid all-stars, queens

As a part of the OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, the 1992 All-Star football team, managers, doctors and Queen of Queens representatives will be honored. The listed All-Star players and Queen of Queens have not notified, since their present addresses are not available.

The Queen of Queens candidates that have not been notified include: Giget Wilderson (Magnolia), Kathleen Callahan (John Marshall), Charleen Beck (Martins Ferry), Joni Buck (Tyler Consolidated).

The West Virginia all-stars include: Josh Rayle (Oak Glen); John Isrel and Jodi Mote (St. Mary's); Marlon Martin (Linsly); Mallory Fuller and Darren Hicks (Weirton); James Spriggs and Jason Rowing (Brooke); Jack Midcap (Valley); Jim Beck and

Jason Coffield (John Marshall); Dan Gallo (Paden City).

The Ohio all-stars include: Reese Davis and Jamey Allen (Wellsville); Ed Christian, David Nameth and Lee Tipton (Cadiz); Micah Stidd (St. Clairsville); J.J. Hawkins (Mingo); Shane Florence (Shadyside); Todd Mazzaferro (Wintersville); Brian Smith (East Liverpool); Clarence Hickenbottom (Cambridge).

Anyone knowing the addresses of the aforementioned all-stars and Queen of Queens, please contact Steve Kish, Jr. at 1-740-453-9146.

Additionally, any other 1992 players, managers, coaches, doctors or Queen of Queens, who have not been contacted, please contact Kish via phone or write to Steve Kish Jr., 6230 McCaslin Road, Nashport, OH 43830.

# JM's Linsky to coach in OVAC All-Star game

• Monarch mentor to guide the Mountain State in Rudy Mumley Charity Classic for the second time

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

With the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic just three weeks away, coaching staff for West Virginia has been named.

John Marshall's Mike Linsky has been selected to guide the Mountain State's team for the second time in his illustrious career.

The Monarchs' head man was also the West Virginia mentor in 1986.

"I always enjoy coaching all-star games," Linsky said. "It is a good experience. There are quality kids from top to bottom of the roster."

Linsky led the Monarchs to a 6-4 record and a second-place finish in the OVAC 4-A race, behind only Steubenville.

The personable Monarchs' mentor owns a career record of 169-119 during his 27-years as a high school football coach.

"Being part of this all-star game is really neat because you make some really good relationships with the kids," Linsky said. "We are only together a short time, but that one week turns into a special one."

Linsky, who has been at the helm of the Glen Dale-based school for the past 19 years, won a West Virginia AAA state championship in 1996, leading the Monarchs to a perfect 14-0 record that season.

He was then named West Virginia Coach of the Year as well as Dapper Dan Man of the Year.

Before coming to John Marshall, Linsky served as the head coach at Duval High School where he won Single A state championships in both 1978 and 1982.

"We are going to go to the (OVAC) game and have a good time," Linsky said. "There is really no pressure on winning and losing and we aren't going to beat the kids to death or anything. We just think they should have a good time and enjoy the experience."

Linsky also serves as ninth grade girls' basketball coach at Union Junior High. He has previously coached baseball and track during his career.

Linsky is a 1968 graduate of Sherman High School, where he played football, basketball and baseball.

He then went on to earn his bachelors degree at Hampden Sydney College in 1972 where he played two years of football and a season of baseball.

Linsky earned his masters from Marshall University in 1980 and then earned a master coach certification from West Virginia University.

Mike and his wife Sandy have four children, Jeremy (29), Lori (26), Mika (16) and Chelsea (10). The Linskys reside in Glen Dale.

Linsky will surround himself with familiar faces, as he is taking his entire Monarchs coaching staff to the All-Star Game.

The rest of the West Virginia staff includes Dan Wilson, Bob Triveri, Gerald Miller, James Brinkman and Mark Hinerman.

"We have been together as a staff a long time," Linsky said. "We are not just a staff, but we are best friends and work really well together."

The Monarchs and West Virginia coaching staff

looks like this:

**HINERMAN** -- The veteran assistant has been with the Monarchs' program for the past 22 years and has been a football coach for 28 seasons.

Hinerman handles the quarterbacks and secondary and also serves as the unofficial assistant head coach at JM.

Hinerman has also coached football at Moundsville Junior High as well as track and basketball at Moundsville.

The Cameron High School graduate, who teaches driver education at JM, earned his bachelors and masters degrees from West Virginia.

Mark and his wife Deborah have one son, Mark and they reside in Glen Dale.

**MILLER** -- Another veteran assistant who has been one of Linsky's top aides the past 16 years.

The 1980 John Marshall graduate works with the wide receivers and defensive backs.

Aside from football, he has also coached track at Moundsville Junior High and Wrestling at Sherrard Junior High.

Miller earned his bachelors degree from West Liberty and went on to earn a masters at WVU.

Gerald and his wife Ann have two children, Machele (10) and Alan (6). They reside in Moundsville.

**TRIVERI** -- Another one Linsky's veteran assistants, Triveri has been with the JM program the past 16 years.

Handling the running backs and the secondary for the Monarchs, Triveri has been a football coach the past 27 seasons.

Triveri has coached football at Bridgeport, Cameron and Sherrard Junior High along with his time with John Marshall. He has also coached track and wrestling during his tenure.

The Warwood High School graduate went on to earn degrees from West Liberty State College as well as West Virginia University.

Bob and his wife Charlene have three sons, Frankie, Bobby and Michael.

**BRINKMAN** -- The Wheeling High School graduate has been on board with Linsky the past eight years.

Brinkman, who works with quarterbacks and defensive ends, took part in the 1969 OVAC All-Star game, serving as a quarterback for the Mountaineers.

Brinkman earned his bachelors degree from West Liberty State College and currently teaches physical education at Bridgeport. He served as the Lady Bulldogs' head basketball coach in the 1999 season.

Jim and his wife Cinda reside in Wheeling.

**WILSON** -- The 1993 John Marshall graduate is set to begin just his second season on the Monarchs' coaching staff this coming fall.

The linebacker and offensive line coach helped the Monarchs to an OVAC 4-A championship in 1992.

Before joining the high school staff, Wilson served on the Union Junior High staff.

Wilson, who currently teaches special education at Union Junior High, earned his degree from West Liberty after transferring from Concord College.

Dan and his wife Kylie have one daughter Whitney. They reside in Wheeling.



# West Virginia adds receivers to all-star team

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

With training camp for the OVAC All-Star Football Classic set to open Saturday; West Virginia head coach Mike Linsky continued to announce his roster for the game.

Linsky, the mentor at John Marshall High School, has named his receivers for July 28th game which is slated for a 7:15 p.m. kickoff.

"I think with the receivers we have and type of offense we run, we will be fine," Linsky said. "All of these guys that we have, have caught a lot of balls and what I like is that all of them appear to be pretty tough kids."

The Monarchs' boss -- who is well known for his drop-back and heave it style of offense -- expects this corp of receivers to be able to run his offense very well.

"We have some kids with speed, but most of the routes we do are short and intermediate and that is why we like the tough kids," Linsky explained. "We aren't going to an all-star game to run the ball 30 times, we are going to have fun and put the ball in the air."

The receiving group, which Wheeling Central's Justin Edwards and Brooke's Jim Scherich will throw to, includes: John Marshall's Luke Cunningham, Tyler Consolidated's Lance Hickman, Wheeling Park's Rob Downer, Weirton Madonna's Brandon Battista, Wheeling Park's Keith Banks and Brooke's Bobby Musulin.

Here is an individual look at the players:

**BANKS** -- The former Wheeling Park Patriot will play wide receiver for the Mountaineers and Linsky.

Under Mark Nardone at Park, Banks hauled in 26 passes for 355 yards and he caught a touchdown.

The 5-ft-7, 150 pounder was an Honorable Mention football and basketball all-state selection.

Banks was a three-year letterman in baseball and he also lettered in track, while earning four monograms in football and basketball.

**BATTISTA** -- The 6-ft-2, 175 pounder was a standout receiver and defensive back for Coach Bob Kramer and the Blue Dons.

As a receiver, Battista hauled in 21 balls for 369 yards and five touchdowns.

For his fine senior season, Battista was named to the all-

OVAC Single-A team as a defensive back.

Along with football, Battista earned three letters in basketball. He was an active member of the Pep Club, Interact Club and the Campus and music ministry.

**CUNNINGHAM** -- One of Linsky's own players who was a go-to player both as a wide receiver and a defensive back.

From his receiver slot, Cunningham (5-ft-10, 145) caught 28 balls for 590 yards a season ago for the Monarchs.

Cunningham, who plans to continue his education at Fairmont State College, was an all-Valley First Team pick as a football player.

The standout baseball player for the Monarchs was all-state tournament team on the diamond as well as Special Mention all-OVAC.

**HICKMAN** -- The versatile running back and cornerback enjoyed a very productive career for John Stender and Tyler Consolidated.

The 5-ft-11, 180 pound back rushed for 856 yards on 167 carries this past season. He also scored eight touchdowns.

Hickman, who plans to attend West Virginia University this fall, was a first-team all-OVAC and a special mention all-state pick this past season. He was also a second-team Mid-Ohio Valley pick.

Along with his football skills, Hickman is a member of the National Honor Society and Hi-Y.

**MUSULIN** -- The former Brooke Bruin was a standout in the defensive backfield for head coach Bud Billiard.

The 6-ft-1, 180 pounder wreaked havoc from his safety position and earned four letters while at Brooke.

Musulin, who will attend West Liberty State College, was a first-team all-OVAC pick. He also earned the Brooke High Role Model Award, Most Improved Senior and was a tri-captain.

Other activities Musulin took part in included: Hi-Y, Spanish Club, FBLA, DECA, Yearbook Staff, Track and West Virginia SHARES Program.

**DOWNER** -- The former Wheeling Park Patriot was another go-to guy for Coach Mark Nardone's team.

The 6-ft-1, 175 pounder was a nice target for Pats' signal callers and he was also solid as a cornerback.

Downer, who will head to West Liberty in the fall, was also a baseball player for the Patriots.

## OVAC seeks 1992 all-star players

As a part of the OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, the 1992 All-Star football team, managers, doctors and Queen of Queens representatives will be honored. The listed All-Star players and Queen of Queens have not notified, since their present addresses are not available.

The Queen of Queens candidates that have not been notified include: Giget Wilderson (Magnolia), Kathleen Callahan (John Marshall), Charleen Beck (Martins Ferry), Joni Buck (Tyler Consolidated).

The West Virginia all-stars include: Josh Rayle (Oak Glen); John Isrel and Jodi Mote (St. Mary's); Marlon Martin (Linsly); Mallory Fuller and Darren Hicks (Weirton); James Spriggs and Jason Rowing (Brooke); Jack Midcap (Valley); Jim Beck and Jason Coffield (John Marshall); Dan

Gallo (Paden City).

The Ohio all-stars include: Reese Davis and Jamey Allen (Wellsville); Ed Christian, David Nameth and Lee Tipton (Cadiz); Micah Stidd (St. Clairsville); J.J. Hawkins (Mingo); Shane Florence (Shadyside); Todd Mazzaferro (Wintersville); Brian Smith (East Liverpool); Clarence Hickenbottom (Cambridge).

Anyone knowing the addresses of the aforementioned all-stars and Queen of Queens, please contact Steve Kish, Jr. at 1-740-453-9146.

Additionally, any other 1992 players, managers, coaches, doctors or Queen of Queens, who have not been contacted, please contact Kish via phone or write to Steve Kish Jr., 6230 McCaslin Road, Nashport, OH 43830.



## Ohio

### HEAD COACH

Dave Everson, Edison

### Assistant Coaches

Greg Taglieri, Terry Wickham, B.J. Ash, Dan Rovira, Brian Connolly and Josh Meyer



### PLAYERS

No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	School
1	Brett Jordan	5-11	185	RB	St. Clairsville
3	Devon Singleton	6-2	180	QB	Meadowbrook
7	John Lester	6-2	170	DB	Steubenville
10	Adam Quirk	6-1	185	QB	St. Clairsville
12	Keith Keenan	5-11	155	WR/DB	Indian Creek
14	Michael Kernik	5-11	190	QB	Shadyside
20	Jesse Turner	5-9	175	TB/S	Steubenville
21	Joey Danehart	5-10	178	TB/LB	Martins Ferry
22	Garrett Carter	6-1	180	WR/DB	Edison
28	Matt Ludewig	5-10	170	QB/DB	Toronto
29	Matt Yanni	5-10	160	RB/DB	Steub. Central
32	Luke Hartman	5-10	200	LB	Steubenville
33	Joey Vavra	5-10	195	RB/LB	Bellaire St. John
34	Bredan Nunner	5-8	180	FB	Harrison Central
40	Jason Sanders	6-2	190	TE/FS	Edison
44	Dustin Holt	5-10	195	FB/LB	Martins Ferry
46	Jack Otto	6-1	187	RB/LB	Buckeye Local
52	Jeff Clark	6-1	195	C/DE	Wellsville
54	David Marlatt	5-9	210	OG/LB	Cambridge
55	Dave Johnston	6-0	275	OG	Beaver Local
56	Zac Williams	6-2	280	OT/DT	East Liverpool
60	Sam Snodgrass	6-2	185	OG/DE	Bellaire St. John
67	Jesse Wells	6-1	270	OG/DT	Shenandoah
68	Doug Farmer	6-0	200	DL	Edison
70	Cody Lenarz	6-1	305	OG/DT	Buckeye Trail
72	Randall Sefert	5-11	215	OG/DT	Monroe Central
75	David Potenzini	6-3	250	C/OT	Steub. Central
80	Jon Miller	5-8	150	SE	Barnesville
82	David Thomas	6-1	175	TE/DE	Union Local
85	Ben Doyle	6-2	195	TE/DE	Bellaire
88	Kyle Rankin	5-9	165	WR/DB	Meadowbrook
93	Matt Engle	5-9	155	WR/LB	Wellsville
99	Joel East	6-4	230	DE/LB	Cambridge

## West Virginia

### HEAD COACH

Mike Linsky, John Marshall

### Assistant Coaches

Mark Hinerman, Gerald Miller, Bob Triveri, Jim Brinkman and Dan Wilson



### PLAYERS

No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	School
1	Keith Banks	5-7	150	WR/DB	Wheeling Park
3	Justin Edwards	6-0	195	QB/P	Wheeling Central
7	Brandon Battista	6-2	175	SE/DB	Weirton Madonna
10	James Scherich	6-3	190	QB/WR	Brooke
12	Craig Mason	6-0	185	SS/LB	Magnolia
14	Luke Cunningham	5-11	145	WR/DB	John Marshall
20	Bobby Musulin	6-1	180	S	Brooke
22	R.J. Zitzelsberger	6-2	230	RB/LB	Linsly
28	Colin Walsh	6-0	190	WR/DB	Linsly
29	Tony Cline	5-7	157	RB	Paden City
32	Derrick Stickles	6-1	195	TB	Oak Glen
33	Geoff Wysocki	5-8	170	RB/LB	John Marshall
34	Joe Blatt	6-1	200	TB/DE	Magnolia
44	Ronnie Hebrock	6-1	205	FB	Oak Glen
46	Roger Kupfer	5-11	165	TB/DE	Cameron
52	Chris Sengewalt	5-11	195	OG/DE	Wheeling Central
54	Bill Ware	6-1	215	DE	Oak Glen
58	Matt Burch	6-2	217	LB	Brooke
60	Art Pernel	6-1	244	OG	Weir
63	Chris Taylor	5-11	190	OG/LB	John Marshall
66	Joe Weaver	6-1	230	FB/NG	Magnolia
67	B.J. Cook	6-1	220	C	Wheeling Park
68	Scott Hitchens	5-10	230	C/DE	Linsly
70	Justin Tarovisky	6-5	235	OL/DT	Wheeling Park
72	Jermaine Lucious	6-1	210	T/DT	Wheeling Park
73	Justin Swiger	6-5	265	C/DE	Oak Glen
77	Jonathan Gordon	5-9	202	LB	Wheeling Central
80	Lance Hickman	5-11	180	TB/DE	Tyler Cons.
88	Tucker Brown	6-0	160	DB/PK	Cameron
90	Vince Magnone	5-9	220	FB/NG	Weir

# Remembering the 1992 'Washout Game'

*'Then we saw those dark clouds coming up the river' - Ron Mauck*

One of the best parts of every OVAC All-Star Football Game is the 10-year reunion of coaches, players and Queen of Queens candidates.

This year's reunion may be a little bitter-sweet for those folks as they'll probably spend nearly as much time on the field for their introductions as they did when they tried to play the 1992 game.

In case you've forgotten, that was the night a cloudburst hit Wheeling Island just as the second quarter was getting under way.

Ohio - coached by former Cadiz mentor Chuck Bizzarri - was clinging to a 7-6 lead but West Virginia - being guided by current Linsly head man Terry Depew - had just scored.

What's more, the Mountain Staters had the Buckeyes backed up deep in their own end of the field when lightning forced officials to herd the players into their respective locker rooms.

"There had been storms in the forecast," said former OVAC Game Director Ron Mauck during a break in camp at West Liberty last week, "but we were hoping they'd go around us."

"Then we saw those dark clouds coming up the river."

Those dark clouds packed plenty of rain along with the lightning.

So much rain, in fact, that water soon began collecting in the stands and on the sidelines.

With the rain still coming down in torrents, puddles were forming and running together so fast that the field soon became much better suited for canoe racing than football.

Both bench areas and large portions of the playing surface were submerged under standing water that was as much as a foot deep along the sidelines.

"We didn't have any choice but to call the game," said Mauck, who was assisting Rudy Mumley that year in Rudy's final stint as Game Director.

"It was a shame but we had to consider the safety of the kids and the safety of the fans, as well. They were still going to have to drive home."

There is a chance of storms in the forecast tonight but nothing like the ones from what has become known as the "Washout Game."

Nevertheless, if there's a clap of thunder or a few raindrops while the reunion ceremonies are going on, we can forgive the honorees if they cast a quick glance toward the sky.

### 10 Years After

The reunion committee tracked down a

number of the principals from that 1992 game.

Ohio players who said they planned to return included the River duo of Mike Snively and Chris Wisvari; Bellaire's Brian Adams; Shadyside's Nate Bobek; Beallsville's Chris Paek; Cadiz's Eddy Christian; Toronto's Phil Livingston; Barnesville's Brad Bunting and Jamie Allen from Wellsville.

West Virginia players who responded included Wheeling Central's Chuck Bourne, Matt McCreary and Jeff Wear; Linsly's Dave Plumby; John Marshall's Jason Coffield; Brooke's Greg Wise; Cameron's David Gray; Weirton Madonna's Chris Osaba and Jodie Mote of St. Marys.

Queen of Queens candidates planning to be on hand tonight include Cameron's Heather Strope; Buckeye Local's Monica Hunter and St. Clairsville's Trina Noble Donaldson.

Both team doctors - Ohio's Dr. Luis Vazquez and West Virginia's Dr. Robert Jones - also plan to be at the stadium.

### First Visit

Ohio head coach Dave Everson played in this game 15 years ago but tonight will be the first time he's ever played or coached a game at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Everson, who played his high school ball under former Martins Ferry and WVU standout Rich Weiskircher at Buckeye North, was a quarterback for Coach George Strager's Ohio All-Star team in 1987.

That game, however, had to be played at Harding Stadium in Steubenville as Wheeling Island Stadium was in the midst of its reconstruction.

The Buckeyes eked out a 13-11 victory in a rare "home" game for the Ohio All-Stars.

### Scholarship Awards

Speaking of Strager, \$400 scholarships were awarded last week to five players who attended the annual George Strager Memorial Football Camp at Meadowbrook High School last summer and went on to represent their state in this year's OVAC game.

Kelly Rine, one of Strager's former assistant coaches and now the athletic director at Meadowbrook, made the presentations to Wheeling Central's Jonathan Gordon, Barnesville's Jon Miller; Buckeye Trail's Cody Lenarz, Harrison Central's Brandon Nunner and Dave Marlatt of Cambridge.

The presentations were made during

Wednesday night's 16th annual George Strager Evening With The Stars Dinner at the Ramada City Center Plaza in downtown Wheeling.

Several more prestigious awards were scheduled to be made at last night's annual Pep Rally at West Liberty's Russek Field.

One player each from Ohio and West Virginia was to receive a \$500 Rudy Mumley Memorial Scholar-Athlete Scholarship while one Ohio and West Virginia player was to be presented with a \$250 Terry Mowrey Memorial Scholar-Athlete Scholarship.

Mowrey was an assistant coach with the Ohio All-Stars 11 years ago.

The OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band Scholarships were also slated to be announced.

### Last Waltz

Tonight's game will be the last one for long-time OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band coordinator Ken Bonnell.

Bonnell, who has been coordinating the All Star Band for the past two decades, will retire after tonight's game.

His place will be taken by Darrell Lucas, band director at Bellaire High School.

### All In The Family

The Wickham family of Edison High School will be fully involved in tonight's game.

Terry Wickham is an assistant coach on Everson's Ohio staff while his wife, Lori, is serving as coach of the Ohio cheerleaders.

Their son, Derek, is one of the managers for the Buckeye State all star team.

On the West Virginia side, Mountain State cheerleader coach Mary Kay Zitzelsberger's son, R.J., is playing for the West Virginia team.

The Linsly cheerleading coach served as Ohio All-Star coach a few years ago when she was at Buckeye Local. Her daughter was an Ohio cheerleader in the game.

Making the circle complete, Mary Kay's father, Walter Heil, was the referee for the 1942 All-Star Game at Wheeling Island Stadium.

### It's Official

The officiating crew for tonight's game consists of: Referee - Butch Minkemeyer; Umpire - Bob Mills; Head Linesman - George Kelchak; Line Judge - Al Ratcliffe; Back Judge - Lance Jacob; and Side Judge - Warren Elliott.

John "Streaky" Halozska of Wheeling and Bill Linn of Steubenville have been named honorary game officials.

## All-Star Notebook

By DON CLEGG



# Ohio wins OVAC tilt



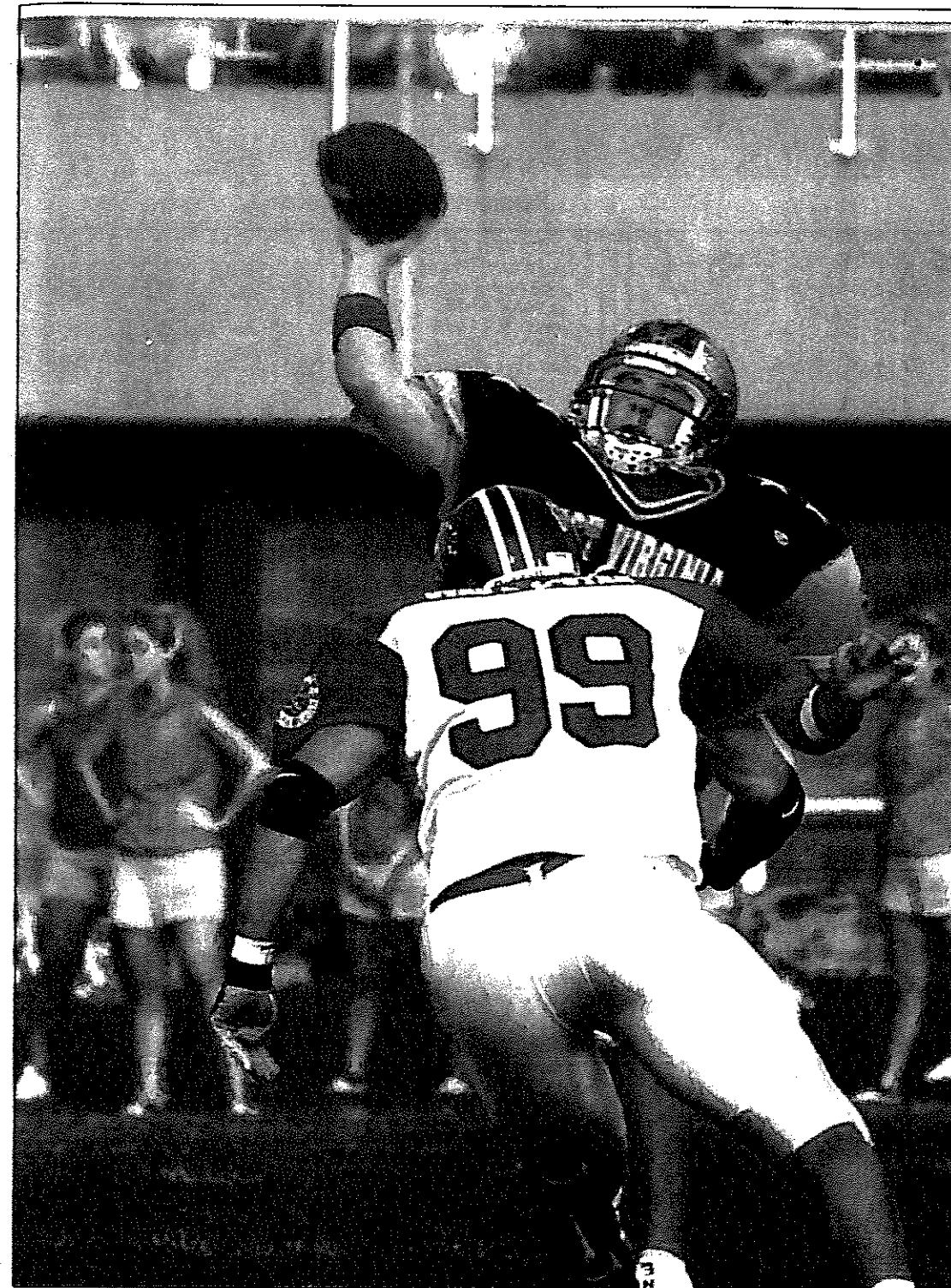
T-L Photos/MICHAEL HARVILLA

**ABOVE:** OVAC treasurer Nancy Mumley takes time from her duties to pose for a picture with Dr. Luis Vazquez who was honored during the game with a plaque for his 31 years of service to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference.

**AT RIGHT:** WEST Virginia quarterback and former Wheeling Central standout Justin Edwards tries to unload the ball, but he is under relentless pressure from Cambridge's Joel East (99).

**BELOW:** STEUBENVILLE'S Jesse Turner looks to turn the corner during the OVAC All-Star Classic Sunday evening, but he is being chased by Wheeling Park's Jermaine Lucious.

**BELOW RIGHT:** OHIO trainer Herb Minch was kept quite busy during Sunday's game thanks to intense heat and humidity. Here is trying to cool down an Ohio lineman between series.

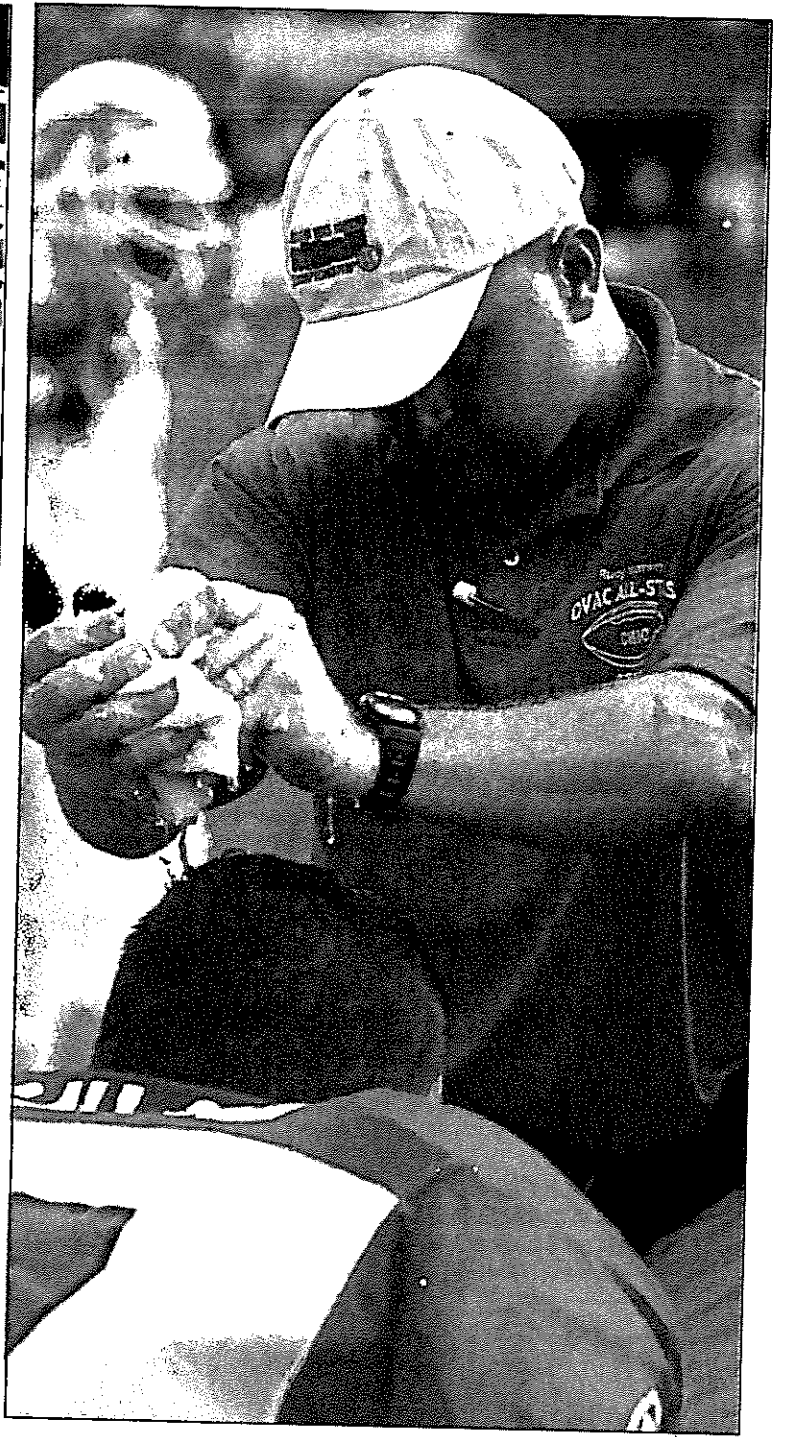


...ing the game with a plaque for his 31 years of service to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference.

**AT RIGHT:** WEST Virginia quarterback and former Wheeling Central standout Justin Edwards tries to unload the ball, but he is under relentless pressure from Cambridge's Joel East (99).

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**BELOW RIGHT:** OHIO trainer Herb Minch was kept quite busy during Sunday's game thanks to intense heat and humidity. Here is trying to cool down an Ohio lineman between series.



# Everson, Linsky to coach all-stars

By RICH GIBSON  
Times Leader Sports Editor

Head coaches for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game were presented Monday during an organizational meeting at the Esquire Supper Club in Wheeling.

Returning as game director, Cameron's Bob Koch introduced Edison's Dave Everson who'll guide Ohio's all-stars, and John Marshall's Mike Linsky, head coach of the West Virginia gridders.

"The OVAC is thrilled to have two outstanding and highly qualified gentlemen for this year's classic," Koch remarked.

"This will be the second all-star assignment for coach Linsky and the first for coach Everson."

Koch also introduced the remainder of the all-star coaching staffs. Serving under Everson are Wildcat assistants Greg Tagaleri, George Ash, Jim Hoover,



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

**GAME DIRECTOR** Bob Koch (center) is flanked by head coaches for this summer's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Charity Classic. At left is Edison's Dave Everson. At right is John Marshall's Mike Linsky. This year's game is scheduled Sunday evening, July 28 with kickoff at 7:15 p.m.

Paul Baker, Tim Daugherty and Terry Wickham.

"It's certainly an honor to represent our state for the Mumley Classic," Everson stated. "I was fortunate enough to be selected as a player in the 1987 OVAC game. The few days we spend together at camp prior to game day is a lasting experience. We, See, OVAC, Page 2B

## ● OVAC

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varsity letters in three sports.

On the gridiron, Singleton was a two-way star at quarterback and in the defensive backfield for coach Steve Warden's club.

The Colts' 6-2, 180-pounder passed for 1,522 yards and 11 TDs and added another 384 on the ground.

Twice an all-Ohio special mention selection, Devon was a first team all-OVAC, Eastern District and East Central Ohio League selection.

Singleton will continue his athletic and academic careers at Walsh University.

YANNI enjoyed a superb prep career for the Crusaders of coach Greg Bahen.

In the offensive backfield, the 5-10, 160-pounder punished the opposition for 1,030 yards and seven touchdowns. Michael was also a force in the defensive secondary.

A special mention all-Ohio selection, Yanni also earned all-OVAC, Eastern District and Quad County recognition.

Michael also lettered in baseball at Catholic Central where he was a two-time class president. Yanni, who plans to enroll at Xavier University in Cincinnati this fall, also participated in Students Against Drunk Drivers.

TORONTO HIGH'S Matt Ludwig was one of the Red

KNOW 'THE SCORE' ... READ IT EVERY DAY

## OVAC

Continued from Page 1B

as a staff at Edison, are already looking forward to compiling a roster and making preparations."

Helping Linsky with the Mountaineer grid stars are these Monarch assistants: Dan Wilson, Jim Brinkman, Mark Hinerman, Gerald Miller and Bob Triveri.

"The Rudy Mumley All-Star Game is always one of the most anticipated sporting events of the summer," said Linsky. "I had the pleasure of coaching a previous game and it's truly a first class event in every respect."

This year's contest, the 31st annual Mumley Classic, will kick off Sunday evening, July 28 at 7:15.

Helping make the summer showcase a memorable experience are several game week activities, including the George Strager "Evening With the Stars," directed by Terry Rataiczak, and the always-popular Queen of Queens Pageant, headed by coordinator Linda Myers.

Additionally, the OVAC/McDonald's All-Star Band will perform at several events, under the direction of Ken Bonnell.

Koch also reported that team rosters will consist of 32 players and a kicker from each state.

No more than three players may be selected from any Ohio school while four players are permitted from any West Virginia school.

West Liberty State College is again serving as host for the all-star camp, scheduled to open Saturday, July 20 at 12 noon.

## Everson adds defensive backs to OVAC roster

By RICH GIBSON  
Times-Leader Sports Editor

Ohio All-Star coach Dave Everson today announced a group of five Buckeyes who comprise the defensive backfield for this Sunday evening's OVAC Rudy Mumley Classic at Wheeling Stadium.

"We're fortunate to have both size and speed among our DB's," said Everson. "They're all capable young men many of whom will play at the next level."

Ohio's secondary includes Steubenville Big Red's John Lester, Toronto's Matt Ludwig, Steubenville Central's Michael Yanni, Meadowbrook's Devon Singleton and Indian Creek's Keith Keenan.

KEENAN'S two-way production greatly aided the Redskins of coach Bryan Mays.

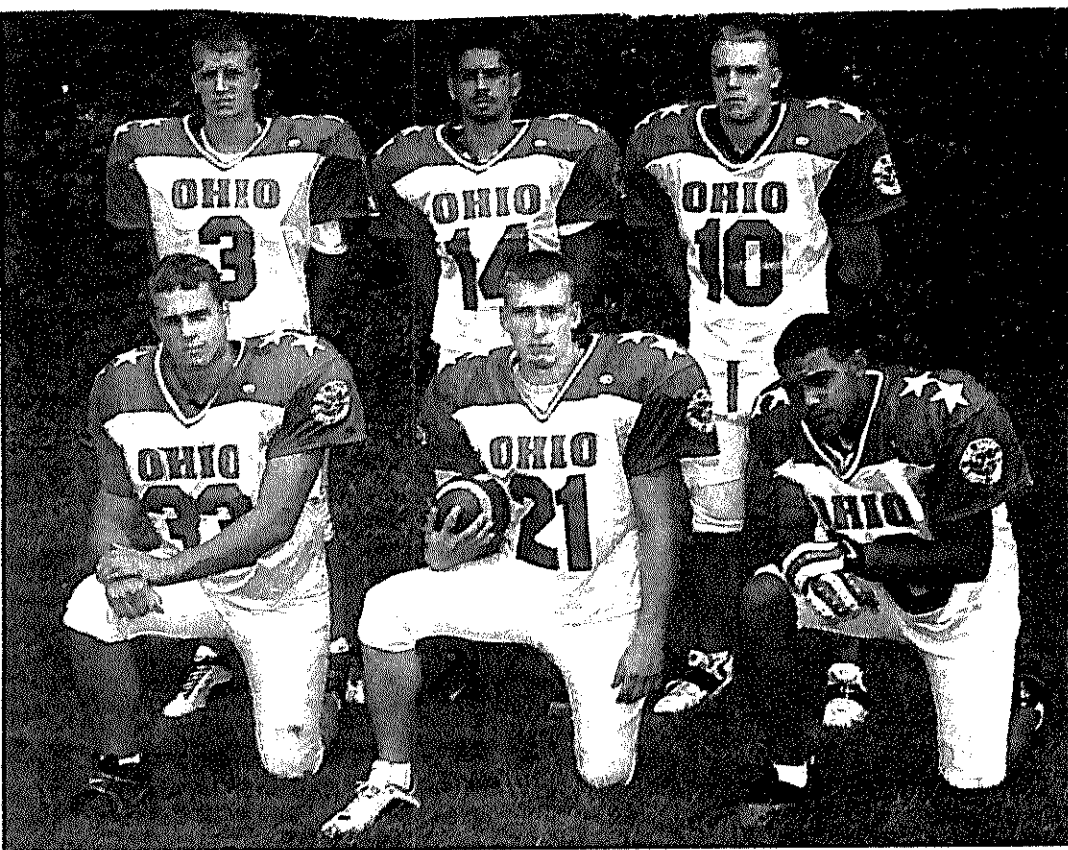
The 5-11, 155-pounder, who intends to enroll at Allegheny College this fall, was a special mention all-Ohio selection by the Associated Press.

Keith earned first team all-OVAC, all-Eastern District and all-Valley honors. He was also honored by the Steubenville Herald Star and the all-Quad County All Stars.

Keenan was a student council member at the Wintersville-based school.

MEADOWBROOK'S Singleton ranks as one of the Guernsey County school's finest athletes after compiling 12

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T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

**COMPRISING** the backfield for the Ohio All-Stars in this Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic are, front row, from left, Joey Vavra (St. John's), Joey Danehart (Martins Ferry) and Jesse Turner (Steubenville). Second row, from left, are Devon Singleton (Meadowbrook), Mike Kernik (Shadyside) and Adam Quirk (St. Clairsville).

INSIDE

Scoreboard / C2

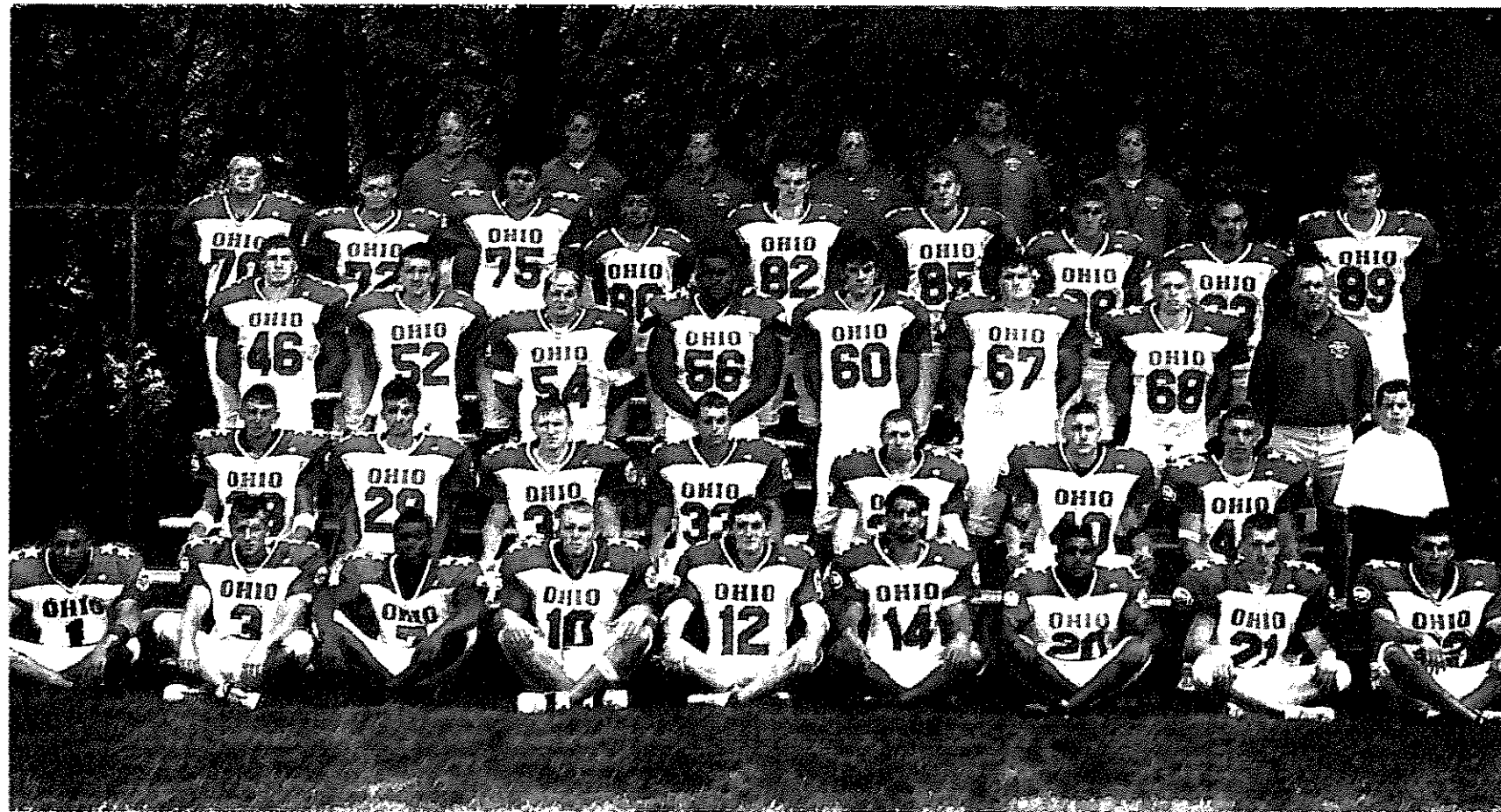
The Times Leader

# SPORTS

SECTION

# C

Sunday, July 28, 2002



## OVAC All-Star contest tonight

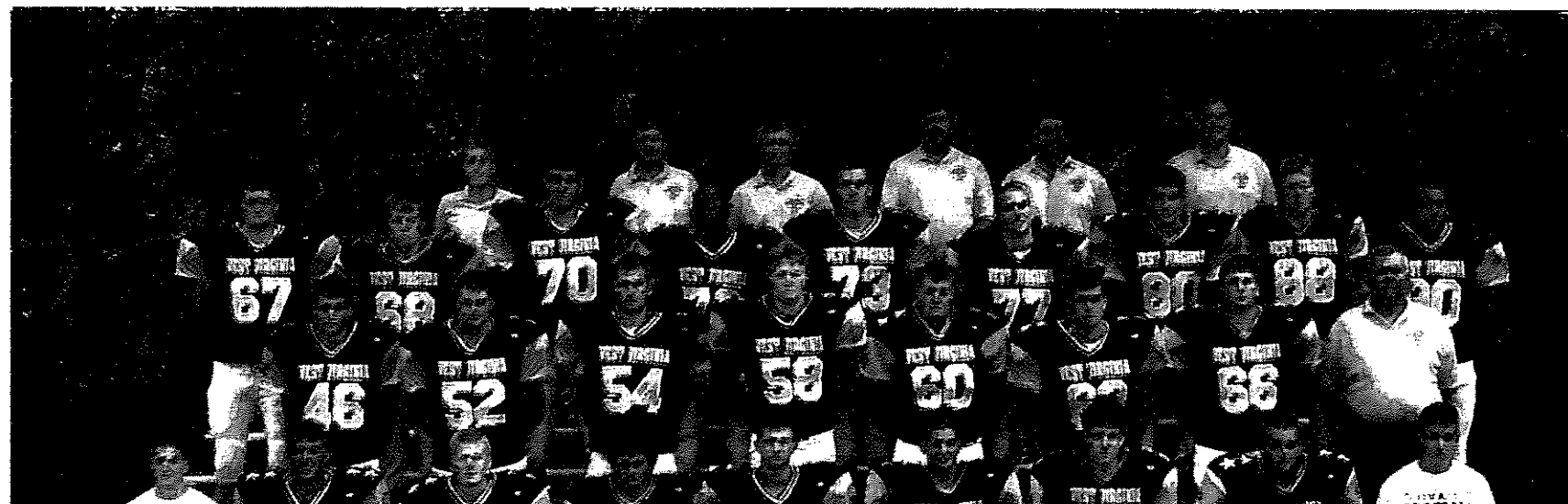
By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

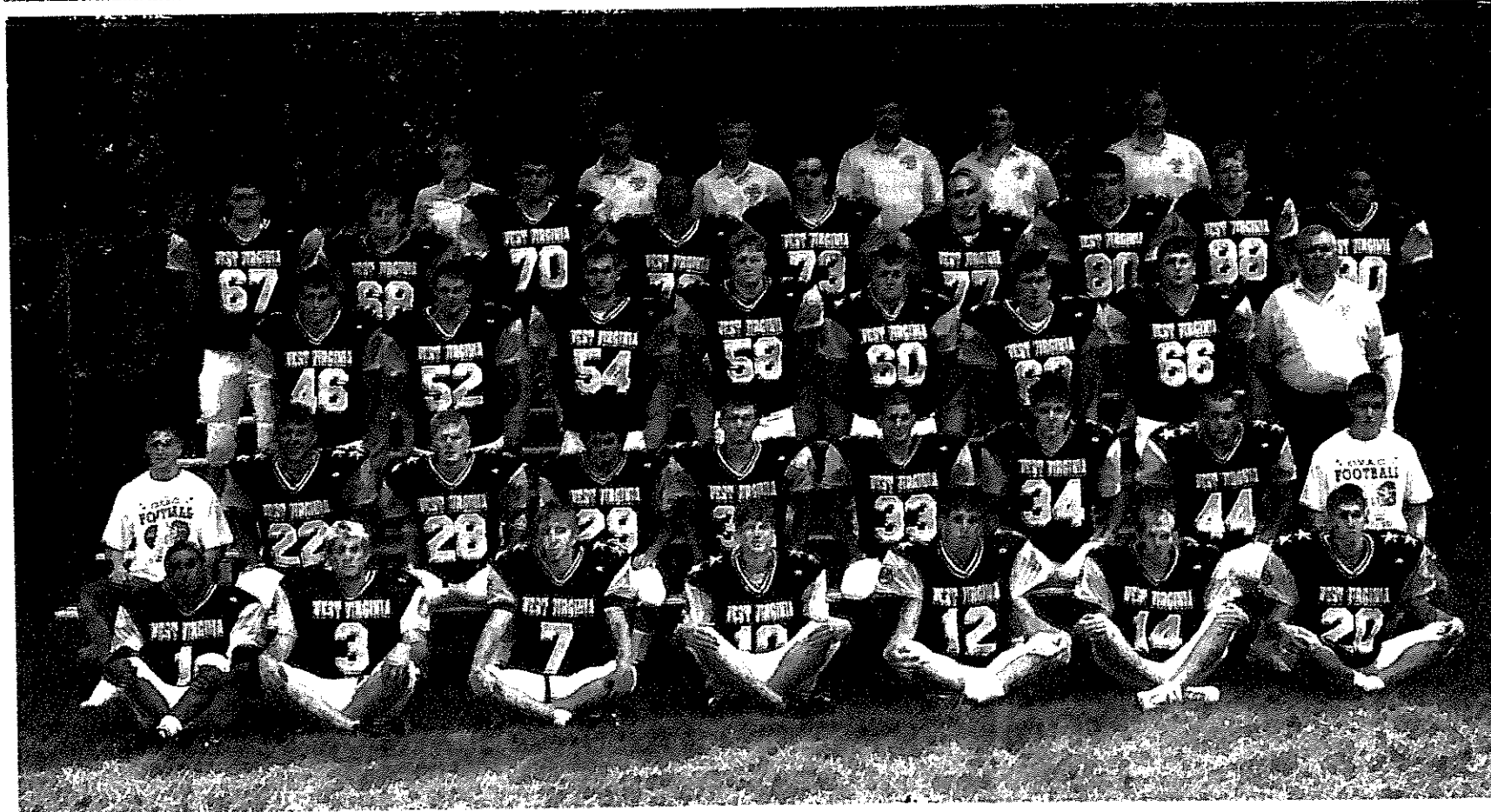
All the preparation and events surrounding the 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Classic are over.

Now both the Ohio and West Virginia squads can just focus on playing football and that is exactly what they will do tonight at Wheeling Island Stadium starting at 7:15 p.m.

Ohio coach Dave Everson and West Virginia coach Mike Linsky are ready to focus on the game.

"All of the hay is out in the barn now," Everson explained. "We got everything in early in the week and then just





T-L Photos/MICHAEL HARVILLA

**REPRESENTING** Ohio in tonight's 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Classic is this group. Front row, from left, are Brett Jordan (St. Clairsville), Devon Singleton (Meadowbrook), John Lester (Steubenville), Adam Quirk (St. Clairsville), Keith Keenan (Indian Creek), Mike Kernik (Shadyside), Jesse Turner (Steubenville), Joey Danehart (Martins Ferry) and Garrett Carter (Edison). Second row, from left, are Matt Ludewig (Toronto), Michael Yanni (Steubenville Central), Luke Hartman (Steubenville), Joey Vavra (St. John Central), Brendan Nunner (Harrison Central), Ben Doyle (Bellair), Jason Sanders (Edison), Dustin Holt (Martins Ferry) and team manager Derek Wickham. Third row, from left, are Jack Otto (Buckeye Local), Jeff Clark (Wellsville), David Marlatt (Cambridge), Zac Williams (East Liverpool), Sam Snodgrass (St. John Central), Jesse Wells (Shenandoah), Doug Farmer (Edison) and head coach Dave Everson (Edison). Fourth row, from left, are Cody Lenarz (Buckeye Trail), Randall Sefert (Monroe Central), David Potenzini (Steubenville Central), Jon Miller (Barnesville), David Thomas (Union Local), Kyle Rankin (Meadowbrook), Matt Engle (Wellsville) and Joel East (Cambridge). Back row, from left, are trainer Herb Minch, assistant coach Greg Taglieri, Terry Wickham, Dan Rivera, B.J. Ash and Brian Connolly.

**REPRESENTING** West Virginia in tonight's 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Classic is this group. Front row, from left, are Keith Banks (Wheeling Park), Justin Edwards (Wheeling Central), Brandon Battista (Weirton Madonna), James Scherich (Brooke), Craig Mason (Magnolia), Luke Cunningham (John Marshall) and Bobby Musulin (Brooke). Second row, from left, are manager Zach Amedro, R.J. Zitzelsberger (Linsly), Colin Walsh (Linsly), Tony Cline (Paden City), Derrick Stickles (Oak Glen), Geoff Wysocki (John Marshall), Joe Blatt (Magnolia), Ronnie Hebrock (Magnolia) and manager Brad Goddard. Third row, from left, are Roger Kupfer (Cameron), Chris Sengewalt (Wheeling Central), Bill Ware (Oak Glen), Matt Burch (Brooke), Art Pernell (Weirton), Chris Taylor (John Marshall), Joe Weaver (Magnolia) and head coach Mike Linsky (John Marshall). Fourth row, from left, are B.J. Cook (Wheeling Park), Scott Hitchens (Linsly), Justin Tarovisky (Wheeling Park), Jermaine Lucious (Wheeling Park), Justin Swiger (Oak Glen), Jonathan Gordon (Wheeling Central), Lance Hickman (Tyler Consolidated), Tucker Brown (Cameron) and Vince Magnone (Weirton). Back row, from left, are trainer Randy Elliott, assistant coach Mark Hinerman, assistant coach Gerald Miller, assistant coach Dan Wilson, assistant coach Jim Brinkman and assistant coach Bob Triveri.

# OVAC All-Star contest tonight

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

All the preparation and events surrounding the 31st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Classic are over.

Now both the Ohio and West Virginia squads can just focus on playing football and that is exactly what they will do tonight at Wheeling Island Stadium starting at 7:15 p.m.

Ohio coach Dave Everson and West Virginia coach Mike Linsky are ready to focus on the game.

"All of the hay is out in the barn by now," Everson explained. "We got everything in early in the week and then just worked on reps for the rest of the week. It has been really enjoyable and now the kids are ready to go out and play the game."

Linsky and his Mountaineers' staff were also able to get most of their offensive and defensive schemes in during the early part of the week.

"We came up here to have some fun and we let the kids play football for the first couple of days and got everything in and now we are just polishing what we are going to do," Linsky offered.

One thing that Everson and his Ohio staff have instilled in their kids is the winning streak the Buckeyes have in the OVAC game.

"Ohio hasn't lost in a while in this game and we really don't want that to end with this group. We know Coach Linsky and West Virginia are a very good team and will have a good game plan, so we have to be ready to play."

Both coaches have set and released their starting lineups for tonight's affair.

When the Buckeye offense takes the field, it will be led by former Shadyside High standout Mike Kernik with St. Clairsville's Adam Quirk also seeing playing time.

The Scarlet and Gray will be airing the ball out much of the evening as will the 'Eers.

"We think we have two excellent quarterbacks and a lot of skill people who are capable of doing big things," Everson pointed out. "We want our athletes to take

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control and take the coaching out of the game."

When Kernik drops back to pass, he will have a plethora of targets. Buckeye receivers include St. Clairsville's Brett Jordan, Barnesville's Jon Miller and Edison's Garrett Carter.

Steubenville High's Jesse Turner, who played with Kernik in the North-South game earlier this summer, will lineup at tailback, while Edison's Jason Sanders will serve as the tight end.

The Ohio offensive line is also a talented one which averages some 245 pounds a man.

Monroe Central's Randall Sefert will anchor the line at center, while Shenandoah's Jesse Wells and Steubenville Central's David Potenzini will serve as the tackles.

Cambridge's David Marlatt and East Liverpool's Zac Williams will line up at guard.

As for the West Virginia offense, Linsky will hand the reigns to former Wheeling Central signal-caller Justin Edwards. His primary backup will be Brooke's Jim Scherich, but the former Bruin will also be a starting split end Sunday.

John Marshall's Luke Cunningham will also be a split end, while Wheeling Park's Keith Banks will be one of the two slot backs, joining Tyler's Lance Hickman.

Linsly's R.J. Zitzelsberger will be the starting running back for the Blue and Gold.

The West Virginia offensive line isn't quite as big as Ohio's, averaging only 216 pounds per man, but Linsky doesn't put too much emphasis on size.

Park's B.J. Cook will anchor the line at center, while Wheeling Central's Chris Sengewalt and JM's Chris Taylor will serve as guards. Weir's Art Pernel and Park's Justin Tarovisky will lineup as tackles.

Everson likes his defense that will attempt to slow down the Mountaineer offense which will be throwing the ball most every down.

With a passing team, most of the emphasis will be put on the secondary and the Ohio staff thinks it has a fine group of defensive backs.

Union Local's Dave Thomas and Steubenville's John Lester will line up at cornerback, while Indian Creek's Keith Keenan and Steubenville Central's Michael Yanni will serve as safeties.

The Ohio linebacking corps include Martins Ferry's Dustin Holt and Steubenville's Luke Hartman on the inside, while Meadowbrook's Devon Singleton and Cambridge's Joel East will be on the outside.

Buckeye Trail's Cody Lenarz will be the team's nose guard, while Buckeye Local's Jack Otto and Edison's Doug Farmer will also play on the defensive line.

Wellsville's Matt Engle will handle the Buckeye place-kicking duties, while Sanders will serve as the team's punter.

The West Virginia defense will also be challenged because the

## 2002 Ohio Roster      2002 W.V. Roster

1 -- Brett Jordan (St. Clairsville).	1 -- Keith Banks (Wheeling Park).
3 -- Devon Singleton (Meadowbrook).	3 -- Justin Edwards (Wheeling Central).
7 -- John Lester (Steubenville).	7 -- Brandon Battista (Weirton Madonna).
10 -- Adam Quirk (St. Clairsville).	10 -- James Scherich (Brooke).
12 -- Keith Keenan (Indian Creek).	12 -- Craig Mason (Magnolia).
14 -- Mike Kernik (Shadyside).	14 -- Luke Cunningham (John Marshall).
20 -- Jesse Turner (Steubenville).	20 -- Bobby Musulin (Brooke).
21 -- Joey Danehart (Martins Ferry).	22 -- R.J. Zitzelsberger (Linsly).
22 -- Garrett Carter (Edison).	28 -- Colin Walsh (Linsly).
28 -- Matt Ludewig (Toronto).	29 -- Tony Cline (Paden City).
29 -- Mike Yanni (Steubenville Central).	32 -- Derrick Stickles (Oak Glen).
32 -- Luke Hartman (Steubenville).	33 -- Geoff Wysocki (John Marshall).
33 -- Joey Vavra (St. John Central).	34 -- Joe Blatt (Magnolia).
34 -- Brendan Nunner (Harrison Central).	44 -- Ronnie Hebrock (Oak Glen).
40 -- Jason Sanders (Edison).	46 -- Roger Kupfer (Cameron).
44 -- Dustin Holt (Martins Ferry).	52 -- Chris Sengewalt (Wheeling Central).
46 -- Jack Otto (Buckeye Local).	54 -- Bill Ware (Oak Glen).
52 -- Jeff Clark (Wellsville).	58 -- Matt Burch (Brooke).
54 -- David Marlett (Cambridge).	60 -- Art Pernel (Weirton).
55 -- Dave Johnston (Beaver Local).	63 -- Chris Taylor (John Marshall).
56 -- Zac Williams (Beaver Local).	66 -- Joe Weaver (Magnolia).
60 -- Sam Snodgrass (St. John Central).	67 -- B.J. Cook (Wheeling Park).
67 -- Jesse Wells (Shenandoah).	68 -- Scott Hitchens (Linsly).
68 -- Doug Farmer (Edison).	70 -- Justin Tarovisky (Wheeling Park).
70 -- Cody Lenarz (Buckeye Trail).	72 -- Jermaine Lucious (Wheeling Park).
72 -- Randall Sefert (Monroe Central).	73 -- Justin Swiger (Oak Glen).
75 -- David Potenzini (Steubenville Central).	77 -- Jonathan Gordon (Wheeling Central).
80 -- Jon Miller (Barnesville).	80 -- Lance Hickman (Tyler Consolidated).
82 -- David Thomas (Union Local).	88 -- Tucker Brown (Cameron).
85 -- Ben Doyle (Bellaire).	90 -- Vince Magnone (Weirton).
88 -- Kyle Rankin (Meadowbrook).	
93 -- Matt Engle (Wellsville).	
99 -- Joel East (Cambridge).	

Buckeyes expect to throw much of the game as well.

Banks and Cunningham will start at cornerback and Brooke's Bobby Musulin and Cameron's Tucker Brown will roam at safety.

The linebackers include Oak Glen's Derrick Stickles and Magnolia's Joe Blatt on the outside. Brooke's Matt Burch and Wheeling Central's Jonathan Gordon will play inside.

Wheeling Park's Jermaine Lucious and Weir's Vince Magnone will be the defensive ends, while Magnolia's Joe Weaver will start at the nose guard.

# Ohio All-Star Coach Adds Nine Linemen to Squad

Pre-game preparation under way at West Liberty State College

The Ohio-All Star team for next Sunday evening's annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Classic is rounding into form.

Quite literally, Buckeyes' head coach Dave Everson today named nine formidable linemen who figure to do much more than take up space when confronting their West Virginia counterparts at Wheeling Stadium in the 7:15 p.m. kickoff.

"To go with a talented, athletic number of quarterbacks, running backs and receivers previously announced, we feel this group of outstanding linemen will help us get the job done," said Everson, welcoming his squad to training camp Saturday at West Liberty State College.

Ohio trenchmen selected include: Jesse Wells (Shenandoah), Jeff Clark (Wellsville), Joel East (Cambridge), Doug Farmer (Edison), Dave Johnston (Beaver Local), Cody Lenarz (Buckeye Trail), David Potenzini (Steubenville Central), Randall Sefert (Monroe Central) and Sam Snodgrass (Bellair St. John's).

**JESSE WELLS** made life miserable for Zeps' opponents during an outstanding prep career for coach Dan Wesson's Noble County club.

The 6-1, 270-pound defensive tackle, often double and sometimes triple-teamed, was a second team all-Ohio selection by the Associated Press. Jesse also earned all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-Pioneer Valley Conference honors.

In addition to his gridiron expertise, Jesse was a two-time OVAC wrestling champion. He placed fourth in the Ohio state meet this past winter and was fifth as a junior.

Wells, a National Honor Society member at Shenandoah High, has signed to continue his athletic and academic careers at national power Mount Union College.

**WELLSVILLE'S** Jeff Clark



The Ohio and West Virginia All-Stars reported to West Liberty State College Saturday afternoon to begin preparations for next Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic. On the left, Steubenville Central's David Potenzini and Mike Yannl pick up their jerseys from Tom Milliken. At right, Toronto's Matt Ludewig collects his uniform pants from Tom Myers.

Photo by Art Limmann

was a two-way standout for coach Eric Meek at Wellsville High. An honorable mention all-Eastern District selection, Jeff also was named first team all-Quad County and second team all-Valley.

One of the most versatile athletes at the Columbiana County school, Clark lettered four years in both football and basketball. He also earned letters in baseball and track.

An honor roll student, Clark intends to continue his athletic and academic careers at college.

**JOEL EAST** was among the Ohio Valley's most honored athletes following a stellar career under coach Rick Goodrich at Cambridge. At 6-4, 230, East's

impressive frame and play attracted numerous college scouts before the Bobcats' defensive end opted to sign with Duke University.

Named to the all-Midwest Region All-Star team by Prep Star Magazine, East was also honored by the Associated Press' all-Ohio team in addition to all-OVAC, all-ECOL and all eastern District. Prior to participating in the OVAC game, East was selected to participate in the prestigious Big 33 All-Star Game, played in Hershey, Pa.

East, who graduated with high honors at the Jefferson County school, was a Buckeye Boys State nominee and member of the student council.

**BEAVER LOCAL'S** Dave Johnston was a major player in the many successes produced by Beavers' teams guided by Rich Wright. The 6-0, 275-pound guard/nose guard earned honorable mention all-Ohio honors from the Associated Press, was a first team all-Quad County and all-OVAC selection.

Johnston, who intends to study Criminal Justice at Jefferson Community College, was a three-year letterman at Beaver Local and president of the Varsity B Club.

**DOUG FARMER** was a co-captain for Everson's Wildcats at Edison High. The 6-0, 200-pounder played a starring roll along the defensive line, helping

the Richmond-based school compile a 6-4 record against a rigid schedule.

A first team all-County selection, Farmer was also an honorable mention OVAC selection. In addition to his athletic productivity, Doug was a National Honor Society member at Edison. He also participated in Spanish Club and Ski Club.

This fall, Farmer will attend Bethany College.

**BUCKEYE TRAIL'S** Cody Lenarz wasn't hard to find of the field of play. At 6-1, 305, Lenarz generally had his way with Warriors' opponents, handling both offensive guard and defensive tackle positions for coach Randy Thompson's Old Washington based ballclub.

A first team all-Eastern District selection, Lenarz earned similar laurels on the OVAC unit and was a special mention all-Ohio selection.

In addition to playing football, Lenarz also lettered in track at Trail. Lenarz was recipient of the United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award.

**DAVID POTENZINI** was among the most versatile linemen for the Crusaders of coach Gregg Bahen, seeing time as a two-way tackle and also at center. The 6-3, 250-pound standout was highly thought of among college recruiters before inking to play with the Penguins of Youngstown State University.

Honored by the Associated Press and all-Eastern District teams, David was named first team all-Quad County, second team all-Valley and second team all-Steubenville Herald Star.

**MONROE CENTRAL'S** Randall Sefert played a pivotal roll for coach Jay Cirocota's Seminoles who advanced to the state semifinals last fall.

The 5-11, 215-pounder starred at both offensive guard and defensive tackle en route to earning numerous postseason honors. Randall was a Pioneer Valley Conference All-Star and earned mention on the all-Eastern District unit. In addition to his gridiron talents, Sefert lettered for coach Mark Huffman's basketball Seminoles.

Sefert will enroll this fall at the University of Akron.

**SAM SNODGRASS** was a two-way all-star for coach Steve Daley at St. John Central. The Fighting Irish's 6-2, 185-pound ace manned positions of offensive guard and defensive end.

In addition to his gridiron expertise, Sam was a classroom standout as well. He was a National Honor Society member and graduated this past spring Magna Cum Laude at the Guernsey Street school.

At St. John's, Snodgrass also participated in baseball and track.

# Receivers added to Ohio all-star team

By RICH GIBSON  
Times Leader Sports Editor

With two of the Ohio Valley's premier passers already on the roster, Ohio head coach Dave Everson today named a stable of talented receivers for this month's annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity Football Classic.

The list of split ends, tight ends and wideouts for the July 28 grid gala at Wheeling Stadium include: Edison's Garrett Carter and Jason Sanders, Bellaire's Ben Doyle; Union Local's David Thomas, Meadowbrook's Kyle Rankin, St. Clairsville's Brett Jordan, and Barnesville's Jon Miller.

"This is a solid and versatile group of receivers. Our game plan is to take advantage of their ability to catch the football," said Everson.

JON MILLER, though only 5-8, made more receptions than any Ohio Valley receiver last fall.

The Shamrocks' shifty split end landed 63 passes, totaling well over 800 yards and seven touchdowns for coach Alan Treherne's team.

Bound for Washington and Jefferson College, Miller's postseason honors were many, including first team all-Ohio, all-Valley, all-OVAC and all-Eastern District.

In addition to his gridiron prowess, Miller was also recognized as one of the valley's finest guards on the basketball floor.

Activities at Barnesville High included membership in Future Educators of America and Student Athletic Association.

KYLE RANKIN was a major player for coach Steve Warden's Colts at Meadowbrook High.

At wideout, Rankin caught 40 passes, totaling 551 yards and five touchdowns. On the ground, he compiled 246 yards and three TDs via 66 attempts.

The 5-9, 165-pound standout, heading this fall to Capital University in Columbus, was honorable mention all-Ohio and first team all-Eastern District.

Kyle was a two-time all East Central Ohio League honoree and gained all-OVAC honorable mention status.

Rankin, who also earned varsity letters in baseball and basketball, was a National Honor Society member at Meadowbrook.

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Brett Jordan accounted for over 1,400 yards as a senior co-captain for coach Mark Bonar's Red Devils.



MILLER

JORDAN

THOMAS

DOYLE

That total was nearly split evenly as a receiver and running back.

The 5-11, 185-pound Jordan landed 48 receptions for 727 yards, averaging 15.2 yards per catch. He made seven TD catches.

On the ground, Brett recorded 691 stripes, good for an additional five touchdowns.

Set to continue his athletic and academic career at Mount Union College, Jordan was a special mention all-Ohio selection and earned first team accolades on the all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Valley and all Times-Leader units.

The versatile Jordan, who lettered in four varsity sports for the Saints, received the "Male Athlete of

See, OHIO, Page B2

## Ohio

Continued from Page B1

the Year" Award at St. C. and was presented the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award by the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

DAVID THOMAS was among the valley's premier two-way stars for coach Jake Olsavsky's Jets at the Morristown-based school.

At tight end, the reliable Thomas averaged 17 yards per reception, landing 28 aerials for 477 yards and five touchdowns. He is also an adept defensive back.

Headed to Muskingum College in New Concord to continue his athletic and academic career, the 6-1, 175-pound Thomas received special mention all-Ohio plaudits from the Associated Press.

Additionally, David was an all Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Valley and all-Times Leader selection.

Thomas also excelled in basketball and track for the Jets.

GARRETT CARTER went both ways for Everson at Edison last fall.

The 6-1, 180-pound Capital University bound standout, hauled in 28 passes from his wideout post, good for just under 300 yards and four touchdowns. He was also a Wildcats' standout in the defensive backfield.

Carter was a second team all-OVAC selection and earned similar laurels on the all-Eastern District grid unit. Garrett was a first team member of the all-Quad County team.

BELLAIRE'S Ben Doyle performed at both tight end and defensive end for coach John Magistro's Big Reds.

The 6-2, 195-pounder, who is taking his talents to Muskingum College, was a three-year letterman in football.

As a senior, Doyle delivered 18 receptions, totaling 202 yards and a TD. He averaged 11.2 yards per catch.

Among Ben's postseason honors were: special mention all-Eastern District, first team all-OVAC, all-Valley and all-Times Leader.

Doyle was also a major contributor for Gene Ammirante's basketball Big Reds.

JASON SANDERS, one of the valley's premier athletes, starred at both tight end and free safety for Everson last fall at Edison High.

At 6-2, 190, the Wildcats' team captain made 20 receptions for 280 yards and three touchdowns.

A special mention all-Ohio selection, Sanders earned additional postseason honors from the OVAC, Steubenville Herald Star and Wheeling Intelligencer. He also landed a first team spot on the Quad County All-Star team.

An honor student at Edison, Sanders also excelled on the hardwood and played in this past spring's Samuel Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic.

Jason will continue his athletic and academic career at Muskingum College.

## Ohio DBs Built On Size, Speed

By RICH GIBSON  
For The Intelligencer

Ohio All-Star coach Dave Everson today announced a group of five Buckeyes who comprise the defensive backfield for this Sunday evening's OVAC Rudy Mumley Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium.

### OVAC FOOTBALL

"We're fortunate to have both size and speed among our DB's," said Everson. "They're all capable young men many of whom will play at the next level."

Ohio's secondary includes Steubenville Big Red's John Lester, Toronto's Matt Ludewig, Steubenville Central's Michael Yanni, Meadowbrook's Devon Singleton and Indian Creek's Keith Keenan.

KEENAN'S two-way production greatly aided the Redskins of coach Bryan Mays.

The 5-11, 155-pounder, who intends to enroll at Allegheny College this fall, was a special mention all-Ohio selection by the Associated Press. Keith earned first team all-OVAC, all-Eastern District and all-Valley honors.

He was also honored by the Steubenville Herald Star and the all-Quad County All Stars. Keenan was a student council member at the Wintersville-based school.

MEADOWBROOK'S Singleton ranks as one of the Guernsey County school's finest athletes after compiling 12 varsity letters in three sports.

On the football field, Singleton was a two-way star at quarterback and in the defensive backfield for coach Steve

### RELATED PHOTO/23

Warden's club. The Colts' 6-2, 180-pounder passed for 1,522 yards and 11 TDs

and added another 384 on the ground. Twice an all-Ohio special mention selection, Devon was a first team all-OVAC, Eastern District and East Central Ohio League selection.

Singleton will continue his athletic and academic careers at Walsh University.

YANNI enjoyed a superb prep career for the Crusaders of coach Greg Bahen. In the offensive backfield, the 5-10, 160-pounder punished the opposition for 1,030 yards and seven touchdowns.

Michael was also a force in the defensive secondary. A special mention all-Ohio selection, Yanni also earned all-OVAC, Eastern District and Quad County recognition.

Michael also lettered in baseball at Catholic Central where he was a two-time class president. Yanni, who plans to enroll at Xavier University in Cincinnati this fall, also participated in Students Against Drunk Drivers.

TORONTO'S Matt Ludewig was one of the Red Knights' premier athletes, starting on both sides of the ball for coach Ed Weidger's gridders.

The 5-10, 170-pound Allegheny College bound Ludewig quarterbacked the Knights, firing eight TD passes en route to completing 55 of 120 throws for 670 yards.

Ludewig's postseason honors included first team all-OVAC, Eastern District and Quad County.

In addition to his football talents, Matt earned varsity letters



**Inside**

**Tour de Lance**

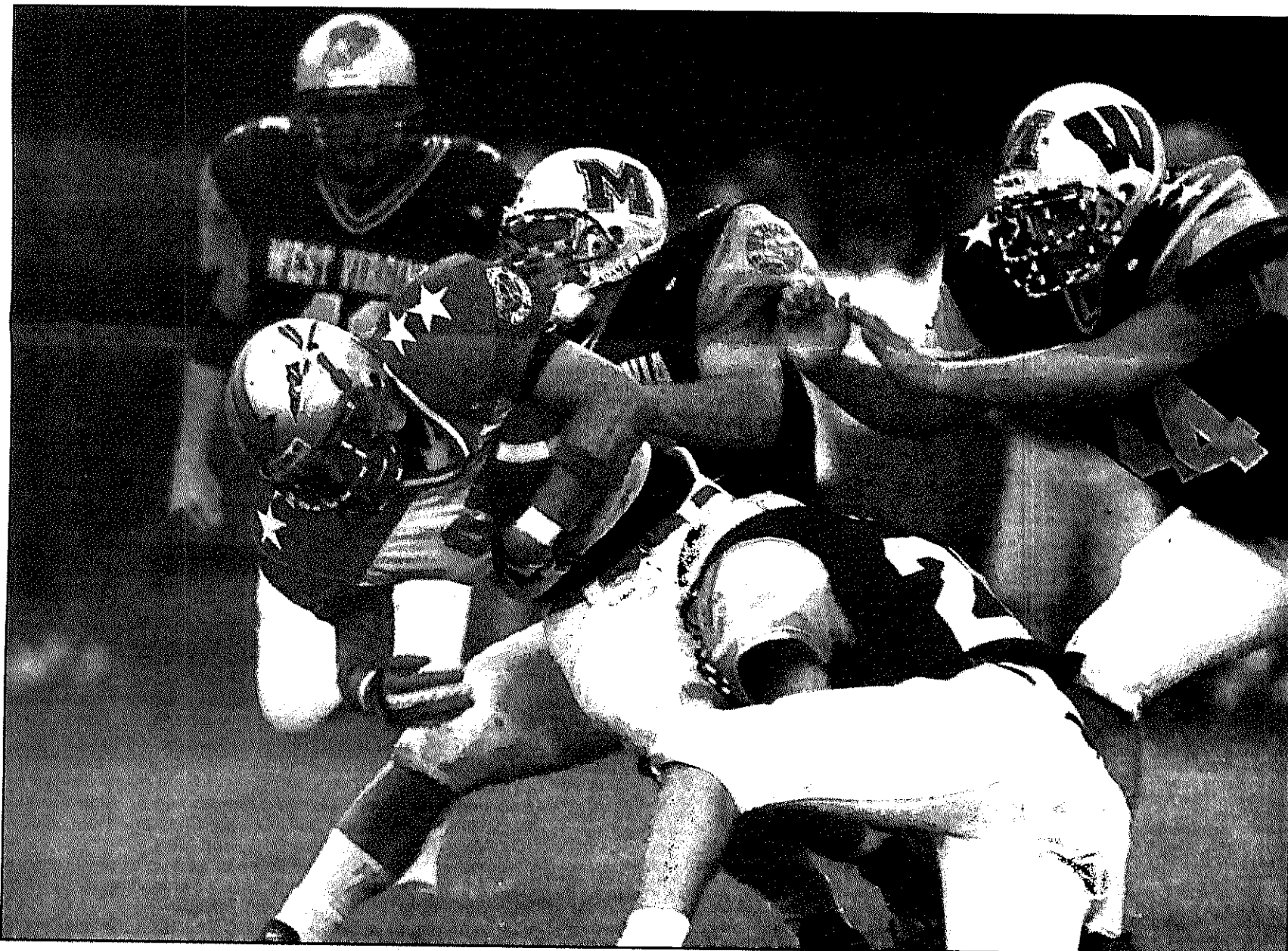
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# Sports

MONDAY, JULY 29, 2002

AREA BRIEF  
NASCAR  
STEELERS

## OVAC ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CLASSIC



Ohio's Brett Jordan of St. Clairsville is hauled down by a group of West Virginia tacklers, including Oak Glen's Derrick Stickles (top) and Ronnie Hebrock (44). The two Oak Glen stars led the West Virginia linebacking corps. (Photo by Larry Claypool)

# Eight straight



### Ohio continues dominance of West Virginia in annual OVAC clash

By **ROCCO LONGO**  
Review Sports Writer

WHEELING — For your true football fan, the 2002 OVAC All-Star Football game won't be remembered for who won or lost, but rather as one of the most exciting, well-played contests in the 31-year history of the event.

Thanks to some good defense and getting all the right breaks, Ohio was able to extend its' winning streak to eight straight, with a 19-12 victory. The win though didn't overshadow the West Virginia effort by any stretch of the imagination.

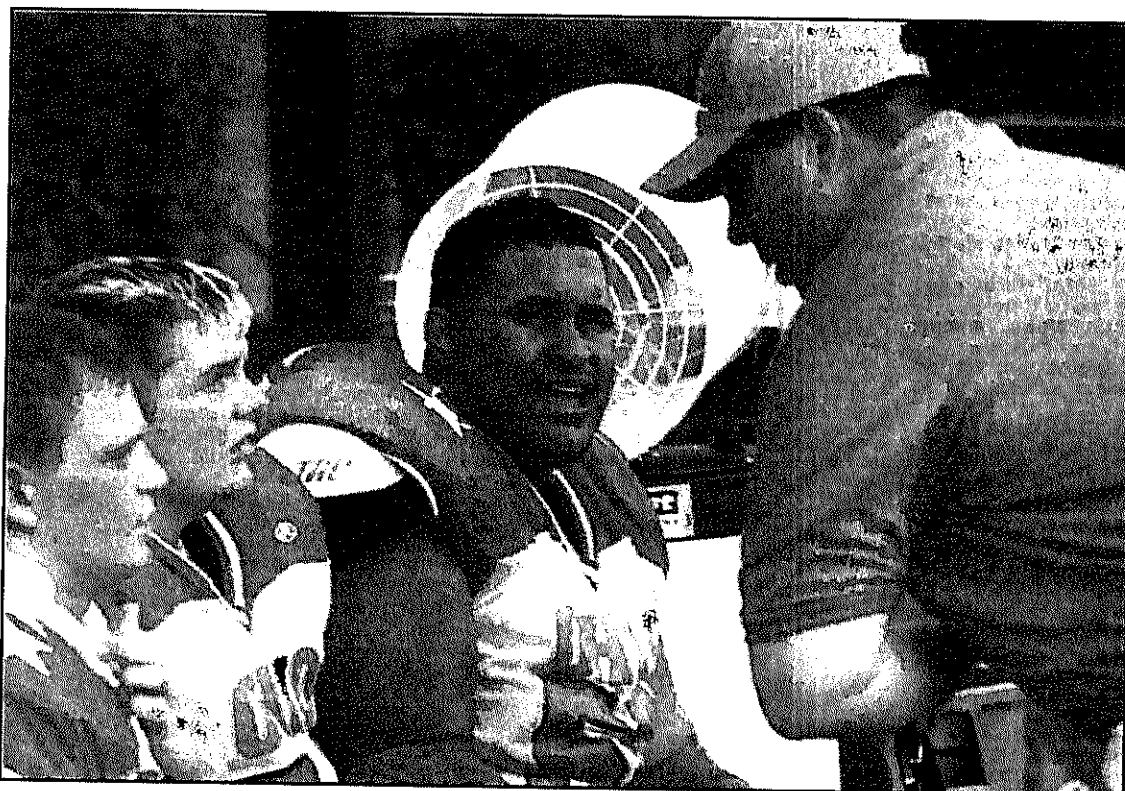
"This was such a fun well-played game," Buckeye's coach Dave Everson said. "I give a lot of credit to West Virginia. They came in here, probably a huge underdog, and really played well."

A big part of that Mountaineer performance came courtesy of Oak Glen graduate Derrick Stickles, who totaled 16 yards and a touchdown on five carries from the running back position, one catch for 32 yards as a receiver, and two sacks and two interceptions as a linebacker. Despite his effort, the future West Liberty running back was quick to point out the play of his teammates.

"We had a great team," he explained. "We came together really well at camp and went from there. You know, Ohio can be bigger than us and have more schools to draw from, but we weren't going to use that as an excuse."

The game started kind of sloppy with two interceptions occurring in the first three possessions. The teams would settle down though and after a scoreless first quarter, Shadyside's Mike Kernik hooked up with Steubenville's John Lester for a 22-yard touchdown pass, putting Ohio up 7-0.

On the Buckeye's next possession, the Red and White went on a 13-play drive that covered 64



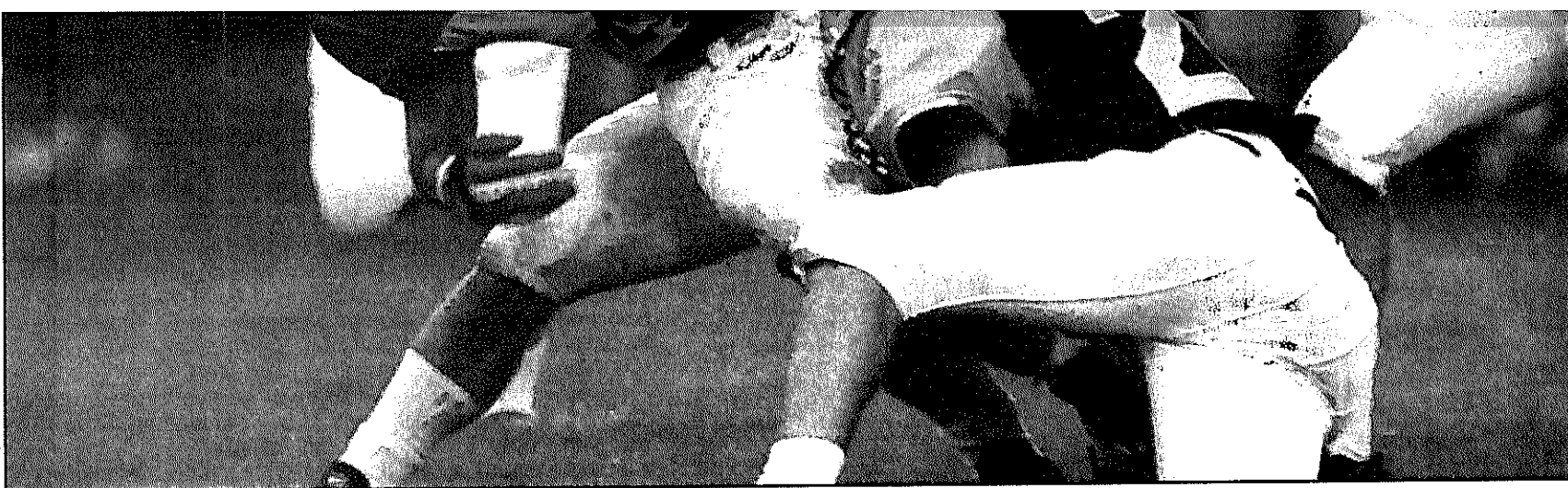
East Liverpool's Zac Williams (middle) and his Ohio teammates talk strategy with defensive coordinator B.J. Ash of the Edison football staff. (Photos by Larry Claypool)

"It was fun to get out there and play some offense," Stickles said. "Don't get me wrong, I like defense, but it's always nice to play some offense too."

West Virginia decided to go for the two-point

With the win, Ohio improves to 20-10-1 in the all-time series.





Ohio's Brett Jordan of St. Clairsville is hauled down by a group of West Virginia tacklers, including Oak Glen's Derrick Stickles (top) and Ronnie Hebrock (44). The two Oak Glen stars led the West Virginia linebacking corps. (Photo by Larry Claypool)

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"This was such a fun well-played game," Buckeye's coach Dave Everson said. "I give a lot of credit to West Virginia. They came in here, probably a huge underdog, and really played well."

A big part of that Mountaineer performance came courtesy of Oak Glen graduate Derrick Stickles, who totaled 16 yards and a touchdown on five carries from the running back position, one catch for 32 yards as a receiver, and two sacks and two interceptions as a linebacker. Despite his effort, the future West Liberty running back was quick to point out the play of his teammates.

"We had a great team," he explained. "We came together really well at camp and went from there. You know, Ohio can be bigger than us and have more schools to draw from, but we weren't going to use that as an excuse."

The game started kind of sloppy with two interceptions occurring in the first three possessions. The teams would settle down though and after a scoreless first quarter, Shadyside's Mike Kernik hooked up with Steubenville's John Lester for a 22-yard touchdown pass, putting Ohio up 7-0.

On the Buckeye's next possession, the Red and White went on a 13-play drive that covered 64 yards. The end result was a four-yard strike from Kernik to Bellaire's Joey Vavra. The point after missed, but Ohio's lead was extended to 13-0.

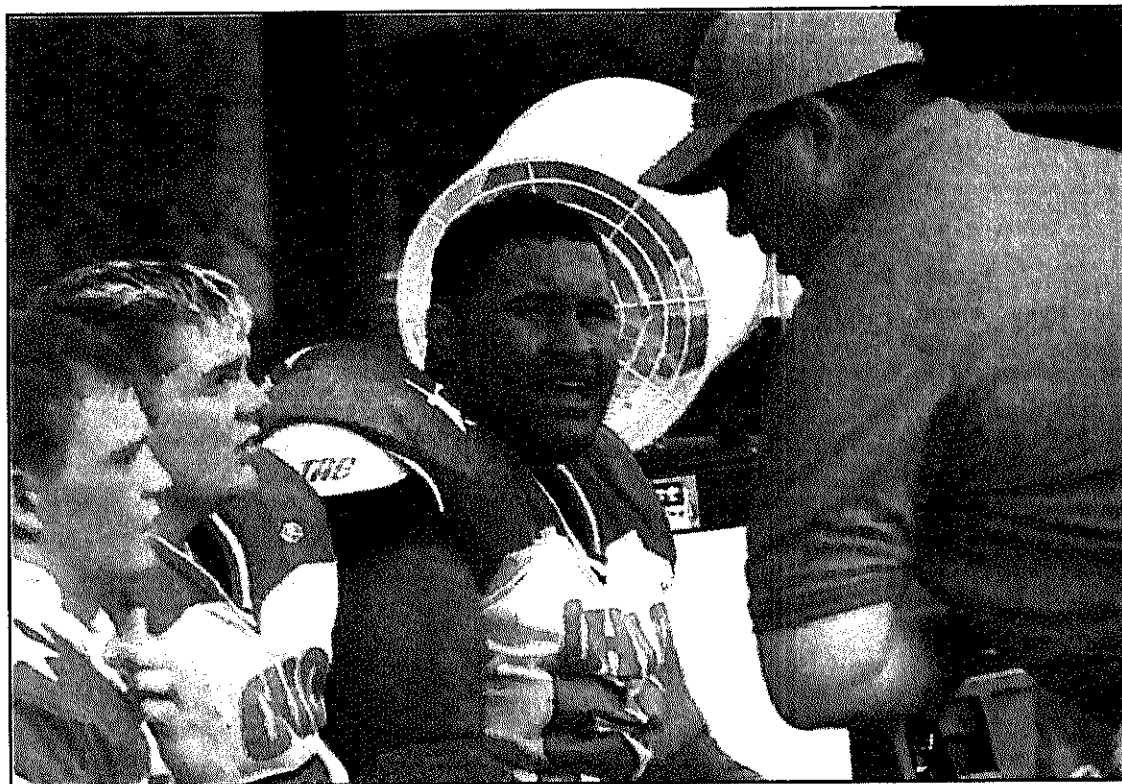
With the score, it appeared as if the Buckeye's were going to start pulling away like they've done in years past, however, West Virginia answered right back. On the first play from scrimmage, Wheeling Central's Justin Edwards found Linsly's R.J. Zitzelsberger down the seam for a 72-yard scoring strike. The point after was blocked, making it 13-6 and that's how the half would end.

A scary moment in the opening half came when Edison's Jason Sanders and Brooke's Matt Burch collided. On the play, Sanders delivered a crunching blind-side block on Burch, leaving both players slow to get up. After several minutes both players were able to leave the field on their own power, but only Burch would return.

According to Ohio trainers, Sanders received a pretty severe concussion. And following the play, Sanders couldn't remember certain things.

"I'm not real sure what happened," he said. "I remember coming back to lay a block and that's about it. I want to see a replay of it so I know what happened."

As the second half got underway, the Mountaineers took the kickoff and marched 52 yards on 10 plays. On the final play, Stickles punched it in from one-yard out, cutting the deficit to 13-12. Following the score, Stickles entertained the crowd and probably frightened his coaches by doing a flip to celebrate.



East Liverpool's Zac Williams (middle) and his Ohio teammates talk strategy with defensive coordinator B.J. Ash of the Edison football staff. (Photos by Larry Claypool)

"It was fun to get out there and play some offense," Stickles said. "Don't get me wrong, I like defense, but it's always nice to play some offense too."

West Virginia decided to go for the two-point conversion to take the lead, but Stickles wasn't able to pound it in, leaving it 13-12.

The teams would mirror each other the rest of the third quarter and for most of the fourth, until Ohio recovered a West Virginia fumble deep in Mountaineer territory.

The Mountaineer's didn't fold though and held the Buckeyes to a field goal attempt. And from 25 yards out, Wellsville's Matt Engle watched his kick fall inches short, giving West Virginia a chance with 3:04 left in regulation.

The Blue and Gold's chance didn't last long though as on the first play following the change of possession, Wheeling Park's Keith Banks fumbled after making a reception and turned the ball over to Ohio.

Five plays later, St. Clairsville's Adam Quirk connected with Union Local's Dave Thomas on an 18-yard score to seal the game.

"This was a true all-star game," Everson, the coach at Edison High School said. "It was a lot of fun and I think it shows in the eyes of all these kids. After being together for the last eight days, they don't want to go home."

A key player for Ohio on offense and defense was East Liverpool's Zac Williams, who played solid at guard and recorded three sacks at defensive tackle. The future Akron Zip was also named as one of the team captains by his teammates.

"It was real special for me to be named captain," Williams said. "And with that honor, I took it serious and wanted to be a leader."

With the win, Ohio improves to 20-10-1 in the all-time series.



Ohio's John Lester of Steubenville hauls in the game's first touchdown, a pass from Shadyside's Mike Kernik. West Virginia's Luke Cunningham of John Marshall defends.



**31st Annual Rudy Mumley**  
**OVAC ALL-STAR FOOTBALL**  
**★ CHARITY CLASSIC ★**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 24TH**

**★ "Evening With the Stars" at Ramada Plaza ★**

**FRIDAY, JULY 26TH**

**★★★ "2002" Queen of Queens Pageant ★★★**

**at Wheeling Civic Center**

**SATURDAY, JULY 27TH**

**★★★★ Pep Rally at WLSC Russek Field ★★★★★**

**The OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band**

**★ "GRIDIRON GLORY" ★**

**Wheeling Island Stadium**

**Sunday, July 28, 2002 • Kick-Off at 7:15 p.m.**

**Advance Sale Ticket: \$7.00 • At the Gate: \$10.00**

