

SPORTS

Monday, July 26, 2004

The streak comes to an end

• West Virginia upends Ohio for first time since 1994

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

All streaks must come to an end at some point.

That point came Sunday night for the West Virginia All-Stars.

Behind a solid defensive effort and a strong running game, the Mountaineers were able to pull off somewhat of an upset in the 33rd Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Classic, winning by a 21-7 count over their Ohio rivals on the newly installed turf at Wheeling Island Stadium.

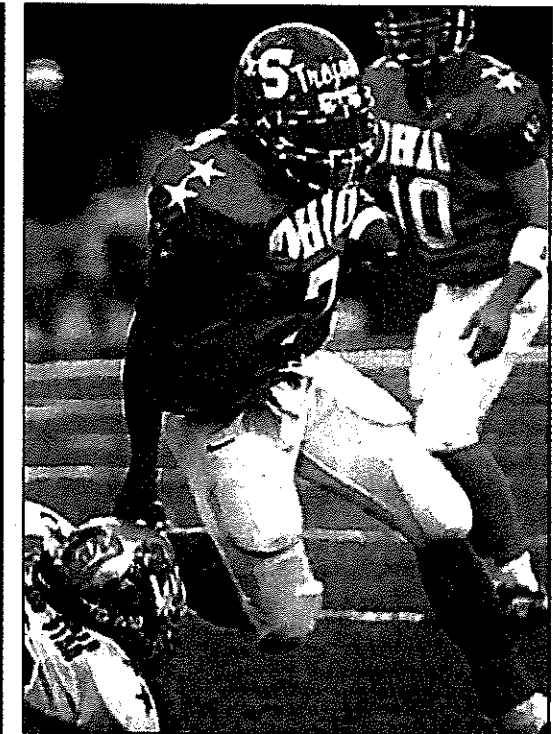
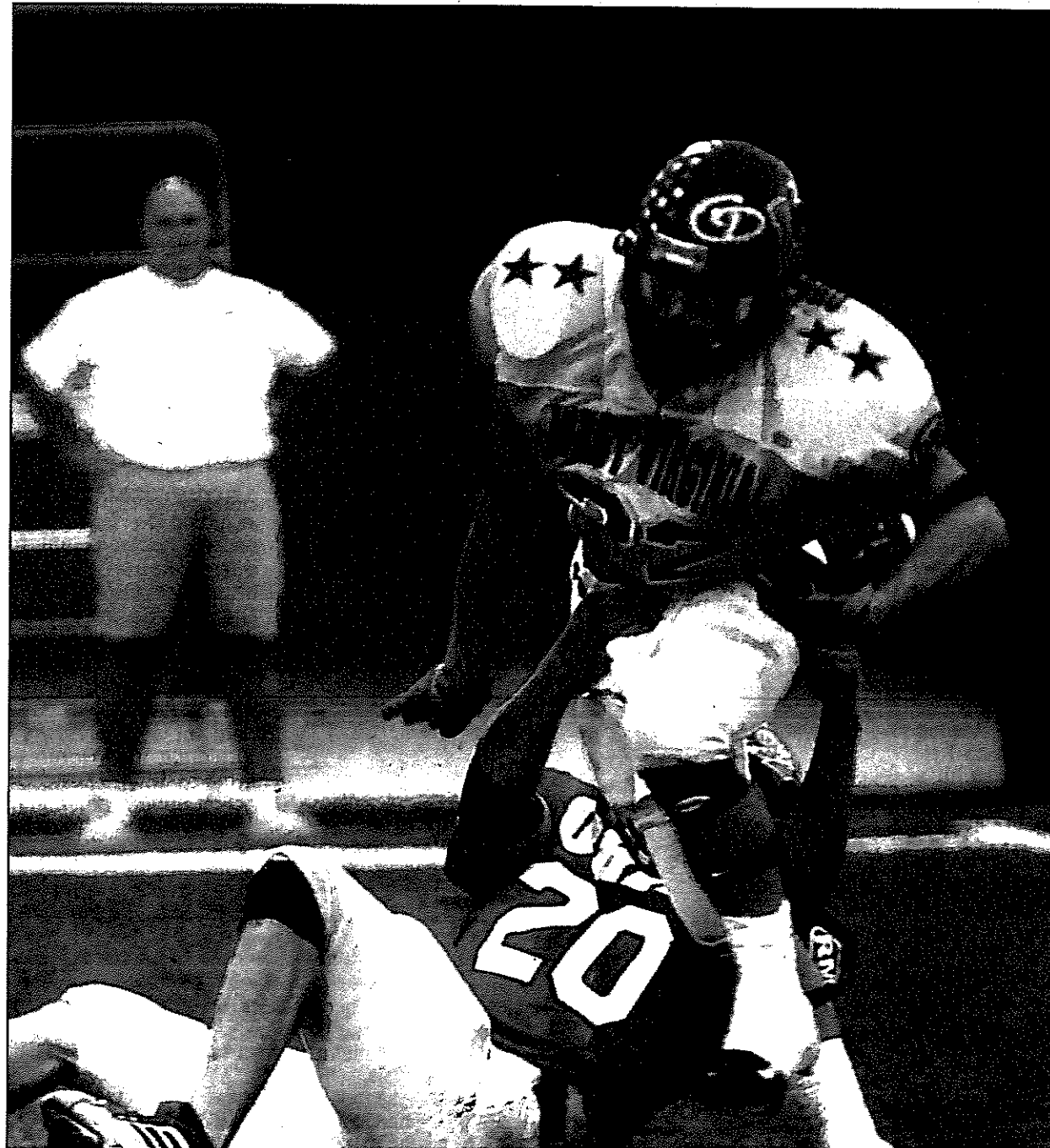
The win is the first by the Mountaineers since the 1994 affair, which was celebrating its 10-year anniversary at the game.

"This sure beats losing," joked retiring Tyler Consolidated and West Virginia head coach John Stender. "This was really fun and I enjoyed it because we had such a great group of kids."

The win in the OVAC game was the first for Stender, who was working in the game for the third time during his illustrious career.

"I have been a part of the nine-game streak," Stender remarked. "The games have been getting closer the past four years, and (West Virginia) needed to win one, and this juices it up a little bit and adds a little more to the rivalry."

Ohio head coach Dan Wesson, meanwhile, shouldered much of the blame for his Buckeyes' sluggish offensive play, which result-



"This sure beats losing," joked retiring Tyler Consolidated and West Virginia head coach John Stender. "This was really fun and I enjoyed it because we had such a great group of kids."

The win in the OVAC game was the first for Stender, who was working in the game for the third time during his illustrious career.

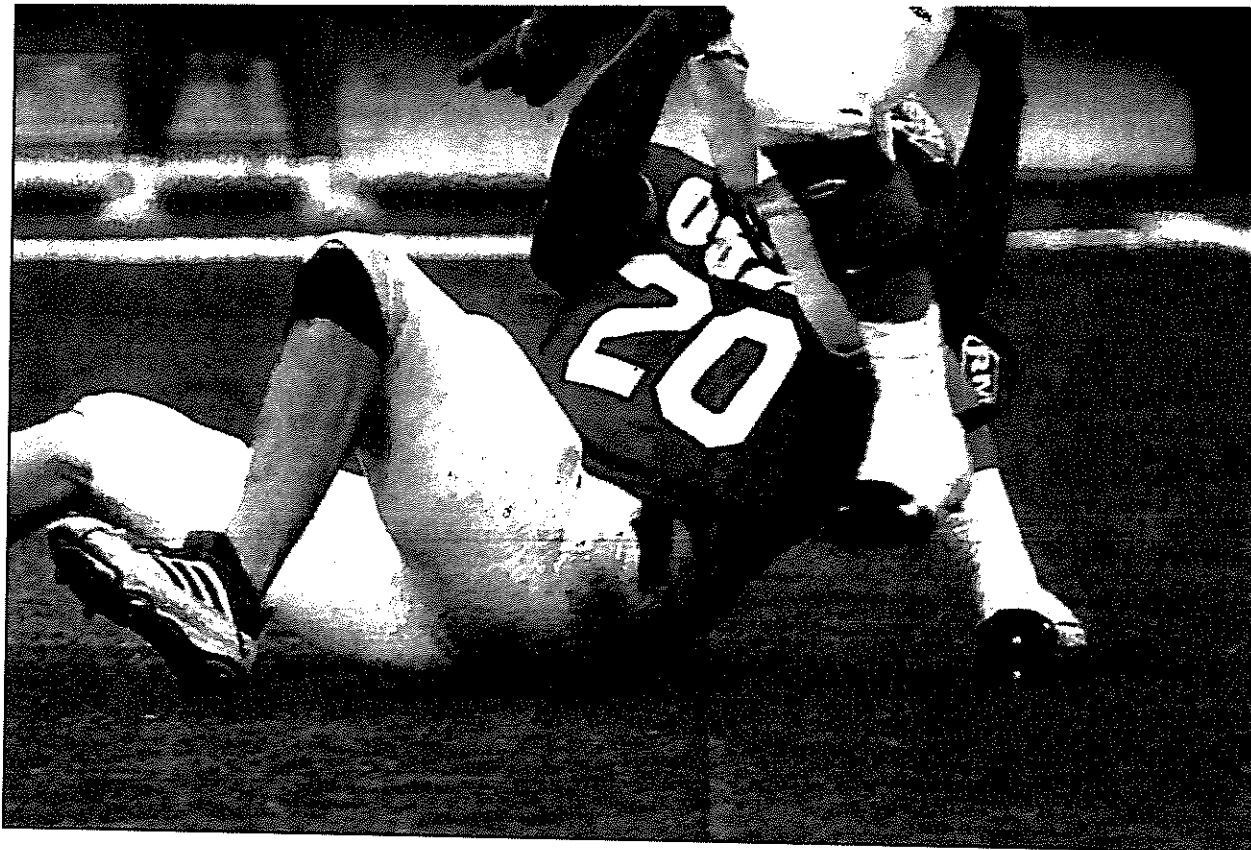
"I have been a part of the nine-game streak," Stender remarked. "The games have been getting closer the past four years, and (West Virginia) needed to win one, and this juices it up a little bit and adds a little more to the rivalry."

Ohio head coach Dan Wesson, meanwhile, shouldered much of the blame for his Buckeyes' sluggish offensive play, which resulted in just 175 yards of offense and only the one score.

"I feel as if I let the entire state down," a noticeably disappointed Wesson offered moments after the game. "We struggled all night offensively. At times we moved the ball, but we would have a penalty or a missed assignment."

"I'm the head coach, and I will take total responsibility because we just didn't get it clicking, but

See, **OVAC**, Page D2



WEST VIRGINIA running back Mark Plumby (22) breaks through a tackle attempt by Ohio's Nathan Hedge (20) during action in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All Star Charity Classic Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium. West Virginia took home a victory in the game for the first time since 1994.

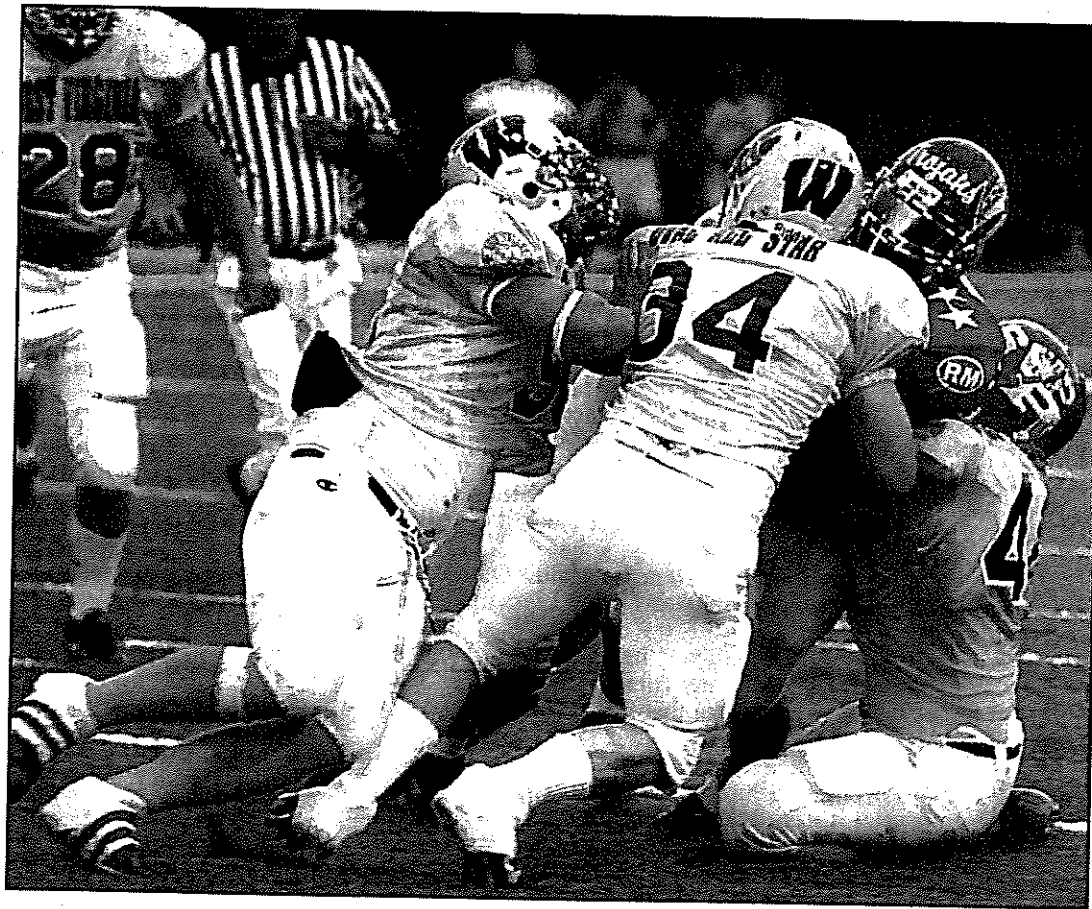
T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH



T-L Photos/JOEL JOSEPH

TOP PHOTO: Ohio running back Nate Hubbard (7) looks for running room during action Sunday. Hubbard finished with 108 yards on 22 carries.

ABOVE: Ohio quarterback Josh Ischy rolls out looking for a receiver.



WEST VIRGINIA'S defense, led by Cody Tominack (right), Tim Cashdollar (34) and Chance Kildow (58) stop Ohio's Nate Hubbard on a carry during the first half Sunday night. The Mountaineers defense held the Buckeyes to just 175 yards.

T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

New artificial turf at Wheeling Island Stadium is well received

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

The OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic not only signified the start of another prep football season, but it signalled a new look for Wheeling Island Stadium.

The newly-installed artificial turf was well received by the some 8,000 people who came through the gates.

"The OVAC game is the premier event in the Ohio Valley, and we are thrilled to have it as our first event," said Wheeling Park athletic director Bernie Dolan. "This is the biggest crowd we get, and we are excited for the season and all of the events we are going to have."

The motivation for the turf came after the 2003 Super Six State Football Championships when the field was utterly destroyed because of a snowstorm and the field being chewed up.

"The Super Six was probably the biggest factor, but giving all of the kids of Ohio County a chance to play here was a big factor for us," said Wheeling Park athletic director Bernie Dolan. "We think this can hold up for 10-12 years, and we are already making contingency plans for the next time."

West Virginia Secondary Schools' Activities Commission Executive Secretary Mike Hayden

was in attendance at Sunday's game to view the field, and according to reports left very impressed.

"Everyone is going to have equal footing and very good traction," Dolan said. "It was a mess down here during the Super Six, and we were sick about it because the field had been in great shape."

The players were also happy with the field and the ability to cut and run on the new surface.

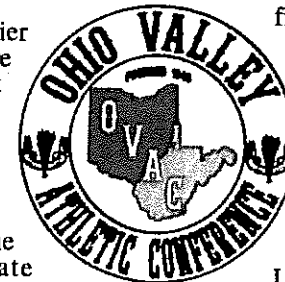
"This field is great," said former Wheeling Park quarterback Brad Kouski. "I'm actually jealous because I didn't have a chance to play more on this field, but playing in this game makes it worth it."

PLUMBY GUARANTEE

Last Monday at media day, Linsly's Mark Plumby was very outspoken about the Mountaineers' chances of snapping the losing streak, saying, "It's coming to an end this year."

"We all got along from the very beginning of camp," Plumby said. "We were a team from day one, and I think that chemistry really paid off. I just wanted to go out and play well because I had been working all summer for this game."

That definitely turned into reality for the Mountaineers and Plumby was one of the main



See, **NOTES**, Page D2

Indians move .500 mark victory

(AP) — The Indians moved past the .500 mark with a 5-1 victory over the Royals.

The Indians pitched a six-inning performance near Vizquel and the Royals 5-1 for the first of the 2003

ere huge," onnie's play Omar and e hits, too." allowed one fourth com-season, and more hit his ue homer. ick out three roved to 6-0 Jacobs Field

a four-game yals for the

l enough to ur," Kansas ena said.

19) took a 4- ing and won in 11 games he first time on April 3, ral manager maintained

would indi- his team was ld factor into s.

these guys nitely a big Eric Wedge e to keep it

ut from his 1 in the sev- 1 over-the- blooper by ght field. He : Randa off e play.

en myself," ink the ball ore than my all."

zquel ranged id turned a he middle by an out with a row. In the to his left to Ken Harvey

rich has the AL at 35-62, time in 10



games.

Zack Greinke (2-8) gave up five runs and eight hits in 6 2-3 innings. At 20, the youngest player currently in the major leagues, Greinke dropped to 1-7 since June 8.

"I was just pounding my fast-ball," Greinke said. "That didn't work and probably won't work very often."

Cleveland, which had been 0-5 in games when it was at .500, went ahead in the first when Jody Gerut hit a leadoff double, was bunted to third by Vizquel and scored on Travis Hafner's broken-bat RBI single.

Hafner went to third when Blake broke an 0-for-16 streak with a double. Greinke loaded the bases with a walk to Ben Broussard, and Belliard hit a two-run single. Coco Crisp followed with an RBI groundout.

Kansas City scored an unearned run in the fourth. After Matt Stairs reached on an error by Vizquel, Randa hit an RBI single. It was his first hit in five at-bats since he returned Saturday after missing nearly two months because of arthroscopic surgery on his right knee.

NOTES: Cleveland pitchers allowed seven earned runs in the series for a 1.66 ERA. ... Westbrook improved to 2-1 with a 1.08 ERA in his career against Kansas City. ... Gerut went 2-for-4 as he batted leadoff for the first time this season. On Saturday, he hit ninth for the first time in his career. ... The Royals are 6-16 in July. ... Royals 1B Mike Sweeney went 0-for-3 but is hitting .386 (27-for-70) with six homers and 20 RBI this month.

El to coach in on Classic

(AP) — Frank Beamer of Virginia Tech and Ohio State will coach in the Gridiron Classic all-

game will be played Jan. 15 at The Villages, a community 60 miles northwest of Orlando. In his fourth year with the Buckeyes, has an 2-7, including a perfect 14-0 season, a Big Ten 2-0, and the 2002 national championship. Currently ranks fourth among active Division I-A wins.

for his 18th season at Virginia Tech and his 12th as associate head coach. In the Gridiron Classic, Wisconsin's Barry Alvarez led to a 35-31 victory over a South team coached by Tom Richey. More than 12,300 fans packed a temporarily converted polo field.

om Page D1

dn't allowed a homer in his 40 major league at-bats in as many innings. Casey hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth.



OVAC

Continued from Page D1

give credit to Coach Stender and his kids because they played well."

The Mountaineers -- who had been saying all week leading up to the game that this was going to be the year to break the skid -- came out clicking on all cylinders.

They posted a quick three-and-out and forced Ohio into a punt, giving the 'Eers the ball on their own 38.

Eight rushing plays later, the Mountaineers were on the board. The three-headed backfield monster of Linsly's Mark Plumby, Madonna's J.J. Guida and Wheeling Central's Marshall O'Brien averaged nearly eight yards a rush during the drive.

"I think we caught them by surprise somewhat," Stender said. "We called that group heavy because we had some big backs with a big line in there."

O'Brien capped the march when he rumbled in from six yards out with 7:27 to go in the first stanza. The point after was blocked, leaving the Mountaineers with a 6-0 upper-hand.

"They had a great first series and were better up front than we were tonight," a classy Trevor Bruney said afterward. "They made a few more big plays than we did and that was the biggest difference in the outcome."

One of those big plays came on the ensuing drive. After the Buckeyes appeared to have their offense untracked, Ohio and Shenandoah quarterback Keith Selock saw his second pass attempt of the game get picked off by Tyler's Michael Wells.

Wells promptly went 30 yards the other way for the second Mountaineer score of the game. The try for two was no good and West Virginia was in control with a 12-0 lead.

"Our defense came up big the entire game," Stender said. "I thought we played extremely well defensively. Our kids hung in there and made a lot of big plays."

All told, the Ohio offense experienced three punts and a series on downs during the first half.

"We'd see something and it looked like we had things moving, but we made a mistake," Wesson

then a questionable call on the long pass, but that's how the game goes," Wesson admitted. "(West Virginia) took advantage of all of the mistakes we made."

After an excessive celebration penalty was marched off, Park's Kyle Ackerman was true on the extra point, giving West Virginia a 19-0 lead with 8:29 to go in the third.

"We didn't throw it a whole lot, but we really didn't have to because of the great running game we had," Kouski said. "I felt last Sunday (when we checked in) that we had a team that was capable of ending the streak, and getting up early just gave us even more confidence."

Another quick three-and-out forced by Stender's defense led to the next score for the Blue and Gold.

The snap to punter Chad Miley soared over his head and he knocked out of the back of the end zone, giving West Virginia a safety.

The third quarter came to a close with West Virginia holding a commanding 21-0 lead.

Ohio had a drive going at the end of the third and into the fourth period, but Monroe Central's Josh Ischy had a pass intercepted that thwarted another Buckeye drive.

After West Virginia was forced to kick it away, Ohio had it back with 8:29 to play in the game.

Selock got the drive going when he found Miley for a 46-yard passing play. On a crucial fourth down, Selock found Shadyside's Stevie Kernik in the right flat for a first down.

Two plays later, Bruney plunged in from a yard out. Beaver Local's Jeff Dalrymple was perfect on the extra point, slicing the deficit to 21-7.

West Virginia went back to its running game for the final 5:07 as Kouski and O'Brien chewed up the remainder of the game clock and sealing the win.

"Whenever you line up against Ohio it's a war, and you had better be buckled up," Stender offered.

"We are definitely happy we won the game, but we made so many friendships this week and had

WEST VIRGINIA 21 OHIO 7

Ohio 0 0 0 7-7
West Virginia 12 0 9 0-21

First Quarter
WV -- Marshall O'Brien, 6-yard run. Kick blocked.
WV -- Michael Wells, 30-yard interception return. Run failed.

Third Quarter
WV -- Eric Turner, 67-yard pass from Brad Kouski. Kyle Ackerman kick.
WV -- Safety, punt sailed out of the end zone.

Fourth Quarter
OH -- Trevor Bruney, 1-yard run. Jeff Dalrymple kick.

TEAM STATS

	OH	WV
First Downs	8	11
Rushing Yards	105	140
Passing Yards	70	76
Total Offense	175	216
Fumbles	0-0	1-0

INDIVIDUAL STATS
RUSHING -- Ohio: Nate Hubbard 22-108; Keith Selock 5-19; Trevor Bruney, 2-2; Chad Miley, 1-(-28); WV -- Marshall O'Brien 10-88; Mark Plumby 14-29; J.J. Guida 9-31; Brad Kouski 8-(-8).

PASSING -- Ohio: Keith Selock 4-11-70-0-1; Josh Ischy 0-5-0-0-1; Brad Kouski 2-3-76-1-0.

RECEIVING -- Ohio: Chad Miley 2-59; Nate Hubbard 1-5; Stevie Kernik 1-6. WV -- Nick Estep, 1-9; Eric Turner, 1-67-1.

Notes

Continued from Page D1

factors in the win, rushing for just 29 yards, but was a leader for the West Virginia squad.

"I know that (Nate) Hubbard is good, but Mark Plumby is just one heck of a running back," said West Virginia head coach John Stender.

"He made some unbelievable cuts tonight. He's going to be one heck of a player at the next level."

Plumby will go on to Lafayette College to play linebacker this fall.

QUEEN OF QUEENS

St. Clairsville's Sarah Maruzi was the winner of the Queen of Queens Pageant. She was presented with a scholarship and her crown at halftime.

Maruzi became the fourth St. Clairsville graduate to be crowned Queen of Queens, joining Susan Kennedy (1987), Somer Graham (1995) and Catherine Botos (1998) as other Red Devil winners.

Also placing in the competition were: Shadyside's Danielle Ney (Fourth Runner-up); John Marshall's Holly Wilson (Second Runner-up); Monroe Central's Megan Ring (Third Runner-up) and Wheeling Park's Shelby Garrett (Miss Congeniality and First Runner-up).

MCDONALD'S BAND

Once again this year, the McDonald's All-Star Band put on a brilliant halftime show. Under the guidance of McDonald's Band Coordinator Darrell Lucas and director Kirk George, the band was together since last Wednesday, but it appeared they had been working together for an entire season.

SUBWAY CLINIC

The inaugural Subway/OVAC Football Clinic was a huge hit Sunday afternoon at Wheeling Island Stadium. Some 60 youths from around the Ohio Valley attended the free camp, which was put on by the OVAC and under the direction of Wheeling Park's varsity football coaching staff.

\$10,000 KICK

George Gorman -- who attended Steubenville High and now resides in Weirton -- saw his attempt for \$10,000 fall well short. Gorman was selected to boot the 40-yard field goal, which is sponsored by the Health Plan.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Last April, the Ohio Valley



pitched a six-
7 infielders
mar Vizquel
id the Indians
y Royals 5-1
) for the first
of the 2003

vere huge,"
lonnie's play
. Omar and
re hits, too."
allowed one
fourth com-
season, and
more hit his
ue homer.
uck out three
proved to 6-0
Jacobs Field

a four-game
yals for the

ll enough to
ur," Kansas
Pena said.

49) took a 4-
ing and won
in 11 games
the first time
on April 3,
eral manager
maintained
) would indi-
his team was
ld factor into
s.

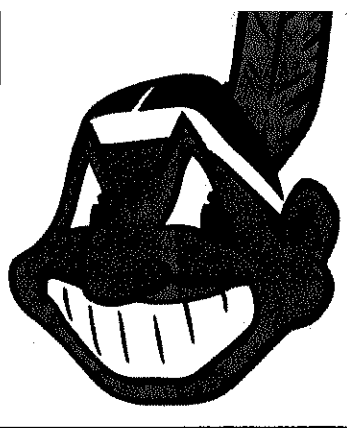
these guys
nitely a big
Eric Wedge
e to keep it

out from his
n in the sev-
n over-the-
a blooper by
ght field. He
e Randa off
le play.

en myself,"
ink the ball
ore than my
all."

zquel ranged
rd turned a
he middle by
an out with a
row. In the
to his left to
Ken Harvey

hich has the
AL at 35-62,
time in 10



games.

Zack Greinke (2-8) gave up five runs and eight hits in 6 2-3 innings. At 20, the youngest player currently in the major leagues, Greinke dropped to 1-7 since June 8.

"I was just pounding my fastball," Greinke said. "That didn't work and probably won't work very often."

Cleveland, which had been 0-5 in games when it was at .500, went ahead in the first when Jody Gerut hit a leadoff double, was bunted to third by Vizquel and scored on Travis Hafner's broken-bat RBI single.

Hafner went to third when Blake broke an 0-for-16 streak with a double. Greinke loaded the bases with a walk to Ben Broussard, and Belliard hit a two-run single. Coco Crisp followed with an RBI groundout.

Kansas City scored an unearned run in the fourth. After Matt Stairs reached on an error by Vizquel, Randa hit an RBI single. It was his first hit in five at-bats since he returned Saturday after missing nearly two months because of arthroscopic surgery on his right knee.

NOTES: Cleveland pitchers allowed seven earned runs in the series for a 1.66 ERA. ... Westbrooke improved to 2-1 with a 1.08 ERA in his career against Kansas City. ... Gerut went 2-for-4 as he batted leadoff for the first time this season. On Saturday, he hit ninth for the first time in his career. ... The Royals are 6-16 in July. ... Royals 1B Mike Sweeney went 0-for-3 but is hitting .386 (27-for-70) with six homers and 20 RBI this month.

el to coach in on Classic

a. (AP) - Frank Beamer of Virginia Tech and o State will coach in the Gridiron Classic all-

game will be played Jan. 15 at The Villages, a community 60 miles northwest of Orlando.

g his fourth year with the Buckeyes, has an 2-7, including a perfect 14-0 season, a Big Ten nd the 2002 national championship.

tly ranks fourth among active Division I-A vins.

for his 18th season at Virginia Tech and his giate head coach.

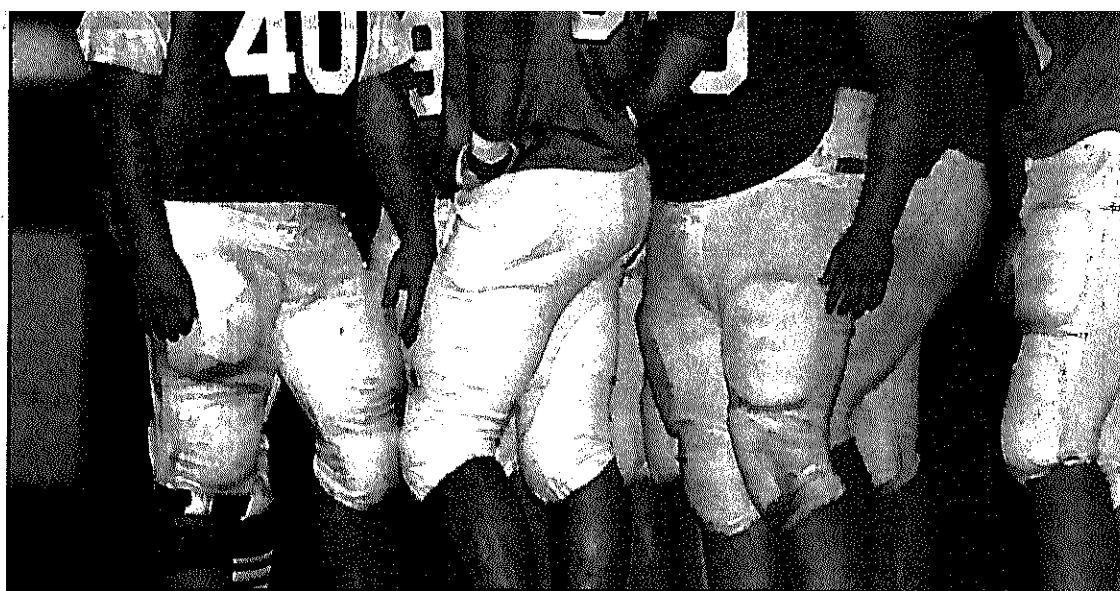
Gridiron Classic, Wisconsin's Barry Alvarez l to a 35-31 victory over a South team coached Richt. More than 12,300 fans packed a tempo- n a converted polo field.

om Page D1

dn't allowed a homer in his 40 major league vo in as many innings. Casey hit a three-run to break a 1-1 tie in the third. It followed d a walk to Ryan Freel.

mer in the fourth, his 15th. game with a single, stole second and scored on in unearned run in the first. Bay hit a two-out rd on shortstop Juan Castro's throwing error and single to left.

enter fielder Jason Romano strained his right ball in the first and left the game. He's sched- en the Reds return to Cincinnati. It's expected ced on the disabled list... Pena has eight home games. ... LaRue singled to stretch his hitting ... Reds shortstop Barry Larkin was out of the



● OVAC

Continued from Page D1

give credit to Coach Stender and his kids because they played well."

The Mountaineers -- who had been saying all week leading up to the game that this was going to be the year to break the skid -- came out clicking on all cylinders.

They posted a quick three-and-out and forced Ohio into a punt, giving the 'Eers the ball on their own 38.

Eight rushing plays later, the Mountaineers were on the board. The three-headed backfield monster of Linsly's Mark Plumby, Madonna's J.J. Guida and Wheeling Central's Marshall O'Brien averaged nearly eight yards a rush during the drive.

"I think we caught them by surprise somewhat," Stender said. "We called that group heavy because we had some big backs with a big line in there."

O'Brien capped the march when he rumbled in from six yards out with 7:27 to go in the first stanza. The point after was blocked, leaving the Mountaineers with a 6-0 upper-hand.

"They had a great first series and were better up front than we were tonight," a classy Trevor Bruney said afterward. "They made a few more big plays than we did and that was the biggest difference in the outcome."

One of those big plays came on the ensuing drive. After the Buckeyes appeared to have their offense untracked, Ohio and Shenandoah quarterback Keith Selock saw his second pass attempt of the game get picked off by Tyler's Michael Wells.

Wells promptly went 30 yards the other way for the second Mountaineer score of the game. The try for two was no good and West Virginia was in control with a 12-0 lead.

"Our defense came up big the entire game," Stender said. "I thought we played extremely well defensively. Our kids hung in there and made a lot of big plays."

All told, the Ohio offense experienced three punts and a series on downs during the first half.

"We'd see something and it looked like we had things moving, but we made a mistake," Wesson said. "I could pull out a hundred different things, but we just made too many mistakes to get points on the board."

The Mountaineers continued their explosion on their first possession of the second half.

On a third-and-long play, Wheeling Park quarterback Brad Kouski found Weir High's Eric Turner on a simple hitch route.

After appearing to be wrestled to the ground, Turner sprung free and raced 67 yards down the right sideline to paydirt.

"We gave them a score on an interception and

T-L Photos/JOEL JOSEPH

ABOVE: Ohio's defense, including Dan Spiczenski (left) and Dan Howard (58), huddle during action in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All Star Classic Sunday night at Wheeling Island Stadium.

LEFT: Shenandoah's Keith Selock (left) looks down the field for a receiver as West Virginia's Tom Contraguero falls to the ground during action Sunday night.

OH -- Trevor Bruney, 1-yard run. Jeff Dalrymple kick.

TEAM STATS

	OH	WV
First Downs	8	11
Rushing Yards	105	140
Passing Yards	70	76
Total Offense	175	216
Fumbles	0-0	1-0

INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING -- Ohio: Nate Hubbard 22-108; Keith Selock 5-19; Trevor Bruney, 2-2; Chad Miley, 1-(-28); WV -- Marshall O'Brien 10-88; Mark Plumby 14-29; J.J. Guida 9-31; Brad Kouski 8-(-8).

PASSING -- Ohio: Keith Selock 4-11-70-0-1; Josh Ischy 0-5-0-0-1; Brad Kouski 2-3-76-1-0.

RECEIVING -- Ohio: Chad Miley 2-59; Nate Hubbard 1-5; Stavia Kernik 1-6. WV -- Nick Estep, 1-9; Eric Turner, 1-67-1.

● Notes

Continued from Page D1

factors in the win, rushing for just 29 yards, but was a leader for the West Virginia squad.

"I know that (Nate) Hubbard is good, but Mark Plumby is just one heck of a running back," said West Virginia head coach John Stender.

"He made some unbelievable cuts tonight. He's going to be one heck of a player at the next level."

Plumby will go on to Lafayette College to play linebacker this fall.

QUEEN OF QUEENS

St. Clairsville's Sarah Maruzi was the winner of the Queen of Queens Pageant. She was presented with a scholarship and her crown at halftime.

Maruzi became the fourth St. Clairsville graduate to be crowned Queen of Queens, joining Susan Kennedy (1987), Somer Graham (1995) and Catherine Botos (1998) as other Red Devil winners.

Also placing in the competition were: Shadyside's Danielle Ney (Fourth Runner-up); John Marshall's Holly Wilson (Second Runner-up); Monroe Central's Megan Ring (Third Runner-up) and Wheeling Park's Shelby Garrett (Miss Congeniality and First Runner-up).

MCDONALD'S BAND

Once again this year, the McDonald's All-Star Band put on a brilliant halftime show. Under the guidance of McDonald's Band Coordinator Darrell Lucas and director Kirk George, the band was together since last Wednesday, but it appeared they had been working together for an entire season.

SUBWAY CLINIC

The inaugural Subway/OVAC Football Clinic was a huge hit Sunday afternoon at Wheeling Island Stadium. Some 60 youths from around the Ohio Valley attended the free camp, which was put on by the OVAC and under the direction of Wheeling Park's varsity football coaching staff.

\$10,000 KICK

George Gorman -- who attended Steubenville High and now resides in Weirton -- saw his attempt for \$10,000 fall well short. Gorman was selected to boot the 40-yard field goal, which is sponsored by the Health Plan.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Last April, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference announced its affiliation with Scholastic Sports Marketing and the conference is already reaping the benefits.

With Sunday's game, the OVAC announced its new corporate sponsorships with Subway, Buffalo Wild Wings, Aeropostale, Alltel, McDonald's and the Wheeling Automotive Group.



Ohio Valley Athletic Conference for Division II victory

SPORTS

Sunday, July 25, 2004

OVAC All-Star Game tonight

• Kickoff set for 7:15 p.m.

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

It's back!
Football makes its return to the Ohio Valley this evening as the 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic takes center stage at the newly-renovated Wheeling Island Stadium.

Kickoff in the annual summer classic is slated for 7:15 p.m. with Ohio and West Virginia squaring off in a rivalry, which has been owned by the Buckeye State.

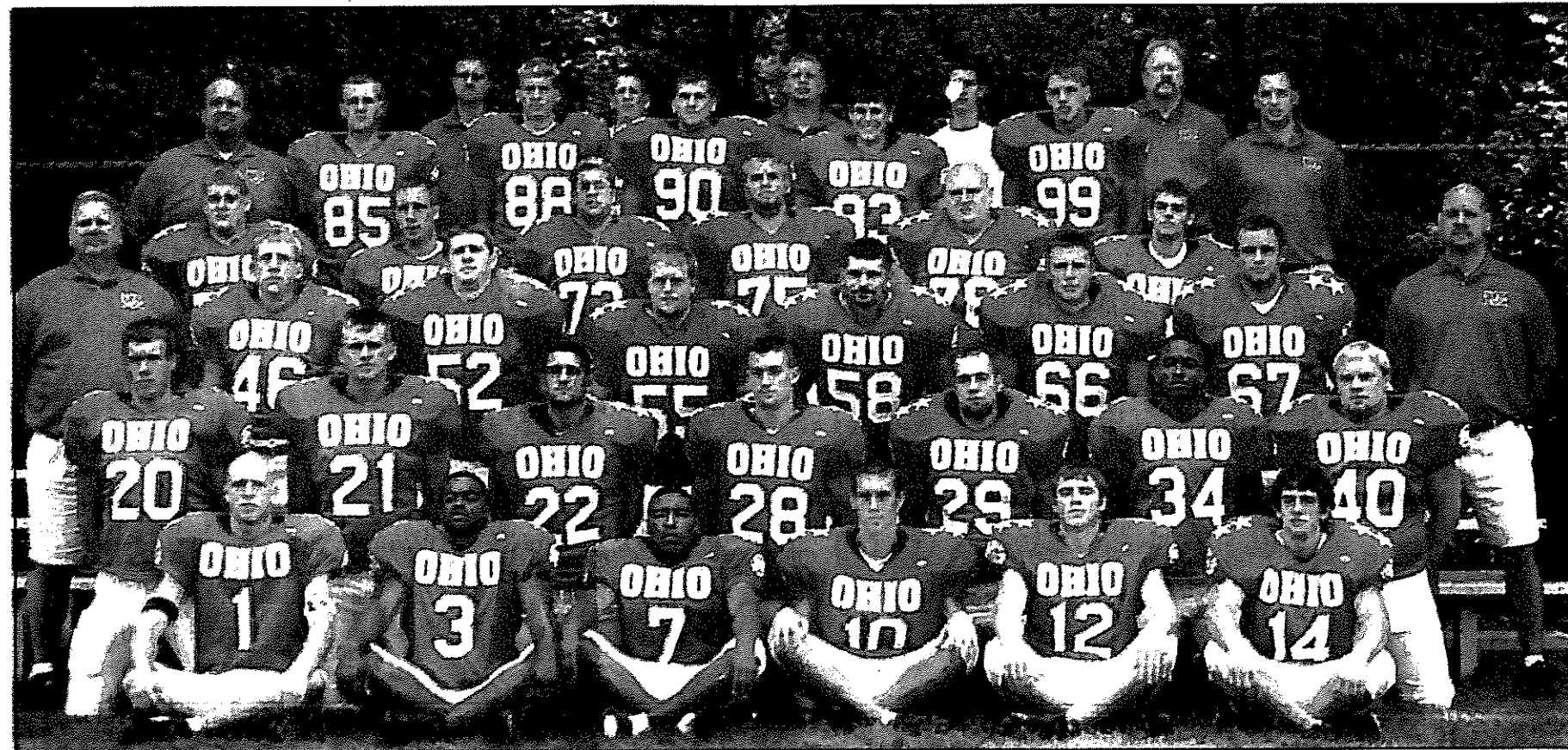
Ohio comes into this year's classic as winners of nine straight OVAC games.

"The kids and us as coaches are definitely ready to play," said Ohio and Shenandoah head coach Dan Wesson. "The kids have worked extremely hard this week, and I think they are ready to go."

"The kids are itching to get out on the field,"

said West Virginia head coach John Stender who is preparing for his final game as a head coach. "These kids are tired of reviewing everything and the monotony is setting in a little bit because they have been over this stuff so many times."

Though the Buckeyes own the winning streak, this Mountaineer team appears primed to start a streak of their own.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

PICTURED is the 2004 Ohio OVAC All-Star Football Team. Front row, from left, are Justin McElhaney, Eddie Hamilton, Nate Hubbard, Keith Selock, Greg Darby and Josh Ischy. Second row, from left, are Nathan Hedge, Cody Miley, Stevie Kernik, Trevor Bruney, Charlie Hunter, Maurice Jeffreys and Danny Spiczenski. Third row, from left, are head coach Dan Wesson, Vince Kuntz, Anthony Sable, Bobby Kittel, Dan Howard, Adam Lee, Craig Cross and assistant coach Tim Wilson. Fourth row, from left, are Ryan Witkowski, Scott Kennedy, Zach Miller, Lou Almonte, Adam Lucci and Josh Pyles. Fifth row, from left, are assistant coach Justin Denius, B.A. Starr, Jeff Dalrymple, Nick Stankovich, Ivan Stein and Bobby Briggs and assistant coach Tom Perkins. Back row, from left, are Greg Heller, manager Billy Miley, assistant coach Derrick Leach, manager Josh Cowgill, assistant coach Rob Pachutta.



newly-renovated Wheeling Island Stadium.

Kickoff in the annual summer classic is slated for 7:15 p.m. with Ohio and West Virginia squaring off in a rivalry, which has been owned by the Buckeye State.

Ohio comes into this year's classic as winners of nine straight OVAC games.

"The kids and us as coaches are definitely ready to play," said Ohio and Shenandoah head coach Dan Wesson. "The kids have worked extremely hard this week, and I think they are ready to go."

"The kids are itching to get out on the field,"

said West Virginia head coach John Stender who is preparing for his final game as a head coach. "These kids are tired of reviewing everything and the monotony is setting in a little bit because they have been over this stuff so many times."

Though the Buckeyes own the winning streak, this Mountaineer team appears primed to start a streak of their own.

"I have heard that we are now the underdogs," Wesson said. "It should be an even matchup, but I don't go by who is the favorite because you still have to go out and play the game."

Stender begs to differ on the favorite label.

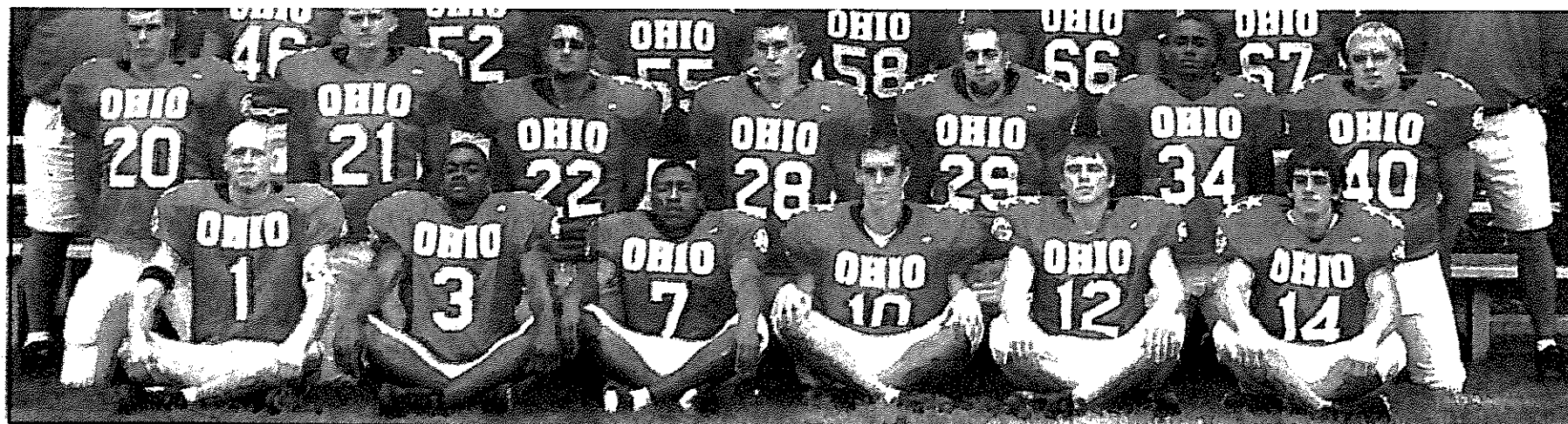
"If Coach Wesson is saying we are the favorite then we are betting his money," Stender joked. "He installed us as a six-point favorite, but our kids have had a good camp and we have built some great relationships. We are going to go out and have a good time Sunday and hopefully win the football game."

Wesson is almost totally in the dark in terms of what his Mountaineer counterparts have up their sleeves for this evening's contest.

"I really have no idea," Wesson said. "I obviously haven't scouted them and didn't have any game tapes to watch, so we had better be ready for almost anything."

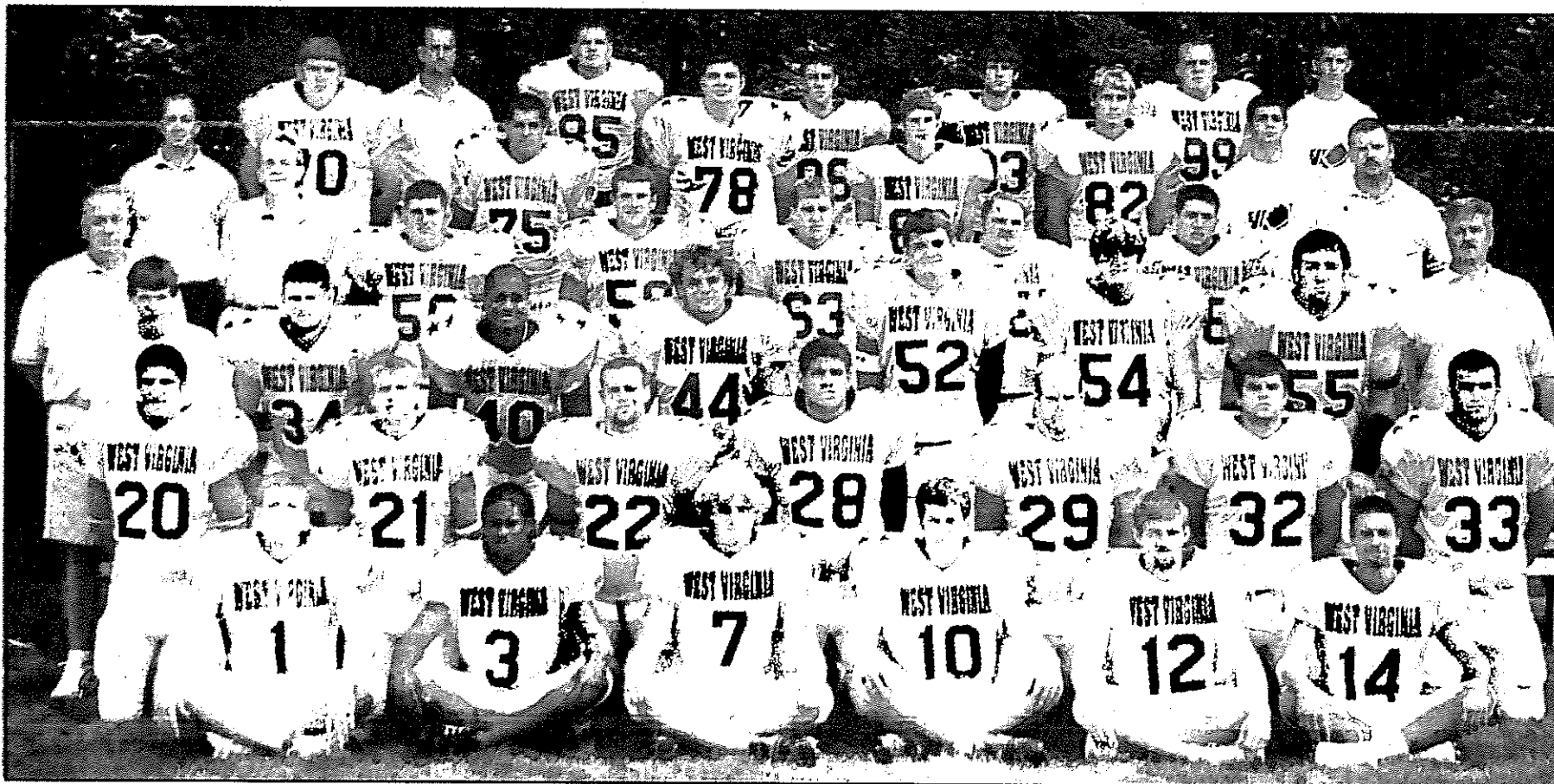
The Buckeyes could be in for a game of keep away.

See, **OVAC**, Page B3



PICTURED is the 2004 Ohio OVAC All-Star Football Team. Front row, from left, are Justin McElhaney, Eddie Hamilton, Nate Hubbard, Keith Selock, Greg Darby and Josh Ischy. Second row, from left, are Nathan Hedge, Cody Miley, Stevie Kernik, Trevor Bruney, Charlie Hunter, Maurice Jeffreys and Danny Spiczenski. Third row, from left, are head coach Dan Wesson, Vince Kuntz, Anthony Sable, Bobby Kittel, Dan Howard, Adam Lee, Craig Cross and assistant coach Tim Wilson. Fourth row, from left, are Ryan Witkowski, Scott Kennedy, Zach Miller, Lou Almonte, Adam Lucci and Josh Pyles. Fifth row, from left, are assistant coach Justin Denius, B.A. Starr, Jeff Dalrymple, Nick Stankovich, Ivan Stein and Bobby Briggs and assistant coach Tom Perkins. Back row, from left, are Greg Heller, manager Billy Miley, assistant coach Derrick Leach, manager Josh Cowgill, assistant coach Rob Pachutta.

T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH



PICTURED is the 2004 West Virginia OVAC All-Star football team. Front row, from left, are Justin Friend, Eric Turner, Dusty Shepherd, Jon Kemp, Isaac Stewart, and Brad Kouski. Second row, from left, are Bill Sadler, Nick Estep, Mark Plumbly, Marshall O'Brien, Tom Contraguero, Michael Wells and J.J. Guida. Third row, from left, are Head coach John Stender, manager Jake Potts, Tim Cashdollar, Preston Duck, Cody Tominack, Craig Sandy, Derek Ankrum, Matt Miller and assistant coach Bob Jones. Fourth row, from left, are Assistant coach Chris Wisvari, trainer Randy Elliott, Joe Petrovich, Chance Kildow, Jesse Nelson, Derrick Molnar, Anthony Capp and assistant coach Ryan Walton. Fifth row, from left, are Joe Rohrig, Aaron Gurskey, Mark Vance, Brian Casto, Jason Fazio and manager Sean Neff. Sixth row, from left, are assistant coach Rob Caldwell, Matt Wright, Ryan Sapp, Nathan Peluchette, Kyle Ackermann and manager Jake Myer.

T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

**OVAC
NOTEBOOK**
Wesson picks



Koch: A real OVAC All-Star

The spotlight in tonight's **IN FOCUS**

SCOTT

because you still have to go out and play the game.”

Stender begs to differ on the favorite label.

“If Coach Wesson is saying we are the favorite then we are betting his money,” Stender joked. “He installed us as a six-point favorite, but our kids have had a good camp and we have built some great relationships. We are going to go out and have a good time Sunday and hopefully win the football game.”

Wesson is almost totally in the dark in terms of what his Mountaineer counterparts have up their sleeves for this evening’s contest.

“I really have no idea,” Wesson said. “I obviously haven’t scouted them and didn’t have any game tapes to watch, so we had better be ready for almost anything.”

The Buckeyes could be in for a game of keep away.

See, **OVAC**, Page B3



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

PICTURED is the 2004 West Virginia OVAC All-Star football team. Front row, from left, are Justin Friend, Eric Turner, Dusty Shepherd, Jon Kemp, Isaac Stewart, and Brad Kouski. Second row, from left, are Bill Sadler, Nick Estep, Mark Plumby, Marshall O'Brien, Tom Contraguero, Michael Wells and J.J. Guida. Third row, from left, are Head coach John Stender, manager Jake Potts, Tim Cashdollar, Preston Duck, Cody Tominack, Craig Sandy, Derek Ankrum, Matt Miller and assistant coach Bob Jones. Fourth row, from left, are Assistant coach Chris Wisvari, trainer Randy Elliott, Joe Petrovich, Chance Kildow, Jesse Nelson, Derrick Molnar, Anthony Capp and assistant coach Ryan Walton. Fifth row, from left, are Joe Rohrig, Aaron Gurskey, Mark Vance, Brian Casto, Jason Fazio and manager Sean Neff. Sixth row, from left, are assistant coach Rob Caldwell, Matt Wright, Ryan Sapp, Nathan Peluchette, Kyle Ackermann and manager Jake Myer.

OVAC NOTEBOOK

Wesson picks captains for tonight's game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Four Ohio players have earned one of the biggest awards imaginable during OVAC All-Star Game Weekend.

Barnesville's Danny Spiczenski, Martins Ferry's Trevor Bruney, Steubenville's Nate Hubbard and Shenandoah's Keith Selock were selected as team captains for tonight's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

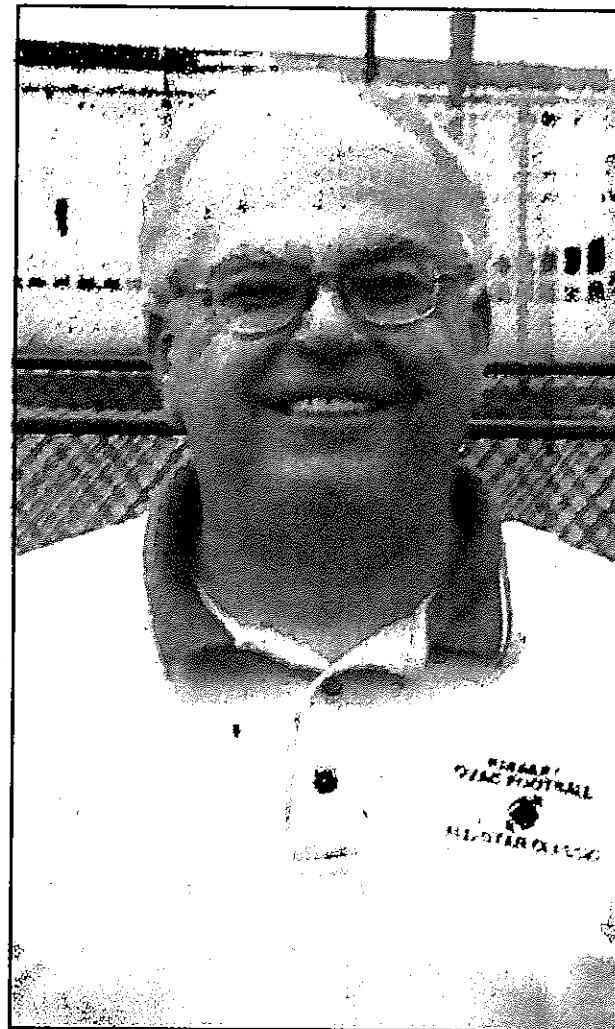
Spiczenski and Bruney are the defensive captains, while Selock and Hubbard head up the offensive unit.

The captains were selected through a team and coaching staff vote. The top two players from each vote earned the captaincy.

“Being voted a captain by my teammates and coaches is a real honor,” Spiczenski said. “I was also chosen to make the defensive calls for us, and I look at that as a real honor as well.”

It's been a productive week for Spiczenski who was awarded one of the two

See, **NOTEBOOK**, Page B3



BOB KOCH

Koch: A real OVAC All-Star



By **BUBBA
KAPRAL**
T-L Executive
Sports Editor

The spotlight in tonight's 33rd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Classic shines brightly on the

IN FOCUS

would have said no,” Koch offered. “He also agreed to help me and he has been a big help. One man couldn't do the job. We have great support.

“There is a band coordinator (Kirk George), 10-year reunion coordinator (Steve Kish), Evening with the Stars coordinator (Dianna Vargo) and a Queen of Queens coordinator (Linda Myers),” added the classy WVU product. “Also Tom (OVAC Executive Secretary Rataiczak) will do anything that is needed. Even with all the help, there is still lot to be done.”

Koch didn't hesitate when asked what his biggest fear was when assumed the grid directorship.

“I wanted to make sure that we maintained the status of the game. Ron did a great job of running the affair. Ron had great contacts and Cameron is definitely not the media center of the conference and we are only a Class A school.

“Every year there is usually a different problem to deal with. One year it was finding a new band director and another year it was replacing our Evening with the Stars director,” he said. “This year we have had to deal with a lot of construction going on at West Liberty. With all the work going on at the college we

players and coaching staffs.

That's just the nature of the beast.

Fans come to watch playmakers.

The real star of stars in tonight's summer grid classic, however, is a soft-spoken gentleman from Cameron.

Bob Koch is the game director for the OVAC all-star extravaganza. He is the man charged with making sure the “social event of the summer season” comes off without a hitch.

He has done the job near flawlessly and with no self-promotion for four years now.

Koch -- a Glen Dale native and John Marshall High grad -- works nearly year-round in making the much-anticipated game the gala event it has evolved into.

It was a job he never coveted or desired, but one he assumed when beckoned by a friend.

Ron Mauck -- a longtime OVAC stalwart -- was serving as director for the OVAC football game in addition to running the giant-sized OVAC Wrestling Tournament. He asked Koch to ease his burden by taking over the directorship for the grid classic.

“If anybody but Ron would have asked I

See, **KOCH**, Page B3

● Notebook

Continued from Page B1

George Strager Memorial Scholarships during Wednesday's Evening with the Stars.

NO DECALS

A TRADITION during the OVAC All-Star Game is the trading of helmet decals amongst the players.

Some players come out with what looks to be hundreds of decals from schools throughout the Ohio Valley tattooed to their helmets, but three Ohioans will go strictly with their high school logo.

Brunej, Nick Stankovich and Bobby Kittel will all be playing their final prep football game with strictly with the Purple Rider horseshoe on the side of their helmet.

The three Ferry players unlike some of the other players in the game are required to return their helmets for future use, while some are allowed to keep their helmets as a souvenir.

"If we put other decals on it would leave a lot of residue on them once we took them off," Stankovich said. "We aren't trying to be cocky or arrogant or anything, but we have to give the helmets back."

TEAM UNITY

St. Clairsville's Daniel Howard will have the support of all of his former Red Devil mates when he takes the field tonight for the OVAC game.

Shortly after finding out he had been chosen for the OVAC All-Star Game, Howard took a black Sharpie and had the entire St.C. team autograph his helmet.

"When Coach (Bret) McLean took over he had been stressing team unity," Howard said during media day. "I thought having all the guys sign would be like having all of my teammates with me because me being here is a team award and not just an individual award for me."

Howard also put a few of his new teammates decals on his helmet, which helped him demonstrate the team unity toward the Buckeyes.

"I am really excited to be here representing my school and community," Howard explained. "The guys will be here watching (Sunday), so I just hope I can go



help me," Caldwell said. "We have to get everyone lined up in the right spot and then go get the ball, but you have to be ready for all of the formations you are going to have thrown at you."

PLAYSTATION TOURNAMENT

THE OHIO players have gotten their competitive nature going this week possibly more in the dorms than on the practice field.

The players and even the coaches had a giant Playstation tournament with the newly released NCAA Football 2005 being the game of choice.

Ohio head coach Dan Wesson, however, passed on entering a team into the tournament.

"The kids have a bracket drawn up on the wall and the coaches are all into it," Wesson said. "I don't have a team. I don't do video games or computers, so I have been playing a lot of solitaire in my room."

\$10,000 KICK

GEORGE GORMAN of Weirton was drawn from hundreds of entries as the contestant to kick the Health Plan \$10,000 kick at the end of the third quarter.

BAND CONCERT

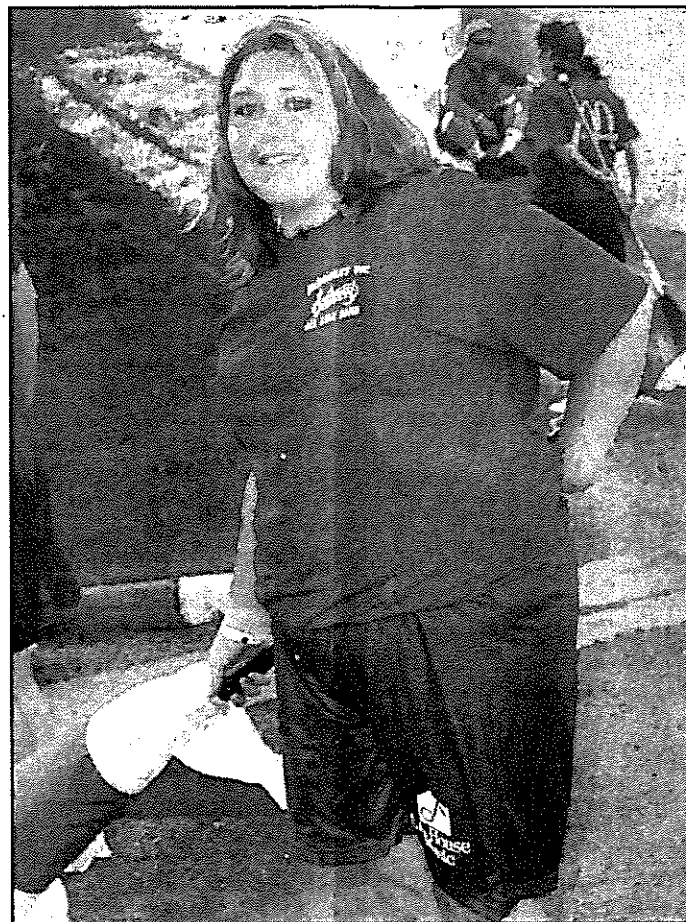
FOR FANS wishing to catch a glimpse of the McDonald's OVAC All-Star Band before pregame festivities this evening they can do so at the Upper Ohio Valley Italian Festival in Wheeling.

The band will hold a concert at the festival beginning at 1 p.m.

FREE YOUTH FOOTBALL CLINIC

Another activity has been planned for All-Star Weekend at Wheeling Island Stadium for the

OVAC Pep Rally



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

AT LEFT: Bellaire High graduate Amanda Marling goes through her routine at Saturday night's OVAC Pep Rally.

ABOVE: West Virginia head coach John Stender addresses the crowd at the pep rally. The OVAC game is slated for 7:15 p.m. this evening.

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

"We have to try to keep the ball out of (Ohio's) hands," Stender said. "They have so many weapons over there on both sides of the ball that we just have to go out and play our game."

The Ohio coaching staff has worked with several different looks and it expects the Buckeye defense to be able to adapt.

"We have done a lot of teaching," Wesson said. "We think we have gone over a lot of stuff and hopefully the kids can adjust to whatever it is that West Virginia may try to do."

The starting lineups for tonight's game are set with most players delegated to one side of the ball or the other.

Shenandoah's Keith Selock will be the quarterback for the Buckeyes with Monroe Central's Josh Ischy serving as his top

go out and play well Sunday."

The four Buckeye linebackers are all ballhawks. Toronto's Charlie Hunter and Barnesville's Danny Spiczenski will line up at the middle linebacker spots, while Shenandoah's Nathan Hedge and Edison's Vince Kuntz will be the outside backers.

Bellaire's Maurice Jeffreys and East Liverpool's Justin McElhaney will serve as the cornerbacks and Martins Ferry's Trevor Brunej will serve as the free safety.

"We feel we have a lot of speed on the defensive side of the ball," Wesson said. "Our defense will get after people, and we know that West Virginia has some weapons that we must control."

Stender also announced his starting lineups for the game.

Wheeling Park's Brad Kouski

Past OVAC Results

2003: Ohio 32, West Virginia 26
 2002: Ohio 19, West Virginia 12
 2001: Ohio 36, West Virginia 0
 2000: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7
 1999: Ohio 32, West Virginia 0
 1998: Ohio 41, West Virginia 14
 1997: Ohio 24, West Virginia 14
 1996: Ohio 43, West Virginia 21
 1995: Ohio 21, West Virginia 0
 1994: West Virginia, 19, Ohio 14
 1993: West Virginia, 34 Ohio 32
 1992: 0-0 Washout
 1991: 0-0 Washout
 1990: Ohio 42, West Virginia 0
 1989: West Virginia 22, Ohio 14
 1988: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7
 1987: Ohio 13, West Virginia 11
 1986: Ohio 14, West Virginia 6
 1985: West Virginia 28, Ohio 28
 1984: Ohio 22, West Virginia 6
 1983: Ohio 26, West Virginia 16
 1982: West Virginia 7, Ohio 6
 1981: Ohio 17, West Virginia 14
 1980: Ohio 10, West Virginia 13
 1979: Ohio 47, West Virginia 13
 1978: Ohio 21, West Virginia 13
 1977: West Virginia, 21 Ohio 0

McDonald's Band Members

BARNESVILLE-- Rachel Austin, Shane Grimes, Donetta Meadows, Kelsey Neptune, Sapphire Straquadine, Charlotte Wilson.

BEALLSVILLE -- Grace Wineman.
BELLAIRE -- Becky Bigler, Erika Glegg, Jackie Conaway, Nancy Flowers, Nicole Gleason, Nicole Hyde, Jena Johnson, Elise Leonard, Amanda Marlin, Charlotte Olack, Megan Palicka, Katie Shockey, Magan Whitecotton, Megan Xenakis.

BRIDGEPORT -- Alexis Dober, Paul Eastwood, Ashley Talik.

BROOKE -- Daniel Agosh, Brian Budney, Melody Coen, Andrew Coulter, Cheyanne DeWitt, Adam Giglio, Michael Hardy, Lance Harlan, Melinda Howell, Rachel Leonard, Chris Oliveria, Danielle Perine, Raeanna Ridgely, Andrew Ross, Stephanie Wright.

BUCKEYE LOCAL -- Samantha Ellis, Rachel Guy, Joe Jancura, Casey Magyar, Kim Pasco, Norman Putnam, Beth Stockman, Cassie Williams.

BUCKEYE TRAIL -- J.D. Price.

CAMERON -- James Iams.

EDISON -- Jennia Cronin.

HARRISON CENTRAL -- Becky Applegarth, Alex Frasier, Brittany Garrison, Elizabeth Hoobler, Nanette Lewis, Brittany Mazgaj, Jenna Puskarich, Schacjaire Stutz, Autumn Theodore, Jennifer Timmons, Chelsea Woods, Josh Yesko.

INDIAN CREEK -- Travis Burke, Kaycee Caldron, Tony Caldron, Mara Cardocci, Shane McBride, Britni Morell.

JOHN MARSHALL -- Corey Edge, Dina Graves, Mike Phillips, Tanner Yuhase.

MAGNOLIA -- Adrienne Brown, Justin Cain, Ryan Goddard, Sarah Haught, Chris Highley, Alyson Hoffman, Amy Holliday, MARTINS FERRY -- Ryan Davis, Courtney Habig, Josh Haught, Emily Hoskins, Brian Martin, Melissa Padyjasok, Katelyn Polanski.

MEADOWBROOK -- Jessica Beckner, Vicki Benson, Nick Box, Andrea Friday, Lucas Kasper, Michael Krak, Josh McManaway.

MONROE CENTRAL -- Eric Kilburn, Ashley Smithberger, Megan Wilson.

RIVER -- Jenna Brown, Amanda Hammrick, Labrea Howland, Holly Neely, Kayla Van Dyne, Jason Williams.

SHADYSIDE -- Ryan Budrevich, Jessica Clendenin, Ray Clouston, Ryan Clouston, Abi DeGanova, Chrissy Finnicum, Melissa Gilham, Josh Kovolo, Angela Liberati, Brittany Lyles, Jared Melanko, Dusty Melanko, Courtney Powell, Beck Schofield, Christina Shunk, Valerie Wallace, Jonathan Woodard.

SHENANDOAH -- Tracy Roe, Devon Shackle.

ST. CLAIRSVILLE -- Malerie Anderson, Steve Armstrong, Jennifer Bonnell, Bryan Casebolt, Megan Casebolt, Terri Deel, Lindsay DeVold, Lyndsay Elliot, Todd Jackson, Dustin Janzic, Stacy Meeks, Eric Neuenschwander, Sarah Ostrander, Lindsay Reed, Jennifer Smith, Greg Weisal, Mandy Weyrick, Samantha Windesdoffer, Dan Ziembra, Ashley Zierold.

ST. JOHN CENTRAL -- Matthew Berber, Jennie Burkhardt, Lindy Kubic, Taylor Leasure, Lexie Leonard, Windham Roth, Jenny Wiseman.

STUEBENVILLE CENTRAL -- Tyler Barrett, Amy Battocletti, Katie Boris, Kayla Costlow, Charlie Dickey, Sara DeStefano, Gina Glannamore, Amanda Gossett, Matthew Gossett, Laura Jurasko, Amanda McGrail, Brittany Poole, Christopher Simmons, Stephanie Simmons, Mark

"If we put other decals on it would leave a lot of residue on them once we took them off," Stankovich said. "We aren't trying to be cocky or arrogant or anything, but we have to give the helmets back."

TEAM UNITY

St. Clairsville's Daniel Howard will have the support of all of his former Red Devil mates when he takes the field tonight for the OVAC game.

Shortly after finding out he had been chosen for the OVAC All-Star Game, Howard took a black Sharpie and had the entire St.C. team autograph his helmet.

"When Coach (Bret) McLean took over he had been stressing team unity," Howard said during media day. "I thought having all the guys sign would be like having all of my teammates with me because me being here is a team award and not just an individual award for me."

Howard also put a few of his new teammates decals on his helmet, which helped him demonstrate the team unity toward the Buckeyes.

"I am really excited to be here representing my school and community," Howard explained. "The guys will be here watching (Sunday), so I just hope I can go out and give them a good showing."

SWITCHING SIDELINES

TWO OF the West Virginia assistant coaches in tonight's game are going to be going through a bitter-sweet time.

Rob Caldwell and Chris Wisvari both played in the OVAC All-Star Game out of River High School, but are now coaching at Tyler Consolidated.

Wisvari was never really able to play in the OVAC game, but he was selected. The 1992 classic was rained out.

"It's a little different being here as a coach and not a player," Wisvari said. "This is a great opportunity to be here coaching and being with the guys you have worked with makes it that much better."

"This is just like playing, no matter who you are coaching for you want to win," said Caldwell who will be the new head coach at Tyler. "We want to send Coach Stender out on a win."

Caldwell and West Virginia head coach John Stender sort of switched places during OVAC training camp. Stender -- who was primarily a defensive coach at Tyler -- handled the offense, while Caldwell worked with the defensive unit.

"When I played football I always played defense, but coaching up here will definitely

tournament with the newly released NCAA Football 2005 being the game of choice.

Ohio head coach Dan Wesson, however, passed on entering a team into the tournament.

"The kids have a bracket drawn up on the wall and the coaches are all into it," Wesson said. "I don't have a team. I don't do video games or computers, so I have been playing a lot of solitaire in my room."

\$10,000 KICK

GEORGE GORMAN of Weirton was drawn from hundreds of entries as the contestant to kick the Health Plan \$10,000 kick at the end of the third quarter.

BAND CONCERT

FOR FANS wishing to catch a glimpse of the McDonald's OVAC All-Star Band before pre-game festivities this evening they can do so at the Upper Ohio Valley Italian Festival in Wheeling.

The band will hold a concert at the festival beginning at 1 p.m.

FREE YOUTH

FOOTBALL CLINIC

Another activity has been planned for All-Star Weekend at Wheeling Island Stadium for the OVAC All-Star Football Classic as the "Subway Sports Clinic Series" presents the first Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic Free Youth Football Clinic.

The clinic will be open to area boys and girls between the ages 7-13. The free clinic will run from 1-2:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 25, which is the day of the game. Registration for the clinic will be at noon and parents are required to have insurance and be present the day of the camp to sign a waiver form.

Some of the goals for the clinic include: OVAC coaches will teach the basic fundamentals of football, build children's self-esteem and provide a fun atmosphere.

Registration forms are available at www.ovac.org and can be brought to Wheeling Island Stadium the day of the clinic.

For more information, you can check online at www.ovac.org, or email James Companion at james@ovac.org.

THIS WRITER'S PREDICTION

LOOK for the Buckeyes' winning streak to continue, but it won't be easy. Look for a late Nate Hubbard touchdown run to put the Buckeyes back in front for good. West Virginia has the talent to win, but continuing the streak will be enough motivation for the Ohioans...Ohio 28-21.



OVAC

Continued from Page B1

"We have to try to keep the ball out of (Ohio's) hands," Stender said. "They have so many weapons over there on both sides of the ball that we just have to go out and play our game."

The Ohio coaching staff has worked with several different looks and it expects the Buckeye defense to be able to adapt.

"We have done a lot of teaching," Wesson said. "We think we have gone over a lot of stuff and hopefully the kids can adjust to whatever it is that West Virginia may try to do."

The starting lineups for tonight's game are set with most players delegated to one side of the ball or the other.

Shenandoah's Keith Selock will be the quarterback for the Buckeyes with Monroe Central's Josh Ischy serving as his top understudy.

Lining up in the Buckeyes' backfield will be Steubenville's Nate Hubbard at tailback and Shadyside's Stevie Kernik at the fullback spot.

Three receivers will rotate in-and-out of the game with Shadyside's Josh Pyles, Cambridge's Eddie Hamilton and Ischy all seeing time on the flanks.

The tightend for the Ohioans will be Shenandoah's Cody Miley.

The center position will be a game-time decision with Buckeye Local's Anthony Sable and Martins Ferry's Bobby Kittle battling for the start.

Bellaire's Adam Lucci and Steubenville Central's Lou Almonte will hold down the two tackle spots with Steubenville's Scott Kennedy and Shenandoah's Adam Lee playing the guard spots.

Beaver Local's Jeff Dalrymple will handle the place kicking, while either Pyles or Miley will do the punting for the Scarlet & Gray.

"The offense is in, but how well they execute it depends on how well we taught it," Wesson said. "The kids all know what we are trying to do and what we are trying to accomplish."

The Buckeyes' defense will also be staunch.

The defensive line will be

go out and play well Sunday."

The four Buckeye linebackers are all ballhawks. Toronto's Charlie Hunter and Barnesville's Danny Spiczenski will line up at the middle linebacker spots, while Shenandoah's Nathan Hedge and Edison's Vince Kuntz will be the outside backers.

Bellaire's Maurice Jeffreys and East Liverpool's Justin McElhane will serve as the cornerbacks and Martins Ferry's Trevor Bruney will serve as the free safety.

"We feel we have a lot of speed on the defensive side of the ball," Wesson said. "Our defense will get after people, and we know that West Virginia has some weapons that we must control."

Stender also announced his starting lineups for the game.

Wheeling Park's Brad Kouski will get the call at quarterback with Linsly's Mark Plummy and Wheeling Central's Marshall O'Brien sharing time at tailback.

The fullbacks will consist of Weirton Madonna's J.J. Guida and Wheeling Park's Cody Tominack.

Tyler Consolidated's Nick Estep is slated to start at split end with Wheeling Park's Justin Friend. Weir High's Eric Turner and Central's Nathan Peluchette are penciled in at flankers.

Linsly's Matt Miller will be the center. He will be flanked by Weir High's Aaron Gurskey and Brooke's Derek Ankrum at the guard spots.

The two offensive tackles will be Brooke's Derrick Molnar and Wheeling Park's Jesse Nelson.

Tyler's Matt Wright and Central's Tom Contraguero will both see time at the tightend spot.

Stender feels the key to the game could be the play of the West Virginia offensive line.

"We had better protect Kouski because we are extremely thin at quarterback," Stender said. "If we can't protect Brad and give our backs some room to run we are in trouble."

The West Virginia defense -- which is being headed up by new Tyler head coach Rob Caldwell -- will also play a base four-four defense.

Brooke's Anthony Capp and

Rally. ABOVE: West Virginia head coach John Stender addresses the crowd at the pep rally. The OVAC game is slated for 7:15 p.m. this evening.

Past OVAC Results

2003: Ohio 32, West Virginia 26
 2002: Ohio 19, West Virginia 12
 2001: Ohio 36, West Virginia 0
 2000: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7
 1999: Ohio 32, West Virginia 0
 1998: Ohio 41, West Virginia 14
 1997: Ohio 24, West Virginia 14
 1996: Ohio 43, West Virginia 21
 1995: Ohio 21, West Virginia 0
 1994: West Virginia, 19, Ohio 14
 1993: West Virginia, 34 Ohio 32
 1992: 0-0 Washout
 1991: 0-0 Washout
 1990: Ohio 42, West Virginia 0
 1989: West Virginia 22, Ohio 14
 1988: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7
 1987: Ohio 13, West Virginia 11
 1986: Ohio 14, West Virginia 6
 1985: West Virginia 28, Ohio 26
 1984: Ohio 22, West Virginia 6
 1983: Ohio 26, West Virginia 16
 1982: West Virginia 7, Ohio 6
 1981: Ohio 17, West Virginia 14
 1980: Ohio 10, West Virginia 7
 1979: Ohio 47, West Virginia 13
 1978: Ohio 21, West Virginia 13
 1977: West Virginia, 21 Ohio 0
 1976: West Virginia 33, Ohio 20
 1975: West Virginia 8, Ohio 0
 1974: West Virginia 13, Ohio 6
 1973: West Virginia 38, Ohio 20
 1972: Ohio 24, West Virginia 6
 1971: No game
 1970: No game
 1969: West Virginia 12, Ohio 6
 1968: Ohio 6, West Virginia 0
 1967: West Virginia 18, Ohio 0
 1966: Ohio 26, West Virginia 0
 1965: Ohio 22, West Virginia 0
 1964: Ohio 2, West Virginia 0
 1963: No game
 1962: West Virginia 12, Ohio 6
 1961: West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
 1960: Ohio 7, West Virginia 6
 1959: West Virginia 7, Ohio 6
 1958: Ohio 25, West Virginia 0
 1957: Ohio 14, West Virginia 13
 1956: Ohio 27, West Virginia 0
 1955: Ohio 31, West Virginia 20
 1954: West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
 1953: West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
 1952: Ohio 26, West Virginia 13
 1951: Ohio 13, West Virginia 6
 1950: Ohio 14, West Virginia 0
 1949: West Virginia 6, Ohio, 0
 1948: Ohio 20, West Virginia 7
 1947: West Virginia 13, Ohio 7
 1946: Ohio 26, West Virginia 7
 1945: No game
 1944: No game
 1943: No game
 1942: West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
 1941: West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
 1940: West Virginia 13, Ohio 7.

and Oak Glen's Tim Cashdollar will be the West Virginia corners, while Brooke's Bill Sadler will be the free safety.

Wheeling Park's Kyle Ackerman will handle both the punting and place-kicking duties.

OVAC NOTES

■ THE GATES will open this evening at 5:30 p.m. for the game.

■ TICKETS at the gate will cost \$10 and the advance sale

Immons, Chelsea Woods, Josh Yesko.
 INDIAN CREEK -- Travis Burke, Kaycee Caldron, Tony Caldron, Mara Cardocci, Shane McBride, Briani Morelli.
 JOHN MARSHALL -- Corey Edge, Dina Graves, Mike Phillips, Tanner Yuhase.
 MAGNOLIA -- Adrienne Brown, Justin Cain, Ryan Goddard, Sarah Haught, Chris Highley, Alyson Hoffman, Amy Holliday.
 MARTINS FERRY -- Ryan Davis, Courtney Habig, Josh Haught, Emily Hoskins, Brian Martin, Melissa Padyjasek, Katelyn Polanski.
 MEADOWBROOK -- Jessica Beckner, Vicki Benson, Nick Box, Andrea Friday, Lucas Kasper, Michael Krak, Josh McManaway.
 MONROE CENTRAL -- Eric Kilburn, Ashley Smithberger, Megan Wilson.
 RIVER -- Jenna Brown, Amanda Hamrick, Labrea Howland, Holly Neely, Kayla Van Dyne, Jason Williams.
 SHADYSIDE -- Ryan Budrevich, Jessica Clendenin, Ray Clouston, Ryan Clouston, Abi DeGenova, Chrissy Finnicum, Melissa Gilham, Josh Kovolo, Angela Liberati, Brittany Lyles, Jared Melanko, Dusty Melanko, Courtney Powell, Beck Schofield, Christina Shunk, Valerie Wallace, Jonathan Woolard.
 SHENANDOAH -- Tracy Roe, Devon Shackle.
 ST. CLAIRSVILLE -- Materie Anderson, Steve Armstrong, Jennifer Bonnell, Bryan Casebolt, Megan Casebolt, Terri Deel, Lindsay DeVold, Lyndsay Elliot, Todd Jackson, Dustin Janezic, Stacy Meeks, Eric Neuenschwander, Sarah Ostrander, Lindsay Reed, Jennifer Smith, Greg Weisal, Mandy Weyrick, Samantha Windesdoffer, Dan Ziemba, Ashley Zierold.
 ST. JOHN CENTRAL -- Matthew Berher, Jennie Burkhardt, Lindy Kubic, Taylor Leasure, Lexie Leonard, Windham Roth, Jenny Wiseman.
 STEUBENVILLE CENTRAL -- Tyler Barrett, Amy Battocletti, Katie Boris, Kayla Costlow, Charlie Dickey, Sara DeStefano, Gina Giannamore, Amanda Gossett, Matthew Gossett, Laura Jurasko, Amanda McGrail, Brittany Poole, Christopher Simmons, Stephanie Simmons, Mark Tiberio, Becca Vallera, Phil Vallera, Michael Vince, Andrew Zapor.
 TORONTO -- Mike George, Natalie Heckathorn, Pat Maple, Danny Miller, Jeanine Schaming.
 UNION LOCAL -- Courtney Balabin, Jessica Burkhardt, Jim Compston, Zach Compston, Becca Dawes, Gloria Dawes, Liz Dobrovich, Stephany Duvall, Kelsay Jendrusik, Matt Magnani, Stephen Mitchell, Derek Pubal.
 WEIR -- Benjamin Criss, Courtney Zaminski, Brittany Meerdo, Michelle Montellione.
 WELLSVILLE -- Stacey Bishop, Mike Davis, Jennifer Duffield, Roy May, Morgan Newlan.
 WHEELING PARK -- Andy Blum, Josh Cecil, Heather Harto, Heather Johnson, Cayla Johnson, Joe Kinser, Lindsey Lucas, Ben McCormack, Luke Morgan, Chris Morris, Desire Smedley, Bill Taylor.

game are going to be going through a bitter-sweet time.

Rob Caldwell and Chris Wisvari both played in the OVAC All-Star Game out of River High School, but are now coaching at Tyler Consolidated.

Wisvari was never really able to play in the OVAC game, but he was selected. The 1992 classic was rained out.

"It's a little different being here as a coach and not a player," Wisvari said. "This is a great opportunity to be here coaching and being with the guys you have worked with makes it that much better."

"This is just like playing, no matter who you are coaching for you want to win," said Caldwell who will be the new head coach at Tyler. "We want to send Coach Stender out on a win."

Caldwell and West Virginia head coach John Stender sort of switched places during OVAC training camp. Stender -- who was primarily a defensive coach at Tyler -- handled the offense, while Caldwell worked with the defensive unit.

"When I played football I always played defense, but coaching up here will definitely

FOOTBALL CLINIC.

The clinic will be open to area boys and girls between the ages 7-13. The free clinic will run from 1-2:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 25, which is the day of the game. Registration for the clinic will be at noon and parents are required to have insurance and be present the day of the camp to sign a waiver form.

Some of the goals for the clinic include: OVAC coaches will teach the basic fundamentals of football, build children's self-esteem and provide a fun atmosphere.

Registration forms are available at www.ovac.org and can be brought to Wheeling Island Stadium the day of the clinic.

For more information, you can check online at www.ovac.org, or email James Companion at james@ovac.org.

THIS WRITER'S PREDICTION

LOOK for the Buckeyes' winning streak to continue, but it won't be easy. Look for a late Nate Hubbard touchdown run to put the Buckeyes back in front for good. West Virginia has the talent to win, but continuing the streak will be enough motivation for the Ohioans...Ohio 28-21.

turnback spot.

Three receivers will rotate in-and-out of the game with Shadyside's Josh Pyles, Cambridge's Eddie Hamilton and Ischy all seeing time on the flanks.

The tightend for the Ohioans will be Shenandoah's Cody Miley.

The center position will be a game-time decision with Buckeye Local's Anthony Sable and Martins Ferry's Bobby Kittle battling for the start.

Bellaire's Adam Lucci and Steubenville Central's Lou Almonte will hold down the two tackle spots with Steubenville's Scott Kennedy and Shenandoah's Adam Lee playing the guard spots.

Beaver Local's Jeff Dalrymple will handle the place kicking, while either Pyles or Miley will do the punting for the Scarlet & Gray.

"The offense is in, but how well they execute it depends on how well we taught it," Wesson said. "The kids all know what we are trying to do and what we are trying to accomplish."

The Buckeyes' defense will also be staunch.

The defensive line will be anchored by Steubenville's Ryan Witkowski and Meadowbrook's Craig Cross at the tackle spots.

Martins Ferry's Nick Stankovich and Shadyside's Bobby Briggs will get the call at the defensive end slots.

"Starting in the OVAC all-star game is a dream for almost all the kids who play football in the valley," Stankovich said. "Getting this opportunity is a real honor, and I just hope I can

and Wheeling Park's Cody Tominack.

Tyler Consolidated's Nick Estep is slated to start at split end with Wheeling Park's Justin Friend. Weir High's Eric Turner and Central's Nathan Peluchette are penciled in at flankers.

Linsly's Matt Miller will be the center. He will be flanked by Weir High's Aaron Gurskey and Brooke's Derek Ankrum at the guard spots.

The two offensive tackles will be Brooke's Derrick Molnar and Wheeling Park's Jesse Nelson.

Tyler's Matt Wright and Central's Tom Contraguero will both see time at the tightend spot.

Stender feels the key to the game could be the play of the West Virginia offensive line.

"We had better protect Kouski because we are extremely thin at quarterback," Stender said. "If we can't protect Brad and give our backs some room to run we are in trouble."

The West Virginia defense -- which is being headed up by new Tyler head coach Rob Caldwell -- will also play a base four-four defense.

Brooke's Anthony Capp and Weir's Mark Vance will serve as the defensive tackles. Linsly's Preston Duck and Central's Tom Contraguero will be the two defensive ends.

Tominack and Tyler's Chance Kildow will play the inside linebacker spot, while O'Brien and Tyler's Michael Wells will start on the outside.

Magnolia's Dusty Shepherd

1967: West Virginia 18, Ohio 0
1966: Ohio 26, West Virginia 0
1965: Ohio 22, West Virginia 0
1964: Ohio 2, West Virginia 0
1963: No game
1962: West Virginia 12, Ohio 6
1961: West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
1960: Ohio 7, West Virginia 6
1959: West Virginia 7, Ohio 6
1958: Ohio 25, West Virginia 0
1957: Ohio 14, West Virginia 13
1956: Ohio 27, West Virginia 0
1955: Ohio 31, West Virginia 20
1954: West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
1953: West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
1952: Ohio 26, West Virginia 13
1951: Ohio 13, West Virginia 6
1950: Ohio 14, West Virginia 0
1949: West Virginia 6, Ohio 0
1948: Ohio 20, West Virginia 7
1947: West Virginia 13, Ohio 7
1946: Ohio 26, West Virginia 7
1945: No game
1944: No game
1943: No game
1942: West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
1941: West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
1940: West Virginia 13, Ohio 7.

Liz Doproovich, Stephanie Duven, Nancy Jendrusik, Matt Magnani, Stephen Mitchell, Derek Pabal.
WEIR -- Benjamin Criss, Courtney Zaminski, Brittany Meerdo, Michelle Montelione.
WELLSVILLE -- Stacey Bishop, Mike Davis, Jennifer Duffield, Roy May, Morgan Newlan.
WHEELING PARK -- Andy Blum, Josh Cecil, Heather Harto, Heather Johnson, Cayla Johnson, Joe Kinser, Lindsey Lucas, Ben McCormack, Luke Morgan, Chris Morris, Desire Smedley, Bill Taylor.

and Oak Glen's Tim Cashdollar will be the West Virginia corners, while Brooke's Bill Sadler will be the free safety.

Wheeling Park's Kyle Ackerman will handle both the punting and place-kicking duties.

OVAC NOTES

■ THE GATES will open this evening at 5:30 p.m. for the game.

■ TICKETS at the gate will cost \$10 and the advance sale ended Sunday morning at midnight.

■ THE TEAMS will not have walk throughs Sunday morning. Both coaches have decided to allow the players to lay around and pack up their stuff.

■ BOTH squads will attend Vespers Sunday morning.

■ THE OVAC Boosters Club will be once again selling 50-50 raffle tickets at the game.

● Koch

Continued from Page B1

are just happy they are still housing us."

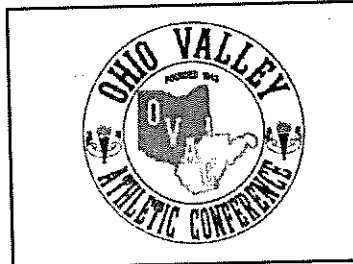
The irony of Koch's position is that the lone down time from his OVAC duties is during high school football season. Koch is kept busy in September and October, however, in his realm as Cameron athletic director.

"We start working again on the OVAC game in November," Koch said. "It really heats up in June and the week of the game can be very hectic."

Once the game ends tonight, don't think Koch is on easy street. There is the matter of bill paying and paperwork which takes a few more weeks out of his life.

"You have to understand how much work Bob does to really appreciate his position," Rataiczak noted. "During the months of June and July, not a day goes past that Bob isn't doing something related to the game, and this past week I would say he easily put in 75 hours."

"His easy-going nature, his willingness to do whatever it takes to get the job done and his



dedication to the game all help make him one of the best," Rataiczak continued.

So why does Koch subject himself to nearly year-round OVAC grid stress?

"Riding back to Cameron after the game Sunday night, you do feel mighty fine. You have a sense of pride and accomplishment," Koch said. "The OVAC is such a great conference and you get to work with so many super people and meet so many good people."

"No matter what aspect of the game, you very seldom have people say no," he added. "This game brings out the best in people."

PREDICTION: Ohio 24, West Virginia 14.

OVAC All-Star Cheering Squads

OHIO CHEERLEADERS

MARTINS FERRY -- Chelsea Ballint, Connie Vargo and Allison Hood.
BEAVER LOCAL -- Ashley Drane.
RIVER -- Jennifer Isaly.
SHADYSIDE -- Brittany Johnson.
MONROE CENTRAL -- Devon McIntire.
INDIAN CREEK -- Allison Roush and Jessica Schoolcraft.
HARRISON CENTRAL -- Kelsey Teller.
Coach: Shannon Dombroski (Martins Ferry).

WEST VIRGINIA CHEERLEADERS

TYLER CONSOLIDATED -- Julie Case and Hilary Hickman.
JOHN MARSHALL -- Becky Elliot.
WHEELING PARK -- Tara Melgary and Hilary Richards.
MAGNOLIA -- Abby Robinson.
WHEELING CENTRAL -- Keirsan Smith.
LINSLY -- Annie Stazenski.
PADEN CITY -- Ashley Thoburn.
BISHOP DONAHUE -- Misty Tweedie.
Coach: Diana Stender (Tyler Consolidated) and Sue Skinner (Tyler Consolidated).



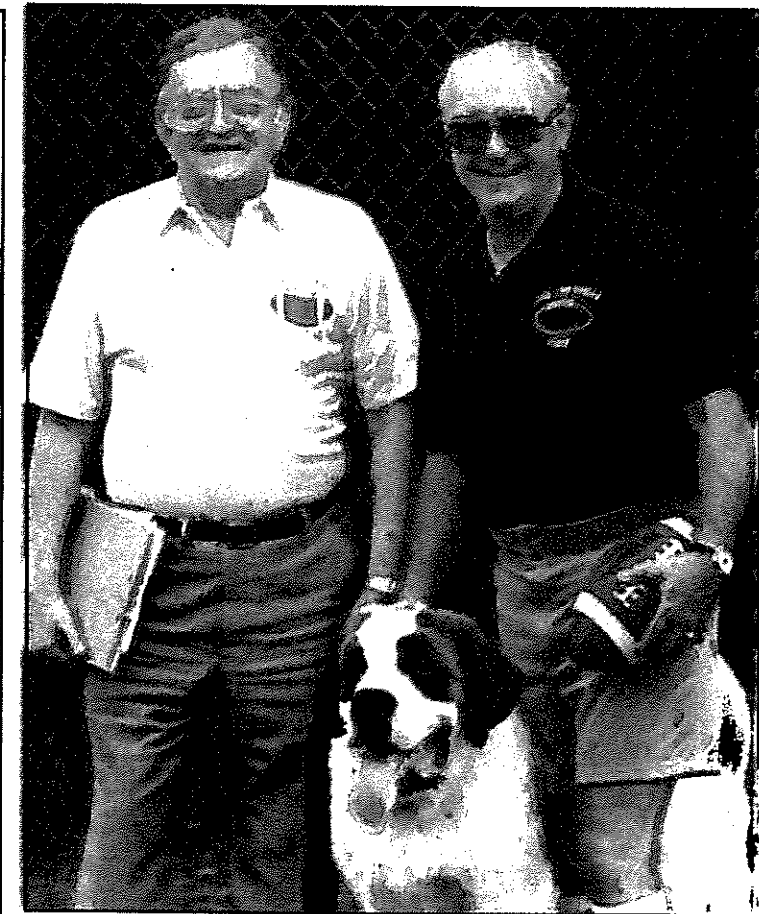
OVAC EXTRA

Sunday, July 25, 2004



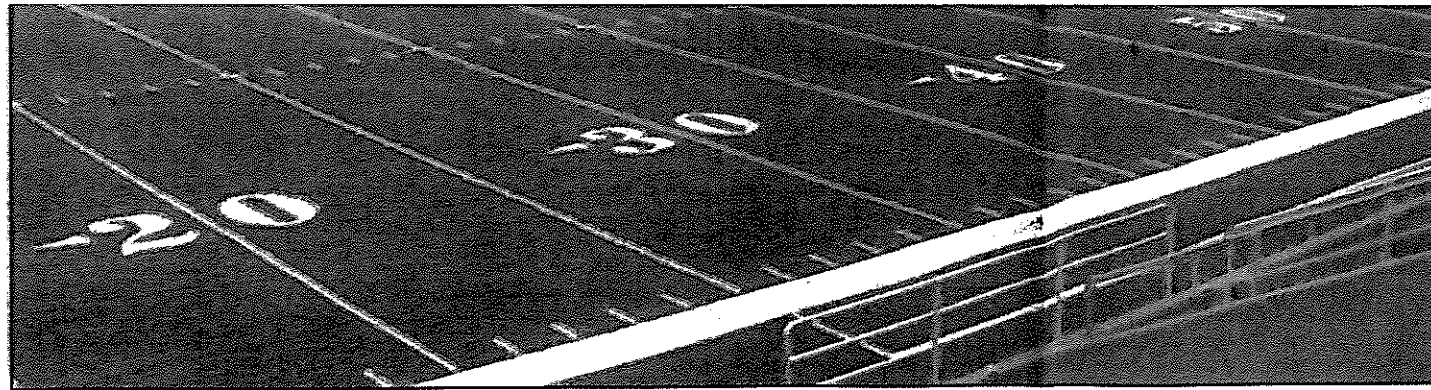
T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

A LOOK at the newly installed artificial turf at Wheeling Island Stadium. The new surface will host its first-ever game tonight when the 33rd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Charity Football Classic takes the field for a 7:15 p.m. kick.



TWO of the OVAC's biggest supporters are shown here at press day of the 1989 OVAC All-Star Classic. The late Rudy and Sam Mumley were giant supporters of the youth of the Upper Ohio Valley and athletics. The game is now named for Rudy, while Sam is the former executive secretary and will be inducted the OVAC Hall of Fame. They are pictured with Sam's late dog Cappy.





T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

A LOOK at the newly installed artificial turf at Wheeling Island Stadium. The new surface will host its first-ever game tonight when the 33rd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Charity Football Classic takes the field for a 7:15 p.m. kick.



TWO of the OVAC's biggest supporters are shown here at press day of the 1989 OVAC All-Star Classic. The late Rudy and Sam Mumley were giant supporters of the youth of the Upper Ohio Valley and athletics. The game is now named for Rudy, while Sam is the former executive secretary and will be inducted the OVAC Hall of Fame. They are pictured with Sam's late dog Cappy.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

HANDLING the defensive line duties for the Buckeyes tonight during the 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic are, kneeling, Nick Stankovich and Dan Howard. Back row, from left, are Craig Cross, Ryan Witkowski and Bobby Briggs.



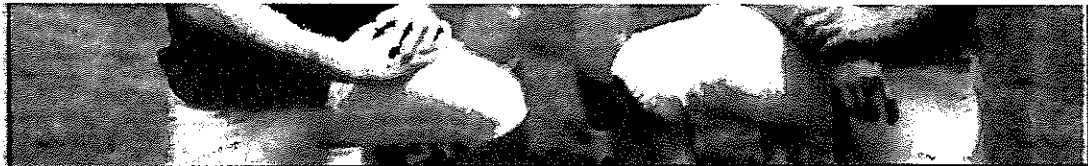
T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

HANDLING the linebacking duties for the Buckeyes tonight during the 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic are, kneeling, Danny Spiczenski and Charlie Hunter. Back row, from left, are Nathan Hedge, Vince Kuntz and Greg Darby.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH





T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH
HANDLING the defensive line duties for the Buckeyes tonight during the 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic are, kneeling, Nick Stankovich and Dan Howard. Back row, from left, are Craig Cross, Ryan Witkowski and Bobby Briggs.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH
HANDLING the linebacking duties for the Buckeyes tonight during the 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic are, kneeling, Danny Spiczenski and Charlie Hunter. Back row, from left, are Nathan Hedge, Vince Kuntz and Greg Darby.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH
HANDLING the defensive backfield duties for the Buckeyes tonight during the 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. From left, are Trevor Bruney, Justin McElhaney, Maurice Jeffreys and Ivan Stein.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH
PICTURED is the Ohio coaching staff for tonight's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. Kneeling, from left, are Tim Wilson, head coach Dan Wesson and Eric Nejus. Back row, from left, are Derrick Leach, Tom Perkins, Justin Denius and Rob Pachuta.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH
REPRESENTING the Linsly School in tonight's OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic are from left, Mark Plumbly, Matt Miller, Joe Rohrig and Preston Duck.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
PICTURED is the West Virginia coaching staff for tonight's OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. Kneeling is head coach John Stender. Standing, from left, are trainer Randy Elliott, assistant coaches Bob Jones, Ryan Walton, Rob Caldwell and Chris Wisvari.

IN FOCUS

W. Va. win gives OVAC All-Star Game shot in arm

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
T-L
Executive Sports Editor



Some final and random thoughts from the 33rd Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity Football Classic.

Ohio just laid an egg. Plain and simple.

Coach Dan Wesson's Buckeyes were dominated from the outset. Offensively, the Scarlet & Gray looked like collective fish out of water. On the flip side, the Buckeye defenders were not prepared to stop a quality collection of Mountaineer running backs, headed by Linsly School's Mark Plumby.

Both Keith Selock (Shenandoah) and Josh Ischy (Monroe Central) are quality option-type quarterbacks. However, after falling behind by three touchdowns, it was obvious the Ohioans sorely needed a pass-minded quarterback.

There was none to be found. Thus, the Buckeyes ran out of time in their ill-fated comeback attempt.

West Virginia made the most of big plays to complement their effective ground game. Eric Turner's (Weir) sensational - if not incorrectly-ruled -- TD grab and Mike Wells' (Tyler) interception return for a score broke the backs of the Buckeyes.

Coach John Stender's charges received great defensive efforts from Cody Tominack (Wheeling Park) and Anthony Capp of Brooke. Tominack is walking on at WVU -- based on Sunday's performance he can make it in Morgantown.

Not only was the convincing 21-7 triumph a great way for Stender to end his long and memorable coaching career in Tyler County, but it was also good for the OVAC game itself.

After nine straight Ohio wins, the series needed a much-needed dose of competitiveness. That was supplied in large amounts Sunday night by the Mountaineers.

The rivalry has now had a re-birth.

Although badly outplayed, Wesson did receive quality efforts from several Buckeyes, including Toronto's Charlie "Choo Choo" Hunter, Buckeye Local's Anthony Sable, Martins Ferry's Trevor Bruney as well as the Steubenville pair of Nate Hubbard and Ryan Witkowski.

THE OVAC ALL-STAR BAND and dance line also deserve much praise. It's hard to believe that so many youngsters can come together from so many different schools and mesh so well musically in less than a week. The halftime performance was sensational.

THE \$10,000 kick -- sponsored by The Health Plan -- from 40 yards out is a popular event after the third quarter each year. But Health Plan has little worries -- not many casual fans can connect from that far out. The Big 33 Game paid out \$75,000 for a successful 30-yard boot this past Saturday.

AFTER VIEWING the new turf at Wheeling Island stadium this past Thursday during the Ohio team practice, this tribe was just taken aback by the look of the stadium. It is nothing short of gorgeous.

The stadium will not only house Wheeling Park and Wheeling Central grid games, St. John Central also will play their home games on the Island. It was a good move by SJC officials as the facility is deserving of as many games as possible.

West Liberty and Bethany would be wise to move some of their home games off Route 88 to the Island Stadium. The hilltoppers and Bison would definitely attract larger crowds as well as enhance recruiting.

WEST NEW MOUNT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

DOUG WEST -- who starred in basketball at Villanova University before heading off to the NBA -- is the new athletic director at Mount de Chantal.

After his four years with the Wildcats, West was selected by the Minnesota Timberwolves in the second round of the 89 NBA draft. He played for 12 years in the NBA, nine of those with the Timberwolves.

West's best season came in 1992-93 as he averaged 19.3 points a game, including a career-high 38 markers in one contest. His final three years as a pro came as a member of the Vancouver Grizzlies.

The 6 ft. 6 swingman was recently inducted into the Blair County (Pa.) Sports Hall of Fame. He starred at Altoona High, leading his team to a 27-1 record his senior year and becoming the school's all-time leading scorer.

West scored more than 2,000 career points at Villanova.



Shenandoah staff guiding Ohio squad at Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian
Shenandoah High's coaching staff will handle the Ohio squad in Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic slated for a 7:15 p.m. kickoff at Wheeling Island Stadium. Shown here are, front row, l to r, assistant coach Tim Wilson, head coach Dan Wesson and assistant coach Rob Pachuta; back row, assistant coaches Derek Leach, Tom Perkins, Eric Nejus and Greg Heller. Nejus is the only coach not from Shenandoah as he's from Beaver Local.

OVAC All-Star Game



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

HANDLING the offensive line duties for Ohio in Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity Football Classic are, from left, Steubenville's Scott Kennedy, Shenandoah's Adam Lee, Martins Ferry's Bob Kittel, Steubenville Central's Lou Almonte, Bellaire's Adam Lucchi, Buckeye Trail's Zach Miller and Buckeye Local's Anthony Sable.

OVAC football tickets on sale

Advance tickets for the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic are currently on sale at numerous agencies around the Ohio Valley.

The cost of the tickets is \$7 in advance, while all tickets bought at the gate will cost \$10.

The advance sale will end July 24 at midnight.

The businesses where the tickets can be bought include:

- Bellaire - Kroger; Calcutta - Bowyer Hardware; Cambridge - The Jeffersonian; East Liverpool - Helmes All Sports; Martins Ferry - Kroger; Shadyside - DeFelice Brother's Pizza; Steubenville - Kroger on Hollywood Blvd; Wintersville - Kroger; Woodfield - Weber's Drug Store; Zanesville - Kroger; Banwood - Kroger; Cameron - Greg's Market; Chester - Citizen Drug; Moundsville - Kroger; New Martinsville - Witschey's Supermarket; Warwood - Kroger; Wellston - Kroger; St. Thomas Drive and Main Street; Wellsburg - Kroger; Wheeling - Kroger (Mt. DeChantal Road).

OHIO COUNTY ALL-STARS

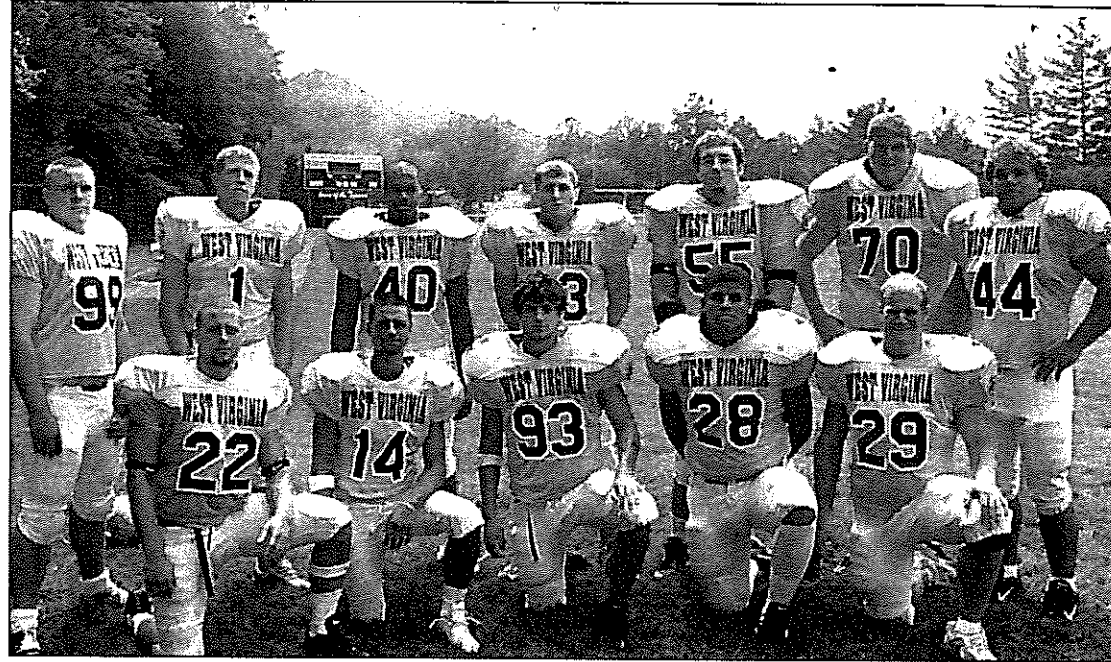


Photo by Mike Hughes

Pictured above are representatives of Ohio County who will be playing for West Virginia in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, Mark Plumbly, Linsly; Brad Kouski, Wheeling Park; Nathan Peluchette, Wheeling Central; Marshall O'Brien, Wheeling Central; and Tom Contraguero, Wheeling Central. Back row, from left, Kyle Ackermann, Wheeling Park; Justin Friend, Wheeling Park; Preston Duck, Linsly; Jesse Nelson, Wheeling Park; Matt Miller, Linsly; Joe Rohrig, Linsly; and Cody Tomnack, Wheeling Park.

W.Va.

(Continued from Page 17)

Considering that West Virginia quarterback Jon Kemp was not cleared medically to play in Sunday's game, the Mountaineer squad is now left with just one quarterback in Wheeling Park's Brad Kouski.

"Our line is going to have to block," Stender said. "We have to protect the heck out of Kouski because he's the guy who has taken 100 percent of the reps this week."

Two pluses for the Mountaineers are that neither Beaver Local's Adam Hoppel nor East Liverpool's Andre Dawson will be playing.

Both were selected, but minor injuries have forced both Hoppel and Dawson from playing.

"Ohio lost a couple of its big kids, which doesn't upset me at

all," Stender said with a grin.

The Buckeyes also lost a top offensive lineman in Harrison Central's Brandon Agostini from a group that is down in size from recent years.

"I don't think we're going to be as big up front on the offensive and defensive lines," Ohio head coach Dan Wesson explained. "With the exception of Lucci, that is."

Adam Lucci, 6-1, 320-pounds, is the most intimidating specimen, and only 300-pounder, along the Buckeyes' offensive front.

Still, Martins Ferry's Bob Kittel, Buckeye Local's Anthony Sable, Steubenville Central's Lou Almonte, Buckeye Trail's Zach Miller and Shenandoah's Adam Lee are more than capable blockers. So are Steubenville's Ryan Witkowski and Scott

Kennedy.

And like Wesson says, size doesn't translate into performance.

"As a football player, the No. 1 thing is you have to be able to move," Wesson said. "You've got to be able to get from point A to point B, and if you can do that quickly, you're usually a good football player."

"Now if you are big and can do that, well that makes it better."

Wesson knows that his line, although not huge in stature, is capable of moving quickly. He's not quite as sure about West Virginia's yet.

"I haven't put in that type of evaluation yet for West Virginia," Wesson said. "But hopefully, they're not all that combination of being big and moving real well."

West Virginia Is Big Up Front

By MIKE HUGHES
Staff Writer

Skill players abound each year in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic.

That's pretty much a given.

With more than 40 schools to choose from, the chances that either Ohio or West Virginia will field a game-breaking back, rifle-armed quarterback or top-notch wide receiver are good.

And this year's game boasts some pretty explosive talent on both sides of the river.

But as everyone knows, nine times out of 10, the outcome of the game is decided by the boys up front doing the dirty work.

And nine times out of 10, the Ohio squad's linemen are the bigger, more physical of the two teams, hence the nine-game winning streak for the Buckeyes.

But this year has the makings to be different.

For the first time in a while, the Mountaineers can match up toe-to-toe, or pound-for-pound in this case, with their usually larger counterparts.

Panning down the West Virginia roster, there are seven offensive linemen that weigh at least 235 pounds, including six over 250. Only Weir's Aaron Gurskey, at 5-10, 235, is under the 250-pound mark.

Ohio has its big boys too, but for once, the West Virginia team seems able to match up size-wise on paper.

The importance that the offensive and defensive lines have played in this game didn't escape the attention of West Virginia head coach John Stender when he made his selections.

"That's the first thing we did was pick linemen," Stender said. "We had to try to get the best linemen we could with size and ability, and then we filled in with other people that we knew were pretty good from other schools."

Along with Gurskey, Weir's massive tandem of Joe Petrovich (5-10, 260) and Mark Vance (6-4, 310) will help anchor the West Virginia front.

On Tap

■ Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic.

■ Kickoff is 7:15 p.m. Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Stender also took three linemen from Brooke, two offensive and one defensive, in Derrick Molnar (5-9, 270), Derek Ankrum (6-2, 250) and defensive specialist Anthony Capp (6-0, 200).

Linsly's Matt Miller (6-3, 270) and Joe Rohrig (6-4, 285) will also help out along the interior, as will Wheeling Park's Jesse Nelson, the smallest of the group at 6-1, 218.

"Some schools had more senior linemen than others so it kind of created a problem (selecting other players)," Stender said.

That's the case with Brooke and why Joe Gaglione, the Bruins quarterback, was not selected.

Please See W.VA., Page 18

B

Sunday News-Register

JULY 25, 2004

SPORTS

INSIDE:

West Virginia Open/Page 2

Greyhounds Fall/Page 3

American Legion Baseball/Page 4

Nick's Notebook/Page 7

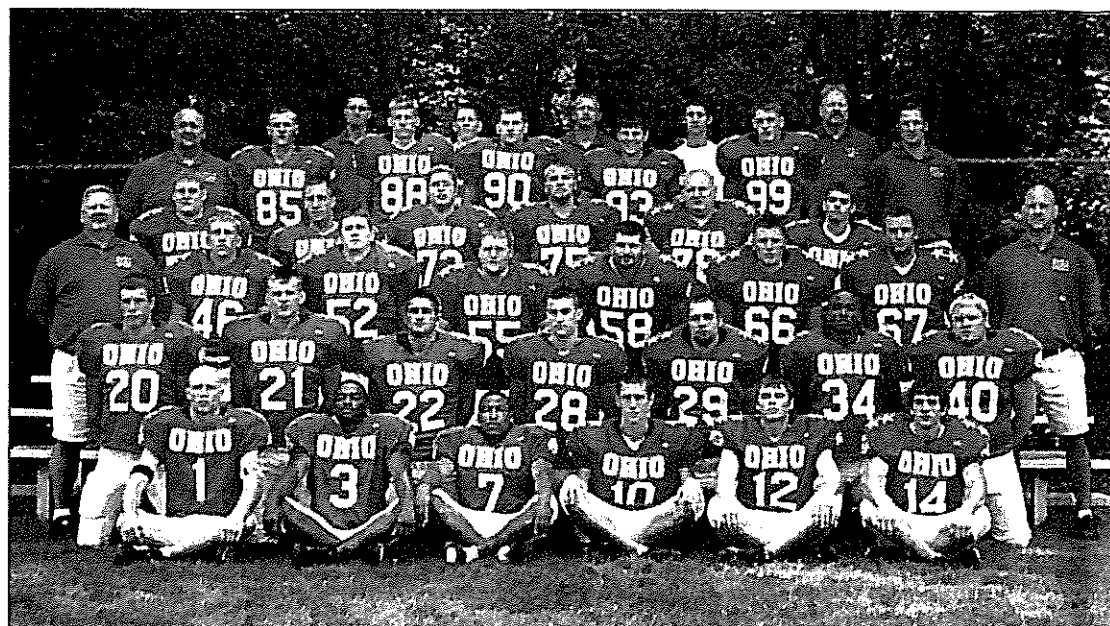


Photo Provided

These young men will be representing Ohio in tonight's 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic. First row: Justin McElhaney (1), Eddie Hamilton (3), Nate Hubbard (7), Keith Selock (10), Greg Darby (12) and Josh Ischy (14). Second row: Nathan Hedge (20), Cody Miley (21), Stevie Kernik (22), Trevor Bruney (28), Charlie Hunter (29), Maurice Jeffreys (34) and Dan Spiczenski (40). Third row: head coach Dan Wesson, Vince Kuntz (46), Anthony Sable (52), Bob Kittel (55), Dan Howard (58), Adam Lee (66), Craig Cross (67) and assistant coach Tim Wilson. Fourth row: Ryan Witkowski (70), Scott Kennedy (72), Zach Miller (73), Lou Almonte (75), Adam Luccl (78) and Josh Pyles (80). Fifth Row: Assistant coach Eric Nejus, B.A. Starr (85), Jeff Dalrymple (88), Nick Stankovich (90), Ivan Stein (93), Bobby Briggs (99) and assistant coach Tom Perkins. Sixth row: assistant coach Greg Heller, manager Josh Cowgill, assistant coach Derek Leach, manager Billy Miller and assistant coach Rob Pachuta.



Photo by Nell Thompson

These young men will be representing West Virginia in tonight's 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic. First row: Justin Friend (1), Eric Turner (3), Dusty Shepherd (7), Jon Kemp (10), Isaac Stewart (12) and Brad Kouski (14). Second row: Bill Sadler (20), Nick Estep (21), Mark Plumby (22), Marshall O'Brien (28), Tom Contraguerra (29), Michael Wells (32) and J.J. Guida (33). Third row: Head coach John Stender, manager Jake Potts, Tim Cashdollar (34), Preston Duck (40), Cody Tominack (44), Craig Sandy (52), Derek Ankrum (54), Matt Miller (55) and assistant coach Bob Jones. Fourth row: assistant coach Chris Wisvari, trainer Randy Elliott, Joe Petrovich (56), Chance Kildow (58), Jesse Nelson (63), Derrick Molnar (66), Anthony Capp (68) and assistant coach Ryan Walton. Fifth row: Joe Rohrig (70), Aaron Gurskey (75), Mark Vance (78), Brian Casto (80), Jason Fazio (82) and manager Sean Neff. Sixth row: assistant coach Rob Caldwell, Matt Wright (85), Ryan Sapp (88), Nathan Peluchette (93), Kyle Ackermann (99) and manager Jake Myer.

A New Era Begins

New-look Wheeling Island Stadium ready for 33rd OVAC grid tilt

By MIKE HUGHES
Staff Writer

There will be a sense of the "new" permeating Wheeling Island Stadium tonight.

After all, the 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic kicks off at 7:15 p.m., signaling the start of another high school football season.

But along with that, another new era in Ohio Valley football begins — the turf era.



Wesson's job of teaching the offense easier. One is his starting quarterback at Shenandoah, Keith Selock, who will run the offense tonight. Also, the Zeps' all-Ohio guard Adam Lee will be starting along the offensive line, and the coach knows how invaluable the two have been in helping the rest of the players to grasp the new terminology.

One who has extremely impressed Wesson thus far is

WEST VIRGINIA

HEAD COACH

John Stender, Tyler Consolidated

Assistant Coaches

Rob Caldwell, Bob Jones, Ryan Walton, Chris Wisvari

■■■
Players

No	Name	Ht	Wt	Pos	School
1	Justin Friend	6-4	200	WR/DB	Whg. Park
3	Eric Turner	6-0	164	WR/DB	Weir
7	Dusty Shepherd	6-2	185	WR/LB	Magnolia
10	Jon Kemp	6-2	190	QB/DB	Magnolia
12	Isaac Stewart	5-11	185	RB/LB	Cameron
14	Brad Kouski	5-11	170	QB/DB	Whg. Park
20	Bill Sadler	6-1	180	RB/DB	Brooke
21	Nick Estep	5-11	165	WR/DB	Tyler Cons.
22	Mark Plumby	5-11	195	RB/LB	Linsly
28	Marshall O'Brien	6-3	235	RB/LB	Whg. Central
29	Tom Contraguerra	6-0	205	TE/DE	Whg. Central
32	Michael Wells	6-1	210	TE/LB	Tyler Cons.
33	J.J. Guida	6-0	205	RB/LB	Madonna
34	Tim Cashdollar	5-10	185	RB/DB	Oak Glen

These young men will be representing Ohio in tonight's 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic. First row: Justin McElhaney (1), Eddie Hamilton (3), Nate Hubbard (7), Keith Selock (10), Greg Darby (12) and Josh Ischy (14). Second row: Nathan Hedge (20), Cody Miley (21), Stevie Kernik (22), Trevor Bruney (28), Charlie Hunter (29), Maurice Jeffreys (34) and Dan Spiczenski (40). Third row: head coach Dan Wesson, Vince Kuntz (46), Anthony Sable (52), Bob Kittel (55), Dan Howard (58), Adam Lee (66), Craig Cross (67) and assistant coach Tim Wilson. Fourth row: Ryan Witkowski (70), Scott Kennedy (72), Zach Miller (73), Lou Almonte (75), Adam Lucci (78) and Josh Pyles (80). Fifth Row: Assistant coach Eric Nejus, B.A. Starr (85), Jeff Dalrymple (88), Nick Stankovich (90), Ivan Stein (93), Bobby Briggs (99) and assistant coach Tom Perkins. Sixth row: assistant coach Greg Heller, manager Josh Cowgill, assistant coach Derek Leach, manager Billy Miller and assistant coach Rob Pachuta.

These young men will be representing West Virginia in tonight's 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic. First row: Justin Friend (1), Eric Turner (3), Dusty Shepherd (7), Jon Kemp (10), Isaac Stewart (12) and Brad Kouski (14). Second row: Bill Sadler (20), Nick Estep (21), Mark Plumby (22), Marshall O'Brien (28), Tom Contraguerra (29), Michael Wells (32) and J.J. Guida (33). Third row: Head coach John Stender, manager Jake Potts, Tim Cashdollar (34), Preston Duck (40), Cody Tomlinack (44), Craig Sandy (52), Derek Ankrum (54), Matt Miller (55) and assistant coach Bob Jones. Fourth row: assistant coach Chris Wisvari, trainer Randy Elliott, Joe Petrovich (56), Chance Kildow (58), Jesse Nelson (63), Derrick Molnar (66), Anthony Capp (68) and assistant coach Ryan Walton. Fifth row: Joe Rohrig (70), Aaron Gurskey (75), Mark Vance (78), Brian Casto (80), Jason Fazio (82) and manager Sean Neff. Sixth row: assistant coach Rob Caldwell, Matt Wright (85), Ryan Sapp (88), Nathan Peluchette (93), Kyle Ackermann (99) and manager Jake Myer.

A New Era Begins

New-look Wheeling Island Stadium ready for 33rd OVAC grid tilt

By MIKE HUGHES
Staff Writer

There will be a sense of the "new" permeating Wheeling Island Stadium tonight.

After all, the 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic kicks off at 7:15 p.m., signaling the start of another high school football season.

But along with that, another new era in Ohio Valley football begins — the turf era.

Both the Island and Harding Stadium in Steubenville received playing surface upgrades this past spring to synthetic grass, the first of their kind in the area.

And the all-star game, which will be the first event played on the new surface in Wheeling, seems the perfect fit.

"I'm anxious to play on this (new) field," West Virginia head coach John Stender said. "We were down on it (Friday) morning, and it looks really nice."

While the first few plays from scrimmage likely will see a scattering of rubber pellets into the air, the field should settle in nicely for the remainder of the game.

"I think it's softer than the field we're practicing on," Ohio head coach Dan Wesson said jokingly. "Adjusting to it didn't seem like a big issue at all for the players."

"After the first couple of minutes, it was back to a regular practice-type atmosphere."

But whether the game is played on field turf, grass, or even asphalt, the game itself is what's important.

And if it's story lines you seek, look no further than Ohio's current nine-game winning streak that extends back to the 1994 game.

Yes, exactly 10 years ago did the Mountaineers pulled off the 19-14 victory, which means the players from the '94 game that will be at the stadium for the annual 10-year reunion were the last group to walk off the field with a win.

The Mountaineers, the perpetual underdogs in this cross-river rivalry, have one of the more-well-



File Photo by Rick Thorp
West Virginia head coach John Stender, left, and Ohio head coach Dan Wesson, right, talk briefly during the OVAC football banquet.

West Virginia has the skill people to be effective with either the pass, or the run, or both. But as Stender is quick to point out, the line needs to come through for any play to be effective.

"We have good skill people, but winning or losing is all decided up front," Stender said. "If the guys on the line are not doing their job, your offense isn't going anywhere."

"We have a nice group."

"We have good skill people, but winning or losing is all decided up front. If the guys on the line are not doing their job, your offense isn't going anywhere."

John Stender

"They are not overly big, but their technique is good and they are tough kids."

That group took a slight hit earlier in the week when Weir line-

and there, but everybody will hopefully be ready to go by game time," Wesson said. "We've tried to platoon everything the best we can to get everybody some playing time."

"We don't have a lot of depth, so we've tried to teach the kids a position on the opposite side of the ball."

Ohio lost a few of its top players when Beaver Local's Adam Hoppel and Josh Pastore, Harrison

Central's Brandon Agostini and East Liverpool's Andre Dawson, and Gabe Gordon of Monroe Central decided not to play because of injuries or other reasons.

Wesson's job of teaching the offense easier. One is his starting quarterback at Shenandoah, Keith Selock, who will run the offense tonight. Also, the Zeps' all-Ohio guard Adam Lee will be starting along the offensive line, and the coach knows how invaluable the two have been in helping the rest of the players to grasp the new terminology.

One who has extremely impressed Wesson thus far is Steubenville tailback Nate Hubbard.

Hubbard, your typical Big Red tailback, has good speed, power and field vision, and will get the bulk of the carries for the Buckeyes.

"We've been very impressed with Hubbard," Wesson said. "He is a great kid that is just willing to do anything and everything you ask."

"He'll probably be the main tailback right now, but there are some other kids who will see some carries."

Hubbard and Selock, along with Martins Ferry's Trevor Bruney and Barnesville's Dan Spiczenski were named captains for the Ohio squad in a vote done by the players.

Bruney is another option in the backfield, but Wesson has primarily been looking at him on the defensive side of the ball. There are a lot of options for Ohio, and Wesson is trying to do his best to sort out playing time, and carries.

"Being an all-star game, we will try to spread (the ball) around as much as we can," Wesson said. "Our style of offense should allow us to spread it around."

Both Wesson and Stender love to run the football, so expect to see a lot of grind-it-out style of play. But don't expect to see it on every down.

The coaches didn't pick quality receivers and quarterbacks for show. They intend on using them.

"You can't be one dimensional," Stender said.

"You have to mix it up a bit and get as many kids involved

WEST VIRGINIA

HEAD COACH

John Stender, Tyler Consolidated

Assistant Coaches

Rob Caldwell, Bob Jones, Ryan Walton, Chris Wisvari

PLAYERS

No	Name	Ht	Wt	Pos	School
1	Justin Friend	6-4	200	WR/DB	Whg. Park
3	Eric Turner	6-0	164	WR/DB	Weir
7	Dusty Shepherd	6-2	185	WR/LB	Magnolia
10	Jon Kemp	6-2	190	QB/DB	Magnolia
12	Isaac Stewart	5-11	185	RB/LB	Cameron
14	Brad Kouski	5-11	170	QB/DB	Whg. Park
20	Bill Sadler	6-1	180	RB/DB	Brooke
21	Nick Estep	5-11	165	WR/DB	Tyler Cons.
22	Mark Plumby	5-11	195	RB/LB	Linsly
28	Marshall O'Brien	6-3	235	RB/LB	Whg. Central
29	Tom Contraguerra	6-0	205	TE/DE	Whg. Central
32	Michael Wells	6-1	210	TE/LB	Tyler Cons.
33	J.J. Guida	6-0	205	RB/LB	Madonna
34	Tim Cashdollar	5-10	185	RB/DB	Oak Glen
40	Preston Duck	5-11	210	RB/DE	Linsly
44	Cody Tomlinack	5-11	217	RB/LB	Whg. Park
52	Craig Sandy	6-4	220	DE	Tyler Cons.
54	Derek Ankrum	6-2	250	OL/DL	Brooke
55	Matt Miller	6-3	270	OL/DL	Linsly
56	Joe Petrovich	5-10	260	OL/DL	Weir
58	Chance Kildow	6-1	220	LB	Tyler Cons.
63	Jesse Nelson	6-1	218	OL/DL	Whg. Park
66	Derrick Molnar	5-9	270	OL/DL	Brooke
68	Anthony Capp	6-0	200	DL	Brooke
70	Joe Rohrig	6-4	285	OL/DL	Linsly
75	Aaron Gurskey	5-10	235	OL/DL	Weir
78	Mark Vance	6-4	310	OL/DL	Weir
80	Brian Casto	5-10	155	QB/DB	Paden City
82	Jason Fazio	6-3	173	WR/DB	Bishop Don.
85	Matt Wright	6-3	220	TE/DE	Tyler Cons.
88	Ryan Sapp	5-10	150	WR/DB	Paden City
93	Nathan Peluchette	6-0	180	WR/DB	Whg. Central
99	Kyle Ackermann	6-2	235	K/P	Whg. Park

Ohio

HEAD COACH

Dan Wesson, Shenandoah

Assistant Coaches

Justin Denius, Greg Heller, Eric Nejus, Rob Pachuta, Tom Perkins, Tim Wilson, Derek Leach

PLAYERS

No	Name	Ht	Wt	Pos	School
1	Justin McElhaney	6-0	180	QB/DB	East Liverpool
3	Eddie Hamilton	5-10	185	WR/RB	Cambridge
7	Nate Hubbard	5-6	165	RB	Steubenville
10	Keith Selock	6-0	175	QB/DB	Shenandoah
12	Greg Darby	6-0	185	QB/DB	Beallsville
14	Josh Ischy	5-8	160	QB/DB	Monroe Central
20	Nathan Hedge	6-4	205	LB	Shenandoah
21	Cody Miley	6-4	210	TE/LB	Shenandoah
22	Stevie Kernik	5-10	200	FB/LB	Shadyside
28	Trevor Bruney	5-11	190	RB/DB	Martins Ferry
29	Charlie Hunter	5-11	200	FB/LB	Toronto
34	Maurice Jeffreys	6-0	190	DB	Bellaire
40	Dan Spiczenski	5-11	225	FB/LB	Barnesville
46	Vince Kuntz	6-0	200	LB	Edison
52	Anthony Sable	6-4	243	OL	Buckeye Local

And the all-star game, which will be the first event played on the new surface in Wheeling, seems the perfect fit.

"I'm anxious to play on this (new) field," West Virginia head coach John Stender said. "We were down on it (Friday) morning, and it looks really nice."

While the first few plays from scrimmage likely will see a scattering of rubber pellets into the air, the field should settle in nicely for the remainder of the game.

"I think it's softer than the field we're practicing on," Ohio head coach Dan Wesson said jokingly. "Adjusting to it didn't seem like a big issue at all for the players."

"After the first couple of minutes, it was back to a regular practice-type atmosphere."

But whether the game is played on field turf, grass, or even asphalt, the game itself is what's important.

And if it's story lines you seek, look no further than Ohio's current nine-game winning streak that extends back to the 1994 game.

Yes, exactly 10 years ago did the Mountaineers pulled off the 19-14 victory, which means the players from the '94 game that will be at the stadium for the annual 10-year reunion were the last group to walk off the field with a win.

The Mountaineers, the perpetual underdogs in this cross-river rivalry, have one of the more well-rounded teams that they have had in a while. And Stender is feeling pretty good about where his team is at following a week of camp at West Liberty State College.

"Pretty good overall," Stender said of his team's progress through camp. "The terminology is starting to sink in."

"There is a lot of review and they are still making some (minor) mistakes, but we'll get all those ironed out by Sunday."



File Photo by Rick Thorp
West Virginia head coach John Stender, left, and Ohio head coach Dan Wesson, right, talk briefly during the OVAC football banquet.

West Virginia has the skill people to be effective with either the pass, or the run, or both. But as Stender is quick to point out, the line needs to come through for any play to be effective.

"We have good skill people, but winning or losing is all decided up front," Stender said. "If the guys on the line are not doing their job, your offense isn't going anywhere."

"We have a nice group."

"We have good skill people, but winning or losing is all decided up front. If the guys on the line are not doing their job, your offense isn't going anywhere."

John Stender

"They are not overly big, but their technique is good and they are tough kids."

That group took a slight hit earlier in the week when Weir linemen Joe Petrovich came up limping with an inverted ankle sprain.

Petrovich took part lightly in practice, but his playing status on Sunday was still up in the air.

Like their Mountain State counterparts, the Ohio squad experienced the typical bangs, bumps and bruises coming out of camp.

But everyone who reported to West Liberty on Sunday will be playing today.

"We're a little banged up here

and there, but everybody will hopefully be ready to go by game time," Wesson said. "We've tried to platoon everything the best we can to get everybody some playing time."

"We don't have a lot of depth, so we've tried to teach the kids a position on the opposite side of the ball."

Ohio lost a few of its top players when Beaver Local's Adam Hoppel and Josh Pastore, Harrison

Central's Brandon Agostini and East Liverpool's Andre Dawson, and Gabe Gordon of Monroe Central decided not to play because of injuries or other reasons.

But the players the Buckeyes do have are talented and seem to be working well with the Shenandoah offensive and defensive schemes used by Wesson.

"I think for the most part, they have a pretty good grasp on the (offense)," Wesson said. "There is a little mental fatigue right now because of camp, but when game time comes around, they will be ready to go."

There are two things that make

them the carries for the Buckeyes.

"We've been very impressed with Hubbard," Wesson said. "He is a great kid that is just willing to do anything and everything you ask."

"He'll probably be the main tailback right now, but there are some other kids who will see some carries."

Hubbard and Selock, along with Martins Ferry's Trevor Bruney and Barnesville's Dan Spiczanski were named captains for the Ohio squad in a vote done by the players.

Bruney is another option in the backfield, but Wesson has primarily been looking at him on the defensive side of the ball. There are a lot of options for Ohio, and Wesson is trying to do his best to sort out playing time, and carries.

"Being an all-star game, we will try to spread (the ball) around as much as we can," Wesson said. "Our style of offense should allow us to spread it around."

Both Wesson and Stender love to run the football, so expect to see a lot of grind-it-out style of play. But don't expect to see it on every down.

The coaches didn't pick quality receivers and quarterbacks for show. They intend on using them.

"You can't be one dimensional," Stender said.

"You have to mix it up a bit and get as many kids involved (with the offense) as you can."

"It's no secret that I like to run, but we've thrown in the past and we'll do what we have to do to try to win the game and put on a good show."

"Some of the older, true football fans would love to see us line up and play smashmouth football for four quarters."

"And there will be a lot of that, but we're going to mix it up with the pass as well."

50	Joe Petrovich	5-10	290	OL/DL	Weir
58	Chance Kildow	6-1	220	LB	Tyler Cons.
63	Jesse Nelson	6-1	218	OL/DL	Whg. Park
66	Derrick Molnar	5-9	270	OL/DL	Brooke
68	Anthony Capp	6-0	200	DL	Brooke
70	Joe Rohrig	6-4	285	OL/DL	Linsly
75	Aaron Gurskey	5-10	235	OL/DL	Weir
78	Mark Vance	6-4	310	OL/DL	Weir
80	Brian Casto	5-10	155	QB/DB	Paden City
82	Jason Fazio	6-3	173	WR/DB	Bishop Don.
85	Matt Wright	6-3	220	TE/DE	Tyler Cons.
88	Ryan Sapp	5-10	150	WR/DB	Paden City
93	Nathan Peluchette	6-0	180	WR/DB	Whg. Central
99	Kyle Ackermann	6-2	235	K/P	Whg. Park

Ohio

HEAD COACH

Dan Wesson, Shenandoah

Assistant Coaches

Justin Denius, Greg Heller, Eric Nejus, Rob Pachuta, Tom Perkins, Tim Wilson, Derek Leach

No	Name	PLAYERS		Pos	School
		Ht	Wt		
1	Justin McElhaney	6-0	180	QB/DB	East Liverpool
3	Eddie Hamilton	5-10	185	WR/RB	Cambridge
7	Nate Hubbard	5-6	165	RB	Steubenville
10	Keith Selock	6-0	175	QB/DB	Shenandoah
12	Greg Darby	6-0	185	QB/DB	Beallsville
14	Josh Ischy	5-8	160	QB/DB	Monroe Central
20	Nathan Hedge	6-4	205	LB	Shenandoah
21	Cody Miley	6-4	210	TE/LB	Shenandoah
22	Stevie Kernik	5-10	200	FB/LB	Shadyside
28	Trevor Bruney	5-11	190	RB/DB	Martins Ferry
29	Charlie Hunter	5-11	200	FB/LB	Toronto
34	Maurice Jeffreys	6-0	190	DB	Bellaire
40	Dan Spiczanski	5-11	225	FB/LB	Barnesville
46	Vince Kuntz	6-0	200	LB	Edison
52	Anthony Sable	6-4	243	OL	Buckeye Local
55	Bob Kittel	6-0	245	OL	Martins Ferry
58	Dan Howard	6-2	210	DE	St. Clairsville
66	Adam Lee	6-0	215	OL	Shenandoah
67	Craig Cross	6-2	245	OL/DL	Meadowbrook
70	Ryan Witkowski	6-0	275	DL	Steubenville
72	Scott Kennedy	5-11	215	OL/DL	Steubenville
73	Zach Miller	6-1	228	OL	Buckeye Trail
75	Lou Almonte	6-3	240	OL	Steub. Central
79	Adam Lucci	6-1	320	OL	Bellaire
80	Josh Pyles	5-11	180	WR	Shadyside
85	B.A. Starr	6-0	180	WR/TE	Union Local
88	Jeff Dalrymple	6-2	185	K	Beaver Local
90	Nick Stankovich	6-1	210	TE/DE	Martins Ferry
93	Ivan Stein	5-11	170	DB	Indian Creek
99	Bobby Briggs	6-2	210	DL	Indian Creek



A Look Back Through The Years

(Ohio Leads the Overall Series, 21-10)	1993: West Virginia 34, Ohio 32
2003: Ohio 32, West Virginia 26	1992: No game (washout)
2002: Ohio 19, West Virginia 12	1991: Ohio 30, West Virginia 6
2001: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7	1990: Ohio 42, West Virginia 0
2000: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7	1989: West Virginia 22, Ohio 14
1999: Ohio 32, West Virginia 0	1988: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7
1998: Ohio 41, West Virginia 14	1987: Ohio 13, West Virginia 11
1997: Ohio 24, West Virginia 24	1986: Ohio 14, West Virginia 6
1996: Ohio 43, West Virginia 21	1985: West Virginia 28, Ohio 26
1995: Ohio 21, West Virginia 0	1984: Ohio 22, West Virginia 6
1994: West Virginia 19, Ohio 14	1983: Ohio 26, West Virginia 16

1982: West Virginia 7, Ohio 6
1981: Ohio 17, West Virginia 14
1980: Ohio 10, West Virginia 7
1979: Ohio 47, West Virginia 13
1978: Ohio 21, West Virginia 13
1977: West Virginia a 21 Ohio 0
1976: West Virginia 33, Ohio 20
1975: West Virginia 8, Ohio 0
1974: West Virginia 13, Ohio 6
1973: West Virginia 38, Ohio 20
1972: Ohio 24, West Virginia 6



Photo by Scott McCloskey

The Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic will be the first event played on the new turf at Wheeling Island Stadium.

● Stadium

Continued from Page A1

"What better way to showcase one of the valley's most anticipated sporting events of the year than at the new-look Island facility?" said Bernie Dolan, a stadium manager.

"We feel the Island stadium is now second to none in our state. The new turf is very durable and allows (us) an opportunity to host dozens of different events."

In addition to tonight's OVAC all-star game, Dolan noted both Wheeling Park and Wheeling Central will continue to play their home football games on the Island. Bellaire St. John's will play three of its '04 scheduled games there as well.

Junior varsity, freshman and the Little Patriots will take advantage of the facility.

This fall, at least 20 OVAC soccer games will be contested. The West Virginia State regional finals will be staged on the Island as well as all OVAC championship matches.

"We feel (the newly-installed turf) will hold up between 10-12 years before replacement is necessary," Dolan added.

Said Bob Koch, in his fourth season as the OVAC-Rudy Mumley game director. "All the feedback's been positive regard-

ing this new turf. (It's) actually softer than grass."

Bob Conaway, Maintenance Supervisor for Ohio County Schools, called the new turf, "a win-win situation. I recall not so long ago when the field had turned into a dirtbowl by October. All that's in the past, now," he remarked.

Added stadium groundskeeper Clair DeMerritt: "Another efficient aspect of this turf is how well the field drains after a heavy rain," he explained. "There's very little maintenance involved and we're very confident the turf is going to be safe for players in all sports."

Also directly benefitting is West Virginia's annual Super Six Football Championships, contested usually in late November or early December when weather conditions are normally suspect.

Such was the case in 2003 when a combination of rain, sleet and light snow resulted in poor playing conditions.

Officials of both the stadium and OVAC game committee praised Ohio County Commissioners for their tireless efforts in supplying funding for the new turf.

SUNDAY



OVAC ALL-STAR GAME:
33rd annual
slated tonight: C1



2004
Best of the
Ohio Valley

Your ballot is inside today!

Today's weather
PARTLY SUNNY
Hi: 78 Low: 65
See report, Page A12



Lottery Results C2

The Times Leader

Sunday, July 25, 2004

The Voice of Eastern Ohio

Vol. 113 • No. 145 • \$1.25

New era kicking off

• Stadium upgrades unveiled at All-Star game

By RICH GIBSON
Times-Leader Staff Writer

IT'S A brand new season - in more ways than one.

When the 33rd Annual Rudy Mumley Charity All-Star Football Classic kicks off tonight in Wheeling, a new era also kicks off.

The Island stadium has undergone a half-million dollar makeover which upgrades the site as one of the

Mountain State's finest facilities.

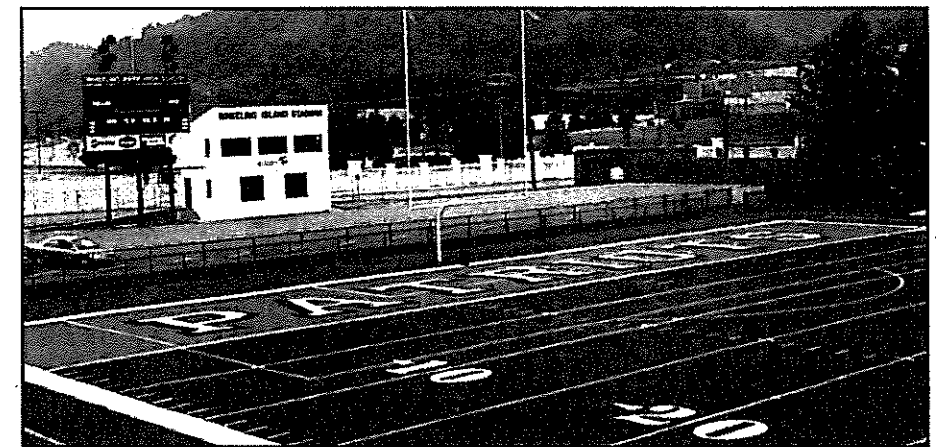
As many as 70 events are scheduled to be contested on the recently-installed ProGrass surface, including this evening's (7:15) summer all-star game featuring the OVAC's premier gridgers.

See related stories, photos in today's sports section.

Additionally, the expected 5-6,000 fans attending tonight's classic will discover several other noticeable improvements.

A new public address system is in place, a new auxiliary scoreboard has been installed at the stadium's north end, a crosswalk has been constructed at the north end and additional paving is complete in the stadium area.

See, STADIUM, Page A2



T-L Photo/ PAULA GINTHER

THE WHEELING Island stadium has undergone a half-million dollar makeover which upgrades the site as one of the Mountain State's finest facilities. The facility is shown above.

ROYALS
INDIANS1
5REDS
PIRATES5
6

SPORTS

Section

B

Monday
July 26, 2004

West Virginia snaps Ohio's streak

Mountaineers post 21-7 victory in OVAC All-Star classic, ending nine-game skid

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

WHEELING, W. Va. — The streak is over.

For the first time since 1994, West Virginia earned bragging rights in the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic by scoring a 21-7 victory over Ohio at Wheeling Island Stadium on Sunday.

West Virginia, the perennial underdog in the midsummer extravaganza, stunned Ohio with a pair of scores in the first eight minutes of play and was never challenged thanks to a stellar defensive performance.

After forcing a three-and-out by Ohio on the game's first series, West Virginia mixed the running of Linsly's Mark Plumby, Wheeling Central's Marshall O'Brien and Weirton Madonna's T.J. Guida in an eight-play, 62-yard scoring drive.

A nice 20-yard run by Plumby got the Mountaineers down close and O'Brien got the six-pointer on a six-yard burst out of the power-I formation. Wheeling Park's Kyle Ackerman had his point-after kick blocked by Martins Ferry's Trevor Bruney, but the Blue and Gold were on top, 6-0, at the 7:27 mark of the opening quarter.

The lead doubled moments later when Tyler Consolidated's Michael Wells stepped in front of a pass by Ohio quarterback Keith Selock of Shenandoah and returned the interception 30 yards to paydirt. A rollout by West Virginia QB Brad Kouski of Wheeling Park was stopped short on the two-point conversion try, but the

Mountaineers had opened some eyes with a 12-0 lead as 4:29 showed on the first period clock.

Ohio's only scoring chance in the first half came early in the second quarter after Selock hit Shenandoah teammate Cody Miley for a 13-yard gainer and Steubenville workhorse back Nate Hubbard gained 11 yards, but the Buckeyes stalled and a fumbled snap on fourth down at the 17 halted the bid.

West Virginia hit for a big play early in the third quarter to break the game open when Kouski hit Weir's Eric Turner on a short toss, and Turner spun off the tackle and turned the play in to a 67-yard touchdown.

An excessive celebration penalty forced a long PAT try by Ackerman, but he still delivered to boost the Mountaineers' lead to 19-0 with 10:40 left in the third.

Ohio again fizzled offensively, forcing a punting situation, but the snap sailed over Miley's head and through the end zone for a safety, extending West Virginia's lead to 21-0 at the 8:29 mark of the third frame.

The Buckeyes scored with under six minutes to play to avoid a shutout, with Selock and Miley teaming for a 45-yard pass to start a seven-play, 64-yard series which culminated in a one-yard plunge by Ferry's Bruney with 52 seconds remaining. Beaver Local's Jeff Dalrymple added the point-after to close the scoring.

The game marked the final appearance on the sideline for victorious West Virginia coach John Stender of Tyler Consolidated while the loss left Ohio coach Dan Wesson of Shenandoah second-guessing himself.

"It beats the (heck) out of losing," shrugged Stender. "Their defense really came after us and we couldn't get a passing game going, but we had a few big plays and our defense played extremely well. We probably caught them a little by surprise with the quickness of our people up front.

"We (West Virginia) needed to win one after losing nine in a row to juice things up a little," Stender added. It's a good rivalry and I hope they keep it just the way it is."

On the other side, Wesson was quick to take the heat, so to speak, for the defeat.

"I feel like I let the whole state of Ohio down," the Buckeye boss said. "We struggled offensively all night long. Maybe I

tried to put in too much offense in a week. We were missing our targets, the line wasn't protecting and we lacked any consistency. It's a pretty complex offense and maybe we should have simplified things a little."

Wesson also gave credit to West Virginia for their performance and admitted life will go on.

"Congratulations to Coach Stender...he's a class act," Wesson praised. "We had a great week with some great kids. Everybody wants to win and we

didn't get it done tonight, but I'll wake up tomorrow and go back to work with the Zeps."

Statistically, West Virginia finished with a 224-152 edge in total yardage. The Mountaineers had 148 rushing, with O'Brien getting 93 yards on 11 carries, and had 76 passing as Kouski was 2-of-3. Meanwhile, the Buckeyes had a net of just 83 on the ground despite a 22-carry, 107-yard effort by Hubbard, and the duo of Selock and Monroe Central's Josh Ischy combined on a 4-of-15 effort for 69 yards with two interceptions.

Extra Points

St. Clairsville High's Sarah Elizabeth Maurizi was crowned the 2004 Queen of Queens during lavish and lengthy halftime ceremonies which included a sparkling performance by the McDonald's OVAC All-Star Band. Other members of the Queen's court included Shelby Garrett of Wheeling Park, first runner-up and Miss Congeniality; Holly Wilson of John Marshall, second runner-up; Megan Ring of Monroe Central, third runner-up; and Danielle Ney of Shadyside, fourth runner-up.

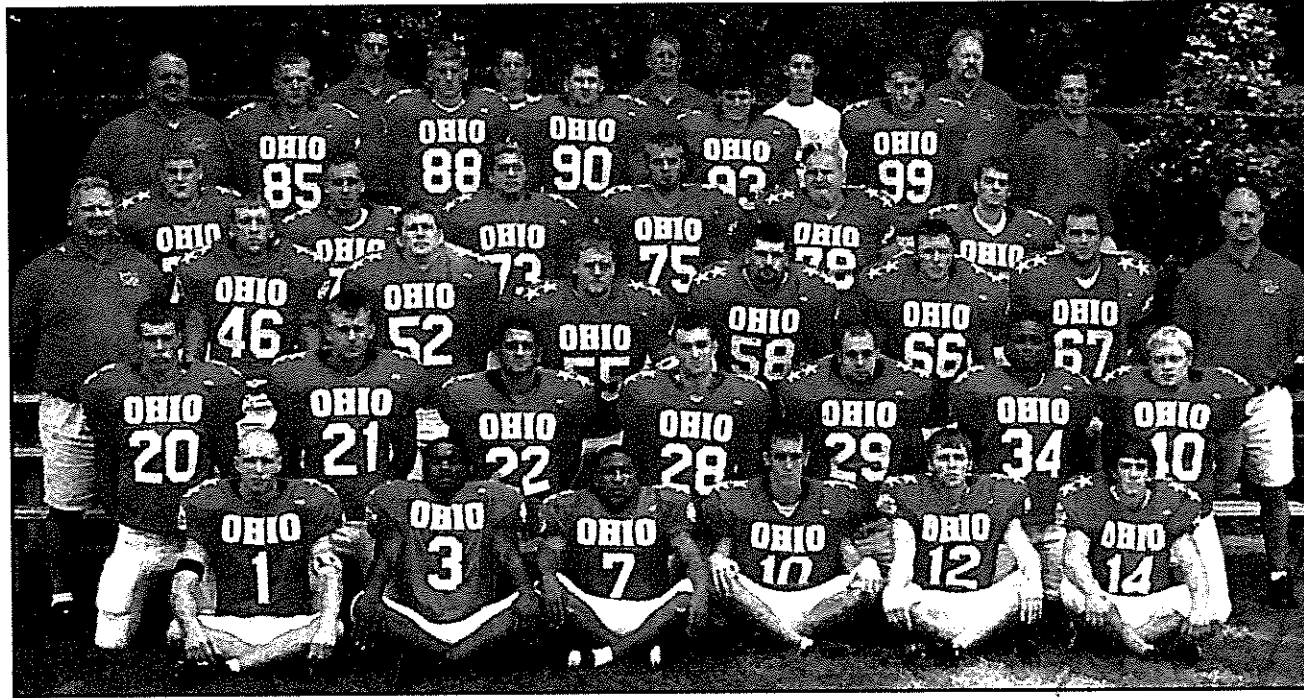
Barnesville High's Danny Spiczenski picked up a pair of honors during the week-long festivities. The Shamrock stalwart was one of two recipients of the George Strager Memorial Scholarship at the Evening with the Stars' banquet and he also was one of four Ohio captains selected by the players and coaches.

Weirton's George Gorman failed in his attempt to make the \$10,000 kick at the end of the third quarter, but still walked away with a nice consolation prize of \$500...



Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic set tonight

Annual mid-summer extravaganza features eight local players, Shenandoah coaching staff, McDonald's Band and Queen of Queens event at Wheeling Island Stadium; kickoff at 7:15



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The Ohio squad for the annual Rudy Mumley Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Football Charity Classic includes, 1 to r, front row, East Liverpool's Justin McElhane, Cambridge's Eddie Hamilton, Steubenville's Nate Hubbard, Shenandoah's Keith Selock, Beallsville's Greg Darby, Monroe Central's Josh Ischy; second row, Shenandoah's Nathan Hedge, Shenandoah's Cody Miley, Shadyside's Steve Kernik, Martins Ferry's Trevor Bruney, Toronto's Charlie Hunter, Bellaire's Maurice Jeffreys, Barnesville's Dan Spiczenski; third row, head coach Dan Wesson, Edison's Vince Kuntz, Buckeye Local's Anthony Sable, Martins Ferry's Bob Kittel, Shenandoah's Adam Lee, Meadowbrook's Craig Cross, assistant coach Tim Wilson; fourth row, Steubenville's Ryan Witkowski, Steubenville's Scott Kennedy, Buckeye Trail's Zach Miller, Steubenville Catholic's Lou Almonte, Bellaire's Adam Lucci, Shadyside's Josh Pyles; fifth row, assistant coach Eric Nejus, Union Local's B.A. Starr, Beaver Local's Jeff Dalrymple, Martins Ferry's Nick Stankovich, Indian Creek's Ivan Stein, Shadyside's Bobby Briggs; assistant coach Tom Perkins; sixth row, assistant coach Greg Heller, manager Billy Miley, assistant coach Derek Leach, manager Josh Cowgill and assistant coach Rob Pachuta.

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

WHEELING, W.Va. — The brand new artificial turf at Wheeling Island Stadium will get its first official christening tonight when the 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic unfolds.

The game features a wealth of recently-graduated football talent from throughout the giant Ohio Valley Athletic Conference, with a host of activities as part of the mid-summer extravaganza which kicks off at 7:15 p.m.

The local area will be well-represented on the Ohio squad.

Coach Dan Wesson and the entire Shenandoah High staff are directing the Buckeye gridders and they have eight local players - including four Zeps - on the roster.

Shenandoah gridders include quarterback-defensive back Keith Selock, linebacker Nathan Hedge, tight end-linebacker Cody Miley and offensive lineman Adam Lee. Joining those four are flanker-running back Eddie Hamilton of Cambridge, offensive-defensive lineman Craig Cross of Meadowbrook, offensive lineman Zach Miller of Buckeye Trail and fullback-linebacker Dan Spiczenski of Barnesville.

Assistants from Wesson's staff on hand are Tim Wilson, Rob Pachuta, Greg Heller, Tom Perkins and Derek Leach along with Beaver Local's Eric Nejus. Two SHS players - Josh Cowgill and Billy Miley - are serving as team managers.

Coaching the West Virginia squad will be Tyler Consolidated's John Stender, who retired following last season, and his staff.

Since the OVAC assumed sponsorship of the Ohio-West Virginia all-star series in 1972, Ohio holds a 21-10-1 series lead including victories in the last nine games. In the years 1940-71, the game was played 26 times (there was no game on six occasions), and Ohio won 15 of those...



The OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band will be 216 members strong this year under the direction of Darrell Lucas. Local participants include: Buckeye Trail - J.D. Price; Meadowbrook - Jessica Beckner, Vicki Benson, Nick Box, Andrea Friday, Lucas Kaspar, Michael Krak and Josh McManaway; Shenandoah - Tracy Roe and Devon Shackle; Barnesville - Rachel Austin, Shane Grimes, Donetta Meadows, Kelsey Neptune, Sapphire Straquedine and Charlotte Wilson...

A total of 27 conference schools are

See OVAC page B-5

OVAC gridiron game tonight

OVAC from page B-1

represented in the Queen of Queens competition, including Amanda Birch of Meadowbrook and Brittany Cook of Barnesville. The girls took part in the evening gown and talent competition on Friday at WestBanco Arena and the winner will be crowned at halftime tonight...

Pre-game warm-ups on Sunday will begin at 5:40 p.m. Other events leading up to kickoff will be performances by the Ohio and West Virginia cheer-leading squads; introduction of the Queen of Queens candidates; introduction of players, coaches, doctors, trainers and managers; the Color Guard provided by the Osiris Temple Legion of Honor; a prayer by Chaplin Raymond Helbing of the Osiris Temple; the National Anthem by the OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band; the coin toss with the respective team captains and honorary referees Tom Costello of Weirton; Art Olson of Bridgeport and Jack Schuetz of Wheeling; plaques presented to last year's coaches - Dave Bruney for Ohio and Tom Taylor for West Virginia (football) and Darcy

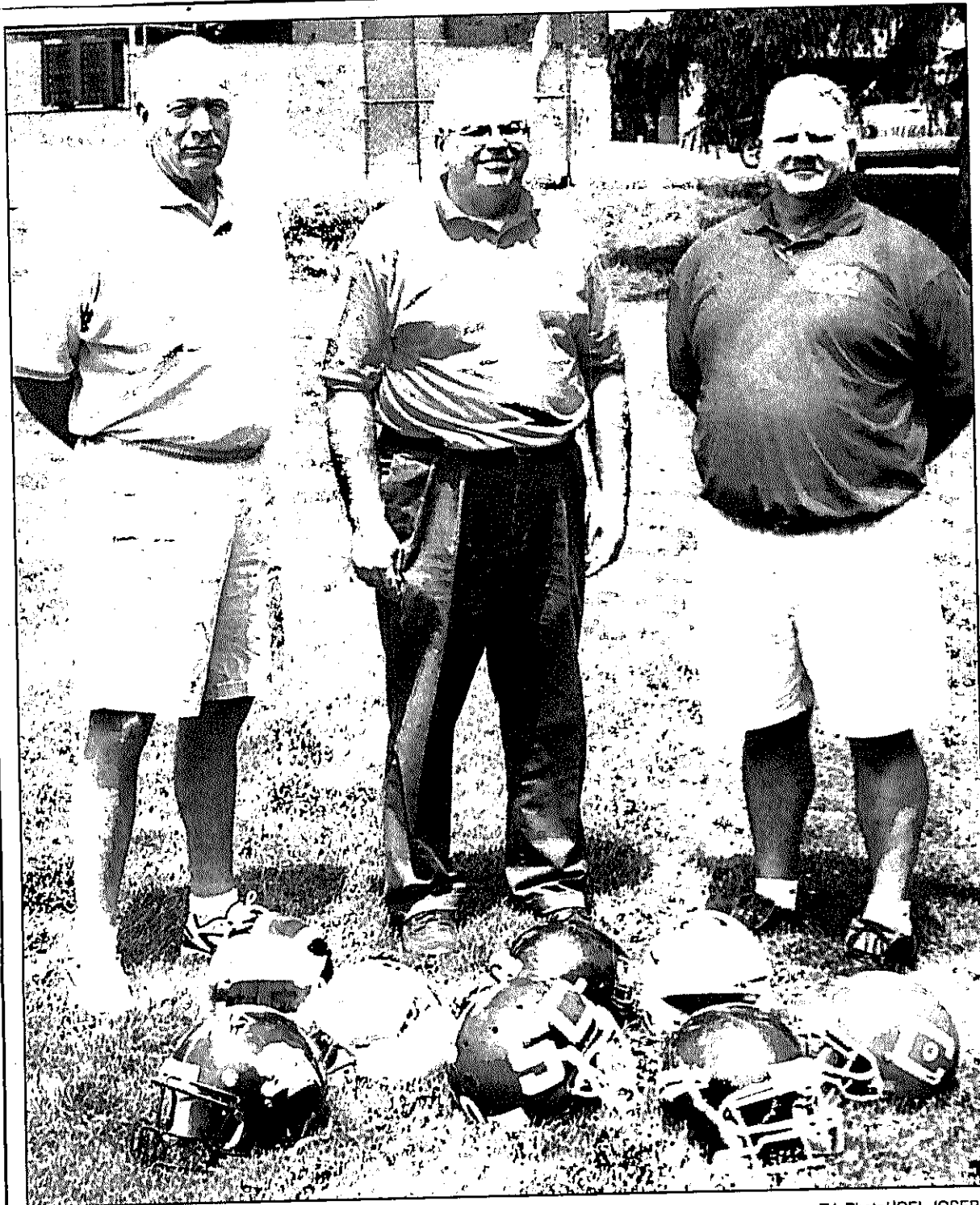
Sanderson for Ohio and Stephanie Garich of West Virginia (cheerleading).

Other special events slated throughout the evening are a presentation to last year's band director, Jay Drury and introduction of the Wheeling Greyhounds' players (end of the first quarter); the Queen of Queens selections and the OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band performance (halftime); introductions of the 10-year reunion players and queens and the \$10,000 Field Goal Kick sponsored by The Health Plan (end of the third quarter)...

This year's officials are Bill Walter, referee; Tony Pietro, umpire; Bob Craig, linesman; Mark Beebe, line judge; Tom Constantini, back judge; and Jerry Ames, side judge...

In the previous 32 years of the All-Star Classic, a total of \$741,200 has been donated to charity organizations and scholarships throughout the Ohio Valley...

Pre-sale of tickets ended Saturday night, so all tickets at the game will cost \$10...



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

THE 33RD Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All Star Charity Football Classic is set for this Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium. Pictured, from left, are West Virginia head coach John Stender, OVAC game director Bob Koch, and Ohio head coach Dan Wesson. Kickoff is set for 7:15 p.m.

OVAC all stars set

• 33rd Annual Rudy Mumley All Star Classic is Sunday

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Preparations for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic continued Monday at West Liberty as both Ohio and West Virginia went through two sessions of practice.

The players and coaches, however, took some time away from their workouts to deal with the Ohio Valley media during picture day at Russek Field.

Through just two sessions of practice, Ohio and Shenandoah head coach Dan Wesson is quite pleased with where his team is in terms of the offense.

"Our coaches were talking and we think we got more in (offensively) during the morning session (Monday) that we sometimes get in during a week," Wesson offered. "We have an intelligent, talented group of kids who came up here ready and willing to learn."

Wesson -- who is primarily known as a running-

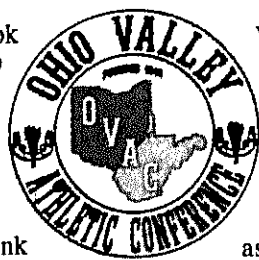
oriented coach -- definitely has the weaponry in the backfield to grind the football.

Steubenville's Nate Hubbard, Martins Ferry's Trevor Bruney and Cambridge's Eddie Hamilton will all see time at tailback with Shadyside's Stevie Kernik doing much of the lead blocking.

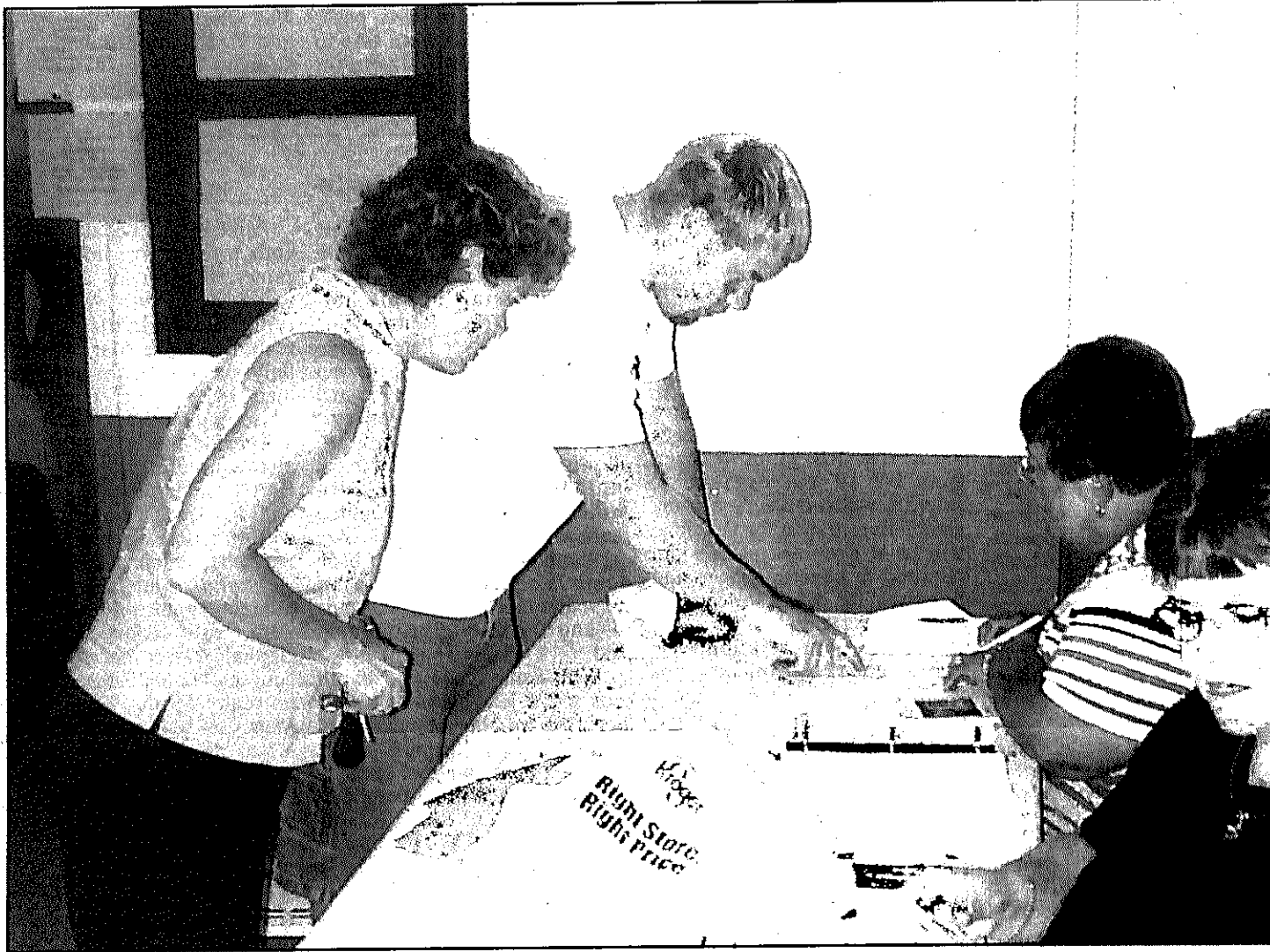
"Our running backs are fast and strong," Wesson said. "I am real excited about where we are as an offense. It's not a refined offense, but these kids came from great programs and were well coached, so it's basically a matter of terminology."

For Kernik the shift to a running-style offense has been somewhat of an adjustment after playing in Ty Fleming's aerial assault, but it's an adjustment Kernik has thoroughly enjoyed thus far.

"I really like this offense because we pretty much just grind the ball out and throw a few passes to the fullbacks, so it's pretty fun," Kernik explained.



See, OVAC, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

BARNESVILLE'S Danny Spiczenski checks into training camp for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. Spiczenski's mother Lynn accompanied her son to West Liberty State College. The OVAC All-Star Game is set for Sunday at 7:15 p.m.

OVAC All-Stars report

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

The football all-stars of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference were mixing and mingling Sunday afternoon.

The players in the annual Rudy Mumley All-Star Charity Football Classic reported for training camp at West Liberty State College to begin preparations for Sunday's 7:15 p.m. kickoff.

It was just 15 minutes into the week of festivities and Ohio head coach Dan Wesson had his first problem.

Wesson got to West Liberty only to find that his roster had undergone a serious shakeup from the initial one he put together earlier this summer.

"We are missing some people, but the kids who are here are excited and ready to go," Wesson said. "We have to take a count of who is here and then go from there, but it's really unfortunate because this game means so much to so many people."

Two of the most noticeable absences come in the form of Beaver Local stand-outs Adam Hoppel and Josh Pastore.

Hoppel informed game directors earlier last week he wouldn't take part due to injuries suffered during an all-star game earlier this summer. Pastore, meanwhile, didn't report for camp, leaving the Buckeyes short in the backfield.

"We aren't going to dwell on the kids who aren't here," Wesson offered. "The kids who came that I have talked to seem to be in shape and really excited, so we are looking forward to getting things going."

East Liverpool's two representatives -- Andre Dawson and Justin McElhane -- gave no prior notice and didn't report for camp.

Monroe Central's Gabe Gordon opted to not participate due to a tweaked hamstring, which he's nursing. Harrison Central's Brandon Agostini also informed OVAC officials earlier in the week he wouldn't be playing.

Hoppel and Agostini gave enough

notice that Wesson was able to find two replacements.

"We are going to have to make a few adjustments, but we think we have enough talent to be able to do that," Wesson said.

After reporting and going through physicals, Ohio wasted little time in starting preparations for a game it's won the past six years.

The Buckeyes went through a team meeting and hit the practice field for light drills, wearing shoulder pads and helmets.

"We wanted to let the kids know our expectations (as a coaching staff) and work on some special teams stuff," Wesson said. "We are going to enjoy ourselves, but we plan on getting after it."

West Virginia, meanwhile, reported to camp without a problem.

"We think we have a great group of kids," said West Virginia and former Tyler head coach John Stender. "We know Ohio is going to have tough kids that are going

See, **OVAC**, Page D2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

MONROE Central's Josh Ischy receives his uniform during check-in day for Sunday's OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

● OVAC

Continued from Page D1

to be a lot bigger than us, but there's no sense in whining about it because it's like that every year."

All of the players originally selected reported, but Mountaineer head coach John Stender had his first injury of the week before touching a football.

Magnolia quarterback Jonathan Kemp was injured during a baseball game last week and won't find out until at least Wednesday whether or not he'll be cleared for the game.

"We have some other quarterbacks who can play," Stender said. "We are definitely hoping Jonathan can go, but if he can't, we feel we will still be alright at the quarterback position."

Stender -- who coached the West Virginia North/South Game earlier this summer-- was selected to coach the OVAC game for the third time after Wheeling Central boss Jim Thomas turned the invitation down.

"Jim and Central's staff were supposed to (coach)," Stender said. "(They) asked me if I would fill in for him and I am really excited about the opportunity. Like they say, they usually feed you a good meal before they send you to the slaughter house, so this is a great way to go out."

West Virginia was a little more relaxed in terms of its Sunday workout, just going through team meetings.

"We are going into this gradually," Stender said. "A lot of these kids are going on to play (college) ball, so we don't want people getting too beat up, so we probably won't even do much hitting this week, but we will prepare to try to win the football game."

Wesson definitely doesn't want to be the Ohio coach that the winning streak comes to an end against.

"We know (West Virginia) has some great players, so we

had better be ready for them," Wesson said. "I have had a chance to see some of their guys play and they have a ton of talent, but again, we like the make-up of our team."

OVAC NOTES

- **THE** players and coaches met the media this afternoon at West Liberty as media day was held for the Ohio Valley media.

- **TICKETS** are still on sale in advance at numerous Ohio Valley locations, including all of the Krogers in the upper Ohio Valley. Tickets are \$7 in advance while all tickets will be \$10 at the gate.

- Another activity has been planned for All-Star Weekend at Wheeling Island Stadium for the OVAC All-Star Football Classic as the "Subway Sports Clinic Series" presents the first Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic Free Youth Football Clinic.

The clinic will be open to area boys and girls between the ages 7-13. The free clinic will run from 1-2:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 25, which is the day of the game. Registration for the clinic will be at noon and parents are required to have insurance and be present the day of the camp to sign a waiver form.

For more information, you can check online at www.ovac.org, or email James Companion at james@ovac.org.

- **MARTINS** Ferry head coach Dave Bruney was on the other side of the fence Sunday afternoon. A year to the day, Bruney was moving himself into West Liberty to guide the Buckeye stars. This year, however, he was helping his son Trevor check into his dorm. Bruney will see time at running back and on defense for the Ohioans.

- **THE TIMES LEADER** will provide daily stories and photos leading up to Sunday's All-Star Game.

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

"Blocking for the tailbacks we have is easy because they find a hole to run through anyhow."

Bruney, meanwhile, hasn't had many problems adjusting to Wesson's style after playing under his dad Dave in Purple Rider land. Not only will Bruney see time in the backfield, but he'll also be seeing action in the secondary.

"I think we are coming together really well already," Bruney said. "Adapting to Coach Wesson has been pretty easy because we use a lot of the same running schemes (at Ferry). It feels like being back home with how well the coaches are prepared and getting everyone their reps."

The offensive line of Ohio will also be a focal point with the running game getting so much work.

Bellaire's Adam Lucci has been one that has impressed Wesson and the Ohio staff through early drills.

"Adam Lucci is a great kid who makes practice a lot of fun," Wesson said. "Not only is he a great kid, but he's a great football player who I have been impressed with."

Making the OVAC Game has been a goal of Lucci's since he a young child.

"My dad used to bring me to this game when I was little, and now being able to play in it is just a great feeling," Lucci said.

"I liked these coaches as soon as we reported because they were intense and that's something I am used to."

The offensive work wasn't the only hot topic during media day festivities as the Buckeyes were

willing to talk about the winning streak, which has reached nine straight for the Ohioans.

"Keeping the streak alive is real big (to our team)," said Kernik. "It's been nine years and we aren't about to let it end now."

Although, Ohio is probably the favorite on paper, the Mountaineers

"They have really had better be ready," Bruney admitted. "Ohio playing really well in and we don't want to let it end."

On the other side, the Mountaineers may as the underdog, but Mark Plumby is expected to change.

"It's about time for to end," Plumby said. "Being the class to be streak is really big and ready to go. Once we (gold) jerseys on, we can talk to anyone in the

The Mountaineers shorts and helmets for workouts and were expected to go in full gear today, full preparations.

"We are feeling through," said West head coach John Stender. "We are getting people accustomed to our system, but you have the backups everything the starters, so it's a process."

After workouts to teams will head to the Shrine for a film and practice before returning to West State College.

Buckeye Offense Could Be Explosive Again



On Tap

■ Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic.
 ■ Kickoff is 7:15 p.m. Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

By NEIL THOMPSON
 Staff Writer

Things have been good for Ohio offenses in the recent history of the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic.

Since 1994, nine consecutive Ohio squads have held West Virginia winless in the classic rivalry. During that streak, Buckeye offenses have helped put more than 20 points on the board in all but two of those victories.

The Mountaineers will likely be in for another test this year against an athletic, balanced and potentially explosive Ohio offense mentored by head coach Dan Wesson of Shenandoah.

"We've got a lot of kids that can run," said Wesson of his skill players. "We've got a pair of quarterbacks that run extremely well and they don't throw the ball too badly either."

"We've also got a couple tailbacks that run extremely well and a couple of athletic wideouts."

"Skill-wise, I'm happy with our chances," he continued, "but we've got to put a body on a body up front (on the offensive line) and let those skill guys take over the game."

"We don't have a whole lot of size, but we're not small either. We have a well-rounded team."

Wesson runs a Zep program known for its strong running game and efficient passing. He

will count on former Zeps quarterback Keith Selock — a battle-tested speedster with a quiet, confident demeanor — to direct the offense along with game-breaking signalcaller Josh Ischy from Monroe Central.

"Keith is just Keith, he's solid and constant," said Wesson. "I look for him to lead us along out there. But we may see a little bit of Josh Ischy as well. What a great young man he is, too."

Wesson's other backfield weapons are equally impressive. He can choose from a talented stable of explosive running backs to plug into his offense, including tailbacks Nate Hubbard of Steubenville, Trevor Bruney of

"Skill-wise, I'm happy with our chances."

Dan Wesson
 Ohio coach

Martins Ferry, Eddie Hamilton of Cambridge and fullback Steve Kernik of Shadyside. Toronto's Charlie Hunter and Barnesville's Dan Spiczenski could also be used at fullback.

Please See OFFENSE, Page 20

JEFFERSON AND COLUMBIANA COUNTY ALL-STARS



Photo by Mike Hughes

Pictured above are representatives of Jefferson and Columbiana counties who will be playing for Ohio in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, Ivan Stein, Indian Creek; Vince Kuntz, Edison; Nate Hubbard, Steubenville; Charlie Hunter, Toronto, and Scott Kennedy, Steubenville. Back row, from left, Jeff Dalrymple, Beaver Local; Justin McElhaney, East Liverpool; Lou Almonte, Steubenville Central; Anthony Sable, Buckeye Local, and Ryan Witkowski, Steubenville.

Offense

(Continued from Page 19)

Shadyside's Josh Pyles and Union Local's B.A. Starr, as well as Ischy and Hamilton, provide solid options at receiver, and Martins Ferry's Nick Stankovich and Shenandoah's Cody Miley are big targets at tight end.

"We'll run a pro-style offense," Wesson commented. "We'll be in some two-back sets and some one-back sets."

"We're going to go in and hopefully move the ball around. I think in an all-star game when you got guys like Nate Hubbard and Eddie Hamilton and Josh Pyles — and I can go on and on — they all want to touch the ball."

"We're going to try to get them all a chance by spreading the ball around. Plus, I think that makes us a little harder to defend."

"I think our offense is well-balanced that way. We probably highlight the tailback. But even though it's a tailback-oriented offense, we can throw to our backs out of the backfield, we can throw to our fullback or H-back, we can throw to our tight end, and we can throw to our wide receivers."

"You're not going to be able to isolate on any one position."

As is the case with most teams, however, the success of Ohio's offense will come down to the Buckeyes blocking in the trenches. But Wesson believes the Ohio linemen work well in his system thanks to the experience of former Shenandoah offensive line standout Adam Lee.

"It says a lot that I was able to bring four players with me to

coach this game," Wesson explained, referring to Lee, Selock, Miley and linebacker Nathan Hedge. "They help out a good bit in teaching my system, especially Adam Lee on the offensive line."

"I probably require more out of our offensive line, our fullback and our quarterback than any other position out there. So (Lee) has really helped out in a couple practices by explaining our system with the offensive line."

Along with Lee, Martins Ferry's Bob Kittel, Buckeye Local's Anthony Sable, Bellaire's Adam Lucci, Steubenville Central's Lou Almonte, Buckeye Trail's Zach Miller, Meadowbrook's Craig Cross and Steubenville's Scott Kennedy could also be major factors on the

Ohio line.

Overall, Wesson is satisfied with his offense's collective maturity and willingness to play as a unit rather than just a collection of all-stars.

"I realize we're here in an all-star game and everybody wants to get the ball," Wesson remarked, "but the thing I've been impressed with is that the kids say to me 'Hey coach, I'm here and you can get me the ball, but what can I do in the meantime to help us out as a team?'"

"They come from real solid programs, and you can tell they've been well coached. They understand the concept of the game and the team concept, which you have to know in order to win a football game."

"I've been very impressed with them up to this point."



Coaches' Clinic Is Scheduled

For The News-Register

Adding to the festivities for next week's annual Rudy Mumley-OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic will be a two-day clinic to be held Friday and Saturday at the Wheeling Island RaceTrack and Gaming Center.

Manny Matsakis, Shady-side High School graduate and owner/operator of BigSeason.com, will be directing this inaugural event, title The Football Review: Ohio Valley Coaching Clinic.

"I went to a meeting in St. Clairsville during the spring and met with the (local) football coaches and asked them what they wanted to hear," Matsakis said. "After reading their responses we went out and put together a quality list of speakers."

The clinic will be held inside Wheeling Island's showroom, starting at 9 a.m. and continuing through 5:50 p.m. this Friday. A total of 15 speakers will appear the first day. Five more clinicians will take during Saturday's sessions, starting at 9 a.m. and concluding at 5:30 p.m.

"This is like a 'Who's Who' of the region and some key guys nationwide," Matsakis explained. "This is something that the local schools won't want to miss."

The cost of the Football Review is \$40 and it includes two days worth of lectures, a t-shirt, clinic notebook and a Friday night social.

Matsakis — who was the head coach at Texas State University a year ago and has made several other coaching stops in college — stressed that the clinic is open to all coaches from junior high up.

Included in Friday's lineup is Marshall offensive line coach Mark McHale, who will lecture on offensive line execution: The Zone Play and Marshall's pass protection fundamentals.

Capital University head coach Jim Collins will speak on implementing the sprint out passing game. Paul Assas, the National Director for Pro/College Kicking and Punting, will talk about coaching kickers to maximize their distance and accuracy; coaching the punter for optimum get-off time and distance; and developing your long snapper with precision techniques.

West Liberty defensive coordinator Keith Phillips will talk about the Hilltopper pass defense. Capital University defensive coordinator Jim Bickell will deal with the Capital Zone Blitz package and drills and skills for developing defensive linemen.

Long-time OVAC official Jack Prettyman will discuss coaches and athletes' interaction with the officials.

Also set to speak during Friday's morning session are a pair of former Ohio Valley standouts who have gone on to coach collegiately.

Former Shady-side High kicker Elias "Louie" Matsakis, who played at Emporia State and now coaches and serves as Quality Control Assistant at the University of Kansas, will speak about using Power Point technology to maximize your presentations.

CLINIC

Continued from page B3

The Friday afternoon lineup is also impressive, featuring Youngstown State head coach Jon Heacock who will talk about the fundamentals of stopping the run and option and also defending the Wing-T.

Tony DeMeo, considered an expert on the option game, will discuss the shotgun triple option and installing the counter option. University of Houston wide receivers coach Jason Phillips will cover receiver release techniques and route running fundamentals. Steubenville Big Red head coach Reno Saccoccia will speak about the Big Red power run game.

University of Toledo linebacker coach Tony McCray is slated to lecture about the linebacker in the eight-man front and also Toledo's aggressive eight-man front.

Nick Kyros, a well-known premier speed and strength coach, covers The Total Package, which is training players to be better athletes and the in-season weight program and the ultimate warm-up.

Elias Matsakis returns during the afternoon with his topic being blocking field goals and big-play

punt returns.

Saturday's card features former Illinois head coach Lou Tepper, currently the head coach at Edinboro University. Tepper will discuss linebacking play. Hal Munme, Southeastern University head coach who coached Tim Couch at Kentucky, will take about the Air Raid Offense: Implementing and executing the short controlled passing game.

Highly-successful Cleveland St. Ignatius head coach Chuck Kyle will talk about developing a championship program, organizing and motivating coaches, athletes and the community.

West Virginia secondary coach Tony Gibson will lecture about incorporating the odd stack defense. Kyros will speak again about the ultimate stadium workout: Amazing post-game recovery and conditioning.

"This is an opportunity for the coaches to get some insight that could change a game during a season and then possibly make the difference in a season," Manny Matsakis said. "One little bit of information may allow you to help your athletes from a technical standpoint."

OVAC All-Star Game



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

HANDLING the tight end chores for Ohio in Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity Football Classic are, from left, Shady-side's Josh Pyles, Shenandoah's Cody Miley and Union Local's B.A. Starr.

Stender Places Some Familiar Faces on Defense

For The News-Register

Training camp for the annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Rudy Mumley All-Star Charity Football Classic kicks off today and West Virginia head coach John Stender has selected most of his defensive units.

The Mountaineers and Buckeye report to West Liberty State College today at noon for the game, which is slated for Sunday at 7 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We tried to find kids who were versatile," Stender said. "We went after athletic kids who were good kids in terms of playing and off the field."

"We know Ohio has some good players on the offensive side of the ball, but we really like the people we've assembled to play defense."

Stender selected many of the same people to play on his OVAC team that suited up for the North squad in the West Virginia North/South Game, which the former Tyler coach also guided.

"Most of these kids were with us in (the North/South Game) and they know the system, so that's a big advantage," Stender admitted. "The system we will use will be primarily the same, so that should help the process."

Here is a capsule look at the players:

■ **Cody Tominack**, Wheeling Park — This former Patriot was one of the Ohio Valley's biggest bruisers from both his fullback and his linebacker spot.

The 5-11, 217 pounder rushed for better than 700 yards and led the Patriots in tackles this past fall.

Tominack was a three-time all-Valley, all-State, all-OVAC this past season. He was also a finalist for the Huff Award.

Tominack was also a standout wrestler for the Patriots, winning the OVAC title this past winter. He was also selected to take part in the OVAC All-Star Wrestling match.

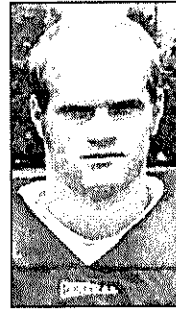
Along with athletics, Tominack was active in Student Council, Varsity Athletic Club, Class Treasurer, Ski Club, S.A.D.D.. He is listed among the National Honor Society and a four-year member of the High



Tominack



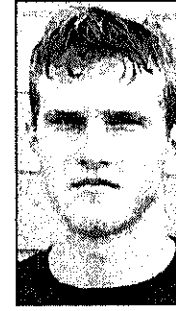
Ackermann



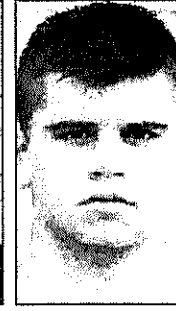
Contraguerrero



Duck



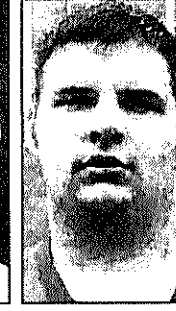
Kildow



Wells



Casto



Vance

"We went after athletic kids who were good kids in terms of playing and off the field. We know Ohio has some good players on the offensive side of the ball, but we really like the people we've assembled to play defense."

John Stender

Honor Roll.

Cody — who is an invited walk-on at West Virginia University — is the son of John and Dena Tominack of Valley Grove.

■ **Mark Vance**, Weir — This former Red Rider was a mainstay for Coach Tony Filberto's team the past four seasons, earning four letters.

The 6-4, 310-pound Vance was a two-way tackle for Weir and was listed as Honorable Mention all-State.

Vance was also active in Hi-Y during high school career.

■ **Mark** — who is the son of Stacey Vance of Weirton — will attend Thiel College this fall.

■ **Michael Wells**, Tyler Consolidated — This two-way standout made his presence felt as both a linebacker and a tight-end for Stender and the Silver Knights last fall.

The 6-1, 210 pounder — who will attend Bethany College — was an Honorable Mention all-OVAC and second-team all-state pick last season.

Wells was also active in track, baseball and basketball for the Knights.

Michael is the son of Mike and KayLynn Wells of Friendly.

■ **Ryan Sapp**, Paden City — This former Wildcat was a wide receiver during his prep days, but will see time in the secondary for the Mountaineers.

The 5-10, 150-pounder was a first-team all-OVAC, all-Mason

Dixon Conference, second-team all-State and second-team Mid Ohio Valley Conference.

■ **Sapp** — who will attend West Virginia Northern College — is the son of Chuck Sapp of Paden City.

■ **Isaac Stewart**, Cameron — This former Dragon was a tackling machine for Coach Jim Rogers during his four-year stint in Cameron.

Stewart was a first-team all-Valley and second-team all-state pick after leading the Dragons in tackles and recording a career 435 stops.

The 5-11, 185-pounder was a first-team all-Valley and all-OVAC pick as a junior.

On the wrestling mats, Stewart was a two-time state runner-up. He also played baseball.

■ **Isaac** — who is undecided on his college plans — is the son of David and Robin Stewart of Glen Easton.

■ **Chance Kildow**, Tyler Consolidated — This Silver Knight was solid on both sides of the ball this past fall for Stender and the Knights.

Kildow was a linebacker and fullback, standing 6-1, 215 pounds. He was the lead blocker for Matt Wright who was the valley's leading rusher last season.

Kildow was a second-team all-state selection, first-team all-Mid Ohio Valley and all-Valley as a senior.

Chance was also a standout

on the basketball court and baseball field during his prep days.

■ **Chance** — who will attend Mt. Union College — is the son of Chad Kildow and Barb Kildow of Sistersville.

■ **Preston Duck**, Linsly — This former Cadet was a standout as both a fullback and a defensive end for Coach Terry DePew's team.

The 5-11, 210-pound Duck was the Cadets' team captain this past season.

Duck was an all-OVAC pick and was the recipient of a coach's award at Linsly.

Along with football, Duck also participated on the Cadets' track team in the shot put and discus.

■ **Preston** — who will attend Washington & Jefferson — is the son of Franklin and Donna Duck of Aliquippa, Pa.

■ **Tom Contraguerrero**, Wheeling Central — This former Maroon Knight was a two-way standout for Coach Jim Thomas this past season.

Contraguerrero was a force at defensive end as well as tight-end, helping the Knights to another playoff appearance.

The 6-0, 205-pounder was a first-team all-Stater, all-OVAC, all-Valley and was voted team MVP this past season.

Contraguerrero was also a member of the Maroon Knight state championship basketball team last winter.

Tom — who is an invited

football walk-on at West Virginia — is the son of Robert and Jody Contraguerrero of Wheeling.

■ **Tim Cashdollar**, Oak Glen — This former Golden Bear was a go-to-player on both sides of the ball for Coach Tom Taylor's team last fall.

Cashdollar was the team's premier running back, rushing for 500 yards on 100 carries. He scored six touchdowns and he also scored four touchdowns through the air.

He was also a standout strong safety on the defensive side of the ball.

■ **Tim** — who will attend West Virginia Northern — is the son of Eric and Julie Murray of Chester.

■ **Brian Casto**, Paden City — This 5-10, 160-pounder was a versatile player for Coach Brett Croasman and the Wildcats.

Casto saw time at quarterback, wide receiver, running back and in the defensive backfield.

He was a first-team all-OVAC, all-Mason Dixon, all-Mid Ohio Valley and Special Mention all-State.

■ **Brian** — who will attend Fairmont State College — is the son of Ron and Joanna Casto of Paden City.

■ **Kyle Ackermann**, Wheeling Park — This former Patriot punter and kicker was a standout on both the football and soccer fields last fall.

The 6-2, 235-pounder was a second-team all-state punter as both a junior and a senior.

On the soccer field, Ackermann was a first-team all-state goalie as a junior.

■ **Kyle** — who is the son of Dave and Connie Ackerman — will take over the kicking duties at Fairmont State.

Wesson Rounds Out Buckeye Squad With Talented Defenders

For The News-Register

Dan Wesson and his Ohio Buckeyes will report to camp today for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

The current Shenandoah Zeps' head coach completed his roster today, announcing some of his defensive players and his placekicker for the July 25 contest to be played at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We have a lot of kids pegged for defense who were exceptional offensive players," Wesson said. "We really like the versatility of our players and we are looking forward to getting into camp."

The Buckeyes and Mountaineers will check in today at noon to their home for the upcoming week at West Liberty State College.

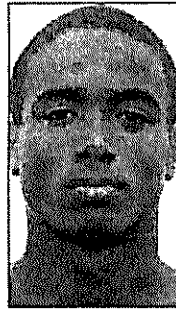
After going through routine physicals the players will hit the field for practice Sunday evening.

"I am really looking forward to the game," Wesson said. "It's definitely going to be an enjoyable experience getting to meet a lot of the kids you coached against and some kids you read about during the season."

Wesson announced that Steubenville's Scott Kennedy and Meadowbrook's Craig Cross have been added to the squad as offensive linemen.

Here is a capsule look at each player:

■ **Gabe Gordon**, Monroe Central — This former Seminole linebacker has been one of the cornerstones of the success for Monroe and head coach Jay Circosta over the past four years.



Jeffreys



Spiczenski

The 6-1, 200-pounder rushed for more than 800 yards as a fullback, while leading the Seminoles in tackles from his line-backing spot.

■ **Gabe** — who will attend Geneva College — is the son of Paul and Cindy Gordon of Clarington.

■ **Danny Spiczenski**, Barnesville — This former Shamrock enjoyed a tremendous four-year run under coach Al Treherne.

The 5-11, 225-pound Spiczenski was a valuable fullback and linebacker. He was one of the Shamrocks' leading tacklers the past two seasons.

Spiczenski was a three-time all-Ohio Honorable Mention selection, three-time first-team all-Eastern District pick, all-OVAC, all-Valley and all-Times Leader. He earned the team's "Best Linebacker Award" the past two seasons.

■ **Danny** — who will attend Miami, OH — is the son of Mike and Lynn Spiczenski of Barnesville.

■ **Nathan Hedge**, Shenandoah — This Zep graduate was one of the key pieces of the puzzle for Wesson and company last fall.



Gordon



Darby

The 6-4, 205-pound Hedge was a force from his outside linebacker post.

For his fine season, he was named first-team all-Eastern District and first-team all-OVAC.

■ **Nathan** — who is undecided about his future plans — is the son of Marlan and Rose Hedge of Caldwell.

■ **Vince Kuntz**, Edison — This former Wildcat was all over the field for head coach Dave Everson the past several years.

The 6-0, 200-pounder was one of the team's top tacklers and defensive players from his linebacker post.

Kuntz was named second-team all-Area, Honorable Mention all-OVAC, special mention all-Eastern District.

Kuntz was also a standout for the Wildcats' baseball team for four seasons.

■ **Vince** — who will attend Muskingum College — is the son of William and Cindy Kuntz of Toronto.

■ **Maurice Jeffreys**, Bellaire — This former Big Reds' defensive back was one of the key cogs in the defensive unit for Coach John Magistro this past fall.



Kennedy



Kuntz

Jeffreys was one of the valley's top corners, posting nine interceptions.

■ **Jeff** — who will attend Kent State East Liverpool — is the son of Tim and Diana Dalrymple of East Liverpool.

■ **Scott Kennedy**, Steubenville — This former Big Red offensive and defensive lineman was a mainstay on the line for Coach Reno Saccoccia.

The 5-11, 215-pounder was nose tackle and an offensive guard for Big Red.

Kennedy was the recipient of the Big Red Football Mom's Scholarship and the Calvin Jones Big Red Achievement Award.

■ **Scott** — who will enroll at Mount Union College — is the son of Vickie and Bob May of Steubenville.

■ **Craig Cross**, Meadowbrook — This 6-2, 245-pound former Colt was a three-year regular for the Byesville-based school on both sides of the line.

■ **Cross** was Honorable Mention all-OVAC, all-ECOL. He was a first-team all-Eastern District selection.

■ **Craig** — who will attend Urbana College — is the son of Larry and Denise Cross of Cumberland.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

HANDLING the quarterbacking duties for the Ohio squad in Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All Star Charity Classic are Shenandoah's Keith Selock (left) and Monroe Central's Josh Ischy (right).

It's all relative: • OVAC game features many players with past connections

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Being a good football player must be a trickle-down effect.

Case and point...the rosters for this Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic.

A lot of the players who reported to training camp Sunday at West Liberty State College to begin preparations for the 34th annual All-Star Classic had a place to go for advice before coming to camp.

Of the 63 players in camp for both Ohio and West Virginia, 20 have had previous members of their families take part in the game, which took on OVAC sponsorship in 1972, but has been in existence since 1940.

The Mountaineers of Coach John Stender have 15 players on their roster who had family members take part in the game. Ohio has only five, but two of those Buckeyes have seen their share of the game.

No one in the game is more familiar with it than Martins Ferry's Trevor Bruney who is the seventh member of his family to take part.

"It's kind of special to be here because of the family tradition we sort of have going," Bruney said. "I am happy and proud to be here representing my school and also our family, and I just hope to continue the tradition."

Trevor's dad and former head coach Dave Bruney played in the

See, **OVAC**, Page B2

www.timesleaderonline.com

OVAC

Continued from Page B1

game in 1969, which was a 12-6 victory by West Virginia.

Dave has coached and won the game four times, leading the Buckeyes to a blow-out 47-13 win in 1979 when he was the head coach at Bridgeport.

Since taking over at Ferry, Bruney has guided the Buckeyes to wins in 1983(26-16), 1999 (32-0) and last year's game, which was a hard-fought 32-26 win.

During the 2000 summer, Bruney came to Wheeling Island to watch his brother, Zac, help lead the Buckeyes to a hard-fought 13-7 win in a game that appeared to be headed toward a tie before the Buckeyes pulled it out in the waning moments.

Trevor's grandfather Art Bruney got the tradition rolling in the all-star game when he took part in the 1947 affair, which was a 13-7 win by the Mountaineers.

Other Bruney's who have taken part in the game include: Craig Bruney (1999), Tommy Bruney (1981), Bobby Dean Bruney (1984) and Freddie Bruney (1989).

All told, the Bruney family owns a 7-3 record in the OVAC All-Star game.

Another member of the Buckeyes' backfield, Shadyside's Stevie Kernik, is quite familiar with the OVAC All-Star Classic.

Just two years ago, Stevie was in attendance at Wheeling Island Stadium to watch his brother Mike Kernik lead Ohio to a 19-12 win over West Virginia from the quarterback position.

"I have always wanted to play in this game," Kernik said. "I really enjoyed watching my brother play (over here), and I hope I can do as well as he did."

Stevie's grandfather, Mike Kernik, was a member of the Ohio squad in 1952, which resulted in a 26-13 win by the Bucks.

On the West Virginia sideline, quarterback Brad Kouski has had OVAC football in his blood for quite sometime.

Bellaire's duo of Adam Lucci and Maurice Jeffreys have both had relatives takepart. Lucci's father, Gay, was on the team during a 1966 Ohio victory.

Kouski is now the third generation of the family to take part in the game.

"All of these kids come from great programs," Wesson said. "A lot of the names in these communities don't change and that allows the tradition to carry on. These kids all come from good stock, and it's been a real pleasure for me to get to know them."

Brad's father, Tom, was one of the Mountaineers who took down Bruney and the Buckeyes in the 1969 game and his grandfather, John Kouski, was on the inaugural Mountaineer team in 1940.

Linsly's Mark Plumby has been to quite a few OVAC All-Star games in his 18 years. His dad, Dave, has been on the West Virginia coaching staff four times and his older brother Rob played in the 1998 affair.

OVAC NOTES

■ **TONIGHT** is the annual George Strager Evening With the Stars at the White Palace at Wheeling Park. The event begins at 7 p.m. and will include the players, cheerleaders and Queen of Queens candidates.

■ **THE McDonald's All-Star Band and OVAC All-Star Cheerleaders** report to West Liberty State College today to begin their preparations for Sunday's 7:15 p.m. kickoff.

■ **BOTH** squads will have an opportunity to test out the new turf at Wheeling Island Stadium before Sunday's game. The Buckeyes will work out on the game field Thursday morning and West Virginia will get its chance Friday.

■ **OFFICIALS** for the game have been chosen. The head referee will be Bill Walter; Tony Pietro is the umpire; Bob Craig is the linesman; Mark Beebe is the line-judge; Tom Constantini is the back judge and Jerry Ames is the side judge.

■ **THINK** the OVAC All-Star Game is a piece of cake to put together?...think again. It's reported that game director Bob Koch and his staff will work upwards of 70 hours this week alone before the final horn sounds Sunday. That's not counting the time leading up the game.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

All-Star Coaching Staffs Set

Head coaches for OVAC gleam game to have familiar assistants

For The News-Register

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's annual Rudy Mumley All Star Football Classic is not just an honor for the players selected to play in the game.

It's also an honor for the coaching staffs selected to work the annual gleam game, which is slated for July 25th at Wheeling Island Stadium.

For West Virginia head coach and retiring Tyler Consolidated coach John Stender, it's the third time he's had the honor bestowed upon him.

For Shenandoah's Dan Wesson, it will be a new experience.

Here is a capsule look at the West Virginia and Ohio coaching staffs:

WEST VIRGINIA

John Stender

This veteran of football sidelines has decided to call it quits after 32 years of caching football with 26 of those spent as a head coach.

The Paden City High graduate owns a career record of 180-105. His resume includes a 1983 state championship at the former Tyler County High School and a runner-up finish in 1986. All told, his teams have made 12 playoff appearances and had two undefeated regular seasons in 1987 and 1988.

Rob Caldwell

This West Virginia assistant has been around the game of football for several years, including the previous 18 as an assistant and the last 10 on Stender's staff.

Robert Jones Jr.

This long-time Stender assistant will also be making his third appearance in the OVAC game as a coach.

Jones has been on the Stender staff for the past 21 years, including the previous 11 at Tyler Consolidated.

Ryan Walton

This Silver Knight assistant played under Stender and has since returned to serve on his coaching staff.

Walton has been coaching at Tyler Consolidated for the past four years and has been in the football coaching ranks for the previous six. He currently handles the junior high program for the Silver Knights.

Chris Wisvari

This former River High athlete completed his first season on the Stender staff.

Before coming to Tyler, Wisvari served on the River High staff for two seasons. He also coached freshman hoops for the



Photo by Rick Thorp

John Stender, left, and Dan Wesson, right, will lead West Virginia and Ohio, respectively, in the upcoming all-star game.

Monroe County school.

OHIO

Dan Wesson

Since taking over the Zeps' program some seven years ago, Wesson has turned Shenandoah into a perennial power.

He has led the Zeps to three consecutive playoff berths, including three straight home games in the first round. Wesson - who owns a career record of 53-24 - was named Eastern District Coach of the Year and PVC Coach of the Year. He was also a finalist for the prestigious OVAC Coach of the Year.

Rob Pachuta

This 21-year veteran of the football coaching ranks will make his first appearance in the OVAC All-Star Game.

Pachuta has been at Shenandoah for 13 years and has been on Wesson's staff for the past five seasons. Prior to coming to Noble County, he was on the staff at Cambridge High.

Justin Denius

This Shenandoah graduate has been working at his alma mater for seven years, including six as an assistant under Wesson.

Denius currently serves as the head baseball coach at Shenandoah. He was PVC Coach of the Year in 2002 and coached in the eastern district all-star game that same season.

Tim Wilson

This Zeps assistant has been on the staff since Wesson received

the job some nine years ago.

Wilson has been coaching football for 10 years, including one season at his alma mater Shady-side.

Wilson is a graduate of Ohio University and Marygrove College. He was active in football and basketball during his prep days.

Greg Heller

This Ohio assistant just completed his first season under Wesson this past fall.

He has been at Shenandoah for nine years, but only one was spent as an assistant coach.

Heller is a Dover High graduate and went on to complete his bachelor's degree at Ohio University.

Tom Perkins

This Zep assistant received the opportunity to play in the OVAC game during the summer of 1991 now has the chance to work with the players.

Perkins has coached football for seven years, including the past six as part of Wesson's staff. He has also coached football at Fairborne High School.

Perkins - who currently serves as Shenandoah track coach - earned PVC Coach of the Year for his work with the Zep thin-clads.

Eric Nejus

This member of the Ohio staff is the lone coach to not come from Shenandoah. He is currently on Rich Wright's Beaver Local staff.

Wesson preparing Ohio squad for battle in football contest

Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic slated Sunday

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

WEST LIBERTY, W.Va. — Dan Wesson received his share of good-natured needles from the media at Monday's press day for the 33rd annual Rudy Mumley Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Charity All-Star Classic on the campus of West Liberty State College.

After all, the pressure is on the Shenandoah High coach, his staff and the Buckeye players who will be out to extend Ohio's string of victories to 10 in the annual mid-summer extravaganza at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Although, just shaking his head and offering "thanks a lot" when reminded that West Virginia's last win in the all-star showcase came in 1994, Wesson did express his gratitude at being selected to guide the Ohio grid-ers this year.

"It's a lot of work, but the class of the OVAC and the way they run this is very special," said Wesson, who has guided the Zeps to three consecutive Ohio Division V playoff appearances and was a finalist for the OVAC Coach of the Year honor for the 2003-04 school year. "It was very refreshing to come into camp and meet some of these guys. We had a few who didn't show for various reasons, but those who are here are dynamite kids. That kind of quality, you just want to be around.

"It's kinda rekindled or stirred my

motors a little," he added. "I think it will be real exciting come Sunday night and I'm anxious to be a part of it."

Wesson said fans attending the 7:15 p.m. contest will get a good dose of Zep football both offensively and defensively, but his eyes widen when he thinks of some of the weapons at his disposal.

"We're going to run our offense and our defense for the most part," Wesson related, and having Keith (SHS quarterback Keith Selock) and Adam Lee is helpful.

"We've got guys like Eddie Hamilton (Cambridge), Nate Hubbard (Steubenville) and Trevor Bruney (Martins Ferry) who understand the game and I want to get them the ball.

"We'll try to spread the wealth around because they all want their hands on the ball," the Buckeye coach continued, "but we talked a lot about the team aspect and they're all about what they can do to help the team come Sunday night."

Wesson also marveled at how quickly the players are coming together to understand a system new to all but the four Zeps (Selock and Lee are joined by SHS teammates Nathan Hedge and Cody Miley).

"That's a credit to their high school coaches and programs that we can get right in there and talk concepts and schemes so quickly," he said.

Wesson is joined by SHS coaches Rob Pachuta, Tom Perkins, Tim Wilson, Greg Heller and newcomer Derek Leach, the former Zep who has concluded a successful playing career at Mount Union College. An outsider, so to speak, is Eric Nejus of Beaver Local, a valuable addition to the Ohio staff as an interior line coach according to Wesson.

"This is a great learning experience for our staff, too," Wesson said. "We're able to get together and meet and this will get us ready to go after it once we get back (to Shenandoah)."

Local players joining the Shenandoah quartet on the Ohio squad are Cambridge running back-flanker Hamilton, Meadowbrook lineman Craig Cross, Buckeye Trail lineman Zach Miller and Barnesville full-back-linebacker Dan Spiczenski.

In addition to two-a-day workouts at West Liberty, there will be several game-related activities throughout the week. On Tuesday, it's the Osiris Shrine film and pizza party at the Student Union; on Wednesday, the McDonald's All-Star Band participants and the OVAC Cheerleaders report to West Liberty and the George Strager Evening with the Stars banquet for all of the participants takes place at Wheeling Park's White Palace; on Thursday, the Ohio team will travel to Wheeling Island Stadium for its first look at the new artificial turf surface and there will be an ice cream social

in the evening; on Friday, the Queen of Queens Pageant is slated at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling; and on Saturday, there will be a pep rally at Russek Field on the WLSC campus.

Tickets for the game are available locally at The Daily Jeffersonian in Cambridge. Advance tickets are \$7 and all tickets at the game will cost \$10.



Local players on OVAC Ohio squad



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

These eight players will represent the local area in the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic this Sunday evening at 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium. Shown here are, front row, l to r, Dan Spiczenski of Barnesville, Craig Cross of Meadowbrook, Zach Miller of Buckeye Trail and Eddie Hamilton of Cambridge. In back are Cody Miley, Adam Lee, Nathan Hedge and Keith Selock, all of Shenandoah.

Spiczenski, Guida earn Strager Scholarships

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

The festivities surrounding the 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic kicked into full gear Wednesday evening.

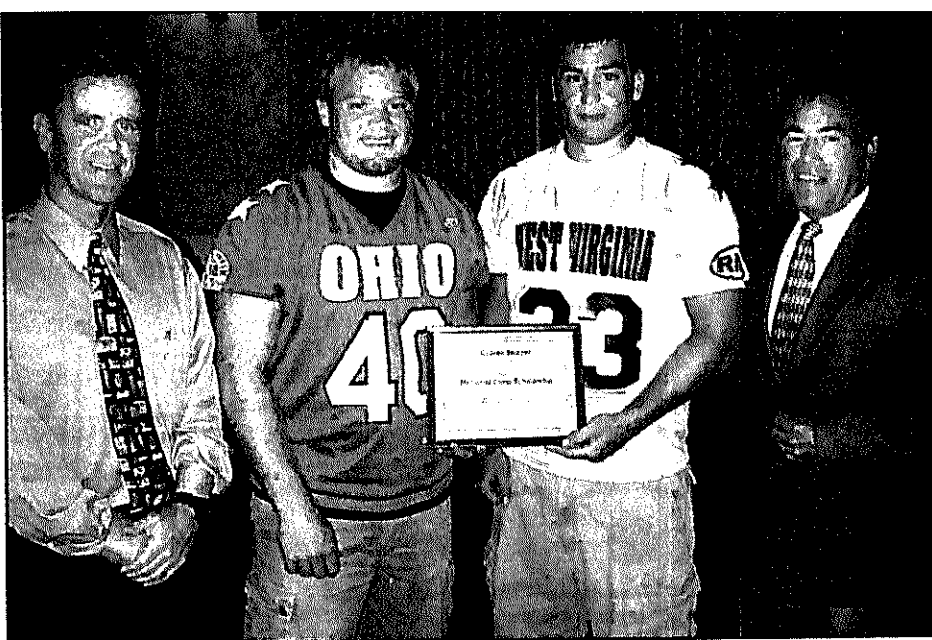
The players, coaches, cheerleader and Queen of Queens candidates all gathered at the White Palace at Wheeling Park to take part in the 18th annual George Strager Evening With the Stars.

The evening honors the former St. Clairsville High football coach who died in the middle 90s.

"I knew Coach Strager, Rudy (Mumley) and Sam (Mumley) all real well and it was a real privilege to know them," said West Virginia head coach John Stender. "Those three gentleman were all great people who were great for the kids of the Ohio Valley."

"I don't the right words to describe Coach Strager, but he was a great man who was an institution in the Ohio

See, STRAGER, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

TWO GEORGE Strager Memorial Scholarships were presented during the 18th annual Strager Evening with the Stars. From left, are presenter Kelly Rine, recipient Danny Spiczenski (Barnesville), recipient J.J. Guida (Weirton Madonna) and presenter Mike Young.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

HANDLING some of the running back duties for the Ohio squad in Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity Football Classic are, from left, Steubenville's Nate Hubbard, Shadyside's Steve Kernik and Cambridge's Eddie Hamilton.

● Strager

Continued from Page B1

Valley."

Wesson -- who played his high school ball at Claymont and coached on the small-college level before taking over at Shenandoah -- never had the opportunity to meet Strager personally, but he was a member of a Mustang team, which squared off with St. Clairsville.

"It's kind of ironic that I played against him when he was coaching," Wesson said.

"I was never fortunate enough to meet him personally, but I have talked to a lot of people who knew him and I know what he meant to the Ohio Valley and to football."

As part of the festivities, two George Strager Memorial Scholarships were awarded to a player from Ohio and West Virginia who took part in the 2003 Strager Football Camp help in late June at St. Clairsville.

Former players under Strager -- Mike Young and Kelly Rine -- presented a pair of \$500 scholarships. Barnesville's Danny Spiczenski and Weirton Madonna's J.J. Guida received the awards.

"I wish I had a chance to know Coach Strager because it definitely sounds like he was a great man," the personable Spiczenski said. "It was a very nice camp when I attended and I am very proud to have earned this award."

The game preparations continued Wednesday with both squads going full gear for two sessions.

Both Wesson and Stender said they plan to scale back the workouts as Sunday's 7:15 p.m. kickoff approaches.

"Things are really going well," Wesson explained. "We were sluggish the first couple of days, but the kids have come out and worked hard and we have been going at it pretty good."

The Buckeyes are thin after seeing their roster sliced to 30 after three players didn't report training camp.

"We have 14 kids on one side of the ball and 15 on the other (plus a kicker), so that doesn't leave you with too many backups," Wesson continued.

"We think we are going to start working with some kids on both sides of the ball in case we need someone due to injury or something."

The Ohioans were schedule to travel to Wheeling Island Stadium this morning for a 9 a.m. workout on the newly installed turf.

"We are going to go down there and try to get acclimated," Wesson said. "A lot of these kids haven't played on turf, so we need to get them some work on it."

Other than the few normal bumps and bruises,

Wesson reports that his team is doing quite well in the training room.

"In football, you are always going to have those types of injuries, but we haven't had anything where a kids has had to miss a practice," Wesson said. "But let's knock on wood because we can't afford to have anyone hurt."

The same can't be said for Stender and his Mountaineers who were dealt a serious blow in the injury department Wednesday.

Magnolia's Jonathan Kemp wasn't released by his doctor to play in the game, citing an eye injury he received during an American Legion baseball game nearly a week ago.

"Jonathan is going to dress and go through the pre-game, but we aren't going to use him," Stender said. "That hurts us too because we are now down to one quarterback (Brad Kouski), but we have to find a back-up."

Stender has yet to name his back-up quarterback, but he knows his line is going to have to rise to the occasion to protect Kouski.

"Our line is going to have to block," Stender said. "We have to protect the heck out of him because he's the guy who's taken 100 percent of the reps this week."

The 'Eers will work out twice today before getting their chance on the turf at Wheeling Island Friday morning.

"Our offensive and defensive schemes are in and now we just have to fine tune and make sure we have our rotations ready," Stender said. "Everyone is going to get to play as much as possible."

OVAC GAME NOTES

■ **STENDER** was joined at West Liberty State College Wednesday by his wife Diana who is serving as the cheering coach for West Virginia. Like, her husband, she too is retiring from coaching at Tyler Consolidated.

■ **THE HONORARY** officials for Sunday's game are: Tom Costello of Weirton; Art Olson of Bridgeport and Jack Schuetz of Wheeling.

■ **ADVANCE** tickets for the game are still on sale at various Ohio Valley businesses, including all local Krogers. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the gate.

■ **KUDOS** to Wheeling Park High principal Dianna Vargo for continuing the Strager Evening with the Stars as a first-class event. Vargo took on the position as event coordinator this year.

■ **TONIGHT** the players, coaches and cheerleaders will be treated to an ice-cream social at West Liberty.



Stender Selects Skilled Group of Receivers

For The News-Register
John Stender isn't much for the passing offense. However, with the quarterbacks and now the receivers he's assembled for the annual OVAC All-Star Football Classic, Mountaineer fans could look for a changing trend.

"I definitely like to run the (football), but we will throw it about 30 percent of the time during a normal game," Stender said. "We'll definitely try to throw it, but Ohio has some big kids, so we must protect the quarterback."

The Mountaineer receivers possess size and speed, which will make them solid targets for West Virginia quarterbacks Brad Kouski and Jonathan Kemp.

Lining up on the flanks for Stender will be: Nick Estep (Tyler Consolidated), Jason Fazio (Bishop Donahue), Justin Friend (Wheeling Park), Nathan Peluchette (Wheeling Central) and Magnolia's Dusty Shepherd.

"We have a really nice group of skill players," Stender offered. "We are trying to keep kids in the same spots where they played in high school is possible."

Here is a capsule look at the players:

■ Nick Estep, Tyler Consolidated — This lanky wide receiver enjoyed a solid senior season under Stender this past fall.

The 5-ft-11, 165-pounder was a first-team all-OVAC and Mid-Ohio Valley selection. He was named Special Mention All-State and Special Mention all-Valley.

Estep — who plans to attend West Virginia University — was also active in basketball and track at Tyler. He was a National Honor Society member, Spanish Club, Math Field Day, Boys' State Delegate and Bridgewater Leadership Academy.

He is the son of Carmen Estep and Philip Estep of Sistersville.



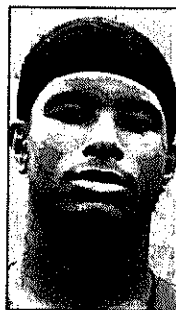
Friend



Peluchette



Shepherd



Turner



Estep



Fazio

■ Jason Fazio, Bishop Donahue — This former Bishop wide out battled back from injuries during his junior season to enjoy an outstanding senior season.

The 6-ft-4, 175 pounder was Donahue's leading receiver under Coach John Durdines' offense. For his fine season, he was named second-team all-OVAC, First-Team all-Mason Dixon, First-Team all-Valley and Honorable Mention all-State.

Fazio was also a solid baseball player, earning Honorable Mention all-state as a sophomore and first-team all-OVAC as a junior.

He was a second-team all-OVAC pick this past spring.

Fazio — who plans to attend West Virginia University — was also a member of the Key Club, Marist Youth Group and Special Olympics volunteer.

He is the son of John and Theresa Fazio of Moundville.

■ Justin Friend, Wheeling Park — This 6-ft-4, 200 pound target was the go-to-man for Kouski this past fall.

Friend was on the receiving end of 41 passes for 591 yards. He found the endzone five times under head coach Mark Nardone.

Friend was also a standout defensive back, holding both the single season and career records

for interceptions. He was a first-team all-state defensive back and first-team all-OVAC and all-Valley.

Along with football, Friend was active in basketball, track and baseball. He was also a member of the President's Varsity Athletic Club, S.A.D.D., Habitat for Humanity, Walk 4 Life, Light the Night Cancer Walk and Special Olympics.

Friend — who will play football at Tiffin University in the fall — is the son of Jim and Carla Friend of Wheeling.

■ Nathan Peluchette, Wheeling Central — This former Maroon Knight was a key cog in the success of Coach Jim Thomas' squad the past several seasons.

Peluchette was one of the Knights' top defensive backs and wide receivers.

The 6-ft, 180 pounder was named second-team all-State, all-OVAC and all-Valley this past fall. He is also listed amongst Who's Who Among American High School Athletes.

Peluchette — who plans to attend West Virginia University — is also a member of the National Honor Society and National Foreign Language Honorary.

Peluchette is the son of Paul and Nancy Peluchette of Wheeling.

■ Eric Turner, Weir — This former Red Rider was one of the premier wide receivers in the Ohio Valley and West Virginia.

Turner caught 39 passes for 620 yards. He scored eight touchdowns for Coach Tony Filbert.

The 6-ft, 165 pounder was named first-team all-state defensive back and was also named the captain of the defensive unit. He was also an all-OVAC selection.

Turner — who accepted an invited walk-on invitation at WVU — was also active in basketball, track and swimming. He was also a member of Hy-Y.

He is the son of Cassandra Jeter and Eric Turner of Weirton.

■ Dusty Shepherd, Magnolia — This former Blue Eagle was a true go-to player for Coach Mark Batton this past fall.

Shepherd was the valley's leading receiver, hauling in 64 catches for 643 yards. He scored only one touchdown.

The 6-ft-2, 185 pounder was also a standout linebacker, earning first-team all-state on the defensive side of the ball. He was also a first-team all-Valley and all-OVAC 3-A pick.

Shepherd — who plans to attend Duquesne University — is the son of Tim and Carmen Shepherd of New Martinsville.



Ohio Squad's Receiving Corps Loaded With Talent

For The News-Register
When Ohio head coach Dan Wesson was selecting his wide receivers and tight ends for the OVAC All-Star Classic he found himself in a quandary.

The problem wasn't who to pick because he had numerous options.

The problem was trying to figure out how he was going to be able to get all of the receivers and tight ends into the offense to keep them happy.

Today, Wesson has announced his wide receivers and tight ends for the OVAC game, which is slated for July 25 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We are definitely excited about the kids we picked for receivers and tight ends," Wesson said. "There is so much talent to pick from, we feel we got a great group of kids at those positions."

Lining up at wide receiver for the Buckeyes will be Cambridge's Eddie Hamilton, Shadyside's Josh Pyles, Monroe Central's Josh Ischy, Union Local's B.A. Starr and Indian Creek's Ivan Stein.

Martins Ferry's Nick Stankovich and Shenandoah's Cody Miley were selected as tight ends.

Here is a capsule look at the players:

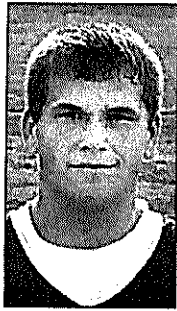
■ Bobby Briggs, Shadyside — This tight end was a solid blocker, pass catcher and defensive end for Coach Ty Fleming's Tigers this past season.

The 6-ft-2, 200 pounder was one of the top targets in the Shadyside offense. He was also a constant in oppositions' backfields from his defensive end spot, registering a team-leading 10 sacks.

He was an all-Eastern District pick, all-Valley and all-Times Leader selection.

Briggs — who plans to attend Northwestern College in Ohio — is the son of Terry Briggs and Robert Briggs of Bellaire.

■ Eddie Hamilton, Cambridge — This former Bobcat was one of the more versatile players in



Stankovich



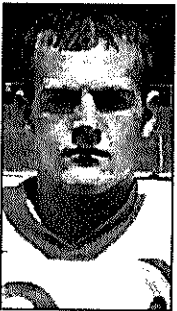
Briggs



Pyles



Ischy



Starr



Stein



Miley



Hamilton

the Ohio Valley under the guidance of Rick Goodrich.

Hamilton rushed for better than 1,500 yards and scored 21 touchdowns on the ground. He was also a factor as a receiver. All told, Hamilton scored 23 touchdowns.

Hamilton was a first-team all-Eastern District, all-ECOL and all-OVAC pick. He was selected second-team all-Ohio in Division III.

Hamilton — who is undecided about his future plans — is the son of Tonia and Nate Womak of Cambridge.

■ Josh Ischy, Monroe Central — This former Seminole was quite versatile for head coach Jay Circosta.

Ischy saw time at wide out as a junior before shifting to quarterback his senior season. He was also a threat with his legs to run the ball. Ischy was one of the top Seminole pass catchers during his junior season.

The 5-ft-8, 160 pounder was an all-OVAC and all-PVC pick. He was also an all-Eastern Dis-

trict selection and Special Mention all-Ohio.

Ischy — who is the son of John and Maria Ischy of Sardis — plans to attend Mt. Union College.

■ Cody Miley, Shenandoah — This 6-ft-4, 210 pound tight end was the Zeps' leading receiver this past fall.

Miley caught more than 30 passes last season and was named all-OVAC and all-District.

Miley — who is the son of James and Beth Ann Miley — plans to attend Muskingum College this fall.

■ Josh Pyles, Shadyside — This former Tiger flourished in Coach Ty Fleming's pass-oriented offense.

Pyles was one of the go-to-receivers for the Orange this past season, hauling in 27 passes for 626 yards, which is an average of 23.2 yards per grab. He also scored seven times.

The 5-ft-11, 180 pounder was a first-team all-Valley and all-Eastern District pick. He was also an Honorable Mention All-Ohio honoree. Pyles is also listed

amongst Who's Who Among American High School Athletes.

Pyles — who plans to attend West Liberty State College — is the son of Elaine Greathouse of Shadyside.

■ Nick Stankovich, Martins Ferry — Jack of all trades. That is what this former Purple Rider did for Coach Dave Bruney this past fall.

Along with serving as the team's tight end, Stankovich was also the team's place kicker and a defensive standout for the Riders who advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

Stankovich was named first-team all-District, all-OVAC and was a Special Mention All-Ohio honoree. He was also selected to the all-Times Leader team.

Stankovich — who plans to attend Washington & Jefferson College — is the son of Nick and Sheryl Stankovich of Martins Ferry.

■ B.A. Starr, Union Local — This former Jet was an unsung player for Coach Jim Hoover's team this past fall.

The 6-ft, 190 pounder was primarily a blocking tight end for the Jets' run-oriented offense.

Starr was an Honorable Mention all-OVAC and all-District pick.

Starr — who plans to attend either Ohio University Eastern or Muskingum College — is the son of Bruce and Theresa Starr of Bethesda.

■ Ivan Stein, Indian Creek — Dual threat. That is exactly what this former Redskin was for first-year coach Andrew Connor this past fall.

Stein was a threat on the ground, racking up 954 yards rushing on 178 carries.

He also caught 28 passes for 222 yards, scoring nine total touchdowns.

The 5-ft-11, 170 pounder was named first-team all-OVAC 3-A, Second-Team all-Eastern District and first-team Quad-County.

Stein — who is planning to attend Marietta College — is the son of Mark and Ardis Stein of Mingo.

Wesson Announces Offensive Backfield

For The Intelligencer

Ohio head coach Dan Wesson announced his intended quarterbacks and running backs for the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Classic, which is slated for July 25 at the newly renovated Wheeling Island Stadium.

Wesson has selected three quarterbacks, three tailbacks and a pair of fullbacks for the all-star classic, which is slated for a 7 p.m. kick.

"We picked a lot of athletes who are versatile," Wesson said. "When you select an all-star team you have to pick as many athletes as you can, so you can get some versatility."

"We will try to play as many people in positions in which they are familiar, but some may have to move around, but all of the kids we have are more than capable of that."

Set to run the Ohio offense is Wesson's own quarterback from Shenandoah Keith Selock. He will battle for time with East Liverpool's Justin McElhaney.

"After talking to different coaches about this game, they all said the same thing: 'Take your own quarterback if you can,'" Wesson relayed. "Keith knowing the system will definitely help because we only have six days to get ready."

The Buckeye tailbacks will have speed to burn with a trio of all-Ohio players.

Steubenville's Nate Hubbard, Beaver Local's Josh Pastore and Martins Ferry's Trevor Bruney all enjoyed superb seasons last fall and will tote the leather for the Bucks.

"We have outstanding speed at the tailback spot," Wesson said. "All three of our tailbacks come from great programs that like to run the ball and all had great years."

Serving as the H-back in Wesson's offense will be Shadyside's



Hubbard



Bruney



Kernik



Hunter

Steve Kernik and Toronto's Charlie Hunter.

"The fullback or H-Back spot is a very important position in our offense," Wesson said. "Again, we are happy with who we have selected and feel we have some outstanding players who will be more than capable of doing the job."

Here is a capsule look at the above seven players:

■ Keith Selock, Shenandoah — This 6-0, 175-pounder was the trigger man behind the Zeps' high-powered offense, which advanced to the Region 19 title game.

Selock passed for more than 900 yards and was also an adept rusher.

He also saw time in the defensive secondary.

Selock was rewarded for his fine season by being named first-team all-Ohio in Division V, first-team all-OVAC and all-PVC. He was also the AP Eastern District Division V Player of the Year.

Selock hasn't decided between Muskingum College and Marietta College as his destination for next year.

He is the son of Pam Buckey and Jon Selock of Caldwell.

■ Justin McElhaney, East Liverpool — This former Potter enjoyed a stellar senior season under veteran head coach Bob Thayer.

McElhaney passed for better than 850 yards and three touch-

downs.

He, too, is a more than capable threat with his legs as much as his arm. He rushed for more than 500 stripes.

The 6-0, 180-pounder was a first-team all-District pick. He was also a first-teamer on the all-Quad County Team, all-OVAC. He was Honorable Mention all-Ohio and received the Player of the Year Award from East Liverpool.

Along with football, McElhaney is a member of the Potters' baseball team.

McElhaney — who plans to attend Baldwin-Wallace — is the son of Dale McElhaney of East Liverpool.

■ Trevor Bruney, Martins Ferry — This former Purple Rider enjoyed a break-out season under father and head coach Dave Bruney.

This Mt. Union College recruit was the Ohio Valley's third-leading rusher with 1,309 yards on 201 carries. He also scored 14 touchdowns, helping the Purple to the Division IV playoffs and their first-ever post-season win.

Bruney — who played in the Ohio North-South Game earlier this summer — was named to the Ohio Division IV First Team. He was also all-Eastern District first team, All-Valley and All-OVAC.

In addition, he was named offensive captain of the All-Times Leader team.

The 5-11, 190-pounder was

also active in track and field at Ferris. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Renaissance Club, Chy-Phy, Spanish Club.

Trevor is the seventh member of the Bruney family to take part in the game.

His brother Zac was a member of the 2000 squad and Dave played in the 1969 game. He was also the winning coach in last season's classic.

Trevor Bruney is the son of Dave and Cheryl Bruney.

■ Nate Hubbard, Steubenville — This Big Red tailback played a huge role in the 13-1 season put together by Steubenville this past fall.

Hubbard finished his senior season with 1,305 yards on 211 carries.

He scored 15 touchdowns, helping Coach Reno Saccoccia's club to the state semifinals and the AP Poll title.

The 5-6, 165-pounder was named to the Division III first-team all-Ohio squad. He was also named All-Valley, All-OVAC and named to the All-Area team. Hubbard is the second leading rusher in Big Red history.

Hubbard — who will attend the University of Cincinnati — is the son of Nathaniel and Christine Hubbard of Steubenville.

■ Josh Pastore, Beaver Local — This former Beaver tailback flourished in the Wing-T style offense put together by head coach Rich Wright.

Pastore was one of the Ohio Valley's premier tailbacks rushing for 1,456 yards on 156 carries. He helped the Beavers to a 10-0 season and a berth in the Division III playoffs.

He was named to the All-OVAC and All-Review team. He was also a first-teamer on the all-Eastern district squad.

Pastore — who earned a full football scholarship to Kent — is

the son of Toni and James Pastore of Salineville.

■ Stevie Kernik, Shadyside — This rugged Tiger was one of the key cogs in the success of the Tigers over the past four years.

Kernik has been a four-year regular for Coach Ty Fleming's team. He rushed for more than 800 yards in a Shadyside offense, which is built around the passing game.

He became the all-time leading rusher in Shadyside history during his senior season.

Kernik also a standout defensive player for the Tigers, was named to the first-team All-Ohio squad in Division VI in 2003. He is also a two-time All-Valley pick.

He was a member of the All-Eastern District First Team and also the OVAC 1-A squad. He was chosen to the All-Times Leader team.

Stevie is also a member of the National Honor Society and Multi-Media Club. He was a two-time state track qualifier for the Tigers.

Kernik's brother Michael was the Ohio quarterback two years ago.

Steve Kernik — who will attend Capital University — is the son of Mike and Lori Kernik of Shadyside.

■ Charlie Hunter, Toronto — This former Red Knight enjoyed a strong season on both sides of the ball for Coach Ed Weidger.

Hunter rushed for more than 700 yards and was one of the team's top tacklers on the defensive side of the ball.

The 5-11, 200-pounder was named to the first-team all-District squad, all-OVAC 2-A and second-team all-Ohio this past season.

Hunter — who is undecided about his future plans — is the son of Charles and Cheryl Hunter of Toronto.

OVAC seeks 1994 All Stars

As a part of the OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, the 1994 All-Star Football Team, managers, doctors and Queen of Queens representatives will be honored. OVAC All-Star Reunion director Steve Kish, Jr. is seeking addresses or contacts for all of the football players.

The Ohio All-Stars needed are as follows:

Barnesville -- Josh Marks; Beaver Local -- Josh Eels; Bellaire -- Shawn Valloric and David Bohus; St. John's -- Ty Liberatore; Beallsville -- Rick Decker; Buckeye Local -- Greg Singleton, Greg McCain and Jason Peltz; Cadiz -- Mark Smith; Cambridge -- Ben Knapp; Edison -- Kevin Kuntz; Indian Creek -- Ryan Bodo; Martins Ferry -- Mikale Robey, Chad Martin; Meadowbrook -- Matt Dawson; River -- Todd Blake, Rico Simonetti; Shadyside -- Mike Soos and Mark Tyler; St. Clairsville -- Heath Jordan and Rich Theil; Steubenville -- Richard Parrish, Robert Lamantia and Mario Costantini; Steubenville Central -- Mike Orlando, Michael Kuczykowski and Donald Thorn; Union Local -- Justin Abel, Toronto -- Matt Bell; Woodsfield -- Chris Dalrymple; Bishop Donahue -- Jason Marling; Brooke -- Todd Clark; Cameron -- Carl Pettit; John Marshall -- Ian Icard, Larry Bunting, Nat Hairston; Linsly -- Jamie Youssef and B.J. DePaw; Magnolia -- Jon Price, Jay Fletcher and Jerry Rice; Oak Glen -- Charlie Licata, Mike Barnhart, Adam Hoover, Clayton Henderson; Paden City -- Joff Starcher; St. Mary's -- Ron Branch and Eric Smith; Tyler -- Jeff Hunt, Tom Phillips, Luke Henderson and Bobby West; Valley -- Robert Brown; Weir -- Art Miller; Wheeling Central -- Bill Isaly, Jeremy Tiu; Wheeling Park -- Dennis Glatz, Jed Reed, Todd Kislinski, Bob Bennett.

Anyone knowing the addresses of the above players, trainers, managers and coaches should contact Kish at 1-740-453-9146.

Additionally, any other 1994 all-star participants who have not been contacted should please contact Kish.

OVAC tickets on sale now

Advance tickets for the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic are currently on sale at numerous agencies around the Ohio Valley.

The cost of the tickets is \$7 in advance, while all tickets bought at the gate will cost \$10.

The advance sale will end July 24 at midnight.

The businesses where the tickets can be bought include:

Bellaire - Kroger; Calcutta - Bowyer Hardware; Cambridge - The Jeffersonian; East Liverpool - Heimes All Sports; Martins Ferry - Kroger; Shadyside - DeFelice Brother's Pizza; Steubenville - Kroger on Hollywood Blvd; Wintersville - Kroger; Woodsfield - Weber's Drug Store; Zanesville - Kroger; Benwood - Kroger; Cameron - Greg's Market; Chester - Citizen Drug; Moundsville - Kroger; New Martinsville - Witschey's Supermarket; Warwood - Kroger; Weirton - Kroger St. Thomas Drive and Main Street; Wellsburg - Kroger; Wheeling - Kroger (Mt. DeChantal Road).

Rosters announced for OVAC Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

King Football is about to make its return to the Ohio Valley.

Though the start of the regular season is still more than two months away, the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic is taking center stage.

Game director Bob Koch has announced the rosters and coaching staffs for the game, which is slated for Sunday, July 25 on the freshly installed turf of Wheeling Island Stadium.

Shenandoah head coach Dan Wesson

was selected to guide the Ohio Stars after leading his Zeps to a brilliant 10-0 regular season and the OVAC 2-A championship. His team advanced to the regional final before bowing to eventual state runner-up Amanda Clearcreek.

Though it's 2-A's turn in the cycle to coach the annual summer event, the OVAC game committee opted to go with retiring Tyler Consolidated head coach John Stender who led his Knights to the West Virginia 2-A playoffs this past fall.

The OVAC game marks the second all-star game of the summer for Stender who coached in the West Virginia

North-South Game earlier this month.

"This game is always fun and a great showcase for the players," Stender said. "We have a lot of kids who played for us in the North-South game and we have a lot of other kids who were very deserving of playing in that game, but the rules only allow you to take so many kids from each school."

Filling out the Buckeye roster was no easy chore for Wesson who has more than 30 schools to choose from, while Stender has just 13 football-playing West Virginia schools.

"We have about one-third of the players to choose from that Ohio has,"

Stender said. "They have a lot of larger schools, but not having as many kids to pick from helps a little bit, and I was happy that we are able to represent so many of the schools."

"Wesson Quote"

The Ohio roster is lined with big-school talent, featuring 10 players from the 4-A schools.

Of those 10, six helped lead their teams to the Ohio Division III playoffs. Beaver Local -- which was 10-0 and advanced to the second round of the playoffs before falling to Steubenville -- has three representatives on the team. Adam Hoppel (6-ft-2, 260), Josh

Pastore (5-ft-10, 205) and Jeff Dalrymple (6-ft-2, 185) all accepted invitations to the game.

Steubenville, meanwhile, which was also 10-0, won the AP Poll title and advanced to the state semifinals landed two roster spots.

All-Ohio tailback Nate Hubbard (5-ft-6, 165) and lineman Ryan Witkowski (6-ft-0, 250) earned spots on the squad.

Buckeye Local -- which won the OVAC 4-A title on the strength of a 10-0 ledger -- got one bid to the game. Lineman Anthony Sable (6-ft-4, 243)

See, **OVAC**, Page C3

● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

was honored.

East Liverpool got two bids to the team. Potter selections included: Andre Dawson (6-ft-2, 280) and Justin McElhaney (6-ft, 180).

Cambridge was awarded a spot on the team as tailback Eddie Hamilton (5-ft-10, 185) was selected to play.

Edison's Vince Kuntz (6-ft, 200) earned a spot on the team thanks to a strong regular season under now Zanesville head coach Dave Everson.

Ohio's Class 3-A schools were awarded a total of eight spots on the team, two teams snaring five of those.

Bellaire -- which won the OVAC 3-A title and advanced to the state semifinals -- got two bids to the team. Defensive back Maurice Jeffreys (6-ft, 190) and offensive lineman Adam Lucci (6-ft-1, 320) were both selected.

Martins Ferry -- which advanced to the second round of the Division IV playoffs -- also had two bids.

All-Ohio tailback Trevor Bruney (5-ft-11, 190) -- who played in the Ohio North-South Game -- will be lining up in the Buckeye backfield. Bobby Kittle (6-ft-2, 245) was the other Purple Rider to be named to the game.

Tightend Nick Stankovich (6-ft-1, 210) was also selected to play from Coach Dave Bruney's team.

Harrison Central all-Ohio offensive lineman Brandon Agostini (6-ft-2, 225) was picked to play in the game.

St. Clairsville's Dan Howard (6-ft-2, 210) earned a spot on the Ohio roster after a strong regular season.

Union Local earned a roster spot on the team when B.A. Starr (6-ft-0, 190) was picked. Indian Creek's lone representative will be Ivan Stein (5-ft-11, 170).

Shenandoah heads Class 2-A as Wesson selected four of his own players.

Quarterback Keith Selock (6-ft-0, 175) leads the way. He will be joined by Cody Miley (6-ft-4, 210), Adam Lee (6-ft, 215) and Nathan Hedge (6-ft-4, 205).

Shenandoah's PVC-rival Monroe Central got two spots on



the team as all-Ohio linebacker Gabe Gordon (6-ft-1, 200) and versatile quarterback Josh Ischy (5-ft-8, 160) were selected.

Barnesville's Danny Spiczenski (5-ft-11, 225) was selected to the game as was Toronto's Charlie Hunter (5-ft-11, 200), Buckeye Trail's Zach Miller (6-ft-1, 228) and Steubenville Central's Lou Almonte (6-ft-3, 240).

Shadyside -- which won the OVAC 1-A title and advanced to the regional final -- led Class 1-A with three selections.

Two-time all-Ohioan Steve Kernik (5-ft-10, 200) was selected to the game along with classmates Josh Pyles (5-ft-11, 180) and Bobby Briggs (6-ft-2, 210).

Beallsville quarterback Greg Darby (6-ft, 180), was the only other selection from a 1-A school.

The West Virginia roster, meanwhile, has multiple players from all but five schools.

"I was very surprised and excited with the number of players who said yes," Stender said. "We only picked a few kids who couldn't play, so I was very pleased with that."

"We have some speed on this team along with some size, so we think we can have a pretty formidable team," Stender continued.

Wheeling Park -- the OVAC's biggest schools -- led the way amongst all schools with five selections.

All-state fullback Cody Tominack (5-ft-11, 217) will be joined in Mountaineer camp by quarterback Brad Kouski (5-ft-11, 170), placekicker Kyle Ackerman (6-ft-2, 225), lineman Jesse Nelson (6-ft-1, 218) and wide out Justin Friend (6-ft-4, 200).

Weir High -- which advanced to the second round of the Double A playoffs -- was rewarded with four spots on the all-star team.

Representing the Red Riders will be: Eric Turner (6-ft, 164), Mark Vance (6-ft-4, 310), Joe Petrovich (5-ft-10, 260) and Aaron Gurskey (5-ft-10, 235).

Brooke High received four bids to the all-star game. Representing Coach Dave Reitter's team will be: Derek Ankrum (6-ft-2, 142), Anthony Capp (6-ft-0, 200), Bill Sadler (6-ft-1, 180) and Derrick Molnar (5-ft-9, 240).

Stender was able to select five of his own players off a Silver Knights' squad, which reached the Double A playoffs.

Powerful running back Matt Wright (6-ft-3, 220) -- who was the leading rusher in the Ohio Valley last fall -- leads the way. He will be joined by: Michael Wells (6-ft-1, 210); Craig Sandy (6-ft-4, 220), Chance Kildow (6-ft-1, 215) and Nick Estep (5-ft-11, 165).

Magnolia received two bids to the game with Jonathan Kemp (6-ft-2, 190) and Dusty Shepherd (6-ft-2, 185). Oak Glen's lone representative on the squad is Tim Cashdollar (5-ft-10, 185).

Wheeling Central -- which is the lone West Virginia school in Class 2-A earned three spots to the team. Tightend Tom Contraguero (6-ft, 205), fullback Marshall O'Brien (6-ft-3, 235) and wideout Nathan Peluchette (6-ft, 180).

Linsly leads the charge in Class 1-A. The Cadets got four bids to the game with tailback Mark Plumby (5-ft-11, 195), fullback Preston Duck (5-ft-11, 210), lineman Matt Miller (6-ft-3, 270) and lineman Joe Rohrig (6-ft-4, 285).

Weirton Madonna running back J.J. Guida (6-ft, 205) was selected. Paden City got a pair of spots with Ryan Sapp (5-ft-10, 150) and Brian Casto (5-ft-10, 155) were picked.

Bishop Donahue's Jason Fazio (6-ft-3, 173) and Cameron's Isaac Stewart (5-ft-11, 185) round out the Mountaineer roster.

West Virginia defense selected for OVAC Game

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

Training camp for the annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Rudy Mumley All-Star Charity Football Classic kicks off today and West Virginia head coach John Stender selected most of his

defensive units.

The Mountaineers and Buckeye report to West Liberty State College today at noon for the game, which is slated for Sunday at 7 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We tried to find kids who were versatile," Stender said.

"We went after athletic kids who were good kids in terms of playing and off the field."

"We know Ohio has some good players on the offensive side of the ball, but we really like the people we've assembled to play defense."

Stender selected many of the

same people to play on his OVAC team that suited up for the North squad in the West Virginia North/South Game, which the former Tyler coach also guided.

"Most of these kids were with us in (the North/South Game) and they know the system, so

that's a big advantage," Stender admitted. "The system we will use will be primarily the same, so that should help the process."

Set for linebacking duty is Chance Kildow (Tyler Consolidated), Isaac Stewart (Cameron), Cody Tominack (Wheeling Park), Michael Wells

(Tyler Consolidated).

Some of the players set for defensive line duty are: Preston Duck, (Linsly), Mark Vance (Weir), Tom Contraguero (Wheeling Central). Defensive back candidates include: Ryan

See, WEST VIRGINIA, Page C4

● West Virginia

Continued from Page C1

Sapp (Paden City), Brian Casto (Paden City) and Tim Cashdollar (Oak Glen).

Wheeling Park's Kyle Ackerman will handle the place kicking duties.

Here is a capsule look at the players:

CODY TOMINACK, Wheeling Park -- This former Patriot was one of the Ohio Valley's biggest bruisers from both his fullback and his linebacker spot.

The 5-ft-11, 217 pounder rushed for better than 700 yards and led the Patriots in tackles this past fall.

Tominack was a three-time all-Valley, all-State, all-OVAC this past season. He was also a finalist for the Huff Award.

Tominack was also a standout wrestler for the Patriots, winning the OVAC title this past winter. He was also selected to take part in the OVAC All-Star Wrestling match.

Along with athletics, Tominack was active in Student Council, Varsity Athletic Club, Class Treasurer, Ski Club, S.A.D.D.. He is listed among the National Honor Society and a four-year member of the High Honor Roll.

Cody -- who will attend West Virginia University -- is the son of John and Dena Tominack of Valley Grove.

MARK VANCE, Weir -- This former Red Rider was a mainstay for Coach Tony Filberto's team the past four seasons, earning four letters.

The 6-ft-4, 310 pound Vance was a two-way tackle for Weir and was listed as Honorable Mention all-State.

Vance was also active in Hi-Y during high school career.

Mark -- who is the son of Stacey Vance of Weirton -- will attend Thiel College this fall.

MICHAEL WELLS, Tyler -- This two-way standout made his presence felt as both a linebacker and a tightend for Stender and the Silver Knights last fall.

The 6-ft-1, 210 pounder -- who will attend Bethany College -- was an Honorable Mention all-OVAC and second-team all-state pick last season.

Wells was also active in track, baseball and basketball for the Knights.

Michael is the son of Mike and KayLynn Wells of Friendly.

RYAN SAPP, Paden City -- This former Wildcat was a wide receiver during his prep days, but will see time in the secondary for the Mountaineers.

The 5-ft-10, 150 pounder was a first-team all-OVAC, all-Mason Dixon Conference, second-team all-State and second-team Mid Ohio Valley Conference.

Sapp -- who will attend West



Virginia Northern College -- is the son of Chuck Sapp of Paden City.

ISAAC STEWART, Cameron -- This former Dragon was a tackling machine for Coach Jim Rogers during his four-year stint in Cameron.

Stewart was a first-team all-Valley and second-team all-state pick after leading the Dragons in tackles and recording a career 435 stops.

The 5-ft-11, 185 pounder was a first-team all-Valley and all-OVAC pick as a junior.

On the wrestling mats, Stewart was a two-time state runnerup. He also played baseball.

Isaac -- who is undecided on his college plans -- is the son of David and Robin Stewart of Glen Easton.

CHANCE KILDOW, Tyler Consolidated -- This Silver Knight was solid on both sides of the ball this past fall for Stender and the Knights.

Kildow was a linebacker and fullback, standing 6-ft-1, 215 pounds. He was the lead blocker for Matt Wright who was the valley's leading rusher last season.

Kildow was a second-team all-state selection, first-team all-Mid Ohio Valley and all-Valley as a senior.

Chance was also a standout on the basketball court and baseball field during his prep days.

Chance -- who will attend Mt. Union College -- is the son of Chad Kildow and Barb Kildow of Sistersville.

PRESTON DUCK, Linsly -- This former Cadet was a standout as both a fullback and a defensive end for Coach Terry DePew's team.

The 5-ft-11, 210 pound Duck was the Cadets' team captain this past season.

Duck was an all-OVAC pick and was the recipient of a coach's award at Linsly.

Along with football, Duck also participated on the Cadets' track team in the shot put and discus.

Preston -- who will attend Washington & Jefferson -- is the son of Franklin and Donna Duck of Aliquippa, Pa.

TOM CONTRAGUERRO, Sapp -- who will attend West

Maroon Knight was a two-way standout for Coach Jim Thomas this past season.

Contraguero was a force at defensive end as well as tight-end, helping the Knights to another playoff appearance.

The 6-ft-0, 205 pounder was a first-team all-Stater, all-OVAC, all-Valley and was voted team MVP this past season.

Contraguero was also a member of the Maroon Knight state championship basketball team last winter.

Along with sports, Contraguero is a member of National Honor Society, National Foreign Language Honor Society, G.U.T.S and Peer Ministry.

Tom -- who is an invited football walk-on at West Virginia -- is the son of Robert and Jody Contraguero of Wheeling.

TIM CASHDOLLAR, Oak Glen -- This former Golden Bear was a go-to-player on both sides of the ball for Coach Tom Taylor's team last fall.

Cashdollar was the team's premier running back, rushing for 500 yards on 100 carries. He scored six touchdowns and he also scored four touchdowns through the air.

He was also a standout strong safety on the defensive side of the ball.

Cashdollar was also a member of the Oak Glen wrestling and baseball teams.

Tim -- who will attend West Virginia Northern -- is the son of Eric and Julie Murray of Chester.

BRIAN CASTO, Paden City -- This 5-ft-10, 160 pounder was a versatile player for Coach Brett Croasmun and the Wildcats last fall.

Casto saw time at quarterback, wide receiver, running back and in the defensive backfield.

He was a first-team all-OVAC, all-Mason Dixon, all-Mid Ohio Valley and Special Mention all-State.

Brian -- who will attend Fairmont State College -- is the son of Ron and Joanna Casto of Paden City.

KYLE ACKERMAN, Wheeling Park -- This former Patriot punter and kicker was a standout on both the football and soccer fields last fall.

The 6-ft-2, 235 pounder was a second-team all-state punter as both a junior and a senior.

On the soccer field, Ackerman was a first-team all-state goalie as a junior.

Kyle is also active in the Wheeling Park Television Department where he earned the 2004 Outstanding "On Air" Award.

Kyle -- who is the son of Dave and Connie Ackerman -- will attend Fairmont State.

Wednesday,
July 7, 2004

Wesson announces Ohio backfield

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Ohio head coach Dan Wesson announced his intended quarterbacks and running backs for the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Classic, which is slated for Sunday July 25 at the newly renovated Wheeling Island Stadium.

Wesson has selected three quarter-

backs, three tailbacks and a pair of full-backs for the all-star classic, which is slated for a 7 p.m. kick.

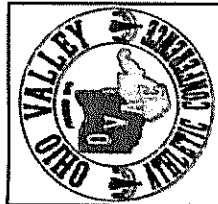
"We picked a lot of athletes who are versatile," Wesson said. "When you select an all-star team you have to pick as many athletes as you can, so you can get some versatility."

"We will try to play as many people in positions in which they are familiar, but some may have to move around, but

all of the kids we have are more than capable of that."

Set to run the Ohio offense is Wesson's own quarterback from Shenandoah Keith Selock. He will battle for time with

East Liverpool's Justin McElhane-



After talking to different coaches about this game, they all said the same thing: "Take your own quarterback if you can," Wesson relayed. "Keith knowing the system will definitely help because we only have six days to get ready."

The Buckeye tailbacks will have speed to burn with a trio of all-Ohioids. Steubenville's Nate Hubbard, Beaver Local's Josh Pastore and Martins

Ferry's Trevor Bruney all enjoyed superb seasons last fall and will tote the leather for the Bucks.

"We have outstanding speed at the tailback spot," Wesson said. "All three of our tailbacks come from great programs that like to run the ball and all had great years."

Serving as the H-back in Wesson's

See, **OVAC**, Page B2

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

offense will be Shadyside's Steve Kernik and Toronto's Charlie "Choo Choo" Hunter.

"The fullback or H-Back spot is a very important position in our offense," Wesson said. "Again, we are happy with who we have selected and feel we have some outstanding players who will be more than capable of doing the job."

Here is a capsule look at the above seven players:

KEITH SELOCK, Shenandoah -- This 6-ft-0, 175 pounder was the trigger man behind the Zeps' high-powered offense, which advanced to the Region 19 title game.

Selock passed for more than 900 yards and was also an adept rusher. He also saw time in the defensive secondary.

Selock was rewarded for his fine season by being named first-team all-Ohio in Division V, first-team all-OVAC and all-PVC. He was also the AP Eastern District Division V Player of the Year.

Selock hasn't decided between Muskingum College and Marietta College as his destination for next year.

Keith is the son of Pam Buckey and Jon Selock of Caldwell.

JUSTIN McELHANEY, East Liverpool -- This former Potter enjoyed a stellar

senior season under veteran head coach Bob Thayer.

McElhane passed for better than 850 yards and three touchdowns. He, too, is a more than capable threat with his legs as much as his arm. He rushed for more than 500 stripes.

The 6-ft, 180 pounder was a first-team all-District pick. He was also a first-teamer on the all-Quad County Team, all-OVAC. He was Honorable Mention all-Ohio and received the Player of the Year Award from East Liverpool.

Along with football, McElhane is a member of the Potters' baseball team.

Justin -- who plans to attend Baldwin-Wallace -- is the son of Dale McElhane of East Liverpool.

TREVOR BRUNEY, Martins Ferry -- This former Purple Rider enjoyed a break-out season under father and head coach Dave Bruney.

This Mt. Union College recruit was the Ohio Valley's second-leading rusher with 1,309 yards on 201 carries. He also scored 14 touchdowns, helping the Purple to the Division IV playoffs and their first-ever post-season win.

Bruney -- who played in the Ohio North-South Game earlier this summer -- was named to the Ohio Division IV First Team. He was also all-Eastern District first time, all-Valley and all-OVAC. He was named offensive captain of the all Times Leader team.

The 5-ft-11, 190 pounder was also active in track and field at Ferry. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Renaissance Club, Chy-Phy, Spanish Club.

Trevor is the seventh member of the Bruney family to take part in the game. His brother Zac was a member of the 2000 squad and Dave played in the 1969 game. He was also the winning coach

in last season's classic.

Trevor is the son of Dave and Cheryl Bruney.

NATE HUBBARD, Steubenville -- This Big Red tailback played a huge role in the 13-1 season put together by the Crimson this past fall.

Hubbard finished his senior season with 1,305 yards on 211 carries. He scored 15 touchdowns, helping Coach Reno Saccoccia's club to the state semifinals and the AP Poll title.

The 5-ft-6, 165 pounder was named to the Division III first-team all-Ohio squad. He was also named all-Valley, all-OVAC and named to the all-Area team. Hubbard is the second leading rusher in Big Red history.

Nate -- who will attend the University of Cincinnati -- is the son of Nathaniel and Christine Hubbard of Steubenville.

JOSH PASTORE, Beaver Local -- This former Beaver tailback flourished in the Wing-T style offense put together by head coach Rich Wright.

Pastore was one of the Ohio Valley's premier tailbacks rushing for 1,456 yards on 156 carries. He helped the Beavers to a 10-0 season and a berth in the Division III playoffs.

Josh was named to the all-OVAC and all-Review team. He was also a first-teamer on the all-Eastern district squad.

Pastore -- who earned a full football scholarship to Kent -- is the son of Toni and James Pastore of Salineville.

STEVIE KERNIK, Shadyside -- This rugged Tiger was one of the key cogs in the success of the Tigers over the past four years.

Kernik has been a four-year regular for Coach Ty Fleming's team. He rushed for more than 800 yards in a Shadyside offense, which is built around the passing game. He became the all-time leading rusher in Shadyside history.

Kernik also a standout defensive player for the Orange.

Kernik was named to the first-team all-Ohio squad in Division VI in 2003. He is also a two-time all-Valley pick.

He was a member of the all-Eastern District First Team and also the OVAC 1-A squad. He was chosen to the all Times Leader team.

Stevie is also a member of the National Honor Society and Multi-Media Club. He was a two-time state track qualifier for the Tigers.

Kernik's brother Michael was the Ohio quarterback two years ago.

Stevie -- who will attend Capital University -- is the son of Mike and Lori Kernik of Shadyside.

CHARLIE HUNTER, Toronto -- This former Red Knight enjoyed a strong season on both sides of the ball for Coach Ed Weidger.

Hunter rushed for more than 700 yards and was one of the team's top tacklers on the defensive side of the ball.

The 5-ft-11, 200 pounder was named to the first-team all-District squad, all-OVAC 2-A and second-team all-Ohio this past season.

Charles -- who is undecided about his future plans -- is the son of Charles and Cheryl Hunter of

West Virginia receivers selected for OVAC Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

John Stender isn't much for the passing offense. However, with the quarterbacks and now the receivers he's assembled for the annual OVAC All-Star Football Classic,

Mountaineer fans could look for a changing trend.

"I definitely like to run the (football), but we will throw it about 30 percent of the time during a normal game," Stender said. "We'll definitely try to throw it, but Ohio has some big kids, so we must protect the

quarterback."

The Mountaineer receivers possess size and speed, which will make them solid targets for West Virginia quarterbacks Brad Kousski and Jonathan Kemp.

Lining up on the flanks for Stender will be: Nick Estep (Tyler Consolidated), Jason

Fazio (Bishop Donahue), Justin Friend (Wheeling Park), Nathan Peluchette (Wheeling Central) and Magnolia's Dusty Shepherd.

"We have a really nice group of skill players," Stender offered. "We are trying to keep kids in the same spots where they played in high school is possible.

"We are going to be willing to try everything (offensively)," Stender continued.

Here is a capsule look at the players:

NICK ESTEP, Tyler Consolidated - This lanky wide receiver enjoyed a solid senior season under Stender this past

fall. The 5-ft-11, 165-pounder was a first-team all-OVAC and Mid-Ohio Valley selection. He was named Special Mention All-State and Special Mention all-Valley.

See, **WEST VIRGINIA**, Page C4

● West Virginia

Continued from Page C1

Nick - who plans to attend West Virginia University - was also active in basketball and track at Tyler. He was a National Honor Society member, Spanish Club, Math Field Day, Boys' State Delegate and Bridgewater Leadership Academy.

Nick is the son of Carmen Estep and Philip Estep of Sistersville.

JASON FAZIO, Bishop Donahue - This former Bishop wide out battled back from injuries during his junior season to enjoy an outstanding senior season.

The 6-ft-4, 175 pounder was Donahue's leading receiver under Coach John Durdines' offense. For his fine season, he was named second-team all-OVAC, First-Team all-Mason Dixon, First-Team all-Valley and Honorable Mention all-State.

Fazio was also a solid baseball player, earning Honorable Mention all-state as a sophomore and first-team all-OVAC as a junior. He was a second-team all-OVAC pick this past spring.

Jason - who plans to attend West Virginia University - was also a member of the Key Club, Marist Youth Group and Special Olympics volunteer.

Jason is the son of John and Theresa Fazio of Moundsville.

JUSTIN FRIEND, Wheeling Park - This 6-ft-4, 200 pound target was the go-to-man for Kousski this past fall.

Friend was on the receiving end of 41 passes for 591 yards. He found the endzone five times under head coach Mark Nardone.

Friend was also a standout defensive back, holding both the single season and career records for interceptions. He was a first-team all-state defensive back and first-team all-OVAC.

Along with football, Friend was active in basketball, track and baseball. He was also a member of the President's Varsity Athletic Club, S.A.D.D., Habitat for Humanity, Walk 4 Life, Light the Night Cancer Walk and Special Olympics.

Justin - who plans to attend Tiffin University in the fall - is the son of Jim and Carla Friend of Wheeling.

NATHAN PELUCHETTE, Wheeling Central - This for-

mer Maroon Knight was a key cog in the success of Coach Jim Thomas' squad the past several seasons.

Peluchette was one of the Knights' top defensive backs and wide receivers.

The 6-ft, 180 pounder was named second-team all-State, all-OVAC and all-Valley this past fall. He is also listed amongst Who's Who Among American High School Athletes.

Nathan - who plans to attend West Virginia University - is also a member of the National Honor Society and National Foreign Language Honorary. He is a member of G.U.T.S. and a YMCA volunteer.

Nathan is the son of Paul and Nancy Peluchette of Wheeling.

ERIC TURNER, Weir - This former Red Rider was one of the premier wide receivers in the Ohio Valley and the state of West Virginia.

Turner caught 39 passes for 620 yards. He scored eight touchdowns for Coach Tony Filberto.

The 6-ft, 165 pounder was named first-team all-state and was also named the captain of the offensive unit. He was also an all-OVAC selection.

Eric - who plans to attend West Virginia University - was also active in basketball, track and swimming. He was also a member of Hy-Y.

Eric is the son of Cassandra Jeter and Eric Turner of Weirton.

DUSTY SHEPHERD, Magnolia - This former Blue Eagle was a true go-to player for Coach Mark Batton this past fall.

Shepherd was the valley's leading receiver, hauling in 64 catches for 643 yards. He scored only one touchdown.

The 6-ft-2, 185 pounder was also a standout linebacker, earning first-team all-state on the defensive side of the ball. He was also a first-team all-Valley and all-OVAC 3-A pick.

Shepherd was also a member of the Blue Eagles' state championship hoop team in 2003. He also played baseball.

Dusty - who plans to attend Duquesne University - is the son of Tim and Carmen Shepherd of New Martinsville.

C SPORTS

Sunday, July 11, 2004

Wesson announces OVAC receivers

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

When Ohio head coach Dan Wesson was selecting his wide receivers and tightends for the OVAC All-Star Classic he found himself in a quandary.

The problem wasn't who to pick because he had numerous options.

The problem was trying to figure out how he was going to be able to get all of the receivers and tightends into the offense to keep them happy.

Today, Wesson has announced his wide receivers and tightends for the OVAC game, which is slated for July

2.5 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We are definitely excited about the kids we picked for receivers and tightends," Wesson said. "There is so much talent to pick from, we feel we got a great group of kids at those positions."

"We are going to have to try to spread things out to make sure they all get their touches and keep everyone happy," Wesson continued.

Lining up at wide receiver for the Buckeyes will be Cambridge's Eddie Hamilton, Shadyside's Josh Pyles, Monroe Central's Josh Ischy, Union Local's B.A. Starr and Indian Creek's Ivan Stein.

Martins Ferry's Nick Stankovich and Shenandoah's Cody Miley were selected as tightends.

"We like our two tightends a lot, so that may allow us to go to some two tight-end formations and do some different things."

Here is a capsule look at the players: **BOBBY BRIGGS**, Shadyside -- This tightend was a solid blocker, pass catcher and defensive end for Coach Ty Fleming's Tigers this past season.

The 6-ft-2, 200 pounder was one of the top targets in the Shadyside offense. He was also a constant in opposition's backfields from his defensive end spot,

registering a team-leading 10 sacks. During the opening-round playoff game with Danville, Briggs caught a pair of touchdowns, which allowed the Tigers to advance.

Briggs was an all-Eastern District pick, all-Valley and all-Times Leader selection.

Bobby -- who plans to attend Northwestern College in Ohio -- is the son of Terry Briggs and Robert Briggs of Bellaire.

EDDIE HAMILTON, Cambridge -- This former Bobcat was one of the more versatile players in the Ohio Valley under the guidance of Rick Goodrich.

Hamilton rushed for better than 1,500 yards and scored 21 touchdowns on the ground. He was also a factor as a receiver. All told, Hamilton scored 23 touchdowns.

Hamilton was a first-team all-Eastern District, all-ECOL and all-OVAC pick. He was selected second-team all-Ohio in Division III.

The 5-ft-10, 180 pounder was also active in track during his high school career.

Eddie -- who is undecided about his future plans -- is the son of Tomia and

See, OHIO, Page C4

● Ohio

Continued from Page C1

Nate Womak of Cambridge.

JOSH ISCHY, Monroe Central -- This former Seminole was quite versatile for head coach Jay Circosta.

Ischy saw time at wide out as a junior before shifting to quarterback his senior season. He was also a threat with his legs to run the ball.

Ischy was one of the top Seminole pass catchers during his junior season.

The 5-ft-8, 160 pounder was an all-OVAC and all-PVC pick. He was also an all-Eastern District selection and Special Mention all-Ohio.

Josh -- who is the son of John and Maria Ischy of Sardis -- plans to attend Mt. Union College.

CODY MILEY, Shenandoah -- This 6-ft-4, 210 pound tightend was the Zeps' leading receiver this past fall.

Miley caught more than 30 passes last season and was named all-OVAC and all-District.

Miley was also a factor for the Zeps at his outside linebacker post.

Cody -- who is the son of James and Beth Ann Miley -- plans to attend Muskingum College this fall.

JOSH PYLES, Shadyside -- This former Tiger flourished in Coach Ty Fleming's pass-oriented offense.

Pyles was one of the go-to-receivers for the Orange this past season, hauling in 27 passes for 626 yards, which is an average of 23.2 yards per grab. He also scored seven times.

The 5-ft-11, 180 pounder was a first-team all-Valley and all-Eastern District pick. He was also a Honorable Mention All-Ohio honoree. Pyles is also listed amongst Who's Who Among American High School Athletes.

Josh -- who plans to attend West Liberty State College -- served as a flag football coach, was on Prom Committee, Spanish Club and was on the Homecoming Court.

Josh is the son of Elaine Greathouse of Shadyside.

NICK STANKOVICH, Martins Ferry -- Jack of all trades. That is what this former Purple Rider did for Coach Dave Bruney this past fall.

Along with serving as the

team's tightend, Stankovich was also the team's place kicker and a defensive standout for the Riders who advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

Stankovich was named first-team all-District, all-OVAC and was a Special Mention All-Ohio honoree. He was also selected to the all-Times Leader team.

Along with football, Stankovich was one of the valley's premier shot putters, finishing eighth in the state track meet.

Nick -- who plans to attend Washington & Jefferson College -- was also a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, T.A.P.P. and Stamp.

Nick is the son of Nick and Sheryl Stankovich of Martins Ferry.

B.A. STARR, Union Local -- This former Jet was an unsung player for Coach Jim Hoover's team this past fall.

The 6-ft, 190 pounder was primarily a blocking tightend for the Jets' run-oriented offense.

Starr was an Honorable Mention all-OVAC and all-District pick.

Along with football, Starr was a member of the Jets' hoops and baseball teams. He was also active in Spanish Club, Culture Club, Blood Drive, Veteran Appreciation Assembly.

B.A. -- who plans to attend either Ohio University Eastern or Muskingum College -- is the son of Bruce and Theresa Starr of Bethesda.

IVAN STEIN, Indian Creek -- Dual threat. That is exactly what this former Redskin was for first-year coach Andrew Connor this past fall. Stein was a threat on the ground, racking up 954 yards rushing on 178 carries. He also caught 28 passes for 222 yards, scoring nine total touchdowns.

The 5-ft-11, 170 pounder was named first-team all-OVAC 3-A, Second-Team all-Eastern District and first-team Quad-County.

Besides football, Stein was a member of the Student Council and served as senior class treasurer. He is a member of the National Honor Society and played basketball and baseball.

Ivan -- who is planning to attend Marietta College -- is the son of Mark and Ardis Stein of Mingo.

Stender picks coaches for Mumley Classic

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

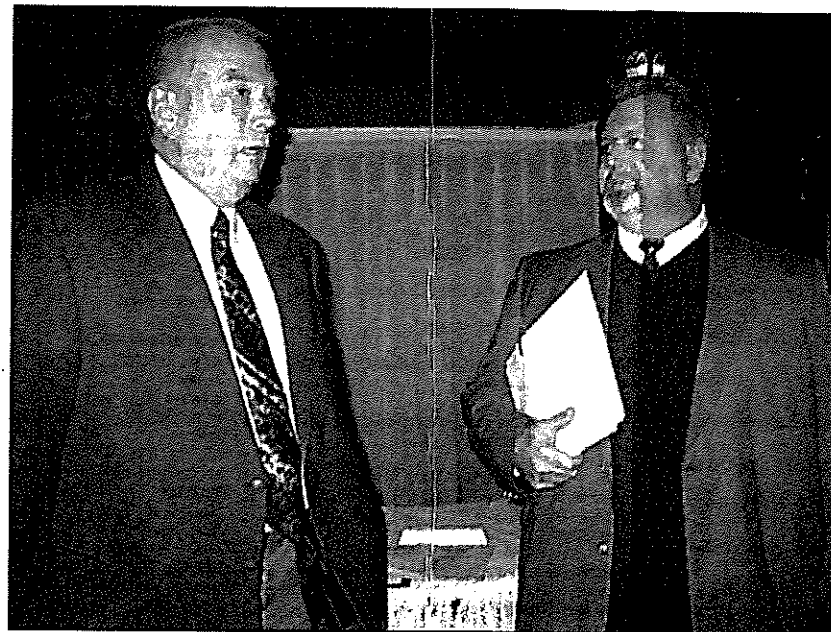
The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's annual Rudy Mumley All Star Football Classic is not just an honor for the players selected to play in the game.

It's also an honor for the coaching staffs selected to work the annual summer game, which is slated for July 25 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

For West Virginia head coach and retiring Tyler Consolidated coach John Stender, it's the third time he's had the honored bestowed upon him.

"Having the opportunity to coach in this game is always an honor," Stender said. "We feel that we picked some great kids

See, **WEST VIRGINIA**, Page C5



T-L Photo

PICTURED are the two head coaches for the upcoming Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic. West Virginia head coach John Stender is at left, with Ohio coach Dan Wesson.

Wesson announces coaching staff for OVAC All-Star Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Dan Wesson has definitely seen his fair share of Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Classics over the course of his 26-year coaching career.

During this year's game, Wesson won't have to sit in the crowd, however, seeing he and the majority of his staff from Shenandoah High will guide the Buckeye all-stars during the July 25 game at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"I am really excited about this opportunity," Wesson said. "I have had the chance to work with a few different all-star games, but this one is definitely one of the best."

Wesson earned the bid to the all-star game after guiding his Zeps to a perfect 10-0 regular season, including the OVAC 2-A title. The Zeps finished 12-

1 and finished as regional runnerup, falling to eventual state runner-up Amanda Clearcreek.

"I coached for 13 years in the small colleges, and I would always come to the game to look at players," Wesson offered. "Since I came to Shenandoah, I would always come to the game to watch the kids we have sent, and I have been impressed with all facets of the game."

Most of Wesson's coaching staff will join him on the sidelines for the game. The Ohio coaching staff includes: Tim Wilson, Greg Heller, Tom Perkins, Rob Pachuta and Justin Denius.

"Our coaching staff has been together for a while now," Wesson said. "Tim (Wilson) and I have been together since I came to Shenandoah. We feel we have a really knowledgeable staff, and we are

See, **OHIO**, Page C5

www.timesleaderonline.com

● Ohio

- Continued from Page C1

going to do our best to win the football game."

Here is a capsule look at the Ohio coaching staff:

DAN WESSON - Since taking over the Zeps' program some seven years ago, Wesson has turned Shenandoah into a perennial power.

He has led the Zeps to three consecutive playoff berths, including three straight home games in the first round. Wesson - who owns a career record of 53-24 - was named Eastern District Coach of the Year and PVC Coach of the Year. He was also a finalist for the prestigious OVAC Coach of the Year.

The Claymont High School graduate served as head coach at Urbana University from 1994-96 and prior to that he was the defensive coordinator at Waynesburg College. He also served on the Muskingum College coaching staff.

Wesson has also worked at River View High School and Claymont High School.

Wesson was also the head coach of the Muskingum wrestling team from 1979-81. During that span, he produced five All-Americans and 10 national qualifiers. He also won three President Conference titles as the Waynesburg golf coach.

The 26-year veteran of football coaching also serves as the athletic director at Shenandoah.

Wesson is a 1978 graduate of Muskingum College. He eventually earned his Master's Degree from Dayton in 1989.

Dan and his wife Beth Anne have two children: Doug and Holly Anne. They also have three grandchildren, Allison, Baily and Whitney.

TIM WILSON -- This Zeps assistant has been on the staff since Wesson received the job some nine years ago.

Wilson has been coaching football for 10 years, including one season at his alma mater Shadyside.

Wilson is a graduate of Ohio University and Marygrove College. He was active in football and basketball during his prep days.

Tim's wife Julie is a former Queen of Queens winner in 1988 from Shadyside. The couple has two children a daughter Camryn and a son Case.

GREG HELLER -- This Ohio assistant just completed his first season under Wesson this past fall.

He has been at Shenandoah for nine years, but only one was spent as an assistant coach.

Heller is a Dover High graduate and went on to complete his bachelor's degree at Ohio University.

Greg and his wife Cindy have

three children: Jensen, Caleb and Logan.

TOM PERKINS - This Zep assistant received the opportunity to play in the OVAC game during the summer of 1991 now has the chance to work with the players.

Perkins has coached football for seven years, including the past six as part of Wesson's staff. He has also coached football at Fairborne High School.

Perkins - who currently serves as Shenandoah track coach - earned PVC Coach of the Year for his work with the Zep thincads.

This Shenandoah High graduate earned NCAA All-American honors in both football and track at Ohio Northern University where he eventually earned his degree.

Tom and his wife Rachel recently gave birth to their first child this past spring.

ROB PACHUTA - This 21-year veteran of the football coaching ranks will make his first appearance in the OVAC All-Star Game.

Pachuta has been at Shenandoah for 13 years and has been on Wesson's staff for the past five seasons. Prior to coming to Noble County, he was on the staff at Cambridge High.

The Cambridge High graduate also has experience coaching softball.

Pachuta is a graduate of both Ohio University and Muskingum College.

Rob and his wife Mary Ann have two children: Michael (20) and Joseph (14).

JUSTIN DENIUS - This Shenandoah graduate has been working at his alma mater for seven years, including six as an assistant under Wesson.

Denius currently serves as the head baseball coach at Shenandoah. He was PVC Coach of the Year in 2002 and coached in the eastern district all-star game that same season.

Denius is a graduate of Marietta College. During his college career, Denius served as a volunteer for Shenandoah.

Justin and his wife Morgan have one son Cade (13 months).

ERIC NEJUS -- This member of the Ohio staff is the lone coach to not come from Shenandoah. He is currently on Rich Wright's Beaver Local staff.

He has been with the Beavers the past two seasons and he also coaches track there.

The Southside Beaver High graduate went on to earn his bachelor's degree at Youngstown State.

Eric and his wife Terri reside in Weirton.

● West Virginia

Continued from Page C1

both as players and people, so we are looking forward to the game."

Stender will take his staff at Tyler with him to the OVAC game. Included in that are newly appointed Tyler head coach Rob Caldwell, Robert Jones, Chris Wisvari and Ryan Walton.

"We definitely have some familiarity," Stender said. "This is Rob and Robert's third trip and Walton played in the game, so I think they are definitely looking forward to it again, but at the same time they have a lot of work to do to get ready for their upcoming regular season."

Stender - who usually handled the defense at Tyler - will handle the offensive unit along with Jones and Wisvari. Caldwell and Walton will handle the defensive unit.

"I am looking forward to the chance to work with the offense," Stender said. "It's actually a wholesale switch, but this change gives (Caldwell and Walton) a chance to work with the defense before the regular season begins."

Here is a capsule look at the West Virginia coaching staff:

JOHN STENDER - This veteran of football sidelines has decided to call it quits after 32 years of coaching football with 26 of those spent as a head coach.

The Paden City High graduate owns a career record of 180-105. His resume includes a 1983 state championship at the former Tyler County High School and a runner-up finish in 1986. All told, his teams have made 12 playoff appearances and had two undefeated regular seasons in 1987 and 1988.

Stender has previously served as the head boys track coach and an assistant girls basketball coach. He is currently the chief assistant on the girls' track staff.

John - who earned his bachelor's degree from West Liberty State College -- owns a Master's degree from West Virginia.

John and his wife Diana, who have been married for 27 years, have three children: Mario (21), AnaRosa (17) and Hailee (16).

ROB CALDWELL - This West Virginia assistant has been around the game of football for several years, including the previous 18 as an assistant and the last 10 on Stender's staff.

Caldwell has worked on coaching staffs at Tyler County High School, Sisterville High School and River High School before settling at Tyler Consolidated.

This River High graduate coached in the OVAC All-Star Game in both 1987 and 1998. He has also been on a coaching staff at the BACF All-Star Game in 2002.

Caldwell - who earned his bachelor's degree from West Liberty State College -- currently serves as boys' track coach. He has also worked on the basketball staff.

Rob and his wife Lori have two children: Candace (3) and Camryn (five months).

ROBERT JONES, Jr. - This long-time Stender assistant will also be making his third appearance in the OVAC game as a coach.

Jones has been on the Stender staff for the past 21 years, including the previous 11 at Tyler Consolidated. He served on the 1983 coaching staff, which won the state title. He was on the Sistersville staff for four seasons before moving to Tyler County.

Jones currently coaches basketball in the Tyler Consolidated system.

Jones is a 1973 Brooke High graduate. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in 1977 and his Master's from WVU in 1987.

Robert and his wife Deanna have three children: Julie (22), Robby (19) and Ryan (19).

RYAN WALTON - This Silver Knight assistant played under Stender and has since returned to serve on his coaching staff.

Walton has been coaching at Tyler Consolidated for the past four years and has been in the football coaching ranks for the previous six. He currently handles the junior high program for the Silver Knights.

Walton earned his bachelor's degree from Glenville State and earned his Master's from WVU.

Ryan and his wife Melinda have a daughter JoLee.

CHRIS WISVARI - This former River High athlete completed his first season on the Stender staff.

Before coming to Tyler, Wisvari served on the River High staff for two seasons. He also coached freshman hoops for the Pilots.

Wisvari earned his bachelor's degree from Washington and Jefferson where he played football. He graduated from the Wheeling Jesuit physical therapy department in 1999.

Wisvari was a member of the Ohio squad during the 1992 OVAC game, which was washed out. Chris and his wife Michelle reside in Powhatan.

Rosters Set for OVAC All-Star Game

Shenandoah's Wesson, Tyler Consolidated's Stender to coach Ohio, W.Va. teams

For The News-Register
One of the most anticipated Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic in years is set to kick off at Wheeling Island Stadium on July 25.

This year's edition of the annual midsummer classic will also serve as the coming-out party for the stadium's brand-new artificial surface.

With that in mind, game director Bob Koch has announced the full rosters and coaching staffs for the game.

While it's the Class AA school's turn to provide the coaching staffs this year, the OVAC game committee tabbed retiring Tyler Consolidated head coach John Stender to head up the West Virginia stars.

This will mark the second all-star game of the summer for Stender, who coached the North to victory in last week's West Virginia North-South All-Star Game in Charleston.

"The OVAC game is always fun and a great showcase for the players," Stender said.

"We have a lot of kids who played for us in the North-South game and we have a lot of other kids who were very deserving of playing in that game, but the rules only allow you to take so many kids from each school.

"In this game, we have about one-third of the players to choose from that Ohio has.

"They have a lot of larger schools, but not having as many kids to pick from helps a little bit, and I was happy that we are able to represent so many of the schools."

Shenandoah head coach Dan Wesson was selected to guide the Ohio stars after leading his Zeps to a brilliant 10-0 regular season and the OVAC 2-A championship. His team advanced to the regional final before bowing to eventual state runner-up Amanda Clearcreek.

As Stender noted, the Ohio roster is lined with big-school talent, featuring 10 players from Class AAAA schools.

Six of those 10 helped lead unbeaten teams to the Ohio Division III playoffs.

Beaver Local - which was 10-0 and advanced to the second round of the playoffs before falling to Steubenville - has three representatives on the team. Adam Hoppel (6-2, 260), Josh Pastore (5-10, 205) and Jeff Dalrymple (6-2, 185) all accepted invitations to the game.

Steubenville, meanwhile, which was also 10-0, won the AP Poll title and advanced to the state semifinals landed All-Ohio tailback Nate Hubbard (5-6, 165) 0, 250) on the squad.

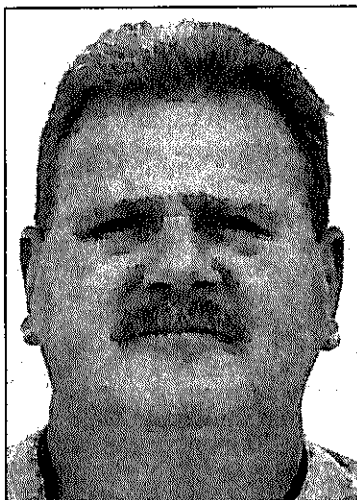
Buckeye Local - which won the OVAC 4-A title on the strength of a 10-0 ledger - is sending lineman Anthony Sable (6-4, 243).

East Liverpool selections included Andre Dawson (6-2, 280) and Justin McElhaney (6-0, 180) while Cambridge tailback Eddie Hamilton (5-10, 185) was also chosen.

Edison's Vince Kuntz (6-0, 200) earned a spot on the team thanks to a strong regular season under now Zanesville head coach Dave Everson.

Ohio's Class AAA schools were awarded a total of eight spots on the team, two teams snaring five of those.

Bellaire - which won the OVAC 3-A title and advanced to the state semifinals is sending defensive back Maurice Jeffreys (6-0, 190) and offensive lineman



Dan Wesson

Adam Lucci (6-1, 320).

Martins Ferry - which won its first-ever Ohio playoff game - has three selections with All-Ohio tailback Trevor Bruney (5-11, 190), Bobby Kittle (6-2, 245) and tight end Nick Stankovich (6-1, 210) lining up for the Buckeye boys.

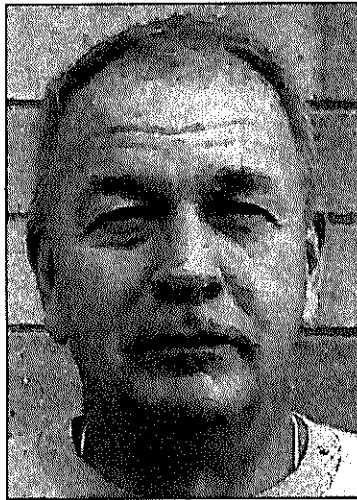
Harrison Central will be represented by All-Ohio offensive lineman Brandon Agostini (6-2, 225) while St. Clairsville's Dan Howard (6-2, 210) earned a spot after a strong regular season.

Union Local is sending B.A. Starr (6-0, 190) while Indian Creek's lone representative will be Ivan Stein (5-11, 170).

Four of Wesson's own Shenandoah players will be closing out their high school careers on the island.

Quarterback Keith Selock (6-0, 175) will be joined by Cody Miley (6-4, 210), Adam Lee (6-0, 215) and Nathan Hedge (6-4, 205).

Monroe Central is sending all-Ohio linebacker Gabe Gordon (6-1, 200) and versatile quarterback Josh Ischy (5-8, 160) while Barnesville's Dan Spiczanski (5-11, 225), Toron-



John Stender

to's Charlie Hunter (5-11, 200), Buckeye Trail's Zach Miller (6-1, 228) and Steubenville Central's Lou Almonte (6-3, 240) round out the Class AA picks.

Class A champion Shadyside is sending two-time all-Ohioan Steve Kernik (5-10, 200) along with classmates Josh Pyles (5-11, 180) and Bobby Briggs (6-2, 210) but Beallsville quarterback Greg Darby (6-0, 180) was the only other selection from a Class A school.

The West Virginia roster, meanwhile, has multiple players from all but five schools.

"I was very surprised and excited by the number of players who said yes," Stender said.

"We only picked a few kids who couldn't play, so I was very pleased with that.

"We have some speed on this team along with some size, so we think we can have a pretty formidable team."

Wheeling Park led the way with five selections.

All-state linebacker Cody Tominack (5-11, 217) will be joined in Mountaineer camp by quarterback Brad Kouski (5-11, 170), placekicker Kyle Ackermann (6-2, 225), lineman Jesse

Nelson (6-1, 218) and wideout Justin Friend (6-4, 200).

Weir High - which advanced to the second round of the Double A playoffs - will be represented by Eric Turner (6-0, 164), Mark Vance (6-4, 310), Joe Petrovich (5-10, 260) and Aaron Gurskey (5-10, 235).

Brooke High is sending Derek Ankrum (6-2, 142), Anthony Capp (6-0, 200), Bill Sadler (6-1, 180) and Derrick Molnar (5-9, 240).

Stender is bringing five players from his own Class AA playoff squad at Tyler Consolidated.

Powerful running back Matt Wright (6-3, 220) will be joined by Michael Wells (6-1, 210), Craig Sandy (6-4, 220), Chance Kildow (6-1, 215) and Nick Estep (5-11, 165).

Magnolia is sending Jonathan Kemp (6-2, 190) and Dusty Shepherd (6-2, 185) while Oak Glen's Tim Cashdollar (5-10, 185) rounds out the Class AAA picks.

Wheeling Central - West Virginia's only OVAC Class AA school - will be represented by tight end Tom Contraguero (6-0, 205), fullback Marshall O'Brien (6-3, 235) and wideout Nathan Peluchette (6-ft, 180).

Linsly leads the charge in Class 1-A. The Cadets got four bids to the game with tailback Mark Plumby (5-11, 195), fullback Preston Duck (5-11, 210), lineman Matt Miller (6-3, 270) and lineman Joe Rohrig (6-4, 285).

Weirton Madonna running back J.J. Guida (6-0, 205) was selected. Paden City got a pair of spots with Ryan Sapp (5-10, 150) and Brian Casto (5-10, 155) were picked.

Bishop Donahue's Jason Fazio (6-3, 173) and Cameron's Isaac Stewart (5-11, 185) round out the Mountaineer roster.

Players will report to camp at West Liberty State College at noon on July 18.



Game Rosters

OHIO				WEST VIRGINIA			
HEAD COACH				HEAD COACH			
Dan Wesson, Shenandoah				John Stender, Tyler Consolidated			
Players				Players			
Name	Ht.	Wt.	School	Name	Ht.	Wt.	School
Brandon Agostini	6-2	225	Harrison Central	Kyle Ackermann	6-2	225	Whg. Park
Lou Almonte	6-3	240	Steub. Central	Derek Ankrum	6-2	142	Brooke
Bobby Briggs	6-2	210	Shadyside	Anthony Capp	6-0	200	Brooke
Trevor Bruney	5-11	190	Martins Ferry	Tim Cashdollar	5-10	185	Oak Glen
Jeff Dalrymple	6-2	185	Beaver Local	Brian Casto	5-10	155	Paden City
Greg Darby	6-0	180	Beallsville	Tom Contraguero	6-0	205	Whg. Central
Andre Dawson	6-2	280	East Liverpool	Preston Duck	5-11	210	Linsly
Gabe Gordon	6-1	200	Monroe Central	Nick Estep	5-11	165	Tyler Consol.
Eddie Hamilton	5-10	185	Cambridge	Jason Fazio	6-3	173	Bishop Donahue
Nathan Hedge	6-4	205	Shenandoah	Justin Friend	6-4	200	Wheeling Park
Adam Hoppel	6-2	260	Beaver Local	J.J. Guida	6-0	205	W.Madonna
Dan Howard	6-2	210	St. Clairsville	Aaron Gurskey	5-10	235	Weir
Nate Hubbard	5-6	165	Steubenville	Jonathan Kemp	6-2	190	Magnolia
Charlie Hunter	5-11	200	Toronto	Chance Kildow	6-1	215	Tyler Consol.
Josh Ischy	5-8	160	Monroe Central	Brad Kouski	5-11	170	Wheeling Park
Maurice Jeffreys	6-0	190	Bellaire	Matt Miller	6-3	270	Linsly
Steve Kernik	5-10	200	Shadyside	Derrick Molnar	5-9	240	Brooke
Bob Kittle	6-2	245	Martins Ferry	Jesse Nelson	6-1	218	Whg. Park
Vince Kuntz	6-0	200	Edison	Marshall O'Brien	6-3	235	Whg. Central
Adam Lee	6-0	215	Shenandoah	Nathan Peluchette	6-0	180	Whg. Central
Adam Lucci	6-1	320	Bellaire	Joe Petrovich	5-10	260	Weir
Justin McElhaney	6-0	180	East Liverpool	Mark Plumby	5-11	195	Linsly
Cody Miley	6-4	210	Shenandoah	Joe Rohrig	6-4	285	Linsly
Zach Miller	6-1	228	Buckeye Trail	Bill Sadler	6-1	180	Brooke
Josh Pastore	5-10	205	Beaver Local	Craig Sandy	6-4	220	Tyler Consol.
Josh Pyles	5-11	180	Shadyside	Ryan Sapp	5-10	150	Paden City
Anthony Sable	6-4	243	Buckeye Local	Dusty Shepherd	6-2	185	Magnolia
Keith Selock	6-0	175	Shenandoah	Isaac Stewart	5-11	185	Cameron
Dan Spiczanski	5-11	225	Barnesville	Cody Tominack	5-11	217	Wheeling Park
Nick Stankovich	6-1	210	Martins Ferry	Eric Turner	6-0	164	Weir
B.A. Starr	6-0	190	Union Local	Mark Vance	6-4	310	Weir
Ivan Stein	5-11	170	Indian Creek	Michael Wells	6-1	210	Tyler Consol.
Ryan Witkowski	6-0	250	Steubenville	Matt Wright	6-3	220	Tyler Consol.

West Virginia announces backfield for OVAC All-Star Game

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

During the course of the last 10 years, Ohio has simply dominated the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Classic.

West Virginia head coach John Stender would love nothing better than to put an end to the streak and he believes he has selected skill people which will give him a solid chance.

Stender and the Mountaineer coaching staff have announced their quarter-

backs and running backs for the July 25 game, which is slated for the newly installed turf at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We took kids who are players and good athletes," Stender said. "We will have guys go one way for the most part, but we may need some guys to play on both sides in certain situations."

The Mountaineers will turn the signal-calling duties over to Wheeling Park's Brad Kouski and Magnolia's Jonathan Kemp. The pair will share time.

"We think we have two quality quarterbacks who both do some things really well," Stender continued. "Kemp's a little bigger with a little better arm, but Kouski is quicker and a better runner."

In the offense which Stender ran during his long career at Tyler, the tailback is a featured position. Set to lug the leather for the Mountaineers are Linsly's Mark Plumby, Wheeling Central's Marshall O'Brien, Brooke's Bill Sadler, Weirton Madonna's J.J. Guida and Tyler's Matt Wright.

"I like to run the football and I

always have," Stender said. "We have a nice mixture of speed backs and power back, but the key to our running game will be our offensive line's ability to keep Ohio out of our backfield."

Here is a capsule look at each player: **BRAD KOUSKI**, Wheeling Park -- This former Patriot signal caller was a solid player and a leader for Coach Mark Nardone's Patriots, which over-

came an 0-2 start to make the playoffs. Kouski completed 82-of-148 passes for 1,013 yards, 10 touchdowns and just three interceptions.

The 5-ft-11, 170 pounder was a first-team all-OVAC pick, honorable mention all-state and special mention all-Valley.

Kouski was also a standout point guard for Sam Andy's hoop team. He was second-team all-Valley, second-team all-OVAC and played in the OVAC All-Star Game.

The Bethany College basketball recruit is also a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Athletic Club, DARE and YMCA.

See, WEST VIRGINIA, Page C2

West Virginia

Continued from Page C1

Brad is the son of Tom and Ronda Kouski of Wheeling.

JONATHAN KEMP, Magnolia -- This former Blue Eagle quarterback enjoyed a banner senior season for Coach Mark Batton.

The 6-ft-2, 190-pounder was an effective passer, landing 150-of-258 aerials for 1,782 yards. He threw eight touchdowns and was intercepted seven times.

Kemp was a second-team all-OVAC pick. He was also named special mention all-state. He was a third-team all-stater in hoops as well as second-team all-OVAC. He also took part in the OVAC All-Star Game.

Kemp was also active in the school as a member of the Student Council, Service Club and Homeroom President.

Jonathan -- who plans to attend Marietta College -- is the son of Tom and Marsha Kemp of New Martinsville.

MARK PLUMBY, Linsly -- This former Cadet tailback was a combination of speed and power for Coach Terry DePew's squad this past fall.

The 5-ft-11, 190-pounder rushed for better than 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns for the Cadets.

Plumby was named second-team all-state, all-OVAC 1-A. He was also selected to the all-Valley and all-Times Leader teams. He was Linsly's leading scorer, tackler and rusher.

Plumby also helped guide the Cadets' track team to a pair of OVAC titles. He was a four-event conference champion last spring.

Mark -- who intends Lafayette College -- is the son of Dave and Sally Plumby of Wheeling.

MARSHALL O'BRIEN, Wheeling Central -- This former Maroon Knight running back was a load for opposing teams the past two seasons.

O'Brien helped lead the Knights to a state championship as a junior, rushing for well over 1,000 yards. He reached a grand this past fall as well.

O'Brien was a second-team all-state pick this past season after landing on the first team as a junior. He was an all-OVAC and all-Valley pick.

The 6-ft-3, 235-pounder intends to play college football at Glenville State.

Marshall is the son of Theresa O'Brien and

Julius Wallace.

BILL SADLER, Brooke -- This former Bruin was an effective runner for Coach Dave Reitter's team last fall.

The 6-ft-2, 180 pounder rushed for 828 yards on 120 carries, scoring eight touchdowns last season.

He was named team MVP, second-team all-state, first-team all-OVAC and second-team all-Valley.

Bill -- who will attend Marshall University -- is the son of Connie and Bob Sadler of Beach Bottom.

MATT WRIGHT, Tyler Consolidated -- This former Silver Knight was a load for opposing defenses.

Wright -- who may see time at tight end during the all-star game -- was the leading rusher in the Ohio Valley last season, churning out 1,942 yards on 219 carries. He scored 23 touchdowns for Stender. He set a single-game rushing record at Tyler with 311 yards.

Wright -- who will attend West Liberty State College -- was a first-team all-OVAC, all-Valley and all-State pick. He was the captain of the all-Valley team and took part in the West Virginia North/South Game.

Matt is the son of Roger and Robin Wright of St. Mary's.

J.J. GUIDA, Weirton Madonna -- This former Blue Don enjoyed a superb senior season for Coach Bob Kramer's team.

Guida rushed for better than 900 yards this past season, helping the Dons to a 8-2 record.

The 6-ft, 205 pounder is a National Merit Scholar and was Who's Who in Sports and Academics.

Along with football, Guida was active in S.A.D.D., Interact Club, Pep Club, Ski Club and Yearbook staff.

J.J. -- who will enroll at West Liberty State College -- is the son of Dewey and Karen Guida of Weirton.



SPORTS

Sunday, July 18, 2004

Wesson announces OVAC defense

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

Dan Wesson and his Ohio Buckeyes will report to camp today for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

The current Shenandoah Zeps' head coach completed his roster today, announcing some of his defensive players and his placekicker for the July 25 contest to be played at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We have a lot of kids pegged for defense who were exceptional offensive players," Wesson said. "We really like

the versatility of our players and we are looking forward to getting into camp."

The Buckeyes and Mountaineers will check in today at noon to their home for the upcoming week at West Liberty State College.

After going through routine physicals the players will hit the field for practice Sunday evening.

"I am really looking forward to the game," Wesson said. "It's definitely going to be an enjoyable experience getting to meet a lot of the kids you coached against and some kids you read about during the season."

Pegged for linebacking duty are:

Gabe Gordon (Monroe Central), Danny Spiczenski (Barnesville), Nathan Hedge (Shenandoah) and Vince Kuntz (Edison).

Making up some of the defensive backfield spots will be: Maurice Jeffreys (Bellaire) and Greg Darby (Beallsville).

Handling the kicking duties will be Jeff Dalrymple (Beaver Local).

Wesson also announced that Steubenville's Scott Kennedy and Meadowbrook's Craig Cross have been added to the squad as offensive linemen.

Here is a capsule look at each player:
GABE GORDON, Monroe Central -

- This former Seminole linebacker has been one of the cornerstones of the success for Monroe and head coach Jay Circosta over the past four years.

The 6-ft-1, 200 pounder rushed for more than 800 yards as a fullback, while leading the Seminoles in tackles from his linebacking spot.

Gordon was named Division V State Defensive Player of the Year in 2002 and was a two-time first-team all-Ohio selection. He was also a two-time first-team all-District and all-OVAC pick. He was also selected to the all-Times Leader team the past three seasons.

Gabe -- who will attend Geneva

College -- was also active in Key Club, Dream Team and S.T.A.M.P.

Gabe is the son of Paul and Cindy Gordon of Clarington.

DANNY SPICZENSKI, Barnesville -- This former Shamrock enjoyed a tremendous four-year run under coach Al Treherne.

The 5-ft-11, 225 pound Spiczenski was a valuable fullback and linebacker. He was one of the Shamrocks' leading tacklers the past two seasons.

Spiczenski was a three-time all-Ohio Honorable Mention selection, three-

See, OHIO, Page C4

West Virginia linemen named for OVAC Game

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

John Stender and the West Virginia coaching staff already have their offensive weapons in place.

The former Tyler Consolidated head coach has announced his men in the trenches, which will help contain a huge Ohio squad in the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic, which is slated for July 25 on the newly installed artificial turf at Wheeling Island

Stadium.

"We took the biggest and most athletic linemen we could find," Stender said. "Ohio is usually so much larger than we are we went after some big kids, but also athletic kids who could plug up some holes."

Stender believes he has the skill people to hang with the Buckeyes, but knows the game's outcome will be determined on both the offensive and defensive lines.

"Offensively, we range about 240-250, so that's a pretty

decent sized line," Stender admitted. "We have a lot of quickness up front, so we hope to be able to contain (Ohio) somewhat. If they are in our backfield, we won't be able to do anything, so the key to our success is going to be our offensive line."

Set for line duty are: Derek Ankrum (Brooke), Anthony Capp (Brooke), Aaron Gurskey (Weir), Matt Miller (Linsly), Derrick Molnar (Brooke), Jesse Nelson (Wheeling Park), Joe Petrovich (Weir), Joe Rohrig

(Linsly) and Craig Sandy (Tyler).

Here is a capsule look at the players:

DEREK ANKRUM, Brooke - This two-way lineman was a force on both sides of the ball for Coach Dave Reitter's Bruins.

The 6-ft-2, 200 pounder enjoyed a solid season and was named Special Mention all-Valley, Honorable Mention all-State and winner of the Roger Simpson Award.

Ankrum - who is bound for Grove City College - was also

the valedictorian of his class. He was also active in track, swimming, choir, S.A.D.D., Chemistry Club and Madrigal Choir and Community Theater.

Derek is the son of Dean and Erin Akrum of Wellsburg.

ANTHONY CAPP, Brooke - This former Bruin two-way lineman enjoyed a most successful senior campaign.

The 6-ft, 200 pounder opened holes for Bruin running backs and was named first-team all-OVAC, all-Valley and second-team all-state this past sea-

son.

As a junior, Capp was also named second-team all-State.

Anthony - who plans to attend West Liberty State College - is the son of Geno and Maryanne Capp of Wellsburg.

AARON GURSKY, Weir - This former Red Rider earned almost every award imaginable after a superb senior season.

Gurskey was a force on both sides of the ball, playing guard and tackle.

He was a first-team all-state

See, LINEMEN, Page B2

Ohio

Continued from Page C1

time first-team all-Eastern District pick, all-OVAC, all-Valley and all-Times Leader. He earned the team's "Best Linebacker Award" the past two seasons.

Spiczenski was also a standout for the Shamrocks' track squad, placing in the state track meet as a junior in the shot put.

Danny -- who will attend Miami, OH -- was also active in National Honor Society, Close-Up, Key Club, German Club, Varsity B Club, Student Athletic Association, History Club and Ski Club.

Danny is the son of Mike and Lynn Spiczenski of Barnesville.

NATHAN HEDGE, Shenandoah -- This Zep graduate was one of the key pieces of the puzzle for Wesson and company last fall.

The 6-ft-4, 205 pound Hedge was a force from his outside linebacker post.

For his fine season, he was named first-team all-Eastern District and first-team all-OVAC.

Nathan -- who is undecided about his future plans -- is the son of Marlan and Rose Hedge of Caldwell.

VINCE KUNTZ, Edison -- This former Wildcat was all over the field for head coach Dave Iverson the past several years.

The 6-ft-0, 200 pounder was one of the team's top tacklers and defensive players from his linebacker post.

Kuntz was named second-team all-Area, Honorable Mention all-OVAC, special mention all-Eastern District. He is also listed amongst Who's Who among American High School students.

Kuntz was also a standout for the Wildcats' baseball team for our seasons. He is also active in Student Council and Ski Club.

Vince -- who will attend Muskingum College -- is the son

of William and Cindy Kuntz of Toronto.

MAURICE JEFFREYS, Bellaire -- This former Big Reds' defensive back was one of the key cogs in the defensive unit for Coach John Magistro this past fall.

Jeffreys was one of the valley's top corners, posting nine interceptions.

Jeffreys was a first-team all-Valley pick and also a first-team all-Eastern District selection.

The 6-ft, 190 pounder also ran on the Big Reds' 4x2 team, which placed fourth in the state meet last spring.

Maurice -- who is headed to West Liberty State College -- is the son of Annette Jeffreys of Bellaire.

GREG DARBY, Beallsville -- This former Blue Devil signal caller was one of the bright spots for Coach Dave Caldwell and the Blue Devils this past fall.

Darby passed for more than 900 yards as a quarterback and was also a solid defensive back for the Devils.

The 6-ft, 195 pounder was first-team all-PVC, all-OVAC, all-Eastern District pick this past fall. He was also a second-team all-Valley and also the all-Times Leader team.

Darby was also a member of the Blue Devils' basketball squad.

Greg -- who is undecided about his college plans -- is the son of Bob and Susan Darby of Beallsville.

JEFF DALRYMPLE, Beaver Local -- This placekicker was nearly automatic for Coach Rich Wright and the Beavers who posted an undefeated regular season last fall.

Dalrymple was true on 57-of-65 extra points and was good on three field goals, measuring 26, 25 and 28 yards. All told, he scored 66 points.

Dalrymple was a first-team

all-Eastern District, all-Review and Honorable Mention all-Ohio this past season. He's also listed amongst Who's Who in Sports.

Along with football, Dalrymple was also a four-year letterman for the Beavers' soccer team and was chosen to the OVAC All-Star Soccer Game. He is also a member of the National Honor Society and he took part in Learn and Serve Community Service for four years.

Jeff -- who will attend Kent State East Liverpool -- is the son of Tim and Diana Dalrymple of East Liverpool.

SCOTT KENNEDY, Steubenville -- This former Big Red offensive and defensive lineman was a mainstay on the interior for Coach Reno Saccoccia.

The 5-ft-11, 215 pounder was nose tackle and an offensive guard for a Big Red squad, which advanced to the state semifinals and won the Associated Press Poll title.

Kennedy was the recipient of the Big Red Football Mom's Scholarship and the Calvin Jones Big Red Achievement Award.

Scott -- who will enroll at Mount Union College -- is the son of Vickie and Bob May of Steubenville.

CRAIG CROSS, Meadowbrook -- This former Colt was a three-year regular for the Byesville-based school.

The 6-ft-2, 245 pounder saw time at both offensive and defensive tackle as well as defensive end.

Cross was Honorable Mention all-OVAC, all-ECOL. He was a first-team all-Eastern District selection.

Craig -- who will attend Urbana College -- is the son of Larry and Denise Cross of Cumberland.

Linemen

Continued from Page B1

defensive lineman; first-team all-Valley, all-OVAC and he took part in the West Virginia North/South Game.

Gurskey was also a standout in track, winning the OVAC 4-A discus crown, finishing third in the state platter event and breaking a 26-year-old Weir High record.

Along with athletics, Gurskey was active in National Honor Society, Hi-Y, Drama Club, Chemistry Club and Student Council.

Aaron -- who is headed to Robert Morris University -- is the son of Michael and Toni Gurskey of Weirton.

MATT MILLER, Linsly -- This two-way tackle was a force for Coach Terry DePew's Cadets.

Miller saw time at offensive guard and defensive tackle for Linsly.

The 6-ft-3, 270 pounder -- who is headed to Washington & Jefferson College -- earned three letters and was the recipient of the Stobbs Award, given to Linsly's best lineman.

Miller is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Engineer's Technical Society, German Club, S.A.D.D., and Shakespeare Club. He also served as a math tutor and flag

football coach.

Matt is the son of Todd and Patti Miller of Wheeling.

DERRICK MOLNAR, Brooke -- The third member of the Bruin offensive line was also a key ingredient to the Bruin success.

Molnar lined up as a two-way tackle for Reitter's team last fall.

He was a Special Mention all-Area, all-Valley selection.

The 5-ft-9, 240 pounder is also a member of the National Honor Society and Honor Roll.

Derrick -- who will attend Waynesburg -- is the son of Bob and Marilyn Molnar of Fohansbee.

JESSE NELSON, Wheeling Park -- This former Patriot was a

standout on both sides of the ball for Coach Mark Nardone this past fall.

The 6-ft-1, 220 pounder served as a two-way tackle for the Patriots.

Jesse -- who will attend West Liberty State College -- is the son of Mark and Mary Nelson of Wheeling.

JOE PETROVICH, Weir -- This two-way tackle was a key cog on both sides of the line for Filberto's team last fall.

The 5-ft-6, 260 pounder was a Special Mention all-state pick, Honorable Mention all-OVAC and first-team all-Area. He was a four-year letterman and served as captain this past season.

Petrovich is also a member of Hi-Y, Chemistry Club, and his church youth group.

Joe -- who will attend Thiel College -- is the son of Helen Petrovich of Weirton.

JOE ROHRIG, Linsly -- This former Cadet was quite versatile for Depew last season.

Rohrig served as a two-way tackle and was also the long snapper and PAT snapper for Linsly.

The 6-ft-4, 285 pounder was also active in basketball for the Cadets.

Rohrig was also a member of the French Club and FCA.

Joe -- who is the son of Joe and Cathy Rohrig of Wheeling -- will attend Muskingum College.

CRAIG SANDY, Tyler Consolidated -- This former Silver Knight was a standout defensive lineman for Stender last fall, helping Tyler to the playoffs.

The 6-ft-4, 220 pounder lined up at defensive end and saw limited action on offense.

Sandy was a Honorable Mention all-State pick, All-Valley and Special Mention all-OVAC.

Craig -- who is the son of Kathy Sandy of Sistersville -- will attend West Liberty State College.

OVAC All-Star festivities kick off today

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference is set to roll out the red carpets.

The festivities surrounding the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic kick off today when the players report to training camp at West Liberty State College.

"I am really looking forward to getting into camp," said West Virginia head coach John Stender. "We think we have selected a great group of kids both in terms of players, but also classy individuals off the field."

For Stender this marks his third appearance as West Virginia head coach, while Shenandoah head coach Dan Wesson is making his debut as Ohio head coach when the game takes place next Sunday at 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"I am really looking forward to the game," Wesson noted. "The OVAC does a great job and it's a first-class event, that I am extremely proud to be a part of."

The teams will hit the campus of West Liberty State College today at noon and will go through routine physicals after check-in before hitting the practice field Sunday evening.

The coaches have not announced their practice schedule for the entire week, but there are definitely enough events to keep the players busy leading up to kickoff.

"We have to try to keep the kids focused on football," Stender said. "There are so many activities going on around the game, but they are all for a good cause and the kids should definitely enjoy themselves."

The players and coaches will meet the media Monday afternoon with picture session being held at 1 p.m. for Ohio and 1:30 p.m. for West Virginia at Russek Field at West Liberty.

After two sessions of practice Tuesday, both squads will attend a pizza party and film session at the Shrine Temple in the evening.

Wednesday serves as the official kickoff to the festivities when both teams, coaching staffs and Queen of Queens Candidates gather at the annual George Strager Evening With the Stars, which will be held at Wheeling Park's White Palace, starting with dinner at 7 p.m.

Also Wednesday is when the McDonald's All-Star Band and OVAC All-Star Cheerleaders check into their dorms at West Liberty for camp.

There will be an ice-cream social held at West Liberty Thursday night.

The annual Queen of Queens pageant will be held Friday evening at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling. Girls from all over the Ohio Valley will compete in a talent show and gown modeling, with the winner being announced at halftime of Sunday's game.

The teams will get their final motivation for the game during Saturday's pep rally at Russek Field. The band and cheerleaders will perform.

The OVAC All-Star Game wouldn't be possible if it weren't

● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

for the work of the game committee, which includes: Bob Koch (Game Director), Ron Mauck (Game Advisor); Linda Myers (Queen of Queens Coordinator); Darrell Lucas (All-Star Band Coordinator); Steve Kish (10-year Reunion Coordinator); Dianna Vargo (Evening With the Stars Coordinator); Nancy Mumley (OVAC Treasurer) and Tom Rataiczak (Executive Secretary of the OVAC).

The proceeds from the game go to charity. In the past 32 years of the game, the OVAC has donated more than \$741,200 to charity organizations and scholarships throughout the Ohio Valley.

Each year the game awards scholarships to participating players. Last year's recipients of the Rudy Mumley Scholarship were: Aaron Bane of Indian Creek and Derek Kocher of Magnolia. Anthony Antonucci of Toronto and Luke Myers of Weirton Madonna received the Terry Mowery Scholarship.

See, OVAC, Page C3

BROOKE COUNTY AND HANCOCK COUNTY STARS



Photo by Mike Hughes

Pictured above are representatives of Brooke and Hancock counties who will be playing for West Virginia in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, Bill Sadler, Brooke; Eric Turner, Weir; J.J. Guida, Weirton Madonna; and Tim Cashdollar, Oak Glen. Back row, from left, Mark Vance, Weir; Anthony Capp, Brooke; Aaron Gurskey, Weir; Derek Ankrum, Brooke; Joe Petrovich, Weir; and Derrick Molnar, Brooke. The team is coached by John Stender, formerly of Tyler Consolidated.



Tyler Consolidated's Matt Wright will spend at least some time playing tight end for West Virginia in Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic.

Stender Believes Wright Move is Right Move

West Virginia coach switches Tyler Consolidated standout from running back to tight end for OVAC All-Star football clash

By **MIKE HUGHES**
Staff Writer

Matt Wright had a special season for the Tyler Consolidated Silver Knights in 2003.

As a senior, Wright rushed for 1,851 yards and 24 touchdowns and emerged as one of the top running backs in all of West Virginia.

Checking in at 6-foot-3, 220 pounds, Wright was an intimidating specimen for opposing defenses.

A solid blend of deceptive speed and punishing power, Wright bruised and bashed his way through the regular season and into the playoffs, where the Knights fell in the first round to Mount View.

His efforts earned him a spot on

the All-W.Va. Class AA first team as a running back, as well as trips to both the North-South game and the OVAC All-Star game.



"We had a nice offensive front and Matt runs hard," former Tyler Consolidated and current West Virginia All-Star head coach John Stender said. "He's a big kid that is tough to bring down."

"He's pretty strong and has a good set of legs under him."

Wright averaged just over 168 yards per game during the 2004 season, and over 8.5 yards per

carry.

So if you're Stender, what's the first thing you do with Wright upon getting to camp for the 33rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic?

Move him to tight end. "He was a running back out of necessity for us," Stender said of Wright's high school career. "And he was a pretty darn good one."

"He even ran tailback for me in the North-South game and did pretty well, so I'm not saying he won't be back there at some point."

"But as far as things are going right now, we (already) have some tailbacks that can run pretty well and some good fullbacks.

"It'll be different for him, but he'll get used to it (again). He's an excellent player."

And the fact Stender has a stable of other extremely capable backfield horses likely makes the decision to shift Wright a bit easier.

One way or another, the coach will try to get the ball in Wright's hands. Now, whether that's primarily at tight end or not remains to be seen.

"We'll do our best to get him the ball, but we have some other kids who can do some of the same things," Stender said.

At tailback, Stender has the services of Wheeling Central's Marshall O'Brien, Linsly's Mark Plumby and

Bill Sadler of Brooke to tote the leather.

And at fullback, he has a pair of punishing blockers in Wheeling Park's Cody Tominack and Linsly's Preston Duck.

But Stender knows that if Wright is going to make it at the collegiate level, it'll be at tight end, so tight end is where he will play.

It's been a while since Wright hasn't lined up behind the quarterback in an offensive set.

As a freshman, Wright burst onto the scene as a solid defender for the Knights, but his offensive exploits as a tight end flew under the radar.

Please See WRIGHT, Page 18

Wright

(Continued from Page 17)

Then as a sophomore, he filled in sparingly in the backfield whenever injury problems surfaced. But from his junior year on, Tyler Consolidated's offensive scheme was based upon getting the ball into Wright's hands.

So how is Wright adjusting?

"My sophomore year I was playing tight end and whenever the (tailback) got hurt, I would fill in," Wright said. "But from my junior year on I played tailback.

Shifting from the focal point of a team's offense to just one of a number of options will take some getting used to, but Wright seems to be handling it in stride.

"It's been a while," Wright said with a smile. "I like getting the ball a lot and at tight end I'll probably get only five catches (per game) where I was getting 30, so it'll be different."

Wright will have plenty of time to get used to it though as he was recruited by head coach Bob Eaton and the West Liberty Hill-

toppers to play tight end.

He looked at other schools to possibly stay at running back, including Youngstown State.

But the Penguins were looking at Wright for more of a situational runner — to come on in short-yardage situations to pound the ball between the tackles, not as a feature back.

"They wanted a smaller, quicker back that can move better, and I'm more of a straight-ahead, power-back type runner," Wright said.

Ohio linemen selected

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Ohio head coach Dan Wesson is heading to training camp for the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Classic with a ton of offensive talent.

The offense has an even better chance of clicking now seeing that Wesson has announced his linemen for the July 25 game set for a 7 p.m. kickoff at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We have some great skill people and with this corp of line talent we have put together, we think our offense has got a real strong chance to be successful," Wesson said.

"We looked at versatility for our linemen and we think we have some big kids who are also athletic and that's what we wanted."

Wesson's offense -- which is

primarily known as a running-oriented scheme -- will use a run-zone scheme, which the veteran Shenandoah head coach doesn't think will be much trouble for the Buckeyes to grasp.

"Most of the kids have all played that style, so they should be familiar with it," Wesson proclaimed. "We are just looking forward to getting up there (to camp) and putting everything together."

Ticketed for line duty on one side of the ball or the other are: Adam Lee (Shenandoah), Adam Lucci (Bellaire), Bobby Kittel (Martins Ferry), Lou Almonte (Steubenville Catholic), Anthony Sable (Buckeye Local), Zach Miller (Buckeye Trail), Andre Dawson (East Liverpool), Ryan Witkowski (Steubenville) and Daniel Howard (St. Clairsville).

Here is a capsule look at each player:

BOBBY KITTEL, Martins

Ferry -- This two-year starter for the Purple Riders was a key cog to the offensive front for Coach Dave Bruney's team.

Kittel was the Purple Rider center and also saw time at defensive tackle.

For his fine season, he was an Honorable Mention all-District pick and a two-year letterman and served as a co-captain his senior season.

Kittel -- who plans to attend Muskingum College -- is the son of Minnie Kittel of Martins Ferry.

LOU ALMONTE, Steubenville Catholic -- This former Crusader was a solid two-way tackle for Coach Gregg Bahen's team this past fall.

The 6-ft-2, 240 pounder was a first-team all-district, all-OVAC, all-Valley, all-Area and Special Mention all-Ohio.

Almonte was also a solid basketball player, leading the team in

both scoring and rebounding last winter. He was a second-team District V and all-Area pick on the hardwood.

Lou -- who plans to attend Walsh University near Canton -- is the son of Lou and Carol Almonte of Wintersville.

ANTHONY SABLE, Buckeye Local -- This former Panther lineman was one of the key pieces to a Panther puzzle that finished 10-0 and won the OVAC title last fall for Coach Mike Groves.

The 6-ft-4, 243 pound Sable saw plenty of action at defensive end for the Panthers.

He was named all-Eastern District first team in Division III, all-Times Leader, all-Herald Star and second-team all-Valley. He was also a first-team all-OVAC 4-A pick.

Anthony -- who is headed to

See, **OVAC**, Page C12

www.timesleaderonline.com

● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

West Liberty State College -- is the son of James and Cecilia Sable of Rayland.

ZACH MILLER, Buckeye Trail -- This offensive tackle was a four-year mainstay for the Warriors of Coach Randy Thompson.

The 6-ft-1, 228-pound Miller was a four-year letterman in Old Washington in both football and track.

Along with his athletics, Zach was also active in S.A.D.D. and Student Council.

Zach -- who will attend Ohio University-Zanesville in the fall -- is the son of Michael Miller and Julia Cunningham of Quaker City.

ADAM LEE, Shenandoah -- This guard was one of the main reasons for the offensive success of the Zeps this past fall.

Lee earned first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC 2-A and was named to the second-team all-Ohio squad in Division V.

Adam -- who is the son of Russ and Mary Jo Lee of Summerfield -- will attend Ohio University in September.

ADAM LUCCI, Bellaire -- This two-way tackle was one of the key reasons in the 2003 resurgence of the Big Reds.

The 6-ft-1, 320 pound Lucci was one of the Reds' premier linemen, helping Bellaire to the state semifinals for the fourth time in school history under head coach John Magistro.

Lucci was named all-OVAC, all-District, all-Valley and all-Times Leader.

Adam was also a member of the Big Reds' basketball team, which advanced to the OHSAA Final Four and a two-time state track meet qualifier in the shot put.

Adam -- who will play football at Robert Morris University -- is the son of Gay and Francine Lucci of Bellaire.

DANIEL HOWARD, St. Clairsville -- This former Red Devil guard and defensive end was a force on both sides of Coach Brett McLean this past fall.

Howard was a three-year letterman in football and was named all-OVAC 3-A this past season. He was also a first-team all-Eastern District pick and was Honorable Mention all-Ohio.

Howard was also a standout for the Devils' wrestling team, reaching the state meet twice and placing in the giant OVAC tournament twice.

Daniel -- who will attend Marietta College -- is the son of Tim and Elaine Howard of St. Clairsville.

ANDRE DAWSON, East Liverpool -- This former Potter was a standout on the defensive line and at tightend for Coach Bob Thayer's team.

Dawson was the recipient of the Bill Booth Award given at East Liverpool. He was also selected to play in the Pennsylvania-Ohio Classic earlier this summer.

The 6-ft-2, 280 pound Dawson was also a member of the Potter baseball team and served in FCA.

Andre -- who will attend Mercyhurst College in Pennsylvania -- is the son of Ray and Jayma Falkner of East Liverpool.

RYAN WITKOWSKI, Steubenville -- This former nose guard was a force on the defensive line for Coach Reno Saccoccia's Big Red.

Witkowski helped the Crimson reach the state semifinals and win the Associated Press Division III poll title this past fall.

The 6-ft, 275 pounder was an all-Valley, all-OVAC and all-Herald Star selection.

Along with football, Witkowski is active in his church as a youth leader and volunteer.

Ryan -- who will attend the Southwestern Assemblies of God University -- is the son of Russell Witkowski and Vera Witkowski of Wintersville.

Teams Set For Classic

Ohio, W.Va. getting ready to clash again

By MIKE HUGHES
Staff Writer

Summer is winding down, the amount of daylight is starting to dwindle, and soon the kids will be heading back to school.

And just what does that mean for the folks of the Ohio Valley? It means football season is just around the corner.



And what would an upcoming football season be without the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic, now in its 33rd year?

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference hosted its media day for the All-Stars on the campus of West Liberty State College Monday afternoon. The annual picture day is the kickoff of a week-long event that serves as a preamble to the upcoming high school season.

In just five days, the West Virginia-versus-Ohio showdown will take place.

For West Virginia head coach John Stender and Ohio mentor Dan Wesson, it means that the two teams have less than week to transform a group of 30 or so young men into finely-tuned football machines.



File photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Brad Kouski, with ball, will be a key player for West Virginia during Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

That may be asking a lot. Even getting everyone on the same page in terms of plays is difficult enough. But Stender admits that it's not as difficult as one might think.

"The hardest part is the terminology," Stender said. "No matter what school you're from, basically you are running a lot of the same stuff — but the terminology is the key."

"Everybody is trying to remember what they are supposed to do, the different calls and things like that. Once you get that down, everything will come together."

The players will be showcas-

ing their skills in the final games of their respective high school careers. And much like his players, Stender too will be making his curtain call.

The longtime Tyler County and Tyler Consolidated mentor decided to retire after the 2003 football season. After coaching the North Bears to victory in the West Virginia North-South game, the OVAC All-Star classic will be his final game.

Stender and company will be trying to snap Ohio's 10-game winning streak — the last time the Mountaineers claimed victory was back in 1994 in a 19-14 squeaker under the direction of

former Oak Glen coach P.K. Poling.

Since then, the boys from the Buckeye State have held a firm grip on the summer rivalry — and although Stender would like to break the streak, it's not his main concern.

"This is an all-star game and yes, we're going to try to win, but it's not the No. 1 priority," Stender said. "We'll go in and be competitive, make a good showing, try to get out without getting anyone hurt, and make some money for the charities. That is really what this is about."

Please See CLASSIC, Page 20

No 0121



33rd Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC ALL-STAR FOOTBALL ★ CHARITY CLASSIC ★ "2004" "PIGSKIN KICKOFF"

Featuring:

- Queen of Queens Pageant
- OVAC All-Star Cheerleaders and
- The OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band

Wheeling Island Stadium

Sunday, July 25, 2004

Kick-Off at 7:15 p.m.

Advance Sale Ticket: \$7.00

At the Gate: \$10.00



No 0121

Classic

(Continued from Page 17)

"It's also for these kids to have a good time."

"They didn't come up here for me to work them like a bunch of dogs. We're just not going to do that."

Wesson is making his first appearance as the head coach of the Ohio squad, unlike Stender, who is coaching his third team.

But like Stender, the Shenandoah Zeps head coach is taking it all in and enjoying the talent he has to work with.

"We've got some great ones," Wesson said. "They've been outstanding and done everything we asked them. They came ready to work and they're a real enjoyable group of young men."

"So up to this point, I can't ask for anything more."

Since West Virginia's last victory, the Ohio squad has outscored its cross-river rivals 261-94, including three shutouts.

The previous two games, a 32-26 score last year and a 19-12 tally in 2002, have been close calls for Ohio.

But panning over the West Virginia roster, Wesson realizes his team should receive a strong

challenge from the perpetual underdogs.

"West Virginia's got some real nice kids and when you draw it up on paper, it looks like it may be a pretty even battle," Wesson said.

The Mountaineer team has a good blend of skill position players in both the backfield and in the pass catching department.

Stender is looking for balance out of his offense, but with a question mark surrounding an injury to quarterback Jon Kemp, the West Virginia coach is having to look at his options.

He still has Brad Kouski, a three-year starter for Mark Nar-done at Wheeling Park, but his roster is lacking a backup should Kemp not be able to go.

"We are going to be pretty balanced," Stender said. "But when Kemp got hurt, it knocked us down to one quarterback."

"We won't know until Wednesday if he is going to play or not, but Kouski will just have to pick up the load."

Kickoff is scheduled for 7:15 p.m. on the new turf at Wheeling Island Stadium. It will be the first event played on the new surface.

OVAC All-Star tickets on sale

Advance tickets for the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic are currently on sale at numerous agencies around the Ohio Valley.

The cost of the tickets is \$7 in advance, while all tickets bought at the gate will cost \$10.

The advance sale will end July 24 at midnight.

The businesses where the tickets can be bought include:

Bellaire - Kroger; Calcutta - Bowyer Hardware; Cambridge - The Jeffersonian; East Liverpool - Heimes All Sports; Martins Ferry - Kroger; Shadyside - DeFelice Brother's Pizza; Steubenville - Kroger on Hollywood Blvd; Winterville - Kroger; Woodsfield - Weber's Drug Store; Zanesville - Kroger; Benwood - Kroger; Cameron - Greg's Market; Chester - Citizen Drug; Moundsville - Kroger; New Martinsville - Witschey's Supermarket; Warwood - Kroger; Weirton - Kroger St. Thomas Drive and Main Street; Wellsburg - Kroger; Wheeling - Kroger (Mt. DeChantal Road).

Ohio's Wesson Chooses Line

For The Intelligencer

Ohio head coach Dan Wesson is heading to training camp for the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Classic with a ton of offensive talent.

The offense has an even better chance of clicking now seeing that Wesson has announced his linemen for the July 25 game set for a 7 p.m. kickoff at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We have some great skill people and with this crop of line talent we have put together, we think our offense has got a real strong chance to be successful," Wesson said.

"We looked at versatility for our linemen and we think we have some big kids who are also athletic and that's what we wanted."

Wesson's offense — which is primarily known as a run-oriented scheme — will use a run-zone scheme, which the veteran Shenandoah head coach doesn't think will be much trouble for the Buckeyes to grasp.

"Most of the kids have all played that style, so they should be familiar with it," Wesson proclaimed. "We are just looking forward to getting up there (to camp) and putting everything together."

Ticketed for line duty on one side of the ball or the other are: Adam Lee (Shenandoah), Adam Lucci (Bellaire), Bobby Kittel (Martins Ferry), Lou Almonte (Steubenville Catholic), Anthony Sable (Buckeye Local), Zach Miller (Buckeye Trail), Andre Dawson (East Liverpool), Ryan Witkowski (Steubenville) and Daniel Howard (St. Clairsville).

Here is a capsule look at each player:

BOBBY KITTEL, Martins Ferry — This two-year starter for the Purple Riders was a key cog to the offensive front for Coach Dave Bruney's team.

Kittel was the Purple Rider center and also saw time at defensive tackle.

For his fine season, he was an Honorable Mention All-District pick, a two-year letterman and served as a co-captain his senior season.

Kittel — who plans to attend Muskingum College — is the son of Minnie Kittel of Martins Ferry.

LOU ALMONTE, Steubenville Catholic — This former Crusader was a solid two-way tackle for Coach Gregg Bahen's team this past fall.

The 6-foot-2, 240-pounder was a first-team All-District, All-OVAC, All-Valley, All-Area and Special Mention All-Ohio.

Almonte was also a solid basketball player, leading the team in both scoring and rebounding last winter. He was a second-team District V and All-Area pick on the hardwood.

LOU — who plans to attend Walsh University near Canton — is the son of Lou and Carol Almonte of Wintersville.

ANTHONY SABLE, Buckeye Local — This former Panther lineman was one of the key pieces to a Panther puzzle that finished 10-0 and won the OVAC title last fall for Coach Mike Groves.

The 6-4, 243-pound Sable saw plenty of action at defensive end for the Panthers.

He was named All-Eastern District first team in Division III, All-Herald Star and second-team All-Valley. He was also a first-team All-OVAC 4-A pick.

Anthony — who is headed to West Liberty State College — is the son of James and Cecilia Sable of Rayland.

ZACH MILLER, Buckeye Trail — This offensive tackle was a four-year mainstay for the Warriors of Coach Randy Thompson.

The 6-1, 228-pound Miller was a four-year letterman in Old Washington in both football and



Howard



Almonte

track.

Along with his athletics, Zach was also active in S.A.D.D. and Student Council.

Zach — who will attend Ohio University-Zanesville in the fall — is the son of Michael Miller and Julia Cunningham of Quaker City.

ADAM LEE, Shenandoah — This guard was one of the main reasons for the offensive success of the Zeps this past fall.

Lee earned first-team All-Eastern District, All-OVAC 2-A and was named to the second-team All-Ohio squad in Division V.

Adam — who is the son of Russ and Mary Jo Lee of Summerfield — will attend Ohio University in September.

ADAM LUCCI, Bellaire — This two-way tackle was one of the key reasons for the 2003 resurgence of the Big Reds.

The 6-1, 320-pound Lucci was one of the Big Reds' premier linemen, helping Bellaire to the state semifinals for the fourth time in school history under head coach John Magistro.

Lucci was named All-OVAC, All-District, All-Valley and All-Times Leader.

Adam was also a member of the Big Reds' basketball team, which advanced to the OHSAA Final Four and a two-time state track meet qualifier in the shot put.

Adam — who will play football at Robert Morris University — is the son of Gay and Francine Lucci of Bellaire.

DANIEL HOWARD, St. Clairsville — This former Red Devil guard and defensive end was a force on both sides of the ball for Coach Brett McLean this past fall.

Howard was a three-year letterman in football and was named All-OVAC 3-A this past season. He was also a first-team All-Eastern District pick and was Honorable Mention All-Ohio.

Howard was also a standout for the Devils' wrestling team, reaching the state meet twice and placing in the giant OVAC tournament twice.

Daniel — who will attend Marietta College — is the son of Tim and Elaine Howard of St. Clairsville.

ANDRE DAWSON, East Liverpool — This former Potter was a standout on the defensive line and at tight end for Coach Bob Thayer's team.

Dawson was the recipient of the Bill Booth Award given at East Liverpool. He was also selected to play in the Pennsylvania-Ohio Classic earlier this summer.

The 6-2, 280-pound Dawson was also a member of the Potter baseball team and served in FCA.

Andre — who will attend Mercyhurst College in Pennsylvania — is the son of Ray and Jayma Falkner of East Liverpool.

RYAN WITKOWSKI, Steubenville — This former nose guard was a force on the defensive line for Coach Reno Saccoccia's Big Red.

Witkowski helped the Crimson reach the state semifinals and win the Associated Press Division III poll title this past fall.

The 6-0, 275-pounder was an All-Valley, All-OVAC and All-Herald Star selection.

Along with football, Witkowski is active in his church as a youth leader and volunteer.

Ryan — who will attend the Southwestern Assemblies of God University — is the son of Russell Witkowski and Vera Witkowski of Wintersville.

W.Va. Backfield Has Good Mix

For The Intelligencer

Ohio has dominated the Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic over the past few years but West Virginia head coach John Stender thinks he's lined up enough quality skill people to give the Mountain Staters a chance.

The retiring Tyler Consolidated coach will put that theory to the test on the evening of July 25 when Ohio and West Virginia bang heads on the new artificial turf at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We took kids who are players and good athletes," Stender said in discussing the selection of his quarterbacks and running backs.

"We will have guys go one way for the most part, but we may need some guys to play on both sides in certain situations."

The Mountaineers will turn the signal-calling duties over to Wheeling Park's Brad Kouski and Magnolia's Jonathan Kemp. The pair will share time.

"We think we have two quality quarterbacks who both do some things really well," Stender continued. "Kemp's a little bigger with a little better arm, but Kouski is quicker and a better runner."

In the offense which Stender ran during his long career at Tyler, the tailback is a featured position. Set to lug the leather for the Mountaineers are Linsly's Mark Plumby, Wheeling Central's Marshall O'Brien, Brooke's Bill Sadler, Weirton Madonna's J.J. Guida and Tyler's Matt Wright.

"I like to run the football and I always have," Stender said. "We have a nice mixture of speed backs and power backs, but the key to our running game will be our offensive line's ability to keep Ohio out of our backfield."

A capsule look at each player:

■ **Brad Kouski**, Wheeling Park — This former Patriot signal caller was a solid player and a leader for Coach Mark Nardone's Patriots, who overcame an 0-2 start to make the playoffs.

Kouski completed 82-of-148 passes for 1,013 yards, 10 touchdowns and just three interceptions.

The 5-ft. 11-in., 170-pounder was a first-team All-OVAC pick, honorable mention All-state and special mention All-Valley.

Kouski was also a standout point guard for Sam Andy's hoop team. He was second-team All-Valley, second-team All-OVAC and played in the OVAC All-Star Game.

The Bethany College basketball recruit is also a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Athletic Club, DARE and YMCA.

Kouski is the son of Tom and Ronda Kouski of Wheeling.

■ **Jonathan Kemp**, Magnolia — This former Blue Eagle quarterback enjoyed a banner senior season for Coach Mark Batton.

The 6-2, 190-pounder was an effective passer, completing 150-of-258 aeriels for 1,782 yards. He threw eight touchdowns and was intercepted seven times.

Kemp was a second-team All-OVAC pick. He was also named special mention All-State. He was a third-team All-Stater in hoops as well as second-team All-OVAC. He also took part in the OVAC All-Star Game.

He was also active in the school as a member of the Student Council, Service Club and Home-room President.

Kemp — who plans to attend Marietta College — is the son of Tom and Marsha Kemp of New Martinsville.

■ **Mark Plumby**, Linsly — This former Cadet tailback was a combination of speed and power for Coach Terry DePew's squad this past fall.

The 5-11, 190-pounder rushed for better than 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns for the Cadets.

Plumby was named second-team All-State, All-OVAC Class A. He was also selected to the All-Valley and All-Times Leader teams. He was Linsly's leading scorer, tackler and rusher.

He also helped guide the Cadets' track team to a pair of OVAC titles. He was a four-event



Kemp



Sadler



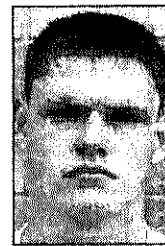
Kouski



O'Brien



Plumby



Wright

conference champion last spring. Plumby — who will attend Lafayette College — is the son of Dave and Sally Plumby of Wheeling.

■ **Marshall O'Brien**, Wheeling Central — This former Maroon Knight running back was a load for opposing teams the past two seasons.

O'Brien helped lead the Knights to a state championship as a junior, rushing for well over 1,000 yards. He reached a grand this past fall as well.

O'Brien was a second-team all-state pick this past season after landing on the first team as a junior. He was an All-OVAC and All-Valley pick.

The 6-3, 235-pounder intends to play college football at Glensville State.

O'Brien is the son of Theresa O'Brien and Julius Wallace.

■ **Bill Sadler**, Brooke — This former Bruin was an effective runner for Coach Dave Reitter's team last fall.

The 6-2, 180-pounder rushed for 828 yards on 120 carries, scoring eight touchdowns last season.

He was named team MVP, second-team All-State, first-team All-OVAC and second-team All-Valley.

Sadler — who will attend Marshall University — is the son of Connie and Bob Sadler of Beach Bottom.

■ **Matt Wright**, Tyler Consolidated — This former Silver Knight was too much to handle for most defenses this past season.

Wright — who may see time at tight end during the All-Star game — was the leading rusher in the Ohio Valley last season, churning out 1,942 yards on 219 carries. He scored 23 touchdowns for Stender and set a single-game rushing record at Tyler with 311 yards.

Wright — who will attend West Liberty State College — was a first-team All-OVAC, All-Valley and All-State pick.

He was the captain of the All-Valley team and took part in the West Virginia North/South Game.

Wright is the son of Roger and Robin Wright of St. Mary's.

■ **J.J. Guida**, Weirton Madonna — This former Blue Don enjoyed a superb senior season for Coach Bob Kramer's team.

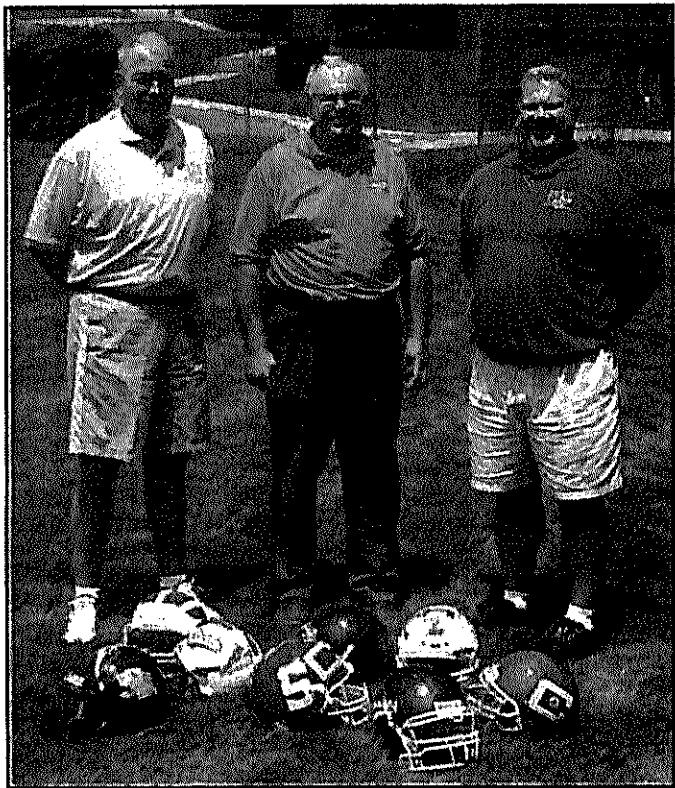
Guida rushed for better than 900 yards this past season, helping the Dons to a 8-2 record.

The 6-0, 205-pounder is a National Merit Scholar and was Who's Who in Sports and Academics.

Along with football, Guida was active in S.A.D.D., Interact Club, Pep Club, Ski Club and Yearbook staff.

Guida — who will enroll at West Liberty State College — is the son of Dewey and Karen Guida of Weirton.

OVAC All-Star Classic draws near



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

Bob Koch (center), game director of the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic, wishes the respective head coaches well as they prepare for Sunday's showdown at Wheeling Island Stadium. Guiding West Virginia is John Stender of Tyler Consolidated (left), who retired following last season, while Ohio is under the direction of Shenandoah's Dan Wesson (right). Kickoff is slated for 7:15 p.m.

OVAC All-Star Coaches Set

By RICK THORP
Staff Writer

When John Stender walked off the field last November following Tyler Consolidated's West Virginia football playoff loss to Mount View, he thought he wouldn't have a chance to coach a team at Wheeling Island Stadium again.

Not so.

Stender, who announced his retirement prior to last season, will lead the Mountain State charges this July at the 33rd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Charity Football Classic.

The game is slated to kickoff Sunday, July 25 at 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Dan Wesson, who led Shenandoah to an impressive playoff run in 2003, will lead the Ohio squad.

The introduction of the game's coaches was part of an organizational meeting for the contest conducted Monday night at Ernie's Esquire.

For Stender, who will be leading the West Virginia team for the third time, it will give him one more chance to use that coach's whistle.

"Bob Koch (game director) called me and I said I'd do this the last time around," said Stender, who will also coach in the West Virginia North-South All-Star Game this June in Charleston.

Despite all of the success he has had during his coaching career, one thing has eluded him — a victory in the conference all-star tilt.

That's nothing new for West Virginia coaches, who have watched the Buckeyes win the last nine games, including a thrilling victory last July amid stormy weather conditions.

Stender would like nothing more than to break that trend.

"I'd like to win one, but Dan would like to put a stop to that," he said with a smile.

With just one week to prepare for the game with his players, Stender said he will keep the game plan simple.

"It's a good game," he said. "I like it. It's a lot of fun. We'll have a good time. Hopefully, the fans will come out and see a good ball game."

Wesson, too, sees the game as an opportunity for the coaches and players to have a good time.

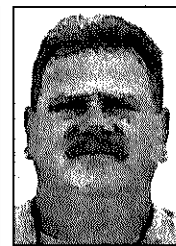
"It's a real privilege to be coaching in this game," said Wesson, who led the Zeps to an OVAC crown last fall.

While this may be Wesson's first time coaching in the game, the contest will be a homecoming for many of his assistants.

"I've got some coaches on



Stender



Wesson

my staff who actually played in this game," Wesson said. "I think they are excited about it, also."

Wesson said his biggest challenge will be selecting the players for the contest.

"The biggest part of our job is going to try to get the selection process done," he said.

Each team will have 32 players plus a kicker. No more than three players may be selected from any Ohio school and no more than four players may be selected from any West Virginia school. The coaches may select one bonus player from any single school.

One of the biggest changes fans will notice about this year's game will be the playing surface at Wheeling Island Stadium. When Wheeling re-acquired the rights to host the Super Six a few weeks ago, it was announced the grass field at the stadium will be replaced by a field turf surface that is made to withstand bad weather conditions.

Koch said the new field should be in place in time for the game.

"We'll probably be the first game to play on the new surface," said Koch, who was one of many OVAC officials attending Monday's meeting. "That will be kind of nice and different."

With the new surface able to handle more wear and tear, preliminary plans are calling for the Ohio and West Virginia squads to be bused from their training facility at West Liberty State College for one practice session during the week leading up to the game.

In addition to hosting both teams the week prior to contest, West Liberty will also house members of the all-star band and cheerleading squads.

Other events slated for the week prior to the game include the Queen of Queens, a 10-year reunion of former players, and the Evening with the Stars. That event will now take place at the White Palace at Wheeling Park.

"It's events like those which separate this all-star game from other games," Koch said.

All told, the event has raised more than \$740,000 for local charitable organizations.

OVAC seeks 1994 all-star honorees

As a part of the OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, the 1994 All-Star Football Team, managers, doctors and Queen of Queens representatives will be honored. OVAC All-Star Reunion director Steve Kish, Jr. is seeking addresses or contacts for all of the football players.

The Ohio All-Stars needed are as follows:

Barnesville -- Josh Marks; Beaver Local -- Josh Eels; Bellaire -- Shawn Valloric and David Bohus; St. John's -- Ty Liberatore; Beallsville -- Rick Decker; Buckeye Local -- Greg Singleton, Greg McCain and Jason Peltz; Cadiz -- Mark Smith; Cambridge -- Ben Knapp; Edison -- Kevin Kuntz; Indian Creek -- Ryan Bodo; Martins Ferry -- Mikale Robey, Chad Martin; Meadowbrook -- Matt Dawson; River -- Todd Blake, Rico Simonetti; Shadyside -- Mike Soos and Mark Tyler; St. Clairsville -- Heath Jordan and Rich Theil; Steubenville -- Richardo Parrish, Robert Lamantia and Marlo Costantini; Steubenville Central -- Mike Orlando, Michael Kuczykowski and Donald Thorn; Union Local

-- Justin Abel, Toronto -- Matt Bell; Woodsfield -- Chris Dalrymple.

The West Virginia all-stars include:

Bishop Donahue -- Jason Marling; Brooke -- Todd Clark; Cameron -- Carl Pettit; John Marshall -- Ian Icard, Larry Bunting, Nat Hairston; Linsly -- Jamie Youssef and B.J. DePew; Magnolia -- Jon Price, Jay Fletcher and Jerry Rice; Oak Glen -- Charlie Licata, Mike Barnhart, Adam Hoover, Clayton Henderson; Paden City -- Joff Starcher; St. Mary's -- Ron Branch and Eric Smith; Tyler -- Jeff Hunt, Tom Phillips, Luke Henderson and Bobby West; Valley -- Robert Brown; Weir -- Art Miller; Wheeling Central -- Bill Isaly, Jeremy Tiu; Wheeling Park -- Dennis Glatz, Jed Reed, Todd Kisiminski, Bob Bennett.

Anyone knowing the addresses of the above players, trainers, managers and coaches should contact Kish at 1-740-453-9146.

Additionally, any other 1994 all-star participants who have not been contacted should please contact Kish.



OVAC Seeks Help With 1994 All-Stars

As a part of the OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, the 1994 All-Star Football teams, managers, doctors and Queen of Queens representatives will be honored.

Anyone knowing the addresses of the following 1994 OVAC All-Star football players, trainers, managers and coaches, please contact Steve Kish Jr. at (740) 453-9146.

In addition, any other 1994 players, managers, coaches, doctors or Queen of Queens who have not been contacted should call Kish at the above phone number or write to him at 6320 McCaslin Road, Nashport, OH 43830.

Ohio All-Stars
Barnesville: Josh Marks; Beaver Local: Josh Eels; Bellaire: Shawn Valloric, David Bohus; Bellaire St. John's:

Ty Liberatore; Beallsville: Rick Decker; Buckeye Local: Greg Singleton, Greg McCain, Jason Peltz; Cadiz: Mark Smith; Cambridge: Ben Knapp; Edison: Kevin Kuntz; Indian Creek: Ryan Bodo; Martins Ferry: Mikale Robey, Chad Martin; Meadowbrook: Matt Dawson; River: Todd Blake, Rico Simonetti; Shadyside: Mike Soos, Mark Tyler; St. Clairsville: Heath Jordan, Rich Theil; Steubenville: Richardo Parrish, Robert Lamantia, Marlo Costantini; Steubenville Central: Michael Orlando, Michael Kuczykowski, Donald Thorn; Union Local: Justin Abel; Toronto: Matt Bell; Woodsfield: Chris Dalrymple.

West Virginia All-Stars
Bishop Donahue: Jason Marling; Brooke: Todd Clark; Cameron: Carl Pettit; John Marshall: Ian Icard, Larry Bunting, Nat Hairston; Linsly: Jamie Youssef, B.J. DePew; Magnolia: Jon Price, Jay Fletcher, Jerry Rice; Oak Glen: Charlie Licata, Mike Barnhart, Adam Hoover, Clayton Henderson; Paden City: Joff Starcher; St. Mary's: Ron Branch, Eric Smith; Tyler Consolidated: Jeff Hunt, Tom Phillips, Luke Henderson, Bobby West; Valley: Robert Brown; Weirton: Art Miller; Wheeling Central: Bill Isaly, Jeremy Tiu; Wheeling Park: Dennis Glatz, Jed Reed, Todd Kisiminski, Bob Bennett.



33rd Annual Rudy Mumley
OVAC ALL-STAR FOOTBALL
★ CHARITY CLASSIC ★

– WEDNESDAY, JULY 21st –

★ “Evening With The Stars” at White Palace ★

– FRIDAY, JULY 23rd –

★ 2004 Queen of Queens Pageant ★
at Wheeling Civic Center

– SATURDAY, JULY 24th –

★ Pep Rally at WLSC Russek Field ★
The OVAC McDonald’s All-Star Band

“PIGSKIN KICKOFF”

Wheeling Island Stadium

Sunday, July 25, 2004 • Kick-Off at 7:15 p.m.

Advance Sale Ticket: \$7.00 • At the Gate: \$10.00



**DeNoon
Lumber**