

The Times Leader

APRIL 1, 2005

Sports Saturday

The No. 1 Sports Report in the Ohio Valley

The Best In Local Sports

T-L Photo: PAUL KRAJNYAK
ST. JOHN Central's April Rotilio (left) battles Bridgeport's Brittany Hocker in the 100 meter dash at Friday night's OVAC Class A/AA Track & Field Championships in Shadyside. Hocker won this event, but Rotilio gained some revenge with a victory in the 200 meter dash. Rotilio's time was 24.76.

SJC, Linsly, 'Rocks win

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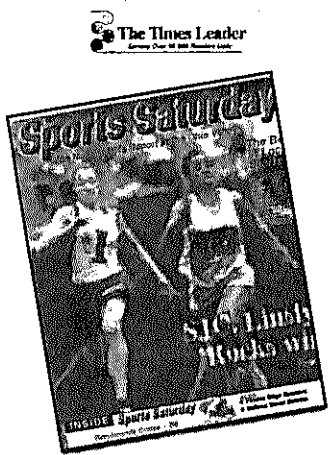
INSIDE Sports Saturday

Greyhounds Cruise -- D5



ALSO -

- ◆ Pirates Edge Brewers
- ◆ Indians Down Orioles



The No. 1 Sports Report
In The Ohio Valley

WHAT'S INSIDE

5 Greyhounds Roll
Total domination. The Ohio Valley Greyhounds put on a defensive exhibition last night by totally shutting down an overmatched Atlantic City team 51-8.
By Gregg Montgomery

7 Bucs Nip Brewers
Kris Benson had his longest outing in nearly a year, Raul Mondesi hit three doubles and the Pittsburgh Pirates defeated the Milwaukee Brewers 4-2 Friday night.
By Associated Press

7 Tribe Cruises
Cliff Lee kept Cleveland's bullpen door closed until the eighth inning and Travis Hafner had four RBIs, leading the Indians to a 11-2 rout of the Baltimore Orioles on Friday night.
By Associated Press

Sports Saturday

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Sports Saturday is designed to bring the Ohio Valley the best in local, state and national sports. The publication is part of the normal Times Leader Saturday package.

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OVAC Track:

• Rotilio shines as Irish girls win Class A; Linsly boys capture Class 1-A boys and Barnesville Class 2-A girls

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

In sports there is no better feeling than winning a championship.

The St. John Central girls and Linsly boys in 1-A, and the Barnesville girls and Wheeling Central boys in 2-A were able to experience that feeling Friday night at soggy Fleming Field in Shadyside.

The championship finals of the OVAC Small School track meet took place amongst intermittent showers, but the times were still sizzling.

The Lady Irish made it a three-peat for their title, outpointing Shadyside 158.5 to 133.

The Cadets turned the back-to-back trick, tallying 191 points, which was 66 better than the runner-up Tigers.

In 2-A, the Lady Shamrocks held off a late charge from a game Steubenville Central squad to earn a 179-167 win.

Wheeling Central captured its first-ever OVAC track crown, tallying 104 points. Steubenville Central took the second-place trophy with 91 points.

The big schools wrap up the four-day Cal Giffin Track and Field Championships today at Bellaire.

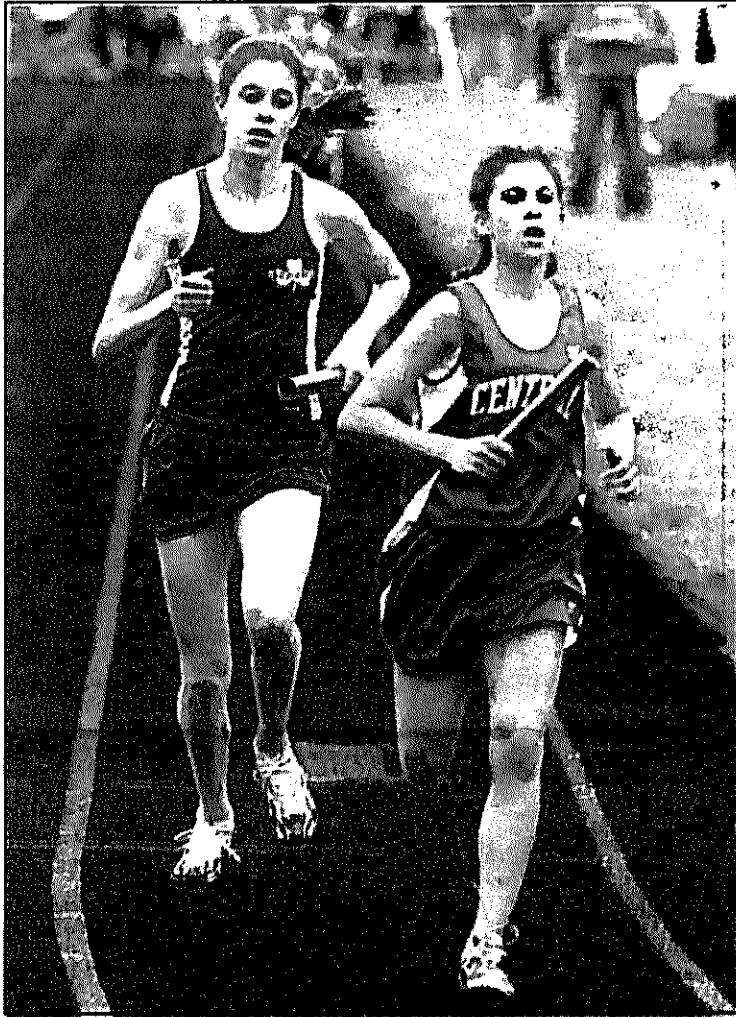
IN GIRLS' 1-A, the Lady Irish fought the prom and early-season adversity on top of Shadyside to earn their third straight conference crown.

"We didn't score as well in some places as we did last year, but we got outstanding performances from a lot of people," said Lady Irish head coach Bubba Kapral. "The first one is always special, but this is by far the sweetest."

"Shadyside has a super track team and we have a ton of respect for them," Kapral continued. "We thought coming into the season we had a chance to be a special team, but we lost a few people, and I didn't know if we could (win the title), but this is very sweet."

The Lady Irish enjoyed a total team effort, but sophomore speedster April Rotilio stole the show for the entire meet.

Rotilio -- who has been the area's second best sprinter for the past two seasons -- emerged out of the shadow of Bridgeport senior Brittany Hocker some-



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

BARNESVILLE'S Jenny Morgan (left) runs her leg of the 4x800 meter relay during the OVAC A/AA Track & Field Championships at Fleming Field. Morgan won the 800, one mile, and two mile and also ran a leg on the victorious 4x800 team.

what Friday night.

In the 200 meter dash final, Rotilio just nosed out Hocker for the gold medal on the lean at the finish line. Before the final places could be determined several meet officials had to look at the tape before issuing a final ruling.

In the end, Rotilio had pocketed the title and set a new Ohio Division III state record in the process with her 24.78. The mark eclipsed the old mark of 24.94, which Hocker had previously owned.

"Brittany Hocker is the best in the state and she always will be," the modest and personable Rotilio said. "To come out here and be able to beat her is just awesome. It's probably better than the feeling at the state meet last year."

Rotilio's afternoon got started when she finished second to Hocker in the 100 meter dash, turning in a solid 12.32. Hocker finished with a 12.16, which was just one-one hundredth off a state record of her own.

The Lady Irish sprint phenom came back in the 400 meter dash and won her first-ever OVAC individual title, cruising a lap in 57.80 for the gold.

"I felt weak after the 400, but during the 200 I felt awesome," Rotilio said. "I can't believe I lowered my personal records by as much, and setting a state record is just totally unbelievable."

Rotilio was by no means alone as the Lady Irish pocketed individual titles in seven events.

Junior thrower Amanda Bushlow provided the Green

with a double win in the weight events. She won the shot put on Wednesday and added the discus crown Friday with a throw of 97-ft-3.

Senior Courtney Ogilbee captured her second straight OVAC 800-meter title when she cruised two laps in 2:31.55 for the win.

Senior pole vaulter Jena Ehni claimed her speciality on Wednesday, clearing a meet record 9-feet.

The Lady Irish 4x400 team of Rotilio, Annie Wiater, Kayla Sharpe and Claire LeMasters turned in a 4:27.87 for the win. Rotilio sealed the deal when she ran down two other teams for the title on the anchor leg. The Lady Irish 4x800 team also prevailed during Wednesday's session.

The Green also got a solid effort from senior Brienne Catran who finished second in the 3200 meter run and third in the 1600.

"Our ability to nickle-dime points here and there was big for us," Kapral said. "We won seven events, but we scored in 17 of the 18. Our elite people came through like we knew they would, but some of our other kids really stepped up, and I can't say enough about my coaching staff because those guys work their butts off, and it's reflected by the kids."

Runner-up Shadyside -- which was outscored in the field events by the Lady Irish 49.5-10 -- could get no closer than seven points down.

The Lady Tigers, however, received a sterling performance from sophomore hurdler Bre Burkhart who left Fleming Field with four gold medals.

"We have been practicing really hard and I felt really good coming into the meet," Burkhart said following the shuttle relay. "Winning four titles in this meet is a great feeling."

Burkhart got her day started when she cruised over 10 hurdles en route to the high hurdle victory in 15.78. She then added the 300 hurdle title, turning in a season-best 48.80 for the crown.

Burkhart also ran on two winning relay squads.

The Lady Tiger shuttle team consisting of Burkhart, Corrina VanDyne, Lindsay Jovicic and Tru Reiberger turned in a 68.88 to establish a new 1-A standard.

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● OVAC

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Shadyside also picked up gold medals in both the 1600 and 3200 meter runs.

Freshman ace Marissa Melanko earned the OVAC title in the 3200 meter run, circling the oval eight times in 12:43.41. She also placed second in the 1600 and fourth in the 800.

Junior Carrie Bonar earned the right to be called an OVAC champion after capturing the long jump with a mark of 14-ft-9.

Junior Shayla Holenka used a furious kick on the fourth lap to capture the 1600 meter run in a time of 5:35.19.

The Orange also prevailed in the 4x100 and 4x200 relays. The team of Kate Falbo, Bonar, Holenka and Michelle Marty ran two laps in 1:54.22 for the 800 relay crown.

The 400 relay unit of Jovicic, Bonar, Burkhart and Marty turned in a 53.04 for the title.

THE 2-A girls meet appeared to be one of the conference's most competitive coming into the week.

It failed to disappoint. Barnesville built a commanding lead after day one and was able to hold on to capture its second title in the Darrell Davis era.

Davis knew going into the meet his team would have to get off to a strong start during Wednesday's meet.

"We knew we had to perform well on Wednesday, and the kids really came through," Davis said. "This was a total team effort because a lot of people scored key points in key places because we knew Steubenville Central had a good team."

The Lady Shamrocks off-set some of the Lady Crusaders' speed with their distance running and junior ace Jenny Morgan.

Morgan added four OVAC gold medals to her already impressive resume.

"Jenny Morgan is just phenomenal," Davis admitted. "A lot of teams that have that great sprinter, well we have that great distance runner."

She captured the 3200 meter run on Wednesday and went back to work in the 1600 meter run Friday.

After running at the Penn Relays last weekend, Morgan returned to the Ohio Valley and won the 1600 meter run with a blistering 4:58.40.

She came back later in the meet and captured the 800 meter run with a time of 2:21.45.

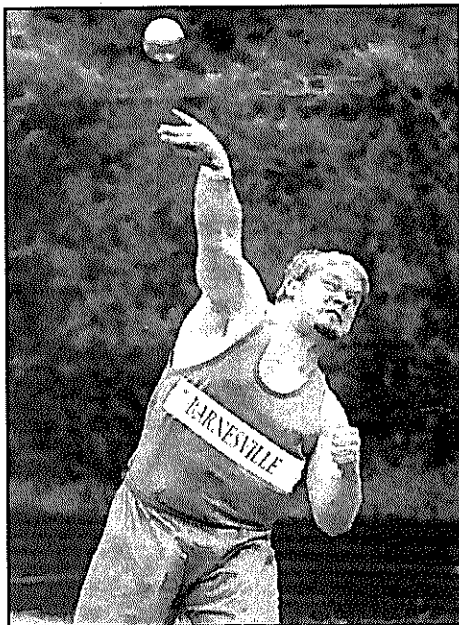
"I was happy with my mile," Morgan said. "I came out thinking that if I felt good I was going to go for it. I kind of sat back some on the first two laps, but I really turned it on for the last two laps."

Morgan may be get most of the publicity, but she was by no means alone.

The Lady Shamrocks only other victory besides Morgan on Friday came in the shuttle relay when the team of Emily Bilyeu, Danielle Holskey, Emily Carpenter and Chrissy VanDyne turned in a 68.70.

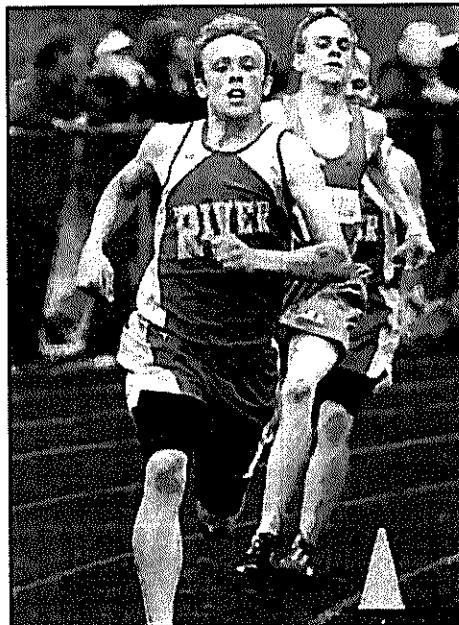
The western Belmont Countians got off to such a strong start Wednesday thanks to victories in three field events and the 4x800.

Seniors Ramsey Miller, Brianna Cook and Bilyeu captured the pole vault, shot put and high jump, respectively.



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

BARNESVILLE'S Dan Spiczenski won the Class 2-A shot put title.



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

RIVER'S Ryan Whittlach won the 800 meter in the 2-A meet.

Junior distance ace Kris Schuerle -- who ran on the winning 4x800 team -- also finished second in the 16 and 3200 meter runs and added a bronze in the 800.

Steubenville Central, meanwhile, did all it could thanks to its speed.

The Lady Crusaders prevailed in seven track events, but couldn't hold off the Lady Shamrocks who scored in all but one event.

Junior sprinter Shatara Walters was a triple individual winner, claiming the long jump (16-3 1/4), high hurdles (15.47) and 100 meter dash (12.85).

Junior Abbey Sokol claimed the 200 meter dash for Coach Bob Stanko's team, turning in a 26.99. Sophomore Jodi Bodo won the 400 title, turning in a lap in 62.65.

Central also broke the tape first in the 4x100 (51.28), 4x200 (1:50.19) and 4x400 (4:23.44).

Buckeye Trail's Brittni Borrero won the discus throw with a twirl of 118-ft-5. Shenandoah's Shannon Leasure won the 300 hurdles with a time of 48.32.

ON THE BOYS' SIDE, Coach Dave Plumby's Cadets were listed as the favorite coming into the meet and they failed to disappoint.

After watching St. John Central claim the lead after the first day of competition, the Cadets got rolling on the track en route to 191 markers.

"(You) have to be happy for the kids," Plumby said. "Winning this meet never gets old because it's a different set of kids each year."

"We told the kids coming into the meet that if we were at our best tonight we had a great chance of being successful," Plumby continued.

Plumby figured his team would be staring up at a deficit after day one, but knew he had a truckload of points on their way.

"I kind of had Wednesday pegged," Plumby added. "I felt good coming into today because I knew we could get a lot of firsts plus seconds and third to build up

the points."

The Cadets were led in victory by senior dandy Mark Plumby who is in just his second full season of track and field.

Plumby left Shadyside with four gold medals draped around his neck. He won the 110 meter high hurdles to get things started for the Cadets in a season-best time of 14.75.

After jogging back up to the starting line, he blasted a 11.16 to claim the 100 meter dash.

Later in the meet he won the 200 meter dash with a blazing 22.94.

"This is our biggest meet, and we work all year to do well in it," Plumby said. "This is extremely exciting because my dad is here to see it all. He taught me everything I know about this sport."

The Cadets blew open the meet, which for all intents and purposes was a three-team battle, when they placed first and second in both the 1600 meter run and 400 meter dash.

Senior Max Neubauer claimed the lap dash in a solid time of 52.76, which was just ahead of Frank Sokolowski.

Junior Sam Adams claimed the mile run in 4:41.43, which was just one place ahead of senior Preston Smith.

The Cadets' speed came to the front when they captured all of the sprint relays, including the shuttles.

The 4x100 team of Plumby, Wayne Green, Neubauer and David Wharton prevailed in 44.37.

The 800 relay squad -- which consisted of Wharton, Neubauer, Green and Sokolowski -- was timed in 1:34.00. The 4x400 team -- made up of Green, Sokolowski, Neubauer and Ferrera -- ran a mile in 3:39.69.

The shuttle team of Wharton, Ferrera, John Vellenoweth and Neubauer ran a 58.77 for the title.

Vellenoweth got the Cadets started Wednesday when he claimed the pole vault. Green was also victorious in the long jump during the first day.

Runner-up Shadyside received a

strong meet from junior hurdler Dom Davolio.

Davolio captured his first OVAC title when he won the 300 hurdles with a 40.44. Earlier in the meet, he finished second in the 110 highs, but closed with a personal best effort of 14.99.

Junior discus thrower Erik Cwalinski claimed the platter event during Wednesday's action. He finished third in the shot put Friday.

St. John Central's boys also enjoyed a strong meet, finishing third in the team race just four points.

The Fighting Irish were sparked by three victories all of which came in the distance events.

Junior Michael Totterdale claimed the 800 meter run title when he ran two laps in 2:02.69.

Freshman Zach Yereb was the winner in the 3200 meter run Wednesday and the Irish 4x800 squad also prevailed.

THE 2-A boys' meet saw a little bit of history for the Maroon Knights.

Wheeling Central -- which has a rich athletic history -- added a track title to its numerous other awards.

"This is almost over-whelming," said Central head coach Wayne Rutter. "Our kids really came out and performed well, and that's the kind of effort we knew we would need because there were some good teams in our class."

The Maroon Knights were led by their combination of speed and distance running.

Junior distance dandy Bobby Herron added the 1600 meter title to the 3200 title he claimed on Wednesday. Herron ran four laps in 4:32.75.

Junior Eric Novick captured the 110 meter high hurdles in a season-best mark of 14.95. Classmate Josh McKee prevailed in the 100 meter dash with a 11.49.

The Knights' 4x200 team also earned a gold medal thanks to a 1:32.20.

Steubenville Central was led by the victory of junior Nick Drakos in the 200 meter dash. He captured the half-lap dash with a time of 22.96.

The Crusaders also captured the 4x400 and shuttle relay.

Barnesville -- which finished third in its return to 2-A -- was victorious in a pair of field events.

Senior shot putter Danny Spiczenski flexed his muscle in the shot put. The all-Ohioan from a season ago captured the conference title with a meet-record toss of 52-ft-9 1/2.

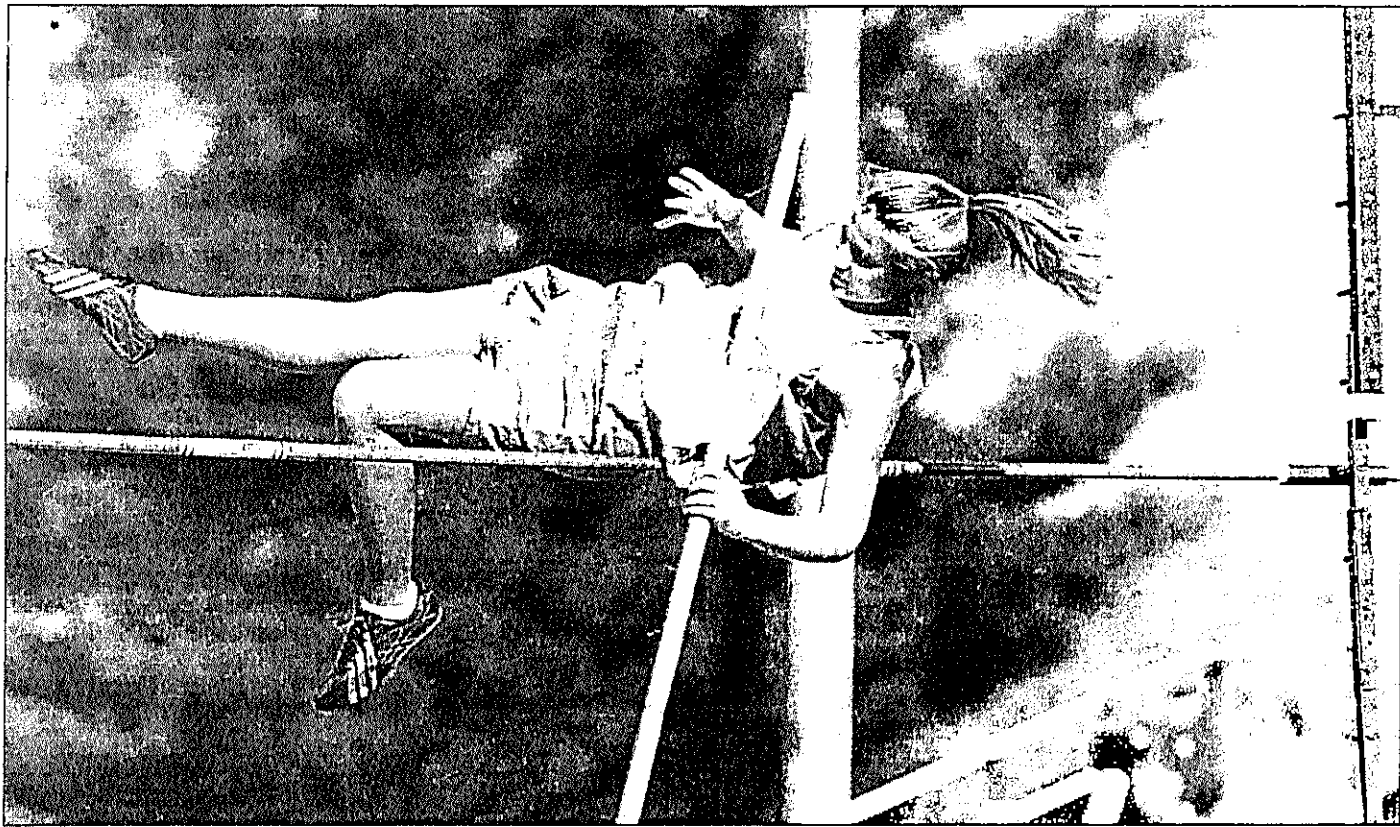
Senior Jason Bahmer claimed the pole vault on Wednesday, soaring over 12-feet.

Senior hurdler Eric Householder was second in the 110 meter hurdles with a 14.97 and third in the intermediate hurdles.

River -- which came into the meet as the two-time defending champions -- finished fourth with 72 points.

Coach Tim Frye's Pilots were led by senior middle distance ace Ryan Whittlach who captured the 800 meter run in 2:00.18.

The Pilots also captured the 4x800 title during Wednesday's action.



OVAC Track:

- St. John's boys, girls lead Class A; Barnesville girls grab big lead in Class AA

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

The four-day track and field carnival that is the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cal Giffin Track Championships kicked off Wednesday night at Fleming Field in Shadyside.

The 1-A and 2-A classes got things rolling, running an abbreviated schedule of finals both on the track and in the field with qualifying also taking place. The remaining field events and running finals will be held Friday night back at Shadyside. The field events will begin at 4 p.m. with running slated for a 5 p.m. start.

The conference's two largest classes -- 3-A and 4-A -- will get their meet started this afternoon at Bellaire.

As for Wednesday's action, some familiar faces put themselves in solid positions to make a serious run at the coveted conference title come Friday evening.

In 1-A, the two-time defending champion St. John Central girls racked up some 45.5 points, which is 24 better than Bishop Donahue. Paden City is currently third with 21.5.

The Irish boys also enjoyed a sterling first day of competition, tallying 55 markers, which is 15 ahead of pre-meet favorite Linsly. Donahue is third with 20 points.

In 2-A, the much-anticipated showdown between Barnesville and Steubenville Central didn't live up to its billing after just four events. The Lady Shamrocks scored in bunches en route to 64 points. The Lady Crusaders - who are the defending champs -- closed the first day with just 18 points.

The 2-A boys race -- which looked to be wide-open -- appears



T-L Photos/PAUL KRAJNYAK

TOP PHOTO: St. John Central's Jena Ehni clears the pole en route to winning the OVAC Class A pole vault championship Wednesday night at Fleming Field in Shadyside. Ehni set a meet record with an effort of nine feet.

ABOVE: The Barnesville duo of Jenny Morgan (left) and Kris Schuerle (right) leads the way in the early going of the Class AA 3,200 meter finals. Morgan won the event while Schuerle was second and Wheeling Central's Kallen Weaver (middle) was third.

See, TRACK, Page B2



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

LINSLEY'S John Vellenoweth clears the pole with an effort of 14 feet, which was good enough to win the event in the OVAC Class AA Championships Wednesday night at Fleming Field in Shadyside.

● Track

Continued from Page B1

to be headed down to the wire with no fewer than five teams in striking distance. Wheeling Central tallied 36 first-day points. Wellsville is second with 26 and Barnesville is third at 24.

Caldwell and two-time defending champion River ended the first day with 21 and 19, respectively.

THE LADY IRISH flexed their muscle in the field events and during the lone running final competed.

Senior pole vaulter Jena Ehni got Coach Bubba Kapral's squad off and running when she captured the pole vault in record-setting fashion.

The mark -- which bettered her own mark set last year -- had stood at 8-ft, but Ehni eclipsed the mark and raised the bar to 9-feet.

Junior Amanda Bushlow captured her first OVAC title. After placing second a year ago, Bushlow captured the gold medal in the shot put, launching the iron ball to a mark of 30-ft-4.

The Lady Irish -- who qualified well to Friday's finals -- also prevailed during the 4x800. The team of Annie Wiater, Claire LeMasters, Courtney Ogilbee and Brianna Cattran cruised eight laps in 10:46.95, which was more than a minute faster than its nearest competitor.

The only other event competed as a final was the high jump. Paden City senior Erica Spencer claimed the crown, soaring over 4-ft-10.

THE LADY SHAMROCKS, meanwhile, took over the 2-A meet early, winning all four events competed. Coach Darrell Davis' team was able to place two entrants in all four events.

Senior Brianna Cook got the Lady 'Rocks rolling when she captured the shot put with a career-best toss of 40-ft-5 3/4.

Classmate Ramsey Miller vaulted her way to the pole vault title, clearing 9-feet for the top prize. Frosh Lacey Butler finished right behind Miller at 8-ft-6.

Senior high jumper Emily Bilyeu captured the OVAC title in her specialty, clearing 5-feet for the title.

The western Belmont Countians weren't limited to the field events.

Sophomore Jenny Morgan -- fresh off a trip to Philadelphia where she placed second in the 3000 meter run at the Penn Relays -- added the OVAC 3200 meter title to her collection. She cruised eight laps in 11:47.75 to take the title.

Junior teammate Kris Schuerle finished a spot behind Morgan with a 12:19.03.

The Lady Crusaders shouldn't be ruled out of the title hunt. Coach Bob Stanko's team owns the top two times in the 100, 200 and 400 meter dashes and the top mark in the high hurdles entering the finals.

ST. JOHN'S boys followed their girls' lead in jumping to an early lead.

The Fighting Irish got off to a strong start when frosh distance ace Zach Yereb captured the OVAC 3200 meter title with a 10:35.26. Junior Nick Habursky was just one spot behind with a 10:38.16.

The Irish also captured the 4x800 title when the team of Jared Wilson, Zach Foster, Matt Ellison and Michael Totterdale turned in a 8:33.61 to claim the gold.

Linsly -- which figures to rack up a lot of points in the sprint events and relays -- prevailed in two field events.

Junior pole vaulter John Vellenoweth continued his stranglehold on the event, winning with a jump of 14-feet. Junior Wayne Green captured the long jump when he marked the sand at 19-ft-4 1/4.

The host Tigers of Coach Joel Joseph produced a conference champ when junior discus thrower Erik Cwalinski captured his specialty. He twirled the platter to a mark of 144-ft-2.

WHEELING CENTRAL, which came into the meet as one of several squads to watch, got closer to its first OVAC track title.

The Maroon Knights got things rolling when junior distance dandy Bobby Herron continued his strong season, turning in a 9:59.93 to win the 3200 meter run.

Junior Tyler Morando was just one spot behind his teammate with a 10:03.63.

Wellsville was sparked by a victory in the long jump when Derek Thompson marked at 20-ft-10 1/2.

Barnesville was fueled by senior Jason Bahmer who captured the pole vault crown, leaping over 12-ft-6.

River continued his string of 4x800 titles when the team of Pat McGuire, Randy Smith, Travis Hendershot and Ryan Whitlatch turned in a 8:37.38 to win the two-mile relay crown.

Caldwell's Michael Jeffery claimed the discus crown with a toss of 144-ft-8.

Central Boys Claim 1st Title

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

Fantastic finishes, record-setting performances, upsets, and team firsts.

The finals of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A-AA championship meets at rainy Fleming Field in Shadyside had just about everything a track fan could wish for Friday night.

Wheeling Central's first-ever conference track crown highlighted the boys' meet as coach Wayne Rutter's Maroon Knights tallied 104 points to eclipse runner-up Steubenville Central with 91. Barnesville was third with 83 and River fourth with 74.

Barnesville, which last won the girls' Class AA title in 2001 before moving up to Class AAA, shook off two years of second-place finishes to outdistance defending champion Steubenville Central by a 179-167 margin.

Three-peat was the word of the night in Class A with Linsly's boys and Bellaire St. John's girls each taking home its third consecutive gold team trophy.

The Cadets racked up 191 points to defeat Shadyside (125) while the Fighting Irish girls had 158.5 to 133 for the host Lady Tigers.

However, while there was plenty to talk about with the team champions and title races, most of the talk when the night had ended centered on one unbelievable race between two of the fastest girls in the Ohio Valley.

Bridgeport senior Brittany Hocker, a three-time champion

More Track

Results from Friday's
OVAC track action
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in both the 100 and 200-meter dashes, went head-to-head with St. John's sophomore sprint ace April Rotilio with more on the line than just a conference title.

Hocker, who had only lost two races in her high school career — the 100 in the state championship meet her freshman year and the 200 on the same stage her sophomore season — had already tasted victory in the 100 while Rotilio was the 400-meter champion last night.

But when the two got together one more time in the 200-meter dash, it would turn into arguably one of the greatest races in Ohio Valley Athletic Conference history.

Rotilio battled from behind in the final 20 yards and the two appeared to cross the finish line in a deadheat. However, after an extensive review of the finish line picture, the St. John stand-out was ruled the winner in record time.

The Fighting Irish flash was clocked in 24.78, to 24.79 for Hocker, which is a

new OVAC Class A record, all-time Ohio Valley record and an Ohio state record that will be submitted to OHSAA officials. Hocker's time also broke the former mark, which she held at 24.91.

Please See TITLE, Page 22

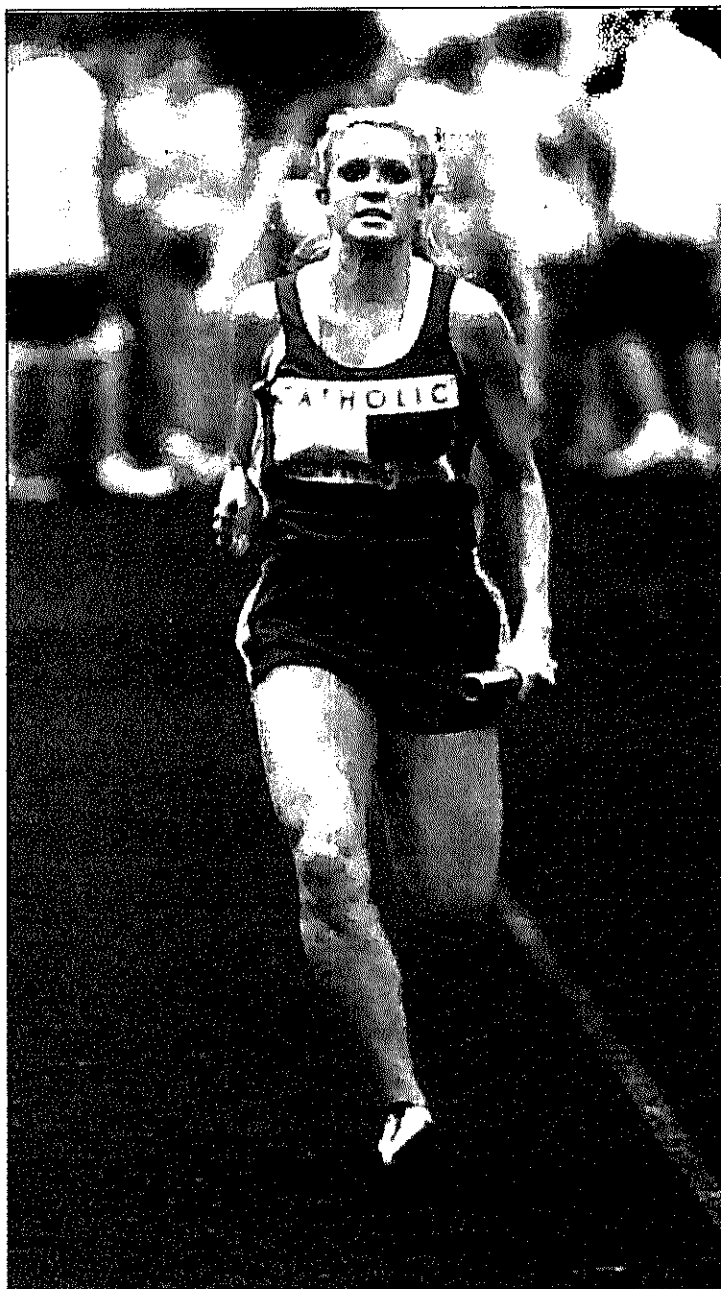


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Steubenville Central's Abbey Sokol competes in the 4x100 relay at the OVAC small school track championships Friday at Fleming Field in Shadyside.

Title

(Continued from Page 19)

The "Bridgeport Bullett" did break her own mark in the shorter dash with a 12.16 clocking, which was just off of the state record time in that event.

Rotilio, meanwhile, also finished with her best clocking of the season in the 400 with a 57.80.

St. John's also captured victories with Courtney Ogilbee in the 800 (2:31.55), Jena Ehni in the pole vault (9-0), and double-winner Amanda Bushlow with a 30-4 in the shot put and a 97-3 in the discus. The Irish also broke the tape in the 1600 and 3,200-meter relays.

Shadyside got twin wins from sophomore Bre Burkhart in the hurdle events with a 15.78 clocking in the 100 hurdles and a 48.80 in the 300's. Other Lady Tiger victories came from junior Shayla Holenka in the 1,600 (5:35.19), freshman Marissa Melanko in the 3,200 (12:43.41) and junior Carrie Bonar with a 14-9 in the long jump.

The hosts also raced to wins in the 400, 800 and the shuttle hurdle relay. Paden City's Erica Spencer won the high jump with a 4-10 effort.

Linsly totaled 11 overall titles en route to another small-school boys' title with senior speedster Mark Plumby zipping to individual crowns in the 100

(11.16), 200 (22.94) and 110-meter high's (14.75).

Also claiming titles for the Cadets were Max Neubauer in the 400 (52.76), Sam Adams in the 1,600 (4:41.43), John Vellonoweth in the pole vault (14-0) and Wayne Green in the long jump (19-4.25).

The Wheeling-based school also took four of five relays, capturing the 400, 800, 1,600 and the shuttles. The Linsly 400 unit established a meet record with a 44.37 clocking.

Other champions included Mike Totterdale of St. John's in the 800 (2:02.69), Fighting Irish freshman Zach Yereb in the 3,200 (10:35.26), junior Dom Davolio of Shadyside in the 300's (40.44), the Tigers' Erik Cwalinski in the discus (144-2), Bishop Donahue's Brian McCulley in the shot put (45-11) and the St. John's 3,200 baton-passing unit.

The Bishops' Matt Beiter was not only a champion, but a record-setter in the high jump with a 6-7 effort. Beiter's mark bettered the 6-4.25 established by Shadyside's Brian Boston in 1984.

Both Class AA meets had exciting team races with Wheeling Central and Barnesville both taking home the top trophies ahead of the Crusaders.

The Maroon Knights captured five titles on the night, led by iron-lunged junior Bobby

Herron's victories in the 1,600 (4:32.75) and 3,200 (9:59.93). Junior Eric Novick skimmed the 110 high's in 14.95 while also finishing second to Wellsville's Marc Lascola in the 300 intermediates.

Another Central junior, Josh McKee, broke the 100-meter dash tape in 11.49.

The fifth Maroon Knight title came in record-setting fashion with the 800-meter relay foursome clocking 1:32.20 to edge the former mark established by Cadiz High (1:32.84) back in 1993.

Barnesville High senior Danny Spiczenski was also on the top of his game, breaking one of the oldest marks in either the Class A or AA meets. Spiczenski pumped the iron ball 52-9.50 to break the standard set in 1973 by River High standout Eric Brubaker.

Also winning titles were Nick Drakos of Steubenville Central in 200 (22.96), Brian Leasure of Caldwell in 400 (52.54), Ryan Whitlatch of River in the 800 (2:00.18), the Redskins' Shane McLaughlin in the high jump (6-2), the Shamrocks' Jason Bahmer in the pole vault (12-6), Derek Thompson of Wellsville in the long jump (20-10.5) and Caldwell's Michael Jeffery in the discus (144-8).

The Crusaders took the 1,600 and the shuttle hurdle

relay, Wellsville the 400 and the Pilots the 3,200 relay.

There was no question coming into the meet that the girls' AA crown would either be heading to Barnesville or Steubenville, it was just a matter of who would outlast whom.

And with three victories, including a record, by spectacular sophomore Jenny Morgan that team ended up being the Shamrocks.

Morgan, who broke her sister Ruthie's 2001 record in the 1,600, also won the 800 and 3,200. Her 5:48.40 clocking in the 1,600 was over 25 seconds faster than her older sister's previous mark.

She also took the two-mile in 11:47.75 and the half-mile in 2:21.45.

Barnesville also got individual titles from Emily Bilyeu in the high jump (5-0), Ramsey Miller in the pole vault (9-0) and Brianna Cook in the shot (40-5.75). The 'Rocks 3,200 and shuttle hurdle teams were also victorious.

Catholic Central also took home its share of champions with triple-winner Sharara Walters in the 100 (12.85), 100 hurdles (15.47) and the long jump (16-3.25). Abbey Sokol in the 200 (26.99) and Jodi Bodo in the 400 (1:02.65).

The Crusader baton-passers stopped the clock in the 400, 800 and 1,600.

Wednesday,
April 28, 2004

Big schools take OVAC stage

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

While the small schools will be off and running tonight, the big schools are prime to make their OVAC debut Thursday.

The 3-A, 4-A meet kicks off at Nelson Field and Bellaire, while the running finals and remaining field events will be staged Saturday after-

noon.

Action Thursday will begin with field events getting under way at 3:30 p.m.

Stated for the first-day are the pole vault (both classes, boys and girls), high jump (girls), shot put (girls), discus (boys) and long jump (girls).

The first running event of the meet will be the trials in the 200 meter dash if needed. This race might be eliminated

based on the number of scratches.

The 3-A boys 4x800 relay will be the first running final of the meet. The semifinals of the high hurdles will follow before the 4-A boys 4x800 relay and the 3-A girls 200 meter run.

The semifinals of the 100 meter dash will precede the 3-A boys 3200 meter run and the 4-A girls.

The final running event of the first day will be the semifinals of the 200

meter dash.

The bigger schools won't have to qualify to Saturday's finals in the 400 meter dash or 300 hurdles. Those races will be ran as timed finals during Saturday's action.

Saturday's competition will begin at 10 a.m. with field events, while running is slated for a 11 a.m. firing of the gun.

Like in the smaller schools, some very interesting team races are set to

develop through the course of the 18-event meet.

BELLAIRE is arguably the favorite in the 3-A boys meet, but the Big Reds will receive stern challenges from Martins Ferry and Meadowbrook.

The Big Reds of Coach Monte Miller won the title at the Shadyside Relays, scoring more than 90 points. They fin-

See: OVAC, Page C2

OVAC

Continued from Page C1

ished second at the Bellaire Relays this past week.

"We feel we are the favorite, but I have been around long enough to know that if we don't perform well we will get beat," Miller admitted. "We probably have the most depth of any teams in our division, so we hope to use that to our advantage."

The field events is one area where the Big Reds have had a leg up on the rest of the competition.

Senior throwers Adam Lucci and Aaron Agnew excel in the shot put, while Agnew is also a entrant in the discus.

Bellaire will enter arguably the premier pole vaulter in the class with senior Brandon Lodi. The Reds also have two long jumpers who have reached the 21-foot mark in senior T.J. Ney and frosh ace Jayson Keyser.

"The field events are real big for us," Miller said. "We have to be able to get a lead during the first day and then just try to hold on Saturday."

The Big Reds don't run out of points once they get on the track. Keyser will be the top entrant in the 110 high hurdles and 300 hurdles.

Bellaire will also enter strong relay teams and distance runners.

Martins Ferry will be in the hunt for the team title. The Purple Riders possess probably the most speed in the meet and also enter two of the valley's premier throwers.

"We have a good group of seniors, and they are looking forward to their last chance to participate in the OVAC meet," said Rider head coach Dirk Fitch. "Our throwers and sprinters will once again lead us, so we expect to be competitive, and hopefully by Saturday afternoon we are in the mix."

The Purple people are led by senior sprinter Kyle Ray who will be the favorite in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes. Classmate Kevin Lee will be one of the premier entrants in the 400 meter dash.

The Ferrians also have strong 4x1, 4x2 and 4x4 squads, which should be able to place extremely high.

In the field, senior strongman Nick Stankovich leads the way. The senior has been the area's premier shot putter, having put the iron ball more than 54-feet this spring.

He is also the defending conference discus champion.

Junior David DeFranco has had a strong season thus far in the platter event, twirling the disc more than 150-feet.

Meadowbrook is solid in the sprints with senior Mike Dickens and distance with classmate Josh Beynon.

St. Clairsville will enter two of the premier jumpers in senior high jumper James Hudson and junior long jumper Mitch McGarry.

Union Local will enter one of the area's premier 300 hurdlers in junior A.J. Androsko.

The 3-A girls meet has become the Bellaire Invitational, seeing that the Lady Reds have won the title the past four years running.

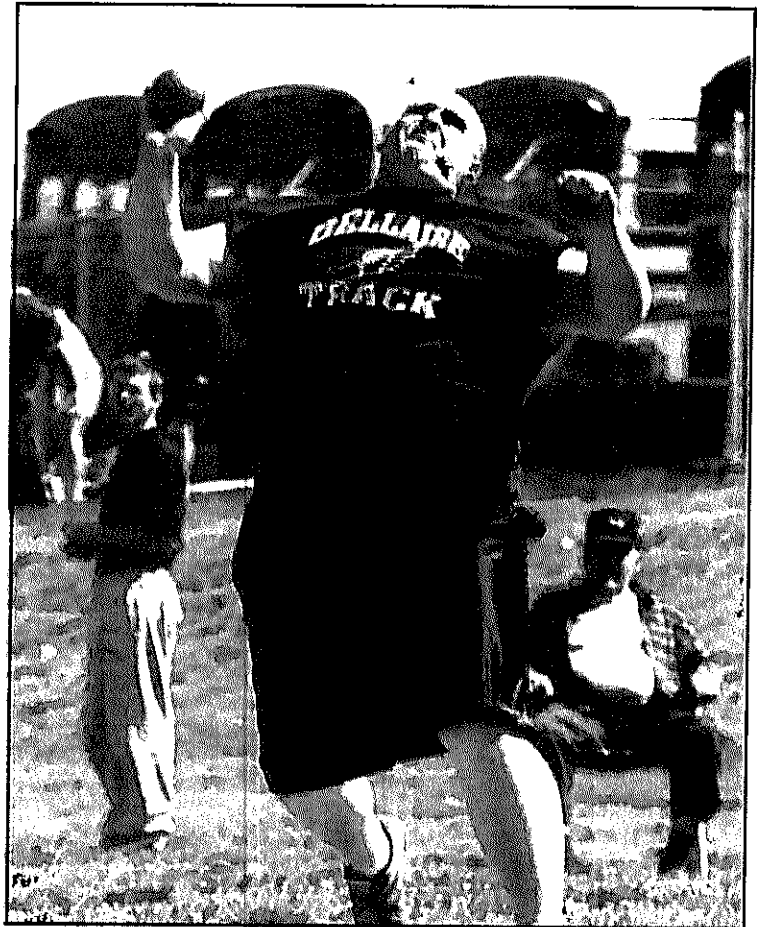
The Lady Reds figure to be near the top of the leaderboard when all the dust settles once again this season.

"We have to get some people back and healthy, and if we can do that I think we have a good chance again," Miller admitted. "Our distance and field events are going to be big for us to score some points."

Bellaire is led by distance ace Aimee Vavrek. Vavrek will be one of the premier entrants in the 1600 and 3200 meter runs.

Sophomore Audra Frizzi figures to be amongst the lead pack in the 800 meter run.

The Lady Reds are also strong



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

BELLAIRE'S Adam Lucci is one of the favorites in the OVAC Class AAA shot put event while his Big Reds are considered frontrunners for the overall championship.

in the field with sophomore thrower Emily Taylor and junior thrower Brandi Snezik. Junior Amber Watson is one of the area's top pole vaulters.

Bellaire also has strong relay teams.

One team that figures to push Bellaire is Tyler Consolidated. The Lady Knights have enjoyed a strong campaign thus far, winning the team title at their own invitational.

Coach Joe Semple's team has never won an OVAC title in the 11 years the school has been open.

"For us to be able to come out on top, we will need some very strong finishes in nearly every event," Semple said.

"We think the meet is wide open and any one of several teams can win."

The Lady Knights are led by middle-distance runner Brenna Haggerty and also sprinters Bri Clark, Jennie Collinsworth and Ashley Carson.

Tyler is strong in the sprint relays, but lack depth in the field events.

"We will need a couple of unexpected kids to score for us," Semple continued. "We can't afford any blunders on the track."

Martins Ferry will be able to score a bunch of points on the strength of its sprint relays and senior Shae Marchbank who is the area's premier long jumper.

St. Clairsville should score well in the hurdle events with junior Mallory Carpenter and senior Mallory Sinoski.

The complete 3-A field looks like this: Martins Ferry, Tyler Consolidated, Bellaire, Union Local, Magnolia, Oak Glen, St. Clairsville, Harrison Central, Indian Creek and Meadowbrook.

IN 4-A, the team races in both boys and girls appear to be wide-open with no true favorite.

The Buckeye Local boys appear to be a team that could be a factor. The Panthers have been strong thus far this season.

Leading the way is junior distance runner Evan Mathews. Senior sprinter John Butts is the defending champ at 400 meters.

Junior Nick Plewniak is back in the high jump.

The Panthers also have strong relay teams.

Beaver Local's boys will be strong thanks to versatile junior Dan Kinsey who is listed amongst the top prep decathletes in the country.

Senior high jumper Pat Woods is strong in the jumps as well as hurdles.

Wheeling Park will also make some noise thanks to junior Mike Wakim in the distance races. Park is also strong in the sprint relays.

Zanesville is strong in the throwing events thanks to Aaron Kent, while Weir High's Aaron Gursky will also be one of the premier discus throwers in the field.

Staubenville is another team to watch. Big Red boasts

The Weir High girls are one of the favorites in the team race. Senior hurdler Janice Drelick leads the way for the Lady Red Riders who finished second at the Shadyside Relays.

The Red Riders will boast the premier sprint relay teams in the field.

Zanesville's girls -- who finished second a year ago -- will look to get over the hump this spring.

"Our team is pretty fired up about this year's meet," said head coach Herb Fitzer. "We think we have a pretty good big-meet team with a strong mix of young runners."

The Lady Blue Devils are led by junior discus thrower Allison Lawyer who is the defending champion.

Sophomore sprinter Brandy Simpson and freshman Tasia Blackwell are all strong entrants for the Muskingum County outfit.

Arguably the most talented girl in the class is Beaver Local senior Paula Ferry. Ferry -- a Louisville track recruit -- will be the premier long jumper and sprinter in the field.

Buckeye Local's Abby Becca is one to watch in the 400 meter dash, while Edison's Tasha Modranski is the top distance entrant in the class.

The complete 4-A class looks like this: Staubenville, Buckeye Local, Weir, Beaver Local, Cambridge, Edison, East Liverpool, Brooke, Zanesville, John Marshall and Wheeling Park.

OVAC Track:

• Bellaire boys, girls sweep OVAC 3-A championships

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference is just going to start designing its 3-A track pennants in Red and Black.

The Bellaire Big Reds captured their third title in four years, while the Lady Big Reds claimed their fourth straight Class 3-A female crown to make it a clean sweep Saturday afternoon at warm and sunny Nelson Field in Bellaire.

The Big Reds' boys racked up 137 markers, which was 39 better than runner-up Martins Ferry. Oak Glen was third overall with 64 points.

The Lady Big Reds, meanwhile, got off to a strong start on Thursday and carried it over en route to 119 points. Tyler Consolidated took home the second-place hardware with 99 points.

Wheeling Park's boys captured their fourth title in six years in the 4-A race, while the Weir girls won their first-ever OVAC crown.

The Patriots finished the 18-event meet with 97 points, which was some 18 better than Steubenville. Weir, meanwhile, closed with 89, which was 24 more than Zanesville.

IN 3-A, the Bellaire boys captured their 20th OVAC title in school history thanks to the solid mix of elite and depth.

"We thought coming in that we were the favorite, but we knew we had to perform," Miller said. "These kids set this as a goal every year, so it's a nice reward for them."

The Big Reds -- who captured the Shadyside Relays crown and finished second at last week's Bellaire Relays -- claimed titles in five events, but were able to score in all but one event.

"Our boys are pretty well rounded, and this is a nice win for our program," Miller said. "Our field-event



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

UNION Local's A.J. Androsko (left) battles Bellaire's Jayson Keyser in the 300 hurdles at Saturday's OVAC Class 3-A/4-A Track & Field Championships at Nelson Field in Bellaire. Androsko's time was 40.04.

See, **TRACK**, Page C6

REST ROOMS



OVAC Track:

• Bellaire boys, girls grab first day leads in OVAC Class 3-A track championships

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

The finals in all four classes are now set.

The 3-A and 4-A schools began their quest for the coveted Ohio Valley Athletic Conference track championship Thursday evening at Nelson Field in Bellaire.

After the completion of a few finals in each class and the running of semi-final heats of the short sprints, a few familiar faces perched themselves on the top of the team standings.

The remainder of the field events and running finals will be contested Saturday back at Nelson Field. The small schools put the finishing touches on their meet tonight at Shadyside.

Bellaire -- which captured both the boys and girls' 3-A titles a year ago -- put itself in position to hoist yet another banner after scoring 49 points in the girls and 48 markers on the boys' side.

The Magnolia girls are currently sitting in second with 18 points and Union Local is third with 14.

St. Clairsville's boys are currently second in the team standings with 26 points, while Meadowbrook is third with 18 markers.

The Edison girls grabbed the lead after five scored events in 4-A by scoring some 42 points. That total was 15 better than Zanesville and 22 better than Wheeling Park.

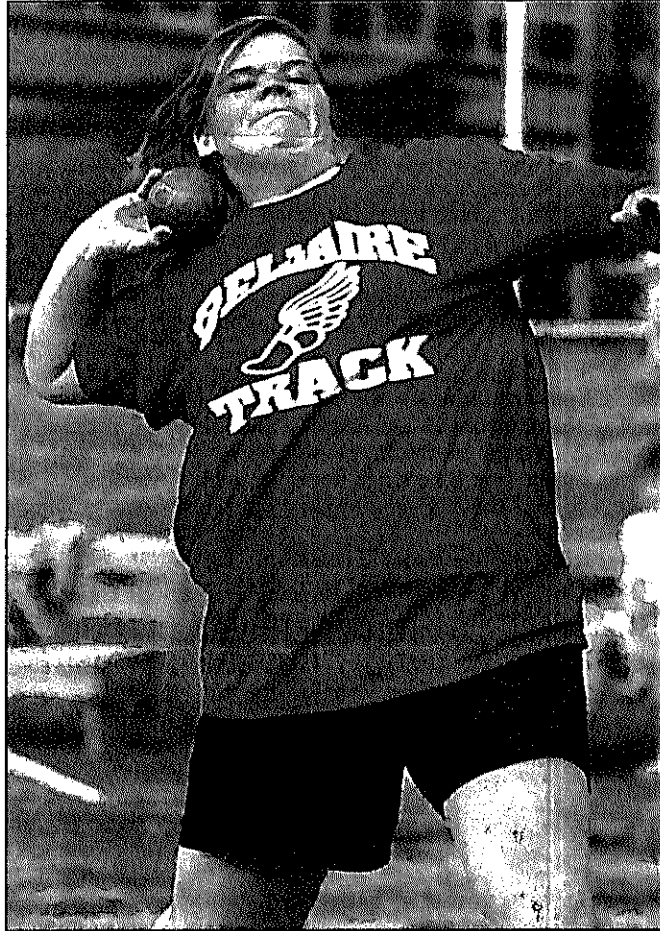
The Patriot boys grabbed the first-day lead with 33 tallies. Beaver Local and Zanesville each had 24 points.

IN 3-A, Coach Monte Miller's Big Reds ran roughshod over the rest of the field, scoring in all five events, including two champions.

Senior pole vaulter Brandon Lodi got the Big Reds to the strong start when he soared over 12-feet to win his specialty.

The Big Reds' crack 4x800 team of Phil Green, Eric Wise, Mike

See, **TRACK**, Page B2



T-L Photos/JOEL JOSEPH

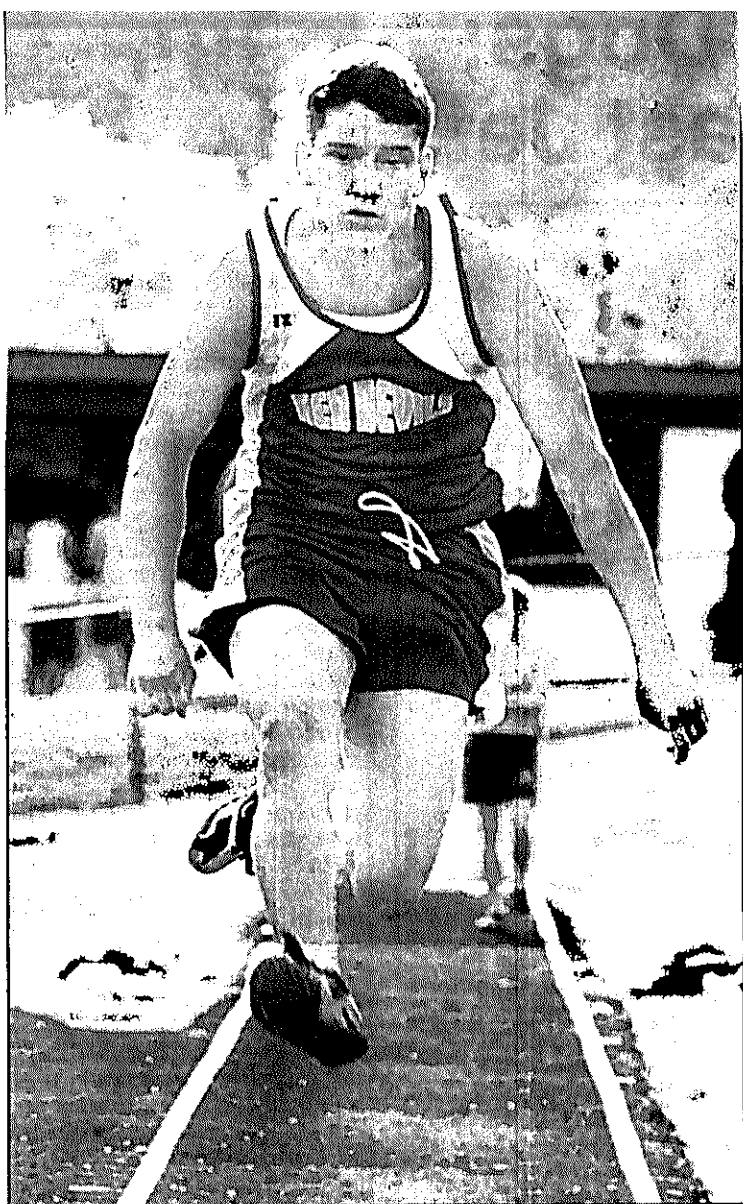
TOP PHOTO: Martins Ferry's Kyle Ray (middle) starts the 100-meter dash during qualifying at Thursday night's OVAC 3-A/4-A meet at Nelson Field in Bellaire. Ray posted the best qualifying time in the event.

ABOVE: Bellaire sophomore Emily Taylor prepares to let loose her winning effort of over 37 feet in the shot put event.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

BELLAIRE senior Aimee Vavrek runs to victory in the 3,200 meter event at Thursday's OVAC Class 3-A/4-A Track & Field Championships at Nelson Field in Bellaire.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

LEAPING to the OVAC Championship in the 3-A long jump is St. Clairsville junior Mitch McGarry. He won the title with a mark 21-ft-7.

● Track

Continued from Page C1

Carpenter and Brice Antonik turned in eight laps in 8:38.4.

St. Clairsville propelled itself into the second spot thanks to a victory in the long jump. Junior standout Mitch McGarry marked the sand at 21-ft-7 for the title.

Martins Ferry -- which qualified well in the two short sprints -- got on the scoreboard when junior David DeFranco claimed his first OVAC discus title with a toss of 146-ft-9.

Meadowbrook's Josh Beynon claimed the 3200 meter title, cruising eight laps in 10:20.9.

The Lady Big Reds, meanwhile, put themselves in a strong position to claim their fourth straight conference title.

Bellaire's girls were fueled by senior distance dandy Aimee Vavrek who won the 3200 meter run with a 12:19.4.

Sophomore dandy Emily Taylor captured the shot put when she launched the iron ball to a mark of 37-ft-0 1/4.

Junior Amber Watson continued her strong season in the pole vault, winning the title with a jump of 8-feet.

Magnolia's Micah Bell claimed the other final of the first day, winning the high jump

with a leap of 4-ft-10.

IN 4-A, the Park boys got off to a strong start by capturing two championships during the first night of action.

The Patriots captured the 4x800 crown when the team of Sean Flanagan, Tim Flatley, Matt Keding and Mike Wakini turned in a 8:32.1.

Justin Famoso captured the pole vault title by clearing 12 feet.

Beaver Local got a win when senior Matt Vujaklya claimed the long jump with a mark of 21-ft-5 1/2.

Weir High's Aaron Gurskey claimed his specialty when he won the discus with a toss of 153-ft-11.

The Edison girls got off to a strong start by winning two individual titles.

Junior Tasha Modranski claimed the 3200 meter run with a time of 12:24.0. Becka Huff claimed a highly-competitive high jump with a leap of 5-ft-3.

John Marshall's Stephanie Prager won the pole vault (7-6). Zanesville's Allison Lawyer captured the shot put (35-ft-8 3/4) and Weir High's girls claimed the 4x800 (10:20.9).

OVAC Track Results

TEAM SCORES

Girls

3-A -- Bellaire, 48; Magnolia, 18; Union Local, 14; Tyler Consolidated, 14; Indian Creek, 11; Martins Ferry, 6; Meadowbrook, 5; St. Clairsville, 5; Harrison Central, 2; Oak Glen, 1.
4-A -- Edison, 42; Zanesville, 27; Wheeling Park, 20; John Marshall, 16; Cambridge, 12; East Liverpool, 10; Weir, 10; Steubenville, 4; Buckeye Local, 2; Beaver Local, 1.

Boys

3-A -- Bellaire, 49; St. Clairsville, 26; Meadowbrook, 18; Martins Ferry, 14; Indian Creek, 14; Magnolia, 12; Tyler, 9; Union Local, 5; Oak Glen, 4; Harrison Central, 1.
4-A -- Beaver Local, 24; Wheeling Park, 17; Zanesville, 16; Edison, 12; Weir, 10; Steubenville, 7; Cambridge, 6; East Liverpool, 1.

3200M -- 1, Aimee Vavrek, Bellaire, 12:19.4. 2, Branna Hagerty, Tyler Consol, 12:29.6. 3, Jade Tuttle, Bellaire, 12:51.7. 4, Alexis Emch, Magnolia, 13:09.3. 5, Samantha McIntosh, Harrison Cen, 13:12.8. 6, Kelsie Travaglino, Oak Glen, 13:52.0.
HIGH JUMP -- 1, Micah Bell, Magnolia, 4-10. 2, Cara Colantoni, Indian Creek, 4-06. 3, Kelli Coulter, Meadowbrook, 4-06. 3, Sara Bigelow, St. Clairsville, 4-06. 3, Cera Estep, Magnolia, 4-06. 6, Amanda Piccolini, St. Clairsville, 4-04.

POLE VAULT -- 1, Amber Watson, Bellaire, 8-00. 2, Marie Minnich, Union Local, 7-06. 3, Ashley Anderson, Union Local, 7-06. 4, Kathryn Jones, Bellaire, 7-00. 5, Jayme Heintzman, Tyler Consol, 6-06. 6, Tristan Heady, Meadowbrook, 6-06.

SHOT PUT -- 1, Emily Taylor, Bellaire, 37-00.25. 2, Brandi Snezik, Bellaire, 32-07.50. 3, Melissa Padyjasek, Martins Ferry, 32-04. 4, Jennifer Wilson, Tyler Consol, 30-05.25. 5, Gabe Wilson, Indian Creek, 30-03.50. 6, Antoinette Alteri, Indian Creek, 29-00.75.

4-A

3200M -- 1, Tasha Modranski, Edison, 12:24.0. 2, Brittany Zumpetta, Brooke, 13:12.6. 3, Angela Vitro, Edison, 13:53.8. 4, Danielle Francis, Wheeling Park, 13:56.3. 5, Ashley Kilpatrick, Buckeye Local, 14:09.2. 6, Hannah Gerstner, Zanesville, 14:19.7.

4X800 -- 1, Weir 10:20.9. 2, East Liverpool 10:21.8. 3, John Marshall 10:31.4. 4, Zanesville 10:36.7. 5, Wheeling Park 10:41.3. 6, Beaver Local 10:44.5.

HIGH JUMP -- 1, Becka Huff, Edison, 5-03. 2, Breanne Kosar, Wheeling Park, 5-02. 3, Betsy Kaminski, Wheeling Park, 5-00. 4, Natalee Noche, Cambridge, 4-10. 5, Amber Dorony, Steubenville, 4-10. 6, Brianne Bishop, East Liverpool, 4-10.

POLE VAULT -- 1, Stephanie Prager, John Marshall, 7-06. 2, Cara Radca, Cambridge, 7-06. 3, Pennie Anderson, Edison, 7-00. 4, Abby Hodgson, Zanesville, 6-00.

SHOT PUT -- 1, Allison Lawyer, Zanesville, 35-08.75. 2, Kortney Hale, Zanesville, 33-08.25. 3, Trista Cogley, Edison, 32-02. 4, Amanda Agin, Edison, 31-10.75. 5, Kara Washington, Steubenville, 30-08.75. 6, Chelsey Beebout, East Liverpool, 30-07.50.

BOYS

3-A

3200M -- 1, Josh Beynon, Meadowbrook, 10:20.9. 2, Justin McEldowney, Magnolia, 10:38.9. 3, Allen Loy, St. Clairsville, 10:46.2. 4, Joey DePalma, St. Clairsville, 10:52.2. 5, Clyde Jordan, Indian Creek, 10:54.8. 6, James Taylor, Bellaire, 10:57.1.

4X800 -- 1, Bellaire 8:38.4. 2, Indian Creek 8:42.4. 3, St. Clairsville 9:04.5. 4, Magnolia 9:10.4. 5, Martins Ferry 9:15.2. 6, Harrison Central 9:29.2.
POLE VAULT -- 1, Bradon Lodi, Bellaire, 12-00. 2, Marvin Benson, Meadowbrook, 12-00. 3, Sean Neff, Tyler Consol, 10-00. 4, Zach Delman, Union Local, 9-00.

LONG JUMP -- 1, Mitch McGarry, St. Clairsville, 21-07. 2, Jayson Keyser, Bellaire, 21-03. 3, T.J. Ney, Bellaire, 21-02. 4, Kellen Hughes, Indian Creek, 19-07. 5, Ben Dillaman, Tyler Consol, 19-06. 6, Trent Wable, Tyler Consol, 18-10.

DISCUS -- 1, David DeFranco, Martins Ferry, 146-09. 2, Sean Porter, Bellaire, 141-10. 3, Aaron Agnew, Bellaire, 139-00. 4, Brandon Woofert, Oak Glen, 135-03. 5, Nick Stankovich, Martins Ferry, 133-09. 6, Koel Davia, Union Local, 127-09.

4-A
4X800 -- 1, Wheeling Park 8:30.1. 2, Zanesville 8:32.1. 3, Edison 8:44.8. 4, Steubenville 8:45.5. 5, Cambridge 8:51.5. 6, East Liverpool 8:53.6.

POLE VAULT -- 1, Justin Famoso, Wheeling Park, 12-00. 2, Robbie Dunn, Zanesville, 10-06. 3, Chris Seldier, Wheeling Park, 10-00. 4, Dale Gotschall, Cambridge, 9-06. 5, Price Winston, Cambridge, 9-06. 6, Brady Defibaugh, John Marshall, 9-00.

LONG JUMP -- 1, Matt Vujaklya, Beaver Local, 21-05.50. 2, Dan Kinsey, Beaver Local, 20-11. 3, David Fortney, Wheeling Park, 20-08.50. 4, Brian Gognat, Cambridge, 20-02. 5, James Kellermier, Edison, 20-01. 6, Walker Cox, Steubenville, 19-07.25.

DISCUS -- 1, Aaron Gurskey, Weir, 153-11. 2, Aaron Kent, Zanesville, 150-11. 3, Dan Kinsey, Beaver Local, 148-08. 4, Jeremiah Hinerman, Edison, 137-02. 5, Aaron Patterson, Steubenville, 135-08. 6, Mike Beaver, Wheeling Park, 134-05.

OVAC Track Results

OVAC
Qualifiers to Saturday's Finals
Class 3-A

Davison (St.C), 17.1; Taylor Pavlik (Mag), 17.2; Ben Dillaman (TC), 17.3.
Class 4-A

Small schools' OVAC track meet opens Wednesday at Shadyside

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

The 1-A and 2-A schools are currently warming up in the bullpen. The smaller schools are set to open the OVAC Cal Giffin Track and Field Championships at Shadyside's Fleming Field Wednesday night. The majority of the running finals

and left-over field events will be completed Friday evening. The 3-A and 4-A schools will open their competition Thursday afternoon at Nelson Field in Bellaire with championship finals slated for Saturday. The action begins at Shadyside Wednesday at 4 p.m. with trials and finals in both the boys and girls pole vault, boys long jump (2-A boys), high

jump (1-A girls), shot put (2-A girls) and boys discus (1-A boys). The second group of field events set for Wednesday will include long jump (2-A boys), high jump (2-A girls), shot put (1-A girls) and discus (2-A boys). The running events will begin at 4:30 p.m. There will be qualifying in all of the races from the 400 down as well as the hurdle events.

Running finals planned for the first day of competition will be the 4x800 (2-A boys, 1-A boys and 1-A girls), 3200 meter run (2-A girls and 2-A boys). Several interesting team races should develop through the course of the two-day meet. The 2-A girls appears to be a two-horse race with Barnesville and

Stuebenville Central locking horns for all 18 events. The Lady Crusaders of Coach Bob Stanko are the defending OVAC champions. They captured the conference crown a year ago in impressive fashion, capturing meet titles in all but three events.

See, OVAC, Page B2

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

"We know how good Barnesville is," Stanko said. "It's going to be a dog-fight, so it will be much different than last year."

"We haven't talked about being the defending champions (with our kids). We know where we are strong, and where (Barnesville) is strong, so I really think it's going to be a lot of fun to watch."

Where the Lady Crusaders are strong is in the sprints and hurdles with juniors Abby Sokol and Shatara Walters, respectively. Central also possess strong relay squads and talented field event performers in Jen Smith and Jami Dent.

Barnesville, meanwhile, will try to off-set some of the Lady Crusaders' speed with distance running.

Coach Darrell Davis' team -- which has lost just once, ironically enough to Catholic Central at last week's Burger King Invitational -- has moved back to 2-A after spending last season in 3-A.

"It really should be a great meet," Davis said. "They have some nice sprinters and field event people, so only time will tell."

Davis is hoping his team can get off to a strong start on the first day since the 3200 meter run, shot put and pole vault are three of his team's stronger events.

"Those are events are where we are strong, so it's very crucial that we get off to a good start," Davis said.

The Lady Shamrocks are led by sophomore distance dandy Jenny Morgan who is scheduled to compete in at least two open events. Junior Kris Schuerle is another formidable entrant in the distance races.

Senior Brianna Cook, senior Ramsey Miller, senior Emily Bilyeu, senior Katie Welch and frosh Lacey Butler are all solid field event participants.

Wheeling Central could be another team to watch. The Lady Maroon Knights have enjoyed a solid season thus far. They are strong in hurdles, distance and sprint relays.

The 2-A boys' race could be one of the most wide-open classes of the whole weekend.

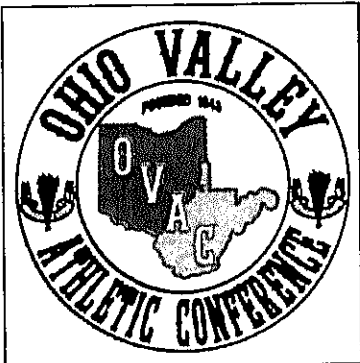
River comes into the meet as the two-time defending champions, but the Pilots were hit hard by graduation.

Veteran mentor Tim Frye still has depth and talent, which could make his team a legitimate title threat once again this week.

"This is a very competitive meet," Frye said. "There are probably four or five teams that could have a shot at winning depending on how the points are spread."

The Pilots are led by senior middle distance ace Ryan Whitlatch and senior distance runner Pat McGuire.

Junior Roy Campbell is a solid entrant in the pole vault.



The Pilots also boast strong 4x4 and 4x8 teams.

"We are hoping to turn in our best performances of the season and see what happens," Frye said. "This should be a great meet to watch, one that could go down to the final event before being decided."

Barnesville -- which returns to 2-A this season after spending the past two years in 3-A -- is another team to watch as the meet unfolds.

"We really think we have a good opportunity to contend for the title," said head coach Sean McCrate. "Wheeling Central appears to be very talented based on their performance at the Shadyside Relays and Coach (Tim) Frye will definitely have his (River) team ready to compete."

The Shamrocks of Coach Sean McCrate are led by senior shot putter Danny Spiczewski.

Senior hurdler Eric Householder is probably the favorite in both the high and intermediate hurdle events.

Senior Jason Bahmer is one of the top pole vaulters in the field. The 'Rocks also boast solid relay teams.

"If we are to contend we must receive second-level points," McCrate continued. "We have a number of athletes that should score well, but the key to our team performance will be some of the lesser experienced athletes performing to their capabilities."

Wheeling Central has enjoyed a very strong season. The Maroon Knights are led by senior hurdler Eric Novick.

The Knights also possess strong relay squads.

The complete 2-A field includes: Wellsville, Toronto, Caldwell, River, Fort Frye, Steubenville Central, Buckeye Trail, Monroe Central, Wheeling Central, Shenandoah and Barnesville.

IN 1-A, the boys' race appears to be a three-team race, while the girls' looks to be a two-team event.

Coach Dave Plumby's Linsly Cadets appear to be the favorite in the boys race.

Linsly -- owners of eight conference titles in 15 seasons under Plumby -- has been one of the area's strongest teams all spring, capturing titles at the Tyler Consolidated Invitational, Brooke Relays and Williamstown Invitational.

"We have done well so far

this season," Plumby said. "But, our kids know they have to show up and perform and other things will take care of themselves."

"I think the world of guys like Bubba (Kapral) and Joel (Joseph), and I know they will have their teams ready, so we have to be ready for the challenge."

The Cadets boast a solid combination of elite talent and depth.

The talent is spearheaded by versatile senior Mark Plumby who will be entered in the 100, high hurdles, 300 hurdles and run on a sprint relay squad.

Seniors Wayne Green and Tony Walls have also been solid contributors in the sprint relays and long jump. Junior John Vellenoweth is the valley's premier pole vault, having soared over 14-ft-6.

Sam Adams, Keith Ferrera and Preston Smith headline the Cadets' distance stable.

"Wednesday is big for us because we have several strong events," Plumby admitted. "We have to score in the finals' competed, but at the same time we have to qualify people."

Shadyside -- which has a sterling track tradition -- is another formidable entrant in 1-A.

"I would have to say Linsly is the favorite entering the meet," said Tigers' head coach Joel Joseph. "Linsly has a very balanced team that may be one of the best boys teams in the valley."

The Tigers, however, will score points in the hurdles with junior Dom Davolio and sophomore Lyle Burkhart. The Tigers' sprint relays have also been formidable all spring.

"Our boys have been improving all season," Joseph admitted. "I know they will be ready to go and will give us everything they have to help make the meet as close as possible."

St. John Central is another team that has been improving all season.

The Irish are led by their deep distance stable, which features sophomore Zach Foster, junior Nick Habursky and freshman Zach Yereb.

The Irish middle distance is also formidable with junior Michael Totterdale. The Green can score in the pole vault with junior Jake Palmer and in the sprints with sophomore Kyle Hathaway.

"This OVAC is a no-brainer because Linsly is the class of the boys' field," said Irish head coach Robert "Bubba" Kapral. "I am quite pleased with our boys because we have a young team, but we have a chance to score a lot of points."

The 1-A girls' event could be like watching a good game of chess between two-time defending champion St. John Central and Shadyside.

Both the Lady Irish and Lady Tigers are strong in certain areas, but are both are also weak in

other areas, leaving Kapral and Joseph having to play the chess match to get as many points as possible.

St. John Central -- which came into the season with visions of grand things -- has taken a hit with the unexpected loss of two defending OVAC champions.

The Green are still formidable with sophomore sprinter April Rotilio in the 100, 200 and 400 meter dashes.

Senior Brianne Cattran is the defending conference champion in the 1600 and 3200 meter run. Senior Jena Ehni is the top entrant and defending champ in the pole vault. Senior Courtney Ogilbee is the defending champion in the 800 meter run.

"We started out the season with what we thought may be the best girls' team we have had in a long time, but it hasn't worked out that way," Kapral admitted. "Losing two key people from last year took a lot of wind out of our sails, but despite that we have competed surprisingly well. We have a lot of respect for Coach Joseph and his program. Shadyside has a strong nucleus of quality athletes."

Shadyside, meanwhile, has been a formidable squad all spring, finishing as the top small school in most invitational.

The Lady Tigers have struggled mightily this spring to score points in the field in events other than the long jump.

"St. John's holds a lead in the field events, and we really can't afford any blunders on the track due to that deficit in the field," Joseph explained. "I really feel, however, that the points we can score on the track will make this a very competitive meet."

Shadyside holds a big advantage in the hurdle races with sophomore ace Bre Burkhart entered in both the highs and lows. Senior Lindsay Jovicic is another strong competitor in the 300 hurdles.

Junior Carrie Bonar is the Lady Tigers' top entrant in the long jump, while Michelle Marty leads the Orange sprint contingent.

The Orange distance stable is anchored by freshman Marissa Melanko and junior Shayla Holenka.

"We know that Coach Kapral always has his teams ready come OVAC time, and we expect that to be the case once again this week," Joseph admitted. "I know are kids are ready, and having (St. John) as our biggest competition, really makes things more entertaining."

Bridgeport's Brittany Hocker enters her final OVAC meet seeking the four-peat in the 100 and 200 meter dashes.

The entire 1-A field consists of: Mount DeChantal, Bishop Donahue, Paden City, Conotton Valley, Weirton Madonna, Beallsville, Cameron, Bridgeport, Linsly, Shadyside and St. John's.

Bellaire, Park, Edison Making Noise

**By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer**

Head coach Monte Miller's Bellaire High boys and girls track teams have normally hit their respective strides by the time the final week of April and the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship meets roll around.

This season appears to be no exception as the Lady Big Reds took the first day lead in the Class AAA meet while Miller's boys have also jumped to the head of the class heading into Saturday afternoon's finals at Nelson Field.

Meanwhile, it looks like the big school girls meets could have their third team champion in as many years while Wheeling Park attempts to take the top spot on

the podium for the third time in four years.

Bellaire's girls picked up three individual titles and a second, third and fourth-place finish en route to 48 points with Magnolia a distant second with 18 and Union Local and Tyler Consolidated tied for third with 14.

The Big Red boys also impressed, putting 49 first-day tallies on the board to forge ahead of St. Clairsville, which is sitting with 26 tallies.

In the AAAA meet, Wheeling Park has forged its way to the top with 33 opening session tallies while Zanesville and Beaver Local are a close second with 24 each. Edison is the girls' leader as the Lady Wildcats are holding a 42-27 edge on the Blue Devils with the Lady Patriots third at 20.

Senior distance ace Aimee



More Track
Individual results from Thursday's OVAC meet.
Page 24

Vavrek captured the 3,200 for Bellaire in 12:19.4 with teammate Jade Tuttle third on the track. The Reds also did well in field events with Emily Taylor pumping the shot 37-00.25 for a title and Brandi Snezik second.

Meanwhile, Amber Watson cleared 8-foot-0 to take the pole vault with freshman teammate Kathryn Jones fourth as Bellaire put itself in good position for a fourth consecutive conference girls team crown.

Magnolia sophomore Micah Bell won the only other event

contested, taking the high jump with a 4-10 effort.

Bellaire's boys, looking for a repeat team championship and third in four campaigns, also showed depth in jumping to the forefront.

The Redmen won the 4x800-meter relay in 8:38.4 while Brandon Lodi got over 12-0 to claim the pole vault title.

St. Clairsville junior Mitch McGarry won the long jump with a 21-7 effort while Martins Ferry's David DeFranco twirled the discus 146-9. However, the host's Jayson Keyser and T.J. Ney were second and third behind McGarry and Sean Porter and Aaron Agnew were right behind DeFranco.

Park had a pair of winners with sophomore Justin Famoso winning the pole vault at 12-0 and the Patriot 4x800 baton-

passing unit stopping the clock at 8:30.1.

Beaver's Matt Vajaklya soared 21-5.50 to take the long jump while Weir High's Aaron Gurskey twirled the platter 153-11 for victory.

Edison junior Tasha Modranski was the girls' 3,200-meter champion with a 12:24.0 time while teammate Becka Huff cleared 5-3 to win the high jump.

Other big-school titlists included the Red Riders' 4X800 foursome (10:20.9), Stephanie Prager of John Marshall in the pole vault (7-6) and Zanesville's Allison Lawyer in the shot with a 35-8.75 put.

The big school meets conclude Saturday afternoon back at Nelson Field while the OVAC Class A-AA will crown team champions tonight at Fleming Field in Shadyside.

OVAC TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Class A-AA
(at Fleming Field, Shadyside)**

**Class AA Boys
Team Scoring**

1. Wheeling Central 104; 2. Steubenville Central 91; 3. Barnesville 83; 4. River 74; 5. Wellsville 72; 6. Caldwell 65; 7. Toronto 39; 8. Buckeye Trail 14; 9. Monroe Central 10; 10. (tie) Fort Frye and Caldwell 3.

Individual Results

100: 1. Josh McKee (WC), 11.49; 2. Leasure (Cald), 11.52; 3. Zadrozny (WC), 11.57; 4. Moleksy (SCC), 11.76; 5. Yasho (SCC), 11.88; 6. Zerkle (Shen), 11.97.

200: 1. Nick Drakos (SCC), 22.96; 2. Leasure (Cald), 23.24; 3. Thompson (Wells), 23.41; 4. Novick (WC), 23.72; 5. Householder (Barnes), 24.07; 6. Moleksy (SCC), 24.14.

400: 1. Brian Leasure (Cald), 52.54; 2. Laman (SCC), 53.56; 3. Ackerman (Barnes), 54.20; 4. Roman (Tor), 55.02; 5. Droginski (WC), 55.56; 6. Miller (River), 57.08.

800: 1. Ryan Whittlatch (River), 2:00.18; 2. McGuire (River), 2:00.52; 3. Futem (Barnes), 2:01.74; 4. Holmes (Tor), 2:04.81; 5. McLaughlin (Cald), 2:05.91; 6. Rogers (Barnes), 2:08.04.

1600: 1. Bobby Herron (WC), 4:32.75; 2. McGuire (River), 4:42.97; 3. Whittlatch (River), 4:43.45; 4. Keenan (Tor), 4:49.34; 5. Gilloon (SCC), 4:51.35; 6. Droginski (WC), 4:51.38.

3200: 1. Bobby Herron (WC), 9:59.92; 2. Morando (WC), 10:03.63; 3. Deleonardis (SCC), 10:33.07; 4. Saling (Cald), 10:35.54; 5. Gilloon (SCC), 10:43.53; 6. Blattler (Barnes), 10:51.94.

110HH: 1. Eric Novick (WC), 14.95; 2. Householder (Barnes), 14.97; 3. Schreck (SCC), 16.06; 4. Robinson (MC), 16.09; 5. Williams (Barnes), 16.50; 6. Fonner (WC), 17.78.

300HH: 1. Marc Lascola (Wells), 39.99; 2. Novick (WC), 40.26; 3. Householder (Barnes), 41.41; 4. Schreck (SCC), 42.95; 5. Lewis (SCC), 43.16; 6. Rich (Shen), 44.08.

4X100: 1. Wellsville, 44.63; 2. Steubenville Central, 46.12; 3. River, 46.53; 4. Buckeye Trail, 46.94; 5. Barnesville, 47.85; 6. Shenandoah, 48.52.

4X200: 1. Wheeling Central, 1:32.20 (Meet record, bettering mark of 1:32.84 established by Cadiz in 1993); 2. Wellsville, 1:33.20; 3. Steubenville Central, 1:34.80; 4. Barnesville, 1:37.30; 5. Buckeye Trail, 1:40.40; 6. Toronto, 1:42.10.

4X400: 1. Steubenville Central, 3:34.90; 2. River, 3:36.90; 3. Barnesville, 3:37.70; 4. Toronto, 3:40.30; 5. Wellsville, 3:46.30; 6. Buckeye Trail, 3:47.90.

4X800: 1. River, 8:37.38; 2. Wheeling Central, 8:44.13; 3. Toronto, 8:44.43; 4. Barnesville, 8:45.40; 5. Steubenville Central, 8:54.09; 6. Caldwell, 9:13.86.

Shuttles: 1. Steubenville Central, 1:04.28; 2. Toronto, 1:06.61; 3. River, 1:06.80; 4. Wheeling Central, 1:09.27; 5. Caldwell, 1:15.04; 6. Buckeye Trail, 1:15.32.

HJ: 1. Shane McLaughlin (Cald), 6-2; 2. Rebich (Tor), 5-10; 3. Laman (Steub), 5-10; 4. Robinson (MC), 5-8; 5. Mealy (Wells), 5-8; 6. Yahn (WC), 5-6.

PV: 1. Jason Bahmer (Barnes), 12-6; 2. Campbell (River), 12-0; 3. Fonner (WC), 11-0; 4. Detling (Barnes), 10-6; 5. Lang (FF), 9-6; 6. Huffman (River), 9-0.

LJ: 1. Derek Thompson (Wells), 20-10.50; 2. Pullie (Wells), 19-5.25; 3. Leasure (Cald), 19-3; 4. McKee (WC), 19-2.50; 5. Drakos (SCC), 18-8.25; 6. Ackerman (Barnes), 18-2.

Shot: 1. Danny Spiczenski (Barnes), 52-9.5 (Meet record, bettering mark of 52-3 established by Eric Brubaker of River in 1973); 2. Martin (Wells), 51-10; 3. Barricklow (Barnes), 46-6.50; 4. Jeffery (Cald), 46-0; 5. Gehrig (River), 42-10; 6. Rohrig (WC), 42-4.50.

Disc: 1. Michael Jeffery (Cald), 144-8; 2. Martin (Wells), 139-8; 3. Miller (BT), 130-3; 4. Spiczenski (Barnes), 129-4; 5. Robinson (MC), 125-10; 6. Stillings (FF), 123-4.

Sword (Shady), 11.32; 3. Strick (Shady), 11.72; 4. Hathaway (BSJ), 11.80; 5. Nicholas (CV), 12.44; 6. Kinney (Bealls), 12.78.

200: 1. Mark Plumby (Lin), 22.94; 2. Pyles (Shady), 23.74; 3. Henthorn (Shady), 24.06; 4. Sokolowski (Lin), 24.85; 5. Skinner (Bealls), 25.01; 6. Herrick (BD), 26.08.

400: 1. Max Neubauer (Lin), 52.76; 2. Sokolowski (Lin), 53.20; 3. Goff (Shady), 53.28; 4. Hathaway (BSJ), 53.53; 5. Erickson (BD), 55.50; 6. Bowman (BSJ), 56.12.

800: 1. Mike Totterdale (BSJ), 2:02.69; 2. Adams (Lin), 2:02.71; 3. Smith (Lin), 2:05.77; 4. Ellison (BSJ), 2:06.17; 5. Howard (Cam), 2:12.72; 6. Price (Bealls), 2:16.08.

1600: 1. Sam Adams (Lin), 4:41.43; 2. Smith (Lin), 4:42.67; 3. Foster (BSJ), 4:44.20; 4. Habursky (BSJ), 4:52.48; 5. Melanko (Shady), 4:58.50; 6. Nolan (BD), 5:00.83.

3200: 1. Zach Yereb (BSJ), 10:35.26; 2. Habursky (BSJ), 10:38.16; 3. Smith (Lin), 10:47.29; 4. Nolan (BD), 10:49.11; 5. Melanko (Shady), 10:52.32; 6. Lytton (Shady), 11:08.56.

110HH: 1. Mark Plumby (Lin), 14.75; 2. Davolio (Shady), 14.99; 3. Burkhardt (Shady), 15.51; 4. Ferrara (Lin), 16.66; 5. Belter (BD), 16.85; 6. Kernan (Bealls), 18.82.

300HH: 1. Dom Davolio (Shady), 40.44; 2. Burkhardt (Shady), 41.65; 3. Vellonoweth (Lin), 42.19; 4. Rinkes (BSJ), 43.58; 5. Belter (BD), 45.74; 6. Webb (CV), 46.22.

4X100: 1. Linsly, 44.37 (Meet record, bettering mark of 44.40 established by Bridgeport in 2000); 2. Shadyside, 44.96; 3. St. John's, 47.99; 4. Conotton Valley, 49.26; 5. Bishop Donahue, 50.72; 6. Beallsville, 53.02.

4X200: 1. Linsly, 1:34.0; 2. Conotton Valley, 1:40.80; 3. St. John's, 1:41.60; 4. Beallsville, 1:52.70; 5. Bishop Donahue, 1:44.90; 6. Cameron, 1:49.30.

4X400: 1. Linsly, 3:39.69; 2. Shadyside, 3:42.38; 3. St. John's, 3:44.35; 4. Beallsville, 3:49.0; 5. Conotton Valley, 3:50.39; 6. Bishop Donahue, 4:00.70.

4X800: 1. St. John's, 8:33.61; 2. Linsly, 9:06.91; 3. Bishop Donahue, 9:26.53; 4. Cameron, 9:28.82; 5. Beallsville, 9:32.89; 6. Shadyside, 9:36.77.

Shuttles: 1. Linsly, 58.77; 2. Shadyside, 1:05.46; 3. Beallsville, 1:12.49; 4. Bishop Donahue, 1:14.03; 5. St. John's, 1:17.03.

HJ: 1. Matt Belter (BD), 6-7 (Meet record, bettering mark of 6-4.25 established by Brian Boston of Shadyside in 1984); 2. Vellonoweth (Lin), 5-10; 3. Pyles (Shady), 5-8; 4. Brown (Bealls), 5-4; 5. Tonkovich (BD), 5-4; 6. Bowman (BSJ), 5-2.

PV: 1. John Vellonoweth (Lin), 14-0; 2. Palmer (BSJ), 13-6; 3. Gracic (BD), 10-0; 4. Klubert (BSJ), 9-0.

LJ: 1. Wayne Green (Lin), 19-4.25; 2. Brown (Bealls), 18-1; 3. Delman (BSJ), 17-10; 4. Donahue (BSJ), 17-8.25; 5. Goff (Shady), 17-7.50; 6. Krupa (Shady), 17-7.25.

Shot: 1. Brian McCulley (BD), 45-11; 2. Duck (Lin), 45-1.50; 3. Cwalinski (Shady), 43-6; 4. Rinkes (BSJ), 41-11.75; 5. Budrevich (Shady), 40-0.75; 6. Taylor (Lin), 38-10.

Disc: 1. Erik Cwalinski (Shady), 144-2; 2. Macri (BSJ), 129-8; 3. Duck (Lin), 128-6; 4. McCulley (BD), 121-9; 5. Ritchie (Shady), 117-6; 6. Sabie (BSJ), 110-5.

**Class A Girls
Team Scores**

1. Bellaire St. John's 158.5; 2. Shadyside 133; 3. Paden City 70; 4. Mount de Chantal 45; 5. Bishop Donahue 42.5; 6. Linsly 29; 7. Bridgeport 28; 8. Weirton Madonna 23; 9. Cameron 14; 10. Conotton Valley 6; 11. Beallsville 4.

Individual Results

100: 1. Brittany Hocker (Bport), 12.16 (Meet record, bettering mark of 12.60 established by Ameer Reyes of Linsly in 1997 and Michelle Curry of Linsly in 2000); 2. Rotilio (BSJ), 12.32; 3. Comis (WM), 13.38; 4. Bowers (PC), 13.57; 5. Bonar (Shady), 14.00; 6. Riggle (Cam), 14.51.

200: 1. April Rotilio (BSJ), 24.78 (Meet record, bettering mark of 25.90 established by Hocker of Bridgeport in 2001; Also Ohio State record bettering mark of 24.91 established by Hocker); 2. Hocker (Bport), 24.79; 3. Popovici (Mount), 27.73; 4. Comis (WM), 27.94; 5. Vetto (WM), 29.00; 6. Coffield (BD), 30.36.

400: 1. April Rotilio (BSJ), 57.80; 2. Popovici (Mount), 1:03.00; 3. Marty (Shady), 1:04.20; 4. Hillyard (PC), 1:06.90; 5. Sharpe (BSJ), 1:09.00; 6. Vetto (WM), 1:09.10.

800: 1. Courtney Ogilbee (BSJ), 2:31.55; 2. Holenka (Shady), 2:33.36; 3. Waiter (BSJ), 2:35.51; 4. Melanko (Shady), 2:37.13; 5. Hillyard (PC), 3:38.86; 6. Teska (Cam), 2:42.94.

1600: 1. Shayla Holenka (Shady), 5:35.19; 2. Melanko (Shady), 5:43.61; 3. Cattran (BSJ), 5:44.06; 4. Zeno (BSJ), 6:15.68; 5. Colton (Lin), 6:28.86; 6. Kelley (Mount), 6:40.04.

3200: 1. Marissa Melanko (Shady), 12:43.41; 2. Cattran (BSJ), 12:57.82; 3. Tierney (BSJ), 12:58.40; 4. Herr (Mount), 13:11.09; 5. Kelley (Mount), 14:04.58; 6. Liberati (Shady), 14:24.04.

100HH: 1. Bre Burkhardt (Shady), 15.78; 2. Tweedie (BD), 17.33; 3. Natall (PC), 17.49; 4. Dziatkowicz (WM), 17.65; 5. Reisberger (Shady), 17.93; 6. Blosser (Lin), 17.94.

300HH: 1. Bre Burkhardt (Shady), 48.80; 2. Jovicic (Shady), 50.05; 3. Natall (PC), 51.57; 4. Tweedie (BD), 51.58; 5. Blosser (Lin), 54.34; 6. Green (BSJ), 55.31.

4X100: 1. Shadyside, 53.04; 2. St. John's, 56.32; 3. Linsly, 56.39; 4. Mount, 58.36; 5. Paden City, 1:00.00.

4X200: 1. Shadyside, 1:54.22; 2. Paden City, 1:55.18; 3. Weirton Madonna, 1:56.23; 4. Linsly, 1:58.52; 5. St. John's, 2:02.47; 6. Bishop Donahue, 2:06.57.

4X400: 1. St. John's, 4:27.87; 2. Shadyside, 4:29.29; 3. Paden City, 4:35.07; 4. Mount, 4:38.85; 5. Linsly, 4:38.94; 6. Bishop Donahue, 5:03.24.

4X800: 1. St. John's, 10:46.95; 2. Paden City, 11:52.74; 3. Shadyside, 11:54.69; 4. Mount, 12:22.40; 5. Linsly, 12:58.09; 6. Bishop Donahue, 13:53.79.

Shuttles: 1. Shadyside, 1:08.88; 2. St. John's, 1:17.49; 3. Paden City, 1:21.20; 4. Beallsville, 1:30.49.

HJ: 1. Erica Spencer (PD), 4-10; 2. Mueller (Lin), 4-10; 3. Hill (BD), 4-8; 4. Sharpe (BSJ), 4-6; 5. Ogilbee (BSJ), 4-4; 6. Tweedie (BD), 4-4.

PV: 1. Jena Ehni (BSJ), 9-0 (Meet record); 2. Coffield (BD), 7-0; 3. Moore (BSJ), 6-6; 4. Stern (BD), 6-6; 5. Vellonoweth (Lin), 6-6.

LJ: 1. Carrie Bonar (Shady), 14-9; 2. Bowers (PC), 14-3.50; 3. Burch (CV), 13-9.50; 4. Twigg (BD), 13-6.50; 5. Seivertson (BSJ), 13-6; 6. Williams (BSJ), 13-4.50.

Shot: 1. Amanda Bushlow (BSJ), 30-4; 2. Jamen (Mount), 30-3.75; 3. Leach (Cam), 29-9; 4. Humphrey (BSJ), 29-5; 5. Janiszewski (Bport), 26-2.50; 6. Koch (BD), 26-0.75.

Disc: 1. Amanda Bushlow (BSJ), 97-3; 2. Mitchell (Bport), 90-1; 3. Leach (Cam), 80-8; 4. Ibrahim (Mount), 75-3; 5. Yurisko (BD), 74-11; 6. Humphrey (BSJ), 72-1.

'Rocks, Irish Sprint to Lead

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

While there is still a long way to go until the team trophies are passed out Friday night, powerful Barnesville opened up a huge first-day lead in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AA girls' field Wednesday at Fleming Field in Shadyside.

The Lady Shamrocks swept all four events contested last night to run up 64 points with defending champion Steubenville Central second with 18 and Wheeling Central third at 12 tallies.

Meanwhile, the Maroon Knights boys are the double-A pace-setters

with 36 points, 10 more than Wellsville, while Barnesville is third with 24.

In Class A, St. John's will take the lead into Friday's final session on both sides with the girls taking three of four events to forge a 45.5-21.5 advantage over Bishop Donahue.

On the boys' side, the Fighting Irish have 55 tallies with Linsly second at 40 and the Bishops third with 20 markers.

Even though the Lady Shamrocks seem well in control in Class AA, the Crusaders should begin piling up the points in sprints and hurdles in the finals, which could lead to a thrilling finish.

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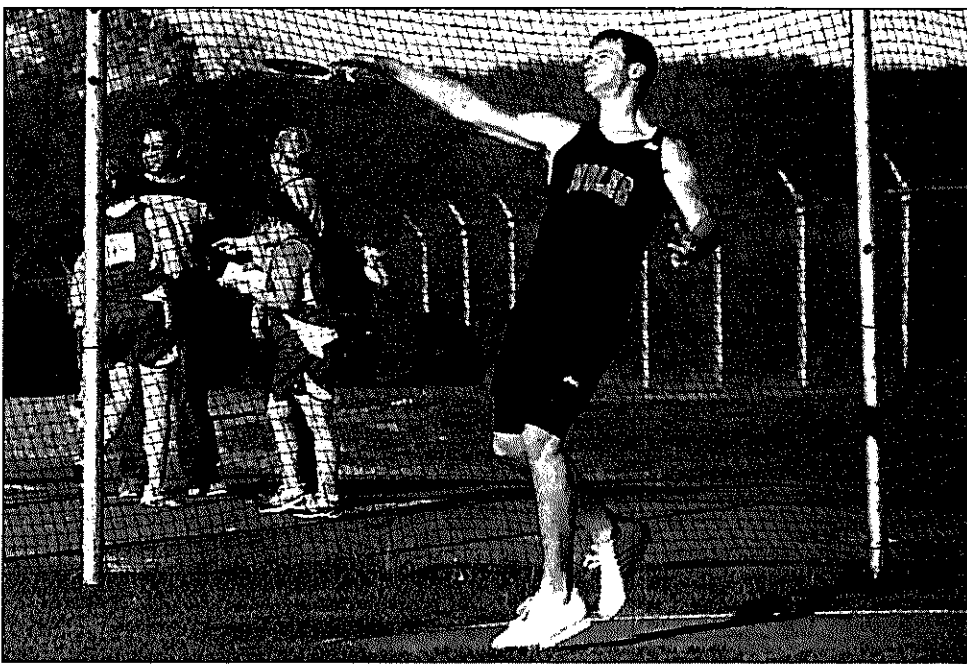


Photo by Alex Koziowski

Monroe Central's Stephen Habig throws the discus during the first day of the OVAC track championships Wednesday at Shadyside's Fleming Field.

OVAC three-peat



Courtesy of Rat & Cheese Photography

WINNING THEIR third straight OVAC 1-A track championship were the Lady Irish of St. John Central. Pictured, in front from left, are Brianna Cattran, Courtney Ogilbee, Nicole DeVendra and Jena Ehn. Second row, Annie Wiater, Mary Humphrey, Katie Tierney, Andrea Zeno, Ashley Wetzel, Katie Seivertson and Amanda Bushlow. Third row, assistant coach Courtney Delgutt, April Rotilio, Nina Green, Jocelyn Carpenter, Liz Moore and assistant coach Jeremy Midei. Fourth row, Anna Jo Williams, Erin Nicola, Haygen Mowder, Claire LeMasters, Samantha Vitale, Kayla Sharpe and Kristene Tierney. In back is head coach Robert "Bubba" Kapral.

Class AA Girls Team Scores

1. Barnesville 179; 2. Steubenville Central 167; 3. Wheeling Central 83; 4. River 30; 5. (tie) Toronto, Shenandoah and Buckeye Trail 22; 8. Fort Frye 12; 9. Wellsville 11; 10. Caldwell 5; 11. Monroe Central 2.

Individual Results

100: 1. Shatara Walters (SCC), 12.85; 2. Sokol (SCC), 13.17; 3. Roman (WC), 13.32; 4. Ash (BT), 13.55; 5. Hlubb (FF), 13.63; 6. Swope (Cald), 13.66.

200: 1. Abbey Sokol (SCC), 26.99; 2. Sawon (SCC), 27.81; 3. Downard (Tor), 27.89; 4. McGinley (WC), 28.17; 5. Borrero (BT), 28.31; 6. Moore (Barnes), 28.34.

400: 1. Jodi Bodo (SCC), 1:02.65; 2. Matanzo (SCC), 1:04.97; 3. Lashley (Barnes), 1:05.20; 4. Amos (River), 1:06.27; 5. Keyser (BT), 1:07.73; 6. Boughner (River), 1:08.15.

800: 1. Jenny Morgan (Barnes), 2:21.45; 2. Bauer (WC), 2:33.41; 3. Schuerle (Barnes), 2:36.73; 4. Kendzioriski (SCC), 2:37.82; 5. Elliott (WC), 2:38.01; 6. Kijanka (SCC), 2:43.0.

1600: 1. Jenny Morgan (Barnes), 4:58.40 (Meet record, bettering mark of 5:23.20 established by Ruthie Morgan of Barnesville in 2001); 2. Schuerle (Barnes), 5:45.31; 3. Caruso (WC), 5:48.17; 4. Matanzo (SCC), 5:57.99; 5. Wolfe (WC), 6:01.44; 6. Hill (Cald), 6:10.88.

3200: 1. Jenny Morgan (Barnes), 11:47.75; 2. Schuerle (Barnes), 12:19.03; 3. Weaver (WC), 12:26.27; 4. Sloane (WC), 12:28.51; 5. Matanzo (SCC), 13:09.23; 6. Hill (Cald), 13:27.10.

1000H: 1. Shatara Walters (SCC), 15.47; 2. Strawn (WC), 16.34; 3. Bilyeu (Barnes), 16.46; 4. Santarelli (SCC), 16.47; 5. Carpenter (Barnes), 16.63; 6. Swan (River), 17.85.

300LH: 1. Shannon Leasure (Shen), 48.32; 2. Santarelli (SCC), 49.55; 3. Strawn (WC), 49.56; 4. Carpenter (Barnes), 50.05; 5. Holskey (Barnes), 51.24; 6. Kerwood (WC), 52.18.

4X100: 1. Steubenville Central, 51.28; 2. Barnesville, 54.72; 3. Wheeling Central, 54.90; 4. Toronto, 55.41; 5. Buckeye Trail, 55.42; 6. Caldwell, 56.40.

4X200: 1. Steubenville Central, 1:50.19; 2. Barnesville, 1:54.54; 3. Wheeling Central, 1:55.96; 4. Toronto, 1:57.21; 5. Buckeye Trail, 1:57.34; 6. Caldwell, 1:58.13.

4X400: 1. Steubenville Central, 4:23.44; 2. Toronto, 4:30.74; 3. Barnesville, 4:33.63; 4. River, 4:40.07; 5. Wheeling Central, 4:43.15; 6. Shenandoah, 4:46.72.

4X800: 1. Barnesville, 10:22.30; 2. Wheeling Central, 10:30.40; 3. Steubenville Central, 12:11.20; 4. River, 12:51.70; 5. Fort Frye, 12:52.70.

Shuttles: 1. Barnesville, 1:08.70; 2. Steubenville Central, 1:09.88; 3. Wheeling Central, 1:10.48; 4. River, 1:14.71; 5. Monroe Central, 1:19.77.

HJ: 1. Emily Bilyeu (Barnes), 5-0; 2. Smith (SCC), 4-10; 3. Deem (Wells), 4-8; 4. Leasure (Shen), 4-8; 5. Carpenter (Barnes), 4-8; 6. Miller (FF), 4-6.

PV: 1. Ramsey Miller (Barnes), 9-0; 2. Butler (Barnes), 8-6; 3. Gehrig (River), 8-0; 4. Swan (River), 8-0; 5. Coleman (WC), 6-6.

LJ: 1. Shatara Walters (SCC), 16-3.25; 2. Holskey (Barnes), 15-5.5; 3. Leasure (Shen), 14-10.75; 4. Lombardozzi (Wells), 14-8.75; 5. Swan (River), 14-8.50; 6. Richardson (Wells), 14-5.50.

Shot: 1. Brianna Cook (Barnes), 40-5.75; 2. Dent (SCC), 34-4; 3. Welch (Barnes), 30-10; 4. Cannon (FF), 30-5; 5. Hlubb (FF), 28-8; 6. Ayers (Shen), 28-8.

Disc: 1. Brittini Borrero (BT), 118-5; 2. Welch (Barnes), 104-11; 3. Dent (SCC), 102-10; 4. Polsinalli (SCC), 99-10; 5. Johnson (Barnes), 99-9; 6. Cannon (FF), 95-3.

Class A Boys Team Scores

1. Linsly 191; 2. Shadyside 125; 3. Belaire St. John's 121; 4. Bishop Donahue 60; 5. Beallsville 33; 6. Conotton Valley 17; 7. Cameron 7.

Individual Results

100: 1. Mark Plumby (Lin), 11.16; 2.

OVAC Track:

• Rotilio shines as Irish girls win Class A; Linsly boys capture Class 1-A boys and Barnesville Class 2-A girls

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

In sports there is no better feeling than winning a championship.

The St. John Central girls and Linsly boys in 1-A, and the Barnesville girls and Wheeling Central boys in 2-A were able to experience that feeling Friday night at soggy Fleming Field in Shadyside.

The championship finals of the OVAC Small School track meet took place amongst intermittent showers, but the times were still sizzling.

The Lady Irish made it a three-peat for their title, outpointing Shadyside 158.5 to 133.

The Cadets turned the back-to-back trick, tallying 191 points, which was 66 better than the runner-up Tigers.

In 2-A, the Lady Shamrocks held off a late charge from a game Steubenville Central squad to earn a 179-167 win.

Wheeling Central captured its first-ever OVAC track crown, tallying 104 points. Steubenville Central took the second-place trophy with 91 points.

The big schools wrap up the four-day Cal Giffin Track and Field Championships today at Bellaire.

IN GIRLS' 1-A, the Lady Irish fought the prom and early-season adversity on top of Shadyside to earn their third straight conference crown.

"We didn't score as well in some places as we did last year, but we got outstanding performances from a lot of people," said Lady Irish head coach Bubba Kapral. "The first one is always special, but this is by far the sweetest."

"Shadyside has a super track team and we have a ton of respect for them," Kapral continued. "We thought coming into the season we had a chance to be a special team, but we lost a few people, and I didn't know if we could (win the title), but this is very sweet."

The Lady Irish enjoyed a total team effort, but sophomore speedster April Rotilio stole the show for the entire meet.

Rotilio -- who has been the area's second best sprinter for the past two seasons -- emerged out of the shadow of Bridgeport senior Brittany Hocker some-



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

BARNESVILLE'S Jenny Morgan (left) runs her leg of the 4x800 meter relay during the OVAC A/AA Track & Field Championships at Fleming Field. Morgan won the 800, one mile, and two mile and also ran a leg on the victorious 4x800 team.

what Friday night.

In the 200 meter dash final, Rotilio just nosed out Hocker for the gold medal on the lean at the finish line. Before the final places could be determined several meet officials had to look at the tape before issuing a final ruling.

In the end, Rotilio had pocketed the title and set a new Ohio Division III state record in the process with her 24.78. The mark eclipsed the old mark of 24.94, which Hocker had previously owned.

"Brittany Hocker is the best in the state and she always will be," the modest and personable Rotilio said. "To come out here and be able to beat her is just awesome. It's probably better than the feeling at the state meet last year."

Rotilio's afternoon got started when she finished second to Hocker in the 100 meter dash, turning in a solid 12.32. Hocker finished with a 12.16, which was just one-one hundredth off a state record of her own.

The Lady Irish sprint phenom came back in the 400 meter dash and won her first-ever OVAC individual title, cruising a lap in 57.80 for the gold.

"I felt weak after the 400, but during the 200 I felt awesome," Rotilio said. "I can't believe I lowered my personal records by as much, and setting a state record is just totally unbelievable."

Rotilio was by no means alone as the Lady Irish pocketed individual titles in seven events.

Junior thrower Amanda Bushlow provided the Green

with a double win in the weight events. She won the shot put on Wednesday and added the discus crown Friday with a throw of 97-ft-3.

Senior Courtney Ogilbee captured her second straight OVAC 800-meter title when she cruised two laps in 2:31.55 for the win.

Senior pole vaulter Jena Ehni claimed her speciality on Wednesday, clearing a meet record 9-feet.

The Lady Irish 4x400 team of Rotilio, Annie Wiater, Kayla Sharpe and Claire LeMasters turned in a 4:27.87 for the win. Rotilio sealed the deal when she ran down two other teams for the title on the anchor leg. The Lady Irish 4x800 team also prevailed during Wednesday's session.

The Green also got a solid effort from senior Brienne Cattran who finished second in the 3200 meter run and third in the 1600.

"Our ability to nickle-dime points here and there was big for us," Kapral said. "We won seven events, but we scored in 17 of the 18. Our elite people came through like we knew they would, but some of our other kids really stepped up, and I can't say enough about my coaching staff because those guys work their butts off, and it's reflected by the kids."

Runner-up Shadyside -- which was outscored in the field events by the Lady Irish 49.5-10 -- could get no closer than seven points down.

The Lady Tigers, however, received a sterling performance from sophomore funder Bre Burkhart who left Fleming Field with four gold medals.

"We have been practicing really hard and I felt really good coming into the meet," Burkhart said following the shuttle relay. "Winning four titles in this meet is a great feeling."

Burkhart got her day started when she cruised over 10 hurdles en route to the high hurdle victory in 15.78. She then added the 300 hurdle title, turning in a season-best 48.80 for the crown.

Burkhart also ran on two winning relay squads.

The Lady Tiger shuttle team consisting of Burkhart, Corrina VanDyne, Lindsay Jovicic and Tru Reisberger turned in a 68.88 to establish a new 1-A standard.

See, **OVAC**, Page 3

OVAC Champions



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

WINNING THE OVAC Class 2-A track & field championship recently at Shadyside's Fleming Field was this team from Barnesville High School. The Lady Shamrocks also went on to win district championship honors. The Lady Shamrocks are coached by Darrel Davis.