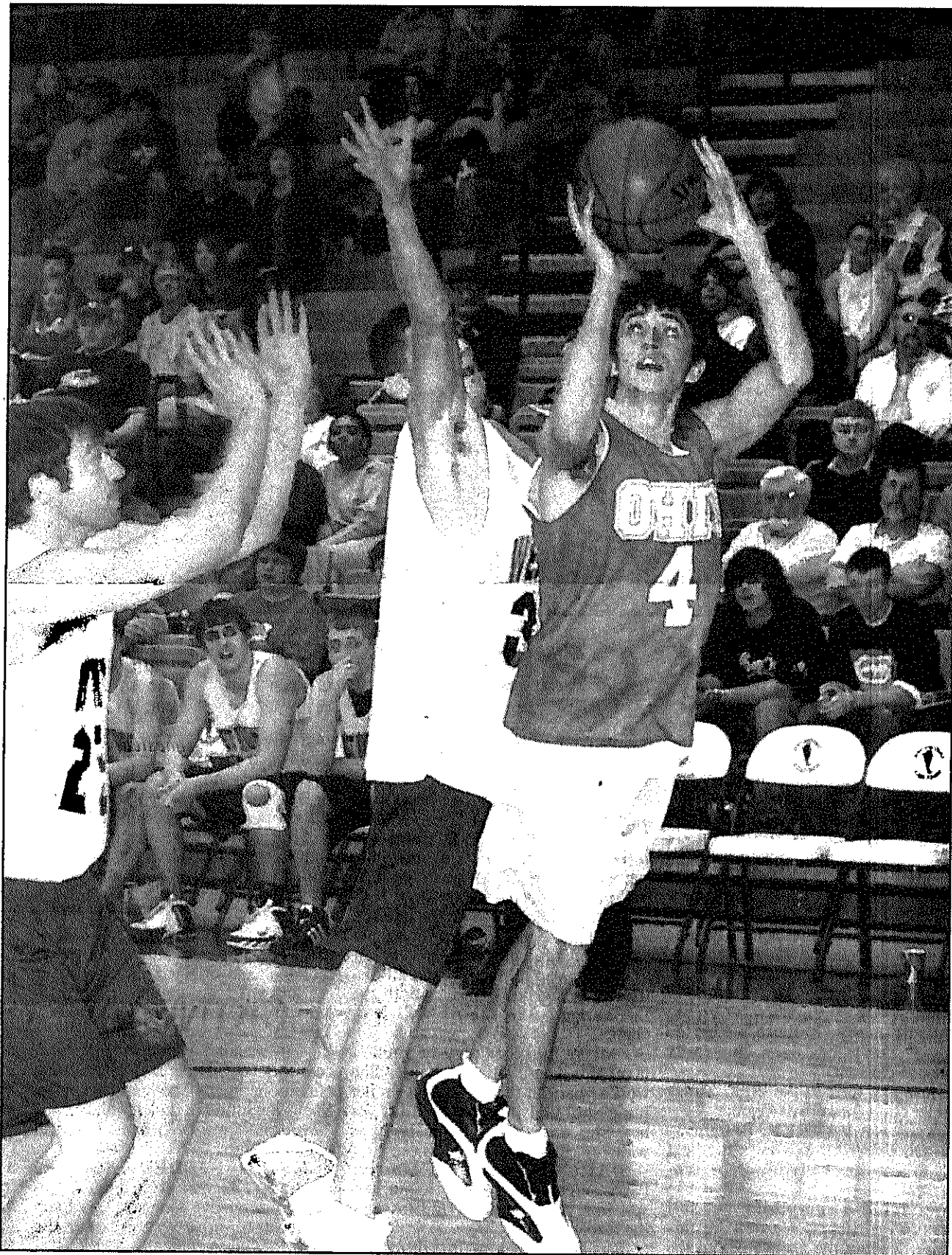


# SPORTS

Sunday, April 2, 2006

## s, W.Va. girls win



**ABOVE:** Ohio guard Taylor Goff of Shadyside goes up for an off-balance shot in front of West Virginia's Jay Lyonett of Brooke, while Wheeling Central's Jason Grob looks on to the play. Goff finished the game with only four points, but Ohio prevailed by a 88-84 count over the Mountaineers.

**AT LEFT:** Harrison Central's Kelley Polen tries to go up for a shot against Rochelle Byers of Brooke. Polen scored six points, but West Virginia picked up a victory by a 80-67 count.

**AT RIGHT:** Frontier's Jill Bowersock tries to drive baseline against West Virginia's Chelsea Skrzypek during the second half of Saturday's OVAC All-Star Game at OUE.



# Ohio boys

## • States split the annual OVAC Mumley Games

By RICH GIBSON  
Times Leader Sports Writer

No wonder Martins Ferry's Jeff Sabatino loves this job. The Purple Riders' personable hoop boss is an unblemished 6-0 as Ohio All-Star coach after his Buckeyes roared from behind to knock off West Virginia in Saturday's annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC Classic.

Trailing by double digits in the first half, Sabatino's Scarlet and Gray piled up 52 second half points to post a 88-84 victory before an enthusiastic turnout in the Robert Ney Center on the OU-Eastern campus.

"As loaded as their (W. Va.) roster was, the odds were definitely stacked against us," Sabatino smiled moments following the outcome.

"I was really proud the way our kids responded after a generally poor first half. (Coming back) to win is a great accomplishment because West Virginia had some excellent players."

As did Ohio, including Sabatino's own standout at Ferry, the smooth-operating and West Liberty State-bound Scott Mirich.

"When push came to shove, Scotty was the difference out there today," Sabatino advised. "He wants the ball when the game's on the line and that was the case in this game."

Mirich who totaled 17 points and eight boards less than 24 hours earlier in Friday night's District 12 event, returned Saturday to collect 19 points and 10 rebounds. The versatile 6-5 ace made an array of nice moves to the hoop, attracting numerous fouls. He converted 10 of 14 free throws.

Mirich had considerable help in Ohio's comeback. Zanesville's Jordan Aaronhalt fired in a pair of clutch second half treys producing an 11-point effort.

Buckeye Trail's J.J. Savage battled his way to 10 points and Indian Creek's Jason McKeegan netted 10 as well.

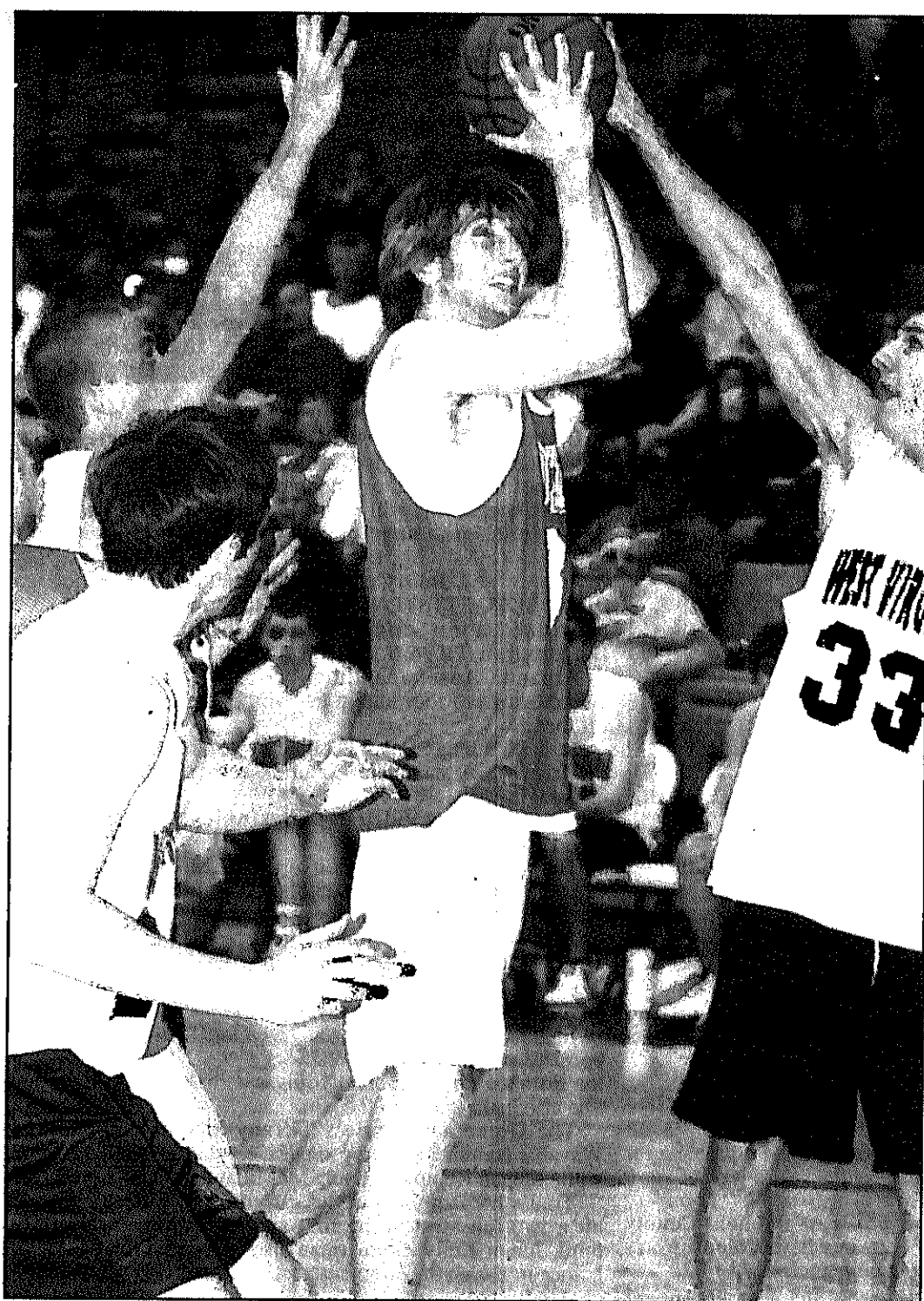
Ohio received an inspired performance from Monroe Central mainstay Tyler Knowlton who contributed nine points.

Bridgeport's Zac Carlier was solid, posting eight points and nine rebounds. East Liverpool's Andrew Bobalik totaled eight markers.

Ohio retaliated after falling behind 44-36 at the break.

"I thought we were much more aggressive in the second half,"

See, OVAC, Page C3



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

**OHIO FORWARD** Scott Mirich goes up for a shot in traffic during the first half of the OVAC All-Star Classic Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern. Mirich scored 19 points and had 10 rebounds in the Ohio victory.

### ● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

Sabatino suggested. That fact was acknowledged at the foul line where Ohio went 25 of 39. The Mountain Staters, meanwhile cashed 11 of their 20 charity conversions.

The Blue and Gold stars were paced by the Weir Red Rider combo of Dan McWhorter (18 points) and Eddie Hayden (14). Brooke's Jay Lyonett converted a trio of trifectas and finished with 11 points. Wheeling Central's Eric Anthony tossed in 10.

Ohio shot 28 of 80 from the floor and grabbed 54 rebounds. The Mountaineers made 34 of their 79 perimeter launches. West Virginia led in turnovers, 19-14.

At halftime, Brooke High's Brenton Scheetz captured the 2006 Conference Slam Dunk championship. Scoring:

WEST VIRGINIA (84) -- Bee 0, 0-0 0; Feldmeier 0, 0-0 0; Hundley 0, 0-0 0; Freeland 1, 1-2 3; Scheetz 2, 0-0 4; Moore 2, 0-0 4; McCune 1, 2-2 4; Creighton 4, 0-2 8; Grob 4, 0-0 8; Anthony 3, 4-4 10; Lyonett 4, 0-0 11; Hayden 5, 3-6 14; McWhorter 8, 1-2 18. Totals -- 34, 11-20. OHIO (88) -- Walker 0, 0-0 0; Hayden 0, 0-0 0; Milleson 0, 0-0 0; Ferguson 0, 0-0 0; Shepherd 1, 0-1 2; Jones 1, 0-0 3; Schmitt 1, 1-2 4; Goff 2, 0-0 4; Carlier 2, 4-6 8; Bobalik 2, 4-8 8; Knowlton 4, 1-1 9; McKeegan 3, 3-4 10; Savage 5, 0-1 10; Aaronhalt 3, 2-2 11; Mirich 4, 10-14 19. Totals -- 28, 25-39.

Three-point goals. West Virginia -- Lyonett (3), Hayden, McWhorter. Ohio -- Aaronhalt (3), Jones, McKeegan, Mirich, Schmitt.

WEST VIRGINIA'S girls mounted a 38-29 halftime lead then staved off a second half Ohio comeback.

Wheeling Central coach Penn Kurtz received well-balanced offensive production, led by Bishop Donahue's Jen Hill who hooped 14.

John Marshall's Jaimie Merinar tossed in 12 points. Tossing in 10 tallies apiece were Wheeling Central's Chelsea Skrzypek and Wheeling Park's Chantelle Nevels.

Brooke High's Rochelle Byers netted nine points and Magnolia ace Ashley McSweeney contributed eight. The Lady Blue Eagles' Micah Bell brought down a game-leading nine rebounds.

The West Virginians posted a decisive 34-

20 advantage in field goals and overcame 27 turnovers.

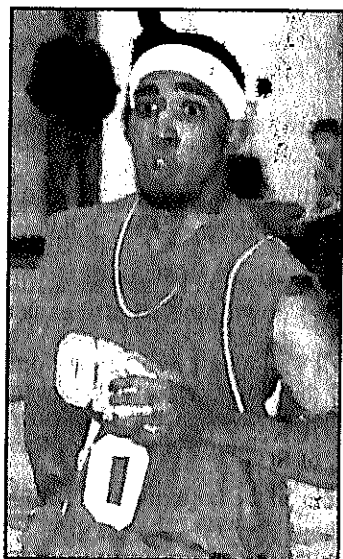
Under the direction of Buckeye Local's Brian Best, Ohio was paced by Bellaire High all-stater Ashley Vavrek who tallied 12 points.

Caldwell's Tressa Ramsey provided nine-point support. Scoring six points apiece were Harrison Central's Kelly Miles Polen and Steubenville's All-Star Game Saturday at Claire DiPiero. OUE.

At halftime, Fort Frye's Abby Nolan captured the Three-point Shootout, knocking down 17 trifectas during a 60-second interval.

WEST VIRGINIA (80) -- Cook 0, 0-0 0; Henry 0, 0-0 0; Comis 0,0-0 0; McGinley 1, 0-0 2; Bell 1, 0-0 2; Stender 1, 0-0 3; Gompers 2, 0-0 4; McCombs 3, 0-0 6; McSweeney 3, 0-0 8; Byers 2, 5-6 9; Nevels 5, 0-2 10; Skrzypek 5, 0-0 10; Merinar 5, 2-2 12; Hill 6, 0-0 14. Totals -- 34, 7-10. OHIO (67) -- Doughty 0, 0-0 0; Nolan 0, 0-0 0; Huck 0, 2-2 2; Yoho 1, 0-0 3; Becca 1, 1-4 3; Moore 2, 0-0 4; Burkhardt 1, 2-7 4; Marinacci 2, 0-0 4; Bowersock 2, 0-0 4; Ross 1, 2-2 5; Gossett 2, 1-1 5; DiPiero 3, 0-0 6; Polen 1, 4-4 6; Ramsey 2, 4-4 9; Vavrek 2, 8-9 12. Totals -- 20, 24-33. Three-point goals. West Virginia -- Hill (2), McSweeney (2), Stender, Ohio -- Ramsey, Ross, Yoho.

Gibson can be reached at [rgibson@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:rgibson@timesleaderonline.com)



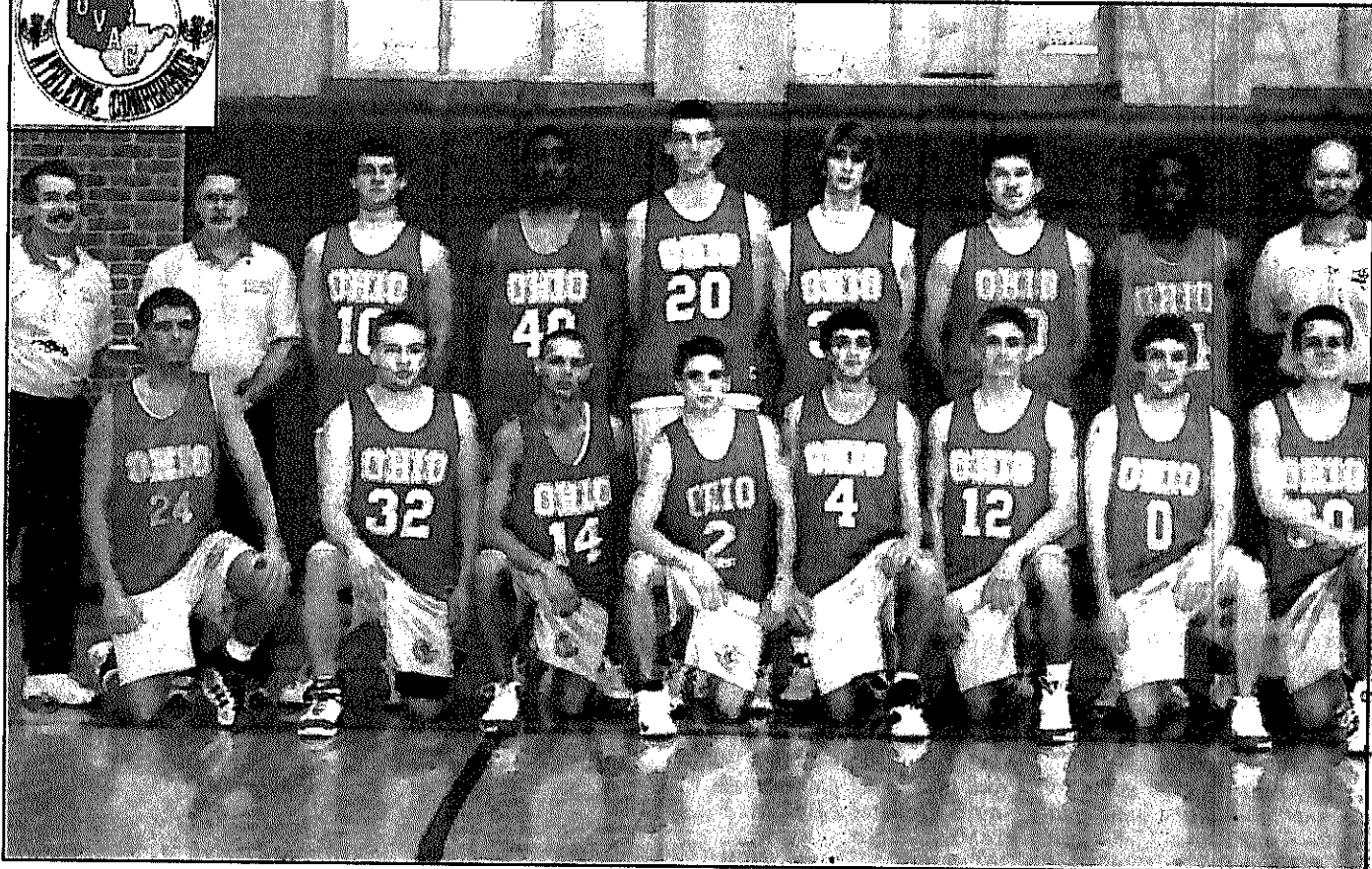
T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

**INDIAN CREEK'S** Miles Polen and Hayden brings the ball up the floor during the OVAC Central's All-Star Game Saturday at Claire DiPiero. OUE.





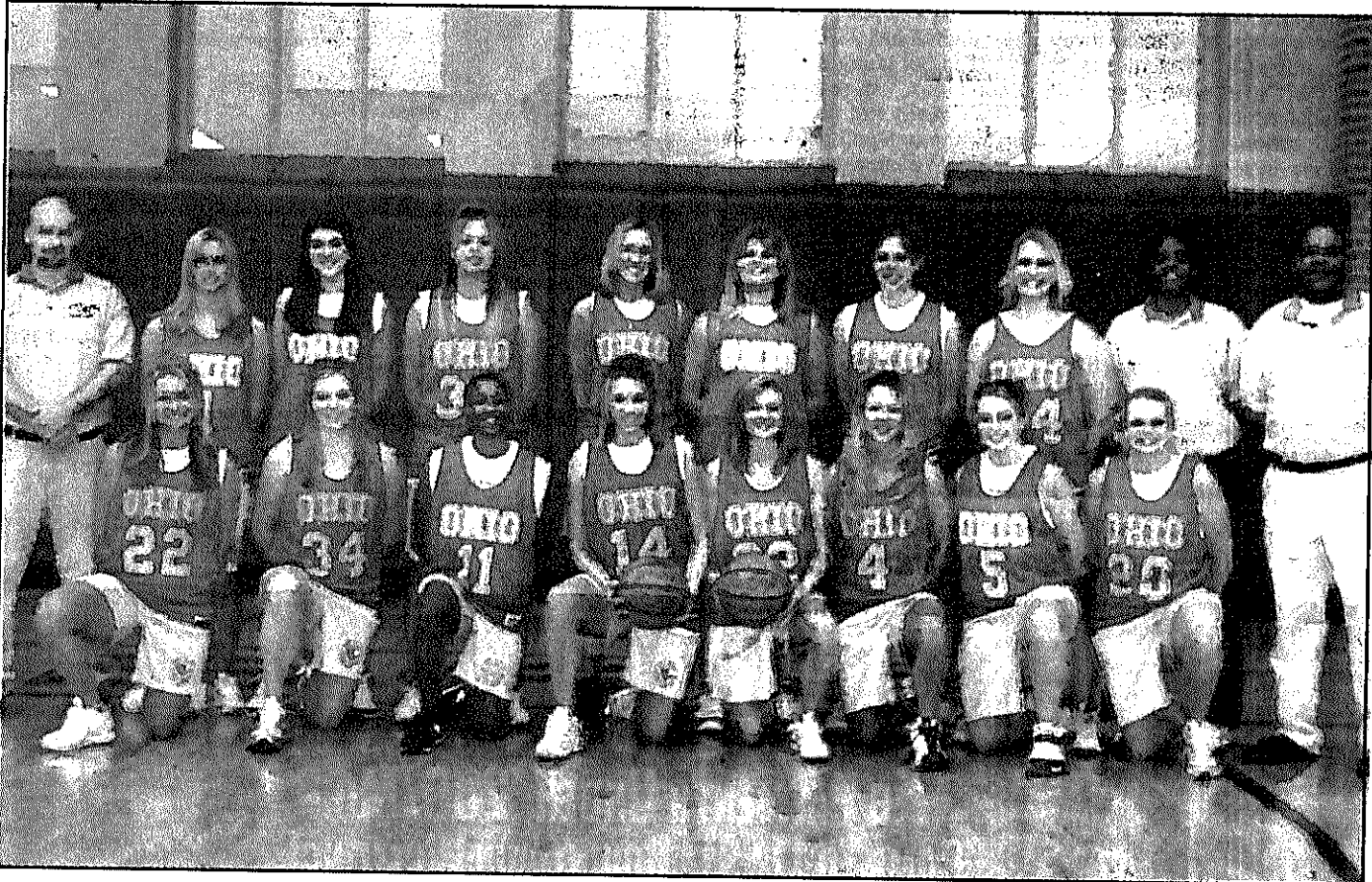
## Ohio's OVAC All-Stars



**ABOVE:** Representing Ohio in the 2006 Samuel A. Mumley Basketball Classic are the following boys: kneeling, from left, are Andrew Bobalik (East Liverpool); Johnny Jones (Cambridge); Jason McKeegan (Indian Creek); Tyler Ferguson (Fort Frye); Taylor Goff (Shadyside); Dan Milleson (Harrison Central); Pec Schmitt (Union Local); Jordan Aronhalt (Zanesville). Standing, from left, are head coach Jeff Sabatino (Martins Ferry); assistant coach Greg Taylor (Monroe Central); Tyler Knowlton (Monroe Central); Miles Hayden (Indian Creek); Steven Shepherd (Edison); Scott Mirich (Martins Ferry); Zac Carrier (Bridgeport); Willie Walker (Harrison Central); and assistant coach Donnie Madzia (Harrison Central).

T-1 Photos/JOEL JOSEPH

**BELOW:** Representing Ohio in the 2006 Samuel A. Mumley Basketball Classic are the following girls: kneeling, from left, are Bre Burkhart (Shadyside); Ashley Vavrek (Bellaire); Brianne Ross (Steubenville); Ashley Marinacci (St. John Central); Kirsten Yoho (Union Local); Jill Bowersock (Frontier); Sarah Huck (Fort Frye); and Erin Doughty (Beallsville). Standing, from left, are head coach Brian Best (Buckeye Local); Abbey Becca (Buckeye Local); Claire DiPiero (Steubenville Central); Tressa Ramsey (Caldwell); Kelley Polen (Harrison Central); Abby Nolan (Fort Frye); Missy Gossett (St. Clairsville); Kelli Moore (Edison); assistant coach Angie Forte (Steubenville); and assistant coach Tube Davis (Bellaire).



# Ohio boys, W.Va. girls register OVAC All-Star Classic victories

**JEFF HARRISON**  
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The curtain fell on the local basketball season Saturday afternoon in the annual Samuel A. Mumley/Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Basketball Classic, with the West Virginia

girls and Ohio boys emerging victorious at the Ohio University-Eastern Ney Center on Saturday.

The West Virginia girls posted an 80-67 victory over Ohio in the day's opener, but the Buckeye State boys came back with an 88-84 win in the second contest.

*In the boys' game,* West

Virginia extended to a 44-36 halftime lead, with Weir High's Ed Hayden scoring 12 points in the first 20 minutes.

Ohio came out sizzling to start the second half, using a 15-2 run over the first five minutes to move in front, 51-46. The Buckeyes continued to lead until a 9-0 West Virginia run turned a

six-point deficit into a three-point (61-58) lead with 11:00 remaining.

This time, it was Ohio with a 13-4 flurry to regain the lead, but the teams went back-and-forth down the stretch and the outcome was in doubt until Martins Ferry's Scott Mirich knocked down four free throws in the final 32 seconds.

Mirich followed up a 17-point, nine-rebound performance in Friday night's District 12 Coaches' Association All-Star Game with a 19-point, 10-rebound effort to lead Ohio and keep Ferry coach Jeff Sabatino, the Ohio coach, unbeaten in six appearances on the bench at the OVAC contest (five as head coach, one as an assistant).

Backing Mirich in the scorebook were Zanesville's Jordan Aronhalt with 11 points; Buckeye Trail's J.J. Savage with 10; Monroe Central's Tyler Knowlton with nine; and Bridgeport's Zac Carlier and East Liverpool's Andrew Bobalik with eight apiece.

Ohio cashed 28-of-87 shots from the floor (32.2 percent); collected 56 rebounds and had 13 turnovers. West Virginia was 34-of-76 on field goal attempts (44.7 percent); landed 55 caroms and had 20 miscues.

Top rebounders for Ohio were Carlier and Mirich with 10 each; Bobalik with seven; and Savage and Indian Creek's Miles Hayden with five each. For West Virginia, John Marshall's Sean Freeland grabbed seven stray shots; Hayden had six and Wheeling Central's Jason Grob had five while Anthony dished

out six assists.

Cambridge's Johnny Jones contributed three points and three rebounds in Ohio's win.

*In the girls' game,* West Virginia managed a 38-29 halftime lead, only to see Ohio score the first seven points of the second half (including five by St. Clairsville's Missy Gossett) to get within two, 38-36. The Lady Mountaineers went on a 16-8 run to push the lead back to double figures, and Ohio had one more push with an 8-2 spurt which cut the lead to 56-52 with 11 minutes to go, but West Virginia scored eight straight (five by Bishop Donahue's Jenn Hill) and the lead never got below eight the rest of the way.

Both teams got scoring balance from their 15-player rosters, with Hill leading the way with 14 tallies. John Marshall's Jaimie Merinar contributed a dozen markers; Wheeling Central's Chelsea Skrzypek and Wheeling Park's Chantell Nevels each scored 10; Brooke's Rochelle Byers netted nine and Magnolia's Ashley McSweeney added eight.

For Ohio, Bellaire's 2000-point scorer Ashley Vavrek was the high-point producer with 12, followed by Caldwell's Tressa Ramsey with nine. Eleven other Lady Buckeyes scored between three and six points.

West Virginia canned 34-of-85 field goal attempts (40 percent) compared to 20-of-71 effort (28.2 percent) for the Ohioans. The Lady Buckeyes had a 58-51

rebounding edge, but were chartered with a whopping 32 turnovers to 24 for the Lady Mountaineers.

Rebound leaders for West Virginia were Bell with eight and Byers and Merinar with six each. Ohio got eight boards from Harrison Central's Kelley Polen; seven from Shadyside's Bre Burkhart; six each from Vavrek and Gossett and five from Ramsey.

*Special events* at halftime of the games included a girls' three-point shootout, won by Fort Frye's Abby Nolan who knocked down 17 "triples" in one minute while Brooke's

Brenton Scheetz prevailed in the boys' slam-dunk competition, scoring 88 of a possible 90 points on his three dunks.

Several special awards were presented throughout the

day, including the Earl Haberfield Boys' Basketball Coaching Award to Gene Ford of Cambridge; the Richard Saffield Girls' Basketball Coaching Award to Gregg Bonar of Bellaire; The Bobby Dawson Basketball Officials' Award to Nick Visnic of Wheeling; and the Thomas E. Rataiczak Scorekeepers' Award to Tom Rataiczak of Bellaire.

Recipients of the Henry Lasaz Boys' Scholarship awards were Jordan Aronhalt of Zanesville and Sean Freeland of John Marshall while the Richard L. Potts Girls' Scholarship Awards went to Kelley Polen of Harrison Central and Julia McGinley of Wheeling Central.



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

Long-time Cambridge High boys' basketball coach Gene Ford (center) received the Earl Haberfield Boys' Basketball Coaching Award at Saturday's Samuel A. Mumley Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Basketball Classic at the Ohio University-Eastern Ney Center. Presenting Ford with the award are Gene Ammirante (left), head coach at Bellaire High School and the assistant game director, and John Stanko, former head coach at Bishop Donahue and Shadyside and a former game director.



# Samuel A. Mumley/OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic Saturday at OU-Eastern; Jones, Savage, Ramsey to play

JEFF HARRISON  
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The 15th annual Samuel A. Mumley/Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Basketball Classic, featuring a host of the top senior basketball players in the bi-state conference, will take place Saturday at the Ohio University Eastern Ney Center.

Action is slated to begin Saturday at 1 p.m. with the girls' game featuring Ohio against West Virginia, followed at approximately 3 p.m. by the boys' contest.

Tom Bechtel, once again serving as the game director, is anxious for this year's event to unfold.

"I think the game is really important because it's the last organized basketball game that 60 or 70 percent of these kids will play," Bechtel commented, "so it's a good way to end their high school careers.

"It's also good because our conference is so huge that it gives kids from some of our small schools to play against kids from the bigger schools and showcase their ability," he added.

Bechtel also acknowledged the cooperation of event host Ohio University-Eastern.

"E.J. Schodzinski (OU-E athletic director) has been super to us," he offered. "The facility is excellent and it's pretty centrally-located as far as the OVAC goes, so it makes it the per-

fect venue. "The Ohio girls' team includes Tressa Ramsey of Caldwell, Sarah Huck and Abby Nolan of Fort Frye, Bri Burkhart of Shadyside, Ashley Vavrek of Bellaire, Brianne Ross of Steubenville, Ashley Marinacci of St. John Central, Kirstin Yoho of Union Local, Jill Bowersock of Frontier, Erin Doughty of Beallsville, Abbey Becca of Buckeye Local, Claire DiPiero of Steubenville Catholic, Kelly Polen of Harrison Central, Missy Gossett of St. Clairsville and Kelli Moore of Edison.

Coaches of the Ohio girls' are Brian Best of Buckeye Local, Angie Forte of Steubenville and Tube Davis of Bellaire.

The Ohio boys' team has two local players — Johnny Jones of Cambridge and J.J. Savage of Buckeye Trail. The rest of the squad includes Andrew Bobalik of East Liverpool, Jason McKeegan and Miles Hayden of Indian Creek, Tyler Ferguson of Fort Frye, Taylor Goff of Shadyside, Dan Milleson and Willie Walker of Harrison Central, Pec Schmitt of Union Local, Jordan Aronhalt of Zanesville, Tyler Knowlton of Monroe Central, Steven Shepherd of Edison, Scott Mirich of Martins Ferry and Zak Carlier of Bridgeport.

The Ohio boys' coaches are Jeff Sabatino of Martins Ferry, Don Madzia of Harrison Central and Greg Taylor of Monroe Central.

The West Virginia girls' team features Melissa Henry of Weir, Nicole Thompson and Jaimie Merinar of John Marshall, Lauren Cook and Jen Hill of Bishop Donahue, Ashley

McSweeney and Micah Bell of Magnolia, Hailee Stender of Tyler Consolidated, Chelsea Skrzypek and Julia McGinley of Wheeling Central, Leah Comis of Weirton Madonna, Rachel Byers of Brooke, Maggie Gompers and Chantel Nevels of Wheeling Park, and Kristen McCombs of Cameron.

The coaches are Penn Kurtz of Wheeling Central, John Leary of Brooke and Fred King of Paden City.

The West Virginia boys' team includes Eric Anthony and Jason Grob of Wheeling Central, Brandon Sheetz and Jay Lyonett of Brooke, Eddie Hayden and Dan McWhorter of Weir, Keshawn Creighton and Daree Goodwin of Wheeling Park, Sean Freeland of John Marshall, Lee McCune of Weirton Madonna, Andrew Bee of Cameron, Drew Moore of Tyler Consolidated, Andy Hundley of Linsly, Eric Feldmeir of Paden City, Michael Blair of Magnolia.

The Coaches are Mel Stevens of Wheeling Central and Mike Granato of Weir.

Among the special award winners will be former Cambridge High coach Gene Ford, the recipient of the Earl J. Haberfield Award; Gregg Bonar, former Bellaire High girls' coach, recipient of the Richard Saffield Award; and Tom Rataiczak of Bellaire, winner of the Thomas E. Rataiczak Scorekeeper Award.

Advance tickets are \$6 for adults and \$5 for students, with all tickets at the door costing \$7.

## Cambridge's Ford to receive Haberfield award

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Saying Gene Ford is a coaching icon could still be the understatement of the century.

Ford spent 31 years on the basketball bench, including 25 at Cambridge High, turning the Bobcats into one of the state's premier programs before stepping down last spring to pursue other interests.

For his years of service and success rate, Ford will receive the OVAC Earl Haberfield Award at the annual Sam Mumley OVAC All-Star Game to be held Saturday, April 1 at OUE's Ney Center.

"I think that anytime you are fortunate enough to be recognized by your peers it's the ultimate in coaching," Ford said during a phone interview. "When you look at the previous award winners and think about those who will possibly follow you, you have to feel very fortunate to be in the position."

Ford arrived at Cambridge High in his seventh year as a head coach. He spent a season at Shenandoah and five at Tuscarawas Valley before accepting the job with the Bobcats.

The reason for coming to Cambridge was a simple one for Ford. He wanted to be at a school that had a town.

"The success we had (at Cambridge) speaks volumes for the support from the community and the faculty," Ford pointed out. "It was truly a family atmosphere in Cambridge, and I felt blessed to be in that situation."

While compiling a 400-183 record with the Bobcats, Ford posted a 59-25 record in the OHSAA tournament, which led him to 18 sectional titles, eight district titles and five regional titles.

"I don't think there's any secret to my success...I had good players," Ford joked. "A monkey can conduct an orchestra if you provide the orchestra. There's a lot of ways you can play the game, but talent is the common denominator."

Included in all of the talent that Ford had at his disposal were his sons Geno and Dustin. Geno still ranks second on the OHSAA scoring list and was Mr. Basketball as a senior before heading to Ohio University to play for the

Bobcats.

Dustin was also a 1,000-point scorer and helped lead the Bobcats to one of their state tourney appearances.

There were both positives and negatives for Ford with coaching his sons.

"I think most coaches would tell you when you coach your sons you don't get a chance to watch them play," Ford said. "You are still coaching the team and the game, you don't get to watch them. I was actually fortunate that my two sons could play a little bit."

While both Geno and Dustin have gone on to the coaching ranks, Ford's third son Ryan never played basketball and took the sport of golf.

"Ryan just didn't like basketball that well," his dad said. "There's no way you could ask your kids to do something they didn't want to just to please their parents."

Along with his sons, Ford lists Terry "Strawberry" White - who went to play at both Ohio State and West Virginia -- as the most athletic player he's ever coached.

"Strawberry was by far the most athletic player I ever coached, and Geno was the best basketball player," Ford said. "There are so many guys that I couldn't even begin to create a list."

When Ford resigned from Cambridge, he showed how much of a hoop junkie he is when he accepted a position as Geno's assistant at Muskingum College.

"I had been head coach for 31 years and that's a pretty long time," Ford offered. "It got to the point where I thought I wanted to do some things for myself, but I obviously haven't gotten out of the game totally, which is good. You have to have something to talk about."

Ford is a 1970 graduate of now defunct Midvale High School where he was an all-Ohio, all-IVC and all-Eastern District performer, scoring 1,310 points. He earned 11 varsity letters in basketball, track and baseball.

He then graduated from Muskingum College in 1974 and was named UPI "Small America" and Ohio Athletic Conference Athlete of the Year. Ford is still the second-leading scorer in Muskingum with 1,717 points.

Seth Staskey can be reached via email at [sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com)

## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

## OVAC Boys Rosters Revealed

By SETH STASKEY  
for the News-Register

The basketball stars of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will be shining brightly on April 1 at OUE's Ney Center.

Game officials announced the boys rosters for both Ohio and West Virginia for the annual Sam Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic.

The Ohio squad is being coached by Martins Ferry's Jeff Sabatino who led the Purple Riders to a 14-7 mark this past winter. He's being assisted by Harrison Central's Donnie Madzia. Madzia guided the Huskies to the regional tournament this season and a 21-3 record. Also on the Ohio staff is Monroe Central's Greg Taylor who turned in a 13-8 ledger this past winter.

The West Virginia squad will be coached by Wheeling Central's Mel Stephens who had his Maroon Knights in their fifth straight state tournament. Weir High's Mike Granato had his Red Riders in their second straight state tournament this weekend in Charleston.

The Ohio boys will be led by a pair of Harrison Central Huskies. Dan Milleson will take part in the game after averaging close to 14 points a game this winter. He'll be joined by Willie Walker on the Buckeye roster. Walker netted 13.5 points a game.

Indian Creek's Jason McKeeagan earned a spot on the team after a senior season in which he scored 16.4 points a game. The Redskins other representative is 6-5 post player Miles Hayden who scored a shade over 12 points a game.

Cambridge's Johnny Jones earned a spot on the team. He scored at a 10.3 points per game clip this winter.

Martins Ferry's Scott Mirich was a no-brain pick after scoring 23.3 points a game.

East Liverpool standout Andrew Bobalick was select-



ed after scoring close to 20 points a game.

Bridgeport's post player Zac Carlier was selected after a season in which he scored 19.9 a game.

Shadyside's Taylor Goff was selected to play after he poured in some 18.2 points per game.

Zanesville's Jordan Aronholt was picked to represent the Blue Devils. He scored some 17 points a game and led his team to the regional tournament.

Union Local's Pec Schmitt was selected. He led the Jets in scoring this past winter with a 18.7 points per game average.

Fort Frye guard Tyler Ferguson was selected after helping the Cadets to the district title and scored 12.3 points a game in the process.

Edison post player Steven Shepherd was named to the team after scoring 15.5 points a game.

Monroe Central's Tyler Knowlton will man down one of the spots after scoring 13.2 points a game.

Buckeye Trail's J.J. Savage was also selected to the team. He scored 11.3 points a game for the Warriors.

West Virginia

The West Virginia roster is chalk full of players who helped lead their respective teams to the state tournament.

Wheeling Park's dynamic duo of Keshawn Creighton (19.1) and Darea Goodwin (20.1) were selected to play

after helping the Patriots return to the state tournament for the first time since 2000.

Wheeling Central's inside-outside duo of Eric Anthony (19.7) and Jason Grob (11.6) has helped the Knights to a state finals berth this year.

Weir High's Eddie Hayden (20.1) and swingman Dan McWhorter (14.8) allowed the Red Riders to travel to Charleston once again this season.

Brooke's Jay Lyonett was the Bruins' leading scorer all season, netting 19.3 points per game. The Bruins' Brenton Scheetz was also selected after he scored 13.2 points a game.

Linsly's prolific scorer Andy Hundley - who racked up more than 1,000 points in his career - averaged 23.4 points a game, which ranked second amongst small schools in the conference.

Magnolia's Michael Blair earned a spot on the team after scoring 10.9 points a game. John Marshall's lone player on the squad is Sean Freeland, who scored 10.3 points a game.

Tyler's Drew Moore tallied 16.6 points a night for the Silver Knights.

Cameron's Andrew Bee donated 15.7 points a game, which led the Dragons in scoring. Weirton Madonna's Lee McCune netted 23.1 points a game to solidify his spot on the Mountaineer roster.

Paden City's Eric Feldmeier was named to the squad after a senior campaign in which he scored 12.1 points a game.

#### Note

All players and coaches involved in the all-star game are asked by event organizers to report to the Ney Center Monday at 6:30 p.m. for media night. Uniforms and shooting shirts will be distributed. Any questions may be directed to Tom Bechtel at (304) 234-3641 (W) or (304) 242-4457 (H).

## Ford to Receive Coaching Honor

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"Strawberry was by far the most athletic player I ever coached, and Geno was the best basketball player," Ford said. "There are so many guys that I couldn't even begin to create a list."

When Ford resigned from Cambridge, he showed how much of a hoop junkie he is when he accepted a position as Geno's assistant at Muskingum College.

"I had been head coach for 31 years and that's a pretty long time," Ford offered. "It got to the point where I thought I wanted to do some things for myself, but I obviously haven't gotten out of the game totally, which is good. You have to have something to talk about."

Ford is a 1970 graduate of now defunct Midvale High School where he was an all-OHIO, all-IVC and all-Eastern District performer, scoring 1,310 points. He earned 11 varsity letters in basketball, track and baseball.

He then graduated from Muskingum College in 1974 and was named UPI "Small America" and Ohio Athletic Conference Athlete of the Year.

Ford is still the second-leading scorer in Muskingum with 1,717 points.

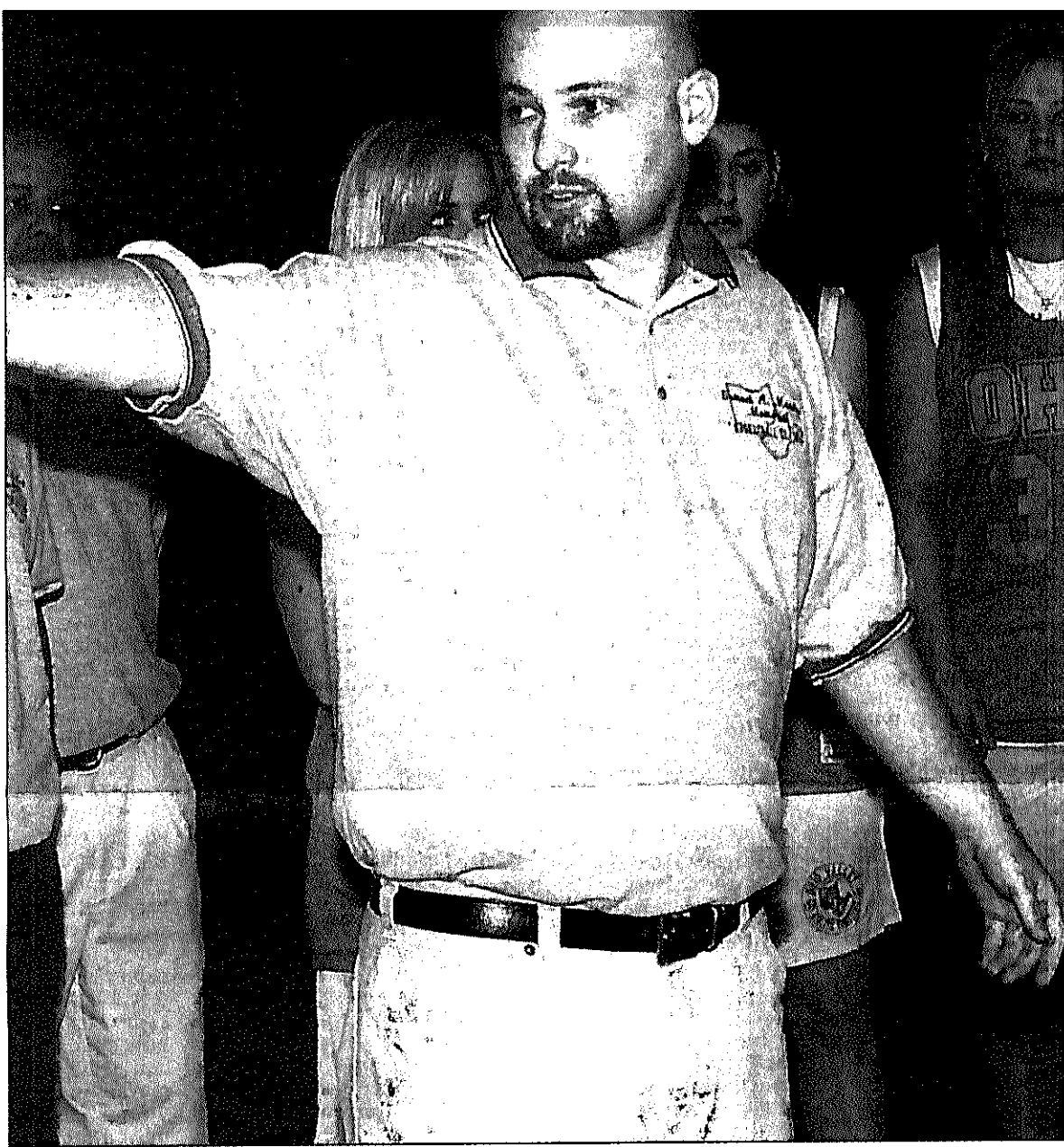


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Buckeye Local's Brain Best points out instructions in preparation for the annual Sam Mumley OVAC All-Star Game on April 1. Best will coach the Ohio team for the first time.

# Seeing Stars

Coaches honored to guide teams in OVAC All-Star Classic

By **JOSH STROPE**  
Staff Writer

Martins Ferry coach Jeff Sabatino has a perfect 5-0 record in the Sam Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic.

In order to keep that spotless record intact, he will have to go through what might be his toughest task yet.

Sabatino will coach the Ohio boys against Weir coach Mike Granato and Wheeling Central's Mel Stephens' W.Va. team in the annual all-star contest on April 1 at the Ney Center on the campus of Ohio University-Eastern.

Penn Kurtz of Wheeling Central will lead the W.Va. girls' team. His counterpart on the Ohio side

is Buckeye Local's Brian Best.

"The West Virginia team certainly passes the eye test," Sabatino said. "We are going to work hard, and I promise we will work hard, and do all we can to be competitive in this game."

Sabatino has never turned down an invitation to coach in the game, viewing it as a prestigious honor.

"When you are voted in by the other coaches, that really means something," Sabatino said. "I think we have a responsibility to these great players to be enthusiastic about what we've accomplished."

"I may get old, but coaching in this game never does and I will

continue to do it as long as I keep getting voted to."

For Stephens and Granato, the game is a way to get over the heartbreaking finales to their seasons this past week in the state basketball tournament.

"The way the season ended was hard, so this is a way for me to get right back on the bike again," Granato said. "I enjoy what I do and I enjoy this game."

"This game is meant to be fun so you won't see a lot of zones or anything like that. It's going to be a lot running up and down the floor, dunking the ball and throwing up plenty of 3-pointers."

Please See STARS, Page 16

## Stars

(Continued from Page 15)

"This is definitely an honor for me to be picked and not to mention, I have some really good players on this side," Stephens said. "We have a some good size and that should help us out but there isn't a bad player on the Ohio team, either."

Granato will be coaching in the game for the third time in four seasons. Stephens will be a head coach for the first time.

Granato holds a 1-1 record coaching the boys team. He is 1-2 overall, losing as a girls coach while guiding Bishop Donahue in 1985.

John Marshall's Pancho Flores was selected as the original head coach, but due to a softball doubleheader, he was unable to take part in the event, thus making Granato and Stephens co-head coaches.

The Ohio team consists of Andrew Bobalik (East Liverpool), Steven Shepherd (Edison), Miles Hayden (Indian Creek), Scott Mirich (Martins Ferry), Tyler Ferguson (Fort

Frye), Tyler Knowlton (Monroe Central), Zac Carlier (Bridgeport), Taylor Goff (Shadyside), Dan Milleson (Harrison Central), Jason McKeegan (Indian Creek), Willy Walker (Harrison Central), Jordan Aronhalt (Zanesville), Pec Schmitt (Union Local), Johnny Jones (Cambridge), and J.J. Savage (Buckeye Trail).

Sabatino's assistant coaches are Harrison Central's Donnie Madzia and Monroe Central's Greg Taylor.

The W.Va. team is made up of Jay Lyonett (Brooke), Dan McWhorter (Weir), Daree Goodwin (Wheeling Park), Michael Blair (Magnolia), Drew Moore (Tyler Consolidated), Eric Anthony (Wheeling Central), Andrew Bee (Cameron), Andy Hundley (Linsly), Lee McCune (Weirton Madonna), Eddie Hayden (Weir), Sean Freeland (John Marshall), Keshawn Creighton (Wheeling Park), Eric Feldmeier (Paden City), Brenton Scheetz (Brooke), and Jason Grob (Wheeling Central).

On the girls side, Best will be coaching in his first all-star game and the second-year floor general of the Panthers is overwhelmed with enthusiasm.

"I'm just real excited to be a part with some of these great players and the great coaches," Best said. "Me and the rest of my coaches have never coached in this game so all us rookies are hoping that girls will be able to carry us and make us look good."

Best will be assisted by Bellaire's Tube Davis and Steubenville's Angie Forte.

"This is big for me to be recognized amongst my peers," Best said. "I'm truly grateful for the opportunity."

Kurtz won his only previous head coaching stint, and is thrilled for the chance to do it again.

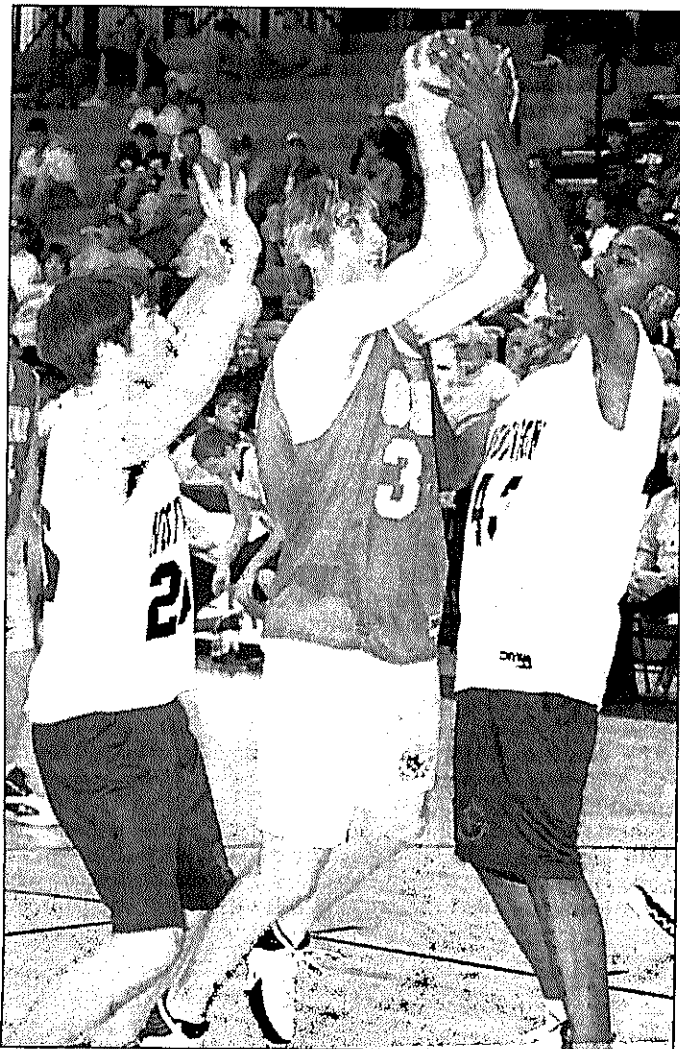
"You get to coach players that you get the chance to see all year long," he said. "It's going to be a lot easier to coach these girls that it was playing against them."

The Ohio girls are Abbey Becca (Buckeye Local), Jill

Bowersock (Frontier), Bre Burkhart (Shadyside), Missy Gossett (St. Clairsville), Sarah Huck (Fort Frye), Erin Doughty (Beallsville), Ashley Marinacci (Bellaire St. John), Kelli Moore (Edison), Claire DiPiero (Steubenville Catholic), Abby Nolan (Fort Frye), Kelley Polen (Harrison Central), Tressa Ramsey (Caldwell), Brianne Ross (Steubenville), Ashley Vavrek (Bellaire), and Kirsten Yoho (Union Local).

Playing for the W.Va. girls will be Micah Bell (Magnolia), Rochelle Byers (Brooke), Leah Comis (Weirton Madonna), Lauren Cook (Bishop Donahue), Maggie Gompers (Wheeling Park), Melissa Henry (Weir), Jen Hill (Bishop Donahue), Jamie Merinar (John Marshall), Kristin McCombs (Cameron), Julia McGinley (Wheeling Central), Ashley McSweeney (Magnolia), Chantell Nevels (Wheeling Park), Hailee Stender (Tyler Consolidated), Nicole Thompson (John Marshall) and Chelsea Skrzypek (Wheeling Central).

## SAMUEL A. MUMLEY OVAC ALL-STAR BASKETBALL CLASSIC



The Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic took place Saturday at the Ney Center at Ohio University-Eastern. Left: Ohio's Scott Mirich of Martins Ferry picks up a rebound between West Virginia's Jason Grob (Wheeling Central), left, and Keshawn Creighton (Wheeling Park). Right: Ohio's Kelley Polen of Harrison Central drives to the basket past Micah Bell of Magnolia.

Photos by Mike Harvilla

## Stars Shine Bright

Ohio Boys, W.Va. Girls win OVAC All-Star Games at Ney Center

By RICH GIBSON  
For The News Register  
Ohio and West Virginia produced a Saturday afternoon split in the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC Basketball Classic.

The Mountain State girls posted a 80-67 victory in Saturday's opener while Ohio's boys staged a second half rally to pull out a 88-84 triumph.

The doubleheader attracted a nice turnout in the Robert Ney Center on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

A talent-laden West Virginia boys' squad combined to build a double figure lead en route to a 44-36 halftime advantage in Saturday's second game.

But Ohio rallied in the second half's initial stages to forge the first of several deadlocks. The closely contested affair then featured numerous lead changes before Ohio pulled ahead in the final 90 seconds.

Martins Ferry's Scott Mirich posted 19 points and 10 rebounds to pace four Buckeyes in twin figures.

Zanesville's Jordan Aaronhalt checked in with 11 tallies

with Indian Creek's Jason McKeegan and Buckeye Trail's J.J. Savage netting 10 markers apiece.

Monroe Central's Tyler Knowlton provided nine-point support while Bridgeport's Zac Carlier and East Liverpool's Andrew Bobalik each scored eight.

West Virginia, under the guidance of Wheeling Central's Mel Stephens and Weir High's Mike Granato, received a team-leading 18-point output from Red Riders' ace Dan McWhorter. Weir teammate Eddie Hayden connected for 14 points.

The Brooke Bruins' Jay Lyonett tacked on 11 points and Wheeling Central standout Eric Anthony scored 10.

Wheeling Park's Keshawn Creighton and the Maroon Knight's Jason Grob contributed eight points apiece.

Coach Jeff Sabatino's Buckeye stars attempted 39 free throws compared to just 20 for West Virginia.

The Purple Riders' cage boss was making his sixth coaching appearance in this game and has yet to suffer a loss.

At halftime, Brooke's

Brenton Scheetz was crowned 2006 Slam Dunk champion.

■■■

### GIRLS

The West Virginia girls mounted a 38-29 halftime lead then staved off a second half Ohio comeback.

Wheeling Central coach Penn Kurtz received well-balanced offensive production, led by Bishop Donahue's Jen Hill who hooped 14.

John Marshall's Jaimie Merinar tossed in 12 points. Tossing in 10 tallies apiece were Wheeling Central's Chelsea Skrzypk and Wheeling Park's Chantell Nevels.

Brooke's Rochelle Byers netted nine points and Magnolia ace Ashley McSweeney contributed eight. The Blue Eagles' Micah Bell brought down a game-leading nine rebounds.

West Virginia posted a decisive 34-20 advantage in field goals and overcame 27 turnovers.

Under the direction of Buckeye Local's Brian Best, Ohio was paced by Bellaire High all-stater Ashley Vavrek who tallied 12 points.

Caldwell's Tressa Ramsey provided nine-point support.

Scoring six points apiece were Harrison Central's Kelley Polen and Steubenville Central's Claire DiPiero.

At halftime, Fort Frye's Abby Nolan captured the 3-point Shootout, knocking down 17 trifectas during a 60-second interval.

### BOYS

Ohio 88, West Virginia 84  
W — Bee 0 0-0 0, Feldmeier 0 0-0 0, Hundley 0 0-0 0, Freeland 1 1-2 3, Scheetz 2 0-0 4, Moore 2 0-0 4, McCune 1 2-2 4, Creighton 4 0-2 8, Grob 4 0-0 8, Anthony 3 4-4 10, Lyonett 4 0-0 11, Hayden 5 3-6 14, McWhorter 8 1-2 18.  
Totals 34 11-20 84.

O — Walker 0 0-0 0, Hayden 0 0-0 0, Milleson 0 0-0 0, Ferguson 0 0-0 0, Shepherd 1 0-1 2, Jones 1 0-0 3, Schmitt 1 1-2 4, Goff 2 0-0 4, Carlier 2 4-6 8, Bobalik 2 4-8 8, Knowlton 4 1-1 9, McKeegan 3 3-4 10, Savage 5 0-1 10, Aaronhalt 3 2-2 11, Mirich 4 10-14 19.  
Totals 28 25-39 84.

3-point goals —Lyonett 3, Hayden, McWhorter, Aaronhalt 3, Jones, McKeegan, Mirich, Schmitt.

### GIRLS

West Virginia 80, Ohio 67  
W — Cook 0 0-0 0, Henry 0 0-0 0, Combs 0 0-0 0, McGinley 1 0-0 2, Bell 1 0-0 2, Stender 1 0-0 3, Gompers 2 0-0 4, McCombs 3 0-0 6, McSweeney 3 0-0 8, Byers 2 5-6 9, Nevels 5 0-2 10, Skrzypk 5 0-0 10, Merinar 5 2-2 12, Hill 6 0-0 14.  
Totals 34 7-10 80.

O — Doughty 0 0-0 0, Nolan 0 0-0 0, Huck 0 2-2 2, Yoho 1 0-0 3, Becca 1 1-4 3, Moore 2 0-0 4, Burkhardt 1 2-7 4, Marinacci 2 0-0 4, Bowersock 2 0-0 4, Ross 1 2-2 5, Gossett 2 1-1 5, DiPiero 3 0-0 6, Polen 1 4-4 8, Ramsey 2 4-4 9, Vavrek 2 8-9 12. Totals 20 24-33 67.  
3-point goals —Hill 2, McSweeney 2, Stender, Ramsey, Ross, Yoho.



# Rataiczak to receive scorekeepers' award at OVAC hoop event

Tom Rataiczak views himself as more than just the man who keeps the scorebook at Bellaire High School boys' basketball games.

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Fortunately for Rataiczak, he's been there to see a lot of it, with pen, not pencil, in hand.

"People are amazed I always use pens," he said, noting he uses one that includes four colors — one for each quarter.

When Rataiczak sat down at the scorer's table for the Big Reds' Ohio Division III District championship game against Fort Frye Friday at New Philadelphia, it marked the 1,444th consecutive game that the Bellaire High School alum has taken his seat at the scorer's table as the team's official scorekeeper.

Quite a run when you consider all the things that could make you miss a game during 36-plus seasons.

"The Lord has blessed me with good health," he said. "There are several games I went to when I thought I maybe should've stayed home."

That dedication to his craft and Ohio Valley basketball is one of the reasons the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will present Rataiczak with an award already named in his honor — the Thomas E. Rataiczak Scorekeeper/Timer Award — at the Samuel A. Mumley All-Star Basketball Classics April 1 at the Robert Ney Center on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

The girls' contest tips at 1 p.m., with the boys' clash to follow at about 3 p.m.

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Rataiczak

According to Rataiczak, who retired as a Bellaire High School teacher after 30-plus years in 1999, it's the people you work with as a scorekeeper and the relationships you forge that make doing the job fun.

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## Visnic To Receive Robert Dawson Award

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

Almost a quarter century has passed since Nick Visnic hung up his whistle for the last time.

But for the Wheeling native, it seems like just yesterday he was officiating football and basketball games across the Ohio Valley.

"The camaraderie I enjoyed with the other officials was great," Visnic recalled in a telephone conversation from his home in Pompano Beach, Fla.

"We became close friends. It was something we felt a part of."

Considered by many to be one of the top officials in Ohio Valley history, Visnic will be honored this weekend for more than two decades of service to area athletics.

Visnic will receive the Robert Dawson Basketball Officials Award as part of Saturday's Samuel Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic at Ohio University Eastern's Ney Center.

Visnic said he was somewhat surprised when he learned about the honor from Tom Bechtel, game director and a former officiating colleague.

"It's been so long since I was affiliated with sports up there," he said. "I wasn't aware the award was being given."

"It's kind of neat and I feel honored."

Visnic, 67, served as a basketball and football official in the Ohio Valley from 1961-82, but many folks still remember him as a four-sport

standout at Linsly in the late 1950s.

He was an all-stater in basketball and wound up at West Virginia on a basketball scholarship playing behind future NBA Hall of Famer Jerry West.

"Jerry was a year ahead of me and Rod Thorn was two years behind me," Visnic said.

The Mountaineer basketball program was already flourishing when Visnic arrived in Morgantown but after he arrived, things got even better.

During Visnic's sophomore season (1958-59), West led the Mountaineers to the NCAA championship

game against California. WVU lost the game, 71-70.

Visnic served as a back-up guard on the squad, appearing in 13 games and averaging 3.3 ppg.

"To tell you the truth, I had the bad fortune of having to guard (West) in practice," Visnic said laughing.

"He was just amazing. He went up and down the court as fast as you could imagine."

"He could fall down and look graceful."

West graduated from WVU in 1960 after leading the team to another NCAA berth.

During the 1960-61 campaign, Visnic started three games and played in 27.

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Visnic

# Visnic to receive officials award

By RICK THORP  
For The Times Leader

Almost a quarter century has passed since Nick Visnic hung up his whistle for the last time.

But for the Wheeling native, it seems like just yesterday he was officiating football and basketball games across the Ohio Valley.

"The camaraderie I enjoyed with the other officials was great," Visnic recalled in a telephone conversation from his home in Pompano Beach, Fla.

"We became close friends. It was something we felt a part of."

Considered by many to be one of the top officials in Ohio Valley history, Visnic will be honored this weekend for more than two decades of service to

area athletics.

Visnic will receive the Robert Dawson Basketball Officials Award as part of Saturday's Samuel Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic at Ohio University Eastern's Ney Center.

Visnic said he was somewhat surprised when he learned about the honor from Tom Bechtel, game director and a former officiating colleague.

"It's been so long since I was affiliated with sports up there," he said, "I wasn't aware the award was being given."

"It's kind of neat and I feel honored."

Visnic, 67, served as a basketball and football official in the Ohio Valley from 1961-82, but many folks still remember him as a four-sport

standout at Linsly in the late 1950s.

He was an all-stater in basketball and wound up at West Virginia on a basketball scholarship playing behind future NBA Hall of Famer Jerry West.

"Jerry was a year ahead of me and Rod Thorn was two years behind me," Visnic said.

The Mountaineer basketball program was already flourishing when Visnic arrived in Morgantown but after he arrived, things got even better.

During Visnic's sophomore season (1958-59), West led the Mountaineers to the NCAA championship game against California. WVU lost the game, 71-70.

Visnic served as a back-up guard on the squad, appearing in 13 games and averaging 3.3 ppg.

"To tell you the truth, I had the bad fortune of having to guard (West) in practice," Visnic said laughing.

"He was just amazing. He went up and down the court as fast as you could imagine."

"He could fall down and look graceful."

West graduated from WVU in 1960 after leading the team to another NCAA berth.

During the 1960-61 campaign, Visnic started three games and played in 27.

"I started the season at guard with (Bellaire native) Lee Patrone," Visnic recalled.

After college, Visnic came home to work at Weirton Steel. That was where he was recruited to be an official by Walter Howell.

"He kind of talked me into getting into football," Visnic recalled.

"I did just football for one year and then got into basketball, too"

For the next decade, Visnic worked primarily at the high school level but began picking up more and more college games in the early 1970s.

"Pat Duffy and I were working high school games down in Charleston," he said, "and the coaches in the West Virginia Conference asked us if we would be interested."

## Visnic

(Continued from Page 19)

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"Pat Duffy and I were working high school games down in Charleston," he said, "and the coaches in the West Virginia Conference asked us if we would be interested."

From 1973-80, Visnic, an honorary member of the Ohio Valley Board of Officials,

worked seven WVIAC championship games on the hardwood.

One of Visnic's favorite co-workers during those years was Jack Prettyman.

"We opened several new coliseums and closed a few of them," Visnic smiled. "I think we worked the final game at the old Charleston Civic Center and did the first game in the new one."

In the early 1980s, Visnic remarried and decided it was time for a change.

So he moved to Florida for a job opportunity and has been there ever since.

Visnic still makes it back to Wheeling every now and then to catch up with old friends and to visit his mother, Agnes, now 84.

"We always like to come for the Upper Valley Italian Festival and meet with old friends," he said.

"It's pretty nice."

## Bonar To Be Honored

Former Bellaire girls' coach selected for Saffield Award

By SETH STASKEY  
For the News-Register

When Gregg Bonar inherited the Bellaire girls' basketball program in 1985, he inherited a program that hadn't tasted success in quite a long time.

However, when Bonar decided to retire from coaching following the 2002 season, he had left a lasting impression on the Lady Reds' program.

It's for that reason that Bonar will receive the Rich Saffield Award at the annual OVAC All-Star Mumley Classic at OUE's Ney Center on April 1.

"There are definitely people more deserving of this award than I am," Bonar said. "I just hope that I had a positive influence on the girls' program."

Over the course of Bonar's tenure on Guernsey Street, the Lady Reds tallied eight sectional titles. The first came in 1988 and his last trip to the district came in 1999.

Along with the sectional titles, Bonar and the Bellaire girls captured six Ohio Valley Athletic Conference titles.

"I am proud of how we turned the program into a winning one," Bonar said.

Bonar's proudest moment as the head coach came in 1991 when he guided the Lady Reds to a perfect 20-0 season. They finished fifth in the UPI rankings and fourth in the AP poll that season, but were eliminated in the district tournament.

That squad was led by Debbie Blazek-Smith who went on to play her college ball at West Virginia University.

Bonar was named Division II East District and District 12 Coach of the Year following the season.

The Shadyside High School graduate was also recognized following the 1994 season when he was chosen to coach the Ohio North-South Game, was named District 12 Coach of the Year and also The Intelligencer Girls' Basketball Coach of the Year.

In 1998, Bonar and the Lady Reds got over the district hump. After closing the regular season with a 18-2 mark, the Reds claimed the district title to go along with the OVAC crown they won that season.

He was named Ohio Valley Girls Basketball Association Coach of the Year following that campaign.

Through the course of his 17-year career, Bonar had seven players go on to play college hoops. Along with Blazek-Smith were Missy Tiber (West Liberty), Amy Taylor (Muskingum), Amy Magistro (Marietta), Katie Bohus (West Liberty), Erica Vavrek (West Liberty), Marci Bonar (Wheeling Jesuit) and Kacie Vavrek (Kent State University).

Tiber and Taylor have gone to coach. Tiber is the head coach at Tusculum College in Tennessee, while Taylor is the head coach Bucyrus Wynford High School.

Gregg is also the offensive coordinator for the Bellaire football team. Gregg and his wife Rosemary have three children, Mary Beth, Carrie and David and reside in Shadyside.

# Bonar honored with Rich Saffield Award

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

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## Boys rosters set for OVAC All-Star Game

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

The basketball stars of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will be shining brightly on April 1 at OUE's Ney Center.

Game officials announced the boys rosters for both Ohio and West Virginia for the annual Sam Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic.

The Ohio squad is being coached by Martins Ferry's Jeff Sabatino who led the Purple Riders to a 14-7 mark this past winter. He's being assisted by Harrison Central's Donnie Madzia. Madzia guided the Huskies to the regional tournament this season and a 21-3 record. Also on the Ohio staff is Monroe Central's Greg Taylor who turned in a 13-8 ledger this past winter.

The West Virginia squad will be coached by Wheeling

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## ● OVAC

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Central's Mel Stephens who had his Maroon Knights in their fifth straight state tournament. Weir High's Mike Granato has his Red Riders in their second straight state tournament this weekend in Charleston.

The Ohio boys will be led by a pair of Harrison Central Huskies. Dan Milleson will take part in the game after averaging close to 14 points a game this winter. He'll be joined by Willie Walker on the Buckeye roster. Walker netted 13.5 points a game.

Indian Creek's Jason McKeegan earned a spot on the team after a senior season in which he scored 16.4 points a game.

The Redskins other representative is 6-ft-5 post player Miles Hayden who scored a shade over 12 points a game.

Cambridge's Johnny Jones earned a spot on the team. He scored at a 10.3 points per game clip this winter.

Martins Ferry's Scott Mirich was a no-brain pick after scoring 23.3 points a game.

East Liverpool standout Andrew Bobalick was selected after scoring close to 20 points a game.

Bridgeport's post player Zac Carlier was selected after a season in which he scored 19.9 a game.

Shadyside's Taylor Goff was selected to play after he poured in some 18.2 points per game.

Zanesville's Jordan Aronholt was picked to represent the Blue Devils. He scored some 17 points a game and led his team to the regional tournament.

Union Local's Pec Schmitt was selected. He led the Jets in scoring this past winter with a 18.7 points per game average.

Fort Frye guard Tyler Ferguson was selected after helping the Cadets to the district title and scored 12.3 points a game in the process.

Edison post player Steven Shepherd was named to the team after scoring 15.5 points a game.

Monroe Central's Tyler Knowlton will man down one of the guard spots after scoring 13.2 points a game.

Buckeye Trail's J.J. Savage was also selected to the team. He scored 11.3 points a game for the Warriors.

THE WEST VIRGINIA roster is chalk full of players who helped lead their respective teams to the state tournament.

Wheeling Park's dynamic duo of Keshawn Creighton (19.1) and Daree Goodwin (20.1) were selected to play after helping the Patriots return to the state tournament for the first time since 2000.

Wheeling Central's inside-outside duo of Eric Anthony (19.7) and Jason Grob (11.6) has helped the Knights to a trio of state titles.

Weir High's Eddie Hayden

(20.1) and swingman Dan McWhorter (14.8) allowed the Red Riders to travel to Charleston once again this season.

Brooke's Jay Lyonett was the Bruins' leading scorer all season, netting 19.3 points per game. The Bruins' Brandon Scheetz was also selected after he scored 13.2 points a game.

Linsly's prolific scorer Andy Hundley - who racked up more than 1,000 points in his career - averaged 23.4 points a game, which ranked second amongst small schools in the conference.

Magnolia's Michael Blair earned a spot on the team after scoring 10.9 points a game. John Marshall's lone player on the squad is Sean Freeland who scored 10.3 points a game.

Tyler's Drew Moore tallied 16.6 points a night for the Silver Knights.

Cameron's Andrew Bee donated 15.7 points a game, which led the Dragons in scoring.

Weirton Madonna's Lee McCune netted 23.1 points a game to solidify his spot on the Mountaineer roster.

Paden City's Eric Feldmeier was named to the squad after a senior campaign in which he scored 12.1 points a game.

*Seth Staskey can be reached via email at [ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com)*

## OVAC All-Star Game preparations begin

By RICH GIBSON  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Don't mistake Martins Ferry's Jeff Sabatino as official coach of the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic. But he's getting there.

Sabatino is serving his sixth tenure as Ohio boys' mentor for the bi-state conference's annual hoops' showcase which unfolds Saturday, April 1 at Ohio University Eastern's Ney Center.

Players and coaches from both Ohio and West Virginia's girls and boys teams gathered at the game site Monday evening for interview and photo sessions.

"I've always enjoyed the opportunity (to coach in this game)," Sabatino remarked. "I've had the good fortune to be on the winning side my five previous times. This year, though, will be a real challenge."

The Purple Riders' cage boss refers to a loaded W. Va. roster being co-directed by Weir High's Mike Granato and Wheeling Central's Mel Stephens.

"We have some decent size to go with good guard play," Stephens noted. "We expect and up and down game -- the way most all-star

games are played."

The Mountain State boys' roster includes a half-dozen players coming off state tournament appearances, including two apiece from Weir, Wheeling Central and Wheeling Park.

"We'll have to bring our 'A' game, that's for sure," Sabatino suggested.

Ohio's roster has representatives from 13 schools. Harrison Central, qualifiers to the Division II Sweet 16 last week at Athens, sends Willie Walker and Dan Milleson to the OVAC contest.

From Indian Creek comes ace guard Jason McKeegan and forward Miles Hayden. Martins Ferry's inside ace Scott Mirich will be playing for his coach.

Rounding out the Buckeye roster are: Pec Schmitt (Union Local); Taylor Goff (Shadyside); Zac Carlier (Bridgeport); Tyler Knowlton (Monroe Central); J.J. Savage (Buckeye Trail); Johnny Jones (Cambridge); Steven Shepherd (Edison); Andrew Bobalik (East Liverpool); Tyler Ferguson (Fort Frye) and Jordan Aronhalt (Zanesville).

Harrison Central's Don Madzia and Monroe Central's Greg Taylor are assisting Sabatino.

West Virginia's roster includes Eric Anthony

See, **OVAC**, Page B2



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

**SERVING AS** head coaches for this year's Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic are these five coaches. From left, are Brian Best (Ohio girls), Mel Stephens (West Virginia boys), Penn Kurtz (West Virginia girls), Mike Granato (West Virginia boys) and Jeff Sabatino (Ohio boys). The annual OVAC All-Star Games are slated for April 1 at Ohio University Eastern's Ney Center. The games are slated to begin at 1 p.m. with the girls contest and the boys affair will tip off at approximately 3 p.m. Advance tickets for the games are available at most local Kroger stores.

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● **OVAC**

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and Jason Grob from Wheeling Central's single-A state runner-up combine. Wheeling Park provides mainstays Keshawn Creighton and Darea Goodwin. Weir High's two reps are center Ed Hayden and forward Dan McWhorter.

Also on the Mountaineers' roster are: Andy Hundley (Linsly); Sean Freeland (John Marshall); Mike Blair (Magnolia); Andrew Bee (Cameron); Drew Moore (Tyler Consolidated); Eric Feldmeier (Paden City); Jay Lyonell and Brenton Scheitz (Brooke).

**BUCKEYE LOCAL'S** Brian Best makes his OVAC All-Star Game debut as Ohio girls' coach. "I'm really looking forward to this game. It's a great honor to be selected," Best acknowledged.

"We'll try and create a good chemistry among our players. We'll have about three practice sessions to work on it prior to game day."

Bellaire's Tube Davis and Steubenville Big Red's Angie Forte are also coaching in their initial Mumley All-Star Games.

Bellaire's multi-talented Ashley Vavrek heads the Buckeye roster that includes Abby Becca (Buckeye Local); Missy Gossett (St. Clairsville); Ashley Marinacci (St. John Central); Bre Burkhart (Shadyside); Emily Carpenter (Burnesville); Kristen Yoho (Union Local); Kelley Polen (Harrison Central); Brianne Ross (Steubenville); Claire DiPiero (Steubenville Central); Kelli Moore (Edison); Tressa Ramsey (Caldwell); Jill Bowersock (Frontier); Sarah

Huck and Abby Nolan (Fort Frye).

Wheeling Central's Penn Kurtz directs the Mountain State girls' cagers. Aiding Kurtz are Brooke's John Leary and Padon City's Fred King.

West Virginia's roster includes Maggie Campers and Chantell Nevels (Wheeling Park); Julia McChaley and Chelsea Skrzypek (Wheeling Central); Jamie Methar and Nicole Thompson (John Marshall); Micah Bell and Ashley McSweeney (Magnolia); Lauren Cook and Jen Hill (Bishop Donahue); Rachelle Byers (Brooke); Melissa Henry (Weirton); Lea Combs (Weirton Madonna); Kristen McCombs (Cameron); and Hailee Stender (Tyler Consolidated).

Wheeling's Tom Bechtel, Game Director of the Mumley Classic, stresses the OVAC contest serves multi purposes.

"For many of these players, it's probably the last game of their careers. Additionally, Ohio Valley basketball fans have an opportunity to see some of the conference's finest players in one setting."

Bechtel says the Mumley game also showcases one of the area's premier facilities. "We're thrilled to be at the Ney Center. Anyone who hasn't had a chance to watch a game (there) should try and attend this year's games."

Both boys and girls' all-star squads will practice at least three times prior to the April 1 event which tips off at 1:00 with the girls' contest.

Gibson can be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

# Girls rosters set for OVAC All-Star Game

• Mumley Classic set for April 1

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

With the girls basketball season wrapping up this week, thoughts can now turn to the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classics.

The games, which pit the best senior cagers both Ohio and West Virginia have to offer, will be held Saturday, April 1 at the Ney Center on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

The games committee - which is headed up by game director Tom Bechtel - has announced the girls rosters and coaches for both Ohio and West Virginia.

The Ohio girls will be coached by Buckeye Local's Brian Best. Best led the Lady Panthers to a 12-9 record in his second season at the helm.

He'll be joined on the Ohio bench by a pair of coaches who claimed OVAC titles this past season. Bellaire's Tube Davis led his Lady Reds to a 15-6 mark and won the 3-A titles, while Steubenville's Angie Forte led the Lady Big Red to a 18-6 record, which saw them win the school's first-ever district title in basketball.

The West Virginia squad will be coached by a familiar face to OVAC All-Star Game circles. Wheeling Central's Penn Kurtz is coaching the Lady Mountaineers after guiding the Lady Knights to a 13-9 regular season mark and led them back to Charleston for the West Virginia state tournament.

Kurtz will be joined on the bench by Paden City head coach Fred King and Brooke's John Leary.

The Ohio girls team features a potent roster.

Spearheading the Lady Buckeyes is Bellaire's Ashley Vavrek who led the area in scoring this season at a 28 points per game clip. She went over the 2,000-point mark in her career.

Fort Frye is the only Ohio school to get two players on the roster. Post player Abby Nolan and guard Sarah Huck Nolan led the Lady Cadets in scoring this past season at a 15.7 points per game average, while Huck added 12.7 points a night.

Steubenville's Brianne Ross earned a spot on the team after a final prep season of averaging 11.4 points a game.

Caldwell - which advanced to the Division IV district final before bowing out - received one roster spot. Lady Redskins post Tressa Ramsey will take part for Ohio after scoring 15.5 points per game this past season.

St. Clairsville's Missy Gossett earned a spot on the team after a brilliant season in which she averaged 15.3 points and better than 12 rebounds a night for the Lady Red Devils.

Edison's Kelli Moore was rewarded for a senior season in which she netted 14.9 points a game for the Lady Wildcats.

Frontier - which won its first-ever sectional title - landed point guard Jill Bowersock on the team. She scored around 11 points per game.

Shadyside guard Bre Burkhart was named to the team after leading the Lady Tigers in scoring with an 18.2 points per game average.

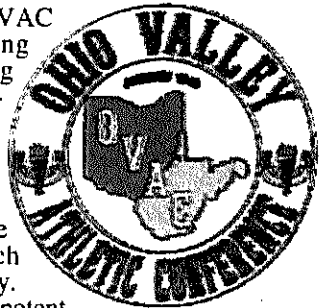
Beallsville's Erin Doughty was selected to the team. The Lady Blue Devil averaged nearly 11 points a game.

Harrison Central's Kelly Polen put the finishing touches on a brilliant career this past winter by scoring 18.3 points a night.

Steubenville Catholic Central's Claire DiPiero was named to the squad after averaging a shade under 10 points for Coach Kevin Barr's Lady Crusaders.

St. John Central post Ashley Marinacci made the team after scoring around nine points a game for Coach Bubba Kapral's Lady Irish.

Best will have one of his own players playing for him as



## ● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

Abbey Becca was named to the team to represent Buckeye Local. Becca scored just over 13 points a game to lead the Lady Panthers.

Union Local's Kirsten Yoho led the Lady Jets in the scoring column with a 13.7 average to make the team.

THE WEST VIRGINIA girls team is led by John Marshall guard Jaimie Merinar who led the Lady Monarchs and the West Virginia side with a 20 points per game average.

She's joined on the Lady Mountaineer roster by teammate Nicole Thompson who scored just 10 points a game during her only season in a Lady Monarch uniform.

Wheeling Park also put two players on the squad.

Guard Maggie Gompers was selected after a season in which she scored 14.8 points per game. Swing player

Chantel Nevels - who led the Lady Patriots with 15.5 points an outing - also earned a spot on the team.

Kurtz will have two of his own players at his disposal once again. Leading scorer Chelsea Skrzypek donated 18.1 points a night, while Julia McGinley was also picked after scoring around nine points a game for the Lady Knights.

Cameron's Kristen McCombs was picked from Class 1-A after she scored 18.4 points a game.

Magnolia got two players on the team once again this winter. Micah Bell was selected after pitching in 13.2 points a game. Ashley McSweeney - who came back from a knee injury this season - was picked after scoring 15 points an outing.

Weirton Madonna leading scorer Leah Comis was picked

after she scored some 15 points a game for the Lady Blue Dons.

Bishop Donahue received two bids to the all-star game. Jen Hill was picked after she scored just over 14 points a game. Lauren Cook was right behind her teammate with 13.7 points a game.

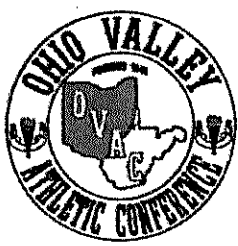
Brooke's Rachelle Byers netted just over 12 points a game to lead the Lady Bruins.

Weir High's Melissa Henry was chosen for the team. She was the third-best free throw shooter in the area, drilling nearly 84 percent of her charity tosses.

Hailee Stender of Tyler Consolidated rounds out the West Virginia roster as the only Lady Silver Knight representative.

Seth Staskey can be reached via email at [ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com)

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# All-Star Games Today

## OU-E's Ney Center to host festivities

By JOSH STROPE  
Staff Writer

The 2006 Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic looks to offer plenty of excitement and memorable moments for the Ohio Valley today at the Ney Center on the Ohio University-Eastern campus.

The girls' game tips-off at 1 p.m., followed by the boys' game at approximately 3 p.m.

### Inside

■ W.Va and Ohio boys, girls' team photos.

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There will be a brunch at 10 a.m. honoring both the W.Va. and Ohio boys and girls All-Stars as well as their respective

coaches at Undo's West in St. Clairsville.

Wheeling Central coach Penn Kurtz will be the head coach of the W.Va. girls for just the second time, and will be joined by Brooke's John Leary and Paden City's Fred King.

Playing for the W.Va. girls will be Micah Bell (Magnolia), Rochelle Byers (Brooke), Leah Comis (Weirton Madonna), Lauren Cook (Bishop Donahue), Maggie Gompers (Wheeling Park), Melissa Henry (Weir), Jen Hill (Bishop Donahue), Jaimie Merinar (John Marshall), Kristin McCombs (Cameron), Julia McGinley (Wheeling Central), Ashley McSweeney (Magnolia), Chantell Nevels (Wheeling Park), Hailee Stender (Tyler Consolidated), Nicole Thompson (John Marshall) and Chelsea Skrzypek (Wheeling Central).

Their opponents on the Ohio side will be led by Brian Best of Buckeye Local. His assistants are Bellaire's Tube Davis and Steubenville's Angie Forte.

The Ohio girls are Abbey Becca (Buckeye Local), Jill Bowersock (Frontier), Bre Burkhart (Shadyside), Missy Gossett (St. Clairsville), Sarah Huck (Fort Frye), Erin Doughty (Beallsville), Ashley Marinacci (Bellaire St. John), Kelli Moore (Edison), Claire DiPiero (Steubenville Catholic), Abby Nolan (Fort Frye), Kelley Polen (Harrison Central), Tressa Ramsey (Caldwell), Brianne Ross (Steubenville), Ashley Vavrek (Bellaire), and Kirsten Yoho (Union Local).

Best is coaching in his first All-Star game after just his second season at the helm of the Panthers.

The festivities at the girls' game include a coaches award given to former Bellaire coach Gregg Bonar, a

Please See OVAC, Page 18

# Girls' Squads Released



By SETH STASKEY  
For the News-Register

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### West Virginia

The West Virginia girls team is led by John Marshall guard Jaimie Merinar who led the Lady Monarchs and the West Virginia side with a 20 points per game average.

She's joined on the Lady Mountaineer roster by teammate Nicole Thompson who scored 10 points a game during her only season in a Lady Monarch uniform.

Wheeling Park also put two players on the squad. Guard Maggie Gompers was selected after a season in which she scored 14.8 points per game. Swing player Chantel Nevels - who led the Lady Patriots with 15.5 points an outing - also earned a spot on the team.

Kurtz will have two of his own players at his disposal once again. Leading scorer Chelsea Skrzypek donated 18.1 points a night, while Julia McGinley was also picked after scoring around nine points a game for the Lady Knights.

Cameron's Kristen McCombs was picked from Class I-A after she scored 18.4 points a game.

Magnolia got two players on the team once again this winter. Micah Bell was selected after pitching in 13.2 points a game. Ashley McSweeney - who came back from a knee injury this season - was picked after scoring 15 points an outing.

Weirton Madonna leading scorer Leah Comis was picked after she scored some 15 points a game for the Lady Blue Dons.

Bishop Donahue received two bids to the all-star game. Jen Hill was picked after she scored just over 14 points a game. Lauren Cook was right behind her teammate with 13.7 points a game.

Brooke's Rachelle Byers netted just over 12 points a game to lead the Lady Bruins.

Weir High's Melissa Henry was chosen for the team. She was the third-best free throw shooter in the area, drilling nearly 84 percent of her charity tosses.

Hailee Stender of Tyler Consolidated rounds out the West Virginia roster as the only Lady Silver Knight representative.

### Ticket Information

Pre-sale tickets for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Games are now available at Kroger stores in Bellaire, Moundsville, St. Clairsville and Wheeling. Student tickets may be purchased in advance for \$5, while adult tickets may be purchased for \$6. All tickets at the door the day of the game will be \$7.

# OVAC

(Continued from Page 17)

scorekeeper/timekeeper award given to Bellaire scorekeeper and OVAC executive secretary Tom Rataiczak, and a girls 3-point shootout at halftime.

The W.Va. boys will be led by a pair of state tournament coaches.

Wheeling Central's Mel Stephens and Weir's Mike Granato are listed as co-head coaches for the W.Va. team. John Marshall coach Pancho Flores was selected as the original coach, but was unable to accept due to prior arrangements.

The W.Va. team is made up of Jay Lyonett (Brooke), Dan McWhorter (Weir), Daree Goodwin (Wheeling Park), Michael Blair (Magnolia), Drew Moore (Tyler Consolidated), Eric Anthony (Wheeling Central), Andrew Bee (Cameron), Andy Hundley

(Linsly), Lee McCune (Weirton Madonna), Eddie Hayden (Weir), Sean Freeland (John Marshall), Keshawn Creighton (Wheeling Park), Eric Feldmeier (Paden City), Brenton Scheetz (Brooke), and Jason Grob (Wheeling Central).

Granato will be coaching his third game in four years, going 1-1 in his two previous outings. Stephens is making his first appearance as a head coach.

Martins Ferry's Jeff Sabatino will coach his sixth all-star game as he leads the Ohio team, along with assistants Donnie Madzia of Harrison Central and Greg Taylor of Monroe Central.

The Ohio team consists of Andrew Bobalik (East Liverpool), Steven Shepherd (Edison), Miles Hayden (Indian Creek), Scott Mirich (Martins Ferry), Tyler Ferguson (Fort

Frye), Tyler Knowlton (Monroe Central), Zac Carlier (Bridgeport), Taylor Goff (Shadyside), Dan Milleson (Harrison Central), Jason McKeegan (Indian Creek), Willy Walker (Harrison Central), Jordan Aronhalt (Zanesville), Pec Schmitt (Union Local), Johnny Jones (Cambridge), and J.J. Savage (Buckeye Trail).

During the boys' game, former Cambridge coach Gene Ford and official Nick Visnic will be given awards, as well as a slam dunk contest at halftime.

The Ohio boys had a lopsided 117-62 win in last year's game and lead the all-time series 30-11.

The Ohio girls are riding a two-game winning streak after last season's 85-79 win, and also lead the all-time series, 22-15.

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The Times Leader

# SPORTS

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Friday, March 31, 2006

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## OVAC Mumley Classic set for Saturday

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By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

All-Star games of any sort are supposed to be enjoyable.

However, don't think for a minute that the teams competing don't want to win in the worst way.

The competition will be heated when Ohio and West Virginia square off Saturday afternoon in the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic slated for the Ney Center at Ohio University Eastern.

The boys game is scheduled to tip at 3 p.m., while the girls event gets the day started at 1 p.m.

The Ohio boys' squad appears to be facing an up-hill challenge against a talented and deep West Virginia team.

The Buckeye boys will be led by Martins Ferry's Jeff Sabatino who has never tasted defeat in his previous five assignments in the annual spring classic.

"This game is always a great experience for the kids and the coaches."

Sabatino said. "The OVAC does a great job and it's well-deserved for these kids, but they are still going to keep score in the game, so we have to go out and treat it like a basketball game."

The Ohio squad has practiced a couple of times leading up to the game, but with baseball, track and field and other engagements. Sabatino and his staff of Greg Taylor (Monroe Central) and Donnie Madzia (Harrison Central) have found it tough to get everyone there.

"We've managed to get most of the kids there for the practices and most (of the kids) are ready to play," Sabatino advised. "West Virginia has some really talented players, so we have to play with intensity and passion."

Sabatino won't have just one starting lineup when he comes into the game, he'll have three equal teams with each squad boasting nearly the same style of players.

"Several players have distinguished themselves, so far," Sabatino

said. "A lot of the guys bring a lot of different things and we have a lot of players who are strong defensively. We're not choosing who we think the best players are and playing them, but we are trying to put equal representation out on the floor all the time."

Two of the most versatile players on the Ohio roster are Martins Ferry's Scott Mirich and Indian Creek's Jason McKeegan. Both will see action on the Buckeye perimeter.

The Buckeyes also feature some  
See, OVAC, Page B2



## ● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

strong perimeter shooters. According to Sabatino, those listed in that category are Union Local's Pec Schmitt, Harrison Central's Dan Milleson, Shadyside's Taylor Goff and East Liverpool's Andrew Bobalick.

When the Ohioans go inside, they'll look into Edison's Steven Shepherd, Monroe Central's Tyler Knowlton and Bridgeport's Zac Carlier.

The defensive standouts for the Bucks include: Indian Creek's Miles Hayden, Fort Frye's Tyler Ferguson, Harrison's Willie Walker, Zanesville's Jordan Aronholt, Cambridge's Johnny Jones and Buckeye Trail's J.J. Savage.

"We always try to get a shooter, a point guard, a real defender, a post player and a real versatile player with each group," Sabatino admitted. "All of these guys have talent and we hope to play each group in five or six minute spans depending on when we can get the clock stopped."

The West Virginia squad that Sabatino and the Ohioans are squaring off with includes the likes of Wheeling Park's Daree Goodwin and Keshawn Creighton. Weir High's Eric Hayden and Dan McWhorter will be teamed with Wheeling Central's Eric Anthony and Jason Grob.

Brooke High's Jay Lyonett and Linsly's Andy Hundley have proven all season they can fill it up with the best of them.

THE OHIO girls' squad will be guided by Buckeye Local's Brian Best who is making his debut as the head coach in the all-star game.

Best's roster features depth and talent and it will need both to contend with a strong West Virginia squad.

Helping Best devise a game plan for the Lady Mountaineers will be Bellaire's Tube Davis and Steubenville's Angie Forte.

Leading the list of Lady Buckeyes is first-team all-Ohioan Ashley Vavrek of Bellaire. She's joined by third-team all-Ohioan Kelly Polen of Harrison Central and second-team all-state pick Bre Burkhart of Shadyside.

St. Clairsville's Missy Gossett figures to be one of the top Ohio options in the low post along with Caldwell's Tressa Ramsey, St. John Central's Ashley Marinacci, Fort Frye's Abby Nolan and Edison's Kelli Moore.

Union Local guard Kirsten Yoho is a member of a deep perimeter group. Buckeye Local's Abbey Becca is a swing player who can go inside or outside, while Frontier's Jill Bowersock is a strong point guard. Beallsville's Erin Doughty and Steubenville's Brianna Ross are also battling for minutes. Fort Frye's Sarah Huck is another option at the guard spot.

The West Virginia squad -- which is being coached by Wheeling Central's Penn Kurtz -- is led by a pair of Wheeling Park Lady Patriots in Maggie Gompers and Chantelle Nevels.

Wheeling Central's Chelsea Skrzypek and Magnolia's Ashley McSweeney provide depth on the perimeter.

One of the most versatile

players on the West Virginia roster is John Marshall's Jaimie Merinar who was a first-team all-state pick in West Virginia.

The Lady Maroon Knights' other player on the team is Julia McGinley, while Nicole Thompson is another Lady Monarch on the squad. Bishop Donahue's pair of players consist of Lauren Cook and Jen Hill.

Cameron's Kristen McCombs and Weir Madonna's Lea Comis are both viable options at the guard spot, while Hailee Stender of Tyler is another player who can go inside or outside. Brooke and Weir each have one player in the game.

Brooke's Rochelle Byers will join her former head coach John Leary on the West Virginia side, while Weir's lone representative is Melissa Henry.

The Mumley Classic is more than just a game. The players and coaches will be treated to a brunch at Undo's West in St. Clairsville at 10 a.m.

Several award presentations are on tap. Gregg Bonar -- former Bellaire High girls coach -- will receive the Rich Saffield award, while Tom Rataiczak will receive the timer/scorekeeper award, which is named after him.

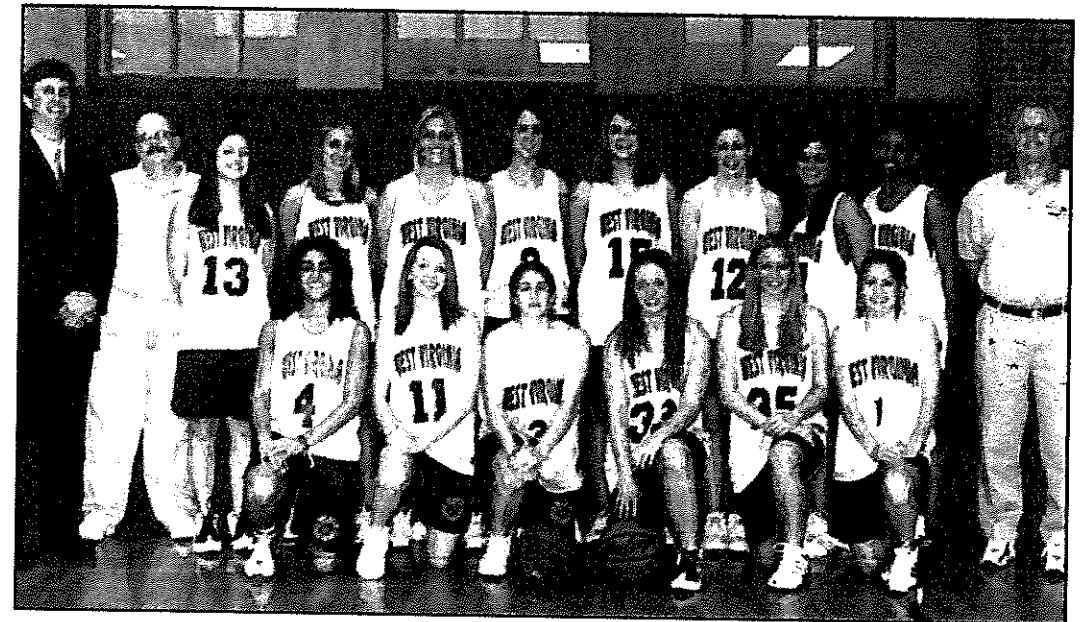
Gene Ford -- a Cambridge coaching legend -- will receive the Earl Haberfield Award, while Nick Visnic has been awarded the official's award.

Also on tap are a three-point shootout at halftime of the girls game and a slam-dunk contest at half of the boys encounter.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

PICTURED is the 2006 West Virginia boys team for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game. Front row, from left, are Eric Anthony (Wheeling Central), Jason Grob (Wheeling Central), Brenton Sheetz (Brooke), Sean Freeland (John Marshall), Lee McCune (Weir Madonna) and Andrew Bee (Cameron). Second row, from left, are coach Mike Granato (Weir), Jay Lyonett (Brooke), Drew Moore (Tyler), Eric Hayden (Weir), Andy Hundley (Linsly), Eric Feldmeier (Paden City), Dan McWhorter (Weir) and coach Mel Stephens (Wheeling Central). Absent were Keshawn Creighton and Daree Goodwin (Wheeling Park).



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

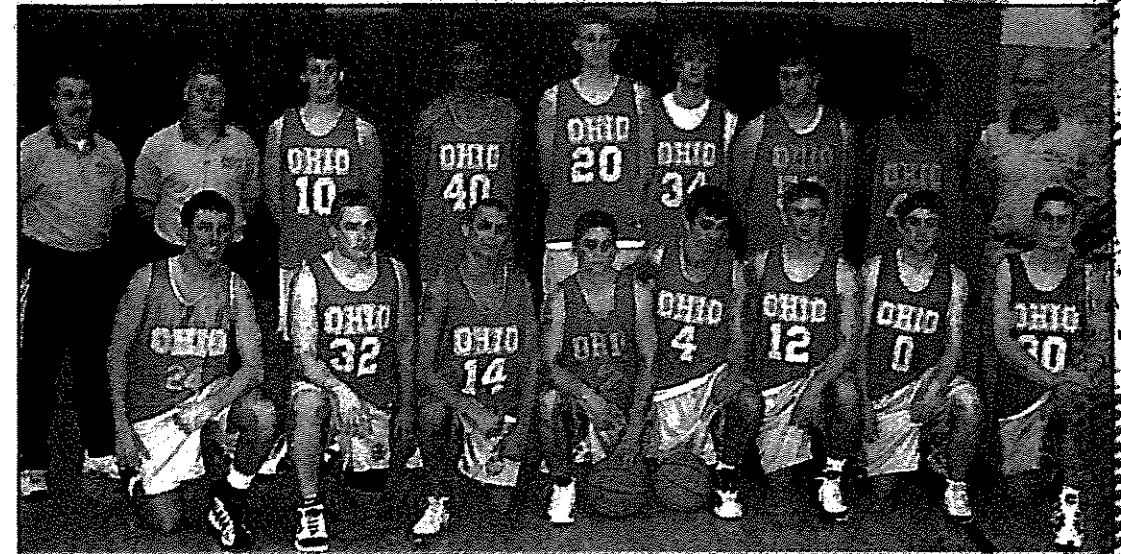
PICTURED is the 2006 West Virginia girls team for the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic. Front row, from left, are Melissa Henry (Weir), Nicole Thompson (John Marshall), Lauren Cook (Bishop Donahue), Ashley McSweeney (Magnolia), Chelsea Skrzypek (Wheeling Central) and Julia McGinley (Wheeling Central). Second row, from left, are head coach Penn Kurtz (Wheeling Central), coach John Leary (Brooke), Lea Comis (Madonna), Micah Bell (Magnolia), Kristen McCombs (Cameron), Rochelle Byers (Brooke), Jaimie Merinar (John Marshall), Jen Hill (Bishop Donahue), Maggie Gompers (Wheeling Park), Chantell Nevels (Wheeling Park) and coach Fred King (Paden City).

**Ohio, West Virginia all-stars set for Samuel A. Mumley/OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic**



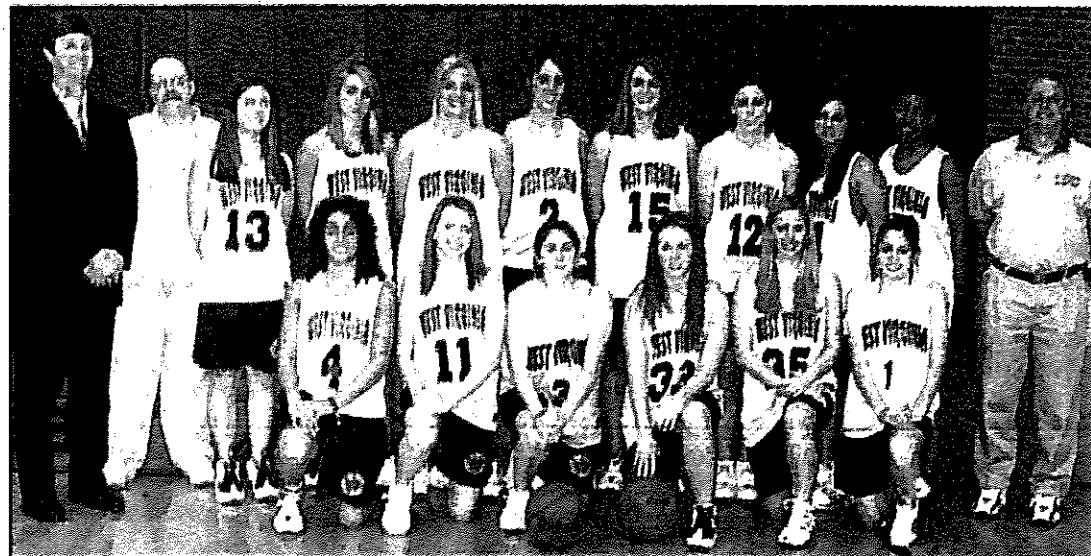
Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The Ohio Girls' OVAC All-Star team is, 1 to r, front row, Bri Burkhart of Shadyside, Ashley Vavrek of Bellaire, Brianne Ross of Steubenville, Ashley Marinacci of St. John Central, Kirstin Yoho of Union Local, Jill Bowersock of Frontier, Sarah Huck of Fort Frye and Erin Doughty of Beallsville; back row, Coach Brian Best of Buckeye Local, Abbey Becca of Buckeye Local, Claire DiPiero of Steubenville Catholic, Tressa Ramsey of Caldwell, Kelly Polen of Harrison Central, Abby Nolan of Fort Frye, Missy Gossett of St. Clairsville, Kelli Moore of Edison, Coach Angie Forte of Steubenville and Coach Tube Davis of Bellaire.



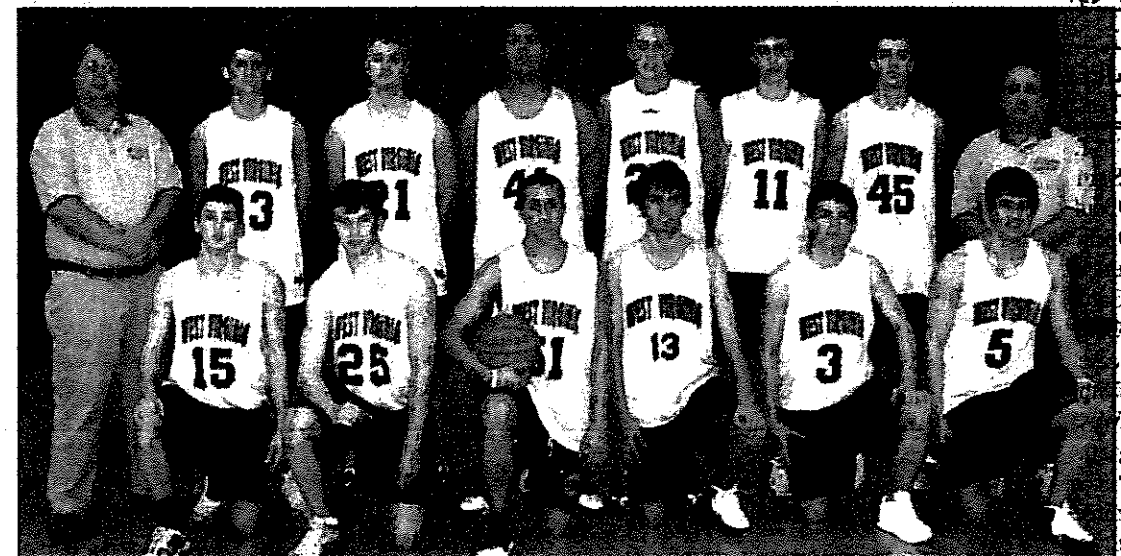
Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The Ohio Boys' OVAC All-Star team is, 1 to r, front row, Andrew Bobalik of East Liverpool, Johnny Jones of Cambridge, Jason McKeegan of Indian Creek, Tyler Ferguson of Fort Frye, Taylor Goff of Shadyside, Dan Milleson of Harrison Central, Pec Schmitt of Union Local and Jordan Aronhalt of Zanesville; back row, Coach Jeff Sabatino of Martins Ferry, Coach Greg Taylor of Monroe Central, Tyler Knowlton of Monroe Central, Miles Hayden of Indian Creek, Steven Shepherd of Edison, Scott Mirich of Martins Ferry, Zak Carlier of Bridgeport, Willie Walker of Harrison Central and Coach Don Madzia of Harrison Central. Absent was J.J. Savage of Buckeye Trail.



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

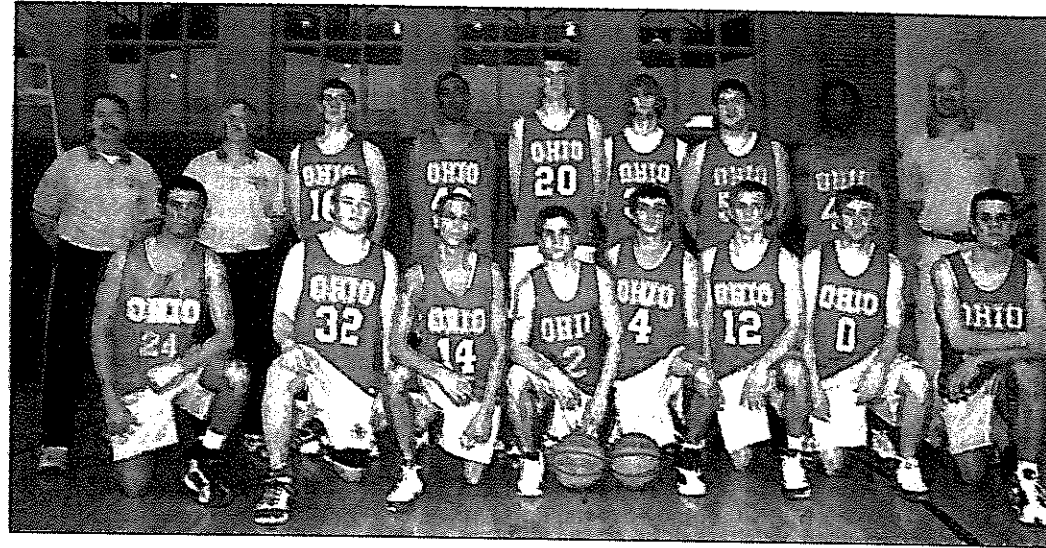
The West Virginia Girls' OVAC All-Star team is, 1 to r, front row, Melissa Henry of Weir, Nicole Thompson of John Marshall, Lauren Cook of Bishop Donahue, Ashley McSweeney of Magnolia, Hailee Stender of Tyler Consolidated and Julia McGinley of Wheeling Central; back row, Coach Penn Kurtz of Wheeling Central, Coach John Leary of Brooke, Leah Comis of Weirton Madonna, Micah Bell of Magnolia, Chelsea Skrzypek of Wheeling Central, Rachel Byers of Brooke, Jaimie Merinar of John Marshall, Jen Hill of Bishop Donahue, Maggie Gompers of Wheeling Park, Chantel Nevels of Wheeling Park and Coach Fred King of Paden City. Absent was Kristen McCombs of Cameron.



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The West Virginia Boys' All-Star team is, 1 to r, front row, Eric Anthony of Wheeling Central, Jason Grob of Wheeling Central, Brandon Sheetz of Brooke, Sean Freeland of John Marshall, Lee McCune of Weirton Madonna and Andrew Bee of Cameron; back row, Coach Mike Granato of Weir, Jay Lyonett of Brooke, Drew Moore of Tyler Consolidated, Eddie Hayden of Weir, Andy Hundley of Linsly, Eric Feldmeir of Paden City, Dan McWhorter of Weir and Coach Mel Stevelis of Wheeling Central. Absent were Michael Blair of Magnolia, Keshawn Creighton of Wheeling Park and Daree Goodwin of Wheeling Park.

# 2006 Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Stars



## Ohio Boys

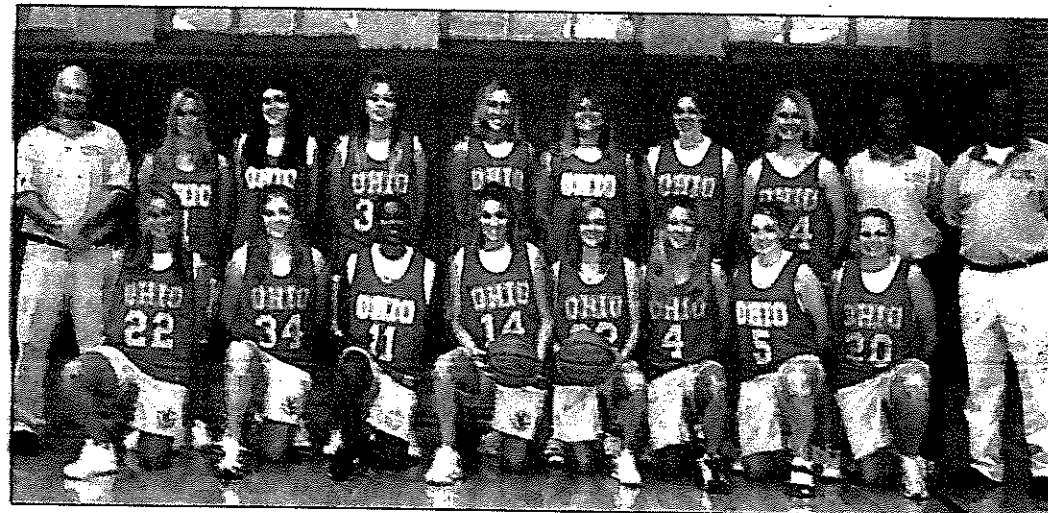
Representing Ohio in the 2006 Samuel A. Mumley Basketball Classic are, kneeling, from left, Andrew Bobalik (East Liverpool); Johnny Jones (Cambridge); Jason McKeegan (Indian Creek); Tyler Ferguson (Fort Frye); Taylor Goff (Shadyside); Dan Milleson (Harrison Central); Pec Schmitt (Union Local); Jordan Aronhalt (Zanesville). Standing, from left, are head coach Jeff Sabatino (Martins Ferry); assistant coach Greg Taylor (Monroe Central); Tyler Knowlton (Monroe Central); Miles Hayden (Indian Creek); Steven Shepherd (Edison); Scott Mirich (Martins Ferry); Zac Carlier (Bridgeport); Willie Walker (Harrison Central); and assistant coach Donnie Madzia (Harrison Central).



## W.Va. Boys

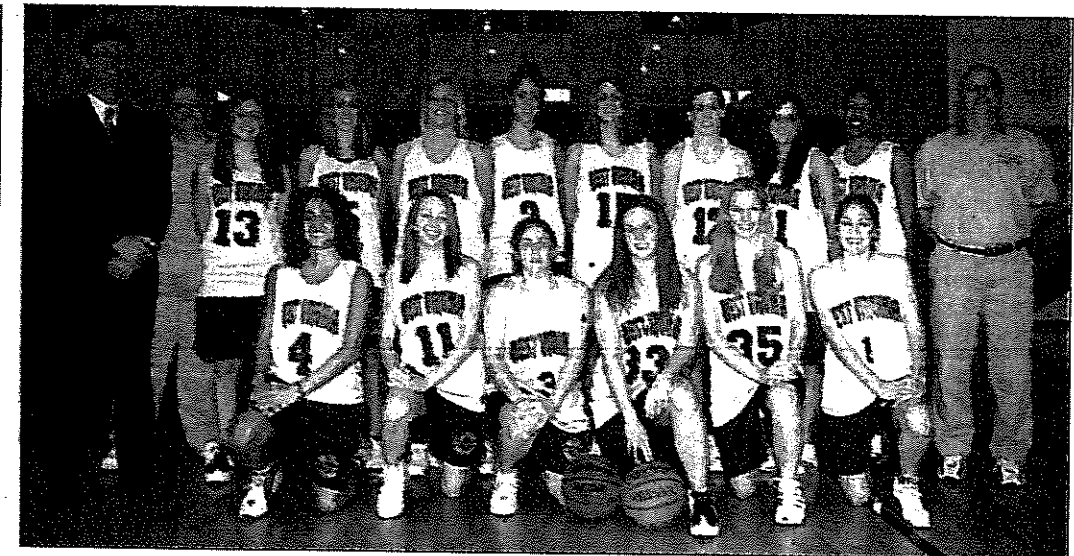
Pictured is the 2006 West Virginia boys team for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game. Front row, from left, are Eric Anthony (Wheeling Central), Jason Grob (Wheeling Central), Brenton Sheetz (Brooke), Sean Freeland (John Marshall), Lee McCune (Weir Madonna) and Andrew Bee (Cameron). Second row, from left, are coach Mike Granato (Weir), Jay Lyonett (Brooke), Drew Moore (Tyler), Eddie Hayden (Weir), Andy Hundley (Linsly), Eric Feldmeier (Paden City), Dan McWhorter (Weir) and coach Mel Stephens (Wheeling Central). Absent were Keshawn Creighton and Daree Goodwin (Wheeling Park).

Photos by Alex Kozlowski



## Ohio Girls

Representing Ohio in the 2006 Samuel A. Mumley Basketball Classic are, kneeling, from left, Bre Burkhart (Shadyside); Ashley Vavrek (Bellaire); Brianna Ross (Steubenville); Ashley Marinacci (St. John Central); Kirsten Yoho (Union Local); Jill Bowersock (Frontier); Sarah Huck (Fort Frye); and Erin Doughty (Beallsville). Standing, from left, are head coach Brian Best (Buckeye Local); Abbey Becca (Buckeye Local); Claire DiPiero (Steubenville Central); Tressa Ramsey (Caldwell); Kelley Polen (Harrison Central); Abby Nolan (Fort Frye); Missy Gossett (St. Clairsville); Kelli Moore (Edison); assistant coach Angie Forte (Steubenville); and assistant coach Tube Davis (Bellaire).



## W.Va. Girls

Pictured is the 2006 West Virginia girls team for the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic. Front row, from left, are Melissa Henry (Weir), Nicole Thompson (John Marshall), Lauren Cook (Bishop Donahue), Ashley McSweeney (Magnolia), Hailee Stender (Tyler Consolidated); and Julia McGinley (Wheeling Central). Second row, from left, are head coach Penn Kurtz (Wheeling Central), coach John Leary (Brooke), Lea Comis (Madonna), Micah Bell (Magnolia), Chelsea Skrzypek (Wheeling Central); Rochelle Byers (Brooke), Jaimie Merinar (John Marshall), Jen Hill (Bishop Donahue), Maggie Gompers (Wheeling Park), Chantell Nevels (Wheeling Park) and coach Fred King (Paden City). Not pictured is Cameron's Kristen McCombs.