



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Ryan Beabout, right, leads Fort Frye's Jeremy Anderson during the OVAC cross country championship.

## Beabout, Patriots Claim C.C. Title

Red Devils, Irish make it clean sweeps

By JEFF POTTS  
For The News-Register  
History was made during Saturday's Cal Pokas OVAC cross country championships at Meadowbrook High School.

Not only did the St. John Central Fighting Irish claim the school's fifth straight Class 1-A/2-A title — breaking a tie with Shadyside and Caldwell of four straight titles — but the St. Clairsville Lady Red Devils captured the school's first cross country title.

"This feels awesome, we got a huge monkey off our back," St. Clairsville coach Heidi Mooney said. "We had a huge concern over some injuries and we weren't 100 percent. We played the cards we were dealt and the kids stepped up today."

"I'm surprised we won because the competition was so strong," Mooney continued. "Wheeling Central had a couple good runners and Barnesville really ran strong."

Junior Kate Hodgson, who doubles as a soccer player, led the Lady Red Devils with a 12th-place finish. Cassandra Prezzia finished 22nd.

"I think Kate's a little bit tired right now, so hopefully we can get her some rest heading into districts and beyond," Mooney continued. "The big thing for us was Cassandra stepping up as my No. 2 runner."

Fighting Irish coach Jeremy Midei was elated following his third consecutive title.

"Breaking the record we shared with Caldwell and Shadyside is really cool, I'm just so pumped with how we ran," Midei explained. "We executed our race strategy perfectly. I honestly didn't think we would run as well as we did due to the fact that we are a little bit banged up. The health of our team was a big concern for us this week because had a couple of key runners dinged up."

The Fighting Irish were led by Sam Foster who covered the 3.1 mile course in 16:47 to take home fourth.

The other big story of the day was Barnesville's Stephanie Morgan — who had a disappointing 2006 OVAC Meet (due to an injury that occurred during the race) — who claimed her first OVAC overall title.

### Class 4-A

Another year, another title for coach Michael Jebbia and the Wheeling Park Patriots.

Jebbia's Patriots compiled 49 points to outdistance the Fighting Irish and St. Clairsville boys

Ebbert 12th (17:20), Shane Scheuer 18th (17:31) and Kyle Timko (17:39) 21st.

### Class A-AA

Three-peat!  
The Lady Irish of St. John Central captured their third straight Class 1-A/2-A title and second straight overall title 49-116 over Caldwell (class and overall).

The Lady Irish were led by the Sisters Perzanowski. Senior Natalie and sophomore Kelly finished second and fourth, respectively to lead the Lady Irish.

### BOYS

#### Overall Team Scores

1. Wheeling Park 49, 2. St. John Central 60, 3. St. Clairsville 67, 4. Caldwell 172, 5. Weir 196, 6. East Liverpool 199, 7. Harrison Central 230, 8. Buckeye Local 233, 9. Wheeling Central 249, 10. Barnesville 270, 11. Shadyside 375, 12. Bellaire 379, 13. Fort Frye 388, 14. Union Local 390, 15. Oak Glen 424, 16. River 428, 17. John Marshall 438, 18. Zanesville 447, 19. Linsly 456, 20. Cambridge 503, 21. Tyler Consolidated 515, 22. Brooke 584, 23. Edison 589, 24. Magnolia 678.

#### Overall Individual Results

1. Ryan Beabout (WP) 16:03, 2. Stewart Jones (W) 16:39, 14, 3. Kyle Gramlich (WP) 16:39, 30, 4. Sam Foster (SJC) 16:47, 5. Jeremy Anderson (FF) 16:58, 6. Nathan Cencula (SJC) 17:02, 7. Ronald Read (W) 17:08, 8. Logan Wojcik (WP) 17:09, 73, 9. Luke Holubeck (SJC) 17:09, 90, 10. Alex Thornberg (SJC) 17:14, 11. Chase Maffie (SJC) 17:19, 12. Jonathan Ebbert (SJC) 17:20, 13. Matthew Moscato (SJC) 17:23, 14. Derrick Sprout (HC) 17:24, 15. Ronie Balvin (BL) 17:28, 16. Rob Bonenberger (WC) 17:29, 17. Russell Mulley (WP) 17:30, 18. Shane Scheuer (SJC) 17:31, 74, 19. Billy Padgelek (UL) 17:31, 92, 20. Jason Bennett (WP) 17:34, 21. Kyle Timko (SJC) 17:39, 22. Tyler Cordell (Cald) 17:45, 23. Ian Gullley (SJC) 17:47, 24. Phil Provenzano (Brooke) 17:48, 25. Justin Stellfox (Cald) 17:54.

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## Class AAA

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The Red Devils were led by Nathan Cencula, who finished sixth overall with a time of 17:02. Alex Thornburg came home 10th (17:14), Jonathan

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### Top 10 Individuals

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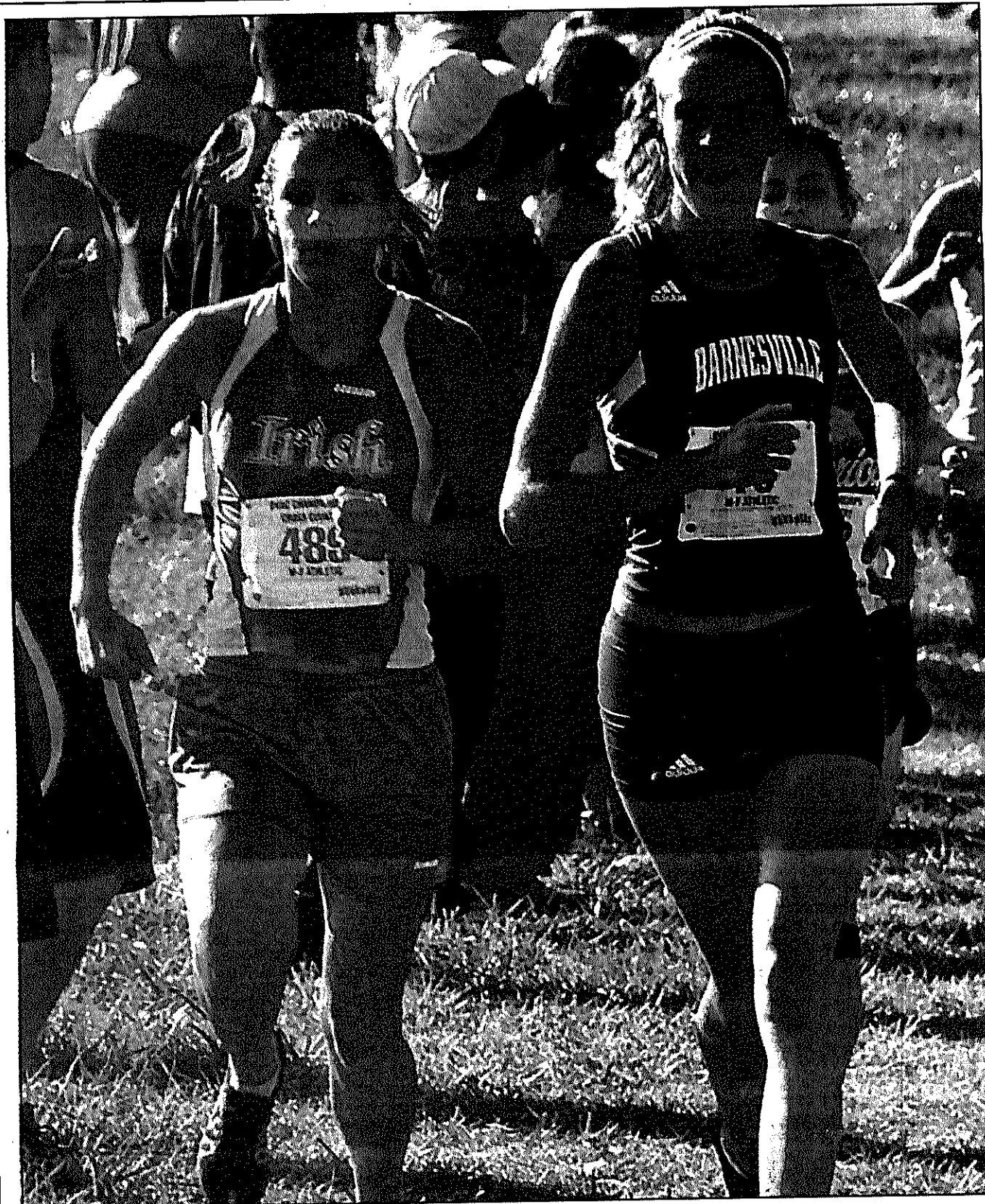
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**ST. JOHN'S** Natalie Perzanowski and Barnesville's Stephanie Morgan race stride-for-stride during Saturday's Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country Championship at Meadowbrook High School. Morgan pulled away and won her first-ever OVAC cross country crown in a time of 18:29. Perzanowski finished second in 18:46.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

## RUNNING WILD

• SJC, St. C. sweep OVAC titles; Buckeye girls claim 4-A

By **JEFF POTTS**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

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"This feels awesome, we got a huge monkey off our back," St. C. head coach Heidi Mooney said. "We had a huge concern over some injuries and we weren't 100 percent today. We played the cards we were dealt and the kids stepped up today."

"I'm surprised we won today because the competition was so strong," Mooney continued. "Wheeling Central had a couple good runners and Barnesville really ran strong today."

Junior Kate Hodgson, who doubles as a soccer player, led the Lady Red Devils with a 12th place finish. Cassandra Prezzia finished 22nd.

"I think Kate's a little bit tired right now, so hopefully we can get her some rest heading into districts and beyond," Mooney continued. "The big thing for us today was Cassandra stepping up as my number two runner."

Fighting Irish head coach Jeremy Midei was elated following his third consecutive title as head

coach.

"Breaking the record we shared with Caldwell and Shadyside is really cool, I'm just so pumped with how we ran today," Midei explained. "We executed our race strategy perfectly today. I honestly didn't think we would run as well as we did due to the fact that we are a little bit banged up. The health of our team was a big concern for us this week because had a couple of key runners dinged up."

"I just think that we ran with a lot of confidence today and ran a great race," Midei continued. "We really moved up in the last mile or so, but ran out of real estate."

The Fighting Irish were led by Sam Foster who covered the 3.1 mile course in 16:47 to take home fourth.

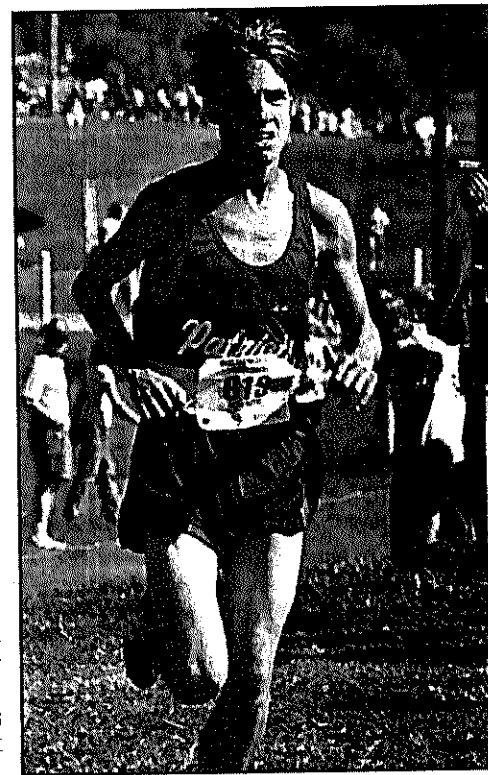
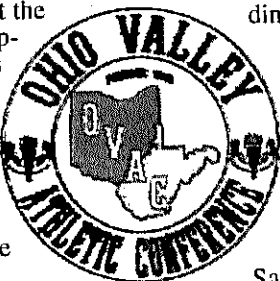
"I'm really happy with the way Sam ran today, I thought he ran a great race," Midei said. "He wanted to put it out there so there wouldn't be that many runners around him."

Other top runners for the Irish included Luke Holubeck (ninth), Chase Maffe (11th), Matthew Moseto (13th) and Ian Gulley (23rd).

Even though the Irish lost a couple key runners off last year's title team, Midei said he wasn't shocked by this title.

"It really wasn't much of a surprise to me, even though we lost Zach (Yereb) and a couple other guys," Midei said. "It's satisfying more than anything because each title is won with a different set

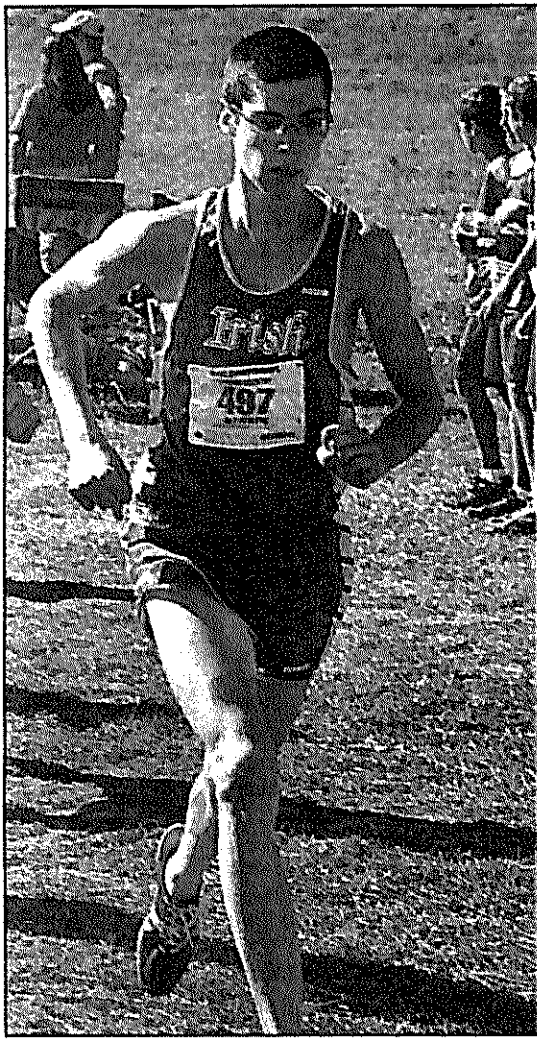
See, **OVAC**, Page C3



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**WHEELING PARK'S** Ryan Beabout surges toward the finish line during Saturday's Cal Pokas OVAC Championship.





T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**ST. JOHN'S** Sam Foster runs during the OVAC Class 1-A/2-A Championship Saturday morning at Meadowbrook High School.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Kate Hodgson helped lead the Lady Red Devils to their first-ever OVAC CC crown by virtue of her 12th place finish overall.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**BUCKEYE LOCAL'S** Sherry Borsos heads to the finish line in fifth place overall in a time of 20:07. She led the Lady Panthers to the Class 4-A team title.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Nate Cencula heads to the finish line in sixth place in a time of 17:02. Cencula was the Devil finisher, leading them to the

## ● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

of characters and it's also satisfying because we we lose good kids every year."

The other big story of the day was Barnesville's Stephanie Morgan — who had a disappointing 2006 OVAC Meet (due to an injury that occurred during the race) — claimed her first OVAC overall title.

"This feels great, even though I didn't think I had it today," Morgan said.

The personable junior, who hit the mile marker in 5:40, said she didn't want to set a fast pace early, due to the heat and humidity that permeated the course.

"I usually take the pace to the first mile in the 5:30 range, but today, I wanted to keep it conservative, especially with The Great American Meet coming up next weekend so going out like I did was a good decision," Morgan said. "This was a long race due to the heat."

Barnesville head coach Mark Brown was ecstatic following Morgan's win.

"Steph's a great runner and she battled through the heat," he said.

"I told her not to go out too hard for the first mile or two, just set a nice easy pace, then turn it on at the end and she did."

"We're working on her not peaking until the state meet."

### CLASS 4-A

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Jebbia's Patriots compiled 49 points to outdistance the Fighting Irish and St. Clairsville boys for the overall title and Weir (second) and East Liverpool (third) in Class 4-A.

"We're extremely happy with this title," Jebbia said.

"The nice thing about this one is it was a total team effort. Our guys came in in a pack and we needed that to happen because St. John and St. Clairsville ran well in packs together."

The Patriots were led by senior Ryan Beabout, who blistered the course in 16:03, Kyle Gramlich (third), Logan Wojcik (eighth), Russell Mulley (17th) and Jason Bennett (20th).

"I think this gives us good momentum heading into our regional and state meet," Jebbia said. "We just have to continue to work hard and improve."

Ronnie Balvin led Buckeye Local to an eighth place finish overall (third in 4-A) with a time of 17:28. Weir's Stewart Jones finished second.

On the girls side, head coach Eric Laughlin's Buckeye Local Lady Panthers used the fifth place finish of Sherry Borsos to claim their third OVAC title, the first under Laughlin.

"It feels really good," Laughlin said of the title.

"I can't say enough about how well we ran in packs today. I also can't say enough about Sherry, she does an awesome job and has really stepped up to become a leader for us."

Tessa Gretchen (31st), Kara Lucarellie (38th), Jess Battolochi (41st) and Sandy Quatson (56th) backed Borsos.

Courtney Yeager finished second to lead the Lady Patriots.

### CLASS 3-A

The St. Clairsville Red Devils picked up one for the thumb, claiming their fifth 3-A title with 67 points to Harrison Central's 230.

"Winning never gets old, though the margin of victory surprises me," St. C head coach Tony Ciroti said.

"The kids went out and did what they were supposed to do. We just need to get our top three runners down into the 16-minute range."

The Red Devils were led by Nathan Cencula, who finished sixth overall with a time of 17:02.

Alex Thornburg came home 10th (17:14), Jonathan Ebbert 12th (17:20), Shane Scheuer 18th (17:31) and Kyle

Timko (17:39) 21st.

"I'm very happy and surprised with how Nathan ran today, he ran a good race," Ciroti said. "Alex doesn't run well in the heat and Jonathan had an OK race."

Ciroti said the heat and humidity affected the kids in different ways.

"It's all up to the individual," Ciroti said. "Some kids love to run in the heat and some don't."

Derrick Sproul (14th, 17:24) led Harrison Central to a third place finish (seventh overall). Adam Sellers (18:00) finished 27th to help Barnesville finish third in 3-A (10th overall). Robbie Chilson (18:19) finished 34th to help Bellaire to a fifth place finish in 3-A (12th overall). Billy Padgelek (17:31) finished 19th to lead Union Local.

In addition to the aforementioned Morgan, sophomore Karly Jones came home seventh (20:58) for the Lady Shamrocks.

Ericka Skinner paced Harrison Central with a sixth place finish (20:32).

Alysia Scott finished 20th for Bellaire.

### CLASS 1-A/2-A

Three-peat!

The Lady Irish of St. John Central captured their third straight Class 1-A/2-A title and second straight overall title 49-116 over Caldwell (class and overall).

"This was a nice win for us," Midei said.

"I thought the girls ran a good race and handled the conditions very well. We weren't concerned with anyone else just ourselves."

The Lady Irish were led by the Sisters Perzanowski. Senior Natalie and sophomore Kelly finished second and fourth, respectively to lead the Lady Irish.

They were backed by Kylee Longevitch (14th), Sarah Kosky (15th) and youngest sister Jamie.

"I thought our three seniors did a great job and the team responded to the changes we made."

Potts can be reached at [jpotts@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:jpotts@timesleaderonline.com)

## Cal Pokas OVAC Res

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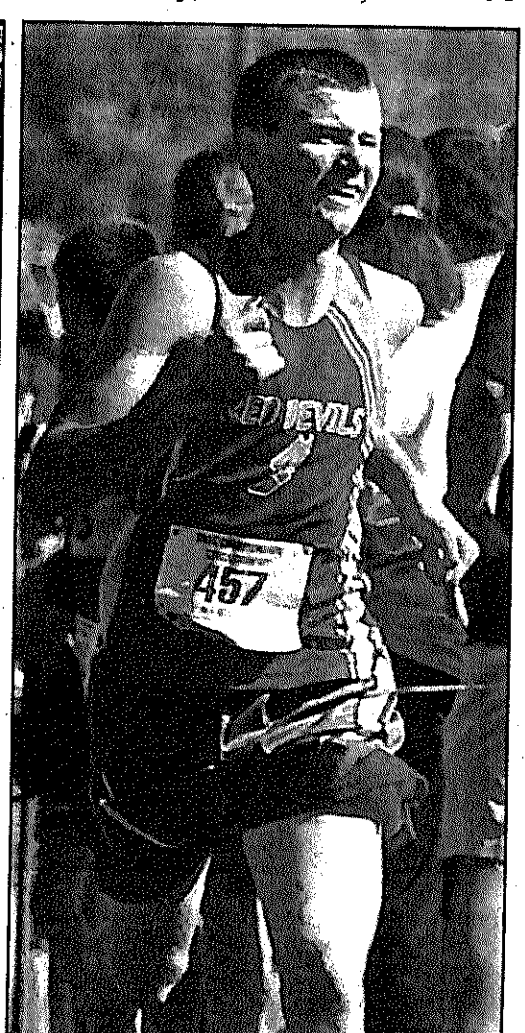
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**All-OVAC**  
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**CLASS 1-A/2-A**  
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T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY  
Foster runs during the A/2-A Championship at Meadowbrook High

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY  
ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Kate Hodgson helped lead the Lady Red Devils to their first-ever OVAC CC crown by virtue of her 12th place finish overall.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY  
BUCKEYE LOCAL'S Sherry Borsos heads to the finish line in fifth place overall in a time of 20:07. She led the Lady Panthers to the Class 4-A team title.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY  
ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Nate Cencula heads to the finish line in sixth place overall in a time of 17:02. Cencula was the top Red Devil finisher, leading them to the team title.

Continued from Page C1

It's also satisfying to see good kids every

day of the day was the Morgan - who won the 2006 OVAC Meet and placed second during the first OVAC overall

even though I didn't win, Morgan said. "I wanted to see how the kids didn't want to set the heat and the course."

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St. Clairsville ran

The Patriots were led by senior Ryan Beabout, who blistered the course in 16:03, Kyle Gramlich (third), Logan Wojcik (eighth), Russell Mulley (17th) and Jason Bennett (20th).

"I think this gives us good momentum heading into our regional and state meet," Jebbia said. "We just have to continue to work hard and improve."

Ronnie Balvin led Buckeye Local to an eighth place finish overall (third in 4-A) with a time of 17:28. Weir's Stewart Jones finished second

On the girls side, head coach Eric Laughlin's Buckeye Local Lady Panthers used the fifth place finish of Sherry Borsos to claim their third OVAC title, the first under Laughlin.

"It feels really good," Laughlin said of the title.

"I can't say enough about how well we ran in packs today. I also can't say enough about Sherry, she does an awesome job and has really stepped up to become a leader for us."

Tessa Gretchen (31st), Kara Lucarellie (38th), Jess Battolochi (41st) and Sandy Quatson (56th) backed Borsos.

Courtney Yeager finished second to lead the Lady Patriots.

**CLASS 3-A**  
The St. Clairsville Red Devils picked up one for the thumb, claiming their fifth 3-A title with 67 points to Harrison Central's 230.

"Winning never gets old, though the margin of victory surprises me," St. C head coach Tony Ciroti said.

"The kids went out and did what they were supposed to do. We just need to get our top three runners down into the 16-minute range."

The Red Devils were led by Nathan Cencula, who finished sixth overall with a time of 17:02.

Alex Thornburg came home 10th (17:14), Jonathan Ebbert 12th (17:20), Shane Scheuer 18th (17:31) and Kyle

Timko (17:39) 21st.

"I'm very happy and surprised with how Nathan ran today, he ran a good race," Ciroti said. "Alex doesn't run well in the heat and Jonathan had an OK race."

Ciroti said the heat and humidity effects the kids in different ways.

"It's all up to the individual," Ciroti said. "Some kids love to run in the heat and some don't."

Derrick Sproul (14th, 17:24) led Harrison Central to a third place finish (seventh overall). Adam Sellers (18:00) finished 27th to help Barnesville finish third in 3-A (10th overall). Robbie Chilson (18:19) finished 34th to help Bellaire to a fifth place finish in 3-A (12th overall). Billy Padgelek (17:31) finished 19th to lead Union Local.

In addition to the aforementioned Morgan, sophomore Karly Jones came home seventh (20:58) for the Lady Shamrocks.

Ericka Skinner paced Harrison Central with a sixth place finish (20:32).

Alysia Scott finished 20th for Bellaire.

**CLASS 1-A/2-A**

Three-peat!

The Lady Irish of St. John Central captured their third straight Class 1-A/2-A title and second straight overall title 49-116 over Caldwell (class and overall).

"This was a nice win for us," Midei said.

"I thought the girls ran a good race and handled the conditions very well. We weren't concerned with anyone else just ourselves."

The Lady Irish were led by the Sisters Perzanowski. Senior Natalie and sophomore Kelly finished second and fourth, respectively to lead the Lady Irish.

They were backed by Kylee Longevitch (14th), Sarah Kosky (15th) and youngest sister Jamie.

"I thought our three seniors did a great job and the team responded to the changes we made."

Potts can be reached at [jpotts@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:jpotts@timesleaderonline.com)

## Cal Pokas OVAC Results

**Boys**  
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Team Results: 1. St. John Central 49. 2. Caldwell 118. 3. St. Clairsville 120. 4. Barnesville 134. 5. Harrison Central 140. 6. Buckeye Local 151. 7. Wheeling Central 202. 8. Oak Glen 220. 9. Wheeling Park 242. 10. Linsly 250. 11. Martins Ferry 257. 12. John Marshall 262. 13. Indian Creek 291. 14. Cambridge 344. 15. East Liverpool 364.

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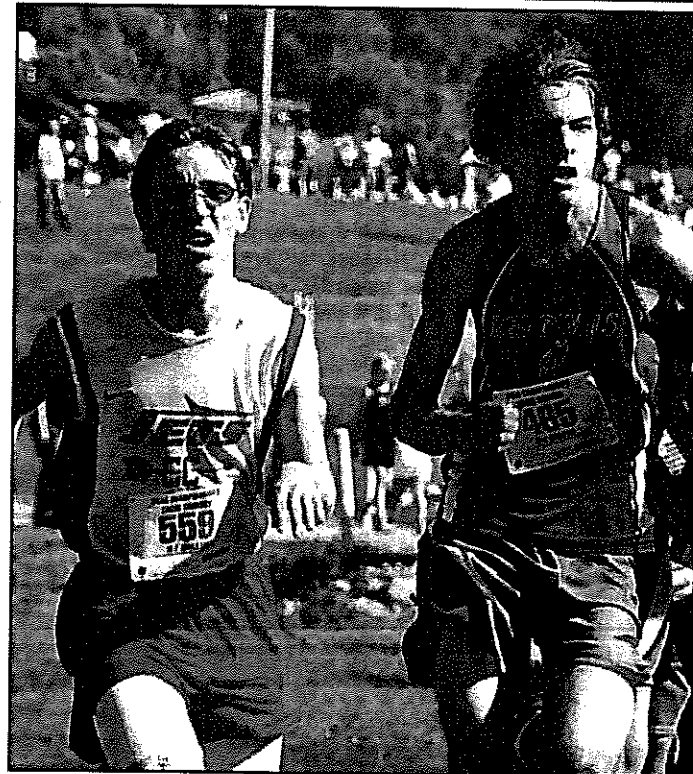
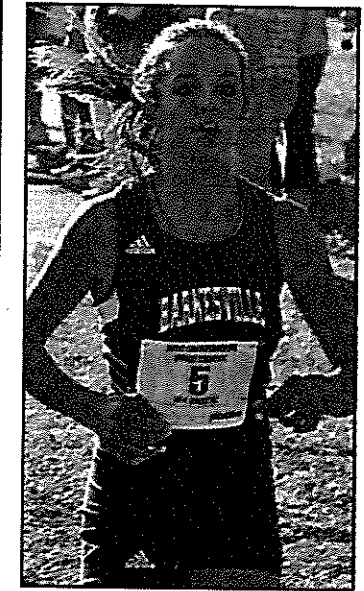
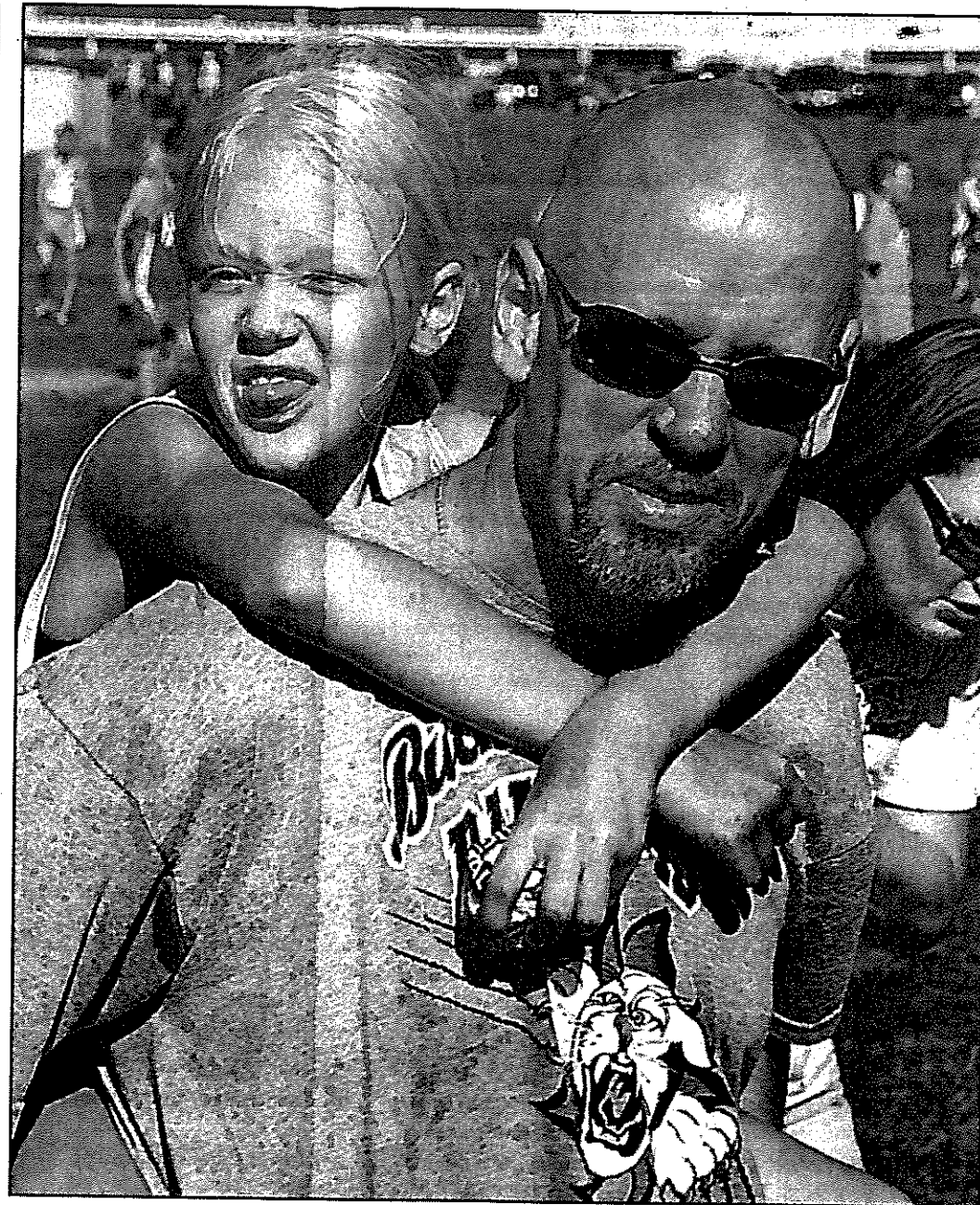
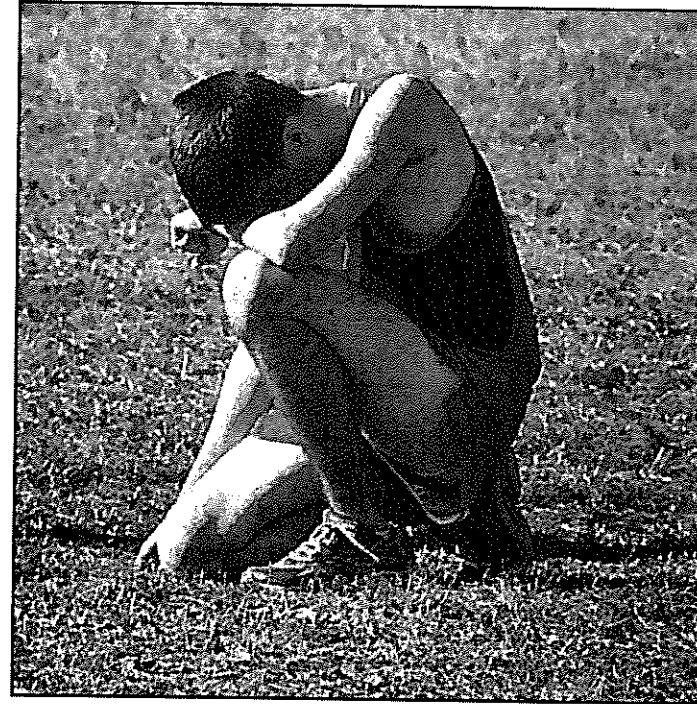
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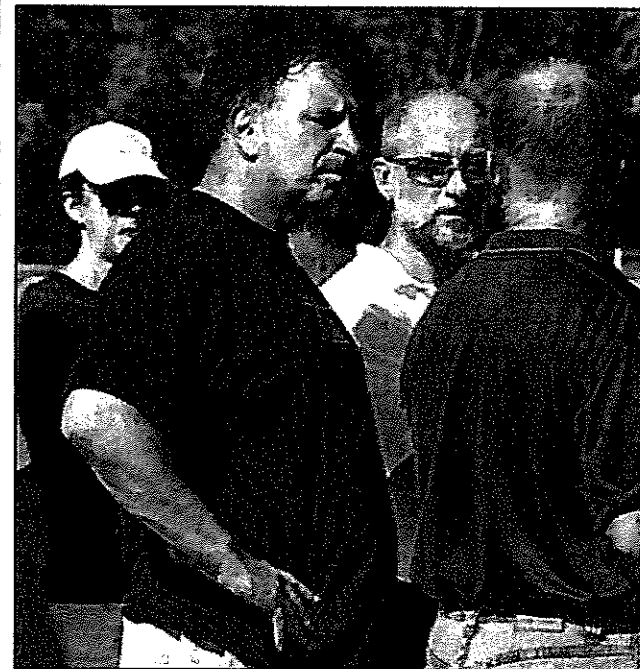
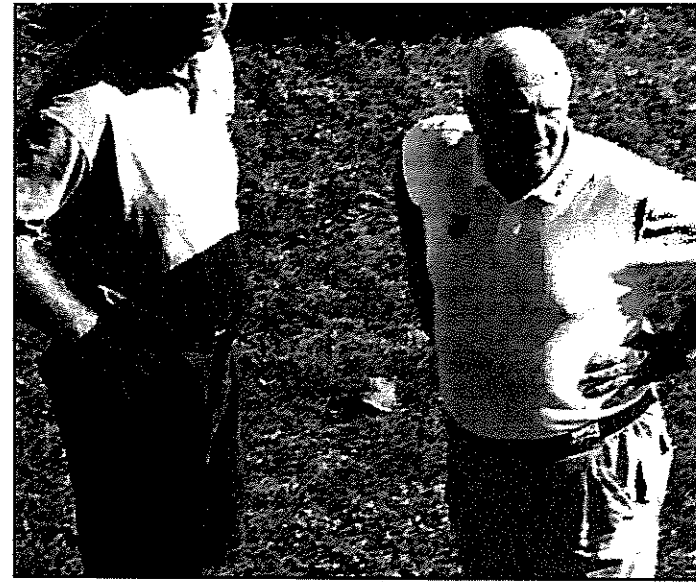
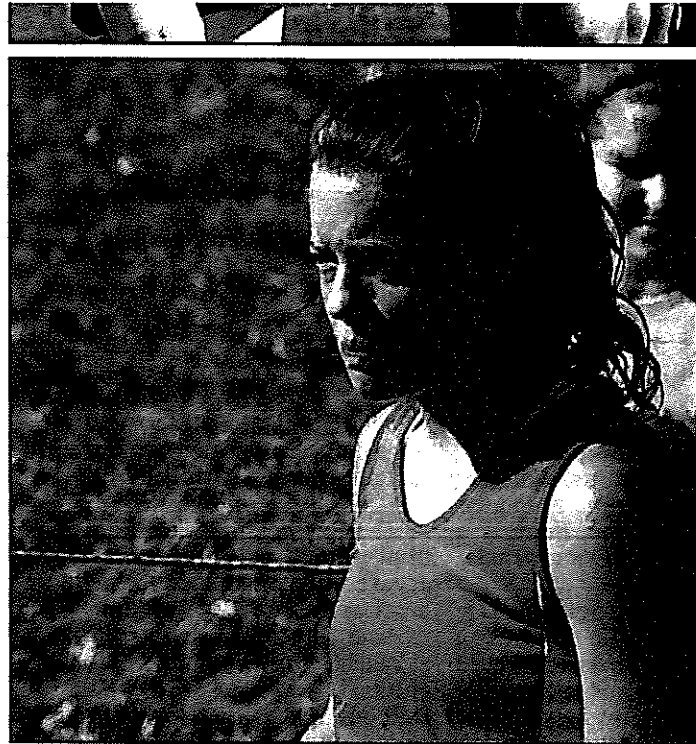


# OVAC CROSS COUNTRY

THE TIMES LEADER - Sunday, October 7, 2007 - C7







**TOP LEFT:** Bellaire frosh Ian McConville collects his thoughts prior to Saturday's OVAC Boys Cross Country race.  
**TOP MIDDLE:** Buckeye Local assistant Buddy Borer gives Alex Carney a lift to the finish line to help save energy prior to the start of the OVAC meet.  
**TOP RIGHT:** Barnesville's Karly Jones runs in the OVAC meet Saturday.  
**SECOND LEFT:** Union Local's Billy Padgelek and St. Clairsville's Shanè Scheuer race toward the finish line.  
**SECOND RIGHT:** St. Clairsville's Christina Seamon runs on the course.  
**MIDDLE LEFT:** Bellaire's Kelsey Ponzani takes in fluids after the race.  
**MIDDLE:** Former area CC standouts Marissa Melanko of Shadyside and Katie Antonik of Bellaire were on hand Saturday.  
**MIDDLE RIGHT;** Meet officials Tom Rataiczak (left) and Butch Joseph talk prior to the runners coming across the finish line.  
**ABOVE LEFT:** Shadyside's Adam Amato tries to cool off following the boys race.  
**ABOVE MIDDLE:** Harrison's Marcus Wise, Mike Beard and Casey Kaiser prepare for the race.  
**ABOVE:** Wheeling Mayor Nick Sparachane takes in the action Saturday.  
**AT LEFT:** The chute was full of girls runners and water was of the premium at Saturday's OVAC meet in Byesville.  
**AT RIGHT:** St. John head coach Jeremy Midei embraces with Chase Maffe after the Irish claimed yet another OVAC title.



T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STATS

Check out who is atop the Ohio Valley's leaders in rushing, passing and much more/18

# The Intelligencer SPORTS

FRIDAY  
OCTOBER 5, 2007

COMICS .....  
CLASSIFIEDS .....

# They Were Born to Run

## Jebbia's Patriots like their chances

By JEFF POTTS  
For The Intelligencer

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will crown its third set of champions for the 2007-08 school year Saturday when the Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country meet takes place at Meadowbrook High School.

### CLASS AAAA

In the boys race, coach Michael Jebbia's Wheeling Park Patriots head into the event looking for their second straight 4-A title and seventh overall.

"The boys have been working hard all year and we hope we run well enough to defend our 4-A title," Jebbia said. "As far as the overall title, we haven't talked much about it but our kids know that St. John and St. Clairsville have very good teams and are running well."

The Patriots are led by defending overall champ Ryan Beabout. Other runners for the Patriots include all-OVAC performers Kyle Gramlich, Jason Bennett and Brandon Janeczko, with Logan Wojcik, Russell Mullety and Kevin Busick rounding out the varsity roster.

One team looking to step up and challenge the Patriots are the Buckeye Local Panthers, under the direction of coach Eric Laughlin.

"Our goal is to finish in the top two in 4-A," Laughlin said. "Wheeling Park is very tough, I think they are ranked No. 1 in West Virginia, and I also think they were ranked nationally at one point this year. Weir and East Liverpool also have good teams. Like I said, I think realistically, we can finish in the top two."

The Panthers are led by Paul Jancura.

On the girls' side, Wheeling Park is shooting for its fifth straight Class 4-A title (third under Jebbia) and eighth 4-A crown.

The girls are led by two-time, all-OVAC runner Courtney Yeager. Other runners Jebbia is looking for to step up include Ann Marie Sorg, Taylor Croft, Chelsea Crum, Lucy DeFruscio, Rachel McIntosh and Lacey Dunaway.

"We are very young this year, but our girls have been improving every week," Jebbia said. "We hope to keep improving into October."

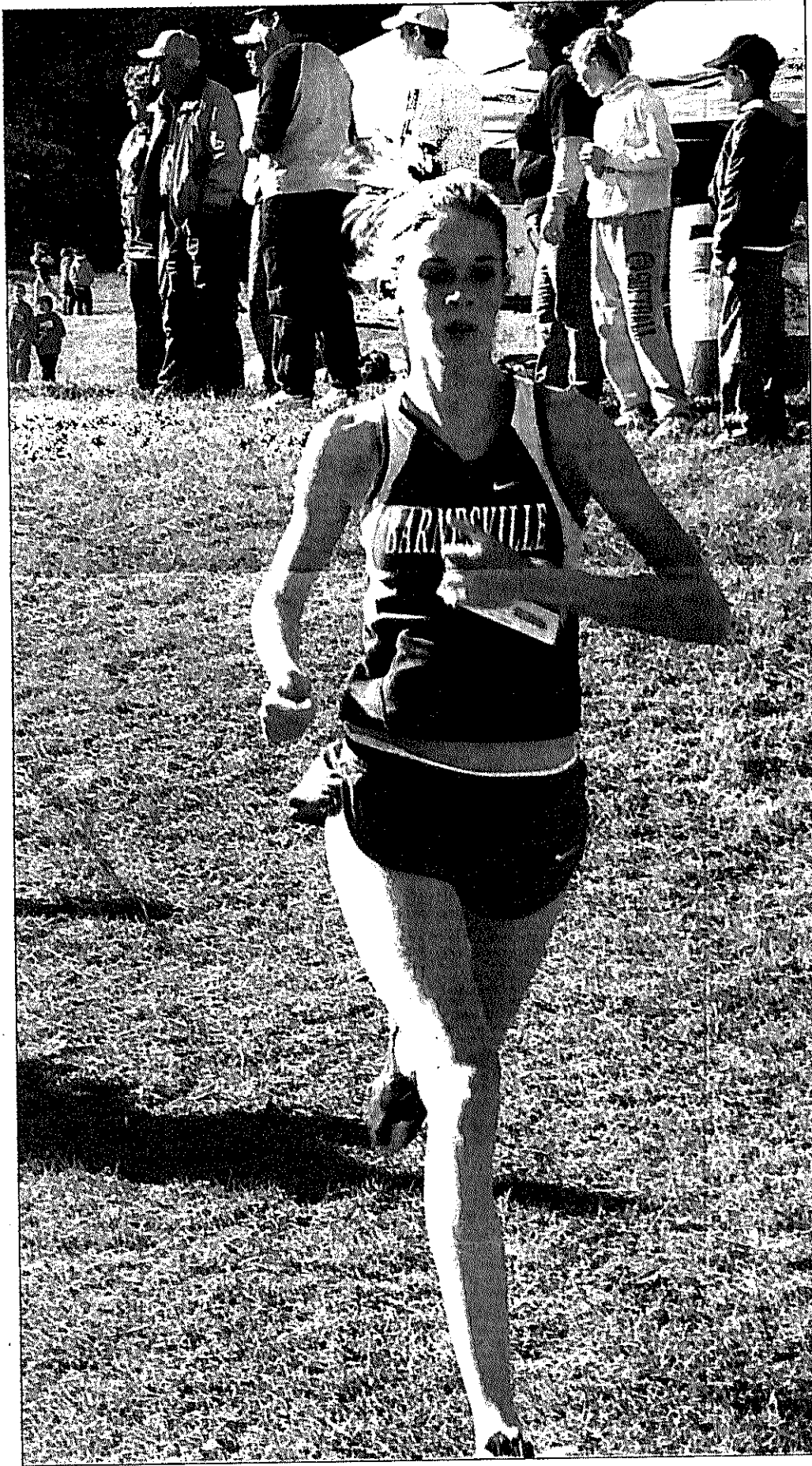
Park's biggest challenge looks to come from Buckeye Local and Sherry Borsos.

"Sherry's been running well and has been healthy all year," Laughlin said. "She's consistently been in the low 20-minute to high 19-minute range, so I look for her to finish in the top five overall."

### CLASS AAA

Coach Tony Ciroti and the St. Clairsville Red Devils return to defend their 2006 title, Ciroti's fourth in 12 seasons.

Please See PATRIOTS, Page 18



Barnesville's Jenny Morgan has her eyes on winning Saturday's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships at Meadowbrook High School. File photo by Rick Thorp

## Morgan right on track with family name

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

Stephanie Morgan considers quite fortunate.

She was able to watch and learn from her three older sisters as all of them ran on to tremendous distance-running careers. First their was Ruthie, who, after a stellar career at Barnesville High School, went on to run at Cornell University.

Next came Molly, who made a name for herself as a Shamrock before moving on to run at Michigan.

There was Jenny, one of the best runners in the state, who ran at Barnesville and at Clarkston (Michigan) before suiting up for the University of Michigan.

It appears Stephanie picked up a lot from watching her siblings, as she is a junior who has already earned a very nice resume.

And she still has two years of high school left.

"She's putting up the best time in the state," Shamrocks coach Matt said. "She's been doing very well every year. About what I expected."

Stephanie, too, has been happy to start strong.

"It's been going pretty smooth," she said. "We're just taking it week by week. I just want to keep improving and winning."

Stephanie will get her next shot at the top Saturday at the OVAC Cross Country Championships at Meadowbrook High School, where she is one of the favorites.

"The OVAC title is always what everyone wants to get," she said. "I'm going to try to win it. We'll see what happens."

Last season, Stephanie had to quit the Byesville course when muscle cramps forced her to the back of the pack.

The 2006 campaign was one of the toughest for Stephanie, who had recently returned to the area from Michigan.

"Last season, I think the only thing I was running good was the 5K," she recalled. "It was good I was able to finish it. I learned a lot from it."

The experience has paid off as she has become a stronger runner than ever in her life.

"I think she's a little more competitive this season than last season," Brown said.

And observers of the sport will notice Stephanie was named a All-American by Harrier Magazine. She was one of three runners from the area recognized, along with Worthen's Claire Durkin and Heights Beaumont's Emily Infel

Please See MORGAN, Page 18



COLLEGE FOOTBALL STATS

Top of the Ohio Valley's leaders  
Ranking and much more/18

# They Were Born to Run

Stephanie Morgan's  
talents like  
to be in the  
chances

**JEFF POTTS**  
The Intelligencer  
The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference  
will have a set of champions for the  
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CLASS AAAA  
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Morgan Wojcik, Russell Mul-  
rick rounding out the var-

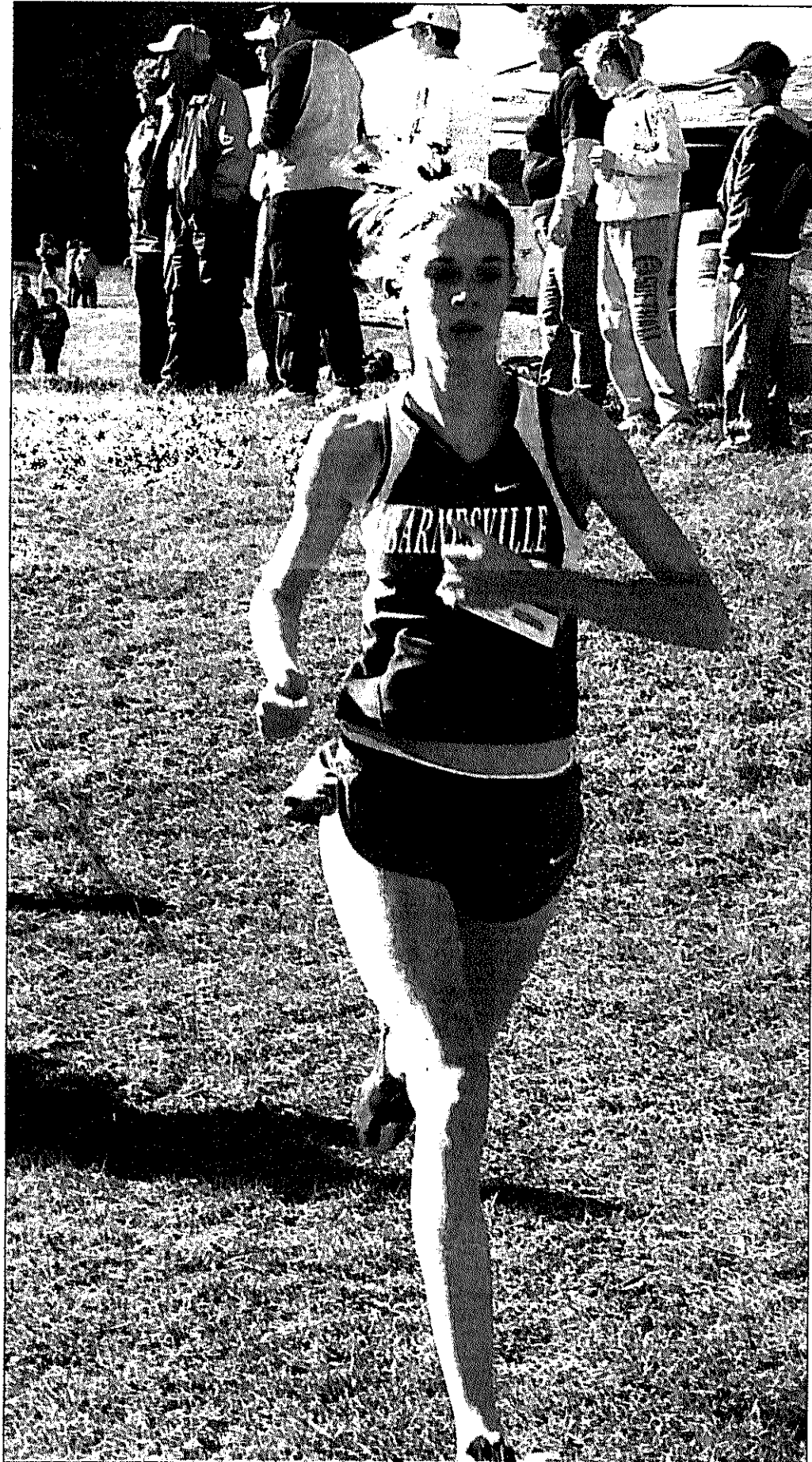
ing to step up and chal-  
lenge are the Buckeye Local  
in the direction of coach Eric  
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They finish in the top two in 4-  
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good. They are ranked No. 1 in  
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led by Paul Jancura.  
The coach, Wheeling Park is  
the defending straight Class 4-A title  
holders and eighth 4-A crown.  
The runner by two-time, all-OVAC  
champion Yeager. Other runners  
to step up include Ann  
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improving every week,"  
Laughlin hope to keep improving

challenge looks to come  
from the team and Sherry Borsos.  
Laughlin is running well and has been  
improving. Laughlin said. "She's  
in the low 20-minute to  
range, so I look for her to  
be overall."

CLASS AAA  
The runner and the St. Clairsville  
runners to defend their 2006  
title in 12 seasons.



Morgan right  
on track with  
family name

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

Stephanie Morgan considers herself  
quite fortunate.

She was able to watch and learn from  
her three older sisters as all of them went  
on to tremendous distance-running success.

First their was Ruthie, who, after a stellar  
career at Barnesville High School, went  
on to run at Cornell University.

Next came Molly, who made her mark  
as a Shamrock before moving on to Liberty  
University.

There was Jenny, one of the best at Bar-  
nesville and at Clarkston (Mich.) High  
School before suiting up for the University  
of Michigan.

It appears Stephanie picked up a thing or  
two from watching her siblings, as the Bar-  
nesville junior has already carved out a  
nice resume.

And she still has two years of high  
school left.

"She's putting up the best times of her  
career," Shamrocks coach Mark Brown  
said. "She's been doing very well this  
year. About what I expected."

Stephanie, too, has been happy about her  
strong start.

"It's been going pretty smoothly," she  
said. "We're just taking it week by week. I  
just want to keep improving and progress-  
ing."

Stephanie will get her next shot at better-  
ing her time Saturday at the Cal Pokas  
OVAC Cross Country Championships at  
Meadowbrook High School, where she will  
be one of the favorites.

"The OVAC title is always something  
everyone wants to get," she said. "I'll defi-  
nitely try to win it. We'll see what hap-  
pens."

Last season, Stephanie had the lead on  
the Byesville course when muscle spasms  
forced her to the back of the pack.

The 2006 campaign was one of transi-  
tion for Stephanie, who had recently moved  
back to the area from Michigan.

"Last season, I think the only race I felt  
like I was running good was the regional,"  
she recalled. "It was good I went through  
it. I learned a lot from it."

The experience has paid off as Stephanie  
came back stronger than ever in 2007.

"I think she's a little more adjusted this  
season than last season," Brown said.

And observers of the sport have taken  
notice. Stephanie was named a preseason  
All-American by Harrier Magazine. She  
was one of three runners from Ohio to be  
recognized, along with Worthington Kil-  
bourne's Claire Durkin and Cleveland  
Heights Beaumont's Emily Infeld.

File photo by Rick Thorp

Barnesville's Jenny Morgan has her eyes on winning Saturday's Ohio Valley Athletic  
Conference Cross Country Championships at Meadowbrook High School.

Please See MORGAN, Page 18

# Patriots

(Continued from Page 17)

The Red Devils are led by Jonathan Ebbert, Alex Thornburg and Nathan Cencula.

"I think our kids will run well," Ciroti said. "Our 4th-7th runners have been working hard, so they should be able to step it up a notch and run well."

"We still have some adjustments to make as a team, but the boys are excited for this race, it means a lot to us."

One team looking to step up and challenge the Red Devils are the Harrison Central Huskies, even though coach Scott Porter isn't 100 percent sure who he will have running. The Huskies will be led by Derrick Sproul.

"Right now, we only have the possibility of five kids running, but those five are in pretty good shape for the most part," Porter said.

Barnesville coach Mark Brown thinks his kids can be a top-3 contender.

"I think St. Clairsville is the runaway favorite in 3-A," Brown said. "I think we can realistically grab a second-place finish if everyone runs well."

The Shamrocks are led by Aaron Burga and Adam Sellers.

Coach Ed Sloane thinks his Wheeling Central boys can improve on last year's runner-up finish.

"We are coming off a good race at the John Marshall Invitational," Sloane said. "Rob Bonenberger finished 11th which pushed us to a fifth place finish overall."

Along with Bonenberger, the Maroon Knights are led by Bradley McGraw, Jordan Saseen, Chris Howard, Danny Gantzer, Justin Caldwell and Casey Hancock.

The girls' race figures to be wide open in Class 3-A, as defending champion Harrison Central is struggling with injuries and also the uncertainty of not being able to compete because of the teachers strike in the Harrison Hills School District.

"Right now we're fighting the flu bug and strep throat," Porter said. "We'll show up on Saturday, give it everything we've got and see what happens. We have yet to run as a team, so hopefully that happens Saturday."

The Huskies are led by Erica Skinner.

One of the teams gunning for the Lady Huskies are the eight-time champion Barnesville Shamrocks of head coach Mark Brown.

"I think St. Clairsville will run away with the meet and Wheeling Central has a couple good girls," Brown said.

Of course when you talk about Barnesville cross country, it begins with junior standout

Stephanie Morgan, who has her sights set on older sister Jenny's OVAC mark of 17:48.

Sophomore Karly Jones is the perfect complement to Morgan.

If the Huskies and Shamrocks stumble, coach Heidi Mooney's St. Clairsville Red Devils are waiting in the wings.

"I think we'll have our girls run in a pack and go for the 3-A title," she said. "Kate (Hodgson) and Jamie (Garbash) were in the top 25 last year. Our No. 4 runner (Cassandra Prezgia) and No. 5 (Jessie Ross) have been running well. Jessie's improved 3-5 minutes each race so we are counting on those two to help make the difference."

## CLASS A/AA

All talk here begins with four-time defending (six titles overall) champion St. John Central.

The St. John boys picked up their fourth straight A/AA and overall titles last season and will look to break the overall record they share with Caldwell.

"I think we can make a run at Wheeling Park, though they have to be considered the overall favorite," Irish coach Jeremy Midei said. "St. Clairsville is in the mix as is Caldwell. The top three or four teams may only be separated by a couple of points so every place is going to be crucial. It's a question of which team is going to have the best day."

The Irish are led by junior co-captain Sam Foster and senior co-captain Chase Maffe. Other runners include Luke Holubeck, Marty Swartz, Matthew Moscato, Ian Gulley and Matt Riffle.

Coach Laura Kahl's Shady-side Tigers could be the sleeper in Class A/AA.

"I am very anxious to see the outcome of Saturday's race," Kahl explained. "I think the kids have responded to our coaching and are anxious to show what they have obtained on Saturday."

The Tigers are led by Adam Amato and Troy Tollett. Other runners include Jordan Tollett and Bryan Crozier.

On the girls' side, defending champ St. John Central returns a strong nucleus, highlighted by two-time defending overall champion Natalie Perzanowski.

"We're happy to be in the position we're in," Midei said. "We feel if we run our race, then we will have the team success we're looking for this weekend."

Along with Natalie Perzanowski, the Lady Irish are led by Kelly Perzanowski, Kylee Longevitch, Sarah Kosky, Christine Bowman, Devon Bell and Jamie Perzanowski.

# Morgan

(Continued from Page 17)

Stephanie faced off against Durkin earlier this season at the McGowan Invitational in Pataskala, Ohio. Durkin came out on top by 33 seconds.

Stephanie has posted victories this season at the Belmont County Championships, Meadowbrook Invitational and the Malone College Invitational.

"I think I'm stronger mentally," she said. "And when you run cross country you have to be mentally strong."

"The biggest challenge is staying concentrated and tak-

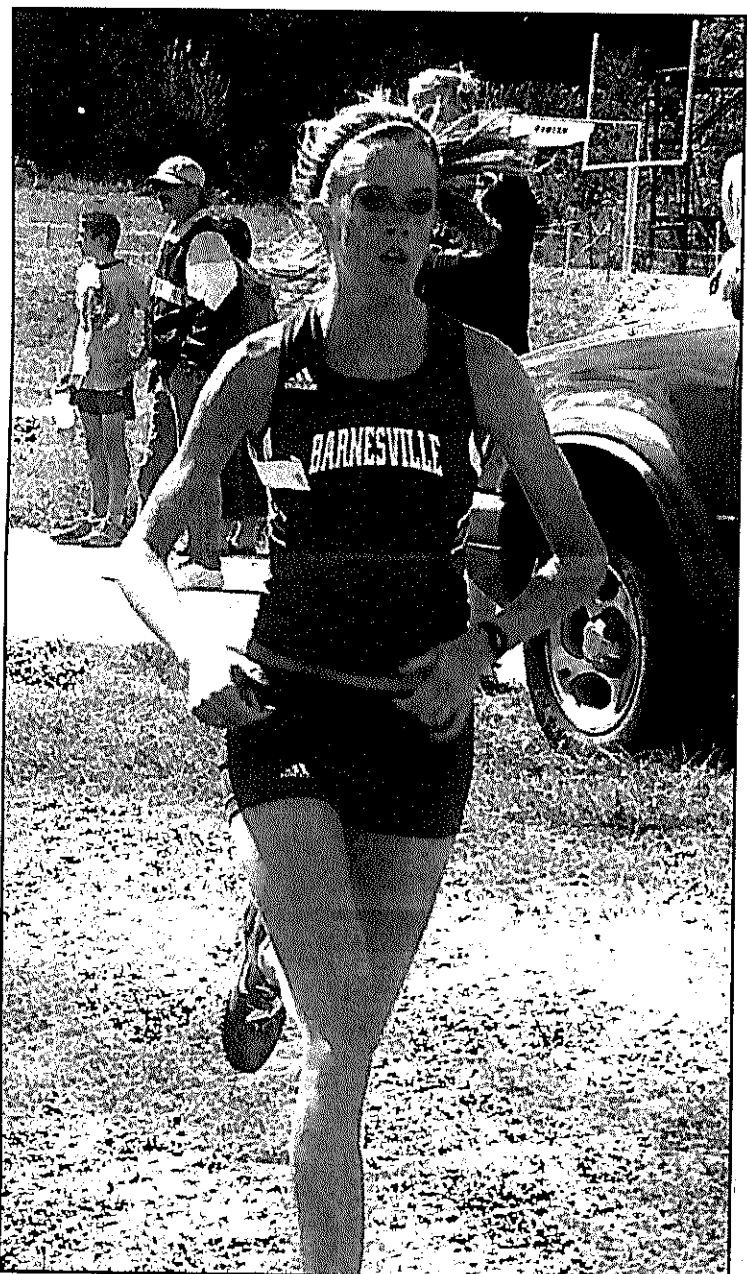
ing care of your training. If you don't take care of yourself, you won't run well."

Following the OVAC meet, Stephanie will begin preparations for next week's Great American Cross Country Festival in Hoover, Ala.

Then it's on to Ohio district competition and hopefully a regional and state berth.

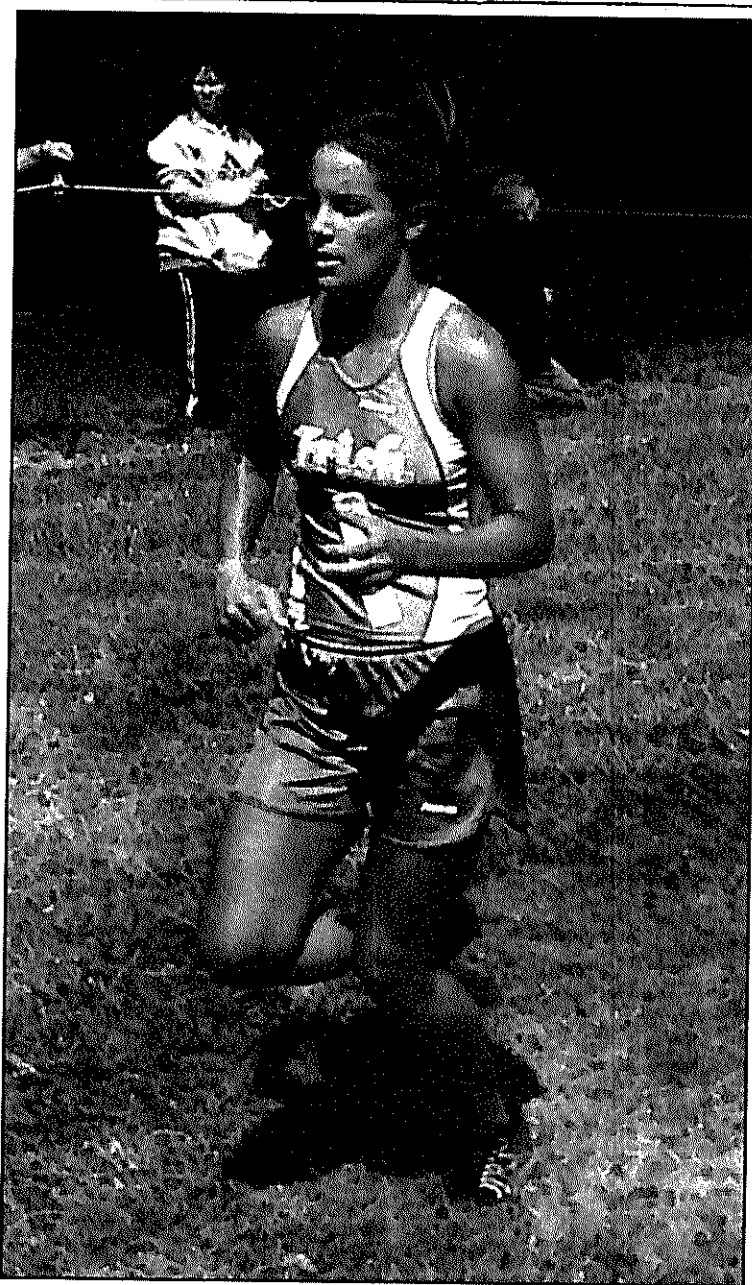
"She's not only working hard for this week, she's working hard for the state and the Foot Locker competition which takes place three weeks after state," Brown said.





T-L File Photo/JEFF POTTS

**BARNESVILLE JUNIOR** Stephanie Morgan runs the course at Meadowbrook during the Colt Carnival held earlier this season. Morgan is the defending OVAC champion.



T-L File Photo/JEFF POTTS

**ST. JOHN'S** senior Natalie Perzanowski runs toward the finish line at Meadowbrook earlier this season. Perzanowski won the OVAC title two seasons ago and will lead the Lady Irish.

# Runners to your mark

• Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country meet set Saturday in Byesville

By **JEFF POTTS**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will crown its third set of champions for the 2007-08 school season when the Cal Pokas OVAC Cross Country meet takes place at Meadowbrook High School.

According to host coach John Epperson of Meadowbrook, the 5K course is in good shape.

"The course is pretty good, though we could use some water on because it's pretty hard," Epperson said.

Epperson said to expect fast times on Saturday.

"I think the girls record (17:48) is in danger," he said. "I don't think there's a boy in the OVAC capable of running in the 15 minute area, but I definitely think the girls record is in danger."

## CLASS 4-A

In the boys race, head coach Michael Jebbia's Wheeling Park Patriots come into Saturday's event looking for their second straight 4-A title and seventh overall.

"The boys have been working hard all year and we hope we run well enough to defend our 4-A title," Jebbia said. "As far

as the overall title, we haven't talked much about it but our kids know that St. John and St. Clairsville have very good teams and are running well."

The Patriots are led by defending overall champ Ryan Beabout. Other runners for the Patriots include all-OVAC performers Kyle Gramlich, Jason Bennett and Brandon Janeczko, with Logan Wojcik, Russell Mulley and Kevin Busick rounding out the varsity roster.

One team looking to step up and challenge the Patriots are the Buckeye Local Panthers, under the direction of head coach Eric Laughlin.

"Our goal is to finish in the top two in 4-A," Laughlin said. "Wheeling Park is very tough, I think they are ranked number one in West Virginia and I also think they were ranked nationally at one point this year. Weir and East Liverpool also have good teams this year. Like I said, I think realistically, we can finish in the top two."

The Panthers are led by Paul Jancura. "Paul is running very well right now," Laughlin said. "So we are looking for a



T-L File Photo/JEFF POTTS

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Alex Thornburg runs during the Buckeye 8 Championship earlier this season. He'll help lead the Red Devils into this week's meet.

See, **OVAC**, Page C12

## ● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

good race out of him on Saturday."

Other schools looking to step up and challenge the Patriots in 4-A include Beaver Local, Brooke, Cambridge, East Liverpool, Edison, Indian Creek, John Marshall, Weir and Zanesville.

On the girls side, the Wheeling Park Lady Patriots are shooting for their fifth straight Class 4-A title (third under Jebbia) and eighth 4-A crown.

The girls are led by two-time, all-OVAC runner Courtney Yeager. Other runners Jebbia is looking for to step up include Ann Marie Sorg, Taylor Croft, Chelsea Crum, Lucy DeFruscio, Rachel McIntosh and Lacey Dunaway.

"We are very young this year, but our girls have been improving every week," Jebbia said. "We are hope to keep improving into October."

Park's biggest challenge looks to come from Buckeye Local and Sherry Borsos.

"I think we have a decent shot at Wheeling Park, they are the team to beat," Laughlin said. "We've been running very well as a unit and I think we are peaking at the right time. Realistically though, I think we need to have four girls finish in the top 20 in 4-A to have a chance at them."

"Sherry's been running well and has been healthy all year," he continued. "She's consistently been in the low 20-minute to high 19-minute range, so I look for her to finish in the top five overall."

Other teams competing in Class 4-A include Beaver Local, Brooke, Cambridge, East Liverpool, Edison, Indian Creek, John Marshall, Weir and Zanesville.

**CLASS 3-A**

Head coach Tony Cirolini and the St. Clairsville Red Devils return to defend their 2006 title, which was Cirolini's fourth title in 12 years.

The Red Devils are led by Jonathan Ebbert, Alex Thornburg and Nathan Cencula.

Cirolini predicts Saturday will be a good day, not only for his kids, but for everyone else.

"It looks like the weather will be warm on Saturday so it should be a good day to run," he said.

Cirolini indicated his kids are prepared for Saturday and

should do well.

"I think our kids will run well," he said. "Our fourth through seventh runners have been working hard, so they should be able to step it up a notch and run well."

"We still have some adjustments to make as a team, but the boys are excited for this race, it means a lot to us."

Cirolini thinks his boys could have a shot at the overall team title.

"I think we have the same shot as everyone else," he said. "There are a lot of good teams running so winning the overall team title remains to be seen."

One team looking to step up and challenge the Red Devils are the Harrison Central Huskies, even though head coach Scott Porter isn't one hundred percent sure who he will have running Saturday. The Huskies will be led by Derrick Sproul.

"Right now, we only have the possibility of five kids running, but those five are in pretty good shape for the most part," Porter said. "If nothing happens between now and Saturday, we'll have five kids. If we can finish top three, that would be a good meet for us, especially with our number three and six runners out."

Barnesville head coach Mark Brown thinks his kids can be a top three contender.

"I think St. Clairsville is the runaway favorite in 3-A," Brown said. "I think we can realistically grab a second place finish if everyone runs well."

The Shamrocks are led by Aaron Burga and Adam Sellers.

Another boys team looking to challenge St. Clairsville are the Maroon Knights of Wheeling Central.

Head coach Ed Sloane thinks the Maroon Knights can improve on last year's runner-up finish.

"We are coming off a good race at the John Marshall Invitational," Sloane said. "Rob Bonenberger finished 11th which pushed us to a fifth place finish overall."

"I think we have a good chance to have another solid/strong performance again this year," he continued. "All of our kids this year ran last year and have shown tremendous improvement all year."

Along with the aforemen-

tioned Bonenberger, the Maroon Knights are led by Bradley McGraw, Jordan Saseen, Chris Howard, Danny Gantzer, Justin Caldwell and Casey Hancock.

Other boys teams looking for the 3-A title include Bellaire, Magnolia, Martins Ferry, Meadowbrook, Oak Glen and Union Local.

The girls race figures to be wide-open in Class 3-A, as defending champion Harrison Central is struggling with injuries and also the uncertainty of not being able to compete due to the teachers strike in the Harrison Hills School District.

"Right now we're fighting the flu bug and strep throat," Porter said. "We'll show up on Saturday, give it everything we've got and see what happens. We have yet to run as a team, so hopefully that happens Saturday."

Porter thinks his Lady Huskies have a target on their back as the defending champions.

"I think the other teams will be gunning for us," he said. "St. Clairsville and Barnesville are both solid this year. We have to have our best day to repeat."

"Even though we are going there to win it, I think a top three finish is more realistic for us this year."

The Lady Huskies are led by Erika Skinner.

One of the teams gunning for the Lady Huskies are the eight-time champion Barnesville Lady Shamrocks of head coach Mark Brown.

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Of course when you talk about Barnesville cross country, it begins and ends with junior standout Stephanie Morgan, who has her sights set on older sister Jenny's OVAC mark of 17:48.

Brown said Morgan, who finished well back in the pack last year after being injured during the race, is focused.

"Steph's goal is to win it, though I'm not sure if she's going to shoot for Jenny's record," Brown said. "She's trained well and is very focused."

Sophomore Karly Jones is the perfect complement to Morgan.

"I think Karly's ready for

this weekend," Brown said. "She ran the Pumpkin Festival road race this past weekend and ran well."

"We need our other girls, not just Steph and Karly, to step up and run well."

If the Lady Huskies and Lady Shamrocks stumble this weekend, coach Heidi Mooney's St. Clairsville Lady Red Devils are waiting in the wings.

"I think we feel pretty confident heading into OVAC's," Mooney said. "You can never be sure though. You never know who's going to show up on any given day. We've had good practices and I think the girls are ready."

Mooney thinks the Lady Red Devils will go for the 3-A title.

"I think we'll have our girls run in a pack and go for the 3-A title," she said. "Kate (Hodgson) and Jamie (Garbash) were in the top 25 last year. Our number four runner (Cassandra Prezzia) and number five runner (Jessie Ross) have been running well. Jessie's improved three to five minutes each race so we are counting on those two to help make the difference."

Other teams set to compete in the 3-A girls race include Bellaire, Martins Ferry, Meadowbrook, Oak Glen, Tyler Consolidated and Union Local.

**CLASS 1-A/2-A**

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"To me, it's so cool to even be in the running for the overall title, though we're not satisfied with just being in the running," Midei continued. "Park lost just one runner off its 2006 top seven and St. Clairsville only added to what it had last year. We lost four runners from a year ago, so for these guys to accomplish what they have is amazing."

The Irish are led by junior co-captain Sam Foster and senior co-captain Chase Maffe. Other runners include Luke Holubeck, Marty Swartz, Matthew Moscato, Ian Gully and Matt Riffle.

Midei said he's looking for a "team" race.

"Our biggest strength is that we aren't just seven guys out there running their own race," Midei said. "We truly are a team and we need to carry those qualities into the race. We showed signs of that at Pickerington, but we need to take it a step further this weekend."

The Shadyside Tigers of head coach Laura Kahl could be the sleeper in Class 1-A/2-A.

"I am very anxious to see the outcome of Saturday's race," Kahl explained.

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Midei said he doesn't think the Lady Irish have a target on their backs.

"Honestly I don't think we have a target on our backs," he said. "The girls do a great job of motivating themselves and I don't think this weekend will be any different."

Midei believes the Lady Irish has momentum heading into Saturday.

"We ran our best 'team' race of the season at Pickerington," he said.

"We had goals in that race and we really zoned in on them. I'm hoping we run a similar race to that, while tweaking a few of the things we think we can do a better job of."

Along with Natalie Perzanowski, the Lady Irish are led by Kelly Perzanowski, Kylee Longevitch, Sarah Kosky, Christine Bowman, Devon Bell and Jamie Perzanowski.

Other girls teams in the Class 1-A/2-A field include Caldwell, Cameron, Fort Frye, Linsly, River, Shadyside, Steubenville Central and Weirton Madonna.