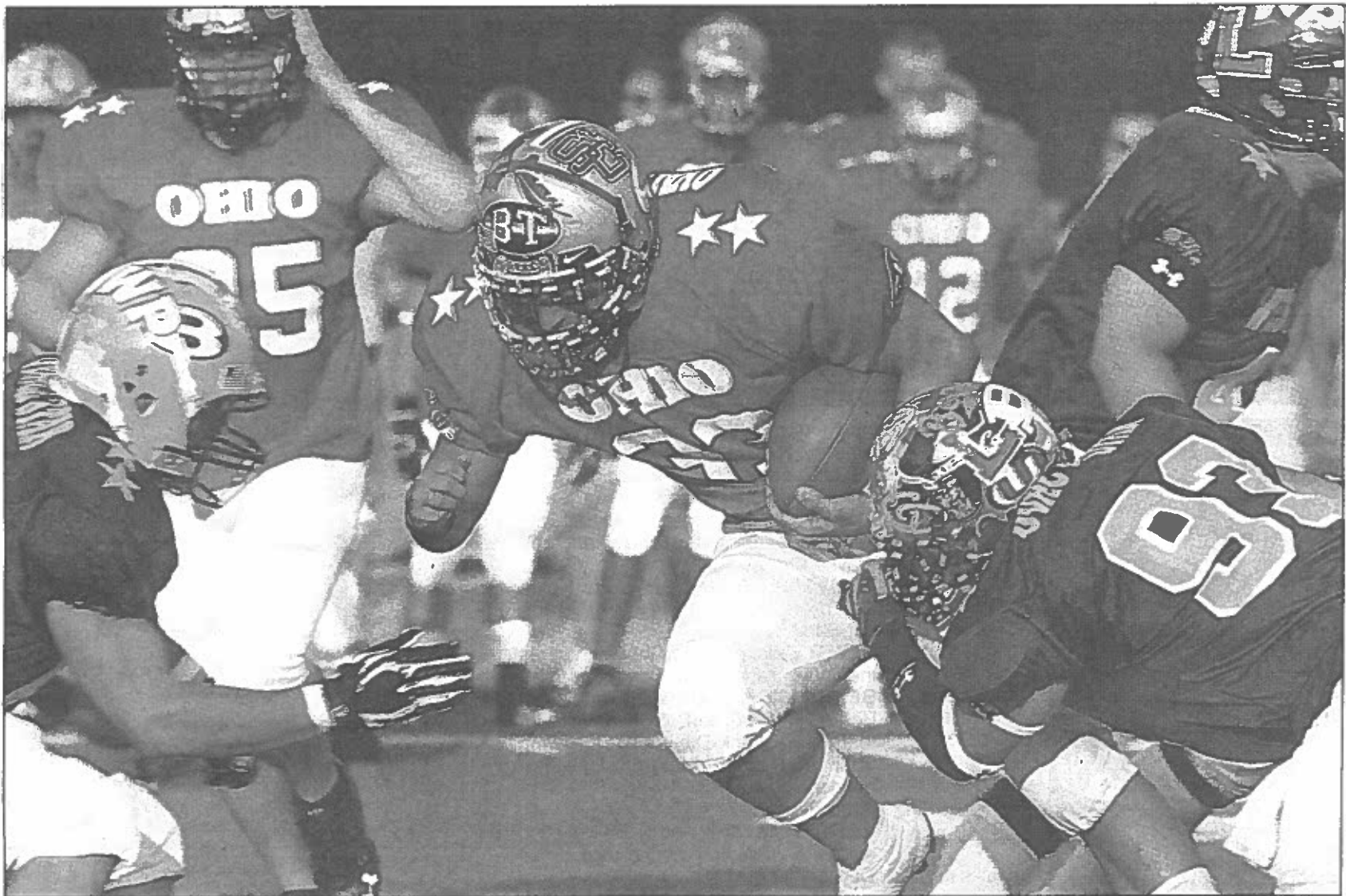


SPORTS

Monday, July 28, 2008



OHIO RUNNING back Troy Starr busts through the middle of the West Virginia defense during Sunday's 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. Starr ran for close to 60 yards in the game. Additional photos may be viewed at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

SIMPLY DOMINANT

• Ohio stymies West Virginia, 31-7, in 63rd OVAC All-Star Football Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Another year and another dominating performance by Ohio.

That was the story of Sunday evening's 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic in front of an estimated 7,000 people at warm and buggy Wheeling Island Stadium.

The Ohio squad used a potent, swarming defense and enough offense to cruise to a 31-7 victory in the annual summer showcase of Ohio Valley football.

"The kids just did a great job on both sides of the ball," said elated Ohio head coach Randy Thompson moments after receiving an ice-bath from his players. "We came down here to win the game and you've got to love these kids. We had these kids for seven days and we've come to love them, and we just appreciate the kids, the OVAC and the Ohio Valley."

The defensive unit for the Buckeyes wreaked all sorts of havoc all evening long, making it nearly impossible for the Mountaineers to execute any offense let alone its game plan, and that was something coming in that Mountaineer head coach B.J. Depew knew could play a role.

"My hat's off to Ohio," Depew said. "They had a great bunch of football players, and they out-played us the majority of the night. We tried to make some adjustments with our splits to max protect and not even that was enough most of the time."

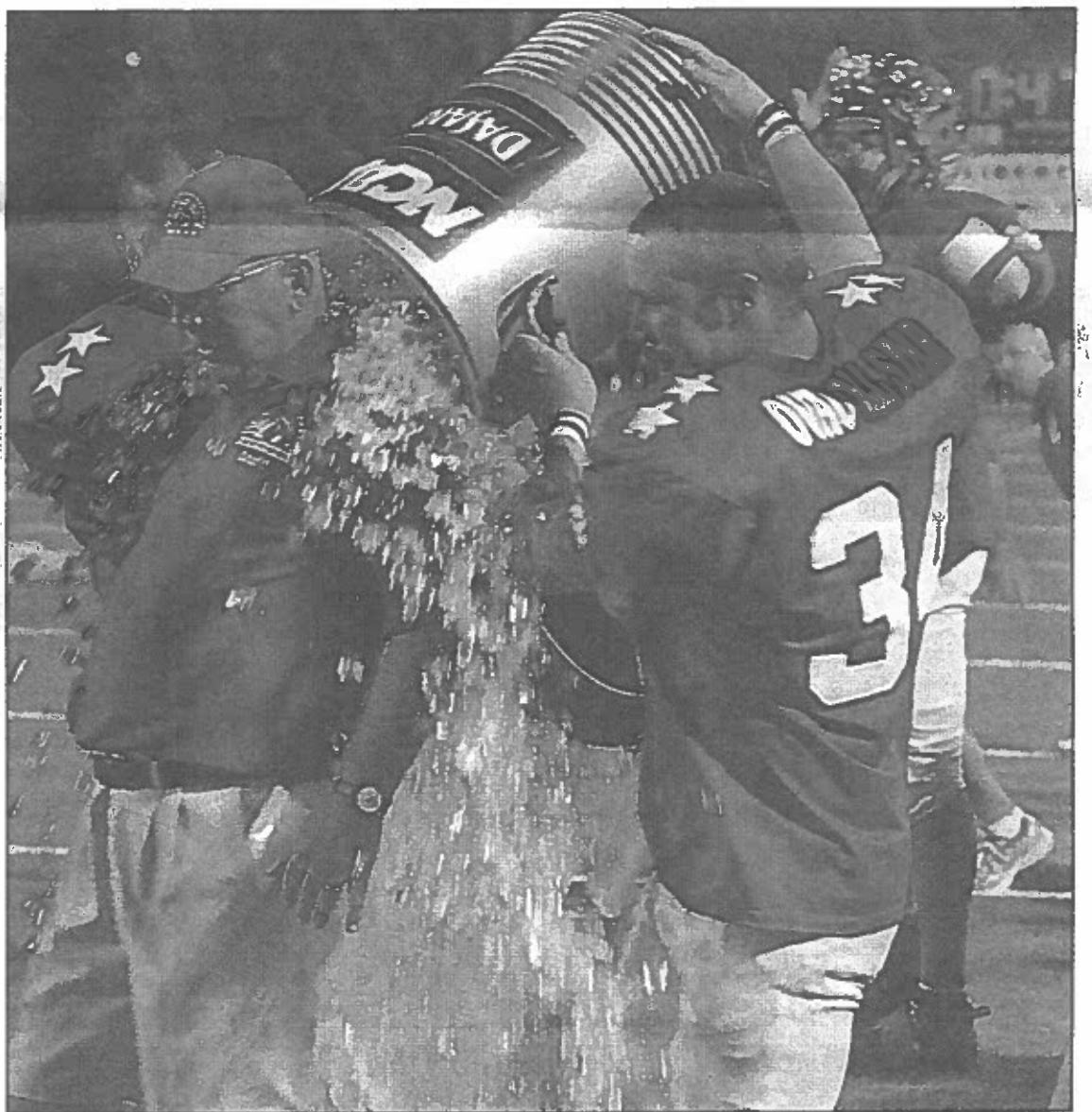
The Ohio defense — which bought into the speed over size mentality — limited the Mountaineers to a mere 81 yards net, but with

See, **OHIO**, Page B3



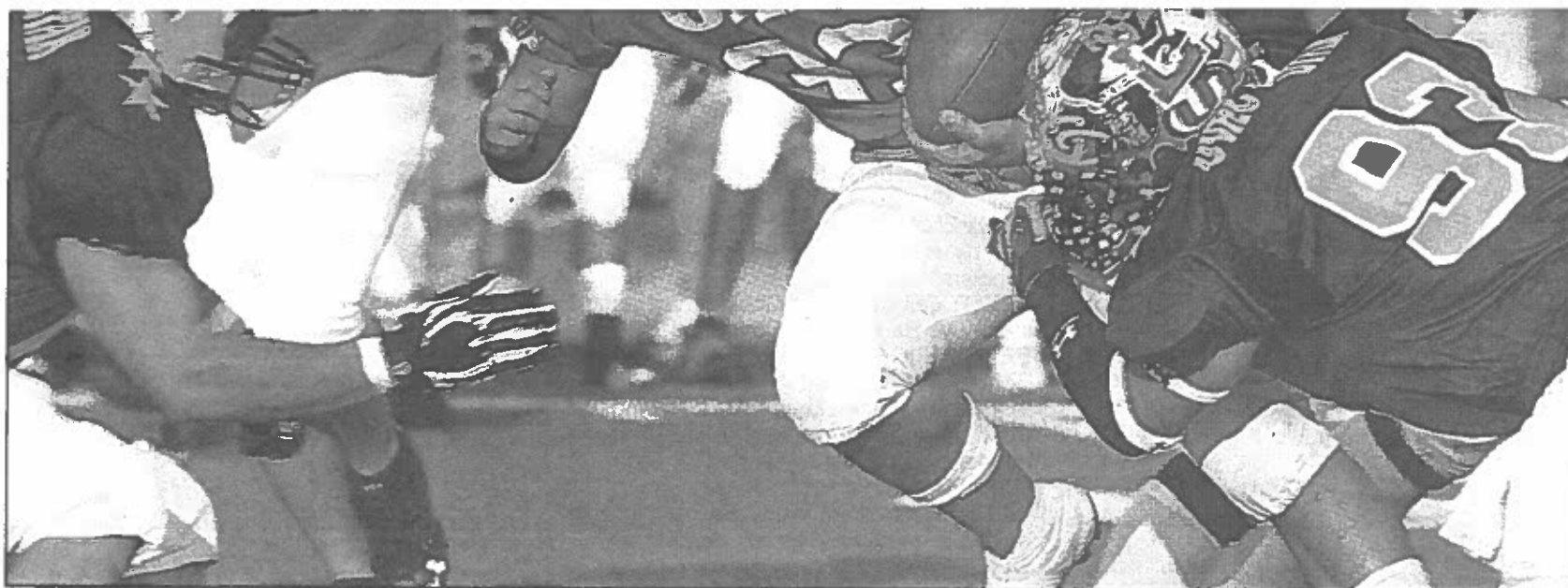
T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

OHIO RECEIVER Zach Gust makes a move to the outside as a West Virginia defender tries to make the tackle.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

OHIO HEAD coach Randy Thompson is doused with the water bucket as the game's final seconds wound down during Sunday's 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. Thompson and his Buckeyes posted a decisive 31-7 victory. Additional photos can be viewed at cu.timesleaderonline.com



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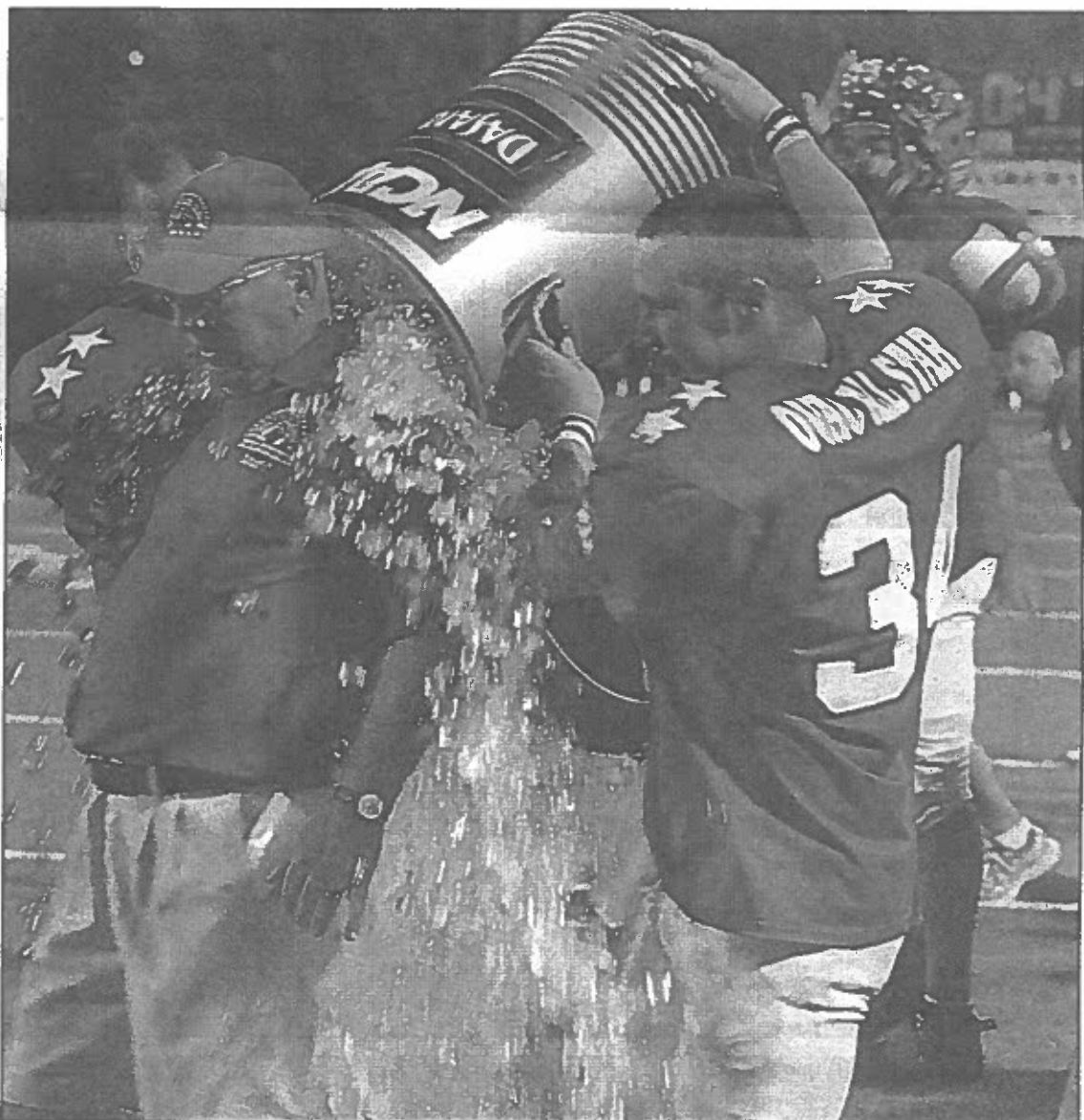
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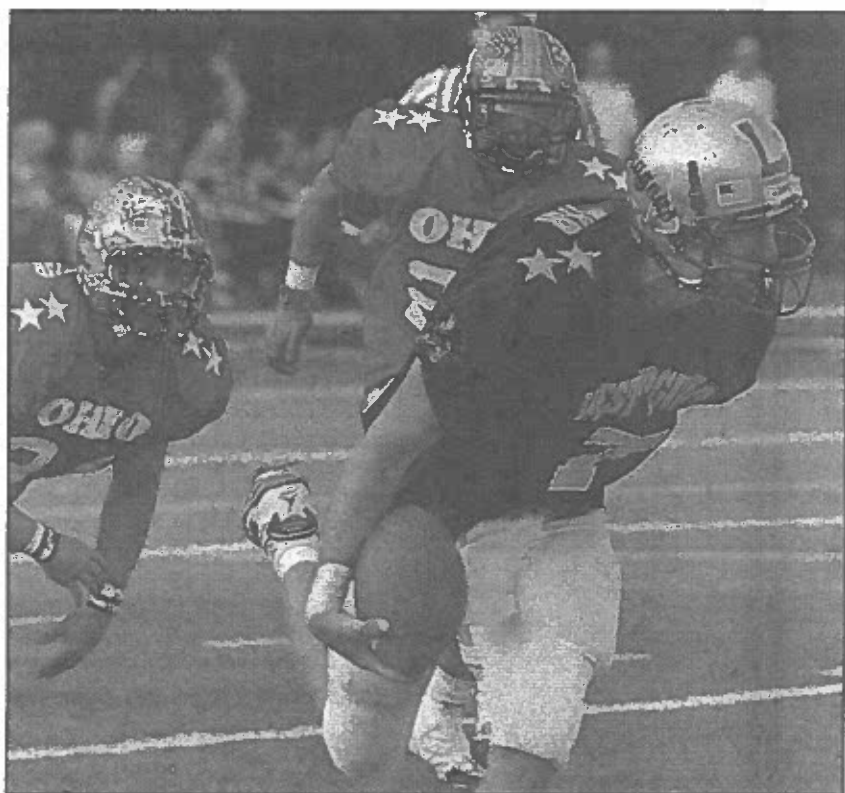


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OHIO DEFENDERS
John Earliwine (left) and Dustin Sadlowski chase West Virginia quarterback Alex Peluchette during Sunday's 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. Additional photos may be viewed at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER



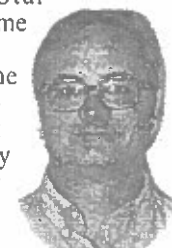
OVAC Notebook

Timmersjo not awed by large OVAC crowd

Not until a few years ago did kicking specialists have a spot on the Rudy Mumley Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Charity Football Game rosters.

However, with the emergence of place-kicking in the sport — on each and every level — a roster exemption was granted for kickers-only.

When Buckeye Trail's Randy Thompson was seeking a kicker for his Ohio squad for last night's 63rd annual event, he had no further to look than



KIM NORTH
Kim's Korner:

Martins Ferry.

And for good reason.

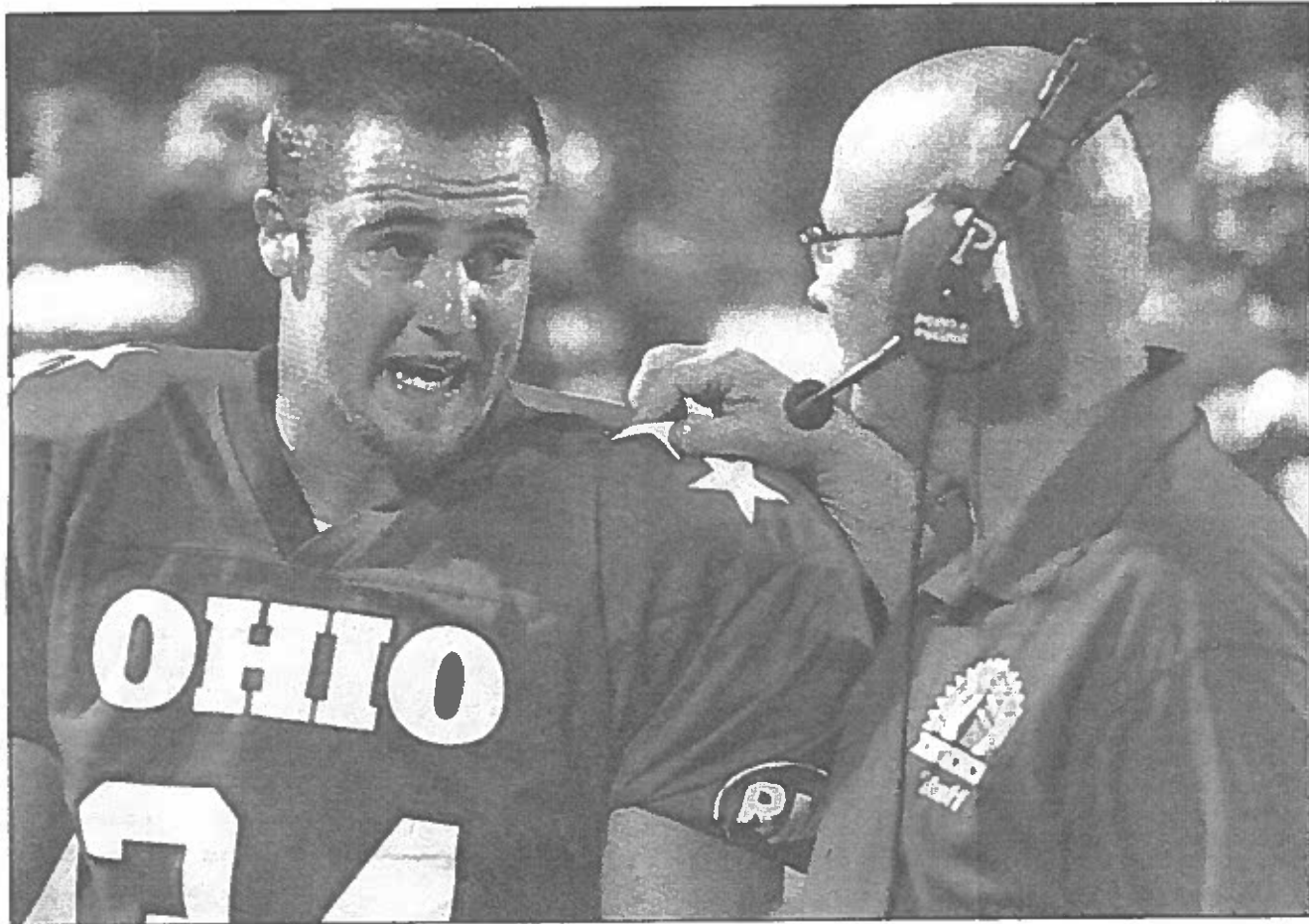
A BIG reason, in fact — that being 6-ft.-5, 235-pound Herman Timmersjo, the Purple Riders' foreign exchange student from Sweden.

Although he admitted to never playing organized American football before, he wasn't at all in awe of the crowd, which was estimated at 7,000 by Game Director Bob Koch.

"My first game at Martins Ferry (vs. Buckeye Local) was a big crowd," Timmersjo recalled. "But this stadium was packed. There were a lot of people here."

The Buckeyes took the opening kick-

See, **NOTES**, Page B3



OHIO'S JOHN Earliwine talks with defensive coordinator Steve Mercer during Sunday evening's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. The Buckeyes rolled to a 31-7 victory. Additional images may be viewed at cu.timesleaderonline.com

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And it went about it just like Ohio head coach Randy Thompson and defensive coordinator Steve Mercer planned when they and the rest of the Ohio coaching staff sat down to pick their team, utilizing speed.

"When we started picking kids we decided to go with a fast lineup and we had kids coming from everywhere," Mercer said. "We moved some kids to new positions this week and it really didn't matter because they are all football players."

There were members of the Ohio defensive unit, who probably got to know West Virginia players better during one evening than they did their teammates all week because they spent so much time in backfield.

One of the players who had many people raving was Buckeye Local's



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It wasn't just the fans, media and coaches who took note of what Omais did during the course of the game.

"We were everywhere defensively and Omais had to have played the game of his life," said Shadyside's Dustin Sadlowski who was a force at defensive end.

Omais' ability was pointed out to the Ohio coaches by a coach who dealt with the former Buckeye Local Panther on several occasions.

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who was playing out of his natural spot. He twice earned first-team all-Ohio accolades as a linebacker for the Tigers, but it was at defensive end where Sadlowski shined in his final prep football game.

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● Ohio

Continued from Page B1

upwards of 10 sacks recorded the rushing yardage equaled out to a minus 60 clip.

"Our defense pretty much outscored us, I think," Thompson said. "We drafted those linebackers and we heard all week about big on quick and I think the quick showed what it was made of because we had guys who could get to the football."

While the Ohio defense — which even pounced on a pair of fumbles in the second half for touchdowns — basically stole the show, the Buckeyes' offense was by no means a pushover, racking up 303 yards, including a strong 213 on the ground.

The Ohio squad — taking the opening kick — set the tone on the first possession of the contest, marching directly down the field before the Mountaineers stiffened and forced the Buckeyes to settle for a 42-yard field goal off the foot of Martins Ferry's Herman Timmersjo from the right hash.

"Our offensive line made a statement on the first drive," Thompson said. "We got off to a good start with the points on the opening series, and that was big. We sputtered a little bit later in the game, but you come to expect that in this game."

It was the running of quarterback Brock Davis of Buckeye Trail and River tailback Troy Starr, which set the tone on the opening drive.

After the Mountaineers produced the first of many three-and-outs on the evening, the Ohio offense got it cranked up again on the ensuing possession, marching 56 yards in five plays. Davis found former prep teammate Sam Bond-Zielinski who made an acrobatic catch for a 22-yard touchdown. Timmersjo was perfect on the PAT, putting Ohio up 10-0, which is how the scoreboard read until the third quarter.

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The Mountaineer's offensive problems continued on the next series. After a penalty and a pair of negative rushes, the ball came loose and Bellaire's Tyler Robinson grabbed the football rolling around on the end zone turf. Timmersjo was good again on the extra point.

"Every kid we had in this game can play football," Thompson said. "Every kid got a lot of reps this week, and our kids deserved everything they got tonight because of the way they worked and handled themselves all week."

West Virginia avoided the shutout when Bishop Donahue's tandem of Michael Angalich and L.A. Hampton hooked up on a 22-yard scoring strike.

Ohio added a late safety from Marky Markakis to seal the scoring.

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The Ohio defense — which accounted for 14 points — received sterling efforts from a host of players, including Buckeye Local's Isaac Omais who had no fewer than five sacks in the contest. St. C.'s John Earliwine, Cambridge's Kirk Wetherell, Shadyside's Dustin Sadlowski, Union Local's Carl Perkins and St. C.'s Anthony Vincent were outstanding on the defensive side of the ball.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com



WEST VIRGINIA head coach B.J. Depew stalks the sideline during Sunday's game.

● Notes

Continued from Page B1

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There were members of the Ohio defensive unit, who probably got to know West Virginia players better during one evening than they did their teammates all week because they spent so much time in backfield.

One of the players who had many people raving was Buckeye Local's Isaac Omais who was a late addition to the squad after another chosen player opted not to participate.

"I was a little bit upset when I didn't make it, but then when I found out I was going to get to play I wanted to come out and prove something," Omais admitted. "I just let the chips fall where they may and run with it no matter what I get."

Omais' presence was definitely felt. "We had a lot of athletes on the defensive line, which took a lot of pressure off me," the humble Omais admitted. "I have to give credit to my teammates for allowing me to do what I can do."

Omais' stat sheet looked something like this: Sacks: five; Tackles: 13 and countless other times forcing plays to be altered in progress and other acts. He was like a man among boys at times on the field.

"We knew we could do some things on the defensive line because during our offensive practices against our defense they struggled to move the ball," Omais continued. "We used that



VINCENT



MARKAKIS



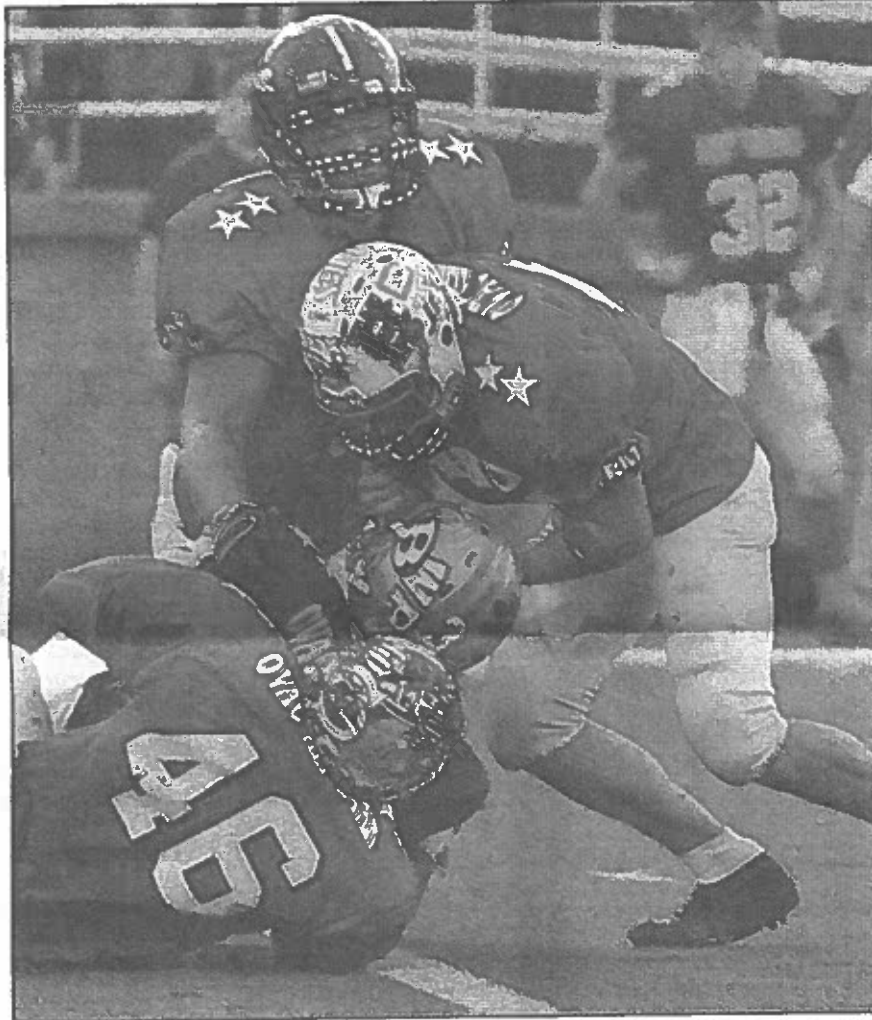
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While Omais was dominant and will go down as one of the players who may have flown under the radar somewhat during the course of his prep career, but left a lasting impression on the OVAC Game, he wasn't alone.

St. Clairsville's John Earliwine, who was voted a team captain early in the week, failed to disappoint as well. Earliwine played a huge role on the Red Devils' squad, which finished 12-1 and played for the regional championship.

He played a big role again Sunday, spending a lot of time forcing the defensive issue and chasing West Virginia quarterbacks Alex Pelechutte and Michael Angalich all over the Island.

"Our defense was amazing," Earliwine said. "We came out firing and hitting people. We could see in (West Virginia's) eyes that they weren't ready to play. Our team came out real tough and played as a team."

Earliwine — who was by no means the biggest guy on the team in terms of stature — played with a massive amount of energy and character throughout the contest.

"Speed takes size anytime," Earliwine said. "If you've got the speed to get around the big fat lineman, that's all you need right there."

Sadlowski was one of the players

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Cambridge's Kirk Wetherell and Union Local's Carl Perkins showed their worth at the linebacker spots. The pair got every tackle that the front four didn't.

"They (W. Va.) couldn't block those guys at any position," Mercer said. "That's exactly what we had in mind when we picked those guys."

Something makes people think that picking speed could be the way to go from now on.

SETH'S SCOOPS

■ **MERCER** unlike a lot of the coaches who spent the week involved in the OVAC Game is not a school teacher, meaning he had to take a week's vacation from his real job to spend time with the players.

"I have good employers to allow me to do this," Mercer said. "They like for us to do community things and the OVAC is great, so this was a great week."

■ **RIVER'S TROY** Starr earned all-Ohio first-team status in leading the Pilots to the second round of the playoffs. He spent time this week bussing tables at the Strager Evening with the

See, Ohio, Page B4

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The 42-yarder tied his career long, which he set last season in Week 10 against Bellaire.

"I haven't kicked much lately," Timmersjo admitted. "I've been in Sweden for the last six months, but I have played a lot of soccer. I have kicked a little, but not a lot."

In addition to his three-pointer, he kicked off five times. On two of those occasions, his booming end-over-end kicks sailed into the end zone for automatic touchbacks. The other three resulted in the returner fielding the pigskin inside his own five, but he didn't make it much further.

For now, Herman is headed back to Europe where he will finish up his senior year of high school. After that, he said he wants to further his gridiron skills.

"I am looking forward to playing college football," he offered. "I just don't know where."

Well, if there were any college coaches or scouts in attendance last night, his stock rose like the mercury in a thermometer on a 100-degree day.

Good luck Herman, I'm sure we haven't heard the last from you.

PUNT, PASS AND KICK

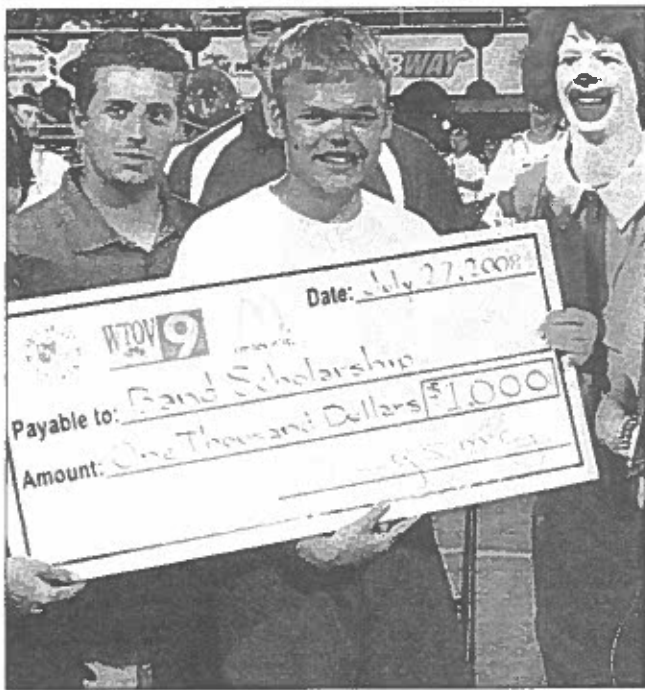
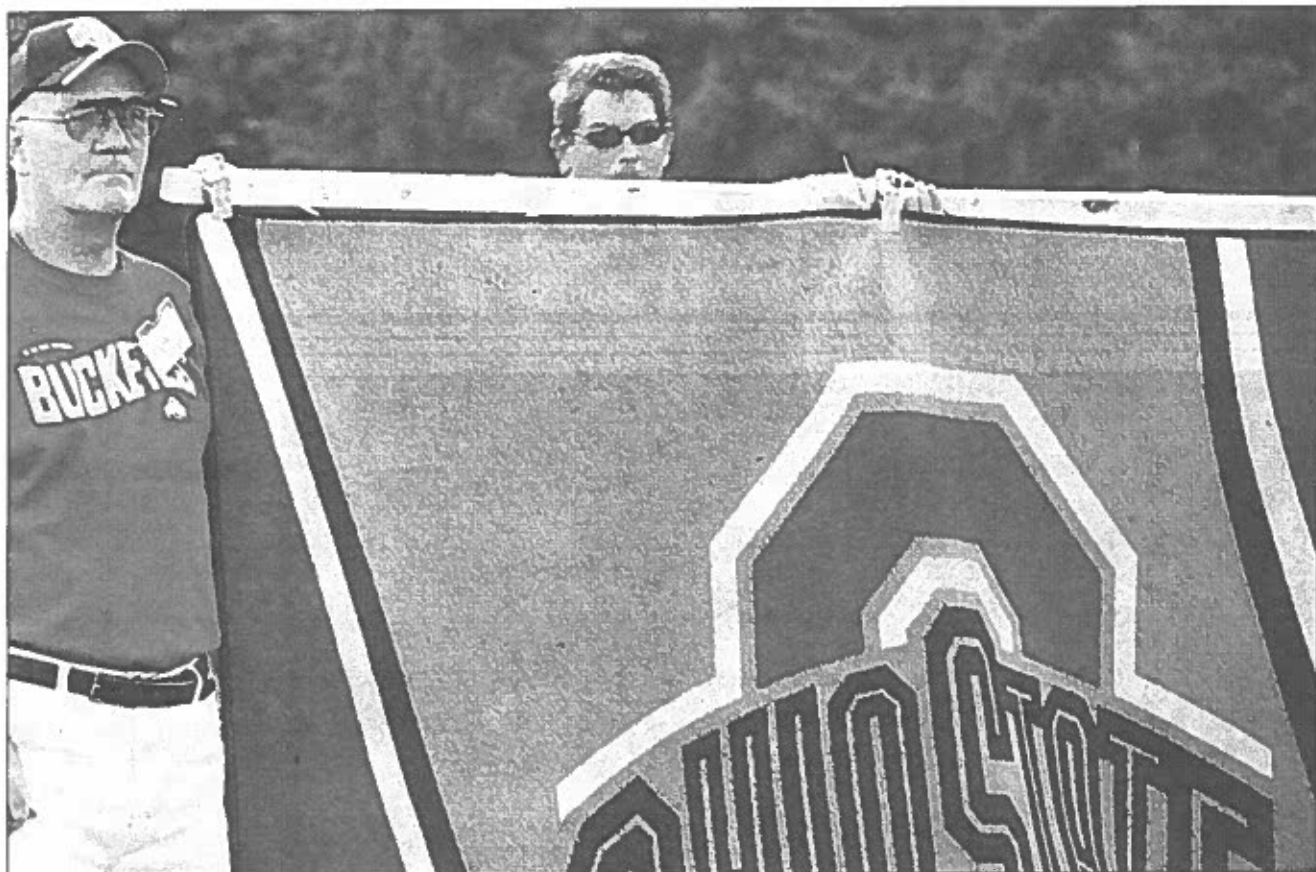
A Martins Ferry resident had the chance to win \$10,000 in a contest sponsored by WTOV-9 during last night's game.

During a break in the first quarter, Tim Cooper was given the opportunity to show his skills

However, an admitted "lousy" punt did him in. "That got me down, but I thought I did okay," he reflected. "I threw alright, but that punt got me."

To his credit, the 54-year employee of Scheehle's Produce in the Purple City didn't have much time to practice. "I

See, NOTES, Page B4



TOP LEFT: Martins Ferry resident Tim Cooper stands with his OSU blanket he received as a consolation prize from a Punt, Pass & Kick competition Sunday night.

TOP RIGHT: Bellaire's Monica Chase was the fourth runnerup in the Queen of Queen's contest. Pictured with her are her parents, Cindy, left, and Wayne Chase.

CU

SEE YOU VIEW additional photos of this event at cu.timesleaderonline.com

ABOVE LEFT: St. Clairsville's Kevin Kalany is awarded the OVAC Band Scholarship.

RIGHT: Bellaire's Kyle Cook serves as the OVAC Band's Field Commander.

BELOW RIGHT: Buckeye Trail's Sam Bond-Zielenski, left, celebrates with teammate Brock Davis (10) following their touchdown hookup in the first quarter Sunday night. River's Troy Starr (33) joins the celebration.

LEFT: Beallsville's Jimmy Reisz, right, enjoys the action from the sideline as he talks to Brock Davis.

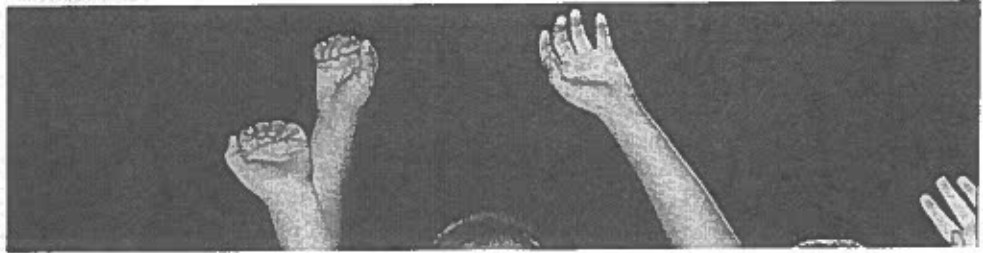
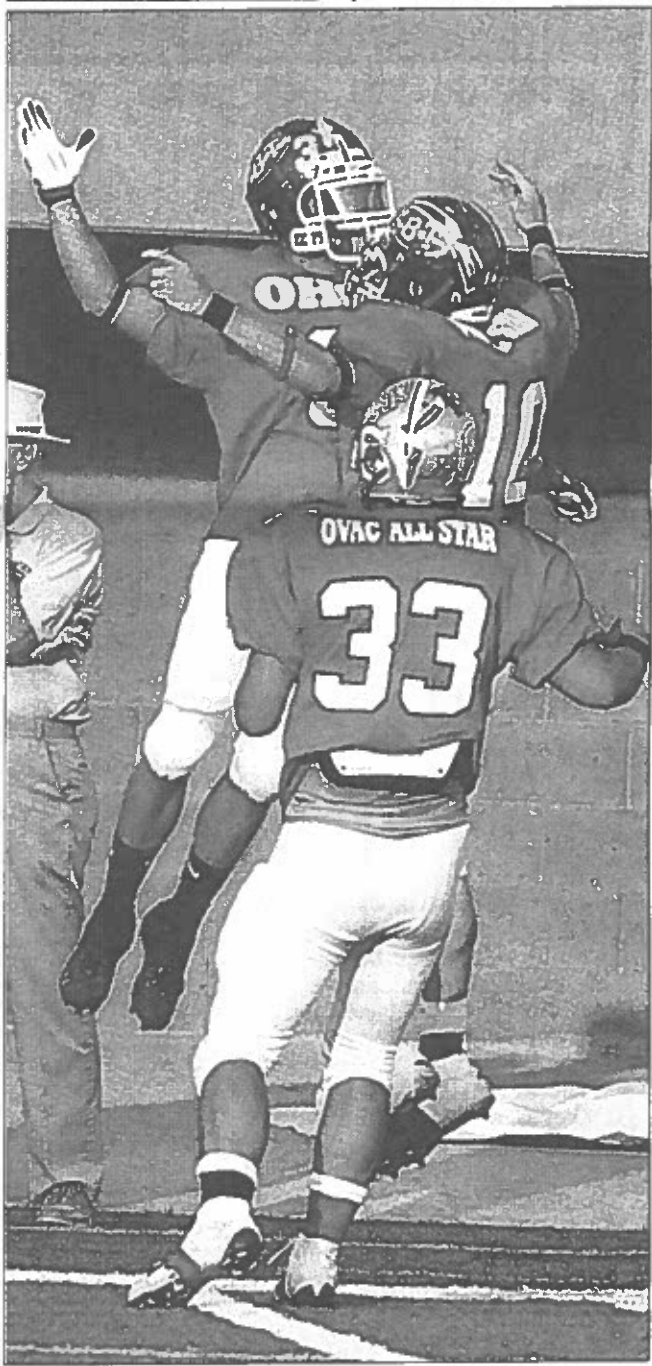
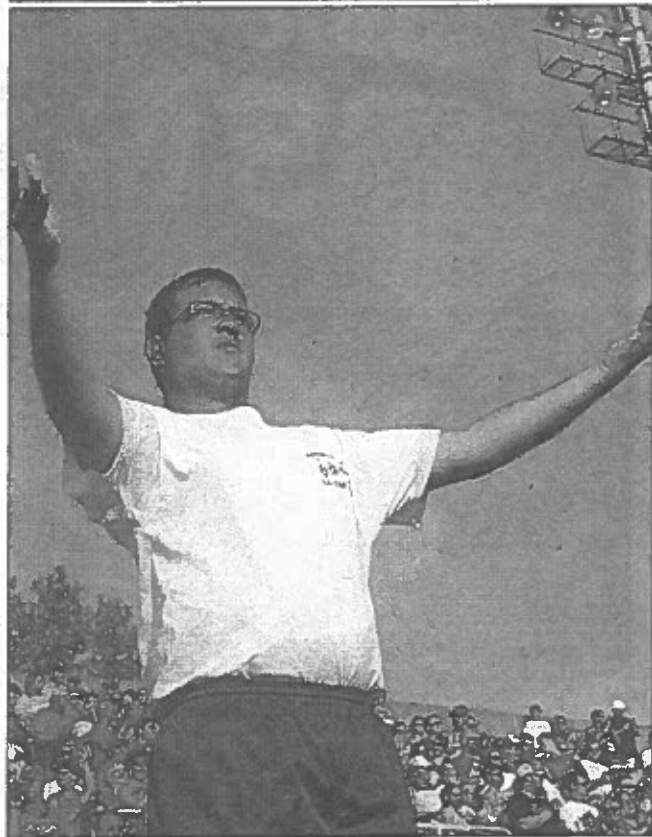
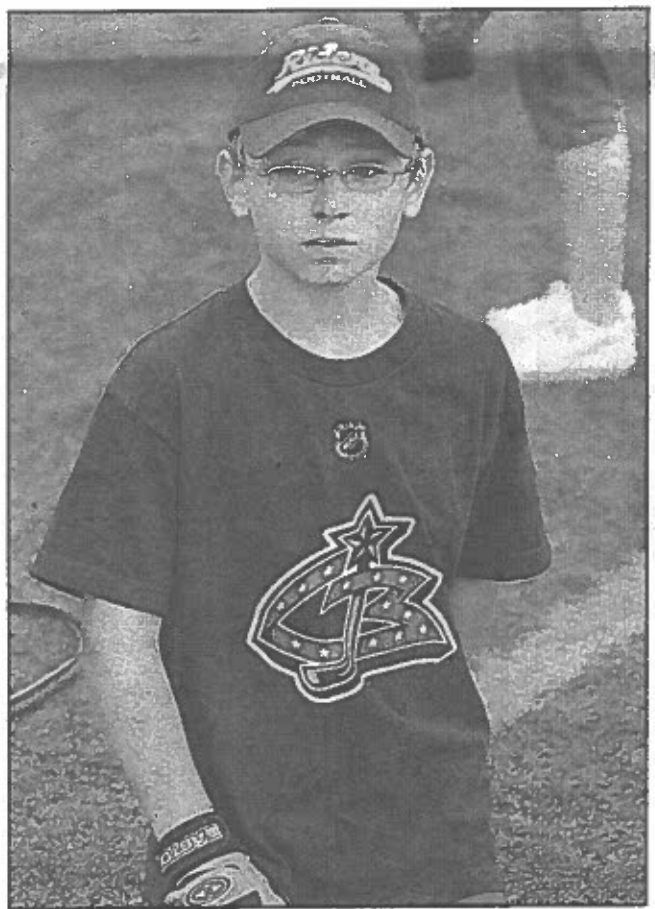
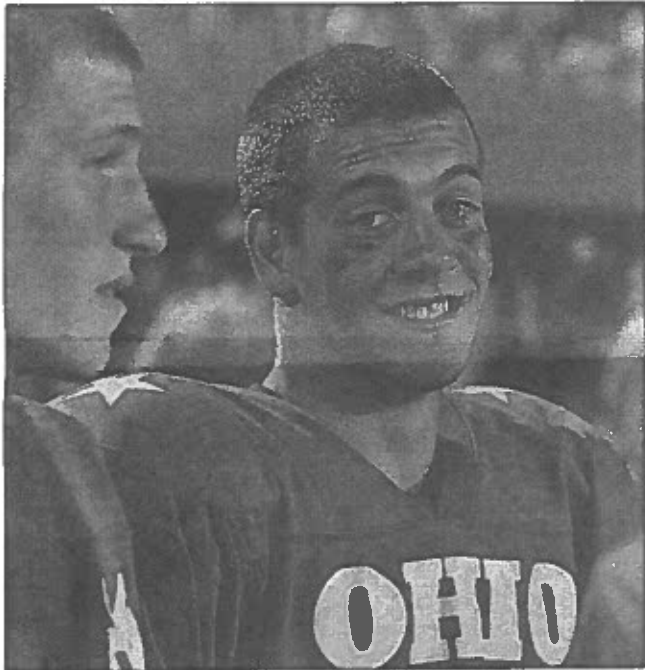
BELOW LEFT: These two Ohio cheerleaders dance during a break in the action Sunday night at Wheeling Island Stadium.

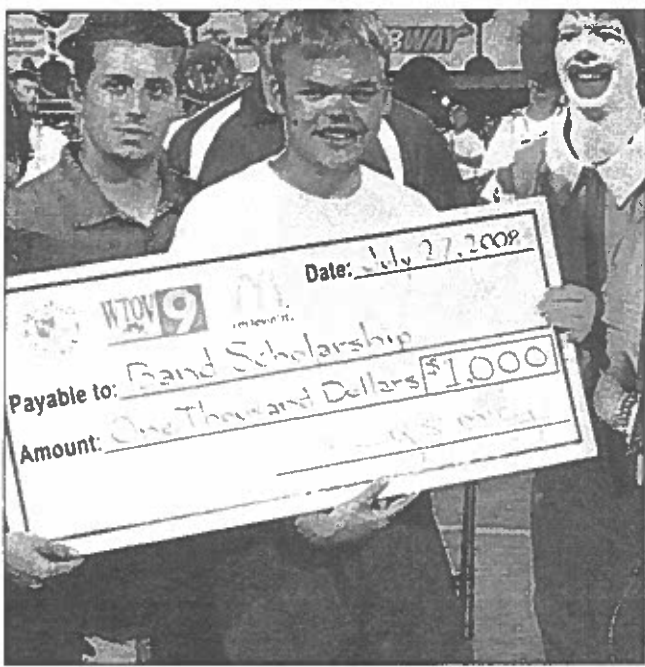
BELOW: Martins Ferry's Caleb Barris helps his dad, Dale, who works for WTOV9.

BOTTOM LEFT: Elvis takes time to pose for a picture with Daisha Bright, left of Monroe Central, and Amanda Famoso, Wheeling Park, during Sunday night's festivities.

BOTTOM RIGHT: These three Union Local Middle School students show their support for the Ohio team. They are, from left, Jacob Johnson, Joey Brown and Tristan Price.

T-L Photos/MIKE PALMER





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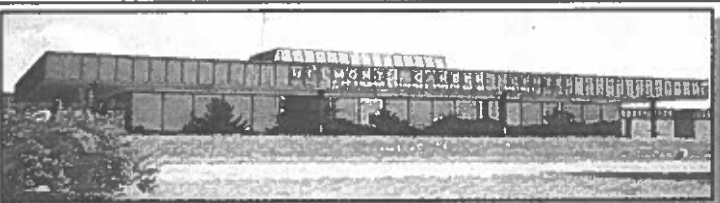
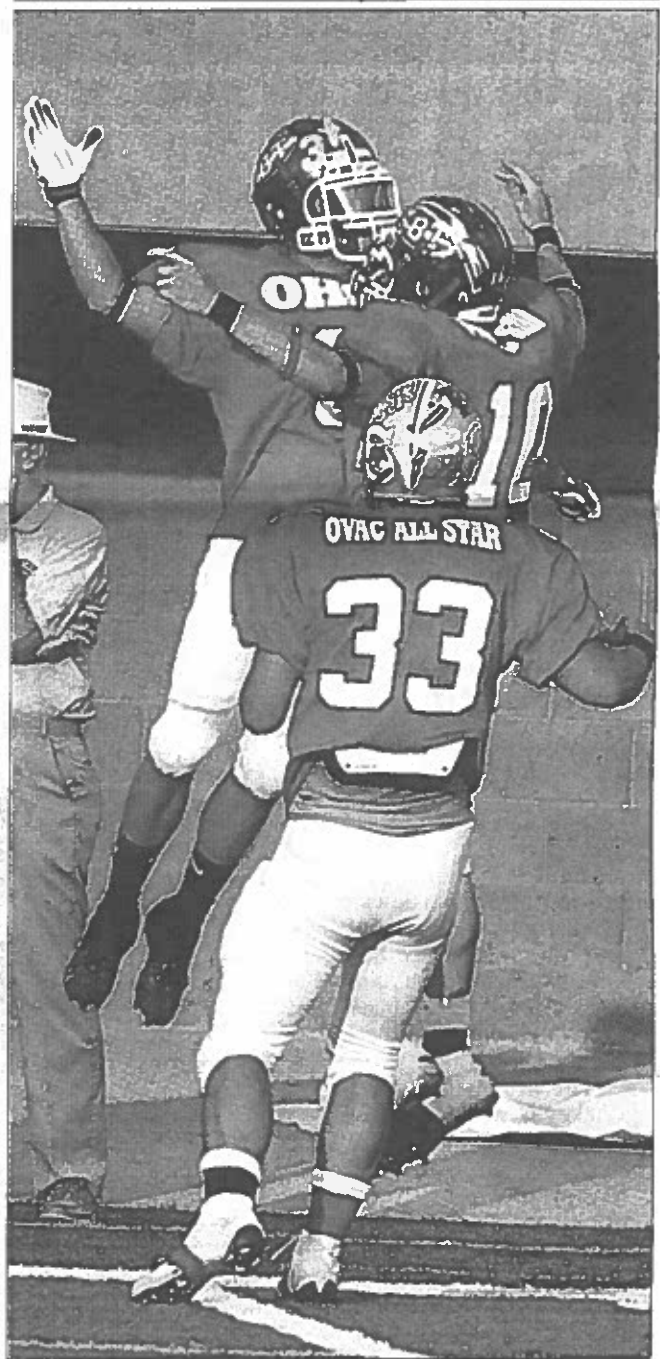
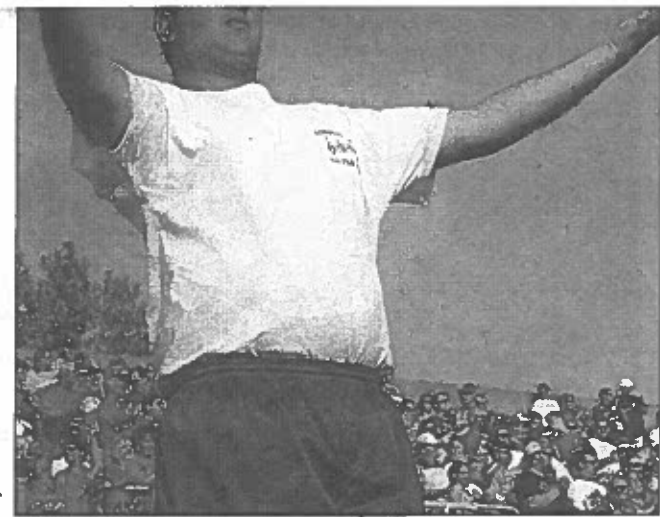
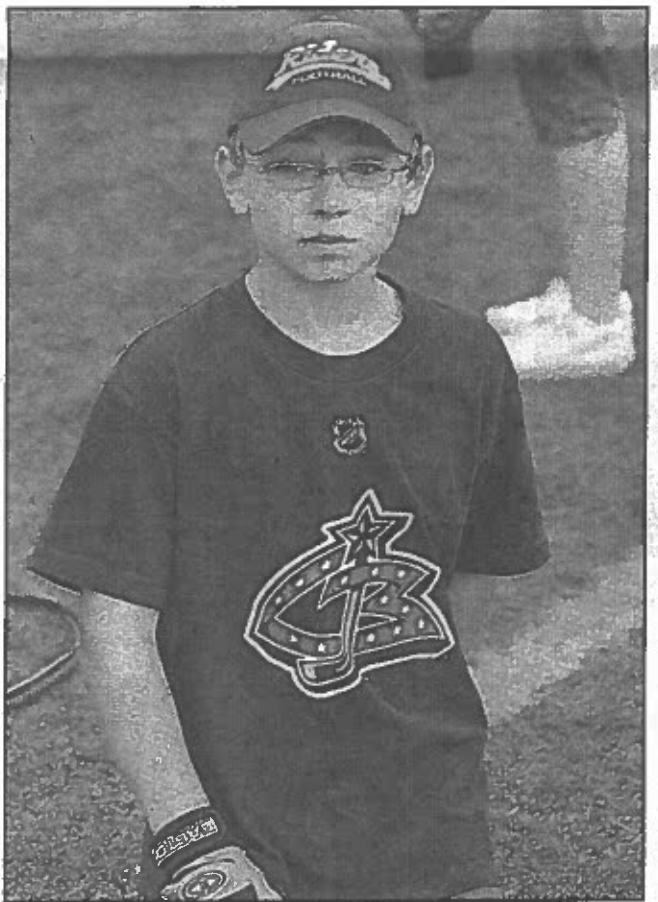
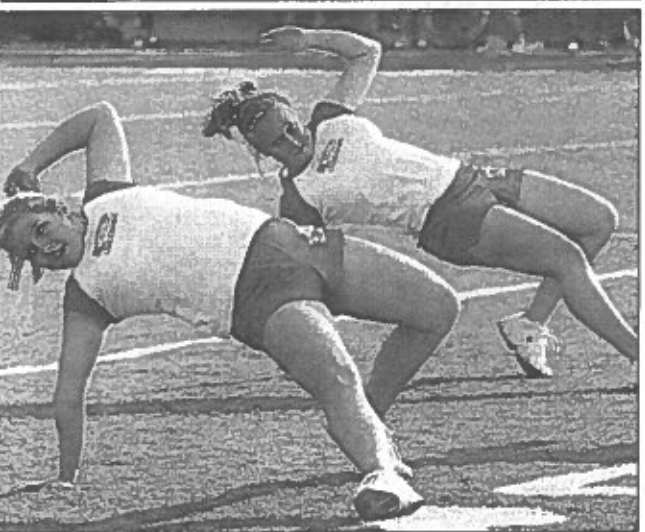
BELOW LEFT: These two Ohio cheerleaders dance during a break in the action Sunday night at Wheeling Island Stadium.

BELOW: Martins Ferry's Caleb Barris helps his dad, Dale, who works for WTV9.

BOTTOM LEFT: Elvis takes time to pose for a picture with Daisha Bright, left of Monroe Central, and Amanda Famoso, Wheeling Park, during Sunday night's festivities.

BOTTOM RIGHT: These three Union Local Middle School students show their support for the Ohio team. They are, from left, Jacob Johnson, Joey Brown and Tristan Price.

T-L Photos/MIKE PALMER



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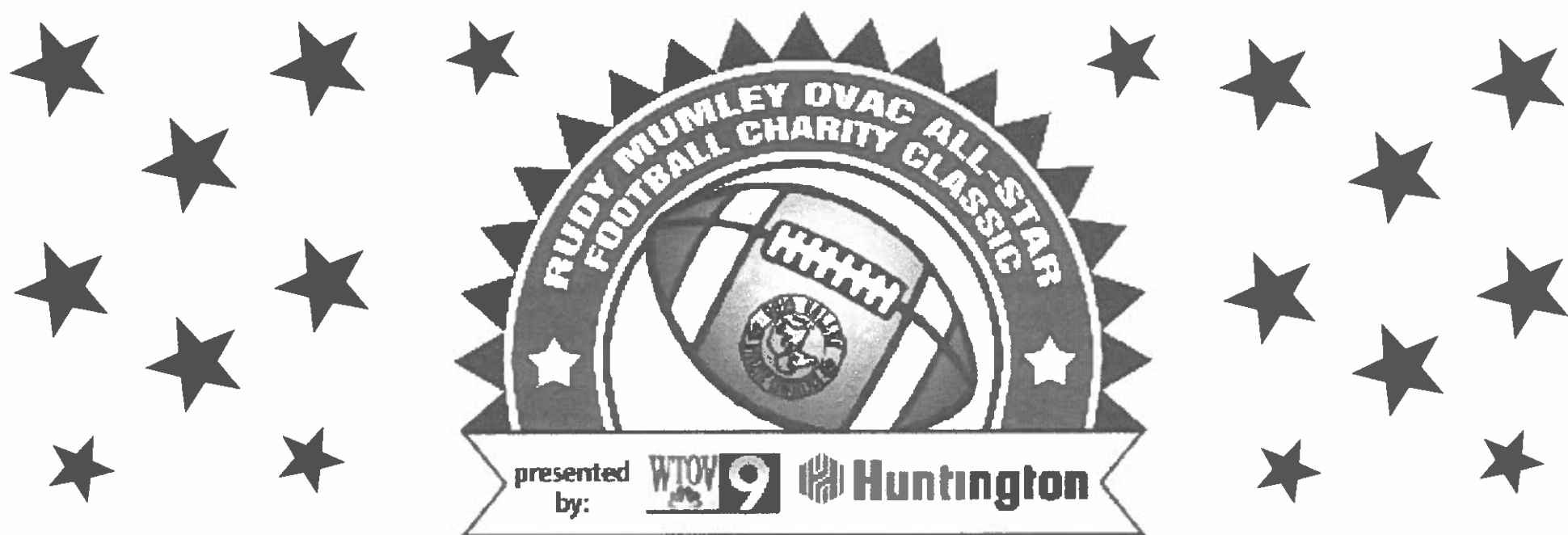


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**63rd Annual Rudy Mumley
OVAC ALL-STAR FOOTBALL
CHARITY CLASSIC**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23rd

“George Strager Evening With the Stars”

★★★ at White Palace ★★★

FRIDAY, JULY 25th

“2008” Queen of Queens Pageant

★★★★ at WesBanco Arena ★★★★★

SATURDAY, JULY 26th

★★★ Pep Rally at WLSC Russek Field ★★★

The OVAC McDonald’s All-Star Band

“ALL-STAR FESTIVAL”

Wheeling Island Stadium

Sunday, July 27, 2008 • Kick-Off at 7:15 p.m.

Advance Sale Ticket: \$7.00 • At the Gate: \$10.00

The Times Leader

Sports Saturday

Saturday, July 12, 2008

West Virginia line selected

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The football cliché that says games are won and lost in the trenches is usually right on when it comes to the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, which is slated for July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

So, knowing that cliché well from past experiences, West Virginia head coach B.J. Depew of Linsly and his trusted cohorts sat down to draft their squad for this, the 63rd annual bi-state summer clash with linemen on the mind.

"I think we have some depth up front," Depew said. "I am really pleased with the

which is key to combat a deep Ohio unit.

"We put together guys who can work well as a unit," Depew said. "We are fairly big in most of the spots up front and we can move pretty well, so I am excited to get these guys into camp and see what they can do."

Set to battle for the playing time in the West Virginia trenches are: Linsly's Sam Cecil, Tyler Consolidated's Logan Efaw, Brookes Drake Kowcheck, Wheeling Park's Bobby McConnell, Magnolia's Taylor Shepherd and Wheeling Park's Dave Vetanze.

Here is a capsule look at the players:
SAM CECIL, Linsly – This former Cadet standout was a two-way tackle stand-



group of kids we've picked to play along the line."

The West Virginia squad is stacked with not only big linemen, but athletic linemen.

out for the Orange and Black.

The 6-ft-5, 250 pounder was one of the most consistent blockers for Linsly with 17 pancake blocks and also had 43 tackles at a defensive standout. He had three sacks.

He was named to the all-OVAC and all-Valley squads.

Sam, who is the son of Clay and Lois Cecil of New Martinsville, will attend Columbia University in New York City to play football.

LOGAN EFAW, Tyler Consolidated – This former Silver Knight was a standout on both sides of the ball.

The 6-ft-2, 205 pounder truly left his

See, **OVAC**, Page D2

● OVAC

Continued from Page D1

mark on the defensive side of the ball with 109 tackles and 12 of those were for loss. He also had three interceptions and a fumble recovery.

Efaw was first-team all-OVAC, second-team all-Valley, first-team All Mid-Ohio Valley, first-team all-state.

In the classroom, Efaw is also a standout. He's a member of the National Honor Society, Leisure Sports, T.S.A., Children's Church Volunteer and Energy Express volunteer.

Logan, who is the son of Mike and Julie Efaw of Paden City, plans on attending Marshall University.

DRAKE KOWCHECK, Brooke – This former Bruin was a two-way standout along the line for head coach Dave Reiter.

The 6-ft-1, 275 pounder graded out at 82 percent blocking and defensively he had 77 tackles and had two sacks.

He was a second-team all-Valley, honorable mention all-OVAC, honorable mention all-state.

He was also a standout in wrestling, qualifying to the state three times and placed sixth once.

Along with his athletics, Kowcheck is also active in Health Occupations Students of America. He was a member of Homecoming King and Prom King Court.

Drake, who is the son of Eric Kowcheck and Jackie Huggins of Wellsburg, plans on attending Marshall University.

BOBBY McCONNELL, Wheeling Park – This former Patriot was also a two-way standout for Coach Mark Nardone's squad.

The 6-ft-3, 225 pounder saw time at left tackle and defensive end during his years with the Patriots.

Bobby, who is planning on attending Bethany College, is the son of Jeff and Ethel McConnell of Valley Grove.

TAYLOR SHEPHERD, Magnolia – This former Blue Eagle was the anchor of the line for Coach Mark Batton as a center.

Shepherd was also a standout at linebacker with 23 solo and 45 assisted tackles. As a center, he made 35 straight starts and helped lead his team to the playoffs.

He was a first-team all-state and all-OVAC pick. First-team all-Valley and all-Mid Ohio Valley.

Away from athletics, Shepherd is a member of the National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Service Club and Spanish National Honor Society.

Taylor, who is the son of Tom and Lisa Shepherd of New Martinsville, plans on attending West Virginia University.

DAVID VETANZE, Wheeling Park – This former Patriot was a two-way line ace for Coach Nardone's charges this past season.

As an offensive lineman, the 6-ft-2, 290 pounder was charted for 37 pancake blocks and as a defensive linemen he recorded 24 tackles.

His solid campaign didn't go unnoticed as he was a second-team all-state pick. As well as a first-team all-OVAC and all-Valley selection.

Away from the field, he's a member of SADD.

David, who is the son of Dave and Tina Vetanze of Wheeling, plans on attending West Virginia University.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Anthony Vincent (left) and River's Troy Starr helped out the staff at the White Palace Wednesday night by bussing a few tables during the George Strager Evening With the Stars. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

It may be no coincidence that all four players come from strong programs. The four schools represented failed to lose a game during the regular season in 2007 and St. C. and Big Red advanced to their respective Division IV regional finals before bowing out.

Strong leadership and winning seem to go hand-in-hand, which is what Thompson liked about the selection of this quartet.

Earliwine could hardly believe it when the coaching staff told him about his most recent appointment.

"To be picked out of all of these players by your teammates is a great honor," Earliwine said. "Words can't describe what an honor this is, and I am going to go out and do my best to lead this team."

The Buckeyes' nose guard for Sunday night knows that he and the other three captains are held by a different accord for the rest of the week both by the coaches and players.

"We know that if we act up, it's coming down on us or if something goes wrong, it's coming down on us," Earliwine continued. "We were picked because they know we can go out and get everyone up and ready for the game."

Antolak — who will serve as an offensive tackle during Sunday's game — is also well-aware of what being a team captain in the OVAC All-Star Game means.

"This is something I wasn't really expecting," Antolak said. "I am really excited about it, but the thing that makes me feel really good is the fact that the entire team can see the four of us as leaders, and they'll be behind us the whole way."

Don't think for a minute that any additional pressure is going to get to Antolak who's played in many big games during his career under Brett McLean in St. Clairsville.

"We've played under pressure all year, and personally I have always thought I've played well that way," he continued. "There's always a lot of eyes watching, and I really like playing under pressure."

Captaincy is nothing new for Davis who served in that role under the aforementioned Thompson at Buckeye Trail. One of three Buckeye quarterbacks who could see action under center Sunday night, Davis understands what his new title means and entails.

"I was kind of surprised, but I am going to really relish the role to lead our team," Davis said. "I was always considered leader (at Trail), so I am pretty much used to what it involves, and I really enjoy that role."

Stick with The Times Leader for OVAC All-Star Game coverage all week.

OVAC NOTES

■ **THOMPSON** also updated the media on his Buckeyes squad from an injury standpoint.

"We've got (Zach) Gust back on the practice field after he was a little a gimpy, but he's fine and will be ready to go Sunday," the Ohio head coach admitted. "We've got a few bumps and bruises, but that's normal. Everyone is getting ready."

■ **SIX OHIO** players got a few extra dollars for their college bank accounts during Wednesday's Strager With the Stars. Davis, Antolak, Earliwine, Anthony Vincent, Sam Bond-Zielinski and Dan Starr were awarded George Strager Scholarships by George Strager Memorial Football Camp co-director Kelly Rine, who also serves as the athletic director at St. Clairsville High School.

■ **ONE OF** the biggest crowds in recent memory crammed into the White Palace. According to event director Dianna Vargo, close to 500 people were on hand for the event.

■ **OHIO'S** Cory Johnson led the OH-IO chant after the entire Ohio squad was announced during the banquet. However, the West Virginia team responded with the 'Let's Go Mountaineers' chant.

■ **THE EVENTS** keep on coming for the players, coaches, cheerleaders and band members tonight. All will be treated to an ice-cream social at West Liberty State College as well as hear a speech from a speaker from the Sports World program.

■ **THE OHIO SQUAD** took its practice to Wheeling Island Stadium today from 1-3 p.m. The Mountaineers will test the pro-grass surface Friday morning.

Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1
build relationships with other kids."

Don't think for a minute that the Buckeyes are taking their West Virginia counterparts lightly. It was just three years ago — the last time a 2-A coach was in charge of the Buckeye State — when the Mountaineers prevailed. Throw in the fact that it took a Maurice Bougard touchdown in the game's waning moments to lift the Ohio side to victory in last year's encounter.

"Our kids see West Virginia in the lunchroom and around campus, so they know what kind of athletes they have over there," Thompson offered. "We're preparing as if this was another game at Buckeye Trail."

While Thompson and the Buckeyes staff play-off the old Ohio is always the favorite mode, Depew doesn't even need to bring that up to his players this week.

"They know about that," Depew said in reference to the fact that West Virginia is always deemed an underdog. "They take pride in that and it allows to go into this game with a little bit of a chip on our shoulder."

Stick with The Times Leader Sports Department all week for reports on the OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

OVAC NOTES

■ **THE PLAYERS** and coaches will attend a film this evening supplied by the Shriners Hospital, explaining exactly where the money from their charities go and exactly what the services provided include.

■ **WEST LIBERTY** is calm for the most part now, but come Wednesday the Hilltoppers' campus will pick up a little bit as the cheerleaders and members of the McDonald's OVAC All-Star Band report to begin their preparations for Sunday's performance.

Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

lay, July 27, 2008 - C3

Elliott ready to wrap ankles

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

There are a lot of loyal OVAC supporters throughout the conference up and down the river.

However, long-time Oak Glen Athletic Trainer Randy Elliott etches his name right near the top every year for the services he provides the nation's largest prep athletic conference.

Elliott has been involved in OVAC events for the past 32 years and is once again on the sideline of the OVAC All-Star Football Game, serving in his normal role on the training staff.

He's served the Mumley Classic since his days as an undergrad student at West Liberty State College.

"I met Rudy Mumley when I was at West Liberty," Elliott said. "We started talking, and a couple of years later I went to graduate school and began helping the OVAC."

Elliott earned his bachelor's from West Liberty State College in 1980 in social sciences and then earned his graduate degree in sports medicine from West Virginia University.

He's currently a social science teacher at Oak Glen High School, focusing on world history. He's been a member of the Golden Bears' staff for 14 years and has been a part of 17 state championship squads as a trainer, including 12 in a row with the grappling team.

Prior to teaching at Oak Glen, Elliott has also worked at Weir High in the Hancock County system.

Elliott is single and resides in Hancock County.

Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

OVAC seeking players

ONE OF the big events surrounding the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic is the annual 10-year reunion, which brings back together the players, coaches and queens of the teams from 10 years ago for a reunion.

However, for that to be as nice of an event as possible, Steve Kish who spearheads the reunion for the game is in need of methods to contact several former queens and players.

The following players and queens addresses are needed with their listed city of residence or high school.

They include:
Queens — Kimberly Allison, Barnesville; Lauren Butkus, Rayland; Ashley Kozlowski, Shadyside; Angela Richardson, Shadyside; and Catherine Botos, St. Clairsville
Ohio Players: Chris Davis, East Liverpool; Matt Banal, St. Clairsville; Seth Reed, Shenandoah; Brad DeHays, Cambridge.

If you are able to help in locating any of the above contact Kish at (740) 453-9146 or at (740) 683-1597.

B

Sunday News-Register

JULY 27, 2008

SPORTS

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Debbie Green on Tap/Page 3
Big League Baseball/Page 5
Saturday's Scoreboard/Page 6



WVU Notebook

By JIM ELLIOTT

When NBA scouts told West Virginia's Joe Alexander he might be a lottery pick and the Milwaukee Bucks later confirmed it, the ripple down effect was far and wide.

Mountaineers fans, who watched Alexander's 'How To Go From Off The Radar Screen To The NBA Lottery In 10 Days' instructional video firsthand, were left to wonder if what was left behind was enough to keep WVU a contender.

Coach Bob Huggins gave Alexander his NBA blessing, then had to be racking his brain trying to figure out who was going to replace not only 17 points and six rebounds per night, but the most athletic player on the floor no matter what McDonald's All-America team was on the other side.

The incoming freshman — Darryl Bryant, Roscoe Davis, Devin Ebanks, Kevin Jones, and junior college transfer Demetrius Proby — probably had mixed emotions about Alexander's leaving. At least a couple of them jumped on an accelerated program, and in some cases, the starting lineup perhaps?

Still, no one was more affected by Alexander's decision than guard Alex Ruoff, who instantly became the Mountaineers' most experienced player, as well as their leading scorer among returnees.

"It's rough," Ruoff said Wednesday night when he was in town to speak to kids at Eric Bovaird's Hilltopper Basketball Camp. "It was rough right before the draft but it has kinda set in now."

Aside from perhaps Huggins, no one needed Alexander as much as Ruoff did. Alexander was the only player on the roster who was able to take away the opposing team's attention from defending the 3-point line, where Ruoff lived. When Alexander was hurt for a brief spell in midseason, Ruoff's numbers plummeted as the attention on him escalated. When Alexander was dominating the last handful of games and the entire postseason, Ruoff's game had a much more familiar look to it.

"I'm sure open looks are going to be limited more than they were last year," said Ruoff, who averaged 13.8 points, 3.5 rebounds and 2.8 assists last season, including 98 of 239 (41 percent) from 3-point land, one of the highest marks in the Big East. "This whole summer, I spent time on other parts of my game like posting up and taking people off the dribble, so hopefully I'll be able to put that in."

That's something Ruoff's game has been sorely lacking, as he rarely drove to the glass and had trouble creating his own shot as a result. That was particularly troublesome considering every opposing coach wrote "don't let Ruoff beat you with a 3-point shot" on the chalkboard before every game.

Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't.

Without Alexander, Ruoff also had to go looking for another Joe with whom to work out in Joe Mazulla. That doesn't sound like fun, considering Mazulla is a million-mile-an-hour player, but Ruoff says that's not the case during the vomit-causing workouts conducted by new assistant strength coach Andy Kettler.

"He's an old man now," Ruoff said of Mazulla.

The rest of the team is not, as Ruoff is the lone senior. Some national media outlets pegged the Mountaineers as possible title contenders after last season's Sweet 16 run, but those expectations were tempered when Alexander bolted.

But rarely, if ever, has Morgantown welcomed a recruiting class like Bob Huggins' first at his alma mater.

"They're all nice guys; they're all talented," Ruoff said. "Proby's not here yet, but I think all of them will

RUDY MUMLEY OVAC ALL-STAR CHARITY FOOTBALL CLASSIC

West Virginia

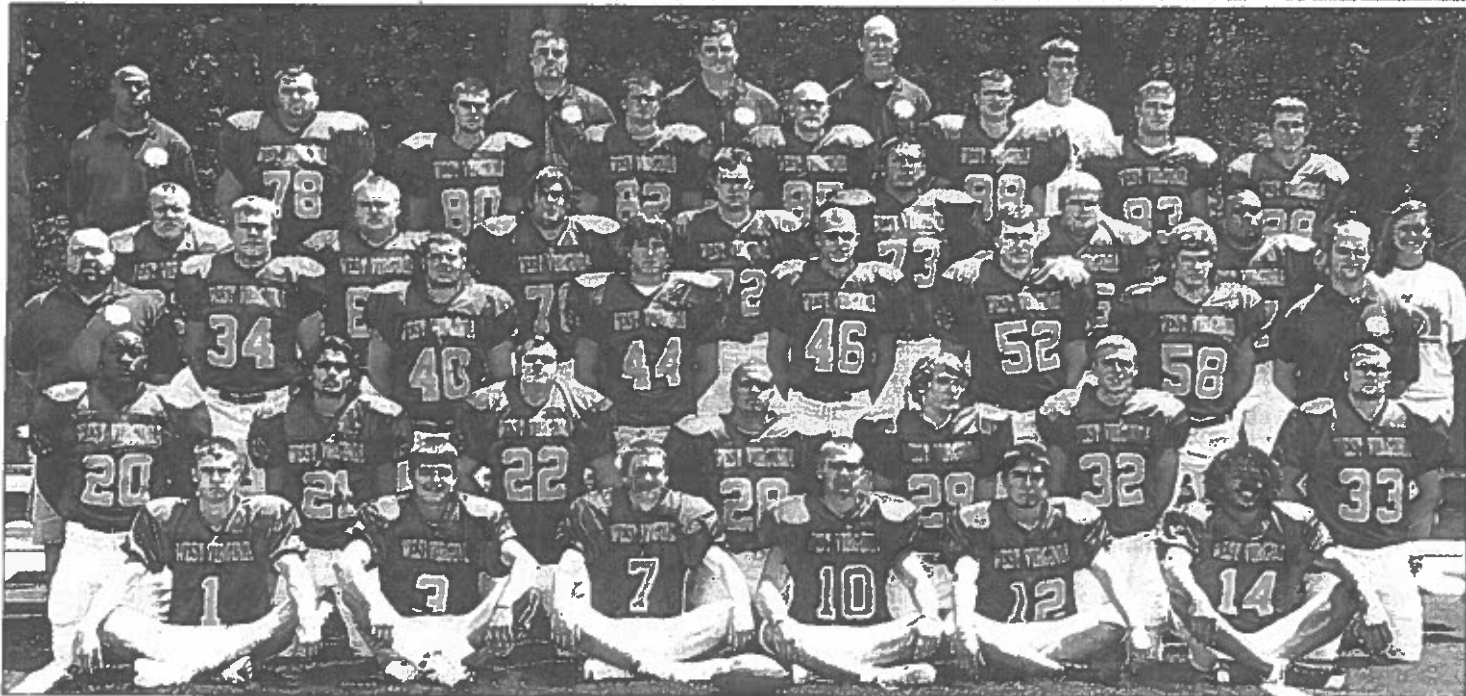


Photo by Rick Thorp

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Ohio



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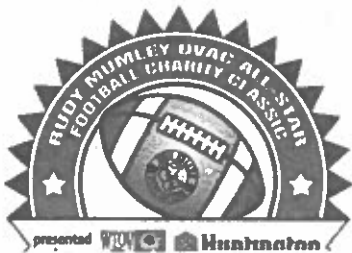
OVAC All-Stars Ready to Shine

West Virginia meets Ohio on the island

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

A week ago today 66 football players and their coaches reported to West Liberty State College to begin preparations for the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

Now as the calendar has turned to Sunday, it's time for all of the din-



Through The Years

(OVAC-Sponsored Games)	(Pre-OVAC Games)
2007: Ohio 6, West Virginia 3	1971: No Game
2006: Ohio 22, West Virginia 0	1970: No Game
2005: Ohio 35 West Virginia 6	1969: West Virginia 12, Ohio 0
2004: West Virginia 21, Ohio 7	1968: Ohio 6, West Virginia 0
2003: Ohio 32, West Virginia 26	1967: West Virginia 18, Ohio 0
2002: Ohio 19, West Virginia 12	1966: Ohio 26, West Virginia 0
2001: Ohio 36, West Virginia 0	1965: Ohio 22, West Virginia 0
2000: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7	1964: Ohio 2, West Virginia 0
1999: Ohio 32, West Virginia 0	1963: No Game
1998: Ohio 41, West Virginia 14	1962: West Virginia 12, Ohio 6
1997: Ohio 24, West Virginia 14	1961: West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
1996: Ohio 43, West Virginia 21	1960: Ohio 7, West Virginia 6
1995: Ohio 21, West Virginia 0	1959: West Virginia 7, Ohio 6

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"They're all nice guys; they're all talented," Ruoff said. "Proby's not here yet, but I think all of them will have a quick wake-up call to what college basketball is all about."

Kinda like John Flowers last season? "Kinda like everybody," Ruoff said.

So what does it all mean for this season's Mountaineers?

"We've got a bunch of forwards," Ruoff said. "I don't know how good Proby is at the center position. It's going to be about practice. Coach Huggins can change it however he wants."

"We definitely have a run. I don't want to guarantee anything, but I feel like our team is good enough to make a run in the tournament, depending on the experience our freshmen get and how fast they develop, get used to speed of the game. That will depend on how far we go."

Jim Elliott can be reached via e-mail at: elliott@theintelligencer.net



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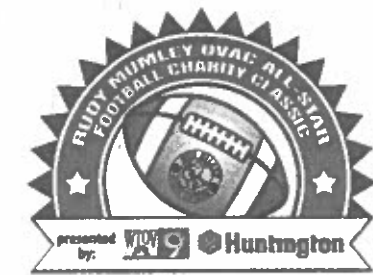
A week ago today 66 football players and their coaches reported to West Liberty State College to begin preparations for the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

Now as the calendar has turned to Sunday, it's time for all of the dinners, meetings and practices to come to an end because it's officially game day.

Tonight at 7:15 p.m., the premier senior football players from 2007 will shine brightly in the annual summer classic, which serves as a kickoff to the upcoming 2008 campaign, at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"This has been an absolutely great experience, and I've enjoyed every minute of it," said Ohio and Buckeye Trail head coach Randy Thompson who was chosen to play in the 1970 game, but it never materialized as the game was called off. "This game is all about and for the kids. We want to win the game tonight without a doubt, but it's all about the kids."

Linsly head coach B.J. Depew — who has been involved with this



game as a player, assistant and now the head coach — has enjoyed every single second of his week.

"I am really pleased with how well these kids have come together and bonded," Depew said. "We've asked them to learn a lot in a short amount of time and they've been nothing but receptive and bought into what we've told them, and we're prepared to be at our best (tonight)."

The Ohio offense has gotten better each time its stepped on the field during the week according to Thompson, who may need to find a few extra ways to get people involved.

See, OVAC, Page B2



Through The Years

(OVAC-Sponsored Games)

- 2007: Ohio 6, West Virginia 3
- 2006: Ohio 22, West Virginia 0
- 2005: Ohio 35 West Virginia 6
- 2004: West Virginia 21, Ohio 7
- 2003: Ohio 32, West Virginia 26
- 2002: Ohio 19, West Virginia 12
- 2001: Ohio 36, West Virginia 0
- 2000: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7
- 1999: Ohio 32, West Virginia 0
- 1998: Ohio 41, West Virginia 14
- 1997: Ohio 24, West Virginia 14
- 1996: Ohio 43, West Virginia 21
- 1995: Ohio 21, West Virginia 0
- 1994: West Virginia 19, Ohio 14
- 1993: West Virginia 34, Ohio 32
- 1992: No game (washout)
- 1991: Ohio 30, West Virginia 6
- 1990: Ohio 42, West Virginia 0
- 1989: West Virginia 22, Ohio 14
- 1988: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7
- 1987: Ohio 13, West Virginia 11
- 1986: Ohio 14, West Virginia 6
- 1985: West Virginia 28, Ohio 26
- 1984: Ohio 22, West Virginia 6
- 1983: Ohio 26, West Virginia 16
- 1982: West Virginia 7, Ohio 6
- 1981: Ohio 17, West Virginia 14
- 1980: Ohio 10, West Virginia 7
- 1979: Ohio 47, West Virginia 13
- 1978: Ohio 21, West Virginia 13
- 1977: West Virginia 21, Ohio 0
- 1976: West Virginia 33, Ohio 20
- 1975: West Virginia 8, Ohio 0
- 1974: West Virginia 13, Ohio 6
- 1973: West Virginia 38, Ohio 20
- 1972: Ohio 24, West Virginia 6

(Pre-OVAC Games)

- 1971: No Game
- 1970: No Game
- 1969: West Virginia 12, Ohio 0
- 1968: Ohio 6, West Virginia 0
- 1967: West Virginia 18, Ohio 0
- 1966: Ohio 26, West Virginia 0
- 1965: Ohio 22, West Virginia 0
- 1964: Ohio 2, West Virginia 0
- 1963: No Game
- 1962: West Virginia 12, Ohio 6
- 1961: West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
- 1960: Ohio 7, West Virginia 6
- 1959: West Virginia 7, Ohio 6
- 1958: Ohio 25, West Virginia 0
- 1957: Ohio 14, West Virginia 13
- 1956: Ohio 27, West Virginia 0
- 1955: Ohio 31, West Virginia 20
- 1954: West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
- 1953: West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
- 1952: Ohio 26, West Virginia 19
- 1951: Ohio 13, West Virginia 6
- 1950: Ohio 14, West Virginia 0
- 1949: West Virginia 6, Ohio 0
- 1948: Ohio 20, West Virginia 7
- 1947: West Virginia 13, Ohio 7
- 1946: Ohio 26, West Virginia 7
- 1945: No Game
- 1944: No Game
- 1943: No Game
- 1942: West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
- 1941: West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
- 1940: West Virginia 13, Ohio 7

NOTE: Ohio leads the OVAC-sponsored series 24-11-1 and the pre-OVAC series 15-11.



Today's Results:
Q. Will you send your child to the Subway Series clinic at Wheeling Island Stadium?

Yes: 30%
No: 70%

ON THE LINE

Tomorrow's Poll:
Q. Will the trade of Nady and Marte to the Yankees help the Pirates?

Tell us what you think.
Register your answer at www.news-register.net.
(The results of this poll are not scientific and represent only the opinions of internet users who have chosen to participate.)



OVAC

Continued from page B1

"I am not sure we're going to have enough footballs on the field," Thompson said. "We're not worried about egos though. We are approaching this game to win and that's what every kids wants to do and all he cares about."

The Buckeyes have a log-jam at several positions with several capable players. One is at the quarterback spot where the Ohioans plan on implementing a three-quarterback system tonight. Buckeye Trail's Brock Davis will get the start and be backed by Harrison Central's Robbie Davia and Shady-side's Billy Merryman.

River's Troy Starr and Shenandoah's Joey Wheeler will be the go-to-guys in the backfield from the tailback spot with Steubenville's Mark Markakis and Shady-side's Dustin Sadlowski leading the way through the holes.

When the Buckeyes put the ball in the air, and according to Thompson, they will put the ball in the air, it'll be Union Local all-Ohioan Zach Gust who draws most of the attention despite being hampered by some nagging injuries during the week.

"It's my hope that (Ohio) decides not to use Zach Gust very much," Depew joked. "We know we have to con-

tain Ohio's speed, and they have speed that you can't simulate in practice because they have so many quick kids."

The split end job was won by Trail's Sam Bond-Zielinski with St. Clairsville's Anthony Vincent backing both spots.

Bridgeport's Mike Bachie will open the game as the Ohio tight end with Beallsville's Jimmy Reisz also seeing quality action at that spot.

Up front, the Buckeyes' trenches is anchored by Martins Ferry product Trevor Jackson at the center spot. He's backed by Edison's Cory Johnson, who will handle the Ohio long-snapping duties.

Indian Creek's Jon Figel and Buckeye Local's Shane Bishop hold down the guard spots. Meadowbrook's Adam Eagleson and Bellaire's Tyler Robinson will back them up. St. Clairsville's Jake Antolak and Steubenville's Brandyn Frey will serve as right and left tackles, respectively with Ryan Stowers of East Liverpool backing both spots.

"Time was of the premium when we were putting stuff in, but we're working hard to eliminate mistakes," Thompson said. "Our goal each day was to get better and then after the second practice we

asked the kids if they felt like they were better than they were during the morning practice. The more reps we got, the better we've gotten."

The West Virginia defense that's going to have to find a way to slow down the Ohio side's plethora of weapons will play out of a base 4-3 defense

The defensive tackles will be Brooke's Drake Kowcheck and Magnolia's Kyle Smith. Linsly's Ian Berry and Paden City's Rosh Cain get the call at the defensive end spots.

A deep and talented group of linebackers is led by Wheeling Central's Josh Contraguero, Magnolia's Steven Zajdowicz and Linsly's Chidozie Oparanozie.

"We had a tough time picking our starting linebackers because we had so much talent and depth there," Depew said. "It's definitely a quality group."

Brooke's Josh Frankos - who will also serve as the third West Virginia quarterback if needed - will start one safety spot, while John Marshall's Jacob Carnahan handles the other side.

Brooke's duo of Scott Victorio and Jim McFarland will roam at the corner spots and have to deal with the Ohio passing game.

When the Mountaineers have the ball, Depew thinks his offense could score some points, but as is the case each year in the OVAC Game, they must be able to have time to do things offensively.

"We have to be able to win the battle up front," Depew admitted. "In years past, the Ohio defensive front has been tough to handle, and I expect the same to hold true (today). We have to hold off their charge."

The Mountaineers' offensive line is anchored by John Marshall's Taylor Potts and Magnolia's Taylor Shepherd who are the top two names on the depth chart.

Wheeling Park's Dave Vetanze and Brooke's Jesse Campbell will serve as the starting guards with Berry and Tyler's Logan Efaw backing them up. Wheeling Park's Bobby McConnell and Linsly's Sam Cecil will serve as the tackles with Kowcheck and Smith backing that duo.

The Mountaineers skill people are talented to say the least.

Wheeling Central's all-everything quarterback Alex Peluchette will open the game under center, but Bishop Donahue's Michael Angalich will see quality action as well.

"We think we have certain strengths with Alex in the

game and then we have certain strengths with Michael in the game," Depew said.

"We're going to cater our game plan to use the right guy at the right time."

The two tailbacks in the Mountaineers' system will be Wheeling Central's Chris Martin and Victorio with Park's Allen Earnest and Oparanozie leading the way as the fullback.

Bishop Donahue's L.A. Hampton and John Marshall's Logan Jarrett will start as the Mountaineers receivers with Carnahan and Weir High's Steven Buffo backing them up.

Donahue's David Richmond and Contraguero will alternate at the tight end spot.

"We know West Virginia has a lot of options (offensively) with their skill people," Thompson said. "But, we really like our defense. We've moved some kids around to new positions and they've enjoyed the change and actually picked things up really well. We know our defensive unit has to be a team much like our offensive unit has to be a team."

The Ohio defensive unit will implement a 50-based defense, utilizing the nose guard.

Handling the nose guard spot is former St. Clairsville standout John Earliwine who has cat-like quickness along the line. He'll be flanked by defensive ends Sadlowski and Buckeye Trail's Dan Starr.

Buckeye Local's Isaac Omais and Bishop will alternate at the defensive tackle spot, while Markakis and Antolak will share time at the other defensive tackle spot.

Union Local tackle machine Carl Perkins and Cambridge product Kirk Wetherell get the call at line-backer with Monroe Central's Kyle Rader and Bachie backing them up.

The aforementioned Vincent will serve as a corner-back with Toronto's Brandon Hunter backing him up. Reisz and Davis will see time at the other corner. Wheeler and Wellsville's Zane Carter will man one of the safety positions with Steubenville Catholic's Justin Kaufmann and River's Troy Starr locked into the other side.

Special teams are always a critical part of the game of football and Thompson and the Ohio staff has spent a lot of time working on it.

Herman Timmersjo of Martins Ferry via Sweden will handle the Ohio place-kicking, while Hunter will serve as the team's punter. Gust will be the deep man on returns and Johnson will handle the long snapping.

Wheeling Central's Michael Duplaga will kick for the Mountaineers with Peluchette punting and Buffo doing the holding on extra point and field goal attempts.

Both coaches admit that after tonight's game, it will



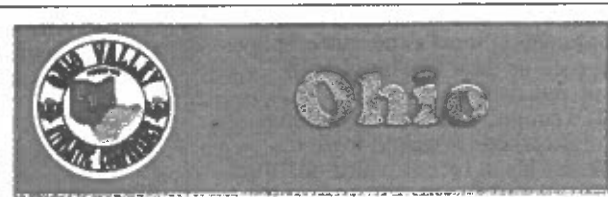
Photo by Rick Thorp

Members of the West Virginia coaching staff include, bottom from left, Steve Ochap, B.J. Depew, James Cowart, top from left, trainer Amber Herback, Josh Whetstone, Gerald Lofstead and Ray Smith.



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Members of the Ohio coaching staff include, bottom from left, Steve Mercer, Randy Thompson, Bill Starr, top from left, trainer Randy Elliott, Brian Kittle, Vaughn Butler, Bruce Stiles and Tug Robson.



HEAD COACH

Randy Thompson, Buckeye Trail

Assistant Coaches

Vaughn Butler, Jason Davis, Brian Kittle, Steve Mercer, Bill Starr, Bruce Stiles, Tug Robson

Players

No	Name	Ht	Wt	Pos	School
1	Billy Merryman	5-10	150	QB	Shady-side.
3	Sam Bond-Zielinski	5-11	170	WR	Buckeye Trail
7	Zach Gust	5-9	175	WR	Union Local
10	Brock Davis	5-11	180	QB	Buckeye Trail
12	Robbie Davia	6-2	200	QB	Harrison Cent.
14	Steve Beros	5-10	175	TB	Buckeye Trail
20	Anthony Vincent	6-0	160	WR	St. Clairsville
21	Kyle Rader	6-0	200	FB	Mon. Central
22	Dustin Sadlowski	5-10	180	RB	Shady-side
28	Dan Starr	5-11	195	LB	Buckeye Trail
29	Justin Kaufmann	6-0	185	TB	Steub. Cath.
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Rudy Mumley

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B.J. Depew, Linsly

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7	Alex Peluchette	6-2	193	QB	Whg. Central
10	Josh Franks	6-0	185	DB	Brooke
12	John McCune	5-11	175	LB	Madonna
14	L.A. Hampton	6-2	185	WR	Bis. Donahue
20	Chidozie Oparanzie	6-0	230	RB	Linsly
21	Steven Buffo	6-0	170	DB	Weir
22	Allen Earnest	5-11	210	DL	Whg. Park
28	Scott Victorio	5-8	185	RB	Brooke
29	Jacob Lohri	5-8	160	RB	Tyler Cons.
32	Chris Martin	6-0	173	RB	Whg. Central
33	David Richmond	5-11	180	RB	Bis. Donahue
34	Lucas Goodwin	6-1	195	LB	Whg. Park
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70	Taylor Potts	6-0	230	DL	John Marshall
72	Bobby McConnell	6-3	235	OL	Whg. Park
73	Sam Cecil	6-5	250	OL	Linsly
75	Drake Kowcheck	6-1	275	OL	Brooke
77	Ian Berry	5-10	240	DL	Linsly
78	Dave Vetanze	6-2	290	OL	Whg. Park
80	Jim McFarland	6-0	150	DB	Brooke
82	Gary Gamble	6-1	175	WR	Oak Glen
85	Dustin Hawkins	5-11	175	DB	Cameron
88	Haden Kocher	6-3	150	WR	Valley
93	Josh Contraguerra	6-0	205	LB	Whg. Central
99	Michael Duplaga	5-7	150	K	Whg. Central

Ohio offense expects to excite

• Davia, Merryman, Gust primed for Sunday's OVAC Game

BY SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

WEST LIBERTY — In the week's leading up to this Sunday's 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, Ohio and Buckeye Trail head coach Randy Thompson knew his team had some firepower.

He's now learning it first hand as practices are well under way here for this weekend's 7:15 p.m. kickoff.

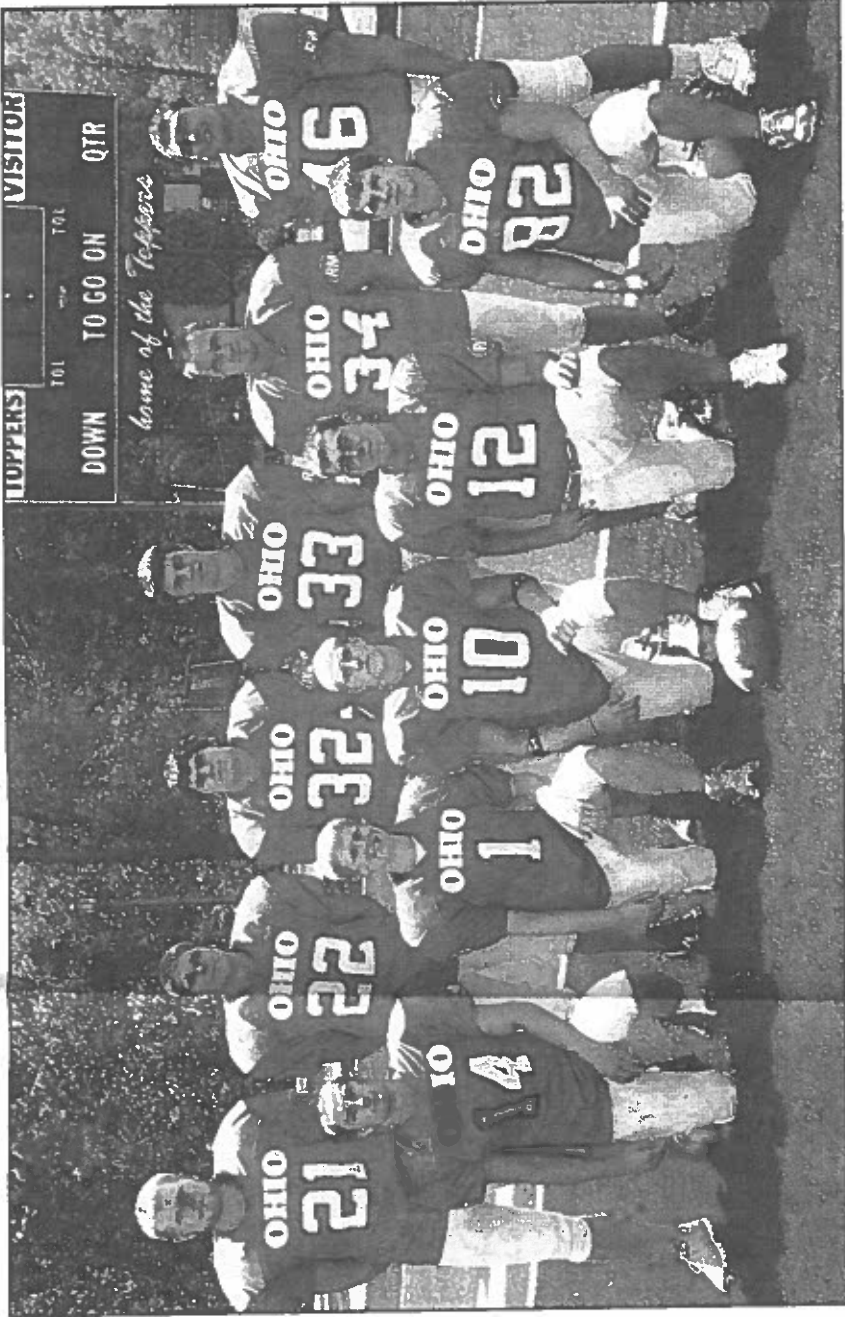
However, the problem in most all-star games is getting all 11 players on the same page for a matter of execution.

"We've looked a little better each time we've stepped on the field," Thompson said. "When we first went out Sunday we didn't look very good at all, but we've gotten better since then and we'll continue to improve and work on things because the kids are really responding well to everything."

The Ohio squad plans on implementing a two-quarter-back system with Shadyside's Billy Merryman and Harrison Central's Robbie Davia sharing the duties.

"For the most part, our offense is much like many teams, but the terminology is all different," Thompson said. "We've just got to be on the same page. These kids have all hit it off really well off the field, and we need that to carry over to the field."

One thing working in both Merryman and Davia's favor are big-play threats on the perimeter, including Union



MAKING UP the Ohio backfield for Sunday's 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic is this group of players. Front row, from left, are Steve Beros (Buckeye Trail), Billy Merryman (Shadyside), Brock Davis (Buckeye Trail), Robbie Davia (Harrison Central) and Brandon Hunter (Toronto). Back row, from left, are Kyle Rader (Monroe Central), Dustin Sadowski (Shadyside), Joey Wheeler (Shenandoah), Troy Starr (River), John Earliwine (St. Clairsville) and Mark Markakis (Steubenville). Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

OVAC

Continued from Page C1

Local's Zach Gust who was arguably the valley's most electric player last fall both as a return man and a receiver.

"I love having Zach Gust on the outside," Davia said. "You basically just have to throw the ball up to a spot and he'll go get it."

The Davia to Gust combination hooked up against one of Ohio's premier defensive backs during a practice earlier in the week, which has been talked about during meals and around the dorms.

"Davia and I are working well together," Gust joked. "I haven't had a lot of time to work with Billy, but we'll be fine because he's a great quarterback too."

During Davia's sophomore season — the year he put his biggest numbers — he had a target by the name of Willy Walker, which formed to be one of the area's most prolific combinations that season.

"It feels like my sophomore year all over again," Davia said. "By having a guy with that much speed, we don't need to be as perfect as a quarterback. There's more room for error because his speed lets him catch up to the ball if needed."

Merryman is used to having big-play threats at his disposal as well. He was complemented nicely this past season by all-Ohioan Nathaniel Haney, but he admits there's still an adjustment to working with someone of Gust's speed.

"You've got to throw it a little further now because you'll under throw him if you don't," Merryman pointed out.

The former Tiger also knows that his playing time could be cut short if Gust gets loose on a couple of kicks or punt returns, but he wasn't putting any pressure on his new teammate.

"If he returns one, I'll just get my helmet and go stand on the sideline," Merryman smiled. "If he does that, he'll make our jobs easier."

Both quarterbacks admitted they were grasping the offense a little better each time they set foot on the practice field.

"I've just got to get all of the routes down," Merryman said. "We'll be alright by Sunday."

Gust — who was an all-Ohioan on the track as a junior before missing most of this past season with an injury — knows about how Ohio won last year's game thanks to a Maurice Bougard touchdown. It was Bougard who Gust spent much of the track season of 2007 chasing around area ovals.

However, the former Jet doesn't hope a play of that sort is needed come Sunday.

"If we take care of our business and don't turn the ball over, we will be fine," Gust pointed out. "We'll need to play well because we know West Virginia has some talented players."

Now that he's adjusted to seeing running backs again after playing in Mark Cisar's five-wide attack, Gust is settling into the offensive scheme of Thompson.

"It's a pretty easy offense to pick up," Gust offered. "We're working hard and getting everything down."

OVAC NOTES

■ **THE ANNUAL** George Strager Evening With the Stars unfolds this evening at Wheeling Park's White Palace. It'll be the first time that the players have come down from the Hilltoppers' campus since reporting Sunday afternoon. The Queen of Queens candidates and cheerleaders from both states will also take part.

■ **THE MCDONALD'S OVAC All-Star Band** — some 200 members strong — and 20 cheerleaders moved into their new homes for the remainder of the week this morning here to begin preparations for their performances as part of Sunday's action.

■ **STICK** with The Times Leader all week for Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic coverage.

Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

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The Times Leader

SPORTS

OVAC All Star week under way

• Preparations for Sunday's Mumley Classic in full swing

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

WEST LIBERTY — Earning the right to take part in the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic is a honor for the players and the coaches involved.

However, the players and coaches aren't here this week for another week of summer vacation.

Both Ohio head coach Randy Thompson and West Virginia boss B.J. Depew admitted during Monday's media day at the newly-remodeled Russek Field they are taking this game as seriously as any other regardless of whether or not it's just an all-star game.

"We know what we've got to do to be successful," Thompson, who also serves as the chief of the Buckeye Trail Warriors. "We have to play as a team, take care of the ball and execute the things we do well."

Execution is so important in this game and with only a week to prepare, the Buckeyes are making the most of the early portion of the week before the host of activities for the players kick off with Wednesday's George Strager Evening with the Stars kicks off the weekend.

"We're going through triple sessions while we have the time," Thompson said. "We aren't killing anyone or anything, but we're just going over things. As much as we can get in during the early part of the week will be big for us come Sunday night."

Thompson was quite pleased with the way his team reported to camp from a physical standpoint.

"These kids have been preparing on their own for this game," Thompson said. "A lot are going on to play next year somewhere, but even the ones who aren't did a lot to get ready for this game."

The playing as a team aspect is something that was addressed as early as Sunday afternoon when the players first reported here to begin preparations.

"We put each kid in a room with a kid he didn't know or didn't go to school with," Thompson said. "We want these kids to come together and remember this whole experience. This is a great chance to



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
RUDY MUMLEY OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic game director Bob Koch (center) poses with Ohio head coach Randy Thompson (left) and West Virginia head coach B.J. Depew during Monday's media day at West Liberty State College. The 63rd annual game is slated for Sunday evening at Wheeling Island Stadium. *Additional images may be viewed at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

See, OVAC, Page B2



PICTURED ARE the receivers for the Ohio squad for tonight's 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic to be played at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Zach Gust (Union Local), Sam Bond-Zielinski (Buckeye Trail) and Jimmy Reisz (Beallsville). Back row, from left, are Michael Wehr (Barnesville), Zane Carter (Wellsville) and Anthony Vincent (St. Clairsville).

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

● **OVAC**

Continued from Page C1

know.

"You can't help but like these kids," Depew said. "We've done everything for the past week together and it's been a lot of fun. It's tough knowing that you might not ever see any of these kids again, but the ones you do see, you hope they say, 'Hey coach,' and you can spend a couple of minutes reminiscing with them about the experience."

Thompson and the Ohio staff find it equally tough, but they understand it's part of the experience.

"We've made a lot of relationships this week," Thompson offered. "These kids are moving on to different things

and that's what they have to do. This has been another way to learn about life and make some relationships that will last a lifetime with other kids."

Both teams went through a morning practice Saturday before parents, girlfriends and others arrived on campus for the annual pep rally held at West Liberty. The squads will attend Vespers this morning and Ohio will have about a 40-minute walk through before the team meal and departure for the stadium.

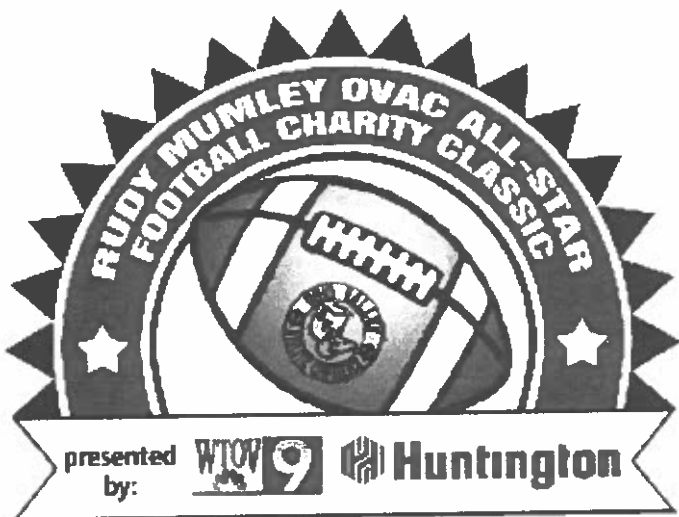
"We want to get them up and moving around a little bit and refresh them on everything," Thompson said. "It won't be anything big, but we just want

to go over some things again with the kids one last time before the game."

The West Virginia squad will take part in a team activity, but Depew was unsure what it was going to be. He hadn't ruled out the possibility of just watching a movie as a unit.

"We're going to do something to pass the time and keep us together," Depew said. "I also want the kids to do some reflecting about the time from when they first got the letter saying they were chosen to that moment. I just want the kids to make the most of this opportunity."

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



63rd Annual Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Classic

PARKING PASS

SPORTS



THOMPSON



MERRYMAN



BOND-ZIELINSKI



GUST



DAVIS



DAVIA



BEROS



VINCENT



RADER



MARKAKIS



OMAITIS



TIMMERSJO



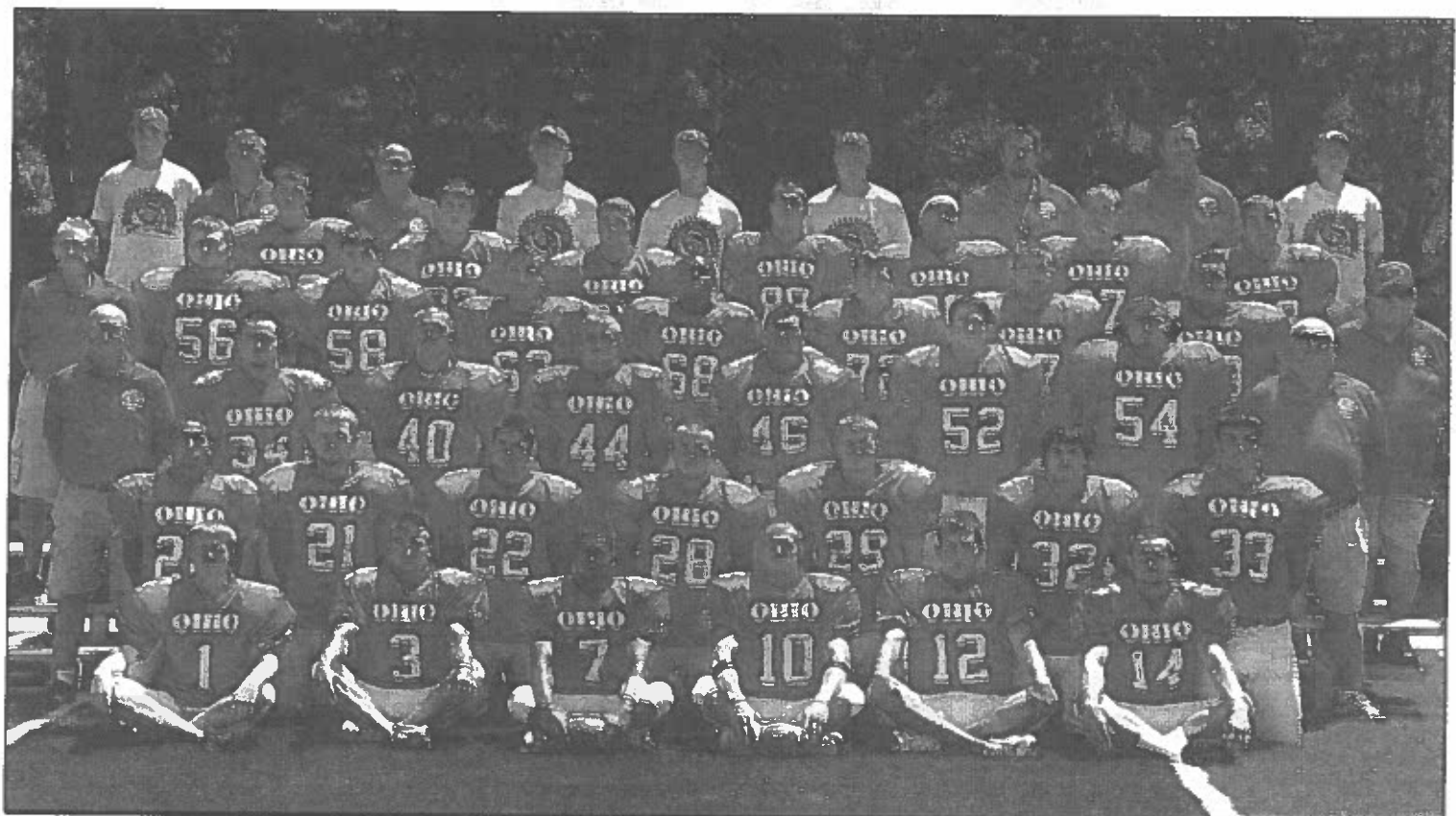
CARTER



REISZ



BACHIE



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED IS the 2008 Ohio squad for the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. Front row, from left, are Billy Merryman (Shadyside), Sam Bond-Zielinski (Buckeye Trail), Zach Gust (Union Local), Brock Davis (Buckeye Trail), Robbie Davia (Harrison Central) and Steve Beros (Buckeye Trail). Second row, from left, are Anthony Vincent (St. Clairsville), Kyle Rader (Monroe Central), Dustin Sadlowski (Shadyside), Dan Starr (Buckeye Trail), Justin Kaufmann (Steubenville Catholic), Joey Wheeler (Shenandoah) and Troy Starr (River). Third row, from left, are head coach Randy Thompson (Buckeye Trail), John Earliwine (St. Clairsville), Kirk Wetherell (Cambridge), Carl Perkins (Union Local), Mark Markakis (Steubenville), Jonathan Figel (Indian Creek), Cory Johnson (Edison) and assistant coach Bill Starr (Buckeye Trail). Fourth row, from left, are trainer Randy Elliott, Ryan Stowers (East Liverpool), Jake Antolak (St. Clairsville), Shane Bishop (Buckeye Local), Tyler Robinson (Bellaire), Trevor Jackson (Martins Ferry), Adam Eagleson (Meadowbrook), Brandyn Frey (Steubenville) and equipment manager Tug Robson (Union Local). Fifth row, from left, are Michael Wehr (Barnesville), Brandon Hunter (Toronto), Michael Bachie (Bridgeport), Jimmy Reisz (Beallsville), Zane Carter (Wellsville), Herman Timmersjo (Martins Ferry) and Isaac Omais (Buckeye Local). Back row, from left, are manager Chris Palmer, assistant coach Brian Kittle (Buckeye Trail), managers Isaac Snyder, Noah Burris, Ethan Snyder, assistant coach Bruce Stiles (St. Clairsville), assistant coach Vaughn Butler (Union Local) and manager Tyler Nealey.



SADLOWSKI



D. STARR



KAUFMANN



WHEELER



T. STARR



EARLIWINE



IT'S GAME DAY

• King Football returns tonight with 63rd OVAC Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

A week ago today 66 football players and their coaches reported to West Liberty State College to begin preparations for the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

Now as the calendar has turned to Sunday, it's time for all of the dinners, meetings and practices to come to an end because it's officially game day.

Tonight at 7:15 p.m., the premier senior football players from 2007 will shine brightly in the annual summer classic, which serves as a kickoff to the upcoming 2008 campaign, at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"This has been an absolutely great experience, and I've enjoyed every minute of it," said Ohio and Buckeye Trail head coach Randy Thompson who was chosen to play in the 1970 game, which never materialized as the game was called off. "This game is all about and for the kids. We want to win the game tonight without a doubt, but it's all about the kids."

Linsly head coach B.J. Depew — who has been involved with this game as a player, assistant and now the head coach — has enjoyed every single second of his week as well.



OVAC FOOTBALL
Who: Ohio vs. West Virginia
When: Tonight, 7:15 p.m.
Where: Wheeling Island Stadium.
Tickets: Available at the gate for \$10.
Radio: AM 1600
Television: WTOV-9

what every kids wants to do and all he cares about." The Buckeyes have a logjam at several posi-

Zach Gust who draws most of the attention despite being hampered by some nagging injuries during the week.

"It's my hope that (Ohio) decides not to use Zach Gust very much," Depew joked. "We know we have to contain Ohio's speed, and they have speed that you can't simulate in practice because they have so many quick kids."

The split end job was won by Trails' Sam Bond-Zielinski with St. Clairsville's Anthony Vincent backing both spots.

Bridgeport's Mike Bachie will open the game as the Ohio tightend with Beallsville's Jimmy Reisz also seeing quality action at that spot.

Up front, the Buckeyes' trenches is anchored by Martins Ferry product Trevor Jackson at the center spot. He's backed by Edison's Cory Johnson, who will handle the Ohio long-snapping duties.

Indian Creek's Jon Figel and Buckeye Local's Shane Bishop hold down the guard spots. Meadowbrook's Adam Eagleson and Bellaire's Tyler Robinson will back them up. St. Clairsville's Jake Antolak and Steubenville's Brandyn Frey will serve as right and left tackles, respectively with Ryan Stowers of East Liverpool backing both spots.



MARKAKIS



OMAITIS



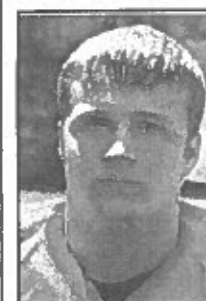
TIMMERSJO



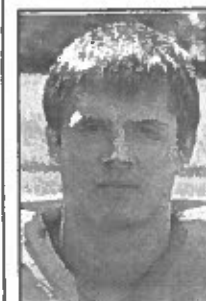
CARTER



REISZ



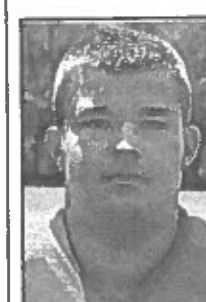
BACHIE



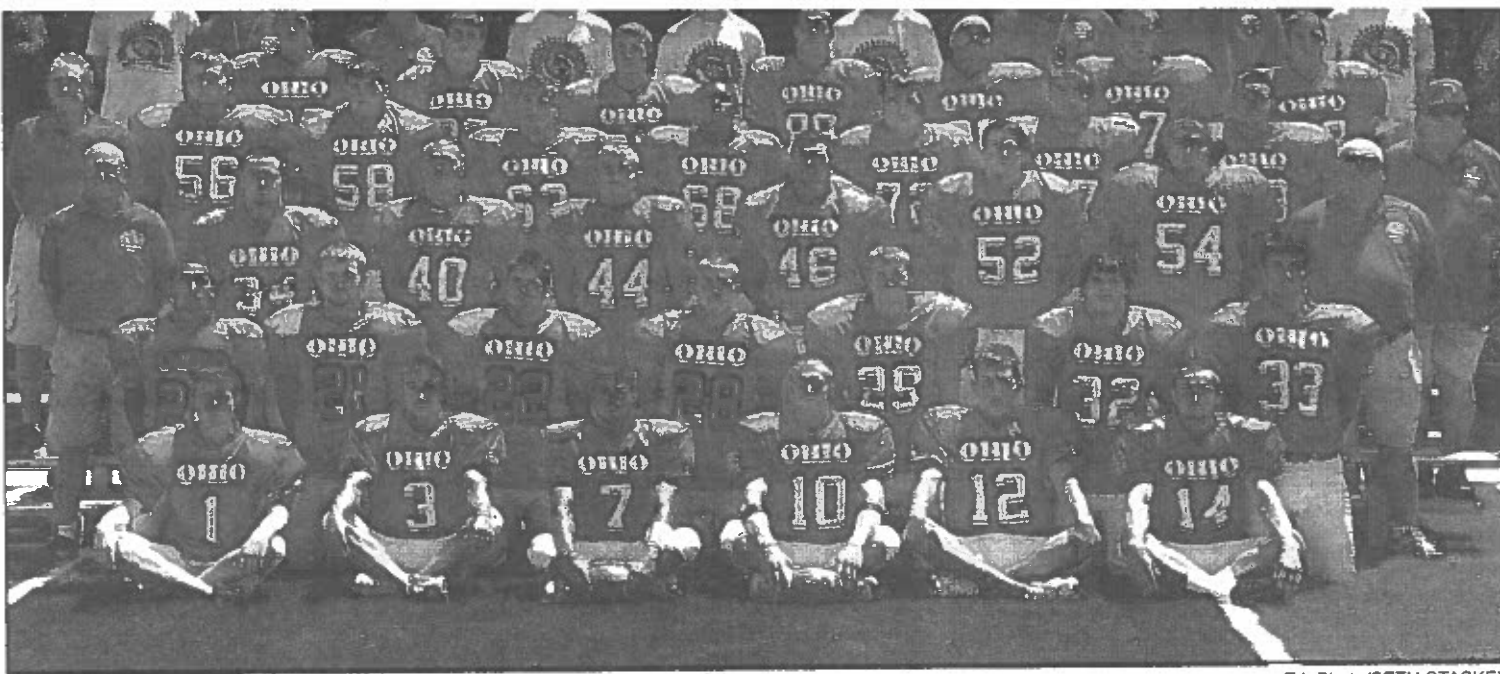
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FREY



EAGLESON



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

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Linsly head coach B.J. Depew — who has been involved with this game as a player, assistant and now the head coach — has enjoyed every single second of his week as well.

"I am really pleased with how well these kids have come together and bonded," Depew said. "We've asked them to learn a lot in a short amount of time and they've been nothing but receptive and bought into what we've told them, and we're prepared to be at our best (tonight)."

The Ohio offense has gotten better each time it's stepped on the field during the week according to Thompson, who may need to find a few extra ways to get people involved.

"I am not sure we're going to have enough footballs on the field," Thompson said. "We're not worried about egos though. We are approaching this game to win and that's



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what every kids wants to do and all he cares about."

The Buckeyes have a logjam at several positions with several capable players. One is at the quarterback spot where the Ohioans plan on implementing a three-quarterback system tonight. Buckeye Trail's Brock Davis will get the start and be backed by Harrison Central's Robbie Davia and Shadyside's Billy Merryman.

River's Troy Starr and Shenandoah's Joey Wheeler will be the go-to-guys in the backfield from the tailback spot with Steubenville's Mark Markakis and Shadyside's Dustin Sadlowski leading the way through the holes.

When the Buckeyes put the ball in the air, and according to Thompson, they will put the ball in the air, it'll be Union Local all-Ohioan

Zach Gust who draws most of the attention despite being hampered by some nagging injuries during the week.

"It's my hope that (Ohio) decides not to use Zach Gust very much," Depew joked. "We know we have to contain Ohio's speed, and they have speed that you can't simulate in practice because they have so many quick kids."

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"Time was of the premium when we were putting stuff in, but we're working hard to eliminate mistakes," Thompson said. "Our goal each day was to get better and then after the second practiced we asked the kids if they felt like they were better then than they were during the morning practice. The more reps we got, the better we've gotten."

The West Virginia defense that's going to have to find a way to slow down the Ohio side's plethora of weapons will play out of a base 4-3 defense

The defensive tackles will be Drake Kowcheck and Kyle Smith. Linsly's Ian

See, **OVAC**, Page C2



ANTOLAK



STOWERS



JOHNSON



FIGEL



ROBINSON



BISHOP



JACKSON

OVAC All-Star Game Rosters

OHIO				
No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos. School
1	Billy Merryman	5-10	150	QB Shadyside
3	Sam Bond-Zielinski	5-11	170	WR Buckeye Trail
7	Zach Gust	5-9	170	WR Union Local
10	Brock Davis	5-11	180	QB Buckeye Trail
12	Robbie Davia	6-2	200	QB Harrison Central
14	Steve Beros	5-10	175	TB Buckeye Trail
20	Anthony Vincent	6-0	160	WR/DB St. Clairsville
21	Kyle Rader	6-0	200	FB Monroe Central
22	Dustin Sadlowski	5-10	180	LB/FB Shadyside
28	Dan Starr	5-11	195	LB Buckeye Trail
29	Justin Kaufmann	6-0	185	TB Steubenville CC
32	Joey Wheeler	5-10	200	TB/LB Shenandoah
33	Troy Starr	6-2	195	TB/LB River
34	John Earliwine	5-8	200	DL St. Clairsville
40	Kirk Wetherell	5-10	195	LB/FB Cambridge
44	Carl Perkins	5-11	180	LB Union Local
46	Mark Markakis	5-11	205	LB/FB Steubenville
52	Jon Fige	6-2	255	OL Indian Creek
54	Cory Johnson	6-2	220	OL Edison
56	Ryan Stowers	6-6	255	OL East Liverpool
58	Jake Antolak	6-4	239	OL St. Clairsville
63	Shane Bishop	6-1	220	OL Buckeye Local
68	Tyler Robinson	6-0	205	DE Bellaire
72	Trevor Jackson	6-0	235	OL Martins Ferry
77	Adam Eagleson	6-3	240	DE Meadowbrook
78	Brandyn Frey	6-2	260	OL Steubenville
82	Brandon Hunter	5-8	170	TB Toronto
85	Michael Bachie	6-3	225	TE/LB Bridgeport
88	Jimmy Reisz	5-9	150	WR/DB Beaverville
90	Zane Carter	6-4	195	DB Wellsville
97	Herman Timmersjo	6-5	235	K Martins Ferry
99	Isaac Omaitis	6-3	235	TE/DL Buckeye Local

Head Coach: Randy Thompson, Buckeye Trail
 Assistant Coaches: Vaughn Butler, Jason Davis, Brian Kittle, Steve Mercer, Bill Starr, Bruce Stiles.
 Trainer: Randy Elliott.
 Managers: Tug Robson, Noah Burris, Tyler Neatey, Chris Palmer, Ethan Snyder, Isaac Snyder.
 Team Doctor: Dr. Christian Sonnefeld.

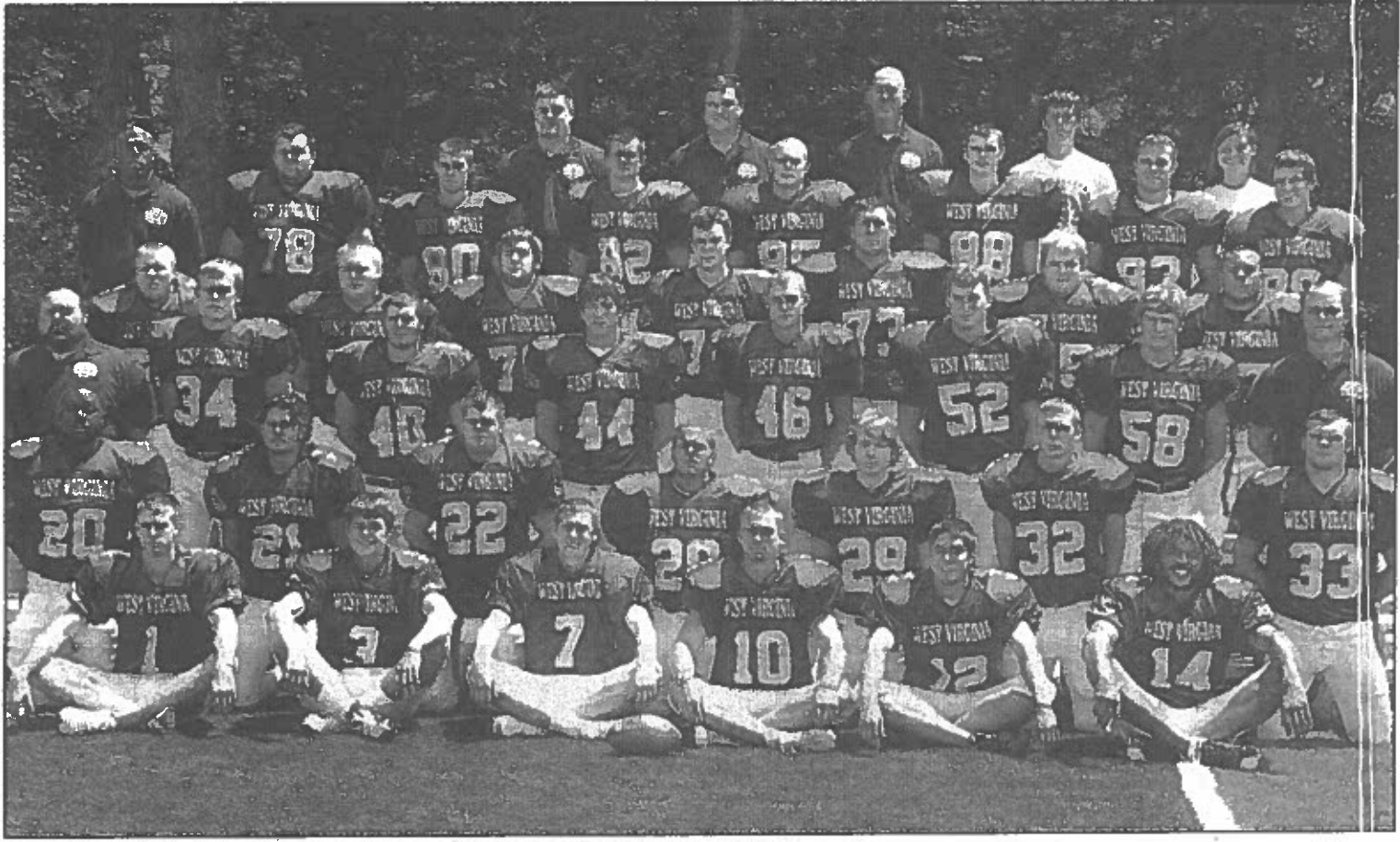
WEST VIRGINIA				
No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos. School
1	Logan Jarrett	6-2	180	WR John Marshall
3	Michael Angalich	6-2	185	QB Bishop Donahue
7	Alex Peluchette	6-2	193	QB Wheeling Central
10	Josh Frankos	6-0	185	DB Brooke
12	John McCune	5-11	175	LB Weirton Madonna
14	L.A. Hampton	6-2	185	WR Bishop Donahue
20	Chidozie Oparanozie	6-0	230	RB Linsly
21	Steven Buffo	6-0	170	DB Weir
22	Allen Earnest	5-11	210	DL Wheeling Park
28	Scott Victorio	5-8	185	RB Brooke
29	Jacob Lohri	5-8	160	RB Tyler
32	Chris Martin	6-0	173	RB Wheeling Central
33	David Richmond	5-11	180	RB Bishop Donahue
34	Lucas Goodwin	6-1	195	LB Wheeling Park
40	Steven Zajdowicz	5-9	205	LB Magnolia
44	Rosh Cain	6-0	210	LB Paden City
46	Jacob Carnahan	6-1	180	WR John Marshall
52	Logan Efaw	6-2	205	LB Tyler
58	Taylor Shepherd	5-10	175	OL Magnolia
63	Jesse Campbell	5-8	220	OL Brooke
66	Kyle Smith	5-9	258	DL Magnolia
70	Taylor Potts	6-0	230	DL John Marshall
72	Bobby McConnell	6-3	235	OL Magnolia
73	Sam Cecil	6-5	250	OL Linsly
75	Drake Kowcheck	6-1	275	OL Brooke
77	Ian Berry	5-10	240	DL Linsly
78	Dave Vetanze	6-2	290	OL Wheeling Park
80	Jim McFarland	6-0	150	DB Brooke
82	Gary Gamble	6-1	175	WR Oak Glen
85	Dustin Hawkins	5-11	175	DB Cameron
88	Haden Kocher	6-3	150	WR Valley
93	Josh Contraguero	6-0	205	LB Wheeling Central
99	Michael Duplaga	5-7	150	K Wheeling Central

Head Coach: B.J. Depew, Linsly.
 Assistant Coaches: James Cowart, Gene Lofstead, Steve Ochap, Ray Smith, Josh Whetstone.
 Managers: Chris Kiedasch, Kyle Pytlak.
 Trainer: Herb Minch.
 Team Doctor: Dr. Robert Jones.

OVAC All-Star Game Scores

Year	Score
1972	Ohio 24-6
1973	W.Va. 38-20
1974	W.Va. 13-6
1975	W.Va. 8-0
1976	W.Va. 33-20
1977	W.Va. 21-0
1978	Ohio 21-13
1979	Ohio 47-13
1980	Ohio 10-7
1981	Ohio 17-14
1982	W.Va. 7-6
1983	Ohio 26-16
1984	Ohio 24-6
1985	W.Va. 28-26
1986	Ohio 14-6
1987	Ohio 13-11
1988	Ohio 13-7
1989	W.Va. 22-14
1990	Ohio 42-0
1991	Ohio 30-6
1992	washout
1993	W.Va. 34-32
1994	W.Va. 19-14
1995	Ohio 21-0
1996	Ohio 43-21
1997	Ohio 24-14
1998	Ohio 41-14
1999	Ohio 32-0
2000	Ohio 13-7
2001	Ohio 36-0
2002	Ohio 19-12
2003	Ohio 32-26

2007—Ohio 6-3
 2008—????
 Pre-OVAC Sponsorship
 1940—W.Va. 13-7
 1941—W.Va. 7-0
 1942—W.Va. 7-0
 1943—no game
 1944—no game
 1945—no game
 1946—Ohio 26-7
 1947—W.Va. 13-7
 1948—Ohio 20-7
 1949—W.Va. 6-0
 1950—Ohio 14-0
 1951—Ohio 13-6
 1952—Ohio 26-19
 1953—W.Va. 7-0
 1954—W.Va. 13-0
 1955—Ohio 31-20
 1956—Ohio 27-0
 1957—Ohio 14-13
 1958—Ohio 25-0
 1959—W.Va. 7-6
 1960—Ohio 7-6
 1961—W.Va. 13-0
 1962—W.Va. 12-6
 1963—no game
 1964—Ohio 2-0
 1965—Ohio 22-0
 1966—Ohio 28-0
 1967—W.Va. 18-0
 1968—Ohio 6-0
 1969—W.Va. 12-0
 1970—no game
 1971—no game
 Series Record: Pre-OVAC—



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED IS the West Virginia squad for tonight's 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Logan Jarrett (John Marshall), Michael Angalich (Bishop Donahue), Alex Peluchette (Wheeling Central), Josh Frankos (Brooke), John McCune (Weirton Madonna) and L.A. Hampton (Bishop Donahue). Second row, from left, are Chidozie Oparanozie (Linsly), Steven Buffo (Weir), Allen Earnest (Wheeling Park), Scott Victorio (Brooke), Jacob Lohri (Tyler Consolidated), Chris Martin (Wheeling Central) and David Richmond (Bishop Donahue). Third row, from left, are B.J. Depew (Linsly), Lucas Goodwin (Wheeling Park), Steven Zajdowicz (Magnolia), Rosh Cain (Paden City), Jacob Carnahan (John Marshall), Logan Efaw (Tyler Consolidated), Taylor Shepherd (Magnolia) and assistant coach Steve Ochap. Fourth row, from left, are Jesse Campbell (Brooke), Kyle Smith (Magnolia), Taylor Potts (John Marshall), Bobby McConnell (Wheeling Park), Sam Cecil (Linsly), Drake Kowcheck (Brooke) and Ian Berry (Linsly). Fifth row, from left, are assistant coach James Cowart (Linsly), Dave Vetanze (Wheeling Park), Jim McFarland (Brooke), Gary Gamble (Oak Glen), Dustin Hawkins (Cameron), Haden Kocher (Valley), Josh Contraguero (Wheeling Central) and Michael Duplaga (Wheeling Central). Top row, from left, are assistant coach Josh Whetstone, assistant coach Gerlad Lofstead, assistant coach Ray Smith, manager Kyle Pytlak and trainer Amber Herback.

OVAC

Continued from Page C1

Berry and Paden City's Rosh Cain get the call at the defensive end spots.

A deep and talented group of linebackers is led by Wheeling Central's Josh Contraguero. Magnolia's Steven Zajdowicz and Linsly's Chidozie Oparanozie.

"We had a tough time picking our starting linebackers because we had so much talent and depth there," Depew said. "It's definitely a quality group."

Brooke's Josh Frankos — who will also serve as the third West Virginia quarterback if needed — will start one safety spot, while John Marshall's Jacob Carnahan handles the other side.

Brooke's duo of Scott Victorio and Jim McFarland will roam at the corner spots and have to deal with the Ohio passing game. When the Mountaineers have the ball, Depew thinks his offense could score some points, but is the case each year in the OVAC Game, they must be able to have time to do things offensively.

"We have to be able to win the battle up front," Depew admitted. "In year's past, the Ohio defensive front has been tough to handle, and I expect the same to hold true (Sunday). We have to hold off their charge."

The Mountaineers' offensive line is anchored by John Marshall's Taylor Potts and Magnolia's Taylor Potts who are the top two names on the depth chart.

Wheeling Park's Dave Vetanze and Brooke's Jesse Campbell will serve as the starting guards with Berry and Tyler's Logan Efaw backing them up. Magnolia's Bobby McConnell and Linsly's Sam Cecil will serve as the tackles with Brooke's Drake Kowcheck and Magnolia's Kyle Smith backing that duo.

The Mountaineer skill people are talented to say the least.

Wheeling Central's all-everything quarterback Alex Pelechutte will open the game under center, but Bishop Donahue's Michael Angalich will see quality action as well.

"We think we have certain strengths with Alex in the game and then we have certain strengths with Michael in the game," Depew relayed. "We're going to cater our game plan to use the right guy at the right time."

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T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

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Weir High's Steven Buffo backing them up.

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The aforementioned Vincent will serve as a cornerback with Toronto's Brandon Hunter backing him up. Reisz and Davis will see time at the other corner. Wheeler and Wellsville's Zane Carter will man one of the safety positions with Steubenville's Catholic's Justin Kaufmann and Troy Starr locked into the other side.

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See, OVAC, Page C5

90 Zane Carter 6-4 195 DB Wellsville
 97 Herman Timmersjo 6-5 235 K Martins Ferry
 99 Isaac Omaitis 6-3 235 TE/DL Buckeye Local
 Head Coach: Randy Thompson, Buckeye Trail
 Assistant Coaches: Vaughn Butler, Jason Davis, Brian Kittle, Steve Mercer, Bill Starr, Bruce Stiles
 Trainer: Randy Elliott
 Managers: Tug Robson, Noah Burriss, Tyler Nealey, Chris Palmer, Ethan Snyder, Issac Snyder
 Team Doctor: Dr. Christian Sonnefeld

WEST VIRGINIA

1	Logan Jarrett	6-2	180	WR	John Marshall
3	Michael Angalich	6-2	185	QB	Bishop Donahue
7	Alex Peluchette	6-2	193	QB	Wheeling Central
10	Josh Frankos	6-0	185	DB	Brooke
12	John McCune	5-11	175	LB	Weirton Madonna
14	L.A. Hampton	6-2	185	WR	Bishop Donahue
20	Chidozie Oparanozie	6-0	230	RB	Linsly
21	Steven Buffo	6-0	170	DB	Weir
22	Allen Earnest	5-11	210	DL	Wheeling Park
28	Scott Victorio	5-8	185	RB	Brooke
29	Jacob Lohri	5-8	160	RB	Tyler
32	Chris Martin	6-0	173	RB	Wheeling Central
33	David Richmond	5-11	180	RB	Bishop Donahue
34	Lucas Goodwin	6-1	195	LB	Wheeling Park
40	Steven Zajdowicz	5-9	205	LB	Magnolia
44	Rosh Cain	6-0	210	LB	Paden City
46	Jacob Carnahan	6-1	180	WR	John Marshall
52	Logan Efav	6-2	205	LB	Tyler
58	Taylor Shepherd	5-10	175	OL	Magnolia
63	Jesse Campbell	5-8	220	OL	Brooke
66	Kyle Smith	5-9	258	DL	Magnolia
70	Taylor Potts	6-0	230	DL	John Marshall
72	Bobby McConnell	6-3	235	OL	Magnolia
73	Sam Cecil	6-5	250	OL	Linsly
75	Drake Kowcheck	6-1	275	OL	Brooke
77	Jan Berry	5-10	240	DL	Linsly
78	Dave Vetanze	6-2	290	OL	Wheeling Park
80	Jim McFarland	6-0	150	DB	Brooke
82	Gary Gamble	6-1	175	WR	Oak Glen
85	Dustin Hawkins	5-11	175	DB	Cameron
88	Haden Kocher	6-3	150	WR	Valley
93	Josh Contraguero	6-0	205	LB	Wheeling Central
99	Michael Duplaga	5-7	150	K	Wheeling Central

Head Coach: B.J. Depew, Linsly.
 Assistant Coaches: James Cowart, Gene Lofstead, Steve Ochap, Ray Smith, Josh Whetstone.
 Managers: Chris Kiedaisch, Kyle Pytlak.
 Trainer: Herb Minch.
 Team Doctor: Dr. Robert Jones.

OVAC All-Star Game Scores

OVAC ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CHARITY CLASSIC SCORES

OVAC Sponsorship

1972—Ohio 24-6
1973—W.Va. 38-20
1974—W.Va. 13-6
1975—W.Va. 8-0
1976—W.Va. 33-20
1977—W.Va. 21-0
1978—Ohio 21-13
1979—Ohio 47-13
1980—Ohio 10-7
1981—Ohio 17-14
1982—W.Va. 7-6
1983—Ohio 26-16
1984—Ohio 24-6
1985—W.Va. 28-26
1986—Ohio 14-6
1987—Ohio 13-11
1988—Ohio 13-7
1989—W.Va. 22-14
1990—Ohio 42-0
1991—Ohio 30-6
1992—washout
1993—W.Va. 34-32
1994—W.Va. 19-14
1995—Ohio 21-0
1996—Ohio 43-21
1997—Ohio 24-14
1998—Ohio 41-14
1999—Ohio 32-0
2000—Ohio 13-7
2001—Ohio 36-0
2002—Ohio 19-12
2003—Ohio 32-26
2004—W.Va. 21-7
2005—Ohio 35-6
2006—Ohio 22-0

2007—Ohio 6-3
 2008—????
 Pre-OVAC Sponsorship

1940—W.Va. 13-7
1941—W.Va. 7-0
1942—W.Va. 7-0
1943—no game
1944—no game
1945—no game
1946—Ohio 26-7
1947—W.Va. 13-7
1948—Ohio 20-7
1949—W.Va. 6-0
1950—Ohio 14-0
1951—Ohio 13-6
1952—Ohio 26-19
1953—W.Va. 7-0
1954—W.Va. 13-0
1955—Ohio 31-20
1956—Ohio 27-0
1957—Ohio 14-13
1958—Ohio 25-0
1959—W.Va. 7-6
1960—Ohio 7-6
1961—W.Va. 13-0
1962—W.Va. 12-6
1963—no game
1964—Ohio 2-0
1965—Ohio 22-0
1966—Ohio 26-0
1967—W.Va. 18-0
1968—Ohio 6-0
1969—W.Va. 12-0
1970—no game
1971—no game

Series Record: Pre-OVAC—Ohio 15 wins, W.Va. 11;
 OVAC Sponsorship—Ohio 24 wins, W.Va. 11, 1 tie

OVAC All-Star Game Cheering

OHIO SQUAD
 Katie Christopher, Indian Creek
 Kassey Daugherty, Beallsville
 Marissa Frank, East Liverpool
 Kristen Goodman, East Liverpool
 Brooke Hays, St. Clairsville
 Justina Martin, Martins Ferry
 Lindsey Neavin, St. Clairsville
 Alyssa Payne, Martins Ferry
 Erica Richardson, Buckeye Local
 Alyssa Tate, Indian Creek
 Coach: Kristi Vermillion

WEST VIRGINIA
 Jane Allen, Wheeling Central
 Heather Chaplin, John Marshall
 Autumn Eddy, Tyler Consolidated
 Marah Elliott, Magnolia
 Cara Gaich, Brooke
 Kylie Harris, Linsly
 Aleigha Harris, Linsly
 Megan Murphy, Wheeling Park
 Haley Peluchette, Wheeling Park
 Meredith Stucin, Brooke
 Coach: Shawna Shepherd

Be sure to check Monday's Times Leader for complete OVAC Game Coverage

PICTURED IS the West Virginia squad for tonight's 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. Front row, from left, are Logan Jarrett (John Marshall), Michael Angalich (Bishop Donahue), Alex Peluchette (Wheeling Central), Josh Frankos (Brooke), John McCune (Weirton Madonna) and L.A. Hampton (Bishop Donahue). Second row, from left, are Chidozie Oparanozie (Linsly), Steven Buffo (Weir), Allen Earnest (Wheeling Park), Scott Victorio (Brooke), Jacob Lohri (Tyler Consolidated), Chris Martin (Wheeling Central) and David Richmond (Bishop Donahue). Third row, from left, are B.J. Depew (Linsly), Lucas Goodwin (Wheeling Park), Steven Zajdowicz (Magnolia), Rosh Cain (Paden City), Jacob Carnahan (John Marshall), Logan Efav (Tyler Consolidated), Taylor Shepherd (Magnolia) and assistant coach Steve Ochap. Fourth row, from left, are Jesse Campbell (Brooke), Kyle Smith (Magnolia) and Ian Berry (Linsly). Fifth row, from left, are assistant coach James Cowart (Linsly), Dave Vetanze (Wheeling Park), Jim McFarland (Brooke), Gary Gamble (Oak Glen), Dustin Hawkins (Cameron), Haden Kocher (Valley), Josh Contraguero (Wheeling Central) and Michael Duplaga (Wheeling Central). Top row, from left, are assistant coach Josh Whetstone, assistant coach Gerlad Lofstead, assistant coach Ray Smith, manager Kyle Pytlak and trainer Amber Herback.

OVAC

Continued from Page C1

Berry and Paden City's Rosh Cain get the call at the defensive end spots.

A deep and talented group of linebackers is led by Wheeling Central's Josh Contraguero. Magnolia's Steven Zajdowicz and Linsly's Chidozie Oparanozie.

"We had a tough time picking our starting linebackers because we had so much talent and depth there," Depew said. "It's definitely a quality group."

Brooke's Josh Frankos — who will also serve as the third West Virginia quarterback if needed — will start one safety spot, while John Marshall's Jacob Carnahan handles the other side.

Brooke's duo of Scott Victorio and Jim McFarland will roam at the corner spots and have to deal with the Ohio passing game. When the Mountaineers have the ball, Depew thinks his offense could score some points, but is the case each year in the OVAC Game, they must be able to have time to do things offensively.

"We have to be able to win the battle up front," Depew admitted. "In year's past, the Ohio defensive front has been tough to handle, and I expect the same to hold true (Sunday). We have to hold off their charge."

The Mountaineers' offensive line is anchored by John Marshall's Taylor Potts and Magnolia's Taylor Potts who are the top two names on the depth chart.

Wheeling Park's Dave Vetanze and Brooke's Jesse Campbell will serve as the starting guards with Berry and Tyler's Logan Efav backing them up. Magnolia's Bobby McConnell and Linsly's Sam Cecil will serve as the tackles with Brooke's Drake Kowcheck and Magnolia's Kyle Smith backing that duo.

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See, OVAC, Page C5



PICTURED ARE the Ohio linemen in tonight's 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. Front row, from left, are Trevor Jackson (Martins Ferry), Jon Figel (Indian Creek), Tyler Robinson (Bellaire), Brandyn Frey (Steubenville) and Shane Bishop (Buckeye Local). Second row, from left, are Mike Bachie (Bridgeport), Isaac Omaitis (Buckeye), Cory Johnson (Edison), Jake Antolak (St. C.), Ryan Stowers (East Liverpool) and Adam Eagleson (Meadowbrook).

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

Ohio Staff Announces Linemen

Thompson selects big, athletic bunch to man trenches

By **SETH STASKEY**
For the News-Register

To have offensive success, it all starts with the offensive line.

All-Star teams can always find someone able to catch, run and throw, so Ohio coach Randy Thompson took the approach of gaining the best possible linemen he could find for the upcoming 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, which is slated for Sunday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"I think it all starts in the trenches," Thompson explained. "So, we picked the best linemen we could find."

The Ohio approach was to find big, athletic guys.

And the Buckeye staff thinks that's exactly what they've accomplished.

"I think we have nice depth up front," Thompson relayed. "We've got a bunch of guys who are basically interchangeable and we did manage to find a nice-sized group that's fairly athletic."

Slated to see time either as a tight end or deep in the trenches are:

St. Clairsville's Jake Antolak, Bridgeport's Michael Bachie, Buckeye Local's Shane Bishop, Indian Creek's Jonathan Figel, Steubenville's Brandon Frey, Martins Ferry's Trevor Jackson and East Liverpool's Ryan Stowers.

Here's a capsule look at the players:

Jake Antolak
St. Clairsville

This former Red Devil played a key role in the success of Coach Brett McLean's Red Devils last fall.

The 6-foot-4, 230-pounder anchored the Red Devils' offensive line from his tackle spot. He recorded 31 pancake blocks and graded out at 89 percent in 13 games.

As a defensive lineman, Antolak recorded 59 solo tackles and 17 assists to go along with five sacks.



Antolak



Bachie



Bishop



Jackson

He was awarded first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8, all-Times Leader, All-Valley and special mention all-Ohio.

He also received one of the Five Blocks of Granite as presented by Big Season Sports.

Jake, who plans on attending Walsh University in Canton, is the son of Rick and Jill Antolak.

Michael Bachie
Bridgeport

This former Bulldog was also a trend setter on both sides of the ball for Coach Rudy Vavrock's club last season.

He was a talented tight end both as a blocker and as a receiver as evidenced by his 21 catches for 281 yards, but it was on the defensive side as a middle linebacker where he made his presence felt.

The 6-3, 225-pounder recorded 108 tackles, forced three fumbles, pounced on four and had two sacks.

Along with football, Bachie played a key role in the Bulldogs' winning the OVAC Class 1-A basketball title during the winter.

Michael, who is the son of Ernest and Carol Bachie of Bridgeport, plans on attending West Liberty State College.

Shane Bishop
Buckeye Local

This former Panther made his mark on both sides of the ball for Coach Ron Pabolish's outfit the last three years.

The 6-1, 220 pounder was a force along the line for the Panthers' run-oriented attack. On the defensive side of the ball, he was one of the Panthers' leading tacklers.

Bishop was a first-team all-Ohio selection after being

named to the first-team all-District. He was also a member of the All-Valley, all-Times Leader, all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8 squads.

Shane, who plans on attending West Liberty State College, is the son of William and Sharon Bishop.

Jonathan Figel
Indian Creek

This former Redskin opened many a running hole during his three years in the trenches for Coach Andrew Connor's team.

The 6-2, 255-pounder blocked for a trio of 1,000-yard backs during his career. He was also a two-year starter on the defensive line with 74 tackles and five sacks.

Figel's fine season earned him all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8 and second-team all-Valley.

He was also recognized by the Quad County and served as team captain.

Away from athletics, Figel also shines. He's a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Student Ambassador, SADD and the Indian Creek productions.

Jonathan, who is the son of Bonnie and John Figel of Mingo Junction, plans on attending Capital University.

Brandon Frey
Steubenville

This former Big Red left guard was one of the mainstays for Coach Reno Saccoccia's squad the past two seasons.

In helping the Big Red to their second straight state title as a junior, Frey recorded 44 pins as right tackle. He shifted to left guard last year and had 51 pins for a Big Red team, which advanced to

the third round of the playoffs.

The 6-2, 260 pounder was a first-team all-Eastern District pick as well as honorable mention all-Ohio.

Brandon, who plans on attending Bethany College, is the son of Jill Nation and Gary Frey. He resides in Wintersville.

Trevor Jackson
Martins Ferry

This former Purple Rider was a mainstay for Coach Dave Bruney's team as both a guard and defensive tackle.

The 6-0, 235-pounder was one of the anchors for the Ferry offensive line.

His season was recognized by receiving the 182 percent award, all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Times Leader, all-Buckeye 8 and special mention all-Ohio.

Trevor, who is the son of Robert and Lisa Jackson of Martins Ferry, plans on attending Wheeling Jesuit University.

Ryan Stowers
East Liverpool

This Potter tackle paved the way to a strong season for running backs under the offensive guidance of Pat McNichol.

The 6-5, 255-pounder's fine season didn't go unnoticed. He received the Craig Burbick Memorial Award, the ESPN Radio Award and was named to the Quad-County Football Coaches Team.

Away from football, Stowers is a blackbelt in Tae Kwon Do and Jujitsu. Ryan, who is the son of Brian and Davena Stowers of East Liverpool, plans on attending Bethany College.

Minch: An OVAC All-Star Game staple

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Through the course of tonight's game and the week leading up to the game, there will be bumps and bruises suffered by the players on both teams.

One of the people who will play a major role in the healing process is Herb Minch who serves as a trainer tonight and is also employed as the

Head Athletic Trainer at West Liberty State College.

Minch has been involved with the OVAC All-Star Game since 1987 two years after his graduation from Wheeling Park High School.

Minch was studying health and physical education at West Liberty when he was approached to be a trainer for the game and eventually went on to earn his masters of science in physical education and ath-

letic training in 1990 from West Virginia University.

The current West Liberty head softball coach got into training during his years at Park under Tim McCormick and he just took it from there.

"I got a little taste of training at Park, and I've always loved doing it," Minch said.

Minch didn't expect to be involved with the OVAC Game as

often as he has been when he was first approached.

Don't expect him to be getting out anytime soon.

"I think it's obviously a great tradition," Minch relayed. "It's quite an honor to be a part of it and as long as they want me involved I will continue to do it. It's been a great experience."

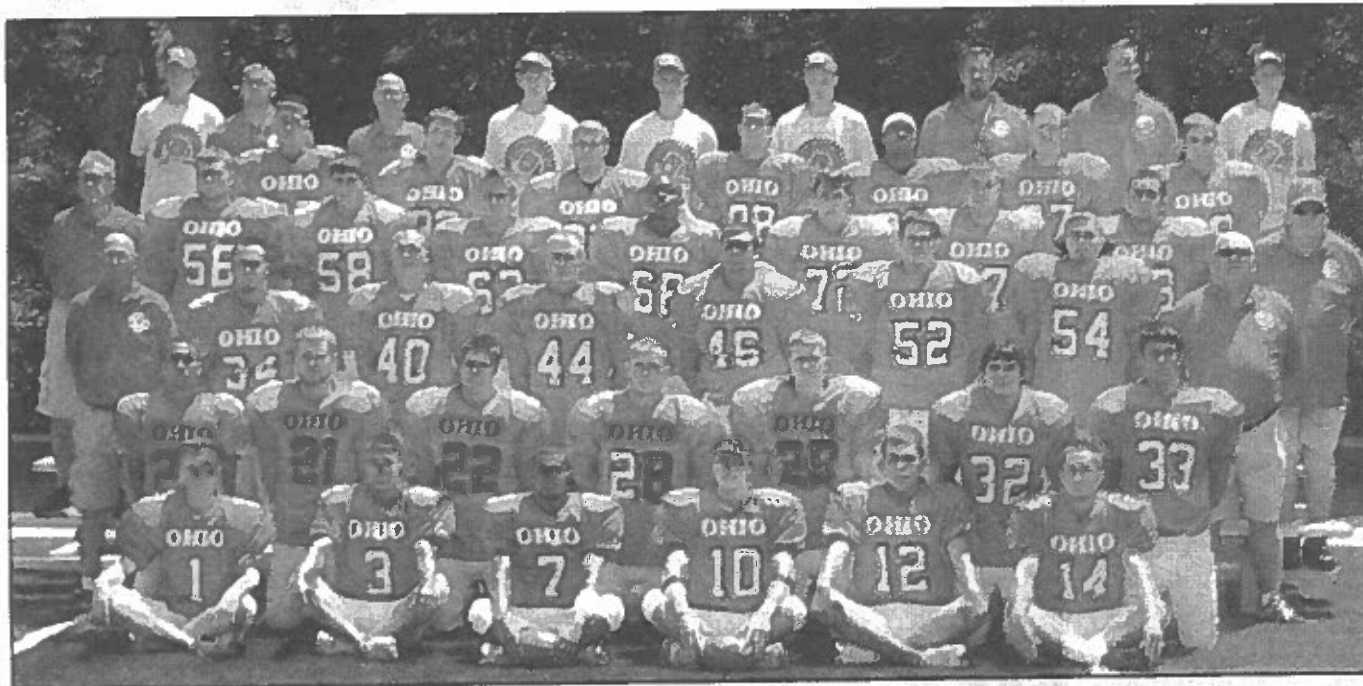
Herb is married to the former Ashlea Bland.

For comments regarding local sports stories, or ideas for future stories, please e-mail jharrison@daily-jeff.com

SPORTS

Sunday
July 27, 2008

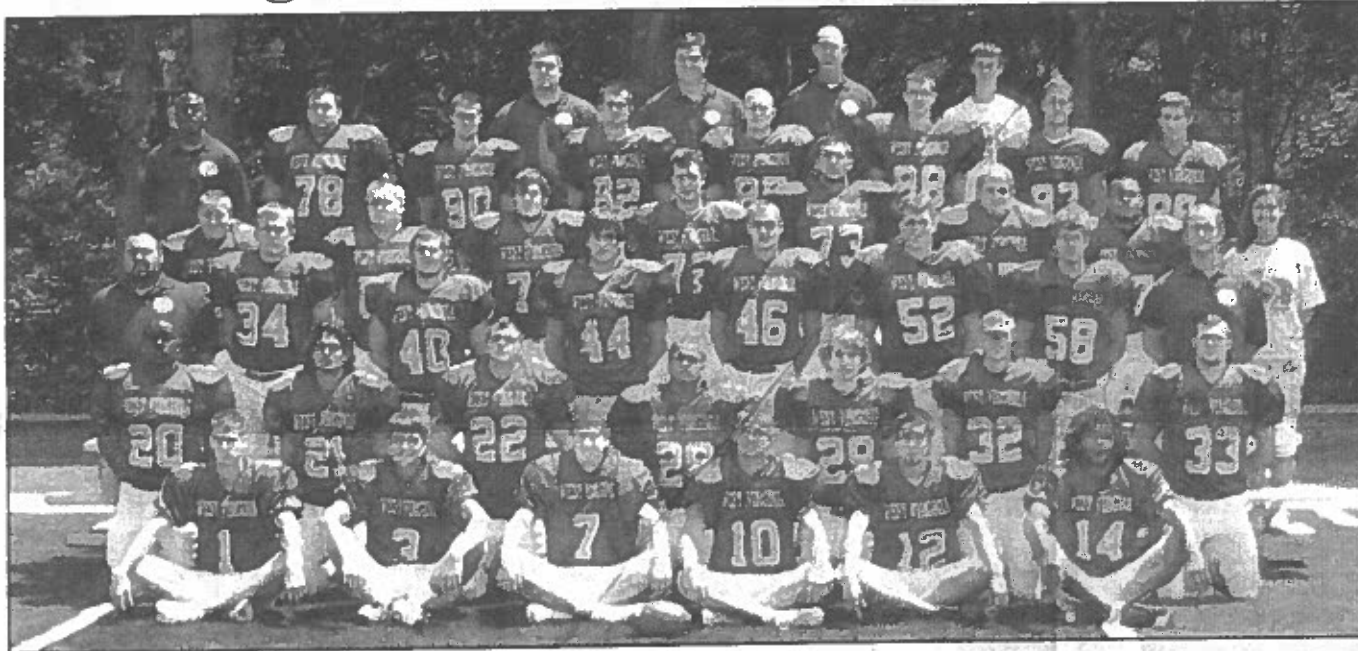
Ohio All-Star Team



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The Ohio squad for the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic. Front row, 1 to r, Billy Merryman of Shadyside, Sam Bond-Zielinski of Buckeye Trail, Zach Gust of Union Local, Brock Davis of Buckeye Trail, Robbie Davia of Harrison Central and Steve Beros of Buckeye Trail; second row, Anthony Vincent of St. Clairsville, Kyle Rader of Monroe Central, Dustin Sadlowski of Shadyside, Dan Starr of Buckeye Trail, Justin Kaufmann of Steubenville Catholic, Joe Wheeler of Shenandoah and Troy Starr of River; third row, head coach Randy Thompson, John Earliwine of St. Clairsville, Kirk Wetherell of Cambridge, Carl Perkins of Union Local, Mark Markakis of Steubenville, Jon Figel of Edison, Cory Johnson of Edison and assistant coach Bill Starr; fourth row, trainer Randy Elliott, Ryan Stowers of East Liverpool, Jake Antolak of St. Clairsville, Shane Bishop of Buckeye Local, Tyler Robinson of Bellaire, Trevor Jackson of Martins Ferry, Adam Eagleson of Meadowbrook, Brandyn Frey of Steubenville and manager Tug Robson; fifth row, Michael Wehr of Barnesville, Brandon Hunter of Toronto, Michael Bachie of Bridgeport, Jim Reisz of Beallsville, Zane Carter of Wellsville, Herman Timmersjo of Martins Ferry and Isaac Omaitis of Buckeye Local; sixth row, manager Chris Palmer, assistant coach Brian Kittle, assistant coach Steve Mercer, manager Isaac Snyder, manager Noah Burris, manager Ethan Snyder, assistant coach Bruce Stiles, assistant coach Vaughn Butler and manager Tyler Nealey.

West Virginia All-Star Team



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The West Virginia squad for the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic. Front row, 1 to r, Logan Jarrett of John Marshall, Michael Angalich of Bishop Donahue, Alex Peluchette of Wheeling Central, Josh Frankos of Brooke, John McCune of Weirton Madonna and Lionel Hampton of Bishop Donahue; second row, Chidozie Oparanzie of Linsly, Steven Buffo of Weir, Allen Earnest of Wheeling Park, Scott Victorio of Tyler Consolidated, Jacob Lohri of Tyler Consolidated, Chris Martin of Wheeling Central and David Richmond of Bishop Donahue; third row, head coach B.J. Depew, Lucas Goodwin of Wheeling Park, Steven Zajdowicz of Magnolia, Rosh Cain of Paden City, Jacob Carnahan of John Marshall, Logan Efaw of Tyler Consolidated, Taylor Shepherd of Magnolia and assistant coach Steve Ochap; fourth row, Jesse Campbell of Brooke, Kyle Smith of Magnolia, Taylor Potts of John Marshall, Bobby McConnell of Wheeling Park, Sam Cecil of Linsly, Drake Kowcheck of Brooke, Ian Berry of Linsly and trainer Amber Herback; fifth row, assistant coach James Cowart, Dave Vetanze of Wheeling Park, Jim McFarland of Brooke, Gary Gamble of Oak Glen, Dustin Hawkins of Cameron, Haden Kocher of Valley, Josh Contraguerra of Wheeling Central and Michael Duplaga of Wheeling Central; sixth row, assistant coach Josh Whetstone, assistant coach Gerald Lofstead, assistant coach Ray Smith and manager Kyle Pytlak.

OVAC All-Star Football Classic kicks off tonight

Plenty of local flavor for conference showcase at Wheeling Island Stadium

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

WHEELING, W. Va. — Are you ready?

It's football time in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference!

Tonight's 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic serves as the unofficial kickoff to the 2008 high school football season, with more than 60 stalwarts from last season making one final appearance in their team's helmet as Ohio battles West Virginia in the mid-summer extravaganza at Wheeling Island Stadium.

While kickoff for the showcase event — the all-star football game — comes at 7:15 p.m., there are many more attractions as part of one of the conference's showcase events of the year.

Throw in the 200-member OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band, the 26 Queen of Queens contestants, about a dozen and a half cheerleaders from various schools in the conference, members of the 10-year reunion and those on hand representing the all-star games from 1947-49, and you have an evening filled with something for everyone.

Coach Randy Thompson of Buckeye Trail is serving as Ohio's all-star coach along with several members, past and present, of his coaching staff as he says, "it's all systems go" for game time.

"We started really coming together Thursday and Friday was a good day, too," Thompson offered. "We've had a couple of linebackers moved to D-tackle and that will give us some additional quickness. We feel really good about how things have gone; it's just a matter of getting them all playing time and enjoying the event."

"It's time to go now," he added. "We just have to keep them rested and focused until game time."

Thompson feels it could be Ohio's speed vs. West Virginia's size in the final analysis.

"West Virginia has a good football team, too," he acknowl-

edged. "Their size up bit of a concern. They ably line up in the 'v' and try to blow us off."

Seven players from area will be on the Ohio headed by the Buck quartet of quarterback Davis, tailback Steve wide receiver Sam Zielinski and lineba Starr.

Also representing local are linebacker Kirk of Cambridge, linem Eagleson of Meac and tailback Joe W Shenandoah.

The rest of Ohio includes Anthony John Earliwine a Antolak of St. C Trevor Jackson and Timmersjo of Marti



Billy Merryman and Sadlowski of Shadys Markakis and Brandy Steubenville; Zach Carl Perkins of Uni Robbie Davia of Central; Kyle Rader of Central; Justin Kau Steubenville Cathol Starr of River; Jon Indian Creek; Cory J Edison; Ryan Stowe Liverpool; Shane Bi Isaac Omaitis of Buck Tyler Robinson of Brandon Hunter of Michael Bachie of E Jim Reisz of Bealls Zane Carter of Wellsv

Ohio's projected depth chart offensive Davis and Davia at qu Troy Starr and Whee back; Markakis and at fullback; Gust an at flanker; Bond-Zie Carter at wide receiv

See OVAC

OVAC All-Star Classic to unfold this evening

OVAC from page B-1

and Reisz at tight end; Jackson and Johnson at center; Figel and Eagleson at one guard; Bishop and Robinson at the other guard; and Antolak, Stowers and Frye sharing time at the two tackle slots.

On defense, it's Sadlowski and Robinson at one defensive end; Dan Starr and Eagleson at the other D-end; Omaitis and Bishop at one tackle; Markakis and Antolak at the other tackle; Earliwine and Frey at middle guard; Wetherell and Bachie at one linebacker; Perkins and Rader at the other 'backer spot; Vincent and Hunter at one corner; Reisz and Davis at the other; Wheeler and Carter at one safety; Kaufmann and Troy Starr at the other.

Timmersjo will handle the placekicking, with Hunter and Davis as the punters.



West Virginia is under the guidance of Coach B.J. Depew and his staff from The Linsly School.

The squad includes Alex Peluchette, Chris Martin, Josh Contraguero and Michael Duplaga of Wheeling Central; Josh Frankos, Jesse Campbell, Drake Kowchek and Jim McFarland of Brooke; Allen Earnest, Lucas Goodwin, Bobby McConnell and Dave Vetanze of Wheeling Park; Logan Jarrett, Jacob Camahan and Taylor Potts of John Marshall; Michael Angalich, Lionel Hampton, David Richmond of Bishop Donahue; Chidozie Oparanozie, Sam Cecil and Ian Berry of Linsly; Jacob Lohri and Logan Efaw of Tyler Consolidated; Steven Zajdowicz and Kyle Smith of Magnolia; Steven Buffo of Weir; Rosh Cain of Paden City; Gary Gamble of Oak Glen; Dustin Hawkins of Cameron; John McCune of Weirton Madonna; and Haden Kocher of Valley.

Ohio has won three straight and 12 of the last 13 (only W. Va. win was 2004). The Buckeyes scored a late TD to escape with a 6-3 victory in last year's contest.

EXTRA POINTS

Thirty-nine schools are represented by participants in activities related to this year's game including the OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band (204), football players (66), Queen of Queens candidates (26) and cheerleaders (20)...

West Virginia coach Depew played in the OVAC game in 1994 and served as an assistant in 2005 under his father, Terry Depew. On the other side, Ohio coach Thompson didn't get the opportunity as there was no game in 1970 or '71 and his son, Josh, also missed out in 1999 as he had to depart for the Air Force Academy and was unable to participate...

Shawna Shepherd of Wheeling Park is the West Virginia cheering coach while Kristi Vermillion of John Marshall, who coached West Virginia's squad last year, is the

Rudy Mumley/ OVAC Charity All-Star Classic Past Scores

- (OVAC Sponsorship)
- 2007 - Ohio 6, W. Va. 3
 - 2006 - Ohio 22, W. Va. 0
 - 2005 - Ohio 35, W. Va. 6
 - 2004 - W. Va. 21, Ohio 7
 - 2003 - Ohio 32, W. Va. 26
 - 2002 - Ohio 19, W. Va. 12
 - 2001 - Ohio 36, W. Va. 0
 - 2000 - Ohio 13, W. Va. 7
 - 1999 - Ohio 32, W. Va. 0
 - 1998 - Ohio 41, W. Va. 14
 - 1997 - Ohio 24, W. Va. 14
 - 1996 - Ohio 43, W. Va. 21
 - 1995 - Ohio 21, W. Va. 0
 - 1994 - W. Va. 19, Ohio 14
 - 1993 - W. Va. 34, Ohio 32
 - 1992 - 0-0 (Canceled/Lighting)
 - 1991 - Ohio 30, W. Va. 6
 - 1990 - Ohio 42, W. Va. 0
 - 1989 - W. Va. 22, Ohio 14
 - 1988 - Ohio 13, W. Va. 7
 - 1987 - Ohio 13, W. Va. 11
 - 1986 - Ohio 14, W. Va. 6
 - 1985 - W. Va. 28, Ohio 26
 - 1984 - Ohio 23, W. Va. 6
 - 1983 - Ohio 26, W. Va. 16
 - 1982 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 6
 - 1981 - Ohio 17, W. Va. 14
 - 1980 - Ohio 10, W. Va. 7
 - 1979 - Ohio 47, W. Va. 13
 - 1978 - Ohio 21, W. Va. 13
 - 1977 - W. Va. 21, Ohio 0
 - 1976 - W. Va. 33, Ohio 20
 - 1975 - W. Va. 8, Ohio 0
 - 1974 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 6
 - 1973 - W. Va. 38, Ohio 20
 - 1972 - Ohio 24, W. Va. 6
 - (Pre-OVAC Sponsorship)
 - 1971 - No game
 - 1970 - No game
 - 1969 - W. Va. 12, Ohio 0
 - 1968 - Ohio 6, W. Va. 0
 - 1967 - W. Va. 18, Ohio 0
 - 1966 - Ohio 26, W. Va. 0
 - 1965 - Ohio 22, W. Va. 0
 - 1964 - Ohio 2, W. Va. 0
 - 1963 - No game
 - 1962 - W. Va. 12, Ohio 6
 - 1961 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 0
 - 1960 - Ohio 7, W. Va. 6
 - 1959 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 6
 - 1958 - Ohio 25, W. Va. 0
 - 1957 - Ohio 14, W. Va. 13
 - 1956 - Ohio 27, W. Va. 0
 - 1955 - Ohio 31, W. Va. 20
 - 1954 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 0
 - 1953 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 0
 - 1952 - Ohio 26, W. Va. 13
 - 1951 - Ohio 13, W. Va. 6
 - 1950 - Ohio 14, W. Va. 0
 - 1949 - W. Va. 6, Ohio 0
 - 1948 - Ohio 20, W. Va. 7
 - 1947 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 7
 - 1946 - Ohio 26, W. Va. 7
 - 1945 - No game
 - 1944 - No game
 - 1943 - No game
 - 1942 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 0
 - 1941 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 0
 - 1940 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 0
 - Overall series: Ohio 39, W. Va. 22, 1 tie
 - Under OVAC sponsorship: Ohio 24 wins, W. Va. 11 wins, 1 tie
 - Pre-OVAC sponsorship: Ohio 15 wins, W. Va. 11 wins

Ohio coach this time around...

Reva Icard serves as the Queen of Queens Coordinator; Dru Meyer is the Band Coordinator; Dianna Vargo is the George Strager 'Evening with the Stars' Coordinator; and Steve Kish is the Ten-Year Reunion Coordinator...

Queen of Queens candidates from the local area include Lee Ann McCabe of Cambridge, Jessie Piccin of Buckeye Trail and Abigail Bishop of Barnesville...

Local participants in the OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band include Josh Bodner, Stephanie Justice and Robert Taylor of Buckeye Trail; and Alex Davidson, Derek Deal, Hailey Hopton, Brittany Lucas, Alora Moore and Lucas Woofster of Barnesville...

Officials for the game include Bill Fowkes (referee), Chuck Taskalines (umpire), George Kelchak (linesman), Greg Sanders (line judge), Jim Kuczynski (side judge), Bruce Myers (field judge) and Jim Sperlazza, Jr. (back judge). The honorary official is Jack Prettyman...

Players from the 1947, '48 and '49 all-star games will be honored before the game. Some 31 of the 75 living participants are expected to attend...

In 36 years under OVAC sponsorship, the Classic has donated \$802,400 to charity organizations and scholarships throughout the Ohio Valley...

Two trades

SPORTS

Sunday
July 27, 2008

Section

B

OVAC All-Star Football Classic kicks off tonight

Plenty of local flavor for conference showcase at Wheeling Island Stadium

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

WHEELING, W. Va. — Are you ready?

It's football time in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference!

Tonight's 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic serves as the unofficial kickoff to the 2008 high school football season, with more than 60 stalwarts from last season making one final appearance in their team's helmet as Ohio battles West Virginia in the mid-summer extravaganza at Wheeling Island Stadium.

While kickoff for the showcase event — the all-star football game — comes at 7:15 p.m., there are many more attractions as part of one of the conference's showcase events of the year.

Throw in the 200-member OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band, the 26 Queen of Queens contestants, about a dozen and a half cheerleaders from various schools in the conference, members of the 10-year reunion and those on hand representing the all-star games from 1947-49, and you have an evening filled with something for everyone.

Coach Randy Thompson of Buckeye Trail is serving as Ohio's all-star coach along with several members, past and present, of his coaching staff as he says it's "all systems go" for game time.

"We started really coming together Thursday and Friday was a good day, too," Thompson offered. "We've had a couple of linebackers moved to D-tackle and that will give us some additional quickness. We feel really good about how things have gone; it's just a matter of getting them all playing time and enjoying the event."

"It's time to go now," he added. "We just have to keep them rested and focused until game time."

Thompson feels it could be Ohio's speed vs. West Virginia's size in the final analysis.

"West Virginia has a good football team, too," he acknowl-

edged. "Their size up front is a bit of a concern. They'll probably line up in the 'wishbone' and try to blow us off the ball."

Seven players from the local area will be on the Ohio squad, headed by the Buckeye Trail quartet of quarterback Brock Davis, tailback Steve Beros, wide receiver Sam Bond-Zielinski and linebacker Dan Starr.

Also representing local schools are linebacker Kirk Wetherell of Cambridge, lineman Adam Eagleson of Meadowbrook and tailback Joe Wheeler of Shenandoah.

The rest of Ohio's roster includes Anthony Vincent, John Earliwine and Jake Antolak of St. Clairsville; Trevor Jackson and Herman Timmersjo of Martins Ferry;



Billy Merryman and Dustin Sadlowski of Shadyside; Mark Markakis and Brandyn Frey of Steubenville; Zach Gust and Carl Perkins of Union Local; Robbie Davia of Harrison Central; Kyle Rader of Monroe Central; Justin Kaufmann of Steubenville Catholic; Troy Starr of River; Jon Figel of Indian Creek; Cory Johnson of Edison; Ryan Stowers of East Liverpool; Shane Bishop and Isaac Omaitis of Buckeye Local; Tyler Robinson of Bellaire; Brandon Hunter of Toronto; Michael Bachie of Bridgeport; Jim Reisz of Beallsville; and Zane Carter of Wellsville.

Ohio's projected two-deep depth chart offensively includes Davis and Davia at quarterback; Troy Starr and Wheeler at tailback; Markakis and Sadlowski at fullback; Gust and Vincent at flanker; Bond-Zielinski and Carter at wide receiver; Bachie

See OVAC page B-3



Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian
l to r, Billy Merryman of Ceye Trail, Robbie Davia of lle, Kyle Rader of Monroe ville Catholic, Joe Wheeler ine of St. Clairsville, Kirk al of Edison, Cory Johnson Liverpool, Jake Antolak of rtins Ferry, Adam Eagleson hr of Barnesville, Brandon ille, Herman Timmersjo of oach Brian Kittle, assistant nt coach Bruce Stiles, assis-



ff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian
row, l to r, Logan Jarrett of sh Frankos of Brooke, John Oparanozie of Linsly, Steven of Tyler Consolidated, Chris J. Depew, Lucas Goodwin of hn Marshall, Logan Efaw of , Jesse Campbell of Brooke, Sam Cecil of Linsly, Drake James Cowart, Dave Vetanze Cameron, Haden Kocher of th row, assistant coach Josh k.

SPORTS

For comments regarding local sports stories, or ideas for future stories, please e-mail harrison@daily-jeff.com

'D' sparkles as Ohio wins OVAC Classic

Several area players have big impact on 31-7 win; Buckeyes have now won 13 of last 14 games

EFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

WHEELING, W. Va. — It is a night to shine for several players from the western flank of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference as Ohio made it 13 wins in the last 14 matchups by winning to a 31-7 victory over



West Virginia in the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic for a nice-sized crowd at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Among the offensive catalysts were Shenandoah's hard-nosed running back Joe Wheeler along Buckeye Trail's Brock Davis and Sam Bond-Zielinski while on defense.

stalwarts included Cambridge's Kirk Wetherell and Trail's Dan Starr.

Toss in some dominating pass rushing from the likes of Isaac Omais of Buckeye Local and Dustin Sadlowski of Shadyside and "D" ruled the day for Ohio. Not only did West Virginia have just seven total yards offensively with under 10 minutes to play, the Buckeye defense nearly outscored its offense (offense-16, defense-15) in what turned out to be a total mismatch.

Understandably pleased following the mid-summer classic was Buckeye Trail head coach Randy Thompson, who pretty much did it his way in selecting some cat-quick defensive players who proved too much to handle for the bigger West Virginians.

"We drafted those linebackers and people chirped all week about big on quick," Thompson commented. "Our kids really showed what they were made of tonight."

"The kids did a great job

defensively; our defensive might have even outscored our offense," he acknowledged. "What can you say? Defense wins championships and it won for us tonight."

Ohio set the tone with the opening possession, moving from its 30 to the W. Va. 25-yard line where Swedish import Herman Timmersjo of Martins Ferry boomed a 42-yard field goal for a 3-0 Buckeye lead with 8:27 on the first quarter clock.

"We drove it right down the field and that was a good way to get us off an rolling," said Thompson.

The Trail combo of Davis and Bond-Zielinski put Ohio on the board again at the 4:01 mark of round one with a 24-yard TD pass connection, with Timmersjo adding the point-after kick for a 10-0 spread.

That scored held up through halftime where the OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band put on a dazzling show and then the defensive one-two punch of Wetherell and Starr got the

Buckeyes on the board again. Wetherell, who had five or six defensive stops from his linebacker post, separated a West Virginia running back from the ball deep and Starr was "Danny on the spot" as he pounced on the pigskin in the end zone for a TD.

A mishandled snap foiled the PAT, but Ohio's lead had ballooned to 16-0 at the 5:04 mark of the third quarter.

Wheeler started to make an impact on Ohio's next drive, pushing the ball down deep where Harrison Central QB Robbie Davia executed a nifty fake and scampered around the left side for a six-yard TD. The PAT out of a muddle-huddle formation was stopped, but it was now 22-0 with 11:52 remaining in the game.

Back-to-back sacks by the Ohio stop-troops — led by the ever-present Omais — resulted in another fumble recovery for a TD by the Buckeyes, this time by Bellaire's Tyler Robinson. Timmersjo's PAT was true and it was 29-0 with 9:54 left.

West Virginia's offense finally woke up and a nine-play, 83-yard TD march ensued. John Marshall's Jacob Lohri had a 25-yard rush and caught a 29-yard pass from Wheeling Central's Alex Peluchette along the way, and it was a 17-yard TD strike from Bishop Donahue's Michael Angalich to teammate Lionel Hampton which got the Mountaineers on the scoreboard.

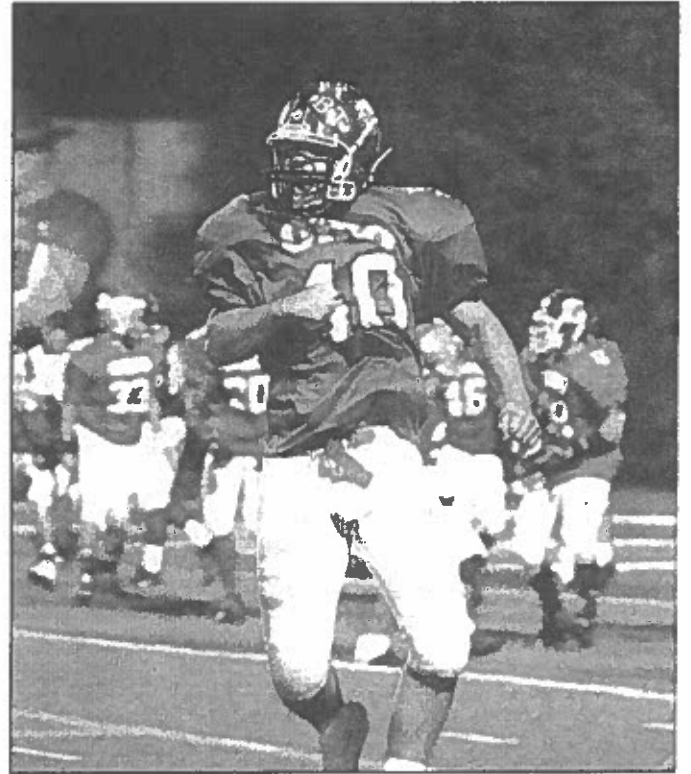
Central's Michael Duplaga kicked the extra-point, making it 29-7 with 5:30 left.

Ohio got another defensive score with 3:32 left when Steubenville's Mark Markakis — another solid defensive performer all night — sacked the West Virginia ballcarrier in the end zone for a safety and the final margin.

Ohio finished with a big 292-76 edge in net yardage.

The Buckeyes had 215 yards rushing, with Wheeler collecting 67 yards on nine carries; Davis getting 50 on four attempts; and River's Starr adding 40 yards on 11 totes. Davia was 4-of-9 passing for 53 yards and one INT and Davis hit 1-of-2 for 24 yards.

For West Virginia, Peluchette and Angalich combined for



Ryan Pavlov/The Daily Jeffersonian
Cambridge linebacker Kirk Wetherell jumps in the air after he tackled a West Virginia ballcarrier and forced a fumble, which was recovered by Buckeye Trail's Dan Starr in the end zone for an Ohio TD.



Ryan Pavlov/The Daily Jeffersonian
Members of the Ohio All-Star defense, including Cambridge's Kirk Wetherell (40), tackle West Virginia quarterback Alex Peluchette of Wheeling Central during Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium.



Ryan Pavlov/The Daily Jeffersonian

13 completions in 21 attempts while Lohri's one carry for 25 yards was about it for the ground game which closed with minus-56 yards in 28 plays.

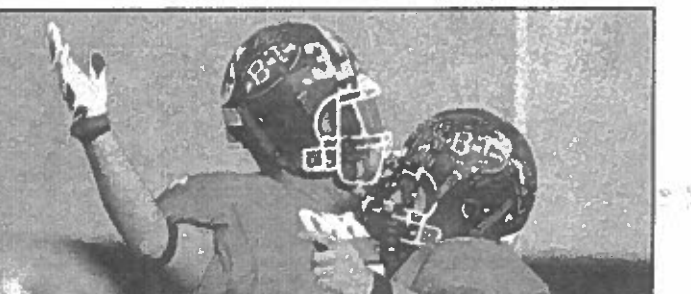
Thompson was quick to praise the entire week-long extravaganza as a first-class operation by the OVAC.

"We really appreciate the OVAC and the Ohio Valley and it was just great to be a part of this," he offered. "You've got to love those kids. You have



Ryan Pavlov/The Daily Jeffersonian
Shenadoah High's Joe Wheeler (32) picks up good yardage after taking a handoff from Harrison Central QB Robbie Davis (12) during the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. Wheeler rushed for 67 yards on nine carries to lead the Buckeyes' running attack.

63RD ANNUAL RUDY MUMLEY OVAC ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CHARITY CLASSIC				
OHIO 31, West Virginia 7				
Ohio	10	0	6	15 — 31
West Virginia	0	0	0	7 — 7
First Quarter				
OH—Herman Timmersjo (Martins Ferry), 42 field goal, 8:27.				
OH—Sam Bond-Zielinski (Buckeye Trail), 24 pass from Brock Davis (Buckeye Trail) (Timmersjo kick), 4:01.				
Third Quarter				
OH—Dan Starr (Buckeye Trail), recovered fumble in endzone (PAT failed), 5:04.				
Fourth Quarter				
OH—Robbie Davia (Harrison Central), 6 run (run failed), 11:52.				
OH—Tyler Robinson (Bellaire), recovered fumble in end zone (Timmersjo kick), 9:54.				
WV—Lionel Hampton (Bishop Donahue), 17 pass from Michael Angalich (Bishop Donahue) (Michael Duplaga, Wheeling Central), kick, 5:31.				
OH—safety, Mark Markakis (Steubenville), tackled ballcarrier in end zone, 3:44.				



OH WV

lowing the mid-summer classic was Buckeye Trail head coach Randy Thompson, who pretty much did it his way in selecting some cat-quick defensive players who proved too much to handle for the bigger West Virginians.

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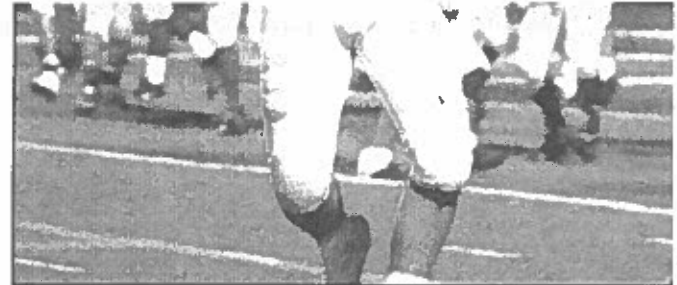
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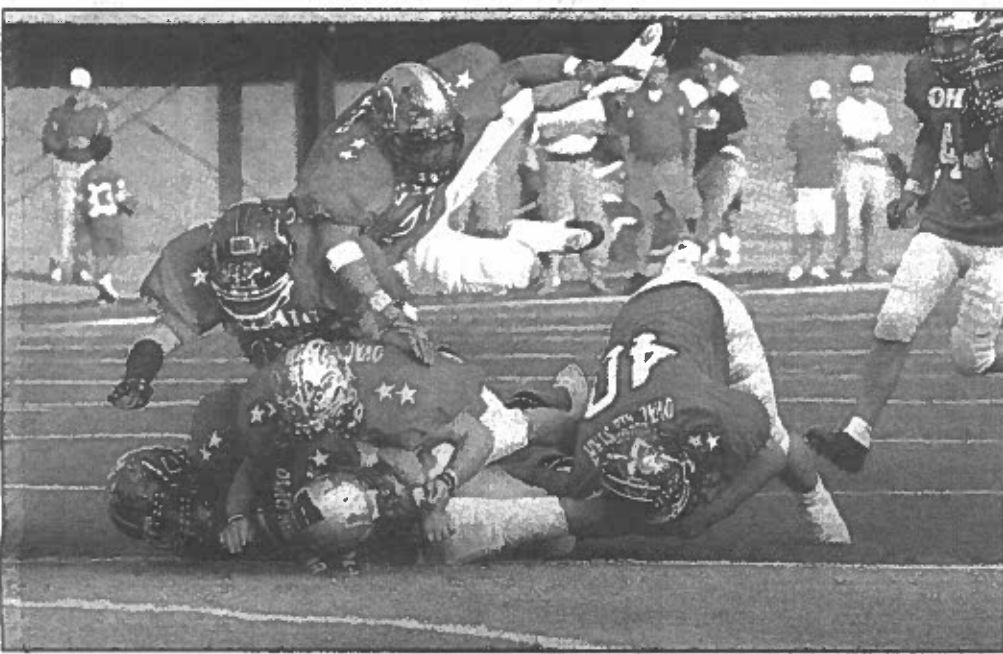
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Cambridge linebacker Kirk Wetherell jumps in the air after he tackled a West Virginia ballcarrier and forced a fumble which was recovered by Buckeye Trail's Dan Starr in the end zone for an Ohio TD.



Ryan Pavlov/The Daily Jeffersonian
Five members of the Ohio All-Star defense, including Cambridge's Kirk Wetherell (40), sacks West Virginia quarterback Alex Peluchette of Wheeling Central during Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium.

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"We really appreciate the OVAC and the Ohio Valley and it was just great to be a part of this," he offered. "You've got to love those kids. You have



your own kids all season and we only had these kids for seven days, but they worked so hard and were a pleasure to coach."



Ryan Pavlov/The Daily Jeffersonian
Shenadoah High's Joe Wheeler (32) picks up good yardage after taking a handoff from Harrison Central QB Robbie Davis (12) during the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. Wheeler rushed for 67 yards on nine carries to lead the Buckeyes' running attack.



Ryan Pavlov/The Daily Jeffersonian
Quarterback Brock Davis of Buckeye Trail runs the ball past Brooke's Scott Victorio during early action in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium.

63RD ANNUAL RUDY MUMLEY OVAC ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CHARITY CLASSIC

OHIO 31, West Virginia 7

Ohio	10	0	6	15	31
West Virginia	0	0	0	7	7

First Quarter
 OH—Herman Timmersjo (Martins Ferry), 42 field goal, 8:27.
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 OH—safety, Mark Markakis (Steubenville), tackled ballcarrier in end zone, 3:44.

	OH	WV
First Downs	15	7
Rushes-yards	40-215	28(-56)
Passing yards	77	132
Comp-Att-Int	5-13-2	13-21-0
Fumbles-lost	1-0	2-2
Penalties-yds	10-67	8-55
Punts-avg.	2-34.0	6-37.8

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Ohio, Joe Wheeler (Shenandoah), 9-67, Brock Davis (Buckeye Trail), 4-50, Troy Starr (River), 11-40, Robbie Davis (Harrison Central), 6-35, Steve Berer (Buckeye Trail), 3-21, Dustin Sadlowski (Steady Side), 2-5, Mark Markakis (Steubenville), 4-0, Anthony Vincent (St. Clairsville), 1(-3). West Virginia, Jacob Lohri (Tyler Consolidated), 1-25, Michael Angalich (Bishop Donahue), 6(-40), Chidozie Oparanozie (Linsly), 5-1, Scott Victorio (Brooke), 1(-7), Jacob Carnahan (John Marshall), 1(-19), Chris Martin (Wheeling Central), 1-2, Allen Earnest (Wheeling Park), 2-0, Alex Peluchette (Wheeling Central), 9(-14).

PASSING—Ohio, Davia 4-9-1-53, Davis 1-2-0-24, Billy Meryman (Shadyside), 1-2-1-3. West Virginia, Peluchette (Wheeling Central) 11-14-0-109, Angalich (Bishop Donahue), 2-7-0-17.

RECEIVING—Ohio, Sam Bond-Zielinski (Buckeye Trail), 1-24; Wheeler (Shenandoah), 1-18, Jimmy Reisz (Bealsville), 1-17; Vincent (St. C.), 1-10, Zach Gust (Union Local), 1-8; Zane Carter (Weilsville), 1-3. West Virginia, Lohri (John Marshall), 2-49, Steven Buffo (Weir), 2-17, Carnahan (John Marshall), 2-38, David Richmond (Bishop Donahue), 2-5, Oparanozie (Linsly), 1-7; Victorio (Brooke), 1-5, Lionel Hampton (Bishop Donahue), 1-14.

INTERCEPTIONS—Ohio, none. West Virginia, Peluchette (Wheeling Central), 11-14-0-109; Josh Francis (Brooke); Victorio (Brooke).

FUMBLE RECOVERIES—Ohio, Dan Starr (Buckeye Trail), Tyler Robinson (Bellaire). West Virginia, none.

KICKOFF RETURNS—Ohio, Gust (Union Local), 1-23, Vincent (St. C.), 1-3; Carter (Weilsville), 1-0. West Virginia, Victorio (Brooke), 2-25, Martin (Wheeling Central), 1-20; Kaufmann (John Marshall), 1-14.

PUNT RETURNS—Ohio, Vincent (St. C.), 2-31, Reisz (Bealsville), 3-8. West Virginia, Martin (Wheeling Central), 2-8.



Ryan Pavlov/The Daily Jeffersonian
A large crowd was in attendance at Wheeling Island Stadium Sunday night for the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic. Ohio made it 13 wins in the last 14 games, winning by a 31-7 score.



Ryan Pavlov/The Daily Jeffersonian
Sam Bond-Zielinski and Brock Davis of Buckeye Trail chest bump after Bond-Zielinski scored the first touchdown of the game on a 24-yard pass from Davis.

For comments regarding local sports stories, or ideas for future stories, please e-mail jharrison@daily-jeff.com

SPORTS

Tuesday
July 22, 2008

OVAC All-Stars getting down to business Trail's Thompson pleased with makeup of Ohio team for Sunday's game

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

Introductions have been exchanged and media day obligations are out of the way, so it's down to business for the players and coaches as they prepare all week long for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic slated Sunday evening at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Buckeye Trail High coach Randy Thompson, selected to guide the Ohio squad in this year's mid-summer extravaganza which annual draws between 8,000-10,000 to the unofficial start of football season in the OVAC, was pleasantly surprised that his players came to camp ready to go.

"It's such an honor for these kids to be here at this game," Thompson stated. "They've known they were selected for some time now and they came into camp in shape. Every one of them has been working out and lifting, so I don't see a whole lot of rust on these kids."

"It's just a matter of acclimation to our system and getting used to each other," the Buckeye boss continued. "Coming in, I only really know four kids here (the four Buckeye Trail players — Brock Davis, Dan Starr, Steve Beros and Sam Bond-Zielinski), but they're all great kids and everyone just needs to get to know one-another. They've responded very well to the coaches."

Even after just a day-and-a-half of workouts, Thompson says things are progressing nicely.

"We started with a little bit of the offense on Sunday because offense is always going to be behind the defense," he said, "but even today (Monday), things went so much better already."

While acknowledging that Ohio will probably be the favorite as is usually the case, Thompson says it's hardly a foregone conclusion of the outcome.

"We're going to have to execute because West Virginia will be a force," he offered. "It's like any other football game, we'll do what we do best. We've got a lot of strong, athletic linebackers and some athletic linemen, good wideouts and plenty of capable tailbacks. We've got great individuals, but they have to play as a team for us to be as good as we can be on Sunday."

Thompson doesn't see overconfidence as an issue at all.

"You always want a certain amount of confidence and swagger," he commented, "and you have to know where that line is, but our kids seem to be pretty grounded. They know that Ohio's always the



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

Selected to participate in the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic from the local area on the Ohio squad are, front row l to r, Sam Bond-Zielinski, Brock Davis, Dan Starr and Steve Beros of Buckeye Trail; back row, Michael Wehr of Barnesville, Adam Eagleson of Meadowbrook, Kirk Wetherell of Cambridge and Joe Wheeler of Shenandoah. Kickoff for Sunday's game at Wheeling Island Stadium is set for 7:15 p.m. Advance tickets costing \$7 are available through Friday at The Daily Jeffersonian office during business hours.

favorite, but West Virginia certainly has some weapons. We know we've got to be ready to play or they'll smack us."

In addition to practicing in the heat on the campus of West Liberty State College, there are several other events planned for the all-stars throughout the week: the Osiris Shrine Film and Pizza Party on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at West Liberty; the George Strager 'Evening with the Stars' banquet at Wheeling Park's White Palace

on Wednesday at 6 p.m.; an Ice Cream Social at West Liberty on Thursday; the Queen of Queens pageant on Friday at 7 p.m. at WesBanco Arena; and the All-Star Pep Rally at West Liberty's Russek Field on Saturday at 6 p.m.

Pre-game activities begin Sunday at 6:30 p.m. with the McDonald's OVAC All-Star Band and Queen of Queens introductions, with kickoff set for 7:15 p.m.

Ohio Faces Challenge

Thompson says
W.Va. explosive

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

Randy Thompson really likes the make up of his offensive unit from the skill players to the line.

He also knows West Virginia likes its offensive squad for the upcoming 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, meaning putting together the defensive prospects was equally important.

"We know West Virginia is going to bring some weapons to the game," said Thompson, who will guide the Buckeyes in the annual summer classic. "We wanted to get a lot of speed and we think we've done that, but we also know we've got to play well. We've got a nice luxury in this game of kids not having to go both ways, so I think that will benefit us."

The Ohio defensive line and linebackers are comprised of: Kirk Wetherell (Cambridge), Daniel Starr (Buckeye Trail); Tyler Robinson (Bellaire), Dustin Sadlowski (Shadyside), Kyle Rader (Monroe Central); Carl Perkins (Union Local), Mark Markakis (Steubenville), John Earliwine (St. Clairsville), Adam Eagleson (Meadowbrook) and Isaac Omais (Buckeye Local).

Here is a capsule look at the players:

KIRK WETHERELL, Cambridge — This former Bobcat was a two-way standout for four years for Coach Rick Goodrich as a linebacker and a fullback.

The 5-foot-10, 195 pounder was a linebacker for four years and was named first-team all-Ohio in Division III. He was first-team all-OVAC, All-Valley and all-ECOL. He was also the first Bobcats athlete to earn 12 letters, earning four in football, baseball and wrestling.

Kirk, who is the son of Skip and Ann Wetherell of Cambridge, is still deciding between West Liberty for baseball and Mt. Union for football.

DANIEL STARR, Buckeye Trail — This former Warrior was a defensive whiz at linebacker.

The 5-11, 195 pounder recorded 129 tackles and eight sacks last season.

Starr was a first-team all-Ohio pick, all-district, all-OVAC, All-Valley and all-PVC selection last season.

Daniel, who is the son of Dan and Jo Starr of Seneca, plans to attend Marietta College.

TYLER ROBINSON, Bellaire — This former Big Reds two-way standout was one of the few bright spots for a season to remember for first-year head coach Gregg Bonar.

The 6-0,
205



Wetherell



D. Starr



Robinson



Sadlowski



Rader



Perkins



Markakis



Earliwine



Omais



pounder played defensive end, linebacker and tackle.

Robinson was a first-team all-Buckeye 8 performer.

Tyler, who is undecided upon his college plans, is the son of Katherine Pitts of Bellaire.

DUSTIN SADLOWSKI, Shadyside — This former Tiger was a two-way standout for Coach Ty Fleming's outfit the last four seasons.

The 5-10, 180 pounder recorded more than 160 tackles and ran for more than 1,000 yards.

Sadlowski, who was a two-time, first-team all-Ohioan and two-time all-OVAC and All-Valley pick, owns the Shadyside career record for tackles with 525.

Dustin, who is the son of Dave and Crystal Sadlowski, plans to attend Ohio University-Eastern.

KYLE RADER, Monroe Central — This former Seminole contributed both as a linebacker and fullback for Coach Jay Circosta's club.

As a linebacker last season, Rader recorded 90 tackles in nine games and had four sacks.

The 6-0, 200 pounder was all-District, all-PVC, all-OVAC and was all-PVC/OVAC Academic.

Kyle, who is the son of Dan and Angie Rader of Lewisville, plans to attend Marietta College.

CARL PERKINS, Union Local — This former Jet was a stud in the middle for Coach Mark Cisar last season.

Perkins recorded 194 tackles, including 124 solo stops. He also had four sacks, four hurries, two forced fumbles, two fumbles recovered and eight tackles for loss.

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John, who is the son of John and Susan Earliwine, is undecided upon his future plans.

Adam, who is the son of Gene and Margie Omais, plans on attending West Liberty State College.

and all-Times Leader.

Carl, who is the son of Carl Perkins and Donna Giesey of Barnesville, is undecided about college.

MARK MARKAKIS, Steubenville — This former Big Red standout was a key contributor the last three years for Coach Reno Saccoccia's squad.

The 5-11, 205 pounder saw time as a linebacker and a fullback. He made 90 stops and led the team in hurries. He had 10 tackles for loss.

He was a first-team all-District, all-OVAC, All-Valley, all-Quad County, and special mention all-Ohio.

Mark, who is the son of Mark and Karen Markakis, will attend Ohio Dominican University.

JOHN EARLIWINE, St. Clairsville — This former Red Devil was nearly unblockable.

The 5-9, 200 pounder was at middle linebacker and also spent time at defensive tackle. He also saw time at running back.

John, who is undecided upon his future plans, is the son of John and Susan Earliwine.

A D A M E A G L E - S O N, Meadowbrook — This defensive end was tough to block.

The 6-3, 240 pounder was a first-team all-ECOL and all-OVAC pick and was second-team all-district.

Adam, who will attend Marietta College, is the son of Joseph and Cynthia Eagleson of Byesville.

ISAAC OMAITS, Buckeye Local — This Panther was a two-way standout for Coach Ron Pobolish at defensive end and tight end.

Defensively, Omais recorded 50 tackles, five sacks, had an interception and recovered four fumbles.

Omais was a first-team Buckeye 8, Eastern District, All-Valley, all-OVAC and all-Times Leader.

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SPORTS

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Thursday,
July 17, 2008

Thompson likes make-up of OVAC offensive unit

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Randy Thompson really likes the make-up of his offensive unit from the skill players to the line.

He also knows West Virginia likes its offensive squad for the upcoming 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, meaning putting together the defensive prospects was equally important.

"We know West Virginia is going to bring some weapons to the game," said Thompson who will guide the Buckeyes in the annual summer classic. "We wanted to get a lot of speed and we think we've done that, but we also know we've got to play well. We've got a nice luxury in this game of kids not having to go both ways, so I think that will benefit us."

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The 5-ft-11, 195 pounder recorded 129 tackles, eight sacks this past season.

Starr was a first-team all-Ohio pick, all-district, all-OVAC and all-PVC selection this past season.

Starr is also a member of the National Honor Society.

See, **THOMPSON**, Page C2

● Thompson

Continued from Page C1

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yards.

Sadlowski was a two-time first-team all-Ohioan and two-time all-OVAC pick and two-time first-team all-Ohio and owns the Shadyside High career record for tackles with 525.

Along with football, Sadlowski was also active in basketball, concert band and JETS.

Dustin, who is the son of Dave Sadlowski and Crystal Sadlowski, plans on attending Ohio University-Eastern.

KYLE RADER, Monroe Central – This former Seminole contributed both as a linebacker and fullback for Coach Jay Circosta's club.

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The 6-ft, 200 pounder was all-District, all-PVC,

all-OVAC and was all-PVC/OVAC Academic.

Along with athletics, Rader was active in Drama Club, Thespian Club and National Honor Society.

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Along with football, Markakis was active in wrestling, baseball and Key Club.

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The 6-ft-3, 240 pounder was a first-team all-ECOL and all-OVAC pick and was second-team all-district.

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As a defensive end, Omais recorded 50 tackles, five sacks, had an interception and recovered four fumbles.

Omais was a first-team Buckeye 8, Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-Times Leader.

Omais is also a member of the Panthers' hoop squad and serves in his church youth group.

Isaac, who is the son of Gene and Margie Omais, plans on attending West Liberty State College.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

Thompson Chooses Ohio Coaches

Warriors head man joined by four of his Trail assistants

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

Going into last season, Randy Thompson knew the kind of team his Buckeye Trail Warriors had a chance to be.

He also looked ahead and saw it was the turn in the rotation for Class 2-A to get the opportunity to coach in the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

After a perfect 10-0 regular season and the OVAC title, Thompson and his Warriors staff will have the opportunity to stroll the sidelines at Wheeling Island Stadium Sunday, July 27 when Ohio takes on West Virginia in the annual summer classic.

"I was really excited when we got word that we would be coaching in this game," Thompson said. "We had to figure out which coaches we wanted to bring and they are all looking forward to the opportunity."

Thompson and his coaching staff has been working on the All-Star Game for quite some time, despite the fact that the players and coaches don't report to West Liberty State College until July 20 to begin official preparations.

"It was a tough process picking the team," Thompson said. "We called coaches, sought advice and now we can just focus on coaching football. We want to win this game, and that's going to be our main objective."

Thompson will oversee the offense for the Ohio squad. His coaching staff will include: Jason Davis (defensive backs/wide receivers), Brian Kittle (running backs); Richard Mercer (offense);

Steve Mercer (defense), Bill Starr and Bruce Stiles (defense).

Here is a capsule look at the coaches:

RANDY THOMPSON just wrapped up his seventh season as the head coach at Buckeye Trail and has compiled a mark of 48-24 during that time. He's led his Warriors to three playoff berths.

Thompson has received Eastern District Coach of the Year three times (2002, 2006 and 2007), and after the 2002 season, he was named Associated Press State Coach of the Year. He's been named PVC Coach of the Year two straight seasons.

Thompson came to Old Washington after spending 13 years as a top aide to Jake Olsavsky at his alma mater Union Local. Along with football, Thompson was also a highly successful track coach at Union Local, earning Eastern District Coach of the Year in 1998. Thompson is a 1970 graduate of Union Local, and he went on to earn his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Bethany College and then earned a Master's Degree from Franciscan University in Steubenville.

Randy has been married to the former Cheryl Dymidowski for 32 years. They reside in Flushing. The couple has two children, Capt. Josh Thompson and Lt. Miranda Thompson, both of whom are members of the United States Air Force.

JASON DAVIS has been a member of the Warriors' staff for two seasons after serving two seasons as a graduate assistant at Kent State University.

Davis is a 1992 Meadowbrook graduate where he lettered in football, basketball and track. He earned his degree from Kent State in 1998 in exercise physiology. Along with coaching, Davis is also a member of the Ohio Valley Board of Basketball Officials.

Jason and his wife Stephanie have been married for eight years and



have a 2-year old daughter Kaylee. The Davis family resides in Wheeling.

BRIAN KITTLE has been a member of the Buckeye Trail Warriors staff since his graduation from the school in 2001.

Kittle earned his bachelor's degree from Muskingum College after wrapping up a successful prep football and baseball career for the Blue and White.

He was a first-team all-Ohio football player in 2000 and took part in the 2001 OVAC All-Star Classic.

RICHARD MERCER joins the Ohio staff via Union Local. The long-time Jets assistant, who spent the 2004 season under Thompson at Trail before returning to his alma mater, will be along the Ohio sideline this season.

Mercer has been coaching football for a total of 13 years. He also coached for two seasons at Beallsville High.

Along with his football responsibilities, Mercer is also the Jets' head baseball coach and guided his squad to the 2007 OVAC title and a berth in the district tournament the past two seasons. He was named Times Leader Coach of the Year after the 2007 campaign.

Mercer and his wife Krissy have two sons, Brice (9) and Kaden (7). The Mercers reside in Belmont.

STEVE MERCER has been a football coach for 20 years and has spent the last four of those seasons on the Warriors' coaching staff working under Thompson.

Mercer also serves as an assistant

baseball coach under his son Rich at Union Local and has previously served as a football coach at Beallsville and also worked with junior high sports for the Blue Devils.

The Beallsville graduate was a standout prep player for the Blue Devils, playing on two OVAC-title winning teams and on the first perfect team in Beallsville history.

Steve, who is the general manager of Doan Ford in Morristown, is married to Karen and they have one son and two grandchildren.

BILL STARR has spent the last 20 years working at Buckeye Trail and has spent 15 years coaching football — the last five as an assistant.

Starr also coached football and softball at Cambridge High School, which is his alma mater. He's also coached baseball and volleyball during his teaching career.

The 1982 Bobcats graduate earned his degree from Taylor University in 1987 where he played football.

Bill and his wife Lori have three daughters: Leslie (18), Maggie (16) and Annie (12). The Starrs reside in Cambridge.

BRUCE STILES has been a football coach for 24 years and has spent 21 at his current place of employment, St. Clairsville High School.

Stiles, who served on the Ohio coaching staff a season ago, had coached under Thompson at Trail before returning to the Red Devils' sideline. He also coached at Barnesville.

The Union Local High School graduate also serves as the chief assistant of the St. Clairsville girls' basketball team. Along with that assignment, he's spent time on the track and boys basketball staffs.

Bruce, who graduated from Salem College, owns a master's degree from the University of Dayton.

Bruce and his wife Leslie have a son Zak and a daughter Carlee. The Stiles' family resides in Bethesda.

SPORTS

SUNDAY NEWS-REGISTER — WHEELING, W. VA.

Mountaineers Have it Covered

W. Va. coach adds secondary, kicker to All-Star lineup

By **SETH STASKEY**
For the News-Register

The Ohio offense has deep-play threats all over the field on the flanks with capable quarterbacks.

That means the defensive backfield for the Mountaineers is going to be a very crucial element to the squad and West Virginia head coach B.J. Depew thinks he's got capable cover people and on top of that he likes his special teams as the Mountaineers and Buckeyes report to camp today to begin preparations for next week's 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"I think we've got a good group of guys coming to play in the defensive backfield," Depew said. "We're not sure on all of the spots, but we know we've got some athletic, quick guys who can cover, so we're excited about getting them into camp and seeing what they are capable of."

Set to handle the defensive backfield and serve in a specialties capacity are the following players: David Richmond (Bishop Donahue), Jacob Lohri (Tyler), Dustin Hawkins (Cameron), Josh Frankos (Brooke) and Michael Duplaga (Wheeling Central).

Here is a capsule look at the players:

David Richmond
Bishop Donahue



Duplaga



Lohri



Richmond

This former Bishop did a little bit of everything for Coach John Durdines' squad last season.

The 5-foot-11, 180-pounder led the Bishops in all-purpose yards with 1,409 and he led the team with 106 points. As a defender, he had 152 tackles to lead the team, he also had two sacks and an interception.

He was a second-team all-state pick, but a first-team all-OVAC, all-Mason Dixon, all-River Valley and All-Valley. He took part in last month's North-South Game.

He also took part in track and wrestling for Donahue.

Away from athletics, Richmond is a standout in the classroom. He's a member of the National Honor Society and volunteers for several organizations throughout the community.

David, who plans on attending West Liberty State College, is the son of Lou and Debbie Richmond of Glen Dale.

Jacob Lohri

Tyler Consolidated

This former Silver Knight wore a lot of hats this past season for head coach Rob Caldwell.

The 5-8, 160-pounder was a standout at running

back, carrying the ball for 1,732 yards and 22 scores. He also had 132 receiving yards.

Lohri was a first-team all-state pick, all-OVAC, All-Valley and all-Parkersburg News-Sentinel team.

Jacob, who plans on attending West Virginia University, is the son of Mary Lohri and the late Eric Lohri.

Dustin Hawkins
Cameron

This former Dragon was a two-way standout for Coach Jim Rogers' team.

The 5-ft-11, 175 pounder threw for 693 yards and four touchdowns as a quarterback and he also ran for 493 yards and two scores. He was also a defensive standout with 19 solo tackles and 22 assists from his defensive back spot.

He was a first-team all-OVAC and Mason-Dixon pick, but a second-team all-River Valley.

Along with football, Hawkins played basketball and baseball for the Dragons.

Away from athletics, he was active in National Honor Society, Future Farmers of America, 4-H and served as his senior class president.

Dustin, who is the son of Gerald and Julie Hawkins

of Cameron, plans on attending West Liberty.

Josh Frankos
Brooke

This former Bruin saw action at a bevy of positions for Coach Dave Reitter's club last fall.

The 6-0, 185-pounder saw time at quarterback, wide receiver and defensive back, making him a versatile pick for the Mountaineers.

Frankos was a member of the Weir High 2005 state championship team before coming to the Bruins.

He was also an all-American Scholar and listed among Who's Who for athletics.

Along with athletics, he's the president of the biology club and a member of the ARLE Club.

Josh, who plans on attending Westminster College in Pennsylvania, is the son of Mike and Treva Frankos of Weirton.

Michael Duplaga
Wheeling Central

This former Maroon Knight was a viable weapon with his foot for head coach Mike Young.

The 5-7, 150-pounder was a second-team all-state pick after converting 79 PATs and three field goals as a senior. He had 153 points all told in his two seasons doing the kicking.

He was also the only kicker mentioned on the all-OVAC squad.

Along with athletics, Duplaga is the vice president of his class and volunteers with Peer Ministry at the 18th Street Center.

Michael, who plans on attending West Liberty, is the son of Mike and Alyssa Duplaga.

W.Va. Backfield is Talented

Mountaineers roster loaded at skill positions

By **SETH STASKEY**
For the **Intelligencer**

With the rosters and coaching staffs announced, West Virginia head coach B.J. Depew began sorting some of his players into positional groups.

Depew has announced his backfield candidates for the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, which is set for July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We want to be able to spread the field and distribute the ball to our weapons," Depew said. "We think we've got a solid pair of quarterbacks and a nice mixture of speed and power at the running back spot."

Slated to battle in camp for the starting quarterback job are Wheeling Central's Alex Pelechutte and Bishop Donahue's Michael Angalich.

"Alex and Michael should complement each other well," Depew said. "Alex is more of the all-purpose quarterback, while Michael is more of a passer and that's how we intend to use him."

At the running back spot, Depew has opted to go with Brooke's Scott Victorio, Wheeling Central's Chris Martin, Weirton Madonna's John McCune, Valley's Haden Kocher and Linsly's Chidozie Oparanozie.

"We've got speed guys and a couple of power guys," Depew said of his running back collection. "We hope to utilize the speed of our backs to open up some things for other skill guys, including Alex to use his deception when he's in the game."

Here is a capsule look at the players who returned their bio sheets:

MICHAEL ANGALICH, Bishop Donahue — This former Bishops signal caller was one of the main reasons in the Donahue turnaround.

He finished his prep career with 5,074 passing yards and



Angalich



Martin



McCune



Oparanozie



Victorio

48 touchdown passes. He threw for 1,942 yards and 24 scores this past season, while completing nearly 68 percent of his throws.

The 6-foot-2, 185 pounder was recognized for his fine season as a second-team all-state pick, captain of the All-Valley team, first-team all-OVAC, first-team Mason Dixon, first-team River Valley and was named Elks and WTRF Athlete of the Month and Week, respectively.

Angalich is also active as a student. He's a member of the National Honor Society, Mamot Youth Group. He also volunteers at the 18th Street Center and with Special Olympics. He also serves as a church altar server.

Michael — who is the son of Dan and Kim Angalich of Glen Dale — plans on attending West Virginia Wesleyan where he intends to play football.

HADEN KOCHER, Valley — This former Lumberjack was one of the most versatile players for his father and then-Valley head coach John Kocher.

The 6-3, 150 pounder ran for 702 yards on 122 carries and scored 10 touchdowns. He also made eight catches for 186 yards and two scores this past season. As a defensive ace, he recorded three interceptions and recovered two fumbles.

Kocher's fine season was recognized as he was an honorable mention all-state pick. He was also first-team all-OVAC and all-Mason Dixon.

Along with football, Kocher was a standout in track and field and basketball.

Haden — who plans on attending West Virginia University — is the son of John and Debbie Kocher of Pine

Grove.

CHRIS MARTIN, Wheeling Central — This former Maroon Knight was a key cog in Wheeling Central's capturing of yet another West Virginia Class A state championship under head coach Mike Young.

The 6-0, 175 pounder was a running back for the Maroon Knights and accumulated 1,500 yards and scored 30 touchdowns. All told, he finished his season with 204 points and averaged 11 yards per carry, while scoring once every four times he touched the ball.

Martin's fine season earned him first-team all-state, All-OVAC, All-Valley and team Offensive Player of the Year.

Martin also gets it done in the classroom where he was a Promise Scholar and takes part in Peer Ministry and Student Aide. He's also been involved in community service drives.

Martin also claimed two state track titles this past spring in helping the Maroon Knights earn the team title.

Chris — who plans on attending West Virginia University to play football — is the son of Tim and Jan Martin of Triadelphia.

JOHN McCUNE, Weirton Madonna — This two-way standout was a key cog in recent success of the Blue Dons under head coach Bob Kramer.

McCune — a 5-11, 175 pounder — was a solid running back and linebacker for the Blue Dons.

His football prowess earned him first-team all-state this past season. He was twice named first-team All-OVAC and was a member of the All-Valley and All-Mason-Dixon teams en route to earning

three letters.

McCune was also a standout in the classroom and also played basketball for the Blue Dons.

John — who plans on attending West Virginia University in the fall — is the son of Tim and Debra McCune of Weirton.

ALEX PELECHUTTE, Wheeling Central — There's no better way to describe this former Maroon Knight than as a consummate winner. He won at everything he did, including leading Wheeling Central to three state championships as a quarterback and also an astounding 38-4 record as the quarterback.

The 6-2, 193 pounder was an affective runner and passer under Young's direction. He threw for 1,335 yards and 20 scores. He added 13 touchdowns and 740 yards on the ground this past season. He also got it done as a defensive back with three interceptions and 21 solo tackles.

Pelechutte was a two-time first-team all-state player, earning captain as a senior. He was also a two-time All-Valley and All-OVAC first-teamer was one of the five finalists for the Big 22 Player of the Year Award. He received the Dapper Dan's Upper Ohio Valley Male Athlete of the Year honor.

Along with football, Pelechutte also helped lead the Maroon Knights to the Class A state basketball championship and also the inaugural OVAC Basketball Tournament title.

Away from athletics, Pelechutte is active in Peer Ministry and GUTS.

Alex — who's been invited to walk on at WVU — is the son of Paul and Nancy Pelechutte of Wheeling.



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Sports Saturday

Saturday, July 19, 2008

Ohio names secondary, kicker

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Having guys who can cover is big and having a capable kicker is big in an all-star game.

Ohio head coach Randy Thompson thinks he's got both as he and the Ohio coaching staff prepare to report to training camp Sunday for the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, which is slated for next Sunday at Wheeling Island

Stadium.

"We've got a bunch of options for guys we can use in the secondary," Thompson said. "We are looking forward to getting them into camp and seeing who fits together the best."

Slated to handle the defensive backfield duties are: Anthony Vincent (St. Clairsville), Brandon Hunter (Toronto), Steve Beros (Buckeye Trail), Cory Johnson (Edison) and Martins Ferry's Herman Timmersjo is slated to



handle the Ohio kicking duties.

Here is a capsule look at the players:

ANTHONY VINCENT, St. Clairsville – This Red Devil did it on both sides of the ball for Coach Brett McLean's squad the past several seasons.

Vincent was the Red Devils' quarterback this season, accounting for nearly 2,000 yards of total offense. He was also a force in the defensive backfield.

His fine season earned him second-team all-Ohio, all-OVAC, all-Valley, all-Buckeye 8 and all Times Leader.

Anthony, who is the son of Joey Vincent and Michelle Vincent, plans on attending Walsh University.

BRANDON HUNTER, Toronto – This former Red Knight did a little bit of everything for Coach Brian Connelly's team last season.

He ran for 1,078 yards and 10 touchdowns and made 73 tackles as a defender, splitting time between linebacker and defensive back.

See, **OHIO**, Page D2

● Ohio

Continued from Page D1

Hunter was a first-team all-district, all-Quad County, all-OVAC selection and earned special mention all-Ohio.

Along with football, Hunter took part in track and Key Club.

Brandon, who is the son of Charles Hunter and Cheryl Hunter of Toronto, plans on attending Muskingum College.

STEVE BEROS, Buckeye Trail – This Warrior was just that for Thompson's squad this past season.

The 5-ft-10, 175 pounder ran for 1,187 yards and 11 touchdowns. He also had 35 tackles and five interceptions as a defensive back.

He was a second-team all-Ohioan after being named first-team district, all-OVAC, all-PVC and all-Valley.

Along with football, Beros is also a standout in the classroom as evidenced

by his induction to the National Honor Society. He also played baseball for the Warriors.

Steve, who is undecided about his collegiate plans, is the son of John and Jane Beros of Senecaville.

CORY JOHNSON, Edison – This former Wildcat was a versatile player for Coach Mike McKenzie's squad the past several seasons.

As a linebacker, the 6-ft-2, 220 pounder recorded 89 tackles, two interceptions, two fumble recoveries and five sacks. He's also made a name for himself as a long snapper and plans to do that chore at the University of Houston in the fall.

Johnson was also a member of the Wildcats' track team and was also a member of the Ski Club.

Cory, who is the son of Ray and

Leigh Johnson, resides in Bloomingdale.

HERMAN TIMMERSJO, Martins Ferry – This exchange student had never kicked a football before showing up in the Land of the Purple for Coach Dave Bruney.

The 6-ft-5, 235 pounder was good on 26-of-28 PAT tries and also had three field goals, including a long of 42 yards.

He was a first-team all-district and all-Buckeye 8 selection. He was also honorable mention all-Ohio.

Timmersjo was a 14-year soccer player in his home country of Sweden.

Herman is the son of Rune and Marie Timmersjo and his host family in Martins Ferry is Keith and Carol Sommer.

SPORTS

W.Va. DBs face tough task

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The Ohio offense has deep-play threats all over the field on the flanks with capable quarterbacks.

That means the defensive backfield for the Mountaineers is going to be a very crucial element to the

squad and West Virginia head coach B.J. Depew thinks he's got capable cover people and on top of that he likes his special teams as the Mountaineers and Buckeyes report to camp today to begin preparations for next week's 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

"I think we've got a good group of guys coming to play in the defensive backfield," Depew said. "We're not sure on all of the spots, but we know we've got some athletic, quick guys who can cover, so we're excited about getting them into camp and seeing what they are capable of."

Set to handle the defensive backfield and serve in a specialties capacity are the following players: David Richmond (Bishop Donahue), Jacob Lohri (Tyler), Dustin Hawkins (Cameron), Josh Frankos (Brooke) and Michael Duplaga (Wheeling Central). Here is a capsule look at



the players:
DAVID RICHMOND, Bishop Donahue - This

See, **W.VA.**, Page C2

● W.Va.

Continued from Page C1

former Bishop did a little bit of everything for Coach John Durdines' squad last season.

The 5-ft-11, 180 pounder led the Bishops in all-purpose yards with 1,409 and he led the team with 106 points. As a defender, he had 152 tackles to lead the team, he also had two sacks and an interception.

He was a second-team all-state pick, but a first-team all-OVAC, all-Mason Dixon, all-River Valley and all-Valley. He took part in last month's North-South Game.

He also took part in track and wrestling for Donahue.

Away from athletics, Richmond is a standout in the classroom. He's a member of the National Honor Society and volunteers for several organizations throughout the community.

David, who plans on attending West Liberty State College, is the son of Lou and Debbie Richmond of Glen Dale.

JACOB LOHRI, Tyler Consolidated - This former Silver Knight wore a lot of hats this past season for head coach Rob Caldwell.

The 5-ft-8, 160 pounder was a standout at running back, carrying the ball for 1,732 yards and 22 scores. He also had 132 receiving yards.

Lohri was a first-team all-state pick, all-OVAC, all-Valley and all-Parkersburg News-Sentinel team.

Jacob, who plans on attending West Virginia University, is the son of Mary Lohri and the late Eric Lohri.

DUSTIN HAWKINS, Cameron - This former Dragon was a two-way standout for Coach Jim Rogers' team.

The 5-ft-11, 175 pounder threw for 693 yards and four touchdowns as a quarterback and he also ran for 493 yards and two scores. He was also a defensive standout with 19 solo tackles and 22 assists from his defensive back spot.

He was a first-team all-OVAC and Mason-Dixon pick, but a second-team all-River Valley.

Along with football, Hawkins played basketball and baseball for the Dragons.

Away from athletics, he was active in National Honor Society, Future Farmers of America, 4-H and served as his senior class president.

Dustin, who is the son of Gerald and Julie Hawkins of Cameron, plans on attending West Liberty.

JOSH FRANKOS, Brooke - This former Bruin saw action at a bevy of positions for Coach Dave Reitter's club last fall.

The 6-ft, 185 pounder saw time at quarterback, wide receiver and defensive back, making him a versatile pick for the Mountaineers.

Frankos was a member of the Weir High 2005 state championship team before coming to the Bruins. He was also an all-American Scholar and listed among Who's Who for athletics.

Along with athletics, he's the president of the biology club and a member of the ARLE Club.

Josh, who plans on attending Westminster College in Pennsylvania, is the son of Mike and Treva Frankos of Weirton.

MICHAEL DUPLAGA, Wheeling Central - This former Maroon Knight was a viable weapon with his foot for head coach Mike Young.

The 5-ft-7, 150 pounder was a second-team all-state pick after converting 79 PATs and three field goals as a senior. He had 153 points all told in his two seasons doing the kicking.

He was also the only kicker mentioned on the all-OVAC squad.

Along with athletics, Duplaga is the vice president of his class and volunteers with Peer Ministry at the 18th Street Center.

Michael, who plans on attending West Liberty, is the son of Mike and Alyssa Duplaga.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

Ohio Finalizes Roster

Thompson selects defensive backs, specialists for team

By **SETH STASKEY**
For the News-Register

Having guys who can cover is big and having a capable kicker is too in an all-star game.

Coach Randy Thompson thinks he's got both as he and the Ohio coaching staff prepare to report to training camp today for the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, which is slated for next Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We've got a bunch of options for guys we can use in the secondary," Thompson said. "We are looking forward to getting them into camp and seeing who fits together the best."

Slated to handle the defensive backfield duties are: Anthony Vincent (St. Clairsville), Brandon Hunter (Toronto), Steve Beros (Buckeye Trail), Cory Johnson (Edison) and Martins Ferry's Herman Timmersjo is slated to handle the Ohio kicking duties.

Here is a capsule look at the players:

Anthony Vincent
St. Clairsville

This Red Devil did it on both sides of the ball for Coach Brett McLean's squad the past several seasons.

Vincent was the Red Devils' quarterback this season, accounting for nearly 2,000 yards of total offense. He was also a force in the defensive backfield.

His fine season earned him second-team all-Ohio, all-OVAC, All-Valley, all-Buckeye 8 and all-Times Leader.

Anthony, who is the son of Joey Vincent and Michelle Vincent, plans on attending Walsh University.

Brandon Hunter
Toronto

This former Red Knight did a little bit of everything for Coach Brian Connelly's team last season.

He ran for 1,078 yards and 10 touchdowns and made 73 tackles as a defender, splitting time between linebacker and defensive back.

Hunter was a first-team all-district, all-Quad County, all-OVAC selection and earned special mention all-Ohio.

Along with football, Hunter took part in track and Key Club.

Brandon, who is the son of Charles Hunter and Cheryl Hunter of Toronto, plans on



Beros



Hunter



Johnson



Vincent

attending Muskingum College.

Steve Beros
Buckeye Trail

This Warrior was just that for Thompson's squad this past season.

The 5-foot-10, 175-pounder ran for 1,187 yards and 11 touchdowns. He also had 35 tackles and five interceptions as a defensive back.

He was a second-team all-Ohioan after being named first-team district, all-OVAC, all-PVC and All-Valley.

Along with football, Beros is also a standout in the classroom as evidenced by his induction to the National Honor Society. He also played baseball for the Warriors.

Steve, who is undecided about his collegiate plans, is the son of John and Jane Beros of Senecaville.

Cory Johnson
Edison

This former Wildcat was a versatile player for Coach Mike McKenzie's squad the past several seasons.

As a linebacker, the 6-2, 220-pounder recorded 89 tackles, two interceptions, two fumble recoveries and five sacks.

He's also made a name for himself as a long snapper and plans to do that chore at the University of Houston in the fall.

Johnson was also a member of the Wildcats' track team and was also a member of the Ski Club.

Cory, who is the son of Ray and Leigh Johnson, resides in Bloomingdale.

Herman Timmersjo

This exchange student had never kicked a football before showing up in the Land of the Purple for Coach Dave Bruney.

The 6-5, 235-pounder was good on 26 of 28 PAT tries and also had three field goals, including a long of 42 yards.

He was a first-team all-district and all-Buckeye 8 selection. He was also honorable mention all-Ohio.

Timmersjo was a 14-year soccer player in his home country of Sweden.

Herman is the son of Rune and Marie Timmersjo and his host family in Martins Ferry is Keith and Carol Sommer.

One Lengthy Trip

Ohio kicker endures 18-hour plane ride to play in All-Star game

By **RICK THORP**
Staff Writer

While some players participating in Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic had to drive, at the most, an hour to get to training camp at West Liberty State College, their excursions are nothing compared to the one Herman Timmersjo made.

Timmersjo, the Ohio kicker representing Martins Ferry High School, endured nearly 18 hours of flight time to get here from Sweden.

Now that's a road trip!

Timmersjo spent the 2007-08 school year as an exchange student with Keith and Carol Sommer and their family in Martins Ferry, and played for Coach Dave Bruney's Pur-

ple Riders.

And as part of a two-week stay in the Ohio Valley, he is participating in the 63rd annual summer all-star game. He said the contest is the main reason he returned.

"I've really been impressed by it,"

Timmersjo said of the all-star festivities during a practice break Tuesday at WLSC. "I'm really excited by the game and all the activities that are going on. It's awesome."

Timmersjo, the son of Rune and Marie Timmersjo, was selected to be the Buckeyes' kicker based on the excellent season he had last fall. He was 26 of 28 on extra-point attempts and made three field goals, the longest coming from 42 yards.



Timmersjo

Please See **TRIP**, Page 18

Trip

(Continued from Page 17)

Not bad for a young man who hadn't even touched an American football before arriving from Europe. In fact, he hadn't even seen a game before.

"I played (the video game) Madden a few times (back home)," he said. "I kind of learned the basic rules (about American football) there."

Timmersjo's journey from his hometown, located in the southern part of Sweden, to the Ohio Valley started via a relative's trip to the United States.

"My cousin was here (as an exchange student) about seven years ago," he explained. "He told me about his trip here and it sounded really exciting."

"I also wanted to come here to improve my English."

When he discovered he would be coming to Martins Ferry he didn't know much about the community.

"I knew where Ohio was," Timmersjo said. "I knew it was on the river. I looked it up on Google Earth."

During his first days in Belmont County, Timmersjo

visited a Martins Ferry practice with an acquaintance who was on the team. And it didn't take Bruney long to discover he had found a gem.

"I told them I played soccer and they wanted me to kick the ball a little bit," Timmersjo recalled. "Coach Bruney was with me and he thought I was good, I guess."

Actually, Timmersjo discovered he was a natural.

"I was hitting like 50-yard field goals during my first practice," Timmersjo said.

Soon, Timmersjo was kicking the pigskin before large crowds at Purple Rider Stadium. He especially enjoyed the team's opener last fall and was enthralled with how folks in Ohio Valley worship high school football.

"The first game was great," he said. "There were a lot of people there. It was the 100th anniversary celebration. It was packed."

After Sunday's game, Timmersjo will return to Sweden, where he still has one year of school remaining.

In the future, he hopes to embark on a career in either history or international business.

SPORTS

Ohio sets backfield for OVAC Classic

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The Ohio squad for the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic has all-Ohioans all over the place when you look up and down the complete roster.

That leads to a good problem for Buckeyes and Buckeye Trail head coach Randy Thompson who began sorting through this players today as he announces his quarterbacks and running backs for the annual summer classic, which is slated for Sunday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"It's a matter of us doing a good job of evaluating and getting the kids in the right spots once we get them into camp," Thompson offered. "We want to keep things simple and let the kids execute what they know how to do."

Thompson and the Ohio staff have no fewer than four quarterbacks on the roster, but it'll be a three-way battle in camp. Slated to lock horns for playing time under center at Shadyside's Billy Merryman, Harrison Central's Robbie Davia and Buckeye Trail's Brock Davis.

The running backs could be by committee with the likes of Troy Starr (River), Justin Kaufmann (Steubenville Catholic) and Joey Wheeler (Shenandoah) leading the way entering camp.

"We've got a lot of guys we think are capable of running the ball and that's not by accident," Thompson said. "We feel we've got a really nice group of runners."

Here is a capsule look at the players:

BILLY MERRYMAN, Shadyside - This ex-Shadyside Tiger was one of the most prolific

quarterbacks in terms of numbers and wins Coach Ty Fleming's program's ever seen.

The 5-ft-10, 150 pounder threw for 6,140 yards and 66 touchdowns during his career and led his team to a 32-8 mark, including a Division VI state runner-up finish in 2006.

Merryman's senior season earned him second-team all-Ohio, first-team all-OVAC, all-Times Leader and first-team Eastern District.

Along with football, Merryman was also a standout for the Tigers' basketball and baseball teams, winning OVAC titles in both of those sports as well.

Billy - who is the son of Tim and Sharon Merryman of Shadyside - plans on attending either Ohio University-Eastern or The Ohio State University.

ROBBIE DAVIA, Harrison

- This signal caller played a major role in the turnaround of Huskies football due to his three-year stay under head coach Justin Kropka.

The 6-ft-2, 200 pounder finished his prep career with 4,762 yards and 46 touchdown passes. He also ran for 13 scores and 732 yards. This past fall, Davia put up 1,091 yards and threw for 14 touchdowns.

Davia was a first-team all-District, honorable mention all-Ohio, all-Times Leader, all-Buckeye 8 and all-OVAC this past season. He also took part in last month's North-South All-Star Game.

During his high school career, Davia was also a standout in baseball and lettered in basketball. He took part in FFA as well.

Robbie - who is still undecided on his collegiate plans - is the

son of Randy and Kim Davia of Cadiz.

BROCK DAVIS, Buckeye Trail - This two-way standout was the leader of the highly-successful and potent Warrior offense from the quarterback spot.

Davia passed for 1,727 yards and 14 touchdowns last season. He also ran for 11 touchdowns and had 35 tackles and five interceptions from his defensive back spot.

The 5-ft-11, 180 pounder was a first-team all-Ohioan and was first-team all-Eastern District and first-team all-OVAC as well as a Big 22 finalist.

Davia was also a standout in track and basketball.

Brock - who is the son of Jeffrey and Patricia Davis of Salesville - plans on attending Marietta or Muskingum College.

See, OHIO, Page C3

Ohio

Continued from Page C1

JUSTIN KAUFMANN, Steubenville Catholic - This two-way standout helped lead the Crusaders of Coach Gregg Bahen back to the Division VI playoffs last year.

As a running back, Kaufmann tallied 1,252 yards rushing en route to earning all-OVAC and all-district accolades. Kaufman was also a standout in baseball for the Crusaders.

Justin - who plans on attending Cleveland State University - is the son of Marueen Kaufman and Eric Kaufman and resides in Steubenville.

TROY STARR, River - This Pilot was one of the key reasons the Pilots made a return trip to the Division VI playoffs under head coach Mike Flannery.

Starr ran for 1,145 yards and scored 26 touchdowns on the ground. He had four receiving touchdowns and a return for a score. He had 456 yards receiving. As a defensive ace at linebacker, Starr posted 86 solo tackles, four interceptions, 12 tackles for loss and four sacks.

Starr was a first-team all-Ohio pick and Eastern District co-offensive Player of the Year. He captained the all-Times Leader team and the all-Valley team. He was first-team all-OVAC and earned Big 22 honors.

Along with football, Starr was a standout in wrestling. He was also a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council and served as Class President.

Troy - who plans on attending The Ohio State University - is the son of Clyde and Gwen Starr of Powhatan Point.

JOEY WHEELER, Shenandoah - This former Zep was a two-way standout for Coach Tim Wilson's Green and White squad, but it was as a running back where he gained most of his accolades.

The 5-ft-10, 200 pounder ran for 1,326 yards and 25 touchdowns for the Zeps en route to all-OVAC, all-PVC and all-Ohio honors. He was a three-time member of the all-Eastern District team.

Along with football, Wheeler took part in wrestling, power lifting, 4-H and wheel-chair games during his high school career. He was also a standout in track and field, placing in the state meet's long jump competition this past spring.

Joey - who is the son of Bill and Melissa Wheeler of Caldwell - plans on attending West Liberty State College. Staskey can be reached at ssaskew@timeladertonline.com

Saturday, July 5, 2008

Depew announces backfield

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

With the rosters and coaching staffs announced, West Virginia head B.J. Depew began sorting some of his players into positional groups.

Depew has announced his backfield candidates for the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, which is set for July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We want to be able to spread the field and distribute the ball to

our weapons," Depew said. "We think we've got a solid pair of quarterbacks and a nice mixture of speed and power at the running back spot."

Stated to battle in camp for the starting quarterback job are Wheeling Central's Alex Pelechutte and Bishop Donahue's Michael Angalich.

"Alex and Michael should complement each other well," Depew said. "Alex is more of the all-purpose quarterback, while Michael is more of a passer and that's how we intend to use him."

At the running back spot, Depew has opted to go with Brooke's Scott Victorio.

Wheeling Central's Chris Martin, Weirton Madonna's John McCune,

Valley's Haden Kocher and Linsly's Chidozie Oparanozie. "We've got speed guys and a couple of power guys," Depew said of his running back collection.

"We hope to utilize the speed of our backs to open up some things for other skill guys, including Alex to use his deception when he's in the game."

Here is a capsule look at the players who returned their bio sheets:

MICHAEL ANGALICH - This former Bishop Donahue - This former Bishop signal caller was one of the



main reasons in the Donahue turnaround. He finished his prep career with 5,074 passing yards and 48 touchdowns passes. He threw for 1,942 yards and 24 scores this past season, while completing nearly 68 percent of his throws.

The 6-1-2, 185 pounder was recognized for his fine season as a second-team all-state pick, captain of the all-Valley team, first-team all-OVAC, first-team Mason Dixon, first-team River Valley and was named Eiks and WTRF

See, **OVAC**, Page D2

SPORTS

● OVAC

Continued from Page D1

Athlete of the Month and Week, respectively.

Angalich is also active as a student. He's a member of the National Honor Society, Mamot Youth Group. He also volunteers at the 18th Street Center and with Special Olympics. He also serves as a church altar server.

Michael - who is the son of Dan and Kim Angalich of Glen Dale - plans on attending West Virginia Wesleyan where he intends to play football.

HADEN KOCHER, Valley - This former Lumberjack was one of the most versatile players for his father and then Valley head coach John Kocher.

The 6-ft-3, 150 pounder ran for 702 yards on 122 carries and scored 10 touchdowns. He also made eight catches for 186 yards and two scores this past season. As a defensive ace, he recorded three interceptions and recovered two fumbles.

Kocher's fine season was recognized as he was an honorable mention all-state pick. He was also first-team all-OVAC and all-Mason Dixon.

Along with football, Kocher was a standout in track and field and basketball.

Haden - who plans on attending West Virginia University - is the son of John and Debbie Kocher of Pine Grove.

CHRIS MARTIN, Wheeling Central - This former Maroon Knight was a key cog in the Knights' capturing of yet another West Virginia Class A state championship under head coach Mike Young.

The 6-ft, 175 pounder was a running back for the Knights and accumulated 1,500 yards and scored 30 touchdowns. All told, he finished his season with 204 points and averaged 11 yards per carry, while scoring once every four times he touched the ball.

Martin's fine season earned him first-team all-state, all-OVAC, all-Valley and team offensive player of the year.

Martin also gets it done in the classroom where he was a Promise Scholar and takes part in Peer Ministry and Student Aide. He's also been involved in community service drives.

Martin also claimed two state track titles this past spring in helping the Knights earn the team title.

Chris - who plans on attending West Virginia University to play football - is the son of Tim and Jan Martin of Triadelphia.

JOHN McCUNE, Weirton Madonna - This two-way standout was a key cog in recent success of the Blue Dons under head coach Bob Kramer.

McCune - a 5-ft-11, 175 pounder - was a solid running back and linebacker for the Blue Dons.

His football prowess earned him first-team all-state this past season. He was twice named first-team all-OVAC and was a member of the all-Valley and all-Mason-Dixon teams en route to earning three letters.

McCune was also a standout in the classroom and also played basketball for the Blue Dons.

John - who plans on attending West Virginia University in the fall - is the son of Tim and Debra McCune of Weirton.

ALEX PELECHUTTE, Wheeling Central - There's no better way to describe this former Knight than as a consummate winner. He won at everything he did, including leading the Knights to three state championship as a quarterback and also an astounding 38-4 record as the quarterback.

The 6-ft-2, 193 pounder was an affective runner and passer under Young's direction. He threw for 1,335 yards and 20 scores. He added 13 touchdowns and 740 yards on the ground this past season. He also got it done as a defensive back with three interceptions and 21 solo tackles.

Pelechutte was a two-time first-team all-state player, earning captaincy as a senior. He was also a two-time all-Valley and all-OVAC first-teamer was one of the five finalists for the Big 22 Player of the Year Award. He received the Dapper Dan's Upper Ohio Valley Male Athlete of the Year honor.

Along with football, Pelechutte also helped lead the Maroon Knights to the Class A state basketball championship and also the inaugural OVAC Basketball Tournament title.

Away from athletics, Pelechutte is active in Peer Ministry and GUTS.

Alex - who's been invited to walk-on at WVU - is the son of Paul and Nancy Pelechutte of Wheeling.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

Ohio Staff Finalizes Roster

Deep Buckeyes' lineup boasts nine All-Ohio members

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

There are difficult tasks each year when it comes to picking the Ohio Roster for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Classic.

Then there's what Buckeye Trail and 2008 Ohio head coach Randy Thompson and company went through this year.

Faced with only 33 roster spots and numerous more possibilities than were allowed, the Warriors' and now Ohio brass put together a roster, which features no fewer than nine all-Ohioans and several others who were all-district players.

"There was a method to our approach of picking the players," Thompson said. "We went through the recommendations of the coaches, met as a staff and tried to sort out what we needed to fit us the best. Unfortunately, not everyone is going to be happy."

And while some were left off, the Ohio squad boasts representatives from 21 different schools from throughout the area and Thompson is impressed with not only the players he's got set to report to camp next month, but the types of people he's got ready to go.

"In talking to all of their coaches, we've got good students and good people as well as good players," Thompson explained. "That's important because we want to take good kids up there who are going to represent their schools well and we can just worry about playing football and not have any other issues or distractions."

The annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic is slated for



Bachie



Bishop



Davis



Gust



Wehr

Sunday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium, but the players and coaches report to camp a week prior.

Buckeye Trail leads the way with four representatives from a team, which finished 10-0 and won the OVAC, therefore earning Thompson and company the right to coach in this game.

"We have four quality kids that we are bringing," Thompson said. "They've done a lot for me and being able to do something for them was important to me."

Leading the Warrior tribe to the game is all-everything quarterback Brock Davis. He'll be joined by all-Ohioan Dan Starr along with receiver Sam Bond-Zielinski and running back Steve Beros.

St. Clairsville — which went 10-0 and advanced to the Region 15 championship game last fall — was awarded with three roster spots, including second-team all-Ohio quarterback Anthony Vincent. He'll be joined by defensive linemen John Earliwine and two-way lineman Jake Antolak.

Steubenville Big Red — which went 10-0 for the fifth straight season and won the OVAC 4-A title going away — had multiple players picked, but several, for one reason or another, couldn't take part.

However, the mighty Big Red is still represented by Mark Makakis and Brandon Frey.

Shadyside will have two representatives as well tak-

ing part. Three-year mainstay Billy Merryman was picked as one of the Ohio quarterbacks and two-time all-Ohio linebacker Dustin Sadlowski will be roaming as well.

Union Local — fresh off a 9-2 season and the school's first-ever playoff berth — had a pair of first-team all-Ohioans and both will take part in this year's game.

Offensive weapon Zach Gust and defensive standout Carl Perkins will represent Coach Mark Cisar's team.

The Purple Riders of Martins Ferry will be represented by two of their former standouts. Offensive lineman Trevor Jackson and exchange student Herman Timmersjo will take part.

Barnesville's first-team all-Ohio wide receiver Michael Wehr will take part in the game. Harrison Central's lone representative is quarterback Robbie Davia, who took part in the Ohio North-South Game earlier this month.

Buckeye Local first-team all-stater Shane Bishop was chosen to anchor one of the lines for the Buckeye squad. River was a 9-1 outfit and advanced to the second round of the playoffs thanks to the prolific two-way play of Troy Starr who earned first-team all-Ohio status.

Cambridge's Kirk Wetherell was a four-year standout for Coach Rick Goodrich's Bobcats. Shenandoah's Joey Wheeler earned all-Ohio accolades this past season.

Steubenville Catholic — which qualified for the playoffs last year before being bounced by Shadyside — will be represented by running back Justin Kaufmann.

Beallsville — fresh off yet another perfect season and a playoff berth — will send wide receiver Jimmy Reisz who was a four-year mainstay for Coach Dave Caldwell's outfit.

Monroe Central's Kyle Rader was picked to represent the Seminoles.

Bellaire — despite a season to forget in the land of the Big Reds — has a representative in lineman Tyler Robinson. Meadowbrook defensive end Adam Eagle-son will serve as the lone Colts' representative.

Indian Creek's Jonathan Figel was selected to play after a strong season under head coach Andrew Connor.

Bridgeport two-way standout Michael Bachie will take part in the game as will East Liverpool's Ryan Stowers and Wellsville's Zane Carter.

Edison and Toronto each garnered one roster bid each, including Cory Johnson and Brandon Hunter, respectively.

"We want to win the game, it's our main objective," Thompson said.

"We're going to base playing time on kids' attitudes, effort, execution and the way they buy into the team concept during the week.

"We want to make this a positive experience for everyone involved."

OVAC ALL-STAR ROSTERS

Ohio Roster		West Virginia	
Name	School	Michael Angalich	Bishop Donahue
Jake Antolak	St. Clairsville	Ian Berry	Lansly
Michael Bachie	Bridgeport	Stovon Buffo	Weir
Shane Bishop	Buckeye Local	Rosh Cain	Paden City
Sam Bond-Zielinski	Buckeye Trail	Jesse Campbell	Brooke
Steve Beros	Buckeye Trail	Jacob Carnahan	John Marshall
Zane Carter	Wellsville	Sam Cecil	Linsly
Robbie Davia	Harrison Central	Josh Contraguerro	Wheeling Central
Brock Davis	Buckeye Trail	Mike Duplaga	Wheeling Central
Adam Eagle-son	Meadowbrook	Allen Earnest	Wheeling Park
John Earliwine	St. Clairsville	Logan Elaw	Tyler Consolidated
Jonathan Figel	Indian Creek	Josh Frankos	Brooke
Brandon Frey	Steubenville	Gary Gamble	Oak Glen
Zach Gust	Union Local	Lucas Goodwin	Wheeling Park
Brandon Hunter	Toronto	L.A. Hampton	Bishop Donahue
Trevor Jackson	Martins Ferry	Dustin Hawkins	Cameron
Cory Johnson	Edison	Logan Jarrett	John Marshall
Justin Kaufmann	Steubenville Catholic	Haden Kocher	Valley
Mark Makakis	Steubenville	Jacob Lohri	Tyler
Billy Merryman	Shadyside	Chris Martin	Wheeling Central
Carl Perkins	Union Local	Bobby McConnell	Wheeling Park
Kyle Rader	Monroe Central	John McCune	Weirton Madonna
Jimmy Reisz	Beallsville	Jim McFarland	Brooke
Tyler Robinson	Bellaire	Chidozie Oparanorie	Linsly
Dustin Sadlowski	Shadyside	Alex Pelechutte	Wheeling Central
Troy Starr	River	Taylor Potts	John Marshall
Ryan Stowers	East Liverpool	David Richmond	Bishop Donahue
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ALL-STARS

Continued from page B1

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The annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic is slated for

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"We want to make this a positive experience for everyone involved."

OVAC ALL-STAR ROSTERS

Ohio Roster		West Virginia	
Name	School	Michael Angalich	Bishop Donahue
Jake Antolak	St. Clairsville	Ian Borry	Linsly
Michael Bachie	Bridgeport	Steven Buffo	Weir
Rhane Cain	Buckeye Local	Rosh Cain	Paden City
Sam Bond-Zielinski	Buckeye Trail	Jesse Campbell	Brooke
Stove Burus	Buckeye Trail	Jacob Carnahan	John Marshall
Zane Carter	Wellsville	Sam Cecil	Linsly
Robbie Davia	Harrison Central	Josh Contraguerra	Wheeling Central
Brock Davis	Buckeye Trail	Mike Duplaga	Wheeling Central
Adam Eagleson	Meadowbrook	Allen Earnest	Wheeling Park
John Earliwine	St. Clairsville	Logan Eflaw	Tyler Consolidated
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"Until I meet some of these guys in person, it's tough to say where some of these guys will play," Depew said. "But, I do know that I think we've picked the best possible athletes we could pick."

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

West Virginia All-Stars Announced

Big school players dominate lineup for Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic

By SETH STASKEY

For the News-Register

It's that time of the year.

Not just the time for vacations, fireworks, cookouts, but also the time for prep football to begin creeping back into our way of lives here in the Ohio Valley.

For the past 62 years, the way area football fans have quenched their thirst until the real football begin flying in August is with the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic.

Today, the complete rosters for both the West Virginia and Ohio squads are announced for the first time as head coaches B.J. DePew of Linsly and Buckeye Trail's Randy Thompson reveal who they'll bring to Wheeling Island Stadium on Sunday, July 27 for the 63rd annual Mumley Classic.

For Depew and the Moun-



"Our entire staff watched the films, took some notes and then we got together and basically had a little war room where we drafted our team."

B.J. Depew

taineer staff of the Linsly School, the less schools to choose from did very little to ease the burden of choosing their 33 players.

"It's very challenging (to choose this team)," Depew said. "Every school probably has at least one kid left behind that could have made this team. Everyone's been very gracious and understanding about who we've picked for this team."

The Cadets' staff didn't go into this selection process blind despite the fact they obviously couldn't have played or even see every team possible.

"We were able to acquire films on every team (in West Virginia) to look at the players recommended to us," Depew continued. "Our entire staff watched the films, took some notes and then we got together and basically had a little war

Ohio and West Virginia rosters

— Page B2

room where we drafted our team. We did our homework the best we could."

Picking talented players is never an easy decision when it comes to athletes in the Ohio Valley. But, Depew and the West Virginia staff looked for more than that.

"All of the heads coaches of these kids speak very highly of them on and off the field," Depew said.

"We wanted high-character kids as much as we wanted talented athletes. It's easier to have a good time that week with good kids."

See, All-Stars, Page B2

SPORTS

Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity Classic • Sunday, July 27 • Wheeling Island Stadium

OVAC All-Star rosters set

• Trail's Thompson earns right to coach Ohio All-Star Team

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

There are difficult tasks each year when it comes to picking the Ohio Roster for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Classic.

Then there's what Buckeye Trail and 2008 Ohio head coach Randy Thompson and company went through this year.

Faced with only 33 roster spots and numerous more possibilities than were allowed, the Warriors' and now Ohio brass put together a roster, which features no fewer than nine all-Ohioans and several others who were all-district players.

"There was a method to our approach of picking the players," Thompson said. "We went through the recommendations of the coaches, met as a staff and tried to sort out what we needed to fit us the best. Unfortunately, not everyone is going to be happy."

And while some were left off, the Ohio squad boasts representatives from 21 different schools from throughout the area and Thompson is impressed with not only the players he's got set to report to camp next month, but the types of people he's got ready to go.

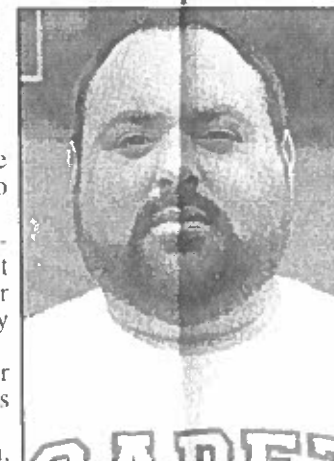
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The annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic is slated for Sunday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium, but the players and coaches report to camp a week prior.

Buckeye Trail leads the way with four representatives from a team.



RANDY THOMPSON
Ohio Head Coach



B.J. DEPEW
West Virginia Head Coach

• Linsly's Depew draws West Virginia coaching assignment

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Picking talented players is never an easy decision when it comes to ath-



● Ohio

Continued from Page C1

which finished 10-0 and won the OVAC, therefore earning Thompson and company the right to coach in this game.

"We have four quality kids that we are bringing," Thompson said. "They've done a lot for me and being able to do something for them was important to me."

Leading the Warrior tribe to the game is all-everything quarterback Brock Davis. He'll be joined by all-Ohioan Dan Starr along with receiver Sam Bond-Zielinski and running back Steve Beros.

St. Clairsville — which went 10-0 and advanced to the Region 15 championship game last fall — was awarded with three roster spots, including second-team all-Ohio quarterback Anthony Vincent. He'll be joined by defensive linemen John Earliwine and two-way lineman Jake Antolak.

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The Purple Riders of Martins Ferry will be represented by two of their former standouts. Offensive lineman Trevor Jackson and exchange student Herman Timmersjo will take part.

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● W.Va.

Continued from Page C1

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Bridgeport two-way standout Michael Bachie will take part in the game as will East Liverpool's Ryan Stowers and Wellsville's Zane Carter.

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OVAC football classic names head coaches

• Buckeye Trail's Thompson, Linsly's Depew are selected

By BRIAN COOK
Times Leader Sports Writer

It's almost six months away, but the personnel of the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football game have been working hard in preparation of the 37th annual event.

"It's the event of the year in Ohio Valley athletics," Bob Koch, game director, said at Wednesday night's organizational meeting. "Every year we always have a dedicated workers that continue to give back to Ohio Valley sports and it will continue to be no different this year."

Being announced as head coaches to represent the Ohio and West Virginia squads will be Randy Thompson of Buckeye Trail and B.J. Depew of Linsly.

"I am looking forward to it," Thompson said cheerfully about leading the Buckeyes. "It is going to be challenge and be very exciting. It is great event for the athletes and the coaches of the OVAC to be able to get together to celebrate a great year of football."

Both coaches will now research the prospective players in their state to form a 32-man squad plus one kicker.

"There is some great talent all through the valley," Depew said. "Both Ohio and West Virginia had some great football programs this year and we're really looking forward to working with the caliber of athletes in all the West Virginia schools."

The pool of graduating senior players available have been hand selected from every coach in the valley and handed over to both Thompson and Depew mold into a winning team.

"We only got the packet a few minutes ago and are anxious to see who is available," Thompson said.

See, OVAC, Page C3

● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

"Both the Ohio and West Virginia side have produced some great athletes. We are going to get the kids which fit our system well."

Thompson plans on sticking with Buckeye Trail's offensive and defensive scheme while Depew plans on forming his package based on the personnel available.

"We're going to stay with what we know," a positive Thompson said. "When I went to Trail seven years they predominantly ran the ball and we decided to throw the ball to spread it out and make it more exciting. When you have an all-star group like we're going to have it will be fun getting those kids the ball."

Both coaches also announced their tentative coaching staff which will join them for the week long session at West Liberty State College.

Joining Thompson on the Ohio staff will be Steve Mercer as defensive coordinator. Bill Starr, Brian Kittle, Jason Davis, Joe Marchianl, Bruce Stiles, Rich Mercer, Vaughn Butler and Justin Schafer.

"I think we have a pretty good staff. We have a few guys on the coaching staff that have played in the game as well. Most of them have Buckeye Trail ties," Thompson said.

Joining Depew on the West Virginia staff will be defensive line coach Brian Valentine, offensive line coach Gerald Lofstead, offensive assistant Ray Smith, coaching the wide receivers, defensive backs and special teams coach James Coward and defensive coordinator Steve Ochap.

"We have had two full seasons with myself as the head coach. I see it not only as a great experience to work with these kids," Depew said. "This will be a good bonding experience to spend a week together at West Liberty doing nothing but football."

The Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic is slated for Sunday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kick off is set for 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday,
July 2, 2008

SPORTS

INSIDE

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Comics / B6

Thompson sets Ohio coaching staff

BY SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

Randy Thompson knew going into last season the kind of team his Buckeye Trail Warriors had a chance to be.

He also looked ahead and saw it was the turn in the rotation for Class 2-A to get the opportunity to coach in the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

After a perfect 10-0 regular season and the OVAC title, Thompson and his Warrior staff will have the opportunity to stroll

the sidelines at Wheeling Island Stadium Sunday, July 27 when Ohio takes on West Virginia in the annual summer classic.



Thompson and his coaching staff has been working on the All-Star Game for quite some time despite the fact that the players and coaches don't report to West Liberty State College until July 20 to begin official preparations.

"It was a tough process picking the team," Thompson said. "We called coaches, sought advice and now we can just focus on coaching football. We want to

win this game, and that's going to be our main objective."

Thompson will oversee the offense for the Ohio squad. His coaching staff will include: Jason Davis (defensive backs/wide receivers); Brian Kittle (running backs); Richard Mercer (offense); Steve Mercer (defense); Bill Starr and Bruce Stiles (defense).

Here is a capsule look at the coaches:

RANDY THOMPSON just wrapped up his seventh season as the head coach at Buckeye Trail and has compiled a mark of 48-24 over that time. He's led his

Warriors to three playoff berths. During his time as head coach, Thompson has received Eastern District Coach of the Year three times (2002, 2006 and 2007) and after the 2002 season he was named Associated Press State Coach of the Year. He's been named PVC Coach of the Year two straight seasons.

Thompson came to Old Washington after spending 13 years as a top aide to Jake Olsavsky at his alma mater Union Local.

See, OHIO, Page B2

Ohio

Continued from Page B1

Along with football, Thompson was also a highly-successful track coach at Union Local, earning Eastern District Coach of the Year in 1998.

Thompson is a 1970 graduate of Union Local and he went on to earn his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Bethany College and then earned a Master's Degree from Franciscan University in Steubenville.

Randy has been married to the former Cheryl Dymidowski for 32 years. They reside in Flushing. The couple has two children, Capt. Josh Thompson and Lt. Miranda Thompson. Both of whom are members of the United States Air Force.

JASON DAVIS has been a member of the Warriors' staff for two years after serving two years as a graduate assistant at Kent State University.

Davis is a 1992 Meadowbrook High School graduate where he lettered in football, basketball and track. He earned his degree from Kent State in 1998 in exercise physiology. Along with coaching, Davis is also a member of the Ohio Valley Board of Basketball Officials.

Jason and his wife Stephanie have been married for eight years and have a 2-year old daughter Kaylee. The Davis family resides in Wheeling.

BRIAN KITTLE has been a member of the Buckeye Trail Warrior staff since his graduation from the school in 2001.

Kittle earned his bachelor's degree from Muskingum College after wrapping up a successful prep football and baseball career for the Blue and White. He was a first-team all-Ohio football player in 2000 and took part in the 2001 OVAC All-Star Classic.

RICHARD MERCER joins the Ohio staff via Union Local. The long-time Jets' assistant - who spent the 2004 season under Thompson at Trail before returning to his alma mater - will be along the Ohio sideline this year.

Mercer has been coaching football for 13 years all told. He also coached for two seasons at Beallsville High.

Along with his football responsibilities, Mercer is also the Jets' head baseball coach and guided his squad to the 2007 OVAC title and a berth in the district tournament the past two seasons. He was named Times Leader Coach of the Year after the 2007 campaign.

Mercer and his wife Krissy have two sons, Brice (9) and Kaden (7). The Mercers reside in Belmont.

STEVE MERCER has been a football coach for 20 years and has spent the last four of those seasons on the Warriors' coaching staff working under Thompson.

Mercer also serves as an assistant baseball coach under his son Rich at Union Local and has previously served as a football coach at Beallsville and also worked with junior high sports for the Blue Devils.

The Beallsville graduate was a standout prep player for the Blue Devils, playing on two OVAC-title winning teams and on the first-ever perfect team in Beallsville history.

Steve - who is the general manager of Doan Ford in Morristown - is married to Karen and they have just one son and two grandchildren.

BILL STARR has spent the last 20 years working at Buckeye Trail High School and has spent 15 years coaching football and the last five as an assistant.

Starr also coached football and softball at Cambridge High School, which is his alma mater. He's also coached baseball and volleyball during his teaching career.

The 1982 Bobcats' graduate earned his degree from Taylor University in 1987 where he played football. Bill and his wife Lori have three daughters: Leslie (18), Maggie (16) and Annie (12). The Starrs reside in Cambridge.

BRUCE STILES has been a football coach for 24 years, and has spent 21 at his current place of employment, St. Clairsville High School.

Stiles - who served on the Ohio coaching staff a year ago - has also coached under Thompson at Trail before returning to the Red Devils' sideline. He also coached at Barnesville.

The Union Local High School graduate also serves as the chief assistant of the St. Clairsville girls basketball team. Along with that assignment, he's spent time on the track and boys basketball staffs.

Bruce - who graduated from Union Local High School and Salem College - owns a master's degree from the University of Dayton.

Bruce and his wife Leslie have a son Zak and a daughter Carlee. The Stiles' family resides in Bethesda.

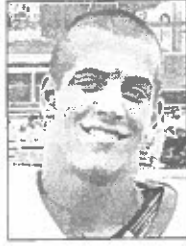
Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com



Bond-Zielinski



Gust



Reisz



Wehr



Carter

Ohio Has Plenty of Weapons

Buckeyes filled with playmakers at receiver

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

Randy Thompson and the Ohio coaching staff are really looking forward to the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

They are obviously pumped for the opportunity, but don't think for a minute the ability to have so many playmakers on the field at one time doesn't have the Buckeye Trail head coach just salivating.

Today, Thompson has announced his fast and deep stable of receivers, who will be catching passes from the quarterbacks that were announced Sunday.

"We want to get the ball to our weapons," Thompson said. "I have talked to some of these kids about offense, and it's all very similar. Some of the programs throw it like we do and use similar formations, so it's going to be a matter of getting some reps."

Slated to catch balls for the Buckeyes are Buckeye Trail's Sam Bond-Zielinski, Union Local's Zach Gust, Beallsville's Jimmy Reisz, Barnesville's Michael Wehr and Wellsville's Zane Carter.

"It's going to be fun having all of these guys involved," Thompson said.

Here's a capsule look at the players:

SAM BOND-ZIELINSKI, Buckeye Trail — This Warrior was a three-year mainstay under Thompson's guidance.

Bond-Zielinski caught 76 balls for 1,254 yards and 18 touchdowns during his prep career. He was also a standout as a free safety, recording 147 tackles and 14 interceptions. The 5-foot-11, 170-pounder was a two-time all-OVAC, all-PVC and all-District performer.

Sam, the son of Cindy Bond and Michael Zielinski, plans on attending Marietta College.

ZACH GUST, Union Local — There is no other way to describe the type of senior season this Jet had other than electrifying.

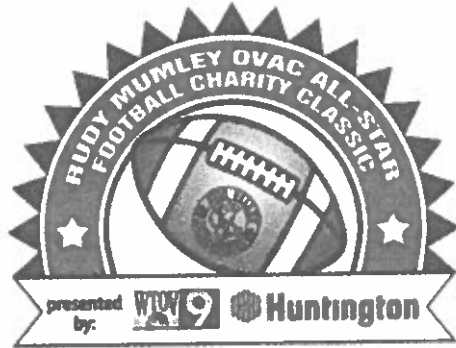
The 5-9, 175-pound speedster caught 59 balls for 1,122 yards and 10 touchdowns. He added another 10 touchdowns via returns either on punts, kicks or interceptions. All told, Gust accounted for 2,126 all-purpose yards for Coach Mark Cisar's explosive offense.

Gust was a first-team all-Ohio pick. He also garnered first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Times Leader, all-Buckeye 8, all-Valley and was a Big 22 finalist.

Gust was also a standout in track and field before missing much of his senior season with a nagging hamstring. He was a two-event all-Ohioan as a junior.

Zach, who plans on attending The College of Wooster, is the son of Gina Gust and Marcus Raine and Leandra Nester.

JIMMY REISZ, Beallsville — This for-



mer Blue Devil was a two-way standout for Coach Dave Caldwell's team that put forth a second consecutive perfect regular season and qualified for the Ohio playoffs.

The 5-9, 150-pounder was one of the Blue Devils' best on both sides. He was named team's Most Valuable Player and was voted best defensive back.

Reisz was a first-team all-district, all-OVAC and all-Times Leader performer.

He also left his mark on the Ohio Valley in wrestling, winning the OVAC title as a senior and the Bierkorette Award given to the tournament's most outstanding grappler.

Away from athletics, Reisz is active in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Blood Drive and Spanish Club.

Jimmy, who plans on attending Ashland University, is the son of Jim and Sherri Reisz of Beallsville.

MICHAEL WEHR, Barnesville — This former Shamrock seemed to make all of the big plays when Coach Luke Johnson's team needed them.

The 5-11, 160-pound sparkplug caught 54 balls for 1,010 yards and had 11 touchdown grabs during his career. He also accounted for 964 return returns and two scores. He was also a viable defensive back, recording 11 interceptions and 29 pass breakups, while accumulating 96 tackles.

Wehr was a first-team all-Ohioan this past year as well as a first-team all-District selection. He was also accorded all-OVAC, all-Times Leader and all-Valley.

Wehr also took part in basketball, Blood Bash and Varsity B during his prep career.

Michael, who is undecided upon his college plans, is the son of Vicki Wells of Barnesville.

ZANE CARTER, Wellsville — This former Tiger was a two-way standout for Coach Dave Skinner's squad this past season.

The 6-4, 195-pounder was a first-team all-Ohio pick as a defensive back, but his offensive numbers were impressive as well. He recorded 25 catches for 407 yards and five touchdowns. He was first-team all-Eastern District and all-Area and also took part in the Penn-Ohio game earlier this summer.

Zane, who is the son of Quinn and Bernadette Carter, plans on attending either Marietta or Mt. Union.

Thompson Tickled With Backfield

Ohio coach boasts bevy of explosive players behind line

By **SETH STASKEY**
For the News-Register

The Ohio squad for the 63rd annual Rundy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic has all-Ohioans all over the place on its roster.

That leads to a good problem for Buckeyes and Buckeye Trail coach Randy Thompson, who began sorting through his players today as he announced his quarterbacks and running backs for the annual summer classic.

"It's a matter of us doing a good job of evaluating and getting the kids in the right spots once we get them into camp," Thompson said. "We want to keep things simple and let the kids execute what they know how to do."

Thompson and the Ohio staff have no fewer than four quarterbacks on the roster, but it'll be a three-way battle in camp. Stated to lock horns for playing time under center are Shadyside's Billy Merryman, Harrison Central's Robbie Davia and Buckeye Trail's Brock Davis.

The running backs could be by committee, with the likes of Troy Starr of River, Justin Kauffman of Steubenville Central and Joey Wheeler of Shenandoah leading the way entering camp.

"We've got a lot of guys we think are capable of running the ball and that's not by accident," Thompson said. "We feel we've got a really nice group of runners."

Here is a capsule look at the players:

Billy Merryman **Shadyside**

This ex-Shadyside Tiger was one of the most prolific quarterbacks in terms of numbers and victories Coach Ty

Fleming's program has ever seen.

The 5-foot-10, 150-



Davia



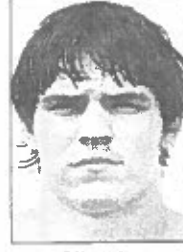
Kaufmann



Merryman



Starr



Wheeler

pounder threw for 6,140 yards and 66 touchdowns during his career and led his team to a 32-8 mark, including a Division VI state runner-up finish in 2006.

Merryman's senior season earned him second-team all-Ohio, first-team All-Valley, all-OVAC, all-Times Leader and first-team Eastern District.

Along with football, Merryman was also a standout for the Tigers' basketball and baseball teams, winning OVAC titles in both of those sports.

Billy — who is the son of Tim and Sharon Merryman of Shadyside — plans on attending either Ohio University-Eastern or The Ohio State University.

Robbie Davia **Harrison Central**

This signalcaller played a major role in the turnaround of Huskies football because of his three-year stay

under Coach Justin Kropka.

The 6-2, 200-pounder finished his prep career with 4,762 yards and 46 touchdown passes. He also ran for 13 scores and 732 yards.

This past fall, Davia put up 1,091 yards and threw for 14 touchdowns.

Davia was a first-team all-District, honorable mention all-Ohio, all-Times Leader, all-Buckeye 8 and all-OVAC this past season. He also took part in last month's North-South All-Star Game.

During his high school career, Davia was also a standout in baseball and lettered in basketball. He took part in FFA as well.

Robbie — who is still undecided on his collegiate plans — is the son of Randy and Kim Davia of Cadiz.

Brock Davis **Buckeye Trail**

This two-way standout was the leader of the highly-successful Warriors offense from the quarterback spot.

Davis passed for 1,727 yards and 14 touchdowns last season. He also ran for 11 touchdowns and had 35 tackles and five interceptions from his defensive back spot.

The 5-11, 180-pounder was a first-team all-Ohioan and was first-team all-Eastern District, All-Valley and first-team all-OVAC as well as a Big 22 finalist.

Davis was also a standout in track and basketball.

Brock — who is the son of Jeffrey and Patricia Davis of Salesville — plans on attending Marietta or Muskingum College.

Justin Kaufmann **Steubenville Central**

This two-way standout helped lead the Crusaders of Coach Gregg Bahen back to the Division VI playoffs last year.

As a running back, Kaufmann tallied 1,252 yards rushing en route to earning all-OVAC, All-Valley and all-district accolades.

Kaufman was also a standout in baseball for the Crusaders.

Justin — who plans on attending Cleveland State University — is the son of Marueen Kaufman and Eric Kaufman and resides in Steubenville.

Troy Starr **River**

This Pilot was one of the key reasons the Pilots made a return trip to the Division VI playoffs under Coach Mike Flannery.

Starr ran for 1,145 yards and scored 26 touchdowns on the ground. He had four

receiving touchdowns and a return for a score. He had 456 yards receiving. As a defensive ace at linebacker, Starr posted 86 solo tackles, four interceptions, 12 tackles for loss and four sacks.

Starr was a first-team all-Ohio pick and Eastern District co-offensive Player of the Year. He captained the All-Valley and all-Times Leader teams. He was first-team all-OVAC and earned Big 22 honors.

Along with football, Starr was a standout in wrestling. He was also a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council and served as Class President.

Troy — who plans on attending The Ohio State University — is the son of Clyde and Gwen Starr of Powhatan Point.

Joey Wheeler **Shenandoah**

This former Zep was a two-way standout for Coach Tim Wilson's Green and White squad, but it was as a running

back where he gained most of his accolades.

The 5-10, 200-pounder ran for 1,326 yards and 25 touchdowns for Shenandoah en route to All-Valley, all-OVAC, all-PVC and all-Ohio honors. He was a three-time member of the all-Eastern District team.

Along with football, Wheeler took part in wrestling, power lifting, 4-H and wheel-chair games during his high school career. He was also a standout in track and field, placing in the state meet's long jump competition in the spring.

Joey — who is the son of Bill and Melissa Wheeler of Caldwell — plans on attending West Liberty State College.

W.Va. announces explosive defense

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Ohio is going to bring a lot of offensive firepower into the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic slated for Sunday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

It's going to be West Virginia's job to slow down the vaunted and versatile Buckeye attack.

And needless to say Mountaineer head coach B.J. Depew of Linsly took plenty of notes on how last year's West Virginia head man Mark Batton approached the defensive side of the ball.

"I thought what Coach Batton did was great," Depew said. "He came right after Ohio. If you can't defend then you have to attack, and I really like that in an all-star game."

When he sat down to pick his first and second-level players on the defensive side of the ball he was looking for kids with high motors.

"We wanted guys that could run all over the field and make plays," Depew admitted. "We think we can get an up-field surge and then our linebackers are quick and athletic. I think we can put some pressure on (Ohio) which might nullify some of their speed."

Slated to see time either at linebacker or along the defensive lines are: Magnolia's Steven Zajdowicz, Magnolia's Kyle Smith, John Marshall's Taylor Potts, Wheeling Park's Lucas Goodwin, Wheeling Park's Allen Earnest, Wheeling Central's Josh Contraguero, Brooke's Jesse Campbell, Paden City's Rosh Cain and Linsly's Ian Berry.

Here's a capsule look at the players:

IAN BERRY, Linsly – This former Cadet saw time along the defensive line at a tackle spot for the Cadets and Depew last season.

The 5-ft-10, 240 pounder was a force against the run.

Ian, who is the son of Gloria Thomas of Sebring, Florida, is planning on attending Seton Hall University.

ROSH CAIN, Paden City – This linebacker was a force on the defensive side of the ball for Coach Brent Croasmun and the Wildcats.

The 6-ft, 210 pounder was a three-time all-OVAC player as well as a first-team Mason Dixon and first-team All River Valley along with special mention all-Ohio.

Rosh, who plans on attending West Liberty State College, is the son of Brenda Smith and Doug Smith and the late Terry Cain.

JESSE CAMPBELL, Brooke – This former Bruin anchored both sides of the line for Coach Dave Reitter from his center and defensive tackle spots.

As a defensive lineman, he recorded 102 tackles and as an offensive lineman graded out at 75 percent blocking.

Jesse is the son of Pam and Delbert Campbell of Colliers.

JOSH CONTRAGUERO, Wheeling Central – This former Maroon Knight played a key role each of the past three seasons for Coach Mike Young's charges.

The 6-ft, 205 pounder wreaked havoc during his career, compiling 305 tackles, 19 sacks, eight interceptions, eight fumble recoveries, three forced fumbles and he blocked three punts for good measure.

He was twice a first-team all-state pick, captaining the defensive side as a senior. He was twice a first-team all-OVAC and all-Valley selection. He was also the Knights' Most Valuable Player and was a Big 22 finalist. He was runnerup for the Huff

Award and received special honors at the Dapper Dan.

Along with football, Contraguero was active in art club and he ran track.

Josh, who plans on attending West Virginia University, is the son of Bob and Jody Contraguero of Wheeling.

ALLEN EARNEST, Wheeling Park – This two-way standout was a force on both sides of the ball for head coach Mark Nardone.

The 5-ft-10, 210 pounder saw time as a nose guard and as a fullback during his senior year.

Other than football, Earnest took part in Young Life.

Allen, who is the son of Doug and Pam Earnest, plans to attend West Liberty State College.

LUCAS GOODWIN, Wheeling Park – This former Patriot was the main man in the middle for Nardone at the linebacker spot.

The 6-ft-1, 195 pounder was one of the Patriots' leading tacklers this season from that spot.

Along with football, Lucas is a member of the National Honor Society, active in Youth Group and Varsity Athletic Club.

Lucas, who is the son of Dr. Joseph and Amy Goodwin, plans on attending WVU in the fall.

TAYLOR POTTS, John Marshall – This former Monarch was a two-way lineman for Coach Mark Hinerman's team last fall, seeing time at center and nose guard.

The 6-ft, 230 pounder recorded eight sacks, three fumble recoveries and 75 tackles during the course of the season.

Potts was a second-team all-state pick, took part in last month's North-South Game and was first-team all-OVAC. He also received the John Marshall Football Scholar Athlete Award.

Along with athletics, Potts is active in FCA, SADD, Ski Club, Leo Club and he serves as the co-director of his church's vacation bible school.

Taylor, who is the son of Patrick Potts and Janie Potts, plans on attending college.

KYLE SMITH, Magnolia – This former Blue Eagle was a mainstay at defensive tackle for Batton's team.

The 5-ft-9, 260 pounder logged 153 tackles his final two prep seasons and also had a sack, a fumble recovery and forced two fumbles.

Smith was a special-mention all-state pick as well as second-team all-Valley and honorable mention all-OVAC.

Along with football, Smith was a member of the Magnolia track team. He's also active in Young Life and is a member of the New Martinsville United Methodist Church.

Kyle, who is the son of Kathi Smith and Joe Smith of New Martinsville, plans on attending Ohio Wesleyan University to play football.

STEVEN ZAJDOWICZ, Magnolia – This former Blue Eagle was a playmaker at the linebacker spot for Batton's defensive unit.

The 5-ft-9, 205 pounder had 95 tackles, including four sacks. He also rushed for 1,432 yards and 18 touchdowns as the Blue Eagles' primary ball carrier.

He was a first-team all-state pick the past two years and all-OVAC the past two years. He was also a Big 22 finalist and received a honor at the Dapper Dan Banquet.

Along with athletics, Zajdowicz volunteers his time to help with kids with disabilities.

Steven, who plans on attending Fairmont State University, is the son of Steve and Cindy Zajdowicz of New Martinsville.



Wednesday,
July 9, 2008

SPORTS

Ohio has big-play threats

BY SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

Randy Thompson and the Ohio coaching staff are really looking forward to the 63rd annual Rudy Mumfley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

They are obviously pumped for the opportunity, but don't think for a minute the ability to have so many playmakers on the field at one time doesn't have the Buckeye Trail head coach just salivating.

Today, Thompson has announced his fast and deep stable of wide receivers, which will be catching balls from the quarterbacks that were announced this past Sunday.

"We want to get the ball to our weapons," Thompson said. "I have talked to

some of these kids about offense and it's all very similar. Some of the programs throw it like we do and use similar formations, so it's going to be a matter of getting some reps."

Stated to catch balls for the Buckeyes are Buckeye Trail's Sam Bond-Zielinski, Union Local's Zach Gust, Beallsville's Jimmy Reisz, Barnesville's Michael Wehr and Wellsville's Zane Carter.

"It's going to fun having all of these guys involved."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

SAM BOND-ZIELINSKI, Buckeye Trail — This Warrior was a three-year mainstay for the ultra-successful Old Washington-based outfit under Thompson's guidance.

Bond-Zielinski caught 76 balls for 1,254



yards and 18 touchdowns during his prep career. He was also a standout as a free safety, recording 147 tackles and 14 interceptions.

The 5-ft-11, 170-pounder was a two-time all-OVAC, all-PVC and all-District

performer.

Sam — who is the son of Cindy Bond and Michael Zielinski — plans on attending Marietta College.

ZACH GUST, Union Local — There is no other way to describe the type of senior year this let had other than electrifying.

The 5-ft-9, 175-pound speedster caught 59 balls for 1,122 yards and 10 touchdowns through the air. He added another 10 touchdowns via returns either on punts, kicks or interceptions. All told, Gust accounted for 2,126 all-purpose yards for Coach Mark Cisar's explosive offense.

Gust was a first-team all-Ohio pick. He also garnered first-team all-Eastern District.

See, **RECEIVERS**, Page B2

● Receivers

Continued from Page B1

all-OVAC, all-Times Leader, all-Buckeye 8, all-Valley and was a Big 22 finalist.

Gust was also a standout in track and field before missing much of his senior season with a nagging hamstring. He was a two-event all-Ohioan as a junior.

Zach — who plans on attending The College of Wooster — is the son of Gina Gust and Marcus Raine and Leandra Nester.

JIMMY REISZ, Beallsville — This former Blue Devil was a two-way standout for Coach Dave Caldwell's charges, which put forth a second consecutive perfect regular season and qualified for the Ohio playoffs.

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He also left his mark on the Ohio Valley in wrestling, winning the OVAC title as a senior and the Bierkorette Award given to the tournament's most outstanding grappler.

Away from athletics, Reisz is active in Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Blood Drive and Spanish Club.

Jimmy — who plans on attending Ashland University — is the son of Jim and Sherri Reisz of Beallsville.

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Wehr was a first-team all-Ohioan this past year as well as a first-team all-District selection. He was also accorded all-OVAC, all-Times Leader and all-Valley.

Wehr also took part in basketball, Blood Bash and Varsity B during his prep career.

Michael — who is undecided upon his college plans — is the son of Vicki Wells of Barnesville.

ZANE CARTER, Wellsville — This former Tiger was a two-year standout for Coach Dave Skinner's squad this past season.

The 6-ft-4, 195-pounder was a first-team all-Ohio pick as a defensive back, but his offensive numbers were impressive as well. He recorded 25 catches for 407 yards and five touchdowns. He was first-team all-Eastern District and all-Area and also took part in the Penn-Ohio game earlier this summer.

Zane — who is the son of Quinn and Bernadette Carter — plans on attending either Marietta or Mt. Union.

Sunday,
July 13, 2008

SPORTS

Ohio offensive line set

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

To have offensive success, it all starts with the offensive line.

All-Star teams can always find someone able to catch, run and throw, so Ohio head coach Randy Thompson took the approach of gaining the best possible linemen he could find for the upcoming 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, which is slated for Sunday, July 27

at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"I think it all starts in the trenches," Thompson explained. "So, we picked the best linemen we could find."

The Ohio approach was to find big, athletic guys.

And the Buckeye staff thinks that's exactly what they've accomplished.

"I think we have nice depth up front," Thompson relayed. "We've got a bunch of guys who are basically interchangeable and we did



manage to find a nice-sized group that's fairly athletic.

Slated to see time either as a tightend or deep in the trenches

are: St. Clairsville's Jake Antolak, Bridgeport's Michael Bachie, Buckeye Local's Shane Bishop, Indian Creek's Jonathan Figel, Steubenville's Brandon Frey, Martins Ferry's Trevor Jackson and East Liverpool's Ryan Stowers.

Here's a capsule look at the players:

JAKE ANTOLAK, St. Clairsville — This former Red Devil played a key role in the success of Coach Brett McLean's Red

Devils last fall.

The 6-ft-4, 230 pounder anchored the Red Devils' offensive line from his tackle spot. He recorded 31 pancake blocks and graded out at 89 percent in 13 games.

As a defensive lineman, Antolak recorded 59 solo tackles and 17 assists to go along with five sacks.

He was awarded first-team all-

See, **LINE**, Page C2

● Line

Continued from Page C1

Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8, all-Times Leader, all-Valley and special mention all-Ohio. He also received one of the Five Blocks of Granite as presented by Big Season Sports.

Jake, who plans on attending Walsh University in Canton, is the son of Rick and Jill Antolak.

MICHAEL BACHIE, Bridgeport — This former Bulldog was also a trend setter on both sides of the ball for Coach Rudy Vavrock's club last season.

He was a talented tight end both as a blocker and as a receiver as evidenced by his 21 catches for 281 yards, but it was on the defensive side as a middle linebacker where he made his presence felt.

The 6-ft-3, 225 pounder recorded 108 tackles, forced three fumbles, pounced on four and had two sacks.

Along with football, Bachie played a key role in the Bulldogs' winning the OVAC Class 1-A basketball title during the winter.

Michael, who is the son of Ernest and Carol Bachie of Bridgeport, plans on attending West Liberty State College.

SHANE BISHOP, Buckeye Local — This former Panther made his mark on both sides of the ball for Coach Ron Pobolish's outfit the last three years.

The 6-ft-1, 220 pounder was a force along the line for the Panthers' run-oriented attack. On the defensive side of the ball, he was one of the Panthers' leading tacklers.

Bishop was a first-team all-Ohio selection after being named to the first-team all-District. He was also a member of the all-Times Leader, all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8 squads.

Shane, who plans on attending West Liberty State College, is the son of William and Sharon Bishop.

JONATHAN FIGEL, Indian Creek — This former Redskin opened many a running hole during his three years in the trenches for Coach Andrew Connor's team.

The 6-ft-2, 255 pounder blocked for a trio of 1,000-yard backs during his career. He was also a two-year starter on the defensive line with 74 tackles and five sacks.

Figel's fine season earned him all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8 and second-team all-Valley. He was also recognized by the Quad County and served as team captain.

Away from athletics, Figel also shines. He's a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Student Ambassador, SADD and the Indian Creek productions.

Jonathan, who is the son of Bonnie and John Figel of Mingo Junction, plans on attending Capital University.

BRANDON FREY, Steubenville — This former Big Red left guard was one of the mainstays for Coach Reno Saccoccia's squad the past two seasons.

In helping the Big Red to their second straight state title as a junior, Frey recorded 44 pins as right tackle. He shifted to left guard last year and had 51 pins for a Big Red team, which advanced to the third round of the playoffs.

The 6-ft-2, 260 pounder was a first-team all-Eastern District pick as well as honorable mention all-Ohio.

Brandon, who plans on attending Bethany College, is the son of Jill Nation and Gary Frey. He resides in Wintersville.

TREVOR JACKSON, Martins Ferry — This former Purple Rider was a mainstay for Coach Dave Bruney's team as both a guard and defensive tackle.

The 6-ft, 235 pounder was one of the anchors for the Ferry offensive line.

His season was recognized by receiving the 182 percent award, all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Times Leader, all-Buckeye 8 and special mention all-Ohio.

Trevor, who is the son of Robert and Lisa Jackson of Martins Ferry, plans on attending Wheeling Jesuit University.

RYAN STOWERS, East Liverpool — This Potter tackle paved the way to a strong season for running backs under the offensive guidance of Pat McNichol.

The 6-ft-5, 255 pounder's fine season didn't go unnoticed. He received the Craig Burbick Memorial Award, the ESPN Radio Award and was named to the Quad-County Football Coaches Team.

Away from football, Stowers is a blackbelt in Tae Kwon Do and Jujitsu.

Ryan, who is the son of Brian and Davena Stowers of East Liverpool, plans on attending Bethany College.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

Wide receiving corps deep for Mountaineer OVAC Stars

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

West Virginia's coaching staff has a good idea entering the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic that the Ohio defense is just going to allow it to run the football.

Therefore, having plenty of weaponry on the outside was a must when Linsly's B.J. Depew and staff sat down to pick the Mountaineer roster for the annual summer football game, which is slated for July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We want to have as balanced an attack as possible," Depew said. "Ohio is going to make us throw the football and we think we'll be prepared to do so."

Preparing to catch balls from quarterbacks Michael Angalich and Alex Pelechutte are this group of wide receivers: Brooke's James McFarland, John Marshall's Logan Jarrett, Bishop Donahue's L.A. Hampton, Oak Glen's Gary Gamble, John Marshall's Jacob Carnahan and Weir High's Steven Buffo.

"We've got a lot of options at wide receiver," Depew offered. "We've got kids who had a ton of receiving yards and played in systems that were built on passing and we think that will allow us to open some things up in the running game."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

JAMES MCFARLAND, Brooke

— This former Bruin was a two-way standout for Coach Dave Reitter's team this past season.

The 6-ft, 150-pounder saw time as a wide receiver where he made 19 catches for 370 yards and two scores. Defensively, he pilfered three passes from his cornerback spot.

McFarland — who served as team captain his senior year — was named team's best receiver and defensive MVP.

He was also a standout in wrestling, winning a state championship and team MVP honors. He also took part in track and field.

McFarland is a standout in the classroom as well. He's a member of the



National Honor Society, Honor Roll and Principal's List.

James — who plans on attending West Liberty State College — is the son of John and Barbara McFarland of Wellsburg.

LOGAN JARRETT, John Marshall — This former Monarch was a three-year mainstay for now retired head coach Mark Hinerman and the Monarchs.

— The 6-ft-2, 180-pounder recorded 109 catches for 1,797 yards and 17 touchdowns during his career. He was also a two-year defensive mainstay with 162 tackles and eight interceptions and he pounced on four fumbles.

Jarrett was a three-time all-state pick and three-times an all-OVAC honoree. Along with football, Jarrett was also a standout in track and field.

Logan — who is undecided about his future plans — is the son of Kevin and Debbie Jarrett of Moundsville.

L.A. HAMPTON, Bishop Donahue

— This former Bishop was a big-play threat for Coach John Durdines' club this past fall.

As a senior, the 6-ft-2, 185 pounder made 50 receptions for 811 yards and 12 touchdowns. As a defensive back, he recorded 73 tackles, five interceptions and forced three fumbles.

Hampton's fine season was noticed by virtue of his selection to the all-state team, all-OVAC and all-Valley squads.

Along with football, Hampton was a standout in track and field as well as basketball.

L.A. — who is planning on attending West Liberty State College — is the son Kelly and Lionel Hampton.

GARY GAMBLE, Oak Glen

— This three-year mainstay for the Golden Bears did a little bit of everything for now former coach Jeff

Woofter.

The 6-ft-1, 175 pounder made 25 catches for 550 yards and three scores as a senior. He also had an average of 35 yards per kick return along with three for scores.

Gamble was a first-team all-Valley and all-OVAC pick this past season and garnered special mention all-state.

Along with football, Gamble was a standout in basketball and track where he finished sixth in the state meet in the 100 dash.

Gary — who plans on attending Thiel — is the son of Gary and Marcella Gamble of Newell.

JACOB CARNAHAN, John Marshall

— This former Monarch — along with the aforementioned Jarrett — formed one of the area's most lethal passing combinations for Hinerman's team.

The 6-ft-1, 180 pounder had 32 catches for 797 yards and eight touchdowns.

He had 56 tackles and three scores as a defensive standout in the secondary.

Carnahan was a first-team all-OVAC and all-Valley pick. He was a all-state first-teamer and a Big 22 Finalist.

Along with football, Carnahan was a member of the Monarchs' baseball team.

Jacob — who plans on attending the University of Charleston — is the son of Tim and Teri Carnahan of Moundsville.

STEVEN BUFFO, Weir High

— This former Red Rider saw time at no fewer than four different spots playing for Eric Meek the past two seasons.

The 6-ft, 170 pounder was a three-year letterman and started on the Red Rider team, which won the state in 2005.

Buffo was also a four-year mainstay for the Red Riders' baseball team. Along with sports, he also took part in Hi-Y and chemistry club.

Buffo — who is undecided upon his college plans — is the son of John and Tina Buffo of Weirton.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

Ohio's All-Star coaching staff



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The Ohio coaching staff for Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium includes, front row l to r, assistant coach Steve Mercer, head coach Randy Thompson and assistant coach Bill Starr; back row, trainer Randy Elliott, assistant coaches Brian Kittle, Vaughn Butler, Bruce Stiles and manager Tug Robson.



SPORTS

Thursday,
July 3, 2008

Linsly staff to lead W.Va. in grid classic

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

B.J. Depew has been around the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic before.

He worked under his father Terry as a member of the Mountaineer staff in 2005.

However, when the Mountaineers take the field on Sunday, July 27, it'll be a different role for B.J. as he and his coaching staff will be calling the shots.

And outside of B.J. Depew, there are no holdovers from the previous administration at Linsly School.

However, that fact alone made the desire for the Cadets to seize the opportunity to coach this game even stronger.

"This group of coaches loves

what they do," Depew said. "An opportunity to work with a different group of kids and experienced memories with them is exciting."

While everyone wants to win the game, Depew is looking at the bigger picture when it comes to the week he'll spend with players from all over the Ohio Valley.

"We've got a couple of guys on our staff who've played in this game, so we know how the memories we made during that week stuck with us and meant a lot to us," Depew said. "It's now our job as coaches to make sure the kids have as equally positive experience when we are working with them."

The entire Cadets' coaching staff will be on hand when the Mountaineers report to West Liberty State College on July 20 to begin preparations for the 63rd



annual OVAC Game.

Depew will be joined by James Cowart, Gene Lofstead, Steve Ochap, Ray Smith and Josh Whetstone.

"Steve was with us, but basically I am the last man standing from my dad's coaching staff," Depew said. "We're all basically fairly young guys who have been getting together as a staff for two or three years."

Here is a capsule look at the West Virginia coaches:

B.J. DEPEW just completed his second season as the Linsly School head coach after taking over his aforementioned father's highly-successful career.

Depew owns a 9-11 mark in his career. While he's only been the head coach for two years, he's been a football coach for nine years total.

Along with football, Depew has also coached baseball and track and currently serves on the diamond staff.

Depew is a 1994 Linsly graduate and went on to earn his degree from The Ohio State University in 1999.

B.J. and his wife Tracy are the parents of Isaac (13 months) and they reside in Wheeling.

JAMES COWART has been a member of the Cadets' staff for four years and has been involved in the athletic program at his alma mater for five years.

Cowart is a 1998 Linsly School graduate and went on to play college football at Edinboro where he earned his bachelor's degree in 2003. At Edinboro, Cowart was a first-team all-conference line-backer.

Cowart also serves as an assistant coach in girls basketball and track for the Cadets.

James resides in Wheeling.

GERALD LOFSTEAD has been a member of Depew's staff for both of his seasons and this coaching gig is his first in the sport of football.

See, **LINSLY**, Page C2

● Linsly

Continued from Page C1

Lofstead graduated from Linsly in 1986 and went on to Lafayette College in Easton, Pa. to play football and earn his degree.

Lofstead took part in the 1986 OVAC All-Star Classic and served the West Virginia side as a captain after earning all-state, all-OVAC and all-Valley accolades.

Gerald and his wife Christina have two children, Graham (6) and Bridget (2). The Lofsteads reside in Wheeling.

STEVE OCHAP is another member of the Linsly staff who is once again getting the opportunity to coach in a game he played in after his senior year of high school.

Ochap represented Wheeling Park High School in the game before going on to Bethany College to earn his degree in English Literature. He was a four-year starter for the Bison and three-times earned first-team all-conference honors.

Steve arrived at Linsly four years ago and has been on the Cadets' staff since.

Along with football, Steve also coaches fifth and sixth grade youth basketball.

Steve and his wife Sarah reside in Wheeling.

RAY SMITH has spent 27 years working at the Linsly School in a variety of coaching positions. He's been a varsity football assistant for two years, but has been around the Cadets' grid program for all 27 of his years at the school.

Smith is a 1977 graduate of Wheeling Park High School and went on to earn his degree from Bethany College in 1981.

Along with football, Smith is currently the Linsly freshman basketball coach and has previously been the head boys and girls' hoop coaches. He's been named Intelligencer/Wheeling News-Register Coach of the Year in 1997-98 and has coached in the OVAC Hoop Classic three times and currently serves on the committee for the game.

Smith's the father of two children: Jordan (21) and Jerred (16).

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

Coaches ready for OVAC All-Star Classic



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

Kickoff is drawing closer for Sunday's annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. Game director Bob Koch (center) is flanked by Ohio head coach Randy Thompson of Buckeye Trail (left) and West Virginia head coach B.J. Depew of Linsly. The Ohio and West Virginia all-stars will square off Sunday evening at 7:15 p.m.

TELLIGENCER - Wheeling, W.Va. - Thursday, January 31, 2008

OVAC All-Star Coaches Picked

Thompson, Depew will lead Ohio, W.Va.

By BRIAN COOK
For the Intelligencer

It's almost six months away, but the personnel of the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football game have been working hard in preparation of the 37th annual event.

"It's the event of the year in Ohio Valley athletics," Bob Koch, game director, said at Wednesday night's organizational meeting. "Every year we always have dedicated workers that continue to give back to Ohio Valley sports and it will continue to be no different this year."

Being announced as head coaches to represent the Ohio and West Virginia squads will be Randy Thompson of Buckeye Trail and B.J. Depew of Linsly, respectively.

"I am looking forward to it," Thompson said cheerfully about leading the Buckeyes. "It is going to be challenge and be very exciting. It

is great event for the athletes and the coaches of the OVAC to be able to get together to celebrate a great year of football."

Both coaches will research the prospective players in their state to form a 32-man squad plus one kicker.

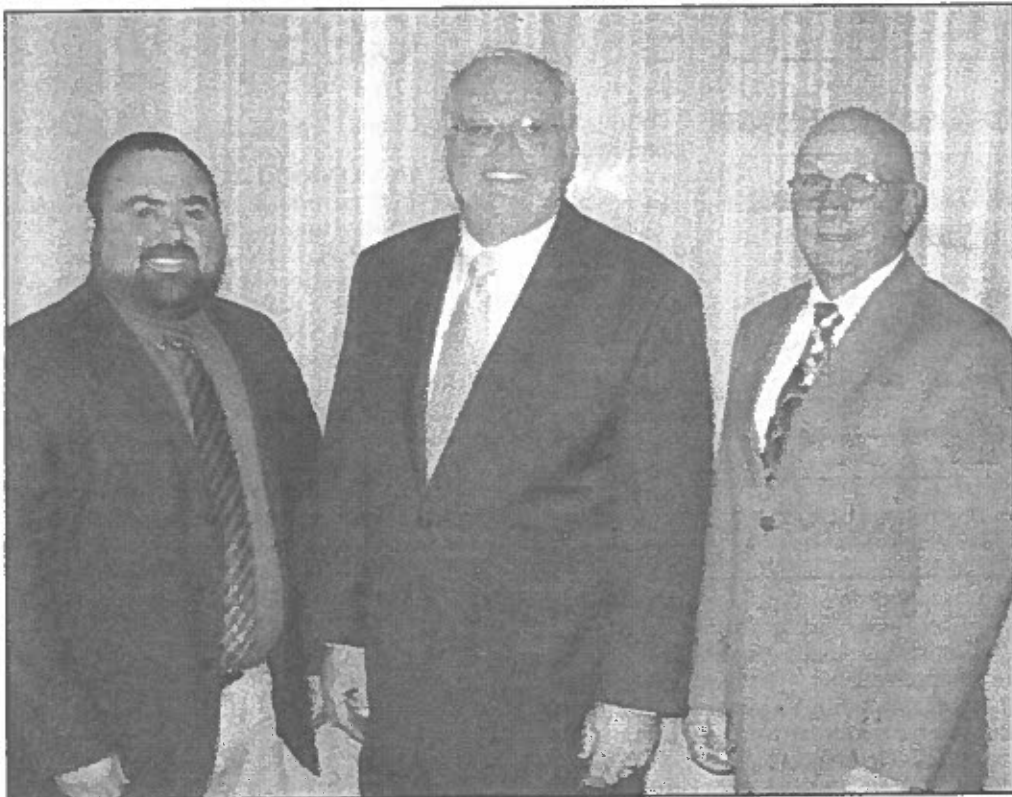
"There is some great talent all through the valley," Depew said. "Both Ohio and West Virginia had some great football programs this year and we're really looking forward to working with the caliber of athletes in all the West Virginia schools."

The pool of graduating senior players available have been hand selected from every coach in the valley and handed over to both Thompson and Depew mold into a winning team.

"We only got the packet a few minutes ago and are anxious to see who is available," Thompson said. "Both the Ohio and West Virginia side have produced some great athletes. We are going to get the kids which fit our system well."

THE TIMES LEADER - Sunday, February 3, 2008 - C4

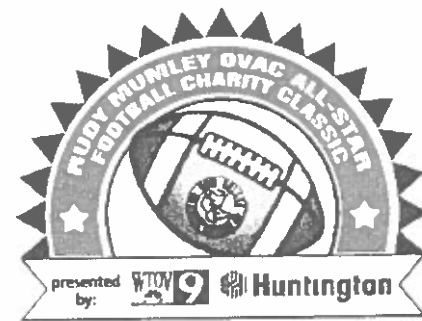
OVAC All-Star Game



T-L Photo/BRIAN COOK

PLANS FOR the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic kicked off last weekend with the annual announcement of the coaches. Pictured, from left, are West Virginia head coach B.J. Depew of Linsly, Game Director Bob Koch and Ohio head coach Randy Thompson of Buckeye Trail. The annual game is slated for July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

No 1546



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Wheeling Island Stadium

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At the Gate: \$10.00



No 1546

West Virginia Goes Agile, Explosive on 'D'

Defensive makeup allows for aggressive defense for Depew

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

Ohio is going to bring a lot of offensive firepower into the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic slated for Sunday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

It's going to be West Virginia's job to slow down the vaunted and versatile Buckeyes attack.

Mountaineers coach B.J. Depew of Linsly took plenty of notes on how last season's West Virginia boss Mark Batton approached the defensive side of the ball.

"I thought what Coach Batton did was great," Depew said. "He came right after Ohio. If you can't defend then you have to attack, and I really like that in an all-star game."

When he sat down to pick his first and second-level players on the defensive side of the ball he was looking for kids with high motors.

"We wanted guys that could run all over the field and make plays," Depew said. "We think we can get an up-field surge and then our linebackers are quick and athletic. I think we can put some pressure on (Ohio) which might nullify some of their speed."

Slated to see time either at linebacker or along the defensive lines are: Magnolia's Steven Zajdowicz and Kyle Smith, John Marshall's Taylor Potts, Wheeling Park's Lucas Goodwin and Allen Earnest, Wheeling Central's Josh Contraguero, Brooke's Jesse Campbell, Paden City's Rosh Cain and Linsly's Ian

Berry.

Here's a capsule look at the players:

Ian Berry
Linsly

This former Cadet saw time along the defensive line at a tackle spot for the Cadets and Depew last season.

The 5-foot-10, 240-pounder was a force against the run.

Ian, who is the son of Gloria Thomas of Sebring, Fla. is planning on attending Seton Hall University.

Rosh Cain
Paden City

This linebacker was a force on the defensive side of the ball for Coach Brent Croasmun and the Wildcats.

The 6-0, 210-pounder was a three-time all-OVAC player as well as a first-team Mason Dixon and first-team All River Valley along with special mention all-W.Va.

Rosh, who plans on attending West Liberty State College, is the son of Brenda and Doug Smith and the late Terry Cain.

Jesse Campbell
Brooke

This former Bruin anchored both sides of the line for Coach Dave Reitter from his center and defensive tackle spots.

As a defensive lineman, he recorded 102 tackles and as an offensive lineman graded out at 75 percent blocking.

Jesse is the son of Pam and Delbert Campbell of Colliers.

Josh Contraguero
Wheeling Central

This former Maroon Knight played a key role each of the past three seasons for Coach Mike Young's charges.

The 6-0, 205-pounder wreaked havoc during his career, compiling



Berry



Cain



Contraguero



Earnest



Goodwin



Potts



Zajdowicz

305 tackles, 19 sacks, eight interceptions, eight fumble recoveries, three forced fumbles and he blocked three punts for good measure.

He was twice a first-team all-state pick, captaining the defensive side as a senior. He was twice a first-team all-OVAC and all-Valley selection. He was also the Knights' Most Valuable Player and was a Big 22 finalist. He was runnerup for the Huff Award and received special honors at the Dapper Dan.

Along with football, Contraguero was active in art club and he ran track.

Josh, who plans on attending West Virginia University, is the son of Bob and Jody Contraguero of Wheeling.

Allen Earnest
Wheeling Park

This two-way standout was a force on both sides of the ball for head coach Mark Nardone.

The 5-10, 210-pounder saw time as a nose guard and as a fullback during his senior year.

Other than football, Earnest took part in Young Life.

Allen, who is the son of Doug and Pam Earnest, plans to attend West Liberty State College.

Lucas Goodwin
Wheeling Park

This former Patriot was the main man in the middle for Nardone at the linebacker spot.

The 6-1, 195-pounder was one of the Patriots' leading tacklers this season.

Along with football, Lucas is a member of the National Honor Society, active in Youth Group and Varsity Athletic Club.

Lucas, who is the son of Dr. Joseph and Amy Goodwin, plans on attending WVU in the fall.

Taylor Potts
John Marshall

This former Monarch was a two-way lineman for Coach Mark Hinerman's team last fall, seeing time at center and nose guard.

The 6-0, 230-pounder recorded eight sacks, three fumble recoveries and 75 tackles.

Potts was a second-team all-state pick, took part in last month's North-South Game and was first-team all-OVAC. He also received the John Marshall Football Scholar Athlete Award.

Along with athletics, Potts is active in FCA, SADD, Ski Club, Leo Club and he serves as the co-director of his church's vacation bible school.

Taylor, who is the son of Patrick and Janie Potts, plans on attending college.

Kyle Smith
Magnolia

This former Blue Eagle was a mainstay at defensive tackle for Batton's team.

The 5-9, 260-pounder logged

153 tackles his final two prep seasons and also had a sack, a fumble recovery and forced two fumbles.

Smith was a special-mention all-state pick as well as second-team all-Valley and honorable mention all-OVAC.

Along with football, Smith was a member of the Magnolia track team. He's also active in Young Life and is a member of the New Martinsville United Methodist Church.

Kyle, who is the son of Kathi and Joe Smith of New Martinsville, plans on attending Ohio Wesleyan University to play football.

Steven Zajdowicz
Magnolia

This former Blue Eagle was a playmaker at the linebacker spot for Batton's defensive unit.

The 5-9, 205 pounder had 95 tackles, including four sacks. He also rushed for 1,432 yards and 18 touchdowns as the Blue Eagles' primary ball carrier.

He was a first-team all-state, All-Valley and all-OVAC pick the past two seasons. He was also a Big 22 finalist and received a honor at the Dapper Dan Banquet.

Along with athletics, Zajdowicz volunteers his time to help with kids with disabilities.

Steven, who plans on attending Fairmont State University, is the son of Steve and Cindy Zajdowicz of New Martinsville.

W.Va. Solid At WR Spot

Depew: We're prepared to throw the football

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

West Virginia's coaching staff believes lining up and trying to run through the Ohio defense might not be the best plan during the 63rd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic.

Therefore, having plenty of weaponry on the outside was a must when Linsly's B.J. Depew and staff sat down to pick the Mountaineers roster for the annual summer football game, which is slated for July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We want to have as balanced an attack as possible," Depew said.

"Ohio is going to make us throw the football, and we think we'll be prepared to do so."

Preparing to catch passes from quarterbacks Michael Angalich and Alex Pelechutte are this group of wide receivers: Brooke's James McFarland, John Marshall's Logan Jarrett, Bishop Donahue's L.A. Hampton, Oak Glen's Gary Gamble, John Marshall's Jacob Carnahan and Weir High's Steven Buffo.

"We've got a lot of options at wide receiver," Depew offered.

"We've got kids who had a ton of receiving yards and played in systems that were built on passing, and we think that will allow us to open some things up in the running game."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

JAMES MCFARLAND, Brooke — This former Bruin was a two-way standout for Coach Dave Reitter's team this past season.

The 6-foot, 150-pounder saw time as a receiver, where he had 19 catches for 370 yards and two scores. Defensively, he pilfered three passes from his cornerback spot.

McFarland, who served as team captain his senior year, was named team's best receiver and defensive MVP.

He was also a standout in wrestling, winning a state championship and team MVP honors. He also took part in track and field.

McFarland is a standout in the classroom as well. He's a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll and Principal's List.

James, who plans on attending West Liberty State College, is the son of John and Barbara McFarland of Wellsburg.

LOGAN JARRETT, John Marshall — This former Monarch was a three-year mainstay for now retired head coach Mark Hinerman and the Monarchs.

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Along with football, Jarrett was also a standout in track and field.

Logan, who is undecided about his future plans, is the son of Kevin and Debbie Jarrett of Moundsville.

L.A. HAMPTON, Bishop Donahue — This former Bishop was a big-play threat



McFarland



Jarrett



Hampton



Gamble



Carnahan



Buffo

OVAC ALL-STAR GAME

for Coach John Durdines' club.

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Buffo was also a four-year mainstay for the Red Riders' baseball team. Along with sports, he also took part in Hi-Y and chemistry club.

Buffo, who will attend Wheeling Jesuit University, is the son of John and Tina Buffo of Weirton.

Mountaineers Line is Solid

Depew: I think we have some depth

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

The football cliché that says games are won and lost in the trenches is usually right on when it comes to the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, which is slated for July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Knowing that from past experiences, West Virginia coach B.J. Depew of Linsly and his trusted cohorts sat down to draft their squad for this, the 63rd annual bi-state summer clash with linemen on the mind.

"I think we have some depth up front," Depew said. "I am really pleased with the group of kids we've picked to play along the line."

The West Virginia squad is stacked with not only big linemen, but athletic ones, which is key to combat a deep Ohio unit.

"We put together guys who can work well as a unit," Depew said. "We are fairly big in most of the spots up front and we can move pretty well, so I am excited to get these guys into camp and see what they can do."

Set to battle for the playing time in the West Virginia trenches are: Linsly's Sam Cecil, Tyler Consolidated's Logan Efav, Brooke's Drake Kowcheck, Wheeling Park's Bobby McConnell, Magnolia's Taylor Shepherd and Wheeling Park's Dave Vetanze.

Here is a capsule look at the players:

SAM CECIL, Linsly — This former Cadet standout was a two-way tackle standout.

The 6-foot, 250-pounder was one of the most consistent blockers for Linsly with 17 pancake blocks and also had 43 tackles at a defensive standout. He had three sacks.

He was named to the all-OVAC and all-Valley squads.

Sam, who is the son of Clay and Lois Cecil of New Martinsville, will attend Columbia University in New York City to play football.

LOGAN EFAW, Tyler Consolidated — This former Silver Knight was a standout on both sides of the ball.

The 6-2, 205 pounder truly left his mark on the defensive side of the ball with 109 tackles — 12 for a loss. He also had three interceptions and a fumble recovery.

Efav was first-team all-OVAC, second-team all-Valley, first-team All Mid-Ohio Valley, first-team all-state.

Logan, who is the son of Mike and Julie Efav of Paden City, plans on attending Marshall University.

DRAKE KOWCHECK, Brooke — This former Bruin was a two-way standout along the line for head coach Dave Reitter.

The 6-1, 275-pounder graded out at 82 percent blocking, and defensively he had 77 tackles and had two sacks.

He was a second-team all-Valley, honorable mention all-OVAC, honorable mention all-state.

He was also a standout in wrestling, qualifying to the state tournament three times.

Drake, who is the son of Eric Kowcheck and Jackie Huggins of Wellsburg, plans on attending Marshall University.

BOBBY MCCONNELL, Wheeling Park — This former Patriot was also a two-way standout for Coach Mark Nardone's squad.

The 6-3, 225-pounder saw time at left tackle and defensive end during his years with the Patriots.

Bobby, who is planning on attending Bethany College, is the son of Jeff and Ethel McConnell of Valley Grove.

TAYLOR SHEPHERD, Magnolia — This former Blue Eagle was the anchor of the line for Coach Mark Batton as a center.

Shepherd was also a standout at linebacker with 23 solo and 45 assisted tackles. As a center, he made 35 straight starts and helped lead his team to the playoffs.

He was a first-team all-state and all-OVAC pick. First-team all-Valley and all-Mid Ohio Valley.

Taylor, who is the son of Tom and Lisa Shepherd of New Martinsville, plans on attending West Virginia University.


DAVID VETANZE, Wheeling Park — This former Patriot was a two-way line ace for Coach Nardone's charges this past season.

As an offensive lineman, the 6-2, 290-pounder was charted for 37 pancake blocks and as a defensive lineman he recorded 24 tackles.

His solid campaign didn't go unnoticed as he was a second-team all-state pick. As well as a first-team all-OVAC and all-Valley selection.

David, who is the son of Dave and Tina Vetanze of Wheeling, plans on attending West Virginia University.

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