

**MONROE CENTRAL'S** Aleisha Guiler goes up for a shot against Linsly's Whitney Young during the 32nd annual OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic held at Ohio University-Eastern Sunday afternoon. The Ohio girls prevailed by a 96-60 count. *Additional images may be found on Page B2 and [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)*

T-L Photos/MIKE PALMER

## Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic

# Buckeyes sweep

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

The rivalry that is Ohio vs. West Virginia came to the forefront Sunday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville during the 32nd annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic.

However, despite a sterling comeback from the Mountaineer boys, the Buckeyes made it another sweep for the Ohio side of the river.

After watching the Ohio girls score the first 12 points of the game and cruise to a 96-60 victory, a large turnout was treated to a dandy in the nightcap with the Ohio boys scoring a bucket with less than five seconds to go to post a 98-96 victory.

**THE OHIO BOYS** appeared to be well on their way to coasting to a victory like the girls, but after Cambridge High's Thomas Norris dazzled the crowd with a bevy of dunks to win the halftime competi-

tion, the Buckeyes seemingly lost their intensity and the Mountaineers nearly made them pay.

"We were up pretty big at halftime, but give West Virginia credit because they kept battling," said Ohio head coach Ben Porter.

The Mountaineers came out in the second half and stared at a 58-44 deficit as the coaches tried to formulate the correct groupings of players.

"We wanted to be in a situation with five minutes to go where we could win the game," said JM and West Virginia head coach Bill Storm. "We wanted to get the kids who we thought might be our best five together on the court."

The Mountaineers seemingly had it going their way. They gained their first lead of the

See, OVAC, Page B3



**UNION LOCAL'S** Joby Barr glides in for a shot during Sunday's OVAC All-Star Basketball Game at OUE. Barr led all scorers in the game with 22 points and helped the Ohio squad prevail by a 98-96 score.

## Tar Heels, Spartans ready to go

DETROIT (AP) — Only one team can win it all. Whoever does will say it was meant to be.

For the North Carolina players who skipped turning pro after last season, a championship was the only realistic goal. For the Michigan State players who are playing for more than just themselves in an economically battered state, this is starting to feel like destiny.

They meet Monday in the NCAA final to write the closing chapter.

"We're not carrying them on our shoulders like we're trying to save the world," Spartans coach Tom Izzo said of the Michigan State fans. "We're carrying them on our shoulders because we care, and it's our state."

The Spartans (31-6) know a win in the NCAA title game on a court 90 miles from their campus won't fix Michigan's economic freefall, won't put anybody back to work.

But there will be 72,000 people in Ford Field, and most will be rooting for them.

And winning, as they say, can be contagious.

Michigan ranks 51st out of 50 states (and District of Columbia) in the latest unemployment figures. Detroit is the hub of

an auto industry on life support, a civic symbol of an economic system that has come off the tracks.

That's the backdrop for a game in which Michigan State finds itself a 7 1/2-point underdog against a Carolina team that has "national champs" practically embroidered into its uniforms.

Remember, this is the team that was picked to win it all — and maybe go undefeated — after Tyler Hansbrough, Ty Lawson, Wayne Ellington and Danny Green all decided to return after a bad loss to Kansas at last year's Final Four.

Undefeated was never on coach Roy Williams' list of goals. Winning a championship, though? Always.

"If you thought it was easy, you don't know what you're talking about," Williams said. "It's college basketball. There hasn't been an undefeated team since '76, and there have been some really, really good teams. I think this year there were eight or 10 teams or 12, I haven't studied it, that could be playing Monday night."

But it will be North Carolina (33-4), the preseason No. 1 and top seed in the South Regional, against Michigan State, a less-hyped and more overlooked No. 2 seed out of the Midwest.

Though Izzo won't sell his team short — "you don't get this far on grit," he said — he also knows the deal. This is a rematch of a game North Carolina won 98-63 on Dec. 3 in the same building. Anyone who turned the channel, or turned the page, on that one gets a pass. Izzo certainly has.

*'If you thought it was easy, you don't know what you're talking about.'*

— Roy Williams on winning

## Gordon snaps skid at Texas

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — That Texas-sized drought ended for Jeff Gordon in the most unexpected place.

After 47 races without a NASCAR Sprint Cup victory,



## Maholm, Pirates set to open season

By **JOHN PERROTTO**  
For The Times Leader

ST. LOUIS — Paul Maholm smiled at a reporter at the end of the interview.

"Sorry I'm so boring," the Pirates left hander said.

contest with just over 10 minutes to play and thanks to the inside work of Wheeling Central's Cody Koehler owned a lead as big as four on several occasions down the stretch of the game.

Koehler scored eight points in each half, but there was a point of three consecutive possessions where the former Knight did the work on the interior.

"This was a good experience to get play against the guys you see all season in one game," Koehler said. "Our defense is what got us going in the second half. Our guards did a nice job of pressuring the ball and we got some inside shots to go, which opened up the outside for us."

After Koehler put the Mountaineers up by three at 84-81, Rosecrans' Josh Agin canned a three-point goal from the right wing to knot the game.

However, West Virginia went back up four on back-to-back goals by Central's D'Onite Long and Madonna's Anthony Pietranton.

Union Local all-Ohioan Joby Barr — who scored seemingly every time he wanted to — got an inside goal to fall to cut the lead to two, but Park's D'Jhae Jackson got a layup to fall. The Buckeyes weren't done by any means.

Barr sliced for another bucket and then canned a three from the left wing, which hit the rim, bounced up and rolled off the top of the board and through to put Ohio back on top.

"It's tough to get your game going when you're sitting and playing, sitting and playing," Barr said. "After that (three), I didn't even want it to go in it looked so ugly, but that was a big shot. I had been shooting well, so I decided to take one there. I called bank twice I think."

A steal in the backcourt led to an easy two-hand flush from the 5-ft-8 Norris, but this time the Mounties weren't done.

Paden City's Ricky Wright — who had hit just one field goal and missed on all of his bonus basket tries — tied the game at 96 with 36.8 seconds to go.

The teams traded timeouts and eventually Ohio got the ball into Norris' hands who ran the clock under 10 seconds before making his move to the bucket. He penetrated into the lane, but drew several defenders and found Zanesville High and Wheeling Jesuit recruit Joe Prati for a soft jumper along the baseline.

"Thomas made a nice move and Joe finished," Porter said. "It was a good game. We kind of leveled out, but for once I don't think it was due to my boring halftime speech. The last group we had on the floor gave us a nice spark."

West Virginia called for a timeout, but the Mountaineers were never able to get a shot off as the horn sounded.

Barr led all scorers in the game with 22 points, while Norris added 16, including four NBA range three-point goals in the opening half.

Other Ohioans to crack double figures included: St. Clairsville's Ryan Jarvie (12), Prati (12) and Agin (11).

West Virginia received sterling play from the John Marshall duo of Anthony Montes and Travis Whitfield, who went for 16

and 14, respectively to complement Koehler. Park's Jackson finished with 14.

Ohio held a 59-56 edge on the boards. Prati had 10 rebounds and Frontier's Ben Huntsman had nine to lead the Ohio squad. West Virginia was paced by Tyler Consolidated's Zach Perky who had a double-double 10 points and a like number of boards.

The Buckeyes were charted for 27 turnovers compared to just 10 for the Mounties.

#### Scoring:

WEST VIRGINIA (96) — Breen 0, 0-0 0; Eikleberry 0, 0-0 0; Falova 1, 0-0 2; Jackson 6, 1-2 14; Koehler 7, 2-3 17; Koontz 1, 0-0 2; Joseph 4, 0-0 8; Long 2, 0-0 4; Montes 6, 2-2 16; Moulton 1, 0-0 2; Perky 5, 0-2 10; Pietranton 1, 0-0 2; Rine 0, 0-0 0; Whitfield 7, 0-2 14; Wright 2, 0-0 5; Totals: 43, 3-8 96. OHIO (98) — Agin 4, 0-2 11; Barbina 1, 1-2 3; Barr 10, 0-1 22; Butts 1, 1-2 3; Collart 2, 0-0 5; Huntsman 1, 0-0 2; Jarvie 5, 1-2 12; Johnson 1, 0-2 3; Kenny 2, 1-1 5; MacMillan 1, 0-0 2; Norris 6, 0-0 16; Prati 4, 4-4 12; Russell 0, 0-0 0; Thieman 1, 0-0 2; Totals: 41, 8-15.

Three-Point Goals: WV — Jackson, Koehler, Montes (2), Wright. OH — Agin (3), Barr (2), Collart, Jarvie, Johnson, Norris (4).

THE OHIO GIRLS never looked back after assuming the big lead to open the game and were never issued a challenge.

"The biggest thing is that all of the girls got to play, developed some new friendships and had a good time," said Cambridge and Ohio girls coach Dan Linscott. "A chance to get a win in their last game as seniors is a pretty sweet deal."

The Lady Buckeyes — who had all 15 players reach the scoring column — received big first halves from Steubenville Central's Ginny Petties and Cambridge's Taryn Payton who went for 11 and eight, respectively.

All told, the Ohioans had just three players reach double figures. Payton went for 14, while Petties closed with 13 and Meadowbrook's Emily Jirles added 12.

Beallsville's Alyssa Headley, Shadyside's Laken Gibson and Caldwell's Kristin Nau all evenly divided 24 points.

West Virginia — despite chilly shooting all afternoon — produced the game's top scorer in Central's Kara DeSantis who had 20 points, including 11 in the afternoon. Valley's Lesta Kocher was the second-leading scorer for the Lady Mountaineers with six points.

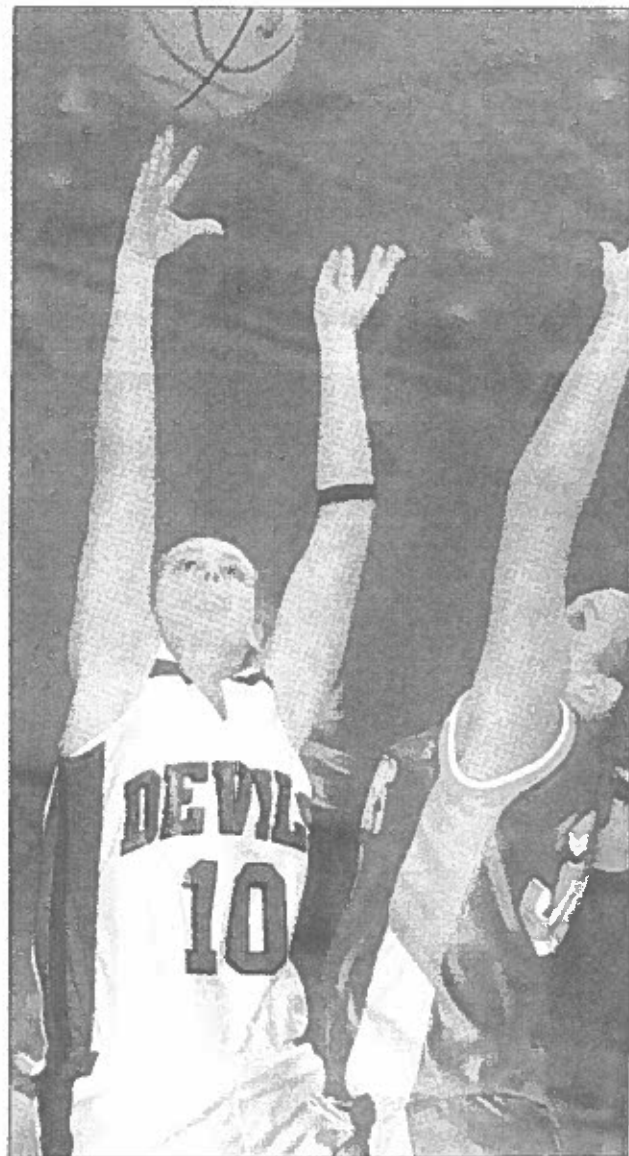
Ohio's size advantage resulted in a 67-33 edge on the glass. Shenandoah's Britani Farnsworth yanked down nine boards, while Conotton's Abbi Gooding and Jirles each had eight.

St. Clairsville's Alessia Vivod claimed the three-point shootout at halftime with nine makes.

#### Scoring:

WEST VIRGINIA (60) — Burkart 1, 0-0 2; Cieply 2, 0-0 4; Cline 0, 2-4 2; Deel 2, 0-0 4; DeSantis 6, 3-4 20; Floyd 2, 0-0 4; Hartley 2, 0-0 4; Kocher 3, 0-0 6; Martin 2, 0-0 4; Muchek 1, 0-0 2; Murdock 0, 0-0 0; Musgrave 1, 0-0 2; Smith 1, 0-0 2; Yurisko 0, 2-4 2; Young 1, 0-0 2; Totals: 24, 7-12 60. OHIO (96) — Coleman 1, 0-0 3; Farnsworth 1, 1-2 3; Gibson 3, 1-2 8; Gooding 1, 2-2 4; Guiler 2, 2-2 6; Headley 4, 0-0 8; Jirles 6, 0-0 12; Kalinowski 0, 1-2 1; Kowalczyk 2, 0-0 4; McEwen 2, 0-0 4; Nau 2, 4-4 8; Payton 6, 2-2 14; Pendergrast 3, 0-0 6; Petties 5, 1-2 13; Vivod 1, 1-2 3; Totals: 39, 15-20 96.

Three-Point Goals: WV — DeSantis (5), OH — Coleman, Gibson, Petties (2).



**LEFT TOP:** The Ohio bench, including, Bellaire's Megan Kowalczyk, assistant coach Erin DeSantis of Indian Creek and assistant coach Terry Jarrett of Beallsville applaud during the game Sunday.

**RIGHT TOP:** Beallsville's Alyssa Headley goes up for a shot against Bishop Donahue's Chrissy Muchek.

**AT LEFT:** St. Clairsville's Alessia Vivod chases after a loose ball. She won the three-point shootout.

**AT RIGHT:** Shadyside's Nathan Butts and Frontier's Ben Huntsman pose for the camera during Sunday's boys game.

**BELOW RIGHT:** Harrison Central's Ty Kenny goes up for a shot against Central's Eli Joseph.

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**BOTTOM RIGHT:** OVAC All-Star Basketball committee member Rich Saffield presents John Stanko with the Earl Haberfield Award.

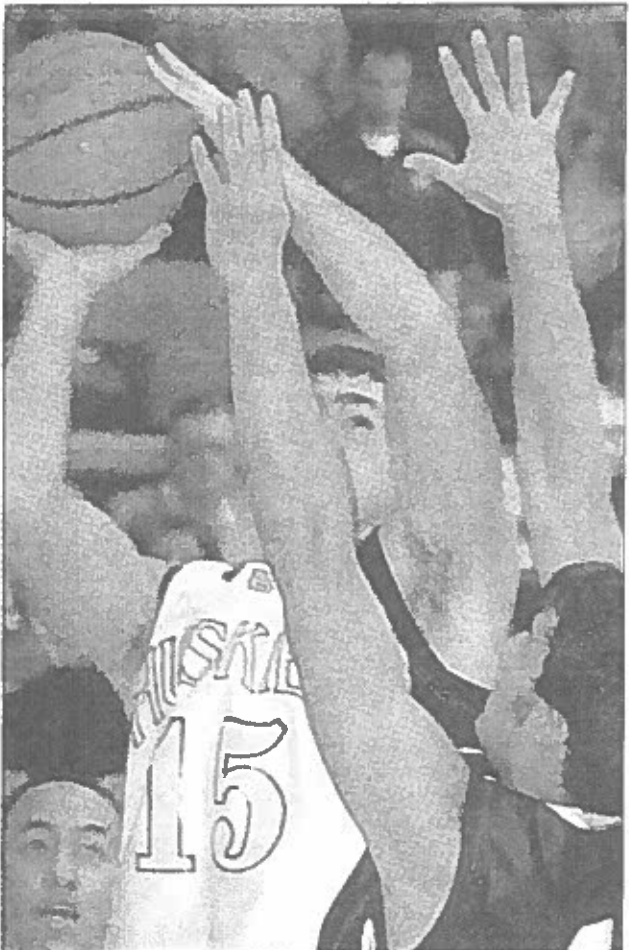
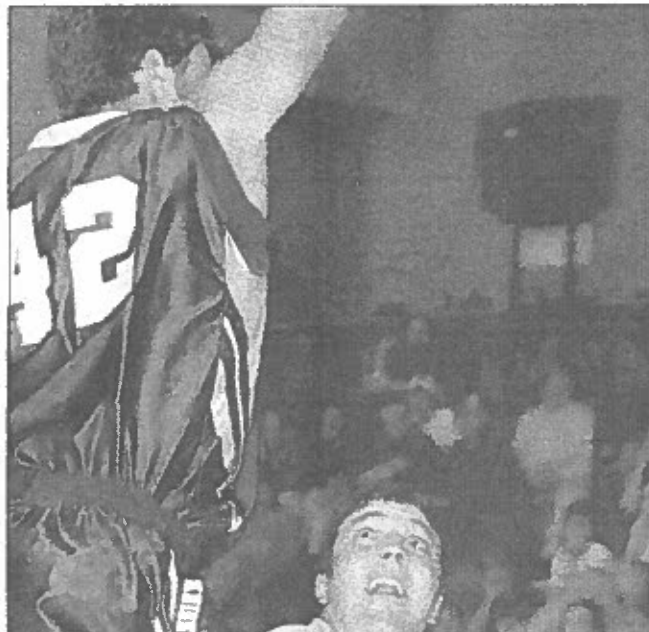
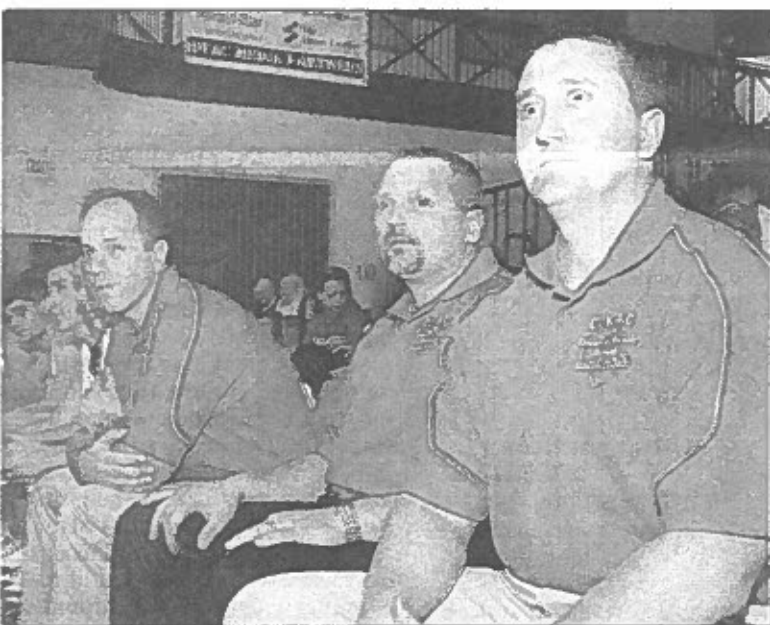
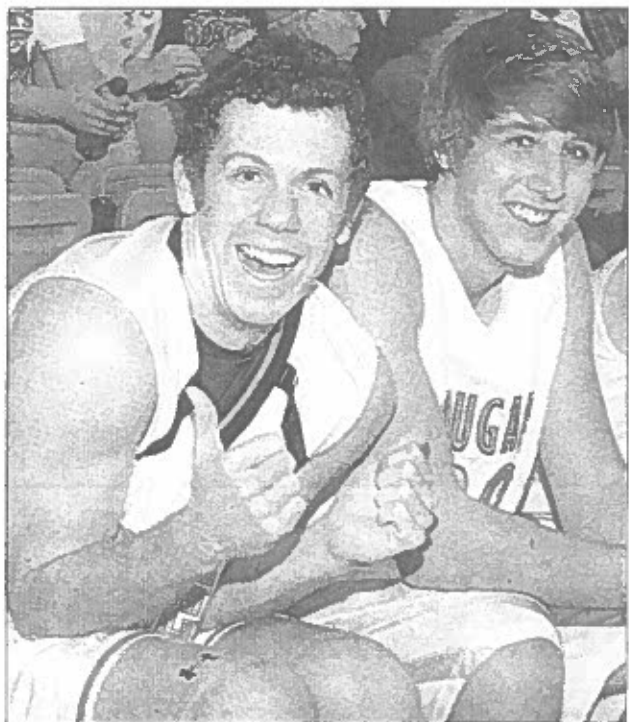
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**LEFT MIDDLE:** The Ohio boys coaching staff looks on. From left are Greg Mitts, Don Voght and Ben Porter.

**LEFT BELOW:** Union Local's Jordan Barbina skies in for a layup during the second half of Sunday's Sam Mumley Classic.

**LEFT BOTTOM:** Eyeing up for a foul shot is Bridgeport High's Cora Kalinowski during the girls game at Sunday's Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic at Ohio University Eastern. The Ohio boys and girls swept the action.

T-L Photos/MIKE PALMER





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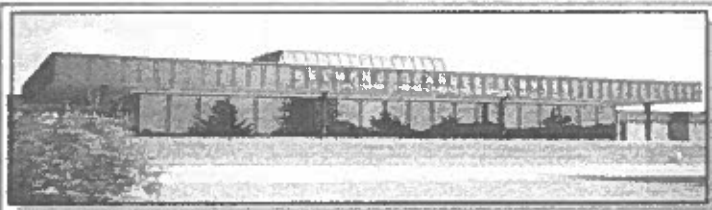
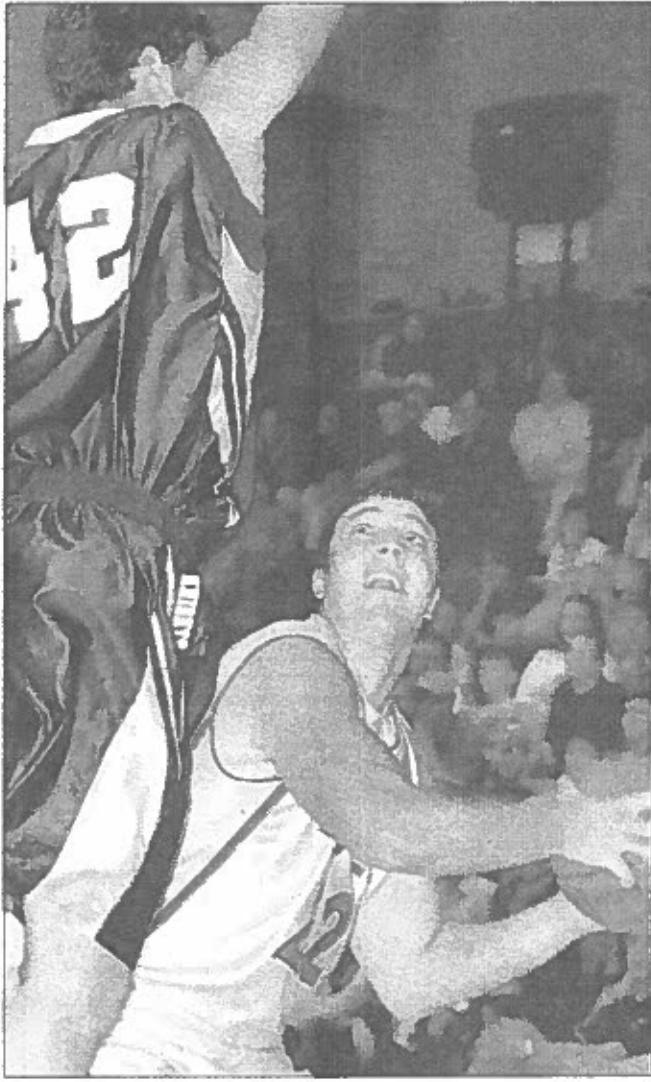
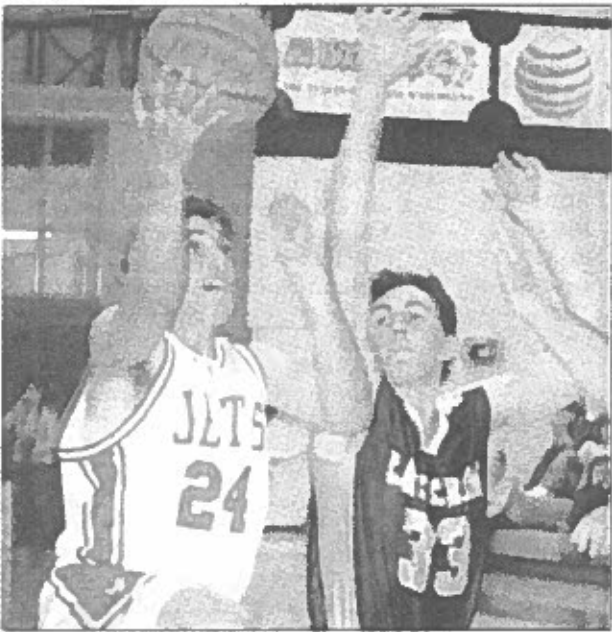
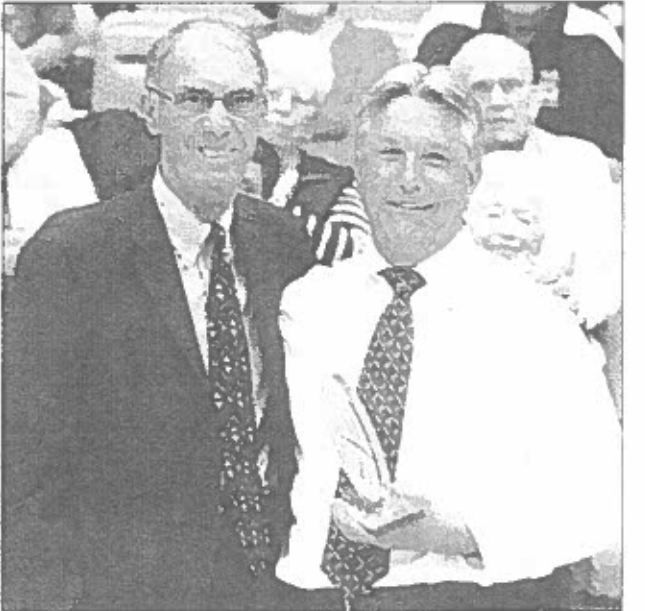
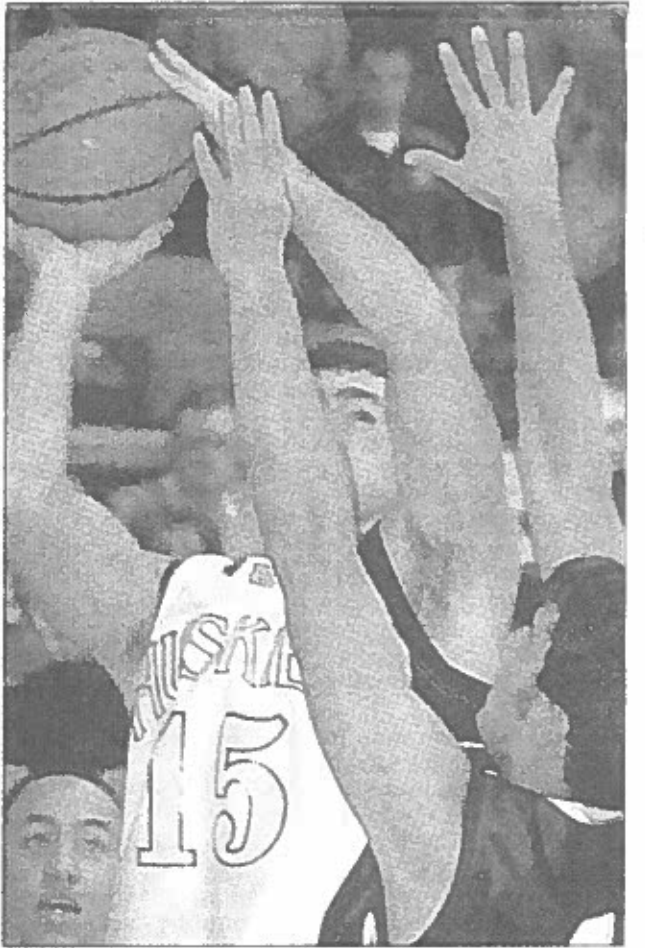
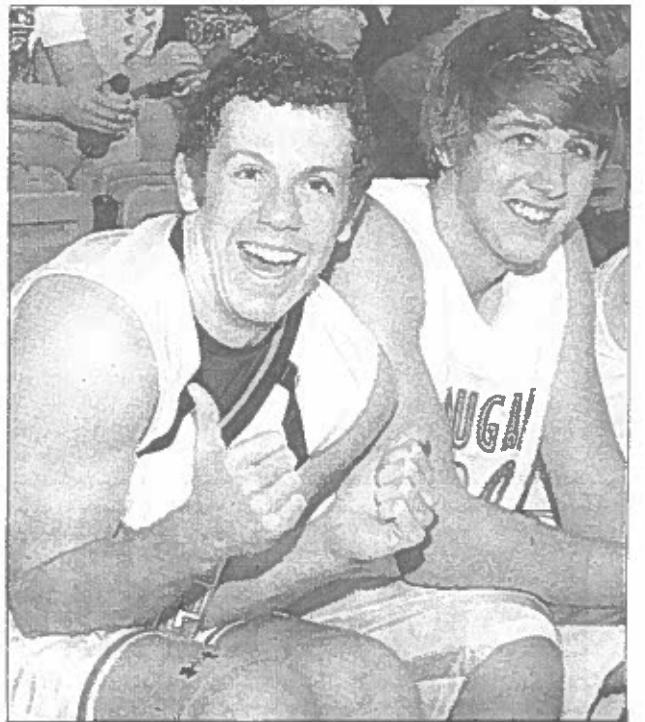
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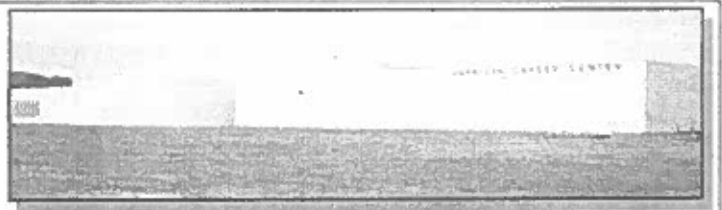
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## SPORTS

Tuesday, March 24,  
2009

## Winning would make OVAC game more fun

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

All-star games are supposed to be a fun, exciting way to put a cap on players' final seasons of high school basketball.

The annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Game is no different, but the nature of area athletes insists there's more than fun on the line come Sunday, April 5.

While fun is an objective, the competitive juices will be flowing freely just a few minutes into both the boys and girls contests, which are slated for 3 and approximately 5 p.m. at Ohio University-Eastern.

To be honest, the competitive nature was at it Monday evening when players from all four teams were at the site of the game for the annual media day.

"No offense, but I don't like West Virginia too much, so this is like a regular season game for me in terms of wanting to win," said Shadyside's Nathan Butts. "There's one team in particular that has kind of became our rival."

See, **OVAC**, Page B2



**THE OVAC All-Star Basketball Game** is slated for Sunday, April 5. Pictured are the coaches for the game. From left are Ohio girls coach Dan Linscott (Cambridge), Ohio boys Ben Porter (Union Local), game director Tom Bechtel, West Virginia girls Paige Williams (Bishop Donahue) and West Virginia boys Bill Storm (John Marshall).

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

## ● OVAC

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and it would be nice to win."

The coaches are the same as the players.

All of the coaches in the game saw their season end with a loss, meaning there's a chance at a little bit of redemption one last time.

Union Local head coach Ben Porter earned the right to serve on the Ohio staff after he guided his Jets to a strong 20-3 mark, which saw them claim the school's first OVAC boys hoop title and first Buckeye 8 title.

"It's exciting to get a chance to coach some of these kids, who you've coached against all season and they can see you in a different light," Porter said. "You get the opportunity to see what you've prepared against all season."

For Porter, accepting the Ohio post was a no-brainer for two reasons. Those being Jordan Barbina and Joby Barr. After spending the last two years with the 'Killer Bs', he gets two more chances during the postseason. He'll also coach the East squad in the District 12 game, which is slated for April 3 at Buckeye Trail High School.

"The two years with

those guys went by pretty quickly," Porter explained. "To get to coach these guys two more times is really a pleasure, and I am looking forward to it."

When it comes to competitive, Porter is admittedly one of the most competitive people around and that's indicated by his intense coaching style for 32 minutes during the season.

However, the officials working the game may get a reprieve as Porter doesn't plan to be quite as intense.

"I think I might be able to relax a little bit," Porter joked. "I can take a seat on the bench and let these guys go at it a little bit. We've got some pretty talented players here to showcase what they can do."

One of the players Porter spent many nights and days preparing for was St. Clairsville's Ryan Jarvie who played against the Jets four times during the season.

"It's exciting to get to be teammates with these guys because we're good friends on and off the court," Jarvie said. "We definitely want to have fun, but at the same time we want to win."

While both the Ohio and West Virginia players want to win on the court, they've all begun to realize just what exactly they've accomplished by even being selected to play in the prestigious contest.

"Anytime I can come out and represent Shadyside, it's an honor for me especially being the only one picked," said Lady Tiger representative Laken Gibson. "I think it's like a reward for the hard work we invest all season. We're all here to have fun mainly, but at the same time, we definitely want to win."

The Monroe Central Lady Seminoles advanced to the regional, which was the furthest amongst any of the Ohio schools. They will be represented by first-team all-Ohioan Aleisha Guiler who scored more than 1,000 points in her career.

"It's a real honor to be get to play one more time and represent our team," Guiler said. "Having fun and winning are both very important in this game because all of us are competitors."

### OVAC NOTES

• **TICKETS ARE** currently on sale at area Kroger stores. Advance tickets are \$5 for students, \$6 for adults and all tickets at the gate will cost \$7.

• **THE OHIO girls** are being coached by Cambridge's Dan Linscott, while Bishop Donahue's Paige Williams is guiding the Mountain state. John Marshall's Bill Storm is the head coach of the W.Va. boys.

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

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# Minder to receive OVAC honor

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

There's probably a good chance that none of the players in the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC Basketball All-Star Classic have heard of the late Don Minder.

However, that does nothing to change what the former Warwood High coach did for the sport of basketball during his 81 years of living.

Minder's contributions to the game of basketball in the Ohio Valley actually started in organizing the Lutheran Church Basketball League before stretching to the now defunct Warwood High School.

It's what he's offered to hoops, which made him the 2009 recipient of the Bob Burton Distinguished Service Award, which will be presented during the Mumley Classic, slated for Sunday at Ohio University-

Eastern.

"Don would be just over-whelmed with this honor," said his sister and only surviving relative Norma Sarris. "Don was the kind of guy who never looked for any publicity. He just did his job."

Don graduated from high school in 1936 after a strong career in basketball and football. He then worked various job to put himself through business college.

Then his nation called and Minder enlisted in the United States Army just 10 days prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He served in the South Pacific in the medical corp and after his discharge in 1945, he went into education, but it wasn't nearly as simple as it sounded.

Minder hitch-hiked his way to and from West Liberty State College through his graduation in 1949. He didn't rest on the laurels of a bache-

lor's degree. He then thumbed his way to Morgantown and earned a Master of Science degree.

After that, he was hired onto the faculty at Warwood High School. While there he coached football, track and basketball. In track, Minder's Vikings claimed three consecutive OVAC championships before the opening of Wheeling Park.

Minder stepped down from coaching a year before the consolidation occurred in Ohio County.

While some of his greatest success on the track, his sister revealed that his first passion was always on the hardwood.

"Don played basketball every chance he could," Norma said. "He was an avid sports fan, but football, basketball and track were his big three."

Minder was never married.

## OVAC to Honor Minder

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

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# Strahler to receive Saffield Award

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

One of the biggest keys to coaching and/or teaching is enjoying kids.

It's easy to figure out why Don Strahler was highly successful during his 36-year coaching career at Fort Frye High School and now Frontier High School.

"I enjoy the kids," Strahler said. "They make you hang in there and it's great when you see them go on and succeed in life."

Success has followed not only Strahler's former players, but himself. That's why he's receiving the Rich Saffield Girls Basketball Coach Award today.

"When I first heard I was receiving the award, I wondered who in the world would have turned my name in," Strahler joked. "I sincerely appreciate the award. I guess it's just a case of having longevity and a lot of good kids who bought into the system."

There's more to it than longevity.

Strahler is a 1959 graduate of Fort Frye High School and then went on to earn a degree in math from Salem College, finishing his degree in 1964.

From there, it was immediately into the

*'...I wondered who in the world would have turned my name in. I sincerely appreciate the award.'*

*— Don Strahler*

classroom and into the coaching ranks.

"I have been in the classroom since the 1964-65 (school year)," Strahler said. "I got my start at a little school called West Milford in West Virginia."

He spent a brief period there before landing a job at his alma mater, which he held until his retirement in 1995. He then got on at Frontier, which is where he still works as an assistant and substitute teacher.

However, it was at Fort Frye where Strahler left his mark. He guided his Lady Cadets for 18 years, compiling a 292-95 record.

He reached the district final several times, but never any further.

"One year we were in the district final and were winning the game, but Zanesville Rosecrans got a stickback at the buzzer to win," Strahler said. "We just didn't get the job done on the backside. Making it even tougher was that Rosecrans went to the state tournament that year."

Strahler always had support of his wife Rebecca who herself was in the coaching realm. She coached volleyball for 23 years, basketball for seven and softball for nine. Don was her chief assistant when the Cadets appeared in the state tournament in the early 80s, finishing second in 1982.

Don had the unenviable task of following his wife's success when she stepped down as the softball coach. He took over and compiled a strong 119-34 record.

All told, Strahler was PVC basketball coach of the five times and softball coach of the year on three occasions. He was state girls basketball coach of the year after the 1993-94 campaign.

Along with his hoops and under-arm assignments, Strahler spent 21 years on the Fort Frye football staff.

Don and his wife — who reside in Marietta — had two sons, Scott (29) and their son Andrew passed away at 4 years old.

## Strahler Earns Honor

Fort Frye coach will be given Rich Saffield Girls Basketball Coach Award

By **SETH STASKEY**  
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It's easy to figure out why Don Strahler was highly successful during his 36-year coaching career at Fort Frye High School and now Frontier High School.

I enjoy the kids, Strahler said. They make you hang in there and it's great when you see them go on and succeed in life.

Success has followed not only Strahler's former players, but himself. That's why he's receiving the Rich Saffield Girls Basketball Coach Award.

When I first heard I was receiving the award, I wondered who in the world would have turned my name in, Strahler joked. I sincerely appreciate the award. I guess it's just a case of having longevity and a lot of good kids who bought into the system.

There's more to it than longevity.

Strahler is a 1959 graduate of Fort Frye High School and then went on to earn a degree in math from Salem College, finishing his degree in 1964.

From there, it was immediately into the classroom and into the coaching ranks.

I have been in the classroom since the 1964-65 (school year), Strahler said. I got my start at a little school called West Milford in West Virginia.

He spent a brief period there before landing a job at his alma mater, which he held until his retirement in 1995. He then got on at Frontier, which is where he still works as an assistant and substitute teacher.

However, it was at Fort Frye where Strahler left his mark. He guided his Lady Cadets for 18 years, compiling a 292-95 record.

He reached the district final several times, but never any further.

One year we were in the district final and were winning the game, but Zanesville Rosecrans got a stickback at the buzzer to win, Strahler said. We just didn't get the job done on the backside. Making it even tougher was that Rosecrans went to the state tournament that year.

Strahler always had support of his wife Rebecca who herself was in the coaching realm. She coached volleyball for 23 years, basketball for seven and softball for nine. Don was her chief assistant when the Cadets appeared in the state tournament in the early 80s, finishing second in 1982.

Don had the unenviable task of following his wife's success when she stepped down as the softball coach. He took over and compiled a strong 119-34 record.

All told, Strahler was PVC basketball coach of the five times and softball coach of the year on three occasions. He was state girls basketball coach of the year after the 1993-94 campaign.

Along with his hoops and under-arm assignments, Strahler spent 21 years on the Fort Frye football staff.

Don and his wife — who reside in Marietta — had two sons, Scott (29) and their son Andrew passed away at 4 years old.

# Long-time coach Stanko to receive Habberfield Award

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

John Stanko has been involved in the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star in many capacities. He's coached both states, he directed the game for three years and now he's being honored by his peers.

Stanko — the former Bishop Donahue and Shadyside High head coach — will receive the Earl Habberfield Boys Basketball Coaches Award at the annual all-star game slated for Sunday, April 5 at the OUE Health and Physical Education Center.

"It's a great honor that I will accept, but it goes to a many different people who've had a hand in the success I've been fortunate enough to have," Stanko said. "I've been around great players, great assistant coaches and great administrators, who made me look good."

Stanko began his head coaching career at Donahue in 1976 and remained there until 1983 when he departed to accept the head coaching job at Shadyside.

He guided the Bishops to the 1981 state championship and a 22-4 record. They knocked off Cameron in the sectional, Parkersburg Catholic in the regional final and then took out Mullens, 69-68, for the state title.

After that season, Stanko was named OVAC Coach of the Year.

In 1982, the Bishops were knocked out of the SSAC Tournament in the regional with a 18-4 mark. They were awarded the OVAC Official's Sportsmanship Award.

The following year, Stanko's club posted a 21-3 record, falling in the regional to Parkersburg Catholic, but it won the OVAC title that season.

During the 77-78 season at Donahue as well as the 80-81 campaign, Stanko also served as the girls coach.

"You are only as good as coach as the talent you've got," Stanko said. "I was around some very good players both at Donahue and Shadyside who were extremely dedicated and talented."

During his stint at Shadyside, Stanko claimed four sectional titles and led the Tigers to a pair of district runnerup finishes in 1988 and 1989.

Despite a team with nary a starter standing taller than 6-foot, the Tigers' 1988 squad finished 19-4 and won the OVAC Class A title. In the 1991 season, the Tigers were ranked in the state poll and went on a 14-game winning streak en route to the sectional title.

Stanko coached four 1,000-point scorers in his career. Two came at each school. Gary Fonner and Frank Yankovich reached the milestone at Donahue, while Todd and David Antill achieved the milestone at Shadyside.

Throughout his career, Stanko coached in the OVAC All-Star Game three times. He guided the Mountaineers in 1978 and 1982. He led the Buckeyes in 1988.

During the 1982 all-star game, Stanko got to work with long-time friend Skip Prosser who passed away two summers ago from a heart attack.

"I am eternally indebted to the positive influences of former Linsly head coach Don Woodward, Eudie Joseph and Skip Prosser who were all very instrumental in helping me to develop a basketball philosophy," Stanko said.

Along with basketball, Stanko was the head boys track coach for two years at Shadyside and led the Tigers to OVAC titles in both campaigns. He also worked under now retired Ty Fleming on the Tigers' football staff from 1983-87.

Aside from coaching, Stanko was an English teacher at Shadyside before becoming the school's guidance counselor and dean of students from 1995 until his retirement from education this past July.

John is married to the former Sue Witt. They have two children, Matt (27) and Lauren (24). Both of whom reside in Columbus.



JOHN STANKO

## SPORTS

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# OVAC to Honor Former Coach Stanko

Bishop, Shadyside mentor will receive award at the annual OVAC All-Star Game

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

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# Linsly's Sprague to be honored at OVAC hoop game

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

You name it, there's a good chance Gary Sprague's done it at Linsly School.

However, the OVAC is honoring him for one of his many duties that may have very well went unnoticed by many except those who attended home basketball games.

Sprague spent 27 years as the official time keeper and scoreboard operator and at next month's Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic, he'll be presented the Tom Rataiczak OVAC Timer/Scorekeeper Award.

Sprague is a 41-year member of the faculty at Linsly School and got the opportunity to keep score under four head boys basketball coaches.

However, it was his first coach who made it all possible.

The late Skip Prosser — who cut his coaching teeth at Linsly and Wheeling Central before bursting onto the scene of major college basketball at Xavier and Wake Forest — convinced Sprague to work the scoreboard.

"I had always gone to the games and Skip said 'why don't you try keeping the clock since you're coming to the games anyway,'" Sprague said. "I had always enjoyed basketball and it was a way to give back to the school and help him out at the same time."

Prosser and Sprague coached freshman football together in 1979 and became very close during that season.

Sprague worked the scoreboard under the likes of Dan Petri who went on to coach at West Liberty State College, Ray Smith and current Linsly head coach Mark Dodd before giving up his seat at the scoreboard after the 2007 season.

Sprague indicated that no one game really jumped out at him since he'd been through so many, but he did admit there were some hiccups along the way.

"There are a lot of times over the years where you felt like you started the clock too soon or too late," Sprague pointed out. "Switching the possession arrow also becomes a little bit of an issue at times. There's definitely no one who does that job perfectly."

Not only did he get to know many coaches over time, he got to know a lot of the officials who work closely with the table dur-



**GARY SPRAGUE**

ing each game.

"We were able to work as a team, which is important for that position," Sprague said. "I think I helped them out at times, and I know they definitely helped me."

Sprague began working clock for girls games in 1989 and continued until 2006.

"I started doing the girls more or less just to help them out," Sprague said. "The program was new, so I knew if I did the clock that would be one thing that would be taken care of and most of the time wouldn't have to worry about."

Sprague is most well-known at Linsly as the most successful baseball coach the school's ever seen. He retired from the post after the 2006 season after 33 years on the job. During that time, he compiled a 488-253 record and claimed 13 OVAC championships.

Sprague joined the Linsly academic staff in 1968 and has taught a variety of subjects in grades 5-11. He currently teaches Introduction to Latin and Mythology to eighth graders, which is a required course.

Sprague — who earned his B.A. in history/English from West Virginia Wesleyan — graduated from West Virginia University with his M.A. in education.

Gary and his wife Cheryl have three children who all graduated from Linsly. Don is an 1989 graduate, Doug graduated in 1992 and Jaclyn finished in 1995.

# OVAC to Honor Linsly's Sprague With Timer/Scorekeeper Award

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Gary and his wife Cheryl, who is the Linsly Academic Dean of grades 9-12, have three children who all graduated from Linsly. Don is an 1989 graduate, Doug graduated in 1992 and Jaclyn finished in 1995.

Despite a sterling effort from the W.Va. boys, Ohio made it another sweep Sunday in the 32nd annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic.

Boys  
Ohio 98, W.Va. 96

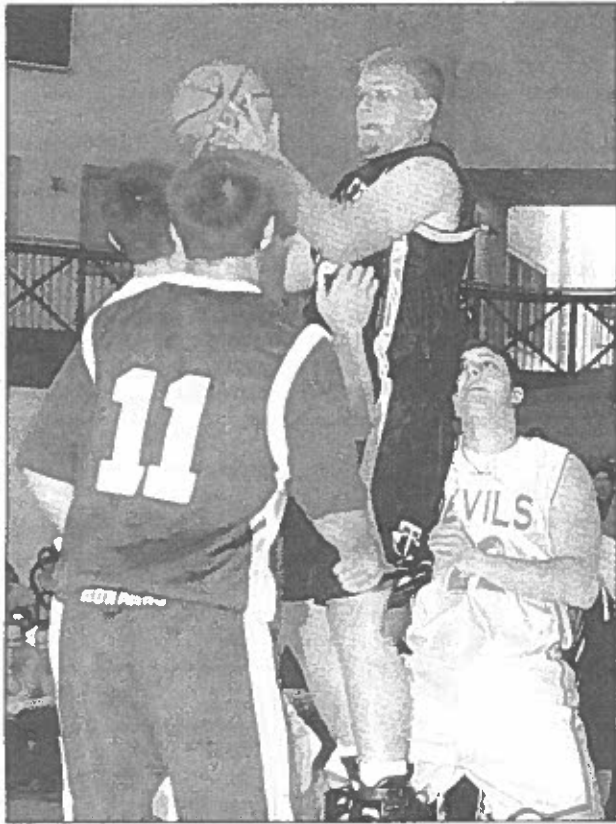


Photo by Mike Palmer

West Virginia's Zach Perkey pulls down a rebound in front of Ohio's Ryan Jarvie (22) as the Mountaineers' Travis Whitfield (11) looks on during action of the OVAC Boys' All-Star game Sunday at OUE.

## Ohio Boys Rally For Late Victory

Union Local's Barr leads all scorers with 22 points

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

The Ohio boys appeared to be well on their way to coasting to a victory, but after Cambridge High's Thomas Norris dazzled the crowd with a bevy of dunks to win the halftime competition, the Buckeyes seemingly lost their intensity and the Mountaineers nearly made them pay before ultimately pulling out a 98-96 victory.

"We were up pretty big at halftime, but give West Virginia credit because they kept battling," Ohio head coach Ben Porter said.

The Mountaineers came out in the second half and stared at a 58-44 deficit as the coaches tried to formulate the correct groupings of players.

"We wanted to be in a situation with 5 minutes to go where we could win the game," John Marshall and West Virginia head coach Bill Storm said. "We wanted to get the kids who we thought might be our best five together on the court."

The Mountaineers seemingly had it going their way. They gained their first lead of the contest with a little more than 10 minutes to play, and thanks to the inside work of Wheeling Central's Cody Koehler, owned a lead as big as four on several occasions down the stretch.

Koehler scored eight points in each half and there was a point of three consecutive possessions where he did the work on the interior.

Please See BOYS, Page 14

Girls  
Ohio 96, W.Va. 60

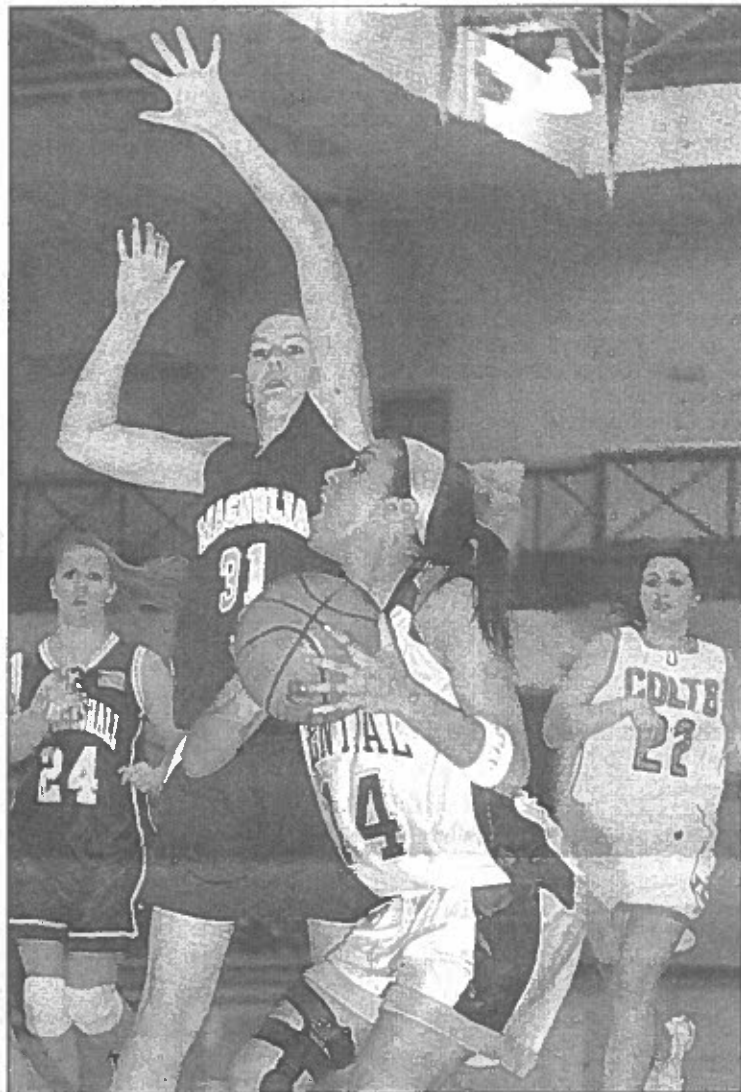


Photo by Mike Palmer

Ohio's Ginny Petties (14) looks to shoot as West Virginia's Corinne Murdock (31) defends. Trailing the play is the Mountaineers' Ashley Deel (24) and the Buckeyes' Emily Jirles (22).

## Buckeyes Girls Run Past W.Va.

DeSantis scores 20 for Mountaineers

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

The Ohio girls never looked back after assuming a big lead to open the game and were never issued a challenge in a 96-60 victory.

"The biggest thing is that all of the girls got to play, developed some new friendships and had a good time," Cambridge and Ohio girls coach Dan Linscott said. "A chance to get a win in their last game as seniors is a pretty sweet deal."

The Buckeyes, who had all 15 players reach the scoring column, received big first halves from Steubenville Central's Ginny Petties and Cambridge's Taryn Payton, who went for 11 and eight, respectively.

In the end, Ohio had three players reach double figures. Payton went for 14, while Petties closed with 13 and Meadowbrook's Emily Jirles added 12.

Beallsville's Alyssa Headley, Shadyside's Laken Gibson and Caldwell's Kristin Nau all evenly divided 24 points.

West Virginia, despite chilly shooting all afternoon, produced the game's top scorer in Central's Kara DeSantis, who had 20 points.

Valley's Lesta Kocher was the second-leading scorer for the Mountaineers with six.

Ohio's size advantage equaled a 67-33 edge on the glass.

Shenandoah's Britany Farnsworth yanked down nine boards, while Conotton's Abbi Gooding and Jirles each had eight.

St. Clairsville's Alessia Vivod claimed the 3-point shootout at halftime, draining nine.

### BOX SCORES

**Boys**  
**Ohio 98, West Virginia 96**  
W — Breen 0 0-0 0; Eikleberry 0, 0-0 0; Fallova 1, 0-0 2; Jackson 6, 1-2 14; Koehler 7, 2-3 17; Koontz 1 0-0 2; Joseph 4 0-0 8; Long 2 0-0 4; Montes 6 2-2 16; Moulton 1 0-0 2; Perkey 5 0-2 10; Pietranton 1 0-0 2; Rine 0 0-0 0; Whitfield 7 0-2 14; Wright 2 0-0 5; Totals: 43 3-8 96.  
O — Agin 4 0-2 11; Barbina 1 1-2 3; Barr 10 0-1 22; Butts 1 1-2 3; Collart 2 0-0 5; Huntsman 1 0-0 2; Jarvie 5 1-2 12; Johnson 1 0-2 3; Kenny 2 1-1 5; MacMillan 1 0-0 2; Norris 6 0-0 16; Prati 4 4-4 12; Russell 0 0-0 0; Thieman 1 0-0 2; Totals: 39 8-15 98.  
3-Pt. Goals: Jackson, Koehler, Montes 2, Wright; Agin 3, Barr 2, Collart, Jarvie, Johnson, Norris 4.

**Girls**  
**Ohio 96, West Virginia 60**  
W — Burkart 1 0-0 2; Cieply 2 0-0 4; Cline 0 2-4 2; Deek 2 0-0 4; DeSantis 6 3-4 20; Floyd 2 0-0 4; Hartley 2 0-0 4; Kocher 3 0-0 6; Martin 2 0-0 4; Muchek 1 0-0 2; Murdock 0 0-0 0; Musgrave 1 0-0 2; Smith 1 0-0 2; Yurisko 0 2-4 2; Young 1 0-0 2; Totals: 24 7-12 60.  
O — Coleman 1 0-0 3; Farnsworth 1 1-2 3; Gibson 3 1-2 8; Gooding 1 2-2 4; Guiler 2 2-2 6; Headley 4 0-0 8; Jirles 6 0-0 12; Kalinowski 0 1-2 1; Kowalczyk 2 0-0 4; McEwen 2 0-0 4; Nau 2 4-4 8; Payton 6 2-2 14; Pendergrast 3 0-0 6; Petties 5 1-2 13; Vivod 1 1-2 3; Totals: 39 15-20 96.  
3-Pt Goals: DeSantis 5; Coleman, Gibson, Petties 2.

## Boys

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(Continued from Page 13)

"This was a good experience to get play against the guys you see all season in one game," Koehler said. "Our defense is what got us going in the second half. Our guards did a nice job of pressuring the ball and we got some inside shots to go, which opened up the outside for us."

After Koehler put the Mountaineers up by three at 84-81, Rosecrans' Josh Agin canned a 3-point goal from the right wing to knot the game.

However, West Virginia went back up four on back-to-back goals by Central's D'Onte Long and Madonna's Anthony Pietranton.

Union Local all-Ohioan Joby Barr, who scored seemingly every time he wanted to, got an inside goal to fall to cut the lead to two, but Wheeling Park's D'Jhae Jackson got a layup to fall.

Still, the Buckeyes weren't done by any means.

Barr sliced for another bucket and then canned a 3 from the left wing, which hit the rim, bounced up and rolled off the top of the board and through to put Ohio back on top.

"It's tough to get your game going when you're sitting and playing, sitting and playing," Barr said. "After that (3-pointer), I didn't even want it to go in it looked so ugly, but that was a big shot. I had been shooting well, so I decided to take one there. I called bank twice I think."

A steal in the backcourt led to an easy two-hand flush from the 5-foot-8 Norris, but this time the Mountaineers weren't done.

Paden City's Ricky Wright, who had hit just one field goal and missed on all of his bonus basket tries, tied the game at 96 with 36.8 seconds to go.

The teams traded timeouts and eventually Ohio got the ball into Norris' hands. He ran the clock under 10 seconds before making his move to the bucket. He penetrated into the lane, but drew several defenders and found Zanesville High and Wheeling Jesuit recruit Joe Prati for a soft jumper along the baseline.

"Thomas made a nice move and Joe finished," Porter said. "It was a good game. We kind of leveled out, but for once I don't think it was due to my boring halftime speech. The

last group we had on the floor gave us a nice spark."

West Virginia called for a timeout, but the Mountaineers were never able to get a shot off as the horn sounded.

Barr led all scorers in the game with 22 points, while Norris added 16, including four NBA range 3-pointers in the opening half.

Other Ohioans to crack double figures were: St. Clairsville's Ryan Jarvie (12), Prati (12) and Agin (11).

West Virginia received solid play from the John Marshall duo of Anthony Montes and Travis Whitfield, who went for 16 and 14, respectively to complement Koehler. Park's Jackson finished with 14.

Ohio held a 59-56 edge on the boards. Prati had 10 rebounds and Frontier's Ben Huntsman had nine to lead the Ohio squad. West Virginia was paced by Tyler Consolidated's Zach Perky, who had a double-double 10 points and a like number of boards.

The Buckeyes were charted for 27 turnovers compared to just 10 for the Mountaineers

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## SPORTS

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## OVAC Basketball All-Stars Set to Shine Brightly

Rosters dotted with 1,000-point scorers

By SETH STASKEY  
For the News-Register

The basketball stars of the Ohio Valley are set to shine.

The annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic gives senior players from Ohio and West Virginia the perfect opportunity to showcase their talents and skills one last time.

And the 30 boys and girls

selected get that opportunity today at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville when the games occur. The girls' game will tip off at 3 p.m. and the boys is scheduled to begin at approximately 5:30 p.m.

The Ohio girls' squad is being coached by Cambridge's Dan Linscott with the assistance of Indian Creek's Erin DeSantis and Monroe Central's Troy Baker.

The Buckeyes have had five practices to prepare for the contest and, according to Linscott, all were well-attended by his 15 player-roster.

■ The girls' game will tip off at 3 p.m. and the boys' game will follow at approximately 5:30 p.m. at OU Eastern.

"We had about 70 or 80 percent of the kids showing up consistently," Linscott said. "We've been very pleased with the attitudes and the girls are really starting to mesh on the floor."

Linscott had yet to settle on a starting lineup, but is going with a theory of trying to find three equal

groups of five players.

"The girls aren't in midseason form by any means, but you expect that somewhat in all-star games," Linscott said. "I would like to try to sub every 4 or 5 minutes, but we'll see how things play out. We want to give a good showing."

The Buckeyes feature a solid mix of inside and outside players and six girls who surpassed the 1,000-point mark during their illustrious high school careers.

A pair of first-team all-Ohioids lead the way for the Buckeyes.

Beallsville's Alyssa Headley and Monroe Central's Aleisha Guiler are expected to figure highly into Linscott's game plan.

"I have really been impressed with Headley," Linscott said. "You'd be hard-pressed to find someone who works harder than she does."

Another who Linscott is expecting to make a big impact is Steubenville Central's Ginny Petties, who scored more than 1,000 points for the Crusaders.

See, OVAC, Page B5

## OVAC

Continued from page B5

Despite missing much of her senior season with a knee injury, Petties came back and appeared to have not missed a beat.

"Petties is a real talent in terms of handling and distributing the ball," Linscott said. "It's really uncanny what she can do with the basketball. She's been a real vocal leader through our practices."

Two other players who Linscott spoke extremely high of were Steubenville's Catherine Pendergrast and his own player, Tayn Payton, who he said are similar players.

Other 1,000-point scorers who will contribute include: Laken Gibson (Shadyside), Abby Gooding (Conotton Valley) and Alessia Vivod (St. Clairsville).

"We just want to give the girls a chance to shine in their last high school basketball game, and just being a part of this game is a true honor for everyone involved," Linscott said.

The West Virginia girls' squad is under the direction of Bishop Donahue acting coach Paige Williams, who guided the Bishops to the OVAC title game and the regional final in West Virginia before bowing out.

She's being assisted by Madonna's Don Ogden and Tyler Consolidated's Matt Kinnard.

Williams and her squad had five practices and said the team "has looked better and better each time."

"We started out a little

rough, but as the girls became more and more used to playing with each other, they picked things up pretty well," Williams said.

"We've got a lot of versatile girls, but we're not real big, but what we lack in size we make up for with speed and ball handling."

The Mountaineers boast a roster that has two girls who scored more than 1,000 points in their careers — Wheeling Park's Erika Martin and Bishop Donahue's Alexa Yurisko.

Finding a starting lineup has been one of the biggest challenges for Williams, who is going against the norm of finding three equal groups for rotations.

"I am trying to keep the teammates together," Williams said. "We've got three schools with multiple players and you can tell through our practices that those girls are accustomed to playing with each other."

Donahue leads the way with a trio of players — Chrissy Muecheck, Maribeth Smith and Yurisko. Wheeling Central's has a pair of players in Kara DeSantis, who is looking to go out on top after a couple of injury-riddled campaigns, and Cameron Cieply.

Linsly is the other school with multiple representatives in Whitney Young and Brenna Burkhart.

Parkersburg South will make its OVAC All-Star debut in the game. Danielle Floyd, who scored more

than 900 points in her career for the southern Patriots, will represent the OVAC's newest member.

The boys' game will feature a mix of high risers, able shooters and players who can take people on the bounce.

The Ohio boys' squad will be guided by Union Local's Ben Porter with the assistance of Toronto's Greg Mitts and Cambridge's Don Vogt.

The Buckeyes have been able to piece together enough opportunities for two practices during the time leading up to today's game.

"We had some very competitive practices, which went really well," Porter said. "We've got a lot of guys who can get up and down the floor and a lot of guys who are athletic and can shoot the basketball."

The Buckeyes are led by a player not many folks in the Ohio Valley probably

had a chance to see this season in Zanesville senior Joe Prati. Another who Porter has been especially impressed with is Cambridge point guard Thomas Norris, who earned all-Ohiio accolades after leading the Bobcats to the Elite 8.

"Norris has been really impressive," Porter said. "He's got tremendous foot speed and he's able to jump out of the gym."

A trio of 1,000-point scorers dot the Ohio roster, including two of Porter's own players. First-team all-Ohiioan Joby Barr and Jordan Barbina will be two to watch along with Frontier's Ben Huntsman.

"We're going to get each guy an equal amount of playing time," Porter said. "They've earned the right to be here throughout the season and putting together lineups isn't that rough when you've got as much talent as there is here."

The West Virginia boys' squad could be facing an

uphill battle despite having several players who went deep into the West Virginia postseason last month.

"Our kids attitudes have been great in our three practices, but if you look at our roster, we don't have too many guys who even averaged double figures," said West Virginia boys' coach Bill Storm, who is making his first appearance in the OVAC game as a head coach. "We're a little bit small and we've got to be able to find some kind of balance in those groups."

A trio of state champions from Wheeling Central lead the way for the Mountaineers. Representing the Maroon Knights are Eli Joseph, Cody Koehler and D'Onte Long.

Three Monarchs will play once more for their head coach before collecting their diplomas in the coming months in are Justin Eikberry, Andrew Montes and Travis Whitfield.

Wheeling Park's D'Jhae Jackson is a player who's

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## OVAC Notes

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# SPORTS

Sunday, April 5, 2009

## OVAC stars set to shine

• Samuel Mumley OVAC Classic set today at OUE

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

The basketball stars of the Ohio Valley are set to shine.

The annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic gives senior players from Ohio and West Virginia the perfect opportunity to showcase the talents and skills one last time.

And the 30 boys and girls selected get that opportunity today at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville when the games occur. The girls' game will tip off at 3 p.m. and the boys are scheduled to begin at approximately 5:30 p.m.

The Ohio girls' squad is being coached by Cambridge High head coach Dan Linscott with the assistance of Indian Creek's Erin DeSantis and Monroe Central's Troy Baker.

The Lady Buckeyes have had five practices to prepare for the contest and according to Linscott all were well-attended by his 15 player-roster.

"We had about 70 or 80 percent of the kids showing up consistently," Linscott said.

"We've been very pleased with the attitudes and the girls are really starting to mesh on the floor."

Linscott had yet to settle on a starting lineup, but is going in the theory of trying to find three equal groups of five players.

"The girls aren't in mid-season form by any means, but you expect that somewhat in all-star games," the Lady Bobcats' mentor said. "I would like to try to sub every four or five minutes, but we'll see how things play out. We want to give a good showing."

The Lady Buckeyes feature a solid mix of inside and outside players and six girls who surpassed the 1,000-point mark during

### OVAC HOOPS

Who: Ohio vs. West Virginia

When:

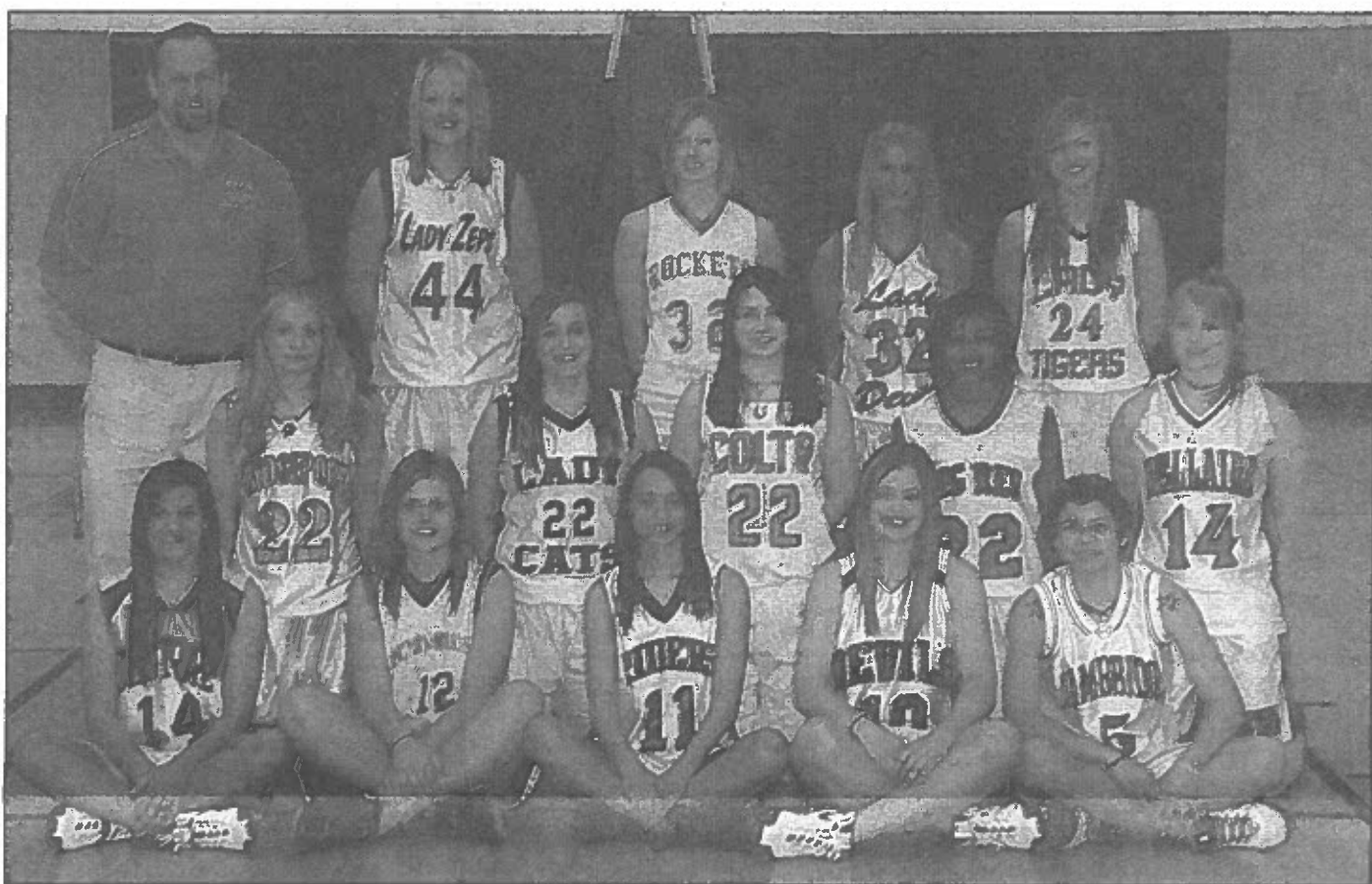
Today, 3 and 5:30

Where:

OUE

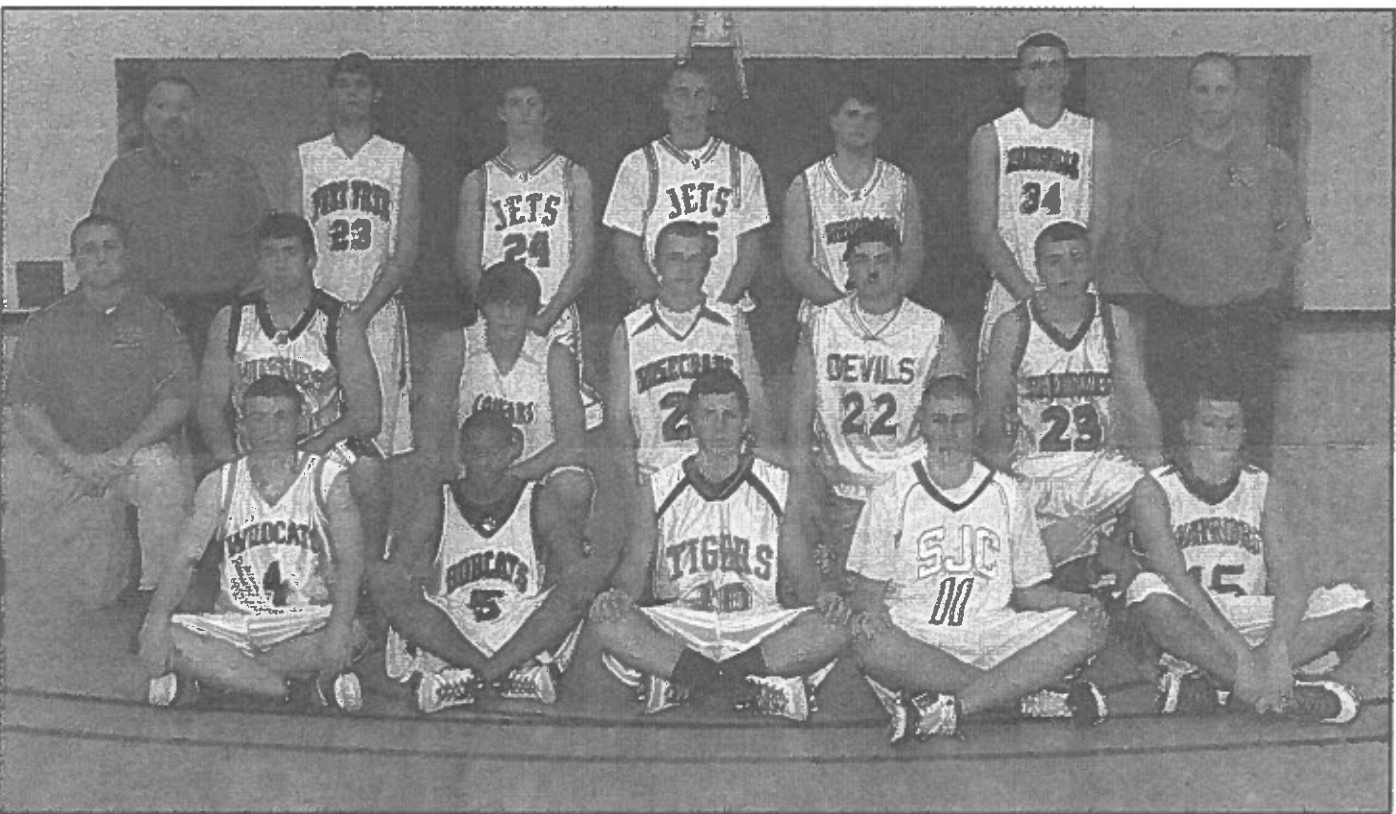
Tickets:

Available at the door for \$7.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED IS the 2009 Ohio girls team for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic. Front row, from left, are Ginny Petties (Steubenville Central), Aleisha Guiler (Monroe Central), Courtney Coleman (Martins Ferry), Alyssa Headley (Beallsville) and Taryn Payton (Cambridge). Second row, from left, are Cora Kalinowski (Bridgeport), Adrienne McEwen (Edison), Emily Jirles (Meadowbrook), Catherine Pendergrast (Steubenville) and Megan Kowalczyk (Bellaire). Back row, from left, are head coach Dan Linscott (Cambridge), Britany Farnsworth (Shenandoah), Abby Gooding (Conotton Valley), Alessia Vivod (St. Clairsville) and Laken Gibson (Shadyside).



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED IS the 2009 Ohio boys team for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic. Front row, from left, are Cale McCoy (Edison), Thomas Norris (Cambridge), Nathan Butts (Shadyside), Chase Russell (St. John) and Joe Collart (Buckeye Trail). Second row, from left, are head coach Ben Porter (Union Local), Ty Kenny (Harrison Central), Ben Huntsman (Frontier), Josh Agin (Rosecrans), Ryan Jarvie (St. Clairsville) and Colby MacMillan (Barnesville). Back row, from left, are assistant coach Don Voght (Cambridge), Brandt Thieman (Fort Frye), Jordan Barbina (Union Local), Joby Barr (Union Local), Cody Johnson (Shenandoah), Joe Prati (Zanesville) and Greg Mitts (Toronto).

## ● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

their illustrious prep careers.

A pair of first-team all-Ohioans lead the way for the Lady Buckeyes. Beallsville's Alyssa Headley and Monroe Central's Aleisha Guiler are expected to figure highly into the Lady Bucks' gameplan.

"I have really been impressed with Headley," Linscott said. "You'd be hard-pressed to find someone who works harder than she does."

Another who Linscott is expecting to make a big impact during today's game is Steubenville Central's Ginny Petties who scored more than 1,000 points for the Lady Crusaders.

Despite missing much of her senior season with a knee injury, Petties came back and appeared to have not missed a beat.

"Petties is a real talent in terms of handling and distributing the ball," Linscott said. "It's really uncanny what she can do with the basketball. She's been a real vocal leader through our practices."

Two other players who Linscott spoke extremely high of were Steubenville's Catherine Pendergrast and his own player Taym Payton who he indicated are similar players.

Other 1,000-point scorers who will contribute include: Laken Gibson (Shadyside), Abby Gooding (Conotton Valley) and Alessia Vivod (St. Clairsville). "We just want to give the girls a chance to shine in their last high school basketball game, and just being a part of this game is a true honor for everyone involved," Linscott said.

**THE WEST VIRGINIA** girls squad is under the direction of Bishop Donahue acting head coach Paige Williams who guided the Lady Bishops to the OVAC title game and the regional final in West Virginia before bowing out.

She's being assisted by Madonna's Don Ogden and Tyler's Matt Kinnard.

Williams and her squad had five practices and according to the head coach, her team has looked better and better each time.

"We started out a little rough, but as the girls became more and more used to playing with each other they picked things up pretty well," Williams said. "We've got a lot of versatile girls, but we're not real big, but what we lack in size we make up for with speed and ball handling."

The Lady Mountaineers boast a roster which has just two girls who scored more than 1,000 points in their careers. Those include Wheeling Park's Erika Martin and Bishop Donahue's Alexa Yurisko.

Finding a starting lineup has been one of the biggest challenges for Williams, who is going against the norm of finding three equal groups for rotations.

"I am trying to keep the teammates together," Williams said. "We've got three schools with multiple players and you can tell through our practices that those girls are accustomed to playing with each other."

Donahue leads the way with a trio of players, including Chrissy Mucheck, Maribeth Smith and the aforementioned Yurisko. Wheeling Central's got a pair of players in Kara DeSantis, who is looking to go out on top after a couple of injury-riddled campaigns and Cameron Cieply.

Linsly is the other school with multiple representatives in Whitney Young and Brenna Burkhart.

Parkersburg South will make its OVAC All-Star debut in the game. Danielle Floyd - who scored more than 900 points in her career for the southern Lady Patriots - will represent the OVAC's newest member.

**THE BOYS** game will feature a solid mix of high risers, able shooters and players who can take people on the bounce, which are usually solid ingredients for an entertaining afternoon of hoops.

The Ohio boys squad will be guided by Union Local's Ben Porter with the assistance of Toronto's Greg Mits and Cambridge's Don Vought.

The Buckeyes have been able to piece together enough opportunities for two practices during the time leading up to today's game.

"We had some very competitive prac-



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**PICTURED IS** the 2009 West Virginia boys team for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic. Front row, from left, are Stephen Breen (Brooke), D'Onte Long (Wheeling Central), Travis Whitfield (John Marshall), DeMar Moulton (Linsly) and Nathan Fallova (Bishop Donahue). Middle row, from left, are head coach Bill Storm (John Marshall), Ricky Wright (Paden City), D'Jhae Jackson (Wheeling Park), Justin Eikleberry (John Marshall), Cody Koehler (Wheeling Central) and Andrew Montes (John Marshall). Back row, from left, are assistant coach Fred King (Paden City), Jacob Koontz (Cameron), Jonathan Rine (Magnolia), Anthony Pietranton (Madonna), Eli Joseph (Wheeling Central), Zach Perkey (Tyler) and assistant coach Mike Grant (Weir).



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

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The Buckeyes are led by a player not many folks in the Ohio Valley probably had a chance to see this season in Zanesville senior Joe Prati. Another who Porter has been especially impressed with is Cambridge point guard Thomas Norris, who earned all-Ohio accolades after leading the Bobcats to the Elite 8.

"Norris has been really impressive," Porter said. "He's got tremendous foot speed and he's able to jump out of the gym."

A trio of 1,000-point scorers dot the Ohio roster, including two of Porter's own players. First-team all-Ohioan Joby Barr and Jordan Barbina will be two to watch along with Frontier's Ben Huntsman.

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"Our kids attitudes have been great in our three practices, but if you look at our roster, we don't have too many guys who even averaged double figures," said West Virginia boys coach Bill Storm who is making his first appearance in the OVAC game as a head coach. "We're a little bit small and we've got to be able to find some kind of balance in those groups."

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Storm is being assisted by Paden City's Fred King and Weir High's Mike Granato.

## OVAC NOTES

• **THE PLAYERS** and their families will be treated to a brunch Sunday afternoon at Undo's West in St. Clairsville. The event is slated to begin at 12:30 p.m.

• **AT HALFTIME** of the girls game, a three-point shootout will be contested and at halftime of the boys game a slam dunk competition will be staged with each state allowed to send three representatives.

• **SEVERAL** honors will be presented during the afternoon, including the timer/scorekeeper, girls coach, boys coach, official and distinguished service.

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

## Ohio OVAC All-Star Player Capsules

OHIO BOYS  
NATHAN BUTTS

School: Shadyside  
HT: 6-ft-4  
2009 Averages: Points: 14; Rebounds: 9; Assists: 3.  
Career Stats: Points: 543; Rebounds: 228; Assists: 90.  
Honors: First-Team all-District; District 12 All-Star Game; OVAC All-Star Game; Honorable Mention all-OVAC.  
Future Plans: Attend West Liberty to major in sports management.  
Parents: John and Malina Howell

UL  
Honors: First-Team all-Ohio; First-Team all-OVAC, all-Times Leader, all-Valley; First-Team Buckeye 8; Division III District Player of the Year.  
Future Plans: Attend college and play basketball.  
Parents: Rob and Dawn Barr

School: Buckeye Trail  
HT: 6-ft-2  
2009 Averages: Points: 16.9; Rebounds: 7.1; Assists: 2.1.  
Career Stats: Points: 425; Rebounds: 240; Assists: 70

cent from three-point range (3rd in school history).  
Honors: Eastern District Division II Player of the Year; ECOL Player of the Year; District 12 First Team.  
Future Plans: Attend college to major in education.  
Parents: Joann Moore

## JOE PRATI

School: Zanesville.  
HT: 6-ft-6  
2009 Averages: Points: 18.7; Rebounds: 9.6; Assists: 1  
Career Stats: Three-year letterman; Points: 681; Rebounds: 400

history).  
Honors: First-Team all-Ohio; Division III Player of the Year; District 12 Player of the Year; all-Valley, all-PVC, all-OVAC, All-Times Leader, all-Valley.  
Future Plans: Attend Marietta College and play basketball.  
Parents: Mark and Von Rae Guiler

## CATHERINE PENDERGRAST

School: Steubenville.  
HT: 5-ft-9  
2009 Averages: Points: 9.3; Rebounds: 6.7; Assists: 2.1.  
Career Stats: 200

national affairs.  
Parents: Paul and Lori Jirles

## MEGAN KOWALCZYK

School: Bellaire  
HT: 5-ft-8  
2009 Averages: Points: 18.6; Rebounds: 13.  
Career Stats: None Supplied.  
Honors: All-Buckeye 8; all-Times Leader, all-Valley; all-OVAC; First-Team all-District.  
Future Plans: Attend Muskingum College and major in sci-

(Shadyside). Abby Gooding (Conotton Valley) and Alessia Vivod (St. Clairsville). "We just want to give the girls a chance to shine in their last high school basketball game, and just being a part of this game is a true honor for everyone involved," Linscott said.

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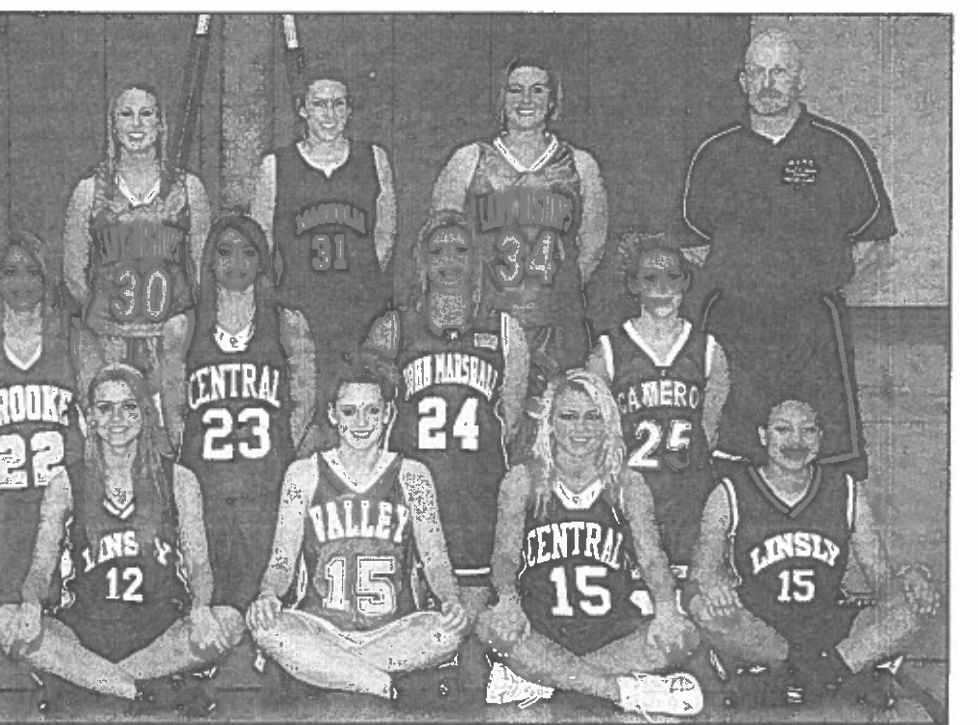
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 Ht: 6-ft-4  
 2009 Averages: Points: 14; Rebounds: 9; Assists: 3  
 Career Stats: Points: 543; Rebounds: 228; Assists: 90  
 Honors: First-Team all-District; District 12 All-Star Game; OVAC All-Star Game; Honorable Mention all-OVAC  
 Future Plans: Attend West Liberty to major in sports management  
 Parents: John and Melanie Haswell

### CHASE RUSSELL

School: St. John Central  
 Ht: 6-ft-5  
 2009 Averages: Points: 14.1; Rebounds: 11.6; Assists: 2.1  
 Career Stats: Averaged a double-double for entire junior and senior seasons. All-District as a junior and senior; all-OVAC as a junior and senior  
 Future Plans: Undecided  
 Parents: Albert and Catherine Russell

### JORDAN BARBINA

School: Union Local  
 Ht: 6-ft-1  
 2009 Averages: Points: 15.5; Rebounds: 4; Assists: 7  
 Career Stats: Scored More than 1,350 points. Started 86 of 87 varsity games  
 Honors: First-Team District 12; First-Team Buckeye 8; Second-Team all-District; First-Team all-OVAC; All-Time Leader  
 Future Plans: Attend Lake Erie College and play football  
 Parents: Jim and LuAnne Barbina

### CODY JOHNSON

School: Shenandoah  
 Ht: 6-ft  
 2009 Averages: Points: 17.5; Rebounds: 3.6; Assists: 3.1  
 Career Stats: Points: 12.7; Rebounds: 3.4; Assists: 2.8; Steals: 2.5  
 Honors: District 12 Player of the Year; Eastern District First Team; Second-Team all-OVAC; all-OVAC  
 Future Plans: Undecided  
 Parents: Mark Johnson and Peggy Johnson

### JOSH AGIN

School: Zanesville Rosecrans  
 Ht: 6-ft-2  
 2009 Averages: Points: 18.9; Rebounds: 10.1; Assists: 2  
 Career Stats: Scored high of 37 in sectional  
 Honors: First-team all-Ohio in Golf four times; Finished sixth, fifth, third and second in Ohio at state tournament; Two-time district player of the year in golf; First-team all-district in basketball; Congressional Achievement in Golf in 2008  
 Future Plans: Attend Toledo on a golf scholarship and major in business finance  
 Parents: Jay and Anne Agin

### JOBY BARR

School: Union Local  
 Ht: 6-ft-2  
 2009 Averages: Points: 20; Rebounds: 7; Assists: 3  
 Career Stats: Scored 1,179 points, which is fifth all-time at

UL  
 Honors: First-Team all-Ohio; First-team all-OVAC; all-Time Leader; all-Valley; First-Team Buckeye 8; Division III District Player of the Year  
 Future Plans: Attend college and play basketball  
 Parents: Rob and Dawn Barr

### JOE COLLART

School: Buckeye Trail  
 Ht: 6-ft-2  
 2009 Averages: Points: 16.9; Rebounds: 7.1; Assists: 2.1  
 Career Stats: Points: 535; Rebounds: 249; Assists: 79  
 Honors: Second-Team Eastern District; First-Team District 12; District 12 All-Star Game  
 Future Plans: Attend College to become a conservation scientist  
 Parents: Katherine Collart and Brian Collart

### RYAN JARVIE

School: St. Clairsville  
 Ht: 5-ft-11  
 2009 Averages: Points: 14; Rebounds: 5; Assists: 5  
 Career Stats: Has a high of six three-pointers in a game. Has a one-game total of 32 points and had 10 rebounds in a game  
 Honors: First-Team Eastern District; First-Team all-OVAC in football; First-Team all-OVAC Baseball as a junior; Team MVP  
 Future Plans: Attend Kent State University to major in science and hopes to play baseball  
 Parents: John and Rose Jarvie

### TY KENNY

School: Harrison Central  
 Ht: 6-ft-3  
 2009 Averages: Points: 13; Rebounds: 9.7; Assists: 1  
 Career Stats: Points: 9.1; Rebounds: 7; Steals: 1.2  
 Honors: Honorable Mention all-Ohio; First-Team District 5; First-Team Buckeye 8  
 Future Plans: Attend Mt. Union with hopes of becoming a physician's assistant  
 Parents: Tom and Deb Kenny

### COLBY MACMILLAN

School: Barnesville  
 Ht: 6-ft-2  
 2009 Averages: Points: 15.3; Rebounds: 4.8; Assists: 4.5  
 Honors: District 12 First Team, All-Eastern District, District 12 All-Star Game  
 Future Plans: Attend Ohio State University and major in sports medicine  
 Parents: Ray and Joan MacMillan

### CALE MCCOY

School: Edison  
 Ht: 6-ft  
 2009 Averages: Points: 18.9; Rebounds: 5.8; Assists: 2.3  
 Future Plans: Attend Kent State University and majoring in pharmacy  
 Parents: Pat and Sherry McCoy

### THOMAS NORRIS

School: Cambridge  
 Ht: 5-ft-8  
 2009 Averages: Points: 12.8; Rebounds: 3.4; Assists: 3.9  
 Career Stats: 111 steals (4th in School history); 38.8 per-

cent from three-point range (3rd in school history)  
 Honors: Eastern District Division II Player of the Year; ECOL Player of the Year; District 12 First Team  
 Future Plans: Attend college to major in education  
 Parents: Joann Moore

### JOE PRATI

School: Zanesville  
 Ht: 6-ft-6  
 2009 Averages: Points: 18.7; Rebounds: 9.6; Assists: 1  
 Career Stats: Three-year letterman; Points: 681; Rebounds: 400  
 Honors: First-Team District 12; First-Team Eastern District; First-Team SECAL  
 Future Plans: Attend Wheeling Jesuit and play basketball  
 Parents: Steve and Beth Prati

### BRANDT THIEMAN

School: Fort Frye  
 Ht: 6-ft-4  
 2009 Averages: Points: 17.4; Rebounds: 5.3; Assists: 2.5  
 Career Stats: 4 PVC Championships; 3 Sectional Championships; District Championship  
 Honors: 4-Year letterman; First-Team all-OVAC; First-Team all-District 12  
 Future Plans: Attend College to earn a degree in education  
 Parents: Kathy and Doug Thiemann

### BEN HUNTSMAN

School: Frontier  
 Ht: 6-ft-4  
 2009 Stats: Points: 18.3; Rebounds: 7.8  
 Career Stats: Scored 1,146 points  
 Honors: Special Mention all-Ohio; First-Team all-District; All-OVAC

### OHIO GIRLS CORA KALINOWSKI

School: Bridgeport  
 Ht: 5-ft-8  
 2009 Averages: Points: 14.9; Rebounds: 6; Assists: 6  
 Career Stats: Led Team in three-point shooting for three years  
 Honors: 4-Year letterman; First-Team all-OVAC; First-Team all-District 12  
 Future Plans: Attend College to earn a degree in education  
 Parents: Kathy and Doug Thiemann

### COURTNEY COLEMAN

School: Martins Ferry  
 Ht: 5-ft-5  
 2009 Averages: Points: 17; Assists: 4  
 Career Stats: Scored 800 career points  
 Honors: First-Team Buckeye 8; First-Team Eastern District; First-Team all-OVAC; Special Mention all-Ohio  
 Future Plans: Attend college and play basketball and attend law school  
 Parents: C.R. Coleman and Kathy Coleman

### ALEISHA GUILER

School: Monroe Central  
 Ht: 5-ft-10  
 2009 Averages: Points: 20.8; Rebounds: 11.3; Assists: 2  
 Career Stats: 1,325 points, 738 rebounds (most in school

history)  
 Honors: First-Team all-Ohio, Division III Player of the Year; District 12 Player of the Year; all-Valley, all-PVC, all-OVAC, All-Time Leader, all-Valley  
 Future Plans: Attend Marietta College and play basketball  
 Parents: Mark and Von Rae Guiler

### CATHERINE PENDERGRAST

School: Steubenville  
 Ht: 5-ft-9  
 2009 Averages: Points: 9.3; Rebounds: 6.7; Assists: 2.1  
 Career Stats: 3.2 steals per game  
 Honors: All-Eastern District; Team MVP; Team leader in rebounds; Honorable Mention all-Ohio  
 Plans: Attend college and play basketball  
 Parents: Gary and Diane Pendergrast

### ADRIENNE MCEWEN

School: Edison  
 Ht: 5-9  
 2009 Averages: Not Supplied  
 Career Stats: Not Supplied  
 Honors: Honorable mention all-OVAC, Honorable Mention all-District  
 Future Plans: Attend college to major in education  
 Parents: Tammy McEwen and Lee McEwen

### BRITANY FARNSWORTH

School: Shenandoah  
 Ht: 6-ft-2  
 2009 Averages: Points: 14; Rebounds: 6.6; Assists: 1.7  
 Career Stats: Shot best foul percentage junior year  
 Honors: Three-Year letterman; District 12 All-Stars; Team Captain  
 Future Plans: Major in nursing at Belmont Technical College  
 Parents: Daryl and Rachelle Farnsworth

### ABBY GOODING

School: Conotton Valley  
 Ht: 5-ft-10  
 2009 Averages: Points: 19.5; Rebounds: 10.1; Assists: 1  
 Career Stats: Points: 1254  
 Honors: First-Team Eastern District; Special Mention all-Ohio; First-Team all-OVAC  
 Future Plans: Attend college to major in business  
 Parents: Phil and Debbie Gooding

### ALYSSA HEADLEY

School: Beallsville  
 Ht: 6-ft  
 2009 Averages: Points: 20; Rebounds: 14; Assists: 1  
 Career Stats: 1,366 points (2nd all-time at Beallsville)  
 Honors: First-Team all-Ohio; First-Team all-District; District 12 Player of the Year; First-Team all-OVAC  
 Future Plans: Attend college to play basketball  
 Parents: Don Headley and Ruth Headley

### EMILY JIRLES

School: Meadowbrook  
 Ht: 5-ft-10  
 2009 Averages: Points: 15; Rebounds: 10  
 Career Stats: None Supplied  
 Honors: First-Team all-ECOL all-District 12; Second-Team all-Ohio  
 Future Plans: Attend a four-year college and major in inter-

national affairs  
 Parents: Paul and Lori Jirles

### MEGAN KOWALCZYK

School: Bellare  
 Ht: 5-ft-8  
 2009 Averages: Points: 18.6; Rebounds: 13  
 Career Stats: None Supplied  
 Honors: All-Buckeye 8; all-Time Leader; all-Valley; all-OVAC; First-Team all-District  
 Future Plans: Attend Muskingum College and major in science and nursing  
 Parents: Susan and Kirk Kowalczyk

### KRISTIN NAU

School: Caldwell  
 Ht: 6-ft  
 2009 Averages: Points: 19.2; Rebounds: 9.2; Averages: 1  
 Career Stats: Shot 51.6 from the field as a junior  
 Honors: First-Team all-District; Honorable Mention all-Ohio as a junior  
 Future Plans: Attend a four-year college and major in special education  
 Parents: Mike Nau and Yvette Nau

### TARYN PAYTON

School: Cambridge  
 2009 Averages: Points: 10.7; Rebounds: 4.3; Assists: 2.0  
 Career Stats: Led team to win over River View to end its 61-game winning streak in the ECOL  
 Honors: All-ECOL; All-Eastern District; All-District 12  
 Future Plans: Attend Kent State and major in athletic training  
 Parents: Michelle Johnson and Thomas Payton

### GINNY PETTIES

School: Steubenville Central  
 2009 Averages: Points: 20.2; Rebounds: 9; Assists: 7  
 Career Stats: Points: 1417 (All-Time Leading Scorer)  
 Honors: District V First Team and Player of the Year; First-Team all-Eastern District  
 Future Plans: Attend college  
 Parents: Dale Hanlon and Phyllis Petties

### ALESSIA VIVOD

School: St. Clairsville  
 2009 Averages: Points: 19; Rebounds: 6; Assists: 4  
 Career Stats: Scored more than 1,000 points in career  
 Honors: All-Eastern District; all-District 12; all-OVAC; All-Valley  
 Future Plans: Attend college and major in physical therapy  
 Parents: William and Kathleen Vivod

### LAKEN GIBSON

School: Shadyside  
 2009 Averages: Points: 15.7; Rebounds: 6.6; Assists: 2.2  
 Career Stats: Scored more than 1,000 points in her career  
 Led Ohio Valley in free-throw shooting  
 Honors: First-Team all-District; all-Valley; all-Time Leader; Special Mention all-Ohio; All-OVAC  
 Future Plans: Attend College to major in biology/pre-dental  
 Parents: Bob and Lori Gibson