

## SPORTS

## All-Star blowouts

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By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

In all-star games, teams just seem to go with the flow. Ohio's girls did just that Sunday afternoon and it worked like a charm.

Leading wire-to-wire, the Lady Buckeyes put forth a huge run in each of the two halves and cruised to a 100-68 victory against West Virginia during the annual Samuel A. Mumley Memorial OVAC All-Star Game.

"There were some times during the game when we were sluggish," Yates said. "But, once we got going in the flow of the game, we made some steals and were able to convert."

The Lady Buckeyes were in the flow early and built a 16-point lead at half-time.

"We had a really good group," Yates said. "I'm honored to have had the chance to work with them. It was a fun group to be around and they really enjoyed playing the game."

Unlike most OVAC All-Star Games, Yates and her coaching staff opted against the balanced five-player groups and went with a group of seven and eight and subbed freely with the respective groups, but utilized the groups for in essence a half each. Each group played half of each half.

"The talent level was pretty much equal," Yates said. "We thought it would help in letting the girls get into the flow of the game rather than playing for a stretch and then coming out. It was more of a game-like situation during their stretches of the game."

It certainly paid dividends.

The Lady Mountaineers scratched and clawed their way back into the game in the second half. They were as close as two at 55-53 after scoring 16 of the first 20 second-half points.

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See, **GIRLS**, Page B2



BRIDGEPORT'S Rachel Benda makes a move in the lane against Parkersburg South's Jessica Moore during Sunday's OVAC All-Star Game.



ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Brooke Cenkus goes up for a shot against Parkersburg South's Asia Greenleaf during Sunday's OVAC Samuel A. Mumley All-Star Basketball Classic at Ohio University Eastern. Cenkus scored 13 points in Ohio's 100-68 victory.

Photos/PAUL KRAJNYAK

## Ohio boys drilled, 92-76

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Games are obviously not played on paper.

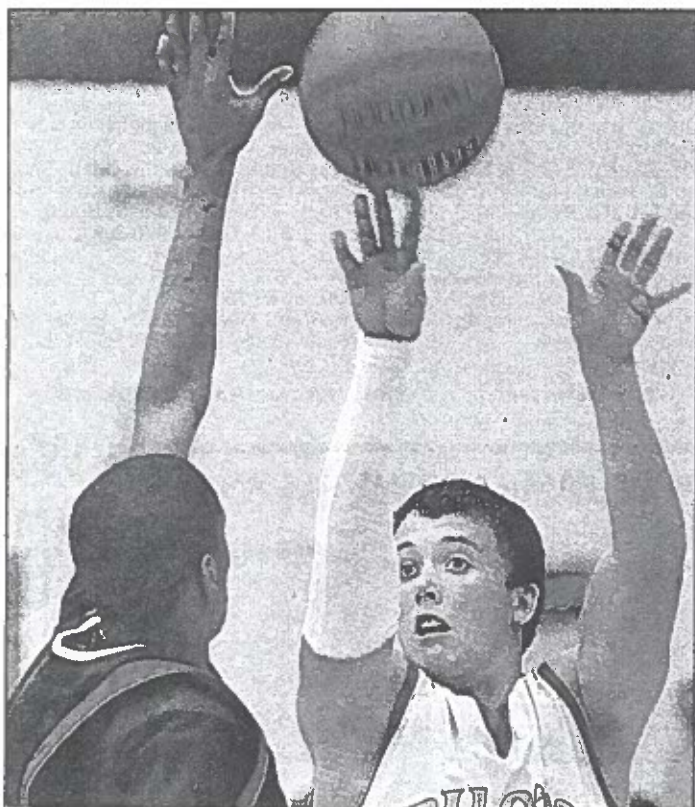
However, Sunday's boys game during the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic might as well have been.

West Virginia came into the game with what appeared to be a talented corp of players especially on the interior, while Ohio came in with talented players of its own, but just not as talented.

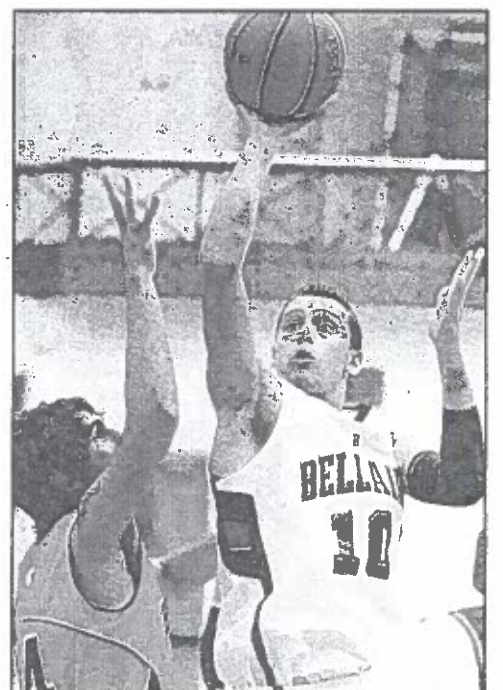
And it showed on the floor inside the Health and Physical Education Center on the campus of Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

The Mountaineers used a late first-half run and then an early second-half run to pull away from their cross-river rivals en route to a 92-76 victory.

"I'm not going to make excuses because sometimes the other team's players are just better and you get beat," said Harrison Central and Ohio head coach Justin Clifford. "But, in the grand scheme of things, this is



RIVER'S Dylan Potts goes up for a three-point shot against Weir High's Shawn Burns during Sunday's Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic at OUE. Potts led all scorers in the game with 22 points.



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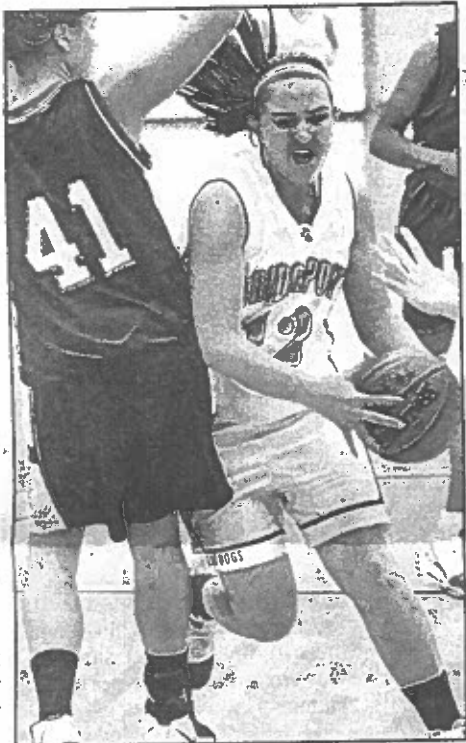
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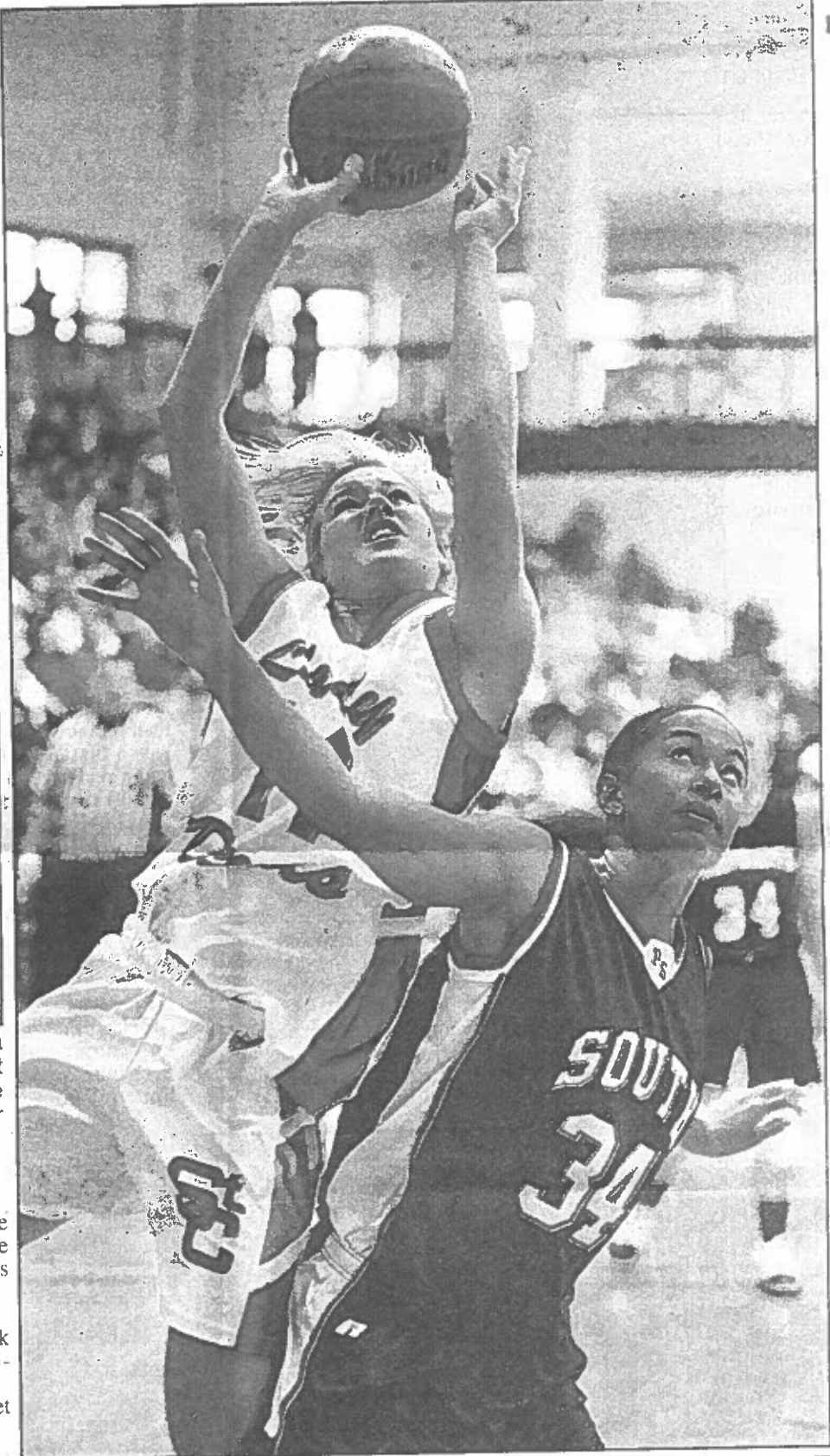
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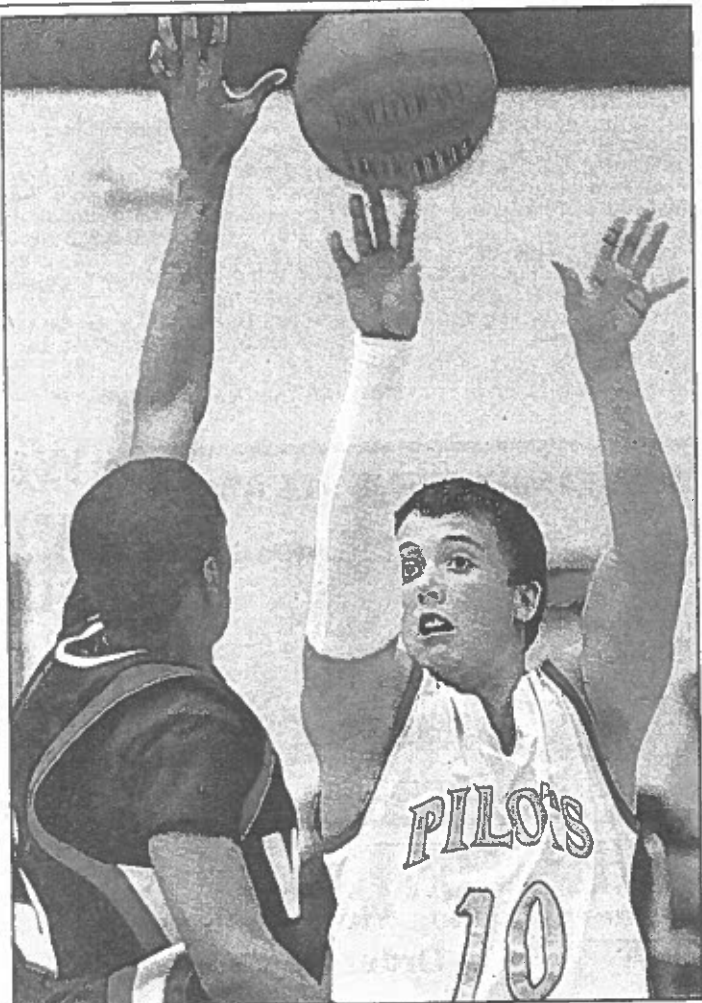
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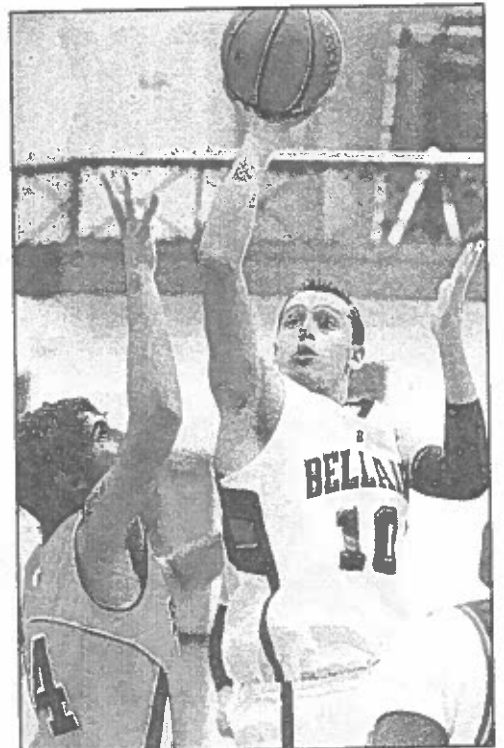
The Buckeye owned a slim 25-23 lead with about eight minutes to go in the half after Bellaire's Levi Crozier tallied.

See, **BOYS**, Page B2

**RIVER'S** Dylan Potts goes up for a three-point shot against Weir High's Shawn Burns during Sunday's Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic at OUE. Potts led all scorers in the game with 22 points.



Photos/PAUL KRAJNYAK



**BELLAIRE'S** Levi Crozier goes up for a shot over Brooke's Justin Sabo during Sunday's Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Game.

## Bonds proud of McGwire for coming clean

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Home run king Barry Bonds said he is "proud" of slugger Mark McGwire for returning to baseball as the St. Louis Cardinals' hitting coach and for admitting his use of performance-enhancing drugs.

"I have a really good friendship with Mark McGwire. I'm proud of him," Bonds said Sunday. "We've had a great relationship throughout our entire lives and throughout our career."

I'm proud of what he

did. I'm happy for him."

While Bonds didn't rule out also going into coaching one day, his six-minute session with the media was stopped after the question about McGwire.

In January, McGwire ended more than a decade of denials and evasion and finally acknowledged he used steroids and human growth hormone during his career, including in 1998 when he hit 70 home runs and broke the single-season record.

Bonds, who topped that

mark when he hit 73 homers in 2001, has long denied ever knowingly using steroids or performance-enhancers in his pursuit of the career home run record — arguably the most prized record in all of American sports.

Bonds was indicted on charges he lied in 2003 to a federal grand jury investigating BALCO, the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, and obstructed justice.

McGwire was told of Bonds' comments in

Milwaukee, where the Cardinals were playing the Brewers.

"It's very cool. Barry is a great player. was a great player in this game, many MVPs," McGwire said. "The guy could do it all. It makes me feel really good. It's really cool to be back in the game. I'm a big boy, I understand that things happen in your life and you've got to confront them, and you also have to move on from them and learn from them."



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

**BEALLSVILLE'S** Tori Jarrett -- who led Ohio with 18 points -- shares a moment with Steubenville's AunDrea West on the bench at Sunday's OVAC All-Star Game.

## Boys

Continued from Page B1

However, from there, it was lights out for the Buckeyes.

West Virginia proceeded to score 13 points in a row, including nine from Oak Glen's Clay Owings who demonstrated the ability to score in a bevy of ways from both the inside and outside.

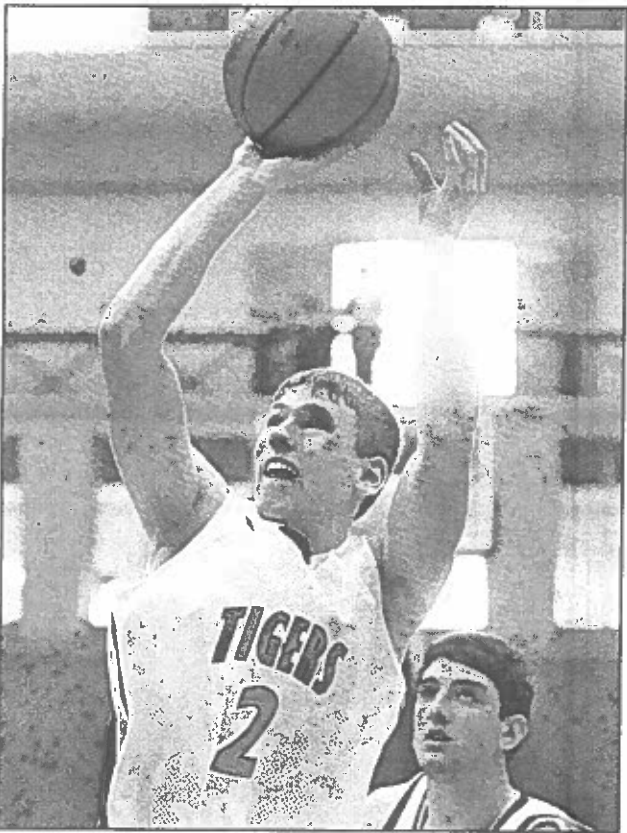
A two and a three from Crozier just before half allowed the Buckeyes to inch within eight at the intermission.

Soon after Shadyside's Justin Andes outshot Steubenville Central's Justin Teramana in the three-point shootout, Ohio scored first in the second half.

However, West Virginia answered with a 15-0 run.

While it was the likes of Owings, Weir High's L.J. Campbell and Magnolia's Jared Blatt who many expected to shine against an under-sized Ohio squad, it was the West Virginia backcourt, which came up big in the second half.

Weir High's Shawn Burns, Wheeling Park's Shaun Black and John Marshall's Jeremy Hays all shined in the game. The latter two scored during the West Virginia run in the second half and Burns finished with nine points, but



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

**SHADYSIDE'S** Nick Schuetz goes up for a shot in the lane during Sunday's OVAC All-Star Game.

was the ultimate floor general throughout the contest on both ends.

The lead swelled to as many 28 in the second half before Ohio added some window dressing late in the contest.

"I think West Virginia had eight practices and we had some scheduled, but we just couldn't get everyone there together because of spring sports, Easter and other commitments," Clifford said. "Some of the

guys I just met today and I told the kids I wasn't going to yell. I think West Virginia had more intensity and wanted it more than we did, but again, everyone had a good time and it's still an all-star game."

Owings led the balanced Mountaineers with 17 points. Burns finished with nine and Wheeling Central's Jordan Sorge and Wheeling Park's Richard Hall evenly divided 14 points.

Ohio, meanwhile, was led by River High's Dylan Potts who scored 22 points, including a perfect 6-of-6 effort from behind the arc.

"I didn't shoot many threes all season and I was just having fun today and the shots were coming along," Potts said. "Other than the outcome, the game was a blast. West Virginia had a really good team and we just couldn't get the job done."

Crozier, meanwhile, finished with 17 points in top support of Potts.

"Obviously, losing isn't any fun, but the whole experience of playing with these guys and meeting them was really fun," Crozier said. "I really like how during the season everyone's like enemies, but you come here and meet everyone, you make friends and realize there aren't any bad guys."

Ohio held a 47-43 edge on the glass. The Buckeyes were guilty of 28 turnovers, which was 13 more than the winners.

Scoring:  
WEST VIRGINIA (92) — Anderson 2, 2-3 6; Black 2, 1-2 6; Blatt 2, 0-0 4; Burns 4, 0-0 9; Campbell 3, 0-0 6; Hall 3, 1-1 7; Hays 2, 2-2 6; Owings 6, 4-4 17; Poling 2, 0-0 4; Sabo 2, 0-0 6; Smith 1, 0-0 2; Snyder 2, 0-0 5; Sorge 3, 1-2 7; Hood 2, 0-0 5; Huggins 1, 0-0 2; Totals: 37, 11-14 92. OHIO (76) — Andes 0, 0-0 0; Burrell 1, 0-4 2; Crozier 7, 2-2 17; Foreman 3, 1-1 7; Macon 1, 0-0 3; Maleski 0, 0-0 0; Nelson 1, 0-0 2; Phillips 0, 0-0 0; Potts 7, 2-2 22; Rataiczak 1, 0-0 2; Rine 0, 0-0 0; Schuetz 2, 0-0 4; Slavik 1, 0-0 3; Teramana 4, 0-0 10; Tracey 2, 0-0 4; Totals: 30, 5-9 76.

Three-Point Goals: WV — Black, Burns, Owings, Sabo (2), Hood, Snyder. OH — Crozier, Potts (6), Macon, Teramana (2), Slavik.

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## Girls

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the game run its course rather than try to stop the bleeding with a timeout.

"I thought about calling a timeout, but we worked out of it," Yates said. "We only had a couple of practices and I just thought we'd work out of it and we did."

Indian Creek's duo of Meghan Billick and Ty Harris helped stop the Lady Buckeyes' bleeding when they converted on back-to-back trips. That ignited a 14-2 Ohio run, which saw a conventional three-point play from Buckeye Trail's Julie Bates and a triple from Barnesville's Mariah Miller. Miller then proceeded to record a steal, drive and hoop.

Another empty West Virginia trip resulted in Meadowbrook's Bre-Z Jones getting her feet set in the left corner and dialing long distance. Fort Frye's Ashley Okey — who won the three-point shootout at halftime — then connected on her third 3-pointer of the game.

Beallsville's Tori Jarrett — who will take part in this weekend's Ohio North-South Game — demonstrated her range during the next Lady Buckeyes' spurt. She would eventually pick up a loose ball and knock home another three, which gave Ohio the 100-point mark.

"I don't know what it was, but I was feeling it from three today," Jarrett said. "I got some open looks. This was an amazing experience, and I am so glad I got a chance to play in this game."

All told, Jarrett led all scorers in the game with 18 points.

St. Clairsville's Brooke Cenkus played just like she did all season for Bruce Stiles and the Lady Red Devils and that was with reckless abandon on the interior.

"I just tell myself to never give up regardless of how big the girls I am playing against are," Cenkus said. "I try to make myself as big as possible and then use my athleticism. This was a great experience and I wouldn't have wanted it any other way. These girls were a lot of fun to be around and get to know."

Cenkus turned in 13 points and had six rebounds for the Ohioans, who had every member of their team score.

Jones and Okey both finished with nine points. Bridgeport's Rachel Benda had eight points, five rebounds, four assists and blocked a shot.

West Virginia was led by Parkersburg South's Asia Greenleaf who had 12 points. Bishop Donahue's Lacey Hampton had nine tallies.

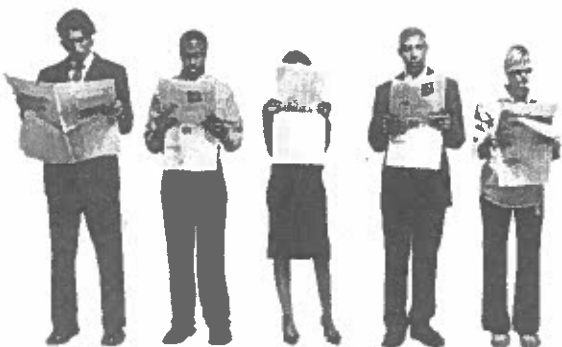
Ohio held a 50-45 edge on the boards and overcame 30 turnovers. The Lady Mounties were led by Greenleaf on the boards as well with eight caroms. They turned the ball over 31 times.

Scoring:  
WEST VIRGINIA (68) — Bertozzi 1, 2-4 4; Bragg 1, 0-0 2; Carpenter 0, 0-0 0; A. Creighton 1, 4-4 6; Fisher 0, 4-4 4; Gorby 4, 0-1 11; Gossett 1, 0-0 2; Greenleaf 4, 4-5 12; Hampton 4, 1-2 9; McElhaney 0, 0-0 0; Moore 3, 0-0 6; Robinson 0, 0-0 0; Slater 2, 0-0 5; Young 2, 1-2 5; C. Creighton 0, 2-4 2; Totals: 23, 18-26 68. OHIO (100) — Bates 1, 1-1 3; Benda 4, 0-0 8; Billick 2, 2-2 6; Cenkus 6, 1-6 13; Garlick 1, 0-0 2; Davis 3, 0-1 6; Frohnafel 0, 2-6 2; Harris 1, 2-2 4; Jarrett 6, 2-2 18; Johnson 3, 0-0 6; Jones 3, 1-3 9; Kehn 1, 0-0 2; Miller 2, 0-0 5; Okey 3, 0-0 9; West 3, 0-0 7; Totals: 39, 11-24 100.

Three-Point Goals: WV — Gorby (3), Slater. OH — Miller, Okey (3), Jarrett (4), Jones (2), West.

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## Wade still unsure of summer

NEW YORK (AP) — Dwyane Wade still doesn't want to rule himself out yet for the world championships this summer, even with family reasons that

# Marinacci to be Honored

By SETH STASKEY  
For the News-Register

Bellaire High School has produced a lot of memorable basketball games throughout its history.

A lot of those games have come down to the wire, but the scoreboard operation has never been an issue because of the steady hand of William "Bee Bee" Marinacci.

For the past 24 years, Marinacci has been at the controls of the clock and scoreboard of the girls' basketball games. He's been in charge of the scoreboard for the past 23 years for boys basketball.

"I've probably been doing it for too long now," Marinacci joked. "I really enjoy doing it. I figure I am going to be going to the games anyway and it's a way to help the kids and coaches."

Marinacci has been selected to receive the annual Tom Rataiczak OVAC Scorekeeper's Award at the OVAC All-Star Game, which is slated for Sunday, April 11 at Ohio University Eastern.

Ironically, Marinacci has spent his entire tour of duty at the Big Reds' boys basketball scoring table sitting next to Rataiczak, who's kept the Big Reds' scorebook for many years.

"Rat was actually the guy who called and told me I received the award," Marinacci said. "I've worked with him my entire time and I've always had a great deal of respect for him both as a teacher and now with the OVAC. It's a thrill to win an award that's named after him."

Former Big Reds' girls' basketball coach Gregg Bonar got Marinacci involved with running the scoreboard and he's had a permanent seat since.

"I've got no idea how many games I've done," Marinacci said. "I know Rat keeps track of his games, but I have no clue. It's been a lot."

There's been some moments of trepidation at the table for Marinacci over the years, but not many.

"I've only had one coach ever question me on starting and stopping the clock," Marinacci said. "He later laughed about it, but there have been times when the



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horn didn't sound because there was a wrestling match the night before and it wasn't turned back on or something."

Along the way, Marinacci's seen plenty of good players and teams come through the ranks. One of the games that sticks out was a 107-

103 Big Reds' loss to Shadyside during the 1977 season. He also lists the 1994 season as one of his most exciting. That's when the Big Reds posted their first undefeated season.

"You really feel like you're part of the game," Marinacci said.

"You've got to pay attention closely or the people sitting behind you are yelling."

As for the future at the Bellaire table, Marinacci plays it year-to-year.

"If they need me, I will continue to do it," Marinacci admitted.

"I'd actually like to retire from it, but if there's no one to do it, I will continue."

Along with running the scoreboard, Marinacci has been the equipment manager at Bellaire for 25 years. He's also the public address announcer at the games.

Marinacci coached the Lady Reds' softball team for 14 years and won four OVAC titles, two sectional titles and was named OVAC Softball Coach of the Year in 1984.

Field design has become a passion for Marinacci as well. He's designed and painted logos on field s for Bellaire, Meadowbrook,

Barnesville, St. Clairsville, Shadyside, Union Local and Bridgeport.

Somehow, Marinacci has found time to serve the Village of Bellaire as a councilman for 30 years.

Bee Bee and his wife, Christy, recently celebrated their 40th anniversary. The couple has three children, Billy, Mark and Michelle Thorp, as well as three grandchildren.

# Smyth Earns Saffield Award

By SETH STASKEY  
For the News-Register

Ron Smyth's coaching career indicates why it's good to pay attention to the advice of your parents.

Having no desire to really get into girls' basketball coaching, Smyth stopped at his parents house when he was just out of the college and coaching the Springfield Local freshman squad.

Smyth's dad told him the head girls' coaching job at Stanton was open and thought he should apply.

He heeded his dad's advice and applied. He was hired and since then has become one of the area's most respected girls' basketball coaches after making stops at Jefferson Union, Edison South and Edison Local before stepping down a few seasons ago.

"I had some great players, great assistants and great support from the schools and parents," Smyth said. "It takes commitment from a lot of people to make a program work."

Smyth owns a career record of 251-182 and now he's added the Rich Saffield Girls Basketball Coach Award to his resume. The award will be presented during next Sunday's Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic at Ohio University Eastern.

Smyth has had to undergo rebuilding jobs as well as taking over consolidated schools during his tenure as a head coach. When he was hired at Stanton, the Raiders were coming off a 1-20 campaign and then when he took the J-U job, the Yellow Jackets were 0-21.

Smyth enjoyed his biggest success at Edison South and had expected a big season, but South and Edison North



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"We took a step backward during the consolidation," Smyth said. "Both South and North had five seniors coming back plus a sprinkle of underclassmen, who were more than capable of contributing."

"We hated to see that happen through consolidation, so it was tough to find playing time for all of the players," Smyth said. "We just couldn't put it together and mesh very well."

The 1975 Springfield High graduate led Edison to the 2003 OVAC title, which had been the school's only title until this year's team captured the 3-A hardware.

His best year at Edison was in 2002 when the Wildcats finished 21-2. Smyth was honored with Eastern District and District V coach of the year honors. He was also chosen to coach the OVAC, District V and Ohio North-South All-Star Games.

Smyth hasn't ruled out returning to the bench at sometime during his career.

"I still have the hunger to coach again," Smyth said. "I'm still very competitive."

Smyth, who serves on the OVAC Basketball Championship committee, is the Edison athletics director.

Ron and his wife, Nancy, have been married for almost 28 years and have two children. Their daughter, Kim, is an undergrad at Akron and their son, Mark, is a sophomore at Edison.

# Marinacci to be recognized at OVAC game

• Veteran timer wins Rataiczak award

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Smyth - who serves on the OVAC Basketball Championship committee - is the Edison athletic director.

Ron and his wife Nancy have been married for almost 28 years and have two children. Their daughter Kim is an undergrad at Akron and their son Mark is a sophomore at Edison.

# UL's Robson will receive Distinguished Service award

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

No matter the event, no matter the time of the year at Union Local High School, Tug Robson's right there looking to do what he can to help.

Robson has been serving the Union Local Athletic Department in a bevy of ways for the past 15 years and that's what made him the choice to receive the Bob Burton Distinguished Service Award at the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic, which will be held Sunday, April 11 at Ohio University-Eastern.

"Any award means a great deal to me, but an award coming from (the OVAC) means even more," Robson said. "This is the biggest conference in the nation and includes the entire Ohio Valley, so that makes it an even bigger deal to me."

Robson was almost in a state of shock when he heard about the award from Gene Ammirante, who is the assistant OVAC All-Star Game director.

"I remember it was Oct. 1 when Gene called me and I asked, 'didn't you have anyone else?'" Robson recalled. "I'm confident there are people out there more worthy than me, but I am definitely honored."

Robson started working in the Jets' athletic programs during his high school days, serving under Bob Liapple before his graduation in 1967.

After a brief hiatus, Robson was asked to serve as equipment manager when Kevin Lucas was hired as the boys' basketball coach.

There was no definitive reason as to his gap in services other than "no one asked" him to help.

"Right after I graduated, I was still involved," Robson said. "But, during the 80s and early 90s, no one ever asked me to help, so I wasn't really over (at the high school) too much."

Robson has been a staple of both the football and basketball programs since.

With his position of equipment manager, Robson's not ashamed to admit that he runs a tight ship with the uniforms and gear. He sometimes sleeps in fieldhouse after football games, washing all of the players' uniforms and if there's a home reserve game Saturday morning, he doesn't head home until it finishes.

"I've been known to be pretty strict every once in a while with the uniforms," Robson joked. "Football definitely takes the most time."

His efficiency and dedication to the youth of the Union Local School District also jumped out at now former Buckeye Trail head football coach Randy Thompson who coached and attended UL. During the 2008, OVAC All-Star Game, Thompson asked Robson to join the "Buckeyes" staff.

"Working or being a part of the football all-star game has been on my to-do list since I was in high school," Robson said. "It's just a special event and the way the OVAC treats those kids and coaches during the week is unbelievable."

Along with his football and basketball duties, Robson has also been active for 19 years in the Union Local Diamond Sports. He also helps coordinate the baseball field for the annual Beast of the East Tournament.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com



# Union Local's Robson Set to be Honored

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

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# Dailer To Be Honored for Service

By SETH STASKEY  
For the News-Register

When there's talk of comparing basketball or even sports on both sides of the river, Jim "Dubie" Dailer can speak with confidence.

Dailer has been highly successful in both Ohio and West Virginia as a head basketball coach, serving lengthy terms of duties at both Bridgeport and Wheeling Central High Schools.

Dailer is now being recognized for his efforts and work with the Earl Haberfield Boys Basketball Coach Award, which will be presented at the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Game at Ohio University Eastern on Sunday, April 11.

The award takes on a special meaning for Dailer since he played for Haberfield at Wheeling Central.

"I always had a great amount of respect for Coach Haberfield and followed his career pretty closely," Dailer said. "When he retired from coaching, he actually came back and helped me at Central and it was a great learning experience for me even at that time."

Dailer, a 1973 Bethany College graduate, got a teaching position at

Bridgeport in 1975 and after spending five years as an assistant basketball coach, Dailer was hired as the head coach in 1980.

He held that position until 1988 and during that time, he led the Bulldogs to the OVAC and district titles during the 1983 campaign.

They eventually reached the regional final before bowing out. All told, he led the Bulldogs to four sectional championships.

He stepped down as the Bulldogs' coach in 1988 to accept the position at Central which he held until 1998.

"I am grateful that Bridgeport had enough confidence in me to take a shot," Dailer said. "The success we had there enabled me to take over the Wheeling Central position when they had such an impressive line of coaching coming through there."

During his nine-year run with the Maroon Knights, Dailer guided his alma mater to the state championship in 1990 and 1996. The Knights were state runnerup in 1991.



Dailer

He was selected to coach West Virginia in the OVAC All-Star Game four times (1983, 1990, 1992 and 1998) and coached the West Virginia North-South Game once (1990).

His teams won five sectionals and made four trips to Charleston.

"Anytime you receive an honor as a coach, it's the result of the athletes you had the opportunity to coach," Dailer said. "Plus, I had great assistants working with me."

After being out of coaching for a few years, Dailer's urge returned and he coached the Bulldogs during the 2003 and 2004 seasons before he retired from teaching in 2005.

He wasn't retired long before he accepted a teaching position at Bishop Donahue, which he currently maintains. He's also the Bishops' athletic director.

"When I got out of coaching, I really missed being around the kids and the other coaches," Dailer said.

During his career, Dailer also coached golf and led the Bulldogs to the 1977 OVAC title. He also served on the coaching staff of his collegiate alma mater, Bethany, for a season.

Dailer earns a Master's Degree in Child and Youth Guidance from the University of Dayton.

## Dailer be recognized at OVAC game

By SETH STASKEY  
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## OVAC Samuel A. Mumley All-Star Basketball Classic

# A Little Payback

### Owings scores 17 to lead the way for W.Va.

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Ohio usually gets the best of West Virginia in all-star tilts.

But at Sunday's OVAC Samuel A. Mumley All-Star Basketball Classic, it was the Mountaineers who shined.

And in a big way.

Oak Glen's Clay Owings scored 17 points and West Virginia went on a 20-5 run to start the second half in posting a 92-76 triumph at Ohio University Eastern's Fitness Center.

It was the second victory in three seasons for the Mountaineers, but the Buckeyes still hold a 13-6 edge in the series since the contest went to its current format in 1992.

West Virginia's 16-point margin of victory was the most since Ohio's 117-62 victory in 2005.

"We wanted to go out and prove what West Virginia is all about," said Owings, who finished this season as the Ohio Valley's leading scorer. "It was fun being out there playing with the best players in the valley."

Ohio led for most of the first half until Owings canned a jumper near the 4-minute mark to give West Virginia a 26-24 lead.

Wheeling Park's Richard Hall made 1 of 2 free throws to make it a 27-27 game before back-back baskets by Owings and Weir's Shawn Burns gave the Mountaineers a 31-24 lead, one they wouldn't lose.

Owings and Burns went on to score four points each as West Virginia took a 40-32 lead at halftime.

Bridgeport's Timmy Tracey scored the first basket of the second half to cut West Virginia's lead to 40-34, but the Mountaineers scored the next 15 points to take command.

Brooke's Justin Sabo started the spurt with a bucket, followed by a 3-point play by Paden City's Malakai Anderson.

Hall converted a layup to make the score 48-34 before John Marshall's Jeremy Hays made two free throws.

Hays made the score 52-34 with a



Photo by Paul Krajnyak

Wheeling Central's Jordan Sorge (12) gets hammered by River's Dylan Potts during the OVAC All-Star Game Sunday at Ohio University Eastern. The West Virginia team won, 92-76.

jumper moments later, before Wheeling Park's Shaun Black ended the run with a 3-pointer with 16:08 remaining in the game.

West Virginia's aggressive showed on the stat sheet. The Mountaineers made more field goals (93 to 30), attempted more field goals (85 to 64), made more free throws (11-5) and attempted more free throws (15 to 11).

But the one edge Ohio had was from the 3-point line, where the Buckeyes converted 11 treys, led by

River's Dylan Potts, who canned six and Steubenville Central's Justin Teramana, who had two.

Potts scored a game-high 22 points, with Bellaire's Levi Crozier scoring 17, including 7 of 9 from the field.

The duo sparked a 13-0 run late in the game that trimmed a 27-point Ohio lead to 13.

Potts made three straight baskets - two of them 3-pointers - to cap the run.

Please See PAYBACK, Page 15

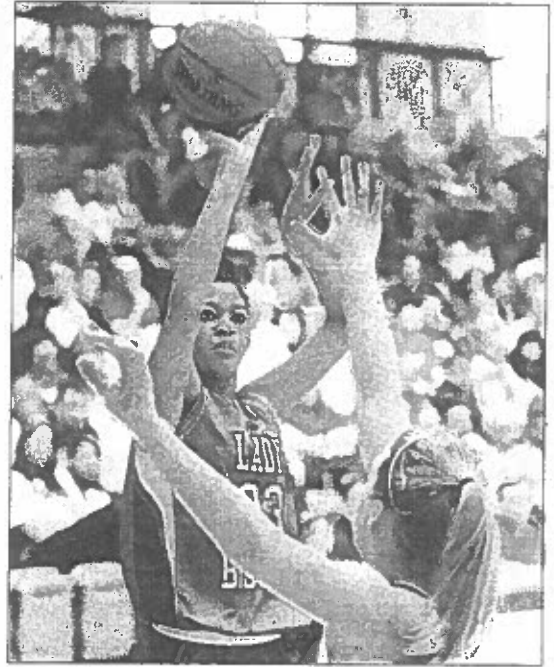


Photo by Paul Krajnyak

Bishop Donahue's Lacey Hampton shoots over Indian Creek's Meghan Billick during the OVAC All-Star Game on Sunday at OUE.

## Ohio Hits The Century Mark

### Buckeyes use 22-3 run in second half to earn victory

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Beallsville's Tori Jarrett canned four 3-pointers during Sunday's OVAC Samuel A. Mumley All-Star Basketball Classic.

But none was bigger than the final one.

Jarrett's trey with a few ticks remaining on the clock put Ohio at the century mark on the scoreboard Sunday in a 100-68 triumph against West Virginia at the Ohio University Eastern Fitness Center.

But it wasn't until about 5 minutes after the game that the Buckeyes found out they had reached the 100-point plateau.

When the players walked off the court, the scoreboard showed 99. But when the players emerged from the locker room following Coach Tina Yates' postgame remarks, members of the media informed the squad of a scoreboard error.

The news gave the team another reason to cheer and another reason for Yates to smile again.

"There were some times we were sluggish and slow, but once we got into the flow of the game we got some quick steals and were able to convert

Please See CENTURY, Page 15

# OVAC Stars Ready to Play One Final Game

Relationships are big part of the festivities

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — High school can be fleeting.

One day your a nervous freshman entering the doors for the first time. Then, before you know

it, that last bell rings, you're handed a diploma, and an important part of your life is finished.

For the boys and girls in the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic, being asked to play gives them a chance to keep their prep career alive one more day.

"(High school) goes by so fast you don't know where it all

went," said Nick Schuetz, one of two Shadyside seniors slated to play in the April 11 event at the Ohio University Eastern Fitness Center.

"That's why this game is pretty cool."

It also gives longtime rivals one last crack at each other. Just ask John Marshall's Jeremy Hays and Steubenville's Dwight

Macon.

"I've known Dwight since our freshman year," Hays said smiling during media night festivities for the game Monday night at OUE. "So when I take the court, Dwight always guards me. He hasn't done too well as of late."

That good-natured comment sparked another from the Big Red

standout.

"He thinks he can beat me 1-on-1," Macon responded. "I let him think that."

After playing basketball for nearly five months, many players might want to take a break or, in Macon's case, move on to a spring sport.

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## Century

(Continued from Page 13)

at the other end," said Yates, the Shadyside mentor who coached the game along with St. Clairsville's Bruce Stiles and Indian Creek's Erin DeSantis.

Ohio went on a 22-3 run midway through the second half that saw a 59-55 lead grow to 81-58.

The Buckeyes held the Mountaineers to no field goals during the stretch, which included points from nine players.

"We had a bunch of scorers so I was pretty confident they would all get their points.

Jarrett led all scorers with 18 points. But the Blue Devils senior had only two free throws scoring during the decisive run.

Buckeye Trail's Julie Bates converted a three-point play to give Ohio a 62-55 lead with 12:19 remaining in the game.

Back-to-back buckets by Barnesville's Mariah Miller increased the lead to 67-55. Then, Meadowbrook's Bre Jones and Fort Frye's Ashley Okey — the Panhandle Cleaning and Restoration 3-Point Shootout winner at halftime — drained treys to make it a 73-55 game.

Jarrett's free throws made the score 75-58, before baskets by Bridgeport's Rachel Benda, Steubenville's AunDrea West and St. Clairsville's Brooke Cenkus completed the run.

Cenkus finished with 13 points, the only other Ohio player to reach double figures.

The contest was a physical affair, and Cenkus was one of the players battling inside.

"I just wanted to go out there and have fun because it was my last game," said the Red Devils standout, who endured a tooth to the head during one of her tussles underneath the basket.

"It was a great experience and I couldn't have asked to have been on a better team."

With the score tied 26-26 with less than 10 minutes left in the first half, Ohio went on 10-3 spurt to give the Buckeyes a 36-29 lead.

Ohio went on another run — an 8-0 spurt keyed by two Jarrett buckets — to increase the lead to 51-35 near halftime.

**"It was a great experience and I couldn't have asked to have been on a better team."**

Brooke Cenkus

But West Virginia responded with a run of its own as the second half began, outscoring the Buckeyes 16-4 to start the second half to come within two points at 55-53.

"I thought about calling a timeout there, but (the players) worked their way through it," Yates said.

Cameron's Rachel Fisher hit a pair of free throws to start the half. Parkersburg South's Asia Greenleaf and Paden City's Allison Bertozzi followed with baskets to make the score 51-43.

Following back-to-back baskets by Indian Creek's Mikki Davis, the Mountaineers went on a 10-run, capped by a 3-pointer from Hundred's Jordyn Gorby, who finished with 11 points.

But that was as close as West Virginia would get. Indian Creek's Meghan Billick made a layup and Redskins teammate Ty Harris hit two free throws to increase Ohio's lead to 59-53 before the Buckeyes' decisive run.

"It was a game of spurts," said Wheeling Park's Meredith Anderson, coaching the West Virginia squad with Wheeling Central's Penn Kurtz and Linsly's Erica Hall.

"We went on a nice run to start the second half. We went to a 2-2-1 zone to try and slow them down. We did everything we could."

Greenleaf led West Virginia with 12 points.

"It was great to be able to take kids that play different styles and be able to mesh them together," said Anderson, coaching in her first Mumley Classic. "It was a neat experience for the kids."

## OVAC

(Continued from Page 17)

But Macon, who will play football in the Fall at the University of Toledo, said opportunities like this don't come every day.

"I won't ever have another chance to play in this game again," he said. "You only get a chance to be a kid once."

And you only get so many chances to coach certain players. Indian Creek coach Erin DeSantis wanted to help coach the Ohio All-Stars because it gave her one more opportunity to coach the Redskins' three participants — Meghan Billick, Mikki Davis and Ty Harris.

"It puts the icing on the cake," DeSantis said. "This is the first time I've had a player in it. It's an honor to get to coach them again. You never want to give up any opportunity you have to be with them."

Wheeling Central girls' coach Penn Kurtz, who is helping guide the West Virginia All-Stars, feels the same way about being able to coach Caitlin Creighton in the game.

"It's special," he said. "You develop relationships with players. That's one of the great things about being a coach."

"Caitlin has been a special player for us and the opportunity to coach here in this game means a lot to me."

### Game Notes

■ Advance tickets are currently on sale. Tickets are being sold at Kroger stores in Bellaire, Moundsville, St. Clairsville and Wheeling for \$5 for students and \$6 for adults, while all tickets will cost \$7 at the gate. The girls' game begins at

**"It puts the icing on the cake. This is the first time I've had a player in it."**

Erin DeSantis  
Indian Creek coach

3 p.m., while the boys' contest will begin 20 minutes after the conclusion of the girls' game.

■ In addition to Kurtz, the West Virginia girls will be coached by Wheeling Park's Meredith Anderson and Linsly's Erica Hall. Bishop Donahue's Tom Wise, Weir's Mike Granato and Oak Glen's Vince Gilliam will coach the boys.

■ DeSantis will guide the Ohio girls along with Shadyside's Tina Yates and St. Clairsville's Bruce Stiles. Harrison Central's Justin Clifford, Frontier's Roger Kirkpatrick and Steubenville Catholic's Sean Tucker will coach the boys.

■ Panhandle Cleaning & Restoration will serve as the title sponsor for the 3-point competition, which will take place at halftime of both games.

"As a result of the sponsorship, we are able to make the competition more exciting and give it an NBA feel," said Tom Bechtel, game director.

The shootout will feature five ball racks at assigned locations around the 3-point line. Each rack will conclude with a bonus ball.

## Payback

(Continued from Page 13)

But it was too little, too late for Ohio, which could do little to slow down West Virginia's fast-paced attack.

"We talked in practice about going out, playing hard and playing together," Owings said. "We really bonded out there. We really came together as a team and got the fast break going. Everything went really well."

Nowhere was that more evident than from the Weir duo of Burns and L.J. Campbell. The duo com-

bined for a pair of nifty ally-oops in the second half.

"We did it a couple of times this season and we want to do it in the all-star game," Burns said. "We wanted to run up and down the court. That was our plan."

Mission accomplished.

### Game Note

Shadyside's Justin Andes defeated Teramana in a playoff to win the Panhandle Cleaning and Restoration 3-Point Shootout at halftime.



# SPORTS

Sunday, April 11, 2010  
2010

## OVAC hoop stars set to shine

• Ohio and West Virginia's best to clash today at OUE

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

Area prep basketball's "best of the best" will have one more chance to shine.

The annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Games are on tap, which will officially put the finishing touches on another prep basketball campaign.

The Ohio and West Virginia squads will meet at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center today. The girls' game tips off at 3 p.m. and the boys' game follows 20 minutes following the girls' completion.

Since respective teams' seasons ended throughout March, all four squads have tried diligently to set up a handful of practices basically just so the players can learn who each are and form some sort of cohesiveness with one another.

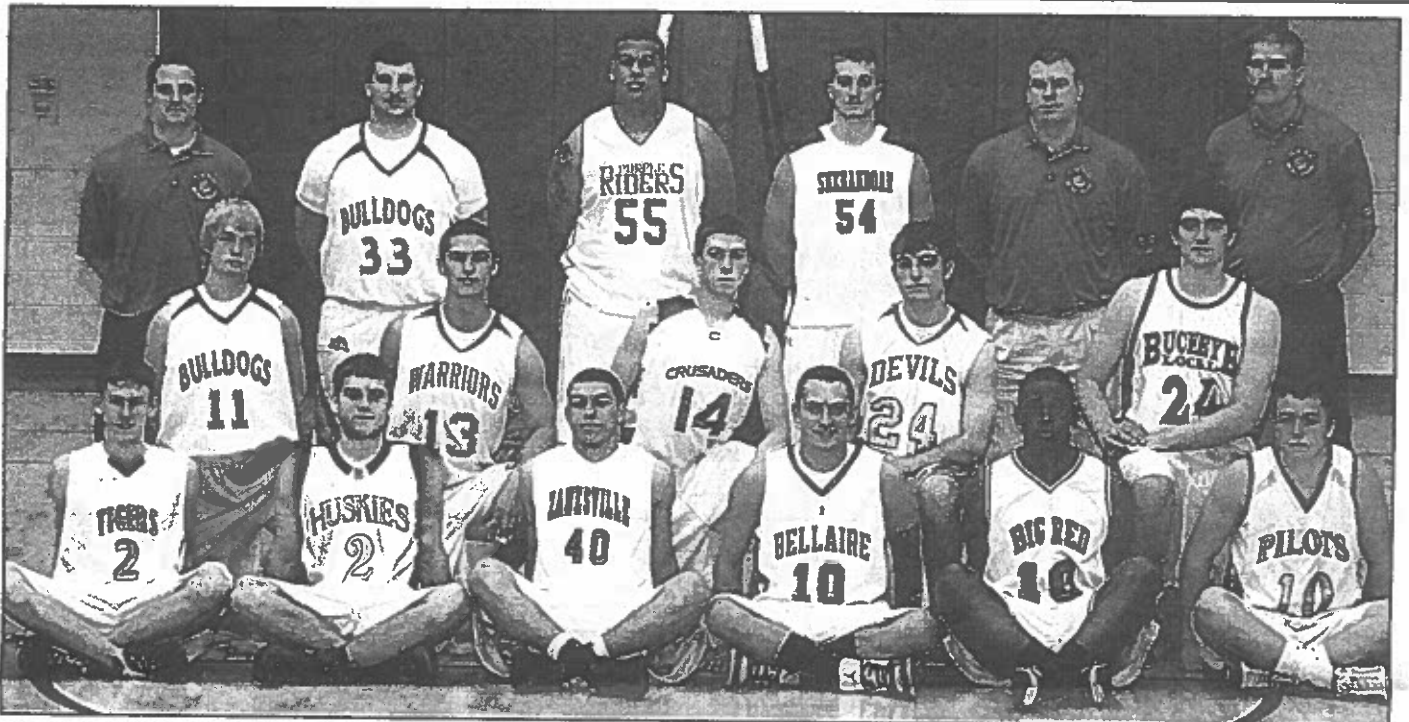
"We only had two practices," said Ohio head coach Justin Clifford. "We didn't have great attendance at either practice, but it wasn't because these kids don't want to be here or anything like that. It's people had track meets or baseball games. This is a great honor for these kids, and I think they'll realize that more when they get older."

Clifford played in the 1999 OVAC All-Star Game under Frontier's Roger Kirkpatrick, who will be joining him on the Buckeyes' boys' bench this afternoon.

"Coach Kirkpatrick told me he's 3-0 in the OVAC Game, and he doesn't want to lose this one," Clifford said. "I told him I hope he's not 3-1 either. There's a lot of people who look at this game (on paper) and immediately think we're an underdog, but we'll be there to compete."

While it's an all-star game and an enjoyable experience for everyone involved, when you put 30 players together from rival states, the level of competition is certainly evident.

"We're going in to have fun obviously,  
See, **OVAC**, Page C2



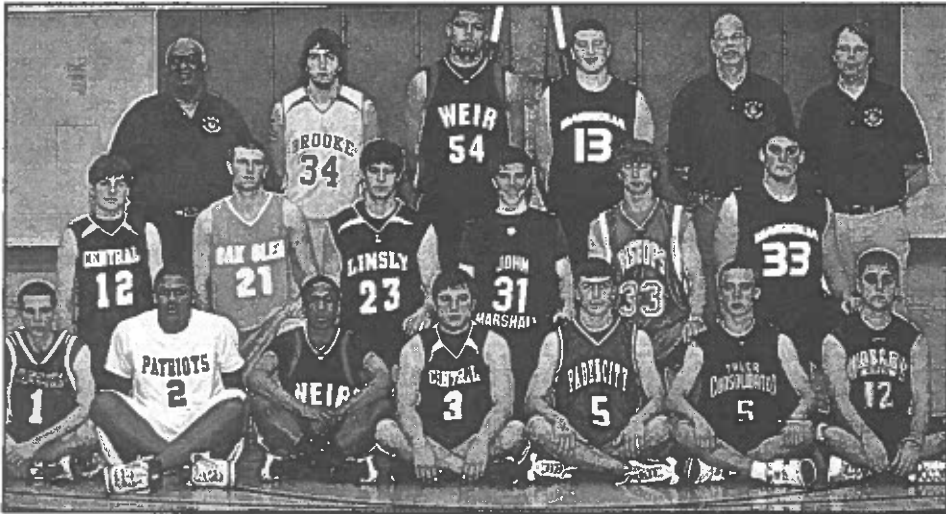
PICTURED IS the Ohio boys squad for today's Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Game. Front row, from left, are Nick Schuetz (Shadyside), Drew Phillips (Harrison Central), Raheem Forman (Zanesville), Levi Crozier (Bellaire), Dwight Macon (Steubenville) and Dylan Potts (River). Middle row, from left, are Timmy Tracey (Bridgeport), Cody Nelson (Buckeye Trail), Justin Teramana (Steubenville Central), Dan Slavik (St. Clairsville) and Joe Rine (Buckeye Local). Standing, from left, are head coach Justin Clifford (Harrison Central), Nate Maleski (Bridgeport), Jordan Burress (Martins Ferry), Wes Rataiczak (Shenandoah), assistant coach Sean Tucker (Steubenville Central) and assistant coach Roger Kirkpatrick (Frontier). Absent was Justin Andes (Shadyside).

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY



PICTURED IS the Ohio girls squad for today's Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Game. Front row, from left, are AunDrea West (Steubenville), Bre-Z Jones (Meadowbrook), Tori Jarrett (Beallsville) and Mikki Davis (Indian Creek). Middle row, from left, are Brooke Cenkus (St. Clairsville), Rachel Benda (Bridgeport), Courtney Frohnapfel (Martins Ferry), Ashley Okey (Fort Frye), Mariah Miller (Barnesville) and Ty Harris (Indian Creek). Back row, from left, are head coach Tina Yates (Shadyside), Julie Bates (Buckeye Trail), Meghan Billick (Indian Creek), Rebecca Garlick (Beallsville), assistant coach Erin DeSantis (Indian Creek) and assistant coach Bruce Stiles (St. Clairsville). Absent was Jaclyn Johnson (Shadyside) and Carly Kehn (Cambridge).

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**PICTURED IS** the West Virginia boys' squad for today's Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Game. Front row, from left, are Shaun Black (Wheeling Park), Richard Hall (Wheeling Park), Shawn Burns (Weir), Zach Hood (Wheeling Central), Malakai Anderson (Paden City), Dustin Snyder (Tyler Consolidated) and Matthew Poling (Valley). Middle row, from left, are Jordan Sorge (Wheeling Central), Clay Owings (Oak Glen), Craig Kuhar (Linsley), Jeremy Hays (John Marshall), Andrew Smith (Bishop Donahue) and Jared Blatt (Magnolia). Back row, from left, are head coach Vince Gilliam (Oak Glen), Justin Sabo (Brooke), L.J. Campbell (Weir), Andy Huggins (Magnolia), assistant coach Tom Wise (Bishop Donahue) and assistant coach Mike Granato (Weir).



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**PICTURED IS** the West Virginia girls' squad for today's Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Game. Front row, from left, are Julie Young (John Marshall), Hannah Gossett (John Marshall), Jordyn Gorby (Hundred), Austyn Creighton (Wheeling Park) and Sara Carpenter (Bishop Donahue). Middle row, from left, are Allison Bertozzi, Lacey Hampton (Bishop Donahue), Caitlin Creighton (Wheeling Central), Emily McElhaney (Oak Glen), Michaela Bragg (Madonna) and Kassi Robinson (Weir). Back row, from left, are head coach Meredith Anderson (Wheeling Park), Carly Slater (Wheeling Park), Asia Greenleaf (Parkersburg South), Jessica Moore (Parkersburg South), assistant coach Penn Kurtz (Wheeling Central) and assistant coach Erica Hall (Linsley).

## ● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

but we're trying to win this game," said Oak Glen's Vince Gilliam, who will coach the West Virginia boys for the second time in his career. "We're going to let the kids play and do what they do best. We've practiced a few times, but these guys are all-stars and don't need a lot of practice."

West Virginia's boys' squad appears to have a distinct advantage on the interior with players like Weir High's L.J. Campbell, Wheeling Park's Richard Hall and Magnolia's Jared Blatt, just to name a few. However, Weir's Shawn Burns, Oak Glen's Clay Owings, Wheeling Central's Zach Hood and Jordan Sorge also demonstrate that the Mountaineers have quality backcourt play as well.

Those are guys who Gilliam, who recently decided to return to Oak Glen after initially saying he'd step down, plans to get involved early and often.

"We're going to get out and run mainly, but we feel we've got more size than Ohio," Gilliam said. "We're going to do some basic things in the halfcourt and then look to run up and down the floor and spot up."

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### ■ Ohio Player Capsules may be found on Page C6

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"The competition between Ohio and West Virginia is still relatively new to me," Anderson said. "I am really looking forward to being part of the game. I think it's a great experience for the kids and the coaches."

Much like the West Virginia boys, Anderson feels the Mountain State girls also have an advantage on the block.

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The Lady Buckeyes' squad is guard-oriented to say the least. The likes of Bridgeport's Rachel Benda, Beallsville's Tori Jarrett, Indian Creek's Ty Harris and Fort Frye's Ashley Okey are a few of the notable players.

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The biggest challenge for all of the coaches is finding equal minutes for all of the players who've earned their way onto the teams.

The consensus among all of the coaches was all will try to find three balanced five-person groups to play equally throughout the game. However, all reserved the right to mix and match at crunch time.

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### OVAC NOTES

■ **PRIOR TO** the game, the players and coaches will be honored at a luncheon at Undo's West in St. Clairsville. It begins at 12:30 p.m.

■ **NEW THIS** year is a three-point shootout, which is sponsored by Panhandle Cleaning and Restoration. The event will mimic the three-point shootouts seen at the collegiate and professional level. Each competitor will have 60 seconds to shoot from five different racks set up around the three-point arc.

■ **THE SLAM** dunk competition for boys has been eliminated this year.

■ **TICKETS FOR** the game have been on sale at area Kroger Stores and all tickets will be sold at the gate today for \$7.

■ **TOM BECHTEL** and Gene Ammirante - two longtime OVAC supporters - serve in the game director capacity.

■ **ALONG WITH** the hoops, several special awards will be presented. Recipients include: BeeBee Marinacci (Scorekeeper/Timer Award); Jim "Dubie" Dailer (Earl Haberfield Boys Basketball Coach Award); Ron Smyth (Rich Saffield Girls Basketball Coach Award); Tom Wilson (Robert Dawson Basketball Officials Award) and Tug Robson (Bob Burton Distinguished Service Award).

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## Brantley shines for Gators

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) - John Brantley threw for 201 yards and two touchdowns in Florida's spring game Saturday. It was the kind of performance many expect-

## ● Tribe

Continued from Page C1

starter this year and he rewarded their faith with a strong spring and first start.

"We were tickled to death, obviously," manager Jim Leyland said.

allowed four runs, six hits and five walks in his debut with the Indians and fourth game in the majors.

He threw 38 pitches - just half for strikes - in

4-0 lead on Brandon Inge's RBI single and Scott Sizemore's sacrifice fly, the rookie's first RBI.

Bonderman struck out the top two hitters in

## ● Track

Continued from Page C1

Earlier in the morning, sophomore Emma Dolan captured the pole vault, clearing 8-ft-6 for the title.

Park's other victory came in the shuttles. The foursome of Ashley Wheeler, Stacy Chaplin, Christine Fanning and Creighton posted a 1:11.2 for the title.

Harrison Central was led by standout senior Ericka

## SPORTS



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**THE ANNUAL** Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game is scheduled for April 11 at Ohio University Eastern. The players, coaches and game officials met with the media Monday night at OUE. From left are Ohio boys coach Justin Clifford (Harrison Central), Ohio girls' coach Tina Yates (Shadyside), Game Director Tom Bechtel, West Virginia girls' coach Meredith Anderson (Wheeling Park) and West Virginia boys' coach Vince Gilliam (Oak Glen).

## OVAC Game: A true honor

• Annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC Classic slated for April 11 at OUE

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

Growing up in the Ohio Valley as an athlete there are certain goals each wishes to attain.

A state championship — either individual or team — is the top priority. Then a conference title is another biggie.

However, when it comes to individual accolades, playing with the area's best and in front of the area fans one last time is a constant.

That's exactly the opportunity the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference all-star games gives and that was well-documented Monday evening as all starts from both Ohio and West Virginia met with the media in advance of the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic, which will be played on Sunday, April 11 at Ohio University-Eastern.

"Playing with all of the guys you had to play against your whole life is a big thing for me," said St. Clairsville's Dan Slavik. "Plus, it's still so competitive because you're playing against West Virginia and you want to win the game at the same time."

While the caliber of players isn't obviously what some state and national all-star games are, the players have a strong sense of pride because it's the game they grew up coming to each season just counting the years until they'd possibly have the opportunity to represent their school.

Slavik thinks the common goal of victory

*'I don't know if I am  
deserving to be here, but  
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— Justin Clifford

helps ease the molding of the squad, which can sometimes be a challenge due to the limited practice time and number of players the coaches must jockey.

"Some of us have played together in other sports, but being on the Ohio side and wanting to win the game for the state makes it really easy for us to mesh," Slavik said.

Head coach Justin Clifford — who just completed his first season at Harrison Central — is soaking up the entire experience from a different perspective.

Clifford played in the Mumley Classic in 1999 after completing his senior season under his father Kim at St. Clairsville.

"I'm just humbled to be nominated (to coach) and even more humbled to have been voted into the game," Clifford said. "I don't know if I'm that deserving to be here, but I am honored to be here."

While the honor is nice, the highly competitive Clifford — much like Slavik — wants his first time in the game to finish in an Ohio victory.

"It's tough to prepare for this game

because you're trying to practice as much as possible, but it's tough to get everyone there because of baseball and track schedules," Clifford said. "The bottom line is you've got to get stops and be able to put the ball in the hoop. Hopefully, we can do that and at the same time, have a little fun at the same time."

On the girls' side, the motives and goals are just the same.

Bridgeport's Rachel Benda couldn't even remember when she started attending the OVAC All-Star Game, it's been so many years, but four years ago when she entered varsity basketball, she set a goal.

"I wanted to be in this game since my freshman year," Benda said. "I remember my friends and teammates getting chosen and I wanted to have this opportunity as well and now to be here is just awesome."

Benda — who is still undecided where she'll attend college — has enjoyed getting to know her new teammates and is anxious to show off some of the skills, which earned her all-Ohio accord this season.

"I am friends with all of these girls, but it's going to be great to have a chance to play with them," Benda said. "I think we'll be able to push the ball up the floor and we've got a lot of quickness and athleticism on this team."

Shadyside's Tina Yates has been a part of the OVAC festivities before, but this time she's running the show for the Lady

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### ● OVAC

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Buckeyes, meaning it's still a new experience.

"It's been fun and interesting," Yates said. "Our practices haven't been too bad and it's been nice to get a ball back in their hands since it's probably been almost a month since a lot of these girls played."

Yates is in the same boat as Clifford and the entire West Virginia staff in trying to juggle prac-

tice times against spring sports and Easter this weekend.

"It's tough, but we're making the best of it," Yates said.

"Each practice we've had, the girls have been able to get to know each other better.

"At the first one, very few knew each other's names, so they were yelling out school names, but we're becoming more

and more familiar with one another and we hope that translates well into the game."

#### OVAC NOTES

■ **ADVANCE** tickets for the game are on sale for \$5 for students and \$6 for adults at select area Kroger stores, including Bellaire, Moundsville and St. Clairsville. The cost of a ticket at the gate is \$7.

■ **THE GIRLS'** game will tip on April 11 at 3

p.m. and the boys' game will begin 20 minutes following the girls' completion.

■ **THE OVAC** Game no longer features a slam dunk competition for boys. It's been replaced by a three-point shootout, which is being sponsored by Panhandle Cleaning and Restoration. Five ball racks will be used.

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# OVAC

Continued from page B1

and form some sort of cohesiveness with one another.

"We only had two practices," Ohio coach Justin Clifford said. "We didn't have great attendance at either practice, but it wasn't because these kids don't want to be here or anything like that. It's people had track meets or baseball games."

"This is a great honor for these kids, and I think they'll realize that more when they get older."

Clifford played in the 1999 OVAC All-Star Game under Frontier's Roger Kirkpatrick, who will be joining him on the Buckeyes' boys' bench this afternoon.

"Coach Kirkpatrick told me he's 3-0 in the OVAC Game, and he doesn't want to lose this one," Clifford said. "I told him I hope he's not 3-1, either. There's a lot of people who look at this game (on paper) and immediately think we're an underdog, but we'll be there to compete."

While it's an all-star game and an enjoyable experience for everyone involved, when you put 30 players together from rival states, the level of competition is certainly evident.

"We're going in to have fun obviously, but we're trying to win this game," said Oak Glen's Vince Gilliam, who will coach the West Virginia boys for the second time in his career. "We're going to let the kids play and do what they do best. We've practiced a few times, but these guys are all-stars and don't need a lot of practice."

West Virginia's boys' squad appears to have a distinct advantage on the interior with players like Weir's L.J. Campbell, Wheeling Park's Richard Hall and Magnolia's Jared Blatt, just to name a few. However, Weir's Shawn Burns, Oak Glen's Clay Owings, Wheeling Central's Zack Hood and Jordan Sorge also demonstrate the Mountaineers have quality backcourt play as

well.

Those are guys Gilliam, who recently decided to return to Oak Glen after initially saying he'd step down, plans to get involved early and often.

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## OVAC All-Star Games Set to Tip Off Today

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

Area prep basketball's "best of the best" will have one more chance to shine.

Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Games are on tap, which will officially put the finishing touches another prep basketball campaign.

The Ohio and West Virginia squads will meet at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center today. The girls' game tips at 3 p.m.

#### Inside

■ Wilson to receive Robert Dawson Basketball Official Award

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and the boys' game follows 20 minutes after.

Since respective teams' seasons ended throughout March, all four squads have tried diligently to set up a handful of practices basically just so the players can learn who each are

See, OVAC, Page B8

#### Tell us what you think.

Register your answer at [www.news-register.net](http://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.)



AMERICA'S CHAMPION OF NATURAL GAS

## Wilson to Receive Official's Award

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

Tom Wilson loves basketball.

He was a standout player at Wheeling High, helping the final Wildcats squad win the West Virginia State Championship in 1976.

After playing two seasons at West Liberty State College, Wilson gave up the playing career and started officiating games in the college's intermural program.

"I really liked (officiating) and it just stuck with me," Wilson said.

At the urging of a couple of friends, Wilson registered for a class to become a certified basketball official and from there, the rest is history.

Wilson is being recognized for his career with the Robert Dawson Basketball Official's Award, which will be presented during the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic slated for today at Ohio University Eastern.

"I was very surprised and humbled when I received word that I had been chosen for this award," Wilson said. "I was shocked because I thought it was for guys who dedicated their entire careers to working in the OVAC."

Wilson spent 24 years working in the OVAC before he got out of the prep ranks when his two boys were playing and then stayed active as a collegiate official.

"It just got to be too much on the legs," Wilson said about stepping

back from working high-school games. "Instead of working six nights a week, I went to working three nights a week. It just got to be too much of a time commitment."

During his career, Wilson was selected to work six West Virginia state tournaments, including three title games.

He worked at the regional level in Ohio. He was also selected to work three Mumley All-Star Classics.

Wilson entered the collegiate ranks of officiating in 1990 after attending a camp at Wheeling Jesuit University. He was recommended by another official and then an observer offered him a contract.

Along with his current WVIAC duties, Wilson also worked Division I in the Southern Conference. He's since cut his workload to just the WVIAC and has worked three Division II tournaments.

"I'd like to officiate five or six more years," Wilson said.

Along with traveling all around as an official, Wilson was a firefighter for the city of Wheeling for 30 years before his retirement two years ago.

"There are a lot of similarities between officiating and fighting fires," Wilson said.

"Both can be chaotic at times, but there are definitely no life or death times in officiating."

Tom currently resides in the Springdale section of Wheeling with his wife of 26 years, Susan, and sons, Ryan and Casey.

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