

SPORTS

Monday,
April 4, 2011

Ohio, W. Va. split OVAC Games

• Buckeye girls rout Mountain State

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

It was a great day to be a Lady Buckeye! Union Local's Drew Greenwood would certainly concur.

Racing to 15-0 command, Greenwood's OVAC Ohio Girls' All-Stars carried on for a convincing 74-51 win over their West Virginia counterparts Sunday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern's Recreation Center.

Ohio extended command to 49-24 at half-time. Though Penn Kurtz' Lady Mountaineers more than held their own over the final 20 minutes, the first half deficit proved far too great to overcome.

At his disposal, Greenwood was working with a 14-player roster paced by a solid mix of inside talent and backcourt veterans.

Ohio put its frontline strength to excellent use — led by Cambridge's 5-10 star Molly Ritz who capped a season to remember.

Ritz was at the forefront of a Lady Bobcats' quint which advanced to the OHSAA big dance in Columbus.

Though Cambridge came up short in the state event, Ritz was a major player in the proceedings. In Sunday's OVAC contest, she tallied a team-leading 13 points

Less than 48 hours earlier, the Guernsey County product had earned MVP honors with a double-double performance in the District 12 All-Star event.

Ritz was aided by several Ohio teammates Sunday, including Frontier's 5-9 Heather Booth who amassed 10 points.

Shadyside's 5-10 Sarah Neavin netted nine markers with St. John Central's 6-0 Ellie LeMasters collecting eight counters.

Caldwell's 5-11 Lizzy Nau contributed seven tallies and Meadowbrook's 5-11 Shelby Stover supported with six points.

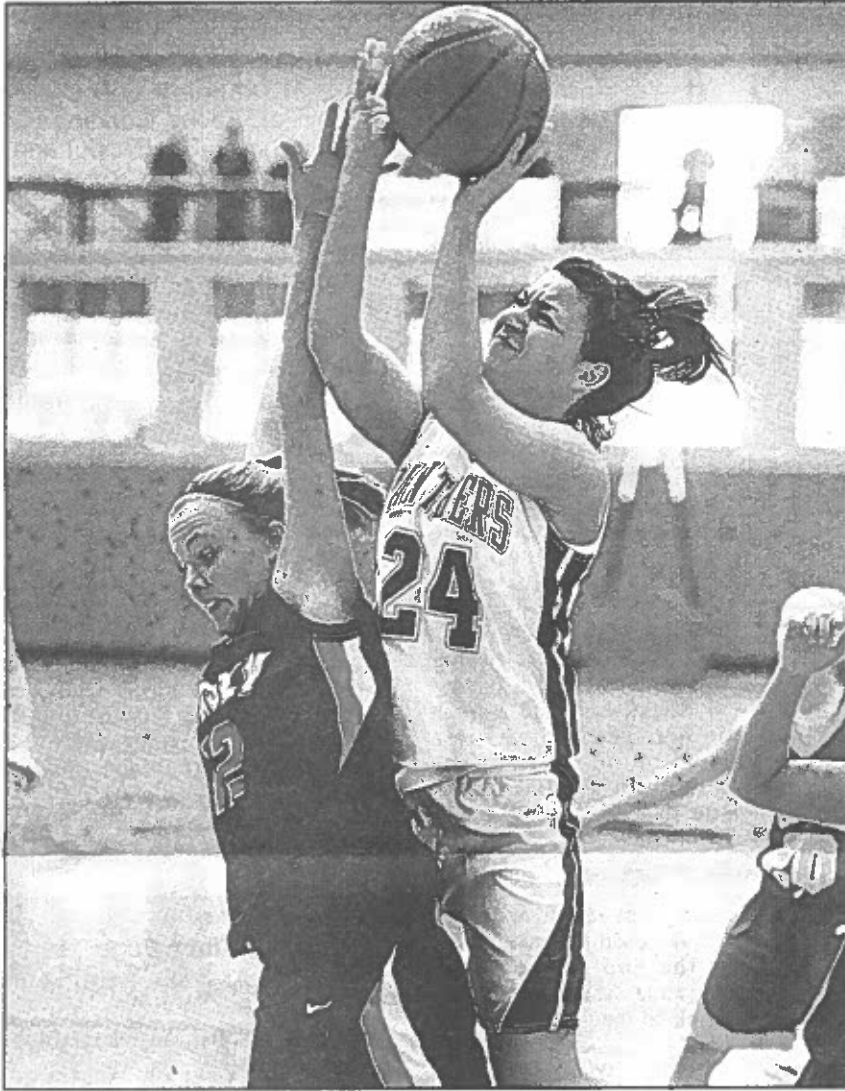
Shadyside's Kelsey Holloway hooped five

See, **GIRLS**, Page B2



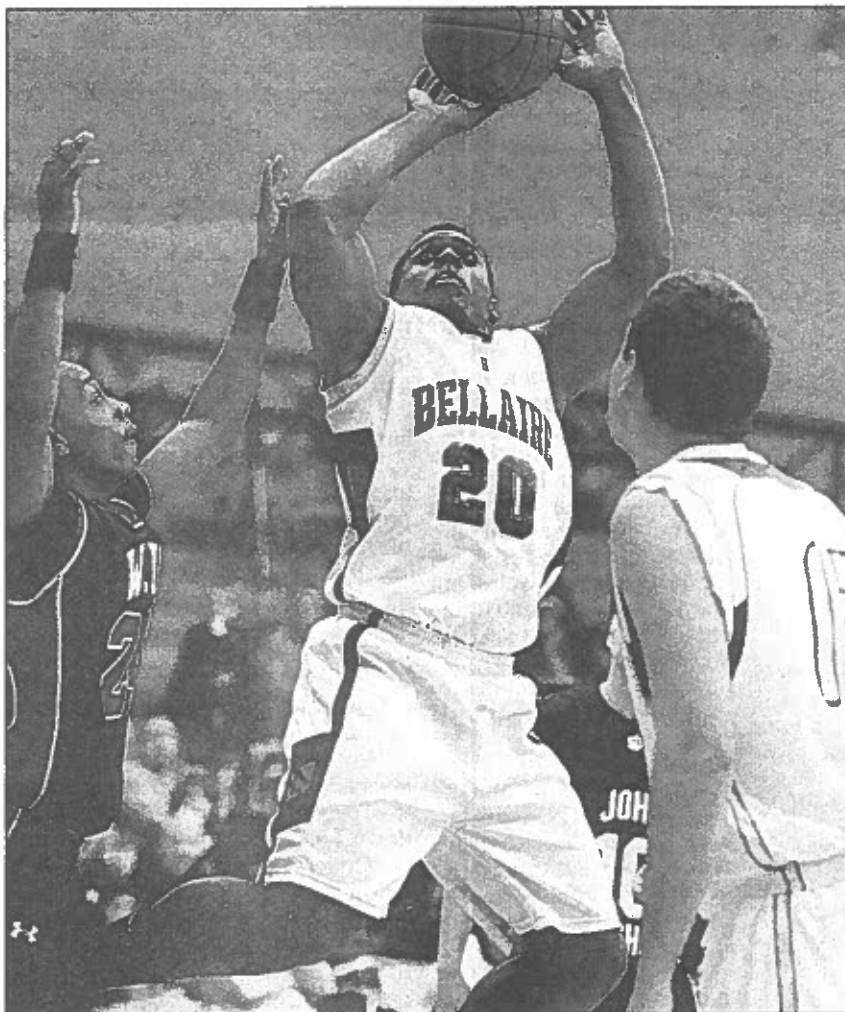
Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

SHADYSIDE'S Sarah Neavin goes up for a shot against a West Virginia defender during Sunday's OVAC All-Star Game. Neavin scored eight points and Ohio prevailed by a 74-51 score.



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

OHIO'S Kayla Bodnar (Buckeye Local) goes up for a shot over Linsly's Jessica Jenkins during Sunday's Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic at OUE.



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

OHIO'S Josh Tolliver goes up for a shot over Weir High's Freddie Jones, while St. John's Matt VanDorn looks on during Sunday's OVAC All-Star Basketball Game. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

• Mountaineer boys fend off Buckeyes

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

Someone must have forgot to tell the Ohio All-Star team that it didn't have a chance Sunday afternoon.

The Buckeyes had actually plenty of chances to seize control of the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic inside the Health and Physical Education Center on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

While the Buckeyes had chances, the West Virginia team had Wheeling Park's duo of Bobby Goodwin and Marqez O'Neal along with a solid dose of Linsly's Jarred Smith and that proved to be too much for the Ohioans, who were dealt a 96-91 setback during an entertaining contest.

"I'm glad no one told me we were supposed to win (big)," said West Virginia head coach George Vargo, who guided Madonna to a state title last month. "That would have put a lot more pressure on me. We shot the ball well and had some kids make some big plays."

The Buckeyes shot out of the gate early behind the hot shooting of Zanesville's Tanner Gibson, who's recruiting is open since he de-committed to Columbia University late last month.

He scored 12, including a highlight reel dunk off a lob, during the first half, but the Mountain State's depth and equal groups allowed it to crawl back into the contest.

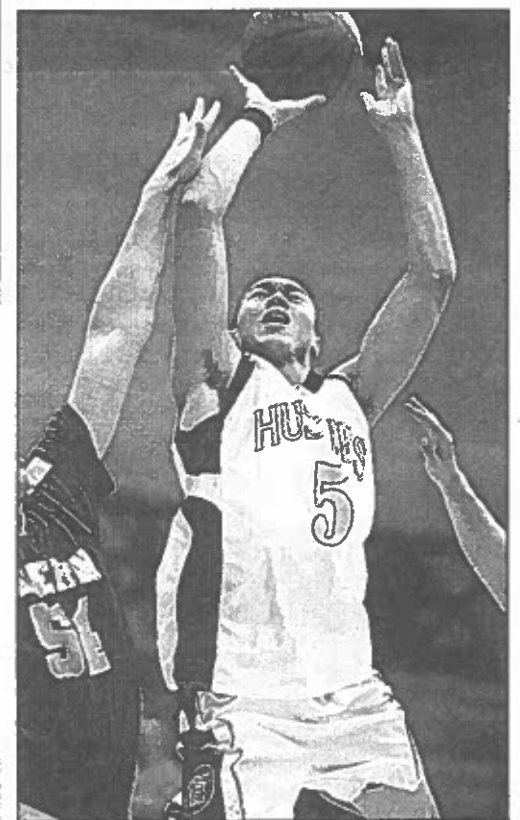
"All 14 of our guys played well," Vargo continued. "I didn't think we had a letdown from anyone today, and good things happened for West Virginia."

Shenandoah's Brett Farnsworth — who will play in next weekend's prestigious Ohio North-South Game in Columbus — scored nine of his 12 points during the opening half.

West Virginia turned to O'Neal early. He scored 10 of his 17 in the first half.

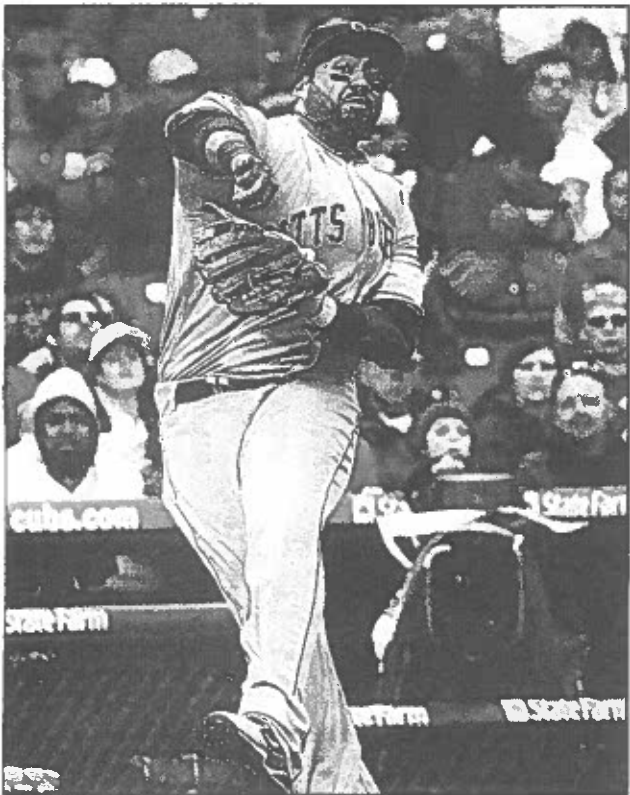
Smith, who didn't miss a shot during the

See, **BOYS**, Page B2



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

HARRISON CENTRAL'S Kyle Blanchard goes up for a shot against a West Virginia defender during the first half of Sunday's OVAC All-Star Game at Ohio University Eastern.



AP PHOTO

PITTSBURGH PIRATES third baseman Pedro Alvarez fields a bunt and throws out Chicago Cubs' Carlos Pena during the second inning Sunday in Chicago.

Pirates rally past Cubs in ninth

By **PAUL LADEWSKI**
For The Times Leader

CHICAGO - In spring training, Pittsburgh Pirates manager Clint Hurdle stayed away from predictions about the won-loss record of his team. All he promised was that it would play an aggressive brand of baseball, one that would spit in the face of conventional wisdom some of the time, even lead critics to scratch their heads at others.

If anyone didn't believe the man, then they should have been one of the 30,000-plus fans at Wrigley Field on Sunday afternoon.

It wasn't that the Pirates beat the Chicago Cubs that made their 5-4 victory unusual. Or even that they won a series on the road for only the fifth time in the last two seasons. Rather, it was the wild, wacky ways in which they pulled it off.

"There will be a lot of things with this ballclub that won't be traditional this year for the right reasons, Hurdle said again. "We'll play to win."

Untraditional? Neil Walker scored the game-winner on a mad dash from second base in the ninth inning. On a two-run, infield single off the bat of Pedro Alvarez, the best power hitter on the team. After clean-up man Lyle Overbay laid down a successful bunt, no less.

As if that wasn't enough, the rally took place against Carlos Marmol, one of the premier closers in the game.

And another thing: The visitors were without Andrew McCutchen, their best all-around player. The outfielder was a late scratch because of stiff neck, a move that forced Hurdle to revamp the line-up and batting order on short notice.

"Hey, we don't need 'Cutch, c'mon," Walker joked before he turned serious again. "This was a whole team effort. Every game (in the series) went down to the wire. This is a good confidence-builder for us."

The decisive sequence began when Alvarez topped a roller that Marmol couldn't reach to the left of the mound. Shortstop Starlin Castro charged the ball and made a desperate throw, but first baseman Carlos Pena was forced to scramble several feet up the fair line to track it down.

As Walker approached third base, coach Nick Leyva shouted a verbal command to continue home, not that the second baseman required one.

"I said it before Castro threw the ball," Leyva said. "I've got a big mouth. At least some people have told me that."

"My goal was to score," Walker said. "If (Castro) picks that ball clean and makes a good throw to first, (Pena) still had to make a really good throw to get me. It was a great job by Pedro just to put the ball in play. Fortunately, we got two (runs) there."

Because Castro was an aggressive player himself, as Leyva and Walker were well aware, the odds were in their favor.

"I took a chance," Leyva conceded. "If (Castro) eats it, then Neil is out from me to the showers, but that's the chance you take. We've preached to be aggressive since the start of minicamp. If I'm not aggressive, the players will back off."

The game wasn't over yet. Shortstop Ronny Cedeno made an errant throw that put runners at the corners with one out, but closer Joel Hanrahan induced center fielder Marlon Byrd to hit another ball at Cedeno, who started a double play.

"I wanted to get Ronny another one," said Hanrahan, who let out a primal scream when the final out was in the

Rosepapa-

Continued from Page C1

have said more pleasant things about Amanda, a young lady whom he only knew from her exploits on the softball diamond.

"I was retired from the OHSAA as a sports official before Amanda started her high school career," he explained prior to Saturday's affair, which got emotional at times. "But I did hear and read about her in the Youngstown area."

Cerimele umpired baseball and softball in Northeast Ohio for more than 25 years.

He wasn't the only one who spoke highly of Rosepapa, as four of her former Lady Irish teammates reminisced about their friend and teammate.

Ashley Wallace recalled one time after Amanda had pitched a perfect game and was interviewed by a newspaper reporter.

"She came to practice the next day and was a little mad because she said the newspaper didn't print what she had said, it only talked about her and what she did," Wallace recalled. "She wanted to make sure that her teammates knew that she had credited them for helping in the victory."

Jenna Vavra said playing with Amanda was different.

"She always had a smile on her face and was in a good mood. Even if she wasn't in a good mood, she'd find a way to be happy."

Another thing Vavra recalled was the stench that came from her glove hand.

"We used to make her sit at the end of the bench because her glove hand stunk so much. It was horrible."

Sara Wamsley and Courtney Coyne related similar stories that they remembered about Amanda.

"When I was 10 or 11 years old Amanda hit me with a pitch," Wamsley recalled. "She wasn't very controlled at that point. I've still got the scar on my left leg. Amanda felt so terrible."

"Then, my sophomore year I was pitching in practice one day and Amanda was batting," she continued. "She cracked one that hit me in the knee cap. She felt horrible and I'll never forget all the hugs that girl gave me that day."

Coyne, too, was a victim of Rosepapa's early wildness.

"We played together in high school for four years, but I played for Shadyside in the summer and she played for Bellaire. When we played it was weird, but she hit me twice and when she came to school she was so sorry."

Another story related to Amanda's wildness still lives today.

According to Jack Cera, past president of the Bellaire Girls Softball Association, the "Rosepapa Rule" was instituted after she hit a couple of girls in one game. That rule is still in effect today.

Cerimele, his wife and mother presented Rosie and Rick Rosepapa with a banner that read, "Amanda Rosepapa Your Legend Lives On."

It certainly did Saturday and will continue to do so for quite some time, espe-



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

THE OHIO bench smiles as time winds down toward victory in the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic. From left are Heidi Hines (Barnesville), Abbey Gooding (Conotton Valley), Bri Kamarec (Indian Creek), Kelsey Holloway (Shadyside) and Alexa Isaly (River). Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Girls

Continued from Page C1

points and Barnesville's Heidi Hines scored four.

Ohio's inside advantage resulted in 34 free throw opportunities. The winners converted 21 times.

Kurtz, of Wheeling Central, witnessed a mini-comeback bid by his team which rallied within 18 midway through the second half. The Lady Bucks, however, were never seriously threatened.

Magnolia's 5-7 Padyun Ludewig registered a game-leading 14 points but was the lone Mountaineer in twin digits.

Parkersburg South's Hannah Maston provided nine-point support. Oak Glen's 6-0 Kiley King and Hundred's Raven McDiffitt totaled six points apiece.

The Ohio staff included Shadyside's Tina Yates who guided her LT's to a Ohio D-IV state berth, and Caldwell's Mike Podlasiak. Kurtz was assisted by the

Boys

Continued from Page C1

opening 20 minutes, scored 14 in the first half.

When the first half dust settled the game was knotted at 49.

West Virginia took the lead early in the second half thanks to more work on the interior by O'Neal.

Gibson, who will be the final Zanesville player to compete the game since the Blue Devils have opted to drop out of the OVAC effective in 2011-12, put on an exhibition early in the second half, including a time when he picked Goodwin's pocket and went in for a two-handed flush.

However, it was Goodwin, who got the last laugh.

After scoring eight in the first half, he scored 16 in the second half, including a stretch of 11 in a row, which helped the Mountaineers fend off the late Ohio rally.

Ohio got as close as two at 86-84 after Frontier's Cory Fickiesen had a conventional three-point play and Gibson meshed a pair at the line.

Goodwin always seemed to have the answer.

"I thought we got everyone pretty balanced playing time," Vargo said. "Bubby probably played a few more minutes than the others, but he earned it."

All told, Goodwin finished with 24 to lead the Mountain State. Smith and O'Neal went for 19 and 17, respectively.

The West Virginia squad — despite its lack of size on the interior — controlled the glass and got plenty of second-chance opportunities.

However, those second chances weren't always on the interior. The Mountain State was deadly from the perimeter, knocking down 13 triples.

"Coach (Mark) Romick told the kids again today you win all-star games by playing defense and doing the little things," said Ohio head coach Joe Dunlevy of Indian Creek. "We knew they were going to score, but we couldn't afford to give up any second shots when they did

Harvick

Continued from Page C1

"I am frustrated. I got what he thought was a Hamlin, winner of the last

Maroon Knights' Bob Robinson and Weirton Madonna's Don Ogden.

At halftime, Wheeling Central's Molly Kurtz, daughter of W. Va.'s head coach, was victorious in the 3-point shootout competition, sponsored by Panhandle Cleaning & Restoration. Box score:

WEST VIRGINIA (51) — Stefanow 0, 0-0 0; Starkey 0, 0-0 0; Kurtz 0, 0-0 0; Black 0, 1-2 1; Barry 0, 2-2 2; Altmeyer 1, 0-0 2; Robinson 1, 0-0 2; Wood 1, 0-2 2; Gaudio 1, 1-2 3; Jenkins 2, 0-2 4; King 2, 1-2 6; McDiffitt 2, 1-2 6; Maston 4, 0-1 9; Ludewig 5, 4-4 14. Totals — 19, 10-19. **OHIO (74)** — Kuhn 0, 0-0 0; Isaly 1, 0-0 2; Nardo 0, 2-2 2; Gooding 0, 2-4 2; Bodnar 0, 2-4 2; Kamarec 2, 0-0 4; Hines 1, 2-4 4; Holloway 2, 0-0 5; Stover 1, 4-4 6; Nau 2, 3-6 7; LeMasters 4, 0-0 8; Neavin 3, 3-4 9; Booth 4, 2-4 10; Ritz 6, 1-2 13. Totals — 26, 21-34.

Three-point goals: West Virginia — King, Maston, McDiffitt. Ohio — Holloway.

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

See Related Video at:
timesleaderonline.com

miss because that's how you lose these types of games. They got loose balls and hit threes."

Gibson's 32 paced the Ohio squad. Farnsworth was the only other Buckeye State player to reach double figures (12). St. Clairsville's Allen Derosa scored eight and Harrison Central's Kyle Blanchard scored seven.

"This was an enjoyable game again for me, but like I tell my players, if you want to win you've got to do the little things," Dunlevy said. "This was a great bunch of kids and some pretty good kids. You can tell these kids come from good families and good programs, so that part was great. Obviously, we wish we could have come out on top."

GAME NOTES

■ **UNION LOCAL'S** Myron Jellison won the boys' three-point shootout, knocking down 20 points worth of three-point shots from four different racks.

■ **THE OHIO** Valley Board of Approved Officials presented their Sportsmanship Awards for the 2010-11 season. Winning the boys' awards were: Cameron (1-A), River (2-A), Magnolia (3-A) and Wheeling Park (4-A).

Scoring:
WEST VIRGINIA (96) — Perna 2, 2-2 8; Jones 1, 0-0 2; Sapp 1, 0-0 3; Paesano 2, 0-2 5; Mazezka 0, 0-0 0; Arlia 2, 2-2 7; Martin 0, 0-0 0; O'Neal 8, 1-3 17; Whitfield 2, 0-0 4; Greskevitch 0, 1-2 1; Smith 5, 5-6 19; Cottrella 2, 1-1 5; Lowe 0, 0-0 0; Goodwin 10, 0-0 24; Totals: 35, 12-18 96. **OHIO (91)** — Ramsier 0, 0-0 0; Evancho 1, 0-0 2; Blanchard 2, 3-4 7; Gibson 12, 4-6 32; Schumacher 1, 0-0 2; Brown 2, 1-2 5; Jellison 1, 0-0 2; VanDorn 2, 0-0 4; Derosa 3, 0-0 8; Lindsey 1, 0-0 2; Farnsworth 5, 2-4 12; Fickiesen 3, 1-1 7; Tolliver 3, 0-1 6; Totals: 36, 11-18 91.

Three-Point Goals: WV — Perna (2), Sapp, Paesano, Arlia, Goodwin (4), Smith (4). OH — Gibson (4), Derosa (2).

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

W.Va. Boys, Ohio Girls Triumphant

Park's Goodwin steals show

By RICK THORP
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The 34th annual OVAC Samuel A. Mumley Boys' Basketball Classic once again pitted West Virginia against Ohio on Sunday afternoon.

But during the second half, it turned into the "Bubby and Tanner Show."

Wheeling Park's Bubby Goodwin and Zanesville's Tanner Gibson staged a classic mano-a-mano duel at Ohio University Eastern's Physical Education and Recreation Center.

Gibson exploded for a game-high 32 points, but Goodwin's team-best 25 sparked the Mountaineers to a thrilling 96-91 triumph.

"We were both playing hard and we both seemed to have the hot hand," said Goodwin, who poured in 17 second-half points. "In the first half, I started out sluggish. In the second half, I just stepped it up."

"After the way everything went in the (West Virginia Class AAA) championship game, this was a good way to go out."

"And (Sunday) it's my grandma's birthday."

The entire West Virginia contingent was celebrating after the Mountaineers outscored the Buckeyes 47-42 in the second of two 20-minute halves to win the all-star clash for the second straight season and third in the last four.

George Vargo, who recently guided Weirton Madonna to a West Virginia Class A championship, said he tried to give all of his players an equal amount of minutes. But in Goodwin's case, he got a few more.

"Bubby needed to play a few extra minutes," he said smiling. "He earned it."

"I thought all of our players played well. I don't think there was a player that didn't make a difference during the second half."

Goodwin's Park teammate, Marqez O'Neal, scored two of his 17 points on a layup courtesy of a nifty Goodwin feed that started an 8-0 West Virginia run that broke a 51-51 tie early in the second half.

Madonna's Chris Perna and Magnolia's Matt Sapp also scored during the surge.

Gibson did all he could to keep

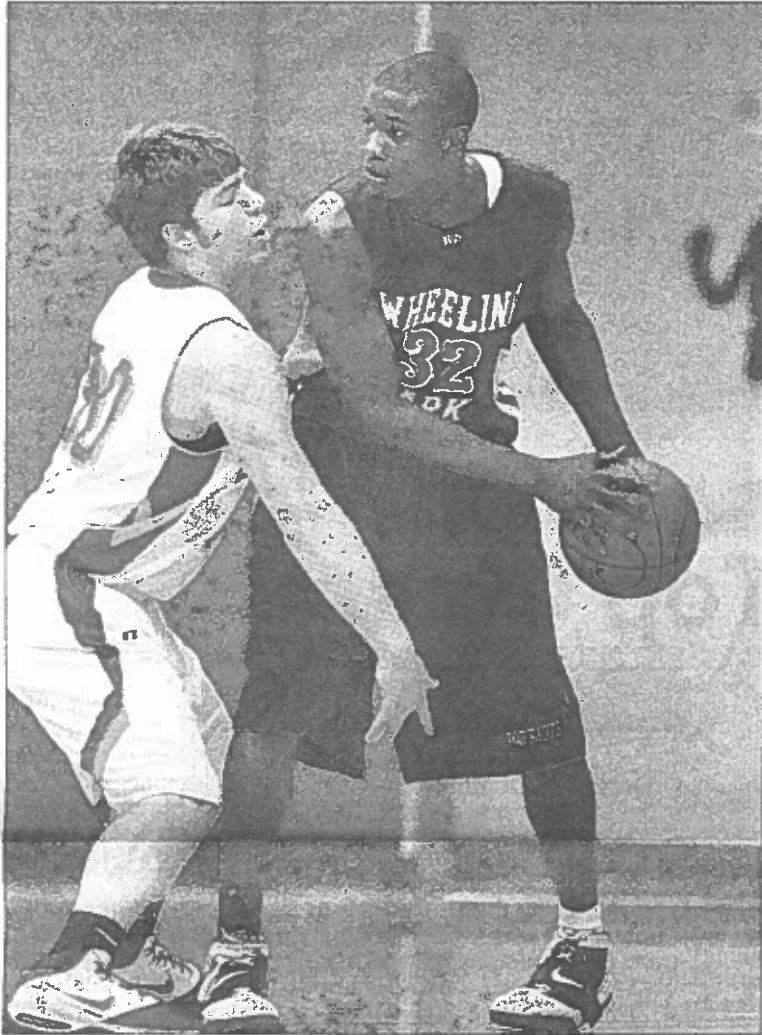


Photo by Paul Krajnyak

Ohio's Niko Otto, left, guards West Virginia's Marqez O'Neal during Sunday's game.

the Buckeyes in it, scoring 20 of his team's final 40 points. But Ohio couldn't get over the hump.

A Gibson jumper brought Ohio to within one at 59-58, but it wouldn't get closer.

At one point, Goodwin scored 11 straight points as the Mountaineers built a 90-84 lead.

"The difference in this game were the second-chance buckets they got," Ohio and Indian Creek coach Joe Dunlevy said.

"We told the guys they were going to score. We told them not to give them second shots and things like that because those things make a difference in a game like this."

Dunlevy was all smiles in the opening moments as the Buckeyes jumped out to a commanding 23-9 lead, thanks to a 15-3 run that included five points each from Gibson, St. Clairsville's Allen Derosa and Shadyside's Ellis Brown.

Ohio maintained its double-digit lead until Cameron's Cole Cottrell

converted a 3-point play to cut the advantage to 41-33.

With the Buckeyes leading 45-37, West Virginia went on a 7-0 spurt to cut the lead to 47-44.

In fact, Vargo believed Smith, who finished with 19 points, was an unsung hero. All the Cadet did in the first half was go 4-for-4 from the field, including three triples, and 3-for-3 from the line for 14 points. All free throws came after he was fouled attempting a trey.

"We did all of those things well."

Shenandoah's Brett Farnsworth added 12 points for Ohio.

Game Notes

Union Local's Myron Jellison won the Panhandle Cleaning and Restoration 3-Point Shootout at halftime ... Sportsmanship Awards handed out at halftime went to Wheeling Park (Class AAAA), Magnolia (Class AAA), River (Class AA) and Cameron (Class A).

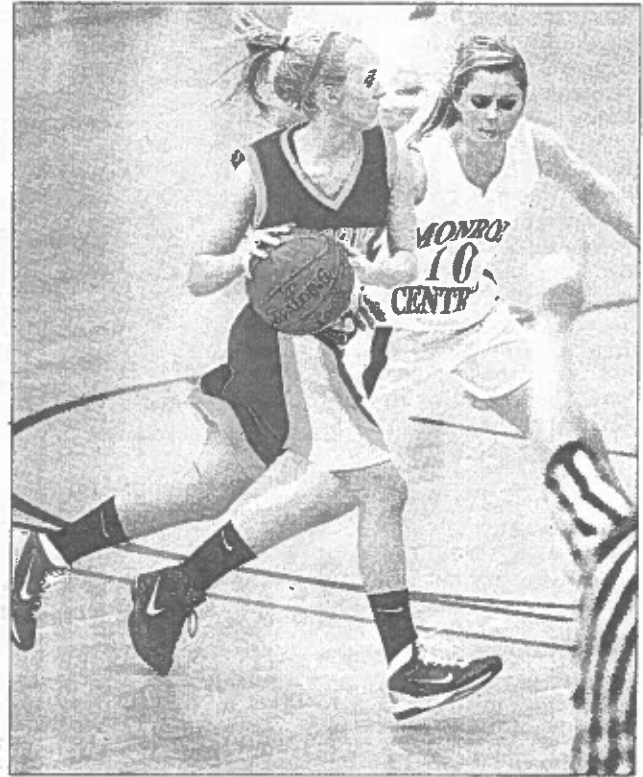


Photo by Paul Krajnyak

West Virginia's Kristen Black is defended by Ohio's Alex Kuhn (10) during the girls' game.

Fast-Starting Buckeyes Put Away Mountaineers

By RICK THORP
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — It was over almost as quickly as it began.

Ohio jumped out to a 15-0 lead and never looked back in coasting to a 74-50 triumph against West Virginia in the 34th annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Girls' Basketball Classic.

"We didn't do anything special," Ohio and Union Local coach Drew Greenwood said Sunday afternoon at Ohio University Eastern's Physical Education and Recreation Center.

"We gave them a base offense and put them out there with players that complement each other. It wasn't a hard thing to do."

Wheeling Central's Penn Kurtz, who once again guided West Virginia, said the Buckeyes' squad was one the strongest fielded in some time.

"It was tough," he said. "Overall, they just had

more size than we did. We just got off to a bad start. But in the second half we played hard and aggressive."

West Virginia outscored Ohio in the second of two 20-minute halves, but the Buckeyes did their damage in the first few minutes.

Caldwell's Lizzy Nau scored the first four points and then Shadyside's Kelsey Holloway canned a 3-pointer that made the score 7-0 at the 17:31 mark.

Frontier's Heather Booth followed with a jumper. And when Shadyside's Sarah Neavin made four straight free throws, the Ohio lead ballooned to 13-0.

Meadowbrook's Shelby Stover capped the surge with a pair of free throws with 14:35 remaining in the half.

Wheeling Central's Libby Altmeyer and Hundred's

See BUCKEYES, Page 16

BUCKEYES

(Continued from Page 13)

Raven McDiffitt made back-to-back buckets to trim the lead to 15-4, but Ohio went on a 14-5 spurt to take a 29-9 lead.

Later in the half, Parkersburg South's Hannah Maston, Magnolia's Padya Ludewig and Weir's Nikki Robinson strung together three straight buckets to draw the Mountaineers to within 16 at 36-20.

Ohio, however, went on a 13-4 run to end the half.

The Buckeyes featured a balanced attack, led by Cambridge's Molly Ritz, who finished with 13 points. Booth followed with 11.

Booth played in Saturday night's Battle Against Cystic Fibrosis Classic in Parkersburg, as did Ludewig, who scored 10 points in the second half on her way to a team-best 14.

She was the only West Virginia player to reach double figures.

"I knew we had a bunch of girls on this team who

would work hard," said Ludewig, announced Saturday as The Intelligencer's Big School All-Valley captain for the second straight season.

"We just got together as much as we could."

It was a reunion, of sorts, for Ludewig, who joined Libby Altmeyer, Molly Kurtz and Shelby Wood on the Mountaineers' roster.

"We used to play AAU together for Dr. (Dave) Gaudino in Marshall County," she said. "It was great to get to play with them for our last high school game."

GAME NOTES

Schools in each of the OVAC's four classes were presented Sportsmanship Awards at halftime. Recipients were John Marshall (Class AAAA), St. Clairsville (Class AAA), River (Class AA) and Cameron (Class A).

SPORTS

Sunday,
April 3, 2011

OVAC hoop stars set to shine

• Boys' game should feature plenty of offense

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

Practice time has been limited.

However, offensive fireworks shouldn't be.

Those two concepts can mean nothing other than the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic.

The annual contest will tip off Sunday afternoon approximately 20 minutes after the conclusion of the girls' game, which begins at 3 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

Team Ohio, which is being coached by Indian Creek's Joe Dunlevy, River's Mark Romick and Indian Creek's Rob Lucas, managed to squeeze in four practices and according to Dunlevy, attendance was up at all of them.

"Despite spring sports and everything else going on, we had every kid there," Dunlevy said. "We've not been making up or putting in any special plays or defenses. We've just been letting the kids play and get to know each other."

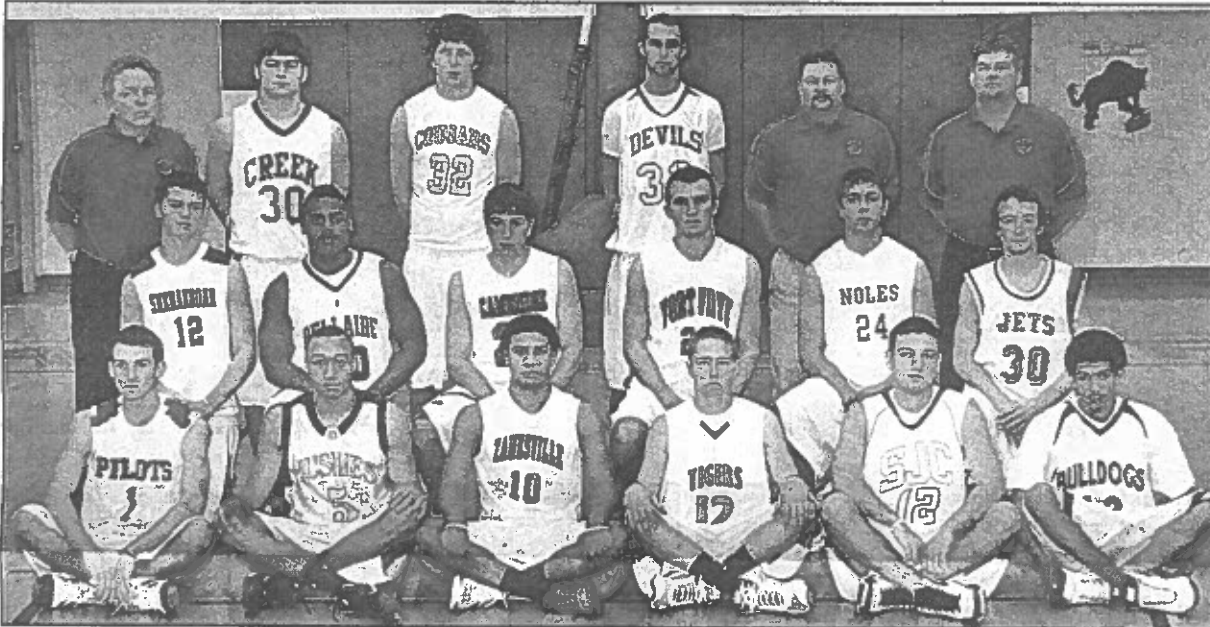
As has been the case seemingly each time he's coached the game, Dunlevy has been pleasantly surprised at the chemistry his squad had formed in its few workouts.

"It's funny to look at our practice and see kids who've been battling against each other for four years and now they're great friends," Dunlevy said. "Those are the things that make this game fun. We've got some characters on this team, but that's a good thing."

Most basketball pundits and experts have labeled the Buckeye State has a prohibitive underdog, and Dunlevy has heard the chatter.

"We just hope our players show up to play the game since we're supposed to get beat by 30," Dunlevy joked.

See, **BOYS**, Page C3



Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED IS the 2011 Ohio Boys squad for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game. Front row, from left, are Sam Ramsier (River), Kyle Blanchard (Harrison Central), Tanner Gibson (Zanesville), Ellis Brown (Shadyside), Matt VanDorn (St. John) and Tre Lindsey (Bridgeport). Middle row, from left, are Brett Farnsworth (Shenandoah), Josh Tolliver (Bellaire), David Evancho (Cambridge), Garrett Legraen (Fort Frye), Marcus Schumacher (Monroe Central) and Myron Jellison (Union Local). Back row, from left, are head coach Joe Dunlevy, Niko Otto (Indian Creek), Corey Fickieson (Frontier), Allen Derosa (St. Clairsville), assistant coaches Rob Lucas (Indian Creek) and Mark Romick (River).



Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED IS the 2011 Ohio girls squad for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game. Front row, from left, are Alexa Isaly (River), Kelsey Holloway (Shadyside), Briana Kamarec (Indian Creek), Rosa Nardo (Union Local) and Alex Kuhn (Monroe Central). Middle row, from left, are Carly Gooding (Conotton Valley), Heather Booth (Frontier), Heidi Hines (Barnesville), Shelby Stover (Meadowbrook), Kayla Bodnar (Buckeye Local) and Ellie LeMasters (St. John). Back row, from left, are head coach Drew Greenwood (Union Local), Lizzy Nau (Caldwell), Molly Ritz (Cambridge), Sarah Neavin (Shadyside), assistant coach Tina Yates and assistant coach Mike Podlasiak (Caldwell). Absent was Carissa Myler (Edison).

• Girls' contest will get up and down the floor

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

Having fun, meeting new people and enjoying the game of basketball.

All of those are key ingredients to all-star games.

However, there comes a time during those events when the competitive nature takes over and both the players and coaches want to win.

Both Ohio head coach Drew Greenwood of Union Local and West Virginia head coach Penn Kurtz of Wheeling Central are expecting that Sunday when they lead their respective states into the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic at Ohio University Eastern.

Greenwood, who was on the losing coaching staff in last Friday's District 12 All-Star Game, likes the make-up of his Lady Buckeyes' squad.

"I think we've got a nice mix of everything," Greenwood said about his guards and forwards.

The Ohio coaching staff has set equal playing groups through the course of their two practices.

"We grouped them with guards and posts," Greenwood said. "We think we can compete well and at a high level."

The Lady Buckeyes have enjoyed their workouts and getting to know each other, but Greenwood believes his team will be all business today when it reports to OUE.

"We want to win," Greenwood said. "Obviously, we want the girls to have fun, but they've gotten after it in

See, **GIRLS**, Page C3

● Girls

Continued from Page C1

practice with the expectation of winning the game." Kurtz has almost made coaching the OVAC All-Star Game an annual part of his schedule. He's coached it so many times, he's lost track of just how many.

"I really enjoy this game," Kurtz said. "It's a great chance to meet other players and another chance to coach. It's a different kind of coaching because you don't have much time to develop anything, so you've got to put something together quickly."

The Mountain State girls had three practices to prepare for today's game and Kurtz was pleased with all of them.

"We've got a lot more guards than post players," Kurtz said. "How we shape our lineup will definitely depend on personnel."

Before the stretch run, however, the Mountain State will utilize the normal three groups of five for equal minutes.

"We're going to do our best to make sure everyone gets a lot of playing time," Kurtz said. "Then we'll mix and match as the game goes along."

Kurtz is well-aware of some of the Ohio players. He faced several as his Lady Maroon Knights consistently play one of the area's more challenging small-school schedules.

"I've not really seen their complete roster," Kurtz said. "I know they've got some good players from Shadyside and Alex Kuhn from Monroe Central is a really good player. They've got a lot of three-point shooters and they've got a nice mix of post players."

OVAC NOTES

■ SEVERAL SPECIAL awards will be presented during the course of the afternoon.

■ THE ALL-STARS will be honored at a banquet at 1 p.m. at Undo's West in St. Clairsville.

■ AT HALFTIME of both the girls and boys' games there will be a three-point shootout, which is sponsored by Panhandle Cleaning & Restoration.

■ TOM BECHTEL and the recently retired Bellaire head coach Gene Ammirante serve as the game directors.

Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

Complete Rosters on Page C7

● Boys

Continued from Page C1

"We've got some talent, which has come from good coaches and programs, but a lot of our players didn't advance deep into the tournament. It seems like West Virginia's whole team played in the state tournament."

Wheeling Park's duo of Bubby Goodwin and Marqez O'Neal jump out from the Mountain State's roster. But, they're not alone.

"We're going to go out, play hard and see what happens," Dunlevy said.

Balancing his units became a bigger challenge during one of his aforementioned practices. Fort Frye's Garrett Lagraen will miss the game after suffering a knee injury.

"We're probably going to go equal until the last few minutes and then put our best out there and play hard for the win...if we're close," Dunlevy said.

Weirton Madonna head coach George Vargo has been sitting on top of the West Virginia basketball world over the last few weeks after he guided the Blue Dons to the Class A state championship.

He's now enlisted to lead the West Virginia side in today's all-star game.

West Virginia has had just two practices and those were well-organized.

"We put some things in," Vargo said. "We're going to give the kids freedom to use their ability and knowledge to make things happen, but we want to be ready if we have to play some old-fashioned basketball."

The Mountain State also features only 14 players on its roster after a player decided to drop out past the deadline of being able to be replaced.

"We want to equalize the minutes as best we can," Vargo said. "We'll do our best to make that happen, but during the last seven or 10 minutes, we'll make decisions on who should be on the court."

Vargo hasn't even looked at the Ohio roster, but he's fairly confident in saying the Buckeyes will be bigger on the interior.

"We don't have much size," Vargo said. "I think we've got 11 guards on our roster and all of them can shoot the three, so we hope to light up the scoreboard."

Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

Ohio Player Capsules on Page C7

OHIO BOYS

COREY FICKIESEN

School: Frontier
Height: 6-ft-5
Head Coach: Roger Kirkpatrick
Senior Year Stats: Points: 19.8; Rebounds: 10.9; Assists: 3.1
Honors: First-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-PVC.
Plans: Attend Ashland University and play football.
Parents: Brad and Kristie Fickiesen.

KYLE BLANCHARD

School: Harrison Central
Height: 6-4
Head Coach: Justin Clifford
Senior Year Stats: Points: 18; Rebounds: 8; Assists: 2.2
Honors: First-team Buckeye 8; First-team all-District; Chosen top 100 in Ohio.
Plans: Attend Ashland University and play football.
Parents: William and Etta Blanchard.

TANNER GIBSON

School: Zanesville.
Head Coach: Scott Aronhalt.
Senior Year Stats: Points: 17.5; Rebounds: 3; Assists: 3
Notable Career Stats: Career high of 32; Scored 26 in 2010 state semifinal.
Honors: District Player of the Year; Times Recorder Player of the Year.
Plans: Attend college and play basketball.
Parents: Heidi Gibson and Pete Matthews.

GARRETT LEGRAEN

School: Fort Frye
Height: 6-4
Head Coach: Dan Liedtke.
Senior Year Stats: Points: 12; Rebounds: 5; Assists: 1.
Notable Career Stats: Hit game-winning basket in 2011 OVAC Tournament Final.
Honors: All-PVC; All-District 12; all-OVAC.
Plans: Attend college and major in physical therapy.
Parents: Connie and Jim Legraen.

BRETT FARNSWORTH

School: Shenandoah
Height: 6-2
Head Coach: Dan Schweiteman.
Senior Year Stats: Points: 20.9; Rebounds: 8; Assists: 3
Notable Career Stats: Scored 729 points, 313 rebounds; 124 assists.
Honors: First-team Eastern District; First-team PVC, First-Team all-OVAC; First-Team District 12.
Plans: Undecided.
Parents: Rachelle and Daryl Farnsworth.

MARCUS SCHUMACHER

School: Monroe Central.
Height: 6-1
Head Coach: Greg Taylor.
Senior Year Stats: Points: 13.2; Rebounds: 4; Assists: 3.5.
Notable Career Stats: 325 points; 125 rebounds.
Honors: All-OVAC, all-District, all-District 12; all-PVC.
Plans: Attend college.
Parents: Andy and Deana Schumacher.

JOSH TOLLIVER

School: Bellaire.
Height: 6-0
Head Coach: Gene Ammirante
Senior Year Stats: Points: 16; Rebounds: 16.
Honors: Second-team all-Ohio (Football); First-team District 12; Buckeye 8.
Plans: Attnd college and play football.
Parents: Michael and Patricia Tolliver.

MYRON JELLISON

School: Union Local.
Height: 5-8
Head Coach: Ben Porter.
Senior Year Stats: Points: 14; Rebounds: 2.7; Assists: 5.3.
Honors: First-team all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8; All-Eastern District; all-District 12.
Plans: Attend college to play basketball and major in athletic training.
Parents: Larry and Jeanne Jellison.

ELLIS BROWN

School: Shadyside
Height: 6-0
Head Coach: Ed Andes
Senior Year Stats: Points: 21; Rebounds: 7.7; Assists: 4.2
Honors: First-team all-district; First-team all-OVAC.
Plans: Attend OUE and major in sports management.
Parents: Kathy Brown and Mike Brown.

MATT VAN DORN

School: St. John
Height: 6-1
Head Coach: Jeremy Grubbs
Senior Year Stats: Points: 13.3; Rebounds: 6.2; Assists: 4.1
Honors: Team captain; OVAC Honorable mention
Plans: Attend Miami of Ohio and major in business.
Parents: Michelle VanDorn and Paul VanDorn.

NIKO OTTO

School: Indian Creek
Height: 6-2
Head Coach: Joe Dunlevy
Senior Year Stats: Points: 15; Rebounds: 8; Assists: 3.
Career: Ranks second in IC history in rebounds and fourth in scoring.
Honors: First-team Buckeye 8, OVAC and Eastern District.
Plans: Attend Mercyhurst and play football.
Parents: John and Clarence Otto.

SAM RAMSIER

School: River
Height: 6-0
Head Coach: Mark Romick
Senior Year Stats: Points: 17
Honors: all-OVAC, all-District 12.
Plans: Attend college.
Parents: Mark and Alice Ramsier.

TRE LINDSEY

School: Bridgeport.
Head coach: Donnie Cash
Senior Year Stats: Points: 17; Rebounds: 3; Assists: 4
Honors: 4-year letterman.

Plans: Attend Belmont Technical College
Parents: Sean Lindsey and Amy Lindsey.

DAVID EVANCHO

School: Cambridge.
Head Coach: Mike Andrews.
Senior Year Stats: Points: 8.2; Rebounds: 2.5; Assists: 1.8.
Honors: Third-team all-District, second-team all-ECOL.
Plans: Attend Baldwin-Wallace to play football.
Parents: Tim and Doree Evancho.

OHIO GIRLS

MOLLY RITZ

School: Cambridge
Head Coach: Dan Linscott
Senior Year Stats: 9.2 points; 11 rebounds; 1.3 assists.
Honors: First-team all-District; First-team all-OVAC, ECOL Player of the Year.
Plans: Attend college and play basketball.
Parents: Kevin and Sally Ritz.

ALEXA ISALY

School: River.
Head Coach: Rick Isaly.
Senior Year Stats: 11 points; 5 rebounds; 4 assists.
Honors: District 12; All-PVC; Eastern District Third team.
Plans: Attend college and play basketball.
Parents: Carla and Rick Isaly.

SARAH NEAVIN

School: Shadyside
Head Coach: Tina Yates
Senior Year Stats: 8.7 points; 4.8 rebounds; 5 assists.
Honors: all-OVAC, Eastern District, all-District 12.
Plans: Attend OUE and play basketball.
Parents: Dave and Denise Neavin.

BRI KAMAREC

School: Indian Creek.
Head Coach: Erin DeSantis.
Senior Year Stats: 17 points; 3 rebounds; 5 assists.
Honors: All-time leading scorer at Creek; first-team District V; First-team Eastern District.
Plans: Attend West Liberty to play basketball.
Parents: Frank and Earlene Kamarec.

ROSA NARDO

School: Union Local
Head Coach: Drew Greenwood
Senior Year Stats: 5 points; 2 rebounds; 3 assists.
Plans: Attend Ohio Northern
Parents: Rob and Jamie Nardo.

SHELBY STOVER

School: Meadowbrook
Head Coach: Tom Strasser
Senior Year Stats: 17.3 points; 9.5 points; 1.8 assists.
Honors: First-team Eastern District; First-team ECOL; First-team District 12.
Plans: Enter the United States Marines
Parents: Karin Slover and Jen Reed.

HEIDI HINES

School: Barnesville
Head Coach: Jamie Carpenter
Senior Year Stats: 20.9 points; 11.2 rebounds; 2.1 assists.
Career Stats: 1,115 points.
Honors: First-team Eastern District; Eastern District Player of the Year; First-team all-Ohio.
Plans: Pursue a degree in physical therapy assistant
Parents: Dave and Sue Hines

ELLIE LEMASTERS

School: St. John Central
Head Coach: Bubba Kapral
Senior Year Stats: 19.1 points; 11.1 rebounds; 3.5 assists.
Honors: OVAC First Team; Eastern District First Team; District 12 First Team
Plans: Attend college and play basketball.
Parents: Bill and Carol LeMasters.

HEATHER BOOTH

School: Frontier
Head Coach: Eric Rinard
Senior Year Stats: 15.4 points; 7.6 assists; 1.1 assists.
Honors: First-team District 12; first-team All-Eastern District; all-Ohio Special Mention
Plans: Attending college and playing basketball.
Parents: Dean and Kathy Booth

LIZZY NAU

School: Caldwell
Head Coach: Mike Podlasiak
Senior Year Stats: 17.2 points; 8.3 rebounds; 1.8 assists.
Honors: First-team all-Ohio; D-IV East District Player of the Year.
Plans: Attend college and major in education
Parents: Mike and Yvette Nau

KELSEY HOLLOWAY

School: Shadyside
Head Coach: Tina Yates
Senior Year Stats: 13.0 points; 4.4 rebounds; 2.8 assists.
Honors: District 12 Player of the Year; Eastern District First team; Second-team all-Ohio
Plans: Attend Ohio State University
Parents: Brent and Linda Holloway

KAYLA BODNAR

School: Buckeye Local
Head Coach: Willy Luther
Senior Year Stats: 14.2 points; 5.7 rebounds; 2.2 assists.
Honors: First-team Buckeye 8; Second-team District V.
Plans: Attend Kent State University
Parents: Joseph and LuAnn Bodnar

CARLY GOODING

School: Conotton Valley
Head Coach: Craig Moore
Senior Year Stats: 11 points; 8 rebounds; 5 assists
Honors: District V Second Team; Third-team Eastern District
Plans: Attend Kent State
Parents: Phil and Debbie Gooding

ALEX KUHN

School: Monroe Central
Head Coach: Troy Baker
Senior Year Stats: 17 points; 4 rebounds; 3.3 assists
Honors: 1275 points; All-Ohio Third team; District Team; District 12 First Team.
Plans: Attend college and play basketball
Parents: Chris and Jodie Kuhn

up on the bench during the warm-and-fuzzy story of this year's tournament with a 70-62 victory against VCU in the Final

Last year we didn't get it done, so that's in the back of my mind," Mack said. See, Butler, Page B4

Butler's Shelvin Mack reacts after his team beat VCU 70-62 in a NCAA national semifinal Saturday night. AP Photo

straight victory since finishing off a .500 regular season, a 56-55 victory against cold-shooting Kentucky that moved the

the unseeded Huskies — lowest seed left in a tournament that has been as See, UConn, Page B8

OVAC All-Star Games Today

Girls' game begins at 3 p.m. at OU-Eastern

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Having fun, meeting new people and enjoying the game of basketball.

All of those are key ingredients to all-star games.

However, there comes a time during those events when the competitive nature takes over and both the players and coaches want to win.

Both Ohio head coach Drew Greenwood of Union Local, and West Virginia head coach Penn Kurtz of Wheeling Central, are expecting that today when they lead their respective states into the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic at Ohio University Eastern.

Greenwood, who was on the losing coaching staff in last Friday's District 12 All-Star Game, likes the makeup of his Buckeyes squad.

"I think we've got a nice mix of everything," Greenwood said about his guards and forwards. The Ohio coaching staff has set equal playing groups through the course of their two practices.

"We grouped them with guards and posts," Greenwood said.

See, Girls, Page B2

Friendships Forming For Ohio Boys

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Practice time has been limited, but offensive fireworks shouldn't be.

Those two concepts can mean nothing other than the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic.

The annual contest will tip off today approximately 20 minutes after the conclusion of the girls' game, which begins at 3 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern.

Team Ohio, which is being coached by Indian Creek's Joe Dunlevy, River's Mark Romick and Indian Creek's Rob Lucas, managed to squeeze in four practices, and according to Dunlevy attendance rose at each one.

"Despite spring sports and everything else going on, we had every kid there," Dunlevy said. "We've not been making up or putting in any special plays or defenses. We've just been letting the kids play and get to know each other."

As has been the case each time he's coached the game, Dunlevy has been pleasantly surprised at the chemistry his squad had formed in its few workouts.

"It's funny to look at our practice and see kids who've been battling against each other for four years and now they're

See, Ohio Boys, Page B2



Photo by Art Limann

Wheeling's Anthony Maiani flips a wrister past Toledo goaltender Joe Palmer during action of their game Saturday night at WesBanco Arena. The Nailers won, 4-3. Looking on is Toledo's Dave Phillips (3).

Nailers Clinch East's No. 4 Seed

Wheeling will open playoffs at South Carolina on Tuesday

By SHAWN RINE
Sports Editor

WHEELING — Believe it or not, despite all the injuries, the call-ups and roster turnover, this was the easy part for Wheeling Nailers coach Stan Drulia. Now comes the difficult task that is finalizing a playoff roster.

Mickael Bedard scored a pair of goals and assisted on another while rookie Anthony Maiani tallied his first as a pro in his first game Saturday night at WesBanco Arena, as the Nailers (38-29-5 — 81) held off the Toledo Wall-eye by a 4-3 count in front of a season-high crowd of 4,771. The victory,

which marked the sixth consecutive game to close the regular season in which Wheeling gained at least one point, clinched the fourth spot (home-ice advantage) in the Eastern Conference.

The Nailers open the Kelly Cup playoffs at 7 on Tuesday night at South Carolina, where they will also play Wednesday before returning home for a 7:35 encounter Friday night.

"We've got a lot of decisions to make here in the next 12 hours," Drulia said immediately following the victory. "We've talked about it, thought about it for a long time now."

"It's not going to be easy — we're going to have some tough decisions to make."

One of those, no doubt, involves Maiani, a rookie out of Denver that only had one game to make an impression. He offered a good one when he scooped a loose puck up in front of Walleye (33-

33-6 — 72) goaltender Joe Palmer and put it in the back of the net at 11:57 of the second.

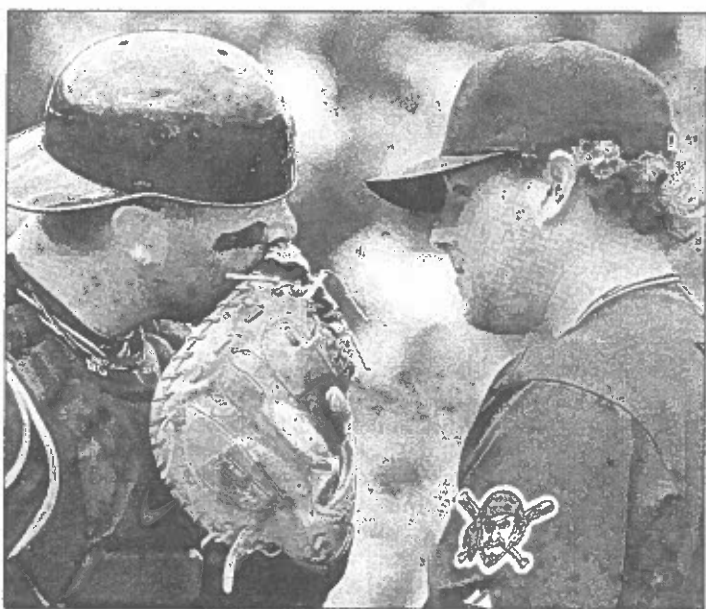
"I think the puck got stuck in the snow or something, but it was a gimmie for sure," said Maiani, who admitted to having big-time nerves. "Scoring that first goal definitely took the edge off."

But Bedard, who played his best game in probably a month, was the star. United with Tim Crowder and Tyler Murovich, he put a pair behind Palmer to become the third Nailer this season to reach 20, joining current AHLers Ben Street and Nick Petersen, who had 24 each.

"He was good. He wants to play on that line," Drulia said. "He had an opportunity with (Brandon) DeFazio gone and he wanted to prove to me that he deserves to be there."

"That's what hockey is all about."

See, Nailers, Page B4



AP Photo

Pittsburgh Pirates catcher Ryan Doumit, left, talks with relief pitcher Evan Meek during the eighth inning Saturday against the Chicago Cubs. Chicago won, 5-3

Bullpen Costs Pirates

Maholm works 6 2/3 scoreless

By PAUL LADEWSKI
For the News-Register

CHICAGO — In spring training, Pittsburgh Pirates manager Clint Hurdle said he was curious to see how his players would handle their first brush with adversity in the regular season.

A loss on the first weekend of the regular season might not qualify as that exactly, but after his team blew a 3-0 lead and the game on Saturday afternoon, consider the rubber match in the three-game series to be its first minor test at the very least.

The Chicago Cubs took

advantage of a shaky bullpen and leaky defense to score a come-from-behind 5-3 victory at Wrigley Field, a meltdown that had "2010 Pirates" written all over it.

"It's the second game of the season, you know?" Hurdle traveled the high road afterward. "It is difficult when you don't put away games away late, but the only tough loss I ever had was when my grandfather passed a few years ago. That's a tough loss."

By any standard, this one qualified as unnecessary. The Cubs scored five times off relievers Evan Meek and Chris Resop in the eighth inning, and a leadoff walk and an error had a lot to do with them.

See, Pirates, Page B5

ON THE LINE

Today's Results:
Q. Should prep officials start baseball and softball season later in the spring?

Yes: 81%
No: 19%

Tomorrow's Poll:
Q. Will Butler win the national championship?

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

GIRLS

Continued from page B1

"We think we can compete well and at a high level."

The Buckeyes have enjoyed their workouts and getting to know each other, but Greenwood believes his team will be all business when it reports to OUE.

"We want to win," Greenwood said. "Obviously we want the girls to have fun, but they've gotten after it in practice with the expectation of winning the game."

Kurtz has almost made coaching the OVAC All-Star Game an annual part of his schedule. He's coached it so many times, he's lost track of just how many.

"I really enjoy this game," Kurtz said. "It's a great chance to meet other players and another chance to coach. It's a different kind of coaching because you don't have much time to develop anything, so you've got to put something together quickly."

The Mountain State girls had three practices to prepare for today's game and Kurtz was pleased with all of them.

"We've got a lot more guards than post players," Kurtz said. "How we shape our lineup will definitely depend on personnel."

Before the stretch run, however, the Mountain State will utilize the normal

three groups of five for equal minutes.

"We're going to do our best to make sure everyone gets a lot of playing time," Kurtz said. "Then we'll mix and match as the game goes along."

Kurtz is well aware of some of the Ohio players. He faced several as his Maroon Knights consistently play one of the area's more challenging small-school schedules.

"I've not really seen their complete roster," Kurtz said. "I know they've got some good players from Shadyside and Alex Kuhn from Monroe Central is a really good player. They've got a lot of three-point shooters and they've got a nice mix of post players."

OVAC NOTES

■ Several special awards will be presented during the course of the afternoon.

■ The all-stars will be honored at a banquet at 1 p.m. at Undo's West in St. Clairsville.

■ At halftime of both the girls and boys' games there will be a 3-point shootout, which is sponsored by Panhandle Cleaning & Restoration.

■ Tom Bechtel and the recently retired Bellaire head coach Gene Ammirante serve as the game directors.

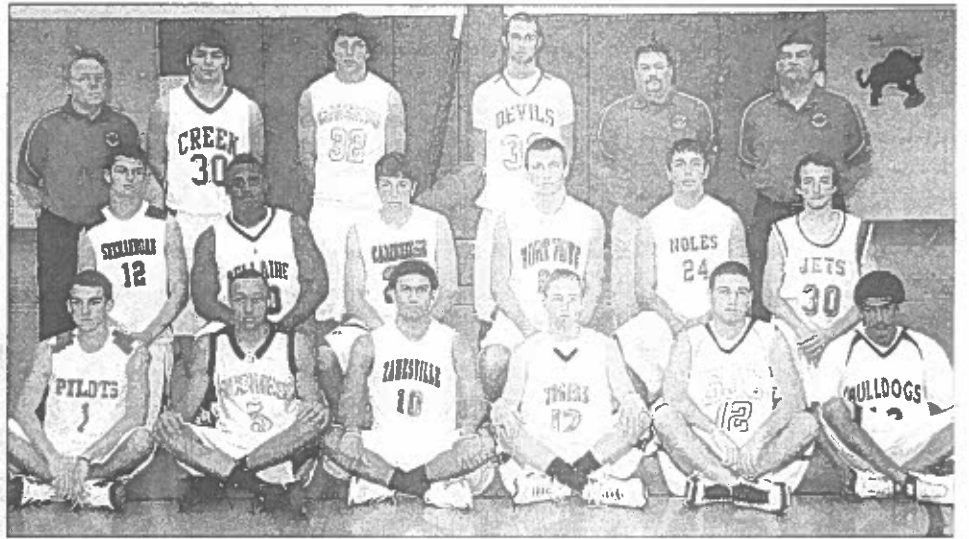


Photo by Seth Staskey

Pictured is the 2011 Ohio Boys' squad for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game. Front row, from left, are Sam Ramsier (River), Kyle Blanchard (Harrison Central), Tanner Gibson (Zanesville), Ellis Brown (Shadyside), Matt VanDorn (St. John) and Tre Lindsey (Bridgeport). Middle row, from left, are Brett Farnsworth (Shenandoah), Josh Tolliver (Bellaire), David Evancho (Cambridge), Garrett Legraen (Fort Frye), Marcus Schumacher (Monroe Central) and Myron Jellison (Union Local). Back row, from left, are head coach Joe Dunlevy, Niko Otto (Indian Creek), Corey Fickiesen (Frontier), Allen Derosa (St. Clairsville), assistant coaches Rob Lucas (Indian Creek) and Mark Romick (River).

OHIO BOYS

Continued from page B1

great friends," Dunlevy said. "Those are the things that make this game fun. We've got some characters on this team, but that's a good thing."

Most basketball pundits and experts have labeled the Buckeye State as a prohibitive underdog, and Dunlevy has heard the chatter.

"We just hope our players show up to play the game since we're supposed to get beat by 30," he joked. "We've got some talent, which has come from good coaches and programs, but a lot of our players didn't advance deep into the tournament. It seems like West Virginia's whole team played in the state tournament."

Wheeling Park's duo of

Bubby Goodwin and Marquez O'Neal jump out from the Mountain State's roster. But, they're not alone.

"We're going to go out, play hard and see what happens," Dunlevy said.

Balancing his units became a bigger challenge during one of the practices. Fort Frye's Garrett Legraen will miss the game after suffering a knee injury.

"We're probably going to go equal until the last few minutes and then put our best out there and play hard for the win ... if we're close," Dunlevy said.

Weirton Madonna coach George Vargo has been sitting on top of the West Virginia basketball world the last few weeks after he guided the Blue Dons to the

Class A state championship. He's now enlisted to lead the West Virginia side in today's all-star game.

The Mountaineers only had two practices, but those were well-organized.

"We put some things in," Vargo said. "We're going to give the kids freedom to use their ability and knowledge to make things happen, but we want to be ready if we have to play some old-fashioned basketball."

The Mountain State also features only 14 players on its roster after a player decided to drop out past the deadline of being able to be replaced.

"We want to equalize the minutes as best we can," Vargo said. "We'll do our best to make that happen, but during the last 7 or 10 minutes, we'll make decisions on who should be on the court."

Vargo hasn't even looked at the Ohio roster, but he's fairly confident in saying the Buckeyes will be bigger on the interior.

"We don't have much size," Vargo said. "I think we've got 11 guards on our roster and all of them can shoot the 3, so we hope to light up the scoreboard."



Photo by Seth Staskey

Pictured is the 2011 Ohio girls' squad for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game. Front row, from left, are Alexa Isaly (River), Kelsey Holloway (Shadyside), Briana Kamarec (Indian Creek), Rosa Nardo (Union Local) and Alex Kuhn (Monroe Central). Middle row, from left, are Carly Gooding (Conotton Valley), Heather Booth (Frontier), Heidi Hines (Barnesville), Shelby Stover (Meadowbrook), Kayla Bodnar (Buckeye Local) and Ellie LeMasters (St. John). Back row, from left, are head coach Drew Greenwood (Union Local), Lizzy Nau (Caldwell), Molly Ritz (Cambridge), Sarah Neavin (Shadyside), assistant coach Tina Yates and assistant coach Mike Podlasiak (Caldwell). Absent was Carissa Myler (Edison).

HAZLETT LAW OFFICES
George Hazlett, Esq. Tom Hazlett, Esq.
DEBT RELIEF OHIO-WV
Over 40 Years Experience in Consumer Bankruptcy
Wheeling Office • 304-242-2410
St. Clairsville Office • 740-695-9202
Steubenville Office • 740-346-0627
CHAPTER 7 & 13 • FREE CONSULTATION
This law firm has been designated as a debt relief agency, helping people file for relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

Auto Choice Service Center
Mastercraft TIRES MC-440
All Season Radial
40,000 Mile Tread Wear Rated*
UTQG
TREADWEAR 500 TRACTION A TEMP. B

SIZE	PRICE	SIZE	PRICE
175/65R14.....	52.28	185/60R14.....	55.97
185/65R14.....	55.35	185/65R15.....	60.25
185/65R15.....	59.97	195/60R15.....	61.68
195/65R15.....	60.77	205/60R15.....	65.18
205/65R15.....	67.01	215/60R15.....	69.11
215/65R15.....	67.59	205/60R16.....	71.89
205/55R16.....	72.19	215/60R16.....	73.07
		225/60R16.....	73.81

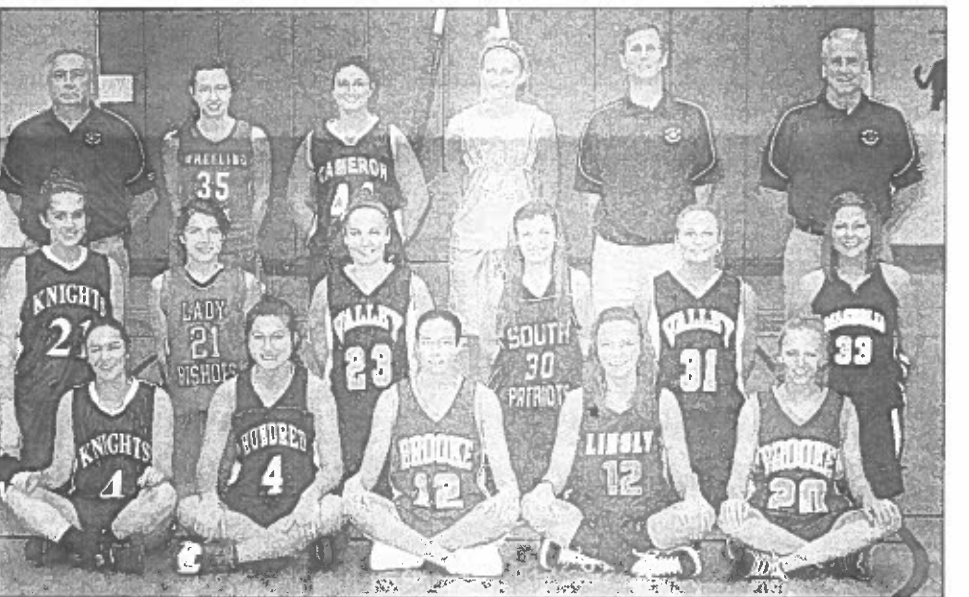


Photo by Seth Staskey

Pictured is the 2011 West Virginia girls' squad for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game. Front row, from left, are Molly Kurtz (Wheeling Central), Raven McDiffitt (Hundred), Amyelia Gaudio (Brooke), Jessica Jenkins (Linsley) and Kristen Black (Brooke). Middle row, from left, are Libby Altmeyer (Wheeling Central), Taylore Barry (Bishop Donahue), Brittany Guthrie (Valley), Hannah Maston (Parkersburg South), Morgan Starkey (Valley) and Padyne Ludewig (Magnolia). Back row, from left, are coach Don Ogden (Madonna), Laura Stefanow (Wheeling Park), Shelby Wood (Cameron), Kiley King (Oak Glen), coach Penn Kurtz (Wheeling Central) and coach Bob Robinson (Wheeling Central). Absent was Nikki Robinson (Weir).



OHIO BOYS

Continued from page B1

great friends," Dunlevy said. "Those are the things that make this game fun. We've got some characters on this team, but that's a good thing."

Most basketball pundits and experts have labeled the Buckeye State as a prohibitive underdog, and Dunlevy has heard the chatter.

"We just hope our players show up to play the game since we're supposed to get beat by 30," he joked. "We've got some talent, which has come from good coaches and programs, but a lot of our players didn't advance deep into the tournament. It seems like West Virginia's whole team played in the state tournament."

Wheeling Park's duo of

Bubby Goodwin and Marquez O'Neal jump out from the Mountain State's roster. But, they're not alone.

"We're going to go out, play hard and see what happens," Dunlevy said.

Balancing his units became a bigger challenge during one of the practices. Fort Frye's Garrett Lagraen will miss the game after suffering a knee injury.

"We're probably going to go equal until the last few minutes and then put our best out there and play hard for the win ... if we're close," Dunlevy said.

Weirton Madonna coach George Vargo has been sitting on top of the West Virginia basketball world the last few weeks after he guided the Blue Dons to the

Class A state championship. He's now enlisted to lead the West Virginia side in today's all-star game.

The Mountaineers only had two practices, but those were well-organized.

"We put some things in," Vargo said. "We're going to give the kids freedom to use their ability and knowledge to make things happen, but we want to be ready if we have to play some old-fashioned basketball."

The Mountain State also features only 14 players on its roster after a player decided to drop out past the deadline of being able to be replaced.

"We want to equalize the minutes as best we can," Vargo said. "We'll do our best to make that happen, but during the last 7 or 10 minutes, we'll make decisions on who should be on the court."

Vargo hasn't even looked at the Ohio roster, but he's fairly confident in saying the Buckeyes will be bigger on the interior.

"We don't have much size," Vargo said. "I think we've got 11 guards on our roster and all of them can shoot the 3, so we hope to light up the scoreboard."



Photo by Seth Staskey

Pictured is the 2011 Ohio girls' squad for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game. Front row, from left, are Alexa Isaly (River), Kelsey Holloway (Shadyside), Briana Kamarec (Indian Creek), Rosa Nardo (Union Local) and Alex Kuhn (Monroe Central). Middle row, from left, are Carly Gooding (Conotton Valley), Heather Booth (Frontier), Heidi Hines (Barnesville), Shelby Stover (Meadowbrook), Kayla Bodnar (Buckeye Local) and Ellie LeMasters (St. John). Back row, from left, are head coach Drew Greenwood (Union Local), Lizzy Nau (Caldwell), Molly Ritz (Cambridge), Sarah Neavin (Shadyside), assistant coach Tina Yates and assistant coach Mike Podlasiak (Caldwell). Absent was Carissa Myler (Edison).

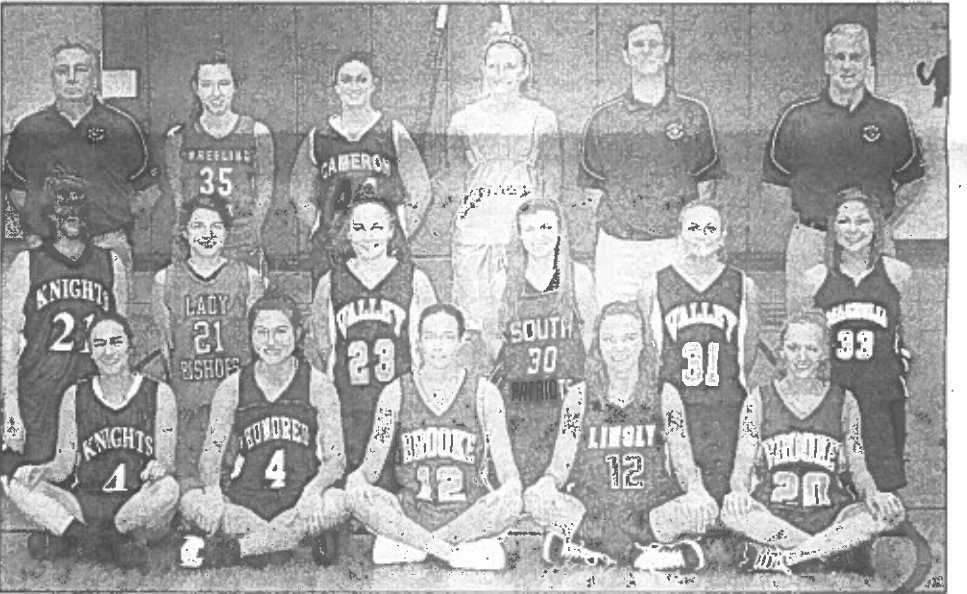


Photo by Seth Staskey

Pictured is the 2011 West Virginia girls' squad for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game. Front row, from left, are Molly Kurtz (Wheeling Central), Raven McDiffitt (Hundred), Amyelia Gaudio (Brooke), Jessica Jenkins (Linsly) and Kristen Black (Brooke). Middle row, from left, are Libby Altmeyer (Wheeling Central), Taylore Barry (Bishop Donahue), Brittany Guthrie (Valley), Hannah Maston (Parkersburg South), Morgan Starkey (Valley) and Padyn Ludewig (Magnolia). Back row, from left, are coach Don Ogden (Madonna), Laura Stefanow (Wheeling Park), Shelby Wood (Cameron), Kiley King (Oak Glen), coach Penn Kurtz (Wheeling Central) and coach Bob Robinson (Wheeling Central). Absent was Nikki Robinson (Weir).

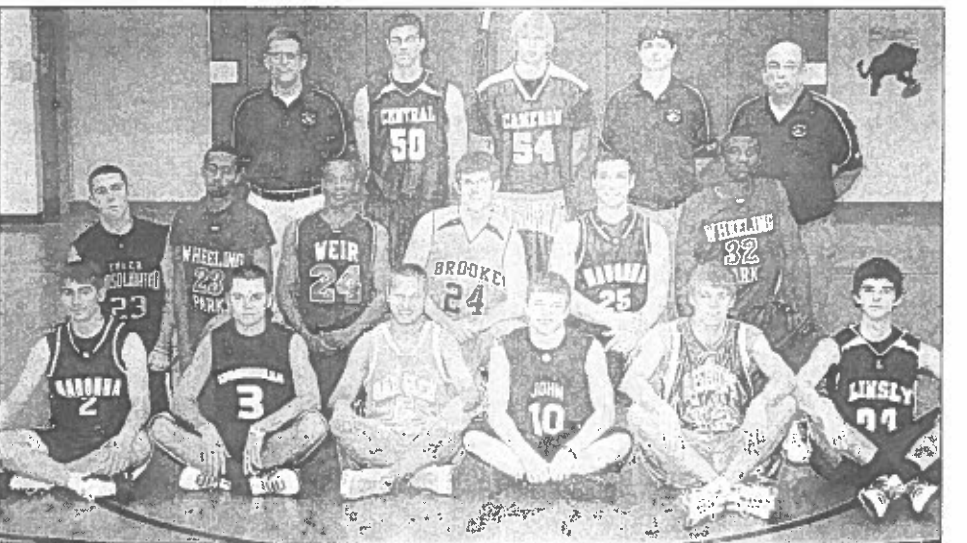


Photo by Seth Staskey

Pictured is the 2011 West Virginia boys' squad for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game. Front row, from left, are Chris Perna (Madonna), Matt Sapp (Magnolia), Martin Mazezka (Oak Glen), Logan Martin (John Marshall), Zach Whitfield (Bishop Donahue) and Jared Smith (Linsly). Middle row, from left, are Cory Lowe (Tyler), Bubby Goodwin (Wheeling Park), Freddie Jones (Weir), Shane Paesano (Brooke), Connor Arlia (Madonna) and Marquez O'Neal (Wheeling Park). Back row, from left, are coach George Vargo (Madonna), Shane Greskevitch (Wheeling Central), Cole Cottrell (Cameron), coach Chad Clutter (Cameron) and coach Mel Stephens (Wheeling Central).

HAZLETT LAW OFFICES
George Hazlett, Esq. Tom Hazlett, Esq.

DEBT RELIEF OHIO-WV

Over 40 Years Experience in Consumer Bankruptcy

Wheeling Office • 304-242-2410
St. Clairsville Office • 740-695-9202
Steubenville Office • 740-346-0627

CHAPTER 7 & 13 • FREE CONSULTATION

This law firm has been designated as a debt relief agency, helping people file for relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

Auto Choice Service Center

Mastercraft TIRES

MC-440
All Season Radial
40,000 Mile Tread Wear Rated*
UTQG

TREADWEAR	TRACTION	TEMP.
500	A	B

SIZE	PRICE	SIZE	PRICE
175/65R14.....	52.28	185/60R14.....	55.97
185/65R14.....	55.35	185/65R15.....	60.25
185/65R15.....	59.97	195/60R15.....	61.68
195/65R15.....	60.77	205/60R15.....	65.18
205/65R15.....	67.01	215/60R15.....	69.11
215/65R15.....	67.59	205/60R16.....	71.89
205/55R16.....	72.19	215/60R16.....	73.07
		225/60R16.....	73.81

*See Salesman for Details Expires 4-16-11

COUPON SPECIAL

FREE Mount & Balancing
on all **Mastercraft TIRES**

Coupon Expires 4-16-11

COUPON

Lube, Oil & Filter Change

\$19.96

Most Domestic Cars up to 5 quarts
Coupon Expires 4-16-11

Auto Choice 2 Great Locations

307 Jefferson Ave. Moundsville, WV (304) 845-9600

Rt. 7 Bellaire, OH (740) 676-6341

CHEVROLET BUICK

TRILLIUM SPA

OVERNIGHT LODGING PACKAGES STARTING AT \$179!

INCLUDING: LODGING • MASSAGE • FACIAL

Price per person, based on double occupancy.

SEVEN SPRINGS MOUNTAIN RESORT

866.437.1300 | 7springs.com
You Really Should Be Here!

OVAC to Honor Nevels With Officials Award

By SETH STASKEY

For the News-Register

WHEELING — It's been several years since Willie Nevels has officiated a basketball game.

He took a trip down memory lane recently when he learned he was the 2011 recipient of the Robert Dawson Basketball Officials Award, which will be presented at the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic on Sunday, April 3 at Ohio University Eastern.

"It was a real shock to me when I heard about the award," Nevels said. "So many years have passed by that it was really surprising."

Nevels last officiated a basketball game in 1988, but stayed involved with basketball for several more years, working as an observer for the Big East Conference at West Virginia University home games.

"I thought I was done with everything that had to do with officiating when I retired as an observer," Nevels said. "It's definitely brought back some nice memories."

Nevels became a registered official and joined the



Nevels

Ohio Valley Board of Officials in 1972.

Five years later, however, he moved to Garland, Texas,

which is a suburb of Dallas. There, he worked high school games as well as working games in the Southwest Conference. He also worked for the Central Basketball Officiating Service Agency, which also included the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Despite his work in Texas, which included a Texas State Tournament assignment in 1979, and as a college official, which earned him an assignment in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, it was working in the OVAC where Nevels' fondest memories were formed.

"I was blessed to be able to work some great games," Nevels said.

Nevels worked the West Virginia State High School Tournament from 1985-87 and was selected as a hon-

orary member of the Ohio Valley Board in 1994.

Nevels gave up his whistle because of a higher calling.

"I got into the ministry and I just didn't have the time to officiate anymore," Nevels said. "It hurt me at first, but my ministry was definitely the most important thing."

Nevels, who will turn 75 in June, still watches a ton of games and finds himself from time to time calling games from the comfort of his living room.

"When it comes to watching college basketball, I can't get enough," Nevels said.

According to Nevels, he never misses a game when his prized pupil, Ted Valentine, works.

"I tutored him and I thought he'd be good," Nevels said. "He's really matured and now he's one of the best officials in the NCAA."

Nevels is the pastor at the Morning Star Baptist Church in Weirton and resides in Wheeling with his wife Loma.

The Nevels, who have been married 34 years, have six children.

ES LEADER - Sunday, March 20, 2011 - C6

Nevels to receive Dawson Officials Award from OVAC

By SETH STASKEY

Times Leader Sports Editor

It's been several years since Willie Nevels has officiated a basketball game.

He took a trip down memory lane recently when he learned he was the 2011 recipient of the Robert Dawson Basketball Officials Award, which will be presented at the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic on Sunday, April 3 at Ohio University Eastern.

"It was a real shock to me when I heard about the award," Nevels said. "So many years have passed by that it was really surprising."

Nevels last officiated a basketball game in 1988, but stayed involved with basketball for several more years, working as an observer for the Big East Conference at West Virginia University home games.

"I thought I was done with everything that had to do with officiating when I retired as an observer," Nevels said. "It's definitely brought back some nice memories."

Nevels became a registered official and joined the Ohio Valley Board of Officials in 1972. Five years later, however, he moved to Garland, Texas, which is a suburb of Dallas.

There he worked high school games as well as working games in the Southwest Conference. He also worked for the Central Basketball Officiating Service Agency, which also included the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Despite his work in Texas, which included a Texas State Tournament assignment in 1979, and as a college official, which earned him an assignment in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament, it was working in the OVAC where Nevels' fondest memories were formed.

"I was blessed to be able to work some great games," Nevels said.

Nevels worked the West Virginia State High School Tournament from 1985-87 and was selected as a honorary member of the Ohio Valley Board in 1994.

Nevels gave up his whistle because of a higher calling. "I got into the ministry and I just didn't have the time to officiate anymore," Nevels noted. "It hurt me at first, but my ministry was definitely the most important thing."

Nevels, who will turn 75 in June, still watches a ton of games and finds himself from time to time calling games from the comfort of his living room.

"When it comes to watching college basketball, I can't get enough," Nevels admitted.

According to Nevels, he never misses a game when his prized pupil, Ted Valentine, works.

"I tutored him and I thought he'd be good," Nevels said. "He's really matured and now he's one of the best officials in the NCAA."

Nevels is the pastor at the Morning Star Baptist Church in Weirton and resides in Wheeling with his wife Loma.

The Nevels, who have been married 34 years, have six children.



LEADER - Saturday, March 26, 2011 - D4

Park's Davis to receive Saffield Award at OVAC All-Star Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Dee Davis is down in history as one of the finest girls' basketball players to ever grace the area courts after a brilliant prep career at Wheeling Park.

Her thirst and passion for basketball carried over to the coaching ranks.

For 14 seasons, Davis was one of the area's premier girls' coaches, leading her alma mater.

Just four years into her retirement from roundball coaching, Davis is set to receive one of the conference's biggest honors.

Davis will receive the annual Rich Saffield Girls Basketball Coaches Award at the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic, which is slated for Sunday, April 3 at Ohio University Eastern.

"I sincerely appreciate the recognition of my contributions to girls' basketball," Davis said in her letter of gratitude to the OVAC All-Star Basketball Committee. "The Rich Saffield Girls Basketball Coaches Award is certainly an honor."

After her playing career in which she scored 1,890 points and pocketed the West Virginia High School State Player of the Year award, Davis went to Division I Tennessee Tech University.

Davis, who holds the single-game scoring record in the regular season (55) and state tournament (41) and is a member of the OVAC and Wheeling Park Halls of Fame, played two seasons in Tennessee before she transferred to West Virginia University and completed her playing career and finished her degrees in general science, biology and physical education.

She was hired by the Ohio County Schools and cut her coaching teeth in 1987 as a basketball and volleyball coach at Wheeling Junior High.

After a stop at Bridge Street Junior High, Davis was hired as the head girls' basketball coach at Park. Davis led the Lady Patriots to back-to-back Class AAA state championships in 1998-99.

The 1999 title made Davis the first-ever female recipient of the coveted OVAC Coach of the Year Award.

Davis resigned from coaching after the 2007 season with 225 victories, five OVAC titles, nine sectional titles, five regional titles.



Park's Davis To Be Lauded

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

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Dee Davis is down in history as one of the finest girls' basketball players to ever grace the area courts after a brilliant prep career at Wheeling Park.

Her thirst and passion for basketball carried over to the coaching ranks.

For 14 seasons, Davis was one of the area's premier girls' coaches, leading her alma mater.

Just four years into her retirement from basketball coaching, Davis is set to receive one of the conference's biggest honors.

Davis will receive the annual Rich Saffield Girls' Basketball Coaches Award at the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic, which is slated for Sunday, April 3 at Ohio University Eastern.

"I sincerely appreciate the recognition of my contributions to girls' basketball," Davis said in her letter of gratitude to the OVAC All-Star Basketball Committee. "The Rich Saffield Girls' Basketball Coaches Award is certainly an honor."

After her playing career in which she scored 1,890 points and pocketed the West Virginia High School State Player of the Year award, Davis went to Division I Tennessee Tech University.



Dee Davis

Davis, who holds the single-game scoring record in the regular season (55) and state tournament (41) and is a member of the OVAC and Wheeling Park Halls of Fame, played two seasons in Tennessee before she transferred to West Virginia University and completed her playing career

and finished her degrees in general science, biology and physical education. She was hired by the Ohio County Schools and cut her coaching teeth in 1987 as a basketball and volleyball coach at Wheeling Junior High.

After a stop at Bridge Street Junior High, Davis was hired as the head girls' basketball coach at Park. Davis led the Patriots to back-to-back Class AAA state championships in 1998-99.

The 1999 title made Davis the first female recipient of the coveted OVAC Coach of the Year Award.

Davis resigned from coaching after the 2007 season with 225 victories, five OVAC titles, nine sectional titles, five regional titles.

TIMES LEADER - Sunday, April 3, 2011 - C6

O'Connell to receive Burton Award at OVAC All-Star Classic

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The late Tom O'Connell's contribution to the sport of basketball can be felt in several schools on several levels.

That alone made him a no-brain choice to receive the 2011 Bob Burton Distinguished Service Award at today's Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game.

O'Connell's widow, Patty, will accept the award in his behalf.

O'Connell, who passed away in July of 2008 at the age of 75, had coaching stints at West Liberty State College, Bishop Donahue, Buckeye Local and Wheeling Central. All told, his career lasted more than 40 years.

The Wheeling Central and West Liberty graduate coached football, basketball and actually started the first baseball team at Donahue. At West Liberty, O'Connell was a standout football player under the late Dr. Al Blatnik and Dr. Joseph Bartell. He was voted all-conference was a Hilltoppers' captain during his senior season.

During his stint as football coach, O'Connell posted a 43-49 record and led the Bishops to the OVAC title in 1967 and three OVAC runner-up finishes. His 1971 team was the West Virginia Catholic runnerup.

He coached basketball for the Bishops for 10 seasons, posting a 119-117 record. He guided the Bishops to a pair of OVAC titles (1964, 1972) and twice posted records of 18-4.

The aforementioned baseball program was solid with O'Connell as skipper. He was the head coach for 13 seasons and won five West Virginia Catholic titles (1963, 68, 72, 73 and 74).

O'Connell also coached on the hilltop, working under John Westenhaver and Larry Shank. Working as a defensive backs' coach, O'Connell coached Mark Murphy, who later played for the Green Bay Packers.

After his stay with the Hilltoppers, O'Connell returned to the prep ranks in the now Buckeye Local School District. His best season came in 1988-89 at Buckeye North when he guided it to a school record 16-5 mark and a sectional title.

During the 1991-92 season, O'Connell and the Panthers of Buckeye Local posted a 14-6 record and won the sectional title. He was named District 8 Coach of the Year and coached in the District 8 All-Star Game.

All told, O'Connell, who is a member of the West Liberty Hall of Fame, coached in the OVAC All-Star Football Game five times.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com



Huffman set to receive OVAC coaching honor

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

Skyvue High School has one of the area's richest basketball traditions.

When the Hawks were advancing well into the Ohio Basketball Tournament, they were continually going up against schools, which had more students enrolled.

However, head coach Mark Huffman was unfazed.

"Most people don't realize it, but I think it was something like 96 percent of our games were against schools which had more students enrolled than we did," Huffman pointed out.

Huffman, the long-time head coach of the Hawks and then the Monroe Central Seminoles, guided the basketball and baseball team to state-wide notoriety during his career at his alma mater.

After nine years away from the bench, Huffman will be recognized at the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic on Sunday, April 3 at Ohio University Eastern with the Boys Basketball Coaches Award.

"I really appreciate the people who remembered what we were able to accomplish both at Skyvue and Monroe Central," Huffman said. "There are a lot of tremendous coaches out there, so it's kind of shocking to be chosen for this."

After graduating from Skyvue in 1971, Huffman went to Marietta College where he earned his degree in 1976.

Just out of college, Huffman accepted a freshman basketball position at Philo, which he held for three years.

In 1979, Huffman received a call from his long-time friend Phil Ackerman, who had just accepted the head-coaching post at Skyvue.

"He called and asked if I'd be interested in coming back to Skyvue to coach," Huffman said. "From there, everything just fell into place."

Huffman's career got off to a good start, which he believes is crucial to any extended prep coaching gig.

In his third year at the helm, Huffman guided the Hawks to the state tournament in Columbus where they were upended in the semifinals. With basically the same team in place the following season, the Hawks reached the state title game.

Despite getting off to a late start, the Hawks' baseball team — also under Huffman's guidance — won the state championship in Class A.

"The secret to anyone's success is having a good group of kids who played together and preached teamwork," Huffman said.

"We had dedicated kids with talent. Plus, we were able to avoid injuries and everyone came together. In baseball, we had a couple of good arms and in both sports we beat teams that were probably just as good as we were."

Both Huffman's basketball and basketball team fell in the regional finals the next season.

Along the way, Huffman won three OVAC titles, including two (1985-1986) in basketball.

In 1994, Skyvue and Woodsfield High Schools closed their respective doors and consolidated to form Monroe Central High School.

Huffman was hired as the basketball coach and held the post until 2002.

"(A school consolidation) wasn't as tough of a situation for me as it maybe was for the kids," Huffman said. "Obviously, both schools had kids back who were starters and then all of the sudden you've got a larger group of kids to pick from."

"There were good and bad points to it, but to be honest, the first day at Monroe felt like the first day at Skyvue. We worked hard and let things shake out."

Huffman and his wife Susan have six children and seven grandchildren.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com



Huffman Earns Award

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Skyvue High School has one of the area's richest basketball traditions.

When the Hawks were advancing well into the Ohio Basketball Tournament, they were continually going up against schools, which had more students enrolled. However, head coach Mark Huffman was unfazed.

"Most people don't realize it, but I think it was something like 96 percent of our games were against schools which had more students enrolled than we did," Huffman said.

Huffman, the long-time head coach of the Hawks and then the Monroe Central Seminoles, guided the basketball and baseball team to state-wide notoriety during his career at his alma mater.

After nine years away from the bench, Huffman will be recognized at the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic on Sunday, April 3 at Ohio University Eastern with the Boys' Basketball Coaches Award.

"I really appreciate the people who remembered what we were able to accomplish both at Skyvue and Monroe Central," Huffman said. "There are a lot of tremendous coaches out there, so it's kind of shocking to be chosen for this."

After graduating from

Skyvue in 1971, Huffman went to Marietta College where he earned his degree in 1976.

Just out of college,

Huffman accepted a freshman basketball position at Philo, which he held for three years.

In 1979, Huffman received a call from his long-time friend Phil Ackerman, who had just accepted the head-coaching post at Skyvue.

"He called and asked if I'd be interested in coming back to Skyvue to coach," Huffman said. "From there, everything just fell into place."

Huffman's career got off to a good start, which he believes is crucial to any extended prep coaching gig.

In his third year at the helm, Huffman guided the Hawks to the state tournament in Columbus where they were upended in the semifinals.

With basically the same team in place the following season, the Hawks reached the state title game.

Despite getting off to a late start, the Hawks' baseball team — also under Huffman's guidance — won the state championship in Class A.

"The secret to anyone's



Mark Huffman

success is having a good group of kids who played together and preached teamwork," Huffman said. "We had dedicated kids with talent. Plus, we were able to avoid injuries and everyone came together. In baseball, we had a couple of good arms and in both sports we beat teams that were probably just as good as we were."

Both Huffman's basketball and basketball team fell in the regional finals the next season.

Along the way, Huffman won three OVAC titles, including two (1985-1986) in basketball.

In 1994, Skyvue and Woodsfield High Schools closed their respective doors and consolidated to form Monroe Central High School. Huffman was hired as the basketball coach and held the post until 2002.

"(A school consolidation) wasn't as tough of a situation for me as it maybe was for the kids," Huffman said. "Obviously, both schools had kids back who were starters and then all of the sudden you've got a larger group of kids to pick from. There were good and bad points to it, but to be honest, the first day at Monroe felt like the first day at Skyvue. We worked hard and let things shake out."

Huffman and his wife Susan have six children and seven grandchildren.