

T-L Photos/MIKE PALMER

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Operation shutdown

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By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

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The same theory certainly stretches into all-star games as well.

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BELOW LEFT: Ohio wide receiver Bernie Thompson (Union Local) comes down with a reception during the second half of Sunday's game. Thompson led the Buckeyes with six catches.

BELOW RIGHT: Ohio wide receiver Garrett Price (Bridgeport) looks to turn it up field on a reverse during the first quarter. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

Rare night of futility for Bruney, Ohio

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Bruney and his Ohio all-stars' offense had been frustrated virtually one series after another.

Trailing 14-3, the Buckeyes were staring at a fourth down and two play from their own 28-yard line with sufficient time to stage a rally.

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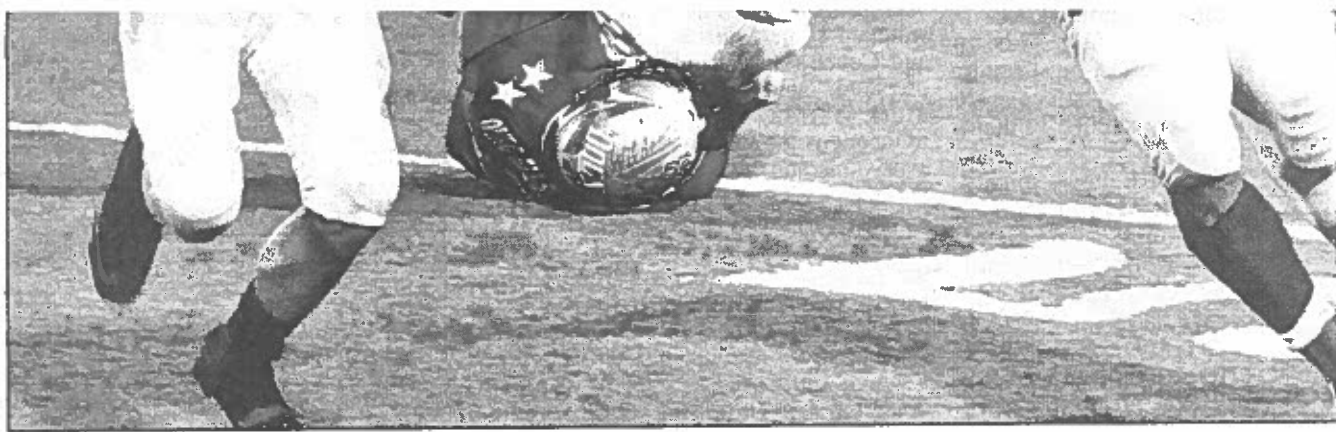
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See, **REALITY**, Page B2

OVAC Mumley Classic Notebook

Experience more important than result for Ohio players

By **SETH STASKEY**
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WHEELING — Athletes and coaches hate to lose. It's just their nature.

However, despite the loss and disappointment, the Ohio lockerroom was still fairly upbeat Sunday evening.

Obviously, all 33 players and the coaching staff had wished for a different outcome, but the amount of cell phone numbers exchanged and Facebook friends being made, the players will all have a fond memory of the week that was.

"Whatever happened (on the field) happened, but I made a lot of great friends and met a lot of great guys this week," said Ohio co-captain Curt Smelley. "This was best week of my

life and meeting these guys that I'd heard about all season was the most exciting part."

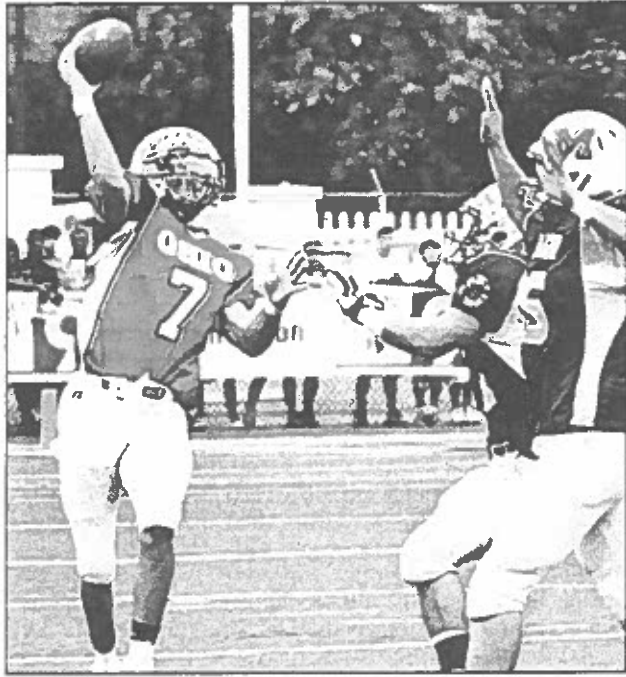
Union Local's Bernie Thompson, who was also an Ohio co-captain, managed to catch six passes for 56 yards.

While admittedly disappointed with the outcome and the fact he couldn't do more to help his team in any way possible, Thompson gained memories he'll treasure for a lifetime.

"We're a way better team than we showed tonight," Thompson said. "But, this was a great experience and a great group of guys. I think the overall experience of meeting the best players in the valley (from both states) and just going out and having fun is important. Unfortunately, it just wasn't meant to be on the field tonight."

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OHIO'S Zach Kinnick (St. Clairsville) passes as he receives heavy pressure from a pair of West Virginia defenders during Sunday's OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium.

OVAC newcomers make presence felt for Mountaineers

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Ohio head coach Dave Bruney was definitely aware of the big-school players West Virginia picked coming into the game.

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Tom Bruney — the Brooke High head coach, who led West Virginia to victory last summer — took the same approach when he drafted his team. Take as many of the big-school players as possible and go from there.

Bruney was one of the first guys to find Batton for a congratulations as the game went final.

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With West Virginia owning a two-game winning streak, it also makes it tough for future Mountain State coaches to use the popular underdog role in camp.

But, that's okay with Batton.

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The victory is especially sweet for Batton. The veteran Blue Eagles' mentor had always dreamed about the feelings of standing on the Wheeling Island turf as a West Virginia state champion and as the winning all-star game coach.

In a span of eight months, he experienced both.

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Reality

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nant, thereafter.

This was an old-school butt-whipping at the line of scrimmage where the Blue & Gold flexed their muscles wire to wire.

"I thought we pretty much beat them up front on both sides," said Morgantown's 6-5, 230-pound tight end/defensive end Jared Adrian. "I was honored to be selected for this game. Winning it makes it that much more special."

Wheeling Central's Marcus Clifford, on the receiving end of Kyle Pytlak's early TD toss, felt the early score was key.

"I saw an opening and Kyle did a great job reading the defense," Clifford related. "To jump on them quick like that was really big."

Mountaineers' coach Mark Batton of Magnolia agreed. "You could see our confidence building early," he stated. "Our kids up front were just outstanding. By halftime, you could see they were starting to dominate."

One of Batton's mighty-mites at Magnolia, 5-9, 170-pound linebacker Traeh Keller, was an all-night defensive force.

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T-L Photos/MIKE PALMER

OHIO'S Logan Hudson (Shadyside) cools off in front of a misting fan during Sunday's 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

BELOW: Ohio's Niko Otto (Indian Creek) chases West Virginia's Phil Acrie (Linsly) during Sunday's game. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

OVAC

Continued from Page B1

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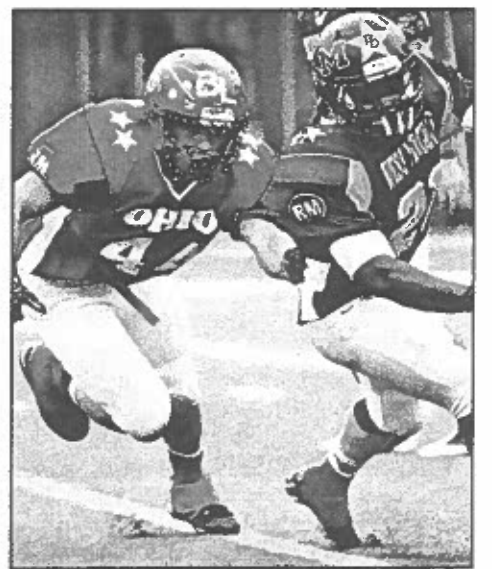
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Notes

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for Mountaineers

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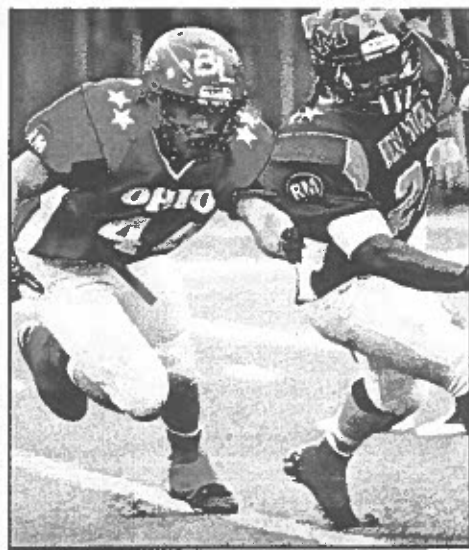
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● Notes

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FAMILY AFFAIR

It seems as if the names that surround the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference are similar each year.

The name 'Rose' was all over the place Sunday evening. Michael Rose was wearing #40 for Ohio; his father, Mike, was a member of the Ohio coaching staff and his grandfather, Paul, was honored as part of the OVAC reunion during the first quarter.

"This whole week was a great experience," Michael Rose said. "It was kind of sad knowing that this was my last game with my dad coaching me."

Rose sported a St. John Central 'I' on his helmet. St. John had no player representation in the game, but his grandfather, who is the Irish head coach, gave him a logo.

Frank Noble of Dillonvale High School was one of the honorees in the OVAC reunion. His

niece, Kayla Bodnar, was Buckeye Local's representative in the Queen of Queens pageant.

Frank's three sons Chris (Class of 1982, Craig (Class of 1983), Steve (Class of 1986) all played for Dave Bruney at Martins Ferry. Lance Jacob — who worked the game as the back judge — is Frank's nephew and also played for Bruney.

LAST GO-AROUND?

Dave Bruney has now coached in five OVAC All-Star Classics and is 4-1. He was also on a winning Ohio squad in 1969 as a player.

So will Bruney be back in the Mumley Classic if the opportunity presents itself on the next rotation?

"This is probably my last go-around (in the all-star game)," Bruney admitted. "I wouldn't say never, but five years is a long time."

Bruney's reference to five years is based on the OVAC's upcoming expan-

sion to five classes this fall. **QUEEN AND HER COURT**

Wheeling Central's Bria Cross was crowned the 2011 OVAC Queen of Queens. Monroe Central's Lindsay Williams was the first runnerup; Indian Creek's Bri Kamarec was second runnerup; John Marshall's Paige Madden was the third runnerup and Wheeling Park's Dana Holmstrand was fourth runnerup. St. Clairsville's Lauren Holler was voted Miss Congeniality.

STERLING PERFORMANCE

It never fails at the OVAC All-Star Game. In only four days, the OVAC McDonald's brought musicians from all over the Ohio Valley together and once again put on a brilliant show.

St. Clairsville drummer Nathan Bohach was the winner of the OVAC Band Scholarship.

Digskin Preview 2011

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Sunday News-Register

JULY 24, 2011

SPORTS

Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Classic

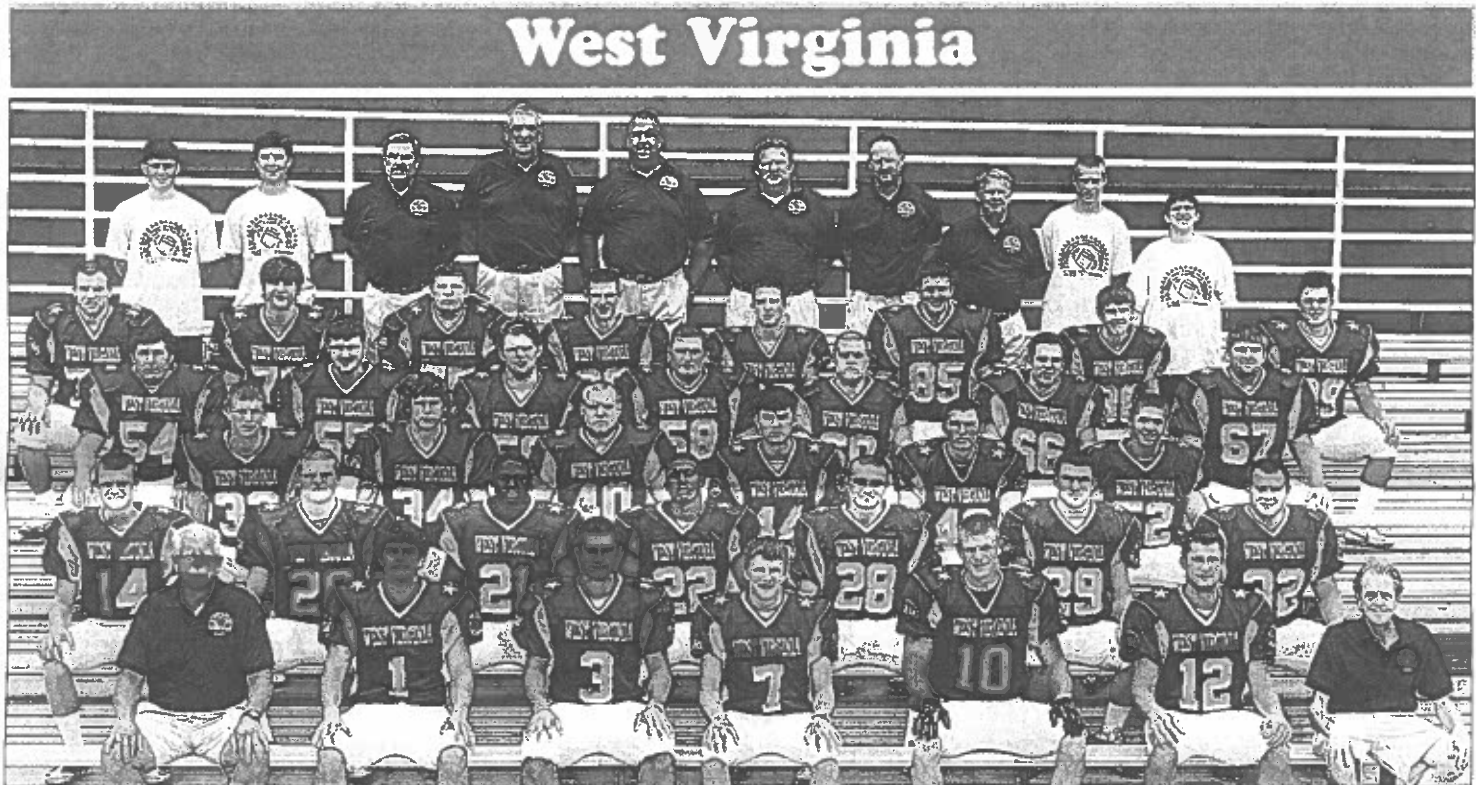


Photo courtesy of Briggs Photography

These young men will represent West Virginia in tonight's 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. First row: head coach Mark Batton, Traeh Keller (1), Joey Musick (3), Logan Martin (7), Joey DiNardo (10), Kyle Pytlak (12) and trainer Randy Elliott. Second row: Jordan Angalich (14), Reuben Pine (20), Phil Acrie (22), Marcus Clifford (22), Zach Morris (28), Chris Eloi (29) and Ryan Lazear (32). Third row: Boone Kehrer (33), Chance Rowland (34), Billy Perkins (40), Alex Schramm (44), Jeff Kidder (46) and Sam Shepherd (52). Fourth row: Anthony Pederson (54), Davie Sivert (55), Matt Riggs (56), Dan Heupp (58), John Duplaga (60), Hayden Greenlief (66) and Chris Williams (67). Fifth row: Tyler Jacovetty (70), Kaleb Kucera (72), Michael Berardi (75), McKenzie Peluchette (80), Tanner Whyte (82), Jared Adrian (85), Shane Koper (88) and Nick Romito (99). Sixth row: manager Drew Keller, manager Jayson Keller, assistant coaches Bob Ripley, Mark Blair, Dave Chapman, Moke Riggs, Jim West, Dave Grandstaff, manager Chase West and manager Matty Filippelli.



Photo courtesy of Briggs Photography

These young men will represent Ohio in tonight's 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. First row: head coach Dave Bruney, Willie Leavell (1), Chris Smelley (3), Zach Kinnick (7), Ellis Brown (10), Joe Zebbs (12), assistant coach Bill Bruney. Second row: Tanner Wright (14), Josh Tolliver (20), Kyle Blanchard (21), Jake Brunoni (22), Casey Bain (28), Corey Fickiesen (29). Third row: Johnny Byers (32), Trevor Mourer (33), Curt Smelley (34), Michael Rose (40), Niko Otto (44), Tyler Kurtz (46), Aaron Silverio (52). Fourth row: Kody Edwards (56), Caleb Gunn (58), John Eckroth (63), Willie Pruitt (66), Mason Campbell (67), Zak Stiles (68), John Thompson (72). Fifth row: Jack Beavers (77), Garrett Price (80), Bobby Dayton (82), Marcus Schumacher (85), Bernie Thompson (88), Taylor Brown (90), Brent Kirk (93), Logan Hudson (99). Sixth row: manager Corey Bennett, assistant coaches John Bennett, Rich Materkoski, Jim Hoover, Joe Kosar, Joe Mamone, Mike Rose, Nick Stankovich, Chas Yoder, manager Dalton Hoover.

West Virginia Eyes Back-to-Back Wins

OVAC All-Star Game kicks off at 7:15 p.m.

By RICK THORP
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The game plans have been devised. The players have been briefed. The spectators are ready.

Let the game begin.

West Virginia will look to win back-to-back Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classics for the first time in 17 years tonight when the 66th annual summer classic game kicks off at 7:15 p.m. at

“And when (camp) went to seven days, that’s made it tougher,” Ohio coach Dave Bruney said, coaching in his fifth all-star tilt. “It’s tough to get the work in you need to get in in order to put any kind of quality on the field. That’s a concern.”

“But it’s that way for both teams.”

Chemistry is always a concern as the week moves along.

“We’ve had a few mishaps here and there and we’ve worked hard to



(OVAC-Sponsored Games)

2010: West Virginia 24, Ohio 14
2009: Ohio 47, West Virginia 7
2008: Ohio 31, West Virginia 7
2007: Ohio 6, West Virginia 3
2006: Ohio 22, West Virginia 0
2005: Ohio 35 West Virginia 6
2004: West Virginia 21, Ohio 7
2003: Ohio 32, West Virginia 26
2002: Ohio 19, West Virginia 12
2001: Ohio 36, West Virginia 0
2000: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7
1999: Ohio 32, West Virginia 0
1998: Ohio 41, West Virginia 14
1997: Ohio 24, West Virginia 14
1996: Ohio 43, West Virginia 21

Through The Years

1972: Ohio 24, West Virginia 6
(Pre-OVAC Games)

1971: No Game
1970: No Game
1969: West Virginia 12, Ohio 0
1968: Ohio 6, West Virginia 0
1967: West Virginia 18, Ohio 0
1966: Ohio 26, West Virginia 0
1965: Ohio 22, West Virginia 0
1964: Ohio 2, West Virginia 0
1963: No Game
1962: West Virginia 12, Ohio 6
1961: West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
1960: Ohio 7, West Virginia 6
1959: West Virginia 7, Ohio 6
1958: Ohio 25, West Virginia 21



Photo courtesy of Briggs Photography

These young men will represent Ohio in tonight's 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. First row: head coach Dave Bruney, Willie Leavell (1), Chris Smelley (3), Zach Kinnick (7), Ellis Brown (10), Joe Zebbs (12), assistant coach Bill Bruney. Second row: Tanner Wright (14), Josh Tolliver (20), Kyle Blanchard (21), Jake Brunoni (22), Casey Bain (28), Corey Fickiesen (29). Third row: Johnny Byers (32), Trevor Mourer (33), Curt Smelley (34), Michael Rose (40), Niko Otto (44), Tyler Kurtz (46), Aaron Silverio (52). Fourth row: Kody Edwards (56), Caleb Gunn (58), John Eckroth (63), Willie Pruitt (66), Mason Campbell (67), Zak Stiles (68), John Thompson (72). Fifth row: Jack Beavers (77), Garrett Price (80), Bobby Dayton (82), Marcus Schumacher (85), Bernie Thompson (88), Taylor Brown (90), Brent Kirk (93), Logan Hudson (99). Sixth row: manager Corey Bennett, assistant coaches John Bennett, Rich Materkoski, Jim Hoover, Joe Kosar, Joe Mamone, Mike Rose, Nick Stankovich, Chas Yoder, manager Dalton Hoover.

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The Mountaineers are coming off a 24-14 victory last summer, which snapped the Buckeyes' winning streak in the series at five games. Still, Ohio has won 14 of the last 16 encounters.

Both teams have endured a tough week on the practice field, as the hottest conditions of the season have enveloped the Bethany College campus.

Since the time the players and coaches arrived last Sunday, the temperatures and humidity levels steadily increased, reaching their peak on Thursday.

That forced coaches to cut down on practice time a bit, making the task of getting their respective squads to gel that much tougher.

"And when (camp) went to seven days, that's made it tougher," Ohio coach Dave Bruney said, coaching in his fifth all-star tilt. "It's tough to get the work in you need to get in in order to put any kind of quality on the field. That's a concern."

"But it's that way for both teams."

Chemistry is always a concern as the week moves along.

"We've had a few mishaps here and there and we've worked hard to get that worked out," West Virginia coach Mark Batton said.

Concerns include: snap exchanges between quarterbacks and centers and snaps on field goals and punts.

Well, that was a concern for Bruney early on, until he got a look at Edison's Johnny Byers.

"He's probably the best long snapper I've seen in the 38 years I've been coaching," Bruney stated. "He's a good long snapper and extra-point snapper ... outstanding."

"You always worry about those type of things. Even the pros tell you they're worth their weight in gold."

Byers is one of three quarterbacks on the Ohio roster, along with St. Clairsville's Zach Kinnick and Frontier's Corey Fickiesen.

See, Eyes, Page B2



Through The Years

(OVAC-Sponsored Games)

2010: West Virginia 24, Ohio 14
2009: Ohio 47, West Virginia 7
2008: Ohio 31, West Virginia 7
2007: Ohio 6, West Virginia 3
2006: Ohio 22, West Virginia 0
2005: Ohio 35, West Virginia 6
2004: West Virginia 21, Ohio 7
2003: Ohio 32, West Virginia 26
2002: Ohio 19, West Virginia 12
2001: Ohio 36, West Virginia 0
2000: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7
1999: Ohio 32, West Virginia 0
1998: Ohio 41, West Virginia 14
1997: Ohio 24, West Virginia 14
1996: Ohio 43, West Virginia 21
1995: Ohio 21, West Virginia 0
1994: West Virginia 19, Ohio 14
1993: West Virginia 34, Ohio 32
1992: No game (washout)
1991: Ohio 30, West Virginia 6
1990: Ohio 42, West Virginia 0
1989: West Virginia 22, Ohio 14
1988: Ohio 13, West Virginia 7
1987: Ohio 13, West Virginia 11
1986: Ohio 14, West Virginia 6
1985: West Virginia 28, Ohio 26
1984: Ohio 22, West Virginia 6
1983: Ohio 26, West Virginia 16
1982: West Virginia 7, Ohio 6
1981: Ohio 17, West Virginia 14
1980: Ohio 10, West Virginia 7
1979: Ohio 47, West Virginia 13
1978: Ohio 21, West Virginia 13
1977: West Virginia 21, Ohio 0
1976: West Virginia 33, Ohio 20
1975: West Virginia 8, Ohio 0
1974: West Virginia 13, Ohio 6
1973: West Virginia 38, Ohio 20

1972: Ohio 24, West Virginia 6
(Pre-OVAC Games)

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

NOTE: Ohio leads the OVAC-sponsored series 26-12-1 and the pre-OVAC series 15-11.



Today's Results:
Q. Who will win the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic — WV or Ohio?

Ohio: 55%
WV: 45%

ON THE LINE

Tomorrow's Poll:
Q. Are the NFL and its owners doing enough to help retired players?

Tell us w!
Register your answer
(The results of this poll are opinions of Internet users)



Photo by Rick Thorp

West Virginia Coaches

Members of the West Virginia coaching staff include, bottom from left, Bob Ripley, Mark Batton, Dave Grandstaff, Jim West; top from left, Dave Chapman, Mark Blair, Moke Riggs and trainer Randy Elliott.



Photo by Rick Thorp

Ohio Coaches

Members of the Ohio coaching staff include, bottom from left, Joe Mamone, Bill Bruney, Dave Bruney, John Bennett, Mike Rose; top from left, Chas Yoder, Nick Stankovich, Jim Hoover, Rich Materkoski and Joe Kosar.

SPORTS

Thursday,
July 21, 2011

Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game

Life and football precious for Stiles

• St. Clairsville graduate overcomes brain tumor

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — Zak Stiles is a firm believer in the cliché that says, "whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

The recent St. Clairsville graduate, who is preparing for Sunday's OVAC All-Star Football Classic, learned at the young age of 13 years old about just how precious life can be.

Prior to his eighth grade year, Stiles and his family went on a traditional summer vacation to visit his grandparents in New Mexico.

However, it was anything but normal.

"I remember I was just sitting there eating, and I passed out," Stiles said.

His parents, Bruce and Leslie, immediately rushed him to the emergency room. Due to the immense pressure being cause in his brain, the New Mexico hospital life flighted him to Texas where he underwent surgery.

"Doctors diagnosed me with a brain tumor," Stiles said.

Being that young, Stiles knew a little bit about what the doctors were telling him and his parents.

"Of course I knew it was bad, but being that young, you really don't know what to expect," Stiles said. "It's kind of a tough feeling to explain, but mostly I was really nervous and scared about what was ahead."

The tumor was determined to be benign, but doctors wanted to operate and begin radiation immediately because the tumor was in the middle of the brain and was wrapped around the nervous system.

Stiles underwent no fewer than

See, STILES, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

ONE OF the highlights of the George Strager Evening With the Stars dinner was the presentation of the Strager Memorial Scholarships. Front row, from left, are McKenzie Peluchette (Wheeling Central), John Duplaga (Wheeling Central), Tyler Jacovetty (Wheeling Central), Marcus Clifford (Wheeling Central) and Strager Football Camp co-director Mike Young, who is also the head coach at Wheeling Central. Back row, from left, are Strager Football Camp co-director Kelly Rine, who is also the athletic director at St. Clairsville, Caleb Gunn (Cambridge), Joe Zebbs (St. Clairsville), Bernie Thompson (Union Local), Zak Stiles (St. Clairsville) and Zach Kinnick (St. Clairsville). Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

OVAC All-Star Game week in full swing

• Strager Evening With the Stars held; Heat, humidity an issue at Ohio camp

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING — The events surrounding the 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic kicked into full swing Wednesday evening.

Past and present players, cheerleaders, Queen of Queens candidates and their families were recognized during the 25th annual George Strager Evening With The Stars inside the ballroom at the Wheeling Park White Palace.

This marked the first time since reporting to camp on Sunday that the players from West Virginia and Ohio have come down the hill from Bethany College. The OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band reported to Bethany Wednesday morning to begin preparations for their show, while the cheerleaders check into their rooms today. The Queen of Queens pageant contestants will compete Friday evening at WesBanco

OVAC All-Star Game
Who: Ohio vs. West Virginia
When: Sunday, 7:15
Where: Wheeling Island Stadium
Tickets: Available in advance for \$7 or at the gate for \$10.
Radio: AM 1600
Television: WTOV-9

Arena.

The players of both teams went through two more practices as oppressive temperatures swelled well into the 90s. The temperature on the artificial turf at Bethany College was well above 100 degrees when the Buckeye State wrapped up its second practice.

The temperatures took their toll on Ohio's practice.

"We've held some kids out of some practices because of the heat," Bruney said. "The heat and the possibility of thunder-

storms is a concern because it causes you to have to cut down on your repetitions, and you hesitate to repeat too many things when it's 110 degrees or so on the turf."

Bruney indicated the Buckeye squad is fairly healthy outside of battling through the heat.

Shadyside's Taylor Brown — a first-team all-Ohioan at defensive end — has been slowed by a slightly strained calf. Bruney is expecting Brown to be ready by kickoff and thinks he could return to the practice field for today's second session.

"Right now, Taylor is the only injury we've got," Bruney said. "We're going to see what he can do in the afternoon (today)."

The Ohio players have grasped both the offensive and defensive schemes quite well, which has allowed Bruney and his coaching staff to basically establish their starting lineup for Sunday evening already.

See, OVAC, Page B2

Diminutive Thompson looking to make big impact for Ohio

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

BETHANY — The smallest player to suit up for Sunday's annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic had probably the biggest senior season.

Former Union Local standout wide receiver Bernie Thompson, who stands 5-8 and tips the scales at a robust 140 pounds, landed an Ohio Valley-record 106 passes this past fall for the Jets and head coach Mark Cisar.

"It really hasn't fully set in yet," Thompson admitted during media day earlier this week at Bethany College. "Ten years down the road when I look back on it, I'm sure I'll be proud of what I accomplished."

While Thompson was re-writing the Ohio Valley and Union Local record books, his senior season didn't go quite the way he had planned.

"We had a lot of injuries that were costly," he recalled. "We lost a few seniors and had to use some freshmen in tough situations. The way things ended (1-9) wasn't the way I would've liked, but I worked hard and did what I had to."

And for his success, Thompson praised his former head coach.

"Coach Cisar helped me tremendous-

ly," he offered. "Without him, I wouldn't be in the places that I am. He gave me a chance my sophomore season to show what I could do, and I took full advantage of it."

Because of his hard work and dedication to the sport, Waynesburg University offered him a chance to extend his football career, which he accepted.

"There was a lot I liked about Waynesburg," Thompson said. "I also liked West Liberty and Bethany, but Waynesburg just seemed like a good fit for me."

He said that he met the coaching staff and really liked all of them, especially the assistant head coach.

"Coach Falvo's a good guy," Thompson added. "They run the spread



just like we did at UL. They throw the ball just about every play."

That should suit him to a tee as he caught 192 passes during his two-plus years of varsity action for the Jets that went for 1,854 yards and 11 touchdowns. His senior season he managed 982 yards and half-a-dozen six-pointers.

"Bernie is a great team player on both sides of the ball," Cisar said. "He was a gamer for us. I think he only missed one practice the whole year. He's just a great kid with a tremendous work ethic. He was our best offensive asset and was still able to catch more than 100 balls even though everyone knew he was going to get the ball."

See, IMPACT, Page B2

● Stiles

Continued from Page B1

four surgeries during the process, including one in Texas and another in Columbus.

"The operation couldn't get the entire thing," Stiles said. "It's much smaller now."

Obviously during the process, the thoughts of sports and football were shoved to the backseat, but once it was determined that Stiles was going to be fine, the questions returned.

According to Bruce Stiles, who is an assistant football coach at St. Clairsville, there was serious doubt that Zak would ever be allowed to play a contact sport.

"At the last minute, doctors said he could give it a try," Bruce said.

Zak played his eighth grade season with a tube in his head, which was running to his stomach, allowing pressure to be released from his brain.

"It's definitely been an interesting ride for him," Bruce continued.

Zak believes his ability to continue to play football, even with a stronger helmet than most, is just "part of the gift."

Since his last surgery, Zak has received a clean-bill of health and only has to go to Columbus once a year for an annual checkup where everything's gone well.

"I've had three different doctors through all of this," Zak said. "Again, this whole thing has just been a life-changing experience."

Zak played three years of varsity football for the Red Devils en route to this weekend's game. Next month, he'll depart for Waynesburg where he'll be a candidate for its football squad.

"I don't know what I would be doing right now if (doctors) took football away from me when I was younger," Zak said. "Football has been such a big part of my life because everything I do is for football. If doctors had taken that away, it would have been like they took away part of my life."

Zak admits that there were some nervous moments for his family when he resumed playing after being cleared, but those nerves have calmed as the years have passed.

"My parents have been there for me to make sure I was cautious and had everything I needed to be safe," Stiles said. "Doctors have said there's nothing to worry about it because it's fine and that's what I believe. It was in the back of my mind at first, but not nearly as much now."

The results of his ordeal have gone more than a long way in helping to shape the kind of person or approach to life Stiles takes now.

"It was very life changing for me," Stiles said. "As a kid, you take things for granted, but now I look at every day as if it's a gift because you never know what's going to happen tomorrow."

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

"We've not had a problem on offense and things are coming together," Bruney said. "Defensively, we've got guys who can run to the ball pretty well, get off blocks well."

As is always the case in all-star camp, there are always a few players who might be unheralded on their respective high school team, but put on a good showing when they get to camp.

This week has been no exception, according to Bruney.

"Brent Kirk from Buckeye Local has been impressive on both sides of the ball; Kyle Blanchard is a really good receiver and Chris Smelley is a little bit faster than I thought he was," Bruney said. "Another guy is Bernie Thompson, who is an absolute machine. On top of being a great kid, he's just a football player."

One of the annual highlights of the Strager dinner is the presentation of the George Strager Memorial Scholarships. Those are given to any player who took part in the Strager camp the summer entering his senior season and then is chosen for the Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic the following summer.

Receiving those scholarships, which were presented by Strager Football Camp co-directors Kelly Rine and Mike Young, were: Zach Kinnick (St. Clairsville), Joe Zebbs (St. Clairsville), Zak Stiles (St. Clairsville), Bernie Thompson (Union Local) and Caleb Gunn (Cambridge) of Ohio. The West Virginia recipients were Wheeling Central's McKenzie Peluchette, Tyler Jacovetty, Marcus Clifford and John Duplaga.

It was also announced that area McDonald's owner Ross Stoltz was being honored as the cover boy for the OVAC Game program.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

● Impact

Continued from Page B1

So, how does a smallish guy come up with big catch after big catch?

"I run good routes, find holes in the defense and catch everything thrown to me," Thompson noted. "I know I'm not that tall, so I really had to focus on a lot of things."

The son of Shawn and Deana Thompson of Belmont is undecided upon his major.

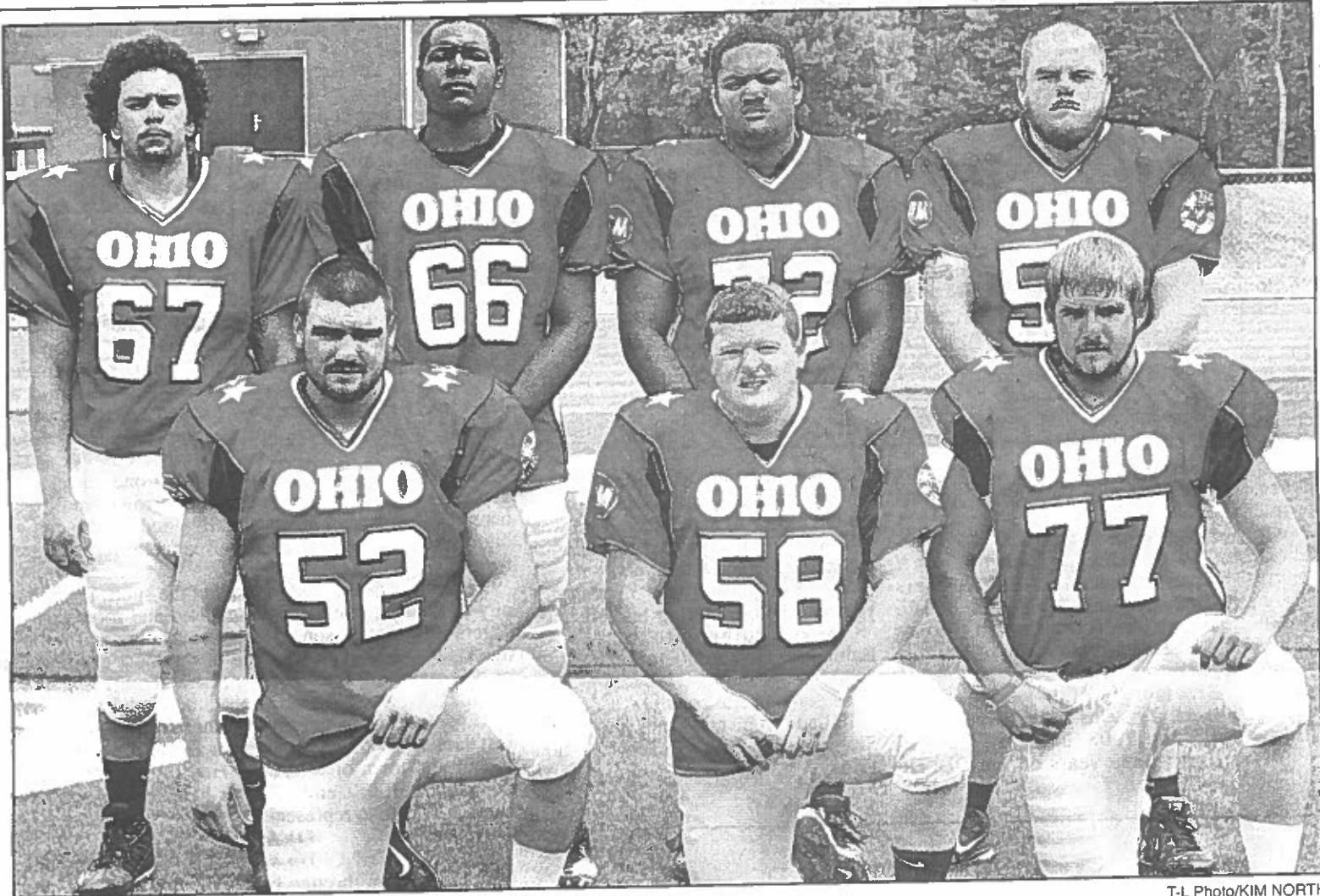
Waynesburg is a member of the Presidents Athletic Conference. The Yellow Jackets are a member of the NCAA Division III and finished at 6-4 last year.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

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SPORTS



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the offensive line candidates for Sunday's 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. Kneeling, from left, are Aaron Silverio (Shadyside), Caleb Gunn (Cambridge) and Jack Beavers (Martins Ferry). Back row, from left, are Mason Campbell (Steubenville), Willie Pruitt (Steubenville), John Thompson (East Liverpool) and Kody Edwards (East Liverpool). Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Shadyside players anxious to represent school, community

• Four former Tigers preparing for Sunday's OVAC All-Star Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
 Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY – The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference encourages its coaches for the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic to choose a representative from as many schools as possible.

Thus, the conference instituted a rule that says no Ohio school may have any more than four representatives.

The coaches usually take advantage of that and choose the maximum of their own players, who got them to this point and then represent the area's best teams and programs with as many as possible.

This year wasn't any different, per se.

Ohio head coach Dave Bruney, who led Martins Ferry back to the Ohio Division IV playoffs and a 8-3 season, selected four of his own players. But, usually it's powerful Steubenville or another bigger school that has the maximum amount of players chosen.

'Usually (Shadyside) is lucky to get one player in this game, so to have four is really big.'

– Taylor Brown

While owning one of the strongest small-school traditions, the Shadyside Tigers have usually grown accustomed to having their normal one or two spots on the team.

However, that's all changed.

For the first time since 1955, the Tigers have four players about to suit up for the OVAC All-Star Game.

"It means a lot to have four guys here," said Aaron Silverio, who is expected to line up pri-

marily at guard this weekend. "It's great to be able to get out there, represent our school and community and show some of that Tiger pride."

Silverio is being joined this week by Ellis Brown, Taylor Brown and Logan Hudson. All of whom played an integral role on the Tigers' brilliant season, which finished 13-2 as Division VI state runnerup.

"This just shows what we really did accomplish last season," Ellis Brown said. "It was a great season, but it had a rough ending. Being chosen for this game with three my teammates helps make up for that."

After the 1954 season in which the Tigers finished 9-0, Frank August, Bob Bittengle, Bill Corbett and Don Fleming, who played for the Cleveland Browns, were chosen for the game.

That OVAC All-Star team was honored last season as part of the conference's quest to

See, OVAC, Page B2

Grady Sizemore's abdominal surgery

Grady Sizemore will help the Indians' offense this season. Right fielder Sizemore's performance is in jeopardy by the time he returns to the field after abdominal surgery on Thursday.



CLEVELAND INDIANS' Grady Sizemore was placed on the disabled list July 18 due to soreness in his knee, will be out of the Indians' lineup for four to six weeks after having abdominal surgery to repair a hernia problem on Thursday.

AP PHOTO

dominal surgery was performed on Thursday.

ulted in a hernia. Sizemore was placed on the disabled list by the Indians on Thursday. The surgery was performed on Thursday.

Cleveland has been hit hard by injuries, but is tied for the AL Central lead with Detroit.

Right fielder Shin-Soo Choo is currently sidelined by a broken left thumb. Designated hitter Travis Hafner, opening day starter Fausto Carmona, first baseman Matt LaPorta and others have also been on the disabled list.

Sizemore, who averaged 27 homers, 29 steals and 116 runs from 2005 thru 2008, has spent much of the past three years on the DL. He

played hurt in 2009, but after 106 games, he finally had an operation on his left elbow in September. That was followed a few days later by abdominal surgery from Dr. Meyers.

Sizemore played only 33 games a year ago before hurting his left knee — also sliding into second in Baltimore. He had microfracture surgery and began this season on the DL as he continued to recover.

Indians trainer Lonnie Soloff said Sizemore should begin rehabilitation Friday.

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

continue to honor its past as well as its present and future.

Ironically, Corbett, who passed away some five years ago and played collegiately at Purdue, is the great-uncle of Silverio.

En route to the 2010 state final, the Tigers were one of the area's unheralded teams. Not many people had Shadyside pegged as anything more than mediocre.

However, after stubbing their toe against Bridgeport in week nine, the Tigers bounced back to upend Wheeling Central and clinch the OVAC Class 2-A title. They later avenged the loss to the Bulldogs in the Region 23 title game by a 28-0 score and then knocked off an undefeated Mogadore team in the state semifinal before running into one of the sharpest buzzsaws in the OHSAA, Delphos St. John.



"I think we eventually showed that we were pretty good and having four guys in this game really proves that even more," Silverio said. "We had all kinds of chemistry on that team and to have four guys here, we're hoping we can take some of that and build with our new teammates."

Taylor Brown, who earned first-team all-Ohio as a defensive end, was extremely excited when he received word he'd been chosen, but was happier when he heard how many of his teammates were going, too.

"Usually (Shadyside) is lucky to get one player in this game, so to have four is really big," Brown said. "To be here is an honor and this is a really good way to end your high school career because this is something you'll never forget."

Regardless of the season or even the sport, the community of Shadyside has long supported and rooted on their Tigers. For that reason, the chance to play and represent the Tigers once more was one of the most exciting parts of this opportunity for Hudson, who admitted being chosen for this game was one of his childhood dreams.

"Everyone from the town comes to our games and it just means so much to all four of us to represent the school and town once again," Hudson said. "Obviously, the season didn't end like we had hoped, but having another chance to represent our senior class means a lot."

OVAC NOTES

■ ACCORDING TO sources on the Bison campus, both teams went through both workouts today despite the oppressive heat. One source in the Ohio camp said all 33 players went through the drills and "came through in great spirits."

■ THE PLAYERS, cheerleaders and band members were treated to an ice-cream social Thursday evening. That probably hit the spot after temperatures soared near triple digits with the humidity as all three groups continued preparations for Sunday's game, which is scheduled to kick off at 7:15 p.m.

■ THE Queen of Queens pageant is this evening at WesBanco Arena. No fewer than 30 young ladies will demonstrate their talents as they compete for several thousand dollars in scholarships. The event begins at 7 p.m.

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● Salem

Continued from Page B1

total of 21 former Tigers' gridiron greats were either drafted or signed by professional teams.

Four players went on to capture Super Bowl rings. They included Jack Deloplaine, Orson Mobley, Larry Riley and Monty Hunter. Players like Jeff Connors (North Carolina), Jimbo Fisher (Florida State) and Bill Kirelawich (WVU) went on to successful college coaching careers, while Phil Zacharias (Baltimore) and Mike McCarthy (Green Bay) have had successful NFL coaching stints.

Salem College was also known as a breeding ground of future West Virginia University head coach's Ed Pastilong, Rich Rodriguez and Bill Stewart. Terry Bowden, who played at WVU and is the son of legendary Florida State head coach Bobby Bowden, also walked the sideline at Salem.

A Saturday morning golf outing and various activities for non-golfers continue the get-together throughout the day, which will culminate with a social hour and awards recognition dinner Saturday night.

All players who played in the 1960s will be honored.

B1

difficult," said Jerry Richardson, owner of the Carolina Panthers. "We're confident that the players and the teams have arrived at a good place. We think we have a fair, balanced agreement."

But George Wilson, the player representative for the Buffalo Bills, called the owners' vote and subsequent news conference "an attempt to break the spirits of our men and to fracture the solidarity that we've exemplified thus far."

He said the deal approved by the owners included provisions the players haven't even seen, which is why no vote was taken during a conference call Thursday night.

"Ultimately, the guys felt like this thing is being force-fed to us, that it's being shoved down our throats," Wilson told The Associated Press. "And the way everything transpired this evening, in a sense, was trying to add more pressure to the situation and force us to accept this deal without really being able to see all the details of what they voted on."

Clearly, the basic outline of the proposed agreement

to think everything would go smoothly at the end.

"I don't think this deal is blown up," Wilson said. "We can definitely work through these issues."

The fans are tired of all the labor talk. They're just ready for some football.

"Finally," said Dave Gower of Knoxville, Tenn., who just happened to be staying at the hotel where the owners met. "I don't understand why it took so long. I hope the players take it and run with it."

Packers president Mark Murphy said no one was trying to pull a fast one on the players, or pressure them into accepting an owner-friendly framework for divvying up more than \$9 billion in annual revenues. He also dismissed the idea of going back to the bargaining table.

"We put our pens down," Murphy said. "We've negotiated. We've been negotiating in good faith with the union, we reached agreement on all the key points. They're voting on the same thing that we ratified."

Not so, said NFL Players Association chief DeMaurice Smith, who talked with Goodell several times by phone during the

"Issues that need to be collectively bargained remain open; other issues, such as workers' compensation, economic issues and end of deal terms, remain unresolved. There is no agreement between the NFL and the players at this time," Smith wrote.

Unhappy with the old collective bargaining agreement, owners exercised an opt-out clause three years ago, setting the stage for this labor dispute. The new deal does not contain an opt-out clause.

If players approve the agreement, team facilities would open Saturday, and the new league year would begin Wednesday, with full free agency and the opening of training camps.

"I can't say we got everything we wanted to get in the deal. I'm sure (players) would say the same thing," New York Giants owner John Mara said. "The best thing about it is our fans don't have to hear about labor-management relations for another 10 years."

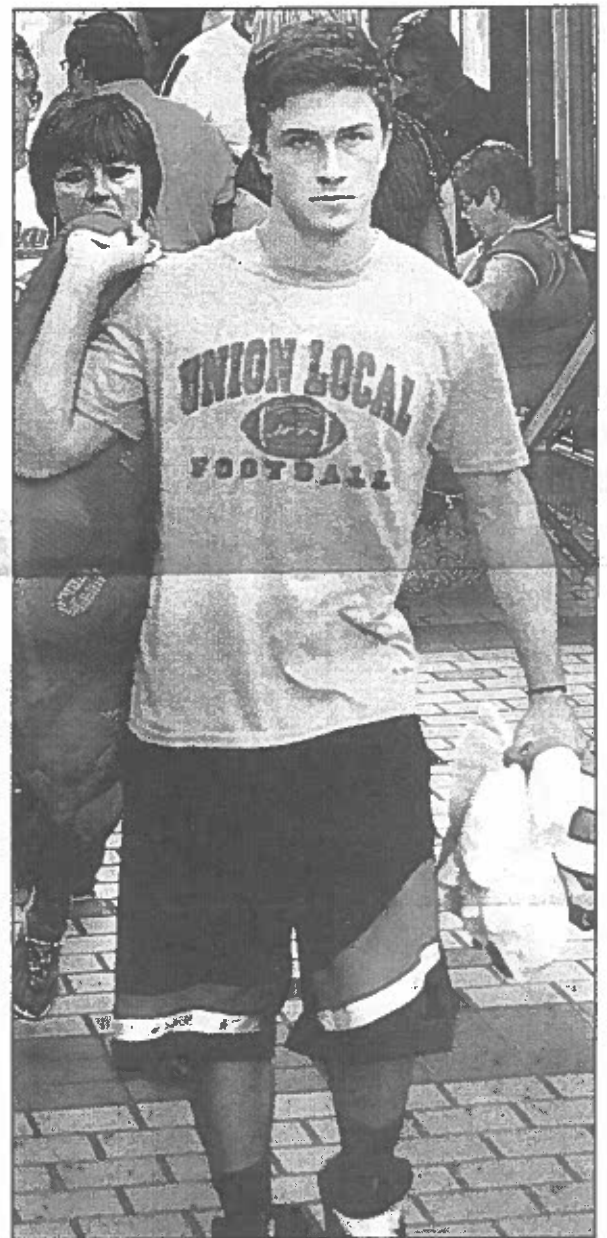
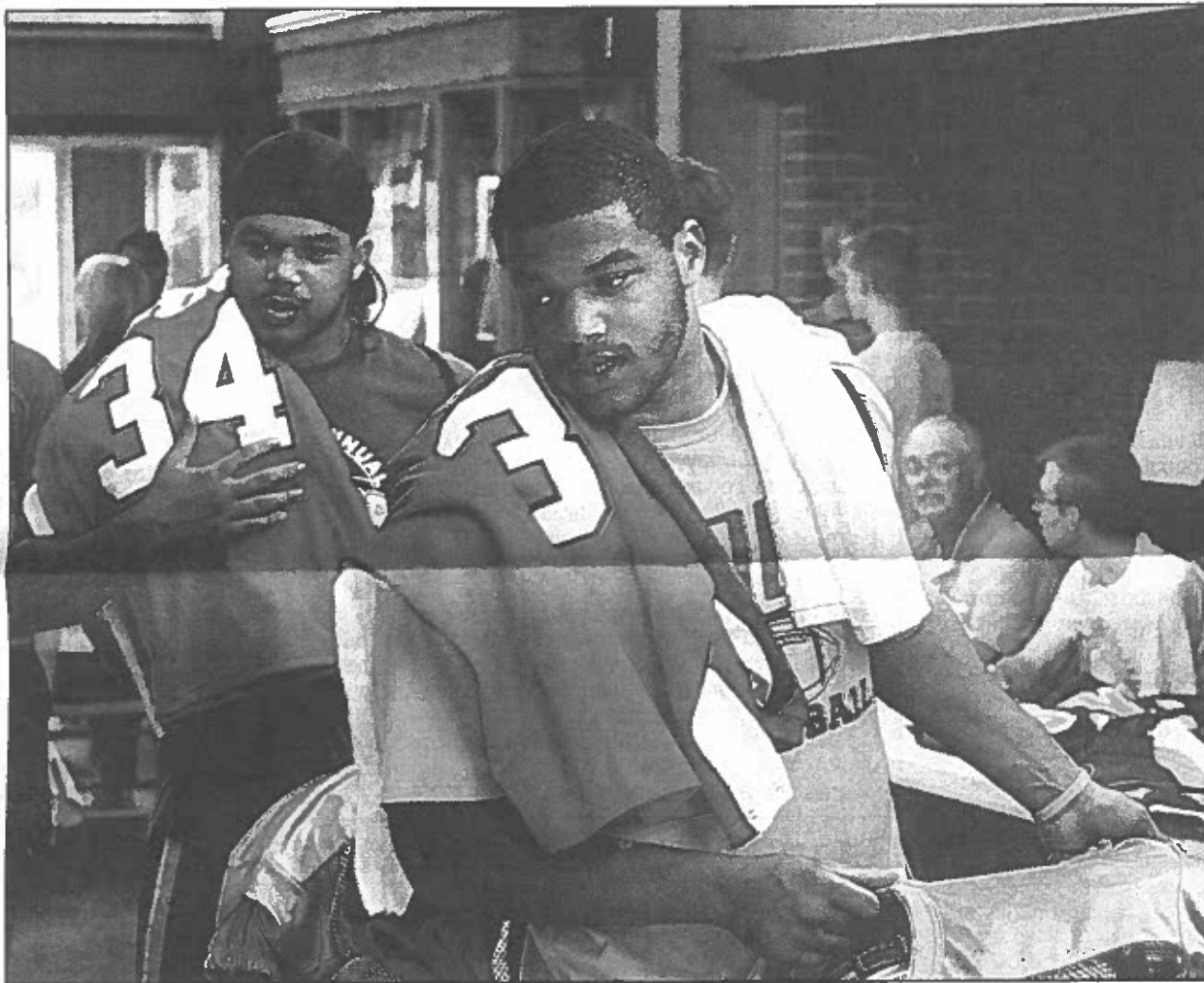
He didn't say anything about the next few days.

The old CBA expired March 11, when federally mediated negotiations fell

Scoreboard / B3
Counsel / B4
Comics / B5
Classifieds / B6-10

SPORTS

Monday,
July 18, 2011



TOP: Bridgeport's Chris (foreground) and Curt Smelley pick up their jerseys for next week's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic during Sunday's check-in day at Bethany College. The players began preparation Sunday evening.

RIGHT: Union Local's Bernie Thompson brings his stuff into the Thomas Phillips Johnson Health & Recreation Center on the Bethany College campus Sunday morning as the players and coaches reported to begin camp for the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Moving-in day at Bethany College

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — The rosters are finally complete and the preparations for this weekend's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic are under way.

The players and coaches formally reported to camp Sunday afternoon inside the Thomas Phillips Johnson Health and Recreation Center on the Bison campus.

Both teams were given their room assignments, uniforms, a physical examination, went through a respective team meeting and ate dinner before they hit the practice field.

Ohio hit the practice field at approximately 6 p.m. and stayed until dark without its equipment as Buckeyes' head coach Dave Bruney and his staff put their play-



ers through a workout to see where they are physically.

"We can't tell how good of shape these kids came in until we raise their pulse and respiration rates and we're going to do that," Bruney said.

The players were scheduled to be back on the practice field this morning from 7:45 a.m. until 11 a.m. with a break for lunch. The players and coaches were also sched-

uled to take part in media day.

"After pictures, we're planning on going back out in the evening, but the rest of the week we'll go out earlier in the afternoon," Bruney said.

After weeks of roster juggling because of players opting not to play or their respective colleges advising their future players not to play, the coaches could actually get focused on installing their offensive and defensive schemes.

See, **MOVING-IN**, Page B2

● Moving-in

Continued from Page B1

"My wife and I went on vacation last week, and I was trying to jockey the roster and still spend time with her," said West Virginia head coach Mark Batton. "The last couple of weeks have been challenging, but I think we've got a nice group put together with a lot of nice football players. It's been a long summer leading up to all of this, but I am anxious to start putting names with faces, be around the kids and get to know them."

Bruney, however, made one final phone call to his 33 players to make sure they'd be present on Sunday because once the teams report for camp, no further replacements can be made.

"They all made it and we're looking forward to it," Bruney said. "We've got a short period of time to get everything in and taken care of, so you need an adrenaline rush to be able to get that done."

One player, who had no questions or second thoughts about his participation in the game is Union Local wide receiver Bernie Thompson.

"It's a big honor for me to be here and represent Union Local," Thompson said. "I've been coming to this game since I was five, and I always told myself that I was going to work hard and make it to this game. I am just happy as can be to be here and looking forward to the week."

This is the first camp at Bethany after many, many years at West Liberty. However, increasing costs on the Hilltopper campus forced the OVAC's hand to look elsewhere and it went some five miles out Route 88.

"Bethany College has been very, very accommodating to the OVAC," Bruney said. "I am sure they'll be some kinks here or there in the first year or two, but they'll get them worked out. The rooms and facilities are great."

Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OVAC PLAYERS

**RUDY MUMLEY OVAC
ALL-STAR CHARITY CLASSIC
OHIO VS. WEST VIRGINIA
Sunday, July 24th, 2011
Kickoff 7:15 p.m.
Wheeling Island Stadium**

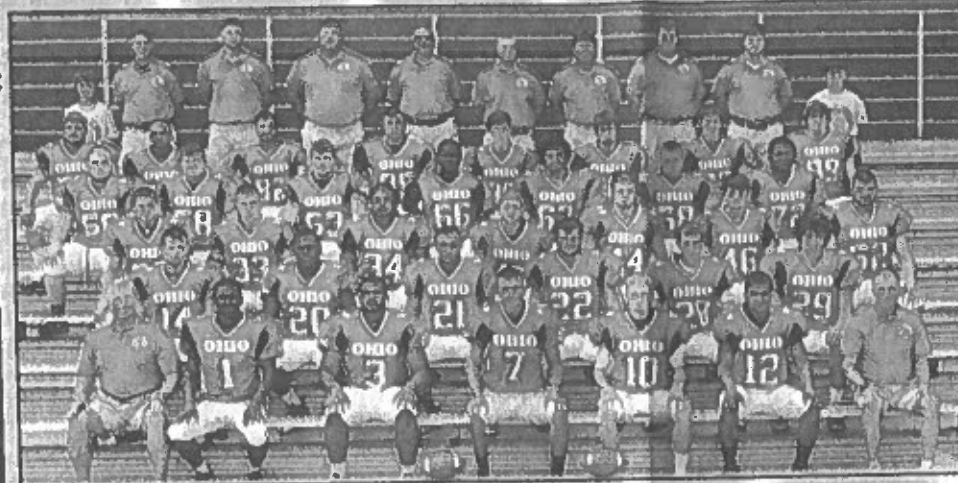


Photo Courtesy/BRIGGS PHOTOGRAPHY
PICTURED IS the Ohio squad for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic. Front row, from left, are head coach Dave Bruney, Willie Leavell (East Liverpool), Chris Smelley (Bridgeport), Zach Kinnick (St. Clairsville), Ellis Brown (Shadyside), Joe Zebbs (St. Clairsville) and assistant coach Bill Bruney. Second row, from left, are Tanner Wright (River), Josh Tolliver (Bellaire), Kyle Blanchard (Harrison Central), Jake Brunoni (Frontier), Casey Bain (Martins Ferry) and Corey Ficklesen (Frontier). Third row, from left, are Johnny Byers (Edison), Trevor Mourar (Meadowbrook), Curt Smelley (Bridgeport), Michael Rose (Martins Ferry), Niko Otto (Indian Creek), Tyler Kurtz (Barnesville) and Aaron Silverio (Shadyside). Fourth row, from left, are Kody Edwards (East Liverpool), Caleb Gunn (Cambridge), John Eckroth (Steubenville), Willie Pruitt (Steubenville), Mason Campbell (Steubenville), Zak Stiles (St. Clairsville) and John Thompson (East Liverpool). Fifth row, from left, are Jack Beavers (Martins Ferry), Garrett Price (Bridgeport), Bobby Dayton (Martins Ferry), Marcus Schumacher (Monroe Central), Bernie Thompson (Union Local), Taylor Brown (Shadyside), Brent Kirk (Buckeye Local) and Logan Hudson (Shadyside). Top row, from left, are manager Corey Bennett, assistant coaches John Bennett, Rich Materkoski, Jim Hoover, Joe Kosar, Joe Mamone, Mike Rose, Nick Stankovich, Chas Yoder and manager Dalton Hoover.

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Photo courtesy of Briggs Photography
Pictured is the West Virginia squad for the Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic. Front row, from left, are head coach Mark Batton, Traeh Keller (Magnolia), Joey Musick (Morgantown), Logan Martin (John Marshall), Joey DiNardo (Brooke), Kyle Pytlak (Linsy) and trainer Randy Elliott. Second row, from left, are Jordan Angalich (Bishop Donahue), Reuben Pine (Weir), Phil Acrie (Linsy), Marcus Clifford (Wheeling Central), Zach Morris (Wheeling Park), Chris Eloi (Weirton Madonna) and Ryan Lazear (Brooke). Third row, from left, are Boone Kahrer (Tyler Consolidated), Chance Rowland (Oak Glen), Billy Perkins (Brooke), Alex Schramm (Wheeling Park), Jeff Kidder (Parkersburg South) and Sam Shephard (Magnolia). Fourth row, from left, are Anthony Pederson (Brooke), Davie Sivert (Valley), Matt Riggs (Magnolia), Dan Heupp (Weir), John Duplaga (Wheeling Central), Hayden Greenleaf (Weirton Madonna) and Chris Williams (John Marshall). Fifth row, from left, are Tyler Jacovetty (Wheeling Central), Kaleb Kucera (Bishop Donahue), Michael Berardi (John Marshall), McKenzie Paluchette (Wheeling Central), Tanner Whyte (Cameron), Jared Adrian (Morgantown), Shane Koper (Oak Glen) and Nick Romito (Morgantown). Sixth row, from left, are manager Drew Keller, manager Jayson Keller, assistant coaches Bob Ripley, Mark Blai



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Photo by Rick Thorp

Former Brooke all-stars Joe DiNardo, left, and Ryan Lazear share a few thoughts during Media Day for the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

All-Stars Meet Media, Get Down to Business

Batton says club will be aggressive on defense

By RICK THORP
Staff Writer

BETHANY — The pomp and circumstance surrounding preparations for the 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic was at its pinnacle Monday as participants gathered for Media Day festivities.

Bethany College's Thomas P. Johnson Health and Recreation Center, along with the adjoining Bison Stadium, served as a respite for the nearly 60 players and their coaches from what has already been a jam-packed camp.

West Virginia coach Mark Batton and Ohio mentor Dave Bruney both wasted little time in getting looks at their personnel.

Both squads went through a light workout Sunday evening before gathering for a pair of practices Monday.

"I'm just real impressed with these players," said Batton, who guided Magnolia to a

West Virginia Class AA championship last season.

"We were able to get a lot of stuff in, both offensively and defensively.

"These guys have been coached very well and we've been able to speed up the process a little quicker than we thought.

"We're really pleased."

Batton, coaching his second summer gleam game, and first since 2007, was struck by his team's speed.

"That's a key," he said. "We like our speed and quickness, and defensively we like how aggressive we are.

"We had to blow the whistle a couple of times Sunday because they wanted to get after it. That's a great sign."

West Virginia is looking to win consecutive games in the series for the first time since 1993 and 1994. The Mountaineers snapped a five-game skid to their Ohio River rivals last July, dominating the second half of a 24-14 triumph.

Ohio topped West Virginia, 6-3, in Batton's other all-star coaching stint.

Please See BUSINESS, Page 16

Thorp
OVAC
Notebook

Heat May Turn Into A Factor

BETHANY — West Virginia and Ohio all-stars were feeling the heat Monday afternoon at Bethany College.

And it wasn't coming from their coaches.

The FieldTurf surface at Bison Stadium, which is only a few years old, was boiling as players, coaches, members of the media and game staff ventured on to it for the first time for Media Day festivities.

Everyone could see the heat literally rising off the field as they exited the day's news conference inside the Thomas P. Johnson Health and Recreation Center.

Players donned their shoulder pads and jerseys for the event, which was split almost evenly between the Mountaineers and Buckeyes.

Each team spent about 45 minutes on the field. And, despite a light breeze, the temperature was certainly a topic of conversation.

But, as Mother Nature would likely say in her "Scent of a Woman" Col. Slade voice "I'm just gettin' warmed up."

Pardon the pun.

The hottest conditions of the summer are forecast to get hotter as the week moves forward.

That's a fact not lost on West Virginia trainer Randy Elliott.

Elliott, the veteran trainer from Oak Glen High School, and Herb Minch, the trainer at West Liberty University, are paying special attention to weather conditions.

"We were out (Monday) morning and by 9 a.m. (The heat) was pretty intense," said Elliott, who has served as an OVAC gleam game trainer for about 35 years.

Please See THORP, Page 16

BUSINESS

(Continued from Page 15)

And this Sunday, the veteran coach said his formula will be similar.

"As far as the routine of this week, we're more comfortable," he said. "But this is the way we coach at Magnolia. We're not coaching this game any differently.

"My assistants are all my good friends. They're not assistants to me, they're all head coaches. They know how we do things at Magnolia and we're not going to change things up here."

Batton had the luxury of selecting his players from a larger pool as Parkersburg South, Morgantown, University and Hundred were added to the mix.

But it will be two local products that

will get time at quarterback for Sunday's 7:15 p.m. kickoff at Wheeling Island Stadium — Bishop Donahue's Jordan Angalich and Linsly's Kyle Pytlak.

Options at running back include Wheeling Central's Marcus Clifford, Linsly's Phil Acrie, Wheeling Park's Zach Morris, Weirton Madonna's Chris Eloi and Brooke's Ryan Lazear.

Depth is also something Bruney, coaching in his fifth all-star game, is pleased to possess.

"Most of the guys came in in pretty good shape and, barring injury, we'll have enough depth that we won't have to play a lot of kids a lot both ways," Bruney said.

THORP

(Continued from Page 15)

"We hear by Thursday and Friday it's going to be unbearable."

How do the players cope with it? Elliott said the answer's old school.

"I keep telling the kids to stay hydrated and watch the color in their urine and things like that," he said.

"Stick with the fruits and stay away from the pops, coffees and other diuretics. Keep that urine clear."

Elliott used to use a tachometer to keep track of the conditions. Technology has changed that.

"You can do stuff like that on your phone," Elliott said, holding up his smartphone. "You get temperature, humidity. It's amazing what technology can do."

While most of the players have been away from the field since November, both coaches were impressed with the shape of their players as they arrived at camp.

"I think they're in great shape," West Virginia coach Mark Batton said. "We were on turf Sunday and running. The receivers and running backs were in good shape. We really didn't see anyone bending over and gasping for air."

It's All Relative

Each year, there's always a current

all-star with family ties to the past.

Oak Glen's Shane Koper, Brooke's Ryan Lazear and River's Tanner Wright will be receiving pointers on how to handle their all-star experience this July.

Koper has the largest all-star pedigree. His grandfather played in the 1960 game, while his father, Richard, and his uncle, Rob, competed in 1987 and 1982, respectively.

Lazear's grandfather, Harry, participated in 1946, while his father, Jim, competed in 1983.

Wright's father, Donnie, played in the 1981 tilt.

The Men in Stripes

Wheeling's Bill Wilhelm and Moundsville's Chuck Taskalines will serve as honorary officials for Sunday's 7:15 p.m. kickoff at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Game officials this year include: Bill Walter, referee; Mark Vukelic, umpire; Mark Kerwood, linesman; Jon Hamm, line judge; Larry Shane; Bob Gaylor, field judge; Lance Jacob, back judge.

That's the Ticket

Tickets to the game are available at many locations on the West Virginia and Ohio sides of the Ohio River. They are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the gate. Fans aged 5 and under are admitted

"You never know what's going to happen. We'll limit our contact and do enough to get an indication of what we're going to do and get everyone through the game healthy and win."

Zack Kinnick (St. Clairsville), Corey Fickiesen (Frontier) and Johnny Byers (Edison) are the quarterbacks on the Ohio roster.

Bruney was excited by what he saw during practices Sunday and Monday, but he thinks he'll get a true pulse on his team today and Wednesday.

"We look pretty athletic," he said. "We have some pretty skilled players on offense and some guys that can react and move on defense."

"It should be fun."

free.

West Virginia ticket locations include Benwood (Kroger), Cameron (Greg's Market), Chester (Citizen Drug), Moundsville (Kroger), New Martinsville (Witschey's Supermarket), Warwood (Kroger), Weirton (Kroger), St. Thomas Drive and Main Street locations), Wellsburg (Kroger) and Wheeling (Kroger).

Ohio ticket locations are Bellaire (Kroger), Cambridge (The Jeffersonian), East Liverpool (All-Sports Supplies), Martins Ferry (Kroger), Shady-side (DeFelice Brothers Pizza), St. Clairsville (Kroger), Steubenville (Kroger and Smitty's Floors), Wellsville (Center Pharmacy), Wintersville (Kroger) and Woodsfield (Weber's Drugs).

Strike Up the Band

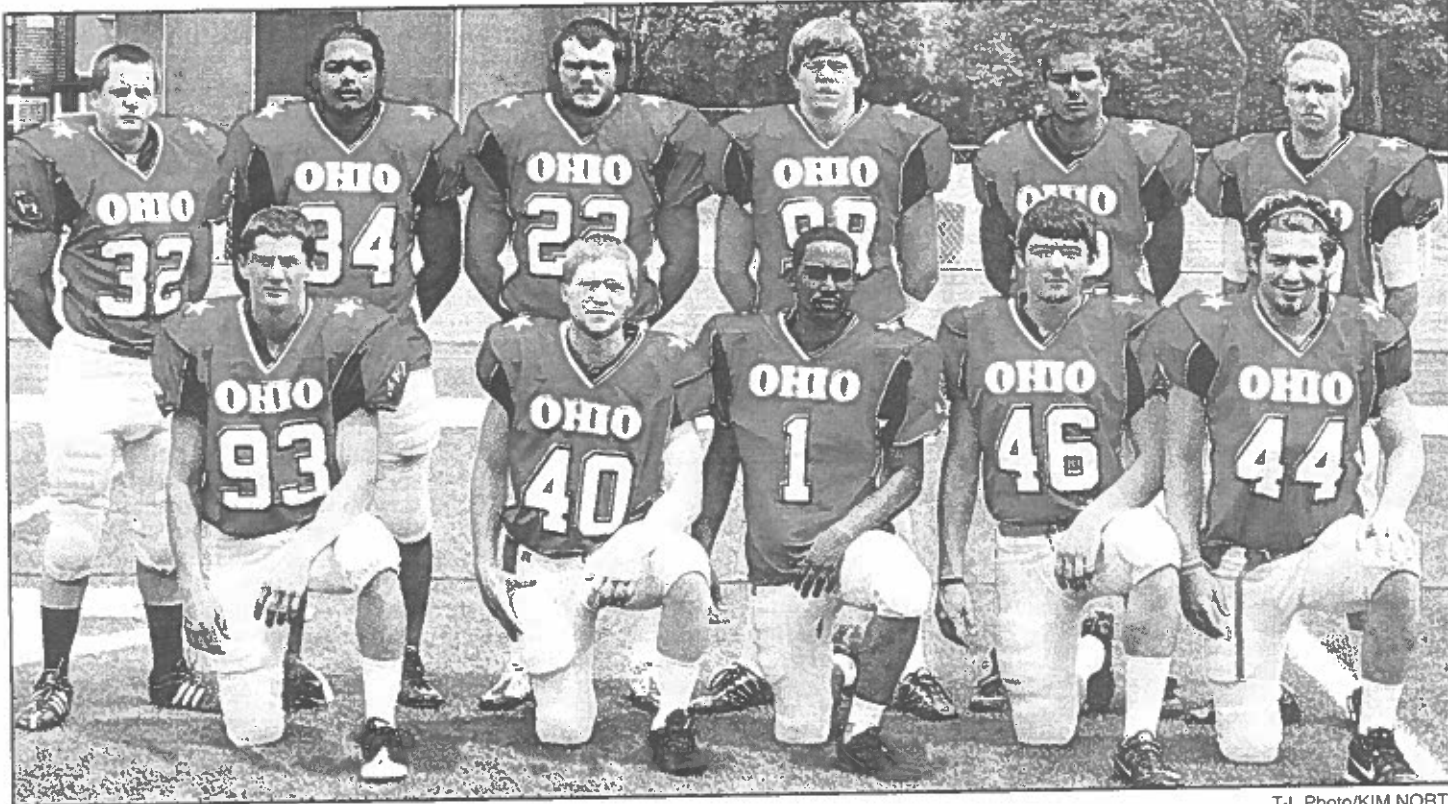
Dru Meyer will lead the 171-member OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band, which will report to Bethany later this week.

Leading the Cheers

Tyler Consolidated's Stephanie Starcher and St. Clairsville's Joanne Verba will guide the 20 cheerleaders who will arrive at camp later this week.

Rick Thorp can be reached via e-mail at Thorp@news-register.net

66th Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game



PICTURED ARE the Ohio linebackers and defensive backs for Sunday's 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kneeling, from left, are Brent Kirk (Buckeye Local), Mike Rose (Martins Ferry), Willie Leavell (East Liverpool), Tyler Kurtz (Barnesville) and Niko Otto (Indian Creek). Second row, from left, are Johnny Byers (Edison), Curt Smelley (Bridgeport), Jake Brunoni (Frontier), Logan Hudson (Shadyside), Joe Zebbs (St. Clairsville) and Ellis Brown (Shadyside).

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

OVAC Game is a dream come true for River's Wright



KIM NORTH
Kim's Korner:

BETHANY — For four long years, Tanner Wright dreamed of playing in the 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic.

Well, Sunday night the former River standout kicker/punter will get his chance as a member of the Ohio squad, just like his dad, Donnie, did in 1981.

"I've wanted to play in this game ever since my freshman season," Wright admitted during media day at Bethany College. "Now, I get my chance. This is what I've been working for."

However, just being selected to participate is an honor.

"It makes me feel pretty good to be the only player selected from River," he added. "It is quite an honor."

The life of a kicker can be pretty boring at times, both in practices and games, but Wright has it down pat.

"During practice, I usually work on field goals, kickoffs and punts for about an hour, then when I'm done with my stuff, I go shotgun snap to the quarterbacks. I try to help out wherever I can."

Does he have any goals for his last scholastic game?

"Just to kick a couple of field goals and help our team win the game," he allowed.

He said his range is anywhere up to 55 yards on a good day.

Following Sunday's contest at Wheeling Island Stadium, Wright will center his attention on playing at Glenville State College.

"I had been to Glenville for some games before I signed," he said. "The campus is only an hour-and-a-half from my house, so it's not that far. I really like the campus."

In addition to the Pioneers, Wright was also recruited by West Liberty and got a look from the University of Cincinnati his junior year.

Stonovich Was a Stonewall

Not having grown up in the Ohio Valley, I didn't get a chance to see George Stonovich play center at Bridgeport back in the 1950s.

However, after talking to him on more than several occasions and hearing others talk about him, it's no won-



Ohio names captains

• Kinnick, Otto, Smelley twins, Thompson voted to lead Buckeye State

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — Vince Lombardi once said, "leaders aren't born. They are made."

The leadership qualities of five Ohio players have earned them the right to serve as Buckeye State team captains in Sunday's 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, which is slated for 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Ohio head coach Dave Bruney announced that Zach Kinnick (St. Clairsville), Chris Smelley (Bridgeport), Curt Smelley (Bridgeport), Bernie Thompson (Union Local) and Niko Otto (Indian Creek) will lead Ohio in stretching and out for the coin flip.

The captains were selected with no input from the coaches, but strictly through a vote of the players.

Kinnick, who is expected to start at quarterback for Ohio, has taken command of the huddle during the week and won over his teammates in that regard.

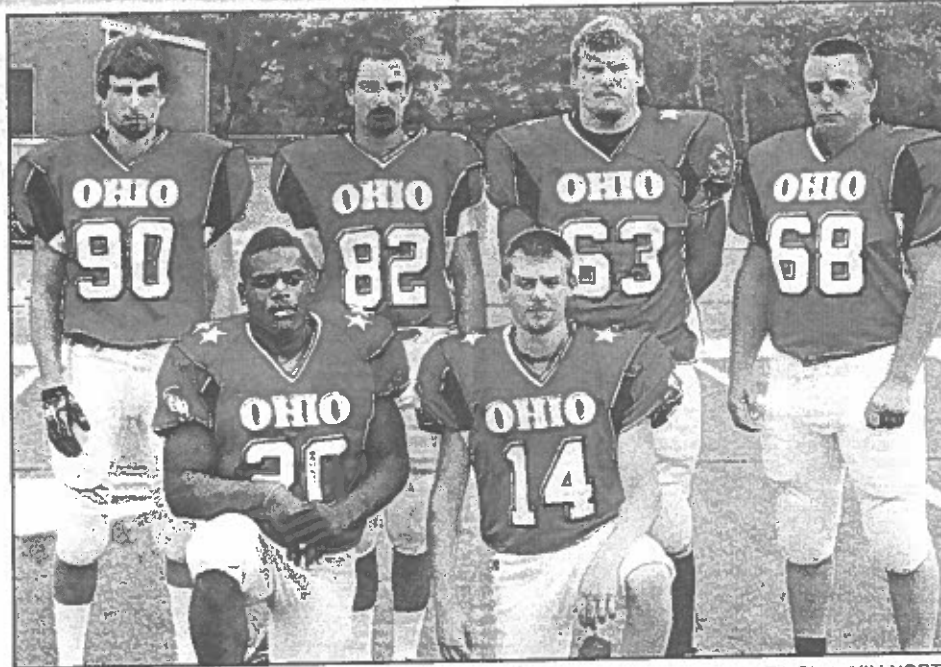
"I was surprised when Coach Bruney told me about it," Kinnick said. "There are a lot of good guys on this team, so to be named captain and respected by my teammates means a lot to me."

Kinnick, who earned first-team all-Ohio at St. Clairsville, served as a captain this past season for the Red Devils and approached this week of camp much like he approached his final prep season.

"Leadership and taking command in the huddle are important," Kinnick said. "I've just tried to lead by example. The week's been real fun, but we're tired of going against each other and we're ready to play the game."

The Smelley twins came into camp as two of the more bally-hooed players on the Buckeye side of the river.

"Our teammates like us," Curt Smelley



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the Ohio defensive linemen and kicker for Sunday's OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. Kneeling, from left, are Josh Tolliver (Bellaire) and kicker Tanner Wright (River). Standing, from left, are Taylor Brown (Shadyside), Bobby Dayton (Martins Ferry), John Eckroth (Steubenville) and Zak Stiles (St. Clairsville).

said. "We've gotten along well with everyone. Our teammates all wanted to meet us early in the week because they'd heard so much about the Smelleys."

Curt, who is expected to see time at full-back and defensive end, was a first-team all-stater for Bridgeport last season, helping the Bulldogs to a perfect regular season. He's looking forward to leading Ohio in Sunday's game and the added pressure, which comes along with being the team leader.

"We're going to go out and play our hardest for everyone," Smelley said. "We

enjoy pressure and it makes us play harder."

Chris is taking the same approach he did for the Bulldogs, where he also served as captain.

"I am just doing the same things I did at Bridgeport," Chris said. "My teammates know what to expect from me. I am going to play as hard as I can when I get on the field and whatever happens, happens. It's just a great thing to be voted a captain of an all-star team."

See, **OVAC**, Page D2

See, **WRIGHT**, Page D2

● Wright ● OVAC

Continued from Page D1

der he will be recognized during Sunday's game as part of the 1956 classic.

Go Team Go

Of the 10 cheerleaders selected to represent the Buckeye State Sunday, eight are from The Times Leader coverage area. They include Barnesville's Brooke Swallie, Bridgeport's Autumn Price, Buckeye Local's Kylie Hunker, Shadyside's Olivia Morgan and Lindsey Penick, St. Clairsville's Taylor Martin and Jamie Matkovich, and Union Local's Mackenzie DiPerna.

The other two are Indian Creek's Miranda Treglia and Shenandoah's Taylor Fannin.

Congratulations to all!

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com



Continued from Page D1

Thompson re-wrote Union Local and Ohio Valley record books for receiving last season, catching more than 100 balls for just over 1,000 yards.

In Sunday's game, the diminutive Thompson is expected to get the call at one of the wide receiver spots. He's impressed Bruney all week with his willingness to do anything possible to help the team.

"This is one heck of an honor," Thompson said. "With as much talent as we have, and to be named a captain, it's just a really big honor. This has been an awesome experience. Not just the football, but everything else. Bethany College has put us in a great spot this week, and it's been a really fun week."

Thompson doesn't feel any added pressure or need to press the issue Sunday, but rather let the game come to him.

"I am going to do everything and anything I can to help the team win," Thompson said. "I am just blessed to be here and looking forward to the game."

The teams wrapped up their final double session on Friday as temperatures soared well into the triple digits on the Bison stadium turf.

Ohio practiced without any equipment, while West Virginia also went light on the top. Both teams will go through a light morning workout today and then relax before this evening's pep rally at Bethany.

OVAC NOTES

■ **GAME OFFICIALS** haven't announced any plans for delaying Sunday's kickoff because of heat and inclement weather. However, OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak did acknowledge that it's a possibility if the respective team doctors feel people are at risk.

■ **OHIO DEFENSIVE** coordinator Bill Bruney left Buckeyes' camp Friday morning, but will return for



the game. Bruney's oldest daughter, Mandy, is getting married this afternoon in Columbus. Head coach Dave Bruney, who is Mandy's uncle, will miss the ceremony.

"I told Bill to give her a hug and a kiss for me and tell her 'I loved her,'" Dave Bruney said.

"It would have been tough for me to go, but (Mandy) understands because she's from a football family. When I consented to do this game, I consented to do it, so we're going to do it the best we can."

■ **THE PLAYERS** loaded up the Brooke County school buses once again and headed for Ohio County to watch the Queen of Queens pageant Friday evening. Many of the players' families and girlfriends were on hand at the event, but that's okay with Bruney...under certain conditions.

"I asked the kids to remember who they were and keep their wits about them," Bruney said. "I told them to enjoy the event, but beware of the carnival atmosphere and not to let it get you too sidetracked."

■ **THE** players are getting a taste of what college life is all about this week and video games are a big part of the collegiate experience.

According to the Smelley twins, the Frontier duo of Corey Fickiesen and Jacob Brunoni are extremely talented players in NCAA Football 2012, which just came out last week. The Smelleys were both eliminated early in the Buckeye State team tournament.

Staskey can be reached at staskey@timesleaderonline.com



PICTURED ARE the Ohio quarterbacks for Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. From left are Corey Fickeisen (Frontier) and Zach Kinnick (St. Clairsville). Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

Relationships already taking hold at OVAC All-Star camp

• Players, coaches take part in media day; Preparations continue

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — It doesn't take long for the relationships to form once the players get into camp for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

For the Ohio players, who reported to the Bison campus Sunday afternoon, it took all of maybe a few hours and when the players met with the media Monday the bond had taken shape.

"In the dorm and stuff, you can definitely see the kids starting to form a relationship," said Ohio head coach Dave Bruney, who is in the midst of coaching his fifth OVAC game. "After two or three more prac-

tices, I think we'll see even more of that (on the field)."

While many of the players only knew the kids from their respective schools or players they locked horns with during the season, some had formed bonds through other sports.

For instance, four of the players, Bellaire's Josh Tolliver, Monroe Central's Marcus Schumacher, Harrison Central's Kyle Blanchard and Shadyside's Ellis Brown, knew each other through their participation in the OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic this past April.

However, Brown, who is expected to play defensive back this weekend, is enjoying the opportunity to get to know his new teammates more on a personal level because of the extended camp.

"I love making friends, so this is a great experience for me," Brown said. "I've only been here for a day and this is already better than the basketball game. I think it's because you're more isolated with the players, but knowing the other basketball players was a big key."

The three other Ohioans, who played all-star hoops, were: Bellaire's Josh Tolliver, Monroe Central's Marcus Schumacher and Harrison Central's Kyle Blanchard.

With the new setup at Bethany, the players are in quad rooms this year, whereas in years past, the West Liberty University dorms have only allowed for two in a room, meaning the players are up close and personal with even additional guys.

Once the players checked into their rooms Sunday, they immediately went to work in an all-star game tradition and traded helmet logos. Nowadays, players

See, **OVAC**, Page B2

OVAC All-Star Game
Who: Ohio vs. West Virginia
When: Sunday, 7:15
Where: Wheeling Island Stadium
Tickets: Available in advance for \$7 or at the gate for \$10.
Radio: AM 1600
Television: WTOV-9

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

also immediately exchange cell phone numbers and befriend each other on Facebook.

"Everyone's been hanging out and having a good time," said St. Clairsville's Zach Kinnick. "There's absolutely no bad blood on the team from anything that happened in high school or anything like that."

While the newly formed relationships are something OVAC All-Stars past and present treasure, the business portion of the trip kicked in again this morning as the players went through the first of two more practices today. They'll do the same thing on Wednesday, which is when Bruney expects to get a real look at how well his players are grasping the offensive and defensive schemes.

"On Tuesday and Wednesday is when we should be able to get a true indication of what we have," Bruney said. "We look pretty athletic, we've got some skill and some guys who can move and react on defense, so it should be fun."

After putting the Buckeye squad through a rigorous workout Sunday evening, which lasted nearly until dark, Bruney came away quite impressed with in what kind of shape his 33 players reported.

"Barring injury, I think we'll have enough depth to the point where we don't have to play a lot of kids both ways," Bruney said. "You never know what's going to happen, but the worst thing that can happen is have a kid get injured up here in practice, so we're really limiting our contact and do enough to get an indication."

OVAC NOTES

■ THE OVAC All-Star Game benefits charities and the Osiris Shrine is a beneficiary. The players and coaches will see a film documenting the work done by the Shrine and enjoy a pizza party this evening, starting at 7 p.m. in the theater on the Bison campus.

■ ADVANCE tickets for Sunday's game, which will kick off at 7:15 p.m. are currently on sale a variety of locations around the Ohio Valley, including all area Kroger stores. Tickets in advance cost \$7, which is \$3 off the gate price.

Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

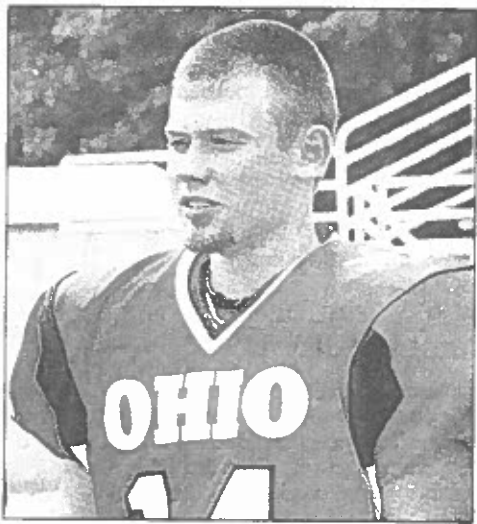


Photo by Rick Thorp

River's Tanner Wright will kick for the Ohio side during Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Wright Kicks His Way To All-Star Nod

River standout follows in his dad's footsteps

By RICK THORP
Staff Writer

BETHANY — Clothes lines are normally reserved for daily apparel.

But for Tanner Wright, the thin white line served as the origin for a kicking career that has led him to great heights.

Wright will serve as Ohio's kicker for Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic. And it should come as no surprise to anyone who followed prep football in the Ohio Valley the last four years that Coach Dave Bruney made this choice.

The former River High School standout was one of the top, if not *the* top, kickers in the area for Coach Mike Flannery.

Always a threat from 40, even 50, yards away, Wright was a secret weapon for Flannery and one he used to perfection in the Pilots' stellar 2008 playoff run.

"I'm very honored to be here," Wright said of the all-star invite. "My dad played in this game 30 years ago, so that makes this much more important."

Donnie Wright, who also played at River, was the one who got Tanner on the kicking path.

"My dad started just one random day," Tanner remembered. "He got out a football and had me try to kick it over a clothes line. It's just taken off since then."

Tanner Wright played youth soccer, a background held by many who take up kicking. But it wasn't until seventh grade that he delved into it on a regular basis.

And, at first, the results weren't pretty.

"I didn't do too well," Wright, also the son of Kelly Wright, said smiling. "I was trying out for seventh grade and couldn't make an extra point."

Please See **WRIGHT**, Page 15

WRIGHT

(Continued from Page 13)

But he and his father didn't quit. From that point, many hours of practice were put in. And by the time the younger Wright entered his freshman year at River, he was ready to give it a shot for the Pilots.

"I worked really hard and I felt prepared," Wright said.

But Flannery still needed to be convinced.

"He warmed up to it after he saw me kick a few times," Wright noted.

Wright also tried to play wide receiver, but eventually he settled into a kicker/punter-only role.

As late as the 2010 season, Wright still ran routes to help quarterbacks in practice.

All told, the 5-foot-11, 165-pounder earned four letters and connected on 91 of 96 extra-point attempts. As a punter, he averaged a hair

above 37 yards per boot, including five measuring more than 50 yards.

His longest field goal in a game was 41 yards, but in practices he would sometimes hit from 60.

Wright earned a plethora of accolades for his kicking, including All-Ohio, All-OVAC, All-Valley and All-PVC recognition, proof the camps he attended at places like West Virginia University and Cincinnati paid off.

"They taught me a lot about how to strike the ball and drive through a kickoff and other stuff I wouldn't have thought about," Wright said.

Wright will attend Glenville State in the fall and has been recruited to kick and punt for the Pioneers.

"It was a really good fit for me," he said. "I'll have an opportunity to play and I'm ready to take advantage of that opportunity."

The Intelligencer.

H.C. Ogden, Publisher 1904-1943

Perry A. Nardo, General Manager — John McCabe, Managing Editor

4

Friday, July 22, 2011

Weekend Will Be Full of Fun

Here in the Ohio Valley, we don't reserve our special events and activities for holiday weekends. We simply have too many cultural, recreational, educational and athletic offerings to do that.

This coming weekend stands out, because of the annual Upper Ohio Valley Italian Heritage Festival and the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game and related activities.

Either of the two events would be enough to draw huge crowds to Wheeling. Together, they are an irresistible attraction.

OVAC All-Star events have been in progress this week, leading up to the big game between high school football teams from West Virginia and Ohio. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:15 p.m. Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

In addition to showcasing the best high school football players from our region, the OVAC event includes all-star cheerleaders and an all-star band. And at 7 p.m. today at WesBanco Arena, the annual OVAC Queen of

Queens Pageant will be held.

As is the case with most such events, the OVAC activities would not be possible without the help of many volunteers. Led by OVAC Executive Secretary/Treasurer Thomas E. Rataiczak, they deserve high commendation for their efforts.

The Italian Festival, scheduled at Wheeling's Heritage Port from this afternoon through 5:30 p.m. Sunday, has grown to become one of the largest cultural celebrations in the tri-state area. This year it boasts 19 performing artists, the usual wide variety of food vendors and special observances such as the Veterans Ceremony at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Volunteers also are responsible for the success of the Italian Festival and, under the leadership of Chairman Robert Gaudio, also merit high praise.

It's going to be one of the most enjoyable weekends of the year here in the Ohio Valley. We join our extended community in thanking all who make the events possible.

SPORTS

ay, July 20, 2011 • B2

● Teams

Continued from Page B1

"This has been like a refresher once we got (to camp)," Kinnick said.

"It was a big help to do that because we've got a lot to remember this week, but now it's just a matter of getting the technique and terminology down."

Since many schools in the Ohio Valley need to put their best athlete at quarterback so the ball is in his hands at all times, it leads to some changing of positions once they join forces.

However, from what Kinnick's gathered, it's highly beneficial.

"We have a lot of quarterbacks playing at receiver and you have a sense of how to get open, what to look for and what quarterbacks like," Kinnick continued.

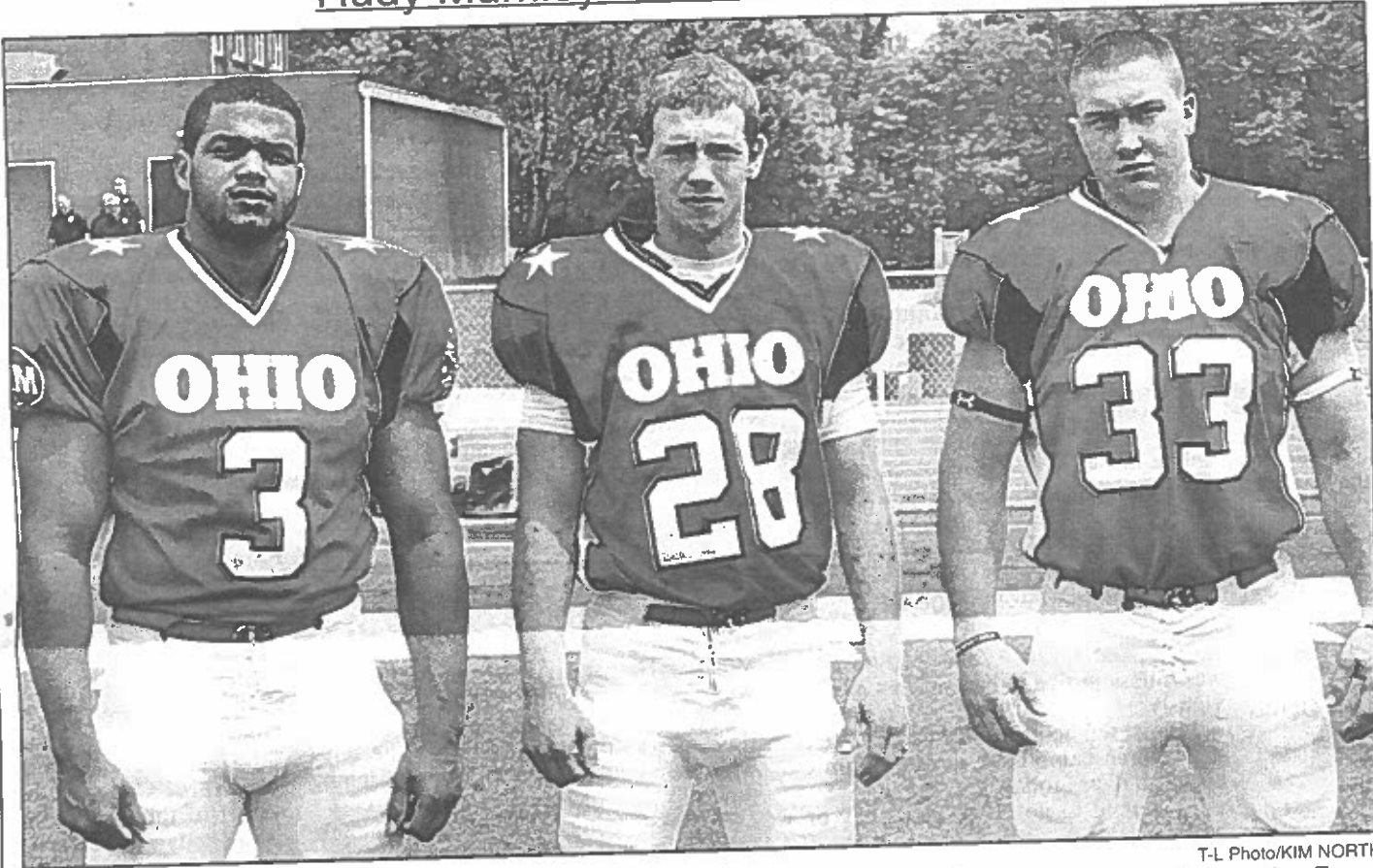
OVAC NOTES

THE PLAYERS will return to the practice field twice more today before boarding buses to the White Palace inside Wheeling Park for the annual George Strager Evening With the Stars.

THERE will be a little bit more action on Bethany's campus today. The OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band and OVAC All-Star Cheerleaders report to their respective camps today to begin their preparations for Sunday's game.

Staskey can be reached at ssaskey@timesleaderonline.com

Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

OHIO RUNNING backs for Sunday night's game are, from left, Chris Smelley (Bridgeport), Casey Bain (Martins Ferry) and Trevor Mourer (Meadowbrook). Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Teams prep for contest

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — The systems are nearly installed and the players are settling into their positions.

Yes, camp for the 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic is well under way on the Bison campus.

Both Ohio and West Virginia hit the practice field for two more practices Tuesday and were never slowed by a storm system, which rolled through the Ohio Valley during the morning as preparations for Sunday's 7:15 p.m. kickoff continues to draw closer.

"We're starting to get a true indication of what we've got," said Ohio head coach Dave Bruney. "We're limiting our contact, but doing enough to get a feeling of things because we're up here to have a good time, but also to win (the game)."

This past season, as Martins Ferry posted a solid 8-3 campaign, the Riders shifted to more of a spread attack and that's actually allowed for more of a seamless transition for the players since

OVAC All-Star Game
Who: Ohio vs. West Virginia
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so many teams have gone to that approach.

"Fortunately, there's enough talent in the OVAC that you can pick kids who kind of fit your system," Bruney said. "We actually picked the best kids we could, but we're going to do a lot of things we do at Martins Ferry and maybe take advantage of a special kid who can do a lot of things."

A quick glance up and down the Buckeye roster leaves a lot of possibilities from which to choose from for Bruney and his coaches.

Names like Garrett Price of Bridgeport, Casey Bain of Martins Ferry, Kyle Blanchard of Harrison Central and Chris Smelley of Bridgeport seem to jump off

the paper as players who could seemingly stretch the field at any moment.

"The kids all come from good programs and understand what we're trying to do," Bruney said. "Most of the kids have come from winning situations for the most part and fundamentally they all look pretty good."

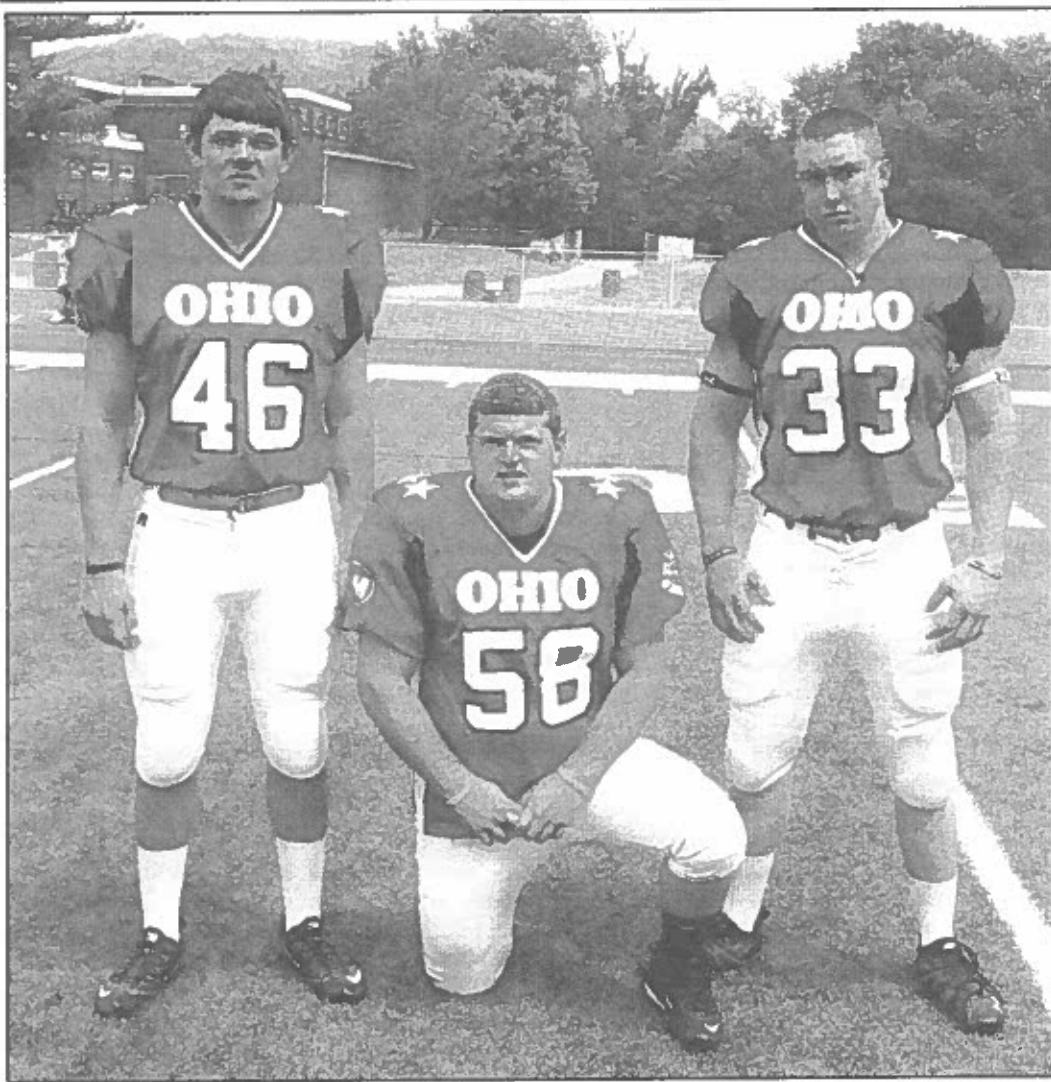
In the five practices thus far, execution hasn't always been the most challenging aspect.

"Everybody runs basically the same things, but they call it different things," Bruney said. "So, getting everyone familiar with the terminology is the biggest thing."

One of the on-going battles in camp has been at quarterback where St. Clairsville all-Ohioan Zach Kinnick and unheralded Frontier signal caller Corey Fickiesen have been getting the majority of the reps.

Both players came to camp ahead of the curve because each ventured to Purple Rider Stadium to get some work in with Bruney and offensive coordinator Rich Materkoski.

See, TEAMS, Page B2



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

These three players will represent the local area in the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic this Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kneeling in front is Caleb Gunn of Cambridge while standing are Tyler Kurtz of Barnesville and Trevor Mourer of Meadowbrook.

OVAC All-Star gridders getting down to business

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

BETHANY, W. VA. — With all of the preliminaries behind them — from checking in to media day activities — it's time to get down to business for the



players and coaches as preparations intensify for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

The annual mid-summer extravaganza will kick off the 69th year of the OVAC on Sunday, with game time at Wheeling Island Stadium set for 7:15 p.m.

Bethany College serves as the new home for the all-star camp, and Bison head coach Tim Weaver opened the OVAC with welcome arms.

"We're excited to be a part of this event" he stated. "I went to my first OVAC game in the summer of 2005, and I've been to about 200 all-star games

during my career, but when I saw how well this game was put together, I said then we need to get involved in it and we're looking forward to having everyone here throughout the week and being a partner with the OVAC."

Game director Bob Koch said the transition from West Liberty to Bethany has been almost seamless.

"There are always a few positives and negatives when you make a change, he acknowledged, "but everything is going very well so far and we're looking forward to a great week."

OVAC Executive Secretary/Treasurer Tom Rataiczak echoed those sentiments.

"Bethany is a first-class facility for the kids and they have pulled out all the stops for us," he related.

As far as the coaches, this year's game features Martins Ferry veteran Dave Bruney and his staff as the Ohio coaches while Mark Batton and the rest of the Magnolia High staff will guide the West Virginia squad.

Bruney will be making his sixth appearance as head coach and sixth overall (he played in the 1969 game). He sports a 5-0 record as coach, having won in 1979, '83, '99 and 2003.

While Bruney is all business

on the field, he says there's more to gain from an experience that the players will get this week.

"You'd like to win the game... that's why you're here," he stated, "but it's not the only reason. You want them to work hard, but to also enjoy the game and make some friendships they'll remember long after the game is over."

As far as the make-up of his squad, Bruney likes what he sees so far.

"I think the guys are in pretty good shape," he offered, "and I can tell these guys have come from good programs. We hope to play as many kids as we can one way. When we picked the team, we tried to pick 16 we thought would play primarily on offense and 16 who would mostly play defense to get them all as much time as we can.

"We've got some big, physical backs and some change-of-pace backs, too," he added. "I think we'll be ready by the weekend."

Batton, who led Magnolia to the West Virginia Class AA state championship last fall, is in his second go-round as a coach, having also played in the game in 1977.

"This is just a reflection on our 2010 team," he offered. "They were the ones who got us selected for this game based on the season they had."

Like Bruney, Batton feels this week is about more than the final score.

"The first time I came to the game was in the early '70s, and then I was fortunate to be selected to play in 1977," he related. "I've been around a lot of all-star games and the jealousy toward the OVAC game is unbelievable. Everything surrounding the game makes it very special week that these young men and women will never forget."



Abbie Orr

Kristin Oliver

Kylee McConnell

Local trio ready to compete in Queen of Queens Pageant

WHEELING, W. Va. — The Queen of Queens Pageant, held in conjunction with the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star

OVAC camp under way

OVAC from page B-1

est schools in the conference now," Bruney said of West Virginia, "so they've got kids who've had much more competition just to make their teams at those schools. Not intensity-wise, but competition-wise maybe they will be more prepared to compete against all-star caliber kids."

Guernsey County rivals Trevor Mourer of Meadowbrook and Caleb Gunn of Cambridge will suit up on the same side this time around, and both are very appreciative of the opportunity.

"I went to last year's game and was hoping to make it, so when Coach (Jesse Wells) told me, I was pretty excited," said Mourer, who will play at the University of Mount Union. "It looks like I'll play fullback and maybe some D-end.

"Coming off a rough season (with the Colts), I'm hoping to prove myself here as a player and get ready for the fall."

"It really is a great honor," echoed Gunn, who is headed for Muskingum University. "My dad got picked to play about 24 years ago, so that makes it special. We both played the same position (center) and wore the same number in high school (52).

"There's a battle for the center spot, but I'll either be there or at guard," he related. "It's been a little different because Coach Gunn (Kevin Gunn, the CHS line coach and Caleb's uncle) isn't here riding my butt all the time at practice."

EXTRA POINTS

The OVAC Cheerleaders will report to Bethany today, with the McDonald's All-Star Band (171 members strong) beginning its preparations on Wednesday...

Also Wednesday, the 25th annual "George Strager Evening With the Stars" banquet will take place at Wheeling Park's White Palace

beginning at 6:30 p.m., with players, coaches, cheerleaders all attending (reservations are required to attend)...

The Queen of Queens Pageant is scheduled for Friday at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling beginning at 7 p.m.; and there will be a Pep Rally at Bison Field on the campus of Bethany College on Saturday at 6 p.m. (there is no admission for the pep rally)...

While Koch serves as the All-Star Game Director, others with key roles include Dru Myers as the Band Coordinator; Dianna Vargo as the Evening with the Stars Coordinator; Reva



Icard as the Queen of Queens Director; Steve Kish as the Ten-Year Reunion Coordinator and John Howell as the Fifty-Year Reunion Coordinator...

Joanne Verba of St. Clairsville is the Ohio cheerleading coach while Stephanie Starcher of Tyler Consolidated will coach the West Virginia squad...

West Virginia won last year, 24-14, snapping a five-game winning streak by Ohio. The Buckeyes lead the overall series, 41-23 with one tie, including 26-12-1 under OVAC sponsorship...

The game will be televised live for the 20th consecutive year on WTOV-TV9 Sunday starting at 7 p.m. and will be re-aired at 11:30 p.m. that night.

Tickets for the game will be on sale Tuesday through Friday during regular business hours at The Daily Jeffersonian office in Cambridge. Advance tickets are \$7 and all tickets at the game are \$10.

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Ohio has traditionally come in as a prohibitive favorite, based on the number of schools compared to those on the West Virginia side, but Bruney feels that has been somewhat neutralized now that the likes of Parkersburg South, Morgantown and University have joined the conference.

"They've got the six larg-



Abbie Orr

Kristin Oliver

Kylee McConnell

Local trio ready to compete in Queen of Queens Pageant

WHEELING, W. Va. — The Queen of Queens Pageant, held in conjunction with the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic, will take place Friday at WesBanco Arena.

Included in the 26 queens representing area high schools are three local participants — Abbie Orr of Cambridge, Kristin Oliver of Buckeye Trail and Kylee McConnell of Barnesville.

The girls will compete Friday at 7 p.m. Master of Ceremonies will be Natalie Herbick and Eric Minor of WTOV-TV9. Reva Icard is the Queen of Queens Director.

A total of \$5,000 in scholarships will be awarded to the top five place winners including Miss Congeniality. The announcement will be made at halftime of the football game.

Tickets for the Queen of Queens competition are \$6 and may be purchased at the door.

See OVAC page B-3

SPORTS

Sunday
July 24, 2011

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

OVAC All-Stars ready for kickoff

Annual Ohio vs. West Virginia battle tonight at Wheeling Island Stadium

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

WHEELING, W. Va. — Will Dave Bruney keep his perfect record intact?

Will West Virginia make it two victories in a row?

Who will be crowned Queen of Queens?

How hot will it be on the turf at Wheeling Island Stadium?

Those questions and much more will be answered tonight when the 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic serves



as the official kickoff of the 2011-2012 school year, the 69th year of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference.

Coaches for the mid-summer extravaganza, featuring a collection many of the best players from the conference who graduated in 2010, are veteran Dave Bruney of Martins Ferry as the Ohio boss while Mark Batton of Magnolia guides the West Virginia squad.

Bruney will be appearing at the OVAC contest in a record sixth decade (one as a player and five as a coach) will be looking to stay spotless. He was on the winning side as a player representing Martins Ferry in 1969 before embarking on a collegiate career at Ohio University and has won all five of his appearance as head coach of the Buckeye squad (1979 representing Bridgeport and then in '83, '99 and 2003 as head coach of the Purple Riders).

Batton, who guided Magnolia to the West Virginia Class AA state championship last year, will be making his third appearance in the OVAC tussle. He played in the 1977 game and is in his second go-round as head coach.

Traditionally, Ohio has been the prohibitive favorite based on the number of schools on each side of the river, but that number has been reduced significantly over the last couple of years with the addition of four West Virginia schools, including three of the conference's biggest members Parkersburg South, Morgantown and University High.

West Virginia won last year's game, 24-14, to snap a five-year string by Ohio, but the Buckeyes still have a big lead

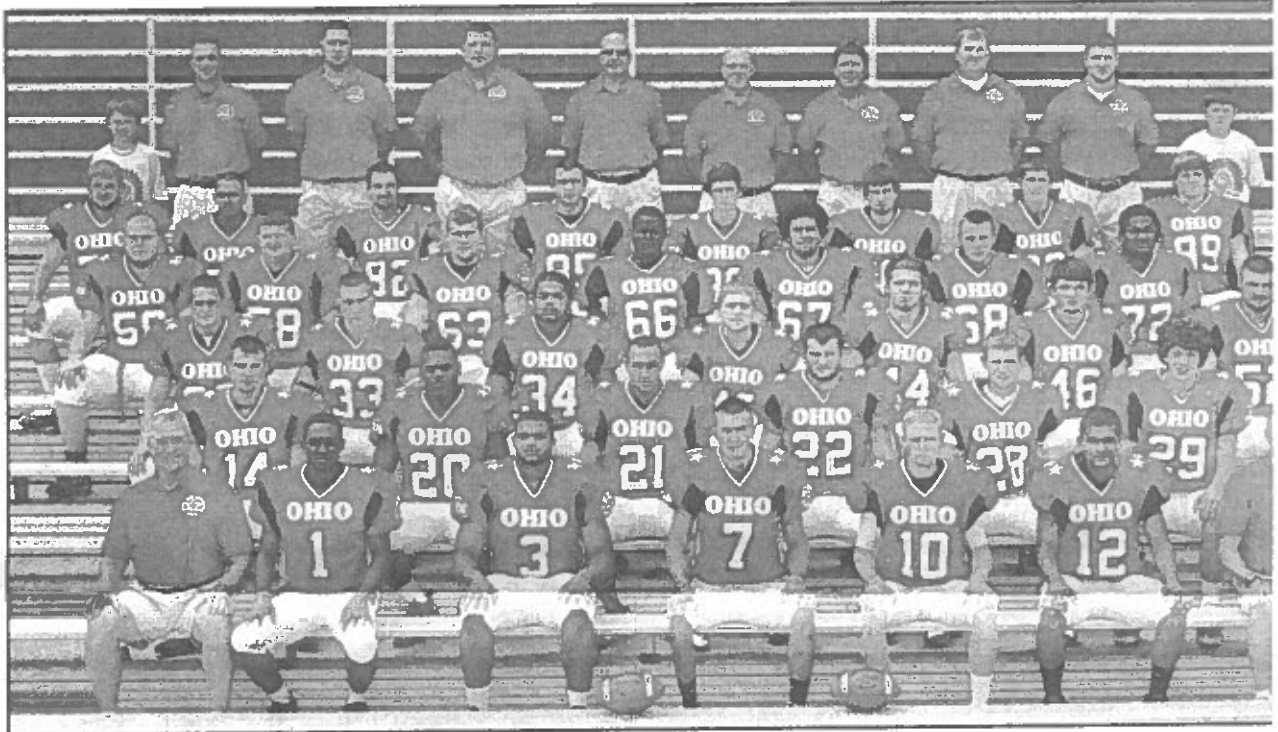


Photo Courtesy/Brigg

The Ohio squad for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic. Front row, 1 to r, head coach Willie Leavell (East Liverpool), Chris Smelley (Bridgeport), Zach Kinnick (St. Clairsville), Ellis Brown (Shadyside (St. Clairsville) and assistant coach Bill Bruney. Second row, Tanner Wright (River), Josh Tolliver (Bellaire), Kyle (Harrison Central), Jake Brunoni (Frontier), Casey Bain (Martins Ferry) and Corey Fickiesen (Frontier). Third row, J (Edison), Trevor Mourer (Meadowbrook), Curt Smelley (Bridgeport), Michael Rose (Martins Ferry), Niko Otto (In Tyler Kurtz (Barnesville) and Aaron Silverio (Shadyside). Fourth row, Kody Edwards (East Liverpool), Caleb Gunn (John Eckroth (Steubenville), Willie Pruitt (Steubenville), Mason Campbell (Steubenville), Zak Stiles (St. Clairsville) Thompson (East Liverpool). Fifth row, Jack Beavers (Martins Ferry), Garrett Price (Bridgeport), Bobby Dayton (Ma Marcus Schumacher (Monroe Central), Bernie Thompson (Union Local), Taylor Brown (Shadyside), Brent Kirk (Bu and Logan Hudson (Shadyside). Sixth row, manager Corey Bennett, assistant coaches John Bennett, Rich Materkoski Joe Kosar, Joe Mamone, Mike Rose, Nick Stankovich, Chas Yoder and manager Dalton Hoover.



Caleb Gunn



Trevor Mourer



Tyler Kurtz

in the all-time series at 41-23 with one tie, including a 26-12-1 mark since the OVAC took over sponsorship of the game in 1972.

After battling through a week of intense heat as the teams went through practice sessions at Bethany College, Bruney unveiled the likely makcup of Ohio's lineup for tonight's game.

On offense, the interior line will feature Cambridge's Caleb Gunn and East Liverpool's Kody Edwards at center; Steubenville's Willie Pruitt at left guard; Shadyside's Aaron Silverio at right guard; Steubenville's Mason Campbell at left tackle; and Martins Ferry's Jack Beavers at right tackle.

The receivers are Monroe

Past Scores of OVAC All-Star Classic

(OVAC Sponsorship)	1985 - W. Va. 28, Ohio 26	1960 - Ohio 7, W. Va. 6
2010 - W. Va. 24, Ohio 14	1984 - Ohio 23, W. Va. 6	1959 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 6
2009 - Ohio 47, W. Va. 7	1983 - Ohio 26, W. Va. 16	1958 - Ohio 25, W. Va. 0
2008 - Ohio 31, W. Va. 7	1982 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 6	1957 - Ohio 14, W. Va. 13
2007 - Ohio 6, W. Va. 3	1981 - Ohio 17, W. Va. 14	1956 - Ohio 27, W. Va. 0
2006 - Ohio 22, W. Va. 0	1980 - Ohio 10, W. Va. 7	1955 - Ohio 31, W. Va. 20
2005 - Ohio 35, W. Va. 6	1979 - Ohio 47, W. Va. 13	1954 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 0
2004 - W. Va. 21, Ohio 7	1978 - Ohio 21, W. Va. 13	1953 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 0
2003 - Ohio 32, W. Va. 26	1977 - W. Va. 21, Ohio 0	1952 - Ohio 26, W. Va. 13
2002 - Ohio 19, W. Va. 12	1976 - W. Va. 53, Ohio 20	1951 - Ohio 13, W. Va. 6
2001 - Ohio 36, W. Va. 0	1975 - W. Va. 8, Ohio 0	1950 - Ohio 14, W. Va. 0
2000 - Ohio 13, W. Va. 7	1974 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 6	1949 - W. Va. 6, Ohio 0
1999 - Ohio 32, W. Va. 0	1973 - W. Va. 38, Ohio 20	1948 - Ohio 20, W. Va. 7
1998 - Ohio 41, W. Va. 14	1972 - Ohio 24, W. Va. 6	1947 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 7
1997 - Ohio 24, W. Va. 14	(Pre-OVAC Sponsorship)	1946 - Ohio 26, W. Va. 7
1996 - Ohio 43, W. Va. 21	1971 - No game	1945 - No game
1995 - Ohio 21, W. Va. 0	1970 - No game	1944 - No game
1994 - W. Va. 19, Ohio 14	1969 - W. Va. 12, Ohio 0	1943 - No game
1993 - W. Va. 34, Ohio 32	1968 - Ohio 6, W. Va. 0	1942 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 0
1992 - 0-0 (Canceled/Lightning)	1967 - W. Va. 18, Ohio 0	1941 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 0
1991 - Ohio 30, W. Va. 8	1966 - Ohio 26, W. Va. 0	1940 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 0
1990 - Ohio 42, W. Va. 0	1965 - Ohio 22, W. Va. 0	Overall series: Ohio 41, W. Va. 23, 1 tie
1989 - W. Va. 22, Ohio 14	1964 - Ohio 2, W. Va. 0	Under OVAC sponsorship: Ohio 26
1988 - Ohio 13, W. Va. 7	1963 - No game	wins, W. Va. 12 wins, 1 tie
1987 - Ohio 13, W. Va. 11	1962 - W. Va. 12, Ohio 6	Pre-OVAC sponsorship: Ohio 15
1986 - Ohio 14, W. Va. 6	1961 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 0	wins, W. Va. 11 wins

Central's Marcus Schumacher as the primary tight end, with Harrison Central's Kyle Blanchard, Bridgeport's Garrett Price and Union Local's Bernie Thompson as the wideouts.

Sharing the quarterback duties will be St. Clairsville's Zach Kinnick and Frontier's Corey Fickiesen; Bridgeport's Curt Smelley will be at fullback; and his twin brother, Chris Smelley

and Martins Ferry

sharing the tailback

On defense, the

line up with M

Bobby Dayton

Josh Tolliver, M

Trevor Mourer

Smelley all seen

end; Steubenv

Eckroth, St. Cla

Stiles and East

John Thompson

tackle; Martins

Rose, Barnesv

Kurtz, Frontier's

and Edison's J

at outside lineb

Creek's Niko Ott

Logan Hudson,

and Schumacher

at inside lineba

Clairsville's

See OVA

SPORTS

nts regarding stories, or ideas es, please e-mail y-jeff.com

OVAC All-Stars ready for kickoff

Ohio vs. West Virginia battle tonight at Wheeling Island Stadium

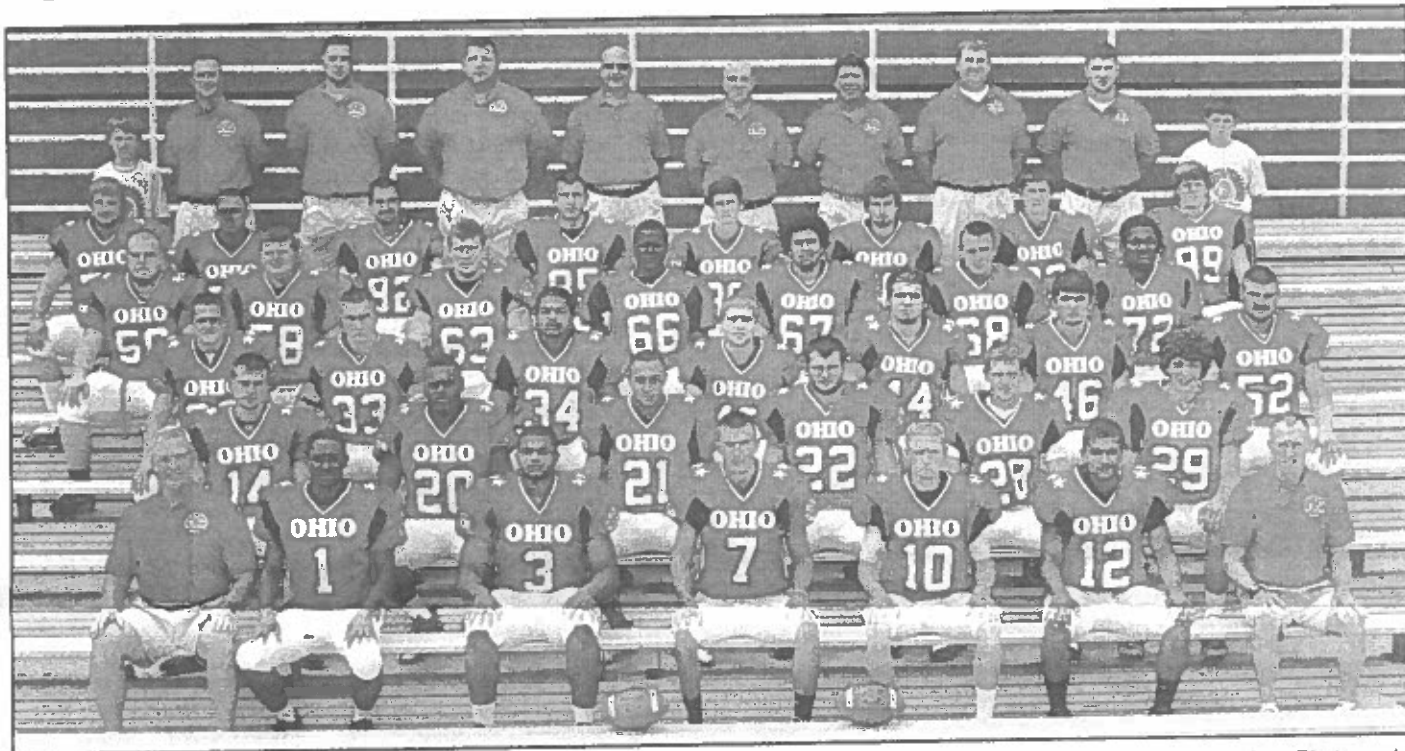


Photo Courtesy/Briggs Photography

The Ohio squad for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic. Front row, l to r, head coach Dave Bruney, Willie Leavell (East Liverpool), Chris Smelley (Bridgeport), Zach Kinnick (St. Clairsville), Ellis Brown (Shadyside), Joe Zebbs (St. Clairsville) and assistant coach Bill Bruney. Second row, Tanner Wright (River), Josh Tolliver (Bellaire), Kyle Blanchard (Harrison Central), Jake Brunoni (Frontier), Casey Bain (Martins Ferry) and Corey Fickiesen (Frontier). Third row, Johnny Byers (Edison), Trevor Mourer (Meadowbrook), Curt Smelley (Bridgeport), Michael Rose (Martins Ferry), Niko Otto (Indian Creek), Tyler Kurtz (Barnesville) and Aaron Silverio (Shadyside). Fourth row, Kody Edwards (East Liverpool), Caleb Gunn (Cambridge), John Eckroth (Steubenville), Willie Pruitt (Steubenville), Mason Campbell (Steubenville), Zak Stiles (St. Clairsville) and John Thompson (East Liverpool). Fifth row, Jack Beavers (Martins Ferry), Garrett Price (Bridgeport), Bobby Dayton (Martins Ferry), Marcus Schumacher (Monroe Central), Bernie Thompson (Union Local), Taylor Brown (Shadyside), Brent Kirk (Buckeye Local) and Logan Hudson (Shadyside). Sixth row, manager Corey Bennett, assistant coaches John Bennett, Rich Materkoski, Jim Hoover, Joe Kosar, Joe Mamone, Mike Rose, Nick Stankovich, Chas Yoder and manager Dalton Hoover.

as the official kickoff of the 2011-2012 school year, the 69th year of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference.

Coaches for the mid-summer extravaganza, featuring a collection many of the best players from the conference who graduated in 2010, are veteran Dave Bruney of Martins Ferry as the Ohio boss while Mark Batton of Magnolia guides the West Virginia squad.

Bruney will be appearing at the OVAC contest in a record sixth decade (one as a player and five as a coach) will be looking to stay spotless. He was on the winning side as a player representing Martins Ferry in 1969 before embarking on a collegiate career at Ohio University and has won all five of his appearance as head coach of the Buckeye squad (1979 representing Bridgeport and then in '83, '99 and 2003 as head coach of the Purple Riders).

Batton, who guided Magnolia to the West Virginia Class AA state championship last year, will be making his third appearance in the OVAC tussle. He played in the 1977 game and is in his second go-round as head coach.

Traditionally, Ohio has been the prohibitive favorite based on the number of schools on each side of the river, but that number has been reduced significantly over the last couple of years with the addition of four West Virginia schools, including three of the conference's biggest members Parkersburg South, Morgantown and University High.

West Virginia won last year's game, 24-14, to snap a five-year string by Ohio, but the Purple Riders still have a big lead

in the all-time series at 41-23 with one tie, including a 26-12-1 mark since the OVAC took over sponsorship of the game in 1972.

After battling through a week of intense heat as the teams went through practice sessions at Bethany College, Bruney unveiled the likely makeup of Ohio's lineup for tonight's game.

On offense, the interior line will feature Cambridge's Caleb Gunn and East Liverpool's Kody Edwards at center; Steubenville's Willie Pruitt at left guard; Shadyside's Aaron Silverio at right guard; Steubenville's Mason Campbell at left tackle; and Martins Ferry's Jack Beavers at right tackle.

The receivers are Monroe

Past Scores of OVAC All-Star Classic

(OVAC Sponsorship)	1985 - W. Va. 28, Ohio 26	1960 - Ohio 7, W. Va. 6
2010 - W. Va. 24, Ohio 14	1984 - Ohio 23, W. Va. 6	1959 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 6
2009 - Ohio 47, W. Va. 7	1983 - Ohio 26, W. Va. 16	1958 - Ohio 25, W. Va. 0
2008 - Ohio 31, W. Va. 7	1982 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 6	1957 - Ohio 14, W. Va. 13
2007 - Ohio 6, W. Va. 3	1981 - Ohio 17, W. Va. 14	1956 - Ohio 27, W. Va. 0
2006 - Ohio 22, W. Va. 0	1980 - Ohio 10, W. Va. 7	1955 - Ohio 31, W. Va. 20
2005 - Ohio 35, W. Va. 6	1979 - Ohio 47, W. Va. 13	1954 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 0
2004 - W. Va. 21, Ohio 7	1978 - Ohio 21, W. Va. 13	1953 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 0
2003 - Ohio 32, W. Va. 26	1977 - W. Va. 21, Ohio 0	1952 - Ohio 26, W. Va. 13
2002 - Ohio 19, W. Va. 12	1976 - W. Va. 33, Ohio 20	1951 - Ohio 13, W. Va. 6
2001 - Ohio 36, W. Va. 0	1975 - W. Va. 8, Ohio 0	1950 - Ohio 14, W. Va. 0
2000 - Ohio 13, W. Va. 7	1974 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 6	1949 - W. Va. 6, Ohio 0
1999 - Ohio 32, W. Va. 0	1973 - W. Va. 38, Ohio 20	1948 - Ohio 20, W. Va. 7
1998 - Ohio 41, W. Va. 14	1972 - Ohio 24, W. Va. 6	1947 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 7
1997 - Ohio 24, W. Va. 14	(Pre-OVAC Sponsorship)	1946 - Ohio 26, W. Va. 7
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1995 - Ohio 21, W. Va. 0	1970 - No game	1944 - No game
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1991 - Ohio 30, W. Va. 6	1966 - Ohio 26, W. Va. 0	1940 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 0
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Central's Marcus Schumacher as the primary tight end, with Harrison Central's Kyle Blanchard, Bridgeport's Garrett Price and Union Local's Bernie Thompson as the wideouts.

Sharing the quarterback duties will be St. Clairsville's Zach Kinnick and Frontier's Corey Fickiesen; Bridgeport's Curt Smelley will be at fullback; and his twin brother, Chris Smelley

and Martins Ferry's Casey Bain sharing the tailback spot.

On defense, the Buckeyes will line up with Martins Ferry's Bobby Dayton, Bellaire's Josh Tolliver, Meadowbrook's Trevor Mourer and Chris Smelley all seeing action at end; Steubenville's John Eckroth, St. Clairsville's Zak Stiles and East Liverpool's John Thompson at defensive tackle; Martins Ferry's Mike Rose, Barnesville's Tyler Kurtz, Frontier's Jake Brunoni and Edison's Johnny Byers at outside linebacker; Indian Creek's Niko Otto, Shadyside's Logan Hudson, Curt Smelley and Schumacher seeing time at inside linebacker; and St. Clairsville's Joe Zebbs.

See OVAC page B-2

IAN
Va. — Will
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annual Rudy
C All-Star
Classic serves



Gunn



Mourer



Kurtz

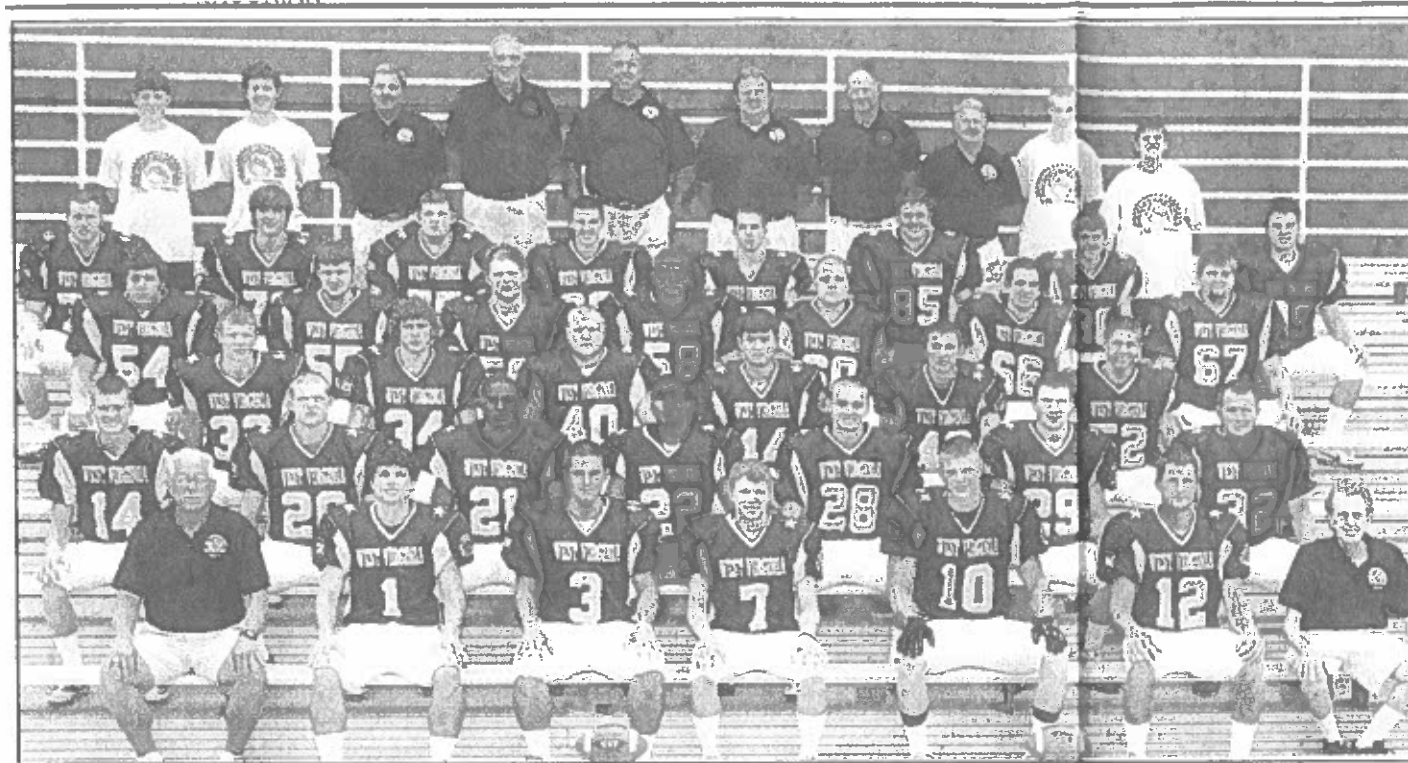


Photo courtesy of Briggs Photography

The West Virginia squad for the Rudy Mumley OVAC Charity All-Star Football Classic. Front row, 1 to r, head coach Mark Batton, Traeh Keller (Magnolia), Joey Musick (Morgantown), Logan Martin (John Marshall), Joey DiNardo (Brooke), Kyle Pytlak (Linsly) and trainer Randy Elliott. Second row, Jordan Angalich (Bishop Donahue), Reuben Pine (Weir), Phil Acrie (Linsly), Marcus Clifford (Wheeling Central), Zach Morris (Wheeling Park), Chris Eloi (Weirton Madonna) and Ryan Lazear (Brooke). Third row, Boone Kehrer (Tyler Consolidated), Chance Rowland (Oak Glen), Billy Perkins (Brooke), Alex Schramm (Wheeling Park), Jeff Kidder (Parkersburg South) and Sam Shepherd (Magnolia). Fourth row, Anthony Pederson (Brooke), Davie Sivert (Valley), Matt Riggs (Magnolia), Dan Heupp (Weir), John Duplaga (Wheeling Central), Hayden Greenlief (Weirton Madonna) and Chris Williams (John Marshall). Fifth row, Tyler Jacovetty (Wheeling Central), Kaleb Kucera (Bishop Donahue), Michael Berardi (John Marshall), McKenzie Peluchette (Wheeling Central), Tanner Whyte (Cameron), Jared Adrian (Morgantown), Shane Koper (Oak Glen) and Nick Romito (Morgantown). Sixth row, manager Drew Keller, manager Jayson Keller, assistant coaches Bob Ripley, Mark Blair, Dave Chapman, Moke Riggs, Jim West, Dave Grandstaff, manager Chase West and manager Matty Filippelli.

OVAC stars clash tonight

OVAC from page B-1

Shadyside's Taylor Brown, East Liverpool's Willie Leavell and Buckeye Local's Brent Kirk in the secondary.

River's Tanner Wright will handle the Ohio kicking duties.

Serving as the Ohio captains will be the Smelley brothers, Otto, Kinnick and Bernie Thompson.

Game time is 7:15 p.m.

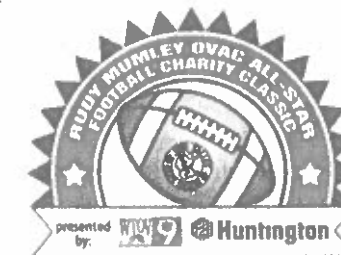
EXTRA POINTS

Forty-one of the 48 schools in the OVAC are represented by participants in activities related to this year's game including the McDonald's All-Star band (171 members strong), Queen of Queen Candidates (26), cheerleaders (20) and football players (66).

Three area girls were among the competitors in Queen of Queens Pageant which took place Friday at WesBanco Arena — Abbie Orr of Cambridge, Kristin Oliver of Buckeye Trail and Kylee McConnell of Barnesville. The winners will be crowned at halftime of tonight's game...

Two local girls are on the Ohio cheerleading squad — Taylor Fannin of Shenandoah and Brooke Swallie of Barnesville...

Barnesville is the only area



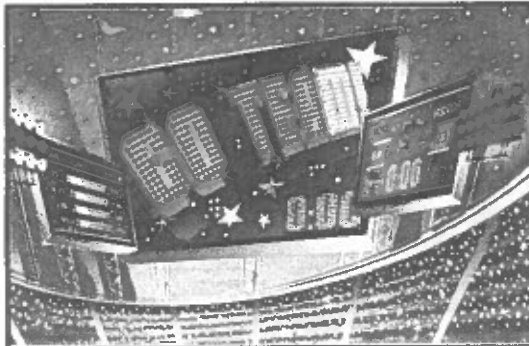
school represented in the OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band. The Shamrock contingent includes Laura Winland, Alex Davidson, Melanie Callihan and Becky Huntsman...

A host of past all-stars will be recognized throughout the game, including the 10-year reunion group from 2001 and three 50-year reunion groups from 1956, '57 and '58...

Officials for the game include Bill Walter (referee); Mark Vukelic (umpire), Mark Kerwood (linesman), Jon Hamm (line judge), Chris Larry Shane (side judge), Bob Gaylor (field judge) and Lance Jacob (back judge).

The honorary officials are Bill Wilhelm of Wheeling and Chuck Taskalines of Moundsville...

In 39 years, the game has donate nearly \$850,000 to charity organizations and scholarships throughout the Ohio Valley..



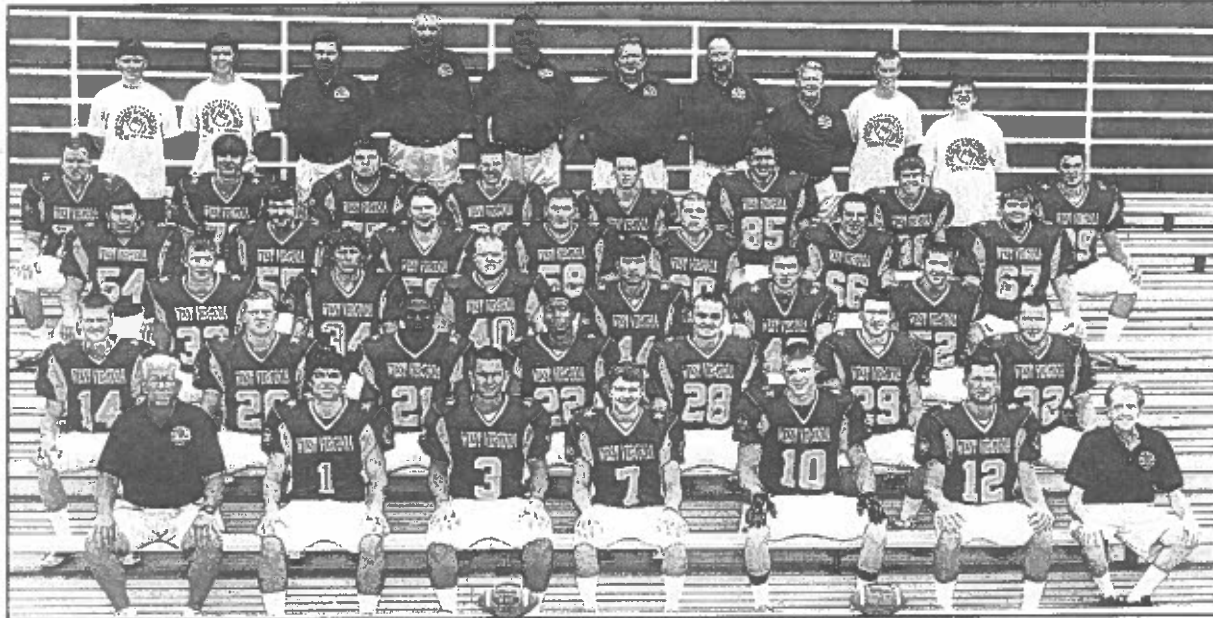
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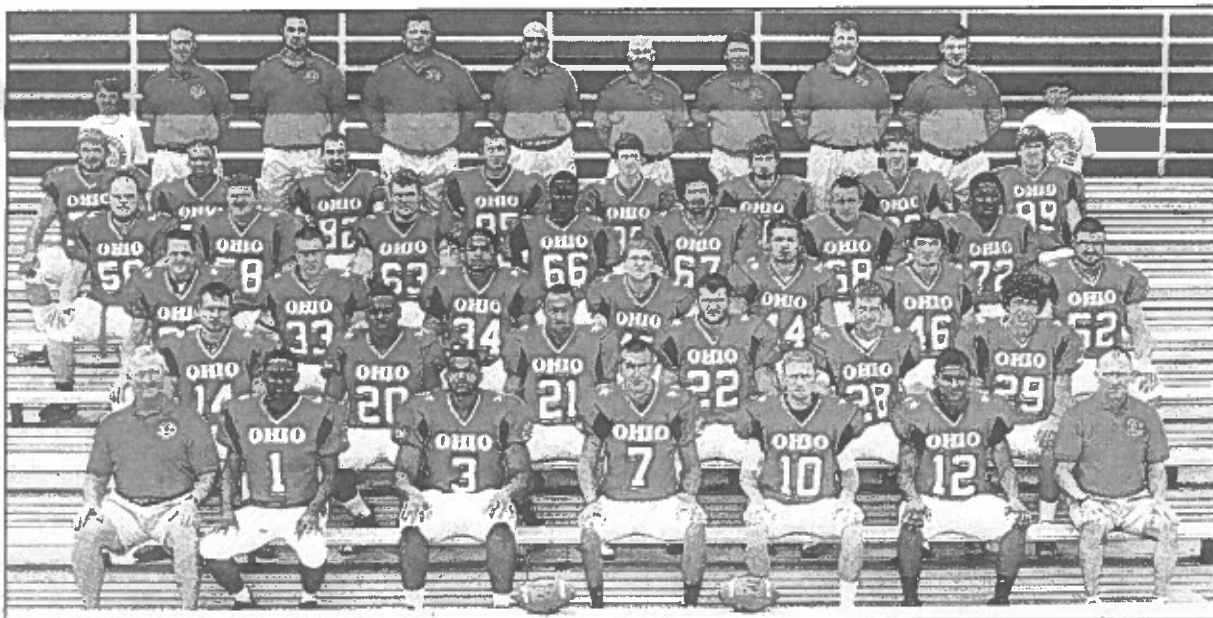
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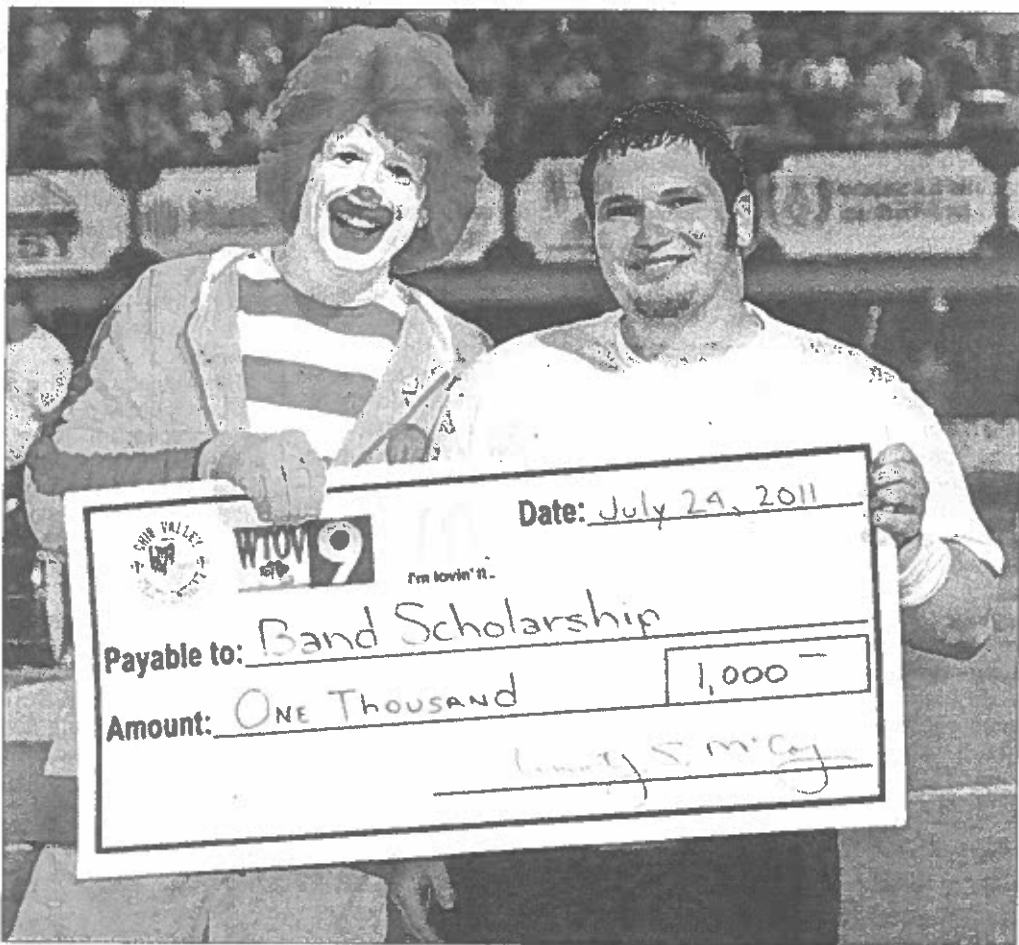
HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

Bellaire 476-1165 St. Clairsville 692-0140 Pomeroy 792-4565 Barnesville 425-1991

Good Luck to our Monarchs in
 the OVAC All Star Game

**MIKE BERARDI
 LOGAN MARTIN
 CJ WILLIAMS**

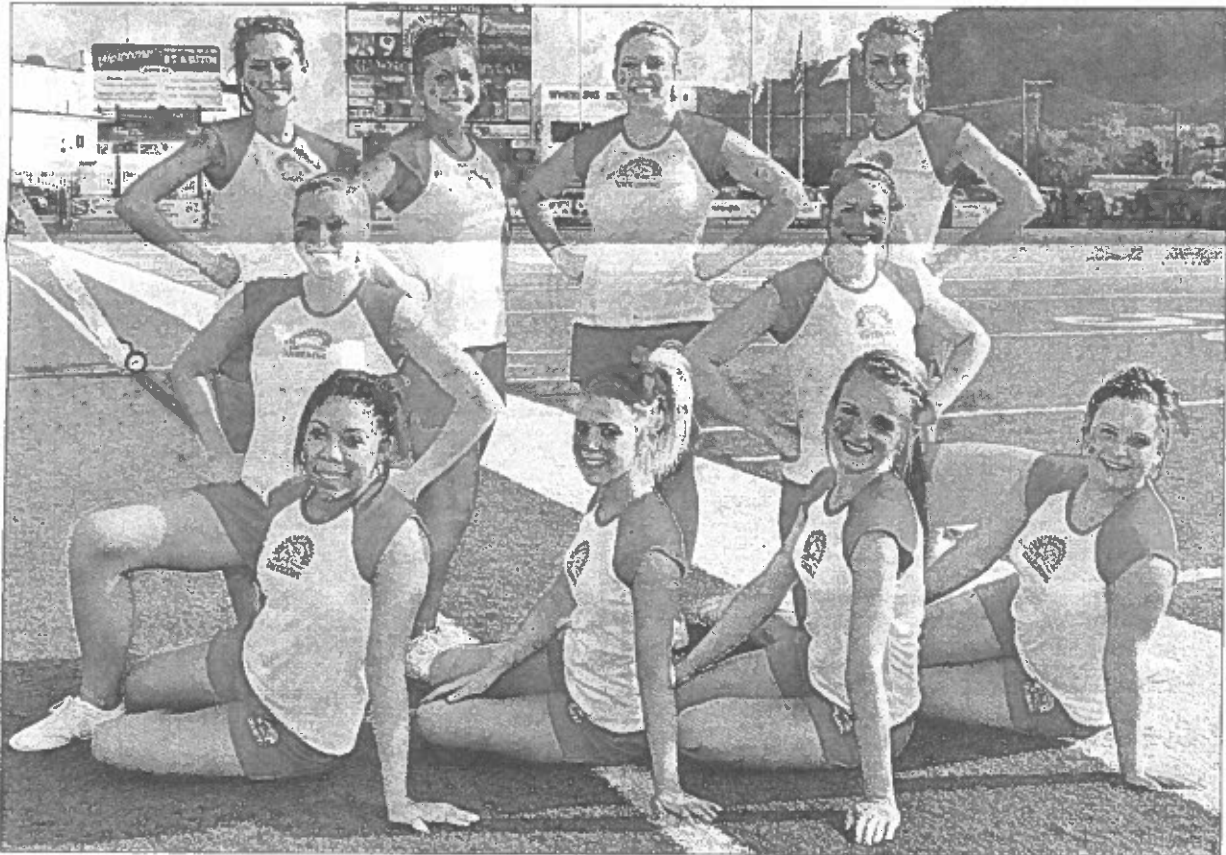
We are proud of you,
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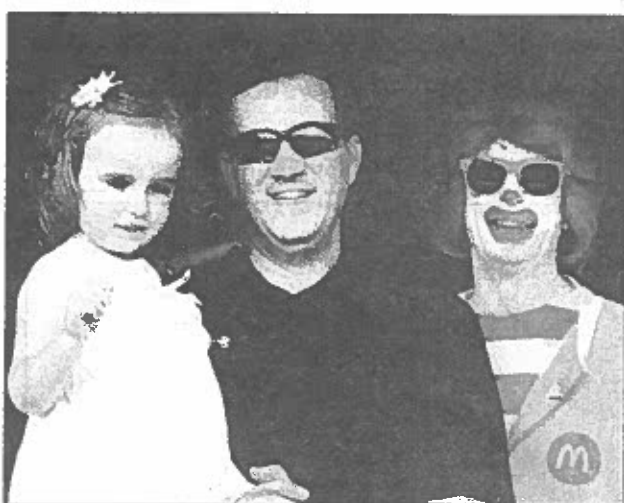
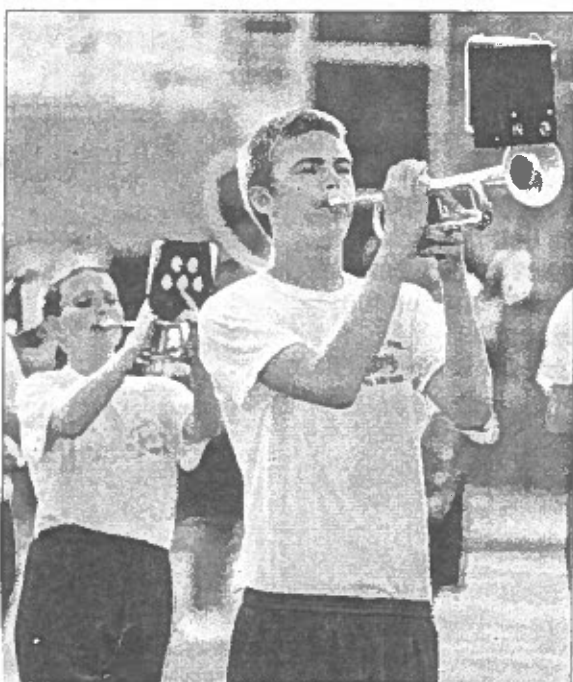
OVAC sights, sounds

MCDONALDS OVAC All-Star Band member Nathan Bohach of St. Clairsville receives a \$1,000 scholarship from Ronald McDonald during Sunday's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Charity Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium.

T-L Photos/MIKE PALMER



THE OHIO cheering squad was composed of front row, Autumn Price, Miranda Treglia, Taylor Martin and Taylor Fannin; middle row, Olivia Morgan and Jamie Matkovich; back row, Brooke Swallie, Lindsey Penick, Kylie Hunker and Mackenzie DiPerna. See images at cu.timesleaderonline.com



TRUMPET PLAYERS Skyler Gibson of Shadyside, front, and Rachael Miller of Union Local (left photo) participate in the pre-game activities before Sunday's OVAC all-star grid game. Above, E.J. Schodzinski and his daughter, Jana, 3, meet Ronald McDonald.



West Virginia

HEAD COACH

Mark Balton, Magnolia

Assistant Coaches

Dave Chapman, Dave Grandstaff, Mark Blair, Moke Riggs, Bob Ripley, Jim West

Players						
No	Name	Ht	Wt	Pos	School	
1	Traeh Keller	5-9	170	LB/RB	Magnolia	
3	Joey Musick	6-0	200	RB	M'Town	
7	Logan Martin	5-9	165	WR/DB	J.Marshall	
10	Joey DiNardo	6-3	215	WR	Brooke	
12	Kyle Pytlak	6-1	170	QB/DB	Linsly	
14	Jordan Angalich	5-11	160	QB	B.Donahue	
20	Reuben Pine	6-0	206	TE/LB	Weir	
21	Phil Acrie	5-10	195	RB	Linsly	
22	Marcus Clifford	5-10	190	RB/LB/S	W.Central	
28	Zach Morris	5-9	185	RB	W.Park	
29	Chris Eloi	6-0	185	RB/LB	Madonna	
32	Ryan Lazear	5-10	205	RB/DB	Brooke	
33	Boone Kehrer	6-2	185	LB/TE	T.Cons.	
34	Chance Rowland	6-0	200	RB/LB	Oak Glen	
40	Billy Perkins	6-0	248	FB/DT	Brooke	
44	Alex Schramm	6-1	225	FB/LB	W.Park	
46	Jeff Kidder	5-10	175	RB/S	South	
52	Sam Shepherd	5-10	170	OL/DE	Magnolia	
54	Anthony Pederson	5-10	250	OL/DL	Brooke	
55	Davie Sivert	6-2	225	OL/LB	Valley	
56	Matt Rieggs	6-0	265	OL/DL	Magnolia	
58	Dan Heupp	6-2	270	OL/DL	Weir	
60	John Duplaga	5-10	255	OL/DL	W.Central	
66	Hayden Greenleaf	6-0	210	OL/MLB	Madonna	
67	Chris Williams	6-1	270	OL/DL	J.Marshall	
70	Tyler Jacovetty	6-2	240	OL/DL	W.Central	
72	Kaleb Kucera	6-4	210	OL/DE	B.Donahue	
75	Michael Berardl	6-5	300	OL/DL	J.Marshall	
80	McKenzie Peluchette	6-2	185	WR/DB	W.Central	
82	Tanner Whyte	5-10	175	FB/LB	Cameron	
85	Jared Allen	6-5	230	DE	M'town	
88	Shane Koper	5-8	165	WR/DB	Oak Glen	
99	Nick Romito	6-2	220	K	M'town	



Ohio

HEAD COACH

Dave Bruney, Martins Ferry

Assistant Coaches

John Bennett, Bill Bruney, Jim Hoover, Joe Mamone, Rich Materkoski, Mike Rose, Nick Stanovich, Joe Kosar, Chas Yoder

Players						
No	Name	Ht	Wt	Pos	School	
1	Willie Leavell	5-8	160	RB/DB	E.Liverpool	
3	Chris Smelley	6-0	234	RB/LB	Bridgeport	
7	Zach Kinnick	6-0	180	QB/DB	St. Clairsville	
10	Ellis Brown	6-0	150	WR/DB	Shadyside	
12	Joe Zebbs	5-11	175	WR/DB	St. Clairsville	
14	Tanner Wright	5-11	165	K	River	
20	Josh Tolliver	6-2	208	TE/DE	Bellaire	
21	Kyle Blanchard	6-4	195	WR/DB	H.Central	
22	Jake Brunoni	6-1	210	RB/LB	Frontier	
28	Casey Bain	6-0	175	RB/DB	Martins Ferry	
29	Corey Fickiesen	6-5	190	QB/DB	Frontier	
32	Johnny Byers	5-10	185	QB/OLB	Edison	
33	Trevor Mourer	6-2	215	FB/DE	Meadowbrook	
34	Curt Smelley	6-0	235	LB/FB	Bridgeport	
40	Mike Rose	5-9	165	FB/OLB	Martins Ferry	
44	Niko Otto	6-2	215	FB/LB	Indian Creek	
46	Tyler Kurtz	6-2	202	WR/OLB	Barnesville	
52	Aaron Silverio	6-1	260	OG/DT	Shadyside	
56	Kody Edwards	6-2	260	C/OT	E.Liverpool	
58	Caleb Gunn	5-10	220	C/DT	Cambridge	
63	John Eckroth	6-2	240	OT/DT	Steubenville	
66	Willie Pruitt	6-3	260	OG/DT	Steubenville	
67	Mason Campbell	6-1	225	OT/DT	Steubenville	
68	Zak Stiles	6-1	245	OG/DT	St. Clairsville	
72	John Thompson	6-0	240	OT/DT	E.Liverpool	
77	Jack Beavers	6-1	220	OT/DT	Martins Ferry	
80	Garrett Price	5-11	180	WR/DB	Bridgeport	
82	Bobby Dayton	6-0	185	TE/DE	Martins Ferry	
85	Marcus Schumacher	6-1	195	TE/LB	Monroe Cent.	
88	Bernie Thompson	5-8	140	WR/DB	Union Local	
90	Taylor Brown	6-1	185	WR/DE	Shadyside	
93	Brent Kirk	6-0	175	WR/DB	Buckeye Local	
99	Logan Hudson	6-2	195	TE/OLB	Shadyside	

SPORTS

Monday
July 25, 2011

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



Sean Scott/The Daily Jeffersonian

Meadowbrook's Trevor Mourer fights off a block during first half action of Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. West Virginia posted its second straight win in the midsummer classic, taking a 24-3 decision over Ohio.



Sean Scott/The Daily

Cambridge's Caleb Gunn fires off the line after snapping the ball to quarterback Kinnick of St. Clairsville during Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Back-to-back wins for West Virginia All-Star Ohio offense limited to 56 total yards in 24-3 loss in OVAC Classic

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

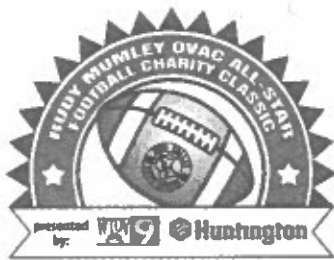
WHEELING, W. Va. — It had been quite some time since West Virginia won back-to-back games in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic.

That changed Sunday night when the Mountaineer squad, which stymied Ohio's offense all night long, recorded a 24-3 victory for its second straight victory in the 66th edition of the midsummer showcase at hot and muggy Wheeling Island Stadium.

West Virginia's defense limited the Buckeye State to a net of 56 total yards, with nearly half of those in a last-minute inconsequential series. The three points was the lowest output by Ohio since it was shut out back in the 1977 contest.

For winning coach Mark Batton of Magnolia High, it meant another chance to celebrate on the Island Stadium turf.

"Wheeling Island Stadium has been pretty good to us over the last eight months," he smiled, referring to the fact that his



Blue Eagles had captured the West Virginia Class AA state championship there back in early December. "We had a tremendous group of players who took their roles and ran with them. What a special way to end a special week."

West Virginia needed just four plays to break on top, scoring on a 64-yard pass from quarterback Kyle Pytlak of Linsly to Marcus Clifford of Wheeling Central, who hauled in the pass at the 35-yard line and raced untouched to the end zone.

Morgantown's Nick Romito booted the point-after, giving West Virginia a 7-0 lead at the 10:11 mark of the first quarter.

Ohio got a break late in the opening round when Martins Ferry's Casey Bain intercepted a Pytlak pass and returned it to the West Virginia 23.

WEST VIRGINIA 24, OHIO 3	
Ohio	0 3 0 0-3
West Virginia	7 7 7 3-24
First Quarter	
WV—Marcus Clifford/Wheeling Central 64 pass from Kyle Pytlak/Linsly (Nick Romito/Morgantown kick), 10:11.	
Second Quarter	
OH—Tanner Wright/River 31 field goal, 11:54.	
WV—Ryan Lazear/Brooke 3 run (Romito kick), 3:45.	
Third Quarter	
WV—Joey Musick/Morgantown 7 run (Romito kick), 6:52.	
Fourth Quarter	
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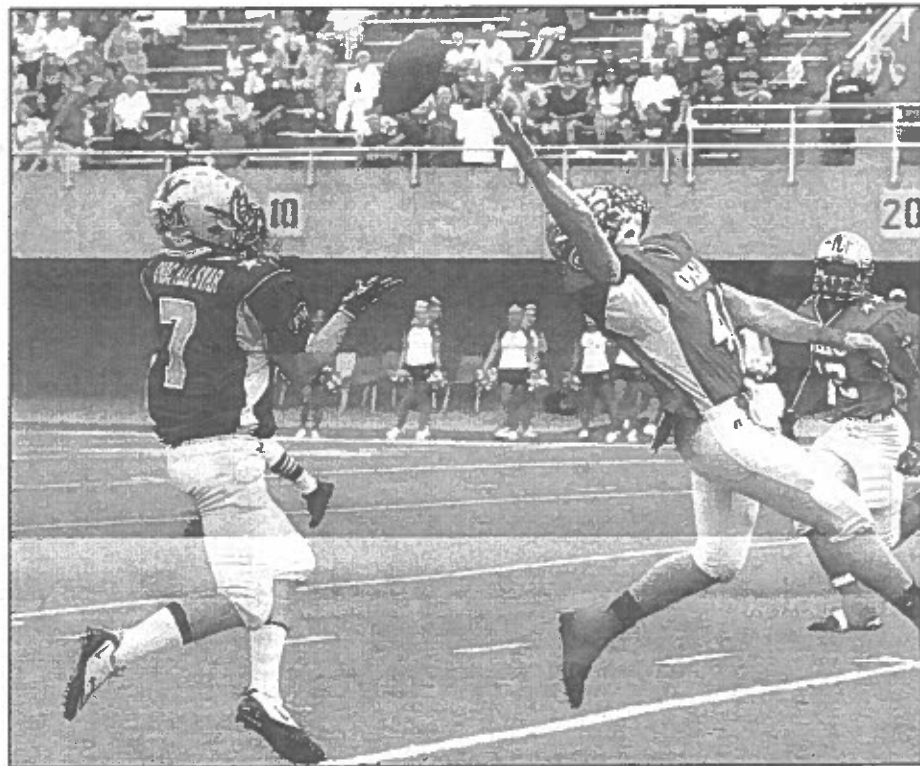
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Sean Scott/The Daily

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See OVAC

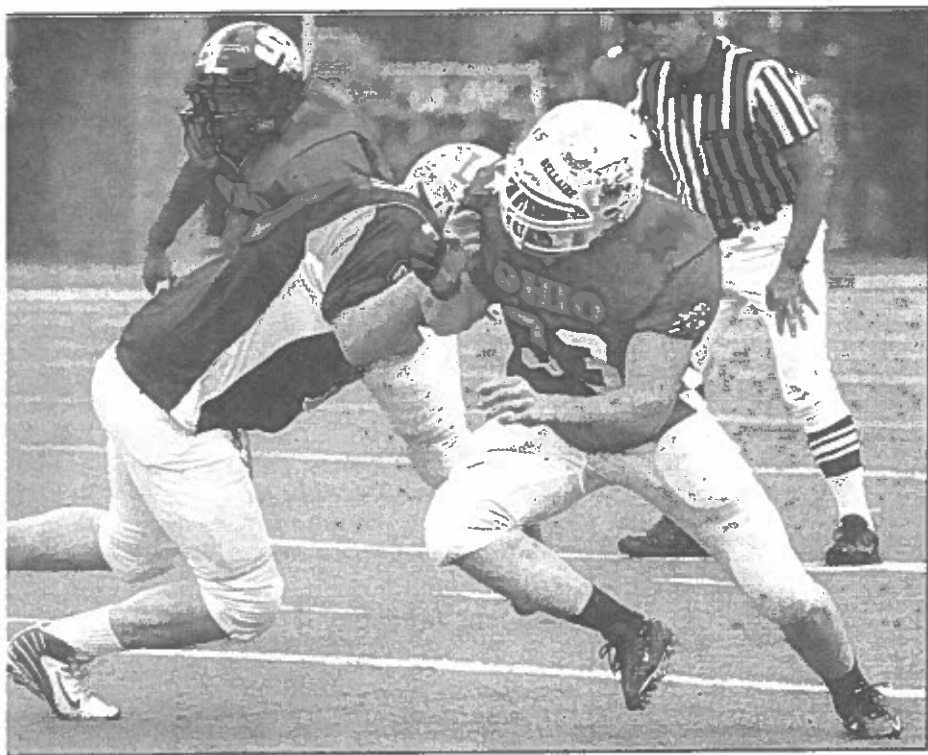


Sean Scott/The Daily Jeffersonian

The OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band again turned in a terrific performance.

SPORTS

Comments regarding sports stories, or ideas for stories, please e-mail jeff@daily-jeff.com



Sean Scott/The Daily Jeffersonian
Book's Trevor Mourer fights off a block during first half action of Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium. West Virginia's second straight win in the midsummer classic, taking a 24-3 decision over Ohio.



Sean Scott/The Daily Jeffersonian
Cambridge's Caleb Gunn fires off the line after snapping the ball to quarterback Zach Kinnick of St. Clairsville during Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Back-to-back wins for West Virginia All-Stars No offense limited to 56 total yards in 24-3 loss in OVAC Classic

JEFFERSONIAN
W. Va. — It's been some time since a team won back-to-back in the Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Charity



at Wheeling Island Stadium Sunday night. The Mountaineer squad, which defeated Ohio's offense 24-3, recorded a 24-3 victory in its second straight win in the 66th edition of the summer showcase at

Wheeling Island Stadium. West Virginia's defense limited the Buckeye State to a net of 56 yards, with nearly half of that coming in the last-minute inconsistencies. The three interceptions were the lowest output by a defense that was shut out back to back.

Head coach Mark Magnolia High, it was a chance to celebrate at the Island Stadium.



Sean Scott/The Daily Jeffersonian
McDonald's All-Star Band again turned in a terrific

Blue Eagles had captured the West Virginia Class AA state championship there back in early December. "We had a tremendous group of players who took their roles and ran with them. What a special way to end a special week."

West Virginia needed just four plays to break on top, scoring on a 64-yard pass from quarterback Kyle Pytlak of Linsly to Marcus Clifford of Wheeling Central, who hauled in the pass at the 35-yard line and raced untouched to the end zone.

Morgantown's Nick Romito booted the point-after, giving West Virginia a 7-0 lead at the 10:11 mark of the first quarter.

Ohio got a break late in the opening round when Martins Ferry's Casey Bain intercepted a Pytlak pass and returned it to the West Virginia 23.

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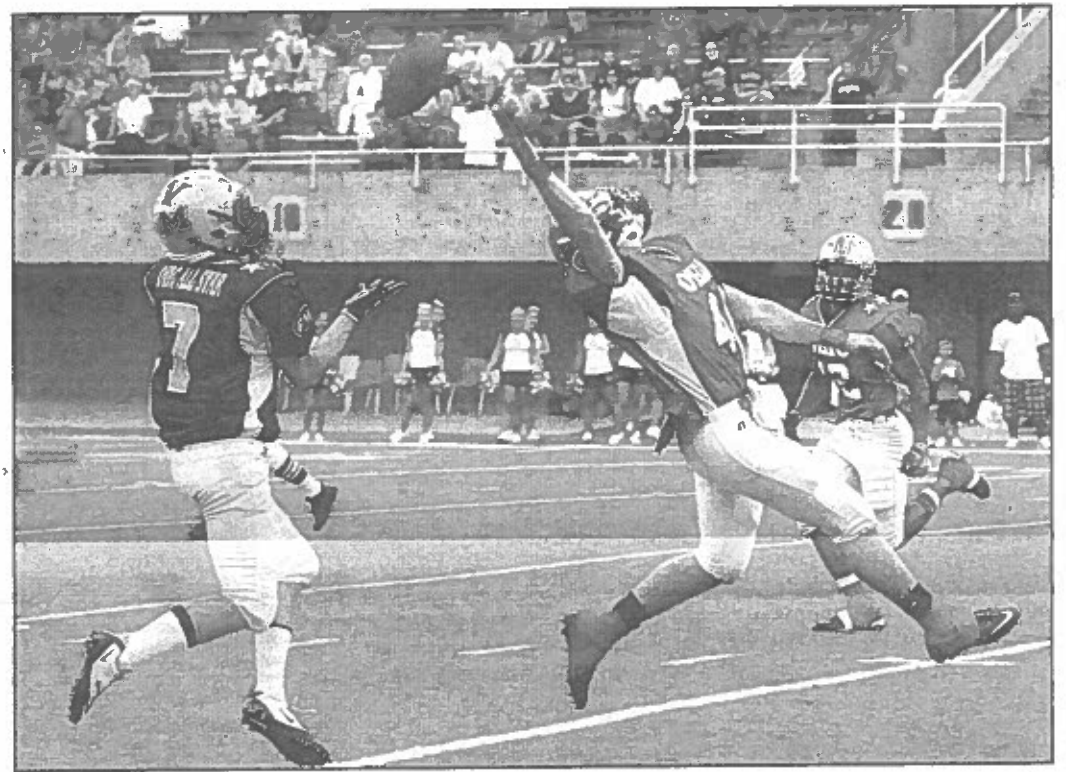
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Kinnick of St. Clairsville during Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Back-to-back wins for West Virginia All-Star

Ohio offense limited to 56 total yards in 24-3 loss in OVAC Classic

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

WHEELING, W. Va. — It had been quite some time since West Virginia won back-to-back games in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic.

That changed Sunday night when the Mountaineer squad, which stymied Ohio's offense all night long, recorded a 24-3 victory for its second straight win in the 66th edition of the midsummer showcase at hot and muggy Wheeling Island Stadium.

West Virginia's defense limited the Buckeye State to a net of 56 total yards, with nearly half of those in a last-minute inconsequential series. The three points was the lowest output by Ohio since it was shut out back in the 1977 contest.

For winning coach Mark Batton of Magnolia High, it meant another chance to celebrate on the Island Stadium turf.

"Wheeling Island Stadium has been pretty good to us over the last eight months," he smiled, referring to the fact that his



Blue Eagles had captured the West Virginia Class AA state championship there back in early December. "We had a tremendous group of players who took their roles and ran with them. What a special way to end a special week."

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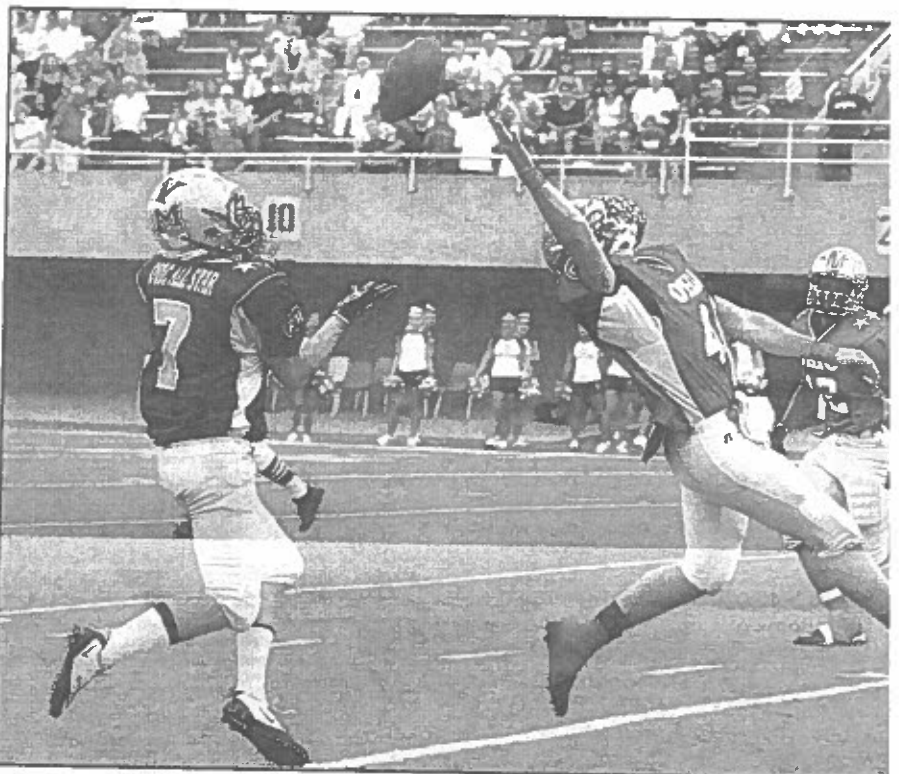
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Sean Scott/The Daily

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See OVAC



Sean Scott/The Daily Jeffersonian

The OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band again turned in a terrific performance at halftime of the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic.



Sean Scott/The Daily Jeffersonian

Representing the local area in the The Queen of Queens Pageant, held in conjunction with the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic, were Kylee McConnell of Barnesville, Kristin Oliver of Buckeye Trail and Abbie Orr of Cambridge.

W. Va. wins OVAC game

OVAC from page B-1

combined to go 8-of-14 passing, with Musick catching five aerials for 22 yards.

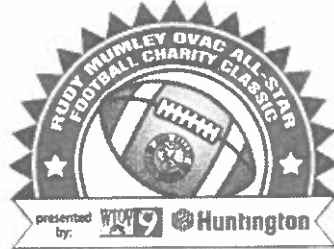
Ohio's 56 yards included 62 passing and a net of minus-six rushing. Ohio passers combined for a 9-of-19 effort with two interceptions. Union Local's Bernie Thompson had six receptions for 40 yards.

Bruney credited his Ohio squad for working hard all week despite brutal heat and praised West Virginia for its performance.

"Our kids gave us great effort in some tough conditions," he acknowledged. "We had a great time and they competed very hard; it just didn't work out for us tonight."

"Hats off to them," he said of West Virginia. "I thought once they got up, they had a very sound offensive plan and they did what we like to do."

Despite the win, West Virginia



still trails in the all-time series, 41-24 with one tie.

As always, the OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band turned in another terrific performance during pre-game and halftime festivities.

Earning the title as the Queen of Queens was Bria Cross of Wheeling Central. The rest of the court included Lindsay Williams of Monroe Central (first runner-up), Briana Kamarec of Indian Creek (second runner-up), Paige Madden of John Marshall (third runner-up), Dana Holmstrand of Wheeling Park (fourth runner-up) and Lauren Holler of St. Clairsville (Miss Congeniality).

W.Va. will be tough in the trenches

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor



Mark Batton watched West Virginia use its strength in the trenches a year ago en route to a victory in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

Now, a year later, the Magnolia head coach used the mindset of linemen first when he, and his coaching staff, sat down to select the West Virginia squad for this year's game.

"It was tough to choose these guys," Batton said.

That's a good problem to have for the Mountain State because linemen were plentiful.

"There were a bunch of real good linemen in the OVAC this year," Batton said. "It was tough narrowing them down, but we looked at the systems each played in and we have some kids who played in spread systems and others who played in power running systems."

With such versatility and depth, Batton believes he'll be able to keep his linemen

fresh throughout the game.

"I think we'll be able to jockey some guys in and out according to what we'll run," Batton said. "We've got some big guys who can run and pull, so we'll just keep trying to keep moving those guys around."

Battling for action in the trenches when camp opens Sunday at Bethany College are: Jared Adrian, Morgantown; Michael Berardi, John Marshall; DeMetrius Dixon, University; John Duplaga, Wheeling Central; Dan Heupp, Weir; Tyler Jacovetty, Wheeling Central; Kaleb Kucera, Bishop Donahue; Anthony

Pederson, Brooke; Matt Riggs, Magnolia; David Sivert, Valley and Chris Williams, John Marshall.

Here is a capsule look at the players:

JARED ADRIAN, Morgantown — This former Mohigan enjoyed a strong career, but busted through with an impressive final campaign for Coach John Bowers.

The 6-5, 230 pounder logged 120 tackles from his defensive end spot. He also led the team in tackles as a junior with 72. He recorded a team-high nine and seven sacks, respectively, the past two seasons.

Adrian earned second-team all-state honors along with first-team all-OVAC and all-NCAC.

Jared, who plans on attending West Virginia Wesleyan, is the son of Kevin and Lisa Adrian.

MICHAEL BERARDI, John Marshall — This former Monarch was a standout in the trenches for Coach Dan Wilson's club.

See, **W.VA.**, Page B2

● W.Va.

Continued from Page B1

The 6-2, 245 pounder saw time at tight end on offense, but on the defensive side he lined up at tackle, end, middle line-backer and also served as the team's punter.

A finalist for the Huff Award, Dixon also garnered first-team all-state and all-area honors.

Demetrius, who plans on attending Shepherd University, is the son of Robert and Renee Dixon of Westover.

JOHN DUPLAGA, Wheeling Central — This former Maroon Knight was a four-year mainstay for Coach Mike Young's squad.

The 5-10, 255 pounder was a four-year starter at defensive tackles and a three-year starter on the offensive line.

As a senior, Duplaga recorded 59 tackles, 2.5 sacks, 2 fumble recoveries and two forced fumbles.

Duplaga was a first-team all-state pick and was also first-team all-OVAC and all-Valley.

Along football, Duplaga was active in peer ministry, GUTS and community service.

John, who is the son of Mike and Alyssa Duplaga, plans on attending Bethany College.

DANIEL HEUPP, Weir — This former Red Rider was a four-year starter along the offensive and defensive lines for Coach Tom Taylor's program.

The 6-2, 270 pounder recorded more than 50 tackles each of the past two seasons.

A standout in the classroom, Heupp has been named to the President's Honor Roll and the WV Mat All-State Academic Team.

Away from athletics, Heupp is the President of the Interact Club and a member of the student council.

Heupp, who is the son of Jeff and Amy Heupp, plans on attending West Virginia Northern Community College.

TYLER JACOVETTY, Wheeling Central — This two-way lineman enjoyed a sparkling career under Young's watch.

The 6-2, 240 pounder had 83 tackles last season, including 10 sacks. He also recovered a fumble. He led the team in tackles and sacks and was named the team's defensive player of the year.

Other awards garnered by Jacovetty include: all-state, all-OVAC, all-Valley and West Virginia Metro News second team.

Along with football, Jacovetty lettered in track and field.

Tyler, who is the son of Jerry and Cathy Jacovetty, plans on attending West Virginia University.

KALEB KUCERA, Bishop Donahue — This two-way standout was a force

along both lines for Coach John Durdines' squad.

The 6-4, 210 pounder recorded 140 solo tackles and 154 assists for 294 stops in his career. That ranks third all-time at Donahue.

He also finished with 21 sacks, 53 tackles for loss, two forced fumbles and recovered four fumbles.

Kucera was a first-team all-OVAC, all-Mason Dixon, all-state and all-River Valley League selection.

Kaleb, who is planning on attending West Liberty, is the son of Mark and Lisa Kucera.

ANTHONY PEDERSON, Brooke — This standout lineman anchored the offensive front for Coach Tom Bruney's team.

The 5-10, 250 pounder was the center for the Bruins the past two seasons. He was a second team all-state and all-Valley selection.

Also a standout in wrestling, Pederson placed in the state tournament twice.

Anthony, who is planning to attend West Liberty, is the son of Jay and Nina Pederson of Follansbee.

MATT RIGGS, Magnolia — This Blue Eagle left an impressive mark on Batton's program during his career.

Riggs logged 63 tackles and six sacks as a nose tackle.

The 6-0, 265 pounder was a finalist for the Blocks of Granite award and he was also a first-team all-state player.

Along with football, Riggs, who is active with community service, was one of the area's top shot put and discus performers this past season.

Matt, who is attending Middle Tennessee State University to study aerospace, is the son of Moke and Jodi Riggs.

DAVID SIVERT, Valley — This two-way performer was a mainstay for four seasons under Tom West.

The 6-2, 225 pounder had 70 tackles and 2 interceptions this past season at line-backer.

For his fine season, he was named first-team Mason-Dixon and honorable mention all-OVAC and all-Valley.

Sivert, who plans on attending welding school, is the son of David and Connie Sivert of Jacksonburg.

CHRIS WILLIAMS, John Marshall — This Monarch clogged up the middle for Dan Wilson's defensive unit.

The 6-1, 270 pounder recorded 26 tackles, 14 for loss, a sack and 2 forced fumbles.

He received the JM Most Improved Player Award and the 3-D (desire, dedication, determination) Award.

Chris, who is the son of Kim Riddle and Chris Williams, plans on attending Kentucky Christian University.

It's Never Easy to Select OVAC All-Star Participants

A lot of work goes
into summer classic

By **RICK THORP**
Staff Writer

BETHANY — Staging the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic isn't just a summer project.

With two football teams, two cheering squads and a band to get organized, it takes plenty of hours, and plenty of people to stage the annual bi-state clash.

"It takes a lot work," game director Bob Koch said Monday

night. "That's why we're here meeting in January for a game that won't take place until July.

"That's pretty much the time it takes to put it together. There probably won't be a week go by that I won't work on this thing."

Koch, along with other game officials and organizers, gathered at Bethany College's Harder Hall for an organizational meeting pertaining to the contest, which will be the 66th in the series.

Tim Weaver — Bethany's head football coach and athletics director — called the game one of the best.

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OVAC

(Continued from Page 13)

if not *the* best, in the nation.

It's a sentiment many have shared through the years and one that makes Koch proud.

"The bar is set pretty high," he said. "Whether you're talking about Ron Mauck, Rudy Mumley, Tom Rataiczak or Sam Mumley ... they put their lives into this game.

"Our intent is to keep it at the same level and do everything we can to make it better.

Bethany is the game's new home, after many years at West Liberty University. While there was some trepidation among the conference and changing things, Koch is sure the move won't affect the end product.

"I wasn't sure how things would go but, so far, the response from Bethany has been tremendous.

"I'm looking for a really good game. And it helps that we have two veteran coaches who will foresee things and bring them to our attention."

Koch is speaking of Magnolia's Mark Batton and Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney. Both have coached in the game before and are looking forward to returning.

"This will really be icing on the cake for us," said Batton, who guided the Blue Eagles to their first West Virginia Class AA crown since 1964 last season. "We're excited to be here and looking forward to getting the staff together."

For Bruney, this is his sixth decade participating in the contest as a player of a coach. He led the Purple Riders to another Ohio Division IV playoff appearance last fall.

This is Bruney's sixth coaching stint in the game. He said only the most successful coaches are rewarded with the opportunity, and in his case, it's a result of having solid support and great players.

"I've been blessed to have an administration that has been willing to do the things to make us successful," Bruney said. "I've also had a great staff with great continuity."

**"The last
couple of times
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picked."**

Dave Bruney

Now that the meeting is finished, the process of selecting the 32 players for each side begins.

"You can only have so many quarterbacks, running backs and wide receivers," Batton said. "A lot of times you have to look at what you need and who fits into your schemes.

"We'll do the best we can and try to come up with the best 32 players."

Batton has more players to choose from this year, with Morgantown, University and Hundred now in the mix.

Even though he's done the chore many times, selecting players gets tougher for Bruney.

"The older I've gotten the tougher it is for me to do," he said. "The last couple of times we've done it I wasn't sure we couldn't pick another team to beat the team we picked.

"It's an all-star game so we try to pick the best players and then adapt some of the things we do, to what they do well."

Bruney said there many things to go into the process that go unnoticed.

"A lot of times what people have to realize, is that the best player at a particular school doesn't get picked because he might be the third- or fourth-best at that position and maybe the second- or third-best player gets picked because you have to fill a need.

"We try to be as fair as we can."

SPORTS

Sunday,
July 3, 2011

OVAC All-Star rosters set

• Bruney, Batton announce players for July 24th game at Wheeling Island

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The stars of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference are prepared to shine.

The annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic is just three weeks away and in two weeks, the players and coaches will report for their week-long camp at Bethany College.

Ohio head coach Dave Bruney and West Virginia head coach Mark Batton have finalized their rosters for the game, which will once again be held at Wheeling Island Stadium with kickoff

slated for 7:15 p.m.

THE OHIO roster features 21 players who were members of teams, which qualified for the postseason.

Bruney, who is coaching in the Mumley Classic for the fifth time in his career and is undefeated in the game, took his maximum four players who wore the Rider horseshoe on the helmet last fall.

The Rider contingent is comprised of Casey Bain, Jack Beavers, Bobby Dayton and Mike Rose.

The Shadyside Tigers advanced to the Division VI state championship game and had three players earn all-Ohio accolades.

Bruney and his staff rewarded those picks and took all three players for the game.

Taylor Brown, Aaron Silverio and Ellis Brown will represent the Tigers.

Bridgeport had a season to remember, posting an undefeated regular season and advancing to the Region 23 title game.

The Bulldogs' also had three seniors garner all-Ohio accolades and all three will suit up for the Buckeye State. The twin brother combination of Curt and Chris Smelley will be joined by versatile speedster Garrett Price.

Steubenville has been the OVAC's premier program for the better part of two

See, **OVAC**, Page C2● **OVAC**

Continued from Page C1

decades and each year the Ohio staff tries to load up on Big Red graduates.

This year's team is no different as Bruney selected the maximum four Big Red representatives.

Versatile skill player Anthony Pierro is joined by three linemen, including Mason Campbell, John Eckroth and Willie Pruitt.

St. Clairsville — a Division IV playoff entrant a season ago — will have three representatives on the squad. Quarterback Zach Kinnick will be joined by Joe Zebbs and Zak Stiles.

East Liverpool, which qualified for the playoffs, was the recipient of three selection. The Potters, who defeated Martins Ferry during the regular season, will send Kody Edwards, Willie Leavell and Josh Thompson to Bethany College.

Edison, which had a turnaround season under Mike McKenzie, received two bids to the team. Johnny Byers and Mark Rogers will both be suiting up for the Buckeye State.

Frontier also earned two representatives to the team. Standout quarterback Cody Fickiesen and Jacob Brunoni were chosen.

The balance of the Buckeye State roster is comprised of: Kyle Blanchard (Harrison Central), Caleb Gunn (Cambridge), Brent Kirk (Buckeye Local), Tyler Kurtz (Barnesville), Devonte McGhee (Toronto), Cody Morris (Caldwell), Trevor Mourer (Meadowbrook), Niko Otto (Indian Creek), Marcus Schumacher (Monroe Central), Bernie Thompson (Union Local), Josh Tolliver (Bellaire) and Tanner Wright (River).

THE WEST VIRGINIA squad, which prevailed in last year's game, has once again loaded up with the big-school talent, including seven players from the OVAC's latest additions of Parkersburg South, Morgantown and University.

Throw in the fact that Batton brought along his allotted four players from a Blue Eagles' team, which won the Class AA state championship.

The Blue Eagles, who posted a 14-0 record, will be represented by quarterback Justin Fox, Cameron Benson, Traeh Keller and Matt Riggs.

Brooke, which played for the Class AAA state title for the second straight season, has three of its players in this year's game. Those include: Joey DiNardo, Ryan Lazear and Anthony Pederson.

Wheeling Central, which won the Class A state championship, received four spots on the squad. Those went to McKenzie Peluchette, John Duplaga, Tyler Jacovetty and Marcus Clifford.

Bishop Donahue, which won the OVAC Class 1-A title and was ousted by Central in an epic playoff game, is represented by Jordan Angalich, Ryan Jones and Kaleb Kucera.

John Marshall had three of its players chosen.

The Monarchs selected for the game include: Michael Berardi, Logan Martin and Chris Williams.

Wheeling Park, meanwhile, had two players picked for the game. Alex Schramm and Zach Morris will suit up representing the Patriots. Linsly, which had a strong season last fall, also had two players picked. Those are Phil Acric and Demetrius Youngblood.

Madonna, which has been one of the area's most successful programs over the past few seasons, has two representatives in Connor Arlia and Chris Eloi.

Oak Glen had three of its players picked, including Cory Evans, Chance Rowland and Shane Koper.

Morgantown and University, which are newcomers to the game, will send a combined six players to Wheeling.

The Mohigans chosen include: Jared Adrian, Joey Musick, Anthony Gutta and David Stanton.

The Hawks, who will play in the game, include: Demetrius Dixon and Sterling Springgate.

The remainder of the Mountain State roster includes: Dan Heupp (Weir), Boone Kehrer (Tyler Consolidated), Tanner Whyte (Cameron), Jeff Kidder (Parkersburg South) and Davie Stiver (Valley).



Batton, Bruney To Coach OVAC All-Star Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
For the News-Register
MARTINS FERRY —
Prep football season is seven months away. However, the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic preparations are well under way.

Magnolia's Mark Batton and Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney have accepted invitations to serve as the West Virginia and Ohio head coaches, respectively, for the game, which is scheduled for Sunday, July 24 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Batton and the Blue Eagles entered the 2010 season with high expectations and didn't disappoint.

The veteran coach led Magnolia to the West Virginia Class AA state championship and a perfect 14-0 season along the way, including an OVAC Class 3A title.

"I get a great feeling just thinking about last season every day," Batton said. "What a great way to top it off by coaching (West Virginia) in the OVAC All-Star Game."

This is Batton and the Blue Eagles' second time coaching the game. They last did it in 2007 and narrowly fell to Ohio when Nick Rocchio found Steubenville's Maurice Bougard for a game-winning touchdown late in the contest.

"Our coaching staff is excited to be a part of it again," Batton said. "We kind of knew after we won the OVAC that we'd be selected."

"It's just a great honor to be chosen."

Unlike the last time he coached in the game, Batton will have four additional schools from which to choose players. Parkersburg South, Morgantown, University and Hundred have all joined the conference in the last few years.

"Having fewer schools to choose from has always hindered (W.Va.), but we've added some excellent programs with excellent coaches," Batton said. "When you've got more schools, you've got more good players and that was evident last year."

However, with more schools from which to choose, the selection process becomes even more challenging.

"Picking the entire roster is tough when you're limited to 32 players," Batton said. "We realize we may be overlooking some kids, but since you're limited, someone is going to get left out. We'll sit down and go over who fits into our schemes both offensively and defensively and spend some time talking to the other coaches."

One of the big rewards to coaching the game is the ability to take a strong number of your own players. That could be as big a problem as it is a luxury.

"I'd like to take all of my seniors, but that's impossible," Batton said. "We'll sit down and see who fits the best."

Batton could elect to bring his own quarterback if he so chooses. Justin Fox was a four-year starter for the Blue Eagles.

"Being able to (possibly) bring your own quarterback is really a nice luxury," Batton said. "Having Justin with us is like bringing an additional coach because he knows the offense so well."

■ Bruney led the Purple Riders to an 8-2 regular season and trailed the Blue Eagles by just percentage points in the OVAC Class 3A title chase. The Purple Riders again qualified for the Division IV postseason, but they were bounced in the first round by Campbell Memorial.

This marks the sixth time Bruney will coach in the annual game. He was offered the position 2007 but turned it down.

When approached this time, Bruney considered the opportunity to coach the game in a fifth different decade, which made his decision even easier.

"I think it's pretty neat to have the longevity to be able to be involved with his game that many times," Bruney said. "I imagine this would be my last go-around, but you'll never say never."

Bruney has previously coached the Ohio stars in 1979, '83, '99 and 2003. Counting the 1969 game when Bruney was an Ohio co-captain, this marks his sixth different time involved with the game.

With Bruney at the helm or on the field, Ohio is undefeated in the game.

"We're undefeated primarily because we've had better players than West Virginia each of those times," Bruney said. "The last time we did (the game), it was close, and I'm not sure West Virginia isn't equal to or better than (Ohio) potentially."

The Mountain State is coming off a decisive victory last season and with the OVAC's expansion into Morgantown, West Virginia still has fewer schools to pick from, but it's got the six largest schools in the conference.

"I think the competitiveness is a good thing for the game," Bruney said. "Ohio is definitely not the clear favorite anymore like it used to be."

Bruney will be joined at Bethany College for camp by his entire coaching staff at Martins Ferry.

"We've got some guys who've not done the game before and they're excited," he said. "Some of our assistants weren't able to (coach) the last time we were offered, but they'll all be there this time."

The Purple Riders' staff will receive the nomination information in the coming days and will begin immediately picking its team.

"It's a tough task to pick the team," Bruney said. "A lot of times, the best players from one school aren't going to get picked, but someone else would because you've got to take other positions into consideration."

"We know how much this game means to the kids in our immediate area, but we also know you can't make everyone happy and some feelings will get hurt. That's the toughest part."



All-Star Players Revealed

W. Va., Ohio rosters
chock full of talent

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

WHEELING — The stars of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference are prepared to shine.

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The Riders contingent is comprised of Casey Bain, Jack Beavers, Bobby Dayton and Mike Rose.

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ROSTERS

Continued from page B1

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Ohio Staff Put Much Thought Into Lines

Bruney uses familiar blueprint for units

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — In all-star games, line play on both sides of the ball is normally the key.

Such was the case a year ago when West Virginia defeated Ohio in the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

When he sat down with his coaching staff to select the 2011 Ohio squad, Coach Dave Bruney had last year's game in the back of his mind.

"Barring a lot of turnovers and penalties, then blocking and tackling are usually the keys to winning football at any level," Bruney said. "We want to be consistent blockers down after down because if you're persistent, you never know when you're going to break one."

The Ohio coaching staff picked versatile linemen who stood out on both sides of the ball for the annual all-star game, slated for Sunday, July 24 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

It also found a solid mixture of size and athleticism.

"We've got some physical kids with good feet," Bruney said. "We've got some kids who were standout wrestlers, which is a big plus. We've got a lot of guys between 230 and 270 (pounds), who are pretty athletic."

Here is a capsule look at the Ohio offensive and defensive linemen:

JACK BEAVERS, Martins Ferry — This rugged two-way lineman was one of the keys to the success of the Purple Riders offense.

The 6-foot-1, 220-pounder was a two-way tackle for Bruney and excelled on both sides of the ball.

Jack is the son of Jack and Penny Beavers.

TAYLOR BROWN, Shadyside — This former Tiger caused all sorts of havoc from his defensive end spot last season.

The 6-1, 185-pounder lined up primarily as a defensive end and finished with 20 sacks and 119 tackles. He forced a fumble and recovered four others. He also blocked two kicks and deflected two passes.

He saw spot duty on offense. As a tight end, he caught seven passes for 160 yards and three touchdowns.

For his fine season, Brown was named first-team all-Ohio. He was first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Times Leader and all-Valley.

Taylor, who plans on attending Belmont Technical College, is the son of Lorrie Davis and Gilbert Brown.

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LINES

(Continued from Page 15)

MASON CAMPBELL, Steubenville — This standout lineman was a three-year mainstay for Coach Reno Saccoccia's team.

The 6-1, 255-pounder helped anchor the offensive line, which led to impressive offensive numbers.

For his work, Campbell earned first-team all-Eastern District, second-team all-Ohio, all-Valley and a Block of Granite Award.

Mason, the son of Wayne and Marjorie Campbell, is undecided about his college plans.

BOBBY DAYTON, Martins Ferry — This former Purple Rider had one memorable senior campaign for Bruney.

As a defensive end, the 6-0, 185-pounder accumulated 27.5 sacks in the season, which established a new Martins Ferry and Buckeye 8 single-season record.

Dayton was named first-team all-Ohio and was the Eastern District's Defensive Player of the Year in Division IV. He was also all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8, all-Times Leader and all-Valley.

Bobby, who plans on attending OU-Eastern, is the son of Robert and Kathy Dayton.

JOHN ECKROTH, Steubenville — This standout defensive lineman was a force at nose guard in his one season playing for Saccoccia at Big Red.

The 6-2, 240-pounder finished his prep career with 139 tackles and 10 sacks. He had two forced fumbles and recovered four fumbles in 22 games starting, which included his career at Harrison Central.

Eckroth was first-team all-

OVAC and all-Eastern District.

Eckroth was also a standout in wrestling, winning the OVAC title as a junior and finishing second last season.

John, the son of Sandy Dorm and John Eckroth of Wintersville, is planning on attending West Liberty.

KODY EDWARDS, East Liverpool — This standout offensive lineman was a key cog for former coach Mark Asher's Polters.

The 6-2, 260-pounder anchored the offensive line at the center spot.

Edwards was a first-team all-district, all-OVAC and all-Quad County pick. He was a second-team all-Ohio selection.

Along with football, Edwards was a standout in baseball and wrestling.

Kody, the son of Kim Creaturo and Keith Edwards, plans on attending Waynesburg University.

CALEB GUNN, Cambridge — This former Bobcat earned four letters for Coach Rick Goodrich's team.

The 5-10, 220-pounder excelled on the offensive and defensive lines. He was a center on offense and tackle on defense where he accumulated 53 tackles.

Gunn was a first-team all-Ohioan, all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-ECOL choice and was the ECOL Lineman of the Year.

Along with football, Gunn was a standout in wrestling where he won the OVAC 215-pound title as an unseeded wrestler this past January.

Caleb, the son of Carrie Ann and Keith Gunn of Kimbolton, is undecided about his future plans.

WILLIAM PRUITT, Steubenville — This former Big Red two-way lineman was a multi-year standout for Saccoccia's team.

Playing at guard and defensive tackle, the 6-0, 260 pounder was a team captain. He was also named all-Eastern District, and one of the 10 Blocks of Granite and received the Calvin Jones Award.

William, who will attend Robert Morris, is the son of Brian and Loretta Pruitt.

AARON SILVERIO, Shadyside — This Tiger mainstay was one of the key cogs in a talented offensive line for Coach Mark Holenka's squad.

The 6-1, 260-pounder graded out at 90 percent blocking and defensively he recorded 70 tackles, a safety and four fumble recoveries.

As a senior, Silverio was named first-team all-Ohio, first-team all-Eastern District, all-Times Leader, all-OVAC and all-Valley.

He was also a standout in wrestling, winning the OVAC 285-pound title and finishing fourth in the state of Ohio.

Aaron, who will wrestle at West Liberty University, is the son of Rich and Judy Silverio.

ZAK STILES, St. Clairsville — This two-way standout played a key role for Coach Brett McLean's squad.

The 6-1, 245-pounder played defensive end and offensive guard for the Red Devils.

He had 22.5 sacks, 64 tackles, an interception and eight quarterback hurries.

He was named first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and

was a finalist for the WTOV-9 Blocks of Granite.

Stiles was also a letterman in basketball for the Red Devils.

Zak, who plans on attending Waynesburg University, is the son of Bruce and Leslie Stiles of Bethesda.

JOHN THOMPSON, East Liverpool — This former Potter was a standout defensive lineman for Asher's squad.

The 6-0, 240-pounder recorded 34 tackles, including two for loss and 1.5 sacks.

For his efforts, he was named first-team all-Quad County and second-team all-OVAC.

Along with football, Thompson was active in thespians and was the president of the Outdoor Adventure Club.

John, who is planning on attending Waynesburg University, is the son of John and Deneen Thompson.

JOSH TOLLIVER, Bellaire — This former Big Red was a two-way force for Coach Jose Davis' team.

The 6-2, 208-pounder was a force on the defensive line and earned all-Eastern District and all-Ohio honors for his efforts. He was also named all-OVAC and all-Times Leader.

Along with those honors, Tolliver received the Todd Bates Memorial Award and the Claire Cribbs and Philip Chase Awards.

Tolliver was also a standout in basketball and lettered in track and field for the Big Reds.

Josh, who will attend Waynesburg University, is the son of Bishop Michael and Patricia Tolliver.

Bruney selects Ohio backs for OVAC gridiron classic

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

When Dave Bruney and his Ohio coaching staff sat down to choose their backfield, their approach was simple.

"We were looking for guys who fit our personality (at Martins Ferry)," Bruney said.

The Purple Riders, who shifted to more of a spread attack this past season, went after quarterbacks and running backs who were versatile kind of players.

And Bruney is confident they've found them as the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, which is slated for Sunday, July 24 at Wheeling Island Stadium, inches closer.

"We have a number of things we want to do offensively, but we can't go in thinking we'll just be able to run the ball exclusively or throw it exclusively," Bruney said. "I think we've got two quarterbacks who can run and throw well and our backs are good, physical players with good speed and elusiveness."

Slated to battle in camp for the quarterback job, which opens on July 17, are St. Clairsville's Zach Kinnick and Frontier's Corey Fickiesen.

Ticketed for running back duties are: Martins Ferry's Casey Bain, Meadowbrook's Trevor Mourer and Bridgeport's Chris Smelley.

Here is a capsule look at the backfield

CASEY BAIN, Martins Ferry — This former Purple Rider running back was a workhorse this past season for Bruney's squad.

Bain ran the ball 211 times for 1,258 yards and 15 touchdowns last fall. He also had 20 catches for 236 yards and two more scores.

On the defensive side of

the ball, the 6-0, 175 pounder made 44 tackles and had five interceptions.

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

Casey is the son of Matthew and Tina Bain.

COREY FICKIESEN, Frontier — This Cougars' quarterback put forth a brilliant career running Todd Bradford's offense.

The 6-ft-5, 190 pounder accounted for 82 touchdowns during his career. He passed for 59 touchdowns and 6,587 yards in his career. He was also a bonified threat on the ground with 1,340 yards rushing and 23 touchdowns.

For his fine senior campaign, Fickiesen was named all-PVC, all-OVAC, all-Eastern District and special mention all-Ohio.

Along with football, Fickiesen was a standout in basketball.

Corey, who is the son of Brad and Kristle Fickiesen of Reno, will attend Ashland University to play football.

ZACH KINNICK, St. Clairsville — This former Red Devil had a brilliant career at quarterback for Coach Brett McLean's team.

The 6-0, 180 pounder had an impressive senior season, which led to first-team all-Ohio honors. He passed for 2,409 yards and 20 touchdowns. On the ground, he posted 486 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Kinnick was the Division IV Eastern District Offensive Player of the Year. He was all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8, all-Valley and all Times Leader.

Along with football, Kinnick was a standout on the Devils' baseball team. He also excelled in academics. He's a two-year member of the National Honor Society and three-

year member of the OVAC Varsity Board.

Zach, who plans on attending Ohio University Eastern, is the son of Mike and Judy Kinnick.

TREVOR MOURER, Meadowbrook — This former Colt was a two-way standout for head coach Jesse Wells.

The 6-2, 215 pounder was a standout at defensive end and fullback.

On the defensive side of the ball, Mourer was impressive with 71 tackles and eight sacks. He averaged nearly five yards per rush.

He was the ECOL Defensive Lineman of the Year and was also named first-team all-OVAC as well as Meadowbrook's Defensive Player of the Year.

Trevor, who plans on attending Mt. Union, is the son of Tim and Toni Mourer.

CHRIS SMELLEY, Bridgeport — This former Bulldog had a career second to none in his alma mater's history under the guidance of head coach Rudy Vavrock.

The 6-0, 234 pounder finished his prep days with 4,329 yards and 67 touchdowns.

After his senior season, Smelley was named first-team all-district, third-team all-Ohio, first-team all-OVAC, all-Valley and all-Times Leader. He was also a top five finalist for the Big 22 award.

Smelley was active in school as well. He's a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, JETS, TAPP and plans to attend West Liberty University.

Chris is the son of Dawn Booker and Curt Smelley Sr.

Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

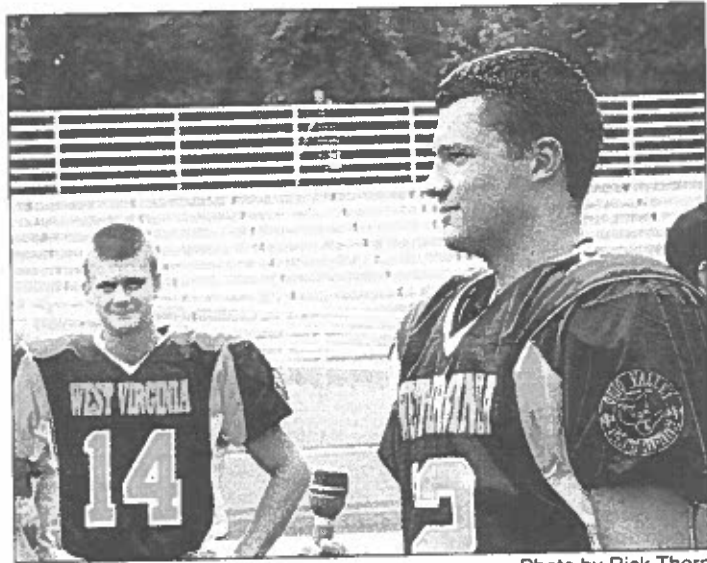


Photo by Rick Thorp

West Virginia quarterbacks Jordan Angalich, left, of Bishop Donahue and Kyle Pytlak of Linsly have always been friends.

A QB Bond That Can't Be Broken

Angalich, Pytlak are friends for life

By **RICK THORP**
Staff Writer

BETHANY — A few weeks ago, Jordan Angalich and Kyle Pytlak were at the beach together.

This week, they're standing side-by-side at Bethany College preparing for Sunday's 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic.

Seeing the pair together through the years has been commonplace, as the duo grew up six houses from each other on Seventh Street in Glen Dale.

"We've always been friends," Angalich, who starred at Bishop Donahue for four years, said. "Now, we're working together for the City of Glen Dale. It's just a coincidence we're both here."

And West Virginia coach Mark Batton is happy to have them.

"Kyle and Jordan have really come along," he said. "It's been fun to watch them."

"Sunday, they spent a lot of time with Coach (Dave) Chapman when we got into the dorm. That shows the maturity, leadership and dedication of those two guys to want to spend that extra time and learn the system."

"We're really tickled with these two guys."

Both signalcallers enjoyed spectacular 2010 campaigns.

Angalich threw for 2,406 yards and 33 touchdowns last

fall as the Bishops advanced to the West Virginia Class A playoffs. All told, he ended up with 3,771 yards and 41 touchdowns as Bishop Donahue advanced to the state semifinals.

Pytlak, starring for the Cadets, threw for 1,570 yards in 2010 with 17 touchdowns.

"We both ended up becoming successful high school quarterbacks and it's really fun to come out here together and play in a game like this," he said.

Pytlak and Angalich have many fond memories of their days playing together in the neighborhood, throwing the football in the yard, etc. For them, their time together at camp this week is just another part of what they hope will be a lifelong friendship.

Both are expected to get plenty of snaps Sunday, but has there ever been any type of rivalry between the pair?

"No," Angalich said smiling. "We'll go out and battle and push each other and help each other out with the plays."

With the pair playing at different schools it was tough to go watch each other play. Nevertheless, each was updated on the other's progress.

"We'd always call each other or text each other to see how we did," Pytlak said. "We've grown up together, throwing in the backyard, working out and stuff."

West Virginia University is the next step for Angalich and Pytlak.

"We're going to be suitemates," Pytlak said. "We have a lot of great memories."

OVAC seeking 1956 all-stars

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference is seeking information on the men who played in the 1956 All-Star Football Game. The conference needs to know if they are living or deceased. If living, it needs a current address. If you can help, please contact OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak at tom@ovac.org.

OHIO
Bill Alford, Wintersville; Gene Bell, East Liverpool; Bert Dorsey, East Liverpool; George Elefteriou, Martins Ferry; Larry Fellows, Mingo Junction; Tom Gardner, Brilliant; Laurin Giannamore, Steubenville; Bob Greenwood, Barnesville; Tod Haberfield, St. John; Don Kuri, Bellair; Pat Miller, Shadyside; Buddy Minor, Bridgeport; Frank Noble, Dillonvale; August Paglialunga, St. Clairsville; Pat Patchen, Steubenville Catholic; Charles Pollock, Smithfield; Jim Potts, East Liverpool; Dave Reed, St. Clairsville; Jay Sanford, East Liverpool; Ron

Scott, Dillonvale; Geno Sessi, St. Clairsville; Don Sheehan, Mt. Pleasant; George Stonovich, Bridgeport; Dom Tiberio, Steubenville Catholic and Dean Zitko, Cadiz. Coaches Nick Wasyluk, St. Clairsville and George Straley, Dillonvale

WEST VIRGINIA

Robert Allen, Cameron; Sonny Ankrn, Union; Bill Beam, Moundsville; Norman Benzo, Follansbee; Tom Bland, Wheeling; Chuck Bonar, Moundsville; Cal Burns, Weir; Mike Cheroka, Linsly; Melvin Clarke, Follansbee; Neil Coleman, Wheeling Central; Dan Frank, Union; John Goodwin, Warwood; Larry Gryskovich, Weir; Paul Hodyas, Linsly; Bob Jeter, Weir; Duane Mazeska, Wellsburg; Jim Mentzer, Follansbee; Ned Pell, Linsly; Tony Rosso, Weir; Jack Thayer, New Cumberland; Woody Taylor, Magnolia; Howard Templin, Wheeling; Isaac Thomas, Weir; Russ Witt, Triadelphia; Bruno Wojtasek, Wheeling and Rex Yanak, Union. Coaches Jack LaBay, Triadelphia; Doug Stone, Follansbee



Bruney Spans Times

Martins Ferry coach will guide Ohio All-Stars

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — The attraction was too much for Dave Bruney to resist. After turning down the opportunity to coach in his fifth Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic in 2007, Bruney accepted the invitation this year, giving him his fifth assignment in his fifth different decade.

Throw in the fact that his entire coaching staff at Martins Ferry had a desire to give it another go-around.

"We're looking forward to it," Bruney said.

"It's a great event and a great honor to be chosen for this. Our coaches are excited."

In the Mumley Classic, which is slated for Sunday, July 24 at Wheeling Island Stadium, Bruney owns a 4-0 record as the Ohio head coach.

Bruney and his staff directed the Purple Riders to an 8-2 record during the regular season and a runner-up finish in the OVAC Class 3-A chase to Magnolia.

Slated to join Bruney at Bethany College for all-star camp are: Bill Bruney, John Bennett, Jim Hoover, Joe Mamone, Rich Materkoski, Mike Rose, Chas Yoder and Nick Stankovich.

Here's a capsule look at the Ohio coaching staff:

DAVE BRUNEY — This veteran Purple Riders head coach has been a coach for 39 years, the last 33 of those spent at his alma mater.

During that time, Bruney has posted an impressive 234-109 record, including four undefeated seasons, a regional championship, a regional runnerup, four OVAC titles and 11 total playoff appearances.

In his one season as the head coach at Bridgeport, which was 1978, Bruney led the Bulldogs to their most recent OVAC title.

Bruney also served on the coaching staff at Martins Ferry and Buckeye North before accepting a position at Marshall University for one season.

See **BRUNEY**, Page 20

BRUNEY

(Continued from Page 15)

Bruney's career hasn't gone unnoticed. He was elected to the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2010.

Along with football, Bruney also coached basketball and track during his career in education, which came to an end this May when he retired as a teacher and athletics director.

Dave and his wife, Cheryl, have three children: Zac (29), Ashley (27) and Trevor (25).

BILL BRUNEY — This long-time Riders defensive coordinator has been a member of his brother's coaching staff for the past 17 seasons.

All told, Bill has been coaching football for 37 years. He spent a year at Alliance, four years at Bridgeport, four years at Bellaire and 11 years at Steubenville, where he was a member of the coaching staff when Big Red won the 1984 state championship.

The 1970 Martins Ferry graduate also coached wrestling, track and baseball during his career.

Bill earned his bachelor's degree from Ohio University and his masters degree from the University of Dayton.

Bill and his wife, Cindy, have three children: Craig (30), Mandy (28) and Amy (25).

JOHN BENNETT — This veteran Riders assistant played for Bruney, and then after his graduation from Bethany College, returned and has been a member of the staff for the past 18 seasons.

Bennett is a 1989 graduate of Martins Ferry and along with his bachelor's degree, he owns a masters degree in Administration from Ohio University.

The former Riders baseball coach, Bennett currently coaches both junior high track and basketball for Ferry.

John and his wife, Holly, have four children — a daughter, Lauren, and sons, Cory, Alex and Carter.

JIM HOOVER — This veteran football mind came to Bruney's staff eight years ago after serving as the head coach at Union Local for two seasons.

Hoover, who is a 1989 graduate of Buckeye North, played football at Eastern Michigan University where he earned his degree in 1994.

Upon returning to the Ohio Valley, Hoover coached at Edison for seven years before accepting the Jets job.

Along with football, Hoover has also coached basketball and baseball and is currently a track coach.

Jim and his wife, Robyn, have been married for 16 years. The couple has three children: Hailee (13), Dalton (11) and Trey (7).

JOE MAMONE — This former Rider joined the staff of his alma mater six years ago. Mamone has worked at Martins Ferry for seven years as a teacher.

Along with his football duties, Mamone, who is a West Liberty State College graduate, is currently an assistant baseball coach and has previously coached basketball.

Joe and his wife, Megan, have a daughter, Ella.

RICH MATERKOSKI — This former Bellaire Big Red standout

joined the Purple Riders coaching and teaching staffs six years ago.

Materkoski, who graduated from Bellaire in 1998, earned his bachelor's degree in 2004 from Ohio University. He completed his master's degree in administration in 2010.

Along with football, Materkoski is currently the head track coach at Martins Ferry and was named Eastern District Coach of the Year as well as Times Leader Boys' Coach of the Year.

Before arriving at Ferry, Materkoski spent time as an assistant track coach both at Bellaire and Shadyside.

Materkoski and his wife, Jennifer, recently celebrated their 1-year anniversary.

MIKE ROSE — This former St. John Central standout has been coaching football for 17 years.

Of that time, he's spent 13 years on Bruney's staff. He also spent three years as the head coach at his alma mater where he led the Irish to the 1999 OVAC Class A title as well as the school's most recent playoff

appearance.

Rose, who has previously coached basketball, earned his degree at Ohio University.

Mike and his wife, Jennifer, have three children: Mike, who is a member of the Ohio squad in this year's game; Meghan and Marissa.

CHAS YODER — This former Purple Rider completed his second season as a member of Bruney's coaching staff last fall.

Yoder is a 2004 Martins Ferry graduate and went on to a standout career at Mt. Union College where he was a member of three NCAA Division III national championship teams.

A former OVAC All-Star player, Yoder is also currently a member of the Riders' wrestling staff.

NICK STANKOVICH — This former Rider player joined the coaching staff three seasons ago.

After his high school career, Stankovich attended and played for Washington & Jefferson College for two seasons.

Nick also played in the 2004 OVAC All-Star Game.

SPORTS

Wednesday,
July 13, 2011

Bruney likes Ohio wide receivers

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

When Dave Bruney and his coaching staff met to pick their wide receivers for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, they looked for versatile players.

Because, in the Martins Ferry scheme, which will be implemented when Ohio and West Virginia clash on Sunday, July 24 at Wheeling Island Stadium, the receivers will need to do more than just catch the ball.

"We had a number of kids to choose from, who could play, but we wanted unselfish kids who were willing to block on running downs and then get the most of the opportunities when we wanted to throw the ball," Bruney said.

As for what the Ohio staff put together?

"I am tickled to death with the guys we've got," Bruney responded. "We've got relatively tall receivers who can run and some kids who run great routes to get open."



Slated to battle for action when the teams report to camp Sunday at Bethany College are: Kyle Blanchard, Harrison Central; Logan Hudson, Shadyside;

Garrett Price, Bridgeport; Bernie Thompson, Union Local and Marcus Schumacher, Monroe Central.

"We really think this position is a strength for us," Bruney said.

Here's a capsule look at the Ohio wide receiver candidates:

KYLE BLANCHARD, Harrison Central — This versatile former Husky was a multi-year standout for Coach Justin Kropka's squad.

It was at quarterback, however, where Blanchard left a lasting mark. The 6-ft-4, 195 pounder

ran for 700 yards and passed for 1,000 yards each of the past two seasons.

His fine campaign didn't go unnoticed. Blanchard was first-team all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8, second-team all-Eastern District and all-Times Leader.

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

Kyle, who is the son of Bill and Etta Blanchard of Cadiz, plans on attending the University of Ashland to play football.

See, **BRUNEY**, Page B2

● **Bruney**

Continued from Page B1

GARRETT PRICE, Bridgeport — This Bulldogs' senior did basically everything but sell popcorn for Coach Rudy Vavrock's team last season.

The 5-11, 180 pound gamebreaker finished with 22 touchdowns, including 11 rushing, five receiving, four on punt returns and two on kick returns.

He had more than 1,000 yards of offense as a wide receiver.

Price also had 37 tackles and two interceptions.

For his season, Price was named Division VI Eastern District Offensive Player of the Year and first-team all-Ohio.

He was also named all-Times Leader and captained the all-Valley team.

Garrett, who plans on attending West Liberty, is the son of Michelle Price and Gary Price.

BERNIE THOMPSON, Union Local — This Jets' wide receiver defined the term possession receiver for Coach Mark Cisar's squad.

The 5-8, 140 pounder finished his prep career with 192 catches for 1,854 yards and 11 touchdowns. Included in his numbers was a senior season with better than 100 catches.

He was also solid on the defensive side of the ball with 180 tackles and four interceptions.

He was a second-team all-Ohio pick this past season after being named first-team all-Eastern District, all-Buckeye 8, all-OVAC, all-Times Leader and all-Valley. He was also named team MVP.

Bernie, who is the son of Shawn and Deana Thompson of Belmont, plans on attending Waynesburg.

MARCUS SCHUMACHER, Monroe Central — This former Seminole had the athleticism to play a skill position, but moved to the line for the good of the team, which went to the playoffs under the guidance of Jay Circosta.

The 6-1, 195 pounder was a two-way regular for the Seminoles.

In football, Schumacher was first-team all-district, all-OVAC and all-PVC.

Along with football, Schumacher also shined in basketball, earning all-district honors and playing in the OVAC All-Star game.

Marcus, who plans on attending West Liberty University, is the son of Andrew and Deana Schumacher.

LOGAN HUDSON, Shadyside -- This Tiger senior was a standout on both sides of the football as a tight end and linebacker.

He was a last-minute addition to the squad.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleader-online.com

Coaches Rely On Their Own

OVAC All-Star Game just three days away

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Players and coaches form a special bond during the week leading up to the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic.

New personalities make for a fun week and exciting experiences, especially events like Wednesday's 25th annual George Strager Evening With the Stars.

But when it gets down to game time and preparation, it's all business. That's why it is always good to have someone you can rely on.

West Virginia coach Mark Batton and Ohio coach Dave Bruney have just that.

Batton brought three players from his W.Va. Class AA championship Magnolia squad, while Martins Ferry's Bruney selected four from the Purple Riders, an Ohio playoff participant in 2010.



Photo by Josh Strobe

Nine players were selected as recipients for the George Strager Camp Scholarships. Front row, from left, Wheeling Central's McKenzie Peluchette, John Duplaga, Tyler Jacovetty, Marcus Clifford, and Wheeling Central coach and athletic director Mike Young. Back row, from left is St. Clairsville athletics director Kelly Rine, Caleb Gunn (Cambridge), Joe Zebbs (St. Clairsville), Bernie Thompson (Union Local), Zak Stiles (St. Clairsville), and Zach Kinnick (St. Clairsville).

"That's the most special part of it," Batton said. "We implement our scheme defensively, offensively and then you look and see your players there."

"They help, they are your other assistant coaches. We had such a special year

last year and to get this opportunity to coach these three guys one more week and one more game, is priceless to me."

Traeh Keller, Sam Shepherd, and Matt Riggs all played big parts in the

Please See OWN, Page 18

OWN

(Continued from Page 17)

Blue Eagles' dominant defense and will face another big challenge in the Ohio squad.

With West Virginia snapping a long losing streak to Ohio last year, the Buckeyes will be looking to swing the momentum back their way Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

In order to do that, Bruney turned to his some of his own defensive standouts — Casey Bain, Mike Rose, Jack Beavers,

and Bobby Dayton.

"They certainly have been special players for us for a number of years," Bruney said. "All four of those kids started at least two years and have been a part of a lot of winning. They deserve this honor. We are very, very thankful for that."

That kind of knowledge of a system can go a long way, especially in a week where practice could be limited with high temperatures. Today's high is scheduled to be 96

degrees with a heat index of 103.

"They are born leaders and that helped attribute to our success last year," Batton said.

"For them to come out and get a victory Sunday would just be the icing on the cake."

Also recognized Wednesday were former players from past all-star games, cheerleaders and the Queen of Queen candidates.

Every year, the George Strager Memorial Camp

Scholarships are given out to players that attended the George Strager Camp prior to their senior season and were selected to play in the game. The winners this year for Ohio were Cambridge's Caleb Gunn, Union Local's Bernie Thompson, and St. Clairsville's Zak Stiles, Joe Zebbs, and Zach Kinnick. West Virginia's recipients were Wheeling Central's Tyler Jacovetty, Marcus Clifford, McKenzie Peluchette, and John Duplaga.

● Batton

Continued from Page B1

BOB RIPLEY — The most tenured member of the Blue Eagles coaching staff, this assistant coach has spent the last 30 years coaching on the defensive side of the ball.

Ripley — a Newcomerstown graduate — has been coaching football for 36 years.

He's twice been named Health Plan Big 22 Defensive Coordinator of the Year (2009-10).

Along with football, Ripley spent six years as head basketball coach.

Ripley, who graduated from West Liberty State College, owns a masters degree from Salem College.

Bob and his wife Jane have three children: Chase, Brett and Ashton.

MOKE RIGGS — This former Tyler County Red Raider has been a member of the Blue Eagles' coaching staff for the past four years.

Riggs, who was a 1980 OVAC All-Star player, played college football at Marshall University. He has six years of experience.

Mark and his wife Linda have four children: Ashley (22), Lindsay (20), Matt (18) and Logan (11). Matt is a member of the West Virginia squad this year.

JIM WEST — This current Valley Lumberjack assistant will be serving under Batton during the all-star game week.

West has been coaching football for 15 years. All of which have been spent at his alma mater.

After his graduation from Valley, West attended and played football for West Virginia University. He was twice an all-state player for the Lumberjacks.

West earned his degree in 1993 from WVU.

Along with football, West is currently the head baseball coach at Valley and has experience coaching junior high basketball.

Jim and his wife Levaun have three children: Chase, Cassidy and Jamey.

Batton announces W.Va. coaches

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

The players have been announced and now the coaching staff is set.

Today, West Virginia head coach Mark Batton announced his coaching staff for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, which will be held on Sunday, July 24 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Batton is embarking on his second assignment as the Mountain State head coach. He last served in this role in 2007 when Ohio prevailed in the game's waning moments.

The staff is made up primarily of Batton's Blue Eagles' staff, which helped produce a 14-0

record and a West Virginia Class AA state championship as well as the OVAC Class 3-A championship.

Joining Batton in Mountaineers' camp, which begins at Bethany College on Sunday, July 17 will be: Dave Chapman, Dave Grandstaff, Bob Ripley, Moke Riggs and Jim West.

Here's a capsule look at the West Virginia coaching staff:

MARK BATTON — This former Blue Eagle player has continued the top-shelf tradition at his alma mater in his 12 years as the head coach.

The 1977 graduate has been a member of the Blue Eagles' staff for 25 years and ascended to the head coaching position and has since posted a 95-44 record,

including the 2010 West Virginia Class AA State Championship.

Batton, who is a 1981 graduate of West Liberty State College, was recognized for his brilliant 14-0 season, with the 2011 Dapper Dan Man of the Year. He was also named Big 22 Class AAA Coach of the Year and he was a finalist for OVAC Coach of the Year. He was a Magnolia Life Achievement inductee and received the 2010 Dapper Dan Special Achievement Award.

All told, Batton owns five state championship rings. He was a member of the coaching staffs of state title teams in boys basketball and boys track and field.

Currently, Batton serves as the Magnolia head softball coach.

Mark and his wife Vicki have

been married for 23 years. The couple has three children: Abi (26), Danielle (22) and Brittany (19). They also have two grandchildren: Kaleb (6) and Kaiden (1).

DAVE CHAPMAN — This former head football coach brought professional playing and head coaching experience to his alma mater's staff when he was hired eight years ago.

Chapman, a 1980 graduate of Magnolia, played four years of football at West Virginia Tech and then played two seasons for the New England Patriots.

He completed his degree in 1986. He's been a coach for 17 years. Of those, two were spent at Williamstown as the head coach when he led it to the Super Six in

2003 and he also coached for three seasons at St. Mary's.

Chapman, who was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Inductee Award at Magnolia, is currently the head girls' basketball coach.

Dave and his wife Pam have been married for 16 years and have two daughters: Mallory (15) and Kelsi (12).

DAVE GRANDSTAFF — This long-time Blue Eagle aide has been a quality member of Batton's coaching staff.

Grandstaff was a football and track standout in his prep days, which concluded in 1967.

Dave and his wife Melinda have four children: Matt, Paul, Rachel and Angela.

See, **BATTON**, Page B2

Batton Caps Roster For W.Va. Team

Teams, coaches arrive at Bethany College today

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

WHEELING — The West Virginia squad is ready to begin camp.

Mark Batton announced some of the candidates for linebacker, defensive backfield and additional offensive players, as well as a kicker for the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic, slated for Sunday, July 24 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We've got a really nice batch of linebackers and secondary guys who are veterans at the position and not just playing there by necessity," Batton, the West Virginia and Magnolia coach, said. "Overall, we're really happy with the entire team we've put together."

The West Virginia side's defensive unit will include a couple of guys who are quite familiar with the Blue Eagles system in Cameron Benson and Traeh Keller.

"A few of our linebackers have already played in all-star games and having guys who know the system is a big key for us and helping the other guys learn the system," Batton said.

The players report to camp today at Bethany College to begin preparations for the game.

Here's a capsule look at the players:

CHRIS ELOI, Madonna — This former Blue Don was a mainstay on both sides of the ball for Coach Bob Kramer's squad the last four seasons.

The 6-foot, 185-pounder rushed for 582 yards and eight scores on 76 rushes last season. He also had nine receptions for 197 yards and a score.

On the defensive side, Eloi lined up at linebacker and had 73 tackles and four interceptions.

Eloi was a second-team all-state pick. He was also first team All-OVAC, All-Mason Dixon and All-Valley.

Along with football, Eloi was active in SADD, Interact Club and Pro-Life Club. He was also a baseball player.

Chris, who is undecided about his future plans, is the son of Richard and Laura Eloi of Weirton.

BOONE KEHRER, Tyler Consolidated — This former Silver Knight was a two-way ace for Coach Rob Caldwell's squad the past three seasons.

The 6-2, 185-pounder lined up at tight end and linebacker for the Knights. As a senior, he had 18 receptions for 253 yards. On the other side of the ball, he accumulated 99 solo tackles and 26 assists. He had eight stops for a loss and two sacks.

He was named first team All-OVAC and All-LKC along with honorable mention All-State and All-Valley.

Along with football, Kehrer is a

See, Roster, Page B2

ROSTER

Continued from page B1

member of the National Honor Society.

Boone, the son of Randy and Kim Kehrer of Sistersville, plans on attending West Virginia University.

TRAEH KELLER, Magnolia — This Blue Eagle dandy was a four-year regular for Batton.

The 5-9, 170-pounder was a standout on the defensive side at linebacker. He finished his prep career with 232 solo and 355 assists. He had 15 sacks, 48 tackles for loss, 5 forced fumbles and 6 fumble recoveries, 2 interceptions.

The running back ran for 255 yards and six touchdowns last season.

Keller was named first team All-State twice and was a three-time first team All-OVAC, All-Valley, Dapper Dan honoree and a finalist for WTOV-9 Defensive Player of the Year.

Traeh, the son of Robin and Jimmy Keller, plans on attending West Virginia University.

JEFF KIDDER, Parkersburg South — This former Patriot was an impressive player on both sides of the ball for Jon Bolen's team.

The 5-10, 175-pounder ran 120 times for 840 yards and seven touchdowns. He also caught 14 passes for 242 yards. As a safety, he recorded 89 tackles and 15 interceptions in his career.

Kidder was a first team All-OVAC pick.

Jeff, who plans on attending Glenville State, is the son of Jeff and Debbie Kidder.

BILLY PERKINS, Brooke — This two-way standout was a regular for Coach Tom Bruney's club the last several seasons.

The 5-10, 170-pounder played along the offensive line and defensive line at end.

He was named honorable mention All-Valley and All-OVAC as he scored nine touchdowns this season.

Billy, who also excels in baseball, is planning on attending Glenville State.

KYLE PYTLAK, Linsly — This former Cadet will be another vying for time at quarterback after putting together a big season for Coach B.J. Depew's team.

The 6-1, 170-pounder passed for 1,570 yards and 17 touchdowns. He also ran for a score.

Pytlak was a first team All-Valley and second-team All-OVAC selection.

Along with football, Pytlak played baseball and track for three years.

Kyle plans on attending West Virginia University to study biology.

NICK ROMITO, Morgantown — This former Mohigan will handle the placekicking duties for the Mountain State after a standout career for John Bowers' team.

The 6-2, 220-pounder was a perfect 6 of 6 on field goals and nailed

all but two of his 64 PATs.

For his efforts, he was named honorable mention All-State and All-OVAC.

Along with football, Romito was a baseball player.

Nick plans on attending West Virginia Wesleyan.

SAM SHEPHERD, Magnolia — This two-way standout caused all sorts of problems for opposing teams under Batton's watch.

The 5-10, 170-pounder was an offensive lineman and defensive end where he accumulated 96 tackles and eight sacks his senior season.

Sam, who was active in student council, is planning on attending West Virginia University.

TANNER WHYTE, Cameron — This former Dragon was a tackling machine for Coach Jim Rogers' club during his career.

The 5-10, 175-pounder logged 346 tackles in his career.

He was All-OVAC, All-Mason Dixon and second-team All-Valley.

Whyte was also a standout in wrestling, compiling a 127-29 record and winning a state championship.

Tanner, who plans on attending technical college, is the son of Randy and Reeda Whyte of Cameron.

RUBIN TINE, Weir — This linebacking ace was a defensive leader for Coach Tom Taylor's club.

The 6-0, 206-pounder was one of the team's leading tacklers.

Batton's Magnolia Staff Will Guide W.Va. All-Stars

Veteran coaching 2nd OVAC game

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

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OVAC Coach of the Year. He was a Magnolia Life Achievement inductee and received the 2010 Dapper Dan Special Achievement Award.

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See ALL-STARS, Page 16

ALL-STARS

(Continued from Page 15)

Brittany (19). They also have two grandchildren: Kaleb (6) and Kaiden (1).

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Award at Magnolia, is currently the school's head girls' basketball coach.

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Along with football, Ripley spent six years as head basketball coach.

Ripley, who graduated from West Liberty State College, owns a masters degree from Salem College.

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Mark and his wife, Linda, have four children: Ashley

(22), Lindsay (20), Matt (18) and Logan (11). Matt is a member of the West Virginia squad this year.

JIM WEST — This current Valley Lumberjack assistant will be serving under Batton during the all-star game week.

West has been coaching football for 15 years, all of which have been spent at his alma mater.

After his graduation from Valley, West attended and played football for West Virginia University. He was twice an all-state player for the Lumberjacks.

West earned his degree in 1993 from WVU.

Along with football, West is currently the head baseball coach at Valley and has experience coaching junior high basketball.

Jim and his wife, Levaun, have three children: Chase, Cassidy and

Bruney Likes His Receivers

Ohio coach feels WR will be position of strength

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — When Dave Bruney and his coaching staff met to pick their receivers for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, they looked for versatile players.

Because, in the Martins Ferry scheme, which will be implemented when Ohio and West Virginia clash on Sunday, July 24 at Wheeling Island Stadium, the receivers will need to do more than just catch the ball.

"We had a number of kids to choose from, who could play, but we wanted unselfish kids who were willing to block on running downs and then get the most of the opportunities when we wanted to throw the ball," Bruney said.

As for what the Ohio staff put together? "I am tickled to death with the guys we've got," Bruney said. "We've got relatively tall receivers who can run and some kids who run great routes to get open."

Slated to battle for action when the teams report to camp Sunday at Bethany College are: Kyle Blanchard, Harrison Central; Garrett Price, Bridgeport; Bernie Thompson, Union Local and Marcus Schumacher, Monroe Central.

"We really think this position is a strength for us," Bruney said.

OVAC All-Star Game

Here's a capsule look at the Ohio receiver candidates:

KYLE BLANCHARD, Harrison Central — This versatile former Husky was a multi-year standout for Coach Justin Kropka's squad.

It was at quarterback, however, where Blanchard left a lasting mark. The 6-foot-4, 195-pounder ran for 700 yards and passed for 1,000 yards each of the past two seasons.

His fine campaign didn't go unnoticed. Blanchard was first team All-OVAC, All-Buckeye 8, second team all-Eastern District and All-Times Leader.

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

Kyle, who is the son of Bill and Etta Blanchard of Cadiz, plans on attending the University of Ashland to play football.

GARRETT PRICE, Bridgeport — This Bulldogs senior did basically everything but sell popcorn for Coach Rudy Vavrock's team last season.

The 5-11, 180-pound gamebreaker finished with 22 touchdowns, including 11 rushing, five receiving, four on punt returns and two on kick returns. He had more than 1,000 yards of offense as a receiver.

Price also had 37 tackles and two interceptions.

Please See BRUNEY, Page 24

SPORTS

BRUNEY

(Continued from Page 17)

For his season, Price was named Division VI Eastern District Offensive Player of the Year and first team All-Ohio. He was also named All-Times Leader and captained the All-Valley team.

Garrett, who plans on attending West Liberty, is the son of Michelle Price and Gary Price.

BERNIE THOMPSON, Union Local — This Jets receiver defined the term possession receiver for Coach Mark Cisar's squad.

The 5-8, 140-pounder finished his prep career with 192 catches for 1,854 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Included in his numbers was a senior season with better than 100 catches.

He was also solid on the defensive side of the ball with 180 tackles and four interceptions.

He was a second-team all-Ohio pick this past season after being named first-team all-Eastern District, all-Buckeye 8, all-OVAC, all-Times Leader and All-Valley. He was also named team MVP.

Bernie, who is the son of Shawn and Deana Thompson of Belmont, plans on attending Waynesburg.

MARCUS SCHUMACHER, Monroe Central — This former

Seminole had the athleticism to play a skill position, but moved to the line for the good of the team, which went to the playoffs under the guidance of Jay Circosta.

The 6-1, 195-pounder was a two-way regular for the Seminoles.

In football, Schumacher was first team all-district, All-OVAC and All-PVC.

Along with football, Schumacher also shined in basketball, earning all-district honors and playing in the OVAC All-Star game.

Marcus, who plans on attending West Liberty University, is the son of Andrew and Deana Schumacher.

● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

Batton names backs

• OVAC Game set for July 24

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

When it comes to the backs on the West Virginia squad for the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic, skill doesn't seem to be an issue.

West Virginia and Magnolia head coach Mark Batton has announced those who expect to battle for playing time in the annual bi-state clash, which is slated for Sunday, July 24 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Along with a vaunted stable of running backs, which amassed some 5,600 yards this past season, Batton has chosen Bishop Donahue's Jordan Angalich as one of his quarterbacks.

Magnolia's Justin Fox had been chosen and accepted, but has since decommitted from the game due to his intention of playing baseball at West Virginia University.

"We like the quarterbacks we have," Batton said. "They were leaders on their team, they throw the ball well and they've got nice feet. Plus, they ran offenses similar to ours."

The running backs include: Linsly's Phil Acrie, Wheeling Central's Marcus Clifford, Brooke's Ryan Lazear, Wheeling Park's Zach Morris, Morgantown's Joey Musick, Oak Glen's Chance Rowland and Wheeling Park's Alex Schramm.

"We've got so many guys capable of running the ball, it's going to be a challenge to get the ball in their hands as much as possible," Batton continued. "We've got nice backs who've got good vision, good speed and they all ran well out of the spread."

See, OVAC, Page C2

Here are a capsule look at the backfield:

PHIL ACRIE, Linsly — This former Cadet was a workhorse in the backfield for Coach B.J. Depew's team last season.

The 5-10, 195 pounder ran for 1,417 yards and 18 touchdowns and didn't fumble this past season. He averaged 9 yards per carry and finished his career with 3,300 yards.

Phil, who plans on attending West Liberty, is the son of Edward and Gloria Acrie of Verona, Pa.

JORDAN ANGALICH, Bishop Donahue — This former Bishop enjoyed a record-setting season and career for Coach John Durines' team.

The 5-11, 160 pounder passed for 2,406 yards and 33 touchdowns compared to just five interceptions this past season. All told, he accumulated 3,771 yards and 48 touchdowns.

For his fine season, Angalich was named first-team all-state, all-OVAC and all-Valley.

Along with football, Angalich was a standout in baseball and basketball. He's a member of the National Honor Society and the OVAC Varsity Board.

Jordan, who plans on attending West Virginia University, is the son of Dan and Kim Angalich of Glen Dale.

MARCUS CLIFFORD, Wheeling Central — This former Maroon Knight had an impressive season and career for Coach Mike Young's club.

The 5-10, 190 pounder finished his career with 3,500 yards rushing and 44 touchdowns on the ground. He also caught eight touchdowns. Playing at both linebacker and safety during his career, Clifford tallied 207 stops.

Clifford was a two-time all-state selection, all-Valley and Big 22 Award winner.

Along with football, Clifford is active in peer ministry, Guts, basketball and track.

Marcus, who is the son of Christa Clifford of Wheeling, plans on attending West Virginia University.

RYAN LAZEAR, Brooke — This Bruin was a key part to the success of the Tom Bruney offense the last two seasons.

The 5-10, 205 pounder ran for 3,011 yards and 45 touchdowns during his career. As a defensive back, he finished with 251 tackles, eight interceptions and 16.5 tackles for loss.

Lazear was a two-time all-state, all-Valley pick and a three-time all-OVAC pick. He also won the West Virginia Huff Award and was a two-time finalist for the Big 22 award.

Ryan, who is planning on attending Mt. Union, is the son of Jim and Eberle Lazear of Wellsburg.

ZACH MORRIS, Wheeling Park — This Patriot workhorse provided stability for Coach Chris Daugherty's offense.

The 5-9, 185 pounder ran for 1,002 yards on 140 carries last season. He scored 11 touchdowns. He also caught 12 passes for 205 yards and a touchdown.

Morris was a second-team all-state pick, first-team all-OVAC and all-Valley.

Morris is active in community with his involvement with Relay for Life.

Zach, who is planning on attending Mt. Union, is the son of Scott and Amy Morris of Wheeling.

JOEY MUSICK, Morgantown — This former Mohigan had a big season for Coach John Bowers.

The 6-0, 200 pounder ran for 1,945 yards on 230 carries during the season with 22 touchdowns. He also caught five touchdowns en route to first team all-state.

Musick was all-OVAC, all-Metro News and Player of the Year in the NCAC as well as a Kennedy Award finalist.

Joey, who is the son of Mark and Michele Musick, plans on attending West Virginia Wesleyan.

CHANCE ROWLAND, Oak Glen — This Golden Bear is another extremely versatile player for Coach Tony Filberto.

The 6-0, 200 pounder saw time at running back, racking up 5,421 all-purpose yards. Of those, 4,062 came on the ground. He scored 52 rushing touchdowns and had 1,359 yards receiving.

Defensively, he had 420 tackles, 10 interceptions and 13 fumble recoveries.

Away from athletics, Rowland is a member of the National Honor Society and the OVAC Varsity Board.

Chance, who is the son of Denise Chamberlain and Matt Rowland, will attend Bethany College.

ALEX SCHRAMM, Wheeling Park — This Patriot mainstay was a solid performer for Coach Chris Daugherty's team.

The 6-1, 225 pounder was second on the squad in rushing and averaged three tackles a game as a linebacker and end. He also handled the Patriots' long snapping duties.

Schramm was an honorable mention all-state player along with a member of the OVAC All-Academic team.

Away from football, Schramm is a member of the National Honor Society, JETS, National Spanish Honor Society and Ski Club.

Alex, who is the son of Erik and Sharon Schramm of Wheeling, plans on attending West Virginia University.



RYU PREVAILS

South Korea's So Yeon Ryu topped compatriot Hee Kyung Seo to win the U.S. Open on Monday/17

The Intelligencer SPORTS

TUESDAY
JULY 12, 2011

COMICS19

15

**"We've got nice speed and good-sized receivers. Obviously, we've got several guys who catch the ball and we hope to get the ball into their hands a good bit and let them make plays."
Mark Batton**

W.Va. Receiving Corps Loaded

Batton happy with speed and size

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — When he's talking about the upcoming Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, West Virginia coach Mark Batton isn't bashful.

"We definitely want to throw the ball," Batton admits.

Earlier this week, Batton announced his quarterbacks and now he and his coaching staff believe they've got the receivers in place, which will give the Mountain State a solid opportuni-

ty to stretch the field in the July 24th game slated for Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We've got nice speed and good-sized receivers," Batton said. "Obviously, we've got several guys who catch the ball and we hope to get the ball into their hands a good bit and let them make plays."

Slated to line up at receiver when the teams open camp Sunday at Bethany College are: Brooke's Joey DiNardo, Oak Glen's Shane Koper, John Marshall's Logan Martin and Wheeling Central's MacKenzie Peluchette.

"We spent a lot of time looking at film of these guys to make

the right picks," Batton said. "All of these guys do a good job of catching the ball with their hands and run good routes."

Here's a capsule look at the West Virginia receivers:

JOEY DiNARDO,

Brooke — This former Bruin was a mainstay at receiver in Coach Tom Bruney's offense.

The 6-foot-2, 215 pounder caught 40 passes for 987 yards as a senior. As a junior, he notched 31 receptions for 1,000 yards.

DiNardo was a two-time all-state selection. He was a second-team all-Valley pick. He also

received a special achievement award from the Dapper Dan.

Joey, the son of Vince and Sondra DiNardo of Wellsburg, plans on attending West Liberty.



SHANE KOPER, Oak Glen — This former Golden Bear was one of the more versatile players for coach Tony Filiberto.

The 5-9, 165 pounder ran for 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns this past season. He also passed for 400 yards and had 350 yards receiving. As a defensive back,

Please See CORPS, Page 16

CORPS

(Continued from Page 15)

he had two interceptions.

Koper was all-OVAC and all-Valley as well as second-team all state. Along with football, Koper lettered four years in baseball.

Shane, the son of Rich Koper and Stacie Hine-man, is planning on attending West Virginia University.

LOGAN MARTIN, John Marshall — This Monarch product got it done on both sides of the ball for Coach Dan Wilson's team.

The 5-9, 165 pounder caught 48 passes for 709 yards and 7 touchdowns. As a defensive back, he had 68 tackles, an interception and 3 fumble recoveries.

Logan, the son of Kevin

and Susan Martin of Moundsville, plans to attend West Virginia.

McKENZIE PELUCHETTE, Wheeling Central — This Maroon Knight product was one of the area's top receivers under the watch of Mike Young.

The 6-2, 165 pounder caught 45 passes for 896 yards and 11 touchdowns. As a defensive back, he finished with 42 tackles, a half sack and four interceptions.

Peluchette was a first-team all-Valley and all-OVAC pick as well as a second-team all-state selection.

McKenzie, the son of Paul and Nancy Peluchette, plans on attending West Virginia University.

Versatility Strong On Ohio Side

Bruney fills defense with solid group of players

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — Ohio coach Dave Bruney has formally announced the majority of his defensive players for next Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

Selecting his linebackers, defensive backs and his kicker, Bruney and his coaching staff kept running into tough decisions because there were quality options at all of those spots.

"We've got kids who were their team's leading tacklers, some for more than one season," Bruney said.

His linebacking corp, which includes Frontier's Jake Brunoni, Indian Creek's Niko Otto, Bridgeport's Curt Smelley, Edison's Johnny Byers, Shadyside's Logan Hudson and Martins Ferry's Mike Rose, are all versatile players, which is something that was critical in their selections.

"We wanted kids who could run well, aggressive run stoppers and they could also drop into coverage," Bruney said. "We feel we've got good kids who can inside or outside."

In the secondary, the Buckeye State boasts: East Liverpool's Willie Leavell, Shadyside's Ellis Brown, Buckeye Local's Brent Kirk, Barnesville's Tyler Kurtz and St. Clairsville's Joe Zebbs.

"We've seen most of these kids live or, at least, on tape throughout the season and they can all certainly cover," Bruney said. "We think we've got as many as four kids who could play corner and they're all physical players who can hit."

Slated to handle the Ohio kicking duties is River's Tanner Wright.

Here's a capsule look at the honorees:

ELLIS BROWN, Shadyside — This former Tiger was instrumental in the success of Coach Mark Holenka's squad last season.

The 6-foot, 150-pounder passed for 1,224 yards and 18 touchdowns as a quarterback. On the ground, he added more than 700 yards and six touchdowns in 14 games.

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fumble recoveries. He went over the 100-tackle mark in each of his three seasons as a starter.

Otto also accumulated 957 yards on offense and scored 11 touchdowns as a senior.

For his fine senior campaign, Otto was named first team All-OVAC, All-Buckeye 8, All-Quad County, All-Eastern District and second team All-Ohio. He was also a WTOV-9 Big 22 honoree and a finalist for Defensive Player of the Year.

Also a four-year member of the basketball team, Niko is the son of John and Clarice Otto and will attend Mercyhurst College.

MICHAEL ROSE, Martins Ferry — This former Purple Rider was a standout on both sides of the ball for Bruney's team.

The 5-9, 165-pounder made his mark at linebacker where he recorded 73 tackles, an interception and forced three fumbles. As a fullback, Rose ran for 378 yards and made 18 receptions for 196 yards and two scores.

Rose was a first team All-Eastern District selection and All-OVAC pick. He was also a standout in wrestling, qualifying to the state tournament.

Michael, who will attend OUE, is the son of Mike and Jenny Rose.

CURT SMELLEY, Bridgeport — This Bulldog was a tackling machine for Coach Rudy Vavrock's team.

The 6-0, 235-pounder recorded 120 tackles from his linebacker post.

He was named Division VI, Eastern District Player

of the Year and first team All-Ohio. He was first team All-OVAC, All Times Leader.

As a standout in the classroom, Smelley was a member of student council, National Honor Society, JETS and the OVAC Varsity Board.

Curt, the son of Dawn Booker and Curt Smelley Sr., plans on attending West Liberty University.

TANNER WRIGHT, River — This Pilots standout didn't get as many chances as Mike Flannery would have wished for him, but he was accurate as a kicker.

The 5-11, 165-pounder earned four letters. He scored 29 points as a frosh and for the remainder of his career, he connected on 91 of 96 point after opportunities. He was also a solid punter, averaging 37.2 yards per chance, including five measuring more than 50 yards.

Wright was named all-Ohio in 2009. He was a three-time all-district performer and earned first team All-OVAC, All-PVC and All-Times Leader.

Tanner, the son of Donnie and Kelly Wright of Clarington, is planning on attending Glenville State College.

JOE ZEBBS, St. Clairsville — This two-way standout developed into a solid contributor for Coach Brett McLean's Red Devils.

The 5-11, 175 pounder lined up at strong safety and wide receiver this past season.

Joe, who plans on attending Kent State University, is the son of Corinne Meeks and Fred Zebbs.

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SPORTS

Sunday,
July 17, 2011

Ohio roster complete as report day arrives

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Report day has arrived.

And Ohio head coach Dave Bruney has formally announced the majority of his defensive players for next Sunday's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

Selecting his linebackers, defensive backs and his kicker, Bruney and his coaching staff kept running into tough decisions because there were quality options at all of those spots.

"We've got kids who were their team's leading tacklers, some for more than one season," Bruney said.

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Kirk, Barnesville's Tyler Kurtz and St. Clairsville's Joe Zebbs.

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who can hit."

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The 6-0, 150 pounder passed for 1,224 yards and 18 touchdowns as a quarterback. On the ground, he added more than 700 yards and six touchdowns in 14 games.

However, it was on the defensive side of the ball where Brown made the biggest impact.

As a corner, he had eight interceptions and some 40 tackles.

For his efforts, Brown was named second-team all-Ohio, first-team all-Eastern District, first-team all-OVAC, all-Times Leader and all-Valley.

Brown was also a standout in basketball and track. He also served as his class president for two years.

Ellis, who is the son of Kathy Brown, plans on attending Ohio University Eastern.

JAKE BRUNONI, Frontier — This former Cougar as a two-way standout for Todd Bradford's squad.

See, OHIO, Page C2

● Ohio

Continued from Page C1

The 6-ft-1, 210 pounder was a standout at both linebacker and running back.

On the defensive side of the ball, Brunoni was impressive. He averaged 11 tackles per game.

Jake, who is the son of Thomas and Jennifer Brunoni, is planning on attending Marshall University.

JONATHAN BYERS, Edison — This former Wildcat served in a multitude of roles for Coach Mike McKenzie's team.

This past season, the 5-10, 185 pounder played quarterback. He threw for 1,440 yards and rushed for 990 more en route to earning a host of post-season honors.

Included in his accolades were: first-team all-OVAC, all-Eastern District, all-Buckeye 8, all-Quad County and honorable mention all-Ohio.

Along with football, Byers was a standout in basketball and baseball.

Jonathan, who is undecided about his future plans, is the son of Dawn Speedy and John Byers.

LOGAN HUDSON, Shadyside — This former Tiger turned in a strong senior season for Holenka's team.

Playing primarily at linebacker on the defensive side, the 6-2, 195 pounder recorded 108 tackles this season for the Tigers.

Along with football, Hudson was a four-year member of the Tigers' baseball team where he was one of the Orange's top pitchers.

Logan is planning to attend Wheeling Jesuit University to play baseball.

BRENT KIRK, Buckeye Local — This former Panther was a standout on both sides of the ball for Anthony Barsch's

squad.

The 6-0, 175 pounder passed for 1,072 yards as the Panthers' quarterback. He also threw 10 touchdowns and added three rushing scores. On the defensive side of the ball, Kirk posted 68 tackles and two interceptions.

He was a two-time Eastern District honorable mention honoree, all-Buckeye 8 selection and all-OVAC pick. He also received the McDonald's Scholar Athlete Award.

Brent, who is the son of Lyle and Beth Kirk of Adena, plans on attending Mt. Union.

TYLER KURTZ, Barnesville — This former Shamrock saw time at a bevy of positions under head coach Luke Johnson.

As a senior, the 6-2, 202 pounder passed for 1,034 yards and six touchdowns. He also ran for more than 360 yards and had nine touchdowns. On the defensive side of the ball, Kurtz was a standout in the secondary with three picks and 23 tackles.

A three-year letterman, Kurtz was first-team all-OVAC, second-team all-Eastern District and all-Times Leader. He was the team MVP and captain.

Kurtz also took part in baseball and wrestling.

Tyler, who plans on attending either Bethany or Waynesburg, is the son of John and Penny Kurtz.

WILLIE LEAVELL, East Liverpool — One of the Potters' top offensive cogs for former coach Mark Asher's team.

The 5-8, 160 pounder was a standout at tailback, earning first-team all-OVAC, all-Quad County, all-Eastern District and all-Review.

Willie, who is headed to Waynesburg University, is

the son of Mollie Leavell and Will Leavell.

NIKO OTTO, Indian Creek — This two-way standout was a tackling machine at linebacker for Coach Andrew Connor's Redskins.

The 6-2, 215 pounder finished his senior season with 117 tackles, including 76 solo stops. He also had four interceptions and three fumble recoveries. He went over the 100-tackle mark in each of his three seasons as a starter.

Otto also accumulated 957 yards on offense and scored 11 touchdowns as a senior.

For his fine senior campaign, Otto was named first-team all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8, all-Quad County, all-Eastern District and second-team all-Ohio. He was also a WTOV-9 Big 22 honoree and a finalist for Defensive Player of the Year.

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Joe, who plans on attending Kent State University, is the son of Corinne Meeks and Fred Zebbs.

Counsel / B4
Comics / B5

SPORTS

Tuesday,
July 12, 2011

W.Va. will throw the football

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

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24th game slated for Wheeling Island Stadium.

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DiNardo was a two-time all-state selection. He was a second-team all-Valley pick. He also received a special achievement award from the Dapper Dan.

Joey, who is the son of Vince and Sondra DiNardo of

Wellsburg, plans on attending West Liberty.

SHANE KOPER, Oak Glen — This former Golden Bear was one of the more versatile players for head coach Tony Filberto.

The 5-9, 165 pounder ran for 1000 yards and 10 touchdowns this past season. He also passed for 400 yards and had 350 yards receiving. As a defensive back, he had two interceptions.

Koper was all-OVAC and all-Valley as well as second-team all state. Along with football, Koper lettered four years in baseball.

See, **W.VA.**, Page B2

● **W.Va.**

Continued from Page B1

Shane, who is the son of Rich Koper and Stacie Hineman, is planning on attending WVU.

LOGAN MARTIN, John Marshall — This Monarch product got it done on both sides of the ball for Coach Dan Wilson's team.

The 5-9, 165 pounder caught 48 passes for 709 yards and 7 touchdowns. As a defensive back, he had 68 tackles, an interception and 3 fumble recoveries.

Logan, who is the son of Kevin and Susan Martin of Moundsville, plans to attend WVU.

McKENZIE PELUCHETTE, Wheeling Central — This Maroon Knight product was one of the area's top receivers under the watch of Mike Young.

The 6-2, 165 pounder caught 45 passes for 896 yards and 11 touchdowns. As a defensive back, he finished with 42 tackles, a half sack and four interceptions.

Peluchette was a first-team all-Valley and all-OVAC pick as well as a second-team all-state selection.

McKenzie, who is the son of Paul and Nancy Peluchette, plans on attending WVU.

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WHERE - Wheeling Island Stadium - OTHER DETAILS - Admission is FREE!

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Friday,
July 8, 2011

OVAC all-star coaches face tough task with roster shuffling

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Most high school football players in the Ohio Valley grow up dreaming of playing in the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic.

Both West Virginia head coach Mark Batton and Ohio head coach Dave Bruney have learned the hard way that most by no means is all.

The two head coaches for this year's annual game, which is slated for Sunday, July 24 at Wheeling Island Stadium, have found themselves working the phones of late, trying to replace players — who for one reason or another — originally accepted their invitation only to renege in the last few days.

Both coaches turned their rosters into game director Bob Koch in the early portion of March and, since then, there's been no fewer than 10 changes.

"I don't know that the other four times combined that we had that many kids not want to play for whatever reason," Bruney said. "It's difficult to choose these teams and if a kid realizes early that he can't play, he should probably let (Koch) or his coach know immediately, so you can find a replacement and he's got time to get into shape because there are still a lot of kids who would cut off a finger to play in this game."

Bruney and his staff have had to make three changes from their original roster. Turning the game down were: Steubenville's Anthony Pierrro; Toronto's Devonte McGhee and Edison's Mark Rogers.

"We didn't have any problems getting replacements," Bruney said. "The first three kids we called were willing to play."

Bruney, who's coached the game four times and played in it, believes the game probably means more to the kids who are from the more immediate area of the OVAC.

"The local kids have grown up with this game," Bruney said. "Some of these kids have probably been to this game 10 or 12 times and maybe more than that. It's very, very special to those kids, but I think the further you get away from Wheeling Island Stadium (geographically), it may not mean that much to you, and that's unfortunate."

On the other side of the river, Batton would probably consider himself fortunate to only have three replacements.

Since submitting his original roster, he's had no fewer than eight changes, including two coming in the last 72 hours.

"I think some of it has to do with the colleges frowning on the guys playing because of a risk of



● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

injury," Batton said. "But, there's been some of them where we didn't get a reason."

West Virginia State Player of the Year Justin Fox, of Magnolia, informed his prep coach that he wouldn't be playing in the game this past weekend.

Fox, who led the Blue Eagles to the Class AA state title last season and was a four-year starter, had been penciled in to be one of primary quarterbacks for West Virginia.

However, he opted to bow out of the game because of his commitment to the West Virginia baseball program.

"I know Justin would have liked to have played, but it just didn't work out for him," Batton said. "Obviously, we lost a talented player who knew our offense very, very, very well, but we've got two quarterbacks in camp who we'll coach up and we'll do the best we can."

Other Mountaineer choices, who won't be playing in the game include: Connor Arlia (Madonna), Ryan Jones (Bishop Donahue), Sterling Springgate (University), David Stanton (Morgantown), Micah Wilson (University), Demetrius Youngblood (Linsly) and Anthony Gutta (Morgantown).

"We've got a 33-man roster, and I hope we're locked in now," Batton said. "We'll be there on the 17th to start camp and hopefully these guys are there."

This is the second time Batton has coached the game. In 2007, the West Virginia roster had nary a change from the initial one announced.

"This is new to me," Batton said of working the phones overtime in search of players. "I know there are kids in the Ohio Valley just dying to play in the game."

Neither coach wants to see the game moved off from its traditional date of late July where it serves as the unofficial start to prep football season.

Many all-star games have moved into June because of the NCAA allowing incoming freshmen to enroll in classes early, especially at the Division I level.

"I think (late) July is a great time to have the game," Batton said. "It gives the people of the Ohio Valley a chance to get a little football in them and sort of wet their whistles, so to speak, to gear up for the high school season."

The most updated rosters look like this:

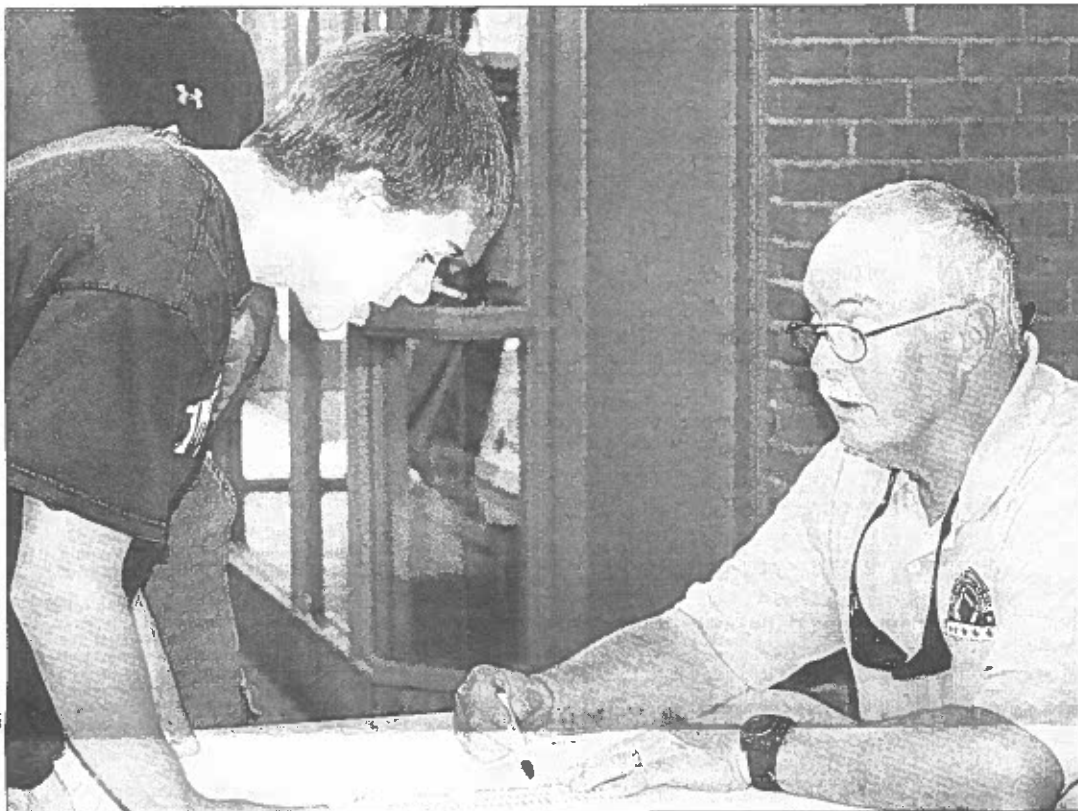
OHIO

Casey Bain, Martins Ferry; Jack Beavers, Martins Ferry; Kyle Blanchard, Harrison Central; Ellis Brown, Shadyside; Taylor Brown, Shadyside; Johnny Byers, Edison; Mason Campbell, Steubenville; Bobby Dayton, Martins Ferry; John Eckroth, Steubenville; Kody Edwards, East Liverpool; Cory Fickiesen, Frontier; Caleb Gunn, Cambridge; Zach Kinnick, St. Clairsville; Brent Kirk, Buckeye Local; Tyler Kurtz, Barnesville; Willie Leavell, East Liverpool; Cody Morris, Caldwell; Trevor Mourer, Meadowbrook; Niko Otto, Indian Creek; Garrett Price, Bridgeport; Willie Pruitt, Steubenville; Mike Rose, Martins Ferry; Marcus Schumacher, Monroe Central; Aaron Silverio, Shadyside; Chris Smelley, Bridgeport; Curt Smelley, Bridgeport; Zak Stiles, St. Clairsville; Bernie Thompson, Union Local; John Thompson, East Liverpool; Josh Tolliver, Bellaire; Jacob Brunoni, Frontier; Tanner Wright, River; Joe Zebbs, St. Clairsville.

WEST VIRGINIA

Phil Acrie, Linsly; Jared Adrian, Morgantown; Jordan Angalich, Bishop Donahue; Cameron Benson, Magnolia; Michael Berardi, John Marshall; Marcus Clifford, Wheeling Central; Joey DiNardo, Brooke; Demetrius Dixon, University; John Duplaga, Wheeling Central; Chris Eloi, Madonna; Cory Evans, Oak Glen; Dan Heupp, Weir; Tyler Jacovetty, Wheeling Central; Boone Kehrler, Tyler Consolidated; Traeh Kelle, Magnolia; Jeff Kidder, Parkersburg South; Shane Koper, Oak Glen; Kaleb Kucera, Bishop Donahue; Ryan Lazaer, Brooke; Logan Martin, John Marshall; Zach Morris, Wheeling Park; Joey Musick, Morgantown; Anthony Pederson, Brooke; McKenzie Peluchette, Wheeling Central; Kyle Pytlak, Linsly; Matt Riggs, Magnolia; Nick Romito, Morgantown; Chance Rowland, Oak Glen; Alex Schramm, Wheeling Park; Tanner Whyte, Cameron; Chris Williams, John Marshall.

OVAC All-Stars Check In



Oak Glen's Shane Koper, left, checks in with Cameron coach Jim Rogers on Sunday as the OVAC All-Stars make their way to Bethany College in preparation for the OVAC All-Star Game next week.

Photo by
Rick Thorp

Koch, Batton, Bruney impressed with Bethany

By RICK THORP
Staff Writer

BETHANY — Media Day tops the agenda today as activities surrounding the 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic reaches a fever pitch.

Players, coaches, game staff, cheerleaders and band members arrived on the Bethany College campus Sunday afternoon and were greeted by an enthusiastic mix of folks from the college and the OVAC.

This year, the conference is utilizing Bethany's facilities after many years at West Liberty University. And, like anyone who moves into a new home, different surroundings can provide challenges.

Game Director Bob Koch said a majority of those challenges have already been conquered.

"It's been a really smooth transition thanks to the people at

Bethany," he said. "They've bent over backwards and have been really helpful."

An atmosphere of controlled chaos permeated the Thomas P. Johnson Recreation Center as players and their parents made their way through the various checkpoints that make up the registration process.

Koch and his staff kept close watch on the proceedings, along with Bethany athletics director and football coach Tim Weaver, making sure everything went off without a hitch.

All told, about 300 people arrived on campus Sunday.

"We tried to perceive all the challenges," Koch said. "There's no crystal ball, so we won't see all of them. But we tried to eliminate as many as we could."

"So far, we're happy with how things have gone."

Game officials brought those involved with the teams, cheerleaders

and band members to campus a few weeks ago to help them get acclimated to their new surroundings.

Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney, coaching the Ohio squad for the sixth time, was one of many impressed with the facilities.

"We've been to West Liberty and even Linsly and Bethany is as good as they come," Bruney said.

"Bethany has really rolled out the welcome mat for the OVAC and these all-stars."

"The accommodations are terrific. They have the new turf field and there's a beautiful soccer field which we'll have access to. It's great."

Magnolia coach Mark Batton and his staff are coaching the West Virginia team for the second time in five years. He is equally impressed with what Bethany brings to the game's atmosphere.

Please See OVAC, Page 13

OVAC

(Continued from Page 11)

"It's a beautiful facility and I think the kids will really enjoy this," he said. "(Bethany) is gung ho to treat these players right."

Following a series of team meetings, Bruney and Batton watched their teams go through a light workout Sunday afternoon. Today, helmets and shoulder pads will be added.

"You only have a week to get it done so you'd better take advantage of every minute," Batton cautioned.

Bruney acknowledged it gets tougher and tougher each time to select the Buckeyes squad.

"There are a lot of good players that don't get picked," he said. "You have 32 players and a kick-

er and you have to fill certain positions."

Batton had more options in the selection process this year as University, Morgantown, Parkersburg South and Hundred were added to the conference's football family last fall.

It's true that will give the Mountaineers more talent, but it made the selection process that much more mind-bending.

"It's a great opportunity to coach players that you've played against or watched or read about," Batton said. "This is a great honor to be around players like this."

"You get to spend a week around them and get to know them personally. That's what's special about it."

SPORTS

Thursday,
July 14, 2011

Ohio has many versatile linemen

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

In all-star games, line play on both sides of the ball is normally the key.

Such was the case a year ago when West Virginia defeated Ohio in the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

When he sat down, with his coaching staff, to select the 2011 Ohio squad, head coach Dave Bruney had last year's game in the back of his mind.

"Barring a lot of turnovers and penalties, then blocking and tackling are usually the keys to win-

ning football at any level," Bruney said. "We want to be consistent blockers down after down because if you're persistent, you never know when you're going to break one."

The Ohio coaching staff picked versatile linemen who stood out on both sides of the ball for the annual all-star game, which is slated for Sunday, July 24 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

It also found a solid mixture of size and athleticism, which is the key for executing the Martins Ferry offense.

"We've got some physical kids with good feet," Bruney said. "We've got some kids who were



standout wrestlers, which is a big plus. We've got a lot of guys between 230 and 270, who are pretty athletic."

Here is a capsule look at the Ohio offensive and defensive linemen:

JACK BEAVERS, Martins

Ferry — This rugged two-way lineman was one of the keys to the success of the Riders' offense.

The 6-1, 220 pounder was a two-way tackle for Bruney and excelled on both sides of the ball.

Jack is the son of Jack and Penny Beavers.

TAYLOR BROWN, Shadyside — This former Tiger caused all sorts of havoc from his defensive end spot last season.

The 6-1, 185 pounder lined up primarily as a defensive end and finished with 20 sacks and 119 tackles. He forced a fumble and recovered four others. He also blocked two kicks and deflected two passes.

He saw spot duty on offense. As a tight end, he caught seven passes for 160 yards and three touchdowns.

For his fine season, Brown was named first-team all-Ohio. He was first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Times Leader and all-Valley.

Taylor, who plans on attending Belmont Technical College, is the son of Lorrie Davis and Gilbert Brown.

MASON CAMPBELL, Steubenville — This standout lineman was a three-year mainstay for Coach Reno Saccoccia's team.

See, **OHIO**, Page B2

● Ohio

Continued from Page B1

The 6-1, 255 pounder helped anchor the offensive line, which led to impressive offensive numbers.

For his work, Campbell earned first-team all-Eastern District, second-team all-Ohio, all-Valley and a Block of Granite Award.

Mason, who is the son of Wayne and Marjorie Campbell, is undecided about his college plans.

BOBBY DAYTON, Martins Ferry — This former Purple Rider had one memorable senior campaign for Bruney.

As a defensive end, the 6-0, 185 pounder accumulated 27.5 sacks in the season, which established a new Ferry and Buckeye 8 single-season record.

Dayton was named first-team all-Ohio and was the Eastern District's Defensive Player of the Year in Division IV. He was also all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8, all-Times Leader and all-Valley.

Bobby, who plans on attending OU-Eastern, is the son of Robert and Kathy Dayton.

JOHN ECKROTH, Steubenville — This standout defensive lineman was a force at nose guard in his one season playing for Reno Saccoccia at Big Red.

The 6-2, 240 pounder finished his prep career with 139 tackles and 10 sacks. He had two forced fumbles and recovered four fumbles in 22 games starting, which included his career at Harrison Central.

Eckroth was first-team all-OVAC and all-Eastern District.

Eckroth was also a standout in wrestling, winning the OVAC title as a junior and finishing second last winter.

John, who is the son of Sandy Dorm and John Eckroth of Wintersville, is planning on attending West Liberty.

KODY EDWARDS, East Liverpool — This standout offensive lineman was a key cog for now former coach Mark Asher's Potters.

The 6-2, 260 pounder anchored the offensive line at the center spot.

Edwards was a first-team all-district, all-OVAC and all-Quad County pick. He was a sec-

ond-team all-Ohio selection.

Along with football, Edwards was a standout in baseball and wrestling.

Kody, who is the son of Kim Creaturo and Keith Edwards, plans on attending Waynesburg University.

CALEB GUNN, Cambridge — This former Bobcat earned four letters for Coach Rick Goodrich's team.

The 5-10, 220 pounder excelled on the offensive and defensive lines. He was a center on offense and tackle on defense where he accumulated 53 tackles.

Gunn was a first-team all-Ohioan, all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-ECOL choice and was the ECOL Lineman of the Year.

Along with football, Gunn was a standout in wrestling where he won the OVAC 215-pound title as an unseeded wrestler this past January.

Caleb, who is the son of Carrie Ann and Keith Gunn of Kimbolton, is undecided about his future plans.

WILLIAM PRUITT, Steubenville — This former Big Red two-way lineman was a multi-year standout for Saccoccia's team.

Playing at guard and defensive tackle, the 6-0, 260 pounder was a team captain. He was also named all-Eastern District, and one of the 10 Blocks of Granite and received the Calvin Jones Award.

William, who will attend Robert Morris, is the son of Brian and Loretta Pruitt.

AARON SILVERIO, Shadyside — This Tiger mainstay was one of the key cogs in a talented offensive line for Coach Mark Holenka's squad.

The 6-1, 260 pounder graded out at 90 percent blocking and defensively he recorded 70 tackles, a safety and four fumble recoveries.

As a senior, Silverio was named first-team all-Ohio, first-team all-Eastern District, all-Times Leader, all-OVAC and all-Valley.

He was also a standout in wrestling, winning the OVAC 285-pound title and finishing fourth in the state of Ohio.

Aaron, who will wrestle at West Liberty University, is the son of Rich and Judy Silverio.

ZAK STILES, St. Clairsville — This two-way standout played a key role for Coach Brett McLean's squad.

The 6-1, 245 pounder played defensive end and offensive guard for the Red Devils.

He had 22.5 sacks, 64 tackles, an interception and eight quarterback hurries.

He was named first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and was a finalist for the WTOV-9 Blocks of Granite.

Stiles was also a letterman in basketball for the Red Devils.

Zak, who plans on attending Waynesburg University, is the son of Bruce and Leslie Stiles of Bethesda.

JOHN THOMPSON, East Liverpool — This former Potter was a standout defensive lineman for Asher's squad.

The 6-0, 240 pounder recorded 34 tackles, including two for loss and 1.5 sacks.

For his efforts, he was named first-team all-Quad County and second-team all-OVAC.

Along with football, Thompson was active in thespians and was the president of the Outdoor Adventure Club.

John, who is planning on attending Waynesburg University, is the son of John and Deneen Thompson.

JOSH TOLLIVER, Bellaire — This former Big Red was a two-way force for Coach Jose Davis' team.

The 6-2, 208 pounder was a force on the defensive line and earned all-Eastern District and all-Ohio honors for his efforts. He was also named all-OVAC and all-Times Leader.

Along with those honors, Tolliver received the Todd Bates Memorial Award and the Claire Cribbs and Philip Chase Awards.

Tolliver was also a standout in basketball and lettered in track and field for the Big Reds.

Josh, who will attend Waynesburg University, is the son of Bishop Michael and Patricia Tolliver.

Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic

Defense Does It



Photos by Mike Palmer

Top: Linsly's Phil Acrie gets dragged down by a pair of Ohio defenders during Sunday's OVAC All-Star showdown at Wheeling Island Stadium. Top, right: The Cadets' Kyle Pytlak tries to escape Bellaire's Josh Tolliver.

W.VA. 24, OHIO 3

Ohio	0	3	0	0	-3
West Virginia	7	7	7	3	-24
W —	Crifford	64	pass	from	Pytlak (Romito kick)
O —	Wright	32	FG		
W —	Lazear	3	run	(Romito kick)	
W —	Musick	7	run	(Romito kick)	
W —	Romito	36	FG		
Statistics					
Rushing: Ohio 25-4 (Price 6-6, Brown 1-6, Ch. Smelley 9-19, Cu. Smelley 1-3, Kinnick 8-(-12), Bain 1-1, 3-(-17), Rose 1-(-2); West Virginia 39-129-2td (Acrie 14-30, Pytlak 3-0, Musick 11-50-td, Lazear 8-38-td, Clifford 1-3, Rowland 2-8).					
Passing: Ohio 9-19-62-2x (Kinnick 3-7-16-x, Brown 0-1-0, Fickiesen 6-11-46-x); West Virginia 8-15-135-td (Angalich 4-7-37, Pytlak 4-8-98-td).					
Receiving: Ohio (Brown 2-2, Thompson 6-51, Price 2-9); West Virginia (Clifford 1-64-td, Musick 5-20, Martin 1-40, Koper 1-11).					
First Downs: Ohio 3; West Virginia 10.					
Penalties: Ohio 0-0; West Virginia 2-10.					
Fumbles: Ohio 3-2; West Virginia 1-1.					

Additions Work Well For W.Va.

Morgantown, South making a big difference

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — When the OVAC began its expansion a few years ago into the Parkersburg and Morgantown areas, most weren't truly concerned with how those additions would affect the sports champions in each class.

However, the thoughts of the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic quickly jumped into many's minds when South, Morgantown and University became full-fledged members.

Many pundits expected the balance of power, which had heavily favored the Buckeye State, to begin to shift at some point.

Just two years into the expansion and the Mountain State is a perfect 2-0.

West Virginia steamrolled over Ohio on Sunday night at Wheeling Island Stadium by a decisive 24-3 count.

"It's great having the extra schools," West Virginia coach Mark Batton said. "We got some nice players from Morgantown, our representative from South had a really nice play, so it's nice."

Please See ADDITIONS, Page 14

Ripley's crew leads Mountaineers to 2nd straight 'W'

By RICK THORP
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Assigned with the daunting task of devising a plan to slow down a potentially potent Ohio offensive attack, West Virginia coach Mark Batton turned to the same group of folks that helped the Blue Eagles win a state championship last fall — his assistants.

Coach Bob Ripley and his cohorts put a plan in place and the Mountaineers executed it to near perfection Sunday night as West Virginia topped Ohio 24-3 in the 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic.

West Virginia held the Buckeyes to 66 total yards and three first downs (two of which came in the final 40 seconds) in winning back-to-back all-star clashes for the first time in 17 years.

"This is a tremendous group of

players," an elated Batton exclaimed on the Wheeling Island Stadium turf. "And what a coaching staff I have for cryin' out loud."

"These (players) took their roles and went with it. There wasn't any complaining or anything."

"What a special way to end a special week."

Defense and big plays sparked the Mountaineers to victory, one that resulted in Ohio coach Dave Bruney being on the losing end for the first time in all-star competition.

"I don't think we could've asked our defense to play much better," Bruney said. "But offensively, we didn't have much consistency."

"Sometimes, in all-star games in particular, that's your concern."

"You can't help your defense like that when their on the field that much."

West Virginia outgained Ohio 264-66, 64 of which came on scoring strike from Kyle Pytlak to Marcus Clifford on the fourth play of the game.

Pytlak, the former Linsly standout, dropped back and spotted a wide open Clifford who was streaking across the middle of the field. The pass found the ex-Wheeling Central star at the Ohio 37 and, from there, it was a simple sprint to paydirt and a 7-0 lead.

"That was big," Batton said of the connection. "That gave our defense something to work with and gave them some confidence."

Ohio had little to cheer about until late in the first quarter.

After pinning West Virginia on its own 4, Pytlak tried to go long. But his pass was picked off by Martins Ferry's Casey Bain at the West Virginia 31.

Please See DEFENSE, Page 14

ADDITIONS

(Continued from Page 13)

"Those are large schools in both West Virginia and the OVAC, which makes it nice."

Ohio head coach Dave Bruney was definitely aware of the big-school players West Virginia picked coming into the game.

"The last two years, particularly, I thought West Virginia has had really fine teams," Bruney said. "They've got some contributions from big-school players, but we had that for years, so we can't complain about that."

Prior to West Virginia winning back-to-back encounters, Ohio had claimed 14 of the previous 15 matchups. Then people were barking for format changes and finding a new

system, but it seems more and more people are jumping back on the bandwagon for the bi-state clash.

"I don't like losing, of course," Bruney said. "Overall, I think it's good for the game. I thought the crowd was pretty good, considering the heat and everything."

Tom Bruney — the Brooke coach who led West Virginia to victory last summer — took the same approach when he drafted his team. Take as many of the big-school players as possible and go from there.

Bruney was one of the first guys to find Batton for a congratulations as the game went final.

"Coach (Tom) Bruney and I both looked at each other on the sidelines and help up the number two on our fingers," Batton

explained.

With West Virginia owning a two-game winning streak, it also makes it tough for future Mountain State coaches to use the popular underdog role in camp.

But, that's okay with Batton.

"West Virginia was right in this game for a long time, but it sort of fell on hard times," Batton said. "I think this is important and crucial for West Virginia. Good luck to the guy who coaches this next year because I think we've definitely built some confidence the last two years."

WELCOME BACK TO THE ISLAND!

The victory is especially sweet for Batton, who will begin work with his 2011 Blue Eagles in a little more than a week.

The veteran Blue Eagles mentor had always dreamed about the feelings of standing on the Wheeling Island turf as a West Virginia state champion and as the winning all-star game coach.

In a span of eight months, he experienced both.

The Blue Eagles capped a perfect 14-0 season for the Class AA State Championship and then Sunday's victory. He had previously come up short in his previous tries in both.

"I always wondered what it would be like to win one of these games after losing here four years ago," Batton said. "I will be honest, our staff had a bitter taste in its mouth after that one because we thought we outplayed them, but this is truly special, and I am so proud of these players."

DEFENSE

(Continued from Page 13)

The Buckeyes drove into the redzone, but had to settle for a 32-yard field goal by River's Tanner Wright to cut the deficit to 7-3 on the first play of the second quarter.

Neither team put together long, successful drives. West Virginia, however, staged one later in the second quarter highlighted by Brooke's Ryan Lazear.

The first team All-West

Virginian carried the ball four times for 23 yards, including a 3-yard touch-down carry to cap a nine-play effort that gave the Mountaineers a 14-3 advantage.

Lazear finished with 38 yards, but Morgantown's Joey Musick led all rushers with 50 yards on 11 totes.

Musick's 7-yard run in the third quarter gave West Virginia a commanding 21-3 lead.

"They kind of wore us

down with their size," Bruney said. "I was worried that if they got out to a double-digit lead, and with the numbers of good backs they had, they could wear us down a little bit and milk the clock. And that's what they did."

Morgantown's Nick Romito's 36-yard field goal capped the scoring in the fourth quarter.

Union Local's Bernie Thompson hauled in six passes for 51 yards for

Ohio, while Bridgeport's Chris Smelley ran for 19 yards on nine carries.

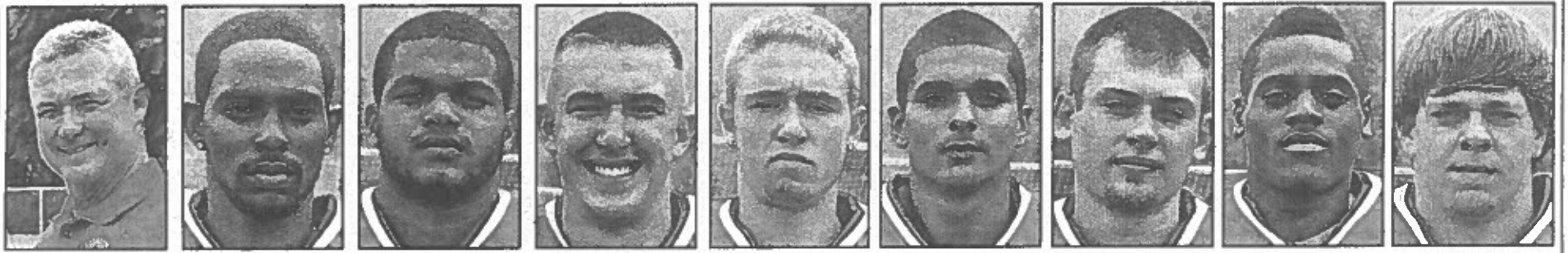
"I told (my team) I had a great time with them," Bruney said. "They competed very hard and it just didn't work out for us."

"I want to congratulate Coach Batton and the West Virginia kids. I thought once they got that lead they had a very sound offensive plan."

"They did what we like to do."

SPORTS

Sunday, July 24, 2011



BRUNEY LEAVELL Ch. SMELLEY KINNICK E. BROWN ZEBBS WRIGHT TOLLIVER HUDSON



KIRK



T. BROWN



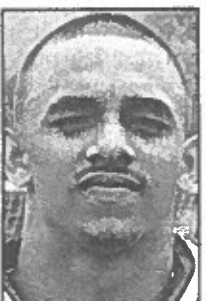
B. THOMPSON



SCHUMACHER



DAYTON



PRICE

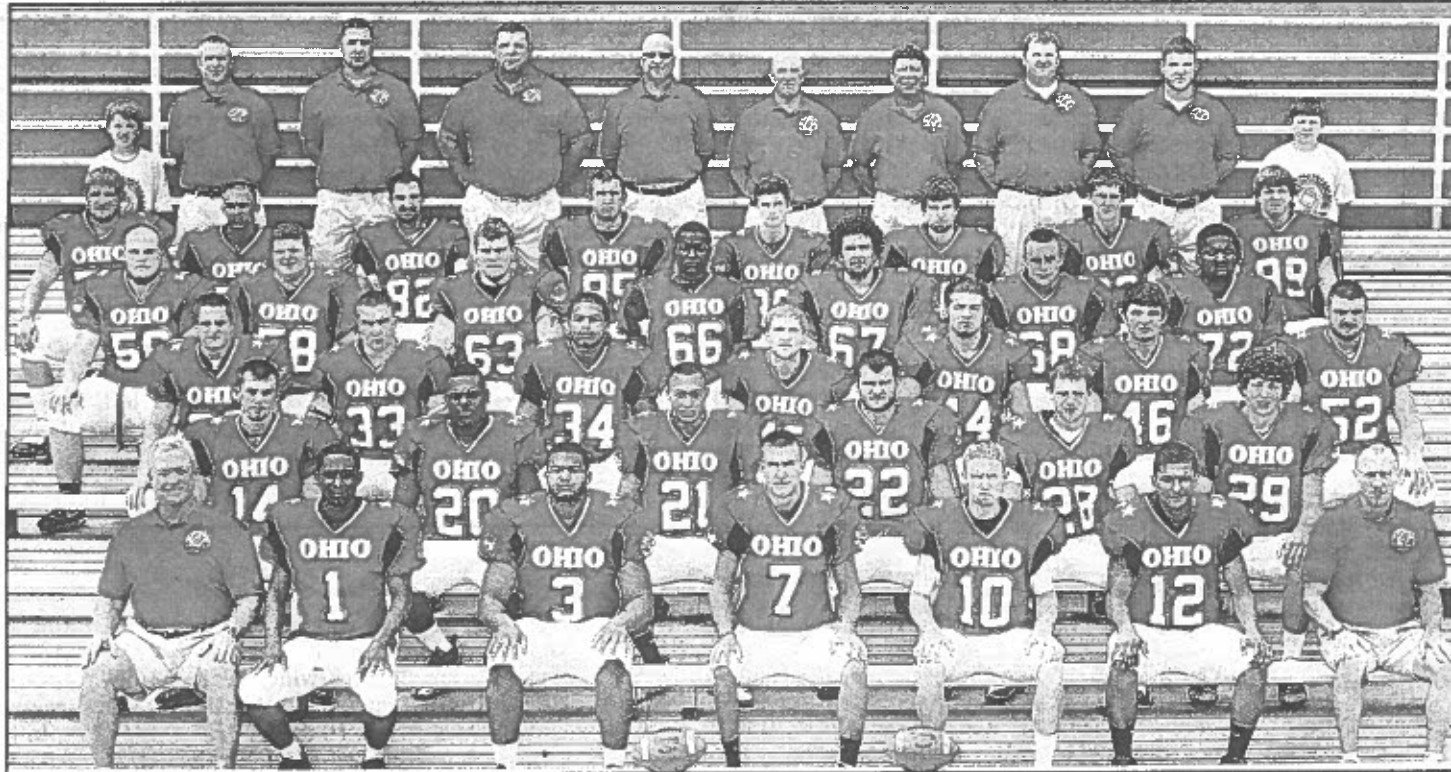
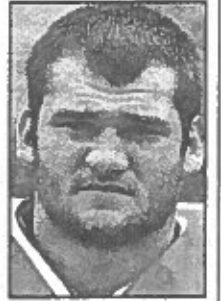


Photo Courtesy/BRIGGS PHOTOGRAPHY

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BLANCHARD



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BAIN



FICKIESEN



BYERS



MURER



Football is back

• OVAC All-Star Game set to take the field this evening

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING — There are plenty of activities that surround the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

However, at 7:15 p.m. this evening, all eyes of the Ohio Valley will firmly be planted on Wheeling Island Stadium when the football stars of the Ohio and West Virginia take the field for the 66th time in the annual game, which is widely considered one of the premier sporting and social events of the Ohio Valley calendar.

"This has been a really good week," said Ohio head coach Dave Bruney, who is set to lead the Buckeye State onto the Island turf for the fifth time in his illustrious career. "You're always a little apprehensive as you get older because you don't want to babysit, but these guys have been good, and we've had a lot of fun with them."

The opportunity to coach the Mumley Classic in five different decades was just too much for Bruney to pass up this week. He and his Martins Ferry coaching staff — along with 33 players from all over the Ohio Valley — have formed a solid rapport in the week they've been together.

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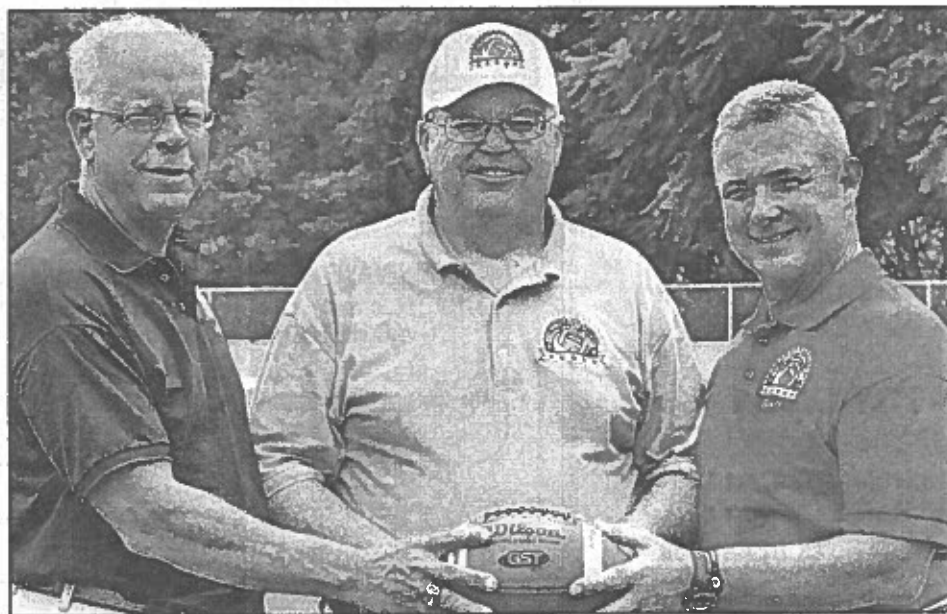


Photo Courtesy/BRIGGS PHOTOGRAPHY

THE OPPOSING coaches in tonight's game, Mark Batton (left) of Magnolia and Dave Bruney (right) of Martins Ferry pose with Game Director Bob Koch during media day last Monday at Bethany College.

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from the other sideline. "We've prepared for what we thought we could do best (against West Virginia) with the players we had," Bruney said. "We looked at five (Magnolia) tapes to just kind of get an idea of what their personality is because we've not played them in a long, long time. So, we've been preparing



KIRK



T. BROWN



B. THOMPSON



SCHUMACHER



DAYTON



PRICE



BEAVERS



J. THOMPSON



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"These kids joke around and have fun, but they also know when it's time to work," Bruney said. "These kids know what we expect of them. Certainly, we'd like to win, which is important to everyone, but as you get older, you start to realize there are some things a little more important than that. Their experience and hopefully everyone getting involved for as much time as we can. Winning on top of that would certainly make it special."

The players began preparation a week ago at Bethany College and after battling oppressive heat some 12 practices later, the players are ready to strap it up for real.

Both Ohio and West Virginia will go through a Vespers services this morning, eat a team meal on the Bison campus before boarding the buses for Wheeling Island at approximately 3:30 p.m.

"When you consider the circumstances we've been practicing under this week with the heat, we've had to cut the practice time



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West Virginia head coach Mark Batton and his coaching staff have also found it quite a task to keep the players fresh, while still being able to accomplish the things needed.

"It's been a great week, but weather-wise it's been a challenge," Batton said. "We've backed off a little bit. We're just trying to polish things and get their legs back. The kids have been wonderful and they're true football players."

One of the most challenging aspects of the camp for both teams has been not only installing their own game plans, but also trying to prepare for what they might see

from the other sideline.

"We've prepared for what we thought we could do best (against West Virginia) with the players we had," Bruney said. "We looked at five (Magnolia) tapes to just kind of get an idea of what their personality is because we've not played them in a long, long time. So, we've been preparing against things that seem to be their favorite things to do, but I'm sure they're going to have things to best utilize the talents of the players they took, so you're kind of cold."

The Ohio offense will be triggered by St. Clairsville's Zach Kinnick, who will start the game. Also slated to see time at quarterback is Frontier's Corey Fickiesen.

The tailback position will be shared primarily between Bridgeport's Chris Smelley and Martins Ferry's Casey Bain. Bridgeport's Curt Smelley is ticketed to serve as the Buckeyes' fullback.

On the perimeter, Harrison Central's Kyle Blanchard, Bridgeport's Garrett Price

See, **OVAC**, Page B2



STILES



CAMPBELL



PRUITT



ECKROTH



GUNN



EDWARDS



SILVERIO



KURTZ



OTTO

Past OVAC Game Scores

2011 - ??????	1974 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 6
2010 - West Virginia 24, Ohio 14	1973 - West Virginia 38, Ohio 20
2009 - Ohio 47, West Virginia 7	1972 - Ohio 24, West Virginia 6
2008 - Ohio 31, West Virginia 7	1971 - No Game
2007 - Ohio 6, West Virginia 3	1970 - No Game
2006 - Ohio 22, West Virginia 0	1969 - West Virginia 12, Ohio 0
2005 - Ohio 35, West Virginia 6	1968 - Ohio 6, West Virginia 0
2004 - West Virginia 21, Ohio 7	1967 - West Virginia 18, Ohio 0
2003 - Ohio 32, West Virginia 26	1966 - Ohio 26, West Virginia 0
2002 - Ohio 19, West Virginia 12	1965 - Ohio 22, West Virginia 0
2001 - Ohio 36, West Virginia 0	1964 - Ohio 2, West Virginia 0
2000 - Ohio 13, West Virginia 7	1963 - No Game
1999 - Ohio 32, West Virginia 0	1962 - West Virginia 12, Ohio 6
1998 - Ohio 41, West Virginia 14	1961 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
1997 - Ohio 24, West Virginia 14	1960 - Ohio 7, West Virginia 6
1996 - Ohio 43, West Virginia 21	1959 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 6
1995 - Ohio 21, West Virginia 0	1958 - Ohio 25, West Virginia 0
1994 - West Virginia 19, Ohio 14	1957 - Ohio 14, West Virginia 13
1993 - West Virginia 34, Ohio 32	1956 - Ohio 27, West Virginia 0
1992 - 0-0, Wash Out	1955 - Ohio 31, West Virginia 20
1991 - Ohio 30, West Virginia 6	1954 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
1990 - Ohio 42, West Virginia 0	1953 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
1989 - West Virginia 22, Ohio 14	1952 - Ohio 26, West Virginia 19
1988 - Ohio 13, West Virginia 7	1951 - Ohio 13, West Virginia 6
1987 - Ohio 13, West Virginia 11	1950 - Ohio 14, West Virginia 0
1986 - Ohio 14, West Virginia 6	1949 - West Virginia 6, Ohio 0
1985 - West Virginia 28, Ohio 26	1948 - Ohio 20, West Virginia 7
1984 - Ohio 23, West Virginia 6	1947 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 7
1983 - Ohio 26, West Virginia 16	1946 - Ohio 26, West Virginia 7
1982 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 6	1945 - No Game
1981 - Ohio 17, West Virginia 14	1944 - No Game
1980 - Ohio 10, West Virginia 7	1943 - No Game
1979 - Ohio 47, West Virginia 13	1942 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
1978 - Ohio 21, West Virginia 13	1941 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
1977 - West Virginia 21, Ohio 0	1940 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 7
1976 - West Virginia 33, Ohio 20	All-Time Series: Ohio leads, 41-23-1
1975 - West Virginia 8, Ohio 0	

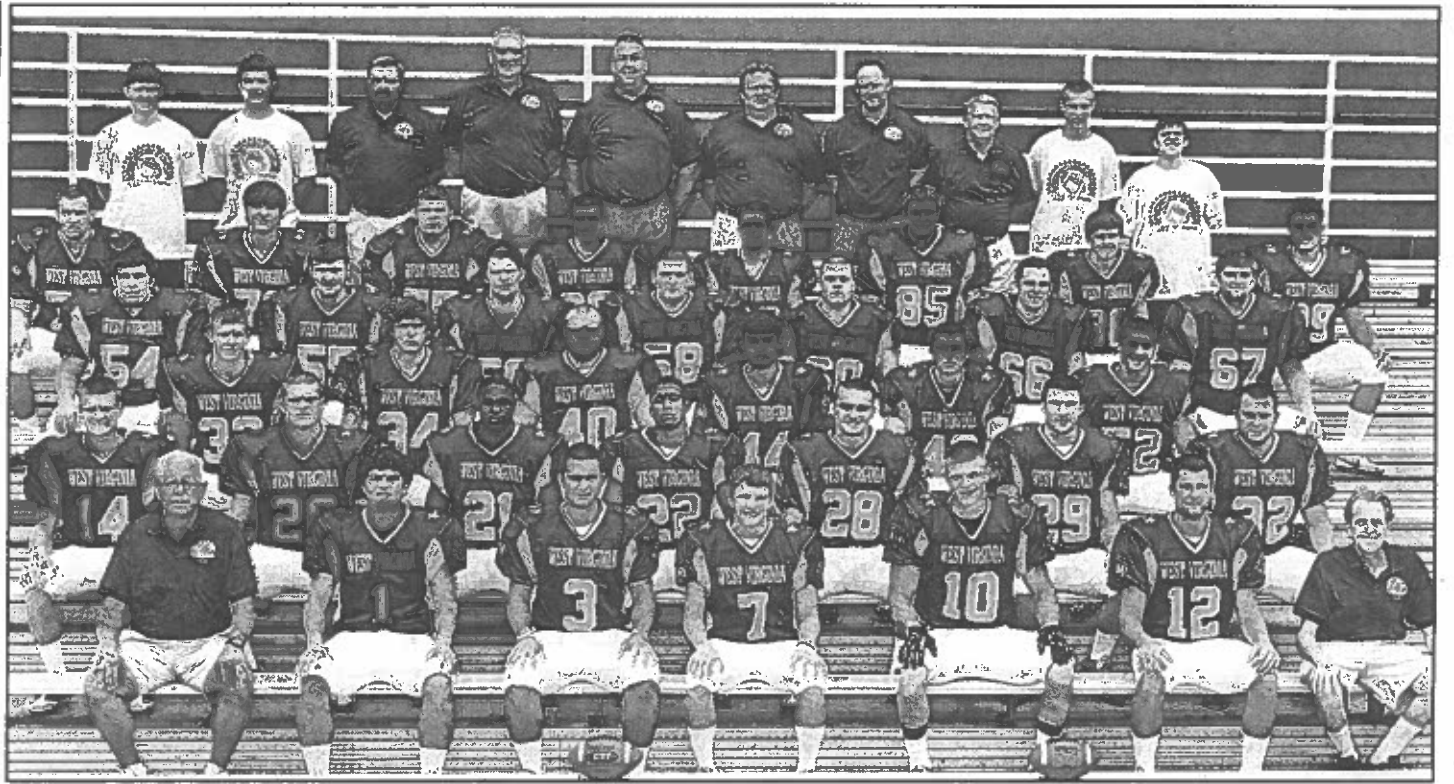
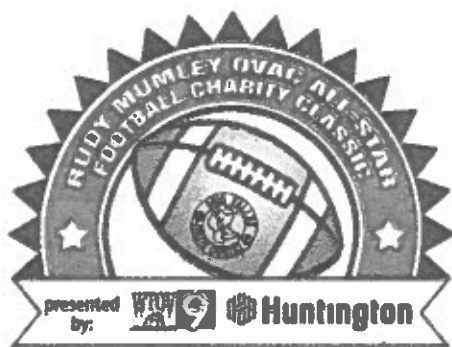


Photo courtesy/ BRIGGS PHOTOGRAPHY

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OVAC

Continued from Page C1

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 CROSS COUNTRY DIVISION 5K RUN
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COURSE:
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Saturday, August 13, 2011
 8:13 A.M.
 St. Clairsville, Ohio

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 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____ Age at Race Date _____

Check all races you are entering:
 5K Run
 5K Walk
 (OVAC HIGH SCHOOL RUNNERS)
 Grade Level _____
 5K Cross Country Division

Shirt Size:
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ENTRY FEE: Pre-registration fee is \$15.00 for either the 5K walk or run until August 11th. Race day registration fee is \$20.00 6:45 am to 7:45 am.



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● **OVAC**

Continued from Page C1

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River's Tanner Wright will handle all of the punting and kicking duties. Kinnick is the holder and Byers is the long snapper.

"The first thing we did on Sunday was work on special teams," Bruney said. "We've worked on special teams that we would consider offensively during offensive practices and then defensive special teams like punt block and things with defense."

The Mountaineer defense will play a bevy of looks in what Batton calls a "complicated" scheme.

"We spent every bit as much time on defense as we do on offense," Batton said. "Coach (Bob) Ripley has really worked with the kids on technique because a lot of what we try to do

See, OVAC, Page B3

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 Address _____
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 Phone _____ Age at Race Date _____

Check all races you are entering:
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 (OVAC HIGH SCHOOL RUNNERS)
 Grade Level: _____
 5K Cross Country Division

Shirt Size:
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Male
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ENTRY FEE: Pre-registration fee is \$15.00 for either the 5K walk or run until August 11th. Race day registration fee is \$20.00 6:45 am to 7:45 am.
 Make checks payable to: St. Clairsville Sunrise Rotary, P.O. Box 81, St. Clairsville, OH 43950.
 For and in consideration of permission to participate in this race, I for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby release and discharge the sponsors, contributors, officials, employees and all of the members and officers of the St. Clairsville Sunrise Rotary Club, the City of St. Clairsville and the St. Clairsville Department of Parks and Recreation, from all claims and damages arising from my participation in this race. I attest and verify that I am physically fit and have sufficiently trained for this event.

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OVAC All-Star Game not just an honor for the players

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING — The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference showcases its student-athletes in a bevy of ways during the events that surround the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

Don't think for a minute that it's just the youth involved with the game who find it to be an honor.

The officials selected to work this evening's game at Wheeling Island Stadium often times set this as high on their goal list as working the playoffs in the states of Ohio and West Virginia.

Unlike regular season and tournament games in the two states, the OVAC employs a seven-man officiating crew for the all-star game.

Leading the charge will be veteran white cap Bill Walter, who's entering his 38th season as a football official. Of those years, 30 have been spent as a referee.

'It never gets old working this game.'

— Referee Bill Walter

"This is probably my fourth time working this game," Walter said. "It never gets old working this game and it's an honor every time."

During the regular season, officials work in crews, but for the all-star game, OVAC Football Commissioner Don Zinni puts the crew together.

Walter will be joined in the stripes by Jon Hamm (line judge), Mark Kerwood (linesman), Lance Jacob (back judge), Larry Shane (field judge), Bob Gaylor (field judge) and Mark Vukelic (umpire).

"Jon Hamm is on my crew and I've worked with Mark Kerwood before the last time I worked this game," Walter said. "All of these guys are good officials and I'm looking forward to the game."

The officials are well aware that the fans come to see the all-star game to see the players. However, the game must still be played within the rules.

"The coaches and players have had a week together and we realize there might be some stuff you see in the pre-season like false starts or things like that," Walter said. "We just want to let the kids play football."

The crew has been preparing for its assignment and will meet before heading to Wheeling Island Stadium to go over additional aspects of the game today.

"We're meeting at 4:30 p.m. to go over things," Walter said. "We need to go over the mechanics of seven-man since we usually work five."

The change from five to seven officials isn't that big of a deal. It's actually a big help to the cause.

"The basic difference comes on kickoffs and PATs," Walter said. "Actually, you don't have to run as much and it makes it easier to officiate the game."

The game marks the unofficial start to prep football season and for the officials as well.

"We had a clinic in Weirton about two weeks ago and our meetings start in early August," Walter said. "My first game is Thursday, Aug. 25 (Wheeling Park vs. New Philadelphia)."

The OVAC will also honor two honorary officials during the game. Wheeling's Bill Wilhelm and Moundsville's Chuck Taskalines will be recognized.



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED IS the Ohio Coaching Staff for this evening's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic. Kneeling, from left, are Joe Mamone, Bill Bruney, head coach Dave Bruney, John Bennett and Mike Rose. Back row, from left, are Chas Yoder, Nick Stankovich, Jim Hoover, Rich Materkoski and Joe Kosar. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

OVAC Mumley Classic Notebook

Though mellowed, Bruney's mission still the same tonight

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING — All coaches and athletes want to win every game they play.

However, when it comes to the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic, Ohio head coach Dave Bruney takes it to a new level.

The veteran Martins Ferry head coach has been a part of five OVAC Games. He was on the winning side as a player in 1969.

Then 10 years later, as he celebrated his annual reunion at the game, he guided the Buckeye State to victory in the 1979 contest, which featured Tim Spencer.

Bruney also notched victories in 1983, 99 and 2003.

Bruney-led Buckeye squads haven't just won, they've won decisively. In his four victories, Ohio has won by a combined score of 138-55.

Bruney brings an old-school approach to the game. He comes to camp, not for a vacation, but to win a football game.

"I'm considered old-school not only by trade, but also chronologically," Bruney laughed. "Coaching is coaching. I think when kids understand regardless if you're old school, new school or whatever, if they know you're genuinely interested in them, and you're working with them instead of at them, they'll accept just about anything you want to give them."

While the results have

'...I am a little more low key, and I understand there are different ways to skin the cat.'

— Dave Bruney

remained the same, Bruney's approach has changed since he first took the assignment of the all-star game after his first season as a head coach.

"I'm probably not nearly as crazy as I used to be," Bruney admitted. "I still have a little bit of that in me, unfortunately. But, I am a little more low key, and I understand there are different ways to skin the cat, and we've been trying to find that way to do that the best we can."

While four of the players in this year's Ohio camp had the experience of playing for the Ohio High School Football Coaches Hall of Famer during their careers, the other players have adjusted to the mentality Bruney and his staff bring to work every day.

"These are great coaches and it's fun to be around them," said Harrison Central's Kyle Blanchard, who played his prep ball for a Bruney disciple, Justin Kropka. "These coaches always want to win. That's been what they've been talking about all week. Both Coach Kropka and Coach Bruney like to have fun, but they can be (really) tough, too."

SEEING DOUBLE
If you've been to Bethany's campus this week and think you're seeing double, relax. You've probably seen Bridgeport twin brother Chris and Curt Smelley, who are members of Team Ohio.

The Smelley Brothers are the third set of twins from Ohio to be chosen for the Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic. Ironically, Bruney has coached all three.

In 2003, Beaver Local's Jordan and Jared Williams took part and in 1979

Jefferson Union's John and Jim Brown took part in the contest.

UNLUCKY 7

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference membership climbed to 50 schools, but since then Zanesville and Rosecrans have withdrawn from the conference, taking it to 48 members.

Of those 48, 41 schools are involved in the festivities this weekend.

While it's tough to fathom that seven schools can't find a way to at least have someone in the band or involved in some regard, those not taking part include: Fort Frye, Morgantown Trinity, Beallsville, Beaver Local, Caldwell, Paden City and Wellsville.

BAYSIDE JOINED THE OVAC?

Zach Morris was one of the most popular television characters on the teen sitcom *Saved By the Bell*.

Even if Wheeling Park product Zach Morris wasn't alive when the show was at its ultimate peak in popularity, he's learned of the show over the years.

Regardless of where he goes, Morris is constantly quizzed on his name and asked where his buddies, A.C. Slater, Samuel "Screech" Powers, Kelly Kapowski, Jesse Spano and Lisa Turtle are.

"Whether it's at football camps or at this game, I am always hearing about that show," Morris said. "I really don't know what my parents were thinking when they named me."

The show, which debuted in 1989, had just gone off the NBC airwaves in 1993, shortly before Morris' birth.

Morris wasn't interested in going by Zachary and his middle name wouldn't work either because it might cause confusion in the house, so he's had to bite the bullet.

Earlier in the week, Morris' Mountaineer team-

mates had taken it easy on him, but he had a feeling it was coming.

"I don't think the guys had figured out my full name yet," Morris smiled. "I tried to keep it that way for as long as I could."

FAMILY TRADITION

It seems that each year there are several players on both teams who've had fathers, grandfathers or even brothers play in prior OVAC All-Star Games.

This year is no different as no fewer than nine Ohio players have had relatives take part in this game and St. Clairsville's Zak Stiles' father, Bruce, was on the coaching staff four times.

The ultimate family tradition award should go to Monroe Central's Marcus Schumacher. That name has resonated with football players throughout the history of Woodsfield and Monroe Central.

Schumacher becomes the ninth member of his family. His father, Andrew, played in the 1985 game. His uncle Lance LaFollette played in the 1979 game under Bruney. Another uncle, John, played for Bruney in 1999.

ROSE BOWL

Wheeling Island Stadium could have a Pasadena feel Sunday evening. No, there won't be a parade Sunday morning, but there will be a lot of 'Roses' involved in the game.

Michael Rose — the Martins Ferry product — is slated to play at inside linebacker. His father, Mike, is a member of Bruney's coaching staff and his father, Paul, is taking part in the reunion as a member of the 1956 Ohio squad.

CHARITY GAME

Contrary to what some may think, the Mumley Classic benefits charity. In the 39 years of the game, the contest has generated more than \$849K for area charities and scholarships.

DRESS ACCORDINGLY

The weather forecasts for today are calling for 85 degrees as a high and a chance of precipitation at 60 percent. Ohio fans should remember, you sit on the pressbox side of the stadium, meaning you'll be directly in the sun for probably at least the first half.

Staskey can be reached at staskey@timesleaderonline.com

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Ohio Cheerleaders



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED IS the Ohio Cheering squad for this evening's 66th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic, which will be contested this evening at Wheeling Island Stadium. The cheering squad includes: Mackenzie DiPerna (Union Local), Taylor Fannin (Shenandoah), Kylie Hunker (Buckeye Local), Taylor Martin (St. Clairsville), Jamie Matkovich (St. Clairsville), Olivia Morgan (Shadyside), Lindsey Penick (Shadyside), Autumn Price (Bridgeport), Brooke Swallie (Barnesville), Miranda Treglia (Indian Creek). The Ohio squad is being coached by Joanne Verba (St. Clairsville). Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

OVAC All-Star Game Rosters

WEST VIRGINIA				OHIO			
No.	Name	Pos.	Ht. Wt.	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht. Wt.
1	Traeh Keller	RB/LB	5-9 170	1	Willie Leavell	RB/DB	5-8 160
3	Joey Musick	RB	6-0 200	3	Chris Smelley	RB/LB	6-0 234
7	Logan Martin	WR/DB	5-9 165	7	Zach Kinnick	QB/DB	6-0 180
10	Joey DiNardo	WR	6-3 215	10	Ellis Brown	WR/DB	6-0 150
12	Kylie Pytlak	QB/DB	6-1 170	12	Joe Zebbs	WR/DB	5-11 175
14	Jordan Angalich	QB	5-11 160	14	Tanner Wright	K	5-11 165
20	Reuben Pine	TE/LB	6-0 206	20	Josh Tolliver	TE/DE	6-2 208
21	Phil Acrie	RB	5-10 185	21	Kyle Blanchard	WR/DB	6-4 195
22	Marcus Clifford	RB/LB	5-10 190	22	Jake Brunoni	RB/LB	6-1 210
28	Zach Morris	RB	5-9 185	28	Casey Bain	RB/LB	6-0 175
29	Chris Eloi	RB/LB	6-0 185	29	Corey Fickiesen	QB/DB	6-5 190
32	Ryan Lazear	RB/DB	5-10 205	32	Johnny Byers	QB/LB	5-10 185
33	Boone Kehrer	LB/TE	6-2 185	33	Trevor Mourer	FB/DE	6-2 215
34	Chance Rowland	RB/LB	6-0 200	34	Curt Smelley	LB/FB	6-0 235
40	Billy Perkins	FB/DT	6-0 248	40	Mike Rose	FB/LB	5-9 165
44	Alex Schramm	FB/LB	6-1 225	44	Niko Otto	FB/LB	6-2 215
46	Jeff Kidder	RB/S	5-10 175	46	Tyler Kurtz	WR/LB	6-2 202
52	Sam Shepherd	OL/DL	5-10 170	52	Aaron Silvenio	OG/DT	6-1 260
55	Dave Sivert	OL/LB	6-2 225	56	Kody Edwards	C/OT	6-2 260
56	Matt Riggs	OL/DL	6-0 265	58	Caleb Gunn	C/DT	5-10 220
58	Dan Heupp	C/DT	6-2 270	63	John Eckroth	OT/DT	6-2 240
60	John Duplaga	OL/DL	5-10 255	66	Willie Pruitt	OG/DT	6-3 260
66	Hayden Greenleaf	OG/DT	6-0 210	67	Mason Campbell	OT/DT	6-1 255
67	Chris Williams	OT/DT	6-1 270	68	Zak Stiles	OG/DT	6-1 245
70	Tyler Jacovetty	OL/DL	6-2 240	72	John Thompson	OT/DT	6-0 240
72	Kaleb Kucera	OT/DE	6-4 210	77	Jack Beavers	OT/DT	6-1 220
75	Michael Berardi	OL/DL	6-5 300	80	Garrett Price	WR/DB	5-11 180
80	McKenzie Peluchette	WR/DB	6-2 165	82	Bobby Dayton	TE/DE	6-0 185
82	Tanner Whyte	FB/LB	5-10 175	85	Marcus Schumacher	TE/LB	6-1 195
85	Jared Adrian	DE	6-5 230	88	Bernie Thompson	WR/DB	5-8 140
88	Shane Koper	WR/DB	5-8 165	90	Taylor Brown	WR/DB	6-1 185
99	Nick Romito	K	6-2 220	93	Brent Kirk	WR/DB	6-0 175
				99	Logan Hudson	TE/LB	6-2 195

Head Coach: Mark Batton
 Assistant Coaches: Dave Chapman, Dave Grandstaff, Moke Riggs, Bob Ripley, Jim West
 Managers: Matty Filippelli, Drew Keller, Jayson Keller, Chase West
 Team Doctor: Bob Jones
 Trainer: Randy Elliott



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Free youth football clinic planned today

WHEELING, WV — To kickoff the beginning of the 2011-12 'SUBWAY Sports Clinic Series' the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will be hosting its eighth annual free youth football clinic in conjunction with the 'Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.' The clinic will take place today at the Wheeling Island Stadium.
 Registration will take place at the stadium from noon to 12:45 p.m. The clinic will last from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and will be directed by OVAC football coaches. The instructors will teach the basic fundamentals of football with a focus on building self-esteem. The clinic is free and open to boys and girls ages 6-13.
 Parents or legal guardians are required to have insurance and be present the day of the clinic to sign a waiver form.

● OVAC

Continued from Page C2

defensively is based on that. Our defense is an aggressive, attacking defense and the kids have adjusted well."

Brooke's Billy Perkins and Wheeling Central's Tyler Jacovetty will start at the defensive tackle spots. Magnolia's Sam Shepherd and Morgantown's Jared Adrian will start at the defensive ends.

Brooke's Ryan Lazear and Magnolia's Traeh Keller will start at inside linebacker, while Madonna's Chris Eloi will be the outside linebacker.

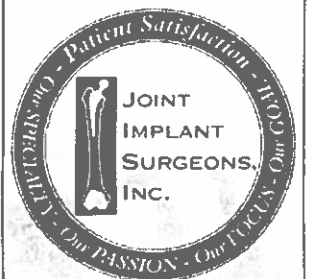
Oak Glen's Chance Rowland has won the strong safety job, while Jeff Kidder of South and Clifford will serve as the corners. Wheeling Park's Zach Morris will serve as the free safety.

"A few of the guys will see time both ways, but a

lot of that will depend on formation." Batton said.

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 Bellaire — Emily Shaffer, Kim Tennant, Kylie Seavers, Miranda Landers, Sara Swayer, Margaret Tennant, Jenna Belleville, Kerstin Bommer.
 Bridgeport — Melissa Bowers, Taylor Yeater, Brittany Stanton, Taylor Kies, Beth Kalinowski.
 Brooke — Kayla White, Justin Taffan, Brandon Yost, Carlie Ballato, Samantha Alkire, Tyler Cooper, Alexis Haught, April Baumgartner, Chelsey Swiger, Nuncia Filippelli, Mary Hensley, Jessica Kuna, Ashley Brown, Cathin Luck, Justin Hoff, Kayla Hancher, Elizabeth Chuma.
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 Cameron — Amanda Sponaugle, Jonathan Matthews.
 Harrison Central — Misty Bradley, Dylan Warner, Skyler Nichols, David Forrester, Laura Forrester, Cody Barcroft, Charles West, Maryann Hart.
 Indian Creek — Matthew Wright, Daniel Chappell, Preston Dehamer, Ashleigh Polverini, Amber Lash, Nicolette Constable, Hannah Eckley, Jessica Glasure, Sarah Millick, William Courtney, Austin Thompson, Tabetha Inman, Brett Butler, Ryan Whanger.
 John Marshall — Maressa Sell.
 Magnolia — Maddie Bridgeman, Hannah Boughner, James Haught, Alyssa Murdak, Amy Mane Klug, Olivia Myers, Jessica Goddard.
 Martins Ferry — Rebecca Deaton, Hillary Thorman, Andrew Shaw, Alyssa Smith, Holly Ackerman, Eryle O'Brien, Eric Bonham, Sarah Liston.
 River — Kylie Brown, Zach Schnegg, Josh West.
 Shadyside — Rebecca Tomlinson, Brandon Coates, Delanie Tomlinson.
 St. Clairsville — Nathan Bohach, Travis Habursky, Erica Strope, Ethan Kleevic, Brandon Dickerson, Caitlin Doty, Victoria Hall, Kelsey Perkins, Leandra Reed, Alexis Tanley, Brittany Keating, Kelsey Knight, Jessica Derosa, Lexie Semanick.
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(Continued from Page 17)

MICHAEL BERARDI, John Marshall — This former Monarch was a standout in the trenches for Coach Dan Wilson's club.

The 6-4, 300-pounder lined up at offensive tackle where he earned second team All-Valley and all-state honorable mention.

Michael, who is planning on attending Hargrave Military Academy, is the son of Michael Berardi of Moundsville.

JOHN DUPLAGA, Wheeling Central — This former Maroon Knight was a four-year mainstay for Coach Mike Young's squad.

The 5-10, 255-pounder was a four-year starter at defensive tackle and a three-year starter on the offensive line.

As a senior, Duplaga recorded 59 tackles, 2.5 sacks, two fumble recoveries and two forced fumbles.

Duplaga was a first team all-state pick and was also first team All-OVAC and All-Valley.

Along football, Duplaga was active in peer ministry, GUTS and community service.

John, who is the son of Mike and Alyssa Duplaga, plans on attending Bethany College.

HAYDEN GREENLIEF, Madonna — This former Blue Don was a standout at middle line-backer and center for Coach Bob Kramer's team.

The 6-0, 210-pounder recorded 87 tackles to lead the team and had five fumble recoveries and forced four fumbles.

Hayden plans to attend West Liberty University.

DANIEL HEUPP, Weir — This former Red Rider was a four-year starter along the offensive and defensive lines for Coach Tom Taylor's program.

The 6-2, 270-pounder recorded more than 50 tackles each of the past two seasons.

A standout in the classroom, Heupp has been named to the President's Honor Roll and the WV Mat All-State Academic Team.

Away from athletics, Heupp is the President of the Interact Club and a member of the student council.

Heupp, who is the son of Jeff and Amy Heupp, plans on attending West Virginia Northern Community College.

TYLER JACOVETTY, Wheeling Central — This two-way lineman enjoyed a sparkling career under Young's watch.

The 6-2, 240-pounder had 83 tackles last season, including 10 sacks. He also recovered a fumble, led the team in tackles and sacks and was named the team's Defensive Player of the Year.

Other awards garnered by Jacovetty include: all-state, All-OVAC, All-Valley and West Virginia Metro News second team.

Along with football, Jacovetty lettered in track and field.

Tyler, who is the son of Jerry and Cathy Jacovetty, plans on attending West Virginia University.

KALEB KUCERA, Bishop Donahue — This two-way standout was a force along both lines for Coach John Durdines' squad.

The 6-4, 210-pounder recorded 140 solo tackles and 154 assists for 294 stops in his career. That

"We've got some big guys who can run and pull, so we'll just keep trying to keep moving those guys around."
Mark Batton

ranks third all-time at Donahue. He also finished with 21 sacks, 53 tackles for loss, two forced fumbles and recovered four fumbles.

Kucera was a first team All-OVAC, All-Mason Dixon, all-state and All-River Valley League selection.

Kaleb, who is planning on attending West Liberty, is the son of Mark and Lisa Kucera.

ANTHONY PEDERSON, Brooke — This standout lineman anchored the offensive front for Coach Tom Bruney's team.

The 5-10, 250-pounder was the center for the Bruins the past two seasons and was a second team all-state and All-Valley selection.

Also a standout in wrestling, Pederson placed in the state tournament twice.

Anthony, who is planning to attend West Liberty, is the son of Jay and Nina Pederson of Follansbee.

MATT RIGGS, Magnolia — This Blue Eagle left an impressive mark on Batton's program during his career.

Riggs logged 63 tackles and six sacks as a nose tackle.

The 6-0, 265-pounder was a finalist for the Blocks of Granite award and he was also a first team all-state player.

Along with football, Riggs, who is active with community service, was one of the area's top shot put and discus performers this past season.

Matt, who is attending Middle Tennessee State University to study aerospace, is the son of Moke and Jodi Riggs.

DAVID SIVERT, Valley — This two-way performer was a mainstay for four seasons under Tom West.

The 6-2, 225-pounder had 70 tackles and two interceptions this past season at linebacker.

For his fine season, he was named first team Mason-Dixon and honorable mention All-OVAC and All-Valley.

Sivert, who plans on attending welding school, is the son of David and Connie Sivert of Jacksonburg.

CHRIS WILLIAMS, John Marshall — This Monarch clogged up the middle for Dan Wilson's defensive unit.

The 6-1, 270-pounder recorded 26 tackles, 14 for loss, a sack and two forced fumbles.

He received the JM Most Improved Player Award and the 3-D (desire, dedication, determination) Award.

Chris, who is the son of Kim Riddle and Chris Williams, plans on attending Kentucky Christian University.

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

continue to honor its past as well as its present and future.

Ironically, Corbett, who passed away some five years ago and played collegiately at Purdue, is the great-uncle of Silverio.

En route to the 2010 state final, the Tigers were one of the area's unheralded teams. Not many people had Shadyside pegged as anything more than mediocre.

However, after stubbing their toe against Bridgeport in week nine, the Tigers bounced back to upend Wheeling Central and clinch the OVAC Class 2-A title. They later avenged the loss to the Bulldogs in the Region 23 title game by a 28-0 score and then knocked off an undefeated Mogadore team in the state semifinal before running into one of the sharpest buzzsaws in the OHSAA, Delphos St. John.



"I think we eventually showed that we were pretty good and having four guys in this game really proves that even more," Silverio said. "We had all kinds of chemistry on that team and to have four guys here, we're hoping we can take some of that and build with our new teammates."

Taylor Brown, who earned first-team all-Ohio as a defensive end, was extremely excited when he received word he'd been chosen, but was happier when he heard how many of his teammates were going, too.

"Usually (Shadyside) is lucky to get one player in this game, so to have four is really big," Brown said. "To be here is an honor and this is a really good way to end your high school career because this is something you'll never forget."

Regardless of the season or even the sport, the community of Shadyside has long supported and rooted on their Tigers. For that reason, the chance to play and represent the Tigers once more was one of the most exciting parts of this opportunity for Hudson, who admitted being chosen for this game was one of his childhood dreams.

"Everyone from the town comes to our games and it just means so much to all four of us to represent the school and town once again," Hudson said. "Obviously, the season didn't end like we had hoped, but having another chance to represent our senior class means a lot."

OVAC NOTES

■ ACCORDING TO sources on the Bison campus, both teams went through both workouts today despite the oppressive heat. One source in the Ohio camp said all 33 players went through the drills and "came through in great spirits."

■ THE PLAYERS, cheerleaders and band members were treated to an ice-cream social Thursday evening. That probably hit the spot after temperatures soared near triple digits with the humidity as all three groups continued preparations for Sunday's game, which is scheduled to kick off at 7:15 p.m.

■ THE Queen of Queens pageant is this evening at WesBanco Arena. No fewer than 30 young ladies will demonstrate their talents as they compete for several thousand dollars in scholarships. The event begins at 7 p.m.

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● Kickoff

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quality squad in the opener.

The Wildcats and Golden Bears are both teams on the rise.

"I think the Steubenville-Morgantown game is the best matchup of the night," Companion said. "And to have Edison and Oak Glen on the same ticket, really makes us think of how great an atmosphere it's going to be at Harding Stadium."

While not disclosing any teams, despite several tries to pry it out from him, Companion believes area football fans will be especially impressed with what's in store for the third annual McDonald's OVAC Kickoff event as work to align the matchups is already well under way.

"People will be excited with 2012," Companion said. "We're probably going to be ready to announce the matchups shortly after the new year. I actually can't wait to announce some of these because we're really excited."

While almost bursting at the seams with excitement for the 2012 event, Companion indicates each year the event, the matchups and (hopefully) the crowds and excitement will continue to escalate.

"The event is here for the long haul," Companion said. "McDonald's has signed on for three more years as the title sponsor. We want to be prudent about things and see how things grow and expand from there."

As was the case last year, there will be additional fan activities on site, but Companion indicated those won't be finalized until the coming weeks.

OVAC NOTE

■ THE OVAC AND State Farm Insurance's partnership has led to an area resident having a chance at winning a prize package valued at more than \$2,500. The State Farm OVAC Ultimate Fan Sweeps is under way with the winner slated to be announced at the all-star football game later this month. The winner will receive a getaway weekend at Oglebay Resort, two OVAC season passes, which are good at any member school for all varsity sporting events and other OVAC gear. There's no cost to enter.

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● OVAC

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kids, but since you're limited, someone is going to get left out. We'll sit down and go over who fits into our schemes both offensively and defensively and spend some time talking to the other coaches."

One of the big rewards to coaching the game is the ability to take a strong number of your own players. That could be as big a problem as it is a luxury.

"I'd like to take all of my seniors, but that's impossible," Batton said. "We'll sit down and see who fits the best."

BRUNEY led the Purple Riders to an 8-2 regular season and trailed the Blue Eagles by just percentage points in the OVAC Class 3-A title chase.

The Purple Riders once again qualified for the Division IV postseason, but they were bounced in the first round by Campbell Memorial in a 7-0 defensive battle.

This marks the sixth time that Bruney will coach in the annual game.

Bruney was offered the position 2007, but turned it down.

When approached this time, Bruney considered the opportunity to coach the game in a fifth different decade, which made his decision even easier.

"I think it's pretty neat to have the longevity to be able to be involved with his game that many times," Bruney said. "I imagine this would be my last go-around, but you'll never say never."

Bruney has previously coached the Ohio stars in 1979, 83, 99 and 2003. Counting the 1969 game when Bruney was an Ohio co-captain, this marks his sixth different time involved with the game.

With Bruney at the helm or on the field, Ohio is undefeated in the game.

"We're undefeated primarily because we've had better players than West Virginia each of those times," Bruney confessed. "The last time we did (the game), it was close, and I'm not sure West Virginia isn't equal to or better than (Ohio) potentially."

The Mountain State is coming off a decisive victory last year and with the OVAC's expansion into Morgantown, West Virginia still has fewer schools to pick from, but it's got the six largest schools in the conference.

"I think the competitiveness is a good thing for the game," Bruney said. "Ohio is definitely not the clear favorite anymore like it used to be."

Bruney will be joined at Bethany College for camp by his entire coaching staff at Martins Ferry.

"We've got some guys who've not done the game before and they're excited," Bruney said. "Some of our assistants weren't able to (coach) the last time we were offered, but they'll all be there this time."

The Purple Riders' staff will receive the nomination information in the coming days and will begin immediately picking its team.

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OVAC coaches working phones

by SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

Most high school football players in the Ohio Valley grow up dreaming of playing in the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Classic.

Both West Virginia head coach Mark Batton and Ohio head coach Dave Bruney have learned the hard way that most by no means is all.

The two head coaches for this year's annual game, which is slated for Sunday, July 24 at Wheeling Island Stadium, have found themselves working the phones of late, trying to replace players — who for one reason or another — originally accepted their invitation only to renege in the last few days.

Both coaches turned their rosters into game director Bob Koch in the early portion of March and since then, there's been no fewer than 10 changes.

"I don't know that the other four times combined that we had that many kids not want to play for whatever reason," Bruney said. "It's difficult to choose these teams and if a kid realizes early that he can't play, he should probably let (Koch) or his coach know immediately, so you can find a replacement and he's got time to get into shape because there are still a lot of kids who would cut off a finger to play in this game."

Bruney and his staff have had to make three changes from their original roster. Turning the game down were: Steubenville's Anthony Pierro; Toronto's Devonte McGhee and Edison's Mark Rogers.

"We didn't have any problems getting replacements," Bruney said. "The first three kids we called were willing to play."

Bruney, who's coached the game four times and

played in it, believes the game probably means more to the kids who are from the more immediate area of the OVAC.

"The local kids have grown up with this game," Bruney said. "Some of these kids have probably been to this game 10 or 12 times and maybe more than that. It's very, very special to those kids, but I think the further you get away from Wheeling Island Stadium (geographically), it may not mean that much to you, and that's unfortunate."

On the other side of the river, Batton would probably consider himself fortunate to only have three replacements.

Since submitting his original roster, he's had no fewer than eight changes, including two coming in the last 72 hours.

"I think some of it has to do with the colleges frowning on the guys playing because of a risk of injury," Batton said. "But, there's been some of them where we didn't get a reason."

West Virginia State

Player of the Year Justin Fox, of Magnolia, informed his prep coach that he wouldn't be playing in the game this past weekend.

Fox, who led the Blue Eagles to the Class AA state title last season and was a four-year starter, had been penciled in to be one of primary quarterbacks for West Virginia.

However, he opted to bow out of the game because of his commitment to the West Virginia baseball program.

"I know Justin would have liked to have played, but it just didn't work out for him," Batton said. "Obviously, we lost a talented player who knew our offense very, very, very well, but we've got two quarterbacks in camp who we'll coach up and we'll do the best we can."

Other Mountaineer choices, who won't be playing in the game include: Connor Arlia (Madonna), Ryan Jones (Bishop Donahue), Sterling Springgate (University), David Stanton

(Morgantown), Micah Wilson (University), Demetrius Youngblood (Linsly) and Anthony Gutta (Morgantown).

"We've got a 33-man roster, and I hope we're locked in now," Batton said. "We'll be there on the 17th to start camp and hopefully these guys are there."

This is the second time Batton has coached the game. In 2007, the West Virginia roster had many a change from the initial one announced.

"This is new to me," Batton said of working the phones overtime in search of players. "I know there are kids in the Ohio Valley just dying to play in the game."

Neither coach wants to see the game moved out from its traditional date of late July where it serves as the unofficial start to prep football season.

Many all-star games have moved into June because of the NCAA allowing incoming fresh-

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