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SPORTS

Monday,
April 2, 2012

35TH ANNUAL SAMUEL MUMLEY OVAC CLASSIC

Buckeye Bummer

• W.Va. boys roll past Ohio

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

Too big, too strong, too physical and too talented. West Virginia had a distinct advantage in all of those facets of Sunday's 35th annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic held on the campus of Ohio University Eastern in St. Clairsville.

The Mountaineers mixed and matched their personnel well en route to a convincing 83-70 victory against their Ohio rivals, completing the sweep on the afternoon.

"This was a wonderful experience," said West Virginia and Linsly head coach James Wallace. "When you work with high quality young men like we did, it's a great time. These kids represented themselves, their

'Our plan was to win the game.'

— Mike Haney

schools and the OVAC extremely well. Plus, any time you can get a victory, it makes even more special."

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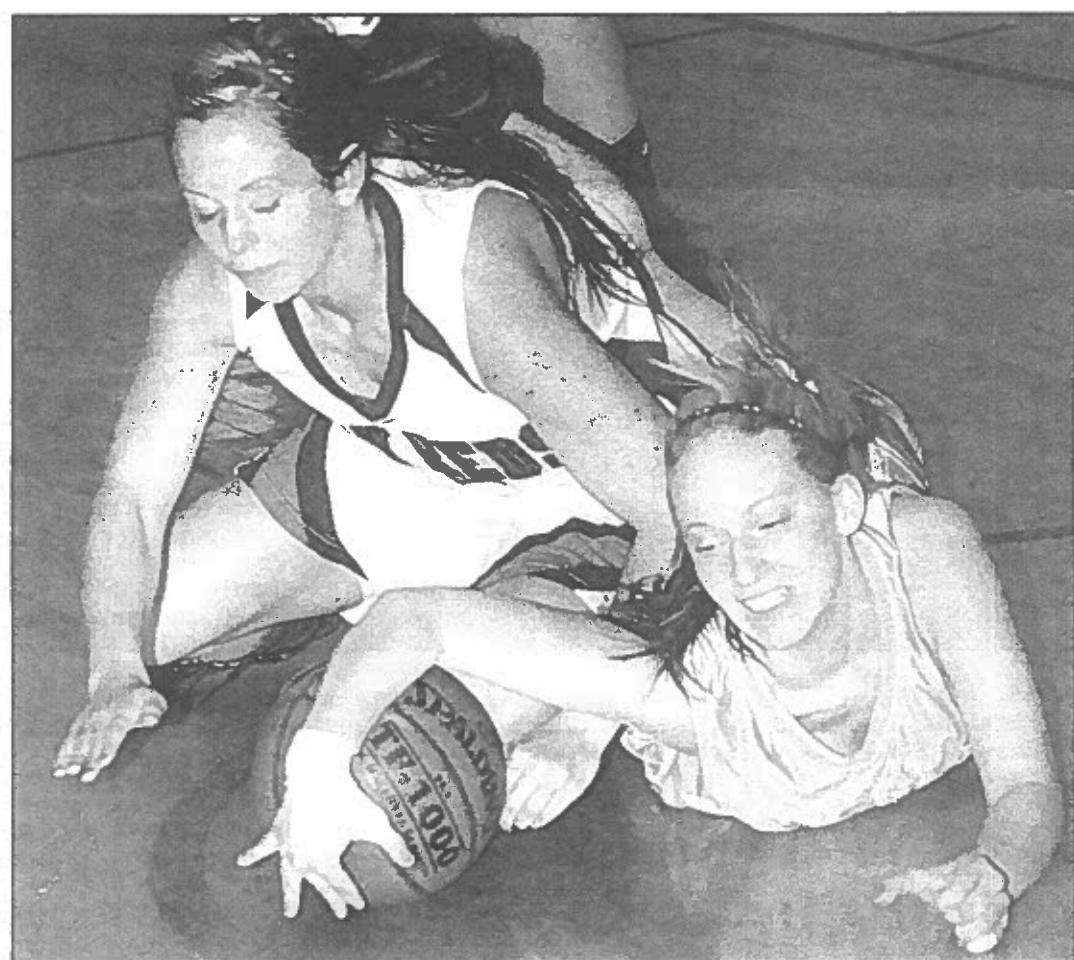
Lathon, who shined the brightest of all the stars, drained in three triples in the first half in which he scored 14 of his game-high 25 points.

See, **BOYS**, Page B2



BRIDGEPORT'S Cole Smelley drives between John Marshall's Justin Wade, right, and Magnolia's Jayson Keller (33) during Sunday's Sam Mumley OVAC Classic at Ohio University Eastern. The Mountaineer boys prevailed, 83-70. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleader-online.com

T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY



BELLAIRE'S Katie Fry, top, and Oak Glen's Payden Eckiberry battle for a loose ball during the Sam Mumley OVAC Classic girls' game Sunday afternoon. The W.Va.-side won, 61-57.

• W.Va. girls hold off Ohio by 61-57

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

"Thanks for the memories."

That from Edison's Tony Kovalesky who's saying goodbye to a sport he's been devoted to some 34 years.

"I could not think of a better way to go out than coaching in a game of this caliber," Kovalesky remarked following Sunday's 35th annual Samuel Mumley OVAC Classic.

Though Ohio's all-stars couldn't quite pull out a win, Kovalesky expressed gratitude to conference officials.

"This event is such a great showcase for the outstanding players from both states," he said. "I guess someone has to lose the game, but the entire experience is so worthwhile."

Kovalesky's Lady Buckeyes went down fighting against their West Virginia counterparts before falling short, 61-57 at Ohio University-Eastern's athletic complex west of St. Clairsville.

While Kovalesky is retiring after spending the past four seasons as head girls' coach at Edison, he's invested over three decades both coaching and teaching in the school district.

By contrast, West Virginia's Dave Price just concluded his first season guiding the girls' hoop program at Clay Battelle High.

'I could not think of a better way to go, out than coaching in a game of this caliber.'

— Tony Kovalesky

See, **GIRLS**, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

BEALLSVILLE'S Tyler Spence goes up for a shot against Bishop Donahue's D.T. Meeker and Weir's Harley Mills during Sunday's action.

Boys

Continued from Page B1

He also had two thunderous dunks, which led to a few oohs and aahs from the large crowd on hand.

"With it being the last time that I was going to put on a Wheeling Park jersey. I just wanted to come out and do a little something," Lathon, who is planning on playing football and basketball at West Liberty, said. "I was hot and feeling it (in the first half), so just I kept shooting. My dunks were monstrous. Our coaches told us anytime we had a chance to throw one down to go for it, and I did."

The Mountain State headed to the intermission, at which time Union Local sharpshooter Kurtis Ogilbee claimed the three-point contest, with a 49-30 lead.

The Buckeye State made a run in the second half behind the sweet shooting of Fort Frye's Zach Eddy, who hit three of his four treys in the second 20 minutes. Ohio got as close as nine at 60-51, but the Mountaineers stopped the bleeding with back-to-back buckets from Bishop Donahue's D.T. Meeker and then another tally from Lathon.

"Our plan was to win the game," Ohio and Steubenville head coach Mike Haney said. "You talk about all-star games, you

think about kids messing around and taking crazy shots, but our kids' effort was great. We played hard, got after it defensively. I thought we played well together. Lathon was killing the 3s early, but we battled back."

The Weir High duo of Harley Mills and Michael Drizake each went for 10 points in the game. Mills' final two came off a brilliantly thrown lob from Linsly's Akil Blount. Bell finished with eight points.

Ohio, meanwhile, was paced by Eddy's 12 points. Cambridge's Riley Rodgers added 10 points. Big Red's William Houst added eight points.

WEST VIRGINIA (83) — Hughes 1, 1-1 3; Breen 1, 0-0 3; Battista 1, 0-0 2; Bell 4, 0-0 8; Wade 1, 0-0 2; Drizake 4, 0-0 10; Meeker 3, 0-0 6; Blount 2, 1-1 5; Frankovitch 3, 2-4 8; Lathon 10, 1-2 25; Keller 0, 1-2 1; Mills 4, 0-0 10; Ueltschy 0, 0-2 0; Totals: 34, 6-12 83. **OHIO** (70) — Smelley 2, 2-4 6; Spence 0, 0-0 0; Pieniazek 1, 0-2 2; Fitzpatrick 2, 0-0 4; Feller 1, 0-0 2; Thompson 2, 1-1 5; Dauch 1, 0-2 2; Bowers 2, 1-2 6; Ogilbee 2, 0-0 5; Smyth 1, 2-3 4; Thompkins 2, 0-0 4; Eddy 4, 0-0 12; Houst 4, 0-0 8; Rogers 3, 4-5 10; Larrick 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 27, 10-19 70.

Three-Point Goals: WV — Breen, Drizake (2), Lathon (4), Mills (2). O — Bowers, Ogilbee, Eddy (4).

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



AP Photo

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS' coach Peter Laviolette talks with a linesman during the third period against the Pittsburgh Penguins in Pittsburgh, Sunday. The Flyers won, 6-4.

Flyers bully Pens

• Philadelphia sends message in 6-4 win

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Philadelphia Flyers sent a message with their resiliency. The Pittsburgh Penguins sent one with their fists.

Message received on both sides.

And to think the playoffs don't start for another 10 days.

Jakub Voracek scored twice in the third period to break open a tight game and lift the Flyers to a 6-4 victory on Sunday to climb within a point of Pittsburgh for the fourth seed in the Eastern Conference.

Whoever wins the fourth spot gets home-ice advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

The Flyers are 5-0 at Consol Energy Center since it opened in October, 2010 and after getting pushed around yet again by their archrivals, the Penguins appear to have had enough.

Just as notable as Philadelphia's spirited rally from yet another two-goal deficit was the extended brawl with just over a minute to play that left the coaches of both teams screaming at each other across the glass.

Philadelphia coach Peter Laviolette called out Pittsburgh counterpart Dan Bylsma for sending out his checking line shortly after Voracek's empty-net goal pushed the lead to 6-3.

Penguins forward Joe Vitale leveled Daniel Briere shortly after the ensuing faceoff, starting a chain of events that included Laviolette smashing a stick over the glass and all 10 players on the ice going at it.

"Those guys hadn't been out there in 12 minutes," Laviolette said. "It's a gutless move by their coach. It's gutless."

Bylsma didn't quite see it that way, claiming Vitale's shot on Briere was clean, unlike the crosscheck Pittsburgh star Sidney Crosby received from Brayden Schenn shortly

Girls

Continued from Page B1

"It's nearly a two and one-half hour drive, but it was worth every minute," Price smiled following Sunday's outcome.

"You get a chance to read about many of these players during the regular season. To have an opportunity to coach such a special group of young ladies was just a wonderful experience. The OVAC definitely knows how it's done."

West Virginia mounted a 32-27 half-time lead and eventually extended the spread to nine before a Ohio comeback led by Edison's Kayla Prokopakis.

One of the Lady Cats' star sister combine, Kayla knocked down 14 of her game-leading 21 points after halftime, including a conventional three-point play which earned Ohio a 49-49 deadlock.

But West Virginia guard Cassie Sorge of Wheeling Central answered, draining a top-of-the-key three, handing the Mountaineers a lead they would not relinquish.

In possession and down 60-57 in the final ticks, a Buckeye turnover led to a game-sealing free throw by John Marshall's Alexis Montes for the final reading.

"I have to thank my two assistants Scott Wiley (Oak Glen) and Don Ogden (Weirton Madonna) for helping show me the way," Price added.

West Virginia received a team-leading

12 tallies from Oak Glen's ace guard Payden Eckleberry. University High's Samantha Gaspar contributed 10 points and six boards.

Weirton Madonna's Isabella Anile scored eight markers with JM's Jenna Stephens and Wheeling Park's Krista Crawshaw adding seven and six, respectively.

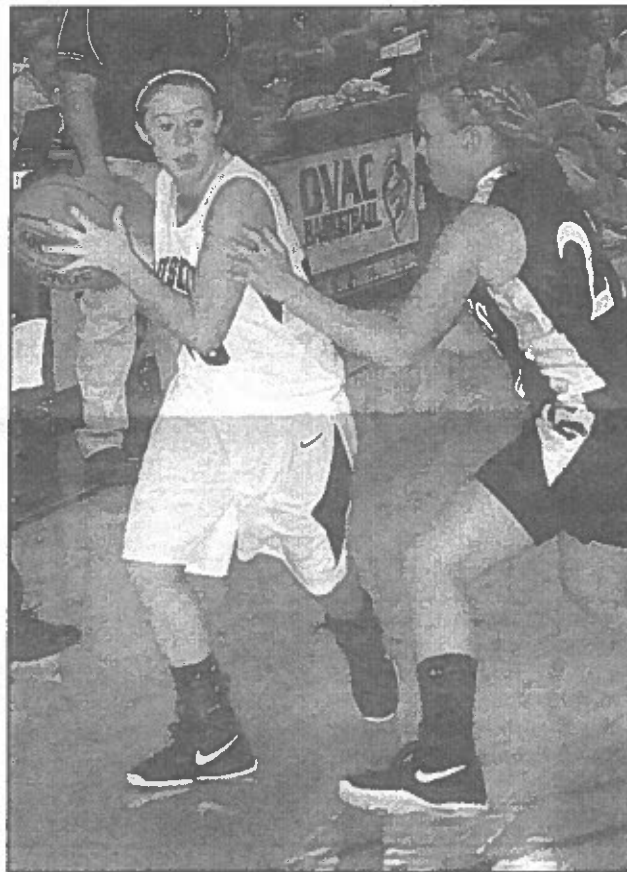
Prokopakis was the lone Ohio all-star in double digits. Beaver Local's Tennelle Hoppel hooped eight points. Shenandoah's Sami Schott scored six.

Fort Frye's Sami Hanson brought down eight rebounds and Prokopakis snared seven. Serving as assistants to Kovalesky was Harrison Central's Nick Yourkovich and Buckeye Trail's Nicole Stevens.

WEST VIRGINIA (61) — Lyons 0, 0-0 0; Mullett 0, 0-0 0; Tedrow 0, 0-0 0; Siburt 0, 0-0 0; Robbins 1, 0-0 2; McAtee 1, 0-0 3; Montes 1, 2-4 4; Nuzum 2, 0-4 4; Sorge 2, 0-0 5; Crawshaw 2, 2-2 6; Stephens 3, 0-0 7; Anile 3, 2-2 8; Gaspar 4, 2-2 10; Eckleberry 4, 2-4 12. Totals — 23, 10-18. **OHIO** (57) — Bilyeu 0, 0-0 0; Fry 0, 0-0 0; Shutz 0, 1-2 1; Meintel 1, 0-0 2; Tipton 1, 0-0 2; Sichina 1, 0-0 2; Young 1, 0-0 2; Hanson 1, 1-2 3; Davis 1, 1-2 3; Prokopakis, Kris. 1, 0-2 3; Hunkler 0, 4-4 4; Schott 2, 2-2 6; Hoppel 3, 1-2 8; Prokopakis, Kay. 8, 3-6 21. Totals — 20, 13-22.

Three-point goals. West Virginia — Eckleberry, 2; McAtee, Sorge, Stephens. Ohio — Kay, Prokopakis, 2; Hoppel, Kris, Prokopakis.

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

HARRISON CENTRAL'S Brooke Schultz drives against Wheeling Central's Bri Robbins Sunday afternoon.

Men's

Continued from Page B1

As he has all year and all tournament, Kentucky coach John Calipari has not so much defended as explained his coaching philosophy, which is to go after the very best players and not demand they graduate, but only that they play team basketball for whatever amount of time they spend in the Commonwealth — even if it's just a year.

"I don't like the rules," Calipari said. "I want Anthony to come back and be my point guard next year. It's really what I want. There's only two solutions to it. Either I can recruit players who are not as good as the players I'm recruiting or I can try to convince guys who should leave to stay for me."

He won't do either. By pulling no punches, the coach finds himself working with the most talent — Davis and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist are likely lottery

was asked about it in the days and weeks leading to his final against Self and the Jayhawks. The Tigers missed four free throws down the stretch and blew a nine-point lead in what turned into an overtime loss that gave Kansas its third NCAA title.

Lessons learned? Well, Calipari does make his team run more after bad free-throw shooting nights.

But regrets? Not many. "At the end of the day, we had a nine-point lead," he said. "I have to figure something out. Go shoot the free throws myself, do something to get us out of that gym and I didn't."

A year later, Cal was out of Memphis and putting the pieces in place for his run at Kentucky. It began with a trip to the Elite Eight, continued last year with a spot in the Final Four and odds-makers have Kentucky as a 6.5-point favorite to seal the deal.



AP Photo

CLINT BOWYER (15), Jeff Gordon (24) and Jimmie Johnson (48) get sideways while racing for the lead with just laps to go in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Martinsville Speedway on Sunday in Martinsville, Va. Ryan Newman (39) won the race.

Newman wins wild finish at Martinsville Speedway

MARTINSVILLE, Va. (AP) — Ryan Newman needed help and was running out of time. Finally, Clint Bowyer provided an opening with two laps to go at Martinsville

Of the restart, Johnson said: "That inside lane is awfully inviting at times to dive-bomb on people. The No. 15 (Bowyer) threw a dive-bomb in there. I'm sure once

It's a Sweep for the Mountaineers

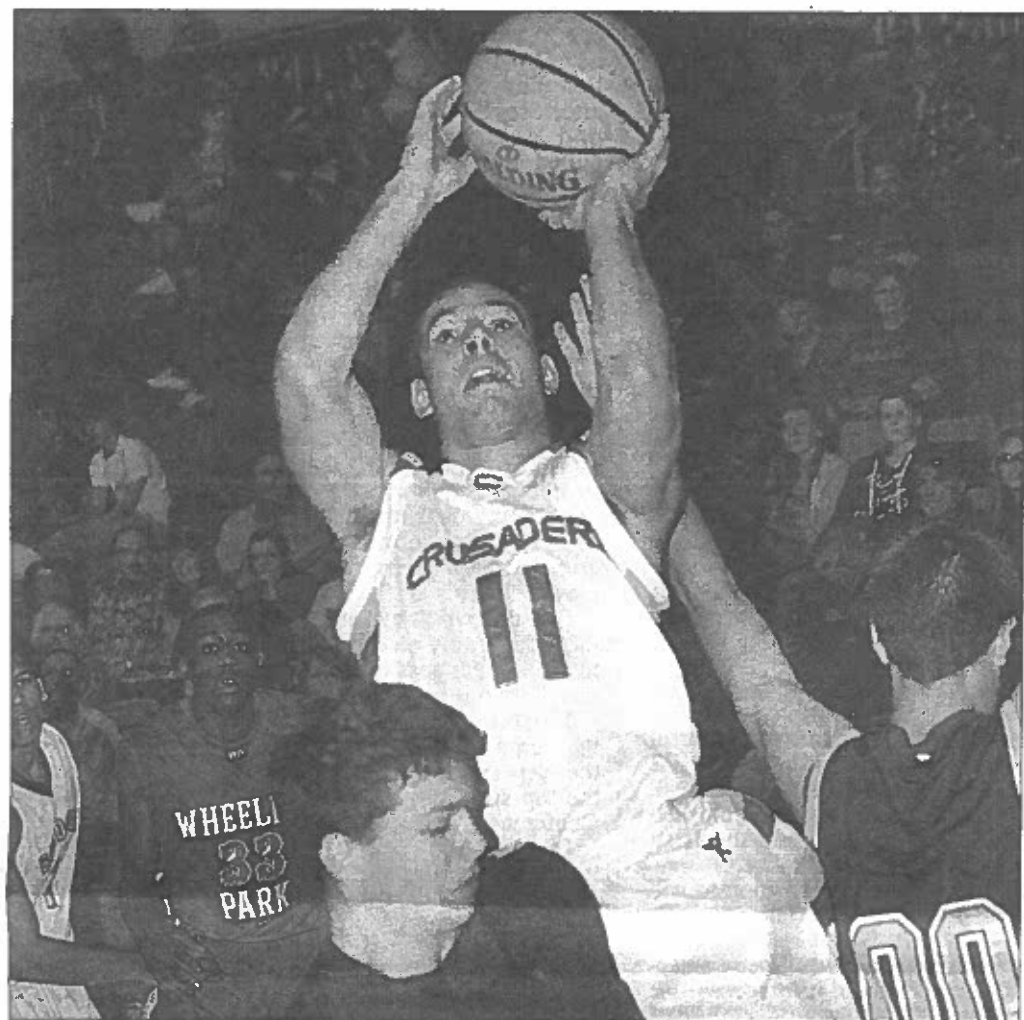
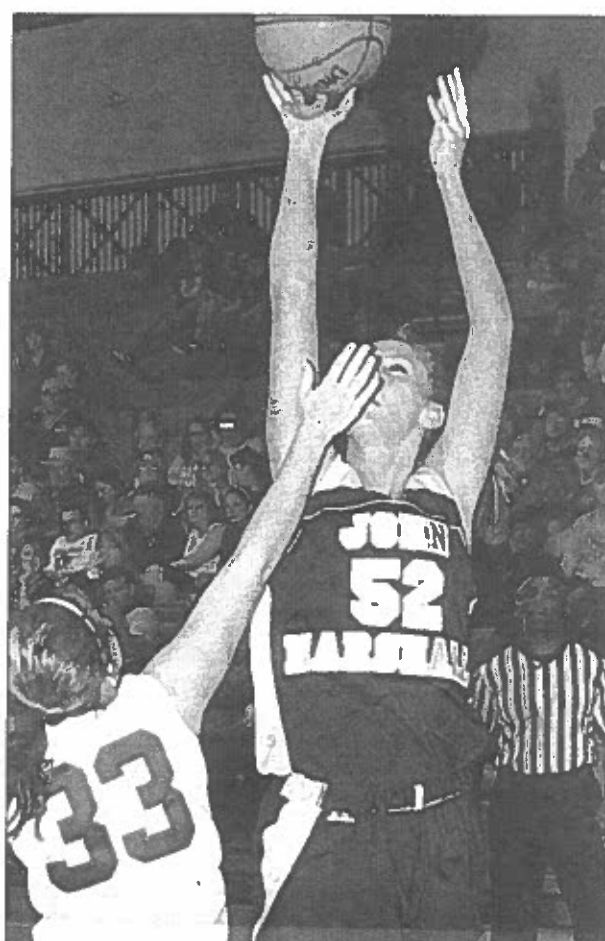


Photo by Seth Staskey

Steubenville Catholic's Brant Pieniazek shoots over Magnolia's Jayson Keller and Cameron's Ryan Hughes, right, during action of the boys' game Sunday.



John Marshall's Jenna Stephens shoots as Harrison Central's Brooke Shultz defends during the girls' game.

Photo by Seth Staskey

Rookie Price Leads West Virginia Girls to 61-57 victory in girls' game

By RICH GIBSON
For the Intelligencer
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Dave Price could get used to this.

Clay Battelle's rookie coach was ecstatic after being named to direct the West Virginia Girls' All-Stars in Sunday's 35th Annual Samuel Mumley OVAC Classic.

With the aid of two capable assistants — and a roster full of talent — Price and the Lady Mountaineers hung on to post a 61-57 victory against their Ohio counterparts on the campus of Ohio University-Eastern.

"What a wonderful experience!" Price exclaimed. "It's almost a 2 and a half-hour drive (from Clay-Battelle), but believe me, it was worth every minute."

Price watched his West Virginia girls lead a majority of the way Sunday, though Ohio remained within striking distance until the final ticks.

"You can tell (the rivalry) is there between the two states," Price said. "Both teams definitely want to win this game. Fortunately, we were able to pull it out."

Sunday's loss proved a bitter-sweet experience for Ohio coach Tony Kovalesky of Edison, retir-

ing from the coaching ranks after 34 years.

"I wouldn't trade any of it," he said. "To be able to go out coaching a game of this caliber really capped it all off. Sure, we wish we could have won. But this game is all about rewarding a terrific group of young ladies who've enjoyed superb prep careers."

West Virginia built a 32-27 halftime lead and eventually increased the spread to nine. Ohio, though, fought back, eventually gaining a 49-49 knot on a three-point play by Edison's Kayla Prokopakis.

At the other end, Wheeling Central's Cassie Sorge went deep from the top of the key. Sorge's heave rimmed the hoop three times before settling in. Her 3-pointer returned the lead to W.Va. at 52-49.

With Ohio staging another late threat, John Marshall's Alexis Montes converted a pair of game-sealing free throws in the final 25 ticks.

"All of our girls made contributions and that's what it was all about," Price added. "Thanks, also to my two assistants (Don

Please See PRICE, Page 14

Park's Lathon stars for W.Va. boys

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer
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PRICE

(Continued from Page 13)

Ogden, Madonna) and Scott Wiley (Oak Glen). They helped show me the

way." Oak Glen ace guard Payden Eckleberry tossed in a team-leading 12 points for

the Mountaineers. She was joined in double digits by University's Samantha Gaspar, who tallied 10.

Madonna's Isabella Anile also came up big for the winners, netting eight points. JM's Jenna

Stephens scored seven with Wheeling Park's inside standout Krista Crawshaw netting six.

Kayla Prokopakis connected for a game-leading 21 Ohio points. Beaver Local's Tenelle Hoppel

scored eight. Shenandoah's Sami School contributed six.

Gaspar grabbed six rebounds for West Virginia with Fort Frye's Sammi Hanson nabbing eight strays for Ohio.

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BOYS

(Continued from Page 13)

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SPORTS

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Sunday,
April 1, 2012

Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game

Basketball stars set to shine



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED ARE the Ohio All-Star girls' players for today's annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic. Front row, from left, are Katie Fry (Bellaire), Rosa Young (St. John Central), Kristen Prokopakis (Edison), Tenelle Hoppel (Beaver Local) and Alexis Davis (Union Local). Middle row, from left, are Jessica Hunkler (Barnesville), Sammi Schott (Shenandoah), Lee Anna Sichina (Buckeye Trail), Mikyla Tipton (Wellsville), Samantha Hanson (Fort Frye) and Brooke Meintel (Shadyside). Back row, from left, are head coach Tony Kovalesky (Edison), Julie Bilyeu (Beallsville), Kayla Prokopakis (Edison), Brooke Shultz (Harrison Central), Madison Richards (Harrison Central), Coaches Nick Yourkovich (Harrison Central) and Nicole Stevens (Buckeye Trail).

• Ohio, W.Va. to tangle today at OU-Eastern

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

It's almost time to officially drop the curtain on the 2011-12 prep basketball season.

However, before putting the season to bed, the senior standouts of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will get one last opportunity to shine.

The annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic will hit the court at Ohio University Eastern this afternoon. The girls' game is slated to tip at 3 p.m. and the boys game is scheduled for approximately 5 p.m.



The Ohio boys have been able to squeeze in five practices leading up to today's game, but according to Steubenville Big Red head coach Mike Haney, it's been a battle to get everyone there on the same day.

"Because of the different commitments and spring sports, it's just tough, but we had a few Sunday practices and we had almost everyone there," Haney said. "It's gone pretty well."

Haney, who is in his first time at the helm of the Buckeye State stars, is being assisted by Steubenville Central's Sean Tucker and Conotton Valley's Mike Firebaugh. The trio has devised, what they hope anyway, are three equally balanced teams so that each player can get equal minutes.

"We want everyone to play, have a good time and get minutes, but in the end, we also want to win the game," Haney said. "We've had some guys stand out in practice, and I really think if we limit our turnovers, take care of the ball, we can come out on top, but we realize West Virginia has a fine squad."



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED ARE the Ohio All-Star players for today's annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic. Front row, from left, are Cole Smelley (Bridgeport), Tyler Spence (Beallsville), Brant Pieniazek (Steubenville Central), Tyler Fitzpatrick (Barnesville) and Derek Feller (Bellaire). Second row, from left, are team manager Santino Haney, Mow Mow Thompson (East Liverpool), Grahm Dauch (Beallsville), Joe Bowers (Indian Creek), Kurtis Ogilbee (Union Local), Marky Thompkins (East Liverpool) and Mark Smyth (Edison). Standing, from left, are Coach Mike Haney (Steubenville), Zach Eddy (Fort Frye), William Houst (Steubenville), Kyle Larrick (Buckeye Trail) and Coaches Sean Tucker (Steubenville Central) and Mike Firebaugh (Conotton Valley).

See, **OVAC**, Page C2

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The Buckeyes are expected to started Indian Creek's Joe Bowers, Beallsville's Grahm Dauch and Tyler Spence; Union Local's Kurtis Ogilbee and Big Red's William Houst.

On the other bench, Linsly School's James Wallace, who guided his Cadets to the OVAC Class 2A title in February, has only had two practices with his team.

However, he came away highly impressed with what he's seen.

"I think we're ready to go," Wallace said. "We've got a lot of athletic kids, but we don't have tremendous size. We feel we've got a lot of guys who can score the basketball."

In the two West Virginia practices, Wallace and his staff of Brooke's Dave Reitter and Madonna's George Vargo, have had good attendance and decided that they wanted to keep teammates together.

For instance, Errin

Baynes, Vondel Bell and Boo Lathon all played together at Wheeling Park. So, they're going to remain together Sunday. The same can be said for Madonna's trio of Nicklas Battista, Clay Rokisky and Drazen Frankovich.

"We want to try to carry out the chemistry that worked so well for those guys during their respective seasons," Wallace said. "We've had a great time since we've been together, but we've stressed to our guys that we picked them because they're all good players, but we're not just here for fun. We want to win the game. We want to play hard and play fast."

THE GIRLS' game is taking a similar path as the boys. Both coaching staffs value the idea of having fun, meeting people and enjoying the day, but they also know the state bragging rights are on the line.

"Even though it's an all-star game, no one wants to lose," said Harrison Central

head coach and Ohio staffer Nick Yourkovich. "We've tried to balance our groups as best we could, but in the final four or five minutes, we're going to try our best to win the game."

The Buckeye State ladies have had only two practices and one of those came yesterday. Yourkovich was pleased with the number of players who showed up.

"We've got a lot of skilled players with a nice mix of posts and guards," Yourkovich said.

West Virginia held its final tuneup on Saturday, as well, and Clay-Battelle head coach David Price has been preparing his club as if he would his regular-season team.

"The first practice we had was full of getting in as much of the game plan as possible," Price said. "The second practice was more about fine tuning and (Saturday) was just organizing and more fine tuning."

Price has been pleased with what he's seen in his first OVAC game assignment.

"The girls are at the height of their high school careers, and that makes them easy to coach," Price said. "Our chemistry has been great between the coaches."

Price and his assistants Don Ogden (Madonna) and Scott Wilely (Oak Glen) were expected to settle on a starting lineup.

"We're still moving kids around," Price said. "Their chemistry together is important to me and the other coaches, so I think that decision will be made after (Saturday's) practice."

OVAC NOTES

- **PRIOR TO** arriving at OUE, the players and their families are treated to a luncheon at Undo's West in St. Clairsville.
- **ALONG WITH** the game, there will also be a three-point shootout at half-time of both the boys and girls' games.
- **SPECIAL AWARDS** will be presented to a host of individuals who've made an impact on the world of prep basketball. Those set to receive an award are: Gene Ammirante, Bubba Kapral, Dave and Lynn Myer, Joe Dierkes and Bob Robinson.

SPORTS

Meyers will receive Rataiczak Award

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Thirty years is a long time for anything.

But, to show up twice a week, during the winter, to keep the basketball scorebook for that long tells you how into hoops and helping out the schools the Meyers — Dave and Lynn — are.

Thus, it must have been a no brainer to choose the husband and wife from Jefferson County as this year's recipient of the Thomas E. Rataiczak Timer and Scorekeeper Award.

"Anytime you receive an award, it's an honor," Lynn Meyer said. "This award is especially an honor because we admire and think so highly of Mr. Rataiczak. He actually was a great influence and mentor in our keeping the book."

The Meyers will receive the award during the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Game, which will be held on April 1 at Ohio University Eastern.

"We were very surprised when we heard about the award because we actually didn't know it existed," Meyer said. "We didn't keep the book for recognition. We enjoy doing it for the school and for the student-athletes."

Meyer — who is currently a teacher, assistant athletic director and coach



at Steubenville High School landed her first coaching job during the 1979-80 school year as a junior high coach at Stanton.

Her husband, Dave, kept the book for all of the girls' game. They then moved up to the book at Edison South and Edison High School when their oldest son, Josh, began playing.

Keeping the book, sitting at the scoring table with their children playing was a difficult task at times.

"The hardest part was not yelling at our child when he did something wrong or really stupid," Lynn said. "All four of our children played basketball since they were 8, so that's a lot of basketball. I think only one official told him to remember he was part of

the table and couldn't say anything about a call that an official makes."

They just continued in their roles, but Lynn kept the girls' basketball book and Dave kept the boys' scorebook until 2006.

Dave now helps out with the scoring at Steubenville High where the couple's youngest child, Hannah, is a senior and member of the basketball team.

All four of the Meyer children were active in sports.

Josh and Caleb graduated from Edison, but Jordon graduated from Big Red and Hannah will receive her diploma later this spring.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleader-online.com

Robinson to receive Bob Burton Award

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Most people around the Ohio Valley know the name Bob Robinson.

However, they probably think about automobiles first and foremost. However, if you're around the sport of basketball, you'd think of Robinson as a hoops guy.

Robinson became a basketball junkie at a young age and his passion hasn't relaxed one bit.

For his years as a coach, support and friend to the game, Robinson has been selected to receive the Bob Burton Distinguished Service Award, which will be presented during the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic, which is slated for April 1 at Ohio University Eastern.

"I was humbled when I found out about the award," Robinson said. "I don't know how I was chosen, but I am honored and was really surprised. I've been blessed to be able to continue with my love of the game for such a long time."

Making the award maybe even more special is the



relationship that Robinson and the legendary forer Paden City head coach Bob Burton maintain to this day.

"I've known Bob since I was 16 years old, so to receive an award named for him is really humbling," Robinson said.

Robinson got into the game of basketball when his mom took him to a game in New Matamoris, Ohio to watch his cousin play. He came away hooked.

"Being from a small town, basketball was a big deal every winter," Robinson said. "I just fell in love with the game."

Robinson got his start in coaching in New Martinsville with five and

sixth grade leagues, later coached several school girls' AAU teams and was eventually chosen to coach the Magnaboy's summer league team.

It was 19 years ago when Robinson approached Robinson at joining the Lady Knights staff. He accepted and became the girls' coach at Mount DeChantal.

"As I look back, it's been very special," Robinson said. "I've been associated with so many fine young ladies at Mount DeChantal."

Robinson has been a part of two state championship staffs and seven state tournament appearances.

Bob passed his love of hoops onto his children who were standout players in high school. Both J and Robertta Robinson were standout players during their prep days. Robertta played Division basketball at Virginia Commonwealth.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleader-online.com

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OVAC All-Star Games Playing Today

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

It's almost time to officially drop the curtain on the 2011-12 prep basketball season.

However, before putting the season to bed, the senior standouts of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will get one last opportunity to shine.

The annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic will hit the court at Ohio University Eastern this afternoon. The girls' game is slated to tip at 3 p.m. and the boys' game is scheduled for approximately 5 p.m.

The Ohio boys have been able to squeeze in five practices leading up to today's game, but according to Steubenville head coach Mike Haney, it's been a battle to get everyone there on the same day.

"Because of the different commitments and spring sports, it's just tough, but we had a few Sunday practices and we had almost everyone there," Haney said. "It's gone pretty well."

Haney, who is in his first time at the helm of the Buckeye State stars, is being assisted by Steubenville Central's Sean Tucker and Conotton Valley's Mike Firebaugh. The trio has devised, what they hope anyway, three equally balanced teams so that each player can get equal minutes.

"We want everyone to play, have a good time and get minutes, but in the end,

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we also want to win the game," Haney said.

"We've had some guys stand out in practice, and I really think if we limit our turnovers, take care of the ball, we can come out on top, but we realize West Virginia has a fine squad."

The Buckeyes are expected to start Indian Creek's Joe Bowers, Beallsville's Graham Dauch and Tyler Spence; Union Local's Kurtis Ogilbee and Big Red's William Houst.

The balance of the Ohio boys' roster includes: Cole Smelley, Bridgeport; Brandt Pieniasek, Steubenville Central; Tyler Fitzpatrick, Barnesville; Derek Feller, Bellaire; Mow Mow Thompson, East Liverpool; Mark Smyth, Edison; Marky Thompkins, East Liverpool; Zach Eddy, Fort Frye; Rylee Rogers, Cambridge; Kyle Larrick, Buckeye Trail.

On the other bench, Linsly's James Wallace, who guided his Cadets to the OVAC Class 2A title in February, has only had two practices with his team.

However, he came away highly impressed with what he's seen.

"I think we're ready to go," Wallace said. "We've got a lot of athletic kids, but we don't have tremendous size. We feel we've got a lot of guys who can score the basketball."

In the two West Virginia practices, Wallace and his staff of Brooke's Dave Reitter and Madonna's George Vargo, have had good attendance and decided that they wanted to keep teammates together.

For instance, Errin Baynes, Vondel Bell and Boo Lathon all played together at Wheeling Park. So, they're going to remain together Sunday. The same can be said for Madonna's trio of Nicklas Battista, Clay Rokisky and Drazen Frankovich.

"We want to try to carry

out the chemistry that worked so well for those guys during their respective seasons," Wallace said. "We've had a great time since we've been together, but we've stressed to our guys that we picked them because they're all good players, but we're not just here for fun. We want to win the game. We want to play hard and play fast."

The balance of the West Virginia all-star roster is made up of: Ryan Hughes, Cameron; Nick Breen, Brooke; Justin Wade, John Marshall; Michael Drizake, Weir; D.T. Meeker, Bishop Donahue; Jayson Keller, Magnolia; Harley Mills, Weir; Clay Ueltschy, Valley.

■ The girls' game is taking a similar path as the boys. Both coaching staffs value the idea of having fun, meeting people and enjoying the day, but they also know the state bragging rights are on the line.

"Even though it's an all-star game, no one wants to lose," said Harrison Central head coach and Ohio staffer Nick Yourkovich. "We've tried to balance our groups as best we could, but in the final 4 or 5 minutes, we're going to try our best to win the game."

The Buckeye State ladies have had only two practices and one of those came Saturday.

Comprising the Ohio girls' team are: Katie Fry, Bellaire; Rosa Young, St. John Central; Tenelle Hoppel, Beaver Local; Kristin Prokopakis, Edison; Alexis Davis, Union Local; Jessica Hunkler, Barnesville; Samantha Schott, Shenandoah; Lecanna Sichina, Buckeye Trail; Samantha Hanson, Fort Frye; Mikyle Tipton, Wellsville; Brooke Meintel, Shadyside; Julie Bilyeu, Beallsville; Kayla Prokopakis, Edison; Brooke Schultz, Harrison Central and Madison Richards, Harrison Central.

West Virginia held its final tuneup on Saturday, as well, and Clay-Battelle head coach David Price has been preparing his club as if he would his regular-season team.

"The first practice we had was full of getting in as much of the game plan as possible," Price said. "The second practice was more about fine tuning and (Saturday) was just organizing and more fine tuning."

Price and his assistants Don Ogden (Madonna) and Scott Wiley (Oak Glen) were expected to settle on a starting lineup.

"We're still moving kids around," Price said. "Their chemistry together is important to me and the other coaches, so I think that decision will be made after (Saturday's) practice."

The West Virginia girls' roster consists of: Cassie Sorge, Wheeling Central; Dani Hayes, Valley; Lindsay Siburt, Cameron; Payden Eckleberry, Oak Glen; Isabella Anile, Madonna; Brianna Robbins, Wheeling Central; Shayna Tedrow, Hundred; Dallas Mullett, Magnolia; Samantha Gaspar, University; Sara Lyons, Madonna; Brianna Nuzum, Morgantown; Alexis Montes, John Marshall; Krista Crawshaw, Wheeling Park; Jenna McAtee, Parkersburg South and Jenna Stephens, John Marshall.

NOTES

■ Prior to arriving at OUE, the players and their families are treated to a luncheon at Undo's West in St. Clairsville.

■ Along with the game, there will also be a 3-point shootout at halftime of both the boys and girls' games.

■ Special Awards will be presented to a host of individuals who've made an impact on the world of prep basketball. Those set to receive an award are: Gene Ammirante, Bubba Kapral, Dave and Lynn Myer, Joe Dierkes and Bob Robinson.

Ammirante to receive the Earl Haberfield Award

**By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor**

Gene Ammirante has seen his fair share of Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classics.

He's also done a wide array of jobs. He's coached the game, directed the game and helped save the game financially many years ago. Heck, he even collected dirty uniforms after the games.

When the basketball stars of the Ohio Valley come out on Sunday, April 1, the only thing Ammirante will be collecting is hardware. The former Bellaire Big Reds' head coach was selected to receive the Earl Haberfield Award at the game, which is slated for Sunday, April 1 at Ohio University Eastern.



"Being chosen for this award really means a lot," Ammirante said. "I can honestly remember (St. Clairsville head coach) Kim (Clifford) and I would go and clean up the uniforms after the game."

Both Ammirante and Clifford's career's have long surpassed the role of clean-up duty.

Ammirante called it quits after 30 seasons at the helm of the Big Reds, which included a 471-205 record.

Ammirante's Big Reds won 14 sectional titles, six district titles and the 2004 Division III regional crown along with 14 OVAC titles and two perfect regular seasons.

All told, Ammirante won 70 percent of his games and had only four losing seasons.

"We were fortunate to have a lot of good players," Ammirante said. "I still like to emphasize that even though we had a lot of good players, we had a lot of guys who were also willing to do the dirty work. They were just as valuable."

Ammirante has been involved with the all-star game basically from its start when he was approached by the likes of Hank Lasasz, Dick Potts and Haberfield to take the game over as basketball coaches fought to keep up with the always popular football all-star game.

"Hank, Dick and Earl all came to my house and asked if I would be willing to take the game over," Ammirante said. "It was tough to turn down three legends, who had been my idols."

Ammirante and his long-time buddy Tom "Bear" Bechtel currently spearhead the game. This marks Ammirante's third tour of duty with the game.

"There were some guys who were nervous about the future of the (all-star) game because of our financial situation," Ammirante confessed. "But, we tightened our purse strings and there were some people made at me about it, but now we're in good financial shape."

All-Star Hoops Rosters Revealed

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

There are only four boys basketball teams in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference still practicing hoops at this point in the season.

Thus, it must be time to start thinking about the season that was and honoring some of the area's premier players.

The annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic rosters have been set for the game, which will be played at Ohio University on Sunday, April 1. The girls game will tip off at 3 p.m. and the boys will begin at approximately 5 p.m.

Along with the game, the day-long basketball showcase will feature several special awards presentations and a special luncheon banquet at Undo's West in St. Clairsville.

The coaching staffs for the four squads were also set. Leading the Ohio boys' team are Steubenville's Mike Haney.

Steubenville Central's Sean Tucker and Conotton Valley's Mike Firebaugh.

The West Virginia boys coaches are: Linsly's James Wallace, Madonna's George Vargo and Brooke's Dave Reitter.

The Ohio girls' coaches are: Edison's Tony Kovalesky, Harrison Central's Nick Yourkovich and Buckeye Trail's Nicole Stephens.

Guiding the West Virginia girls' squad are: Clay-Battelle's David Price, Madonna's Don Ogden and Oak Glen's Scott Wiley.

Comprising the Ohio girls' team are: Katie Fry, Bellaire; Rosa Young, St. John Central; Tenelle Hoppel, Beaver Local; Kristin Prokopakis, Edison; Alexis Davis, Union Local; Jessica Hunkler, Barnesville; Samantha Schott, Shenandoah; Lecanna Sichina, Buckeye Trail; Samantha Hanson, Fort Frye; Mikyle Tipton, Wellsville; Brooke Meintel, Shadyside; Julie Bilyeu, Beallsville; Kayla Prokopakis, Edison; Brooke Schultz, Harrison Central and Madison Richards, Harrison Central.

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SPORTS LEADER - Sunday, March 18, 2012 - C5

SJC's Kapral to receive Saffield Award

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

The St. John Central girls' basketball program has won more Ohio Valley Athletic Conference titles than any program in the conference with 14.

One of the main architects of the program will be honored at the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic.

Lady Irish head coach Bubba Kapral will receive the Richard Saffield Girls Basketball Coaching Award during the April 1 contest.

"I am both honored and deeply humbled to be the recipient of such a prestigious award," Kapral said. "The previous recipients are some of my coaching idols. In addition, Saff is a close friend, so receiving an award that bears his name makes it even more meaningful."

Kapral has been at the Lady Irish helm for the last 18 years. He's guided his teams to eight OVAC titles, seven trips to the district and a regional berth.

All told, Kapral has rang up a strong 255-133 record. Awards are nothing new for Kapral. He was named Ohio Division IV State Coach of the Year in 2001 and after the 2007-08 season, he was named the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association State Division IV Coach of the Year.

He was also chosen to coach in the 2002 Ohio North-South Game.

"The awards are made possible by all of the tremendous players who have worn the Lady Irish uniform as well as quality assistants who have supported me along the way," Kapral said.

Before ascending to the head-coaching role, Kapral served as an assistant for six seasons under Kim Appolloni at SJC.

"I would be remiss if I didn't thank Kim," Kapral said. "She taught me the game of basketball and turned me over a program second to none. She's the gold standard of prep basketball coaches."

He's been named AP Eastern District Coach of the Year five times, four-times honored as District 12 Coach of the Year, coached the Mumley Classic three times and is a member of the OVAC Basketball Championship Committee as well as the OVAC Hall of Fame Committee.

While Kapral's basketball coaching success is well documented, his career as Irish track and field coach is hall of fame worthy.

Kapral coached track for 21 years, winning 13 OVAC titles, two Division III state championships and twice finished as state runner-up.



Ammirante Chosen For Haberfield Award

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

WHEELING — Gene Ammirante has seen his fair share of Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classics. He's also done a wide array of jobs.

Ammirante has coached the game, directed the game and helped save the game financially many years ago. Heck, he even collected dirty uniforms after the games.

When the basketball stars of the Ohio Valley come out Sunday, April 1, the only thing Ammirante will be collecting is hardware. The former Bellaire Big Reds head coach was selected to receive the Earl Haberfield Award at the game, which is scheduled at Ohio University Eastern.

"Being chosen for this award really means a lot," Ammirante said. "I can honestly remember (St. Clairsville head coach) Kim (Clifford) and I would go and clean up the uniforms after the game."

Both Ammirante and Clifford's careers have long surpassed the role of clean-up duty.

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All told, Ammirante won 70 percent of his games and had only four losing seasons.

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Ammirante has been involved with the all-star game basically from its start, when he was approached by the likes of Hank Lasasz, Dick Potts and Habberfield to take the game over as basketball coaches fought to keep up with the always popular football all-star game.

"Hank, Dick and Earl all came to my house and asked if I would be willing to take the game over," Ammirante said. "It was tough to turn down three legends who had been my idols."

Ammirante and his long-time buddy, Tom "Bear" Bechtel currently spearhead the game. This marks Ammirante's third tour of duty.

"There were some guys who were nervous about the future of the (all-star) game because of our financial situation," Ammirante confessed.

"But, we tightened our purse strings and there were some people mad at me about it, but now we're in good financial shape."

OVAC to Laud Kapral

St. John coach to receive Saffield Award

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

BELLAIRE — The St. John Central girls' basketball program has won more (14) Ohio Valley Athletic Conference titles than any other school.

One of the main architects of the program will be honored at the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic.

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"I am both honored and deeply humbled to be the recipient of such a prestigious award," Kapral said.

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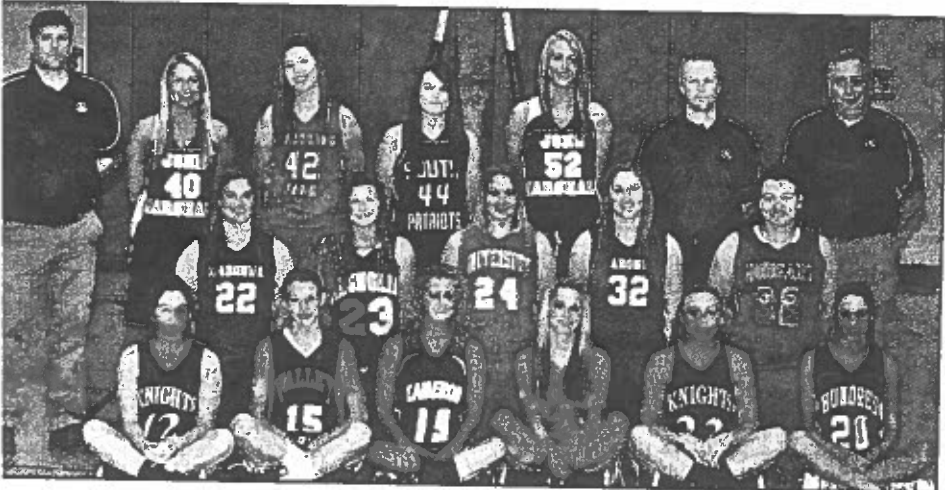
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T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED ARE the West Virginia All-Star boys' players for today's annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic. Front row, from left, are Ryan Hughes (Cameron), Nick Breen (Brooke), Nicklas Battista (Madonna) and Vondel Bell (Wheeling Park). Middle row, from left, are Justin Wade (John Marshall), Michael Drizake (Weir), D.T. Meeker (Bishop Donahue), Akil Blount (Linsly) and Jayson Keller (Magnolia). Back row, from left, are Coach James Wallace (Linsly), Boo Lathon (Wheeling Park), Harley Mills (Weir), Clay Ueltschy (Valley), Coaches George Vargo (Madonna) and Dave Reitter (Brooke). Absent was Errin Baynes (Wheeling Park) and Drazen Frankovich (Madonna).



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED ARE the West Virginia All-Star girls' players for today's annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic. Front row, from left, are Cassie Sorge (Wheeling Central), Dani Hayes (Valley), Lindsay Siburt (Cameron), Payden Eckleberry (Oak Glen), Brianna Robbins (Wheeling Central) and Shayna Tedrow (Hundred). Middle row, from left, are Isabella Anile (Madonna), Dallas Mullett (Magnolia), Samantha Gaspar (University), Sara Lyons (Madonna) and Brianna Nuzum (Morgantown). Standing, from left, are Coach Dave Price (Clay-Battelle), Alexis Montes (John Marshall), Krista Crawshaw (Wheeling Park), Jenna McAtee (Parkersburg South), Jenna Stephens (John Marshall), Coaches Scott Wiley (Oak Glen) and Don Ogden (Madonna).

River's Dierkes wins OVAC Officials' Award

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

River High graduate Joe Dierkes took the path to officiating stardom that so many take.

He wrapped up a brilliant playing career, which was split between three seasons at Clarington High and the very first season at River en route to more than 900 career points.

Still with a thirst for the game, six years after graduation and two years after serving in the United States Army, Dierkes got his officiating card.

All told Dierkes worked 20 years as an official in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference.

For his efforts, Dierkes is being recognized at the annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Game with the Robert Dawson Basketball Officials' Award.

"I am really appreciative of the honor," Dierkes said. "It definitely made me happy when I was chosen. I never really pictured myself winning any awards for officiating."

As a player, Dierkes was a four-year varsity letterman and three-year starter. He was a member of the first graduating class of River High School in 1955.

After his junior and senior seasons, Dierkes received All East Ohio Class B honors.

Dierkes worked from 1961-1981 and worked at the sectional, district and regional levels during his career. He stepped aside from officiating to be able to watch his sons play basketball.

"I worked a lot of good games in my career," Dierkes said. "It was a great honor to have been chosen for tournaments. You always shoot for moving up and getting to the top."

Dierkes is a life-long Clarington resident. He's been married to his wife Janice since 1959.

The couple has four children and eight grandchildren, who "round out Big Joe's Dream Team." Their sons names Lee, Ty, Jon and Kelly. Lee and his wife Donna have two daughters and resident in Roswell, Ga. Ty and his wife Erin reside in Zanesville with their four children. Jon is single and lives in Rochester Hills, Mi., and their youngest son, Kelly resides in Woodsfield with his wife, Tabi, and two children.

Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com



● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

Madonna's Don Ogden and Oak Glen's Scott Wiley. Comprising the Ohio girls' team are: Katie Fry, Bellaire; Rosa Young, St. John Central; Tenelle Hoppel, Beaver Local; Kristin Prokopakis, Edison; Alexis Davis, Union Local; Jessica Hunkler, Barnesville; Samantha Schott, Shenandoah; Leeanna Sichina, Buckeye Trail; Samantha Hanson, Fort Frye; Mikyle Tipton, Wellsville; Brooke Meintel, Shadyside; Julie Bilyeu, Beallsville; Kayla Prokopakis, Edison; Brooke Schuftz, Harrison Central and Madison Richards, Harrison Central.

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Staskey can be reached at ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

OVAC all-star basketball game rosters set

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

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Thus, it must be time to start thinking about the season that was and honoring some of the area's premier players.

The annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC

All-Star Basketball Classic rosters are set for the game, which will be played at Ohio University on Sunday, April 1. The girls game will tip off at 3 p.m. and the boys will begin at approximately 5 p.m.

Along with the game, the day-long basketball showcase will feature several special awards presentations and a special luncheon banquet at Undo's West in St. Clairsville.



The rosters were selected late last month and Game Directors Tom Bechtel and Gene Ammirante formally released the squads today after receiving confirmations from all 60 players, who will be showcased.

The coaching staffs for the four squads were also set.

Leading the Ohio boys' team are Steubenville's Mike Haney, Steubenville Central's Sean Tucker and

Conotton Valley's Mike Firebaugh.

The West Virginia boys coaches are: Linsly's James Wallace, Madonna's George Vargo and Brooke's Dave Reitter.

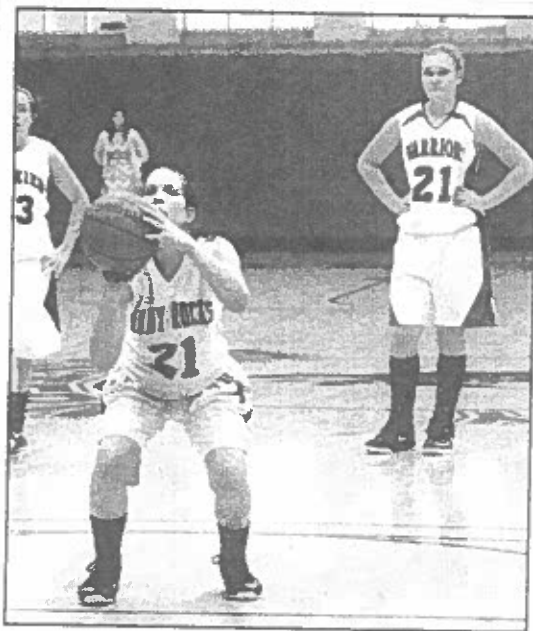
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Guiding the West Virginia girls' squad are: Clay-Battelle's David Price.

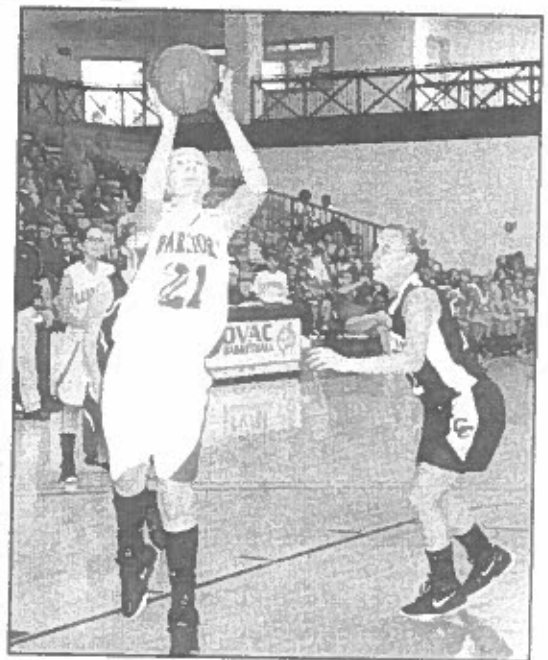
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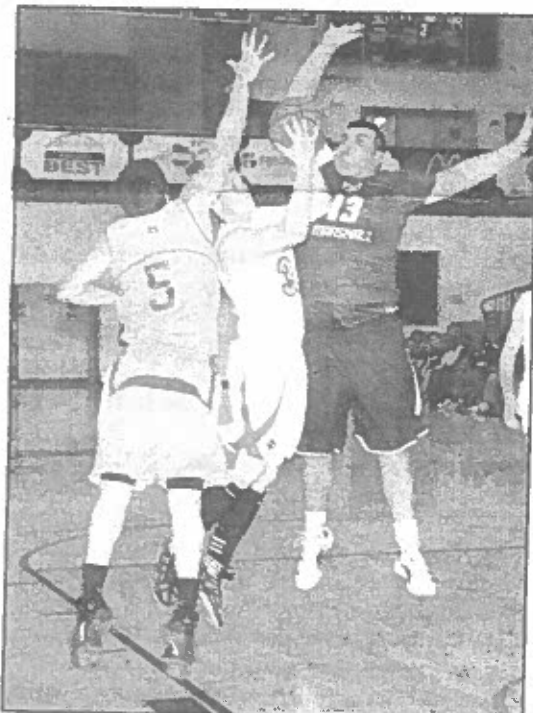
Shenandoah's Sami Schott makes a move against Hundred's Shayna Tedrow (20).



Barnesville's Jessica Hunkler keeps her eye on the basket as she shoots a free throw.



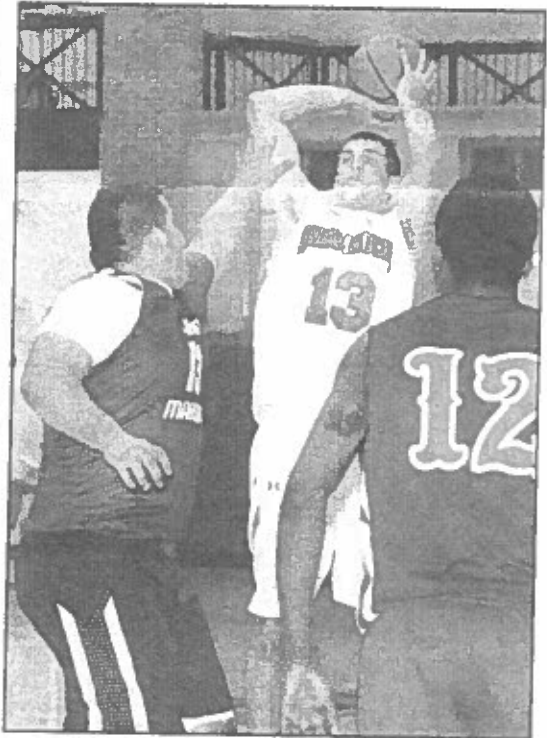
Buckeye Trail's LeeAnna Sichina goes in for a lay-up past Wheeling Central's Cassie Sorge.



Cambridge's RyLee Rogers splits defenders Nick Breen (5) of Brooke and Justin Wade (13) of John Marshall.



Buckeye Trail's Kyle Larrick puts up a close-range shot in front of Brooke's Nick Breen (5).



Barnesville's Tyler Fitzpatrick shoots over John Marshall's Justin Wade (13).

W. Va. sweeps in OVAC All-Star Classic

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Not a good weekend for Buckeye State basketball.

One day after Ohio State fell victim to a second half comeback by Kansas in the NCAA "Final Four" semifinals, the West Virginia girls and boys inflicted a double-dose of defeat on their Ohio counterparts in the 35th annual Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic at Ohio University Eastern on Sunday.

The Mountaineer girls notched a 61-57 victory in the opening game and the West Virginia boys completed a sweep with an 83-70 conquest in the night-cap.

In the girls' game, West Virginia most of the way, including by a 32-27 count at the end of the first 20-minute half, Ohio battled back to a

49-all tie with around five minutes to play but West Virginia regrouped for the four-point victory.

Oak Glenn point guard Payden Eckleberry topped the West Virginia girls with 12 points while Samantha Gasper of University High was also in double figures with 10 along with a team-high four rebounds. Other top scorers included Isabella Anile of Weirton Madonna with eight; Jenna Stephens of John Marshall with seven and Krista Crawshaw of Wheeling Park with six.

For Ohio, Edison's Kayla Prokopakis took game scoring honors with a 21-point performance. Tenelle Hoppel of Beaver Local collected eight tallies and Shenandoah's Sami Schott had six points and five rebounds. Fort Frye's Samantha

GIRLS
WEST VIRGINIA 61, OHIO 57
West Virginia
Cassie Sorge (Wheeling Central) 2 0-0 5, Dani Hayes (Valley) 0 0-0 0, Lindsay Siburt (Cameron) 0 0-0 0, Shayna Tedrow (Hundred) 0 0-0, Payden Eckleberry (Oak Glen) 4 2-4 12, Isabella Anile (Weirton Madonna) 3 2-2 8, Brianna Robbins (Wheeling Central) 1 0-0 2, Dallas Mullet (Magnolia) 0 0-0 0, Samantha Gaspar (University) 4 2-2 10, Sara Lyons (Weirton Madonna) 0 0-0 0, Brianna Nuzum (Morgantown) 2 0-4 4, Alexis Montes (John Marshall) 1 2-4 4, Krista Crawshaw (Wheeling Park) 2 2-2 6, Jenna McAtee (Parkersburg South) 1 0-0 3, Jenna Stephens (John Marshall) 3 0-0 7. Totals 23 10-18 61.

Ohio
Katie Fry (Bellair) 0 0-0 0, Rosa Young (St. John's) 1 0-0 2, Kristin Prokopakis (Edison) 1 0-2 3, Tenelle Hoppel (Beaver Local) 3 1-2 8, Alexis Davis (Union Local) 1 1-2 3, Jessica Hunkler (Barnesville) 0 4-4 4, Sami Schott (Shenandoah) 2 2-2 6, LeeAnna Sichina (Buckeye Trail) 1 0-0 2, Samantha Hanson (Fort Frye) 1 1-2 3, Mikyla Tipton (Wellsville) 0 1-2 1, Kayla Prokopakis (Edison) 1 0-0 2, Julie Bilyeu (Beallsville) 0 1-2 1, Madison Richards (Harrison Central) 0 0-0 0. Totals 20 14-22 57.

West Virginia	32	29	— 61
Ohio	27	30	— 57

Three point goals—W.Va. 5 (Eckleberry 2, Sorge, McAtee, Stephens); Ohio 4 (Kay Prokopakis 2, Kri Prokopakis, Hoppel). Rebounds—W.Va. 40 (Gasper 4, Sorge 3, Nuzum 3, Stephens 3, Montes 3, Crawshaw 3); Ohio 49 (Hanson 8, Davis 6, Schott 5, Schultz 4, Meintel 4). Fouls—W.Va. 15; Ohio 14. Fouled Out—none. Turnovers—W.Va. 20; Ohio 27.

BOYS
WEST VIRGINIA 83, OHIO 70
West Virginia
Ryan Hughes (Cameron) 1 1-2 3, Nick Breen (Brooke) 1 0-0 3, Nick Battista (Weirton Madonna) 1 0-0 2, Vondel Bell (Wheeling Park) 4 0-0 8, Justin Wade (John Marshall) 1 0-0 2, Michael Drizake (Weir) 4 0-0 10, DT Meeker 3 0-0 6, Akil Blount (Linsly) 2 1-2 5, Drazen Frankovich (Weirton Madonna) 3 2-4 8, Boo Lathon (Wheeling Park) 10 1-2 25, Jayson Keller (Magnolia) 0 1-2 1, Harley Mills (Weir) 4 0-0 10, Clay Uelitsch (Valley) 0 0-2 0. Totals 34 6-12 83.

Ohio
Cole Smetley (Bridgeport) 2 2-4 6, Tyler Spence (Beallsville) 0 0-0 0, Brant Pieniazek (Steub. Catholic) 1 0-2 2, Tyler Fitzpatrick (Barnesville) 2 0-0 4, Derek Feller (Bellair) 1 0-0 2, Mow Mow Thompson (East Liverpool) 2 1-1 5, Graham Dauch (Beallsville) 1 0-0 2, Joe Bowers (Indian Creek) 2 1-2 6, Kurtis Ogilbee (Union Local) 2 0-0 5, Mark Smyth (Edison) 1 2-3 4, Marky Thompkins (East Liverpool) 2 0-0 4, Zach Eddy (Fort Frye) 4 0-0 12, William Houst (Steubenville) 4 0-0 8, RyLee Rogers (Cambridge) 3 4-5 10, Kyle Larrick (Buckeye Trail) 0 0-0 0. Totals 27 10-17 70.

West Virginia	49	34	— 83
Ohio	30	40	— 70

Three point goals—W.Va. 9 (Lathon 4, Drizake 2, Mills 2, Breen); Ohio 6 (Eddy 4, Ogilbee, Bowers). Rebounds—W.Va. 59 (Lathon 9, Mills 9, Wade 6, Bell 6, Drizake 4, Meeker 4, Blount 4); Ohio 48 (Thompson 5, Bowers 4, Ogilbee 4, Thompkins 4). Fouls—W.Va. 19; Ohio 12. Fouled Out—none. Turnovers—W.Va. 17; Ohio 17.

Hanson grabbed nine rebounds and Union Local's Alexis Davis had six.

In addition to Schott, other local girls on the Ohio team were Jessica Hunkler of Barnesville

(four points, one rebound) and LeeAnna Sichina of Buckeye Trail (two points, one rebound).

In the boys' game, West Virginia's athleticism advantage resulted in a 49-30 halftime lead. Ohio managed to get the lead down to 11 (62-51) at the 10-minute mark of the second half, but that was as close as the Buckeyes could get.

Flashy Boo Lathon of Wheeling Park stole the show offensively for the Mountaineers, pouring in 25 points with four three-pointers and a couple of thunderous dunks along with nine rebounds. Weir's Harley Mills chipped in 10 points and nine rebounds; Wheeling Park's Vondel Bell added eight points and six boards; and Drazen Frankovich of Weirton Madonna had eight points.

The Buckeyes had two players reached double digits, with Fort Frye's Zach Eddy knocking down a quartet of three-pointers for 12 points while Cambridge's RyLee Rogers collected 10. Steubenville's William Houst was next in line with eight markers.

Other local players on the Ohio team included Tyler Fitzpatrick of Barnesville (four points, three rebounds) and Buckeye Trail's Kyle Larrick (three rebounds).

Three-point contests were staged at halftime of each game, with Wheeling Central's Brianna Robbins taking the girls' title while Union Local's Kurtis Ogilbee was the boys' winner.

A host of scholarships were awarded, with the boys' winners including Eddy of Fort Frye, Ryan Hughes of Cameron, Larrick of Trail, Jayson Keller of Magnolia while the girls' recipients were Hanson of Fort Frye, Gaspar of University.

See OVAC pag : B-3



W. Val. sweeps OVAC tilts

OVAC from page B-1

Kayla Prokopakis of Edison and Sara Lyons of Weirton Madonna.

Awards presented throughout the day included Bob Robinson of Wheeling Central, the Bob Burton Distinguished Service Award; Robert "Bubba" Kapral of St. John Central, the Rich Saffield Girls' Basketball Coaches Award;

Gene Ammirante of Bellaire, the Earl Haberfield Boys' Coaches Award; Joe Dierkes of Clarington, the Robert Dawson Basketball Officials Award; Dave and Lynn Meyer of Edison, the Thomas E. Rataiczak Scorekeeper/Timer Award; and Mark Cook, the Ohio Valley Basketball Officials Athletic Director of the Year Award.