

Whittington, McElroy named as coaches for OVAC grid game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Just 26 weeks from today, football makes its grand return to the Ohio Valley.

The 70th annual Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game is slated for Sunday, July 26 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak and Mumley Game Director Bob Koch formally extended the head coaching invitations to Oak Glen's Ian Whittington and Beaver Local's Jeremy McElroy recently.

Whittington will guide the Mountain State squad, while McElroy will lead Team Ohio onto the field for the annual summer sporting spectacle.

McElroy didn't graduate from an OVAC school. He's an East Palestine graduate, but he's been to the game a handful of times and understands its meaning to the Ohio Valley.

"(St. Clairsville head coach) Brett McLean and I were college roommates (at Mount Union) and the first time I attended the game was when he was the head coach," McElroy said. "I've been down to a couple since then when we've had players take part in it."

Each time that McElroy, who has been the Beaver Local head coach for three seasons, has attended he's come away impressed with the entire operation.

"It's absolutely first class," McElroy said. "It's a great event for the kids and it's just a great atmosphere for football."

When Rataiczak called to extend the offer, McElroy was basically stunned. The Beavers finished 6-4, but were third in the OVAC standings, which are utilized to choose the coach.

"I wasn't expecting the chance at all," McElroy said. "It's really humbling to be a part of it because I know how big of a game this is for everyone in the valley."

In the rotation that the OVAC utilizes, it's Class 4A's opportunity to coach the game.

That made Whittington and the Golden Bears staff the obvious choice since Oak Glen is the only Class 4A member on the West Virginia side of the river.

"I didn't know exactly that it was (Class 4A's) year, but I knew it had to be coming soon," Whittington said. "This is just a great honor to have the opportunity to coach West Virginia in this game."

Unlike his Ohio counterpart, Whittington — a 2003 Oak Glen graduate — grew up watching the OVAC Game, making yearly trips to Wheeling since was a youngster in Hancock County.

"I remember sitting up in the stands as a little kid and watching this game and seeing all the different helmets and logos just dreaming of being down on that field," Whittington said. "Being around the game, I realize how much pride is involved with both states and the kids. We hope to represent West Virginia the best we can."

The Golden Bears finished the season 2-8 as Whittington wrapped up his third season at the helm.

The coaches will receive their nominee information this week at a meeting and then begin the process of selecting their teams, which will begin camp on Sunday, July 19.

Backfield Ready For W.Va. Team

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

When he started building his roster, Oak Glen's Ian Whittington knew he'd have plenty of options at quarterback and running back.

He wasn't kidding.

The West Virginia head coach announced his options in the backfield that will vye for playing time during camp at Bethany College leading up to the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game that's set for Sunday, July 26th at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We have some very talented guys to compete at quarterback and running back," Whittington said. "We have four talented quarterbacks on the roster, but they're also capable of helping on defense."

The quarterback battle is expected to be between Paden City's Zach Heasley, Weir's William Larch, Bishop Donahue's Jesse Padlow and Brooke's Aaron Walker.

Whittington is also high on his running backs, who consists of Clay-Battelle's Jacoby Steele and University's Jace Neville.

"I love the group of running backs," Whittington said. "They're hard-nosed kids, who are talented and big. We have good speed there, too."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

ZACH HEASLEY, Paden City — This former Wildcat had a pair of big seasons under head coach Brent Croasmun.

The 6-4, 230 pounder passed for 1,561 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior. He threw for 1,696 yards and 19 touchdowns as a junior.

For his efforts, he was named first-team all-OVAC, all-Mason Dixon, special mention all-state and second-team all-Valley after both of his last two campaigns.

Along with football, Heasley was a standout in basketball and baseball for the Wildcats.

Please See **OVAC** Page 15

OVAC

(Continued from Page 13)

Heasley, who plans to attend West Virginia Wesleyan to play football, is the son of Ron and Krissy Heasley.

WILLIAM LARCH, Weir High — This former Red Rider had a big season both running and throwing the ball for Coach Tony Filberto's squad.

The 6-1, 215 pounder ran for 1,116 yards and 13 touchdowns. On top of that, he threw for 1,741 yards and 15 touchdowns.

The four-year starter was named captain of the second-team all-state squad after last season and was named honorable mention all-state in 2013. He

was all-OVAC after both campaigns.

Undecided about his future plans, William is the son of Michael and Deborah Larch.

JACE NEVILLE, University — This versatile offensive player saw action in a bevy of spots for John Kelley's team.

The 5-8, 175 pounder lined up at slot, running back and was a legitimate weapon as a return man.

Jace, who is the son of Jim and Kellie Neville, plans to attend Shepherd University to play football.

JESSE PADLOW, Bishop Donahue — This quarterback

put forth a simply brilliant career for head coach John Durdines and the Bishops.

The 6-2, 160 pounder finished his career with 6,302 yards passing and 61 touchdowns. All told, he accounted for 71 touchdowns. He ran for 692 yards and completed 400 passes.

Padlow's antics didn't go unnoticed. He was first-team all-state Class A as both a junior and senior along with all-OVAC.

Along with football, Padlow was a standout for the Bishops' basketball and baseball teams.

Jesse, who is the son of Jake Padlow, plans on attending West

Liberty University.

JACOBY STEELE, Clay-Battelle — This two-way standout had a huge season for Coach Ryan Wilson's squad last fall.

The 6-0, 220 pounder ran for 816 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior. All told, he amassed 2,418 yards and 35 touchdowns. He also served as the CeeBees' kicker and defensively he had 65 tackles and 13 sacks as a senior.

Steele's season was recognized as first-team all-state, all-OVAC and all-Mason Dixon.

Off the football field, Steele is the Student Body and Class President. He's a member of the National Honor Society and

Boys State.

Jacoby, who is the son of Doug and Beth Steele, plans on attending Shepherd University.

AARON WALKER, Brooke — This former Bruin had a big season for rookie head coach Mac McLean.

The 6-0, 200 pounder passed for 2,500 yards and 16 touchdowns. He was also an effective runner with 13 touchdowns.

Walker was named second-team all-TRAC and honorable mention all-state as both a junior and senior.

Aaron, who is the son of Bill Walker, plans on attending Waynesburg University.

McElroy has plenty of receiver options

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

All-star games usually feature a lot of passes being thrown.

Ohio head coach Jeremy McElroy has plenty of options to catch passes for the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game, which is set for Sunday, July 26 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

When camp opens Sunday afternoon at Bethany College,

McElroy has no fewer than nine options at wide receiver.

"I think (receiver) is one of the real strengths of our team," McElroy said. "We have a lot of guys who can make some plays and we have a lot of speed there, too. I really like this group."

The receivers' group consists of J.C. Coleman (St. Clairsville), Jack Fitch (Martins Ferry), Malik Gummer (St. Clairsville), Riley Hayhurst (Cambridge),

Lucas Herrington (Steubenville), Branden Jones (Steubenville), Kalub Mitchell (Harrison Central), Hunter Westlake (Bellaire) and Dylan Wood (Meadowbrook).

Here's a capsule look at the players:

J.C. COLEMAN, St. Clairsville -- This former Red Devil was a big-play threat for Coach Brett McLean's squad.

The 6-1, 170 pounder caught 12 passes for 400 yards, which is an average of

33 yards a catch. He scored six touchdowns. He was also a special teams standout with a 25-yard average on kick return.

As a defensive back, Coleman was slid with five interceptions and 11 passes broken up.

For his work, he was an all-Eastern District pick.

Coleman, who plans to attend Ohio University Eastern, is the son of Tony and

See, **MCELROY**, Page B2

● McElroy

Continued from Page B1

Lori Coleman.

JACK FITCH, Martins Ferry -- This speedster gave Coach Dave Bruney's Purple Riders the ability to stretch the field.

The 6-0, 165 pounder caught 22 passes and scored seven touchdowns. He was also a standout as a punter, averaging 43 yards a kick en route to first-team all-Ohio honors.

Fitch was first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Times Leader and served as a team captain.

Along with football, Fitch was a four-year standout in track and field.

Away from athletics, he was a member of the National Honor Society.

Jack, who is the son of Dirk and Mary Beth Fitch, plans on attending Wheeling Jesuit to run track.

MALIK GUMMER, St. Clairsville -- This former Red Devil was the ultimate home-run hitter for McLean's squad.

The 5-10, 160 pounder caught 32 passes for 775 yards and 13 touchdowns. He also had a score as a kick returner.

For his efforts, Gummer was named third-team all-Ohio, team MVP, first-team all-District, all-OVAC and all Times Leader.

Malik, who is the son of Bobbi Rice and Courtney Gummer, plans on attending Mt. Union to play football.

RILEY HAYHURST, Cambridge -- This former Bobcat was a go-to-guy in the passing game for Coach Kevin Gunn's squad.

The 6-0, 165 pounder caught 75 passes for 610 yards and two touchdowns during his career. He was also in on 118 tackles and had six

interceptions.

Hayhurst was named second-team all-Ohio, all-OVAC, all-Eastern District and all-ECOL.

Along with football, Hayhurst was class president and is a member of the Ohio Model of United Nations.

Riley, who plans on attending Dennison University, is the son of James and Angie Hayhurst.

LUCAS HERRINGTON, Steubenville -- This talented former Big Red standout was the premier pass catcher for Coach Reno Saccoccia's team.

The 6-1, 170 pounder caught 77 passes for 1,407 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Herrington was named first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Quad County and special mention all-Ohio.

Herrington was also a standout in baseball and basketball.

Lucas, who plans on attending Mt. Union, is the son of Rob and Lainie Herrington.

BRANDON JONES, Steubenville -- This former Big Red tight end was a solid target for Saccoccia's team.

The 6-2, 195 pounder was solid both as a pass catcher and a blocker. He was a third-team all-Ohioan.

Along with football, he was a standout in wrestling, winning the OVAC 182-pound title and qualifying for the state tournament.

Brandon is the son of Brian Jones and Angela Jones.

KALUB MITCHELL, Harrison Central -- This former Huskie was a big-play threat for Justin Kropka's team.

The 6-0, 170 pounder was solid on both sides of the ball en route to first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8 and honorable mention all-Ohio.

Kalub, who is the son of Tonya and Wayne Mitchell, is planning to attend Ohio University.

HUNTER WESTLAKE, Bellaire -- This former Big Reds' standout wore a lot of hats for Coach Steve Andres' squad.

The 6-1, 195 pounder finished his career with 563 yards and nine touchdowns rushing. He also had 66 receptions for 860 yards and eight touchdowns. He also handled the punting duties with a 32.5 yard average.

As a senior, Westlake earned first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Times Leader, all-Valley and special mention all-Ohio.

Along with football, Westlake was a standout in baseball and lettered in basketball.

Hunter, who is the son of Paul and Dawna Westlake, plans on attending West Liberty to play baseball.

DYLAN WOOD, Meadowbrook -- This former Colt was a standout on both sides of the ball for Jesse Wells' squad.

The 5-7, 160 pounder caught 21 passes as a wide receiver and recorded 101 tackle and two interceptions as a safety. All told, he scored seven touchdowns.

Wood was first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and honorable mention all-Ohio.

Dylan, who is the son of Tony and Kim Wood, plans on attending Mt. Union.

McElroy sets backfield for OVAC Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

When Jeremy McElroy and his staff began formulating their Ohio roster for the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game, they sought versatility.

And with the team in place, the current Beaver Local head coach believes his team has plenty of it.

"We've gone back-and-forth with some positions for some guys because we want to utilize their strengths as best we can," McElroy said. "We want to put them in situations that they're comfortable with."

The lone quarterback on the Ohio roster is St. John Central's Chaiice Truex.

Slated to carry the ball for the Buckeye State are Monroe Central's Levi Brown, Shadyside's Eric Howell and Cambridge's Maurice Lathun.

"We've seen some of these guys play and we know we have some guys who are good backs with a nice combination of speed and power," McElroy said.

Here's a capsule look at the players:

LEVI BROWN, Monroe Central – This former Seminole was the go-to-guy for Coach Jay Circosta's team the last few seasons.

The 5-5, 155 pounder finished his fine career with 4,400 total yards and 39 touchdowns. He ran for 2,900 yards and 33 scores. He had 600 yards receiving and 900 yards in returns.

Brown was a second-team all-Ohio selection and twice named first-team all-Eastern District and all-OVAC. He was named to the all-PVC squad three times.

Along with football, Brown was a standout for the Seminoles' basketball team.

Levi, who plans on attending Baldwin-Wallace University, is the son of Steve and Richele Brown.

ERIC HOWELL, Shadyside – This Tigers' senior got it done on both sides of the ball for Coach Mark Holenka's team.

Offensively, Howell ran for 958 yards and 20 touchdowns on 165 carries. As a defensive end, he had 42 tackles and eight sacks.

Howell was listed on the all-Ohio, all-OVAC, all-Eastern District, all-Times Leader teams for football.

Away from the field, he was also a standout in track and field, qualifying for the regional on multiple occasions.

On top of his athletic exploits, he was the salutatorian of his class, carrying a 4.039 grade point. He was a member of the OVAC

<p>OVAC All-Star Football Who: Ohio vs. W.Va. When: Sunday, July 26 at 7 Where: Wheeling Island Stadium. Tickets: Available at any Kroger store. TV: WTOV-TV 9 Radio: AM 1600</p>
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day, July 12, 2015 - C2

● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

Varsity Board, National Honor Society, student council and JETS.

Eric, who is the son of Larry and Susan Howell, plans on attending Mt. Union.

MAURICE LATHUN, Cambridge – This talented Bobcats' tailback put forth an impressive final campaign for Coach Kevin Gunn's squad last fall.

The 5-10, 185 pounder ran for 1,800 yards and 23 touchdowns as the Bobcats' primary tailback.

Lathan was honored for his season by earning all-ECOL, all-OVAC, all-Eastern District and honorable mention all-Ohio.

Maurice, who is the son of Nicole McClelland and Maurice Lathan Sr., plans on attending Ohio State University.

CHAIICE TRUEX, St. John Central – This former Irish made his only season in Jose Davis' offense a productive one.

The 6-6, 245 pounder threw for 1,500 yards and 23 touchdowns. He also ran for five touchdowns. Prior to playing quarterback for the Irish, Truex was a reliable target at tight end. He caught 52 balls for 913 yards and 11 touchdowns.

For his efforts, Truex was recognized as all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Times Leader, all-Valley.

Along with football, Truex was a standout in basketball, earning all-Ohio honors. He scored better than 1,000 points in his career.

Chaiice, who is the son of Everette Gray Jr., will play basketball at Allegheny College.

Whittington's Receiving Core Ready

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

Getting the ball in the hands of the athletes is the goal of every football coach.

That's exactly what West Virginia head coach Ian Whittington plans on doing through the passing game at the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game, which is scheduled for Sunday, July 26 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

With his quarterbacks and running backs announced, Whittington named the receivers, who will be vying for action during camp next week at Bethany College.

Slated to be amongst the targets seeking the playing time are Trevor Boot

(South), Garrett Cain (Morgantown), Brendan Schwendeman (South), Micah Swiger (Oak Glen) and Alex Whorton (John Marshall).

"There are some big-time playmakers both inside and outside in this group," Whittington said. "We have bigger targets on the outside and guys who are good, solid route runners inside. We have a lot of speed there, too. It's just a good collection of athletes."

Here's a capsule look at the players:
TREVOR BOOT, Parkersburg South – This tight end was a viable target and blocker for Coach Mike Eddy's team.

The 6-3, 210 pounder was a standout on both sides of the ball, actually. From his defensive end post, he was the Patriots' leading tackler.

Boot was recognized on the all-state honorable mention listing and all TRAC squad.

Trevor, who plans on attending West Virginia University, is the son of Grant Boot and Melissa Powell.

GARRETT CAIN, Morgantown – This former Mohigan had a big season and career for Coach John Bowers' team.

The 6-1, 190 pounder had 28 catches for 434 yard and five touchdowns. He has also had 12 kick returns for 339 yards and a touchdown.

Cain's work was recognized by his selection to all-OVAC, all-TRAC and special mention all state. He was the team's Mr. Offense award winner.

Along with his work on the field, Cain is very active in the community through

several volunteer efforts.

Garrett, who is the son of Kevin and Lesley Cain, plans on attending Concord University.

BRENDAN SCHWENDEMAN, Parkersburg South – This former Patriot did a little bit of everything for Coach Eddy's team.

The 5-10, 170 pounder accounted for 1,200 all-purpose yards and 15 touchdowns as a senior.

That followed a junior campaign in which he went for more than 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns.

He was named all-TRAC and special mention all-state after both his junior and senior seasons.

Please See OVAC, Page 17

OVAC

(Continued from Page 15)

Along with athletics, Schwendeman is a member of the National Honor Society and a volunteer with Special Olympics.

Brendan, who plans on attending West Virginia Wesleyan to play football, is the son of Jason and Christie Schwendeman.

MICAH SWIGER, Oak Glen – This former Golden Bear was the big-play artist for Whittington's team the last few seasons.

The 5-7, 140 pound speedster caught 38 passes for 395 yards and four touchdowns. He was also a threat in the kicking game with three return touchdowns and 475 yards total. Defensively, he logged nearly 40 tackles.

Swiger's season was recognized by his placement on the all-state AA team. He also served on the Golden Bears' football leadership council.

Along with football, Swiger was

a standout in track. He won the state long jump title as a sophomore.

Micah, who is the son of Glenn and Sue Swiger, plans on attending Pittsburgh Technical Institute.

ALEX WHORTON, John Marshall – This former Monarch was a two-way standout for Coach Rick Goodrich's team.

The 6-1, 170 pounder had 327 yards receiving and four touchdowns. Defensively, he was in on

77 tackles and picked off a pass.

For his work on the field, Whorton was named first-team all-OVAC, special mention all-state.

Along with football, Whorton was a multiple-year letterman in both basketball and baseball. He's also a member of the National Honor Society and the Drug Free Club of America.

Alex, who plans on attending West Virginia University, is the son of Dan and Jeanne Whorton.

Whittington

Continued from Page B1

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Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com.

The Times Leader

SPORTS

SECTION

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Thursday,
July 16, 2015

Coach Whittington likes receivers

• W. Va. coach announces all-star pass catchers

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

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MICAH SWIGER, Oak Glen – This former Golden Bear was the big-play artist for Whittington's team the last few

See, **WHITTINGTON**, Page B2

Ohio coach selects linemen

• Players report to camp today

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

They don't always get all of the recognition, but Ohio head coach Jeremy McElroy certainly knows the value of line play in high school football.

The Beaver Local head coach, who will guide the Buckeye State during next Sunday's 70th annual

Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game, went out seeking guys who could run and pass block.

With camp opening today at Bethany College, the work toward the game and blending the players begins.

"We've talked to the guys and we hope they come in ready to go," McElroy said. "We like our linemen. They're big and they're athletics. Most of them can move really well."

Finding the balance for offensive and defensive linemen is of

the utmost importance for McElroy and his staff this week.

"Keeping guys fresh will be a big key," McElroy said.

Battling for the spots on the line are: Cody Beavers (Martins Ferry), Seth Bloor (Wellsville), Jonathan Bodkin (Martins Ferry), Scott Hammond (Shadyside), Jake Karovic (Steubenville Catholic Central), Austin Lawrence (Beaver Local), Darin Neff (Meadowbrook), Jacob Quinn (Meadowbrook), Jason Sims (Beaver Local), Mitchell Wells (Barnesville).

Here's a capsule look at the players:

CODY BEAVERS, Martins Ferry — This former Purple Rider was a two-way standout on the line for Coach Dave Bruney's squad.

The 6-2, 230 pounder lined up at guard and defensive end for the Riders and earned four letters and was named a 'Defensive Block of Granite.'

Beaver, who plans to attend Belmont College, is the son of Jack and Penny Beavers.

SETH BLOOR, Wellsville —

This former Tiger saw time at a bevy of spots for Coach Scott Heimstra's squad.

The 6-1, 260 pounder lined up at defensive end and tackle as well as offensive guard and tackle. He had 30 tackles, 18 for loss and five sacks during his senior season.

Bloor was a first-team all-OVAC, all-Quad County performer.

Along with football, Bloor was a standout in wrestling, winning

See, **LINEMEN**, Page C2

● Linemen

Continued from Page C1

the OVAC title and finishing at Division III state runnerup.

Seth, who plans to wrestle at Wheeling Jesuit, is the son of Shawn and Cassandra Bloor.

JONATHAN BODKIN, Martins Ferry — This former Purple Rider anchored the offensive line at center for Bruney's team.

The 5-7, 240 pounder also played at defensive tackle en route to all-OVAC and all Buckeye 8 honors.

Along with football, Bodkin was a standout wrestler, finishing as OVAC runnerup and an all-Ohioan.

Jonathan, who plans to wrestle at West Liberty, is the son of John and Shauna Bodkin.

LUKE CARROLL, Indian Creek — This two-way performer was a three-year mainstay for Coach Andrea Connor's team.

The 6-1, 205 pounder lined up defensive end and guard en route to all-district and honorable mention all-state.

Along with football, Carroll was active in Key Club and SADD.

Luke, who is the son of Rick and Luanne Carroll, plans on attending Hocking College.

SCOTT HAMMOND, Shadyside — This defensive end served as a menace to opposing offenses for Coach Mark Holenka's team.

The 6-1, 190 pounder recorded 13.5 sacks and 41 tackles for the Tigers last season en route to Eastern District Defensive Player of the Year, first-team all-Ohio, all-OVAC honors.

Scott, who is the son of Kathy and Clyde Hammond, plans on attending Belmont College.

JAKE KAROVIC, Steubenville Catholic Central — This former Crusader was a mainstay at guard for Coach Steve Daley's team.

The 6-1, 295 pounder lettered three time as a Crusader en route to being named a 'Block of Granite.'

Karovic was also a standout in the classroom. He's a member of the National Honor Society and graduated with honors.

Jake, who plans on attending the University of Cincinnati, is the son of Ed and Heather Karovic.

AUSTIN LAWRENCE, Beaver Local — This former Beaver standout did it on both sides of the line for McElroy's squad.

The 6-4, 255 pounder

was named his team's offensive lineman of the year and all-OVAC. He was a second-team Eastern District performer as well as all-Quad County.

Austin is the son of John and Shana Lawrence.

DARIN NEFF, Meadowbrook — This former Colt was an impressive two-way performer for Coach Jesse Wells' team.

The 6-5, 320 pounder was named all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-ECOL.

Along with football, Neff was a standout in track and field and also a member of the Yearbook Club.

Darin, who plans on attending Wheeling Jesuit, is the son of Jeffrey and Julie Neff.

JACOB QUINN, Meadowbrook — This former Colt shined at a bevy of spots for Wells' team during his career.

During his career, the 6-4, 205 pounder saw time at receiver, tight end, strong safety and defensive end. He was an all-Eastern District performer.

Along with football, Quinn was a standout in baseball.

Away from athletics, Quinn was a member of the yearbook staff.

Jacob, who is the son of

Paul and Tracy Quinn, plans on attending Bethany College.

JASON SIMS, Beaver Local — This two-way tackle was an impressive performer for McElroy's Beavers.

The 6-1, 320 pounder lettered four times and was named all-OVAC as well as all-Quad County.

Jason, who is the son of Tracy Sullivan, plans on attending Alderson-Broadus.

MITCHELL WELLS, Barnesville — This former Shamrock anchored the line for Coach Matt Johnson's squad.

The 6-2, 270 pounder lined up at center during his prep career in which he started for all four seasons. Defensively, Wells finished with 48 tackles, including 20 solo, four for loss and three sacks.

Wells was named all-Eastern District and received the senior team leadership award.

Along with football, Wells is active in basketball, baseball and 4H.

Mitchell, who plans to attend Marietta College, is the son of Rich and Amy Wells.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com.

The Brilliant American Legion baseball team beats Moundsville for its first victory/14

McElroy Unveils Assistants for OVAC Game

Few are experienced with Mumley contest

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

With his roster set, Ohio coach Jeremy McElroy has announced the coaching staff that will join him on the sidelines for the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game, which is set for Sunday, July 26 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

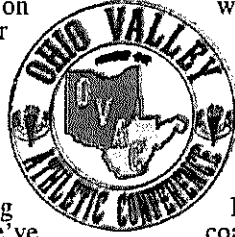
McElroy believes his staff is "chomping at the bit" to get to Bethany College on July 19 to begin preparation for the game.

"Our coaches are excited," McElroy said. "We have our hands full trying to get Beaver Local ready, but we went and

watched the Penn-Ohio game for the Quad West, David Allen, Jeffery Weidger, T.J. County Coaches and it really excited us for Osbon and Steve Mercer.

Here's a capsule look at the coaches who submitted their biographical information:

JEREMY McELROY, Head Coach - This Beaver mentor just completed his third season at the school in 2014 and his sixth overall as a head coach. Along with his tenure at Beaver Local, McElroy has also coached football at Lisbon, Kettering Fairmont, Piqua and his alma mater, East Palestine. He's also made two coaching stops at the collegiate level, working at California University of Pa., and Mount Union. All told, he has 13 years of coach-



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CHARLIE DOLNOSICH, Assistant Coach - This Meadville High School graduate is preparing for his first venture into the OVAC Game.

Dolnosich has worked on the Beaver Local staff for one year, which is the lone season of football coaching experience he owns. After high school, he went

Please See OVAC, Page 12

OVAC

(Continued from Page 11)

to Gannon University.

Along with football, Dolnosich has also coached basketball in his career.

RICH SHILLING, Assistant Coach - Potter turned Beaver is the path this Ohio assistant coach has taken.

After graduating from East Liverpool, Shilling headed to Muskingum College where he earned his degree.

Along with football, Shilling is also a softball coach and has previously coached wrestling.

Rich and his wife, Liz, reside in East Liverpool.

AARON WEST, Assistant Coach - The OVAC All-Star Game will be a brand new adventure for this Leetonia High School product.

West has four years of football coaching experience and has been on McElroy's staff at Beaver since his hiring. Prior to arriving at Beaver, he coached his alma mater.

Along with football, West has experience in

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Aaron and his wife, Arianne, have three children: Austin, Noah and Aubre.

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Allen has spent the last two of those seasons with McElroy at Beaver Local, and prior to that coached with the Potters.

Allen was a member of the 1990 Ohio All-Star Squad after his prep career.

David and his wife, Deena have three children (Shane, Danielle and Payne).

JEFFERY WEIDGER, Assistant Coach - With four years of coaching experience, McElroy hired this assistant coach prior to last season.

Before arriving to the Beavers program, Weidger had coached four seasons at Toronto, which is where he went to school.

Weidger is a graduate of the University of Akron.

OVAC All-Star Teams Announced

By SETH STASKEY
For The News-Register

It's July and in the Ohio Valley that means one thing ... we're that much closer to start of high school football.

The annual kick-off to the season is just three weeks away. The annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game is slated for July 26th at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The players from Ohio and West Virginia report to camp at Bethany College on July 19th to begin preparations for the game, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary.

The rosters for the game are set and outside of a few minor changes have remained in tact from the original lists that head coaches Jeremy McElroy (Ohio) and Ian Whittington (West Virginia) submitted in the spring.

"(Choosing the team) was more challenging than I thought it would be," McElroy said. "There are so many good kids and good programs, but only so many roster spots and you have to get the best fit for your team. It's a tough thing."

The Buckeye State squad represents 18 schools and half of those have multiple representatives. Martins Ferry leads the way for Ohio with the maximum of four represen-

tatives. McElroy selected three of his own players from Beaver Local.

"We looked at and went through a lot of film and got a lot of information from coaches on different kids," McElroy said. "Some of the kids we've faced and knew about, but obviously there are a lot of other kids where you really have to get as much information as you can."

On the West Virginia side, Whittington compared the entire process of choosing the team to "a fantasy draft."

"It was a fun thing, but it did get crazy and nerve-wracking at times," Whittington admitted. "It's much tougher than I thought or most people would think. You'd like to take all of the kids, but you just can't."

Unlike his Ohio counterpart, Whittington and the West Virginia staff have dealt with more roster turnover.

"You fill the roster, and it's finally done, but then a couple of weeks later you get a call that so and so isn't playing, it's tough," Whittington said. "We just had to move on to the next kid and get the next best available player. We looked at a lot of guys on film and really paid close attention to the coaches' ratings as

See, OVAC, Page B4

OVAC

Continued from page B1

well as seeing who would fit our scheme."

West Virginia's roster represents 17 schools and 10 of those have multiple representatives. Parkersburg South has four players in the game. John Marshall, Linsly, Wheeling Park and Weir all have three.

Whittington chose two of his own Golden Bear players to join him in the game.

The complete rosters are as follows:

Ohio

Mitchell Wells, Barnesville; Chase Hilliard, Austin Lawrence, Jason Sims, Beaver Local; Hunter Westlake, Bellaire; Dillon Pointer, Buckeye Trail; Riley Hayhurst, Moe Lath-

an, Errik Snell, Cambridge; Ethan Shannon, Edison; Kalub Mitchell, Harrison Central; Luke Carroll, Zach Connor, Indian Creek; Cody Beavers, Jon Bodkin, Bruce Burger, Jack Fitch, Martins Ferry; Darin Neff, Jacob Quinn, Dylan Wood, Meadowbrook; Levi Brown, Monroe Central; Colton Wright, River; Scott Hammond, Eric Howell, Shadyside; J.C. Coleman, Malik Gummer, St. Clairsville; Chaice Truex, St. John; Jake Karovic, Stone Romano, Steubenville Central; Lucas Herrington, Branden Jones, Steubenville; Seth Bloor, Wellsville.

West Virginia

Josh Miller, Jesse Padlow, Bishop Donahue; Cody Rine, Aaron Walker,

Brooke; Derek Martin, Cameron; Colby Shriver, Jacoby Steele, Clay-Battelle; Scott Kubancik, Chase Padlow, Alex Whorton, John Marshall; Chukwudi Chuckwu, Zak Kriebbaum, Chimechi Oparanozie, Linsly; Austin Connell, Madonna; Dylan Anderson, Garrett Cain, Morgantown; Noah Mills, Micah Swiger, Oak Glen; Zach Heasley, Paden City; Micah Boles, Trevor Boot, Dane Mills, Brendan Schwendeman, Parkersburg South; Nick Anderson, Tyler; Jace Neville, University; Peyton Palmer, Valley; Zahir Hicks, William Larch, Jo Jo Rice, Weir; Peter Hartzell, Wheeling Central; Theo Blackston, Henry Gompers, Elliott O'Brien, Wheeling Park.

W.Va. Announces OVAC Classic Coaching Staff

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

When Ian Whittington was approached about taking the West Virginia squad in the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game, selling his coaching staff wasn't a tough job.

The Oak Glen staff simply looked at it as an opportunity to work with "the best the Ohio Valley has to offer."

And from there, it jumped at the opportunity.

Now, the staff has the roster in place and is preparing to get to Bethany College on July 19 to begin camp for the game, which will be contested a week later at

Wheeling Island Stadium.

"It's a great opportunity to get to coach your own kids, but being able to coach great players at all positions is special," Whittington said.

"It's just exciting when you think that some of these kids are going to be going on to play at the college level and you get a chance to work with them for a week."

Whittington will be joined on the West Virginia sideline by Ted Arneault, Johnny Bonar, Frank Crain,

Michael Demster, Chris Hill, Tim Ickes and Nathan Parry.

Here's a capsule look at the coaches:

IAN WHITTINGTON, Head Coach — This former Golden Bear standout has been at the helm for three seasons and has six years of total coaching experience.

Through his career, Whittington has put together a 29-29 record.

Along with his football responsibilities, Whittington also serves

on the Oak Glen wrestling staff.

The West Liberty graduate has also coached track during his relatively young career.

Ian is engaged to Amber Littler and has one daughter, Kayleigh.

TED ARNEAULT, Assistant Coach — This first-year assistant will be joining the Golden Bears staff for the first time when the season gets under way next month.

A graduate of Forest Hills Central High School in Grand Rapids, Mich., Arneault has nine years of coaching experience with

(Please see **OVAC**,
Page 15)



WV announces OVAC coaching staff

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

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OVAC All-Star Football

Who: Ohio vs. W.Va.
When: Sunday, July 26
Where: Wheeling Island Stadium.
Tickets: Available at any Kroger store.
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A graduate of Forest Hills Central High School in Grand Rapids, Mich., Arneault has nine years of coaching experience with stops at Brooke, Weir, Madonna and Robert Morris University.

The owner of a degree from the

University of Michigan and a Master's from Franciscan, Arneault was named 2015 Oak Glen Teacher of the Year.

Ted played both football and rugby in his prep days.

JOHNNY BONAR, Assistant Coach — This current Bishop Donahue assistant will join Whittington's staff for the OVAC Game.

Bonar was a standout player at John Marshall and went on to play at West Liberty where he played wide receiver.

Bonar has been a coach for five years, all of which have been spent with the Bishops.

Johnny and his wife Katrina have two children, a son, Jackson (6) and a daughter, Kennedy (3).

FRANK CRAIN, Assistant Coach — This former OVAC Class 3A coach of the year has spent four years with the Golden Bear's football staff.

Crain attended Oak Glen and then went on to graduate with a degree from the University of South Florida.

Along with football, Crain has also coached wrestling. Both are sports played during his prep career.

Frank and his wife Constance have three children, Devon Chadwick, James Crain and Zach Springer.

MICHAEL DEMSTER, Assistant Coach — This veteran coach has 10 years of experience, but just one as a

See, **OVAC**, Page B2

THE TIMES LEADER • Thursday, July 9, 2015 • B2

OVAC

Continued from Page B1

member of the Oak Glen staff.

Prior to joining Whittington with the Golden Bears, Demster coached for nine seasons in North Carolina. He also served as a track coach and was named Rocky River Conference Track Coach of the Year.

Demster, who attended Fairless High School and Mount Union, owns a master's degree from Wingate University. Demster played football for the Purple Raiders.

Michael and his wife,

Stephanie have one daughter (Delaney).

CHRIS HILL, Assistant Coach — This former Weir High standout has been a football coach for nine seasons, including the last three with Whittington at Oak Glen.

Prior to that, he's worked at Weir High and Brooke. He still coaches track and swimming at Brooke.

After his high school graduation, Hill earned a degree from Fairmont State and a master's at

Wheeling Jesuit.

Hill and his wife Nicolette reside in Follansbee.

TIM ICKES, Assistant Coach — This current Wheeling Park assistant owns five years of experience, including four with the Patriots.

Ickes other season of football coaching came at West Liberty University.

Along with football, Ickes currently coaches tennis.

Ickes is a graduate of Northwestern High School in Salem, Oh. He earned

his degree at West Liberty. Tim and his wife, Mia, reside in Martins Ferry.

NATHAN PARRY, Assistant Coach — This relatively new coach has just two years of experience, including a season at Oak Glen. He spent last season at his alma mater, McGuffey, Pa.

Along with football, Parry currently coaches basketball and baseball.

After high school, Parry headed to West Liberty where he played football. He attended the Pitt for graduate school.

OVAC

(Continued from Page 13)

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SPORTS

Sunday,
July 5, 2015

OVAC All-Star Football game nearly here

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

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Who: Ohio vs. W.Va.
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See, **OVAC**, Page C4

OVAC

Continued from Page C1

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WEST VIRGINIA

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OVAC

Continued from Page B1

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West has four years of football coaching experience and has been on McElroy's staff at Beaver since his hiring. Prior to arriving at Beaver, he coached his alma mater.

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INSIDE

Scoreboard / B4
Classifieds / B5-B8

The Times Leader

SPORTS

SECTION

B

Wednesday,
July 8, 2015

McElroy announces OVAC coaching staff

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

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McElroy believes his staff is "chomping at the bit" to get to Bethany College on July 19th to begin preparations for the game.

"Our coaches are excited," McElroy said. "We have our hands full trying to get Beaver Local ready, but we went and watched the Penn-Ohio game for

the Quad County Coaches and it really excited us for this opportunity."

It's an opportunity that many on the staff will be experiencing for the first time. Only three members of the staff has had any past involvement with the OVAC Game and that all came as players.

"We're looking forward to getting to camp and getting to know the kids and start working with them," McElroy said. "We've been trying to touch base with the kids to see what they're all about and start building a relationship."

Slated to help guide the Ohio squad are: Charlie Dolnosich, Rich Shilling, Aaron West, David Allen, Jeffery Weidger, T.J.

OVAC All-Star Football
Who: Ohio vs. W.Va.
When: Sunday, July 26
Where: Wheeling Island Stadium.
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See, **OVAC**, Page B2

OVAC All-Star Game

Sunday, July 26

Wheeling Island Stadium - 7:15pm

OVAC.org for ticket information

Test your football handling skills in the Punt, Pass, & Kick contest during the All-Star Game for a chance to win \$10,000! Enter by visiting WTOV9.com



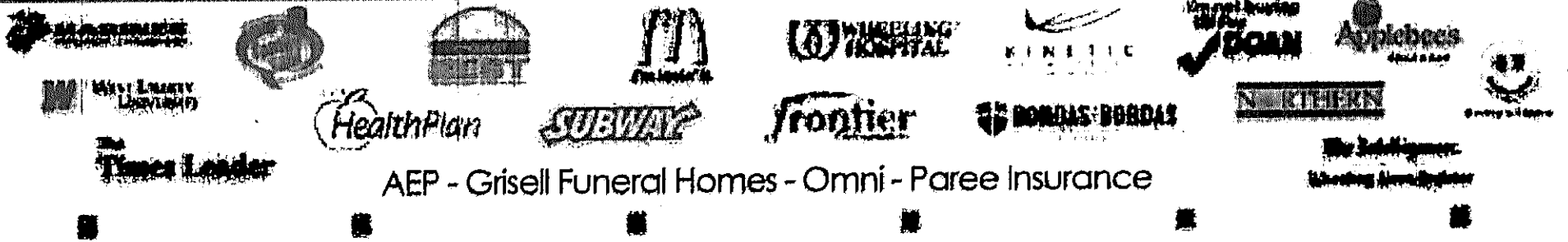
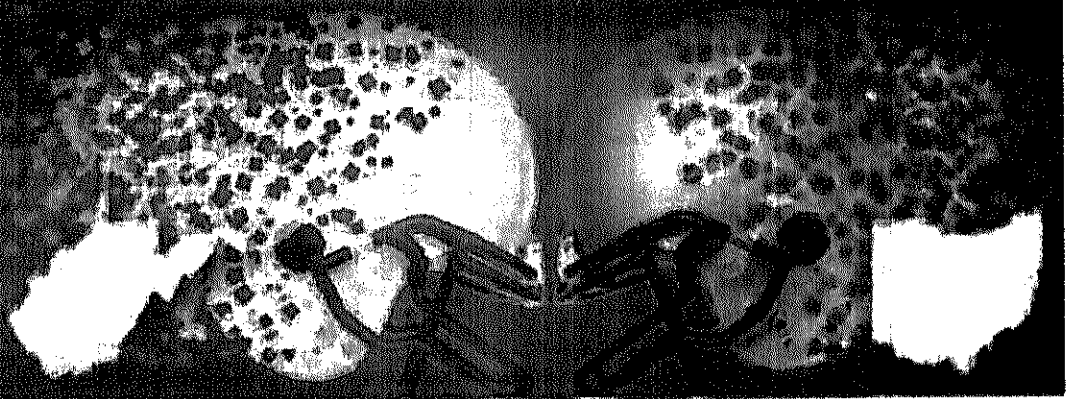
"Subway Sports Clinic Series"

OVAC All-Star Youth Football Clinic - July 26

Registration: 12:00pm; Clinic: 1:00-2:30pm

Cost: Free; Open to area boys & girls age 6-13.

Parent/Guardian must have insurance & be present on-site.



SPORTS

THE TIMES LEADER - Sunday, April 12, 2015 - B2

OVAC grid officials academy slated for Ferry

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

MARTINS FERRY — Officiating high school football isn't a glamorous profession, but the men and women who wear the stripes are as much a part of the game as the forward the pass.

These days, unfortunately, the number of folks willing to tackle the task of policing the game is dwindling.

The OVAC is continuing its quest to change that.

For the second straight year, the bi-state conference is conducting an officiating academy aimed at bringing new blood into the ranks.

"It's a way to keep active," said Dave Clutter, OVAC Football Commissioner and head of the academy. "You meet a lot of great people. You have that sense of teamwork and a common mission."

"You'll make new friends you'll have the rest of your life."

And, most importantly, give new life to an officiating roster seeking reinforcements.

The academy begins Wednesday, May

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- Dave Clutter
OVAC Football Commissioner

20 and will continue each Wednesday through July 22. Each session will take place from 6-8:30 p.m. at Martins Ferry High School. There is no charge.

Classroom sessions will focus on rules and professional development. On-field lessons will also take place where students will have opportunities to work on mechanics and techniques.

All successful candidates will be eligible to officiate football this fall.

While last year's academy only graduated five, Clutter stressed it was a quality five.

"The thing we were most impressed with was those were five top-quality people," he said. "We would have liked to have had more (come out), but the ones we had are going to be top-notch guys."

Clutter said the roster of officials, especially in the Wheeling and Weirton areas, is aging quickly.

"The median age is about 50 and it isn't getting any younger" he explained. "I expect we're going to lose a few more to retirement soon. Last year, we lost an entire crew and a referee."

The next few years, Clutter expects to lose two or three more crews.

"It's tough to replace those folks and we need to build up the pool, so to speak, so that when the time comes we have people ready to step in" he said, noting officials also earn more than minimum wage for their part-time work.

Clutter estimated there are about 100 officials combined in the Wheeling and Weirton officiating boards. The OVAC also utilizes officials from boards in Parkersburg, Morgantown, Zanesville, Columbus and Tuscarawas County.

"There are 42 crews applied to work in the OVAC," Clutter said.

In fact, Clutter has already started assigning crews for this season.

"We start scheduling in January," he said, noting OVAC schools are required to

submit their schedules to the OVAC by February 1.

"We take what schedules we can get, either through the OHSAA website or some other place and we start piecing together the games we know."

Many of the veteran officials who will be taking the field for the 2015 campaign will be part of the OVAC academy.

"We thought the format and the content we used last year was spot on," Clutter said. "We meet the requirements of both Ohio and West Virginia."

Recently, more and more females have joined the officiating family. In fact, the National Football League announced last week Sarah Thomas will become the league's first female official this season.

Clutter said the Weirton board has a female official, though she chooses to work in the lower levels. However, he's encountered many qualified female officials throughout the years in the prep and college ranks and encourages women to attend the academy, too.

For more information or to register for the academy, contact Clutter at (304) 280-6670 or dclutter@frontier.com

70TH ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR GAME

Fitch's OVAC Experience Has Been Beneficial

Ferry standout set to lead Ohio All-Stars

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

BETHANY — Martins Ferry's Jack Fitch has become a point of reference for many in OVAC All-Star Game camp this week at Bethany College.

Actually, outside of game director Bob Koch and other OVAC officials, there's probably no better person for the players — and coaches — to turn to with their questions.

You see, Fitch is a veteran of all-star camp.

"I've had one 10-year reunion already, and I think I'm on six or so for my other time," Fitch said.

Actually, he's just three years removed from his last all-star camp, but after so many times they start to run together.

Fitch has become a veteran of OVAC camps through his father, Dirk. The Martins Ferry Superintendent has been on the coaching staff for

(Please see **FITCH**,
Page 10)

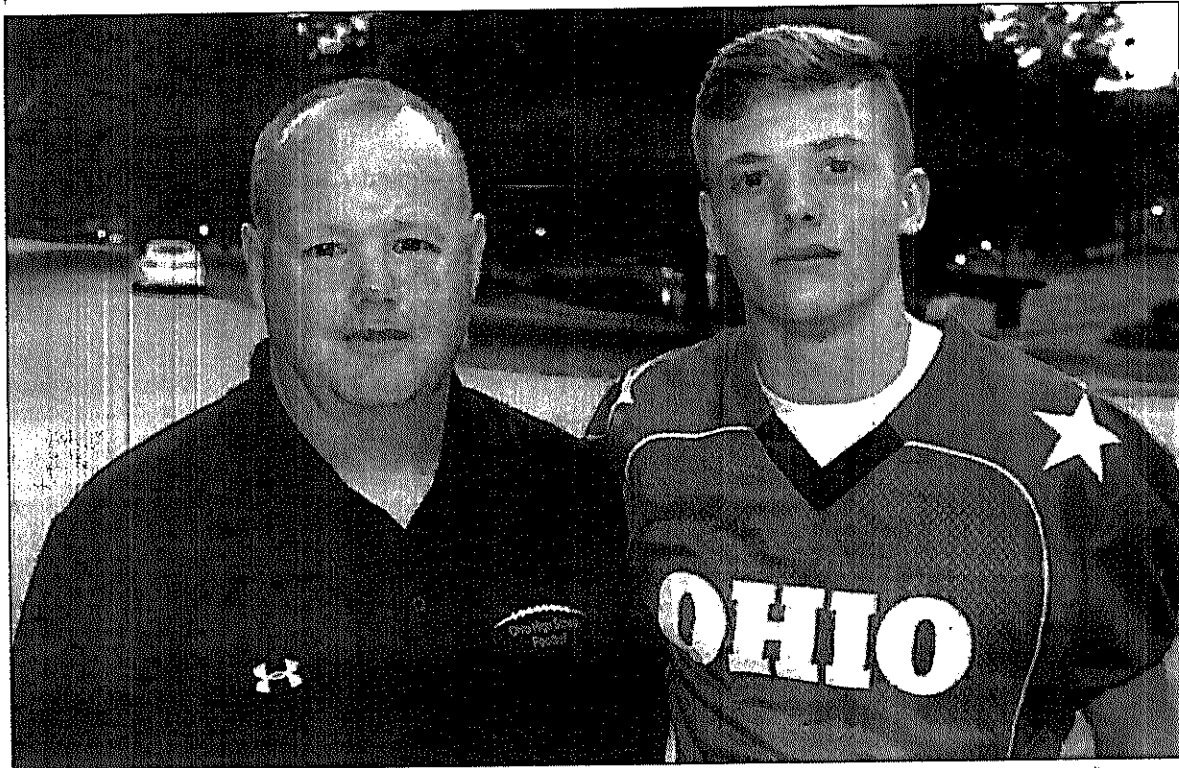


Photo by Seth Staskey

Martins Ferry's Jack Fitch is preparing for his third venture into the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game. He was a manager for Team Ohio in 2003 and 2011. He's pictured with his father, Dirk, who played in the game in 1979 and has coached in the game multiple times, too.

Kriechbaum Not Rooting For Ohio This Outing

By **KIM NORTH**
For The Intelligencer

BETHANY — Zac Kriechbaum is one of those rare players who resides in one state, but attended high school in another. The Linsly graduate calls Barnesville home.

So, does he have mixed emotions about playing in the 70th annual Rudy Mumley Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Football Game on Sunday night at Wheeling Island Stadium?

"I grew up cheering for Ohio in every game. I'd sit on the Ohio side because I always thought I would go to

(Please see **KRIECHBAUM**,
Page 10)

St. John's Truex in Amazing Position

By **KYLE LUTZ**
Staff Writer

BETHANY — St. John's Chaice Truex is in an amazing position right now.

He is one of the quarterbacks for the Ohio team in the 70th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game that will kick off at 7:15 p.m. Sunday night. Before camp started, he began working on his form again to get ready for the big game in which he will represent his high school one more time when the teams take the field at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"For the last week and a half, I've been going to work out with Jose Davis," Truex said of his high school coach. "Throwing some balls, throwing some routes to St. John's receivers and getting ready."

Being the quarterback is no easy task, especially for an all-star game. That person is in the position that everyone keeps their eye on. Truex is ready for



TRUEX

the challenge as he has the talent all around him.

"We have a big group up front," Truex said. "When they call my name to throw the pass, I'm just going to throw to the receivers and the athletes and make them make plays."

The 6-foot-6 signal caller may have a slight advantage over his Ohio teammates. While some Ohio All-Stars were able to play against a few West Virginia teams in years past, Truex was a member of one for his first three years in high school. Truex saw time at wideout when he was at Bishop Donahue.

"It's a big rivalry," Truex said about the game. "Some guys are whispering to me this and that. But, it will be proven on game day."

(Please see **TRUEX**,
Page 10)



SHAWN RINE

Sports Editor

Ready or Not, Here Comes Football

WHEELING — There are scents and sometimes noises that immediately take us back to somewhere we have already been. The mere smell or sound of a particular thing triggers a part of our brain and lets us know something familiar is imminent.

Personally, that begins this weekend. The smell of homemade sausage and the sound of music on the riverfront will emanate from the Upper Ohio Valley Italian Festival. That means that Sunday, as the annual gathering wraps up, football season

will unofficially begin just a stone's throw away.

The 70th edition of the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game kicks off at 7:15 that night, bringing together friends, family and foes from each side of the Ohio River. The smell of sweat that only hard work on a football field can produce, and the sound of Dave Flatley's voice booming

(Please see **RINE**,
Page 10)

FITCH

(Continued from Page 9)

the game many times and twice (2003 and 2011) took his son with him to serve as a manager for Team Ohio.

"Being here now three times makes it a lot easier," the younger Fitch said. "I've been through the practices and know how things go, so it's definitely been easier in that regard."

Fitch, who is headed to Wheeling Jesuit University to run track, learned from his past ventures that there has to be a balancing act of making sure the work gets done and the experience remains positive in terms of making new friendships and soaking up everything the game has to offer.

"You need to make sure you get your rest and spend your own time preparing, but you also have to have fun every once in a while," Fitch said.

Many of his Ohio teammates didn't realize Fitch's connections to the game until this week.

"A few asked me if I knew anything about this, and I was like, 'yeah, I've done this two times,'" Fitch said. "They looked at me like, 'What?' So, I explained that I'd been a manager twice and really know how all of this stuff works."

While many of the Ohio players have had to adjust to the amount of conditioning done this week, once again, Fitch knew what was ahead.

"It all comes down to conditioning because with just a week, you don't have time to put in a bunch of plays and stuff," Fitch said. "You have to do a couple of

plays and just work from that."

Before he left for camp, Dirk drove home a point with his son.

"He said make sure you put yourself in (to the drills and practices) because you only have a limited time," Fitch said. "Be prepared for all practices, figure things out quickly because the quicker you figure things out, the better chance you'll have to be good at it."

Obviously, the Purple Riders staff that Fitch served as a manager under isn't guiding the Buckeye State this week, but the similarities are there. Actually, this is the first time Fitch has prepared for a football game without being under the microscope of his dad.

"It's different, but it's also a little bit relaxing," Fitch admitted. "I always knew that if I screwed up something I'd hear about it at home. If I screw up something (on Sunday), I'll still hear about it, but it'll be after the game."

Fitch had an impressive prep career for Coach Dave Bruney's Riders. He shined at wide receiver and in the secondary, earning first team All-Ohio punter as a senior.

Earning an invitation to the OVAC Game was a "pretty big" goal for Fitch, who's heard stories of his dad's 1979 game and witnessed the meaning of the game through his two prior trips as a manager.

"To represent Ohio and Martins Ferry is a big accomplishment and honor," Fitch said. "I played against a lot of these people, so it's fun to play with them and get to know them now."

TRUOX

(Continued from Page 9)

When he was with the Bishops, he was catching passes from one of the West Virginia all-star quarterbacks, Jesse Padlow. He was also on the field and lining up with Josh Miller, who is also playing for W.Va. representing the Bishops.

"We're friends," Truox said of his former teammates. "But we are enemies now. We've been enemies ever since this year. It should be fun."

Truox also pointed out the major difference of playing in Ohio compared to West Virginia.

"It was a big adjustment going to Ohio from West

Virginia," Truox said. "Nothing against West Virginia, but in Ohio it's so much harder to succeed because there are so many more schools and so many more athletes."

It did not seem that Truox had the trouble of transitioning from his wideout position to quarterback when he made it to St. John. He started out at receiver, and then two weeks into practice was put at the quarterback spot and eventually got the starting job.

"It was a big adjustment because I only played quarterback when I was little. I never played it in high school," Truox said. "So I think I adjusted well."

Truox was put back in his old position in the final two games of the season as he saw time at wide receiver

again.

He will be going to Allegheny College this fall, but will not be playing football. Instead will opt for basketball.

"Schools wanted me to play football," Truox said. "But I never really had the chance to focus on one sport and I had a pretty good season in basketball this year. So I'm going to see how far I can go in that."

With choosing the court over the gridiron, Truox is about to strap on the pads one final time.

"It means a lot," Truox said about being an OVAC All-Star. "Just coming out here with these guys up here for a week. It's a big atmosphere to play in. That's nuts to be in the 70th annual game and Ohio won it last year and looking to go two in a row."

ent sides of the fence. Saturdays in the fall arrive with half of us

RINE

(Continued from Page 9)

through the public address system have been sorely missed.

Fortunately, the wait ends in two days.

In all honesty, it's one of my favorite days on the calendar, just slightly behind the first day of vacation and Christmas. It's football after all, and if a better sport exists someone needs to provide proof.

Furthermore, this isn't Week 1. Football season starts off with a game that matters, which brings me to my next point.

This contest is extremely meaningful despite what some will have you believe. Where else does an event of this magnitude take place when the only real thing separating the

two teams is that river or a bridge, depending how you want to look at it?

While it's true being that close in proximity can be a detriment in terms legitimate animosity, friendships are put to the side. They will pick back up right where they left off at the conclusion, but for roughly four hours your only buddies are wearing blue and gold or scarlet and grey.

This is real.

This is fun.

This is going to be really

fun.

We're all the same people here in the Ohio Valley. We come from the same type of homes and families, and work the same jobs at the same places. Yet when it comes to sports, most of us are on decidedly differ-

ent sides of the fence.

Saturdays in the fall arrive with half of us cheering on the Buckeyes, while the rest get behind the Mountaineers. Different level, same scenario will happen Sunday when between 5-7,000 fans will converge on the site of the West Virginia Super Six State Football Championships.

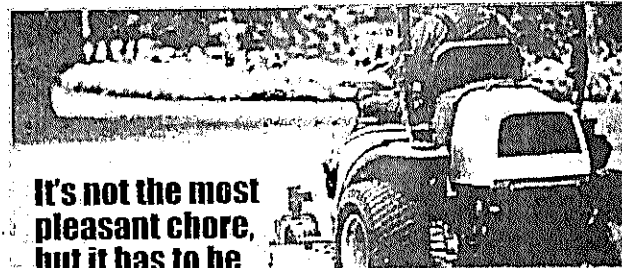
Oh, and don't think for a second folks aren't chirping one another playfully — maybe not? — around the water cooler this week. It's every bit as important in terms of pride to many adults, as it is to those competing.

Above all else, it's one final chance for these young men to enjoy their youth in front of the very fans that have adored them for years.

To the players, cheerleaders and band members, enjoy your night. You've more than earned it.

Without further adieu, let's bring on football.

Shawn Rine can be reached via email at: srime@theintelligencer.net.



It's not the most pleasant chore, but it has to be

KRIECHBAUM

(Continued from Page 9)

school in Ohio, but now that I'm on the team for West Virginia, it's a little different," the 5-foot-10, 180-pounder said. "I'm definitely rooting for West Virginia this year, however."

Kriechbaum went to Bar-

nesville schools until seventh grade before crossing over the Ohio River into Ohio County for the next five years.

He was teammates with Mitchell Wells during his younger days in Barnesville. Wells is a member of the Ohio squad.

"I grew up with him a little bit," Kriechbaum said.

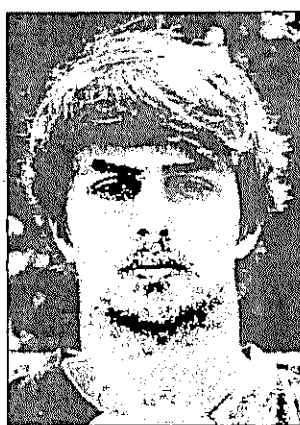
Kriechbaum said growing up he always dreamed of playing under the lights on Friday nights, but when he went to Linsly most of the Cadets' contests were on Saturday afternoons.

"It was different. I just enjoy playing the game of football, so it really didn't matter to me which day we played on," he noted.

As a freshman at Linsly the Cadets went 10-0, something Kriechbaum won't soon forget.

"Those guys were my idols," he said. "They are who I strived to be every day."

Come Sunday night, Kriechbaum, who will attempt to walk-on at Ohio University as a placekicker, could be found anywhere on the field. He is listed as



KRIECHBAUM

a wide receiver, defensive back, kicker and punter.

He is following in the footsteps of his cousin, Linsly alum Jameson Murray, who played in the game last year for West Virginia. Kriechbaum was a four-year letterman for

coach B.J. Depew and was voted varsity captain and MVP his senior season. For his career Kriechbaum logged 136 tackles and picked off 14 passes. He also totaled 1,135 career receiving yards and was perfect on all seven field-goal attempts.

GAME NOTES

■ To help commemorate the 70th annual game, the OVAC will be handing out free rally towels to the first 1,000 fans. There will be Blue-and-Gold towels distributed on the W.Va. side and Red-and-White on the Ohio side.

■ Fans can test their athletic prowess in the annual "Health Plan/WTOV9 Pass, Punt and Kick Contest" for a chance to win \$10,000 during halftime activities. Enter by registering at WTOV9.com.

CUP

(Continued from Page 9)

in volleyball and six second place finishes — men's cross country, women's cross country, women's golf, men's track and field, women's track and field and women's lacrosse. Men's soccer garnered a third-place finish.)

The Cardinals volleyball team compiled a 38-4 record and a perfect 16-0

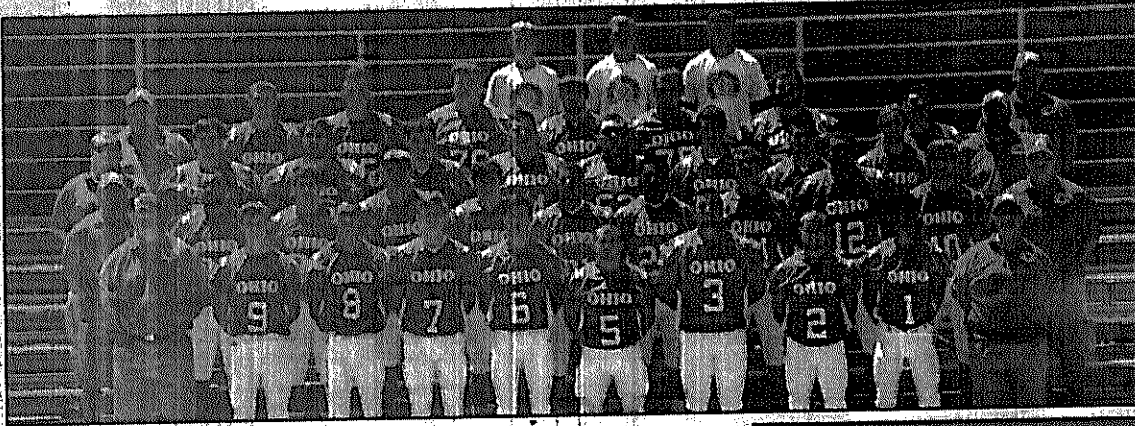
MEC regular-season mark on the way to its second conference title in a row. The team also won its fourth straight NCAA Atlantic Region championship and trip to the NCAA Division II Elite Eighth in as many years.

"We stress excellence on the court and in the classroom each and every year," volleyball head coach Christy Benner said.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OVAC PLAYERS

RUDY MUMLEY OVAC ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME
OHIO VS. WEST VIRGINIA

Sunday, July 26th, 2015 • Kickoff 7:15 p.m. • Wheeling Island Stadium

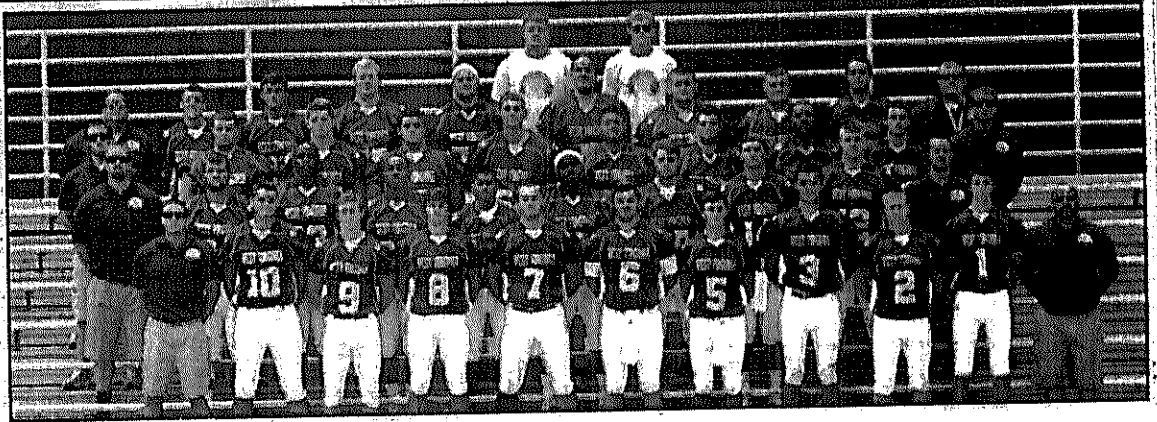


T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED IS the 2015 Ohio All-Star Team. Front row, from left, are head coach Jeremy McElroy, J.C. Coleman, Kalub Mitchell, Jack Fitch, Riley Hayhurst, Levi Brown, Zach Connor, Dylan Wood, Malik Gummer and assistant coach Ed Weldger. Second row, from left, are assistant coach Charlie Dolnosich, Stone Romano, Bruce Burger, Eric Howell, Chase Hilliard, Erik Snell, Moe Lathan, Lucas Herrington, Chalce Trujex, Austin McConville and assistant coach Rich Shilling. Third row, from left, are assistant coach Jeff Weldger, Mitch Wells, Seth Bloor, Jared Heslop, Jake Karovic, Dillon Pointer, Scott Hammond, Ethan Shannon, Hunter Westlake and assistant coach T.J. Osbon. Fourth row, from left, are assistant coach Aaron West, Colton Wright, Jacob Quinn, Darin Neff, Cody Beavers, Austin Lawrence, Jason Sims, Jonathan Bodkin and assistant coach Dave Allen. Top row, from left, are managers Palne Allen, Noah West and Michael Clendennon.

Photo/MATT PEASLEE

PICTURED IS the 2015 West Virginia All-Star Team. The team consists of Jesse Padlow, Jace Neville, Josh Miller, Micah Swiger, Aaron Walker, William Larch, Zak Kriechbaum, Brandon Schwendeman, Trevor Boot, Zach Heasley, Garrett Cain, Austin Conger, Chimechi Oparanozie, JoJo Rica, Zahir Hicks, Chukwudi Chukwu, Jacoby Steale, Derek Martin, Theo Blackston, Colby Shriver, Payton Palmer, Scott Kubanek, Noah Mills, Dylan Anderson, Nick Anderson, Henry Gompers, Peter Hartzel, Dane Mills, Elliott O'Brien, Chase Padlow, Cody Rine, Alex Whorton and Micah Boles. The coaches include head coach Ian Whittington and assistant coaches Ted Arneault, Johnny Bonar, Frank Crain, Michael Demster, Chris Hill, Tim Ickes and Nathan Perry. The managers are Devon Crain and Noah Flowers.



SPORTS SATURDAY

THE PULSE OF LOCAL SPORTS

St. C.'s Gummer puts high value on winning

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — Malik Gummer knows a thing or two about all-star games.

After all, the recent St. Clairsville graduate is about to embark on his second in about three months when he takes to the field Sunday night in the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game.

Gummer was a member of the South squad in the Division V-VII Ohio North-South Game, which was held in April at Dayton's Welcome Stadium. He scored a touchdown in that game.

Prior to getting the invitation to play, Gummer wasn't all that familiar with the North-South Game. The same can't be said for the OVAC affair.

"The OVAC Game has been around a long time and it's the one I've grown up watching," Gummer said. "I always thought it would be cool to play in this game and now I'm here. It's pretty cool."

Gummer was in attendance for the 2014 affair, which Ohio won by a point.

"I was watching the game kind of thinking that I'd definitely like the chance to play in this game," Gummer said.

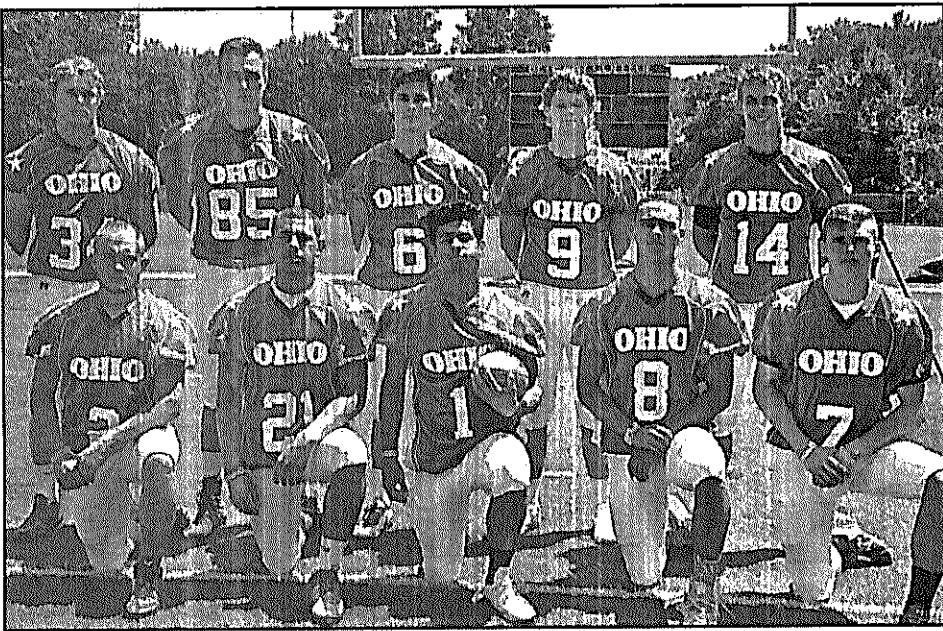
Gummer will get his chance at wide receiver for Jeremy McElroy's squad. He earned his way to the Ohio roster thanks to a huge season for Coach Brett McLean's Red Devils.

The 5-10, 160 pounder was an impact player from the word go for the Red Devils. In helping St. C. to a 10-0 regular season, OVAC Class 4A title and trip to the Division V playoffs, Gummer caught 32 passes for 775 yards and 13 touchdowns.

He also had a kickoff return for a touchdown that proved to be a major play in the St. C. victory against Martins Ferry.

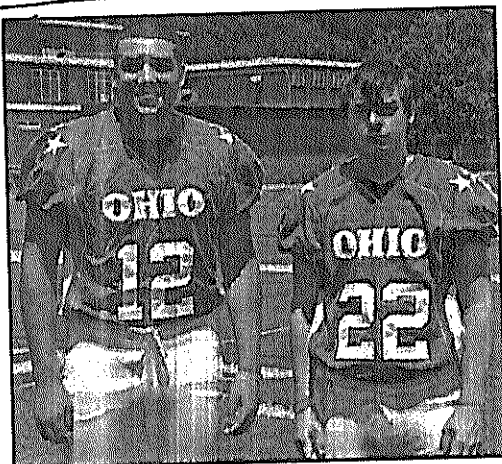
Quite simply, it was about making as many plays as he could to help the relatively underclass-dominated Red Devils achieve success.

See, GUMMER, Page D2



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the Ohio wide receiver options for Sunday's 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game. Kneeling, from left, are Dylan Wood (Meadowbrook), Erik Snell (Cambridge), Malik Gummer (St. Clairsville), Kalub Mitchell (Harrison Central) and Jack Fitch (Martins Ferry). Back row, from left, are Hunter Westlake (Bellaire), Jacob Quinn (Meadowbrook), Riley Hayhurst (Cambridge), J.C. Coleman (St. Clairsville) and Lucas Herrington (Steubenville).



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the Ohio quarterback options for Sunday's 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game. From left are St. John's Chaice Truex (left) and Beaver Local's Chase Hilliard.

SJC's Truex ready to lead Ohio offense

By KYLE LUTZ
For The Times Leader

BETHANY — St. John's Chaice Truex is in an amazing position right now.

He is one of the quarterbacks for the Ohio team in the 70th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game that will kick off at 7:15 p.m. Sunday night. Before camp started, he began working on his form again to get ready for the big game in which he will represent his high school one more time when the teams take the field at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"For the last week-and-a-half, I've been going to work out with Jose Davis," Truex said of his high school coach. "Throwing some balls, throwing some routes to St. John's receivers and getting ready."

Being the quarterback is no easy task, especially for an all-star game. That person is in the position that everyone keeps their eye on. Truex is ready for the challenge as he has the talent all around him.

"We have a big group up front," Truex said. "When they call my name to throw the pass, I'm just going to throw to the receivers and the athletes and make them make plays."

The 6-foot-6 signal caller may have a slight advantage over his Ohio teammates. While some Ohio All-Stars were able to play against a few West Virginia teams in years past, Truex was a member of one for his first three years in high school.

Truex saw time at wideout when he was at Bishop Donahue.

"It's a big rivalry," Truex said about the game. "Some guys are whispering to me this and that. But, it will be proven on game day."

When he was with the Bishops, he was catching passes from one of the West Virginia all-star quarterbacks, Jesse Padlow. He was also on the field and lining up with Josh Miller, who is also playing for W.Va. representing the Bishops.

"We're friends," Truex said of his former teammates. "But we are enemies now. We've been enemies ever since this year. It should be fun."

Truex also pointed out the major difference of playing in Ohio compared to West Virginia.

See, TRUEX, Page D2

Gummer

Continued from Page B1

Being teammates with so many guys that he grew up playing against for so many years hasn't been a tough adjustment for Gummer.

"It's just like being teammates with anyone else," Gummer said. "We're a team and though we may have some differences, we'll put them aside and do our best to get through them and work as a team."

While many come to OVAC camp and talk about the friendships, relationships and experiences they come from the game and week, Gummer has approached it a little bit differently.

He wants to win.

"Winning is a big part of this," Gummer stressed. "It's the end goal and what everyone's working hard to achieve on both teams. This is a big game and (winning) is what we're fighting toward."

Truex

Continued from Page B1

"It was a big adjustment going to Ohio from West Virginia," Truex said. "Nothing against West Virginia, but in Ohio it's so much harder to succeed because there are so many more schools and so many more athletes."

It did not seem that Truex had the trouble of transitioning from his wide-out position to quarterback when he made it to St. John. He started out at receiver, and then two weeks into practice was put at the quarterback spot and eventually got the starting job.

"It was a big adjustment because I only played quarterback when I was little. I never played it in high school," Truex said. "So I think I adjusted well."

Truex was put back in his old position in the final two games of the season as he saw time at wide receiver again.

He will be going to Allegheny College this fall, but will not be playing football. Instead will opt for basketball.

"Schools wanted me to play football," Truex said.

"IT MEANS a lot. Just coming out here with these guys up here for a week. It's a big atmosphere to play in. That's nuts to be in the 70th annual game and Ohio won it last year and looking to go two in a row."

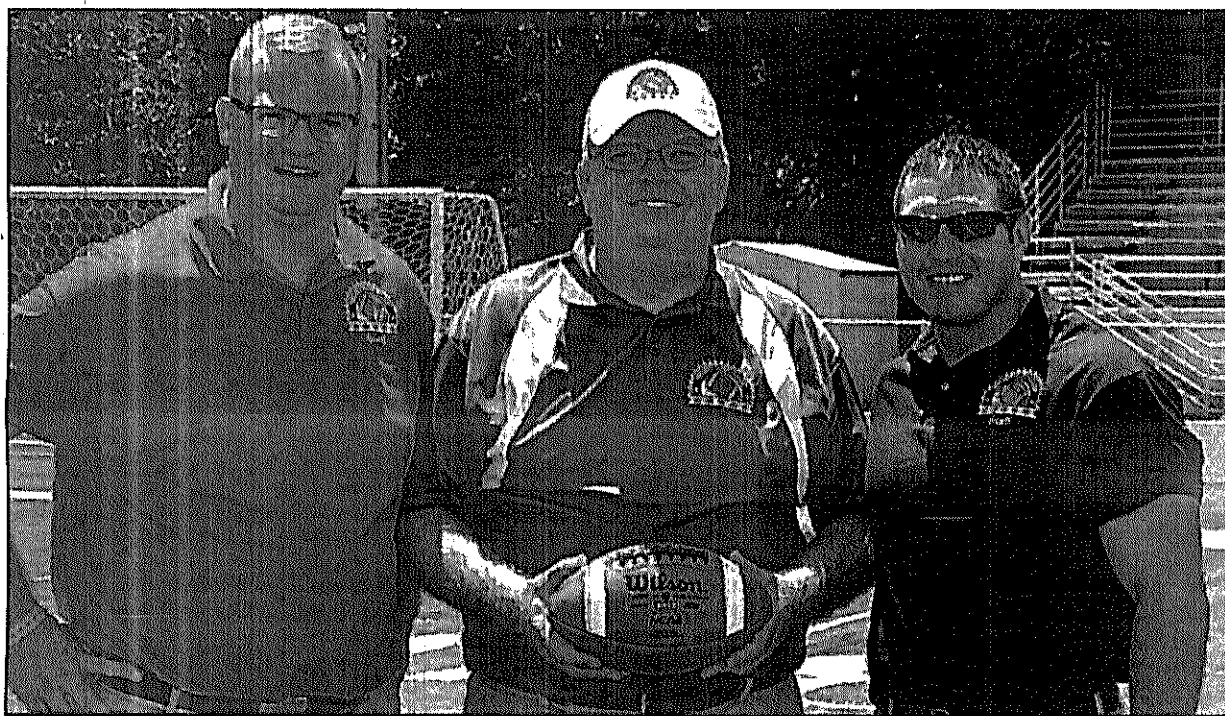
— Chaice Truex
SJC, Ohio QB

"But I never really had the chance to focus on one sport and I had a pretty good season in basketball this year. So I'm going to see how far I can go in that."

With choosing the court over the gridiron, Truex is about to strap on the pads one final time.

"It means a lot," Truex said about being an OVAC All-Star. "Just coming out here with these guys up here for a week. It's a big atmosphere to play in. That's nuts to be in the 70th annual game and Ohio won it last year and looking to go two in a row."

70th Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

RUDY MUMLEY OVAC All-Star Football Game Director Bob Koch (center) is flanked by Ohio coach Jeremy McElroy (left) and West Virginia coach Ian Whittington. The game is slated for 7:15 on Sunday night at Wheeling Island Stadium. Camp and preparations for the game are under way.

Ohio names its defense for contest

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — Versatility and toughness were key qualifications for being chosen for the defensive side of the ball for the Ohio squad in the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game.

Ohio coach Jeremy McElroy believes he found all of that as he announced the group that checked into camp Sunday to begin preparations for this weekend's game at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We're excited about our linebackers and we think our defensive backs are guys who could help us on offense and our receivers could help us on defense," McElroy said. "We'll see how it shakes out this week at camp, but we like these kids."

Along with his linebackers and defensive backs, McElroy also announced River's Colton Wright as his placekicker.

"We're excited to work with Colton," McElroy said. "He had a heckuva year at River and it always helps when you're strong in the kicking game."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

BRUCE BURGER, Martins Ferry — This two-way performer was a big contributor for Coach Dave Bruney's team.

The 6-foot, 200-pounder ran for 669 yards and four touchdowns as a fullback. Defensively, he logged 96 tackles as a senior, which followed up a junior campaign in which he accumulated 73.

Burger was first team All-Eastern District and All-Ohio special mention each of the last two seasons. He was also an All-OVAC selection.

Bruce, who plans on attending OUE, is the son of Bruce and Mindy Burger.

ZACH CONNOR, Indian Creek — This former Redskin had a stellar career for his father and head coach, Andrew Connor.

The 6-0, 220-pounder was charted with 41 solo, 46 assists, 13 tackles for loss and five sacks as a senior. He also had three forced fumbles and 16 quarterback hurries. He ran for 330 yards and seven touchdowns as a fullback.

See, Ohio, Page B2

OVAC All-Star prep continues

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — The countdown toward King Football's return is officially on.

Preparations for the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game got under way Sunday evening and continued Monday when players and coaches from both Ohio and West Virginia took part in media day at Bethany College.

Both head coaches — Ohio's Jeremy McElroy and West Virginia's Ian Whittington — were pleased with how the first few practices have gone, including a triple session Monday.

"You can see at practice why these kids are all-stars," McElroy said. "You can see it in their work, attention to detail, their approach and their leadership."

Whittington, who is the head coach at Oak Glen, called the experience thus far, "amazing."

"The players are flying around, they're excited to be here, excited to practice and excited to get to work every day," Whittington said. "These guys are fired up. We've got a live bunch."

The players have been on information overload as they have upward of 15 practices to formally grasp offensive and defensive schemes leading up to kickoff, which is slated for 7:15 p.m. at

Wheeling Island Stadium.

"We're trying to blitz them with information and material right now," McElroy said. "We're trying to see what sticks and what we can do well. We're scrambling a bit right now, but as the week goes on we'll tone it down when we know what we're going to do and what we're capable of doing."

Even in the down time, the players and coaches are going over things and even walking through them to speed up the process of learning the system.

"You try to get as much in as you can at the beginning, see what sticks and then work from there," McElroy

See, Prep, Page B2

● Ohio

Contin. from Page B1

Connor's fine season didn't go unnoticed. He was named All-OVAC, All-Buckeye 8, All-Quad County, All-Eastern District, All-Valley and third team All-Ohio.

Away from football, Connor is a standout in the classroom, earning academic All-Ohio. He's also a member of the Key Club.

Zach, who plans on attending West Liberty, is the son of Andrew and Tiffany Connor.

JARED HESLOP, Bridgeport — This two-way lineman was an impact player for Coach Rudy Vavrock's team.

The 6-0, 260-pounder earned all-district, All-valley, All-Times Leader and all-state special mention.

Heslop also competed in baseball and bowling.

Jared plans to attend Belmont College.

CHASE HILLIARD, Beaver Local — This former Beaver shined in the secondary for McElroy's team.

The 6-1, 165-pounder lined up at defensive back and was named honorable mention All-OVAC, first team all-district and special mention All-Ohio.

Along with football, Hilliard was a standout in soccer, recording 53 career goals, which ranks sixth in Ohio history. He was also a letterman in basketball.

Chase, who is the son of Mike and Lori Hilliard, plans on attending Muskingum.

AUSTIN McCONVILLE, Bellaire — This former Big Red was a tackling machine for Coach Steve Andres' squad.

The 6-0, 175-pounder recorded 99 solo tackles and 108.5 total stops. His solo-tackle total is a school record.

His fine season was recognized by his placement on All-OVAC, All-Eastern District, All-Valley, All-Times Leader, third team All-Ohio, and he was a WTOV-9 Defensive Player of the Year nominee.

Along with football, McConville was a multiple-year letterman in wrestling. He volunteers at Martins Ferry First Baptist Church Vacation Bible School.

Austin, who is the son of Keith and Elaine McConville, plans on attending OUE.

DILLON POINTER, Buckeye Trail — This senior was a talented run stopper for Coach Bill Hartmeyer's team.

The 6-1, 285-pounder was a standout two-way lineman en route to earning three varsity letters. He was a special mention All-Eastern District selection.

Pointer also received the

Archie Griffin OHSAA Sportsmanship Award and the United States Marine Corps Athletic Achievement Award.

Dillon, who is undecided about his future plans, is the son of Gene and Rebecca Pointer.

STONE ROMANO, Steubenville Catholic — This former Crusader was a two-way standout for Coach Steve Daley's squad.

The 6-0, 225-pounder ran for 1,021 as a senior and accumulated 23 career touchdowns. He was also a standout at linebacker.

For his efforts, he was named first team All-OVAC, All-Quad County, All-Eastern District, All-Valley and special mention All-Ohio.

Away from football, Romano was a member of the Key Club and SADD.

Stone, who plans on attending Ohio Dominican University, is the son of Paul and Jackie Romano.

ETHAN SHANNON, Edison — This former Wildcat was a two-way performer for Coach Derek Stickle's team.

The 5-10, 195-pounder recorded 103 tackles and 900 yards rushing as a junior and more than 800 yards as a senior.

He was twice named All-OVAC, All-Quad County, All-Eastern District.

Ethan, who is planning on attending Bethany College, is the son of Ernie and Connie Shannon.

ERRIK SNELL, Cambridge — This former Bobcat was a standout in the secondary and at wide receiver for Coach Kevin Gunn's team.

The 5-10, 175-pounder was a lock-down corner en route to All-OVAC, All-ECOL and all-district honors.

In track, Snell was a state high hurdle champion in 2014. He placed again this spring.

Errik, who plans on attending Tiffin, is the son of Tony and Lisa Snell.

COLTON WRIGHT, River — This former Pilot became quite the weapon in the kicking game for Coach Mike Flannery's Pilots.

The 6-2, 160-pounder was good on 16 of 18 PATs and knocked home seven field goals, including a long of 34. He had five career game-winning kicks. He also posted a 37-yard punting average.

Wright was a second team All-Ohioan, first-team All-OVAC, All-Eastern District, All-Valley and All-Times Leader pick.

Colton, who plans on attending Belmont College, is the son of Donnie and Kelly Wright.

Our Opinion OVAC Classic

IT IS said that football is king in the Ohio Valley. That being the case, his royal gridness ascends his throne Sunday at the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic.

Prep stars from Ohio and West Virginia will vie at Wheeling Island Stadium, climaxing a week of pageantry and camaraderie. The game is one of the features of the summer season and marks the official kickoff of the high school football for 2015.

The players have been put through a rigorous practice schedule. Despite the abbreviated preparation time, we are certain the respective teams will be primed to perform at peak levels.

We wish both sides the best of luck, and we are rooting for an injury-free contest.

The game, however, is just one piece of a sparkling pigskin puzzle. The Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic has often been termed an extravaganza.

We believe that is truly the case. The football is accentuated by a myriad of events and activities. The McDonald's All-Star Band

brings together more than 100 local prep musicians. In just a few days of practice, they blend their talents into a magnificent musical machine.

Nearly two dozen young ladies add beauty and grace to the festivities as they compete for the right to be crowned Queen of Queens at halftime.

Leading the cheers will be some of the best cheerleaders in the conference as some 20 spirit-generators from both sides of the river will be spurring on the players and crowd.

Not to be forgotten are participants from years' past. A 10-year reunion for the game's participants in 2005 will be held while all-stars from the game in 1965 will also be recognized.

Game director Bob Koch and his staff leave no stone unturned in putting on a gala affair.

We tip our helmets to all those who help make the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic just that -- a classic.

As a result, there is no loser Sunday. Everyone involved is a winner, especially charity, which has realized nearly a million dollars from past games.

70TH ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR GAME

Gummer To Play In 2nd All-Star Game

St. C grad played in DV-VII Ohio North-South Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

BETHANY — Malik Gummer knows a thing or two about all-star games.

After all, the recent St. Clairsville graduate is about to embark on his second in about three months when he takes to the field Sunday night in the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game.



Gummer

Gummer was a member of the South squad in the Division V-VII Ohio North-South Game, which was held in April at Dayton's Welcome Stadium. He scored a touchdown in that game.

Prior to getting the invitation to play, Gummer wasn't all that familiar with the North-South Game. The same can't be said for the OVAC affair.

"The OVAC Game has been around a long time and it's the one I've grown up watching," Gummer said. "I always thought it would be cool to play in this game and now I'm here. It's pretty cool."

Gummer was in attendance for the 2014 affair, which Ohio won by a point.

"I was watching the game kind of thinking that I'd definitely like the chance to play in this game," Gummer said.

Gummer will get his chance at wide receiver for Jeremy McElroy's squad. He earned his way to the Ohio roster thanks to a huge season for Coach Brett McLean's Red Devils.

The 5-10, 160 pounder was an

Please See GUMMER, Page 10

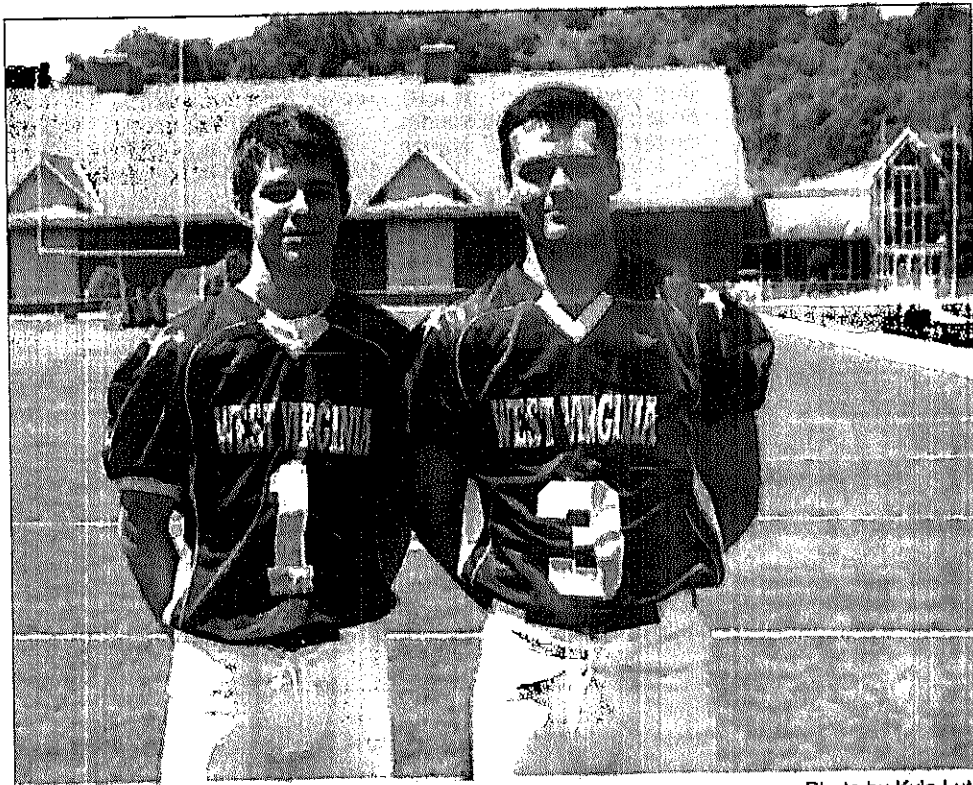


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Jesse Padlow (1) and Josh Miller (3) pose for a picture during Media Day at Bethany College. The two have known each other ever since they were children.

Childhood Friends Suit Up One Final Time

Days at Bishop were ones to remember for Padlow and Miller

By **KYLE LUTZ**
Staff Writer

BETHANY — Recent Bishop Donahue graduates Jesse Padlow and Josh Miller have a storybook history together. The two athletes were part of a senior class that put Bishop Donahue on the sports map with their success, as both were on the football and basketball teams.

The two go back farther than that, though. Padlow and Miller grew up in the same town and were friends since they were children.

"Me and Josh have been playing with each other since we were 5," Padlow said. "We grew up in the same town. Just for him to be here with me is something very special."

With all the success they have had with the Bishops, the two childhood friends will strap on the helmets one more time as both will participate in the 70th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game that will take place on at 7:15 on Sunday night at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"It's great. We've been living by each other our whole life," Miller said. "So it's just a great last moment for us."

Back in their early days playing sports, Miller always saw the athleticism in Padlow. He knew that the quarterback would make it to the all-star game.

"I never thought I would," Miller said. "Jesse was always a star growing up when we were younger. But I never thought that I would just tag along with him, and I'm just happy to be here with him."

Padlow holds Bishop Donahue records for passing attempts, completions, yards and touchdowns. In his final season in the green and yellow, he compiled 2,280 yards and 23 touchdowns while rushing for 581 yards and eight scores. It became necessary that Padlow was named one of the four quarterbacks in the game.

"It means a lot to me. Ever since I was a kid I've been going to this game and wanting to play in it," Padlow said. "Finally getting here, it's a great feeling."

The friends were a part of the class that made Bishop Donahue a legitimate contender. In fact, about 10 years ago the football program was almost gone. That's when current Bishops head coach John Durdines took control of the program and

Please See BISHOPS, Page 10

GUMMER

(Continued from Page 9) impact player from the word go for the Red Devils. In helping St. C. to a 10-0 regular season, OVAC Class 4A title and trip to the Division V playoffs, Gummer caught 32 passes for 775 yards and 13 touchdowns.

He also had a kickoff return for a touchdown that proved to be a major play

in the St. C. victory against Martins Ferry.

Quite simply, it was about making as many plays as he could to help the relatively underclass-dominated Red Devils achieve success.

Being teammates with so many guys that he grew up playing against for so many years hasn't been a tough adjustment for Gummer.

"It's just like being teammates with anyone else," Gummer said. "We're a team and though we may have some differences, we'll put them aside and do our best to get through them and work as a team."

While many come to OVAC camp and talk about the friendships, relationships and experiences

the come from the game and week, Gummer has approached it a little bit differently.

He wants to win.

"Winning is a big part of this," Gummer stressed. "It's the end goal and what everyone's working hard to achieve on both teams. This is a big game and (winning) is what we're fighting toward."

BISHOPS

(Continued from Page 9) made Bishop Donahue the perennial powerhouse it is today.

"I'm very honored to represent Bishop Donahue," Miller said. "That's a great school. No one really knows about it and it flew under the radar until the past couple of years.

It's a family there, and I'm very happy to be here."

Now it's time to represent the school that they are proud to say they went to one final time.

"I'm very proud," Padlow said. "You go back 10 years ago and you look at Bishop Donahue. They weren't even on the map. I

just feel like my class, we really helped put them back there and I hope they continue to succeed."

"It was the best time," Miller said. "It was me, Jesse, Brett (Moore), even Chase Padlow for a couple years, Alex Riedel and Matt Vucelik. Our whole class, we really came together and

it was a great four years."

As they take the field Sunday, there will be a special connection between the two, but Miller will let Padlow know what to do if he lines up in single coverage.

"I'm going to give a little head tap to Jesse to let him know," Miller said. "One last deep pass."

Former Wheeling Nailers assistant John Wroblewski is named head coach of Youngstown Phantoms of USHL/12

Ex-JM, Bethany Star Drahos Off to Uzbekistan on Mission

Now a commercial lender, he will travel to work with national team, spread faith

By DORSEY KINDLER
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Matt Drahos is a basketball player on a mission. Quite literally.

The former John Marshall High School and Bethany College hoops standout is heading across the globe to Uzbekistan to teach the game and spread his faith.

"Basically what we're going to

do is work with their national teams," Drahos said. "Both men's and women's. And the 18 and under and 16 and under national teams. They might bring in some younger teams in the area. We'll do camps and clinics with them. Play basketball during the day. And talk about our faith in the evenings."

Drahos modestly said he had a "decent career" as a forward at John

Marshall. At Bethany he's still the second-leading scorer, was an All American and is still the all-time leading rebounder and shot blocker.

Currently he works for Progressive Bank as a commercial lender. And his place of business has contributed a significant portion of the \$3,000 he needs to go on his mission trip. Once in country, the housing and travel are covered by the Uzbekistan National Basketball Association. But getting there is not.

"And also we're raising a bit to

Please See **DRAHOS**, Page 13



Photo provided

Progressive Bank commercial lender Matt Drahos, center, is presented a check by bank President Bill Petropoulos, left, and Senior Vice President Brad Winwood.

70th OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game

One More Time As Patriots

Park trio to play initial game in refurbished digs

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

BETHANY — No matter what position an athlete is playing on the team, it is always special to be able to represent your high school in an all-star game. For 65 football players from the Ohio Valley, it is an even bigger honor to represent their home state as the 70th Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game will kick off at 7:15 on Sunday night.

There are three athletes, however, who have the biggest honor when they step on the field one last time in a high school uniform. Wheeling Park's Theo Blackston, Henry Gompers and Elliott O'Brien will all strap on the pads Sunday night and walk out on their home turf one final time as Wheeling Park Patriots.

"It's really something special," O'Brien said. "We had a bitter taste in our mouth after the Capital game. But getting to finish my high school career at Wheeling Island Stadium is the best thing that could happen."

O'Brien will be on the offensive and

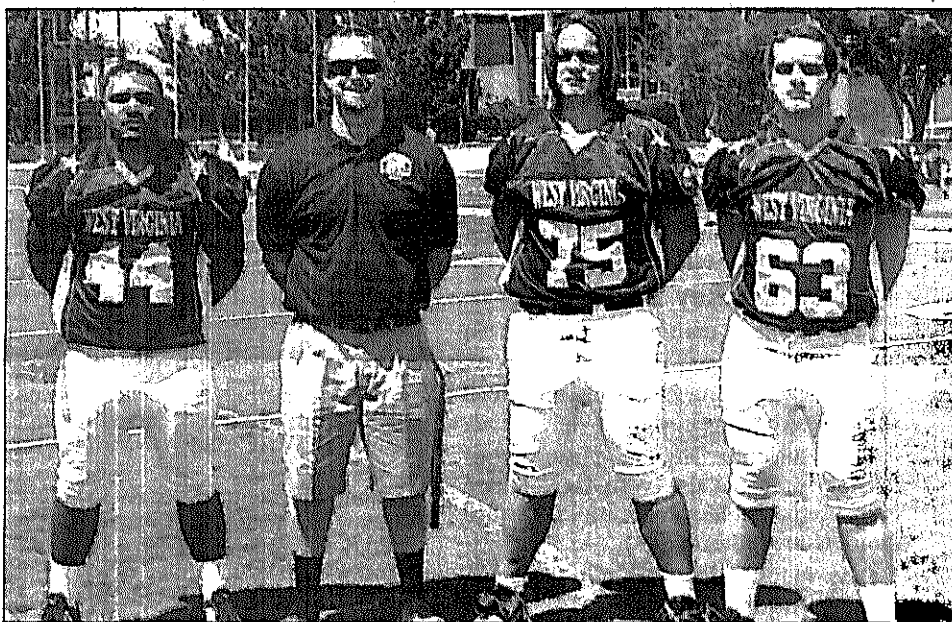


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Wheeling Park's Theo Blackston, assistant coach Tim Ickes, Elliott O'Brien and Henry Gompers pose for a picture during Media Day at Bethany College.

defensive line with Gompers as well. Blackston will see his time at running back and defensive end. With Gompers and O'Brien on the line, they'll be able to make holes in the defense one final time to let Blackston do his work in the backfield.

Park assistant Tim Ickes will serve in the same role during the game.

"Those two, they were our best linemen last year," Blackston said of his teammates. "They put in the work all summer and we pushed each other. That's how we got better, we pushed each other. Just being with those guys, I love them to death. They're my brothers and to have

one more game with them is truly a blessing."

To make matters even better for this Wheeling trio, it will play on the new Wheeling Island Stadium turf. After being renovated, it just seems like it is necessary for these Patriots that have had so much success on the old field, get to use their talents on the new one.

"It feels great," Gompers said. "I really can't believe that I'm going to be playing on the new turf and in the new stadium. I'm just really excited to get out there and

Please See **PATRIOTS**, Page 12

W.Va. Defense Named

Whittington thinks it can be special

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

BETHANY — Ian Whittington knows Ohio has plenty of playmakers on the offensive side of the ball.

The West Virginia coach believes he has plenty of playmakers on the defensive side, which should lead to an interesting matchup Sunday night at Wheeling Island Stadium in the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game.

Whittington announced his linebackers, secondary and kicker for the game.

"I honestly believe we have a lot of depth at linebacker and guys who are tough against the run," Whittington said. "Our outside linebackers have to be able to move. Our defensive backs can fly around and they're bigger, versatile kids."

Camp got under way Sunday at Bethany College.

Here's a capsule look at the players:

DYLAN ANDERSON, Morgantown — This former Mohican shined at middle linebacker for Coach John Bowers' team.

The 6-foot-2, 225-pounder recorded 100 tackles last season en route to honorable mention all-state, second team All-TRAC, All-Area and honorable mention All-OVAC.

Anderson, who plans on attending West Liberty, is the son of Bob and Stephanie Anderson.

THEO BLACKSTON, Wheeling Park — This former Patriot enjoyed a huge season for Coach Chris Daugherty's team.

The 6-1, 235-pounder logged time at running back, defensive end, linebacker and fullback. He finished with more than 1,500 yards and scored 19 touchdowns

Please See **W.VA.**, Page 12

Love of Game Brings Chukwu Back

Linsly grad travels nine hours to play in contest

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

BETHANY — The determination and dedication of Linsly's Chuckwudi Chukwu is unlike anything other. The recently graduated Cadets offensive lineman and defensive end had quite the journey to camp for the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game that is set to kick off at 7:15 on Sunday night.

Literally.

The Ohio University signee sat on a bus and rode nine hours from New Jersey to Wheeling just to play in the game.

"I guess it's my love for football,"



CHUKWU

have a blast with my teammates. It's going to be a great time."

After some talking with his parents, they finally conceded and allowed him to make the long haul to play in one final high school game.

"It's a passion," Chukwu said. "It's something that I really love. If I really

want it, I'm going to put my mind and heart to it."

When Chukwu first arrived at Linsly as a freshman, he had no idea that football would have this much impact on his life.

"My father, he was looking at schools and wondering what was good for me," Chukwu said. "I joined the football team and I felt really happy. I felt welcomed and it was a family. Year by year I started to grow not only as a person but as a football player, and here I am today."

Chukwu will be joined by teammates Zak Kriechbaum, who will be his roommate at Ohio, and Chimechi Oparanozie. For one final time, they will be on the gridiron together representing Linsly.

"It's a special honor," Chukwu said.

Please See **CHUKWU**, Page 12

PATRIOTS

(Continued from Page 11)

play one more time."

Gompers did not know he would play in the game, but fresh off the North-South contest, he is ready to go.

"I didn't think I was actually going to play in this," Gompers said. "But I'm really excited that I got the opportunity to, and I just want to go out there and beat Ohio."

Emotions will be running high for both teams as they sit in the locker room before the game and during half-time. However, it will really mean something more for these players as that locker room was a home to them on Friday nights. Running out of the tunnel onto the turf in front of thousands of screaming fans again is something they will never forget.

"Last time in that locker room," O'Brien said. "There were so many great memories there."

"I can't wait," Blackston said. "It's going to be fun. It's a great opportunity to come out and play at home one more time on the turf. I just can't wait and I'm going to put on a show for the people back home."

CHUKWU

(Continued from Page 11)

"I'm thankful for being chosen but at the same time it's not about me, it's about the family I've had. I'm thankful for the support that my coaches, my family and everyone has given me. I'm happy. I'm thankful for Coach (B.J.) Depew who has been behind me ever since the day I stepped on the football field."

After the all-star game, Chuckwu will travel back to New Jersey, then have a week to pack things as he will then make his way to Athens, Ohio.

"I'm real nervous about it," Chuckwu said. "But at the same time, I'm really excited. For someone who has only been playing football for four years and from where I started from, it's just a huge achievement for me to continue to play football for the next four years. I'm blessed."

"When you put your mind to something and you dedicate yourself and really put in the work, then you'll achieve your goals. I still have many more goals to go and hopefully I keep climbing, working hard and don't let any distractions distract me and I'll be good."

W.VA.

(Continued from Page 11)

en route to all-state honors.

Along with the state honor, Blackston was named first team All-*OVAC*, All-*TRAC*, All-*Valley*, Big 22 Finalist, Elks Player of the Month and player of the week.

Theo, who will play at Mercyhurst University, is the son of Pamela Ebbert.

MICAH BOLES, Parkersburg South — This former Patriot will handle the kicking and punting as he did for Coach Mike Eddy's team.

The 5-9, 150-pounder was a perfect 33 of 33 on PATs and connected on five field goals.

Away from football, Boles is an Eagle Scout and received the Woody Herman Jazz Award. He's also the president of the Fellowship of Student Athletes.

Micah, who will attend WVU-Parkersburg, is the son of Trent and Amy Boles.

ZAHIR HICKS, Weir — This former Red Rider shined at linebacker for Coach Tony Filberto's team.

The 6-0, 205-pounder recorded 111 tackles, 17 for loss, six sacks, recovered four fumbles, forced two and picked off a pass.

His efforts were recognized through first team All-*OVAC* and All-*Valley*. He was second team all-state.

Zahir, who is the son of Evonna Jordan, is planning to attend West Liberty.

ZAK KRIECHBAUM, Linsly — This former Cadet did a little bit of everything for Coach B.J. Depew's team last season.

The 5-10, 180-pounder logged 136 tackles, recorded 14 interceptions, 1,135 yards receiving and was 7 of 7 on field goals during his career.

He was a first team All-*OVAC* and All-*Valley* pick. He was named MVP and was a finalist for special teams player of the year.

Zak, who is going to Ohio University, is the son of Doug and Jennifer Kriechbaum.

DEREK MARTIN, Cameron — This Dragons standout had an impressive career for Coach Scott Holt's team.

The 5-10, 175-pounder recorded 163 tackles and 9.5 sacks as a senior en route to first team All-*Valley*, All-*OVAC* and All-*Mason Dixon*.

Away from football, Martin is a member of the National Honor Society and vice president of the student council. He was also class valedictorian.

Derek, who will attend Kenyon College, is the son of Gary and Kelli Martin.

JOSH MILLER, Bishop Donahue — This linebacking standout played a key role for Coach John Durdines' team.

The 6-3, 185-pounder logged 123 solo tackles and had 10 interceptions en route to first team All-*Valley*, All-*OVAC* and special mention all-state.

Josh, who is the son of Chet and Terri Miller, is going to Wheeling Jesuit.

JOJO RICE, Weir — This Red Riders speedster had a big season for Filberto's team.

The 5-6, 140-pounder was an All-*OVAC* performer. He was also a standout in track.

JoJo, who is the son of John and Patty Rice, will attend West Virginia.

COLBY SHRIVER, Clay-Battelle — This former Cee-Bee had a big season from his linebacking post for Coach Ryan Wilson's team.

The 6-0, 210-pounder recorded 109 tackles, two forced fumbles and two recovered fumbles. He also ran for 414 yards and four touchdowns.

Shriver was a second team all-state selection, first team All-*Mason Dixon*, second team All-*OVAC* and Dominion Post All-*Area* team.

Colby, who will attend Fairmont State, is the son of Terry and Angelia Shriver.

SPORTS

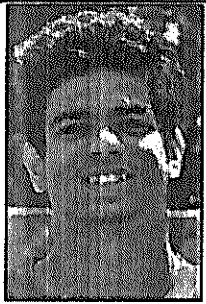
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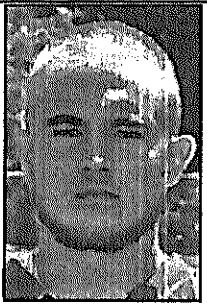
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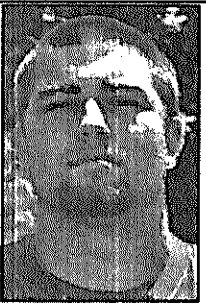
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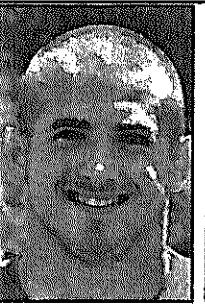
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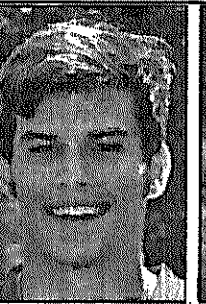
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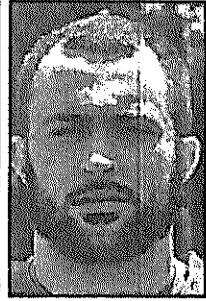
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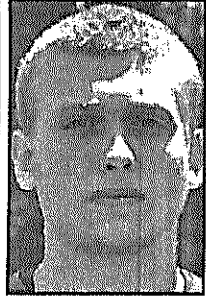
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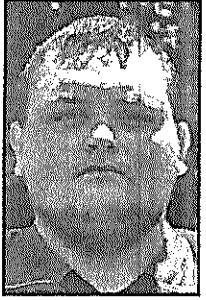
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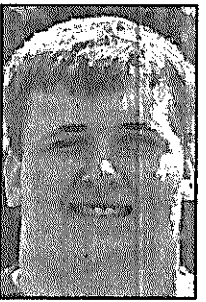
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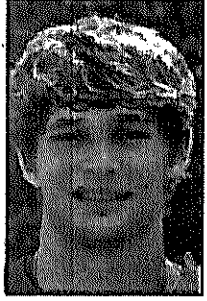
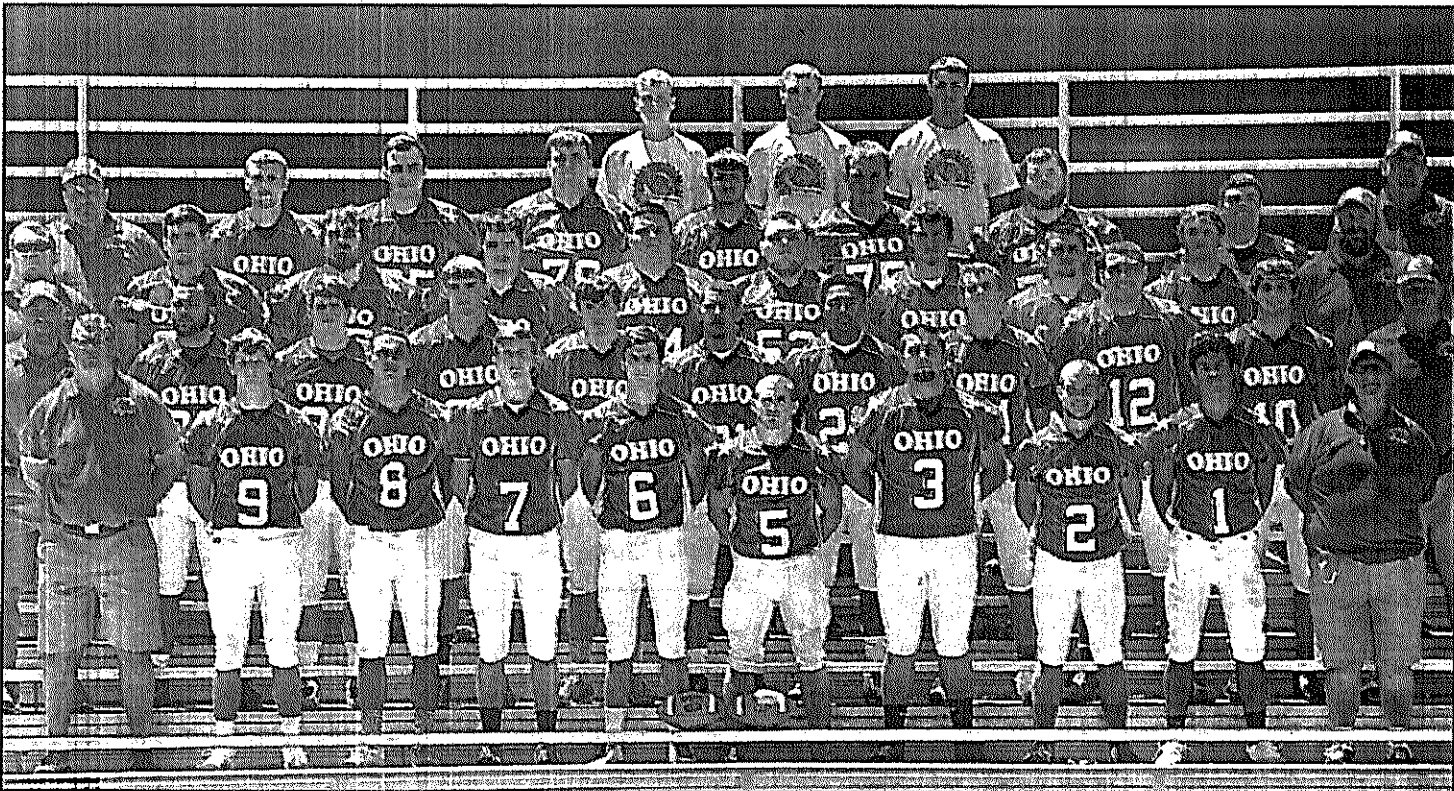
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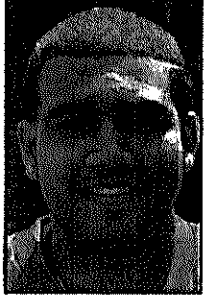
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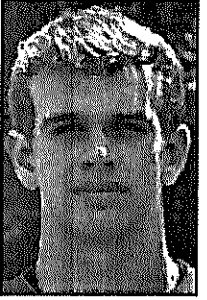
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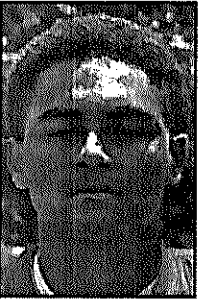
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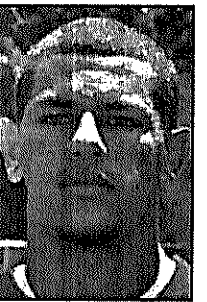
TRUEX



HERRINGTON



LATHAN



SNELL



HILLIARD



PICTURED IS the 2015 Ohio All-Star Team. Front row, from left, are head coach Jeremy McElroy (Beaver Local), J.C. Coleman (St. Clairsville), Kalub Mitchell (Harrison Central), Jack Fitch (Martins Ferry), Riley Hayhurst (Cambridge), Levi Brown (Monroe Central), Zach Connor (Indian Creek), Dylan Wood (Meadowbrook), Malik Gummer (St. Clairsville) and assistant coach Ed Weidger. Second row, from left, are assistant coach Charlie Dolnosich, Stone Romano (Steubenville Central), Bruce Burger (Martins Ferry), Eric Howell (Shadyside), Chase Hilliard (Beaver Local), Errik Snell (Cambridge), Moe Lathan (Cambridge), Lucas Herrington (Steubenville), Chace Truex (St. John Central), Austin McConville (Bellaira) and assistant coach Rich Shilling. Third row, from left, are assistant coach Jeff Weidger, Mitch Wells (Barnesville), Seth Bloor (Wellsville), Jared Heslop (Bridgeport), Jake Karovic (Steubenville Central), Dillon Pointer (Buckeye Trail), Scott Hammond (Shadyside), Ethan Shannon (Edison), Hunter Westlake (Bellaira) and assistant coach T.J. Osbon. Fourth row, from left, are assistant coach Aaron West, Colton Wright (River), Jacob Quinn (Meadowbrook), Darin Neff (Meadowbrook), Cody Beavers (Martins Ferry), Austin Lawrence (Beaver Local), Jason Sims (Beaver Local), Jonathan Bodkin (Martins Ferry) and assistant coach Dave Allen. Top row, from left, are managers Paine Allen, Noah West and Michael Clendennon.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

Football is back

• 70th annual Mumley OVAC Game set for tonight

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY – The practices are complete, the trash-talking is ongoing and everlasting friendships have been formed.

Game day for the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic has arrived.

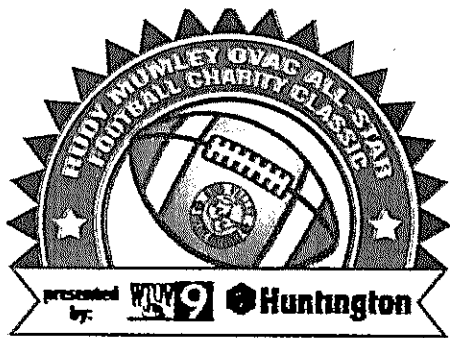
Players from Ohio and West Virginia wrapped up their preparations with a final practice on Saturday. Both teams will go through a brief walk through this morning before making their way to Wheeling Island Stadium for tonight's game, which is scheduled to kick off at 7:15 p.m.

"We're in good spirits and ready to play the game," Ohio head coach Jeremy McElroy said. "The week's gone by quickly and everything's been first class. It's just an awesome experience for the kids and the coaches."

Both West Virginia head coach Ian Whittington and McElroy are first-time coaches in the annual game.

"Having the week come to an end is a little bittersweet," Whittington said. "We're definitely going to miss these kids. We've formed a relationship with them. They've done anything and everything we've asked of them because they're genuinely great kids."

While the week's been enjoyable and the relationships have formed, both sides want to cap it off with a victory.



OVAC ALL-STAR FOOTBALL
Who: Ohio vs. West Virginia
When: Tonight, 7:15 p.m.
Where: Wheeling Island Stadium
Tickets: Available at the gate for \$10.
Radio: AM 1600
Television: WTOV-9

work. This might be an all-star game, but these kids want to win the game, too."

As for on the field, both head coaches are anxious to see how the lines match up with one another. Both feature plenty of size and athleticism.

"Our defensive line has some of the best athletes in this game," Whittington said. "We know Ohio is big and massive, but we feel our strength is our defensive line, so it'll be interesting to see that matchup."

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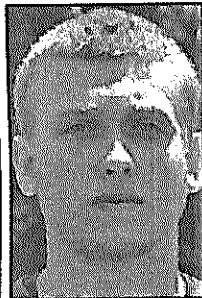
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The Mountain State defense will be led by Linsly product Chuckwudi Chuckwu, who Whittington said "is a good product



ROMANO



WRIGHT



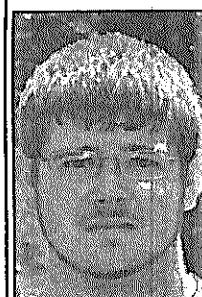
POINTER



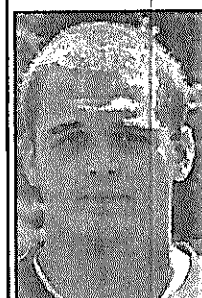
QUINN



NEFF



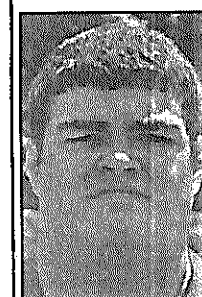
BEAVERS



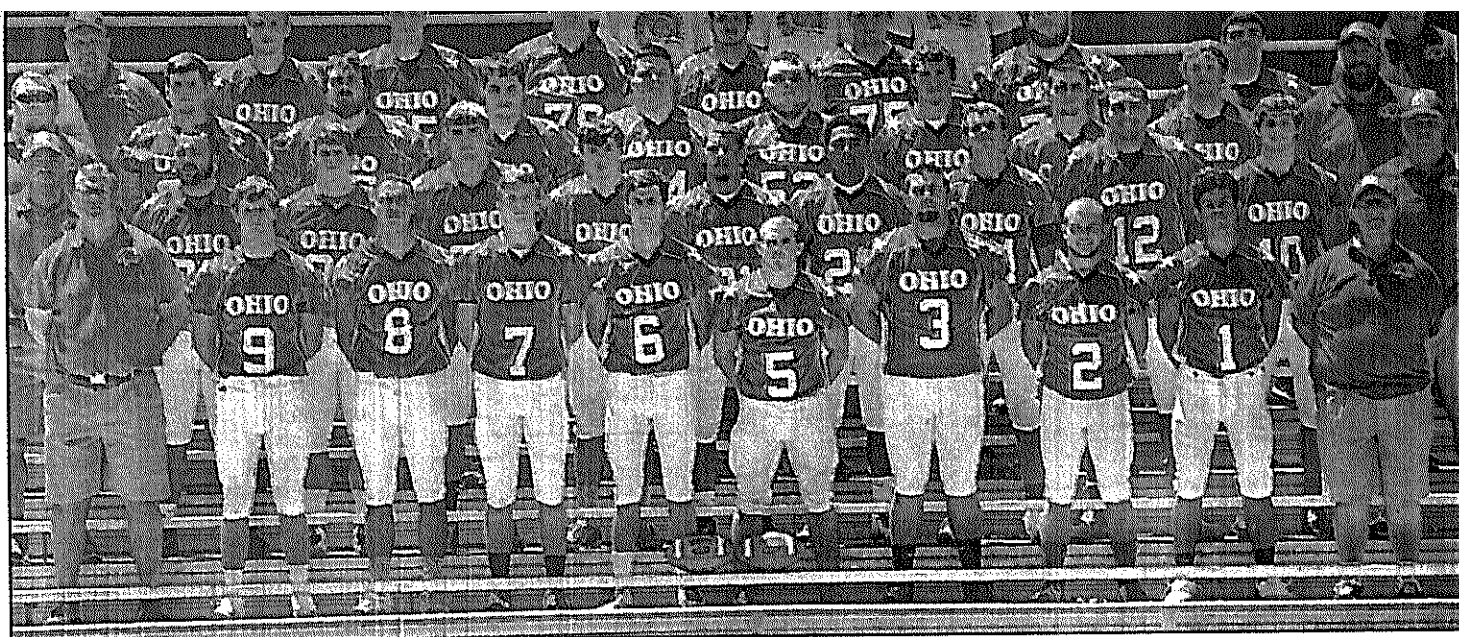
LAWRENCE



SIMS



BODKIN



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

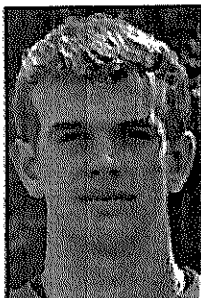
PICTURED IS the 2015 Ohio All-Star Team. Front row, from left, are head coach Jeremy McElroy (Beaver Local), J.C. Coleman (St. Clairsville), Kalub Mitchell (Harrison Central), Jack Fitch (Martins Ferry), Riley Hayhurst (Cambridge), Levi Brown (Monroe Central), Zach Connor (Indian Creek), Dylan Wood (Meadowbrook), Malik Gummer (St. Clairsville) and assistant coach Ed Weidger. Second row, from left, are assistant coach Charlie Dolnosich, Stone Romano (Steubenville Central), Bruce Burger (Martins Ferry), Eric Howell (Shadyside), Chase Hilliard (Beaver Local), Errik Snell (Cambridge), Moe Lathan (Cambridge), Lucas Herrington (Steubenville), Chaice Truex (St. John Central), Austin McConville (Bellaire) and assistant coach Rich Shilling. Third row, from left, are assistant coach Jeff Weidger, Mitch Wells (Barnesville), Seth Bloor (Wellsville), Jared Heslop (Bridgeport), Jake Karovic (Steubenville Central), Dillon Pointer (Buckeye Trail), Scott Hammond (Shadyside), Ethan Shannon (Edison), Hunter Westlake (Bellaire) and assistant coach T.J. Osbon. Fourth row, from left, are assistant coach Aaron West, Colton Wright (River), Jacob Quinn (Meadowbrook), Darin Neff (Meadowbrook), Cody Beavers (Martins Ferry), Austin Lawrence (Beaver Local), Jason Sims (Beaver Local), Jonathan Bodkin (Martins Ferry) and assistant coach Dave Allen. Top row, from left, are managers Paine Allen, Noah West and Michael Clendennon.



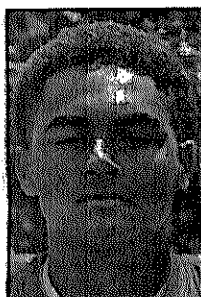
McCONVILLE



TRUEX



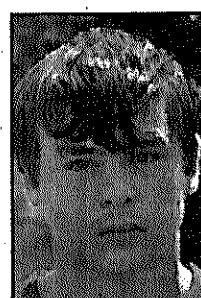
HERRINGTON



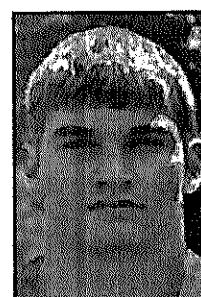
LATHAN



SNELL



HILLIARD



HOWELL



BURGER

Football is back

• 70th annual Mumley OVAC Game set for tonight

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY – The practices are complete, the trash-talking is ongoing and everlasting friendships have been formed.

Game day for the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic has arrived.

Players from Ohio and West Virginia wrapped up their preparations with a final practice on Saturday. Both teams will go through a brief walk through this morning before making their way to Wheeling Island Stadium for tonight's game, which is scheduled to kick off at 7:15 p.m.

"We're in good spirits and ready to play the game," Ohio head coach Jeremy McElroy said. "The week's gone by quickly and everything's been first class. It's just an awesome experience for the kids and the coaches."

Both West Virginia head coach Ian Whittington and McElroy are first-time coaches in the annual game.

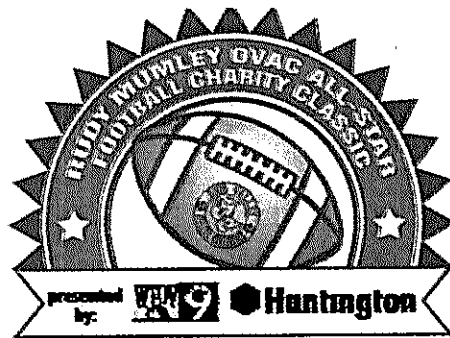
"Having the week come to an end is a little bittersweet," Whittington said. "We're definitely going to miss these kids. We've formed a relationship with them. They've done anything and everything we've asked of them because they're genuinely great kids."

While the week's been enjoyable and the relationships have formed, both sides want to cap it off with a victory.

"Our guys are chomping at the bit," Whittington said. "This is an extremely hungry team that's banded together like a group of brothers. This is probably the fastest I've ever seen a team come together. Teams where kids grow up in the same town probably don't gel as quickly as this team did."

The Ohio squad has been fairly reserved this week at the events, but McElroy is perfectly OK with that mentality.

"The chemistry of this team has been great because we have a lot of guys who are like silent assassins," McElroy said. "They're not a big show team or do much talking (publically), but they're looking forward to going to compete and going to



OVAC ALL-STAR FOOTBALL
Who: Ohio vs. West Virginia
When: Tonight, 7:15 p.m.
Where: Wheeling Island Stadium
Tickets: Available at the gate for \$10.
Radio: AM 1600
Television: WTOV-9

work. This might be an all-star game, but these kids want to win the game, too."

As for on the field, both head coaches are anxious to see how the lines match up with one another. Both feature plenty of size and athleticism.

"Our defensive line has some of the best athletes in this game," Whittington said. "We know Ohio is big and massive, but we feel our strength is our defensive line, so it'll be interesting to see that matchup."

McElroy firmly believes the Buckeyes boast a bevy of guys who are capable of coming through with a big play, so his skill guys on the perimeter against West Virginia's secondary is another matchup to keep an eye on, according to the Ohio boss.

"I think we have a nice group of skill guys, but actually our entire team has a lot of quality players," McElroy said.

Unlike games throughout the season, both McElroy and Whittington find themselves in a rather unfamiliar spot with no type of scouting report on the other team.

"That's one of the intriguing parts of this game," McElroy said. "There are set rules in other all-star games I've been a part of, but this is basically like a regular season game. In the end, however, football is football. I am sure there will be a few sur-

prises, but in the end it comes down to blocking and tackling."

West Virginia won't settle on its starting quarterback until game time, according to Whittington. It was a true battle all week between Jesse Padlow, Zach Heasley, Aaron Walker and William Larch.

"We gave each guy equal reps and equal chance and we've not come up with a depth chart yet, but all four will play," Whittington said.

The Mountaineers – unlike Ohio – will utilize a handful of guys on both sides of the ball. McElroy, meanwhile, didn't completely rule out the possibility, but would like to platoon as much as possible.

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Theo Blackston will see time at running back and start at defensive end. Jace Neville is another player who will see time both ways, playing at running back and corner.

Chimechi Oparanozie, who missed the entire season at Linsly, will get the start at running back. Peyton Palmer will serve as the fullback.

Also slated to start up front are Henry Gompers, Elliott O'Brien, Dane Mills and Scott Kubancik.

The Mountain State defense will be led by Linsly product Chuckwudi Chuckwu, who Whittington said, "is as good as advertised."

Nick Anderson will get the call at defensive tackle. Dylan Anderson and Zahire Hicks are set to start at inside backers, while Josh Miller and Walker will see time at outside.

Brendan Schwendeman will roam at free safety.

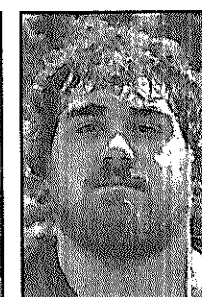
"I feel confident with all of our groups," Whittington said. "All of the kids have provided immense effort every day. I hope they're ready to show what they're capable of."

Ohio's offense will be triggered by Chaice Truex. Mo Lathan and Levi Brown

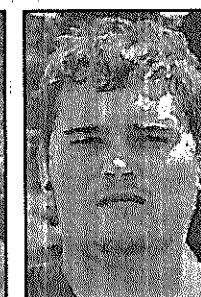
See, OVAC, Page C2



WELLS



BLOOR



HESLOP



KAROVIC



HAMMOND



SHANNON



WESTLAKE





ABOVE: Pictured are the Ohio linemen and kicker for tonight's game. Front row, from left, are Jake Karovic, Jon Bodkin, Jared Heslop, Dillon Pointer and Mitch Wells. Standing, from left, are Colton Wright, Seth Bloor, Austin Lawrence, Darin Neff, Jason Sims and Cody Beavers.

AT LEFT: Pictured are the Ohio running backs. Kneeling, from left, are Bruce Burger, Levi Brown and Mo Lathan. Standing, from left, are Ethan Shannon, Hunter Westlake, Stone Romano and Eric Howell.

T-L Photos/KIM NORTH

OVAC All-Star Rosters

		OHIO			
No.	Name	Ht	Wgt	Pos.	School
1	Malik Gummer	5-10	160	WR/CB	St. Clairsville
2	Dylan Wood	5-7	160	WR/S	Meadowbrook
3	Zach Connor	6-0	220	RB/LB	Indian Creek
5	Levi Brown	5-5	155	RB/DB	Monroe Central
6	Riley Hayhurst	6-0	165	WR/S	Cambridge
7	Jack Fitch	6-0	165	WR/S	Martins Ferry
8	Kalub Mitchell	6-0	170	WR/CB	Harrison Central
9	J.C. Coleman	6-1	170	WR/CB	St. Clairsville
10	Austin McConville	6-0	185	SLB	Bellaire
12	Chalce Truex	6-8	245	QB/DE	St. John
14	Lucas Herrington	6-1	170	WR/S	Steubenville
20	Moe Lathan	5-10	185	RB/S	Cambridge
21	Errik Snell	5-10	175	WR/CB	Cambridge
22	Chase Hilliard	6-1	165	QB/S	Beaver Local
29	Eric Howell	6-2	205	RB/DE	Shadyside
32	Bruce Burger	6-0	220	RB/LB	Martins Ferry
33	Stone Romano	6-0	225	RB/LB	Steubenville CC
34	Hunter Westlake	6-1	195	WR/LB	Bellaire
40	Ethan Shannon	5-10	195	RB/LB	Edison
44	Scott Hammond	6-1	190	TE/DE	Shadyside
52	Dillon Pointer	6-2	250	OL/DL	Buckeye Trail
54	Jake Karovic	6-1	295	OL/DT	Steubenville CC
55	Jared Heslop	6-0	260	OL/DL	Bridgeport
56	Seth Bloor	6-1	260	OL/DL	Wellsville
60	Mitch Wells	6-2	270	C/DT	Barnesville
66	Jon Bodkin	5-7	240	C/DT	Martins Ferry
70	Jason Sims	6-1	320	OT/DT	Beaver Local
75	Austin Lawrence	6-4	255	OT/DT	Beaver Local
77	Cody Beavers	6-2	230	OG/DT	Martins Ferry
78	Darin Neff	6-5	320	OT/DT	Meadowbrook
85	Jacob Quinn	6-4	204	TE/DE	Meadowbrook
88	Colton Wright	6-2	160	K/P	River

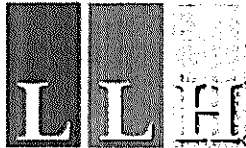
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 Team Doctor: Dr. William Bailor
 Trainer: Melanie Cheek

		WEST VIRGINIA			
No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	School
1	Jesse Padlow	6-2	160	QB	Bishop Donahue
2	Jace Neville	5-8	175	WR/DB	University
3	Josh Miller	6-3	185	WR/OLB	Bishop Donahue
5	Micah Swiger	5-7	140	WR/DB	Oak Glen
6	Aaron Walker	6-0	200	QB/OLB	Brooke
7	William Larch	6-1	215	QB/OLB	Weir
8	Zak Kreichbaum	5-10	180	WR/DB	Linsly
9	Bren Schwendeman	5-10	170	RB/DB	South
10	Trevor Boot	6-3	215	TE/DE	South
12	Zach Heasley	6-4	230	QB/DE	Paden City
14	Garrett Cain	6-1	190	WR/S	Morgantown
20	Austin Connell	6-0	220	DE/TE	Madonna
22	Chimechi Oparanjozie	5-11	240	RB	Linsly
28	Jo Jo Rice	5-6	140	WR/DB	Weir
32	Zahir Hicks	6-0	205	RB/LB	Weir
33	Chukwudi Chukwu	6-1	230	OL/DE	Linsly
34	Jacoby Steele	6-0	220	RB/DE	Clay-Battelle
40	Derek Martin	5-10	175	LB	Cameron
44	Theo Blackston	6-1	235	RB/DE	Wheeling Park
46	Colby Shriver	6-0	210	RB/LB	Clay-Battelle
52	Payton Palmer	6-0	235	FB/DE	Valley
54	Scott Kubancik	6-5	210	OL/DE	John Marshall
55	Noah Mills	5-10	245	OL/DL	Oak Glen
58	Dylan Anderson	6-2	225	LB	Morgantown
60	Nick Anderson	6-2	270	OL/DL	Tyler Consolidated
63	Henry Gompers	6-2	215	OL/DL	Wheeling Park
66	Peter Hartzell	6-0	230	OL/DL	Wheeling Central
70	Dane Mills	6-1	260	OL/DL	South
75	Elliott O'Brien	6-4	275	OL/DL	Wheeling Park
77	Chase Padlow	6-4	250	OL/DL	John Marshall
78	Cody Rine	6-4	290	OL/DL	Brooke
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● **OVAC** ———
 Continued from Page C1

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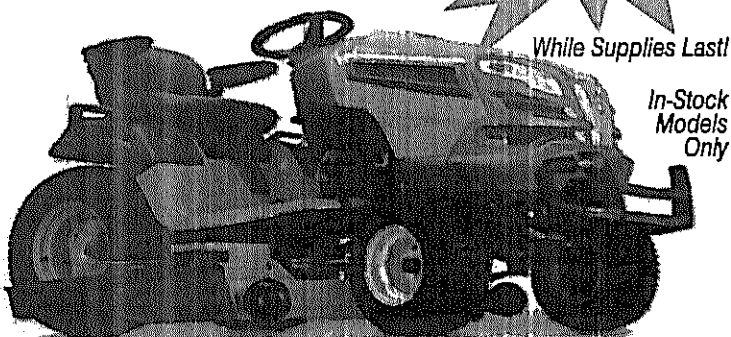
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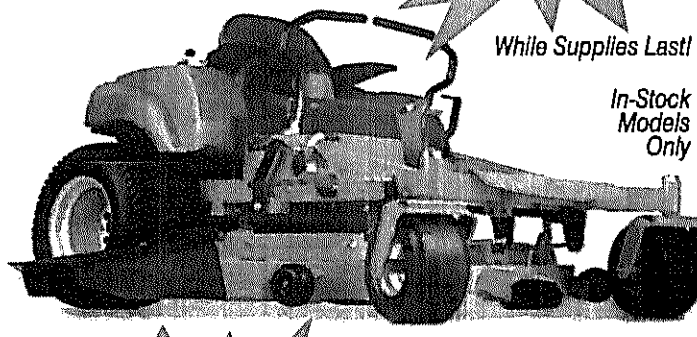


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Lawrence, Darin Neff, Jason Sims and Cody Beavers.
AT LEFT: Pictured are the Ohio running backs. Kneeling, from left, are Bruce Burger, Levi Brown and Mo Lathan. Standing, from left, are Ethan Shannon, Hunter Westlake, Stone Romano and Eric Howell.

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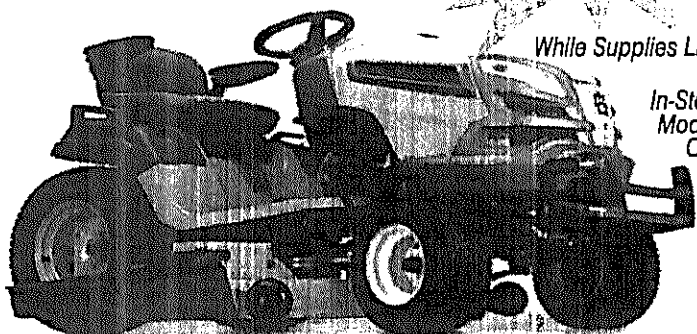
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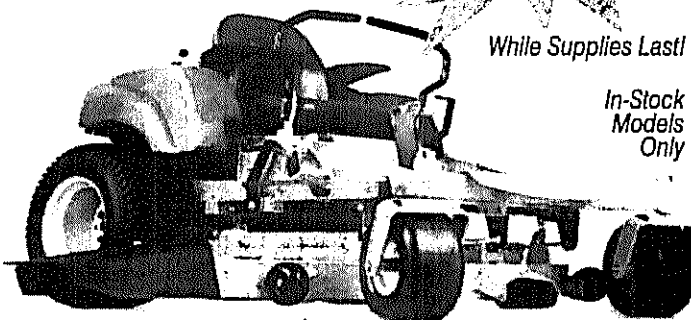
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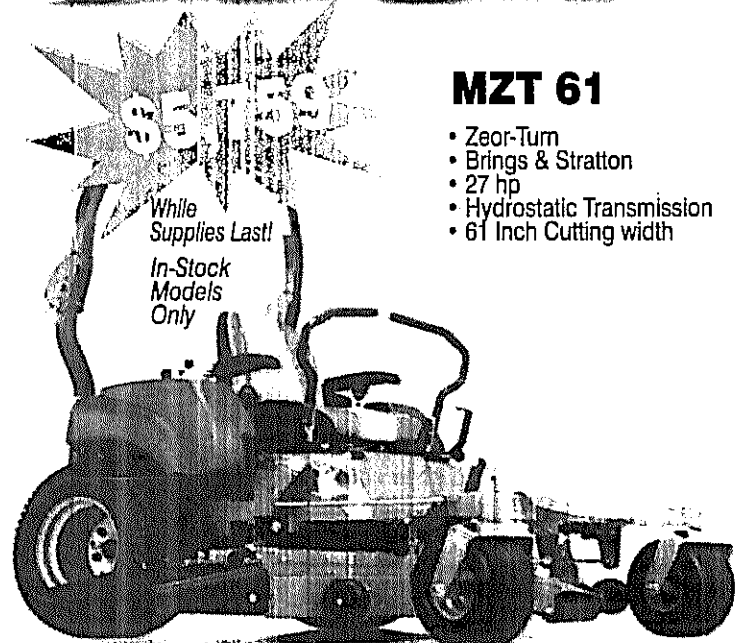
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- 27 hp
- Hydrostatic Transmission
- 61 Inch Cutting width



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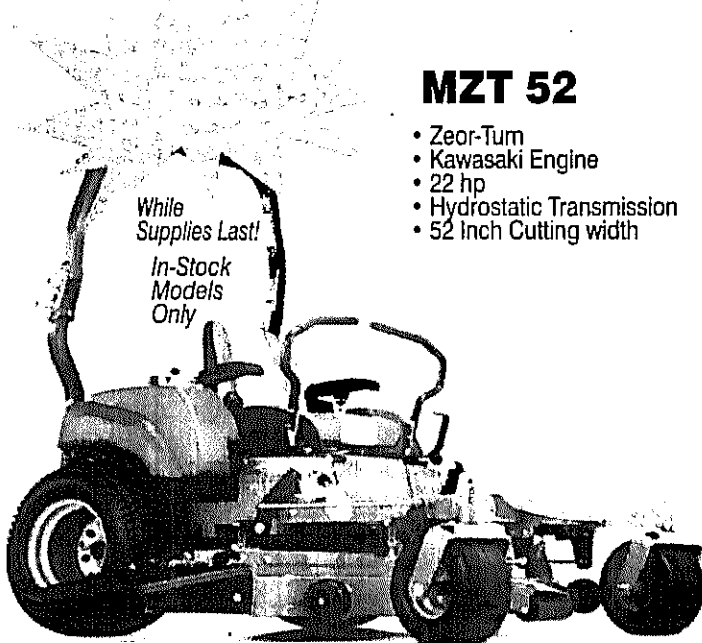
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- Brings & Stratton
- 27 hp
- Hydrostatic Transmission
- 61 Inch Cutting width



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- Kawasaki Engine
- 22 hp
- Hydrostatic Transmission
- 52 Inch Cutting width



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● OVAC

Continued from Page C1
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"Those guys are both tough," McElroy said. "They're very quick and good with their hands."

Jacob Quinn and Cody Beavers will line up at the defensive tackles.

Zach Connor will serve as the middle linebacker. He'll be flanked by Ethan Shannon and Bruce Burger.

Austin McConville will get the start at strong safety, while Riley Hayhurst will open at free safety. J.C. Coleman and Jack Fitch will start at corners.

Both teams like their kicking games. Ohio's placekicking will be handled by River's Colton Wright. West Virginia's kicker is Micah Boles.

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

SPORTS

70th OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game tonight

Ohio's roster includes eight local players

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

WHEELING, WV — After a week of preparations and game-related activities, it's time to kick things off at the 70th Annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

When the ball hits the toe at 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium, bragging rights between Ohio and West Virginia will once again be on the line for more than 60 of the conference's top gridiron talent from last season.

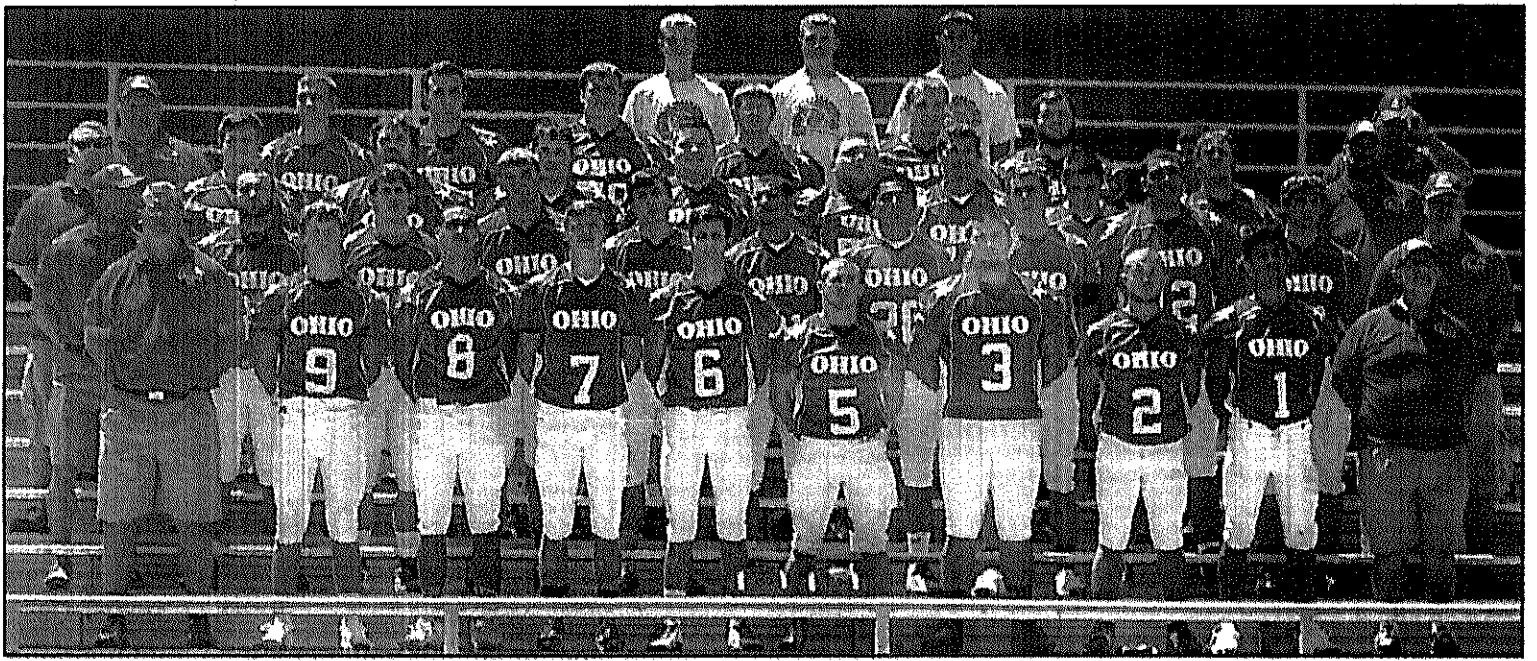
Guiding the Ohio All-Stars in the contest will be Jeremy McElroy of Beaver Local while the West Virginia team is piloted by Ian Whittington of Oak Glen.

There are eight players from the local area in this year's game — wide receiver/safety Dylan Wood of Meadowbrook; wide receiver/safety Riley Hayhurst of Cambridge; running back/safety Moe Lathan of Cambridge; wide receiver/cornerback Errik Snell of Cambridge; center/defensive tackle Mitchell Wells of Barnesville; offensive tackle/defensive tackle Darin Neff of Meadowbrook; offensive lineman/linebacker Dillon Pointer of Buckeye Trail; and tight end/defensive end Jacob Quinn of Meadowbrook.

The Ohio team opted not to select team captains, but instead four players will take part in the coin toss prior to the game — Martins Ferry's Bruce Burger, Indian Creek's Zach Connor, Beaver Local's Jason Sims and Steubenville's Lucas Herrington. Reportedly, Herrington suffered an injury at camp and will be unable to play in the game.

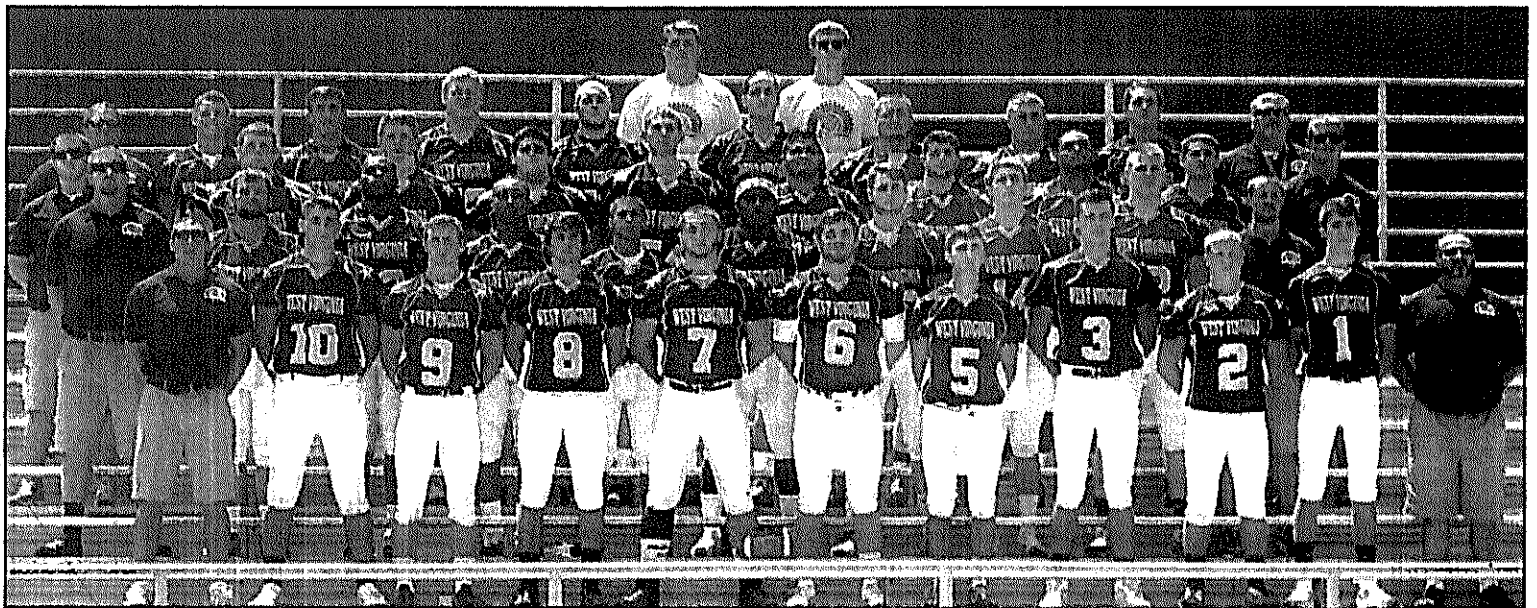
Ohio eked out a 27-26 win in last year's game to boost its overall series record to 43-25-1, including a 28-14-1 mark since the OVAC assumed sponsorship of the game in 1972.

EXTRA POINTS
- Bob Koch of Cameron is once again serving as the Game Director. Other in charge of the various aspects include Joyce Jingle, Queen of Queens Coordinator; Ben McPherson, OVAC



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The Ohio All-Star Football Team



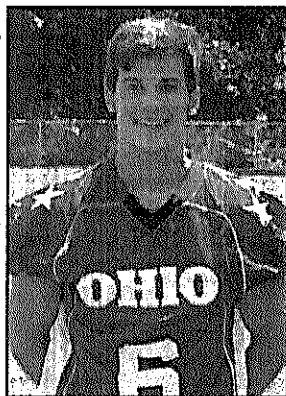
Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The West Virginia All-Star Football Team

McDonald's All-Star Band Coordinator; Dr. Dianna Vargo, George Strager Evening with the Starts Coordinator; Steve Kish, Jr., the 10-Year Reunion Coordinator; and John Howell, the 50-Year Reunion Coordinator. Kelly Lancia will coach the Ohio cheering squad while Stephanie Starcher of Tyler Consolidated is the West Virginia coach.

The game officials are Bob Mills of Belmont (referee); Bill Kihn of Hopedale (umpire); Greg Hall of Calcutta (linesman); Robin Reed of Vienna, WV (line judge); John Murray of Steubenville (field judge); David Hulme of Clarksburg WV (side judge); and Mike Reese of Martins Ferry (back judge). This year's Honorary Official is Jim

See OVAC page B-2



Riley Hayhurst
Cambridge



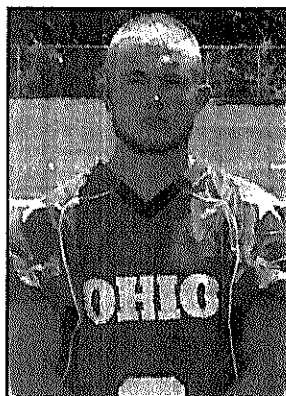
Moe Lathan
Cambridge



Errik Snell
Cambridge



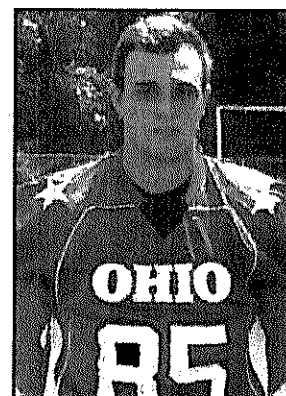
Dillon Pointer
Buckeye Trail



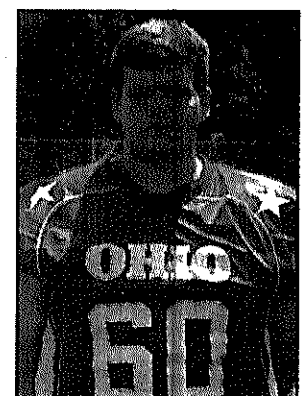
Dylan Wood
Meadowbrook



Darin Neff
Meadowbrook



Jacob Quinn
Meadowbrook



Mitchell Wells
Barnesville

B

Sunday News-Register

JULY 19, 2015

SPORTS

All-Star Camp Starts Today

Ohio selects linemen for next Sunday's tilt

By SETH STASKEY

For the Sunday News-Register

MARTINS FERRY — They don't always get all of the recognition, but Ohio head coach Jeremy McElroy certainly knows the value of line play in high school football.

The Beaver Local head coach, who will guide the Buckeye State during next Sunday's 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game, went out seeking players who could run and pass block.

With camp opening today at Bethany College, the work toward

the game and blending the players begins.

"We've talked to the guys and we hope they come in ready to go," McElroy said.

"We like our linemen. They're big and they're athletics. Most of them can move really well."

Finding the balance for offensive and defensive linemen is of the utmost importance for McElroy and his staff this week.

"Keeping guys fresh will be a big key," McElroy said.

Battling for the spots on the line are: Cody Beavers (Martins Ferry), Seth Bloor (Wellsville), Jonathan Bodkin (Martins Ferry), Scott Hammond (Shadyside), Jake Karovic

(Steubenville Catholic Central), Austin Lawrence (Beaver Local), Darin Neff (Meadowbrook), Jacob Quinn (Meadowbrook), Jason Sims (Beaver Local), Mitchell Wells (Barnesville).

Here's a look at the players:

■ Beavers, Martins Ferry — This former Purple Rider was a two-way standout on the line for Coach Dave Bruney's squad.

The 6-2, 230 pounder lined up at guard and defensive end for the Riders and earned four letters. He was named a "Defensive Block of Granite."

See, CAMP,
Page B2

CAMP

Continued from page B1

Beaver, who plans to attend Belmont College, is the son of Jack and Penny Beavers.

■ Bloor, Wellsville — This former Tiger saw time at a number of positions. The 6-1, 260 pounder lined up at defensive end and tackle as well as offensive guard and tackle. Bloor was a first-team all-OVAC, all-Quad County performer. Seth, who plans to wrestle at Wheeling Jesuit, is the son of Shawn and Cassandra Bloor.

■ Bodkin, Martins Ferry — This former Purple Rider anchored the offensive line. The 5-7, 240 pounder also played at defensive tackle en route to all-OVAC and all Buckeye 8 honors. He plans to wrestle at West Liberty, and is the son of John and Shauna Bodkin.

■ Carroll, Indian Creek — This two-way performer was a three-year mainstay. The 6-1, 205 pounder lined up defensive end and guard en route to all-district and honorable mention all-state.

Luke, who is the son of Rick and Luanne Carroll, plans on attending Hocking College.

■ Hammond, Shadyside — This defensive end served as a menace to opposing offenses. The 6-1, 190 pounder recorded 13.5 sacks and 41 tackles for the Tigers last season en route to Eastern District Defensive Player of the Year, first-team all-OVAC, all-OVAC honors. The son of Kathy and Clyde Hammond, he plans on attending Belmont College.

■ Karovic, Steubenville-Catholic Central — This former Crusader was a mainstay at guard. The 6-1, 295 pounder let-

tered three time as a Crusader en route to being named a 'Block of Granite.' Karovic, who plans on attending Cincinnati, is the son of Ed and Heather Karovic.

■ Lawrence, Beaver Local — This former Beaver standout did it on both sides of the line. The 6-4, 255 pounder was named his team's offensive lineman of the year and all-OVAC. He is the son of John and Shana Lawrence.

■ Neff, Meadowbrook — This former Colt was an impressive two-way performer. The 6-5, 320 pounder was named all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-ECOL. Neff, who plans on attending Wheeling Jesuit, is the son of Jeffrey and Julie Neff.

■ Quinn, Meadowbrook — This former Colt shined at a number of spots during his career. The 6-4, 205 pounder saw time at receiver, tight end, strong safety and defensive end. He was an all-Eastern District performer. Along with football, Quinn was a standout in baseball. He plans on attending Bethany College.

■ Sims, Beaver Local — This two-way tackle was an impressive performer. The 6-1, 320 pounder lettered four times and was named all-OVAC as well as all-Quad County. The son of Tracy Sullivan, he plans on attending Alderson-Broadus.

■ Wells, Barnesville — This former Shamrock anchored the line. The 6-2, 270 pounder lined up at center during his prep career. Defensively, he finished with 48 tackles, including 20 solo. He was named all-Eastern District and received the senior team leadership award. Wells, who plans to attend Marietta College, is the son of Rich and Amy Wells.

SPORTS

Monday, July 20, 2015

OVAC stars report for camp

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

BETHANY — The countdown to the 70th annual Rudy Mumley Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All Star Football Game started Sunday morning when the players and coaches converged on the Bethany College campus for check-in day. The game will be played Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium. Kickoff is set for 7:15 p.m.

According to Game Director Bob Koch, so far, so good.

"It's looking really good this year. We've got a real good turnout," he said as the players went through the check-in procedures inside the Thomas Phillips Johnson Health and Recreation Center and then received

their room assignments. "Actually, on my side of things such as the kids getting their paperwork in and all the behind-the-scenes stuff went real well."

Koch said in 2014 there was a lot of change in the staff, but there is a lot of returnees this year that helped make it smoother.

"There's only been minimal change in the rosters since the coaches selected the players," Koch added. Ohio announced a player change as Bellaire standout Austin McConville was added to replace Indian Creek's Jordan Herald.

"It was a last-minute decision," Koch said of the Redskins' senior opting not to play. "He wanted to play, but he had a recent medical procedure that prevented him."

McConville led the Big Reds in tackles last season.

The final rosters will be released today during a noon press conference, also at Bethany College. Players were to receive pre-camp physicals Sunday and have their initial team meeting. Following dinner, both squads were to take part in their first practice of the week-long camp.

This summer will be Koch's 15th as game director, a job that is a year-round endeavor. He has seen it grow in a variety of different ways.

"A couple of the biggest changes are in the coaching staffs and technology available to the players and coaches," Koch explained. "The kids have the iPads, cellphones and all different kinds of social media available



RIVER'S COLTON Wright, left, and St. Clairsville's J.C. Coleman check in at Bethany College Sunday morning for the 70th annual Rudy Mumley Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Football Game.

See, OVAC, Page B2

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

now. Fifteen years ago when I took over as game director, you didn't even have a cellphone.

"The players were kind of isolated for a week."

The change in coaches brings a younger breed to the sidelines, Koch revealed.

"When I took over you had all the veteran coaches coaching the game every year," he said. "Now we have the younger guys coaching. It's just the change of generations."

He said he was able to work with different coaches and their staffs each year is one of the reasons he's been able to serve in his capacity for so long.

"Some of the coaches have been around for awhile, but the kids change each year," he said. "The kids only get once chance to play in this game."

There has been one constant, however.

"We have a pretty good

setup as far as distributing stuff, getting stuff out and getting stuff in," he explained. "That has all pretty much stayed the same."

Weather, sometimes, poses a problem, but Koch admitted he's only looked as far ahead as Tuesday.

"I just checked the radar, but I know how it changes. So I only look a couple of days in advance," he said. "It will be nice not to have rain for a couple of days."

The Ohio squad will be led by Beaver Local's Jeremy McElroy. Oak Glen's Ian Whittington will coach the W.Va. team.

There will be several activities throughout the week game-related, including the "George Strager Night with the Stars" on Thursday night and Friday night's Queen of Queens Pageant.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com.

OVAC

(Continued from Page 11)

first practice was going to be a light one on Sunday to go over the assignments for the players. He is also up for the challenge of trying to put together a team in a week.

"The fact that you have one week to put in special teams, offense defense and learn everything about these players, that's a challenging part of this game," Whittington said. "But it's also exciting. It's fun, you have to do everything on the fly. There's no time, you just got to get it in."

The week is most exciting for the athletes. They have the opportunity to strap on the pads to not only to represent their high school, but represent their home state. Some will strap on their pads one final time, as they will go to college and not continue playing football, while other players will be continuing their success in the sport they love.

"I love this opportunity to come back and meet new people," Henry Gompers of Wheeling Park said. "I played in the North-South

Game, so I'll be coming into this fresh off another game. I can't wait for this week."

Gompers will attend Ole Miss to study business.

"I feel really blessed," Zach Heasley of Paden City said. "That's because God gave me the talent to be able to play the game of football and I'm blessed to represent Paden City High School well in this game." Heasley will soon go off to West Virginia Wesleyan to continue playing on the gridiron.

The players are not the only ones that are going to be representing their state, but also the coaches as well.

"I'm here rocking all West Virginia stuff because it's all about representing your state, representing your high school," Whittington said. "But it's also about the experience of the OVAC All-Star Game. It's one of the biggest things the Ohio Valley does for football. It's an amazing experience. It's great for these kids and I want them to remember this for the rest of their lives."

GREIPEL TAKES STAGE 15

Andre Greipel gets third victory of Tour while Chris Froome still leads overall /12

The Intelligencer SPORTS

MONDAY
JULY 20, 2015

COMICS 14
BUSINESS 15
CLASSIFIEDS 16-20

11

OVAC All-Stars Check In

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

BETHANY — Sunday morning was the beginning of a week that some football players will never forget as they traveled up 88 to Bethany College. It was check-in day and the first day of camp leading up to the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game on Sunday, July 26.

As always, there's a lot of work that is involved with getting the game set up, but the hard work pays off because the players are so enthused to be there and the community has their

back.

"I've told the kids every year that we are very fortunate to be in the Ohio Valley because the people do support it," All-Star Game Director Bob Koch said. "When they sell the program ads, you look at the size of the football program. The support we get; we're televised on TV, the coverage we get in the newspaper. I said, 'There's very few places in this country, I think, that have such a backing as we do in the Valley.'"

The teams will have the whole week to practice and to get to know each other

before the big game. Sunday, for the most part, was for the players to get to know their teammates.

"It's exciting just to get to know them," Ohio head coach Jeremy McElroy said. "We've spoken to most of them, and met some of them before, but just to get to know a little more about them before we get started is really exciting."

With only a week to prepare for the game, McElroy feels like it is just the right amount of time.

"I think it makes it a challenge, but at the same time, we have a week and

you have a full week of football without too many distractions," McElroy said. "We have a lot of time to teach and learn. It's not like we're working with guys who haven't played before. They have some knowledge and background. We're trying to see what they do best and emphasize that."

On the West Virginia side, Head Coach Ian Whittington and his staff are ready as well. Like Ohio, the first day was all about meeting and learning about the players and coaches. Whittington also said the



Wheeling Park's Henry Gompers gets his West Virginia All-Star jersey during check ins.

Please See OVAC
Page 13

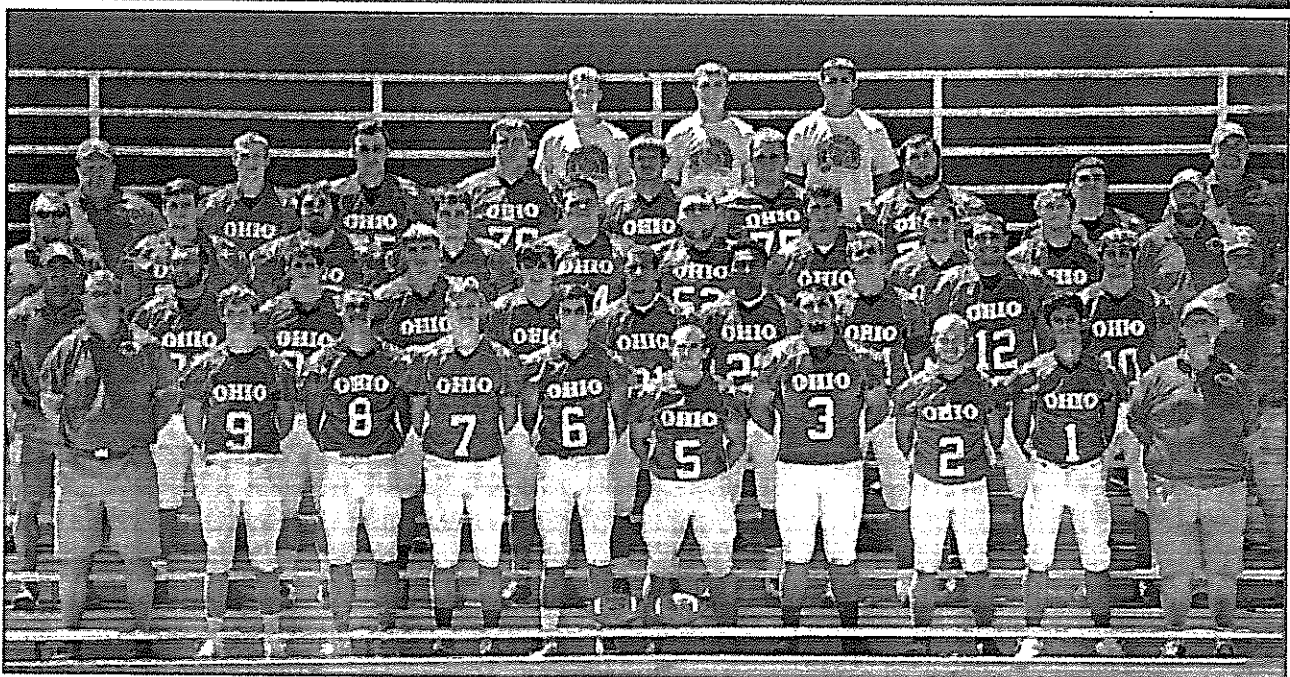


*The 70th
Rudy
Mumley*

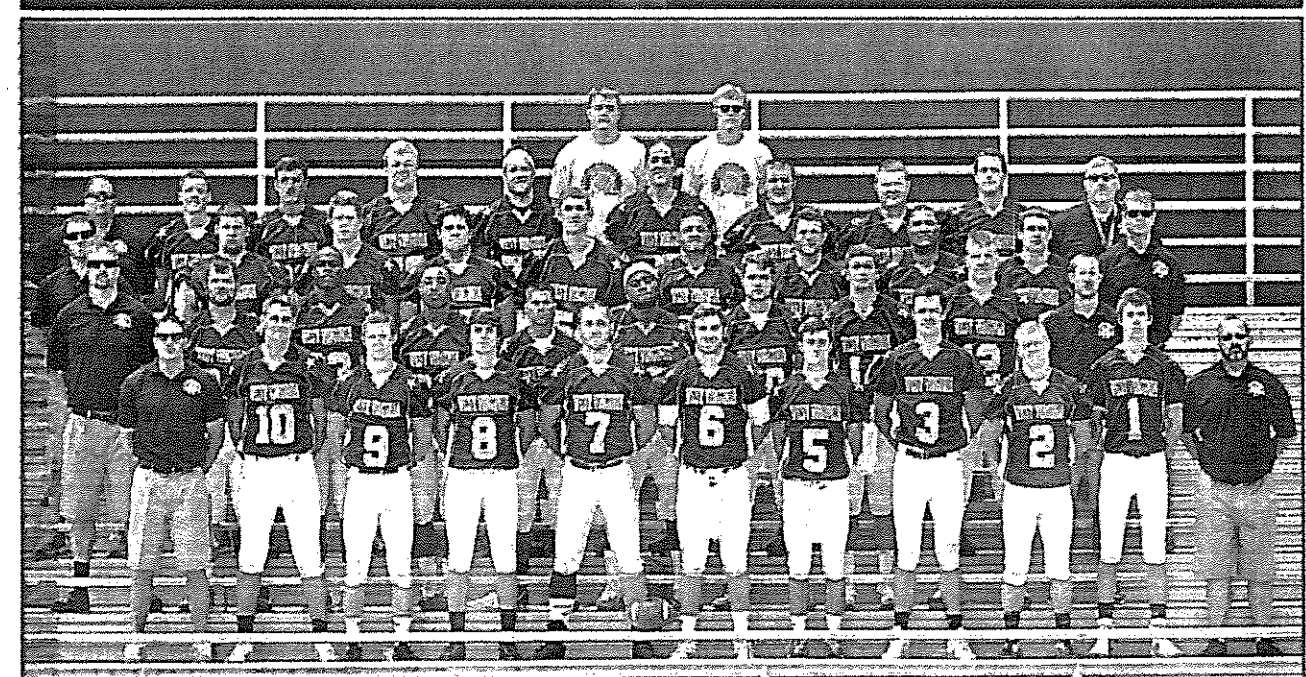
OVAC ALL-STAR CHARITY FOOTBALL CLASSIC

TONIGHT • WHEELING ISLAND STADIUM • KICK-OFF 7:15PM

OHIO ALL-STARS

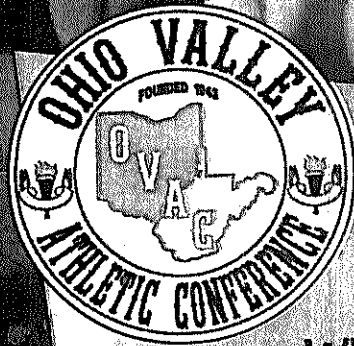
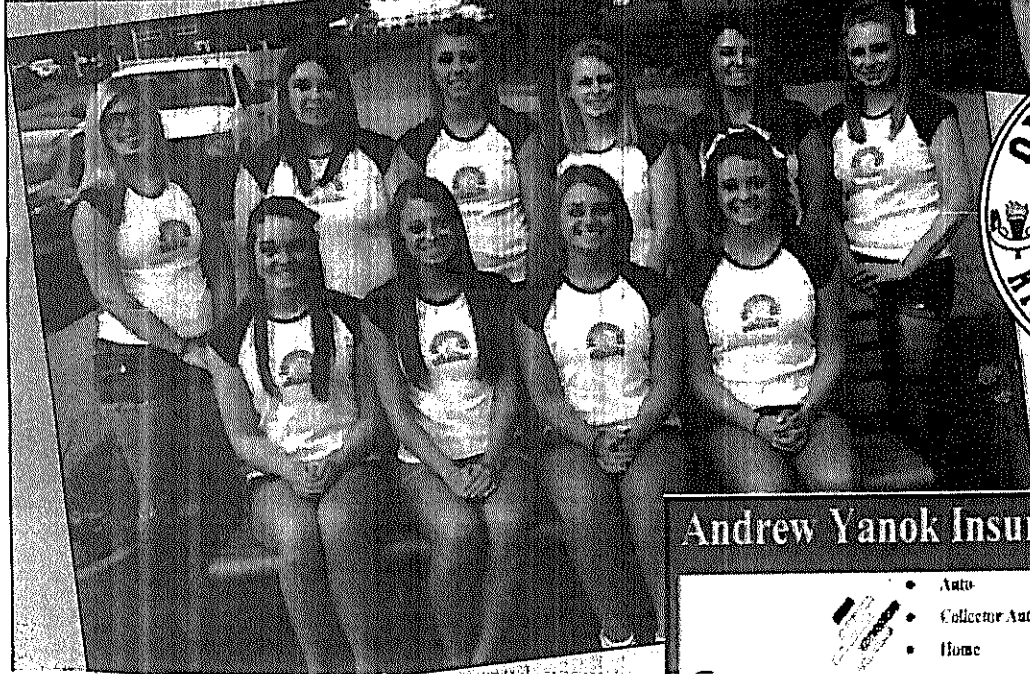
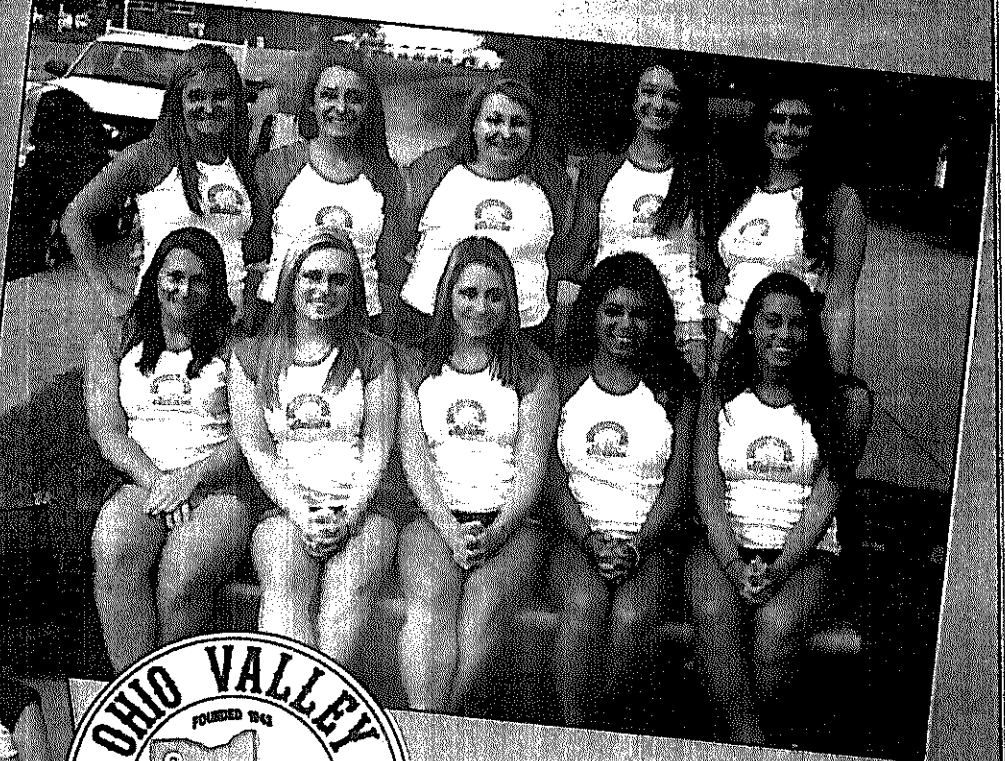


WEST VIRGINIA ALL-STARS



Congratulations & Good Luck Teams, Band Members & Cheerleaders

GOOD LUCK OVAC McDONALD'S ALL-STAR BAND & CHEERLEADERS!!!



**RUDY MUMLEY OVAC
ALL-STAR FOOTBALL
CHARITY CLASSIC
WHEELING ISLAND STADIUM
SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2015 • 7:15 p.m.**

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FOOT & ANKLE CENTER**



Specializing in all types of foot and ankle conditions and surgeries, diabetic foot care, sports injuries

Patience pays for Bellaire's McConville

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — Like most football players in the Ohio Valley, Austin McConville grew up dreaming of playing in the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game.

Unfortunately, late in the spring a letter notifying the recent Bellaire graduate that he'd been chosen for Team Ohio never arrived.

Though disappointed after he put forth an impressive senior season in which he set two

Bellaire school records and eventually earned All-Ohio accolades, McConville didn't pout or take to social media to rip the process or whine.

He simply took it like a man.

The adage that good things do come to those who wait paid off again.

Just 18 hours before the teams reported to camp, McConville got a call from Ohio head coach Jeremy McElroy inviting him to play in this weekend's affair.

McConville didn't hesitate



McConville

when McElroy asked if he wanted to play.

"Yeah, I want to play," McConville said. "I was disappointed a little bit when I didn't get picked originally, but I'm pumped and excited to be here and can't wait for Sunday to get to play."

Though McConville was a bit surprised when he received McElroy's call, he did have a

brief heads up. Hunter Westlake, who is a member of the Buckeye squad, texted McConville.

"Hunter told me that Coach McElroy called him and asked him for my number," McConville said.

After getting the call, McConville and his family had to turn the process that many players have all spring and summer to prepare over in just a few hours.

McConville called Bellaire

See, **McConville**, Page B2

● **McConville**

Continued from Page B1

coach Steve Andres, who got him his equipment. Then came packing, getting stuff for camp into the dorm that included a quick trip to the store before it was off to Bethany College early Sunday morning.

"My family and I were all caught off guard by (the call from Coach McElroy)," McConville said. "But, I am just happy to be here."

Through each drill thus far in camp, McConville has used being left off the original roster as motivation to show that he belongs.

"It definitely makes me feel like an underdog and like I have to earn my spot here," McConville said.

The toughest part for McConville was working back into football shape. Since he didn't expect to be playing and isn't planning on playing collegiately, he hadn't worked out much since his wrestling cam-

paign ended in late February.

"I was a little out of shape, so the first few practices were rough," McConville admitted. "I didn't get a lot of time to prepare for this week, but with each time we're on the field, I am getting more and more used to it."

During the course of the season, McConville was a tackling machine for the Big Reds. Playing at his linebacker spot, McConville recorded 108.5 tackles, including a school-record 99 solo stops. He amassed that total in just nine games, because he missed the Week-2 encounter with John Marshall.

In a Week-3 loss at Shadyside, McConville had more than 20 tackles.

"I expected a lot of out of myself," McConville said. "I was maybe a little bit surprised with how well I played, but I expected to have a good season."

70th A Linemen Have A History

Teammates Bloor,
Bodkin were rivals
and will be again

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

BETHANY — From rivals
to teammates to rivals again.

Martins Ferry's Jonathan
Bodkin and Wellsville's Seth
Bloor were two of Ohio's top
Division III high school heavy-
weight wrestlers last winter.



BODKIN



BLOOR

This week
they will team
up to lead the
Buckeyes in the
trenches when
the 70th annual
Rudy Mumley
Ohio Valley
Athletic Confer-
ence All-Star
Football Game
kicks off at
Wheeling Is-
land Stadium on
Sunday night

However,
they will again
go into rival
mode when col-
lege starts in
the fall. Bodkin
(5-foot-7, 240

pounds) will continue his athlet-
ic and academic careers at West
Liberty University, while Bloor
(6-1, 260) has enrolled down
the road at Wheeling Jesuit Uni-
versity

While both will continue to
wrestle at the collegiate level,
their mindset is strictly on foot-
ball this week.

"I think it will be fun to play

Please See HISTORY, Page 17

Game Patience Proves A Virtue

McConville wants
to take best shot

By SETH STASKEY
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Please See VIRTUE, Page 17

HISTORY

(Continued from Page 15)

with him on the line,"
Bloor admitted. "I don't
dislike the guy. It was just
a couple of wrestling
matches. I did what I had
to do to win and he did
the same. Now we're on
the same team with the
same mission."

"I think it will be a
great experience playing
with him," Bodkin, the
former Purple Riders cen-
ter, said. "We haven't
even talked about those
matches. All three
(matches) were wars,
though. All three of them
could've went either
way."

The duo hooked in a
trio of matches that went
right down to the final
buzzer, and then some,
with Bloor coming out on
top each time in sudden
death. The former Tigers
standout prevailed in the
Ron Mauck OVAC 285-
pound championship
bout, the Pepsi-Ohio
Coatings Panther Classic
finals at Buckeye Local,
and the state semifinals in
Columbus.

"I have a lot of respect
for Jonathan when it
comes to wrestling,"

Bloor said during media
day Monday afternoon at
Bethany College, where
the Ohio and West Vir-
ginia teams will practice
for Sunday's contest,
which begins at 7:15 p.m.
"He's good at what he
does. He's hard to score
on and makes the match
his match."

The two have known
each other since junior
high school when they
competed in the OVAC
Tournament. However,
they didn't cross paths in
high school until their
senior seasons.

"We all bond together
as offensive linemen,"
Bodkin noted. "We all
(kid) each other, but we
all get a long."

Both players think the
trenches will be where the
game is won.

"The game is won up
front and we've got a
pretty good-sized group
of guys," Bodkin added.

"If we don't make
holes the running backs
have nowhere to go,"
Bloor said.

"We also have to give
our quarterback time to
pass."

VIRTUE

(Continued from Page 15)

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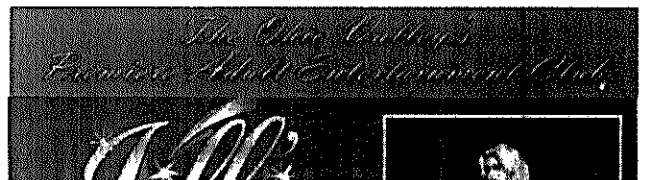
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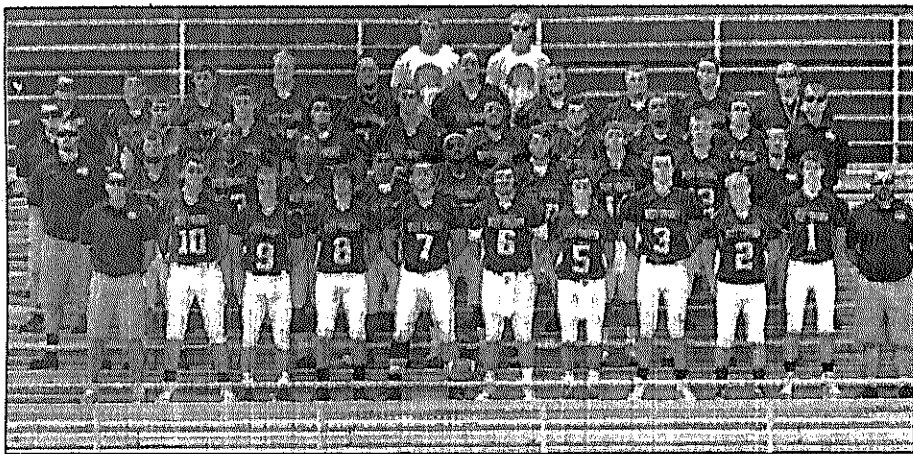


Photo by Kyle Lutz

Members of Team West Virginia pose for a picture during camp at Bethany this week in preparation for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

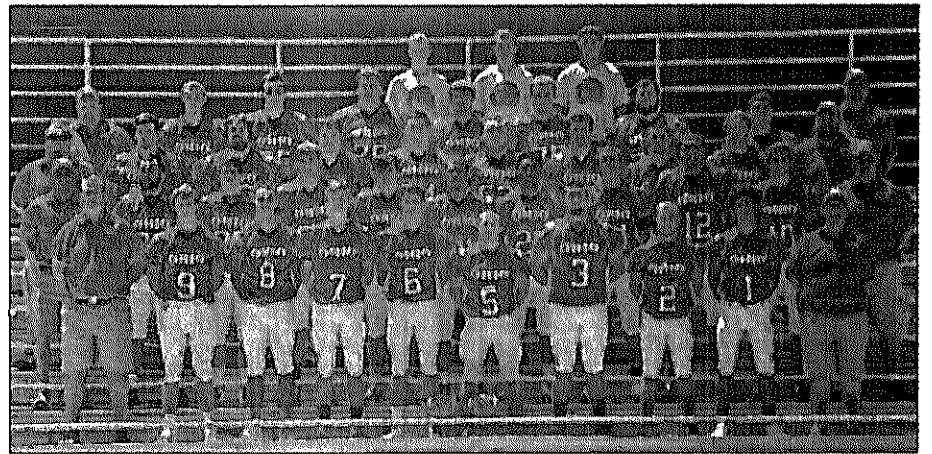


Photo by Seth Staskey

Members of Team Ohio pose for a picture during camp at Bethany this week in preparation for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

King Football Ready to Reclaim Throne

70th annual OVAC game will feature best from Ohio, W. Va.

By KYLE LUTZ
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The day is finally here. After spending a week at Bethany College with multiple practices each day, the players will make their way to Wheeling Island Stadium to compete in the 70th Annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game tonight, with a kickoff time of 7:15 p.m.

"First of all, you hear about 70 years. The game has been going on and what an amazing thing," Ohio head coach Jeremy McElroy said. "And all the people. You hear about past games and past experiences with people playing in it. They still talk about it today, maybe from 50 years ago. It just shows you how important it is and really humbling to see the people that been there before you. You look at the list of the people that played and coached. It's just a special thing with the history of football in this area."

McElroy, who coaches at Beaver Local, is the first Beavers coach to coach in the all-star game. Under his watch, the Beavers run a no-huddle offense that the

Ohio offense will be using.

"We're going to do that here," McElroy said. "It kind of changes because it will adapt to our players. Here, instead of a few feature athletes that we're going to give the ball in space, we probably have 15 guys that we would love to get the ball to and make plays for us."

"We'll use some different things, but our base package and working off what they know and what they do best."

West Virginia will be ready to see what the Ohio offense has, as head coach Ian Whittington, who is the coach at Oak Glen, is going to try and force the pass.

"Defensively, we are going to run a 4-4," Whittington said. "Like I said, we are

going to try to stop the run and make them throw the ball."

West Virginia figures to have a strong offense.

"We have very balanced attack," Whittington said. "We have two monster tailbacks. We're going to get them the ball and we also have some speed out at wideout and some big wideouts, too. We're going to be balanced. I don't see a one-tilt show here. We're going to be throwing the ball and running the ball too."

With the much praise that Whittington has given his offense, Ohio must show

See, King, Page B2

Officials Honored To Work All-Star Game

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

WHEELING — The players, queens and band members aren't the only ones who are 'honored' to take part in the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game each year.

For the seven men, who will take the field shortly before kickoff wearing the black and white stripped shirts, the honor certainly resonates with them, too.

The officiating crew, which will work tonight's game, was put together by OVAC Football Commissioner Dave Clutter and represents all points of the OVAC's expanding landscape.

Bob Mills, who has been a registered official in both Ohio and West Virginia for 22 years, will serve as the referee. A resident of Belmont, he works on the Ohio Valley Board out of Wheeling.

For Mills, this marks his second all-star assignment, but his first time as a 'white cap.' Tonight will be the first time in more than a decade that he's been chosen for the game.

"It's definitely an honor to be chosen," Mills said. "Working in the all-star game is a good way to get yourself into football mode (as an official). After taking the

See, Officials, Page B2



Ohio Picks Foursome Of Speaking Captains

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

BETHANY — Being named to the OVAC All-Star Game roster — in either state — is an honor.

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FAMILY TIES

Of the 66 players in camp this week, 13 had a chance to lean on at least one person for advice of what to expect because of having past family members play in the game.

Martins Ferry's Jack Fitch, Bellaire's Hunter Westlake and River's Colton Wright have all heard plenty of stories about the all-star game over the years. Their fathers played in the game in back-to-back-to-back summers.

See, Ohio, Page B2

WHAT

OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME

WHEN

7:15 TONIGHT

WHERE

WHEELING ISLAND STADIUM

OFFICIALS

Continued from page B1

Morgantown, will serve as the side judge. "I'll be meeting a lot of these guys for the first time (this) afternoon, but if they're chosen for this game, they can officiate," Mills said.

The crew will meet at WesBanco Arena in downtown Wheeling this afternoon to go over mechanics, duties and have its pregame conference.

"We'll talk about positions, what's expected and what they're supposed to do," Mills said.

Mills, who has worked postseason games in both states, will stress to his crew that the game is about the kids.

"It can be a challenge sometimes to make sure the kids play a good, clean game," Mills admitted. "Sometimes all-star games can be difficult in that manner."

Along with the actual crew that will suit up tonight, Bloomingdale's Jim Kuczynski will be recognized as the honorary official.

OHIO

Continued from page B1

Chuckwu competing in a push-up contest against West Virginia University football staff member Quincy Wilson.

Wilson — a 1999 Weir High graduate and former OVAC All-Star — was a guest speaker at Bethany College during the ice cream social that both teams attended.

Chuckwu appeared to win the contest, but no official results were released.

The Linsly School graduate will ride a bus back to New Jersey on Monday morning, gather up some of his belongings and then depart for Athens, Ohio, where he'll be a walk-on candidate at Ohio University.

Dirk Fitch represented Bellaire in the 1979 contest. Paul Westlake represented St. John Central in the 1980 game and Donnie Wright represented River in the 1981

In the not-so-distant past, Martins Ferry's Cody Beavers, Steubenville's Lucas Herrington, Steady-ak's Scott Hammond and Wright all ventured to Wheeling Island Stadium to watch their older brothers play in the game, too.

PUZZLE TIPS

A video made its way onto Twitter on Thursday showing Linsly's Chuckwu

KING

Continued from page B1

in recent years, West Virginia has held most of the bragging rights by winning three of the last five.

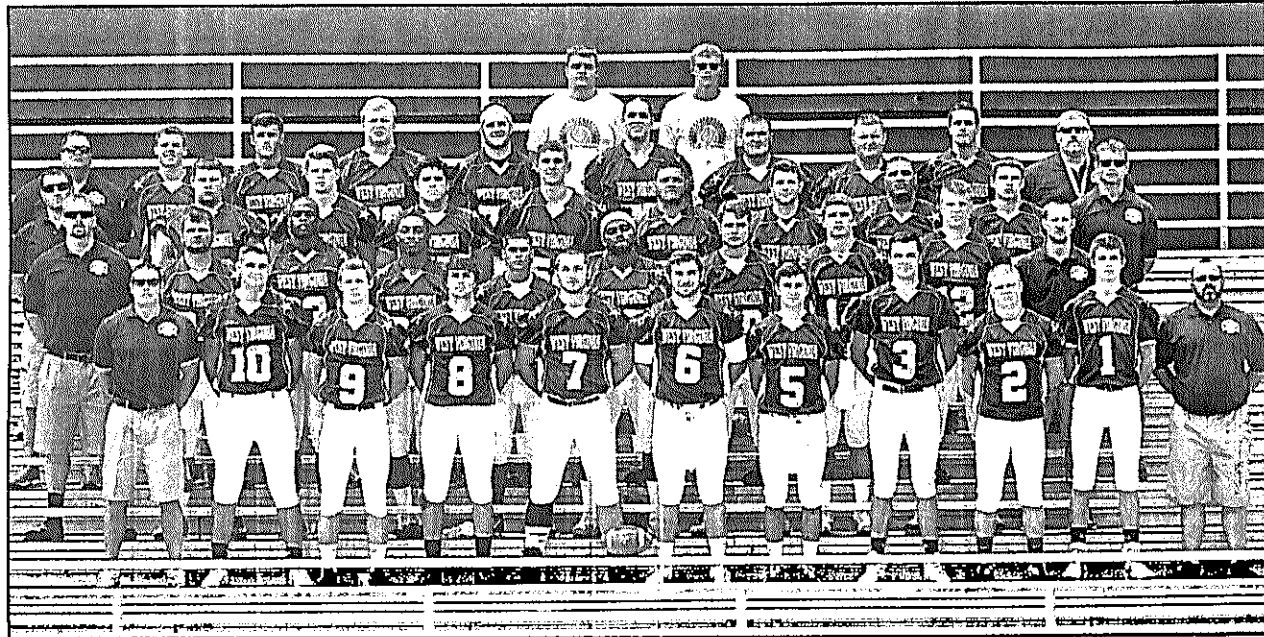
Ohio won last year's game in a 27-26 nailbiter.

"I think we just have to let the game be played," Whittington said. "If our athletes come to play, it will be hard to be stopped. There's a lot of them and they're all working together right now. They're all feeling it and they're all working like brothers. As long as we come out and come ready to play, we'll be all right."

its toughness on defense to stop the speed and power. The Buckeyes will be running a multiple-front defense.

"I think we have some great players on the edge," McElroy said. "Our linebackers are real strong. You got some leaders there. Again, the secondary players, I'm excited to see what they can do in the game."

Ohio has a huge edge in the all-time series. The Buckeye State holds a 43-25-1 advantage on the Mountain State. In the past 20 years, Ohio has won 16 games, but



PICTURED IS the 2015 West Virginia All-Star Team. The team consists of Jesse Padlow, Jace Neville, Josh Miller, Micah Swiger, Aaron Walker, William Larch, Zak Kriechbaum, Brendan Schwendeman, Trevor Boot, Zach Heasley, Garrett Cain, Austin Connell, Chimechi Oparanozie, JoJo Rice, Zahir Hicks, Chukwudi Chukwu, Jacoby Steele, Derek Martin, Theo Blackston, Colby Shriver, Peyton Palmer, Scott Kubancik, Noah Mills, Dylan Anderson, Nick Anderson, Henry Gompers, Peter Hartzell, Dane Mills, Elliott O'Brien, Chase Padlow, Cody Rine, Alex Whorton and Micah Boles. The coaches include head coach Ian Whittington and assistant coaches Ted Arneault, Johnny Bonar, Frank Crain, Michael Demster, Chris Hill, Tim Ickes and Nathan Perry. The managers are Devon Crain and Noah Flowers.

OVAC All-Star Game History

2015 - ?????????	1976 - West Virginia 33, Ohio 20
2014 - Ohio 27, West Virginia 25	1975 - West Virginia 6, Ohio 0
2013 - West Virginia 28, Ohio 19	1974 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 6
2012 - Ohio 33, West Virginia 14	1973 - West Virginia 38, Ohio 20
2011 - West Virginia 24, Ohio 3	1972 - Ohio 24, West Virginia 6
2010 - West Virginia 24, Ohio 14	1971 - No Game
2009 - Ohio 47, West Virginia 7	1970 - No Game
2008 - Ohio 31, West Virginia 7	1969 - West Virginia 12, Ohio 0
2007 - Ohio 6, West Virginia 3	1968 - Ohio 6, West Virginia 0
2006 - Ohio 22, West Virginia 0	1967 - West Virginia 18, Ohio 0
2005 - Ohio 35, West Virginia 6	1966 - West Virginia 0, Ohio 0
2004 - West Virginia 21, Ohio 7	1965 - Ohio 22, West Virginia 0
2003 - Ohio 32, West Virginia 26	1964 - Ohio 2, West Virginia 0
2002 - Ohio 19, West Virginia 12	1963 - No Game
2001 - Ohio 36, West Virginia 0	1962 - West Virginia 12, Ohio 6
2000 - Ohio 13, West Virginia 0	1961 - Ohio 13, West Virginia 0
1999 - Ohio 32, West Virginia 0	1960 - Ohio 7, West Virginia 6
1998 - Ohio 41, West Virginia 14	1959 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 6
1997 - Ohio 24, West Virginia 14	1958 - Ohio 25, West Virginia 0
1996 - Ohio 43, West Virginia 11	1957 - Ohio 14, West Virginia 13
1995 - Ohio 21, West Virginia 0	1956 - Ohio 27, West Virginia 0
1994 - West Virginia 19, Ohio 14	1955 - Ohio 31, West Virginia 20
1993 - West Virginia 34, Ohio 32	1954 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
1992 - 0-0, Wash. Out	1953 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
1991 - Ohio 30, West Virginia 6	1952 - Ohio 26, West Virginia 19
1990 - Ohio 42, West Virginia 0	1951 - Ohio 13, West Virginia 6
1989 - West Virginia 22, Ohio 14	1950 - Ohio 14, West Virginia 0
1988 - Ohio 13, West Virginia 7	1949 - West Virginia 8, Ohio 0
1987 - Ohio 13, West Virginia 11	1948 - Ohio 20, West Virginia 7
1986 - Ohio 14, West Virginia 6	1947 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 7
1985 - West Virginia 28, Ohio 26	1946 - Ohio 26, West Virginia 7
1984 - Ohio 23, West Virginia 6	1945 - No Game
1983 - Ohio 26, West Virginia 16	1944 - No Game
1982 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 6	1943 - No Game
1981 - Ohio 17, West Virginia 14	1942 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
1980 - Ohio 10, West Virginia 7	1941 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
1979 - Ohio 47, West Virginia 13	1940 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 7
1978 - Ohio 21, West Virginia 13	All-Time Series: Ohio leads, 43-25-1.
1977 - West Virginia 21, Ohio 0	

70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game Notebook
Ohio captains ready to lead

By **SETH STASKEY**
 Times Leader Sports Editor



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PUSH UPS
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The Linsly School graduate will ride a bus back to New Jersey Monday morning, gather up some of his belongings and then depart for Athens, Ohio where he'll be a walk-on candidate at Ohio University.

LEADING THE CHEERS

The Ohio cheerleading squad includes: Maddie Billick (Indian Creek), Samantha Collins (St. Clairsville), Abbie Earliwine (St. Clairsville), Krissy Hotlosz (Martins Ferry), Makayla Jamison (Martins Ferry), Megan Moodispaw (Shadyside), Abby Nelson (Bridgeport), Alyssa Potenzini (Steubenville), Madison Stillwell (St. John) and Ashlee Taylor (Steubenville).

Game is an honor for officials, too

By **SETH STASKEY**
 Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING - The players, queens and band members aren't the only ones who are 'honored' to take part in the annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game each year.

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For Mills, this marks his second all-star assignment, but his first time as a 'white cap.' Tonight will be the first time in more than a decade that he's been chosen for the game.

"It's definitely an honor to be chosen," Mills said. "Working in the all-star

game is a good way to get yourself into football mode (as an official). After taking the winter, spring and summer off, this game really gets you going."

Unlike regular season games in the OVAC, the Mumley Game utilizes a seven-man officiating crew. Regular season games use five-man crews.

"The biggest challenge in this game is going to a college mechanic rather than the high-school mechanic with five man crews," Mills continued.

Mills will be joined by back judge Mike Reese, who is a member of Mills' crew during the season. The umpire will be Bill Kuhn, who will represent the West Virginia-Ohio Board in Weirton.

The linesman is Greg Hall from the Columbiana

County Board. The line judge is Robin Reed, who works on the Parkersburg Ohio-West Virginia Board; John Murray - from the West Virginia-Ohio Board in Weirton - will serve as the field judge and David Hulme, who works on the Mason-Dixon Board in Morgantown, will serve as the side judge.

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"We'll talk about positions, what's expected and what they're supposed to do," Mills said.

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 St. Clairsville Sunrise Rotary
 Saturday, August 8, 2015 - 8:00 a.m.
 5K Run/Walk through the streets of St. Clairsville and the National Road Bikeway.
 New course for 2015, starting behind the Belmont County Courthouse and finishing at the St. Clairsville Amphitheater!
 Registration and post-race events at the St. Clairsville Amphitheater
 "Do It For The Kids!" and honor the memory of Sam Mumley, a longtime Rotarian, accomplished educator and supporter of all.
 Post-race refreshments, door prizes and entertainment!
 Overall and age group awards in all divisions
 Dri-fit shirts for all participants Timing by RS Racing Systems

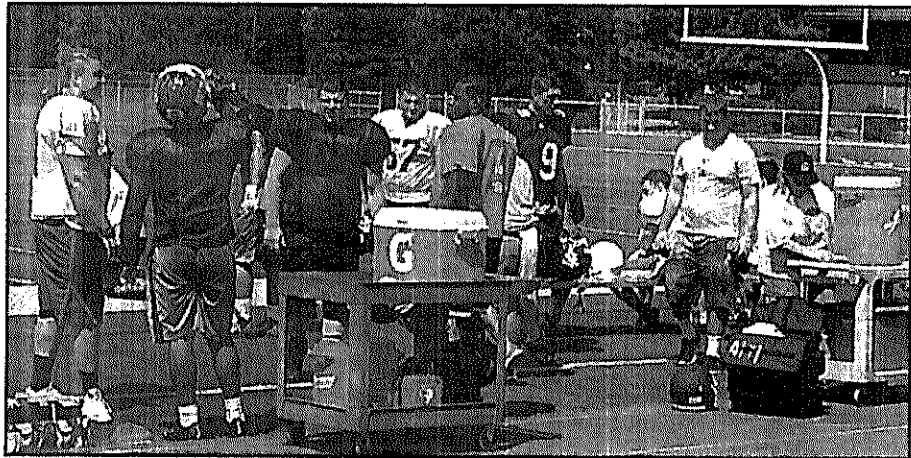
For comments regarding local sports stories, or ideas for future stories, please e-mail jharrison@daily-jeff.com

SPO



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The local area will be well-represented on the Ohio squad in the 70th Annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game slated Sunday at 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium. Players from the area include, front row l to r, Riley Hayhurst, Errik Snell and Moe Lathan of Cambridge and Mitchell Wells of Barnesville; back row, Darin Neff, Dylan Wood and Jacob Quinn of Meadowbrook and Dillon Pointer of Buckeye Trail.



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

The West Virginia squad takes a much-deserved water break during a muggy Monday morning practice session on the turf at Bethany College.



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

Mugging for the camera during Media Day activities on the campus of Bethany College as the countdown begins for the 70th Annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game is Cambridge High's Moe Lathan. Lathan and the rest of the Buckeyes will square off against their West Virginia counterparts Sunday at 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

OVAC All-Stars getting ready for Sunday's game

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

BETHANY, WV — The meet-and-greet pleasantries have been exchanged; the uniforms were handed out and the photographs and other media-related activities are in the rear-view mirror.

get ready for the mid-summer classic which signals the return of football to the Ohio Valley.

In addition to Monday's Media Day event at Bison Field, the teams will be treated to several event-related activities throughout the week.

Tonight's event

Tickets are on sale at The Jeffersonian

Tickets for the 70th Annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game will be on sale Tuesday through Friday until 5 p.m. each day at The Daily Jeffersonian office at 831 Wheeling Ave. in Cambridge. Advance

OVAC camp begins

OVAC from page B-1

"The kids are honored and excited about being a part of this game and they couldn't wait to get here," he said. "It's also very humbling for our staff to be selected to be a part of this."

The local area is well-represented this year with no less than eight players from *The Daily Jeffersonian* coverage area on the Ohio roster.

That includes the Cambridge trio of Errik Snell, Moe Lathan and Riley Hayhurst and the Meadowbrook trio of Dylan Wood, Jacob Quinn and Darin Neff.



All six of these guys are headed off to college, with Hayhurst going to Denison University (football), Snell to Tiffin University (track), Wood to the University of Mount Union (football), Quinn to Bethany College (football); Neff to Wheeling Jesuit University (track) and Lathan to The Ohio State University.

Also on the Buckeye team are linemen Mitchell Wells of Barnesville, who is headed for Marietta College (football), and Dillon Pointer of Buckeye Trail.

For all of the players, it's a chance to represent their high school one final time.

"It's cool to be playing with guys you've played against and to have some new teammates and a new coaching staff," said Cambridge's Snell. "It's fun to have my teammates (Lathan and Hayhurst) here with me, too."

"Hopefully I'll get to play both ways and get to return some kicks, too," the speedy Snell added. "I can't wait (for Sunday)!"

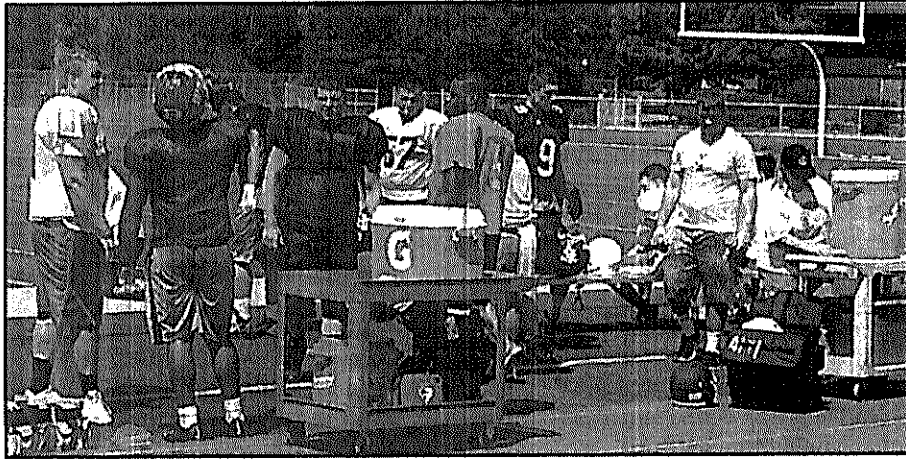
Meadowbrook's Wood, who noted that in his first college game he'll be on the opposite sideline from his Colt teammate Quinn when Mount Union plays Bethany in the season opener, echoed Snell's sentiments and also said it'll be a nice twist to suit up with, instead of against, the guys from Cambridge.

"I've known them for a long time and it's nice to be on the same side," he said. "It's really great to be representing Meadowbrook and Ohio in this game."



Jeff Harrison/The Daily Jeffersonian

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BETHANY, WV — The meet-and-greet pleasantries have been exchanged; the uniforms were handed out and the photographs and other media-related activities are in the rear-view mirror.

Now, it's time to get ready, as they say, for some football!

More than 60 of the area's finest football players have assembled on the campus of Bethany College and will spend the remainder of the week getting ready for the 70th Annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game which kicks off Sunday at 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Under the guidance of Beaver Local's Jeremy McElroy and Oak Glen's Ian Whittington and their coaching staffs, the Ohio and West Virginia gridders will have two practices a day through Friday and one more on Saturday to

get ready for the mid-summer classic which signals the return of football to the Ohio Valley.

In addition to Monday's Media Day event at Bison Field, the teams will be treated to several event-related activities throughout the week.

Tonight's event is the Osiris Shrine Theater film and pizza; the George Strager Evening with the Stars banquet is slated for Wednesday at Wheeling Park's White Palace; an Ice Cream Social is on tap for Thursday; the Queen of Queens competition takes place at the Capitol Theater in downtown Wheeling on Friday; and the yearly pre-game Pep Rally is set for Bethany's Bison Field on Saturday.

The 160-member OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band will descend on the Bethany campus on Wednesday and the Ohio and West Virginia All-Star Cheer Squads will arrive on Thursday.

While it's still early, Coach McElroy likes what he sees from his Buckeye squad.

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Tickets for the 70th Annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game will be on sale Tuesday through Friday until 5 p.m. each day at The Daily Jeffersonian office at 831 Wheeling Ave. in Cambridge. Advance tickets are \$7 and all tickets at the game are \$10.

"We're still getting a feel for the guys," he said, "and nothing is set in stone this early. We've got a lot of versatility, and we want them to be ready to play both sides of the ball because you're limited with only 32 guys."

"We're not going to change how they play their position," McElroy continued. "We just want to put them in the right spots to utilize their skills and make plays."

The biggest thing is getting them to communicate with one-another."

The Beaver Local coach said his players are already chomping at the bit for Sunday's game.

See OVAC page B-3

SPORTS

Fitch set to lead Ohio's OVAC all-star squad

Purple Riders' standout will lean on years of experience

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

BETHANY — Martins Ferry's Jack Fitch has become a point of reference for many in OVAC All-Star Game camp this week at Bethany College.

Actually, outside of game director Bob Koch and other OVAC officials, there's probably no better person for the players — and coaches — to turn to with their questions.

You see, Fitch is a veteran of all-star camp.

"I've had one 10-year reunion already, and I think I'm on six or so for my other time," Fitch said.

Actually, he's just three years removed from his last all-star camp, but after so many times they start to run together.

Fitch has become a veteran of OVAC camps through his father, Dirk. The Martins Ferry Superintendent has been on the coaching staff for the game many times and twice (2003 and 2011) took his son with him to serve as a manager for Team Ohio.

"Being here now three times makes it a lot easier," the younger Fitch said. "I've been through the practices and know how things go, so it's definitely been easier in that regard."

Fitch, who is headed to Wheeling Jesuit University to run track, learned from his past ventures that there has to be a balancing act of making sure the work gets done and the experience remains positive in terms of making new friendships and soaking up everything the game has to offer.

"You need to make sure you get your rest and spend your own time preparing, but you also have to have fun every once in a while," Fitch said.

Many of his Ohio teammates didn't realize Fitch's connections to the game until this week.

"A few asked me if I knew

See, FITCH,
Page B2

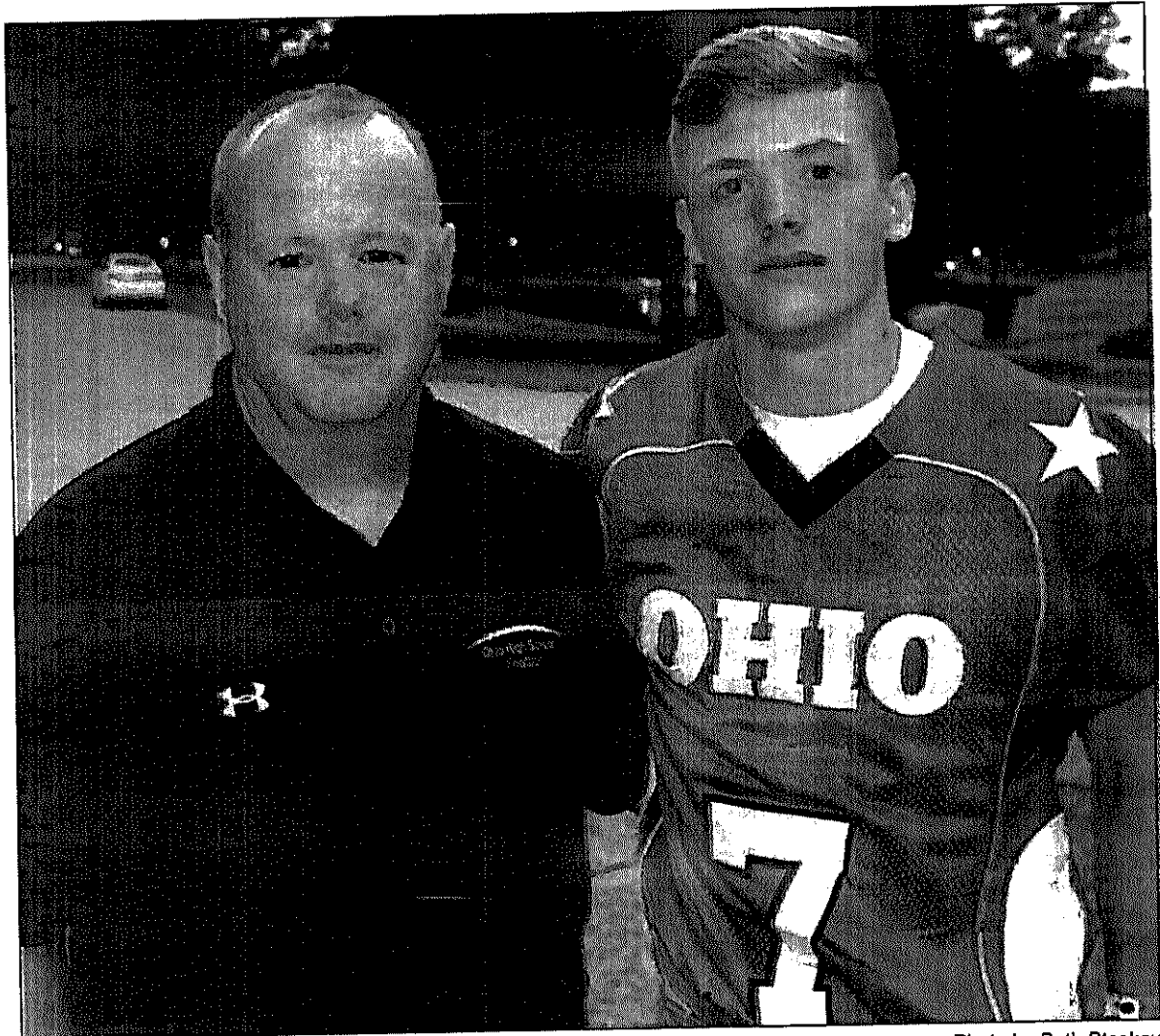


Photo by Seth Staskey

MARTINS FERRY'S Jack Fitch is preparing for his third venture into the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game. He was a manager for Team Ohio in 2003 and 2011. He's pictured with his father, Dirk, who played in the game in 1979 and has coached in the game multiple times, too.

This time, Kriechbaum not rooting for Ohio

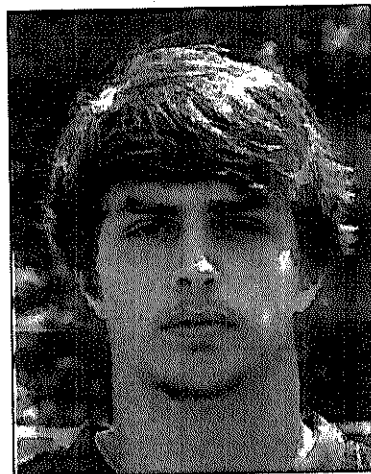
By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Writer

BETHANY — Zac Kriechbaum is one of those rare players who resides in one state, but attended high school in another state. The Linsly School graduate resides in Barnesville.

So, does he have mixed emotions about playing in the 70th annual Rudy Mumley Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Football Game Sunday night inside Wheeling Island Stadium?

"I grew up cheering for Ohio in every game. I'd sit on the Ohio side because I always thought I would go to school in Ohio, but now that I'm on the team for West Virginia, it's a little different," the 5-10, 180-pounder said. "I'm definitely rooting for West Virginia this year, however."

Kriechbaum went to Barnesville schools until seventh grade before



KRIECHBAUM

crossing over the Ohio River into Ohio County for the next five years. He was teammates with Mitchell Wells during his younger days in Barnesville. Wells is a member of the Ohio squad.

"I grew up with him a little bit," Kriechbaum of Wells.

Kriechbaum said growing up e always dreamed of playing under the lights on Friday nights, but when he went to Linsly, most of the Cadets contests were on Saturday afternoons.

"It was different, I just enjoy playing the game of football, so it really didn't matter to me which day we played on," he noted.

As a freshman at Linsly, the Cadets went 10-0, something Kriechbaum won't soon forget.

"Those guys were my idols," he said. "They are who I strived to be every day."

Come Sunday night, Kriechbaum, who will attempt to walk-on at Ohio University as a placekicker, could be found anywhere on the field. He is listed as a

See, KRIECHBAUM,
Page B2

Fitch

Continued from Page B1

anything about this, and I was like, 'yeah, I've done this two times,' " Fitch said. "They looked at me like, 'What?' So, I explained that I'd been a manager twice and really know how all of this stuff works."

While many of the Ohio players have had to adjust to the amount of conditioning done this week, once again, Fitch knew what was ahead.

"It all comes down to conditioning because with just a week, you don't have time to put in a bunch of plays and stuff," Fitch said. "You have to do a couple of plays and just work from that."

Before he left for camp, Dirk drove home a point with his son.

"He said make sure you put yourself in (to the drills and practices) because you only have a limited time," Fitch said. "Be prepared for all practices, figure things out quickly because the quicker you figure things out, the better chance you'll have to be good at it."

Obviously, the Purple Riders staff that Fitch served as a manager under isn't guiding the Buckeye State this week, but the similarities are there. Actually, this is the first time Fitch has prepared for a football game without being under the microscope of his dad.

"It's different, but it's also a little bit relaxing," Fitch admitted. "I always knew that if I screwed up something I'd hear about it at home. If I screw up something (on Sunday), I'll still hear about it, but it'll be after the game."

Fitch had an impressive prep career for Coach Dave Bruney's Riders. He shined at wide receiver and in the secondary, earning first team All-Ohio punter as a senior.

Earning an invitation to the OVAC Game was a "pretty big" goal for Fitch, who's heard stories of his dad's 1979 game and witnessed the meaning of the game through his two prior trips as a manager.

"To represent Ohio and Martins Ferry is a big accomplishment and honor," Fitch said. "I played against a lot of these people, so it's fun to play with them and get to know them now."

Kriechbaum

Continued from Page B1

wide receiver, defensive back, kicker and punter.

He is following in the footsteps of his cousin, Linsly alum Jameson Murray, who played in the game last year for West Virginia.

Kriechbaum was a four-year letterman for head coach B.J. Depew. He was voted varsity captain and MVP his senior season. For his career he logged 136 tackles and picked off 14 passes. He also totaled 1,135 career receiving yards and was perfect on all seven field goal attempts.

GAME NOTES

■ To help commemorate the 70th annual game, the OVAC will be handing out free rally towels to the first 1,000 fans. There will be Blue-and-Gold towels distributed on the W.Va. side and Red-and-White on the Ohio side.

■ Fans can test their athletic prowess in the annual "Health Plan/WTOV9 Pass, Punt and Kick Contest" for a chance to win \$10,000 during half-time activities. Enter by registering at WTOV9.com. North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

Ohio All-Star Team

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	School
1	Malik Gunner	WR/CB	5-10	160	St. Clairsville
2	Dylan Wood	WR/S	5-7	160	Meadowbrook
3	Zach Connor	RB/LB	6-0	220	Indian Creek
5	Levi Brown	RB/CB	5-5	155	Monroe Central
6	Riley Hayhurst	WR/S	6-0	165	Cambridge
7	Jack Fitch	WR/S	6-0	165	Martins Ferry
8	Kalub Mitchell	WR/CB	6-0	170	Harrison Central
9	J.C. Coleman	WR/CB	6-1	170	St. Clairsville
10	Austin McConville	S/LB	6-0	165	Bellaire
12	Chaice Truex	QB/DE	6-6	245	St. John Central
14	Lucas Herrington	WR/S	6-1	170	Steubenville
20	Moe Lathan	RB/S	5-10	185	Cambridge
21	Errik Snell	WR/CB	5-10	175	Cambridge
22	Chase Hilliard	QB/S	6-1	165	Beaver Local
29	Eric Howell	RB/DE	6-2	205	Shadyside
32	Bruce Burger	RB/LB	6-0	200	Martins Ferry
33	Stone Romano	RB/LB	6-0	225	Steubenville Central
34	Hunter Westlake	WR/LB	6-1	195	Bellaire
40	Bhah Shannon	RB/LB	5-10	195	Edison
44	Scott Hammond	TE/DE	6-1	190	Shadyside
52	Dillon Pointer	OL/DL	6-2	250	Buckeye Trail
54	Jake Karovic	OL/DT	6-1	295	Steubenville Central
55	Jarod Heslop	OL/DL	6-0	260	Bridgeport
56	Seth Bloor	OG/DT	6-1	260	Wellsville
60	Mitch Wells	C/DT	6-2	270	Barnesville
66	Jon Bodkin	C/DT	5-7	240	Martins Ferry
70	Jason Sims	OT/DT	6-1	320	Beaver Local
75	Austin Lawrence	OT/DT	6-4	255	Beaver Local
77	Cody Beavers	OG/DT	6-2	230	Martins Ferry
78	Darin Neff	OT/DT	6-5	320	Meadowbrook
85	Jacob Quinn	TE/DE	6-4	205	Meadowbrook
88	Colton Wright	K/P	6-2	160	River

Head Coach: Jeremy McElroy Assistant Coaches: David Allen, Charlie Dolnosich, T.J. Osbon, Rich Shilling, Jeffrey Weidger, Ed Weidger, Aaron West Team Doctor: Dr. William Bailor Trainer: Melanie Cheek Managers: Paine Allen, Tucker McElroy, Noah West

West Virginia All-Star Team

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	School
1	Jesse Padlow	QB	6-2	160	Bishop Donahue
2	Jace Neville	WR/DB	5-8	175	University
3	Josh Miller	WR/OLB	6-3	185	Bishop Donahue
5	Micah Swiger	WR/DB	5-7	140	Oak Glenn
6	Aaron Walker	QB/OLB	6-0	200	Brooke
7	William Larch	QB/OLB	6-1	215	Weir
8	Zak Kriechbaum	WR/DB	5-10	180	Linsly
9	Brendan Schwendeman	RB/DB	5-10	170	Parkersburg South
10	Trevor Boot	TE/DE	6-3	215	Parkersburg South
12	Zach Heasley	QB/DE	6-4	230	Padon City
14	Garrett Cain	WR/S	6-1	190	Morgantown
20	Austin Connell	ED/TE	6-0	220	Madonna
22	Chimechi Oparaozie	RB	5-11	240	Linsly
28	Jo Jo Rice	WR/DB	5-6	140	Weir
32	Zahir Hicks	RB/LB	6-0	205	Weir
33	Chukwudi Chukwu	OL/DE	6-1	230	Linsly
34	Jacoby Steele	RB/DE	6-0	220	Clay-Battelle
40	Derek Martin	LB	5-10	175	Cameron
44	Theo Blackston	RB/DE	6-1	235	Wheeling Park
46	Colby Shriver	RB/LB	6-0	210	Clay-Battelle
52	Peyton Palmer	FB/DE	6-0	235	Valley
54	Scott Kubancik	OL/DL	6-5	210	John Marshall
55	Noah Mills	OL/DL	5-10	245	Oak Glenn
58	Dylan Anderson	LB	6-2	225	Morgantown
60	Nick Anderson	OL/DL	6-2	270	Tyler Consolidated
63	Henry Gompers	OL/DL	6-2	215	Wheeling Park
66	Peter Hartzell	OL/DL	6-0	230	Wheeling Central
70	Dane Mills	OL/DL	6-1	260	Parkersburg South
75	Elliott O'Brien	OL/DL	6-4	275	Wheeling Park
77	Chase Padlow	OL/DL	6-4	250	John Marshall
78	Cody Rine	OL/DL	6-4	290	Brooke
80	Alex Whorton	WR/S	6-1	170	John Marshall
88	Micah Boles	K/P	5-9	150	Parkersburg South

Head Coach: Ian Whittington Assistant Coaches: Ted Arneault, Johnny Bonar, Frank Crain, Michael Demster, Chris Hill, Tim Ickes, Nathan Parry Team Doctors: Dr. Robert Jones Trainer: Herb Minch Managers: Devon Crain, Noah Flowers

OVAC's 70th All-Star Football Game tonight

OVAC from page B-1

Kuczynski of Bloomindale.

- This year's game program is dedicated to Mary Lou Mauck and Tom Myers who have worked behind the scenes of the game for more than 30 years.

- A total of 41 of the 50 (soon to be 52) conference schools are represented by participants in one aspect or another of the event.

- As part of the 70th anniversary celebration, the OVAC will hand out free rally towels to the first 1,000 fans. There will be red and white towels on the Ohio side and blue and gold towels on the West Virginia side courtesy of WTOV-TV9, Scholastic Sports Marketing and Shirts 'N More.

- The annual Free Youth Clinic for boys and girls ages 6-13 is slated this afternoon at Wheeling Island Stadium, with registration from 12-12:45 p.m. while the clinic runs from 1-2:30 p.m. The camp is conducted by Wheeling Park's Chris Daugherty and his staff along with members of the Bethany College staff. The instructors will teach the



basic fundamentals of football with emphasis on building self-esteem.

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- There were 25 schools represented in Friday's Queen of Queens Talent Show at the Capitol Theater in downtown Wheeling, and the winner will be announced at halftime of tonight's game. Barnesville is the only one of

OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game Past Scores

(OVAC Sponsorship)

- 2014 - Ohio 27, W. Va. 26
- 2013 - W. Va. 28, Ohio 19
- 2012 - Ohio 33, W. Va. 14
- 2011 - W. Va. 24, Ohio 3
- 2010 - W. Va. 24, Ohio 14
- 2009 - Ohio 47, W. Va. 7
- 2008 - Ohio 31, W. Va. 7
- 2007 - Ohio 6, W. Va. 3
- 2006 - Ohio 22, W. Va. 0
- 2005 - Ohio 35, W. Va. 6
- 2004 - W. Va. 21, Ohio 7
- 2003 - Ohio 32, W. Va. 26
- 2002 - Ohio 19, W. Va. 12
- 2001 - Ohio 36, W. Va. 0
- 2000 - Ohio 13, W. Va. 7
- 1999 - Ohio 32, W. Va. 0
- 1998 - Ohio 41, W. Va. 14
- 1997 - Ohio 24, W. Va. 14
- 1996 - Ohio 43, W. Va. 21
- 1995 - Ohio 21, W. Va. 0
- 1994 - W. Va. 19, Ohio 14
- 1993 - W. Va. 34, Ohio 32
- 1992 - 0-0 (Cancelled/Lightning)
- 1991 - Ohio 30, W. Va. 6
- 1990 - Ohio 42, W. Va. 0
- 1989 - W. Va. 22, Ohio 14
- 1988 - Ohio 13, W. Va. 7
- 1987 - Ohio 13, W. Va. 11
- 1986 - Ohio 14, W. Va. 6
- 1985 - W. Va. 28, Ohio 26
- 1984 - Ohio 23, W. Va. 6
- 1983 - Ohio 26, W. Va. 16
- 1982 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 6
- 1981 - Ohio 17, W. Va. 14
- 1980 - Ohio 10, W. Va. 7
- 1979 - Ohio 47, W. Va. 13
- 1978 - Ohio 21, W. Va. 13
- 1977 - W. Va. 21, Ohio 0
- 1976 - W. Va. 33, Ohio 20
- 1975 - W. Va. 8, Ohio 0
- 1974 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 6
- 1973 - W. Va. 38, Ohio 20
- 1972 - Ohio 24, W. Va. 6 (Pre-OVAC Sponsorship)
- 1971 - No game
- 1970 - No game
- 1969 - W. Va. 12, Ohio 0
- 1968 - Ohio 6, W. Va. 0
- 1967 - W. Va. 18, Ohio 0
- 1966 - Ohio 26, W. Va. 0
- 1965 - Ohio 22, W. Va. 0
- 1964 - Ohio 2, W. Va. 0
- 1963 - No game
- 1962 - W. Va. 12, Ohio 6
- 1961 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 0
- 1960 - Ohio 7, W. Va. 6
- 1959 - W. Va. 7, Ohio 6
- 1958 - Ohio 25, W. Va. 0
- 1957 - Ohio 14, W. Va. 13
- 1956 - Ohio 27, W. Va. 0
- 1955 - Ohio 31, W. Va. 20
- 1954 - W. Va. 13, Ohio 0

76	Dane Mills	OL/DL	6-1	260	Parkersburg
75	Elliott O'Brien	OL/DL	6-4	275	Wheeling Park
77	Chase Padlow	OL/DL	6-4	250	John Marshall
78	Cody Rine	OL/DL	6-4	290	Brooke
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- There were 25 schools represented in Friday's Queen of Queens Talent Show at the Capitol Theater in downtown Wheeling, and the winner will be announced at halftime of tonight's game. Barnesville is the only one of the six local conference schools with a candidate for the Queen of Queens — Myka Gordon.

- As always, there will be both a 10-year reunion (2005 participants) and a 50-year reunion (those who played in the 1965 game), with those attending to be introduced to the crowd during the game.

- In 43 years of OVAC sponsorship, the game has donated more than \$901,000 to charity organizations and scholarships throughout the Ohio Valley.

- Tonight's game is being broadcast live on WTOV-TV 9; on radio stations WKKX 1600 AM and WVLV 1370 AM; and on the internet/webstream by PlayOnSports, with complete coverage as always in *The Monday Jeffersonian*.

OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game Past Scores

(OVAC Sponsorship)

2014	- Ohio 27, W. Va. 26
2013	- W. Va. 28, Ohio 19
2012	- Ohio 33, W. Va. 14
2011	- W. Va. 24, Ohio 3
2010	- W. Va. 24, Ohio 14
2009	- Ohio 47, W. Va. 7
2008	- Ohio 31, W. Va. 7
2007	- Ohio 6, W. Va. 3
2006	- Ohio 22, W. Va. 0
2005	- Ohio 35, W. Va. 6
2004	- W. Va. 21, Ohio 7
2003	- Ohio 32, W. Va. 26
2002	- Ohio 19, W. Va. 12
2001	- Ohio 36, W. Va. 0
2000	- Ohio 13, W. Va. 7
1999	- Ohio 32, W. Va. 0
1998	- Ohio 41, W. Va. 14
1997	- Ohio 24, W. Va. 14
1996	- Ohio 43, W. Va. 21
1995	- Ohio 21, W. Va. 0
1994	- W. Va. 19, Ohio 14
1993	- W. Va. 34, Ohio 32
1992	- 0-0 (Canceled/ Lightning)
1991	- Ohio 30, W. Va. 6
1990	- Ohio 42, W. Va. 0
1989	- W. Va. 22, Ohio 14
1988	- Ohio 13, W. Va. 7
1987	- Ohio 13, W. Va. 11
1986	- Ohio 14, W. Va. 6
1985	- W. Va. 28, Ohio 26
1984	- Ohio 23, W. Va. 6
1983	- Ohio 26, W. Va. 16
1982	- W. Va. 7, Ohio 6
1981	- Ohio 17, W. Va. 14
1980	- Ohio 10, W. Va. 7
1979	- Ohio 47, W. Va. 13
1978	- Ohio 21, W. Va. 13
1977	- W. Va. 21, Ohio 0
1976	- W. Va. 33, Ohio 20
1975	- W. Va. 8, Ohio 0
1974	- W. Va. 13, Ohio 6
1973	- W. Va. 38, Ohio 20
1972	- Ohio 24, W. Va. 6

(Pre-OVAC Sponsorship)

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

Overall series: Ohio 43, W. Va. 25, 1 tie
Under OVAC sponsorship: Ohio 28 wins, W. Va. 14 wins, 1 tie
Pre-OVAC sponsorship: Ohio 15 wins, W. Va. 11 wins



Seth Staskey
Sports Editor

OVAC participants take to social media to talk about their experience

Another Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game has come and gone.

That signals the start of the new football season, for which most in the Ohio Valley are chomping at the bit.

At the same time, it also signals the end of the high school careers for those who took part in Sunday evening's affair.

High school yields many memories and offers experiences that people look back on fondly for years to come.

It's safe to say that the OVAC All-Star Game is amongst those for area kids.

It's an event that area athletes cherish and look forward to the most. When you hear players say during the week that they've grown up wanting to play in the game, it's not just blowing smoke.

Many players utilized their social media accounts to express their gratitude and excitement about the entire OVAC All-Star Game experience.

Sunday night — well, actually early Monday morning — when I got home from the office, I was scrolling through my Twitter feed and each player I came across seemed to have trouble sleeping because of what they'd just experienced on Wheeling Island.

And the thing that is lost on some people is the fact these memories aren't just made by the players. The queens, band, cheerleaders all bond and come together as a cohesive unit during the week. It's really rather impressive when you think about it.

Ohio was routed in the game, 35-7, and was dominated in the second half when it was outscored 28-0. While all competitors and athletes want to win each time out, the final outcome didn't seem to deter the experience.

Zach Connor of Indian Creek tweeted, "didn't go the way I wanted it to go, but man did I have a blast this week. Thank you coaches and teammates for an amazing week I'll never forget."

Jack Fitch of Martins Ferry tweeted, "I want to thank (Jeremy McElroy) and the rest of the staff for a wonderful experience. Also want to thank my teammates for making it better."

Jacob Quinn of Meadowbrook tweeted, "Last night was probably one of the best experiences I'll ever have. Had a great time with a great group of guys."

Errik Snell of Cambridge tweeted, "I had the time of my life tonight!"

Keep in mind, those four guys all played for the losing team.

Jace Neville of Morgantown tweeted, "(Ian Whittington) deserved this W tonight more than anyone. Great coach and man! Blessed to have met him."

West Virginia head coach Ian Whittington tweeted, "I just want to thank everyone of my #TeamWV for everything this week! Best experience I've ever had as a coach! Thank you, guys! #Team

There were a few players, however, who were happy to be back in their own beds, but who could blame them? Everyone enjoys sleeping in his or her own bed over a college dormitory.

From the Queens:

Autumn Kessler of Union Local tweeted, "I seriously can't sleep because of how amazing tonight was! I'm so blessed to be surrounded by such sweet and caring people."

See, STASKEY,
Page B2

Staskey

Continued from Page B1

Kierstyn Kidder of Bellaire tweeted, "Queen of Queens is easily one of the greatest things I've ever been a part of."

For the more than 200 kids involved with Sunday night's game, the memories and relationships will simply last a lifetime, regardless of any outcome.

OVAC BRAWL

For the first time since I've been covering the OVAC All-Star Game, the normal chippiness and trash talking escalated much further than anyone had hoped or envisioned.

During the first quarter, a brawl broke out right in front of the West Virginia bench.

Though there appeared to be players throw punches, come off their bench onto the field and one player actually lost his helmet during the melee, there were no ejections from the officiating crew.

Both coaches expressed their disappointment in the

fight.

"You never want to see that," Ohio head coach Jeremy McElroy said.

"Being on the other side of the field, I really didn't see what started it or anything. It's unfortunate and you never want that to happen."

West Virginia head coach Ian Whittington believed it was a build up that simply boiled over.

"We told our kids to keep their cool, but this is a band of brothers and when they saw something happen, they came to the aid and help of their teammate. I don't think any of our guys threw any punches. They were trying to rip people back."

OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak wouldn't go as far as say the fight gave the game a black eye. But, he called it an "unfortunate situation."

Rataiczak also gave kudos to both head coaches for doing their part in trying to keep their players

held back as much as possible.

SETH'S SCOOPS

■ THE 71st annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game is slated for Sunday, July 24, 2016.

■ IF YOU'RE keeping track at home, it'll be Class 5A's turn in the rotation to coach the game. Could McElroy get the Ohio coaching job in consecutive years? His Beaver Local Beavers have bumped up to the biggest class for this season. Steubenville, Cambridge and OVAC newcomer Warren Local are the only other Ohio schools in the biggest class.

■ PREP FOOTBALL officially begins Saturday in Ohio when teams are allowed to begin two-a-days. West Virginia gets into the act on Aug. 3.

Staskey can be reached via email at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com or at [Twitter.com/TLSportsSeth](https://twitter.com/TLSportsSeth)

● Defense

Continued from Page B1

The 6-foot-2, 225-pounder recorded 100 tackles last season en route to honorable mention all-state, second team All-TRAC, All-Area and honorable mention All-OVAC.

Anderson, who plans on attending West Liberty, is the son of Bob and Stephanie Anderson.

THEO BLACKSTON, Wheeling Park — This former Patriot enjoyed a huge season for Coach Chris Daugherty's team.

The 6-1, 235-pounder logged time at running back, defensive end, linebacker and fullback. He finished with more than 1,500 yards and scored 19 touchdowns en route to all-state honors.

Along with the state honor, Blackston was named first team All-OVAC, All-TRAC, All-Valley, Big 22 Finalist, Elks Player of the Month and Player of the week.

Theo, who is planning on attending Mercyhurst University, is the son of Pamela Ebbert.

MICAH BOLES, Parkersburg South — This former Patriot will handle the kicking and punting as he did for Coach Mike Eddy's team.

The 5-9, 150-pounder was a perfect 33 of 33 on PATs and connected on five field goals.

Away from football, Boles is an Eagle Scout and received the Woody Herman Jazz Award. He's also the president of the Fellowship of Student Athletes.

Micah, who plans on attending West Virginia Parkersburg, is the son of Trent and Amy Boles.

ZAHIR HICKS, Weir — This former Red Rider shined at linebacker for Coach Tony Filberto's team.

The 6-0, 205-pounder recorded 111 tackles, 17 for loss, six sacks, recovered four fumbles, forced two and picked off a pass.

His efforts were recognized through first team All-OVAC and All-Valley. He was second team all-state.

Zahir, who is the son of Evonna Jordan, is planning on attending West Liberty.

ZAK KRIECHBAUM, Linsly — This former Cadet did a little bit of everything for Coach B.J. Depew's team last season.

The 5-10, 180-pounder recorded 136 tackles, recorded 14 interceptions,

1,135 yards receiving and was 7 of 7 on field goals during his career.

He was a first team All-OVAC and All-Valley MVP and was a finalist for special teams player of the year.

Zak, who is planning on attending Ohio University, is the son of Doug and Jennifer Kriechbaum.

DEREK MARTIN, Cameron — This Dragons standout had an impressive career for Coach Scott Holt's team.

The 5-10, 175-pounder recorded 163 tackles and 9.5 sacks as a senior en route to first team All-Valley, All-OVAC and All-Mason Dixon.

Away from football, Martin is a member of the National Honor Society and vice president of the student council. He was also class valedictorian.

Derek, who plans on attending Kenyon College, is the son of Gary and Kelli Martin.

JOSH MILLER, Bishop Donahue — This linebacking standout played a key role for Coach John Durdines' team.

The 6-3, 185-pounder logged 123 solo tackles

and had 10 interceptions en route to first team All-Valley, All-OVAC and special mention all-state.

Josh, who is the son of Chet and Terri Miller, plans on attending Wheeling Jesuit.

JOJO RICE, Weir — This Red Riders speedster had a big season for Filberto's team.

The 5-6, 140-pounder was an All-OVAC performer. He was also a standout in track.

JoJo, who is the son of John and Patty Rice, plans on attending West Virginia.

COLBY SHRIVER, Clay-Battelle — This former Cee-Bee had a big season from his linebacker post for Coach Ryan Wilson's team.

The 6-0, 210-pounder recorded 109 tackles, two forced fumbles and two recovered fumbles. He also ran for 414 yards and four touchdowns.

Shriver was a second team all-state selection, first team All-Mason Dixon, second team All-OVAC and Dominion Post All-Area team.

Colby, who plans on attending Fairmont State, is the son of Terry and Angelia Shriver.

● Rivals

Continued from Page B1

"We all bond together as offensive linemen,"

Jeep RAM DODGE

Bodkin noted. "We all (kid) each other, but we all get a long."

Both players think the trenches will be where the game is won.

"The game is won up front and we've got a pret-

ty good-sized group of guys," Bodkin added.

"If we don't make holes the running backs have nowhere to go," Bloor said. "We also have to give our quarterback time to pass."

OVAC All-Star Game

Bodkin, Bloor: Rivals to teammates and back

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

BETHANY — From rivals to teammates to rivals again.

Martins Ferry's Jonathan Bodkin and Wellsville's Seth Bloor were two of Ohio's top Division III high school heavyweight wrestlers last winter.

This week they will team up to lead the Buckeyes in the trenches when the 70th annual Rudy Mumley Ohio Valley Athletic Conference All-Star Football Game kicks off at Wheeling Island Stadium on Sunday night.

However, they will again go into rival mode when college starts in the fall. Bodkin (5-foot-7, 240 pounds) will continue his athletic and academic careers at West Liberty University, while Bloor (6-1, 260) has enrolled down the road at Wheeling Jesuit University.

While both will continue to wrestle at the collegiate level, their mindset is strictly on football this week.

"I think it will be fun to play with him on the line," Bloor admitted. "I don't dislike the guy. It was just a couple of wrestling matches. I did what I had to do to win and he did the same. Now we're on the same team with the same mission."

"I think it will be a great experience playing with him," Bodkin, the former Purple Riders center, said. "We haven't even talked about those match-



BODKIN



BLOOR

es. All three (matches) were wars, though. All three of them could've went either way."

The duo hooked in a trio of matches that went right down to the final buzzer, and then some, with Bloor coming out on top each time in sudden death.

The former Tigers standout prevailed in the Ron Mauck OVAC 285-pound championship bout, the Pepsi-Ohio Coatings Panther Classic finals at Buckeye Local, and the state semifinals in Columbus.

"I have a lot of respect for Jonathan when it comes to wrestling," Bloor said during media day Monday afternoon at Bethany College, where the Ohio and West Virginia teams will practice for Sunday's contest, which begins at 7:15 p.m. "He's good at what he does. He's hard to score on and makes the match his match."

The two have known each other since junior high school when they competed in the OVAC Tournament. However, they didn't cross paths in high school until their senior seasons.

See, Rivals, Page B2

W.Va.'s defense revealed

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — Ian Whittington knows Ohio has plenty of playmakers on the offensive side of the ball.

The West Virginia coach believes he has plenty of playmakers on the defensive side, which should lead to an interesting matchup Sunday night at Wheeling Island Stadium in the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game.

Whittington announced his linebackers, secondary and kicker for the game.

"I honestly believe we have a lot of depth at linebacker and guys who are tough against the run," Whittington said. "Our outside linebackers have to be able to move. Our defensive backs can fly around and they're bigger, versatile kids."

Camp got under way Sunday at Bethany College.

Here's a capsule look at the players:
DYLAN ANDERSON, Morgantown — This former Mohigan shined at middle linebacker for Coach John Bowers' team.

See, Defense, Page B2

70th Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game

Ohio all-stars fall to W.Va.

Mountain State routs
Buckeye State 35-7By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING — West Virginia coach Ian Whittington didn't hold back when he spoke about his squad all week.

The Oak Glen mentor was high on every aspect entering Sunday night's 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game.

Nothing — including a 70-minute rain delay, a first-quarter melee, or Ohio — was about to stand in the Mountaineers' way en route to a 35-7 victory.

"It comes down to the game, but this was about the experience of the OVAC All-Star Game and bonding as a team," Whittington said. "Finishing with a win makes it even more special, too."

The bonding is one thing, but having guys like Linsly's Chimechi Oparanozie and Wheeling Park's Theo Blackston in the backfield — along with impressive offensive and defensive fronts — didn't hurt matters.

The game was tied at 7-7 until there was four seconds remaining in the third quarter. That's when Oparanozie found daylight around the left end and went untouched for a 17-yard touchdown.

"We wanted to get them out of the box and then jam our big guys up the middle at them," Whittington said.

Micah Boles added his second of five PAT kicks to put the Mountaineers up, 14-7, entering the fourth.

From there, the wheels fell off for Ohio.

Along with West Virginia finding offensive momentum, the Ohio offense was bitten by the turnover bug.

On the ensuing possession, Ohio quarterback Chaice Truex was stripped of the ball and Clay-Battelle's Jacoby Steele scooped it and scored from 25 yards out.

Parkersburg South's Trevor Boot got a free run at Truex on the next Buckeyes offensive play. He stripped the ball and then pounced on it, putting the Mountaineers in business again.

"Turnovers were costly and were a big turning point," Ohio coach Jeremy McElroy said. "Obviously you can't turn the ball over and expect to win."

It took one play for Oparanozie to find the end zone again. This time it covered 18 yards. After the PAT, the

See, ALL-STARS, Page B2



OHIO'S KALUB Mitchell tries to carry the ball past West Virginia's defense during the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium. Photo by Seth Staskey

Brown short, but big on numbers

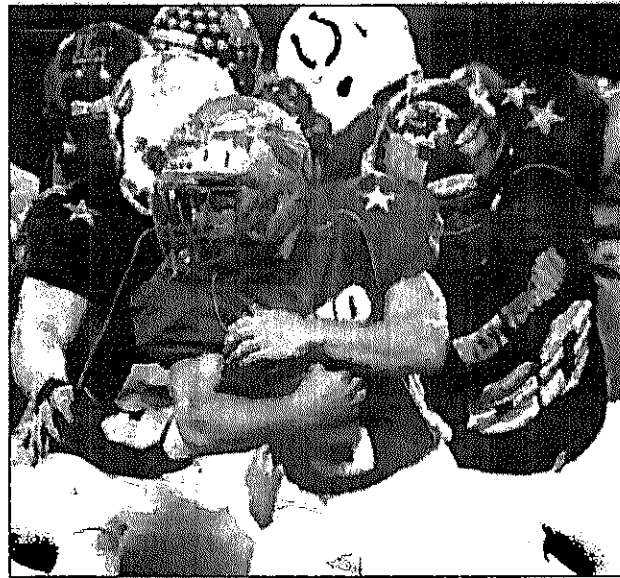
By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

WHEELING — At 5-foot-5, 155 pounds, Monroe Central's Levi Brown was the smallest player on the Ohio roster for Sunday night's 70th annual Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

However, the former Seminole standout turned out to be one of the biggest on a dismal night for the Buckeyes in a 35-7 drubbing by West Virginia. He finished with 25 yards rushing on seven carries. Ohio had 25 for the game on 33 totes. He also caught a pair of passes for 13 stripes.

The pint-sized Brown was voted the Ohio MVP after scoring the Buckeyes lone touchdown on a twisting-and-turning 13-yard run midway through the first quarter that drew the Red-and-White even at 7.

"It all happened so quick. I really don't know what happened," he said of his TD. "I do know I made



OHIO'S LEVI Brown breaks through the West Virginia defense. Photo by Seth Staskey

a couple of cuts and I was right there. I had some good blocking, as well."

That was the last time the Buckeyes even get close to scoring as West Virginia dominated the remainder of the contest.

When the final buzzer sounded, it marked the end of Brown's football career.

He will attend Baldwin-Wallace University in Berea where he will double-major in athletic training and pre-physical therapy.

"It's upsetting. It's my last time (walking off the field)," he said. "It was my choice whether to play or not. Hopefully, I made the

right decision."

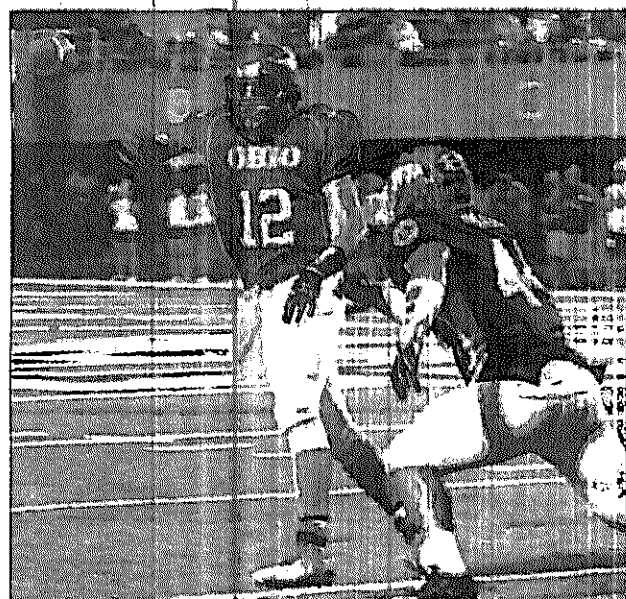
Regardless, he will remember the experience of playing in the OVAC All-Star Game for the rest of his life.

"This entire week was amazing," he said of the week-long of training camp at Bethany College. "We came in as single guys, individuals players, and we ended up as a team."

As a senior, he rushed for 1,165 yards and 13 touchdowns on 170 carries in helping lead the Seminoles to another playoff berth. It was Brown's second straight 1,000-yard season — he ran for 1,021 in 2013 — leaving him with a career total of 2,908 yards and 35 TDs. He also caught 24 passes this season for 260 yards.

Brown received nothing but praise from Monroe Central head coach Jay Circosta following last season.

"He was just a kid that, pound-for-pound, inch-for-inch, they don't come any tougher than Levi."



OHIO'S CHAICE Truex throws a pass during the game. Photo by Seth Staskey

Brown, Oparanozie
are most-valuableBy KYLE LUTZ
For The Times Leader

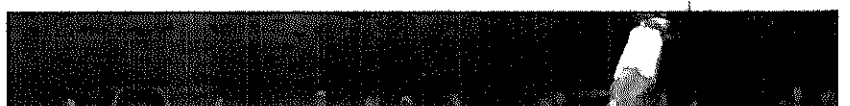
WHEELING — Chimechi Oparanozie final-



W.Va.'s interior lines bring the pain

By SHAWN RINE
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — When rush came



The Oak Glen mentor was high on every aspect entering Sunday night's 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game.

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See, ALL-STARS, Page B2

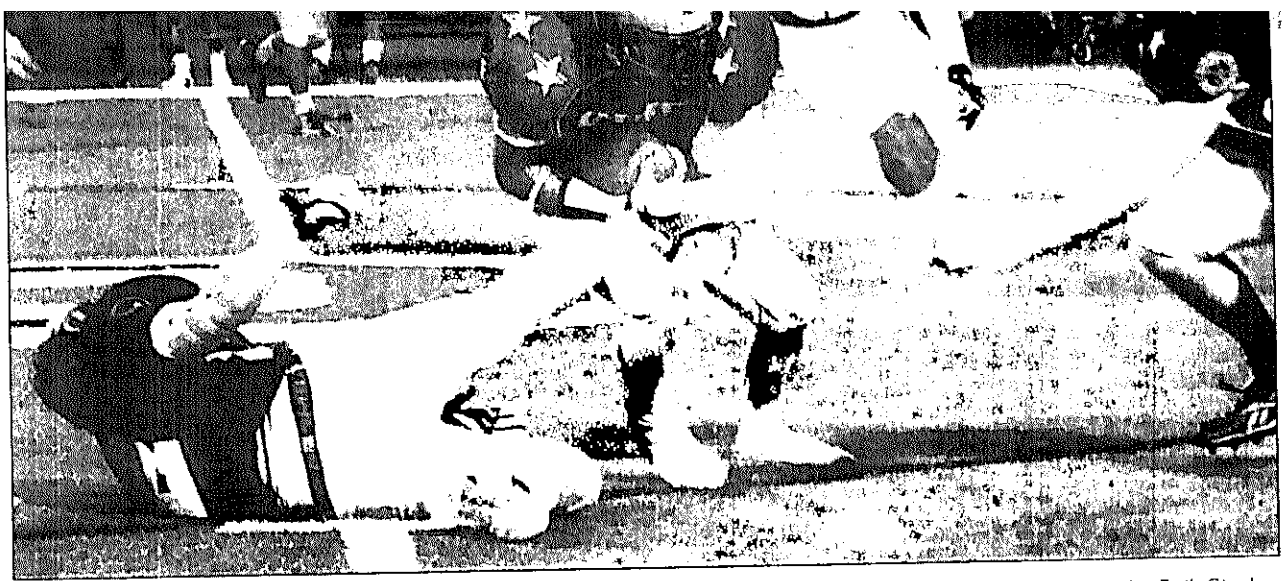


Photo by Seth Staskey

OHIO'S KALUB Mitchell tries to carry the ball past West Virginia's defense during the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Brown short, but big on numbers

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

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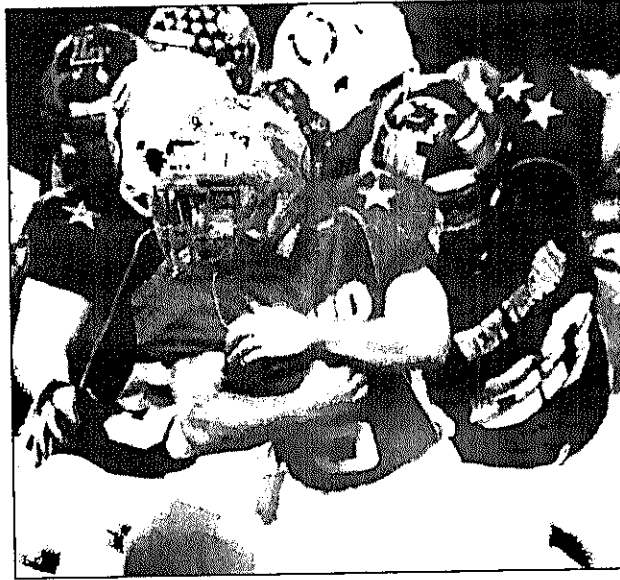


Photo by Seth Staskey

OHIO'S LEVI Brown breaks through the West Virginia defense.

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Photo by Seth Staskey

OHIO'S CHAICE Truex throws a pass during the game.

Brown, Oparanozie are most-valuable

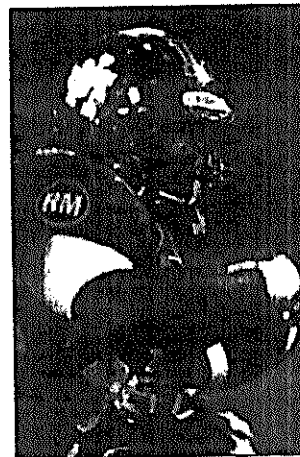
By KYLE LUTZ
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — Chimechi Oparanozie finally could have his senior moment. After being sidelined due to injury during his final season at Linsly, the Cadet did all he could during the 70th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

The Linsly running back ran for 75 yards and found the end zone two times in the second half and was named MVP for West Virginia as it defeated Ohio, 35-7, on Sunday night at Wheeling Island Stadium. Monroe Central's Levi Brown was named MVP for the Ohio team.

"I was really proud of the line," Oparanozie said. "They really stepped it up. I have to give it all to the line, and the receivers did a good job, too."

The 5-foot-11, 250-pound back's touchdowns were both in key moments. With the score tied at 7-7, the Cadet took the handoff and ran 18 yards to the end zone to give West Virginia a lead it didn't relinquish.



OPARANOZIE

"It was just adrenaline, to be honest," Oparanozie said about his scores.

The other one came after a key play by the West Virginia defense. With 9:24 left in the game, Trevor Boot ripped the ball from the Ohio quarterback's hands and recovered the fumble. On the ensuing play for West Virginia, Oparanozie found a hole in the Ohio defense and took it to the house from 19

See, MVPs,
Page B2

W.Va.'s interior lines bring the pain

By SHAWN RINE
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — When push came to shove as it so often does in these types of games, West Virginia coach Ian Whittington was confident his big boys up front would take over the 70th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Sunday night at Wheeling Island Stadium. What he believed and what happened were the exact same thing.

The Mountaineers' offensive and defensive lines took their toll on the Ohio squad midway through the third quarter to pave the way to a 35-7 victory.

"My defensive line is what was my star points ... the backs and the defensive line," Whittington said. "In the second half they truly took over the game."

"We knew we were going to run the ball and they knew we were going to run the ball, but they did a very good job of plugging up the inside and plugging the holes, so in the second half we had to spread them out."

"Those two backs are unbelievable — 250 on Chimeci (Oparanozie) and 240 with Theo (Blackston) — and I would be afraid to tackle them."

Field Position

Oparanozie and Blackston each scored a pair of touchdowns, but had they not Whittington knows exactly

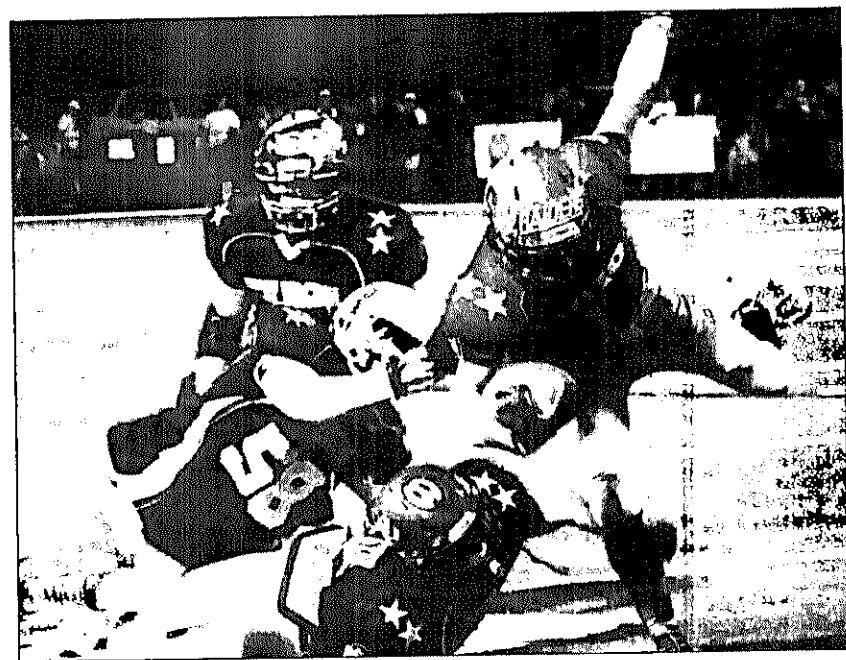


Photo by Seth Staskey

OHIO'S MALIK Gummer tries to stay on his feet as he attempts to run past West Virginia's defense.

who he would have named his team's MVP. It's not who you think.

"I'd give the game ball to Micah Boles," Whittington said.

For those not familiar, that would be the former Parkersburg South standout who handled the punting and kicking duties for the Mountaineers.

He continually changed the field position, making sure Ohio had to work for anything it got. In the end that wasn't much.

"He was putting the ball down

See, W.VA., Page B2

MVPs

Continued from Page B1

yards out to put the nail in the coffin and West Virginia led 28-7.

"I told him that you didn't get to have your senior season this year," West Virginia coach Ian Whittington said. "I said, 'This is your season all in one. This is what you've been building up for. You got healthy. I took a chance on you, son, and I expect you to give it to me.' Chimechi just came out and played."

It sure was a great way for the running back to end his high school career.

"From not playing and watching my team play the whole year and sitting on the sidelines, I just ran angry because I couldn't play for the whole year," Oparanozie said. "I didn't expect to have a game like this, honestly. It was a good experience."

Brown had an impressive game for Ohio as he was voted MVP. The 5-5, 155-pound running back scored the only touchdown for the Buckeyes on a 13-yard run in the second quarter to tie the game up at 7-7.

"It was a great experience," Brown said. "The stands were packed. The atmosphere was amazing. I'm not playing college ball, so it was my last time playing and it was a great feeling, even though we lost."

Brown played a solid game and certainly gave the crowd something to look forward to when he stepped on the field. He tallied 21 yards and his score, and also caught two passes.

"Just representing Monroe Central, Monroe County, my school, just everything, it was a great experience," Brown said. "I've had the pleasure to work under Coach (Jay) Circosta for the past four years and I couldn't of made it here without him and the rest of the coaching staff at Monroe Central."

"He's a great kid," Ohio coach Jeremy McElroy said about Brown. "He's the kind of kid that plays all heart and if you go David and Goliath, he's David. But, he's fits that role too. His heart's as big as this stadium."

W.Va.

Continued from Page B1

inside the 10, inside the 5 and his kickoffs were deep," Whittington said. "Micah Boles is a special player and he needs to be playing somewhere in college.

"He should play at the next level."

Pride, Passion

He may have only had this particular group for a week, but it wasn't hard to tell Whittington had legitimate admiration for his kids. In fact, it almost looked like he wanted to play in the game.

"I didn't know Coach Whit from Adam, but the first day of practice he was really intense," Blackston said. "I like intense coaches ... people who keep you pumped and into the game.

"That's what he supplied. Actually, all the coaches were like that. All week long we were hyped up."

Whittington may have gotten more than he bargained for during the second half when he ran onto the field after a big play and chest-bumped Linsly grad Chukwudi Chukwu.

"I'm pretty sure he broke my ribs .. I am not kidding," Whittington said with a laugh. "And he broke the headset because he's a monster.

"As you can see with my bond with my team, it was about the experience of the OVAC All-Star Game. It's not just the football game, because that's what it comes down to.

"But it's the experience of being with these kids and these athletes. It was amazing. It was the most fun I've ever had coaching. It was a special experience.

Big Play

West Virginia was clinging to a tight lead before it broke the game open with a flurry of quick scores. None was bigger than a fumble recovery by Clay-Battelle's Jacob Steele that he ran back for a touchdown.

Whittington admits that had it been a regular-season game he would have liked to see his player just fall on the football in that scenario. But not in a contest like this.

"We talked about that," Whittington said. "This isn't Oak Glen High School where we are trying to build and build and make the safe play.

"This is an all-star game and if you have a chance to pick up a fumble, you take it back. This is his time to shine on the big stage."



Photo by Andy Lloyd

WEIR'S WILLIAM Larch (7) runs the ball for West Virginia against Ohio's OVAC All-Stars during the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium. West Virginia beat Ohio 35-7.

All-Stars

Continued from Page B1

scoreboard read 28-7 and many of the fans began to head for the exits.

"Once we scored 28, we kind of had a feeling it was over," Oparanozie, who finished with 75 yards on 14 carries, said. "This was fantastic. I never would have expected to play like I did. This was a great week. This felt like more of a team, in just two days, than anyone else I've ever played with."

Blackston, who scored the game's first touchdown from 6 yards out, capped the scoring with 3:20 to go on an 8-yard run around the end.

"We didn't respond to adversity and never got going after turning the ball over," McElroy said. "We didn't execute very well. We knew their (defensive) front was solid coming in and they made some plays."

Ohio couldn't get much going offensively. With West Virginia's defensive line causing all sorts of problems, the Buckeyes were limited to 25 yards rushing and 163 total. They had eight first downs.

"At the beginning of the game we allowed Truex to get out of the pocket and he made some plays, but were

getting to him and getting to him in the second half for some negative plays," Whittington said.

The Buckeyes' lone score came on a 13-yard run by Monroe Central's Levi Brown in the middle stages of the third quarter. He was Ohio's leading rusher with 25 yards on seven carries. Cambridge's Mo Lathan caught two passes for 44 yards.

"It was a great week with great kids," McElroy said. "These were great kids and it's always nice, win or lose, to spend time with first-class kids."

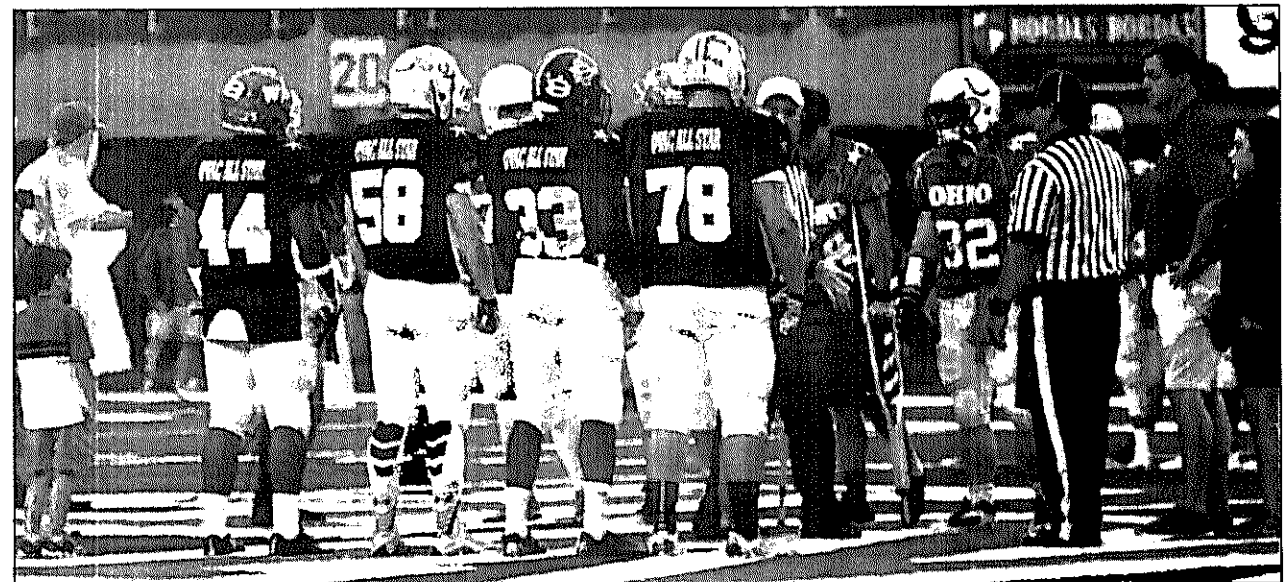


Photo by Andy Lloyd

WEST VIRGINIA'S and Ohio's All-Stars await the coin toss before the beginning of the 70th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game Sunday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Kyle Busch finally nabs win at Indy

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Kyle Busch's incredible comeback rolled through Indianapolis Motor Speedway, where Busch won the Brickyard 400 on Sunday for a weekend sweep at the historic track.

Busch missed the first 11 races of the season with a broken right leg and broken left foot. He returned in late May and has won three consecutive Sprint Cup Series races and four of the last five.

Now he has a prestigious Brickyard victory to give him one of NASCAR's elusive crown jewels. His Indianapolis victory ranks alongside his Southern 500 win at Darlington Raceway as the biggest of his career.

"Maybe I found my happy place," Busch said in victory lane when asked if he has found a new perspec-

tive since he was injured in a crash the day before the season-opening Daytona 500.

Busch, who also won the second-tier Xfinity Series race Saturday at Indianapolis, moved 23 points away from cracking the top 30 in the standings. NASCAR granted him a waiver that will make him eligible for the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship should he be ranked inside the top 30 in points.

"We're a championship contending team, we just need to be championship eligible," Busch said.

The win for Joe Gibbs Racing was the first Sprint Cup Series victory at Indianapolis for Toyota. Chevrolet had entered the race on a 12-year winning streak and had won 16 of the 21 Brickyards.

The manufacturer also won the

Indianapolis 500 in May with Roger Penske driver Juan Pablo Montoya. But Penske was denied his first Brickyard 400 win when Joey Logano finished second to Busch on Sunday in a Ford.

"Geez, I guess Kyle's back," Daytona 500 winner Logano said. "It's just so frustrating running second at the Brickyard. Second hurts."

Busch knows that all too well. He finished second in two of the previous three Brickyards.

Kevin Harvick was third in a Chevrolet, followed by Martin Truex Jr., Busch teammate Denny Hamlin and Clint Bowyer. Matt Kenseth, another Gibbs driver, was seventh, followed by Kurt Busch and Kyle Larson.

Penske driver Brad Keselowski rounded out the top 10



Photo by Seth Staskey

OHIO'S BRUCE Berger battles for the ball against opposing West Virginia players.

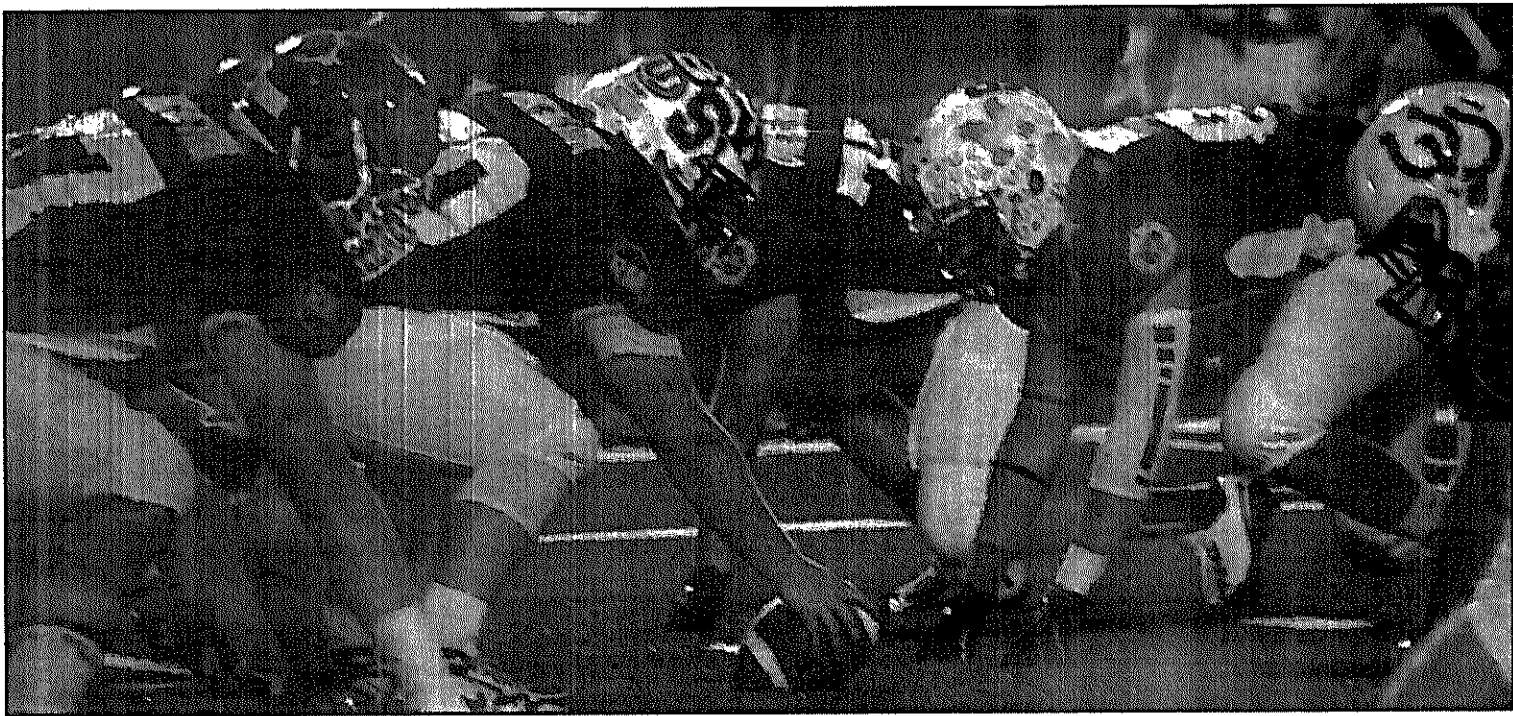
SPORTS

■ West Virginia Derby

■ Cueto traded

■ Busch wins again

MONDAY, JULY 27, 2015



Matthew Peaslee

HOLD THE LINE — Members of the Ohio and West Virginia OVAC All-Star teams line during a play in the second half of the 70th Annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game in Wheeling on Sunday. West Virginia beat Ohio, 35-7.

West Virginia topples Ohio

Mountaineers earn squad's largest margin of victory in OVAC game

By **MATTHEW PEASLEE**
Sports writer

WHEELING — For Zahir Hicks and the West Virginia All-Star team, the final score of Sunday's 70th-annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Foot-

ball Game was a bit of a surprise.

But not in the way any other 28-point differential would be.

"Honestly, we imagined it a little higher," said Hicks, a former Weir High standout. "We wanted to score 50 points and we didn't want them to get anything. It was close enough. Shoot, I'll

take that any day on a football field."

West Virginia claimed a 35-7 win in the game played at Wheeling Island Stadium. The win was West Virginia's 26th in the series that dates

back to 1940, and was the largest margin of victory for the Mountaineers.

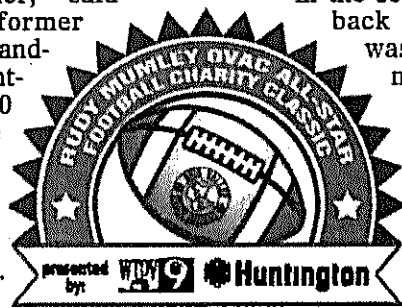
The lights-out defense deployed by West Vir-

ginia limited Ohio to just 25 rushing yards and a scoreless second half.

"The defense was amazing," said Mountaineers head coach Ian Whittington. "We thought our defensive line was our best aspect and in the first half they got after it. The took over the game in the second half."

West Virginia scored on its first possession in the first quarter, a nine-play drive that lasted less than four minutes. It was capped by a two-yard

See **OVAC** Page 3B ⇨



Swiger surges on offense

By **MATTHEW PEASLEE**
Sports writer



Micah Swiger

WHEELING — In the near future, Micah Swiger intends on pursuing a career in welding. He got his start on Sunday by burning the opposing defense.

Swiger, an Oak Glen graduate, showcased his speed in the 70th-annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. The quick and elusive 5-foot-7, 140-pounder was the team's primary return man. He averaged 28 yards on four punt returns and took a kickoff return for more than 45 yards, though it was called back due to an illegal block in the back.

"I was ready for that role,"

See **OFFENSE** Page 3B ⇨

Connor flies on defense

By **MATTHEW PEASLEE**
Sports writer



Zach Connor

WHEELING — From a guy who saw the game unfold from the sidelines and right in the thick of battle, Zach Connor offered the most honest reason for Ohio's shortcoming in Sunday's 70th-annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

"The ball didn't bounce our way and West Virginia made big plays when they had to," Connor said.

The eventual 35-7 final score looked like it could have gone either way in the first half.

"I thought we did a very good job of handling the

See **DEFENSE** Page 3B ⇨

OVAC

Continued from Page 1B

run from Theo Blackston, a Wheeling Park grad.

Blackston and backfield mate Chimechi Oparanozie of Linsly each found the end zone twice. Oparanozie finished with 75 rushing yards on 14 carries and was named the West Virginia Most Valuable Player. This was his first football game since 2013, as he missed his senior season with the Cadets due to injury.

"From not playing and watching my team play the whole year and sitting on the sidelines, I just ran angry because I couldn't play for the whole year," Oparanozie said. "I didn't expect to have a game like this, honestly. It was a good experience."

Ohio got on the board midway through the second quarter on a 13-yard run by Monroe Central grad Levi Brown, who was named Ohio Most Valuable Player. The Buckeyes nearly got on the board again before halftime as Stone Romano of Steubenville Catholic Central picked off a pass and returned it to West Virginia territory with under a minute left in the second quarter.

The Buckeyes ran four plays before River's Colton Wright lined up to kick a 30-yard field goal. The snap was botched as time expired and Ohio wouldn't have another opportunity to score again.

West Virginia forced

seven three-and-outs on Ohio and controlled the tempo for the second half.

"It didn't go our way," said Ohio coach Jeremy McElroy. "We didn't respond to adversity. We turned the ball over and didn't get anything going. We didn't execute very well. They had a great defensive front and we knew that going in."

"Their guys made some plays. Momentum was big for them."

West Virginia had 175 total yards and used four quarterbacks. Bishop Donahue's Jesse Padlow started and completed one pass for 18 yards. Will Larch of Weir came in for the second quarter and completed two passes for a total of 17 yards.

Brooke's Aaron Walker started the third quarter, after playing defense all of the first half, and was 3 for 3 passing for 18 yards.

"Throughout high school, my main focus was quarterback," Walker said. "It was a 360 for me this week because I had to focus so much on playing defense. I think we played great as a defensive unit, but playing quarterback was just the icing on the cake."

Paden City's Zach Heasley played most of the fourth quarter under center for the Mountaineers.

West Virginia broke the 7-7 tie late in the third quarter with Oparanozie's second touchdown. Early in the

fourth quarter, Jacoby Steele of the Mountaineers and a Clay-Battelle grad, picked up a fumble and returned it for a touchdown.

"This is an all-star game," Whittington said. "This isn't Oak Glen High School where we're trying to build and make the safe plays. This is the chance to make the plays and his time to shine. Scoop and score any time you get."

West Virginia forced seven Ohio fumbles.

The game was delayed an hour and 15 minutes due to continuous lightning strikes. Fans were cleared from the stands and teams were summoned to their locker rooms, which served as makeshift dormitories.

"I actually fell asleep," Walker said. "I had a pillow and found a nice, wide open spot on the carpet and took a nap. We were all frustrated and anxious. Then, once it started it fired us up even more."

For better or worse. At the 7:26 mark of the first quarter, a brawl broke out near the West Virginia sidelines after Ohio quarterback Chance Truex found Moe Lathan for a short gain. Pushing and shoving ensued, before helmets were removed and punches were thrown.

After referees sorted out the melee, no player was ejected and the teams accepted off-setting penalties. The complete pass was taken away and they played the

down again.

"That had just been a full week passing by," Whittington said. "We heard a little chirping going on back and forth. We told them to keep their cool. I think we kept our cool, for the most part. This is a band of brothers. They came together and saw their guys getting on our guys."

"They came out to help and I don't think any of our guys threw any punches. They were good on that; they were just trying to rip people back."

Each team was penalized four times, with Ohio suffering 27 penalty yards and West Virginia taking 45 yards in penalties.

Truex, of Bellaire St. John, finished with 138 yards, completing 14 of 22 passes.

70th-annual Rudy Mumfey OVAC All-Star Football Game (at Wheeling Island Stadium) West Virginia 35, Ohio 7

Ohio	0	7	0	0	7
West Virginia	7	0	7	21	35

First Quarter
WV: Blackston 1 run. (Boles Kick), 6:05.
Second Quarter
OH: Brown 13 run (Wright Kick), 8:26.
Third Quarter
WV: Oparanozie 17 run (Boles kick), 0:04.
Fourth Quarter
WV: Steele 25 fumble return. (Boles Kick), 11:12.
WV: Oparanozie 18 run. (Boles kick), 9:31.
WV: Blackston 8 run (Boles kick), 3:20.
RUSHING: Ohio: 33-25-11d (Truex, 12 (-28); Brown, 7-25-TD; Shannon, 3-10; Hilliard, 3-11; Lathan, 4-11; Howell, 2-7; Gummer, 1(-5); Team, 1(-6)). West Virginia: 33-116-4d (Oparanozie, 14-75-2td; Blackston, 5-20; Padlow, 2-13; Larch, 4(-10); Chukwu, 2(-1); Walker, 4(-11); Rice, 1-29; Heasley, 1-1.
PASSING: Ohio 14-27-138-1x (Truex, 11-18-122-1x; Lathan, 1-1-5; Hilliard, 1-3-11). West Virginia: 6-15-59-1x (Padlow, 1-5-18; Larch 2-4-17-1x; Walker 3-3-18; Heasley, 0-2).
RECEIVING: Ohio 14-138 (Snell, 3-14; Brown, 2-13; Lathan 2-44; Romano, 2-13; Gummer, 1-3; Shannon, 1-10; Mitchell, 1-11; Gummer, 2-0). West Virginia: 6-59 (Swiger, 3-32; Oparanozie, 1-6; Schwendeman, 1(-3); Boel, 1-18).
First Downs: Ohio, 8; West Virginia, 14
Fumbles: Ohio, 7-2; West Virginia, 5-0.
Penalties: Ohio, 4-27; West Virginia, 4-45

Defense

Continued from Page 1B

physicality in the first half," Connor said.

West Virginia scored a touchdown on its first drive, but the Ohio defense forced the Mountaineers to three three-and-outs in the rest of the first half.

"We knew they were going to be big and physical up front," said Connor, an Indian Creek grad. "We knew they had some big backs that could carry the ball well and create space."

Eight different West Virginia players carried the ball for positive yardage. Meanwhile, Connor was involved in 16 tackles for Ohio.

"I felt good for the most part," he said. "I knew I made some mis-

takes. Those are things I can work on and continue to get better."

Connor will get that chance in a few weeks when he begins training camp at West Liberty.

"I'm looking forward to just being out there with a new team," Connor said. "I'm not going to be the coach's son anymore, so nobody is going to know me. I get to make a name for myself."

"I'm looking forward to the transition from high school ball to college ball. I'm really excited to be a Hilltopper."

Zach's father, Andrew, is entering his 13th season as Indian Creek's head football coach.

Offense

Continued from Page 1B

Swiger said after his West Virginia team knocked off Ohio, 35-7.

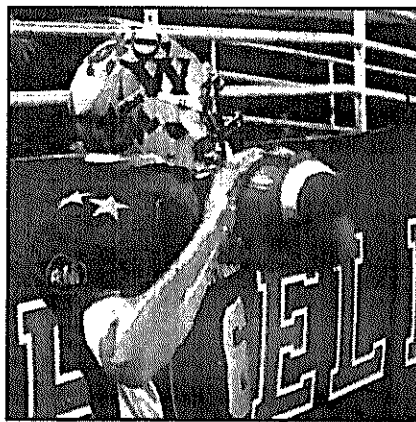
"Coach just told us to make big plays and step up when we could. We did that and that's why we won. A lot of different guys stepped up and came through in big situations."

Swiger was ready to field kicks and punts, but his expanded use on offense was a bit of surprise. He was used as a receiver and caught three passes for 32 yards to lead all wide outs.

"We were a little weary about passing at first," Swiger said. "But once we saw what defense they were running, we knew what we had to do."

"I wish I would have got in the end zone maybe one time, but it is what it is. We won and that's all that matters."

Former Brooke quarterback Aaron Walker found Swiger for



Aaron Walker

two complete passes in the second half.

"Micah is a great football player," Walker said. "He's so fast and I'm glad I got him the ball. He's a playmaker and he got out in the open and did some good things."

That's one of the reasons why

Ian Whittington picked him for the all-star team. Whittington, the head coach at Oak Glen for the past two years, wanted his Golden Bear playmaker to do the same for the Mountaineers.

"He was our go-to guy at Oak Glen and now the whole Ohio Valley got to see what kind of player he is," Whittington said. "I knew that Micah could score any time he gets the ball in his hands."

The Golden Bears had just two wins in the past two regular seasons, but Sunday's victory — Swiger's last game on the gridiron — was special for him and his high school coach.

"It's the best way to end it," said Swiger, who will attend Pittsburgh Technical Institute in the fall. "It's a chip off our shoulders. It's a relief because the past few years didn't go exactly how we wanted to, but this win was special. Coach Whitt deserves it."

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

SPORTS

W. Va. scores 35-7 rout in OVAC All-Star Game

JEFF HARRISON
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

WHEELING, WV — This one got away in a hurry.

After enduring a lightning delay of an hour and 10 minutes prior to kickoff, the teams traded punches for the better part of three quarters before a quick flurry in less than three minutes delivered a knockout punch as West Virginia claimed a 35-7 victory over Ohio in the 70th Annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium on Sunday night.

The score was deadlocked at 7-7 late in the third quarter, but West Virginia put together a quick five-play, 65-yard drive to move in front.

Weir High's Jo Jo Rice got the series going with a 29-yard gainer followed by a 14-yard pass play from Brooke's Aaron Walker to Oak Glen's Micah Swiger, setting up a 17-yard TD run on a delay by Linsly's Chimechi Oparanozie. Following the PAT by Parkersburg South's Micah Boles, West Virginia had a 14-7 lead with four seconds remaining in round three.

The floodgates opened soon thereafter as West Virginia converted a pair of Ohio turnovers into 14 more points.

First came a 25-yard scoop-and-score fumble return by Clay-Battelle's Jacoby Steele at the 11:12 mark of the fourth period and then — just three plays later — the Buckeyes gave the ball away again — this time on a fumble with Parkersburg South's Trevor Boot recovering at the Ohio 19-yard line.

It only took one play for West Virginia to extend its lead as Oparanozie got his second TD when he went untouched through a hole that opened like the parting of the Red Sea. Tack on two more PAT's by Boles and suddenly what had been a close game had turned into a 28-7 West Virginia rout



Garrett Knott/The Daily Jeffersonian
Cambridge High's Moe Lathan carries the ball toward a pair of West Virginia defenders during Sunday night's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. West Virginia posted a 35-7 victory

with 9:32 remaining.

The Mountain State squad tacked on one more tally for good measure in the waning moments, with Wheeling Park's Theo Blackston scoring from seven yards out and Boles adding his fifth successful point-after kick with 3:20 to play.

Following a wild celebration on Wheeling Island Stadium's new turf, West Virginia coach Ian Whittington (Oak Glen) was exuberant in his post-game comments.

"This was about more than the OVAC All-Star Game," he said. "It was the experience of being with these kids...this was the most fun I've ever had coaching in my life."

"You have to enjoy something like this," he continued. "You can't got out and beat them up every day. We had team bonding exercises...we yelled and screamed and we laughed...we did it

all."

They also dominated the game.

"We knew we were going to run the ball and they knew we were going to run the ball and they did a good job of plugging it up early," Whittington related, "so we had to spread them out a little in the second half to get them out of the box. Those two backs (Opranozie and Blackston) at 250 and 240 (pounds) are unbelievable.

"We felt our backs and our defensive line were our strong points," he added, "and they really came through."

For Ohio coach Jeremy McElroy (Beaver Local), it came down to the inability to execute or protect the football.

"We didn't execute," he said, "and they had a great defensive front that made some plays against us."

"Turnovers really hurt us," McElroy acknowledged. "We didn't respond to adversity very well."

West Virginia had taken the opening kickoff, which

took place at 8:25 p.m. rather than the scheduled 7:15 start time, and marched 52 yards in nine snaps, with Blackston getting the payoff on a two-yard run followed by Boles' placement with 8:05 left in the first quarter.

A brief flare-up between the teams took place during Ohio's first possession, and when order was restored, Parkersburg South's Brendan Schwendeman made a nifty pass interception on a long pass.

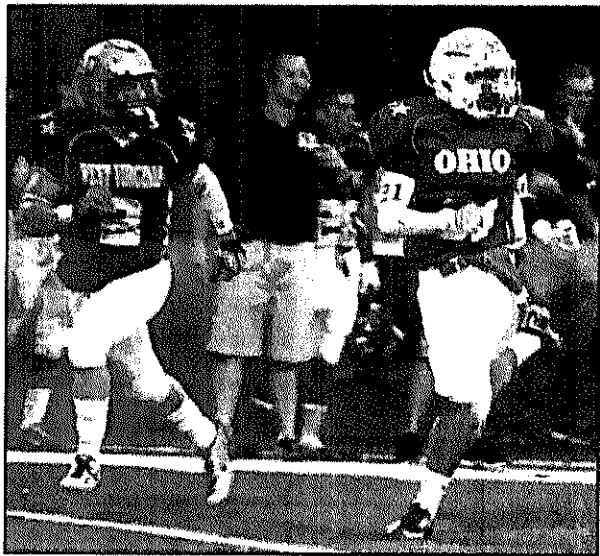
Ohio had its best series of the night beginning late in the opening quarter, eventually moving 82 yards in 12 snaps to get the equalizer.

Cambridge's Moe Lathan had a nine-yard run and caught a 23-yard pass from QB Chace Truex of St. John Central in the drive while Cambridge's Errik Snell landed a nine-yard toss and Steubenville Catholic's Stone Romano added a 15-yard grab.

The tying TD came on a 13-yard run by Monroe Central's Levi Brown, who spun off a tackler en route to



Garrett Knott/The Daily Jeffersonian
Cambridge's Riley Hayhurst (6) moves into position on defense during Sunday night's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. West Virginia won, 35-7.



Garrett Knott/The Daily Jeffersonian
Cambridge's Errik Snell (right) looks for the ball as he runs into the secondary in front of Jace Neville of University High during Sunday night's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

the end zone. River's Colton Wright kicked the PAT to even the score at 7-7 with 8:26 left in the first half.

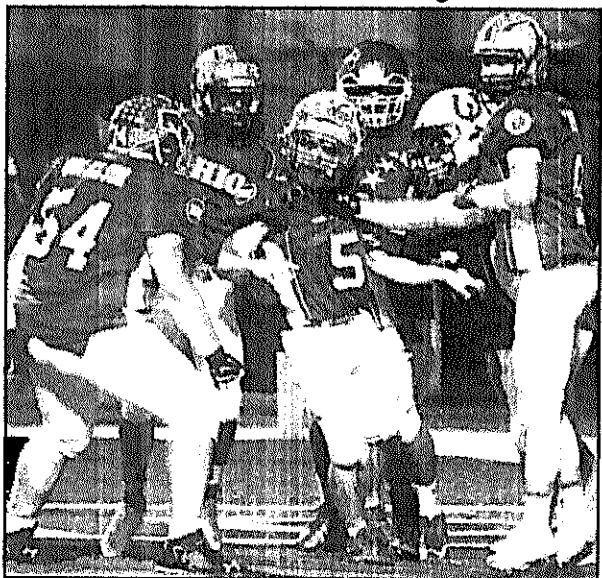
Yards were at a premium, with West Virginia managing 177 total yards while Ohio had just 134.

Oparanozie was the game's leading rusher with 14 carries for 75 yards and two TDs while Brown topped Ohio with 24 yards on six attempts.

Swiger caught three passes for 33 yards for the Mountaineers and Lathan had three grabs for 44 yards for the Buckeyes.

As always, the OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band put on a strong performance. Union Local's Hannah Smith was the recipient of the McDonald's Band Scholarship at halftime.

Bridgeport's Brianna Massey was crowned the OVAC Queen of Queens while the rest of the court included Melissa Magyer of Steubenville (first runner-up), Mia Antinone of Madonna (second runner-up), Adelaide Estep of Wheeling Park (third runner-up) and Skylar Page of Linsly (fourth runner-up). Massey was also voted Miss Congeniality.



Garrett Knott/The Daily Jeffersonian
Monroe Central's Levi Brown (5) celebrates after running for a touchdown during Sunday night's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium.



Garrett Knott/The Daily Jeffersonian
Meadowbrook's Dylan Wood (2) rushes downfield to cover a play during Sunday night's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Park Stadium in West Virginia.

70TH ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME AT WHEELING ISLAND STADIUM WEST VIRGINIA 35, OHIO 7

Ohio	0	7	0	7
W.Va.	7	0	7	21-35

First Quarter
WV—Theo Blackston 2 run (Micah Boles kick), 8:05.
Second Quarter
OH—Levi Brown 13 run (Colton Wright kick), 8:26.
Third Quarter
WV—Chimechi Oparanozie 17 run (Boles kick), 0:04.
Fourth Quarter
WV—Jacoby Steele 25 fumble return (Boles kick), 11:12.
WV—Oparanozie 19 run (Boles kick), 8:32.
WV—Blackston 7 run (Boles kick), 3:20.

	OH	WV
First Downs	10	13
Rushes-yards	33-28	34-124
Passing yards	108	53
Comp-Att-Int	14-22-1	6-14-1
Fumbles-lost	5-2	4-0
Penalties-yds	4-27	4-45
Punts-avg.	5-35.4	5-42.2

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Ohio, Brown 6-24, Moe Lathan 4-14, Chase Hillard 3-10, Ethan Shannon 3-10, Eric Howell 2-7, Malik Gummer 1-(-5), Chace Truex 12-(-26), Team 1-(-7). West Virginia, Oparanozie 14-75, Blackston 6-21, William Larch 4-1, Chukwudi Chukwu 2-0, Aaron Walker 3-(-10), Zach Heasley 1-1, Jo Jo Rice 1-28, Jesse Padlow 2-13, Team 1-(-8).

PASSING—Ohio, Truex 12-18-1-32, Hillard 1-3-0-11, Lathan 1-1-3-0, West Virginia, Padlow 1-6-1-17, Larch 2-5-0-17, Walker 3-3-0-19, Heasley 0-2-0-0.

RECEIVING—Ohio, Lathan 3-44, Erik Snell 2-16, Stone Romano 2-14, Brown 2-11, Gummer 2-5, Kalub Mitchell 1-11, Shannon 1-10, West Virginia, Micah Swiger 3-33, Trevor Boot 1-17, Oparanozie 1-6, Brendan Schwendeman 1-(-3).

INTERCEPTIONS—Ohio, Romano 1-26, West Virginia, Schwendeman 1-0.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES—Ohio, none, West Virginia, Steele 1-25, Boot 1-0.

KICKOFF RETURNS—Ohio, Gummer 3-55, Snell 2-45, Bodkin 1-0, West Virginia, Rice 1-24, Walker 1-0.

PUNT RETURNS—Ohio, Gummer 1-5, West Virginia, Swiger 3-61, Schwendeman 1-6.