

literally lost count.

The two former Maroon Knights won't forget their latest — and last — hookup probably ever.

With just nine seconds on the clock in Saturday night's 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, Rine rolled out and found Burkhalter open along the sideline for an 8-yard touchdown to lift West Virginia to a thrilling 20-13 victory against Ohio inside a jam-packed Dave Bruney

"I don't even know how to describe the feeling ... it's just amazing," Burkhalter said. "I am at a loss for words right now."

West Virginia's defense set up the game-winning touchdown by hopping on an Ohio fumble after the Buckeye State had knotted the game at 13 and then forced a quick three-and-out.

After the Mountaineer offense had struggled



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Central and West Virginia quarterback Isaac Rine looks to make a pass downfield during the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

See CENTRAL, Page 13



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Magnolia and West Virginia running back Chase Street scrambles in for a touchdown during the OVAC All-Star game.

Magnolia's Street Is Voted MVP

Ran for two touchdowns, 82 yards on 16 carries

By CODY TOMER
Staff Writer

MARTINS FERRY — The Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game is a tradition young football players in the Ohio Valley have witnessed and dreamed about growing up.

For Magnolia and West Virginia running back Chase Street, that dream came true in a big way during the 72nd edition of the contest as he was voted the Most Valuable Player of the game.

"This is an undescrivable feeling," Street said. "I've always dreamt of playing in this game. I've seen all the guys that I look up to play in it and it is great. I am overwhelmed."

Behind an offensive line that paved the way for him all night, Street ran for two touchdowns and 82 yards on 16 carries, an average of 5.1 yards a carry.

"Winning the MVP is just part of the game but this line is the real MVP," Street said. "These guys did an outstanding job and we were running right up the middle against some of the best guys in the state of Ohio and we were running it down their throats. These guys are great."

West Virginia coach John Durdines of Bishop Donahue was thrilled to have a weapon at the tailback position all night and even when Street went down with a stinger, he was chomping at the bit to get back into the action.

"We were able to get some pushes as far as run blocking and Chase just had an unbelievable game," Durdines said.

See STREET, Page 14

W.Va. All-Stars Stun Ohio, 20-13



Left, Bishop Donahue and West Virginia wide receiver J.C. Custer looks for an opening during the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Right, Weir and West Virginia running back Cody Enrietti attempts to break a tackle during a run.



Photo by Alex Kozlowski



Wheeling Park and West Virginia wide receiver Maezi Mosby runs the ball during the OVAC All-Star Game.

Mountaineers score winning TD with three seconds remaining

By JOSH STROPE
Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY — Call it a little bit of redemption.

West Virginia's John Burkhalter didn't have his best day Saturday night during the 72nd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game.

The all-state receiver was plagued by uncharacteristic drops, including a few that were guaranteed touchdowns.

Still, when the game was one the line, there was no question who the ball was going to.

The Wheeling Central connection of quarterback Isaac Rine and his favorite target, Burkhalter, hooked up on an 8-yard touchdown strike with three seconds remaining to give West Virginia a thrilling 20-13 victory against Ohio at the Dave Bruney Football Complex.

"This feels great," Burkhalter said.

"I have been coming here for so many years and seen the reaction from other West Virginia teams when they took the 'W' and that is exactly what I wanted.

See ALL-STAR, Page 14

Martins Ferry Proves Quality All-Star Venue

MARTINS FERRY — Wheeling Island Stadium is home to the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

But it is nice to have an alternate site that is up to the task when need be. The Dave Bruney Football Complex acquitted itself in sparkling fashion Saturday night, serving as a substitute for a stadium undergoing major repairs.

The venue change proved a blessing.

Despite rainy and oft-times stormy conditions, Purple Rider Stadium was packed. Having a covered grandstand that can accommodate some 3,000 fans proved a major factor for the large turnout.

The open side was also filled from end-to-end, seating another 2,000-plus partisans. Total attendance figures, although not released as of yet, will likely reach 6,000.

Last year's game on a dry but sauna-like Saturday night was played in front of fewer than 4,000 fans on the Island.

Any pre-game concerns about the Purple venue's ability to host the all-star contest failed to materialize. There was ample parking while the McDonald's All-Star Band and the Queen of Queens contest-



BUBBA KAPRAL
Executive Sports Editor

ants also had plenty of room.

"I am quite pleased with how things went tonight," Game Director Bob Koch said. "Everything went well. The Martins Ferry people did a great job."

OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak was also upbeat with how the Purple-based proceedings played out.

"Things went seamlessly. The Martins Ferry officials were wonderful to work with," Rataiczak said.

"They should be proud of how things went. This is a gor-

geous football facility."

While the Martins Ferry community delivered in all-star fashion, don't look for a return to the Dave Bruney Complex anytime soon. OVAC officials have no plans on another trip to the Purple City in the near future.

I would propose bringing the game back to Martins Ferry every three or four years.

The Ferry braintrust has proven it is up to the task and it would be a nice change of pace. Moreover, the smaller stadium yielded a more electric atmosphere.

See KAPRAL, Page 14

LL-STARS

(Continued from Page 11)

Before that I made a couple drops and that got in my head a little bit. Coming down the stretch I told myself 'it was going to be down to you.' I told the other fellow receivers Chris (Brooke's Yacht) that it is going to come down to the wide receivers. This time I had to make the catch."

With the game tied at 13-13 and Ohio with the ball, a lead pitch from Meadowbrook's Konnor Roberts landed into a loose ball. Then Marshall's Jacob Rekes came up with it for West Virginia on the Bucks 29.

With four minutes on the clock, the Mountaineers had a heavy dose of Magnolia's Chase Street and Weir's Cody Enrietti to tick the clock to the final seconds.

West Virginia almost fumbled up the ball, but he was able to recover a fumble and give the Mountaineers time for one final tick play with eight seconds on the clock.

Rine took the shotgun snap, rolled to his right and found Burkhalter at the edge of the end zone for the game-winning score.

"We ran a double nickel here with John and Chris Machini running 12-yard comeback routes," West Virginia coach John Durdines said. "We told Isaac to save an internal clock because you have to get rid of it. He made a helluva pass and John made a helluva catch."

"(Despite the drops) I had no problem going back to Ohio. I played against him for four years. Trust me, I game-planned for him, scouted him enough. We were going to keep throwing him the rock. We knew he would be there when we needed him."

Burkhalter finished with five catches for 63 yards and a score.

Ohio got the scoring started with a 22-yard run on a reverse by Buckeye Trail's Carter Streiff in the first quarter.

On the first play of the second quarter, Street went in from 9 yards to tie it at 6-6.

The Mountaineers took their first lead as Street found the end zone again, this time from 25 yards as he bounced off the line, raced down the sideline and beat an Ohio defender to the pylon.

Street finished with a game-high 82 yards rushing to earn the Most Valuable Player award.

Ohio seemed to grab the momentum in the fourth quarter, using an 11-play, 68-yard drive that ended with Steubenville's Jalen McGhee scoring on a run up the middle to tie it at 13-13.

West Virginia went three-and-out on the ensuing possession and gave Ohio the chance to drive for a game-winning score.

Two plays later came the lone Ohio turnover.



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Steubenville and Ohio running back Jalen McGhee runs the ball as Tyler Consolidated and West Virginia linebacker Tyler Anderson moves in for a tackle.



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Meadowbrook and Ohio quarterback Konnor Roberts makes a play Saturday night during the OVAC Rudy Mumfley All-Star Football Game.

"Shoulda, coulda, woulda," Ohio coach Karl Justus said. "Kids gave great effort and (West Virginia) just made one more play than we did. They made it when they needed it. We helped them out a lot with penalties and missed assignments, but they made a great play down in the end zone and that was that."

"A blocked punt, a blocked PAT, a fumble. A lot of mistakes that hardly ever happen. Take those away and maybe, who knows?"

Game Note

■ Much has been made of this being the last game for the Bishop Donahue

coaching staff and its players. The coaches started the game wearing the traditional blue polo shirts for West Virginia. At halftime, all the coaches came out wearing green Bishop Donahue shirts.

"Coaches wanted to do it," Durdines said. "It meant something to them. It was a sign of respect and solidarity. It was something the kids wanted them to do. If you heard the chant at the end, the chant was 'Bishop Donahue.' They understand it is a tough situation for us and the kids with what happened to us, but what a way to shine a little light on Bishop for once."

STREET

(Continued from Page 12)

"He is a tough kid. He took a stinger out there but just kept wanting to go back in. The kid is just excited to get back to running the football. He was so excited about the opportunity to carry the ball here and he made the most of his carries."

Ohio jumped on the board in the first but Street took over the game in the second quarter, rushing for a 9-yard touchdown to tie the game at 6-6 and a spectacular 25-yard touchdown run to give the Mountaineers a 13-6 lead.

"There were holes everywhere for me," Street said. "These guys are incredible. I am so proud of my team, my coaches and everybody here."

Hats off to the Ohio team. They fought like crazy and it was a great game."

The offensive line opened the holes for Street to charge through and West Virginia lineman Travis Lowther of Weir had one goal in mind.

"We were just paving the way for Street," Lowther said. "We have been grinding in the offseason and once we got here, we just applied what we already had along with Coach Durdines' offense. It was a great experience."

"These kids are really skilled and it was an honor playing with them. I love every one of them."

Along with Durdines' offensive schemes, the offensive line coach, Howard Stamp, was

extremely proud of the way the men up front plowed the way for the MVP.

"They did a great job," Stamp said. "Trying to get kids from all different schools to play together as a team is tough in a week's time. These kids really got along well together and they gelled."

"These are tough kids and I will remember how great these kids were and how fun it was being with these coaches for the last time. The OVAC All-Star Game is a special thing because of them and I'm sure the Ohio coaches feel the same way about their kids."

Collectively, the West Virginia offense ran for 95 yards in big part to Street and the offensive line.

KAPRAL

(Continued from Page 11)

It is nice to have quality options.

GAME NOTES

■ Al Glitch did a masterful job serving a public address announcer.

■ Chase Streets of Magnolia earned game MVP honors. You could also have made a case for Wheeling Central QB Isaac Rine.

■ No school produces Queen of Queens winners like Wheeling Park. Kelly McCardle became the latest Patriot to gain the coveted crown Saturday night.

■ The McDonald's All-Star Band is amazing. Year-in and year-out the band produces tremendous routines on just a few days of practice.

■ Koch and Rataiczak did yeoman's work Saturday, turning in at least 14-hour work days.

The game did have a few low-lights:

■ An Ohio player quit on his team during the game and exited the stadium;

■ A small but short-lived skirmish between a handful of players took place fol-

lowing the game's final play.

■ I am a passionate Bishop Donahue supporter and not happy with its short-sighted closure. However, the West Virginia assistant coaches changed attire at halftime, sporting Bishop Donahue coaching shirts after intermission, despite being advised not to by game officials. A better tribute would have been for the West Virginia players to adorn their helmets with a Bishops' decal and no other emblem.

CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 11)

to move the ball, Rine and Burkhalter were in sync on the final drive, which was a short field.

West Virginia drove to the Ohio 8-yard line and then nearly had a clock mishap before a time out was called.

"I knew we were going to sling it from the get-go (on the final drive), but they were stacking the secondary, so we were able to run the ball effectively," Rine said. "As soon as I got the play call and Ohio called time out as if they knew we were going to try to go to John, I knew we had it at that point. We just had to execute it."

Coming back to the huddle, Rine and Burkhalter just glanced at each other, knowing that the opportunity was there.

"I gave Isaac that look like, 'it's just me and you. Throw me the ball and I'll catch it,'" Burkhalter said.

According to Burkhalter, the route was a 12-yard come back.

"Obviously, we had a short field, so I had to cut it off early and bring it back toward Isaac," Burkhalter said. "We ran it in practice and I did well, so I just stuck to it."

Rine and Burkhalter had some near misses earlier in the game, too. Rine threw the ball 21 times and Burkhalter was targeted on some 15 of those.

"We were connecting (like we did in high school) in practice all week and were on the same page, but we did this two-minute drill and when it came down the stretch, I had a feeling that we'd make a play."

Rine finished 8-of-21 for 73 yards with Burkhalter catching five of those completions for 63 yards.

For Rine, winning was great and the manner in which West Virginia won was even better. But, the best part for the future Marietta Pioneer baseball player was winning it for the Bishop Donahue coaching staff, which was coaching together for the final time.

"I couldn't imagine my school closing and my dad (Jason) and my uncle (Mike Young) not being able to coach together again," Rine said. "I can only imagine how rough this is. This is my last football game and that's hard enough."

Burkhalter, who listed the game-winner as one of the top achievements of his impressive prep sports career, also acknowledged how special it was to win for the Donahue staff.

"I was doing it for the coaches because all I wanted to do was my part to help send them out on top," Burkhalter said.

The end of the night became emotional for many of the West Virginia players, including Rine. And it had very little to do with the outcome.

"You show up on Saturday, check in and you barely know any of these guys," Rine said. "Now, we're all brothers and none of us want this week to be over. Ending the way it did just makes it even more special."



Photo by Alex Kozlowski
West Virginia's John Burkhalter, of Wheeling Central, looks to haul in a pass while Ohio's Zach Bigelow, of St. Clairsville, covers.

Venue

Continued from Page B1

ple did a great job."

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SPORTS

Tuesday,
July 25, 2017

OVAC punishes W.Va. all-star coaches

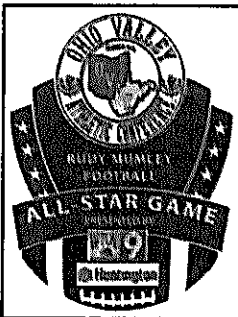
• Staff's pay docked after it changed into BD shirts at halftime

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY — The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference docked West Virginia's coaching staff \$300 of its financial share from Sunday's 72nd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game.

The official ruling came Monday when in its last game since the school is being closed. Game Director Bob Koch delivered the coaching staff's payment to West Virginia head coach John Durdines.

The OVAC docked the coaches' pay after the West Virginia coaching staff — despite being told not to by conference officials — changed out of its game-issued coaching shirt and into Bishop Donahue motif to honor the school, which was taking part



"We felt there needed to be some penalty since they were told not to and they did anyway," Koch said. "Some believed that they shouldn't have been paid at all."

Each staff is paid \$1,800 and how it's divided up amongst the staff is up to the coaches. West Virginia received \$1,500 of its share.

"The coaches wanted to do

it and it meant something to them," Durdines said moments after the game. "It was no disrespect to the OVAC. It was a sign of respect and solidarity (to Bishop Donahue). The kids wanted and begged them to do it because they understand. It's a tough situation. It was a way to shine a little light on Bishop Donahue."

The West Virginia staff coached the first half in the navy blue shirt that was provided, but changed for the second half. Durdines, however, continued to wear his

See, OVAC, Page B2

SPORTS

Wednesday,
July 26, 2017

OVAC pays rest of stipend to W.Va. coaches

• Part of fee had been withheld after staff changed shirts at halftime of all-star game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY — The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference backtracked on its decision to withhold \$300 from the West Virginia coaching staff Tuesday afternoon.

Just 24 hours removed from docking the West Virginia staff, OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak and Rudy Mumley All-Star Game Director Bob Koch met in the OVAC office and jointly agreed to pay the coaches the remaining money that it had

penalized it.

The West Virginia staff was docked the money because it went against conference orders and changed shirts at halftime of Saturday night's 72nd annual game to honor Bishop Donahue, which has been closed.

As news of the withholding spread Monday, a firestorm came with it as social media took off. The majority of people who spoke out chastised the conference's stance.

"We made a decision to return the money to because of the uproar," Rataiczak said. "Our

original decision wasn't intended to cause that. But, it did and we felt moving forward that this was the best thing to do. I honestly did not think (the original decision) would create the furor that it did."

The OVAC issued both staffs a coaching shirt, which it intended to be worn to all activities during the week as well as the game.

However, West Virginia head coach John Durdines approached the OVAC officials about the

possibility of his staff wearing Bishop Donahue shirts in the second half since it would be the final time the staff was together and to pay one final homage to the school where they coached and many attended. The OVAC denied that request, but the Mountain State coaches opted to do it anyway.

"It was never about the money and it's a shame it had to go down like it did," Durdines said via text message. "This never affected me or the incredible

week I had with the young men, culminating with a thrilling victory. I was sad for the OVAC. It is the best conference, but in order to remain the best they are going to put the (players, coaches and officials) who make it the best their priority. I no longer have a dog in the fight, but I love high school sports and I want to see (the OVAC) continue to thrive."

Though West Virginia received its full \$1,800 stipend, Rataiczak, Koch and the entire Mumley Game committee plan to meet in the coming weeks to discuss the

See, OVAC, Page B2

SPORTS

Sunday,
June 25, 2017

OVAC All-Star grid rosters set

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY — The venue is set. And now the rosters are set.

It's full steam ahead, at this point, for the 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Charity Football Classic, which will kick off at 7:15 p.m. on Saturday, July 22 at Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney Football Complex.

Barring late scratches and/or changes, both Ohio head coach Karl Justus and West Virginia head coach John Durdines have finalized their rosters and are now

awaiting the opening of the week-long camp, which will be held once again at Bethany College, starting on July 15.

DURDINES earned the right to guide the Mountain State for the first time in his career after his Bishop Donahue squad finished 6-4 and won the Class 1A conference title. Though he knew it was the small-school class' turn to coach, he didn't realize at the end of last season that it would be the final time he represents the Bishops.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston opted to close the school at the end of the recently completed academic year.

"Anytime you get to coach in this game it's a huge honor, but it definitely has more meaning for me and my staff because it turns out that it will be our last game together and representing Bishop Donahue," Durdines said. "We earned this by winning the OVAC, which I like most about it."

As a competitor, Durdines has never stepped foot on a football field not wanting to win.

Next month's clash will be no different, but he admits that there are "a few more logs on the fire" of motivation.

See, OVAC, Page B3



**Robert "Bubba"
Kapral**
Executive Sports Editor

Teamwork yields smooth OVAC game relocation

MARTINS FERRY - The OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game has long been associated with Wheeling Island Stadium.

Conference officials, however, were forced to move out of their comfort zone with the game's venue this time around. That was a result of a stadium in need of some major repairs, likely closing the facility until October.

The Martins Ferry School District made a successful pitch to serve as the alternate site, winning out over several other suitors. Saturday night's game at the Dave Bruney Football Complex marked just the third time the OVAC all-star clash has been played off the Island.

The move across the Ohio River played out seamlessly, due to solid teamwork, cooperation and communication by OVAC officials and the Ferry administration.

"Coach Kim (Appolloni), Coach Dave (Bruney) and I have met with Tom Rataiczak and Game Director Bob Koch on several occasions. We also have met with city officials including Mayor Krajnyak, Chief John MacFarland, Water Superintendent Bill Suto, EMS Coordinator Dave Snyder and Fire Chief Mike Cooper to make sure everything was in place," Martins Ferry Schools Superintendent Jim Fogle said. "The event is extremely large and it's an awesome way to showcase the talents of our students in the OVAC. Coach Kim has been the main cog for the organization of this production.

"Todd Yoder and myself put some time into this event, but Coach Kim has worked tirelessly with the OVAC brass to make it a memorable night for the participants. She has also organized several volunteers to work game night," he added.

"Mr. Yoder and I have overseen many updates to the Dave Bruney Football Complex, ranging from the turf replacement, new paint, asphalt, new scoreboard and updates to some of the restrooms," he added. "It's been quite sometime since we've done any updates to the stadium. The cooperation between the OVAC, the city and our school officials has been tremendous."

Fogle's thoughts are echoed by Appolloni.

"Bob Koch and Rat have this game down to a science. The amount of time and energy they have placed into this event is mind boggling. They have guided us along the way. Basically we have turned our complex over to them and will provide the manpower to hopefully pull it off," Appolloni said. "We could not have done this without the support of the city administration and Larry Deaton, who as always, is the backbone of the boosters support. Mr. Fogle, Mr. Yoder and Coach Dave have spent a tremendous amount of man hours making sure the facility looks top-notch. The complex has undergone a complete facelift with new turf, painting and asphalt work and our new scoreboard.

"We are so excited and honored to be able to host the all-star game. It is a long-standing Ohio Valley tradition. Basically it kicks off the start of football in the valley, and football is so important to the communities up and down the river and throughout our entire area," she offered. "We are so fortunate here in Martins Ferry to have the support from not only our administration but also from the entire city."

Rataiczak was praiseworthy with the efforts put forth by the Purple people to make such an immense relocation come to fruition.

"To move a game such as this, with all the pieces needed to pull it off, is a monumental and stressful undertaking. When you are used to having everything the same, everything in place, everything lined up, as we were so used to at Wheeling Island, it's a challenge to say the least," the OVAC executive-secretary said. "That being said, Dave Bruney and Kim Appolloni have been unbelievable. Everything they could possibly do to smooth the transition, they've done. You have to realize that they are doing a lot of work at the field to get ready for their own season, work that would normally be stretched out for another month, so they are facing a huge task themselves to get ready for the game.

"We are very grateful to the administration, board, police department, business, everyone who has been so willing to showcase their facility and their town," Rataiczak said. "The conference is truly blessed to have people like Ohio County and Martins Ferry so willing to pitch in and help out to make this game a special event for the kids."

OVERBLOWN ISSUE
SPEAKING OF the OVAC football

See, OVAC, Page B4

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

"Bishop Donahue gave me an opportunity and it's a shame-what has happened and how cowardly it happened," Durdines said. "I owe everything I am to Bishop Donahue. They gave me a chance and it really upsets me for the kids. I know the kids will heal and move on, but I also know how sad and upset they are. So, I do have extra fuel for this game."

Durdines will get to coach three of his own players one more time, too. Jimmy Hull, J.C. Custer and Trey Miller will don their B.D. helmet one more time.

"It's great that we get to share (this game) with three of our own guys," Durdines said. "And the three kids we chose deserve to be on this team, regardless of who is coaching."

Donahue isn't the only school being represented in the game for the last time. Tyler Consolidated has withdrawn from the OVAC for the coming school year, so Tyler Anderson and Jace Reed will represent the Silver Knights in their final soiree.

Weir led the Mountain State roster with five selections. Wheeling Park, Wheeling Central, Parkersburg South and University join B.D. with a trio of players.

"Choosing the roster is unbelievably tough," Durdines said. "There are so many good kids who you can't take. And you have to play a game, so you can't just take 32 players. We have kids who excelled on their teams, but there's just so much talent. We're very excited with the kids we have."

JUSTUS was the head coach at Conotton Valley last season and by virtue of being the highest-finishing Ohio school in Class 1A, earned the right to guide the Buckeye State. It's his first all-star game assignment.

He won't be returning to the Rockets' sideline, however. He's accepted a position as an assistant coach at Hocking College, which just started football two years ago.

game is a way to honor some of your seniors. However, the Rockets have nary a player on the roster, but Justus pointed out one was chosen and elected not to play.

The complete rosters are as follows:

OHIO

Terry Adkins, Beaver Local; Jesse Ball, Harrison Central; Zach Bigelow, St. Clairsville; Garth Charlton, Cambridge; Robert Coppa, Indian Creek; Ben Davis, Toronto; Jack Davis, Martins Ferry; Trey Elerick, St. Clairsville; Zack Gill, East Liverpool; Jarrett Hooper, Monroe Central; Justyn Keyser, Bellaire; Dylan Kidder, East Liverpool; Mason Ladyga, River; Casey Lewis, Fort Frye; William Lowe, Cambridge; Luke Matusik, River; Austin Mayfield, East Liverpool; Jalen McGee, Steubenville; Donnie Meadows, Shadyside; Sean Millard, Buckeye Local; Drone Moore, Steubenville; Freddie Plum, East Liverpool; Troy Pontius, Buckeye Trail; Konnor Roberts, Meadowbrook; Sam Robinson, Indian Creek; Cody Saksa, River; Carter Streliff, Buckeye

Trail; Brenton Stull, Harrison Central; Max Tice, Toronto; Dom Wallace, Martins Ferry; Kyle Wilson, Buckeye Trail; Danny Zdinak, Toronto; Zane Zlmish, Steubenville

WEST VIRGINIA

Jordan Allen, Weir; Tyler Anderson, Tyler; Dylan Baker, Wheeling Central; Hayden Berry, Wheeling Park; John Burkhalter, Wheeling Central; Dante Carlier, Morgantown; J.C. Custer, Bishop Donahue; Alex Edgell, Brooke; Cody Enrietti, Weir; Brant Freeland, South; Adam Frisco, University; Gage Giovengo, Linsly; Brandon Hall, South; Hayden Hizer, Paden City; Jimmy Hull, Bishop Donahue; Lander James, Cameron; Jacob Kerekas, John Marshall; Logan Kranis, Oak Glen; Travls Lowther, Weir; Zack Martin, University; Michael Meaige, Wheeling Park; Trey Miller, Bishop Donahue; Michael Mills, Weir; Jacob Murray, Linsly; Peyton Powroznik, University; Jack Raitz, South; Jace Reed, Tyler; Isaac Rine, Wheeling Central; Donovan Spencer, Weir; Michael Starcher, Cameron; Chase Street, Magnolia; Zach Torbett, Wheeling Park; Chris Yachini, Brooke.

Before he shifted his focus to the collegiate level, he spent a lot of time looking at prep film to gauge which players to select for this summer's game.

"Finding players wasn't tough," Justus said. "Eliminating players was the toughest part. With so many good players in the Ohio Valley, narrowing it down to 32 players makes it really challenging."

Justus represented 18 schools with his selections and only one school (East Liverpool) received more than three bids. Other schools with three players chosen were River, Buckeye Trail, Toronto and Steubenville. The OVAC limits a school to three picks, but the Potters received a fourth because the kicker doesn't count toward the maximum numbers.

Normally coaching the

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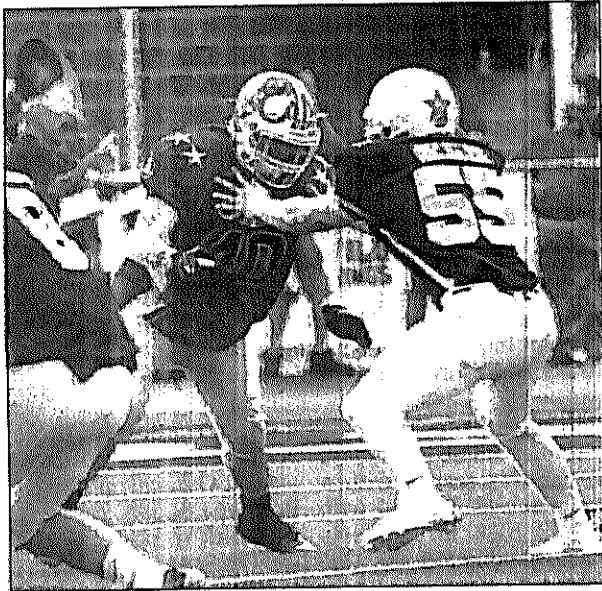
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Sports

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W.Va. wins OVAC All-Star Game in final seconds



Ohio's Garth Charlton (40) of Cambridge tangles with West Virginia's Jack Raitz (55), of Parkersburg South during the 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium on Saturday.

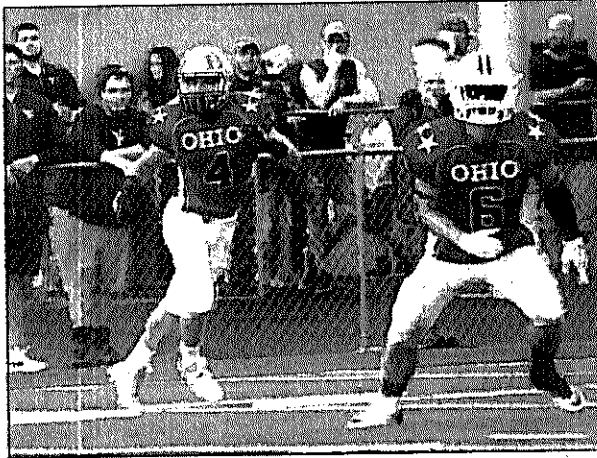
By JEFF HARRISON
The Daily Jeffersonian



Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium.

MARTINS FERRY — It came down to a roll of the dice in the final seconds and the Wheeling Central combination of Isaac Rine and John Burkhalter delivered a "seven", lifting West Virginia to a 20-13 victory over Ohio in the 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game played Saturday night at

When Ohio scored with 6:39 remaining to tie the score at 13-13, it appeared the game could go to overtime for the first time ever, but a fumble by the Buckeye State squad with four minutes remaining set the West Virginians up at the



Rachel Layton/ The Daily Jeffersonian/buyjeffphotos.com
Ohio's Troy Pontius of Buckeye Trail (4) and William Lowe of Cambridge (6) work in tandem on defense during the 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium on Saturday

Ohio 30-yard line with 4:48 to play.

West Virginia went to work on the ground, with Magnolia's Chase Street and Weir's Cody Enrietti helping to advance the ball to the Ohio seven-yard line.

A one-yard loss left West Virginia with a second-and-goal at the eight, but only eight seconds remained and while a field goal would have won the game, Coach John Durdines turned riverboat gambler and opted for one more shot at a TD.

Quarterback Rine and receiver Burkhalter deliv-

ered big-time, connecting on a TD pass in the extreme right of the end zone for the dramatic game-winning score. Michael Mills of Weir added the PAT, and all that remained was the ensuing kickoff which ended the game.

"I'm so happy for these kids...they busted their butts all week," said West Virginia coach John Durdines. "They definitely deserve this win tonight."



Ohio's Carter Streiff of Buckeye Trail (22) scores the game's first touchdown as West Virginia's Lance Collins of Linsly (8) arrives too late during Saturday's 72nd OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football game at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium.

"I told these kids this was my last game as a head coach and I wouldn't want to do it with any other group of kids," he said. "I'm not just talking about talent. The character and class of these kids is top-notch."

West Virginia has now won the annual mid-summer classic three years in a row and for the sixth time in the last eight years. Ohio still leads the overall series, 43-28-1 including 28-17-1 since the OVAC assumed sponsorship of the game in 1972.

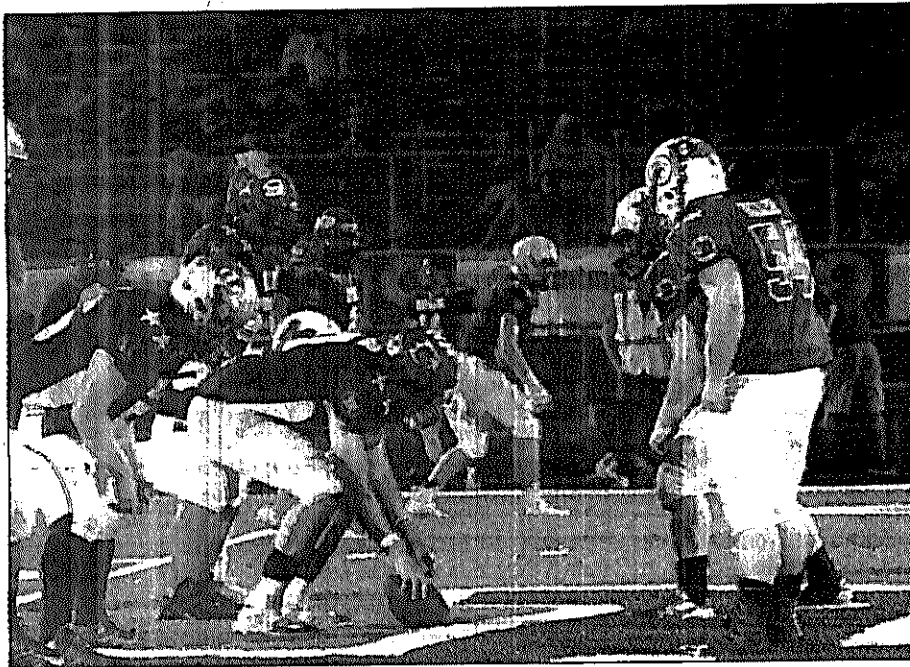
Ohio opened the scoring at the 6:51 mark of the first

quarter, with Buckeye Trail's Carter Streiff taking a reverse to the right side, executing a couple of nifty moves and scoring on a 20-yard run.

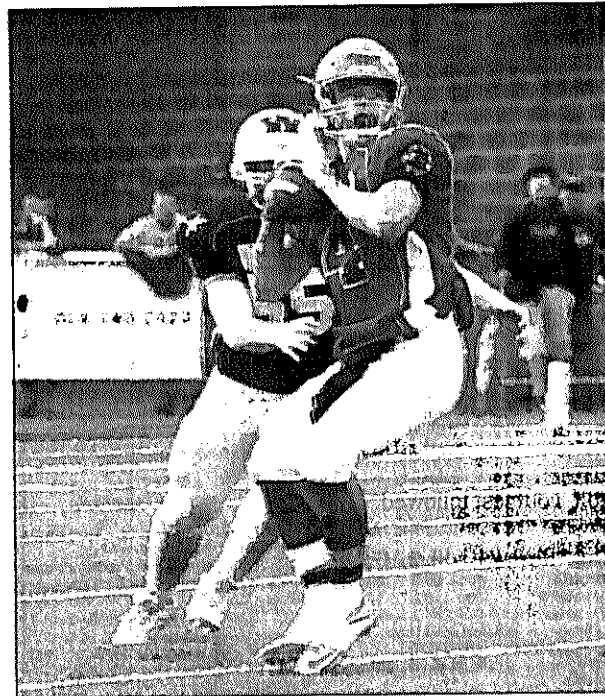
West Virginia's Tyler Anderson of Tyler Consolidated blocked the PAT, but Ohio was on top by a 6-0 count.

The Mountain State squad evened the count at 6-6 on the first snap of the second period, with Magnolia's Street tallying on a nine-yard run. A missed

See Page B3 | Wins



Ohio's Kyle Wilson (54) of Buckeye Trail waits from his defensive line spot for West Virginia to snap the football the 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium on Saturday.



Ohio quarterback Konnor Roberts from Meadowbrook (14) looks to pass as West Virginia's Jack Raitz of Parkersburg South (5) closes in during Saturday's 72nd OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football game at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium.

OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME	
WEST VIRGINIA 20	
OHIO 13	
West Virginia	0-13 07 — 20
Ohio	6-0 07 — 13
First Quarter	
OH — Carter Streiff, 20 run (kick blocked), 6:51	
Second Quarter	
WV — Chase Street, 9 run (kick failed), 11:55	
WV — Chase Street, 25 run (Michael Mills kick) 3:43	
Fourth Quarter	
OH — John McChes, 10 run (Dylan Kuder kick), 6:39	
WV — John Burkhalter, 8 pass from Isaac Rine (Michael Mills kick), 0:28	
	WV OH
First Downs	18 7
Rushing yards	34-67 40-123
Passing yards	74 21
Comp-Att-Int	6-21-1 2-8-0
Fumbles-Lost	2-1 2-1
Penalties-yards	5-40 5-50
Punt-avg	3-39 3-33
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
RUSHING — W.Va., Street 16-82, Enrietti 8-28, Mosby 1-20; Oh., Spencer 1-1, Gage 1-1, Rine 9-30; Ohio, Casey Lewis 9-31, Austin Mayfield 7-4, McChes 6-49, William Lowe 5-19, Streiff 2-14, Garth Charlton 2-7, Jesse Ball 1-4, Robert Coppa 1-13.	
PASSING — W.Va., Rine 8-20-1-74; Lance Collins 0-1-0-0; Ohio, Mayfield 2-5-0-18, Roberts 1-3-0-3.	
RECEIVING — W.Va., Burkhalter 5-64, Chris Yachini 2-13, JC Custer 1-13; Ohio, Streiff 1-18, Coppa 1-3.	
INTERCEPTIONS — W.Va., none; Ohio, Danny Zilinski 1.	
FUMBLE RECOVERIES — W.Va., Jacob Kerekes; Ohio, Doree Moore.	
KICKOFF RETURNS — W.Va., Mosby 3-96; Ohio, Max Tice 2-15, Lewis 1-25.	
PUNT RETURNS — W.Va., Mosby 1-10; Ohio, none.	



Rachel Layton/ The Daily Jeffersonian/buyjeffphotos.com

Ohio's William Lowe of Cambridge (6) locks horns with West Virginia's Chris Yachino of Brooke during the 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium on Saturday. Also pictured is Ohio's Luke Matusik from River (61).

Wins

From Page B1

PAT left the game deadlocked with 11:55 left in the first half.

West Virginia moved in front 13-6 at the 3:43 juncture of round number two, with Street again getting his second score of the night on a 25-yard TD run. Weir's Mills tacked on the extra-point.

Ohio scored the equalizer in the fourth quarter thanks to a 12-play, 68-yard drive which featured a couple of solid runs by Fort Frye's Casey Lewis and a clutch seven-yard gainer by Cambridge's Garth Charlton on a fourth-and-five at the West Virginia 12.

Two plays later, Steubenville's Jalen McGhee followed Charlton up the middle for a 10-yard TD, with the point-after kick by East Liverpool's Dylan Kidder knotting the count at 13-all and setting the stage for exciting fin-

ish.

"Shoulda...coulda...woulda," offered Ohio coach Karl Justus. "The kids gave great effort; they just made one more play than we did.

"We helped them out a lot with penalties and missed assignments," he continued, "but despite all that it came down to a great play at the end."

Rine completed 8-of-20 passes for 74 yards and one interception (by Toronto's Danny Zdinak) for West Virginia, with Burkhalter catching five passes for 64 yards and the game-winner.

Streets finished with 16 carries for 82 yard and two TDs, and he was named the game's MVP in an on-line voting by the fans.

"Ohio got a lot of pressure on us and took us out of our pass game," said Coach Durdines, "but what a game Chase Street had. He and Cody (Enrietti) got us a lot of tough yards tonight."

Steubenville's McGhee gained 49 yards and Fort

Frye's Lewis added 31 on the ground for Ohio. QBs Austin Mayfield of East Liverpool and Konnor Roberts of Meadowbrook were just 3-of-8 combined for 21 passing yards.

EXTRA POINTS

--After wearing their West Virginia blue shirts in the first half, the coaching staff switched to their Bishop Donahue green shirts at halftime as a tribute to their school which has closed its doors.

--"The coaches wanted to do it and the kids wanted them to do it," said Coach Durdines. "You could hear them chanting 'Bishop Donahue' at the end for us because they understand it's a tough situation for us and for the kids there, and what a way to shine a little light on the school tonight."

--Meadowbrook High grad Kyle Roberts (brother of Ohio QB Konnor Roberts) got a chance to show off his pass, punt and kick skills at the end of the

first quarter. His attempt at a 45-yard field goal on the field where Lou 'The Toe' Groza once kicked came up a little (or more accurately a lot) short.

--The OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band once again put on a terrific performance both in the pregame and halftime.

--Wheeling Park's Kelly McCardle was crowned the 2017 OVAC Queen of Queens. The first runner-up was Shadyside's Ashley Visnic.

--Officials at Martins Ferry did an outstanding job of hosting the game which was played outside of Wheeling Island Stadium for only the third time. Purple Rider Stadium looked resplendent with its newly-installed turf and scoreboard/message board and everything appeared to run smoothly thanks to the efforts of Athletic Director Kim Appolloni, Coach Dave Bruney and Superintendent Jim Fogle along with countless others.

On the verge of another meltdown in a major, Spieth bounced back and put together a rally to secure the British Open/12

OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game Central Duo Connect One Final Time

Rine, Burkhalter hookup in final seconds to secure victory for West Virginia

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

MARTINS FERRY — Isaac Rine and John Burkhalter hooked up so many times in the Wheeling Central passing game that both literally lost count.

The two former Maroon Knights won't forget their latest — and last — hookup probably ever.

With just nine seconds on the clock in Saturday night's 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, Rine rolled out and found Burkhalter open along the sideline for an 8-yard touchdown to lift West Virginia to a thrilling 20-13 victory against Ohio inside a jam-packed Dave Bruney

Football Complex.

"I knew that John and I, after a few of the miscues we had early on, were going to have to make a play to win this game," Rine said moments after the clock turned to all zeroes. "John and I ran that route to death in high school, so it worked out for us."

Burkhalter, who caught five passes in the game, stood and simply tried to take the whole thing in as his Mountaineer teammates celebrated and posed for pictures.

"I don't even know how to describe the feeling ... it's just amazing," Burkhalter said. "I am at a loss for words right now."

West Virginia's defense set up the game-winning touchdown by hopping on an Ohio fumble after the Buckeye State had knotted the game at 13 and then forced a quick three-and-out.

After the Mountaineer offense had struggled

See **CENTRAL**, Page 13

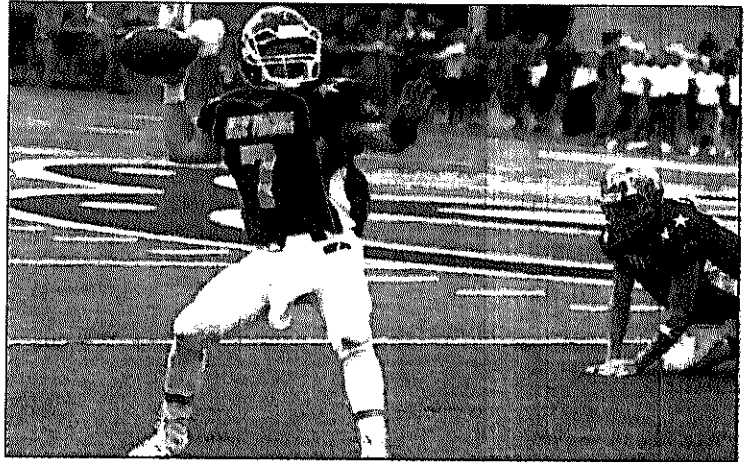


Photo by Alex Kozlowski
Wheeling Central and West Virginia quarterback Isaac Rine looks to make a pass downfield during the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

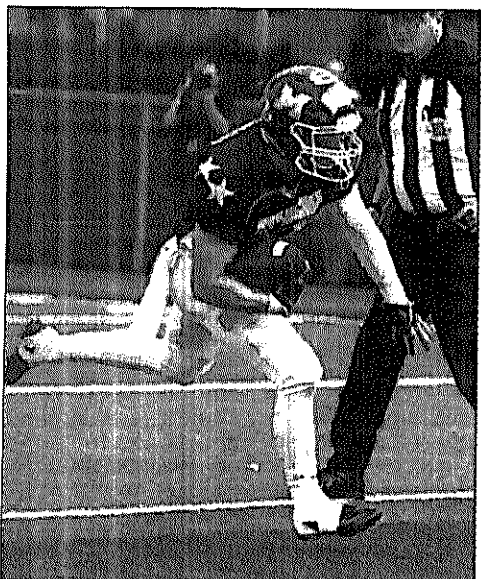


Photo by Alex Kozlowski
Magnolia and West Virginia running back Chase Street scrambles in for a touchdown during the OVAC All-Star game.

Magnolia's Street Is Voted MVP

Ran for two touchdowns, 82 yards on 16 carries

By **CODY TOMER**
Staff Writer

MARTINS FERRY — The Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game is a tradition young football players in the Ohio Valley have witnessed and dreamed about growing up.

For Magnolia and West Virginia running back Chase Street, that dream came true in a big way during the 72nd edition of the contest as he was voted the Most Valuable Player of the game.

"This is an undescrivable feeling," Street said. "I've always dreamt of playing in this game. I've seen all the guys that I look up to play in it and it is great. I am overwhelmed."

Behind an offensive line that paved the way for him all night, Street ran for two touchdowns and 82 yards on 16 carries, an average of 5.1 yards a carry.

"Winning the MVP is just part of the game but this line is the real MVP," Street said. "These guys did an outstanding job and we were running right up the middle against some of the best guys in the state of Ohio and we were running it down their throats. These guys are great."

West Virginia coach John Durdines of Bishop Donahue was thrilled to have a weapon at the tailback position all night and even when Street went down with a stinger, he was chomping at the bit to get back into the action.

"We were able to get some pushes as far as run blocking and Chase just had an unbelievable game," Durdines said.

See **STREET**, Page 14

W.Va. All-Stars Stun Ohio, 20-13



Photo by Alex Kozlowski
Left, Bishop Donahue and West Virginia wide receiver J.C. Custer looks for an opening during the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Right, Weir and West Virginia running back Cody Enrietti attempts to break a tackle during a run.



Wheeling Park and West Virginia wide receiver Maezi Mosby runs the ball during the OVAC All-Star Game.

Mountaineers score winning TD with three seconds remaining

By **JOSH STROPE**
Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY — Call it a little bit of redemption.

West Virginia's John Burkhalter didn't have his best day Saturday night during the 72nd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game.

The all-state receiver was plagued by uncharacteristic drops, including a few that were guaranteed touchdowns.

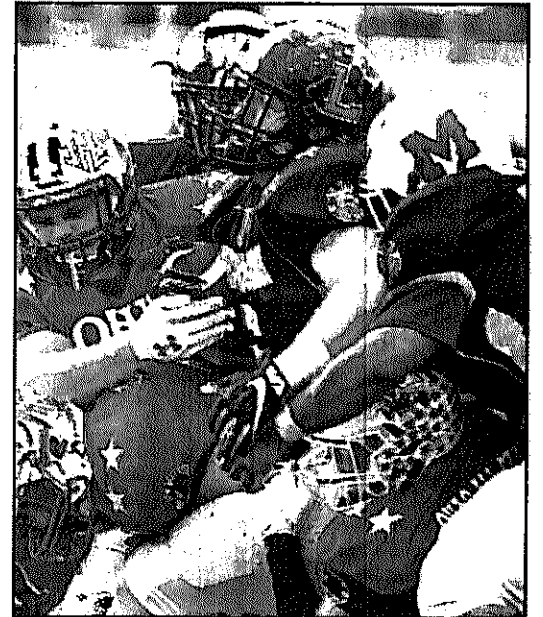
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"This feels great," Burkhalter said.

"I have been coming here for so many years and seen the reaction from other West Virginia teams when they took the 'W' and that is exactly what I wanted.

See **ALL-STARS**, Page 14



AT LEFT: Ohio running back Carter Streiff runs through an attempted West Virginia tackle for a first down during the first half of Saturday's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney Football Complex.

ABOVE: West Virginia's Gage Giovengo is stacked up by a host of Ohio tacklers during Saturday's game. The West Virginia squad prevailed, 20-13.

T-L Photos/ALEX KOZLOWSKI

West Virginia takes down Ohio

• Late TD pass sparks W.Va. past Buckeyes

By JOSH STROPE
For The Times Leader

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With the game tied at 13-13 and Ohio with the ball, a failed pitch from Meadowbrook's Konnor Roberts turned into a loose ball. John Marshall's Jacob Kerekes came up with it for West Virginia on the Buckeyes 29.

With four minutes on the clock, the Mountaineers used a heavy dose of Mag-

See, LATE, Page B2



WEST VIRGINIA punt return Maezi Mosby is wrapped up by Ohio's Justyn Keyser during the first half of Saturday's annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. The West Virginia all stars prevailed in the game, 20-13.



Robert "Bubba" Kapral
Executive Sports Editor

Ferry proves ideal all-star game venue

MARTINS FERRY - Wheeling Island Stadium is home to the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

But it is nice to have an alternate site that is up to the task when need be. The Dave Bruney Football Complex acquitted itself in sparkling fashion Saturday night, serving as a substitute for a stadium undergoing major repairs.

The venue change proved a blessing. Despite rainy and oft-times stormy conditions, Purple Rider Stadium was packed. Having a covered grandstand that can accommodate some 3,000 fans proved a major factor for the large turnout.

The open side was also filled from end-to-end, seating another 2,000-plus partisans. Total attendance figures, although not released as of yet, will likely reach 6,000.

Last year's game on a dry but sauna-like Saturday night was played in front of fewer than 4,000 fans on the Island.

Any pre-game concerns about the Purple venue's ability to host the all-star contest failed to materialize. There was ample parking while the McDonald's All-Star Band and the Queen of Queens contestants also had plenty of room.

"I am quite pleased with how things went tonight," Game Director Bob Koch said. "Everything went well. The Martins Ferry peo-

See, VENUE, Page B3

Touchdown pass was like old times for Rine and Burkhalter

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

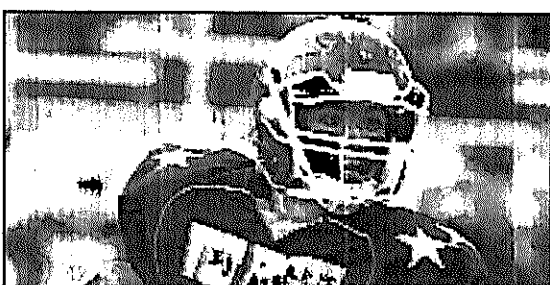
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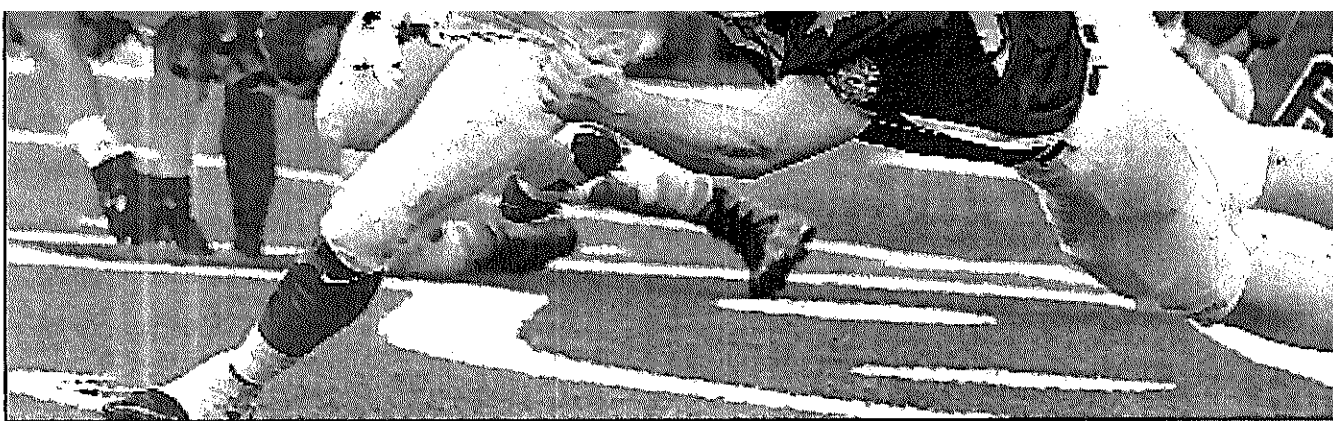
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MARTINS FERRY — Isaac

WEST VIRGINIA quarterback Isaac Rine looks to pass during the first





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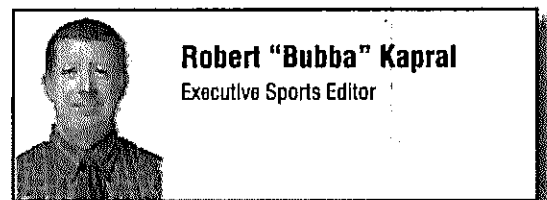
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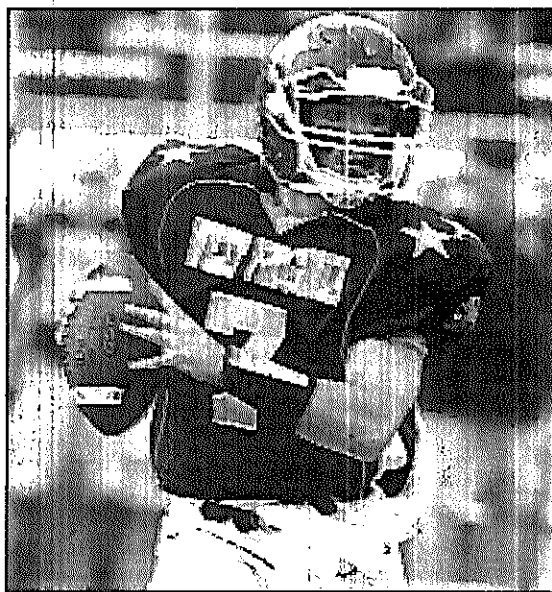
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West Virginia's defense set

See, **PASS**, Page B2

WEST VIRGINIA quarterback Isaac Rine looks to pass during the first half of Saturday's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.



Street runs to game MVP honors

By **CODY TOMER**
For The Times Leader

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See, **STREET**, Page B2



WEST VIRGINIA running back Chase Street is cut down by Ohio's Billy Johnson during the first half of Saturday's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Street was named the game's MVP after rushing for two touchdowns in a 20-13 win.

Street

Continued from Page B1

West Virginia coach John Durdines of Bishop Donahue was thrilled to have a weapon at the tailback position all night and even when Street went down with a stinger, he was chomping at the bit to get back into the action.

"We were able to get some pushes as far as run blocking and Chase just had an unbelievable game," Durdines said. "He is a tough kid. He took a stinger out there but just kept wanting to go back in. The kid is just excited to get back to running the football. He was so excited about the opportunity to carry the ball here and he made the most of his carries."

Ohio jumped on the board in the first but Street took over the game in the second quarter, rushing for a 9-yard touchdown to tie the game at 6-6 and a spectacular 25-yard touchdown

run to give the Mountaineers a 13-6 lead.

"There were holes everywhere for me," Street said. "These guys are incredible. I am so proud of my team, my coaches and everybody here. Hats off to the Ohio team. They fought like crazy and it was a great game."

The offensive line opened the holes for Street to charge through and West Virginia lineman Travis Lowther of Weir had one goal in mind.

"We were just paving the way for Street," Lowther said. "We have been grinding in the offseason and once we got here, we just applied what we already had along with Coach Durdines' offense. It was a great experience."

"These kids are really skilled and it was an honor playing with them. I love every one of them."

Along with Durdines' offensive schemes, the offensive line coach, Howard Stamp, was extremely proud of the way the men up front plowed the way for the MVP.

"They did a great job," Stamp said. "Trying to get kids from all different schools to play together as a team is tough in a week's time. These kids really got along well together and they gelled."

"These are tough kids and I will remember how great these kids were and how fun it was being with these coaches for the last time. The OVAC All-Star Game is a special thing because of them and I'm sure the Ohio coaches feel the same way about their kids."

Collectively, the West Virginia offense ran for 95 yards in big part to Street and the offensive line.

OVAC

Continued from Page B1

nolia's Chase Street and Weir's Cody Enrietti to milk the clock to the final seconds.

West Virginia almost coughed up the ball, but Rine was able to recover a fumble and give the Mountaineers time for one final quick play with eight seconds on the clock.

Rine took the shotgun snap, rolled to his right and found Burkhalter at the edge of the end zone for the game-winning score.

"We ran a double nickel there with John and Chris Yachini running 12-yard comeback routes," West Virginia coach John Durdines said. "We told Isaac to have an internal clock because you have to get rid of it. He made a helluva pass and John made a helluva catch."

"(Despite the drops) I had no problem going back to John. I played against him for four years. Trust me, I game-planned for him, scouted him enough. We were going to keep throwing him the rock. We knew he would be there when we needed him."

Burkhalter finished with five catches for 63 yards and a score.

Ohio got the scoring started with a 22-yard run on a reverse by Buckeye Trail's Carter Streiff in the first quarter.

On the first play of the second quarter, Street went in from 9 yards to tie it at 6-6.

The Mountaineers took their first lead as Street found the end zone again, this time from 25 yards as he bounced off the line, raced down the sideline and beat an Ohio defender to the pylon.

Street finished with a game-high 82 yards rushing to earn the Most Valuable Player award.

Ohio seemed to grab the momentum in the fourth quarter, using an 11-play, 68-yard drive that ended with Steubenville's Jalen McGhee scoring on a run up the middle to tie it at 13-13.

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Pass

Continued from Page B1

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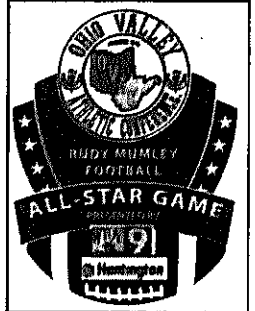
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According to Burkhalter, the route was a 12-yard come back.

"Obviously, we had a short field, so I had to cut it off early and bring it back toward Isaac," Burkhalter explained. "We ran it in practice and I did well, so I just stuck to it."

Rine and Burkhalter had some near misses earlier in the game, too. Rine threw the ball 21 times and Burkhalter was targeted on some 15 of those.

"We were connecting (like we did in high school)..."



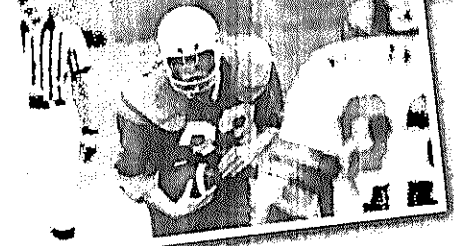
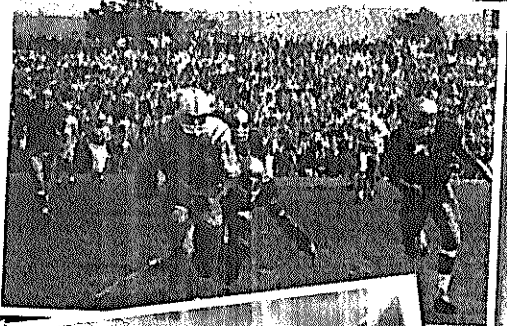
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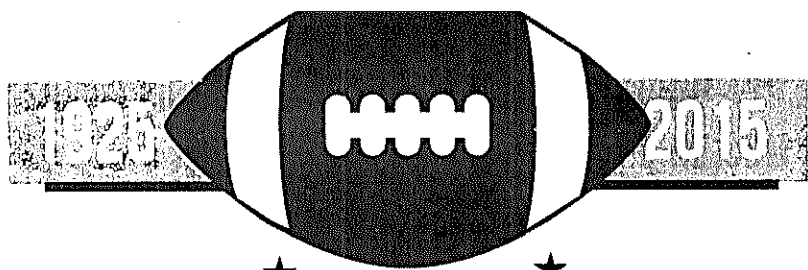
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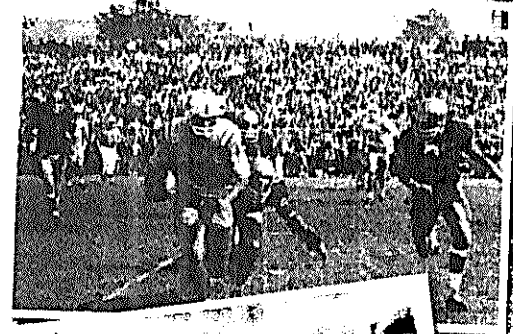
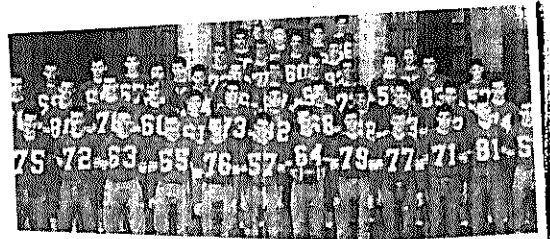
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Rine and Burkhalter had some near misses earlier in the game, too. Rine threw the ball 21 times and Burkhalter was targeted on some 15 of those.

"We were connecting (like we did in high school) in practice all week and were on the same page, but we did this two-minute drill and when it came down the stretch, I had a feeling that we'd make a play."

Rine finished 8-of-21 for 73 yards with Burkhalter catching five of those completions for 63 yards.

For Rine, winning was great and the manner in which West Virginia won was even better. But, the best part for the future Marietta Pioneer baseball player was winning it for the Bishop Donahue coaching staff, which was coaching together for the final time.

"I couldn't imagine my school closing and my dad (Jason) and my uncle (Mike Young) not being able to coach together again," Rine said. "I can only imagine how rough this is. This is my last football game and that's hard enough."

Burkhalter, who listed the game-winner as one of the top achievements of his impressive prep sports career, also acknowledged how special it was to win for the Donahue staff.

"I was doing it for the coaches because all I wanted to do was my part to help send them out on top," Burkhalter explained.

The end of the night became emotional for many of the West Virginia players, including Rine. And it had very little to do with the outcome.

"You show up on Saturday, check in and you barely know any of these guys," Rine said. "Now, we're all brothers and none of us want this week to be over. Ending the way it did just makes it even more special."

"I GAVE Isaac that look like, 'it's just me and you. Throw me the ball and I'll catch it'"

- John Burkhalter
 W.Va. Wide Receiver

According to a source, former MVP Derrick Rose has agreed to join Cleveland/12

OVAC Withholding \$300 from W.Va. Coaches

Change of attire during halftime not permitted

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

MARTINS FERRY — The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference docked West Virginia's coaching staff \$300 of its financial share from Sunday's 72nd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game. The official ruling came Monday when

Game Director Bob Koch delivered the coaching staff's payment to West Virginia head coach John Durdines.

The OVAC docked the coaches' pay after the West Virginia coaching staff — despite being told not to by conference officials — changed out of its game-issued coaching shirt and into Bishop Donahue motif to honor the school, which was taking part in its last game since the school is being closed.

"We felt there needed to be some

penalty since they were told not to and they did anyway," Koch said. "Some believed that they shouldn't have been paid at all."

Each staff is paid \$1,800 and how it's divided up amongst the staff is up to the coaches. West Virginia received \$1,500 of its share.

"The coaches wanted to do it and it meant something to them," Durdines said moments after the game. "It was no disrespect to the OVAC. It was a sign of

respect and solidarity (to Bishop Donahue). The kids wanted and begged them to do it because they understand. It's a rough situation. It was a way to shine a little light on Bishop Donahue."

The West Virginia staff coached the first half in the navy blue shirt that was provided, but changed for the second half. Durdines, however, continued to wear his OVAC-issued shirt.

"We weren't going to withhold all of

Please See OVAC, Page 12

OVAC

(Continued from Page 11)

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their pay because there's more than just the game involved and it's an entire week," Koch said. "It's just disappointing because the coaches were told not to."

Durdines was informed by Koch prior to his arrival of the confer-

ence's decision.

"John didn't give me any static about the decision," Koch said. "I was actually surprised that he wasn't upset."

The OVAC plans to "change the wording" in its agreement with

coaches to make sure the issued clothing is worn throughout the game, according to Koch.

"Up until now we never saw a need to issue a contract to each coach, but I guess we will have to start that now," Koch said.

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ROSE, CAVS AGREE TO CONTRACT

Derrick Rose has signed a one-year contact worth \$2.1 million to play for the Cleveland Cavaliers/13

OVAC Backtracks on Decision to Withhold \$300

W.Va. coaches will receive full payment

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

MARTINS FERRY — The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference backtracked on its decision to withhold \$300 from the West Virginia coaching staff Tuesday afternoon.

Just 24 hours removed from docking

the West Virginia staff, OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak and Rudy Mumley All-Star Game Director Bob Koch met in the OVAC office and jointly agreed to pay the coaches the remaining money that it had penalized it.

The West Virginia staff was docked the money because it went against conference orders and changed shirts at halftime of Saturday night's 72nd annual game to honor Bishop Donahue,

which has been closed.

As news of the withholding spread Monday, a firestorm came with it as social media took off. The majority of people who spoke out chastised the conference's stance.

"We made a decision to return the money to because of the uproar," Rataiczak said.

"Our original decision wasn't intended to cause that. But it did and we felt moving forward that this was the best thing to

do. I honestly did not think (the original decision) would create the furor that it did."

The OVAC issued both staffs a coaching shirt, which it intended to be worn to all activities during the week as well as the game.

However, West Virginia coach John Durdines approached the OVAC officials about the possibility of his staff wearing Bishop Donahue shirts in the second half

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OVAC

(Continued from Page 11)

since it would be the final time the staff was together and to pay one final homage to the school where they coached and many attended. The OVAC denied that request, but the Mountain State coaches opted to do it anyway.

"It was never about the money and it's a shame it had to go down like it did," Durdines said via text message. "This never affected me or the incredible week I had with the young men, culminating with a thrilling victory."

"I was sad for the OVAC. It is the best conference, but in order to remain the best they are going to put the (players, coaches and officials) who make it the best their priority. I no longer have a dog

in the fight, but I love high school sports and I want to see (the OVAC) continue to thrive."

Though West Virginia received its full \$1,800 stipend, Rataiczak, Koch and the entire Mumley Game committee plan to meet in the coming weeks to discuss the future to make sure these types of events are avoided.

"We are going to look at how the coaches are selected and then also look at making an agreement with the coaches about what's expected of them," Rataiczak said.

"We have rules in place for the kids if they do something in camp and they can be sent home, so now we'll look at things involving the coaches, too."

Ferry duo excited to play at home

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY – Both Jack Davis and Dom Wallace remember it well.

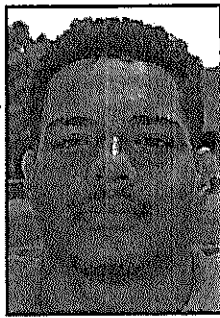
It was the night of Oct. 28.

The Martins Ferry Purple Riders walked off the field at Purple Rider Stadium for the last time. Adding to their disappointment was watching Bellaire celebrate on the turf with SPARKY after a 20-6 victory.

The aforementioned Ferry seniors and their classmates, who were celebrated prior to kickoff that night, believed there was no other chance to make amends.

"It was definitely tough (losing) on senior night, knowing that's your last game," Davis said.

Then came the unfortunate structural damage to Wheeling Island Stadium, which has led to that facility being closed for several months while repairs are made. That, in turn, forced the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference to look for a site for the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game.



JACK DAVIS



DOM WALLACE

After considering bids from several venues, the OVAC awarded the game to Martins Ferry, giving Davis and Wallace that opportunity to close out their home-field, prep careers on their home field.

"It's a good feeling knowing that the game will be played in our stadium," Davis, who is headed to West Liberty to play football in the fall, said. "Being able to finish your high school career in the same stadium where you started playing in junior high doesn't happen for a lot of

guys, so it's definitely exciting."

This isn't the first time that Martins Ferry has hosted the all-star game. It welcomed the OVAC in 1972, which was a 24-6 Buckeye State victory.

Continuing Ohio's undefeated string in Belmont County as well as finishing their careers on a high note are definitely motivational factors for the Purple alums.

"I want to win one last time on that field," Wallace, who is headed to Kent State Tuscarawas to wrestle, said.

The actual surface on which the game will be played is different than the one the Purple Riders played on against Bellaire. The artificial turf was tore up and replaced earlier this spring. A new scoreboard, featuring a video board, will also greet the players and fans. It is located in the same spot as the previous board.

"Being the first guys to play on that new turf is exciting," Wallace said. "It'll definitely be a nice feeling running out on the field with the home-town atmosphere there."

While Wallace admitted that he was

going to play in the game regardless where it was held, the fact that it was awarded to Martins Ferry added to the desire.

"The game being played in our stadium was definitely one of the biggest reasons I wanted to play," Wallace said.

Davis, who enjoyed an all-Ohio campaign at defensive end, admitted that beating West Virginia and winning the annual game, which has gone to the Mountaineers the last two years, are definitely motivating factors. But, being an all-star game, there's also motivation to "put on a good show" individually, too.

"(Tonight) is going to be an awesome experience, but playing the game at home makes it even more exciting," Davis said. "When I was chosen, I never had a doubt about playing, but I will have to admit that this makes it even sweeter."

One difference for the Purple Rider duo will be dressing in different locker rooms. Neither team will dress in Ferry's state-of-the-art fieldhouse. It will be used a hospitality area for OVAC officials and sponsors.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OVAC PLAYERS

72ND ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR CHARITY CLASSIC



Teamwork Yields Smooth OVAC Football Game Location

MARTINS FERRY – The OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game has long been associated with Wheeling Island Stadium.

Conference officials, however, were forced to move out of their comfort zone with the game's venue this time around. That was a result of a stadium in need of some major repairs, likely closing the facility until October.

The Martins Ferry School District made a successful pitch to serve as the alternate site, winning out over several other suitors. Saturday night's game at the Dave Bruney Football Complex marked just the third time the OVAC all-star clash has been played off the Island.

The move across the Ohio River played out seamlessly, due to solid teamwork, cooperation and communication by OVAC officials and the Ferry administration.

"Coach Kim (Appolloni), Coach Dave (Bruney) and I have met with Tom Rataiczak and Game Director Bob Koch on several occasions. We also have met with city officials including Mayor Kranyak, Chief John MacFarland, Water Superintendent Bill Suto, EMS Coordinator Dave Snyder and Fire Chief Mike Cooper to make sure everything was in place," Martins Ferry Schools Superintendent Jim Fogle said. "The event is extremely large and it's an awesome way to showcase the talents of our students in the OVAC. Coach Kim has been the main cog for the organization of this production.



BUBBA KAPRAL

EXECUTIVE SPORTS EDITOR

See Kapral, Page C2

KAPRAL

Continued from page C1

"Todd Yoder and myself put some time into this event, but Coach Kim has worked tirelessly with the OVAC brass to make it a memorable night for the participants. She has also organized several volunteers to work game night."

"Mr. Yoder and I have overseen many updates to the Dave Bruney Football Complex, ranging from the turf replacement, new paint, asphalt, new scoreboard and updates to some of the restrooms. It's been quite some time since we've done any updates to the stadium. The cooperation between the OVAC, the city and our school officials has been tremendous."

Fogle's thoughts are echoed by Appolloni. "Bob Koch and Rat have this game down to a science."

"The amount of time and energy they have placed into this event is mind boggling. They have guided us along the way. Basically we have turned our complex over to them and will provide the manpower to hopefully pull it off," Appolloni said. "We could not have done this without the support of the city administration and Larry Deaton, who as always, is the backbone of the boosters support. Mr. Fogle, Mr. Yoder and Coach Dave have spent a tremendous amount of man hours making sure the facil-

ity looks top-notch. The complex has undergone a complete facelift with new turf, painting and asphalt work and our new scoreboard."

"We are so excited and honored to be able to host the all-star game. It is a long-standing Ohio Valley tradition. Basically it kicks off the start of football in the valley, and football is so important to the communities up and down the river and throughout our entire area," she offered. "We are so fortunate here in Martins Ferry to have the support from not only our administration but also from the entire city."

Rataiczak was praiseworthy with the efforts put forth by the Purple people to make such an immense relocation come to fruition.

"To move a game such as this, with all the pieces needed to pull it off, is a monumental and stressful undertaking. When you are used to having everything the same, everything in place, everything lined up, as we were so used to at Wheeling Island, it's a challenge to say the least," the OVAC executive-secretary said. "That being said, Dave Bruney and Kim Appolloni have been unbelievable. Everything they could possibly do to smooth the transition, they've done. You have to realize that they are doing a lot of work at the

field to get ready for their own season, work that would normally be stretched out for another month, so they are facing a huge task themselves to get ready for the game."

"We are very grateful to the administration, board, police department, business, everyone who has been so willing to showcase their facility and their town."

"The conference is truly blessed to have people like Ohio County and Martins Ferry so willing to pitch in and help out to make this game a special event for the kids."

OVERBLOWN ISSUE

■ Speaking of the OVAC football game, much was discussed, written and tweeted about Wheeling Post 1 American Legion baseball players having to make a choice to play in either their Area One Tournament or the all-star football game, but not both.

A plan was being put in place early in the week preceding all-star camp to make both athletic endeavors available to all those in question. The OVAC was painted unfairly as the bad guy in this scenario.

Critics failed to do their homework, placing unfair blame on the OVAC.

BUBBA'S BITS

■ Zeke Elliott is a very talented football player. Unfortunately, the former Ohio State running star

OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game Notebook

Rine enjoys history of the all-star game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY – The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference is embarking on its 75th year as it kicks off with the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game this evening at Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney Football Complex.

Obviously a lot of history has been built during the previous 71 all-star football games and one West Virginia player – Wheeling Central's Isaac Rine – can't get enough of it.

"I love the following the history of this game," Rine said. "Playing in this game is a huge deal for me because of all of the great players who have been a part of it previously."

Unlike many of the players taking the field tonight, Rine has more of a direct connection to the game. He's been part of OVAC camp as a manager when his dad, Jason, was part of the West Virginia coaching staff.

"Ever since I was five, I remember coming to this game basically every year wanting to play," Rine said.

His historical grasp of the game expanded earlier this week when OVAC officials showed a video of some of the previous games. Rine pointed out seeing former NFL receiver and now ESPN college football analyst Joey Galloway play as well as ex-

Wheeling Central and Pitt standout Curt McGhee play stood out.

"When you think about all of the guys who have played in this game and gone on to have great careers not just in football, but in life, it's really exciting," Rine said. "There's so much history in the

75 years of football and athletics in the Ohio Valley. I am honored to be a part of it."

Rine's appearance in the game was brought into question because of his commitment to Wheeling Post 1 Legion Baseball. He admitted to being torn on what to do before the legion games were moved to Bethany, affording him and three of his OVAC teammates (Gage Giovengo, Michael Mills and Jacob Murray) the opportunity to do both.

"I was so relieved when that got worked out and we were able to do both," Rine said.

With that behind him, Rine has gone to work in trying to learn West Virginia's system and preparing his arm for throwing a football for the first time since November.

"I love Bishop's scheme because they let the quarterback sling it around, be an athlete and go make plays," Rine said. "My arm was sore after three days, but it was a good kind of sore."

Along with winning the job as West Virginia's starting quarterback tonight, Rine was also voted a team captain.

COIN TOSS

When the players converge on midfield for the ceremonial coin toss tonight, Ohio will be represented by Harrison Central's Jesse Ball, Cambridge's Garth Charlton, Meadowbrook's Connor Roberts, St. Clairsville's Trey Elerick and Steubenville's Zane Zimish.

The West Virginia captains are Rine, Wheeling Park's Zach Torbett, University's Adam Frisco and Weir's Jordan Allen.

NEW TO THE GAME

As the OVAC has continued to grow, the OVAC All-Star Game expands and reaches new territories. Many of the Morgantown, University, Parkersburg South, Crestview athletes haven't been exposed to the game.

If West Virginia linebacker

Adam Frisco, who played his prep ball at University, has his way, it will become a regular event for Hawks players and fans.

"I have never been to the all-star football game, but I was part of the OVAC-MAC Wrestling Team and I know it was a fun time," Frisco said. "It was just a one-day event and didn't have a camp, so this is even more fun."

Frisco had talked to a couple of previous Hawk participants before departing for Bethany last week just to get a feel of what to expect.

"I had no doubts about playing," Frisco said. "I didn't know hardly any of the guys except a couple that I wrestled against, but I know I've made some friends for life."

LEAD THE CHEERS

The cheering squads have been working on their routines all week at Bethany, too. The Ohio squad consists of MaKenna Berka (Bellaire), Alexa Coggins (Shadyside), Allison Dixon (Shenandoah), Megan Edwards (Martins Ferry), Rachel Ewing (Indian Creek), Lauren Ferrell (Steubenville), Cierra Frye (Harrison Central), Jazalyn Glenn (Toronto), Allyson Goelan (St. John) and Alyssa Morris (Union Local).

The West Virginia squad consists of Abbey Bauer (John Mar-

shall), Josie Bonar (Bishop Donahue), Alexandra Burchett (Oak Glen), Alayna Deganhardt (Weir), Lexus Ficca (Weir), Abby Hudrik (Wheeling Park), Jennifer Richmond (Bishop Donahue), Ashley Ruza (Cameron), Mallory Santoro (Madonna) and Jourdin Yuncke (John Marshall).

STRONG

REPRESENTATION

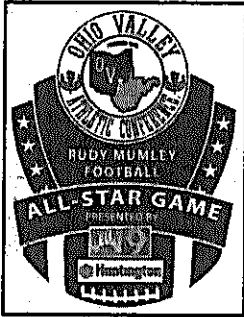
Of the 53 schools that were in the OVAC last football season, 41 of those have a representative of some sort involved in tonight's festivities. That includes 147 band members, 22 Queen of Queens candidates, 20 cheerleaders and 65 football players.

CHARITY GAME

Though the word 'charity' doesn't exist in the formal name of the game any longer, the proceeds still benefit others. In 46 years, the game has donated more than 934,700 to charity organizations and scholarships throughout the Ohio Valley.

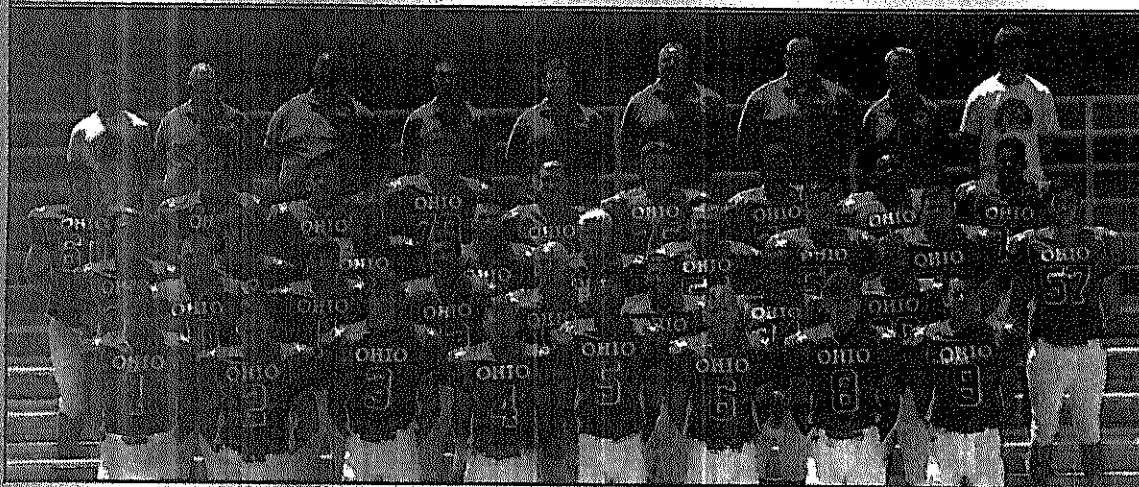
TICKETS

To help alleviate a lengthy wait at the ticket booth tonight – and save some money – fans are being encouraged to purchase tickets at a host of area businesses. All area Kroger stores in both West Virginia and Ohio are offering tickets for \$7. The cost at the gate is \$10.



OHIO VS. WEST VIRGINIA

Saturday, July 22, 2017 • Kickoff 7:15 p.m. • Martins Ferry Football Stadium

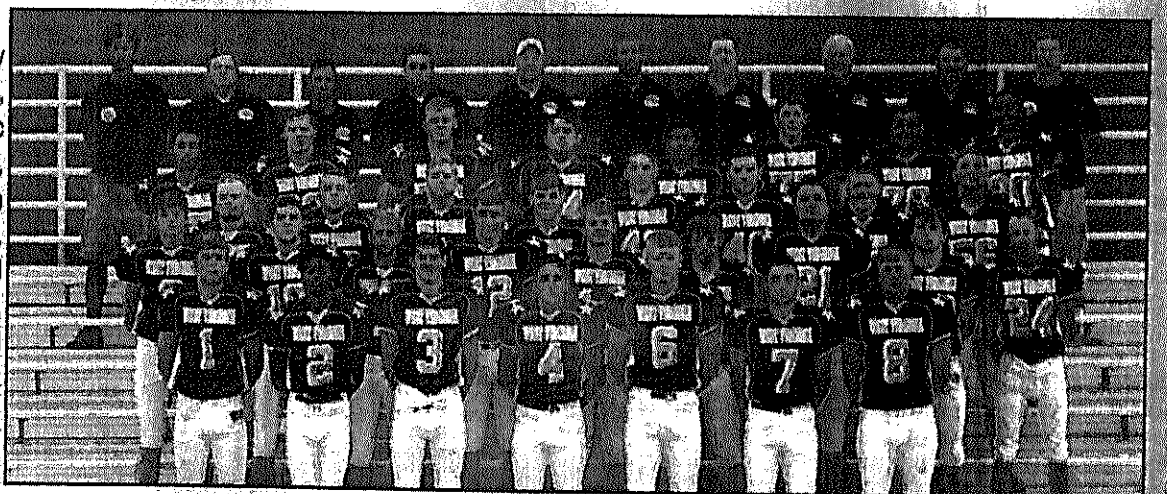


T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

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The OVAC All-Star Game will employ a seven-man officiating crew where Doug Costain will be the referee/14

Bishop Donahue Represented One Last Time



JOSH STROPE Sports Editor

BETHANY - While the marquee of the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game reads West Virginia vs. Ohio, the subplot may be more interesting.

Players and fans on both sides of the river will obviously be rooting for their school and state to win. Sometime around 11 p.m. tonight, fans will leave the Dave Bruney Football Complex excited for the upcoming season. Coaches will start game planning for their Week 1 opponent. Kids will head off to college.

But for this group of coaches and



HULL MILLER CUSTER

three players, something will be missing. Namely, Bishop Donahue. For months it has been "this is the

final basketball game", "this is the final time in the track tournament."

Saturday night, "this is it." It is a moment everyone knew was coming. Tonight, it will become reality.

"With the travesty that happened with our school, coaching this game has kind of lessened the blow," West Virginia and Bishop Donahue coach John Durdines said. "At least we have one

more game left. It is bittersweet. It is a sad time and a happy time and we are just savoring every minute of it.

"Personally, we take this into perspective. We are here for these kids and three of them are deeply impacted by Bishop Donahue. We know it is our last go-around and we are not going to leave anything on the table."

Representing Bishop Donahue for the final time is Jimmy Hull, Trey Miller and J.C. Custer.

The moment is not lost on them.

See STROPE, Page 14

OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game 72nd OVAC All-Star Game Set for Kickoff Tonight

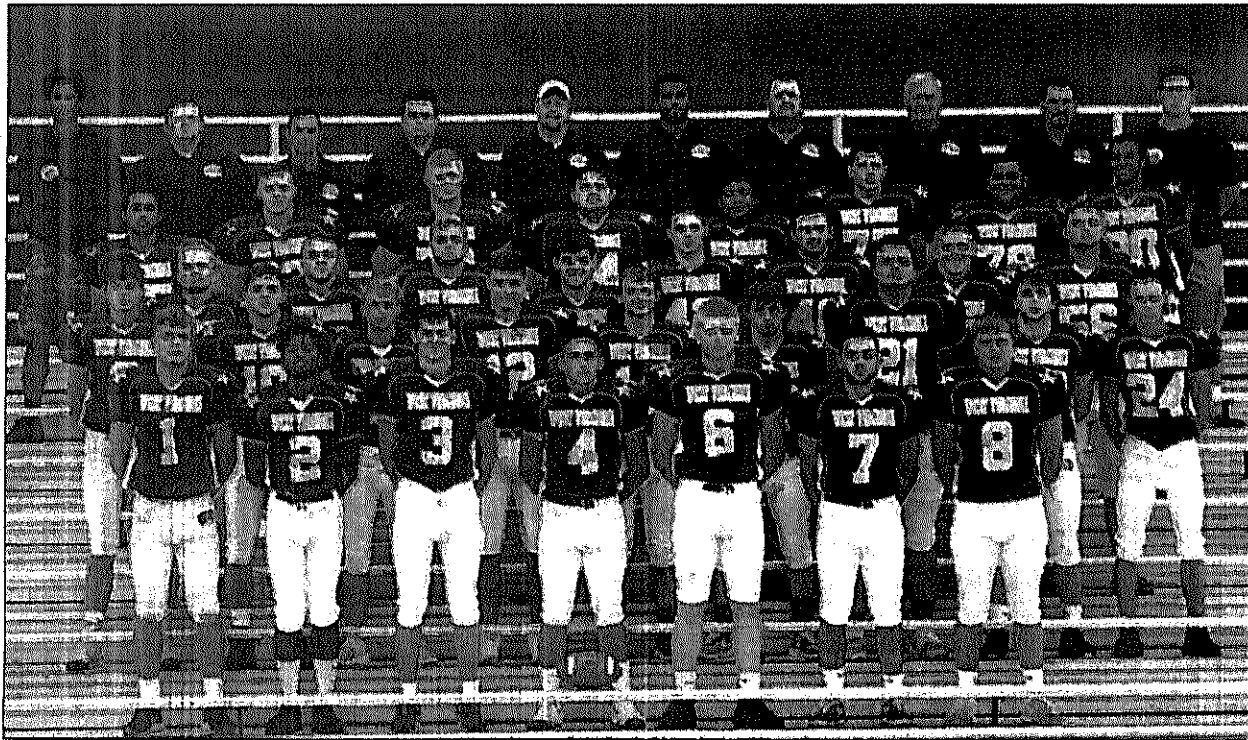


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W.Va., Ohio will go at it at 7:15 p.m.

By SETH STASKEY For The Intelligencer

MARTINS FERRY - King football makes its triumphant return to the Ohio Valley this evening.

Though the regular season is still five weeks away, area gridiron fans get to wet their appetite at Purple Rider Stadium.

The 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game takes center stage with kickoff slated for 7:15 p.m.

Ohio and West Virginia reported to camp one week ago and have battled the heat and a loaded schedule of events to prepare to face off with bragging rights on the line.

"Our kids are ready," Ohio coach Karl Justus said. "The coaches are confident and I expect the kids to play with confidence. It's been a good, positive week. The kids have worked hard, maybe even harder than they expected, but they've put in the effort. Now it's time to play the game."

While both teams want to win simply as competitors, West Virginia's motivation might be even greater since its players are being coached by John Durdines, who is preparing for his final game as a head football coach. He had been a highly successful coach at Bishop Donahue, but the school won't open this fall.

"Our kids are definitely ready and hungry to play," Durdines said. "It's been a quick, but long week. It's a very competitive group that's made it really fun for my coaches and me."

See ALL-STAR, Page 16

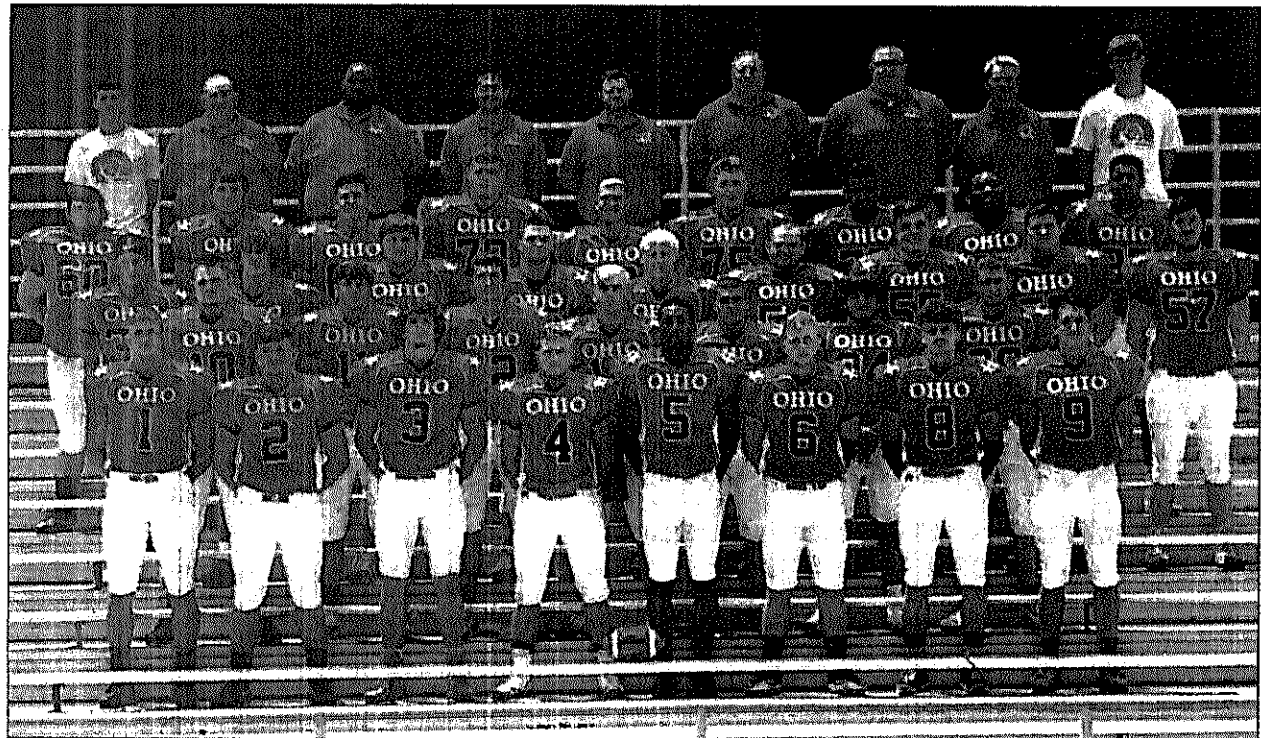


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Annual Event Has A Lot Of History

By SETH STASKEY For The Intelligencer

BETHANY - The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference is embarking on its 75th year as it kicks off with the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game this evening at Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney Football Complex.

Obviously a lot of history has been built during the previous 71 all-star football games and one West Virginia player - Wheeling Central's Isaac Rine - can't get enough of it.

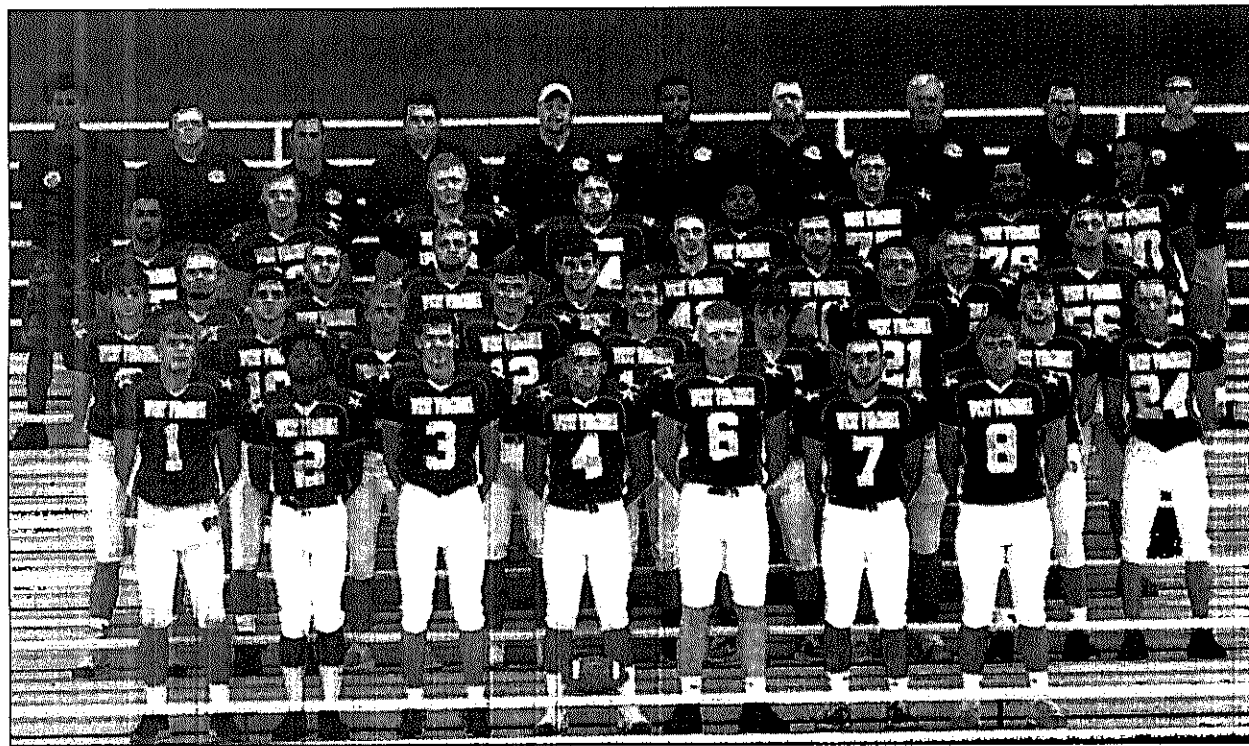
"I love the following the history of this game," Rine said. "Playing in this is game is a huge deal for me because of all of the great players who have been a part of it previously."

Unlike many of the players taking the field tonight, Rine has more of a direct connection to the game. He's been part of OVAC camp as a manager when his dad, Jason, was part of the West Virginia coaching staff.

"Ever since I was five, I remember coming to this game basically every year wanting to play," Rine said.

His historical grasp of the game expand-

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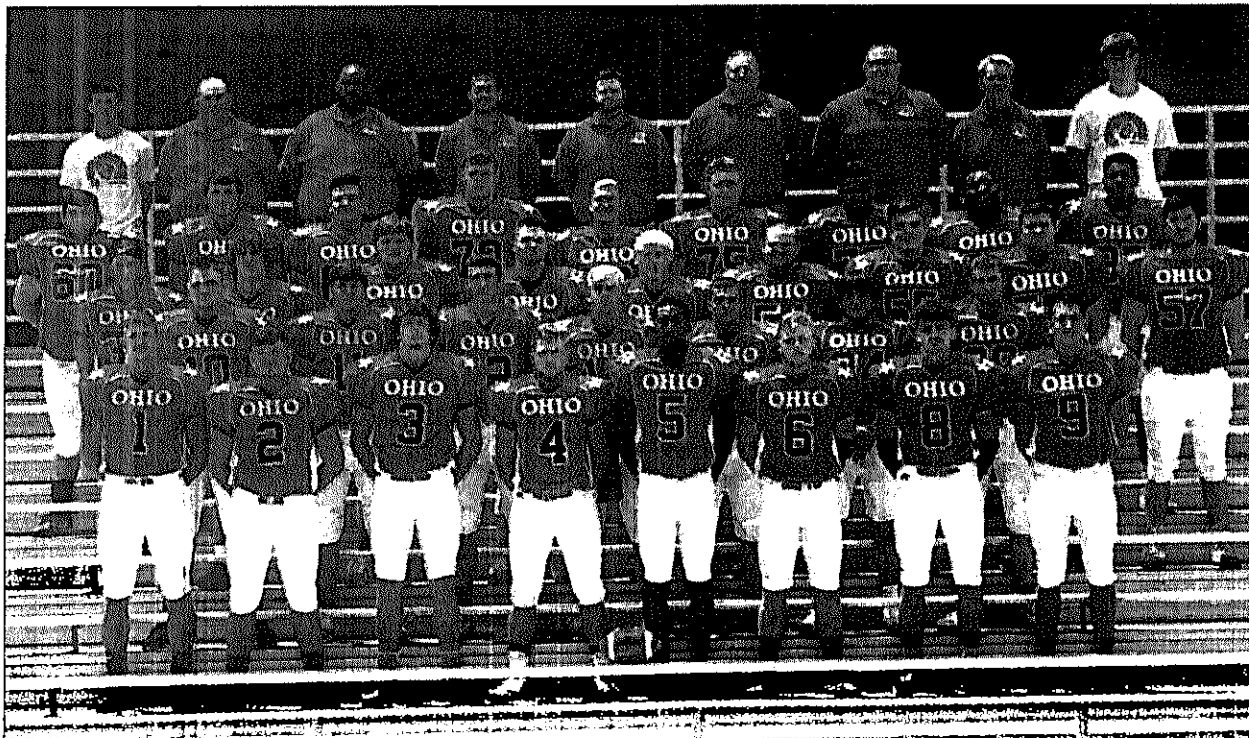
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Ferry Players Ready for One Last Game on Home Field

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

BETHANY — Both Jack Davis and Dom Wallace remember it well. It was the night of Oct. 28.

The Martins Ferry Purple Riders walked off the field at Purple Rider Stadium for the last time. Adding to their disappointment was watching Bellaire celebrate on the turf with SPARKY after a 20-6 victory.

The aforementioned Ferry seniors and their classmates, who were celebrated prior to kickoff that night, believed there was no other chance to make amends.

"It was definitely tough (losing) on sen-

ior night, knowing that's your last game," Davis said.



DAVIS

Then came the unfortunate structural damage to Wheeling Island Stadium, which has led to that facility being closed for several months while repairs are made. That, in turn, forced the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference to look for a site for the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game.

After considering bids from several venues, the OVAC awarded the game to Martins Ferry, giving Davis and Wallace that opportunity to close out their home-field, prep careers on

their home field.

"It's a good feeling knowing that the game will be played in our stadium," Davis, who is headed to West Liberty to play football in the fall, said. "Being able to finish your high school career in the same stadium where you started playing in junior high doesn't happen for a lot of guys, so it's definitely exciting."

This isn't the first time that Martins Ferry has hosted the all-star game. It welcomed the OVAC in 1972, which was a 24-6 Buckeye State victory.

Continuing Ohio's undefeated string in Belmont County as well as finishing their

careers on a high note are definitely motivational factors for the Purple alums.

"I want to win one last time on that field," Wallace, who is headed to Kent State Tuscarawas to wrestle, said.

The actual surface on which the game will be played is different than the one the Purple Riders played on against Bellaire. The artificial turf was tore up and replaced earlier this spring. A new scoreboard, featuring a video board, will also greet the players and fans.



WALLACE

See FERRY, Page 14

STROPE

(Continued from Page 13)

"(Durdines) has been like a second father to me these past four years and to get to have that one more ride with him and the other coaches is a blast," Miller said. "Even 10 years from now, I am still going to be a Bishop. I am a Bishop forever."

"This is the last time the players, coaches, cheerleaders are going to get to represent the school and we want to go out with a bang. We are going to go out there and have some fun."

For Hull, being able to represent Bishop Donahue wasn't a foregone conclusion after a collarbone injury ended his regular season.

This opportunity to play holds special meaning for him.

"My season had ended in Week 6 and I never thought I would be able to play football again until I got the call from Coach D," Hull said. "It wasn't too tough to get over. Just a slight break and it is all good."

"We have a lot of pride. Bishop Donahue has always been a close family and it is awesome to represent them one more time. We expect a win."

Custer was one of the more versatile players in the valley, the only player to qualify in our weekly football stats in receiving and rushing. He had 13 total touchdowns.

If there is anyone that knows how to use Custer, it will be the Bishop Donahue coaching staff.

"I have been playing football my whole life and this is

a big accomplishment for me to get here," Custer said. "This week has been amazing and we have made friendships that will last forever."

"Being here with Coach D is a great way to go out. We want to give 100 percent effort and come out with a win. We aren't cocky, but we have the confidence that we are going to win."

Win or lose tonight, Bishop Donahue may be gone, but it will be far from forgotten.

Cross One Off

I have lived in the Ohio Valley all my life. I have worked in the sports department of The Intelligencer for eight years spanning two stints.

I have never been to the OVAC All-Star Football Game.

How is that possible? Honestly, I can't even tell you. I have seen it on TV. I have read about it every year. I have never been inside the stadium when it was going on.

Cross one off the bucket list.

This week has been very enjoyable for me and I got to meet a lot of great young men at media day and I have enjoyed telling their stories.

Tonight, I am excited to attend my first all-star game.

My prediction: The Mountaineers have too much speed. The feel-good story of Bishop Donahue going out on top is also too hard to resist. I am going with West Virginia 35, Ohio 21.

Josh Strobe can be reached at jstrobe@theintelligencer.net.

OVAC Game Will Employ 7-Man Crew

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

MARTINS FERRY - Don't think the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game is an honor just for the players, queens, band members and cheerleaders.

A group of seven men will take the field tonight at Purple Rider Stadium with a very important job to do.

The officiating crew, which was assigned by OVAC Football Commissioner Dave Clutter, will be looking to enforce the rules, keep the game clean and do its part in helping the players and coaches have as memorable of an experience as possible.

Doug Costain, who lives in Wheeling, will serve as the referee of the game. It's his second all-star game assignment, but first as a white cap.

"It's definitely an honor to work this game," Costain said.

"I don't care what sport or what level of officiating you're on, if you get chosen for something extra or above and beyond the normal duty, it's special."

For Costain, he has 18 years of experience. He was away from the sport for 10 years, but was encouraged to renew his certification by his

long-time friend Tom Bechtel.

"I was in for 12 years and then Bear asked me to come back and I said I would, but I wanted to come back at the varsity level and not have to start over," Costain said. "I was willing to go through the training class because I had been out a while and needed to get refreshed on the rules and things."

As has been the case the last several years, the OVAC will once again employ a seven-man crew for the game, which kicks off tonight at 7:15 at the Dave Bruney Football Complex.

That's two more officials than a normal high school game. Though it's a change, it's a welcomed one, according to Costain.

"When you use a seven-man crew, it makes everything (on the field) seem a little bit smaller and closer," Costain said. "For me, for instance, I don't have to run up to the line of scrimmage every play like a normal high school game, so it's easier from that perspective."

Since the OVAC covers numerous officiating boards and geographic areas, Clutter tries to represent as many as possible. Also slated to work the game are umpire Matt Rudder

(Morgantown), linesman George Kelchak (Weirton), line judge Mike Brohard (Parkersburg), field judge Ernie Fithyan (Weirton), side judge Rob Green (East Liverpool) and back judge Jeff Loeffler (Wheeling).

The officials have not worked together collectively yet. The crew has been communicating through a group text message and it will get together this afternoon to begin their formal preparations.

"I think not using a normal crew is a great move by the OVAC because more than just guys from Wheeling or Weirton are officiating OVAC games on Friday nights," Costain said.

"I feel like our role, as officials, is to facilitate the game. We want to keep it smooth and keep it from getting chippy. If we can keep control of the game and keep our flags in our pocket, that's what we're going to do."

The officials will be wearing a commemorative shirt tonight, too. On the left side of the shirt will be the OVAC's 75th anniversary logo.

The honorary official for tonight's game will be Bill "Bull" Flanagan from Wheeling, who now resides in Sarasota, Fla.

FERRY

(Continued from Page 13)

It is located in the same spot as the previous board.

"Being the first guys to play on that new turf is exciting," Wallace said. "It'll definitely be a nice feeling running out on the field with the home-town atmosphere there."

While Wallace admitted that he was going to play in the game regardless where

it was held, the fact that it was awarded to Martins Ferry added to the desire.

"The game being played in our stadium was definitely one of the biggest reasons I wanted to play," Wallace said.

Davis, who enjoyed an all-Ohio campaign at defensive end, admitted that beating West Virginia and winning the annual game,

which has gone to the Mountaineers the last two years, are definitely motivating factors. But, being an all-star game, there's also motivation to "put on a good show" individually, too.

"(Tonight) is going to be an awesome experience, but playing the game at home makes it even more exciting," Davis said. "When I

was chosen, I never had a doubt about playing, but I will have to admit that this makes it even sweeter."

One difference for the Purple Rider duo will be dressing in different locker rooms. Neither team will dress in Ferris's state-of-the-art fieldhouse. It will be used as a hospitality area for OVAC officials and sponsors.



**THE 72ND ANNUAL RUDY MUMLEY
OVAC ALL-STAR CHARITY FOOTBALL GAME
TONIGHT • MARTINS FERRY FOOTBALL STADIUM
KICK-OFF 7:15**

OHIO ALL-STARS

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

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LANSING

HISTORY

(Continued from Page 13)

ed earlier this week when OVAC officials showed a video of some of the previous games. Rine pointed out seeing former NFL receiver and now ESPN college football analyst Joey Galloway play as well as ex-Wheeling Central and Pitt standout Curt McGhee play stood out.

"When you think about all of the guys who have played in this game and gone on to have great careers not just in football, but in life, it's really exciting," Rine said. "There's so much history in the 75 years of football and athletics in the Ohio Valley. I am honored to be a part of it."

Rine's appearance in the game was brought into question because of his commitment to Wheeling Post 1 Legion Baseball.

He admitted to being torn on what to do before the legion games were moved to Bethany, affording him and three of his OVAC teammates (Gage Giovengo, Michael Mills and Jacob Murray) the opportunity to do both.

"I was so relieved when that got worked out and we were able to do both," Rine said.

With that behind him, Rine has gone to work in trying to learn West Virginia's sys-

tem and preparing his arm for throwing a football for the first time since November.

"I love Bishop's scheme because they let the quarterback sling it around, be an athlete and go make plays," Rine said. "My arm was sore after three days, but it was a good kind of sore."

Along with winning the job as West Virginia's starting quarterback tonight, Rine was also voted a team captain.

COIN TOSS

When the players converge on midfield for the ceremonial coin toss tonight, Ohio will be represented by Harrison Central's Jesse Ball, Cambridge's Garth Charlton, Meadowbrook's Konnor Roberts, St. Clairsville's Trey Elerick and Steubenville's Zane Zimish.

The West Virginia captains are Rine, Wheeling Park's Zach Torbett, University's Adam Frisco and Weir's Jordan Allen.

NEW TO THE GAME

As the OVAC has continued to grow, the OVAC All-Star Game expands and reaches new territories. Many of the Morgantown, University, Parkersburg South, Crestview athletes haven't been exposed to the game.

If West Virginia linebacker Adam Frisco, who played his prep ball at Univer-

sity, has his way, it will become a regular event for Hawks players and fans.

"I have never been to the all-star football game, but I was part of the OVAC-MAC Wrestling Team and I know it was a fun time," Frisco said. "It was just a one-day event and didn't have a camp, so this is even more fun."

Frisco had talked to a couple of previous Hawk participants before departing for Bethany last week just to get a feel of what to expect.

"I had no doubts about playing," Frisco said. "I didn't know hardly any of the guys except a couple that I wrestled against, but I know I've made some friends for life."

LEAD THE CHEERS

The cheering squads have been working on their routines all week at Bethany, too. The Ohio squad consists of MaKenna Berka (Bellaire), Alexa Coggins (Shady-side), Allison Dixon (Shenandoah), Megan Edwards (Martins Ferry), Rachel Ewing (Indian Creek), Lauren Ferrell (Steubenville), Cierra Frye (Harrison Central), Jazalyn Glenn (Toronto), Allyson Goelan (St. John) and Alyssa Morris (Union Local).

The West Virginia squad consists of Abbey Bauer (John Marshall), Josie Bonar

(Bishop Donahue), Alexandra Burchett (Oak Glen), Alayna Degandhardt (Weir), Lexus Ficca (Weir), Abby Hudrik (Wheeling Park), Jennifer Richmond (Bishop Donahue), Ashley Ruza (Cameron), Mallo-ry Santoro (Madonna) and Jourdin Yuncke (John Marshall).

STRONG REPRESENTATION

Of the 53 schools that were in the OVAC last football season, 41 of those have a representative of some sort involved in tonight's festivities. That includes 147 band members, 22 Queen of Queens candidates, 20 cheerleaders and 65 football players.

CHARITY GAME

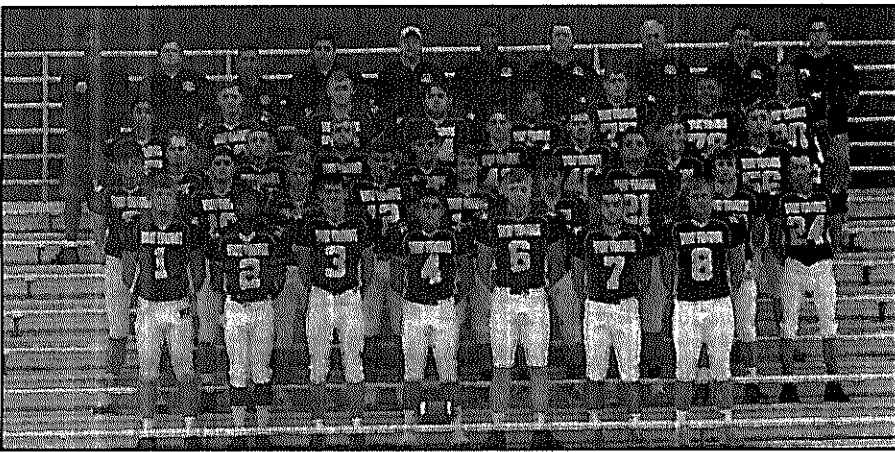
Though the word 'charity' doesn't exist in the formal name of the game any longer, the proceeds still benefit others. In 46 years, the game has donated more than 934,700 to charity organizations and scholarships throughout the Ohio Valley.

TICKETS

To help alleviate a lengthy wait at the ticket booth tonight — and save some money — fans are being encouraged to purchase tickets at a host of area businesses. All area Kroger stores in both West Virginia and Ohio are offering tickets for \$7. The cost at the gate is \$10.



THE 72ND ANNUAL RUDY MUMLEY OVAC ALL-STAR CHARITY FOOTBALL GAME TONIGHT • MARTINS FERRY FOOTBALL STADIUM KICK-OFF 7:15



WV ALL-STARS

PICTURED IS THE West Virginia All-Star Team for Saturday's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

Front row, from left, are Chris Yachini, Donovan Spencer, John Burkhalter, Michael Mills, Gage Giovengo, Isaac Rine and Lance Collins.

Second row, from left, are Jacob Murray, Jace Reed, Jimmy Hull, Zach Torbett, Trey Miller, Michael Starcher, Cody Enrietti, Adam Frisco and Dylan Baker.

Third row, from left, are J.C. Custer, Chase Street, Alex Edgell, Michael Mealge, Tyler Anderson, Jordan Allen, Jack Raitz and Peyton Powroznik.

Fourth row, from left, are Hayden Berry, Travis Lowther, Logan Kranis, Jacob Kerekes, Dante Carlier, Lander James, Zack Martin and Maezi Mosby.

Top row, from left, are Anthony Robbins, Lou Richmond, Curt Mele, Zach Klemm, Head coach John Durdines, L.A. Hampton, Jim Smith, Howard Stamp, Eric James, Vinny Mangino. Not pictured is Bob Kramer.

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**Congratulations
to our OVAC - ALL Stars**

Dylan Baker, John Burkhalter, & Isaac Rine
Good luck Cassidy Sansone, CCHS Queen

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CONGRATULATIONS
to all of the athletes representing
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OVAC All-Star Game

From Bishop Michael J. Bransfield
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**Good Luck
Wheeling Park High School
In the 2017 Football Season**

- Wheeling Park High School offers 20 varsity sports and three club sports.
- Boys sports offered are Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Wrestling.
- Girls sports offered are Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Volleyball.
- Club sports include Hockey,

Boys Ice hockey and Girls Ice hockey

off chasers in the final section on Friday.

Boasson Hagen was part of a 20-man group that Froome and Team Sky gave freedom to escape from the peloton because none of them presented a threat to his overall lead. After two energy-sapping days of climbs in the Alps, Froome and his rivals had their sights set instead on the time trial on Saturday in Marseille that will determine the podium order before the race ends in Paris on Sunday.

At the finish of Stage 19

diately realized they'd made a mistake, as Boasson Hagen pulled away.

"That's when it struck me: We should have taken right," Keukeleire said. "He's one of those riders, give him 10 meters and he's gone."

It was Boasson Hagen's third career stage win at the Tour, after his first two in 2011. He said he did his homework, studying the stage finish and identifying the shorter route around the roundabout.

"I was hunting for opportunities, and then the



AP Photo

Edvald Boasson Hagen celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the nineteenth stage of the Tour de France.

roundabout arrived," he said. "I understood that going right would be quicker."

Froome's group, which included the main race contenders, was still riding as Boasson Hagen celebrated his win. The peloton eventually rolled in at a

leisurely place more than 12 minutes after Boasson Hagen claimed the first stage win for the Dimension Data team at this tour.

The overall standings remained unchanged, with Froome leading French rider Romain Bardet by 23 seconds and Rigoberto

Uran of Colombia by 29 seconds.

With no major difficulties, the 222.5-kilometer (138-mile) stage from Embrun in the Alps offered no real opportunity for Froome's rivals to claw back time. Instead, they and Froome settled for a

nine, everyone but Arndt and Boasson Hagen then went left around the roundabout in the last three kilometers (under two miles), essentially eliminating themselves from the running.

On Stage 7, Boasson Hagen lost to Marcel Kittel by mere millimeters in a photo finish at Nuits-Saint-Georges. He was also second on Stage 16 and third on Stages 11 and 14.

"I didn't have to do a photo finish this time," he said. "I finally got my victory."

LOCAL CARD

PREP FOOTBALL

OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game, 6 p.m.

SPORTS ON TV

Today

AUTO RACING

CNBC — NASCAR, Monster Energy Series, Brickyard 400, practice, at Indianapolis

11 a.m.

CNBC — NASCAR, Monster Energy Series, Brickyard 400, final practice, at Indianapolis

12:30 p.m.

NBCSN — NASCAR, Xfinity Series, Lilly Diabetes 250, qualifying, at Indianapolis

3 p.m.

FS2 — IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, Northeast Grand Prix, at Lakeville, Conn.

3:30 p.m.

NBCSN — NASCAR, Xfinity Series, Lilly Diabetes 250, at Indianapolis

6 p.m.

NBCSN — NASCAR, Monster Energy Series, Brickyard 400, qualifying, at Indianapolis

BASKETBALL

Non

ESPN — The Basketball Tournament, Super 16, Always A Brave vs. Scarlet & Gray, at New York

2 p.m.

ESPN — The Basketball Tournament, Super 16, Purple And Black vs. Golden Eagles Alumni, at New York

4 p.m.

ESPN2 — The Basketball Tournament, Super 18, Team Challenge Ala vs. Fow Good Men, at New York

6 p.m.

ESPN2 — The Basketball Tournament, Super 16 Armored Athlete vs. Team Colorado, at New York

CORNHOLE

2 p.m.

ESPN2 — ACL 2017 Championship of Bogs, at Cherokee, N.C.

GYMNASIUM

6 a.m.

NBCSN — Tour de France, Stage 20, at Marseille, France

3 p.m.

NBC — Tour de France, Stage 20, at Marseille, France (same-day tape)

DRAG RACING

12:30 a.m.

FS1 — NHRA, Mopar Mile-High Nationals, qualifying, at Denver (same-day tape)

GOLF

7 a.m.

NBC — British Open, third round, at Southport, England

2 p.m.

FS1 — USGA, U.S. Junior Amateur Championship, championship match, at Andover, Kan.

4 p.m.

GOLF — PGA Tour, Barbasol Championship, third round, at Auburn, Ala.

4:30 p.m.

NBC — British Open, highlights, at Southport, England

7 p.m.

GOLF — PGA Tour, Marathon Classic, third round, at Sylvania, Ohio (same-day tape)

4 a.m. (Sunday)

GOLF — British Open, final round, at Southport, England

HORSE RACING

6 p.m.

FS2 — Saratoga Live, Diana Steeles, at Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

MLB BASEBALL

4 p.m.

FS1 — St. Louis at Chicago Cubs

7 p.m.

FS1 — Texas at Tampa Bay

8 p.m.

ATT — Pittsburgh at Colorado

10 p.m.

MLB — Regional coverage, N.Y. Yankees at Seattle OR Boston at L.A. Angels (games joined in progress)

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

6 p.m.

FOX — UFC Fight Night, prelims, at New York

8 p.m.

FOX — UFC Fight Night, Chris Weidman vs. Kelvin Gastelum, at New York

MOTOR SPORTS

11 p.m.

NBCSN — AMA Lucas Oil Pro Motocross, Spring Creek National, at Millville, Minn. (same-day tape)

POKER

9 p.m.

ESPN — World Series of Poker, final table, at Las Vegas

SOCCER

3:30 p.m.

LIFE — NWSL, Orlando at Chicago

4 p.m.

ESPN — MLS, N.Y. Red Bulls at Minnesota United

6 p.m.

ESPN — International Champions Cup, Juventus vs. FC Barcelona, at East Rutherford, N.J.

8 p.m.

ESPN2 — International Champions Cup, Paris Saint-Germain vs. Tottenham Hotspur, at Orlando, Fla.

10 p.m.

FS1 — CONCACAF Gold Cup, semifinal, Costa Rica vs. United States, at Arlington, Texas

WNBA BASKETBALL

3:30 p.m.

ABC — WNBA All-Star Game, East vs. West, at Seattle

AREA NOTES

OVAC Hall of Fame Tickets on Sale
Tickets for the 2017 OVAC Hall of Fame Banquet slated Saturday, Aug. 19 at the Banquet Area in Wheeling are currently on sale. Tickets are \$30 each or \$240 for a table of eight. There will be no tickets sold at the door. To order tickets, call the OVAC office at (740) 391-2930.

St. John's Basketball Camp
The 28th annual St. John Central basketball camp will be held at the high school in Bellaire from July 24-29. The camp runs from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day. Campers are urged to bring a bagged lunch as refrigeration is available. The camp will stress fundamentals while also having competitions such as free-throw shooting, 5-on-5 games and 3-point shooting.

Lady Irish head coach Bubba Kapral will be the director. Guest speakers will be featured each day. They include Scooter Tolzda, Suzie Daltzer, Derek Edwards and E.J. Schodolski.

The cost is \$30 per camper and \$20 for each additional family member. Every camper will receive a camp t-shirt and green basketball. The camp is open to boys and girls entering grades 1-8. Lower hoops will be available for younger campers.

For additional information, contact Kapral at (740) 310-3410 or by email at BKOVAC21@aol.com. To pre-register via mail, send checks payable to Lady Irish Basketball to Bubba Kapral, 1441 Maple St., Bellaire, Ohio 43906. Please include T-shirt sizes and grade level.

Wheeling Recreation Department is sponsoring fast pitch pitching lessons for grades 1-12. Seasons will be held at the 1-470 ballfields at 6 p.m. Aug. 7-10. Coach John Ritz, veteran instructor from Bellaire, will serve as primary instructor. Instruction will be limited to provide maximum instruction. Balls will be provided but each pitcher must bring her glove. Cost is \$40 until Aug. 1. If you attend the softball camp, it is \$20. For more information, contact the Wheeling Recreation Department at (304) 234-3641.

Fast Pitch Softball Leagues
The 1-470 ballparks and Wheeling Recreation is sponsoring fall softball leagues for five divisions (high school, 9th grade and under, 7th grade and under, 8th grade and under, 3rd grade and under) 3rd grade will be coach pitch. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, Aug. 1. If you are interested in having a team, please contact the recreation department. email: wheelingrec@gmail.com; office phone: 304-234-3641; Tom cell: 304-659-6326.

The Triadelphia Middle School volleyball will be holding a car wash fundraiser from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19 at Progressive Bank Wooddale Branch, 875 National Road, in Wheeling.

ON THIS DATE

Compiled by PAUL MONTELLA
1905 — Weldon Henley of the Philadelphia Athletics pitched a no-hitter, defeating the St. Louis Browns 6-0 in the first game of a doubleheader. It was the highlight of Henley's 4-11 season.

1906 — Bob Ewing pitched the Cincinnati Reds to a 10-3 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies without a single assist registered by his teammates.

1926 — Cincinnati had four triples in an 11-run second inning as the Reds beat the Boston Braves, 13-1. Curt Walker hit two in the inning to tie an NL record for most triples in an inning.

1962 — Floyd Robinson of the Chicago White Sox had six singles in six at-bats in a 7-3 victory over the Boston Red Sox.

1997 — The Atlanta Braves used a major league record five pitchers in the ninth inning of a 5-4 win over the St. Louis Cardinals. The pitchers were Ken Johnson, Ramon Hernandez, Claude Raymond, Dick Kelley and Cecil Upshaw.

2000 — Seattle's 13-5 win over Texas was interrupted for 54 minutes when a rainstorm drenched fans at Safeco Field and the \$617.8 million stadium's roof wouldn't close because of a computer problem. The roof finally began closing about 20 minutes later.

2004 — Jason Schmidt's 12-game winning streak ended as San Francisco fell to San Diego 9-4. Schmidt (12-3) was off from the outset in his worst start of the season, allowing eight runs, nine hits and four walks in 5 2-3 innings. It was his first loss in 17 starts since April 21.

2008 — Alfonso Soriano had three doubles, a triple and scored two runs to lead Washington to a 7-3 victory over the Chicago Cubs.

2007 — The New York Yankees had 25 hits in a 21-4 rout of Tampa Bay. The Yankees hit six home runs in the game, including two by Shelley Duncan.

2008 — Florida's Rick Vandenhurk threw five hitless innings and combined with three relievers for a one-hit, 1-0 win over Atlanta.

2012 — Seth Smith hit a tying homer in the ninth inning, Coco Crisp singled home the winning run in the 12th and the surging Oakland Athletics rallied from four runs down to stun the New York Yankees 5-4 and complete a four-game sweep. The Yankees had not been swept in a four-game series since May 2003 against Toronto.

2012 — Albert Pujols and Bobby Wilson homered, and Mike Trout scored a run in his 14th consecutive game to set an AL rookie record, leading the Los Angeles Angels to a 7-4 win over Texas.

2012 — Ryan Doumit homered from both sides of the plate and drove in four runs to lead Minnesota to a 7-5 win over Kansas City.

2013 — Ryan Braun, the 2011 National League MVP, was suspended for the rest of the season and the postseason for the start of sanctions involving players reportedly tied to a Florida clinic accused of distributing performance-enhancing drugs. The Milwaukee Brewers star accepted the 65-game ban, 15 games more than the one he avoided last year when an arbitrator overturned his positive test for elevated testosterone because the urine sample had been improperly handled.

Today's birthdays: Jake Barrett 25; Ryan Vogelsong 39.

TOUR DE FRANCE

Friday

19th Stage

At Salon-De-Provence, France
A 138.3-mile ride from Embrun to Salon-de-Provence:

1. Edvald Boasson Hagen, Norway, Dimension Data, 5 hours, 6 minutes, 9 seconds.

2. Niklas Arndt, Germany, Team Sunweb, 05 behind.

3. Jens Keukeleire, Belgium, Orica-Scott, 17.

4. Daniela Bennati, Italy, Movistar Team, same time.

5. Thomas De Gendt, Belgium, Lotto Soudal, same time.

6. Sylvain Chavanel, France, Direct Energie, same time.

7. Elie Geaert, France, Team Fortuneo-Oscaro, same time.

8. Jan Bakelants, Belgium, AG2R La Mondiale, same time.

9. Michael Albasini, Switzerland, Orica-Scott, 19.

10. Pierre Luc Perichon, France, Team Fortuneo-Oscaro, 1:32.

11. Lilian Calmejeane, France, Direct Energie, 1:37.

12. Ben Swift, Britain, UAE Team Emirates, same time.

13. Gianluca Brambilla, Italy, Quick-Step Floors, same time.

14. Julien Simon, France, Cofidis, Solutions Credits, same time.

15. Romain Hardy, France, Team Fortuneo-Oscaro, same time.

16. Rudy Molard, France, FDJ, same time.

17. Robert Kiaslovski, Croatia, Kastusha, same time.

18. Tony Gallopin, France, Lotto Soudal, same time.

19. Romain Sicard, France, Direct Energie, same time.

20. Bauke Mollema, Netherlands, Trek-Segafredo, same time.

Also

44. Andrew Talansky, United States, Cannondale-Drapac, 12:27.

51. Nate Brown, United States, Cannondale Drapac, same time.

57. Taylor Phinney, United States, Cannondale Drapac, same time.

Overall Standings (After 19 stages)

1. Chris Froome, Britain, Sky, 63:25:55.

2. Romain Bardet, France, AG2R La Mondiale, 23 behind.

3. Rigoberto Uran, Colombia, Cannondale Drapac, 29.

4. Mikel Landa, Spain, Sky, 1:38.

5. Fabio Aru, Italy, Astana, 1:55.

6. Daniel Martin, Ireland, Quick-Step Floors, 2:56.

7. Simon Yates, Britain, Orica-Scott, 4:48.

8. Louis Meintjies, South Africa, UAE Team Emirates, 6:52.

9. Warren Barguil, France, Sunweb, 8:22.

10. Alberto Contador, Spain, Trek-Segafredo, 8:34.

11. Damiano Caruso, Italy, BMC Racing, 13:41.

12. Nairo Quintana, Colombia, Movistar, 13:52.

13. Mikal Nieve, Spain, Sky, 23:11.

14. Alexis Villaverde, France, AG2R La Mondiale, 23:33.

15. Emanuel Buchmann, Germany, Bora-Hansgrohe, 31:01.

16. Bryce Feilich, France, Fortuneo-Oscaro, 35:08.

17. Bauke Mollema, Netherlands, Trek-Segafredo, 36:13.

18. Carlos Betancur, Colombia, Movistar, 38:25.

19. Serge Pauwels, Belgium, Dimension Data, 37:31.

20. Tiesj Benoot, Belgium, Lotto Soudal, 40:49.

Also

42. Nate Brown, United States, Cannondale Drapac, 1:54:33.

48. Andrew Talansky, United States, Cannondale Drapac, 2:01:13.

163. Taylor Phinney, United States, Cannondale Drapac, 4:17:15.

Tour de France Stages

July 1 — Stage One: Duesseldorf, Germany. Individual time trial (114km-8.7 miles) (stage: Geraint Thomas, Britain; Yellow Jersey: Thomas)

July 2 — Stage Two: Duesseldorf to Liege, Belgium, flat (203.5-128.4) (Marcel Kittel, Germany; Thomas)

July 3 — Stage Three: Verviers, Belgium to Longwy, France, hilly (212.5-132.0) (Peter Sagan, Slovakia; Thomas)

July 4 — Stage Four: Mondorf-les-Bains to Vitteil, flat (207.5-128.9) (Arnaud Demare, France; Thomas)

July 5 — Stage Five: Vitteil to La Planchette des Belles Filles, hilly (180.5-99.7) (Fabio Aru, Italy; Chris Froome, Britain)

July 6 — Stage Six: Vesoul to Troyes, flat (216-134.2) (Kittel; Froome)

July 7 — Stage Seven: Troyes to Nuits-Saint-Georges, flat (213.5-132.7) (Kittel; Froome)

July 8 — Stage Eight: Dole to Station des Rousses, hilly (187.5-116.5) (Lilian Calmejeane, France; Froome)

July 9 — Stage Nine: Nantua to Chambery, mountain (181.5-112.8) (Rigoberto Uran, Colombia; Froome)

July 10 — Rest Day: Dardogne

July 11 — Stage 10: Parigoux to Bergere, flat (178-110.6) (Kittel; Froome)

July 12 — Stage 11: Eymat to Pau, flat (203.5-128.4) (Kittel; Froome)

July 13 — Stage 12: Pau to Peyragudes, mountain (214.5-133.3) (Romain Bardet, France; Aru)

July 14 — Stage 13: Saint-Girons to Foix, mountain (101-62.8) (Warren Barguil, France; Aru)

July 15 — Stage 14: Blagnac to Rodez, hilly (181.5-112.8) (Michael Matthews, Australia; Froome)

July 16 — Stage 15: Lalsac-Severac l'Eglise to Le Puy-en-Velay, hilly (189.5-117.7) (Bauke Mollema, Netherlands; Froome)

July 17 — Rest Day: Le Puy-en-Velay

July 18 — Stage 16: Le Puy-en-Velay to Romans-sur-Isere, flat (185-102.5) (Matthews; Froome)

July 19 — Stage 17: La Mure to Serravallo, mountain (183-113.7) (Primoz Roglic, Slovenia; Froome)

July 20 — Stage 18: Briancon to Izard, mountain (179.5-111.5) (Barguil; Froome)

July 21 — Stage 19: Embrun to Salon-de-Provence, flat (222.5-139.3) (Edvald Boasson Hagen, Norway; Froome)

Today — Stage 20: Marseille, individual time trial (22.5-14.0)

July 23 — Stage 21: Montgeron to Paris Champs-Elysees, flat (103-64.0)

ALL-STAR

(Continued from Page 13)

The teams went through their final workouts Friday morning, practicing just once. Ohio expects to endure a brief walk through today, but the teams are scheduled for brunch at 10 a.m. and depart for Martins Ferry at 2:30 p.m.. The players must also pack up their belongings in that time span, too.

"Though it seems like you have all day to sit around and wait, it'll be a fairly busy day," Justus said. "Our guys have been getting their bodies right. We expect to be ready to play well."

Both teams had to jockey their practice schedules around because of the heat and humidity that moved into the Ohio Valley this week.

"We only went in full gear during one practice a day on Wednesday and Thursday," Justus said. "We went shorter in the afternoon. It's just mental more than anything else. We've been fine tuning some things and the kids have really picked up things well as we've moved throughout the week."

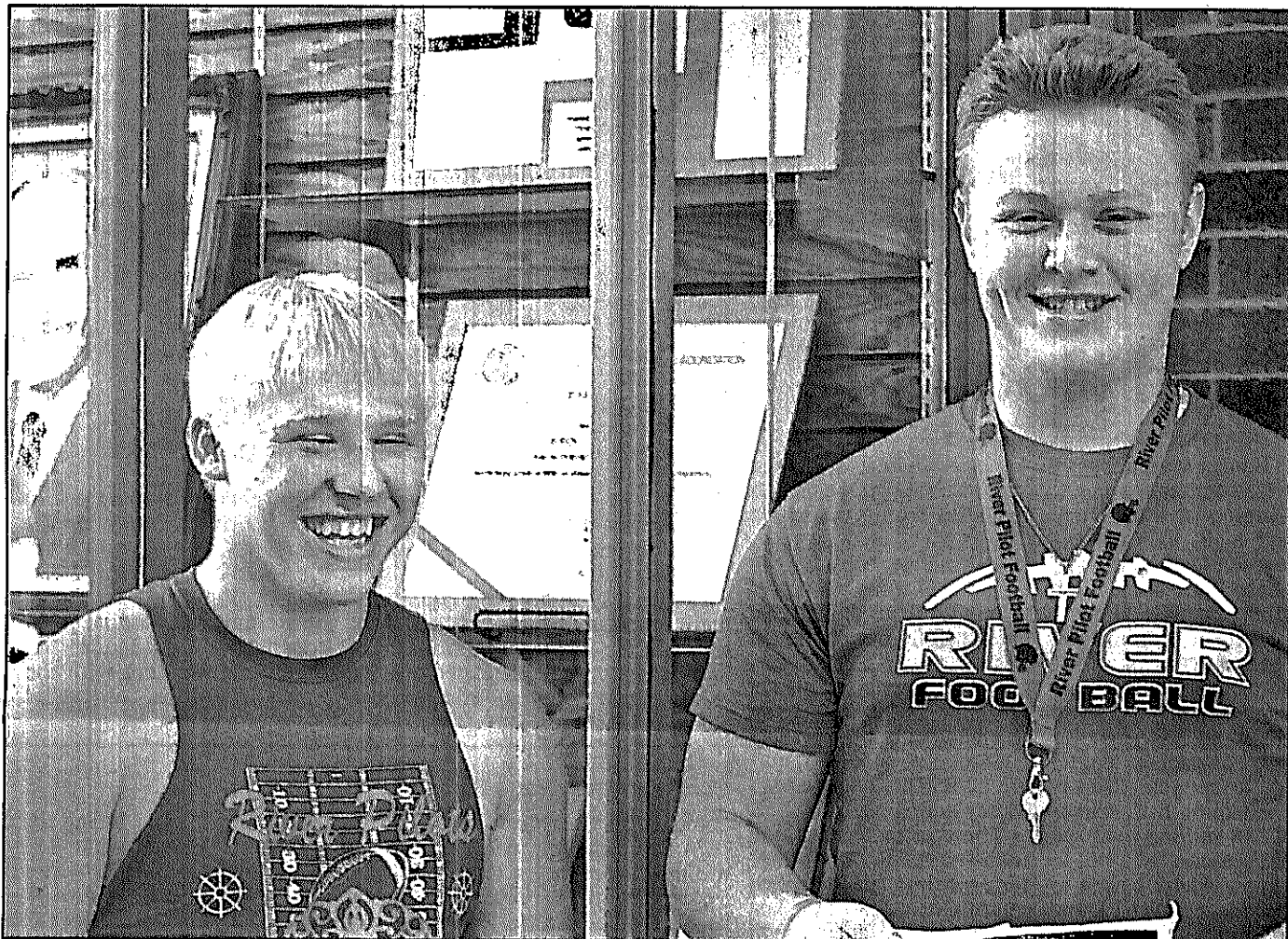
Durdines indicated head indexes on the Bethany College turf reached triple digits during the week. But, still his team opted for competitive, but fun, drills despite the coaching staff offering an opportunity to back off for a day.

"The kids have always wanted to do more," Durdines said. "We were basically giving them an out, but they elected not to take it. That made me feel really good because it showed how much this game, and winning, means to them."

Fans making the trip to Martins Ferry should expect a lot of spread formations as both Ohio and West Virginia plan on making a solid effort to get their playmakers in space at all times.

"It's tougher for us to prepare (for Ohio) because they have a mixture of schools on their coaching staff," Durdines said. "Obviously Coach Justus coached at Conotton Valley, but there are several assistants from

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



ABOVE: River's Cody Saksa, left, and Mason Ladyga, right, arrive at Bethany College on Saturday morning to check into camp for next Saturday's OVAC Rudy Mumley Football All-Star Game. BELOW RIGHT: Shadyside's Donnie Meadows gets his paperwork in order with game officials.

T-L Photos/RICK THORP

All-Stars arrive focused

• Preparations begin for OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game

By RICK THORP
Times Leader Sports Writer

BETHANY — The countdown has begun in earnest for the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley Football All-Star Game.

Saturday morning at Bethany College's Thomas P. Johnson Health and Recreation Center, players from Ohio and West Virginia arrived in a steady stream to check in for what promises to be a week of lively camp action.

"I'm very happy," Ohio head coach Karl Justus said. "I've been looking forward to this for a very long time. I think we have a great staff and some really good players."

West Virginia head coach John Durdines was eager to get to work as he watched his players enter and pick up their equipment.

"It's so exciting to get things started," he beamed. "Obviously, from the time we

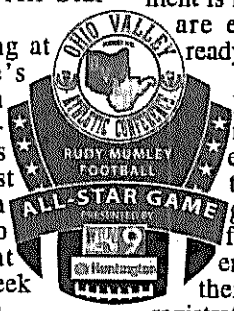
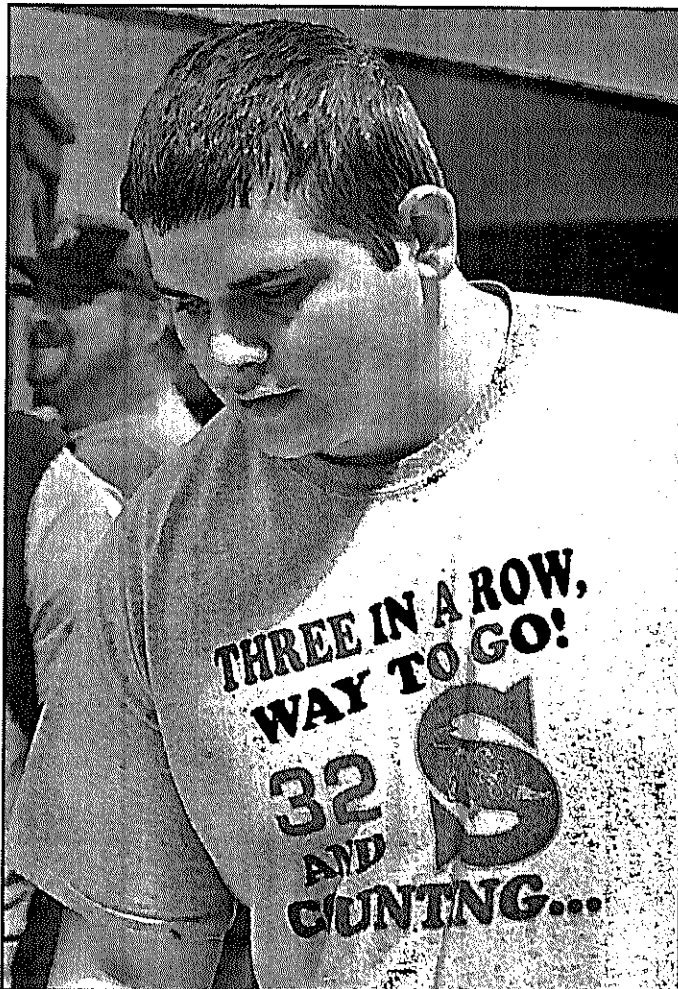
started picking teams and the kids started submitting whether they were going to come, we've been anticipating this.

"Like I said, the excitement is here. I think the kids are excited and we're ready to get going."

Players looked like kids on Christmas morning as they entered the doors of the TPJ and were greeted by OVAC football commissioner Dave Clutter. From there, it was on to the registration desk, where the step-by-step registration began. Following a stop at the T-shirt counter, players picked up their room keys and made their way into the indoor track area where former Cameron High head coach Jim Rogers was there to help them with equipment, etc.

Players on both sides got to work Saturday and will do so for the next week, culminating with the game, slated for this

See, **ARRIVE**, Page B2



• Arrive

Continued from Page B1

Saturday night at 7 at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium. The game had to be moved there after structural damage was found this spring at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Justus said he'll have his players in shells today after going through a shorts workout Saturday. Then, Monday, it's time to start hitting.

The former Conotton Valley head coach said he's excited about the coaching staff he's put together and believes the combination of strategies will be a benefit.

"Coach (Ryan) Ludwig from East Liverpool brought a few guys with him so he'll be familiar with them and I know the other guys a lot so we'll have a common bond and we can work together."

Among Durdines' assistants are Cameron assistant Eric James (the two worked together at Donahue) and former Madonna head coach Bob Kramer.

Durdines, who rebuilt Bishop Donahue into a West Virginia Class A contender, can't wait to work with some of the Mountain State's top talent.

"You have so much respect for the player's on other teams," he said. "It's great when you're sitting on the sideline and you're watching a kid give 100 percent and you're like 'Boy, I'd like to have that kid.' And, now, you have that chance."

Like Justus, Durdines will spend the first few days of camp introducing his terminology and starting to find the right fit for each of his players.

"Every kids is going to play," he said. "I'm all about giving these kids an opportunity to play. The more they show me out here, the more they'll play come Saturday."

spective."

The Mystic Rock course played host to a few PGA events in the early 2000s and while there are no plans to bring the main circuit back to either that course or Shepherd's Rock, the door is definitely not closed.

"I think we just want to get this course opened first and let it mature," Ulevich said.

Area One

Tournament Moves

Controversy surrounding the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game has been a hot topic this week. Several players were being forced to choose whether to participate in the summer classic or their respective legion baseball tournament.

A couple months ago, I wrote a column saying kids shouldn't just focus on one sport. So I am very much in favor of letting the players participate in both — especially when a pep rally and an ice cream social is all they would miss.

I personally like Tom Rataiczak and Bob Koch and think the OVAC does a lot of good things for our student-athletes, but I disagree with them on this.

Fortunately, a wrong has been put right thanks to the managers of the Area One Legion Tournament. The double-elimination tournament, which begins Tuesday, has been moved from the I-470 Complex to Bethany College.

That means Wheeling's Isaac Rine, Gage Giovengo, and Butter Murray, as well as Weirton's Michael Mills, will not have to leave the Bethany College campus and will be eligible for both the Area One Tournament and next weekend's football classic at the Dave Bruney Football Complex in Martins Ferry.

Kudos to Mark Delbrugge, Jason Swartzmiller and Bill Burkett for helping to make this happen. By virtue of Wheeling's victory against Weirton on Friday, Post 1 earned the top seed. Tuesday will see Moundsville and Weirton battle at 6 p.m. with the winner taking on Wheeling on Wednesday. An elimination game will be played Thursday with the championship being held Friday.

Josh Strobe can be reached at jstrobe@theintelligencer.net

Post 1 Trio Is Pulling Double Duty

By JOSH STROPE
Sports Editor

BETHANY — The chance to play in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game has been the dream of many local kids growing up.

The chance to go for an impressive third straight American Legion state championship is something you can't turn down.

Luckily for three Wheeling Post 1 players, they won't have to.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the OVAC, Bethany College, W.Va. football coach John Durdines and American Legion managers Mark Delbrugge, Jason Swartzmiller and Bill Burkett, the Area One Tournament was moved from the J.B. Chambers I-470 Complex to Bethany.

Players were only allowed one absence, and with at least two games to be played this week in Wheeling, Isaac Rine, Gage Giovengo and Jacob "Butter" Murray were going to be faced with a tough choice.

In the end, the two sides came to a solution that benefits everyone.

For Rine, it was a welcome surprise. "I think it was Thursday night I was set on not playing because as much as I wanted to do this — it has been a dream of mine since I was a little kid — I couldn't do that to my legion team," Rine said. "I have been committed to them for the past four years. Thursday night I went to bed upset because I had to turn down this opportunity."

See POST 1, Page 17



Rine



Murray



Giovengo

Stadium issues have OVAC All-Star Game plans up in the air

By CASEY JUNKINS
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — In about three months, Wheeling Island Stadium is scheduled to host the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game and Queen of Queens competition.

But Ohio County Schools officials need to patch a sizable hole at the top of the seating section on the west side of the stadium if that is going to happen, as two of the concrete panels are on the ground. One of these tumbled to the ground Monday, while contractors worked to remove the adjacent one that officials found damaged on Friday.

"I am not going to press the panic button at this point," OVAC Executive Secretary and Treasurer Tom Rataiczak said Monday. "I am waiting until the engineers look at it."

School officials said they planned to have structural engineers at the stadium today to evaluate the damage and assist school leaders in planning their next move. At this point, it is not known if the entire seating section will need to be replaced, or if officials will be able to reattach the fallen panels.

"We don't know how much of it, if any, will be shut down," Rataiczak said of the stadium. "We will wait until we hear something definitive from them."

Rataiczak said Monday he has not considered alternative sites for this year's event, but did mention that the OVAC game has been played in Martins Ferry and Steubenville "a couple of times" due to flooding or renovations at Wheeling Island Stadium.

See, OVAC, Page B2

POST 1

(Continued from Page 13)

"Friday morning, my dad said they were working on getting the game moved to Bethany and I jumped out of bed packing my stuff and here I am."

It is a decision that Durdines and Delbrugge are both very happy with as the Post 1 leadoff hitter and left-fielder and W.Va. quarter-back out of Wheeling Central will have a lot of work to do this week.

"We have been doing this our whole life," Rine said. "It is rough on the arm because you are throwing a little white ball for a while, then going back to throwing a football. But I feel that after throwing the football the past couple days, I will go to play baseball (today) like I can throw it from center field to home plate."

"I ice a lot and my arm is feeling pretty rough

because I haven't been throwing a football a lot. Bishop Donahue's scheme is pass first and we have been shotgunning it around the last couple days."

Count Giovengo as one who also breathed a sigh of relief when the news came down.

"I am really glad I get to do both," the Linsly product said. "The guys I have talked to say (the all-star game) is something they have remembered all of their lives. I am excited to do that and to also have this opportunity to play for a state championship and compete with my team."

"It is not as stressful now that everything has worked

out. Making that decision was going to be a tough one. I expect this week to be pretty exhausting. And with the heat and Bethany's football field and baseball field both being turf, it is going to be hot. But you just have to do it and I think you are going to see a 'W' from Wheeling Post 1 and West Virginia."

Murray wasn't too worried, saying "I knew it would work itself all out."

For him, the biggest challenge will be playing football after a long time away.

Murray hasn't seen action on a football field since the fourth week of last season because of an injury.

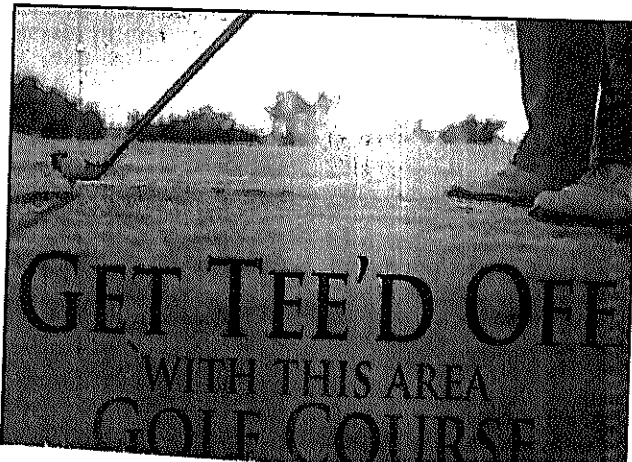
"It's been good so far,"

the Linsly standout said. "(Being back on the field) feels good."

"I'm glad to be back. It has been a little bit difficult, but not as much as you would think."

"I am glad to be able to be both. Hopefully we can come away with two wins."

The three Post 1 players



West Virginia, Ohio Set For Annual Battle



Photo by Josh Strope

Bob Koch, game director for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, is flanked by Ohio coach Karl Justus and West Virginia coach John Durdines on Monday at Media Day at Bethany College.

Durdines, Justus excited about their teams

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

BETHANY — The preparations for the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game are officially in full swing.

The players and coaches have been on campus since Saturday and have five practices under their belt as they continue to work toward Saturday night's kickoff at 7:15 at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium.

um.

Both squads took a break from their practices Monday afternoon to take part in media and photo day on the campus of Bethany College.

Ohio head coach Karl Justus and West Virginia head coach John Durdines are both overwhelmingly excited with their respective teams.

Not just from a football perspective, but including their behavior and attitudes.

"It's a busy time, but it's also been a fun time because of these kids and how they've handled everything," Justus said.

"We went full go (Monday) for the first time and the kids are really picking things up well."

During the Buckeye State's first practice Monday, they went live for much of the workout, which Justus was happy with.

Please See **OVAC**, Page 12

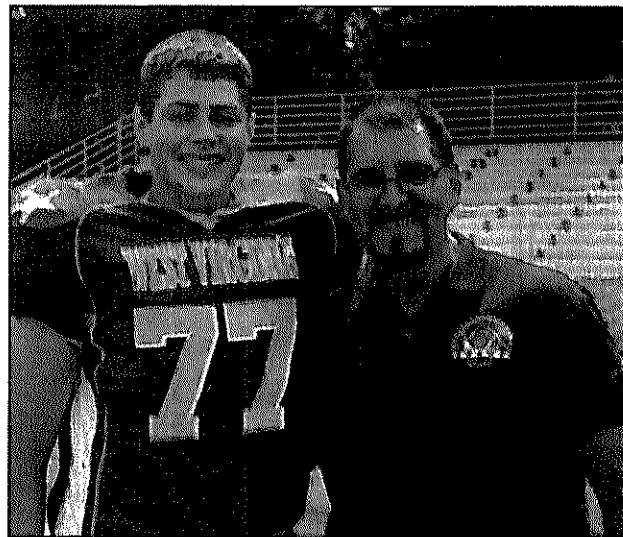


Photo by Josh Strope

Lander James, left, poses with his dad, Eric, during OVAC Media Day on Monday at Bethany College.

James Family Ready for One Final Game

By **JOSH STROPE**
Sports Editor

BETHANY — Talk to Eric James about his son, Lander, and his eyes light up. Possibly might even swell up. There is no doubt he is one proud papa.

The two have been together on a football field for a long time and it has been quite a ride, including Cameron's perfect 10-0 regular season in 2016.

While the end of that ride could have come with the Dragons' loss in the playoffs last season, there is still one more game to go.

Lander James made a name for himself on the

offensive line this season, earning first team All-Valley and All-OVAC and special honorable mention all-state.

He was an easy choice to be selected for the 72nd Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic.

"This is a pretty big deal on my part," Lander James said Monday at OVAC Media Day at Bethany College.

"Not a lot of people in my family have been in this game and not many people from my school get selected.

Please See **JAMES**, Page 13

OVAC

(Continued from Page 11)

"I think they're better when they just play than going through drills," Justus said.

"The kids are all in pretty good shape and there's a lot of talent here. We just have to get it all gelled together."

Though every coach and player who takes in any games wants to win, Durdines and his coaching staff have added motivation since they're representing Bishop Donahue for the final time. Donahue, which won the OVAC Class 1A title last fall, has been closed for the upcoming school year.

"We're coaching this game as hard as we would if we were preparing for the state championship game," Durdines said. "We want to win in the worst way, but still football is about having fun. The kids understand that if they take care of business for these two hours (on the practice field), they'll be able to savor and enjoy every minute outside of here. This game is an experience."

Durdines, who has been a part of two previous West Virginia staffs for the OVAC Game, wants his team to enjoy every ounce of the week as much as possible.

"This game will allow these kids to build relationships and friendships that they'll be able to have forever," Durdines said. "We definitely have some characters on this team, but that's in a good way. The kids are really bonding and that's what this is about."

The West Virginia players have been maximizing their time on the practice field, according to their head coach.

"The big learning curve is with the quarterback because of the system and terminology differences, but they're getting better each and every practice," Durdines said. "We're preparing to win a game, but this whole experience is fun."

According to Justus, Ohio could play today if need be, defensively. However, the offense, which is the side of the ball he coaches, is still coming together.

"The defense has really come together well and it's ahead of the offense, but that's normal because they don't have as much to grasp, mentally," Justus said. "The kids looked good (Monday) and I don't know if it's them learning the plays better or the fact that we went full bore. We'll get there by Saturday."

OVAC NOTES

■ Justus admitted that he hasn't yet learned everyone's name on his team, but he's getting there.

"I know most of them, but all of the assistants know the names," Justus said. "I coach the offense, so I am good on the offensive side."

■ Both staffs are currently down a coach. West Virginia is without former Madonna head coach Bob Kramer, who is under the weather after a trip to Las Vegas last week.

"I am still hoping Bob will be able to join the staff," Durdines said. "He called me Saturday and said he's going to try to get (to camp) later in the week. We have the utmost respect for Bob and hope he can get here. He's a cherished friend."

Ohio is without Justus' son, K.B. He's a member of the coaching staff at Lancaster and it has its camp going on. He's expected to re-join Ohio later in the week.

■ Cambridge product Garth Charlton used his one excused absence from camp shortly after the team picture was taken Monday. He headed back to Guerny County to re-join the Cambridge American Legion baseball team for its game against St. Clairsville. St. Clairsville players Billy Johnson (Shadyside) and Dom Wallace (Martins Ferry) elected to stay in camp.

■ The McDonald's All-Star Band members report to Bethany this morning to begin their preparations for Saturday's game. The band has 147 members.

■ The players, coaches and Queen of Queens candidates will be honored this evening at the annual George Strager Evening with the Stars Banquet at the White Palace inside Wheeling Park.

JAMES

(Continued from Page 11)

"It would have been nice to have one more person from our team, but two people is good and we are both excited to be here."

Lander James, who finished last season at 6-foot-3 and 195 pounds, but currently stands at 6-5 and 230 pounds, is joined by on the West Virginia team by tailback Michael Starcher.

Starcher, who rushed for 1,557 yards and 18 touchdowns last season, can thank James for opening so many holes for him throughout his career. That could be a familiar theme come Saturday at the Dave Bruney Football Complex in Martins Ferry.

While Lander James likely expected Starcher to be joining him, one person he wasn't was his father.

This season, the coaching staff was from the OVAC Class 1A division. That was Bishop Donahue.

Bishop Donahue coach John Durdines goes back a long way with Eric James. It was where James got his start. When Durdines asked him to come aboard last January, the answer was an easy one.

"(Bishop Donahue) is where I cut my teeth, getting out of college as a 22-year-old kid," Eric James said. "Fortunately John called me up and asked 'do you want

to come back with us one last time?' He didn't have to ask me twice.

"When you get to spend the last week of a high school career with your own son, it is special. I am blessed to be here and having a wonderful time.

"I have coached him since he started his seventh grade year at Cameron, starting there with Jim Rogers and getting the last few years with Coach Holt. My son has turned into a great young man and to see him out here and interact with all these great players and the opportunity to play Saturday. It is one thing to be a coach, but when you get to spend that much more time with your son, it is amazing."

The feeling is mutual.

"It is pretty nice to have him coach me here," Lander James said. "He has always been there for me, all through high school and now gets to be here for me in the OVAC All-Star Game."

"He has helped me through the years with my attitude, my skill and all-in-all knowledge of the game of football."

Expect there to be a warm embrace when the final whistle blows Saturday night, before the younger James heads off to his next step, moving to tight end at Fairmont State.

Cameron coach to lead free youth football clinic

By JOSH STROPE
For The Times Leader

MARTINS FERRY — The Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic is one of — if not the — highlight of the season for the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference.

Before the standouts of today take the field July 22 at Purple Rider Stadium for the annual contest, the possible stars of tomorrow get their chance to learn

more about the game.

The annual free youth football clinic, the beginning of the 2017-18 of the SUBWAY Sports Clinic series, will be held from 1-2:30 p.m. Registration begins at the stadium from noon-12:45 p.m.

Leading the camp will be Cameron coach Scott Holt.

"I've never done this before, usually it is the Wheeling Park guys since the game is normally at Wheeling Island Stadium," Holt said. "(St. Clairsville athlet-

ics director) Kelly Rine came to my wife's yard sale the other day and asked me if I was interested.

"It is an honor and something I am looking forward to."

Holt will be joined by members of his own staff, as well as coaches from John Marshall and Bethany College that are helping out.

The instructors will teach the basic fundamentals of football and building self-esteem. The clinic is free and open to boys

and girls ages 6-13.

"Within five minutes of me accepting it, I had coaches from three schools that wanted to join," Holt said. "Anytime you can volunteer and help out, it is a really special thing. It is a great day for the valley. Us coaches, this isn't about wins or losses and there is nothing on the line.

"This is about giving back and doing what you got into this to do. It is going to be a great time."

The 90-minute clinic will

focus on helping the kids improve on their mechanics. There will be no contact and children will learn more on stances and starts, as well as working with tackling dummies.

While the middle school-aged players will be more advanced, Holt is hoping to get the younger kids a chance to feel what it is like to have a football in their hands for the first time among their peers.

See, CAMERON, Page B2

• Cameron

Continued from Page B1

"With them, it is more about socializing and hopefully making sure everyone is going in the same direction," Holt said with a laugh. "There are going to be a range of abilities and we only have 90 minutes so it won't be too in-depth. Hopefully they can come out of it learning something.

"We want to help them build self-esteem and go forward with football. Football is a game everyone can play. It is not just for the biggest kid or the fastest kid.

"We want the kids to know that when they see us on Friday night, we are regular people, too. Our coaches are out there to make sure everyone is safe and has fun. It will be a great experience for the price of nothing and a great way to get the day started."

Parents or legal guardians are required to have insurance and be present the day of the clinic to sign a waiver form. For more information, visit www.ovac.org or email James Companion at james@ssmlc.com or phone (304) 639-1238.

Holt Set To Lead Clinic

Cameron coach taking over free football event July 22

By JOSH STROPE
Sports Editor

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Holt

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Please See HOLT, Page 12

UNANIMOUS POINTS DECISION

HOLT

(Continued from Page 11)

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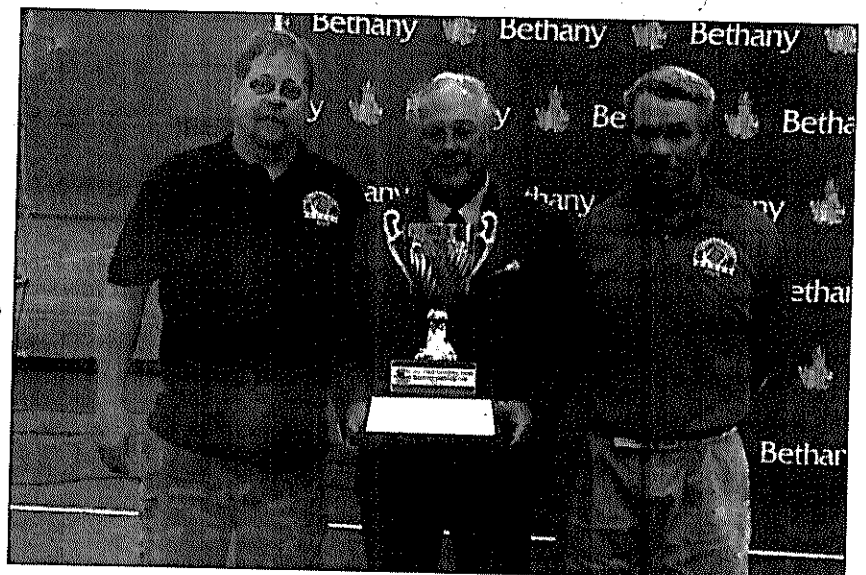
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The Daily Jeffersonian, Cambridge, Ohio



Sports

Bordas & Bordas Cup on the line Saturday at OVAC Mumley All-Star Football Game



Up for grabs for the winning team at Saturday's annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game slated for Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium is the Bordas & Bordas Cup, displayed here by West Virginia head coach John Durdines, Jim Bordas and Ohio head coach Karl Justus. Tickets for Saturday's game, slated for a 7:15 p.m. kick-off, are available today and Friday until 5 p.m. at The Daily Jeffersonian office in Cambridge. Advance tickets are \$7 and all tickets at the gate are \$10.





Sports

Daily-Jeff.com

Preparations under way for OVAC All-Star Game

By JEFF HARRISON
The Daily Jeffersonian

BETHANY, WV — Preparations are well under way for the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game which takes place Saturday evening at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium.

Players and coaches arrived on the campus of Bethany College on Saturday and are well-entrenched in getting ready both physically and mentally for the annual mid-summer classic, which was moved from its traditional spot at Wheeling Island Stadium this year due to renovations at that facility.

Both Ohio coach Karl Justus, who was at Conotton Valley High last year, and West Virginia coach John Durdines from Bishop Donahue, feel good about their team's overall progress so far and feel the bonding process of the players from schools throughout the Ohio Valley is well under way.

"They're starting to come together and I'm sure things will be even better as the week progresses," said Justus of his Buckeye players during Monday's Media Day activities at Bethany. "They go at it a

little sometimes, but they respect each other and things have been great so far."

"We definitely have some characters on this team, but in a good way," offered Durdines of the Mountaineer squad. "They're definitely bonding, and that's what it's all about."

"These kids will have friends for a lifetime out of this," he added.

For Justus & Co. it's no surprise that the defense has had the upper hand early on in practice.

"There's a lot of talent there; we just have to get it to jell," said the Ohio coach. "Today was a lot better offensively, but we're especially happy with our defense right now. That's normal to have the defense ahead of the offense. Some of them are a little tentative, but we have some really good players, and there's a lot of versatility which allows us to move some running backs out to receiver."

Durdines, meanwhile, says West Virginia has a way to counter Ohio's size advantage.

"They've got a lot of size, but for us we'll focus more on speed and athleticism," he stated. "We've also got two quarterbacks who can

throw the ball extremely well.

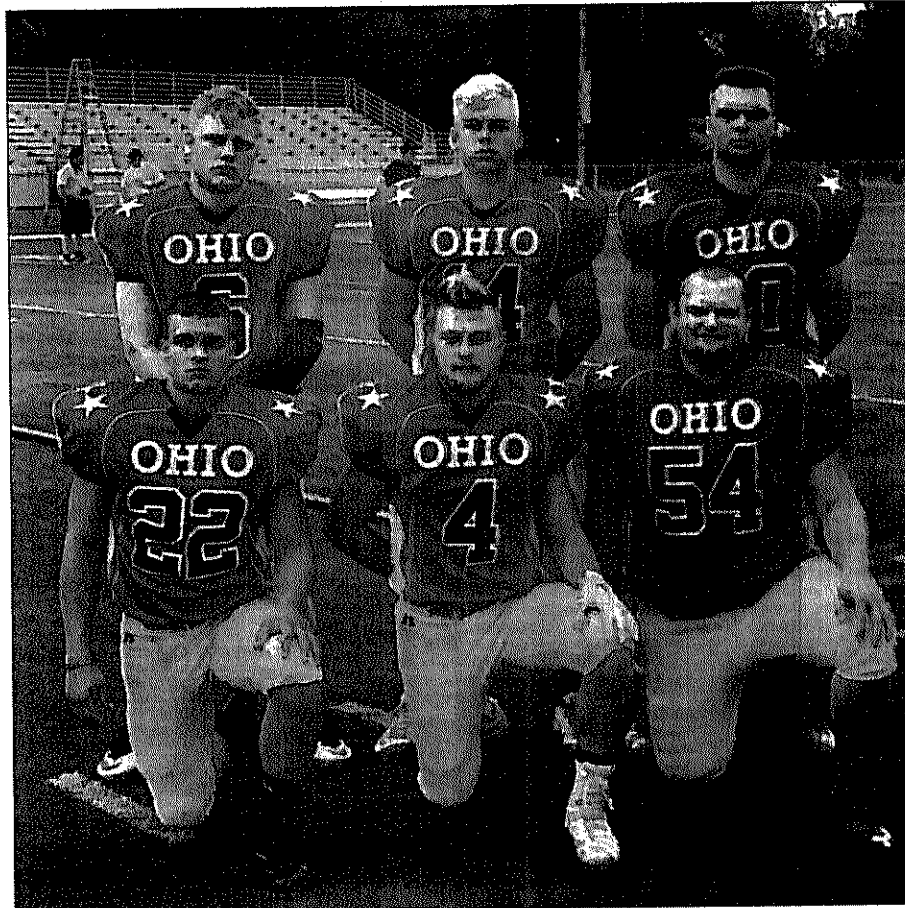
"Some of our system is a lot different than the kids are used to," the West Virginia boss added, "especially for the quarterbacks, but they're picking up on things and getting better each and every practice."

Although it's an all-star game and the emphasis is on fun, Durdines says his team will be ready to battle on Saturday, particularly since he and his coaching staff won't have a team to coach this year (Bishop Donahue, located in McMechen, W. Va., closed its doors at the conclusion of the 2016-17 school year).

"We know it's our last go-round and we're not going to leave anything on the table," he said. "We're going to coach this as hard as we would for an early December state championship game at Wheeling Island Stadium."

"We want the kids prepared and ready to win, but most importantly we want them to have fun," he continued. "They understand if they take care of business during the two hours we're out here for a (practice) session I want them to savor and enjoy every moment off

See Page B3 | OVAC



Jeff Harrison photo/The Daily Jeffersonian/buyjeffphotos.com

These six players will represent the local area in the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game slated Saturday night at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium. Front row, left to right, are Buckeye Trail's Carter Streiff, Troy Pontius and Kyle Wilson; back row, William Lowe of Cambridge, Konnor Roberts of Meadowbrook and Garth Charlton of Cambridge. Advance tickets for Saturday's game are available at The Daily Jeffersonian office Tuesday through Friday during regular business hours.

OVAC

From Page B1

the field as well."

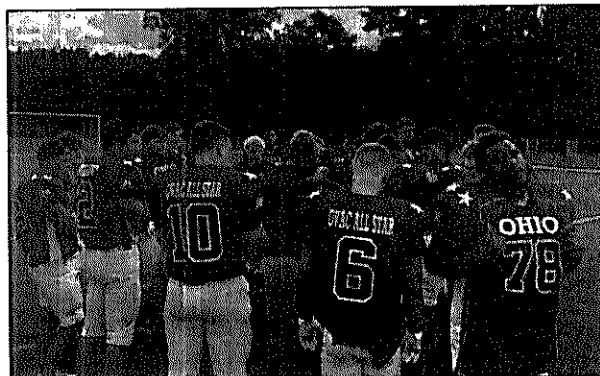
EXTRA POINTS

According to OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak, the switch to Martins Ferry for this year's game has gone smoothly.

"Martins Ferry has been phenomenal," he said. "They opened their arms to us and have made the necessary adjustments to make it a memorable experience for all of the participants."

There are plenty of activities ahead for the participants, including tonight's 31st annual George Strager Evening with the Stars Banquet slated for Wheeling Park's White Palace at 6:30 p.m.

A Pep Rally will take place Friday at Bethany's Bison Field at 6:30 p.m., with the McDonald's All-Star Band, Ohio and West Virginia cheerleaders and the Queen of Queens also



Jeff Harrison photo/The Daily Jeffersonian/buyjeffphotos.com

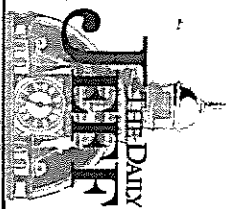
Ohio coach Karl Justus talks to his team about the rest of the day's events during media day at Bethany College for the Ohio and West Virginia teams slated to clash Saturday in the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium.

taking part.

The Queen of Queens Talent Show will be Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Capitol Theater in Wheeling, with admission to that event \$7 for adults and \$5 for students.

Advance tickets for the game will be on sale Tuesday through Friday during

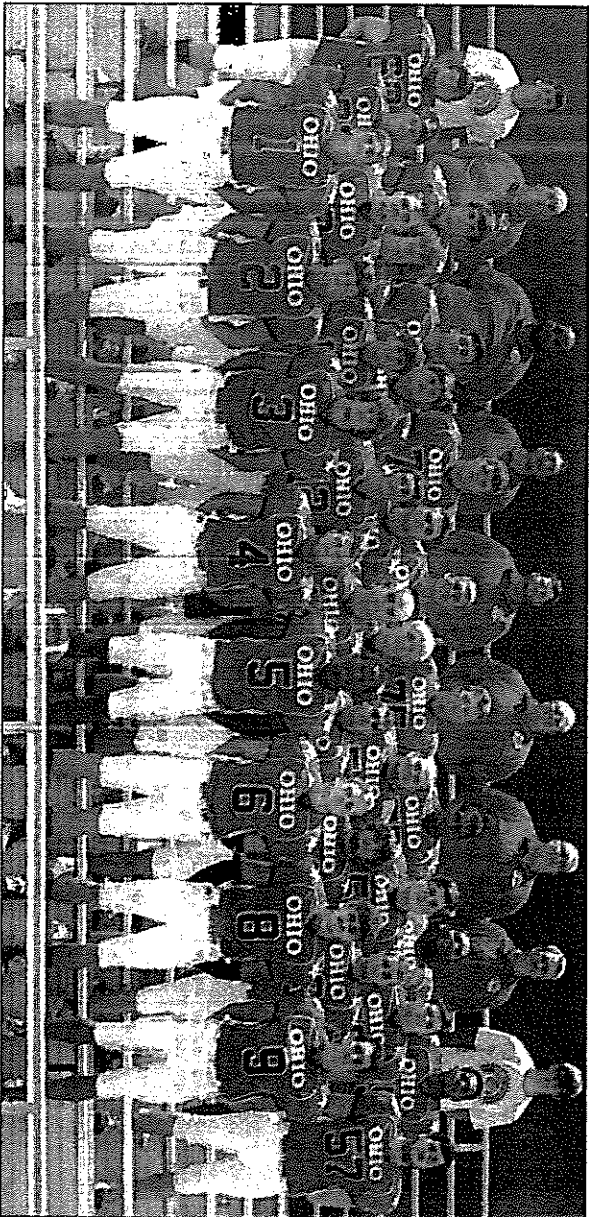
regular business hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at The Daily Jeffersonian office in Cambridge. Advance tickets are \$7 and all tickets at the game are \$10. Tickets to the game (as well as the Queen of Queens Talent Show) can also be purchased on line at www.GoPan.com.



Sports

Daily-Jeff.com

OVAC All-Stars to clash Saturday at Ferry



Jeff Harrison photo/The Daily Jeffersonian

Representing Ohio in the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game on Saturday at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium are these players: Front row, 1 to 7, Austin Mayfield of East Liverpool, Dylan Kiddler of East Liverpool, Sean Millard of Buckeye Local, Troy Pontius of Buckeye Trail, Jalen McChene of Steubenville, William Lowe of Cambridge, Casey Lewis of Fort Frye and Zach Bigelow of St. Clairsville; second row, Zach Gill of East Liverpool, Billy Johnson of Shadyside, Justin Keyser of Bellair, Konnor Roberts of Meadowbrook, Carter Streiff of Buckeye Trail, Robert Coppa of Indian Creek and Danny Zdmak of Toronto; third row, Max Tice of Toronto, Zane Zimish of Steubenville, Jesse Ball of Harrison Central, Garth Charlton of Cambridge, Cody Saks of River, Kyle Wilson of Buckeye Trail and Terry Adkins of Beaver Local; fourth row, Brenton Stull of Harrison Central, Luke Matusik of River, Sam Robinson of Indian Creek, Freddie Plum of East Liverpool, Trey Elerick of St. Clairsville, Mason Ladyga of River, Drone Moore of Steubenville, Dom Wallace of Martins Ferry and Jack Davis of Martins Ferry; back row, manager Michael Loy and Eric McMahon, assistant coaches Alvin Thompson, Ian Whittington, Dom Vinci, Josh Ludwig and Chris Heaton, head coach Karl Justus and manager Koby Plum. Saturday's game kicks off at 7:15 p.m.

By JEFF HARRISON
The Daily Jeffersonian

MARTINS FERRY — For only the third time in the 72 years that Ohio and West Virginia gridder have battled in a mid-summer all-star game, the venue won't be Wheeling Island Stadium.



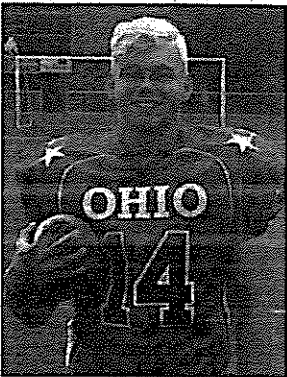
When the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game kicks off at 7:15 p.m. on Saturday, it'll be Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium which will lay out the red, or in this case purple, carpet for the players, coaches, cheerleaders, band members and queen candidates.

Ferry Stadium - part of the Dave Bruney Football Complex - was chosen for this year's contest due to ongoing repairs at Wheeling Island Stadium, but when the action begins it'll be all about earning bragging rights at the end of a week of activities centered primarily on the campus of Bethany College, with evening trips to Wheeling Park's White Palace and the Capitol Theater in downtown Wheeling along the way.

Ohio will be out to right the ship after dropping the last two matchups, including 26-6 last year, and five of the last seven. The Buckeye State still leads the overall series, however, with 43 wins to 27 for West Virginia with one game ending in a tie.

Since the OVAC assumed sponsorship of the game in 1972, Ohio has a 28-16-1 advantage.

That 1972 game, by the way, was the resumption of the all-star series which dates back to 1940 after a two-year hiatus thanks primarily to the generosity of the game's namesake - Rudy Mumley - who actually mortgaged his home to provide the funds needed to resurrect the game. That year's game was originally scheduled at Wheeling Island, but a flood forced the game to be moved and it was Martins Ferry that stepped up to host the event similar to this year.



Roberts



Streiff



Charlton



Wilson



Lowe



Pontius

Clash

From Page B1

The only other time the game was not on the island was in 1986 when Steubenville's Harding Stadium hosted the contest.

All-Star coaches Karl Justus (Ohio) and John Durdines (West Virginia) announced the players selected as team captains on Thursday.

Ohio's captains for Saturday's game include two local players - Meadowbrook quarterback Konnor Roberts and Cambridge linebacker Garth Charlton - along with Trey Elerick of St. Clairsville, Zane Zimish of Steubenville and Jesse Ball of Harrison Central.

For West Virginia, the captains are Zach Torbett of Wheeling Park, Adam Frisco of University, Isaac Rine of Wheeling Central and Jordan Allen of Weir.

The local area has six players on the Ohio roster. In addition to Roberts and Charlton, wearing their high school football helmet for the final time are William Lowe of Cambridge and the Buckeye Trail trio of Troy Pontius, Kyle Wilson and Carter Streiff.

EXTRA POINTS— Tonight's activities for the participants includes a Pep Rally at Bethany's Bison Field beginning at 6:30 p.m., with parents and other fans invited to attend (admission is free). The Rudy Mumley Memorial Scholar Athlete Scholarships announced at the event. This will be followed by a dance for the football players, cheerleaders, band members and Queen of Queens candidates from 8-11 p.m.

—The OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band will again provide pre-game and halftime entertainment, with 147 members on hand this year.

—A total of 22 girls competed in Thursday night's Queen of Queens Talent Show, including Shenandoah High's Andrea Rice. The Queen will be

crowned during halftime of Saturday's game.

—Shenandoah is also represented on the Ohio cheering squad by Allison Dixon.

—The conference will again honor members of the 10-Year and 50-Year Reunions. Among the players who participated in the 1967 game were Dallas Adkins, John Merrill and Larry Wehr or Barnesville as well as Queen of Queens candidate Mary Smith, also from Barnesville.

—Of the conference's 51 schools, 41 are represented by either players, cheerleaders, band members or Queen of Queens candidates.

—Joyce Jingle is once again serving as the Queen of Queens Coordinator;

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Ben McPherson is the McDonald's All-Star Band Coordinator; Diana Vargo is the George Strager Evening with the Stars Coordinator; and Chuck Taskalines is the 10-Year Reunion Coordinator. Cheering coaches are Nadeana Cook for Ohio and Marcie Robbins for West Virginia.

—Doug Costain (Wheeling) will serve as the game referee, with the other officials including Matt Rudder (Morgantown), George Kelchak (Weirton), Mike Brohard (Parkersburg), Ernie Fithyan (Weirton), Rob Green (East Liver-

pool) and Jeff Loeffler (Wheeling). This year's honorary official is Bill "Bull" Flanagan of Wheeling and Sarasota, Florida.

—In 46 years, the game has donated more than \$934,700 to charity organizations and scholarships throughout the Ohio Valley.

—Tickets are on sale at The Daily Jeffersonian office until 5 p.m. today; they can be purchased on line at www.GoFan.com or you can contact Sports Editor Jeff Harrison (740-630-1117) up until noon Saturday. Advance tickets are \$7 while all tickets at the gate are \$10.



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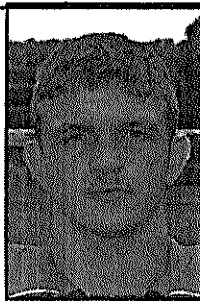
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SPORTS

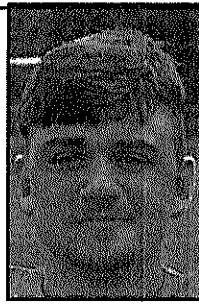
Saturday,
July 22, 2017



JUSTUS



MAYFIELD



KIDDER



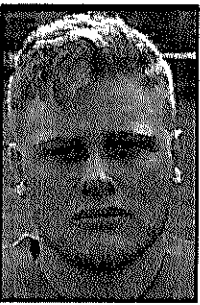
MILLARD



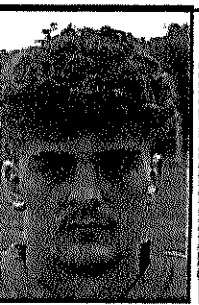
PONTIUS



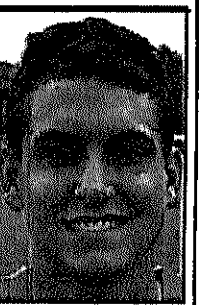
McGHEE



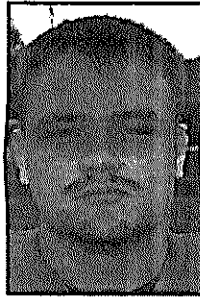
LOWE



LEWIS



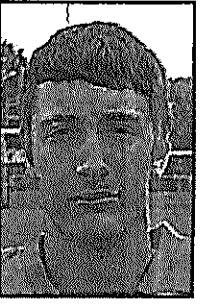
BIGELOW



GILL



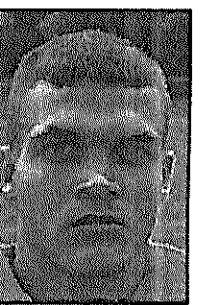
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KEYSER



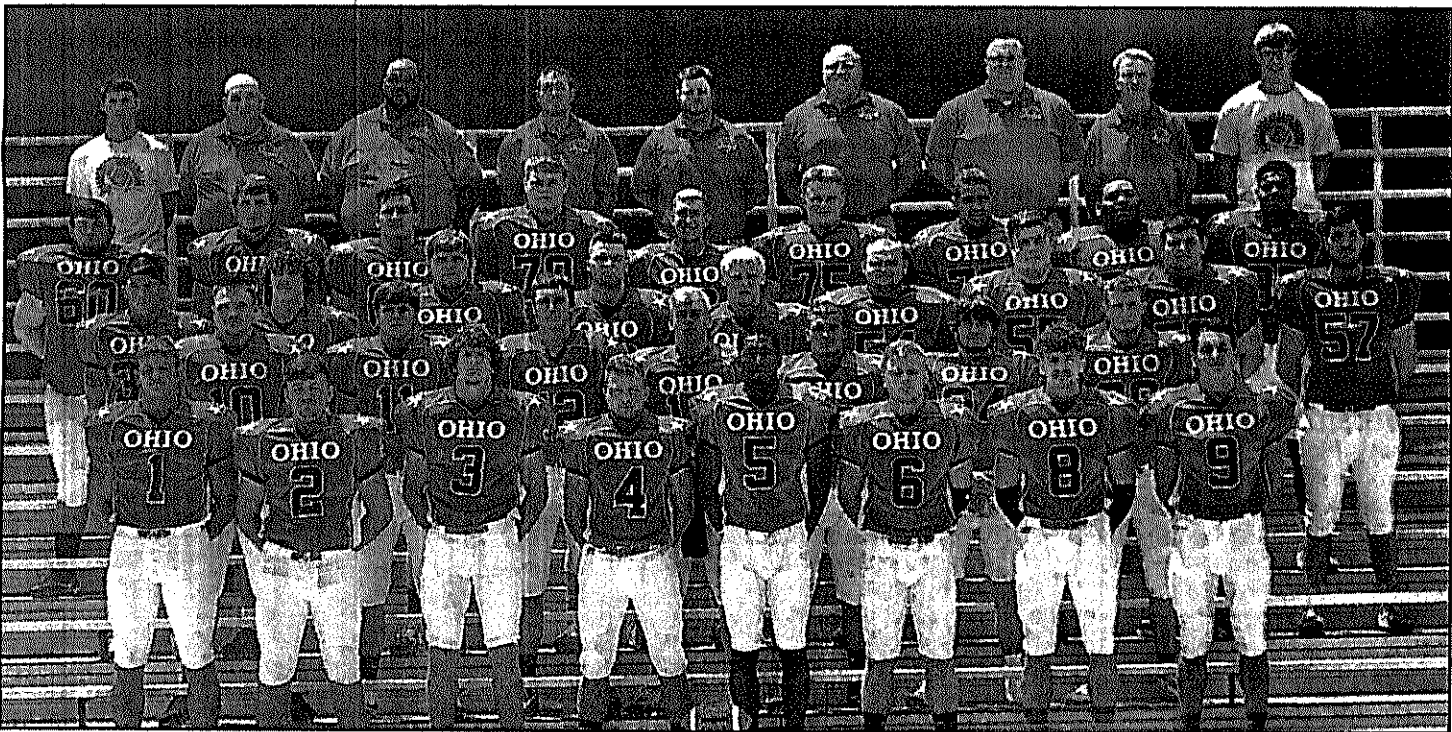
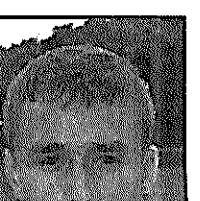
ROBERTS



STREIFF

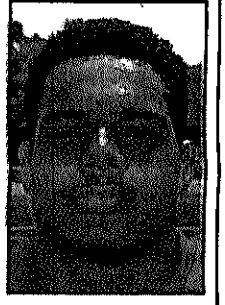


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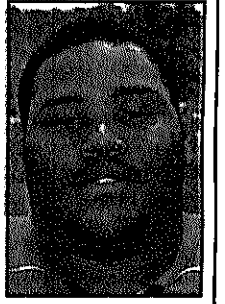


PICTURED IS the Ohio All-Star Team for Saturday's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Front row, from left, are Austin Mayfield, Dylan Kidder, Sean Millard, Troy Pontius, Jalen McGhee, William Lowe, Casey Lewis and Zach Bigelow. Second row, from left, are Zach Gill, Billy Johnson, Justyn Keyser, Konnor Roberts, Carter Streiff, Robert Coppa and Danny Zdinak. Third row, from left, are Max Tice, Zane Zimish, Jesse Ball, Garth Charlton, Cody Saksa, Kyle Wilson, Terry Adkins, Donnie Meadows and Ben Davis. Fourth row, from left, are Brenton Stull, Luke Matusik, Sam Robinson, Freddie Plum, Trey Elerick, Mason Ladyga, Drone Moore, Dom Wallace and Jack Davis. Top row, from left, are manager Michael Loy, equipment manager Eric McMahon, assistant coaches Alvin Thompson, Ian Whittington, Dom Vinci, Josh Ludwig, Chris Heaton, head coach Karl Justus and manager Koby Plum.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY



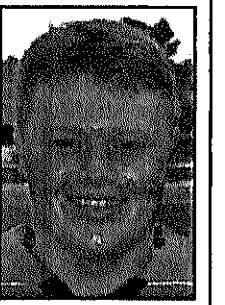
J. DAVIS



WALLACE



MOORE



LADYGA



ELERICK



PLUM

Football is back

• 72nd annual OVAC Mumley Classic set for tonight

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

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Though the regular season is still five weeks away, area gridiron fans get to wet their appetite at Purple Rider Stadium.

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While both teams want to win simply as competitors, West Virginia's motivation might be even greater since its players are being coached by John Durdines, who is preparing for his final game as a head football coach. He had been a highly successful coach at Bishop Donahue, but the school won't open this fall.

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The teams went through their final workouts Friday morning, practicing just once. Ohio expects to endure a brief walk through today, but the teams are scheduled

for brunch at 10 a.m. and depart for Martins Ferry at 2:30 p.m.. The players must also pack up their belongings in that time span, too.

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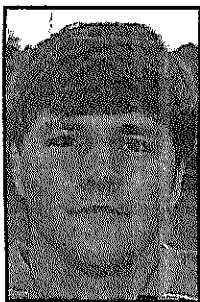
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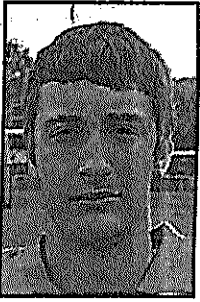
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Who: Ohio vs. West Virginia
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Radio: AM 1600
Television: WTOV



GILL



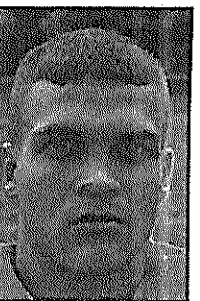
JOHNSON



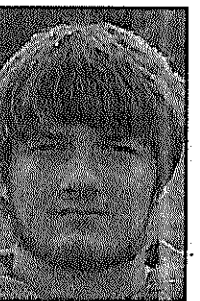
KEYSER



ROBERTS



STREIFF



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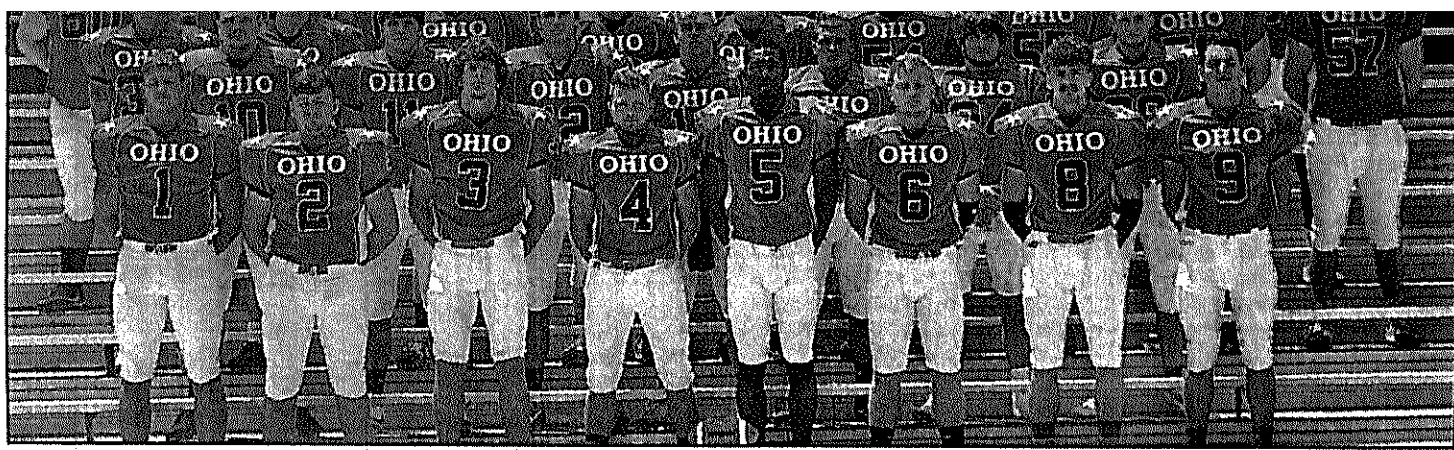
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J. DAVIS



WALLACE



MOORE



LADYGA



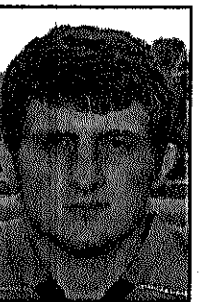
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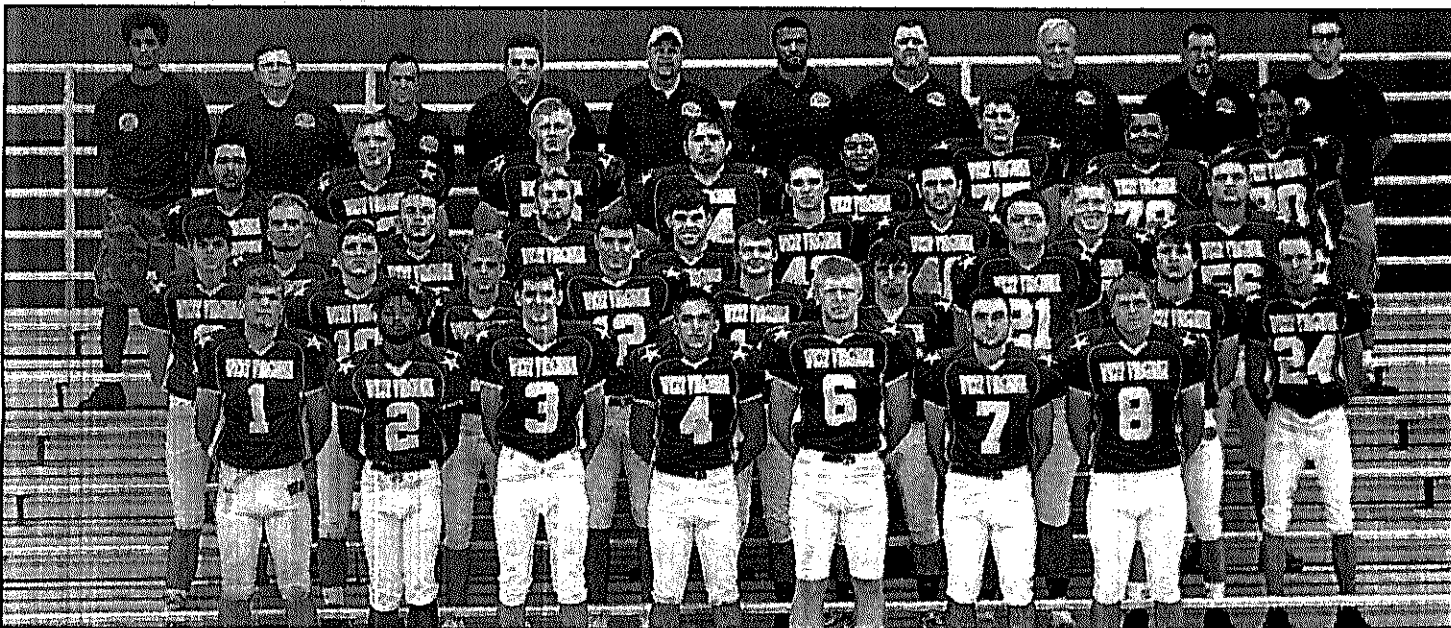
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See, **OVAC**, Page B2



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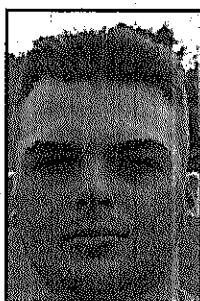


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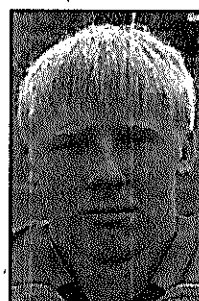
PICTURED IS the West Virginia All-Star Team for Saturday's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Front row, from left, are Chris Yachini, Donovan Spencer, John Burkhalter, Michael Mills, Gage Giovengo, Isaac Rine and Lance Collins. Second row, from left, are Jacob Murray, Jace Reed, Jimmy Hull, Zach Torbett, Trey Miller, Michael Starcher, Cody Enrietti, Adam Frisco and Dylan Baker. Third row, from left, are J.C. Custer, Chase Street, Alex Edgell, Michael Meaige, Tyler Anderson, Jordan Allen, Jack Raitz and Peyton Powroznik. Fourth row, from left, are Hayden Berry, Travis Lowther, Logan Kranis, Jacob Kerekes, Dante Carlier, Lander James, Zack Martin and Maezi Mosby. Top row, from left, are Anthony Robbins, Lou Richmond, Curt Mele, Zach Klemm, head coach John Durdines, L.A. Hampton, Jim Smith, Howard Stamp, Eric James, Vinny Mangino. Not pictured is Bob Kramer.



BALL



CHARLTON



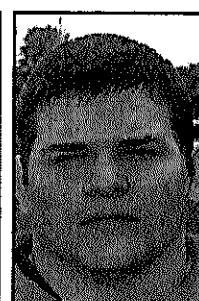
SAKSA



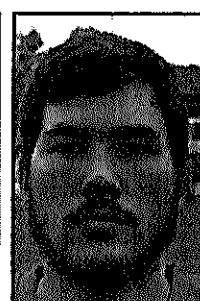
WILSON



ADKINS



MEADOWS



B. DAVIS



STULL

All-Star Game an honor for the officials, too

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY – Don't think the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game is an honor just for the players, queens, band members and cheerleaders.

A group of seven men will take the field tonight at Purple Rider Stadium with a very important job to do.

The officiating crew, which was assigned by OVAC Football Commissioner Dave Clutter, will be looking to enforce the rules, keep the game clean and do its part in helping the players and coaches have as memorable of an experience as possible.

Doug Costain, who lives in Wheeling, will serve as the referee of the game. It's his second all-star game assignment, but first as a white cap.

"It's definitely an honor to work this game," Costain said. "I don't care what sport or what level of officiating you're on, if you get chosen for something extra or above and beyond the normal duty, it's special."

For Costain, he has 18 years of experience. He was away from the sport for 10 years, but was encouraged to renew his certification by his long-time friend Tom Bechtel.

"I was in for 12 years and then Bear asked me to come back and I said I would, but I wanted to come back at the varsity level and not have to start over," Costain recalled. "I was willing to go through the training class because I had been out a while and needed to get refreshed on the rules and things."

As has been the case the last several years, the OVAC will once again employ a seven-man crew for the game, which kicks off tonight at 7:15 at the Dave Bruney Football Complex. That's two more officials than a normal high school game. Though it's a change, it's a welcomed one, according to Costain.

"When you use a seven-man crew, it makes everything (on the field) seem a little bit smaller and closer," Costain explained. "For me, for instance, I don't have to run up to the line of scrimmage every play like a normal high school game, so it's easier from that perspective."

Since the OVAC covers numerous officiating boards and geographic areas, Clutter tries to represent as many as possible. Also slated to work the game are umpire Matt Rudder (Morgantown), linesman George Kelchak (Weirton), line judge Mike Brohard (Parkersburg), field judge Ernie Fithyan (Weirton), side judge Rob Green (East Liverpool) and back judge Jeff Loeffler (Wheeling).

The officials have not worked together collectively yet. The crew has been communicating through a group text message and it will get together this afternoon to begin their formal preparations.

"I think not using a normal crew is a great move by the OVAC because more than just guys from Wheeling or Weirton are officiating OVAC games on Friday nights," Costain said. "I feel like our role, as officials, is to facilitate the game. We want to keep it smooth and keep it from getting chippy. If we can keep control of the game and keep our flags in our pocket, that's what we're going to do."

The officials will be wearing a commemorative shirt tonight, too. On the left side of the shirt will be the OVAC's 75th anniversary logo.

The honorary official for tonight's game will be Bill "Bull" Flanagan from Wheeling, who now resides in Sarasota, Fla.

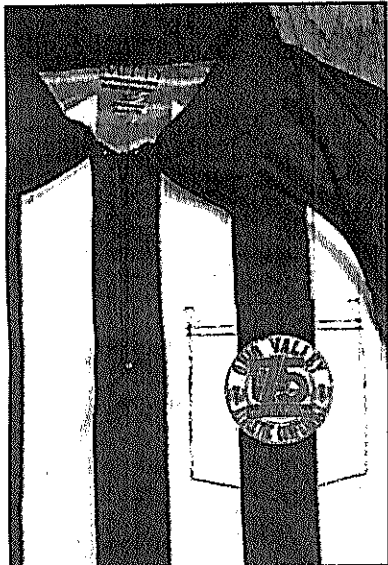
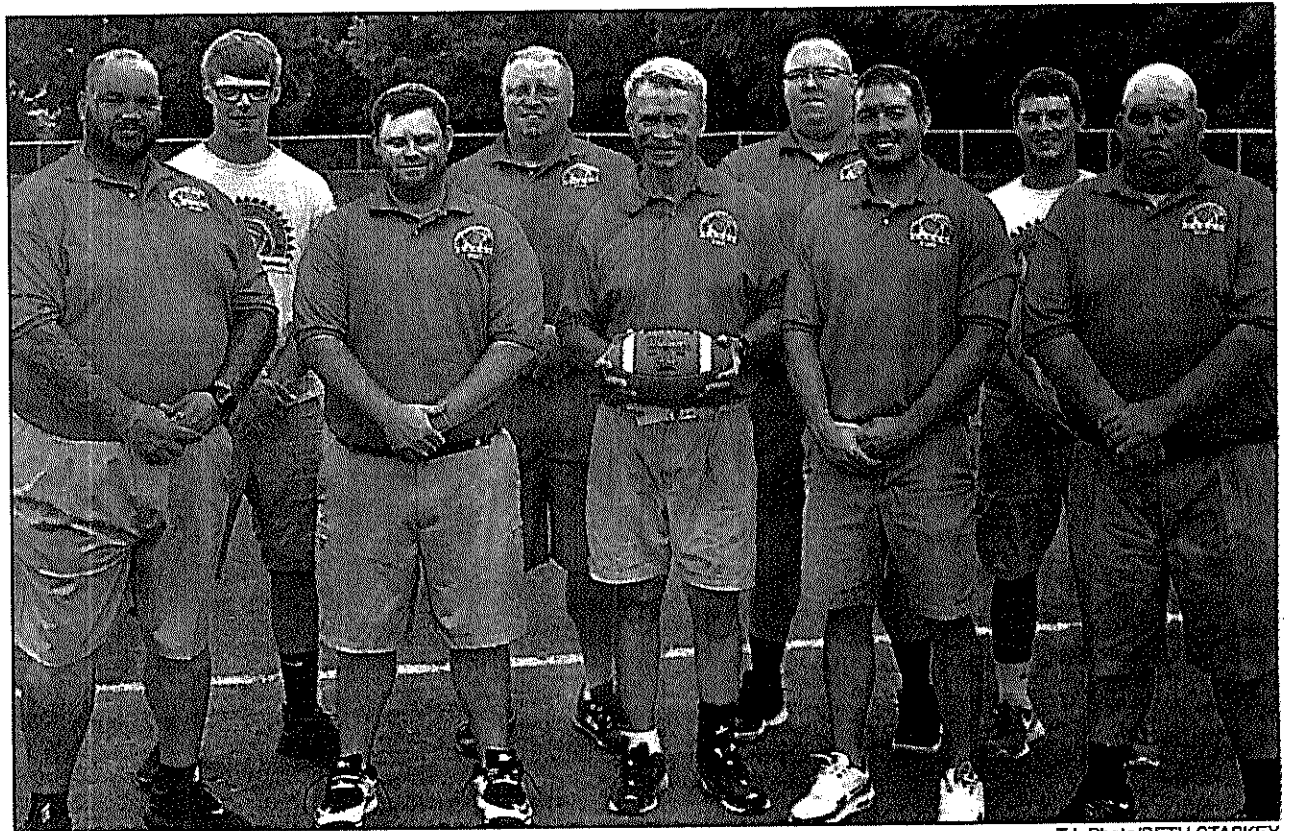


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the jersey that all seven officials will be wearing tonight in the 72nd OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. The jersey has a commemorative OVAC patch for the conference's 75th anniversary.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED IS the Ohio coaching staff for tonight's 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. From left are Alvin Thompson, Dom Vinci, head coach Karl Justus, Ian Whittington and Eric McMahon. Back row, from left, are Koby Plum, Josh Ludwig, Chris Heaton and Michael Loy.

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

moved throughout the week."

Durdines indicated heat indexes on the Bethany College turf reached triple digits during the week. But, still his team opted for competitive, but fun, drills despite the coaching staff offering an opportunity to back off for a day.

"The kids have always wanted to do more," Durdines said. "We were basically giving them an out, but they elected not to take it. That made me feel really good because it showed how much this game, and winning, means to them."

Fans making the trip to Martins Ferry should expect a lot of spread formations as both Ohio and West Virginia plan on making a solid effort to get their playmakers in space at all times.

"It's tougher for us to prepare (for Ohio) because they have a mixture of schools on their coaching staff," Durdines said. "Obviously Coach Justus coached at Conotton Valley, but there are several assistants from East Liverpool, too. We're not quite sure what they're going to run more of. But, still, football is football and we'll adjust as need be once the game gets going."

Actually, it'll be a mixture. It'll be Conotton Valley's offensive scheme with East Liverpool's defensive scheme since Potters head coach Josh Ludwig is spearheading the defensive unit this week for the Buckeye State.

"We're trying to do things offensively that you can't predict," Justus said. "You can kind of predict what both teams are going to be on defense. We want to spread people out and try to negate some of the things they can do defensively. If you line up in traditional formations, then it's challenging because you don't know the front."

Ohio will go with Austin Mayfield of East Liverpool at quarterback. Meadowbrook's Konnor Roberts will be his understudy and see action.

In the backfield, Harrison Central's Jesse Ball will see

OVAC All-Star Rosters

OHIO						
No.	Name	Ht	Wgt	Pos.	School	
1	Austin Mayfield	6-2	205	QB	East Liverpool	
2	Dylan Kidder	5-10	194	K	East Liverpool	
3	Sean Millard	6-2	195	WR/S	Buckeye Local	
4	Troy Pontius	5-8	170	QB/CB	Buckeye Trail	
5	Jalen McGhee	6-1	205	RB/LB	Steubenville	
6	William Lowe	5-10	170	RB/DL	Cambridge	
8	Casey Lewis	5-11	190	RB	Fort Frye	
9	Zach Bigelow	5-11	175	WR/DB	St. Clairsville	
10	Zach Gill	6-2	210	WR/TE	East Liverpool	
11	Billy Johnson	6-1	180	WR/DB	Shadyside	
12	Justyn Keyser	6-2	170	WR/DB	Bellaire	
14	Konnor Roberts	6-0	180	QB	Meadowbrook	
22	Carter Streiff	5-8	180	RB/LB	Buckeye Trail	
24	Robert Coppa	5-9	175	RB/S	Indian Creek	
28	Danny Zdinak	5-11	170	RB/WR	Toronto	
32	Max Tice	5-10	185	RB/LB	Toronto	
33	Zane Zimish	5-10	195	LB	Steubenville	
34	Jesse Ball	6-1	245	LB/TE	Harrison Central	
40	Garth Charlton	6-0	205	LB	Cambridge	
46	Cody Saksa	5-9	220	LB	River	
54	Kyle Wilson	5-11	260	OL/DL	Buckeye Trail	
55	Terry Adkins	6-2	248	DE	Beaver Local	
56	Donnie Meadows	6-3	280	OL/DL	Shadyside	
57	Ben Davis	6-2	220	OL/DL	Toronto	
60	Brenton Stull	5-11	245	OL/DL	Harrison Central	
61	Luke Matusik	6-2	205	DE/OL	River	
63	Sam Robinson	6-0	240	OL/DL	Indian Creek	
70	Freddie Plum	6-6	265	OL/DL	East Liverpool	
72	Trey Elerick	5-10	200	OL/DL	St. Clairsville	
75	Mason Ladyga	6-2	235	OL/DL	River	
77	Drone Moore	6-1	235	OL/LB	Steubenville	
78	Dom Wallace	6-0	290	OL/DL	Martins Ferry	
85	Jack Davis	6-2	205	DE	Martins Ferry	

Head Coach: Karl Justus
Assistant Coaches: Chris Heaton, K.B. Justus, Josh Ludwig, Alvin Thompson, Dom Vinci, Ian Whittington.
Managers: Eric McMahon, Koby Plum, Michael Loy.

WEST VIRGINIA						
No.	Name	Ht	Wt	Pos.	School	
1	Chris Yachini	6-2	185	WR/LB	Brooke	
2	Donovan Spencer	5-10	170	WR/DB	Weir	
3	John Burkhalter	6-1	180	WR/DB	Wheeling Central	
4	Michael Mills	5-9	175	K	Weir	
6	Gage Giovengo	6-1	210	RB/LB	Linsly	
7	Isaac Rine	5-9	180	QB	Wheeling Central	
8	Lance Collins	5-11	185	QB/DB	Oak Glen	
9	Jacob Murray	6-1	185	WR/DB	Linsly	
10	Jace Reed	5-11	190	RB/DE	Tyler Consolidated	
11	Jimmy Hull	5-11	140	WR/DB	Bishop Donahue	
12	Zach Torbett	6-1	190	RB/S	Wheeling Park	
14	Trey Miller	5-10	165	DB	Bishop Donahue	
20	Michael Starcher	5-8	170	RB/LB	Cameron	
21	Cody Enrietti	6-3	250	RB	Weir	
22	Adam Frisco	5-8	180	LB	University	
24	Dylan Baker	5-10	150	WR/DB	Wheeling Central	
28	J.C. Custer	5-7	145	WR	Bishop Donahue	
32	Chase Street	5-9	185	RB/LB	Magnolia	
33	Alex Edgell	6-0	225	RB/LB	Brooke	
34	Michael Meaige	5-9	205	RB/LB	Wheeling Park	
42	Tyler Anderson	6-1	190	RB/LB	Tyler Consolidated	
46	Jordan Allen	6-1	225	OL/DE	Weir	
55	Jack Flaitz	5-9	220	OL/DL	South	
56	Peyton Powroznik	6-2	250	OL/DL	University	
57	Hayden Berry	5-9	220	OL/DL	Wheeling Park	
63	Travis Lowther	6-2	220	OL/DL	Weir	
70	Logan Kranis	6-3	282	OL/DL	Oak Glen	
74	Jacob Kerekas	6-3	300	OL/DL	John Marshall	
75	Dante Carlier	5-10	260	OL/DL	Morgantown	
77	Lander James	6-4	225	C	Cameron	
78	Zack Martin	6-0	305	OL/DL	University	
80	Maezi Mosby	5-10	160	WR/DB	Wheeling Park	

Head Coach: Michael Durdines
Assistant Coaches: Michael Angallch, L.A. Hampton, Eric James, Bob Kramer, Zach Klemm, Curt Mele, James Smith, Howard Stamp
Managers: Lou Richmond, Vinny Mangino, Anthony Robbins.

Wheeling Park's Michael Meaige.

In the secondary, Bishop Donahue's Trey Miller and Wheeling Central's Dylan Baker are the corners. The safety trio consists of Oak Glen's Lance Collins, Tyler's Tyler Anderson and Wheeling Park's Zach Torbett.

"Our defense has been looking good," Durdines said. "The tough part is to keep from second guessing yourself. When practicing for a normal week, your starting group is going against a second group. In this game, we have an all-star offense and an all-star defense, so there have been days where our defense has looked really good and other days where our offense has looked really good. I think the kids have grasped the system well."

The West Virginia offense, meanwhile, will be triggered by Wheeling Central's Isaac Rine.

Magnolia's Chase Street and Weir's Cody Enrietti will line up with Rine in the backfield. On the flanks, Rine will have a combination of Brooke's Chris Yachini, Weir's Donovan Spencer, Wheeling Central's John Burkhalter and Bishop Donahue's J.C. Custer.

Up front, Linsly's Gage Giovengo is listed at tight end.

Cameron's Lander James is the starting center, while Morgantown's Dante Carlier and University's Peyton Powroznik are the guards. At tackle, Wheeling Park's Hayden Berry and University's Zack Martin will start.

Ohio's defense will feature Ball and River's Mason Ladyga at the tackle spot, while Steubenville's Drone Moore and River's Luke Matusik are ticketed for the starting end spots.

Big Red's Zane Zimish will be at one linebacker spot along with Cambridge's Garth Charlton and Cambridge's William Lowe.

In the secondary, Shadyside's Billy Johnson will start at strong safety, while Toronto's Danny Zdinak will roam at free safety. The corners are St.

OVAC All-Star Game History

2017 - ????????	1977 - West Virginia 21, Ohio 0
2016 - West Virginia 26, Ohio 6	1976 - West Virginia 33, Ohio 20
2015 - West Virginia 35, Ohio 7	1975 - West Virginia 8, Ohio 0
2014 - Ohio 27, West Virginia 26	1974 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 6
2013 - Ohio 28, West Virginia 19	1973 - West Virginia 38, Ohio 20
2012 - Ohio 33, West Virginia 14	1972 - Ohio 24, West Virginia 6
2011 - West Virginia 24, Ohio 3	1971 - No Game
2010 - West Virginia 24, Ohio 14	1970 - No Game
2009 - Ohio 47, West Virginia 7	1969 - West Virginia 12, Ohio 0
2008 - Ohio 31, West Virginia 7	1968 - Ohio 6, West Virginia 0
2007 - Ohio 6, West Virginia 3	1967 - West Virginia 18, Ohio 0
2006 - Ohio 22, West Virginia 0	1966 - Ohio 26, West Virginia 0
2005 - Ohio 35, West Virginia 6	1965 - Ohio 22, West Virginia 0
2004 - West Virginia 21, Ohio 7	1964 - Ohio 2, West Virginia 0
2003 - Ohio 32, West Virginia 28	1963 - No Game
2002 - Ohio 19, West Virginia 12	1962 - West Virginia 12, Ohio 6
2001 - Ohio 38, West Virginia 0	1961 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
2000 - Ohio 13, West Virginia 7	1960 - Ohio 7, West Virginia 6
1999 - Ohio 32, West Virginia 0	1959 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 6
1998 - Ohio 41, West Virginia 14	

white cap.
"It's definitely an honor to work this game," Costain said. "I don't care what sport or what level of officiating you're on, if you get chosen for something extra or above and beyond the normal duty, it's special."

For Costain, he has 18 years of experience. He was away from the sport for 10 years, but was encouraged to renew his certification by his long-time friend Tom Bechtel.

"I was in for 12 years and then Bear asked me to come back and I said I would, but I wanted to come back at the varsity level and not have to start over," Costain recalled. "I was willing to go through the training class because I had been out a while and needed to get refreshed on the rules and things."

As has been the case the last several years, the OVAC will once again employ a seven-man crew for the game, which kicks off tonight at 7:15 at the Dave Bruney Football Complex. That's two more officials than a normal high school game. Though it's a change, it's a welcomed one, according to Costain.

"When you use a seven-man crew, it makes everything (on the field) seem a little bit smaller and closer," Costain explained. "For me, for instance, I don't have to run up to the line of scrimmage every play like a normal high school game, so it's easier from that perspective."

Since the OVAC covers numerous officiating boards and geographic areas, Clutter tries to represent as many as possible. Also slated to work the game are umpire Matt Rudder (Morgantown), linesman George Kelchak (Weirton), line judge Mike Brohard (Parkersburg), field judge Ernie Fithyan (Weirton), side judge Rob Green (East Liverpool) and back judge Jeff Loeffler (Wheeling).

The officials have not worked together collectively yet. The crew has been communicating through a group text message and it will get together this afternoon to begin their formal preparations.

"I think not using a normal crew is a great move by the OVAC because more than just guys from Wheeling or Weirton are officiating OVAC games on Friday nights," Costain said. "I feel like our role, as officials, is to facilitate the game. We want to keep it smooth and keep it from getting chippy. If we can keep control of the game and keep our flags in our pocket, that's what we're going to do."

The officials will be wearing a commemorative shirt tonight, too. On the left side of the shirt will be the OVAC's 75th anniversary logo.

The honorary official for tonight's game will be Bill "Bull" Flanagan from Wheeling, who now resides in Sarasota, Fla.

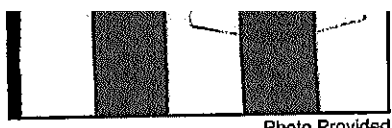


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the jersey that all seven officials will be wearing tonight in the 72nd OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. The jersey has a commemorative OVAC patch for the conference's 75th anniversary.

Continued from Page B1

moved throughout the week."

Durdines indicated heat indexes on the Bethany College turf reached triple digits during the week. But, still his team opted for competitive, but fun, drills despite the coaching staff offering an opportunity to back off for a day.

"The kids have always wanted to do more," Durdines said. "We were basically giving them an out, but they elected not to take it. That made me feel really good because it showed how much this game, and winning, means to them."

Fans making the trip to Martins Ferry should expect a lot of spread formations as both Ohio and West Virginia plan on making a solid effort to get their playmakers in space at all times.

"It's tougher for us to prepare (for Ohio) because they have a mixture of schools on their coaching staff," Durdines said. "Obviously Coach Justus coached at Conotton Valley, but there are several assistants from East Liverpool, too. We're not quite sure what they're going to run more of. But, still, football is football and we'll adjust as need be once the game gets going."

Actually, it'll be a mixture. It'll be Conotton Valley's offensive scheme with East Liverpool's defensive scheme since Potters head coach Josh Ludwig is spearheading the defensive unit this week for the Buckeye State.

"We're trying to do things offensively that you can't predict," Justus said. "You can kind of predict what both teams are going to be on defense. We want to spread people out and try to negate some of the things they can do defensively. If you line up in traditional formations, then it's challenging because you don't know the front."

Ohio will go with Austin Mayfield of East Liverpool at quarterback. Meadowbrook's Konnor Roberts will be his understudy and see action.

In the backfield, Harrison Central's Jesse Ball will see fullback duty, while Indian Creek's Robert Coppa will be the starting tailback.

On the perimeter, Ohio plans to go with Bellaire's Justyn Keyser, Martins Ferry's Jack Davis and Buckeye Local's Sean Millard as the first group of receivers.

Up front, the Buckeyes will utilize St. Clairsville's Trey Elerick at center. Martins Ferry's Dom Wallace

OVAC All-Star Rosters

OHIO					
No.	Name	Ht	Wgt	Pos.	School
1	Austin Mayfield	6-2	205	QB	East Liverpool
2	Dylan Kidder	5-10	194	K	East Liverpool
3	Sean Millard	6-2	195	WR/S	Buckeye Local
4	Troy Pontius	5-8	170	QB/CB	Buckeye Trail
5	Jalen McGhee	6-1	205	RB/LB	Staubenville
6	William Lowe	5-10	170	RB/DL	Cambridge
8	Casey Lewis	5-11	190	RB	Fort Frye
9	Zach Bigelow	5-11	175	WR/DB	St. Clairsville
10	Zach Gill	6-2	210	WR/TE	East Liverpool
11	Billy Johnson	6-1	180	WR/DB	Shadyside
12	Justyn Keyser	6-2	170	WR/DB	Bellaire
14	Konnor Roberts	6-0	180	QB	Meadowbrook
22	Carter Streiff	5-8	180	RB/LB	Buckeye Trail
24	Robert Coppa	5-9	175	RB/S	Indian Creek
28	Danny Zdinak	5-11	170	RB/WR	Toronto
32	Max Tice	5-10	185	RB/LB	Toronto
33	Zane Zimish	5-10	195	LB	Staubenville
34	Jesse Ball	6-1	245	LB/TE	Harrison Central
40	Garth Charlton	6-0	205	LB	Cambridge
46	Cody Saksa	5-9	220	LB	River
54	Kyle Wilson	5-11	260	OL/DL	Buckeye Trail
55	Terry Adkins	6-2	248	DE	Beaver Local
56	Donnie Meadows	6-3	280	OL/DL	Shadyside
57	Ben Davis	6-2	220	OL/DL	Toronto
60	Brenton Stull	5-11	245	OL/DL	Harrison Central
61	Luke Matusik	6-2	205	DE/OL	River
63	Sam Robinson	6-0	240	OL/DL	Indian Creek
70	Freddie Plum	6-6	265	OL/DL	East Liverpool
72	Trey Elerick	5-10	200	OL/DL	St. Clairsville
75	Mason Ladyga	6-2	235	OL/DL	River
77	Drone Moore	6-1	235	OL/LB	Staubenville
78	Dom Wallace	6-0	290	OL/DL	Martins Ferry
85	Jack Davis	6-2	205	DE	Martins Ferry

Head Coach: Karl Justus
Assistant Coaches: Chris Heaton, K.B. Justus, Josh Ludwig, Alvin Thompson, Dom Vinci, Ian Whittington.

Managers: Eric McMahon, Koby Plum, Michael Loy.

WEST VIRGINIA					
No.	Name	Ht	Wt	Pos.	School
1	Chris Yachini	6-2	185	WR/LB	Brooke
2	Donovan Spencer	5-10	170	WR/DB	Weir
3	John Burkhalter	6-1	180	WR/DB	Wheeling Central
4	Michael Mills	5-9	175	K	Weir
6	Gage Glovengo	6-1	210	RB/LB	Linsly
7	Isaac Rine	5-9	180	QB	Wheeling Central
8	Lance Collins	5-11	185	QB/DB	Oak Glen
9	Jacob Murray	6-1	185	WR/DB	Linsly
10	Jace Reed	5-11	190	RB/DE	Tyler Consolidated
11	Jimmy Hull	5-11	140	WR/DB	Bishop Donahue
12	Zach Torbett	6-1	190	RB/S	Wheeling Park
14	Trey Miller	5-10	165	DB	Bishop Donahue
20	Michael Starcher	5-8	170	RB/LB	Cameron
21	Cody Enrietti	6-3	250	RB	Weir
22	Adam Frisco	5-8	180	LB	University
24	Dylan Baker	5-10	150	WR/DB	Wheeling Central
28	J.C. Custer	5-7	145	WR	Bishop Donahue
32	Chase Street	5-9	165	RB/LB	Magnolia
33	Alex Edgell	6-0	225	RB/LB	Brooke
34	Michael Meaige	5-9	205	RB/LB	Wheeling Park
42	Tyler Anderson	6-1	190	RB/LB	Tyler Consolidated
46	Jordan Allen	6-1	225	OL/DE	Weir
55	Jack Raitz	5-9	220	OL/DL	South
56	Peyton Powroznik	6-2	250	OL/DL	University
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70	Logan Kranis	6-3	282	OL/DL	Oak Glen
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77	Lander James	6-4	225	C	Cameron
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Assistant Coaches: Michael Angalich, L.A. Hampton, Eric James, Bob Kramer, Zach Klemm, Curt Mele, James Smith, Howard Stamp
Managers: Lou Richmond, Vinny Mangino, Anthony Robbins.

and East Liverpool's Freddie Plum are ticketed for guard duties, while Indian Creek's Sam Robinson and Beaver Local's Terry Adkins have won the tackle jobs.

"The kids have really picked up the offense well," Justus said. "It was slow earlier in the week, but they've really grasped it well and they know their assignments well. I am a lot

more confident (offensively) at this point than I was."

The Mountaineers' defensive unit will employ a 4-2-5 scheme. Up front, Weir's Jordan Allen and South's Jack Raitz are the ends, while Oak Glen's Logan Kranis and Weir's Travis Lowther will start at tackle.

The inside linebacking duties have gone to Brooke's Alex Edgell and

Wheeling Park's Michael Meaige.

In the secondary, Bishop Donahue's Trey Miller and Wheeling Central's Dylan Baker are the corners. The safety trio consists of Oak Glen's Lance Collins, Tyler's Tyler Anderson and Wheeling Park's Zach Torbett.

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Big Red's Zane Zimish will be at one linebacker spot along with Cambridge's Garth Charlton and Cambridge's William Lowe.

In the secondary, Shadyside's Billy Johnson will start at strong safety, while Toronto's Danny Zdinak will roam at free safety. The corners are St. Clairsville's Zach Bigelow and Buckeye Trail's Troy Pontius.

Special teams has been a point of emphasis this week, according to both coaches.

Weir High's Michael Mills will kick and Park's Maezi Mosby will punt. For Ohio, Mayfield will punt and his Potter teammate Dylan Kidder will handle the placements.

OVAC All-Star Game History

2017 - ????????	1977 - West Virginia 21, Ohio 0
2016 - West Virginia 26, Ohio 6	1976 - West Virginia 33, Ohio 20
2015 - West Virginia 35, Ohio 7	1975 - West Virginia 8, Ohio 0
2014 - Ohio 27, West Virginia 26	1974 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
2013 - West Virginia 28, Ohio 19	1973 - West Virginia 38, Ohio 20
2012 - Ohio 33, West Virginia 14	1972 - Ohio 24, West Virginia 6
2011 - West Virginia 24, Ohio 3	1971 - No Game
2010 - West Virginia 24, Ohio 14	1970 - No Game
2009 - Ohio 47, West Virginia 7	1969 - West Virginia 12, Ohio 0
2008 - Ohio 31, West Virginia 7	1968 - Ohio 6, West Virginia 0
2007 - Ohio 6, West Virginia 3	1967 - West Virginia 18, Ohio 0
2006 - Ohio 22, West Virginia 0	1966 - Ohio 26, West Virginia 0
2005 - Ohio 35, West Virginia 6	1965 - Ohio 22, West Virginia 0
2004 - West Virginia 21, Ohio 7	1964 - Ohio 2, West Virginia 0
2003 - Ohio 32, West Virginia 26	1963 - No Game
2002 - Ohio 19, West Virginia 12	1962 - West Virginia 12, Ohio 6
2001 - Ohio 36, West Virginia 0	1961 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
2000 - Ohio 13, West Virginia 7	1960 - Ohio 7, West Virginia 6
1999 - Ohio 32, West Virginia 0	1959 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 6
1998 - Ohio 41, West Virginia 14	1958 - Ohio 25, West Virginia 0
1997 - Ohio 24, West Virginia 14	1957 - Ohio 14, West Virginia 13
1996 - Ohio 43, West Virginia 21	1956 - Ohio 27, West Virginia 0
1995 - Ohio 21, West Virginia 0	1955 - Ohio 31, West Virginia 20
1994 - West Virginia 19, Ohio 14	1954 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 0
1993 - West Virginia 34, Ohio 32	1953 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
1992 - 0-0, Wash Out.	1952 - Ohio 26, West Virginia 19
1991 - Ohio 30, West Virginia 6	1951 - Ohio 13, West Virginia 6
1990 - Ohio 42, West Virginia 0	1950 - Ohio 14, West Virginia 0
1989 - West Virginia 22, Ohio 14	1949 - West Virginia 6, Ohio 0
1988 - Ohio 13, West Virginia 7	1948 - Ohio 20, West Virginia 7
1987 - Ohio 13, West Virginia 11	1947 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 7
1986 - Ohio 14, West Virginia 6	1946 - Ohio 26, West Virginia 7
1985 - West Virginia 23, Ohio 26	1945 - No Game
1984 - Ohio 23, West Virginia 6	1944 - No Game
1983 - Ohio 26, West Virginia 16	1943 - No Game
1982 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 6	1942 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
1981 - Ohio 17, West Virginia 14	1941 - West Virginia 7, Ohio 0
1980 - Ohio 10, West Virginia 7	1940 - West Virginia 13, Ohio 27
1979 - Ohio 47, West Virginia 13	All-Time Series: Ohio leads, 43-27-1.
1978 - Ohio 21, West Virginia 13	

2017 OVAC McDonald's All-Star Band

Alex Adair, Cyrus Adams, Morgan Ahart, Brooke Anderson, Daylynn Anderson, Molly Arbogast, Michael Banovsky, Gillian Barach, Elisa Beam, Kylie Beck, Harley Benda, Jessica Bocook, Mariah Bologna, Nathan Bolyard, Sean Booher, Kristen Brøen, Collin Briggs, Jordan Brown, Julie Bruder, Emily Burrier, Madeline Cain, Lydia Carr, Philip Carson, Bryson Cash, Benjamin

Champ, Calti Chaney, Nathaniel Clemons, Kyle Clevenger, Davan Collins, Olivia Craig, Will Croskey, Kaitlyn Crow, Mary Dagan, Lizzy Diehl, Zach Dierkes, Christiana Dill, Andrew Dillie, Stefania DiMichele, David Duff, Samantha Edwards, Trey Elbon, Hannah Elson, Caleb Elson, Karissa Eoff, Emily Everston, Jon Flood, Shelby Gatlion, Jade Glatzer, Haley Godman, Isabella Good-

hart, Ross Gorby, Cameron Gray, Hope Harris, Tavian Harris, Bill Heath, Amy Hissrich, Kylie Hyre, Randy Ignacak, Alexis Ivey, Landon Johnston, Sarah Kazmirski, Gage Keoner, Theresa Kelly, Emily Kenefick, Makenzie Kimble, Izayah King, Christina Klatt, Matthew Kolb, Travis Kornett, Maisy Krystek, Taylor Leathers, Macy LeMasters, Spencer Litzenberger, Maria Martin, Abigail McEl-

roy, Dakota McGrew, Abigail Means, William Metzger, Rachel Moore, Kelly Morris, Kurt Neimayer, Hailee Nelson, Joshua Nicol, Samantha Palmer, Taylor Pannett, Katie Parker, Alicia Parsons, Victoria Parsons, Brianna Pasco, Andrea Paynter, Davis Peshek, Steven Petrey, Mikayla Pfouts, Veronica Phillipson, Jenna Platt, Job Plumly, Braden Poling, Nachele Probst, Lyndsee

Probst, Matthew Rector, Bethany Ripley, Adam Ripley, Racquel Ritchie, T.J. Roberts, Marina Rohbeck, Kylee Rose, Shayla Rosen, Kaylee Sabo, Tanner Schmidli, Ashlee Schwertfeger, Hannah Scott, Shannon Shifflett, Sydney Singleton, Deabrea Smith, J.J. Snider, Talia Snively, Wilson Snively, Baylee Snyder, Brønna Starr, Allie Stern, Danielle Stewart, Morgan Stone, Mindy Strahl,

Alexandria Street, Gabrielle Stringer, Keith Summers, Sydney Taggart, Daphney Tanner, Rick Terry, Timothy Trigg, Ashley Trischley, Maegyn Trudics, Kylie Turley, Mia Valero, Nicole Van Tassel, Felix Vargas, Brianna Wade, Mackenzie Wade, Kaitlin Wallace, Dalton Walnoha, Rachel Watson, Caitlyn Widmor, Kyleigh Williams, Saraina Wise, Natalie Wood, Seth Wright, Taylor Wright.



Sports

Daily-Jeff.com

Six players representing Guernsey County in Saturday's game at Martins Ferry A lifetime of memories for OVAC All-Stars

By JEFF HARRISON
The Daily Jeffersonian

BETHANY, WV — One final chance to represent their high school and in this case the entire county awaits for six members of this year's Ohio team slated to square off against West Virginia in the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game this Saturday at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium.



Guernsey County's six players include Konnor Roberts of Meadowbrook; Garth Charlton and William Lowe of Cambridge; and the Buckeye Trail trio of Troy Pontius, Carter Streiff and Kyle Wilson.

With Saturday's 7:15 p.m. kickoff drawing ever closer, the "Guernsey Six" understand how special this event is and they appear to be enjoying their time on

the campus of Bethany College as well as all of the other week-long activities.

"I remember when I was young I came down and watched one of the games and I've wanted to play in it ever since," said Meadowbrook's Roberts, a 6-0, 180-pound two-time all-Ohioan (third team as a junior; second team as a senior) who's expected to share time at quarterback, "and now that I am it's pretty surreal.

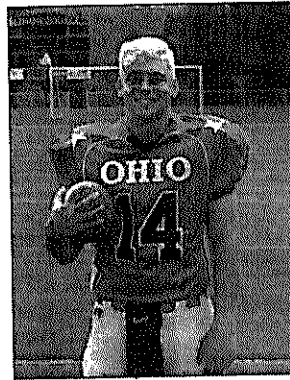
"It's kinda my last hurrah before going to college, and we're having a blast getting to know a lot of new guys - even the Cambridge kids," Roberts grinned. "We've got athletes all around and we're very diverse, but things are a lot slower offensively. We (Meadowbrook) were a lot more fast-paced, but now we're in a huddle, so it's an adjustment for me."

Roberts, by the way, got the official word Monday morning that his offensive

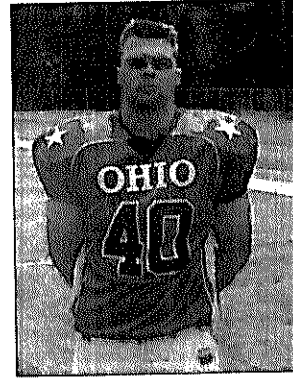
coordinator to be at Ohio Dominican University - Martins Ferry/Mount Union grad Zac Bruney - will be leaving as he was named the new head coach at Wheeling Jesuit University, which is forming a football program for the first time with plans to play an exhibition schedule next year before competing full-time in the Mountain East Conference in 2019.

"I've looked forward to this for a long time and to be picked out of all the players on the Ohio side is a real honor," said Trail's Pontius, a 5-8, 170-pound third team Division VII all-Ohioan who'll likely see action at running back or wide receiver. "Making new friends has been great, and rooming with Konnor (Roberts) is a lot of fun. It'll be nice to represent Buckeye Trail one last time."

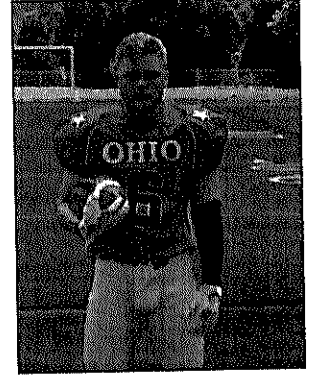
"I got the call late, but



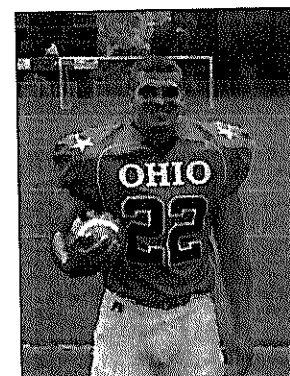
Konnor Roberts



Garth Charlton



William Lowe



Carter Streiff



Troy Pontius



Kyle Wilson

See Page B4 | All-stars

All-Stars

From Page B1

I've always looked forward to playing in a game like this," said Trail's Streiff, a 5-8, 180-pound linebacker who gained second team all-Ohio D-VII honors. "It makes me feel good to know I was chosen to play with some really good players, and having other guys from Trail shows we had a pretty good season."

"It's really an honor to get picked to play in this game," said Trail's Wilson. "My cousin, Kyle Carpenter, played in this game and I talked to him about it and he said it was the best week of his life and so far, I agree. I've made a lot of new friends, and it's special to have two of my buddies (Pontius and Streiff) here. One more time to represent Buckeye Trail is nice, too."

"I was really excited to be selected," said Cambridge's Lowe, a 5-10, 170-pound running back/defensive lineman who was second team all-Ohio Division IV. "It's a very special opportunity to be able to come out here and represent Cambridge along with Garth. My teammates are awesome and I'm enjoying

myself."

Charlton, a 6-0, 205-pound linebacker who also gained second team all-Ohio accolades, made a quick exit from Bethany on Monday in order to return to Cambridge to play for Post 84 in the American Legion Region 8 Tournament, but returned soon after the game and it's been an experience he'll never forget.

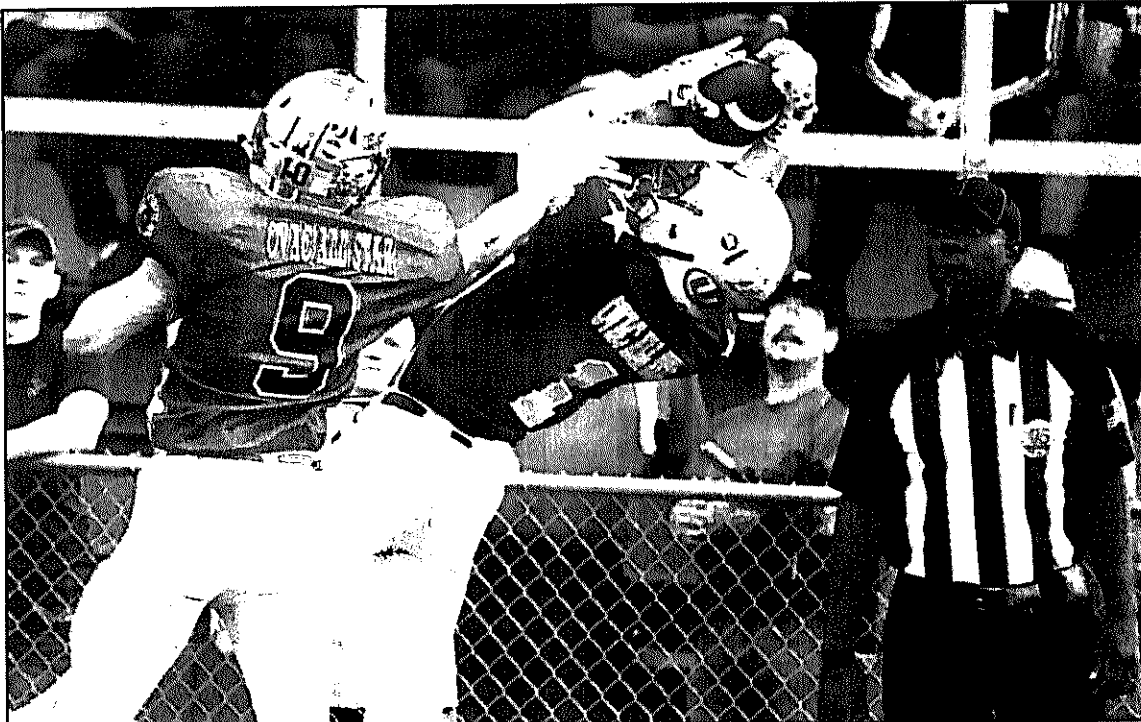
"I got to experience this last year with the Cambridge coaching staff," he related, referring to serving as a manager for CHS coach Kevin Gunn who guided the Ohio squad last summer, "and I've been looking forward to it ever since."

"It's definitely an honor to play with these guys," he continued as he took a break from an X-Box competition between the players in their dorms at Bethany. "They're all great football players and good young men. It's great building friendships with guys I never thought I'd get a chance to meet."

Saturday's game may last between two and three hours, but these six players - along with the rest of the participants - will have a lifetime of memories to savor.

MONDAY, JULY 24, 2017

West Virginia stuns Ohio in 20-13 win



Alex Kozlowski

MAKING A GRAB — West Virginia's Chris Yachini of Brooke leaps to make a catch while being defended by Ohio's Zach Blgelow of St. Clairsville

By **JOSH STROPE**
Sports writer

MARTINS FERRY — Call it a little bit of redemption.

West Virginia's John Burkhalter didn't have his best day Saturday night during the 72nd annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game. The all-state receiver was plagued by uncharacteristic drops, including a few that were guaranteed touchdowns.

Still, when the game was one the line, there was no question who the ball was going to.

The Wheeling Central connection of quarterback Isaac Rine and his favorite target, Burkhalter, hooked up on an 8-yard touchdown strike with three seconds remaining to give West Virginia a thrilling 20-13 victory against Ohio at the Dave Bruney Football Complex.

"This feels great," Burkhalter said. "I have been coming here for so many years and seen the reaction from other West Virginia teams when they took the 'W' and that is exactly what I wanted."

"Before that I made a couple drops and that got in my head a little bit. Coming down

the stretch I told myself 'it was going to come down to you.' I told my other fellow receivers like Chris (Brooke's Yachini) that it is going to

come down to the wide receivers. I knew this time I had to make the catch."

With the game tied at 13-13 and Ohio with the ball, a failed

pitch from Meadowbrook's Konnor Roberts turned into a loose ball. John Marshall's Jacob Kerekes came up with it

See **OVAC** Page 2B ⇨

Continued from Page 1B

for West Virginia on the Buckeyes 29.

With four minutes on the clock, the Mountaineers used a heavy dose of Magnolia's Chase Street and Weir's Cody Enrietti to milk the clock to the final seconds.

West Virginia almost coughed up the ball, but Rine was able to recover a fumble and give the Mountaineers time for one final quick play with eight seconds on the clock.

Rine took the shotgun snap, rolled to his right and found Burkhalter at the edge of the end zone for the game-winning score.

"We ran a double nickel there with John and Chris Yachini running 12-yard comeback routes," West Virginia coach John Durdines said. "We told Isaac to have an internal clock because you have to get rid of it. He made a helluva pass and John made a helluva catch."

"(Despite the drops) I had no problem going back to John. I played against him for four years. Trust me, I game-planned for him, scouted

him enough. We were going to keep throwing him the rock. We knew he would be there when we needed him."

Burkhalter finished with five catches for 63 yards and a score.

Ohio got the scoring started with a 22-yard run on a reverse by Buckeye Trail's Carter Streiff in the first quarter.

On the first play of the second quarter, Street went in from 9 yards to tie it at 6-6.

The Mountaineers took their first lead as Street found the end zone again, this time from 25 yards as he bounced off the line, raced down the sideline and beat an Ohio defender to the pylon.

Street finished with a game-high 82 yards rushing to earn the Most Valuable Player award.

Ohio seemed to grab the momentum in the fourth quarter, using an 11-play, 68-yard drive that ended with Steubenville's Jalen McGhee scoring on a run up the middle to tie it at 13-13.

West Virginia went three-and-out on the

ensuing possession and gave Ohio the chance to drive for a game-winning score.

Two plays later came the lone Ohio turnover.

"Shoulda, coulda, woulda," Ohio coach Karl Justus said. "Kids gave great effort and (West Virginia) just made one more play than we did. They made it when they needed it. We helped them out a lot with penalties and missed assignments, but they made a great play down in the end zone and that was that."

"A blocked punt, a blocked PAT, a fumble. A lot of mistakes that hardly ever happen. Take those away and maybe, who knows?"

Game Note

■ Much has been made of this being the last game for the Bishop Donahue coaching staff and its players. The coaches started the game wearing the traditional blue polo shirts for West Virginia. At halftime, all the coaches came out wearing green Bishop Donahue shirts.

"Coaches wanted to do it," Durdines said. "It meant something to them. It was a sign of respect and solidarity. It was something the kids wanted them to do. If you heard the chant at the end, the chant was 'Bishop Donahue.' They understand it is a tough situation for us and the kids with what happened to us, but what a way to shine a little light on Bishop for once."

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"It's not the will to win that matters-everyone has that. It's the will to prepare to win that matters."

Paul "Bear" Bryant

Wetzel Chronicle SPORTS

July 19, 2017
Wednesday
Page 9

The 8th Annual Jim Quinet 5K Memorial Run and Walk

The eighth annual Jim Quinet 5K Memorial Run/Walk will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 29, beginning and ending in front of Quinet's Court Restaurant, located on Main Street in New Martinsville,

across from the Wetzel County Courthouse.

The pre-registration entry fee is \$15, if paid by July 20. The cost is \$20 afterwards. Only pre-registered participants will be guaranteed a t-shirt. Registration

on race day will be from 7-8 a.m. with the race to follow at 8:30 a.m. Water will be made available midway through the race. At the finish line there will be water, sport drinks and snacks. Awards will be given to

the first overall male and female runners; the top three in nine and under, as well as in age groups 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69; and 70 and up.

There will be no duplica-

tion of awards.

The race and all proceeds from it will support a scholarship fund in memory of the late Jim Quinet, owner of Quinet's Court Restaurant, who was a standout Christian athlete and always

carried a smile with him.

Entry forms are available at Quinet's. Alternately, contact Matt Quinet at 304-904-2147 for further information or visit Quinet's at 217 Main Street New Martinsville.

OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic Kicks-Off High School Sports Season

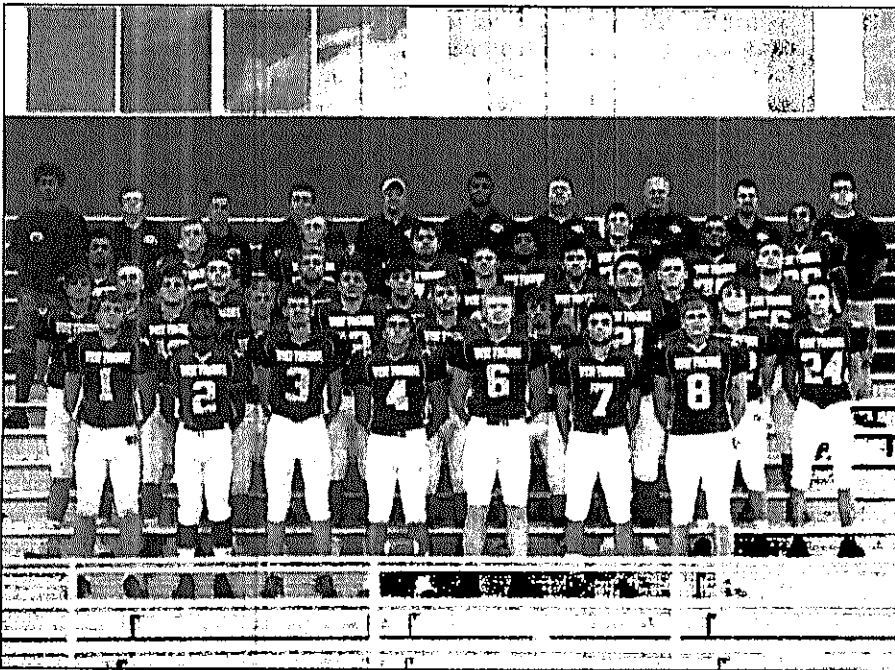


Photo by Bruce Crawford

West Virginia's team for the 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Charity Football Classic

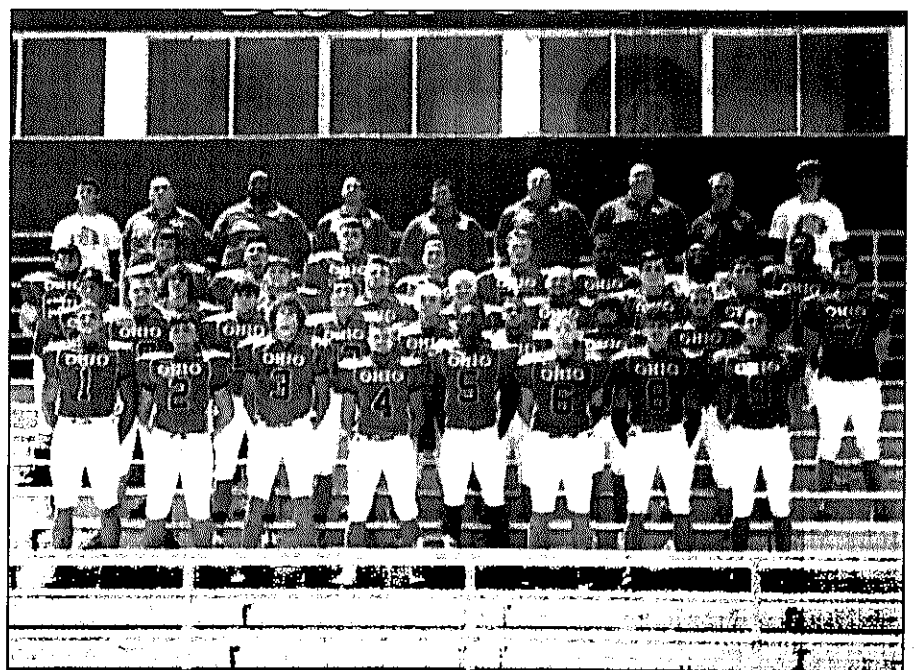


Photo by Bruce Crawford

Ohio's team for the 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Charity Football Classic

By BRUCE CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

Its almost time to kick-off the 2017-2018 high school sports season with the 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Charity Football Classic, which will kick off at 7:15 p.m. on Saturday, July 22 at Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney

Football Complex.

The OVAC Moved the game to Martins Ferry because the field on the Wheeling Island is getting a face-lift as we speak, and barring any late scratches and/or changes, both Ohio head coach Karl Justus and West Virginia head coach John Durdines have finalized their ros-

ters and can't wait till game time.

"Choosing the roster is unbelievably tough," Durdines said. "There are so many good kids who you can't take. And you have to play a game, so you can't just take 32 players. We have kids who excelled on their teams, but there's just so much

talent."

"Finding players wasn't tough," Justus said. "Eliminating players was the toughest part. With so many good players in the Ohio Valley, narrowing it down to 32 players makes it really challenging."

Justus represented 18 schools from Ohio with River

coming away with the max with three selections in, Mason Ladyga, Luke Matusik and Cody Saksa, while West Virginia's Durdines selected Tyler Anderson and Jace Reed of Tyler Consolidated; and Chase Street of Magnolia as the only area layers selected.

See "OVAC" on page 11

Noah's Ark/Creation Museum

I just got back from a few days off to check out Noah's Ark and the Creation Museum in Kentucky, and it was everything and more. There was more than I can report on, but I will try to give you a basic description of both, the best I can. Lynne and I went

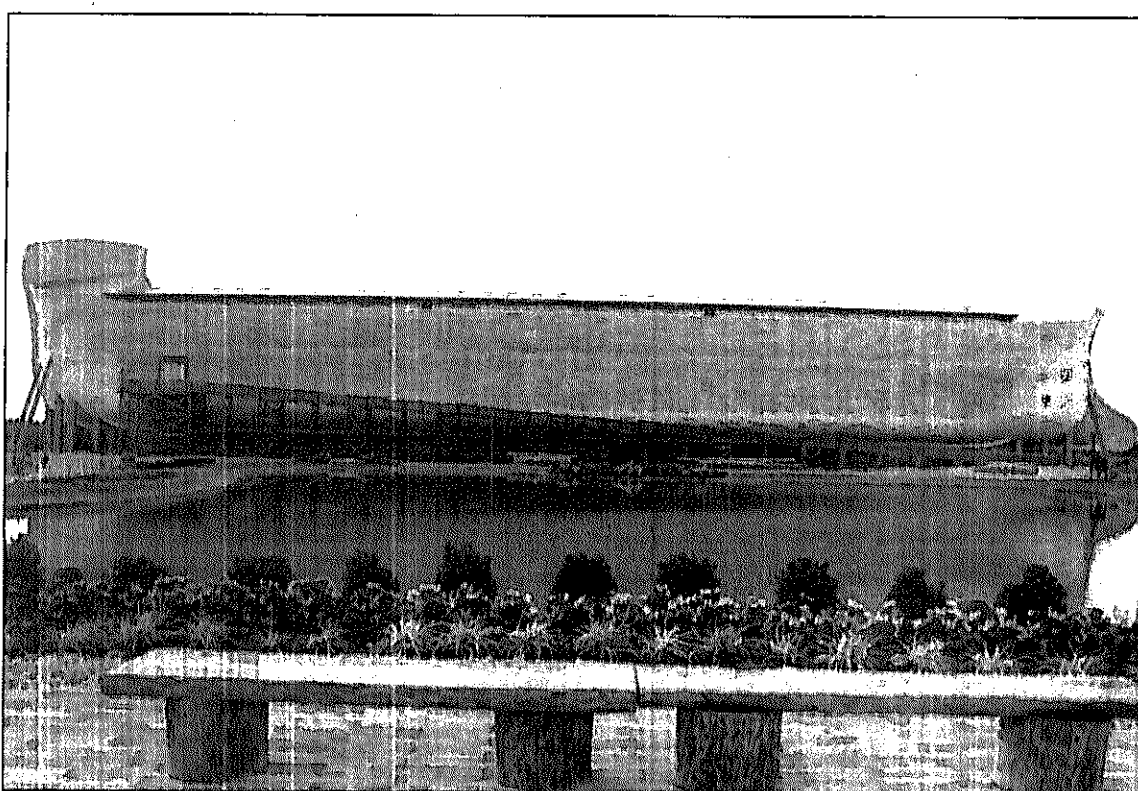


"FROM MY VIEW"

BRUCE
CRAWFORD

After a nice five-hour drive to get there, we went to the Creation Museum the next morning. The front of the museum was gorgeous, and it felt good just being in the lobby. There were dinosaurs of all kinds, along with different flowers and such to make you fell at peace with yourself.

The Creation Museum shows the theories of the origins of life, and illustrates the stories and ideas in the Bible through over many exhibits including a nativity



Noah's Ark, in Kentucky.

Photos by Bruce Crawford

tarium. The history of the Bible vividly comes to life as we entered a Time Tunnel, beginning our walk through Biblical history. We

being in the Garden with all the animals, bugs and flowers. It just gave us chills. It was awesome in itself, and when they added Adam and Eve in the middle, it

tinued our journey.

The museum had a theater, along with a planetarium, a petting zoo, nature trails, and more. The Creation Museum showed all

Bus Trip To Ark

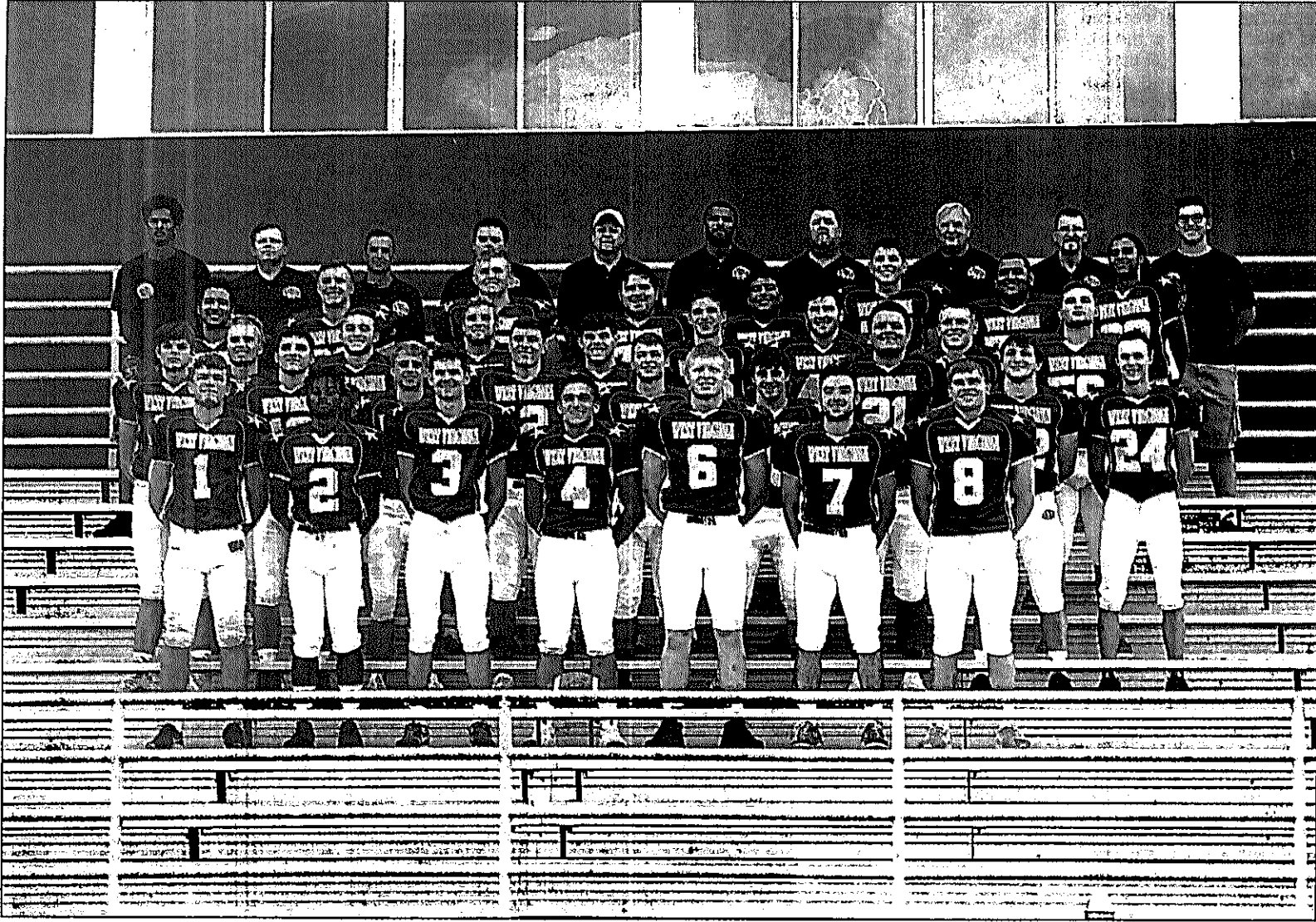
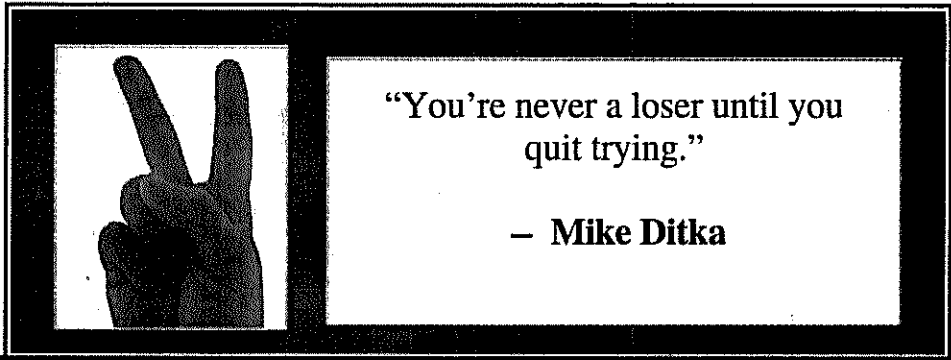
On Saturday, Aug. 19, the Hearts Forever Changed organization is taking a bus trip to the Ark Encounter, located in Williamstown, Kentucky.

The Ark Encounter features a full-size Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, this modern engineering marvel amazes visitors young and old.

The cost for the trip is \$110 which covers transportation via air-conditioned charter bus and ticket price for the Ark. The bus will leave St. Marys at 5 a.m. and will return to St. Marys by midnight. Trip participants will have four hours to explore the Ark. Light snacks and water will be provided on the bus, and the bus will stop for dinner on the return trip home. (Meal cost not included in trip cost). Money is due within five days of registration. To register for the trip, contact Sonya Hizer at 304-771-5612.

Hearts Forever Changed is a local organization made up of local people. Hearts Forever Changed is best known for a yearly voyage to Honduras, where team members build houses for the homeless, feed the hungry, and

Sports



WEST VIRGINIA OVAC ALL-STAR GAME TEAM

Ed Parsons



The Press Box

Fishing And More

Fishing Lake Erie is an experience you'll never forget. Ask any one who's every experienced it, and they will almost always agree that Lake Erie and its fishing opportunities are one of Ohio's best outdoor resources. There's something for everyone, everything from boating and swimming to fishing and bird-watching, are available on the lake and lake shore. Beautiful homes dot the landscape along the shores. Charter service is available in nearly every village. I prefer to use my own small boat near the shores of the Islands. That is the best during the warm months. Of course the night life is also exciting and if you are a music lover you'll get your fill of all types.

Making the trip to Port Clinton and Put-In-Bay for some Walleye and Yellow perch has been my favorite summertime activity for the past 10 years. We used to spend a lot of time fishing the shores around inner city Cleveland, especially in Euclid and Cleveland Harbor back when my Grandparents lived on the West Side. However as I soon found out nothing can compare to the area around the north western part of the lake.

If you've never spent any time around the lake, you'll soon find out what you've been missing. If you want a chance at catching a variety of fish, then fishing off Kelley's Island will be your best bet. If walleye are on your mind, then Cleveland Harbor is a great place to go this time of year. I've had the most success off the shores of Put-In-Bay.

If you're planning to visit Lake Erie, don't sweat the out-of-town blues. For the most part, the people are a friendly bunch and will offer some assistance or tips if you ask for it. Just don't expect anyone to give up their favorite fishing holes. It's also a good idea to give other anglers a respectful distance before trying out any tips they may have offered.

Weather conditions play a huge role in Lake Erie fishing success. Rough weather can make for some pretty big waves on the lake and make for dangerous boating conditions or at the very least a seasickness inducing trip.

If your looking for a great place to spend a few days or a month, make it a point to visit Lake Erie sometime and enjoy the bounty of fish that are out there to catch. You won't be sorry that you did.

My favorite happens to be yellow perch and walleye. We have a fish fry every night after our day long trips and what's left makes for great breakfast with eggs, toast and fried potatoes.

I don't often write about our fishing trips but because

Ready to Kick Off Season on Gridiron

OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic Saturday Turns Page to Coming High School Sports Season

By BRUCE CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

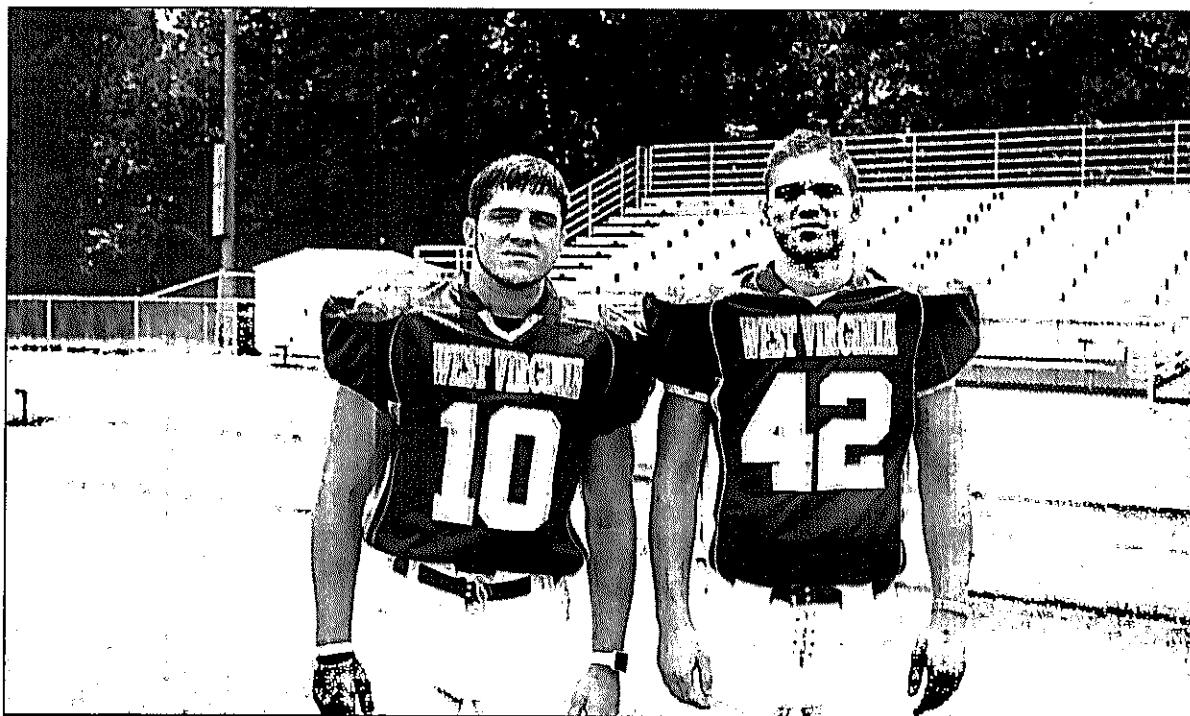
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Tyler Consolidated's OVAC All-Star Football Players include, from left, Jace Reed and Tyler Anderson.

West Virginia's Durdines selected Tyler Anderson and Jace Reed of Tyler Consolidated; and Chase Street of Magnolia as the only area layers selected.

Besides the football players participating from our area, there are band members, Queen of Queens, and cheerleaders, as well as past players and cheerleaders. This year

the band members are, Makenzie Kimble, Ted Stackpole and Nachele Probst from Tyler Consolidated. The OVAC will once again crown the Queen of Queens as girls representing twenty three OVAC high schools compete for the 2017 title.

The Talent Show for the Queen of Queens will take place this year

at 7 p.m., Friday, July 21 and will be returning for the third year to the Capitol Theatre. Tickets will be available at the door, \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.

Come early for the pre-game activities featuring the OVAC All Star Marching Band, Drill Team, Cheerleaders, and Queen contestants.

Stadium Repairs To Take Five Months

\$700K needed; all-star game will have to move

By **CASEY JUNKINS**
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Wheeling Island Stadium should be ready for West Virginia's annual Super Six football championships and most of the 2017 regular season, but the venue will not host the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game and Queen of Queens competition this year.

During a Monday Ohio County Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Kim Miller said the required stadium repairs will cost approximately \$700,000. She hopes the school's insurance policy will cover at least some of the cost, while she said the stadium should open for use by mid-September.

The work is necessary because two of the panels at the top of the seating section on the stadium's west side are now on the ground. On April 17, one concrete panel came down by crane after officials found it damaged a few days earlier, but the adjacent panel fell from the top of the stadium in an uncontrolled fashion, crashing through the fence that surrounds the facility.

"This failure is not something that could have easily been predicted or noticed," Eric Matyskiela of M&G Architects and Engineers told board members Monday. "This has not been caused by some sort of lack of maintenance or lack of inspection."

In fact, Matyskiela said there was really no way to see the portion that failed until at least one of the panels had been removed. He said the facility — which originally opened in 1927, but saw extensive renovations in 1987 — is, overall, "in very good condition."

(Please see **STADIUM**,
Page 6)



This section of South Penn Street remains closed because of structural problems at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Photo by Casey Junkins

OVAC official: no timetable for venue change

By **IAN HICKS**
City Editor

WHEELING — OVAC officials will spend the coming weeks huddling to develop a backup plan following Monday's news that Wheeling Island Stadium won't be ready to host the annual Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game this summer.

The game, which pits top recent graduates from area high schools in West Virginia against those from Ohio, is set for July 22, but work to reinforce concrete panels at the top of Wheeling Island Stadium isn't expected to wrap up until mid-September. One of the panels on the west side of the stadium shifted,

officials discovered April 14, and another came crashing to the ground when construction workers removed it last week.

At this point, there is no timetable for an announcement of a new venue for this summer's contest, according to OVAC Executive Secretary/Treasurer Tom Rataiczak.

"I wish I could give you an answer, but I can't. ... It's just a matter of seeing what our options are," Rataiczak said late Monday.

Rataiczak declined to identify potential locations where the game could be moved, noting conference officials still have to get together to discuss the situa-

tion.

He did say, however, that available space will be a major consideration when it comes to finding a new host.

In addition to the teams, there are multiple bands as well as Queen of Queens pageant contestants that have to be accommodated.

"There's a lot of bodies to move around, and there's a lot of facilities that have to be set up for that," he said. "On the other hand, you're not putting 10,000 people in the stands like you were back in the '80s."

(Please see **OVAC**,
Page 6)

OVAC Scores With All-Star Game Choice

6 - THE INTELLIGENCER - Wheeling, W.Va.

FROM PAGE ONE

OVAC

(Continued from Page 1)

Location is another major factor, according to Rataiczak, who noted players come from as far north as East Liverpool and as far south as Parkersburg and Morgantown to participate in the contest.

"You try to keep things as central as you can so it's convenient for everybody to get there, get back out and get home," he said.

Wheeling Island Stadium has hosted the OVAC All-Star Game since its inception in the 1940s. Rataiczak said the game has been moved to Martins Ferry

and Steubenville in the past due to flooding and other factors, but that hasn't been necessary in the 18 years he's been involved with the event.

He said Wheeling Park High School Athletic Director Dwaine Rodgers and Ohio County Schools administrators have been keeping OVAC officials updated on the situation at the stadium, and he's confident a suitable location will be found.

"At least it wasn't discovered in June or July. We have time to regroup, and we'll do it," Rataiczak said.

STADIUM

(Continued from Page 1)

Matyskiela said the main reason for the panel failure is weathering. For example, the concrete can get very hot when exposed to the summer sun. The structure then cools at night, but heats back up during the next day.

"It's the constant movement," he said of the ongoing expansion and contraction during the temperature transition.

Miller said after the meeting the school will have to place the project out for bid before officially hiring someone to perform the work. Matyskiela's strategy calls for installing new reinforcements connecting the panels to the main portion of the stadium in both the east side and west side stands.

Unlike the original connections, the new supports will be open for inspection, so that school employees will be able to tell if there is a problem.

At this time, Matyskiela does not plan to install new supports for the panels that run at the north and south ends of the stands. Neither he nor school officials ruled this out, however, while acknowledging this would take more time and money to complete.

"We could get another 30 years out of this stadium," Matyskiela added.

After hearing the report, board member Christine Carder asked Miller if this meant the stadium would be unavailable for the annual OVAC All-Star football game on July 22, which pits recent graduates of Ohio high schools against their West Virginia counterparts.

"We won't be able to use it for the all-star game," Miller said.

After some further discussion, board President Zach Abraham, along with

members Shane Mallett, Tim Birch, Sarah Koegler and Carder voted 5-0 to allow Miller to seek bids for the stadium work.

After the meeting, Miller said there have not been any official plans made for Wheeling Park High School football and soccer games this fall in the event the stadium cannot host them.

Recently, West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Executive Director Bernie Dolan said he remained hopeful the stadium would be ready in time for the Mountain State's annual Super Six high school football championships, which the stadium has hosted every December since 1994.

"We plan on being up and ready by the Super Six," Miller said confidently.

Miller and board members hope the insurance will cover a significant portion of the expense because the school is already going to have to tighten its budgetary belt in the new fiscal year. The assessed value for county property is down \$91 million from last year due to a slowdown in natural gas production in the area, which means about a \$1.5 million reduction in revenue for the school even after board of education members increased the levy rate from 94.5 percent of the maximum allowed to 95.5 percent.

"At least no one got hurt," Birch said of the stadium problems.

"We all are thankful that this happened when it did, if it had to happen," Carder added.

The next regular board meeting is set for 6 p.m. May 11 at the board office along National Road in the Elm Grove section of Wheeling.

MARTINS FERRY - A wise man once said, "It is not the problem, but rather who is solving it."

OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak and his football committee were delivered a major problem late last month. The conference's braintrust needed to find a new home for the Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game this July.

The problem arose after Wheeling Island Stadium - the annual home for the all-star clash - was found to have some panels in decay. A \$1M repair project has ensued at the stadium and is expected to be in shut-down mode until early September.

Fortunately, the structural issues were discovered when the stadium was not in use. It could have proved fatal if the issue surfaced during an athletic contest. So in some respects, it was a blessing.

The OVAC officials had four quality options to ponder: Steubenville's Harding Stadium, Brooke High, St. Clairsville High and the Dave Bruney Football Complex in Martins Ferry.

All four are ideal football venues. But all four had an issue or two

when trying to accommodate a game of such magnitude.

Rataiczak, OVAC Game Director Bob Koch and the football committee opted for Martins Ferry. They made the call and did so in timely fashion.

With no disrespect to the other three sites, the Dave Bruney Football Complex makes the most sense.



BUBBA KAPRAL

EXECUTIVE SPORTS EDITOR

First, it has enough seating to handle the crowd which is not the 7,000-8,000 in years past due to television coverage. Also it does provide shelter from rain on its home side.

The biggest factor is that Martins Ferry is geographically equal to Wheel-

ing Island. Some players and families have much travel in conjunction with the game, including those from the Parkersburg and Morgantown areas. Should the game be played at Harding Stadium or at Brooke High it would result in another 25-minute trip each way.

"At one time (1950s, 60s, 70s) we let that stadium go, even though we won as many games or more than anyone. No money was spent on it and the stadium went

See, Kapral, Page C2

KAPRAL

Continued from page C1

into disrepair. It was so bad that we had to tear down the visitors' side," Martins Ferry coach Dave Bruney said. "I want to thank the OVAC for the opportunity to showcase our facility. I also want to thank so many people for working so hard to improve and maintain our current facilities, which had not always the case dating back to the 50s, 60s and 70s.

"Dirk Fitch got this turf replacement project going shortly before he retired (as district superintendent). Jim Fogle and Kim Appolloni have picked up the ball and moved it along."

Purple Rider Stadium housed the all-star game in the early 1970s without a hitch. The facility is now light years better than it was 50 years ago.

Ohio fans will get one added bonus. Buckeye partisans usually bake during sweltering conditions at the game, as the visiting side at Wheeling Island Stadium faces the sun. At Ferry, home fans will be under cover with backs to the sun.

"We have had so much help from so many people over the last 20 years in improving this place. Dan Jones has been a big help. He helped me when I was getting it off the ground," Bruney said. "My biggest thanks goes out to our school board - Dorothy Powell, Nick Stankovich, Bob Zilai, Scott Ballint and Joe Lovell. They are all Martins Ferry grads and were all involved in many extracurricular activities while in school. They are ardent supporters and realize the integral role that quality athletic and extracurricular programs play in education.

"I have known them all for at

least 45 years on a personal level. I can't thank them enough. I coached Nick and then he coached for me. Bob coached me.

"They spend a lot of time at the stadium and realize what it takes to maintain a great facility.

"I can't thank our entire community and students enough. This facility has prolonged my career."

BUBBA'S BITS

David Van Camp - a 2000 Wheeling Park grad - was killed in Iraq while serving the U.S. Army as a captain. He was a former Patriots baseball player. After his death, David's family established a scholarship in his honor. Park senior Rush Seidler received that scholarship after Tuesday's sectional win against John Marshall. Capt. Van Camp received numerous military honors, including the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

■ Terry Edwards dedicated much of his life to baseball. He guided Wheeling Central to more than 300 wins and a pair of state titles.

The former West Liberty football star left the Maroon Knights to establish a baseball program at Wheeling Jesuit University. The affable coach opted to enter retirement Monday after 41 years of coaching.

We salute the 2001 OVAC Coach of the Year for a selfless coaching career that yielded tremendous success on the field while also helping shape the lives of countless young men in a positive fashion.

■ St. Clairsville's DeVon Harris acquitted himself nicely in the Ohio North-South Division IV-VII All-

Ferry lands OVAC All-Star Football Game

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
Executive Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY — The OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game is headed to the Purple City.

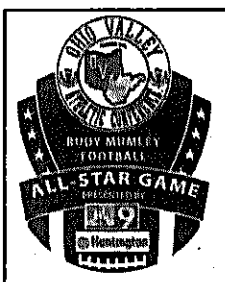
OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak announced this morning the annual grid extravaganza — pitting Ohio and West Virginia standouts — will be played at the Dave Bruney Football Complex in Martins Ferry on Saturday night, July 22.

The game is held annually at Wheeling Island Stadium. However, the facility was found to have extensive structural damage last month. Repair work will cost \$700,000 and is targeted to

extend into September.

Martins Ferry was one of four venues in the hunt for this year's game. OVAC officials also considered Steubenville's Harding Stadium, St. Clairsville and Brooke.

"After carefully evaluating the four sites and considering cost, travel, facilities, needs for band and queens, parking, etc., it was felt that Martins Ferry was the most logical choice. While the stadium holds less people than the Island, it should provide for a packed, exciting football game atmosphere," Rataiczak said. "We can't say enough about Ohio County and the facility it has provided for years. This has made us realize how blessed we have been



to have repairs.

such a venue in the heart of the conference. Everyone involved should be grateful that

this occurred when it did and that no one was hurt. We have every intention of returning there next year."

This summer's game will help christen new turf currently being installed at the Dave Bruney Complex. In addition, other cosmetic work is under way such as painting and seating

"We are ecstatic in being selected to host this game. It is the perfect way to showcase our tremendous facility," Martins Ferry Athletic Director Kim Appolloni said. "We have a great football tradition here at Martins Ferry and we are both excited and humbled to be chosen to host such a grand event.

"I would like to thank Rat (Tom Rataiczak) and all those who decided to give us such a wonderful opportunity," she continued. "We have a dedicated staff here at Martins Ferry that will work diligently and passionately to make sure everything is up to all-star standards."

This will not be the first time

Ferry has hosted the game. It did so once in the early 1970s.

"Dave Bruney and Kim Appolloni have been super supportive in trying to meet the needs the game requires. In having the Band Showcase there for several years, we feel very comfortable in running this event in a first-class fashion," Rataiczak said. "We realize that a lot of tweaking will need to be done both with Martins Ferry and the OVAC committee, but we are committed to seeing that the game is carried out with the same class as it always has been. The next few months will be very interesting and demanding in getting all the pieces of the game to fit together."



Photos by Casey Junkins

This section of South Penn Street remains closed because of structural problems at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Stadium repairs to cost \$700K

● Won't be available for All-Star Football Game

By **CASEY JUNKINS**
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — Wheeling Island Stadium should be ready for West Virginia's annual Super Six football championships and most of the 2017 regular season, but the venue will not host the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game and crowning of the Queen of Queens this year.

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She hopes the school's insurance policy will cover at least some of the cost, while she said the stadium should open for use by mid-September.

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Eric Matyskiela of M&G Architects and Engineers addresses the Ohio County Board of Education regarding Wheeling Island Stadium during the board's Monday meeting.

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See **STADIUM**, Page A2

SECTION B

Tuesday,
April 25, 2017

OVAC ASG must find new home

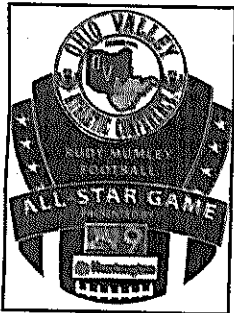
• Island Stadium shut
down until September

By IAN HICKS
For The Times Leader

WHEELING – OVAC officials will spend the coming weeks huddling to develop a backup plan following Monday's news that Wheeling Island Stadium won't be ready to host the annual Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game this summer.

The game, which pits top recent

graduates from area high schools in West Virginia against those from Ohio, is set for July 22, but work to rein-



force concrete panels at the top of Wheeling Island Stadium isn't expected to wrap up until mid-September. One of the panels on the west side of the stadium shifted, officials discovered April 14, and another came crashing to the ground when construction workers removed it last week.

At this point, there is no timetable for an announcement of a new venue for this summer's contest, according to OVAC Executive Secretary/Treasurer Tom Rataiczak.

"I wish I could give you an answer, but I can't. ... It's just a matter of seeing what our options are," Rataiczak said late Monday.

Rataiczak declined to identify potential locations where the game could be moved, noting conference officials still have to get together to discuss the situation.

He did say, however, that available space will be a major consideration when it comes to finding a new host. In addition to the teams, there are multiple bands as well as Queen of Queens pageant contestants that have to be accommodated.

"There's a lot of bodies to move around, and there's a lot of facilities that have to be set up for that," he said. "On the other hand, you're not putting 10,000 people in the stands like you were back in the '80s."

Location is another major factor, according to Rataiczak, who noted players come from as far

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• Stadium

Continued from Page A1

Miller said after the meeting the school will have to place the project out for bid before officially hiring someone to perform the work. Matyskiela's strategy calls for installing new reinforcements connecting the panels to the main portion of the stadium in both the east side and west side stands.

Unlike the original connections, the new supports will be open for inspection, so that school employees will be able to tell if there is a problem.

At this time, Matyskiela does not plan to install new supports for the panels that run at the north and south ends of the stands. Neither he nor school officials ruled this out, however, while acknowledging this would take more time and money to complete.

"We could get another 30 years out of this stadium," Matyskiela added.

After hearing the report, board member Christine Carder asked Miller if this meant the stadium would be unavailable for the annual OVAC All-Star football game on

Go AND Do

■ The next regular Ohio County Board of Education meeting is set for 6 p.m. May 11 at the board office along National Road in the Elm Grove section of Wheeling.

July 22, which pits recent graduates of Ohio high schools against their West Virginia counterparts.

"We won't be able to use it for the all-star game," Miller said.

After some further discussion, board President Zach Abraham, along with members Shane Mallett, Tim Birch, Sarah Koegler and Carder voted 5-0 to allow Miller to seek bids for

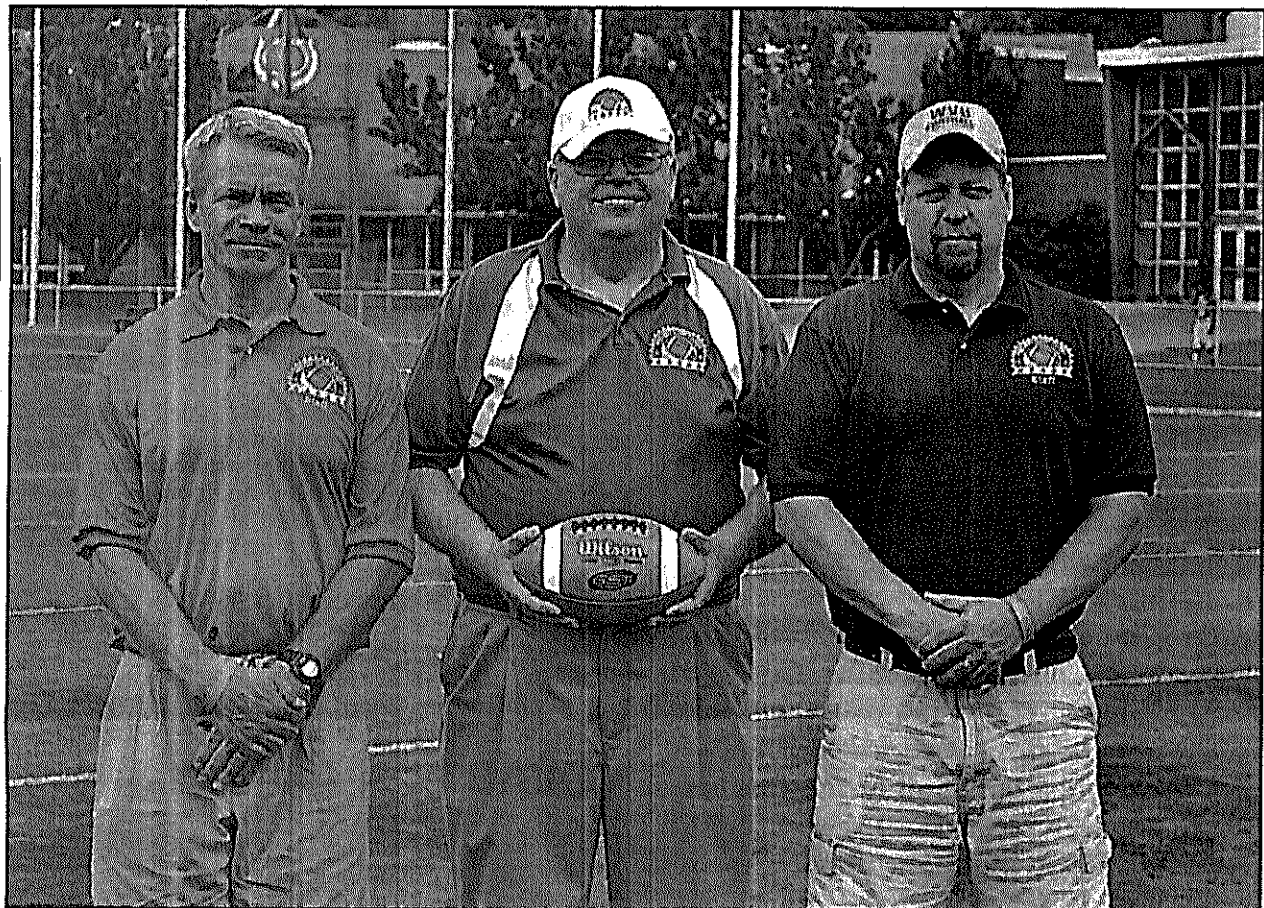
the stadium work.

After the meeting, Miller said there have not been any official plans made for Wheeling Park High School football and soccer games this fall in the event the stadium cannot host them.

Recently, West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Executive Director Bernie Dolan said he remained hopeful the stadium would be ready in time for the Mountain State's annual Super Six high school football championships, which the stadium has hosted every December since 1994.

"We plan on being up and ready by the Super Six," Miller said confidently.

See, OVAC, Page B2



Photo/JOSH STROPE

OVAC RUDY Mumley Game Director Bob Koch (center) is flanked by the two head coaches for Saturday's annual contest, which will be played at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium. Ohio's head coach is Karl Justus and leading the West Virginia squad is John Durdines (right).

Justus, Durdines both pleased with teams' progress thus far

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY – The preparations for the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game are officially in full swing.

The players and coaches have been on campus since Saturday and have five practices under their belt as they continue to work toward Saturday night's kickoff at 7:15 at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium.

Both squads took a break from their practices Monday afternoon to take part in media and photo day on the campus of Bethany College.

Ohio head coach Karl Justus and West Virginia head coach John Durdines are both overwhelmingly excited with their respective teams. Not just from a football perspective, but including their behavior and attitudes.

"It's a busy time, but it's also been a fun time because of these kids and how they've handled everything,"

Justus said. "We went full go (Monday) for the first time and the kids are really picking things up well."

During the Buckeye State's first practice Monday, they went live for much of the workout, which Justus was happy with.

"I think they're better when they just play than going through drills," Justus said. "The kids are all in pretty good shape and there's a lot of talent here. We just have to get it all gelled together."

Though every coach and player who takes in any games wants to win, Durdines and his coaching staff have added motivation since they're representing Bishop Donahue for the final time. Donahue, which won the OVAC Class 1A title last fall, has been closed for the upcoming school year.

"We're coaching this game as hard

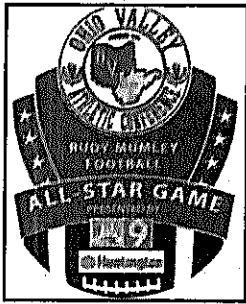
as we would if we were preparing for the state championship game," Durdines said. "We want to win in the worst way, but still football is about having fun. The kids understand that if they take care of business for these

two hours (on the practice field), they'll be able to savor and enjoy every minute outside of here. This game is an experience."

Durdines, who has been a part of two previous West Virginia staffs for the OVAC Game, wants his team to enjoy every ounce of the week as much as possible.

"This game will allow these kids to build relationships and friendships that they'll be able to have forever," Durdines said. "We definitely have some characters on this team, but that's in a good way. The kids are

See, OVAC, Page B2



James Family ready for final game together

By JOSH STROPE
For The Times Leader

BETHANY – Talk to Eric James about his son, Lander, and his eyes light up. Possibly might even swell up. There is no doubt he is one proud papa.

The two have been together on a football field for a long time and it has been quite a ride, including Cameron's perfect 10-0 regular season in 2016.

While the end of that ride could have come with the Dragons' loss in the playoffs last season, there is still one more game to go.

Lander James made a name for himself on the offensive line this season, earning first team All-Valley and All-OVAC and special honorable mention all-state.

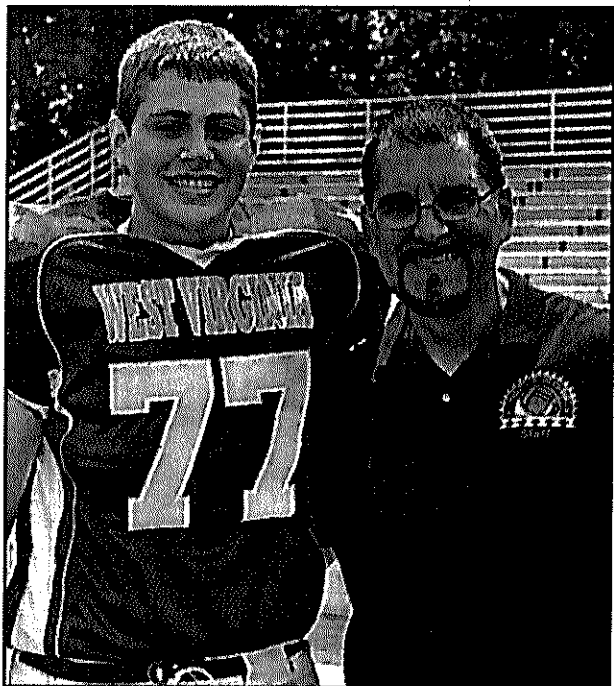
He was an easy choice to be selected for the 72nd Annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Charity Classic.

"This is a pretty big deal on my part," Lander James said Monday at OVAC Media Day at Bethany College. "Not a lot of people in my family have been in this game and not many people from my school get selected."

"It would have been nice to have one more person from our team, but two people is good and we are both excited to be here."

Lander James, who finished last season at 6-foot-3 and 195 pounds, but currently stands at 6-5 and 230 pounds, is joined by on the West Virginia team by tailback Michael Starcher.

See, JAMES, Page B2



Photo/JOSH STROPE

LANDER JAMES, left, poses with his dad, Eric, during OVAC Media Day on Monday at Bethany College.

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

really bonding and that's what this is about."

The West Virginia players have been maximizing their time on the practice field, according to their head coach.

"The big learning curve is with the quarterbacks because of the system and terminology differences, but they're getting better each and every practice," Durdines said. "We're preparing to win a game, but this whole experience is fun."

According to Justus, Ohio could play today if need be, defensively. However, the offense, which is the side of the ball he coaches, is still coming together.

"The defense has really come together well and it's ahead of the offense, but that's normal because they don't have as much to grasp, mentally," Justus said. "The kids looked good today and I don't know if it's them learning the plays better or the fact that we went full bore. We'll get there by Saturday."

OVAC NOTES

■ **JUSTUS ADMITTED** that he hasn't yet learned everyone's name on his team, but he's getting there.

"I know most of them, but all of the assistants know the names," Justus said. "I coach the offense, so I am good on the offensive side."

■ **BOTH STAFFS** are currently down a coach. West Virginia is without former Madonna head coach Bob Kramer, who is under the weather after a trip to Las Vegas last week.

"I am still hoping Bob will be able to join the staff," Durdines said. "He called me Saturday and said he's going to try to get (to camp) later in the week. We have the utmost respect for Bob and hope he can get here. He's a cherished friend."

Ohio is without Justus' son, K.B. He's a member of the coaching staff at Lancaster and it has its camp going on. He's expected to re-join Ohio later in the week.

■ **CAMBRIDGE PRODUCT** Garth Charlton used his one excused absence from camp shortly after the team picture was taken Monday. He headed back to Guerny County to re-join the Cambridge American Legion baseball team for its game against St. Clairsville. St. Clairsville players Billy Johnson (Shadyside) and Dom Wallace (Martins Ferry) elected to stay in camp.

• James

Continued from Page B1

Starcher, who rushed for 1,557 yards and 18 touchdowns last season, can thank James for opening so many holes for him throughout his career. That could be a familiar theme come Saturday at the Dave Bruney Football Complex in Martins Ferry.

While Lander James likely expected Starcher to be joining him, one person he wasn't was his father.

This season, the coaching staff was from the OVAC Class 1A division. That was Bishop Donahue.

Bishop Donahue coach John Durdines goes back a long way with Eric James.

It was where James got his start. When Durdines asked him to come aboard last January, the answer was an easy one.

"(Bishop Donahue) is where I cut my teeth, getting out of college as a 22-year-old kid," Eric James said. "Fortunately John called me up and asked 'do you want to come back with us one last time?' He didn't have to ask me twice."

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

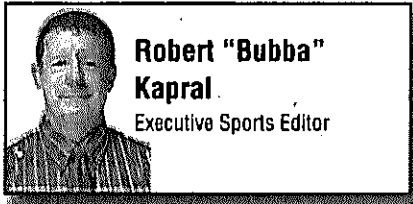
The game, which sees recent graduates of Ohio high schools face those from West Virginia schools, is scheduled for 7:15 p.m. July 22.

On Friday, West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Executive Director Bernie Dolan said he remained hopeful the stadium would be ready in time for the Mountain State's annual Super Six high school football championships in December. The stadium has played host to these contests every year since 1994.

To this point, the only events Wheeling Park High School Athletic Director has needed to move from the stadium are boys' and girls' lacrosse games. He hopes it stays that way.

"I have to admit that is definitely alarming," Rodgers said after watching the panel fall to the ground. "You look at that and you think, OK - there are a lot of different things that need to be done at this point."

The stadium serves as the home field for the Wheeling Park Patriots football and soccer teams. Until 2015, the Wheeling Central Catholic High School Maroon Knights also called the stadium home, but they have since relocated their home games to the campus of Wheeling Jesuit University.



Robert "Bubba" Kapral

Executive Sports Editor

OVAC hits paydirt with all-star grid game selection

MARTINS FERRY -- A wise man once said, "It is not the problem, but rather who is solving it."

OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak and his football committee were delivered a major problem late last month. The conference braintrust needed to find a new home for Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game this July.

The problem arose after Wheeling Island Stadium -- the annual home for the all-star clash -- was found to have some panels in decay. A \$1M repair project has ensued at the stadium and is expected to be in shut-down mode till early September.

Fortunately, the structural issues were discovered when the stadium was not in use. It could have proved fatal if the issue surfaced during an athletic contest. So in some respects, it was a blessing.

The OVAC officials had basically four quality options to ponder: Steubenville's Harding Stadium, Brooke High, St. Clairsville High and the Dave Bruney Football Complex in Martins Ferry.

All four are ideal grid venues. But all four had an issue or two when trying to accommodate the game of such magnitude.

Rataiczak, OVAC Game Director Bob Koch and the grid committee opted for Martins Ferry. They made the call and did so in timely fashion.

With no disrespect to the other three sites, the Dave Bruney Football Complex in Martins Ferry makes the most sense.

First, it has enough seating to handle the crowd which is not the 7,000-8,000 in years past due to television coverage. Also it does provide shelter from rain on its home side.

The biggest factor that Martins Ferry is geographically equal to Wheeling Island. Some players and families have much travel in conjunction with the game, including those from the Parkersburg and Morgantown areas. Should the game be played at Harding Stadium or at Brooke High it would result in another 25-minute trip each way.

"At one time (1950s, 60s, 70s) we let that stadium go, even though we won as many games or more than anyone. No money was spent on it and the stadium went into disrepair. It was so bad that we had to tear down the visitors' side," said Martins Ferry head coach Dave Bruney. "I want to thank the OVAC for the opportunity to showcase our facility. I also want to thank so many people for working so hard to improve and maintain our current facilities, which had not always the case dating back to the 50s, 60s and 70s."

"Dirk Fitch got this turf replacement project going shortly before he retired (as district superintendent). Jim Fogle and Kim Appolloni have picked up the ball and moved it along."

Purple Rider Stadium housed the all-star game in the early 1970s without a hitch. The facility is now light years better than it was some 50 years ago.

Ohio fans will get one added bonus. Buckeye partisans usually bake during sweltering conditions at the game, as the visiting side at Wheeling Island Stadium faces the sun. At Ferry, home fans will be under cover with backs to the sun.

"We have had so much help from so many people over the last 20 years in improving this place. Dan Jones has been a big help. He helped me when I was getting it off the ground," Bruney said. "My biggest thanks goes out to our school board -- Dorothy Powell, Nick Stankovich, Bob Zilai, Scott Ballint and Joe Lovell. They are all Martins Ferry grads and were all involved in many extracurricular activities while in school. They are ardent supporters and realize the integral role that quality athletic and extracurricular programs play in education."

"I have known them all for at least 45 years on a personal level. I can't thank them enough. I coached Nick and then he coached for me. Bob coached me," he continued.

"They spend a lot of time at the stadium and realize what it takes to maintain a great facility. I can't thank our entire community and students enough. This facility has prolonged my career."

See, OVAC, Page B3

SPORTS

Friday,
July 21, 2017



PICTURED ARE the Ohio skill players for Saturday's 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Kneeling, from left, are Carter Streiff (Buckeye Trail), Konnor Roberts (Meadowbrook), Robert Coppa (Indian Creek), Casey Lewis (Fort Frye) and Dylan Kidder (East Liverpool). Standing, from left, are Justyn Keyser (Bellaire), Jack Davis (Martins Ferry), Austin Mayfield (East Liverpool), Zach Gill (East Liverpool), Jesse Ball (Harrison Central) and Sean Millard (Buckeye Local).

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

Harrison's Ball just taking it all in

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — Jesse Ball is unlike most of the members of the Ohio All-Star Team in a couple of ways.

First and foremost, the Harrison Central product will be totally wide eyed when he steps off the bus at Purple Rider Stadium Saturday afternoon for the 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game because he's never been to the game before.

"I've heard a ton about it and I

know of the game's tradition, but I've never been to it before," Ball said. "It's definitely something I've been dreaming of since my freshman year."

Ball turned in a brilliant prep career for the Huskies en route to all-Ohio accolades and basically became a no-brainer of a pick for the Ohio coaching staff.

"I am ready to play already and the game's still a few days away," Ball said. "Everything about this (experience) has been great. I will definitely be telling other guys at Harrison Central to make being selected for this

game a goal."

The season that Ball put forth for Coach Justin Kropka's team during the season included 112 tackles with 25 for loss and five sacks from his linebacker post. He was also a battering ram of a fullback, accumulating 200 yards rushing and 100 yards receiving.

Everything that Ball has done during camp this week at

Bethany College has been impressive, according to members of the Buckeye coaching staff. Because of his all-around play and attitude, Ball is listed as a starter on both sides of the ball. He's the only Ohio player to have such a distinction, too.

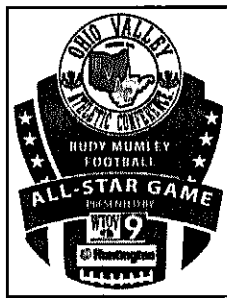
"I've just practiced really hard and tried to impress the coaches," Ball said. "I think my attitude and determination to

get my team to win and be the best has stood out."

Ball is expected to play fullback, but defensively he's moving to a new position. After serving as the Huskies' middle linebacker, Ball is shifting to defensive tackle in the 4-3 system, which Ohio will employ Saturday.

"Wherever the team and coaches need me," Ball said. "I am just excited about the opportunity to play both ways. I think it's a real honor."

See, BALL, Page B2



Johnson believes in better late than never for OVAC Game

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — Billy Johnson subscribes to the better late than never theory.

The Shadyside graduate had a superb senior season as the Tigers' quarterback, putting up impressive numbers and leading the Tigers to an 8-2 record and yet another trip to the Division VII playoffs.

He seemingly picked up every honor imaginable, including Eastern District Player of the Year, all-Ohio, all-OVAC and the list goes on and on. But, an invitation, which he so desperately wanted, to play in the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game didn't arrive in the spring.

Unlike some, however, Johnson didn't hold a grudge. He simply worried about the things he could control and his focus shifted to playing baseball for the St. Clairsville American Legion team.

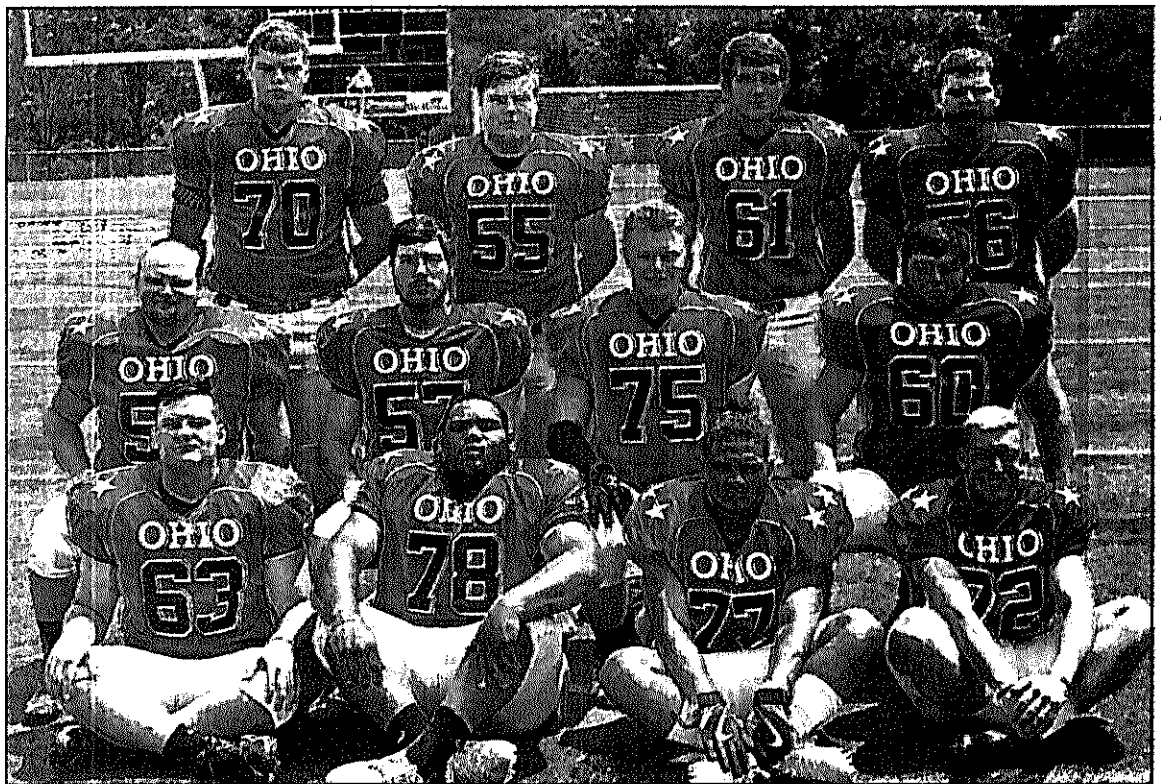
Just a few days before camp opened at Bethany College, Johnson received a call offering him a spot on the Ohio roster for Saturday's 72nd annual OVAC All-Star Game.

"There was no second thoughts about playing," Johnson said. "I knew that I had the opportunity (to play in this game), I was going to take it. It's great to be here. I've

See, JOHNSON, Page B2



BILLY JOHNSON



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED ARE the Ohio linemen for Saturday's 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Sitting, from left, are Sam Robinson (Indian Creek), Dom Wallace (Martins Ferry), Drone Moore (Steubenville) and Trey Elerick (St. Clairsville). Middle row, from left, are Kyle Wilson (Buckeye Trail), Ben Davis (Toronto), Mason Ladyga (River) and Brenton Stull (Harrison Central). Standing, from left, are Freddie Plum (East Liverpool), Terry Adkins (Beaver Local), Luke Matusik (River) and Donnie Meadows (Shadyside).

Weir's Spencer looking to put speed on display

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — West Virginia head coach John Durdines wants his team to play fast Saturday night in the 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

That should be no problem for Weir

High's Donovan Spencer.

Everything he does is fast ... especially his running.

The Mountain State wide receiver will be the fastest player on the field — regardless of team — when the game unfolds at Purple Rider Stadium. Though his athletic future at St. Francis University in Pennsylvania is coming on the track,

Spencer has been anxiously looking forward to the opportunity to put the pads on one last time.

"This has been a dream since I was little," Spencer said. "Though I am probably a track guy who plays football, playing in this game is something that I've always wanted to do."

Since arriving at Bethany College last

Saturday for camp, none of the West Virginia players have offered to race against Spencer. That's probably a good decision on their part since Spencer is the two-time Mountain State 100 and 200 meter dash state champion. He posted OVAC-best times of 10.70 and 22.03, respectively,

See, SPENCER, Page B2

• Spencer

Continued from Page B1

in his two specialties this past spring.

"I can't wait to get to St. Francis and see where I stack up," Spencer said. "Being from West Virginia, I am anxious to prove that I can hang with the best of them."

Before he shifts his full attention to sprinting for the first time in his life, Spencer has some work to do. On top of all of the new buddies he's made this week, he gets to play one more game with three other Red Riders - Jordan Allen, Cody Enrietti and Michael Mills.

"This camp has been awesome," Spencer said. "We're all like brothers already. There's no doubt that we've all made friends for life."

Spencer - the ultimate team player - admitted that a victory is all he really cares about. However, he did say that he would love to score a touchdown.

"If I had zero touches and we won the game, I'd be satisfied, but I'd really like to score a touchdown," Spencer smiled. "I am just hoping to get my hands on the ball a few times and hopefully make a couple of plays."

Ohio's defense will have to be cognizant of where Spencer is on the field. The West Virginia coaching staff could use him in a bevy of ways. The chief objective being get the multiple-time state champion in space.

"I have really been working at slot receiver and I just hope to get open, make a move and get down the field," Spencer said.

From his track exploits, Spencer has raced against - and beaten - a handful of the Ohio squad's fastest players.

"It's no knock on their guys because they do have some speed, but Ohio doesn't have anyone as fast as me," Spencer pointed out. "They're big, but I don't think they're as fast as we are, collectively. I feel like if I can get into space, I could be off to the races."

Ohio doesn't want to see Spencer off to the races because he doesn't lose races too often.

During his senior season with the Red Riders, Spencer made 21 receptions for an astounding 23.8 yards per catch average. He was also an effective runner, accumulating 1,121 yards and scoring 11 touchdowns.

• Johnson

Continued from Page B1

always wanted to be a part of this game."

With his selection to the team came a position change. In his second season as the Tigers' starting quarterback, Johnson passed for more than 1,700 yards and some 20 touchdowns. He also rushed for better than 500 yards, adding 10 touchdowns on the ground.

When he takes the field at Purple Rider Stadium Saturday evening, Johnson will be the starting strong safety and he's also listed second on the depth chart at wide receiver.

"The transition into the new positions has gone well," Johnson said. "It's been a pretty easy system to learn. It's not been really complicated on either side of the ball. I just can't wait to play."

Like many in camp this week, Johnson was faced with some tough decisions regarding baseball. Because OVAC rules only permit one absence from camp, Johnson had planned to go to Cambridge on Tuesday evening had Post 159 gotten through its two Monday games. The point became moot since St. C. bowed out to Marietta.

Though he's signed to play baseball at Wheeling Jesuit, the opportunity to represent the Shadyside football program one more time was simply too much for him to pass up.

"This is my last football game," Johnson conceded. "My Legion coach understood where I was coming from when I told him I was going to play. I'll have four more years to play baseball. I'll only have one time to do this game and have this experience."

• Ball

Continued from Page B1

Since he has "no ideas" first-team all-Ohio.

of what to expect, Ball "I am just going to go out and play football," Ball doesn't think he'll have to change his approach from what he used en route to earning Eastern District Defensive Player of the Year honors and ultimately

smiled. "That's been my approach for four years and it's worked out so far for me."

OVAC All-Star Game

Spencer To Rely On His Speed

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

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See SPENCER, Page 10

Better Late Than Never For Johnson

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

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See JOHNSON, Page 10

Ball Eyes 1st All-Star Game

By SETH STASKEY
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First and foremost, the Harrison Central product will be totally wide-eyed when he steps off the bus at Purple Rider Stadium on Saturday afternoon for the 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game because he's never been to the game before.

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See BALL, Page 11



BALL

BALL

(Continued from Page 9)

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Since he has "no ideas" of what to expect, Ball doesn't think he'll have to change his approach from what he used en route to earning Eastern District Defensive Player of the Year honors and ultimately first-team all-Ohio.

"I am just going to go out and play football," Ball said with a smile. "That's been my approach for four years and it's worked out so far for me."

JOHNSON

(Continued from Page 9)

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Like many in camp this week, Johnson was faced with some tough decisions regarding baseball. Because OVAC rules only permit one absence from

camp, Johnson had planned to go to Cambridge on Tuesday evening had Post 159 gotten through its two Monday games. The point became moot since St. C. bowed out to Marietta.

Though he's signed to play baseball at Wheeling Jesuit, the opportunity to represent the Shadyside football program one more time was simply too much for him to pass up.

"This is my last football game," Johnson said. "My legion coach understood where I was coming from when I told him I was going to play. I'll have four more years to play baseball. I'll only have one time to do this game and have this experience."

SPENCER

(Continued from Page 9)

Before he shifts his full attention to sprinting for the first time in his life, Spencer has some work to do. On top of all of the new buddies he's made this week, he gets to play one more game with three other Red Riders — Jordan Allen, Cody Enrietti and Michael Mills.

"This camp has been awesome," Spencer said. "We're all like brothers already. There's no doubt that we've all made friends for life."

Spencer — the ultimate team player — admitted that a victory is all he really cares about. However, he did say that he would love to score a touchdown.

"If I had zero touches and we won the game, I'd be satisfied, but I'd really like to score a touchdown," Spencer said with a smile. "I am just hoping to get my hands on the ball a few times and hopefully make a couple of plays."

Ohio's defense will have to be cognizant of where Spencer is on the field. The West Virginia coaching staff could use him in a

bevy of ways. The chief objective being get the multiple-time state champion in space.

"I have really been working at slot receiver and I just hope to get open, make a move and get down the field," Spencer said.

From his track exploits, Spencer has raced against — and beaten — a handful of the Ohio squad's fastest players.

"It's no knock on their guys because they do have some speed, but Ohio doesn't have anyone as fast as me," Spencer pointed out. "They're big, but I don't think they're as fast as we are, collectively. I feel like if I can get into space, I could be off to the races."

Ohio doesn't want to see Spencer off to the races because he doesn't lose races too often.

During his senior season with the Red Riders, Spencer made 21 receptions for an astounding 23.8 yards per catch average. He was also an effective runner, accumulating 1,121 yards and scoring 11 touchdowns.



PICTURED ARE the Ohio linebackers and defensive backs for Saturday's 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Kneeling, from left, are Cody Saksa (River), Zane Zimish (Steubenville), William Lowe (Cambridge) and Jalen McGhee (Steubenville). Standing, from left, are Danny Zdinak (Toronto), Billy Johnson (Shadyside), Zach Bigelow (St. Clairsville) and Troy Pontius (Buckeye Trail). T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

OVAC Game is ideal ending to prep sports for St. C.'s Bigelow

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY – Zach Bigelow has honestly lost track of how many times he's been to the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

He does remember the 2007 game in particular. Despite being just eight years old, Bigelow recalls sitting in the stands and watching Nick Rocchio hit a streaking Maurice Bougard down the the sideline to lift Ohio, which was coached by St. Clairsville's coaching staff, to a 6-3 victory.

"I was little, but that was a really fun game and it's just stuck with me," Bigelow recalled. "My brother-in-law played around that time, so I knew some of the guys on the team."

Since then, Bigelow has been a constant in the stands at Wheeling Island Stadium, watching the game. Each year, the same thought kept going through his mind.

"I have always dreamed to be chosen for this game and have the chance to play in it," Bigelow said.

Half of that dream came to fruition during

the spring when the St. Clairsville graduate received his invitation to be a part of the Ohio squad. The other part comes to life on Saturday when he steps foot on the field at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium.

"It's just really cool to have this chance and it's made it even nicer to have (St. Clairsville classmate) Trey (Elerick) along with me," Bigelow admitted. "I am just excited to make some new friends and memories."

During his prep career, Bigelow was a three-year mainstay at quarterback for the Red Devils. He was an all-Ohioan as a sophomore and passed for 4,668 yards and 51 touchdowns.

He was also an effective runner, accumulating 1,069 yards and 13 scores on the ground.

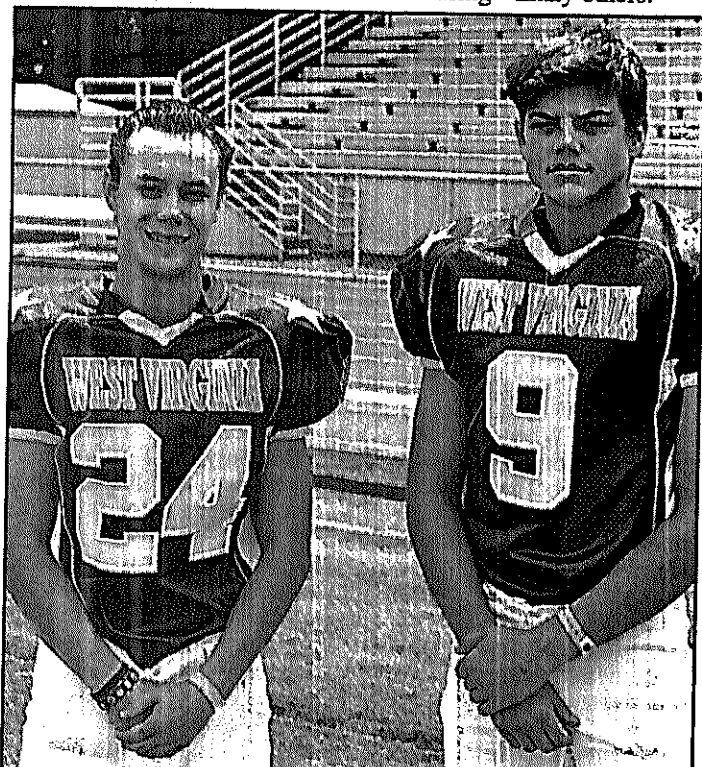
However, when the game kicks off, Bigelow will be in a different position than what he's accustomed to. He's been working this week at wide receiver and defensive back. Many athletes with a resume like Bigelow's wouldn't handle a position change well. This recent graduate isn't like many others.

"It's nice to change things up a little bit and I'm willing to do anything I can to help the team," Bigelow said. "It'll be nice to give some hits rather than taking the hits. Plus, it kind of takes some of the pressure off my shoulders. I'm just looking forward to going out and playing football."

While the opportunity to meet new friends and make long-lasting memories, the OVAC Game is serving as the final sporting event of Bigelow's career. After opting to put away the athletic shoes and attend Ohio University Eastern, Bigelow is looking to go out with a bang.

"Everything in high school sports have gone so well for me and this is the perfect way to end that part of my life," Bigelow said. "This is an honor that I'll definitely cherish for the rest of my life."

Outside of his football accomplishments, Bigelow is the only Ohio athlete in the game to own a team state championship ring, too. He was part of the Red Devils' 2016 boys track team, which won the Division II state title. He was once again an all-Ohioan in track this past spring in the 4x2.



TWO OF the West Virginia players in this weekend's 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game reside in Ohio. From left are Dylan Baker, who lives in Lewisville, and Jacob "Butter" Murray, who lives in Beallsville. They attended Wheeling Central and Linsly, respectively. T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

Ohioans set to suit up for W.Va.

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY – The Ohio vs. West Virginia rivalry is part of the ultimate intrigue that makes the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game even more special than most other all-star games.

A player's chance to represent not only his school and family, but his entire state against the other state helps to add to the competitive nature. In years' past, things have gotten a little bit chippy at times after spending a week in camp, trash talking as you cross paths in the cafeteria or dorms.

Two West Virginia players have actually seen the rivalry from both sides of the river.

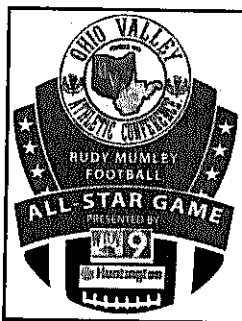
Both Dylan Baker and Jacob

"Butter" Murray reside in Ohio. However, come Saturday night at Purple Rider Stadium in Martins Ferry, they'll both be wearing a Blue and Gold jersey, representing the Mountain State.

"I've been going to this all-star game since I was a kid and growing up I never dreamed I'd play for West Virginia," Baker said. "I've had several cousins play in this game and always went and rooted them and Ohio on. I am a huge Ohio State fan, so it's definitely weird wear-

ing Blue and Gold, while playing against a team in Scarlet and Gray."

Baker, who resides in Lewisville, transferred to Central before his freshman season. He



OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game

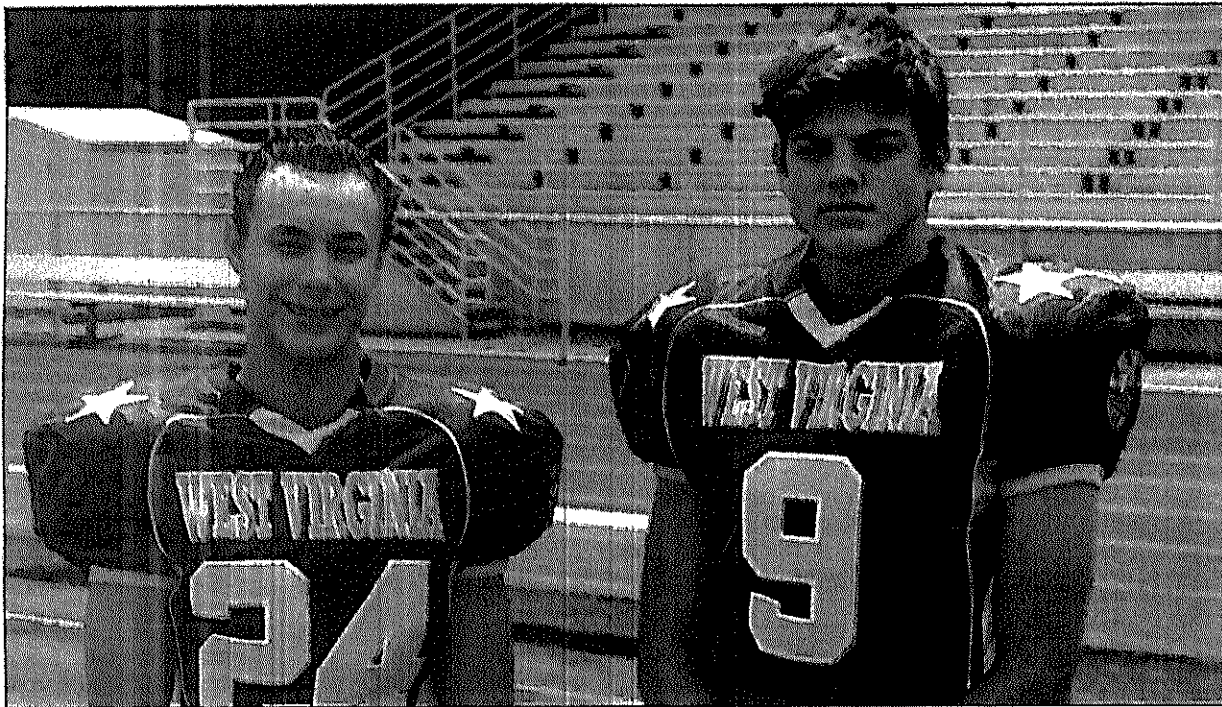


Photo by Seth Staskey

Two of the West Virginia players in this weekend's 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game reside in Ohio. From left are Dylan Baker, who lives in Lewisville, and Jacob "Butter" Murray, who lives in Beallsville. They attended Wheeling Central and Linsly, respectively.

Enrietti Eager To Get Back On the Field

Weir RB impressing at practice

By JOSH STROPE
Sports Editor

BETHANY — One of the fun things for coaches in the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game is getting to work with different players. For Bishop Donahue and West Virginia coach John Durdines, after just a few days of practice, he is already enamored with Weir's Cody Enrietti.



Enrietti

"Cody looks great," Durdines said. "He looks so eager to just be out on a football field again, I have to wind him back in. We are not wanting to go full contact and he is going through the line looking for contact. We are like, 'ease off Cody. We have to keep the defense healthy, too.'

"He is running like he always does and is looking to play both sides of the ball and he will. He is a special athlete, there is no doubt about that."

And who could blame him?

Weir had state title aspirations last season. Then Enrietti went down with an injury in Week 9. He had his ACL reconstructed, an internal brace placed into his MCL and part of his meniscus taken out. His season was done.

While the Red Riders put up a strong showing in the playoffs, making it a lot farther than many may have thought without Enrietti, it doesn't help but wonder would could have happened if he would have played in the postseason.

Enrietti rushed for 1,358 yards (113.2 per game) and 13 touchdowns. On defense he had 11 tackles for loss, including a safety.

Needless to say, he was itching to get back on the football field.

"I always grew up watching the greats from the OVAC, the greats from my school like Quincy Wilson play in this game," Enrietti said. "To be one of the ones selected as one of the best in the Ohio Valley, it means so much."

Please See ENRIETTI, Page 10

Ohio Natives to Play For W.Va. in All-Star Game

Central's Baker, Linsly's Murray will represent the Mountain State

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

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Please See ALL-STAR, Page 10

St. Clairsville's Bigelow Living the Dream

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

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He does remember the 2007 game in particular. Despite being just eight years old, Bigelow recalls sitting in the stands and watching Nick Rocchio hit a streaking Maurice Bougard down the the sideline to lift Ohio, which was coached by St. Clairsville's coaching staff, to a 6-3 victory.

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Since then, Bigelow has been a constant in the stands at Wheeling Island Stadium, watching the game. Each year, the same thought kept going through his mind.

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Half of that dream came to fruition during the spring when the St. Clairsville graduate received his invitation to be a part of the Ohio squad. The other part comes to life on Saturday when he steps foot on the field at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium.

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Bigelow

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Please See BIGELOW, Page 10

• Ohioans

Continued from Page B1

had attended junior high in the Switzerland of Ohio school district and would have attended Monroe Central had he remained in the district.

"It came down totally to education," Baker, who is headed to Wheeling Jesuit in the fall, said. "My mom wanted me to do better and she thought that going to Wheeling Central would give me a better shot and prepare me better for college. Football was just a bonus because (the decision) was 100 percent about education."

Baker, who was a mainstay in the secondary for the Maroon Knights, finished his career with 253 career tackles, six fumble recoveries and seven interceptions from his safety spot. He remembers his first trip to Wheeling during the summer of 2013.

"I didn't know anyone at Central and the transition was difficult at first," Baker admitted. "What helped me was that we started football before school, so by the time we started school, I had got to meet a lot of the guys already, so I wasn't walking into a building without knowing anyone. I have no regrets about the decision at all.

It's really paid off for me."

For Murray, who played his prep ball at Linsly and lives in Beallsville, the transition or experience of putting on the Mountaineer jersey hasn't been as tough.

"To me, playing for West Virginia just feels right because I've been playing sports in West Virginia since my freshman year," Murray said. "Not only did I go to Linsly since I was a freshman, but I also played (American Legion baseball) for Post 1 for three years."

Murray put forth an impressive career for the Cadets despite having his senior season cut short due to injury. He finished with 24 receptions for 413 yards on offense. Defensively, which is where he's expecting to see his most action this weekend, he posted 63 tackles and five interceptions. He also forced five fumbles and pounced on three others.

Headed to Ohio University in the fall, Murray admitted that he's not an Ohio State fan, which has helped the transition. He also watched his brother, Jameson, and cousin, Zak Kriechbaum, play for West Virginia in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

ALL-STAR

(Continued from Page 9)

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ENRIETTI

(Continued from Page 9)

"Whenever I hurt my knee in November, had my surgery in December, it really did crush me. I took it with a grain of salt and worked hard to get back to here. That is what I was pushing for, being in this game."

"It was a great feeling (to be selected) because Coach Durdines put trust in me. Coming off a knee injury, who knows how I would come back? I want to thank Coach Durdines for picking me."

Not only did Enrietti make it back in time for the OVAC All-Star Game, set for Saturday at the Dave Bruney Football Complex in Martins Ferry, he even took the field for the Red Riders' state runner-up baseball squad.

According to the 6-foot-3, 250-pound running back, the knee is fine. That

is good news for West Virginia and possibly bad news for the Ohio squad.

"The knee is good to go," he said. "The cuts feel great. It feels great pushing off of it. No weakness. I have been so hungry to get back out here. To get the opportunity to go at it with some of the best here is so much fun."

Enrietti, who was first team all-state, All-OVAC and All-Valley, is also using this week as a springboard to get back in football-playing shape.

He will continue his academic and athletic careers at West Liberty this fall.

"I had to get back into the swing of things because I haven't played football in a long time," Enrietti said. "That's why I am going full bore to get myself ready for college."

BIGELOW

(Continued from Page 9)

After opting to put away the athletic shoes and attend Ohio University Eastern, Bigelow is looking to go out with a bang.

"Everything in high school sports have gone so well for me and this is the perfect way to end that part of my life," Bigelow said. "This is an honor that I'll definitely cherish for

the rest of my life."

Outside of his football accomplishments, Bigelow is the only Ohio athlete in the game to own a team state championship ring, too. He was part of the Red Devils' 2016 boys track team, which won the Division II state title. He was once again an all-Ohioan in track this past spring in the 4x2.



Second Level Is Loaded

Durdines likes linebackers, DBs

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

McMECHEN - West Virginia head coach John Durdines knows offense sells tickets, but when it comes down to it, defense is what wins games.

The former Bishop Donahue coach who will guide the Mountain State in the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game on July 22, has named his linebackers, defensive backs and specialist for the game. Camp opens Saturday at Bethany College.

"We're going to stick to what we do and that's try to put as much pressure on the offense as we can to make quick decisions and plays," Durdines said. "We feel like we have strong, athletic, physical linebackers who are aggressive. Our defensive backs are physical kids who can play the run and cover well."

"We really like the versatility we have with a lot of these kids."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

LANCE COLLINS, Oak Glen - This former Golden Bear was the quarterback and a defensive back for Coach Ted Arneault's team.

He accounted for 1,066 all-purpose yards as a senior and better than 3,000 during his career.

He was an all-state selection as well as All-OVAC and All-Valley.

Lance plans to attend Waynesburg.

ALEX EDGELL, Brooke - This former Bruin had an impressive season at linebacker for Coach Mac McLean's team.

The 5-foot-11, 205 pounder recorded 105 tackles, which followed up a 122-tackle campaign as a junior.

He was named first team All-OVAC, All-TRAC and honorable mention all-state.

Alex, who plans to attend West Liberty, is the son of Scott and Eleanor Edgell.

Please See **LEVEL**,
Page 12

LEVEL

(Continued from Page 11)

DYLAN BAKER, Wheeling Central - This former Maroon Knight was a standout in the secondary for Coach Mike Young's team.

The 5-10, 150 pounder finished with 253 tackles, six fumble recoveries and seven interceptions.

His efforts were recognized by his placement on All-OVAC and All-Valley second team.

Dylan, who plans to attend Wheeling Jesuit, is the son of Becky Bolon and Troy Baker.

ADAM FRISCO, University - This former Hawk shined at outside linebacker for Coach John Kelley's team.

The 5-8, 180 pounder was a four-year letterman for the Hawks.

Adam, who is the son of Patsy and Miguel Frisco, plans to attend West Virginia.

GAGE GIOVENGO, Linsly - This former Cadet shined on both sides of the ball for Coach B.J. Depew's team.

The 6-1, 210 pounder was a defensive leader from linebacker and was also a running back for the Cadets.

He was honored as first team All-OVAC and All-Valley.

Along with football, Giovengo is a standout in wrestling and baseball. He won the OVAC Heavyweight mat title last winter.

Gage is the son of Tom and Jonette Giovengo.

SCOTTY MEAIGE, Wheeling Park - This former Patriot was a standout at linebacker for Coach Chris Daugherty's team.

The 5-9, 205 pounder was recognized as an All-TRAC selection.

Scotty, who is planning to attend Thiel College, is the son of Dwight and Kathy Kreiser.

TREY MILLER, Bishop Donahue - This former Bishop was a standout in the secondary for Durdines' team.

The 5-10, 165 pounder finished the season with 95 tackles, six interceptions and a forced fumble. He also caught 25 passes for 385 yards and five touchdowns.

Miller was twice named first team all-state. He was also twice named All-OVAC and All-Valley. He was a captain of the All-Valley team.

Trey, who is the son of Chet and Terri Miller, plans to attend West Liberty.

MICHAEL MILLS, Weir - This former Red Rider was a standout as a kicker for Coach Tony Filberto's team.

The 5-9, 175 pounder was an All-OVAC, All-Valley and second-team all-state pick. He was also a standout in baseball, playing in the OVAC Game and earning all-conference and All-Valley honors.

Also a member of the National Honor Society, Mills is a standout in the classroom.

Michael, who is the son of Doug and Michelle Mills, plans to attend West Virginia.

MICHAEL STARCHER, Cameron - This former Dragon shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Scott Holt's team.

The 5-8, 170 pounder rushed for 1,557 yards and 18 touchdowns. He also had 111 tackles, four sacks and two interceptions.

Starcher was first team all-state, All-OVAC, All-Valley and All-Mason Dixon.

Michael, who plans to enlist in the United States Navy, is the son of William and Christie Starcher.

CHASE STREET, Magnolia - This Blue Eagles product wore a lot of hats for Coach Doc Chapman's team.

The 5-9, 185 pounder finished his career with 3,074 yards and 28 touchdowns rushing. His yardage total is the second most in school history.

He was the MVP of the SSAC Class A state title game during his junior season. He was an all-state and All-Valley pick and was a standout in track and field, too.

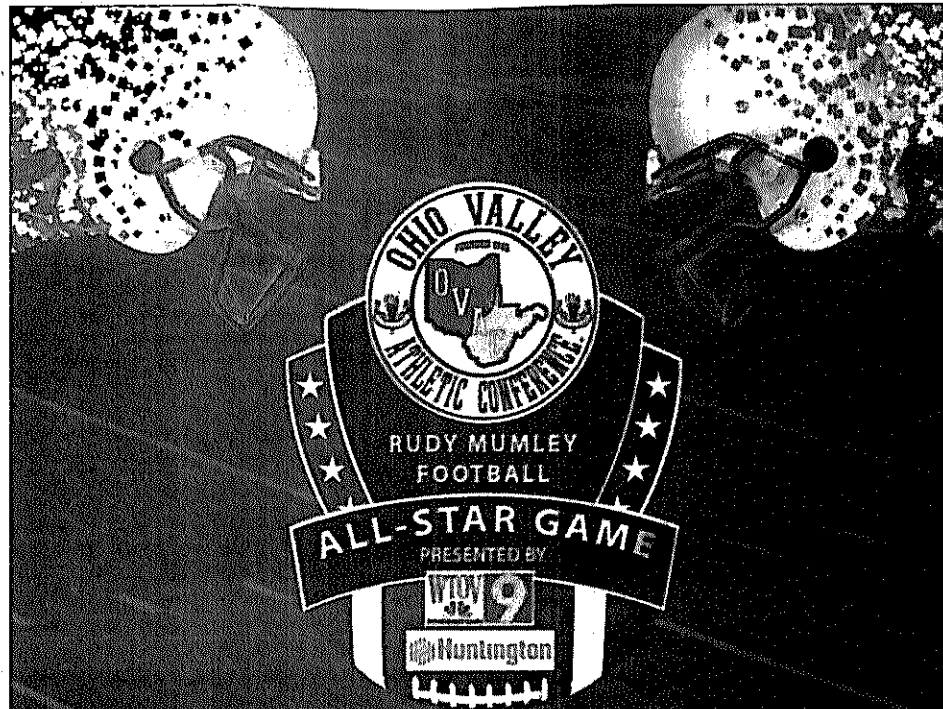
Chase, who plans to attend West Liberty, is the son of Chad Street and Stacey Helmick.

ZACH TORBETT, Wheeling Park - This two-way ace was a major contributor for Coach Daugherty's squad.

The 6-1, 190 pounder posted 104 tackles and six pass breakups from his strong safety spot, while rushing for more than 400 yards and five touchdowns.

Torbett was named first team all-state, All-Valley and All-TRAC. He also took part in the North-South Game earlier this summer.

Zach, who is the son of Mark Torbett and Patty Torbett, plans to attend West Virginia.



OVAC ALL-STAR GAME

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Wheeling News-Register



Durdines names linemen for OVAC Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

McMECHEN — John Durdines admitted that sometimes evaluating linemen on film can be tough.

So, he went to the coaches and sought opinions on one major quality.

"Effort was a big thing we were looking for," Durdines said. "You can teach scheme and things, but you have to effort from those guys up front."

The West Virginia head coach believes he's found that with the group of linemen he's selected for the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game, which is slated for July 22 at Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney Football Complex.

"We have kids who have pretty good size and they seem to be able to move pretty well," Durdines offered. "We're excited to see them gel together."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

JORDAN ALLEN, Weir — This former Red Rider shined at defensive end for Coach Tony Filberto's squad.

The 6-1, 225 pounder finished his career with 176 tackles, 38 sacks, seven forced fumbles, four fumble recoveries and two interceptions.

He was twice named first-team all-state,

all-OVAC and all-Valley. He was also listed as all-state according to USA Today and was a WTOV-9 Block of Granite award winner.

Jordan, who plans to attend West Liberty, is the son of Lou and Sheila Allen.

HAYDEN BERRY, Wheeling Park — This former Patriot shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Chris Daugherty's team.

The 5-9, 220 pounder was a key cog on both fronts. Defensively, he had 21 tackles, including 11 solo. He also had 1.5 sacks.

Berry was named all-TRAC and served as a team captain.

Hayden, who plans to attend West Virginia University, is the son of Heather Berry and Kemoathe Green.

DANTE CARLIER, Morgantown — This former Mohigan helped anchor the offensive line for Coach Matt Lacy's team.

The 5-10, 260 pounder paved the way for a 1,300-yard rusher.

Dante, who is the son of Brandy Carlier, plans to attend West Virginia.

LANDER JAMES, Cameron — This two-year starter helped anchor the offensive line from his center spot for Coach Scott Holt's team.

The 6-4, 225 pounder served as a team captain and was named first-team all-OVAC, all-Valley and third-team all-state.

Along with football, James is a standout in the classroom as a National Honor Society and Student Council member.

Lander, who plans to attend Fairmont State, is the son of Eric James and Courtney Appellenzor.

JACOB KEREKES, John Marshall — This Monarch graduate served as nose guard and offensive tackle for Coach Rick Goodrich's team.

The 6-0, 300 pounder posted 25 tackles, 20 assists and three sacks as a senior en route to earning all-TRAC and honorable mention all-OVAC.

Jacob, who plans to attend West Liberty, is the son of Ron and Melissa Kerekas.

LOGAN KRANIS, Oak Glen — This former Golden Bear was impressive on both sides of the ball for Coach Ted Arneault's team.

The 6-3, 282 pounder posted 38 solo tackles and 58 total stops as a senior. He was named his team's Defensive Player of the Year.

A standout in the classroom, Kranis is a member of the Key Club and Business Club, while also participating in track and wrestling.

Logan, who plans to attend Waynesburg, is the son of Robert and Cassandra Kranis.

TRAVIS LOWTHER, Weir — This former Red Rider was a two-way tackle for Filberto's squad.

The 6-2, 220 pounder was recognized

as second-team all-OVAC.

Travis, who plans to attend West Liberty, is the son of Ken and Rachel Paris.

ZACK MARTIN, University — This former Hawk was an offensive tackle for John Kelley's team.

The 6-0, 305 pounder earned honorable mention all-OVAC.

Zack is the son of Royce Martin.

PEYTON POWROZNIK, University — This former Hawk was the center and a defensive line standout for Kelley's team.

The 6-2, 250 pounder finished with 22 tackles, including nine sacks and 4.5 other tackles for loss.

Powroznik was named second-team all-state, first-team all-OVAC and all-TRAC.

A standout in academics, Powroznik is a member of the National Honor Society.

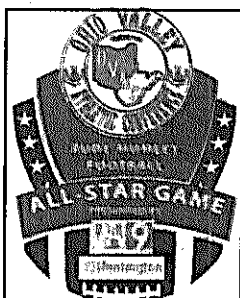
Peyton, who is the son of Kirk and Kristi Powroznik, plans to attend West Virginia.

JACK RAITZ, Parkersburg South — This former Patriot shined at a bevy of spots for Coach Mike Eddy's team.

The 5-9, 200 pounder saw time at guard and at both defensive line and linebacker during his career.

Raitz was named second-team all-state, first-team all-OVAC.

Jack, who plans to attend West Virginia, is the son of Brian and Christa Raitz.



THE SECOND HALF BEGINS

Major League Baseball returns for the second half of the season with Los Angeles and Houston on top/15

The Intelligencer SPORTS

THURSDAY
JULY 13, 2017

COMICS17

13

OVAC Rule Needs to be Overhauled

WHEELING — A storm surrounding the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game has been brewing since Saturday. On Wednesday, some lightning was added to the thunder that had been roaring in the distance.

Wheeling Central's Isaac Rine has declined to attend due to their commitments to American Legion baseball. Linsly's Gage Giovengo and Jacob "Butter" Murray, as well as Weir's Michael Mills and Shadyside's Billy Johnson could soon join.

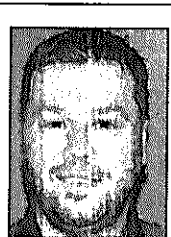
This continues a trend that has seen some of the best football players the conference has to

offer skipping the annual summer contest.

OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak said Wednesday that it is not all that uncommon for athletes to have to choose one or the other.

"I've been doing it 19 years. Every year there is a kid that has Legion and it just conflicts," Rataiczak said. "We've looked at the scenario a dozen times."

"Some pick legion, some play in the all-star game."



SHAWN RINE
Staff Writer

The point that needs to be made here, is they shouldn't have to choose.

We want our children to be well-rounded, but now that doesn't matter because one of the options isn't school related? In the case of two-time defending state champion Wheeling Post 1, these kids made a commitment to their teammates three years ago.

"When a kid accepts the package they are given an itinerary,"

Rataiczak said. "It said you were not permitted to leave."

"When they sign the acceptance form, the very first sentence is you are not permitted to leave camp."

"It is signed by the athlete and the parent and turned back in." Just because it's in writing doesn't mean it's right.

When game director Bob Koch took over in 2001, Rataiczak noted that the policy was iron clad. But a situation occurred where one particular student was allowed to leave in order to collect a scholarship from 4-H that had to be awarded in person.

"Now we allow you to leave camp for one event. If you miss something, that would be OK," Rataiczak said. "We changed that."

"That one event is a practice, a meal, Queen of Queens, whatever."

There was obviously some forward thinking going on at that point, even though a meal has no business being part of the equation. There needs to be more forward thinking as we move ahead. There have to be exceptions to the rule.

See RINE, Page 14

RINE

(Continued from Page 13)

"Why can't you miss one event for Legion ball, miss one for the conference?" Rataiczak said. "Why is the conference the one that has to concede?"

"We're not punishing these kids and making them do it. We say you are allowed to miss one event. What if the Legion game is rained out Friday? Is it played Saturday?"

Again, we need to do better as adults. In the

case of Rine, Murray and Giovengo, they would have to miss an ice cream social and a pep rally. No practice, mind you.

"I see it every year where coaches and players are going over things, even at the ice cream social and the pep rally. Plays and things like that," Rataiczak said. "When you look at it, there's a couple different options. The OVAC promotes kids being involved in multiple sports and encourage kids to be in

multiple sports, but that's not travel baseball, rec-league volleyball and things like that that don't have anything to do with their schools.

"The all-star game is an extension of the school. They use the school name, the school equipment. Legion ball is extra-curricular."

"If this would translate into the regular school year, would they choose their high school team over a travel basketball game?"

"It is as gut-wrenching to me as anyone, but once you let one kid get by with something, the other ones start saying 'well wait a minute.'"

"Sometimes you have to make sacrifices ... tough choices."

The kids are going to do just that. And the OVAC All-Star Game will be the one to suffer.

It doesn't have to be this way.

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

JUSTUS



Justus Likes His 'D'

Ohio coach intent on stopping the W.Va. playmakers

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer
MARTINS FERRY – Defensive picks were a priority when Karl Justus and his Ohio coaching staff started to select their roster for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

Justus likes what they've formed as training camp for the July 22 game is just a few days away at Bethany College.

The former Conotton Valley head coach has announced his linebackers, defensive backs and specialist for the game, which will be played at Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney Football Complex.

"Our defense should be really good," Justus said. "We know West Virginia will have a lot of playmakers, so we had to find guys who can play the run and cover the pass well. We think we're able to do that both with linebackers and defensive backs."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

ZACH BIGELOW, St. Clairsville – This former Red Devil was a multiple-year standout for Coach Brett McLean's team.

The 5-foot-11, 175-pounder finished his career with 4,668 yards passing and 51 touchdowns. He rushed for 1,059 yards and 13 touchdowns. He was a four-year letterman and served as team captain.

He was named all-Ohio, all-OVAC and all-Eastern District.

See **JUSTUS**, Page 14

(Continued from Page 13)

Away from football, Bigelow was a multiple-time all-Ohioan in track and field and was a member of the Devils' 2016 state championship team.

Outside of athletics, Bigelow is an Eagle Scout, a member of the National Honor Society and was part of the Homecoming Court.

Zach, who plans to attend Ohio University Eastern, is the son of Al and Paula Bigelow.

GARTH CHARLTON, Cambridge – This multiple-year standout was a key cog in the defensive scheme for Coach Kevin Gunn's squad.

The 6-0, 205-pounder led the Bobcats in tackles twice during his career en route to being named All-OVAC, All-Ohio and All-ECOL.

Along with football, Charlton is a standout baseball player.

Garth is the son of John and Kim Charlton.

BILLY JOHNSON, Shadyside – This former Tiger was a standout on both sides of the ball for Coach Mark Holenka's team.

The 6-1, 180-pounder

accounted for 30 touchdowns and more than 2,000 yards offensively last season.

Johnson was named first team All-OVAC, All-Eastern District and second team All-Ohio. He was also All-Times Leader and All-Valley.

Billy plans to attend Wheeling Jesuit University to major in nursing.

DYLAN KIDDER, East Liverpool – This former Potter was an accurate place kicker for Coach Josh Ludwig's team.

The 5-10, 194-pounder equaled the East Liverpool record for consecutive extra points made with 23. He also had a 36-yard field goal and his kickoffs landed at the 5-yard line by average.

He was an All-OVAC and All-Eastern District pick.

Along with his football exploits, he was a standout in soccer, earning All-OVAC and taking part in the all-star game as well as the Eastern District game.

Dylan, who plans to attend Westminster College, is the son of Dean and Ruthie Kidder.

attending Westminster College, is the son of David and Roxana Millard.

CARTER STREIFF, Buckeye Trail – This former Warrior shined in the secondary for Coach Donnie Kern's team.

The 5-8, 175-pounder posted 127 tackles, including 106 solos last season. He also had 17 receptions for 269 yards and two touchdowns. He ran for two scores, too.

Streiff was named second team All-Ohio as a linebacker and first team All-Eastern District, All-PVC and All-OVAC.

Carter, who is the son of John and Karin Scurlock, plans to attend Ohio University.

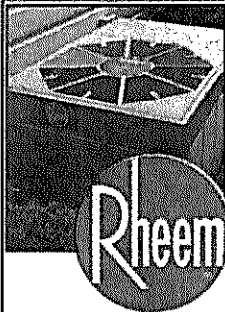
ZANE ZIMISH, Steubenville – This hard-nosed linebacker was one of the key cogs in the defensive success for Coach Saccoccia's team.

The 5-10, 195-pounder posted 110 tackles in helping to lead Steubenville's defense and Big Red to four consecutive regional titles.

Zimish was an All-Eastern District, All-OVAC and All-Valley performer.

Zane, who is the son of Todd Zimish, plans to attend Kent.

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SPORTS

Thursday,
July 13, 2017

Ohio completes roster for OVAC contest

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY — Defensive picks were a priority when Karl Justus and his Ohio coaching staff started to select their roster for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

Justus likes what they've formed as training camp for the July 22nd game is just a few days away at Bethany College.

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See, OVAC, Page B2

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

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He was an all-OVAC and all-Eastern District pick.

Along with his football exploits, he was a standout in soccer, earning all-OVAC and taking part in that all-star game as well as the Eastern District game.

Dylan, who plans to attend Westminster College, is the son of Dean and Ruthie Kidder.

WILLIAM LOWE, Cambridge — This former Bobcat was a two-way regular for Gunn's team.

The 5-10, 170 pounder finished with 1,100 yards and 14 touchdowns. He was named all-OVAC, all-ECOL and second-team all-Ohio.

William, who plans to attend Otterbein, is the son of Caroline and Matthew Lowe.

JALEN MCGHEE, Steubenville — This former Big Red standout was a two-way contributor for Coach Reno Saccoccia's team.

The 6-1, 205 pounder was one of Big Red's top tacklers in helping them to their second consecutive state runner-up finish.

Jalen is the son of Marlyn Lucas.

SEAN MILLARD, Buckeye Local — This former Panther shined on both sides of the ball last season.

The 6-2, 196 pounder was an all-OVAC and all-Buckeye 8 performer as a wide receiver and defensive back.

Millard, who plans to attend Lake Erie University, is the son of David and Roxana Millard.

CARTER STREIFF, Buckeye Trail — This former Warrior shined in the secondary for Coach Donnie Kerns' team.

The 5-8, 175 pounder posted 127 tackles, including 106 solos last season. He also had 17 receptions for 269 yards and two touchdowns. He ran for two scores, too.

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Zane, who is the son of Todd Zimish, plans to attend Kent.



Bishop Donahue's Jimmy Hull, left, and John Marshall's Jacob Kerekes check in at camp for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Photos by Rick Thorp

OVAC All-Star Camp Opens for Teams

Game Scheduled For Saturday

By RICK THORP
For the News-Register

BETHANY — The countdown has begun in earnest for the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley Football All-Star Game.

Saturday morning at Bethany College's Thomas P. Johnson Health and Recreation Center, players from Ohio and West Virginia arrived in a steady stream to check in for what promises to be a week of lively camp action.

"I'm very happy," Ohio head coach Karl Justus said. "I've been looking forward to this for a very long time. I think we have a great staff and some really good players."

West Virginia head coach John Durdines was eager to get to work as he watched his players enter and pick up their equipment.

"It's so exciting to get things started," he said. "Obviously, from the time we started picking teams and the kids started submitting whether they were going to come, we've been anticipating this."

"Like I said, the excitement is here. I think the kids are excited and

we're ready to get going."

Players looked like kids on Christmas morning as they entered the doors of the TPJ and were greeted by OVAC football commissioner Dave Clutter. From there, it was on to the registration desk, where the step-by-step registration began.

Following a stop at the T-shirt counter, players picked up their room keys and made their way into the indoor track area where former Cameron High head coach Jim Rogers was there to help them with equipment, etc.

Please see OVAC, Page C2

OVAC

Continued from page C1

Players on both sides got to work Saturday and will do so for the next week, culminating with the game, slated for this Saturday night at 7 at Martins Ferry's Purple Rider Stadium. The game had to be moved there after structural damage was found this spring at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Justus said he'll have his players in shells today after going through a shorts workout Saturday. Then, Monday, it's time to start hitting.

The former Conotton Valley head coach said he's excited about the coaching staff he's put together and believes the combination of strategies will be a benefit.

"Coach (Ryan) Ludwig from East Liverpool brought a few guys with him so he'll be familiar with them and I know the other guys a lot so we'll have a common bond and we can work together."

Among Durdines' assistants are Cameron assistant Eric James (the two

worked together at Donahue) and former Madonna head coach Bob Kramer.

Durdines, who rebuilt Bishop Donahue into a West Virginia Class A contender, can't wait to work with some of the Mountain State's top talent.

"You have so much respect for the player's on other teams," he said.

"It's great when you're sitting on the sideline and you're watching a kid give 100 percent and you're like 'Boy, I'd like

to have that kid.' And, now, you have that chance."

Like Justus, Durdines will spend the first few days of camp introducing his terminology, and starting to find the right fit for each of his players.

"Every kid is going to play," he said. "I'm all about giving these kids an opportunity to play. The more they show me out here, the more they'll play come Saturday."

SPORTS

Wednesday,
July 12, 2017

Durdines' defense continues to take shape

• W.Va. head coach names linebackers, DBs, specialists for gleam game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

McMECHEN — West Virginia head coach John Durdines knows offense sells tickets, but when it comes down to it, defense is what wins games.

The former Bishop Donahue head coach, who will guide the Mountain State in the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game on July 22, has named his linebackers, defensive backs and specialist for the game. Camp opens Saturday at Bethany College.

"We're going to stick to what we do and that's try to put as much pressure on the offense as we can to make quick decisions and plays," Durdines said. "We feel like we have strong, athletic

physical linebackers, who are aggressive. Our defensive backs are physical kids who can play the run and cover well.

"We really like the versatility we have with a lot of these kids," Durdines continued.

Here's a capsule look at the players:

LANCE COLLINS, Oak Glen — This former Golden Bear was the signal caller and defensive back for Coach Ted Arneault's team.

He accounted for 1,066 all-purpose yards as a senior and better than 3,000 during his career.

He was an all-state selection as well as all-OVAC and all-Valley.

Lance plans to attend Waynesburg.

ALEX EDGELL, Brooke —

This former Bruin had an impressive season at linebacker for Coach Mac McLean's team.

The 5-11, 205 pounder recorded 105 tackles, which followed up a 122-tackle campaign as a junior.

He was named first-team all-OVAC, all-TRAC and honorable mention all-state.

Alex, who plans to attend West Liberty, is the son of Scott and Eleanor Edgell.

DYLAN BAKER, Wheeling Central — This former Maroon Knight was a standout in the secondary for Coach Mike Young's team.

The 5-10, 150 pounder finished with 253 tackles, six fum-

ble recoveries and seven interceptions.

His efforts were recognized by his placement on all-OVAC and all-Valley second team.

Dylan, who plans to attend Wheeling Jesuit, is the son of Becky Bolon and Troy Baker.

ADAM FRISCO, University — This former Hawk shined at outside linebacker for Coach John Kelley's team.

The 5-8, 180 pounder was a four-year letterman for the Hawks.

Adam, who is the son of Patsy and Miguel Frisco, plans to attend West Virginia.

GAGE GIOVENGO, Linsly

— This former Cadet shined on both sides of the ball for Coach B.J. Depew's team.

The 6-1, 210 pounder was a defensive leader from linebacker and was also a running back for the Cadets.

He was honored as first-team all-OVAC and all-Valley.

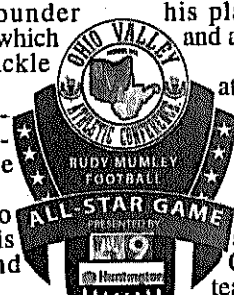
Along with football, Giovengo is a standout in wrestling and baseball. He won the OVAC Heavyweight mat title last winter.

Gage is the son of Tom and Jonette Giovengo.

MICHAEL MEAIGE, Wheeling Park — This former Patriot was a standout at linebacker for Coach Chris Daugherty's team.

The 5-9, 205 pounder was rec-

See, **DEFENSE**, Page B2



• Defense

Continued from Page B1

gnized as an all-TRAC selection.

Michael, who is planning to attend Thiel College, is the son of Dwight and Kathy Kreiser.

TREY MILLER, Bishop Donahue — This former Bishop was a standout in the secondary for Durdines' team.

The 5-10, 165 pounder finished the season with 95 tackles, six interceptions and a forced fumble. He also caught 25 passes for 385 yards and five touchdowns.

Miller was twice named first-team all-state. He was also twice named all-OVAC and all-Val-

ley. He was a captain of the all-Valley team.

Trey, who is the son of Chet and Terri Miller, plans to attend West Liberty.

MICHAEL MILLS, Weir — This former Red Rider was a standout as a kicker for Coach Tony Filberto's team.

The 5-9, 175 pounder was an all-OVAC, all-Valley and second-team all-state pick. He was also a standout in baseball, playing in the OVAC Game and earning all-OVAC and all-Valley honors.

Also a member of the National Honor Society, Mills is a

standout in the classroom.

Michael, who is the son of Doug and Michelle Mills, plans to attend West Virginia.

MICHAEL STARCHER, Cameron — This former Dragon shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Scott Holt's team.

The 5-8, 170 pounder rushed for 1,557 yards and 18 touchdowns. He also had 111 tackles, four sacks and two interceptions.

Starcher was a first-team all-state pick, all-OVAC, all-Valley and all-Mason Dixon.

Michael, who plans to enlist in the United States Navy, is the

son of William and Christie Starcher.

CHASE STREET, Magnolia — This Blue Eagle product wore a lot of hats for Coach Doc Chapman's team.

The 5-9, 185 pounder finished his career with 3,074 yards and 28 touchdowns rushing. His yardage total is the second most in school history.

He was the MVP of the SSAC Class A state title game during his junior season. He was an all-state, all-Valley pick and was a standout in track and field, too.

Chase, who plans to attend West Liberty, is the son of Chad

Street and Stacey Helmick.

ZACH TORBETT, Wheeling Park — This two-way ace was a major contributor for Coach Daugherty's squad.

The 6-1, 190 pounder posted 104 tackles, six pass breakups from his strong safety spot, while rushing for more than 400 yards and five touchdowns.

Torbett was named first-team all-state, all-Valley and all-TRAC. He also took part in the North-South Game earlier this summer.

Zach, who is the son of Mark Torbett and Patty Torbett, plans to attend West Virginia.

(Continued from Page 13)

Local and took it to the playoffs in 1999. He's also spent 11 years coaching at the collegiate level, including stops at Division-I schools Akron and Auburn.

Justus, who is a 1978 graduate of Lancaster High School, owns a degree from Capital University and a master's from Akron.

Karl and his wife, Colleen, have three children, KB (28), Libby (25) and David (21).

K.B. JUSTUS, Lancaster — This Berne Union graduate has spent five years as a football coach, including the last three with Lancaster.

During his stint, Justus has helped guide the Gales to multiple playoff appearances. Prior to joining that staff, he coached at Muskingum and Denison universities.

Justus owns both a bachelor's and master's degree from Muskingum.

K.B. and his wife, Allie, have been married for a little more than a year.

DOM VINCI, Bridgeport — This current Bulldogs assistant has five years of coaching experience.

The Buckeye Local graduate coached at his alma mater prior to joining the Bulldogs staff for the 2015 season.

Vinci also has coaching experience in wrestling, baseball and basketball.

Vinci attends Ohio University Eastern.

CHRIS HEATON, Buckeye Local — This former Panthers assistant owns a resume with six years of coaching experience.

Heaton, who graduated from Buckeye Local in 2005, owns a bachelor's degree from Muskingum University. He currently works on the Panthers basketball and baseball staffs.

JOSH LUDWIG, East

Liverpool — The Potters head coach has been on the staff at his alma mater for seven seasons, including the last three as the head coach. All told, he has 10 years of coaching experience.

Along with coaching football, Ludwig is also a former basketball coach in Midland, Pa.

Prior to entering teaching and coaching, Ludwig was an All-Ohio performer for the Potters and then went on to an illustrious career at Mount Union where he was part of the 2002 national championship team. He finished his degree in 2005.

Josh and his wife, Malory, have two children, Teryn and Teagan.

ALVIN THOMPSON, East Liverpool — This Potters assistant has 20 years of coaching experience, all of which have been spent in Columbiana County.

Thompson has spent the last four seasons at East Liverpool. Prior to that, he has experience at Wellsville and Southern. He's also coached girls' basketball in his career.

The Wellsville High and Marietta College graduate shined in football, basketball and track during his prep days.

Alvin and his wife, Sabrina, have two children, Natalie Thompson and Amiyah Powell.

IAN WHITTINGTON, East Liverpool — This Potters assistant two seasons ago guided the West Virginia squad to a victory over Ohio in the OVAC All-Star Game as the head coach at Oak Glen.

Whittington has eight years of coaching experience. Along with serving as the Golden Bears' head coach, he's also a member of the wrestling staff.

Ian and his wife, Amber, have a daughter, Kayleigh.

Ohio's Coaches Revealed

Justus introduces experienced staff

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer
MARTINS FERRY — Putting together the rosters for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Charity Football Classic can be a tough ordeal.

Usually, that refers to the players. However, Ohio head coach Karl Justus had his challenges in putting together a coaching staff, too.

The former Conotton Valley head coach, who will work at Hocking College for the upcoming season, has representatives from four different high schools, including one from outside of the OVAC.

The staff will come together July 15 to begin camp for the annual game, which is slated for the Dave Bruney Football Complex on Saturday, July 22.

"It was challenging to put a staff together," Justus said. "East Liverpool is bringing several of its guys, which made it easier. I asked some guys and they told me, 'since you don't have any of our kids, I don't want to help you.' I don't think that's the right approach, but that's what happened."

Here's a capsule look at the Ohio coaching staff:

KARL JUSTUS, Conotton Valley — The now former Rockets coach guided the school for one season and it finished with a 3-7 record, which was more wins than it had posted in five years combined.

Along with his year at Conotton, Justus has 34 years of football coaching experience. He was the head coach of Buckeye

• Coaches

Continued from Page B1

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Ohio coaching staff named for OVAC Game

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

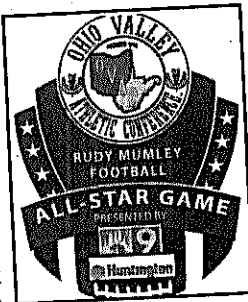
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The former Conotton Valley head coach, who will work at Hocking College for the upcoming season, has representatives from four different high schools, including one from outside of the OVAC.

The staff will come together on July 15 to begin camp for the annual game, which is slated for the Dave Bruney Football Complex on Saturday, July 22.

"It was challenging to put a staff together," Justus said. "East Liverpool is bringing several of its guys, which made it easier," Justus said. "I asked some guys and they told me, 'since you don't have any of our kids, I don't want to help you.' I don't think that's the right approach, but that's what happened."



Here's a capsule look at the Ohio coaching staff:

KARL JUSTUS, Conotton Valley — The now former Rockets coach guided the school for one season and they finished with a 3-7 record, which was more wins than it had posted in five years combined.

Along with his year at Conotton, Justus has 34 years of football coaching experience. He was the head coach of Buckeye Local and took them to the playoffs in 1999. He's also spent 11 years coaching at the collegiate level, including stops at Division I schools

Akron and Auburn.

Justus, who is a 1978 graduate of Lancaster High School, owns a degree from Capital University and a master's from Akron.

Karl and his wife, Colleen, have three children, KB (28), Libby (25) and David (21).

K.B. JUSTUS, Lancaster — This Berne Union graduate has spent five years as a football coach, including the last three with Lancaster.

During his stint, Justus has helped guide the Gales to multiple playoff appearances. Prior to joining that staff, he coached at Muskingum and Denison Universities.

Justus owns both a bachelor's and master's degree from Muskingum.

K.B. and his wife Allie have been married for just over a year.

DOM VINCI, Bridgeport — This current Bulldogs' assistant has five years of coaching experience.

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SECTION
B

Thursday,
June 29, 2017

Durdines sets staff for OVAC A-S Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY — John Durdines isn't sure what his coaching future holds.

The long-time Bishop Donahue head coach has explored a few things, but isn't ready to formally commit to anything ... just yet, anyway.

However, one game he knows he has upcoming for certain is the OVAC Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game in which he will guide West Virginia against Ohio during the July 22nd contest, which is slated for the Dave Bruney Football Complex in Martins Ferry.

With one more guaranteed game, Durdines is also excited to share the time with his assistant coaches, many of whom have been working with him for several years.

"It's great to share it with these coaches," Durdines said. "This is an important game to the people of the Ohio Valley and it's especially important to us this year since it's the last time we'll be working together. We're going to cherish every moment and hopefully we can pull out a victory."

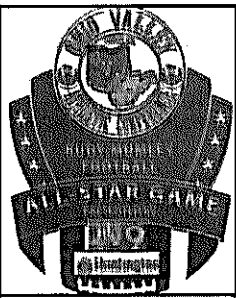
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Durdines guided the Bishops to three OVAC Class 1A championships. He was named the Mason-Dixon Conference coach of the year five times and twice received the Big 22 Class A Coach of the Year. He was also named the Intelligencer/News Register Coach of the Year after the 2014 season.

All told, he finished his career with a 90-68 record.

Along with football, Durdines spent two years coaching baseball and six seasons coaching wrestling.



See, **OVAC**, Page B2

• OVAC

Continued from Page B1

John and his wife, Michelle have two daughters, Anatasia Klemm and Ashley Durdines.

L.A. HAMPTON, Bishop Donahue — This former Bishops' standout has been coaching football for four seasons, including the 2016 campaign with the Bishops.

Prior to joining Durdines, he was on the staff at Linsly. Hampton, who is a B.D. and West Liberty graduate, also has coaching experience in basketball and track.

CURT MELE, Bishop Donahue — This long-time Bishop worked with the Donahue football program for each of the last five years. All told, he has 10 years of experience at his alma mater.

Along with serving on the football staff, Mele also served as the Bishops' softball coach and was an assistant boys basketball coach.

A graduate of Wheeling Jesuit and West Virginia Northern, Mele and his wife, Dana, have three daughters, Ashley, Alexis and Abbey.

ZACHARY KLEMM, Bishop Donahue — This former Linsly School standout spent two years working with Durdines and the Bishops.

Klemm, who graduated from Linsly in 2010 and West Liberty in 2014, has four years of total experience in football coaching. He also has coaching experience in wrestling.

Zach, who is married to Coach Durdines' daughter, Anastasia, played football, golf, hockey and swimming.

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Stamp was part of all three OVAC championship and four Mason-Dixon title winning coaching staffs.

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Angalich graduated from Donahue in 2008 after an all-state, all-OVAC and all-Valley senior season. He's served on the coaching staff that's won two OVAC titles.

After graduating from West Virginia Wesleyan, Angalich earned his graduate degree from Wheeling Jesuit in 2014.

Michael and his wife, Mia, do not have any children.

JAMES SMITH, Bishop Donahue — Another one of Durdines' loyal assistants spent 12 years working with the Bishops' program.

Smith, who graduated from Wheeling Park in 1986, has never coached football anywhere other than the McMechan-based school.

Smith, who has a son James, is engaged to Shirley Hevener.

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James also serves as the baseball coach at Cameron. He's also coached boys and girls basketball as well as wrestling for the Dragons. He's also coached junior high football at Sherrard.

James, who played arena football, has coached in the West Virginia playoffs four times and owns more than 200 career baseball wins as well as eight sectional titles.

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Kramer, who is a graduate of Steubenville High School and Jefferson Community College, spent five years working as an assistant coach before taking over the head-coaching duties.

Bob and his wife, Kathy, have two children, Bob Jr. and Linda. The couple also has two granddaughters, Taylor and Kaitlin.

OVAC All-Star Rosters Released

Durdines in Charge for W.Va., Justus Head Coach for Ohio

By SETH STASKEY

For the News-Register

MARTINS FERRY — The venue is set. And now the rosters are set.

It's full steam ahead, at this point, for the 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Charity Football Classic, which will kick off at 7:15 p.m. on Saturday, July 22 at Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney Football Complex.

Barring late scratches and/or changes, both Ohio head coach Karl Justus and West Virginia head coach John Durdines have finalized their rosters and are now awaiting the opening of the week-long camp, which will be held once again at Bethany College, starting on July 15.

Durdines earned the right to guide the Mountain State for the first time in his career after his Bishop Donahue squad finished 6-4 and won the Class 1A conference title. Though he knew it was the small-school class' turn to coach, he didn't realize at the end of last season that it would be the final time he represents the Bishops.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston opted to close the school at the end of the recently completed academic year.

"Anytime you get to coach in this game it's a huge honor, but it definitely has more meaning for me and my staff because it turns out that it will be our last game together and representing Bishop Donahue," Durdines said. "We earned this by winning the OVAC, which I like most

about it."

As a competitor, Durdines has never stepped foot on a football field not wanting to win. Next month's clash will be no different, but he admits that there are "a few more logs on the fire" of motivation.

"Bishop Donahue gave me an opportunity and it's a shame what has happened and how cowardly it happened," Durdines said. "I owe everything I am to Bishop Donahue. They gave me a chance and it really upsets me for the kids. I know the kids will heal and move on, but I also know how sad and upset they are. So, I do have extra fuel for this game."

Durdines will get to coach three of his own players one more time, too. Jimmy Hull, J.C. Custer and Trey Miller will don their B.D. helmet one more time.

"It's great that we get to share (this game) with three of our own guys," Durdines said.

"And the three kids we chose deserve to be on this team, regardless of who is coaching."

Donahue isn't the only school being represented in the game for the last time.

Tyler Consolidated has withdrawn from the OVAC for the coming school year, so Tyler Anderson and Jace Reed will represent the Silver Knights in their final soiree.

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OVAC

Continued from page C1

Weir led the Mountain State roster with five selections. Wheeling Park, Wheeling Central, Parkersburg South and University join B.D. with a trio of players.

"Choosing the roster is unbelievably tough," Durdines said. "There are so many good kids who you can't take. And you have to play a game, so you can't just take 32 players. We have kids who excelled on their teams, but there's just so much talent. We're very excited with the kids we have."

Justus was the head coach at Conotton Valley last season and by virtue of being the highest-finishing Ohio school in Class 1A, earned the right to guide the Buckeye State. It's his first all-star game assignment.

He won't be returning to the Rockets' sideline, however. He's accepted a position as an assistant coach at Hocking College, which just started football two years ago.

Before he shifted his focus to the collegiate level, he spent a lot of time looking at prep film to gauge which players to select for this summer's game.

"Finding players wasn't tough," Justus said.

"Eliminating players was the toughest part. With so many good players in the Ohio Valley, narrowing it down to 32 players makes it really challenging."

Justus represented 18 schools with his selections and only one school (East Liverpool) received more than three bids. Other schools with three players chosen were River, Buckeye Trail, Toronto and Steubenville. The OVAC limits a school to three picks, but the Potters received a fourth because the kicker doesn't count toward the maximum numbers.

Normally coaching the game is a way to honor some of your seniors. However, the Rockets have nary a player on the roster, but Justus pointed out one was chosen and elected not to play.

"We had four or five kids back out for one reason or another, so that got some other kids some opportunities," Justus, who formerly coached at Buckeye Local, said.

"Some of the guys we took because someone else backed out might end up being better than the original selection."

The Ohio coaching staff is a mixture of schools, too. Justus has coaches from as far away as Lancaster on the staff. He also has a representative of Bridgeport, Buckeye Local and several from East Liverpool.

The complete rosters are as follows:

OHIO

Terry Adkins, Beaver Local; Jesse Ball, Harrison Central; Zach Bigelow, St. Clairsville; Garth Charlton, Cambridge; Robert Coppa, Indian Creek; Ben Davis, Toronto; Jack Davis, Martins Ferry; Trey Elerick, St. Clairsville; Zack Gill, East Liverpool; Jarett Hooper, Monroe Central; Justyn Keyser, Bellaire; Dylan Kidder, East Liverpool; Mason Ladyga, River; Casey Lewis, Fort Frye; William Lowe, Cambridge; Luke Matusik, River; Austin Mayfield, East Liverpool; Jalen McGee, Steubenville; Donnie Meadows, Shadyside; Sean Millard, Buckeye Local; Drone Moore, Steubenville; Freddie Plum, East Liverpool; Troy Pontius, Buckeye Trail; Konnor Roberts, Meadowbrook; Sam Robinson, Indian Creek; Cody Saksa, River; Carter Streiff, Buckeye Trail; Brenton

Stull, Harrison Central; Max Tice, Toronto; Dom Wallace, Martins Ferry; Kyle Wilson, Buckeye Trail; Danny Zdinak, Toronto; Zane Zimish, Steubenville

WEST VIRGINIA

Jordan Allen, Weir; Tyler Anderson, Tyler; Dylan Baker, Wheeling Central; Hayden Berry, Wheeling Park; John Burkhalter, Wheeling Central; Dante Carlier, Morgantown; J.C. Custer, Bishop Donahue; Alex Edgell, Brooke; Cody Enrietti, Weir; Brant Freeland, South; Adam Frisco, University; Gage Giovengo, Linsly; Brandon Hall, South; Hayden Hizer, Paden City; Jimmy Hull, Bishop Donahue; Lander James, Cameron; Jacob Kerekes, John Marshall; Logan Kranis, Oak Glen; Travis Lowther, Weir; Zack Martin, University; Michael Meaige, Wheeling Park; Trey Miller, Bishop Donahue; Michael Mills, Weir; Jacob Murray, Linsly; Peyton Powroznik, University; Jack Raitz, South; Jace Reed, Tyler; Isaac Rine, Wheeling Central; Donovan Spencer, Weir; Michael Starcher, Cameron; Chase Street, Magnolia; Zach Torbett, Wheeling Park; Chris Yachini, Brooke.

W.Va. Coaches Revealed for All-Star Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

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See W.VA., Page 16

W.VA.

(Continued from Page 15)

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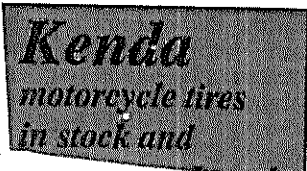
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West Virginia Backfield Ready for All-Star Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

MCMECHEN — John Durdines and his coaching staff were looking for a common trait when they started choosing their skill position players for the 72nd annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game.

"In a game like this, flexibility is big," Durdines said. "We looked for kids who could play multiple positions."

As he begins to narrow his roster into position groups, Durdines, who will guide West Virginia in the July 22 game at Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney Football Complex, thinks he found just that at both quarterback and running back.

"We have four quarterbacks on the roster, but they're all versatile enough to play other positions as

we need them," Durdines said. "We probably have a dozen or so kids who played running back. We have a good mix of power guys and home-run hitting types. We really like the mixture. We're excited to get them into camp."

Camp opens at Bethany College on Saturday, July 15.

Here's a capsule look at the players:

J.C. CUSTER, Bishop Donahue — This former Bishops running back had a brilliant career for Durdines' squad.

The 5-foot-7, 145 pounder rushed for 553 yards and six touchdowns on 87 carries. He also caught 30 passes for 453 yards and seven touchdowns.

His efforts were recognized as first-team all-OVAC and honorable mention all-state.

J.C., who plans to attend West

Virginia Northern, is the son of Nikki Blankenship of Moundsville.

CODY ENRIETTI, Weir — This Red Riders product had an impressive final season for Coach Tony Filberto's Red Riders.

The 6-3, 250-pounder ran 191 times for 1,398 yards and 14 touchdowns. He finished his career with 2,015 yards and 23 touchdowns on 245 carries.

Enrietti was recognized twice as first-team all-OVAC and All-Valley. He was also an all-state selection as a senior.

Cody, who plans to attend West Liberty, is the son of Michael and Marilyn Enrietti of Weirton.

HAYDEN HIZER, Paden City — This former Wildcat did a little bit of everything for Coach Brent Croasman's squad.

The 5-8, 170-pounder rushed

for 884 yards and 10 touchdowns. He also caught 20 passes for 195 yards and had three touchdowns via kick returns. Defensively, he logged 26 solos and 32 assists.

Hizer was a second-team all-state pick as a senior. He also was honored as all-OVAC, All-Valley for the second consecutive season.

Hayden, who plans to attend Ohio Valley University in Parkersburg, is the son of Bob and Kim Hizer.

JAMES HULL, Bishop Donahue — This former Bishop shifted to quarterback and shined for Durdines' team last season.

The 5-11, 140-pounder passed for 1,302 yards and 17 touchdowns. He was intercepted just three times. He also ran for 365 yards and three touchdowns.

Hull was a special mention all-

state pick and was also first team All-Valley and All-OVAC.

James, who plans to attend West Virginia University, is the son of Jim and Lori Hull.

JACE REED, Tyler Consolidated — This former Silver Knight shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Ryan Walton's team.

The 5-11, 190-pounder ran for more than 1,000 yards as both a sophomore and senior, while scoring 42 touchdowns. He missed the bulk of his junior season with an injury.

Reed was a second-team all-state pick as a senior. He was also first-team all-OVAC.

Jace, who is the son of Sabrina Buchanan and Mike Reed, plans to attend West Virginia University.

See **BACKFIELD**, Page 10

Ohio Boasts Speed at WR

Mumley camp begins July 15

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

MARTINS FERRY —

Karl Justus plans to mix the run and pass through his spread-offense attack during the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

With a solid pair of quarterbacks in place, Justus announced the wide receivers for his team, which begins camp July 15 in preparation for the game, which will be held one week later at the Dave Bruney Football Complex.

"We have good size and good speed at wide receiver," Justus said. "I think these kids will be more than adequate."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

ZACH GILL, East Liverpool — This Pot- ters standout had a big season for Coach Josh Ludwig's squad last fall.

The 6-foot-2, 210-pounder caught 42 passes for 443 yards and six touchdowns last season to set a school record. He also owns the single-game record with 11 receptions for 110 yards.

He earned the school's Craig Burdick Award, which goes to the offensive MVP.

Along with football, Gill was also active in Relay for Life and Special Olympics.

Zach, who is the son of Tom and Karrie Gill, plans to attend Westminster College.

JUSTYN KEYSER, Bellaire — This Big Reds standout was an

impact player on both sides of the ball for Coach Mark Spigarelli's team.

The 6-2, 170-pounder finished his career with 85 receptions for 980 yards and six touchdowns. He had 38 of those catches and all of his touchdowns as a senior. On the defensive side, he finished with 207 career solo tackles, 27 passes defended and six interceptions.

Keyser was a third team All-Ohio pick and named to the All-OVAC, All-Buckeye 8, All-Times Leader, All-Valley and All-Eastern District first teams.

Also a standout in track, Keyser was All-Ohio in three events (high hurdles, intermediate hurdles, 4x2) as a senior. He also played in both the OVAC and District 12 All-Star Basketball Games.

Keyser, who is the son of Jeff and Jill Keyser, plans to attend Belmont College.

TROY PONTIUS, Buckeye Trail — This former Warrior did basically everything except sell popcorn for Coach Donnie Kerns' team.

Shining as a quarterback, Pontius passed for 1,009 yards, rushed for 1,803 and caught passes worth 495 yards en route to 36 touchdowns during his prep career.

Pontius was a third team All-Ohio pick as a senior. He was All-OVAC, All-PVC, All-Eastern District following last season.

Pontius, who plans to attend Marietta College,

Please See **OHIO**, Page 14

OHIO

(Continued from Page 13)

is the son of Brenda and Tim Pontius.

DANNY ZDINAK, Toronto — This former Red Knight affected games in a bevy of ways for Coach Eric Meek's team.

The 5-11, 170-pounder rushed for 436 yards and nine touchdowns; caught 11 passes for 225 yards and three touchdowns and had four interceptions along with 65 tackles from his second-

ary spot. He also kicked for the Knights, connecting on 36 PATs and three field goals.

Zdinak was named third team All-Ohio, first team All-Eastern District, All-OVAC, All-Valley and All-Quad County.

Zdinak, who plans to play baseball at Ashland University, is the son of Dan and Debra Zdinak.

BACKFIELD

(Continued from Page 9)

ISAAC RINE, Wheeling Central — This former Maroon Knights standout was a model of consistency during his career under Mike Young.

The 5-9, 180-pounder threw for more than 4,000 career yards, while rushing for better than 1,000 yards. He accounted for 69 career touchdowns.

Rine's production was recognized by virtue of being named first-team all-state, All-Valley and All-OVAC.

He was a three-time selection to the All-OVAC squad.

Isaac, who plans to attend Marietta College to play baseball, is the son of Jason and Heather Rine of Wheeling.

OVAC Annual Football Camp

The Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Charity Football Classic annual SUBWAY Sports Clinic free youth football clinic, will be held on July 22 on the Purple Rider Stadium in Martins Ferry at 1-2:30 p.m. Registration begins at the stadium from noon-12:45 p.m.

Leading the camp will be Cameron Head Coach Scott Holt as well as members of his own staff, and coaches from John Marshall and Bethany College will be helping out.

The instructors will teach the basic fundamentals of football and building self-esteem. The clinic is free and open to boys and girls ages 6-13. The 90-minute clinic will focus on helping the kids improve on their mechanics. There will be no contact and children will learn more on stances and starts, as well as working with tackling dummies.

While the middle school-aged players will be more advanced, Holt is hoping to get the younger kids a chance to feel what it is like to have a football in their hands for the first time

among their peers.

"With them, it is more about socializing and hopefully making sure everyone is going in the same direction," Holt said with a laugh. "There are going to be a range of abilities and we only have 90 minutes so it won't be too in-depth. Hopefully they can come out of it learning something."

"We want to help them build self-esteem and go forward with football. Football is a game everyone can play. It is not just for the biggest kid or the fastest kid."

"We want the kids to know that when they see us on Friday night, we are regular people, too. Our coaches are out there to make sure everyone is safe and has fun. It will be a great experience for the price of nothing and a great way to get the day started."

Parents or legal guardians are required to have insurance and be present the day of the clinic to sign a waiver form. For more information, visit www.ovac.org or email James Companion at james@ssmlc.com or phone (304) 639-1238.

West Virginia backs set for OVAC Game

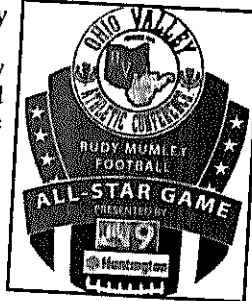
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See, OVAC, Page B2

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His efforts were recognized as first-team all-OVAC and honorable mention all-state.

J.C., who plans to attend West Virginia Northern, is the son of Nikki Blankenship of Moundsville.

CODY ENRIETTI, Weir — This Red Rider product had an impressive final season for Coach Tony Filberto's Red Riders.

The 6-3, 250 pounder ran 191 times for 1,398 yards and 14 touchdowns. All told, he finished his career with 2,015 yards and 23 touchdowns on 245 carries.

Enrietti was recognized twice as first-team all-OVAC and all-Valley. He was also an all-state selection as a

senior.

Cody, who plans to attend West Liberty, is the son of Michael and Marilyn Enrietti of Weirton.

HAYDEN HIZER, Paden City — This former Wildcat did a little bit of everything for Coach Brent Croasman's squad.

The 5-8, 170 pounder rushed for 884 yards and 10 touchdowns. He also caught 20 passes for 195 yards and had three touchdowns via-kick returns. Defensively, he logged 26 solos and 32 assists.

Hizer was a second-team all-state pick as a senior. He also was honored as all-OVAC, all-Valley for the second consecutive season.

Hayden, who plans to attend Ohio Valley University in Parkersburg, is the son of Bob and Kim Hizer.

JAMES HULL, Bishop Donahue — This former Bishop shifted to quarterback and shined for Durdines' team last season.

The 5-11, 140 pounder passed for 1,302 yards and 17 touchdowns. He was intercepted just three times. He also ran for 365 yards and three touchdowns.

Hull was a special mention all-state pick and was also first-team all-Valley and all-OVAC.

James, who plans to attend West

Virginia University, is the son of Jim and Lori Hull.

JACE REED, Tyler Consolidated — This former Silver Knight shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Ryan Walton's team.

The 5-11, 190 pounder ran for more than 1,000 yards as both a sophomore and senior, while scoring 42 touchdowns. He missed the bulk of his junior season with an injury.

Reed was a second-team all-state pick as a senior. He was also first-team all-OVAC.

Jace, who is the son of Sabrina Buchanan and Mike Reed, plans to attend West Virginia University.

ISAAC RINE, Wheeling Central — This former Maroon Knights was a model of consistency during his career under Mike Young.

The 5-9, 180 pounder threw for more than 4,000 career yards, while rushing for better than 1,000 yards. He accounted for 69 career touchdowns.

Rine's production was recognized by virtue of being named first-team all-state, all-Valley and all-OVAC. He was a three-time selection to the all-OVAC squad.

Isaac, who plans to attend Marietta College to play baseball, is the son of Jason and Heather Rine of Wheeling.

C

Sunday News-Register

JULY 2, 2017

SPORTS

INSIDE:

Kapral Column/Page C2

All-Valley Track/Page C3

NHL Free Agency/Page C5

Wimbledon/Page C7

Ohio Backfield Revealed for All-Star Game

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

MARTINS FERRY — Prior to selecting his roster for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, Ohio head coach Karl Justus spent a lot of time looking at film to get guys that would fit his spread system.

He thinks he's found the ideal pieces, too.

Justus has named his backfield candidates for the game, which is slated for July 22 at Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney Football Complex. The players will begin to learn the system July 15 when they report to camp at Bethany College.

"It'll depend on how much the quarterbacks can handle, but I think we'll be good with using our system," Justus said. "I've seen the kids play on film and they'll be fine."

As for the running backs, Ohio boasts a batch that contains speed and power, which was exactly what Justus sought.

"We looked for the best kids," Justus said. "We looked at the nominations' film and went from there."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

JESSE BALL, Harrison Central — This former Huskie shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Justin Kropka's team last season.

The 6-foot-1, 245-pounder lined up at fullback and linebacker, posting more than 200 yards rushing and more than 100 receiving, while paving the way for the Huskies' other backs. Defensively, he logged 112 tackles, including 25 for loss and five sacks.

Ball was the Eastern District's Co-Defensive Player of the Year and earned first team All-Ohio. He was also first-team All-OVAC.

Ball, who plans to attend Theil University, is the son of Glen and Hellen Ball of Scio.

ROBERT COPPA, Indian Creek — This former Redskin was a standout in the

backfield for Coach Andrew Connor's squad.

The 5-9, 175-pounder scored 24 touchdowns, while accumulating 1,300 yards on the ground. He also caught passes that covered 300 yards during his career. Defensively, he recorded 248 tackles, forced four fumbles and recovered five.

Coppa was twice named All-Eastern District and All-OVAC. He was also twice named All-Quad County.

Along with athletics, Coppa is a member of the National Honor Society and Key Club.

See Backfield, Page C2

BACKFIELD

Continued from page C1

Robert, who is the son of Bob and Kelli Coppa of Wintersville, plans to attend John Carroll University.

CASEY LEWIS, Fort Frye — This former Cadet played a major role in helping Coach Eric Huck's team reach the regional final last season.

The 5-11, 190-pounder ran for 1,805 yards and 37 touchdowns last season, which followed a 987-yard junior campaign.

He was named All-PVC three times, All-OVAC three times and twice to the All-Ohio squad.

Casey, who plans to attend Marietta College, is the son of Chris and Karri Lewis of Beverly.

AUSTIN MAYFIELD, East Liverpool — This former Potter put up huge numbers in helping to lead Coach Josh Ludwig's team.

The 6-2, 205-pounder finished with 2,861 yards passing and 19 touchdowns. He ran for 881 yards and 13 touchdowns during his career. He was also the Potters' punter.

Mayfield, who owns all of East Liverpool's passing records, was named first-team All-Eastern District and second team All-Ohio. He was All-OVAC and second-team All-Valley.

Mayfield, who plans to attend West Lib-

erty, is the son of Jim and Billi Jo Mayfield.

KONNOR ROBERTS, Meadowbrook — This former Colt had a brilliant career for head coach Jeff Twiddy's team.

The 6-0, 180-pounder threw for 1,970 yards and 20 touchdowns. He was named third team All-Ohio as a junior and second-team this past season. He was also twice named to the All-OVAC and All-ECOL teams.

Along with football, Roberts played basketball and baseball.

Konnor, who plans to attend Ohio Dominican, is the son of Tony and Shelley Roberts of Byesville.

MAX TICE, Toronto — This former Red Knight was a go-to-guy for Coach Eric Meek's squad last season.

The 5-10, 185-pounder ran for 735 yards and 12 touchdowns, while averaging 8.5 yards per carry. He rushed for 788 as a junior. Defensively, Tice shined at linebacker, accumulating 68 tackles and picking off two passes. He also recovered two fumbles.

Tice's fine seasons didn't go unnoticed. He was named all-Quad County, All-Eastern District, All-OVAC and honorable mention All-Ohio.

Max, who plans to attend Marietta College, is the son of Jorjanna and Jim Vastenberg of Toronto.

SPORTS

B

Sunday,
June 25, 2017

Ohio backfield options named

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY – Prior to selecting his roster for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, Ohio head coach Karl Justus spent a lot of time looking at film to get guys that would fit his spread system.

He thinks he's found the ideal pieces, too.

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candidates for the game, which is slated for the July 22 at Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney Football Complex. The players will begin to learn the system on July 15 when they report to camp at Bethany College.

"It'll depend on how much the quarterbacks can handle, but I think we'll be good with using our system,"

Justus said. "I've seen the kids play on

film and they'll be fine."

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"We looked for the best kids," Justus said. "We looked at the nominations' film and went from there."

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JESSE BALL, Harrison Central – This former Huskie shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Justin Kropka's team

See, **OVAC**, Page B2

TIMES LEADER - Sunday, July 2, 2017 - B2

• **OVAC**

Continued from Page B1

last season.

The 6-1, 245 pounder lined up at fullback and line-backer, posting more than 200 yards rushing and more than 100 receiving, while paving the way for the Huskies' other backs. Defensively, he logged 112 tackles, including 25 for loss and five sacks.

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Ball, who plans to attend Theil University, is the son of Glen and Hellen Ball of Scio.

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Along with athletics, Coppa is a member of the National Honor Society and Key Club.

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He was named all-PVC three times, all-OVAC three times and twice to the all-Ohio squad.

Casey, who plans to attend Marietta College, is the son of Chris and Karri Lewis of Beverly.

AUSTIN MAYFIELD, East Liverpool – This former Potter put up some huge numbers in helping to lead Coach Josh Ludwig's team.

The 6-2, 205 pounder finished with 2,861 yards passing and 19 touchdowns. He ran for 881 yards and 13 more touchdowns during his career. He was also the Potters' punter.

Mayfield, who owns all of East Liverpool's passing records, was named first-team all-Eastern District and second-team all-Ohio. He was all-OVAC and second-team all-Valley.

Mayfield, who plans to attend West Liberty, is the son of Jim and Billi Jo Mayfield.

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SECTION
B

Thursday,
July 6, 2017

Ohio tabs receivers for OVAC A-S Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY – Karl Justus plans to mix the run and pass through his spread-offense attack during the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

With a solid pair of quarterbacks in place, Justus announced the wide receivers for his team, which begins camp on July 15 in preparation for the game, which will be held one week later at the Dave Bruneau Football Complex.

"We have good size and good speed at wide receiver," Justus said. "I think these kids will be more than adequate."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

ZACH GILL, East Liverpool – This Potters standout had a big season for Coach Josh Ludwig's squad last fall.

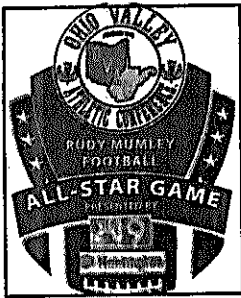
The 6-2, 210 pounder caught 42 passes for 443 yards and six touchdowns last season to set a school record. He also owns the single-game record with 11 receptions for 110 yards.

He earned the school's Craig Burdick Award, which goes to the offensive MVP.

Along with football, Gill was also active in Relay for Life and Special Olympics.

Zach, who is the son of Tom and Karrie Gill, plans to attend Westminster College.

JUSTYN KEYSER, Bellaire – This Big Reds' standout was an impact player



W. Va. sets receivers for OVAC A-S Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

McMECHEN – The West Virginia squad won't hesitate to put the ball in the air during the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

And why would it?

Coach John Durdines and his staff have a plethora of possibilities at wide receiver for the game against Ohio that is slated for July 22 at the Dave Bruneau Football Complex in Martins Ferry.

"We love the blend of guys we have," Durdines said. "We have two really big, athletic exceptional receivers and we have a lot of guys who can also go into the slot. We think if we can get guys in space we can be a matchup nightmare with our speed."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

JOHN BURKHALTER, Wheeling Central – This talented wide receiver was a multi-year standout for Coach Mike Young's team.

The 6-1, 180 pounder was named first-team all-state and was a first-team all-OVAC. He was also a Big 22 nominee.

Burkhalter, who is the son of Eric and Sharon Burkhalter, plans to attend West Liberty.

BRANDON HALL, Parkersburg South – This former Patriot had an impressive career for Coach Mike Eddy's team.

The 6-3, 210 pounder was an all-OVAC honoree multiple times and also named to the all-TRAC squad. He was a special mention all-state pick, too.

Brandon is the son of Charles and Crystal Hall.

JACOB MURRAY, This former Cadet was a go-to-guy for Coach B.J. Depew's team in the passing game.

The 6-1, 185 pounder caught 24 passes for 413 yards. He also had 63 tackles and five interceptions from his defensive back post. He connected on 29 point after touchdowns.

Murray was named all-Valley and all-Times Leader.

Along with football, he's active as a Linsly Day Camp counselor and also in the Spanish Club.

Jacob, who plans to attend Ohio University, is the son of Jim and Kelly Mur-

See, W. VA., Page B2

• Ohio

Continued from Page B1

on both sides of the ball for Coach Mark Spigarelli's team.

The 6-2, 170 pounder finished his career with 85 receptions for 980 yards and six touchdowns. He had 38 of those catches and all of his touchdowns as a senior. On the defensive side, he finished with 207 career solo tackles, 27 passes defended and six interceptions.

Keyser was a third-team all-Ohio pick and named to the all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8, all-Times Leader, All-Valley and all-Eastern District first teams.

Also a standout in track, Keyser was all-Ohio in three events (high hurdles, intermediate hurdles, 4x2) as a senior. He also played in both the OVAC and District 12 All-Star Basketball Games.

Keyser, who is the son of Jeff and Jill Keyser, plans to attend Belmont College.

TROY PONTIUS, Buckeye Trail – This former Warrior did basically everything except sell popcorn for Coach Donnie Kerns' team.

Shining as a quarterback, Pontius passed for 1,009 yards, rushed for 1,803 and caught passes worth 495 yards en route to 36 touchdowns during his prep career.

Pontius was a third-team all-Ohio pick as a senior. He was all-OVAC, all-PVC, all-Eastern District following last season.

Pontius, who plans to attend Marietta College, is the son of Brenda and Tim Pontius.

DANNY ZDINAK, Toronto – This former Red Knight affected games in a bevy of ways for Coach Eric Meek's team.

The 5-11, 170 pounder rushed for 436 yards and nine touchdowns; caught 11 passes for 225 yards and 3 touchdowns and had four interceptions along with 65 tackles from his secondary spot. He also kicked for the Knights, connecting on 36 PATs and three field goals.

Zdinak was named third-team all-Ohio, first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Valley and all-Quad County.

Zdinak, who plans to play baseball at Ashland University, is the son of Dan and Debra Zdinak.

• W.Va.

Continued from Page B1

ray.

DONOVAN SPENCER, Weir – This former Red Rider speedster could affect a game in a myriad of ways for Coach Tony Filberto's team.

The 5-10, 170 pounder rushed for 1,121 yards and 11 touchdowns. He caught 21 passes for 500 yards and four touchdowns and he passed for 700 yards and nine touchdowns during his career.

Spencer, also a multiple-time sprint state champion in track, was named all-state, all-OVAC and all-Valley.

Donovan, who is the son of Gerard and Frances Spencer, plans to attend St. Francis University.

CHRIS YACHINI, Brooke – This former Bruin had a big season for Coach Mac McLean's team last season.

The 6-2, 185 pounder caught passes covering 995 yards and 11 touchdowns. He accounted for 1,515 all-purpose yards. He had 70 tackles on the defensive side of the ball along with two sacks.

For his efforts, he was named first-team all-state, all-USA Today West Virginia and all-Valley captain.

Along with football, Yachini was an all-state basketball selection.

Chris, who is the son of former OVAC all-star Rob Yachini, plans to attend West Virginia University.

See, OHIO, Page B2

SHOW ME THE MONEY

Edmonton Oilers star Connor McDavid signed an eight-year, \$100 million extension, making him the NHL's highest paid player/15

The Intelligencer SPORTS

THURSDAY
JULY 6, 2017

COMICS17

13

W.Va. Squad Has Plenty of Weapons at WR

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

McMECHEN – The West Virginia squad won't hesitate to put the ball in the air during the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

And why would it?

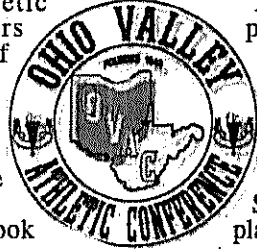
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Burkhalter, who is the son of Eric and Sharon Burkhalter, plans to attend West Liberty.

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DONOVAN SPENCER, Weir – This former Red Rider speedster could affect a game in a myriad of ways for Coach Tony Filberto's team.

See WEAPONS, Page 14

WEAPONS

(Continued from Page 13)

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For his efforts, he was named first team all-state, All-USA Today West Virginia and All-Valley captain.

Along with football, Yachini was an all-state basketball selection.

Chris, who is the son of former OVAC all-star Rob Yachini, plans to attend West Virginia University.



Justus Loves His Line

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer
MARTINS FERRY —
High school football always
seems to boil down to line
play.

Regardless if it's regular
season or an all-star game,
being able to win the game in
the trenches is paramount.

Ohio head coach Karl Jus-
tus is aware of that and
believes his squad will be
more than ready up front for
the annual OVAC Rudy
Mumley All-Star Football
Game, which is slated for
Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney
Football Complex two weeks
from tonight.

"Our offensive and defen-
sive lines should be good,"
Justus said. "We have some
big kids who seem to all
move well. We have guys
who are good at pass and run
blocking. Plus, they're all
fairly versatile and can play a
lot of different positions up
front."

Here's a capsule look at
the players:

TERRY ADKINS,
Beaver Local — This former
Beaver shined at defensive
end for then head coach Jer-
emy McElroy's team.

The 6-foot-2, 248
pounder recorded 88 pan-
cake blocks during his senior
season en route to third team
All-Ohio honors. He was a

Please See **JUSTUS**, Page 10

JUSTUS

(Continued from Page 9)

first team All-Eastern Dis-
trict pick and also named a
Columbiana County All-
Star.

Terry, who plans on
attending Thiel College, is
the son of Kim and Dave
Gauley.

BEN DAVIS, Toronto
— This former Red Knight
was a two-way standout for
Coach Eric Meek's team,
shining at tackle.

On the defensive side,
the 6-2, 220 pounder
recorded 41 tackles, 1.5
sacks and recovered a fum-
ble.

Davis was named to the
Quad County All-Star
Team.

Ben, who is the son of
Doug Davis and Lisa Feist,
plans to attend Pittsburgh
Technical College.

JACK DAVIS, Martins
Ferry — This former Pur-
ple Rider caused opposing
offenses all sorts of prob-
lems from his defensive end
position.

The 6-2, 205 pounder
posted 45 tackles, 6.5 sacks
and broke up six passes. He
also saw time at tight end,
making eight catches for
140 yards and a touch-
down.

Davis was a third team
All-Ohioan, All-OVAC,
All-Eastern District and
All-Times Leader selection.
He was also one of the Five
Blocks of Granite.

Jack, who plans to attend
West Liberty, is the son of
Amanda Baker.

TREY ELERICK, St.
Clairsville — This former
Red Devil anchored the
offensive line for Coach
Brett McLean's team.

A three-year starter at
center, the 5-11, 185
pounder averaged a 90-per-
cent grade. He also served
as the long snapper.

Elerick was named All-
OVAC, All-Valley, All-
Eastern District and was
twice named Hog of the
Year Award winner.

Along with football,
Elerick shined in track and
field, was a member of the
National Honor Society and
was Vice President of the
French Club.

Trey, who plans to attend
Ohio State University, is
the son of Diane Elerick and
the late Sean Elerick.

MASON LADYGA,
River — This former Pilot
was a mainstay along the
offensive and defensive
lines for Coach Mike Flan-
nery's team.

The 6-2, 235 pounder
was a four-year starter on
both lines. He finished with
44 tackles, 10 solo tackles
and 34 assists. Five of
those went for a loss.

Ladyga's fine season was
a first team All-OVAC,
All-Eastern District and
special mention All-Ohio
selection.

Along with football,
Ladyga was a member of
the National Honor Society,
he volunteered at the Bel-
mont County Election
Board and was a member of
the Art and Spanish Club.

Mason, who plans to
attend Belmont College, is
the son of Doug and Lea
Ladyga.

LUKE MATUSIK,
River — This two-way
standout put forth a brilliant
final campaign — and
career — for Flannery's
Pilots.

The 6-2, 205 pounder
recorded 67 tackles, includ-
ing 29 solos. He had 10
sacks and 19 tackles for
loss. He graded out at 91
percent from his left tackle
spot.

Matusik was recognized
as All-OVAC, All-Eastern
District, All-Ohio honor-
able mention and won the
individual top honor at the
Big Cat Lineman Chal-
lenge.

Matusik was also a dele-

gate to Buckeye Boys State.

Luke, who plans to
attend Belmont College to
study welding, is the son of
Mike and Shawna Matusik.

DONNIE MEADOWS,
Shadyside — This former
Tiger was a mainstay on
both sides of the line for
Coach Mark Holenka's
Tigers.

The 6-3, 280 pounder
posted 143 career tackles
and graded out at 93 per-
cent as a senior along the
offensive line.

Twice, Meadows was
named All-OVAC. He was
a second-team All-Ohio
pick as a senior and was
also first team All-Eastern
District and All-Times
Leader.

Donnie, who is the son
of Don and Amanda Mead-
ows, is undecided about his
future plans.

FREDDIE PLUM, East
Liverpool — This former
Potter was a standout along
the defensive line for Coach
Josh Ludwig's squad.

The 6-6, 265 pounder
posted 192 tackles, includ-
ing 45 for loss. He also had
14 sacks, three fumble
recoveries and four forced
fumbles during his career.

Plum was named to the
Quad County All-Star
Team and was a Blocks of
Granite nominee.

Freddie, who plans to
attend West Virginia State,
is the son of Molly Moffett
and Nate Moffett.

SAM ROBINSON,
Indian Creek — This for-
mer Redskin was a two-
way force for Coach
Andrew Connor's squad
last season.

The 6-0, 240 pounder
was named first team All-
Eastern District and special
mention All-Ohio.

Robinson is also a mem-
ber of the National Honor
Society, Key Club and 4H.

Sam, who plans to attend
West Virginia University, is
the son of David and Julie
Robinson.

BRENTON STULL,
Harrison Central — This
former Huskie played a bevy
of positions along the
line for Coach Justin Krop-
ka's team.

The 5-11, 245 pounder
lettered four times and was
named All-Eastern District
three times. He was second
team All-Ohio and served
as a team captain.

Along with football, Stull
was a standout in wrestling,
too.

Brenton, who plans to
attend Thiel College, is the
son of Brian and Suzanne
Stull.

DOM WALLACE,
Martins Ferry — This for-
mer Purple Rider played
both ways exceptionally
well for Coach Dave
Bruney's team.

The 6-0, 290 pounder
was a two-way tackle for
the Riders and earned sev-
eral postseason honors.

Wallace was also an All-
Ohioan in wrestling, plac-
ing third in the OHSAA's
state wrestling tournament
at 285 pounds.

Dom, who plans to
attend Kent State Tus-
carawas to wrestle, is the
son of Shawna Watts.

KYLE WILSON,
Buckeye Trail — This for-
mer Warrior shined on both
sides of the ball for Coach
Donnie Kerns' team.

The 5-11, 260
pounder was a leader on
the offensive line from
his guard spot and defen-
sively he logged 24 tack-
les, including nine for
loss from his defensive
tackle spot.

Wilson was named sec-
ond-team Eastern District
and first-team PVC. He was
a honorable mention All-
OVAC Class 3A pick.

Kyle is the son of Brian
and Vicki Wilson.

C

Sunday News-Register

JULY 9, 2017

SPORTS

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Durdines Values Effort Along Line for W. Va.

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

McMECHEN — John Durdines admitted that sometimes evaluating linemen on film can be tough.

So, he went to the coaches and sought opinions on one major quality.

"Effort was a big thing we were looking for," Durdines said. "You can teach scheme and things, but you have to effort from those guys up front."

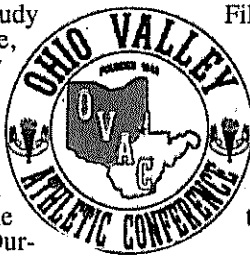
The West Virginia head coach believes he's found that with the group of linemen he's selected

for the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game, which is slated for July 22 at Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney Football Complex.

"We have kids who have pretty good size and they seem to be able to move pretty well," Durdines offered. "We're excited to see them gel together."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

JORDAN ALLEN, Weir — This former Red Rider shined at defensive end for Coach Tony



Filberto's squad.

The 6-foot-1, 225-pounder finished his career with 176 tackles, 38 sacks, seven forced fumbles, four fumble recoveries and two interceptions.

He was twice named first team all-state, All-OVAC and All-Valley. He was also listed as all-state according to USA Today and was a WTOV-9 Block of Granite award winner.

Jordan, who plans to attend

West Liberty, is the son of Lou and Sheila Allen.

HAYDEN BERRY, Wheeling Park — This former Patriot shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Chris Daugherty's team.

The 5-9, 220-pounder was a key cog on both fronts. Defensively, he had 21 tackles, including 11 solo. He also had 1.5 sacks.

Berry was named all-TRAC and served as a team captain.

Hayden, who plans to attend West Virginia University, is the son of Heather Berry and

Kemoathe Green.

DANTE CARLIER, Morgantown — This former Mohigan helped anchor the offensive line for Coach Matt Lacy's team.

The 5-10, 260-pounder paved the way for a 1,300-yard rusher.

Danté, who is the son of Brandy Carlier, plans to attend West Virginia.

LANDER JAMES, Cameron — This two-year starter helped anchor the offensive line from his center spot for Coach Scott Holt's team.

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LINE

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The 6-4, 225-pounder served as a team captain and was named first team All-OVAC, All-Valley and third team all-state.

Along with football, James is a standout in the classroom as a National Honor Society and Student Council member.

Lander, who plans to attend Fairmont State, is the son of Eric James and Courtney Appellenzor.

JACOB KEREKES, John Marshall — This Monarch graduate served as nose guard and offensive tackle for Coach Rick Goodrich's team.

The 6-0, 300-pounder posted 25 tackles, 20 assists and three sacks as a senior en route to earning All-TRAC and honorable mention All-OVAC.

Jacob, who plans to attend West Liberty, is the son of Ron and Melissa Kerekas.

LOGAN KRANIS, Oak Glen — This former Golden Bear was impressive on both sides of the ball for Coach Ted Arneault's team.

The 6-3, 282-pounder posted 38 solo tackles and 58 total stops as a senior. He was named his team's Defensive Player of the Year.

A standout in the classroom, Kranis is a member of the Key Club and Business Club, while also participating in track and wrestling.

Logan, who plans to attend Waynesburg, is the son of Robert and Cassandra Kranis.

TRAVIS LOWTHER, Weir — This former Red Rider was a two-way tackle for Filberto's squad.

The 6-2, 220-pounder was recognized as second team All-OVAC.

Travis, who plans to attend West Liberty, is the son of Ken and Rachel Paris.

ZACK MARTIN, University — This former Hawk was an offensive tackle for John Kelley's team.

The 6-0, 305-pounder earned honorable mention All-OVAC.

Zack is the son of Royce Martin.

PEYTON POWROZNIK, University — This former Hawk was the center and a defensive line standout for Kelley's team.

The 6-2, 250-pounder finished with 22 tackles, including nine sacks and 4.5 tackles for loss.

Powroznik was named second team all-state, first team All-OVAC and All-TRAC.

A standout in academics, Powroznik is a member of the National Honor Society.

Peyton, who is the son of Kirk and Kristi Powroznik, plans to attend West Virginia.

JACK RAITZ, Parkersburg South — This former Patriot shined at a bevy of spots for Coach Mike Eddy's team.

The 5-9, 200-pounder saw time at guard and at both defensive line and linebacker during his career.

Raitz was named second team all-state and first team All-OVAC.

Jack, who plans to attend West Virginia, is the son of Brian and Christa Raitz.



SPORTS SATURDAY

THE PULSE OF LOCAL SPORTS

Ohio linemen selected for OVAC Game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

MARTINS FERRY — High school football always seems to boil down to line play.

Regardless if it's regular season or an all-star game, being able to win the game in the trenches is paramount.

Ohio head coach Karl Justus is certainly aware of that and believes his squad will be more than ready up front for the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, which is slated for Martins Ferry's Dave Bruney Football Complex two weeks

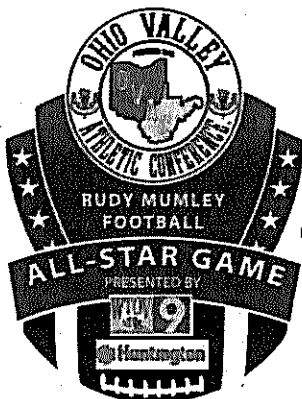
from tonight.

"Our offensive and defensive lines should be good," Justus said. "We have some big kids who can seem to all move well. We have guys who are good at pass and run blocking. Plus, they're all fairly versatile and can play a lot of different positions up front."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

TERRY ADKINS, Beaver Local — This former Beaver shined at defensive end for then head coach Jeremy McElroy's team.

The 6-2, 248 pounder record-



ed 88 pancake blocks during his senior season en route to third-

team all-Ohio honors. He was a first-team all-Eastern District pick and also named a Columbiana County All-Star.

Terry, who plans on attending Thiel College, is the son of Kim and Dave Gauley.

BEN DAVIS, Toronto — This former Red Knight was a two-way standout for Coach Eric Meek's team, shining at tackle.

On the defensive side, the 6-2, 220 pounder recorded 41 tackles, 1.5 sacks and recovered a fumble.

Davis was named to the Quad County All-Star Team.

Ben, who is the son of Doug Davis and Lisa Feist, plans to

attend Pittsburgh Technical College.

JACK DAVIS, Martins Ferry — This former Purple Rider caused opposing offenses all sorts of problems from his defensive end position.

The 6-2, 205 pounder posted 45 tackles, 6.5 sacks and broke up six passes. He also saw time at tight end, making eight catches for 140 yards and a touchdown.

Davis was a third-team all-Ohioan, all-OVAC, all-Eastern District and all Times Leader selection. He was also one of the Five Blocks of Granite.

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west Liberty, is the son of Amanda Baker.

TREY ELERICK, St. Clairsville — This former Red Devil anchored the offensive line for Coach Brett McLean's team.

A three-year starter at center, the 5-11, 185 pounder averaged a 90 percent grade. He also served as the long snapper.

Elerick was named all-OVAC, all-Valley, all-Eastern District and was twice named Hog of the Year Award winner.

Along with football, Elerick shined in track and field, was a member of the National Honor Society and was Vice President of the French Club.

Trey, who plans to attend Ohio State University, is the son of Diane Elerick and the late Sean Elerick.

MASON LADYGA, River — This former Pilot was a mainstay along the offensive and defensive lines for Coach Mike Flannery's team.

The 6-2, 235 pounder was a four-year starter on both lines. He finished with 44 tackles, 10 solo tackles and 34 assists. Five of those went for a loss.

Ladyga's fine season was a first-team all-OVAC, all-Eastern District and special mention all-Ohio selection.

Along with football, Ladyga was a member of the National Honor Society, he volunteered at the Bel-

Board and a member of the Art and Spanish Club.

Mason, who plans to attend Belmont College, is the son of Doug and Lea Ladyga.

LUKE MATUSIK, River — This two-way standout put forth a brilliant final campaign — and career — for Flannery's Pilots.

The 6-2, 205 pounder recorded 67 tackles, including 29 solos. He had 10 sacks and 19 tackles for loss. He graded out at 91 percent from his left tackle spot.

Matusik was recognized as all-OVAC, all-Eastern District, all-Ohio honorable mention and won the individual top honor at the Big Cat Lineman Challenge.

Matusik was also a delegate to Buckeye Boys State.

Luke, who plans to attend Belmont College to study welding, is the son of Mike and Shawna Matusik.

DONNIE MEADOWS, Shadyside — This former Tiger was a mainstay on both sides of the line for Coach Mark Holenka's Tigers.

The 6-3, 280 pounder posted 143 career tackles and graded out at 93 percent as a senior along the offensive line.

Twice, Meadows was named all-OVAC. He was a second-team all-Ohio pick as a senior and was also first-team all-Eastern District and all-Times Leader.

Don and Amanda Meadows, is undecided about his future plans.

FREDDIE PLUM, East Liverpool — This former Potter was a standout along the defensive line for Coach Josh Ludwig's squad.

The 6-6, 265 pounder posted 192 tackles, including 45 for loss. He also had 14 sacks, three fumble recoveries and four forced fumbles during his career.

Plum was named to the Quad County All-Star Team and was a Blocks of Granite nominee.

Freddie, who plans to attend West Virginia State, is the son of Molly Moffett and Nate Moffett.

SAM ROBINSON, Indian Creek — This former Redskin was a two-way force for Coach Andrew Connor's squad last season.

The 6-0, 240 pounder was named first-team all-Eastern District and special mention all-Ohio.

Robinson is also a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club and 4H.

Sam, who plans to attend West Virginia University, is the son of David and Julie Robinson.

BRENTON STULL, Harrison Central — This former Huskie played a bevy of positions along the line for Coach Justin Kropka's team.

The 5-11, 245 pounder lettered four times and was named all-Eastern District

team all-Ohio and served as a team captain.

Along with football, Stull was a standout in wrestling, too.

Brenton, who plans to attend Thiel College, is the son of Brian and Suzanne Stull.

DOM WALLACE, Martins Ferry — This former Purple Rider played both ways exceptionally well for Coach Dave Bruney's team.

The 6-0, 290 pounder was a two-way tackle for the Riders and earned several post-season honors.

Wallace was also an all-Ohioan in wrestling, placing third in the OHSAA's state wrestling tournament at 285 pounds.

Dom, who plans to attend Kent State Tuscarawas to wrestle, is the son of Shawna Watts.

KYLE WILSON, Buckeye Trail — This former Warrior shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Donnie Kerns' team.

The 5-11, 260 pounder was a leader on the offensive line from his guard spot and defensively he logged 24 tackles, including nine for loss from his defensive tackle spot.

Wilson was named second-team Eastern District and first-team PVC. He was a honorable mention all-OVAC Class 3A pick.

Kyle is the son of Brian and Vicki Wilson.