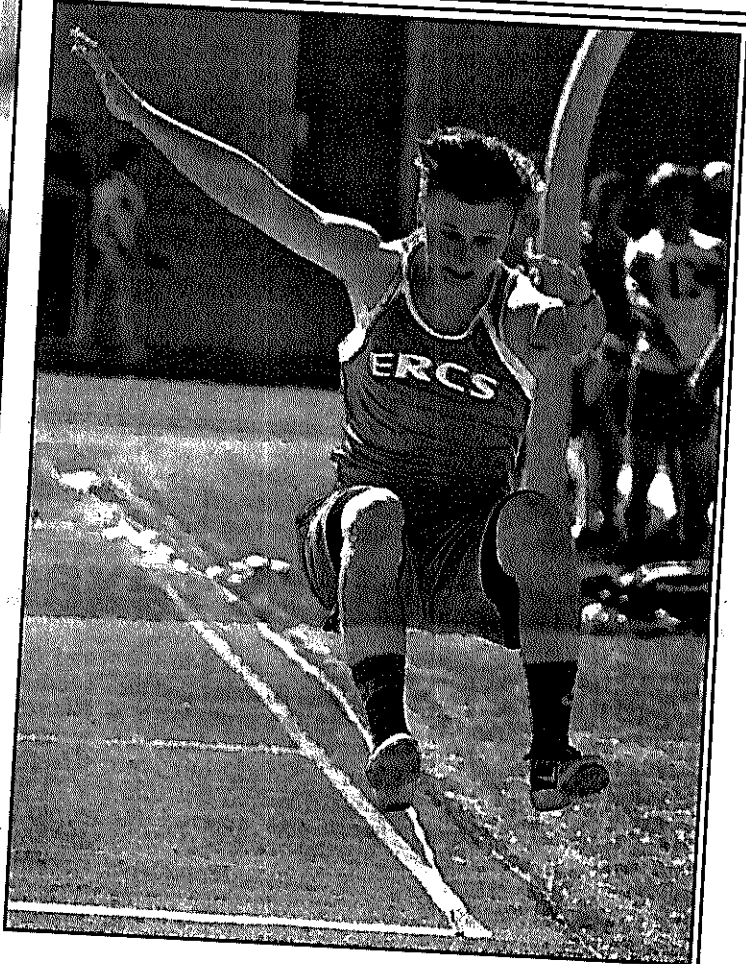
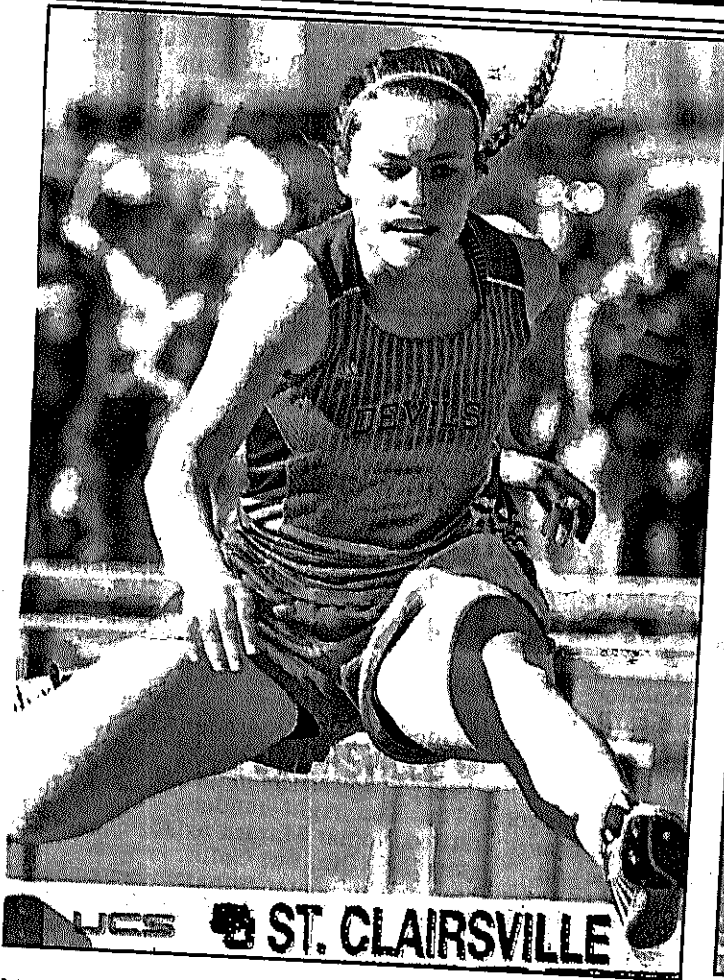


SPORTS

B

Tuesday,
May 2, 2018



LEFT: St. Clairsville's Macie Hothem competes in the 100M high hurdles during the OVAC Cal Giffin Track and Field Championship qualifying meet at Red Devil Stadium. RIGHT: East Richland Christian's Sam Yourko leaps to a berth in the OVAC Track and Field Championship Meet, which will be held on Saturday in the long jump during the Class 1A/2A qualifying meet held Tuesday.

T-L Photos/SHERI McANINCH

OVAC Track and Field Championships

Qualifying begins in 1A/2A and 4A

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Half of the field for Cal Giffin OVAC Track and Field Championship Meet has officially received its invitation for a return trip on Saturday.

The 1A/2A and 4A schools began their qualifying under splendid weather conditions at sun-splashed Red Devil Stadium Tuesday afternoon. They'll put a bow on the qualifying rounds Thursday afternoon.

The 3A and 5A schools conclude today at the Belmont County Seat.

CLASS 1A/2A

Seven different girls' teams produced a top seed in the nine events contested dur-

ing the opening round.

Steubenville Central paced a pair of top seeds in the class. Rebecca Bodo was the top 400 dasher in 62.70 and the Crusaders' 4x2 team was the top qualifier with a 1:51.90.

Linsly, which won the Gloria Dawes Invitational last weekend, paced the 4x8 in 10:35.71.

Cameron's Kelsie Meintel was the top shot putter with a mark of 34-8 3/4. Shadyside's Katie James paced the 3200 meter run in 12:40.28.

Hundred's Katherine Henderson paced the high jump at 5-0.

The small-school boys wasn't quite as

spread out. Three teams earned a pair of top seeds in the class.

Steubenville Central's Michael Hermann paced the high hurdles in 17.04 and Seth Fitzgerald was the top 400 meter dasher in 53.13.

Shadyside's Dale Hawthorne continued his fine season in the pole vault, soaring over 13-feet. Chase Stewart turned in a 10:15.19 to pace the 3200 meter run.

Shenandoah's Nick Miller and Shakur Peyton produced the top mark in the discus and long jump, respectively.

River's Cooper Brown led the 100



See, OVAC, Page B2

PIRATES FALL TO NATIONALS

Bryce Harper hit a leadoff homer and drove in three runs as Washington defeated Pittsburgh/17

The Intelligencer SPORTS

THURSDAY
MAY 3, 2018

COMICS16

13

Class 3A, 5A Wrap Up Qualifying Rounds



Photo by Sheri McAninch

Wheeling Central's Quinton Thomas leads the pack during the 1600 at the Cal Griffin OVAC Track and Field Championship.

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — When you add up big meet, solid competition and warm weather — as it pertains to track and field — the sum is impressive marks.

Such was the case Wednesday afternoon as Class 3A and 5A put the finishing touches on their qualifying rounds at sun-drenched Red Devil Stadium as the five-day Cal Griffin OVAC Track and Field Championship rolled on.

The most impressive marks of the day came in the shot put circle and on the oval in the 200-meter dash as a pair of records fell.

While the records and marks were impressive, the name of the game was earning a spot in Saturday's championship meet, which begins at 10 a.m. with field events and noon for running.

The final pieces of the OVAC puzzle come together this afternoon when the 4A and 1A/2A divisions wrap up their qualifying.

CLASS 3A

The 18-event battle royal for the class title appears as if it will be hotly contested between as

many as five schools.

Two-time defending champion Bellaire, Magnolia, Union Local, Barnesville and Wheeling Central have all seemingly positioned themselves to make a run at the conference title.

Magnolia actually posted the top seed time in the class in five events.

Senior standout Brooks Parsons got things started when he was the lone contestant to clear 6-feet to pace the high jump.

Jack Booth was the top intermediate hurdler at 42.91.

The Blue Eagles also topped the field in all three relays. They ran 45.61 in the 4x1, 65.99 in the shuttles and 3:36.46 in the 4x4.

The Big Reds were led by junior strong man Cole LaRoche. The All-Ohio shot putter put forth the best mark of his career and the history of Red Devil Stadium and Bellaire High School with a put of 57-foot-6. That mark also erased the OVAC Class 3A record, which had stood since 1976 and was owned by Brooke's John Leon.

Please See QUALIFYING, Page 14

QUALIFYING

(Continued from Page 13)

Wheeling Central led the qualifying in the 200 meter dash thanks to junior blazer Bray Price. He turned in a 23.02. Quinton Thomas was the top 1600 runner in the class with a 4:48.96.

Barnesville's Lucas Rogers was the first 800 meter runner in the class to cross the finish. He did so in 2:07.70.

Wheeling Central, despite a hiccup in the 4x1, has itself in positioned to defend its title from last season. Coach Eric Belancic's Maroon Knights enjoyed another solid evening of qualifying.

Freshman Marisa Horan got things started with a mark of 15-7 1/4 to lead the long jump.

Kenadee Wayt was nearly a second faster than Horan in the 200 meters with a 27.10. Nicole Billie turned in a 2:34.77 to pace the 800 and fend off teammate Ireland Wayt, who ran 2:35.98.

Central also led the 4x4 qualifying with a 4:19.46 by an astounding 19 seconds over its nearest competitor.

Bellaire's Brittany Falcone won the discus with a mark of 104-2.

Union Local's Hannah Kemp was tops in the 1600 at 5:56.53.

Magnolia's Liza Clegg led the low hurdles in 52.03 and the Blue Eagles' shuttle

team was the fastest with a 1:15.18.

Trail's 4x1 paced the way in 52.03.

CLASS 5A

Weir enjoyed another impressive night in the qualifying. No one was better — or more impressive — in the sprints than sophomore Sebastian Spencer. He not only paced the 200-meter dash, but he also ran the fastest time in history of the class at 22.58.

The Red Riders' speed also shined through in the 4x1 when the quartet turned in a 44.62.

Brandon Clausell soared over 5-10 to lead the way in the high jump.

Wheeling Park's Jermain Snodgrass was tops in the shot put with a 47-9 1/2. Brooke's shuttle team posted a 61.64 to pace the hurdle relay.

John Marshall's girls qualified well, too. The Monarchs were led by talented freshman Zara Zervos. She ran away from the field in the 800 for a 2:23.26. The Monarchs' shuttle team also prevailed in 68.43.

Wheeling Park's Aubrey Wiethe was the premier low hurdler in the field at 48.06 and Brooke's Island Williams led the high jump by half an inch over JM's Emily Harr. Williams touched the sand at 16-1 1/2.

Let The Title Run Begin

Qualifying finished in St. Clairsville

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The field is set.

After four rigorous days of qualifying, the 16 competitors in each of the 18 boy's and girls' events now know what stands between them and an OVAC championship.

The final spots were awarded Thursday as Classes 1A/2A and 4A dodged a few raindrops toward the end of the meet at Red Devil Stadium.

Saturday's championship meet, which will also be held in the Belmont County Seat, will begin with field events at 10 a.m. and running at noon.

CLASS 1A/2A

Eight different schools paced an event during the qualifying in the girls' meet in the small-school division, which should add up to a nip-and-tuck affair Saturday to determine the team champion.

Linsly, which was solid in qualifying Tuesday as well, is the lone school to lead two events. The Cadets' Kenzie Courtney was tops in the 800-meter run at 2:33.85 and the school's 4x4 also led the way with a 4:16.63.

Shadyside's Katie James paced the 1,600 with a time of 5:43.18.

Shenandoah's Jacie Clifton continued her solid week with the top time in the 200 with a



Photo by Sheri McAninch

Linsly's Clare Miller clears a hurdle during OVAC Track and Field qualifying Thursday in St. Clairsville.

time of 27.54.

East Richland Christian's Ally Stewart paced the 300 low hurdles in a solid 48.60.

Madonna's Kennedy Martin was the top discus qualifier with a mark of 92-feet, 10-inches, while Steubenville Central's speed foursome led the 4x1 at 52.82.

The Shadyside boys had a strong day of qualifying, producing the top time in three events. Junior distance dandy Chase Stewart led the 1,600 (4:37.91) and the 800 (2:06.42). The Tigers shuttle team turned in a 66.21 to lead the hurdle relay field.

Shenandoah led the high jump and the 4x4. Freshman Peyton Shakur was the top leaper at 6-0. The Zeps' mile-relay team turned in a 3:41.23.

Madonna's Donovan Kirby was the top qualifier in the shot put with a mark of 48-2 1/2.

Linsly's Mikal Warfield-

Payne skimmed eight hurdles in 43.57 to pace the 300 intermediate hurdles.

CLASS 4A

Quite the team battle is brewing with the likes of St. Clairsville, Cambridge and Steubenville appearing to be ready for an 18-event joust.

The host Red Devils were solid again in qualifying.

Junior jumper Justin Heatherington paced the high jump field at 6-4. Senior hurdler Christian Oberdick was tops in the intermediates at 42.52.

The Red Devils shuttle team also boasts the top time in 64.20.

Steubenville, which had a strong day Tuesday, led the way in a trio of events. Jorian Jones continued his brilliant week with the top time in the 200 (23.36). Senior strong man Zach Ekey paced the shot put

Please See **TITLE**, Page 10

TITLE

(Continued from Page 9)

with an impressive 54-foot 1600 heave.

Big Red also passed the baton to a 43.55 to lead the 4x1 qualifying.

Cambridge's Jay Taylor McConkey was the top 1,600 runner at 4:45.42 and the Bobcats' 4x4 team also posted a 3:33.61 to lead the way.

Harrison Central's Eric Leech paced a solid 800 field, clocking a 2:01.86.

The Cambridge girls should also make a strong push for the team title in their first season in this class. The Bobcats were led by JayLynn McClarren's 47.86 in the lows, Savanah Anderson's 5:38.53 in the

Cambridge's shuttle team was also the fastest in 1:11.00.

Oak Glen led two events as well. Jillian Williams was the top 800 runner in 2:32.85. The Bears' 4x4 turned in a 4:15.09 to pace the final event.

Steubenville's T'Kayla Kelley was the top 200 sprinter at 26.69.

Edison's Faith Hoobler led the discus with a mark of 112-8.

Buckeye Local's Skylar Langford touched the sand at 16-9 to lead the long jump.

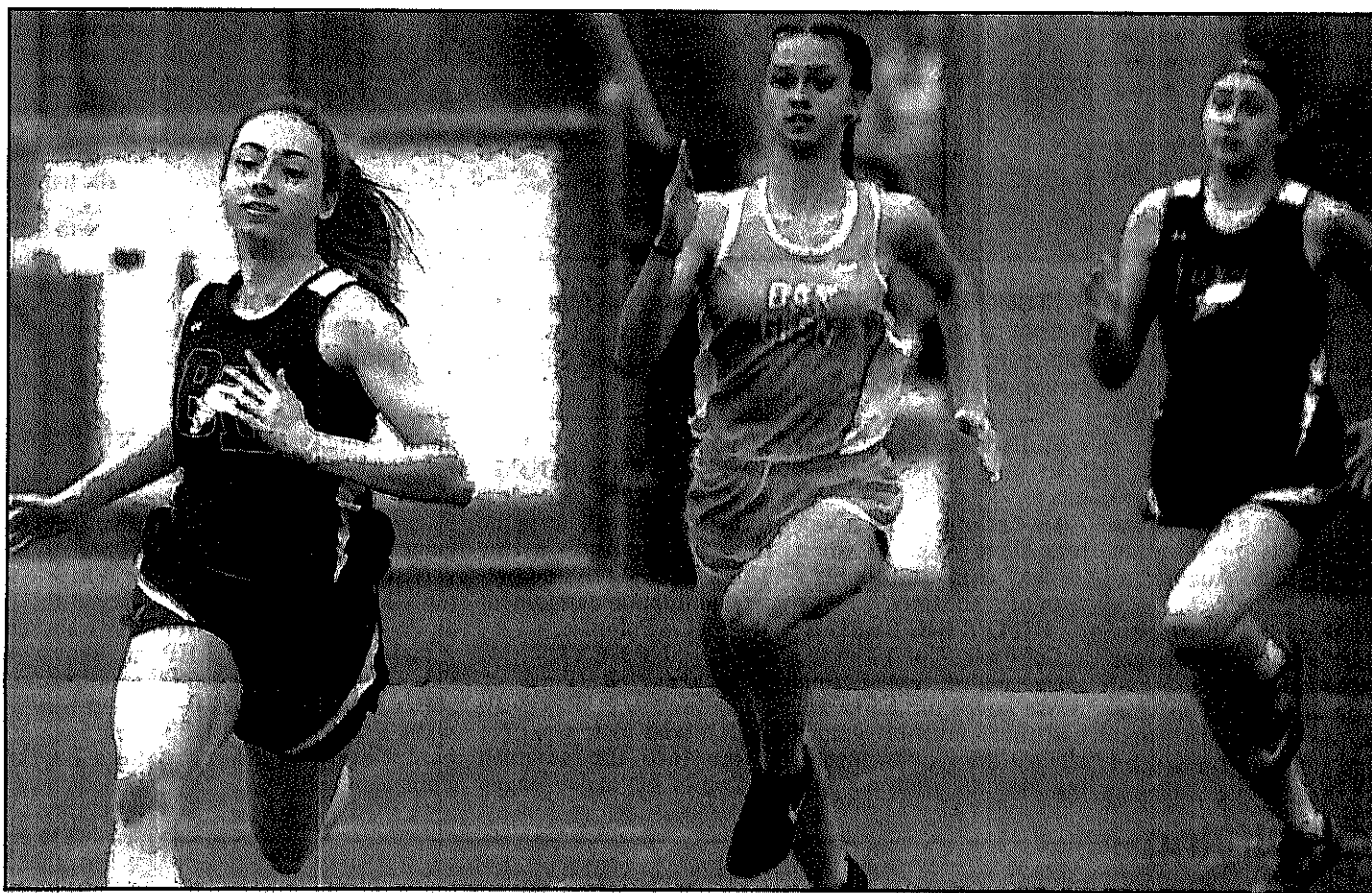
St. Clairsville's 52.02 was good enough to lead the 4x1 field.

SPORTS

B

Friday,
May 4, 2018

OVAC TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Photos/SHERI McANINCH

TOP: Buckeye Local's Skaylar Langford sprints in the 200 meter dash qualifier during Thursday's OVAC meet at Red Devil Stadium in St. Clairsville. Langford advanced in the race to the championship race on Saturday. **BELOW:** Harrison Central's Tyler West soars over the bar during the OVAC Class 4A high jump qualifier at Red Devil Stadium Thursday afternoon. West cleared 6-2 to advance to Saturday's final.

Qualifying concludes

• Red Devil Stadium will host championship meet Saturday

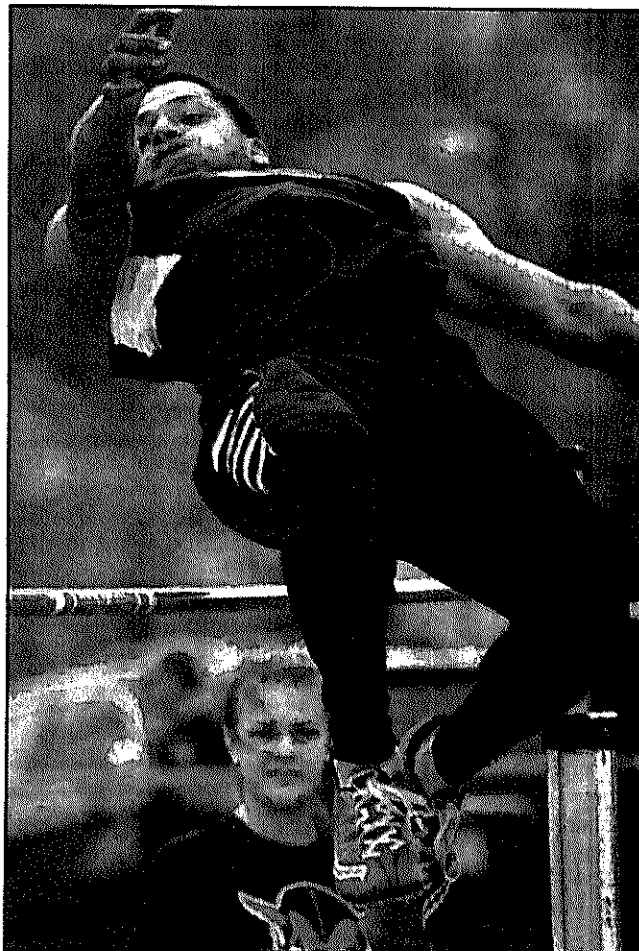
By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

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See, **QUALIFYING**, Page B2



• Qualifying

Continued from Page B1

Shadyside's Katie James paced the 1600 meter run with a time of 5:43.18.

Shenandoah's Jacie Clifton continued her solid week with the top time in the 200 meter dash with a time of 27.54.

East Richland Christian's Ally Stewart paced the 300 low hurdles in a solid 48.60.

Madonna's Kennedy Martin was the top discus qualifier with a mark of 92-10, while Steubenville Central's speed foursome led the 4x1 at 52.82.

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The Red Devils' shuttle team also boasts the top time in 64.20.

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Jorian Jones continued his brilliant week with the top time in the 200 (23.36). Senior strong man Zach Ekey paced the

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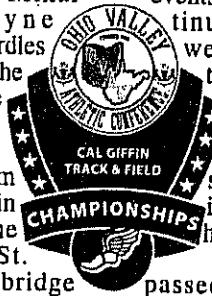
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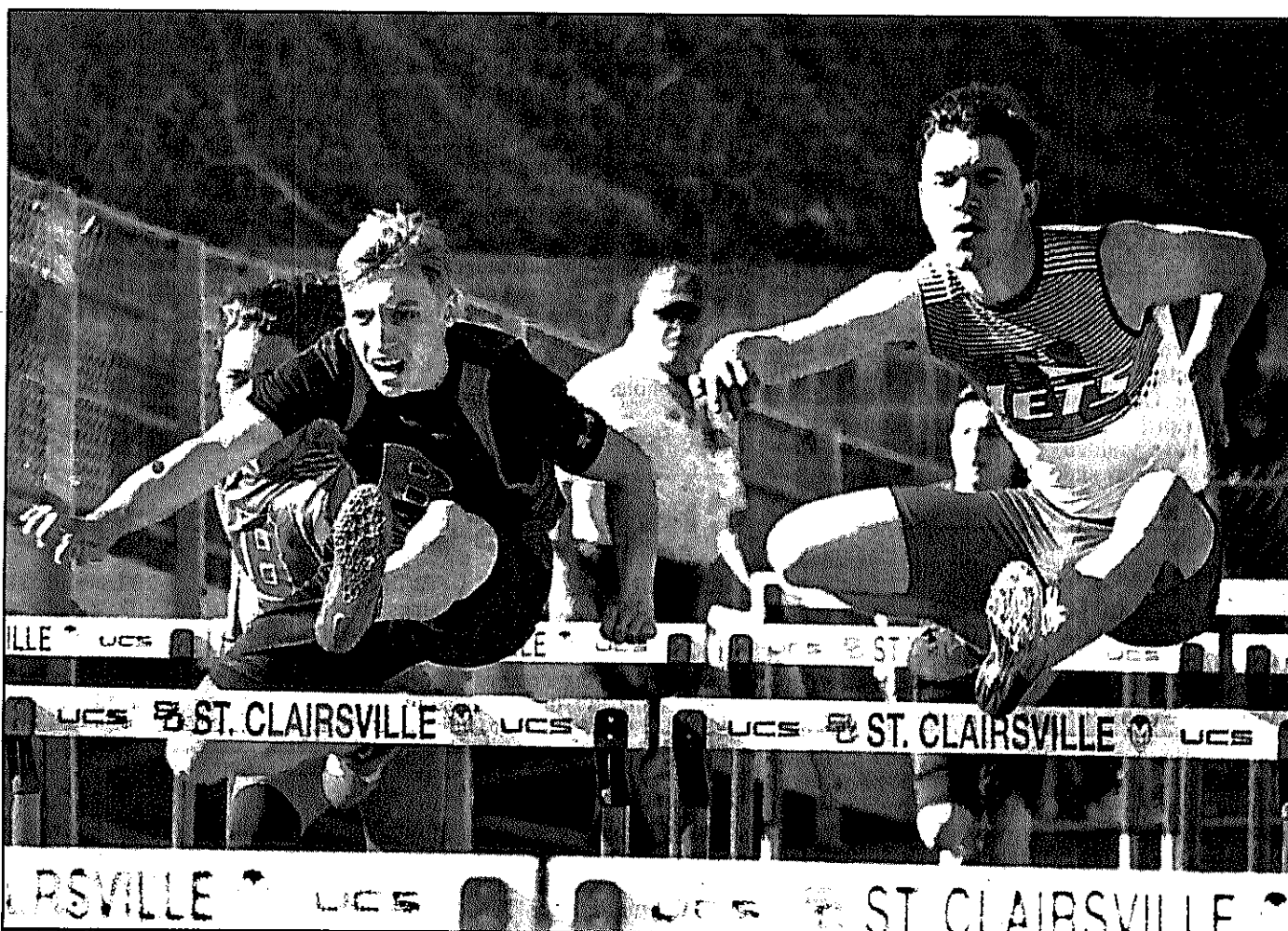
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Buckeye Local's Skylar Langford touched the sand at 16-9 to lead the long jump.





T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY

ABOVE: Bellaire's A.J. McCarthy and Union Local's Denny Kettlehut race in the Class 3A 110-meter high hurdles Monday evening at Red Devil Stadium. Both qualified for Saturday's final. McCarthy finished as the top qualifier in 17.42. BELOW: Barnesville's Tayler Wolford and Bellaire's Sydney Purtiman take part in the Class 3A 4x800 relay during Monday's qualifying round of the Cal Giffin OVAC Track and Field Championship at St. Clairsville's Red Devil Stadium.

Off and running

Race toward a crown begins

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Onward to Saturday.

The quest for an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference track and field championship began under ideal conditions Monday afternoon at sun-drenched Red Devil Stadium.

Qualifying rounds for Classes 3A and 5A were staged with the top four finishers in each event earning a return trip to the Belmont County Seat Saturday morning for the annual championship meet.

These two classes will conclude their qualifying rounds on Wednesday, while the 1A/2A and 4A schools will begin qualifying today and wrap up Thursday.

CLASS 3A

Defending champion Wheeling Central Maroon Knights' girls team led the qualifying in four of the eight events contested and advanced in another.

Junior speedster Kenadee Wayt paced the 100 meter qualifying in 12.98, which was just ahead of her freshman teammate, Marissa Horan.

Nicole Billie was impressive in sprinting away from the other 400 dash competitors to a time of 61.08, which was more than two seconds ahead of her nearest competitor.

The Knights' 4x8 team was the premier squad in its class with a time of 10:41.67 and the 4x2 team, which has been amongst the best in the entire OVAC this spring, turned in a

solid 1:51.48.

Magnolia was solid, pacing the qualifying in two events. Liza Clegg paced the high hurdles in 17.16 and Mady Winters' mark of 34-ft-7 was tops in the shot put.

Buckeye Trail also led the qualifying in two events. Senior standout Emily Paden soared over an impressive 12-1 to pace the pole vault qualifying. Lindsay Gray soared over 4-10 to advance in the high jump.

Union Local's Hannah Kemp was the top 3200 meter runner in the 3A field with a time of 12:54.25.

The 3A boys' race appears to be fairly wide open, but defending champion Bellaire, Wheeling Central, Barnesville, Magnolia and Buckeye Trail all enjoyed solid evenings of qualifying.

The Big Reds, who have actually won the last two team titles in this class, were paced by A.J. McCarthy's 17.42 in the high hurdles.

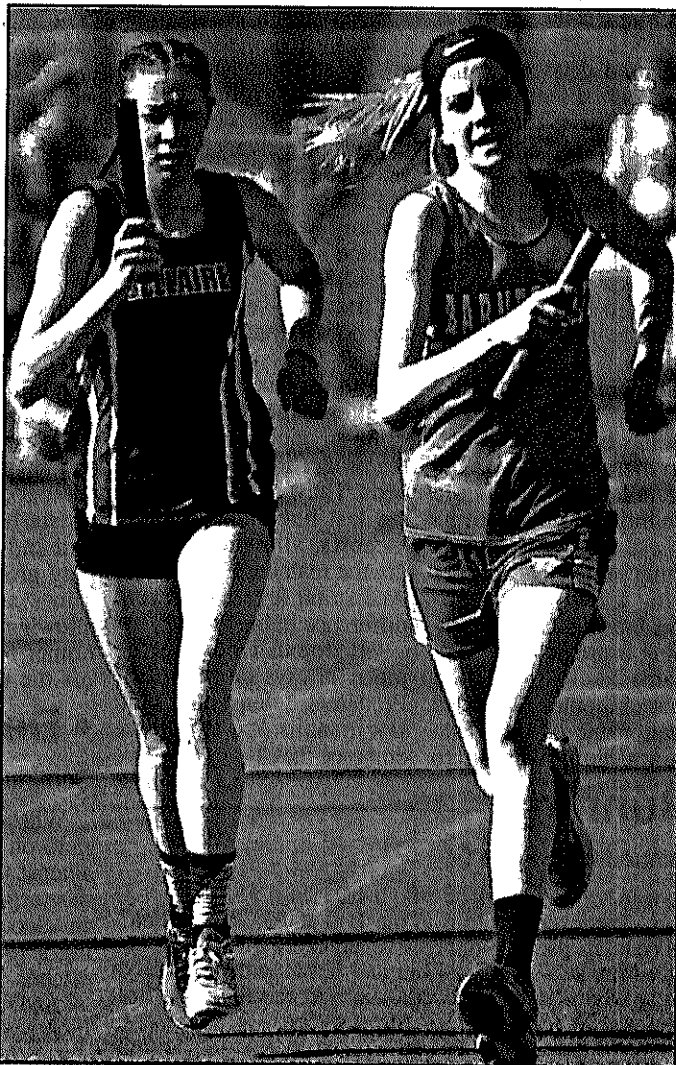
Bellaire's 4x2 team was also the best in the field with a time of 1:34.95.

Wheeling Central was paced by Bray Price in a pair of events. The speedy junior was the best long jumper with a career-best mark of 21-7 1/2 and he also led the 100 meters in 11.51.

Magnolia led the way in three events. Jakob Barrows twirled the discus to a mark of 120-5. Senior sprinter Brooks Parsons turned in an impressive 51.91 to lead the 400 meter dashers.

The Blue Eagles' 4x8 team was also best in the field with an 8:53.46.

Buckeye Trail's Chase Stil-



lion made it a pole vault sweep for the Warriors in the class. He was three-and-a-half feet higher than his nearest competitor at 13-6.

CLASS 5A

Based on early qualifying, it appears that points will be broken down in quite a few ways in the conference's biggest clas-

sification.

Wheeling Park's girls paced four events, while Morgantown led the way in three.

Among the Patriots' top seeds are high jumper Alex Knight, who cleared 4-10. Cheyenne Nash was impressive in the shot put. She launched

See, **RUNNING**, Page B2

when talking about Good Magic, which might position him to finally break through in Saturday's 144th Run For The Roses at Churchill Downs. If the chestnut colt's name alone doesn't suggest a positive vibe, then consider his resume' that includes last year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile and the Eclipse Award as the top 2-year-old male.

Good Magic is hitting stride at the right time entering horse racing's marquee event, standing second in Derby points with 134 after claiming the Grade 2 Blue Grass at Keeneland on April 7. Five career starts have yielded two wins, two seconds and

versations about which up-and-coming trainer is due to break through.

"We have to think that with all the opportunities that keep coming our way, we have a good shot of doing this," said Brown, 39. "Whether that happens or not remains to be seen.

"I'll say this: for me this is our best chance. Seems that way, anyway."

Brown earned his first Triple Crown series victory in last year's Preakness with Cloud Computing before Breeders' Cup wins with Good Magic and filly Rushing Fall helped claim his second consecutive Eclipse award as top trainer.

• Pens

Continued from Page B1

facing the Capitals. Washington won Game 3 and Game 6 in Pittsburgh during the 2017 postseason and wrapped up its third straight Metropolitan Division title with a 3-1 win there on April 1.

"You've got to create your own momentum, but it gives you good memories," Capitals coach Barry Trotz said. "If you have to go back into the memory bank, at least we have one. Those are things that you can bank on maybe for some positive feeling going forward."

Predators forward Nick Bonino couldn't offer up any specifics about Nashville's victory in Winnipeg even though it happened all of two months ago, saying only "I'm sure we played a solid road game."

The road does offer the visiting team a sense of routine. There aren't as many friends or family around. No kids waking up in the middle of the night. No traffic to deal with in most places. Just wake up, suit up and go play.

"You go out to dinner, there's not really any distractions," Bonino said. "You're there for hockey."

And the hockey in both series has been spectacular. Nashville avoided heading to Canada in an 0-2 hole with a thrilling double-overtime escape in Game 2. Washington responded after blowing a two-goal, third-period lead in Game 1 by winning a predictably chippy Game 2.

That chippiness included a questionable hit by Washington's Tom Wilson to

Pittsburgh defenseman Brian Dumolins' head in the second period that sent Dumolin into the concussion protocol. Dumolin skated with his teammates on Monday and his status — much like the status of star center Evgeni Malkin (lower body) and Carl Hagelin (upper body) — won't be determined until Tuesday.

Wilson was not penalized for the hit and received a pass from the league when it opted not to schedule a disciplinary hearing to review the play. While Dumolin said he didn't see Wilson coming because he was bracing for a hit by Alex Ovechkin, Wilson claimed Dumolin turned his head just before impact leaving Wilson with no time to react.

"He stops and turns and I'm kind of right there as (Ovechkin) is coming in pretty aggressively," Wilson said. "It's a collision."

Pittsburgh star Kris Letang wasn't surprised Wilson's hit wasn't deemed illegal. Why?

"Because we don't know anymore (what's legal and illegal)," he said.

And we don't know what a given night is going to bring anymore either. Home teams get to sleep in their beds. They get the luxury of the last line change before faceoffs, allowing them to get the matchups they want. And so far it has made zero difference in the result.

"It doesn't have to be pretty always on the road," Predators defenseman Matt Irwin said. "I think we embrace that."

• Running

Continued from Page B1

the iron ball to a mark of 34-10 1/2.

Abby Snedeker was tops in the 100 at 13.09. The Patriots' 4x2 team also was impressive, clocking a 1:47.57.

John Marshall's Alyssa Ehni and her teammate, Kaitlyn Groves, were the top two qualifiers in the high hurdles, turning in a 16.78 and 16.98, respectively.

The boys' race could also be nip and tuck throughout on Saturday with a bevy of schools putting themselves in the mix.

Weir was strong in the sprints. Red Riders' sprinter Sebastian Spencer set a new 5A record in the 100, posting a 11:02, which was three hundredths of a tick faster than his brother, Donovan, ran two seasons ago.

The Red Riders' 4x2 was also the best in the field, turning in a solid 1:31.95.

Brooke's Ethan Secrist was impressive in blistering the high hurdle field. He skimmed 10 timbers in 14.87.

John Marshall's Anthony Siler paced the 3200 meters in 10:11.91.

Kiley Lollathin drove in two runs with a single and double for River. Katie Lively singled twice. Livi Rose doubled in a run.

River travels up Ohio 7 to Con-norville today to meet Buckeye Local. **Union Local 12, St. John Central 1 BELLAIRE** — Union Local erupted for nine runs in the first two innings en route to a six-inning win over the homestanding Irish Monday on Amanda's Field.

Skylar Lucas went the route to gain the pitching win. She fanned four and walked none while surrendering just one hit.

McKenzie Deese led the winners with three singles while Taylor Powell pounded two doubles. Emilee Robb had a double and three RBI for the Jets.

Shay Horvath slammed a double for

gied four times and Madison Detling drove in a run with two doubles. Hunter Miller singled twice to plate two runs, and Astin Skinner and Jessica Johnson had two-run singles. Chloe Campbell and Baylie MacMillan each singled two times, with Campbell picking up an RBI. Candance Schneider had a pair of ribbies.

In the nightcap, Campbell and MacMillan evenly split half-a-dozen RBI as Campbell singled thrice and MacMillan doubled. Miller knocked in a run with a single and double. Hannahs and Skinner each singled twice and had an RBI each. Detling singled and doubled. Sarah Powell and Abby Starr had run-producing base hits.

For the Blue Devils, Muncy continued her torrid hitting with two singles and a solo home run. Harley Nalley singled four times, while Terra Shriver

Steelers cut veteran sa

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers released veteran safety J.J. Wilcox on Monday just days after selecting a pair of safeties in the NFL draft.

• Bucs

Continued from Page B1

"Well, there's a guy that's won over 50 games since 2014," Pirates manager Clint Hurdle said. "The guy can pitch. And he throws everything at you. He's very unpredictable on the mound."

Seven of Washington's last eight games have been decided by one or two runs, and the Nationals are 2-5 in those contests. Washington left eight men on base.

"That was exciting," Martinez said sarcastically. "We gotta start scoring runs when we can. They're playing well, they really are, but when we have a chance to put teams away, we've gotta start putting them away."

Starting pitcher Jameson Taillon (2-3) drove in the first run for the Pirates with a two-out double to deep left-center in the fifth. He worked six innings, allowing three runs on seven hits, as NL Central-leading Pittsburgh lost for the first time since his previous start. The Pirates had won five straight.

Roark allowed two runs on six hits, struck out four and induced two double-play grounders for his first win since April 2. After allowing Corey Dickerson's homer to deep left leading off the seventh to pull the

Wilcox played in 12 games for the Steelers in 2017 after Pittsburgh acquired him from Tampa Bay last September for late-round picks in both the

2018 and 2019 Wilcox had one int with Pittsburgh w ing primarily as a r The Steelers ha hauled their defens

Pirates within one, Roark retired Francisco Cervelli and struck out Colin Moran before the visit from Martinez. Roark told his manager he could get Mercer out.

"I looked at (catcher Matt) Wieters, and said, 'Can he?'" Martinez said. "And Wieters says, 'Yeah.' I said, 'All right, it's your guy, let's go.'"

Batting in the fourth with runners on first and second, Roark bunted the first pitch foul. Then Taillon threw a wild pitch, allowing the runners to advance. Roark hit the next pitch up the middle to score Wieters and put the Nationals ahead 2-1, his second hit this season and his fifth career RBI.

"You usually should be relieved you see the pitcher up there, and then you give up the hit to him up the middle," Taillon said. "He did his job, too. Not ideal, but it happens."

Trea Turner followed with a run-scoring single, one of his three hits on the night.

Ryan Madson retired the side in the eighth and Brandon Kintzler worked the ninth for his first save in place of regular closer Sean Doolittle, who had pitched in the previous three games.

"Any time a guy's going

to go into the sever we've got to lock for him," said Kim also worked his t secutive day.

TRAINER'S

Nationals: 2B Murphy (offseas surgery) was back team after spend weeks at extende training in We Beach, Florida, scheduled to be re-by team doctors been hitting, run taking ground ba tinez said. There timetable for his 3B Anthony Ren toe contusion) bec ble to come off tl disabled list on Su no decision has b on whether he wi minor league reha ment.

Pirates: CF Marte was out of ing lineup for the this season but pc as a pinch-hitte eighth. ... LH Romero said he l trying to pitch thr in his throwing before he told tea about the injury o Pittsburgh had p designate him fc ment but instead f on the 10-day DI

• Devils

Continued from Page B1

Witsberger, who usually mans right-field on a regular basis, took the hill against the Monarchs and delivered a masterpiece. The husky righthander struck out five, walked just one in tossing a four-hitter. He needed just 83 pitches — 55 of which were strikes — and he got ahead of 21 of 26 hitters by throwing a first-pitch strike.

Oh, by the way, he helped himself out with an RBI single through the right side of the infield on a 2-2 pitch with two outs in the second inning. The hit made it 2-0 and the hosts tacked on three more runs in the inning on Matt Busby's double to left-center for a 5-0 reading.

Jarvis, a transfer from Bellaire, drove in the Red Devils first run with a two-out double to left-center that drove in Kaden Blomquist with the first tally.

After Witsberger made it 2-0, Tyler Tonkavich walked and Jayden Starks' high popup to the right side fell for a double as Witsberger raced around the bases and Tonkavich stopped at third.

Jarvis finished the game 3-for-4 with a single, a pair of two-baggers and two runs batted in.

"He's been chomping at the bit because of having to sit out after transferring, but he's a baseball player," Sliva said.

Starks finished with two doubles and a pair of ribbies, while Kyle Storer had two one-base raps. Busby added a sacrifice fly to bump his RBI total to three. Peyton Drake added an RBI single, while Tonkavich, the No. 9 hitter in the order, walked three times.

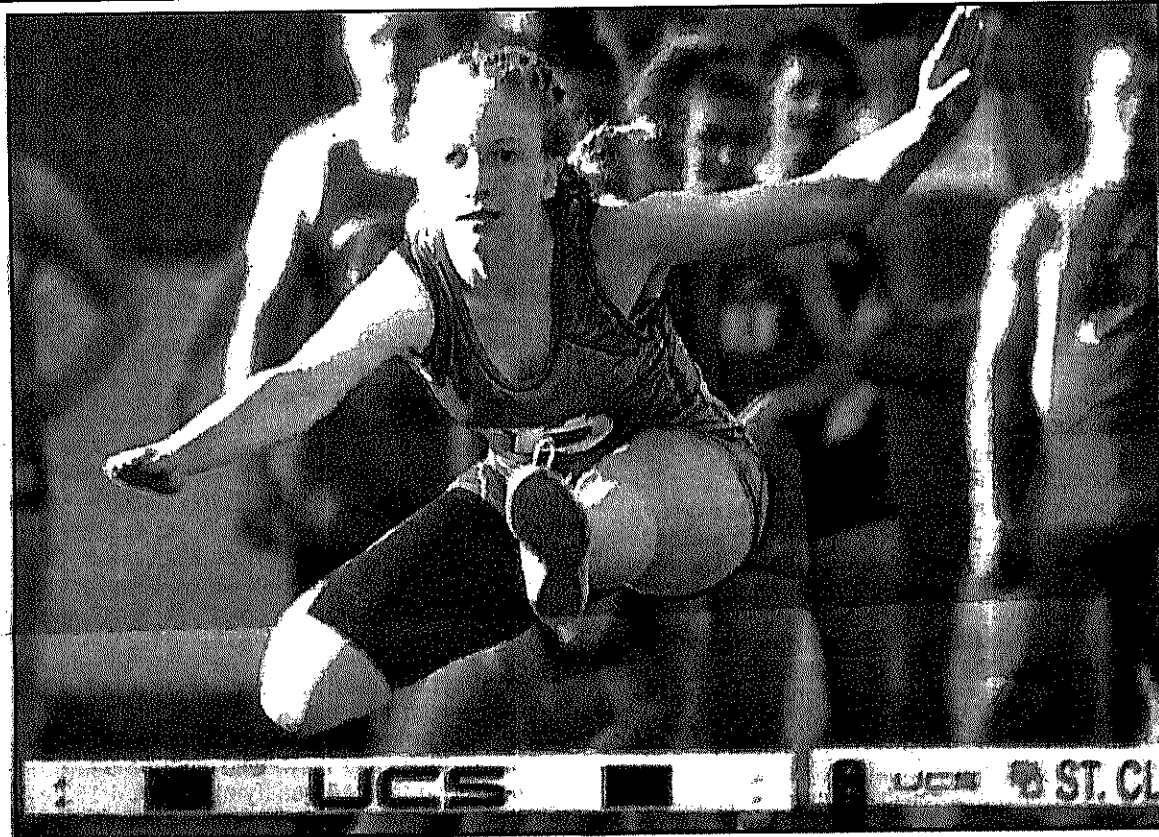
"This game is a microcosm of our season," John Marshall head coach

INSIDE

The Times Leader

Prep Roundup/B3
Scoreboard/B4
Athlete of the Week/B5

SPORTS



AT LEFT: Barnesville's Heaven Farnsworth soars over a hurdle during the shuttle relay Wednesday evening in the Cal Giffin OVAC Track and Field Championship at Red Devil Stadium.
BELOW: Barnesville's Lucas Rogers and Union Local's Shawn Coe race in the 800 meter run during the 3A qualifying meet in St. Clairsville.

Photo/SHERI McANINCH

OVAC Track and Field Championships

Qualifying wraps up in 3A and 5A

• Bellaire's LaRoche breaks 42-year-old class 3A shot put record with PR

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — When you add up big meet, solid competition and warm weather — as it pertains to track and field — the sum is impressive marks.

Such was the case Wednesday afternoon as Class 3A and 5A put the finishing touches on their qualifying rounds at sun-drenched Red Devil Stadium as the five-day Cal Giffin OVAC Track and Field Championship rolled on.

The most impressive marks of the day came in the shot put circle and on the oval in the 200 meter dash as a pair of records fell.

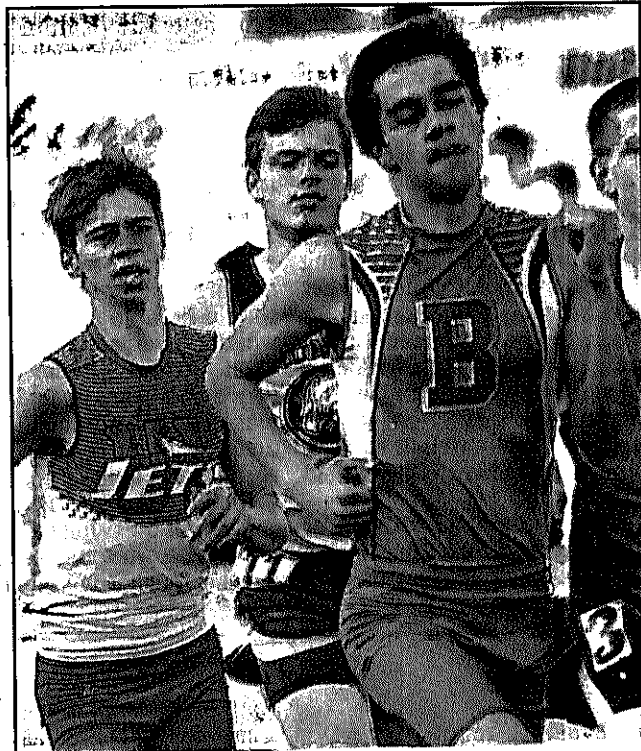
While the records and marks were impressive, the name of the game was earning a spot in Saturday's championship meet, which begins at 10 a.m. with field events and noon for running.

The final pieces of the OVAC puzzle come together this afternoon when the 4A and 1A/2A divisions wrap up their qualifying.

CLASS 3A
The 18-event battle royale for the class title appears as if it will be hotly contested between as many as five schools.

Two-time defending champion Bellaire, Magnolia, Union Local, Barnesville and Wheeling Central have all seemingly positioned

See, OVAC, Page B2



• **OVAC**

Continued from Page B1

themselves to make a run at the conference title.

Magnolia actually posted the top seed time in the class in five events.

Senior standout Brooks Parsons got things started when he was the lone contestant to clear 6-feet to pace the high jump.

Jack Booth was the top intermediate hurdler at 42.91.

The Blue Eagles also topped the field in all three relays. They ran 45.61 in the 4x1, 65.99 in the shuttles and 3:36.46 in the 4x4.

The Big Reds were led by junior strong man Cole LaRoche.

The all-Ohio shot putter put forth the best mark of his career and the history of Red Devil Stadium and Bellaire High School with a put of 57-ft-6.

That mark also erased the OVAC Class 3A record, which had stood since 1976 and was owned by Brooke's John Leon.

Wheeling Central led the qualifying in the 200 meter dash thanks to junior blazer Bray Price.

He turned in a 23.02.

Quinton Thomas was the top 1600 runner in the class with a 4:48.96.

Barnesville's Lucas Rogers was the first 800 meter runner in the class to cross the finish. He did so in 2:07.70.

Wheeling Central, despite a hiccup in the 4x1, has itself in positioned to defend its title from last season. Coach Eric Belancic's Maroon Knights enjoyed another solid evening of qualifying.

Freshman Marisa Horan got things started with a mark of 15-7 1/4 to lead the long jump.

Kenadee Wayt was nearly a second faster than Horan in the 200 meters with a 27.10.

Nicole Billie turned in a 2:34.77 to pace the 800 and fend off teammate Ireland Wayt, who ran 2:35.98.

Central also led the 4x4 qualifying with a 4:19.46 by an astounding 19 seconds over its nearest competitor.

Bellaire's Brittany Falcone won the discus with a mark of 104-2.

Union Local's Hannah Kemp was tops in the 1600 at 5:56.53.

Magnolia's Liza Clegg led the low hurdles in 52.03 and the Blue Eagles' shuttle team was the fastest with a 1:15.18.

Trail's 4x1 paced the way in 52.03.

CLASS 5A

Weir High enjoyed another impressive night in the qualifying. No one was better – or more impressive – in the sprints than sophomore Sebastian Spencer. He not only paced the 200 meter dash, but he also ran the fastest time in history of the class at 22.58.

The Red Riders' speed also shined through in the 4x1 when the quartet turned in a 44.62.

Brandon Clausell soared over 5-10 to lead the way in the high jump.

Wheeling Park's Jermain Snodgrass was tops in the shot put with a 47-9 1/2. Brooke's shuttle team posted a 61.64 to pace the hurdle relay.

John Marshall's girls qualified well, too. The Monarchs were led by talented freshman Zara Zervos. She ran away from the field in the 800 for a 2:23.26. The Monarchs' shuttle team also prevailed in 68.43.

Wheeling Park's Aubrey Wiethe was the premier low hurdler in the field at 48.06 and Brooke's Island Williams led the high jump by half an inch over JM's Emily Harr. Williams touched the sand at 16-1 1/2.

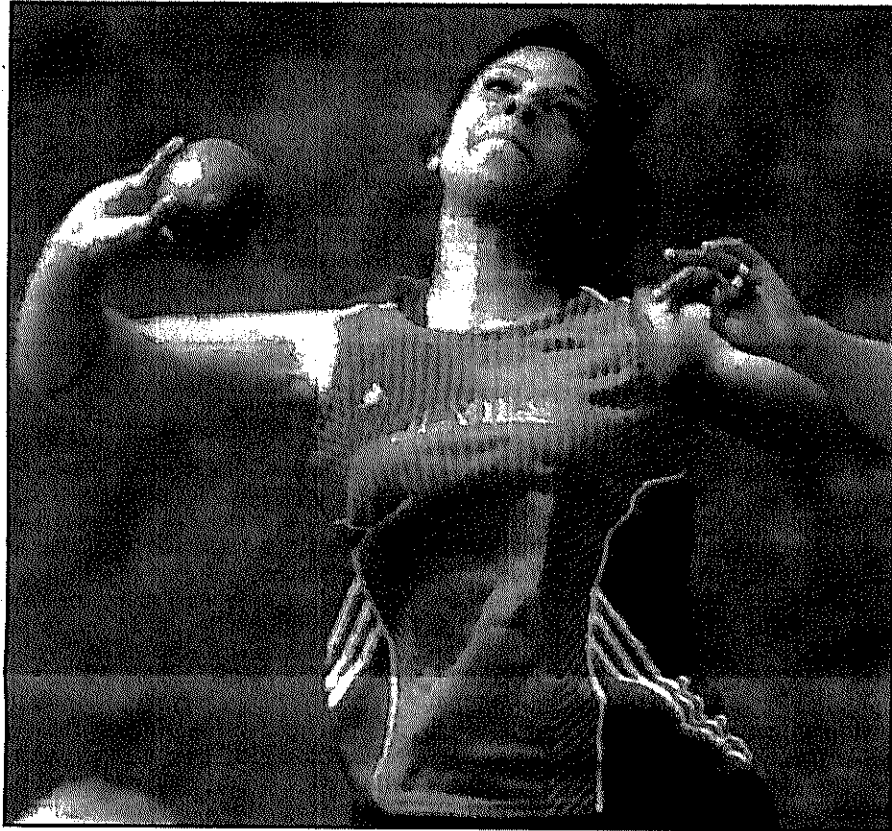


SPORTS

C

Sunday,
May 6, 2018

CAL GIFFIN OVAC TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS



St. C. girls win 4A title

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The quest to become an OVAC Track and Field champion turned into a reality Saturday afternoon.

The week-long Cal Giffin OVAC Track and Field Championship concluded under ideal conditions, in front of a large turnout at Red Devil Stadium.

The bulk of the team hardware is heading back to the city of Wheeling. All three schools located in the city — Wheeling Park, Wheeling Central and Linsly — claimed their respective class title. The only trophy not going to Ohio County is staying here.

The host Red Devils fought off Cambridge for the team award in Class 4A.

See, **ST. C.**, Page C4

Photo/SHERRI McANINCH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Azlah Robinson puts the shot during Saturday's championship meet at Red Devil Stadium.

Red Devils win boys Class 4A

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The dust has finally settled.

After three rigorous days of competition, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference crowned its final champions of the 2017-18 school year Saturday afternoon.

The Cal Giffin OVAC Track and Field Championships wrapped up their week-long stay at St. Clairsville's Red Devil Stadium with championship Saturday yielding impressive marks, title and most importantly a conference title.

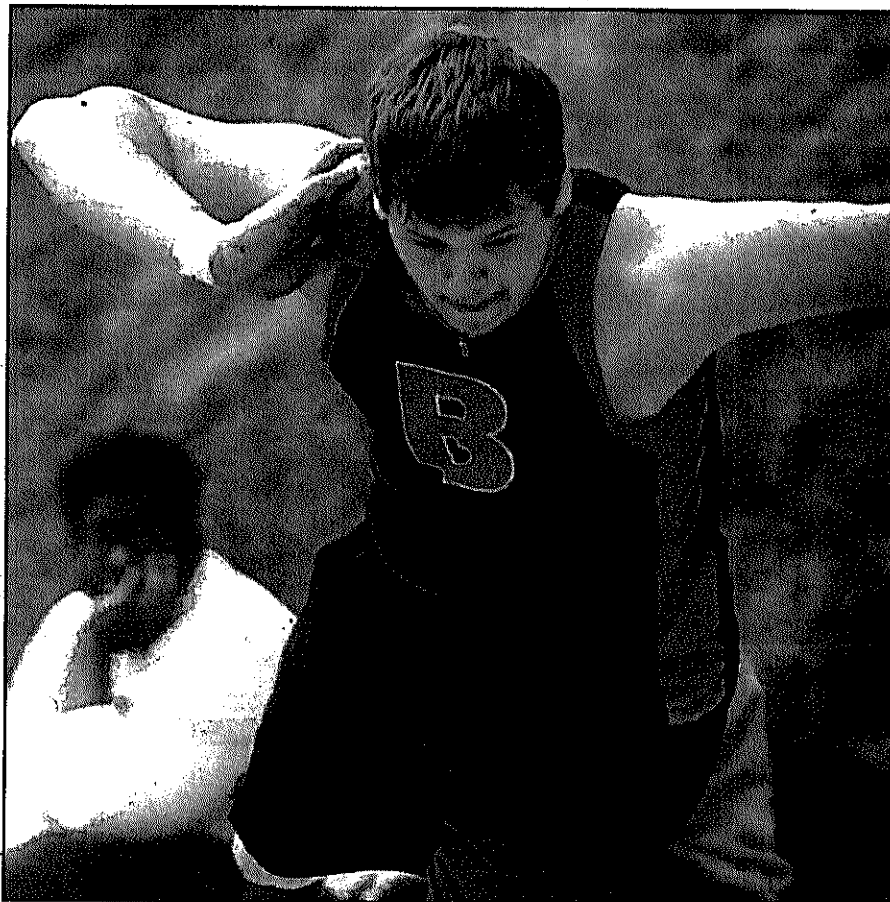
Hoisting the coveted team trophies were Steubenville Central (1A/2A), Magnolia (3A), St. Clairsville (4A) and Morgantown (5A).

Here's a look at all of the classes:

CLASS 1A/2A

Steubenville Central, which was missing two key sprinters, performed well in the distance events and it was enough to hold off Shenandoah, 92-76.

See, **RED**, Page C4



Photo/SHERRI McANINCH

BELLAIRE'S Cole LaRoche gets set to put the shot during Saturday's championship meet at Red Devil Stadium.

• St. C.

Continued from Page C1

Here's a look at each class:

Class 1A/2A

Linsly claimed its third title in school history and first since 2000 in impressive fashion, accumulating 94 points, which was 30 more than runner-up Shadyside. "We knew coming in that some of our girls were going to have some really, really busy days (running a lot of events)," Linsly head coach Katie Wallace said.

"Coming into the finals, we were nervous because of how quickly this meet moves. Since the first day of practice, all these girls wanted to do is win the OVAC."

Linsly's first victory came in the 4x8 when its team posted a 10:21.76.

The Cadets began to put the finishing touches on their team title in the 800 when Emma Campsey claimed the two-lap race in 2:35.22.

Linsly put the finishing touches on its title by virtue of winning the 4x4.

Stuebenville Central won the 4x2 in 1:49.99. It also captured the 4x1 in 52.75.

The Crusaders' first individual win came via Rebecca Bodo in the 400, who circled the oval in 61.76.

Shadyside's Katie James won the 1600 meter run in 5:44.56.

Cameron's Kelsie Meintel was the shot put champion with a mark of 34-1.

Paden City freshman Abbee Stalkpole was the 100 meter dash champion in 13.29.

Hundred's Katherine Henderson cleared 5-feet to win the high jump.

Madonna's Kennedy Martin was the discus champion with a twirl of 95-8.

East Richland Christian's Ally Stewart was the champion in the 300 low hurdles with a time of 47.98.

Class 3A

Head Coach Eric Belancic's team, which is the defending Class A state champion, added the school's third straight and fourth conference title to its illustrious history by virtue of 116 points.

Wheeling Central's run to another team title got started when freshman Marissa Horan claimed the long jump at 15-7.

The Knights picked up another victory in the 100 meter dash thanks to Kenadee Wayt's 12.84. Wayt set a Red Devil Stadium record in winning the 200 meter dash with a 25.73 en route to winning the overall title.

The speed wins kept coming for the Knights, who captured the 4x2 in 1:50.46.

Central added the 400 title when Nicole Billie turned a sizzling 59.71.

The Knights' Ireland Wayt got into the individual winning act when she ran two laps in 2:25.00 to win the overall 800 title.

Central closed out things with a 4:11.14 to win the 4x4 title.

Union Local claimed the 4x8 in 10:53.69.

Hannah Kemp got the Jets into the individual winner's circle with a victory in the 1600 thanks to a 5:41.93. She later added the 3200 in 12:54.56.

She also won the running portion of the inaugural Butch and Donna Joseph High Point Award.

Magnolia got off to a strong start with a victory in the shot put by sophomore Kyndra Pilant. She prevailed with a mark of 35-8.

Liza Clegg continued the winning on the track when she claimed the high hurdles in 18.07. She also captured the lows in 52.56.

Bellaire's first winner came in the high jump

where Michaela Flaherty prevailed with a 4-10 clearance.

The Big Reds added a discus title thanks to Brittany Falcone's mark of 99-11.

Buckeye Trail's 4x1 team captured the title in 53.09.

Senior Emily Paden claimed yet another class pole vault title, soaring over 11-6 for the gold.

Class 4A

Sometimes depth is a factor and St. Clairsville proved that to be true once again. The Red Devils won only three events during course of the meet, but they scored in a host of areas.

"When the performance list came out, we scored it and knew it was going to be close with Cambridge," Tony Cirolli said. "We knew what we had to do. Sometimes people rise and sometimes people stumble. Even though things were one way on paper, it didn't mean it was going to go that way on the track. But, our girls performed."

St. Clairsville's 4x1 gave the Red Devils their first conference title of the meet when it passed the baton to a time of 51.47.

Junior Emily Baire became St. C.'s first individual winner, posting a 26.30 to win the 200.

St. C. closed things out with a victory in the 4x4 in a time of 4:20.49.

Harrison Central's 4x8 team prevailed with a 10:46.53. The Huskies' individual winner was freshman Jasmine Arnold, who won the 3200 in 12:27.18.

Martins Ferry's Richella Spielvogel was the discus champion — both in class and overall — with a mark of 116-8. Along with her finish in the shot put, Spielvogel was the field recipient of the Butch and Donna Joseph High Point Award.

• Red

Continued from Page C1

"We came in a plan, knowing we had to get two kids in each of the distance races and win the 4x8," SCC head coach Bob Stanko said. "They performed well all week. I am really proud of these kids."

The title is the Crusaders' eighth and second consecutive.

Stuebenville Central's only victory came in the 4x8 thanks to a time of 8:34.07.

Shadyside picked up a victory in the pole vault. Dale Hawthorne soared over a season-best 13-6 to pace the field.

Tigers' junior distance ace Chase Stewart had a strong showing as well. He won the overall title in the 1600 in 4:25.61.

In pulling one of the more impressive triples of the day, Stewart place third in the class in the 800 and then a short-time later returned to the track to win the overall title in the 3200 in 9:53.15.

The Tigers captured the shuttle hurdle relay in a time of 64.76.

River sophomore Cooper Brown turned in a blistering 50.85 to win the 400 meter dash.

Linsly's Mikal Warfield-Payne picked up the win in the 110 high hurdles in 16.57. He added the intermediate crown in 43.08.

CLASS 3A

Magnolia came into Belmont County on a mission and completed it with 96 points, fighting off Union Local and Buckeye Trail, which tied for the runner-up plaque with 86 points.

Magnolia began its title quest with a victory in the discus. Jakob Barrows was the class champion in the discus with a mark of 124-8.

Senior ace Brooks Parsons picked up a win in the high jump thanks to a 6-foot clearance. On the track, he claimed the 400 in 52.17.

The Blue Eagles passed the baton to a 44.92 to win the 4x1.

Magnolia captured the shuttle hurdle relay as well in a time of 64.74 and put the finishing touches on things with a 3:33.21 to win the 4x4.

Union Local's Luke Menges captured the 100 meter dash in a quick 11.49. He later captured the 200 meter dash in 22.97.

Bellaire's A.J. McCarthy won the high hurdle title in 17-flat. He turned it on late to make it a sweep of the hurdles, claiming the intermediates in 42.59.

The Big Reds captured the 4x2 in 1:33.83.

Junior strong man Cole LaRoche defended his shot put title in this class with a mark of 52-5.

Barnesville's 4x8 gave the Shamrocks their first OVAC title of the day thanks to a time of 8:41.10.

Wheeling Central picked up a victory in the long jump as sophomore Jeremiah Blackmore won the title with a distance of

18-8 3/4.

Buckeye Trail's day got started with a victory from Chase Stillion, who also claimed the overall title, in the pole vault. She cleared 14-feet.

Trey Dougherty won the 800 meter run in 2:06.64. Luke Howald won the 3200 meter run in 10:14.71.

CLASS 4A

St. Clairsville knew it was going to be in for a fight from Cambridge and it played out that way. It actually came down to the 4x4 where the Red Devils finished third in the class and it took Matt Marling limping around the track in the anchor leg after he suffered a hamstring injury.

"I never want to say 'you just have to finish,' but that's kind of what it came down to," St. C. head coach Tony Cirolli said. "The athlete in Matt just finished. I saw something happen in the first 50 meters. It's a team sport and he finished that leg for his teammates. Winning the OVAC is exciting, but seeing a kid do that for his teammates is why we get into coaching."

St. Clairsville got its day started with a victory in the long jump when junior Justin Heatherington marked the sand — on his final attempt — at 21-2 1/2.

Heatherington made it a jumping sweep when he soared over 6-4 to win the high jump.

Junior Declan Dombrowski captured the 400 meter dash in 52.82.

Senior Christian Oberdick won the intermediate hurdles, posting a 40.58. The Red Devils salted the team title away with a victory in the shuttles, which came in a time of 1:03.53.

Stuebenville's Jonathan Blackmon captured the high hurdle title with a time of 15.10.

Big Red added the 100 meter title thanks to Caleb Mitchell's 11.72.

Stuebenville continued to accumulate sprint points by virtue of winning the 4x2 in a time of 1:30.79. The Big Red speed foursome added the 4x1 in a time of 44.20.

In the field, Steubenville picked up critical points from Zach Ekey. He won the shot put with a heave of 53-6, which was good enough for the overall title, too.

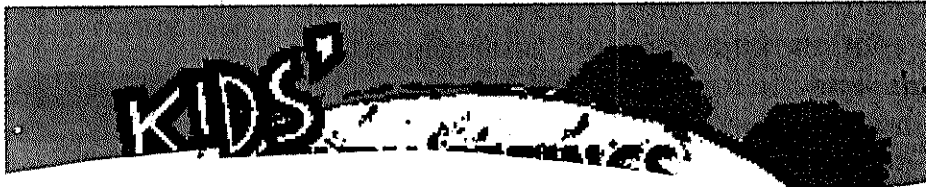
Oak Glen's Kellen Tropek continued his season-long dominance in the discus with a mark of 162-11, which was also good enough for the overall title.

Edison's Bryce McAfoose was the champion in the pole vault with a mark of 12-feet.

CLASS 5A

Morgantown, which is coached by Shadyside graduate Steve Blinco, won for the second straight season. It scored 152 points to fend off Warren by 40.

Weir sophomore Sebastian Spencer is the conference's fastest man after he posted an 11.13 to win the 100 meter dash title.



Park, Central, Linsly Secure OVAC Titles

St. Clairsville Holds Off Cambridge For 4A Championship

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

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The bulk of the girls' team hardware is heading back to the city of Wheeling. All three schools located in the city — Wheeling Park, Wheeling Central and Linsly — claimed their respective class title. The only trophy not going to Ohio County is staying in St. Clairsville.

The host Red Devils fought off Cambridge for the team award in Class 4A.

Class 1A/2A

Linsly claimed its third title in school history and first since 2000 in impressive fashion, accumulating 94 points, which was 30 more than runner-up Shadyside.

"We knew coming in that some of our girls were going to have some really, really busy days (running a lot of events)," Linsly coach Katie Wallace said. "Coming into the finals, we were nervous because of how quickly this meet moves. Since the first day of practice, all these girls wanted to do is win the OVAC."

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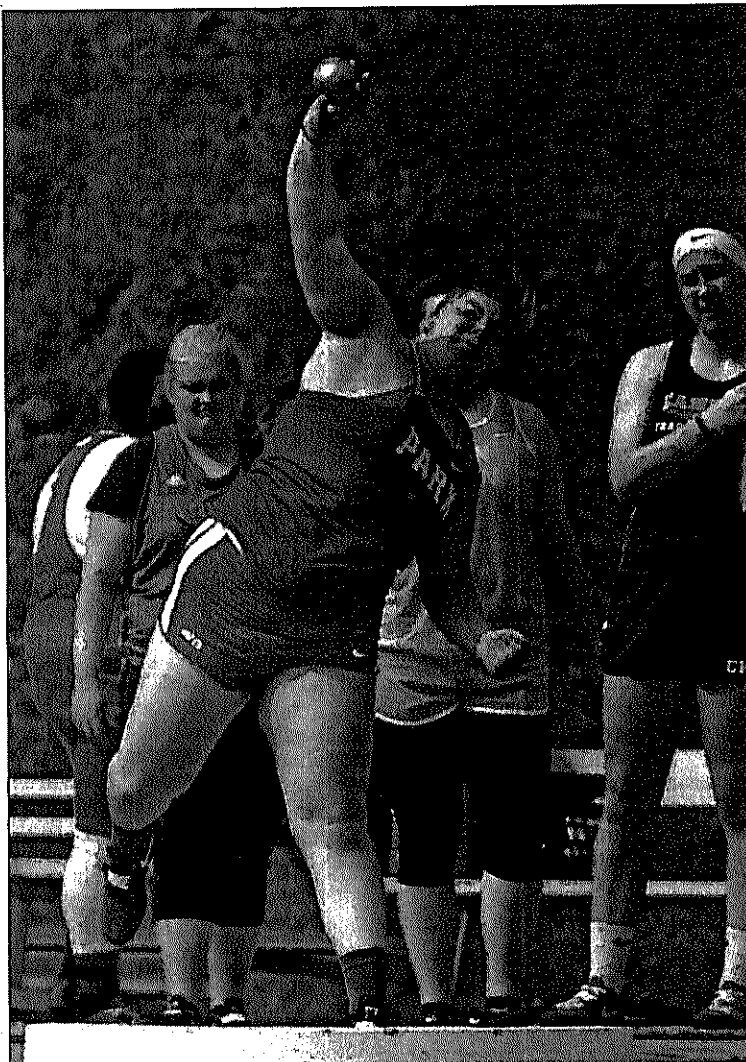


Photo by Sheri McAnlach

Wheeling Park's Cheyenne Nash throws her way to a victory in the shot put during the Cal Giffin OVAC Track and Field Championship on Saturday.

4x4.

Stuebenville Catholic won the 4x2 in 1:49.99. It also captured the 4x1 in 52.75. The Crusaders' first individual win came via Rebecca Bodo in the 400, who circled the oval in 61.76.

Shadyside's Katie James won the 1600 meter run in 5:44.56.

Cameron's Kelsie Meintel was

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Paden City freshman Abbee Stalkpole was the 100-meter dash champion in 13.29.

Hundred's Katherine Henderson cleared 5 feet to win the high jump.

Please See OVAC, Page B3

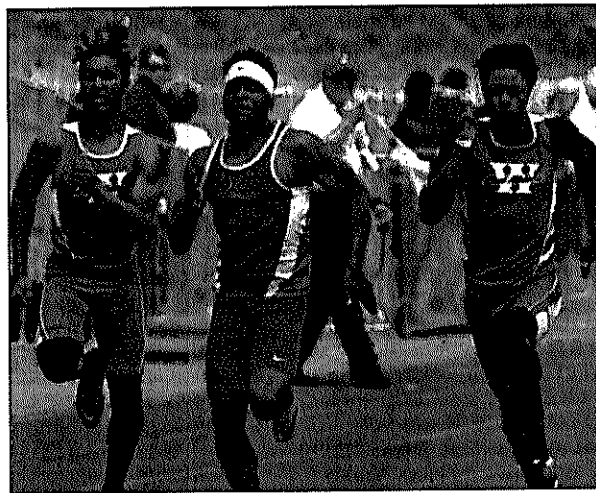


Photo by Sheri McAnlach

Weir's Sebastian Spencer, right, runs against teammate Quincy Dameron, left, and Morgantown's Alajuan Robinson during the OVAC championship. Spencer won the event.

St. C., SCC And Magnolia Claim Championships

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

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Hoisting the coveted team trophies were Steubenville Catholic (1A/2A), Magnolia (3A), St. Clairsville (4A) and Morgantown (5A).

CLASS 1A/2A

Steubenville Catholic, which was missing two key sprinters, performed well in the distance events and it was enough to hold off Shenandoah, 92-76.

"We came in a plan, knowing we had to get two kids in each of the distance races and win the 4x8," SCC coach Bob Stanko said. "They performed well all week. I am really proud of these kids."

The title is the Crusaders' eighth and second consecutive.

Steubenville Catholic's only victory came in the 4x8 thanks to a time of 8:34.07.

Shadyside picked up a victory in the pole vault. Dale Hawthorne soared a season-best 13-6 to pace the field.

Tigers junior distance ace Chase Stewart had a strong showing as well. He won the overall title in the 1600 in 4:25.61.

Please See Championships, Page B7

OVAC

Continued from page B1

Madonna's Kennedy Martin was the discus champion with a twirl of 95-8.

East Richland Christian's Ally Stewart was the champion in the 300 low hurdles with a time of 47.98.

Class 3A

Coach Eric Belancic's team, which is the defending Class A state champion, added the school's third straight and fourth conference title to its illustrious history by virtue of 116 points.

"We had 10 girls competing, all of them contributed and did their part," Belancic said. "We had an awesome meet. We moved up a class and still got the job done. We hope we can ride this momentum into the postseason. If we perform, we have a good shot (in the state) again."

Wheeling Central's run to another team title got started when freshman Marissa Horan claimed the long jump at 15-7.

The Knights picked up another victory in the 100-meter dash thanks to Kenadee Wayt's 12.84. Wayt set a Red Devil Stadium record in winning the 200-meter dash with a 25.73 en route to winning the overall title.

The speed wins kept coming for the Knights, who captured the 4x2 in 1:50.46. Central added the 400 title when Nicole Billie turned a sizzling 59.71.

The Knights' Ireland Wayt got into the individual winning act when she ran two laps in 2:25.00 to win the overall 800 title.

Central closed out things with a 4:11.14 to win the 4x4 title.

Union Local claimed the 4x8 in 10:53.69.

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She also won the running portion of the inaugural Butch and Donna Joseph High Point Award.

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Liza Clegg continued the winning on the track when she claimed the high hurdles in 18.07. She also captured the lows in 52.56.

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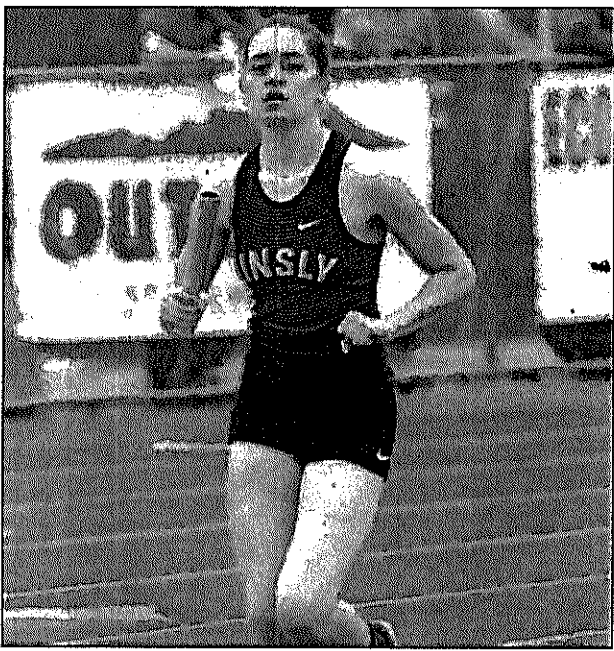


Photo by Sheri McAninch

Linsly's Emma Campsey competes in a relay event during the OVAC Track and Field Championship on Saturday.

gold.

Class 4A

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"When the performance list came out, we scored it and knew it was going to be close with Cambridge," St. Clairsville coach Tony Ciroti said. "We knew what we had to do. Sometimes people rise and sometimes people stumble. Even though things were one way on paper, it didn't mean it was going to go that way on the track. But, our girls performed."

St. Clairsville's 4x1 gave the Red Devils their first conference title of the meet when it passed the baton to a time of 51.47.

Junior Emily Baire became St. C.'s first individual winner, posting a 26.30 to win the 200. St. C. closed things out with a victory in the 4x4 in a time of 4:20.49.

Oak Glen's Kylee Williams garnered the shot put title with a heave of 35-5. The Golden Bears also captured the long jump thanks to Maggie Kovalcik's mark of 16-11. Jillian Williams gave Oak Glen its first win on the track when she claimed the 800 in 2:31.05.

Staubenville's T'Kayla Kelley grabbed the class and overall title by two hundredths of a second in 12.82. Big Red freshman Madison Beadling captured the 400 in 62.40.

Harrison Central's 4x8 team prevailed with a 10:46.53. The Huskies' individual winner was freshman Jasmine Arnold, who won the 3200 in 12:27.18.

Martins Ferry's Richella Spielvogel was the discus champion — both in class

and overall — with a mark of 116-8. Along with her finish in the shot put, Spielvogel was the field recipient of the Butch and Donna Joseph High Point Award.

Class 5A

Wheeling Park coach Bryan Arbes and his staff had some tough decisions to make about their personnel for this week's conference meet. So, the Patriots elected to run basically the same schedule of events they'll compete in this week's regional meet.

It worked plenty well enough as Park finished with 114 points, which was 12 more than runner-up Morgantown.

"We didn't try to spread (people) out to score more," Arbes said. "We rested some distance kids, which is always a tough call. This is my first (OVAC) title and it's a great thing. I am proud of the kids."

Wheeling Park's Cheyenne Nash was the shot put class and overall champion with a mark of 36-0 1/2.

Park's strong in the field events continued in the high jump where Alex Knight won with a jump of 4-10.

Patriots' Abby Snedeker was the 100 meter champion in 13.02. She turned in a 26.55 to win the 200 as well.

Wheeling Park's 4x2 prevailed both in the class and overall thanks to a 1:47.04. The Pats made it a sprint relay sweep when the 4x1 captured both the overall and class title with a 51.25.

Sophomore Aubrey Wiethie claimed the low hurdle crown in 46.40.

Brooke's Island Williams was crowned the long jump champion with a mark of 16-1.

John Marshall's first OVAC title came in the shut-

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Continued from page B1

In pulling one of the more impressive triples of the day, Stewart place third in the class in the 800 and then a short-time later returned to the track to win the overall title in the 3200 in 9:53.15.

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Linsly's Mikal Warfield-Payne picked up the win in the 110 high hurdles in 16.57. He added the intermediate crown in 43.08.

Madonna's Donovan Kirby captured the iron ball title in the small-school division with a mark of 47-0 1/2.

CLASS 3A

Magnolia came into Belmont County on a mission and completed it with 96 points, fighting off Union Local and Buckeye Trail, which tied for the runner-up plaque with 86 points.

"I am very proud of how we performed throughout the week," Magnolia coach Travis Emch said. "We came hungry (Saturday). We set this goal pre-season and we knew what we were capable of and we made a statement."

Magnolia began its title quest with a victory in the discus. Jakob Barrows was the class champion in the discus with a mark of 124-8.

Senior ace Brooks Parsons picked up a win in the high jump thanks to a 6-foot clearance. On the track, he claimed the 400 in 52.17.

The Blue Eagles passed the baton to a 44.92 to win the 4x1. Magnolia captured the shuttle hurdle relay as well in a time of 64.74 and put the finishing touches on things with a 3:33.21 to win the 4x4.

Union Local's Luke Menges captured the 100 meter dash in a quick 11.49. He later captured the 200 meter dash in 22.97.

Bellaire's A.J. McCarthy won the high hurdle title in 17 seconds. He turned it on

late to make it a sweep of the hurdles, claiming the intermediates in 42.59.

The Big Reds captured the 4x2 in 1:33.83.

Junior strong man Cole LaRoche defended his shot put title in this class with a mark of 52-5.

Barnesville's 4x8 gave the Shamrocks their first OVAC title of the day thanks to a time of 8:41.10.

Wheeling Central picked up a victory in the long jump as sophomore Jeremiah Blackmore won the title with a distance of 18-8 3/4.

Buckeye Trail's day got started with a victory from Chase Stillion, who also claimed the overall title, in the pole vault. She cleared 14-feet.

Trey Dougherty won the 800 meter run in 2:06.64. Luke Howald won the 3200 meter run in 10:14.71.

CLASS 4A

St. Clairsville knew it was going to be in for a fight from Cambridge and it played out that way. It actually came down to the 4x4 where the Red Devils finished third in the class and it took Matt Marling limping around the track in the anchor leg after he suffered a hamstring injury.

"I never want to say 'you just have to finish,' but that's kind of what it came down to," St. C. coach Tony Ciroti said. "The athlete in Matt just finished. I saw something happen in the first 50 meters. It's a team sport and he finished that leg for his teammates. Winning the OVAC is exciting, but seeing a kid do that for his teammates is why we get into coaching."

St. Clairsville got its day started with a victory in the long jump when junior Justin Heatherington marked the sand — on his final attempt — at 21-2 1/2.

Heatherington made it a jumping sweep when he soared over 6-4 to win the high jump.

Junior Declan Dombrowski captured the 400 meter dash in 52.82. Senior Christian Oberdick won the intermediate hurdles, post-

ing a 40.58.

The Red Devils salted the team title away with a victory in the shuttles, which came in a time of 1:03.53.

Staubenville's Jonathan Blackmon captured the high hurdle title with a time of 15.10. Big Red added the 100 meter title thanks to Caleb Mitchell's 11.72. Staubenville continued to accumulate sprint points by virtue of winning the 4x2 in a time of 1:30.79. The Big Red speed foursome added the 4x1 in a time of 44.20.

In the field, Staubenville picked up critical points from Zach Ekey. He won the shot put with a heave of 53-6, which was good enough for the overall title, too.

Oak Glen's Kellen Tropek continued his season-long dominance in the discus with a mark of 162-11, which was also good enough for the overall title.

Edison's Bryce McAfoose was the champion in the pole vault with a mark of 12 feet.

CLASS 5A

Morgantown, which is coached by Shadyside graduate Steve Blinco, won for the second straight season. It scored 152 points to fend off Warren by 40.

Weir sophomore Sebastian Spencer is the conference's fastest man after he posted an 11.13 to win the 100 meter dash title. Spencer added the 200 meter title in a blazing 22.05 a short-time later.

Weir's first victory of the day came in the discus when Ben Fedoush claimed the platter title with a mark of 157-feet.

The Red Riders also claimed the 4x1 title in a blistering 43.70.

Brooke's Ethan Secrist won the high hurdles overall in 15.06. Matthew Harvey gave Brooke the championship in the 800 when he posted a 2:02.09. The Bruins secured the shuttle relay title in a time of 1:01.13.

Wheeling Park's Jermain Snodgrass won the shot put crown with a mark of 46-10.