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Wednesday,  
July 3, 2019

# Ohio coaching staff set for OVAC All-Star Game

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**WINTERSVILLE** - Before formally accepting the invitation to coach in the 74th OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, Indian Creek's Andrew Connor wanted to make sure he had a commitment from his coaching staff.

That was a quick and resounding "yes" from all of the members.

"The guys are really excited," Connor said. "We have three guys who played in the game and one (Matt Shreve) who is cel-

brating his 10th anniversary, so that was possible," Connor said.

The staff will lead the Ohio squad into the game on Saturday, July 27, at Wheeling Island Stadium. The coaches will begin work with their players on Sunday, July 21 when they report to camp at Bethany College.

"We're going to try to do our part to make sure we hold up our end of the bargain and have these kids prepared to represent Ohio as well as



to a 98-66 mark during his career and was

Slated to join Connor on the sideline are Joe Hammack, Rob Lucas, Mike Voltz, David Kemp, Joe Strohmeyer and Matt Shreve.

Here's a capsule look at the Ohio coaching staff:

**ANDREW CONNOR** - This veteran head coach has been patrolling the sidelines at Indian Creek for the last 16 years.

Connor has guided the Redskins

named Eastern District Coach of the Year on three occasions (2004, 2012, 2014). He was named the Ohio Division IV State Coach of the Year following the 2014 campaign. He was also the Quad County Coach of the Year in 2012 and 2014.

Along with his tenure at Indian Creek, Connor has coached football at Akron Hoban, Steubenville Catholic Central and Harrison Central. He's also served as the head track coach at his alma mater, Steubenville Catholic, in his career.

See, OHIO, Page B2

Connor owns both a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Akron.

Andrew and his wife, Tiffany, have been married 23 years. They have two children, Zach (22) and Chelsea (18).

**JOE HAMMACK, Offensive Coordinator** – This veteran assistant coach has spent his entire career working under Connor.

After graduating from Indian Creek and California University of Pa., Hammack has spent the last 15 years as part of the Redskins' staff.

Hammack's work hasn't gone unnoticed. He was named 2018 Big 22 Assistant Offensive Coach of the Year.

Joe and his wife, Crystal, have two daughters, Bryn and Alyvia.

**ROB LUCAS, Defensive Backs, Wide Receivers** – This long-time assistant coach has been an assistant coach at Creek for the last 20 seasons.

All told, Lucas has 29 years of coaching experience.

Lucas, who is a graduate of Wintersville High School and West Liberty, was a three-sport standout in high school, shining in baseball, basketball and football.

Rob and his wife Janine have three children, Braidy, Avery and Brock.

**MIKE VOLTZ, Line** – This long-time assistant has been a consistent member of the Connor staff for the last 10 years.

Voltz, who also has coaching experience at Harrison Central, graduated from Toronto High School and Bethany College. During his time at Creek, he's been a part of 10 consecutive winning seasons, five playoff appearances and an OVAC 5A title last season.

Mike has two sons, Zane and Ryan.

**DAVID KEMP, Defensive Backs, receivers, quarterbacks** – This former Redskins standout is the youngest member of the staff, having graduated in 2012.

Kemp – a former OVAC All-Star player – has been at Creek for three years. Along with football, he coaches middle school track.

After high school, Kemp attended Capital University.

**JOE STROHMEYER, Linebackers, receivers** – For the past three years, Strohmeyer has been a part of the Redskins' staff.

All told, he has six years of experience, having gained three at his alma mater, Edison.

Joe and his wife, Justyne, reside in Steubenville.

**MATT SHREVE, Defensive Coordinator** – This former OVAC All-Star player has taken over the reins of the Redskins' chief defensive coach.

Shreve has been working with Connor for four years. Along with his football duties, he also coaches wrestling.

Shreve, who attended Martins Ferry and West Liberty University, was named a captain of the Ohio squad in 2009.

Matt and his wife, Kayla, have a son, Jackson.

# B

Sunday News-Register

JUNE 16, 2019



## Connor, Eddy Will Coach In OVAC All-Star Game

By SETH STASKEY  
For the News-Register

The Ohio Valley's kick off to football season – the Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game – is less than six weeks away.

The 74th annual affair is slated for Saturday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

A pair of first-time coaches are set to lead Team Ohio and West Virginia. Indian Creek's Andrew Connor and Parkersburg South's Mike Eddy were chosen after their teams' strong seasons in 2018.

Both coaches are experiencing the game from the perspective of head coach for the first time. Actually, neither coach has been involved in any more than just a spectator.

"This is such an honor for me," Connor said. "Coaching in this game is one of those bucket-list coaching items for the guys in this valley. To know the tradition and history of this game makes it a really big deal to me. My son (Zach) and my brother (David) played in the game. I've been attending since I don't know when pretty much sitting in the same seat every year at Wheeling Island Stadium. It will be nice to have a different place to watch the game from."

Connor guided the Redskins to an 8-2 record, the OVAC Class 5A title and a berth in the Division IV, Region 13 tournament. His Redskins earned the sixth seed, but fell at Hubbard in week one of the postseason.

In the OVAC's new system of choosing the coaches, which it adopted for the 2018 game, there was no guarantee that Connor would garner the invitation even though it was the big school (Class 4A and 5A) turn. That stems from St. Clairsville, which won the 4A title, owning a head-to-head win over the Redskins.

"I've coached in the Penn-Ohio twice, but it seemed like whenever we'd have a good year or win the OVAC, it never fell on our turn to coach in the all-star game," Connor said. "When they called this year and offered me the chance, I jumped at it."

Please see OVAC, Page B2

# OVAC

Continued from Page B1

The only hold up for Connor in accepting didn't take long to get past. He wanted to make sure his coaching staff was on board to go with him.

"All of my coaches are just as excited as I am," Connor said. "A couple of them actually played in the game, so they're excited to be back involved with it, too."

Eddy is in a slightly different position. Since the season ended, Eddy has resigned from South and accepted the head coaching position at Logan – a Division II school in Ohio.

Eddy had committed to the all-star game before accepting his new position. He received a blessing from his new employer to coach the game.

"I had committed to the game and realized there wouldn't be a conflict," Eddy said. "I look at it as a great way to go out from our time at South."

The Patriots finished last season 7-4 and qualified once again to the West Virginia playoffs before falling

to Hedgesville in the opening round.

Along with this being Eddy's last opportunity to represent South one more time, it's also the final time many of his assistant coaches will do so as well.

"There has been a tremendous amount of turnover at South," Eddy said. "One of my assistants accepted the job at Warren and several (coaches) went with him, but a couple are staying at South, too. It's going to be a last hurrah, for all of us together, so to speak."

This marks the first time Eddy has been involved with the game. He's been to it before as a spectator since South has had players in it since its entry into the OVAC.

"Being chosen to coach in this game is an honor not only for the person, but for the entire school and community," Eddy said. "We had a tremendous season (at South) last year and it led to this opportunity, so much of the credit goes to the kids."

Wheeling kicks off the 2019 preseason against Fort Wayne on Friday, Oct. 4 at WesBanco Arena/11

# SPORTS

## Ohio Linebackers Ready to Make Impact

Connor believes players can play both against the pass and run

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For The Intelligencer  
WINTERSVILLE — Andrew Connor and his coaching staff didn't just look for playmakers on the offensive side of the ball when they selected their roster for the 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.  
The veteran Indian Creek head coach, who will lead the Buckeye State against

West Virginia on Saturday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium, focused on linebacker play because of how instrumental it is to defensive success.

"If you do not have good linebackers, the other stuff is all window dressing," Connor said. "We feel like we've selected a really good group of kids."  
"We've seen a lot of these kids play and it's nice to have them on our team now."

Connor believes the group, which



includes Shadyside's Connor Banco, Shenandoah's Chase Chicwak, River's Hunter Dennis, Steubenville's Erik Lulla and Fort Frye's Evan Schob, will be able to play both against the run and pass.

"This group can stunt well, gets to the ball well and tackles well in space," Connor observed. "We're really excited about these guys."

Both the Ohio and West Virginia squads report to camp on Sunday at Bethany College.

Here's a capsule look at the players:

**CONNOR BANCO, Shadyside** — This former Tiger was a standout on both sides of the ball for Coach Mark Holenka's team.

The 6-foot-2, 205 pounder finished his prep career with some 200 tackles and 12 sacks from his linebacker post. He also accumulated some 2,600 yards rushing and 1,000 yards receiving to go along with 60 touchdowns.

Banco was twice named All-Ohio and All-Eastern District.

Banco, who plans to attend Wheeling Jesuit, is the son of Thomas and Jennifer Banco.

Please see **LINEBACKERS**, Page 10

### LINEBACKER

(Continued from Page 9)

**CHASE CHICWAK, Shenandoah** — This former Zep re-wrote the school records for tackles under the watch of coach Jesse Wells.

The 6-0, 190 pounder finished his career with a Shenandoah-best 439 tackles.

He was recognized as All-Ohio three times during his illustrious career and twice earned the coveted Eastern District Defensive Player of the Year. He was an All-Eastern District pick three times.

Chicwak, who plans to attend Ohio Dominican, is the son of John Chicwak and Lori Chicwak.

**HUNTER DENNIS, River** — This former Pilot shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Mike Flannery's team.

The 5-9, 185 pounder had a senior season in which he logged 53 tackles, 27 of which were

solo. He also had a sack, interception, three forced fumbles and 15 tackles for loss. On the offensive side, he scored four touchdowns and graded out at 95 percent as a blocking fullback.

Dennis was honorable mention All-Eastern District and All-Valley.

Dennis is the son of Rodney and Erica Dennis.

**ERIK LULLA, Steubenville** — This former Big Red dandy was a key cog in the success of Coach Reno Saccoccia's team the last couple of seasons.

The 6-0, 175 pounder was Big Red's leading tackler as both a junior and senior. He also caught six touchdowns from his tight end spot.

Lulla was named all-OVAC and second-team All-Ohio as well as first-team All-Eastern District.

Lulla, who plans to attend Eastern Gateway

Community College, is the son of Dave and Dawn Lulla.

**EVAN SCHOB, Fort Frye** — This former Cadet did was one of the key contributors on both sides of the ball for Coach Eric Huck's team that advanced to the Division VI, Final Four.

The 5-9, 200 pounder finished with some 1,100 yards and 15 touchdowns rushing. He also logged 90 tackles from his middle linebacker spot.

Schob was named all-Eastern District as a running back, all-PVC, all-OVAC and was a team captain.

Along with football, Schob is a member of the OVAC's Varsity Board and attended Buckeye Boys State in 2018.

Schob, who plans to attend Ohio Valley University, is the son of Andy and Candi Schob.

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### • OVAC

Continued from Page C1

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The Times Leader

# SPORTS

Sunday,  
June 16, 2019

## OVAC All-Star grid coaches named

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

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any more than just a spectator.

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See, **OVAC**, Page C3



• OVAC

Continued from Page C1

and all-conference lists and then laid out our depth chart with how many quarterbacks, running backs and so on we wanted."

Once those spots were determined, Eddy turned to the coach's nominations forms and relied heavily on the comments that the coaches of the respective athletes had supplied.

"I would say the entire process took us about 90 minutes," Eddy said. "Plus, we still have a solid list of guys as alternates in case someone backs out in the last month or so (before camp)."

Picking the roster isn't as simple as looking at the names and stats and taking the premier 31 players and kicker. Obviously, fitting the system and spreading the roster spots among positions and schools is also a necessity.

"Making sure you're able to meet the required number (of schools) that the OVAC sets can be tough," Connor said. "We were fortunate though that a lot of the kids we picked we had saw (play), so we had some information on them."

Actually, the Ohio roster has a representative from 19 schools and of those eight schools have multiple picks. There are fewer OVAC schools in West Virginia, but Eddy still has a representation of 15 schools and 10 of those have more than player.

Each coach relished the opportunity to coach his own players one more time. Connor has four of his own players - Trent Bolek, Matt Mamula, Brennon Norris and Logan Wilson - on the Ohio squad.

"Whenever you say good bye to your kids (after the season), you're always hoping or wishing for one more chance to be able to coach those guys," Connor offered. "I feel fortunate because this is the third time in nine years that I've been able to coach an (area) all-star game and be able to spend additional time with my guy. And obviously meet a lot more great kids from the other schools."

Eddy, meanwhile, selected Brayden Mooney and Nick Yoho. Both played key roles in helping the Patriots claim a West Virginia big-school playoff berth.

"I am really looking forward to another chance to spend time with those guys," Eddy said. "They're not only good football players, but they're great kids."

Along with Indian Creek, only Steubenville and Wheeling Park garnered the maximum of four roster spots. The Big Red representatives are Keonte Holmes, Erik Lulla, Ian Phillips and Kwadre Williams.

Representing Park once more will be Ryan McCave, DeVaughn McWhorter, Jermain Snodgrass and Jack Stakem.

The complete rosters:

OHIO

Cade Hannahs, Barnesville; Joey Hoepfner, Bellaire; Cole LaRoche, Bellaire; Tino Kusic, Bridgeport; Trent Valentine, Cambridge; Jalen Mormon, East Liverpool; Bryce McAfoose, Edison; Evan Schob, Fort Frye; Cody Gamble, Harrison Central; Tyler West, Harrison Central; Trent Bolek, Indian Creek, Matt Mamula, Indian Creek; Brennon Norris, Indian Creek; Logan Wilson, Indian Creek; Drake Dobson, Martins Ferry; DeAndre Pugh, Martins Ferry; Davis Black, Meadowbrook; Owen Hartshorn, Monroe Central; Hunter Dennis, River; Connor Banco, Shadyside; Andrew Jobe, Shadyside; Chase Chicwak, Shenandoah; Dalton Rice, Shenandoah, Craig Bober, St. Clairsville; Justin Heatherington, St. Clairsville; Brady Kolb, St. Clairsville; Keonte Holmes, Steubenville; Erik Lulla, Steubenville; Ian Phillips, Steubenville; Kwadre Williams, Steubenville; Trent Wright, Toronto; Cal Killo, Union Local; Derrick Suggs, Wellsville.

WEST VIRGINIA

Hayden Hoge, Cameron; Andrew Ritchea, Cameron; Hunter Brewer, Clay-Battelle; Andrew Zedell, Hundred; Shane Hercules, John Marshall; Chas McCool, John Marshall; Brady Williams, John Marshall; Bastian Gehr, Linsly; Jules Giovengo, Linsly; Wyatt Hirt, Linsly; Garrett Cook, Madonna; Gage Adams, Magnolia; Pat Mirandy, Magnolia; Sebastian Stickler, Magnolia; Aaron Alvarez, Morgantown; Nick DeFelice, Morgantown; Nick Malone, Morgantown; Jackson Chaney, Oak Glen; Ryan Cross, Raden City; Brayden Mooney, South; Nick Yoho, South; Jonah Phares, University; Derek Richardson, University; Jake McCoy, Weir; Reed Reitter, Weir; Rob Valenti, Weir; Anthony Robbins, Wheeling Central; Luke Duplaza, Wheeling Central; Vinny Mangino, Wheeling Central; Ryan McCave, Wheeling Park; DeVaughn McWhorter, Wheeling Park; Jermain Snodgrass, Wheeling Park; Jack Stakem, Wheeling Park.

The Times Leader SPORTS

SECTION C

Sunday, June 23, 2019

OVAC All-Star grid rosters named

By SETH STASKEY Times Leader Sports Editor

Andrew Connor and Mike Eddy are at the point now in their preparations for next month's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game that they just simply wait.

The respective Ohio and West Virginia head coaches have their staffs in place and their rosters are now set, too.

Both head coaches officially revealed their 32-man roster, which

will report to training camp at Bethany College on Saturday, July 20.

As is usually the case for the head coaches, getting the nominations trimmed down to 32 wasn't easy.

"There are so many good players that it can be tough to narrow it down to 32," Connor, who also serves as the head coach at Indian Creek, said. "We had our first team picked, but then there are always some kids you pick who decline

the opportunity for one reason or another and you have to go back and find a replacement."

Eddy, who was the coach at South last season and will most west to Logan, Ohio this year, said he and his staff had a meeting with the nomination forms and post-season accolade listings and went from there.

"I actually thought (the selection process) went well for us," Eddy said. "We took the all-state

See, OVAC, Page C3



Advertisement for the OVAC All-Star Game Charity Classic. It features the event logo, date (Saturday, July 27 @ 7:15PM), location (Wheeling Island Stadium), and details for a youth football clinic on July 27. The clinic is open to area boys & girls age 6-13, with a parent/guardian requirement. It lists sponsors such as The Times Leader, Wheeling Hospital, Subway, and others.



With home runs being hit at a pace nearly 10% above the record two years ago, the MLB admits there is less drag on the ball and says it trying to find out why/11

## West Virginia Will Have Plenty of Depth at WR

### At least seven players expected to see time

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For The Intelligencer

**PARKERSBURG** — When a coach plans to throw the ball a lot, having a multitude of receivers to pick from is helpful. Such is the case for the West Virginia squad that will line up against Ohio in the 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, which is slated for Wheeling Island Stadium on Saturday, July 27. Head Coach Mike Eddy has selected a deep pool of no fewer than seven receivers who are all expected to see time at that spot

when camp opens at Bethany College on Sunday, July 21.

"You're going to see a lot of kids rotating in because we have a lot of really good kids we can throw the ball to," Eddy said. "We'll be meshing all kinds of different skill sets. We could get these kids to camp and make the decision not to run the ball one time, but we're still in a wait-and-see for that."

Set to compete for playing time are Aaron Alvarez (Morgantown), Jake McCoy (Weir), DeVaughn McWhorter (Wheeling Park), Reed Reitter (Weir), Derek Richardson (University), Anthony



Robbins (Wheeling Central) and Jack Stakem (Wheeling Park).

"It's a very talented group," Eddy said.

Here's a capsule look at the players:

**AARON ALVAREZ, Morgantown** — This former Mohigan played on both sides of the ball for Coach Matt Lacey's squad.

The 6-foot-3, 200 pounder recorded 24 tackles, two interceptions and nine pass breakups as a senior.

Hewas recognized as first-team all-TRAC.

Along with football, Alvarez was a varsity basketball player and a member of the track team.

Alvarez, who is the son of Vince and Kristine Alvarez, plans to attend Marietta College.

**JAKE MCCOY, Weir** — This former Red Rider had a highly productive career under Coach Tony Filberto's watch.

The 6-1, 180 pounder caught 38 balls for 450 yards as a senior, which followed up a 10-catch, 330-yard junior season.

McCoy was second-team all-state and special mention all-OVAC.

Along with athletics, McCoy is also a member of the National Honor Society.

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SPORTS Wednesday, July 10, 2019

### WR

(Continued from Page 11)

McCoy, who is the son of Michael and Sunny McCoy, plans to attend West Virginia University.

**DEVAUGHN MCWHORTER, Wheeling Park** — This former Patriots' standout shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Chris Daugherty's team.

The 5-10, 150 pounder caught 37 passes for 608 yards and nine touchdowns. He also took three kickoffs back for a touchdown. He logged 90 career tackles and broke up 20 passes.

McWhorter was an all-state pick as a senior along with all-OVAC.

On top of football, McWhorter was a three-year letterman in basketball and track as well.

McWhorter, who plans to attend Bethany College, is the son of Michael Neil and Tracy McWhorter.

**REED REITTER, Weir** — This former Red Rider was a standout in all three facets of the game for Filberto's team.

The 6-4, 215 pounder caught 67 passes for 1,190 yards and 10 touchdowns. As a kicker, he scored 99 points and averaged 44 yards per kick on kickoffs. He was also the punter with a 36.7 yards per punt average. He logged 16.5 solo tackles and 48 assists.

Reitter was a multiple-time all-OVAC, all-state performer. He was also named first-team all-Valley twice.

Reitter played in the OVAC All-Star Basketball Game and was part of the Red Riders' state championship sprint relay teams in track.

Reitter, who is the son of Bryon and Gina Reitter and Danielle Reed, plans to attend West Liberty.

**DEREK RICHARDSON, University** — This former Hawk was a big-play threat for Coach John Kelley's team.

The 6-4, 220 pounder caught 29 passes for 527 yards and 7 touchdowns as a senior.

He also collected 29 tackles, four for loss and a sack.

Away from football, he was a standout in lacrosse where he served as team captain.

He's also a member of the National Honor Society and was named an AP Scholar.

Richardson, who is the son of Steve and Valerie Richardson, plans to attend West Virginia University.

**ANTHONY ROBBINS, Wheeling Central** — This former Maroon Knight was a key contributor for Coach Mike Young's state championship squad.

The 6-4, 190 pounder shined at receiver and defensive back for the Knights. He was named first-team all-state and all-OVAC.

Along with football, Robbins was a standout in basketball, earning all-state recognition and a berth in the OVAC All-Star Game. He also ran track.

Robbins, who is the son of Dwayne Robbins and Danielle Whorton, plans to attend West Liberty.

**JACK STAKEM, Wheeling Park** — This former Patriot put forth a career to remember for Coach Daugherty's team.

The 5-9, 165 pounder was a three-year starter and finished with 104 catches for 1,496 yards and 18 touchdowns. He was named second-team all-state as a senior along with all-TRAC and all-Valley.

Away from football, Stakem was a multiple-year starter in basketball.

Stakem was also active in the school. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Drug Free Club, Leadership Wheeling, National Technical Honor Society and a volunteer for Special Olympics.

Stakem, who is the son of Eric and Karen Stakem, plans to attend the University of Charleston.

### • OVAC

Continued from Page B1

Mike and his wife, Joni, have two children, Lishea and Avery.

**Cody Nutter, Line/Linebackers** — This former West Virginia football player has worked on the Patriots' staff for the past six years.

After graduating from South, Nutter played for the Mountaineers from 2007-11.

Cody and his wife, Jaimee, have two children, Roane (3) and Bayne (11 months).

**Bryan Youngblood, Tight Ends/Defensive Line** — This veteran coach has been around the block, but he's worked with Eddy for just three seasons.

Youngblood is well traveled in his career. After

graduating from Doylestown Chippewa in Ohio, he attended Ohio Dominican and Bluffton Universities. He also graduated from Ohio State and West Virginia Universities with a master's degree.

He's coached baseball at Wirt County, basketball at Pendleton County and was part of the 2018 OVAC championship baseball staff at South.

He's coached football at South for three years.

Bryan and his wife, Heather, have a daughter, Evelyn (14).

Joey Lindamood, Running Backs/Defensive Line — This former South assistant will work under Eddy for the final time during the

OVAC game.

Lindamood, who has spent the last several seasons with the Patriots, will join the staff at Warren Local. All told, Lindamood has eight years of football coaching experience. He's served as an assistant at Parkersburg and the University of Charleston.

Lindamood — a former standout in football, wrestling and track — graduated from Parkersburg High School, Ohio Valley University and the University of Charleston.

Joey is engaged to Kelsey Snyder. He has two children — Fallon and Abram.

Matt Kimes, Quarterbacks, defensive backs, offensive coordinator — This former Parkersburg Big Red standout has been the chief offensive coach since 2013.

Kimes, who owns two West Virginia state titles as an assistant at Parkersburg, is slated to move to Warren Local for the upcoming season. Along with his football duties, he coached baseball at Parkersburg from 2003 until 2010.

Matt and his wife Kristen have three children, Kendall (10), Karsen (8) and Katryn (6).

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### INSIDE

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Wimbledon/B4

The Times Leader

# SPORTS

SECTION

## B

Friday,  
July 5, 2019

## OVAC game to be emotional time for Eddy

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**PARKERSBURG** — Regardless if West Virginia wins or loses the 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, it's sure to be an emotional evening for Mike Eddy and his coaching staff.

Eddy — the now former Parkersburg South High School head coach — will guide the Mountain State and spend the week with his coaches for the final time. He's accepted a job at Logan High School in Ohio and the majority of staff at South are either staying

there or embarking on other opportunities.

"I've known a lot of these guys for several years and we all have a great relationship," Eddy said. "It's important to be with these guys one more time."

Knowing that opportunity was big for Eddy when the OVAC extended the invitation to coach in the game.

"The bond of a staff is as important as the bond between the players," Eddy said. "Our guys are all friends away from football



and that makes (coaching) together even easier. It's definitely going to be an emotional time."

Eddy and the Mountain State staff will report to Bethany College on Sunday, July 21 to open camp in preparation for the game, which will be held six days later at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Joining Eddy on the sideline will be Cody Nutter, Bryan Youngblood, Joey Lindamood, Matt Kimes and Zach Walls.

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

Mike Eddy, Head Coach — This coaching veteran has been well traveled in his 21 years of being involved with football.

With 10 years of head coaching experience, Eddy has spent the last six seasons at Parkersburg South, but during this offseason, he accepted the head coaching job at Logan High School in Ohio.

Prior to arriving at South, Eddy coached at Magnolia, Parkersburg and Gallia Academy.

Eddy graduated from Tyler County and Fairmont State.

See, OVAC, Page B2

The Pittsburgh Penguins have signed coach Mike Sullivan to a 4-year extension/9

# West Virginia Backfield Will Have Plenty of Options

Eddy believes RB position could be one of the deepest

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

**PARKERSBURG** — Mike Eddy and his coaching staff sat down with the nominations for the 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game and recognized many of the names they had to choose from. Because they had some restless nights during the season trying to figure out

how to defend many of the candidates, so now they'll have the opportunity to coach them rather than stop them.

With so many options available, Eddy believes the backfield could one of the deepest positions on the West Virginia roster for the game against Ohio, which is slated for Saturday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Battling for the quarterback duties will be Linsly's Wyatt Hirt and Magnolia's Patrick Mirandy.



"For the flow of our offense, we like a dual-threat kind of guy at quarterback, so I am interested to see what these guys can do there because we just don't want to sling the ball all over the field," Eddy said.

In the mix at running back are Cameron's Andrew Ritchea, Hundred's Andrew Zedell, John Marshall's Chas McCool, Magnolia's Gage Adams and South's Nick Yoho.

"There is going to be a lot of versatility in the backs we've chosen," Eddy

said. "They all have good open-field speed, but some of those guys are physical, bruising-type guys. We think we can go two-back offense if we need to."

Here's a capsule look at the players who have returned information sheets: **GAGE ADAMS, Magnolia** — This former Blue Eagle shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Dave Chapman's team.

The 5-foot-6, 145 pounder finished with 91 tackles, 49 of which were solo. He also carried the ball for the Blue Eagles.

Please see **BACKFIELD, Page 8**

## BACKFIELD

(Continued from Page 7)

Adams was named first-team all-OVAC and honorable mention all state.

Adams, who is the son of Kelly and Misty Adams of New Martinsville, plans to attend West Virginia.

**WYATT HIRT, Linsly** — This former Cadet quarterback was solid in the pocket for Coach B.J. Depew's team.

The 6-4, 190 pounder passed for 1,376 yards and 15 touchdowns in just seven games because of an injury.

Hirt was a three-year starter and team captain. He was named to the all Times Leader team in 2017.

Hirt, who plans to attend California, Pa., is the son of Todd Hirt and Debbie Harden-Vigas and resides in Cannonsburg.

**CHAS MCCOOL, John Marshall** — This former Monarch shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Jason Willis' team.

The 5-11, 200 pounder rushed for 402 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior. He also caught two touchdowns. Defensively, he recorded 44 solo tackles and seven assists.

Away from football, McCool is a member of the National Honor Society, Drug Free Club and volunteered for Special Olympics and Miracle League.

McCool, who plans to attend West Virginia, is the son of Robert and Lydia McCool of Moundsville.

**PATRICK MIRANDY, Magnolia** — This former Blue Eagle was quite versatile for Coach Chapman's offense.

He accounted for 2,257 yards of offense and 28

touchdowns. He is also a solid placekicker, converting 30 PATs and two field goals.

Mirandy was named first-team all-state and all-OVAC. He also lettered in baseball and track.

Mirandy, who plans to attend West Virginia, is the son of Patrick and Holly Mirandy of New Martinsville.

**ANDREW RITCHEA, Cameron** — This former Dragon was a workhorse for then coach Scott Holt's offense.

The 5-9, 160 pounder carried the ball 151 times for 1,800 yards and 29 touchdowns.

Ritchea was named first-team all-OVAC for his efforts.

Ritchea, who is the son of Fred and Jennifer Reynolds of Cameron, plans to attend West Virginia Northern.

**NICK YOHO, Parkersburg South** — This former Patriot shined at a bevy of spots for Eddy's team the last several seasons.

The 5-11, 195 pounder rushed for 1,291 yards and also had 450 yards receiving.

He scored 27 touchdowns. Defensively, he logged 99 tackles, including 11 for loss. He also broke up three passes and picked off one.

Yoho was named first-team all-state, all-OVAC and all-TRAC.

Yoho, who will be a preferred walk on for the WVU football team, was also a member of the National Honor Society, Drug Free Club and played baseball.

Yoho is the son of Gary and Nicole Yoho of Mineral Wells.

## Eddy announces W.Va. receivers

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**PARKERSBURG** — When a coach plans to throw the ball a lot, having a multitude of receivers to pick from is helpful.

Such is the case for the West Virginia squad that will line up against Ohio in the 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, which is slated for Wheeling Island Stadium on Saturday, July 27.

Head Coach Mike Eddy has selected a deep pool of no fewer than seven receivers who are all expected to see time at that spot when camp opens at Bethany College on Sunday, July 21.

"You're going to see a lot of kids rotating in because we have a lot of really good kids we can throw the ball to," Eddy said. "We'll be meshing all kinds of different skill sets. We could get these kids to camp and make the decision not to run the ball one time, but we're still in a wait-and-see for that."

Set to compete for playing time are Aaron Alvarez (Morgantown), Jake McCoy (Weir), DeVaughn McWhorter (Wheeling Park), Reed Reitter (Weir), Derek Richardson (University), Anthony Robbins (Wheeling Central) and Jack Stakem (Wheeling Park).

"It's a very talented group," Eddy said.

By SETH STASKEY

## Eddy

Continued from Page B1

Here's a capsule look at the players:

**AARON ALVAREZ, Morgantown** — This former Mohican played on both sides of the ball for Coach Matt Lacey's squad.

The 6-3, 200 pounder recorded 24 tackles, two interceptions and nine pass breakups as a senior.

He was recognized as first-team all-TRAC.

Along with football, Alvarez was a varsity basketball player and a member of the track team.

Aaron, who is the son of Vince and Kristine Alvarez, plans to attend Marietta College.

**JAKE MCCOY, Weir** — This former Red Rider had a highly productive career under Coach Tony Filberto's watch.

The 6-1, 180 pounder caught 38 balls for 450 yards as a senior, which followed up a 10-catch, 330-yard junior season.

McCoy was second-team all-state and special mention all-OVAC.

Along with athletics, McCoy is also a member of the National Honor Society.

Jake, who is the son of Michael and Sunny McCoy, plans to attend West Virginia University.

**DEVAUGHN MCWHORTER, Wheeling Park** — This former Patriots' standout shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Chris Daugherty's team.

The 5-10, 150 pounder caught 37 passes for 608 yards and nine touchdowns. He also took three kickoffs back for a touchdown. He logged 90 career tackles and broke up 20 passes.

McWhorter was an all-state pick as a senior along with all-OVAC.

On top of football, McWhorter was a three-year letterman in basketball and track as well.

DeVaughn, who plans to attend Bethany College, is the son of Michael Neil and Tracy McWhorter.

**REED REITTER, Weir** — This former Red Rider was a standout in all three facets of the game for Filberto's team.

The 6-4, 215 pounder caught 67 passes for 1,190 yards and 10 touchdowns. As a kicker, he scored 99 points and averaged 44 yards per kick on kickoffs. He was also the punter with a 36.7 yards per punt average. He logged 16.5 solo tackles and 48 assists.

Reitter was a multiple-time all-OVAC, all-state performer. He was also named first-team all-Valley twice.

Reitter played in the OVAC All-Star Basketball Game and was part of the Red Riders' state championship sprint relay teams in track.

Reed, who is the son of Bryon and Gina Reitter and Danielle Reed, plans to attend West Liberty.

**DEREK RICHARDSON, University** — This former Hawk was a big-play threat for Coach John Kelley's team.

The 6-4, 220 pounder caught 29 passes for 527 yards and 7 touchdowns as a senior. He also collected 29 tackles, four for loss and a sack.

Away from football, he was a standout in lacrosse where he served as team captain. He's also a member of the National Honor Society and was

named an AP Scholar.

Derek, who is the son of Steve and Valerie Richardson, plans to attend West Virginia University.

**ANTHONY ROBBINS, Wheeling Central** — This former Maroon Knight was a key contributor for Coach Mike Young's state championship squad.

The 6-4, 190 pounder shined at receiver and defensive back for the Knights. He was named first-team all-state and all-OVAC.

Along with football, Robbins was a standout in basketball, earning all-state recognition and a berth in the OVAC All-Star Game.

He also ran track. Anthony, who is the son of Dwayne Robbins and Danielle Whorton, plans to attend West Liberty.

**JACK STAKEM, Wheeling Park** — This former Patriot put forth a career to remember for Coach Daugherty's team.

The 5-9, 165 pounder was a three-year starter and finished with 104 catches for 1,496 yards and 18 touchdowns.

He was named second-team all-state as a senior along with all-TRAC and all-Valley.

Away from football, Stakem was a multiple-year starter in basketball.

Stakem was also active in the school. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Drug Free Club, Leadership Wheeling, National Technical Honor Society and a volunteer for Special Olympics.

Jack, who is the son of Eric and Karen Stakem, plans to attend the University of Charleston.

## West Virginia sets backfield for OVAC ASG

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**PARKERSBURG** – Mike Eddy and his coaching staff sat down with the nominations for the 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game and recognized many of the names they had to choose from.

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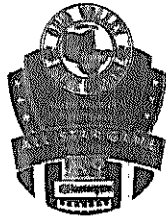
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In the mix at running back are Cameron's Andrew Ritchea, Hundred's Andrew Zedell, John Marshall's Chas McCool, Magnolia's Gage Adams and South's Nick Yoho.

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Away from football, McCool See, **OVAC**, Page B2

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## • OVAC

Continued from Page B1

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By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**WINTERSVILLE** – Andrew Connor and the Ohio coaching staff know that being versatile offensively is going to be a key ingredient for success at the 74th OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

And that was clearly the mindset when he and his staff selected their quarterbacks and running backs for the game, which is slated for Saturday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Connor recently announced that Indian Creek's Brennon Norris and Meadowbrook's Davis Black are expected to see most of the quarterback duties, while St. Clairsville's Brady Kolb, Harrison Central's Tyler West and Wellsville's Derrick Suggs will work as running backs in camp, which opens on Sunday, July 21 at Bethany College.

"Both (quarterbacks) are very knowledgeable, handle and do a lot of things well," Connor said. "They really give us a good, one-two punch. I am excited to watch them in camp."

As for the running backs, Connor is glad to see some of these guys on his side finally.

"I am glad I don't have to defend some of these kids anymore," Connor joked. "They really give us the capability to run the ball well. We have good speed guys, a good power runner and they all allow us to have multiple ways to attack with the running game. With a short week to prepare, we have to be able to run the ball well."

Here's a capsule look at the players, who has returned information sheets:

**DAVIS BLACK, Meadowbrook** – This former Colt had a huge senior season in leading then coach Jeff Twiddy's team to the re-



See, **OVAC**, Page C2

## • OVAC

Continued from Page C1

gional championship game.

Black completed 119-of-206 passes for 2,404 yards and 23 touchdowns. He was picked off just three times. He also added 352 yards and nine touchdowns rushing.

Black's fine season earned him first-team all-Ohio, Eastern District Offensive Player of the Year and he played in the Ohio North-South All-Star Game.

Also a standout in basketball where he earned first-team all-Ohio, Black led the Colts to three consecutive OVAC titles.

Away from athletics, Black is a member of DCA and DECA.

Davis, who plans to attend the University of Charleston, is the son of Trent and Jude Black of Byesville.

**BRADY KOLB, St. Clairsville** – This former Red Devil back was a hard-nosed runner for Coach Brett McLean's team.

The 6-foot, 230 pounder was a workhorse for St. C., accumulating 2,081 yards and 31 touchdowns on

324 carries. He finished his career with better than 3,600 yards and 52 rushing touchdowns.

Kolb was named first-team all-Ohio and all-Eastern District. He was also all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8 and all Times Leader.

He was a three-time all-Ohio selection because he earned the accolade as a sophomore on the defensive side of the ball.

Away from football, Kolb was active in Spanish Club, Staying Clean Club, Ping Pong Club and Chamber Choir.

Brady, who plans to attend Wheeling Jesuit, is the son of Brian and Amy Kolb of St. Clairsville.

**BRENNON NORRIS, Indian Creek** – This former Redskin quarterback was a multi-year standout for Connor's team, but saw his senior season limited to two games because of injury.

The 6-1, 175 pounder passed for 2,467 yards and 16 touchdowns in his career against 11 interceptions.

Norris was named all-OVAC as a

junior and received the school's Joe Fortunato Player of the Year Award.

Away from football, Norris lettered three years in basketball. He was a member of the National Honor Society and Key Club.

Brennon, who plans to attend Wheeling Jesuit, is the son of Chad and Jodi Norris of Wintersville.

**TYLER WEST, Harrison Central** – This former Huskie standout was electric with the ball in his hands for Coach Anthony Hayes' squad.

The 5-9, 156 pounder rushed for 850 yards and nine touchdowns and also caught 32 passes for 640 yards and 12 more touchdowns in 2018.

West was named third-team all-Ohio, first-team all-Eastern District, all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8 and all Times Leader.

West leaves Harrison Central as the all-time scoring leader with 70 touchdowns.

Tyler is undecided about his future plans.



C

# SPORTS

Sunday News-Register

JULY 7, 2019

**INSIDE:**  
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Shadyside Football/C3  
NBA News/C4  
Vazquez/C5

## Versatility at QB, RB Is Key for Ohio Offense

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

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As for the running backs, Connor is glad to see some of these guys on his side finally.

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Please see Ohio, Page C2

## OHIO

Continued from Page C1

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West leaves Harrison Central as the all-time scoring leader with 70 touchdowns.

West is undecided about his future plans.

## LINEMEN

(Continued from Page 9)

**NICK DEFELICE, Morgantown** — This former Mohigan caused all sorts of problems for opposing teams from his defensive end spot.

The 6-0, 190 pounder posted 20 tackles, 13 assists, 3.5 sacks and five tackles for loss en route to earning all-OVAC and honorable mention all-state for Coach Matt Lacy's team.

DeFelice is also a member of Athlete's Edge Club, Ski Club and Geography Awareness Club.

DeFelice, who plans to attend West Virginia University, is the son of Anthony and Kim DeFelice.

**LUKE DUPLAGA, Wheeling Central** — This former Maroon Knight was a two-way mainstay for Coach Mike Young's team.

The 5-8, 245 pounder was a key cog in the last two state title teams and earned all-state accolades.

Duplaga is the son of Mike and Alyssa Duplaga.

**SHANE HERCULES, John Marshall** — This former Monarch held down the fort at left tackle for Coach Jason Willis' team.

The 6-5, 315 pounder was named special men-

tion all-OVAC and was a 'Block of Granite' nominee.

Hercules, who plans to attend West Liberty, is the son of Teresa Mahaney.

**HAYDEN HOGE, Cameron** — This former Dragon was a key to the offensive success by Coach Scott Holt's team from the guard spot.

The 6-1, 240 pounder earned all-OVAC and special mention all-state.

Along with football, Hoge was a standout wrestler and also a member of the Drug Free Club.

Hoge is the son of Marcie Hoge.

**VINNY MANGINO, Wheeling Central** — This former Maroon Knight was tough to block at defensive end for Young's squad.

Mangino earned all-state accolades for the third consecutive season and was once again named all-OVAC as he helped lead the Knights to the Class A state title.

Mangino, who is the son of Susan Mangino and Anthony Mangino, plans to attend West Liberty.

**RYAN MCCAVE, Wheeling Park** — This former Patriot standout was an anchor for Coach

Chris Daugherty's line.

The 6-5, 300 pounder was named first-team all-TRAC for his fine campaign.

Along with football, McCave is a member of the Drug Free Club.

McCave, who is the son of John and Tammy McCave, plans to attend West Liberty.

**ROBERT VALENTI, Weir** — This former Red Rider was a two-way tackle for Coach Tony Filberto's squad.

The 6-4, 290 pounder earned a myriad of accolades, including all-OVAC, special mention all state and he took part in the North-South All-Star Game last month.

Valenti, who is the son of Robert and Karen Valenti, plans to attend West Virginia.

**BRADY WILLIAMS, John Marshall** — This former Monarch lined up at center and along the defensive line for Willis' team.

Williams earned his third letter and was named second-team all-TRAC after a fine season.

Williams is the son of Crystal and John Kielbasa.

### NFL OFFICIATING CLINIC

NFL officials will gather for their annual summer clinic after league owners voted earlier this year to allow pass interference or non-calls to be challenged by coaches/11

## The Intelligencer SPORTS

JULY 13, 2019

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## West Virginia Linemen Ready for All-Star Game

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For The Intelligencer

**WHEELING** — Mike Eddy admitted during his tenure at Parkersburg South his teams never boasted a tremendous amount of size.

As he prepares to coach his final game in the state of West Virginia before he begins his tenure at Logan High School in Ohio, Eddy is anxiously awaiting the chance to get to camp at Bethany College and work with the group of linemen he's assembled for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game, which is slated for Saturday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"It'll be nice to be able to coach people who look like offensive linemen,"

Eddy joked. "We were undersized at South, but we have a nice-sized group of kids now. I really like this group."

Eddy is familiar with many of the players he and his coaching staff chose after having played against many of them during the course of the season.

"The kids are mobile and athletic for their size," Eddy said. "It doesn't matter the level of football or whether it's an all-star game or not. Games are won and lost up front. We feel like we have some kids who can lock up on guys and move them



around the field."

While the offensive line is a bigger group, Eddy doesn't mind having smaller defensive linemen.

"We like those kids to be aggressive and want those guys to move a little bit better," Eddy said. "Most our (defensive) linemen run anywhere between 215 and 260, so we're not quite as big, but I do like the depth we have."

Vying for time in the trenches when camp opens a week from Sunday will be Ryan Cross (Paden City), Nick DeFelice (Morgantown), Luke Duplaga (Wheel-

ing Central), Shane Hercules (John Marshall), Hayden Hoge (Cameron), Vinny Mangino (Wheeling Central), Ryan McCave (Wheeling Park), Robert Valenti (Weir) and Brady Williams (John Marshall).

Here's a capsule look at the players:

**RYAN CROSS, Paden City** — This former Wildcat shined along the defensive line and at fullback for Coach Brent Croasman's squad.

The 5-foot-8, 218 pounder was twice named all-OVAC and honorable mention all-state.

Cross is the son of Mark and Anglia Cross.

Please see LINEMEN, Page 10



## SPORTS

## C

Sunday,  
July 14, 2019

## Connor selects Ohio linemen

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

WINTERSVILLE — Andrew Connor likes to pride his teams on versatility, but he admits it usually “comes down to being able to run the ball.”

And to do that effectively, a solid offensive line is needed.

Connor and his coaching staff believe they’ve assembled a group of players to handle the job in trenches for the 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, which will be played on Saturday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

“We feel like it’s a good group of kids who all come from good programs,” Connor said.

“Regardless if it’s an all-star game or a regular season game, you need your of-



didn’t just study the run-blocking aspect of the nominees.

“All of these guys can pass block and they’re definitely not just strong at one aspect,” Connor continued.

On the defensive line, Ohio boasts size and a lot of it, which Connor hopes will

negate some of what West Virginia has in mind.

“We have big, athletic kids who can challenge their size,” Connor said. “I think we have some guys who can put pressure on their offensive line to make some mistakes and we have some guys who might be tough to move, so it’s a good mixture.”

Set to battle for the jobs in the trenches when camp opens a week from today at Bethany College are Trent Bolek (Indian Creek), Cody Gamble (Harrison Central), Owen Hartshorn (Monroe Central), Joe Hoepfner (Bellaire), Cole LaRoche (Bellaire), Keonte Holmes (Steubenville), Andrew Jobe (Shadyside), DeAndre Pugh (Martins Ferry), Dalton Rice (Shenandoah) and Logan Wilson (Indian Creek).

Here’s a capsule look at the players:  
See, **OHIO**, Page C2

## • Ohio

Continued from Page C1

**TRENT BOLEK**, Indian Creek — This former Redskin anchored the line for Coach Andrew Connor from his center spot.

The 6-3, 310 pounder was a four-year letterman and served as captain.

Bolek is also a standout in the classroom, earning academic all-OVAC four times. He’s a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club and Robotics Team.

Trent, who plans to attend the University of Akron, is the son of Hope Bonomo and Robert Bolek.

**CODY GAMBLE**, Harrison Central — This former Huskie was a two-way regular for Coach Anthony Hayes’ team.

The 6-2, 252 pounder had 60 tackles, including 11 for loss, he also had six sacks, forced two fumbles and recovered one.

His fine season earned him all-OVAC, all-Buckeye 8 and all-Eastern District.

Along with football, he was a standout in wrestling, placing third in the OVAC and winning the school’s Most Outstanding Wrestler award.

Cody is the son of Amber and Doug Little and Bill Gamble.

**OWEN HARTSHORN**, Monroe Central — This former Seminole standout was key contributor on both sides of the ball for Coach Josh Ischy’s team.

The 6-0, 200 pounder was a three-year letterman for the Seminoles.

He received the Gary Loveday Leadership Award and served as a captain of both the football and basketball teams. He was also named to the all-OVAC, all-PVC and all Times Leader teams.

Owen, who plans to attend Muskingum, is the son of Lisa Hartshorn and Scott Hartshorn.

**JOE HOEPFNER**, Bellaire — This former Big Reds standout helped lead a talented offensive line for Coach Mark Spigarelli’s team.

The 6-1, 285 pounder earned all Eastern District, honorable mention all-Ohio and all Times Leader. He also received the sportsmanship award following the game with Martins Ferry.

Along with football, Hoepfner took part in Buckeye Boys State and Young Life.

Joe, who is the son of Jeff and Kelly Hoepfner, plans to attend Ohio University.

**KEONTE HOLMES**, Steubenville — This former Big Red regular was a dominating force along the line for Coach Reno Saccoccia’s team.

The 6-4, 250 pounder didn’t allow a sack in two season and posted 70 pancake blocks.

Holmes was named first-team all-Ohio, all-Eastern District and all-OVAC. He also played in the North-South Game.

Keonte, who is the son of Jerome Holmes,

plans to attend Wheeling Jesuit.

**ANDREW JOBE**, Shadyside — This former Tiger was a mainstay on the line for Coach Mark Hotenka’s squad.

The 6-1, 220 pounder earned all-Eastern District and special mention all-Ohio.

Andrew, who plans to attend OUE, is the son of James and Sherri Jobe.

**COLE LAROCHE**, Bellaire — This former Big Reds’ standout was a contributor basically all over the field for Spigarelli’s team.

He finished with 133 career tackles and 11 sacks from his defensive end spot. He also caught 26 passes and was true on 34 of 39 PATs and half of his four field-goal tries.

LaRoche was an all-OVAC, all-Eastern District and all-Times Leader pick. Along with football, he won the 2018 Division II state shot put championship and finished as an all-Ohioan for the third straight year this past June.

Away from athletics, he’s a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council and a class officer.

Cole, who plans to attend Ashland University to compete in track, is the son of John and Lisa LaRoche.

**DEANDRE PUGH**, Martins Ferry — This former Purple Rider was the leader of the offensive line for Coach Chas Yoder’s team from his left tackle spot.

The 6-5, 320 pounder was an all-OVAC, all-Ohio an all Times Leader selection.

Along with football, he was a standout in basketball.

DeAndre is the son of Jennifer Norris and Ralph Pugh.

**DALTON RICE**, Shenandoah — This former Zep was a key member of the offensive line for head coach Jesse Wells’ team.

The 6-1, 225 pounder graded out at 90 percent blocking and had 40 pancakes, while allowing just 1.5 sacks. He also had 51 tackles. He had an 88 percent blocking grade as a junior.

Rice was named his team’s offensive lineman of the year and was also accorded first-team all-Ohio accolades. He was a three-time all-Eastern District pick and twice named to the all-OVAC squad.

Dalton, who is the son of Trena and Jeff Rice, plans to attend Ohio Wesleyan.

**LOGAN WILSON**, Indian Creek — This former Redskin was impressive at defensive end for Connor’s team.

The 5-8, 185 pounder recorded 63 tackles, including 41 solos. He also had 11 tackles for loss and eight sacks. He was named all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-Ohio special mention.

Logan is the son of Lynn and Ken Waggoner.



# Ohio Strong On O-Line

## Run and Pass Blockers Will Lead Buckeye State

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

**WINTERSVILLE** — Andrew Connor likes to pride his teams on versatility, but he admits it usually “comes down to being able to run the ball.”

And to do that effectively, a solid offensive line is needed.

Connor and his coaching staff believe they’ve assembled a group of players to handle the job in trenches for the 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, which will be played on Saturday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

“We feel like it’s a good group of kids who all come from good programs,” Connor said. “Regardless if it’s an all-star game or a regular season game, you need your offensive line to produce. We’re only going to be successful (offensively) if our offensive line allows us to run the ball.”

Since the Buckeye State plans to use the passing game as well, the Ohio coaches didn’t just study the run-blocking aspect of the nominees.

“All of these guys can pass block and they’re definitely not just strong at one aspect,” Connor said.

On the defensive line, Ohio boasts size and a lot of it, which Connor hopes will negate some of what West Virginia has in mind.

“We have big, athletic kids who can challenge their size,” Connor said. “I think we have some guys who can put pressure on their offensive line to make some mistakes and we have some guys who might be tough to move, so it’s a good mixture.”

Please see **O-Line**, Page B2

## O-LINE

Continued from Page B1

Set to battle for the jobs in the trenches when camp opens a week from today at Bethany College are Trent Bolek (Indian Creek), Cody Gamble (Harrison Central), Owen Hartshorn (Monroe Central), Joe Hoepfner (Bellaire), Cole LaRoche (Bellaire), Keonte Holmes (Steubenville), Andrew Jobe (Shadyside), DeAndre Pugh (Martins Ferry), Dalton Rice (Shenandoah) and Logan Wilson (Indian Creek).

Here’s a capsule look at the players:

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Bolek is also a standout in the classroom, earning academic all-OVAC four times. He’s a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club and Robotics Team.

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The 5-8, 185 pounder recorded 63 tackles, including 41 solos. He also had 11 tackles for loss and eight sacks. He was named all-Eastern District, all-OVAC and all-Ohio special mention.

Wilson is the son of Lynn and Ken Waggoner.

# Eddy eager to work with big group of OLs

• OVAC gleam game in two weeks  
By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING - Mike Eddy admitted during his tenure at Parkersburg South his teams never boasted a tremendous amount of size.

As he prepares to coach his final game in the state of West Virginia before he begins his tenure at Logan High School in Ohio, Eddy is anxiously awaiting the chance to get to camp at Bethany College and work with the group of linemen he's assembled for the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game, which is slated for Saturday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.



"It'll be nice to be able to coach people who look like offensive linemen," Eddy joked. "We were undersized at South, but we have a nice-sized group of kids now. I really like this group."

Eddy is familiar with many of the players he and his coaching staff chose after having-played against many of them during the course of the season.

"The kids are mobile and athletic for their size," Eddy said. "It doesn't matter the level of football or whether it's an all-star game or not. Games are won and lost up front. We feel like we have some kids who can lock up on guys and move them around the field."

While the offensive line is a bigger group, Eddy doesn't mind having smaller defensive linemen.

"We like those kids to be aggressive and want those guys to move a little bit better," Eddy said. "Most our (defensive) linemen run anywhere between 215 and 260, so we're not quite as big, but I do like the depth we have."

Vying for time in the trenches when camp opens a week from Sunday will be Ryan Cross (Paden City), Nick DeFelice (Morgantown), Luke Duplaga (Wheeling Central), Shane Hercules (John Marshall), Hayden Hoge (Cameron), Vinny Mangino (Wheeling Central), Ryan McCave (Wheeling Park), Robert Valenti (Weir) and Brady Williams (John Marshall).

Here's a capsule look at the players:

**RYAN CROSS**, Paden City - This former Wildcat shined along the defensive line and at fullback for Coach Brent Croasman's squad.

The 5-8, 218 pounder was twice named all-OVAC and honorable mention all-state.

Ryan is the son of Mark and Anglia Cross.

**NICK DEFELICE**, Morgantown - This former Mohigan caused all sorts of problems for opposing teams from his defensive end spot.

The 6-0, 190 pounder posted 20 tackles, 13 assists, 3.5 sacks and five tackles for loss en route to earning all-OVAC and honorable mention all state for Coach Matt Lacy's team.

DeFelice is also a member of Athlete's Edge Club, Ski Club and Geography Awareness Club.

See, **EDDY**, Page B2

## • Eddy

Continued from Page B1

Nick, who plans to attend West Virginia University, is the son of Anthony and Kim DeFelice.

**LUKE DUPLAGA**, Wheeling Central - This former Maroon Knight was a two-way mainstay for Coach Mike Young's team.

The 5-8, 245 pounder was a key cog in the last two state title teams and earned all-state accolades.

Luke is the son of Mike and Alyssa Duplaga.

**SHANE HERCULES**, John Marshall - This former Monarch held down the fort at left tackle for Coach Jason Willis' team.

The 6-5, 315 pounder was named special mention all-OVAC and was a 'Block of Granite' nominee.

Shane, who plans to attend West Liberty, is the son of Teresa Mahaney.

**HAYDEN HOGE**, Cameron - This former Dragon was a key to the offensive success by Coach Scott Holt's team from the guard spot.

The 6-1, 240 pounder earned all-OVAC and special mention all-state.

Along with football, Hoge was a stand-out wrestler and also a member of the Drug Free Club.

Hayden is the son of Marcie Hoge.

**VINNY MANGINO**, Wheeling Central - This former Maroon Knight was tough to block at defensive end for Young's squad.

Mangino earned all-state accolades for the third consecutive season and was once again named all-OVAC as he helped lead the Knights to the Class A state title.

Vinny, who is the son of Susan Mangino and Anthony Mangino, plans to attend West Liberty.

**RYAN MCCAVE**, Wheeling Park - This former Patriot standout was an anchor for Coach Chris Daugherty's line.

The 6-5, 300 pounder was named first-team all-TRAC for his fine campaign.

Along with football, McCave is a member of the Drug Free Club.

Ryan, who is the son of John and Tammy McCave, plans to attend West Liberty.

**ROBERT VALENTI**, Weir - This former Red Rider was a two-way tackle for Coach Tony Filberto's squad.

The 6-4, 290 pounder earned a myriad of accolades, including all-OVAC, special mention all state and he took part in the North-South All-Star Game last month.

Robert, who is the son of Robert and Karen Valenti, plans to attend West Virginia.

**BRADY WILLIAMS**, John Marshall - This former Monarch lined up at center and along the defensive line for Willis' team.

Williams earned his third letter and was named second-team all-TRAC after a fine season.

Brady is the son of Crystal and John Kiel-basa.

## OHIO

(Continued from Page 15)

Along with football, Mamula was active in Key Club.

Mamula, who plans to attend Wheeling Jesuit, is the son of Nick and Debyn Mamula.

**BRYCE MCAFOOSE**, Edilton - This former Wildcat played a myriad of positions for Coach Shane O'Brien's team.

The 6-0, 170 pounder logged 300 tackles for his career, including 104 as a senior. He also finished with 40 receptions for 500 yards.

McAfoose was named third-team All-Ohio. He was second-team All-OVAC and All-Eastern District.

Along with football, McAfoose was a standout in track. He's the Edison school record holder in the pole vault.

Away from athletics, McAfoose is active in Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

McAfoose, who plans to enter flight school with the goal of becoming a commercial airplane pilot, is the

son of Heath and Charity McAfoose.

**TRENT VALENTINE**, Cambridge - This former Bobcat re-wrote the school's record book in receiving categories under Josh Lowery.

The 5-10, 170 pounder finished with 175 catches for 2,319 yards. He caught a pass in 32 consecutive games. His career catch total ranks 30th in Ohio history and his consecutive game streak ranks number nine.

He also hauled in 19 touchdowns and recorded 208 tackles.

He was a three-time All-Ohioan, garnering first team in 2018. He was All-OVAC, All-Eastern District and All-ECOL. He was also an All-Ohioan in baseball along with All-OVAC, All-ECOL. He was also a standout in basketball, garnering All-Eastern District.

Away from athletics, Valentine served as the treasurer of the Class of 2019.

Valentine, who is the son of John and Kim Valentine, plans to attend Marietta College.



# Route Running Is Key for Ohio

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For The Intelligencer

WINTERSVILLE - Andrew Connor and his coaches know the receivers quite well that they chose for the 74th OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

After all, they either coached or coached against most of them. That allowed them to make wise choices when they formed the Ohio roster for the meeting with West Virginia that is slated for Saturday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"This group brings a lot of talent," Connor said. "It's a group that all catches the ball well. When you watch these kids on film, they run really good routes, too."

Connor was big on that when he was looking for his receivers.

"With only a week to prepare, timing is going to be big, so you have to run good routes to get the passing game to click," Connor said.

Battling for time at receiver and tight end are Drake Dobson (Martins Ferry), Cade Hannahs (Barnesville), Matt Mamula (Indian Creek), Bryce McAfoose (Edison) and Trent Valentine (Cambridge).

Here's a capsule look at the players:

**DRAKE DOBSON**, Martins Ferry - This former Purple Rider did a little bit of everything for coach Chas Yoder's team.

The 6-foot, 215 pounder rushed for 364 yards and two touchdowns from his fullback spot. He also logged 107 tackles and six sacks from his linebacker post.

Dobson was named second-team All-Ohio, All-Eastern District, All-OVAC and All Times Leader.

Dobson, who is the son of Jeff and Kristy Dobson, plans to attend Muskingum.

**CADE HANNAHS**, Barnesville - This former Shamrock wore a lot of hats for Coach Blake Allen's squad the last several years.

En route to third-team All-Ohio, the 5-11, 150 pounder accounted for more than 2,000 all-purpose yards. He rushed for more than 1,000, passed for 500 and hauled in more than 700 yards receiving.

Hannahs was named All-Eastern District, All-OVAC, All Times Leader and Academic All-Ohio.

Along with football, Hannahs was a key cog in the Shamrocks' baseball team.

Hannahs, who plans to attend Bethany College, is the son of Chris and Rachel Hannahs.

**MATT MAMULA**, Indian Creek - This former Redskin was a go-to-guy in the passing game for Connor's team.

The 6-3, 205 pounder hauled in 43 passes for better than 900 yards. He averaged 20.9 yards per catch in his high school career. He also had two interceptions that he took back for touchdowns.

Mamula's career didn't go unnoticed. He was All-Eastern District, All-OVAC, All-Quad County, All-Area Team. He also earned three academic letters.

Please see **OHIO**, Page 16

# Indian Creek's Connor Relishes OVAC Experience

WHEELING — Andrew Connor was like a kid in a candy store all of last week.

The personable and highly successful Indian Creek football coach says he has waited 17 years to coach in the OVAC Rudy Mumley Charity Football Classic.

Connor got his chance Saturday night at Wheeling Island Stadium. He did not waste the opportunity.

Connor stressed from the time his players checked in at Bethany College eight days ago that his emphasis was on winning the game. He wanted his

players to have an enjoyable time but he put paramount emphasis on winning. According to his players, he stressed that repeatedly.

His Buckeyes didn't let him down. Far from it, exhibiting game-long resiliency.

Ohio pulled out a 21-17 verdict, courtesy of a late touchdown pass from Meadowbrook's Davis Black to St. Clairsville's Craig Bober. The scoring connection covered 28 yards and was set up by a defensive back-biting pump fake by Black.

That aerial game-winner helped

Ohio overcome a brilliant performance by West Virginia's De' Vaughn McWhorter. The Wheeling Park product was nothing short of sensational, rushing for 102 yards on four carries. He scored on runs of 76 and 25 yards. He also landed three passes.

"We knew (McWhorter) was an excellent player, and when you put athletes on the field like him in an all-star game anything can happen," Connor said Sunday in a phone interview while taking a break from mowing his lawn. "But we felt we outworked them all week and did

things the right way. Once we made the goal-line stand when they got down to our 2-yard line we felt the tide turned in our favor.

"I told the kids at halftime (deadlocked at 14-14) that all the hard work we put in all week put us in the position to win this game. We showed a lot of toughness in the second half. I was so happy for our players. They did everything I asked them to do all week. I was just hoping that I did all I could do for us to win."

Please see KAPRAL, Page 10



**BUBBA KAPRAL**  
EXECUTIVE  
SPORTS EDITOR

## INSIDE

Robot umps debut/B3  
Scoreboard/B4

The Times Leader

# SPORTS

SECTION

# B

Thursday,  
July 11, 2019

## Connor enamored with Ohio receiving talent

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

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## Ohio

Continued from Page B1

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Valentine, who is the son of John and Kim Valentine, plans to attend Marietta.



# Ohio Rounds Out Roster for OVAC All-Star Game

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

**WINTERSVILLE** — Ohio coach Andrew Connor completed the breakdown of his rosters for Saturday's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game with the announcement of his intended defensive backs and kicker.

The Indian Creek head man will formally meet all of his players today as camp opens at Bethany College to begin preparations for the game, which will kick off at 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The Ohio side boasts versatility in the defensive backfield with numer-

ous players who shined on the offensive side of the ball and the kicker — Steubenville's Ian Phillips — has big-game experience.

"We have a lot of athletes at DB," Connor said. "We have two guys (Union Local's Cal Kildow and Bridgeport's Tino Kusic) who were quarterbacks for their teams, so they know how that position thinks and we have two kids from St. Clairsville (Craig Bober



and Justin Heatherington) who have shined on both sides of the ball. I believe we'll be able to cover because giving up big plays is something we can't have since they can change a game quickly."

Phillips was the Big Red kicker the past two seasons, including kicking in the Division IV state championship game in 2017.

"Some people may take kicking

in the high school game for granted, but being able to keep the game on sevens is big," Connor said. "Jan has proven to be very consistent and he's able to kick field goals, so if we get close, we feel like we can get points."

Here's a capsule look at the players:

**CRAIG BOBER, St. Clairsville** — This former Red Devils standout was a viable target in a seldom-used passing game and made the most of his limited work in the defensive backfield for Coach Brett McLean's team.

The 6-foot-4, 185-pounder

caught 23 passes for 388 yards and three touchdowns as a senior. He also had two interceptions. As a junior, he had 23 catches for 428 yards and nine touchdowns.

Bober was named All-OVAC, All-Valley, All-Buckeye 8, All-Eastern District and All-Times Leader for his work on the football field.

Along with football, he was a standout in basketball, earning all-district and All-OVAC honors, while being chosen for the OVAC All-Star Game.

Please see OVAC, Page C6

Sunday, July 21, 2019

## OVAC

Continued from Page C1

Away from athletics, Bober was a standout in the classroom. He's a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Club.

Craig, who is the son of Ed and Tammy Bober, plans to attend West Liberty.

**JUSTIN HEATHERINGTON, St. Clairsville** — Prior to an injury, this Red Devils senior was enjoying a productive campaign for McLean and the Red Devils.

The 6-2, 170-pounder rushed for 577 yards and eight touchdowns. He caught 15 passes for 457 yards and seven touchdowns. He also had three interceptions and was one of the teams' leading tacklers before injuring his knee.

Heatherington was named All-Buckeye 8, All-OVAC, All-Eastern District, All-Valley and All-Times Leader.

Along with football, Heatherington was a two-event state qualifier in track and field and was an All-Ohioan in the high jump in 2017.

Justin, who is the son of Carrie James and Scott Heatherington, plans to attend Ohio University Eastern.

**CAL KILDOW, Union Local** — This former Jet did a little bit of everything, including trigger the offense in 2018 for Coach Bernie Thompson's team.

The 5-7, 140-pounder was a quarterback for two seasons. He threw for more than 1,000 yards each season. He also landed 15 touchdowns and 56 percent of his passes.

Kildow was named All-OVAC twice, All-Eastern District, All-Valley, All-Buckeye 8 and All-Times Leader.

Along with football, Kildow was a standout in basketball and baseball, too. He played in the OVAC All-

Star Games.

Away from athletics, Kildow was the president of his class, member of the Drug Free Club, Future Educators of America, Fellowship of Christian Students.

Cal, who is the son of Todd and Julie Kildow, plans to attend Waynesburg.

**TINO KUSIC, Bridgeport** — This former Bulldogs standout shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Fred Ray's team.

The 5-11, 185-pounder shined at quarterback and in the secondary. He threw for 2,928 yards and 30 touchdowns as a junior. He followed that up with 1,002 passing and 859 rushing yards last season.

Kusic was named third team All-Ohio as a junior and twice named All-OVAC.

Along with football, Kusic was an All-Ohioan in wrestling.

Tino, who is the son of John Kusic and Conishia Kusic, plans to attend West Liberty.

**IAN PHILLIPS, Steubenville** — This former Big Red standout was a key cog in the success of Coach Reno Saccoccia's team because of the strength of his foot.

The 5-8, 150-pounder handled the placekicking for Steubenville, nailing a school-record 110 PATs. He also connected on two field goals with a long of 33 yards.

Phillips was named All-Eastern District, honorable mention All-Ohio and All-OVAC.

Away from the field, he's an academic All-Ohioan, member of the Key Club, Rotary Club, National Honor Society and served on the OVAC's Varsity Board.

Ian, who plans to attend Washington & Jefferson, is the son of Bill and Marla Phillips.



## W.Va. Fills Out Roster Team is set for OVAC All-Star tilt

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For The Intelligencer

**WHEELING** — It's go-time for the West Virginia all-stars.

Former Parkersburg South coach Mike Eddy completed his roster for the game, which will be played one week from tonight at Wheeling Island Stadium with the announcement of linebackers, defensive backs and his kicker.

Eddy and the Mountaineers will report to Bethany College at noon Sunday to open training camp.

The defensive group includes Jackson Chaney (Oak Glen), Bastian Gehr (Linsly), Jules Giovengo (Linsly), Brayden Mooney (South), Jermain Snodgrass (Wheeling Park), Sebastian Stickler (Magnolia), Jonah Phares (University).

On top of these players, linemen John Marshall's Gavin Lockhart and Valley's George Brown have been added to the roster.

"We feel good about our linebackers, but it'll be interesting to see where those guys play," Eddy said. "The defensive back group is important, but it's the group we know the least about. We feel good about our kicker. He has a good, strong, accurate leg."

Please see ROSTER, Page 11

THE INTELLIGENCER — Wheeling, W.Va. — 11

## ROSTER

(Continued from Page 9)

Here's a capsule look at the players who returned their information sheets:

**JACKSON CHANEY, Oak Glen** — This former Golden Bear was all over the field on the defensive side for Coach Ted Arneault's team.

The 5-foot-10, 160-pounder finished with 76 tackles, recovered a fumble, intercepted a pass and scored a touchdown.

Along with football, Chaney was a member of the National Honor Society and attended West Virginia Boys State.

Jackson, who plans to attend West Virginia University, is the son of Pat and Amy Chaney.

**BASTIAN GEHRER, Linsly** — This former Cadet was one of the top tacklers for Coach B.J. Depew's team.

The 6-2, 210-pounder finished with 101 tackles and was named his team's defensive player of the year.

Bastian, who plans to attend Cal, Pa., is the son of Michael Gehr and Dorthea Gehr.

**JULES GIOVENGO, Linsly** — This former Cadet did a little bit of everything for Depew's team despite battling through an injury that cost him a handful of games.

The 5-6, 150-pounder finished with 400 yards and 11 touchdowns receiving. He also had two punt returns for a touchdown. He's also a cornerback.

Giovengo was named first team All-OVAC, received the Zimmer Award as Linsly School Athlete of the Year and was named the football MVP in 2018.

Along with football, Giovengo was a standout wrestler and lettered in baseball.

Jules, who plans to attend West Virginia, is the son of Jeff and Tiffany Giovengo.

**BRAYDEN MOONEY, Parkersburg South** — This former Patriot was instrumental for Eddy's team both at quarterback and as a linebacker.

The 6-1, 205-pounder passed for 1,609 yards and 10 touchdowns. He also rushed for 620 yards and 6 touchdowns. Defensively, he tallied 111 tackles, including six for loss.

Mooney was named All-TRAC and all-state.

Brayden is the son of John and Alison Mooney.

**JERMAIN SNO-DGRASS, Wheeling Park** — This former Patriot was a defensive standout for Coach Chris Daugherty's team.

The 5-9, 210-pounder finished his linebacker career with 223 tackles, six sacks and an interception.

Along with football, Snodgrass was a standout in wrestling and track.

Jermain, who plans to attend Bethany College, is the son of Tera Snodgrass.

**SEBASTIAN STICKLER, Magnolia** — This former Blue Eagle was a key for Coach Dave Chapman's team at receiver and linebacker.

The 5-9, 175-pounder caught 70 passes for 855 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Spencer was first team all-state and All-OVAC.

Stickler, who is headed to West Virginia University, is the son of Christy Stapel.

## SPORTS

Thursday,  
July 18, 2019

## Connor excited about group of Ohio all-star LBs

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

WINTERSVILLE — Andrew Connor and his coaching staff didn't just look for playmakers on the offensive side of the ball when they selected their roster for the 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

The veteran Indian Creek head coach, who will lead the Buckeye State against West Virginia on Saturday, July 27 at Wheeling Island Stadium, focused on linebacker play because of how instrumental it is to defensive

success.

"If you do not have good linebackers, the other stuff is all window dressing," Connor said. "We feel like we've selected a really good group of kids. We've seen a lot of these kids play and it's nice to have them on our team now."

Connor believes the group, which includes Shadyside's Connor Banco, Shenandoah's Chase Chicwak, River's Hunter Dennis, Steubenville's Erik Lulla and Fort Frye's Evan Schob, will be able to play both against the run and pass.

"This group can stunt well,

gets to the ball well and tackles well in space," Connor observed. "We're really excited about these guys."

Both the Ohio and West Virginia squads report to camp on Sunday at Bethany College.

Here's a capsule

look at the players:

CONNOR BANCO, Shadyside

This former Tiger was a standout on both sides of the ball for Coach Mark Holenka's team.

The 6-2, 205 pounder fin-

ished his prep career with some 200 tackles and 12 sacks from his linebacker post. He also accumulated some 2,600 yards

rushing and 1,000 yards receiving to go along with 60 touchdowns.

Banco was twice named all-Ohio and all-Eastern District.

Banco, who plans to attend Wheeling Jesuit, is the son of Thomas and Jennifer Banco.

CHASE CHICWAK, Shenandoah — This former Zep re-

wrote the school records for tackles under the watch of head coach Jesse Wells.

The 6-0, 190 pounder finished his career with a Shenandoah-best 439 tackles.

He was recognized as all-Ohio three times during his illustrious career and twice earned the coveted Eastern District Defensive Player of the Year. He was an all-Eastern District pick three times.

Chase, who plans to attend Ohio Dominican, is the son of John Chickwak and Lori See, OHIO, Page B2

## • Ohio

Continued from Page B1

Chicwak. HUNTER DENNIS, River — This former Pilot shined on both sides of the ball for Coach Mike Flannery's team.

The 5-9, 185 pounder had a senior season in which he logged 53 tackles, 27 of which were solo. He also had a sack, interception,

three forced fumbles and 15 tackles for loss. On the offensive side, he scored four touchdowns and graded out at 95 percent as a blocking fullback.

Dennis was honorable mention all-Eastern District and all-Valley. Hunter is the son of Rodney and Erica Dennis.

ERIK LULLA, Steubenville — This former Big Red dandy was a key cog in the success of Coach Reno Saccoccia's team the last couple of seasons. The 6-0, 175 pounder was Big Red's leading tackler as both a junior and senior. He also caught six touchdowns from his tight end spot.

Lulla was named all-Ohio as well as first-team all-Eastern District.

Erik, who plans to attend Eastern Gateway Community College, is the son of Dave and Dawn Lulla.

EVAN SCHOB, Fort Frye — This former Cadet did was one of the key con-

tributors on both sides of the ball for Coach Eric Huck's team that advanced to the Division VI, Final Four.

The 5-9, 200 pounder finished with some 1,100 yards and 15 touchdowns rushing. He also logged 90 tackles from his middle

linebacker spot. Schob was named all-Eastern District

as a running back, all-PVC, all-Ohio and was a team captain. Along with football, Schob is a member of the OVAC's Varsity Board and attended Buckeye Boys State in 2018.

Evan, who plans to attend Ohio Valley University, is the son of Andy and Candi Schob.

## INSIDE

MLB Roundup/B3  
Scoreboard/B4

## SPORTS

Saturday,  
July 20, 2019

## West Virginia's Eddy rounds out OVAC roster

• OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game kicks off one week from tonight

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING — It's go-time for the West Virginia all-stars.

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See, OVAC, Page B2

## • OVAC

Continued from Page B1

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## ALL-STAR

(Continued from Page 11)

"We're going to go like a regular practice," Connor said. "We want to try and go contact (today), so we'll get them ready (Sunday), do conditioning, just like you would at a normal practice at your school."

Eddy — who will represent Parkersburg South for one last time as he took a job in Logan — also planned to do some light drills with the West Virginia side on Sunday. He also wants to get the kids to know each other and find where they will best fit on the field.

"Right now it's kind of just going to be a meet-and-greet and try to get to know these guys," Eddy said. "Again, we haven't coached them before so we're not sure exactly what their strengths and weaknesses are. Obviously they are all good football players, but where do they best fit? We've got 30-plus kids here. They all came here to compete and play, so we've got to find where they fit best, whether it's on the offense, defense or special teams. So (Sunday), it's really going to be about giving them an overview of the offense, defense and special teams, let them get out and run around and do a couple drills, so that (this morning), when we get started, we'll be really be able to start putting those pieces into place."

While many of the athletes know one another from playing against each other for a handful of years, Connor also had some ice-breakers in mind in order

for his team to get to know one another on a more personal level.

"It's kind of an ice breaker," Connor said. "We split the kids up so no kid was with his teammates at his school. This way we could bond better and hopefully get to know each other better. It's one of those things. We put them by position in their rooms. The linebackers will get to know each other, the offensive line will get to know each other. We are just hoping everyone gels together throughout the week and we represent Ohio well on Saturday."

"That's one of the things that make all-star games unique," Eddy said. "There is a lot of things that you would typically do with a new team that you don't necessarily really get into in an all-star game. These guys are all seniors and within a month of going away to college. This is a good experience for them to get a feel of what that's going to be like."

"A lot of these kids have played travel ball together and played in little league growing up. And with the age of social media now, a lot of these guys are at least familiar with each other. They've heard their names. For the most part, these guys are going to have a bit of familiarity with each other. There may be some guys in the further reaches that maybe don't see each other much, but my guess is it won't take very long to kind of buddy up and figure out what they're doing."



Left: Linsly's Jules Giovenngo checks in at camp for the OVAC Rudy Murnley All-Star Football Game on Sunday. Right: Wheeling Park's Devaughn McWhorter receives his dorm key during Sunday's check in.

Photos by Kyle Lutz

## Kickoff for game is set for 7:15 p.m. Saturday

By KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

BETHANY — Football season is officially back in the Ohio Valley.

Sunday morning marked the beginning of an exciting week for many athletes as they made the trek to Bethany College to check in at camp for a week that will lead to the 74th annual OVAC Rudy Murnley All-Star Game. Kickoff for the game is scheduled for Saturday at 7:15 p.m.

It was a morning filled with excitement, not only for the players, but the coaches as well. After months of choosing his players and preparing for this week, Ohio coach Andrew Connor is ready to roll.

"It's just excitement and it's something new. You get to meet kids, es-

pecially most of the Ohio kids we've played against," Connor, who is also the head coach at Indian Creek, said. "I think it's a cool thing that I finally get to coach those kids. We have tried to tackle Brady (Kolb) for years at St. Clairsville, so it'll be nice to give him the ball. Overall, I think the kids just seem excited."

"They were here on time. My staff is really excited to do this. We just look forward to getting going."

It was more of the same on the West Virginia side as coach Mike Eddy was also preparing for the annual game.

"It really is an honor to be selected to coach in this game," Eddy said. "It has consistently been one of the more prestigious all-star games in the state. Having an opportunity to coach in it is

quite an honor for our coaching staff. It's also a little bittersweet for us because our coaching staff at the end of last season split and we all went our separate ways. It's nice to get everyone back together one more time for this week."

"And of course it exciting to meet these kids, some guys we've coached against and some other kids that you read in the newspapers. So having another opportunity to work with them obviously is exciting."

Both coaches know that less than a week of practice is not a lot of time to prepare for a game.

That's why they hit the ground running on the first day.

Please see ALL-STAR, Page 13



## • Players

Continued from Page B1

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# Players check-in for camp Sunday at Bethany College

## • Week of workouts, festivities concludes Saturday with game at Wheeling Island

By KYLE LUTZ

For The Times Leader

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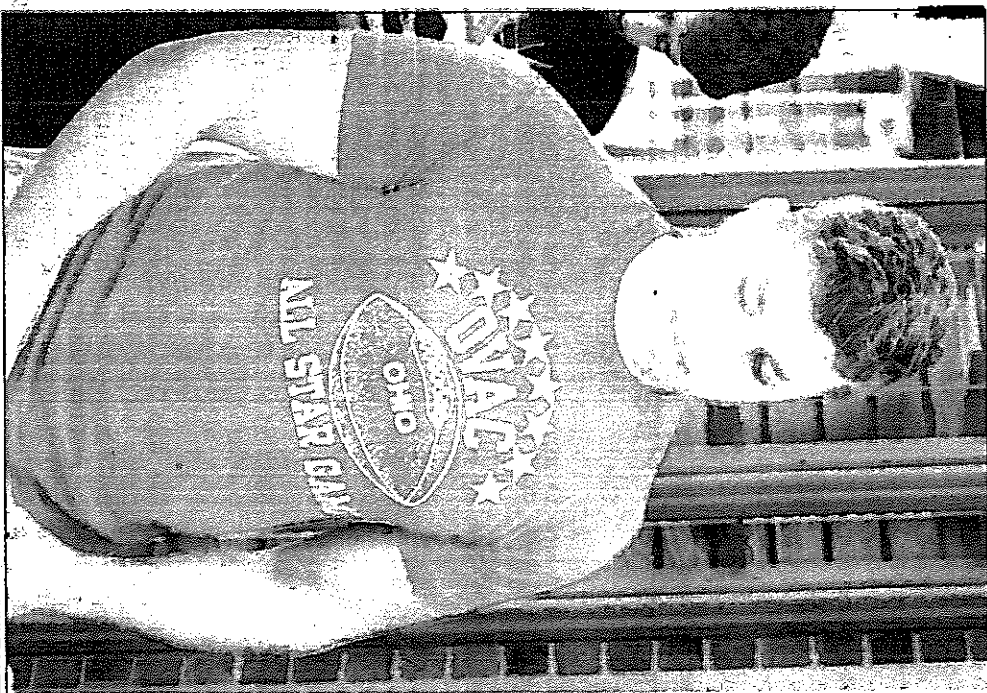
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It was more of the same on the West Virginia side as coach Mike Eddy was also preparing for the annual game.

See, PLAYERS, Page B2



MARTINS' FERRY'S Drake Dobson, left, and St. Clairsville's Brady Kolb check-in to OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Camp Sunday at Bethany College. The two standouts will lead the Buckeye State against West Virginia Saturday night on the artificial surface at Wheeling Island Stadium. Photo/KYLE LUTZ

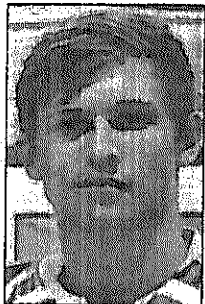


# From Home

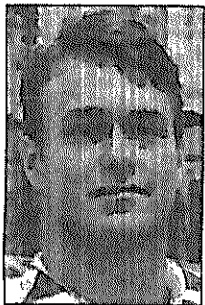
Linsly's Hirt, Gehrer are representing more than W.Va. in All-Star Game

By KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

**BETHANY** — Getting selected to compete in the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game is something that an athlete will cherish for the rest of his life. Not only will he be able to represent his school one final time, but their state as well.



HIRT



GEHRER

When it comes to Linsly's Wyatt Hirt and Bastian Gehrer, they will be representing a little more than that.

Hirt is a Pennsylvania native that will strap on the pads one more time before he continues his athletic journey to California University of Pennsylvania.

"I'm thankful for getting the call," Hirt said. "I was kind of expecting it. I put in a lot of work and if I didn't get the call, it would be the same. I would just put in the work and be getting ready for college."

While being from Pennsylvania, Hirt is ready for the opportunity to play for the Mountain State on Saturday night.

"It's a little bit of mixed feelings," Hirt said. "West Virginia has kind of been my home since fifth grade."

"All my buddies live here and I know Wheeling is just like a second home to me."

Hirt, who passed for 1,376 yards in 2018 along with 15 touchdowns and was a three-year starter, knows that a plethora of Linsly athletes have played in this game and hopes that he can that he can represent his school well.

Please see HOME, Page 8

## St. C.'s Kolb Always Puts Team First

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

**BETHANY** — Brady Kolb is a team-first guy.

Always was and always will be.

So, it was not surprising to hear the recent St. Clairsville graduate express that his main goal and focus for Saturday's 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game is to do anything he can to help Ohio win.



KOLB

"All of the guys here simply want to win on Saturday," Kolb said. "We've had a good week, understand what we need to do and I think we'll be a team out there."

While Kolb is willing to do whatever Ohio coach Andrew Connor asks or needs, he would like to get his hands on the ball.

"I feel like we've come together well (during the week) and I know we're all going out there to give our best efforts," Kolb said.

He certainly got to touch the ball a lot during his prep days with the Red Devils. Last season in helping the Red Devils to a 12-1 mark and a trip to the regional title game, Kolb carried the ball 324 times for 2,081 yards and scored 31 touchdowns.

"I used to tell Coach (Brett) McLean and Coach (Donnie) Giffin, 'I'll take as many (carries) as you want to give me,'" Kolb joked. "Whatever they wanted to give me, I was ready for."

Included was a tough, 28-carry, 133-yard and two touchdown performance against Connor and his Indian Creek Redskins in a driving rainstorm in Wintersville.

"If Coach Connor wants to give me the ball like that (in the OVAC Game), I'll take him up on it," Kolb said. "They've talked about it, so we'll see."

Please see KOLB, Page 8

## KOLB

(Continued from Page 7)

Kolb carried the ball 595 times for 3,648 yards and 52 touchdowns in the last two seasons en route to All-Ohio acclaim each time.

Though he had that kind of workload, Kolb continued to look for more. Other than some bumps, bruises and normal soreness, Kolb proved to be highly durable for the Red Devils.

"It was a lot of stress, but I did a lot of recovery stuff and each week continued to do it and I was fortunate to not have any problems," Kolb said.

He was primarily a defensive player as a sophomore, earning all-state accolades in 2016 with 98 solo tackles and 23 assists.

Kolb was active on social media basically since learning that he had been selected for the game, pointing out how excited he was to get to camp and begin the process of working toward what he hopes is a victory against West Virginia.

"This is just an awesome opportunity," Kolb said.

"It's been everything I could have dreamed about and more."

Kolb was one of three Red Devils selected for the game, but only he and wide receiver Craig Bober will suit up for the game.

"It means a lot to be able to play with Craig one more time," Kolb said. "This winter, I was in the weightroom and when I heard Craig got picked, it really got me thinking about all of the memories we have together on the field. Now, we get to do it (together) one more time."

Once the game goes final Saturday night, Kolb will shift focus to the next stage of his career and that's as a member of the Wheeling University football program, which will play its first varsity campaign this fall.

"I've been working hard (this summer) to get ready and this game will kind of serve as a test to see how good of shape I am in, too," Kolb said. "I'll be getting a taste of it."

"This game can kind of showcase how much I've learned since I've been working out with my new teammates and coaches and also what I've gained in strength."

## HOME

(Continued from Page 7)

"It's great. A lot of good players come up through Linsly," Hirt said. "I hope I do them well in this game."

Gehrer had a bit of a longer journey to the Friendly City.

"I'm an Austria native," Gehrer said. "I came here two years ago. I'm going to Pennsylvania next year for college. It's very different. I think I'm one of the first, if not the first international guy playing in this game. So I'm representing Austria and West Virginia."

Gehrer has quite the history of playing the game of football. He started playing eight years ago and as the years went on, the better he got. He eventually played for an Austria national team.

He went to a showcase where he met Bjoern Werner who is the founder of an organization called Gridiron Imports.

According to its website, Gridiron Imports is a non-profit organization that helps international players attain opportunities to play football and pursue their education in at the high school and college level in the United States.

Eventually, Werner helped Gehrer find Linsly.

"It was the best two years of my life," Gehrer said about attending Linsly.

"I made lot of new friends. It was a whole different lifestyle compared to back at home like with school and practice."

Football is harder than it is back at home.

"My dream since I was 8 years old was come to the U.S. and live here. I guess I made it happen."

Gehrer, who totaled 101 tackles last season, said his time at camp has been special and can't wait to take the field one last time with his high school teammates.

"It's great. I get to play with Wyatt and Jules (Giovengo)," Gehrer said. "Wyatt is going to Cal. U. with me, so I'll get to play with him for the next four years. And Jules is one of my best friends here. It's nice to be with him and it's just going to be fun."

With both Gehrer and Hirt going to college together, the journey for them is far from over.

"It's nice. Me and Bastian are going to Cal. U. (Pa.) together next year," Hirt said.

"We've been training a lot and been training all summer up at Cal and it's pretty sweet. We'll get to dorm together next year and become even better friends."

Both Hirt and Gehrer have been named captains of the West Virginia team.

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Thursday,  
July 25, 2019

PICTURED ARE the Ohio linebackers for Saturday's 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Front row, from left, are Trent Wright (Toronto), Hunter Dennis (River) and Evan Schob (Fort Frye). Standing, from left, are Erik Lulla (Steubenville), Connor Banco (Shadyside), Drake Dobson (Martins Ferry) and Chase Chicwak (Shenandoah).

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

## Kusic honored to represent Bridgeport

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — Sometimes rejuvenating a program or a sport can happen when you least expect it.

That's how Tino Kusic feels about the Bridgeport Bulldogs football program, which has had its struggles in recent years.

Kusic — an all-Ohioan — believes that maybe — just maybe — his appearance in this weekend's 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game can begin to fuel the bounceback.

"It means a lot to me to be able to represent my school," Kusic said. "We've not been known for football of late, but I think being here is going to get other kids motivated and make them want to be here."

Kusic was the unquestioned two-way coach Andrew Connor is the fourth football leader for the Bulldogs during the 2018 season. He will be playing on the defensive side of the ball when the Buckeyes take on West Virginia Saturday evening at 7:15 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"I am around a great group of guys and the goal is to win the game," Kusic said. "When you're doing things right, the fun comes along with it and that's the way it's been so far in camp. Everyone is here to play football and do anything they can to help this season."

Learning a new system wasn't too challenging for Kusic. After all, Ohio head

ball coach he's played under. At Bridgeport, he played for Zach Melton, Gary Krol and current head coach Fred Ray.

Kusic has only had to grasp one aspect of Connor's system as he prepares to play free safety this weekend.

"It's nice not having to run around all over the field," Kusic said. "I know my one role and one duty, and I'll take care of it. I also know my teammates will take care of their duties, too."

Unlike many of the players, Kusic wasn't born in the Ohio Valley. He and his family moved to Belmont County See, **KUSIC**, Page B2



### • Kusic

Continued from Page B1

when he was in sixth grade from near Defiance in Northwest Ohio.

Kusic recalls the first time he attended the OVAC All-Star Game and he didn't need many more opportunities to realize just how badly he wanted to play in the game.

"I went to the all-star game that summer when we moved here and it was just awesome," Kusic recalled. "The environment, the crowd, how passionate everyone was about it just made it a goal of mine."

Kusic wore a lot of hats for the Bulldogs the last couple of years. In a pass-happy offense employed by Krol in 2017, Kusic shined brightly, racking up 2,928 yards and 30 touchdowns.

Under Ray's tutelage last fall, Kusic threw for just 1,002 yards, but his rushing yardage (859) more than doubled from the previous season.

During both seasons, Kusic was a standout on the defensive side of the ball. A sure tackler in the defensive backfield, Kusic logged 65 tackles and an interception. He also posted five tackles for loss last season.

Still, however, there were some nervous moments on whether or not Kusic would be selected for the game. In the social media age, Kusic was seeing other players from around the Ohio Valley announce that they'd received their invitation to the game, but his mailbox was still empty.

"I didn't think I had been picked at first," Kusic admitted.

After three or four days of checking the mail, the envelope he had been waiting on had arrived.

"It came and I was just excited," Kusic said. "I knew right away that I was going to play. There was no doubt in my mind about accepting or coming to this."

Like many of the other Ohio players, this will be Kusic's final time to stomp up the pads. He's planning to continue his wrestling career at West Liberty University. He was a multiple-time all-Ohioan on the mats for the Bulldogs.

"It's bittersweet knowing this is the last game I'll ever pad up for, but it's a moment I'll remember for the rest of my life," Kusic said.

## BIEBER ROLLS

Shane Bieber fired a one-hit shutout to lead the Indians to victory/15

# The Intelligencer. SPORTS

THURSDAY,  
JULY 25, 2019

COMICS.....16  
TV/ENTERTAINMENT.....17

13

## Versatility a Key Component for Paden City's Cross

### Wildcats standout enjoying all-star week

By KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

BETHANY — When playing for a smaller Class A school in West Virginia, in some cases, a player's talent can get overlooked when an all-star game roster is being decided.

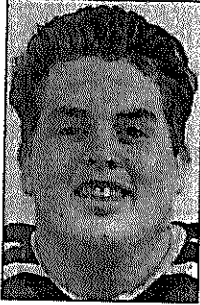
However, when it comes to Paden City's Ryan Cross, his athletic ability was definitely known as he was chosen to play in the 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star game.

"It's an honor because not many peo-

ple get picked from schools like around Paden City really often," Cross said. "When I got told that I got picked to play in the game, I felt privileged and I was excited for it."

Cross, a four-year starter for the Wildcats, knows the feeling all too well of what it's like to be on a small team. In 2018, Paden City sported a roster of about 18. Now, Cross will share the spotlight with almost two times that many players as the West Virginia roster has 30 athletes.

With more players to fill a spot on the field, it will make Cross work even harder to see more playing time. Although it may



CROSS

seem like a culture shock, Cross has enjoyed the experience.

"It's definitely different competing for a spot instead of knowing that I could have one," Cross said. "At Paden City, it's not so much the talent, we lacked the experience. It's nice to change it up and get to play with more experienced players."

"It's definitely different. I enjoy the change of pace."

While at Paden City, Cross saw the field the moment he walked on as a freshman. Not only that, he showed what a true leader should be.

His athletic ability also showed as he

virtually played any position that he was asked to.

"Ryan was a four-year starter and he played any position I asked him to play," former Paden City coach Brent Croasmun, who coached Cross throughout his high school career, said. "He started out as a lineman when he was a freshman and continued that into his sophomore year."

"His junior year he kept telling me he wanted to play fullback about the middle of the year. He did a real good job of running the football."

However, there was one position Cross kept asking Croasmun that he wanted to play.

Please see CROSS, Page 14

## CROSS

(Continued from Page 13)

"All throughout his career he kept telling me he could play quarterback," Croasmun said. "I thought, 'Nah, I'm not going to do that.' But after about the third or fourth game last year, we were struggling at the quarterback position and I noticed him throwing the ball pretty well. So I decided to give him a chance and he ended up playing the quarterback position pretty well. It was nice having a guy doing a lot of different things and was willing to do different things."

"It was kind of a strange development going from a lineman to a quarterback. In a small school, sometimes you got to do things you don't do in a larger school, but he had a good attitude when he was playing and he did a lot of different things for us. We were glad to have him on the team."

His development showed as on the roster, Cross is listed as a defensive end and quarterback.

With his versatility at playing positions, he was also selected to play in the

annual Battle Against Cystic Fibrosis All-Star Football Classic in Parkersburg in June where he played on the defensive line.

"We're extremely happy to have a representative in the all-star game," Croasmun said. "With the addition of the bigger schools now, it's hard to get a small school. He played in the BACF, they played him at defensive tackle and he did a real nice job."

"So wherever they put him, he's going to give them 100 percent. I know that."

Being able to represent your school is always an honor and Cross has been enjoying the experience of camp and now being teammates with players he used to play against.

"It's been great," Cross said. "Just hanging out with everybody, staying in the dorms for a week. But some of the practices are tough."

"It's weird being teammates with kids that I've been playing against my entire life. But I know what they got and I know what they can do."

Indians Lose/B3  
Scoreboard/B4  
MLB Roundup/B5

# SPORTS

Wednesday,  
July 24, 2019



## UL's Kildow, all-star games are synonymous

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

BETHANY — Most high school football players in the Ohio Valley grow up with the goal of being part of the OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game.

Few, if any, have ever gotten to experience the game twice.

The list is certain to grow by one Saturday evening when Ohio and West Virginia meet in the 74th version of the summer classic that pits Ohio against West Virginia.

For the second straight summer, Cal Kildow will run out of the tunnel with the Team Ohio delegation. This time, however, the Union Local graduate will be wearing pads and a uniform and lining up in the defensive backfield for the Buckeyes.

PICTURED ARE the Ohio defensive backs for Saturday's 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. From left are Cal Kildow (Union Local), Tino Kusic (Bridgeport), Cade Hannahs (Barnesville) and Bryce McAfoose (Edlson).

TL Photo/SETH STASKEY

See, **KILDOW**, Page B2

### • Kildow

Continued from Page B1

"Playing in this game has always been the goal," Kildow admitted.

Kildow was invited to OVAC camp, which is held at Bethany College, last summer by then UL head coach Bruce Stiles, who coached Ohio to a victory before riding off into retirement, to serve as a manager.

"It was a fun time and it was good to kind of get to experience and see how everything went," Kildow said.

Though Kildow was spending extra time on his own working on his own craft, in preparation for the season that lied ahead, he was an actual manager and did things that managers do like help at practice, deal with water for the players, etc.

"It was pretty fun last year and I was up here with my cousin, Kane," Kildow said. "I had (being selected to play in the game) in the back of my mind the entire time last year. It was something that I had hoped for."

Under the guidance of first-year Bernie Thomp-

son, Kildow put forth an impressive season in which he wore a lot of hats. He was the team's quarterback and played in the defensive backfield.

Kildow threw for 1,250 yards and 8 touchdowns, while rushing for 430 and 5 more scores.

It actually took Kildow a few practices to grow accustomed to not having quite as much to do for the Buckeye squad.

"It way different because I'm not doing nearly as much as I did in high school," Kildow offered. "It reminds of my sophomore year when I strictly played defense since I'm just working at corner."

Kildow has actually become a mainstay in all-star games in general. He was chosen for the OVAC Samuel A. Mumley All-Star Basketball Game in April and then in late May he played in the East Ohio Baseball League All-Star Game.

"It's pretty cool having been in now three all-star games," Kildow said. "It's everything I've worked toward. I've always tried to be

a versatile athlete and play every sport I can."

Without even thinking about it, Kildow admitted that the OVAC football all-star game "is the biggest" honor of the three.

"This is something I've been working toward since I was a kid and went to the game," Kildow admitted.

In hoops, which is the sport Kildow plans to pursue at Waynesburg, the talented guard scored 20.3 points per game and collected 6.1 rebounds. He finished his prep career with 1,254 points.

On the baseball field, Kildow was an every day outfielder and a solid bat in the bottom of the lineup.

Though Kildow has been working dilligently this summer on his basketball game to prepare for what lies ahead at Waynesburg, he's honored to strap up the pads for another week.

"It's great to have one more game, especially since we lost our last one (in the regular season) to Barnesville because that hurt," Kildow admitted. "Hopefully, we'll win this game."



# Central Players Living the Dream

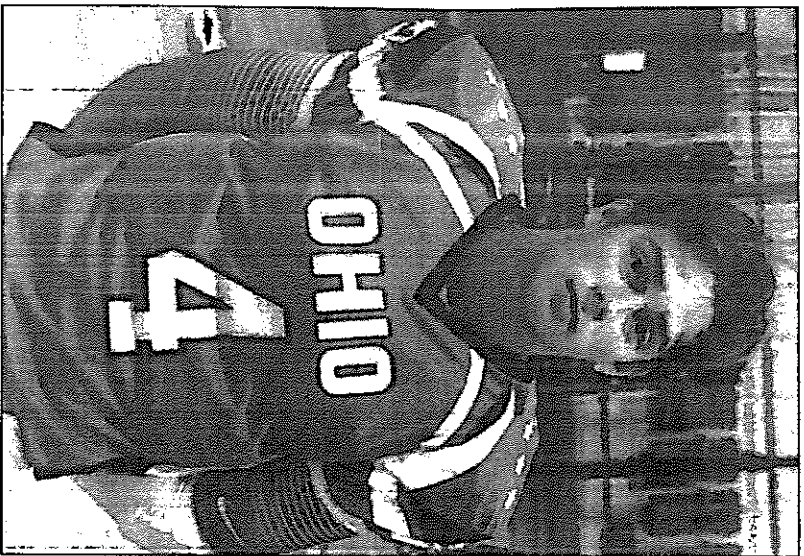


Photo by Seth Staskey  
Union Local's Cal Kildow is eager to get under the lights on Saturday night as a member of the Ohio OVAC all-star team.

## Kildow Back To All-Star Game

### UL star set for final battle

**By SETH STASKEY**  
For the Intelligence  
**BETHANY** — Most high school football players in the Ohio Valley grow up with the goal of being part of the OVAC Rudy Munley All-Star Football Game.

Few, if any, have ever gotten to experience the game twice.  
The list is certain to grow by one Saturday evening, when Ohio and West Virginia meet in the 74th version of the summer classic that pits Ohio against West Virginia.

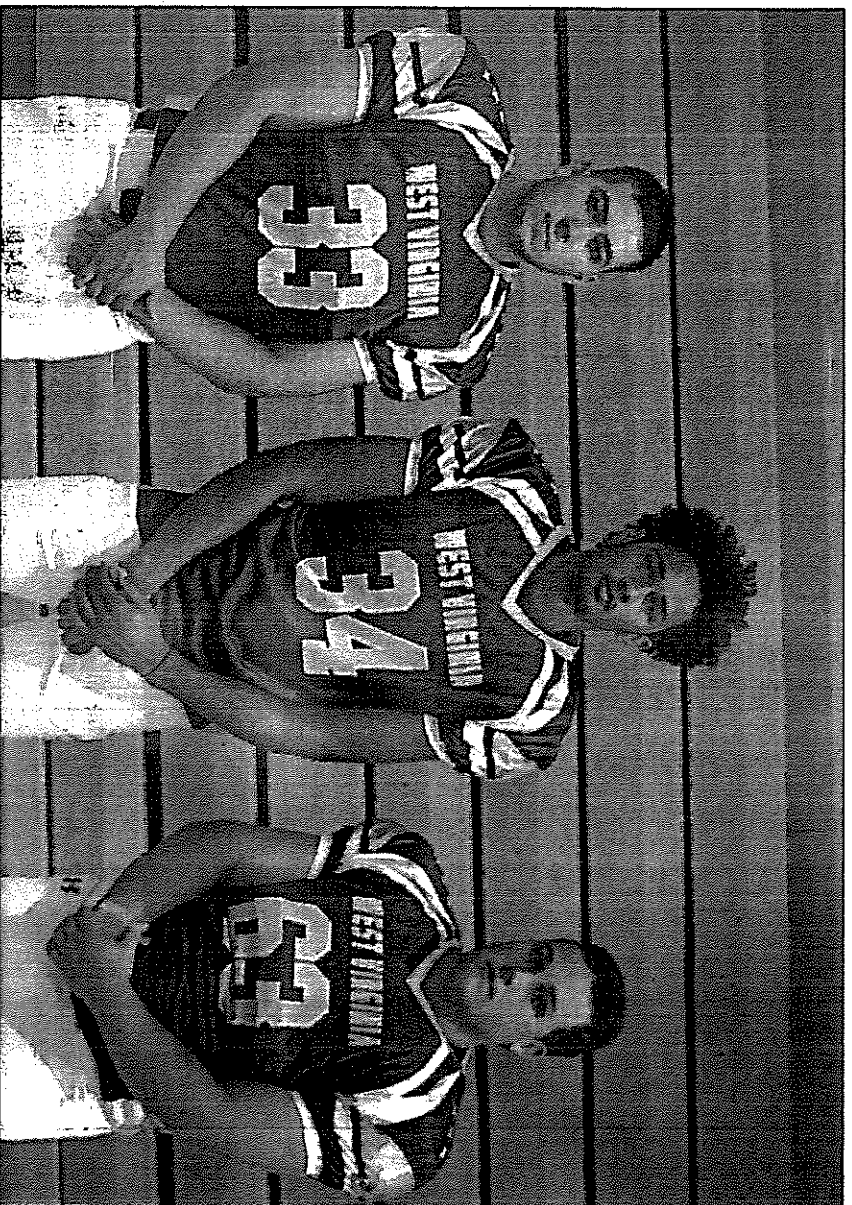
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Please see **KILDOW**  
Page 12



By Kyle Lutz  
Wheeling Central's Vinny Mangino, Anthony Robbins and Luke Duplaga have had stellar careers with Wheeling Central.

## Three Maroon Knights will cap off prep careers on Saturday

**By KYLE LUTZ**  
Staff Writer

**BETHANY** — It has been an amazing past two years for Wheeling Central football. After all, the Maroon Knights are the two-time defending state champions in West Virginia Class A.

But for a big percentage of high school seniors, after the final second strikes zero, their playing days are a thing of the past.

For three former Wheeling Central standouts, they'll have one final opportunity to write another chapter in their prep career as Luke Duplaga, Anthony Robbins and Vinny Mangino will dress for the 74th annual OVAC Rudy Munley All-Star Game on Saturday. Kickoff is scheduled for

7:15 p.m.

All athletes dream of holding up the hardware after the final game of the season. Those same athletes also dream of playing in such a prestigious all-star game. It comes as no surprise that all three Maroon Knights are living the dream.

"It meant a lot to me because I was looking forward to this since my freshman year," Robbins said about his reaction when he was asked to play in the annual event. "So I think it's awesome that I can play in this game."

Robbins — who was named first team all-state in 2018 — is excited to represent the Maroon Knights one more time. He also hasn't forgotten his roots.

Please see **CENTRAL**, Page 12

## KILDOW

(Continued from Page 11)

Though Kildow was spending extra time on his own working on his own craft, in preparation for the season that lied ahead, he was an actual manager and did things that managers do like help at practice, deal with water for the players, etc.

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Under the guidance of first-year coach Bernie Thompson, Kildow put forth an impressive season in which he wore a lot of hats. He was the team's quarterback and played in the defensive backfield.

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Though Kildow has been working diligently this summer on his basketball game to prepare for what lies ahead at Waynesburg, he's honored to strap up the pads for another week.

"It's great to have one more game, especially since we lost our last one (in the regular season) to Barnesville because that hurt," Kildow admitted. "Hopefully, we'll win this game."

"These few years of football have probably been the best few years of football because we have had a lot of wins and not too many losses. I count this as a win being in the game."

pate.

"All of my brothers played in it so it was nice. It's nice because I'm the last one going through," Duplaga said. "It's a tradition in my family and the school."

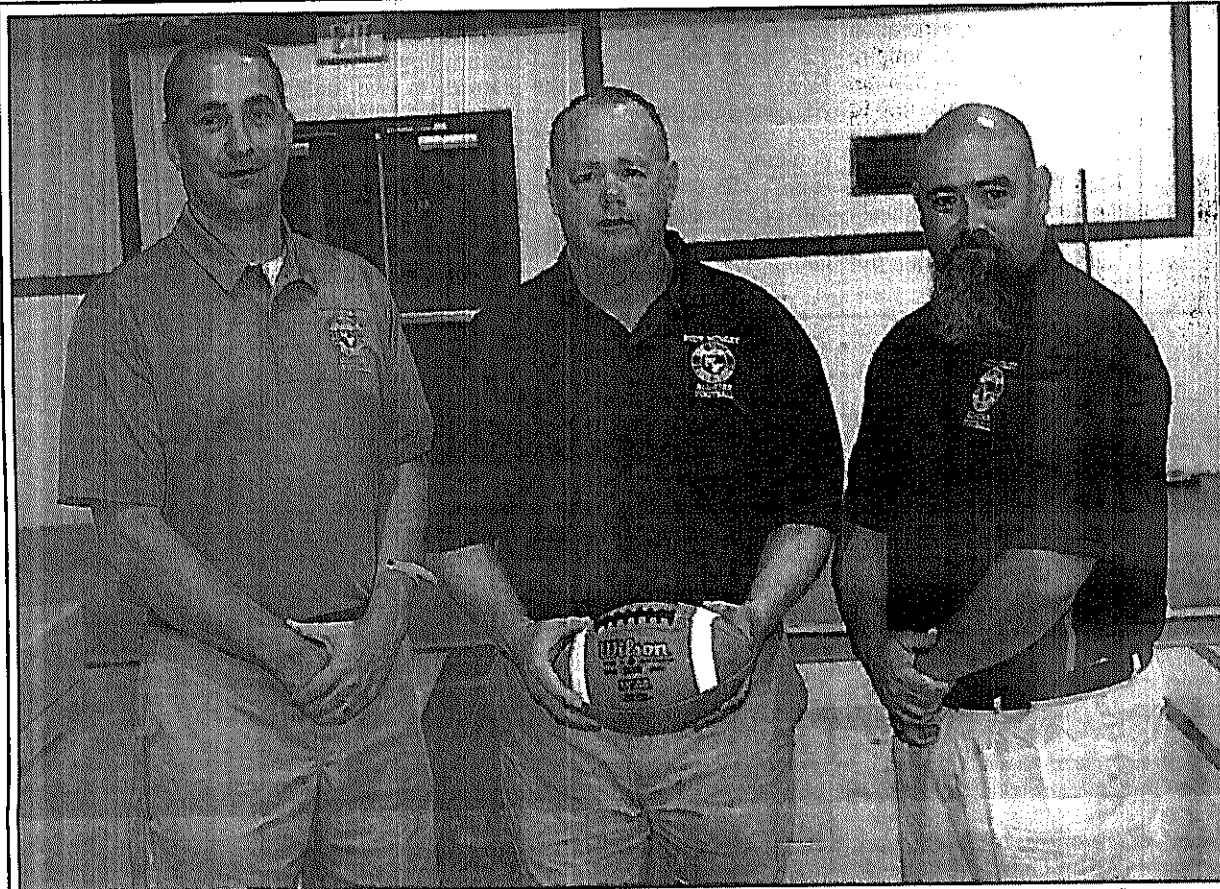
## CENTRAL

(Continued from Page 11)

For Duplaga, he knew growing up how big of a deal the OVAC All-Star game was. After all, everybody in his family who played before him received the phone call to partici-

# SPORTS

Tuesday,  
July 23, 2019



**OVAC RUDY** Mumley All-Star Football Game Assistant Director Dirk Fitch (center) posed with the head coaches for this Saturday's 74th annual game during media day at Bethany College. With Fitch are Ohio head coach Andrew Connor (left) and West Virginia head coach Mike Eddy. Connor is the head coach at Indian Creek and Eddy is formerly the head coach at Parkersburg South.

T.L. Photo/SETH STASKEY

## 74th OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game

### Coaches trying to maximize prep time

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

**BETHANY** — As it pertains to game preparations, football coaches are regimented to maximizing every second of the seven-day work week.

The challenge that Ohio's Andrew Connor and West Virginia's Mike Eddy face in the days leading up to Saturday evening's 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game runs deeper than just the number of days.

The camp opened Sunday evening, each team is down two players and making sure the preparation gets in while not

overdoing it so the players are fresh for the weekend are things that both staffs are dealing with.



"We wanted to start off strong and obviously ease off, but a lot of all-star games are won and lost on physicality," Connor said. "Some kids show up (just to be there) and some show up to win a football game. I told our kids in the first meeting we want West Virginia to wake up on Sunday morning and say, 'man, I don't want to see those (Ohio) guys again for 10 years at the reunion.'" Ohio hit the practice field Sunday afternoon despite a heat index approaching triple digits and went right to work.

"We have to be conditioned and we can't waste one minute of preparation," Connor said. "You can't be walking around, taking 15-minute water breaks or anything. Time is important. Conditioning is important and physicality."

West Virginia's opening-night workout was cut short because of lightning and storms in the area. So, the Mountaineers made up for that difference with a longer session on Monday morning.

"It's all about understanding what the purpose (of camp) is because we're not going to come in here in the next five days and transform a skillset," Eddy said. "We have to utilize the skillsets we have and make sure we See, **COACHES**, Page B2

### Park players look forward to final 'home' game

By **KYLE LUTZ**  
For The Times Leader

**BETHANY** — When one gets selected for an all-star game, it's always a magical moment. That player gets to strap on the pads and represent his school one final time before heading off to college. Just about every year, though, it becomes extra special for a group of athletes to compete in the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game. With the game being played on Wheeling Island, four Patriots will not only represent Wheeling Park one last time, they'll get to do it on their home field.

De'Vaughn McWhorter, Jermain Snodgrass, Jack Stakem and Ryan McCave will

have that honor.

During 2018, the Patriots had no trouble producing points as they put up at least 30 in nine games. McWhorter and Stakem were both part of that success at wide receiver.

McWhorter hauled in 37 passes for 608 yards and found the end zone nine times. He was also a threat on special teams as he took three kickoffs to the house.

"It means a lot because I get to show my ex-teammates that there's more to football after high school," McWhorter said. "You can go to the next level and you can excel at the next level. You can do whatever you need to do. Go to college, get an education and it's real nice to show them I was one of the leaders and they can be up next to do that.

It's a special feeling."

On defense, McWhorter tallied 37 tackles including four for a loss, two sacks and 12 passes defended.

Stakem put together a nice stint at wide receiver as he received Second Team all-state honors.

He finished his career with over 100 catches (104) going for just under 1,500 receiving yards (1,496) and 18 touchdowns.

With so many catches under the receivers' belts, they are looking forward to hauling in some passes on the island, like they've done so many times before.

"It's super exciting. I get to go out there and play in front of my family one more time See, **PARK**, Page B2

## • Coaches

Continued from Page B1

we have them in the right positions, so they're in the best position to be successful come Saturday."

Both coaches put their teams through their first full day of camp Monday, which was sandwiched around media day inside the Nutting Gymnasium on the Bethany College campus. It was moved inside due to heavy rains.

Ohio and West Virginia returned to the practice field in the evening for a longer work session. It's actually the last time the teams will be able to practice deep into the day because of the activities that surround the game begin this evening with the annual George Strager Evening with the Stars Banquet at the White Palace at Wheeling Park.

Even when they're not on the practice field, Connor has had his players in position meetings with study packets available.

"The kids have done pretty well picking up things, but we've had some team meetings scheduled in (to the day) because anytime we have down time, we want to use it," Connor said. "In and out of the dorms, the kids are going over their handouts. Part of it is how serious are you while you're here and to this point, these kids have proven they're pretty serious about it."

West Virginia is also spending additional time in position meetings and working more on simplifying the schemes and playbooks to make sure all of the players are on the same page.

"I was running our scout team (Monday) and those guys are even asking some tremendous questions," Eddy said. "Five reps later, I've got guys changing coverages and making signals to one another. This is an all-star game with great players and athletes, who've been well coached."

Connor has been impressed in the short time he's had his Ohio guys together with their chemistry, attitudes and abilities.

"You either start off well or you don't, and I think we had a great start (Sunday evening)," Connor explained. "Our kids have been great. They've been on time for everything, asked a lot of questions and really seem happy to be here, which is part of the battle."

The Ohio squad was originally down one player when Wellsville's Derrick Suggs didn't report to camp. The Buckeye roster shrunk Monday morning when St. Clairsville's Justin Heatherington left the squad.

"A lot of kids are going to have to play on both sides of the ball," Connor said. "You go into it thinking everyone playing on one side, but that doesn't look like it's going to be the case."

West Virginia's roster was short two after check-in day. John Marshall's Chas McCool didn't report, opting to remain with his American Legion baseball team, while Hundred's Andrew Zedell didn't play because of a work commitment.

"We put our depth chart together," Eddy said. "We feel like we have two or three guys at every position, so we're cross training guys at positions to have some depth. Platooning will be difficult and our depth is questionable to begin with. We only have six (offensive) linemen here with us. That's where you have to be creative as a coach and might have to ask a kid to do something he's not been used to doing."

## • Park

Continued from Page B1

on the island," Stakem, who is going to the University of Charleston, said. "I'm ready to go."

On the defensive side, Snodgrass has been a force for the Patriots. Compiling over 220 tackles, he is ready to go one final time in a Park uniform.

"I love it," Snodgrass said. "The energy there is amazing. I know everybody is going to come out for one final round. It's amazing. I can't wait."

For Snodgrass and McWhorter, camp almost felt like home to them as they will both attend Bethany College to play football for the Bison.

"I'm having a blast. De'Vaughn, we're going to Bethany up here," Snodgrass said. "And we know more about the place than most people. We know around campus and we're going to show how it is."

And scoring at ease last year for the Patriots wouldn't be possible without their offensive line. That's where McCave succeeded. With the help of McCave and the offensive line, Wheeling Park was able to compile 2,658 yards on the ground.

While McCave won't be too far away when he heads off to play for West Liberty, McCave is ready to play coming out of the locker room one final time, like he did every Friday for the past couple of years.

"It's a great relief to say the least. It's home turf, home field, home town and it's quite awesome to play," McCave said. "I'm kind of glad that I can represent myself one last time for my community."



# SPORTS

Saturday,  
July 27, 2019

## OVAC All Stars set to shine

• Ohio, West Virginia to meet for the 74th time this evening

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING - The time has arrived.

King Football makes its triumphant return to the Ohio Valley this evening.

For the 74th time, Ohio and West Virginia are set to meet for state bragging rights in the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, capping a week's worth of activities and buildup.

Kickoff is slated for 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"I think I can speak for everyone in Ohio - coaches and players - that we're all excited and ready to go play this game," Ohio coach Andrew Connor of Indian Creek said. "The kids have been great all week and now it's time for them to go out and show why they're here."

West Virginia coach Mike Eddy, who earned the invitation after a strong season at Parkersburg South, compared the last few days of practice to the regular-season opener.



"The kids are kind of chomping at the bit to go play," Eddy said. "It's kind of like those weeks in August when you're in camp and they simply get tired of running into each other and they're ready to go hit someone else."

The Ohio squad will be seeking its second straight victory in the series and overall the Buckeyes own a 43-29-1 upperhand. Prior to last season, however, West Virginia had won the three previous games.

"Obviously, this is an all-star game, but at the same time, I told the kids we're going out to win a football game," Connor said. "The OVAC calls this an exhibition and I told the kids there's no such thing in my mind. If they're keeping score, we want to win."

Eddy echoed those statements. "There are many reasons we do what we do - both as players and coaches - but all of us want to win and be successful," Eddy said. "It's not any different when you're in this (all-star game) setting. When we get out on that field (tonight), we want to win the game and I know our kids will give the best effort they can."

Both coaches are rookies to the head coaching role in the game and both raved about the entire week with the players.

"We talked, as a staff, about what a great experience this has been," Eddy said. "Sure, it takes some time away from your daily life, your families, your

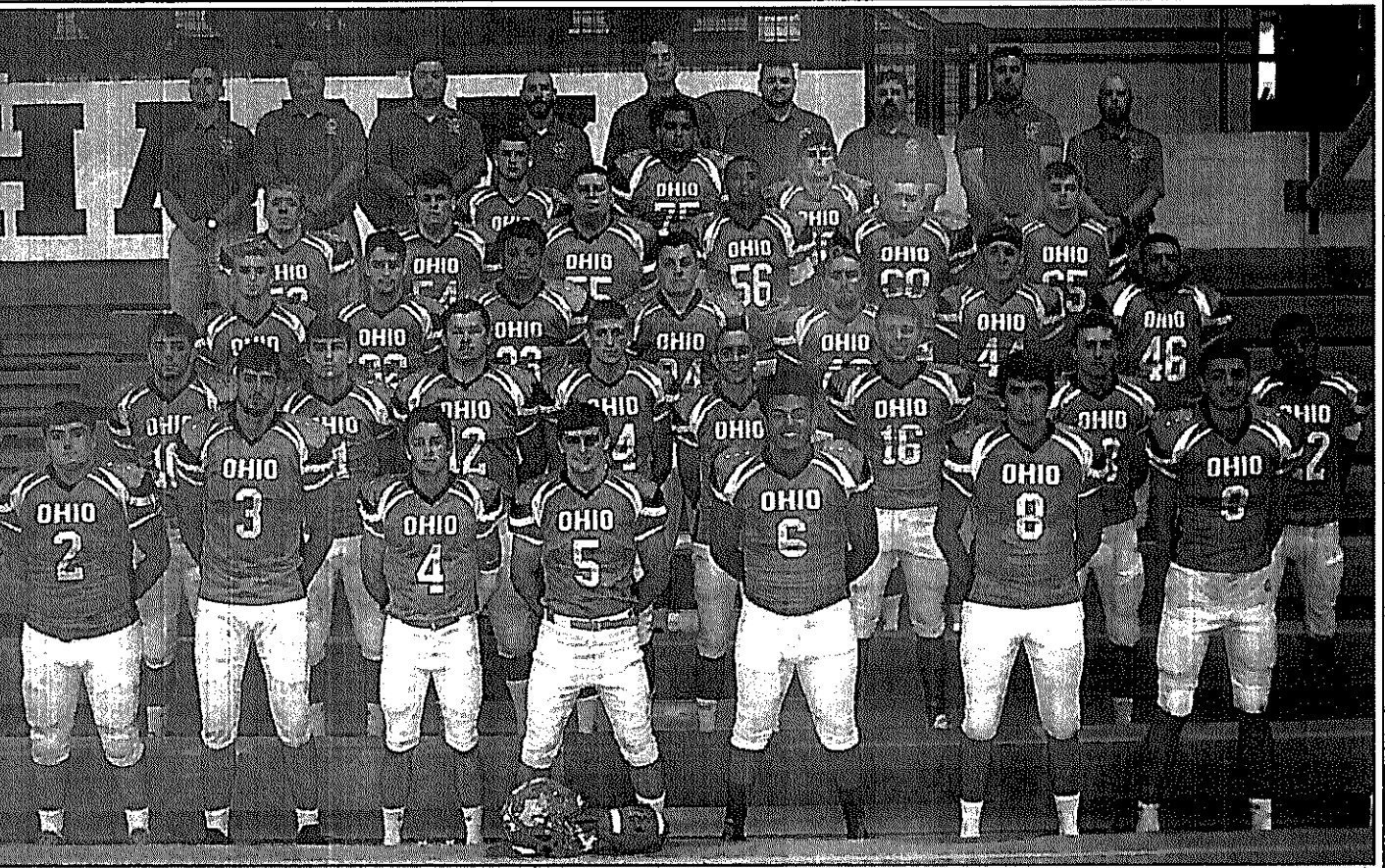
See, OVAC, Page B2

## Captains named for 74th annual OVAC All-Star Game

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

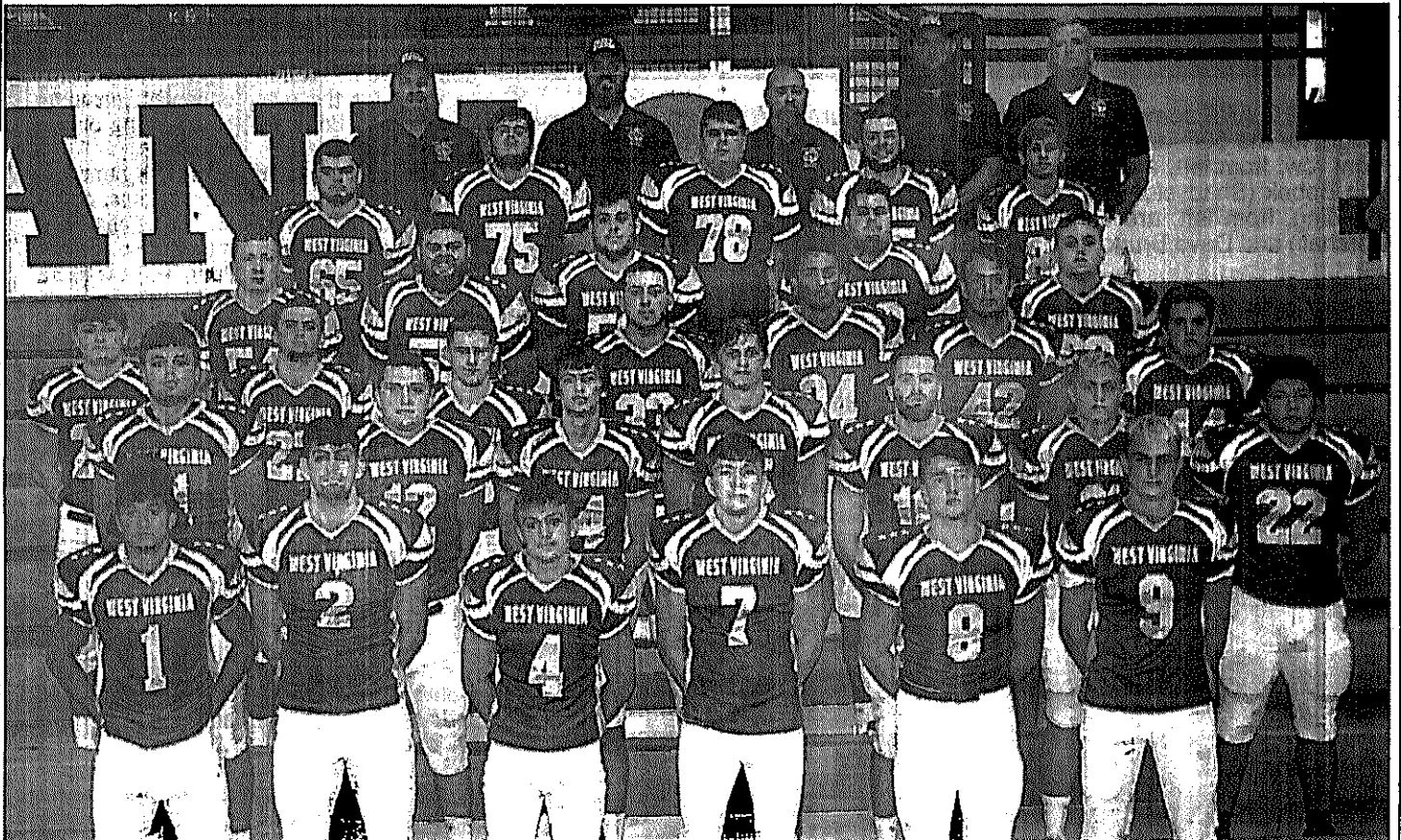
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T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY



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"Those guys have done a great job of leading by example at practice and have the intangibles in leadership," Connor, the Ohio head coach from Indian Creek, said. "They're vocal at practice and they've pushed their teammates to get better."

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Banco, meanwhile, also was one of the unquestioned leaders for his prep program at Shadyside as well. He'll see the bulk of his action at linebacker.

"It's an absolute honor that I get to represent (Shadyside) as a captain," Banco said. "I hold the title with pride and I'm happy to



returning to the Ohio Valley this evening.

For the 74th time, Ohio and West Virginia are set to meet for state bragging rights in the annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game, capping a week's worth of activities and buildup.

Kickoff is slated for 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"I think I can speak for everyone in Ohio - coaches and players - that we're all excited and ready to go play this game," Ohio coach Andrew Connor of Indian Creek said. "The kids have been great all week and now it's time for them to go out and show why they're here."

West Virginia coach Mike Eddy, who earned the invitation after a strong season at Parkersburg South, compared the last few days of practice to the regular-season opener.

"The kids are kind of chomping at the bit to go play," Eddy said. "It's kind of like those weeks in August when you're in camp and they simply get tired of running into each other and they're ready to go hit someone else."

The Ohio squad will be seeking its second straight victory in the series and overall the Buckeyes own a 43-29-1 upperhand. Prior to last season, however, West Virginia had won the three previous games.

"Obviously, this is an all-star game, but at the same time, I told the kids we're going out to win a football game," Connor said. "The OVAC calls this an exhibition and I told the kids there's no such thing in my mind. If they're keeping score, we want to win."

Eddy echoed those statements. "There are many reasons we do what we do - both as players and coaches - but all of us want to win and be successful," Eddy said. "It's not any different when you're in this (all-star game) setting. When we get out on that field (tonight), we want to win the game and I know our kids will give the best effort they can."

Both coaches are rookies to the head coaching role in the game and both raved about the entire week with the players.

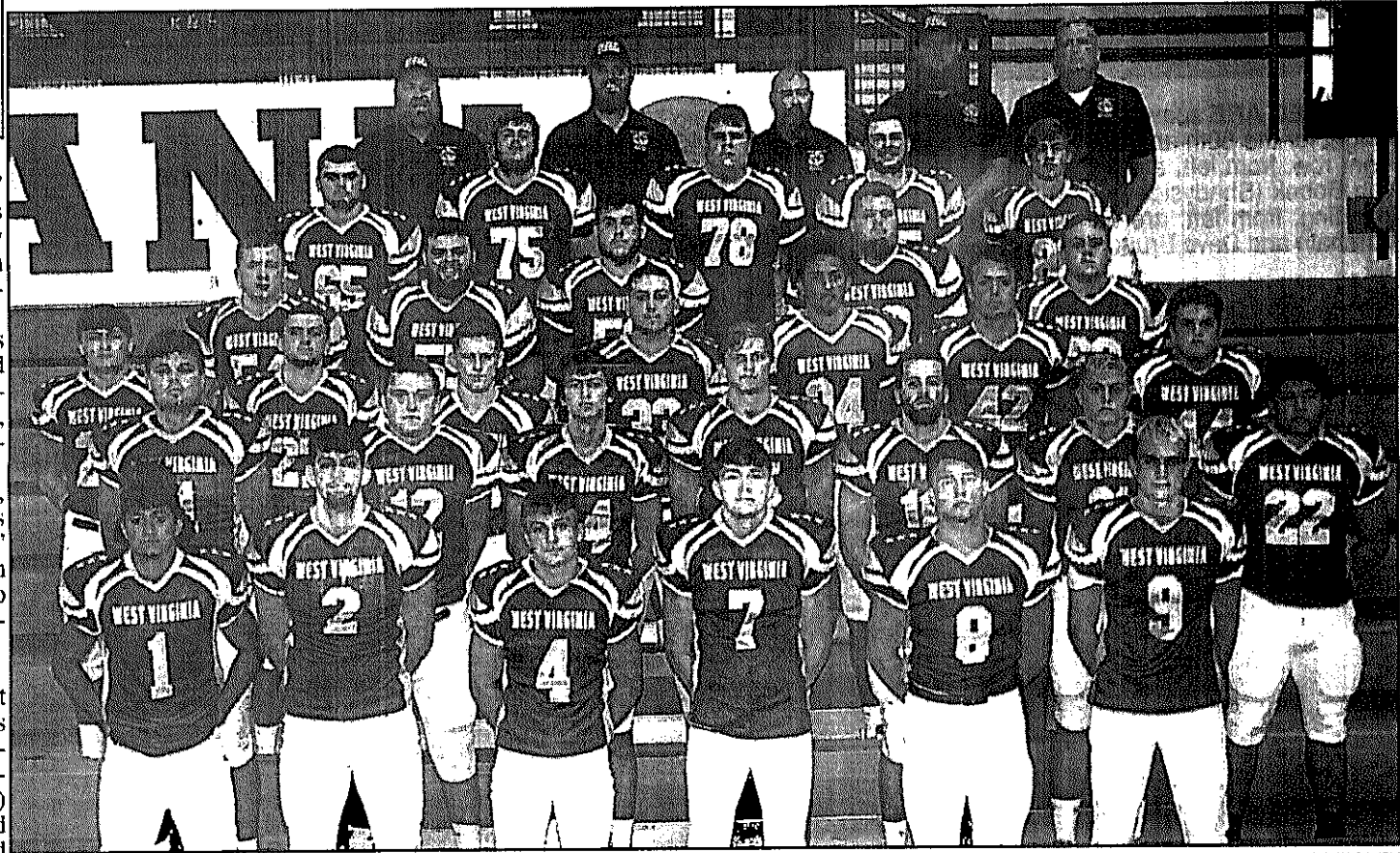
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Five Ohioans and four from West Virginia were voted as captains for their respective teams this week by their peers.

And head coaches Andrew Connor and Mike Eddy were more than pleased with the results of the vote.

Set to lead the Ohio side are Shadyside's Connor Banco, Meadowbrook's Davis Black, St. Clairsville's Brady Kolb, Steubenville's Erik Lulla and Indian Creek's Brennon Norris.

"Those guys have done a great job of leading by example at practice and have the intangibles in leadership," Connor, the Ohio head coach from Indian Creek, said. "They're vocal at practice and they've pushed their teammates to get better."

Meanwhile, set to lead West Virginia on the field for the coin toss are Linsly's Bastian Geher, Linsly's Wyatt Hirt, South's

Nick Yoho and John Marshall's Brady Williams.

"We allowed the kids to vote and those four were nearly unanimous," Eddy, the West Virginia head coach from South, said. "These guys all treat everyone around them with respect and are always vocal and direct in the huddle."

Kolb, who was a captain for his high school team at St. C., is expected to see action this evening at running back.

"It really means a lot to me that my teammates picked me to represent them and be a leader for Ohio," Kolb said. "I feel very

honored to be playing in this game. There are so many leaders on this Ohio team and I will do my very best to lead them to a win (tonight)."

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"It's an absolute honor that I get to represent (Shadyside) as a captain," Banco said. "I hold the title with pride and I'm happy to be a part of this team with such an outstanding group of guys."

See, **CAPTAINS**, Page B2



Photo/KYLE LUTZ

**PICTURED ARE** three West Virginia All Stars who previously suited up for Bishop Donahue before the school closed. From left are Shane Hercules (John Marshall), Vinny Mangino (Wheeling Central) and Anthony Robbins (Wheeling Central).

# Donahue grid tradition lives once again in OVAC Game

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
Executive Sports Editor

**WHEELING** - Gone but not forgotten.

Bishop Donahue High School was unceremoniously closed by then-Bishop Michael Bransfield more than two years ago. While the scars and pain resulting from that controversial decision still resonate throughout BD Nation, the school's football legacy will shine brightly in tonight's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game.

Three gridders with Bishop Donahue roots will be suiting up for the West Virginia squad. Vinny Mangino, Anthony Robbins and Shane Hercules all were two-year regulars at Bishop Donahue for Coach John Durdines.

They all were expected to be four-year stalwarts for the Bishops. Bransfield's

closure decree changed that with Mangino and Robbins opting to matriculate to Wheeling Central while Hercules chose John Marshall.

While Bishop Donahue football has been dormant for two years, Durdines recalls with much pride his three all-star performers as they helped the Bishops realize much success on the field. The talented trio played key roles as freshmen as Donahue went 8-3 while gaining a WVSSAC playoff berth. A year later, the Bishops went 7-3.

"I am very proud and excited for them. I knew they were going to be special players from Day 1. I am tickled to death that they got to experience success at their new schools," Durdines said. "They also showed they were very good players, not

See, **TRADITION**, Page B2





T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**PICTURED ARE** the defensive line options for tonight's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Kneeling, from left, are Owen Hartshorn (Monroe Central) and Logan Wilson (Indian Creek). Standing, from left, are Kwadre Williams (Steubenville), Cole LaRoche (Bellaire) and Cody Gamble (Harrison Central).



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**PICTURED ARE** the wide receiver options for tonight's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Kneeling, from left, are Trent Valentine (Cambridge) and Ian Phillips (Steubenville). Standing, from left, are Bryce McAfoose (Edison), Craig Bober (St. Clairsville) and Matt Mamula (Indian Creek).



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**PICTURED ARE** some of the players who will return to Wheeling Island Stadium tonight for the 50th anniversary of their appearance in the OVAC All-Star Game. Front row, from left, are Dave Bruney (Martins Ferry), Alfred Boniti (Madonna), Ron Bobek (Shadyside), Court Stewart (Shadyside) and Greg Harris (Bellaire). Standing, from left, are Lambros Tsuchlares (Wellsburg), Chuck Vavrock (John Marshall) and Dave Bruno (Bellaire).

• **OVAC**

Continued from Page B1

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Connor is no stranger to the game. Since he's been the coach at Indian Creek, numerous Redskins players have taken part, including Connor's son, Zac, who will serve on the Ohio squad. But, being officially part of the game is something that the head coach has soaked up all week.

"Seeing the week end is bittersweet because of the relationships with the kids and just being around them," Connor said. "From the time in the dorm, to the meals and just hanging out and picking their brains. It's been a great week."

Regardless of tonight's outcome, the relationships will last forever, but the players and coaches have had upwards of 10 practices to prepare, condition and learn an entire new scheme and system. Throw in the fact that in an all-star game, coaches really don't have a "scouting report" from which to work for the other opponent, meaning Connor and Eddy will be adjusting on the fly to a degree.

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Indian Creek's Brennon Norris will start the game, while Meadowbrook's Davis Black will see plenty of action, too.

"Both quarterbacks will see a lot of action," Connor said. "Both have been great all week."

In the backfield, St. Clairsville's Brady Kolb and East Liverpool's Jalen Moman will begin at running back. Harrison Central's Tyler West will be the "slot guy" for the Buckeyes.

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Up front, which was an area of concern early in the week for Eddy because of depth, has come together well, according to the future head coach at Logan High School in Ohio.

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• **Captains**

Continued from Page B1

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#### • Captains

Continued from Page B1

Both Black and Norris are expected to share time at quarterback tonight. Black helped lead the Colts to the regional championship game, throwing for more than 2,400 yards and 23 touchdowns last seasons.

Norris, meanwhile, saw much of his senior season cut short due to an injury. However, he passed for more than 2,000 yards and 14 touchdowns as a junior.

On the West Virginia side, Geher is just the second foreign-born player to play in the game, joining kicker Urs Mueller, who represented Martins Ferry as a kicker in the 2003 game.

Hirt passed for 1,376

yards in 2018 along with 15 touchdowns and was a three-year starter for the Cadets.

Williams is the lone lineman on either squad to gain a captaincy nod. He could see time both at center and along the defensive line. He was a second-team all-TRAC selection last season.

#### • Tradition

Continued from Page B1

just at a small school. Coaches always say they are great kids, but they truly are.

"I have stayed in touch. When Shane signed with West Liberty, he asked me to be in the photo for the newspaper. He also asked me for a BD logo for his helmet and then Vinny and Anthony wanted them, also.

I will be at the game rooting them on wearing my Bishop Donahue green."

Robbins was a first team all-state receiver this year. He relished his time at the McMechen-based school.

"Playing for Coach Durdines was awesome. He treated us more like family than players," Robbins said. "Playing at Bishop was a lot of fun as well. I love the people I played with the two years I was there."

Those sentiments were echoed by Hercules

"It was a fun experience (playing at Donahue) as we all got along. We all were brothers," the rugged lineman said.

"Coach Durdines and all the other coaches made every practice fun. It was

an all-around great experience."

Mangino was one of the OVAC's top two-way players the last two seasons. He credits Durdines for molding him into the star player he is.

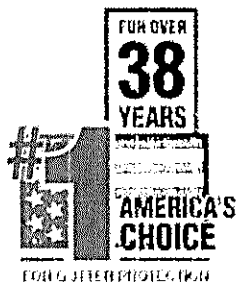
"Coach Durdines is a great coach. He is the reason I am in this game. He shaped me into the player I am today and I couldn't have accomplished what I did without him," the all-state linebacker said. "Coach Durdines is a great guy and a great role model."



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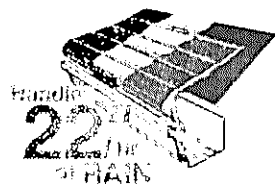
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# The Sad State Of Legion Baseball

WHEELING — Next week at Potomac State College, Wheeling Post 1 will look to win its fourth state title in five seasons.

For this veteran club, it has been state championship or bust all season.

From the top to bottom, Post 1 is a phenomenal outfit. From Don Tennant to Chuck Koehler to manager Jon-Michael Brunner to the lower levels, Wheeling Post 1 is first class all the way.

It is no wonder it has been one of the most successful teams in the state during the past half decade.

On the other side of the river, St. Clairsville Post 159 and Jefferson County Teramana Post 33 have their teams playing



**JOSH STROPE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

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Unfortunately, that is where the good feelings stop.

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Please see **STROPE**, Page 10



**BEATY**

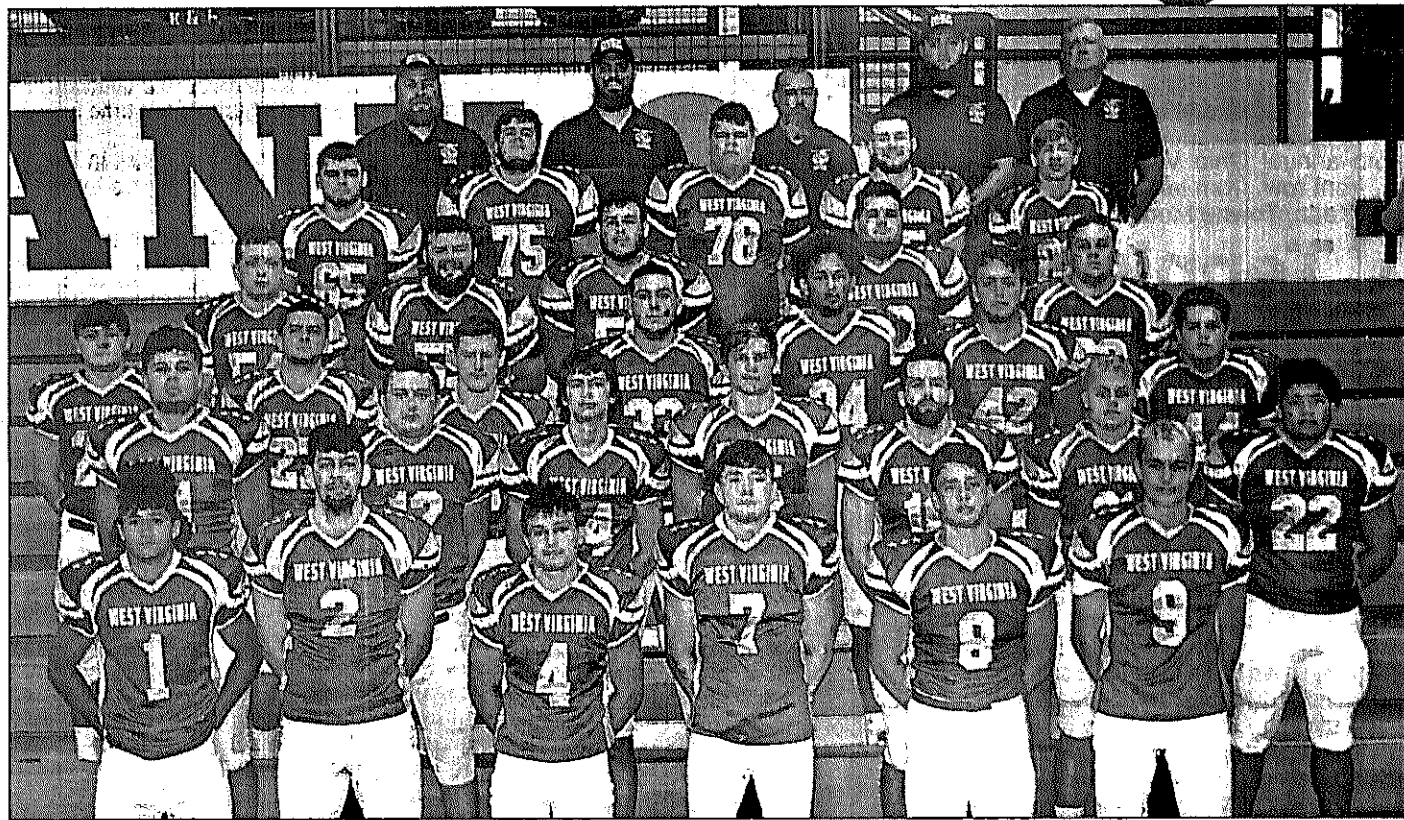
# Wolverines Make Trek To W.Va.

Oosterbaan, Beaty represent University of Michigan at Open

By **CODY TOMER**  
Staff Writer

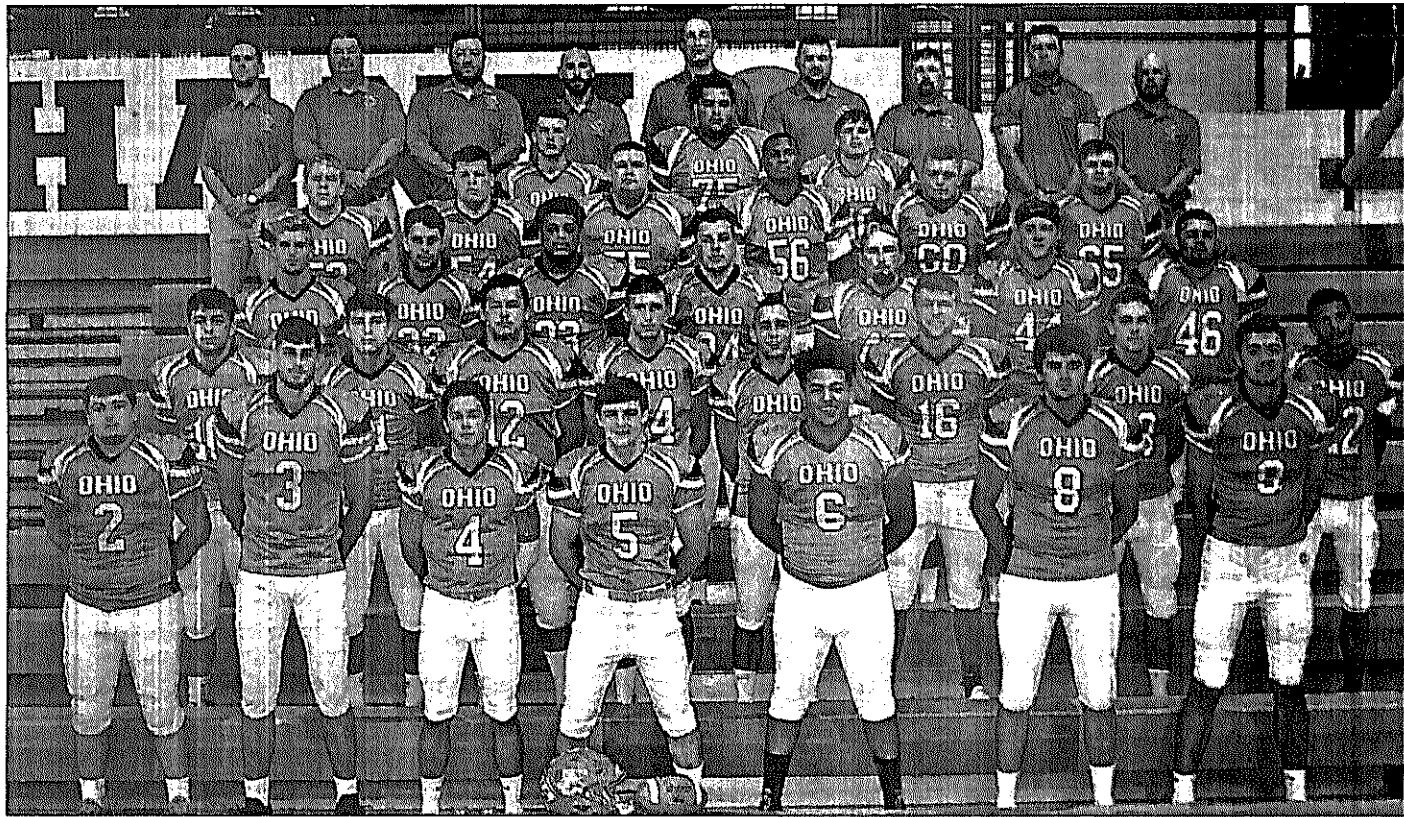
WHEELING — Teddy Oosterbaan and Nick Beaty of the University of Michigan's tennis team were simply looking to play some

# OVAC All-Star Game To Kick Off Tonight



Photos by Seth Staskey

Shown is Team West Virginia for Saturday's 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game. Front row, from left, are DeVaughn McWhorter (Wheeling Park), Aaron Alvarez (Morgantown), Jules Giovengo (Linsly), Jake McCoy (Weir), Nick Yoho (South) and Patrick Mirandy (Magnolia). Second row: are Reed Reitter (Weir), Brayden Mooney (South), Jackson Chaney (Oak Glen), Wyatt Hirt (Linsly), Nick DeFelice (Morgantown), Sebastian Stickler (Magnolia) and Jermain Snodgrass (Wheeling Park). Third row: Andrew Ritchea (Cameron), Jack Stakem (Wheeling Park), Gage Adams (Magnolia), Vinny Mangino (Wheeling Central), Anthony Robbins (Wheeling Central), Bastian Gehrler (Linsly) and Ryan Cross (Paden City). Fourth row: Gavin Lockhart (John Marshall), Brady Williams (John Marshall), George Brown (Valley), Rob Valenti (Weir) and Luke Duplaga (Wheeling Central). Fifth row: Hayden Hoge (Cameron), Ryan McCave (Wheeling Park), Shane Hercules (John Marshall), Derek Richardson (University) and Jonah Phares (University). Top row: coaches Matt Klimes, Joey Lindamood, head coach Mike Eddy, Cody Nutter and Bryan Youngblood.



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## Ohio looks to make it two straight against West Virginia

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — The time has arrived.

King Football makes its triumphant return to the Ohio Valley this evening.

For the 74th time, Ohio and West Virginia are set to meet for state bragging rights in the annual

Football Game, capping a week's worth of activities and buildup.

Kickoff is slated for 7:15 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

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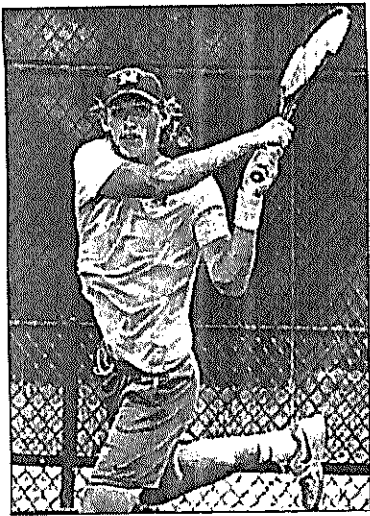
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Please see **STROPE**, Page 10



**BEATY**

## Wolverines Make Trek To W.Va.

Oosterbaan, Beaty represent University of Michigan at Open

By **CODY TOMER**  
Staff Writer

**WHEELING** — Teddy Oosterbaan and Nick Beaty of the University of Michigan's tennis team were simply looking to play some tennis and sharpen their skills in the offseason.

They decided to make the journey from Ann Arbor to the Bordas and Bordas West Virginia Open at the Oglebay Tennis Club — a trip they won't soon forget.

"It's my first time here and it's amazing," Oosterbaan said. "We were just looking for some tournaments and found this one here."

"I'm glad we did. It's beautiful around here. We would like to look around a bit when we finish playing tennis."

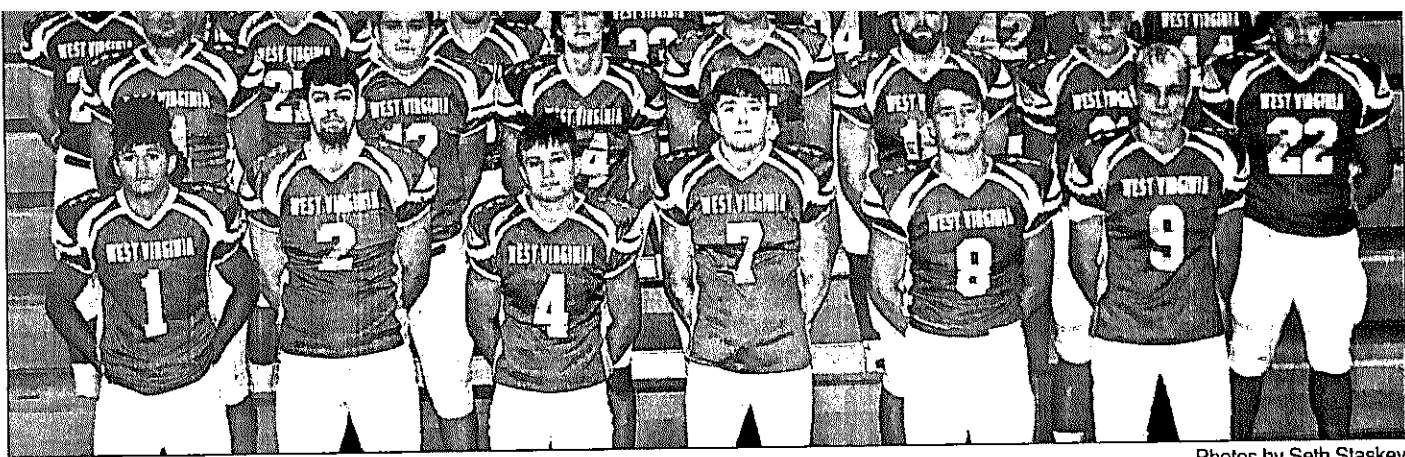
Although they would like to hit one of Oglebay's three golf courses before they get back on the road, there is still plenty of tennis left to play.

Beaty drew the No. 2 seed in the tournament and has been undefeated thus far.

Oosterbaan claimed his first match before falling in Round 2 but the duo is also the No. 2 seed in the doubles bracket and still alive.

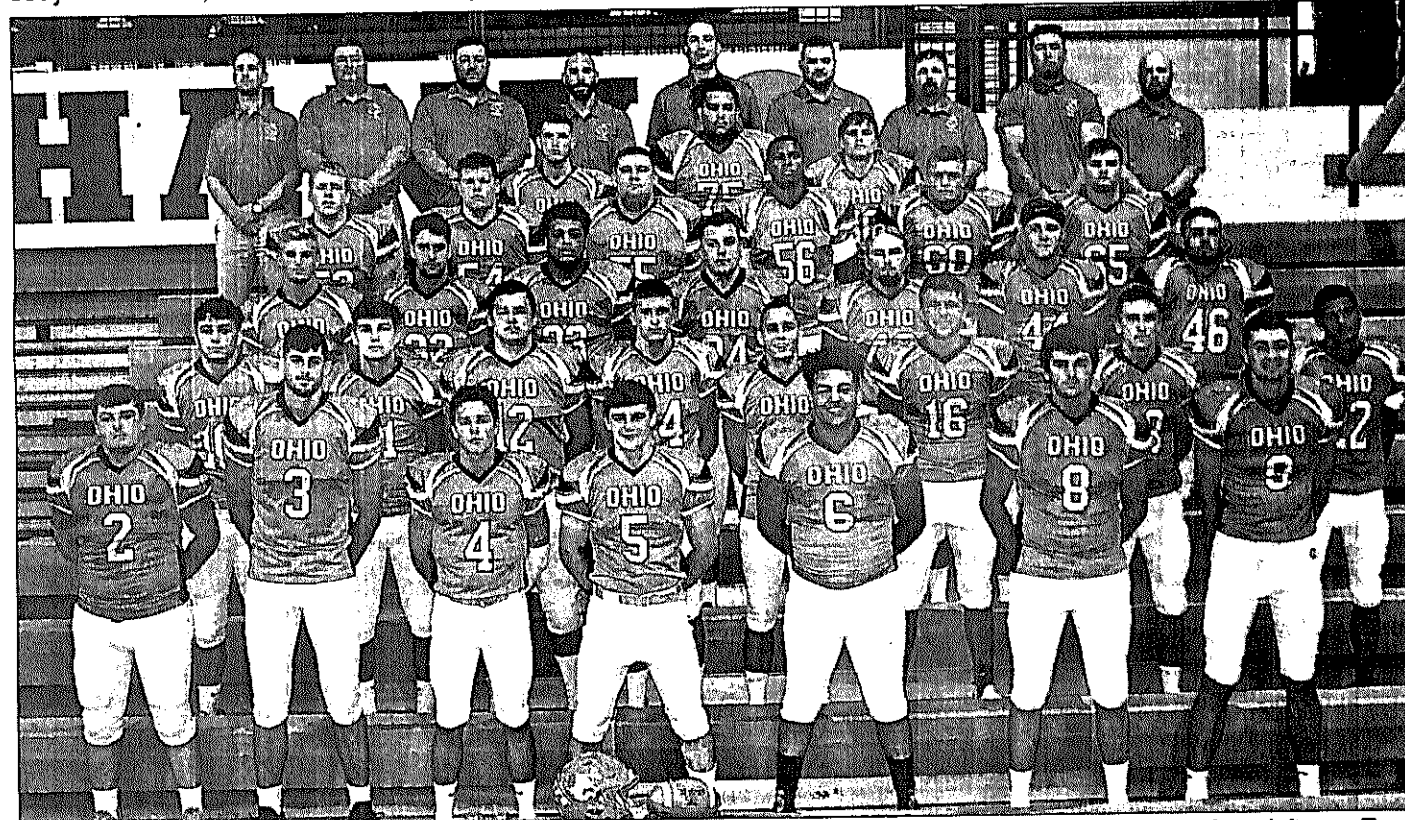
"This has been a great event so far," Beaty said. "I think it's a beautiful park, the courts are well-taken care of and we've had a great experience."

See **WOLVERINES**, Page 10



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Please see **OVAC**, Page 10

## Trio Carrying on Bishop Donahue Tradition



From left, Shane Hercules, Vinny Mangino and Anthony Robbins played their first two years at Bishop Donahue before the school closed two years ago. The trio will be representing the Bishops, along with their current schools during tonight's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Sar Game.

Photo by Kyle Lutz

Hercules, Mangino, Robbins also representing Bishops

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
Executive Sports Editor

**WHEELING** — Gone but not forgotten. Bishop Donahue High School was unceremoniously closed by then-Bishop Michael Bransfield more than two years ago. While the scars and pain resulting from that controversial decision still resonate throughout BD Nation, the school's football legacy will shine brightly in tonight's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game.

Three gridders with Bishop Donahue roots will be suiting up for the West Virginia squad. Vinny Mangino, Anthony Robbins and Shane Hercules all were two-year regulars at Bishop Donahue for Coach John Durdines.

They all were expected to be four-year stalwarts for the Bishops. Bransfield's closure decree changed that with Mangino and Robbins opting to matriculate to Wheeling Central while Hercules chose John Marshall.

Please see **BISHOP**, Page 10

Classic is scheduled for July 31-Aug. 4. The clay courts of Oglebay play host to the only tournament that focuses on local players. Now in its 15th year, the tournament was originally created when George Frazier and Chris Freeman observed that the Ohio Valley needed a true local tennis tournament.

"We wanted to encourage young players to participate, so we had both middle school and high school divisions. In addition, we subsidized the entry fee expense by raising money via sponsorships," Freeman said.

Frazier has been the OVAC tennis director and suggested that all proceeds from this local tournament go to the high school teams to support developing the programs for both boys and girls.

When Freeman's daughter, Emily, moved back to Wheeling a few years ago, she also recognized the importance of this

## OVAC

(Continued from Page 9)

"Obviously, this is an all-star game, but at the same time, I told the kids we're going out to win a football game," Connor said. "The OVAC calls this an exhibition and I told the kids there's no such thing in my mind. If they're keeping score, we want to win."

Eddy echoed those statements.

"There are many reasons we do what we do — both as players and coaches — but all of us want to win and be successful," Eddy said. "It's not any different when you're in this (all-star game) setting. When we get out on that field (tonight), we want to win the game and I know our kids will give the best effort they can."

Both coaches are rookies to the head coaching role in the game and both raved about the entire week with the players.

"We talked, as a staff, about what a great experience this has been," Eddy said. "Sure, it takes some time away from your daily life, your families, your job back home, but I am so glad that I accepted this. This has been a great experience. The players have enjoyed it and overall it's been a positive experience."

Connor is no stranger to the game. Since he's been the coach at Indian Creek, numerous Redskins players have taken part, including Connor's son, Zac, who will serve on the Ohio squad. But, being officially part of the game is something that the head coach has soaked up all week.

"Seeing the week end is bittersweet because of the relationships with the kids and just being around them," Connor said. "From the time in the dorm, to the meals and just hanging out and picking their brains. It's been a great week."

Regardless of tonight's outcome, the relationships will last forever, but the players and coaches have had upwards of 10 practices to prepare, condition and learn an entire new scheme and system.

Throw in the fact that in an all-star game, coaches really don't have a "scouting report" from which to work for the other opponent, meaning Connor and Eddy will be adjusting on the fly to a degree.

"There are no tendencies in this game and you're never quite sure what the other coach is going to do," Connor said. "It's challenging, but it's the same for them, too. I think the camp is a good number of days with 32 guys."

Ohio will employ a two-quarterback system,

rotating every two series, regardless of performance.

Indian Creek's Brennon Norris will start the game, while Meadowbrook's Davis Black will see plenty of action, too.

"Both quarterbacks will see a lot of action," Connor said. "Both have been great all week."

In the backfield, St. Clairsville's Brady Kolb and East Liverpool's Jalen Moman will begin at running back. Harrison Central's Tyler West will be the "slot guy" for the Buckeyes.

On the perimeter, St. Clairsville's Craig Bober, Cambridge's Trent Valentine and Indian Creek's Matt Mamula will open at wide receiver.

Fort Frye's Evan Schob will also see time in the backfield when Connor opts for a wing formation.

Up front for the Buckeyes, the line will be comprised of Martins Ferry's DeAndre Pugh and Steubenville's Keonte Holmes at tackle. Bellaire's Joey Hoepfner and Indian Creek's Trent Bolek will start at guard, while Shadyside's Andrew Jobe is the center.

"The kids have really picked up the system well," Connor said. "They've really gone hard in practice and been focused. I really feel good about our offense."

West Virginia's defense will open with Wheeling Central's Vinny Mangino and Morgantown's Nick DeFelice at the defensive end spot. Valley's George Brown will start at nose tackle, while Wheeling Central's Luke Duplaga is the other defensive tackle.

The linebacker corps includes Linsly's Bastian Gehr, South's Brayden Mooney and Wheeling Park's Jermain Snodgrass.

In the secondary, South's Nick Yoho and Linsly's Jules Giovengo will roam at strong and free safety, respectively. Aaron Alvarez of Morgantown and Magnolia's Pat Mirandy are set to start at corner.

The Mountaineers' offense will be triggered by Linsly's Wyatt Hirt, who along with Gehr has drawn high praise from his head coach this week.

Cameron's Andrew Ritchea and Paden City's Ryan Cross will open at running back and fullback, respectively.

The four-wide receiver package will include Wheeling Park's DeVaughn McWhorter and Jack Stakem, along with Wheeling Central's Anthony Robbins. The other receiver spot will be split between Morgantown's Sebastian Stickler and Weir's Jake McCoy.

University's Derek Richardson is listed as the tight end.

Up front, which was an area of concern early in the week for Eddy because of depth, has come together well, according to the future head coach at Logan High School in Ohio.

At center will be John Marshall's Brady Williams. He's flanked at guard by Cameron's Hayden Hoge and Weir's Rob Valenti. Wheeling Park's Ryan McCave and John Marshall's Shane Hercules are the right and left tackles, respectively.

"Our kids really have a good understanding of what we're trying to get done schematically," Eddy said. "We're going to go with what we have because it's not like we can go in at halftime and say, 'OK, guys. We're going to go back to something we did two weeks ago in a game.' We're just not afford that luxury here."

Ohio's defense will feature Bellaire's Cole LaRoche and Indian Creek's Logan Wilson at ends. Harrison Central's Cody Gamble and Steubenville's Kwadre Williams are the defensive tackles.

Connor is especially high on his linebacker group, which includes Shadyside's Connor Banco, Martins Ferry's Drake Dobson and Steubenville's Erik Lulla.

Edison's Bryce McAfoose and Bridgeport's Tino Kusic are the starters at strong and free safety, while Barnesville's Cade Hannahs and Union Local's Cal Kildow are the corners.

Both coaches are happy with how their special teams have come together. Steubenville's Ian Phillips will handle the punting and placekicking for Ohio, while University's Jonah Phares will do the same for West Virginia.

## OVAC NOTES

■ Weir's Reed Reitter is listed as a game-time decision because of an injury this week. Eddy was hopeful that he'd be able to give it a go simply to get the experience, but Reitter and the medical staff would ultimately make the decision.

■ The teams will take part in a brunch at 10 a.m., check out of their rooms at Bethany College and have a team meal at 2:30 p.m. They'll then board the buses for Wheeling Island Stadium.

■ Ohio will go through a quick walkthrough this morning between brunch and checking out. Connor said his staff "had found a place on campus at Bethany" to go over their final preparations for all three facets of the game.

That's where the tennis coaches of Michi- hopefully the opportunities will come."

## STROPE

(Continued from Page 9)

The series was no contest as Wheeling dominated, outscoring New Martinsville 23-0 in the two games, as well as limiting them to a combined one single, including a no-hitter from Eli Petho in the clincher.

Upsets happen in sports all the time, but it would have been one of epic proportions if Wheeling didn't walk away with the trophy.

But kudos to New Martinsville for actually showing up.

"I give props to New Martinsville," Brunner said. "Eric (McKeever, New Martinsville manager) and I talked after the game and it is tough to get guys at this time of year. I give a lot of credit to them. They came out and played us hard and bounced back from the mistakes they made (Wednesday).

"You have to give them credit for coming up, knowing they are a young team and go give it their all against the veteran squad we have. I really appreciate everything (McKeever) did for legion baseball, getting these guys together and competing. We need more people like him who gets his nine and they are going to compete."

Like I said, Post 1 and Brunner are first class.

Moundsville was in trouble from the very beginning. A change in leadership was not well-received and a team that is usually made of John Marshall and Cameron kids split.

Post 3 mainly featured Cameron players, while the John Marshall contingent formed a travel club called the WV Monarchs.

Post 3 opened the season with 11 players and I would be lying if I said I expected them to finish the regular season.

I can't speak on Weirton's issues other than to say both Weirton and Moundsville had enough players as recent as three weeks ago for the Beast of the East Tournament. What changed? In fact, Moundsville played Wheeling at the beginning of the last week of the regular season before forfeiting the home finale. Weirton also forfeited a doubleheader against Wheeling the day before.

Post 1 went 6-0 against the Area One teams this season, winning as many games on the field as it did

in forfeits.

On the Ohio side, Barnesville also saw its season come to an end thanks to lack of players. Barnesville was handed a lopsided loss in the tournament opener before not having enough to compete in an elimination game.

I really feel for the legion managers that try to give kids an outlet to play baseball.

Let me state that I am the last person that is going to tell someone how to spend their summer. Families want to take vacations, kids want to spend time with their friends and girlfriends. You are only young once, make the most of it.

Legion ball takes away a lot of that. It can be a grind and before you know it, you are back in school and your summer is gone. I fully understand the sacrifices that go along with legion baseball.

But if you are not going to make it to the season-ending tournaments, why even play in the first place? If you aren't going to put your all into it, why waste the time of your teammates and coaches?

If injuries are a factor, it is understandable. But that isn't what is going with a lot of these legion teams.

To me, that makes the story of Post 1 catcher Chas McCool all the more impressive.

McCool was selected to play in tonight's Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game, something that most players that strap on pads and a helmet dream of.

Instead, he opted to not report to Bethany and remain with his Post 1 teammates.

If he would have played in the game, I don't think anyone would have blamed him. Post 1 would still have beaten New Martinsville soundly without him.

But here is a player that made a commitment to legion baseball and stuck with it. Kudos to him in what is becoming rarer and rarer by the minute.

Next year the West Virginia American Legion State Tournament comes to Wheeling. Rules state that the host team gets two teams into the tournament.

Meaning when Post 1 wins again, the runnerup will also automatically qualify. Maybe that will give other teams the in-

centive to stick with their commitments for a whole season.

Then again, with the way legion baseball is going, I wouldn't be surprised if either of those teams folded to start with.

**OVAC All-Star Game**  
The Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Game kicks off tonight for the 74th time.

The unofficial start to football season in the Ohio Valley is always met with a lot of fanfare and the players and coaches want to win the "exhibition" as bad as they would a regular season game.

For many, it is the last time they will play organized football so look for them to leave it all on the field.

Obviously I am supposed to remain unbiased, but I can't say that I don't slightly root for my home state West Virginia. That being said, I am picking Ohio to win, 28-14.

Reading the stories and tweets all week, I don't know if there will be anyone that wants to win the game more than Ohio and Indian Creek coach Andrew Connor.

Ohio features a punishing rushing attack and I predict former St. Clairsville standout Brady Kolb to have a monster game and take home Most Valuable Player honors.

**Hall of Famer**  
Also going on this week is the West Virginia Open tennis tournament at Oglebay.

The tournament is one of the top amateur tournaments in the country and every year is run like a well-oiled machine.

Prior to the finals Sunday, the Wheeling Oglebay Tennis Club will honor Debbie Pickens into its Hall of Fame. And a well-deserved induction that is.

There are a lot of people in the Ohio Valley who have helped to grow tennis and Pickens is at the top of the list. Her work in providing results and information on the various tournaments and camps during the summer is second to none.

And she is as nice a person as you will meet.

Congratulations Debbie!  
*Josh Strobe can be reached at jstrobe@theintelligencer.net*

## BISHOP

(Continued from Page 9)

While Bishop Donahue football has been dormant for two years, Durdines recalls with much pride his three all-star performers as they helped the Bishops realize much success on the field. The talented trio played key roles as freshmen as Donahue went 8-3 while gaining a WVSSAC playoff berth. A year later, the Bishops went 7-3

"I am very proud and excited for them. I knew they were going to be special players from Day 1. I am tickled to death that they got to experience success at their new schools," Durdines said. "They also showed they were very good players, not just at a small school. Coaches always say they are great kids, but they truly are."

"I have stayed in touch. When Shane signed with West Liberty, he asked me to be in the photo for the newspaper. He also asked me for a BD logo for his helmet and then Vinny and Anthony wanted them, also. I will be at the game rooting them on wearing my Bishop Donahue green."

Robbins was a first team all-state receiver this year. He relished his time at the Mc-Mechen-based school.

"Playing for Coach Durdines was awesome. He treated us more like family than players," Robbins said. "Playing at Bishop was a lot of fun as well. I love the people I played with the two years I was there."

Those sentiments were echoed by Hercules

"It was a fun experience (playing at Donahue) as we all got along. We all were brothers," the rugged lineman said. "Coach Durdines and all the other coaches made every practice fun. It was an all-around great experience."

Mangino was one of the OVAC's top two-way players the last two seasons. He credits Durdines for molding him into the star player he is.

"Coach Durdines is a great coach. He is the reason I am in this game. He shaped me into the player I am today and I couldn't have accomplished what I did without him," the all-state linebacker said. "Coach Durdines is a great guy and a great role model."

"Playing at Donahue was a lot of fun and always special. The whole community would be cheering us on. If I could, I would go back and do it all over again."



Scoreboard/B3  
Indians, Pirates/B4

## SPORTS

Monday,  
July 29, 2019

## 74TH ANNUAL OVAC RUDY MUMLEY ALL-STAR FOOTBALL GAME

Bubba Kapral  
Executive Sports EditorConnor relishes  
OVAC experience

WHEELING - Andrew Connor was like a kid in a candy store all of last week.

The personable and highly successful Indian Creek head football coach says he has waited 17 years to coach in the OVAC Rudy Mumley Charity Football Classic.

Connor got his chance Saturday night at Wheeling Island Stadium. He did not waste the opportunity.

Connor stressed from the time his players checked in at Bethany College eight days ago that his emphasis was on the winning the game.

He wanted his players to have an enjoyable time but he put paramount emphasis on winning. According to his players, he stressed that repeatedly. His Buckeyes didn't let him down. Far from it, exhibiting game-long resiliency.

Ohio pulled out a 21-17 verdict, courtesy of a late touchdown pass from Meadowbrook's Davis Black to St. Clairsville's Craig Bober. The scoring connection covered 28 yards and was set up by a defensive back-biting pump fake by Black.

That aerial game-winner helped Ohio overcome a brilliant performance by West Virginia's De'Vaughn McWhorter. The Wheeling Park product was nothing short of sensational, rushing for 102 yards on just four carries. He scored on runs of 76 and 25 yards. He also landed three passes.

See, CONNOR, Page B2



PHOTO/ALEX KOZLOWSKI  
MARTINS FERRY'S Drake Dobson (46) moves in to tackle Weir's Jake McCoy during Saturday night's OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Football Game at Wheeling Island Stadium. Ohio rallied for a 21-17 victory. Closing in is Steubenville's Erik Lulla (14).

Ohio rallies past W.Va.  
on late touchdown pass

• St. Clairsville's Kolb voted Most Valuable Player in fan vote

By KYLE LUTZ  
For The Times Leader

WHEELING - Controlling the tempo of the game is imperative to success. When it came to the second half, that's what Ohio Coach Andrew Connor thought his team did during the 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game Saturday night at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The Buckeyes put together some key plays on both sides of the ball as it got past West Virginia 21-17 to secure a victory.

"I give both teams credit," Ohio coach Andrew Connor said. "Both teams played hard out here and gave everything they had. I thought my team throughout the week practiced hard and I think we were ready to play 48 minutes. I thought the second half of the game we really kind of tilted it towards us whether it was our defense or our offense. I thought we controlled the game towards the end of the third quarter."

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PHOTO/ALEX KOZLOWSKI  
HARRISON CENTRAL'S Tyler West (22) runs past Linsly's Julian Giovengo (4) during Saturday night's game.

first half tied the game at 14-14 where it remained as both teams went into the locker room for halftime.

"This is MVP award really goes to the line," Kolb said. "I thought they really stepped up. We started off a little slow, but we got them up and the line led the way and paved the way. It just really means a lot to me."

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through the fourth quarter, Connor put the ball in Kolb's hands as Ohio drove down the field and got on the West Virginia 1 thanks to a handful of direct snaps to Kolb with him answering the bell. He ran the ball 10 times during the drive.

However, right when one thought the tide was turning in Ohio's favor, Kolb fumbled the snap and Nick Defelice re-

covered the ball for West Virginia.

"We were pushing it and it's tough to always see a turnover happen in a really important time, but I kept my head up and my team kept their heads up," Kolb said. "They got me up, I got them up and we kept going."

Even with its back against the wall, Ohio stepped up in a big way. Cal Kildow took advantage of a pass as a West Virginia player slipped down as he picked off Wyatt Hirt three plays later that put Ohio in business.

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Ohio put the first points on the board as they drove down the field with an impressive opening drive as Connor Banco crossed the goal line from 3 yards out to put the score at 7-0.

See, OHIO, Page B2

Seth Staskey  
Sports EditorSt. C.'s Bober  
shines as WR

WHEELING - Craig Bober reported for OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game camp with the idea that he'd be playing on the defensive side of the ball.

The St. Clairsville graduate was OK with that because the opportunity to play one last prep game before heading off to West Liberty University was more important to him than any individual effort.

As the week at Bethany College progressed, however, Bober's mindset had to change toward the offensive side of the ball, which is where he's expected to contribute for the Hilltoppers and where he offered the greatest impact for the Red Devils.

So when Bober had his number called for a stop-and-go route with Meadowbrook's Davis Black late in the fourth quarter with the Ohio squad trailing, 17-14, Bober was ready.

"We talked about that play at halftime as an adjustment, but we realized we may only get one shot at it," Bober said.

The Ohio coaching staff was spot on. After using Bober significantly underneath, head coach Andrew Connor picked the perfect time to go up top.

"The series before the touchdown, the corner did a nice job of breaking on the hitch, so we knew this was our chance for that play," Bober continued.

From there, it was just a matter of two future Mountain East Conference rivals - Black (University of Charleston) and Bober - executing.

See, BOBER, Page B2

## • Ohio

Continued from Page B1

West Virginia, though, was able to hold Ohio in check for the majority of the first half after that.

De'Vaughn McWhorter was the equalizer for West Virginia as he took his first handoff and went 76 yards to the house to put the score at 7-7.

McWhorter wasn't done there, with his second rushing attempt, he maneuvered through the Ohio defense and gave the Mountaineers a 14-7 lead with 7:51 left until halftime.

The former Wheeling Park standout accounted for 102 yards on four carries and caught three passes for 24.

"That was a great high school football game," West Virginia coach Mike Eddy said, "These kids committed an entire week of their life to be apart of this. The OVAC did a great job of making it feel special for them. They did exactly what you ask kids to do. They go out and gave great effort from start to finish. That's what allows you to have great football games is by players giving great efforts and they did that."

West Virginia looked to get things going on their second possession of the second half. With the help of a 54-yard connection from Hirt to Jack Stakem, the Mountaineers managed to get to the Ohio 4.

However, the Ohio defense stood firm and held West Virginia to a 21-yard field goal by Jonah Phares.

"That's how this game goes," Eddy said. "That's one of the things that makes it exciting and interesting. That's why young players have to learn to be resilient. When those moments happen, they're still in the game and they're still in the moment and they're not overcome with emotion. We talk to players all the time about being passionate about what you're doing and don't be emotional about what you're doing. Unfortunately at the end, that's when you see



Photo/ALEX KOZLOWSKI

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Brady Kolb looks for running room Saturday night. He was voted the game MVP.

emotion instead of passion. It's a fine line sometimes, but I couldn't be prouder of these young men and what they did this week."

Hirt finished the game with 155 yards passing while Stakem led the receiving core with 90 yards on four catches.

For Ohio, Brennon Norris went 9 of 13 for 119 yards while Black had 57 passing yards and a TD. Bober hauled in six receptions for 84 yards to lead the Ohio receiving core.

"It's just an honor. It was an honor to coach these

guys," Connor said. "I thought my coaching staff did a great job all week and I thought the kids did whatever they could all week long. These are 31 very special young men and they're parents should be proud of them."

**NOTE:** There was a small scuffle near the end of the game after a roughing the punter penalty was called on West Virginia. The penalty resulted in an automatic first down for Ohio where it knelt to wind down the clock.

## Dixon holds off Rosenqvist for 6th Mid-Ohio victory

LEXINGTON, Ohio (AP) — Scott Dixon's victory Sunday was a lot closer than his previous five at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course.

Scott Dixon held off rookie teammate Felix Rosenqvist by 0.0934 seconds in the Honda Indy 200 to put himself back in contention to defend his IndyCar season championship.

It was the closest finish at Mid-Ohio and the third-closest on a road course in IndyCar history. The Chip Ganassi Racing driver from New Zealand is third on the career victory list with 46.

"I would have preferred winning by 10 seconds instead of banging wheels for a few laps," Dixon said. "It feels really good for the sheer fact we haven't won here since 2014."

The final lap on the 13-turn, 2.258-mile road course featured an epic battle with Rosenqvist — and a failed maneuver by points leader Josef Newgarden of Team Penske. Newgarden tried to

get around third-place Ryan Hunter-Reay in the keyhole part of the course, but ended up bumping Hunter-Reay and spinning off the track. Hunter-Reay of Andretti Autosport was third, 1.16 seconds behind Dixon.

Newgarden blew a chance to add to his points lead over Alexander Rossi. Rossi struggled to fifth, but still reduced Newgarden's advantage to 16 points.

Newgarden, who finished 14th, blamed himself for the incident.

"I was trying to get on the podium," he said. "It was my fault to force the issue."

Penske's Simon Paggenaud, who was sixth, is 57 points off the lead. Dixon is 62 back. There are four races left.

"It's a big shift," Dixon said. "These are the kind of weekends you need."

The race to the checkered flag included lapped cars that put some space between Dixon and Rosenqvist, who has not won on the Indy cir-

cuit.

Team owner Chip Ganassi gave the go-ahead for the two to race to the finish. Rosenqvist and Dixon bumped but not enough to cause an accident that would have prevented a 1-2 team finish.

"If it was someone else, I'd go a bit harder," Rosenqvist said. "Being Scott, you know he's going to be fair. ... Chip says the first rule is don't take out your teammate."

Dixon finished on the red alternate tires that run faster but are less durable and he was losing seconds off his lead in the closing laps.

"We were closing on them but we came up a little short," Hunter-Reay said.

Dixon sensed his advantage was slipping away.

"With about 15 (laps) to go, I was moaning to the team I have to pit again," he said.

Rosenqvist got a closeup look at why Dixon is third in Indy victories.

## • Bober

Continued from Page B1

Bober, who caught 6 passes for 84 yards in the game, sold the initial move, Black delivered the pump fake and it was a touchdown.

"When I reported to camp, I definitely didn't see myself catching the game-winning touchdown," Bober admitted. "Catching that (pass) and celebrating with my teammates after is something that I'll remember forever. I was just honored to play in the game, but to catch the winning the touchdown? That's something else."

Though the Buckeye State had regained the lead, the defense had to stand tall once more. West Virginia drove deep into Ohio territory, but a sack from Indian Creek's Logan Wilson on third down forced a desperation heave from Hirt, which Ohio knocked down.

From there, the celebration was on.

"We practiced really hard all week and it paid off for all of us," Bober said. "This game and experience is something all of us will probably tell our grandkids about."

While Bober, Black, St. Clairsville's Brady Kolb, Shadyside's Connor Banco, Indian Creek's Brennon Norris highlighted the offensive side, the Ohio defense was up to the challenge even after taking some significant body blows from a talented and speedy West Virginia attack.

The game-winning scoring drive was set up after Ohio's defense, which pressured West Virginia quarterback Wyatt Hirt all night long, forced one of its three turnovers, as Union Local's Cal Kildow made a diving interception.

That play bailed out the Buckeye offense, which had driven to the 2-yard line a drive prior only to fumble the ball away and seemingly give all of the momentum back to West Virginia.

Other than getting back to their own beds, Bober and the majority of his teammates hated to see the week end.

Though many are just 18 or 19 years old, they seemed to already grasp that the OVAC Game is more than a football game and the memories it yields will last a lifetime.

"It was an experience of a lifetime," Bober said. "I made so many great mem-

ories in the week we were there. From the dorms to the field. I made a lot of new, really good friends who I will continue to stay in touch with."

Many Ohio players and coaches were tweeting their thoughts into the wee hours of Sunday morning.

Kildow, who is headed to Waynesburg, tweeted, "No experience like this past week. Incredible time with great dudes. Wouldn't have had it any other way."

Tino Kusic, who turned in an exceptional performance on defense and special teams, tweeted, "Something I'll always remember, greatest game I ever played. #OH"

Connor, who was coaching in the game for the first time, tweeted, "Thank you to an awesome group of kids. Coaching the Ohio All Stars was such an honor. What an effort tonight! They made Ohio, their communities and schools so proud. I am so fortunate to lead this young men!! I will never forget this week!! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!!"

While the players do the job on the field, Connor deserves more than a lion's share of the credit. The personable head coach was focused on winning this game from the time he accepted the position and it rubbed off on his players.

As one area coach told me, "Andrew Connor was all in for that game."

Indeed he was. Actually, all of Ohio's roster was. And that paid off in the end.

## SETH'S SCOOPS

THE THIRD quarter looked a lot like a St. Clairsville regular season game. Ohio decided to give Kolb, who was named game MVP by an online fan vote, the ball time and time again.

Kolb finished with 24 carries for 102 yards and a had a 28-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

MADONNA'S Andrea Alimario was crowned Queen of Queens. Area placers included: Bridgeport's Mary Gröndel (Miss Congeniality), Martins Ferry's Zoei Weishans (fourth runnerup) and Shadyside's Morgan Vannest (second runnerup).

Staskey can be reached via email at [sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com) or at [twitter.com/TLSportsSeth](https://twitter.com/TLSportsSeth)

## • Connor

Continued from Page B1

"We knew he (McWhorter) was an excellent player, and when you put athletes on the field like him in an all-star game anything can happen," Connor said Sunday in a phone interview while taking a break from mowing his lawn. "But we felt we outworked them all week and did things the right way. Once we made the goal-line stand when

week. They asked me to take part."

Connor was highly complimentary of OVAC officials for the superb nature of the event.

"The week was everything I thought it would be and more. People don't understand all the things that go on behind the scenes," Connor noted. "The OVAC is a first-class operation. They treat the kids unbeliev-

Thirty-nine were represented in the all-star game in some fashion.

IN 49 years, the OVAC Rudy Munley All-Star Football Game has donated more than \$954,000 to charitable organizations and scholarships throughout the Ohio Valley.

NATALIE MOUSOURAKIS of Toronto and Kylee Kowalo-Bologna of Madonna directed the cheer-



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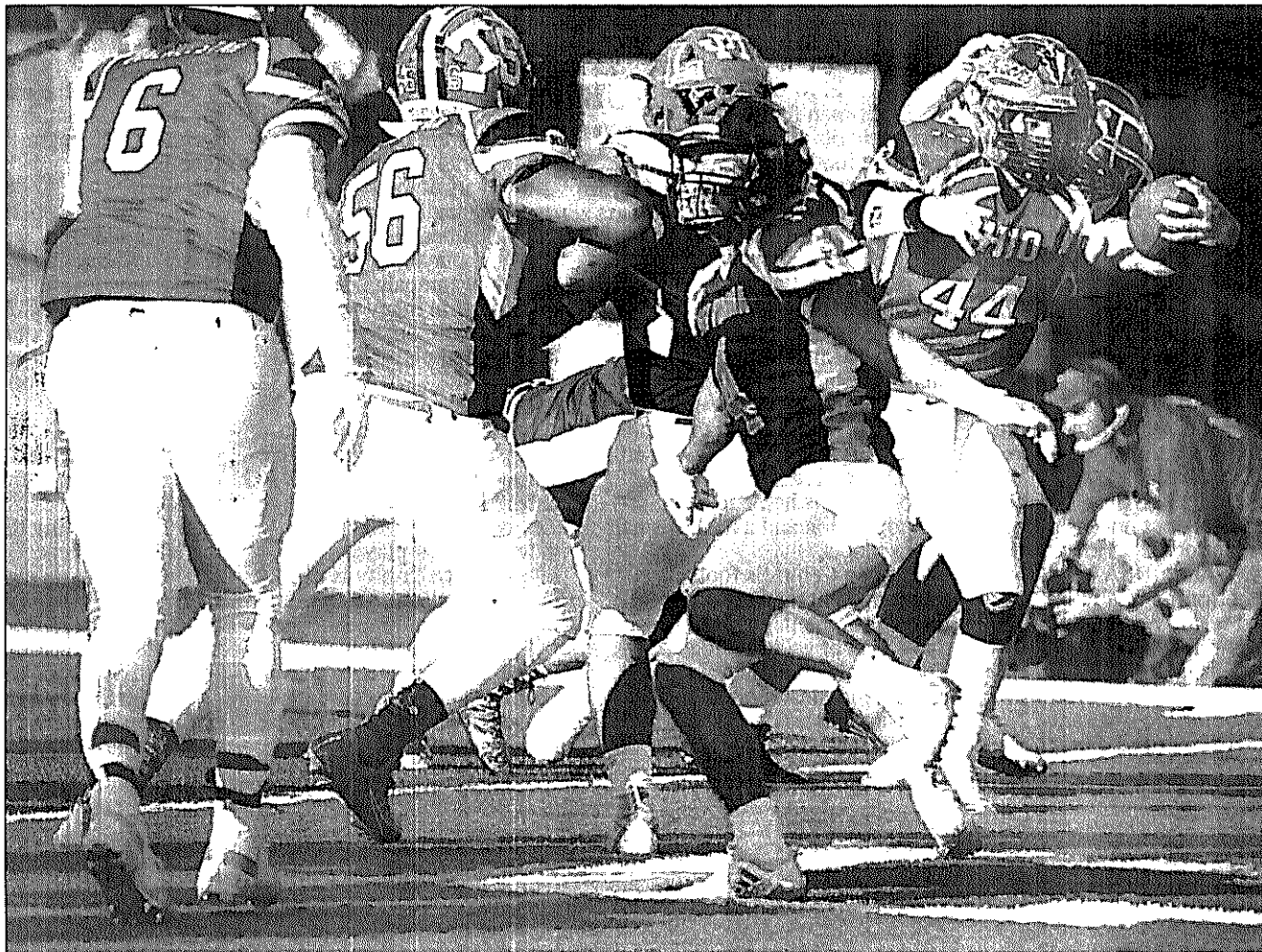
**38**

YEARS

#1

AMERICA'S CHOICE





Photos by Alex Kozlowski

Shadyside's Connor Banco (44) finds the end zone for a touchdown on the first drive to give Ohio a lead in the 74th Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Football Game on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

## St. C.'s Kolb Named MVP As Ohio Tops West Virginia



Magnolia's Pat Mirandy (9) breaks up a pass in the end zone intended for Indian Creek's Matt Mamula. Linsly's Jules Glovengo, left, and Cambridge's Trent Valentine (11) are also in on the play.

Buckeyes control tempo, hang on to outlast Mountaineers, 21-17

By KYLE LUTZ  
Staff Writer

WHEELING — Controlling the tempo of the game is imperative to success. When it came to the second half, that's what Ohio Coach Andrew Connor thought his team did during the 74th annual OVAC Rudy Mumley All-Star Game Saturday night at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The Buckeyes put together some key plays on both sides of the ball as it got past West Virginia 21-17 to secure a victory.

"I give both teams credit," Ohio coach Andrew Connor said. "Both teams played hard out here and gave everything they had. I thought my team throughout the week practiced hard and I think we were ready to play 48 minutes. I thought the second half of the game we really kind of tilted it toward us whether it was our defense or our offense. I thought we controlled the game toward the end of the third quarter."

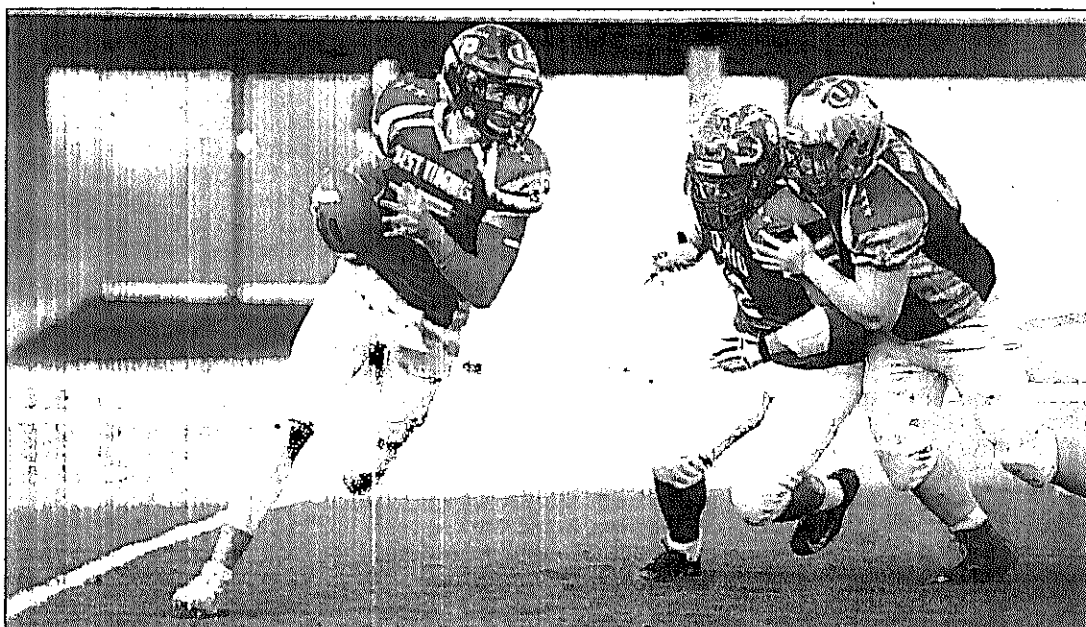
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Please see Ohio, Page B4

### ONLINE EXTRA

See more photos of the annual summer classic at [www.theintelligencer.net](http://www.theintelligencer.net)



West Virginia quarterback Wyatt Hirt of Linsly, left, tries to get out of the pocket as Bellaire's Cole LaRoche (12) gives chase and John Marshall's Gavln Lockhart tries to block.

## OHIO

Continued from Page B1

"This MVP award really goes to the line," Kolb said. "I thought they really stepped up. We started off a little slow, but we got them up and the line led the way and paved the way. It just really means a lot to me."

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However, right when it looked like the tide was turning in Ohio's favor, Kolb fumbled a snap and Nick Defelice recovered the ball for West Virginia.

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