

Watt Named Top OVAC Coach

The 28th annual spring awards banquet of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference attracted another near-capacity crowd to Oglebay Park's Glessner Auditorium Thursday



STEUBENVILLE'S CHUCK WATT
OVAC coach-of-year

night when Charles "Chuck" Watt, of Steubenville, was tabbed OVAC Coach of the Year.

Among the onlookers was West Virginia's Gov. Arch A. Moore Jr., who shared the speaker's rostrum with Ray Mansfield, of the Pittsburgh Steelers, and Joseph McMullen, athletic director at Marshall University.

Watt gained the coaching honor by directing his last season's team to a 21-2 record. He won the sectional and district tournament crowns before losing an overtime contest in regional play to eventual state champion Walnut Ridge.

The previous season, Watt, a hometown product and graduate of the College of Steubenville, directed his cagers to a 18-0 regular season and the first of two consecutive OVAC Triple-A championships. That year, his team wound up with a 23-1 record and was unbeaten until losing in the regional tournament. He was honored that season as Times-Leader Eastern Ohio Class AA coach-of-the-year.

Numerous awards punctuated the program handled expertly by Paul Donahie, vice-president of the Morris Plan Bank in Wheeling who was

toastmaster. A musical interlude was presented by the "Double Dozen" mixed chorus of Barnesville High School under the direction of Rona Fries.

Mansfield, an outstanding center for the Steelers, lived up to his advance billing as a gifted humorist as he traced his progress from scholastic to professional football. He climaxed his address by stressing the importance of desire even in the ranks of the pros.

Gov. Moore paid glowing tribute to sports and to those associated with them. He said that if he had the power to do so he would divert West Virginia's advertising appropriation to the state's various athletic teams.

McMullen told the audience that Marshall University, still reeling from the airplane tragedy which stunned the nation, will come back by meeting its unique challenge.

The \$750 Picoma Industries scholarship award went to James Elcessor, of Brooke High while Rick Koerber of Paden City was the recipient of the \$500 scholarship awarded by the Morris Plan Bank.

Paden City, Linsly, and Steubenville were presented with the Class A, AA, and AAA basketball trophies, respectively. In the same order, the OVAC track awards went to Beallsville, Shadyside, and Steubenville.

Wrestling trophies were accepted by St. John's Central and John Marshall while the swimming award went to Linsly, winner for the 25th consecutive year. Don Blum, of Martins Ferry, received an individual wrestling trophy.

Claire Cribbs, who recently retired as basketball coach at Bellaire High, received a special award in recognition of his 35 years of service to Ohio Valley athletes. Another went to Dr. Joseph A. Bartell, retired coach and athletic director at West Liberty State College. Similarly honored was Jeff Peltz, of Wintersville, for his 40 years' service in education and coaching.

A past president's award went to Don Haskins who served the OVAC in this capacity in 1966-67. Bro. William Chanel, principal of Wheeling Central and immediate past president, accepted a similar award from Donald Miller, principal at Smithfield High who is the incoming president.

Serving with Miller during the coming year will be Dan Finell, principal at Brooke, vice-president; S. A. Mumley Sr., Linsly, executive secretary; Lou Nocida, Magnolia, and Lawrence Falbo, Shadyside, executive board members.

Good Crowd

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