

# Buckeye 'D'

## rock solid

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By **BRIAN McGEE**  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Losing the last two years to the Mountain Staters in the OVAC AllStar Classic gave the Ohio squad all the motivation it would need.

However, the motivation was not merely to end the two-game drought but to shut the West Virginians out.

In fact, a day before the game, one of the Buckeye gridders spoke up and guaranteed a shutout.

Jason Angelica of Steubenville Central, a defensive tackle on the Ohio squad, said the defense was striving to back up that guarantee.

Indeed they did back it up.

The Mountaineers could muster a mere 44 yards on the ground on the day in the 21-0 blanking, which went down in the books as the fourth shutout since the OVAC began sponsoring the game.

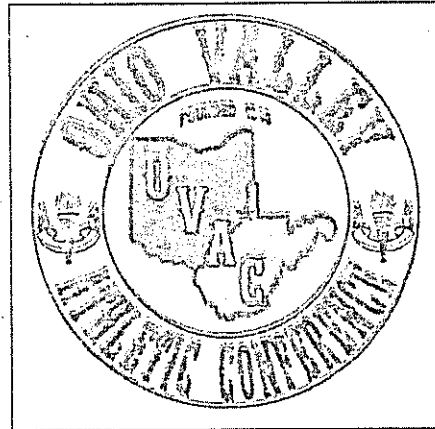
Buckeye Local's Mason Boyce, part of a rock solid defensive front, said knowing the Ohio squad lost the last two years definitely helped the team get fired up. "It gave us an edge," Boyce said.

The West Virginia squad tried on numerous occasions to beat the Ohio secondary with the long pass early in the game, but each time, the Buckeye grid-ders answered the call.

"They tried to test us early," said Scott Pitts, a running back-defensive back from Bellaire. "They kept trying to go deep and couldn't complete them. That's what killed them."

All told, the Mountain Staters were held to a paltry 23 yards through the air.

Jayson Stephen, a defensive back



from Barnesville who made several punishing hits on the day, said the Buckeye gridders were determined not to let the Mountaineer squad win for a third straight year.

Defensive back Rod Cowans from Cadiz said the front line is what got the job done. "When they went deep, it was second or third and long and we pretty much knew it was coming."

Cowans' work for the summer is not yet complete. Cowans is also an outfielder for the Maynard Legion team which will be competing in the state tournament beginning today.

Cowans left just hours after the game for the trek to Athens.

All legion players were required to be in Athens by Sunday evening and Cowans had to obtain special permission from the district commander of Ohio to allow him to arrive late.

Cowans also had to shuffle back and forth during the first week of football practice as his baseball team was participating in the District 11 tournament.

Ohio	0	14	0	7	- 21
West Virginia	0	0	0	0	- 0
Ohio — Chet Pabolish, 33-yard run. Elias Matsakis kick. (9:08, 2nd)					
Ohio — Brian Gehrig, 1-yard run. Elias Matsakis kick. (0:45, 2nd)					
Ohio — Brian Gehrig, 1-yard run. Elias Matsakis kick. (3:41, 4th)					
<b>RUSHING</b>					
Ohio (46-207), Chet Pabolish (11-97), Scott Pitts (6-28), Jayson Stephen (1-26), Brian Gehrig (5-22), Jack Becker (5-19), Dave Galbraith (415), Dave Eichhorn (5-11), Mike McKeever (610).					
West Virginia (27-44), Jason Balwanz (5-14), Jamie Zelewicz (4-12), Craig Eddy (3-9), Chris McCoy (6-7), Joe Demaria (5-2), Anthony Skrypek (1-1), John Eddy (1-0), Pat Parento (1-minus 1), Dwight McGee (1-minus 2).					
<b>PASSING</b>					
Ohio (5/8, 44 yards, 1 interception), Jack Becker (2/4, 4 yards, 1 int.), Davey Eichhorn (3/4, 40 yards).					
West Virginia (7/23, 50 yards, 2 interceptions), Craig Eddy (2/6, minus 6 yard), Joe Demaria (4/14, 47 yards, 2 int.), Anthony Skrypek (2/4, 16 yards).					
<b>RECEIVING</b>					
Ohio (5-44), David Connor (1-27), Rod Cowans (1-11), Matt Snively (1-4), Scott Pitts (1-2), Mike McKeever (1-0).					
West Virginia (8-50), Jason Balwanz (4-10), Matt Thomas					

# Buckeyes end slide with 21-0 all-star victory

By RICK DeLUCA  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Running backs, quarterbacks and wide receivers usually grab the spotlight, but it's the blockers and tacklers that hold the key to success.

Going winless in the annual Ohio-West Virginia mid-summer gridiron classic since 1991, Ohio finally got a big taste of victory Sunday night and it took all 29 players to eat the cake.

Combining superb blocking up front and rock-ribbed tackling on defense with a quick-footed running attack, the Buckeyes rolled to a 21-0 whitewash of West Virginia in the 24th annual Rudy Mumley OVAC All-Star Classic at Wheeling Island's jam-packed stadium Sunday night.

As one of the largest crowd in the history of the OVAC-sponsored game looked on, Ohio and its head coach John Magistro of Bellaire put the Buckeyes back in the win column after back-to-back losses in '94 and '93. The '92 contest was a washout after torrential rains halted the contest at halftime.

The last Ohio win came in a 30-6 victory in 1991 and the last shutout came one year earlier in Ohio's 42-0 decision. West Virginia rallied to post wins in the last two events. Ohio continues to lead the OVAC-sanctioned series, 12-10-1.

Ohio's well-balanced attack that featured an interchangeable offense and defense needed some second quarter fireworks to gain an upperhand that it never relinquished.

Twice in the second frame, the Buckeyes put the ball in the endzone and again in the final frame while the defense continued to thwart every West Virginia effort and opportunity.

"We had a plan all week where we wanted our kids to play on both sides of the football," Magistro said after the win. "It's an all-star game and we wanted our kids to show their talents on both sides and fortunately for us it paid off."

"Every kid got a chance to do something offensively and defensively and you could see that our defense was just a step ahead of our offense, but that's natural in an allstar game," the Ohio coach added. "I think these kids were in very good shape and I think that's a tribute to them."

"The first quarter, we were in such poor field position all the time that we were afraid to try anything," Magistro continued. "We had trouble with a couple of snaps and penalties didn't go our way. We just had everything go wrong at times when we had a chance to score."

"We had an abundance of people at tailback, but I think our offensive line had a variety of people and they started to make things happen."

In the opening quarter, Ohio was forced to rely on its hard-hitting defensive unit to keep things under control until the offense could get moving in the right direction.

Some superb plays in the defensive secondary by Barnesville Jayson Stephen, Bellaire's Keith Pitts and Buckeye Local's Chet Pobolish and a defensive rush led by Wellsville Chris Anderson and the Buckeye Local tandem Dan McCain and Mason Boyce held the Mountaineer offense to just 10 first quarter yards.

In the second quarter, Ohio found its way onto the scoreboard for the first time after a Keith Pitts interception at the Ohio 47 and return to the WV 39.

Beallsville's Davey Eichhorn took over at quarterback from starter Jack Becker of Martins Ferry and picked up six yards on a keeper to the 33.

On the next play, Eichhorn pitched to the lightning-quick Pobolish and the Buckeye runner swept to the right sideline and outran the West Virginia secondary to the endzone with 9:08 on the first half clock. Shadyside kicker Elias Matsakis booted the PAT.