

Third time proves charm for Cameron

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

The third time proved to be the charm for coach Sam Bayza and the Cameron Lady Dragons.

Pushed to the limit in both matches, Cameron held off a talented Linsly Cadet squad en route to a thrilling 15-10, 15-12 win in the OVAC Class 1-A championship match at Wheeling Jesuit University's spacious McDonough Center Saturday afternoon.

With the win, Cameron boosted its season mark to 15-4. The win also mark the first title win in three tries for the Lady Dragons. Cameron lost in the finals just two years ago to St. John Central.

"I wouldn't have wanted it any other way," Bayza said after the win. "We played a very good team in Linsly and that's what I wanted to do in the finals."

"This is how we have been able to win," the Lady Dragon coach said. "We got behind in the first game and we came back. Twice we lost this week when we fell behind and just didn't come back."

"I knew we could come back and we did. I've very pleased with the way that our girls have played this season and this win just adds to the season that we have enjoyed."

Lady Zeps rally past Wellsville

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

It was a long way back, but Shenandoah's Lady Zeps was up to the task.

Forced to rally from a big deficit in the second set, the Lady Zeps swept top-seeded Wellsville, 15-11, 16-14, in the OVAC Class 4-A championship match at the McDonough Center at Wheeling Jesuit University Saturday night.

Closing out the tourney with an 18-3 record, coach Lynn Tomcho's Lady Zeps captured their second OVAC title.

Wellsville, coming into the tourney on top of the regular season standings, closed out the tourney at 16-6.

"We had to do that (come back) in the first game with Fort Frye and we had to do that in the last regular season game," the Zep coach said. "We haven't been in that type of situation too many times this season. Maybe once or twice."

"This was certainly a team effort," she added. "They hung in there when they were behind and did a great job in coming back."

In the title game, Misty Leach led the winners with 10 points, one ace, four saves, three blocks and four assists. Kristen Stephen had eight points and four kills. Becky Rominger added five kills, Kendal White had four blocks and Heather Bond had three assists.

the Cameron coach said.

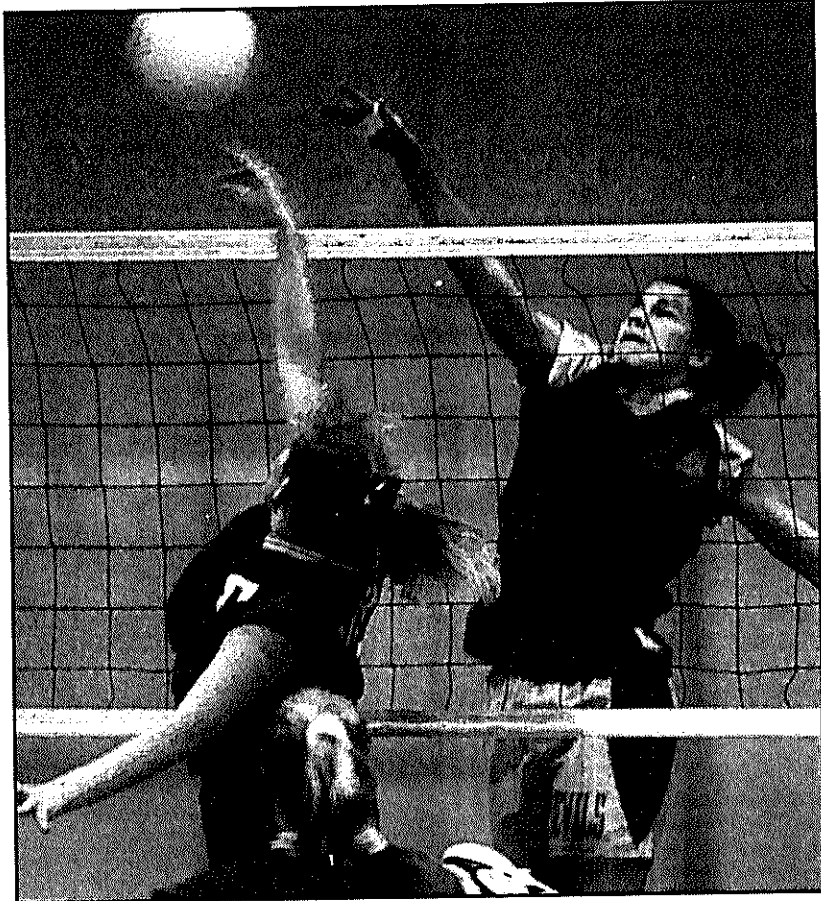
"In the title match, Cameron was led by Sarah Courtright with eight points and four aces to go with eight assists. Nora Shalaway had six points, one ace, six assists and two kills. Sarah Liley had six points while Toni Campbell had two kills.

Cameron advanced with a nerve-racking 15-7, 7-15, 15-8 win over St. John Central.

Courtright led the winners with nine points and five assists while Shalaway had eight points, three kills, six assists and one block. Christopher closed with eight points and seven kills.

Angie Bumgardner led SJC with eight points and four aces while Jessica Sievertson had six points, one ace, two kills and two blocks. Janice Masters had eight kills, Megan George added eight assists and Lisa Henderson added four assists.

In the other semi-final match, Linsly edge Bridgeport, 15-10, 15-8 as Meca Adamovich record five points and Suzanne Rohrig had seven points. Kristen Ward led Bridgeport with six points and two aces while Amber Sindlecker added two aces, 10 spikes and five kills. Katrina Bell had three points with three aces.



T-L Photo/MIKE McNELL

RETURNING this Buckeye Trail shot is St. Clairsville junior standout Bethany Piccolini during Saturday's OVAC Class 3-A volleyball semifinal at Wheeling Jesuit University. The Lady Warriors advanced to the finals.

Lady Potters retain 4-A championship

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

For the second straight year, East Liverpool came out of the OVAC tourney as the Class 4-A champion.

For the second straight year, the Lady Potters counted on their steady play as they stopped top-seeded Weir, 15-8, 15-10, in the OVAC 4-A finals on the court at the McDonough Center at Wheeling Jesuit University Saturday afternoon.

With the win, coach Bob Shansky's Lady Potters improved to 14-8 on the season. EL is currently third in the OVAC regular season standings.

Weir, the top seed after taking the regular season crown a year ago, fell to 18-8.

"I'm very satisfied," Shansky said after the win. "We won again this year with pretty much the same team we won it with last year."

"We were just able to get the ball to the girl that was hot," he added. "In the semi-final's one girl was hot and we made it a point to get the ball to her as much as possible. In the finals, Kylie Arthur was hot and worked the ball to her."

"Each of our girls did what they were capable of doing," the Lady Potter coach said. "I thought we blocked much better and that was a big factor."

"I'm very pleased. It was fun and very enjoyable," Shansky said.

In the win over Weir, Arthur led the Lady Potters with 11 points, 17 spikes and 10 kills while Erin Talbott had 10 points, 23 spikes and nine kills. Emily Brice finished with 14 spikes, four kills and 15 blocks while Angie Czech had 17 assists and Rachel Shansky had 15.

Kristen Ayers led Weir with eight points and two aces while Tina Basil added 14 spikes, seven kills, three blocks and 13 assists. Leah Brock had 14 spikes and 13 assists while Millie Orelli had eight spikes.

In the semi-finals, East Liverpool dumped Brooke, 15-10, 15-10 as Talbott led the Lady Potters with seven points, 26 spikes, 11 kills and 10 blocks. Czech had nine points and 15 assists while Arthur had 15 spikes and five kills. Brice closed with eight spikes, four kills and three blocks while Shansky had 10 assists.

Brooke was led by Ashlee Watson with six points and two aces and seven spikes. Katrina Boley had five points and 15 assists. Kelley Richardson closed with nine spikes, four kills and five blocks while Carolyn Dodd had 12 spikes and six assists.

In the other semi-final, Weir upended Edison, 15-7, 15-5.

Turner led the Lady Red Riders with seven points, 15 spikes and seven kills while Brock had five points, two aces and 14 assists. Basil closed with eight points, one ace, four kills and six blocks.

Alissa Plunkett led Edison with four points and three aces while Val Dobbins had 18 spikes and two kills, Tiffany Snyder had 27 assists and Kristin Hawkins had 12 assists.

Indian Creek wins OVAC 3-A crown

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

It was no surprise that Indian Creek found itself back in the OVAC Class 3-A title game on Saturday. After all, the Lady Redskins were two-time defending champions and were a state runnerup last season.

What was a surprise was a 15-0 whitewash of Buckeye Trail in the opening set as the Lady Redskins went on to post a 15-0, 15-12 win over the Lady Warriors in the OVAC championship match at Wheeling Jesuit University's McDonough Center Saturday morning.

With the win, coach Erin Desantis' Lady Redskins improved to 21-1. It also marked Indian Creek's third win this season over Buckeye Trail. Desantis club is back in action on Wednesday in the Division II Sectional tourney at Buckeye Local.

With only the three losses to Creek blemishing an otherwise perfect record, Coach Jeff Beros' Lady Warriors fell to 19-3.

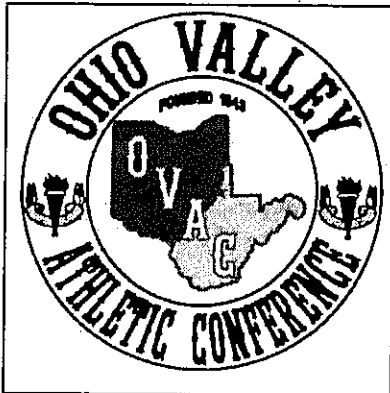
"We played them twice during the regular season and we beat them 16-14, 16-14 in the first game and 15-12, 16-14 the second time. So we knew what to expect from Buckeye Trail," DeSantis said.

"We knew what to expect, but we didn't expect having a first game like we did," the Creek coach added. "That wasn't a usual Buckeye Trail outing. But then the second game was usual Buckeye Trail."

"I'm real please with the way we played this season considering we only had two lettermen back from last year's team," DeSantis said. "I'm just glad to see how well we did coming off losing four starters from last year."

In the finals, Mindy Batton led the winners with seven points, one ace, nine spikes, seven kills and three blocks. Sophomore Brandi Beebe finished with 20 spikes, 16 kills and two blocks and Emily Sutherland closed with 70 sets, 38 assists and six points. Liz Bottorf added eight spikes, ine kill and one stuff.

Trail was paced by Ashley Bates with 24 spikes, eight kills, six blocks and three points with two aces. Stacey Moore closed with 16 spikes and five kills and Jamie Booth had 16 assists. Rachel Yockey closed with seven blocks while Angela Gibson and Libby Bond had



three points each.

In one semi-final match, Indian Creek advanced with a 15-6, 15-4 win over Magnolia.

In the semi-final, Beebe had 11

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points, three aces, 15 spikes, 11 kills and eight blocks. Sutherland added four points, 40 sets and 20 assists. Batton added six spikes, four kills and four blocks and Bottorf had five spikes and two kills.

Magnolia was led by Ashlea Bland with 16 spikes, nine kills and three blocks. Hannah Heinzmen had seven spikes, two kills and four blocks. Vicki Swords had 14 assists.

Trail advance with a 15-2, 10-15, 15-1 win over second-seeded St. Clairsville.

Bates led Trail with five points, four aces, 16 spikes and 12 kills. Moore had seven points, three aces, 15 spikes and five kills. Yockey added six spikes, three kills and three spikes while Booth had 19 assists.

St. C., closing at 19-2, was led by Bethany Piccolini with eight points, three aces, nine kills and three blocks. Lunsay Piccolini had four points and three kills while Katie Kubica had eight assists and Jennifer Garczyk had four assists.

SPORTS

Volleyball teams eye OVAC titles

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

It was just a few short years ago that the OVAC girls volleyball playoffs were staged twice a year. In the fall for Ohio schools and in the spring for West Virginia schools.

Since the two states arranged for identical volleyball seasons, the season-ending conference tournament has developed into one of the most competitive of OVAC events.

This year's playoffs at Wheeling Jesuit University's Alma Grace McDonough Center on Saturday will certainly not change any of that.

Four teams are vying for the Class 3-A crown with a combined 69-5 record as of the Saturday cut-off date and four teams are shooting for the Class 4-A title that each held a division lead at some point during the season. Three of the top four in the 2-A chase have but one loss

separating them and the four teams in Class 1-A held their positions all season long.

It's going to one of the most exciting tourneys in years and with the matchups looming ahead, these playoffs may be one of the most competitive yet.

At 9:30 a.m., the Class 3-A semi-finals open the tournament with No. 1 seed Indian Creek battling No. 4 seed Magnolia on the main floor and No. 2 seed St. Clairsville taking on No. 3 seed Buckeye Trail on Court 2.

Indian Creek, a state runnerup last year, and St. C. came into last year's tournament with identical 20-0 records. They eventually paired in the finals with Indian Creek taking home the flag. For a remake of last year's final, both Indian Creek and St. Clairsville must first survive a rugged test in the semi-finals.

At noon, the 4-A semi-finals get under way with top-seeded Weir

battling No. 4 seed Edison on the main floor and No. 2 seed Brooke squaring off with No. 3 seed East Liverpool on Court #2.

East Liverpool is the defending Class 4-A champion. Vying in the most evenly-matched division, Weir hopes to rebound from last year's loss in the finals. Brooke brings the best record in the group, but missed the top spot by just 2.9 points.

At 2:30 p.m., an interesting Class 1-A semi-final hits the boards with top-seeded and season-long leader Cameron taking on No. 4 seed St. John Central on the main court and No. 2 seed Bridgeport hooking up with No. 3 seed Linsly on Court #2.

St. John Central is one of only two schools that qualified with sub-.500 records. Cameron, on the otherhand, led the 1-A race with a 72.9 average which would have qualified the Lady Dragons for the

OVAC playoffs in any of the four classes except Class 3-A. The Bridgeport-Linsly matchup will pose as the rubber match for these two clubs who split their two regular season meetings. Conotton Valley was the '98 champion.

At 5 p.m., the Class 2-A semi-finals close out a full day of volleyball with potential matchups in the finals equal to the expected pairing in Class 3-A.

Top-seeded Wellsville takes on an up-and-down No. 4 seeded River club in one semi-final on the main court and second-seeded Shenandoah takes on No. 3 seeded Fort Frye on Court #2. The Lady Zeps suffered a tough loss to Buckeye Trail in last year's finals.

Assured of at least two new champions, each championship bout will be contested immediately following their respective semi-final matches.

OVAC Capsules

Capsule reports of the 16 OVAC playoff qualifiers:

CLASS 1-A

BRIDGEPORT

LADY BULLDOGS

Head coach: Bob Krajnyak
Assistant coaches: Tina Sauvogeot
1998 record: 10-10
1999 record: 11-8
Graduation losses: Rachel Upson, Christy Williams, Susan Matz, Jennifer Blehschmidt
Seniors: Kristin Ward, Katrina Bell, Jessica Kolb, Carrie Porter, Stephanie Schramm, Amber Sindledecker, Erin Chedester
Juniors: Jessica Beal, Valerie Reed, Jana Saunders, Katrina Stewart
Sophomores: Tara Loy, Sara Madzia, Melissa Miller, Kay Rice
Freshmen: Katiue Burlenski, Christina Demarest, Audrey Kisner, Krista Reed, Courtney Tomolonis, Dawn Zoladz

CAMERON

LADY DRAGONS

Head coach: Sam Bayza
Assistant coaches: Scott Shalaway
1998 record: 11-10
1999 record: 12-2
Graduation losses: Ashley Campbell
Seniors: Layne Christopher, Amanda Lilley, Stacy Morris
Juniors: Nora Shalaway, Sarah Lilley, Jill Rustle
Sophomores: Allison Butler, Sarah Courtright, Toni Campbell, Cheslea Walton

LINSLEY

LADY CADETS

Head coach: Dr. David Mallow
Assistant coaches: Carrie Kozdras
1998 record: 14-4
1999 record: 10-8
Graduation losses: Amanda Whitehead, Ashley Elliott, Rachel Durkalski, Holle Roberts, Jessica Drewitz
Seniors: Susanne Rohrig, Katie Summers, Mera Adamovich, Dana Stanley, Bethany Blackburn
Juniors: Kate Stanley, Kerry Kindler, Mary Yeso, Crystal Clarke
Sophomores: Maria Rohrig

ST. JOHN CENTRAL

LADY FIGHTING IRISH

Head coach: Dayna Hartman
Assistant coaches: Tami Reynolds, Becky George
1998 record: 10-10
1999 record: 9-11
Graduation losses: Felicia Benner, Shaye Zanke, Ashley Probst, Lori Kotson, Amanda George
Seniors: Lauren Bumgardner, Christy Franca, Lisa Henderson, Janice Masters
Juniors: Heather Beck, Amelia Benner, Angie Bumgardner, Alicia Clardali, Megan George, Scarlet Lynn, Asian Longstaff, Kristen McCormick, Jessica Seiverson
Sophomores: Lindsay Bowman, Amber Clark, Amanda Domyan, Caset McConaughy, Meghann Myers, Jennifer Murray, Erin Rose
Freshmen: Tiemey Bumgardner, Andrea Ehni, Rachel Connor, Jodi Coyne, Cathy Henderson, Allison Poland, Angie Soos, Antoinette Stanton, Jenny Torleil-Fenley.

CLASS 2-A

FORT FRYE

LADY CADETS

Head coach: Barbara Slesk
Assistant coaches: Angie Schilling
1998 record: 12-8
1999 record: 14-5
Graduation losses: Dawn Story, Julie Coffman, Samantha Lang, Leah Lemal
Seniors: Millie Naylor, Quinn Newton, Sarah Schilling, Sara O'Linn, Courtney Kutscherenko, Ashlee Warren, Cassie Wagner
Juniors: Kara Bickford, Sarah Bickford, Crystal Hall, Kyelee Best
Sophomores: Debbie Story

RIVER

LADY PILOTS

Head coach: Davida Baker
Assistant coaches: Alexis Toizda, Kathy McClone
1998 record: 6-11
1999 record: 9-7
Graduation losses: Celenia Hulsey, Amber Lee, Jena Gust, Ashley Early
Seniors: Melissa Mistovich, Nicole January, Sarah Langsdorf
Juniors: Denae Imhoff, Brandi Walker
Sophomores: Sara Swan, Leigh Ann Fry

SHENANDOAH

LADY ZEPS

Head coach: Lynn Miley Tomcho
Assistant coaches: Colleen Kasper
1998 record: 21-4
1999 record: 13-3
Graduation losses: Tara Hannahs, Lindsay Wycarver, Amy McVicker, Erin McVicker, Tara Logan, Lisa Leach
Seniors: Heather Bond, Kendal Waite
Juniors: Kinzie Jennings, Kalista Chapman, Amissa Baker, Heather Franklin, Kristin Stephen, Molly Betts, Misty Leach, Annie Arick, Becky Rominger
Sophomores: Brooke Archer, Casey Cale, Melissa Franklin, Dawna Mallett
Freshmen: Casey Bond, Becky Moore, Mallory Watson, Danelle Cruz, Megan Henry, Emma Niswonger, Holly McVicker, Kristin Bond

WELLSVILLE

LADY TIGERS

Head coach: Dan McKinstry
Assistant coaches: Kara Pierson, Joanie Britt
1998 record: 11-12
1999 record: 14-4
Graduation losses: Mindy Zimmer
Seniors: Melissa Kerr, Christina Thompson, Marci Lloyd
Juniors: Tinisha Williams, Casey Carter, Ashley Corbin, Jennifer McCombs, Jackie Dorsey, Kyla White

Sophomores: Dana Flint, Jennifer Morgan, Lynsey Lyle, Ivory Railing, Rachel Clayuhn, Justina Crawford
Freshmen: Deana Barber, Angela Dallas, Shante Thompson, Kiley Corbin, Jennifer Cline

CLASS 3-A

BUCKEYE TRAIL

LADY WARRIORS

Head coach: Jeff Beros (9th year)
Assistant coaches: Wendy McVicker, Mike Beaver, Lori Smith
1998 record: 21-4
1999 record: 17-2
Graduation losses: Leigh Ann Powell, Renee Douth, Erin Lyons
Seniors: Stacey Moore, Rachel Yockey
Juniors: Ashley Bates, Jamie Booth, Jenny Linn, Angela Gibson, Annie Trapp
Sophomores: Bethany Lucas, Meredith Moore, Libby Bond, Katie Powell

INDIAN CREEK

LADY REDSKINS

Head coach: Erin DiSantis
Assistant coaches: Tracy Walenciej, Angela Kuczykowski-Penner, Brant Starkey, Stacy Zink
1998 record: 28-1
1999 record: 18-1
Graduation losses: Michele Batton, Erine Burdge, Nicole Kunzier, Andrea Nicholas
Seniors: Lindsay Mutton, Hilary Petrisko, Emily Sutherland, Kristin Woods
Juniors: Brandi Beebe, Natalie Siburt
Sophomores: Mindy Batton, Liz Bottors, Lindsay Cowser, Nana Taylor

MAGNOLIA

LADY BLUE EAGLES

Head coach: Louie Kocher
Assistant coaches: None
1998 record: 24-6
1999 record: 15-1
Graduation losses: Nicole West, Heather Peckens, Heather Quinet, Leah Kay Bohrer, Ashley Wilhoite, Margo Smith
Seniors: Ashlea Bland, Doni Blanker, Jessica King, Julie Cocher, Marisa MacNaughton, Adrian Spang, Vicki Swords, Valerie White
Juniors: Missy Cecil, Jana Gil, Renee Haynes, Nicole Pugh, Emily Smith
Sophomores: Marka Blair, Emmaly Dawson, Hannah Heinzman, Beth Swords
Freshmen: Jessica Howell, Katie Kemp, Abby Locke, Brittany McGinnis, Courtney Nelson, Shelly Smith, Kinsey Stillion, Meredith Tusic

ST. CLAIRSVILLE

LADY RED DEVILS

Head coaches: Greg Bizzari/Jay Tazar
Assistant coaches:
1998 record: 24-2
1999 record: 19-1
Graduation losses: Aubrey Black, Ammy Smith, Megan Sacco, Jamie Antolack, Shannon Glitch, Jennifer Ewing, Cindy Beth Ross, Betsy Reece
Seniors: Annemarie Ross, Jennifer Garczyk
Juniors: Bethany Piccolini, Katie Kubica, Jessica Garczyk, Jennifer Moore
Sophomores: Lindsay Piccolini, Abbey Wojchowski

CLASS 4-A

BROOKE

LADY BRUINS

Head coach: Bethany Bates
1998 record: 6-14
1999 record: 13-7
Assistant coaches: Lynn Dodd, Jane Utz
Graduation losses: Kylie Beaver, Tammy Bailey, Chissy Lightner, Amy Mozingo
Seniors: Angela Powell, Erin Weaver, Carolyn Dodds, Amy Hensler, Ashlee Watson, Kelley Richardson, Britany Smith
Juniors: Leanna Moore, Jill Gubanish, Kara Kuhn, Katrina Boley, Kadrian Merkel, Valeries Riggs, Jennifer Maloney
Sophomores: Jessica Lucas, Jennifer Kopko, Erica Earlywino, Kim Ayers, Chareen Duncan, Rachel Kulture, Tara Mahobaugr

EAST LIVERPOOL

LADY POTTERS

Head coach: Bob Shansky
Assistant coaches: Carla Crawford, Becky Jordan, Chris Smith, Rob Walgate
1998 record: 15-8
1999 record: 10-8
Graduation losses: Amy Nightingale, Marci Reed, Deanna Davis, Jessica Headley
Seniors: Kylie Arthur, Erin Talbott, Angie Czech, Natalie Anderson, Richelle Semko, Emily Brice, Ashley Humphrey
Juniors: Randi Arnold
Sophomores: Rachael Shansky, Ashley Shaw, Ashley Smith, Cara Coleman

EDISON

LADY WILDCATS

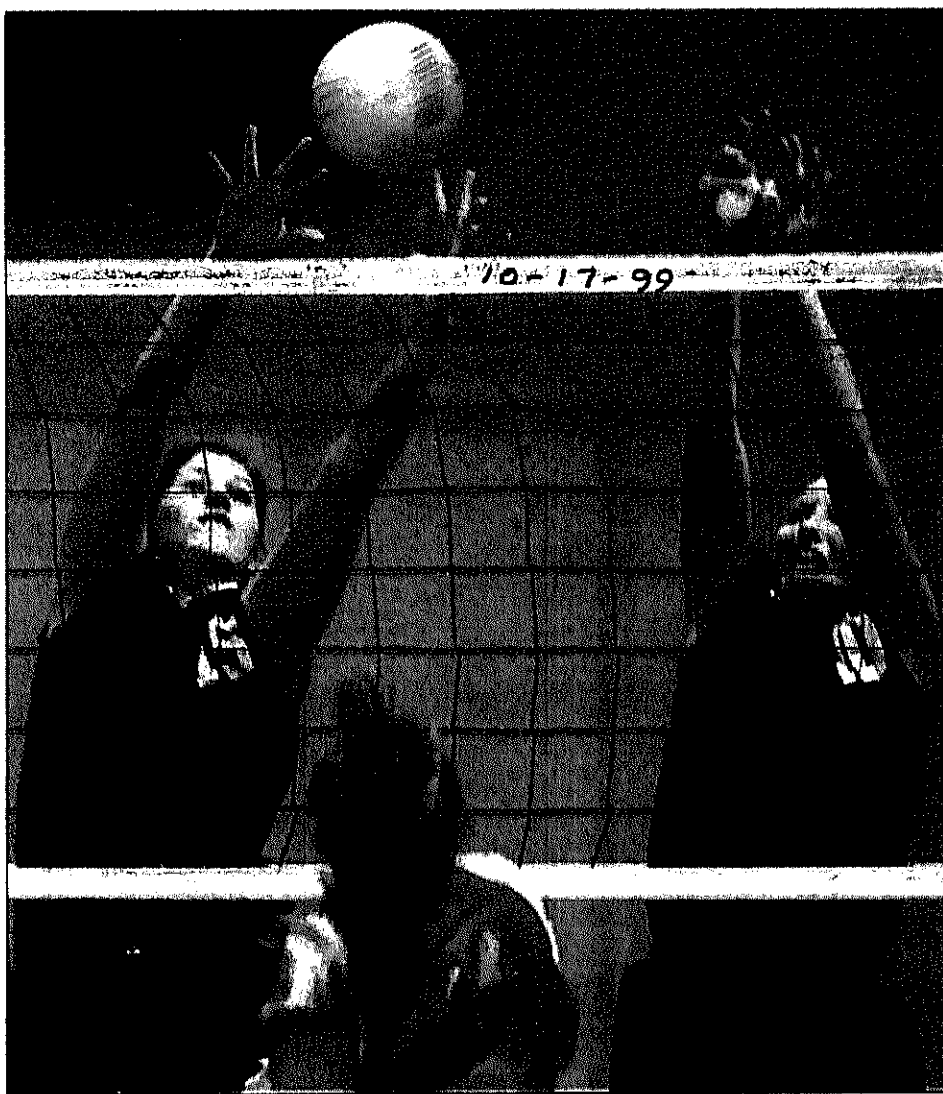
Head coach: Jo Ellen Goodall
Assistant coaches: Richard Parnell, Lisa Tice
1998 record: 11-10
1999 record: 8-9
Seniors: Tiffany Snyder, Alissa Plunkett, Valerie Dobbins, Abby Latynski, Jesse Bendle, Jen Clark, Kristen Hawkins
Juniors: Sheena Rose, Jen Dobbins, Hannah Brehm, Jamie Gregor
Sophomores: Samantha Steele

WEIR

LADY RED RIDERS

Head coach: Willie Paul
Assistant coaches: Renee Savidi, Mike Elliott
1998 record: 19-11
1999 record: 9-4
Graduation losses: Vanessa Troia, Betsy Dovec, Katie McCarrick
Seniors: Kristen Ayers, Tina Basal, Tabitha Board, Leah Brock, Millie Orelli, Brooke Turner
Juniors: Sonya Lettieri, Jacqueline Mastromicheels

OVAC Volleyball



T-L Photo/MIKE McNELL

BUCKEYE TRAIL'S Rachel Yockey (15) and Ashley Bates (10) go up for a block after a St. Clairsville's Katie Kubica (30) hit cleared the net. Buckeye Trail knocked off St. Clairsville in the semi-finals, but fell to champion Indian Creek.

OVAC Volleyball Playoff Pairings

At Wheeling Jesuit University

Saturday

9:30 a.m. -- Class 3-A semi-finals

No. 1 seed Indian Creek vs. Magnolia on Court #1; No. 2 seed St. Clairsville vs. Buckeye Trail on Court #2

Championship match to follow immediately.

12 noon -- Class 4-A semi-finals

No. 1 seed Weir vs. Edison on Court #1; No. 2 seed Brooke vs. East Liverpool on Court #2.

Championship match to follow immediately.

2:30 p.m. -- Class 1-A semi-finals

No. 1 seed Cameron vs. St. John Central on Court #1; No. 2 seed Bridgeport vs. Linsly on Court #2

Championship match to follow immediately.

5 p.m. -- Class 2-A semi-finals

No. 1 seed Wellsville vs. River on Court #2; No. 2 seed Shenandoah vs. Fort Frye on Court #2

Championship match to follow immediately.

All championship matches will be played on Court #1.