

OVAC volleyball tourney unfolds this Saturday

• Event held at UL

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

No, you haven't been locked in a time capsule and no, it's not *deja vu*. The lineup for this year's OVAC volleyball playoffs does resemble the 1999 cast of characters.

With all four defending '99 champions back as top seeds in this weekend's tournament, it's hard to believe that the OVAC has developed more parity over the past few years.

When the annual championships get under way at Union Local High School in Morristown on Saturday, the teams to beat will be the teams that did not get beat in the '99 tourney.

Indian Creek, ranked third in the state of Ohio and a state runner-up just two years ago, is back as an unbeaten and top seeded team in the most competitive division of the OVAC tourney.

Cameron, a champion last year after advancing to the playoff finals three straight years, comes into the tournament with Indian Creek as the only unbeaten teams left in the conference.

East Liverpool, a two-time defending champion after having a very off year in '97, comes in with one of the most consistent teams in the big school division, but just barely edged out Brooke for the top-seed.

Shenandoah, who seems to grab OVAC title every other year, will try to make it two straight in one of the toughest brackets in the tourney in years.

Action gets under way at the Union Local gym at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday with 2-A semi-finals. The Class 3-A semi-finals are slate to start at noon followed by the 4-A at 2:30 p.m. with Class 1-A play closing the evening with a scheduled 5 p.m. start.

Last season, Cameron swept to the 1-A title while Shenandoah took home the 2-A championship, Indian Creek was a repeat winner in 3-A and East Liverpool in 4-A.

On Saturday, the top-seeded Lady Zeps open action in the semi-finals opposing fourth-seeded Monroe Central while second-seeded Steubenville Central takes on third-seeded Wellsville in the other semi-final at 9:30 a.m. As in each of the division, the two semi-final matches will be played simultaneously on two different courts with the championship finals contested immediately following.

Top-seeded Creek will open 3-A competition with its semi-final match with fourth-seeded Martins Ferry

at noon while second-seeded St. Clairsville will take on third-seeded Buckeye Trail in the other semi.

At 2:30 p.m., the top-seeded Lady Potters will do battle with fourth-seeded Steubenville and second-seeded Brooke will face off with third-seeded Cambridge in the 4-A semi-finals.

Class 1-A competition closes the day-long tourney with top-seeded Cameron facing fourth-seeded Beallsville and second-seeded Weirton Madonna taking on third-seeded St. John Central in the 5 p.m. semi-finals.

Indian Creek comes in as a three-time defending champion having swept the '97, '98 and '99 3-A titles. East Liverpool won 4-A titles in '99 and '98, Shenandoah was a 2-A winner in '99 and '97, Trail took the 2-A crown in '98 and St. John Central was a 1-A champ in '97.

Oak Glen, the West Virginia state champion in '98, was the 4-A champ in '97 and Conotton Valley was the 1-A titlist in 1998.

Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students. Harrison Central AD Barb Hoffman is serving as tournament director.

IN CLASS 4-A, coach Bob Shansky's Lady Potters come in with 10-9 record team that edged Brooke for the top spot by just two-tenths of a point. Twice a loser to Indian Creek, East Liverpool twice beat Steubenville, Steubenville Central, Buckeye Local and Youngstown Rayen to advance into the tourney.

Brooke came on strong late in the season winning five of seven to qualify. The Lady Bruins, who lost two of the area's better players through graduation a year ago, got a boost by beating Edison twice, Buckeye Local, Wheeling Central and Magnolia down the stretch.

Cambridge took the opposite route dropping five of eight down the stretch, but qualified with a strong schedule that included wins over Dover, New Philadelphia, Indian Valley, Zanesville, Coshocton and Meadowbrook.

Steubenville bests three OVAC playoff qualified en route to the conference tourney as the Lady Big Reds posted wins over Brooke, Steubenville Central and St. John Central.

IN CLASS 3-A, coach Erin DeSantis' Lady Redskins will take part in the tourney for the second time in two years as an unbeaten. In '99, they entered the tourney with just one loss. Of course, the Creekers won't be without their usual company with St. Clairsville's pow-

erful Lady Devils and Buckeye Trails Lady Warriors breathing down their neck.

With a lineup that features one of the state's premier players in Brandi Beebe, along with fellow seniors Brenda Difillipo and Natalie Siburt, the Lady Redskins will bring in a perfect 17-0 mark. Indian Creek has recorded two wins over both St. Clairsville and Buckeye Trail this season as well as double wins over 4-A qualifiers, East Liverpool and Brooke and a single verdict over Cambridge.

St. Clairsville, coached by Greg Bizzarri and Jay Tazar, enter another conference playoff as the second seed. Paced by standouts Bethany Piccolini, Lindsay Piccolini and Katy Kubica, the Devils posted a 17-2 mark at the cutoff, nearly matching last year's 20-2 finish.

The Lady Devils advanced with regular season wins over Cambridge, Buckeye Local, Bellaire, Martins Ferry, Brooke, John Marshall, Zanesville, Shenandoah and Union Local.

Buckeye Trail, one of the area's top programs under coach Jeff Beros, advanced to the regional semi-finals before closing last season at 23-4. Despite losing one all-stater, the Lady Warriors returned another in the person of Ashley Bates and will bring an impressive 16-4 mark into the tourney.

Trail twice beat Shenandoah, Meadowbrook, Wheeling Park, Cambridge and Caldwell during the regular campaign en route to the OVAC playoffs. Wins over Indian Valley and Tusky Valley on the final day clinched a playoff spot for the Warriors.

Martins Ferry has made great strides in volleyball in the past couple years and capped off the return with their berth in the OVAC playoffs. Coach Tom Suriano's Lady Riders included a balanced group that reeled off 16 wins and lost only four times this season.

Ferry's losses include three to playoff qualifiers while wins over Steubenville Central, Edison twice, Buckeye Local twice, River twice, Barnesville twice, Union Local twice and Bellaire twice boosted the Lady Riders into the post-season tourney.

IN CLASS 2-A, Shenandoah appeared to be breezing to the division top-seed until the final week when SCC and Wellsville came on strong.

First-year coach Julie LaFollette has taken her squad to an impressive 15-3 mark at the break without a single senior on the team. The Lady Zeps lost only to Trail twice and St. Clairsville while picking up wins over

Monroe Central, Barnesville, Harrison Central, Bellaire, Union Local, Zanesville, Meadowbrook, Frontier, Fort Frye and Caldwell.

Steubenville Central came on strong late in the season winning six of its last seven to catapult into second place. The wins were all big ones as the Lady Crusaders topped Brooke, Linsly, East Liverpool, Wellsville, Beaver Local, Steubenville and Buckeye Local.

Wellsville was no patsy either winning 13 of 18 before the cutoff. Coach Dan McKinstry's Lady Tigers feature four talented seniors in Tinisha Williams, Casey Carter, Ashley Corbin and Jennifer McCombs.

In his 24th season, the most among OVAC coaches, McKinstry guided his squad to wins over Crestview, Columbianna, Southern, Malvern, Edison, Steubenville Central, Brooke, Oak Glen and East Liverpool.

Monroe Central started with a bang under first-year coach Troy Baker winning eight straight after losing the season opener. The Lady Seminoles posted a 14-3 mark at the cutoff and did it with a roster that featured seniors Marlana Merckle, Krista Jorris, Nikki Baker and Karin Knowlton.

Wins over Beallsville, River, Barnesville, Caldwell, Conotton Valley, Tyler Consolidated and Wheeling Central made the difference for the Monroe netters.

IN CLASS 1-A, coach Sam Bayz's Lady Dragons were rarely contested in running their unblemished mark to 14-0 at the cutoff. Cameron registered wins two of the three other 1-A qualifiers, besting Madonna and Beallsville.

The defending champs also recorded wins over Paden City, Bishop Donahue, Wheeling Central, Valley and Linsly en route to the tourney.

Weirton Madonna won six of its first seven matches and led the 1-A race early in the season, but suffered losses in three of their last four matches before the cutoff to post a 10-5 mark. The Lady Dons own wins over Weir, Valley, Mt. de Chantal, St. John Central, Bridgeport, Wheeling Park and Magnolia.

St. John Central has gone through an up and down 6-12 season under first year coach James Poland, but qualified with a roster that includes seniors Amelia Benner, Angela Bumgardner, Alisha Ciardelli, Megan George and Jessica Seirvertson.

The Lady Irish posted wins over Bridgeport, Wheeling Central, Bishop Donahue twice and Linsly twice.

Coach Barb Wellman took her Beallsville netters to the OVAC playoffs in her first year, but it wasn't easy. The Lady Devils, who graduated only one senior from last year's team, notched wins over Conotton Valley, Valley twice, Paden City, Bishop Donahue and Wheeling Central to qualify.



Indian Creek tops St. C. for OVAC 3-A volleyball title

Cambridge, Cameron, Wellsville also take home championships

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Writer

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference passed out its third championship of the fall sports campaign Saturday afternoon in Morristown.

As the OVAC volleyball tournament was staged at Union Local High School with some familiar faces prevailing.

IN THE OPENER, two teams that are all too familiar with one another met to decide the 3-A championship.

Indian Creek and St. Clairsville hooked up in a battle of volleyball juggernauts.

But, the Lady Redskin dominance continued as for the Lady Red Devils the story was the same as the earlier two meetings this season.

Indian Creek prevailed by a 15-5, 15-10 score over the Belmont County-based school.

The win gave Indian Creek its fourth consecutive title in the conference second largest class.

The Lady Redskins received a fine effort from senior leader Brandie Beebe who did it all for coach Erin DeSantis.

Winning this has not really sunk in. It feels really good. I thought the first game really set the tone early on, an elated DeSantis said following her 10th OVAC championship.

Beebe played a fine match as she scored seven points, had 16 spikes, 13 kills and nine blocks against a quality St. Clairsville club. Beebe also chipped in with two aces.

Lindsay Coniser passed out 25 assists, while Natalie Siburt chipped in with seven points.

St. Clairsville, which slipped to 19-3 on the season entering this week's sectional play at Buckeye, was led by senior-standout Bethany Piccolini.

Piccolini, a state track champion in the long jump, came up with 15 spikes, seven kills and two blocks for the Lady Devils.

Junior-ace Lindsay Piccolini scored two points, had 15 spikes, five kills and six assists.

Senior-standout Katy Kubica led the way in the scoring column as she netted 11 points with five assists. Kubica also passed out five assists.

Indian Creek and St. Clairsville got to the title games thanks to semi-final wins over Martins Ferry and Buckeye Trail, respectively.

The Creek came up with a 15-5, 15-0 win over the Lady Riders and the Lady Devils were 15-8, 15-1 victors over the Lady Warriors.

IN THE 2-A match, Wellsville needed just two games to eliminate Monroe Central by a 15-5, 15-8 count.

The Lady Tigers improved to 16-5 with the victory.

The Lady Bengals were led by Ashley Losbin who scored 11

points and passed out 12 assists.

Lindsay Lyle chipped in with six kills and five blocks, while Casey Carter posted three blocks.

The Lady Seminoles were paced by Samantha Daugherty who scored 10 points and had six assists.

Senior-standout Marlena Merckle had 22 spikes, seven kills and two blocks.

Nikki Baker chipped in with three kills for the Lady 'Noles.

Wellsville advanced to the final with a 15-9, 15-8 victory over Steubenville Central, while the Woodsfield-based school defeated fellow PVC-rival Shenandoah in three games 8-15, 15-6 and 15-8.

IN THE BIG School class, Cambridge captured the OVAC hardware thanks to a two-game win over East Liverpool.

The Lady Bobcats prevailed by a 15-8, 15-11 score.

The Lady 'Cats were led by Lyndsey Shannon who scored nine points. Randi Arnold had 19 spikes and made six kills.

Stephanie Arthur came up with 12 spikes and five kills.

Rachael Shansky was in on 43 sets and 22 assists.

The Lady Potters were led by Constance Fowler who scored four points. Katie Lander and Paula Holman evenly divided six markers.

Lander also chipped in with 11 kills and two blocks.

The Guernsey-County team got into the finals thanks to a 15-17, 15-0, 15-8 decision over Brooke, while Liverpool knocked off Steubenville.

IN THE NIGHTCAP, the 1-A champion was crowned as Weirton Madonna and Cameron hooked up in a battle of West Virginia.

Madonna jumped out in the first game, but Cameron came roaring back to take the first game 15-8. The second game was all Lady Dragons as they came up with a 15-9 decision in the second game to win the conference title.

The win moved the Dragons to 19-0 on the season and captured its second consecutive OVAC title.

Cameron was paced by Sarah Lilley who had 11 points and three aces. She also had two blocks.

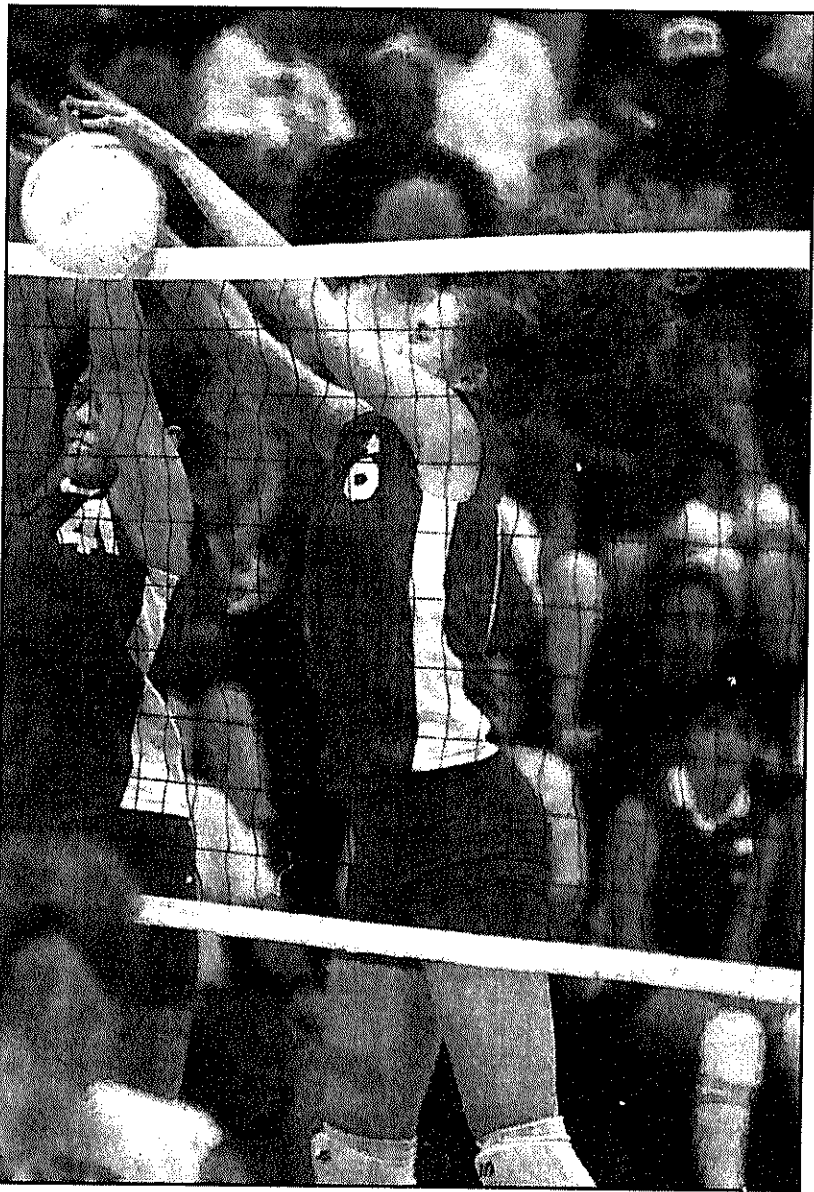
Sara Courtwright added eight points and seven assists, while Nora Shalaway had six points, an ace and two blocks.

The Lady Dons were led by Natalie Wujtow with three points. Sarah Setcavage tacked on three points with an ace. Angie Milbert led with six points.

Wujtow also added seven spikes, three kills and three blocks.

Two finalists got to the championship encounter thanks to tough wins in the semi-final round.

Madonna advanced via a 12-15, 15-5, 15-12 decision over St. John Central. Cameron, meanwhile, knocked off Beallsville by a 15-5, 15-4 count.



T-L Photo/MIKE McNEILL
SPIKING THE BALL over the net during Saturday's OVAC Volleyball Tournament at Union Local is St. Clairsville junior standout Lindsay Piccolini.

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Area Sports Briefs

OVAC Volleyball Tourney Dates Reset

Dates for the OVAC girls volleyball tournament have been changed due to problems with scheduling.

This year's tournament had been changed to a two-day format and was scheduled for October 11 and 14. Due to scheduling conflicts, the tournament will revert back to the one-day format and be held on Saturday, October 14 at Union Local High School in Morristown.

Times for the playoff matches have also been set with Class 2-A semi-finals starting at 9:30 a.m., Class 3-A getting underway at noon, Class 4-A tipping off at 2:30 p.m. and Class 1-A closing the tournament with a 5 p.m. start. All finals matches will begin immediately following their respective semi-final matches.

Mandatory OVAC Athletic Directors Meeting Set

A mandatory Ohio Valley Athletic Conference meeting for athletic directors will be held at Wheeling Park High School on Monday, August 14.

All schools in the conference are required to have a representative at this meeting. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting getting underway promptly at 7 p.m.

OVAC Mandatory Soccer Coaches Meeting Aug. 13

A mandatory OVAC meeting for soccer coaches in the conference will be held on Sunday, August 13 at 7 p.m. at the McDonough Center on the campus of Wheeling Jesuit University.

Each school fielding a soccer team this season is required to have a representative at the meeting. All coaches are asked to bring extra copies of their regular season schedule to the meeting.

OVAC Sets Mandatory Meetings

A mandatory OVAC meeting for volleyball, cross country and cheerleading coaches will be held at the Wheeling Civic Center on Sunday, August 27 starting promptly at 2 p.m.

Schools field teams in volleyball, cross country and cheering are required to have a representative at the meeting.

Regular season winding down for OVAC spikers

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

With a Saturday cutoff date for qualifying for the OVAC volleyball playoffs coming on quick, there are heated races for the spots in each of the four classes.

In Class 4-A, defending champion East Liverpool has come on strong to just barely take the lead in the big school race while another defending champion, Indian Creek, has opened a comfortable lead in Class 3-A.

Class 2-A leader Shenandoah has seen its big lead cut by more than half in its attempt to gain the top-seed in that division while Class 1-A defending champ Cameron has double its lead in that race.

Of course, the top spots are in question as much as the other three qualifying spots are as the conference heads toward the October 7 cutoff date.

In Class 4-A, it has been a game of musical chairs with teams bouncing around the top spots all season. Coach Bob Shansky's Potters have regained the lead from a runners-up spot a week ago, but hold only a two-point lead over this week's runner-up Steubenville.

The Lady Big Red jumped from fifth place to second with its 7-6 record and 34.0 average.

Brooke, at 7-7 and 32.9, remained in third place for another week while last week's leader, Cambridge, dropped to fourth after a disastrous week. Weir sits in fifth at 4-5 and 30.7 just 1.3 points behind Cambridge.

In Class 3-A, coach Erin DeSantis' Ohio No. 2 ranked Lady Redskins widened their gap at the top with a 12-0 record and 72.2 average. The Creek holds a 13.8-point lead over second place St. Clairsville, another valley net pow-

erhouse with a 14-2 mark.

Both St. C losses have come at the hands of IC.

Oak Glen, fresh off an impressive week in which the Lady Bears doubled their record at 10-4, have jumped into third place with at 47.1. Martins Ferry continued its hot pace and owns a 13-3 and 46.6 average in fourth. Buckeye Trail, at 10-3 and 45.2, is hot on the trail in fifth.

In Class 2-A, Shenandoah's nearly-insurmountable lead of a week ago, has been cut considerably by much-improved Wellsville. The Lady Zeps, losers at St. C during the past week, are leading at 13-2 and 50.5. The Lady Tigers jumped from fourth to second at 11-3 and 44.0.

Steubenville Central, despite a good week, fell to third place at 10-5 and 41.3 while Monroe Central dropped from third to fourth at 9-3 and 37.5. Frontier is within striking distance in fifth at 10-5 and 28.1.

In Class 1-A, Cameron continues to join Creek as the only unbeaten as coach Sam Bayza's Lady Dragons extended their lead with their 11-0 mark and 43.1 average.

Weirton Madonna, a loser to Cameron last week, remain comfortably in second place at 9-3 and 36.8.

St. John Central, at 6-8 and 19.3, continue to hold on to the third spot while Paden City, at 5-9 and 11.9, continues its grip on fourth. Waiting in the wings in fifth place, despite a 4-11 mark, is Beallsville.

Teams finishing in the top four spots after Saturday's action will qualify for the October 14th OVAC championships at Union Local High School in Morristown.

Action gets underway at 9:30 a.m. with the Class 2-A semi-finals and runs day-long until all four champions are crowned.

OVAC Volleyball Standings

Class 4-A

	W	L	CP	Ave.
East Liverpool	9	7	576	36.0
Steubenville	7	6	442	34.0
Brooke	7	7	460	32.9
Cambridge	8	7	480	32.0
Weir	4	5	276	30.7
Edison	5	8	362	27.8
Wheeling Park	5	10	284	18.9
John Marshall	3	7	186	18.6
Buckeye Local	3	12	194	12.9
Zanesville	2	16	126	7.0

Class 3-A

Indian Creek	12	0	866	72.2
St. Clairsville	14	2	936	58.5
Oak Glen	10	4	660	47.1
Martins Ferry	13	3	744	46.6
Buckeye Trail	10	3	588	45.2
Meadowbrook	10	6	578	36.1
Bellaire	8	7	462	30.8
Beaver Local	7	7	414	29.6
Tyler Consolidated	7	6	370	28.5
Union Local	7	6	362	27.8
Magnolia	6	8	356	35.4
Harri. Central	3	13	144	9.0

Class 2-A

Shenandoah	13	2	758	50.5
Wellsville	11	3	616	44.0
Steubenville Central	10	5	620	41.3
Monroe Central	9	3	450	37.5
Frontier	10	5	422	28.1
Linsly	8	6	328	23.4
River	6	8	326	23.3
Barnesville	7	8	344	22.9
Fort Frye	8	8	328	20.5
Caldwell	5	10	224	14.9
Wheeling Central	4	11	180	12.0

Class 1-A

Cameron	11	0	470	43.1
Weirton Madonna	9	3	442	36.8
St. John Central	6	8	270	19.3
Paden City	5	9	166	11.9
Beallsville	4	11	138	9.2
Bridgeport	3	12	122	8.1
Conotton Valley	2	12	80	5.7
Mt. de Chantal	1	7	32	4.0
Bishop Donahue	1	8	32	3.6
Valley	1	13	32	2.3

Indian Creek, Shenandoah keep OVAC volleyball leads

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

Unbeaten and state-ranked Indian Creek and once-beaten Shenandoah were the only OVAC leaders from last week to continue their hold on the top in the latest standings released by the OVAC.

Cambridge has moved atop the Class 4-A race and unbeaten Cameron has jumped ahead of Weirton Madonna in the Class 1-A while the Creek tops Class 3-A and the Lady Zeps head 2-A as the prep volleyball season heads into its fifth week of action.

With just two weeks of play remaining for teams to qualify for the OVAC playoffs set for October 14 at Union Local High School in Morristown, the races for the top four qualifying spots are heating up.

In Class 4-A, the Lady Bobcats jumped into the top spot with its 7-

3 record and 41.0 average ahead of second place East Liverpool, at 8-5 and 37.5. Brooke holds on to third place at 5-4 and 34.9, while season-long leader Weir fell off to fourth with a 28.9 average.

Two other teams are within a fraction of a point of the fourth spot in 4-A with Steubenville in fifth place at 4-5 and 28.2 and Edison at 4-6 and 28.0.

Indian Creek has beaten all the top contenders but leads the 3-A race by just under seven points despite its 8-0 mark. The Lady Redskins have a 61.3 average, but the top is crowded in the competitive 3-A rankings.

St. Clairsville, with its only losses coming to Indian Creek, are second at 11-2 and 54.5 while Buckeye Trail is third at 6-2 and 47.3. Oak Glen has a hold on fourth place with a 5-2 record and 46.6 average.

Martins Ferry is fifth in 3-A at

11-3 and 41.4 while Meadowbrook is sixth at 7-5 and 33.0.

In Class 2-A, Shenandoah continues to walk away with the lead holding a double digit advantage over runnerup Steubenville Central. The Lady Zeps lead with a 12-1 mark and 50.3 average.

Central is second in 2-A at 7-4 and 36.9 while Monroe Central dropped to third at 8-3 and 34.5. Wellsville is fourth at 7-3 and 28.4 and Frontier is fifth at 8-4 and 26.7.

Unbeaten Cameron, a defending OVAC champion, overcame Madonna (his week with its 9-0 record and 40.0 average. Madonna is second at 6-1 and 37.1 while St. John Central is third at 5-4 and 21.8.

Paden City, with a sub-.500 4-7 mark is fourth in the 1-A race with an 11.8 average.

OVAC Volleyball

CLASS 4-A

	W	L	CP	Ave.
Cambridge	7	3	410	41.0
East Liverpool	8	5	488	37.5
Brooke	5	4	314	34.9
Weir	3	4	202	28.9
Steubenville	4	5	254	28.2
Edison	4	6	280	28.0
Buckeye Local	3	8	188	17.1
John Marshall	2	5	120	17.1
Zanesville	2	10	124	10.3
Wheeling Park	2	7	76	8.4

CLASS 3-A

Indian Creek	8	0	490	61.3
St. Clairsville	11	2	708	54.5
Buckeye Trail	6	2	378	47.3
Oak Glen	5	2	328	46.6
Martins Ferry	11	3	580	41.4
Meadowbrook	7	5	396	33.0
Beaver Local	6	5	332	30.2
Union Local	6	6	314	26.2
Magnolia	5	5	260	26.0
Bellaire	5	6	276	25.1
Tyler Consolidated	5	5	242	24.2
Harrison Central	3	11	140	10.0

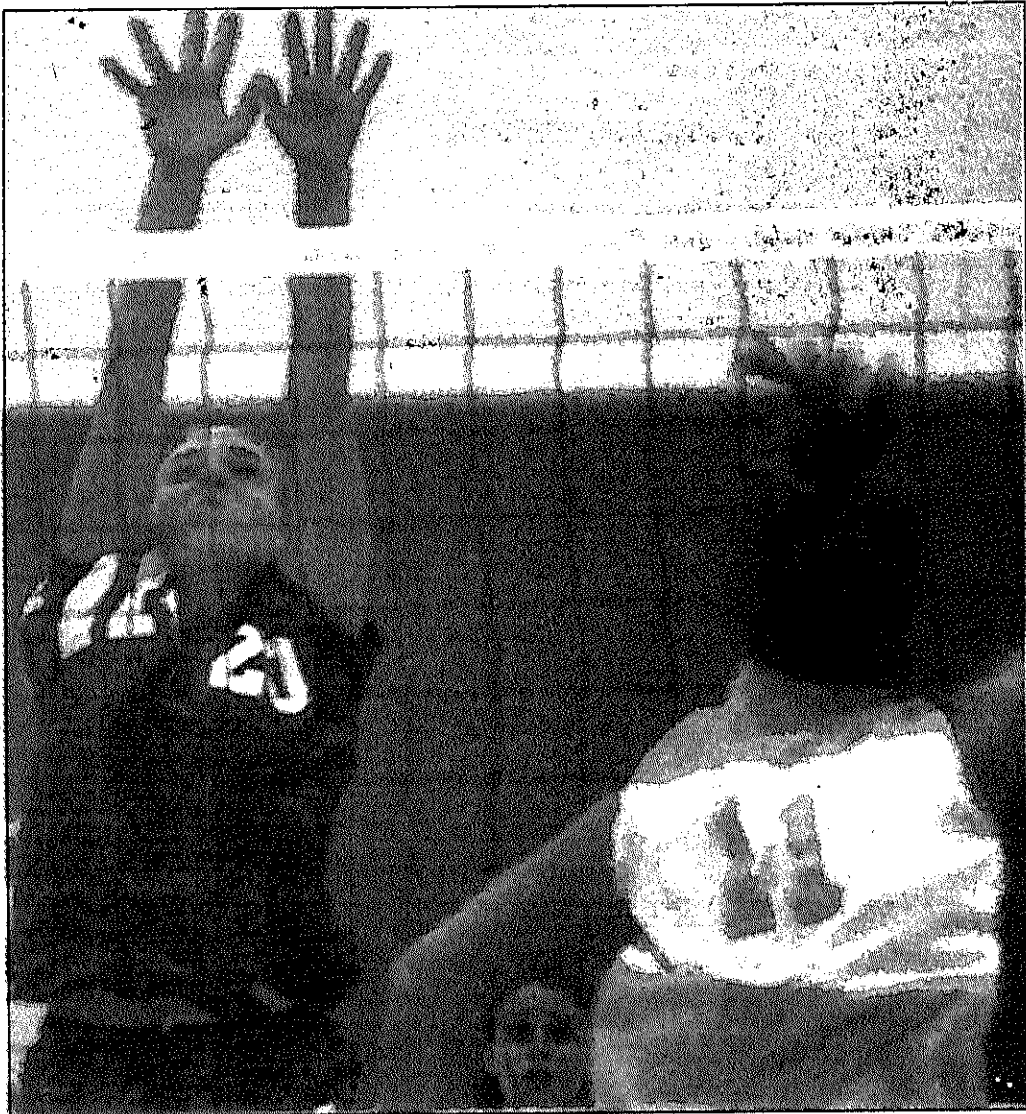
CLASS 2-A

Shenandoah	12	1	654	50.3
Steubenville Central	7	4	406	36.9
Monroe Central	8	3	380	34.5
Wellsville	7	3	284	28.4
Frontier	8	4	320	26.7
River	5	6	272	24.7
Linsly	7	4	250	22.7
Barnesville	5	7	240	20.0
Caldwell	4	6	152	15.2
Fort Frye	14	2		14.2
Wheeling Central	2	7	98	10.9

CLASS 1-A

Cameron	9	0	360	40.0
Weirton Madonna	6	1	260	37.1
St. John Central	5	4	196	21.8
Paden City	4	7	130	11.8
Beallsville	2	8	66	6.6
Bridgeport	1	10	76	6.3
Conotton Valley	2	10	74	6.2
Mt. de Chantal	1	6	32	4.6
Bishop Donahue	1	7	32	4.0
Valley	1	11	32	2.7

OVAC Volleyball



T-L Photo/MIKE McNELL

MARTINS FERRY junior Holly Gavarkavich (20) goes up to block a spike attempt by an Indian Creek player. Indian Creek prevailed in the match and went on to claim the OVAC Class 3-A Championship.

SPORTS

Defending champs contend for OVAC volleyball crowns

BY RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

With all four defending champions returning and a new place to play, the OVAC has announced the pairings for the annual OVAC Girls Volleyball Championship Playoffs set for Saturday on the courts at Union Local High School in Morristown.

Ironically, all four defending champions come into this year's tourney as the No. 1 seeds in their respective divisions.

Top seeds in this weekend's championships are Cameron in Class 1-A, Shenandoah in Class 2-A, Indian Creek in Class 3-A and East Liverpool in Class 4-A. All four teams swept both the playoff and regular season titles a year ago.

Saturday's playoff schedule gets underway at 9:30 a.m. at Union Local High School. In the past few years, the OVAC tournament was staged at the McDonough Center on the campus of Wheeling Jesuit, but due to a scheduling conflict at WJU, the tourney was moved to the Morristown school.

Action on Saturday starts with the Class 2-A semi-finals at 9:30 a.m. with top-seeded Shenandoah facing fourth-seeded Monroe Central and second-seeded Steubenville Central taking on third-seeded Wellsville simultaneous on two gyms. The winners will play immediately following on the main floor for the 2-A title.

At noon, Class 3-A semi-finals will get underway with top-seeded and unbeaten Indian Creek battling fourth-seeded Martins Ferry in one gym and second-seeded St. Clairsville taking on third-seeded Buckeye Trail on the other court with the winners vying for the title.

Class 4-A top-seed East Liverpool will face fourth-seeded Steubenville while second-seeded Brooke squares off with third-seeded Cambridge in semi-final matches set to start at 2:30 p.m. Winners will battle to the 4-A crown immediately afterwards.

In the nightcap, set to start at 5 p.m., Class 1-A top-seed and unbeaten Cameron faces fourth-seed-

ed Beallsville and second-seeded Weirton Madonna battles third-seeded St. John Central in the semi-finals. The championship matches closes the day's action.

Indian was the 3-A champion in '99, '98 and '97 while East Liverpool captured 4-A titles in '99 and '98. Oak Glen was the 4-A champ in '97. Shenandoah won the 2-A title in '99 and '97, losing in '98 to Buckeye Trail.

Repeating as champion in Class 1-A has been a rarity with three different champs in the past three seasons. Cameron won in '99, Conotton Valley won in '98 and St. John Central won in '97. Of the past champions since '97, only Conotton Valley and Oak Glen are not in this year's tourney.

Ticket prices for this year's event are \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students.

1999 Champions:

Class 1-A -- Cameron
Class 2-A -- Shenandoah
Class 3-A -- Indian Creek
Class 4-A -- East Liverpool

1998 Champions:

Class 1-A -- Conotton Valley
Class 2-A -- Buckeye Trail
Class 3-A -- Indian Creek
Class 4-A -- East Liverpool

1997 Champions:

Class 1-A -- St. John Central
Class 2-A -- Shenandoah
Class 3-A -- Indian Creek
Class 4-A -- Oak Glen

2000 PLAYOFF SCHEDULE:

9:30 a.m. - Class 2-A (1) Shenandoah vs. (4) Monroe Central on court #1; (2) Steubenville Central vs. (3) Wellsville on court #2. Finals to follow immediately.

12 noon - Class 3-A (1) Indian Creek vs. (4) Martins Ferry on court #1; (2) St. Clairsville vs. (3) Buckeye Trail on court #2. Finals to follow immediately.

2:30 p.m. - Class 4-A (1) East Liverpool vs. (4) Steubenville on court #1; (2) Brooke vs. (3) Cambridge on court #2. Finals to follow immediately.

5 p.m. - Class 1-A (1) Cameron vs. (4) Beallsville on court #1; (2) Weirton Madonna vs. (3) St. John Central on court #2. Finals to follow immediately.

OVAC STANDINGS

VOLLEYBALL

These are the final standings FOR QUALIFYING for the playoffs. The top four teams qualify. Regular season champion will be determined at the conclusion of the regular season.

PLEASE NOTE: Official pairings will be released for Tuesday.

Class AAAA

	W	L	CP	Ave.
*East Liverpool	10	9	658	34.6
*Brooke	10	9	650	34.2
*Cambridge	10	8	602	33.4
*Steubenville	7	8	462	30.8
Weir	5	8	342	26.3
Edison	6	12	436	24.2
John Marshall	3	7	182	18.2
Wheeling Park	5	12	278	16.4
Buckeye Local	3	14	198	11.5
Zanesville	2	17	126	6.6

Class AAA

	W	L	CP	Ave.
*Indian Creek	17	0	1238	72.8
*St. Clairsville	17	2	1190	62.6
*Buckeye Trail	16	4	970	48.5
*Martins Ferry	16	4	968	48.4
Oak Glen	11	5	762	47.6
Beaver Local	9	7	572	35.8
Meadowbrook	10	8	584	32.4
Bellaire	9	8	534	31.4
Tyler Consolidated	8	7	410	27.3
Union Local	7	8	378	25.1
Magnolia	7	11	418	23.2
Harrison Central	4	14	218	12.0

Class AA

	W	L	CP	Ave.
*Shenandoah	15	3	882	49.0
*Steubenville Central	13	6	860	45.3
*Wellsville	13	5	778	43.2
*Monroe Central	14	3	718	42.2
Frontier	12	5	522	30.7
River	8	9	456	28.8
Linsly	10	7	400	23.5
Barneville	8	10	402	22.3
Fort Frye	9	9	372	20.7
Caldwell	5	13	238	13.2
Wheeling Central	4	14	184	10.2

Class A

	W	L	CP	Ave.
*Cameron	14	0	608	43.4
*Weirton Madonna	10	5	496	33.1
*St. John Central	7	10	314	18.5
*Beallsville	6	13	220	11.8
Paden City	5	12	170	10.0
Bridgeport	4	14	160	8.9
Conotton Valley	2	13	88	5.9
Bishop Donahue	2	11	64	4.9
Mt. de Chantal	1	9	32	3.2
Valley	1	14	32	2.1

*qualified for OVAC playoffs