

Photo by Art Limann

Brooke's Jenna Allen (in white) runs toward Linsly goalkeeper Ashley Neal during their OVAC soccer cup match Tuesday night. The Cadets' Erin Morgan (9) and Jessie Holloway (15) trail the play. Allen kicked in the game-winner.

## Brooke Wins in Shootout

Allen's shot lifts Bruins to hard-fought victory over persistent Linsly

By RYAN GEORGE  
Staff Writer

After the way the Brooke girls soccer team handled Linsly during OVAC round-robin play, no one could have expected what the Bruins encountered Tuesday night.

The Cadets gave Brooke everything it could handle, not allowing this OVAC soccer cup tournament quarterfinal match to end until two overtime periods and a shootout were complete.

In the fourth round of the shootout, Brooke's Jenna Allen fired a shot past sprawling Linsly goalkeeper Ashley Neal, lifting the homestanding Bruins to a 2-1 victory.

The win allows the Bruins to take on Weir Saturday at 1 p.m. on their home field.

For Linsly, the performance was quite different than the effort put together when the teams played earlier this season.

Even more astounding is that Linsly came within inches of scoring the second goal in regulation on a couple different occasions.

"We came to show them we could play," said Linsly head coach Jill Regan. "And that's what we did."

Regan added, "We were here to redeem ourselves and I think we truly did that. We've been struggling with injuries but we got everyone back on the field today."

Neither coach would say that a shootout is what the game of soccer is all about, but Brooke's Taoufik Hannaoui was indeed pleased to get the win.

"I think in the shootout, we were lucky as much as anything else," Hannaoui said. "The best players in the world miss on the penalty kick."

"I knew this one was going to be tough



Photo by Art Limann

Brooke's Jamie Kocher races in front of Linsly defenders during their OVAC soccer cup match Tuesday night at Brooke High School.

because of the way we beat them in the regular season.

"They were playing good soccer, but we missed a lot of good opportunities today too."

The Bruins scored just less than 11 minutes into the first quarter, when Jamie Kocher knocked in a pass from Mandy DiPasquale.

It appeared early on that Linsly was in for a long day.

Although the Cadets couldn't muster a solid shot on goal in the remaining moments of the first half, they pressured the Bruins and looked to tie the game.

They did just that when Kara Blacker's persistence allowed her to take a pass from Katie Blosser and deliver it behind Brooke keeper Britney Hervey at the beginning of the third period.

A short time later, a penalty kick on Hervey was called and Blacker took it.

Hervey made the save, which turned the momentum in favor of Brooke.

In the remaining moments of the third quarter, Kocher looked to give her team the lead.

But Neal made a diving save — and it was one of many on the evening to rob the Brooke striker.

For the Cadets, three games remain following the tournament

In other action Tuesday:

**St. Clairsville 2 East Liverpool 1**

At Wellsburg, Kara Wenger scored two goals, helping fourth-seeded St. Clairsville advance in OVAC soccer cup action.

Patrice Osoivich recorded 21 saves for the Red Devils (11-3), who advance to Saturday's semifinal vs. Brooke at 11 a.m. at the same site.

Nicole Feist pushed in East Liverpool's only goal.

# Linsly Comeback Frustrates Red Riders' Impressive Upset Bid

By RYAN GEORGE  
Staff Writer

The Linsly boys' soccer team found itself a goal down against a brick wall of a goalkeeper and a Weir High team with a never-say-die attitude in Saturday's OVAC Cup semifinal at Brooke High.

Eventually the two-time defending OVAC Cup champion rebounded with a pair of second-half goals to claim a hard-earned 2-1 win over the gritty Red Riders.

The victory earned the Cadets the chance to defend their OVAC

Cup crown at Wheeling Island Stadium Monday night against arch rival Wheeling Park.

Linsly (15-2-1) found goals from two players off the bench as Micah Crews and Issam Sawtarie each scored in the second half.

Crews scored to tie the game late in the third quarter on a header off a throw in from Preston Smith.

Sawtarie's goal was a delightful play, as the freshman fired a shot past goalkeeper Matt Lamp with 15 minutes left in the game.

Saturday afternoon's game certainly didn't start as Linsly had hoped.

The Red Riders scored moments into the game on a fantastic shot from Ben Jones on the left wing.

Brandon Bertovich assisted and instantly the excitement

level on the Weir bench hit a high.

With Weir leading 1-0 and the physical play becoming more and more prevalent, tempers on both sides started to flare and soon double yellow cards were accessed.

"As the tournament progresses you get more intensity and more collisions," said Linsly head coach Dave Coutts.

While play was physical in the first half the Cadets had a commanding attack on the Red Rider net, but Lamp was more than equal to the task, making several leaping saves that kept his team in the lead.

"We just ended up on the short end of the stick today," said Weir head coach Joe Pepe.

"We have nothing to be ashamed of."

Despite Linsly's win Coutts didn't believe his team played up to its potential against Weir.

"We missed some of the passes we usually make today, and they just weren't as accurate," Coutts said.

Linsly eagerly looks ahead now to the championship game against Wheeling Park.

"I think we are very ready for Monday night.

"We've been trying to focus on one game at a time but it is hard," said Coutts.

"I'm sure they (Wheeling Park) have been thinking about us too."

One area of concern for Coutts is that the Cadets have managed only four goals in their last two games, a stat that isn't common for the high-scoring well balanced Linsly attack.

"We just need to get our offense on track," said the coach. "We should have had 12 goals in the last two games.

"We need to finish a higher percentage of the chances we get.



Photo by Scott McCloskey

Linsly's Issam Sawtarie (21) dribbles up the left flank against Weir during Saturday's OVAC Cup semifinal in Wellsburg. The defending champion Cadets will face Wheeling Park in the championship game Monday night at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"The one frustrating thing is that sometimes we aren't scoring in the games we are controlling."

**Regular Season**  
**St. Clairsville 3, Steubenville 0**  
At St. Clairsville, Dale Ferrell, Josh Lanener and Brad Griener all scored for St. Clairsville (9-5-1) in their win over Steubenville (3-10-2).

Johnathan Olszowy added an

assist for the Red Devils.

Scott Neuenschwander only needed to make one save in net for St. Clairsville.

**Linsly 2, Weir 1**  
L: Goals: Crews, Sawtarie. Assists: Crews, Smith. Keeper: Regan (4 saves).  
W: Goals: Jones. Assists: Bertovich. Keeper: Lamp (8 saves).  
**St. Clairsville 3, Steubenville 0**  
St.C: Goals: Ferrell, Lanener, Griener. Assists: Olszowy. Keeper: Neuenschwander (1 save).  
S: Keeper: Materniak (8 saves).

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# Lady Patriots Return to Cup Finals

By RYAN GEORGE  
Staff Writer

The Wheeling Park girls soccer team continued its dominant play in OVAC Cup competition Saturday afternoon.

The Patriots took control of the game early against St. Clairsville and never relinquished it, going on to a 5-0 win at Brooke High School in Wellsburg in the girls semifinals contest.

Park (14-4) advances to the cup championship Monday at 5:30 p.m. against Weir at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Patriots head coach Russ Hutchins got his squad of girls to follow his game plan and all the pieces of the puzzle fell in place.

"We've practiced those set plays and today they worked and helped us score two goals on corner kicks," said Hutchins following the win.

"And we are playing real good in the midfield." Midfielder Julie Gompers led the Patriot charge with two goals and an assist, while she did perhaps what she does best, control the midfield.

"With (Julie) Gompers and Ashley Adamovich in the midfield it makes it real nice. The senior leadership is stepping up," said Hutchins.

"Julie has that kind of intensity. When it carries over to the rest of the team we will be good to go." Brooke Basilone stepped up as well in the semifinal, scoring and assisting on another goal, while Arlene Wheeler and Loren Mueller each added goals in the win.

St. Clairsville head coach Kevin Marsh knew his team was in for a tough contest.

"Wheeling Park is a very fast and very good

team," said Marsh.

"This is a learning experience for us. This is a state champion-caliber team we played today."

With the win Hutchins and the Patriots look ahead to a competitive opponent Monday night.

"Weir is a very physical team with a lot of skill, and they have (All-Valley forward) Lisa Costello up top," Hutchins said.

The Patriots feel at ease with the speed and physical play that the Red Riders will bring to the field Monday night. Hutchins will look to his skilled defense led by Emily Porter.

"Our defensive kids are our fastest and that is an advantage. Emily Porter is probably our fastest player," said the Park coach.

"She can beat just about any striker to the ball."

**Weir 2, Brooke 0**  
At Brooke, Meghan Harpold and Beth Hawthorne scored as Weir (10-3-1) advances to play Wheeling Park in the OVAC Cup Championship Monday night.

Lisa Costello has two assists in the win, while Kerri Phillips stopped seven shots while in net for the Red Riders.

Brooke (8-5-1) keeper Britney Hervey stopped 15 Weir shots in the game.

**Wheeling Park 5, St. Clairsville 0.**  
WP: Goals: Gompers 2, A.Wheeler, Mueller, Basilone. Assists: Gompers, M.Gompers, Hutchins, Basilone. Keeper: Wright (1 save).  
St.C: Keeper: Osovich (21 saves).  
**Weir 2, Brooke 0**  
W: Goals: Harpold, Hawthorne. Assists: Costello 2. Keeper: Phillips (7 saves).  
B: Keeper: Hervey (15 saves).



## OVAC CUP SOCCER

# Cadets Open Defense of Tourney Crown

By RYAN GEORGE  
Staff Writer

Linsly started off the first round of the OVAC Cup Tournament where they left off OVAC round robin play.

With a dominating win.

The Cadets (13-2-1) had 10 different players score in a 10-0 defeat of Wheeling Central Saturday afternoon in high school boys soccer action at Holloway Field on the campus of Linsly.

Joe Blalock led the team with a goal and two assists. Thomas Reihner, Austin Byers, Matt Jividen, Micah Crews, Bo Zyznewsky, Jake Mozney, Jason Adams, Brandon Regan and Andrew Hudak all scored for the Cadets. Linsly got assists from Mozney, Andy Hitchens, Stephen Reihner, Brandon Kelly and Thomas Reihner.

Regan's goal came just as the Linsly starting keeper came out of the net to make way for Blalock. Regan scored on a perfectly played head ball on a pass from Byers.

The last two seasons the Cadets not only took the championship in round robin play but also captured the OVAC Cup and this years team seems to possess the same skills and depth head coach Dave Coutts has fielded in previous seasons.

"It's always tough when the number one seed and the number 16 seed play in the first round," said Coutts.

"No matter who we are playing we try to play our best soccer."

The Cadets needed the win not only to stay in the tournament but to regain their confidence after a 5-4 loss Thursday night to University in Morgantown. The loss came as a wake up call for a team who has managed to defeat all of their West Virginia opponents this season.

"It was just a nightmare all the way around," said Coutts as complications by other motorists on route 70 forced the team to arrive in Morgantown after three hours of travel time.

"We had three times more shots and 80 percent of possession but they put their shots in. There were a combination of factors in the loss. We had several bad breaks."

With the disheartening loss behind the Cadets it is now the goal to capture their third straight cup.

Coutts finds that the round robin play and the Cup action is equally as important and each tests teams in the conference to play their best soccer.

"In the round robin you've got to play consistently well over seven games where it is easier to get up for the tournament," said Coutts.

"This is the fun thing about the tournament," said Coutts. "Everyone has a chance and you just never know what will happen. After all it was 1-0 after one quarter here."

Wheeling Central keeper Alex Hilton made 24 saves.

Linsly will play Edison Wednesday at 3 p.m. at Brooke High School.

For the first time in OVAC soccer history four boys teams from second division play advanced to the second round with wins over first division teams.

Edison, St. Clairsville, John Marshall and Beaver Local all pulled out wins on Saturday to advance to play at Brooke High School Tuesday and Wednesday nights this week for the chance to play for the semi-final round Saturday also at Brooke.

## Whg. Park 10, Indian Creek 0

At Wheeling, Tony Trabert recorded the hat trick and Chad Evans added two more goals as Park advanced to the second round.

Justin Clark scored two and Scott Kangisser also added two

goals for the Patriots. Joe Burkland scored a goal and added three assists in the win. Tom Hershfield, Kyle Regan and Evans also added assists. Kyle Ackermann made one save, while Jordan Roth added two in net.

Kellen Hughes made seven saves in net for Indian Creek.

## Brooke 3, Steub. Central 1, OT

At Wellsburg, Alex Garan, Aleks Kins and Jacob Joseph scored to lead Brooke past Steubenville Catholic in overtime.

Andrew Danaher scored the lone goal for Steubenville Central.

Brooke advances to play Beaver Local Wednesday at 5 p.m. at Brooke High School.

## J.Marshall 3, Steubenville 2, OT

At Steubenville, John Marshall (7-6-1) got two goals from Logan Hartle and another from Andrew Holas to defeat Steubenville (4-7) in the shootout. Tim Gatts made nine saves in net for the Monarchs.

Chris Feroni and Ben Almeida scored for Steubenville in the game.

John Marshall takes on Weir Wednesday night at 5 p.m. at Brooke High.

## Edison 3, Oak Glen 1

At Oak Glen, Joel Ramirez scored twice as Edison knocked off Oak Glen.

Pat Vescovi added a goal on an assist from Ramirez. Adam Stevenson made 11 saves in net for the Wildcats.

Jared Mazecka scored the Oak Glen goal on an assist from Brad Elder. Ron Bojtas stopped 14 Edison shots.

Edison advances to play first seed Linsly Wednesday at 3 p.m.

## St. Clairsville 2, Magnolia 0

At New Martinsville, St. Clairsville (8-4-1) got goals from Scott Hahn and Dale Ferrel in the win over Magnolia.

Scott Neuenschwander made 11 saves.

The Red Devils play East Liverpool Tuesday at 5 p.m. at Brooke.

## Weir 4, East Liverpool 2

Ben Jones scored twice leading Weir (9-5) past East Liverpool (6-6).

Brandon Bertovich and Cory Wilson each added goals for the Red Riders. Wilson added two assists in the win, while Matt Lamp made four saves in net.

Greg Stransbury and Tyler Thayer scored for East Liverpool. Connor Faloon made 13 saves in net.

Weir advances to play John Marshall at 5 p.m. Wednesday.

## Beaver Local 2, Madonna 0

At Weirton, Beaver Local (5-3-1) downed Weirton Madonna (6-7) to advance to the second round of the tournament. The Beavers play Brooke at Brooke Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Andy Lubich and Shawn Dunn scored for the Beavers while Jonathan Duck earned the shutout with five saves.

## Girls

## John Marshall 4, Edison 0

At Richmond, Maddie Lawther scored twice and Sarah Wilson added two as John Marshall advanced to the second round with the win over Edison (4-7-1) in girls high school soccer action.

Nikki Rutan added an assist. Amber Aiken made six saves in net for Monarchs.

The Monarchs (12-1-2) advance to play Wheeling Park Monday night at 5 p.m. at Brooke.

## Linsly 5, Steub. Central 1

At Linsly, Kara Blacker recorded the hat trick as Linsly advances to the second round of the OVAC Cup.

Katie Blosser and Jessie Holloway added goals for Linsly. Blacker finished the game with two assists, while Blosser added one and Laura Coutts also had a helper.

Ashley Neal had 7 saves for the Cadets while Jennifer Yasho scored for Steubenville Central.

Linsly will face Brooke Tuesday night at 5 p.m. in the quarter-finals at Brooke.

## Whg Central 2, Beaver Local 1

Kelsey Fowler scored twice for Wheeling Central (8-6) in the win over Beaver Local (9-3).

Julia McGinley and Leelyn Altmeyer added assists. Lindsay Pastorius made 13 saves in net for the Maroon Knights.

Beaver Local got a goal from Nikki Rinko.

With the win the Maroon Knights advance to play Weir Monday night at 5 p.m. at Brooke in second round play.

## St. Clairsville 4, Magnolia 0

At St. Clairsville, Kara Wenger scored twice as St. Clairsville (10-3) knocked off Magnolia (5-8-2).

Sarah Hahn and Charity Scott each added goals for the Red Devils. Patrice Osovich had four saves in net for St. Clairsville.

Rachel Mason made 28 saves in net for the Blue Eagles.

## Brooke 4, Steubenville 0

At Wellsburg, Jenna Allen

recorded the hat trick and Jamie Kocher added a goal as Brooke rolled past Steubenville in the first round of the OVAC Cup Tournament.

Britney Hervey recorded five saves in net.

Ciarra Wilson made five saves and Ann Felix made an additional five while in net for the Big Reds.

## Weir 4, Oak Glen 0

At Weirton, Kerri Phillips, Meghan Harpold, Sara Geibell and Kristin Bull all scored for Weir. Lisa Costello and Bull added assists.

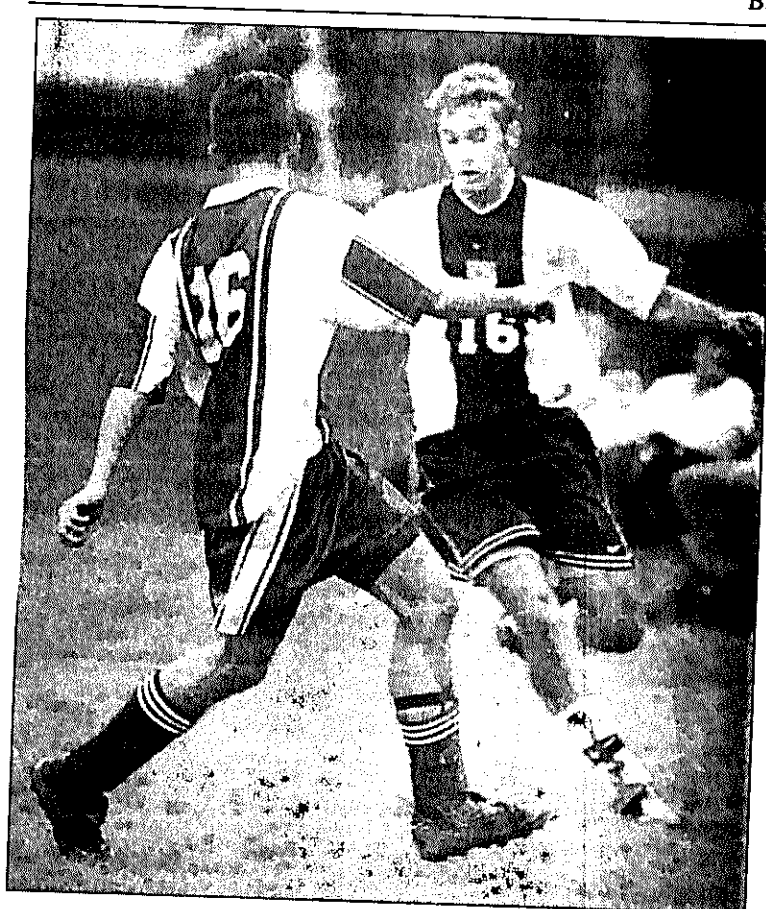
The Red Riders improve to 7-3-1 and advance in the tournament.

## E. Liverpool 8, Indian Creek 2

At East Liverpool, Emily Barlow scored three goals leading East Liverpool (6-4) past Indian Creek (4-5-3) in the first round of OVAC play.

Liz Connor added two goals, while Nicole Fiest, Julia Volino and Sara Payne all scored for the Potters. Connor added an assist as did Payne and Volino.

Ashley Grimm scored both goals for Indian Creek.



Linsly's Jake Mozney, right, tries to dribble around Wheeling Central's Josh Weithe, left, during Saturday's opening round of the OVAC Cup tournament at Linsly.

Photo by Art Linsann

## OVAC CUP RESULTS, SCHEDULE

### Saturday's Results

#### BOYS

Linsly 10, Wheeling Central 0

L: Goals: Jividen, T. Reihner, Crews, Byers, Blalock, Zyznewsky, Mozney, Adams, Regan, Hudak. Assists: Blalock 2,

Assists: Lawther 2, Rutan. Keeper: Aiken (6 saves)

E: Keeper: Alloggia (7 saves)

Linsly 5, Steubenville Central 1

SC: Goals: Yasho. Keeper: McGee (10 saves)

rectly played head on in a match from Byers.

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saves in net for the Monarchs.

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John Marshall takes on Weir Wednesday night at 5 p.m. at Brooke High.

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Greg Stransbury and Tyler Thayer scored for East Liverpool. Connor Faloon made 13 saves in net.

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Katie Blosser and Jessie Holloway added goals for Linsly. Blacker finished the game with two assists, while Blosser added one and Laura Coutts also had a helper.

Rachel Mason made 20 saves in net for the Blue Eagles.

**Brooke 4, Steubenville 0**  
At Wellsburg, Jenna Allen

as did Payne and Volino.

Ashley Grimm scored both goals for Indian Creek.

# Soccer's Best Ready to Roll

By RYAN GEORGE  
Staff Writer

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference soccer round-robin tourney concluded Wednesday, and four teams have earned the right to call themselves OVAC Champions.

The Linsly boys, Edison boys, Wheeling Park girls and John Marshall girls all finished first in their respective divisions.

Saturday marks the beginning of the OVAC Soccer Cup Tournament, which boasts 31 teams from the boys and girls divisions.

Following Saturday's opening round of play, 16 teams will remain with eight left in the boys' and girls' bracket. The highest seed in the tournament will host games starting Saturday, which will be followed by semifinal play at Brooke High school in Wellsburg.

The OVAC soccer schedule is set up so that the team that finishes on top of its division earns an OVAC championship. The winners of the OVAC championship are given the first seeds going into tournament. That allows all the teams in first and second division the opportunity to play one another in hopes of earning the cup.

"This is the third year for the round robin play and then the OVAC Cup simply gives all the

teams the chance to play one another for the chance to earn the cup," said OVAC Soccer Director Jay Adams.

"All the teams play one another once in round robin play, which is the fair way to determine who are the best team from each division. The Cup Tournament is quite a competitive format. The kids come out and really play hard for a chance to play Monday night."

On Oct. 7 the two teams that survive the boys and girls bracket will play for the cup at Wheeling Island Stadium.

In first division play, the Cader boys finished with a perfect 7-0 record winning the title and earning the first seed going into the OVAC Tournament. Edison came on top of the boys Division II play with a 6-1-1 mark earning the ninth seed going into the tournament.

The Wheeling Park girls squad finished 7-0 and is the only team with a bye on Saturday because of an odd number of girls teams. John Marshall also added a perfect 7-0 year to finish on top of division two girls.

"We're getting more competitive play down through the divisions, but it appears that the Linsly boys and Wheeling Park girls seem to continue to be the strengths," said Adams.

The Cambridge girls team will not participate in the tournament due to schedule conflicts.

## OVAC CUP RESULTS, SCHEDULE

### Saturday's Results

#### BOYS

**Linsly 10, Wheeling Central 0**  
L: Goals: Jividan, T. Reihner, Crews, Byers, Blalock, Zyznawsky, Moznay, Adams, Regan, Hudak. Assists: Blalock 2, Moznay, Hitchens, Kelly, S. Reihner, Byers, T. Reihner. Keeper: Regan (1 save); Blalock (1 save).

**Wheeling Park 10, Indian Creek 0**  
WP: Goals: Trabert 3, Evans 2, Clark 2, Kangisser 2, Burkland. Assists: Burkland 3, Evans, Regan, Hershfield. Keeper: Ackermann (1 save), Roth (2 saves), Trabert (0 saves).

**St. Clairsville 2, Magnolia 0**  
StC: Goals: Hahn, Ferrell. Assists: Brown. Keeper: Neuenschwander (11 saves).

**Edison 3, Oak Glen 1**  
E: Goals: Ramirez 2, Vescovi. Assists: Ramirez. Keeper: Stevenson (11 saves).

**Weir 4, East Liverpool 2**  
EL: Goals: Stansbury, Thayer. Assists: Thayer. Keeper: Faloon (13 saves).

**Brooke 4, Steubenville Central 1 OT**  
SC: Goals: Danaher. Keeper: Hoover (10 saves).

**John Marshall 4, Steubenville 2, OT**  
JM: Goals: Hartle 2, Kolas. Assists: Sechrist. Keeper: Gatts (9 saves).

**Beaver Local 2, Weirton Madonna 0**  
B: Goals: Lubich, Dunn. Keeper: Duck (5 saves).

#### GIRLS

**John Marshall 4, Edison 0**  
JM: Goals: Lawther 2, Wilson 2;

Assists: Lawther 2, Rutan. Keeper: Aiken (6 saves).

**Linsly 5, Steubenville Central 1**  
SC: Goals: Yasho. Keeper: McGee (10 saves).

**Wheeling Central 2, Beaver Local 1**  
BL: Goals: Rinko. Keeper: Abby Hale (12 saves).

**Brooke 4, Steubenville 0**  
B: Goals: Allen 3, Kocher. Keeper: Hervey (5 saves).

**St. Clairsville 4, Magnolia 0**  
St.C: Goals: Wenger 2, Hahn, Scott. Keeper: Osovich (4 saves).

**East Liverpool 8, Indian Creek 2**  
EL: Goals: Barlow 3, Connor 2, Fiest, Payne, Volino. Assists: Barlow, Connor, Fiest, Payne, Volino. Keeper: Riley (6 saves), Lillie (6 saves).

**Weir 4, Oak Glen 0**  
OG: Keeper: Morris (22 saves).

**Quarterfinal Schedule (at Brooke)**  
Monday  
Wheeling Park vs. John Marshall, 5 p.m.  
Weir vs. Wheeling Central, 5 p.m.

Tuesday  
Linsly vs. Brooke, 5 p.m.  
East Liverpool vs. St. Clairsville, 5 p.m.

Wednesday  
Linsly vs. Edison, 3 p.m.  
Wheeling Park vs. St. Clairsville, 3 p.m.  
John Marshall vs. Weir, 5 p.m.  
Beaver Local vs. Brooke, 5 p.m.



T-L Photo/ALEX MARSHALL

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Sarah Hahn (3) controls the ball as Wheeling Park's Julie Gompers (2) moves in to apply pressure during action in the OVAC Soccer Semi-Finals Saturday at Brooke High School. Wheeling Park won 5-0.

Wheeling Park wins, 5-0

## St. Clairsville ousted

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**  
T-L Executive Sports Editor

St. Clairsville girls' soccer coach Kevin Marsh says it was a learning experience for his young squad. That being the case, the Lady Red Devils had superb teachers.

Perennial powerhouse Wheeling Park proved too talented, too experienced and too battle-tested in disposing of spunky St. Clairsville, 5-0, in the OVAC Soccer Tournament semifinals at chilly Brooke High Saturday morning.

In the process, the Lady Patriots of former Bellaire High football standout Russell Hutchins punch their ticket into the OVAC finals Monday night at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The triumph was the 13th against four losses for Wheeling Park, two of those setbacks coming at the hands of Pennsylvania prep powers. The Lady Patriots are the reigning West Virginia state as well as OVAC champions.

"We knew coming in that Wheeling Park is the top of the line when it comes to girls soccer. We wanted to try and slow them down, so we experimented with using five midfielders," Marsh said. "With all our youth on this team, we looked at today's game as a learning experience and a building block for the future. We lost a lot of talented players from last year's team and we are an underclass-dominated team."

See, **PARK**, Page C3

● Park

Continued from Page C2

"It was good for us to get a lot of play in this environment and get some valuable experience," Mord added.

"We are priming for our final showdown."

Mord was giddy at the prospect for the Lady Patriots.

"Wheeling Park has a lot of talent and a lot of depth. They haven't won state titles yet, but they are very well coached and have a great program."

Despite the final lopsided margin, St. Clairsville acquitted itself quite nicely in the first two periods.

Wheeling Park's super senior Julie Gompers -- a two-time MVP amongst girls -- just missed breaking the scoring ice when she fired a missile left of the net at the 10:30 mark of the opening period.

Some three minutes later, St. Clairsville nearly filled the net as senior dandy Kara Wenger unloaded a dead-on shot, stopped by a Park defenseman just in front of the goal.

The Lady Patriots missed a brace through at the 17:11 mark of the first quarter. The Red Devils' defenseman Tom Morrison stopped a loose ball on attempt.

However, the ever-present Gompers -- who has already accepted a basketball scholarship to Bowling Green -- was able to secure the loose ball and drill it in the right side of the net.

The Lady Patriots wasted no time doubling their lead at the outset of the second period. Sophomore Brooke Basilone was active around the Red Devil net all day long -- converted a chip shot at the 18:19 mark for a 2-0 reading.

Park missed a third goal in the waning moments of the second as a Gompers' bullet sailed just over the bar.

St. Clairsville's gifted net-minder Patrice Osovich turned back nine Park shots in the first two periods.

The trend continued in the third quarter, with the Red White & Blue scoring the frame's lone goal in quick fashion.

Sophomore midfielder Arlene Wheeler deposited the ball in the upper right corner of the net just 46 seconds into the second half.

Wheeling Park tacked on two insurance scores in the fourth quarter.

Gompers delivered her second goal of the game -- this one of the header variety -- into the net with 10:34 left followed by a Leren Mueller net funder with 7:44 showing.



T-L Photo/ALEX MARSHALL

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Kelley Kubic (24) heads the ball up field as Wheeling Park's Brooke Basilone (14) and the Red Devils' Annee McNab (9) look on during action Saturday at Brooke High School. Wheeling Park won, 5-0.

"I am really happy with the way we played today and where we are at right now," said the personable Huchins, who was named a first-team member for the OVC's Coach of the Year at the Banquet of Champions.

"Our girls play a lot of soccer, so they really know the game and what it takes to be successful."

"We have a great senior leader

ship on this team and the girls play extremely hard," he added.

"I think we are where we need to be if we are going to make a run at defending our state title."

Wheeling Park goaltender Jill Wright was as lonely as the Maytag repairman.

The Lady Patriot sophomore needed to stop just one shot all day long in the winners' suffocating defensive performance.

Osovich, meanwhile, encountered a heavy Lady Patriot assault, turning back 15 Park shots.

In addition to Morrison, Wenger and Osovich, St. Clairsville received sparkling efforts from junior midfielder Sarah Hahn, sophomore defenseman Kelley Kubic and sophomore forward Charity Scott.

The Lady Red Devils return to action Thursday, hosting Coshocton.



# Linsly Boys Power Past Wheeling Park, 4-0

By RYAN GEORGE  
Staff Writer

The Linsly Cadets made no mistake about it.

They knew they deserved the OVAC Soccer Cup, and Monday night, they clearly proved it.

Monday night is when the Cadets (16-2-1) clicked on all cylinders and mastered their game by beating Wheeling Park 4-0 to win the Cup championship game at Wheeling Island Stadium.

It was Linsly's third straight Cup.

"I don't know if anybody could have beaten them today," said Wheeling Park head coach Mario Julian.

For Linsly head coach Dave Coutts, the honor of winning the championship is a testament to his team's hard work.

"These guys really work at it year-round," he said. "That comes into play during the season and they do what it takes to win."

"What makes this year special is, like last year, we won both the regular season and the tournament. I think this is a big accomplishment and a part of the quality of the program."

The win is the Cadets' 36th straight against OVAC opponents.

Unlike past contests this season, Linsly took control from the start and dominated to end. Meanwhile, the Patriots started the game hesitant, which allowed for the first goal of the contest.

A poorly played ball in front of

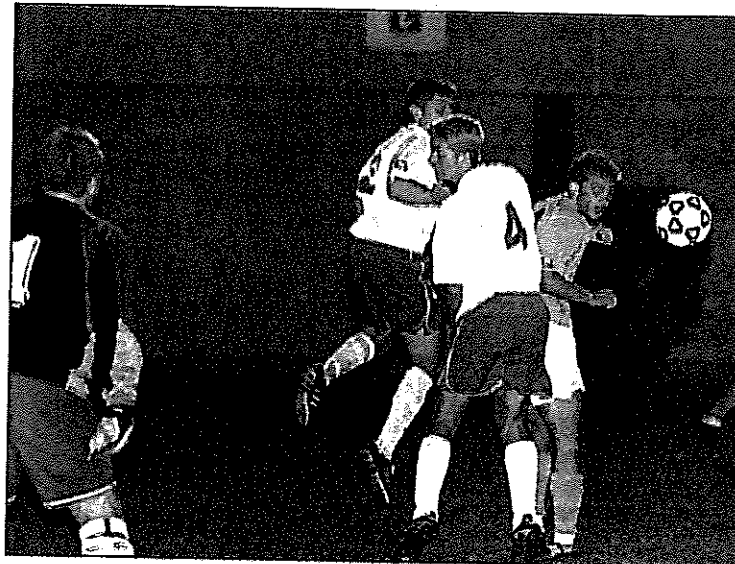


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Joe Burkland (4) and Matt McLeskey surround Linsly's Jake Mozney (8) in the OVAC Cup Finals Monday at Wheeling Island Stadium. Park keeper Kyle Ackermann is at left.

the Wheeling Park goal resulted in Linsly's first score, with no one in particular getting credit.

A short time later, Linsly forced the Patriots to make another costly error that gave it the confidence to dominate the rest of the way.

Park keeper Kyle Ackermann came out of the net to play a ball but couldn't handle it.

The result was an empty net that stared at Joe Blalock, whose kick lifted the Cadets a 2-0 lead at halftime.

"The two (goals) in the first quarter were big. It made us relaxed and that was really what we needed," said Coutts, who was pleased his team managed four goals after scoring only four total in the last two tournament games.

Jake Mozney fired a shot past Ackermann in the third, as the Cadets continued to pressure defensively, and display excellent passing that forced the Patriots to

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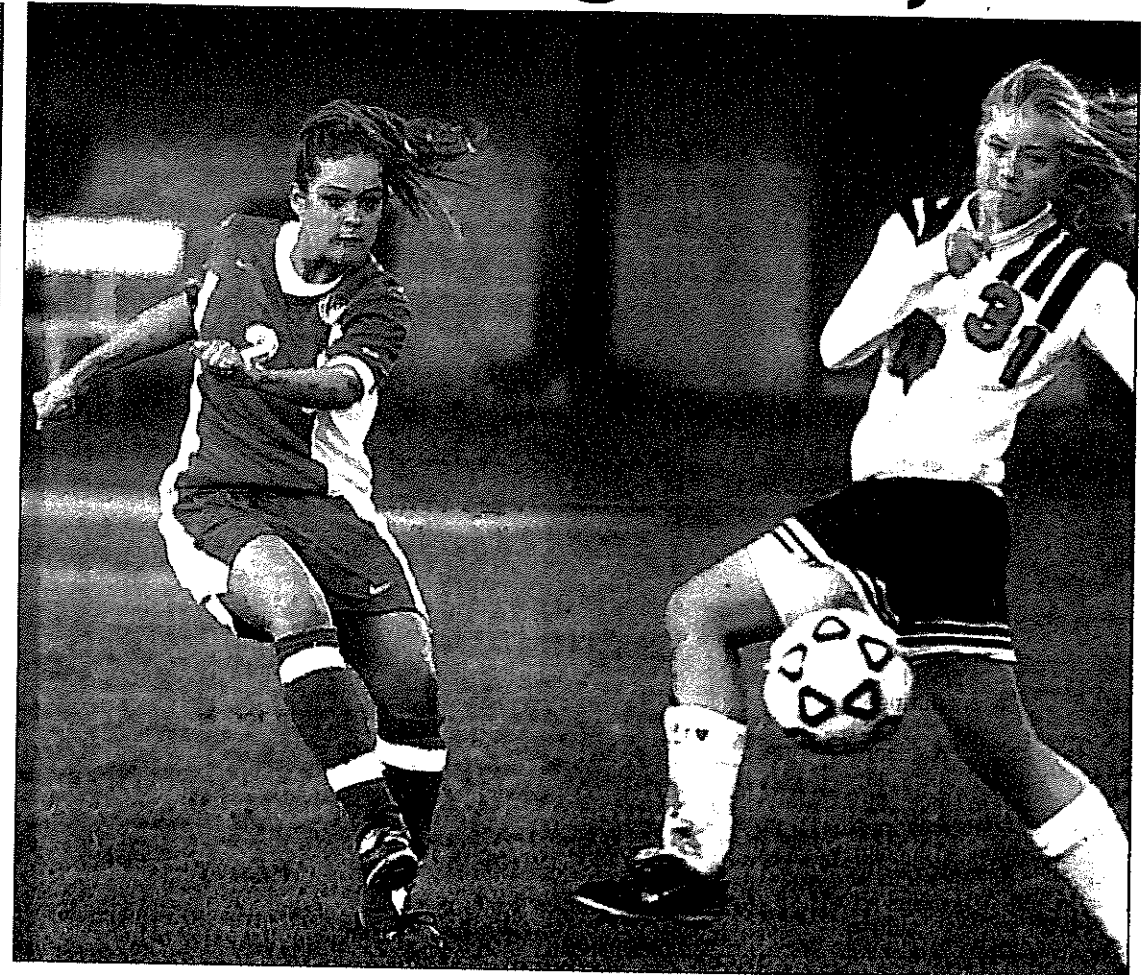


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Julie Gompers, on her way to a goal during action of their OVAC Cup Finals matchup at Wheeling Island Stadium on Monday. The Patriot girls scored a 2-0 victory to earn their sixth straight OVAC Cup title.

# Linsly

(Continued from Page 17)

Stephen Reihner's goal came late in the fourth following a Brandon Regan punt. Reihner took the punt, turned and fired the shot past Ackermann.

For Linsly, the win was especially special for Regan, Mozney, Bo Zyznewsky, and Austin Byers. Each contributed to all three of Linsly's Cup titles.

While the Linsly celebration was heard on the field following the contest, the Patriots' mood couldn't have been more somber, having lost to the Cadets in all three meetings this season.

"This is one of those humbling experiences for our players. We thought we could have squeaked out a victory against them," said Julian.

"This game meant a lot to our players. They wanted to add an OVAC Cup to their resume."

## Girls

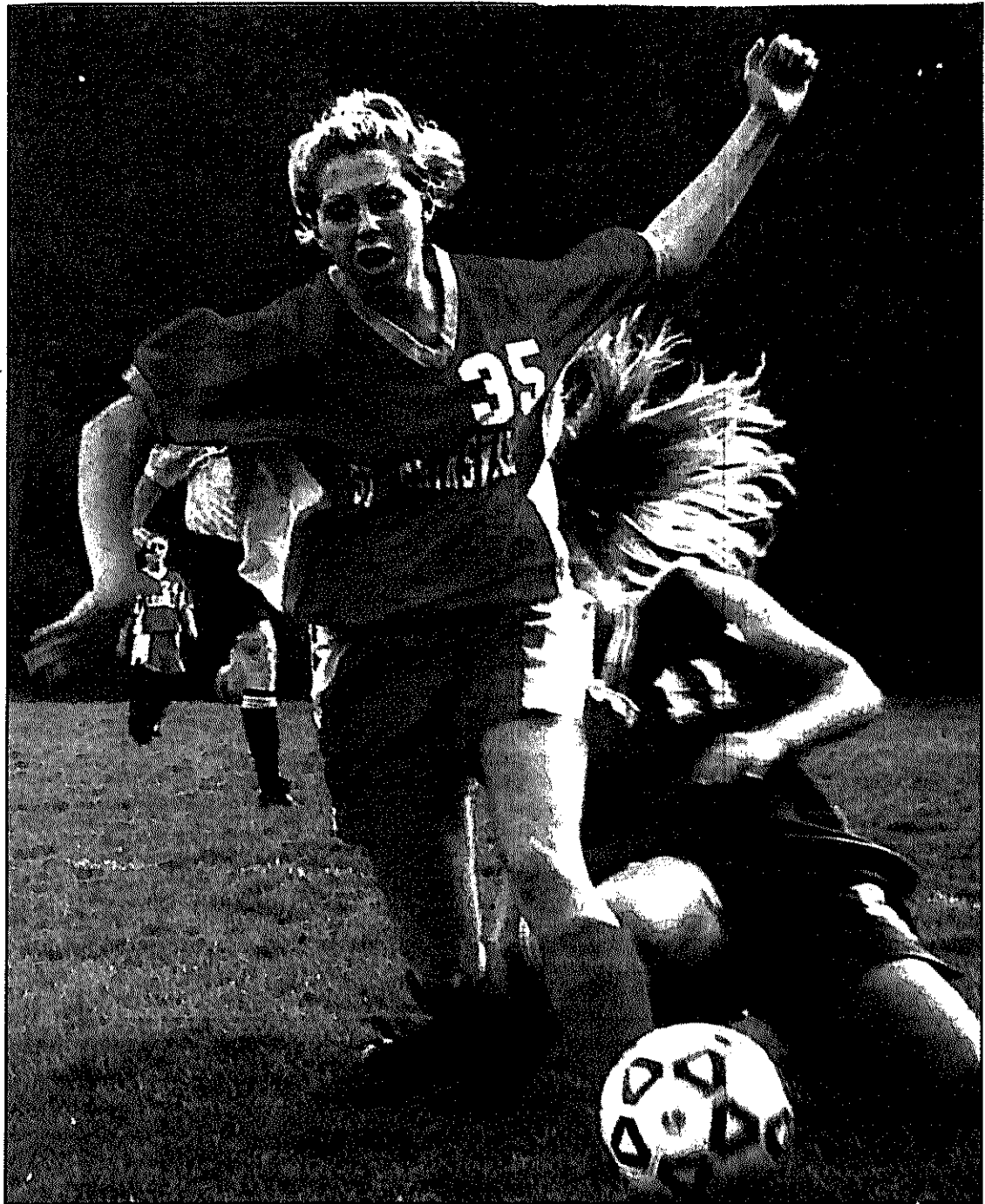
### Wheeling Park 2, Weir 0

The Wheeling Park Lady Patriots held up their sixth straight OVAC Cup Monday night with a 2-0 win over the Weir Red Riders in the OVAC girls championship contest at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The Patriots (15-4) received goals from senior Julie Gompers and Maggie Gompers in the second half to get past a competitive Weir team. The Red Riders kept it close right until the closing whistle.

"We got the job done. This is a great group of kids and we got great work from our defense," said Wheeling Park head coach Russ Hutchins with all smiles following the game.

"The game today was very intense and Weir played very well."



T-L Photo/ALEX MARSHALL

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Sarah Maurizi (35) gets tangled up with an East Liverpool player while moving the ball up up the field during the OVAC Soccer Tournament held at Brooke High School Tuesday afternoon. The Red Devils posted a 2-1 victory. See story B3.



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Lauren Hutchins looks to fend off John Marshall's Heather McKinney during action of their OVAC Cup game Monday afternoon at Brooke High School in Wellsburg. Hutchins and the Patriots held the usually high-scoring Monarchs scoreless to move on in the tournament.



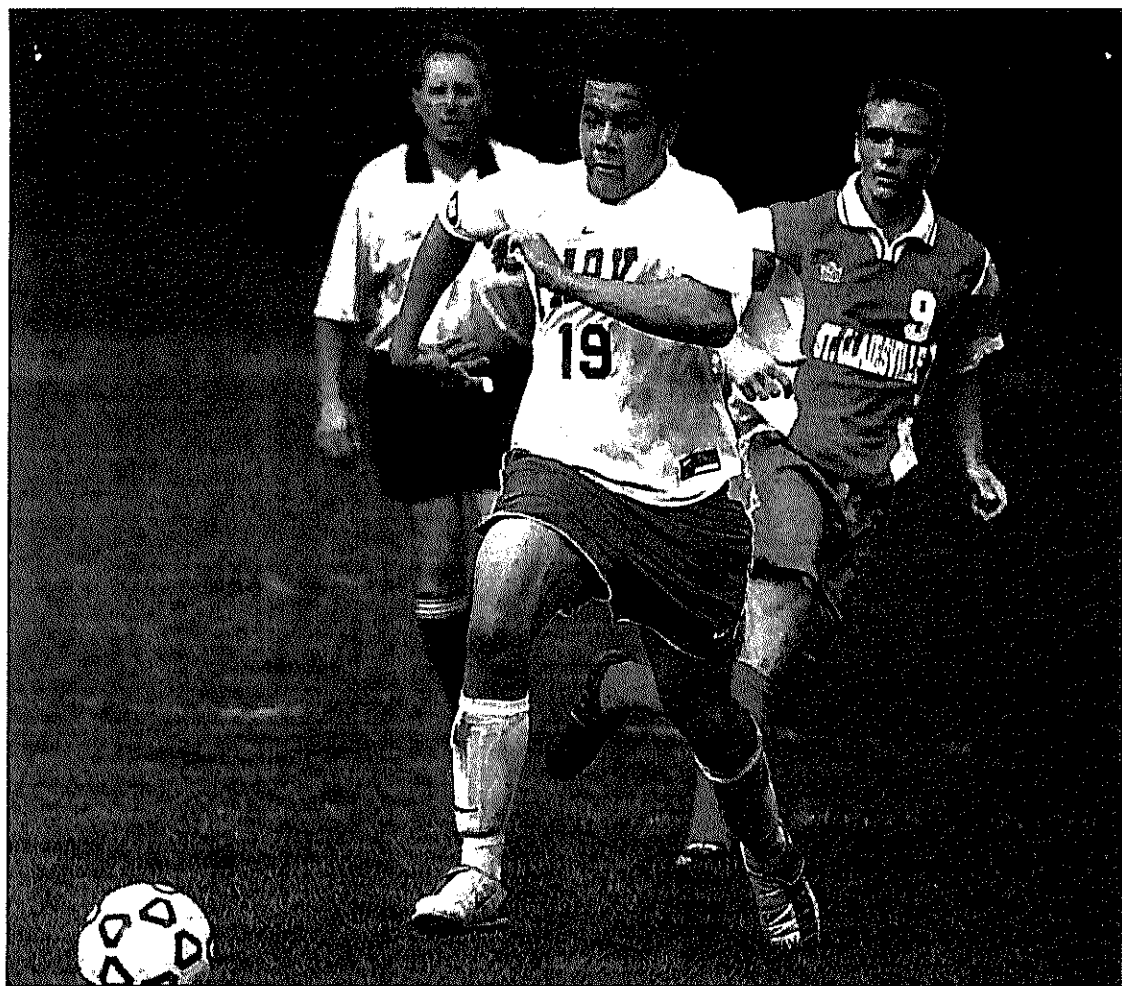


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park senior Nathan DiLorenzo sprints after the ball as St. Clairsville's Dale Ferrell gives chase, during their OVAC Cup soccer match at Brooke High School in Wellsburg Wednesday. Referee Mike Voellinger trails the play.

## MEETING RESISTANCE

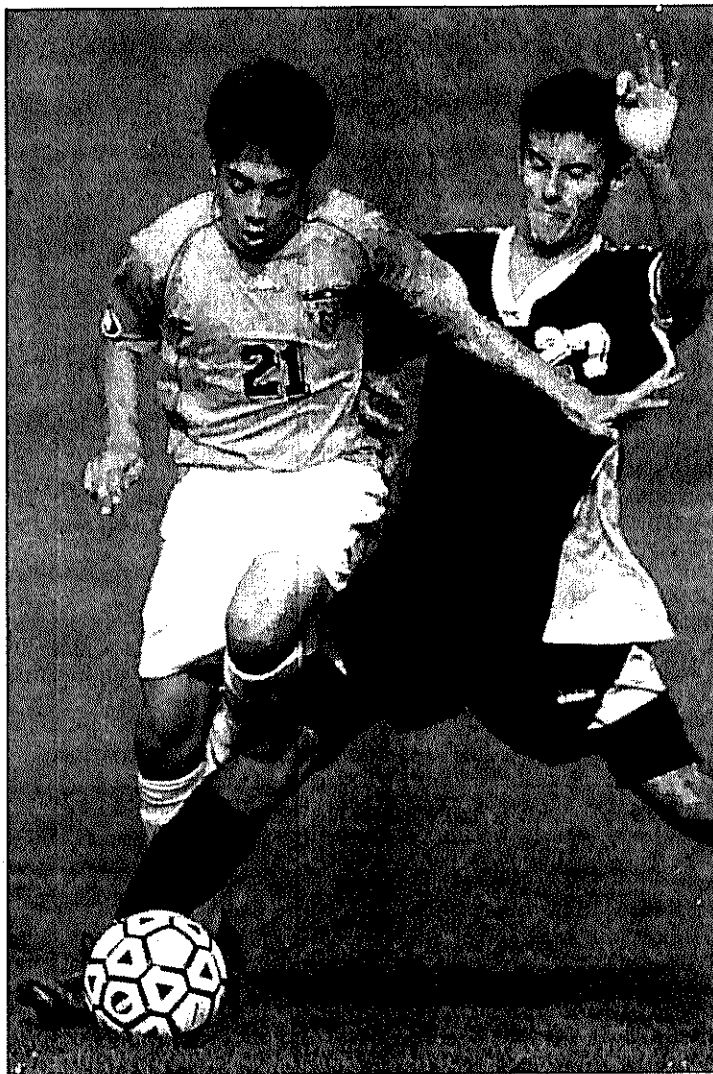


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Linsly's Issam Sawtarie (21) tries to get around Edison's Chris Bomley (27) during action of their OVAC Cup matchup at Brooke High School in Wellsburg on Wednesday.

## Brooke Down, But Not Out

Despite win, game limit forces Beaver Local out of OVAC Cup tourney

By JIM ELLIOTT  
Staff Writer

Moments after the 11th-ranked Beaver Local boys upset third-seeded Brooke 2-0 in quarterfinal action of the OVAC Cup Wednesday at Brooke High School, the Beaver Local boys simply became upset.

The celebration for the Beavers hadn't yet reached a fevered pitch when their head coach Jason Congo was forced to deliver the bad news: Despite winning, Beaver Local wouldn't advance to Saturday's 11 a.m. semifinal game against

Wheeling Park, an 8-0 winner over St. Clairsville, also on Wednesday.

Ohio rules don't allow teams to play more than 16 regular-season games. Wednesday's contest was the Calcutta-based school's 16th game.

While the Beaver players went from fist pumping to fist pounding, it was Congo, who'd "known about this for some time" that took it the hardest.

"It's something we thought we'd get in the predicament of," he admitted. "I wanted to cancel some games at the beginning of

the year because we were overloaded. I was told that we didn't need to and the schedule was made with the intentions of our team not being very successful this year."

As it were, a goal 16 and a half minutes into the game by Jarrod Satmare combined with an empty netter by Shawn Dunn with just :39 remaining, was enough for Beaver Local to, if nothing else, prove how far its come.

And that it belongs.

Please See BRUINS, Page 22

## St. C. girls boot EL

St. Clairsville outlasted East Liverpool in a second round girls' OVAC Soccer Tournament match Tuesday at Brooke, the Lady Red Devils prevailing by a 2-1 count.

Senior striker Kara Wenger connected for both St. C. scores and goaltender Patrice Osovich made 21 saves.

St. Clairsville advances to semifinal play Saturday morning (11:00) when the Devils will battle host Brooke at Wellsburg.

Wenger broke a scoreless match at 5:48 of the second period with teammate Sarah Hahn assisting.

Hahn's second goal came at 6:20 of period three. Charity Scott recorded an assist.

East Liverpool pulled within a goal in the third period when Nicole Fieast connected. But St. C. held on for the victory.

## Bruins

(Continued from Page 19)

Satmare scored after a direct kick by Jimmy Groff caromed off the far post onto his waiting toes, where he buried it at point-blank range past Bruin keeper Jacob Joseph.

Dunn broke free in the final minute as Brooke had Joseph — and everyone else — at mid-field and beyond, hoping for one final push to tie the game.

Save for the goalkeeper, Brooke played most of the game that way — in Beaver Local territory.

"Brooke definitely pressured us in our half of the field," Congo said. "They're an incredible team. They have incredible ball control. I think they were more aggressive to

the ball than we were. They just had trouble finishing."

That was one area in which Beaver Local didn't struggle, as it turned the few scoring opportunities it had into points.

"That's the will to win," Brooke head coach Eric Fries said of the Beavers. "The will to win overtakes anything else sometimes. And they wanted it more than us today, that's for sure. I could tell."

Perhaps that's why the Bruins were never able to punch it in, despite getting several good opportunities in each quarter.

In the first eight minutes alone, they had two headers — one of the cranium of Colin Rojak, and the other off Joey

Palcic's — that just barely squirted over the top of the goal.

"They outplayed us, they won the game, fair and square," Fries said. "They deserved it more than we did today. We had a lot of opportunities that we just didn't capitalize on, which has been our nemesis all season."

Even so, Brooke moves on. "I guess somebody's looking after us," Fries said. "Unfortunately, we have to move on that way. That's not the way to do it. We've got to ride on that second chance a little bit more now and prove that we should have been there instead of proving that we shouldn't have been there."

Beaver Local goalkeeper Tim Arnold recorded the shutout.