

Beallsville wins OVAC volleyball title

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

Beallsville, Beaver Local, Wellsville and Shenandoah reign as OVAC champions after taking home titles in their respective classes in the annual OVAC Volleyball Championships at Union Local High School in Morristown Saturday.

During the day-long affair, Beallsville captured the Class 1-A title, Beaver Local was crowned the Class 4-A winner, Wellsville regained the Class 2-A title and Shenandoah stunned previously-unbeaten Martins Ferry to take the Class 3-A crown.

IN THE CLASS 3-A TITLE game, Coach Colleen Kasper's Lady Zeps upset the previously-unbeaten and top-seeded Lady Riders in straight sets, 15-12, 15-9, to regain the OVAC title the school held two years ago.

With the win in the title game, Shenandoah boosted its season mark to 20-1 with its only loss coming to the hands of Meadowbrook. Kristen Bond led the winners with 12 points while Samantha Cater added eight. Megan Henry finished with 15 kills and two blocks while Kenzi Waite added 16 assists and Shannon Leasure had two blocks.

Martins Ferry, losing for the first time after reeling off 21 straight wins, was paced by Amie Reithmiller with four spikes, five kills and seven blocks while Lindsay Coyne added four points, three aces, five spikes and six kills. Natalie Regal had 10 spikes and three kills, Shae Marchbank had six points with three aces and Stephanie Suriano had 11 assists.

"It's really fun when you win," Kasper said after the big win. "This was a goal early on in the season

and I think the seniors stepped up as much as they could for seniors."

"We had to play a hard game with Tyler Consolidated, but I felt good because they challenged us in the end and we just realized we weren't going to win just standing around," she added. "We knew they would be strong, but we adjusted in the second game and we got balls that we didn't in the first game. We knew they weren't going to give up."

"We served very well in that second game and that was very important," Kasper said. "And we got that momentum and that's so important in volleyball."

Martins Ferry advanced into the finals with a quick 15-6, 15-2 win over Bellaire in the semi-

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nals while Shenandoah earned a berth in the finals with a hard-earned 15-4, 16-14 win over Tyler Consolidated in the other semi.

Bellaire closed out play at 16-5 with the loss as Michelle Brinker, Ashley Vavrek and Kristina Chipped in two points, Shawna Hines had two kills and Kayla Stephens had three assists. Martins Ferry was led by Riethmiller with three spikes, four kills and three blocks, Coyne with seven spikes and five kills and Marchbank with 10 points, one ace, three spikes and three kills. Suriano had nine assists.

Tyler, ending the tourney with a 29-7 overall record, was paced by Anna Meckley with 18 spikes and 13 kills while Brittany Haggerty had 10 spikes and four kills. Ashley Ferguson added four spikes, three kills and nine points. Lauren Wilt had 17 assists. Shenandoah was led by Leasure with 10 points, one ace, seven spikes, seven kills and eight digs while Henry had 13 spikes and Cater added six points, two aces and six blocks. Waite added 23 assists.

IN THE CLASS 1-A FINALS, Beallsville capture the school's first OVAC volleyball crown with a 15-4, 15-3 win over defending champion Cameron.

With the two wins on Saturday, Lady Blue Devil first-year coach Pat Marcum saw her club boost its overall record to 17-5 on the season. The Lady Devils came into the tourney after finishing the regular season at 15-5.

In the championship match, junior standout Charity Street led the winners with 11 points, one ace, 14 spikes and seven kills. Sarah Stalder closed with seven points and five assists while Sasha Burkhart added 16 spikes, six kills and one block.

Beallsville advanced to the finals with a 15-9, 15-8 win over St. John Central while Cameron advanced with an 11-15, 15-13, 15-7 win over Bridgeport.

In the Lady Devils semi-final win, Burkhart led the way with five kills and nine spikes while Chelsea Neiswanger had nine kills, 15 spikes and one block. Street closed with nine points and one ace while Caldwell had eight points, one ace and seven assists. Carrie Stalder finished with three kills, 11 spikes and two assists while Sarah Stalder had eight assists.

St. John Central, falling to 9-12, was led by Jessica Vavra with five points, four aces, three spikes and one kill while Kate Seivertson had four spikes, one kill and three tips. Kayla Amato had four assists, three points with an ace and one kill.

IN CLASS 4-A, Beaver Local also knocked off a defending champion in notching its first-ever OVAC volleyball title by topping Edison, 15-6, 15-12.

With the two wins on

Saturday, coach Robert Theiss' Lady Beavers boosted their season mark to a sparkling 19-2. Beaver was led in serving by Sarah McCoy with 13 points and three aces while Cheklsie Green had six points.

Lynn Meyer's Lady Wildcats fell short despite getting seven points, two aces, five spikes, two kills and two blocks from Molly Schaefer. Shana Keenan had 12 spikes, four kills and one block while Tasha Modranski had 16 spikes and six kills. Leah Snyder closed with 29 sets and 11 assists and Jenny Kovaleski had 20 sets with five assists.

Beaver advanced to the finals with a 15-12, 15-13 win over Brooke.

Edison topped East Liverpool, 8-15, 15-11, 15-12 in the semi-finals to advance as Jenny Kovaleski led the winners with 13 points, three aces, 27 sets and 15 assists.

IN THE CLASS 2-A FINALS, Wellsville regained the OVAC crown that the Lady Tigers relinquished a year ago with an impressive 15-6, 15-2 win over first-time OVAC qualifier Caldwell.

Coach Dan McKinstry's Lady Tigers handed the conference's winningest coach the 19th win of the season against just two losses after falling behind the Lady Redskins, 6-0, in the first gamethen reeling off 15 straight points.

In the title match Katie Stanley led the winners with 13 points, three aces and two kills while Dena Barber added 11 kills, Ashley Person had two kills and three blocks and Ashley Lombardozzi had seven points and two aces. Emily Olmstead had 16 assists.

"The kids played well," McKinstry said after the win. "We got off to slow start, but we talked before the game about last year. Last year, we wanted to win and we couldn't. We were undefeated at the time and we felt the pressure."

"We didn't start out well, but I didn't take a time out because I thought we could work our way out of it and we did," the Lady Tiger coach added. "In the second match, I think they were nervous. We played well and very consistent and I think our best volleyball is ahead of us."

Wellsville advanced into the finals with a 15-7, 15-10 win over Monroe Central while Caldwell moved into the finals with an impressive 5-15, 15-9, 15-0 win over Buckeye Trail.

Pierson led Wellsville with seven points, three kills and three blocks in the semis while Katie Stanley added seven points and three kills and Berber had six kills.

Kari Young led Monroe Central with 26 spikes and seven kills while Kara Hamilton had 10 spikes and four kills. Cody Baker had five points and three assists and Anna Blair had seven points.

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OVAC Volleyball Tourney unfolds Saturday at UL

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

After weeks of scratching and clawing their way toward the top of the heap, 16 teams have emerged as qualifiers for an OVAC volleyball championship.

Four teams in each of the four classes are set to lock horns in the annual OVAC Volleyball Championship Tournament at Union Local High in Morristown on Saturday with the day-long action getting underway at 9:30 a.m.

Gates open at 8 a.m. as the conference displays some of the best individual and team talent in the OVAC with teams looking to take home 2002 playoff titles.

Matches get under way at 9:30 A.M. with the Class 4-A semi-finals tipping off the tournament on two courts.

Top-seeded Beaver Local takes on fourth-seeded Brooke on the main court while second-seeded East Liverpool battles third-seeded Edison on court two. The two winners will square off on the main floor immediately following the semis for the 4-A crown.

At noon, 1-A competition starts with top-seeded Beallsville taking on fourth-seeded St. John Central on the main court and second-seeded Cameron facing third-seeded Bridgeport on court two. Again, the title match follows.

At 2:30 p.m., top-seeded Wellsville gets the 2-A semis started by facing fourth-seeded Monroe Central on the main court while second-seeded Caldwell go after third-seeded Buckeye Trail on court two in the other semi-final. The finals follow immediately.

At 5 p.m., the tourney winds down as the Class 3-A semis get underway with unbeaten and top-seeded Martins Ferry taking on fourth-seeded Bellaire on the main court and second-seeded Shenandoah taking on third-seed Tyler Consolidated on court two with the winners battling for the title on the main court.

Only Buckeye Trail and Edison are coming in as defending champions. Trail captured the 2-A title in the 2001 tourney while Edison was a surprise winner in Class 4-A.

Class 1-A champ Weirton Madonna and Class 3-A winner Indian Creek did not qualify for this year's playoffs. Indian Creek is a five-time reigning OVAC champion.

While regular season champions will be determined as the regular season concludes in the coming weeks, all four top-seeded teams enter the tourney currently leading their respective classes.

This year's tourney features a mixture of veteran, long-term coaches and some rookie coaches that have advanced their teams to the tourney in their first years.

East Liverpool's Bob Shansky is in the midst of his 27th season and opened the 2002 campaign with a 310-237 career coaching record.

Buckeye Trail's Jeff Beros has been the most-successful coach in the conference during his 12 years at the Lady Warrior helm as he entered this season with a remarkable 237-46 career slate.

Cameron's Sam Bayza is also in his 12th season as the Lady Dragons' head coach and came into the season with a 194-115 career mark.

Entering the season as the OVAC's winningest volleyball coach is Wellsville's Dan McKinstry who has amassed a remarkable 414-150 mark coming into his 25th season. His teams have posted a 40-4 mark over the past two seasons.

Guiding their teams to the playoffs in their first seasons are Brooke's Mark Schwertfeger, Caldwell's Cindy Frederickson, Beallsville's Patricia Marcum and St. John Central's Jaela Thoburn.

Tom Suriano has built one of the most respected programs in the area in just four years at Martins Ferry and reached the pinnacle this year as his team put together the school's first perfect record 20-0 regular season.

Other coaches are Beaver Local's Robert Theiss, in his third year, Edison's Lynn Meyer, in her eighth year, Shenandoah's Colleen Kasper, in her second year, Tyler Consolidated's Richard Summers, in his second year, Bellaire's Monte Miller, in his second year, Monroe Central's Troy Baker, in his second year and Bridgeport's Bob Krajnyak, in his ninth year.



OVAC Volleyball Capsules

CLASS 4-A BEAVER LOCAL

Head Coach: Robert Theiss (3rd year)

2001 Record: 8-14

2002 Record: 15-1

Seniors: Chelsie Green, Kaitlyn Hart, Sarah McCoy, Lauren McGaffie.

Juniors: Paula Ferry, Tara Hambleton, Jenny Rudibaugh, Regina Salmare, Danielle Sims.

Sophomores: Hilary Carnes, Lacey Dabler, Kelsey Mays, Ashley Noday, Jayma Wilson.

Freshmen: Courtney Diddle, Katie Farmer, Courtney Hayes, Emily Hickman, Lauren Linville, Sierra Williams.

EAST LIVERPOOL

Head Coach: Bob Shansky (27th year)

2001 Record: 15-8

2002 Record: 13-6

Seniors: Stephanie Arthur, Britney Jordan, Rachel Thayer, Stacey Bahen, Stephanie Defelice, Valerie Hafner.

Juniors: Krystal Adkins, Jenny Dawson, Morgan Hoffman, Molly Klink, Megan White, Doris Adams, Erin Shaw.

Sophomores: Jenna Yanni, Brianna Bishop, Kadie Davis, Trisha Mackey, Jassica May, Brittany Robinson, Jessica Yeager.

Freshmen: Kayla Barborek, Laura Boley, Sara Geisse, Allison Hall, Samantha Klink, Melissa Talbott, Lisa Utt, Morgan Walker.

EDISON

Head Coach: Lynn Meyer (8th year)

2001 Record: 10-11

2002 Record: 11-5

Seniors: Shana Keenan, Molly Schaefer.

Juniors: Mandy Antigo, Jolie Davis, Missy Evans, Jenny Kovalesky, Leah Snyder, Stacie Still, Ashley Weber.

Sophomores: Annie Kovalesky, Tasha Modranski, Courtney Pederson, Kylie Snyder.

Freshmen: Jessica Wedlake.

BROOKE

Head Coach: Mark Schwertfeger (1st year)

2001 Record: 15-15

2002 Record: 8-5

Seniors: Jenna Frankelfeld, Michelle DiGiacinto, Lindsay Dalesio, Lindsay Utz, Jessica Edwards, Casey Martin, Ashley Corcoran, Megan Gaumer.

Juniors: Carrie Schwertfeger, Courtney Weaver, Katie Bowman.

CLASS 3-A MARTINS FERRY

Head Coach: Tom Suriano (4th year)

2001 Record: 17-3

2002 Record: 20-0

Seniors: Lindsay Coyne, Stephanie Suriano, Natalie Regel, Bianca Piergallini, Jenny Secrist, Hillary Smith, Jennifer Rice.

Juniors: Holly Apostolec, Shae Marchbank, Lychal Jozwiak, Leah Newland.

Sophomores: Angie Cerasoli, Kaycie Strauss, Libby Hodor, Jayme Kalinski, Kelsey Carpenter, Danielle Schemp, Megan Simpson, Megan Ware, Neely Whetsell, Megan Anzac, Emily Carlier.

Freshmen: Amie Reithmiller, Ashley Suto, Jenna Winland, Darcey Rusiecki, Ashley Boyd, Sara Fedak, Jaleesa Lee, Rachelle Takach.

SHENANDOAH

Head Coach: Colleen Kasper (2nd year)

2001 Record: 11-10

2002 Record: 17-1

Seniors: Megan Henry, Kristen Bond.

Juniors: Shannon Leasure, Ashley Leasure, Joselyn Buckley, Kenzie Waite, Samantha Cater, Amy Schroeder, Kaci Wells, Amanda Van Syoc.

Sophomores: Melissa Larrick, Jenna Bond, Sierra Sholtis.

Freshmen: Jena Miley, Lacey Lucas, Brooke Finley, Sarah Hupp, Victoria Brown, Sheena Groves.

TYLER CONSOLIDATED

Head Coach: Richard Summers (2nd year)

2001 Record: 23-18

2002 Record: 18-2

Seniors: Ashley Ferguson, Brittany

Hagerty, Anna Meckley, Emily Pelikan, Lauren Witt.

Juniors: Jayme Heintzman, Mariah Smith, Shannon Summers.

Sophomores: Brenna Hagerty, Kristina Moore, Lyncee Perkey.

Freshmen: Amber Billings, Danielle Reed, Haillie Stender, Shauna Kuehne, Nicole Yoho, Brooke Fletcher, Jody White, Brianna Weekley, Ashley Carson, Susie Prunty.

BELLAIRE

Head Coach: Monte Miller (2nd year)

2001 Record: 14-5

2002 Record: 13-4

Seniors: Krisina Taylor, Alyson Stephens, Kayla Stephens, Britni Marinelli.

Juniors: Juliann Miller, Shannon Adler

Sophomores: Sarah Marinelli, Britanie Kinder, Shawn Hines, Sunny Stefanik, Nikki Driscoll, Danielle Palmer, Kelsey Scarnecchia.

Freshmen: Michael Brinker, Ashley Vavrek, Lacey Baker, Chelsea Bostancic, Emily Taylor, Sarah Deibert, Mandy Wiggins, Danyell Blazek.

CLASS 2-A WELLSVILLE

Head Coach: Dan McKinstry (25th year)

2001 Record: 23-2

2002 Record: 17-2

Seniors: Debra Barber, Angela Dallas,

Juniors: Meody Allison, Shelly Kerr, Ashley Lombardozzi, Emily Olmstead, Ashley Pierson, Katie Stanly.

Sophomores: Ashley Allison, Maria Deem, Karolyn Drysdale, Tara Morgan.

Freshmen: Lunset Olmstead, Natalie Matross, Lynsey Householder, Erin Mick, Shannon Lyle, Richelle Miller.

CALDWELL

Head Coach: Cindy Frederickson (1st year)

2002 Record: 8-9

2002 Record: 13-4

Seniors: Kelly Pangle, Michelle Starr.

Juniors: Kelsey Boyd, Jessica Carrel, Nikki Hesson, Krista Ramsay, Amanda Mettler.

Sophomores: Sasha Frederickson, Danielle Gaydos, Cassie Linger.

Freshmen: Misy McNabb, Tichnia Parrish, Sam Serverck, Jessica Cobb, Danielle Swope, Laura Braden, Lisa Braden, Janelle Gill, Lacey Nau.

BUCKEYE TRAIL

Head Coach: Jeff Beros (12th year)

2001 Record: 18-5

2002 Record: 10-7

Seniors: Amanda Bradshaw, Katie Bradshaw.

Juniors: Katie Canel, Tabby Stillion.

Sophomores: Molly Grimes, Brittini Borrero, Courtney Dinges, Kimi Powell.

Freshmen: Cara Britten, Jessie Phillips.

MONROE CENTRAL

Head Coach: Troy Baker (2nd year)

2002 Record: 12-7

2002 Record: 13-6

Seniors: Cody Baker.

Juniors: Kari Young, Anna Blair, Dana Potts, Ashley Kuhn, Katie Schumacher, Chrissy Schumacher, Stephanie Proctor, Renee Shreve, Adrienne Thomas.

Sophomores: Lauren Craig, Kara Hamilton

CLASS 1-A BEALLSVILLE

Head Coach: Patricia Marcum (1st year)

2001 Record: 5-16

2002 Record: 15-5

Seniors: Sasha Burkhart, Jessica Ankrom, Alicia Marcum, Chelsea Neiswanger, Rhea Caldwell, Sarah Stalder, Alona Kahrig.

Juniors: Alicia Goodard, Carrie Stalder, Courtney Lallathin, Amander Decker, Charity Street.

Sophomores: Bethany Caldwell, Joella Urbanek, Ciera Burkhart, Tiffany Burrow, Maria Albus, Jamie Ankrom, Sylvia Schneider.

Freshmen: Julie Boyce, Erin Doughty, Carrie Tyo, Kayla Brown, Jennifer Reisz, Keri Bauer, Stacey Baker.

CAMERON

Head Coach: Sam Bayza (12th year)

2001 Record: 25-3

2002 Record: 10-4

Seniors: Annie McCulley, Keely Martin, Ashley Porter.

Juniors: Chelsie Reid, Christina Riggle, Amanda Allison, Megan Yoho, Jessica Morris.

Sophomores: Kayla Frye, Jackie Smith, Schana Nulph, Sara Lyons, Jonnelle Campbell.

Freshmen: Jade Rustile, Alexa Behrens, Lisa Siburt, Heather Timmons, Ashley Wells, Rachel Cunningham.

BRIDGEPORT

Head Coach: Bob Krajnyak (9th year)

2001 Record: 7-12

2002 Record: 10-8

Seniors: Courtney Tomolonis, Dawn Zoladz.

Juniors: Brittany Grover, Erin Harding, Alicyn Murad, Kassie Supanik, Ashley Wilson.

Sophomores: Brandy Burgy, Megan Canter, Kay Elliott, Krista Gessler, Dana Mroczkowski, Sarah Zimmerman.

Freshmen: Elizabeth Bachie, Kiley Baker, Bridgett Beaty, Heather Blamey, Alexis Dober, Monica Dunn, Marissa Gerelics, Lauren Heller, Brianne Janiszewski, Nicole Lennex, Ashley Myers, Andrea Sindeldecker, Jaclynn Smolenak, Marissa Teasdale, Kristen Wamsley.

ST. JOHN CENTRAL

Head Coach: Jaela Thoburn (1st year)

2001 Record: 17-8

2002 Record: 9-10

Seniors: Alyson Poland, Brianne Tomolonis, Tierney Bumgardner, Angela Soos, Leigh Anna Hanlin, Samantha Mayer.

Juniors: Courtney Ogilbee, Laurienne Chesnik.

Sophomores: Jessica Vavra, Katie LeMasters, Katie Seivertson, Kala Amato, Amanda Timko.

PAST OVAC VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS

2001 CHAMPIONS:

Class 1-A Weirton Madonna

Class 2-A Buckeye Trail

Class 3-A Indian Creek

Class 4-A Edison

2000 CHAMPIONS:

Class 1-A Cameron

Class 2-A Wellsville

Class 3-A Indian Creek

Class 4-A Cambridge

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

1996 CHAMPIONS:

Class 1-A Conotton Valley

Class 2-A Buckeye Trail

Class 3-A Oak Glen

Class 4-A Edison

2002 PLAYOFF SCHEDULE:

9:30 a.m. - Class 4-A (1) Beaver Local vs. (4) Brooke on court #1; (2) East Liverpool vs. (3) Edison on court #2. Finals to follow immediately on court #1.

12 noon - Class 1-A (1) Beallsville vs. (4) St. John Central on court #1; (2) Cameron vs. (3) Bridgeport on court #2. Finals to follow immediately on court #1.

2:30 p.m. - Class 2-A (1) Wellsville vs. (4) Monroe Central on court #1; (2) Caldwell vs. (3) Buckeye Trail on court #2. Finals to follow immediately on court #1.

5 p.m. - Class 3-A (1) Martins Ferry vs. (4) Bellaire on court #1; (2) Shenandoah vs. (3) Tyler Consolidated on court #2. Finals to follow immediately on court #1.

OVAC VOLLEYBALL

Shenandoah Stuns Lady Purple Riders

Four new Ohio Valley Athletic Conference volleyball champions were crowned Saturday at the OVAC Volleyball Championships at Union Local High School in Morristown.

While three of the top-seeded teams went on to win their respective divisions, there was one shocker.

In the final match of the day, No. 2-seeded Shenandoah stunned previously-unbeaten Martins Ferry, 15-12 15-9, in the Class AAA title match.

The Purple Riders had brought a 20-0 record into the tournament.

Shenandoah — which also claimed OVAC crowns in 1997 and 1999 — reached the triple-A finals by knocking off Tyler Consolidated 15-4, 16-14 in the semifinal while Ferry made short work of Bellaire, 15-6 15-2, in the other semi.

Wellsville rolled to the Class AA championship with a dominating straight-set win over Caldwell, 15-6, 15-2.

The Tigers had disposed of Monroe Central in the semis while Caldwell needed three sets to get past a stubborn Buckeye Trail squad.

Beallsville claimed the single-A crown with a 15-4 15-3 rout of Cameron in the small-school finals.

The Blue Devils knocked off Bellaire St. John 15-9, 15-8 in the semifinal round, while the Dragons rallied past Bridgeport 11-15, 15-3, 15-7.

Beaver Local earned the OVAC Class AAAAA championship with a two set win over Edison, after they handled



Brooke 15-12, 15-13 in the semifinals.

Edison had slipped past East Liverpool 15-11, 15-12 after falling in the first set to the Pot- ters 8-15.

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- OVAC Volleyball Championships
(at Union Local)
- Class AAAAA
Championship
- Beaver Local d. Edison 15-8, 15-12
- Semifinals
- Beaver Local d. Brooke 15-12, 15-13
- Edison d. E.Liverpool 8-15, 15-11, 15-12
- Class AAA
Championship
- Shenandoah d. Marti. Ferry 15-12, 15-9
- Semifinals
- Martins Ferry d. Bellaire 15-6, 15-2
- Shenandoah d. Tyler Cons. 15-4, 15-14
- Class AA
Championship
- Wellsville d. Caldwell 15-6, 15-2
- Semifinals
- Wellsville d. Monroe Central 15-7, 15-12
- Caldwell d. Buck. Trail 5-15, 15-9, 15-0
- Class A
Championship
- Beallsville d. Cameron 15-4, 15-3
- Semifinals
- Beallsville d. Bell. St. John 15-9, 15-8
- Cameron d. Bridgeport 11-15, 15-3, 15-7