

Frontier wins 1-A OVAC title

BY RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

It's been a long wait for Frontier High, but the Cougars have finally claimed an OVAC Class 1-A volleyball title.

Holding off a feisty Beallsville squad, Frontier garnered the OVAC Class 1-A championship with a 15-6, 15-8 sweep of Beallsville in the conference playoffs at Union Local High School in Morristown Saturday morning.

Playing before a large crowd on the Jets' gym, coach Pat Galbreath's Lady Cougars grabbed their first volleyball title since the late 80s by scoring two decisions on Saturday.

With the two wins, the Lady Cougars improved their season mark to 14-5.

Beallsville, coming in as the third-seed, finished the tourney at 14-8.

In the two semi-final matches, Frontier registered a 15-7, 15-3 straight set win over fourth-seeded Cameron while Beallsville was disposing of second-seeded Bridgeport in three sets, 7-15, 15-6, 15-11.

"This is the first time we've been here since around '88," Galbreath said after the win. "This is goal No. 1, now for goal No. 2 (sectional tournament)."

"We came off a couple highs," she added. "We played Monday night against Shenandoah and Tuesday night against Monroe Central and we just about pulled her off. So we came in on a high."

"One of the first goal we set was to win the OVAC tourney, so we've got one down," the Lady Cougar coach added. "The girls get a lot of experience from the schedule that we do play. We play the different size (schools).

Our girls come in with no background. They don't start playing the ninth grade."

In the championship final, Frontier was forced to battle a good Beallsville squad for points, but managed to take advantage of the opportunities the Lady Devils provided.

Lauren Rinard paced the Lady Cougars with five points, two aces, 15 spikes, six kills and three blocks while Jill Bowersock added 12 points and four aces. Tiffany Pringle added seven points and three aces, Ashley Dishong came through with four points, six spikes and two kills, Jayle Walker had 10 spikes and two kills and Tori Taylor finished with an ace, four spikes and two kills.

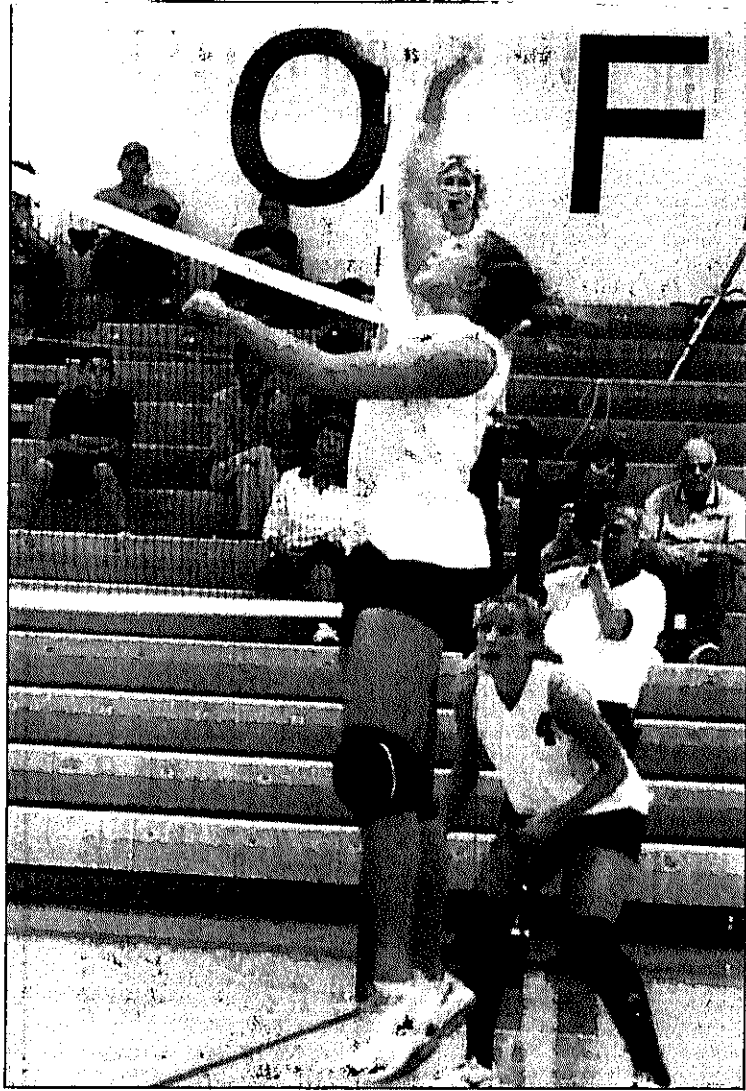
Beallsville was paced by Charity Street with four points, one ace, five spikes, five kills, while Amanda Decker had three spikes, one kill and one block, Bethany Caldwell had four spikes, one kill, and one block and Carrie Stalder had two points and four assists.

In the semis, Street paced Beallsville with 18 kills, two blocks and one ace, Caldwell had six kills and three points, Lallathin added five points and Joella Urbanek finished with 14 points.

Bridgeport was paced by Brandy Burgy with eight points, three aces, 33 spikes, 11 kills and six blocks. Erin Harding had seven points, four spikes and 10 assists, Dana Mroczkowski had four points, 10 spikes, two kills and one block, Kayla Mokros had 10 spikes, four kills and one block and Brittany Grover closed with eight spikes, three kills and four blocks.

Bowersock led Frontier in the semis with 10 points, three aces and six spikes while Rinard added three points, 15 spikes and nine kills.

Jennifer King had eight points, five aces, five spikes and three kills and Pringle finished with 12 assists.



T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

GOING UP for a return during Saturday's action at the OVAC Volleyball tournament is Bellaire's Brittanie Kinder, while Shawna Hines looks on.

● Devils

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They played as a team this year," Kazmirski said after the win. "They fought hard for a long time playing together."

"We lost five seniors from last year's team and the three this year led the team," she added. "The teamwork is what got us here. Absolutely the teamwork and where their weaknesses were they made up for it in team spirit."

"Every girl on this team improved as the season went on," she continued. "And we really needed to beat Bellaire. They weren't going to beat us three times. But they are a good team. They are very strong and they don't give up."

In the semi-finals, St. C was paced by Gossett with nine points, four aces, five kills and eight blocks while Drake finished with four points and five kills, Piccolini had three points, two aces, four kills and three assists.

Synoweic had eight points and four blocks, McNamara had 10 assists and two points and Henry closed with four points and four kills.

In Bellaire's win over Harrison Central, Hines finished with 11 points and 21 assists, Stefanik added 10 points and six spikes, Vavrek had seven points, seven spikes and six kills, Bostancic added three points and 20 assists and Nikki Driscoll had seven points.

Steffi Phillips led Harrison with 10 points, 12 spikes, nine assists and three kills while Julia Hoskinson had four points, six spikes, five blocks and eight assists, Jenna Heaston had six points, 24 spikes and seven kills and Lindsay Grabits closed with five points, 11 spikes and three kills.

OVAC making great strides in volleyball



By
**RICK
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Sports Writer

Rally scoring, building programs and how much the game of volleyball has changed in the Ohio Valley have all been good topics of debate around the gyms in the area this season.

Looking for an opinion isn't hard to find, getting an opinion from someone who has been around the game for a while gets a little tougher.

In this football crazy Ohio Valley, Lynn Meyer is probably more well-known as the mother of former Edison Wildcats three-sport standout Caleb Meyer than she is as the Lady Wildcat volleyball coach who guided her squad to an OVAC Class 4-A crown in 2001.

Meyer is one of those coaches that has been around the volleyball court as a coach for some time. Just like so many of the veteran and highly-successful coaches in the valley, you tend to listen when they speak.

In a recent conversation, Meyer touched on the new rally scoring system, what it takes and just how long it takes to build a viable volleyball program at the high school level and just how much better the volleyball players are in the OVAC than they were a few years back.

"I think the games will be much longer. I think your taking the serve out of the game, especially the junior high kids," Meyer said about the new rally scoring system that will be implemented in Ohio next season and is being used in West Virginia this season.

Meyer doesn't believe that the West Virginia schools will have an unfair advantage next season by having a full season of rally scoring under their belt.

"I think the defensive person coming in without a substitution is a good thing," she added. "I'm just not real excited about the rally scoring."

"We spoke to a coach from Oak Glen that told us they started at 5 p.m. and when they got on the bus it was 11:15 p.m., but of course, they played a quad. That's a long time," she added.

Club volleyball teams are familiar with the system and according to Meyer, club volleyball is growing. In addition, the demands of coaches in all sports is growing as well.

"They play year round," she pointed out noting that players today are looked upon by coaches in all sports to give so much of themselves and their time in the off season that the student athlete is constantly on the go. "They (the coaches) want them to do that, but then again, you have to let them make their own decision."

While some rules changes are in line for next season, the one constant in Ohio Valley volleyball has been the steady improvement that the game and its players have made locally.

"When I started in 1980 and then got out of the game then came back in, there was a big difference, just the speed of the game and skill level," Meyer pointed out. "There are some schools that still don't have good programs, but for the most part, I think volleyball has gotten so much better."

"We have clinics that start in the fifth and sixth grades. They are definitely starting earlier," she said.

"We want to be able to compete with them," she said referring to the competition on the state level. "In Division II, we have to compete with the West Holmes and Marysville, who have had programs for 10 or 15 years. Here, we're four or five years."

Asked about starting a program and getting the ultimate in results, Meyer said that a school may be looking at four or five years to get the players through the program and see the results.

"Kids are stronger now because the schools have the weight programs now," Meyer said. "I think their quicker because their skill level has improved so much. As your skill levels improve, you move faster to the ball and the games go faster."

"Your court awareness and instinct, a lot of that you just can't teach, but you just can't pick up a ball in August and be ready to compete."

Volleyball has made dramatic improvements over the past few years in the Ohio Valley and with the added help of summer leagues, club volleyball and the experience of the high school coaches in the area that trend should continue.

A FEW MORE ACES...

JUST ONE MORE week of regular season play to determine the four OVAC playoff qualifiers in each class remains as the local volleyball teams head into the nuts and bolts of their season. Saturday is the official cut-off date for determining the OVAC playoff qualifiers and to set the pairings for the Oct. 11 playoffs slated for Union Local High School in Morristown.

With the top four teams in each class gaining berths in the tourney, the races are all tight. And while some divisions might appear set as to which teams will make it, it remains close as to what place teams will finish.

According to the latest standings released by the OVAC, Class 4-A has East Liverpool on top by nearly six points with defending champ Beaver Local, 2001 champ Edison and Steubenville rounding out the top four.

Bellaire's once-beaten Lady Big Reds continue to pace the 3-A chase with a growing lead over Martins Ferry. St. Clairsville and Meadowbrook complete the top four.

Wellsville, another defending champ, paces Class 2-A with Buckeye Trail, Monroe Central and Shenandoah completing the top four. This quartet has combined for just eight total losses.

Frontier jumped to the top in Class 1-A with Bridgeport moving a notch higher to second and Cameron and Beallsville closing out the top four.

Of course, one week of volleyball in the OVAC can make drastic changes in each of these races.

ASIDE FROM THE OVAC playoffs, post-season play will get underway in Ohio during the week of Oct. 13-18 with sectional tourney action set for six different sites in the Eastern District.

Division II Sectional play will be contested at Buckeye Local High School and River View High. Buckeye's tourney includes OVAC teams Beaver Local, Buckeye Local, Cambridge, East Liverpool, Edison, Indian Creek, Meadowbrook and Steubenville.

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Division III Sectionals will be played in the Eastern District at Meadowbrook High and Claymont High School. Conference teams will be split between the two with Barnesville, Bellaire, Fort Frye, Martins Ferry, Monroe Central, Shenandoah, St. Clairsville and Union Local playing at Meadowbrook. Buckeye Trail, Steubenville Central and Harrison Central will trek to Claymont.

Take note that the Division III tourney at Meadowbrook may be one of the most competitive in the state with a very strong lineup of top-notch 2003 teams.

Division IV Sectionals are set for Barnesville High with OVAC schools Beallsville, Bridgeport, Caldwell, Frontier, River and St. John Central. Conotton Valley and Wellsville will among the schools vying at Dover High School.

ON THE COLLEGE scene, two former local standouts are making their presence felt at Bethany College where Abbey Otto and Alecia Tomlan are playing a key role in the Lady

Bison season.

Otto, a former standout at Buckeye Local and a two-year starter at Bethany currently leads the Presidents Athletic Conference in blocks, is third in kills and ninth in hitting percentage. Tomlan, from Bellaire, has also put up some good numbers at Bethany. The Lady Bison recently won the Laroche College Tournament in Pittsburgh.

Wheeling Jesuit outside hitter Waleska Carrion from Guaybabo, Puerto Rico, recently recorded her 1000th career kill. Just a junior, Carrion has record 1011 kills and 900 digs in her career. The Lady Cardinals are current 14-2 and are ranked 15th nationally.

OVAC TEAMS received some recognition in the latest statewide polls with Monroe Central ranked 12th and Buckeye Trail 14th in Division III and Wellsville ranked 15th in Division IV. The new poll coming out early this week may see Monroe take a dip after losing its first to Shenandoah this past week.

East Liverpool prevails

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer



It was an all-Columbiana County final at Union Local High School Saturday night as the OVAC Volleyball Tournament came to a close with top-seeded East Liverpool collecting a hard-earned 15-5, 11-15, 15-13 win over Beaver Local in the Class 4-A finals.

With the win, Coach Bob Shansky's Lady Potters handed their school its ninth OVAC volleyball championship while boosting their season mark to 18-4.

Beaver Local, two-time winners over the Potters during the regular season, finished out the day with a 16-5 mark.

Both teams prevailed in the semi-finals with East Liverpool easily stopping Steubenville, 15-4, 15-2, while the Lady Beavers eliminated Edison in two sets, 15-7, 15-3.

In the championship game, the Lady Potters were paced by Molly Klink with 32 assists, 95 sets, nine points, five aces, nine spikes and four kills. Morgan Hoffman finished with nine points while Krystal Adkins added 35 spikes, 17 kills and one block.

Jenna Yanni added 13 spikes, nine kills and three blocks to the attack while Megan Whitechipped in with 14 spikes, three kills and two blocks.

Beaver Local was led by Paula Ferry with 10 points, three aces, 12 spikes, four kills, three

blocks and 14 assists. Jenny Rudibaugh closed with six points, two aces, 14 spikes, 11 kills and five blocks and Tara Hambleton added nine points, two aces, 1 spike, seven kills, four blocks and 16 assists.

"It's a great victory for us," Shansky said after the win. "We needed to validate being number one in the OVAC. To win the OVAC championship, we lost a couple years ago and we didn't make it last year. It was important to reestablish where we are at. Who knows, next with all the changes, you don't know when you'll be back out again."

"This is our school's ninth OVAC championship and my ninth," he added. "We were really excited about one thing, East Liverpool, Beaver, Steubenville and Edison, all of these schools were from up north and we just don't really get any recognition around the state."

"Well, here we are 18-4. I'm very proud of these girls the way they played. This is a good group of kids," he added. "I never

thought we go this far this year."

In the semi-finals, Kline paced the Lady Potters in their win over Steubenville with 38 sets, nine points, two aces and 14 assists. Adkins finished with 20 spikes, 13 kills and eight points while Yanni added four spikes and two kills and Megan White had seven spikes, three kills and two blocks.

Brittany Venci led the Lady Big Red with four spikes while Erica Leas had three spikes and two blocks and Ali Myslinski had five spikes and one block.

Beaver's leader in the semis was Ferry with eight points, four aces, 12 spikes, 11 kills three blocks and 12 assists. Rudinaugh had three points, one ace, 11 spikes, 11 kills and five blocks and Hambleton had nine points, three aces, 11 spikes, seven kills, two blocks and 14 assists.

Coach Lynn Meyer's Lady Wildcats were paced by Tasha Mandranski with three digs, three points, 11 spikes and three kills, Jenny Kovalesky with six spikes, two kills and eight assists and Leah Snyder with four points, one ace and five assists.

Merideth Sanders added three points and two aces, Jolie Davis added five spikes and three kills, Devin Cain had two points and two aces, Jessica Westlake had three points, seven spikes and four kills and Kylie Snyder added nine spikes, one kill and three blocks.

St. Clairsville Captures First Volleyball Crown

For The News-Register

After coming up short in numerous trips to the OVAC playoffs, St. Clairsville's relentless Lady Devils were finally crowned OVAC Class AAA champion Saturday after holding off top-seeded Bellaire in a 15-7, 11-15, 16-14 three-set win at Union Local High School in Morristown.

East Liverpool captured the Class AAAA crown, Wellsville won the Class AA crown, and Frontier took the Class A title.

With a loud and excited crowd looking on, the Lady Red Devils, coached by Lisa Kazmirski and Sharon Pastor, won their first OVAC volleyball title while boosting their season mark to 18-4.

Culminating one their best seasons at Bellaire, coach Monte Miler's Lady Big Reds finished the day at 16-3 with the split.

Juliette McNamara led the Lady Devils in the title tilt with

14 points, 14 assists and two digs while Amanda Piccolini added eight points, three aces, five kills, six assists and a block. Amy Drake finished with five points, one ace, six kills and three digs, while Missy Gossett had four points, seven kills, nine blocks and three digs.

Stacy Snowe had six points and two blocks and Janie Henry closed with five points and four kills and six blocks.

Bellaire was paced by Ashley Vsavrek with nine points and eight kills, Chelsea Bostancic had nine points, three spikes, two blocks and 18 assists and Julie Miller had three spikes, three kills and two blocks.

Britanie Kinder closed with two spikes, four kills and two blocks, Shawna Hines had four points and 17 assists and Sunny Stefanik finished with six points, three spikes and one kill.

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OVAC

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"Very big, but they played together. They played as a team this year," Kazmirski said after the win. "They fought hard for a long time playing together."

"We lost five seniors from last year's team and the three this year led the team," she added. "The teamwork is what got us here. Absolutely the teamwork and where their weaknesses were they made up for it in team spirit."

"Every girl on this team improved as the season went on," she continued. "And we really needed to beat Bellaire. They weren't going to beat us three times. But they are a good team. They are very strong and they don't give up."

Class AAAA

East Liverpool d. Beaver Local 15-5, 11-15, 15-13

The Potters claimed their ninth OVAC volleyball crown with the victory.

Molly Klink paced the winners (18-4) with 32 points, 95 sets, nine points, five aces, nine spikes and four kills. Morgan Hoffman added nine points, while Krystal Adkins recorded 35 spikes, 17 kills and one block.

Paula Ferry led Beaver Local (16-5) with 10 points, three aces, 12 spikes, four kills, three blocks and 14 assists.

Class AA

Wellsville d. Buckeye Trail 15-5, 15-11

The Tigers repeated as conference champs by besting a talented Warriors team.

Wellsville improved to 19-1,

while Buckeye Trail fell to 18-4.

Ashley Pierson paced Wellsville with seven kills and two blocks while playing in her 100th varsity contest.

Ashley Lombardozi added one ace and three kills, Shelly Kerr recorded four aces and two kills, and Emily Olmstead had four kills and 23 assists.

Britini Borrero led Buckeye Trail with eight kills and five blocks, while Katie Stanley had six kills.

Class A

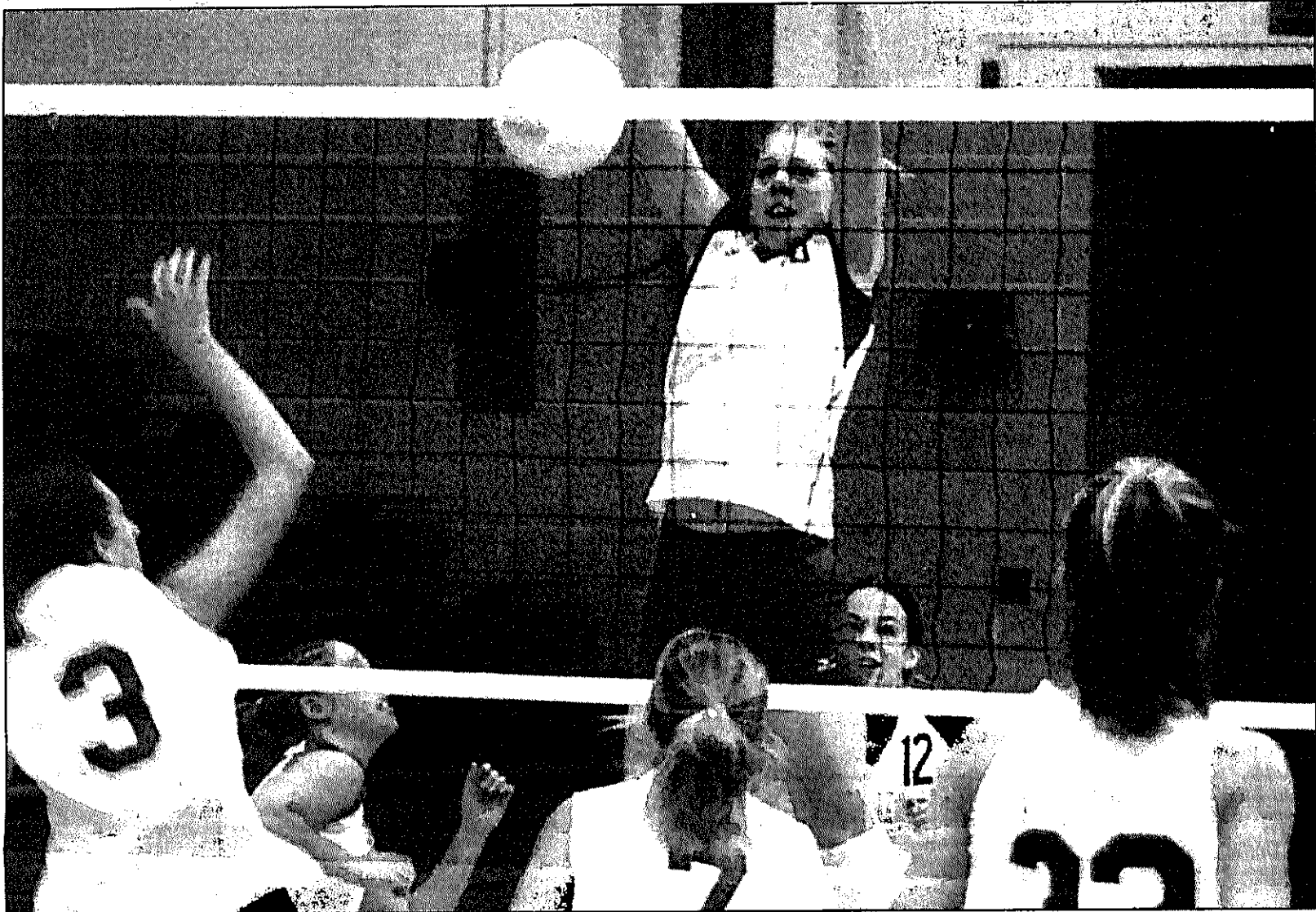
Frontier d. Beallsville 15-6, 15-8

Frontier garnered its first league crown since the 1980s with the sweep of the Blue Devils.

The Lady Cougars improved to 14-5, while Beallsville dropped to 14-8.

Lauren Rinard paced Frontier with five points, two aces, 15 spikes, six kills and three blocks, while Jill Bowersox added 12 points and four aces. Tiffany Pringle added seven points and three aces, Ashley Dishong recorded four points, six spikes and two kills, Jayle Walker had 10 spikes and two kills and Tori Taylor finished with an ace, four spikes and two kills.

Charity Steet paced Beallsville with four points, one ace, five spikes and five kills, while Amanda Decker had three spikes, one kill and one block. Bethany Caldwell added four spikes, one kill and one block, while Carrie Stalder had two points and four assists.



St. Clairsville claims OVAC 3-A volleyball

• Wellsville, Frontier, E.L. also prevail

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

It was a long time coming, but the St. Clairsville Red Devils have reached the top of the mountain.

After coming up short in numerous trips to the OVAC playoffs, St. C's relentless Lady Devils were finally crown the Class 3-A champion on Saturday after holding off top-seeded Bellaire in a 15-7, 11-15, 16-14 three-set win at Union Local High School in Morristown.

With a loud and excited crowd looking on, the Lady Red Devils, coached by Lisa Kazmirski and Sharon Pastor, won their first OVAC volleyball title while boosting their season mark to 18-4.

Culminating one their best seasons at Bellaire, coach Monte Miler's Lady Big Reds finished the day at 16-3 with the split.

In the semi-final matchups prior to Saturday's final, St. Clairsville eliminated third-seeded Martins Ferry, 15-13, 15-11, while Bellaire eliminated

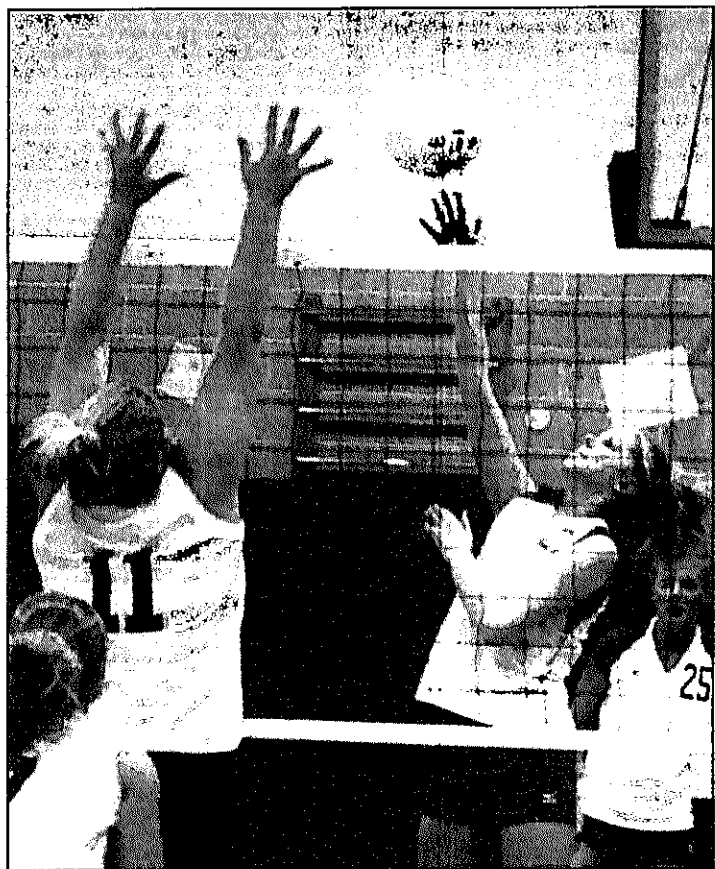
Harrison Central in straight sets, 15-6, 15-12.

Juliette McNamara led the Lady Devils in the title tilt with 14 points, 14 assists and two digs while Amanda Piccolini added eight points, three aces, five kills, six assists and a block. Amy Drake finished with five points, one ace, six kills and three digs, while Missy Gossett had four points, seven kills, nine blocks and three digs, Stacy Synowiec had six points and two blocks and Janie Henry closed with five points and four kills and six blocks.

Bellaire was paced by Ashley Vavrek with nine points and eight kills, Chelsea Bostancic had nine points, three spikes, two blocks and 18 assists and Julie Miller had three spikes, three kills and two blocks. Britanie Kinder closed with two spikes, four kills and two blocks, Shawna Hines had four points and 17 assists and Sunny Stefanik finished with six points, three spikes and one kill.

"Very big, but they played together."

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T-L Photos/MICHAEL HARVILLA

TOP: GOING up for a return of a Martins Ferry shot is a St. Clairsville's Missey Gossett, while the Lady Riders' Danielle Shemp (3).

BOTTOM: STACEY Synowiec goes on the offense for St. Clairsville, while Martins Ferry's Libby Hodor (11).

Changes may loom for OVAC volleyball tourney



By
**RICK
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Sports Writer

Before the 2004 season gets under way, the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference will be forced to make some serious decisions regarding the

championship playoffs.

It was just two days ago that the OVAC finished off another exciting OVAC volleyball playoff tournament at Union Local High School in Morristown and already conference officials are talking about next year.

With the 2003 tourney now in the record books, it seems that each year, the players and coaches and tourney officials just keep making the darn thing better and the games just keep getting more exciting.

Sitting through the day-long activity at Union Local on Saturday, it became apparent that just as one thrilling division final ends another comes along and tops in for excitement and the pattern

ON THE NET

carries right through to the final event of the day.

Of course, making the tourney more exciting isn't going to be a part of the decision-making process. That just seems to happen on its own. What the conference will need to look into will be handling the new rule changes for next season.

Sitting at courtside on Saturday, I took the time to keep track of the match scoring in the finals as if the tourney was being played under next year's rally scoring format. It became apparent that had the matches been played under that format, the end result would not have changed. That is in a best of three.

In most every match scored, winning teams reached 15 at nearly the same time they would have reach 25. The problem is that it took the same amount of time and that's the dilemma facing the OVAC.

Just do you add the possibility of playing as many as five games per match and not have the tourney run from the wee hours of the morning to

the wee hours of the next morning.

Dan Mumma, the OVAC volleyball director, and his staff did an excellent job of running this past Saturday's OVAC playoffs as smooth as ever. With the first semifinals starting at 9:30 a.m. and the last finals match finishing at approximately 8:45 p.m., you would expect a few glitches along the way. At UL on Saturday, there were none.

As for the quality play, anyone that still doesn't believe that Ohio Valley volleyball has made some giant steps in the past few years, needs to buy a ticket for next year's playoffs.

Congratulations go out to Class 1-A champion Frontier, Class 2-A champion Wellsville, Class 3-A champion St. Clairsville and Class 4-A champion East Liverpool. These four teams and their coaches know now just hard it is to win an OVAC title and how gratifying it is to take home that championship trophy.

Frontier made the trip back to the OVAC finals for the first time since the late 80s and after dropping down to Class 1-A this season, the Lady Cougars of veteran coach Pat Galbreath just dominated in both the semi-finals and finals in earning

their first crown.

It was another disappointing mid-October Saturday for Bridgeport coach Bob Krajnyak whose Lady Bulldogs made an early exit by losing the semifinals. The Lady Bulldogs have made numerous trips to the OVAC playoffs, but are still looking for that first title. Krajnyak's squad came into the tourney on the heels of one of the school's best-ever record seasons at 15-5.

In Class 2-A, veteran coach Dan McKinstry, the winningest active coach in the conference, watched his Wellsville girls garnering their second straight OVAC crown. Ironically, their best season came in 2001 when the Lady Tigers came into the playoffs with a perfect 20-0 record only to lose to the Buckeye Trail.

McKinstry, who also serves at the girls basketball coach at East Palestine, has guided his last three teams to regular season records of 20-0, 18-2 and 19-1. All three losses have come to Crestview.

St. Clairsville has made some many trips to the OVAC playoffs that the folks in the Belmont

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● Volleyball —

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County seat just quit counting, but started counting again on Saturday. With first-year coaches Sharon Pastor and Lisa Kazminski guiding the troops, the Lady Red Devils captured the school's first OVAC volleyball title on Saturday.

It wasn't an easy win by no means for the Lady Devils. Bellare's twice-beaten Lady Big Reds came into the tourney as the top-seeded team and had already beaten St. C twice during the regular season. The match was one of the most exciting on the day. The Lady Devils kept building leads and the Lady Big Reds kept erasing them.

It was probably a good thing the tournament was playing in Belmont County because their would have a lot more empty houses in Columbiana County had the Class 4-A match been played in that county.

East Liverpool and coach Bob Shansky won their ninth OVAC volleyball champion on Saturday and they did so in one of the more nerve-racking games ever played in the conference history.

After splitting the first two games, the two teams traded scores in the third as if the game would last forever. Eleven times the two teams exchanged scoring and five times it was deadlocked in the third game before the Lady Poters scored three straight 10 will.

Wellsville downs Buckeye Trail in 2-A championship

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

Veteran coach Dan McKinstry enjoyed being an OVAC championship so much last year that he just did it again in 2003.

Bolstered by a veteran cast of players that has lost only six matches over the past three years and a senior player that was playing in her 100th career match, Wellsville's once-beaten Tigers won their second straight OVAC Class 2-A title with a 15-5, 15-11 win over a talent Buckeye Trail squad in the OVAC tournament at Union Local High in Morristown Saturday afternoon.

With the win, McKinstry's team improved to 19-1 on the season while coach Jeff Beros' Lady Warriors finished the day at 18-4.

In the semi-finals leading up to Saturday's final, Wellsville made short work of a very good Shenandoah squad in straight sets, 15-5, 15-1. Trail, who had lost a regular season match to Monroe Central earlier in the campaign, was pushed to the limit before topping the Lady Seminoles, 15-17, 15-8, 15-10 in the other semi-final match.

In the title match, Ashley Pierson paced the winners with seven kills and two blocks while playing in her 100th career varsity game. Ashley Lombardozi finished with one ace and three kills, Shelly Kerr had four aces and two kills, Emily Olmsted closed with four kills and 23 assists, Katie Stanley had six kills and Melody Allison had two kills.

Trail was led by Britini Borrero with eight kills and five blocks and standout Katie Canel finished with 14 assists. Carla Britten added five points and Jessie Phillips had four points.

"It was nice, but there were two things that I knew. We were playing Shenandoah and didn't know about them and they were playng Monroe and that was backyard," McKinstry said after the win. "So I figured whoever won was going to use a

lot of energy."

"Secondly, I knew with Trail, our kids had a lot of incentive because two years ago with play Buckeye Trail here and we were 20-0 and lost in the finals," he added. "So I knew the kids came down here and in the back of their mind they wanted to play Trail. They were all sophomores then and they wanted that opportunity."

"I'm not trying to take anything away from our team," he said. "They played very well. They served very well. We had some players that got hurt, but we just kept playing."

"I've been coaching 26-27 years and I don't think I've had a group of senior like this. They get along, there is no jealousy. They enjoy each other and their happy for everyone's success."

"In the semi-final matches, the Lady Tigers topped Shenandoah as Pierson led the way with seven aces, seven kills, six blocks and 16 assists. Kerr closed with eight aces and eight kills.

Borrero led the Lady Warriors in their win over Monroe with 17 kills and nine blocks while Molly Grimes had 13 kills and seven blocks. Canel finished with 30 assists and Heather Nealey had 18 points and four aces.

Shenandoah was paced by Shannon Leasure with 14 digs, 13 kills and two blocks, Amy Schroeder had four points, nine digs, four kills and five blocks and Kenzi Waite had six points, eight digs, four kills and 20 assists.

Jocelyn had nine digs and three kills, Amanda Van Scyoc had six digs and three points and Jenna Bond had four points and three digs.

Kari Young led Monroe with seven points, 10 kills, four blocks and nine assists. Kara Hamilton closed with two points, 15 kills, three blocks and seven assists, Andrienne Thomas had three kills and three blocks, Anna Blair had four points, six kills and six assists. Ashley Kuhn closed with nine points, two kills and eight assists and Renee Shreve had 11 points.