

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

# Linsly Claims Double Overtime

Adams' goal puts Cadets in Monday's OVAC Cup title game opposite

By MIKE HUGHES  
Staff Writer

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His team battled back to knot the score at 1-1, only to watch Adams steal the show in the second overtime.

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Adams chased hard to the ball after it entered the box with just under four minutes to play. Wheeling Park goalkeeper J.P. Misenhelder sensed the mounting pressure and went out to thwart the problem before it got started.

He dove to the ground, but got his arms near the ball right as Adams and another Wheeling Park defender did. Adams somehow came out of the pile with the ball, righted himself and fired a shot into the back left corner of the net, sealing the victory.

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"It definitely makes it more exciting."

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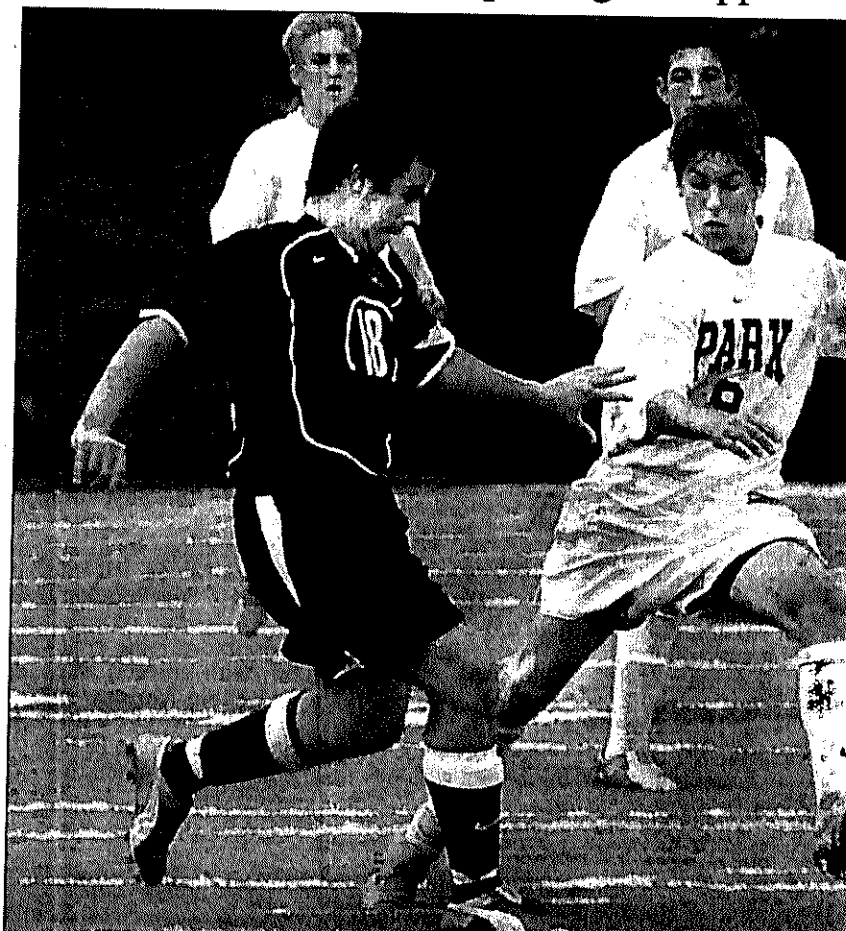
Wheeling Park didn't go all game long without big plays either.

Trailing 1-0 with 18:07 left in regulation, Vinnie Crumrine sprinted towards Thomas Reihner as he moved forward to pick up the ball. Crumrine got it away from the Linsly keeper and lifted the ball over Reihner's outstretched hands for the Patriots' first goal of the game.

That score nearly was the deciding goal for the Patriots, who just missed an opportunity a few minutes earlier.

With 24:09 showing on the clock, Wheeling Park's Ryan Horan set up for a corner kick on the far left side and sent it screaming into the middle of the box, where Tony Trabert alertly headed the ball towards the goal.

Trabert's shot sailed over Reihner's hands but nicked the top of the crossbar.



Wheeling Park's Ryan Horan (9) looks to make a move past Linsly's Xavier Adams Saturday's OVAC Cup semifinal at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"Tony has been playing extremely well," Julian said.

As has Adams, who is a threat to score whenever he touches the ball.

The two teams played to a scoreless tie after 40 minutes and in the locker room at the half, Coutts stressed the importance of getting Adams the ball, and allowing him to create.

"I told them at halftime that for a player like Jason, the more chances he has to score, the better," Coutts said. "Not only can he score, but he draws the attention of the defense which creates scoring opportunities for other people."

That was the case on the Cadets' first goal.

Adams fielded a pass and worked his way towards the right side of the field.

Swarmed under, Adams moved left and alertly rifled a pass into the middle where a waiting Isaam Sawtarie accepted the ball, took one dribble right and fired a crossing shot to the upper-left corner of the net.

The Cadets now must face a Brooke team that defeated them earlier in the season by a 4-1 count.

In that game, the Bruins took advantage of a few Linsly mistakes, so Coutts knows that this time around, his club must be on its game.

"That's actually how we are used to winning," Coutts said of

the manner in which Brooke claimed victory in their previous meeting. "I know the kids were rooting for Brooke in the first game."

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For the four-time defending champion Cadets, this year will mark their 11th trip to the finals.

This will also be the first time since 1999 that the OVAC Cup final will not be a meeting between Linsly and Wheeling Park.

That year, the Patriots beat Brooke for the championship.

Brooke 3,  
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At Wheeling, Mike Oliver scored two goals and Josh Whitt added another as Brooke advanced to the OVAC Cup

finals for the first time since 1999.

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Brooke has finished up in the runner-up spot four times, including a string of three straight from 1994-96.

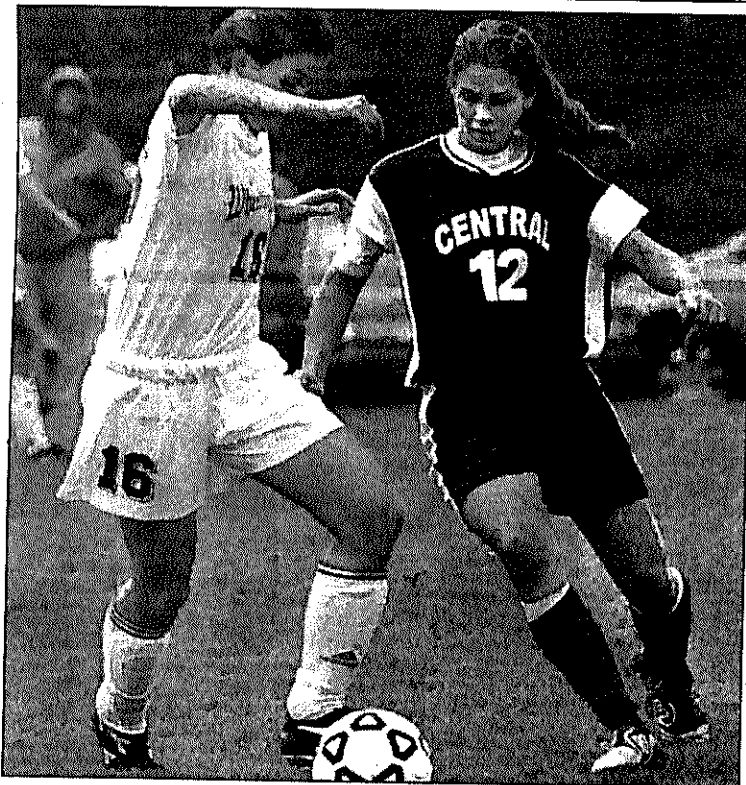
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Wheeling Park's Katie Dean (16) and Wheeling Central's Kelsey Fowler battle for a loose ball Saturday at Hannig Field.

## Patriots Post Another Shutout to Reach Final

Wheeling Park to face Weir for OVAC crown

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

If the old adage that says 'defense wins championships' is true, then the Wheeling Park girls' soccer program might want to make some room in their trophy case for another piece of hardware.

The Patriots posted their eighth shutout of the season Saturday in dominating cross-town rival Wheeling Central 4-0 in the first of two OVAC Cup soccer semifinals at Hannig Field high atop Wheeling Park.

With the win, 'The Park' will go for its eighth consecutive conference soccer crown, and ninth in 10 years, Monday night against Weir, a 1-0 victor over Brooke in the other semifinal tilt.

The Patriots and Red Riders met on Sept. 13, with Weir coming out on top 2-1 at Hannig Field.

"Weir beat us here, so it will be a good challenge," noted first-year Park head coach Aubrey Taylor.

That contest will begin at 5:30 p.m. on the recently-cleaned ProGrass surface of Wheeling Island Stadium.

Brooke is the only other team to claim the OVAC crown. The Bruins downed the Patriots in the 1996 finale.

Of the Patriots' eight blankings this season, two have come in this fall's edition of the OVAC Cup. Park opened tournament play last week with a 9-0 triumph over Weirton Madonna.

Saturday's victory marked Park's second victory of the season over the Maroon Knights.

The first win, back on September 2, was also a shutout (2-0).

As the West Virginia state tournament draws nearer, Taylor is pleased with how his team continues to improve.

"I'm happy with our overall play," he said, as raindrops dripped from the brim of his cap. "It was a very nice win. Central is a pretty good team."

Meanwhile, Maroon Knights mentor Scott Hanna left the field equally impressed by Park's showing.

"I have to give a lot of credit to their team," he said, after watching his squad drop to 10-3-1 on the season.

"They're solid in all positions and are really strong in the

back." "That meant we didn't have a heck of a lot of opportunities to shoot. And when we did, their keeper made some pretty good saves."

Park started out on the attack early on, continually racing up the field and putting pressure on Maroon Knights' goalkeeper Kristen DeSantis.

That persistence paid off nearly 10 minutes into the opening half as Brooke Basilone connected with Casselyn Aderholt, whose shot hit the left side of the net to give the Patriots (10-2-1) an early 1-0 advantage.

Taylor felt it was imperative to net the early lead.

"We wanted to score our goals early and get the other team to play from behind, instead of us," he noted.

Less than 10 minutes later, the Patriots scored again, as Elizabeth Marshall found the back of the net, thanks to an assist from Basilone, to make it 2-0 contest.

While the Maroon Knights trailed by just a pair of goals at the half, the stats leaned in Park's favor. The Patriots had 11 shots on goal, as opposed to Central's one.

Park's assault continued early in the second half. Lauren Smith scored the first of her two second-half goals eight minutes into the half with an unassisted tally that made it 3-0.

Her other goal, the team's final of the day, came with a little more than two minutes remaining in the contest.

Jill Wright was outstanding in goal for the Patriots. She stopped three shots to record the shutout.

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At Hannig Field, Melissa Henry scored the game's only goal with 23:01 remaining in the game to send the Red Riders to their first appearance in the OVAC Cup championship game.

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### OVAC Cup Girls Semifinals

(at Hannig Field)  
Wheeling Park 4, Wheeling Central 0  
WP—Goals: Smith 2; C.Aderholt, Marshall. Assists: Basilone 2. Goalkeeper: Wright (3 saves).

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"Oliver did a fine job of attacking," Brooke head coach Eric Fries said.

"And defensively, we played solid the whole game."

It's a strong finish for the Bruins (10-2-2), who had gotten off to a slow start early in the game, allowing Zanesville to control the tempo.

"The first couple of minutes were tough because we got off to a rough start," Fries said.

"We didn't win too many balls and I think we were over excited."

"But we were able to overcome that, and advance to the finals with a solid win over a good team."

Marcus Mosser finished with seven saves for the Bruins.

**REGULAR SEASON  
Tyler Consolidated 1,  
Magnolia 1**

At Middlebourne, Tyler Consolidated's Brad Burkhardt scored midway through the second half as the Silver Knights (5-7-1) played Magnolia to a 1-1 tie.

Bryan Shirak scored the lone goal for the Blue Eagles, who received 10 saves out of keeper Jeremy White.

D.J. Shepherd and Jimmy Wells combined for nine saves for Tyler.

**Boys  
OVAC Cup Semifinals  
Linsly 2, Wheeling Park 1, 2OT  
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Photo by Scott McCloskey

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# OVAC Soccer Cup under way

THE TIMES L.

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's Soccer Cup Tournament kicked off Monday evening.

Some schedule changes were necessary after the recent flooding causing damage to fields around the area.

A pair of girls' games dot tonight's card with Weir and Steubenville Central meeting in Weirton, while Wheeling Park meets Weir Madonna at Field 4 in Wheeling.

St. Clairsville's boys make their tourney debut Wednesday at 5 p.m. when they tangle with Zanesville in Belmont County.

Wheeling Park and Steubenville Central will clash on the boys side at Field 4 in Wheeling and the lone girls' game on the card finds Wheeling Central meeting Beaver in Weirton.

Two more quarterfinal games are slated for Thursday evening. Always-powerful Linsly meets

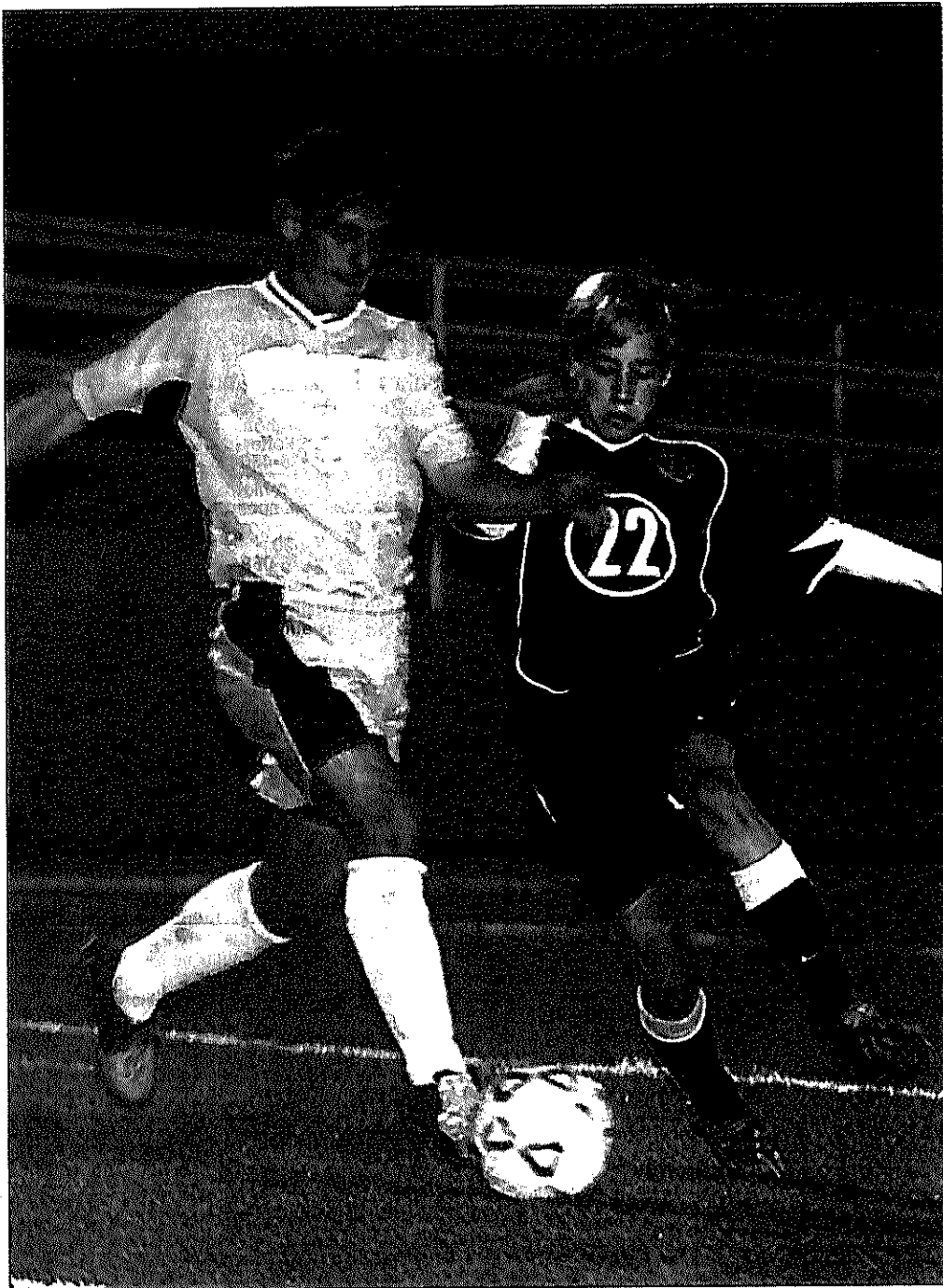


Beaver Local at Field 4 in

Wheeling, while Brooke and Edison will tangle at Weirton.

The semifinals for both the boys and girls tournaments will be held Saturday, Oct. 2 with two games slated for 11 a.m. and two more at 1 p.m. at either Field 4 or Wheeling Island Stadium.

The championship games will be held Monday, Oct. 4 at Wheeling Island Stadium with the boys game slated for 7 p.m.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

**BROOKE's** Aleks Kins and Linsly's Zach Turak battle for possession of the ball during Monday's OVAC Soccer Cup final at Wheeling Island Stadium.

## Brooke ends Linsly's reign in OVAC Cup

• Bruins post 2-0 decision  
FOR THE TIMES LEADER

The fifth time proved to be the charm for the Brooke High boys' soccer team Monday night.

Junior standouts Josh Whitt and Mike Oliver knocked in first-half goals and senior keeper Marcus Mosser made them stand up as the Bruins (11-2-2) blanked Linsly, 2-0, in the finals of the 14th annual OVAC Cup at Wheeling Island Stadium.

It was the fifth time a Brooke High team had advanced to the OVAC Cup title tilt but Monday night marked the first time the Bruins were able to take the championship hardware home with them.

"I can't tell you how excited I am for these kids," exclaimed Brooke head coach Eric Fries after tearing himself away from the fans who had flooded onto the stadium turf to join the celebration.

"I've been at Brooke for eight years but this is only the second time we've gotten here since I came.

"I didn't realize at the time how big a deal this was but I knew exactly what it meant to everybody this year."

The Bruins had beaten Linsly, 4-1, during the regular season to claim the OVAC First Division championship but Fries said he knew the Cadets (10-8-0) would come out with all guns blazing in search of their fifth consecutive OVAC Cup crown.

With that in mind, Fries said it was up to his players to match Linsly's intensity and they came through with flying colors.

"I could feel it in the locker room," he said. "We've got 10 seniors on this team and they wanted this one badly.

"It seems like Linsly and Wheeling Park have just been Brooke's nemesis over the years. We'd

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## ● Soccer

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be right behind them but couldn't quite get over the hump.

"We've got 10 seniors on this team and I could feel it in the locker room. I told them it was their time and their game to win and they just went out and did it."

The two teams locked horns in an entertaining first half in which both squads came up with excellent scoring chances.

The Bruins, however, were the team that had the answer when opportunity came knocking.

Whitt took the goose egg of the Brooke side of the scoreboard in the 28th minute when he came swooping in on the right side to collect a rebound and rip it into the top left hand corner of the net.

The backbreaker for the Cadets, however, came five minutes later.

Oliver was trying to run down a long ball that carried into the Linsly box but an alert Reihner saw him coming and came off his line to grab the bouncing ball.

As Reihner prepared to punt the ball out of danger, it suddenly seemed to slip from his hands and Oliver was able to poke it free.

Reihner lost his footing as he

tried to recover and Oliver danced deftly away and slid the ball into the open net for a 2-0 lead.

"That was a big goal," agreed Cadet head coach Dave Coutts. "I guess the ball was a little damp and slipped off his gloves but give the Brooke kid credit for hustling and being right there."

Mosser had five saves in the first half and came up even bigger after intermission to finish the night with 13 saves against the high-powered Linsly attack.

Fries said the Bruins' game plan was to focus on shutting down the Cadets' big guns.

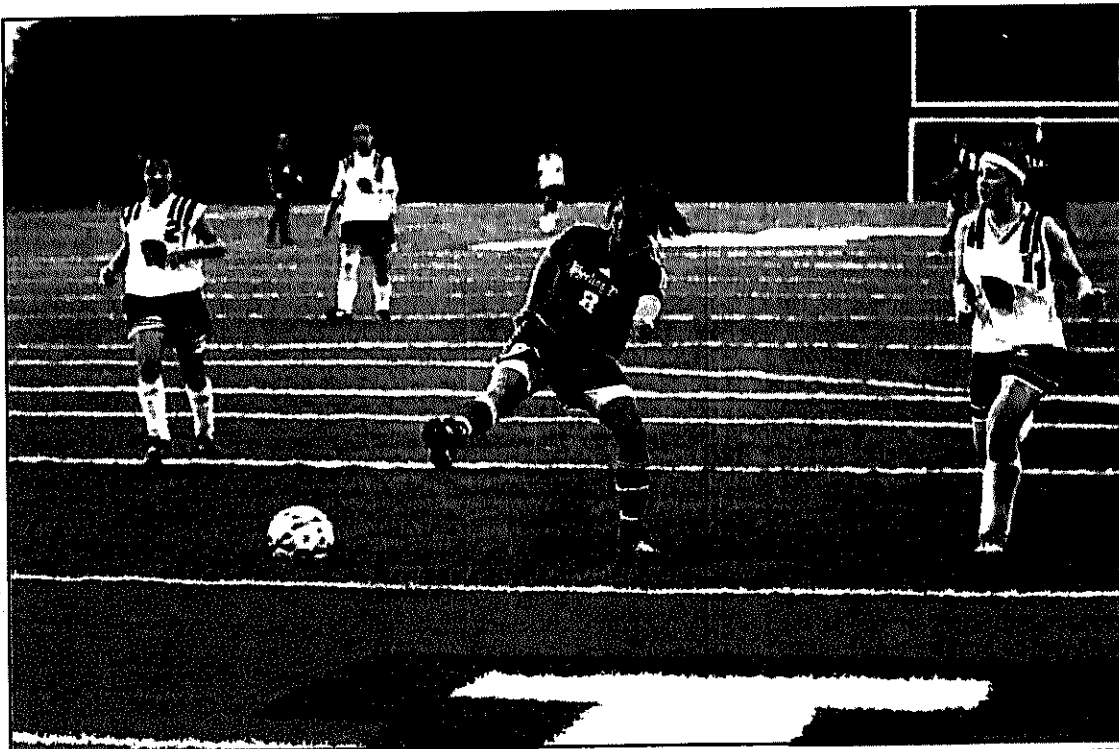
Senior Jason Adams had scored 30 goals coming into the night and junior Issam Sawtarie had six goals and a team-high 13 assists.

"That's the thing that amazed me," said Fries. "Not just winning but to shut out Adams and Sawtarie for an entire game. That's quite a feat."

Despite seeing his run of four OVAC Cup championships come to an end, Coutts was gracious in defeat.

"They are a very good team," said Coutts.

"They're very solid in the back and their keeper was outstanding tonight."



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

WHEELING PARK'S Jackie Krayaninko fires a shot toward the net during Monday evening's OVAC Girls Soccer Cup Final at Wheeling Island Stadium.

# Park girls win eighth straight OVAC Cup title

FOR THE TIMES LEADER

Motivation wasn't a problem for Wheeling Park girls' soccer coach Aubrey Taylor coming into Monday night's 10th annual OVAC Cup final against Weir High at Wheeling Island Stadium.

His Patriots (11-2-1) avenged a regular-season loss to the Red Riders (9-4-3) in impressive style, holding the First Division champs without a single shot in the second half en route to a 3-0 victory.

"I didn't have to do a lot to get the girls pumped up for tonight's game," smiled Taylor. "They've been waiting for this one ever since they (Weir) beat us the first time."

That regular-season setback was Wheeling Park's first loss to an OVAC team in several seasons and the scrappy Red Riders nearly drew first blood again Monday night.

Just four minutes into the contest, Weir cleared a high ball out of its own end and it took a long bounce over the heads of the Patriot defense.

The Red Riders' Melissa Henry - the team's leading scorer with 15 goals and 10 assists - won the race to the ball and sprinted in on Park keeper Jill Wright.

Henry fired from 15 yards out but didn't catch it clean and the ball sailed directly into Wright's waiting hands.

"We had a chance to jump out with that first goal," said Weir head coach Bill Giebell, "but we just had a little bit of a miscue."

Granted that reprieve, Wheeling Park turned up the defensive heat and the Red Rider attack wilted.

Weir never got another shot on net the rest of the night and was held to just two shots for the entire game.

"Our three defenders played very well tonight," said Taylor. "Sarah (Bizanovich) had a great game in terms of position and pressure and our two markers (Kelly Kresen and Julie Warner) were excellent."

"That's two freshmen and a sophomore back there and I was very happy to see them play so

well in such a big game."

With Weir unable to mount a threat, the field seemed to tilt toward the Patriots' offensive end.

Weir keeper Stephanie Foster was able to weather the storm for a little while but The Park broke through in the 13th minute.

Lauren Thomas sent a ball back into the middle where Arlene Wheeler had time to settle it and draw a bead from 30 yards out.

Wheeler's well-placed drive whistled just over a leaping Foster's outstretched hand and just under the crossbar for the first goal of the game.

Foster and the hard-working Weir High defense were able to keep the Patriots off the board for the rest of the half but it seemed only a matter of time before the Patriots would break through again.

The second goal came in the 11th minute of the second half when Lauren Smith created some space at the top of the box and fed it over to Olivia Moray, who banged it home from 15 yards out.

Thomas closed out the scoring in the 29th minute of the second half when she collected a feed from Jenna Forzano and bent a pretty shot just inside the left post from 20 yards out.

"We have a lot of girls with good offensive skills," said Taylor, who coached the Patriot boys to a pair of OVAC Cup crowns during an earlier stint at the Ohio County consolidation.

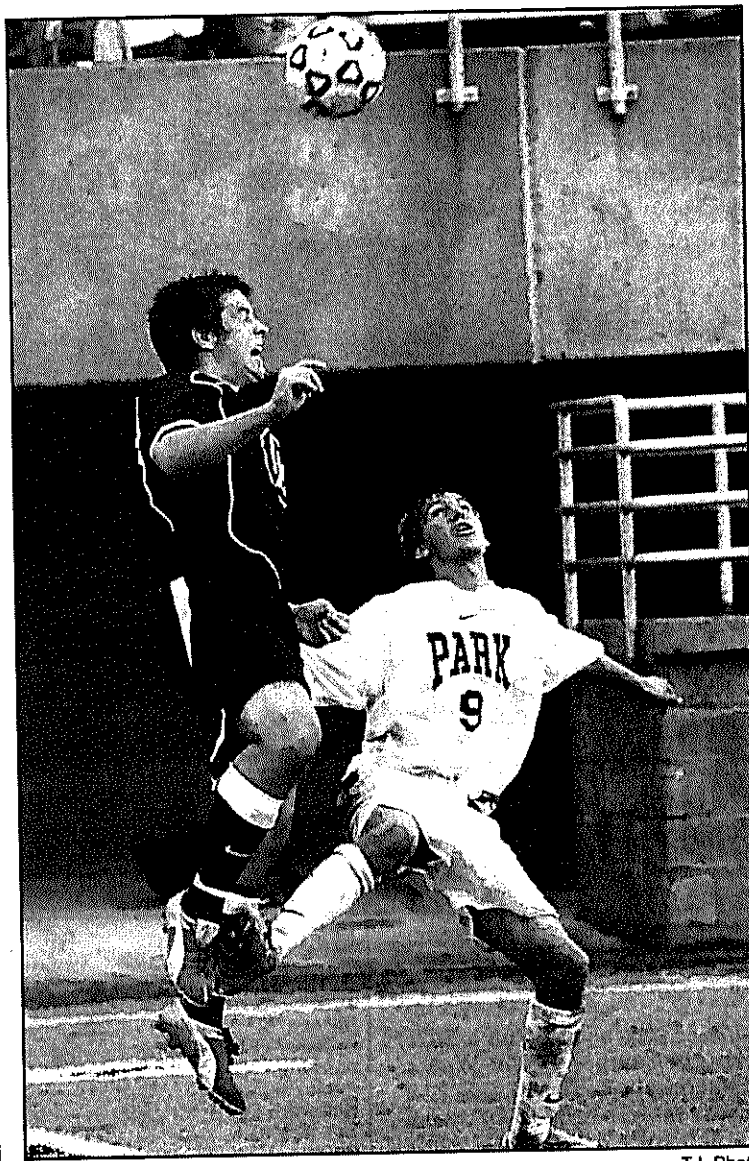
"This is one of the more talented teams I've been associated with. They knew how to move the ball around before I got here. I'm just trying to help them along a little bit."

Wheeling Park finished with a 15-2 advantage in shots but the Red Riders were willing to write it off as just a bad night and would like nothing better than a rubber match in the West Virginia sectionals.

"I guess that makes it 1-1 between us this season," said Giebell.

"They seemed to think the first game was a fluke. Well, that was the game we outplayed them."

"We got outplayed tonight but I'm pretty sure we'll see them again."



T-L Photo

LINSLEY'S Xavier Ortenzio goes up for a header in the semifinals of the OVAC Soccer Cup Saturday afternoon at Wheeling Island Stadium. Defending for Wheeling Park is Ryan Horan.

## Linsly, Brooke boys advance to OVAC Cup final

FOR THE TIMES LEADER

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"That's actually how we are used to winning," Coutts said of the manner in which Brooke claimed victory in their previous meeting. "I know the kids were rooting for Brooke in the first game.

"This time we will have to capitalize on the opportunities we get and limit our mistakes.

For the four-time defending champion Cadets, this year will mark their 11th trip to the finals.

## Park, Weir advance to Cup final

FOR THE TIMES LEADER

If the old adage that says "defense wins championships" is true, then the Wheeling Park girls' soccer program might want to make some room in their trophy case for another piece of hardware.

The Patriots posted their eighth shutout of the season Saturday in dominating cross-town rival Wheeling Central 4-0 in the first of two OVAC Cup soccer semifinals at Hannig Field high atop Wheeling Park.

With the win, "The Park" will go for its eighth-consecutive conference soccer crown, and ninth in 10 years Monday night against Weir, a 1-0 victor over Brooke in the other semifinal tilt.

The Patriots and Red Riders recently met September 13, with Weir coming out on top 2-1 at Hannig Field.

"Weir beat us here, so it will be a good challenge," noted first-year Park head coach Aubrey Taylor.

Brooke is the only team to claim the OVAC crown. The Bruins downed the Patriots in the 1996 finale.



That contest will begin at 5:30 p.m. on the recently-cleaned ProGrass surface of Wheeling Island Stadium.

Of the Patriots eight blankings this season, two have come in this fall's edition of the OVAC Cup. Park opened tournament play last week with a 9-0 triumph over Weirton Madonna.

Saturday's victory marked Park's second victory of the season over the Maroon Knights. The first win, back on September 2, was also a shutout (2-0).

As the West Virginia state tournament draws nearer, Taylor is pleased with how his team continues to improve.

"I'm happy with our overall play," he said, as raindrops dripped from the brim of his cap. "It was a very nice win. Central is a pretty good team."

Meanwhile, Maroon Knights mentor Scott Hanna left the field equally impressed by Park's showing.

"I have to give a lot of credit to their team," he said, after watching his squad drop to 10-3-1 on the season.

"They're solid in all positions and are really strong in the back."

That meant we didn't have a heck of lot of opportunities to shoot. And when we did, their keeper made some pretty good saves."

Park started out on the offensive early on, continually racing up the field and putting pressure on Maroon Knights' goalkeeper Kristen DeSantis.

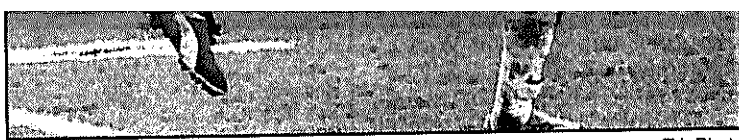
That persistence paid off nearly ten minutes into the opening half as Brooke Basilone connected with Casselyn Aderholt, who's shot hit the left side of the net to give the Patriots (10-2-1) an early 1-0 advantage.

Taylor felt it was imperative to net the early lead.

"We wanted to score our goals early and get the other team to play from behind, instead of us," he noted.

Less than ten minutes later, the Patriots scored again, as Elizabeth Marshall found the back of the net, thanks to an assist from Basilone, that made it a 2-0 contest.

While the Maroon Knights trailed by just a pair of goals at



T-L Photo

LINSLY'S Xavier Ortenzio goes up for a header in the semifinals of the OVAC Soccer Cup Saturday afternoon at Wheeling Island Stadium. Defending for Wheeling Park is Ryan Horan.

# Linsly, Brooke boys advance to OVAC Cup final

FOR THE TIMES LEADER

Jason Adams scored with 3:49 showing in the second overtime as Linsly defeated arch rival Wheeling Park 2-1 Saturday afternoon at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The Cadets now advance to Monday's OVAC Cup championship game opposite top-seeded Brooke, which advanced courtesy of a 3-1 verdict over Zanesville.

The loss was another tough one to swallow for Wheeling Park head coach Mario Julian.

His team battled back to knot the score at 1-1, only to watch Adams steal the show in the second overtime.

It was a scenario that mirrored the 2003 OVAC Cup final in which Wheeling Park battled back to tie the score, only to watch the Cadets' Stephen Reihner dash the Patriots hopes with a game-winner in overtime.

"I'm at a loss for words," Julian said following the game. "We play these guys three or four times a year, and it's such an intense rivalry that you make mistakes you ordinarily don't make."

"But big players make big plays in big games, and Jason made a great play."

Adams chased hard to the ball after it entered the box with just under four minutes to play. Wheeling Park goalkeeper J.P. Misenhelder sensed the mounting pressure and went out to thwart the problem before it got started.

He dove to the ground, but got his arms near the ball right as Adams and another Wheeling Park defender did. Adams somehow came out of the scrum with the ball, righted himself and fired a shot into the back left corner of the net, sealing the victory.

"I'm not sure if I prefer to win this way or not," Linsly head coach Dave Coutts said of the late-game heroics. "It definitely makes it more exciting."

"But it doesn't matter how they do it, these guys always seem to make a big play when we need it."

Wheeling Park didn't go game long without big plays either.

Trailing 1-0 with 18:07 left in regulation, Vinnie Crumrine sprinted towards Reihner as he moved forward to pick up the ball. Crumrine got it away from the Linsly keeper and lifted the ball over Reihner's outstretched hands for the Patriots' first goal of the game.

That score nearly was the deciding goal for the Patriots, who just missed an opportunity a few minutes earlier.

With 24:09 showing on the clock, Wheeling Park's Ryan Horan set up for a corner kick on the far left side and sent it screaming into the middle of the box, where Tony Trabert alertly headed the ball towards the goal.

Trabert's shot sailed over Reihner's hands but nicked the top of the crossbar.

"Tony has been playing extremely well," Julian said.

As has Adams, who is a threat to score whenever he touches the ball.

The two teams played to a scoreless tie after 40 minutes and in the lockerroom at the half, Coutts stressed the importance of getting Adams the ball, and allowing him to create.

"I told them at halftime that for a player like Jason, the more chances he has to score, the better," Coutts said. "Not only can he score, but he draws the attention of the defense which creates scoring opportunities for other people."

That was the case on the Cadets' first goal.

Adams fielded a pass and worked his way towards the right side of the field.

Swarmed under, Adams moved left and alertly rifled a pass into the middle where a waiting Isaam Sawtarie accepted the ball, took one dribble right and fired a crossing shot to the upper-left corner of the net.

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In that game, the Bruins took advantage of a few Linsly mistakes, so Coutts knows that this time around, his club must be on its game.

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"This time we will have to capitalize on the opportunities we get and limit our mistakes."

For the four-time defending champion Cadets, this year will mark their 11th trip to the finals.

This will also be the first time since 1999 that the OVAC Cup final will not be a meeting between Linsly and Wheeling Park.

In that year, the Patriots beat Brooke for the championship.

## Brooke 3, Zanesville 1

At Wheeling, Mike Oliver scored two goals and Josh Whitt added another as Brooke advanced to the OVAC Cup finals for the first time since 1999.

Oliver scored the first and last goals for the Bruins, the final coming on a break away when he was fed by teammate Chad Vargo.

He took the pass and raced towards Blue Devils keeper Adam Grosshandler firing it passed him for the game's final tally.

It's a strong finish for the Bruins (10-2-2), who had gotten off to a slow start early in the game, allowing Zanesville to control the tempo.

"But we were able to overcome that, and advance to the finals with a solid win over a good team."

Marcus Mosser finished with seven saves for the Bruins, who will take on Linsly Monday evening at Wheeling Island.

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Less than ten minutes later, the Patriots scored again, as Elizabeth Marshall found the back of the net, thanks to an assist from Basilone, that made it a 2-0 contest.

While the Maroon Knights trailed by just a pair of goals at the half, all of the stats leaned in Park's favor. The Patriots tallied 11 shots on goal, as opposed to Central's one.

"We wanted to keep them from controlling the midfield, which they did early on," Hanna said.

Park's offensive assault continued early in the second half. Lauren Smith scored the first of her two second-half goals eight minutes into the half with an unassisted tally that made it 3-0.

Her other goal, the team's final of the day, came with nearly two minutes remaining in the contest.

While the Maroon Knights were able to get closer to a goal in the second half, Patriots goalkeeper Jill Wright, who finished with saves, didn't allow a goal.

## Weir 1, Brooke 0

At Hannig Field, Melissa Henry recorded the game's only goal with 23:01 remaining in the game to send the Red Riders to their first appearance in the OVAC Cup championship game.

Weir will face Wheeling Park for the title Monday at 5:30 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The Red Riders will become just the fourth school in conference history to advance to the title tilt.



# Brooke Topples Linsly

Bruins' 2-0 win gives them first title in five championship tries

By DON CLEGG  
For The Intelligencer

The fifth time proved to be the charm for the Brooke High boys' soccer team Monday night.

Junior standouts Josh Whitt and Mike Oliver knocked in first-half goals and senior keeper Marcus Mosser made them stand up as the Bruins (11-2-2) blanked Linsly, 2-0, in the finals of the 14th annual OVAC Cup at Wheeling Island Stadium.



OVAC BOYS  
SOCCER FINAL

It was the fifth time a Brooke High team had advanced to the OVAC Cup title tilt but Monday night marked the first time the Bruins were able to take the championship hardware home with them.

"I can't tell you how excited I am for these kids,"

exclaimed Brooke head coach Eric Fries after tearing himself away from the fans who had flooded onto the stadium turf to join the celebration.

"I've been at Brooke for eight years but this is only the second time we've gotten here since I came.

"I didn't realize at the time how big a deal this was but I knew exactly what it meant to everybody this year."

The Bruins had beaten Linsly, 4-1, during the regular season to claim the OVAC First Division championship but Fries said he knew the Cadets (10-8-0) would come out with all guns blazing in search of their fifth consecutive OVAC Cup crown.

With that in mind, Fries said it was up to his players to match Linsly's intensity and they came through with flying colors.

Please See BROOKE, Page 15



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Linsly's Issam Sawtarie dribbles past Brooke's Aleks Kins during their OVAC Cup soccer match Monday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

# Patriots Scoot Past Red Riders

Wheeling Park avenges earlier defeat with title game shutout

By DON CLEGG  
For The Intelligencer

Motivation wasn't a problem for Wheeling Park girls' soccer coach Aubrey Taylor coming into Monday night's 10th annual OVAC Cup final against Weir High at Wheeling Island Stadium.

His Patriots (11-2-1) avenged a regular-season loss to the Red Riders (9-4-3) in impressive style, holding the First Division champs without a single shot in the second half en route to a 3-0 victory.



OVAC GIRLS  
SOCCER FINAL

"I didn't have to do a lot to get the girls pumped up for tonight's game," smiled Taylor. "They've been waiting for this one ever since they (Weir) beat us the first time."

That regular-season setback was Wheeling Park's first loss to an OVAC team in several seasons and the scrappy Red Riders nearly drew first blood again Monday night.

Just four minutes into the contest, Weir cleared a high ball out of its own end and it took a long bounce over the heads of the Patriot defense.

The Red Riders' Melissa Henry - the team's leading scorer with 15 goals and 10 assists - won the race to the ball and sprinted in on Park keeper Jill Wright.

Henry fired from 15 yards out but didn't catch it clean and the ball sailed directly into Wright's waiting hands.

Please See PATRIOTS, Page 15



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Loren Mueller is defended by Weir's Liana Barnabei during their OVAC Cup girls' soccer final at Wheeling Island Stadium on Monday.

## Patriots

(Continued from Page 13)

"We had a chance to jump out with that first goal," said Weir head coach Bill Giebell, "but we just had a little bit of a miscue."

Granted that reprieve, Wheeling Park turned up the defensive heat and the Red Rider attack wilted.

Weir never got another shot on net the rest of the night and was held to just two shots for the entire game.

"Our three defenders played very well tonight," said Taylor. "Sarah (Bizanovich) had a great game in terms of position and pressure and our two markers (Kelly Kresen and Julie Warner) were excellent."

"That's two freshmen and a sophomore back there and I was very happy to see them play so well in such a big game."

With Weir unable to mount a threat, the field seemed to tilt toward the Patriots' offensive end.

Weir keeper Stephanie Foster was able to weather the storm for a little while but The Park broke through in the 13th minute.

Lauren Thomas sent a ball back into the middle where Arlene Wheeler had time to settle it and draw a bead from 30 yards out.

Wheeler's well-placed drive whistled just over a leaping Foster's outstretched hand and just under the crossbar for the first goal of the game.

Foster and the hard-working Weir High defense were able to keep the Patriots off the board for the rest of the half but it seemed only a matter of time before the Patriots would break through again.

The second goal came in the 11th minute of the second half when Lauren Smith created some space at the top of the box and fed it over to Olivia Moray, who banged it home from 15 yards out.

Thomas closed out the scoring in the 29th minute of the second half when she collected a feed from Jenna Forzano and bent a pretty shot just inside the left post from 20 yards out.

"We have a lot of girls with good offensive skills," said Taylor, who coached the Patriot boys

to a pair of OVAC Cup crowns during an earlier stint at the Ohio County consolidation.

"This is one of the more talented teams I've been associated with. They knew how to move the ball around before I got here. I'm just trying to help them along a little bit."

Wheeling Park finished with a 15-2 advantage in shots but the Red Riders were willing to write it off as just a bad night and would like nothing better than a rubber match in the West Virginia sectionals.

"I guess that makes it 1-1 between us this season," said Giebell. "They seemed to think the first game was a fluke. Well, that was the game we outplayed them. We got outplayed tonight but I'm pretty sure we'll see them again."

**OVAC Cup Championship**  
(at Wheeling Island Stadium)  
Wheeling Park 3, Weir 0

WP — Goals: Wheeler, Moray, Thomas. Assists: Thomas, Smith, Forzano. Goalkeeper: Wright (1 save); Weir — Goalkeeper: Foster (6 saves)  
Shots: Wheeling Park 15, Weir 2  
Corners: Wheeling Park 2, Weir 0

## Brooke

(Continued from Page 13)

"I could feel it in the locker room," he said. "We've got 10 seniors on this team and they wanted this one badly."

"It seems like Linsly and Wheeling Park have just been Brooke's nemesis over the years. We'd be right behind them but couldn't quite get over the hump."

"We've got 10 seniors on this team and I could feel it in the locker room. I told them it was their time and their game to win and they just went out and did it."

The two teams locked horns in an entertaining first half in which both squads came up with excellent scoring chances.

The Bruins, however, were the team that had the answer when opportunity came knocking.

Whitt took the goose egg of the Brooke side of the scoreboard

in the 28th minute when he came swooping in on the right side to collect a rebound and rip it into the top left hand corner of the net.

The backbreaker for the Cadets, however, came five minutes later.

Oliver was trying to run down a long ball that carried into the Linsly box but an alert Reihner saw him coming and came off his line to grab the bouncing ball.

As Reihner prepared to punt the ball out of danger, it suddenly seemed to slip from his hands and Oliver was able to poke it free.

Reihner lost his footing as he tried to recover and Oliver danced deftly away and slid the ball into the open net for a 2-0 lead.

"That was a big goal," agreed Cadet head coach Dave Coutts. "I guess the ball was a little damp and slipped off his gloves but give the Brooke kid credit for hustling

and being right there."

Senior Jason Adams had scored 30 goals coming into the night and junior Issam Sawtarie had six goals and a team-high 13 assists.

"That's the thing that amazed me," said Fries. "Not just winning but to shut out Adams and Sawtarie for an entire game. That's quite a feat."

Despite seeing his run of four OVAC Cup championships come to an end, Coutts was gracious in defeat.

"Give them credit," he said. "They beat us twice so it wasn't a fluke."

**OVAC Cup Championship**  
(at Wheeling Island Stadium)  
Brooke 2, Linsly 0

B — Goals: Whitt, Oliver. Goalkeeper: Mosser (13 saves); L — Goalkeeper: Reihner (9 saves)  
Shots: Brooke 13, Linsly 18  
Corners: Brooke 7, Linsly 6