

# Devils win OVAC

• St. C. downs Harrison

BY RICK DeLUCA  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Lady Red Devil head coach Rebecca Hays knows a thing or two about winning OVAC championships.

As a player in 1995, Hays was a key figure on St. Clairsville's OVAC title team and last season as an assistant, she was part of the Lady Devils' second conference champion.

Guiding her team back from a first game loss, Hays saw her Lady Red Devils register a 20-25, 25-12, 15-8 win over Harrison Central to capture the school's and her third OVAC Class 3-A title in the conference playoffs at Union Local High School in Morristown Saturday afternoon.

With the win, the Lady Devils boosted their season mark to 16-6 and successfully defending their OVAC crown after coming into the tourney as a No. 3 seed.

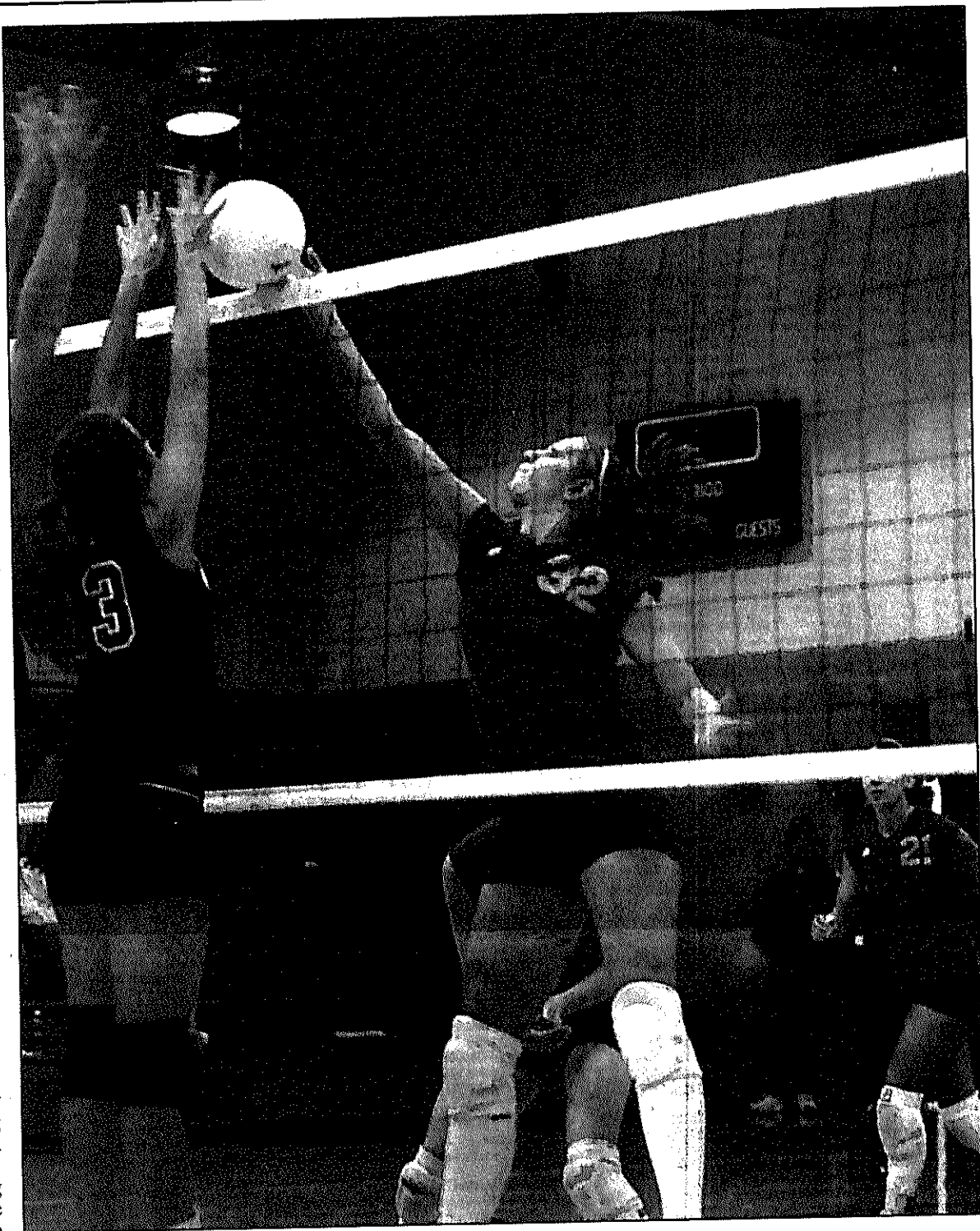
St. C advanced into the finals with an impressive 25-23, 25-19 win over second-seeded Martins Ferry in the semifinals.

Harrison Central, one of the area's hottest teams over the past two weeks, came into the tournament as the fourth seed and finished the day with an impressive 15-6 mark. The Lady Huskies of coach Marsha Zoller moved into the finals with a surprising 25-16, 25-12 win over top-seeded Bellaire in the semifinals.

"It feels wonderful, it's an amazing title," an elated Hays said after the win. "We had a title to defend and we did."

"It's just a wonderful feeling. We've been working toward this. We

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ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Sarah Hurr goes up for a return, while Martins Ferry's Ashley Suto tries to block during Saturday's semifinal match of the OVAC tournament at Union Local High School.

T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

## Buckeye Trail tops Monroe Central for title

By RICK DeLUCA  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Buckeye Trail and OVAC championship matches are as common in the fall as falling leaves. The leaves are starting to fall and the Lady Warriors are again an OVAC champion.

Stretched to the limit in a 17-25 setback in the first game, Trail rallied to even the match with a 25-11 win in the second before taking the deciding game, 15-11, and the OVAC Class 2-A title over Monroe Central in the conference playoffs at Union Local High School in Morristown Saturday morning.

Trail, one of Ohio's most successful programs over the past two decades, boosted its record to 19-3 on the season. Coach Jeff

Beros' Lady Warriors came into the OVAC playoffs as the third-seeded team in the rugged 2-A division and went to notch the school's sixth OVAC title since 1993.

Monroe Central, entering the tourney as the Class 2-A top-seed, finished the day at 18-2. Coach Troy Baker's Lady Seminoles head into the post-season with a sparkling record in what was to be a rebuilding year at Monroe.

Beros' Lady Warriors advantaged into the finals with an impressive 25-21, 17-25, 15-10 win over second-seeded Wellsville. Monroe moved into the finals with its 25-11, 25-22 decision over PVC rival Caldwell.

"The level of competition in the OVAC has been ever increasing over the past few years," Beros said after the win. "You have to come

here and be prepared to play hard and not in the just the finals, but in the semi-final match as well."

"Wellsville comes in at 18-2, Monroe comes in at 17-1 and Caldwell is very good," he added. "There were no pushovers here today. Any team that would be on today would have walked away with the championship.

The level of play in the OVAC and eastern Ohio has picked up."

"I was quite sure what team we were playing for in that first game. We made just too many mental errors," Beros said. "We knew that we had no place to go but up after that

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## ● Trail

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first game. They are a heck of a team."

"I think both teams had opportunities to take control and when you are playing in a championship, sometimes our nerves get the most of us, but I think we minimized our mistakes in the third game."

In the finals, Trail received a standout effort from his ace as Brittini Borrero led the winners with 10 kills and five key blocks. Molly Grimes closed with five points, seven kills and two blocks and Cara Britten had

seven points with one ace. Amy Kittle and Courtney Dinges had four kills each while Liz Ash had six points.

Monroe was led by senior standout Kara Hamilton with 16 kills, 39 spikes and eight blocks. Lynsey Laffere had 10 points, three kills and 11 spikes, while Courtney Wilson closed with three kills, six spikes and two blocks. Taylor Jorris had two kills, eight spikes and three blocks.

In Trails win over Wellsville, Borrero finished with 11 points,

nine kills and six blocks while Grimes had eight kills and four blocks, Britten had 24 assists and Ash finished with eight points and two aces.

Jasmine Richardson led the Lady Tigers with seven points, two aces and nine kills and Ashlee Allison had nine points and four kills and two blocks.

Hamilton also led Monroe in its semi-final win with 13 kills, 31 spikes and three blocks while Laffere had 14 points and seven spikes and Jorris had 14 spikes, five kills and four blocks.

## ● Devils

Continued from Page C1

had a pretty good week of practice. We worked a lot of conditioning and hustling and playing as a team, we pulled it together and we played as a team tonight," she added.

"We've been steady this year, but we had a couple ruts that we had to pull out of," she said. "We willing three seniors that played here today, but we have a lot of players that will be coming back."

Hopefully, we will be able to come back next year and defend our title again."

"I was a reserve coach on the team last year and I was a player on the team that won the OVAC title in '95. It's great because I know exactly how they are felling."

In the title game, Missy Gossett, last year's OVAC 3-A player of the year as a sophomore, led the winners with 13

kills and six blocks while Jessica Pempek added seven points, two aces and two blocks, Beth Schroeder had four points and two kills, Amanda Piccolini added six kills and 14 assists, Janie Henry closed with 14 points and Sarah Hurr had five kills.

Vhelsea Cocougher led the Huskies with six points, five kills and 12 spikes, Max Frontiz had eight kills and four blocks and 11 spikes and Jeanna Heaston added five kills, two blocks and 2 spikes. Danielle Bethel closed with three points, four kills and nine spikes and Julia Hodkinson had two kills, seven spikes, three blocks and 13 assists.

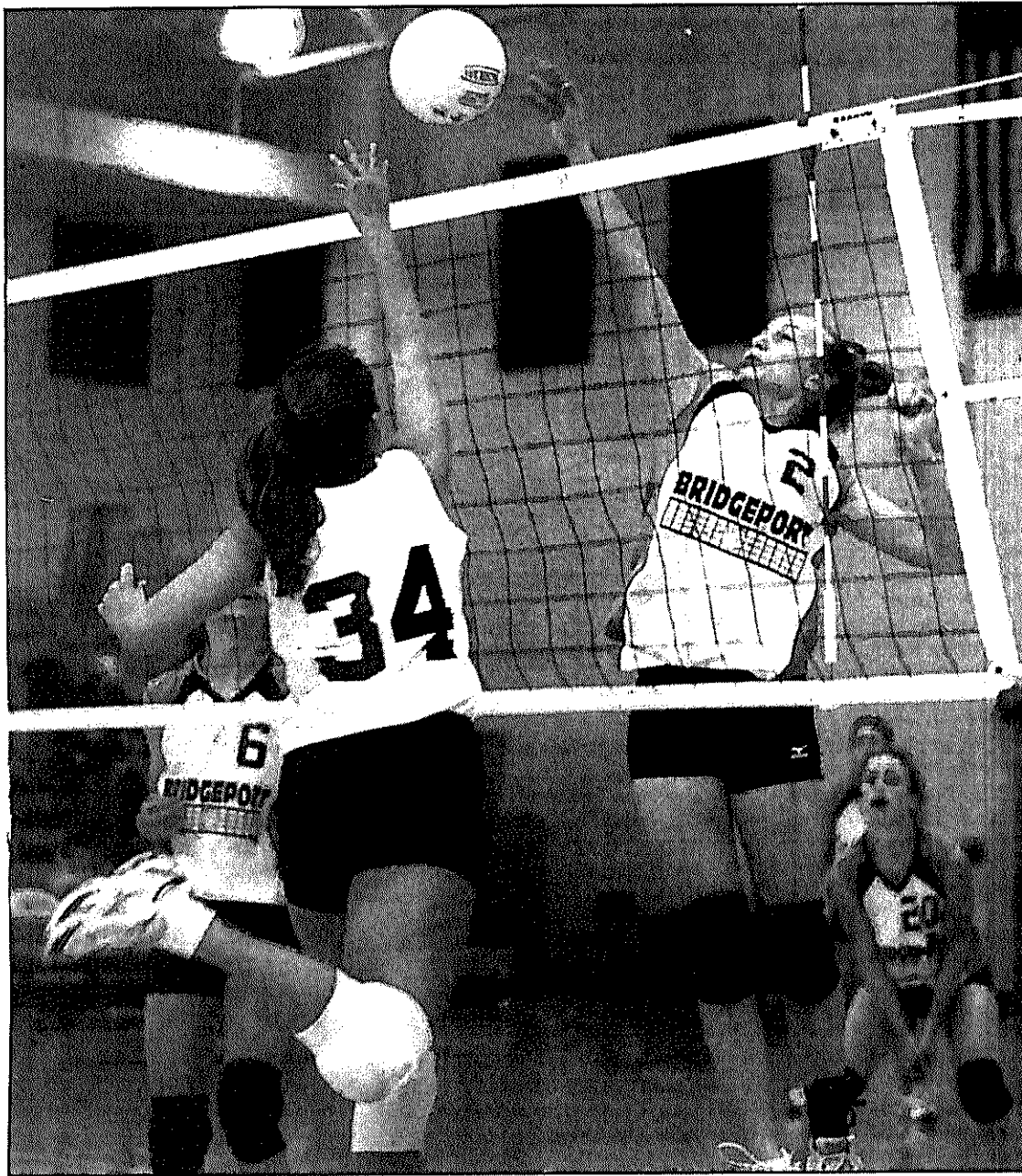
In St. C's win over the Riders, Gossett had nine kills and seven blocks, Piccolini had eight kills and four blocks and eight assists, Allie Wojchowski had eight points and seven assists, Henry

had six points and Pempek had four points.

Martins Ferry, closing at 14-4, was led by Amie Reithmiller with nine kills, 10 spikes and five blocks while Libby Hodor had four kills, four spikes and two blocks, Lynsey Agnew had seven points and four spikes, Neely Whetsel had five points and 12 assists and Kaycie Strauss added three points and three spikes.

Harrison's win over Bellaire saw Hodkinson close with five points, three kills, nine spikes and four blocks, Frontz had six kills and nine spikes and four blocks and Bethel closed with three points, four kills, eight spikes and four blocks.

Bellaire was paced by Michelle Tomlan with four points and three aces and Ashley Vavrek with three points.



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

BRIDGEPORT'S Alexis Dober goes up for a shot during Saturday's Class 1-A semifinal match. Defending for St. John Central is Amanda Timko.

## Bridgeport wins Class 1-A volleyball title

By RICK DeLUCA  
Times Leader Sports Writer

It was just all a matter of time for Bridgeport coach Bob Krajnyak and his Lady Bulldogs and the time came Saturday night.

Advancing into the OVAC finals for only the second time, Krajnyak and his talented Bridgeport netters captured the school's first-ever OVAC Class 1-A volleyball title with a 25-15, 25-11 sweep of Paden City in the OVAC Volleyball Tournament at Union Local High School in Morristown Saturday night.

Entering the tournament as the top-seeded 1-A team, the Lady Bulldogs upped their impressive record to 16-6 with a pair of wins on Saturday. Krajnyak, who earlier in the week notched his 100th career coaching win, continues to hold a huge lead in the regular season standings of the conference.

In the semi-finals, the Lady Bulldogs dominated St. John Central in gaining another sweep taking two from the Lady Irish; 25-16, 25-10.

Paden City, coming into the tourney as the third-seed, closed out the playoffs with a 14-7 mark for coach Fred King. The Lady Wildcats advanced into the finals with a 21-25, 25-22, 15-5 win over second-seeded Valley.

"This is great," the Lady Bulldog coach said after the big win. "The girls deserve it. They have been working so hard since they were seventh graders. So they worked their way through the program and now they finished it off this year as seniors. This is just fantastic."

"I think back in '96, we advanced to the championship, so we finished as runners-up one other time. This is the first we made after that, so this is just great," he added.

"It shows that the junior high program helps. These girls have all been in it since the seventh grade. They did all the extra work. They played the Club Gold. They played in the summer. They did

everything they were supposed to do to get here today."

"Brandy Burgy is just fantastic. I just hope she goes on and continues to play in college," he pointed out. "But they are all great kids and they deserve all of this. This is the best group I ever had."

"There is so much team in these girls. They always stay together. They just keep fighting and fighting and fighting and that's what does it for us."

In the Lady Bulldogs win over Paden City, Burgy led the winners with a stellar performance that included six points, one ace, seven kills, 13 spikes and two blocks while Sarah Zimmerman added five points, one ace, three kills and seven spikes. Sarah Wamsley closed with 13 points, five aces and Kayla Mokros added two kills and two blocks.

Paden City was paced by Sarah Pryor with six points and 37 assists while Jenny Bowers added seven kills and Erica Elliott had four kills and two blocks.

In the Lady Bulldogs semi-final win over the Lady Irish, Burgy led the way with nine points, two aces, seven kills, 14 spikes and two blocks. Mokros added six kills, 11 spikes and two blocks, Megan Canter had

nine points and four aces and four assists and Zimmerman closed with 14 points, four aces and six spikes.

Jess Vavra led the Lady Irish with five points, three kills, nine spikes and one block while Amanda Timko had five spikes, two kills and four assists. Jenna Vavra closed with five spikes and two kills.

Paden City's win over the Lumberjills saw Elliott finish with four points, four aces and 10 kills while Pryor added 10 points, Erika Bennet had four points, two kills and two blocks and Atoshia Felton had three

## SPORTS

# Edison wins OVAC 4-A volleyball crown

By RICK DeLUCA  
Times Leader Sports Writer

Sparked by seniors Devin Cain, Kylie Snyder and Annie Kovalesky, Edison's top-seeded Wildcats collected the school's third OVAC Class 4-A crown by sweeping defending champion East Liverpool, 25-13, 25-18, in the OVAC Tournament at Union Local High School in Morristown Saturday afternoon.

Edison, an OVAC champion in 1996 under then-head coach Karen Lundquist, handed head coach Lynn Meyer her second OVAC crown on Saturday. Meyer coached the Lady Wildcats to a title in 2001.

With the win, the Lady Wildcats boosted their season mark to 15-6 and now head into Sectional tourney action on Monday.

East Liverpool, a nine-time OVAC champion under veteran coach Bob Shansky, finished the day at 11-10.

The Lady Potters came into the tourney as the second-seed and the defending big school champion.

Edison advanced into the finals with a 25-16, 25-17 win over fourth-seeded Brooke and East Liverpool moved into the championship match with a 8-25, 25-21, 15-11 win over third-seeded Steubenville.

"We had a rough week with the two games that we lost this week, but they came back with a great practice and we had great senior leadership here today," Meyer said after picking up her second title.

"They really came together," she added. "Passing, which was the poor part of our game, has come through for us the last couple games and when that happens we have some great hitters up front."

"This was the first part of our goal was to win the OVAC championship and we want to win in the Sectional. We have never had a Sectional champion at Edison, so our next goal is to go to the

District."

"Success breeds success and we are hoping that this we help in building our program into next year."

"The valley is getting better," she said in reference to the increasing level of competition in the area. "We're getting there. It is going to get even tougher to win this tournament."

In the win over the Lady Potters, Snyder led the winners with five points, five kills and 10 spikes to go with two blocks. Cain finished with four points including an ace and nine assists and 23 sets. Jess Wedlake closed with 12 points, four aces, eight kills and 12 spikes. Kovalesky had five kills and nine spikes and Emily Peckens added four kills and nine spikes.

East Liverpool was paced by Briane Bishop with six kills and 13 spikes while Tricia Mackey had six kills and one spike.

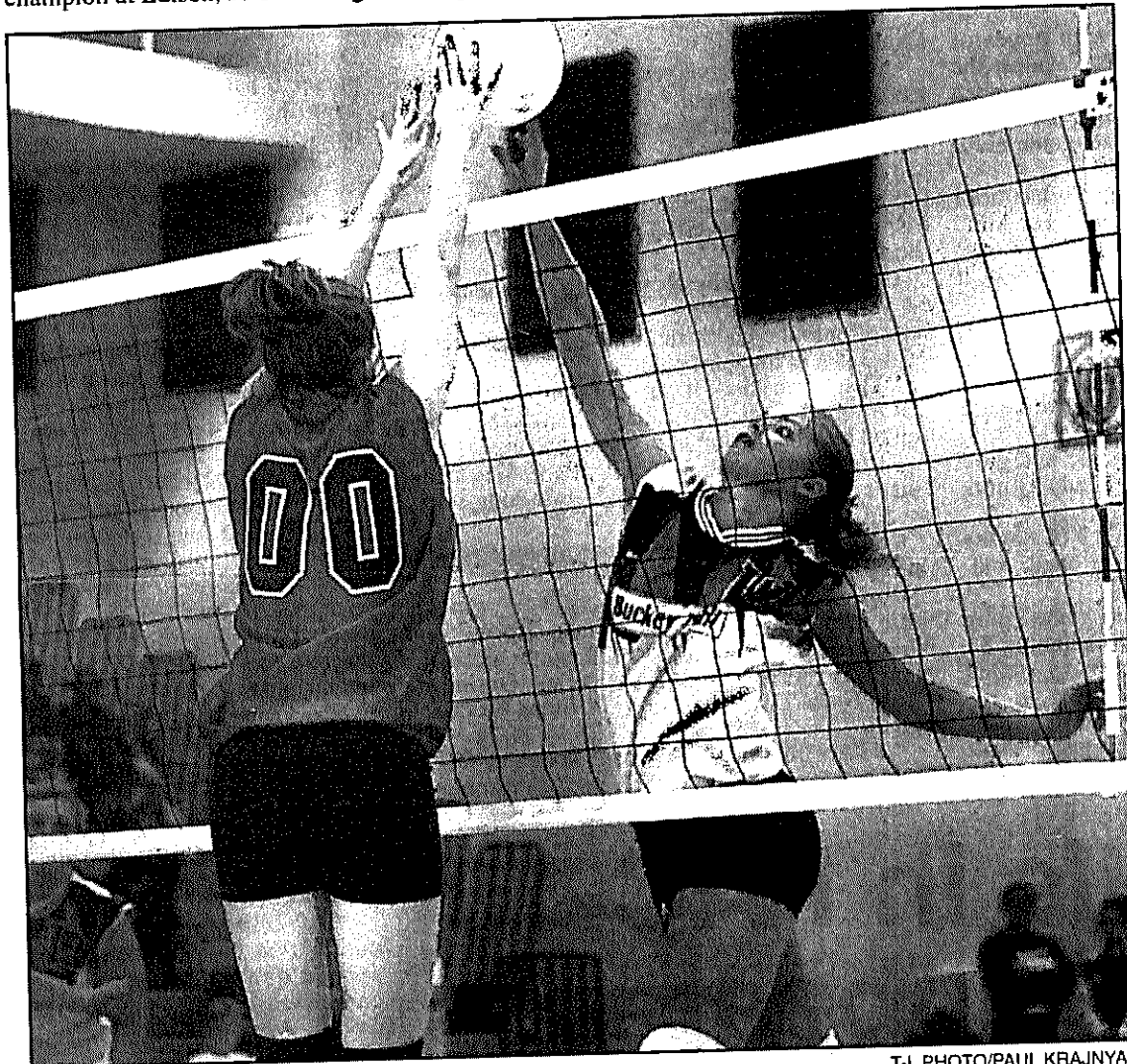
In the Lady Cats win over Brooke, Wedlake closed with 21 points, six aces, five kills and eight spikes. Cain added four points, two aces, 22 sets and 12 assists.

Snyder added five points, two aces, eight kills, nine spikes and two blocks and Kovalesky had eight kills and 13 spikes. Meredith Sanders had six points and eight spikes.

Brooke was led by Hannah Jackson with eight points and three assists, Ree Klein with three kills, Mystin Johnson with two points and five assists and Rochelle Byers with four points and one kill.

EL notched the semi-final win as Bishop had seven kills and 14 spikes and three blocks, Marissa Yeager had five kills and 16 spikes and Mackey had three kills and nine spikes.

Steubenville was paced by Courtney Sanders with 13 points and five aces, Jacquelin Gullen with 10 points and two aces, Meggan Strachan with five points, three kills, six spikes and two blocks and Kayla Thomas with eight spikes and six blocks. Big Red closed at 9-9.



T-L PHOTO/PAUL KRAJNYAK  
BUCKEYE TRAIL'S Amy Kittle goes up for a return against Monroe Central's B.J. Smith during the Class 2-A OVAC volleyball title match at Union Local High School Saturday morning.

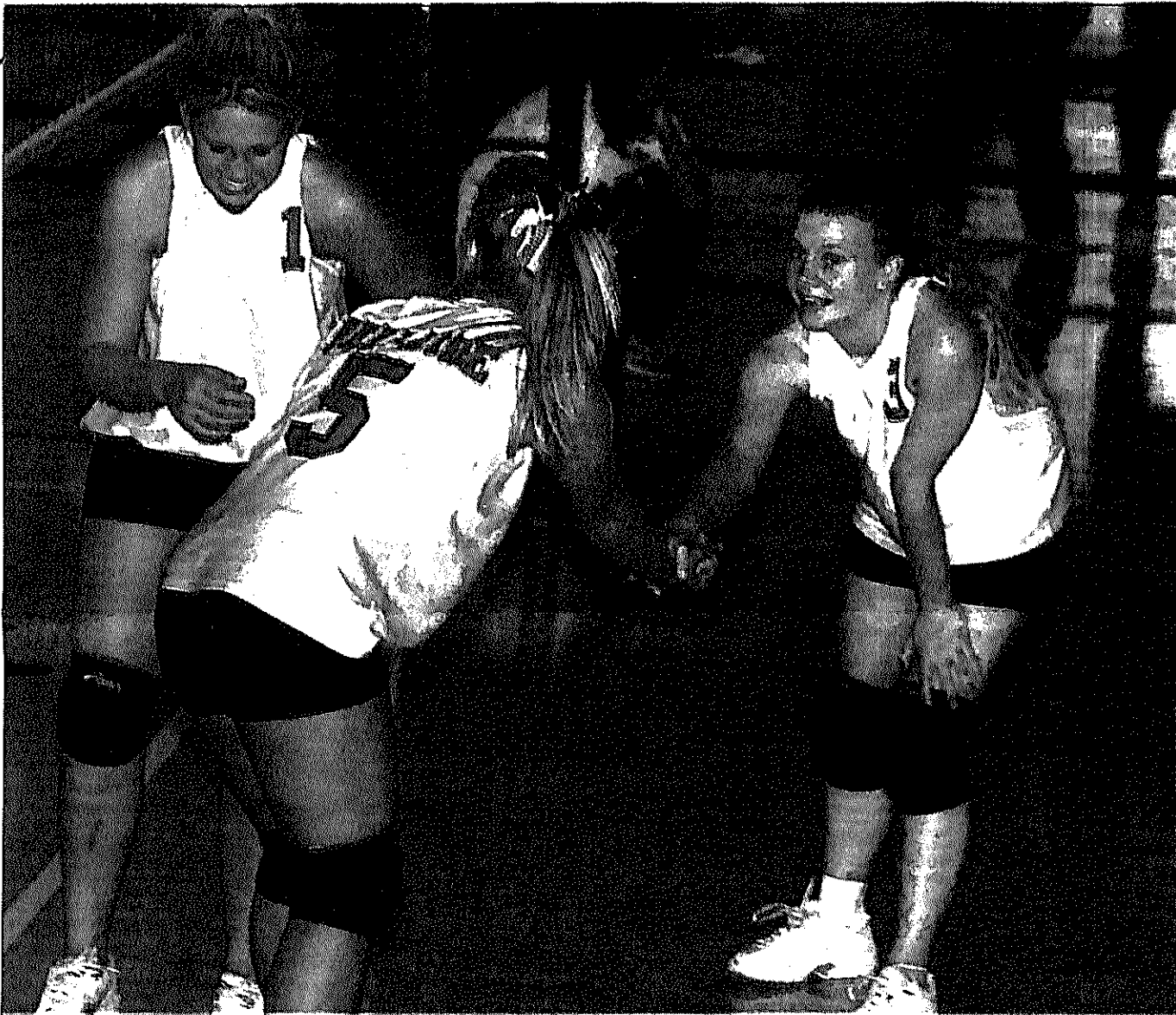


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Michelle Tomlan (1), Michelle Brinker (5), Sunny Stefanik (3) and the rest of the Bellaire Big Reds appear ready for Saturday's OVAC volleyball championships, which will be held at Union Local High School.

## OVAC Spikers Set to Go

By **JIM ELLIOTT**  
Staff Writer

It figures to be a full day of setting, bumping, and spiking Saturday, when the 2004 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference high school volleyball championships sort themselves out at Union Local High School in Morristown.

Three of the four defending champs are back in the field, with the lone exception being last year's Class A titlist Frontier, which missed the dance despite a fine 11-4 record this season.

Angie Jacobs, a ninth-grade volleyball coach and teacher in the Union Local school district, has taken over as director for the event. She has been helping out with the tournament for the past couple of years, and this day is like few others for her.

"I love it," she said. "I love doing this kind of thing."

Things get under way at

9:30 a.m. when the Class AA schools hit the court.

Top-seeded Monroe Central (16-1) will face Caldwell (12-5) on Court 1, while defending champion and second-seeded Wellsville (17-2) takes on Buckeye Trail (17-3) on Court 2. The finals will take place immediately following on Court 1.

Like just about all of the classes, this thing came down to the wire. Fourth-seeded Caldwell barely eked in.

"And the top three were very, very close," Jacobs said. "Class AA should be a real good bracket. All the coaches have very, very good programs at those schools."

Class AAA figures to be can't-miss volleyball.

With programs like top-seeded Bellaire (14-1) playing Harrison Central (12-5) and Martins Ferry (13-4) battling St. Clairsville, there's

little room for error.

"It's going to be a fight all the way around," Jacobs said.

The big schools (Class AAAA) will charge the nets at 2:30 p.m. when top-seeded Edison (13-4) is matched up with Brooke (6-7), while second-seeded and defending champion East Liverpool (9-8) takes on No. 3 Steubenville (8-8).

"East Liverpool always brings a good team," Jacobs said.

Brooke's progress will be something to keep an eye on, as the Bruins just barely squeaked into the tournament by less than a point over Wheeling Park.

The small schools (Class A) conclude the day's action at 5 p.m. with top-seeded Bridgeport (13-5) taking on Bellaire St. John's (7-10) while second-seeded Valley (10-3) will battle Paden City (12-7) on Court 2.

### OVAC Volleyball Saturday (Union Local High School)

#### Class AA

9:30 a.m. — No. 1 Monroe Central vs. No. 4 Caldwell on Court No. 1.

No. 2 Wellsville vs. No. 3 Buckeye Trail on Court No. 2. Finals immediately following.

#### Class AAA

Noon. — No. 1 Bellaire vs. No. 4 Harrison Central on Court No. 1;

No. 2 Martins Ferry vs. No. 3 St. Clairsville on Court No. 2. Finals immediately following.

#### Class AAAA

2:30 p.m. No. 1 Edison vs. No. 4 Brooke on Court No. 1; No. 2

East Liverpool vs. No. 3 Steubenville on Court No. 2. Finals immediately following.

#### Class A

5 p.m. — No. 1 Bridgeport vs. No. 4 St. John Central on Court No. 1;

No. 2 Valley vs. No. 3 Paden City on Court No. 2. Finals immediately following.

## OVAC VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFF PAIRINGS

**SATURDAY, OCT. 16**  
at Union Local High School, Morristown

9:30 a.m. No. 1 Monroe Central vs. No. 4 Caldwell on Court # 1  
No. 2 Wellsville vs. No. 3 Buckeye Trail on Court #2.  
Finals immediately following on Court #1.  
12:00 noon No. 1 Bellaire vs. No. 4 Harrison Central on Court # 1  
No. 2 Martins Ferry vs. No.3 St. Clairsville on Court #2.  
Finals immediately following on Court #1.  
2:30 p.m. No. 1 Edison vs. No. 4 Wheeling Park on Court #1  
No. 2 East Liverpool vs. No. 3 Steubenville on Court #2.  
Finals immediately following on Court #1.  
5 p.m. No. 1 Bridgeport vs. No. 4 St. John Central on Court #1  
No. 2 Valley vs. No. 3 Paden City on Court #2.  
Finals immediately following on Court #1.

# OVAC VB Tournament Notebook

### LOCAL OVAC VOLLEYBALL ROSTERS (as submitted to the Times Leader)

**BELLAIRE**  
Head coach -- Kaya Sechrest  
Assistant coaches -- Melissa Kaldor, Carrie Rejonis, Alyson Stephens  
Graduated players -- Julie Miller, Shannon Adler

**2004 Roster**  
Seniors: Shawna Hines, Britanie Kinder, Sarah Marantelli, Sunny Stefanik.  
Juniors: Chelsea Bostancic, Michelle Brinker, Sarah Delbert, Emily Taylor, Ashley Vavrek.  
Sophomores: Bridget Dunlap, Michelle Tomlan, Alicia Yonyon, Ashley Frazier, Samantha Kelley.  
Freshmen: Monica Chase, Lauren Doyle, Chelsea LaRoche, Ashley McCorkle, Tiffany Miller, Erica Price, Ronny Stefanik, Tonilia Wagner.

**BRIDGEPORT**  
Head coach -- Bob Krajnyak  
Assistant coaches -- Kon Rosnick.  
Graduated players -- Erin Harding, Brittany Grover, Kassie Supanik, Ashley Wilson, Alicyn Murad.

**2004 Roster**  
Seniors: Brandy Burgy, Megan Carter, Krista Gessler, Dana Mroczkowski, Sarah Zimmerman.  
Juniors: Andrea Sindeldecker.  
Sophomores: Alexis Dober, Kayla Mokrus.

**BUCKEYE TRAIL**  
Head coach -- Jeff Beros  
Assistant coaches -- Mike Beaver, Lori Smith  
Graduated players -- Katie Ganet

**2004 Roster**  
Seniors: Brittini Borrero, Molly Grimes, Courtney Dinges.  
Juniors: Liz Ash, Cara Britten, Heather Nealey.  
Sophomores: Amy Kittle.

**EDISON**  
Head coach -- Lynn Meyer  
Assistant coaches -- Dawn Pugh, Tony Kovalesky  
Graduated players -- Leah Snyder, Missy Evans, Jenny Kovalesky, Julia Davis.

**2004 Roster**  
Seniors: Devin Cain, Annie Kovalesky, Tasha Modranski, Courtney Pederson, Merideth Sanders, Kylie Snyder.  
Juniors: Jessica Wedlake, Caitlin Williamson, Kayla Bailey, Kelly Moore.

**HARRISON CENTRAL**  
Head coach -- Marsha Zoller  
Assistant coaches -- Ray Hibbs, Jamie Hendricks  
Graduated players -- Steffi Phillips, Lindsay Grabits, Sam Cunningham, Kim Lewis, Emily Horner.

**2004 Roster**  
Seniors: Julia Hodkinson, MJ Hendricks, Erin Nunner, Nanette Lewis, Carrie Niga, Sarah Santile.  
Juniors: Max Frantz, Jenna Heaston.  
Sophomores: Danielle Bethel, Chelsea Coranauger.

**MARTINS FERRY**  
Head coach -- Kim Ogilbee  
Assistant coaches -- Erika Vavrek, Alecia Tomlan, Leslie Frazier.  
Graduated players -- Holly Apostolec, Shae Marchbank.

**2004 Roster**  
Seniors: Dani Schemp, Libby Hodor, Kelsey Carpenter, Megan Simpson, Megan Ware, Megan Anzak, Lynsey Agnew, Neely Whetsell, Jayme Kalinski, Kaycie Strauss, Ebony Bowie.  
Juniors: Amilee Fleithmiller, Ashley Suto.

**MONROE CENTRAL**  
Head coach -- Troy Baker  
Assistant coaches -- John Kaiser, Barb Wellman  
Graduated players -- Kari Young, Anna Blair, Katie Schumacher, Adrianna Thomas, Renee Shreve, Dana Potts, Ashley Kuhn.

**2004 Roster**  
Seniors: Kara Hamilton.  
Juniors: Lynsey Lafferre, Courtney Wilson, Kim Stalder, B. J. Smith, Casey Marshall.  
Sophomores: Kelsey Lafferre, Amanda Blackstone.  
Freshmen: Taylor Jorris, Lindsay Huntsman, Rebecca Pardon, Morgan Ramage.

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE**  
Head coach -- Rebecca Hays  
Assistant coaches -- Heather Richard, Joyce Piccolini, Jana Pokas.  
Graduated players -- Amy Drake, Juliette McNamara, Stacy Synowiec.



### 2004 Roster

Seniors: Janie Henry, Jessica Pempak, Renee Tobczyk, Allie Wojchowski.  
Juniors: Missy Gossett, Jordan Myers, Katie Lee, Beth Schroeder.  
Sophomores: Amanda Piccolini, Lucy Bannon, Allie Kalis, Sarah Hurr, Sarah Ostrander, Kaylee Davenport.  
Freshmen: Olivia Pokas, Lora Schroeder, Stephanie Skatula, Brittani Zielinski, Hayle Adamson, Kylie Bober, Stacy Brothers, Alison Garbush, Alysa Krahel, Amanda McCabe, Ashley McCabe, Brittany Perkins, Kaitlyn Schmitt, Jessica Zuzak.

### ST. JOHN CENTRAL

Head coach -- Chuck Probst  
Assistant coaches -- Ellen Christakis, Missy Zambori.  
Graduated players -- Courtney Ogilbee.  
**2004 Roster**  
Seniors: Kala Amato, Elizabeth Babka, Caitlin Coyne, Chelsea Dierkes, Mary Humphrey, Trish Kosky, Katia Lemasters, Jessica Nickerson, Katie Seivertson, Amanda Timko, Jessica Vavra.  
Juniors: Ali Bonomo, Amanda Case, April Rotilio.  
Sophomores: Bethani Barsch, Courtney Coyne, Lacey Hollosz, Brittany Hudson, Jennifer Nickerson, Alyssa Searingen.  
Freshmen: Marissa Hendershot, Caitlin Longstaff, Kate Montgomery, Katie Orloffke, Lauren Sable, Jessica Trigg, Jessica Uhrich, Jenna Vavra, Kristina Velkovich.

### OVAC 2004 VOLLEYBALL COACHES

Records coming into 2004 season  
Barnesville Mary Ellen Hannahs (5th year)  
Beallsville Liza Dillon (2nd year)  
Beaver Local Bob Theiss (6th year, 55-35)  
Bellair Kaye Sechrist (3rd year)  
Bishop Donahue Krisinda McMahon (3rd year)  
Bridgeport Bob Krajnyak (10th year)  
Brooke Mark Schwertfeger  
Buckeye Local Mary Kay Mayle (3rd year)  
Buckeye Trail Jeff Beros (13th year, 270-60)  
Caldwell Cindy Frederickson (3rd year, 35-23)  
Cambridge Kelly Carpenter  
Cameron David Estel (1st year)  
Conotton Valley Jack Hupp (1st year)  
East Liverpool Bob Shansky (30th year, 342-250)  
Edison Lynn Meyer (24th year)  
Fort Frye Natalie Kennedy (2nd year)  
Frontier Pat Galbreath (34th year)  
Harrison Central Marsha Zoller (5th year)  
Indian Creek Erin DeSantis (20th year, 307-115)  
John Marshall Tonya Lehman (1st year)  
Linsly Dr. David Mallow (20th year, 175-112)  
Magnolia Shelley Seavy (2nd year)  
Martins Ferry Kim Ogilbee (2nd)  
Meadowbrook Mike Rawlings (12th year, 140-101)  
Monroe Central Troy Baker (6th year, 65-24)  
Oak Glen Ethel Riser (24th year)  
Paden City Fred King (1st year)  
River Kathy McGiono (21st year)  
Shenandoah Amanda James (1st year)  
St. Clairsville Rebecca Hays (1st year)  
St. John Central Chuck Probst (5th year, 56-55)  
Steubenville Suzanne Allen (5th year, 46-54)  
Steubenville Central Kristi Clark (1st year)  
Tyler Consolidated Richard Summers  
Union Local Ron Kelly (3rd year)  
Valley Rick Whoolery  
Weir Deanna Hvizdak (1st year)  
Weirton Madonna Lauren DeMundo (2nd year)  
Wellsville Dan McKinstry (27th, 464-155)  
Wheeling Central Amy Chute (3rd, 10-35)  
Wheeling Park Jodie Johnson (2nd year, 11-15)  
Zanesville Sue Loader (2nd year, 43-37)

### PAST OVAC VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS

**2003**  
A Frontier, Pat Galbreath  
AA Wellsville, Dan McKinstry  
AAA St. Clairsville, Lisa Kazmirski and Sharon Pastor  
AAAA East Liverpool, Bob Shansky

**2002**  
A Beallsville, Pat Marcum  
AA Wellsville, Dan McKinstry  
AAA Shenandoah, Colleen Kasper  
AAAA Beaver Local, Bob Theiss

**2001**  
A Weirton Madonna, Dawn Hawthorne  
AA Buckeye Trail, Jeff Beros  
AAA Indian Creek, Erin DeSantis  
AAAA Edison, Lynn Meyer

**2000**  
A Cameron, Sam Bayza  
AA Wellsville, Dan McKinstry  
AAA Indian Creek, Erin DeSantis  
AAAA Cambridge, Jodie Jones

**1999**  
A Cameron, Sam Bayza  
AA Shenandoah, Lynn Tomcho  
AAA Indian Creek, Erin DeSantis  
AAAA East Liverpool, Bob Shansky

**1998**  
A Conotton Valley, Tom Lynne  
AA Buckeye Trail, Jeff Beros  
AAA Indian Creek, Erin DeSantis  
AAAA East Liverpool, Bob Shansky

**1997**  
A St. John Central, Chuck Probst  
AA Shenandoah, Lynn Tomcho  
AAA Indian Creek, Erin DeSantis  
AAAA Oak Glen, Ethel Riser

**1996**  
A Conotton Valley, Michele Eckstein  
AA Buckeye Trail, Jeff Beros  
AAA Oak Glen, Ethel Riser  
AAAA Edison, Karen Lundquist

**1995**  
A Linsly, David Mallow  
AA Buckeye Trail, Jeff Beros  
AAA St. Clairsville, Greg Bizzari and Jay Tazar  
AAAA Weir, Ken Lahr

**1994**  
Ohio

**1993**  
A Frontier, Pat Galbreath  
AA Buckeye Trail, Jeff Beros  
AAA East Liverpool, Bob Shansky

**West Virginia**  
A/AA Linsly, David Mallow  
AAA/AAAA Weir, Ken Lahr

**1992**  
Ohio

**1991**  
A Conotton Valley, Ronna Coventry  
AA Buckeye Trail, Jeff Beros  
AAA Bellaire, Maria Shipley

**West Virginia**  
A/AA Paden City, Ed VanScoy  
AAA/AAAA Weir, Ken Lahr

**1990**  
Ohio

**1989**  
A Edison North, Karen Lundquist  
AA Steubenville Central, Sherri Stallone  
AAA Bellaire, Maria Shipley

**West Virginia**  
A/AA Linsly, David Mallow  
AAA/AAAA Weir, Ken Lahr

**1991**  
Ohio

**1990**  
A Skyvue, Adrienne Burkhardt  
AA Steubenville Central, Sherri Stallone  
AAA Bellaire, Maria Shipley

**West Virginia**  
A/AA Linsly, David Mallow  
AAA/AAAA Magnolia, Pam Duncan

Compiled by  
**RICK DELUCA**

# Bulldogs Defeat Paden City to Take First Crown

Buckeye Trail, St. Clairsville and Edison also victorious at OVAC volleyball championships

## For The News-Register

It was just all a matter of time for Bridgeport coach Bob Krajnyak and his Lady Bulldogs and the time came Saturday night.

Advancing into the OVAC finals for only the second time, Krajnyak and his talented Bridgeport netters captured the school's first-ever OVAC Class 1-A volleyball title with a 25-15, 25-11 sweep of Paden City in the OVAC Volleyball Tournament at Union Local High School in Morristown Saturday night.

Entering the tournament as the top-seeded 1-A team, the Lady Bulldogs upped their impressive record to 16-6 with a pair of wins on Saturday.

Paden City, coming into the tourney as the third-seed, closed out the playoffs with a 14-7 mark for coach Fred King. The Lady Wildcats advanced into the finals with a 21-25, 25-22, 15-5 win over second-seeded Valley.

"This is great," the Lady Bulldog coach said after the big win. "The girls deserve it. They have been working so hard since they were seventh graders and now they finished it off this year as seniors. This is just fantastic."

In the Lady Bulldogs win over Paden City, Brandi Burgy led the winners with a stellar performance that included six points, one ace, seven kills, 13 spikes and two blocks while Sarah Zimmerman added five points, one ace, three kills and seven spikes.

Sarah Wamsley closed with 13 points, five aces and Kayla Mokros added two kills and two blocks.

Paden City was paced by Sarah Pryor with six points and

37 assists while Jenny Bowers added seven kills and Erica Elliott had four kills and two blocks.

## Class AA

Buckeye Trail and OVAC championship matches are as common in the fall as falling leaves. The leaves are starting to fall and the Lady Warriors are again an OVAC champion.

Stretched to the limit in a 17-25 setback in the first game, Trail rallied to even the match with a 25-11 win in the second before taking the deciding game, 15-11, and the OVAC Class AA title over Monroe Central.

Monroe Central, entering the tourney as the Class AA top-seed, finished the day at 18-2.

Coach Troy Baker's Lady Seminoles head into the post-season with a sparkling record in what was to be a rebuilding year at Monroe.

Beros' Lady Warriors advanced into the finals with an impressive 25-21, 17-25, 15-10 win over second-seeded Wellsville. Monroe moved into the finals with its 25-11, 25-22 decision over PVC rival Caldwell.

In the finals, Trail received a standout effort from his ace as Brittini Borrero led the winners with 10 kills and five key blocks. Molly Grimes closed with five points, seven kills and two blocks and Cara Britten had seven points with one ace.

Amy Kittle and Courtney Dinges had four kills each while LizAsh had six points.

Monroe was led by senior standout Kara Hamilton with 16 kills, 39 spikes and eight blocks.

Lynsey Laffere had 10 points, three kills and 11 spikes, while Courtney Wilson closed with three kills, six spikes and two blocks. Taylor Jorris had two kills, eight spikes and three blocks.

## Class AAA

Lady Red Devil head coach Rebecca Hays knows a thing or two about winning OVAC championships.

St. Clairsville battled back from a first game loss as Lady Red Devils registered a 20-25, 25-12, 15-8 win over Harrison Central to capture the school's third OVAC Class AAA title.

With the win, the Lady Devils boosted their season mark to 16-6 and successfully defending their OVAC crown after coming into the tourney as a No. 3 seed.

Harrison Central came into the tournament as the fourth seed and finished the day with an impressive 15-6 mark.

In the title game, Missy Gossett, last year's OVAC 3-A player of the year as a sophomore, led the winners with 13 kills and six blocks while Jessica Pempek added seven points, two aces and two blocks, Beth Schreoder had four points and two kills, Amanda Piccolini added six kills and 14 assists, Janie Henry closed with 14 points and Sarah Hurr had five kills.

Vhelsea Cocougher led the

Huskies with six points, five kills and 12 spikes, Max Frontiz had eight kills and four blocks and 11 spikes and Jeanna Heastion added five kills, two blocks and 2 spikes.

Danielle Bethel closed with three points, four kills and nine spikes and Julia Hodgkinson had two kills, seven spikes, three blocks and 13 assists.

## Class AAAA

Sparked by seniors Devin Cain, Kylie Snyder and Annie Kovalesky, Edison's top-seeded Wildcats collected the school's third OVAC Class AAAA crown by sweeping defending champion East Liverpool, 25-13, 25-18.

Edison, an OVAC champion in 1996 under then-head coach Karen Lundquist, handed head coach Lynn Meyer her second OVAC crown on Saturday. Meyer coached the Lady Wildcats to a title in 2001.

With the win, the Lady Wildcats boosted their season mark to 15-6 and now head into Sectional tourney action on Monday.

East Liverpool finished the day at 11-10.

In the win over the Lady Potters, Snyder led the winners with five points, five kills and 10 spikes to go with two blocks.

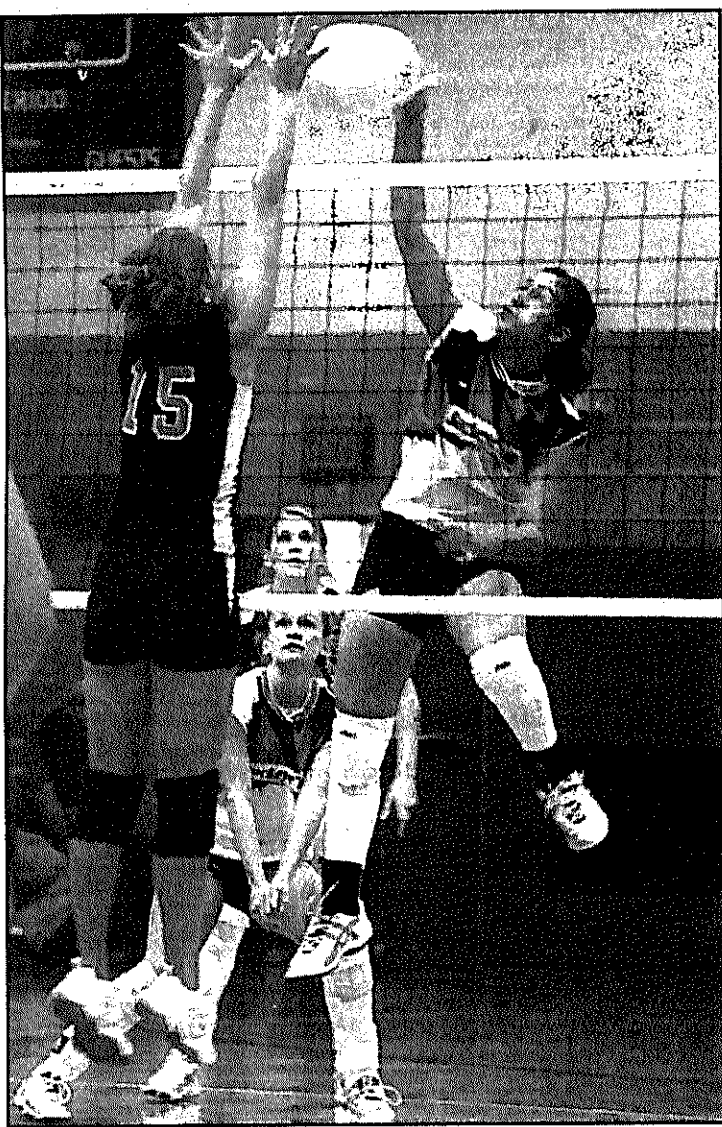
Cain finished with four points including an ace and nine assists and 23 sets. Jess Wedlake closed with 12 points, four aces, eight kills and 12 spikes.

Kovalesky had five kills and nine spikes and Emily Peckens added four kills and nine spikes.

East Liverpool was paced by Briane Bishop with six kills and 13 spikes while Tricia Mackey had six kills and one spike.



# Trail wins OVAC 2-A title



Sean Scott/The Daily Jeffersonian

Buckeye Trail senior Brittini Borrero, r, blasts a kill through the hands of a Wellsville defender on Saturday morning during the Lady Warriors' 25-21, 18-25, 15-10 victory in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 2-A volleyball tournament semifinals at Union Local High School. Trail ended up winning the championship.

**ROD JOHNSON**  
THE DAILY JEFFERSONIAN

**MORRISTOWN** — The Buckeye Trail Lady Warrior volleyball team claimed its first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference title since 2001 and 12th overall on Saturday morning at Union Local High School.

After a 25-21, 18-25, 15-10 defeat of Wellsville in the Semis, Buckeye Trail took the Class 2-A title with a thrilling 17-25, 25-15, 15-11 triumph over Monroe Central in the finals.

Following the wins, BT coach Jeff Beros paid tribute to the competition.

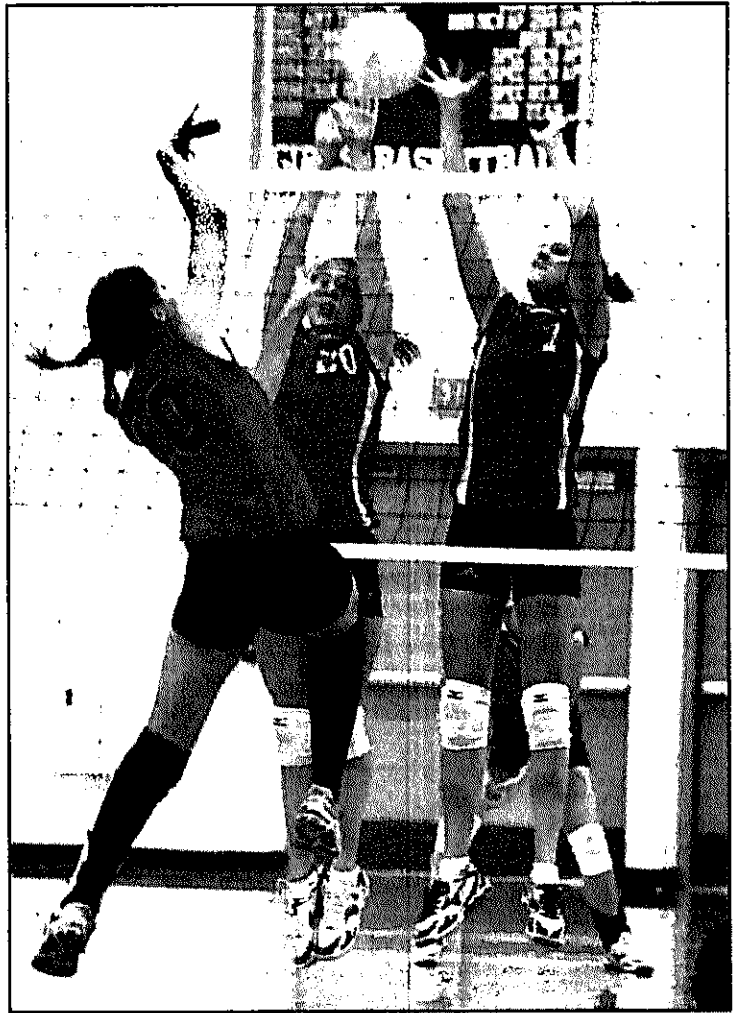
"OVAC competition is improving each year," he said. "We had to be ready to play hard in both matches today. There were no pushovers in Class 2-A. There were four really good teams here today."

Trail's chances to take the title appeared dim after game one, as Monroe Central's Kara Hamilton nearly single-handedly dominated the Lady Warriors.

A pair of Hamilton kills early on knotted the score at 5-5. A flurry of BT errors ensued, allowing the Lady 'Noles to race to an 11-6 lead and force a Beros timeout.

Following an exchange of

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Sean Scott/The Daily Jeffersonian

Caldwell teammates Crystal Craycraft (20) and Cassie Linger (7) reach to block a kill attempt by Monroe Central during Saturday morning's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 2-A volleyball tournament at Union Local High School. The Lady 'Skins lost the match, 25-11, 25-22.

## Lady Warriors claim OVAC 2-A crown

### OVAC from page B-1

points, Hamilton's domination reached its game one zenith. With teammate Lynsey Lafferree serving, Monroe Central scored eight unanswered points to push the lead to 20-10. During the skein, Hamilton had two kills and two stuff blocks. Trail could not recover.

"We had too many errors in game one," Beros admitted, "and Monroe played as well as I've seen them play."

Lady Seminole mentor Troy Baker concurred. "In game one, we played as well as we've played all season. Unfortunately, we could not sustain that level of play. We lost our momentum at the beginning of game two and never got it back. We just didn't not pass very well in games two and three."

After ties at 4-4 and 6-6, Trail got the upper hand in game two when seniors Courtney Dinges and Molly Grimes provided key kills. A Lady Seminole receiving error gave BT a 10-6 lead.

The margin remained at four until a kill from Trail's Liz Ash and an ace serve from Grimes upped the margin to six, at 14-8. A flurry of Monroe Central passing errors ensued. Moments later, a BT kill from senior Brittini Borrero and an ace serve by Kendra Bamfield put the Lady Warriors into a comfortable 20-11 lead. They were never headed and a Grimes kill finishing off the game two win.

Game three began poorly for BT, with three early net serves. Fortunately, Monroe was not able to recapture their game one magic, as Hamilton was reduced to tipping instead of swinging. From a 9-9 tie, Bamfield provided a kill and an ace to propel

Trail to an 11-9 lead. Moments later, a Borrero kill and block swelled the BT lead to 14-10. A final Monroe hitting error gave the title to Trail.

For Buckeye Trail (19-3), setter Cara Britten dished out 25 assists in the championship match. Borrero and Grimes combined for 17 kills. Borrero also added four blocks.

For Monroe Central (18-2), Hamilton finished with a match high 14 kills to go along with three blocks.

In the morning semi-finals, some shoddy BT serving allowed Wellsville to rebound and take game two after a solid Lady Warrior game one win.

Trail left nothing to chance in the decider, jumping out to early leads of 7-3, 9-4, and 12-5. A pair of late kills by Amy Kittle and Grimes put the semi-final win into the BT column.

Versus Wellsville (18-3), Borrero and Grimes combined for 17 kills. Borrero also had five blocks. Britten recorded 24 assists and Ash drilled a pair of aces.

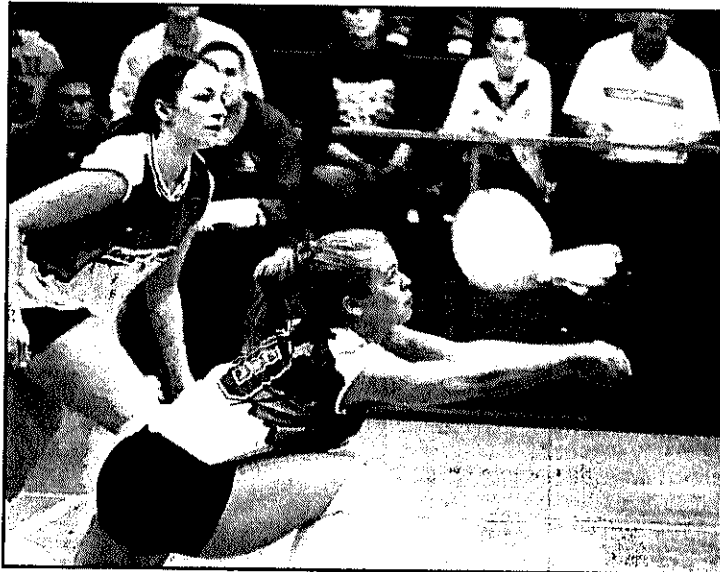
The other morning semi-final saw Monroe Central take out Caldwell in two games by scores of 25-11, 25-22.

Game one was nip-and-tuck until the 7-7 mark. From that point, a barrage of Caldwell errors piled up, allowing the Lady 'Noles to outpoint the Lady 'Skins 18-4 to take the blowout win.

Caldwell played much more competitively in game two, but net serves cost them the chance for the win.

A disappointed coach Cindy Frederickson offered no excuses following the loss.

"We got off to a bad start this morning," she began, "and we



Sean Scott/The Daily Jeffersonian

Buckeye Trail's Amy Kittle, r, makes a dig for the Lady Warriors as teammate Cara Britten watches during their 25-21, 18-25, 15-10 victory over Wellsville during the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 2-A volleyball tournament semifinals on Saturday.

never recovered. At one point in game two, we netted three serves in a row."

For Caldwell (13-6), Dani Seebch and Lacey Nau combined for nine kills while setter Sasha Frederickson handed out eight assists.

Pacing Monroe's semi-final effort was Hamilton, who blasted 13 kills. Setters Casey Marshall and Taylor Jorris combined for 16 assists.

**In the Class 4-A final**, Edison bested East Liverpool, 25-13, 25-18. Edison won over Brooke, 25-16, 25-17, and East Liverpool defeated Steubenville, 8-25, 25-21, 15-12, to advance to the finals.

**In the Class 3-A final**, St. Clairsville defeated Harrison Central, 20-25, 25-12, 15-8. St. Clairsville bested Martins Ferry, 25-23, 25-19, and Harrison Central won over Bellaire, 25-

16, 25-12, in the semifinals.

**In the Class 1-A final**, Bridgeport defeated Paden City, 25-15, 25-11. Bridgeport got past Bellaire St. Johns, 25-16, 25-10, and Paden City slipped past Valley, 21-25, 25-22, 15-5, in the semifinals.

**NEXT**—Buckeye Trail will face Garaway in the Division III Sectional Tournament at Claymont High School on Thursday, Oct. 21 at 6 p.m.

Caldwell, by virtue of a No. 1 seed and a first round bye, will play for a Division IV Sectional title on Thursday at Barnesville High School at 6 p.m. Their opposition will be the winner of Tuesday's Bellaire St. Johns-Beallsville match.

Monroe Central will begin Division III Sectional play at Meadowbrook High School on Wednesday, Oct. 20 at approximately 7:15 versus Shenandoah.



Tuesday,  
October 19, 2004

## SPORTS

## OVAC volleyball on the rise



By  
**RICK  
DELUCA**  
Times Leader  
Sports Writer

At the rate the OVAC and Ohio Valley volleyball is going, one of

these two states will be holding their state tourney here in the Ohio Valley. And Union Local High School might be just the right place.

It's starting to sound like a broken record, I'm sure, but the level of play in Ohio Valley in the sport of prep volleyball is so much greater than just five or 10 years ago that it should not be long before we start seeing a few teams in the state tournament in Columbus.

Our Ohio Valley schools already have earned their share of

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state titles in the Mountain State, but in the next couple years, local fans may be boarding the buses for the Ohio state tourney as well.

Anyone who missed out on the opportunity to attend this past weekend's OVAC Volleyball championships at Union Local High missed out on some of the best volleyball every played in the area.

Congratulations go out to

Bridgeport, Buckeye Trail, St. Clairsville and Edison on giving their schools an OVAC title on Saturday.

With the new rally scoring format in effect and the availability of the Libero rule for teams this season, the tournament did take on a little different look, but it certainly didn't affect the play. In fact, the tournament stayed on schedule all day and finished up a little early.

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## ● Net

Continued from Page D1

It was great to see the excitement on the faces of the coaches and players from Bridgeport who captured their first-ever OVAC title in volleyball. Head coach Bob Krajnyak, who had just a week earlier notched his 100th coaching win, now adds a conference title to the trophy cases in Bridgeport.

And in the 36 years that I have been covering sports, I really don't believe I ever saw a smile as big as the one stretched across the face of St. Clairsville coach Rebecca Hays after her team gave their school a third OVAC championship.

Hays was a player on the 1995 Lady Red Devil team that won that school's first conference title and was an assistant on last year's

OVAC championship team. Although in just her first year, Hays is one of those bright, energetic young coaches that the valley needs to stay around for a long time to help boost the sport in the conference.

Without question, Lynn Meyer may be one of the most underrated volleyball coaches in the Ohio Valley. It was just back in 2001 that Meyer returned to coaching after a brief hiatus and promptly took her Edison team to an OVAC title. This year, Meyer did it again with what many observers at the OVAC tourney think was the best team in the tourney.

Surprisingly, according to the Lady Wildcat coach, Edison, despite all of its success on the court, has never advanced to the District level

in the post-season. Of course, Meyer and her Lady Cats are set on breaking that dry spell this fall.

Buckeye Trail is a completely different story. Everyone expects the Lady Warriors or any team that Jeff Beros would coach to win and much more often than not, they do.

Beros is one of the most knowledgeable and best teachers of the game in the Ohio Valley. He has produced numerous winners as a team at Trail and the school can claim the most all-Ohio performers of any of the schools in the conference.

Trail's win on Saturday wasn't an easy one. With teams like Monroe Central, Wellsville and Caldwell in the same division, the road was certain to be a tough one.

Monroe came into the tourney with just one loss and that was to Trail and Wellsville, the two-time defending champ, came in at 18-2.

First, Beros' club had to dispose of Wellsville in the semifinals, then had their hands full before topping the Lady Seminoles for the crown.

As for Union Local High, the conference could not have found a better venue to hold its

annual volleyball championships. The facility and hospitality always are of the highest quality.

Another great find for the OVAC was Angie Jacobs. Serving her first year as the conference's volleyball director, she can lay claim to one of the smoothest run tournaments the OVAC has ever conducted.

Earlier it was mentioned that the tournament stayed on schedule and finished a bit early. The OVAC volleyball tourney is a long day of volleyball and what you don't want is to get behind schedule. Angie Jacobs, the on-court officials and all those lending a hand did an excellent job of keeping the tournament on track and with as little controversy as possible.

Over the course of the day, there were some outstanding individual performances in each of the divisions. All the more reason of proof that the level of competition is raising in the OVAC.

Just to name a few, and I do mean just a few, of the outstanding performances over the weekend:

Bridgeport's Brandy Burgy was the cornerstone of the Lady Bulldogs drive their first OVAC title. In wins over St. John Central and Paden City, the senior combined to collect 15 points, three aces, 14 kills, 27 spikes and four blocks and she kicked it up a notch in the finals

to dominate the net.

Only a junior, Edison's Jess Wedlake was near flawless in her performance registering 33 points, 10 aces, 13 kills and 20 spikes in wins over Brooke and East Liverpool. Teammate Kylie Snyder totaled seven points, one ace, 13 kills, 19 spikes and four blocks.

Missy Gossett, last year's OVAC Class 3-A player of the year led the Lady Red Devils in a pair of winners recording 13 blocks and 22 kills and sophomore Amanda Piccolini and 14 kills, four blocks and 22 assists.

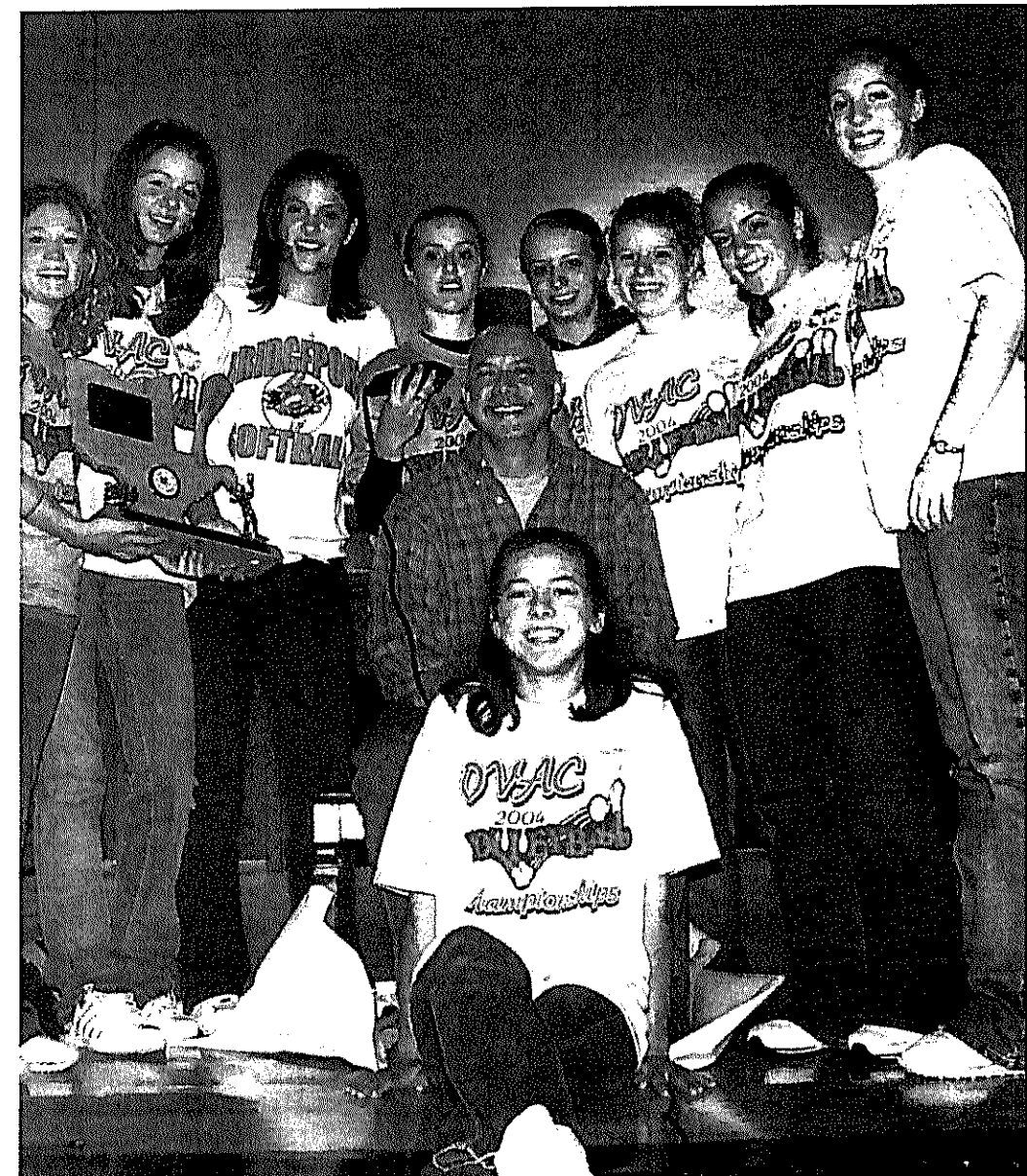
Harrison Central was one of the tough teams on the nets and Max Frontz was one of the Lady Huskie leaders with eight blocks, 20 spikes and 14 kills. Julia Hodgkinson recorded seven blocks, five kills and 16 spikes.

No question two of the best performances in the tournament came out of the Class 2-A action. Buckeye Trail's Brittini Borrero, an

all-stater as a junior, was superb with 11 points, one ace, 19 kills and 11 blocks. Monroe Central senior Kara Hamilton racked up big numbers as the Lady Seminoles just missed out on an OVAC crown. In two matches, Hamilton registered 29 kills, 70 spikes and 11 blocks. Not a bad day at the office.

Mark your calendars now for mid-October, 2005. It will only get better.

## Good reason to lose your hair



T-L Photos/PAULA GINTH

**TAKING MORE** than a 'little off the top' was a special treat for Lady Bulldog volleyball coach, Bob Krajnyak, as he got a special haircut, above, courtesy of his OVA Champion team. The Lady Bulldogs took OVAC honors over the weekend as they won the top spot in the tournament. They will now advance to regional finals, beginning this evening. Krajnyak promised the senior members when he began coaching them their freshman year that he would let them shave his head if they won the OVAC event. It kept true to his word, and the deed was done during a school assembly Monday afternoon. OVAC Champions, the Lady Bulldog Volleyball Team is pictured, to the left, with coach Bob Krajnyak following his special haircut to celebrate their weekend tournament win. Pictured are (front) Kayla Mokros, Megan Carter, Brandy Burgy, Sara Walms Coach Krajnyak, Andrea Sindledacker, Alexis Dober, Sarah Zimmerman, Krista Gessl and Dana Mroczkowski.

# OVAC tourney: Volleyball at its best



By  
**RICK  
DELUCA**  
Times Leader  
Sports Writer

What a year for high school volleyball in the Ohio Valley and what a weekend to come out and watch the best the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference has to offer in the sport.

Union Local High School's dual gyms in Morristown will be the site for the annual OVAC Volleyball Championship playoffs and the one constant that the tournament has offered each year is that it just keeps getting better and better.

This year's tournament marks the 10th straight season that the OVAC has held one tournament in the sport including teams from both Ohio and West Virginia. Prior to 1995, volleyball was played as a fall sport in Ohio and a winter sport in the Mountain State.

Since 1995, 18 different schools have captured OVAC titles in their respective classes while schools like Indian Creek, with five titles; Buckeye Trail, with four; East Liverpool and Wellsville, with three; St. Clairsville, Conotton Valley, Shenandoah, Edison, Cameron and Oak Glen, with two, have been multiple winners over the past nine seasons.

Just as a reminder that dominating the OVAC volleyball playoffs is no easy task, keep in mind that over the past four years, Class 4-A and 1-A have had four different winners in each of those years and Class 3-A has had three different schools take home titles. Wellsville has captured three of the last four in 2-A and will be returning this year to defend its crown.

Three of the four defending champions from a year ago will be back to try to capture yet another ring, only Frontier, who just missed qualifying in Class 2-A, was a champ in the 1-A

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division in 2003.

Dan McKinstry, the Ohio Valley's winningest coach with 491 career victories, will be bringing his Lady Tigers back on Saturday in hopes of nailing down a third straight crown.

St. Clairsville, a defending champion after taking the 3-A title last year with co-coaches Lisa Kazmirski and Sharon Pastor at the helm, will look for a second straight crown and third overall for the school, as first-year coach and former Lady Red Devil standout Rebecca Hays leads St. C back to the tourney.

Bob Shansky, the OVAC's second winningest coach, has hopes of adding a fifth OVAC crown since 1994 as his East Liverpool Lady Potters again return to the OVAC playoffs. Shansky guided EL to titles in '94, '98, '99 and '03.

And again this year, Union Local will be the gracious host for the OVAC championship playoffs and it has over the past few years. The Morristown school's dual gyms and comfortable surroundings make for an ideal setting each year for the tournament.

Able to take advantage of the two gyms at UL, the OVAC has been able to streamline the tournament in recent years by playing both semi-final matches simultaneously and then follow immediately with the title game.

Gates open at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and the tourney gets underway at 9:30 a.m. with a pair of Class 2-A semi-finals, matching top-seeded Monroe Central and fourth-seeded Caldwell on the main floor and second-seeded Wellsville and third-seeded Buckeye Trail squaring off on Court #2. Their championship final will follow immediately on the main floor.

At noon, the Class 3-A semi-finals get started with top-seeded Bellaire battling fourth-seeded Harrison Central on the main court and middle seeds St. Clairsville and Martins Ferry

going head-to-head on Court # 2.

Big school contenders will get their semi-final matches going at 2:30 p.m. with top-seeded Edison taking the court opposite fourth-seeded Brooke and second-seeded East Liverpool battling third-seeded Steubenville on Court #2.

Playoff action closes the day with 5:30 p.m. semi-final matches pitting top-seeded Bridgeport and fourth-seeded St. Central on the main court and second-seeded Valley and third-seeded Paden City slugging it out on Court #2.

Each championship match will follow the respective semi-finals. From top to bottom, the march to the playoffs has been a busy and close one in the conference.

In Class 4-A, coach Lynn Meyer's Edison Wildcats were clear-cut leaders in the division, but just 6.8 points separated the next four teams.

Class 3-A races were tight all season and as many as eight different teams had a shot at making the playoffs in the final week. Fourth place Harrison Central topped Tyler Consolidated by just four-tenths of a point for the final playoff in that division. Just 2.0 separated Harrison, Tyler, Meadowbrook and Magnolia from fourth through seventh.

In Class 2-A, just six-tenths of a point split the top three teams and only 1.6 points rest between fourth-seeded Caldwell and a vastly-improved Wheeling Central team in fifth.

Class 1-A wasn't without its tight race as just one point split fourth-seeded St. John Central and fifth place Linsly.

Also this year's tournament will feature two major changes that will be introduced at their first OVAC playoffs - rally scoring and the Libero.

In the past, games were played to 15 with only the serving team having the opportunity to score. With rally scoring, the best-of-three match will be played to 25

in the first two games and 15 in the third and a point is scored on each serve.

In a rule that features more of a defensive player in a specialty role, the Libero is being used in an experimental phase this year and will be available for teams to use in the OVAC tourney. While West Virginia schools do not use a Libero player, some Ohio schools do and may do so since the playoffs are being played under Ohio rules.

Haven't seen any volleyball this fall? This is the perfect chance to see the best volleyball the Ohio Valley has to offer.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In Friday's edition, Rick DeLuca has host of facts, figures, rosters and statistics concerning Saturday's OVAC Volleyball Tournament.