

St. C. nets OVAC 3-A VB crown

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

Three-peat.

That's one championship times three. Exactly what the St. Clairsville did Saturday night.

Taken to a third game, the Lady Red Devils notched their third straight OVAC Class 3-A title with a thrilling 25-22, 21-25, 17-15 win over second-seeded Bellaire at Union Local High School Saturday.

Coach Rebecca Hays Lady Red Devils, losers earlier in the week at Bellaire, captured their third straight title and second under Hays. St. C improved to 19-3 with the win.

In the semi-finals, the Lady Devils stopped Magnolia in straight sets, 28-26, 25-18. Bellaire advanced in a heart-stopper defeating Harrison Central, 25-20, 26-24.

After winning the first game, the Lady Red Devils found themselves trailing by 7-1 before rallying and eventually knotting the score at 18-18. In the third game, St. C was forced to come back from a 6-1 deficit tying the score at 8-all before winning it all.

"Especially since they just beat us the other, it was bitter-

sweet to beat Bellaire," St. C coach Rebecca Hays said after the win. "They beat us on our senior, but we just decided that it was more important to beat them in the OVACs."

"They are excited and I'm excited too," she added. "They don't quit, they play as a team and pick each other up. Some teams will get in a rut and they stay in a rut, but our team, if one person makes a mistake they just walk over and tell them to shake it off."

"We play as a unit and I think that's what helped us this year to win the OVAC. We didn't give away many forced errors on our serves in this game and that was a key."

"They (Bellaire) are an incredible team and they have a great program. Kaye and all her girls they play their hearts out."

In winning the 3-A crown, St. C was led by Amanda Piccolini with eight kills, three blocks, 18 assists and four digs. Missy Gossett added two aces, 19 kills, four blocks and six digs, Beth Schroeder added nine digs, Olivia Pokas closed with six kills, 11 assists and three digs. Sarah Hurr had three kills, two blocks and one dig. Lucy Bannon added nine digs, Katie Lee had four assists

and Sarah Ostrander close with four assists.

Coach Kaye Sechrest's Lady Big Reds were led by Michelle Tomlan with 13 points, one ace and 12 assists, Ashley Vavrek with eight points, one ace, 17 kills, two blocks and 10 digs, Michelle Brinker with three kills, seven assists. Chelsea Bostancic had 10 points, six kills, four blocks and five digs. Ashley McCorkle added 10 points and 12 digs and Monica Chase had 12 points, one ace and three digs.

In the semi-finals, Bellaire and Harrison Central battled to the wire in both games with the Lady Big Reds prevailing with the help of Chelsea Bostancic who collected 13 points, one ace, five kills and two blocks. Ashley Vavrek added nine points, two aces, nine kills, two blocks and six digs.

Emily Taylor had eight points, three aces and three assists. Ashley McCorkle had eight points and 11 digs. Michelle Brinker had two blocks, five assists and three digs and Michelle Tomlan had nine assists.

Harrison Central was led by Krystal Lewis with six points, two aces, one kill, two blocks

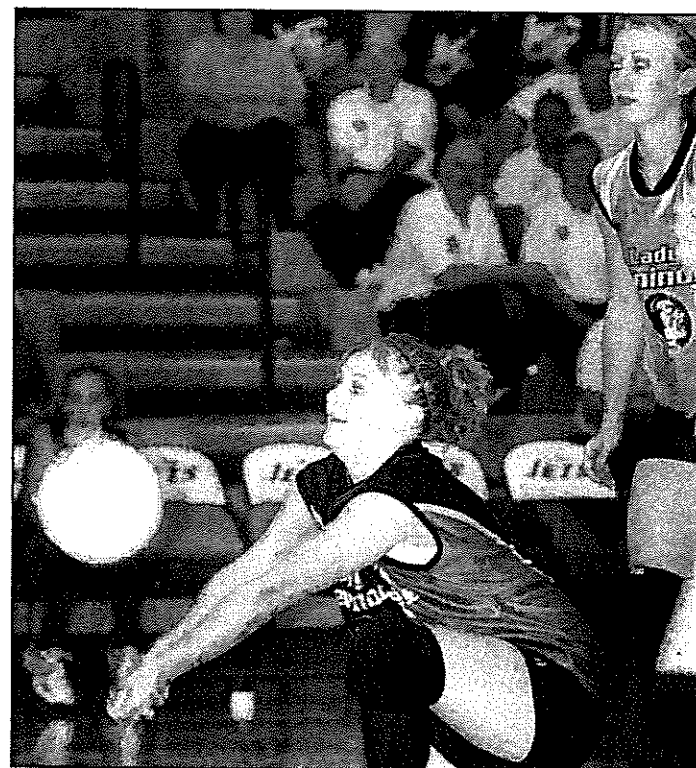
and one assist.

Chelsea Coconougher had four points, three kills and two blocks, Max Frontz had six kills, Jenna Heaston closed with four points, two aces, seven kills and four digs, Shannon Kelly had four points, three aces and 11 assists. Danielle Bethel closed with five points, two kills and two blocks.

St. Clairsville's win over Magnolia didn't come easy as the Lady Red Devils were taken to the limit in the first game before winning in the second.

Hayes club was paced by Piccolini's two aces, four kills, two blocks, 14 assists and two digs. Gossett closed with three aces, 11 kills, three blocks and nine digs, Schroeder had one ace, three kills, two blocks and three digs. Pokas closed with two points, two kills, one block, six assists and four digs. Lucy Bannon added five digs and one ace.

Magnolia was led by Katy Talkington with four points and six kills, Micah Bell had seven points, four aces and nine kills, Trisha Kuhns had five points, two aces and two kills. Jennifer Blake had three points, one ace and three kills.



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

DIGGING OUT the ball during Saturday's semifinal win over Buckeye Trail is Monroe Central's Casey Marshall. The Lady Seminoles went on to win the Class AA crown.

Monroe Central earns 2-A title

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

Although Wheeling Central came into the OVAC playoffs as the top-seeded team, Monroe Central was looking forward to playing Buckeye Trail in the semi-finals.

Once the Lady Seminoles disposed of the defending champions, the Lady Maroon Knights moved to the top of the list.

Battling back from an early 9-6 deficit and fighting off the potential for a letdown, Monroe Central rolled to a 25-16 win in the first game, then stayed in command from start to finish in the second winning 25-14 and capturing the OVAC Class 2-A title at Union Local High in Morristown Saturday.

Although becoming a regular in the OVAC championship playoffs, coach Troy Baker's club notched the school's first

lot of emotion out there," he added. "We were able to get on a run in that third game and it was just too much for Trail to come back from."

"I really thought coming in here that if we could take that first game. It was sort of a championship, not taking anything away from Wheeling Central or Steubenville Central. That's just the mindset I had coming in."

"It's a great accomplishment being here and an honor to be here, but that just wasn't enough for us. We wanted to win a championship."

In their title win, Courtney Wilson led the winners with nine points, two aces, eight kills while Taylor Jorris added six kills and 10 assists. Lynsey Lafferre added four points and four kills. Morgan Ramage finished with 12 points, two aces and six kills. Kim Stalder had 22 digs.

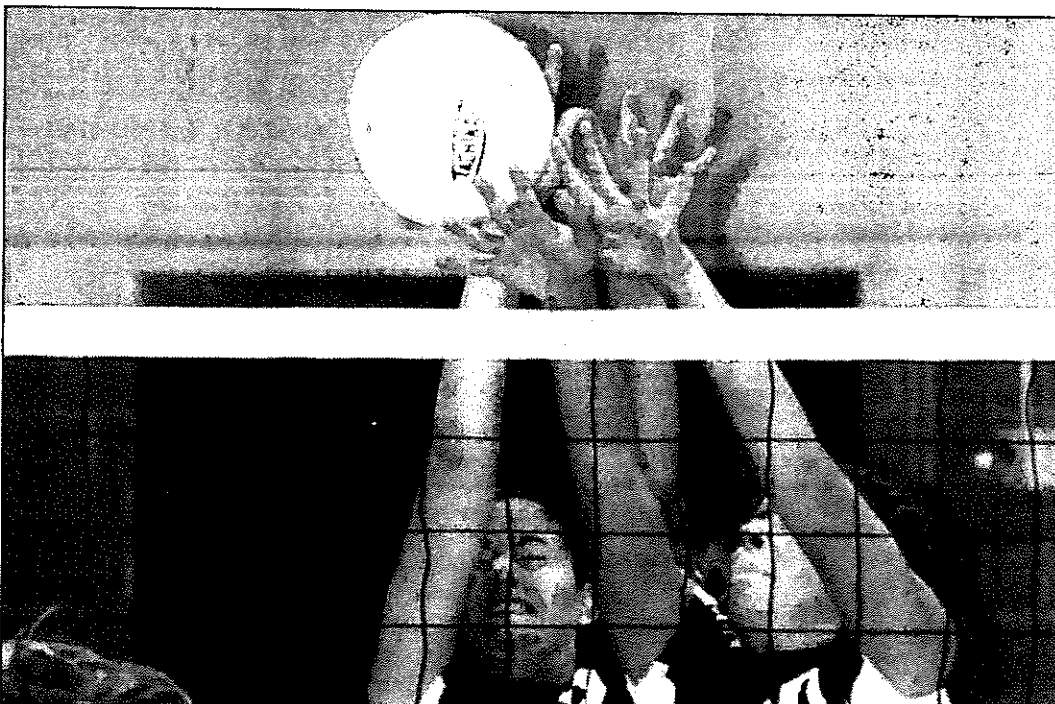
Paden City claims 1-A

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

Coming in as the tournament's second seed, Paden City's hard-working Lady Wildcats had something to prove. Saturday morning, the Lady Cats proved they are champions.

After disposing of Valley High in the semifinals, Paden City swept the top-seeded Beallsville Lady Blue Devils, 25-23, 25-19, to capture the OVAC Class 1-A Volleyball Championship at Union Local High School in Morristown.

With the win, coach Fred King's Lady Wildcats boosted their record to 16-11 on the season and notched their first



OVAC volleyball crown since the OVAC playoffs combined Ohio and West Virginia schools.

In the semi-final matches, Paden City stopped Valley in two sets, 25-22, 27-25, while Beallsville advanced by virtue of a two set win over defending champion Bridgeport, 25-18, 26-24.

"We play very good teams on our schedule," King said after the win. "When you only have 70 students in your school, to be able to come up with enough kids to play is one thing."

"We're not a real athletic team," King pointed out. "But we play volleyball the way it is suppose to be played. We shut off there service."

"Beallsville killed us with their serve, so we developed a new scheme for defending their serve and worked out very well and it allowed us to be on the attack. We used a different strategy in the back row and it worked."

"We're very pleased. It is the first time since 1993 that we won an OVAC volleyball championship and last year we were here and we lost to Bridgeport."

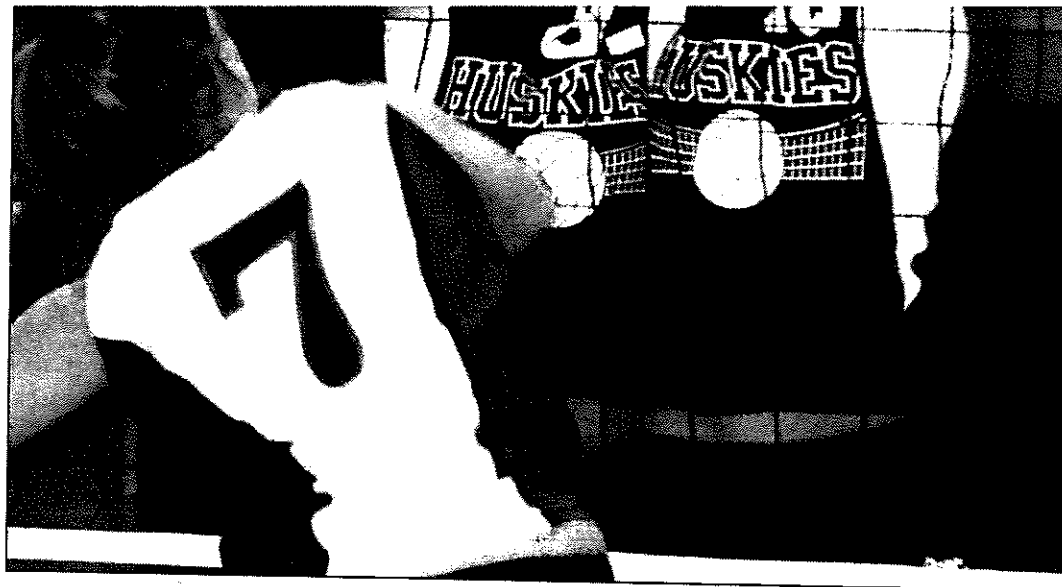
"What really excited me was that in the other gym (against Valley), when ever we got down by three or four we battled back. Today, we got behind, came back and won it."

In the opening set, Paden City fell behind 3-1, rallied to knot the score at 3-all and never gave way to the Lady Devils en route to the win.

A Brittany Burkhart ace early in the second enabled Beallsville to pull even with the Wildcats and later a big block by Amanda Fraley again kept the Blue Devils in a deadlock with Paden City. It was a stretch midway through the second set that provided the winners with some breathing room. The Lady Cats extended an 8-8 draw to a 19-14 lead and held off the Beallsville charges to post the win.

Atoshia Felton led the winners with five points and six kills while Staley Birkheimer matched Felton with five points and six kills. Eria Bennett added three points and seven kills.

Beallsville was paced by Savannah Burke with five points, one ace, seven kills and two blocks. Burkhart closed with five points, three aces and four kills. Fraley had eight kills and Latora Arnold had 11 assists.



HARRISON CENTRAL'S Shannon Kelly and Danielle Bethel block a shot by Bellaire's Alyssa Ofat (7) during the OVAC 3-A volleyball semifinals Saturday at Union Local. T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

Steubenville grabs 4-A title

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

Seven years coaching the Lady Big Red, a trio of trips to the OVAC championship playoffs, never a champ until now.

Needing three sets to advance from the semi-finals, coach Suzanne Allen's Steubenville netters registered a 25-14, 25-20 sweep of East Liverpool to capture the OVAC Class 4-A volleyball title at Union Local High School in Morristown Saturday night.

Boosting their record to 16-6 on the season, Allen's Lady Big Red handed the school its first-ever OVAC title in volleyball and stopped the Lady Potters for the first time in OVAC competition.

To reach the finals, Steubenville went the distance in beating Weir in the semi-finals, 25-14, 14-25, 15-12. East Liverpool, a past champion in the conference, stopped defending 4-A champion

Edison in the semi-finals in straight sets, 25-23, 25-16.

"They wanted it. I don't know what is a bigger game, us and Steubenville Central or us and East Liverpool," an elated Allen said after the win. "They wanted it. We were up against East Liverpool every time we've been here and they beat us in the third game."

"I have an excellent group of girls. I can't ask for a better group of girls," she added. "Both on the court and on the bench. They work well together. They are excellent."

"When they want it, they come together and play hard," she said. "We may not have the powerhouse, but they get the job done."

"They had the spirit and they had the fire. They just wanted it."

Whitney Petrella paced the Big Red with nine points, one kill and one block while Celina Govey had five points and four digs, Caitlin Criss added four points and three digs, Jacquelin

Gullen closed with seven points, two kills and two blocks and Ashley Jablonski had seven points, three blocks and 11 assists.

Rachel Klink led the Lady Potters with nine points, one kill and two blocks, Marissa Yeager had 10 kills and two blocks, Samantha Klink closed with four points, one ace and six assists and Laura Boley had three points, two blocks and six assists.

Steubenville advanced to the finals with a win that was led by Criss with six points, five kills and one ace, Celina Gomez with 11 points, 14 assists and 10 digs, Petrella with eight points, three aces and Jablonski with 14 assists and three points.

Weir was led by Stacie Bernardi with 11 points and 20 sets, Ali Bobalik with two points, four spikes and 24 sets and Chelsey Pritts with three points, two aces, 10 spikes, six kills and five digs.

OVAC volleyball crown. Skyvue, part of the Monroe consolidation, won the Ohio-side 1-A OVAC title in 1991.

With the win, Baker's Lady Seminoles boosted their season mark to 17-4. Coach Amy Chute's Lady Knights finished the tourney at 17-2.

In the semi-final matchup, Monroe eliminated the defending 2-A champion Trail in three sets dropping the first 11-25, then taking the next two by 25-21, 15-11.

Wheeling Central took the same route in winning the other semi, losing to Steubenville Central 20-25 in the opening set before sweeping the next two, 25-22, 15-7.

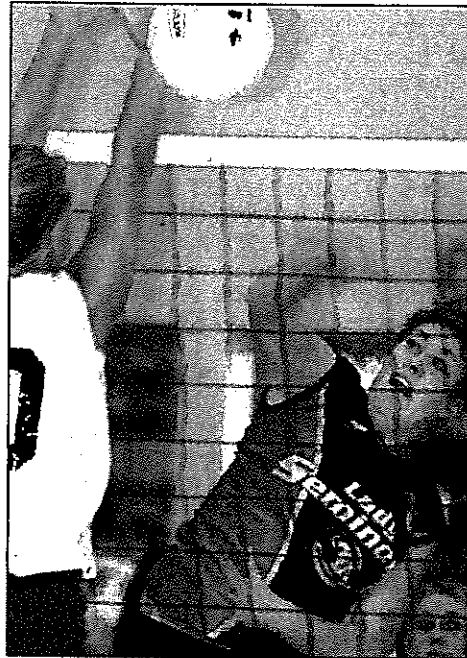
"I just thought that we played good," Baker said after winning the crown. "Other than in that first game with Trail and I don't think we played that bad, I just think they played error-free."

"The second and third game the girls played hard and with a

22 digs. Wheeling Central was led by Erica Marchesi with seven points, two aces, one kill and four assists. Andi Burke had seven points and Chelsea Skreypek had five points, one ace, two kills and three blocks.

In the semi-final win, Monroe was paced by Wilson with one point, eight kills and three blocks. Jorris added four points, seven kills, 12 assists and two blocks. Lafferre closed with seven points, one ace and three kills. Ramage finished with two points, one ace, nine kills and two blocks, Casey Marshall had nine points and 10 assists.

Stalder had 20 digs. Trail was paced by Ashley Stillion with 12 points, six blocks and 13 assists, Lauren Zink with eight points, three kills and five blocks, Cara Britten with two points, five kills and 14 assists, Amy Kittle with three points and nine kills and Kendra Bamfield with three points and eight kills.



T-L Photo/MIKE HARVILLA

BLOCKING a shot by Monroe Central's Morgan Ramage is Buckeye Trail's Amy Kittle during the OVAC Class AA semifinals at Union Local.

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Monroe Central Wins OVAC Class AA Title, Sweep Knights

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

Monroe Central came to the OVAC AA tournament with the sole intention of avenging two previous losses to Buckeye Trail.

After dropping the first game, the Seminoles (17-4) won the final two, and then dominated Wheeling Central from start to finish in capturing their first OVAC title Saturday at Union Local High School.

"We came out against Trail with a lot of emotion, we got on a run, and we were able to come out on top," Monroe Central coach Troy Baker said. "After we beat them, we knew we were going to win the championship."

Casey Marshall led the charge against Buckeye Trail, scoring nine points in the win.

For the Maroon Knights, the loss was only their second of the season, but getting to the championship game seemed like it wouldn't even happen.

Wheeling Central (17-2) lost the opening contest of its first-round game against Steubenville Central, 25-20, and soon found itself down 21-16 and facing elimination in the second.

Alison Aeschliman was the server for four straight Crusader points as Steubenville Central looked to be in control.

Then, the Maroon Knights scored nine of the next 10 points to tie the series. That momentum carried into the

decisive game, scoring the first six points en route to a 15-7 victory.

Angela Petros was the leading performer for Wheeling Central with 14 points, 13 kills, and three blocks.

Andi Burke scored 12 points, and Chelsea Skrzypek had 11 as the other Maroon Knights in double figures.

While Wheeling Central was able to overcome the slow start against the Crusaders, it haunted the top-seeded Maroon Knights in their battle with Monroe Central.

"We are a team that relies on good defense and a lot of momentum," Wheeling Central coach Amy Chute said. "It seems like we get down and we stay down until we get that one big play."

"Unfortunately, that big play didn't come against Monroe Central."

Monroe Central won the first game, 25-16, sending the Maroon Knights until another must-win situation.

The Seminoles never let up, firing the ball deep into the Wheeling Central zone, never allowing them a chance to set up any kind of play.

In the end, the aggressiveness of Monroe Central overpowered the Maroon Knights and defeated Wheeling Central quickly with a 25-14 decision.

Senior Courtney Wilson finished the game off with a spike to bring the championship trophy to Woodsfield for the first

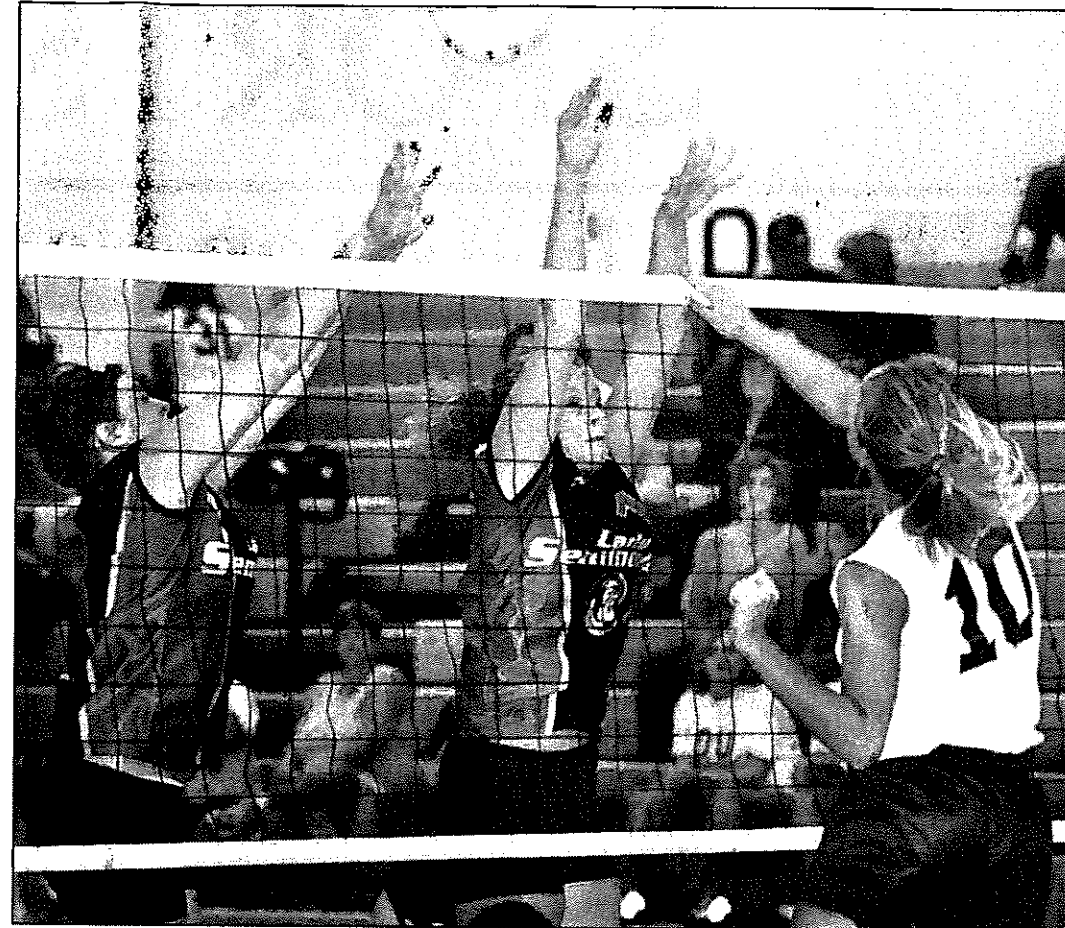


Photo by Michael Harvilla

Monroe Central's Kelsey Lafferre and Morgan Ramage leap to block a shot by Wheeling Central's Shannon Greskevitch in their OVAC Class AA Championship match at Union Local High School Saturday.

time. "This is a great moment for Monroe Central," said Baker, in his sixth year at the helm for the Seminoles. "This is the fourth straight year we've been here and I told them it's great to be here, but that it's just not enough."

"We came here to win." While Baker was afraid of a letdown, his girls would have none of it.

"I told the girls to just play good defense and let the game come to us," Baker said. "They were a lot more calmer than what I expected."

"Wheeling Central is a scrappy team and I knew they would be, but winning against Trail and getting over that hump was the main thing in front of us."

For Wheeling Central, now they must regroup and prepare for the sectional tournament.

"We knew this is a good team and we fully expected them to come out and play us hard, but we fell apart out there and there

there is a big target on our backs. People aren't just going to lay down for us because we are Wheeling Central. We are still the team to beat and there will be some tough teams coming to play us."

Class A

Paden City defeated Beallsville in two straight games to win the OVAC Class A title.

The Wildcats advanced to the final game by defeating Valley in two straight sets, as well.

Atoshia Felton led Paden City with five points and six kills in the championship win. Savannah Burke had five points, one ace, seven kills, two blocks, and one dig in a losing effort for the Blue Devils.

Beallsville defeated Bridgeport to advance to finals.

Class AAA

St. Clairsville won its third straight OVAC Class AAA title, winning in three games over Bellaire.

assists. Before getting to the championship game, St. Clairsville went through a tough three game battle with Magnolia. The Big Reds advanced by beating Harrison Central.

Class AAAA

Steubenville won its first ever OVAC Class AAAA title, sweeping East Liverpool 25-14, 25-20.

Big Red's title win came large in part to Whitney Petrella and Celina Govey. Petrella led the way with nine points, one kill, and one block, while Govey contributed five points and four digs.

Rachel Klink led the Potters with nine points, one kill, and two blocks.

In semifinal action, Big Red defeated Weir in three games, while East Liverpool swept defending OVAC champion Edison.

Class AA

Monroe Central d. Wheeling Central 25-16, 25-14

7 kls, 2 blks, 1 dig; B — Stillion 12 pts, 1 ace, 6 blks; Zink 8 pts, 1 ace, 3 kls, 5 blks. Wheeling Central d. Steubenville Central 20-25, 25-22, 15-7

W — Petros 14 pts, 1 ace, 4 kls; Burke 12 pts, 1 ace, 3 kls; Skrzypek 11 pts, 1 ace, 2 kls, 2 blks; S — Happ 5 pts; DiPiero 4 pts, 13 kls, 3 blks; Aeschliman 4 pts, 13 kls, 6 blks.

Class A

Paden City d. Beallsville 25-23, 25-19
P — Felton 5 pts, 6 kls; Beverlin 6 pts; Bennett 3 pts, 7 kls; B — Burke 5 pts, 1 ace, 7 kls, 2 blks, 1 dig; Burkhart 5 pts, 3 aces, 4 kls.

Paden City d. Valley 25-22, 27-25
P — Felton 12 pts, 1 ace, 8 kls, 2 blks; Bennett 8 pts, 2 aces, 6 kls, 2 blks; Beverlin 6 pts, 3 kls; V — Kandra 9 pts, 5 aces, 3 kls, 4 blks; Whitney 5 pts, 5 digs.

Beallsville d. Bridgeport 25-18, 26-24
Be — Reisz 18 pts, 6 aces, 1 kl, 1 dig; Arnold 4 pts, 2 aces, 3 digs; Br — Teasdale 7 pts, 1 ace; Wamsley 3 pts, 1 ace 6 kls, 2 blks, 3 digs.

Class AAA

St. Clairsville d. Bellaire 25-22, 21-25, 17-15
S — Piccolini 8 kls, 3 blks, 4 digs; Gossett 2 aces, 19 kls, 4 blks, 6 digs; Schroeder 9 digs; B — Tomlan 13 pts, 1 ace; Vavrek 8 pts, 1 ace, 17 kls, 2 blks, 10 digs; Brinker 3 kls.

St. Clairsville d. Magnolia 28-28, 25-18
S — Piccolini 2 aces, 4 kls, 2 blks, 2 digs; Gossett 3 aces, 11 kls, 3 blks, 9 digs; M — Talkington 4 pts, 6 kls; Bell 7 pts, 2 aces, 9 kls; Kuhns 5 pts, 2 aces, 2 kls.

Bellaire d. Harrison Central 25-20, 26-24
B — Bostancic 13 pts, 1 ace, 5 kls, 2 blks; Vavrek 9 pts, 2 aces, 9 kls, 2 blks, 6 digs; Taylor 8 pts, 3 aces; H — Lewis 6 pts, 2 aces, 1 kl, 2 blks; Frontz 6 kls; Coccoougher 4 pts, 3 kls, 2 blks.

Class AAAA

Steubenville d. East Liverpool 25-14, 25-20
S — Petrella 9 pts, 1 kl, 1 blk; Govey 5 pts, 4 digs; Criss 4 pts, 3 digs; E — R.Klink 9 pts, 1 kl, 2 blks; Yeager 10 kls, 2 blks; S.Klink 4 pts, 1 ace.

Steubenville d. Weir 25-14, 14-25, 15-12
S — Criss 6 pts, 5 kls, 1 ace; Gomez 11 pts, 10 digs; Petrella 8 pts, 3 aces; W — Bernardi 11 pts; Bobalik 2 pts, 4 spks; Pritts 3 pts, 2 aces, 10 spks, 6 kls, 5 digs.

East Liverpool d. Edison 25-23, 25-16
Ea — R.Klink 8 pts, 1 kl; Stockdale 6 pts, 9 kls; Ed — Wedlake 8 pts, 2 aces, 10 kls; Keenan 7 pts, 2 kls; Moore 9 kls, 2 blk.

Past OVAC Volleyball Winners

Beallsville: 1
'02
Beaver Local: 1
'02
Bellaire: 3
'91, '92, '93
Bridgeport: 1
'04
Buckeye Trail: 7
'93, '94, '95, '96, '98, '01, '04
Cambridge: 1
'00
Cameron: 2
'99, '00
Conotton Valley: 3
'93, '96, '98
East Liverpool: 4
'94, '98, '99, '03
Edison: 3
'96, '01, '04
Edison North: 1
'92
Frontier: 2
'94, '03
Indian Creek: 5
'97, '98, '99, '00, '01
Linsy: 4
'91, '92, '94, '95
Magnolia: 1
'91
Oak Glen: 2
'96, '97
Paden City: 1
'93
St. Clairsville: 3
'95, '03, '04
St. John Central: 1
'97
Shenandoah: 3
'97, '99, '02
Skyvue: 1
'91
Staubenville Central: 2
'91, '92
Weir: 4
'92, '93, '94, '95
Weirton Madonna: 1
'01
Wellsville: 3
'00, '02, '03

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District

In Division III, Meadowbrook and Claymont will serve as hosts. Meadowbrook will entertain Barnesville, Bellaire, Fort Frye, Martins Ferry, Maysville, Monroe Central, Shenandoah, St. Clairsville and Union Local. Claymont will play host to

Buckeye Trail, Steubenville Central, Coshocton, Garaway, Indian Valley, Newcomerstown, Ridgewood, Sandy Valley and Tuscarawas Valley. District play will be at Meadowbrook.

In Division IV, Barnesville and Dover will hold sectionals. Barnesville will bring in Beallsville, Zanesville, Rosecrans, Bridgeport, Caldwell, Frontier, River and St. John Central.

Dover has Conotton Valley, Hiland, Malvern, Strasburg, Tuscarawas Central Catholic and Wellsville. The Division IV District will be played at Cambridge. Drawings for seeds and pairings were held on Sunday and will be published during the week.

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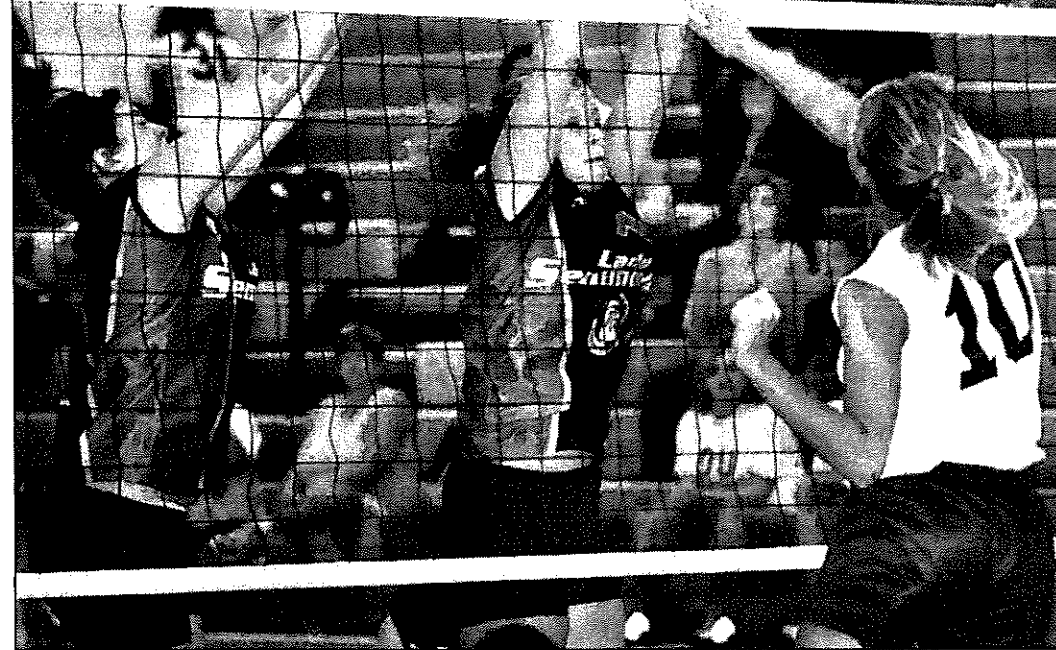


Photo by Michael Harvilla

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For Wheeling Central, now they must regroup and prepare for the sectional tournament.

"We knew this is a good team and we fully expected them to come out and play us hard, but we fell apart out there and there was just a total lack of communication," Chute said. "We have to put this behind us and get ready for sectionals."

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Class AA
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Monroe Central d. Buckeye Trail 11-25, 25-21, 15-11

M — Lafferre 7 pts, 1 ace, 3 kls, 4 digs; Marshall 9 pts, 1 ace, 2 digs; Jorris 4 pts,

20-25, 25-22, 15-7
W — Petros 14 pts, 1 ace, 4 kls; Burke 12 pts, 1 ace, 3 kls; Skrzypek 11 pts, 1 ace, 2 kls, 2 blks; S — Hopp 6 pts; DiPiero 4 pts, 13 kls, 3 blks; Aeschliman 4 pts, 13 kls, 6 blks.

Class A
Paden City d. Beallsville 25-23, 25-18

P — Felton 6 pts, 6 kls; Beverlin 6 pts; Bennett 3 pts, 7 kls; B — Burke 5 pts, 1 ace, 7 kls, 2 blks, 1 dig; Burkhardt 5 pts, 3 aces, 4 kls.

Class A
Paden City d. Valley 25-22, 27-25

P — Felton 12 pts, 1 ace, 8 kls, 2 blks; Bennett 6 pts, 2 aces, 6 kls, 2 blks; Beverlin 6 pts, 3 kls; V — Kendra 9 pts, 5 aces, 3 kls, 4 blks; Whitney 6 pts, 5 digs.

Beallsville d. Bridgeport 25-18, 26-24

Be — Relsz 18 pts, 6 aces, 1 kls, 1 dig; Arnold 4 pts, 2 aces, 3 digs; Br — Teasdale 7 pts, 1 ace; Wamsley 3 pts, 1 ace, 6 kls, 2 blks, 3 digs.

Class AAA
St. Clairsville d. Bellaire 25-22, 21-25, 17-16

S — Piccolini 8 kls, 3 blks, 4 digs; Gossett 2 aces, 19 kls, 4 blks, 6 digs; Schroeder 9 digs; B — Tomlan 13 pts, 1 ace; Vavrek 8 pts, 1 ace, 17 kls, 2 blks, 10 digs; Brinker 3 kls.

St. Clairsville d. Magnolia 28-28, 25-18

S — Piccolini 2 aces, 4 kls, 2 blks, 2 digs; Gossett 3 aces, 11 kls, 3 blks, 9 digs; M — Talkington 4 pts, 6 kls; Bell 7 pts, 2 aces, 9 kls; Kuhns 5 pts, 2 aces, 2 kls.

Bellaire d. Harrison Central 25-20, 26-24

B — Bostancic 13 pts, 1 ace, 5 kls, 2 blks; Vavrek 9 pts, 2 aces, 9 kls, 2 blks, 6 digs; Taylor 8 pts, 3 aces; H — Lewis 6 pts, 2 aces, 1 kls, 2 blks; Frontz 6 kls; Cocougher 4 pts, 3 kls, 2 blks.

Class AAAA
Steubenville d. East Liverpool 25-14, 25-20

S — Petrella 9 pts, 1 kls, 1 blk; Govey 5 pts, 4 digs; Criss 4 pts, 3 digs; E — R.Klink 9 pts, 1 kls, 2 blks; Yeager 10 kls, 2 blks; S.Klink 4 pts, 1 ace.

Steubenville d. Weir 25-14, 14-25, 15-12

S — Criss 6 pts, 5 kls, 1 ace; Gomez 11 pts, 10 digs; Petrella 8 pts, 3 aces; W — Bernardi 11 pts; Bobelik 2 pts, 4 spks; Pritts 3 pts, 2 aces, 10 spks, 6 kls, 5 digs.

East Liverpool d. Edison 25-23, 25-16

Ea — R.Klink 8 pts, 1 kls; Stockdale 6 pts, 9 kls; Ed — Wedlake 8 pts, 2 aces, 10 kls; Keenan 7 pts, 2 kls; Moore 9 kls, 2 blks.

Prep volleyball just a few weeks away in OVAC

In just a couple weeks, high school volleyball in the Ohio Valley will get its start.

Just as it seems to happen every year with every sport, once the season starts, you blink an eye and it's tournament time.

What generally gets lost in all the hub-bub before, during and after the season, is the work that goes on behind the scenes. So much of a season's success is based on the work that is done in the pre-season and how smoothly everything falls into place during the season.



By
RICK DELUCA
Times Leader
Sports Writer

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everything runs as smoothly in application as it does in preparation.

With the 2005 volleyball season set to get under way, the OVAC will be looking to a director in just her second year to keep the season running just right and the post-season championship playoffs to go off without a hitch.

Angie Miller was a high school player and a high school coach. She is embarking on her second year as the OVAC volleyball director and for good measure, is in training to be a volleyball official. That pretty much completes the cycle.

Miller came into the directorship raw last season although she had a couple years to train with former volleyball director Dan Mumma.

She knows that she has a lot more to learn and that that takes time, but she is young, energetic and really loves volleyball.

"It just seems like after getting a little experience and knowing the people you have to work with, that everybody just works together and help each other out and that things just run so much smoother," Miller said after a the OVAC's mandatory volleyball coaches meeting on Sunday.

"I really look forward to organizing everything and talking to coaches and getting the championships ready at Union Local," she added.

Miller coached at Union Local, but after stepping down as the Lady Jets' coach she moved right in to the spot with the OVAC.

"It's coming along," she said in referring to advancement in the quality of play in the sport in the Ohio Valley. "It still has a long way to go, but coming from coaching to organizing in the conference, you get a better understanding and you just want to encourage the coaches because you've been there."

"The OVAC is coming along, but there is still some improvement that we can do."

Of course, the highlight of the volleyball season is the giant OVAC championship playoffs that appear to have found a home at Union Local High School in Morristown.

For some time, the tournament was played at different venues, but has blossomed since moving to the dual gyms at UL.

"They (coaches and players) really do like coming to the tournament. It's really a possible thing for the coaches and the girls. The enthusiasm is really high and the coaches are so cooperative. It's just a really position thing that everybody seems to enjoy."

Over the past few years, the volleyball playoffs have drawn bigger and more enthusiastic crowds and a more knowledgeable fan-base.

Players and coaches in the conference continue to get better and have become more competitive with teams outside the OVAC area.

"It's amazing how the players and spectators are starting to learn more about volleyball and the game changes and everybody is learning a little more," Miller pointed out. "But everybody just goes with the flow (at the OVAC playoffs) and it's just great overall."

Locally, the sport has experienced some rules changes over the past couple years and the changes have met with little controversy.

"Basically, it's coming down from college," she said. "The libero, I loved coaching with it and West Virginia has brought it in this year."

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"By cooperating with that in the OVAC is just great because it brings your level up our standards."

Miller is excited about the new season and is looking forward to being a part of Ohio Valley volleyball.

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UL set to host OVAC volleyball tourney Saturday



By
RICK DELUCA
Times Leader
Sports Writer

Volleyball can be a very exciting sport and, with its constant action, can be one of the most exciting to watch.

Saturday at Union Local High School in Morristown, the volleyball fan (or non-volleyball fan, for that matter) will have the opportunity to watch all the exciting volleyball action they could dream.

Annually, the OVAC volleyball championship playoffs have been the ultimate end to a great regular season of volleyball around the Ohio Valley. This Saturday should be no different.

If the 2005 season goes down in the books under any special categories, it would lie somewhere between "the most competitive season ever" and "it was too close to call all season long."

Well, the culmination of a great season in the Ohio Valley is set to unfold with the conference's release of the four playoff qualifiers in each of the four divisions for this week's championship tournament.

Over the past few weeks, only a handful of teams had eliminated themselves from a chance to qualify and heading into the last week, spots in the tournament were still up for grabs.

So here it is. Saturday's lineup for what should be one of the most exciting and competitive OVAC playoffs to date.

Let's start with the big school. After all, they are going last on Saturday.

Steubenville has been the Class 4-A lead all season long and it is no wonder that the Lady Big Red will head into the playoffs as the top seed with a 14-6 record. Despite a tough go that last two weeks, coach Suzanne Allen's club was able to hold off a red-hot Edison squad who grab the second-seed with its 13-6 mark under new coach Dawn Pugh.

East Liverpool, a 10-time winner in the OVAC, has nailed down the No. 3 seed despite an uncharacteristic 8-10 record. Weir, another big school team that has enjoyed considerable success over the years, has qualified as the fourth seed.

Steubenville will play Weir and Edison will battle East Liverpool in the semi-finals at 5 p.m.

Class 3-A was like a roller-coaster ride...wild and fun. St. Clairsville, the two-time defending champion, will give coach Rebecca Hays another shot at a title as the top seed with a remarkable 17-2 record. The Lady Red Devils edged out the seed, Bellaire, by just 2.0 points. Coach Kaye Sechrest's Lady Big Reds were amazing down the stretch winning 11 straight and building a 14-2 record.

Coach Marsha Zoller's Harrison Central club was not only the real surprise of the OVAC season, but also one of the most dominating teams in 3-A. The Lady Huskies, who suffered two critical losses late in the season, latched onto the third seed with a 16-3 record. Holding on to snare the fourth and final seed is Magnolia, a past West Virginia state champion, the Lady Blue Eagles will head into the playoffs with a 16-4 OVAC record.

Class 3-A semi-finals will pit St. Clairsville against Magnolia and Bellaire opposite Harrison Central at 2:30 p.m.

It was no surprise that eight Class 2-A teams came into the final week with sights still set on the OVAC playoffs. When the dust settled, the top four were still pretty close to the next four.

Wheeling Central, with only an upset loss to Weir marring an otherwise perfect record season, has the tinniest of grips on the 2-A top-seed. With just two-tenths of a point separating the top two spots, coach Amy Chute's Lady Knights hold the top spot with a 16-1 mark. Coach Jeff Beros' Buckeye Trail squad, losers of two over the weekend to Ohio state-ranked teams, will settle for the second seed and will take a 16-3 record into the week.

Monroe Central, a team that has enjoyed great success under the tutelage of head coach Troy Baker the past six years, holds down the No. 3 seed with a 14-4 mark.

Steubenville Central, as low as seventh two weeks ago, jumped into fourth and will give coach Kristi Clark her first trip to the OVAC tourney in only her second year at the helm. Central currently 10-6.

In the Class 2-A semi-finals, Wheeling Central will take on Steubenville Central and Buckeye Trail will clash with Monroe Central at noon.

In Class 1-A, four teams have dominated all season and those same four will be vying for the 1-A crown.

Beallsville, in and out of first place all season long, grabbed the top seed away from last week's leader Valley with a successful six-day stretch. Coach Patrick Wells' Lady Blue Devils have posted a 12-7 mark which is good for first. Paden City's slow climb up the 1-A ladder has paid off with a second seed and a 12-8 record for coach Fred Kings Lady Wildcats.

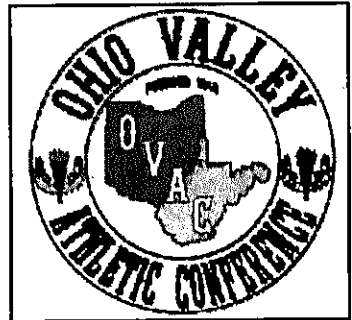
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"I just enjoy talking to a lot of the coaches and the players and that's just one of the perks of getting to do my job. It's just a social thing and I really enjoy it."

NET NOTES

■ IN JUST A couple weeks, the Times Leader will be running its annual high school pre-season outlook with information teams, players, past champs and schedules.

■ COACHES AND fans are reminded to forward any information of local athletes now playing volleyball at the collegiate level to me at radeluca70@yahoo.com.

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By the way, the favorites to take home the OVAC gold? Well, there are 16 of them.

BY THE WAY, the volleyball season doesn't end on Saturday. While most teams will complete their regular seasons during the week, Sectional tournament action gets underway next week in Ohio.

In the East District, Zanesville is the OVAC's lone Division I team and the Lady Blue Devils will actually be assigned to the Central District for sectional pairings.

In Division II, St. Clairsville and Riverview will hosting Sectionals. At St. Clairsville, Beaver Local, Buckeye Local, Cambridge, Carrollton, East Liverpool, Edison, Harrison Central, Indian Creek, Meadowbrook and Steubenville will vie for two district berths.

RiverView High will host Claymont, Dover, John Glenn, Morgan, New Philadelphia, Philo, River View, Tri-Valley, West Holmes and West Muskingum. Ridgewood High will host the

See, NET, Page B2



OVAC VB in no need of BCS playoff system



By **RICK DELUCA**
Times Leader
Sports Writer

Beallsville-Paden City, Bellaire-St. Clairsville, Monroe Central-Wheeling Central, Steubenville and well, Steubenville.

Had this idea the other day. What if we took the OVAC's regular season champion in volleyball and put them up against the winners of the playoffs and see how things would work out.

So much for my brilliant idea.

In Class 1-A, the regular season champion Beallsville played the eventual playoff champion Paden City in the finals. Okay, so scratch 1-A.

In Class 2-A, the regular season champion is still in limbo. Right now it between Wheeling Central and Buckeye Trail. The playoff champion was Monroe Central.

Wait.

Monroe Central beat Buckeye Trail in the OVAC semi-finals and Wheeling Central in the finals. Okay, scratch 2-A.

In Class 3-A, the regular season champion Bellaire played the eventual playoff champion St. Clairsville in the OVAC playoff finals.

Okay, let's scratch 3-A as well.

Wait. In Class 4-A, the regular season champion did not play the eventual playoff champion at all in the playoffs. The regular season champion was Steubenville. The playoff champion was, well, Steubenville.

Okay. So they already used my idea.

Just goes to show that the BCS (that is college football's idea of a playoff system) should take a lesson from the OVAC and its tournament.

A playoff system will pit the best teams against each and there's your champion.

Beallsville, Bellaire and Steubenville have already earned OVAC regular season titles.

Wheeling Central leads Trail by a slim margin, but a win over Weir in the finale on Tuesday would hand the Lady Knights a regular season crown. A loss catapults Trail's Lady Warriors to the top.

SO FAR, the post-season has been none to kind to the some of area and state's elite.

Buckeye Trail, a perennial Eastern District powerhouse who has had its share of trips deep into the tournament season, was eliminated in the first round of sectional action at Claymont High School.

The Lady Warriors suffered a 25-15, 24-26, 25-18, 19-25, 15-8 loss to Garaway.

Coach Jeff Beros' Trail netters finished the season ranked 17th in Ohio polls and closed out at 18-5.

Another local team hoping to continue its banner year, Harrison Central, had an early elimination from the Sectional tourney at St. Clairsville. Coach Marsha Zoller's Lady Huskies lost to Carrollton in four sets, 23-25, 25-16, 25-19, 25-23. Harrison finished the season at 16-6 and closed out in third place in the OVAC.

In the same tournament, same bracket, Edison's red-hot Wildcats continued into Saturday's co-finals by stopping Cambridge in three, 25-16, 25-21, 25-15. Cambridge had eliminated Indian Creek earlier in the week.

Edison earned it second straight trip to the district tournament on Saturday disposing of a very good Carrollton team in five pressure-packed sets, 23-25, 25-23, 22-25, 25-19, 15-13. Edison, now 16-7, will take on West Holmes, 20-4, in a one-game District at Ridgewood High School on Saturday.

In the St. Clairsville lower bracket, Buckeye Local's season was halted by Meadowbrook, but so was the outstanding season of Steubenville.

Beaver Local had advanced with a win over East Liverpool in the bracket's pigtail game, then eliminated the Lady Big Red and coach Suzanne Allen, 25-23, 30-28, 25-16.

The Lady Reds' season ended with an OVAC regular season crown and OVAC playoff title and a fine 16-7 record. Beaver Local and Meadowbrook were slated to square off in the Sectional finals on Saturday.

In Division II at River View, Tri-Valley's reign as No. 1 seed last all of one match.

They were quickly eliminated by Claymont.

Two of the area's premier teams advanced to play in the District finals in Division III at Meadowbrook High on Saturday.

St. Clairsville bumped Martins Ferry, then Fort Frye, 25-18, 25-13, 25-9, to claim the Sectional crown. The Lady Red Devils have the huge task of facing state-ranked Tuscarawas Valley in a one-match District final.

Tusky Valley captured its 11th straight Sectional title on Saturday with a 25-8, 25-9, 25-6 win over Ridgewood.

Monroe Central came out of the Meadowbrook lower bracket with a sectional crown by beating Union Local earlier in the week, then eliminating a very good Bellaire squad, 22-25, 19-25, 25-9, 25-8, 15-13 in an exciting final on Saturday.

The Lady Seminoles were forced to come from two games down to top Bellaire. Monroe Central now battles Coshocton, a winner over Garaway, for a berth in the Regional.

Two other OVAC schools remain alive in Ohio post-season and both play on Wednesday at Cambridge High.

Frontier advanced and will play Hiland at 6 p.m. and Caldwell, which eliminated OVAC champ Beallsville, will take on Tuscarawas Central Catholic immediately following the 6 p.m. game.

OVAC VB Capsules

- CLASS 1-A
BEALLSVILLE**
Head coach -- Patrick Wells
Assistants -- Debbie Arnold
2004 Record: 7-13
Graduated players -- Seniors: Maria Albus, Ciera, Burkhart, Tiffany Burrow, Bethany Caldwell, Joella Urbanic.
- 2005 ROSTER**
Seniors: Julie Boyce, Jennifer Reisz, Carrie Tyo.
Juniors: Chasidy Burkhart, Brittany Burkhart, Tabatha Clary, Carrie Aberegg, Shasta Fluharty.
Sophomores: Savannah Burke, Holly Tyo, Latara Arnold, Kassey Daugherty, Amanda Fraley, Rachel Beckett, Nicole Mercer.
Freshmen: Mariah Marley, Kelly Ashland, Kristin Lallathin, Kerry Thomas, Rachel Adams.
- BRIDGEPORT**
Head coach: Bob Krajnyak
Assistant coaches: Kori Rosnick
2004 RECORD: 17-7
Graduated players: Brandy Burgy, Megan Canter, Krista Gessler, Dana Mroczkowski, Sarah Zimmerman.
- 2005 ROSTER**
Seniors: Alexis Dober, Marissa Gerevics, Andrea Sindeldecker, Marissa Teasdale, Kristen Wamsley.
Juniors: Amber Davis, Kayla Mokros, Nicole Supanik.
Sophomores: Morgan Belles, Sara Wamsley.
Freshmen: Kiley Baker, Elizabeth Ballie, Monica Dunn, Lauren Heller, Victoria Paclova, Laura Saavedra, Sarah Baldwin, Molly Morris, Stephanie Bommer, Brittany Brown, Bethany Higgenbotham, Taylor Barncord, Allison Kitemiller, Shannita Massey, Kayla Smith.
- PADEN CITY**
Head coach: Fred King
Assistant coaches: Jeff Bowers
2004 Record: 19-10
Graduated players: Jenny Bowers, Erica Elliott.
- 2005 ROSTER**
Seniors: Leah Beverlin, Lezlie Grimes, Aroshia Felton.
Juniors: Ashley Felton, Stacey Birkheimer, Genna Powell, Kaysha Butler, Sarah Pryor, Brittany King, Shannon Veynon, Erika Bennett.
Sophomores: Samantha Goddard.
Freshmen: Shauña Durant, Angelica Phillips, Rachel Yoho, Vicki Yurisko, Lea Ann Butcher, Marci Myers, Kim Davis.
- VALLEY**
Head coach: Rick Whoolery
Assistant coaches: Missy Cecil
2004 Record: 16-8
- 2005 ROSTER**
Seniors: Kendra Brown, Hannah Headley, Kelsey Cunningham, Whitney McCoy, Andrea Bower, Sarah Morris.
Juniors: Ashley Shaver, Ashley Martyn, .
Sophomores: Marci Bucher, Allie Crites, Amy Hickman, Raven Eastham, Sammy Frye, Alexandra Higgenbottom, Racquel Partridge, Brittany Price.
Freshmen: Ally Weber, Alyssa Midcap, Amber Tennant, Stephanie Morgan, Ava Morris, Felicia Ice, Hannah Shaw, Heather Cain, Lyndsay Sell.
- CLASS 2-A
BUCKEYE TRAIL**
Head coach -- Jeff Beros
Assistant coaches -- Mike Beaver.
2004 Record: 19-4
Graduated players -- Brittini Borrero, Molly Grimes, Courtney Dinges.
2005 Roster
Seniors: Liz Ash, Cara Britten, Heather Nealey, Kendra Bamfield, Rachel Keyser, Ashley Stillion.
Juniors: Amy Kittle, Shayla Roe.
Sophomores: Traci Alt, Alicia Cunningham, Rory Cox, Lauren Zink.
- MONROE CENTRAL**
Head coach -- Troy Baker
Assistant coaches -- John Kaiser, Joahna Kaiser.
2004 Record: 20-3
Graduated players -- Kara Hamilton.
- 2005 ROSTER**
Seniors: Lynsey Lafferre, Courtney Wilson, Kim Stalder, B. J. Smith, Casey Marshall. Juniors: Kelsey Lafferre, Amanda Blackstone, A. J. Smith, Selena Black, Story Van Meenen.
Sophomores: Taylor Jorris, Lindsay Huntsman, Rebecca Pardon, Morgan Ramage, Jericha Kinney, Carly Schwaben, Cassie Daggett.
Freshmen: Justine LaFollette, Aleisha Guiler, Carly Davis, Kim LaFerre, Samantha Kilbourne, Nicole Huffman, Stacey Schumacher, Meagn Schumacher, Leah LaFollette, Beann Archer, Brittany Dimmerling, Olivia Guiler, April Hehr, Eve Lindamood, Keisha Cope.
- STEURVILLE CENTRAL**
Head coach: Kristi Clark
Assistant coaches: Amy Porecca, Tom Clark.
2004 Record: 10-10.
Graduated players: Jamie Dent, Angela Adams, Brittany Davis, Katie Trousch, Shalara Walters.
- 2005 ROSTER**
Seniors: Alison Aeschliman, Claire Diptero, Christina Happ, Kelsey Hitchcock, Amanda Mieczkowski, Chrissy Poinelli.
Juniors: Kaylin Bahen, Megan Cummings, Amanda Gulan, Jessica Harlan, Amy Joyce, Juli Matanzo.
Sophomores: Maria DiCarlantonio, Katie Diptero, Gina Leone, Michelle McGuire, Sandra Nassar.
Freshmen: Emily Aeschliman, Sara Ashmead, Kelly Costantini, Melissa Costantini, Rachel Happ, Valerie McCombs, Jayla Pace, Analisa Petrella, Shelby Petrella, Sarah Skiviat, Whitney Swearingen.
- WHEELING CENTRAL**
Head coach -- Amy Chute
Assistant coaches -- Mark Kefalos
2004 Record: 18-5
Graduated players -- Colleen Wycherley, Shannon Castilow, Elaine Yandrich.
- 2005 ROSTER**
Seniors: Andi Burke, Shannon Greskevich, Erica Marchesi, Fallon Namack, Angela Petros, Chelsea Skrzypek, Rachael Sullivan, Valerie Vapner.
Juniors: Mallory Conkel, Christine Faini, Krista Kent.
Sophomores: Marissa Haynes, Valerie Palmer.
- CLASS 3-A
BELLAIRE**
Head coach -- Kaye Sechrest
Assistant coaches -- Melissa Lahna, Erica Vavrek, Carrie Rejonis, Alyson Stephens.
2004 Record: 18-3
Graduated players -- Shawna Hines, Britanie Kinder, Sarah Maranelli, Sunny Stefanik.
- 2004 ROSTER**
Seniors: Chelsea Bostancic, Michelle Brinker, Emily Taylor, Ashley Vavrek.
Juniors: Bridget Dunlap, Michelle Tomlan, Alicia Yonyon, Ashley Frazier.
Sophomores: Monica Chase, Chelsea LaRoche, Ashley McCorkle, Lyndsay Cavichia.
Freshmen: Rachel Banker, Kelly Blon, Cierra Dixon, Megan Green, Alacia Keyser, Alyssa Ofat, Stephanie Skapik, Katey Warren, Alex Wright, Stephanie Zonker.
- HARRISON CENTRAL**
Head coach -- Marsha Zoller
Assistant coaches -- Ray Hibbs, Jamie Hendricks
2004 Record: 16-7
Graduated players -- Julia Hodkinson, MJ Hendricks, Erin Nunner, Carrie Nign.
- 2005 ROSTER**
Seniors: Max Frontz, Jenna Heaston, Tiff Starsciak.
Juniors: Danielle Bethel, Chelsea Coconougher, Gena Everhart, Shannon Kelley, Krystal Lewis.
Sophomores: Sarah Wilden.
Freshmen: Kallie Teller.
- MAGNOLIA**
Head coach: Sheeley Seavy
Assistant coaches: Terry Greene
2004 Record: 27-7-2
Graduated players: Hilary Heinzman, Jessica Herrick.
- 2005 ROSTER**
Seniors: Trisha Kuehns, Micha Bell, Katy Talkington, Laura Seavy, Sarah Whiteman.
Juniors: Jennifer Blake, Jennifer Rodriguez, Jessica Rodriguez, Cera Estep, Dani Batton, Brittany Goddard.
Sophomores: Shawn Barr, Alycia Bell, Cassie Nelf, Renee Shephard, Kayla Brill, Tory Greene, Kelsey Spang, Alicia Hineman.
- ST. CLAIRSVILLE**
Head coach -- Rebecca Hays
Assistant coaches -- Ami Smith, Dorine Garbash.
2004 Record: 17-7
Graduated players -- Jessica Pempek, Janie Henry, Allie Wojchowski.
- 2005 ROSTER**
Seniors: Missy Gossett, Jordan Myers, Katie Lee, Beth Schroeder.
Juniors: Amanda Piccolini, Lucy Bannon, Allie Kalis, Sarah Hurr, Sarah Ostrander, Kaylee Davenport.
Sophomores: Olivia Pokas, Lora Schroeder, Stephanie Skatula, Brittani Zielinski, Kylie Bober, Allison Garbash, Amanda McCabe, Kaitlyn Schmitt, Jessica Zuzak.
Freshmen: Danielle Duvall, Bethany Efaw, Shannon Frahrer, Ashley Gillespie, Natasha Halicky, Cassandra Prezzia, Sukhmani Sandhu, Molly West.
- CLASS 4-A
EAST LIVERPOOL**
Head coach: Bob Shansky
Assistant coaches: Elizabeth Prince, Lori Adkins
2004 Record: 12-11
Graduated players: Tricia Mackey, Brianne Bishop.
- 2005 ROSTER**
Seniors: Kayla Barburk, Allison Hall, Samantha Klink, Laura Bolez, Kristen Reagan, Sara Geisse.
Juniors: Kim Yanni, Marissa Yeager.
Sophomores: Amy Dunlap, Rachel Klink, Chelsey Stockdale.
- EDISON**
Head coach -- Dawn Pugh.
Assistant coaches -- Tony Kovalesky, Amber Ankom.
2004 Record: 18-6
Graduated players -- Devin Cain, Annie Kovalesky, Tasha Modranski, Courtney Pederson, Meredith Sanders, Kylie Snyder.
2005 Roster
Seniors: Jessica Wedlake, Caitlin Williamson, Emily Perkins, Kelli Moore.
Juniors: Brandi Beebe, Katelyn DiPasquale, Tara Keenan, Sarah Kuczynski, Jenna Still, Samantha Taylor.
Freshmen: Kaitlin Blake.
- STEURVILLE**
Head coach: Suzanne Allen
Assistant coaches: Angelita Forte
2004 Record: 9-11
- 2005 ROSTER**
Seniors: Caitlin Criss, Whitney Petrella, Ashley Jablonski, Kayla Thomas, Jacquelyn Gullen.
Juniors: Aleasha Brandt, Celine Gomez, Laura Kirkland, Brittany Willis.
Sophomores: Samantha Dixon.
- WEIR**
Head coach: Willie Paul
Assistant coaches: Ann Bobalick, Krista Boltegal.
Graduated players: Tiffany Bright.
- 2005 ROSTER**
Seniors: None
Juniors: Aitb Chappell, Stace Bernardi, Lindsay Sobotaka, Michaelena Larch, Tia Noble, Jennifer Greico, Chelsey Pritts, Lindsey McElwee, Kayla Clevenger.
Sophomores: Liz Cowden, Heather Duane, Ali Bobalick.



volleyball and put them up against the winners of the playoffs and see how things would work out.

So much for my brilliant idea.

In Class 1-A, the regular season champion Beallsville played the eventual playoff champion Paden City in the finals. Okay, so scratch 1-A.

In Class 2-A, the regular season champion is still in limbo. Right now it between Wheeling Central and Buckeye Trail. The playoff champion was Monroe Central.

Wait. Monroe Central beat Buckeye Trail in the OVAC semi-finals and Wheeling Central in the finals. Okay, scratch 2-A.

In Class 3-A, the regular season champion Bellaire played the eventual playoff champion St. Clairsville in the OVAC playoff finals.

Okay, let's scratch 3-A as well. Wait. In Class 4-A, the regular season champion did not play the eventual playoff champion at all in the playoffs. The regular season champion was Steubenville. The playoff champion was, well, Steubenville.

Okay. So they already used my idea. Just goes to show that the BCS (that is college football's idea of a playoff system) should take a lesson from the OVAC and its tournament.

A playoff system will pit the best teams against each and there's your champion. Beallsville, Bellaire and Steubenville have already earned OVAC regular season titles.

Wheeling Central leads Trail by a slim margin, but a win over Weir in the finale on Tuesday would hand the Lady Knights a regular season crown. A loss catapults Trail's Lady Warriors to the top.

SO FAR, the post-season has been none to kind to the some of area and state's elite. Buckeye Trail, a perennial Eastern District powerhouse who has had its share of trips deep into the tournament season, was eliminated in the first round of sectional action at Claymont High School.

The Lady Warriors suffered a 25-15, 24-26, 25-18, 19-25, 15-8 loss to Garaway. Coach Jeff Beros' Trail netters finished the season ranked 17th in Ohio polls and closed out at 18-5.

Another local team hoping to continue its banner year, Harrison Central, had an early elimination from the Sectional tourney at St. Clairsville. Coach Marsha Zoller's Lady Huskies lost to Carrollton in four sets, 23-25, 25-16, 25-19, 25-23. Harrison finished the season at 16-6 and closed out in third place in the OVAC.

In the same tournament, same bracket, Edison's red-hot Wildcats continued into Saturday's co-finals by stopping Cambridge in three, 25-16, 25-21, 25-15. Cambridge had eliminated Indian Creek earlier in the week.

Edison earned it second straight trip to the district tournament on Saturday disposing of a very good Carrollton team in five pressure-packed sets, 23-25, 25-23, 22-25, 25-19, 15-13. Edison, now 16-7, will take on West Holmes, 20-4, in a one-game District at Ridgewood High School on Saturday.

In the St. Clairsville lower bracket, Buckeye Local's season was halted by Meadowbrook, but so was the outstanding season of Steubenville.

Beaver Local had advanced with a win over East Liverpool in the bracket's pigtail game, then eliminated the Lady Big Red and coach Suzanne Allen, 25-23, 30-28, 25-16.

The Lady Reds' season ended with an OVAC regular season crown and OVAC playoff title and a fine 16-7 record. Beaver Local and Meadowbrook were slated to square off in the Sectional finals on Saturday.

In Division II at River View, Tri-Valley's reign as No. 1 seed last all of one match. They were quickly eliminated by Claymont.

Two of the area's premier teams advanced to play in the District finals in Division III at Meadowbrook High on Saturday.

St. Clairsville bumped Martins Ferry, then Fort Frye, 25-18, 25-13, 25-9, to claim the Sectional crown. The Lady Red Devils have the huge task of facing state-ranked Tuscarawas Valley in a one-match District final.

Tusky Valley captured its 11th straight Sectional title on Saturday with a 25-8, 25-9, 25-6 win over Ridgewood.

Monroe Central came out of the Meadowbrook lower bracket with a sectional crown by beating Union Local earlier in the week, then eliminating a very good Bellaire squad, 22-25, 19-25, 25-9, 25-8, 15-13 in an exciting final on Saturday.

The Lady Seminole were forced to come from two games down to top Bellaire. Monroe Central now battles Coshocton, a winner over Garaway, for a berth in the Regional.

Two other OVAC schools remain alive in Ohio post-season and both play on Wednesday at Cambridge High. Frontier advanced and will play Hiland at 6 p.m. and Caldwell, which eliminated OVAC champ Beallsville, will take on Tuscarawas Central Catholic immediately following the 6 p.m. game.

The two winners will play on Saturday in Cambridge for a District crown.

By the way, the final Ohio state rankings released by the Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association crowned four champions. St. Ursula Academy of Toledo captured the Division I title. Cincinnati Roger Bacon was crowned the Division II winner. Bloom-Carroll finished as the Division III titlist and Lehman Catholic was tops in Division IV.

All four finished the regular season unbeaten. Locally, Buckeye Trail finished 17th in Division III. St. Clairsville was 18th in Division III. Tusky Valley, the Tuscarawas County powerhouse closed out in 4th in Division III with a 21-1 record and Columbiana Crestview, at 22-0, was third in D-III.

Seniors: Chelsea Bostancic, Michelle Brinker, Emily Taylor, Ashley Vavrek.
Assistant coaches: Marsha Zoller, Marissa Teasdale, Kristen Wamsley.

Head coach: Bob Krajnyak
Assistant coaches: Kori Rosnick
2004 RECORD: 17-7
Graduated players: Brandy Burgy, Megan Canter, Krista Gessler, Dana Mroczkowski, Sarah Zimmerman.

Seniors: Alexis Dober, Marissa Gerevics, Andrea Sindeldecker, Marissa Teasdale, Kristen Wamsley.
Juniors: Amber Davis, Kayla Mokros, Nicole Supanik.
Sophomores: Morgan Belles, Sara Wamsley.
Freshmen: Kiley Baker, Elizabeth Ballie, Monica Dunn, Lauren Heller, Victoria Paclava, Laura Saavedra, Sarah Baldwin, Molly Morris, Stephanie Bommer, Brittany Brown, Bethany Higgenbotham, Taylor Barncord, Alison Kitemiller, Shannta Massey, Kayla Smith.

Head coach: Fred King
Assistant coaches: Jeff Bowers
2004 Record: 19-10
Graduated players: Jenny Bowers, Erica Elliott.

Seniors: Leah Beverlin, Lezie Grimes, Arosia Felton.
Juniors: Ashley Felton, Stacey Birkheimer, Genna Powell, Kaysha Butler, Sarah Pryor, Brittany King, Shannon Veynon, Erika Bennett.
Sophomores: Samantha Goddard.
Freshmen: Shauna Durant, Angelica Phillips, Rachel Yoho, Vicki Yurisko, Lea Ann Butcher, Marci Myers, Kim Davis.

Head coach: Rick Whoolery
Assistant coaches: Missy Cecil
2004 Record: 16-8

Seniors: Kendra Brown, Hannah Headley, Kelsey Cunningham, Whitney McCoy, Andrea Bower, Sarah Morris.
Juniors: Ashley Shaver, Ashly Martyn,
Sophomores: Marci Bucher, Allie Crites, Amy Hickman, Raven Eastham, Sammy Frye, Alexandra Higgenbotham, Racquel Partridge, Brittany Price.
Freshmen: Ally Weber, Alyssa Midcap, Amber Tennant, Stephanie Morgan, Ava Morris, Felicia Ice, Hannah Shaw, Heather Cain, Lyndsay Sell.

Head coach - Jeff Beros
Assistant coaches -- Mike Beaver.
2004 Record: 19-4
Graduated players -- Brittini Borrero, Molly Grimes, Courtney Dinges.

Seniors: Liz Ash, Cara Britten, Heather Nealey, Kendra Bamfield, Rachel Keyser, Ashley Stillen.
Juniors: Amy Kittle, Shayla Roe.
Sophomores: Traci Alt, Alicia Cunningham, Rory Cox, Lauren Zink.

Head coach -- Troy Baker
Assistant coaches -- John Kaiser, Joahna Kaiser.
2004 Record: 20-3
Graduated players -- Kara Hamilton.

Seniors: Lynsey Lafferre, Courtney Wilson, Kim Stalder, B. J. Smith, Casey Marshall, Juniors: Kelsey Lafferre, Amanda Blackstone, A. J. Smith, Selena Black, Story Van Meenen.
Sophomores: Taylor Jorris, Lindsay Huntsman, Rebecca Pardon, Morgan Flamage, Jericha Kinney, Carly Schwaben, Cassie Daggett.
Freshmen: Justine LaFollette, Aleisha Guiler, Carly Davis, Kim LaFerre, Samantha Kilbourne, Niicole Huffman, Stacey Schumacher, Meagun Schumacher, Leah LaFollette, Beann Archer, Brittany Dimerling, Olivia Guiler, April Hehr, Eve Lindamood, Keisha Cope.

Head coach: Kristi Clark
Assistant coaches: Amy Porecca, Tom Clark.
2004 Record: 10-10.
Graduated players: Jamie Dent, Angela Adams, Brittany Davis, Katie Trousch, Shatara Walters.

Seniors: Alison Aeschliman, Claire Dipiero, Christina Happ, Kelsey Hitchcock, Amanda Mieczkowski, Chrissy Polsinelli.
Juniors: Kaylin Bahen, Megan Cummings, Amanda Gulan, Jessica Harlan, Amy Joyce, Juli Matanzo.
Sophomores: Maria DiCarantonio, Katie Dipiero, Gina Leone, Michelle McGuire, Sandra Nassar.
Freshmen: Emily Aeschliman, Sara Ashmead, Kelly Costantini, Melissa Costantini, Rachel Happ, Valerie McCombs, Jayla Pace, Analisa Petrella, Shelby Petrella, Sarah Skiviat, Whitney Swearingen.

Head coach -- Amy Chute
Assistant coaches -- Mark Kafalos
2004 Record: 18-5
Graduated players -- Colleen Wycherley, Shannon Castilow, Elaine Yandrich.

Seniors: Chelsea Bostancic, Michelle Brinker, Emily Taylor, Ashley Vavrek.
Assistant coaches: Marsha Zoller, Marissa Teasdale, Kristen Wamsley.

Head coach - Marsha Zoller
Assistant coaches -- Ray Hibbs, Jamie Hendricks
2004 Record: 16-7
Graduated players -- Julia Hodgkinson, MJ Hendricks, Erin Nunner, Carrie Nign.

Seniors: Max Frontz, Jenna Heaston, Tiff Starsiak.
Juniors: Danielle Bethel, Chelsea Coconougher, Gena Everhart, Shannon Kelley, Krystal Lewis.
Sophomores: Sarah Wilden.
Freshmen: Kallie Teller.

Head coach: Sheeley Seavy
Assistant coaches: Terry Greene
2004 Record: 27-7-2
Graduated players: Hilary Heinzman, Jessica Herrick.

Seniors: Trisha Kuehns, Micha Bell, Katy Talkington, Laura Seavy, Sarah Whiteaman.
Juniors: Jennifer Blake, Jennifer Rodriguez, Jessica Rodriguez, Cera Estep, Dani Batton, Brittany Goddard.
Sophomores: Shawn Barr, Alycia Bell, Cassie Neff, Renee Shephard, Kayla Britl, Tory Greene, Kelsey Spang, Alicia Hinerman.

Head coach -- Rebecca Hays
Assistant coaches -- Ami Smith, Dorine Garbash.
2004 Record: 17-7
Graduated players -- Jessica Pempel, Janie Henry, Allie Wojchowski.

Seniors: Missy Gossett, Jordan Myers, Katie Lee, Beth Schroeder.
Juniors: Amanda Piccolini, Lucy Bannon, Allie Kallis, Sarah Hurr, Sarah Ostrander, Kaylee Davenport.
Sophomores: Olivia Pokas, Lora Schroeder, Stephanie Skatuia, Brittani Zielinski, Kylie Bober, Alison Garbash, Amanda McCabe, Kaitlyn Schmitt, Jessica Zukak.
Freshmen: Danielle Duvall, Bethany Efav, Shannon Frahsler, Ashley Gillespie, Natasha Halicky, Cassandra Prezzia, Sukhmani Sandhu, Molly West.

Head coach: Bob Shansky
Assistant coaches: Elizabeth Prince, Lori Adkins
2004 Record: 12-11
Graduated players: Tricia Mackey, Brianne Bishop.

Seniors: Kayla Barburk, Allison Hall, Samantha Klink, Laura Bolez, Kristen Reagan, Sara Geisse.
Juniors: Kim Yanni, Marissa Yeager.
Sophomores: Amy Dunlap, Rachel Klink, Chelsey Stockdale.

Head coach -- Dawn Pugh.
Assistant coaches -- Tony Kovalesky, Amber Ankrum.
2004 Record: 18-6
Graduated players -- Devin Cain, Annie Kovalesky, Tasha Modranski, Courtney Pederson, Merideth Sanders, Kylie Snyder.

Seniors: Jessica Wedlake, Caitlin Williamson, Emily Perkins, Kelli Moore.
Juniors: Brandi Beebe, Katelyn DiPasquale, Tara Keenan, Sarah Kuczynski, Jenna Still, Samantha Taylor.
Freshmen: Kaitlin Blake.

Head coach: Suzanne Allen
Assistant coaches: Angella Forte
2004 Record: 9-11

Seniors: Caitlin Criss, Ashley Petrella, Ashley Jablonski, Kayla Thomas, Jacquelyn Gullen.
Juniors: Aleasha Brandt, Celina Gomez, Laura Kirkland, Brittany Willis.
Sophomores: Samantha Dixon.

Head coach: Willie Paul
Assistant coaches: Ann Bobalick, Krista Bottegai.
Graduated players: Tiffany Bright.

Seniors: None
Juniors: Alib Chappell, Stace Bernardi, Lindsay Sobotaka, Michaelena Larch, Tia Noble, Jennifer Greico, Chelsey Pritts, Lindsey McElwee, Kayla Clevenger.
Sophomores: Liz Cowden, Heather Dulaney, Ali Bobalick.

OVAC VB Pairings

OVAC VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFF PAIRINGS	Central on Court #2
Saturday, Oct. 15	#2.
at Union Local High School	Finals immediately following on Court #1.
9:30 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
No. 1 Beallsville vs. No. 4 Bridgeport on Court # 1	No. 1 St. Clairsville vs. No. 4 Magnolia on Court #1
No. 2 Paden City vs. No. 3 Valley on Court #2.	No. 2 Bellaire vs. No. 3 Harrison Central on Court #2
Finals immediately following on Court #1.	Finals immediately following on Court #1.
	5 p.m.
Noon	No. 1 Steubenville vs. No. 4 Weir on Court #1
No. 1 Wheeling Central vs. No. 4 Steubenville Central on Court # 1	No. 2 Edison vs. No. 3 East Liverpool on Court #2.
No. 2 Buckeye Trail vs. No.3 Monroe	Finals immediately following on Court #1.

OVAC Volleyball Championships set for Saturday

By JIM ELLIOTT
For The Times Leader

St. Clairsville and Wheeling Central might be taking the best records into Saturday's OVAC Volleyball championships at Union Local High School, but that's just about where the similarities end for these squads.

The Red Devils are the veterans, having won Class AAA titles the last two years.

"We know how it runs," said St. Clairsville coach Rebecca Hays. "We're going in No. 1. We've won it two years in a row; we're the team to beat. It's a lot of pressure, but we keep saying we want that three-peat."

The Maroon Knights, on the other hand, are making their first appearance in the tourney since the late 1990s.

"It's been ongoing the last four years," Wheeling Central coach Amy Chute said. "Two of our seniors (Chelsea Skrzypek and Erica Marchesi) started as freshmen. Most of the others started as sophomores. We advanced to the (W.Va. Class A) regionals last year."

"Our girls got a taste of that, and they want to go to state. This is definitely going to help get them ready for the sectionals and regionals."

Of course, it doesn't really matter how you got there or where you start - as the Red Devils can attest - it's how you finish.

For the last two years, St. Clairsville (17-3) has entered the Class AAA tournament as the No. 3 seed, but wound up coming out on top.

Despite the high ranking, the Red Devils actually come into the tourney carrying a two-game losing streak.

All three of St. Clairsville's losses came to the hands of OVAC qualifiers, including Harrison Central early in the year, and Bellaire earlier this week. The Big Reds and the Huskies will be battling it out on Court 2 at 2:30 p.m., while St. Clairsville tangles with formidable Magnolia.

The chance - if they can get past Magnolia - for revenge exists.

"I think that will light a fire under the girls," Hays said.

Complicating matters a little more, the Red Devils lost to Class AAAA qualifier Edison just last Thursday.

"It's been a bad time to take these losses," Hays said, "but in a different perspective, it can be a very good thing. It makes us look at ourselves and realize we have work to do. We know we have to give everything we have on Saturday."

For the moment, Wheeling Central is the talk of the Class AA field, which also includes Steubenville Central - the Maroon Knights' semifinal foe - Buckeye Trail, and Monroe Central.

"The big surprise is Wheeling Central," said Angie Miller, director of the tourney. "Everybody's kinda looking at them like what do they have?"

There's a reason the teams are left to wonder.

Wheeling Central, through a sparkling 16-1 season, played just two Ohio teams - Bellaire St. John and Bridgeport.

See, OVAC, Page B2

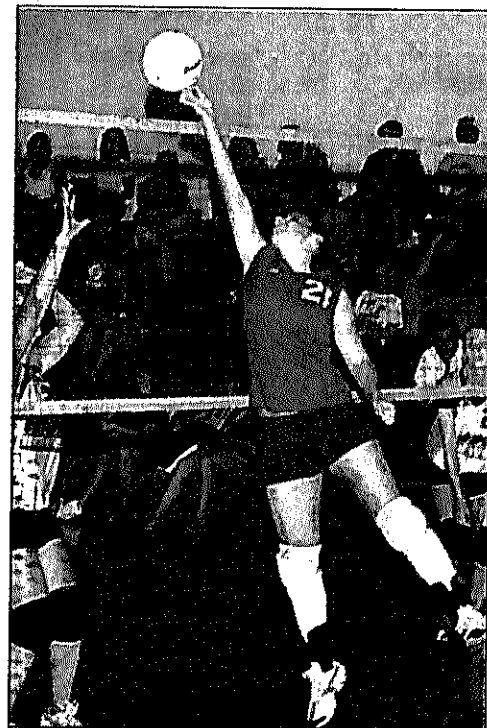
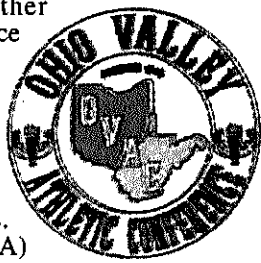


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Amanda Piccolini and the St. Clairsville Red Devils are gunning for a third consecutive title Saturday when the OVAC volleyball championships get under way in Morristown.

Teams In Search Of Titles

By JIM ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

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Please See TITLES, Page 23

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

"We're the only W.Va. team in the Class AA field," Chu points out. "We don't know much about them, and they don't know much about us."

Buckeye Trail is the defending champion and has won two of the last four Class AA titles. Action in the Double-A tourney begins at noon.

In Class AAAAA, which won't see its first serve until 5 p.m. Steubenville will take on newcomer Weir in one semifinal while Edison and East Liverpool vie in the other.

Edison is the defending champion while East Liverpool has claimed three trophies over the last seven years.

"East Liverpool is very familiar with coming to OVAC championships," Miller said. "It's never a surprise, they're always bringing a team down."

Class A figures to be close throughout.

Defending champion Bridgeport will take on Beallsville in one semifinal while Paden City will battle Valley on the other.

"Those schools kinda switched around a little bit the last week," Miller said. "I think any of those schools could get that class."

"They all seem like they're evenly matched as far as talent."

Titles

(Continued from Page 19)

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"They all seem like they're evenly matched as far as talent."

Action in Class A begins at 9 a.m.

The schedule for the day follows:

OVAC Championship Playoffs
Semifinal pairings
9:30 a.m. Class A
Beallsville vs. Bridgeport on Court No. 1; Paden City vs. Valley on Court No. 2
12 noon Class AA
Wheeling Central vs. Steubenville Central on Court No. 1; Buckeye Trail vs. Monroe Central on Court No. 2
2:30 p.m. Class AAA
St. Clairsville vs. Magnolia on Court No. 1; Bellaire vs. Harrison Central on Court No. 2
5 p.m. Class AAAAA
Steubenville vs. Weir on Court No. 1; Edison vs. East Liverpool on Court No. 2
Finals following semifinals in each division.