



Park girls, Brooke boys win OVAC Cup

By JOSH STROPE
For The Times Leader

Call it a decade of dominance.

Wheeling Park won its 10th straight OVAC Cup Championship on Monday with a 2-0 victory against Linsly at Wheeling Island Stadium.

First-year coach Mark Hladek now owns an OVAC Cup title as a player and a coach.

"It was a little more nerve-wracking as a coach," Hladek said. "This was one of those games I'm supposed to win. I got hired here because I was supposed to be a good coach, so I didn't want to be the one to end the streak."

But Hladek didn't have to worry despite a Linsly team that did its best to put the Patriots on their heels.

"They really frustrated us," Hladek said. "It was a messy first half and we were lucky to catch a break."

That break came in the form of a rifle shot by Lauren Thomas.

Thomas had a ball bounce back to her outside of the penalty box and the junior buried it into the top corner of the goal past Linsly keeper Kaitlyn Pytlak.

The Patriots (11-0-2) appeared to go up 2-0 when Pytlak went out to play a loose ball but missed it, allowing Melissa Shepherd to score into the empty net. However, the referees disallowed the goal, claiming Pytlak was interfered with.

The 1-0 lead stood to intermission.

"We went into this game as the underdogs and with nothing to lose," Linsly coach Jill Regan said. "We did a lot of things that frustrated them and the girls are holding their heads up."

"They have nothing to be ashamed of and I think they are proud of themselves and I'm proud of them too."

Wheeling Park went up by two scores on a goal by Emily Freeman. Freeman took a pass from Katelyn Gompers and finished the play for the 2-0 lead.

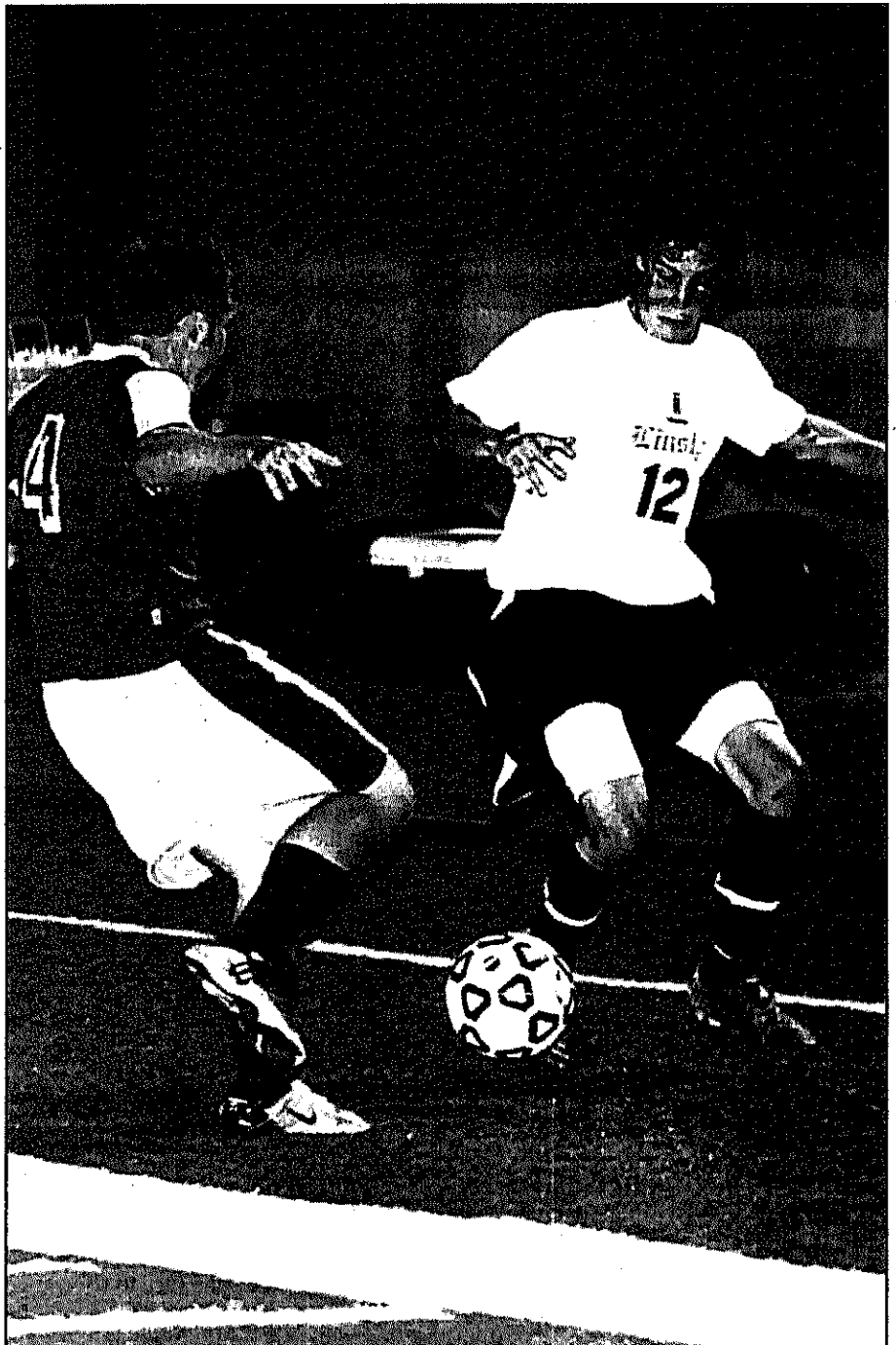
Gompers played an outstanding game and Hladek referred to her as "the best player on the field in the second half."

Linsly (13-4) had a hard time getting any shots in the second half against a stingy Park defense, and Hladek wasn't going to sit on a 2-0 lead.

"I'm not a coach that likes to do that," Hladek said. "That was a team that I didn't want to give opportunities to."

"I've said since Day 1 that I thought we had the best defense around and then went out and posted another shutout, this time against a Linsly team that is very underrated, very talented, and very athletic."

Added Regan: "We didn't have the depth, only playing 14 girls. I



T-L Photos/JOEL JOSEPH

TOP: Linsly's Katie Jochum tries to work toward a shot against Wheeling Park goal keeper Julianne Forzano and Kelly Kreson (21).

ABOVE: Linsly's Zach Torak works the ball up field against Brooke's Eric Thomas during Monday evening's OVAC Soccer Cup Championship at Wheeling Island Stadium.

● OVAC

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Park, Linsly girls to battle for OVAC Cup

By DON CLEGG
For The Times Leader

think fatigue started to set in, but they never gave up."

Pytlak made some excellent saves on Shepherd and Natalie Smith to keep Linsly's hopes up, but Park wrapped up the victory and another title.

"Most of the girls, we have six or seven seniors that started this season with a different attitude," Hladek said. "They didn't want to leave as the group that lost."

"Now that we've accomplished what we need to in terms of being undefeated, winning the division title and the tournament, we are going to set our sights on getting ready for sectionals and hopefully the state tournament."

BROOKE AND LINSLY played in the OVAC Cup Final the previous two seasons with each team winning one.

The rubber match belonged to the Bruins.

Brooke received a second-half goal from Japanese exchange student Ryogo Kishimoto, and the Bruins held off a furious Linsly onslaught to claim their second OVAC Cup Championship with a 1-0 victory against the Cadets on Monday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"This is an awesome feeling," Brooke coach John Zumpetta said. "These kids worked their butts off and really stepped up and held Linsly off."

"Linsly is an awesome team and we are so thrilled to win."

Linsly (14-5) started off the match by looking like it would run the Bruins out of the stadium.

The Cadets spent the better part of 20 minutes without allowing Brooke to cross mid-field.

The second 20 minutes of the first half belonged to Brooke (10-3). Despite going into the intermission scoreless, all the momentum had clearly switched to the side of the Bruins.

"We knew Linsly would come out and jump on us," Zumpetta said. "They are very talented, but once we settled down and started to play our game, things started to switch

our way, and then Ryogo took advantage."

Kishimoto took a pass from Bryce Mott and blasted a shot from 25 yards that zipped through the penalty box and past diving Linsly netminder Eric Schmalz into the goal in the 44th minute.

"He just stepped into and ripped it," Zumpetta said.

Linsly didn't give up and played hard to the end. Despite getting off some excellent shots, none could get by the 2005 West Virginia Goalkeeper of the Year Ryan Whitehead.

"He's one of the best," Linsly coach Randy Shah said. "He's very athletic, very gifted, challenges well and doesn't fold under pressure."

Zumpetta was so sure of his defense, during the last 15-20 minutes he called it back and spent the rest of the match keeping Linsly at bay.

"At that point, I just wanted to clear the ball and I thought my defense was solid enough to do that," Zumpetta said.

Linsly's best chance came with five minutes remaining as Evan Sincavich saw a bouncing ball in the penalty box. The junior charged at the ball but fanned, allowing a Brooke defender to clear the ball.

"Brooke played great defense and one of our things is possessing the ball and taking away their opportunities," Shah said. "(Monday) we didn't finish."

Linsly loses 12 seniors, a group that was very emotional after the final whistle blew.

"This was an emotional let-down for them, and their hearts were really in it," Shah said. "For a senior to go out on a loss, especially when playing for a championship, you could see the passion."

For Brooke, the victory is a measure of revenge against the team that shut it out last October. As for Kishimoto understanding the significance of the victory, Zumpetta gave a chuckle.

"He understood it enough to be one of the first ones to run over and grab the cup," Zumpetta said.

The unbeaten Wheeling Park girls' soccer team took another step closer to its 10th straight OVAC Cup girls Saturday afternoon with a 3-0 shutout of Brooke (5-4-3) in a semifinal at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Coach Mark Hladek's Patriots (13-0-2) return to the island Monday to battle Linsly (13-3) for the OVAC Cup title.

Linsly edged Edison on penalty kicks in Saturday's other semifinal.

Wheeling Park had fallen behind early in its past two games but that trend came to an end Saturday.

"One of the things we focused on in pregame was not to have another slow start," said Hladek.

The game began in a light drizzle but it didn't take Park long to find its water wings.

Natalie Smith gained possession inside the box and chipped a high ball over her defenders that found Mallory Mueller about 10 yards in front of the left post.

Mueller settled the ball quickly and drove it low into the opposite corner for a 1-0 Wheeling Park lead in the 14th minute.

In the 19th minute, Emily Freeman - playing in her first game since returning from an injury - ripped a corner kick low into the box.

Melissa Shepherd darted around her defender and one-timed Freeman's drive into the back of the net for her 18th goal of the season and the Patriots had a 2-0 lead.

"We're starting to get healthy," said Hladek. "Emily's probably about 90 percent right now and we also got Cassie Aderholt back on the field today."

"Outside of Elizabeth Kosowski, who will probably be out for a couple of weeks with an ankle, we should be at full strength Monday night."

Wheeling Park's back three of Sarah Bizanovich, Kelly Kresen and Emily Ellwood frustrated the Brooke attack all afternoon.

The Bruins didn't get their first shot on net until the 51st minute. Jenna Forzano easily made the save and didn't face another shot.

Brooke keeper Alicia Wayne kept things from getting out of hand with some dazzling saves, especially in the first half.

"Their keeper played great," said Hladek. "We probably had the two best keepers in the OVAC here today."

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Wheeling Park closed out the scoring in the 74th minute when Lauren Thomas took a throw-in from Shepherd and dribbled half the length of the field before fending off two defenders to ram a low skidding drive into the back of the net.

"I think we flipped it a little bit today," said Hladek. "I thought we came out a little flat in the second half."

"I'd really like to see us put two good halves together."

LINSLY HEAD GIRLS' soccer coach Jill Regan learned a painful lesson in her first season as a coach with the Cadets.

Twelve years later, that lesson paid off with a berth in Monday's OVAC Cup final.

After battling to a 1-1 tie through regulation and two 5-minute overtime periods, Linsly and Edison had to settle Saturday's OVAC Cup semifinal in a penalty-kick shootout.

No problem.

The Cadets missed their first try but sophomore keeper Kaitlyn Pytlak frustrated the Wildcats with back-to-back saves and Linsly won the shootout by a 3-1 margin.

That earned the Cadets (13-3) a shot at nine-time defending champion Wheeling Park (13-0-2) in Monday's championship match.

It also jogged some memories for Regan.

...we took them into overtime but lost in the shootout because we'd never practiced penalty kicks all year.

"For the last 12 years, every practice we've had at Linsly has ended in penalty kicks. We were prepared."

Although Linsly had dropped a 2-1 decision to Edison during the regular season, the Cadets dominated the run of play for most of the day on Saturday.

Linsly had a difficult time solving Wildcat keeper Catherine Sanders - who kept her team in the match throughout with a dozen saves on a busy afternoon - but finally broke the scoring ice just before halftime.

Justine Lechner was hustling the ball up the left sideline when she found Erica Jenkins making a midfield run.

Lechner put a perfect pass on Jenkins' foot just past midfield and the senior midfielder split the Edison defense.

Jenkins pulled up about 25 yards out and drilled a laser into the top left corner of the net for a 1-0 Linsly lead in the 38th minute.

The Cadets kept the pressure on in the second half and were less than eight minutes away from a shutout win when Edison caught a break.

A group of players came together on a challenge for a high ball sent into the Linsly box.

The ball caromed over the end line off a

...Wheeling Park in the first year I coached Wildcat but before Pytlak could set up for the ensuing goal kick, the far linesman called the referee over for a conference.

Following a brief discussion, Linsly was called for a foul on the play. Since it occurred inside the penalty box, Edison was awarded a penalty kick with less than eight minutes to play.

Brittany McKee drilled the kick just under the crossbar to knot the score, sending the game into overtime.

McKee also took the first penalty kick in the shootout and hammered it home to give Edison an early edge.

There were some nervous moments on the Linsly sideline when the Cadets misfired on their first penalty kick but Pytlak smothered the next two shots from the Wildcats to turn the tide.

"Those two saves by Kaitlyn were huge," said Regan. "That gave us a chance to go ahead."

"I reminded the shooters that we practice these things every day and told them to just shoot like they do in practice."

After the first miss, Jenkins, Chelsea Hennen and Courtney Lowe made three straight to send Linsly into Monday's title tilt.

Regan doesn't mind being cast in the underdog role.

"We have some talented girls," she said, "but I'm sure people see us as the underdog because Wheeling Park has won this tournament so many times."

"That means we can go in there and play relaxed. The pressure's not on us."

OVAC Cup Kicks

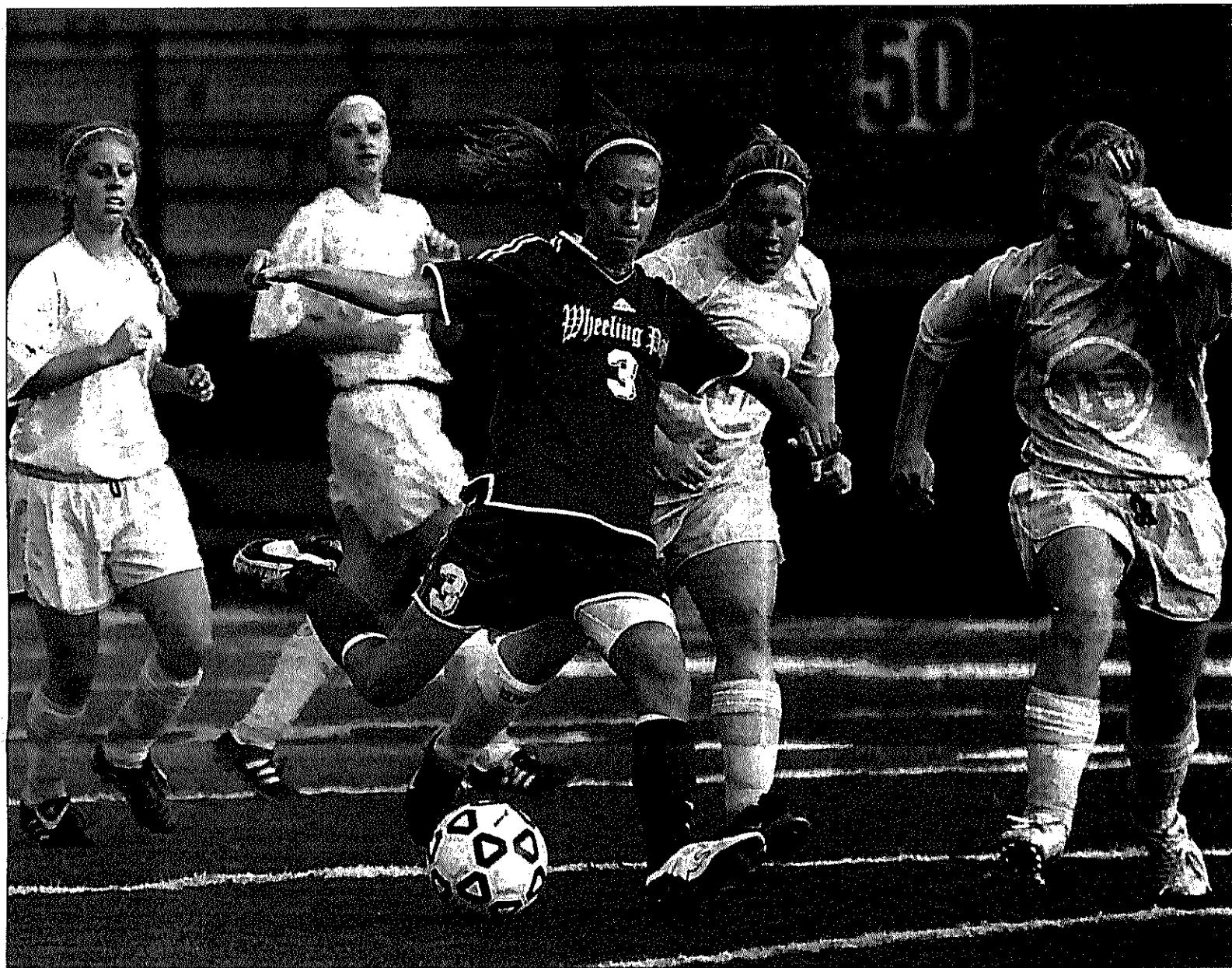


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Lauren Thomas (3) readies for a kick during Monday's OVAC Cup matchup at Harding Stadium in Steubenville against John Marshall. Among the Monarchs defenders are Hanna Gossett (10), Michelle Harris, middle, and Jesse Rutan, right.

Wheeling Park shakes off slow start, Monarchs

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

Wheeling Park again started slow. Wheeling Park again finished strong.

The Patriots overcame a sluggish start and started their defense of the OVAC Cup Championship with an 8-1 rout against John Marshall on Monday in the quarterfinals at Harding Stadium in Steubenville.

"It took us 46 minutes to wake up," Wheeling Park coach Mark Hladek said. "There were times when John Marshall was all over the place and I had to count to make sure there weren't 20 girls out there."

"We were lucky to get two first-half goals, and we can't do that if we play a team that's going to come out and play a full 80 minutes."

The Monarchs came into the

"There were times when John Marshall was all over the place and I had to count to make sure there weren't 20 girls out there."

Mark Hladek, Wheeling Park girls' soccer coach

game as the No. 8 seed and looked to avenge last season's loss in the OVAC Cup Championship game.

John Marshall stunned the defending champs in the 10th minute when Emily Yoders received a Hannah Gossett pass and fired the ball toward the net. Wheeling Park goalkeeper Jenna Forzano made a diving stab to slow the ball down, but it still trickled into the net for the 1-0 John Marshall lead.

The Patriots answered in the

14th minute when Sarah Bizanovich took a direct kick from midfield and sailed it into the penalty box.

John Marshall goalie Kristen Hewitt came out to get it, but Wheeling Park's Emily Shepherd beat her to it and knocked the ball past her and into the goal to tie the game.

The Monarchs seemingly controlled the tempo the rest of the half, but Wheeling Park took its first lead as Liz Marshall took the

rebound off a Mallory Mueller shot for the goal.

"I was very proud of the kids, they played hard until the end," John Marshall coach Cindy Lawther said. "We know how hard it is to play a team like Park and especially with its defensive speed."

When the Patriots finally woke up in the second half is when the wheels started to fall off for John Marshall.

Four minutes into the second half, Lauren Thomas scored from 30 yards out, a shot that Hewitt should have stopped, but got away from her and into the net.

Shepherd scored the next two goals, one on a beautiful shot that sailed over Hewitt's head, and the other picking up a bouncing ball in the box and burying it home.

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Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Melissa Shepherd, left, battles for possession of the ball against John Marshall's Julie Young during Monday's game at Harding Stadium in Steubenville.

s Off

Bruins earn shutout vs. Crusaders

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

Brooke coach Erica Hall was pleased with the result of her first game coaching in the OVAC Cup Tournament.

The Bruins' 2-0 victory against Steubenville Central in the quarterfinals of the tournament Monday at Harding Stadium in Steubenville was hard-fought, and her stellar defense shut down a prolific Crusaders offense.

But once the game was finished, her focus was on one thing — Wheeling Park.

"We have a week to get ready," Hall said. "The girls know what's in front of them. There is no pressure on us because everyone expects Park to win it all. But this is a tough week and any team can be beaten."

Brooke played strong on defense and didn't allow many scoring chances by the Crusaders.

The ones it did allow were scary and could have changed the outcome of the game.

The best chance came as Annie Potvin dribbled around a slew of defenders and lofted a shot toward Brooke goalie Alicia Wayne. Wayne bobbed the ball which went over her head, off the crossbar, and along the goal line.

The referees huddled together and determined the ball never fully crossed the line and the match remained scoreless.

The first half remained scoreless, much to the surprise of Hall.

"I haven't seen Steubenville Central so I wasn't sure what to expect," Hall said. "(Potvin) was quick, and having someone like that makes me nervous in a tie game. I like to feel comfortable."

The Bruins have been a team that has scored goals in bunches, feeding off the momentum, and Monday was no different.

Brooke finally got on the scoreboard in the 51st minute as Connie Fuentes split two defenders with a perfect pass to Brittany DeCapiro who finished the play for score.

Less than a minute later, the two were at it again, but this time Steubenville Central goalie Annie Shaw made the diving save on DeCapiro.

Still, the Bruins kept attacking, forcing the Crusaders out of their game.

A foul on the edge of the box set Brooke up with a direct kick. Instead of sending the ball in the box and hoping for a lucky bounce, Molly Cline fired the ball toward the net.

It turned out to be the right choice as Cline's shot sailed over Shaw's head and into the goal.

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Slow

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Shepherd's hat trick gives her 17 goals in her inaugural season with the Patriots.

Thomas scored again in what looked like a mirror image of her previous goal. Natalie Smith finished off the scoring with two goals in the final 10 minutes.

Still, the slow start worries Hladek, but he still gives credit to a furious start by John Marshall.

"It's hard to start off this tournament when you've already played them once," Hladek said. "They have already seen us, and they were ready to play from the outset and I give John Marshall its due."

"We won the first game 6-0 and they are the No. 8 seed coming in to knock off the No. 1 seed. Luckily we are a good enough team to overcome a bad start and pull out the win."

The Patriots face Brooke on Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium in the semifinals.

No. 1 seed Wheeling Park will play Brooke on Saturday.

Game Note

The Patriots, already banged up with injuries to Emily Freeman and Casselyn Aderholt, suffered another blow as sophomore Elizabeth Kosowski injured her ankle during warmups. Kosowski has been coming off the bench and been a solid contributor in the past few games. Freeman and Aderholt may be ready for Saturday's game.

SUMMARY

Wheeling Park 8, John Marshall 1
W — Goals: Shepherd 3, Thomas 2, Smith 2, Marshall; Assists: Bizanovich 2, Mueller, Thomas, Railing, Gompers; Goalkeepers: Forzano (2 saves), Blalock (1 save); J — Goal: Yoders; Assist: Gossett; Goalkeeper: Hewitt (13 saves).

Brooke

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"It seems as soon as we get that first goal, then we click into attack mode," Hall said. "We scored, and everyone got up and they wanted another."

"Hopefully we can keep that up, but we aren't going to be able to wait that long to score against Park."

As always, the defense was superb, only allowing three shots.

"They came out the second half and beat us every which way," Steubenville Central coach Chris Ledyard said. "We started off good because I think the girls were nervous and didn't know what to do so they attacked and put Brooke on its heels."

"Once they calmed down and sensed what was around them, Brooke became just a better team and we couldn't possess the ball to do anything with it."

Game Note

Brooke played Wheeling Park tough in their only match of the season, but the Patriots

were still able to come away with a 4-0 victory.

Regular Season Mount de Chantal 7 Indian Creek 0

At Wheeling, Mount de Chantal's Svenga Menz scored three goals and the Lions' Jocelyn Floyd and Raven Weaver recorded two goals apiece in a shutout against Indian Creek.

Floyd went coast to coast for one of her two goals.

Assists were tallied for Mount de Chantal (5-4) by Menz and Samantha Waycof.

Mount de Chantal's Mallory Dille and Halle Parker had three saves each in the net, while Indian Creek goalkeeper Kaylee DeHammer managed 17 saves.

SUMMARIES

Brooke 2, Steubenville Central 0
B — Goals: DeCapiro, Cline; Assist: Fuentes; Goalkeeper: Wayne (3 saves); S — Goalkeeper: Shaw (7 saves).

Mount de Chantal 7, Indian Creek 0
M — Goals: Menz 3, Floyd 2, Weaver 2; Assists: Menz, Waycof; Goalkeepers: Dille (3 saves), Parker (3 saves); I — Goalkeeper: DeHammer (17 saves).

OVAC Soccer Cup

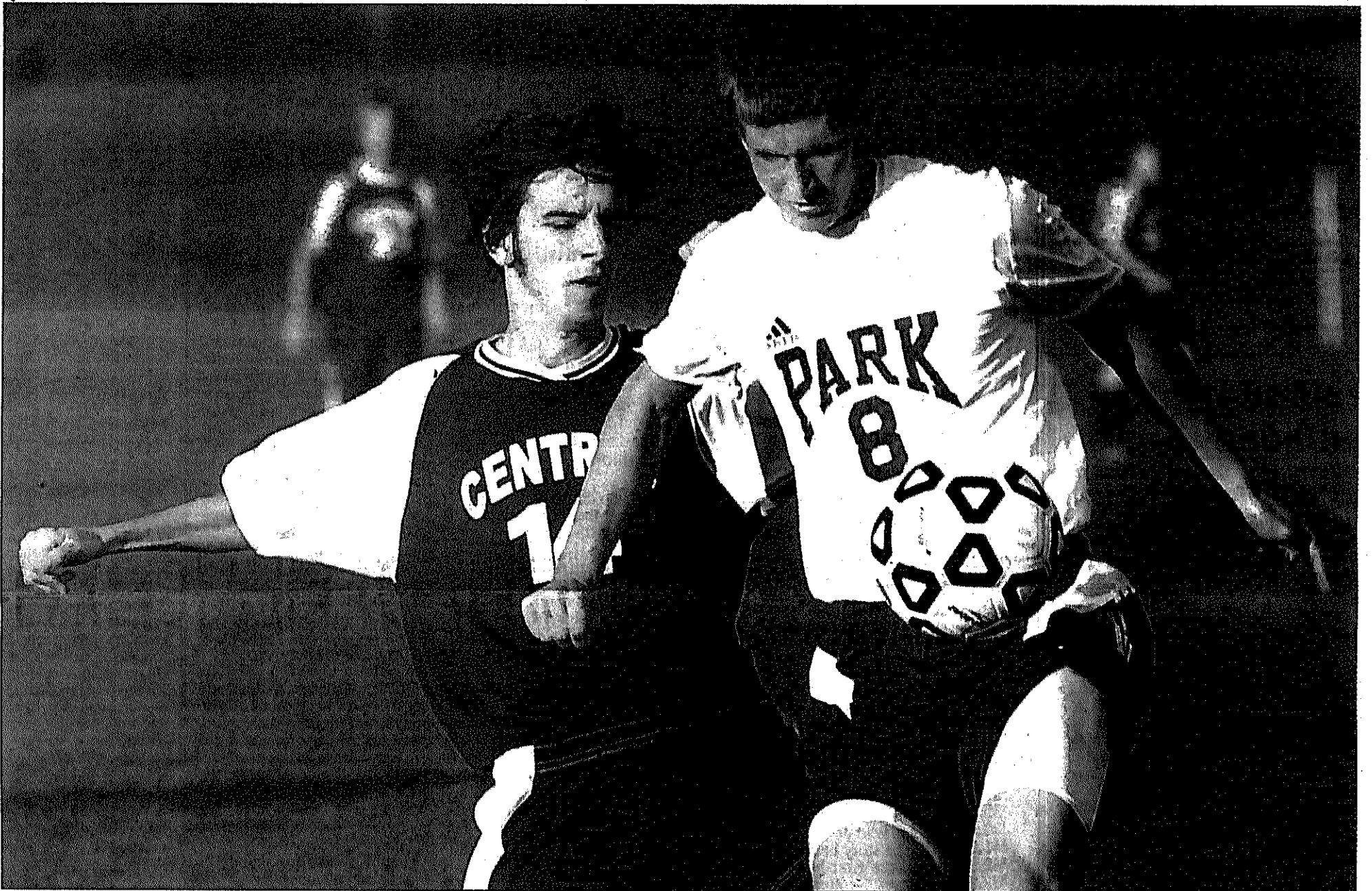


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Stephen Knight (8) controls the ball in front of Wheeling Central's Greg Vargo (14) during action of their match Wednesday evening in Wellsburg.

Patriots Blank City Rivals

Horan scores goal in return to Park's lineup

By **JOSH STROPE**
Staff Writer

It's never easy to start off a tournament against a crosstown rival, but Wheeling Park found itself in a battle Wednesday against Wheeling Central in the quarterfinals of the OVAC Cup Tournament at Brooke High School.

Despite a determined effort by the Maroon Knights, the Patriots were able to escape with a 2-0 victory and advance to the semifinals Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"Wheeling Central gave us everything we could handle to today and my hats off to them," Wheeling Park coach Mario Julian said. "They were fit, ran at us hard, and there were times when they really stormed at us.

"We wanted to start off with a good

win and this was definitely it."

Goals were hard to come by for the Patriots, mainly because of outstanding play in goal by Wheeling Central keeper Sabastian Bommer.

Bommer got tested early on a break-away attempt by Wheeling Park's Zac Jebbia, but the junior was up to the task, making a diving save of the hard shot.

"Sabastian has really come along for us this season and made some big saves," Wheeling Central coach Lou Vargo said.

But as solid as Bommer was, even the best of goalkeepers have a hard time stopping shots from Wheeling Park's Vinny Crumrine.

Zac Aderholt raced with ball down the sidelines, bringing a pair of Maroon Knight defenders with him. Aderholt calmly passed the ball back to the top of the penalty box where Crumrine was waiting for a one-timer.

The senior blasted a hard shot the diving Bommer couldn't catch up as and

Park took the lead in the 32nd minute.

Wheeling Central couldn't get anything going on offense, despite playing a large portion of the match in Wheeling Park territory.

"We were moving the ball, but we just couldn't finish," Vargo said. "Talent-wise I thought we matched up with them pretty well, but they just found a way to win.

"They played their hearts out for 80 minutes and played a great game against a great team."

Senior Ryan Horan made his return to the Wheeling Park lineup after missing the entire season with a broken foot.

Not only did his return give the Patriots a much-needed lift, but also a much-needed second goal.

Jebbia passed the ball through the penalty box, and with Bommer out of position, Horan easily put the ball in the empty net for his first score.

Please See RIVALS, Page 21

Linsly records school-record seventh consecutive shutout

By **JOSH STROPE**
Staff Writer

The OVAC Cup tournament is always where Linsly comes out to shine.

This year is starting off as no exception.

The Cadets made a little history, setting a school-record with seven consecutive shutouts in a 3-0 blanking of Steubenville in the quarterfinals of the OVAC Cup Tournament on Wednesday at Brooke High.

Linsly entered the tournament as the No. 3 seed, and most importantly, the defending champions.

"This was a good win for us because we were down a striker in Josh Chapman because of injury, but we stepped up on defense and came out and took possession of the game by controlling the ball," Linsly coach Randy Shah said.

Evan Sincavich got the scoring started with a blast from 30 yards out that caught Steubenville goalkeeper David Almeida off guard.

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Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Zach Aderholt and Wheeling Central's Chris Bucon (15) compete for possession during Wednesday's game.

Rivals

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"He hobbled around a little bit, and at times, I think he was afraid to hurt it again," Julian said.

"But he gave us a big lift tonight. He's one of our best players, and that gave them a lot of confidence.

"We got exactly what we wanted out of him tonight."

Wheeling Park's Andrew

Hatcher made two saves for the shutout.

With Weir's defeat Tuesday, the Patriots are the top remaining seed at No. 2, but that makes no difference to Julian.

"We know no matter who the top seed is, (Linsly or Steubenville) are going to come at us hard on Saturday," Julian said. "We just have to finish with a good showing."

Linsly

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Linsly almost went up two goals a minute later, but Ryan Hobbs' shot was declared offside.

Linsly goalie Erik Schmalz recorded his only save in the first half off a Brendan Milliken shot.

It was one of the few times Big Red was able to maintain possession.

"We knew Linsly was going to dominate the ball, but the way they were moving the ball was like something I've never seen," Steubenville coach Greg Bowers said. "We spent the entire time chasing the ball, and when we finally got possession of the ball in their area, our legs were just too tired to finish."

Linsly got its second goal minutes before halftime as Xavier Ortenzio blasted home a shot on a pass from Sincavich after a

direct kick just outside of the penalty box.

The Cadets controlled the second half much like the first, by keeping the ball away from the feet of the Big Red players.

"It was good game management," Shah said. "If you can keep the ball away from them, they can't score and we teach our kids how to control the ball and keep our composure."

The final goal came in the 65th minute as Nick Tomacari fired a ball toward the net, but as Almeida made a diving save, the rebound got away and Kevin Riley put the shot home for the 3-0 advantage.

"We have a lot of younger players, and this was a good experience," Bowers said. "They are just going to have to learn from their mistakes, and in time, they

will."

Linsly faces a big challenge against Wheeling Park in the semifinals Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"Park is Park, they are always solid and always challenging," Shah said. "If we play our best game, we will come out on top."

The contest will be a matchup of two of the top teams in OVAC soccer history, and the defending champs are looking forward to the challenge.

"The kids look at this tournament as their season and more as Linsly as a historical aspect," Shah said. "They come in thinking that the OVAC Cup is theirs and everybody is going to be coming at us as the team to beat."

"We have a lot of seniors that want to make sure they win it in their final season."

Making A Little History

No. 8 seed Steubenville Central pulls upset of top-seeded Weir

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

There's a first time for everything.

In the 15 years the OVAC has played soccer, never has a No. 8 seed defeated the No. 1 seed in the OVAC Cup Tournament — until now.

The Steubenville Central boys stunned top-ranked Weir 3-1 on Tuesday in the quarterfinals of the tournament held at Brooke High School.

"We told the kids before the game that the number doesn't matter," Steubenville Central coach Steve Kopcha said. "They showed up to play (Tuesday) and I'm very happy."

"These guys did a great job and beat a very good team. Weir was ranked No. 1 for a reason."

The Crusaders took an early lead and never looked back.

The first goal came in the 6th minute after a foul in the penalty box gave Steubenville Central a penalty kick. Wes Myers buried the ball past Weir goalie Milan Martich for the lead.

"Martich has faced eight penalty kicks this season and saved all eight," Weir coach Joe Pepe said. "The ninth one went in. Eight out of nine, that's a pretty

good ratio. Even pros don't do that."

Weir stayed on the offensive, but a tough Crusaders defense didn't allow many scoring opportunities.

The Crusaders took the 1-0 lead into halftime after playing a flawless half.

In the second half, with Weir pressing, trying to get a goal, a Steubenville Central midfielder cleared the ball into the Weir penalty box.

Martich went out to play the ball, but it took a high bounce over the keeper's head. Martich fell to the ground and Steubenville Central's Johnny Herrmann picked up the loose ball and scored into the empty net.

"They beat us 6-0 earlier this season so we knew we had to show up to play," Kopcha said. "Our defense played tough and we were able to counter what they were doing."

Weir finally got on the scoreboard in the 67th minute as T.J. Morgan picked up the rebound from a Bobby Littleton shot and drilled it past Steubenville Central goalie Leo DiPiero to cut the lead in half.

Steubenville Central answered right back just more than two minutes later when Danny Fischer broke free and found himself all alone with Martich.

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Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Weir High goalkeeper Milan Martich jumps in the air in attempt to save a header by Steubenville Central's Kevin Danaher, front, during their OVAC Cup quarterfinal Tuesday at Brooke. The Crusaders' Frank Leonard (34) watches the play.

Experienced Bruins Topple Tyler

Bruins score quick, pour it on against debuting Knights

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

Brooke has been a veteran of the OVAC Cup tournament since its existence. Tyler Consolidated was making its first trip.

The experience of the Bruins won out as Brooke handed Tyler Consolidated a 6-0 defeat in the quarterfinals of the OVAC Cup Tourna-

ment Tuesday at Brooke High School.

Brooke scored early and often, getting on the board in the 4th minute as Isaac Jones scored on a cross from Justin Wilkinson.

Bryce Mott put Brooke up 2-0, scoring on a deflection just five minutes later.

By the time the Silver Knights registered their first shot in the 21st minute, they were already in a huge hole.

"We've been getting out to starts like this lately and I was hoping the kids didn't think 'here we go again,'" Tyler Consolidated coach

Scott Wall said. "But Brooke is a phenomenal team, lighting fast and with great foot skills."

While plenty of Bruins got in on the scoring parade, the most valuable player of the game may have been Japanese exchange student Ryogo Kishimoto.

Kishimoto assisted on the next goal, firing a perfect direct kick into the penalty box and onto the head of teammate David Syrylo who headed the ball past Silver Knights goalkeeper D.J. Shepherd.

Just minutes before half, he scored a goal of his own, taking a pass from Stephen Breen, flipping the

ball up in the air and driving a forceful shot past Shepherd.

"Ryogo was brilliant and this is the first game in week's were he's been healthy," Brooke coach John Zumpetta said. "He's making things happen out there. He might not understand too much of what's been said, but he's going to be a valuable piece for us and more importantly, he's fun to be around."

The Silver Knights did a better job keeping the Bruins at bay in the second half, but still allowed two goals by Alexander Stubbs to complete the scoring.

The defensive effort by the Bruins was so solid, the only time goalie Ryan Whitehead was challenged was when an errant clear by one of his defenders came backward toward the net and Whitehead had to make an acrobatic save to keep from giving up an own goal.

"We did a lot of different things, keeping to the middle most of the game, but also working our wings, making different runs and different options," Zumpetta said. "Tyler is a solid ball club and they are going to around for a while."

Please See BROOKE, Page 18



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Steubenville Central's Wes Myers (12) kicks the ball ahead of Weir defenders Jason Thomas (16) and Ernie Nichols, rear, during their OVAC Cup quarterfinal.

History

(Continued from Page 17)

The sophomore forward scored to effectively seal the Crusaders victory.

"Weir threw everything it could at us and they kept pushing and pushing," Kopcha said. "Any time you have a tournament like this where you have to win to advance you expect that. Thankfully, we held them off."

"Now we have to get ready for the next challenge and every team that qualified for the tournament is a good team, so Saturday is just another big game."

While Steubenville Central will prepare for Brooke, Pepe and the Red Riders will go back to the drawing board and get ready for sectionals.

"It's tough when you win the OVAC pennant and the division crown to come back and get up for a tournament and that's my fault for not getting them ready," the veteran coach said. "Catholic Central played extremely well and packed it in on us on defense and it was tough to get going through all those legs. We just couldn't find the net."

"But these kids have nothing to be ashamed

"It's tough when you win the OVAC pennant and the division crown to come back and get up for a tournament."

Joe Pepe, Weir boys' coach

of. The sun will come up (today) and Weir High soccer will still be here."

Regular Season
St. Marys 1, Monroe Central 0
 At St. Marys, Matthew Hickman score the lone goal as St. Marys (6-4-2) knocked off Monroe Central (2-10). Chris Lewis made 15 stops in net to make the unassisted goal stand out.
 Monroe Central goalkeeper Brad Eby was kept busy between the nets as he turned aside 26 shots.

Brooke

(Continued from Page 17)

Brooke was the only team this season to hand a defeat to Weir. It now shares that feat with Steubenville Central, the team it will face Saturday in the semifinals at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"This was the first time I saw them and I

was impressed," Zumpetta said. "They caught Weir by surprise and we know what kind of a team Weir is so we know our kids are going to have to play well."

"This is tournament time and anything can happen. We just have to continue doing what we are doing."



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Linsly's Katie Johnson, left, and St. Clairsville's Melanie Beeson (18) battle for possession of the ball during their OVAC Cup quarter-final matchup Thursday night at Harding Stadium in Steubenville.

Experience Pays

Linsly girls knock off youthful Devils in OVAC Cup

By **JOSH STROPE**
Staff Writer

Linsly coach Jill Regan couldn't have been happier with her team's performance during the quarterfinals of the OVAC Cup Tournament on Thursday at Harding Stadium in Steubenville.

The Cadets (12-3) racked up a 6-1 victory against St. Clairsville, and looked impressive in doing so.

"We didn't know anything about St. Clairsville, so we weren't sure what to expect," Regan said. "We're definitely

happy with how things went (Thursday)."

Linsly started things off quickly, scoring a goal just 42 seconds into the match.

Katie Jochum scored on a perfect pass in the penalty box from Chelsea Hennen.

It didn't take long for the Cadets to extend the lead further.

Katie Hobbs' corner kick landed perfectly at the foot of Courtney Lowe for the second goal in the third minute.

St. Clairsville answered back with its only goal of the game in the fifth minute as Katie Tomasseti scored from an awkward angle that snuck past Linsly goalie Kaitlyn Pytlak.

Still, the rough start was too much to overcome for a young St. Clairsville squad that only carries one senior.

"I think that getting down like

that as a young team compared to an experienced team like Linsly really hurt us," St. Clairsville coach Joe Kubik said.

Linsly didn't allow the Red Devils to get any closer and made all the opportunities count in the first half.

Jochum scored her second goal on a breakaway that easily beat Red Devils net minder Kasey Cook. Hennen found herself open in the penalty box to extend the lead to 4-1.

"We've been working so hard at starting off strong, and then finishing strong," Regan said. "This is a fantastic group of girls that has been getting the job done all year."

The Cadets squashed any chance of a comeback as Erica Jenkins scored 2 1/2 minutes into the second half off a rebound.

Madison Andreini finished off the scoring with a shot that went through the hands of St. Clairsville backup keeper Jessica Huml in the 76th minute.

"I tried to move the lineup around in the second half and tried different things, but give Linsly credit, that's a good team over there," Kubik said. "That Linsly team is going to go far."

Linsly advances to the semifinals Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium. It will face a familiar opponent in an Edison team that already has claimed one victory against the Cadets this season.

"They beat us 2-1. We came out flat and they scored two goals on us," Regan said. "Then they just packed it in on us on defense and we couldn't get anything going."

"It's going to be an exciting game and a chore to beat them."

'Cats Claw Weir

Edison gets back at Red Riders, 3-1

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

No matter what coaches try to tell their players, most have long-term memories and remember times in their careers when they were embarrassed.

Three seasons ago, Weir handed Edison an 8-0 defeat. Now, as seniors, it was the Wildcats' turn to break the hearts of the Red Riders, claiming a 3-1 victory in the quarterfinals of the OVAC Cup Tournament on Thursday at Harding Stadium in Steubenville.

"They've been waiting, and this game really got our seniors excited," Edison coach Jeremy Angelo said. "This game is dedicated to Lauren Carducci, one of our seniors that hasn't been able to play this season because of a knee injury. This is a game she really wanted to be a part of."

Weir got on the board first in the 9th minute as Chelcee Casey dribbled into the box and fired a shot toward the goal. Trying to make a play, Edison's Emily Pollock deflected the ball backward and into the back of net for an own goal and a Red Riders lead.

Pollock, obviously distraught, redeemed herself for the time being.

The junior defender scored off a corner kick by Kara Drabick to tie the match in the 28th minute.

Edison grabbed the lead eight minutes later, and never relinquished it.

Amanda Perry blasted the ball from 25 yards out that took a wicked curve over the top of Weir goalkeeper Paige Dalrymple and into the top corner of the goal to give the Wildcats the lead before halftime.

Edison, despite being in the lead, couldn't get a chance to extend it and spent the entire second half fighting off the Red Riders attack.

Weir couldn't get anything past Edison goalkeeper Catherine Sanders, whose stellar play was key to the Edison victory.

"As a coach I get nervous, but when the ball is back, I'm never worried because Catherine lives for games like this and she always steps up big," Angelo said.

With 15 minutes remaining, Sanders faced her biggest test of the night.

Casey dribbled into the penalty box and fired a shot toward the net. Pollock made her second major mistake of the night by picking the ball up. She was handed a yellow card and Weir received a penalty kick.

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Wheeling, W.Va. — Friday, September 29, 2006

NEWS

Claw

(Continued from Page 19)

Liana Barnabei lined up to take the shot, but Sanders knocked the ball off the crossbar and over the net.

Five minutes later, Edison got a chance to put a dagger into Weir with a penalty shot of its own after a handball in the box.

Brittney McKee hit the corner of the crossbar and the ball kicked back into play. Weir tried to clear the ball, but Edison did its best to keep it in.

When the Red Riders were finally able to get the ball out the penalty box, it unfortunately came straight to Jaime Warnock. Warnock blasted the ball from 30 yards out and past Dalrymple to put Edison up two goals.

"That's the second goal she scored from there this season," Angelo said.

Edison held off Weir the final seven minutes and set up a date with Linsly on Saturday in the semifinals.

"The girls played their hardest, but Edison got a couple of bounces that went its way," interim Weir coach Terry Casey said. "The girls kept their spirits up and battled, but that was a well-coached team over there. Jeremy did a nice job (Thursday)."

This was Casey's first game coaching, taking over for Frank Mihellis who resigned during the weekend.

For Edison, making it to the semifinal was a goal from the outset of the season, and Angelo is hoping to push it a little further.

"This was a goal of ours and we are happy to be here,



Photo by Alex Kozlowski

St. Clairsville's Jaclyn Dutton, left, and Linsly School's Erica Jenkins attempt to run down the ball during an OVAC Cup quarterfinal Thursday night at Harding Stadium in Steubenville.

Angelo said: "We know this is a rematch Linsly wants so we are gonna have to be prepared, but we really didn't care who we played. We're just glad to be here."

Regular Season Mount de Chantal 5 Indian Creek 2

At Wheeling, Mount de Chantal's Jocelyn Floyd and Svenja Menz tallied two goals each, while teammate Mary Jo Vergara scored a goal in a victory against Indian Creek.

Mount de Chantal's Emily Woodfin chimed in with three assists, while Vergara recorded an assist as well. The

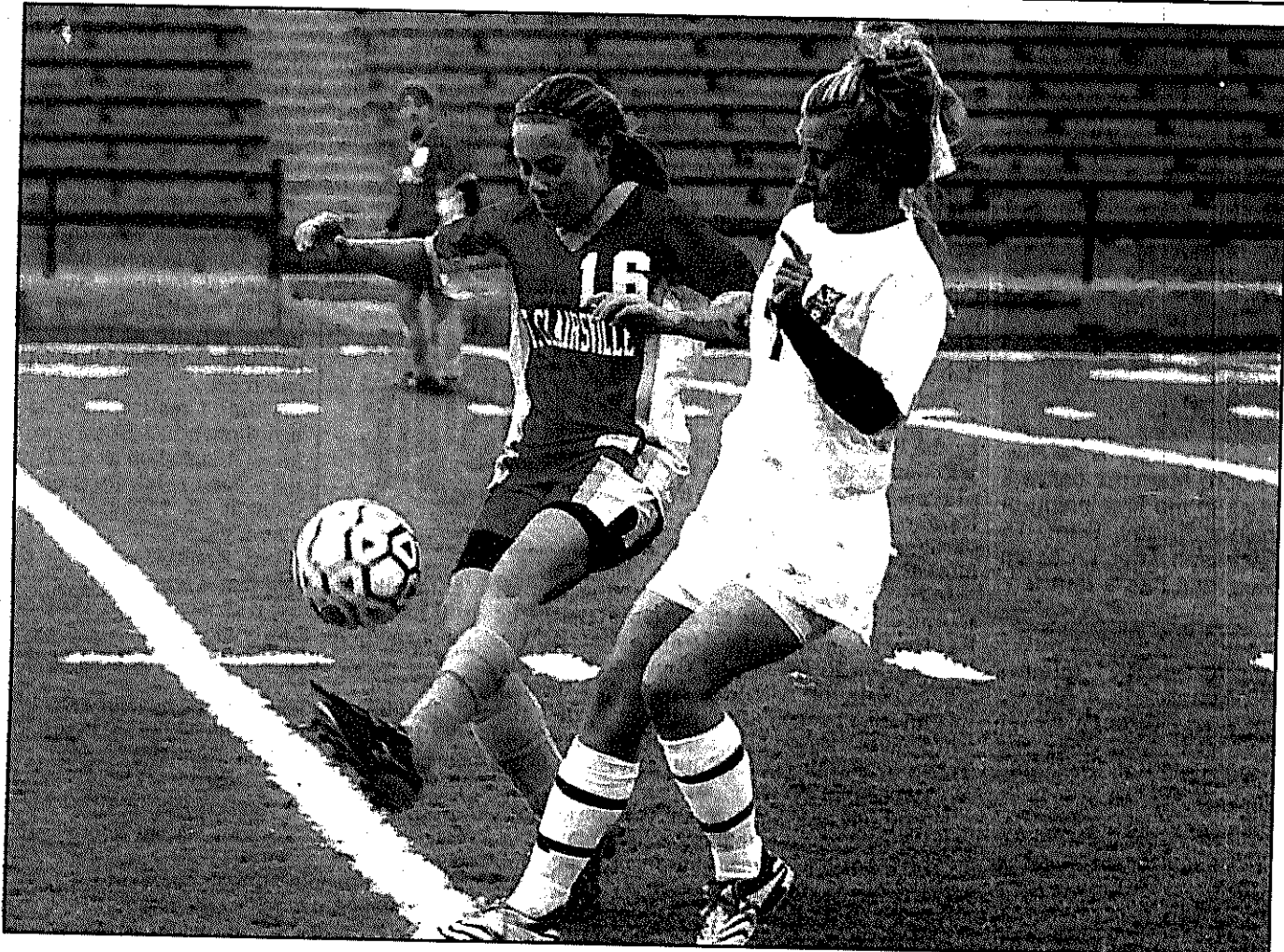
Lions' Hailey Parker had eight saves in the net.

GIRLS' SOCCER

OVAC CUP Quarterfinals
(at Harding Stadium, Steubenville)
Linsly 8, St. Clairsville 1
L — Goals: Jochum 2, Hennen, Lowe, Jenkins, Andreini; Assists: Hennen 2, Hobbs; Goalkeeper: Pytlak (1 save); S — Goal: Tomassetti; Goalkeepers: Cook (4 saves), Huml (4 saves).

Edison 3, Weir 1
E — Goals: Pollock, Perry, Warnock; Assist: Drabick; Goalkeeper: Sanders (10 saves); W — Goalkeeper: Dalrymple (3 saves).

Regular Season
Mount de Chantal 5
Indian Creek 2
M — Goals: Menz 2, Floyd 2, Vergara; Assists: Menz 2, Floyd 2, Vergara; Goalkeeper: Parker (8 saves); I — Goals: Paul, Smith; Assists: Brenda, Bennett; Goalkeeper: Schoolcraft (12 saves).



ST. CLAIRSVILLE freshman Jaclyn battles with Linsly's Katie Yochum in Thursday's OVAC soccer tournament play. The Lady Cadets went on to grab the victory 6-1 as they will go on to face Edicson Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium. T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

St. C. girls check out

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Getting off to a good start in soccer is important.

Linsly head coach Jill Regan watched her Cadet girls score a goal just 42 seconds into the contest Thursday night in their OVAC quarterfinal match with St. Clairsville at Harding Stadium in Steubenville.

From that goal on, Linsly never looked back as the Cadets advanced into Saturday's semifinals to face Edison at Wheeling Island Stadium by virtue of a 6-1 victory over the youthful Lady Red Devils.

The Cadets found themselves trying to figure out St. Clairsville on the run since they didn't have much of a scouting report, however, that could be a future plan.

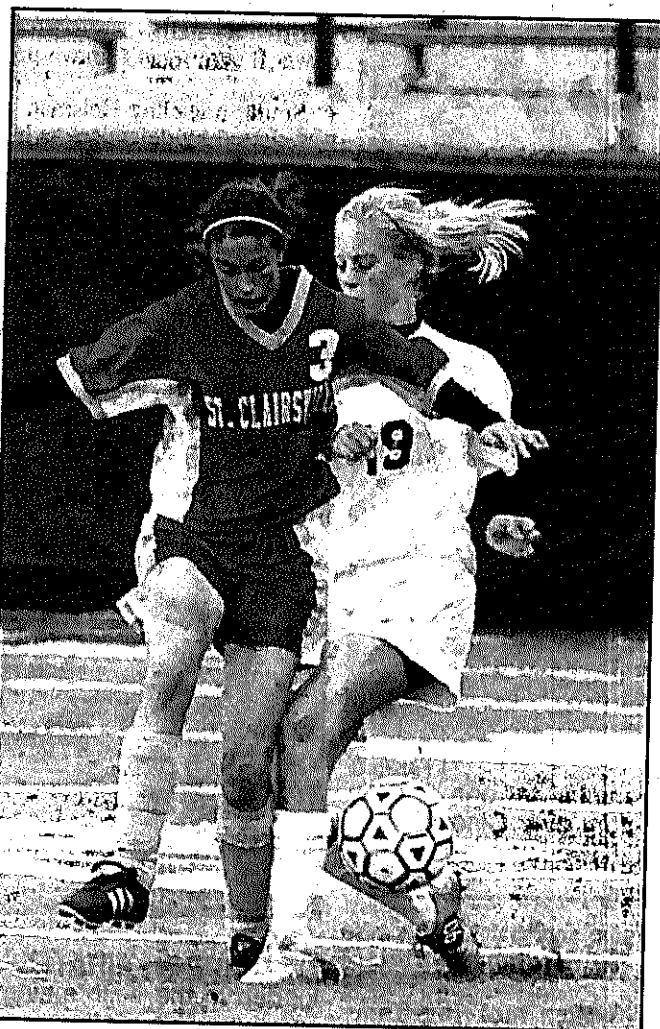
"We didn't know much about (St. Clairsville)," Regan said. "We hadn't seen them play, so we didn't know what to expect, but we are definitely happy with the results."

While the Cadets are preparing for the semifinals and what they hope will be an appearance in the OVAC Cup Final Monday night, the Lady Red Devils are now 7-5 on the year, but relish the experience with their youthful cast.

"We have several freshman playing and only one senior, so we are relatively young," said St. C. head coach Joe Kubik. "But, give Linsly credit because they have one heck of a team, and I really think they can go far."

The Lady Cadets -- who boast four seniors and seven juniors -- definitely had an experience advantage, which showed as they jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first 3:39 of the contest.

Katie Jochum got Linsly on the board first when she trickled



KATIE HOBBS of Linsly and St. Clairsville midfielder Katie Tomassetti collide during Thursday's OVAC soccer matchup. T-L Photo/MICHAEL HARVILLA

See, SOCCER, Page B2

Practice Pays Off For Linsly Girls in Victory

By DON CLEGG
Executive Sports Editor

Linsly girls' soccer coach Jill Regan learned a painful lesson in her first season as a coach with the Cadets.

Twelve years later, that lesson paid off with a berth in Monday's OVAC Cup final.

After battling to a 1-1 tie through regulation and two 5-minute overtime periods, Linsly and Edison had to settle Saturday's OVAC Cup semifinal in a penalty-kick shootout.

No problem.

The Cadets missed their first try, but sophomore keeper Kaitlyn Pytlak frustrated the Wildcats with back-to-back saves and Linsly won the shootout by a 3-1 margin.

That earned the Cadets (13-3) a shot at nine-time defending champion Wheeling Park (13-0-2) in Monday's championship match.

It also jogged some memories for Regan.

"We played Wheeling Park in the OVAC Cup finals the first year I coached here," said Regan.

"We took them into overtime but lost in the shootout because we'd never practiced penalty kicks all year.

"For the last 12 years, every practice we've had at Linsly has ended in penalty kicks. We were prepared."

Although Linsly had dropped a 2-1 decision to Edison during the regular season, the Cadets dominated the run of play for most of the day on Saturday.

Linsly had a difficult time solving Wildcat keeper Catherine Sanders — who kept her team in the match throughout with a dozen saves on a busy afternoon — but finally broke the scoring ice just before half-time.

Justine Lechner was hustling the ball up the left sideline when she found Erica Jenkins making a midfield run.

Lechner put a perfect pass on Jenkins' foot just past midfield and the senior midfielder split the Edison defense.

Jenkins pulled up about 25 yards out and drilled a laser into the top left corner of the net for a 1-0 Linsly lead in the 38th minute.

The Cadets kept the pressure on in the second half and were less than eight minutes away from a shutout win when Edison caught a break.

A group of players came together on a challenge for a high ball sent into the Linsly box.

The ball caromed over the end line off a Wildcat but before Pytlak could set up for the ensuing goal kick, the far linesman called the referee over for a conference.

Following a brief discussion, Linsly was called for a foul on the play. Since it occurred inside the penalty box, Edison was awarded a penalty kick.

Brittany McKee drilled the kick just under the crossbar to knot the score, sending the game into overtime.

McKee also took the first penalty kick in the shootout and hammered it home to give Edison an early edge.

There were some nervous moments on the Linsly sideline when the Cadets misfired on their first penalty kick but Pytlak smothered the next two shots from the Wildcats to turn the tide.

"Those two saves by Kaitlyn were huge," said Regan. "That gave us a chance to go ahead."

"I reminded the shooters that we practice these things every day and told them to just shoot like they do in practice."

After the first miss, Jenkins, Chelsea Hennen and Courtney Lowe made three straight to send Linsly into Monday's title tilt.

Regan doesn't mind being cast in the underdog role.

"We have some talented girls," she said, "but I'm sure people see us as the underdog because Wheeling Park has won this tournament so many times."

"That means we can go in there and play relaxed. The pressure's not on us."

**OVAC Cup
Girls' Semifinal
*Linsly 1, Edison 1
(Linsly wins shootout, 3-1)**
L—Goal: Jenkins. Assist: Lechner. Keeper: Pytlak (4 saves)
E—Goal: McKee (pk). Keeper: Sanders (12 saves)

Shootout
L—Regan (miss); Jenkins (goal); Hennen (goal); Lowe (goal)
E—McKee (goal); McDonald (save); Pool (save); Rudy (miss)

● Soccer

Continued from Page B1

a shot from a middle of the field past St. C. keeper Kasey Cook.

"We've been working on getting out (of the gates) fast and getting out strong," Reegan explained. "We always stress to the girls before each game how important it is to get the lead and score first."

The second Linsly tally came off of a corner kick when Courtney Lowe fielded the ball and then deflected the shot off a Lady Devil defender into the net.

"It's real difficult when you don't have the experience some of the other teams have," Kubik said. "We're coming along, and I am pleased with the progress we've made."

St. Clairsville cut the deficit in half with 34:02 to go before halftime when Katie Tomassetti made several moves up the left sideline and then buried the shot in the back of the Cadet net past keeper Kaitlyn Pytlak.

However, that was one of the last real scoring chances the Lady Devils had.

The deficit was only one for a shade under seven minutes before a St. Clairsville turnover resulted in another Linsly tally. Capitalizing on the mistake was Jochum who went to the left upper corner of the net for the goal.

The score at the intermission was 4-1 after Chelsea Hennen tallied with 14:27 to go before halftime.

Linsly used its strike-quickly mentality once again in the second half, scoring 2:21 into the second half on a Erica Jenkins goal. She worked the ball up the left side before tickling the twine.

The scoring was closed with 4:12 to go when Madison Andreani became the fifth Cadet to score.

"We are fortunate because we have a lot of girls who are interchangeable," Reegan said. "We can move people into different positions with our versatility and that really helps us a lot."

The St. Clairsville boss was a little happier about the performance of his team in the second half.

"We moved the lineup around a little bit in the second half and we were able to match up a little better," Kubik said. "I think this experience we help us down the road."

Pytlak -- who didn't face many shots -- was strong all evening in the net for the Cadets.

Reegan and Linsly will seeking revenge when it meets Edison Saturday afternoon seeing the Lady Wildcats handed them a 2-0 setback early in the season.

"We came out flat when we played Edison and they tucked it in the back from there, so we couldn't get anything going," Reegan said.

Staskey can be reached at staskey@timesleaderonline.com.



OVAC SOCCER CUP

Park Blanks Brooke

By DON CLEGG
Executive Sports Editor

The unbeaten Wheeling Park girls' soccer team took another step closer to its 10th straight OVAC Cup girls' title Saturday afternoon with a 3-0 shutout of Brooke (5-4-3) in a semifinal at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Coach Mark Hladek's Patriots (13-0-2) return to the island Monday to battle Linsly (13-3) for the OVAC Cup title.

Linsly edged Edison on penalty kicks in Saturday's other semifinal.

Wheeling Park had fallen behind early in its past two games, but that trend came to an end Saturday.

"One of the things we focused on in pregame was not to have another slow start," said Hladek.

The game began in a light drizzle, but it didn't take Park long to find its water wings.

Natalie Smith gained possession inside the box and chipped a high ball over her defenders that found Mallory Mueller about 10 yards in front of the left post.

Mueller settled the ball quickly and drove it low into the opposite corner for a 1-0 Wheeling Park lead in the 14th minute.

In the 19th minute, Emily Freeman — playing in her first game since returning from an injury — ripped a corner kick low into the box.

Melissa Shepherd darted around her defender and one-timed Freeman's drive into the



Photo by Art Limmann

Brooke's Katelyn Vigilanco (11) tries to push the ball by Wheeling Park's Emily Freeman (18) during action of their OVAC Soccer Cup semifinal Saturday afternoon at Wheeling Island Stadium.

back of the net for her 18th goal of the season and the Patriots had a 2-0 lead.

"We're starting to get healthy," said Hladek. "Emily's probably about 90 percent right now and we also got Cassie Aderholt back on the field today.

"Outside of Elizabeth Kosowski, who will probably be out for a couple of weeks with an ankle, we should be at full strength Monday night."

Wheeling Park's back three of Sarah Bizanovich, Kelly Kresen and Emily Ellwood frustrated the Brooke attack all afternoon.

The Bruins didn't get their first shot on net until the 51st minute. Jenna Forzano easily made the save and didn't face another shot.

Brooke keeper Alicia Wayne kept things from getting out of hand with some dazzling saves, especially in the first half.

"Their keeper played great," said Hladek. "We probably had the two best keepers in the OVAC here today.

"You just don't get to see as much from Jenna because the people in front of her do such a great job."

Wheeling Park closed out the scoring in the 74th minute

when Lauren Thomas took a throw-in from Shepherd and dribbled half the length of the field before fending off two defenders to ram a low skidding drive into the back of the net.

"I think we flipped it a little bit today," said Hladek. "I thought we came out a little flat in the second half.

"I'd really like to see us put two good halves together."

OVAC CUP
Girls' Semifinal
Wheeling Park 3, Brooke 0
WP — Goals: Mueller, Shepherd, Thomas. Assists: Smith, Freeman, Shepherd. Keeper: Forzano (1 save).
B — Keeper: Wayne (6 saves)

Cadet Boys Set Up Rematch With Bruins

By TRACY WATSON
For The News-Register

Rematch.

After watching Brooke blank Steubenville Catholic Central in Saturday's first OVAC Cup Tournament semifinal contest, Linsly took its turn in the box and assured a second consecutive championship meeting between the Cadets and Bruins.

Senior forward Zach Turak pushed in a pair of goals and Linsly broke open a 2-1 half-time score with three unanswered second half goals as the determined Cadets routed Wheeling Park by a 5-1 count at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The victory by coach Randy Shah's team puts 12-4 Linsly team into Monday night's championship contest against John Zumpetta's 9-3 Brooke squad back on the island.

In last year's final, the Cadets gained a hard-earned 2-1 victory over the Bruins to earn the top hardware.

"Brooke is a very fast and very aggressive team," Shah mentioned. "But we played them in the finals last year, and we are looking forward to meeting them again this year for the championship."

It took Linsly 11 minutes to show coach Mario Julian's Patriots (10-5-1) they had come to play. Turak broke free in the middle of the field and blasted a shot in the box that made its way past Park goalkeeper Andrew Hatcher for a 1-0 lead.

The Cadets had numerous chances to all but put things away early, being denied on as many as three shots between

the 23-minute mark and the 20-minute mark.

However, it was the Patriots who found the net next as senior standout Vinnie Crumrine broke loose near midfield and was tripped in the box, setting up a penalty kick.

Crumrine went top-shelf, drilling his shot over Linsly keeper Erik Schmalz to knot the count at 1-1 at 19:23 of the first half.

Not only was it the first goal the Cadets have allowed in an eight-game span, it was the final time they faced a deficit Saturday night.

With 11:28 to go in the half, Xavier Ortenzio got a penalty kick of his own with the ball blasting into the net for a 2-1 reading, which Linsly eventually took to the half.

The Cadets put the Park in a deep hole early in the second half when Hatcher blocked a Linsly goal attempt only to have Turak race in and punch the rebound in for a 3-1 advantage.

"Nothing really worked for us tonight, and they beat our butts," Julian said.

"But the rebound goal they got to go up 3-1 really took the momentum and the wind out of our sails.

"We felt we were still in it in the second half until that goal. It was just too much of a hill to climb from that point on."

That hill only got steeper as Nader Sawtarie added a goal at the 15:37 mark of the second half before Kevin Riley closed things out by slipping one past Wheeling Park back-up keeper Tim Hand.



Photo by Art Limmann

Wheeling Park's Kenneth Cook (15) leaps to avoid a sliding Colin Milton (21) of Linsly during action of their OVAC Soccer Cup semifinal Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"In terms of the last eight or nine games, I believe we have really improved our aggressiveness," Shah said. "When you limit the other team's chances you improve your own, and that is what we have been doing.

"We seem to have guys in the right place at the right time and that is all based on the players supporting each other, reading each other and anticipating what is going to happen.

"We have three solid senior defenders and we have prided ourselves on the fact that we have only allowed a limited number of goals all season long."

The Cadets would get 17 shots on goal on the night

while the Patriots were limited to just 11 tries at net.

"Linsly is a really good team, and tonight the better team," Julian commented. "This is extremely hurtful because they are a city rival and we prepared very hard for them this week.

"They are just more skilled than us, but we know we have to work hard to get ourselves playing at their level."

Park will get the opportunity for revenge when Linsly pays a call on the Patriots on October 12 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

OVAC Boys' Soccer Cup Semifinals
Linsly 5, Wheeling Park 1
L — Goalkeeper: Schmalz 5 saves; Schnurer 2 saves. Goals: Turak 2; Sawtarie 1; Ortenzio 1; Riley 1.
W — Goalkeeper: Hatcher 6 saves; Hand 1 save. Goals: Crumrine 1

an end Saturday.
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However, it was the Patriots who found the net next as senior standout Vinnie Crumrine broke loose near midfield and was tripped in the box, setting up a penalty kick.

Crumrine went top-shelf, drilling his shot over Linsly keeper Erik Schmalz to knot the count at 1-1 at 19:23 of the first half.

Not only was it the first goal the Cadets have allowed in an eight-game span, it was the final time they faced a deficit Saturday night.

With 11:28 to go in the half, Xavier Ortenzio got a penalty kick of his own with the ball blasting into the net for a 2-1 reading, which Linsly eventually took to the half.

The Cadets put the Park in a deep hole early in the second half when Hatcher blocked a Linsly goal attempt only to have Turak race in and punch the rebound in for a 3-1 advantage.

"Nothing really worked for us tonight, and they beat our butts," Julian said.

"But the rebound goal they got to go up 3-1 really took the momentum and the wind out of our sails."

"We felt we were still in it in the second half until that goal. It was just too much of a hill to climb from that point on."

That hill only got steeper as Nader Sawtarie added a goal at the 15:37 mark of the second half before Kevin Riley closed things out by slipping one past Wheeling Park back-up keeper Tim Hand.



Photo by Art Limann

Wheeling Park's Kenneth Cook (15) leaps to avoid a sliding Colin Milton (21) of Linsly during action of their OVAC Soccer Cup semifinal Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"In terms of the last eight or nine games, I believe we have really improved our aggressiveness," Shah said. "When you limit the other team's chances you improve your own, and that is what we have been doing."

"We seem to have guys in the right place at the right time and that is all based on the players supporting each other, reading each other and anticipating what is going to happen."

"We have three solid senior defenders and we have prided ourselves on the fact that we have only allowed a limited number of goals all season long."

The Cadets would get 17 shots on goal on the night

while the Patriots were limited to just 11 tries at net.

"Linsly is a really good team, and tonight the better team," Julian commented. "This is extremely hurtful because they are a city rival and we prepared very hard for them this week."

"They are just more skilled than us, but we know we have to work hard to get ourselves playing at their level."

Park will get the opportunity for revenge when Linsly pays a call on the Patriots on October 12 at Wheeling Island Stadium.

**OVAC Boys' Soccer Cup Semifinals
 Linsly 5, Wheeling Park 1
 L — Goalkeeper: Schmalz 5 saves; Schnurer 2 saves. Goals: Turak 2; Sawtarie 1; Ortenzio 1; Riley 1.
 W — Goalkeeper: Hatcher 6 saves; Hand 1 save. Goals: Crumrine 1.**

Mott Sends Brooke in OVAC Soccer Cup Finals

By TRACY WATSON
 For The News-Register

Brooke High had to settle for the runner-up trophy at last year's OVAC Soccer Cup Tournament.

However, Monday night coach John Zumpetta's Bruins will be looking for gold.

Senior forward Bryce Mott scored a pair of goals and Brooke's defense did not allow Steubenville Catholic Central a shot on goal as the Bruins cruised to a 3-0 victory over the Crusaders in a boys' semifinal contest at Wheeling Island Stadium.

The victory sets up a championship contest rematch Monday with Linsly, which disposed of Wheeling Park by a 5-1 count in the late game.

"Linsly is a very good team, and we are looking forward to the opportunity to play them again this year," Zumpetta said.

The only goal Brooke (9-3) needed came 12:58 into the contest, and while it wasn't prettiest goal of the night, it turned out to be the winner.

Mott scooted the ball into the box only to have it deflected by a Crusader defender, before regaining control and almost losing it again.

The third time was the charm as Mott was able to just dribble the ball forward.

He pushed it past a charging Leo DiPiero and found its way into the net.

That score stood through the first half before Mott went to work again, this time slamming a shot in the box past DiPiero and into the back of the net with 15:09 to play.

Ryogo Kishimoto added the third goal on a direct kick near the box a short time later.

"This wasn't our best game moving the ball, but Central packed it in on us and was able

to limit our shots," Zumpetta said.

"Edison and Beaver Local did the same thing to us, but we were able to sneak a few past each of them also."

"We did play more our style soccer in the second half and our defense played extremely well."

"They were trying to sneak a player or two up top on us, but we are a very strong team in

the back and we weren't going allow that to happen."

"I can't say enough about Bryce (Mott) coming off the bench and stepping it up for us. He is a big boy out there playing, but he is a scorer and he is a big help to this team."

**OVAC Boys' Soccer Cup Semifinals
 Brooke 3,
 Steubenville Catholic Central 0
 B — Goalkeeper: Whitehead. Goals: Mott 2; Kishimoto 1.
 S — Goalkeeper: DiPiero 11 saves.**

OVAC soccer tourney begins Monday night

By JOSH STROPE
For The Times Leader

The OVAC Cup Tournament has been a showcase of some of the best soccer talent in the Ohio Valley.

And much of that talent has come at the hands of the Wheeling Park girls' soccer program, winners of nine consecutive OVAC Cup Tournaments and the favorites this season as the No. 1 seed.

Weir claims the top seed on the boys' side.

Mark Hladek took the reins of the Patriots' program this season after coaching last year at Wheeling Central. The Wheeling Park grad has plenty of talent on his side.

Wheeling Park is currently ranked No. 2 in the state with an 11-0-2 record that includes impressive wins over Brooke and Parkersburg South.

"We're really looking forward to the OVAC Cup," said Hladek following Saturday's 4-1 romp over Ringgold (Pa.) at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"When I was growing up, the OVAC Cup was the big tournament we wanted to win because it had all the local teams.

"I think this is the first time in six years we've won the regular season and we certainly don't want this to be the year that ends Wheeling Park's streak in the OVAC Cup. We'll definitely be focused."

The Patriots open their defense of the OVAC Cup championship against the team they beat in last year's tournament - John Marshall - Monday at 6 p.m. at Harding Stadium in Steubenville.

That game will be followed by No. 4 seed Steubenville Central against No. 5 seed Brooke.

The second set of quarterfinal games take place on Thursday and will feature the Division

I champion Linsly Cadets (No. 2) against St. Clairsville (No. 7). No. 3 Edison takes on No. 6 Weir at the conclusion of that matchup.

Beaver Local, the Division II champions, elected not to participate in the tournament.

There have been plenty of new faces coaching in the OVAC this season, but for the past 15 years, Joe Pepe has been the only coach Weir has ever known.

Pepe led the Red Riders to their first division title since 2000, and hopes to lead Weir to its first OVAC Cup title since 1996.

"This team is very good and the kids have played real well with each other," Pepe said.

"This is going to be a good experience and we can't lay down."

The boys' tournament kicks off Tuesday at Brooke High School with the top seed Red Riders taking on No. 8 Steubenville Central at 5:30 p.m.

The winner of that will play the winner of No. 4 Brooke against No. 5 Tyler Consolidated.

"We have a long road ahead of us, but hopefully we can put it together and make it to the island," Pepe said.

The semifinals are set for Saturday at Wheeling Island Stadium with the championship games being held there the following Monday.

Wheeling Park, the No. 2 seed, faces city rival Wheeling Central on Wednesday.

The winner of that game will meet up with the winner of No. 3 Linsly and No. 6 Steubenville. Linsly won the Division I regular season title and is the defending OVAC Cup boys' champion.

Randy Shah's Cadets are seeking their seventh title in eight years, including last year's 2-0 shutout over Brooke.

Cambridge won the Division III regular season title, but chose not to play in the tournament.

B2

SPOF

Patriots Girls Seeking Title

OVAC Cup to showcase the area's soccer talent

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

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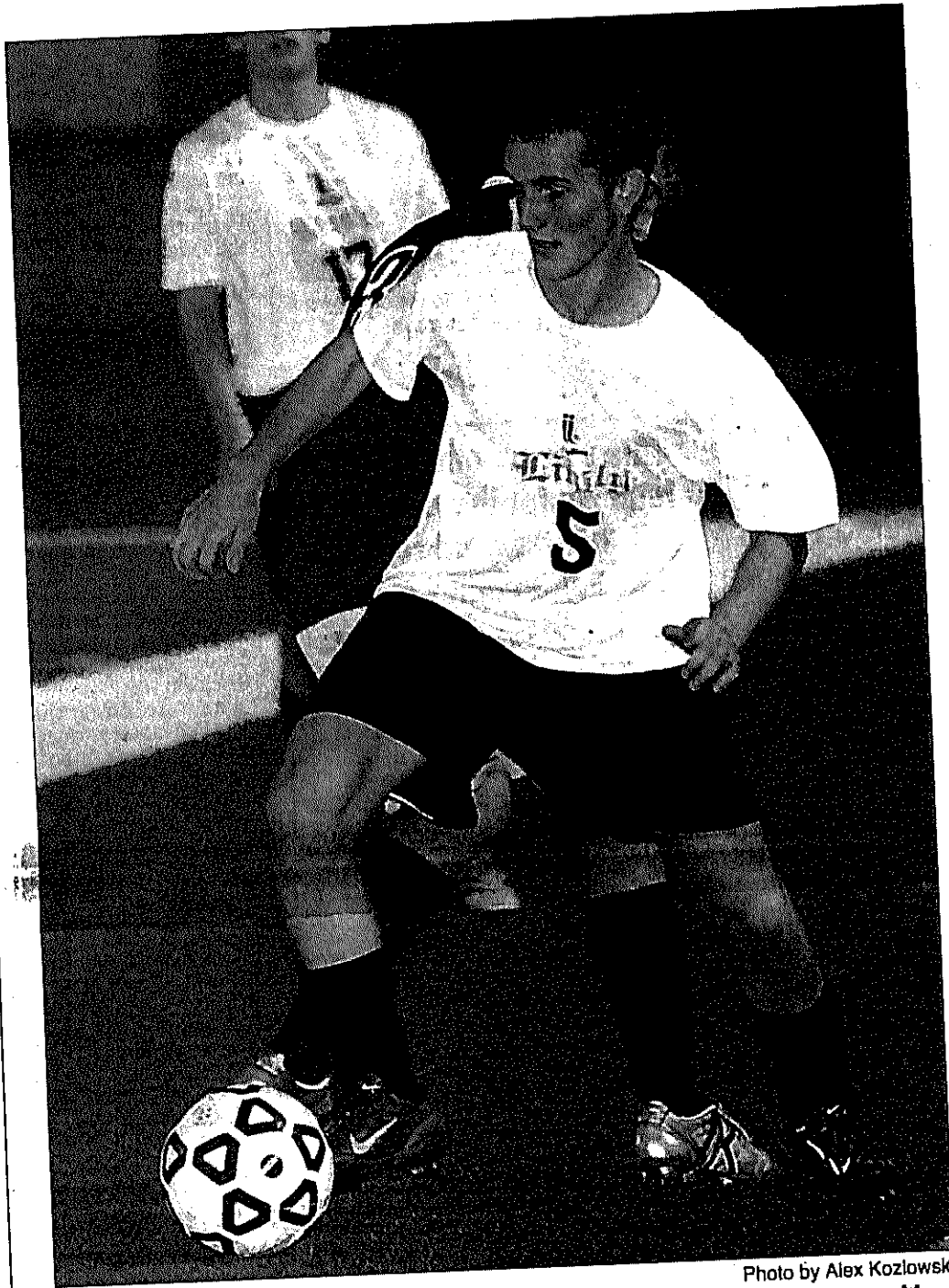


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Linsly's Michael Ley (5) battles for the ball with Brooke's Justin Wilkinson on Monday night in the boys' OVAC Cup final at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Brooke knocks off Linsly, 1-0, to claim boys' title

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

Brooke and Linsly played in the OVAC Cup Final the previous two seasons with each team winning one.

The rubber match belonged to the Bruins.

Brooke received a second-half goal from Japanese exchange student Ryogo Kishimoto, and the Bruins held off a furious Linsly onslaught to claim their second OVAC Cup Championship with a 1-0 victory against the Cadets on Monday at Wheeling Island Stadium.

"This is an awesome feeling," Brooke coach John Zumpetta said. "These kids worked their butts off and really stepped up and held Linsly off."

"Linsly is an awesome team and we are so thrilled to win."

Linsly (14-5) started off the match by looking like it would run the Bruins out of the stadium.

The Cadets spent the better part of 20 minutes without allowing Brooke to cross midfield.

The second 20 minutes of the first half belonged to Brooke (10-3). Despite going into the intermission scoreless, all the momentum had clearly switched to the side of the Bruins.

"We knew Linsly would come out and jump on us," Zumpetta said. "They are very talented, but once we settled down and started to play our game, things started to switch our way, and then Ryogo took advantage."

Kishimoto took a pass from Bryce Mott and blasted a shot from 25 yards that zipped through the penalty box and past diving Linsly netminder Eric Schmalz into the goal in the 44th minute.

"He just stepped into and ripped it," Zumpetta said.

Linsly didn't give up and played hard to the end. Despite getting off some excellent shots, none could get by the 2005 West Virginia Goalkeeper of the Year Ryan Whitehead.

"He's one of the best," Linsly coach Randy Shah said.

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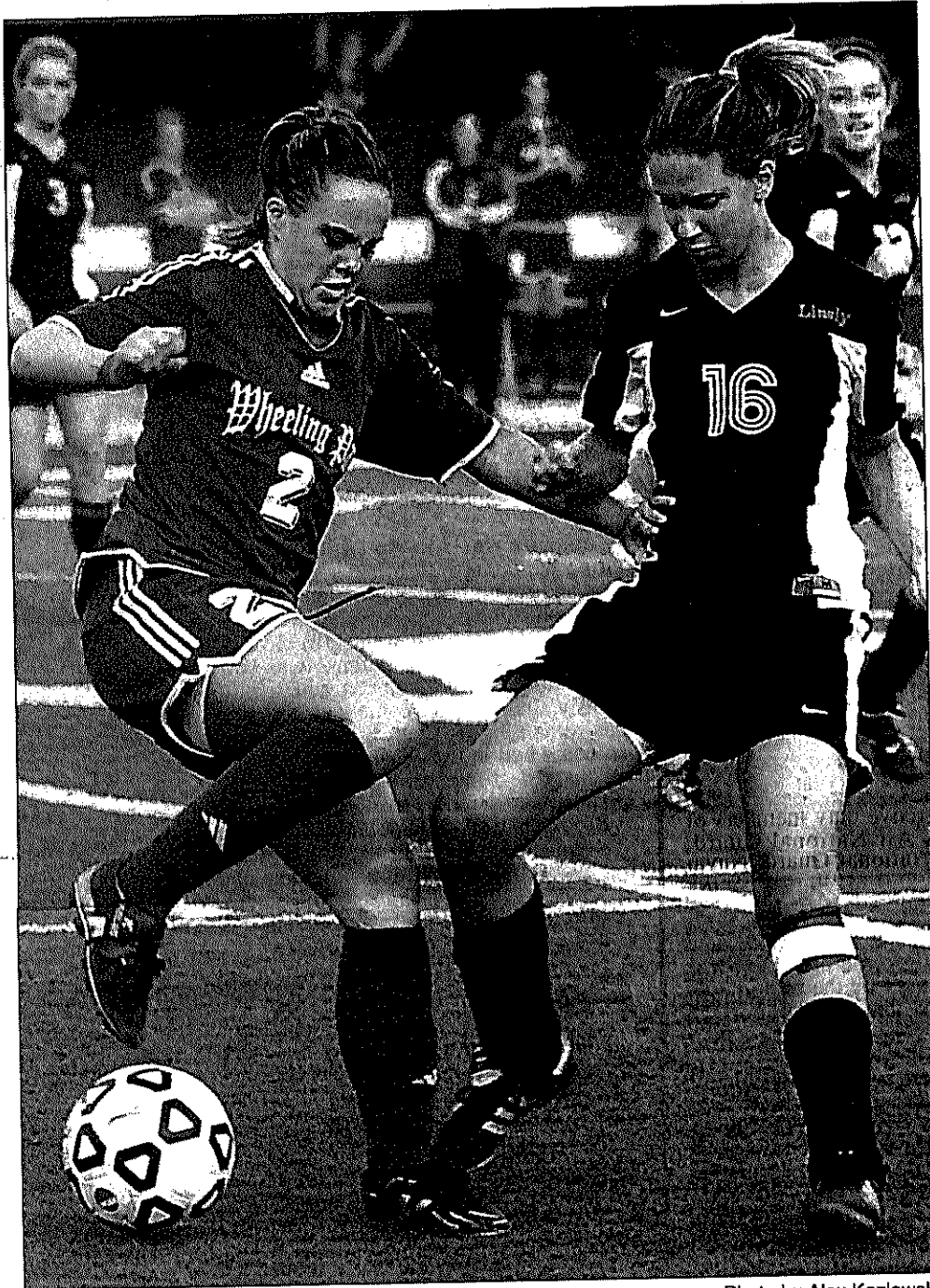


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Liz Marshall (2) controls the ball as she is defended by Linsly's Erica Jenkins on Monday during the girls' OVAC Cup final at Wheeling Island Stadium.

Park girls secure 10th straight OVAC Cup trophy

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

Call it a decade of dominance.

Wheeling Park won its 10th straight OVAC Cup Championship on Monday with a 2-0 victory against Linsly at Wheeling Island Stadium.

First-year coach Mark Hladek now owns an OVAC Cup title as a player and a coach.

"It was a little more nerve-wracking as a coach," Hladek said. "This was one of those games I'm supposed to win. I got hired here because I was supposed to be a good coach, so I didn't want to be the one to end the streak."

But Hladek didn't have to worry despite a Linsly team that did its best to put the Patriots on their heels.

"They really frustrated us," Hladek said. "It was a messy first half and we were lucky to catch a break."

That break came in the form of a rifle shot by Lauren Thomas.

Thomas had a ball bounce back to her outside of the penalty box and the junior buried

it into the top corner of the goal past Linsly keeper Kaitlyn Pytlak.

The Patriots (11-0-2) appeared to go up 2-0 when Pytlak went out to play a loose ball but missed it, allowing Melissa Shepherd to score into the empty net. However, the referees disallowed the goal, claiming Pytlak was interfered with.

The 1-0 lead stood to intermission.

"We went into this game as the underdogs and with nothing to lose," Linsly coach Jill Regan said. "We did a lot of things that frustrated them and the girls are holding their heads up."

"They have nothing to be ashamed of and I think they are proud of themselves and I'm proud of them too."

Wheeling Park went up by two scores on a goal by Emily Freeman. Freeman took a pass from Katelyn Gompers and finished the play for the 2-0 lead.

Gompers played an outstanding game and Hladek referred to her as "the best player on the field in the second half."

Please See PARK, Page 20

Park

(Continued from Page 19)

Linsly (13-4) had a hard time getting any shots in the second half against a stingy Park defense, and Hladek wasn't going to sit on a 2-0 lead.

"I'm not a coach that likes to do that," Hladek said. "That was a team that I didn't want to give opportunities to."

"I've said since Day 1 that I thought we had the best defense around and then went out and posted another shutout, this time against a Linsly team that is very underrated, very talented, and very athletic."

Added Regan: "We didn't have the depth, only playing 14 girls. I think fatigue started to set in, but they never gave up."

Pytlak made some excellent saves on Shepherd and Natalie Smith to keep Linsly's hopes up, but Park wrapped up the victory and another title.

"Most of the girls, we have six or seven seniors that started this season with a different attitude," Hladek said. "They didn't want to leave as the group that lost."

"Now that we've accomplished what we need to in terms of being undefeated, winning the division title and the tournament, we are going to set our sights on getting ready for sectionals, and hopefully, the state tournament."

Game Note

Before Wheeling Park enters sectional play, it will get a taste of where it stands among the best of West Virginia on Wednesday. The No. 2-ranked Patriots play host to the top-ranked Fairmont Senior Polar Bears. Wheeling Park and Fairmont Senior are the only two undefeated teams in the

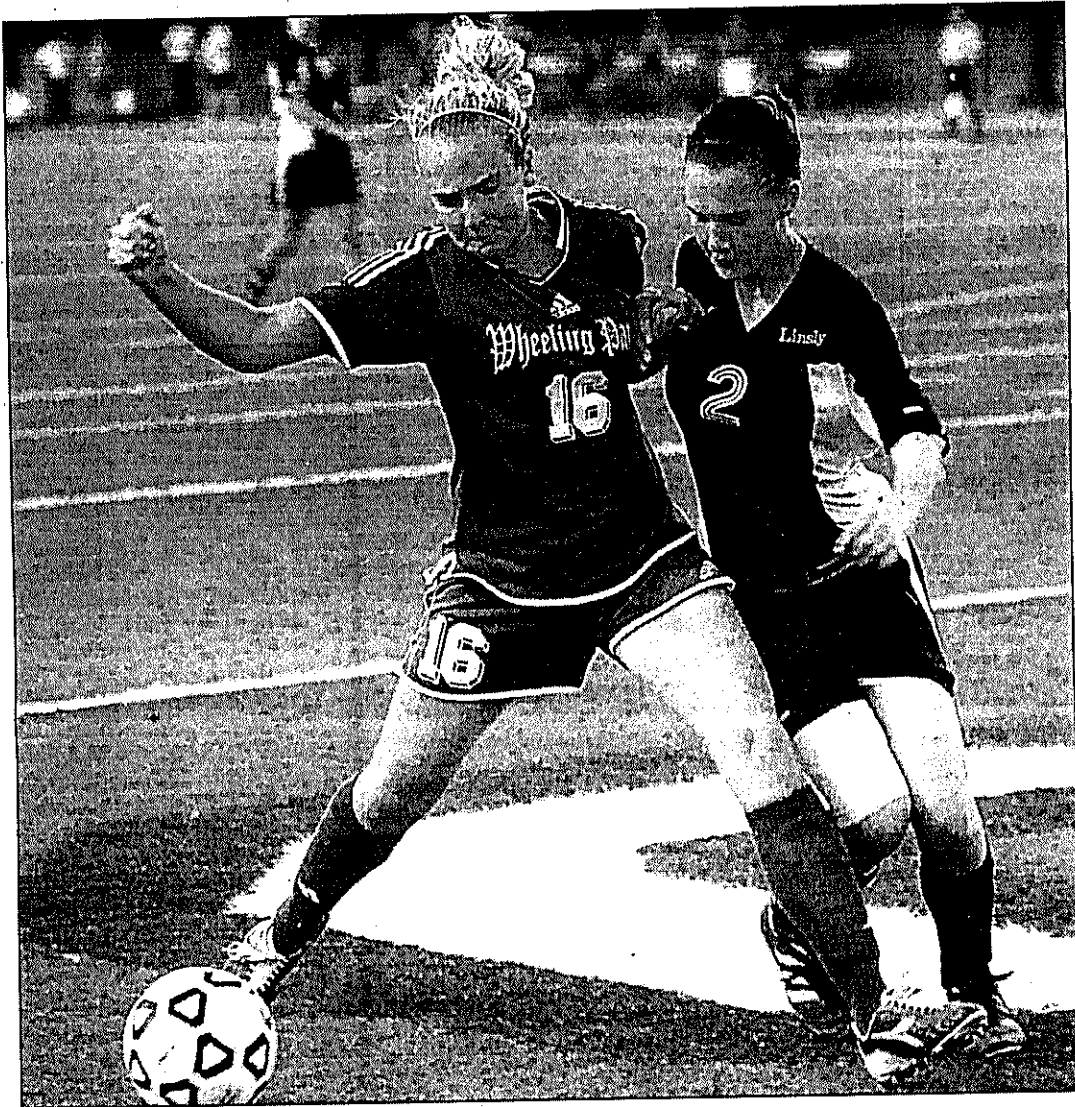


Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Wheeling Park's Ali Railing (16) attempts to fight off the defense of Linsly's Anna Simmons (2) during their OVAC Cup final Monday night at Wheeling Island Stadium.

state. The game is set for 6 p.m. at Wheeling Island Stadium.

REGULAR SEASON

St. Clairsville 8, Magnolia 0
At New Martinsville, St. Clairsville's Jaclyn Dutton led the Devils to victory against

Magnolia with five goals and one assist. Katie Tomassetti, Kate Hodgson and Jessica Huml had one goal each for St. Clairsville.

St. Clairsville's Chasiti Hoffman tallied two assists, while teammates Tori Lavorini,

Heather Hochstrasser and Katie Olzeski each had one assist.

Red Devils goalkeeper Kasey Cook recorded two saves and Laura Smith also stopped nine shots for St. Clairsville.



Linsly's Evan Sincavich (22) battles with Brooke's Ryogo Kishimoto during the OVAC Cup final on Monday night. Photo by Alex Kozlowski

Brooke

(Continued from Page 19)

"He's very athletic, very gifted, challenges well and doesn't fold under pressure."

Zumpetta was so sure of his defense, during the last 15-20 minutes he called it back and spent the rest of the match keeping Linsly at bay.

"At that point, I just wanted to clear the ball and I thought my defense was solid enough to do that," Zumpetta said.

Linsly's best chance came with five minutes remaining as Evan Sincavich saw a bouncing ball in the penalty box. The junior charged at the ball but fanned, allowing a Brooke defender to clear it.

"Brooke played great defense and one of our things is possessing the ball and taking away their opportunities," Shah said. "(Monday) we didn't finish."

Linsly loses 12 seniors, a group that was

very emotional after the final whistle blew.

"This was an emotional letdown for them, and their hearts were really in it," Shah said. "For a senior to go out on a loss, especially when playing for a championship, you could see the passion."

For Brooke, the victory is a measure of revenge against the team that shut it out last October. As for Kishimoto understanding the significance of the victory, Zumpetta gave a chuckle.

"He understood it enough to be one of the first ones to run over and grab the cup," Zumpetta said.

Game Note

Linsly assistant coach Eric Fries watched the OVAC Cup from a different perspective. Fries was the head coach for the Bruins during the previous two seasons.

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Randy Shah
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