

Photo by Alex Kozlowski
Don Clegg, executive sports editor of The Intelligencer and Wheeling News-Register, presents Larry Shaw of Oak Glen, left, and Reno Saccoccia of Steubenville Big Red with Bill Van Horne/News-Register OVAC Coach of the Year plaques during Monday night's 22nd annual OVAC Banquet of Champions at WesBanco Arena in Wheeling. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

Two of the Best

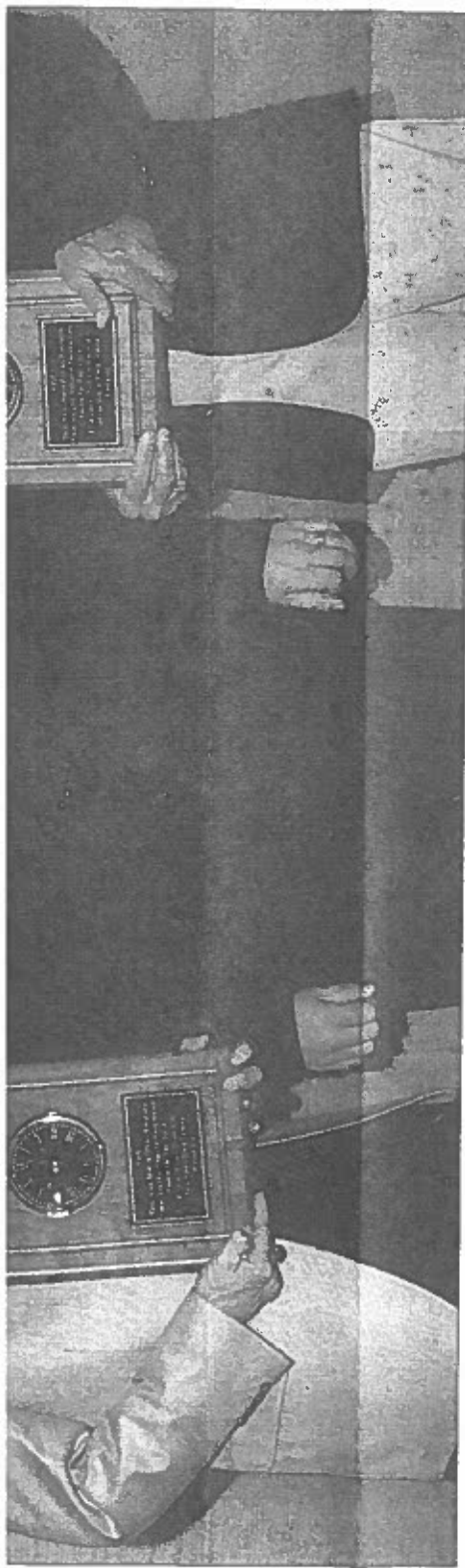


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Saccoccia, Shaw net top honor

By JIM ELLIOTT
Assistant Sports Editor
Steubenville's Reno Saccoccia and Oak Glen's Larry Shaw probably faced as much pressure as any coaches in the Ohio Valley heading into their respective 2006-07 seasons.

Saccoccia and his Big Red football team were coming off a 15-0 season and a Division III state title. Shaw and his Oak Glen wrestlers had won 10 consecutive West Virginia Class AA-A state wrestling championships, tying the Parkersburg High boys' tennis

teams of 1976-85 for an all-sports consecutive title-winning record in the state.

And almost everyone expected Saccoccia and Shaw to continue that success.

To their credit, along with the players and everyone else involved in their respective programs, they did just that.

As a result, the two were honored Monday night as the Bill Van Horne/News-Register OVAC Coaches of the Year at the 22nd annual OVAC Banquet of Champions at WesBanco Arena.

It's just the third time since 1969, when the award was created, that two coaches have been so honored. (Others occurred in 1974 and 1992).

Magnolia baseball coach Dave Cisar, Bishop Donahue boys' basketball coach Tom Wise, and Wheeling Central football coach Mike Young were also among the five finalists.

"It's certainly an honor and it's an exciting evening," Shaw said.

"I'm so gratified to receive the award. It's simply a result of what our kids have been able to accomplish and what

everyone involved in our program has put into this.

And we've been extremely successful. That doesn't come by

accident. It comes with a lot of work and dedication and sacrifice."

Shaw said his selection surprised him.

"Because of the field," he said. "There's so many great coaches. Just to get to the five finalists was an honor and the other four candidates, I think were deserving ... I didn't think I had a shot."

Even without a single individual state champion, Shaw's Gold-

en Bears nearly lapped the field at this season's state tourney, scoring 168.5 points to runner-up Point Pleasant's 86.5, as they etched their names in state history.

Shaw also won this award in 2000.

Saccoccia, who won the award last season and is its only four-time winner, guided his team to exactly the same thing it had done the season before — a 15-0 record and another Division III state title.

He was named Ohio Division III Coach of the Year by The Associated Press for the second straight season and was also chosen as Ohio's all-class Football Coach of the Year by ONN/Ohio High magazine.

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● Coach

Continued from Page B1

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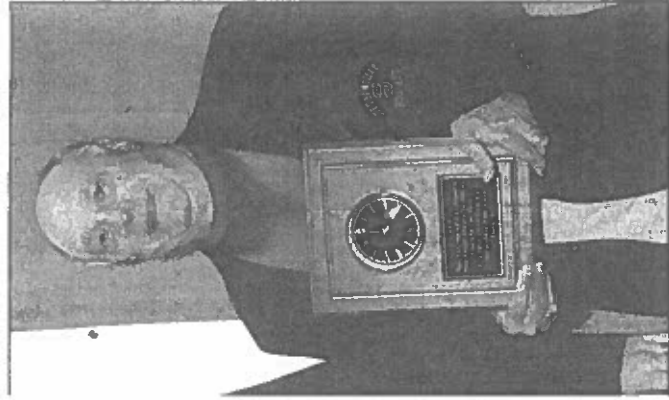
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Editor Don Clegg is flanked by (Glen) and Reno Saccoccia

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See, **COACH**, Page B2

Finalists for OVAC Coach of Year set

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(Continued from Page 15)

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They were:

- Bodkin, Wilson & Kozicki Soccer Scholarships
- Allison Martirelli, Linsly
- Cal Giffin Memorial Track Service Award
- Kim Dallison, Valley
- Clare Kepral Track Scholarship
- Lauren Bauer, Wheeling Central
- Daniel M. Burke Wrestling Scholarship
- James Myers, Indian Creek
- Dave Bierkorte Award
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- DeLuca Realty Volleyball Scholarship
- Brandi Beobe, Edison
- Douglas S. Pilney Memorial Golf Scholarship
- Dylan Mercer, John Marshall
- Football Officials’ Scholarship
- Kevin Snyder, Magnolia
- George Kovalick Wrestling Scholarship
- Daniel Felton, Brooke

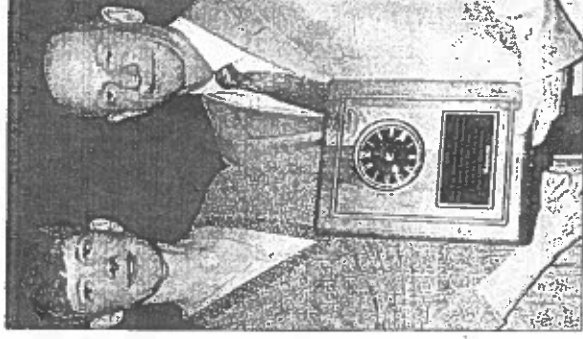


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Oak Glen’s Larry Shaw, OVAC co-Coach of the Year, poses with his wife, Cindy, on Monday night in Wheeling. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

- OVAC Basketball Coaches Clinic Scholarship
- Brittany King, Padon City
- OVAC Boosters Scholarship
- Sarah Wickham, Indian Creek
- Sarah Pryor, Padon City
- Tiffany Dolan, Wheeling Park
- Stefan Green, St. Clairsville
- Jessica Harlan, Steubenville Catholic
- Chad Kinder, Buckeye Trail
- Richard Hitt, Linsly
- Michael Lyons, Cambridge
- OVAC Cheering Scholarship
- Kelsay Jendrusik, Union Local
- Jessica Criswell, John Marshall
- OVAC Softball Scholarship
- Shannan Veyon, Padon City
- OVAC Track Scholarship
- Travis Croxall, Earl Liverpool

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George Kovalick Wrestling Scholarship
Danie Felton, Brooke
Henry Lazasz Basketball Scholarship
Kodley Haddock, Zanesville
Justin Lowe, Tyler Consolidated
James "Dead Eye" Morris Wrestling Scholarship

Stephen Jewell, Wheeling Park
Kroger Food and Drug Scholarship
Marissa Melanko, Shadyside
Jessica Campbell, Cambridge
Lucas D. Sedgmer Memorial Scholarship

Eric Diagosta, East Liverpool
Matt Salsberry Wrestling Scholarship
Tim Osbon, Oak Glen
OVAC Baseball Scholarship
Patrick Ohman Jr., Lmsly

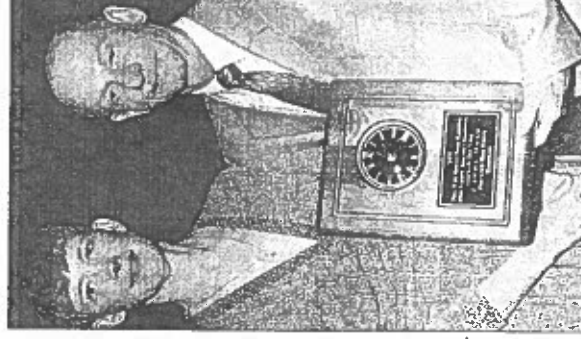


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WestBanco Scholarship

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● Coach

Continued from Page B1

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As always, there seemed to be more near-misses than finalists.

In football alone, there were coaches like John Magistro, who led his final Bellaire High football team to a second straight undefeated regular season; Rick Goodrich, who posted his first unbeaten regular season at Cambridge; and Ty Fleming, whose Shadyside gridders rolled all the way to the Ohio Division VI championship game.

There were two outstanding candidates in girls' track. Weir High's Paul Stevens led his Red Riders to a West Virginia Class AA championship while Bellaire St. John Central's Bubba Kapral's Lady Irish claimed their second straight Ohio Division III runnerup finish.

Other sports weren't lacking for worthy candidates.

Leo Boissy's Wheeling Park boys brought home the school's first-ever West Virginia Class AAA tennis crown.

Brad Lineback turned more than a few heads when his Buckeye Trail girls' basketball team opened the season on a school-record 19-game winning streak.

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Following are brief capsules on this year's five finalists:

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None of the players he'll welcome back to this year's roster have ever lost a regular season game. Big Red carries a 40-game regular-season win streak into the 2007 season.

Reno was last year's OVAC Coach of the Year and is the only three-time winner of the award, having won previously in 1985 and 1989.

Larry Shaw
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Shaw made history last winter by leading his Oak Glen wrestling team to its 11th straight West Virginia Class A-AA state championship.

That's the longest streak in Mountain State history, breaking a tie with the Parkersburg High boys' tennis teams of 1976-85.

The most impressive thing about this year's championship run was that the Golden Bears had no individual state champions but still won in dominating fashion. Oak Glen's 168.5 points nearly doubled the 86.5 amassed by runnerup Point Pleasant.

Shaw and his Golden Bears have been just as successful on the home front. They set the stage for their state championship run by winning their fourth Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament title in the past six years.

The veteran Shaw is no stranger to coaching awards. He's the only wrestling coach in West Virginia history to win the state High School Coach of the Year Award, which covers all sports.

He's been a finalist for the OVAC Coach of the Year Award on several occasions and was the 2000 OVAC Coach of the Year Award winner.

Tom Wise
(Bishop Donahue)

Wise led his Bishop Donahue basketball team to a 23-3 record and a berth in the West Virginia Class A state championship game.

The Bishops were an impressive 19-2 during the regular season but it was their postseason run that grabbed

first state championship trophy last spring when his Blue Eagles blasted Liberty Harrison, 10-1, in the Class AA final.

Apparently, the third time was the charm as Cisar had taken Magnolia to the state championship game in 1984 and 2003 only to come up just short. He also led three Blue Eagle football team to the state finals but came away empty-handed.

He was named 2006 Mid-east Sectional Baseball Coach of the Year by the National Federation of High School Coaches and was a finalist for the national Coach of the Year Award. The Mid-east Section includes all high school coaches in the states of West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky, Delaware and the District of Columbia.

The winningest baseball coach in Ohio Valley history, Cisar is currently in his 34th season as head baseball coach at Magnolia and just passed the 700-win milestone earlier this month.

According to research by retired Intelligencer sports editor Doug Huff, there are fewer than 30 active coaches in the nation with as many career wins and records show fewer than 60 coaches all-time with 700 or more wins.

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Reno Saccoccia (Steubenville)

Reno led Steubenville to its second straight 15-0 season and Division III state title, capping it with a thrilling 34-33 victory over Kettering Alter in the championship game.

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Donahue followed that up with an 81-52 romp over Valley to earn the school's first regional title and state tourney berth in 10 years.

The Bishops opened state tournament play by coasting to a 63-47 win against No. 4-seeded Tucker County in the quarterfinals before stunning No. 1 seed Gilbert — the state's last remaining unbeaten team — by a 72-64 count in the semifinals.

That magical season marked a monumental turnaround for a program that went just 1-22 two years ago when this year's seniors were sophomores.

Mike Young (Wheeling Central)

In two seasons as head football coach at his alma mater, Young has won back-to-back Class A state championships and compiled a glittering 24-4 record.

Last year's team posted the first 14-0 season in school history and Central will carry a 19-game winning streak into the 2007 season.

Young's squad didn't take the easy road to its successful title defense as the Knights beat five Class AA and one Class AAA team during the regular season.

Included among their Class A regular-season victims was a powerful Shadyside squad that ended its season by playing for the Ohio Division VI state championship.

Wheeling Central was matched against unbeaten Williamstown — owner of a 56-game regular season winning streak — in the state championship game at Wheeling Island Stadium and handed the Yellowjackets a 14-7 loss.

Young cut his coaching teeth as an assistant to a pair of OVAC coaching legends, working for George Strager at St. Clairsville and Jim Thomas at Wheeling Central.

He spent 9 seasons as a head coach at St. Clairsville after Strager retired and posted a 51-41 record before leaving to join Thomas's staff at Central in 1996.



Bottom Line

By DON CLEGG

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See **Bottom Line**, Page B4

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Continued from page B1

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Wheeling Central co-coaches Ambrose Bober and Rick Magruder took the Maroon Knights to a West Virginia Class A state title.

Brooke's Chris Stucin guided her Bruins to their seventh straight West Virginia Class AAA cheering championship. Needless to say, the 2006-07 school year was a very good year for OVAC coaches and athletes alike.

When the OVAC Coach of the Year is announced at tomorrow night's banquet, he will be the 41st honoree since Bridgeport's Frank Baxter won the inaugural award in 1969. Following are brief capsules on this year's five finalists:

**Dave Cisar
(Magnolia)**

One of the winningest high school baseball coaches in the nation, Cisar brought home his first state championship trophy last spring when his Blue Eagles blasted Liberty Harrison, 10-1, in the Class AA final.

Apparently, the third time was the charm as Cisar had taken Magnolia to the state championship game in 1984 and 2003 only to come up just short. He also led three Blue Eagles football teams to the state finals but came away empty-handed.

He was named 2006 Midwest Sectional Baseball Coach of the Year by the National Federation of High School Coaches and was a finalist for the national Coach of the Year Award. The Midwest Section includes all high school coaches in the states of West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky, Delaware and the District of Columbia.

The winningest baseball coach in Ohio Valley history, Cisar is currently in his 34th season as head baseball coach at Magnolia and just passed the 700-victory milestone earlier this month.

According to research by retired Intelligencer sports editor Doug Huff, there are fewer than 30 active coaches in the nation with as many career victories and records show fewer than 60 coaches all-time with 700 or more victories.

Cisar has been a finalist for the OVAC Coach of the Year Award on several occasions for both baseball and football.

10 no one's surprise, Saccoccia was named Ohio Division III Coach of the Year by The Associated Press for the second straight season.

He was also chosen as Ohio's all-class Football Coach of the Year by ONN/Ohio High magazine.

Last season marked the 10th unbeaten regular season and 11th regional championship in 24 years for Saccoccia, whose career coaching record now stands at a dazzling 241-45 (.843).

Along with his state championships in 1984 (Division II), 2005 and 2006, his Big Red teams were state runnersup in 1987 and 1988.

None of the players he'll welcome back to this season's roster have ever lost a regular season game.

Big Red carries a 40-game regular-season winning streak into the 2007 season.

Reno was last year's OVAC Coach of the Year and is the only three-time winner of the award, having won previously in 1985 and 1989.

**Larry Shaw
(Oak Glen)**

Shaw made history last winter by leading his Oak Glen wrestling team to its 11th straight West Virginia Class A-AA state championship.

That's the longest streak in Mountain State history, breaking a tie with the Parkersburg High boys' tennis teams of 1976-85.

The most impressive thing about this season's championship run was that the Golden Bears had no individual state champions but still won in dominating fashion.

Oak Glen's 168.5 points nearly doubled the 86.5 amassed by runnerup Point Pleasant.

Shaw and his Golden Bears have been just as successful on the home front. They set the stage for their state championship run by winning their fourth Ron Mauck OVAC Wrestling Tournament title in the past six seasons.

The veteran Shaw is no stranger to coaching awards. He's the only wrestling coach in West Virginia history to win the state High School Coach of the Year Award, which covers all sports.

He's been a finalist for the OVAC Coach of the Year Award on several occasions and was the 2000 OVAC Coach of the Year Award winner.

sive 19-2 during the regular season but it was their post-season run that grabbed everybody's attention.

They started out by shocking No. 1-ranked Wheeling Central, 52-43, in the sectional final, ending a streak of five consecutive state championship game appearances by the Maroon Knights.

Donahue followed that up with an 81-52 romp against Valley to earn the school's first regional title and state tourney berth in 10 years.

The Bishops opened state tournament play by coasting to a 63-47 victory against No. 4-seeded Tucker County in the quarterfinals before stunning No. 1 seed Gilbert — the state's last remaining unbeaten team — by a 72-64 count in the semifinals.

That magical season marked a monumental turnaround for a program that went just 1-22 two years ago when this season's seniors were sophomores.

**Mike Young
(Wheeling Central)**

In two seasons as head football coach at his alma mater, Young has won back-to-back Class A state championships and compiled a glittering 24-4 record.

Last season's team posted the first 14-0 season in school history and Central will carry a 19-game winning streak into the 2007 season.

Young's squad didn't take the easy road to its successful title defense as the Knights beat five Class AA and one Class AAA team during the regular season.

Included among their Class A regular-season victims was a powerful Shadyside squad that ended its season by playing for the Ohio Division VI state championship.

Wheeling Central was matched against unbeaten Williamstown — owner of a 56-game regular-season winning streak — in the state championship game at Wheeling Island Stadium and handed the Yellowjackets a 14-7 loss.

Young cut his coaching teeth as an assistant to a pair of OVAC coaching legends, working for George Strager at St. Clairsville and Jim Thomas at Wheeling Central.

He spent nine seasons as a head coach at St. Clairsville after Strager retired and posted a 51-41 record before leaving to join Thomas's staff at Central in 1996.