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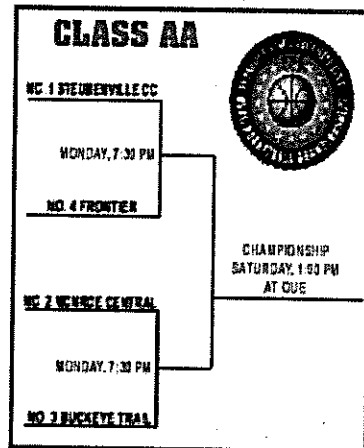
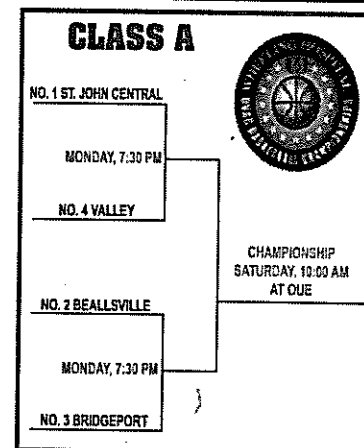
The Times Leader

SPORTS

SECTION

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Monday,
January 28, 2008



OVAC Hoop Tourney opens this evening

• St. John, Beallsville, Monroe, Ferry all hosting semifinal games

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

There's been girls basketball being played in the Ohio Valley for quite sometime.

However, when teams take to the court tonight, there will be new ground broken.

The inaugural OVAC Wheeling Hospital Girls Basketball Tournament kicks off this evening around the conference with championship semifinal matchups as well as the first set of pool consolation games.

The championship semifinalists were bracketed based on their place in the final OVAC standings of the season with the top two seeds hosting tonight's games.

The remainder of the teams were assigned to games arbitrary by the

OVAC Committee. The winners of the semifinal games will next see action Saturday at Ohio University Eastern in the OVAC Championship Game. The losers of the semifinals are scheduled to play consolation games on Wednesday at the higher seeds' courts and the remainder of the pool games are slated for Thursday.

The championship game schedule has been set at Class A (10 a.m.); Class 2-A (1 p.m.); Class 3-A (4 p.m.) and Class 4-A (7 p.m.). There will be no reserve games on the day of the championship, but all other games, including tonight, are scheduled to have jayvee tilts.

In Class 1-A, St. John Central is the top seed. The athletic Lady Irish come into the tournament with a strong 16-1 mark. The lone setback for the Green

came in its first game of 2008 at the hands of third-seeded Beallsville.

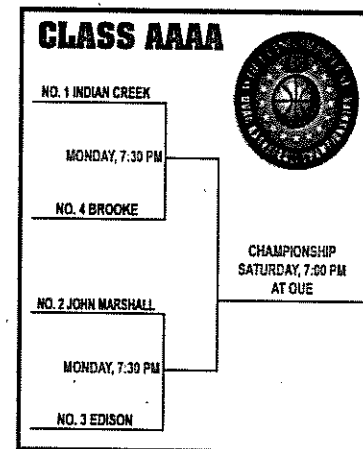
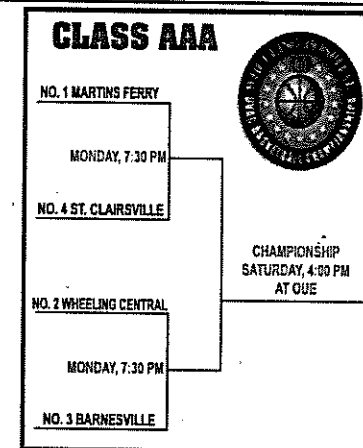
The Lady Irish are the defending Class A champions and all told own 13 conference banners in girls' hoops.

"We are excited about the new OVAC Tournament," said Lady Irish head coach Bubba Kapral who owns seven of those titles on his resume. "The Final Four setup brings a new dimension to conference basketball. We are also happy to be top-seeded in Class A as it brings us an opportunity to play a school that we have never competed against."

That school Kapral is talking about is Valley, which qualified as the fourth seed. The Lumberjills are currently 9-5 on the season.

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● OVAC

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"Valley has had a nice season, and I expect them to be a worthy foe in the Greenhouse tonight," Kapral continued.

The other semifinal game is slated for Monroe County. The aforementioned Lady Blue Devils of Beallsville High School will welcome Bridgeport for the second time in a week and meet them for the third time of the season.

"I think the tournament is a good thing, and it's something we've needed for a while," said Beallsville head coach Terry Jarrett who owns three of the four OVAC girls' hoop titles that hang in the Blue Devils' gymnasium. "This is going to give the girls an early taste of the tournament atmosphere and you know you have to go out and play well."

As for playing the Lady Bulldogs who come in with a 10-8 mark for the third time, Jarrett knows all about the cliché that accompanies that situation.

"We've heard the saying that it's tough to beat a team three times," Jarrett said. "Bridgeport played us tough both times we've played, and they do some things really well. We'll have to go out ready for whatever they might throw at us."

In Class 2-A, Steubenville Central earned the top seed thanks to a 13-4 regular season under the direction of head coach Kevin Barr.

The Lady Crusaders – who boast six OVAC titles already – will open the quest for number seven this evening against fourth-seeded Frontier, which qualified with a 13-4 mark.

Two of the area's premier small-school players will be involved tonight with SCC's Ginny Petties going up against Frontier's Mallory Hoff.

In the other semifinal, red-hot Monroe Central earned the second seed and will meet third-seeded and fellow PVC

entrant Buckeye Trail.

The Lady Seminoles swept the Lady Warriors during the regular season. Monroe Central (15-3) has never won an OVAC title in girls' hoops. Buckeye Trail (13-5) owns two, including last year's 2-A title.

In Class 3-A, another red-hot team resides as Martins Ferry – winners of nine in a row – earned the top seed and will host Buckeye 8 rival St. Clairsville this evening.

The Lady Riders are 14-4 on the season and have already wrapped up their first-ever Buckeye 8 title. They are now seeking their fifth OVAC hoop crown. They last won the conference in 2002.

"We've been playing well," said Ferry head coach Dave Reasbeck. "What we've done up until this point means nothing (Monday). We just have to keep our level of play where it's been the past couple of weeks."

This marks the third time the Lady Red Devils and Lady Riders have met this winter. Martins Ferry was a decisive winner in the first meeting, but had to scratch and claw out a victory at the Tolbert Gymnasium a few weeks ago.

"We're looking forward to the tournament," said St. C. head coach Mickey Blatnik. "We got handled pretty good against Ferry the first time, but played them a lot tougher the second time. We know they've been playing well, but we're excited about the chance to go down there and play them again."

St. Clairsville is the owner of five OVAC titles and have won two of the past three crowns in Class 3-A.

The other semifinal finds third-seeded Barnesville (10-7) making the trip to Wheeling to meet the Lady Maroon Knights who own a 12-3 mark.

The Lady Shamrocks didn't even know if they'd make it

going into the final week before the cut-off, but a flurry of victories and some outside help lifted Coach Jamie Carpenter's outfit to the third seed.

"I think having the tournament is a great idea," Carpenter explained. "Everyone plays a different schedule, so this way you get to determine the true champion."

Barnesville and Wheeling Central don't meet in too many sports too often, so making the trip to Central is something different for the Lady Shamrocks.

"I haven't seen Wheeling Central, but I've talked to some people who have and we know they can shoot it," Carpenter explained. "We just have to play our game offensively. We'll have to rebound and defend well. Our kids are excited about this opportunity."

In Class 4-A, Indian Creek

pocketed the top seed thanks to a brilliant regular season and a mark of 15-3. The Lady Redskins reward is a date with Brooke, which is currently 8-8 on the season.

The other big-school semifinal finds third-seeded Edison making the trip south to Glen Dale to meet second-seeded John Marshall. The Lady Wildcats finished 9-9 on the season, while the Lady Monarchs are currently 10-6, but they've lost two in a row.

Coach Stan Blankenship – who won't coach tonight due to a suspension after he was ejected from a loss to Martins Ferry some nine days ago – owns nine OVAC titles. Brooke has won the conference pennant six times, while Edison has just one title. Indian Creek has yet to win the title.

Staskey can be reached at [sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com)



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

POSING WITH the OVAC 3-A Championship Trophy that will be presented to the winner following Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship Game at Ohio University-Eastern are Martins Ferry head coach Dave Reasbeck (left) and Barnesville head coach Jamie Carpenter.

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship didn't happen overnight

From the Press Box



By
Seth
Staskey
Times Leader
Sports Editor

In less than 24 hours, we'll know who the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference girls' basketball champions are for the 2007-08 season.

And all of the decisions will be made right where they should be...on the court.

There are no point systems or talk of schedules. It's all about who shows up Saturday at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center to determine who will pocket the hardware and banner as the inaugural winners of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

While it may have taken a while to get to this point where it's decided on the court, one thing's for certain it's definitely the way to do it.

The idea came across OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak's desk shortly after the membership of the conference shot down the idea of mandatory scheduling in the sport of football.

Even though it didn't work for one major sport, Rataiczak and company went back to the drawing board and began thinking about a basketball tournament.

"This idea goes clear back to the time when teams were getting beat out for the OVAC Championship by fractions of points," Rataiczak said during a phone conversation. "The frustration level was there because you had teams winning who might not have played other teams and we always had that issue in basketball more than other sports."

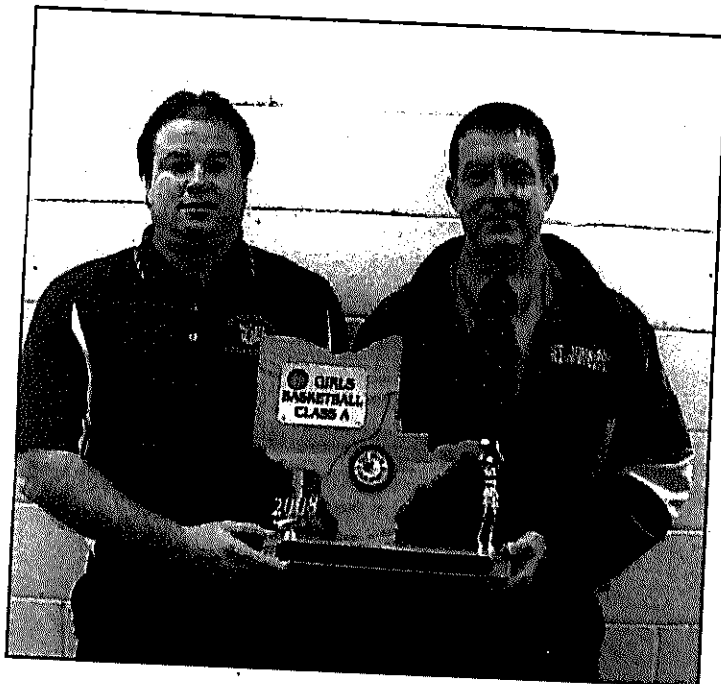
So, Rataiczak enlisted the help of area basketball coaches and polled them on their thoughts on whether or not they would be interested in doing this and once it was met with a resounding acceptance, he took the idea and results of what the coaches had to say to the athletic directors.

"We gave (the athletic directors) an idea of what the schedule would look like and told them about it and they approved the idea," Rataiczak said. "We had the basic concept worked out before we went to the athletic directors."

After that the proposal was mailed to every boys and girls coach as well as the athletic director and allowed them to offer

WANT MORE?

See the special supplement inside today's edition with full previews on all four title game.









T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

DISPLAYING THE OVAC 1-A Championship Trophy that will be presented to the winner following Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship Game at Ohio University-Eastern are Beallsville head coach Terry Jarrett (left) and St. John head coach Bubba Kapral.

Our Opinion

Cheers & Jeers

-  **JEERS** to the 18 students arrested as a result of a classroom fight in Cleveland. It's too bad they don't direct their energies toward acquiring knowledge.
-  **CHEERS** to those who cheer – at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Cheering Competition – and those who work at this gigantic event with a special cheer to the St. Clairsville Red Devils and the Monroe Central Seminoles for winning first-place titles.
-  **CHEERS** to DNA evidence as recent happenings have proven it helps to convict the guilty and to exonerate the innocent.
-  **CHEERS** to Library Lovers' Month being observed in February as it focuses on a facility of untold value. Today's libraries have much more than books, but it's good to remember the words of Thomas Carlyle: "Blessings upon Cadmus, the Phoenicians, or whoever it was that invented books."
-  **CHEERS** To the Martins Ferry School Bus driver #8. This woman goes out of her way to keep traffic flowing nicely on U.S. 250 every morning by safely pulling off the side of the road and letting traffic pass her. We all thank you.
-  **CHEERS** to Rick DeLuca and Tom Rataiczak and their committee for putting together the OVAC basketball Championships. Cheers also to Wheeling Hospital for its sponsorship of the event.



PICTURED IS the committee for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship. Sitting, from left, are director Rick DeLuca, Ron Smyth (Edison girls), Nikki Cain (former Magnolia girls coach), Rick Isaly (River girls), Fred King (Paden City boys) and Mark Masloski (Steubenville boys). Back row, from left, are Ron White, Bubba Kapral (St. John girls), Chris Pack (Barnesville boys), OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak and George Vargo (Weirton Madonna). Absent was Donnie Madzia (Harrison Central/OUE Men).

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

up any suggestions and after a couple rounds of exchanging of ideas an official ballot was mailed to the principals asking for formal approval.

"Every school got to vote," Rataiczak said. "We told the schools ahead of time that a ballot that wasn't returned would be counted as a 'yes' vote."

Well after the ballots were counted, the idea had passed and it was official, the OVAC would crown its champions through a tournament style for hoops much like it does in the sports of baseball and softball.

While the tournament was in place, there was still much to do before getting to the point, the OVAC will be come Saturday morning at 10 a.m. when St. John Central and Beallsville meet for the 1-A title.

"We wanted to make sure we worked all of the bugs out before we started this," Rataiczak confirmed. "We could have probably done it in 2007, but it would have been tough."

Selecting a venue for the games was also a big decision. The main choices in the immediate area are WesBanco Arena in Wheeling, the McDonough Center at Wheeling Jesuit and the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University-Eastern.

"We looked at all of the choices," Rataiczak said. "The biggest problem was the fact that the dates for this could change yearly because of when the Ohio sectionals fall. OUE was able to guarantee us the dates we needed each year and were willing to arrange their schedule based on us."

Now that the measure had passed, the venue was set and it was time to get down to the nitty-gritty of planning out the finer details of the event and all that goes into an undertaking of this size, Rataiczak needed to find a director.

"It hit me right now that Rick DeLuca would be the perfect guy to chair this thing," Rataiczak said. "He does all of the football, volleyball, basketball and baseball standings, so who would know the ratings better than him. He's done a tremendous job of getting things ready for this and taking care of small details that might slip our minds and he works really well with the committee."

Now with a director in place, an event of this magnitude certainly wasn't going to be pulled off by just DeLuca and Rataiczak. So, they sent letters to every boys and girls coach in the conference, inviting them to be on the committee.

The group that's been together for the duration includes: Chris Pack (Barnesville boys), George Vargo (Madonna boys)

Fred King (Paden City boys), Donnie Madzia (Harrison Central/OUE men), Mark Masloski (Steubenville boys), Rick Isaly (River girls), Nikki Cain (former coach of Magnolia girls), Bubba Kapral (St. John girls) and Ron Smyth (Edison girls).

"I can't say enough about the work of this committee," Rataiczak said. "This group is so willing to listen to each other and works so well together. They have exchanged ideas, modified ideas to make this come to fruition. Very rarely had someone demanded that their school get this or boys and girls get this."

So this committee — spearheaded by DeLuca — went to work for the better part of the past two years making Saturday and next week's boys tournament a reality for hoop junkies in the area.

Everything — outside of editing the actual rule book — was determined by the committee. Whether or not it was a matter of how to schedule games for the teams who don't make the tournament or how the advance tickets would be handled to who would work the pass gate and how the money would be divided up amongst the participating schools.

"I am impressed with the integrity of this committee," Rataiczak said. "You have a tough time picking out the girls and boys coaches if you didn't know them. It's been just amazing to watch how well the committee has worked with Rick and Rick with the committee."

The committee has worked diligently for the past two-plus years to make sure that Saturday and next week goes off without a hitch, but they won't be alone Saturday when it comes to running the show at OUE.

The number of volunteers and workers that will arrive to help in anyway possible from taking tickets to monitoring the hospitality room to working the scorer's table are as important to the success of the event as anything.

"We had very little trouble in finding people who wanted to be involved and help out anyway they could," Rataiczak said. "If we were asking them for two Saturdays in the summer or around Christmas it might have been different. We're hoping we can build a loyalty base of workers and have them come back each year like the wrestling tournament does."

Keep in mind when you are in the building whether it be Saturday or next week for the boys' finals, that this is the first tournament. While DeLuca, Rataiczak and the committee are confident knowing they have yet to leave a stone unturned in the planning of this, there could still be bugs in the system.

However, it's safe to say that when the committee reconvenes, everything will be broke down and looked at for 2009 and this product will get only better and better.

"So many good things can come out of this," Rataiczak said. "There are always going to be some inconveniences for the schools, but to paraphrase a local basketball coach, 'it's not I or me, but us and we.' We have to look at what's good for all 46 schools. We also look at what's good for basketball in the valley and this is it."

Here's hoping everyone comes out Saturday and checks out exciting girls' basketball action. It's going to be a great event with some great action. There's been too much time poured into it for to be anything short of a huge success.

OVAC NOTES

- FANS ARE being reminded that tickets at the gate will cost \$6 and the gym will be cleared between sessions, meaning it will take four tickets to watch all four games.

- THERE will also be a \$2 charge for parking and all fans are being encouraged to take exit 213 off I-70 onto State Rt. 331 to the OUE campus. Parking is somewhat limited, but fans having to park in the Shannon Hall lot are also reminded that a shuttle compliments of Whiteside's will be running continuously throughout the day.

- THE SCHEDULE for the games is as follows Saturday, 10 a.m. — 1-A (St. John vs. Beallsville); 1 p.m. — 2-A (Steubenville Catholic vs. Monroe Central); 4 p.m. — 3-A (Martins Ferry vs. Barnesville); 7 p.m. — 4-A (Indian Creek vs. John Marshall).

- THE BOYS finals are slated for Feb. 9 and will use the same time schedule as above. However, before plans can be made for next week, the boys brackets have to be set. Tonight is the cut-off for the OVAC standings for boys to determine the top four in each class. The brackets for the boys' tournament will be set Sunday morning.

- THE TIMES LEADER will obviously be on hand for all eight championship games in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship. If you can't attend the games live, but would like to follow the action, this writer will be blogging between the games. Complete photography and coverage of both weekends will be included in Sunday's editions. Also, inside of today's edition you'll find a 16-page tab devoted to the girls' finals and a similar version will be printed next week for the boys.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

Inaugural OVAC Hoop Tourney drawing closer

• Girls finals slated for Feb. 2; Boys to play on Feb. 9 at Ohio University-Eastern

By **JIM ELLIOTT**
For The Times Leader

Rick DeLuca is someone who believes championships should be decided on the field.

A longtime contributor to the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference, DeLuca says ratings champions are rarely worth the paper on which they are printed.

So when the conference decided using basketball standings and computer points to determine a champion was a somewhat flawed method and wanted to move toward a playoff format, DeLuca jumped at the chance to preside over the festivities.



After two years of implementation, the Inaugural Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Boys' and Girls' Basketball Championships are less than three weeks away, with DeLuca reporting all of the details are in place after a lot of hard work was done by a lot of hard-working people.

"We're to the point where we're ready to go," DeLuca said during an afternoon news conference at Wheeling Hospital on Thursday. "All we need now is a couple of ball teams to come in and play."

The pairings for this aggressive undertaking will be set Friday, Jan.

See, **OVAC**, Page B2



PREPARING FOR the upcoming OVAC Basketball Tournament were these committee members and sponsors. From left are director Rick DeLuca, OVAC President Dianna Vargo, Dr. Angelo Georges of chief sponsor Wheeling Hospital and OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

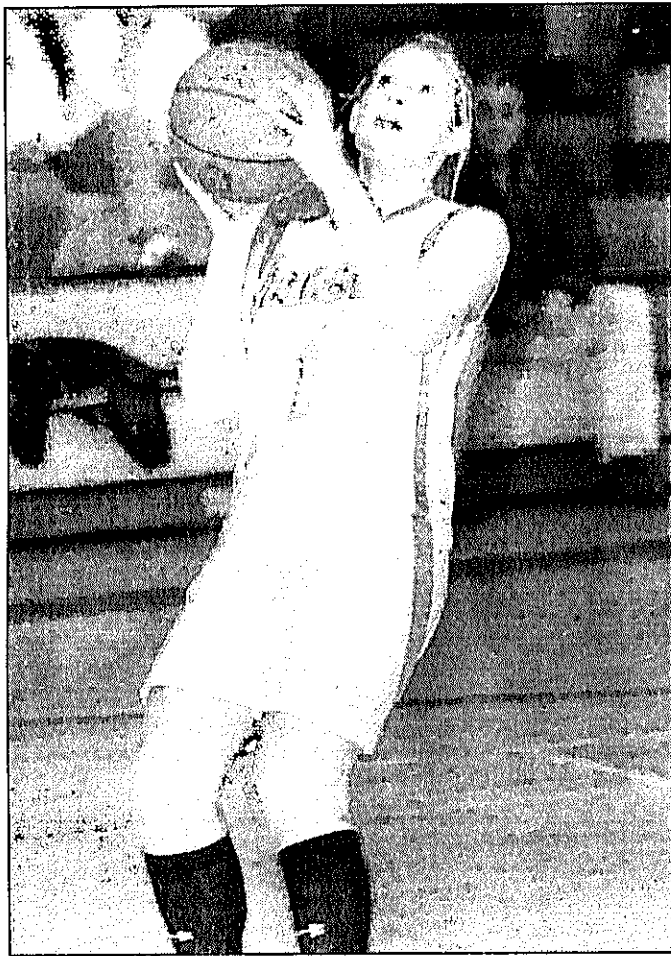


Photo by Scott McCloskey

Bellaire St. John's Kylie Kidder prepares to shoot during her team's game against Valley on Monday.

No More Paper Champs

OVAC ready to crown its hoops champs on court

By JIM ELLIOTT
Assistant Sports Editor

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The pairings for this aggressive undertaking will be set Friday, Jan. 25 for the girls and Sunday, Feb. 3 for the boys.

The finals will take place on the campus of Ohio University Eastern. For the girls, that date is Saturday, Feb. 2, and for the boys, it's Saturday, Feb. 9. Times for those games — both boys and girls — are 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 7 p.m., with Class A leading off, following consecutively through Class AAAA.

"I believe in a couple of years, this is going to be one of the biggest things the conference

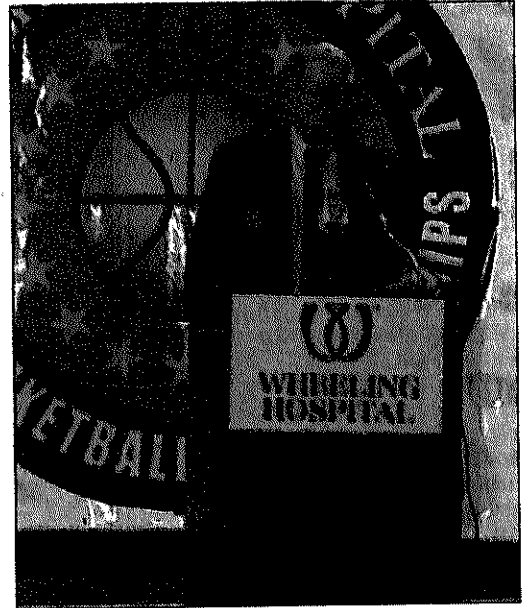


Photo by Seth Staskey

OVAC Executive Director Tom Rataiczak speaks Thursday afternoon at a news conference at Wheeling Hospital.

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Speaking of sponsors, officials from Wheeling Hospital expressed a great deal of satisfaction in having their name attached to the event.

"Wheeling Hospital is proud to be the title sponsor of the inaugural basketball championships and the official medical provider to the OVAC," said Ronald L. Violi, Wheeling Hospital chief executive officer.

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OVAC

Continued from Page B1

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"Wheeling Hospital is proud to be the title sponsor of the inaugural basketball championships and the official medical provider to the OVAC," said Ronald L. Violi, Wheeling Hospital chief executive officer. "Youth athletics is a key building block for developing a positive mindset to last a lifetime — physical fitness, teamwork, dedication and more.

"We're pleased to be able to contribute to the physical and mental development of so many area boys and girls."

In addition to presenting a

more clear view of how the event will take shape, Rataiczak also unveiled a logo for the event.

"We are attempting to design separate identities for our all-star and championship meets that will serve as trademarks of that event each year. Through the creation of that logo, each event will be easily recognized by our sponsor and fan."

A total of eight championship games will be played on those back-to-back Saturdays, with the proceeds of the event divided 20 ways: Sixteen of the shares will go toward the participating schools, two will go to the conference, and two will go into a contingency fund toward future basketball championships in the event of poor weather or other uncontrollable forces.

Along with all of that came this message from OVAC President Dianna Vargo: "We hope you and the entire Ohio Valley enjoy OVAC February Madness."

Notes

For the finals, the times are spaced 3 hours apart to allow time for the gym to be emptied and to ease the burden on traffic and parking. ... Ticket prices for all games will be \$6 for adults and \$4 for children.

Paper

(Continued from Page 17)

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*Key dates for the Inaugural Wheeling Hospital/OVAC Boys' and Girls' Basketball Championships:
Jan. 24 — Cut-off date for girls (will include games that night).
Jan. 25 — Basketball committee meeting to determine girls' pairings.
Jan. 28, 31 — Girls' consolation pool games.
Jan. 28 — Girls' semifinals.
Jan. 30 — Girls' third-place games.
Jan. 30 — Mandatory coach's meeting at 11 a.m. at OUE. Pre-sale tickets informational packets will be distributed.
Feb. 1 — Cut-off date for boys (will include games that night).
Feb. 2 — Girls playoff championship finals (times are 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 7 p.m., with Class A leading off, following consecutively through Class AAAA).
Feb. 3 — Basketball committee meeting to determine boys' pairings.
Feb. 5, 8 — Boys' consolation pool games.
Feb. 5 — Boys' semifinals.
Feb. 6 — Mandatory coach's meeting at 11 a.m. at OUE. Pre-sale tickets informational packets will be distributed.
Feb. 8 — Boys third-place games.
Feb. 9 — Boys playoff championship finals (same starting times and procedure as girls).

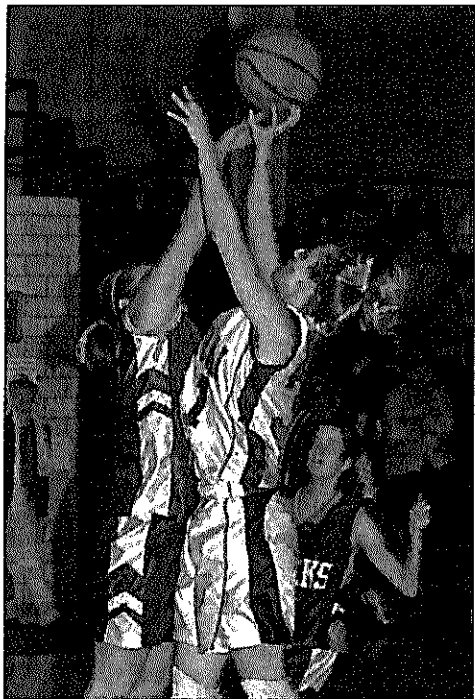


Photo by Mike Hughes

Barnesville's Erica Welch, left, gets a hand on a shot attempt by Wheeling Central's Val Palmer during their game Monday at Wheeling.

Rocks Put Away Knights

Barnesville seals victory at the free-throw line

By JIM ELLIOTT
W.Va. Sports Editor

Rarely has Wheeling Central coach Penn Kurtz watched the last four minutes of a basketball game with a more defenseless feeling than the one he had Monday night during what proved to be a 59-40 Barnesville victory on the Maroon Knights' floor.

When these Shamrocks get a big lead, it's over.

Barnesville (11-6), which shoots 72 percent from the free-throw line, made 26 of 33 free throws, including 12 of 12 in the fourth quarter on its way to pulling off one of the first "upsets" in OVAC girls' basketball tournament history. The Shamrocks came in as the No. 3 seed; Wheeling Central was the second seed.

"It was impressive," Kurtz said of the Shamrocks' performance.

Chelsey Keylor was 6 for 6 from the free-throw line — all in the fourth quarter — to help build upon one of the most astonishing seasons at the free-throw line the Ohio Valley has ever seen.

She's missed only once this season in more than 60 attempts.

When you're down 18, as Central was at the 4-minute mark of the fourth quarter, and Keylor's holding the ball, your choices are limited.

Nonexistent, really.

"We spend a lot of time on free-throw shooting," Barnesville coach Jamie Carpenter said.

He said he has his players do drills designed to fatigue them, then he sticks them on the free-throw line to practice shooting with wobbly legs.

It looks to be a particularly good idea with this Shamrocks team, as just one of their 47 shots was attempted by someone who did not start the game, a second-quarter 3-pointer by Mariah Miller that was wide of the mark.

Please See ROCKS, Page 14

■ Barnesville will face Martins Ferry in the Class AAA final at 4 p.m. on Saturday at OU Eastern

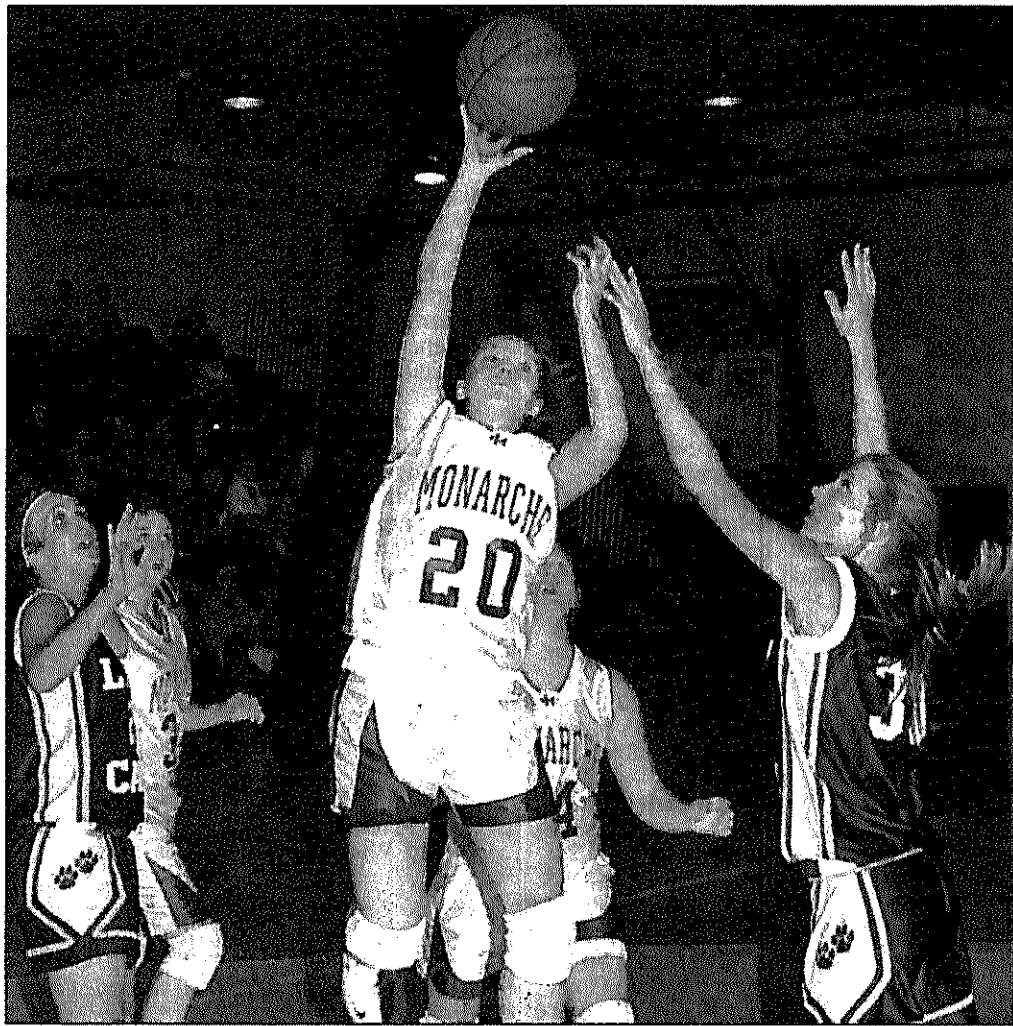


Photo by Mike Hughes

John Marshall's Alexis Brinkman (20) goes in for a layup as Edison's Kaitlin Blake (30), and Adrian McEwen look on during their OVAC Class AAAA semifinal game Monday at Glen Dale. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

JM Moves On

Balance key for Monarchs against Edison

By SHAWN RINE
Ohio Sports Editor

The sideline demeanor and the end result were the same. About the only things different were the shirt and tie.

Assistant Mark McCormick, subbing for suspended head coach Stan Blankenship, picked up his first career victory as the John Marshall girls' basketball team held off Edison for a 71-60 victory Monday night at John Marshall High School, in an OVAC Tournament Class AAAA semi-

final. The second-seeded Monarchs (11-6) will face top seed Indian Creek in the inaugural conference championship game, which will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday on the campus of Ohio University Eastern. Indian Creek knocked off Brooke, 49-39.

John Marshall threatened to blow this one open on several occasions, prompting Edison coach Ron Smyth to call a timeout to scold his team midway through the third quarter. The gist of the conversation was the Wildcats could either fight for an OVAC Championship, or simply go get back on the bus.

"We made some mistakes, but I've never been prouder of a team's effort,"

■ John Marshall will play Indian Creek in the OVAC Class AAAA final at 7 p.m. Saturday at OU Eastern

Smyth said. "A lot of them were unforced errors, but I won't for a second question the effort."

Trailing by double digits in the fourth, Edison was forced to foul.

Sometimes that approach — remember, the Wildcats had no other choice — works, while others it's futile.

The Monarchs cashed 11 of 13 in the fourth quarter, and 23 of 30 for the game.

Please See JM, Page 14

Crusaders Hang On

Frontier's comeback falls short in 68-58 defeat

By AARON PETCHAL
For The Intelligencer

The Steubenville Central girls' basketball team continues to make history.

Monday night, the Crusaders added more to what is an already historic season, as they opened play in the inaugural OVAC Class AA girls' basketball tournament against visiting Frontier with a 68-58 victory.

As a result, the Crusaders will play Monroe Central, a 72-64 winner against Buckeye Trail in the other semifinal, in the tournament finals at 1 p.m. Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern.

Steubenville Central led by as many as 19 points, 68-49, with 2:35 left to play in the

game, before Frontier fought back to close the gap against Catholic Central's second unit. By then, it was not too little too late.

With the victory, the Crusaders are now 14-5 on the season.

The loss drops the Cougars to 14-5 on the season, and Frontier is scheduled to return to action Wednesday night at Buckeye Trail.

The Warriors are 13-6 on the season. "We beat a very good team," Catholic Central coach Kevin Barr remarked.

"That is a team that split with Trail in the season.

Please See CRUSADERS, Page 14

■ Steubenville Catholic will face Monroe Central at 1 p.m. Saturday at OU Eastern

Crusaders

(Continued from Page 13)

They beat Beallsville twice, and they beat Monroe Central once. I think they have the best inside game out of any team we have played this year.

"We knew it was coming. We tried to do everything we could about it. I thought we stepped up at times. We broke down a lot of times. They make you do that. They have a plan that they are going to pound the ball inside, and that is where they are going to go with it. We knew it. We tried to do everything we could to stop it. We gave them a lot of different looks defensively. We got a couple of steals. We also knew if we rebounded we could shoot layups, and I thought we did that very well."

Frontier coach Eric Rinard wasn't sure where things went awry.

"It wasn't the way we wanted it to go or the way we planned, but they are a very good basketball team," he said. "I take my hat off to them. They played a nice ballgame, and they did what they looked and wanted to do."

"Offensively, we didn't handle the ball as well as I had hoped too, but we did get a lot of inside plays, which I thought was nice, but like I said, give credit to them."

Catholic Central earned the top seed in the tournament by winning the program's first regular-season OVAC title since 1984.

"We are real pumped up about that, but we would be much happier with one where you play for it and we have that opportunity," Barr said. "We are just hoping now we go out and represent our school and get one and bring it back."

Also, the Crusaders are in the midst of their school-record, seventh-straight winning season. The team also claimed the City Championship for the first time in several years by sweeping Big Red.

Also, junior Ginny Petties has become the third player in program history to surpass the 1,000-point mark for her career. Petties, who

scored a game-high 22 points against the Cougars, has scored 1,108 points in her career.

"We knew she was a good ballplayer," Rinard said. "We knew we had to try and slow her down somehow. I was able to see some of the paper and see some of the write-ups, but I knew that she was one of their key players."

Three Catholic Central players ended the game in double digits as Anna Shaw and Kelli Petchal joined Petties in double figures. Shaw scored 19 points, and Petchal tallied 10 points.

Also for the Crusaders, Emily Canella contributed seven points, Katie DiPiero delivered five points and Abby Sawon netted three points, all of which came from the foul line. Finally, Sarah Marrow recorded two points.

Two Frontier players ended the game in double digits. Meagen Rinard delivered a team-high 17 points and Mallory Hoff finished with 15 points.

"They are the real deal," Barr said. "They are just solid. They are solid all the way around, and he has a half-decent bench too. The bottom line is I am really proud of the kids. I thought it was the best game we played in quite a while. We didn't turn the ball over. When we subbed the younger kids in, I think we were up 18 or something, we got to play some other kids and got the kids off of the floor and get ready to play Saturday afternoon at 1 o'clock. We are proud to represent the school and the community in the inaugural OVAC Class AA Tournament."

Monroe Central 72, Buckeye Trail 64
At Graysville, Taylor Jorris totaled 23 points and Aleisha Guiler and Alex Kuhn evenly divided 26 as Monroe Central defeated Buckeye Trail.

Karlie Davis also had 13 points for the Seminoles.

Hannah Nelson led the Warriros with 27 points while Casey Frame added 15 and Chelsea Doult totaled 13.

Rocks

(Continued from Page 13)

Playing its ninth game in 16 days, including a long weekend road trip down state, Wheeling Central (13-4) didn't look to have a lot in the tank.

"When you're tired, that's what happens," Kurtz said. "The shots just don't go."

And they didn't. Wheeling Central made only 13 of 49 field-goal attempts (27 percent), which on the surface doesn't look like it will help you win many games. But Barnesville won this game by 19 points, despite making just one more field goal in two fewer attempts (14 of 47, 30 percent).

So what gives?
"They played a great game," Kurtz said. "They hit shots, they were the aggressor, they got to every loose ball and made all the plays."

Carpenter admittedly wasn't sure what he was getting into — it's rare that Wheeling Central and Barnesville meet in anything.

"We heard this was a tough place to win," Carpenter said.

"We knew they'd come at us with pressure. So we did the same thing."

"We went after them with pressure."

Pressure, in this game, was guarding anyone

wearing a green uniform as the clock wound down and knowing the only way you could stop it was by fouling.

Barnesville attempted four shots from the field in the fourth period, two of which were made by Erica Welch, who wound up with 16 points.

Keylor paced the Shamrocks with 17 points. Allie Doan wound up with 12. Those three combined to make 16 of 19 free throws.

Leading the way for Wheeling Central was Kat Stiglich with 14 points.

Audra Droginske added 11. Cameron Cieply hit a pair of 3-pointers and wound up with eight points off the bench.

The other eight players who saw action for the Maroon Knights combined for seven.

"We couldn't make anything," Kurtz said. Barnesville will play Martins Ferry for the Class AAA title at 4 p.m. Saturday at OUE.

Martins Ferry 56, St. Clairsville 29
At Martins Ferry, Courtney Coleman scored 20 points — nine less than St. Clairsville's team — as Martins Ferry ran its winning streak to 10 with a semifinal victory against the Red Devils.

Karlen Venci backed Coleman with 15 points.

Alessia Vivod paced the Red Devils with nine points.

But not before Edison made the home team sweat.

John Marshall led by as many as 17 in the third quarter (42-25), but the margin had dwindled to five before the Monarchs' Julie Young drained three of her game-high 20 just in front of the horn.

The two teams traded buckets to begin the fourth before John Marshall's Carrie Talkington cashed a putback for two of her 11, and Alexis Brinkman hit a 3-pointer for a 51-38 cushion with 6:38 remaining.

"They are a good ballclub," McCormick said of Edison. "What really hurt us were second shots."

"I didn't think we rebounded the ball all that well."

The Wildcats cut the deficit to nine (62-53) on a pair of Holly Carson free throws at 2:59 — the result of Young's fifth foul — before Gossett took over from the stripe on the other end of the floor. She hit eight in a row on her way to a 17-point, eight-rebound, three-assist night.

"Their coach did a good job as far as using his personnel wisely," Smyth said. "We knew coming in it had to be a no-holds-barred game for us to win."

The Monarchs built a nine-point halftime lead, largely due to their pressure defense. It looked at times as though the Wildcats were out of sync.

"Going in, from what I had seen on film, I didn't think they could handle the pressure," McCormick said. "We thought with our tempo, we could force them to do some things they weren't comfortable with."

Young finished with six rebounds and six assists to go with her point total, while Aubrei Clegg added 10 points.

Edison was led by Megan Antigo, who scored 17 points, many on an array of runners in the lane. Kaitlin Blake contributed with 12 points and a game-high 12 rebounds as the Wildcats held a 44-36 advantage on the boards.

Though she scored just four points, the Wildcats' Emily Pollock collected seven rebounds and four assists.

Indian Creek 49, Brooke 39
At Wintersville, Ty Harris scored 15 points as Indian Creek (16-3) matched the mark for most victories in a season with a victory against Brooke.

Gabbi Davis added 13 points for the Redskins.

Kayla Cutrone and Megan Phillips each totaled 10 points for the Bruins.

St. John Too Fast for 'Jills

Irish utilize speed to defeat Valley

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

Bellaire St. John likes to play fast and everyone knows it.

Needless to say, Valley got a lesson on what fast looks like Monday evening in Bellaire where the Irish began their quest for the school's 14 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference title in the semifinals of the inaugural girls' basketball tournament.

The Irish improved to 17-1 after a decisive 84-55 victory against fourth-seeded Valley.

"We got contributions from everyone and took care of our business," St. John coach Bubba Kapral said. "We got after people in the half-court defense and played exceptionally well, and you can't be doing things too badly when you put 84 on the board."

"But it's win and keep going."

Before the Irish can turn full attention to Beallsville — which was an 80-59 winner against Bridgeport in the other Class A semifinal — they must take care of a make-up game against Barnesville on Wednesday night on the western side of Belmont County.

The OVAC title game is at 10 Saturday morning at Ohio University-Eastern.

"Barnesville is a make-up game, but they are playing well right now and are pretty tough," Kapral said.

"Saturday's for an OVAC title and that's probably the way it should be since it's the rubber match."

"We've got a lot of respect for Beallsville and it will be a battle."

The Lumberjills, meanwhile, are 10-5 and will take part in Thursday's Class A consolation game at third-seeded Bridgeport.

"(St. John) is one of the quickest moving teams I've ever seen, and I now know why they were state track champs," Valley coach Larry Weekley said with a smile. "They gave us a lesson in up and down and they just dictate the tempo so well."

"They've got a great team and that pressure is just something we don't see."

The Irish found themselves in an early fight, leading 16-14 with a shade more than 2 minutes to go in the opening period.

However, they took the fight over from that point.

St. John scored the final six of the first period to make it a 22-14 and then proceeded to score 18 of the next 23 to make it 40-19, and eventually a 42-23 margin at the intermission.

The Green received solid contributions from a host of players in the first half. Sara

■ St. John will battle Beallsville on Saturday at 10 a.m. at OU Eastern in the Class A finale.

Wamsley scored nine points, while Kristina Velkovich had eight and Natalie Perzanowski netted seven.

"We got contributions from everyone," Kapral said. "There's not one girl on our team that you can truly focus in on because so many people can score, which is what makes this team so nice to coach."

The Lumberjills made a small run in the third quarter and cut the margin to 15 at 54-39, but the Irish finished with a 8-2 spurt to make it 62-41 at the third-quarter break.

Wamsley had eight in the third, while Velkovich finished with six.

Lesta Kocher did all she could for Valley, scoring 14 of her 17 in the third period.

St. John salted the game away in the fourth period thanks to a 12-0 run in the middle stages.

"We got good guard play like we always do and our post players are real threats in there," Kapral said.

"Again, I am really happy with our half-court defense."

Wamsley and junior Lauren Jenkins each had 17 points each to lead the way for the Green.

Perzanowski and Velkovich each had 16 in top support.

Justene Delman supplied strong minutes off the pine, scoring eight points.

Valley was led by Kocher and she was supported by Alexandra Higgenbotham who had 16 points.

St. John held a commanding 35-20 edge on the boards.

Kidder had eight rebounds to lead the way.

Valley was pressured into 23 turnovers, while the winners were guilty of 17 miscues.

**Beallsville 80
Bridgeport 59**

At Beallsville, Alyssa Headley exploded for 26 points to lead Beallsville past Bridgeport and into the Class A finale.

Savannah Burke added 20 points for the Blue Devils, who overcame a 20-16 first-quarter deficit by outscoring the visitors by five in the second quarter and taking a 33-32 lead into the break.

Tori Jarrett also totaled 12 points for Beallsville.

Bridgeport was led by 18 points from sophomore Rachel Benda.

Cora Kalinowski and Moriah Agnew had 14 points apiece for the Bulldogs, while Stephanie Bommer added 13 points.

● Rocks

Continued from Page C1

Barnesville, this is the first title in the sport of basketball in either boys or girls.

"Before we left (for OUE) today, we took a walk around our gym and looked at all of the banners that hung there and wanted to hang our own," said Carpenter.

Senior Chelsey Keylor — who scored only seven points in the game — is the Lady Shamrocks' leader on and off the floor.

"This win is for our entire school and the entire community of Barnesville," she proclaimed during the press conference. "Once we qualified for this the way we did, I think we just felt like we were destined to win. I had an off night, but we've got four other girls on the floor and they stepped it up."

While the Lady Riders are disappointed about the outcome, Purple head coach Dave Reasbeck knows there is still basketball to be played and he also knows when next year's OVAC Tournament rolls around, he'll have all but one of his players back.

"Give Barnesville all of the credit," Reasbeck said. "I didn't think seven seniors compared to one senior would make that much of a difference, but it did because we had a deer in the headlights look early in the game, but it's okay because we've got the tournament coming up and we want to get back here next year and try it again."

The Lady Shamrocks came

out and took the game to the Lady Purple, jumping to a 9-0 lead before Courtney Coleman buried a three more than halfway into the first period.

Behind seven points from Allie Doan, the Lady Shamrocks took command with a 12-3 first quarter.

"I ate my Wheaties this morning," Doan joked during the post-game press conference.

Ferry — which shot an ice-cold three-of-30 from two-point range — cut into the deficit with a 15-13 second period, making it a 25-18 reading at the break.

Lacey Neavin hit two treys for the Purple, while Megan Phillips came into the game for the injured Erica Welch and connected on a trey as well to keep the Ferrians at bay.

Martins Ferry went cold again in the third period and watched the Lady Shamrocks take total control with a 9-3 period.

"The third quarter has been a problem for us all season," Reasbeck said. "We shot something like nine-of-49 from the floor and seventh person had five goals. I think I just want to throw them away and hope it was a fluke."

The Lady Shamrocks finished the deal with a 16-12 fourth period. Doan was again the go-to-person with seven more points. All told, Doan led the way for the Lady Shamrocks with 16 points.

Junior Megan Phillips came off the bench to score 12

points, including a trio of treys. She hit a pair of dagger treys in the second half just when it seemed as if the Lady Riders were about to make a run.

"Megan really stepped up and played well today," Carpenter said. "Megan's come up big for us the last two weeks."

Coming into the game, one of the more unheralded players for Barnesville was senior Leah Bettinger and all she did was score 10 points and block seven shots.

"Bettinger was the difference inside," Reasbeck said. "She's their Shae Moreland and we knew that coming in."

Martins Ferry was led by Neavin who finished with 13 points. Coleman added 12 for the Purple.

Barnesville held a commanding 32-18 edge on the boards. Doan and Bettinger went for eight and seven, respectively to lead the Green. Coleman had six to pace Ferry.

Scoring:
Wheeling Hospital OVAC
Class AAA Championship
BARNESVILLE (50) — Kemp 2, 0-0
5, Phillips 4, 1-2 12; Bahmer 0, 0-0 0; J. Miller 0, 0-0 0; Keylor 3, 0-0 7; Welch 0, 0-0 0; Doan 7, 2-2 16; Moore 0, 0-0 0; S. Phillips 0, 0-0 0; M. Miller 0, 0-0 0; Hines 0, 0-0 0; Bettinger 5, 0-0 10; Totals: 21, 3-4 50. MARTINS FERRY (33) — Burch 1, 0-0 3; Vinci 1, 0-0 3; Wright 0, 0-0 0; Coleman 2, 7-8 12; Chambliss 0, 0-0 0; Frohnepfel 0, 2-2 2; Lucas 0, 0-0 0; Pamphiss 0, 0-0 0; Neavin 5, 0-0 13; Moreland 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 9, 9-10 33.

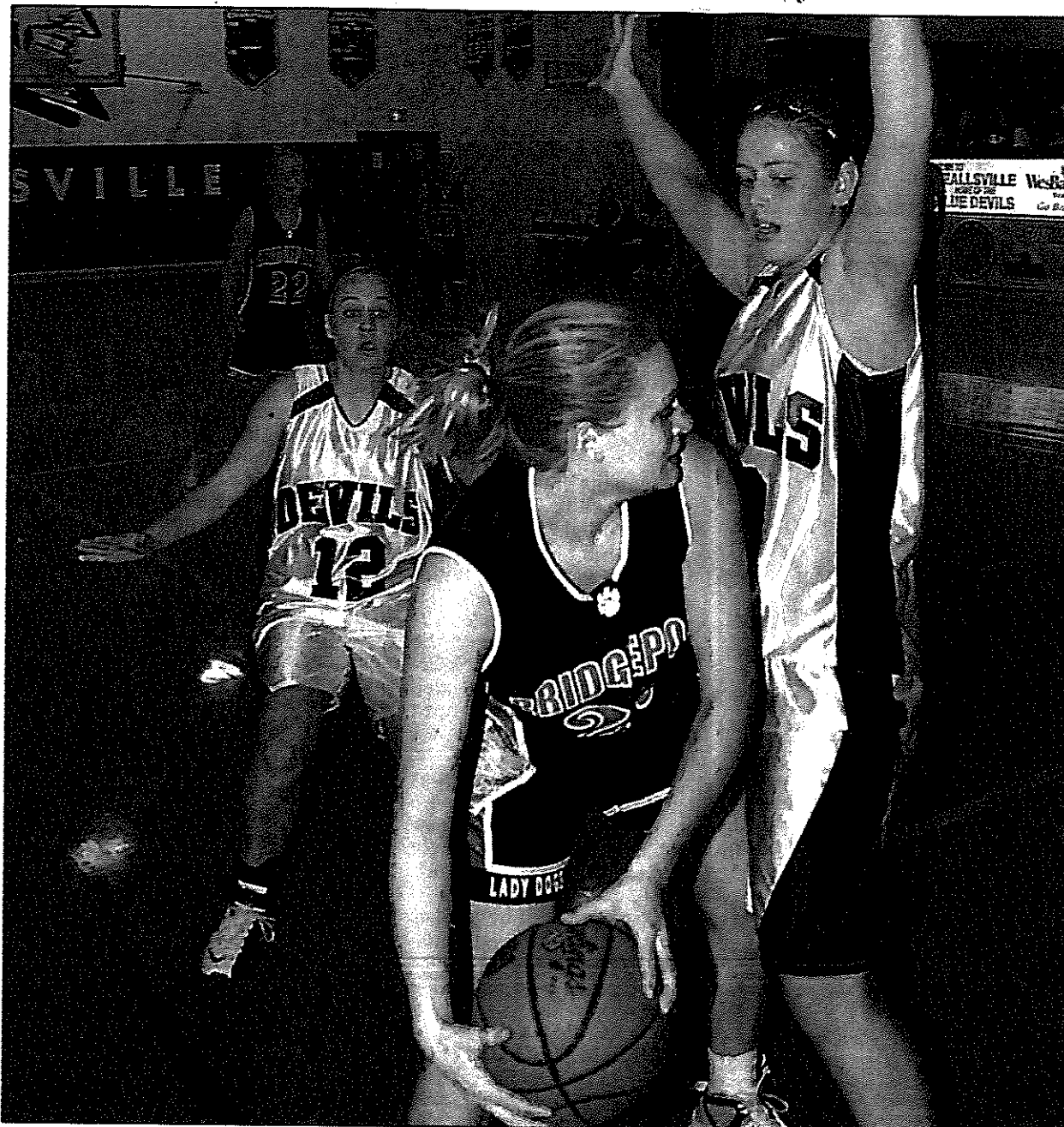
Three-Point Goals: B — Phillips (3), Kemp, Keylor, MF — Neavin (3), Burch, Vinci, Coleman.

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SPORTS

Tuesday,
January 29, 2008

OVAC Girls Tournament



BRIDGEPORT'S
Cora Kalinowski looks for somewhere to go with the ball against the defense of Beallsville's Alyssa Headley during Monday's Class 1-A OVAC semifinal game. The Lady Blue Devils prevailed and will meet St. John Saturday at 10 a.m. at OUE. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

Ferry girls roll to 3-A title game

• Lady Riders cruise past St. C.

By **KIM APPOLLONI**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Clicking on all cylinders. The Martins Ferry Lady Rider basketball squad is hitting full stride at the perfect time. Dave Reasbeck has his club playing at a high level in all aspects of the game and the result has been a 10-game winning streak.

'Championship teams raise their level of play in big games.'

- Dave Reasbeck

On paper, Monday evening's semi-final OVAC AAA contest with St. Clairsville was to be a match up that should have gone down to the wire, but the game was over by intermission due to relentless pressure which forced the Red Devils into 21 first half miscues. Throw in a deadly shooting night from juniors Courtney Coleman and Karlen Vinci and the result was a 56-29 Rider blowout.

"Championship teams raise their level of play in big games," smiled the intense Reasbeck. "We are playing very good basketball right now. Everyone on the floor is contributing and it is really fun for us right now. These girls' could care less who gets the credit, for them it's all about the team and becoming champions."

Reasbeck's Riders jumped out to a 17-9 advantage after the initial eight minutes of action as all five starters lit the scoreboard in the opening round. Mickey Blatnik's Devils struggled to get into an

Class A rubber match set

• St. John cruises past Valley, 84-55

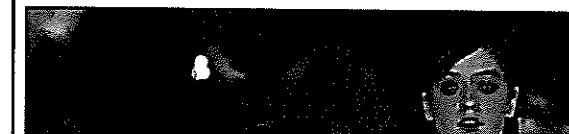
By **SETH STASKEY**



• Lady Devils roll by Bulldogs

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

See, **FERRY**, Page B2



By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

St. John likes to play fast and everyone knows it.

And needless to say, Valley got a lesson on what fast looks like Monday evening in the Greenhouse where the Lady Irish began their quest for the school's 14th Ohio Valley Athletic Conference title in the semifinals of the inaugural girls basketball tournament.

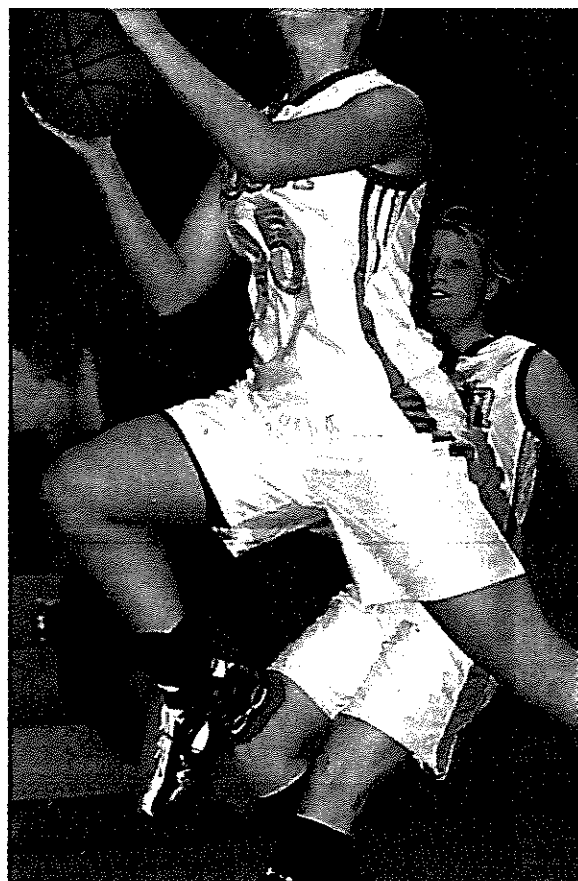
The Lady Irish improved to a sterling 17-1 on the season after a decisive 84-55 victory over fourth-seeded Valley.

"We got contributions from everyone tonight and took care of our business," said St. John head coach Bubba Kapral. "We got after people in the half-court defense and played exceptionally well and you can't be doing things too badly when you put 84 on the board, but it's win and we keep going."

Before the Lady Irish can turn full attention to Beallsville — which was a 80-59 winner over Bridgeport in the other Class 1-A semifinal — they must take care of a make-up game against Barnesville Wednesday night on the western side of the county. The OVAC title game is Saturday morning at 10 at Ohio University-Eastern.

"Barnesville is a make-up game, but they are playing well right now and are very tough," Kapral offered. "Saturday's for an OVAC title and that's probably the way it should be since it's the rubber match. We've got a lot of respect for Beallsville and it will be a battle."

See, **SJC**, Page B2



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

ST. JOHN'S Sara Wamsley goes in for a shot as teammate Kylie Kidder looks on Monday night. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

It's been said that it is hard to beat a team three times in the same season in any sport.

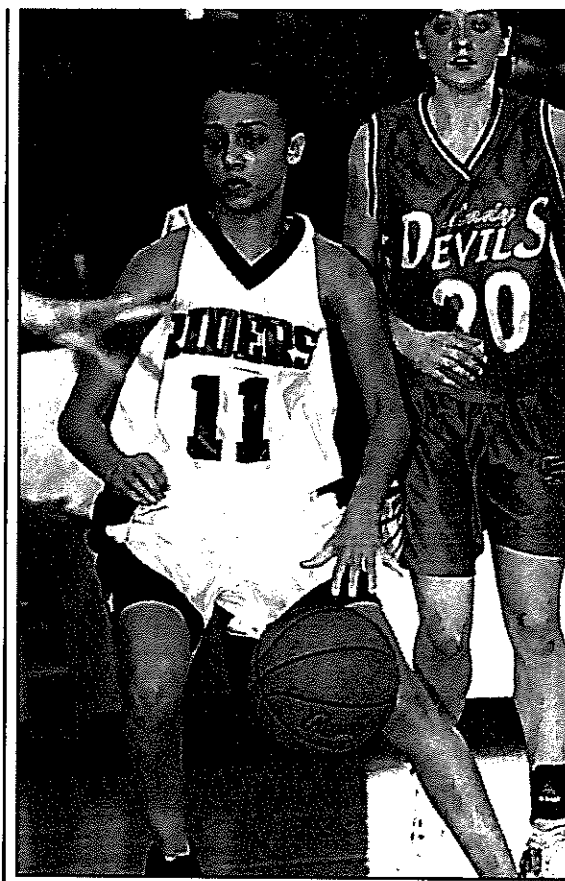
The Beallsville girls' basketball team found that out for the first 16 minutes Monday, but the Blue Devils used their decided inside advantage to pull away from Bridgeport in the second half for an 80-59 decision in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Tournament Class A semifinals in Monroe County.

The Blue-and-White, who have won five OVAC titles, will now meet St. John Central in the finals Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at Ohio University Eastern. The Irish defeated Valley 84-55.

"We were hoping to get the ball inside," said veteran Beallsville head coach Terry Jarrett. "We've got to look to get it in there. I don't know if anyone in the valley can stop (Alyssa) Headley when she's on her game."

The No. 2 seed Blue Devils (14-5) watched as the third-seeded Bulldogs (10-9) jumped out to a 7-0 advantage behind

See, **BEALLSVILLE**, Page B2



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

MARTINS FERRY'S Courtney Coleman makes a move as St. Clairsville's Ashley Gordon trails the play during Monday's Class 3-A OVAC Semifinal at Tolbert Gymnasium. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Monroe Central takes care of Trail

• Lady Seminoles to meet SCC in title game

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Considering they split a pair of close regular season decisions, Monday night's OVAC 2-A semifinal rubber match between Buckeye Trail and Monroe Central figured to be a highly competitive affair. That it was.

Coach Troy Baker's Lady Seminoles shot a sizzling 27 of 45 from the field and needed every single point to outlast a basket-bombing Lady Warriors' club, 72-64.

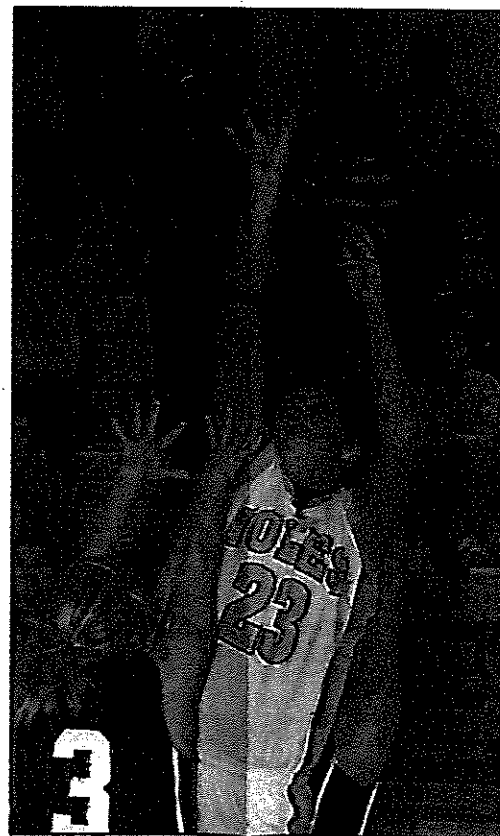
"Wow, what a great ball game between two evenly-matched teams," a relieved Baker exclaimed

moments following the outcome. "Both teams kept making big shot after big shot. It came down to who could make a late run in the last couple minutes. Fortunately, it was us."

Brad Lineback's Guernsey County combine lost despite connecting on 12, three-point field goals. "We definitely played well enough to win offensively," he shrugged. "But we didn't get it done at the other end of the floor."

Monday night's victory in the Skyvue Elementary gymnasium advances the now 16-3 Seminoles to Saturday afternoon's 2-A title

See, **MONROE**, Page B2



MONROE'S Taylor Jorris shoots over Traci Ault during Monday's Class 2-A Semifinal at Skyvue. The Lady Seminoles prevailed and advance to Saturday's final.

Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

Barnesville upsets Wheeling Central

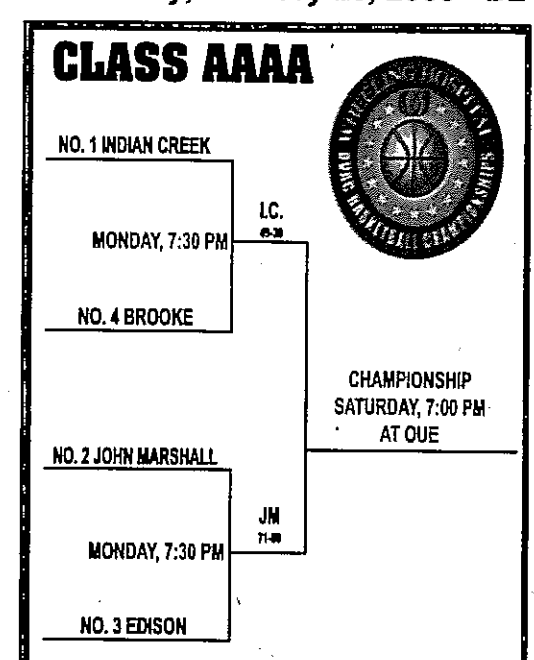
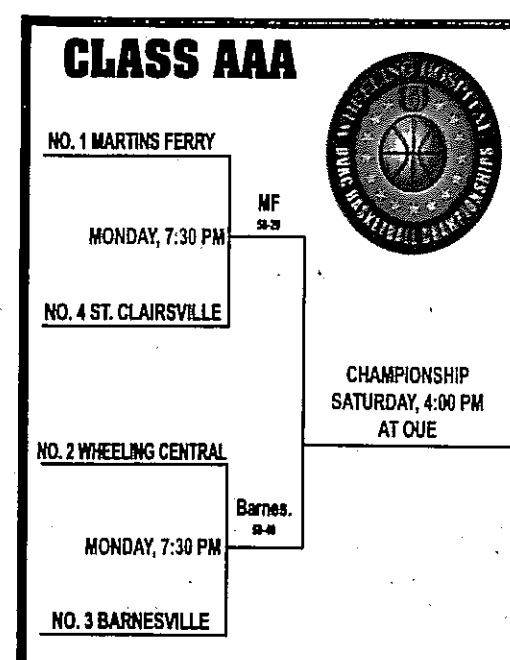
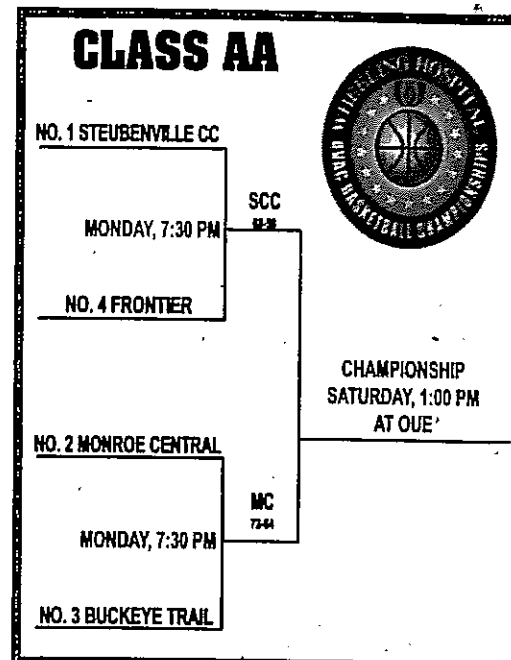
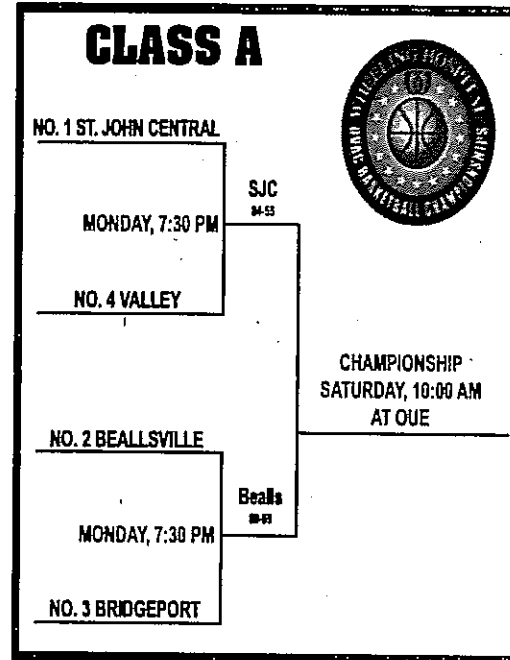
By **JIM ELLIOTT**
For The Times Leader

Rarely has Wheeling Central coach Penn Kurtz watched the last four minutes of a basketball game with a more defenseless feeling than the one he had Monday night during what proved to be a 59-40 Barnesville victory on the Maroon Knights' floor.

When these Shamrocks get a big lead, it's over. Barnesville (11-6), which shoots 72 percent from the free-throw line, made 26 of 33 free throws, including 12 of 12 in the fourth quarter on its way to pulling off one of the first "upsets" in OVAC girls' basketball tournament history. The Shamrocks came in as the No. 3 seed; Wheeling Central was the second seed.

Chelsey Keylor was 6 for 6 from the free-throw line — all in the fourth quarter — to help build upon one of the most astonishing seasons at the free-throw line the Ohio Valley has ever seen. She's missed only once this season in more than

See, **BARNESVILLE**, Page B2



● Barnesville

Continued from Page B1

60 attempts. When you're down 18, as Central was at the 4-minute mark of the fourth quarter, and Keylor's holding the ball, your choices are limited.

Nonexistent, really. "We spend a lot of time on free-throw shooting," Barnesville coach Jamie Carpenter said.

He said he has his players do drills designed to fatigue them, then he sticks them on the free-throw line to practice shooting with wobbly legs.

It looks to be a particularly good idea with this Shamrocks team, as just one of their 47 shots was attempted by someone who did not start the game, a second-quarter 3-pointer by Mariah Miller that was wide of the mark.

Playing its ninth game in 16 days, including a long weekend road trip down state, Wheeling Central (13-4) didn't look to have a lot in the tank.

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Central and Barnesville meet in anything.

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Leading the way for Wheeling Central was Kat Stiglich with 14 points. Audra Droginske added 11. Cameron Cieply hit a pair of 3-pointers and wound up with eight points off the bench. The other



Photo Provided

BARNESVILLE'S Erica Welch brings the ball up the floor against a Wheeling Central defender Monday.

bined for seven.
BARNESVILLE (59) — Kemp 0, 7-10 7; Keylor 4, 6-6 17; Welch 5, 4-4 16; Doan 3, 6-9 12; Bettinger 2, 3-4 7; M. Miller 0, 0-0 0; Hines 0, 0-0 0; Bahmer 0, 0-0 0; J. Miller 0, 0-0 0; Phillips 0, 0-0 0; Moore 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 14, 26-33 59. **WHEELING CENTRAL (40)** — Droginske 3, 4-5 11; Kleeh 1, 0-0 2; Stiglich 6, 2-3 14; Palmer 1, 2-2 4; Creighton 0, 1-2 1; Beaver 0, 0-0 0; Neggemyer 0, 0-0 0; Cieply 2, 2-2 8; Crawshaw 0, 0-0 0; LaRue 0, 0-0 0; Miller 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 13, 11-14 40. Three-Point Goals: B — Keylor (3),

JM, IC to meet in 4-A

● Ferry

Continued from Page B1

Steubenville Catholic — the top seed in Class 2-A — earned the right to play for the championship Saturday thanks to a 68-58 victory over invading Frontier Monday night.

The Lady Crusaders led 17-12 after one and upped the margin to 32-24 at the intermission. They all but sealed the deal with a 19-12 third quarter spurt and went on for the 10-point victory.

Steubenville Catholic was led by Ginny Petties who scored 22 points. Anna Shaw added 19 for Coach Kevin Barr's squad. Kelli Petchal netted 10.

Frontier was led by Meagan Rinard who had 17 points. Mallory Hoff netted 15 for the Lady Cougar who fell to 14-5.

CLASS 4-A JOHN MARSHALL 71, EDISON 60

At Glen Dale, the Lady Monarchs advanced to the big-school championship game thanks to a strong first half as they posted a 71-60 victory over third-seeded Edison

offense as the Rider full court pressure wrecked havoc.

"It was very frustrating," commented Blatnik. "We are very young and maybe these girls were a little nervous, but we didn't do anything that we were supposed to do. I'm sure Martin's Ferry had a lot to do with that, but we called three time outs and could not even get the kids to lineup in the right spots to even attempt to break their press."

While the Devils were struggling to get the ball down the floor, Coleman and company were heating up. Coleman tallied 13 second quarter counters to break open the contest, 33-17 by intermission including three bonus bombs.

Unfortunately for the hosts, the cat-quick junior suffered a high ankle sprain in the second half and never returned.

Step up Vinci. The hard-nosed point guard came up with two triples when the invaders attempted a small run in the third period.

"That's what makes this team so good right now," added Reasbeck. "When we need it, a different player seems to step up and take over. Tonight when Courtney went down, Karlen and Brittany Burch drained three's and Courtney Frohnafel made hustle plays all over the floor."

forward to Saturday's Championship contest.

"We worked very hard to put ourselves in position to become champions. Don't think for a moment that Courtney Coleman won't play. She has faced tougher things and come back. She'll be there. If she's not, I still like our chances because this team has no superstars just a bunch of good players that do whatever it takes to win. I love this bunch."

Coleman ended the evening as the game's top scorer with 20. Backing her was Vinci with 15 markers, four steals and three assists. Frohnafel ended with seven points, eight steals and six rebounds. Classmate Shae Moreland was hampered with foul trouble, but scored six points, blocked four shots and grabbed six missed shots.

Junior Alessia Vivod was the Devil's top offensive performer with nine points. Moulder was next with six points and six rebounds.

The Red Devils ended the contest with 36 turnovers compared to just 18 for Ferry. St. Clairsville was good on 11-of-32 shots for 34 percent. The Riders canned 20-of-54 shots for 37 percent. St. Clairsville had 22 rebounds while the winners grabbed 26.

Nonexistent, really. "We spend a lot of time on free-throw shooting," Barnesville coach Jamie Carpenter said.

He said he has his players do drills designed to fatigue them, then he sticks them on the free-throw line to practice shooting with wobbly legs.

It looks to be a particularly good idea with this Shamrocks team, as just one of their 47 shots was attempted by someone who did not start the game, a second-quarter 3-pointer by Mariah Miller that was wide of the mark.

Playing its ninth game in 16 days, including a long weekend road trip down state, Wheeling Central (13-4) didn't look to have a lot in the tank.

Wheeling Central made only 13 of 49 field-goal attempts (27 percent), which on the surface doesn't look like it will help you win many games. But Barnesville won this game by 19 points, despite making just one more field goal in two fewer attempts (14 of 47, 30 percent).

Carpenter admittedly wasn't sure what he was getting into — it's rare that Wheeling

said. "We knew they'd come at us with pressure. So we did the same thing. We went after them with pressure."

Pressure, in this game, was guarding anyone wearing a green uniform as the clock wound down and knowing the only way you could stop it was by fouling.

Barnesville attempted four shots from the field in the fourth period, two of which were made by Erica Welch, who wound up with 16 points. Keylor paced the Shamrocks with 17 points. Allie Doan wound up with 12. Those three combined to make 16 of 19 free throws.

Leading the way for Wheeling Central was Kat Stiglich with 14 points. Audra Droginske added 11. Cameron Cieply hit a pair of 3-pointers and wound up with eight points off the bench. The other eight players who saw action for the Maroon Knights com-

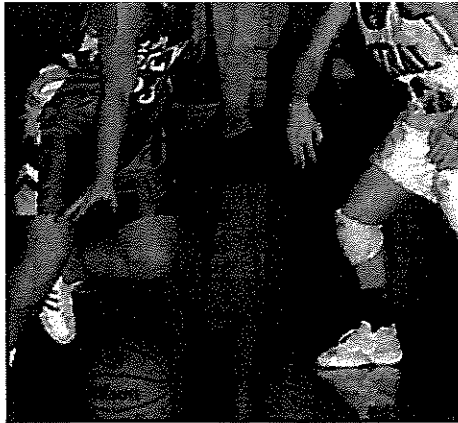


Photo Provided

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Playing without Coach Stan Blankenship — was suspended for the game due to a previous ejection — the Lady Monarchs shot out to a 17-12 lead after one and upped the margin to 36-25 at the break. The teams played even in the second half. The Lady Monarchs were paced by Julie Young who scored 20 points.

INDIAN CREEK 49, BROOKE 39

The top-seeded Lady Redskins broke open a tight game at the half with a strong third quarter and went on to advance to Saturday's OVAC Class 4-A girls' basketball final thanks to a 49-39 victory over Brooke Monday night in Wintersville.

The Lady Redskins led 8-4 at half and 22-19 at the break, but used a 14-8 third quarter and a 13-12 final chapter to earn their spot in Saturday night's title game against John Marshall.

Indian Creek was led by Ty Harris who had 15 points. Gina Davis scored 13 points in top support.

each to lead the way for the Green. Perzanowski and Velkovich each had 16 in top support. Kylie Kidder was relentless defensively and ran the floor game well, while Kelly Perzanowski was also a bear on the defensive end of the floor. Justene Delman supplied strong minutes off the pine, scoring eight points.

St. John held a commanding 35-20 edge on the boards. Kidder had eight rebounds to lead the way.

VALLEY (55) — Frye 2, 0-0 5; Higgenbotham 8, 0-0 16; Ueltsch 2, 0-0 4; Kocher 5, 7-8 17; Shaw 3, 0-0 6; Bucher 1, 3-3 5; Hoyes 0, 0-0 0; Greathouse 1, 0-0 2; Edge 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 22, 10-11 55. **ST. JOHN (84)** — Kidder 1, 2-2 4; N. Perzanowski 6, 3-4 18; Wamsley 6, 5-7 17; K. Perzanowski 2, 0-0 4; Velkovich 7, 2-2 16; Delman 3, 2-2 8; Jenkins 5, 6-8 17; E. LeMasters 1, 0-0 2; Cadell 0, 0-0 0; Macri 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 31, 20-25 84.

Three-Point Goals: V — Frye. SJC — N. Perzanowski, Jenkins.

● SJC

Continued from Page B1

The Lumberjills, meanwhile, are now 10-5 on the season and will take part in Thursday's Class 1-A consolation game at third-seeded Bridgeport.

The Lady Irish found themselves in an early fight, leading just 16-14 with a shade over two minutes to go in the opening period. However, they took the fight over from that point.

The Lady Irish scored the final six of the first period to make it a 22-14 reading at the quarter and then proceeded to score 18 of the next 23 to make it a 40-19 reading and eventually a 42-23 margin at the intermission.

The Green got solid contributions from a host of players in the first half. Sara Wamsley scored nine points, while Kristina Velkovich had eight and Natalie Perzanowski net-

ted seven in the opening half. "We got contributions from everyone," Kapral said. "There's not one girl on our team that you can truly focus in on because so many people can score, which is what makes this team so nice to coach."

The Lumberjills made a small run in the third quarter and cut the margin to 15 at 54-39, but the Belmont Countians finished with a 8-2 spurt to make it 62-41 at the third-quarter break.

Wamsley had eight in the third, while Velkovich finished with six in the period. Lesta Kocher did all she could for Valley, scoring 14 of her 17 in the third period.

St. John salted the game away in the fourth period thanks to a 12-0 run in the middle stages.

Wamsley and junior Lauren Jenkins each had 17 points

● Beallsville

Continued from Page B1

the early shooting of Cora Kalinowski.

Rachel Benda added six points to finish the first quarter as the visitors had a stunning, 20-16, lead after eight minutes of play.

The second stanza was back and forth with

26 in the final chapter.

"I couldn't be any prouder of my team. They showed up tonight," said Bridgeport head coach Ed Metz. "Those five kids played their hearts out. If we can come with that type of intensity

we didn't do anything that we were supposed to do. I'm sure Martin's Ferry had a lot to do with that, but we called three time outs and could not even get the kids to lineup in the right spots to even attempt to break their press."

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The closest the Red Devils could get was 14. The turnovers began to mount again at the end of the third quarter leading to missed opportunities for St. Clairsville and a 42-26 deficit. Blatnik commented, "You can't turn the ball over like we did tonight and expect to be in the ballgame. We got in early foul trouble and everything just snowballed on us."

Reasbeck emptied his bench with nearly three minutes to play in the game and is looking

● Monroe

Continued from Page B1

game against Steubenville Central scheduled for a 1:00 tipoff at Ohio University-Eastern.

"I certainly like the idea of this new (OVAC tourney) format," Baker observed. "This gives the OVAC a chance to crown a true champion instead of depending on some point system. I think it's a win-win situation because it also helps prepare you for the (upcoming sectionals.)"

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A pair of offensive rebounds gathered in by 5-7 junior guard Karlie Davis greatly aided the Lady Noles.

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Varsity scoring: **MARTINS FERRY (56)** — Burch 1, 1-2 4; Vinci 5, 2-3 15; Wright 0, 0-0 0; Coleman 7, 3-3 20; Chambliss 0, 0-0 0; Frohnafel 2, 3-5 7; Lucas 0, 0-0 0; Pamphillis 1, 0-0 2; Neavin 1, 0-0 2; Moreland 3, 0-0 6. Totals 20, 9-13. **ST. CLAIRSVILLE (29)** — Smith 1, 0-1 3; King 1, 0-0 2; Cankus 1, 1-4 3; Holub 1, 0-0 2; Gordon 0, 0-0 0; Britton 1, 0-0 2; Moulder 3, 0-0 6; Nemeth 0, 0-0 0; Vivod 3, 2-3 9; Spooner 0, 1-2 1; Slenski 0, 1-2 1; Toothman 0, 1-2 1. Totals 11, 5-11.

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smooth Hannah Nelson netted a game-high 27 tallies, doing damage both from distance (four trifectas) and with an array of inside moves to the bucket.

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Jorris returned in by 5-7 break and proceeded to fashion six-of-six shooting. The versa-

Semi-Final Boxscores

SCC 68, FRONTIER 58
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● Beallsville

Continued from Page B1

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Rachel Benda added six points to finish the first quarter as the visitors had a stunning, 20-16, lead after eight minutes of play.

The second stanza was back-and-forth, with Headley scoring five early points to put the Blue Devils ahead, 24-22.

Kalinowski started a 8-3 run that left the Lady Bulldogs with a 30-27 edge, but Alexis Kanzigg followed her own missed free throw and Brandy Contos went coast-to-coast after a steal to put the hosts back on top, 31-30.

Moriah Agnew's soft kiss off the glass off a nifty feed from Kalinowski gave the Black-and-Blue a 32-31 nod. However, Savannah Burke meshed 1-of-2 free throws to knot the count with 1.3 ticks remaining in the half, and Headley cashed in 1-of-2 with no time left as the hosts clinged to a 33-32 advantage at the break.

Leading 39-37 with 5:35 left in the third quarter, Beallsville went on a 14-1 run that sealed the deal against the outmanned, and undersized Bulldogs.

"I just told them to pick it up and get in gear and start playing ball like they are capable of playing," Jarrett said of his halftime speech to his team. "It is hard to beat a team three times, and they played us tough every game. We knew we weren't just going to come in here and just walk all over them."

Jarrett did note one huge difference between the two squads — that being the depth of his team.

"Our depth helps us out a little bit where they didn't have much depth," Jarrett continued.

Burke netted 10 of her 20 points in the third frame and Headley added 12 of her game-high

26 in the final chapter.

"I couldn't be any prouder of my team. They showed up tonight," said Bridgeport head coach Ed Metz. "Those five kids played their hearts out. If we can come with that type of intensity the next game, then things will be okay."

He said that if his team could've stayed within single digits in the third quarter, they might have a chance in the fourth, but that wasn't in the Blue Devils' game plan.

"We just didn't box out tonight," Metz added. "Then we hit that brick wall."

Benda led a quartet of double-figure scorers for the Bulldogs with 18. Kalinowski and Agnew evenly divided 28 and Stephanie Bommer finished with 13.

In addition to scoring 26 points, the 5-ft.-11 Headley also grabbed 17 rebounds as the Blue Devils held a lofty, 71-37, advantage off the glass. Burke landed 16 boards, while Tori Jarrett added a dozen markers and half as many rebounds. Latara Arnold also pulled down seven caroms, while Alexis Kanzigg had five rebounds off the bench.

Kristin Lallathin added five rebounds, five assists and four steals.

Bommer finished with 10 boards, while Benda had six rebounds, six steals and five assists.

Neither team took care of the leather as Bridgeport had 22 turnovers and Beallsville 20.

BRIDGEPORT (59) — Grandstaff 0 0-1 0; Benda 7 4-8 18; Kalinowski 6 1-2 14; Bommer 4 5-8 13; Agnew 6 2-5 14; Butler 0 0-0 0; Totals: 23-60 12-24 59. BEALLSVILLE (80) — Jarrett 5 2-3 12; Headley 9 8-13 26; Arnold 2 0-0 4; Lallathin 0 0-0 0; Burke 9 2-4 20; Contos 1 2-2 4; Kanzigg 3 0-1 6; Koehler 2 0-2 4; Fraley 0 2-2 2; Garlick 1 0-0 2; Totals: 32-82 16-27 80.

Three-Point Field Goals: BPT — Kalinowski.

Semi-Final Boxscores

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FRONTIER (58) — Kimble 0, 0-0 0; Hoff 7, 0-0 15; L. Hoff 0, 0-0 0; Binegar 3, 0-0 6; Kirkbride 3, 0-0 6; Rinard 8, 1-3 17; Dunn 1, 0-0 2; Chute 1, 1-2 3; Allen 1, 0-0 3; Booth 2, 4-4 6; Totals: 26, 4-9 58. STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC (68) — Marrow 1, 0-0 2; Hulton 0, 0-0 0; Sawon 0, 3-4 3; DiPiero 2, 1-2 5; Petties 8, 4-4 22; Beigel 0, 0-0 0; Canella 3, 0-1 7; Petchal 5, 0-0 10; Fabian 0, 0-0 0; Shaw 7, 5-7 19; Totals: 26, 13-18 68.

Three-Point Goals: F — M. Hoff, Allen. SCC — Petties (2), Canella.

JM 71, EDISON 60

EDISON (60) — Pollock 2, 0-3 4; Antigo 7, 2-3 17; Blake 5, 2-3 12; Smyth 0, 1-2 1; Carson 2, 2-2 6; Marcus 0, 0-0 0; Kunkle 1, 0-0 2; McEwen 2, 6-8 10; Noland 2, 4-8 8; Totals: 21, 17-29 60. JOHN MARSHALL (71) — Young 9, 1-2 20; Gossett 4, 8-10 17; Brinkman 3, 1-2 9; Clegg 1, 8-10 10; Talkington 4, 3-4 11; Deel 1, 1-2 3; Gamble 0, 0-0 0; Leach 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 22, 23-30 71.

Three-Point Goals: E — Antigo. JM

INDIAN CREEK 49, BROOKE 39

BROOKE (39) — Phillips 3, 3-4 10; Cutrone 4, 2-2 10; Martin 3, 3-4 9; Cline 3, 2-2 8; Mazzella 1, 0-0 2; Hood 0, 0-0 0; Emmerth 0, 0-0 0; Rodgers 0, 0-0 0; Pearson 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 14, 10-12 39. INDIAN CREEK (49) — Harris 4, 4-6 15; G. Davis 5, 2-4 13; Billick 2, 5-8 9; M. Davis 3, 0-0 7; Kamarec 1, 1-2 3; Tate 1, 0-2 2; Furda 0, 0-0 0; Mooreman 0, 0-0 0; Wendell 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 16, 12-22 49.

Three-Point Goals: B — Phillips. IC — Harris (3), G. Davis, M. Davis.

opportunities for St. Clairsville and a 42-26 deficit. Blatnik commented, "You can't turn the ball over like we did tonight and expect to be in the ballgame. We got in early foul trouble and everything just snowballed on us."

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● Monroe

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Numerous lead changes and frequent deadlocks ruled the night Monday with Monroe using a game-ending 8-3 run to seal the verdict.

A pair of offensive rebounds gathered in by 5-7 junior guard Karlie Davis greatly aided the Lady Noles. "How huge were those?" Baker said of Davis' retrieves following missed free throws by teammates.

With Monroe a 68-64 leader, Davis drained a pair of game-clinching free throws with 20 seconds to play. She was one of four Monroe players to produce double digit outputs.

Mainstay Taylor Jorris registered a team-leading 23 tallies. There isn't a harder-working player in the valley than the Lady Noles senior who cashed in all seven of her second half field goal attempts.

Davis donated 13 points as did teammates Aleisha Guiler and Alex Kuhn. The talented Guiler also grabbed a game-leading eight rebounds. Kuhn, looking nothing at all like an inexperienced freshman, heaved home a trio of three-pointers and was perfect on four free throw tries.

Baker also received another solid night's work from senior Morgen Ramage who delivered eight points and five rebounds.

In defeat, Trail's silky

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Monroe had few answers for Warriors; senior guard Casey Frame whose five field goals were all authored beyond the arc. Junior Chelsea Doult contributed 13 markers and sophomore Kaitlyn Wolfe provided six points off the bench.

Trail moved out to a 15-11 lead after one period and took a 32-27 lead to the lockerroom at halftime. "We didn't do a very good job attacking their zone early," Baker explained.

Jorris returned from the break and proceeded to fashion six-of-six shooting. The versatile 5-10 senior was relentless underneath the hoop but also twice dialed long distance en route to a 14-point period that helped Monroe earn a 48-48 knot at the final stop.

Trail finished 18 of 48 from the perimeter. Nelson nabbed six of her team's 24 rebounds. The Lady warriors were charted for eight turnovers. Lineback's now 13-6 squad is slated to host Frontier in a Wednesday nighter at Old Washington.

Monroe Central totaled 23 rebounds and was guilty of eight giveaways.

BUCKEYE TRAIL (64) — Abrams 0, 0-0 0; Bates 0, 0-0 0; Frame, Court. 0, 0-0 0; Alt 1, 0-2 3; Wolfe 1, 4-5 6; Doult 3, 5-5 13; Frame, Cas. 5, 0-0 15; Nelson 8, 7-8 27. Totals — 18, 16-20. MONROE CENTRAL (72) — LaFollette 0, 0-0 0; Lafferree 1, 0-0 2; Ramage 3, 2-5 8; Kuhn 3, 4-4 13; Davis 5, 2-2 13; Guiler 6, 1-5 13; Jorris 9, 3-5 23. Totals — 27, 12-21.

Three-point goals: Buckeye Trail — Cas. Frame (5), Nelson (4), Doult (2), Alt. Monroe Central — Kuhn (3), Jorris (2), Davis.

Gibson may be reached at: rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

'Rocks Roll Riders

Barnesville claims Class AAA title

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

The stories surrounding the Barnesville Shamrocks are countless.

Maybe it's the fact that they were down by double digits in the regular-season finale and needed a late trey to cap the comeback and advance to the championship bracket of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

Or was it the fact that once they got into the tournament they found themselves on the road at a strong Wheeling Central outfit. Check that off the list.

And then Saturday at Ohio University Eastern, the Shamrocks capped their amazing run in the inaugural OVAC Basketball Championship with an impressive 50-33 victory against top-seeded Martins Ferry in the Class AAA finale.

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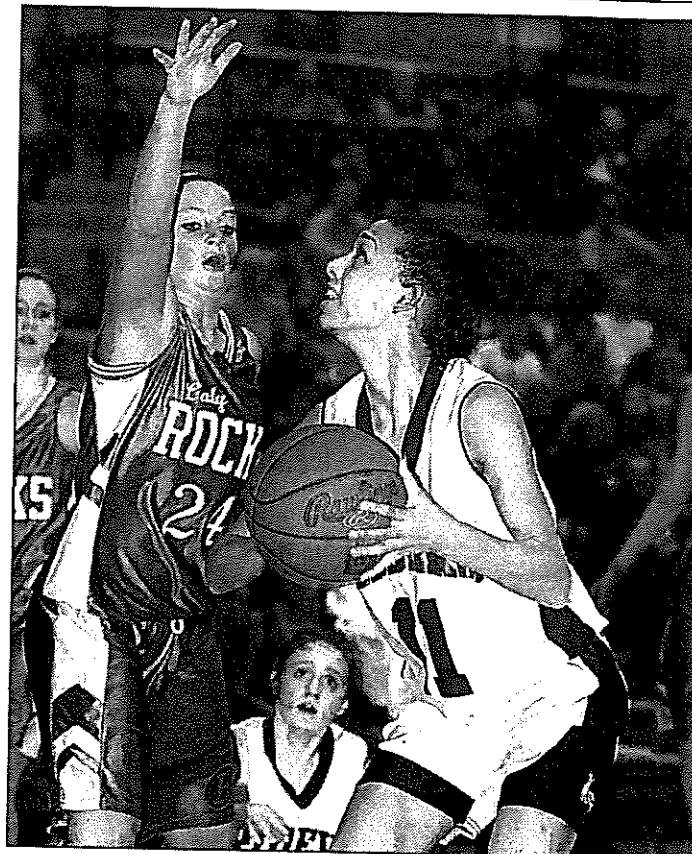


Photo by Joel Joseph
Martins Ferry's Courtney Coleman, right, looks to shoot as Barnesville's Allie Doan defends during Saturday's game.

ers coach Dave Reasbeck knows there is still basketball to be played and he also knows when next year's OVAC Tournament rolls around, he'll have all but one of his players back.

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The Shamrocks came out and took the game to the Purple Riders, jumping to a 9-0 lead before Courtney Coleman buried a 3 more than halfway into the first period.

Behind seven points from Allie Doan, the Shamrocks took command with a 12-3 first quarter.

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Ferry - which shot an ice-cold 3 of 30 from 2-point range - cut into the deficit with a 15-13 second period, making it a 25-18 reading at the break.

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goals. I think I just want to throw them away and hope it was a fluke."

The Shamrocks finished the deal with a 16-12 fourth period. Doan was again the go-to-person with seven more points. All told, Doan led the way for Barnesville with 16 points.

Phillips came off the bench to score 12 points, including a trio of treys. She hit a pair of dagger treys in the second half just when it seemed as if the Riders were about to make a run.

"Megan really stepped up and played well," Carpenter said. "Megan's come up big for us the last two weeks."

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Martins Ferry was led by Neavin who finished with 13 points while Coleman added 12.

Barnesville held a commanding 32-18 edge on the boards. Doan and Bettinger went for eight and seven, respectively to lead the Rocks. Coleman had six to pace Ferry

Seminoles are for Real

Monroe Central captures first girls' championship

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register
This just in, the Monroe Central Lady Seminoles are for real.

Another thing that people had better take note of, the Seminoles can flat-out shoot it.

They displayed all of their skills Saturday afternoon at the inaugural Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship at the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University-Eastern.

The Seminoles - the second seed in the Class AA tournament - took care of top-seeded Steubenville Catholic by a 66-39 count to win the school's first-ever girls' basketball conference title.

"This has been a great event and it's even greater that we were able to win," Monroe Central coach Troy Baker said. "It's been a great experience for everyone involved, and we're just thrilled to death to be the champions."

While Monroe Central is vasking in the glory of its title, the Steubenville Catholic Crusaders were left to do nothing, but shake their heads.

"We had a chance to see Monroe Central once and then on tape, but this was by far the best I'd seen them play in the now three times," Steubenville Catholic coach Kevin Barr said. "They shot the ball well and my hat's off to Monroe for their performance."

It was pointed out to Barr after the game that had the tournament system not been in place, his team would be making preparations to hoist the banner. However that did nothing to sway Barr's opinion on the event.

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The Seminoles could have played with about anyone regardless of size and seed when they shoot the ball like they did on the OUE court.

Monroe Central knocked



Photo by Joel Joseph
Monroe Central's Taylor Jorris (23) dribbles around Steubenville Catholic's Emily Canella on Saturday.

down 18 of 36 shots from the floor and 6 of 12 from behind the arc.

"If Monroe shoots the ball well, they have a chance to go a long way in the (sectional) tournament," Barr revealed.

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"We've shot the ball well from the perimeter all season," Baker said. "We average close to 50 percent from the floor for the season."

Included in the shooting performance was the individual effort of Karlie Davis who canned five treys in the first half, including one at the horn, which pushed the Lady Seminoles' advantage to 37-26 at the break.

"When I feel it, I shoot it," Davis said matter of factly. "My teammates did a good job of getting me the ball and I knocked down some shots."

"That shot was huge," Baker said of Davis' bomb. "It's definitely a lot better to be up 11 and I think we closed the half with the last seven points."

The Crusaders made a run in the early moments of the second half, but after a quick timeout from Baker, the Seminoles took the game over for good.

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called the time out and just took the game over from there," Barr said.

The Seminoles outscored Steubenville Catholic by a 29-13 count in the second half.

While Davis' shooting stole some of the show, not lost in the shuffle was the play of junior forward Aleisha Guiler who scored 23 points and had eight rebounds and four steals.

Guiler scored 12 of those points in the first half when Monroe Central built its working margin.

Davis finished with a game-high 24 points.

The Seminoles also did the job on the defensive end, limiting all-state candidate Ginny Petties to just one field goal and only six points.

"I don't know if it was as much what we did or Ginny having an off night," Baker said.

Senior Katie DiPiero led the Crusaders with 14 points. Emily Canella added nine.

Monroe Central held a 25-18 edge on the glass.

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Steubenville Catholic 39
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7 5-5 24; LaFollette 1 0-0 2; Ramage 2 3-
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Riders

Barnesville claims Class AAA title

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

The stories surrounding the Barnesville Shamrocks are countless.

Maybe it's the fact that they were down by double digits in the regular-season finale and needed a late try to cap the comeback and advance to the championship bracket of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

Or was it the fact that once they got into the tournament they found themselves on the road at a strong Wheeling Central outfit. Check that off the list.

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Senior Chelsey Keylor — who scored only seven points in the game — is the Shamrocks' leader on and off the floor.

"This win is for our entire school and the entire community of Barnesville," she proclaimed during the press conference. "Once we qualified for this the way we did, I think we just felt like we were destined to win. I had an off night, but we've got four other girls on the floor and they stepped it up."

While Lady Riders are disappointed about the outcome, Rid-

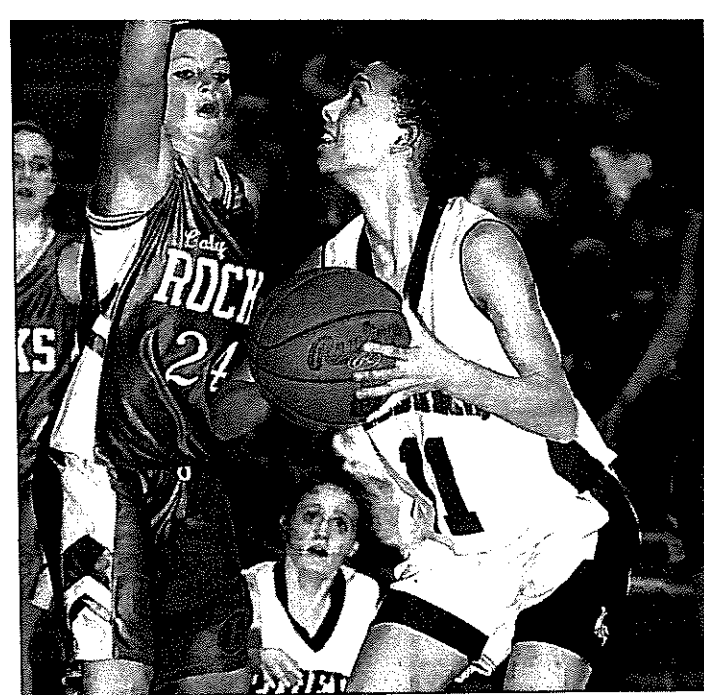


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Lacey Neavin hit two treys for the Purple, while Megan Phillips came into the game for the injured Erica Welch and connected on a trey as well to keep the Riders at bay.

Martins Ferry went cold again in the third period and watched the Shamrocks take total control with a 9-3 period.

"The third quarter has been a problem for us all season," Reasbeck said. "We shot something like 9 of 49 from the floor and the seventh person had five

goals. I think I just want to throw them away and hope it was a fluke."

The Shamrocks finished the deal with a 16-12 fourth period. Doan was again the go-to-person with seven more points. All told, Doan led the way for Barnesville with 16 points.

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M — Burch 1 0-0 3; Vinci 1 0-0 3; Wright 0 0-0 0; Coleman 2 7-8 12; Chambliss 0 0-0 0; Frohpfel 0 2-2 2; Lucas 0 0-0 0; Pamphiss 0 0-0 0; Neavin 5 0-0 13; Moreland 0 0-0 0; Totals: 9 9-10 33.
3-Point Goals: Phillips 3, Kemp, Keylor; Neavin 3, Burch, Vinci, Coleman

captures first girls' championship

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St. John Wins Third in a Row

Kapral: You have to play the games to determine a champ

By KIM NORTH
For the News-Register

It was only fitting that the girls' basketball team with the most Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championships was the first of four crowned on the court Saturday.

Bellaire St. John its 14th Class A title early Saturday morning with a 71-65 come-from-behind victory against Beallsville in the inaugural Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championships at a spacious Ohio University-Eastern venue in St. Clairsville.

The victory raises the Fighting Irish to 18-2 on the season and avenges one of their two regular-season setbacks, that being an 82-75 verdict to the Blue Devils (14-6) in early January at Bellaire.

"This is different," St. John coach Bubba Kapral said. "We've won the last two and more than anyone else, but this one is different because we won it on the court. You have to play these games on the court."

"Playing Beallsville also made it different because we had split with them. This the way to do it. You have to play the games to determine a league champion."

St. John's only other loss may have had something to do with Saturday's outcome as the Irish saw Class AAA tournament champ Barnesville rally from 14 down Wednesday night to post a 72-71 nod.

"You know, that loss might have been a blessing in disguise," added Kapral, who has now won eight OVAC girls titles in his 14 years at St. John.

"We knew what to expect from them," Beallsville coach Terry Jarrett said. "We missed some shots that we usually make and our free throw shooting wasn't what we usually shot. But, hey, they're a great team and hopefully we'll see them down the road."

Beallsville, which entered the contest as the No. 2 seed and routed Bridgeport (80-59) in the semifinals, used a strong first-half showing by senior Savannah Burke to take a 15-12 advantage after one period.

When the 5-foot-11 Burke banked home a basket at the 3:56 mark of the second period, Beallsville had increased its lead to 10, 27-17.

However, the top-seeded Irish weren't about to give up as they turned up the full-court pressure defense a notch or two. The defensive pressure forced the Blue Devils into several turnovers which led to easy baskets.

Seniors Sara Wamsley and Kylie Kidder ignited a 12-0 run that saw all five SJC starters score to put the designated hosts ahead, 29-27, with 21 seconds left in the opening half.

Wamsley started the run with an inside basket and Kelly Perzanowski scored on a layup after charting a steal. Kidder, who was plagued with foul trouble for the most part, followed up a missed shot and then converted a layup after stealing the ball. Natalie Perzanowski meshed a pair of free throws to knot the game, and Kristina Velkovich's inside basket gave the Irish the lead.

Burke's two charity tosses evened the count and a strong inside move by Alyssa Headley put the Blue Devils back on top, 31-29. After Beallsville had taken a 33-30 edge, Wamsley hit a foul shot and then cashed in a 2-pointer with nine seconds remaining to forge a tie at the break.

"There was no sense of urgency at halftime," Kapral said. "There was no yelling or screaming. We knew that we hadn't played our best, and yet we were tied."

The two rivals, who could meet once again in the upcoming sectional tournament, traded points for most of the third period, but the Irish took the lead for good when Natalie Perzanowski's second 3 at 3:27 snapped a 46-all deadlock.

St. John Central closed out

the period on an 8-2 run to lead, 54-48, with 8 minutes left to play.

A quick 6-2 burst to start the final chapter bumped the count to 10 at 60-50, and the Irish used some timely free throw shooting down the stretch for their third straight OVAC crown.

After Beallsville had pulled to within four, 64-60, Natalie Perzanowski meshed three charity tosses and Justene Delman converted both of her attempts.

"These girls are battle tested," Kapral continued.

"They have been there before and have always risen to the top."

Most of the pre-game talk centered on how St. John was going to stop the 1-2 inside punch of the Blue Devils' Burke and Headley, Wamsley and Velkovich held their own, and then some.

While Burke scored a game-high 27 and added 10 rebounds and Headley had 17 points and a game-high 13 boards, the Irish duo combined for 31 points and 23 rebounds.

Wamsley had 25 points and 11 rebounds, while Velkovich added just six points, but pulled down a dozen missed shots. Kidder was charted with five steals, while Natalie Perzanowski added 17 points, four steals and four assists.

Tori Jarrett also reached double figures for the Blue Devils with 11 points.

Beallsville turned the ball over 21 times, six more the St. John.

The two teams are back in action Saturday in Ohio Division IV Sectional Tournament action at Union Local High School. Beallsville tangles with Shadyside at 1 p.m., while St. John faces River at 7 p.m.

OVAC Class A Championship
Bellaire St. John 71, Beallsville 64
Be — Headley 7 3-4 17; Jarrett 4 1-2 11; Burke 9 9-14 27; Arnold 1 1-5 3; Lalathin 1 3-6 5; Fraley 0 0-0 0; Contos 1 0-2; Totals: 23-47 17-31 65.

BSJ — N. Perzanowski 4 7-8 17; K. Perzanowski 3 0-0 6; Wamsley 10 5-8 25; Kidder 2 1-4 5; Velkovich 3 0-0 6; Delman 3 2-3 8; Jenkins 2 0-0 4; Totals: 27-77 15-23 71.

3-Point Goals: Jarrett 2, N. Perzanowski 2.



Ohio University Eastern Campus



Boys' Finals February 9th



At The Finals . . .

One Lucky Fan Will Have The Chance To Win \$25,000 Courtesy of THE HEALTH PLAN

2008 Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships Schedule/Media Coverage

Girls' Finals* - Television Replay Schedule

- A - 10:00am - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Monday, Feb. 4 at 7:00pm
- AA - 1:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 7:00pm
- AAA - 4:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7:00pm
- AAAA - 7:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7:00pm

Boys' Semifinals - Tues., Feb. 5 - played on the home courts of the higher seeds

Boys' Finals* - Sat., Feb. 9 - OUE - all games live on AM 1600 WKKX / www.wkkx.com

- A - 10:00am - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Monday, Feb. 11 at 7:00pm
- AA - 1:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 7:00pm
- AAA - 4:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 7:00pm
- AAAA - 7:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Thursday, Feb. 14 at 7:00pm

* Replays of the Finals will also be available to be seen on Comcast's Video On Demand service.





T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

MONROE CENTRAL captured the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AA girls' basketball championship Saturday with a 66-39 win over Steubenville Catholic. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● Monroe

Continued from Page C1

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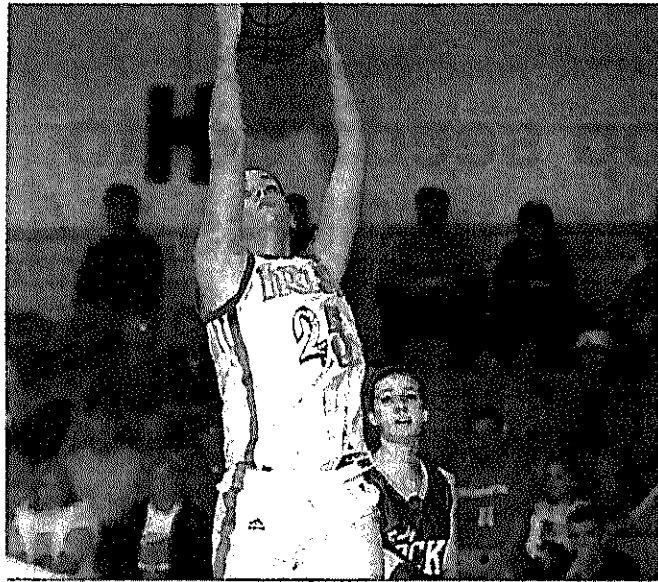
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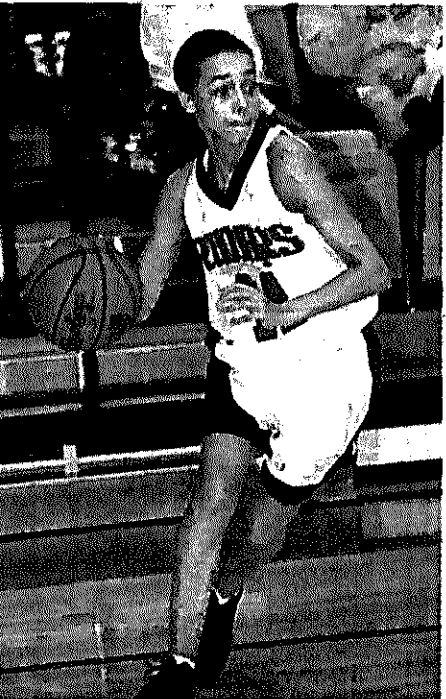
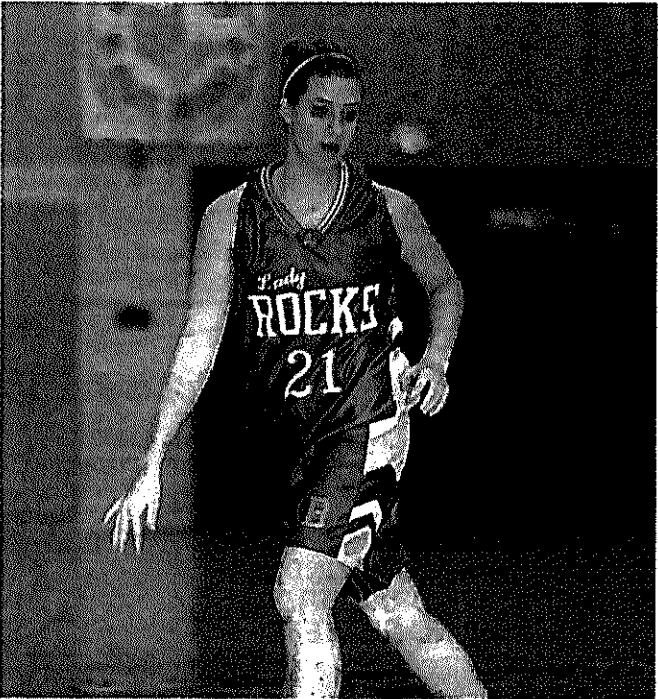
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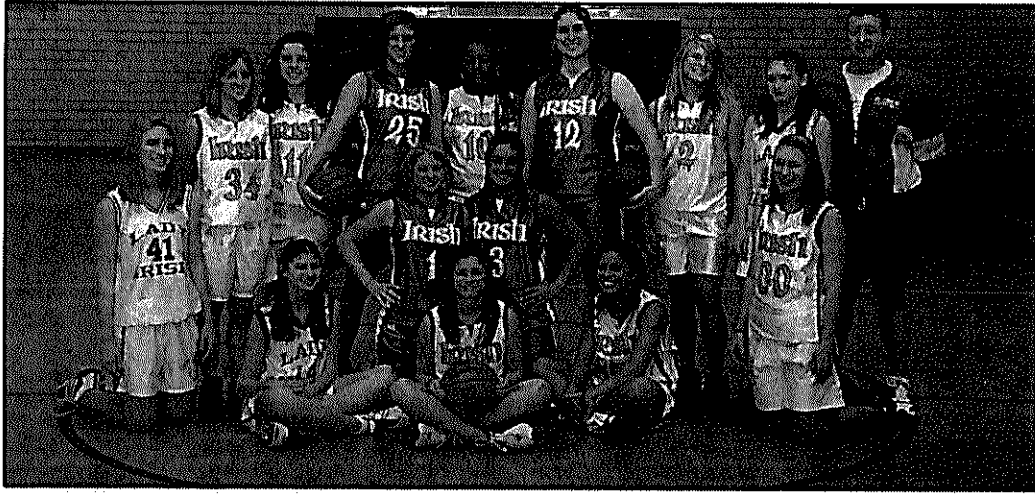
The Times Leader
Friday, February 1, 2008

WHEELING HOSPITAL
**OVAC GIRLS BASKETBALL
CHAMPIONSHIPS**





ST. JOHN FIGHTING IRISH



T-L Photo SETH STASKEY
PICTURED IS the 2007-08 St. John Lady Irish Basketball Team. Sitting in front, from left, are Andrea Timko, Justene Dalman and Kelly Perzanowski. Kneeling, from left, Ellie Lemasters, Kylie Kidder, Natalie Perzanowski and Andrea Lemasters. Standing, in back, from left are, Jacque Flowers, Alexa Macri, Sara Wamsley, Lauren Jenkins, Kristina Velkovich, Kylee Caddell, Emily Hawthorne and head coach Bubba Kapral. Absent was Jordan Nickerson.

Top seeds set to meet in Class 1-A

• St. John, Beallsville meet in Saturday's opener

By **SETH STASKEY**
 Times Leader Sports Editor

When the season began more than two months ago and folks looked at possible matchups for the championship games of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship the St. John and Beallsville girls were the two teams most mentioned.

Now that the championship games are a little less than 24 hours away, the two small

schools left standing after a rigorous regular season chase for the top four and Monday's semi-final games are exactly the two most thought it would be.

The Class 1-A title game between top-seeded St. John and second-seeded Beallsville kick off a full day of championship hoop action when they meet at 10 a.m. in the first of four games at Ohio University-Eastern.

The Lady Irish and Lady Blue Devils will meet for the third time when they lace up Saturday. Each won on the other's court. St. John was a 75-68 victor in Monroe County, while the Lady Blue

See, 1-A, Page 3

ON THE COVER

Pictured are a key player from each of the eight teams. Top row, from left, are Sara Wamsley (St. John), Ginny Pettles (Steubenville CC) and Savannah Burke (Beallsville). Middle row, from left, are Aleisha Guiler (Monroe Central) and Julie Young (4) and Carrie Talkington (44), (John Marshall). Bottom row, from left, are Chelsey Keylor (Barnesville), Courtney Coleman (Martins Ferry) and Meghan Billick (Indian Creek).

T-L Cover Design/Emily Dominici

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**Let's Meet
The Teams**

● 1-A

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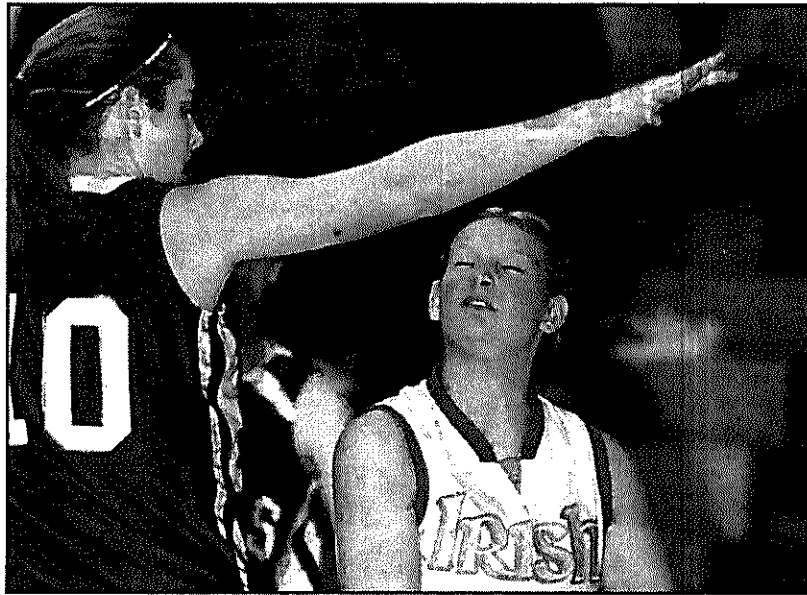
Devils returned the favor in Bellaire early last month by virtue of a 82-75 count.

"Even if we would have won the title under the old format, there would have still been some doubt since we split during the regular season, so fair is fair," said Lady Irish head coach Bubba Kapral who owns seven OVAC Girls Hoop titles already in his 14 years. "We've got no problems with the new system. We relish, embrace and like the new system, and we really believe the two best teams in Class A are left standing."

Beallsville head coach Terry Jarrett had a pretty good feeling that the Lady Irish would be involved and liked his team's chances as well.

"When we won at St. John, our girls said that (St. John's) players said going through the line we'll see you next time, so both teams knew it was going to come to this," Jarrett said. "In all honesty, there's no one we would have rather faced in this than St. John."

While both teams look to play up-and-down games, St. John's takes that philosophy to an extreme. The Lady Irish - using a smothering full-court pressure and stick man-to-man defense - like to force as many turnovers as possible to use the athleticism that earned many of the Green players and



ST. JOHN'S Kylie Kidder drives against Beallsville's Alyssa Headley during a game earlier this season. The same two teams will meet Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Class 1-A finals of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

T-L File Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

ST. JOHN CENTRAL

No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
00	Andrea LeMasters	10	5-7	F
1	Kylie Kidder	12	5-6	G
2	Kylee Caddell	10	5-8	F
3	Natalie Porzanowski	12	5-8	G
4	Justina Delman	11	5-8	G
10	Lauren Jenkins	11	5-7	F
11	Alexa Macri	10	5-6	F
12	Kristina Valkovich	12	6-0	C
13	Andrea Timko	9	5-7	G
15	Kelly Porzanowski	10	5-5	G
25	Sara Wamsley	12	5-9	F
34	Jacque Flowers	10	5-5	G
41	Ellie LeMasters	9	5-9	G
43	Jordan Nickerson	9	5-6	G
44	Emily Hawthorne	9	5-8	G

Head Coach: Robert "Bubba" Kapral
Assistant Coaches: Jim Murad, Miki Murad-Clegg and Dr. Jerry Liberatore
Athletic Director: Donnie Murray
Principal: Marc Kafjcz

BEALLSVILLE

No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
1	Alyssa Tavoletti	9	5-1	G
4	Tori Jarrett	10	5-9	G
10	Alyssa Headley	11	5-11	F
11	Jessica Campbell	9	5-5	G
12	Brandy Conios	11	5-4	G
13	Samantha Stephen	9	5-5	G
15	Lalara Arnold	12	5-2	G
20	Alexis Karzigg	10	5-11	F
22	Martha Koehler	12	5-7	F
24	Kristin Lalathin	11	5-7	G
30	Amanda Fraley	12	5-11	F
32	Savannah Burke	12	5-11	F
34	Stacia Sacrest	9	5-8	F
55	Rebecca Garlick	10	5-7	G

Head Coach: Terry Jarrett
Assistant Coach: Rick Jarrett
Athletic Director: Delmas Moore
Principal: Ryan Caldwell

its coach a state championship ring in track and field.

"If we can do the things we want to do and do the things that got us to where we're at," Jarrett said. "St. John wants to get out and pressure and try to disrupt things as much as possible."

The pressure has been very good to the Irish, but Kapral thinks Saturday's outcome could come down to defending in the half-court set against the Lady Blue Devil bigs, Savannah Burke and Alyssa Headley who have formed one of the most dynamic duos in the area.

"Beallsville's posts are big
See, 1-A, Page 4

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BEALLSVILLE BLUE DEVILS



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
PICTURED IS the 2007-08 Beallsville Lady Blue Devils Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Savannah Bürke, Martha Koehler, Latara Arnold and Amanda Fraley. Middle row, from left, are Tori Jarrett, Kristin Lallathin, Brandy Contos and manager Spencer Jarrett. Back row, from left, are head coach Terry Jarrett, Samantha Stephen, Stacia Secrest Alyssa Headley, Alexis Kanzigg, Jessica Campbell, Rebecca Garlick and assistant coach Rick Jarrett. Absent was manager Troy Hickman.

● 1-A

Continued from Page 3

"Beallsville's posts are big and very talented, but you can't focus totally on them because they have guards who can knock down shots," Kapral offered. "The big key for us being able to play half-court defense because we're not going to be able to turn them over all night long with the press. We've also got to hold our own on the boards."

Burke – a 5-ft-11 swing player – is the team's second-leading scorer and leading rebounder, netting 17.4 points and 15.4 caroms a contest. Headley – who shoots a robust 56 percent from the field – is netting 19.5 points a game and nearly 13 rebounds a contest. She's also the team leader in assists, steals and blocked shots.

"We're more than a one-dimensional team," Jarrett said. "We can do some damage inside and outside, but obviously, we want to get the ball inside and let Savannah and Alyssa go to work. We want to try to get to the line as much as we can because those are where

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● 1-A

Continued from Page 4

games are won." While Burke and Headley draw most of the attention, the Devils also have a solid backcourt with sophomore Tori Jarrett running the show at the top. Latara Arnold is the two-guard for the Blue Devils and averages close to nine points a contest. Jarrett is a 28 percent shooter from deep and nets 11.4 points a game.

The fifth starting spot belongs to defensive ace Kristin Lallathin who scores 6.7 points a game. "We know we have a major test on our hands Saturday," Kapral said. "We've proven (this year) we can play in a half-court game and we're not opposed to that, but our meal ticket is running and using our athleticism."

Martha Koehler, Brandy Contos are the top subs in the backcourt, while senior Amanda Fraley is the top sub on the inside, providing Jarrett with another six-foot frame at his disposal.

"We have to everyone clicking on all cylinders," Jarrett said. "You've got to have everyone doing the things they need to do to get the job done."

The speedy Lady Irish are led by their talented, quick and athletic back-court duo of seniors Natalie Perzanowski and Kylie Kidder.

Perzanowski - a two-event state track champion in distance running - averages 14 points and five steals a game. Kidder - who owns state track gold on a relay team - is the sparkplug on both ends from her point-guard spot. She

nets 13 points and dishes six assists a contest.

"Our guards are athletic and have gotten it done over the course of the entire season," Kapral said.

While the Lady Blue Devils' inside play draws a lot of talk, St. John's boasts athletic interior play as well. Senior Sara Wamsley has taken her game to another level according to her coach. She's leading the squad in scoring at 17 points a night. She also yanks down eight boards.

Senior Kristina Velkovich is a mainstay on the inside, averaging seven points and nine rebounds an outing from her center spot.

"For years we've lived and died with our guards, but we knew we'd have a nice team this year because of the posts we had coming back," Kapral confessed. "We think Sara is one of the premier players in the valley, who's been there night in and night out and Kristina is a post presence who's stepped up well in the back-half of the season."

Sophomore Kelly Perzanowski rounds out the Lady Irish starting lineup. She's a relentless defender and a capable scorer, netting around seven a game.

Coming off the bench, Justene Delman supplies depth in the backcourt, while Lauren Jenkins is another option on the interior for the Green.

Beallsville advanced to the championship by eliminating Bridgeport in a rout and St. John was a big winner over Valley in its semifinal game.

Monroe, Steubenville CC to clash for 2-A title

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

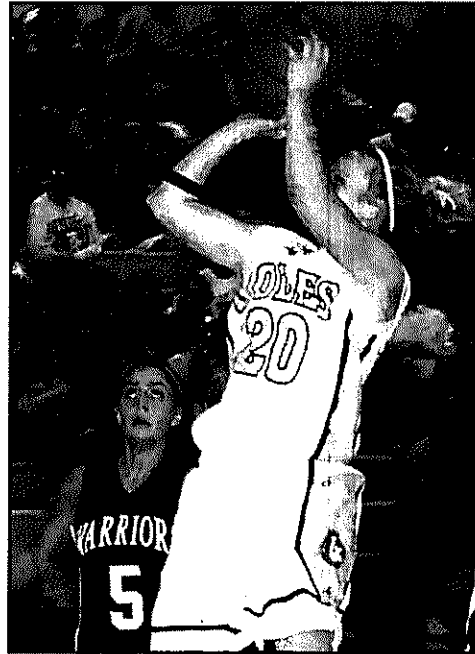
Strangers when we meet. That's basically the scenario regarding Saturday afternoon's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship 2-A title matchup between Monroe Central's Lady Seminoles and the Lady Crusaders of Steubenville Catholic Central.

Monroe and SCC will be meeting for the first time this season and doing so on a neutral floor, the spacious Athletic and Physical Education complex at Ohio University Eastern's rolling campus located west of St. Clairsville.

As fans from both schools might anticipate, Saturday afternoon's (1:00) tipoff appears to be a high-profile encounter involving two teams enjoying banner campaigns.

TROY BAKER'S Lady Noles are a splendid 16-3 with setbacks incurred against Buckeye Trail, Frontier and Magnolia.

"Coming into the season, we



MONROE'S Karlie Davis glides in for a shot earlier this week in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship. The Lady Seminoles will take part in Saturday's Class 2-A final against Steubenville Catholic at 1 p.m.

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

set some fairly high standards," Baker explained. "We wanted to strive for OVAC and PVC (Pioneer Valley Conference) titles. We're thrilled to have

See, 2-A, Page 6

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STEUBENVILLE CENTRAL CATHOLIC



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2007-08 Steubenville Catholic Girls Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Nicole Constantini, Lucia Gonzales, Katie DiPiero, Emily Canella, Kelli Petchal and Anna Marie Pankos. Second row, from left, are head coach Kevin Barr, Ginny Petties, Margaret Beigel, Katrina Fabian, Sarah Marrow, Anna Shaw, Chelsea Hutton, Erica Ledyard, Lindsey Stove and assistant coach Joe Soos. Absent were Abby Sawon and assistant coach Tom Winland.

● 2-A

Continued from Page 5

reached (Saturday's) game. Our kids are excited and our fans throughout the county have been very supportive."

Though relatively unfamiliar with Kevin Barr's Crusaders, Baker realizes the task at hand. "We know they're very deserving of (being here). From scouting reports, we figure to have our hands full. But that's what you'd expect in a game of this caliber."

SCC has Baker's attention following an impressive semifinal nod over Frontier's Cougars. "That tells us all we need to know," Baker commented. "Our goal will be to play strong defensively and hopefully get some good looks at the offensive end."

That was the case earlier this week when Monroe was involved in a wire-to-wire battle against Buckeye Trail at Skyvue before the Noles recorded a 72-64 decision.

"We're a well-rounded team and that showed against Trail," said Baker whose club generated four twin digit scorers in Monday night's victory.

Senior Taylor Jorris, a versatile 5-10 veteran came



TAYLOR JORRIS
Monroe Central

through with a team-leading 23 tallies in that game. "Taylor will have four varsity letters which says something for her ability," Baker observed. "She's a legitimate inside-outside (scoring) threat and creates mismatch problems."

Junior standout Aleshia Guiler is also along for the ride. A starter since her frosh campaign, Guiler has the ability to

See, 2-A, Page 7




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● 2-A

Continued from Page 6

dominate on occasion, reflected by her consistent output at both ends of the floor. The Lady Noles' 5-10 ace nets 18.2 points per game and brings down some 11 boards per start

"Aleshia is such a quality player," Baker notes. "She's a 50 percent shooter from the floor and an adept ball-handler to go with it."

Joining Jorris as the Noles' only other senior is 5-9 Morgen Ramage, a brute force who specializes in inhaling offensive boards, then converting them into putback hoops.

"Morgen's a true blue collar player," Baker indicates. "She really excels as a defender and will likely guard our opponent's top scorer."

The Lady Noles have another gem in 5-7 junior guard Karlie Davis a 10 ppg. performer and owner of a total floor game. "Karlie's fits in so well with our team concept," Baker advised. "She's also been known to battle down low and grab some key boards."

Operating the point for MC is 5-3 junior Kim Lafferre, a slick ball-handler whom Baker asks to distribute the sphere. "Just a very sound floor general and very important to our success," Baker points out.

A pair of key contributors off the bench include junior Justine LaFollette and freshman flash Alex Kuhn.

"Justine's everything you ask in a sixth man role," Baker described. "Her greatest asset is her ability to play three positions. The 5-5 Kuhn has more than come of age, confirmed in Monday's big win against Trail when she connected on a trio of three-point bombs and was a perfect four-of-four in foul shooting. "Alex has earned quality minutes and has a great future in the program," Baker

Let's Meet The Teams

STUEBENVILLE CATHOLIC

No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
2	Sarah Marrow	10	5-8	G
4	Chelsea Hutton	11	5-6	G
10	Abby Sawon	11	5-10	F
12	Kate DiPiero	12	5-5	G
14	Ginny Petties	11	5-7	G
20	Nicole Costantini	9	5-3	G
22	Margaret Beigel	9	5-5	G
24	Emily Canella	11	5-1	G
30	Erica Ladyard	9	5-5	G
32	Kelli Petchal	11	5-0	G
34	Lindsey Slover	9	5-7	F
40	Katrina Fablan	9	5-7	F
42	Anna Shaw	10	5-11	C
44	Lucia Gonzalez	11	5-0	G
52	Anna Marie Panikos	9	5-4	G

Head Coach: Kevin Barr
Assistant Coaches: Joe Soos and Tom Winland
Athletic Director: Steve Daley
Principal: Denise Reinert-McKeown

MONROE CENTRAL

No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
10	Alex Kuhn	9	5-4	G
11	Melissa Slimpert	9	5-5	G
12	Aleshia Guiler	11	5-10	F
14	Kim Lafferre	11	5-2	G
15	Olivia Guiler	11	5-2	G
20	Karlie Davis	11	5-6	G
21	Justine LaFollette	11	5-8	F
22	Morgen Ramage	11	5-9	F
23	Taylor Jorris	12	5-10	F
24	Katie Parks	10	5-5	G
30	Chelsea Robinson	10	5-1	G
32	Christina Parden	10	5-9	F
34	Whitney Marshall	10	5-8	F
40	Brittani Dimmerling	11	5-5	G
44	Laken Zwick	9	5-5	G

Head Coach: Troy Baker
Assistant Coach: Chris Kuhn
Athletic Director: Junior Winland
Principal: Marc Ring

confirmed.

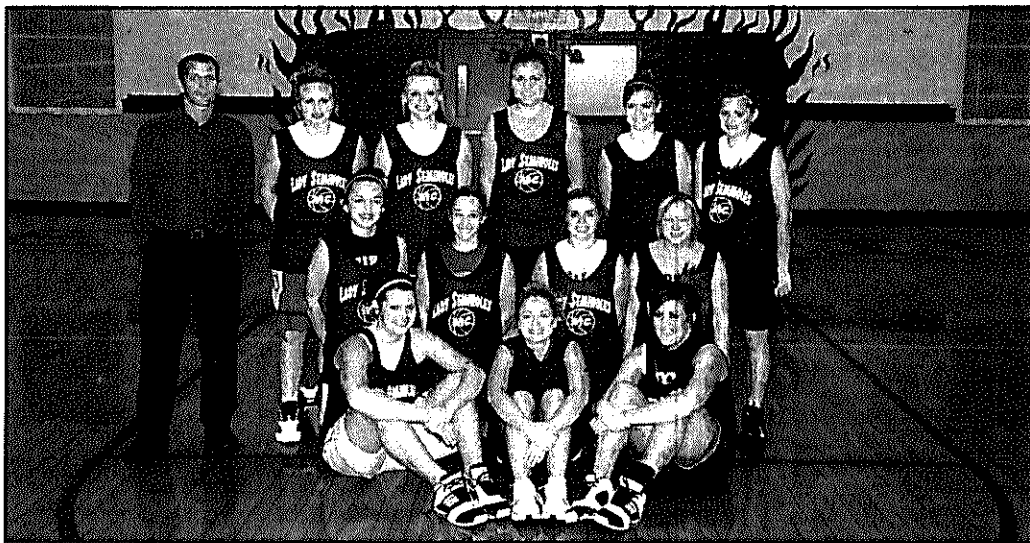
SCC'S Barr has viewed film of Monroe and acknowledges the Noles' exceptional balance. "Monroe has a lot of different ways to beat you," the Crusaders' fourth-year mentor said. "We're going to have to play four solid quarters of defense and hope that's enough."

See, 2-A, Page 15

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MONROE CENTRAL LADY SEMINOLES




T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED IS the 2007-08 Monroe Central Lady Seminoles Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Taylor Jorris, Carly Schwaben and Morgan Ramage. Second row, from left, are Katie Parks, Kim Lafferre, Olivia Guiler and Stephanie Jones. Back row, from left, are head coach Troy Baker, Karlie Davis, Justine LaFollette, Aleisha Guiler, Brittany Dimmerling and Alex Kuhn.


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MARTINS FERRY LADY RIDERS



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
PICTURED IS the 2007-08 Martins Ferry Lady Purple Riders Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Lacey Neavin, Courtney Coleman, Brittany Burch, Karlen Vinci and Kayla Sabatino. Middle row, from left, are Courtney Frohnaphel, Allison Wright, Brianne Lucas, Chalana Chambliss and Cassandra Reasbeck. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Josh Lucas, Mallory Pamphliss, Chelsea Lucas, Shae Moreland, Kylie Clark, manager Pat Jobb and head coach Dave Reasbeck.

Ferry, Barnesville to battle for 3-A title

By **SETH STASKEY**
 Times Leader Sports Editor

Martins Ferry knew for quite sometime coming down the stretch that it was going to be a part of the inaugural championship bracket for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

Barnesville, however, had to scratch and claw down the stretch, including overcome a double-digit second-half deficit during the final night before the cut-off date for games.

No matter how long each team knew it would be a part of the field, it's those teams that will meet Saturday with the Class 3-A title on the line Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. at the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University Eastern.

The Lady Riders come into the game as winners of 10 in a row and own a strong 15-4 mark and already own the Buckeye 8 title, but don't think for a minute that head coach Dave Reasbeck and his relatively young quint are about to

'We have really grown up through the year.'

- Dave Reasbeck

be content.

"We're really playing well and this is another goal for us," Reasbeck said. "We have really grown up during the year and when game time hits we've got girls stepping up, but we've got to keep doing it because one slip up and we're done."

As for the Lady Shamrocks, they underwent a coaching change just before the season started and then found themselves looking up at a double-digit deficit to Shadyside eight days ago and rallied with a buzzer-beating trey to qualify for the championship bracket.

"Give all of the credit to the girls because they never quit," said first-year Lady Shamrocks' coach Jamie Carpenter who coached most of the upperclassmen on his roster during their junior high days. "They knew we had to beat Shadyside to even get in and then we went blindly into Wheeling Central and (the girls) just showed up and played from within."

The Lady Riders reached this point in the OVAC Tournament after hammering St. Clairsville Monday night at the Tolbert Gymnasium, while the Lady Shamrocks were a double-digit winner over the Lady Maroon Knights.

"Barnesville isn't here by

See, 3-A, Page 9

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Let's Meet The Teams

● 3-A

BARNESVILLE

No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
3	Allison Plumly	11	5-8	G
5	Megan Kemp	12	5-5	G
10	Megan Phillips	11	5-8	G
12	Kelsey Bahmer	12	5-7	F
14	Jenna Miller	11	5-6	F
21	Chelsey Keylor	12	5-8	G
23	Erica Welch	12	5-5	G
24	Allie Doan	12	5-7	F
31	Akora Moore	12	5-10	F
32	Sarah Phillips	11	5-8	F
35	Kata Grimes	11	5-10	C
40	Mariah Miller	10	5-5	G
42	Heidi Hines	9	5-7	G
44	Leah Bettinger	12	5-11	C

Head Coach: Jamie Carpenter
 Assistants: Justin Little, Jeff Hunkler, Kelley Hanlon.
 Athletic Director: Mark Cook
 Principal: Jeff Crozier

MARTINS FERRY

No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
3	Brittany Burch	12	5-8	G
4	Kylie Clark	10	5-8	G
5	Karen Vinci	11	5-5	G
10	Allison Wright	11	5-6	G
11	Courtney Coleman	11	5-6	G
12	Chalana Chambless	11	5-5	G
13	Courtney Frohnapple	10	5-6	F
20	Brianna Lucas	11	6-0	F
21	Kayla Sabatino	9	5-4	G
22	Mallory Pamphisa	10	5-10	F
23	Lacey Neavin	10	5-5	G
25	Shae Moreland	11	6-2	C
31	Cassandra Reasbeck	10	5-6	F
35	Chelsea Lucas	9	5-8	F

Head Coach: Dave Reasbeck
 Assistant Coaches: Josh Lucas, Greg Harkness
 Athletic Director: Dave Bruney
 Principal: Jeff Oberick

Continued from Page 8
 accident," Reasbeck said. "Even though not many people gave them a chance last Monday, I really felt they would beat Wheeling Central. I really expected to be playing them."

Martins Ferry and Barnesville don't meet in the regular season, but the two squads have a history. The Lady Shamrocks took the Purple out in last year's Division III sectional and if each team wins next Wednesday they'll meet again for the sectional title.

"I don't know a lot about Martins Ferry," Carpenter confessed. "We've seen a little bit of tape on them. We're going into this game basically the same way we've gone into the last few. Hopefully, it continues to work."

Reasbeck vividly remembers last year's sectional finale

for his squad and notices a lot of the same names as he looks up and down the roster for the western Belmont Countians.

"They have basically the same team back," Reasbeck said. "They shoot the ball really well from the perimeter and they are probably the best foul-shooting team in the valley, so we know what they are capable of."

The Lady Shamrocks boast four starters who score double figures for the season.

Senior Allie Doan leads the way for Barnesville in the scoring column. She's a bit undersized for her position, but she's athletic and scores 15 points a contest, while grabbing 11

boards. "Allie's amazing," Carpenter said. "I have never seen a girl work as hard as she does. At her size to average 11 rebounds a game is nothing but

hard work." Senior Chelsey Keylor has been a four-year mainstay for the Lady Shamrocks. She's averaging a shade under 15

See, 3-A, Page 10



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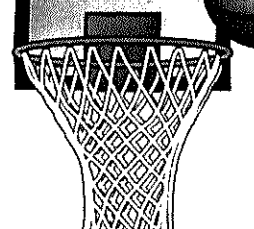
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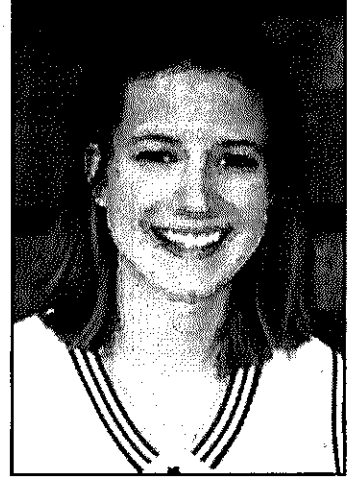
BARNESVILLE SHAMROCKS



T-L Photo/RICH GIBSON
PICTURED IS the 2007-08 Barnesville Shamrocks Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Leah Bittinger, Kelsey Bahmer, Allie Doan, Erica Welch, Chelsey Keylor, Megan Kemp and Alora Moore. Back row, from left, are head coach Jamie Carpenter, Allison Plumly, Sarah Phillips, Kate Grimes, Megan Phillips, Jenna Miller and assistant coach Justin Little.



BRITTANY BURCH
Martins Ferry



CHELSEY KEYLOR
Barnesville

● **3-A**

Continued from Page 9

points a game and shoots an astounding 98 percent at the foul line, having missed only one in 66 attempts. If she continues her trend and can get to the line at least 14 more times before the Lady Shamrocks' season ends she'll qualify for an OHSAA record.

"Chelsey is the leader of our team," Carpenter said. "She's not afraid to voice her opinion in practice and the other girls listen to her. She's been a phenomenal player for four years for us."

The Lady Shamrocks' offense is spearheaded by Megan Kemp who runs the point. She's scoring nearly 10

points a game as is guard Erica Welch. The final starting spot belongs to Leah Bettinger who's scores just over four points a game.


Kelsey Bahmer is the top sub for the Lady Shamrocks. Others who see significant minutes are Mariah Miller, Megan Phillips and Hidie Hines.

"Barnesville is a perimeter based team, so we'll have to rebound the ball well," Reasbeck said. "We also know we can't get into foul trouble. We've got to play our game, do what we've done the past 10 games and see what happens from there."

The Lady Riders are actually a perimeter based team as well, but offer up one of the area's most prolific defensive players on the interior with junior pivot Shae Moreland who stands 6-ft-2. She's averaging

See, 3-A, Page 11

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● 3-A

Continued from Page 10

four blocks a game along with seven points and eight rebounds.

In the backcourt, the Lady Riders rely on senior Brittany Burch who's stepped up a notch this season. She's scoring 11.4 points a game and has cashed a team-high 33 treys. Junior Courtney Coleman leads the Lady Purple in scoring with 13 points a contest.

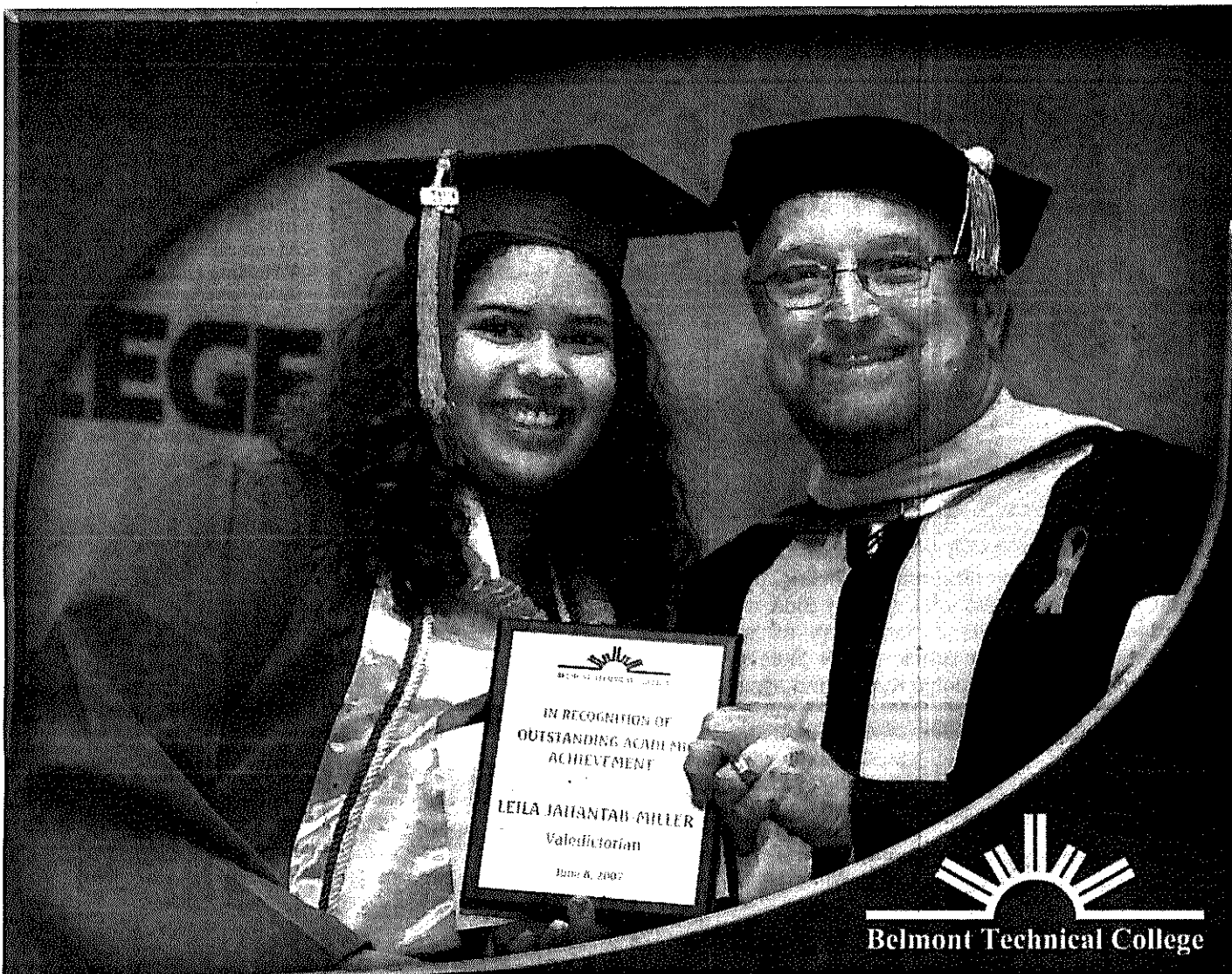
Junior Karlen Vinci is the Lady Riders' defensive stopper and also their heart-and-soul on the court. She's scoring just 7.4 points a game and has 22 treys this season.

"I wouldn't trade those three guards for any backcourt in the valley," Reasbeck said. "They are getting better and better each game, and I can't say enough about them because they are doing a great job."

Courtney Frohnapple rounds out the Lady Riders' starting lineup. She nets 4.6 points a contest and is another strength on the defensive end. Sophomores Briana Lucas and Lacey Neavin are the Lady Riders' top subs.

"Our goal is to defend the three because I think they like to drive and kick," Carpenter said. "We have to be able to handle their pressure and not turn the ball over. Once we do those things, I think we can hang in there."

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com



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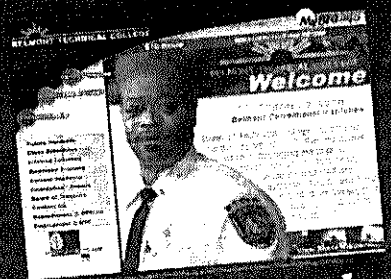
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INDIAN CREEK REDSKINS



Photo Courtesy/PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORGE

PICTURED IS the 2007-08 Indian Creek Girls Basketball Team. Sitting, from left, are Alyssa Tate and Allyson Moorman. Kneeling, from left, are Ashten Gibson, Gabbi Davis, Hannah Ross, Kristin Wendell, Alanna Sida and Mikki Davis. Standing, from left, are head coach Erin DeSantis, Brittany Vella, assistant coach Gene Evans, Emily Mathieu, Chelsea Furda, Meghan Billick, Trudy Dulevy, Mariah Guisto, Briana Kamarec, Ty Harris, Rachel Ossieo, Andolyn Kugler and assistant coach Ray Case.

Indian Creek, JM battle in 4-A game

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Youth will be served Saturday night at Ohio University-Eastern when Indian Creek and John Marshall collide for the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's inaugural girls Class 4-A basketball tournament championship.

The top-seeded Redskins (16-3) of head coach Erin DeSantis are in the midst of a superb season despite starting four sophomores and a freshman. Meanwhile, the No. 2 seed Monarchs (11-6), coached by the legendary Stan Blankenship, have just one senior among its starting five.

"I'm pleasantly surprised," DeSantis said of her team's success. "At the beginning of the season it's always one of your goals to get here, especially since it is the first year, but to actually be here with this group of girls is ecstatic."

Blankenship echoed his counterpart's thoughts.

"I'm excited to be here. I

think it's a great thing," said the veteran JM mentor who has amassed over 500 career victories to rank No. 1 in the state of West Virginia among girls' coaches. "Tom (Rataiczak) does a great job for the OVAC."

However, Blankenship does have one concern, albeit it a minor one.

"I've told people this all along," he continued. "You could end up playing a team four times in one season. That's the only thing I don't like about the format and I'm a great supporter of the OVAC."

Indian Creek advanced to the championship tilt with a 49-39 verdict over Brooke Monday night, while John Marshall defeated Edison, 71-60.

The Redskins established a school record for wins in a season this year. "We've won more games this season than we have the last five years," DeSantis remarked. "We started five freshmen at the end of last season, but I knew it would

See, 4-A, Page 13

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● 4-A

Continued from Page 12

pay off in the long run. We're probably a year away from reaching our potential, but this group doesn't think there's anything they can't accomp

Blankenship said both teams are where they should be.

"Our program speaks for itself over the years," he noted. "Believe me, I think we deserve to be here, and so does Indian Creek or neither one of

Both coaches like the matchups the game should provide. "We match up well," Blankenship added. "We're both very young and I think it will be a great game. Guard-wise we both shoot about the same. They like to shoot the

three and so do we. They also have an excellent point guard and we'll have to contain her in order to be successful."

The long-time bench boss was referring to Tyler Harris, a 5-ft.-5 sophomore who averages a team-high 10.4 points a game. She also leads the team with 102 assists and 79 steals, while hauling down 48 rebounds — with 27 of them coming on the offensive end of the court.

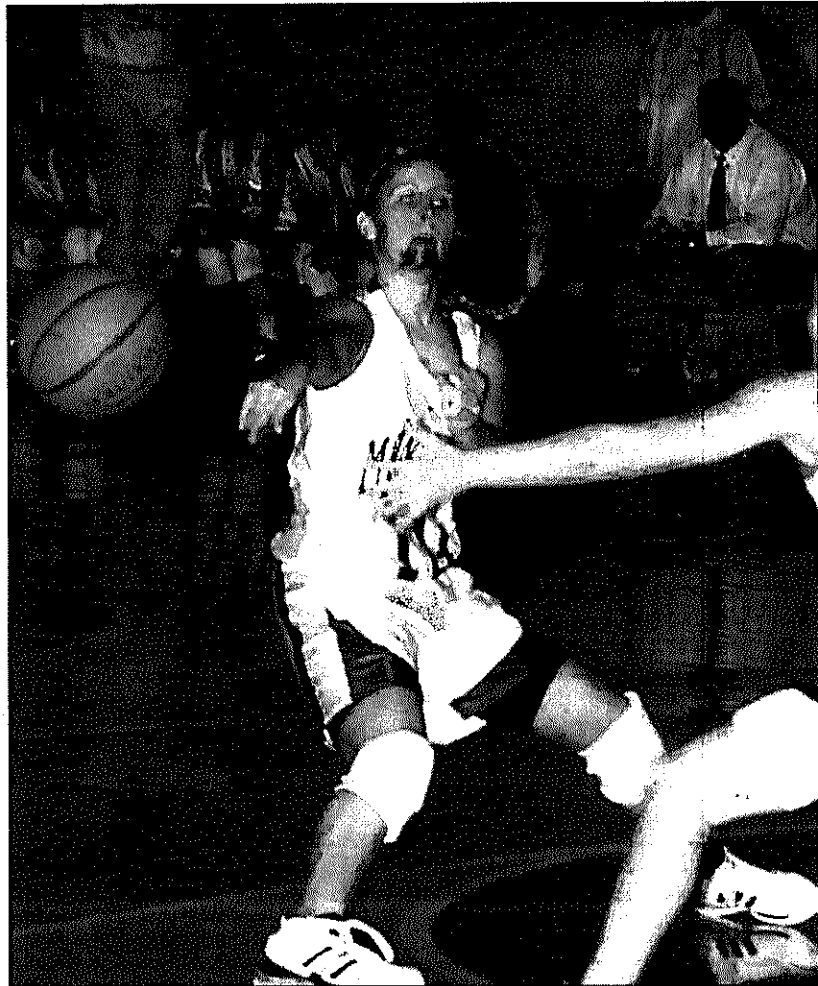
In addition, she shoots 39.5 percent from the floor (53-of-134) and 37.8 percent (20-of-53) from beyond the three-point arc.

Other sophomore starters include the Davis twins — 5-ft.-5 Gabbi and 5-ft.-6 Mikki — who both score at a 9.7 clip per outing, 5-ft.-11 Meghan Billick and 5-ft.-10 freshman Briana Kamarec.

Billick averages 8.8 points a game and leads the team with 138 rebounds, while Kamarec is a 7.1 point-per-game scorer who is also the second leading rebounder with 71.

The Redskins shoot 41 per-

See, 4-A, Page 14



JOHN MARSHALL'S Hanna Gossett makes a pass during a game earlier this season. The Lady Monarchs are scheduled to meet Indian Creek in the Class 4-A championship at Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship at OUE.

T-L File Photo

Let's Meet The Teams

INDIAN CREEK

No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
3	Chelsea Furda	10	5-8	F
4	Briana Kamarec	9	5-10	G
5	Alyssa Talo	12	5-8	F
10	Mikki Davis	10	5-6	G
11	Gabbi Davis	10	5-5	G
12	Emily Mathieu	9	5-5	G
13	Alliana Sida	10	5-5	G
14	Rachel Ossio	9	5-3	G
21	Hannah Ross	10	5-8	F
22	Trudy Dunlevy	10	5-3	G
23	Marin Gulsto	9	5-11	F
25	Alyson Moorman	12	6-1	F
31	Kristin Wendell	10	5-7	G
32	Tyler Harris	10	5-5	G
33	Brittany Vella	9	5-2	G
34	Ashlen Gibson	9	5-6	G
42	Andolyn Kugler	9	5-8	F
43	Meghan Billick	10	5-11	F

Head Coach: Erin DeSantis
Assistant Coaches: Gene Evans, Ray Case
Athletic Director: Jack Rowe
Principal: John Craig

JOHN MARSHALL

No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
4	Julia Young	10	5-10	G
10	Hanna Gossett	10	5-6	G
11	Alagra Gossett	9	5-5	G
15	Alyssa Leach	9	5-7	G
20	Alexis Brinkman	11	5-6	G
24	Ashley Deal	11	5-9	F
31	Lindsey McCool	11	5-10	F
34	Aubrei Clegg	11	5-10	F
44	Carna Takington	12	6-0	F
50	Rebecca Kelch	10	5-10	F
52	Deanna Gamble	11	5-7	G

Head Coach: Stan Blankenship
Assistant Coaches: Mandy Yoho, Mark McCormick and Stuart Rynkiewicz
Athletic Director: Chuck Duckworth
Principal: Thomas N. Wood

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JOHN MARSHALL MONARCHS



Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2007-08 John Marshall Lady Monarchs Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Hanna Gossett, Alexis Brinkman, Devon Leonard, Jessica Hays, Carrie Talkington, Aubrei Clegg and Julie Young. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Mark McCormick, head coach Stan Blankenship, Deanna Gamble, Ashley Deel, Haley Rush, Becca Kelch, Lindsey McCool, assistant coaches Mindy Yoho and Stu Rynkievich.

● 4-A

Continued from Page 13

The Redskins shoot 41 percent from the floor as a team, 58 percent from the free throw line and average 52.1 points a contest.

DeSantis knows that Saturday night's finals won't be a walk in the park.

"They are always a seasoned team," she pointed out. "He (Coach Blankenship) works those girls hard in practice and they're a physical team that likes to get the ball in low. We will have our work cut out for us, but the kids are ready to step up to the challenge."

John Marshall has had to play the second half of its season without its top player - senior Jessica Hays who suffered a torn ACL around the 10th game.

"That was a big adjustment for us," he said of JM's latest 1,000-point scorer.

"It took us a while to get regrouped. When you lose a player of that caliber it's hard to adjust, but we have and it's time to move on."

She'll be there to support us."

Taking over the brunt of the scoring has been Julie Young and Aubrei Clegg. Young, a 5-

ft.-10 sophomore, leads JM with a 13.9 scoring norm, just one-tenth of a point better than the the 5-ft.-10 junior Clegg, who leads the team in rebounding with 136.

Young has grabbed 100 boards.

Hanna Gossett, a 5-ft.-6 sophomore, averages 8.1 points a contest and leads the squad with 76 dishouts. She also has landed 61 rebounds and charted 30 steals.

Alexis Brinkman, a 5-ft.-6 junior, adds 7.1 points a contest and has a team-high 44 steals, while Carrie Talkington, a 6-ft. senior, averages 5.9 points, has 94 rebounds and has swatted away 32 shots.

John Marshall averages 60.7 points a game.

Not only will the Monarchs be attempting to win another OVAC title, they are also the lone team representing the Mountain State.

"There's always a rivalry between Ohio and West Virginia in whatever sport. It's great to represent the state of West Virginia," Blankenship concluded.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

Fans offered reminders for Saturday's finals

The Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship has established some guidelines for Saturday's finals that fans should be aware

of. The schedule of games is as follows: Class 1-A - 10 a.m.; Class 2-A - 1 p.m.; Class 3-A - 4 p.m.; Class 4-A - 7 p.m.

The cost of admission is \$6 if bought at the gate. Each school received advance ticket sales and the cost of those is \$3 for students and \$4 for adults. The gymnasium at Ohio University Eastern will be See, REMINDERS, Page 15

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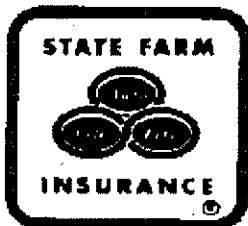
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● 2-A

Continued from Page 7

Catholic Central presents a relatively young, yet highly capable roster led by junior star Ginny Petties. A 20.3 ppg. scorer as a sophomore, the savvy Petteis has elevated her play to an even higher level this winter.

"I've been around girls' basketball a few years and Ginny is one of the finest I've witnessed," Barr declared. "She's a big-time scorer (23.0 ppg this year), but so much more. We're fortunate to have her here at Central."

Petties has a distinguished surrounding cast fronted by senior co-captain Katie DiPiero, a two-year letterwinner. "She's our only senior and has been a stabilizing force," Barr revealed. DiPiero, a capable perimeter threat, nets just under eight marker per start.

Juniors Kelly Petchal (5-5) and Emily Canella (5-1) also bring much to the table. "Kelly's our quickest defensive player and has become a consistent scorer," Barr said. Petchal popped in 10 tallies in SCC's 68-58 semifinal nod over Frontier.

The diminutive Canella can

score beyond the arc and can prove difficult to defend, according to her coach.

Catholic Central has a rising sophomore in 5-11 post Anna Shaw, coming off a monster performance (19 points, 13 boards) vs. Frontier.

"For her age, Anna possesses good mobility," Barr offered. Through 19 games, Shaw is averaging 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Junior Abby Sawon should also make her presence felt. A two-year letter winner, she contributes six points per outing to the Crusaders' attack. Barr also speaks highly of 5-9 sophomore wing Sarah Morrow.

It should be noted three of SCC's losses were inflicted by a single point.

Barr also points out the Lady Crusaders have faced a formidable schedule, opposing the likes of Beaver Local,

Brooke, Claymont, Indian Valley, and crosstown rival Steubenville Big Red. "I think our schedule prepared us to reach this point," he stated.

Like Baker, Barr speaks highly of the new OVAC post-season format. "Now, the conference will crown a true champion as opposed to a paper champion," he remarked. "I feel this is a win-win situation for everyone involved."

● Reminders

Continued from Page 14

cleared after each game.

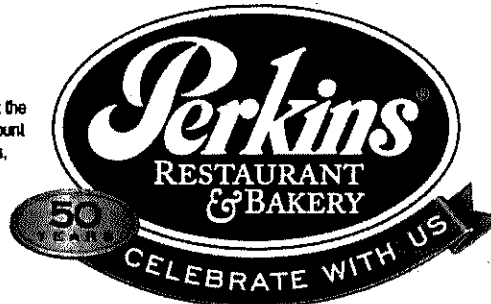
If you plan on attending just one game, fans are asked to show up no earlier than hour-and-a-half prior to your tip. The gates for the proceeding game will open an hour ahead of time and with the hopes of easing the traffic burden at OUE, fans are being asked to report at those times.

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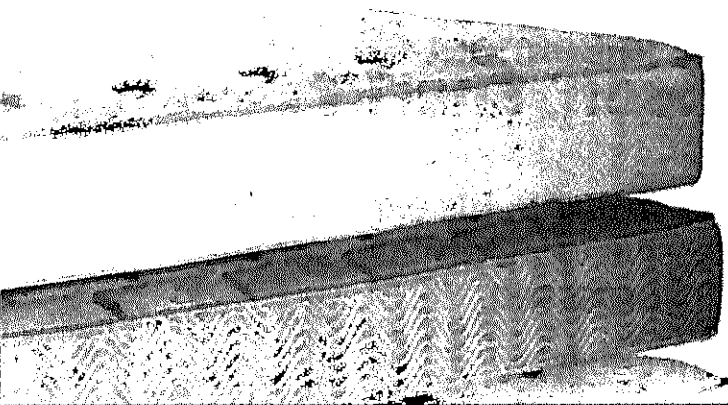
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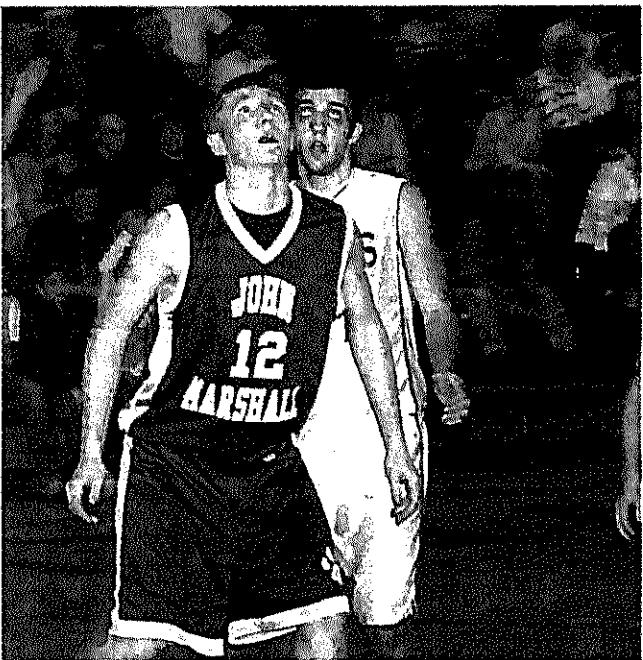
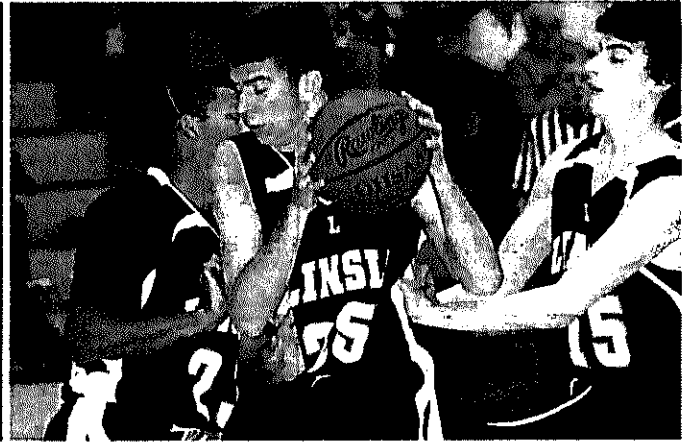
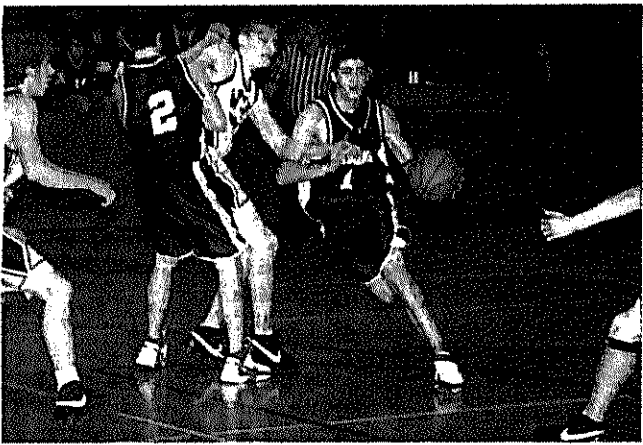
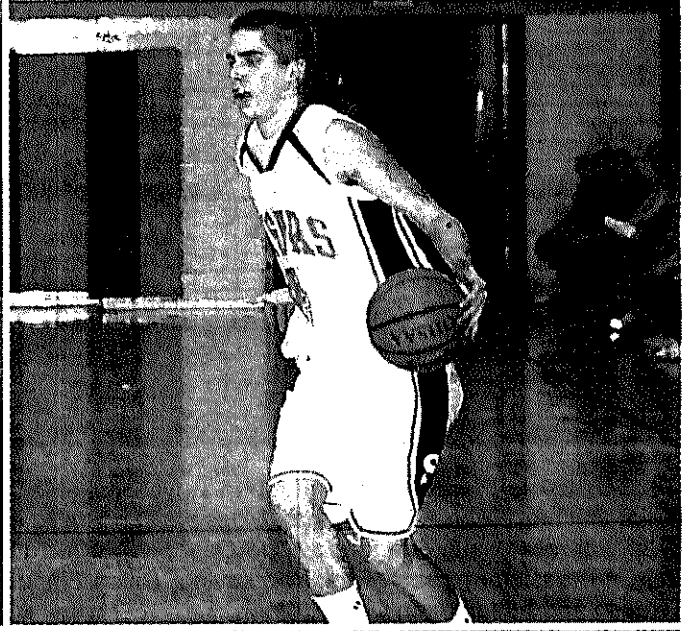
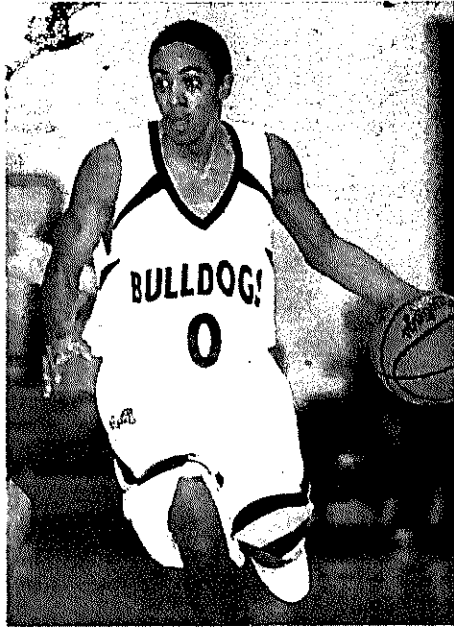
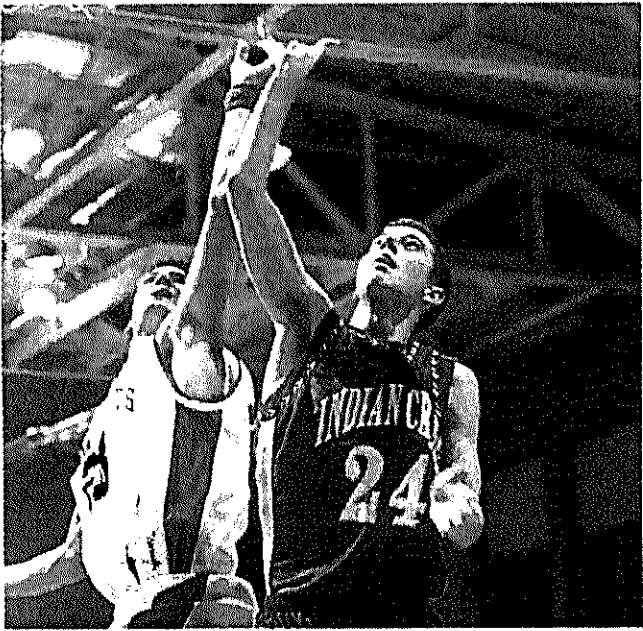
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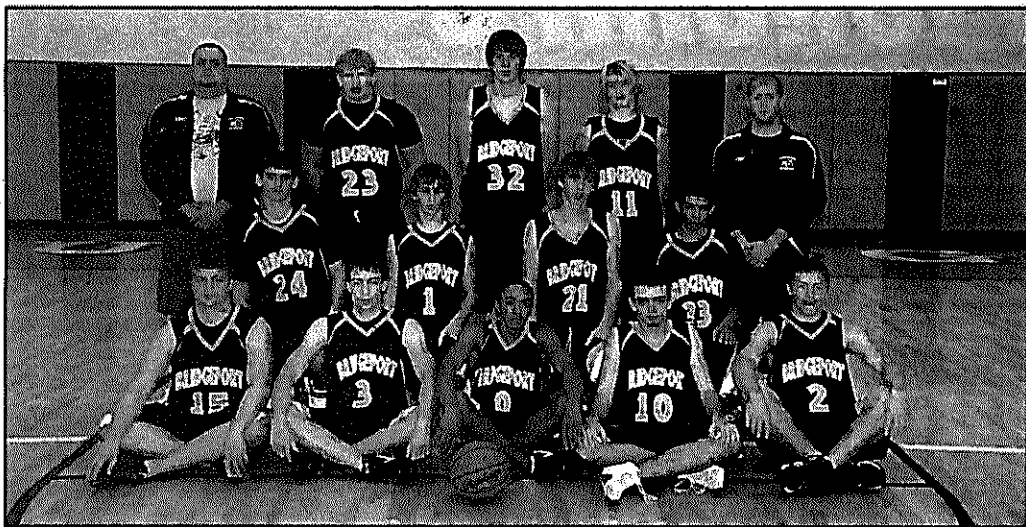


BRIDGEPORT BULLDOGS

Bridgeport hopes third time's a charm vs. Weir Madonna

• Bulldogs, Blue Dons meet Saturday at 1 p.m. for OVAC Class 1-A crown

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED is the 2007-08 Bridgeport Boys Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Mike Bachle, Ryan Kreiter, Chaz Lindsey, Zac Smith and Danny Lennex. Middle row, from left, are Justin Gregorcic, Kyle Cash, Mike Carr and Tre Lindsey. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Rick Yourkovich, Dillon Lipperman, Jonas Schneider, Timmy Tracey and head coach Donnie Cash.

Bridgeport has won six of its last seven boys' basketball games.

The lone blemish – a 71-49 defeat at the hands of Weirton Madonna a week ago on Frank Baxter Court in the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium.

Well, the No. 2 seeded Bulldogs (11-7) will get a chance to exact some revenge Saturday when they meet the top-seeded Blue Dons (13-5) for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class A Championship. Tip-off is set for 1 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern. The time is a change from the original time due to a conflict with another school.

In fact, Weirton Madonna owns a pair of regular-season victories over third-year head coach Donnie Cash's squad as they posted a 69-52 win on Jan. 11 in Weirton.

"We're not even thinking about those two games," said Weirton Madonna assistant coach Justin Shepard, who was

'They are a really special group of kids and for them to be playing for the OVAC championship is something special.'

– Donnie Cash

filling in for head coach George Vargo at the mid-week press conference. "Both of those games were single-digit games entering the fourth quar-

See, 1-A, Page 3

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ON THE COVER

PICTURED are a key player for each of the eight teams competing this weekend. Top row, from left, are Jim Wood (Indian Creek), Chaz Lindsey (Bridgeport) and Jared Andes (Shadyside). Second row, from left, are Corey Hirkala (Madonna) and Vincent Tennant (Linsly). Bottom row, from left, are Kenny Shepherd (John Marshall), D'Onte Long (Wheeling Central) and Anthony Vincent (St. Clairsville).

Cover Design/EMILY DOMINICI
Tab Design/SETH STASKEY

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Class 4-A.....12

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Continued from Page 2

ter, so they have played us tough."

Cash had nothing but praise for the opposition, saying "we've got to get out on their shooters. They really hurt us from the perimeter in both previous games with the (Sal) Conti and (John) McCune kids. They shoot it really well. They're good shooters."

So how does Cash and his troops plan on stopping the Blue Dons?

"Hopefully we can make them drive to the basket and then take that away," he noted. "We're going to sit down with the kids and go over the film and see if we can break them down a little bit more."

Bridgeport advanced to the championship tilt with a 66-29 blowout of No. 3 seed Valley Tuesday night, while Weirton Madonna moved on with a narrow, 43-40, victory over fourth-seeded Zanesville Rosecrans.

"I've been with this group since they were freshmen," Cash said of his squad. "I coached them as freshmen and then I got the job as head coach the next year. I watched them in junior high and they didn't win a game, so this is really special to be playing for the OVAC title."

"They are a really special group of kids," he went on. "For them to be playing for the OVAC championship is something special."

While the Bulldogs have been pretty good down the stretch, the Blue Dons have nine of their last 11 contests, with the two setbacks coming

to Hancock County rivals Weir and Oak Glen.

"Our kids have played well all season," Shepard said. "They are happy to be playing for the OVAC title."

Bridgeport is led by the senior inside-outside duo of Mike Bachie and Chaz Lindsey. Bachie, a 6-ft.-3 workhorse, scores at a 12.9 clip, just one-tenth of a point better than the 6-ft. cat-quick Lindsey.

"Mike has been solid all season long," Cash remarked. "He's averaging a double-double."

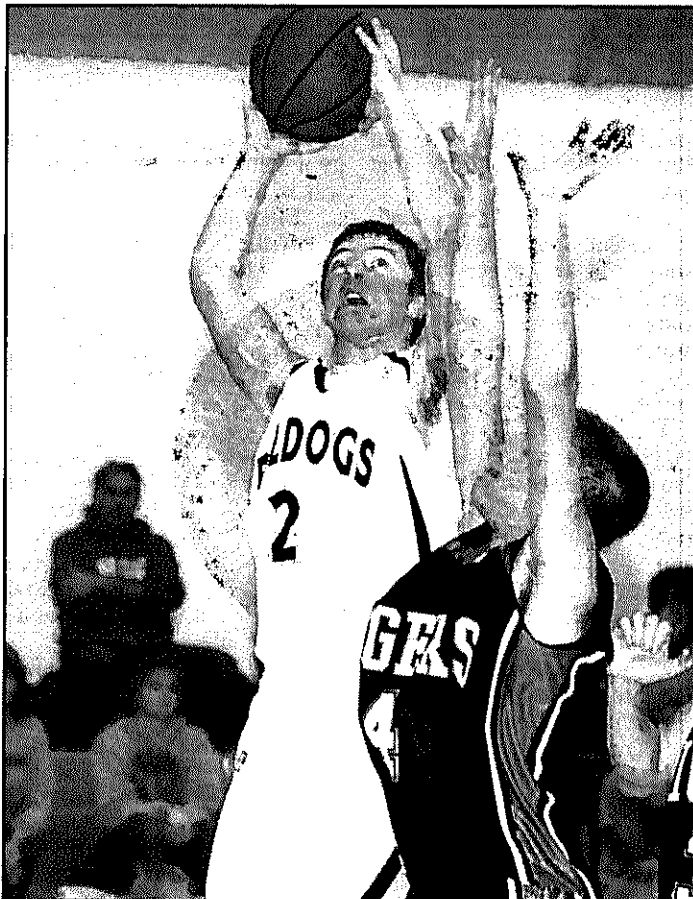
However, if it had not been for a long talk between the coach and center, Bachie might not even be on the floor.

"He was real iffy about playing this season," said his head coach. "I sat down with him and we talked. I told him that if he gave it one more chance that we would win an OVAC title and he said 'OK.'"

In addition to his team-leading scoring total, Bachie also pulls down 11 rebounds a contest.

Cash had said following

See, 1-A, Page 4



T-L FILE PHOTO

BRIDGEPORT'S Danny Lennex glides in for a shot in a game earlier this season against Shadyside. Lennex and the Bulldogs will meet Madonna for the OVAC 1-A title Saturday.

Let's Meet The Teams

WEIRTON MADONNA

No	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
1	Corey Hirkala	12	6-4	F
2	Justin Kendrick	12	6-1	G
3	Robert Parkins	11	6-0	G
4	Joe Capito	11	6-0	G
10	Jarred Magnone	11	5-9	G
12	John McCune	12	5-11	G
15	James McFadden	10	5-8	G
21	Anthony Pietranton	11	6-1	F
22	Sal Contil	11	6-0	G
24	Patrick McCune	9	6-0	G
25	Conner Arlia	9	5-7	G
44	Matt McFadden	12	6-8	C

Head Coach: George Vargo
Assistant Coaches: Michael Spinella, Justin Shepard, Dennis Peterson, Duff Birkheimer, Chris Blair

Athletic Director: Michael Arlia
Principal: Dr. Cathy Sistiilli

BRIDGEPORT

No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
0	Chaz Lindsey	12	5-10	G
1	Kyle Cash	11	5-9	G
2	Danny Lennex	12	6-4	F
3	Ryan Kreiter	12	6-0	G
5	Davy Johnson	11	6-0	G
10	Zac Smith	12	6-0	G
11	Timmy Tracey	10	6-1	G
12	Tre Lindsey	9	5-9	G
15	Michael Bachie	12	6-3	F
21	Michael Carr	11	6-3	F
23	Dillon Lipperman	10	6-1	F
24	Justin Gregoric	11	6-1	G
32	Jonas Schneider	11	6-5	F
33	Nate Maleski	10	6-1	G

Head Coach: Donnie Cash
Assistant Coaches: Rick Yourkovich and Nate Brinker
Athletic Director: Doug Tush
Principal: Rob Zitzelsberger

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● 1-A

Continued from Page 32

"Chaz has improved so much since his freshman year with his jumper and ballhandling. He came on the scene late as a sophomore and has started ever since."

Besides scoring 12.8 points an outing, Lindsey distributes the ball to teammates for scoring chances and also leads the team in steals, with many leading to coast-to-coast layups.

However, the two aren't the only weapons Cash has in his arsenal as Ryan Kreiter, Danny Lennex and Justin Gregoric all contribute in different ways.

"Ryan, Danny and Justin are all great kids," Cash noted. "They may not score the points

that Mike and Chaz do, but they do the intangibles that make us better."

Gregoric, the 'Dogs leading threat from beyond the three-point arc, averages 8.4 points per contest, while Lennex adds 7.6 and Kreiter 6.1.

The Bulldogs also receive fine efforts from freshman Tre Lindsey and junior Mike Carr off the bench. Lindsey, the cousin of

Chaz, scores 5.8 points an outing, while Carr averages 2.4.

"Tre has adapted real well this season," his coach said. "He fits right in with this group because being Chaz's cousin,

he has been playing in the open gym with these kids since he was in the fifth grade.

"Mike has been a spark for us off the bench in the second half of the season and he is looking for more playing time, not just this season but next year as well."

Cash said for his team to have a chance they need to keep the game as low scoring as possible.

"We want quality possessions each time we have the basketball. They

(Madonna) like to push the ball up court and would probably like it to be a high scoring game. However, we need to

keep it in the 50s or 60s for us to win."

Conti, a 6-ft. junior, leads the Blue Dons with a 17.2 point average, which also tops all small school performers in the Ohio Valley. Corey Hirkala adds 14.3, McCune 14.2 and Justin Kendrick 10.

Hirkala, a 6-ft.-4 senior, grabs just under 10 rebounds per contest, while the 6-ft.-1 Kendrick adds six boards a game.

Shepard says Kendrick's status is questionable as he missed three games last week with a 100-degree temperature. He then missed the semifinal against Rosecrans due to the death of his grandmother.

"It's been a tough week-and-a-half for Justin," Shepard added.

Conti has led the Blue Dons in scoring in seven contests, including a season-high 28 in the last victory over the Bulldogs. McCune has also been his team's top scorer in seven games and has a season-high of 24.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

Past OVAC Hoop Champs

- 1944: A—Warwood; AA—Martins Ferry, Floyd Baker
- 1945: A—Warwood; AA—Linsly
- 1946: A—Warwood; AA—Weir
- 1947: A—Union; AA—Wellsburg
- 1948: A—Yorkville; AA—Wheeling Central
- 1949: A—Union; AA—Wheeling Central
- 1950: A—Union; AA—Wheeling Central
- 1951: A—Magnolia; AA—Wheeling Central
- 1952: A—Union; AA—Wheeling Central
- 1953: A—Union; AA—Bellaire, Claire Cribbs
- 1954: A—Shadyside, Richard Ericson; AA—Moundsville
- 1955: A—Shadyside, Richard Ericson; AA—Wheeling
- 1956: A—St. John; AA—Triadelphia
- 1957: A—Powhatan; AA—Steubenville
- 1958: A—Bethany; AA—Bridgeport; AAA—Wheeling Central
- 1959: A—Cádiz; AA—Union; AAA—Steubenville
- 1960: A—Cádiz; AA—Bridgeport; AAA—Steubenville
- 1961: A—Warren Consolidated; AA—Shadyside, Richard Ericson; AAA—Martins Ferry
- 1962: A—Warwood; AA—Shadyside, Richard Ericson; AAA—Weir
- 1963: A—Paden City, Powhatan; AA—Bridgeport; AAA—Wheeling Central
- 1964: A—Bishop Donahue, Tom O'Connell; AA—Toronto; AAA—Weir
- 1965: AA—Shadyside, Jim Bittangle; AAA—Triadelphia
- 1966: A—Woodsfield; AA—Bridgeport; AAA—Triadelphia
- 1967: A—Wayne, Rich Wilinski; Woodsfield, Jim Arnold; AA—Warwood, Jim Foti; AAA—Bellaire, Claire Cribbs
- 1968: A—Mt. Pleasant; AA—St. John Central; AAA—Triadelphia
- 1969: A—Bethany, Russ Schwefeger; AA—St. John Central, Sy Kolesza; AAA—Wheeling, Ed Murphy
- 1970: A—Yorkville, Ken Alessi; AA—Warren Consolidated, Henry Laszsz; AAA—Steubenville, Chuck Watt
- 1971: A—Paden City, Bob Burton; AA—Linsly, Eugene Joseph; AAA—Steubenville, Chuck Watt
- 1972: A—Bishop Donahue, Tom O'Connell; AA—Bridgeport, Frank Baxter; AAA—John Marshall, Bill Francis
- 1973: A—Linsly, Dick Woodward; AA—River, Dick Potts; AAA—Steubenville Catholic
- 1974: A—Bridgeport, Frank Baxter; AA—Wheeling Central, Stan Karnecki; AAA—Wheeling, Sam Andy
- 1975: A—Paden City, Bob Burton; AA—Wellsville, Bob Dawson; AAA—Steubenville
- 1976: A—Mingo, Dick Pannett; AA—Wellsville, Bob Dawson; AAA—Wheeling, Sam Andy
- 1977: A—Weirton Madonna, Rich Sanhill; AA—Wellsville, Bob Dawson; AAA—Buckeye South, Hank Laszsz; AAAA—Wheeling Park, Sam Andy



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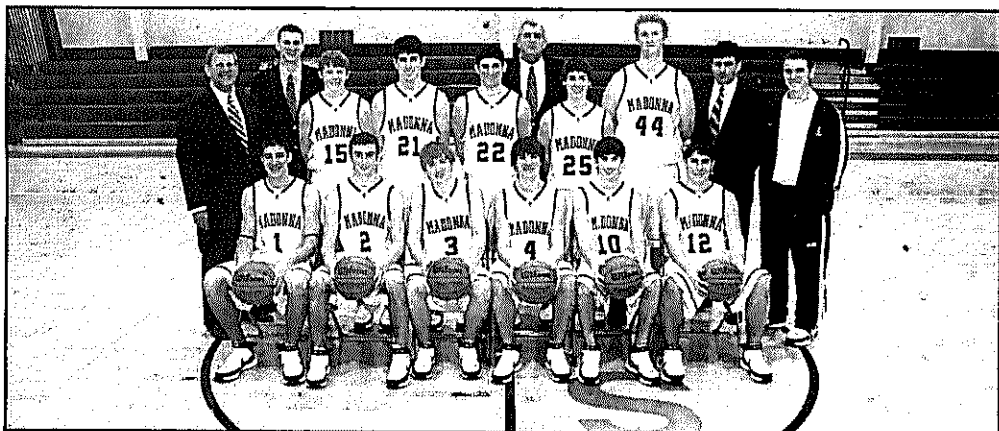


Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2007-08 Weirton Madonna Blue Dons Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Cory Hirkala, Justin Kendrick, Robert Parkins, Joe Capito, Jared Magnone, and John McCune. Second row, from left, are Head Coach George Vargo, assistant coach Justin Shepard, James McFadden, Anthony Pietranton, Sal Conti, Coach Dennis Peterson, Connor Arlia, Matt McFadden, Coach Michael Spinnella and manager Cory Bray.

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Shadyside, Linsly meet for 2-A title

• Top-seeded Tigers knocked off Cadets in overtime earlier this season; Championship game moved to 10 a.m.

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Shadyside and Linsly hooked up in a classic last month in Tigertown.

The two small-school powers will meet again this Saturday, but the venue will be neutral and a lot more is on the line.

The Tigers and Cadets will square off Saturday morning at 10 a.m. in the Class 2-A final at Ohio University's Health and Physical Education Center as part of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

The game time has been changed from its original. The game was switched with the 1-A game to accommodate Tiger fans who might want to make the short trip out to Morristown to take in the girls' squad, which opens its sectional tournament.

No matter the time, place or day, both coaches know their teams will show up ready to go.

"It's nice that (the OVAC) moved our game to help our fans, so they can go out and see our girls play," said Shadyside head coach Ed Andes who's guided his Tiger teams to four of the school's 11 OVAC boys hoop titles. "Linsly is a very athletic team and you can't

afford to let down against because they will run up points in a hurry on you."

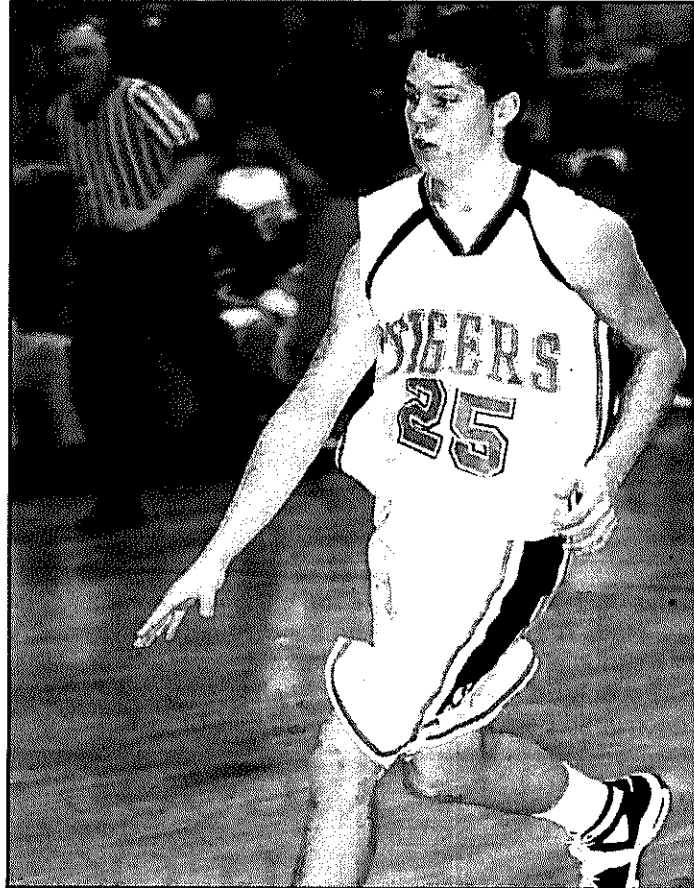
While Shadyside – regardless of Saturday's outcome – has its state tournament to look forward to, the same obviously can't be said for the Cadets who will return to regular season play next week and once that completes later this month turn the uniforms in and ready for spring sports due to their lack of affiliation to the West Virginia SSAC.

That makes Saturday's game for all the marbles for Coach Mark Dodd's outfit, which comes into the game with a 11-5 record.

"This is something for us to play for," Dodd explained. "Whether we go to this tournament or another it gives you a little bit more incentive."

Shadyside and Linsly both had nip-and-tuck games to reach Saturday's final. The Tigers knocked off fourth-seeded Steubenville Catholic by a 79-66 count, while Linsly was a 37-35 victor over second-seeded Fort Frye at Beverly.

"After a lengthy road trip, it was a great game," Dodd said of his team's semifinal trip. "(Fort Frye) was great to us down there and it was a great gym and a great atmosphere,



SHADYSIDE SENIOR B.A. Holloway is one of the key members of the Tigers' team. He's the leading scorer at better than 13 points an outing. Shadyside is 17-2 on the season and will meet Linsly for the Class 2-A title at 10 a.m. Saturday at OUE.

T-L File Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

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and finally we won a close one."

Andes said during an interview earlier this week that he thought any of the four teams,

See, 2-A, Page 6

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SHADYSIDE TIGERS



T-L Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

PICTURED IS the 2007-08 Shadyside Tigers Basketball Team. In front is manager Toni Andes. Kneeling, from left, are Nathan Butts, Jared Andes, Dustin Sadlowski, BA Holloway, Billy Merryman, Drew Kennon and Justin Andes. Standing, from left, are Nick Schuetz, Patrick O'Donnell, head coach Ed Andes, Colby Emery, Heath Brooks, Dylan Kimble, Tyler Cline, assistant coach John Beckett, Josh Eneix and Ellis Brown.

● 2-A

Continued from Page 5

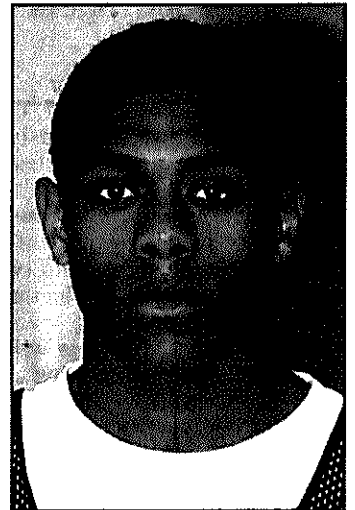
which qualified in the second-smallest division had a legitimate shot at the gold trophy.

"I thought anyone could win and Steubenville Catholic was a good team," Andes said. "This is a good tournament because the records are gone and it's a matter of who wins two games in a row."

Close games have been a problem for the Cadets thus far. They dropped a verdict in overtime to Class 3-A finalist Wheeling Central, Martins Ferry and these Tigers they are about to meet.

"Sooner or later, it's going to even out, you think," Dodd said about the tight games going his team. "Every season, there are some of those kinds of games and I guess we lost ours early. We avenged our Ferry loss and hopefully that's a trend we can continue tonight."

While Fort Frye dictated the



C.J. GOODWIN

tempo throughout against Linsly, don't expect the Tigers to sit back and make a bunch of passes. They move the ball, but they are looking to play fast.

"When we are shooting the ball well, we're tough to guard," Andes said. "We've got a nice eight-man rotation and we keep guys coming in and out and we're looking to get it out and go."

Sounds like something the Cadets are also looking forward to.

"We're both athletic teams, and I don't think either of us want to sit into an offense where we make 10 or 12 passes," Dodd noted. "Hopefully, that's the case especially on this bigger floor. We really like our chances on a neutral court."

The Tigers' aforementioned three-point shooters come at teams in droves. As a team,

See, 2-A, Page 7

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Let's Meet The Teams

● 2-A

Continued from Page 6

SHADYSIDE				
No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
2	Nick Schuetz	10	5-10	G
3	Justin Andes	10	6-1	G
4	Jared Andes	12	6-2	G
5	Dylan Kimble	10	5-10	G
10	Nathan Butts	11	6-3	F
11	Heath Brooks	10	5-9	G
15	Dustin Sadlowski	12	5-11	G
20	Patrick O'Donnell	10	5-10	G
25	B.A. Holloway	12	5-11	G
33	Billy Merryman	12	5-10	G
44	Drew Kennon	12	6-5	F

Head Coach: Ed Andes
Assistant Coaches: John Beckett and Mike Schlanz.
Athletic Director: Ty Fleming
Principal: Larry Falbo.

LINSLY				
No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
5	Devin Hardy	11	6-0	G
10	Cody Campbell	12	6-4	F
11	Matt Fahey	11	6-3	F
12	Patrick Milton	11	6-1	G
14	Demarr Moulton	11	6-1	G
15	Russel Slayton	12	6-0	G
20	Chidozie Oparanozie	12	6-1	F
21	Taylor Cecil	12	6-2	G
22	C.J. Goodwin	12	6-2	G
23	Jarred Hill	11	6-1	G
24	Craig Kuhar	10	6-1	G
25	Vincent Tennant	11	6-3	F
30	Minho Kim	12	6-0	G
32	J.D. Eddy	11	6-3	F
34	A.J. Ciechowski	10	5-9	F
42	Sam Cecil	12	6-4	C

Head Coach: Mark Dodd
Assistant Coaches: Chad Barnett and Michael Hammond.
Athletic Director: Dan Buchwach.
Principal: Rene Diorio.

● Champs

Continued from Page 4

1978 - A - Buckeye Trail, Terry Leggett; AA - Shadyside, Terry Snively; AAA - Bellaire, Mark Matz; AAAA - Cambridge, Al Joseph
1979 - A - Buckeye Trail, Terry Leggett; AA - Frontier, Hank Monus; AAA - Buckeye South, Hank Lasasz; AAAA - Steubenville, Chuck Watt
1980 - A - Buckeye Trail, Terry Leggett; AA - Mingo; AA - Martins Ferry; AAAA - Steubenville
1981 - A - Buckeye Trail, Terry Leggett; AA - Frontier, Hank Monus; AAA - Buckeye South, Hank Lasasz; AAAA - Steubenville, Chuck Watt
1982 - A - Sistersville; AA - Buckeye Trail; AAA - Wheeling Central; AAAA - Wheeling Park, Sam Andy
1983 - A - Bishop Donahue, John Stanko; AA -

See, CHAMPS, Page 13

Shadyside is hitting 39 percent of its shots from downtown and 48 percent of its shots all told.

"Shooting (at OUE) is a little different because there's a lot of room in the background," Dodd pointed out.

"Shadyside has shooters and they've spent a lot of time in the gym shooting the ball, and regardless of the gym, their percentage isn't going to change that much."

Along with their shooting ability, the Tigers' present a defensive challenge in terms of you can't key on just one player as no fewer than four players average double figures.

Senior B.A. Holloway leads the way for the Orange with 13.5 points. Senior Billy Merryman and sophomore sixth man Justin Andes are next in line at 11.5 points a night. Senior Jared Andes adds 10 points a game.

"If this kid's not playing well we can turn to another guy," Andes said. "It's worked out very well for us so far."

Senior Drew Kennon is the Tigers' post player. He uses his 6-ft-5 frame to score six points and grab five rebounds a night.

Senior Dustin Sadlowski is the Orange defensive stopper and chips in 4.5 points a night.

While the younger Andes is the top sub, also used in the mix are junior Nathan Butts and sophomore Dylan Kimble who score 5.5 and five points each.

While the Tigers' offense has grown in consistency with each passing game, the Orange defense has also been solid this season.

"We've been able to play solid defense this season and we'll need to do that again because Linsly has so much athleticism," Andes pointed

out. "We know that if our shots aren't falling, we've got to pick it up on the defensive end."

As for the Linsly offense, the Cadets have three players who are averaging in double figures for the season.

DeMarr Moulton is leading the way, netting 15.1 points a game. Lightning-quick point guard C.J. Goodwin and athletic swing player Cody Campbell pour in 14.7 points a game

each.

"I think we've played well the entire year," Dodd said. "There have been times down the stretch of games where we don't handle situations the proper or correct way, but we're working on that."

"I think we're one of the more athletic teams we've had, but sometimes those kinds of teams don't win games necessarily."

The Cecils - Sam and

Taylor - round out the Cadets' starting lineup. Sam Cecil is the Linsly post player and he scores 4.3 points, while Taylor has struggled somewhat shooting the ball from the perimeter and nets 4.19 an outing.

Senior Chidozie Oparanozie, Sam Milton and Matt Fahey are the key reserves for the Cadets.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com



LINSLY CADETS



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

PICTURED IS the 2007-08 Linsly Cadets Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Russell Slayton, Minho Kim, Sam Cecil, Taylor Cecil, Charaun Goodwin and Cody Campbell. Middle row, from left, are Chidozie Oparanozie, Matt Fahey, Vincent Tennant and J.D. Eddy. Back row, from left, are head coach Mark Dodd, Craig Kuhar, DeMarr Moulton, Patrick Milton, Jarred Hill, A.J. Ciechowski and assistant coach Chad Barnett.

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ST. CLAIRSVILLE RED DEVILS

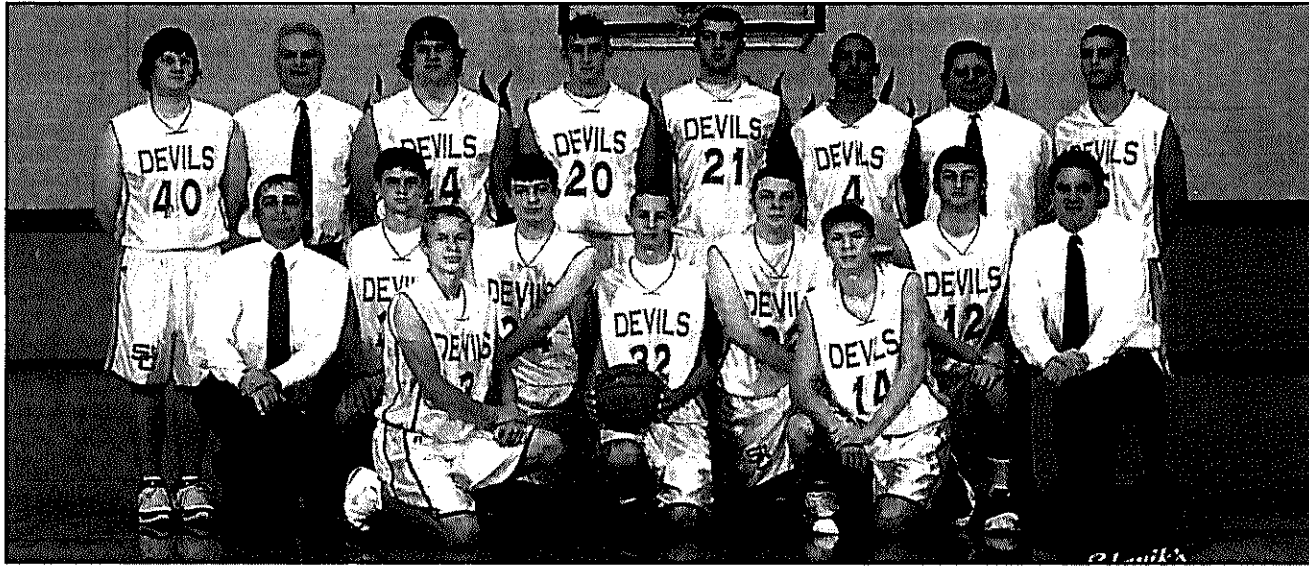


Photo Courtesy/SLAVIK PHOTOGRAPHY

PICTURED IS the 2007-08 St. Clairsville Red Devils Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Bo Kemo, Allen DeRosa and Phil Gross. Second row, from left, are assistant coach Ryan Clifford, Alex Thornburg, Dan Slavik, Ryan Jarvie, Kaz Pata and assistant coach Justin Clifford. Back row, from left, are Travis Wade, head coach Kim Clifford, Anthony Skrabak, Michael Bigelow, Derrik Baugh, Anthony Vincent, assistant coach Kevin Sacco and Dustin Hynes.

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St. C., Central clash in 3-A title game

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

History has a chance to be made Saturday.

The St. Clairsville Red Devils have a rich athletic tradition.

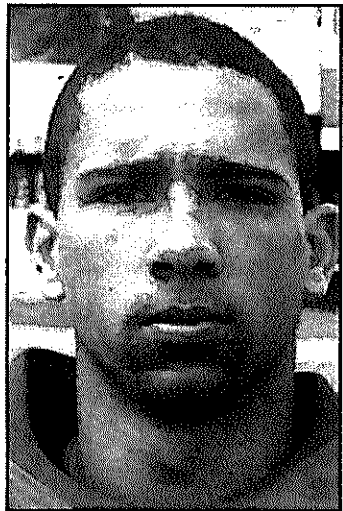
However, when you walk into the Devils' Den and look around at the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship banners that hang high in the rafters, you see the sport of basketball, but the word girls is printed on each of the five pennants.

Coach Kim Clifford and the Red Devils hope 2008 is the year where a boys banner is finally hoisted into the rafters.

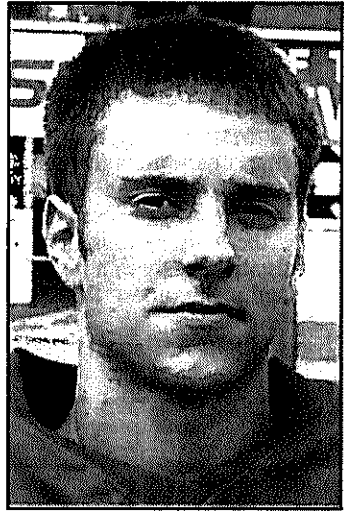
And for the first time in history, the 3-A title will be decided on the court as part of Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

The quest for the title will by no means be an easy one as the Red Devils — the second seed — will lock horns with fourth-seeded Wheeling Central in the 4 p.m. contest.

"Winning the OVAC this way (on the court) would be even more gratifying," Clifford admitted. "We've always tried to play a big schedule and sometimes it's worked out the way we wanted and sometimes



ANTHONY VINCENT



DUSTIN HYNES

it hasn't, but now it'll be determined Saturday."

It's probably safe to say the Red Devils (15-4) and the Maroon Knights (11-6) are the premier athletic teams of Class 3-A this season. Remember, the Knights' perfect football season edged out the Red Devils' perfect season for the conference title. Ironically, three members of the Red Devils' coaching staff and sev-

eral key players were on that football team.

"I think the football thing can enter a little bit in terms of motivation," Clifford said. "I'm not sure we're a great basketball team, but our kids are great competitors and that's probably the hallmark of our team, so I will take any advantage I can get."

The Red Devils got into the championship round thanks to

taking out Magnolia in a thrilling semi-final contest, which saw several lead changes and a see-saw battle throughout.

"We're trying to catch our breath after that game," Clifford said. "One of the nice things going into the sectional tournament is that we've already played in a tournament, so we understand what it's going to take. Magnolia is a very talented team and our kids managed to suck it up and get it done."

Wheeling Central, meanwhile, was one of two four seeds to advance to the championship game. The Maroon

Knights had stumbled somewhat down the stretch before the cut-off date for the tournament and qualified for the field by just six hundredths of a

See, 3-A, Page 10

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OVAC BOYS BASKETBALL

● 3-A

Continued from Page 9

point over Union Local.

However, they made the most of their opportunity Tuesday when they took out top-seeded and red-hot Martins Ferry at the brand-new Tolbert

Gymnasium.

Clifford is highly in favor of the new tournament format the OVAC has adopted and making the OVAC more competitive is something he's pondered for many years.

"I talked to (OVAC Executive Secretary) Tom Rataiczak years ago and I thought maybe everyone should play at least once or something to make it better," Clifford said. "The OVAC has

done some great things and the championship should be determined on the court, so this is a long-time coming for basketball."

The Maroon Knights come into the championship game with an 11-6 mark, having won two straight. After knocking off Ferry, the Knights took care of 2-A finalist Linsly in a regularly-scheduled contest this past

See, 3-A, Page 11

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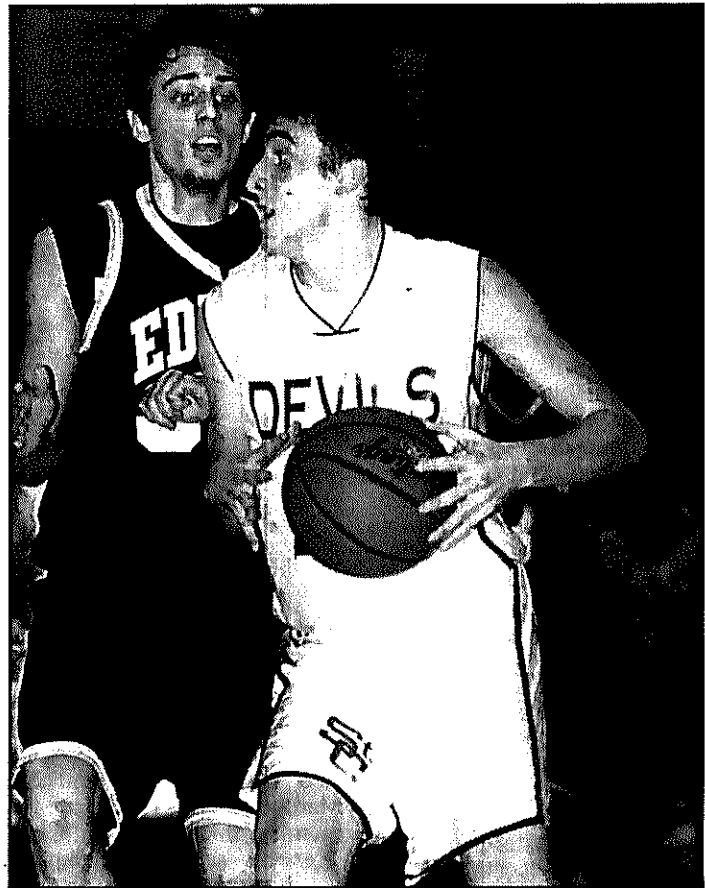



WHEELING CENTRAL MAROON KNIGHTS



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the Wheeling Central Maroon Knights Boys Basketball Team. The team consists of Zach Hood, D'Onte Long, Jordan Sortage, Nick Hurley, Shane Phillips, Alex Pelechutte, Cody Koehler, Joe Neidhardt, Eli Joseph, Jack Weishar and Cory McKitrick.



T-L File Photo/JOEL JOSEPH


ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Michael Bigelow drives to the bucket during a game last week. Bigelow is the Red Devils' third-leading scorer. He and his teammates will meet Wheeling Central Saturday in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship at 4 p.m..

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● 3-A

Continued from Page 10

Wednesday.

"Basketball is very important at Wheeling Central," Clifford said. "They have great tradition and they are talented. They play a tough schedule, so their record is deceiving."

The Central basketball tradition is reflected by their countless state championships and also their 18 OVAC titles. Central is the two-time defending champion, but that came in Class 2-A.

The Knights average a shade over 60 points a game and have three players who average double figures. Shane Phillips leads the way at 11.8 points a night, while Cory McKittrick donates 10.7 and

See, 3-A, Page 15

Let's Meet The Teams

ST. CLAIRSVILLE

No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
3	Bo Kemo	11	5-10	G
4	Anthony Vincent	12	6-0	G
5	Dustin Hynes	12	6-0	G
12	Kaz Pata	12	6-0	F
14	Phil Gross	11	6-1	F
20	Michael Bigelow	12	6-2	F
21	Derrick Baugh	12	6-4	C
22	Ryan Jarvie	11	5-10	G
24	Dan Slavik	10	5-11	G
30	Alex Thornburg	10	6-0	F
32	Allen Derosa	9	6-5	C
34	De'Leion Jackson	12	6-2	G
40	Travis Wade	12	5-11	C
44	Anthony Skrabak	12	6-3	C

Head Coach: Kim Clifford
Assistant Coaches: Kevin Sacco, Ryan Clifford, Justin Clifford and Brian Gay.
Athletic Director: Kelly Rine.

Principal: Walt Skaggs

WHEELING CENTRAL

No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
2	Zach Hood	10	5-7	G
11	D'Onte Long	11	5-10	G
12	Jordan Sortge	10	5-9	G
14	Nick Hurley	11	5-11	G
20	Shane Phillips	12	5-9	G
22	Alex Pelechutte	12	6-3	F
24	Cody Koehler	11	6-3	F
40	Joe Neidhardt	10	5-9	G
42	Eli Joseph	11	6-2	F
44	Jack Weishar	10	5-11	G
50	Cory McKittrick	12	6-4	F

Head Coach: Mel Stephens
Assistant Coaches: Dave Koehler, John Moore and Chris Stephens.
Athletic Director: Mike Young
Principal: Dr. Joseph Viglietta.

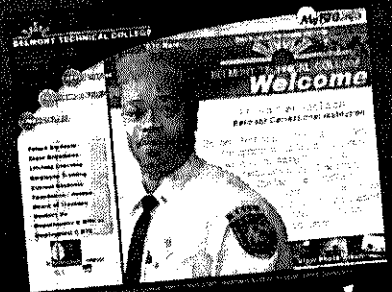
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Creek, JM unlikely 4-A matchup

• Redskins and Monarchs both went on the road and posted semi-final victories; Game set for 7 p.m.

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

How'd these guys get in here?

You may be asking yourself that question regarding Saturday night's inaugural OVAC Wheeling Hospital big school (4-A) title game featuring John Marshall and Indian Creek.

To be sure, opposing coaches Bill Storm (JM) and Joe Dunlevy (Creek) had reasonably high hopes for their respective programs before the 2007-08 season tipped off.

However, neither Storm nor Dunlevy circled Feb. 9 on their calendars in anticipation of an eventual rendezvous inside Ohio University-Eastern's spacious athletic complex.

But JM (11-6) vs. IC (14-5) is, indeed, reality and on paper, fans have every reason to expect a highly competitive matchup when the 4-A contest tips off at 7:00.

The Creek and John Marshall arrived here the old fashioned way — they earned it, and both did so with dramatic semifinal upset wins on the road.

Storm's Monarchs penetrated Wheeling Park's Palace on the Hill and handed Michael Jebbia's top-seeded Patriots an unexpected 67-58 setback. Dunlevy, meanwhile, took his team across the Ohio River to

second-seeded Weir High where the Redskins prevailed by a 54-49 count.

Dunlevy admits the future was anything but certain for his squad earlier this season. "We were pretty much struggling in late December (after losses to Edison and Martins Ferry)," Dunlevy disclosed. "But we're fortunate to have some kids who possess basketball smarts. They've improved considerably, particularly at the defensive end of the floor."

Of the Creek's five setbacks, only an early season loss at Upper Arlington was inflicted by 10 or more points. "We got better on defense and were able to cut down on mistakes which were killing us," Dunlevy explained. "Our guys have recognized their respective roles and are playing real

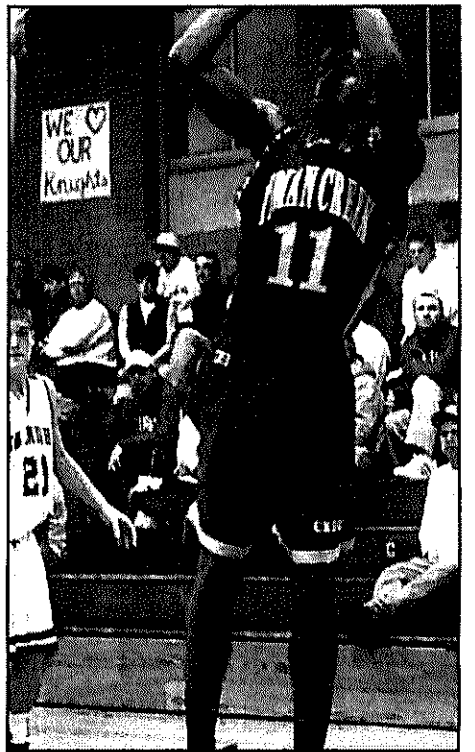
well together as a team."

Dunlevy's take on John Marshall? "They're definitely hard to get a handle on," he advised. "(Our scouting report) says JM is a well-balanced team with many different players capable of hurting you. Obviously, we have to defend the entire floor and turn it up a notch defensively."

The Redskins' rotation features savvy backcourt play starting with junior point guard Daniel Dunlevy (son of the coach). "He won't shoot a lot but handles the ball well and is generally good distributing to the right people," Creek's veteran hoops' boss declared.

Creek has a dandy 6-2 swingman Mike Smith, a 17 ppg. scorer who has come of age during the course of the season. "Mike's made steady progress and is a definite offensive threat," Dunlevy noted.

The same can be said for inside ace Jim Wood, a mobile 6-6 senior regarded as an excellent finisher inside. He recently wheeled and dealt for 35 points during a key road win at



T-L File Photo
INDIAN CREEK'S Mike Smith goes up for a shot in a game earlier this season. The Redskins will meet John Marshall Saturday evening for the 4-A title.

St. Clairsville and nets just under 17 per start.

"Jimmy has a strong inside game but he's also capable of stepping out and knocking down an occasional three," Dunlevy revealed.

Junior Luke Viltro, at 6-3 is a versatile player, averaging just under 10 points a pop. "Luke helps in a variety of ways," said Dunlevy of the Skins' leader in assists.

Senior Jonathan Figel, at 6-2, has also been solid and is recognized as an adept defender. "Jonathan loves playing 'D' and has a great knack for taking charges," Dunlevy observed.

The Creek also receives big-time contributions from 6-1 senior R.J. Roberts who earns major minutes on a nightly basis. Senior Scott Starr (6-4) missed a portion of the cam-

See, 4-A, Page 13

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INDIAN CREEK REDSKINS




Photo Courtesy/PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORGE

PICTURED IS the 2007-08 Indian Creek Redskins Basketball Team. Front row, from left are Scott Starr, Mike Smith, Jim Wood, Jonathan Figel and R.J. Roberts. Second row, from left, are Tyler Wolpert, Mike Wayt, Bryan Bowers, Randy Hines, Luke Viltro, Daniel Dunlevy, Dustin Freshwater, Cullen DeSantis and Brennan Sims. Back row, from left, are Nick Otto, Bryan Rupert, Eric Price, Gavin Smith, Caleb Thomas, Brandon Mathieu, Doren Thomas, Adam Young, Hunter Green, Jordan Spence and Evan Hopkins.

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**Let's Meet
The Teams**

● **4-A**

Continued from Page 6

INDIAN CREEK

No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
5	Daniel Dunlevy	11	5-9	G
10	Cullen DeSantis	10	5-11	G
11	Mike Smith	12	6-2	F
12	R.J. Roberts	12	6-1	G
14	Michael Wayt	10	5-8	G
20	Gavin Smith	10	5-11	G
21	Brennan Sims	10	6-0	F
24	Luke Vitro	11	6-3	G
30	Bryan Bowers	10	5-7	G
31	Jonathan Figel	12	6-2	C
34	Scott Starr	12	6-4	C
40	Jim Wood	12	6-5	F

Head Coach: Joe Dunlevy
Assistant Coaches: Rob Lucas, Mike Furda and Rich Morelli.
Athletic Director: Jack Rowe
Principal: John Craig

JOHN MARSHALL

No.	Name	Gr.	Ht.	Pos.
3	Josh Overholt	12	6-3	F
4	Brock Melko	11	5-8	G
5	Phil Namik	12	6-1	G
10	Casey Defibaugh	11	5-10	G
11	Travis Whitfield	11	5-8	G
12	Kenny Shepherd	12	6-6	C
20	Jeremy Hays	10	5-11	G
22	Jason Eikleberry	11	6-1	G
23	Justin Eikleberry	11	6-3	F
24	Andrew Montes	11	6-1	G
32	Kylen Whipp	12	6-4	F
33	Danny McClelland	11	6-6	F
40	Chad Whitlatch	11	6-2	F
42	Broc Jones	11	6-3	F

Head Coach: Bill Storm
Assistant Coaches: Mike Ferro, Casey Storm.
Athletic Director: Chuck Duckworth
Principal: Tom Wood.

● **Champs**

Continued from Page 10

Bridgeport: AAA—Wheeling Central; AAAA—Wintersville
1984: A—Weirton Madonna; AA—Wellsville; AAA—Steubenville Catholic; AAAA—Wintersville
1985: A—Skyvue; AA—Wellsville; AAA—Wheeling Central; AAAA—Weir
1986: A—Skyvue; AA—Cádiz; AAA—Wheeling Central; AAAA—Steubenville
1987: A—Mingo; AA—Wheeling Central; AAA—Meadowbrook; AAAA—Brooke

See, CHAMPS, Page 14

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paign battling mono but should be good to go Saturday.

A pair of sophomores are also in the mix — backup point guard Bryan Bowers (5-7) and two-guard Cullen DeSantis, who stands 5-11.

Dunlevy's staff includes Rob Lucas, Mike Furda and Rich Morelli.

Don't put much stock in John Marshall's 11-6 ledger. As Storm points out, the Glen Dale-based ball club has endured three buzzer-beating reversals.

"We're relatively young and playing a number of kids," Storm pointed out. "We feel the program is coming along nicely and we have solid potential."

A former Monarch cage ace, Storm has been involved with the program several years but is just in his second as head hon-

cho.

Since suffering a major meltdown recently at St. Clairsville where JM coughed up a 26-point lead and went on to lose in overtime, the Stormtroopers have rebounded nicely, running off four consecutive wins.

The Monarchs are doing so a result of consistent team play and contributions from a lengthy list of candidates.

Primarily an adept unit of juniors, inside ace Kenny Shepherd is a distinct exception. Standing 6-6, Shepherd makes his living scrapping underneath and has posted a team-leading 12.6 ppg. norm.

Shepherd also brings down a team-leading 7.7 rebounds per outing.

The Brown and Gold's junior class has been superb, starting with 5-8 guard Brock

Melko. "He's old school and one of our leaders," Storm advised. "Brock goes full-tilt every night."

Casey Defibaugh is also rock-solid. The 5-10 southpaw is a 7.2 ppg. scorer who possesses "a good feel for the game," according to Storm.

Another major player is 6-3 Justin Eikleberry who doesn't mind mixing it up in the paint. The same holds true for 6-6, 175-pound Danny McClelland.

When JM dials long distance, 6-1 Andrew Montes often makes the connection. Montes owns a team-leading 24 tri-fectas as part of his 10.6 ppg. norm. "When we get production from Andrew, good things usually happen," Storm offered.

See, 4-A, Page 14

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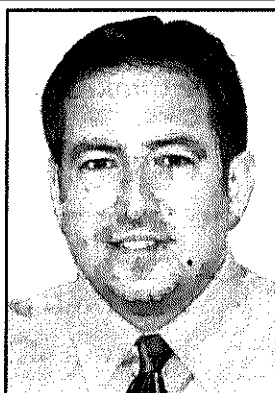
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JOHN MARSHALL MONARCHS



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2007-08 John Marshall Monarch Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Justin Eikleberry, Chad Whitlatch, Brock Melko, Andrew Montes, Casey Defibaugh, Jeremy Hayes and Travis Whitfield. Second row, from left, are assistant coach Mike Ferro, Phil Namlik, Kylan Whipp, Broc Jones, head coach Bill Storm, Danny McClelland, Kenny Shepherd, Josh Overholt, Jason Eikleberry and assistant coach Casey Storm.

● 4-A

Continued from Page 10

Travis Whitfield, at 5-8, is also a steady contributor and poses additional problems for JM opponents.

One sophomore of note is 5-11 Jeremy Hayes, younger brother of Lady Monarchs' star Jessica Hayes

JM's coach expects a highly competitive encounter with Indian Creek. "Joe (Dunlevy) does an outstanding job with their program. His teams are recognized for playing with great intensity and enthusiasm. We realize we need to bring our 'A' game."

Storm's staff of includes his son, Casey Storm in addition to Mike Ferro and Bill Gallagher.

Gibson can be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

● Champs

Continued from Page 13

1988: A - Shadyside; AA - Weirsville; AAA - Bellaire, Gene Ammirante; AAAA - Steubenville
 1989: A - Bishop Donahue, Tom Tribett; AA - Wheeling Central; AAA - Bellaire; AAAA - Brooke
 1990: A - Mingo; AA - Wheeling Central, Jim Dailer; AAA - Bellaire; AAAA - Steubenville
 1991: A - Mingo; AA - Shenandoah; AAA - Bellaire; AAAA - East Liverpool
 1992: A - Padon City, Bob Burton; AA - Frontier, Greg Morus; AAA - Toronto, John Tico; AAAA - Cambridge, Gene Ford
 1993: A - Padon City, Bob Burton; AA - Steubenville Catholic, Frank Spence; AAA - Bellaire, Gene Ammirante; AAAA - Cambridge, Gene Ford
 1994: A - Padon City, Bob Burton; AA - Buckeye Trail, Kim Cunningham; AAA - Bellaire, Gene Ammirante; AAAA - East Liverpool, Nick Aloi
 1995: A - Weirton Madonna, George Vargo; AA - Buckeye Trail, Kim Cunningham; AAA - Bellaire, Gene Ammirante; AAAA - East Liverpool, Nick Aloi
 1996: A - Weirton Madonna, George Vargo; AA - Weirsville, Bob Fint; AAA - Bellaire, Gene Ammirante; AAAA - Zanesville, Scott Aronholt
 1997: A - Conotton Valley, Mike Masloski; AA - Shenandoah, Dan Schweiferman; AAA - Bellaire, Gene Ammirante; AAAA - Zanesville, Scott Aronholt
 1998: A - Weirton Madonna, George Vargo; AA - Linsly, Ray Smith; AAA - Martins Ferry, Jeff Sabatino; AAAA - Wheeling Park, Sam Andy
 1999: A - Frontier, Roger Kirkpatrick; AA - Fort Frye, Dan Liedtke; AAA - Bellaire, Gene Ammirante; AAAA - East Liverpool, Nick Aloi
 2000: A - Shadyside, Ed Andes; AA - Fort Frye, Dan Liedtke; AAA - Bellaire, Gene Ammirante; AAAA - Wheeling Park, Sam Andy
 2001: A - Weirton Madonna, George Vargo; AA - Shenandoah, Dan Schweiferman; AAA - Indian Creek, Joe Dunlevy; AAAA - Zanesville, Scott Aronholt
 2002: A - Linsly, Mark Dodd; AA - Wheeling Central, Dave Wojcik; AAA - Martins Ferry, Jeff Sabatino; AAAA - Zanesville, Scott Aronholt
 2003: A - Beeksville, Lou "Scooter" Tolzda; AA - Fort Frye, Dan Liedtke; AAA - Bellaire, Gene Ammirante; AAAA - Cambridge, Gene Ford
 2004: A - Frontier, Roger Kirkpatrick; AA - Fort Frye, Dan Liedtke; AAA - Oak Glen, David Smith; AAAA - Beaver Local, Mike Kutler
 2005: A - Shadyside, Ed Andes; AA - Buckeye Trail, Dave Linn; AAA - Bellaire, Gene Ammirante; AAAA - Weir, Mike Granato
 2006: A - Shadyside, Ed Andes; AA - Wheeling Central, Mel Stephens; AAA - Bellaire, Gene Ammirante; AAAA - Mike Granato, Weir
 2007: A - Shadyside, Ed Andes; AA - Wheeling Central, Mel Stephens; AAA - Harrison Central, Donnie Madzia; AAAA - Steubenville, Mike Masloski

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● 3-A

Continued from Page 11

senior talent Alex Peluchette donates 10.3 points.

"You had better come ready to play against Central if you expect to beat them," Clifford continued. "They have been through some wars with their schedule."

Cody Koehler (8.3 ppg) and D'Onte Long (6.1 ppg) are also key contributors to the Knights' success.

The success and carry-over has been something the Red Devils have used to their advantage after a grid season in which the Red Devils finished 12-1 and advanced to the regional final.

While the winning mentality was nice, the schedule changes

caused a back-log and NBA-like schedule for the Red Devils who were playing three and sometimes four games a week during the season. That led to a look of fatigue, but now that the schedule is back to a normal routine, the Red Devils appear to have found their second wind.

"We're very pleased with how our kids are playing and it was nice to see that spark back in their eye," Clifford said. "To see that enthusiasm and energy was nice. Our kids always played hard, but sometimes they just didn't have it. We're a little more comfortable now that we're back to a regular schedule."

The Red Devils employ a nine-man rotation at the varsity level. Senior Anthony Vincent leads the way with 12.3 points a game. He knocked down the game-winning free throws against Magnolia. Classmate Dustin Hynes nets 11.4 points a game.

Senior Michael Bigelow has been a big factor on both ends for the Devils. He's an 8.9 points-per-game scorer and has

also charted 47 steals and nine blocked shots. Senior Derrik Baugh patrols the paint for the Red Devils. He scores nearly seven points a contest and leads the team in rebounding.

Rounding out the starting lineup is sophomore point guard Dan Slavik who scores 9.5 points a game and has really been coming on of late. He's also a 31 percent three-point shooter and has buried a team-

high 36 treys.

Junior Ryan Jarvie is the team's sixth man. He's been a solid contributor, averaging more than eight points a game. Kaz Pata, Deleoun Jackson and Anthony Skrabak come off the bench for solid minutes.

Clifford is assisted by Ryan Clifford, Kevin Sacco, Justin Clifford and Brian Gay.

Staskey can be reached at staskey@timesleaderonline.com

GOOD LUCK MONARCHS!

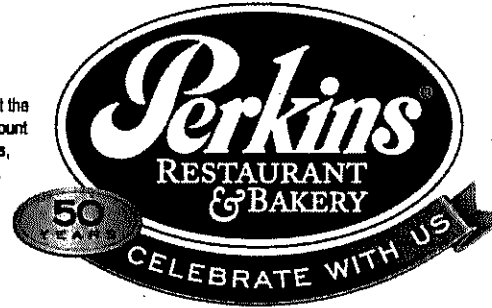


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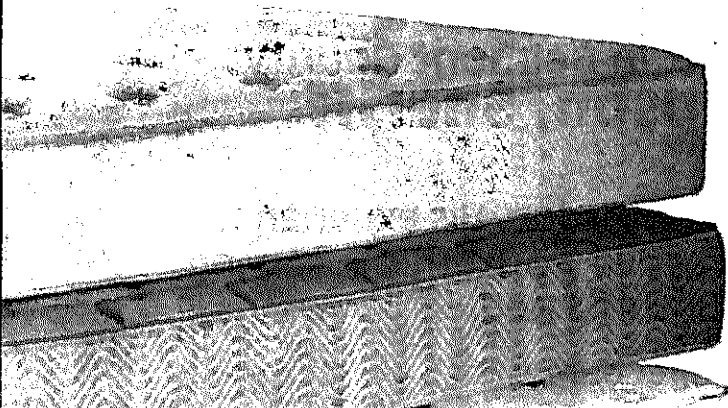
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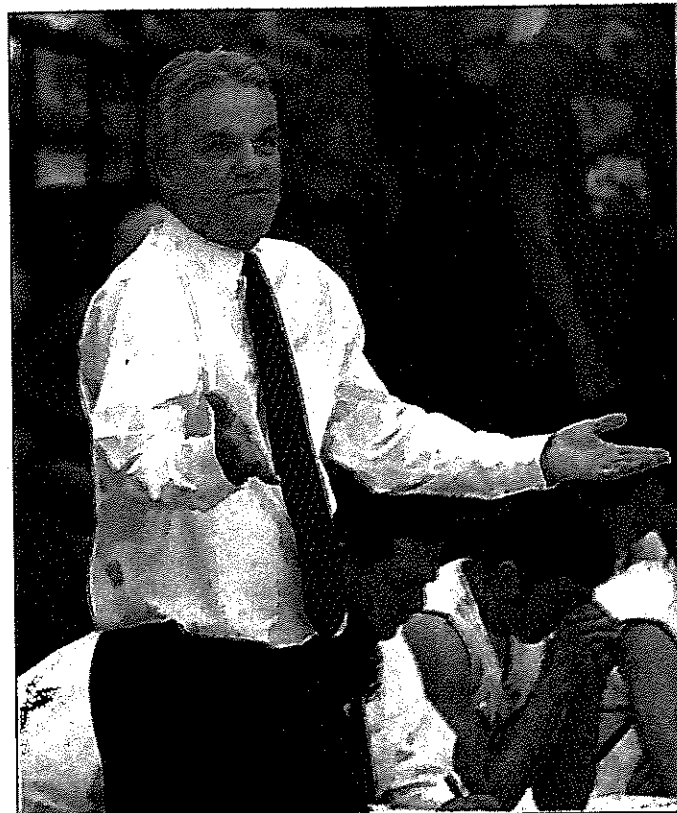
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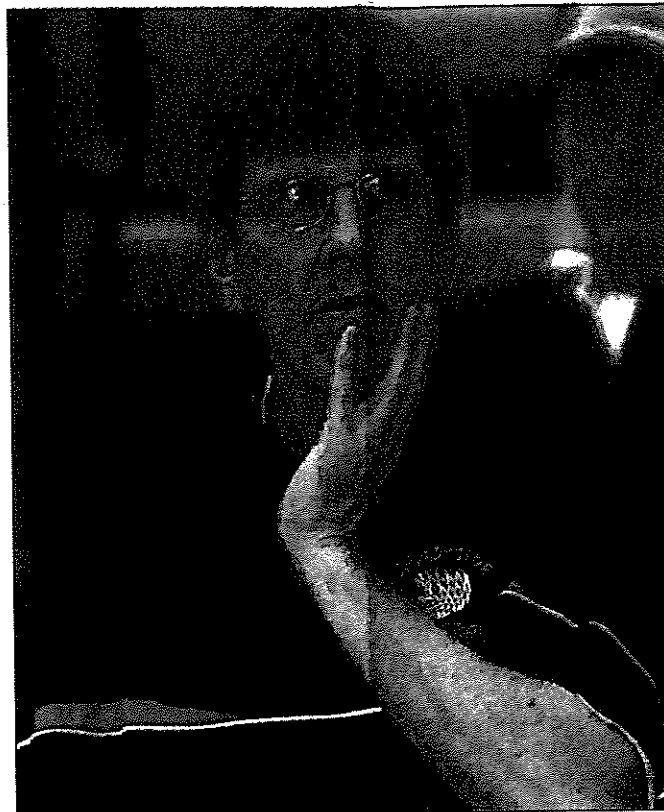
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T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE head coach Kim Clifford looks for an answer during Saturday's game with Wheeling Central Saturday. The Red Devils lost, 58-50. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

SHADYSIDE HEAD coach Ed Andes watches as his team found itself in a triple OT game with Linsly Saturday. The Tigers prevailed, 69-64. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

BRIDGEPORT HEAD coach Donnie Cash urges his team to box out during Saturday afternoon's upset Weirton Madonna, 49-37. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

OVAC CHAMPS

• Bridgeport wins first boys basketball championship in 25 years with upset of Madonna

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

For the Bridgeport Bulldogs, the third was the charm.

After dropping two verdicts to Weirton Madonna, including the final game of the regular season a little more than a week ago, the Bulldogs entered the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship looking to make amends.

And Saturday afternoon at the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University-Eastern, revenge was taken by the Bulldogs



After dropping two verdicts to Weirton Madonna, including the final game of the regular season a little more than a week ago, the Bulldogs entered the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship looking to make amends.

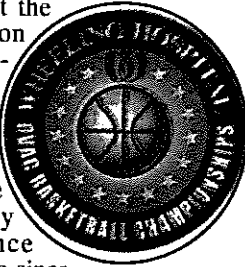
And Saturday afternoon at the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University-Eastern, revenge was taken by the Bulldogs.

With the revenge, Bridgeport got even more than that. The win gives the Bulldogs the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Championship for the first time since 1983.

"This is a great feeling," said Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash during his post-game press conference. "Before we left the gym today, I made the kids walk past the trophy case and look at that 1983 trophy and told them it would be great to put another one in the case. It had been 25 years, so it was long overdue."

Getting to the point of the OVAC title wasn't as simple as it may have seemed. Not only did Bridgeport deal with its rigorous 18-game slate to qualify and then Valley on Tuesday, but Cash and the Bulldogs had a tumultuous pre-season with player

See, BRIDGEPORT, Page C2



MEMBERS OF the Bridgeport boys' basketball team pose with their Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championship trophy Saturday afternoon following their 49-37 upset victory over top-seeded Weirton Madonna at Ohio University-Eastern. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

Shadyside edges Linsly in 3-OT classic

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

You expected anything less?

After engaging in a down to the wire 66-65 overtime classic in the regular season, a Shadyside-Linsly rematch was highly anticipated.

The fact that it came in the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's inaugural hoops' tournament only added to the intrigue.

Not only did the two teams deliver another one-to-remember presentation, Saturday morning's 2-A pressure-cooker of a title clash evolved into something of epic proportion.

No less than three intense overtime periods were required before Ed Andes' Tigers finally emerged with a impossible-to-forget 69-64 victory inside Ohio University Eastern's impressive facility.

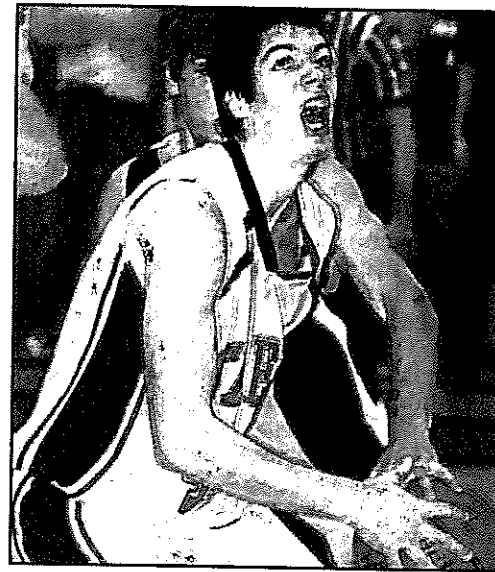
'Just a great high school basketball game the fans were treated to today.'

- Linsly's Mark Dodd

It seemed hardly fair Mark Dodd's worthy Cadets were declared anything less than co-champions considering the effort and energy both teams put forth.

"Just a great high school basketball game the fans were treated to today," Dodd disclosed. Amen to that. There were so many twists and turns, rallies and

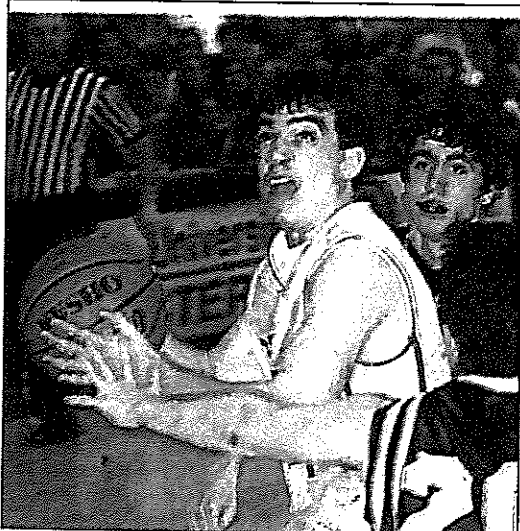
See, SHADYSIDE, Page C2



SHADYSIDE'S DREW Kennon makes a move to the hoop Saturday. The Tigers prevailed, 66-65, in triple overtime. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

ST. CLAIRSVILLE sophomore Dan Slavik drives into Wheeling Central's Shane Phillips Saturday afternoon. The Maroon Knights won, 58-50.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

St. Clairsville drops heartbreaker, 58-50

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

It just wasn't meant to be for the St. Clairsville Red Devils.

The Red Devils' basketball program has been an over-achieving bunch all season just a year removed from a season in which they advanced to the Division II district final, but graduated all five starters from that club.

However, as the wins mounted, the Devils grew in confidence and they came to Ohio University Eastern Saturday with one goal and that was the school's first-ever Ohio Valley Athletic

Conference championship in boys basketball.

Tradition-laden Wheeling Central was all that stood in the Red Devils' way.

However, that road block was just a little too much for the Red Devils to overcome.

Wheeling Central will make room in its gymnasium for the school's 19th conference title and third in a row, but first in Class 3-A after posting a hard-fought 58-50 win over St. Clairsville in front of a jam-packed Health and Physical Education Center.

"Hats off to Wheeling Central, they

deserved to win," said veteran St. C. head coach Kim Clifford. "We gave good effort, but Central was the better team today."

While the loss will sting the Red Devils for quite sometime, they'll have to shake it off quickly as Division III sectional play opens for them Thursday at Byesville against Barnesville.

"We'll take (Sunday) off and Monday, we'll be ready to pick it up and get back after it," Clifford said. "These guys will rebound. Monday will be a typical practice and we'll get ready

See, ST. CLAIRSVILLE, Page C2



T-L PHOTO/JOEL JOSEPH

THE SHADYSIDE Tigers pose with their Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 2-A Boys Basketball Championship Trophy Saturday afternoon. The Tigers outlasted Linsly 69-64 in a triple overtime thriller. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● Shadyside

Continued from Page C1

counter-rallies and emotional swings, both players and coaches were put through the wringer.

"This one's for our five seniors," a happy Andes declared. "It was a total team victory and that's how we like to win them. We're thrilled to be part of this first-ever (tournament format) that, from here, will be decided on the court. It's a great accomplishment for our kids."

In the end, Shadyside prevailed via its ability to convert at the foul line. The Tigers nailed 18-of-21 overall but were particularly clutch during the 12 minute extra sessions in which they cashed 13-of-15.

Linsly, meanwhile, endured 9-of-23 inaccuracy and could point to several key misfires which cost the Cadets an opportunity for victory.

"We've been up and down all season (at the line)," Dodd confessed. "We go 25-of-30 one night and maybe 0-of-11 another. It's frustrating."

Saturday's early start seemed to adversely affect both teams. "It's kinda different getting up at 8:00 (a.m.) then getting on the bus to come play a game," remarked Cadets' senior Sam Cecil who painfully endured a pair of missed free throws with the game deadlocked in the first overtime's final 1.7 ticks.

Shadyside was forced to dodge more than one bullet before surviving.

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Linsly grabbed two early leads, the last at 61-60 before Jared Andes delivered his fifth, three-point hoop of the day, sending Shadyside ahead for good.

In the final 46 ticks, sophomore Dylan Kimble calmly knocked down a pair from the stripe and Jared Andes applied the clincher seconds later.

Shadyside, a prolific three-point shooting team, finished with 11 trifectas compared to three from Linsly, all authored by senior wing Cody Campbell.

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The winners benefited from another unsung effort from senior Drew Kennon who recorded 10 clutch points.

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Shadyside shot 20 of 53 from the field and collected 31 rebounds with Holloway nabbing seven. The Tigers overcame 15 turnovers. Linsly went 26-of-63 from the perimeter and nabbed 36 stray shots. The Cadets were guilty of 19 giveaways.

Now 18-7 Shadyside awaits Division IV

● Bridgeport

Continued from Page C1

defections as well as questions whether or not senior Mike Bachie would play.

"We definitely didn't have a normal pre-season," Cash smiled. "The kids battled through it, but stuff like that happens, and throughout the season these kids battled every night."

Making it through a tough stretch is usually a credit to the leadership and Cash turned to four quality seniors, including the aforementioned Bachie, to get it done. It's the same group of seniors Cash coached during the younger years of their career and watched them limp through a winless season in junior high.

Now, they will place the OVAC gold trophy directly in the trophy case outside of the Havlicek Gymnasium.

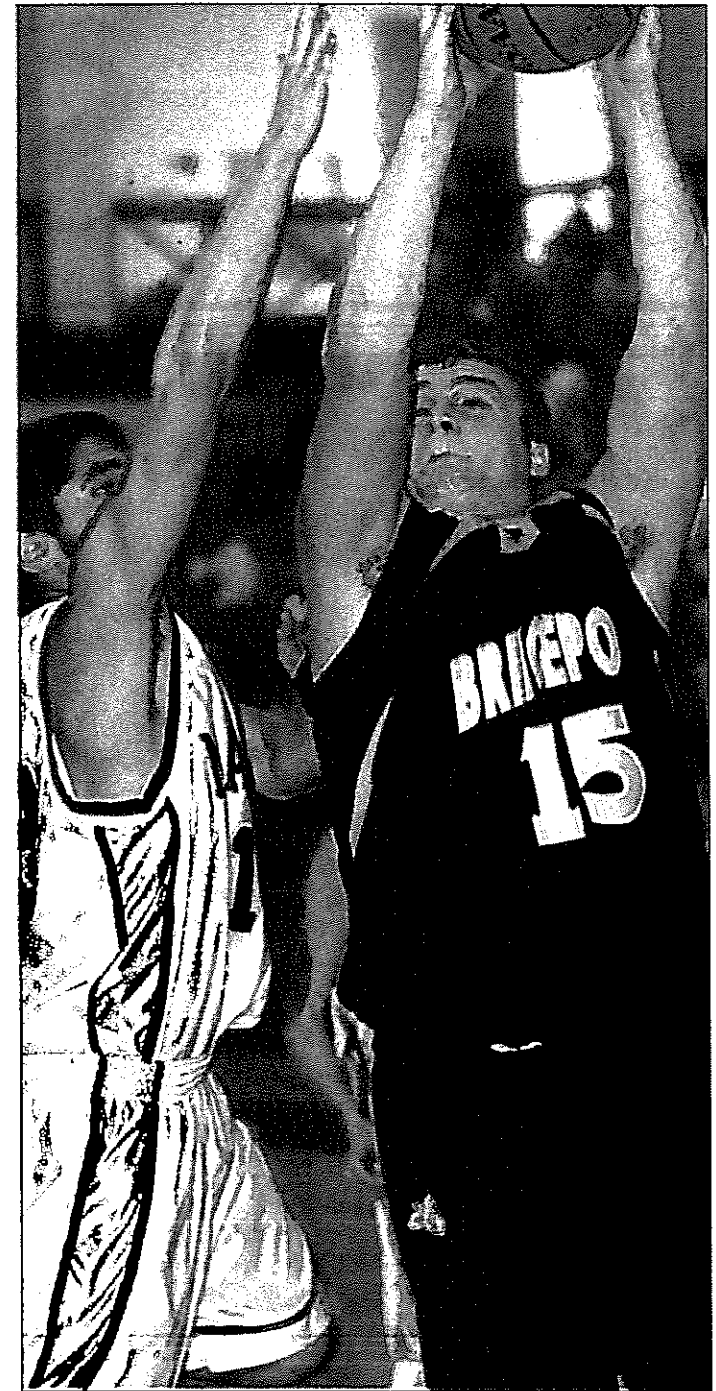
"These four kids have been through the good and bad of the Bridgeport basketball program," Cash pointed out. "To win an OVAC title their senior year shows how special of a group these kids are."

While the Bulldogs are vasking in the glory of their title and making travel plans to WesBanco Arena in May for the annual OVAC Banquet of Champions, the Blue Dons must get back to work and finish their regular season before entering West Virginia post-season play.

"I don't know if Bridgeport beat us (Saturday), but they came out with more points," said Madonna head coach George Vargo who watched his team slip to 13-6 on the season. "Coach Cash and his kids did a great job today. Our kids played hard the entire game, but unfortunately the ball didn't fall for us when we needed it to."

The Blue Dons — who were the top seed in the Class 1-A tournament and took care of Bishop Rosecrans in the semifinals — appeared to be ready to deliver the knock-out blow during the second half when they extended the lead to 31-24, but the Bulldogs closed the period with a mini-spurt to make it a 33-31 reading entering the fourth.

In the fourth, it was all



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

BRIDGEPORT'S MIKE Bachie (15) goes strong to the basket Saturday afternoon against Weirton Madonna in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championships. The Bulldogs won. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

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10 boards to go along with his 14 points. He had six of those boards in the fourth period.

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wringer.

"This one's for our five seniors," a happy Andes declared. "It was a total team victory and that's how we like to win them. We're thrilled to be part of this first-ever (tournament format) that, from here, will be decided on the court. It's a great accomplishment for our kids."

In the end, Shadyside prevailed via its ability to convert at the foul line. The Tigers nailed 18-of-21 overall but were particularly clutch during the 12 minute extra sessions in which they cashed 13-of-15.

Linsly, meanwhile, endured 9-of-23 inaccuracy and could point to several key misfires which cost the Cadets an opportunity for victory.

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Seconds later, it appeared the Bengals were regulation victors, however, a brilliantly executed inbound play failed to pay off when sophomore Justin Andes saw his open layup spin off the rim as time expired.

Linsly then mounted a 54-49 upperhand with 90 seconds remaining in the second OT. Shadyside, though stormed back, keyed by Billy Merryman's big-time three-pointer and four foul line connections by Jared Andes.

A Justin Andes foul conversion had Shadyside on the verge of victory until Linsly's C.J. Goodwin barely beat the buzzer with a dramatic game-tying putback to force a third overtime.

● St. Clairsville

Continued from Page C1

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The Saints' offensive production continued to struggle in the third as Central — behind seven points from D'Onte Long extended its lead to 41-31.

However, the Red Devils had been faced with deeper holes, including a 26-point deficit against 4-A finalist John Marshall last month, which they had climbed out of.

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ing for good.

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Now 18-2, Shadyside awaits Division IV sectional play Feb. 18 when the Orange oppose Beallsville. Linsly (11-6) returns to regular season play Tuesday at home against Parkersburg Catholic.

LINSLY (64) — Hill 0, 0-0-0; Milton 0, 0-0-0; Fahey 0, 0-0-0; Slayton 0, 0-2-0; Cecil, T. 2, 0-1-4; Cecil, S. 1, 2-6-4; Moulton 4, 2-4-10; Goodwin 9, 3-4-21; Campbell 10, 2-6-25. Totals — 26, 9-23. SHADYSIDE (69) — Sadlowski 0, 0-0-0; Andes, Jus. 0, 1-2-1; Kimble 0, 2-2-2; Butts 1, 1-2-3; Kennon 5, 0-1-10; Holloway 3, 6-6-13; Merryman 5, 0-0-15; Andes, Jar. 6, 8-8-25. Totals — 20, 18-21.

Three-point goals. Linsly — Campbell (3). Shadyside — Jar. Andes (5), Merryman (5), Holloway.

Gibson may be reached at: rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

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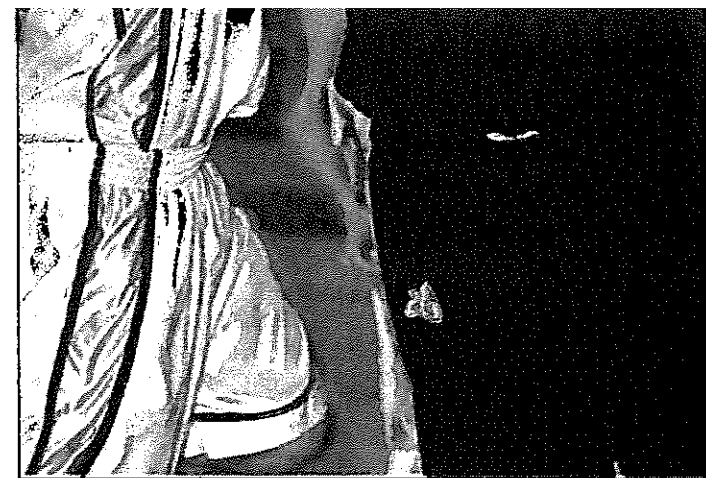
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In the fourth, it was all Bridgeport.

With Bachie doing work on the interior and Lindsey running the show on the point, the Bulldogs went on a 18-4 run



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

BRIDGEPORT'S MIKE Bachie (15) goes strong to the basket Saturday afternoon against Weirton Madonna in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championships. The Bulldogs won. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

in the fourth period. Bachie had a pair of field goals, while Lindsey scored 10 of his 21 in the final chapter.

"Both Bachie and Chaz played great today," Cash said. "Chaz made a few key plays in the fourth quarter and Bachie was tough inside, but our other two seniors did a great job as well and their stats might not show up in the boxscore, but they do so many intangible things."

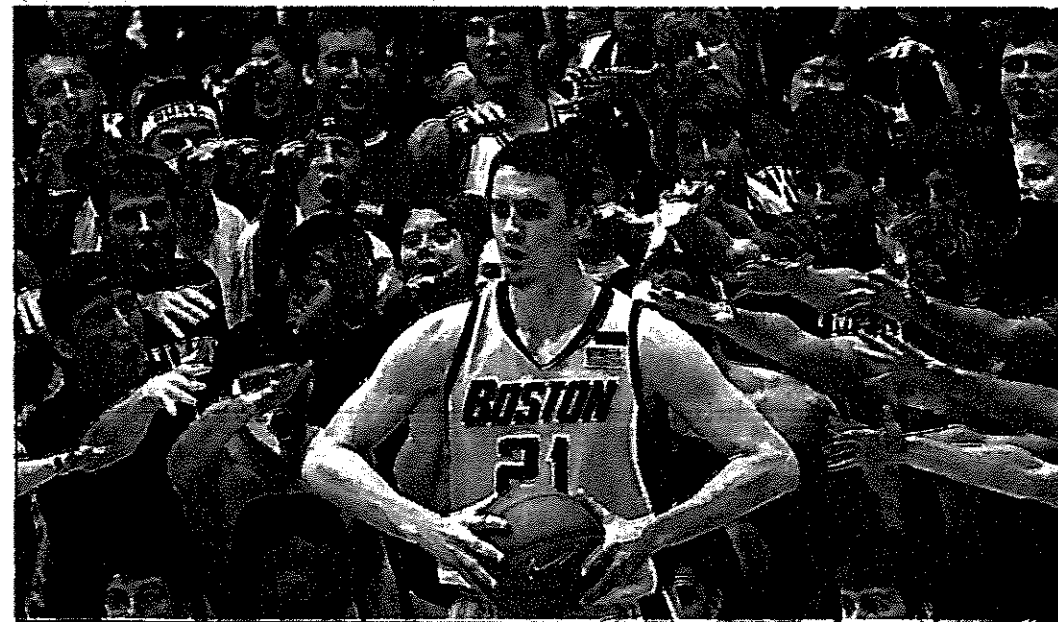
Bachie finished with yet another double-double, adding

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Three-Point Goals: B — Lindsey, Gregoric (2). M — Hirakala (2), Contl. Sstaskey can be reached at [sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com)



AP Photo

DUKE FANS reach out for Boston College's Tyler Roche as he inbounds the ball during the first half of a college basketball game in Durham, N.C., Saturday. Duke won 90-80.

Memphis still only unbeaten; Duke, Tennessee, Texas win

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Joey Dorsey had 12 points and 13 rebounds and top-ranked Memphis remained the nation's only undefeated

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AP Photo

with 90 seconds remaining in the second quarter. Shadyside, though stormed back, keyed by Billy Merryman's big-time three-pointer and four foul line connections by Jared Andes.

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"We were happy to even get into the tournament," said Mel Stephens. "We left for a road trip down state and thought Union Local was going to get in, so it was to our surprise when we got in, but when we did get in, we felt we could compete with anyone in the field."

The Knights were a wire-to-wire leader in the contest. They assumed a 12-6 upper-hand after one period, but the Red Devils cut into the margin with a 13-12 second period.

"We were a little out of sync in the first quarter (offensively)," Clifford said. "Part of that probably had to do with the magnitude of the game, but we finally got our rhythm a little bit."

In the first half, the Red Devils struggled mightily to get their offense going. They struggled from the floor for the entire contest, meshing 15-of-40 from two and sank only two-of-18 from deep.

"Basketball is a cruel game," Clifford continued. "You can do everything right,

but if you don't throw the leather through the iron, you come away with nothing, and that was probably the tale of the game."

The Saints' offensive production continued to struggle in the third as Central — behind seven points from D'Onte Long extended its lead to 41-31.

However, the Red Devils had been faced with deeper holes, including a 26-point deficit against 4-A finalist John Marshall last month, which they had climbed out of.

"Once we got on a run, I was completely confident we'd be okay," Clifford said. "It's a cliché, but we just couldn't get over the hump."

The Red Devils seized the momentum in the fourth, scoring the first eight points of the period before Jordan Sortge meshed a trey from the right wing. Central's heart-and-soul Alex Peleuchtte tallied on the next trip to regain the momentum for the Knights.

"That was a huge shot," Clifford said of Sortge's triple. "Throughout the season, we've made huge shots like that. That was pretty much a dagger for us."

The Red Devils scratched and clawed their way back once again and got within five, but sophomore Zach Hood — seeing his first action of the contest — showed the ice in

his veins when he drilled a triple from the right corner.

"We gutted it out," Stephens said. "(Sortge and Hood) are sophomores in class, but they've got a lot invested in basketball and they are probably well beyond their years in basketball terms."

Central was led in the scoring column by senior post player Cory McKittrick who netted 15 points. He finished with six boards. Peleuchtte and Long each had 10.

St. Clairsville was led by senior Dustin Hynes who scored 12 points. Derrick Baugh added 10 points.

"I thought we had some times during the game where we could have made them break, but (Central) didn't break, and that's a credit to them," Clifford noted.

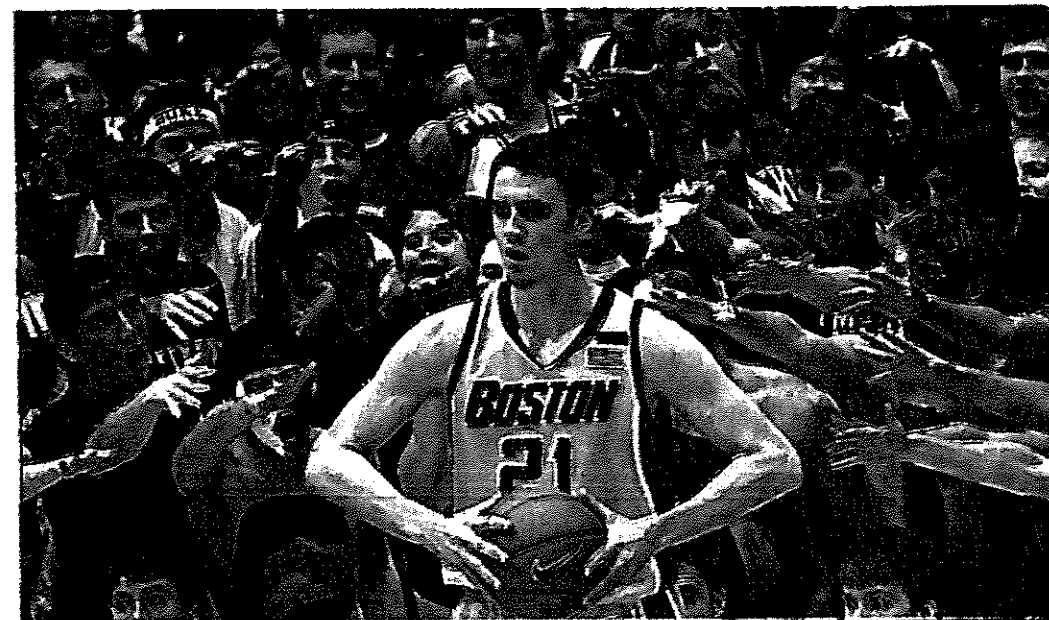
Central held a 27-22 edge on the boards, but was guilty of 14 turnovers, two more than the Red Devils.

Scoring:
WHEELING CENTRAL (58) — Hood 1, 0-0 3; Long 4, 2-3 10; Sortge 1, 0-0 3; Hurley 0, 0-0 0; Phillips 1, 4-4 6; Peluchette 4, 2-2 10; Koehler 4, 1-2 9; Joseph 1, 0-0 2; Weishar 0, 0-0 0; McKittrick 5, 5-7 15; Totals: 21, 14-18 58.
ST. CLAIRSVILLE (50) — Vincent 2, 3-6 8; Hynes 4, 3-5 12; Pala 0, 1-2 1; Bigelow 2, 7-8 11; Baugh 5, 0-2 10; Jarvie 2, 0-0 4; Skrabak 2, 0-0 4; Totals: 17, 14-23 50.

Three-Point Goals: WC — Hood, Sortge, St. C. — Vincent, Hynes.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

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AP Photo

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Memphis still only unbeaten; Duke, Tennessee, Texas win

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Joey Dorsey had 12 points and 13 rebounds and top-ranked Memphis remained the nation's only undefeated team with an 85-64 win over Central Florida on Saturday.

Derrick Rose led the Tigers (23-0, 9-0 Conference USA) with 15 points, and Antonio Anderson scored 11 as Memphis extended the country's longest active home winning streak to 46 and continued their conference supremacy.

No. 2 Duke 90, Boston College 80

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Kyle Singler scored 24 points and the Blue Devils shook off some early cold shooting to beat Boston College and extend their winning streak to 11.

DeMarcus Nelson added 23 for Duke (21-1, 9-0 ACC), which used a 17-2 run to take control.

Tyrese Rice, the league's second-leading scorer, scored 18 of his 28 points in the first half for the Eagles (12-10, 3-6), who shot 55 percent but allowed an eight-point first-half lead to slip away in losing their sixth straight and falling to 0-4 at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

No. 7 Tennessee 47, LSU 45

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — JaJuan Smith's steal and layup with 11 seconds left gave the Volunteers a win over the Tigers in their first game since the firing of coach John Brady.

Tennessee (21-2, 8-1 SEC) had lost all of a 12-point second-half advantage when Chris Johnson converted a three-point play with 1:15 left. LSU squandered a chance to take the lead moments later, and Smith made his steal from Marcus Thornton and drove almost three-quarters of the court for the go-ahead layup. The

basket represented his only points of the game.

No. 12 Texas 71, Iowa State 65, OT

AMES, Iowa (AP) — A.J. Abrams scored 25 points, D.J. Augustin added 17 and the Longhorns rallied from a 13-point deficit for their sixth win in seven games.

Gary Johnson had 15 points for Texas (19-4, 6-2 Big 12), which held Iowa State to three points in overtime. Damion Jones had eight points and 14 rebounds for Texas, which has won three straight against the Cyclones.

No. 22 Notre Dame 86, No. 16 Marquette 83

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Luke Harangody scored 18 points, including four free throws in the final 26 seconds, and the Irish survived going the final 6:22 without a field goal to win.

No. 17 Washington St. 74, Southern Cal 50

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Kyle Weaver scored 17 points to help the Cougars break a three-game home losing streak and make it a season sweep of the Trojans.

O.J. Mayo scored 14 points and Davon Jefferson 13 for Southern Cal (15-8, 6-5), which lost for only the second time in the past eight games and never really threatened.

No. 18 Texas A&M 77, Missouri 69

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Donald Sloan scored a career-high 21 points, and the Aggies used a 15-point run to open the second half and cruise to victory.

No. 19. Connecticut 80, Georgia Tech 68

STORRS, Conn. (AP) — Hasheem Thabeet scored a career-high 24 points, grabbed 15 rebounds and blocked six shots in leading UConn to its seventh consecutive win.

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

The Maroon Knights come in with a 9-6 record and overtook Union Local for the final bid by six hundredths of a point.

It was the same margin that the Red Devils eeked out the final home game. St. Clairsville finished with a win over Edison Friday to cap a strong 14-4 campaign. However, the Red Devils had to sweat out the standings until their formal announcement because of Magnolia's game with John Marshall being postponed due to weather last Friday.

The Blue Eagles are currently 14-2 and will make the trip to Belmont County Tuesday night.

IN CLASS 2-A, Shadyside used a pair of wins during the last week to overtake Fort Frye for the top seed.

The Tigers of head coach Ed Andes put the finishing touches on a 16-2 regular season with wins over River and Shenandoah last week. The Tigers' only two losses have come at the hands of Wheeling Central.

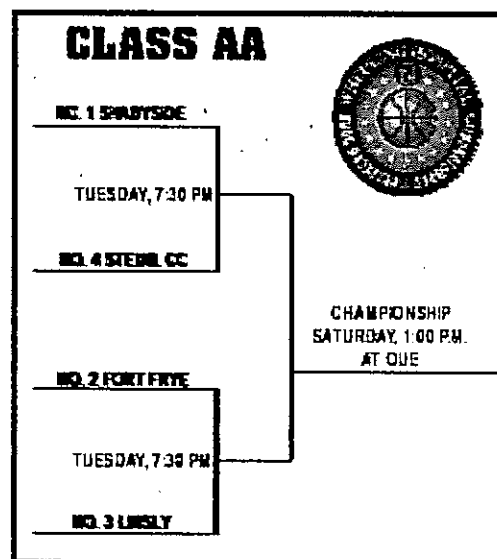
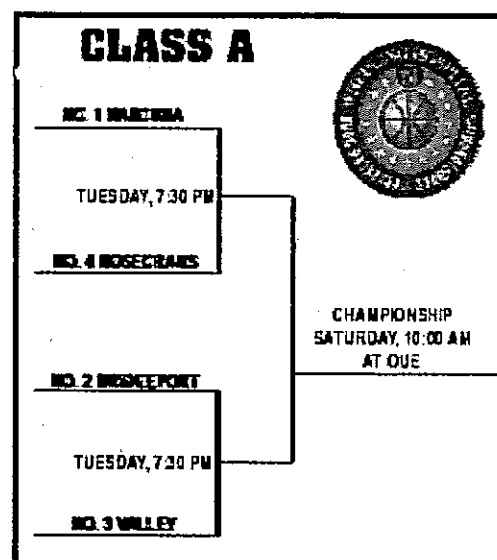
For their efforts, Shadyside will host Steubenville Catholic Tuesday. The Crusaders dropped two games during the final week and will enter the tournament with a 10-7 mark.

The aforementioned Cadets of Fort Frye will host the Cadets of the Linsly School Tuesday. Fort Frye - which lost Saturday night to Waterford - are now 15-3 on the season, but that loss didn't figure into the OVAC standings. Linsly finished its pre-OVAC schedule with a 10-5 mark.

IN CLASS 1-A, Weirton Madonna earned the top seed by virtue of its 12-5 record. The Blue Dons of Coach George Vargo will have stiff first-round challenge as Zanesville Rosecrans comes calling. The Dons defeated the Bishops earlier this season for one of their 12 wins.

The other semifinal in the small-school race finds Bridgeport (10-7) playing host to Valley. Coach Donnie Cash's club knocked off Barnesville in overtime, but fell to Madonna to round out its pre-OVAC tournament. John J. Havlicek gymnasium will host Valley in the first round. The Lumberjacks have posted a 9-6 mark thus far and are the third seed.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com



Bracketology: OVAC semifinal matchups set

• Wheeling Hospital Boys Basketball Championship opens Tuesday

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference crowned its champions this past Saturday in girls' basketball, which means it's now time to shift focus to the boys championships.

OVAC Tournament Director Rick DeLuca and OVAC Basketball Committee released the championship pairings and semifinal matchups for the inaugural Wheeling Hospital Basketball Championship Sunday morning.

The tournament unfolds Tuesday with the championship semifinals at the higher seed's home court and the championship pool action also kicks off for the teams, which didn't finish in the top four.

The final night of pool play and the consolation games will be held on Friday. The consolation games will be held at the higher seed's court as well.

The winners of Tuesday's championship semifinals will converge on Ohio University-Eastern Saturday for the quad header of title games.

The schedule for the title games is set at: 10 a.m. - Class 1-A; 1 p.m. - Class 2-A; 4 p.m. - Class 3-A; Class 4-A - 7 p.m.

IN CLASS 4-A, Michael Jebbia's Wheeling Park

Patriots grabbed the top seed. The Patriots who enter the mix with a strong 12-3 mark will meet John Marshall (10-6) for the third time this season. The Patriots and Monarchs have split their first two games with each winning on the other's home floor in nip-and-tuck contest. The two could meet again in the SSAC Sectional if the Monarchs take care of their business. Park has already earned the bye in the sectional.

The other semifinal in the big-school division finds Weir High hosting red-hot Indian Creek. The Red Riders are 10-5 on the season and edged out the Redskins by less than two points in the average column for their spot. The Redskins are 13-5 on the season.

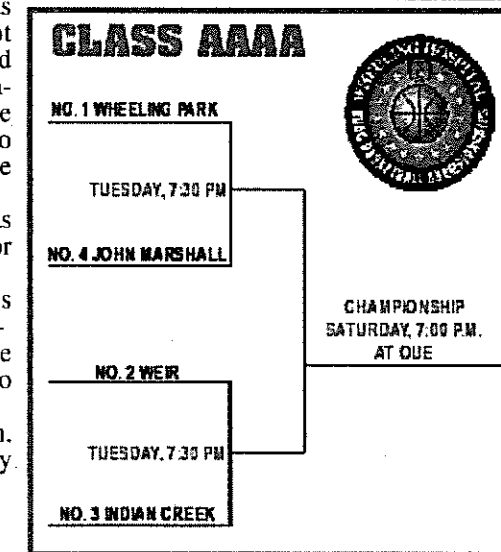
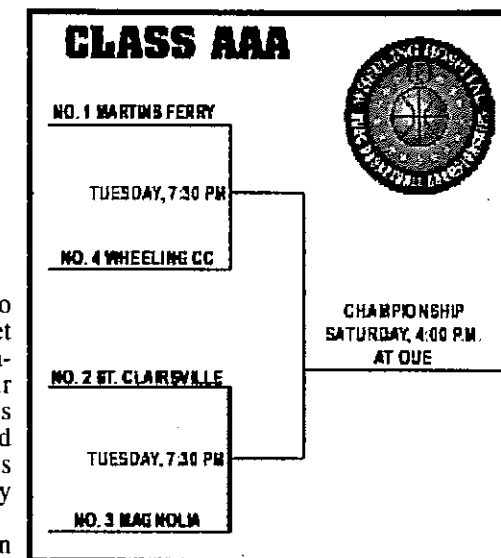
IN CLASS 3-A, the race for the final spot was extremely tight and equally tight was the race for the second and final home game.

Martins Ferry - on the strength of big wins over Union Local, St. Clairsville and Bellaire - overtook the aforementioned Red Devils for the top spot. Coach Jeff Sabatino's squad comes into the event with a strong 14-4 mark.

To reach the finals at Ohio University-Eastern, the Purple Riders must take care of scrappy Wheeling Central.

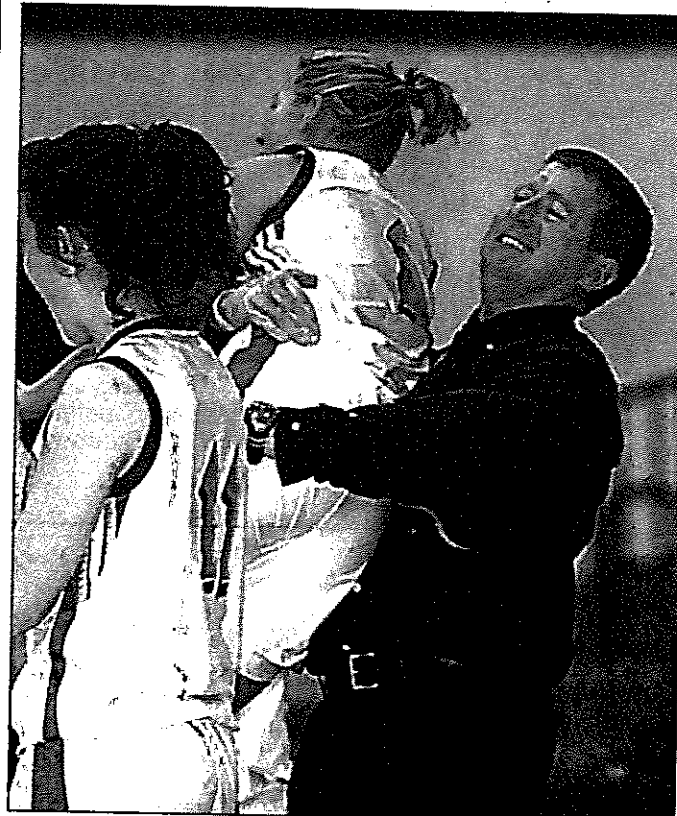
See, OVAC, Page B2

• See complete pairings and the final OVAC standings on Page B4.



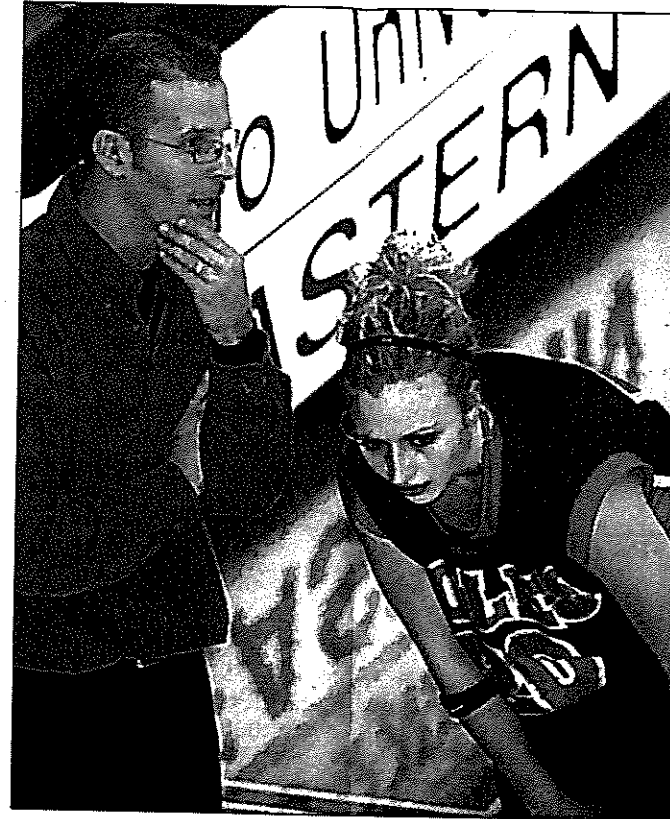
SPORTS

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Sunday,
February 3, 2008



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

ST. JOHN head coach Robert 'Bubba' Kapral celebrates with senior point guard Kylie Kidder following the Lady Irish's win over Beallsville. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleader.com



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

MONROE CENTRAL head coach Troy Baker talks with Karlie Davis during the Lady Seminoles victory over Steubenville Catholic. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleader.com



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

BARNESVILLE HEAD coach Jamie Carpenter talks with his team during a timeout in their game with Martins Ferry. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleader.com

OVAC CHAMPS

• Lady 'Rocks win inaugural Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball 3-A championship

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The stories surrounding the Barnesville Lady Shamrocks are countless.

Whether it's the fact that they were down by double digits in the regular-season finale and needed a late trey to cap the comeback and advance to the championship bracket of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

Or was it the fact that once they got into the tournament they found themselves on the road



Basketball Championship.

Or was it the fact that once they got into the tournament they found themselves on the road at a strong Wheeling Central outfit. Check that off the list.

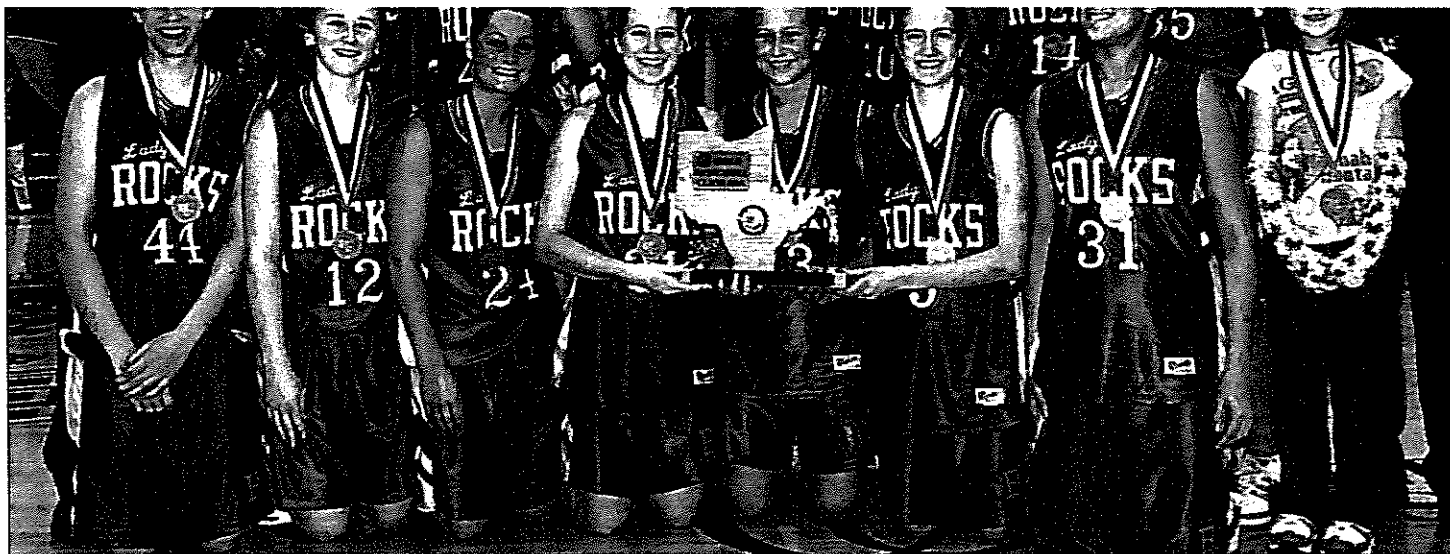
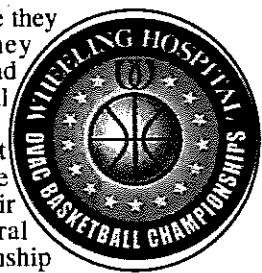
And then on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern, the Lady Shamrocks capped their amazing run in the inaugural OVAC Basketball Championship with an impressive 50-33 victory over top-seeded Martins Ferry.

"Hats off to the OVAC for coming up with this idea," smiled Barnesville head coach Jamie Carpenter who knows his team would have been third and gotten nothing in last year's format. "The last couple of weeks have been a wild ride, but the girls never quit on me even when we went through a tough stretch."

For their efforts, Barnesville will make more room on their already jam-packed walls and trophy cases for the OVAC title that the Lady Shamrocks are bringing back to western Belmont County.

While there are already 70 OVAC titles housed in

See, ROCKS, Page C2



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

MEMBERS OF the Barnesville girls' basketball team pose with their Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 3-A championship trophy following the Shamrocks' win over Martins Ferry Saturday afternoon at Ohio University-Eastern. Barnesville knocked off the top-seeded Purple Riders 50-33 to earn the championship trophy. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

St. John takes rubber match with Beallsville

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

It was only fitting that the girls' basketball team with the most Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championships was the first of four crowned on the court Saturday.

St. John Central collected its 14th Class A title early yesterday morning with a 71-65 come-from-behind victory over Beallsville in the inaugural Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championships at the spacious Ohio University-Eastern venue in St. Clairsville.

The victory raises the Lady Irish to 18-2 on the season and avenges one of their two regular-season setbacks, that being an 82-75 verdict to the Lady Blue Devils (14-6) early last month at the Greenhouse.

"This is different," explained SJC head coach Robert 'Bubba' Kapral. "We've won the last two and more than

'You have to play these games on the court.'

- Bubba Kapral

anyone else, but this one is different because we won it on the court. You have to play these games on the court.

"Playing Beallsville also made it different because we had split with them. This the way to do it. You have to play the games to determine a league champion."

St. John's only other loss may have had something to do with Saturday's outcome as the Lady Irish saw

See, SJC, Page C2



ST. JOHN'S Sara Wamsley (25) looks to shoot between Beallsville defenders during Saturday's Class A championship game. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

MONROE CENTRAL'S Karlie Davis (23) goes up for a shot against Steubenville Catholic's Katie DiPiero during Saturday's Class AA title game at OUE. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

Monroe outlasts Steubenville Catholic in 2-A

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

This just in the Monroe Central Lady Seminoles are for real.

Another thing that people had better take note of, the Lady Seminoles can flat-out shoot it.

They displayed all of their skills Saturday afternoon at the inaugural Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship at the Health and Physical Education Center at Ohio University-Eastern.

The Lady Seminoles - the second seed in the tournament - took care of

top-seeded Steubenville Catholic by a 66-39 count to win the school's first-ever girls' basketball conference title.

"This has been a great event and it's even greater that we were able to win," said Monroe Central head coach Troy Baker. "It's been a great experience for everyone involved, and we're just thrilled to death to be the champions."

While Monroe Central is vasking in the glory of its title, the Steubenville Catholic Lady Crusaders were left to do nothing, but shake their head.

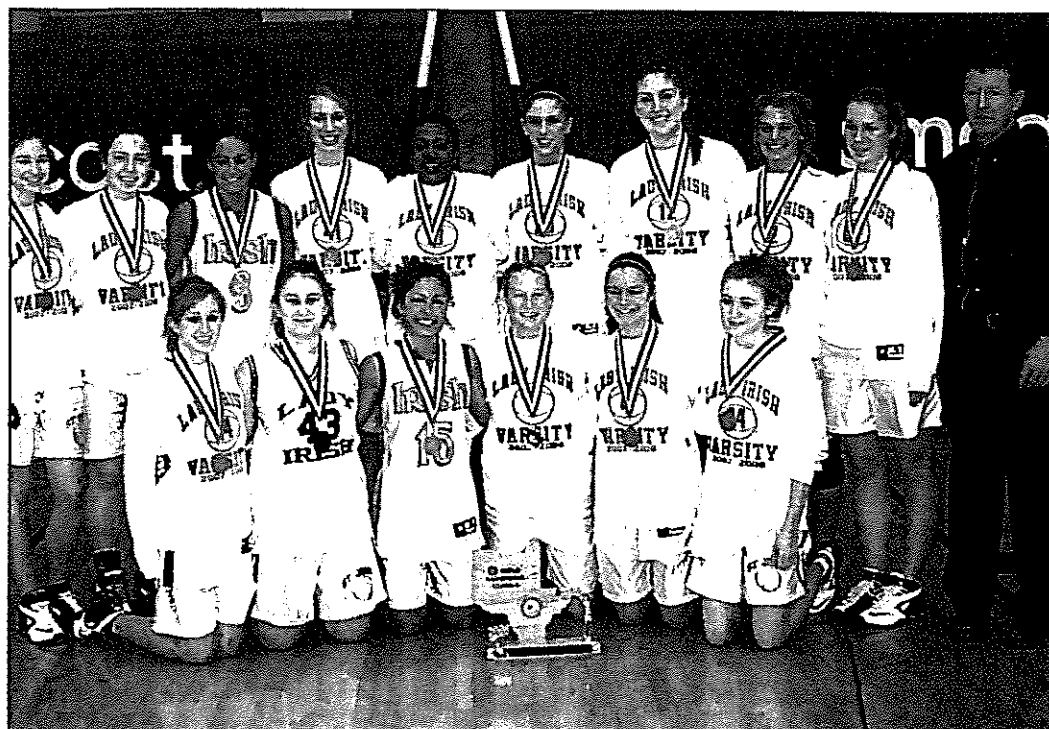
"We had a chance to see Monroe Central once and then on tape, but this was by the far the best I'd seen them

play in the now three times," said SCC head coach Kevin Barr. "They shot the ball well and my hat's off to Monroe for their performance."

It was pointed out to Barr after the game that had the tournament system not been in place, his team would be making preparations to hoist the banner. However that did nothing to sway Barr's opinion on the event.

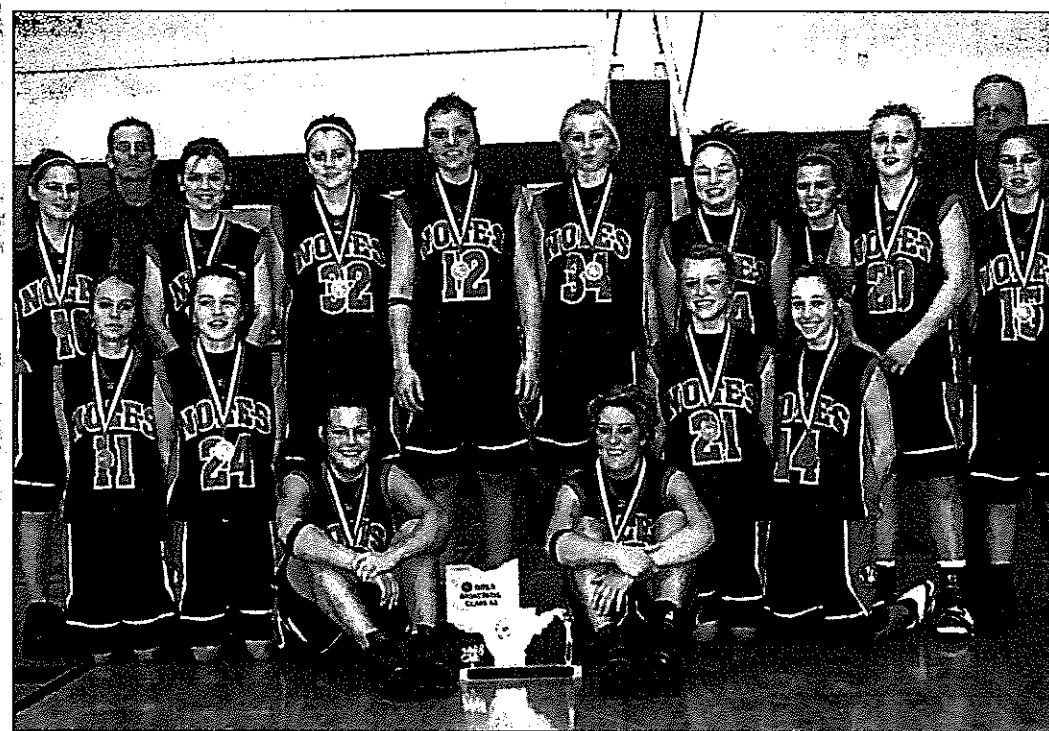
"Before this it was just a paper champion," Barr said. "We like this event and this is the way a championship should be decided and that's on

See, MONROE, Page C2



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

ST. JOHN'S captured the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A girls' basketball championship Saturday with a 71-65 win over Beallsville. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

MONROE CENTRAL captured the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AA girls' basketball championship Saturday with a 66-39 win over Steubenville Catholic. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● SJC

Continued from Page C1

Barnesville rally from 14 down Wednesday night to post a 72-71 nod.

"You know, that loss might have been a blessing in disguise," added Kapral, who has now won eight OVAC girls titles in his 14 years at the Guernsey Street school.

"We knew what to expect from them," said Beallsville's Terry Jarrett. "We missed some shots that we usually make and our free throw shooting wasn't what we usually shot. But, hey, they're a great team and hopefully we'll see them down the road."

Beallsville, which entered the contest as the No. 2 seed and routed Bridgeport (80-59) in the semifinals, used a strong first-half showing by senior Savannah Burke to take a 15-12 advantage after one period.

When the 5-ft.-11 Burke banked home a basket at the 3:56 mark of the second period, Beallsville had increased its lead to 10, 27-17.

However, the top-seeded Lady Irish weren't about to give up as they turned up the full-court pressure defense a notch or two. The defensive pressure forced the Lady Blue Devils into several turnovers which led to easy baskets.

Seniors Sara Wamsley and Kylie Kidder ignited a 12-0 run that saw all five SJC starters score to put the designated hosts ahead, 29-27, with 21 seconds left in the opening half.

Wamsley started the run with an inside basket and Kelly Perzanowski scored on a layup after charting a steal. Kidder, who was plagued with foul trouble for the most part, followed up a missed shot and then converted a layup after

8-2 run to lead, 54-48, with eight minutes left to play.

A quick 6-2 burst to start the final chapter bumped the count to 10, 60-50, and the Lady Irish used some timely free throw shooting down the stretch for their third straight OVAC crown.

After Beallsville had pulled to within four, 64-60, N. Perzanowski meshed three charity tosses and Justene Delman converted both of her attempts.

"These girls are battle tested," Kapral continued. "They have been there before and have always risen to the top."

While most of the pre-game talk centered on how St. John was going to stop the 1-2 inside punch of the Lady Blue Devils' Burke and Headley.

Well, Wamsley and Velkovich held their own, and then some.

While Burke scored a game-high 27 and added 10 rebounds and Headley had 17 markers and a game-high 13 boards, the Lady Irish duo combined for 31 points and 23 caroms.

"Our post players really stepped up," the Lady Irish coach noted. "We knew their two girls inside are really good, but our kids stepped up to the challenge today."

"You've got to give credit to Beallsville," said Kapral. "They gave us their best shot and they are a very good team."

Wamsley had 25 points and 11 rebounds, while Velkovich added just six points, but pulled down a dozen missed shots. Kidder was

of getting me the ball and I

knocked down some shots." The Lady Seminoles could have played with about anyone regardless of size and seed when they shoot the ball like they did on the OUE court.

The Lady Seminoles knocked down 18-of-36 shots from the floor and six-of-12 from behind the arc.

"If Monroe shoots the ball well, they have a chance to go a long way in the (sectional) tournament," Barr revealed.

The shooting was something that didn't surprise Baker.

"We've shot the ball well from the perimeter all season," Baker said. "We average close to 50 percent from the floor for the season."

Included in the shooting performance was the individual effort of Karlie Davis who canned five treys in the first half, including one at the horn, which pushed the Lady Seminole advantage to 37-26 at the break.

"When I feel it, I shoot it," Davis said matter of factly. "My teammates did a good job

of getting me the ball and I knocked down some shots."

"That shot was huge," Baker said of Davis' bomb. "It's definitely a lot better to be up 11 and I think we closed the half with the last seven points."

The Lady Crusaders made a run in the early moments of the second half, but after a quick timeout from Baker, the Lady Seminoles took the game over for good.

"We used a lot of energy at that point, and give Monroe credit again because they called the time out and just took the game over from there," Barr said.

The Lady Seminoles outscored Steubenville Catholic by a 29-13 count in the second half.

While Davis' shooting stole some of the show, not lost in the shuffle was the play of junior forward Aleshia Guiler who scored 23 points and had eight rebounds and four steals.

Guiler scored 12 of those points in the first half when the Lady Seminoles built their

working margin.

Davis finished with a game-high 24 points.

The Lady Seminoles also did the job on the defensive end, limiting all-state candidate Ginny Petties to just one field goal and only six points.

"I don't know if it was as much what we did or Ginny having an off night," Baker said.

Senior Katie DiPiero led the Lady Crusaders with 14 points. Emily Canella added nine.

Monroe Central held a 25-18 edge on the glass.

Scoring:

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class AA Championship
MONROE CENTRAL 66,
STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC 39
MONROE CENTRAL (66) — Kuhn 1, 1-2 3; Guiler 10, 3-4 23; Lafferre 0, 0-0 0; O. Guiler 0, 0-0 0; Davis 7, 5-5 24; LaFollette 1, 0-0 2; Ramage 2, 3-5 7; Jorris 2, 0-0 5; Parks 0, 0-0 0; Parden 0, 0-0 0; Marshall 1, 0-0 2; Dimmerling 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 24, 12-16 66.

STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC (39) — Marrow 0, 0-0 0; Hutton 0, 0-0 0; Sawon 2, 0-0 4; DiPiero 6, 0-0 14; Petties 1, 4-4 6; Canella 2, 3-4 9; Petchal 2, 0-0 4; Shaw 0, 2-4 2; Totals: 13, 9-12 39.

Three-Point Field Goals: MC — Davis (5), Jorris. SCC — DiPiero (2), Canella (2).

● Monroe

Continued from Page C1

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Burke's two charity tosses evened the count and a strong inside move by Alyssa Headley put the Big Blue back on top, 31-29. After Beallsville had taken a 33-30 edge, Wamsley hit a foul shot and then cashed in a two-pointer with nine seconds remaining to forge a tie at the break.

"There was no sense of urgency at halftime," Kapral said. "There was no yelling or screaming. We knew that we hadn't played our best, and yet we were tied."

The two rivals, who could meet once again in the upcoming sectional tournament, traded points for most of the third period, but the Lady Irish took the lead for good when N. Perzanowski's second free at 3:27 snapped a 46-all deadlock.

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Wamsley had 25 points and 11 rebounds, while Velkovich added just six points, but pulled down a dozen missed shots. Kidder was charted with five steals, while N. Perzanowski added 17 points, four steals and four assists.

Tori Jarrett also reached double figures for the Lady Blue Devils with 11 points.

Beallsville turned the ball over 21 times, six more the St. John.

The two teams are back in action Saturday in Ohio Division IV Sectional Tournament action at Union Local High School. Beallsville tangles with Shadyside at 1 p.m., while St. John faces River at 7 p.m.

Boxscore:

Wheeling Hospital OVAC
Class A Championship
ST. JOHN CENTRAL 71, BEALLSVILLE 65
BEALLSVILLE (65) — Headley 7 3-4 17; Jarrett 4 1-2 11; Burke 9 9-14 27; Arnold 1 1-5 3; Lallathin 1 3-6 5; Fraley 0 0-0 0; Contos 1 0-0 2; Totals: 23-57 17-31 65. ST. JOHN CENTRAL (71) — N. Perzanowski 4 7-8 17; K. Perzanowski 3 0-0 6; Wamsley 10 5-8 25; Kidder 2 1-4 5; Velkovich 3 0-0 6; Delman 3 2-3 8; Jenkins 2 0-0 4; Totals: 27-77 15-23.
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North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

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● Rocks

Continued from Page C1

Barnesville, this is the first title in the sport of basketball in either boys or girls.

"Before we left (for OUE) today, we took a walk around our gym and looked at all of the banners that hung there and wanted to hang our own," said Carpenter.

Senior Chelsey Keylor — who scored only seven points in the game — is the Lady Shamrocks' leader on and off the floor.

out and took the game to the Lady Purple, jumping to a 9-0 lead before Courtney Coleman buried a three more than halfway into the first period.

Behind seven points from Allie Doan, the Lady Shamrocks took command with a 12-3 first quarter.

"I ate my Wheaties this morning," Doan joked during the post-game press conference.

Ferry — which shot an ice-

points, including a trio of treys. She hit a pair of dagger treys in the second half just when it seemed as if the Lady Riders were about to make a run.

"Megan really stepped up and played well today," Carpenter said. "Megan's come up big for us the last two weeks."

Coming into the game, one of the more unheralded players for Barnesville was senior Leah Bettinger and all she did



Ohio University Eastern Campus



Boys' Finals February 9th



At The Finals . . .

One Lucky Fan Will Have The Chance To Win \$25,000 Courtesy of
THE HEALTH PLAN

2008 Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships
Schedule/Media Coverage

Girls' Finals* — Television Replay Schedule

A 10:00am, Two-Delayed Coverage, Monday, Feb. 4, 11:30am

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Continued from Page C1

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Senior Chelsey Keylor — who scored only seven points in the game — is the Lady Shamrocks' leader on and off the floor.

"This win is for our entire school and the entire community of Barnesville," she proclaimed during the press conference. "Once we qualified for this the way we did, I think we just felt like we were destined to win. I had an off night, but we've got four other girls on the floor and they stepped it up."

While the Lady Riders are disappointed about the outcome, Purple head coach Dave Reasbeck knows there is still basketball to be played and he also knows when next year's OVAC Tournament rolls around, he'll have all but one of his players back.

"Give Barnesville all of the credit," Reasbeck said. "I didn't think seven seniors compared to one senior would make that much of a difference, but it did because we had a deer in the headlights look early in the game, but it's okay because we've got the tournament coming up and we want to get back here next year and try it again."

The Lady Shamrocks came

out and took the game to the Lady Purple, jumping to a 9-0 lead before Courtney Coleman buried a three more than halfway into the first period.

Behind seven points from Allie Doan, the Lady Shamrocks took command with a 12-3 first quarter.

"I ate my Wheaties this morning," Doan joked during the post-game press conference.

Ferry — which shot an ice-cold three-of-30 from two-point range — cut into the deficit with a 15-13 second period, making it a 25-18 reading at the break.

Lacey Neavin hit two treys for the Purple, while Megan Phillips came into the game for the injured Erica Welch and connected on a trey as well to keep the Ferrians at bay.

Martins Ferry went cold again in the third period and watched the Lady Shamrocks take total control with a 9-3 period.

"The third quarter has been a problem for us all season," Reasbeck said. "We shot something like nine-of-49 from the floor and seventh person had five goals. I think I just want to throw them away and hope it was a fluke."

The Lady Shamrocks finished the deal with a 16-12 fourth period. Doan was again the go-to-person with seven more points. All told, Doan led the way for the Lady Shamrocks with 16 points.

Junior Megan Phillips came off the bench to score 12

points, including a trio of treys. She hit a pair of dagger treys in the second half just when it seemed as if the Lady Riders were about to make a run.

"Megan really stepped up and played well today," Carpenter said. "Megan's come up big for us the last two weeks."

Coming into the game, one of the more unheralded players for Barnesville was senior Leah Bettinger and all she did was score 10 points and block seven shots.

"Bettinger was the difference inside," Reasbeck said. "She's their Shae Moreland and we knew that coming in."

Martins Ferry was led by Neavin who finished with 13 points. Coleman added 12 for the Purple.

Barnesville held a commanding 32-18 edge on the boards. Doan and Bettinger went for eight and seven, respectively to lead the Green. Coleman had six to pace Ferry.

Scoring:
Wheeling Hospital OVAC
Class AAA Championship
BARNESVILLE (50) — Kemp 2, 0-0 5; Phillips 4, 1-2 12; Bahmer 0, 0-0 0; J. Miller 0, 0-0 0; Keylor 3, 0-0 7; Welch 0, 0-0 0; Doan 7, 2-2 16; Moore 0, 0-0 0; S. Phillips 0, 0-0 0; M. Miller 0, 0-0 0; Hines 0, 0-0 0; Bettinger 5, 0-0 10; Totals: 21, 3-4 50. MARTINS FERRY (33) — Burch 1, 0-0 3; Vinci 1, 0-0 3; Wright 0, 0-0 0; Coleman 2, 7-8 12; Chambliss 0, 0-0 0; Frohnapfel 0, 2-2 2; Lucas 0, 0-0 0; Pamphiss 0, 0-0 0; Neavin 5, 0-0 13; Moreland 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 9, 9-10 33.

Three-Point Goals: B — Phillips (3), Kemp, Keylor, MF — Neavin (3), Burch, Vinci, Coleman.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com



Ohio University Eastern Campus



At The Finals . . .
One Lucky Fan Will Have The Chance To Win \$25,000 Courtesy of
THE HEALTH PLAN

2008 Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships Schedule/Media Coverage

Girls' Finals* — Television Replay Schedule

A - 10:00am - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI — Monday, Feb. 4 at 7:00pm
AA - 1:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI — Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 7:00pm
AAA - 4:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI — Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7:00pm
AAAA - 7:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI — Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7:00pm

Boys' Semifinals — Tues., Feb. 5 — played on the home courts of the higher seeds

Boys' Finals* — Sat., Feb. 9 — OUE — all games live on AM 1600 WKKX / www.wkkx.com

A - 10:00am - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI — Monday, Feb. 11 at 7:00pm
AA - 1:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI — Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 7:00pm
AAA - 4:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI — Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 7:00pm
AAAA - 7:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI — Thursday, Feb. 14 at 7:00pm

* Replays of the Finals will also be available to be seen on Comcast's Video On Demand service.



John Marshall, Park Set to Meet for a Third Time

OVAC boys' tourney pairings announced

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

The Ohio Valley Athletic Conference crowned its champions this past Saturday in girls' basketball, which means it's time to shift focus to the boys' championships.

OVAC Tournament Director Rick DeLuca and the OVAC Basketball Committee released the championship pairings and semifinal matchups for the inaugural Wheeling Hospital Basketball Championship Sunday morning.

The tournament unfolds Tuesday with the championship semifinals at the higher seed's home court, and the championship pool action also kicks off for the teams, which didn't finish in the top four.

The final night of pool play and the consolation games will be held Friday. The consolation games will be held at the higher seed's court, as well.

The winners of Tuesday's championship semifinals will converge at Ohio University-Eastern on Saturday for the quadruple-header of title games.

The schedule for the title games is set at: 10 a.m. — Class A; 1 p.m. — Class AA; 4 p.m. — Class



AAA; Class AAAA — 7 p.m.

In Class AAAA, Michael Jebbia's Wheeling Park Patriots grabbed the top seed. The Patriots, who enter the mix with a strong 12-3 mark, will meet John Marshall (10-6) for the third time this season.

The Patriots and Monarchs split their first two games with each winning on the other's home floor in nip-and-tuck contests. The two could meet again in the SSAC Sectional if the Monarchs take care of their business. Park has already earned the bye in the sectional.

The other semifinal in the big-school division finds Weir High playing host to red-hot Indian Creek. The Red Riders are 10-5 and edged out the Redskins by less than two points in the average column for their spot. The Redskins are 13-5.

In Class 3-A, the race for the final spot was extremely tight and equally tight was the race for the second and final home game.

Martins Ferry — on the strength of victories against Union Local, St. Clairsville and Bellaire — overtook the Red Devils for the top spot. Coach Jeff Sabatino's squad comes into the event with a 14-4 mark.

To reach the final at Ohio University-Eastern, the Purple Riders must

take care of scrappy Wheeling Central.

The Maroon Knights come in with a 9-6 record and overtook Union Local for the final bid by six hundredths of a point.

It was the same margin the Red Devils eeked out the final home game. St. Clairsville finished with a Friday night victory against Edison to cap a 14-4 campaign. However, the Red Devils had to sweat out the standings until their formal announcement because of Magnolia's game with John Marshall being postponed due to weather last Friday.

Please See **THIRD**, Page 14

OVAC Boys Hoops

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships

CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINALS

Tuesday (at Higher Seed's Court)

CLASS AAAA

No. 1 Whg. Park vs. No. 4 John Marshall

No. 2 Weir High vs. No. 3 Indian Creek

CLASS AAA

No. 1 Martins Ferry vs. No. 4 Whg. Central

No. 2 St. Clairsville vs. No. 3 Magnolia

CLASS AA

No. 1 Shadyside vs. No. 4 Steub. Cath.

No. 2 Fort Frye vs. No. 3 Linsly

CLASS A

No. 1 Weir, Madonna vs. No. 4 Rosecrans

No. 2 Bridgeport vs. No. 3 Valley

OVAC CONSOLATION POOL GAMES

Tuesday

Frontier at Bellaire

River at Beallsville

Monroe Central at Bishop Donahue

Cameron at St. John

Caldwell at Paden City

Toronto at Buckeye Trail

Union Local at Shenandoah

Oak Glen at Steubenville

Harrison Central at Barnesville

Buckeye Local at Brooke

Edison at Beaver Local

Friday

Beallsville at Toronto

Paden City at Monroe Central

St. John Central at Caldwell

Shenandoah at Harrison Central

Beaver at Buckeye Local

Steubenville at Union Local

Bellaire at River

Barnesville at Oak Glen

Bishop Donahue at Frontier

Buckeye Trail at Cameron

Brooke at Edison

Losing of the championship Semifinals will also meet on Friday at the higher seed's home court in the consolation game.

Third

(Continued from Page 13)

The Blue Eagles are 14-2 and will make the trip to Belmont County on Tuesday night.

In Class AA, Shadyside used a pair of victories during the last week to overtake Fort Frye for the top seed.

Coach Ed Andes' Tigers put the finishing touches on a 16-2 regular season with victories against River and Shenandoah last week. The Tigers' only two losses have come at the hands of Wheeling Central.

For their efforts, Shadyside will play host Tuesday night to Steubenville Catholic. The Crusaders dropped two games during the final week and will enter the tournament with a 10-7 mark.

Also Tuesday, Fort Frye will play host. Fort Frye —

which lost Saturday night to Waterford — is 15-3, but that loss didn't figure into the OVAC standings. Linsly finished its pre-OVAC schedule with a 10-5 mark.

In Class A, Weirton Madonna earned the top seed by virtue of its 12-5 record. Coach George Vargo's club will have stiff first-round challenge as Zanesville Rosecrans comes calling. The Bishops defeated the Dons earlier for one of their nine victories.

The other semifinal in the small-school race finds Bridgeport (10-7) playing host to Valley. Coach Donnie Cash's club knocked off Barnesville in overtime, but fell to Madonna to round out its pre-OVAC Tournament. The Lumberjacks have posted a 9-6 mark and are the third seed.

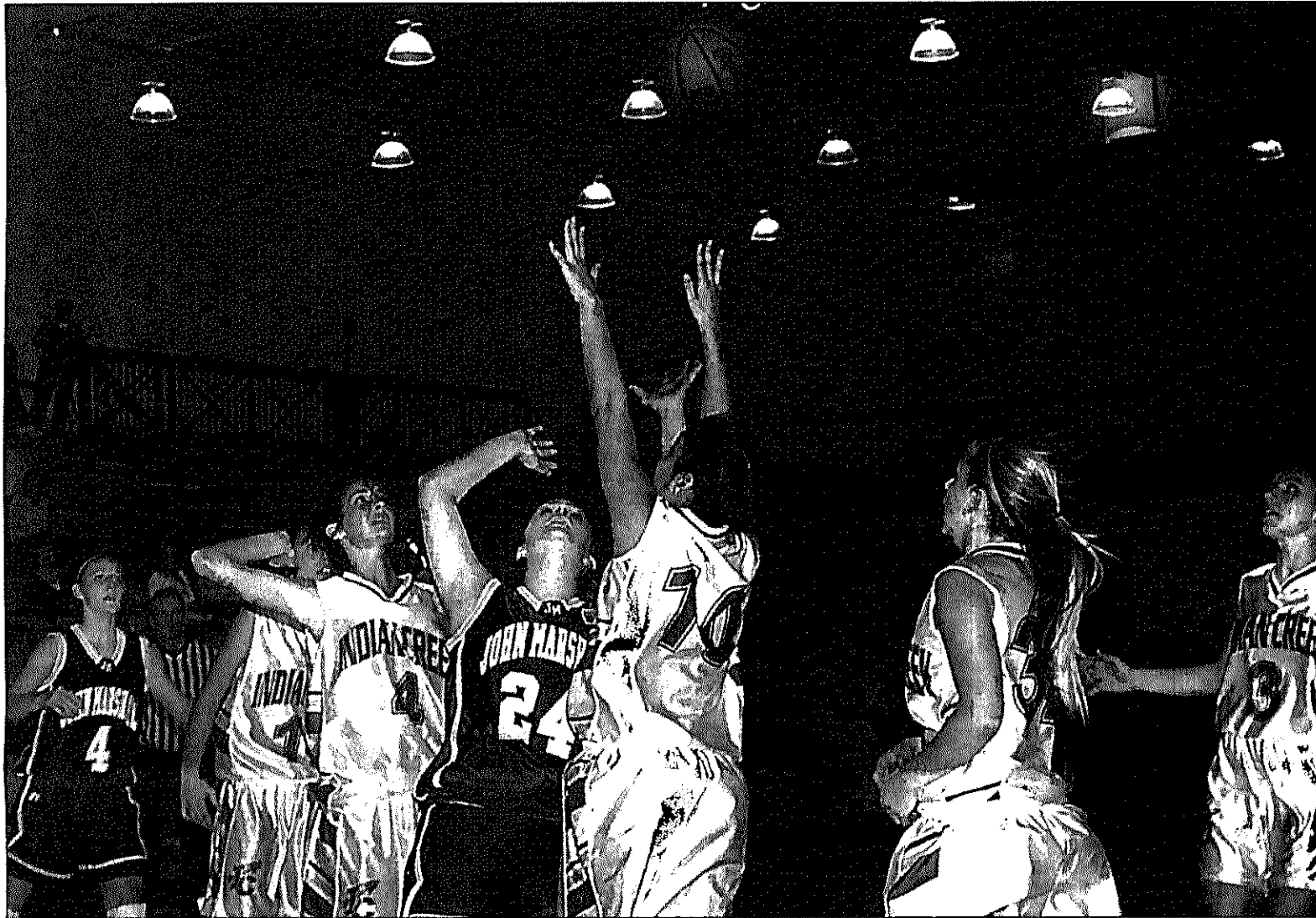


Photo by Brett Wysocki

Indian Creek's Mikki Davis (10) and John Marshall's Ashley Deel (24) go after a rebound during Saturday night's OVAC Class AAAA championship game at Ohio University Eastern. The Redskins defeated the Monarchs, 49-40.

A Total Team Effort

Indian Creek receives contributions from many in capturing AAAA title

By JIM ELLIOTT
W.Va. Sports Editor

Looking back, it's almost as if the John Marshall Monarchs knew they were in some kind of trouble against Indian Creek in what proved to be a 49-40 loss in the inaugural Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class AAAA Girls' Basketball Championship Game Saturday night on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

This is what the Monarchs' score by quarters looked like: 9, 11, 9, 11.

The top-seeded Redskins have a habit of forcing opponents into wanting to call for help with a relentless, defense-first style of play that, at some point, always has opposing coaches going back to the drawing board.

Indian Creek forced John Marshall into 21 turnovers, including four steals apiece by Gabbie Davis and Ty Harris, and held the normally

Irish, Seminoles and Shamrocks take crowns

— Page B3

good-shooting Monarchs to 27 percent from the field in becoming the first Class 4-A team to win an OVAC basketball title on the court.

Team is a good word when describing these Redskins.

Sure it would be easy to single out players like Mikki Davis, who scored 16 points, or Harris, who had 12, or freshman Brianna Kamarec, who was as cool as ice on the free-throw line in the fourth quarter, where she buried 9 of 10 chances.

But that's not the type of thing Indian Creek coach Erin DeSantis teaches. All day long, four representatives from each team met with the media after their respective games. Not the Redskins. Everybody on the roster made their way in the room.

"That's because we're a team," DeSantis said. "We win as a team, we lose as a team."

Bouncing back from a 5-15 season a year ago, these still-young Redskins haven't lost as a team too often this season, as their 16-3 record indicates.

"If we all stick together, then things will be just fine," Indian Creek's Harris said. "When you look at other teams, they usually only have one player who scores. On our team, everybody scores."

See, Effort, Page B5

EFFORT

Continued from page B1

This is a squad that starts four sophomores and a freshman.

"The thing about it is we're young in age, but not in playing time or experience," DeSantis said.

It shows. The game was tied at 29-29 entering the fourth period, when Indian Creek really began to clamp down on defense.

During the next 5:50, John Marshall (11-7) scored just one point, a free throw by Ashley Deel, who broke the field-goal drought with 2:10 to play that made the score 36-32.

That hardly seems insurmountable unless you factor in the way the Redskins were hitting free throws. At the 4-minute mark, veteran John Marshall coach Stan Blankenship was ordering fouls. Indian Creek made 18 of 26 free throws in the fourth quarter, 19 of 30 for the game.

"I don't think we played as hard as we could have until we had to," Blankenship said.

"Big-time (missed) opportunities down the stretch. And then you get into a situation where you have to foul and the other team makes their fouls, you dig an even bigger hole."

That was enough to do in the only West Virginia team that advanced to championship action.

"I give Indian Creek all the credit in the world," Blankenship said. "We didn't execute down the stretch."

Hanna Gossett led the Monarchs with 14 points and Aubrei Clegg made JM's only 3-pointer (they were 1 of 12) and finished with 10 points.

The shots weren't falling from anywhere.

"We missed a lot of easy shots," Blankenship said. And hard ones too.

"No, not today," John Marshall guard Julie Young said. "We're usually really hot on the 3s and when you're not shooting as well on the 3s, then you have to try for layups. Sometimes you need to hit them down the stretch but not

Saturday."

But Indian Creek, despite being much smaller across the board, seemed to always stop penetration, usually by taking the ball and going the other way.

"They were so quick," Clegg said. "It was a little bit difficult to dribble against them."

In the end, the Redskins celebrated in front of their bench as a strong legion of fans looked on appreciatively.

That's new, Indian Creek's Meghan Billick said.

"It's definitely different, last year, we had like three fans," she joked.

OVAC Class AAAA Girls' Basketball Championship

Indian Creek	49	John Marshall	40
J — Young	2-11 3-4 7	Gossett	7-12 0-1 14
Leach	0-0 0-0 0	Brinkman	0-4 0-0 0
Deel	3-7 1-2 7	Clegg	3-10 3-4 10
Gamble	0-0 0-0 0	Kalch	0-0 0-0 0
Talkington	0-4 2-4 2	Totals	15-48 9-15 40
I — Furda	0-0 0-0 0	Kamarac	1-5 9-10 11
Tate	0-2 0-0 0	M. Davis	5-13 3-7 16
G. Davis	2-8 3-7 8	Harris	4-15 4-6 12
Billick	1-3 0-0 2	Totals	13-47 19-30 49
3-Point Goals:	Clegg; M. Davis 2; G. Davis.		
John Marshall	9 11 9 11 — 40		
Indian Creek	10 6 13 20 — 49		

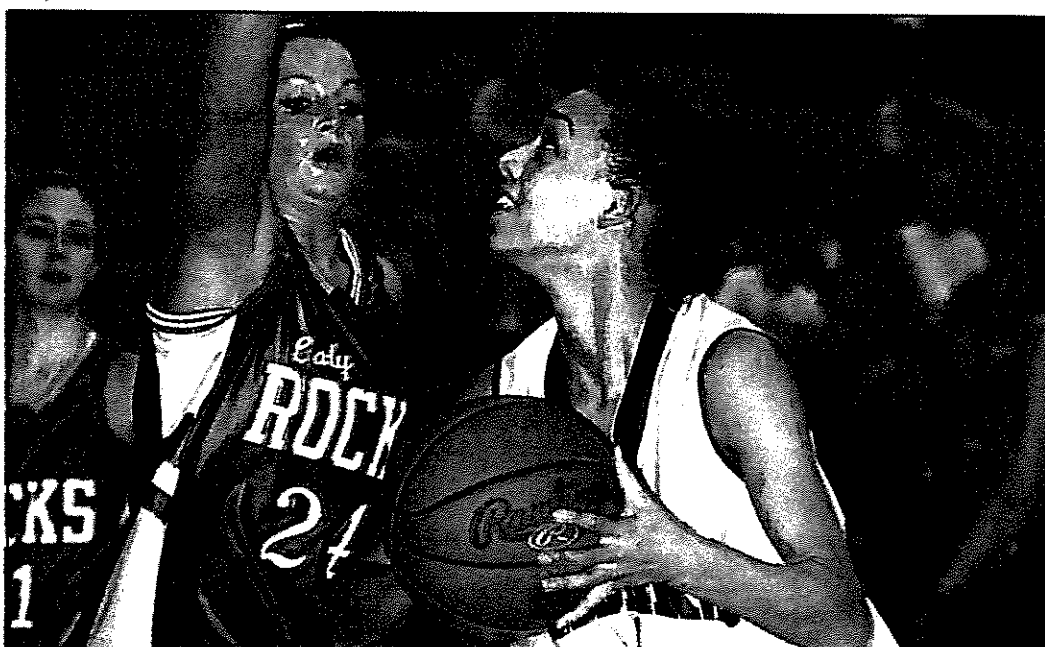
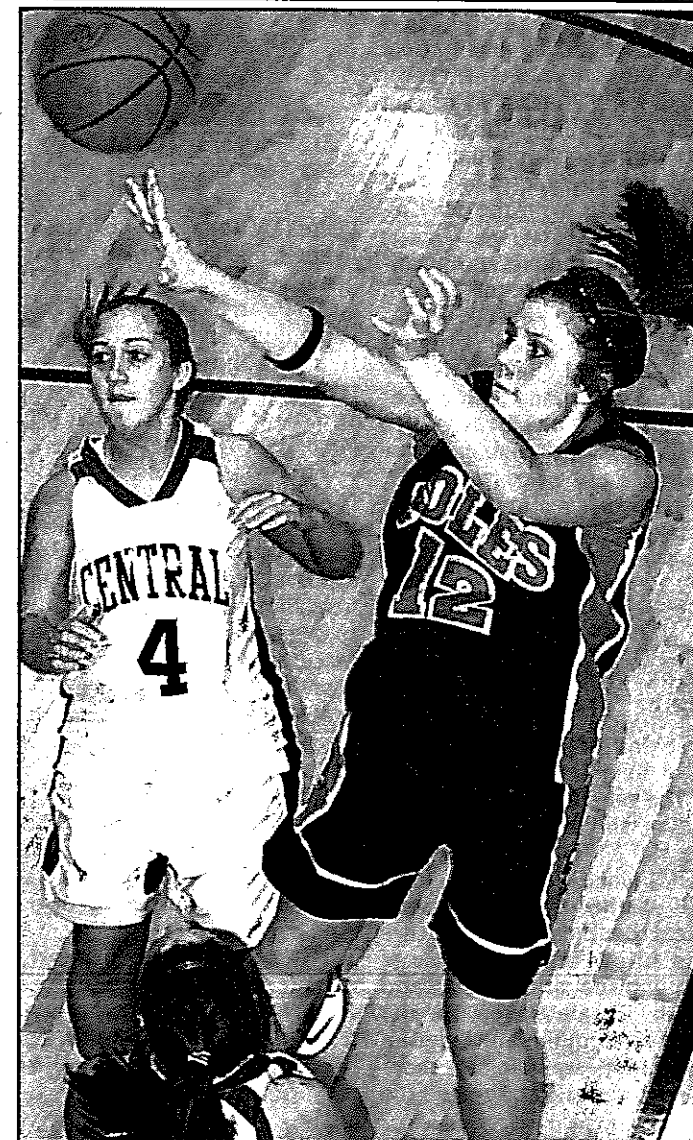


The Times Leader

HOOPS EXTRA

SECTION
B8

Sunday,
February 3, 2008

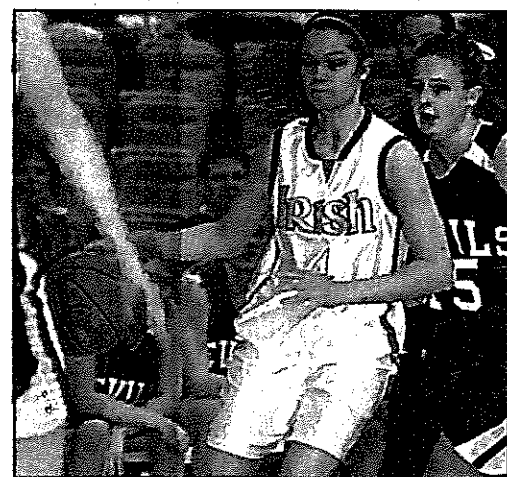
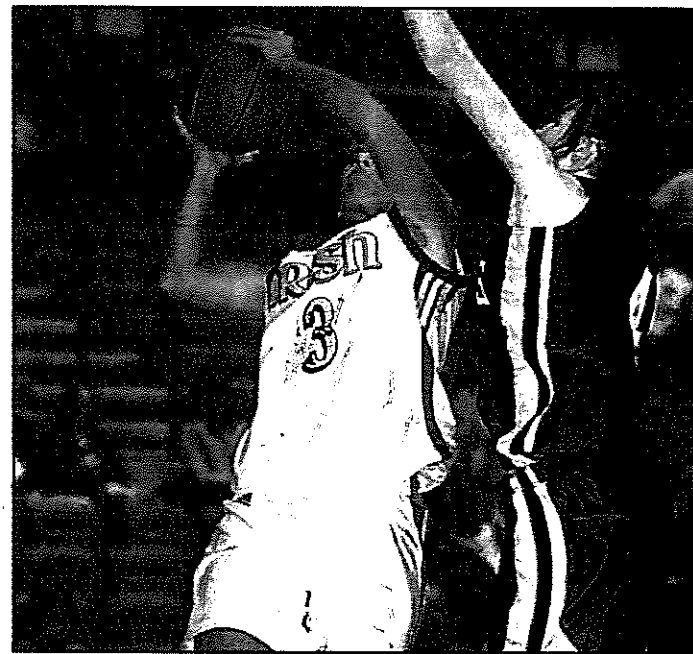


ABOVE: Monroe Central fans show their team spirit. **TOP RIGHT:** Monroe Central's Aleshia Guillier (12) shoots for two points while Steubenville Catholic's Chelsea Hutton (4) and Emily Canella (24) look on. **RIGHT:** Members of the Barnesville team celebrate their Class 3-A win over Martins Ferry. **LEFT:** Martins Ferry's Courtney Coleman (11) gets set to shoot over the defense of Barnesville's Allie Doan (24). **BOTTOM LEFT:** Beallsville's Tori Jarrett (4) and St. John's Natalie Perzanowski battle for a loose ball while the Irish's Kristina Velkovich (12) looks





Central's Taylor Jorris (23) drives to the hoop.
BOTTOM: St. John's Justene Delman dribbles into traffic.
RIGHT MIDDLE: St. John's Natalie Perzanowski (3) shoots over Beallsville's Tori Jarrett (4).
BOTTOM RIGHT: Martins Ferry's Lacey Neavin (23) makes her move.
T-L Photos/JOEL JOSEPH



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PAYING A VISIT

Sports columnist Doug Huff talks about Bill Stewart, Ed Pastilong, and Jeff Casteel showing up for the Dapper Dan Banquet/13

The Intelligencer SPORTS

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 2008
FINANCIAL14-15

11

High School Basketball

Park Edges Weir

Patriots bounce back, hold off Red Riders

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

It's not often a team can shoot 3-for-10 from the floor and make only 6 of 17 free throws in the fourth quarter and still hang on to win a basketball game.

Somehow Wheeling Park managed to do just that Friday night while staving off Weir High 53-50 at the Patriots gymnasium.

Regardless of how it happened, Park coach Michael Jebbia said his team will gladly take it.

"We needed to bounce back and get a win," Jebbia said.

The Patriots were coming off a disappointing home floor loss to John Marshall on Tuesday night in the opening round of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAAA Tournament. Wheeling Park, now 14-4 overall, was the top seed entering the four-team event while Weir (11-7) was seeded No. 2 before also losing in the semifinals to Indian Creek.

"I think both of us were hoping to be playing Saturday night for a championship, but that's high school basketball. Things aren't always going to go your way," Weir coach Mike Granato said. "We had foul shooting troubles of our own against Indian Creek when we made only 13 of 30. Tonight, we were 17 of 21 but we still lost.

"We had enough opportunities to win this game, but I'm proud to say that our kids played their hearts out."

For Jebbia, the Patriots' second victory this year against the Red Riders hopefully will provide a big lift as they look forward to what he regards as being among their most

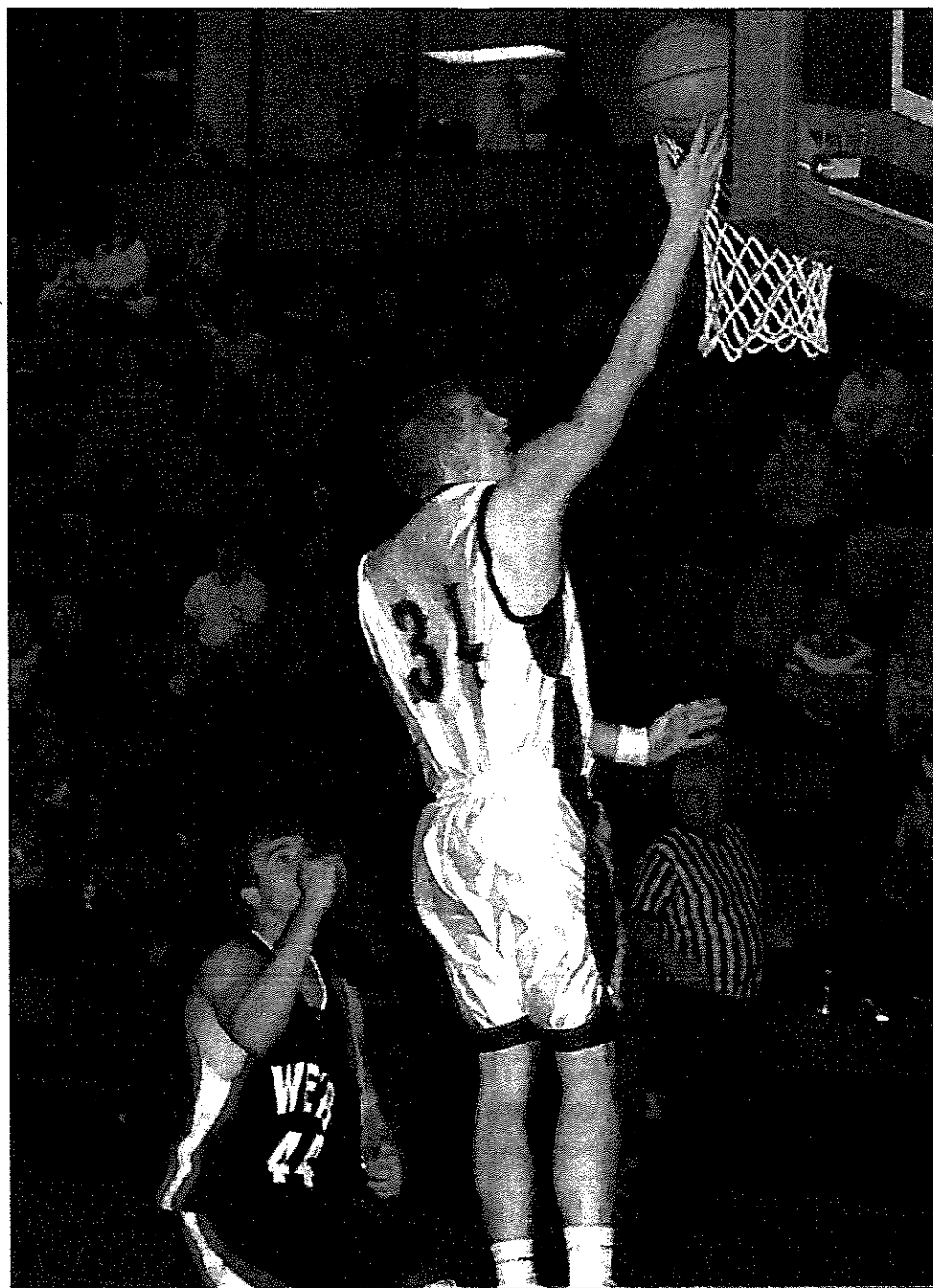


Photo by Mike Hughes

Wheeling Park's R.J. Vargo (34) goes in for a layup as Weir's Wes Lengyll gives chase during Friday's game in Wheeling. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net

Pete Brogdon, Weir's leading scorer who struggled against the Patriots by netting just 2 of 11 shots, finally tossed in a triple from

The Red Riders eventually scored on a Miser layup, cutting the deficit to 49-46 with 90 seconds to play. Cody MacPherson

Everything Working For Jets

7-0 run at the end of first propels UL

By KIM NORTH
For the Intelligencer

Chances are many members of the Union Local boys' basketball team have probably not heard of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

The novel, which was penned by Scottish author Robert L. Stevenson way back in 1885, is the best way to describe the 2007-08 edition of the Jets.

Last week in the opening round of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championships, Union Local played the role of Dr. Henry Jekyll in an embarrassing loss to Shenandoah in Sarahsville.

Friday night in Morristown, the Jets (11-9) showed up as Mr. Edward Hyde as they could do little wrong in a 74-65 decision against Steubenville (10-10).

"We've got some pretty good basketball players when they play to their potential," Union Local first-year coach Ben Porter said. "Sometimes that is frustrating, but when you play well and win, it balances things out. It's been a funny year."

The game started out like the early rounds of a heavyweight boxing match as the teams traded basket-for-basket. After five scoring deadlocks, the hosts broke a 16-16 tie with a 7-0 run to finish the first quarter with a 23-16 advantage.

UL junior Joby Barr scored five of the seven points, with classmate Kyle Blackman adding the other two on a follow-up shot.

Big Red never recovered.

Junior Jordan Barbina scored 12 of his team's 18 points in the second half as Union Local increased its lead to a game-high 13 points (38-25) at the 2:19 mark.

However, Big Red never backed down as it tallied seven of the final 10 points to trail 41-32 at the intermission.

Free-throw shooting in the second

For The Intelligencer

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"We had enough opportunities to win this game, but I'm proud to say that our kids played their hearts out."

For Jebbia, the Patriots' second victory this year against the Red Riders hopefully will provide a big lift as they look forward to what he regards as being among their most challenging weeks of the season.

"We play Fairmont Senior at home Monday night, Central on Wednesday and Parkersburg South back here Saturday. I think our kids are a little tired right now, so we'll give them (today) off and just have a shoot-a-round on Monday before we play Fairmont," Jebbia said.

The fourth quarter had to be a frustrating time for both teams. Park entered the concluding 8 minutes with a 40-33 lead and quickly pushed the advantage out to 10 at 45-35 after Scott Safcsak swished a triple from the left corner and Brad Guckert worked his way underneath the basket to hit a layup.

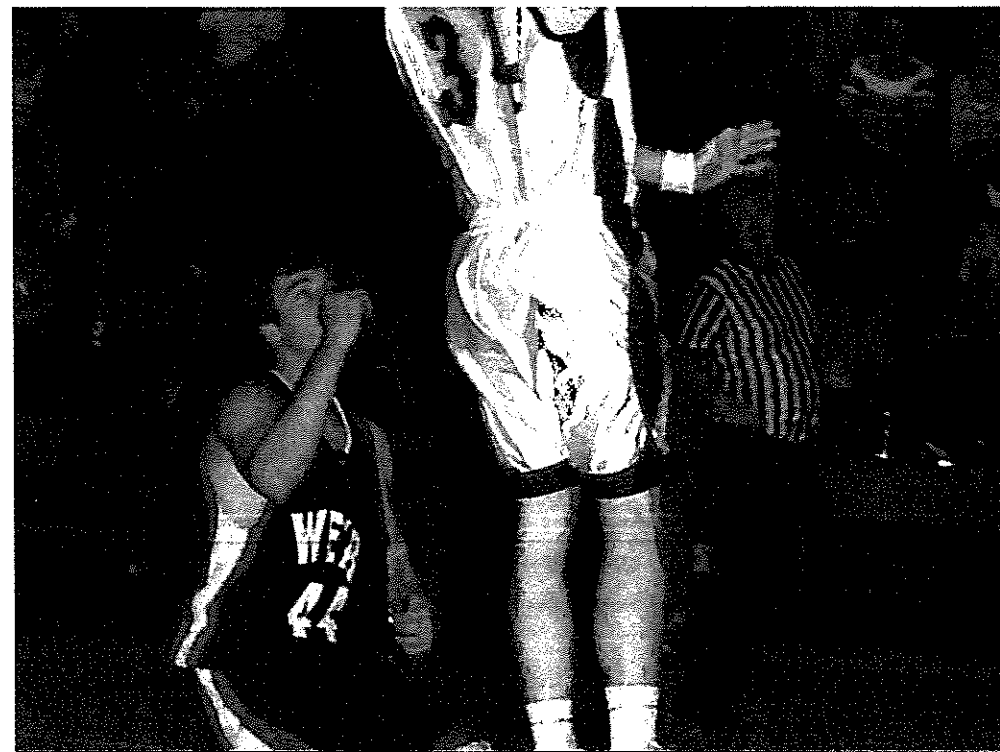


Photo by Mike Hughes

Wheeling Park's R.J. Vargo (34) goes in for a layup as Weir's Wes Lengyll gives chase during Friday's game in Wheeling. *View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net*

Pete Brogdon, Weir's leading scorer who struggled against the Patriots by netting just 2 of 11 shots, finally tossed in a triple from the left wing, making it a seven-point game. It later became a 49-44 score at the 3-minute mark after a driving shot off the glass by the Red Riders' Zac Miser, who led all scorers with 23 points.

After the Miser lay-in, Park's problems at the free-throw line started showing up but the Red Riders couldn't take advantage.

Worse yet, Weir was unable to come away with the rebound following three straight misses on one-and-one attempts by the Patriots. First Richard Hall, then Guckert and, finally Hall again were off the mark from the stripe. However, after each miss, Matt Pearson was able to beat the Weir defender and pull down the rebound.

The Red Riders eventually scored on a Miser layup, cutting the deficit to 49-46 with 90 seconds to play. Cody MacPherson then gave Weir another chance by stealing the ball and drawing a foul at the 1:16 mark. MacPherson cashed the first shot, but missed the second, a rarity as Weir was 11-for-12 from the foul line during the first three quarters.

Another steal gave the Red Riders a chance to tie but they lost control of the ball while trying to get it inside as the clock moved inside the 1-minute mark. After Guckert was fouled he made his first attempt and missed the second but, amazingly, Pearson won the rebound battle for the fourth time in the closing minutes.

Please See PARK, Page 16

the 2007-08 edition of the Jets.

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However, Big Red never backed down as it tallied seven of the final 10 points to trail 41-32 at the intermission.

Free-throw shooting in the second half determined the outcome as UL meshed 15 of 24 free throws to just 7 of 12.

Steubenville narrowed the deficit to seven, 56-49, at the end of three periods as UL only made 3 of 12 shots from the floor in the period and committed four turnovers. However, the Jets did cash in 9 of 11 free tosses, including 6 of 6 by Barr.

Barbina and Barr each scored six points in the final chapter as Big Red was never able to get any closer than seven.

Please See JETS, Page 16

Cold Shooting Haunts Eagles

By RICH GIBSON
For The Intelligencer

Jeff Sabatino's Martins Ferry Purple Riders have a unique penchant for playing basketball games that are off-the-chart ugly.

To their credit, the Riders find a way to prevail in a vast majority. Case in point, Friday night's unsightly encounter in the Tolbert Gymnasium where the Purple Riders produced another "masterpiece," pinning a 53-44 setback on Magnolia's low-flying Blue Eagles.

As has been the scenario in numerous decisions, Ferry's victims are made to

appear totally incapable of executing even the most basic of fundamentals.

Magnolia coach Dave Tallman discussed such matters with his 14-4 team nearly 30 minutes following the outcome.

"They made us look like a team that never picked up a basketball until (Friday night)," Tallman related with a sly grin. "Still, it's incredible to me how poorly we shot the ball."

Magnolia attempted 63 shots from the perimeter while Ferry launched 34. The Eagles, however, hit their target only 17 times

compared to 13 knocked down by the Purple Riders.

As part of the initial OVAC Wheeling Hospital Tournament Boys Basketball Championships, Martins Ferry, top-seeded in 3-A, settled for third place laurels.

"Those were two disappointed teams out there competing (Friday night)," Sabatino said. "Not just since last November, but since last summer (both of us) had designs of playing in the championship game."

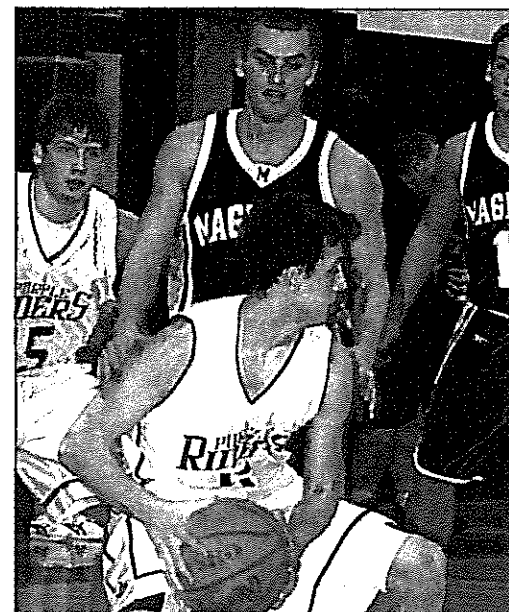
"(Friday night) may have seemed meaningless but I figured the team which played with the most grit

would prevail."

Tallman had few answers. "(This) is a great new venue which is very well-lit," Tallman said. "We've been averaging 72 points. I have no explanation. But I do know we better get over this in a hurry because John Marshall comes to town Monday night."

The two teams battled to a 22-22 halftime stalemate before Martins Ferry used a 15-3 third panel pullaway to take control. Senior Tony Sabatino twice connected from downtown.

See EAGLES, Page 16



Martins Ferry's Derek Edwards (5) tries to get around the defense of Magnolia's Andrew Robinson on Friday in Martins Ferry.

Photo by
Joel Joseph

Eagles

(Continued from Page 11)

Magnolia, meanwhile, shot itself out of contention, nailing just 1 of 13 from the field.

By the time Tallman's quintet rediscovered its mojo, Ferry had mounted a double-digit lead. The Blue Eagles rallied no closer than six points down the stretch.

"There's no question Magnolia didn't bring its 'A' game, but we had something to do with that," Sabatino advised. "I feel there was a lot of value here and I'm pleased and proud of my guys for winning 15 games."

The 15-5 Purple Riders now face a 10-day layoff before engaging Indian Valley in a Division III Sectional test Feb. 18th at Claymont High.

The Riders' scoring distribution brought a wide smile to their coach's face. Senior Derek Edwards, who tallied

just one field goal, totaled 11 team-leading points. Senior Josh Bable and junior Clay Francis cashed in nine points apiece. Sabatino and sophomore Jordan Burress collected eight apiece. Michael Roach contributed two clutch 3-pointers.

Magnolia did benefit from another superb two-way per-

formance authored by Ben Bridgeman who posted game-leading totals of 19 points and 15 rebounds. The Eagles lost both Bridgeman and Zac Fox to personal fouls.

Edwards gathered in nine of the Riders' 32 rebounds. Magnolia also yanked down 32 boards. Turnovers favored Ferry, 14-9.



Park

(Continued from Page 11)

D'Jhae Jackson netted one of his two free throws for a 51-47 lead that was cut to two points on a Brogdon baseline drive to the basket. Hall was hacked in the backcourt with 31 seconds to play. It was double bonus time and Hall dropped in the second attempt. Brogdon was fouled underneath the basket but he also netted just 1 of 2 at the stripe, leaving the Patriots in front 52-50.

MacPherson's fifth foul resulted in another 1 of 2 trip to the line for Hall. Needing a 3-pointer to tie, sophomore Shawn Burns' attempt from at the top of the circle was off the mark. The Red Riders had a chance for the rebound but turned the ball over on a traveling call.

With just 4 seconds remaining, Hall's inbounds pass to Guckert resulted in another Red Riders foul. Even though he misfired on both attempts, the Red Riders only had time for a desperation toss from out the backcourt that never had a chance to go in.

"Usually we are the team that makes free throws to close out a game," Jebbia said. "Fortunately we came up with some key defensive stops when he needed them. I thought Brad did a nice job defending Brogdon and holding him to nine points. He didn't have a bucket in the first half."

On the defensive end of the floor, the Patriots also were able to force Weir into 20 turnovers, including five in a row during one stretch in the third quarter. Jackson drew praise for his six steals and Jebbia also was pleased with Hall's effort under the glass as he pulled down 11 rebounds.

Guckert and Hall also led the Park scoring with 12 points each. Miser was Weir's only double-digit performer.

The Red Riders looked to have the upper

hand early as Jebbia noted that his team came out flat for the first time all year. With the 6-foot-6 MacPherson blocking at least three shots in the opening minutes, Weir jumped ahead 6-0 on a Burns layup off the glass, a sky hook by MacPherson and Miser's neat baseline move.

Granato's club went on to lead 14-5 near the end of the first quarter before the Patriots closed with a 7-0 run as Pearson hit a turnaround shot. Guckert found the target with his trey attempt from the left wing and R.J. Vargo converted a steal into an easy layup.

Jackson's jumper off the dribble pulled the Patriots into a 16-16 tie, followed by hoop and harm plays by Weir's Miser and Park's Hall. Safcsak buried a short shot off the glass, giving the Patriots a 21-19 lead and they never trailed the rest of the way.

Hall scored seven points in the second quarter as Park went out to a 32-22 advantage. All eight of Weir's points in the second chapter were provided by the slick-moving Miser.

Weir's eight turnovers and Park's 4 of 14 shooting in the third quarter kept either side from doing much damage, but Vargo nailed a 16-foot jumper ahead of the horn to restore a 40-33 lead for the Patriots.

"We had a bad 3 minutes and that was uncharacteristic of the way we play," Granato insisted.

Although disappointed with the loss, Granato believes the Red Riders will benefit from the difficult schedule they've played come tournament time.

"I think our schedule is as tough as anybody's in the valley," he said. Among their setbacks are two to Park and one each to Indian Creek, Magnolia, Wheeling Central and city rival Weirton Madonna, all of whom are having highly-successful seasons.

Vincent Propels Red Devils

Creek tops Weir, earns spot in title game Saturday

Anthony Vincent canned two free throws with less than 10 seconds in regulation as St. Clairsville defeated Magnolia 68-66 in an OVAC Class AAA Tournament semifinal Tuesday night at St. Clairsville.

The Red Devils advance to Saturday's 4 p.m. championship finale opposite Wheeling Central.

Vincent finished with 19 points to lead the Red Devils, while Daniel Slavik added 14 points and Dustin Hynes and Michael Bigelow each had 10.

Scott Berry paced the Blue Eagles with 18 points. Ben Bridgeman scored 16 points, Colt Street added 13 and Jarred Blatt dropped in 10.

OVAC Class AAAA Semifinals

Indian Creek 54, Weir 49

At Weirton, Weir led by three heading into the fourth, but couldn't find an answer for Indian Creek's Mike Smith, who totaled 18 of his game-high 26 points during the final 8 minutes.

R.J. Roberts backed Smith with 10 points for the Redskins.

The Red Riders were led by Zac Miser and Pete Brogdon, with each supplying 17 points.

OVAC Class AA Semifinals

Shadyside 79

At Shadyside, the Tigers' dialed in from the perimeter, making 12 of 28 attempts from behind the arc in defeating Steubenville Catholic.

Justin Andes led the way with 23 points while B.A. Holloway drained five 3-pointers to finish with 17 points. Justin Andes chipped in 15 while Drew Kennon hit for 11.

Luke Nicholson led the Crusaders with 22 points, Chris Gale added 14 and Brian DeFranco (13) and Mark Gilloon (11) also contributed.

The Tigers will take on Linsly in Saturday's Class AA final, with the game time possibly being moved from 1 p.m. to 10 a.m. to accommodate the Tigers' girls team, who plays at 1 p.m. in a sectional match.

Linsly 37, Fort Frye 35

At Beverly, DeMarr Moulton led all scorers with 17 points as No. 3 Linsly edged No. 2 Fort Frye with a game-winning shot at the buzzer.

C.J. Goodwin added seven points for Linsly.

Derek Thompson's 16 points paced Fort Frye in the low-scoring affair.

OVAC Class A Semifinals

Weirton Madonna 43

Zanesville Rosecrans 40
At Weirton, John McCune had 20 points and Cory Hirkala added 13 as top-seeded Weirton Madonna came from behind to defeat Zanesville Rosecrans.

The Blue Dons will face Bridgeport in the finals on Saturday at 10 a.m.

Bridgeport 66, Valley 29

At Bridgeport, the Bulldogs blew their OVAC Class A semifinal game with Valley wide open with a 39-9 second-half run.

Justin Gregorcic and Mike Bachie paced Bridgeport (11-7) with 14 points apiece while Chaz and Trey Lindsey evenly split 20 points.

Clay Dallison and Haden Kocher each tallied eight points for the Lumberjacks (9-7).

OVAC Consolation Pool

Frontier 100

Bellaire 94, OT

At Bellaire, in the most hotly contested game of the night, Frontier's Ben Huntsman scored 10 of his game-high 36 points in overtime as Frontier hit the century mark in a hard-fought victory

against Bellaire (6-13).

Huntsman, who had 13 rebounds, was backed by 35 points from Ethan Morris and 15 from Justin Ross.

The Big Reds' balanced attack was led by Levi Crozier with 25 points and nine rebounds, while Anthony Hocker had 24 points, Andrew Crook scored 20 and Ryan Feller added 19.

River 70, Beallsville 44

At Hannibal, Beallsville didn't have an answer for River's Zach Hammond as the Pilots post ignited for 39 points in a victory against the Blue Devils.

Harold Early added nine points for River (9-10).

Kevin Stoney's 13 points paced Beallsville.

Monroe Central 76

Bishop Donahue 48

At McMechen, Mikey Habig dominated the post with 24 points as Monroe Central knocked Bishop Donahue.

Ryan Kuhn added 18 points for the Seminoles, while Ryan Highman had 13.

The Bishops were led by L.A. Hampton with 13 points and 10 apiece from Nathan Fallova and Mike Matheny.

Bellaire St. John 56

Cameron 55

At Bellaire, the Fighting Irish recorded their second victory, led by 25 points from Chase Russell in a triumph against visiting Cameron.

David Tracy added 10 points for St. John (2-17).

The Dragons were fueled by 18 points from Matt Andenora and 11 from Jacob Koontz.

Edison 77, Beaver Local 69

At Richmond, Corey Wickham led Edison with 18 points while Cale McCoy added 17 and Bryson Anderson dropped in 16 in a victory against Beaver Local.

Ethan Russell's game-high 10 points and nine rebounds paced the Beavers, while Zach Zelinsky chipped in 17 points and Scott Kreefer (12)

and Matt Clutter (11) also hit for double digits.

Shenandoah 59

Union Local 41

At Sarahsville, behind four 3-pointers apiece from Caleb Schwieterman and Cody Johnson, Shenandoah grounded Union Local.

Schwieterman finished with 19 points while Johnson added 17 as the Zeps went 10 of 17 from behind the arc.

Jordan Barbina led the Jets with 17 points and while Joby Barr had 14 points.

Caldwell 61, Paden City 47

At Paden City, Ryan McKee tallied 23 points and Scott Palagyi added 15 to lead Caldwell against Paden City.

The Wildcats were led by 12 points from Ricky Wright and Ryan Thoburn, while sophomore Malakai Anderson supplied 10 points.

Brooke 42

Buckeye Local 31

At Wellsburg, Bryan Spruill scored nine points as Brooke defeated Buckeye Local without the benefit of a double-digit scorer.

Joe Whitehead led all scorers with 10 points for the Panthers.

Harrison Central 65

Barnesville 63

At Barnesville, Ryan Dav-enport had a game-high 29 points and nine rebounds to lead Harrison Central past Barnesville.

Ty Kinney had 13 points and C.J. Byers added 10 for the Huskies.

Josh Wells led the Sham-rocks with 19 points, Kody Skinner added 15 points and seven rebounds and Shane Crosier added 10 points.

Steubenville 51

Oak Glen 41

At Steubenville, DeTroy Smith led four players in double figures with 14 points as Steubenville (10-9) beat Oak Glen.

Dwight Macon had 12 points for Big Red while DiMichael Johnson and Jeryl Christian evenly split 20

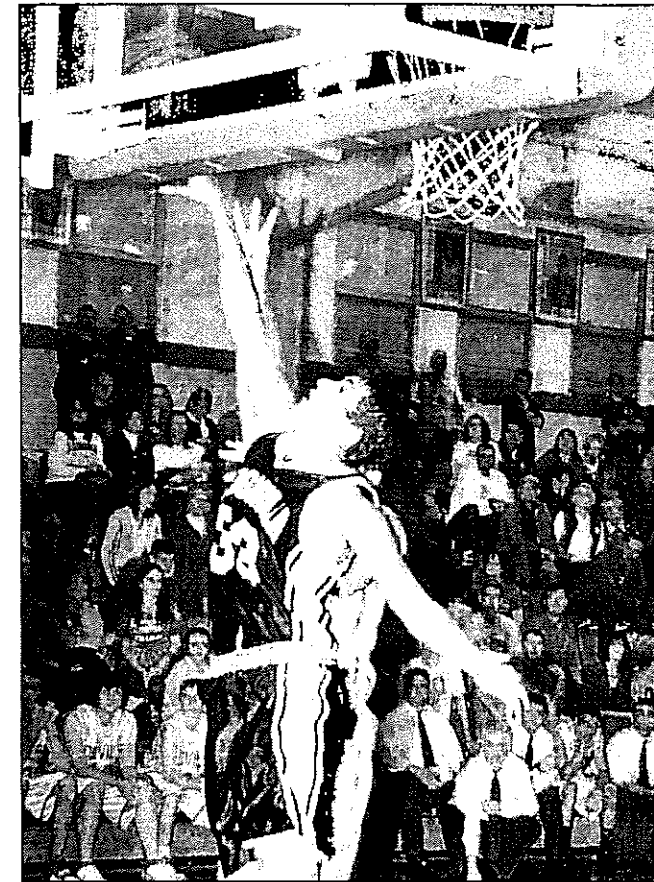


Photo by Mike Palmer

Magnolia's Jarred Blatt goes up for a rebound during Tuesday's game against St. Clairsville.

points.

Clay Owings had 13 points to lead the Golden Bears (5-12).

Buckeye Trail 75

Toronto 64

At Old Washington, Brock Davis ignited for 31 points and Joe Collart backed him with 24 as Buckeye Trail held off Toronto (6-12).

The Warriors utilized a key 31-19 run in the second quarter to push past the Red Knights, who were led by 24 points from Zach Stewart and 22 from Mike Stock.

Regular Season

Clay-Battelle 57

Hundred 52

BLACKSVILLE — Matt Church's game-high 23 points wasn't enough to push visiting Hundred past Clay-Battelle.

Emery Smith added 11 points for the Hornets, who were unable to make up a 20-4 first-quarter deficit.

Faith Comm. Chr. 59

Olney Friends 46

At Bethesda, Matt Roten totaled 25 points and Brian Brown added 18 as Faith Community Christian defeated Olney Friends.

Chris McGown had 18 for Olney and Cedrick Rugege added 14.

Girls

Tyler Consolidated 55

St. Marys 53

At Kidwell, Lorisa Eddy's bucket in the paint with 3 seconds to go lifted Tyler Consolidated against upset-minded St. Marys.

Cameron Yoho led the Silver Knights with 21 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks while Mikkel Wells had 11 points and Eddy added 10. Meghan Wiseman was held to nine points, but pulled down 12 rebounds.

Kelsea Fickiesen led the Blue Devils with a game-high 31 points and eight rebounds.

Linsly wins battle of Cadets at buzzer, 37-35

AT BEVERLY, Linsly's Cadets broke a 35-35 deadlock with Taylor Cecil scoring a game-winning bucket to send Mark Dodd's Soldiers to Saturday morning's OVAC 2-A title game opposite Shadyside at Ohio University Eastern.

Tuesday night's low-scoring encounter saw Linsly edge ahead 13-11 after one period before taking a 19-18 lead to the lockerroom. Fort Frye came back to forge a 24-24 knot after three panels.

Demar Moulton collected a game-leading 17 points for the Orange and Black.

FRONTIER 100 BELLAIRE 94, OT

AT BELLAIRE, the Big Reds and Cougars battled to a 82-82 standoff at the end of regulation before Frontier erupted for 18 points during the four-minute extra session.

The Beaverton-based winners received a combined 71 points from Ben Huntsman (36) and Ethan Morris (35). Huntsman also contributed 13 rebounds.

In defeat, Bellaire was led by Levi Crozier's 25-point output. Teammate Anthony Hocker provided 24-point support with freshman Travis Crook connecting for 20. Sophomore Ryan Feller fired in 19.

Frontier was a 18-13 leader after

one panel before Gene Ammirante's Reds registered 28 second period points to take a 41-36 intermission upperhand. Bellaire expanded the lead to 64-56 after three panels before being outscored 26-18 in the fourth frame.

Frontier was an impressive 43-of-81 from the floor compared to Bellaire's 38-of-82 lighting. The Cougars led 42-29 off the glass. Crozier collected nine retrieves. Turnovers were even at 16.

SHENANDOAH 59, UNION LOCAL 41

AT SARAHSVILLE, the Zeps established early command and went on to hand UL its ninth loss in 19 starts.

Dan Schweiterman's Noble County quint mounted a 20-12 lead after one panel and extended the spread to 35-17 at halftime. Ben Porter's Jets faced a 48-29 deficit after three chapters.

Daniel Schwieterman scored a game-leading 19 points to pace Tuesday's triumph. Cody Johnson provided 17-point support.

Union Local's Jordan Barbina tossed in a team-leading 17 points. Joby Barr followed with 14.

Shenandoah was a 34-31 leader off the glass. Kyle Blackman brought down 10 stray shots for UL.

HARRISON CENTRAL 65, BARNESVILLE 63

AT BARNESVILLE, the visiting Huskies recorded a key road win, rallying from a halftime deficit to upend the Shamrocks.

After taking a 13-12 first quarter lead, Chris Pack's Rocks extended the count to 36-29 at halftime.

But Adam Pittis' Huskies used a 19-11 third quarter turnaround to go on top by 48-47 after three panels.

Harrison was holding on to a 65-61 lead in the final ticks before Barnesville's Kody Skinner netted a late bucket before time expired.

The Huskies received a career-best 29-point output from Ryan Davenport. Teammates Ty Kenny and C.J. Byers contributed 13 and 10 tallies, respectively.

Josh Wells tossed in a 19 team-leading points for Barnesville. Skinner provided 15-point support and Shane Crozier scored 10.

ST. JOHN'S 56 CAMERON 55

AT BELLAIRE, St. John Central recorded its second win of the season, outlasting the invading Dragons and receiving a standout performance from 6-4 junior Chase Russell in the process.

Russell racked up a game-leading 25 points and was just as clutch under the boards where he collared

some 17 rebounds.

Daniel Tracy provided 10-point support while Matt Yochum distributed five assists.

Tuesday's triumph in the Green House was of the come-from-behind variety after Cameron motored to 20-13 command after one panel. The Irish still faced a 30-22 intermission deficit before returning with rally caps in tow.

Coach Nick Yourkovich saw his team roar back to gain a 41-41 knot after three panels.

"We would not have won this game a month ago," Yourkovich observed. "Our kids have grown and showed great character. I couldn't be happier for this team. We are moving in the right direction."

BUCKEYE TRAIL 75, TORONTO 64

AT OLD WASHINGTON, Dave Linn's Warriors exploded for 31 second quarter points and went on to take out Toronto.

After leading by just 10-8 at the end of one panel, the Warriors erupted to take 41-27 halftime command. Trail was a 56-40 frontrunner after three panels.

Trail received a game-leading 31-point output from veteran guard Brock Davis.

Providing 24-point support was

Joey Collart.

MONROE CENTRAL 76, BISHOP DONAHUE 48

AT McMECHEN, the Seminoles outpointed Donahue 44-20 over the middle periods to win for the seventh time in 19 starts.

BD led 17-15 after one period before Greg Taylor's Redskins came on to grab a 37-28 intermission advantage.

The Noles maintained 59-37 command after three panels.

Mikey Habig connected for a season-best 24 points, pacing the victory. Also in twin digits were teammates Ryan Kuhn (18) and Ryan Highman (13).

Habig also brought down 10 rebounds and recorded three steals. Kyle Jorris distributed six assists.

RIVER 70 BEALLSVILLE 44

AT BEALLSVILLE, Pilots' senior Zach Hammond connected for a career-high 39 points as Mark Romick's club won going away.

River led by just 8-7 after one period before using a 28-8 second panel pullaway for 36-15 command at halftime.

Hammond received double digit scoring support from Harold Earley who netted 10 tallies. Beallsville's Kevin Stoney paced Big Blue with 13 markers.

OVAC Girls Championship pairings set

• Creek, Ferry, Steubenville CC, St. John secure top seeds in inaugural hoop event

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

For the better part of the past two years, a committee of area basketball coaches, Rick DeLuca and OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak have met monthly, scripting the upcoming Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

The group met again Friday morning at OVAC headquarters in Bellaire, but this time it was for real. The pairings for the championship semifinals as well as the consolation pool games were put together.

"We've been working on this for two years, but we've been working with pencils, paper and numbers, so it's time to get ready to play some hoops," said tournament director Rick DeLuca who's handled the OVAC standings for the last several years.

The top four teams in each class qualify for the championship part of the bracket and those semifinal games will be held Monday at the higher seed's home court. The teams that didn't qualify for the championship portion of the tournament had their two games scheduled for them by the OVAC.

Each team which opted to participate before the season was asked to leave two open dates because it was obviously unpredictable who was going to play in the championship round.

The schools did this with the understanding that the OVAC Committee would assign the remaining two games on the regular season slate and each team would get a home and away game with travel and previous matchups considered.

"This is like the baby NCAA drawing," Rataiczak said. "I think this committee did a phenomenal job with the pairings and being as fair as possible. Some people might be critical of (the pairings), but when you have to assign 30 teams two games it's tough, so I am really happy with how it turned out."

Indian Creek, Martins Ferry, Steubenville Catholic and St. John Central earned the top seeds in the four classes, respectively, based on their regular season averages. Each of the four will host a first-round game.

In Class 4-A, the Lady Redskins will welcome fourth-seeded Brooke. The other semifinal pits second-seeded John Marshall

against the third-seeded Edison Lady Wildcats.

The Lady Riders of Martins Ferry High School — winners of the Buckeye 8 Championship already — will begin their quest for the OVAC title when rival St. Clairsville visits the Purple Palace at the newly-opened Tolbert Gymnasium.

The other game in Class 3-A finds third-seeded Barnesville, which used a flurry of victories down the stretch to even crack

● Tourney

Continued from Page D1

the top four, travelling to meet Wheeling Central.

The race for the banner in 2-A should be extremely competitive. Top-seeded Steubenville Catholic will entertain fourth-seeded Frontier. The other matchup will serve as the third meeting of the campaign between Monroe Central, the two seed, and Buckeye Trail, the third seed. The Lady Seminoles have already laid claim to the Pioneer Valley Conference Championship.

The Lady Irish of St. John Central come into the tournament as the top seed in the tournament and own a 16-1 mark. The Lady Irish will meet fourth-seeded Valley at the Greenhouse Monday night.

The other matchup in 1-A is the third meeting between second-seeded Beallsville and third-seeded Bridgeport. The Lady Blue Devils won both meetings in the regular season.

"I think we've got some great matchups coming into the semifinals," DeLuca said. "I think based on the teams in the semifinals no matter who wins, we're guaranteed four good games in the finals."

The four OVAC Championship games will be held on Saturday, Feb. 2 at the Health and Physical Education Center on the campus of Ohio University-Eastern in St. Clairsville in three-hour windows, starting with the Class 1-A game at 10 a.m.

"It's going to be an exciting tournament," Rataiczak said. "I think it's a matter of whoever shows up to play on a given

night."

The losers of their semifinal games won't lose out on games either. The consolation final will be played at the higher seed's court on Wednesday evening, but according to tournament officials that schools reserve the right to play those on Thursday along with the remainder of the games.

OVAC NOTES
• **THE COST** of admission for the semifinal, pool and consolation games are set by the home school. However, the OVAC Championship Games will cost \$6 for adults and \$4 for students with OVAC passes being the only ones accepted for admission.

• **RESERVE GAMES** will be played at the semifinal, consolation and pool games. Only the championship games at OUE will not contest jayvee games.

• **THE OVAC Basketball Championship** committee is comprised of: Nikki Cain (Magnolia), Deluca, Rick Isaly (River), Bubba Kapral (St. John Central), Fred King (Paden City), Donnie Madzia (OUE), Mark Masloski (Steubenville),

Girls OVAC Tournament Schedule

Championship Semifinals
Monday, 6 p.m. (JV)

Class 4-A
No. 4 Brooke at No. 1 Indian Creek
No. 3 Edson at No. 2 John Marshall

Class 3-A
No. 4 St. Clairsville at No. 1 Martins Ferry
No. 3 Barnesville at No. 2 Wheeling Central

Class 2-A
No. 4 Frontier at No. 1 Steubenville Catholic
No. 3 Buckeye Trail at No. 2 Monroe Central

Class 1-A
No. 4 Valley at No. 1 St. John Central
No. 3 Bridgeport at No. 2 Beallsville

*Notes: Consolation Games between the two losers will be held on Wednesday at the higher seed. Jayvee games will be played during the first-round games and the pool games as well as the consolation games. Ticket prices are set by the home school.

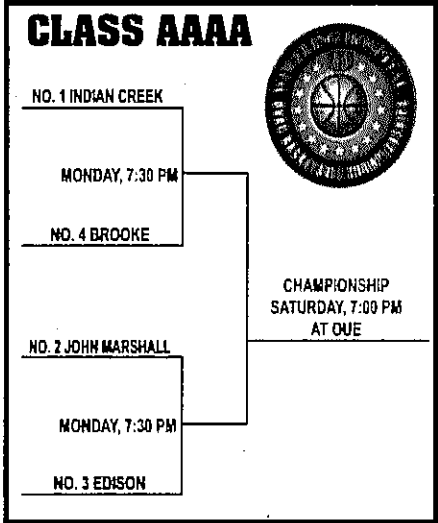
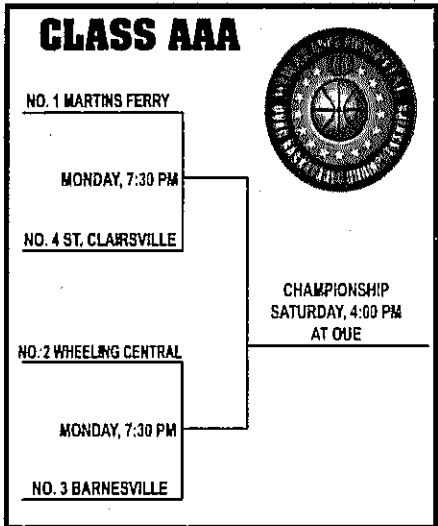
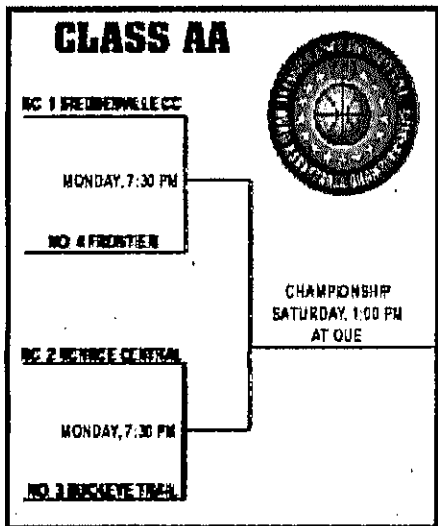
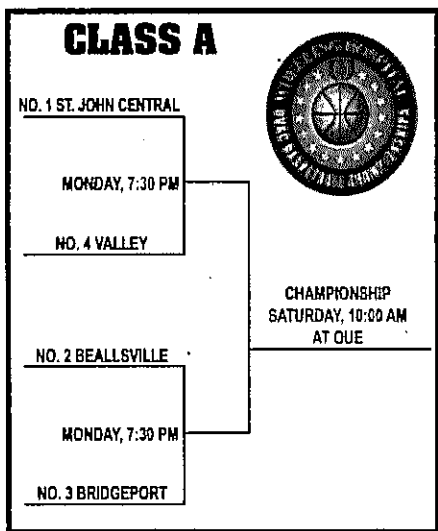
OVAC Pool Games

Monday
Beaver Local at Harrison Central
Weir at Bellaire
Wheeling Park at Buckeye Local
Magnolia at Union Local
Oak Glen at Steubenville
Linsly at Weirton Madonna
Shadyside at Fort Frye
Cameron at River
Shenandoah at Rosecrans
Toronto at Bishop Donahue
Paden City at Caldwell

Thursday
Steubenville at Beaver Local
Buckeye Local at Shadyside
Union Local at Wheeling Park
Harrison Central at Weir
Bellaire at Oak Glen
Fort Frye at Magnolia
Caldwell at Cameron
River at Linsly
Bishop Donahue at Shenandoah
Weirton Madonna at Paden City
Zanesville Rosecrans at Toronto

Chris Paek (Barnesville), Rataiczak, Ron Smyth (Edison) and George Vargo (Madonna).

Staskey can be reached at staskey@timesleaderonline.com



Boys OVAC Boxscores

FRONTIER (100) — Murphy 0 1-2 1; Binagar 0 0-0 0; Ross 7 1-4 15; B Huntsman 16 4-7 36; Kendall 2 4-6 8; Z. Huntsman 2 0-1 5; Morris 16 3-4 35; Totals: 43 13-24 100. **BELLAIRE (94)** — Hocker 9 1-1 24; Camsky 0 0-0 0; Metz 2 0-0 4; Crozier 10 5-6 25; Bobka 1 0-0 2; Feller 8 2-3 19; Crook 8 0-0 20; Totals: 38 8-10 94.

Three-Point Goals: F — Z. Huntsman; B — Hocker 5, Feller, Crook 4
UNION LOCAL (41) — Barbina 7 3-4 17; Barr 5 4-8 14; Blackman 0 0-0 0; Azzallon 1 0-0 2; Nardo 0 0-0 0; Nichols 1 2-4 4; Lares 1 0-0 2; Thompson 0 0-0 0; Waller 0 0-3 0; Tacosik 0 0-0 0; Jarrett 1 0-1 2; Stratford 0 0-0 0; Totals: 16 9-20 41.
SHENANDOAH (59) — Bridgeman 1 0-2 2; Chapman 2 0-0 5; Hupp 2 0-0 4; Rich 0 0-0 0; Schweltermann 7 1-3 19; Smith 1 1-2 4; Bates 1 0-0 2; Johnson 5 3-4 17; Yniguez 0 0-0 0; Boudna 0 0-0 0; Farmer 1 2-2 4; Rataiczak 1 0-2 2; Totals: 21 7-15 59.

Three-Point Field Goals: UL—none; S — Schweltermann 4, Johnson 4, Chapman, Smith
HARRISON CENTRAL (65) — Phillips 0 0-0 0; White 3 2-2 9; Byers 3 4-4 10; Graham 0 0-0 0; Kenney 4 5-6 13; Barker 1 0-0 2; Orr 1 0-0 2; R. Davenport 11 7-11 29. Totals: 23 18-23 65. **BARNESVILLE (63)** — Greiner 0 0-0 0; Murphy 1 1-1 3; MacMillan 0 6-6 6; Crosier 3 4-4 10; Wells 9 1-2 19; Burga 2 0-0 6; Smith 2 0-0 4; Skinner 5 5-6 15; Totals: 22 17-19 63.

Three-Point Field Goals: HC — White; B — Burga 2
ST. JOHN CENTRAL (56) — C. Russell 10 5-9 25; VanDorn 0 0-0 0; Tracy 4 2-5 10; Ogilbee 3 2-2 9; Yochum 2 4-7 8; Marhefka 1 2-3 4; Kovalchick 0 0-0 0; Totals: 20 14-25 56. **CAMERON (55)** — Porter 3 1-3 7; Marling 1 0-0 3; Wright 2 2-2 6; Collins 0 0-0 0; Andendra 5 3-3 18; Cunningham 1 0-0 2; Hawkins 1 1-2 3; Scott 0 0-0 0; Koontz 4 3-6 11; Holenz 2 1-4 5; McNabb 0 0-0 0; Totals: 19 11-20 55.

Three-Point Field Goals: SJC — Ogilbee, Marhefka; C — Andendra 5, Marling
LINSLY (37) — Campbell 2 0-3 4; Fahey 2 0-0 4; Milton 1 0-0 3; Moulton 6 5-5 17; Oparanzio 0 0-0 0; T.Cecil 1 0-0 2; Goodwin 2 2-3 7; S.Cecil 0 0-2 0. Totals 14 7-11 37. **FORT FRYE (35)** — Stevens 2 1-2 7; Bates 0 0-0 0; Thompson 7 2-7 16; Thiemann 1 3-7 5; Arnold 2 0-0 6; Lang 0 0-0 0; Warren 0 1-1 1. Totals 12 7-17 35.

Three-Point Field Goals: L — Milton, Goodwin; FF — Stevens 2, Arnold 2
TORONTO (64) — Wilson 0 0-0 0; Brower 3 3-3 9; Williams 0 3-4 3; Keenan 0 0-0 0; Shimmel 1 0-0 2; M.Stock 8 5-6 22; Stewart 8 5-9 24; Radvansky 1 2-7 4; Vigler 0 0-0 0. Totals 21 18-29 64. **BUCKEYE TRAIL (75)** — B.Beros 3 3-4 9; Nealey 0 5-8 5; Davis 12 4-6 31; Collart 7 9-11 24; Warnock 1 2-2 5; Taylor 0 0-0 0; J.Beros 0 1-2 1. Totals 23 24-33 75.

Three-Point Field Goals: M.Stock, Stewart 3; Warnock, Collart, Davis 3
MONROE CENTRAL (76) — Rose 2 4-4 8; Childress 0 0-0 0; Kuhn 7 0-0 18; Stephens 0 0-0 0; Jorris 4 1-2 9; Davis 0 0-0 0; Ring 1 0-0 2; Highman 4 5-5 13; Habig 12 0-1 24; Blackstone 1 0-0 2; Rader 0 0-0 0; Yountz 0 0-0 0; Tisher 0 0-0 0. Totals 31 10-12 76. **BISHOP DONAHUE (48)** — Stewart 0 0-0 0; Angalich 0 0-2 0; Whitfield 0 0-0 0; Hampton 3 6-7 13; Jones 1 0-1 2; Fallova 3 4-4 10; Matheny 4 0-0 10; Clayton 1 0-0 2; Smith 2 0-0 5; Schrupf 0 0-0 0; Schau 3 0-0 6. Totals 17 10-13 48.

Three-Point Field Goals: MC — Kuhn 4; BD — Hampton, Matheny 2, Smith
RIVER (70) — Indermuhle 1 0-0 2; Hammond 16 7-8 39; Ash 0 7-8 7; Potts 1 0-0 2; Brown 1 0-0 2; Blackstone 2 2-2 6; Earley 3 4-6 10; Totals: 24 20-24 70.
BEALLSVILLE (44) — Neiswonger 3 0-2 7; A. Lucas 2 0-0 5; Rippey 1 0-0 2; Stephen 4 0-0 9; Stoney 6 1-2 13; L. Lucas 1 0-0 2; E. Lucas 2 2-2 6; Darby 0 0-0 0; Myer, 0 0-0 0; Totals: 16 3-6 44.

Three-Point Field Goals: B — Neiswonger, A. Lucas, Stephen.

Ferry downs Eagles

• Balanced Riders win
3-A consolation game

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Jeff Sabatino's Martins Ferry Purple Riders have a unique penchant for playing basketball games that are off-the-chart ugly.

To their credit, the Riders find a way to prevail in a vast majority. Case in point, Friday night's unsightly encounter in Tolbert Gymnasium where the Purple produced another 'masterpiece,' pinning a 53-44 setback on Magnolia's low-flying Blue Eagles.

As has been the scenario in numerous decisions, Ferry's victims are made to appear totally incapable of executing even the most basic of fundamentals.

Magnolia head coach Dave Tallman discussed such matters with his now 14-4 team nearly half-an-hour following the outcome before finally emerging from the lockerroom.

"They made us look like a team that never picked up a basketball until tonight," Tallman related with a sly grin. "Still, it's incredible to me how poorly we shot the ball."

Magnolia attempted 63 from the perimeter while Ferry launched but 34. The Eagles, however, hit their target only 17 times compared to 13 knocked down by the Riders.

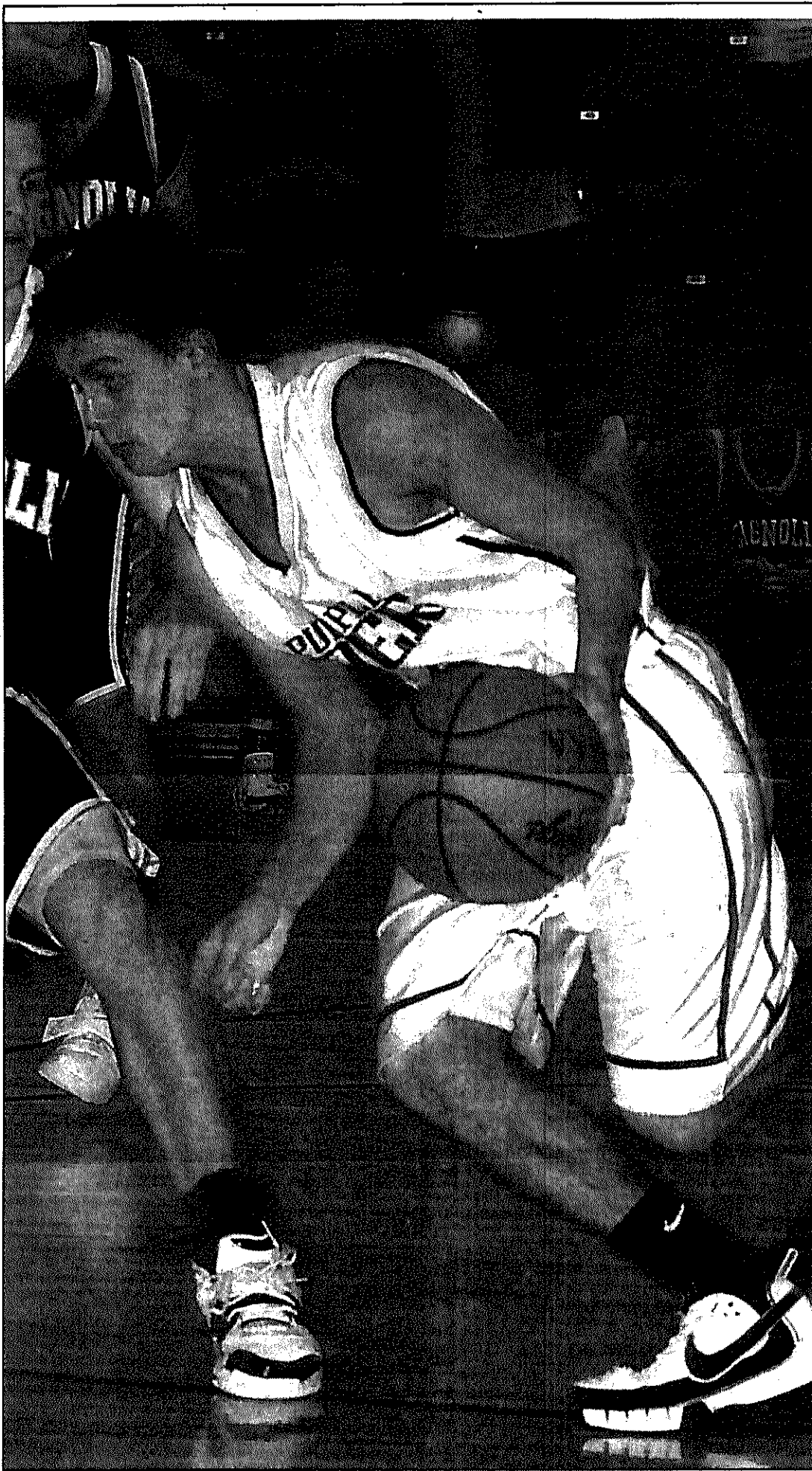
As part of the initial OVAC Wheeling Hospital Tournament, Ferry, top-seeded in 3-A, settled for third place laurels.

"Those were two disappointed teams out there competing tonight," Sabatino advised. "Not just since last November, but since last summer (both of us) had designs of playing in the championship game. Tonight may have seemed meaningless but I figured the team which played with the most grit would prevail."

Tallman had few answers. "(This) is a great new venue which is very well-lit. We've been averaging 72 points. I have no explanation. But I do know we better get over this in a hurry because John Marshall comes to town Monday night."

The two teams battled to a 22-22 halftime stalemate before Ferry used a 15-3 third panel pullaway to take control. Senior Tony Sabatino twice connected from downtown. Magnolia, meanwhile, shot itself out of contention, nailing just one of 13 from the field.

See, **FERRY**, Page D2



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

MARTINS FERRY senior guard Derek Edwards makes a move to the bucket against Magnolia's Justin Fox during the latter stages of Friday's game at the Tolbert Gymnasium in the consolation game of the OVAC 3-A tournament. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● Ferry

Continued from Page D1

By the time Tallman's quint re-discovered its mojo, Ferry had mounted a twin-digit lead. The West Virginians rallied no closer than six points down the stretch.

"There's no question Magnolia didn't bring its 'A' game, but we had something to do with that," Sabatino advised. "I feel there was a lot of value here and I'm pleased and proud of my guys for winning 15 games."

The 15-5 Riders now face a 10-day layoff before engaging Indian Valley in a Division III Sectional test Monday evening the 18th at Claymont High.

The Riders' scoring distribution brought a wide smile to their coach's face. Senior Derek Edwards, who tallied just one field goal, totaled 11 team-leading points. Senior Josh Bable and junior Clay Francis cashed in nine points apiece. Sabatino and sophomore Jordan Burress collected eight apiece. Michael Roach contributed two clutch trifectas.

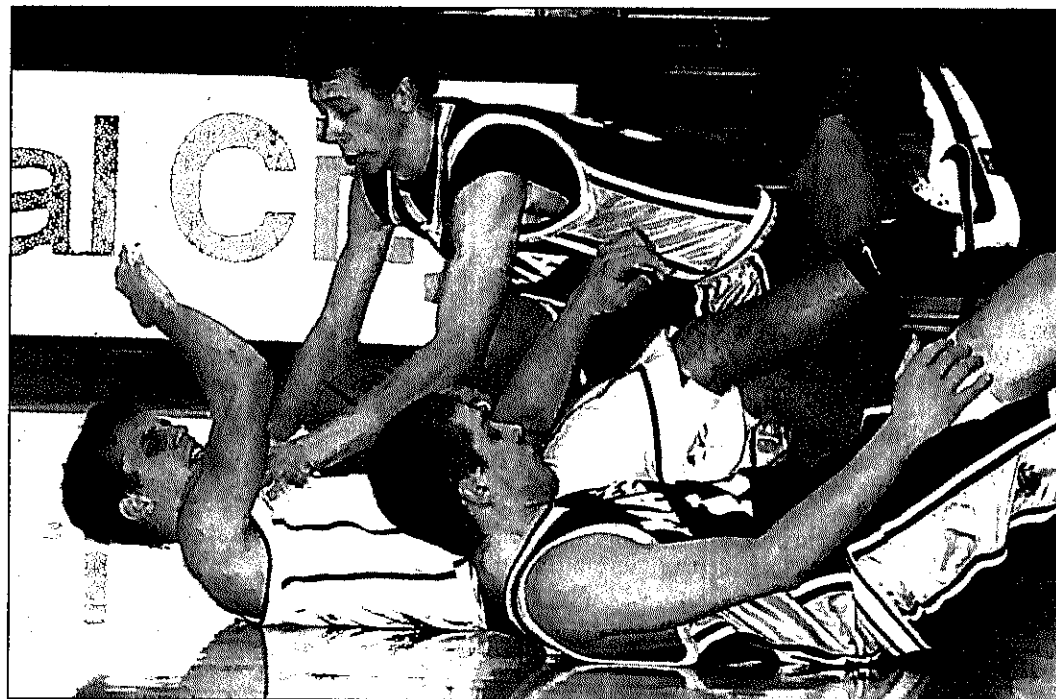
Magnolia did benefit from another superb two-way performance authored by big Ben Bridgeman who posted game-leading totals of 19 points and 15 rebounds. The Eagles lost both Bridgeman and Zac Fox to personal fouls.

Edwards gathered in nine of the Riders' 32 rebounds. Magnolia also yanked down 32 boards. Turnovers favored Ferry, 14-9.

Magnolia was victorious in Friday's jayvee encounter.

Scoring:
MAGNOLIA (44) — Robinson 0, 0-0 0; Seavy 0, 0-0 0; Yost 0, 0-0 0; Fox, J. 0, 0-0 0; Fox, Z. 1, 0-0 2; Blatt, Jar. 0, 3-8 3; Blatt, Jak. 2, 0-0 6; Street 4, 0-0 9; Bridgeman 8, 1-5 17. Totals — 17, 5-13. MARTINS FERRY (53) — McIntosh 1, 0-0 2; Roach 2, 0-0 6; Burress 2, 4-4 8; Sabatino 2, 2-4 8; Francis 1, 7-13 9; Bable 4, 1-2 9; Edwards 1, 8-8 11. Totals — 13, 22-33.

Three-point goals. Magnolia — Berry (2), Jak Blatt (2), Street. Martins Ferry — Roach (2), Sabatino (2), Edwards.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

MARTINS FERRY'S Derek Edwards tries to call for a timeout in a wild scramble with magnolia's Colt Street (top) and Ben Bridgeman. The Purple Riders won, 53-44. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

SPORTS

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championship

Red Devils advance to AAA final

• St. C. outlasts Magnolia

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Kim Clifford has been one of the most highly successful basketball coaches in the Ohio Valley for many years.

One of the things his resume has lacked at St. Clairsville is an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship.

After Tuesday's dramatic 68-66 victory over third-seeded Magnolia, Clifford and the Red Devils are just one win away from making room in the gymnasium for the school's first-ever boys basketball banner.

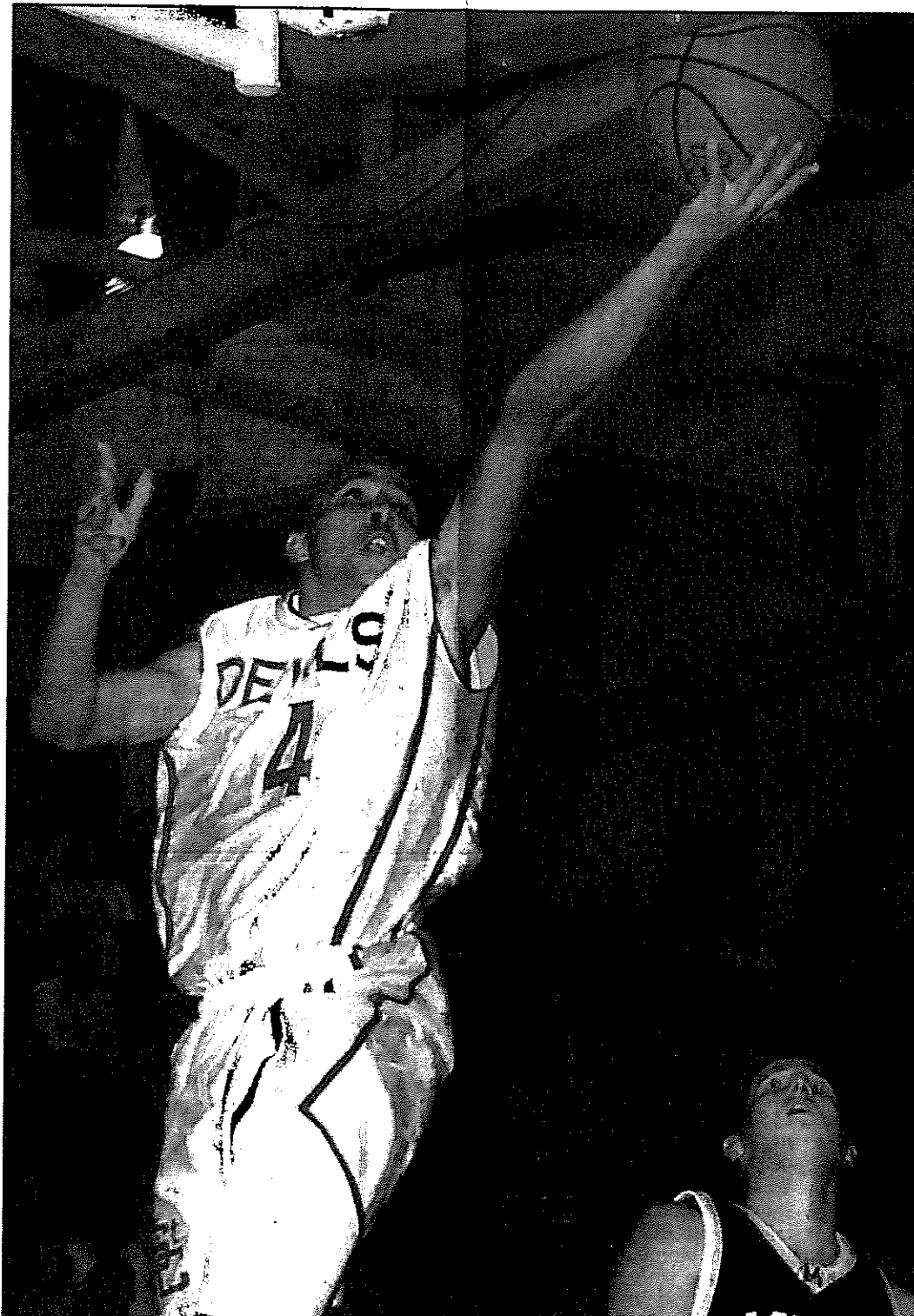
The win advances the Red Devils to Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship game in Class 3-A where they will meet fourth-seeded Wheeling Central, which ousted top-seeded Martins Ferry in the other semifinal.

"I like our chances with our team, and I am not saying anything against Wheeling Central by saying that," Clifford said. "Our kids give great effort every night, and I have to feel good about how they play, but no matter what happens (Saturday), I won't be upset because I know we'll give the effort needed."

While the Red Devils' brass headed to Ohio University-Eastern for today's organizational meeting, the Blue Eagles will go back to work and prepare to be on the road again Friday in

'Our kids give great effort every night and I have to feel good about how they play.'

— Kim Clifford



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

SHADYSIDE'S Billy Merryman jump stops amongst three defenders during Tuesday's Class 2-A OVAC semifinal against Steubenville Catholic. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Shadyside gets past SCC, 79-66

• Tigers to meet Linsly in Class 2-A final

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

They live and die by the long ball. Today, Ed Andes' Shadyside Tigers are breathing a little bit easier.

One of the things his resume has lacked at St. Clairsville is an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championship.

After Tuesday's dramatic 68-66 victory over third-seeded Magnolia, Clifford and the Red Devils are just one win away from making room in the gymnasium for the school's first-ever boys basketball banner.

The win advances the Red Devils to Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship game in Class 3-A where they will meet fourth-seeded Wheeling Central, which ousted top-seeded Martins Ferry in the other semifinal.

"I like our chances with our team, and I am not saying anything against Wheeling Central by saying that," Clifford said. "Our kids give great effort every night, and I have to feel good about how they play, but no matter what happens (Saturday), I won't be upset because I know we'll give the effort needed."

While the Red Devils' brass headed to Ohio University-Eastern for today's organizational meeting, the Blue Eagles will go back to work and prepare to be on the road again Friday in the consolation game where they will meet the Purple Riders, but the trip to the Tolbert Gymnasium was the furthest thing from head coach Dave Tallman's mind.

"I fully blame our administration in the Wetzel County Schools for this loss," said Magnolia head coach Dave Tallman who sat by hand-cuffed, if you will, when the school district sent students home early last Friday his team couldn't play John Marshall that night and it couldn't practice until Monday. "My kids gave it everything they had tonight, but when you have those factors working against you, it's even tougher. These kids have dedicated themselves to this and to have it taken away due to something like that is ridiculous."

See, ST. C., Page B2

'Our kids give great effort every night and I have to feel good about how they play.'

— Kim Clifford



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER
ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Anthony Vincent goes up to the rim in front of Magnolia's Scott Berry during Tuesday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship semi-final game at St. Clairsville. Vincent scored 19 points to lead the Red Devils to a 68-66 win. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Bridgeport rolls past Valley, 66-29

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

Sometimes you play like you practice. Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash said his team didn't have a very good practice Monday afternoon.

They played like it in the early portions of Tuesday night's Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Championship Class A Semifinal at the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium.

However, the second-seeded Bulldogs (11-7) turned it on after the sluggish start to post a convincing 66-29 triumph over the outmanned No. 3 seed Lumberjacks (9-7) on Frank Baxter Court.

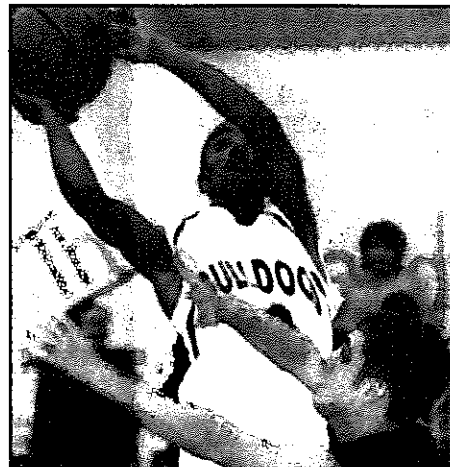
"We have to come out and start the

'We were real sluggish to start the game and we can't have that happen Saturday.'

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by a 43-40 count in the other semi Tuesday night in Weirton.

"We were real sluggish to start the game and we can't have that happen Saturday night (Wednesday)." said



BRIDGEPORT'S Chaz Lindsey goes up over Valley's Mathew Poling in the Class 1-A semifinals of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

SHADYSIDE'S Billy Merryman jump stops amongst three defenders during Tuesday's Class 2-A OVAC semifinal against Steubenville Catholic. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Shadyside gets past SCC, 79-66

• Tigers to meet Linsly in Class 2-A final

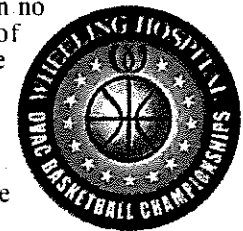
By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

They live and die by the long ball. Today, Ed Andes' Shadyside Tigers are breathing a little bit easier.

The Orange heaved home a dozen three-pointers Tuesday night and needed every one to outlast a game, but hard-luck Steubenville Catholic Central quint, 79-66 in Tigertown.

Forget the final spread. Shadyside was holding on to a 67-66 lead in the final two minutes before stunning SCC on a game-ending 12-0 run.

"That score is in no way indicative of how good this one was," Andes noted. "All along, I was thinking someone was going to beat the buzzer at the end."



The second half featured numerous lead changes and ties before Shadyside sophomore Justin Andes rained down a clutch trifecta, elevating the Orange to 70-66 command.

The final 90 seconds saw Ronnie Bowen's Crusaders misfire on five shots and send Shadyside to the foul line at the other end from where the hosts converted nine opportunities.

Tuesday's triumph makes for an interesting rematch in Saturday morning's OVAC Wheeling Hospital 2-A title game as Shadyside opposes Linsly. The Tigers were 66-65 overtime victors in the lone regular season encounter.

"I thought this (2-A) division included four teams all capable of winning it," Andes observed. "I'd expect nothing less than another down to the wire game Saturday."

The 2-A tilt at Ohio University-Eastern features a 10 a.m. tipoff in order to avoid

"I fully blame our administration in the Wetzel County Schools for this loss," said Magnolia head coach Dave Tallman who sat by hand-cuffed, if you will, when the school district sent students home early last Friday his team couldn't play John Marshall that night and it couldn't practice until Monday. "My kids gave it everything they had tonight, but when you have those factors working against you, it's even tougher. These kids have dedicated themselves to this and to have it taken away due to something like that is ridiculous.

See, ST. C., Page B2



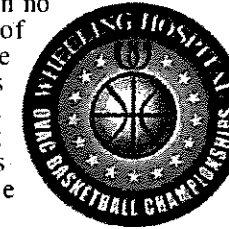
ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Anthony Vincent goes up to the rim in front of Magnolia's Scott Berry during Tuesday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship semi-final game at St. Clairsville. Vincent scored 19 points to lead the Red Devils to a 68-66 win. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

Steuersville Catholic Central quit, 79-00 in Tigertown.

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The 2-A tilt at Ohio University-Eastern features a 10 a.m. tipoff in order to avoid conflict with the Lady Tigers' 1 p.m. sectional contest at Morristown.

Shadyside prevailed Tuesday despite playing a less than perfect game. The

See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2

Bridgeport rolls past Valley, 66-29

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Sometimes you play like you practice. Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash said his team didn't have a very good practice Monday afternoon.

They played like it in the early portions of Tuesday night's Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Championship Class A Semifinal at the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium.

However, the second-seeded Bulldogs (11-7) turned it on after the sluggish start to post a convincing 66-29 triumph over the outmanned No. 3 seed Lumberjacks (9-7) on Frank Baxter Court.

"We have to come out and start the game better," said Cash, whose team will now face top-seeded Weirton Madonna in the championship finals Saturday at 10 a.m. at Ohio University Eastern. The Blue Dons defeated Zanesville Rosecrans

'We were real sluggish to start the game and we can't have that happen Saturday.'

- Donnie Cash

by a 43-40 count in the other semi Tuesday night in Weirton.

"We were real sluggish to start the game and we can't have that happen Saturday against (Madonna)," continued Cash. "We have to come out ready to play. We didn't have the greatest practice yesterday (Monday) and that might have

See, BRIDGEPORT, Page B2



BRIDGE-PORT'S Chaz Lindsey goes up over Valley's Mathew Poling in the Class 1-A semifinals of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

Wheeling Central takes out Ferry

• Maroon Knights hand Purple Riders their first loss at Tolbert Gymnasium

By **BUBBA KAPRAL**
T-L Managing Editor

Wheeling Central head coach Mel Stephens was unsure his Maroon Knights were going to qualify for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships.

The Knights slipped into the fourth-seed slot just ahead of Union Local in the pairings announced Sunday. Central made the most of that opportunity Tuesday night, ousting top-seeded and homestanding Martins Ferry by a 53-45 count at Tolbert Gymnasium.

As a result, the Maroon Knights improved to 10-6 and will take on St. Clairsville, a two-point winner over

Magnolia in Tuesday's other 3-A semifinal, on Saturday at 4 p.m. at Ohio University Eastern for the conference crown.

The Purple Riders, meanwhile, dropped to 14-5 in absorbing their initial loss in the Tolbert Gymnasium. Coach Jeff Sabatino's charges will host Magnolia in Friday night's consolation tilt.

"We were a little surprised when we got into the field," Stephens said. "We thought we were going to finish behind Union Local just out of the money."

"Our kids played extremely well tonight. Ferry has a super team and has been playing very well. Coach

Sabatino always prepares his team well," he added. "But we are excited to be playing for the title Saturday. The OVAC Championship Tournament is long overdue."

Sabatino, while dejected, was praiseworthy of his opponent.

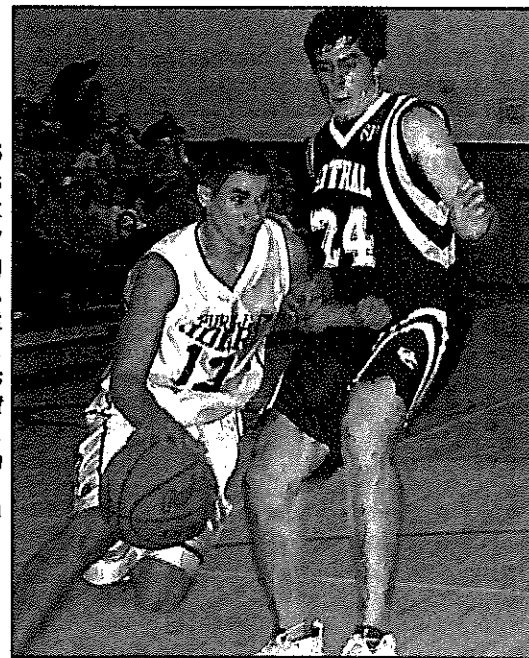
"We didn't play very well, but Wheeling Central had a lot to do with that," Sabatino offered. "They played very steady and their big people performed quite well. We are disappointed obviously but we did not play with the same passion as we have been."

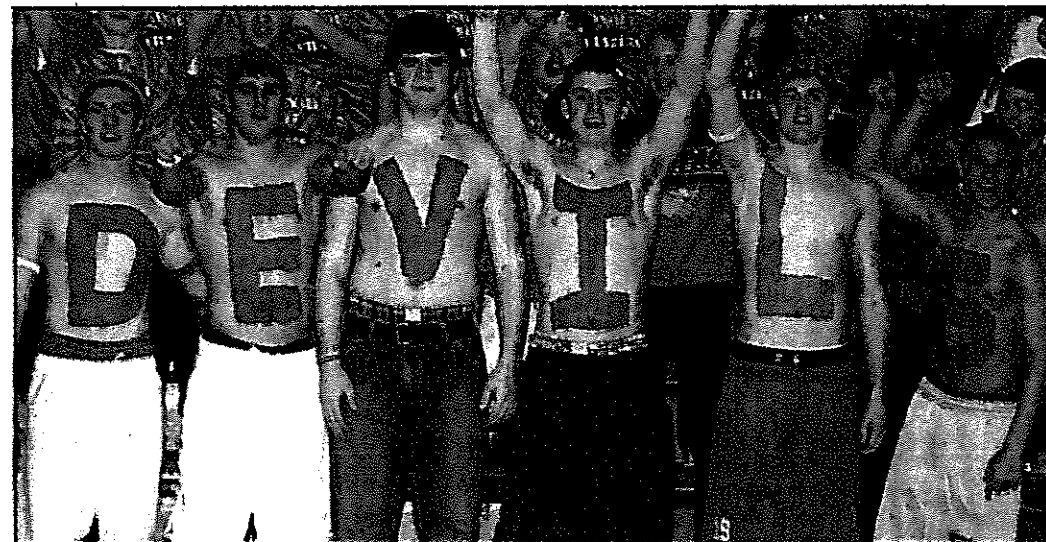
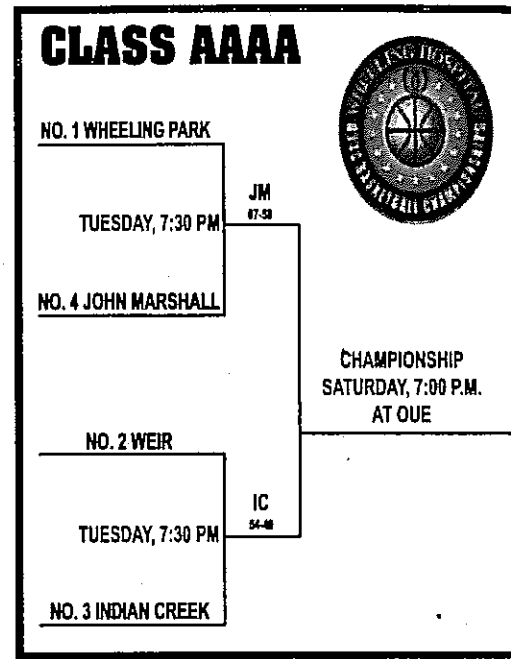
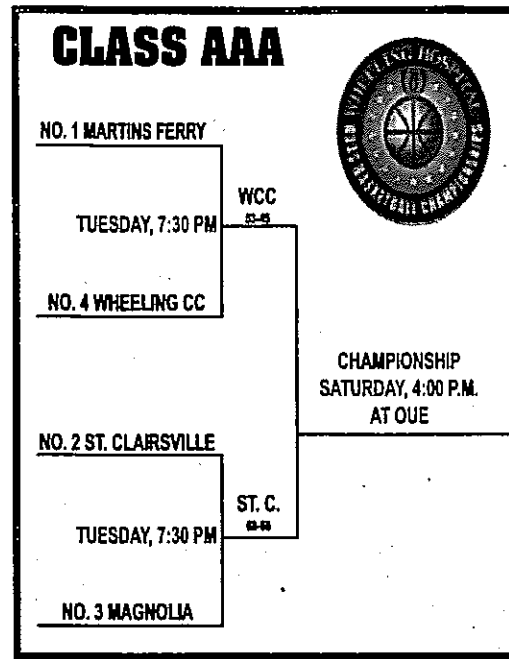
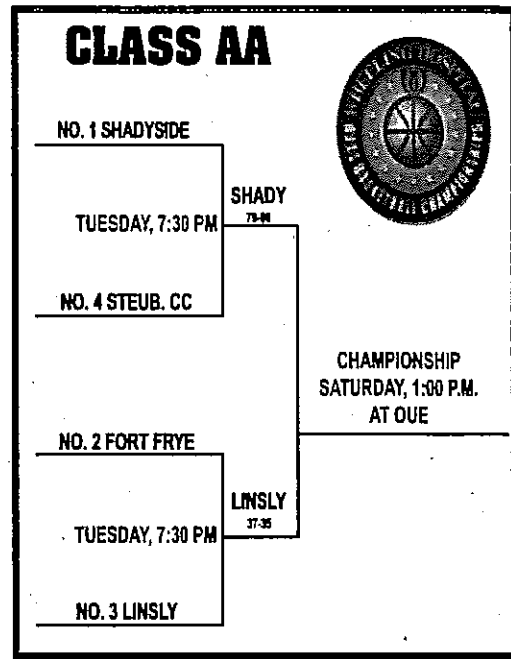
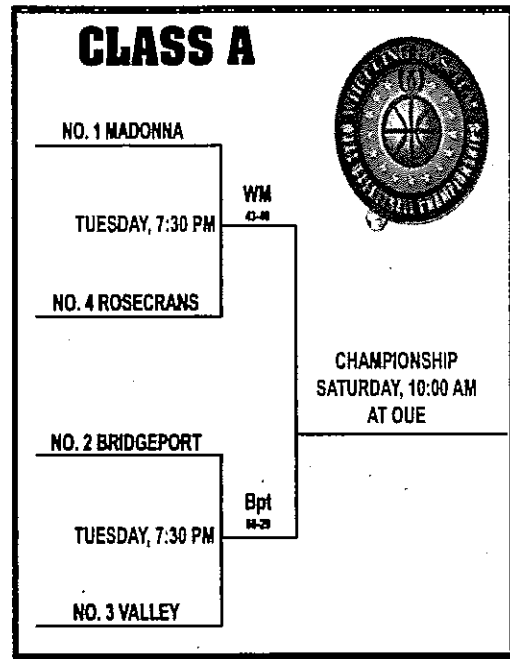
Two quarter-ending buzzer-beaters played huge in Central's victory.

See, CENTRAL, Page B2

MARTINS FERRY'S Tony Sabatino drives to the bucket against Central's Cody Koehler during Tuesday's Class 3-A semifinal game at Tolbert Gymnasium. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER





T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

MEMBERS OF the St. Clairsville Craziest section show their support for the Red Devils' hoop team Tuesday evening during their OVAC semifinal game against Magnolia. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● St. C.

Continued from Page B1

"I am not making any excuses and taking anything away from St. Clairsville because they played well," Tallman continued. "This is a great thing for basketball and you can see by the triple A results that the right four teams made it and you can see how balanced it was."

The Red Devils and Blue Eagles found themselves in a see-saw game throughout. The Red Devils built a lead as big as 11 in the first half at 20-9 and the Blue Eagles never led by more than two the entire way.

St. Clairsville — which showed signs of fatigue coming down the stretch of the regular season — seemed to re-energize as the post-season unofficially got under way.

"When we've got a little bit of juice to us, we'll give every ounce for every second and

made a move to the hole with 6.1 seconds showing.

Vincent meshed the first one without problem, giving the Devils a 67-66 lead. Clifford called for another timeout to instruct for the defensive end.

But Vincent was unphased by the stoppage in play. He nailed the second foul shot as well.

"I knew I had to make the first one because it was the toughest," Vincent said. "Coach Clifford called the time out, and I thought he was trying to ice me or something, but I was able to get the second one too. The key for us tonight was our defense and playing hard."

The Blue Eagles inbounded to Street who raced the ball up the floor. He ran into the defense of senior Michael Bishop who in late

● Shadyside —

Continued from Page B1

Orange made numerous mistakes and was charted for 15 turnovers. But Andes' squad compensated by recording a sizable 36-26 advantage off the glass.

Sophomore Justin Andes came off the bench to register a team-leading 21 points. He was particularly clutch in the second half, delivering 19 counters.

Reliable seniors B.A. Holloway and Jared Andes tossed in 17 points apiece. The Tigers also benefited from a prime-time 11-point outing from senior Drew Kennon.

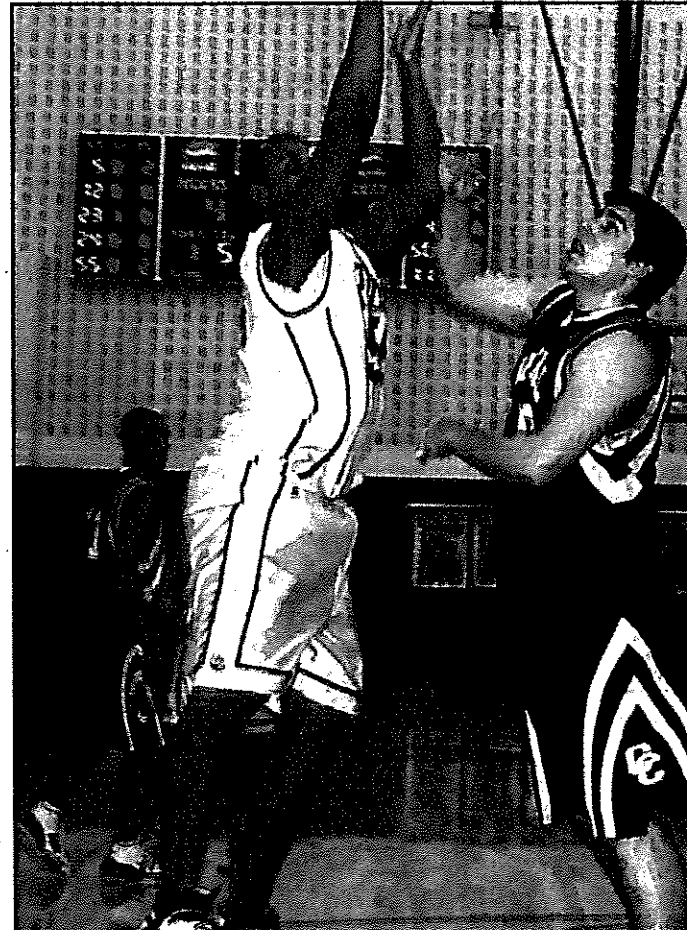
Holloway beat the first quarter buzzer, launching 35-foot bomb as Shadyside took a 18-15 upperhand. The second panel was also closely contested with the Orange up top by one, 32-31 at halftime.

Both teams heated up following the break. Central used a 22-20 advantage to go ahead 53-52 at the final stop.

Crusaders' senior Luke Nicholson netted a game-leading 22 points and was joined in twin digits by teammates Chris Gale (14), Brian DeFranco (13) and Mark Gilloon (11).

Shadyside shot 28-of-55 from the floor compared to SCC's 27 of 61 output. The now 10-8 Crusaders were guilty of just seven giveaways.

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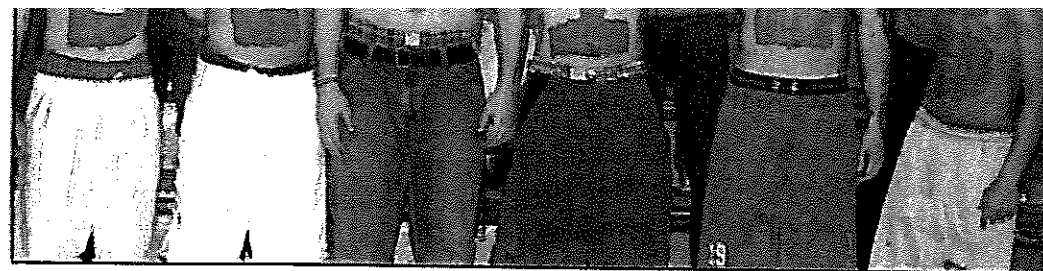
T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

MARTINS FERRY'S Jordan Burress shoots a jumper over Wheeling Central's Cody Koehler during Tuesday's game at Tolbert Gymnasium. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● Central

Continued from Page B1

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St. Clairsville — which showed signs of fatigue coming down the stretch of the regular season — seemed to re-energize as the post-season unofficially got under way.

"When we've got a little bit of juice to us, we'll give every ounce for every second and that was the case tonight," Clifford said. "We gutted it out and made some huge plays."

The Devils finished the third quarter with a 48-47 lead.

The lead swelled to six at 57-51 after senior Anthony Vincent made an acrobatic steal, saved the ball down the floor to classmate Derrick Baugh who converted on the layup. It wouldn't be the last time Vincent would be heard from.

Magnolia answered back with a quick goal from Scott Berry to make it a 57-53 reading. But the Red Devils were sound at the foul line, sinking four straight on the next two possessions.

Magnolia didn't go away, scoring on its next two trips on goals by Jared Blatt and Zach Fox, making it a five point game once again.

Vincent was fouled in the act and calmly meshed a pair. Again, the Blue Eagles wouldn't go away. Fox pulled up and hit a trey and Luke Seavy stole the in-bounds pass and drained a triple.

"Magnolia didn't win 14 games because they give up easily," Clifford said. "I told the kids at halftime it was going to be a game of runs, and we needed to make the last one. There were probably three mini-runs in the second half."

St. C. converted one-of-two at the line to push it back to a three-point lead and the Blue Eagles meshed just one at the line on the next trip. The Blue Eagles rebounded a loose ball on the opposite end and Colt Street drove in for a deuce to knot the game at 66 with a shade under 50 seconds to go.

The unflappable Red Devils brought the ball into the frontcourt and ran the clock down to under 30 seconds before Clifford called for a timeout. Out of the timeout, sophomore point guard Dan Slavik got the ball into senior Anthony Vincent's hands who was fouled as he

made a move to the hole with 6.1 seconds showing.

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The Blue Eagles inbounded to Street who raced the ball up the floor. He ran into the defense of senior Michael Bigelow who is long and the Eagles failed to even get a shot off as the horn sounded and the Red Devils' student section rushed the floor.

"There was probably no one more surprised that we didn't get a shot off than me," Tallman said. "I told the kids that whoever got it just get to the rim because we were only down two, but we made some bad decisions at times."

St. Clairsville was once again balanced. Vincent led the way with 19 points. Slavik had the hot hand early for the Devils, drilling a trio of treys in the first half en route to 14 points. Hynes and Bigelow each had 10. Junior Ryan Jarvie continued to supply strong minutes off the pine, scoring eight points and yanking down seven boards.

"We get on Anthony a little bit sometimes, but he takes it without batting an eye," Clifford said. "He's been clutch both offensively and defensively in a lot of these games, and we have to point out the play of Michael Bigelow because he had a great game defensively and locked down one of the best players we've played against."

Magnolia was also balanced. Berry finished with 18 points, while Ben Bridgeman had 16 points. Street had 13 markers.

The Red Devils had a 26-20 edge on the boards and their 12 turnovers were one more than the the visitors.

Scoring:
MAGNOLIA (66) — Street 5, 2-3 13; Z. Fox 2, 1-2 6; Bridgeman 7, 2-4 16; Berry 7, 3-3 18; Jar. Blatt 5, 0-2 10; Robinson 1, 0-0 3; Seavy 1, 0-0 3; J. Fox 0, 0-0 0; Ut 0, 0-0 0; M. Rine 0, 0-0 0; J. Rine 0, 0-0 0; Jak. Blatt 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 28, 8-14 66. **ST. CLAIRSVILLE (68)** — Vincent 6, 6-6 19; Hynes 1, 7-10 10; Bigelow 3, 4-5 10; Baugh 2, 2-2 6; Slavik 5, 0-0 14; Pala 0, 0-0 0; Skrabak 0, 1-2 1; Jarvie 3, 1-1 8; 20, 21-26 68. **Three-Point Goals:** M — Street, Seavy. St. C. — Vincent, Slavik (4), Jarvie.

Staskey can be reached at staskey@timesleaderonline.com

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STUEBENVILLE CENTRAL (68) — Teremana 0, 0-0 0; Knob 0, 0-0 0; Bednar 0, 0-0 0; Emmerling 0, 0-0 0; Starr 0, 2-2 2; Houk 2, 0-0 4; Gilloon 5, 1-2 11; DeFranco 4, 5-9 13; Gale 6, 0-2 14; Nicholson 10, 2-2 22. Totals — 27, 10-17. **SHADYSIDE (79)** — Kimble 0, 0-0 0; Butts 1, 1-2 3; Sadlowski 1, 1-2 3; Meryman 2, 1-2 7; Kennon 5, 1-3 11; Holloway 6, 0-0 17; Andes, Jar. 6, 4-6 17; Andes, Jus. 7, 3-4 21. Totals — 28, 11-19.

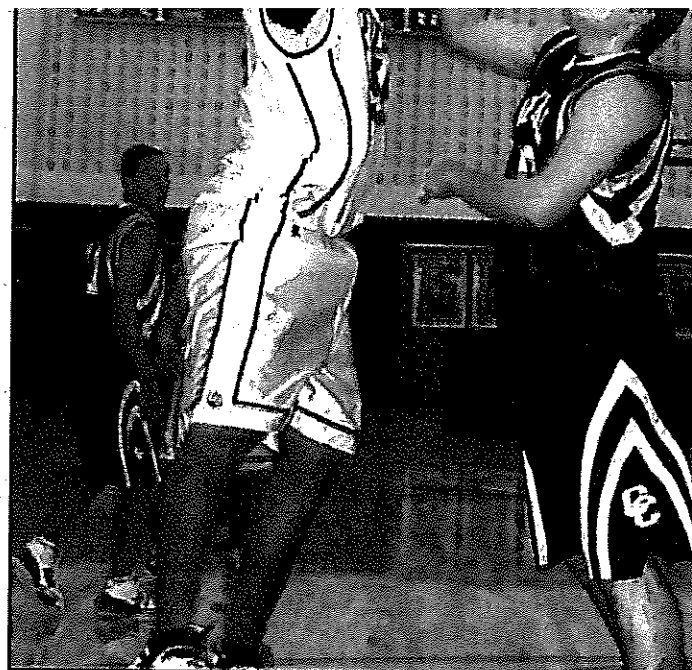
Three-point goals: SCC — Gale (2). Shadyside — Holloway (5), Jus. Andes (4), Meryman (2), Jar. Andes.

Gibson may be reached at: rgibson@timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

SHADYSIDE'S B.A. Holloway makes a move to the bucket Tuesday night.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

MARTINS FERRY'S Jordan Burress shoots a jumper over Wheeling Central's Cody Koehler during Tuesday's game at Tolbert Gymnasium. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● Central

Continued from Page B1

Both were delivered by Shane Phillips. The senior transfer from Mt. Lebanon tossed in a just-inside halfcourt shot at the first-quarter horn, giving the visitors a 16-14 edge. The 5 ft. 9 dynamo turned the trick again at halftime, giving the Maroon a 24-23 lead and a world of momentum.

Central opened the third on a 13-3 surge for a 37-26 margin late in the frame before Derek Edwards hit a trey to bring the Purple back to 37-29 entering the fourth.

Ferry was able to close to 47-42 with under three minutes to play but were repelled by goals from Cody Koehler and Cory McKitrick, putting the verdict out of reach at 51-42 with 1:15 to play.

"Both buzzer-beaters were big for us. They gave us a lift, especially the one at halftime," Stephens said. "We were able to hit some big shots in the second half and were were effective when we spread the floor. It's a real nice win for our program."

Phillips and McKitrick were a nice one-two punch for the Maroon Knights with 16 and 12 points, respectively. Alex Peluchette added seven markers.

Edwards was a one-man gang for the Purple Riders, tossing in 30 tallies. Jordan Burress

was next with seven counters. "We wasted a tremendous effort from Derek. It was the probably his career best game," Sabatino said. "Hopefully, we learn a lesson from tonight's game."

"The two shots at the end of the first and second quarters really hurt," he added. "Those two shots enabled Central to play from the lead which was critical tonight. They spread the floor effectively in the fourth quarter."

Central shot well from the floor, making 21 of its 42 shots. The Knights committed just 11 turnovers.

Ferry meshed just 16-of-41 attempts for 39 percent. The hosts were guilty of 16 turnovers.

The Maroon Knights prevailed in the prelim, 53-50.

Former Bellaire High, Ohio State and current NFL star Joey Galloway was in attendance.

WHEELING CENTRAL (53) — Long 3, 2-4 8; Sarge 0, 0-0 0; Hurley 1, 0-0 3; Phillips 5, 4-4 16; Peluchette 3, 0-0 7; Koehler 3, 0-0 6; Joseph 2, 0-0 4; McKitrick 5, 2-5 12. Totals 21, 8-14. **MARTINS FERRY (45)** — Edwards 10, 4-5 30; Roach 0, 0-0 0; Sabatino 1, 0-0 2; McIntosh 0, 0-0 0; Driver 0, 0-0 0; Francis 0, 0-0 0; Babble 2, 2-2 6; Burress 3, 1-2 7. Totals 16, 7-9.

Three-point goals: Wheeling Central — Phillips (2), Hurley (1); Martins Ferry — Edwards (6).

Kapral can be reached at bkapral@timesleaderonline.com

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The Red Devils had a 26-20 edge on the boards and their 12 turnovers were one more than the the visitors.

Scoring:
MAGNOLIA (66) — Street 5, 2-3 13; Z. Fox 2, 1-2 6; Bridgeman 7, 2-4 16; Berry 7, 3-3 18; Jar. Blatt 5, 0-2 10; Robinson 1, 0-0 3; Seavy 1, 0-0 3; J. Fox 0, 0-0 0; Utt 0, 0-0 0; M. Fine 0, 0-0 0; J. Fine 0, 0-0 0; Jak. Blatt 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 28, 8-14 66. ST. CLAIRSVILLE (68) — Vincent 6, 6-6 19; Hynes 1, 7-10 10; Bigelow 3, 4-5 10; Baugh 2, 2-2 6; Slavik 5, 0-0 14; Pata 0, 0-0 0; Skrabak 0, 1-2 1; Jarvie 3, 1-1 8; 20, 21-26 68. Three-Point Goals: M — Street, Seavy. St. C. — Vincent, Slavik (4), Jarvie.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

SHADYSIDE (79) — Kimble 0, 0-0 0; Butts 1, 1-2 3; Sadlowski 1, 1-2 3; Merryman 2, 1-2 7; Kennon 5, 1-3 11; Holloway 6, 0-0 17; Andes, Jar. 6, 4-6 17; Andes, Jus. 7, 3-4 21. Totals — 28, 11-19.

Three-point goals. SCC — Gale (2). Shadyside — Holloway (5), Jus. Andes (4), Merryman (2), Jar. Andes.

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com



Photo/JOEL JOSEPH
SHADYSIDE'S B.A. Holloway makes a move to the bucket Tuesday night.

giving the visitors a 16-14 edge. The 5 ft. 9 dynamo turned the trick again at half-time, giving the Maroon a 24-23 lead and a world of momentum.

Central opened the third on a 13-3 surge for a 37-26 margin late in the frame before Derek Edwards hit a trey to bring the Purple back to 37-29 entering the fourth.

Ferry was able to close to 47-42 with under three minutes to play but were repelled by goals from Cody Koehler and Cory McKitrick, putting the verdict out of reach at 51-42 with 1:15 to play.

"Both buzzer-beaters were big for us. They gave us a lift, especially the one at halftime," Stephens said. "We were able to hit some big shots in the second half and were were effective when we spread the floor. It's a real nice win for our program."

Phillips and McKitrick were a nice one-two punch for the Maroon Knights with 16 and 12 points, respectively. Alex Peluchette added seven markers.

Edwards was a one-man gang for the Purple Riders, tossing in 30 tallies. Jordan Burruss

"Hopefully, we learn a lesson from tonight's game.

"The two shots at the end of the first and second quarters really hurt," he added. "Those two shots enabled Central to play from the lead which was critical tonight. They spread the floor effectively in the fourth quarter."

Central shot well from the floor, making 21 of its 42 shots. The Knights committed just 11 turnovers.

Ferry meshed just 16-of-41 attempts for 39 percent. The hosts were guilty of 16 turnovers.

The Maroon Knights prevailed in the prelim, 53-50.

Former Bellaire High, Ohio State and current NFL star Joey Galloway was in attendance.

WHEELING CENTRAL (53) — Long 3, 2-4 8; Sorge 0, 0-0 0; Hurley 1, 0-0 3; Phillips 5, 4-4 16; Peluchette 3, 0-0 7; Koehler 3, 0-0 6; Joseph 2, 0-0 4; McKitrick 5, 2-5 12. Totals 21, 8-14. MARTINS FERRY (45) — Edwards 10, 4-5 30; Roach 0, 0-0 0; Sabatino 1, 0-0 2; McIntosh 0, 0-0 0; Driver 0, 0-0 0; Francis 0, 0-0 0; Babbie 2, 2-2 6; Burruss 3, 1-2 7. Totals 16, 7-9.

Three-point goals: Wheeling Central — Phillips (2), Hurley (1); Martins Ferry — Edwards (6).

Kapral can be reached at bkapral@timesleaderonline.com

BRIDGEPORT'S TRE Lindsey sets up the offense during Tuesday night's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championships Class 1-A semifinals. The Bulldogs advanced to Saturday's finals with a 66-29 win over Valley. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH



● Bridgeport

Continued from Page B1

added to our slow start, and I'll take the blame for that.

"Now we've got three days to prepare real good for whoever we play," continued the Bulldogs' head coach. "We'll need our best effort Saturday."

Despite a slow start, the hosts scored the first seven points of the contest and led 11-4 before the Lumberjacks reeled off six unanswered to make it 11-10. A Danny Lennex basket just ahead of the buzzer gave the Bulldogs a 13-10 lead after eight minutes.

Bridgeport put the game away early in the second period with a 10-0 run at the outset.

A tip-in by point guard Chaz Lindsey ignited the outburst. A two-pointer off the hands of Justin Gregorcic preceded a mini six-point scoring spree by freshman Tre Lindsey that bumped the count to 23-10 with 4:47 left before the half.

"Tre has been playing real well all season," said Cash, who doesn't think of Lindsey as a freshman. "It's into the tournament and he isn't a freshman anymore. He's adapted to the situation and has contributed throughout the year for us."

The Lumberjacks tried to make a game of it by outscoring the Bulldogs 10-4 before the half ended, leaving the count at 27-20.

A 19-6 third-quarter scoring advantage sealed the deal as Gregorcic banged home three of his four bonus goals in the stanza.

The fourth quarter saw Cash empty his bench early on and the reserves outscored the 'Jacks 14-3 for the final 37-point margin of victory.

Even though his team won, Cash wasn't exactly tickled pink as his team converted just 27-of-73 shots from the floor.

"That's been a recurring thing the past couple of games," Cash recalled. "We're missing the bunnies a lot, especially in the Barnesville and Weirton Madonna games. We have to work on our finishing, especially under the basket."

Senior pivot Mike Bachie was a force in the paint as the 6-ft.-3 banger scored 14 points, but he pulled down a school-record 19 rebounds, including a dozen off the offensive glass.

"Mike was a force inside," Cash allowed.

"He really worked the boards."

In addition to Bachie's 14 points, Gregorcic also added 14 while the Lindsey cousins evenly divided 20.

Haden Kocher and Clay Dallison each had eight points for the Lumberjacks.

Bridgeport led 60-35 off the glass. Dallison had a dozen boards for Valley.

The Lumberjacks will now host Zanesville Rosecrans Friday night.

In the preliminary contest, Bridgeport (10-6) scored a 59-28 victory behind 14 points from Mike Carr. Davy Johnson added 13 and Nate Maleski 11.

Alex Henderson led Valley with 14.

Varsity scoring:
VALLEY (29) — C. Ueltschy 2 0-2 4; Poling 0 0-0 0; Kocher 3 2-2 8; Dallison 4 0-2 8; Brisendine 2 0-2 4; Morris 1 1-2 3; Bickerstaff 0 0-0 0; Bates 0 0-0 0; Henderson 0 0-0 0; Bunch 0 0-0 0; G. Ueltschy 0 0-0 0; Carter 1 0-0 2. Totals: 13-49 3-10 29. BRIDGEPORT (66) — C. Lindsey 4 2-3 10; Lennex 1 1-3 3; Kreiter 1 0-2 2; Bachie 6 2-4 14; Gregorcic 5 0-0 14; T. Lindsey 5 0-0 10; Carr 2 1-2 5; Maleski 0 0-0 0; Johnson 1 0-0 2; Cash 2 0-0 6; Schneider 0 0-0 0; Lipperman 0 0-0 0. Totals: 27-73 6-14 66. Three-Point Field Goals: V-none; B-Gregorcic 4, Cash 2

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

Girls teams happy to have earned their championship

From the Press Box



By
Seth
Staskey
Times Leader
Sports Editor

In sports teams earn the right to be called champions.

The New York Giants aren't the only ones who woke up this morning calling themselves champions.

The girls basketball players from St. John,

Monroe Central, Barnesville and Indian Creek went back to school today with some shiny new hardware to show off.

Those four girls' basketball teams laid claim to OVAC basketball championships during Saturday's inaugural Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship and by virtue of their victories earned the right to be a champion.

It's been well documented how OVAC champions in the sports of boys and girls basketball had previously been known as paper champions because the standings system determined who would receive the pennant at the annual OVAC Banquet of Champions in the spring.

However, thanks to the OVAC's willingness to think outside the box and try something new, the tournament system came to fruition and teams had to earn the title.

And earning was needed for a couple of teams. St. John and Indian Creek were the top seeds in the 1-A and 4-A tournaments, respectively. By that we mean, those two teams would have probably been the champion anyhow, but those two games this week completed the 20-game slate, so they would have two additional games somewhere along the way.

But for Monroe Central and Barnesville, they'd be sitting at home right now preparing for the Ohio post-season tournament not giving the OVAC title a second thought because of their spot in the standings. Monroe Central was second to Steubenville Catholic and heck Barnesville was third, trailing Martins Ferry and Wheeling Central.

The point we're trying to make is that this is the way it's supposed to be done. Teams should have to go out and earn a championship. We understand that the teams who won the past championships earned them per say through their regular season accomplishments, but take the 2-A final for instance.

Monroe Central and Steubenville Catholic play totally different schedules. They don't play each other, so who's to say who's the better team. A guy with a calculator or a spread sheet? We don't think so and the OVAC didn't think so. It's just one example.

Barnesville is another prime example. The Lady Shamrocks could have folded their tents during a stretch of the season when they lost five games in a row. In the old system, the Lady Shamrocks wouldn't have a prayer of winning the title if you go through a stretch and lose five in a row.

However, Jamie Carpenter — who's done a tremendous job in his first season — continue to drill his team that if they got it turned around in time, they could still sneak into the fourth spot. Well, they snuck into the third spot thanks to a Megan Kemp buzzer-beating trey almost two weeks ago against Shadyside and from there the rest is history.

But, it's just another example as to why the tournament format was needed. The entire body of work a team puts forth deserves some consideration, we agree.

If you look at it, the entire season does earn you something. It earns your spot on the bracket. But, if you are playing well this time of the year, you know the end of the season when teams hope to be their best, good things can happen. I.E. Barnesville, a team can make amends for a bad stretch and walk away with a banner.

Every coin has two sides, so is there bitterness from Steubenville Catholic and Martins Ferry, the teams that were denied the OVAC title because of the new system.

Not a bit, at least from what their coaches said during the press conferences Saturday.

Kevin Barr of Steubenville Catholic told reporters, "Before this event, it was a paper champion. We like this event and this is the way a champion should be decided, and that's on the court."

Dave Reasbeck — who guided his Lady Purple Riders to a 15-5 mark during the season and also a Buckeye 8 championship — was already thinking about next year's event and hoping to return.

While the teams were strutting around their trophies and individual medals, there was a

group of people strutting around with nice red shirts on. The OVAC Basketball Committee deserves another pat on the back. The group — spearheaded by Rick DeLuca and Tom Rataiczak — did a super job of having everything run smoothly.

We're told that DeLuca arrived at the site before 7 a.m. and it was well after nine when we left and he was still there. Quite a day. But, if you want something to go well and be the class event that it was, those are the kind of man hours that are needed.

The OVAC has its critics for one reason or another. However, no one can criticize the effort the conference puts in to make its championships a first-class event for the kids, coaches, schools and fans.

No conference tournament — short of the Big Ten or Big East — gets the amount of media coverage that the OVAC gets. No conference tournament at the high school level gives the type of awards and no one treats the kids quite like the OVAC.

And while people can argue about things the OVAC does until they are blue in the face, the fact of the matter is the OVAC does it for the kids. And isn't that what it's all about?

BOYS TOURNAMENT

The committee went back to work early Sunday morning at the OVAC office to set up the boys tournament, which opens Tuesday and again the match-ups appear to be fair on all levels.

The races for the conference banner are going to be heated. Each of the four classes has chances to be tremendous games Saturday at OUE as well as the semi-final games.

The Class 3-A battle was one that definitely came down to the final weekend. Union Local — which lost late in the season to Harrison Central and Martins Ferry before beating Buckeye Local last Friday — was left out in the cold. The Jets were nosed out by six-hundredths of a point for the fourth spot by Wheeling Central.

Taking 3-A a step further, how about the St. Clairsville Red Devils. They sat around and waited for the announcement not to see whether or not they'd be in, but where they'd be playing. The Red Devils led the 3-A chase most of the season, but were defeated at Martins Ferry last Wednesday and therefore left its fate in the hands of the dreaded calculator.

Well, Magnolia's Friday game with John Marshall was postponed due to weather issues and couple that with St. C.'s win over Edison and the result is the Red Devils will welcome the Blue Eagles to Belmont County.

We really feel that all of the divisions are wide-open. That should lead to great games come Saturday.

Again this week. The Times Leader will publish a preview edition similar to the one that was produced for the girls' weekend and it will be included in Friday's edition.

QUOTE OF THE WEEKEND

While being stationed in each of the four press conferences after the OVAC Girls Championship games, there were several one-liners and cliches passed around, but one quote seemed to jump out at the media contingent.

It was after the Barnesville-Martins Ferry game. Allie Doan — a senior for Barnesville — was being interviewed about the game she produced, which included 16 points.

Asked what she thought allowed her to play that well she responded with, "I ate my Wheaties this morning."

Endorsements for prep athletes aren't allowed, but she could find herself on the front of a box of cereal in local groceries stores soon for that type of publicity she gave.

OFFICIATING

While the players, workers and tournament staff have been patted on the back all weekend, I thought the officiating crews for the games were outstanding.

During the regular season — no matter the gym you go into — there's always chirping on the officials. No matter who it is, who's playing or the call that was made, someone is going to be chirping.

Well, there was still a little bit of that and that's going to happen, but for the most part the officiating was outstanding. There's always going to be questionable calls and the official will probably see something different than someone sitting in the stands. However, the officials were in position to make calls and most importantly worked extremely hard. Sometimes, people get the impression that officials don't like to do girls' games or don't feel they are as important.

Well, the 12 guys who worked Saturday earned their pay checks.

Working tournament games in Ohio or West Virginia is an honor because it's through a system of coaches votes, which select the officials. Working an OVAC Championship game is an honor that's been earned as well.

Staskey can be reached at staskey@timesleaderonline.com

Super Tuesday: OVAC boys tourney opens this evening

• Ferry, St. C., Shadyside, Bridgeport all hosting championship semi-final games

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The brackets are set, the coaches have done some preparation and it's now time to begin to sort out the OVAC boys basketball championship.

The inaugural Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship opens this evening at local gymnasiums around the Ohio Valley.

The winners in tonight's championship semifinals advance to Saturday's title games at Ohio University-Eastern. The championship game schedule opens at 10 a.m. with the 1-A final. The 2-A final follows at 1 p.m., preceding the 3-A game at 4 p.m. The nightcap finds the 4-A division taking the floor at 7 p.m.

IN CLASS 1-A, Weirton Madonna earned the top seed and will host Zanesville Rosecrans. The Blue Dons defeated the Bishops earlier this season.

The Bridgeport Bulldogs will host a game tonight. Coach Donnie Cash's team enters the tournament as winners of five of their last six. They will roll out the welcome mats for third-seeded Valley.

"We're definitely happy to be at home," Cash said. "That was one of our goals and after our first game against Madonna, we sat down and told the kids that if we wanted to host a game we couldn't afford anymore losses, and we won five in a row before losing (Friday) to Madonna."

As for the Lumberjacks, Cash and his trusted staff had a chance to witness them in person last week in a game at Bishop Donahue.

"Valley's a big, physical team," Cash continued. "We know we're going to have to be focused and ready to go. We've got to take care of our business (tonight) and then we'll see what happens."

The Bulldogs are led by senior guard Chaz Lindsey and classmate Michael Bachie who patrols the interior.

"The kids are excited about this tournament and they understand the challenges that are ahead," Cash offered. "I think this tournament is a good idea because you get a chance to decide the champion on the court and not just in the standings."

IN CLASS 2-A, the Shadyside Tigers used a late surge to wrestle the top seed away from Fort Frye. The Tigers finished the regular portion of their schedule with a 16-2 mark, having lost both of its games to Class 3-A entrant Wheeling Central.

Shadyside head coach Ed Andes knows records and seeds mean nothing starting tonight and going for the remainder of the season.

"It's good to be at home, but it's now a matter of who shows up and plays," Andes said. "It's nice to be in a tournament atmosphere before the state tournaments begin."

The Tigers are led by their backcourt. Guards Billy Merryman, B.A. Holloway, Jared Andes and Justin Andes are more than capable of filling it up on any night.

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

IN CLASS 3-A, the Martins Ferry Purple Riders knocked off the St. Clairsville Red Devils last Wednesday and as it turns out that proved to be a battle for the top seed in this class.

The Riders won the game in impressive fashion 50-34 and then took care of Bellaire on Friday and with those wins claimed the top seed in Class 3-A. The Purple Riders' reward? A home game against battle-tested Wheeling Central, which comes to Tolbert Gymnasium with a 9-6 record.

"We're playing really well right now," said Ferry head coach Jeff Sabatino. "But, I still look at the film and see things that we can do better, and I believe we're still improving."

The Purple Riders stubbed their toe a few weeks ago at Linsly, but have won four in a row since, but now must get ready for a team that now little about.

"We know Central's got great tradition," Sabatino explained. "I believe this is a game that either team can win, so we'll have to go out and play hard and well. We know Central's got smart, athletic, competitive basketball players."

The Riders are led by senior point guard Derek Edwards who supplies all sorts of energy for his team. He's complemented by back-court mates Tony Sabatino and Clay Francis along with inside players Josh Bable and Jordan Burress.

"I like this tournament," Sabatino confessed. "In years' past, we would be ready to hang a banner, but this way you have to go out and earn it and in this (3-A) tournament, you can't pick a favorite because all four teams are pretty good."

As for the other half of the 3-A bracket, St. Clairsville waited for more than 24 hours for its fate. The Red Devils took care of Edison in its regular-season finale, but had to await the final numbers to know if they'd host or go on the road.

It turns out, the Red Devils will welcome a talented Magnolia squad to Belmont County this evening.

"Being at home is huge for us," said St. C. head coach Kim Clifford, who's guided his team to a 14-4 record thus far. "We feel comfortable at home and our crowd has been great all season. Plus, Magnolia's got to make an hour trip instead of us."

The Red Devils' head coach has seen the Blue Eagles and notices many similarities between the clubs.

"It's like a mirror image," Clifford continued. "They might have an edge in size, but I think everyone has an edge in size on us. They like to drive to the basket and shoot the three with adequate post play."

The Red Devils feed off the athleticism of seniors Anthony Vincent and Dustin Hynes. Senior Michael Bigelow has also come up big this season along with post player Derrick Baugh and sophomore guard Dan Slavik. Ryan Jarvie and Kaz Pata supply depth.

"It should be a heck of a game," Clifford offered. "It's going to take a good performance for us to handle them because they are really athletic."

IN CLASS 4-A, red-hot Wheeling Park garnered the top seed in Michael Jebbia's second year at the helm of his alma mater.

The Patriots enter the tournament with a 13-3 record and are coming off a double-digit win over powerful Morgantown Saturday evening. The Patriots will host John Marshall. It'll be the third meeting between the squads and the two could meet again in the sectional later this month.

"We've had some good games with John Marshall already," Jebbia said. "We knew going into the tournament style this year that there was a chance we could play JM or Brooke four times, but I think this (tournament) is a great idea."

The Patriots and Monarchs have split their two meetings this season with each winning on its home court. The Patriots were 45-40 winners and JM posted a 55-48 victory.

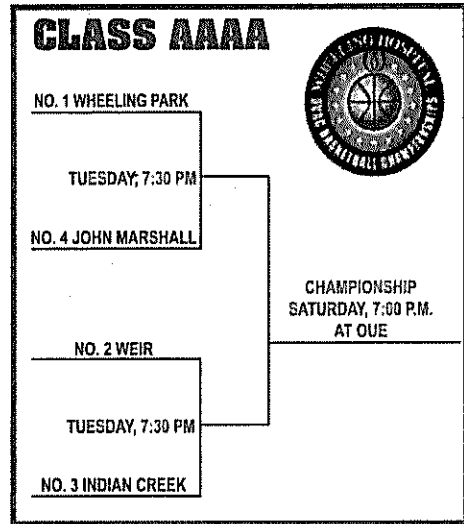
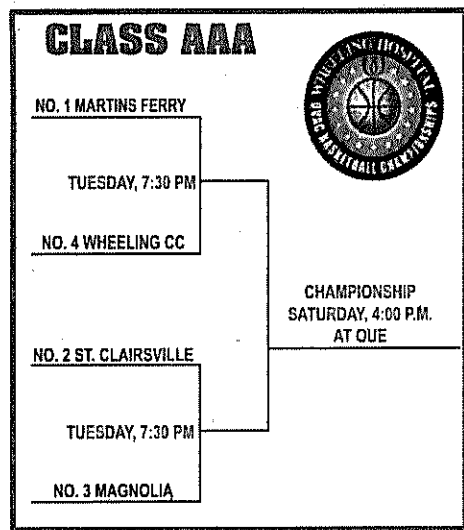
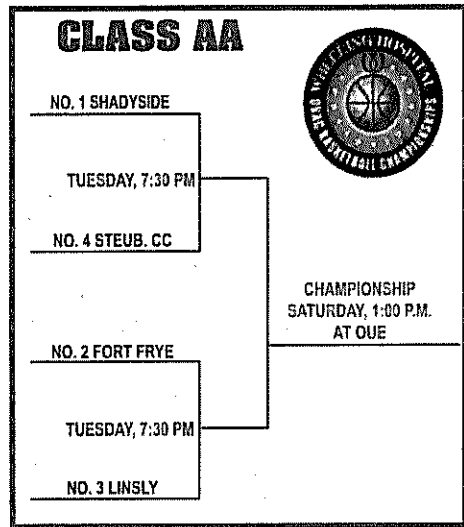
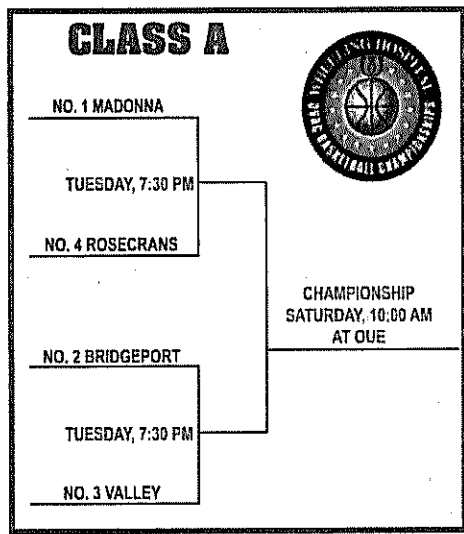
"We're playing with a lot of confidence right now," Jebbia said. "We're shooting and distributing the ball well and our kids are the point where they don't care who scores, so it's been a different person for us each night."

In the other side of the bracket, another red-hot club will be in action, but it will be on the road. The Indian Creek Redskins settled for the third seed and will travel across the river to Weirton to meet the Red Riders of Weir High.

The Redskins have won five in a row and are getting strong efforts from guard Mike Smith and post player Jimmy Wood in the process.

As for the Red Riders, they come into the mix with a 10-5 record. They own a pair of wins over St. Clairsville already. They are led by point guard Pete Brogden who's scoring at a 19-points per game clip.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com



Chaz Lindsey and classmate Michael Bachie who patrols the interior.

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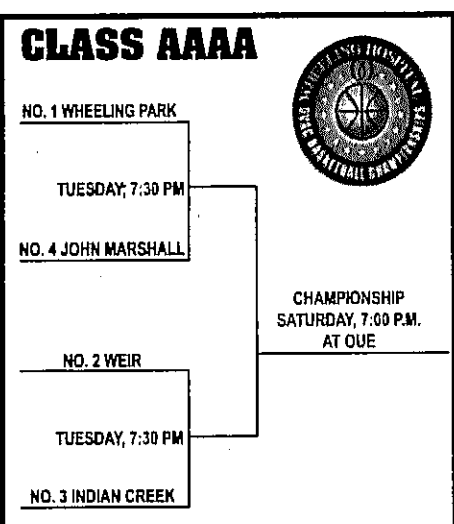
"It's good to be at home, but it's now a matter of who shows up and plays," Andes said. "It's nice to be in a tournament atmosphere before the state tournaments begin."

The Tigers are led by their backcourt. Guards Billy Merryman, B.A. Holloway, Jared Andes and Justin Andes are more than capable of filling it up on any night.

"Our offense has gotten better the last couple of games," Andes continued. "We're moving the ball a lot better and we're playing harder on the defensive end."

The aforementioned Cadets are the second seed and will roll out the red carpets of Beverly for Linsly School, which qualified third. Fort Frye is undefeated within the OVAC, having lost to Waterford twice and Vincent Warren once. Linsly, meanwhile, is 10-5 and has lost no fewer than three games in overtime this season, including verdicts to Shadyside, Martins Ferry and Wheeling Central.

TUESDAY, 7:30 PM
NO. 3 MAGNOLIA



See, OVAC, Page B2

Our Opinion

Hoop Spectacle

THE INAUGURAL Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships have come and gone. In the process eight team champions -- four girls' and a like number of boys' squads -- have been crowned.

The first-time event -- hosted by Ohio University Eastern -- has been met with glowing praise and an appetite for a sporting spectacle boasting greater upside.

The championship tournament was the brainchild of OVAC Executive Secretary/Treasurer Tom Rataiczak and tourney director Rick DeLuca, and superbly put in place by the tournament committee, comprised of local and passionate basketball minds.

The tournaments afforded the prep hoopsters a stage never available before, enabling them to showcase their individual and team talents. The eight-game extravaganza -- encompassing two weekends -- turned into a media carnival, exposing Ohio Valley basketball to the public like never before. Prep players not only displayed their hardwood talents but also their off-the-

court personalities.

FOR THE first-time in the glorious 60 plus years of the OVAC, champions were crowned on the basketball court and not on paper. In the world of true sportsmanship and level playing fields, such a scenario is needed.

Both the girls' and boys' tourneys were greeted by large and partisan crowds, not surprising in the sports-crazed Ohio Valley.

The first chapter of what promises to be a best-selling work of art came to a close with the crowning of Shadyside, Bridgeport, Wheeling Central and Indian Creek, gaining boys' championships this past Saturday. Just a week prior, St. John Central, Monroe Central, Barnesville and Indian Creek captured girls' championships.

All told, it was two weekends of prep hoops never seen before witnessed in the Ohio Valley. We commend the players and coaches for putting on superb performances and we thank those involved with the OVAC who made the tournaments become reality.

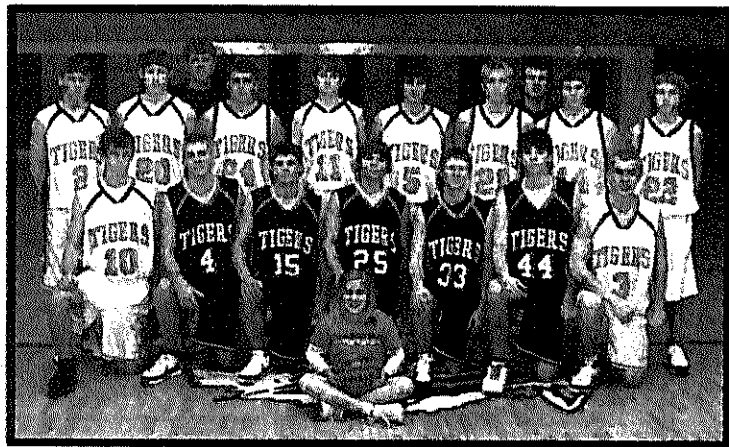
Indian Creek wins 4-A

Indian Creek duplicated the feat that the Lady Redskins pulled off last weekend when the boys squad claimed the OVAC 4-A title Saturday evening during the finale of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

The Redskins -- now 15-5 on the season -- used a third-quarter run to ignite a rally that resulted in a hard-fought 40-35 victory over fourth-seeded John Marshall. Indian Creek was led by senior standout Jim Wood who had 18 points. Mike Smith finished with 13 markers in top support. John Marshall produced nary a double-digit scorer.

JOHN MARSHALL (35) -- Overhall 0, 0-1 0; Melko 0, 2-2 2; Defibaugh 0, 2-3 2; Whitfield 2, 1-2 6; Shepherd 4, 0-1 8; Hays 1, 0-0 3; Eickelberry 1, 0-0 2; Montes 2, 0-0 5; Whipp 1, 0-0 2; McClelland 1, 3-4 5; Totals: 12, 8-13 35. INDIAN CREEK (40) -- Dunlevy 1, 0-0 2; DeSantis 0, 0-0 0; Smith 4, 5-6 13; Roberts 1, 0-0 3; Smith 0, 0-0 0; Vitro 0, 2-4 2; Bowers 0, 0-0 0; Figel 1, 0-0 2; Starr 0, 0-0 0; Wood 4, 10-11 18; Totals: 11, 17-21 40.
Three-Point Goals: JM -- Montes, Whitfield, Hays. IC -- Roberts.

CONGRATULATIONS



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Sunday News-Register
FEBRUARY 10, 2008

SPORTS

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WHEELING HOSPITAL OVAC BOYS' BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

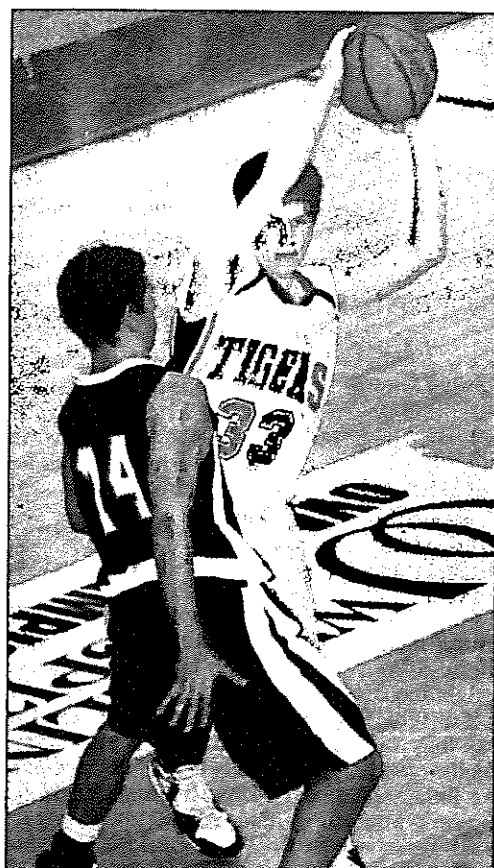


Photo by Joel Joseph
Shadyside's Billy Merryman is guarded by Linsly's DeMarr Moulton during action of their game Saturday.

Shadyside Wins OT Thriller

Tigers, Cadets put on an instant classic at OUE

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer
When Shadyside and Linsly met Jan. 27

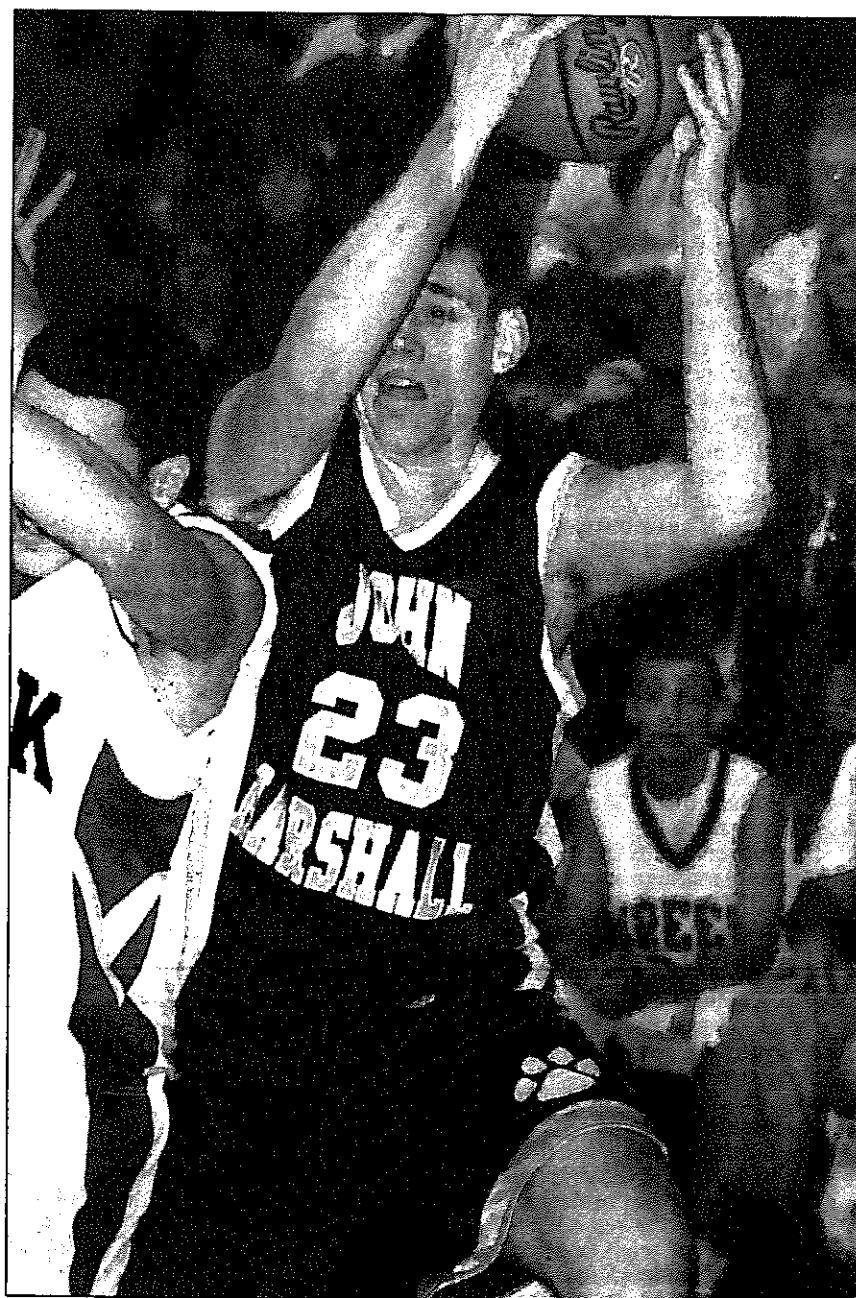


Photo by Mike Mathison
John Marshall's Justin Eikleberry pulls down a rebound in front of Indian Creek's Jim Wood, left, during action of their OVAC Class AAAA championship game Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern. Indian Creek won, 40-35.

Indian Creek Holds

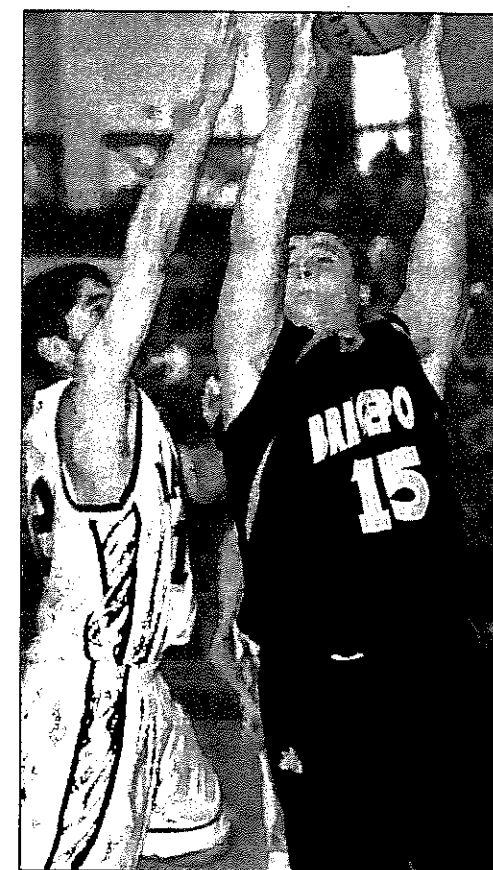


Photo by Joel Joseph
Bridgeport's Mike Bachtie pulls down a rebound in front of John McCune, left, during their Class A game Saturday.

Bridgeport Gets Back At Madonna

Bulldogs gain first OVAC championship in 25 years

By SETH STASKEY
For The News-Register
For the Bridgeport Bulldogs, the win

Tigers, Cadets put on an instant classic at OUE

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

When Shadyside and Linsly met Jan. 22, the Tigers escaped with a 66-65 victory in an overtime thriller.

When the two got together for the rematch Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern, the question was simple: What could be done for encore?

Class AA Throw in two more overtimes, buzzer-beating shots, heartbreaking misses, controversial calls, and an OVAC championship and you have what will be an instant classic in a game to be remembered for years to come.

The Tigers were the fortunate team to come out on top in this marathon contest, winning the Class AA championship with a 69-64, three-overtime victory against the Cadets.

"We have five seniors and plus the rest of our team, they just never quit," Shadyside coach Ed Andes said.

See, Tigers, Page B2

John Marshall's Justin Elkleberry pulls down a rebound in front of Indian Creek's Jim Wood, left, during action of their OVAC Class AAAA championship game Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern. Indian Creek won, 40-35.

Indian Creek Holds Off John Marshall

Redskins boys match girls' team with a victory against JM

Class AAAA

Redskins teammates heard the doubters. So they did the only thing they could — they proved they belonged on the court.

Jim Wood scored 18 points and Smith tacked on 13 as the Redskins (15-5) held John Marshall (11-7) to 14 points in the second half on their way to a 40-35 victory and an improbable conference crown.

The boys joined their female counterparts, who won the 4-A girls title last Saturday, ironically enough against John Marshall.

By SHAWN RINE
Ohio Sports Editor

OK, raise your hand if you expected Indian Creek to be playing in Saturday night's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class AAAA Boys' basketball championship on the campus of Ohio University-Eastern.

Anybody? Michael Smith and the rest of his

See, Indian Creek, Page B4

Bulldogs gain first OVAC championship in 25 years

By SETH STASKEY
For The News-Register

For the Bridgeport Bulldogs, the third time was the charm.

After dropping two verdicts to Weirton Madonna, including the final game of the regular season a little more than a week ago, the Bulldogs entered the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship looking to make amends.

Class A

And Saturday afternoon at Ohio University-Eastern, revenge was taken by the Bulldogs by way of a 49-37 victory.

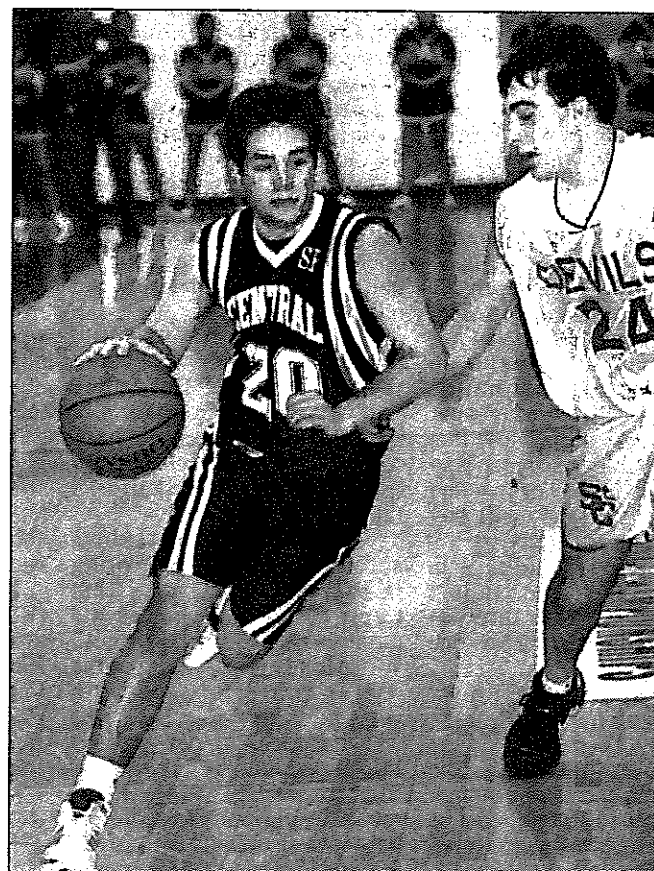
With the revenge, Bridgeport got even more than that. The victory gives the Bulldogs the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Championship for the first time since 1983.

"This is a great feeling," Bridgeport coach Donnie Cash said. "Before we left the gym (Saturday), I made the kids walk past the trophy case and look at that 1983 trophy and told them it would be great to put another one in the case. It had been 25 years, so it was long overdue."

See, Bridgeport, Page B3

Wheeling Central's Shane Phillips, left, looks to get past St. Clairsville's Dan Slavik during action of their OVAC Class AAA title game Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern. The Maroon Knights captured their third consecutive OVAC title and 19th overall with a 58-50 triumph against the Red Devils.

Photo by Joel Joseph



Wheeling Central Prevails

Maroon Knights win their third OVAC title in a row

Class AAA

By NICK BEDWAY
For the News-Register

With the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAA boys' basketball championship on the line, two Wheeling Central Catholic sophomores stepped up and made the biggest shots of their still-young careers Saturday afternoon at Ohio University-Eastern.

After second-seeded St. Clairsville (15-5) had whittled the Maroon Knights' lead from 10 points to two midway through the fourth quarter, Brian Sorge found himself all alone on the left wing and didn't hesitate to drain a trifecta, pushing the Central advantage to 44-39.

It was still a five-point game, 46-41, at the 2:31 mark when Zach Hood decided to launch his 3-pointer from the right side in front of the Maroon Knights bench. The ball whistled cleanly through the twine and all but settled the issue as Wheeling Central went on from there to defeat the Red Devils 58-50 in what was a physical, no-holds-barred, bump-and-grind contest from start to finish.

"They may be sophomores class-wise, but both those kids have played a lot of basketball,

and they expect to make those kind of shots," pointed out Mel Stephens, Wheeling Central's coach.

In Sorge's case, that certainly was true. He has been the first guard off the Maroon Knights' bench since the outset of the season. Hood's playing time until recently was mainly with the jayvee team, where he did have the opportunity to display his potential as a 3-point threat. With Central in serious foul trouble late in the game, Stephens didn't have any hesitation about having either Sorge or Hood on the floor at crunch time.

"Our bench has come through for us all year," Stephens said. "(Saturday night) we had Alex (Peluchette), Cory (McKittrick) and Cody (Koehler) with four fouls in the fourth quarter, but we had some other kids come in and give us some important minutes."

The victory clinched a third straight OVAC divisional championship for Wheeling Central, (12-6), but it was the first time it had the opportunity to win a pennant on the court.

In past years an oft-discussed ratings system was used to determine the conference champi-

See, Central, Page B2

ON THE LINE

Today's Results:
Q. Should the NFL have the Pro Bowl some place other than Hawaii?

Yes: 67%
No: 33%

Tomorrow's Poll:
Q. Will basketball emerge as the OVAC's most popular tournament?

Tell us what you think.
Register your answer at www.news-register.net
(The results of this poll are not scientific and represent only the opinions of Internet users who have chosen to participate.)



CENTRAL

Continued from page B1

In past years an oft-discussed ratings system was used to determine conference champions. On Saturday, both Stephens and St. Clairsville coach Kim Clifford were delighted to have their teams in the finals of the inaugural Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championship Tournament.

"Actually, we were extra happy just to get into the tournament," Stephens said.

The Maroon Knights went on a road trip last week believing that even if they won a game at Charleston Catholic it might not have been enough for his kids to hold off Union Local for the fourth spot. But they edged out the Jets by the narrowest of margins and took full advantage of the opportunity to bring home the 19th overall OVAC boys' basketball crown in school history.

"We felt if we could just get in, we would be able to compete with St. Clairsville, Martins Ferry and Magnolia. This is the only way to decide the championship," Stephens insisted. "We had our work cut out winning at Martins Ferry on Wednesday night and this was another great game. St. Clairsville has a quick, aggressive and athletic team. We knew it would be a physical game and that's the way it turned out.

Although the Red Devils came up on the short end of the scoreboard, Clifford was every bit as enthusiastic about having the issue decided in this fashion.

"We certainly are in favor of doing it this way," he said. "The big crowd helped to make for a great atmosphere. It was a pretty physical game and our kids gave a great effort. Our hats are off to them, they made the plays when they needed to at the end."

With both teams playing strong defense, points were hard to come by, especially in the first half. But this kind of game is nothing new for Wheeling Central and its loyal fans. During the first four games of their current five-game winning streak, the Maroon Knights had held each of their opponents under 50 points. The Red

early margin.

McKittrick, fouled while attempting a putback of his own missed shot to open the second quarter, knocked in both free throws giving the Maroon Knights a 14-6 cushion. St. Clairsville battled back to within 15-13 after a nice hoop and harm play from Hynes with 3:49 remaining in the half.

However, McKittrick deposited two points in the Central bank with a hook shot to start a 7-0 run that also featured two free throws by Peluchette, plus three points from Koehler on a foul shot and his leaping tip-in from the backside.

Michael Bigelow countered with four points for St. Clairsville only to see Sorge extend the lead out to 24-17 with a sweet feed to Koehler that resulted in a layup. Bigelow, finishing off a six-point quarter for himself, had a stickback goal ahead of the buzzer that sent the Red Devils off the court down 29-24.

The usually high-scoring Anthony Vincent, who was shut out in the first half as he missed six bucket attempts, broke his personal scoring ice with a drive inside at the outset of the third quarter. The hoop made it a three-point game. But every time St. Clairsville came within a bucket or two of tying the score, Long helped Central keep the Red Devils at bay.

The junior wingman collected seven of his 10 points in the third round, highlighted by a pretty slash move through the defense for a layup. Before the third quarter buzzer sounded, the 6-foot-4 McKittrick, stationed on the right wing, drove to the basket for a layup putting Central ahead by 10 at 41-31.

"I saw an opening and I took it," McKittrick said, breaking into a smile when asked if he was trying to imitate Long's flashy moves to the hoop.

St. Clairsville wasn't ready to throw in the towel and Vincent gave the Belmont County school fans seated among the large crowd some hope with a rainbow 3-pointer to start the fourth quarter. The Red Devils also showed they could play some terrific defense and

Beallsville's Contos Comes Up Big

Reserve hits huge 3-pointer in final minutes

By KIM NORTH
For the News-Register

It just might go down as one of the biggest comebacks in Beallsville girls' basketball history.

Saturday afternoon at Union Local High School in Morristown, the Blue Devils found themselves locked in a fight with Coach Tina Yates' youthful Shadyside squad.

The visitors played a near-perfect first half in rolling to a 27-15 advantage.

However, when the dust had settled after the final 16 minutes, the Blue Devils of Coach Terry Jarrett had rallied for a thrill-packed, 49-44 decision before a boisterous crowd to move on in Ohio Division IV Sectional Tournament action.

"We found a way to step up and win," said Jarrett, whose 15-6 team will face Frontier, a winner against Zanesville Rosecrans. That contest will be Wednesday at UL.

"I've got to give the girls all the credit," he said.

"They're the ones out there playing, so they deserve all the credit in the world."

Beallsville started its miraculous comeback when it turned up the defensive tenacity.

The Blue Devils' full-court pressure forced the Tigers into numerous second-half turnovers, including eight in the fateful fourth quarter.

"We kind of went nuts there," Yates pointed out. "I thought we've done pretty well most of the season against the press, but today it (the basketball) was a hot potato and we couldn't get rid of it fast enough."

Trailing 32-24 with just 8 minutes remaining in their season, the Devils ignited for 25 fourth-period points, capped by an unlikely performance from junior Brandy Contos.

With her team down 42-37 and just under 2 minutes left, the 5-foot-11 guard knocked down an all-important bonus goal from the far left corner while being intentionally fouled. She meshed the first

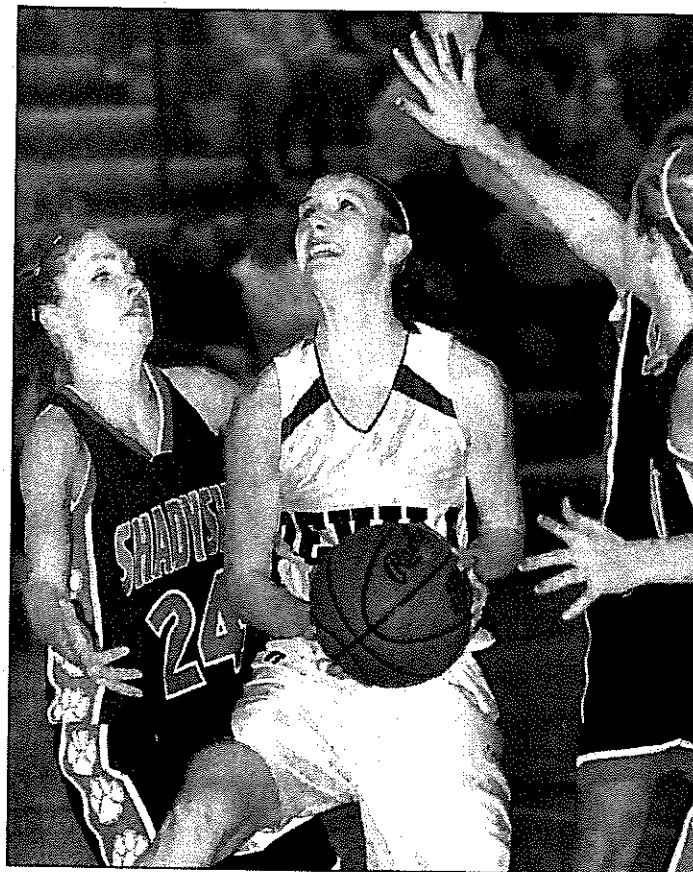


Photo by Joel Joseph

Beallsville's Savannah Burke readies a shot as Shadyside's Laken Gibson (24) slides over to defend during their Ohio Division IV sectional title Saturday at Morristown.

you'll have games like that."

However, had it not been for foul trouble on the Blue Devils' backcourt, Contos might not have even been in that position.

"You never from game to game how it is going to turnout," Jarrett said of the foul problems.

"Brandy is a great young lady and she came through for us today."

Jarrett also credited the Beallsville following for not giving up on the girls.

"We've got a great community. I don't care whether it is football, basketball, whatever it is. These people, they did."

"They stayed with us today when half of them could've left at halftime. A lot of team's fans will do that, but not ours, they stick with us."

"That's a big inspiration. I even told the girls at a timeout

there in the fourth quarter that everyone is behind you. You can hear them right there."

The future is bright for the Lady Tigers as they only had three seniors on the roster.

"The young kids are going to definitely work and they don't quit," said Yates, whose team finished at 10-11.

Frontier 56, Rosecrans 42

Mallory Hoff's 17 points was enough to spark Frontier (15-6) past Zanesville Rosecrans (7-14). Megan Rinard added 11 points for the Cougars and freshman Heather Booth added nine.

Caldwell 55, Bridgeport 42

Amanda Connell scored a season-high 20 points and Kristen Nau added 14 as Caldwell (9-12) beat Bridgeport.

Rachel Benda led the Bulldogs (11-10) with 14 points and Stephanie Bommer added 12.

Bellaire St. John 40, River 36

Sara Wamsley netted 14 points and Kylie Kidder added 11 as top-seeded Bellaire St. John escaped with a victory against upset-minded River.

The Pilots were led by 18 points from Erica Williams and 11 from Laignell Roberts.

Ohio Division II Sectional Edlson 34, East Liverpool 26

GNADENHUTTEN, Ohio - Holly Carson scored 10 points and Emily Pollack added eight rebounds and six steals to go with her four points as Edison edged East Liverpool.

Mason Dixon Night of Champions

Cameron 53

Morgantown Trinity 29

At Pine Grove, Shelby Wood scored 12 points, Alyssa Hager added 11 and Sunni Hartley totaled 10 as Cameron bested Morgantown Trinity in the Mason Dixon Night of Champions title tilt.

Bishop Donahue 48

Lexi Yurisko scored 10 of her 12 points in the fourth quarter as Bishop Donahue came back against Clarksburg Notre Dame.

Krista Bittengle added 12 points and Lacey Hampton finished with 10.

Valley 43, Clay-Battelle 37

Sammy Frye erupted for a season-high 20 points as Valley defeated Clay-Battelle (7-13).

Hundred 53, Paden City 32

Mary DeVaul totaled 16 points and Chelsea Kuhn added 11 as Hundred (9-11) defeated Paden City.

Allie Bertozzi led the wildcats with 12 points.

Regular Season East Fairmont 59, Brooke 42

At Wellsburg, Kayla Cutrone and Alex Martin each posted double-doubles, scoring 17 and 10 points and grabbing 12 and 11 rebounds, respectively, but it wasn't enough as the Bruins fell to East Fairmont.

Boys Charleston Catholic 69

Tyler Consolidated 41

CHARLESTON - Zach Perkey scored 17 points and Ryan Summers added 16 in a loss to Charleston Catholic.

Nailers Fall on the Road to Gwinnett

Anthony Vincent insisted. "We had our work cut out winning at Martins Ferry on Wednesday night and this was another great game. St. Clairsville has a quick, aggressive and athletic team. We knew it would be a physical game and that's the way it turned out.

Although the Red Devils came up on the short end of the scoreboard, Clifford was every bit as enthusiastic about having the issue decided in this fashion.

"We certainly are in favor of doing it this way," he said. "The big crowd helped to make for a great atmosphere. It was a pretty physical game and our kids gave a great effort. Our hats are off to them, they made the plays when they needed to at the end."

With both teams playing strong defense, points were hard to come by, especially in the first half. But this kind of game is nothing new for Wheeling Central and its loyal fans. During the first four games of their current five-game winning streak, the Maroon Knights had held each or their opponents under 50 points. The Red Devils didn't reach that level until 17 ticks remained when Dustin Hynes drained a long-distance 3-pointer from the top of the key.

Because its lack of size sometimes makes it difficult to match up inside against taller opponents, St. Clairsville has come to rely on its 3-point shooters. Against Central, however, the Red Devils couldn't find the range from the perimeter, hitting 2 of 18 attempts from 3-point range. This forced them to take the ball into the teeth of the Central defense where they found just enough success to get back in the game.

"Our kids showed a lot of heart," Clifford said.

"But it's tough to win when you can't throw the leather in the basket."

For the game, the Red Devils were 17 of 50 from the floor and they also had several crucial misses at the foul line in the second half.

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St. Clairsville wasn't ready to throw in the towel and Vincent gave the Belmont County school fans seated among the large crowd some hope with a rainbow 3-pointer to start the fourth quarter. The Red Devils also showed they could play some terrific defense and forced the Knights into a series of turnovers that eventually saw St. Clairsville move within three at 41-38 following a Hynes 10-footer from the baseline.

A few seconds later, Hynes drew a foul and made 1 of 2 shots on this trip to the line, reducing the deficit to 41-39.

But then Sorge came through with his jumper that broke the back of the Red Devil rally.

"When you are trying to trap the ball on defense, you're going to give something up," Clifford said.

"The two guys that got free for those 3-pointers were probably the ones we wanted to see shoot in both situations. To their credit, they made them.

Both sides had three double-figure scorers. St. Clairsville's offense included 12 points from Hynes, 11 from Bigelow and 10 points by Derrick Baugh, who also collected seven of the Red Devils' 22 rebounds.

Central, which shot an 21 of 37 from the floor, was led by McKittrick's 15 points. Peluchette and Long added 10 tallies each.

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class AAA Championship Game (at Ohio University Eastern)
Wheeling Central 58, St. Clairsville 50
W — Phillips 1-5 4-4 6; Peluchette 4-5 2-2 10; McKittrick 5-8 5-7 15; Long 4-7 2-3 10; Koehler 4-4 1-2 9; Joseph 1-3 0-0 2; Sorge 1-3 0-0 3; Weishar 0-1 0-0 0; Hood 1-1 0-0 3; Totals: 21-37 14-18 58.

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With her team down 42-37 and just under 2 minutes left, the 5-foot-11 guard knocked down an all-important bonus goal from the far left corner while being intentionally fouled. She meshed the first free throw, but the second failed to leave the count at 42-41 in favor of the Tigers with 1:48 on the clock.

Because of the intentional foul, the Blue Devils regained possession and Kristin Lallathin found Alyssa Headley inside and she converted to give Beallsville its first lead since 13-11 early in the second quarter. Beallsville never trailed again.

"It was definitely a turning point," said Yates of the play. "I thought it was on a box out, but I guess not. It made the difference there."

Contos connected on 4 of 4 free throws down the stretch and Headley tacked on two more for good measure.

"She did what we needed her to do at the line," Jarrett said of Contos' effort. "We were terrible from the line and



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Beallsville's Savannah Burke readies a shot as Shadyside's Laken Gibson (24) slides over to defend during their Ohio Division IV sectional title Saturday at Morristown.

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Boys

Charleston Catholic 69

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CHARLESTON — Zach Perkey scored 17 points and Ryan Summers added 16 in a loss to Charleston Catholic.

Nailers Fall on the Road to Gwinnett

DULUTH, Ga — Things looked good for the Wheeling Nailers' after Joe Guenther's unassisted goal 2:46 into the second period, his sixth of the season.

That goal came 23 seconds after Kevin Croxton's 16th goal of the season tied the score with Gwinnett at 1-1 only 2:23 in.

But Nailers' goaltender Curtis Darling can only withstand so much as the Gladiators unleashed 26 shots on Darling in the second period, 58 for the game, as the Gladiators came back for a 5-3 victory.

After Gwinnett retook the lead on a Ryan Mahrle power-play goal in the second, the Gladiators pushed their lead to 4-2 with a Mike Hamilton goal with five seconds to go in the period.

Wheeling cut the lead to one when B.J. Radovich tallied his second goal of the season, on assists from Croxton and Guenther 3:44 into the third. But the Nailers could get no closer.

Andy Brandt scored his 11th of the season on an empty net with 1:01 remaining in regulation to seal the deal.

The Nailers take on South Carolina today before traveling to Charlotte to take on the Checkers on Tuesday.

Gwinnett 5, Wheeling 3	
Wheeling	0 2 1 — 3
Gwinnett	1 3 1 — 5
First Period	
Scoring - 1. Gwinnett, M. Hamilton (15) (M. Anderson) 12:13; Penalties - V. Slivchenko Whl (hooking - minor 55.2) 1:35; J. Sitko Gwt (high-sticking - minor 60.2) 6:12; M. Hamilton Gwt (tripping - minor 57.2) 7:24; J. Chwedoruk Whl (roughing - minor 51.2) 8:25; J. Sitko Gwt	
Second Period	
Scoring - 2. Wheeling, K. Croxton (16) (B. Radovich, C. Brooks) 2:23 3. Wheeling, J. Guenther (6) 2:46 4. Gwinnett, M. Stoesz (4) (B. Busniuk, S. MacRae) 12:45 5. Gwinnett, R. Mahrle (2) (T. Pospisil, S. MacRae) 14:16 PP 6. Gwinnett, M. Hamilton (16) (A. Brandt) 19:55 Penalties - J. Chwedoruk Whl (hooking - minor 55.2) 3:01; V. Slivchenko Whl (hooking - minor 55.2) 5:35; B. Radovich Whl (hooking - minor 55.2) 8:04; T. Spencer Whl (holding - minor 54.2) 13:25; G. Pisellini Whl (fighting - major 47.13) 20:00; M. Hamilton Gwt (fighting - major 47.13) 20:00	
Third Period	
Scoring - 7. Wheeling, B. Radovich (2) (K. Croxton, J. Guenther) 3:44 8. Gwinnett, A. Brandt (11) (M. Hamilton, J. Milam) 18:59 EN; Penalties - M. Byrnes Whl (holding - minor 54.2) 4:13; A. Boogaard Whl (holding - minor 54.2) 8:43; A. Sawruk Gwt (hooking - minor 55.2) 11:53; M. Anderson Gwt (tripping - minor 57.2) 14:28	
Shots on Goal: Wheeling 7-8-12—27; Gwinnett 21-26-11—58	
Power Play: Wheeling 0-5; Gwinnett 1-7	
Goaltenders: Wheeling Darling 5-11 0-1 (43 saves); Kowalski 17-5-0-1 (24 saves).	

TIGERS

Continued from page B1

"There were times Linsly had us and they battled back and it was just a great team victory.

"We were hoping it wouldn't go that far, but we figured it was going to come down to winning by just one point. We have a very good ballclub with a lot of kids that can score. We knew it was going to come down to who was going to be on top by one."

For Shadyside it was one of

was long and Jared Andes iced the game with two free throws — going 4-for-4 from the foul line and 2-for-2 from the floor in the third overtime.

"He stepped it up at the end and other kids stepped it up throughout the game," Coach Andes said.

For the Cadets, it was another heartbreaking loss.

"We play tough teams," Linsly coach Mark Dodd said. "We play a schedule that we

door no matter whether it is the first dribble into that possession or whether it takes four or five."

Linsly had a foul to give and took it with .6 remaining on the clock.

Justin Andes somehow got behind the defense and caught the ball for a quick — and open — layup attempt, but the ball bounced off the rim and fell to the court.

"What we did was the

game," Dodd said. "It was a great high school basketball game. The players played their butts off. There was heart, intensity, effort, desire, it was all there.

"It could equate to the Final Four in college basketball. It was a bunch of men playing their hearts out and that is what high school basketball is all about.

"The fans in the stands were treated (Saturday) morn-

Because its lack of size sometimes makes it difficult to match up inside against taller opponents, St. Clairsville has come to rely on its 3-point shooters. Against Central, however, the Red Devils couldn't find the range from the perimeter, hitting 2 of 18 attempts from 3-point range. This forced them to take the ball into the teeth of the Central defense where they found just enough success to get back in the game.

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the baseline.

A few seconds later, Hynes drew a foul and made 1 of 2 shots on this trip to the line, reducing the deficit to 41-39.

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Both sides had three double-figure scorers. St. Clairsville's offense included 12 points from Hynes, 11 from Bigelow and 10 points by Derrick Baugh, who also collected seven of the Red Devils' 22 rebounds.

Central, which shot an 21 of 37 from the floor, was led by McKittrick's 15 points. Peluchette and Long added 10 tallies each.

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class AAA Championship Game (at Ohio University Eastern)
 Wheeling Central 58, St. Clairsville 50
 W — Phillips 1-5 4-4 6; Peluchette 4-5 2-2 10; McKittrick 5-8 5-7 15; Long 4-7 2-3 10; Koehler 4-4 1-2 9; Joseph 1-3 0-0 2; Sorge 1-3 0-0 3; Welshar 0-1 0-0 0; Hood 1-1 0-0 3; Totals: 21-37 14-18 58.
 S — Vincent 2-12 3-6 8; Hynes 4-10 3-5 12; Bigelow 2-4 7-8 11; Baugh 5-7 0-2 10; Slavik 0-6 0-0 0; Jarvie 2-9 0-0 4; Pata 0-0 1-2 1; Skrabak 2-2 0-0 4; Totals: 17-50 14-23 50.
 3-pt. goals: Sorge, Hood; Vincent, Hynes.
 Wheeling Central 12 12 17 17 — 58
 St. Clairsville 6 13 12 19 — 50

ton, the Red Devils regained possession and Kristin Lallathin found Alyssa Headley inside and she converted to give Beallsville its first lead since 13-11 early in the second quarter. Beallsville never trailed again.

"It was definitely a turning point," said Yates of the play. "I thought it was on a box out, but I guess not. It made the difference there."

Contos connected on 4 of 4 free throws down the stretch and Headley tacked on two more for good measure.

"She did what we needed her to do at the line," Jarrett said of Contos' effort. "We were terrible from the line and

season.

That goal came 23 seconds after Kevin Croxton's 16th goal of the season tied the score with Gwinnett at 1-1 only 2:23 in.

But Nailers' goaltender Curtis Darling can only withstand so much as the Gladiators unleashed 26 shots on Darling in the second period, 58 for the game, as the Gladiators came back for a 5-3 victory.

After Gwinnett retook the lead on a Ryan Mahrle power-play goal in the second, the Gladiators pushed their lead to 4-2 with a Mike Hamilton goal with five sec-

tion and Guenther 3:44 into the third. But the Nailers could get no closer.

Andy Brandt scored his 11th of the season on an empty net with 1:01 remaining in regulation to seal the deal.

The Nailers take on South Carolina today before traveling to Charlotte to take on the Checkers on Tuesday.

■ ■ ■
 Gwinnett 5, Wheeling 3
 Wheeling 0 2 1 — 3
 Gwinnett 1 3 1 — 5
 First Period
 Scoring — 1. Gwinnett, M. Hamilton (15) (M. Anderson) 12:13; Penalties — V. Silvchenko Whl (hooking - minor 55.2) 1:35, J. Sitko Gwt (high-sticking - minor 60.2) 6:12, M. Hamilton Gwt (tripping - minor 57.2) 7:24, J. Chwedoruk Whl (roughing - minor 51.2) 8:25, J. Sitko Gwt

ing, J. Guenther (6) 2:46 4. Gwinnett, M. Stoetz (4) (B. Busniuk, S. MacRae) 12:45 5. Gwinnett, R. Mahrle (2) (T. Pospisil, S. MacRae) 14:16 PP 6. Gwinnett, M. Hamilton (16) (A. Brandt) 19:55 Penalties — J. Chwedoruk Whl (hooking - minor 55.2) 3:01, V. Silvchenko Whl (hooking - minor 55.2) 6:35, B. Radovich Whl (hooking - minor 55.2) 8:04, T. Spencer Whl (holding - minor 54.2) 13:25, G. Pisellini Whl (fighting - major 47.13) 20:00, M. Hamilton Gwt (fighting - major 47.13) 20:00

Third Period
 Scoring — 7. Wheeling, B. Radovich (2) (K. Croxton, J. Guenther) 3:44 8. Gwinnett, A. Brandt (11) (M. Hamilton, J. Milam) 18:59 EN; Penalties — M. Byrnes Whl (holding - minor 54.2) 4:13, A. Boogaard Whl (holding - minor 54.2) 8:43, A. Savruk Gwt (hooking - minor 55.2) 11:53, M. Anderson Gwt (tripping - minor 57.2) 14:28
 Shots on Goal: Wheeling 7-8-12—27; Gwinnett 21-26-11—58
 Power Play: Wheeling 0-5; Gwinnett 1-7
 Goaltenders: Wheeling Darling 5-11-0-1 (43 saves); Kowalski 17-5-0-1 (24 saves).

TIGERS

Continued from page B1

"There were times Linsly had us and they battled back and it was just a great team victory.

"We were hoping it wouldn't go that far, but we figured it was going to come down to winning by just one point. We have a very good ballclub with a lot of kids that can score. We knew it was going to come down to who was going to be on top by one."

For Shadyside, it was one of those seniors — Jared Andes — that become the first hero in the history of the OVAC Boys' Basketball Championships.

With the game tied at 57-57 going into the third overtime, Linsly's Taylor Cecil got the scoring started with a bucket, but Jared Andes connected on a 3-pointer to put the Tigers (18-2) up one.

After a C.J. Goodwin bucket gave Linsly the lead back, Jared Andes again answered his counterpart with another 3-pointer.

Cody Campbell missed a jumper on the other end. Jared Andes recovered the ball and was sent to the line after a foul.

He knocked down the free throws to put Shadyside up four.

Linsly (11-7) cut the lead to one with a minute remaining after 3-pointer by Campbell.

Dylan Kimble was next up at line and despite stepping to the line only 15 times during the season, coolly converted both attempts to stretch the Tigers' lead to three with 46 seconds left.

Linsly's last-ditch effort failed as Campbell's 3-pointer

was long and Jared Andes iced the game with two free throws — going 4-for-4 from the foul line and 2-for-2 from the floor in the third overtime.

"He stepped it up at the end and other kids stepped it up throughout the game," Coach Andes said.

For the Cadets, it was another heartbreaking loss.

"We play tough teams," Linsly coach Mark Dodd said. "We play a schedule that we know games are going to go down to the wire. It builds character. I've been in (coaching) long enough to know that some years things go your way and you win by one or two and other years you just can't buy one, just can't get lucky."

"Next year, I hope I'm standing at the same podium and saying we won three or four in overtime and it was one of those years."

It didn't look like Linsly would put up much of a fight, trailing by 10 early. But the Cadets took their first lead midway into the fourth quarter on a bucket by Campbell and led by three points with 3 minutes left.

However, a turnover gave the Tigers a chance to tie the game and Jared Andes was the answer, connecting on a 3-pointer to even the score 44-44 with a minute to go.

Linsly did plenty of passing to hold for the last shot, but a 5-second violation with 8.4 seconds to go gave the ball to the Tigers with a chance to win.

"We never want to hold the ball," Dodd said. "We have a set where we see if we can get the corner or a slip in the back

door no matter whether it is the first dribble into that possession or whether it takes four or five."

Linsly had a foul to give and took it with .6 remaining on the clock.

Justin Andes somehow got behind the defense and caught the ball for a quick — and open — layup attempt, but the ball bounced off the rim and fell to the court.

"What we did was the opposite of when we played them at home," Ed Andes said. "We set them up for a 3, but this time we used the back screen and got the chance for the layup but it just didn't fall."

A pair of free throws accounted for all the scoring in the first overtime. Sam Cecil could have ended the game with free throws with 1.7 seconds remaining, but the senior center missed both shots.

The Cadets jumped out to a five-point lead in the second overtime, but the Tigers received big contributions by key players — four free throws by Jared Andes and two 3-pointers from Billy Merryman.

Trailing by one at 56-55, DeMarr Moulton had the ball stripped and Justin Andes went to the line. He made 1 of 2 to give Linsly a chance with 7.1 seconds left.

Goodwin drove to the hoop and connected on a layup at the buzzer, just getting the shot off before the clock hit triple zeroes to prolong the outcome another 4 minutes.

"I'd like to congratulate Shadyside on a well-played

game," Dodd said. "It was a great high school basketball game. The players played their butts off. There was heart, intensity, effort, desire, it was all there.

"It could equate to the Final Four in college basketball. It was a bunch of men playing their hearts out and that is what high school basketball is all about.

"The fans in the stands were treated (Saturday) morning. I hope they enjoy the rest of their Saturday, but I know they were treated to a special game from 10-11:30. We may have missed some foul shots, but there was a clutch 3 here or a drive here that showed the character of our team."

Shadyside went 18 of 21 (85 percent) from the free-throw line, compared to 9 of 23 (39 percent) from the Cadets.

The Tigers were led by Jared Andes with 25 points, followed by Merryman with 15, B.A. Holloway with 13, and Drew Kennon with 10.

Campbell matched Andes with game-high honors, while teammate Goodwin chipped in with 21 points and Moulton added 10.

■ ■ ■
 OVAC Tournament Class A Championship
 Shadyside 69, Linsly 64, 3OT
 L — Campbell 10-22 2-5 25, Moulton 4-10 2-4 10, T.Cecil 2-5 0-1 4, Goodwin 9-17 3-4 21, S.Cecil 1-4 2-6 4, Fahey 0-1 0-0 0, Milton 0-2 0-0 0, Hill 0-1 0-0 0, Slayton 0-0 0-2 0. Totals 26-62 9-23 64.
 S — Holloway 3-10 6-6 13, Sadlowski 0-0 0-0 0, Ja.Andes 6-14 8-8 25, Kennon 5-7 0-1 10, Merryman 6-17 0-0 15, Ju.Andes 0-5 1-2 1, Butts 1-1 1-2 3, Kimble 0-2 2-2 2. Totals 20-56 18-21 69.
 3-Point Goals: Campbell 3; Holloway, Ja.Andes 5, Merryman 5.
 Linsly 10 9 14 11 2 11 7 — 64
 Shadyside 12 8 14 10 2 11 12 — 69

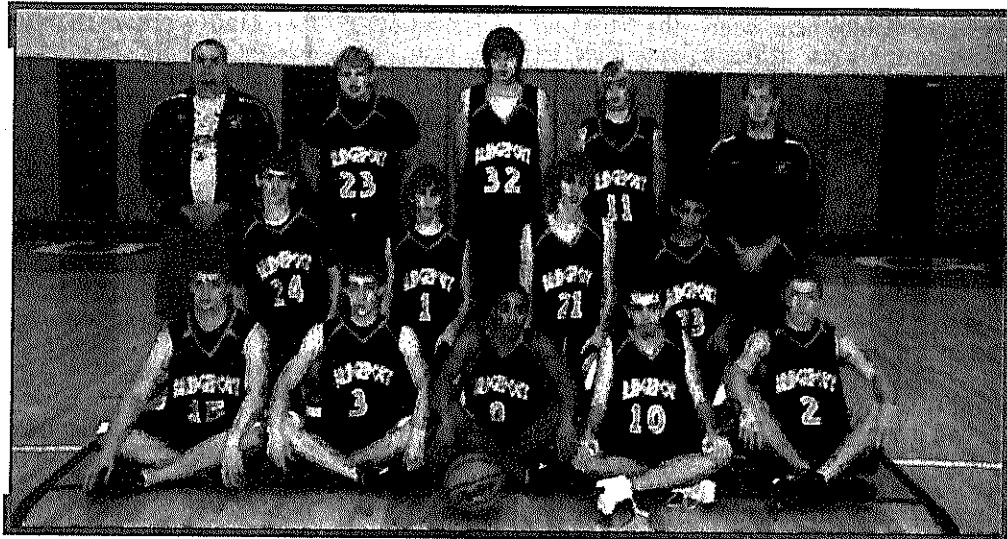
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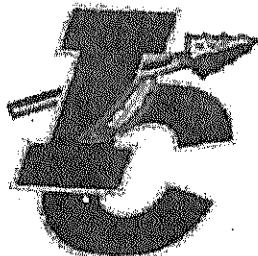
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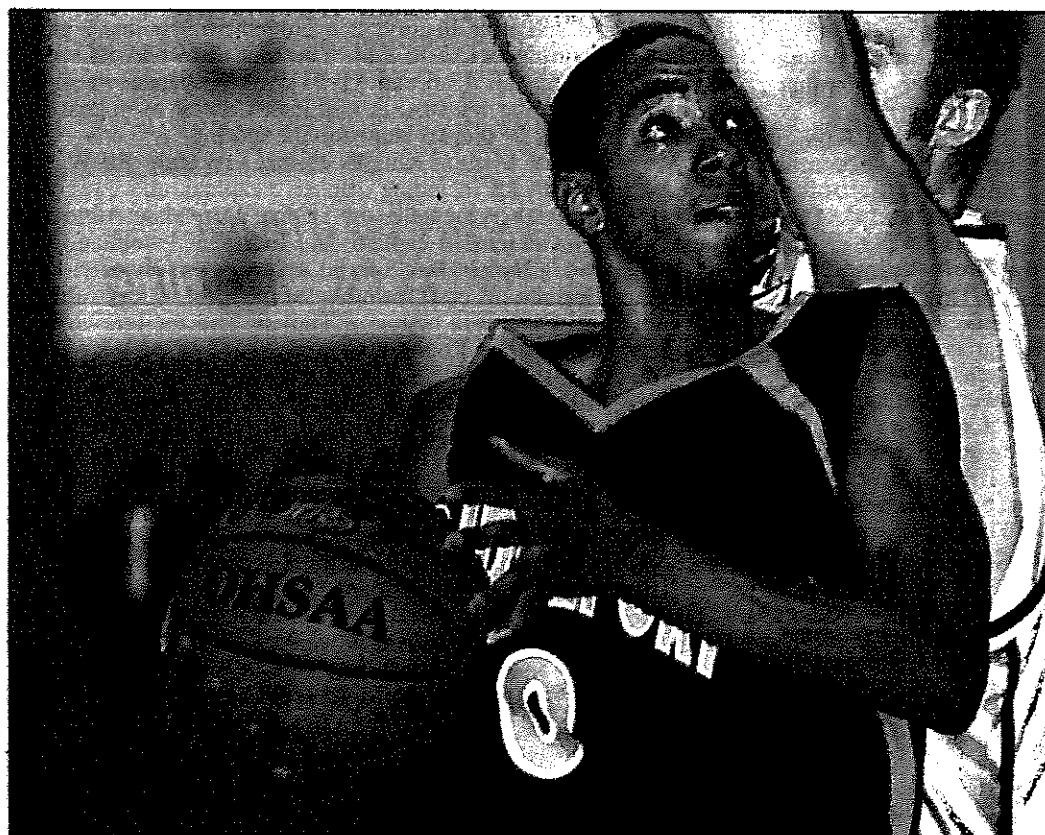
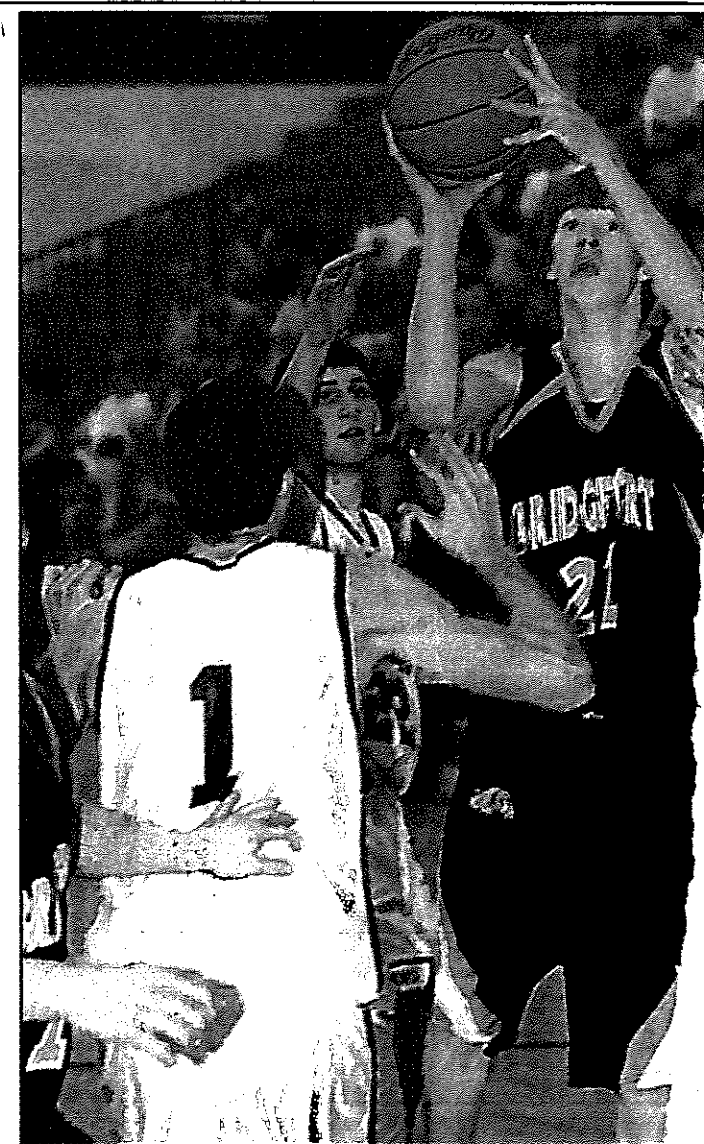
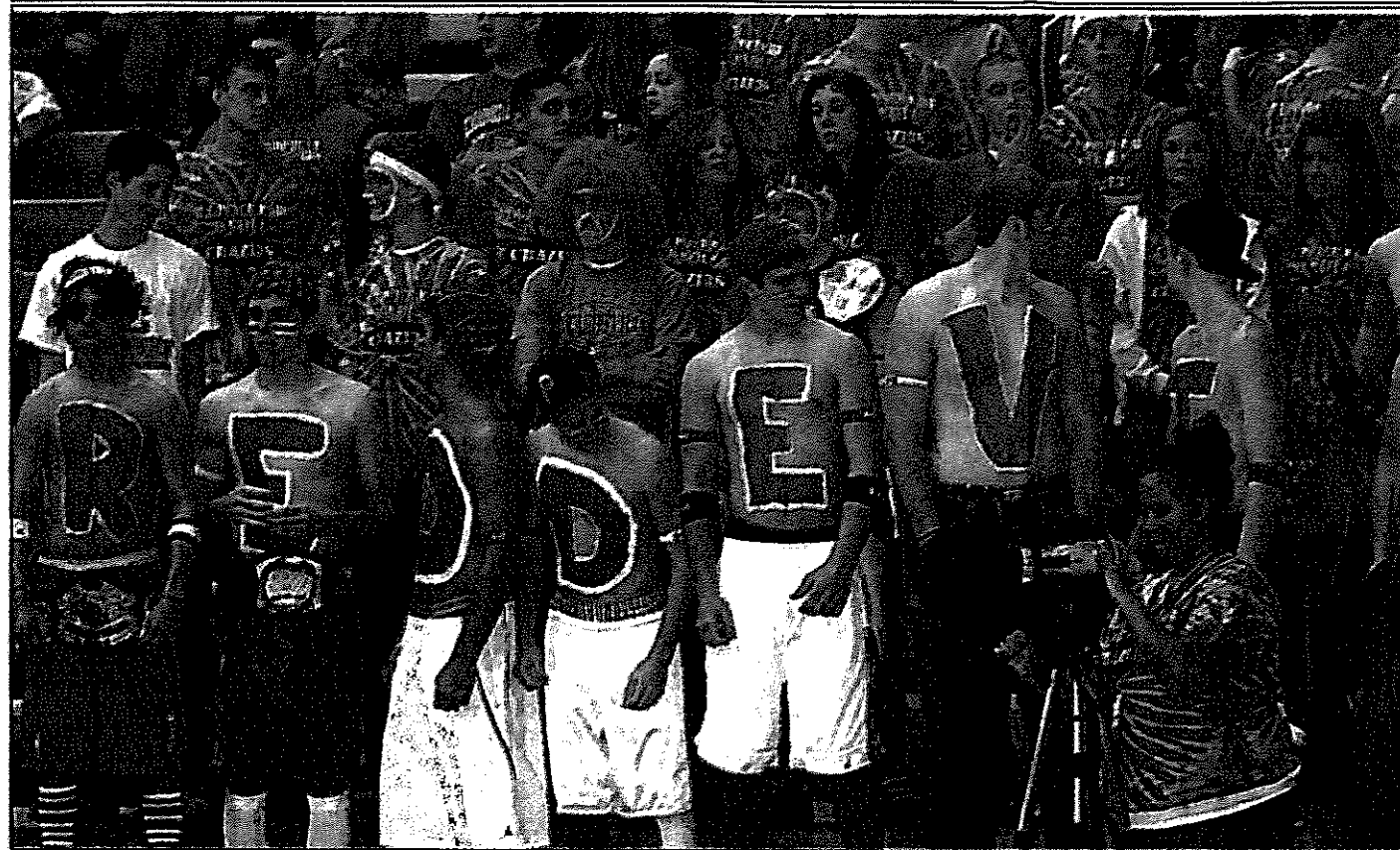


**OVAC AAAA
CHAMPIONS
INDIAN CREEK
BOYS &
LADY
REDSKINS**



HOOPS EXTRA

Sunday,
February 10, 2008



TOP: Fans of the St. Clairsville Red Devils displayed their support Saturday.

TOP RIGHT: Bridgeport's Mike Carr (21) shoots for two points.

CENTER RIGHT: St. Clairsville's Shawn Vincent eyes the basket.

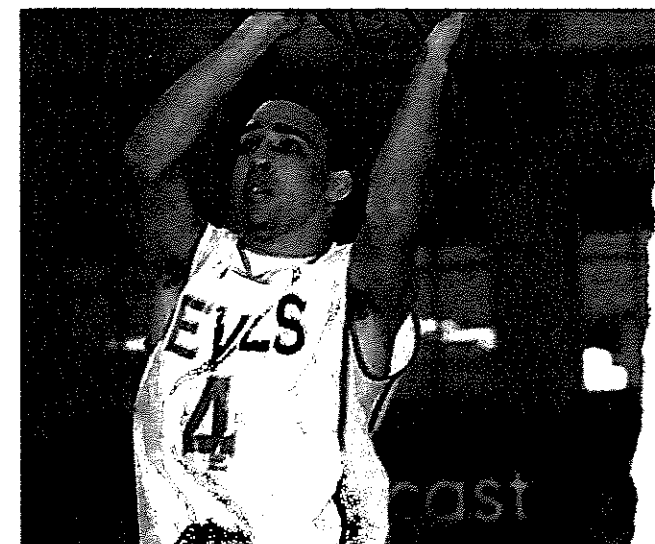
BELOW RIGHT: Shadyside's Billy Merryman looks to pass the ball against Linsly.

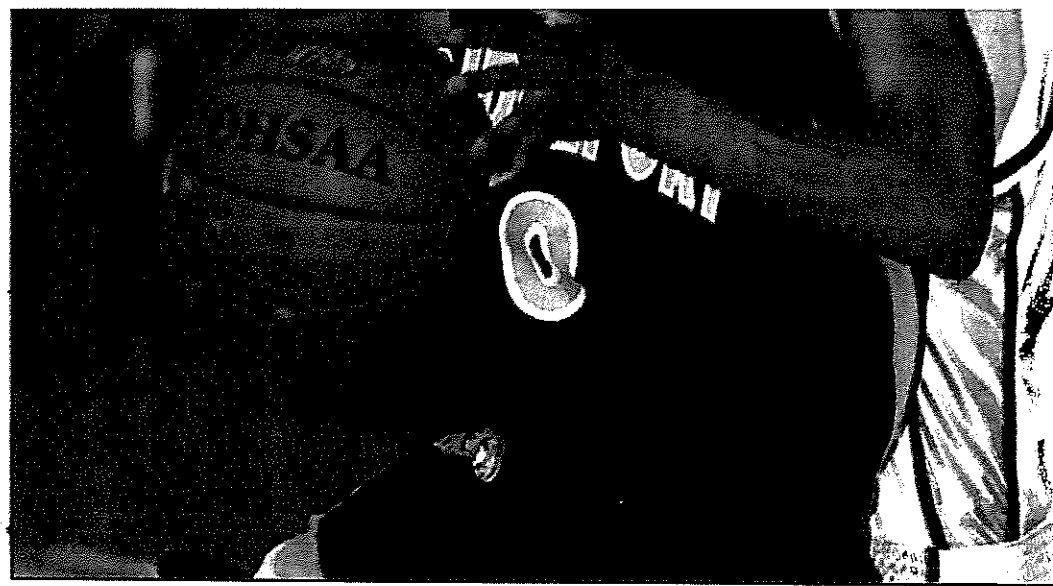
BOTTOM RIGHT: St. Clairsville's Ryan Jarvie (22) turns the corner against Wheeling Central.

LEFT: Bridgeport's Chas Lindsey draws a foul from a Madonna player Saturday.

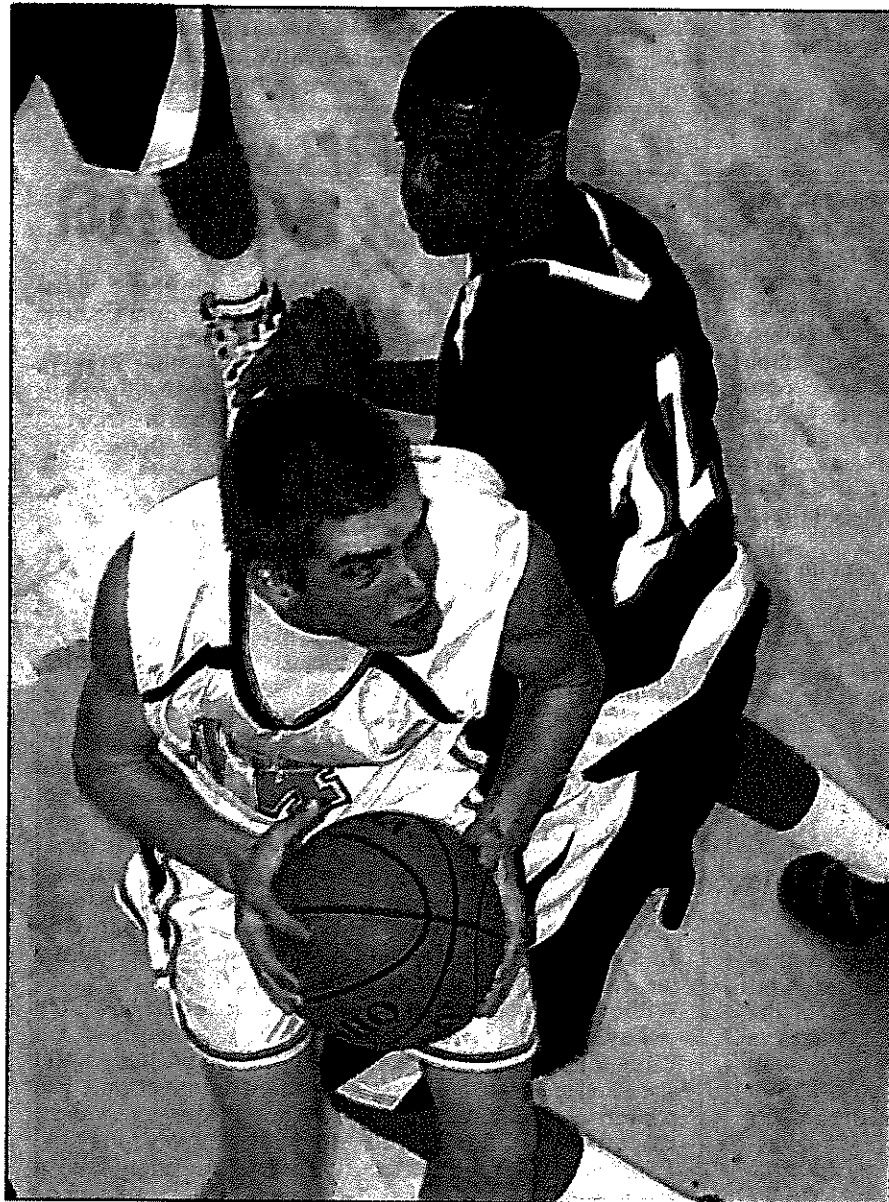
MIDDLE BELOW: The Bridgeport Bulldog mascot struts his stuff.

MIDDLE BOTTOM: Shadyside's B.A. Holloway drives the baseline.





against Linsly.
BOTTOM RIGHT: St. Clairsville's Ryan Jarvie (22) turns the corner against Wheeling Central.
LEFT: Bridgeport's Chas Lindsey draws a foul from a Madonna player Saturday.
MIDDLE BELOW: The Bridgeport Bulldog mascot struts his stuff.
MIDDLE BOTTOM: Shadyside's B.A. Holloway drives the baseline.
BOTTOM LEFT: Shadyside's Jared Andes tries to slip past a Linsly defender.



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2008 Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships Schedule/Media Coverage

Girls' Semifinals – Mon., Jan. 28 – played on the home courts of the higher seeds

Girls' Finals* – Sat., Feb. 2 – OUE – all games live on **AM 1600 WKKX / www.wkkx.com**

A - 10:00am - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI – Monday, Feb. 4 at 7:00pm

AA - 1:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI – Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 7:00pm

AAA - 4:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI – Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7:00pm

AAAA – 7:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI – Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7:00pm

Boys' Semifinals – Tues., Feb. 5 – played on the home courts of the higher seeds

Boys' Finals* – Sat., Feb. 9 – OUE – all games live on **AM 1600 WKKX / www.wkkx.com**

A - 10:00am - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI – Monday, Feb. 11 at 7:00pm

AA - 1:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI – Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 7:00pm

AAA - 4:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI – Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 7:00pm

AAAA – 7:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI – Thursday, Feb. 14 at 7:00pm

* *Replays of the Finals will also be available to be seen on Comcast's Video On Demand service.*



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INDIAN CREEK

Continued from page B1

"First off, I think we should get a little more respect now, but I guess we need to gain the respect," Smith said. "Earlier in the season everyone thought we were just the same old Indian Creek."

"We work pretty hard — we practice even on Sundays."

The fruits of that labor were never more visible than a third quarter in which Indian Creek limited John Marshall to two points, turning a 21-18 half-time deficit into a 28-23 lead.

"It is very special," Redskins coach Joe Dunlevy said. "Third quarter, they struggled to get a shot off."

"There were times they worked the ball 45, 50 seconds just to get a shot — not necessarily a good shot — and that's what we preach at Indian Creek. I think that's what you're successful with, especially at tournament time."

The stifling Redskins defense limited the Monarchs to 29-percent shooting overall and 16 percent from 3-point range. Indian Creek also made life difficult in the post for John Marshall's twin towers, 6-foot-6 posts Kenny Shepherd and Danny McClelland.

Normally, a team elects to take away one option or another. The Redskins took away everything.

"Sometimes when teams are aggressive with us, we're still young and we back away from that," John Marshall coach Bill Storm said. "It's been this way all-year — we aren't capable of putting four quarters together — but when we do we're awfully good."

"I don't know whether we've scored two in a quarter, but we've had our stretches where we disappear."

The tide seemed to turn when the Monarchs' Travis Whitfield picked up his third foul on a charge at 1:27 of the second quarter. Storm, who credits Whitfield's performance in the semifinal victory against Wheeling Park as being the key to his team's advancing, said that was the game's biggest blow.

"I thought the key to the game was when Travis Whitfield picked up his third foul — that was it right there," Storm said. "He makes us go, he's scrappy. He gets every loose ball and every rebound, and he penetrates and sets the table for our guys."

The biggest part of that was probably the penetration. John Marshall's offense went south from that point, and Indian Creek took advantage.

The Redskins took their first lead of the second half on back-to-back Wood baskets, the second one being accompanied by a subsequent free throw that made it 23-21.

"I think the biggest thing, like Coach 'D' said, was we did a pretty good job defensively," Wood

said. "They are really hard to guard because (they like to) penetrate and kick it out for the 3."

"They have a lot of good shooters, but the main thing was get around them and fight in the post."

But those great shooters never found their stroke.

Andrew Montes, arguably the team's most explosive scorer missed eight of his 10 shots, and was 1 of 9 after opening the game with a 3 from the left corner on the team's first possession.

"We came out early and hit those couple," Storm said. "When Andrew Montes hits his first couple he's usually on fire. It didn't happen (Saturday)."

Indian Creek led by five after three quarters and by as many as seven after Wood converted to begin the fourth. But the Monarchs answered with a 7-0 run that included Kylan Whipp's lone basket, a Whitfield 3 at the 6-minute mark that forced a Dunlevy timeout and a pair of McClelland free throws that knotted it at 30-30 with 3:40 to go.

"We had a bunch of kids step up in different situations (Saturday night)," Dunlevy said.

And the next guy was Dunlevy's son, Daniel, who scored on a nifty mid-range bank shot for his only bucket and a 32-30 lead. It was followed by a steal at mid-court and a layup by the ultra-confident Smith.

Smith said he expected a tough matchup and some gritty defense from the Monarchs.

"I knew they were going to double-team me because in my head none of them can guard me — at all," Smith said.

Smith hit a pair of free throws at 42.8 as Whitfield fouled out, and Wood sandwiched four free throws — he was 10 of 11 for the game — around a Jeremy Hays 3 for the final margin.

"It's very emotional. We were struggling around Christmas time," Coach Dunlevy said. "We played Dec. 21 against Bellaire, and I talked to (OVAC Executive Secretary) Tom (Rataiczak) about who he was going to pair us up with in the consolation games because we weren't going to make the tournament."

"But something happened with these kids where they started believing in themselves. Now, all the close games somebody is stepping up."

OVAC CLASS 4A Championship
Indian Creek 40, John Marshall 35
 J — Overholt 0-0 0-1 0; Meiko 0-2 2-2 2; Deibaugh 0-7 2-3 2; Whitfield 2-3 1-2 6; Shepherd 4-8 0-1 8; Hays 1-5 0-0 3; Ju,Eikleberry 1-1 0-0 2; Montes 2-10 0-0 5; Whipp 1-2 0-0 2; McClelland 1-3 3-4 5. Totals: 12-41 8-13 35.
 I — Dunlevy 1-1 0-0 2; DeSantis 0-0 0-0 0; Smith 4-14 5-8 13; Vitro 0-6 2-4 2; Bowers 0-0 0-0 0; Figel 1-5 0-0 2; Starr 0-0 0-0 0; Wood 4-14 10-11 18. Totals: 11-41 17-21 40.
 3-Point Goals: Whitfield, Hays, Montes; Roberts.
 John Marshall 11 10 2 12 — 35
 Indian Creek 10 8 10 12 — 40

Boys OVAC

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball
 Championship
CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINALS
 Today (at Higher Seed's Court)
CLASS 4-A
 No. 1 Wheeling Park vs. No. 4 John Marshall
 No. 2 Weir High vs. No. 3 Indian Creek
 Championship
 Saturday, 7 p.m. at OUE
CLASS 3-A
 No. 1 Martins Ferry vs. No. 4 Wheeling Central
 No. 2 St. Clairsville vs. No. 3 Magnolia
 Championship
 Saturday, 4 p.m. at OUE
CLASS 2-A
 No. 1 Shadyside vs. No. 4 Steubenville Catholic
 No. 2 Fort Frye vs. No. 3 Linsly
 Championship
 Saturday, 1 p.m. at OUE
CLASS 1-A
 No. 1 Wairton Madonna vs. No. 4 Zanesville
 Rosecrans
 No. 2 Bridgeport vs. No. 3 Valley
 Championship
 Saturday, 10 a.m. at OUE
OVAC CONSOLATION POOL GAMES
Tuesday
 Frontier at Bellaire
 River at Bealsville
 Monroe Central at Bishop Donahue
 Cameron at St. John
 Caldwell at Paden City
 Toronto at Buckeye Trail
 Union Local at Shenandoah
 Oak Glen at Steubenville
 Harrison Central at Barnesville
 Buckeye Local at Brookes
 Edison at Beaver Local
Friday
 Bealsville at Toronto
 Paden City at Monroe Central
 St. John Central at Caldwell
 Shenandoah at Harrison Central
 Beaver at Buckeye Local
 Steubenville at Union Local
 Bellaire at River
 Barnesville at Oak Glen
 Bishop Donahue at Frontier
 Buckeye Trail at Cameron
 Brookes at Edison
 Losers of the championship semifinals will also meet on Friday at the higher seed's home court in the consolation game.

Continued from page B1

In past years an oft-discussed ratings system was used to determine conference champions. On Saturday, both Stephens and St. Clairsville coach Kim Clifford were delighted to have their teams in the finals of the inaugural Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championship Tournament.

"Actually, we were extra happy just to get into the tournament," Stephens said.

The Maroon Knights went on a road trip last week believing that even if they won a game at Charleston Catholic it might not have been enough for his kids to hold off Union Local for the fourth spot. But they edged out the Jets by the narrowest of margins and took full advantage of the opportunity to bring home the 19th overall OVAC boys' basketball crown in school history.

"We felt if we could just get in, we would be able to compete with St. Clairsville, Martins Ferry and Magnolia. This is the only way to decide the championship," Stephens insisted. "We had our work cut out winning at Martins Ferry on Wednesday night and this was another great game. St. Clairsville has a quick, aggressive and athletic team. We knew it would be a physical game and that's the way it turned out."

Although the Red Devils came up on the short end of the scoreboard, Clifford was every bit as enthusiastic about having the issue decided in this fashion.

"We certainly are in favor of doing it this way," he said. "The big crowd helped to make for a great atmosphere. It was a pretty physical game and our kids gave a great effort. Our hats are off to them. They made the plays when they needed to at the end."

With both teams playing strong defense, points were hard to come by, especially in the first half. But this kind of game is nothing new for Wheeling Central and its loyal fans. During the first four games of their current five-game winning streak, the Maroon Knights had held each of their opponents under 50 points. The Red Devils didn't reach that level until 17 ticks remained when Dustin Hynes drained a long-distance 3-pointer from the top of the key.

Because its lack of size sometimes makes it difficult to match up inside against taller opponents, St. Clairsville has come to rely on its 3-point shooters. Against Central, however, the Red Devils couldn't find the range from the perimeter, hitting 2 of 18 attempts from 3-point range. This forced them to take the ball into the teeth of the Central defense where they found just enough success to get back in the game.

"Our kids showed a lot of heart," Clifford said.

"But it's tough to win when you can't throw the leather in the basket."

For the game, the Red Devils were 17 of 50 from the floor and they also had several crucial misses at the foul line in the second half.

With St. Clairsville shooting 3-for-15 in the opening quarter, Central was able to bounce out to a 12-6 lead in a game in which the Maroon Knights never trailed.

D'Onate Long drove inside and dropped the ball off to Koehler for the opening two points. This was followed by a McKitrick one-hander from short range that upped the count to 4-0. The Red Devils knotted the score on Ryan Jarvie's baseline drive that resulted in a layup. But Long went up high and hit a swisher from underneath, followed by

early margin.

McKitrick, fouled while attempting a putback of his own missed shot to open the second quarter, knocked in both free throws giving the Maroon Knights a 14-6 cushion. St. Clairsville battled back to within 15-13 after a nice hoop and harm play from Hynes with 3:49 remaining in the half.

However, McKitrick deposited two points in the Central bank with a hook shot to start a 7-0 run that also featured two free throws by Peluchette, plus three points from Koehler on a foul shot and his leaping tip-in from the backside.

Michael Bigelow countered with four points for St. Clairsville only to see Sorge extend the lead out to 24-17 with a sweet feed to Koehler that resulted in a layup. Bigelow, finishing off a six-point quarter for himself, had a stickback goal ahead of the buzzer that sent the Red Devils off the court down 29-24.

The usually high-scoring Anthony Vincent, who was shut out in the first half as he missed six bucket attempts, broke his personal scoring ice with a drive inside at the outset of the third quarter. The hoop made it a three-point game. But every time St. Clairsville came within a bucket or two of tying the score, Long helped Central keep the Red Devils at bay.

The junior wingman collected seven of his 10 points in the third round, highlighted by a pretty slash move through the defense for a layup. Before the third quarter buzzer sounded, the 6-foot-4 McKitrick, stationed on the right wing, drove to the basket for a layup putting Central ahead by 10 at 41-31.

"I saw an opening and I took it," McKitrick said, breaking into a smile when asked if he was trying to imitate Long's flashy moves to the hoop.

St. Clairsville wasn't ready to throw in the towel and Vincent gave the Belmont County school fans seated among the large crowd some hope with a rainbow 3-pointer to start the fourth quarter. The Red Devils also showed they could play some terrific defense and forced the Knights into a series of turnovers that eventually saw St. Clairsville move within three at 41-38 following a Hynes 10-footer from the baseline.

A few seconds later, Hynes drew a foul and made 1 of 2 shots on this trip to the line, reducing the deficit to 41-39.

But then Sorge came through with his jumper that broke the back of the Red Devil rally.

"When you are trying to trap the ball on defense, you're going to give something up," Clifford said.

"The two guys that got free for those 3-pointers were probably the ones we wanted to see shoot in both situations. To their credit, they made them."

Both sides had three double-figure scorers. St. Clairsville's offense included 12 points from Hynes, 11 from Bigelow and 10 points by Derrick Baugh, who also collected seven of the Red Devils' 22 rebounds.

Central, which shot an 21 of 37 from the floor, was led by McKitrick's 15 points. Peluchette and Long added 10 tallies each.

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class AAA Championship Game (at Ohio University Eastern)
 Wheeling Central 58, St. Clairsville 50
 W — Phillips 1-5 4-4 6; Peluchette 4-5 2-2 10; McKitrick 5-8 5-7 15; Long 4-7 2-3 10; Koehler 4-4 1-2 9; Joseph 1-3 0-0 2; Sorge 1-3 0-0 3; Weislar 0-1 0-0 0; Hood 1-1 0-0 3; Totals: 21-37 14-18 58
 S — Vincent 2-12 3-6 8; Hynes 4-10 3-5 12; Bigelow 2-4 7-8 11; Baugh 5-7 0-2 10; Slavik 0-6 0-0 0; Jarvie 2-9 0-0 4; Pate 0-0 1-2 1; Skrabak 2-2 0-0 4; Totals: 17-50 14-23 50
 3-pt. goals: Sorge, Hood, Vincent.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

ST. JOHN'S captured the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A girls' basketball championship Saturday with a 71-65 win over Beallsville. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● SJC

Continued from Page C1

Barnesville rally from 14 down Wednesday night to post a 72-71 nod.

"You know, that loss might have been a blessing in disguise," added Kapral, who has now won eight OVAC girls titles in his 14 years at the Guernsey Street school.

"We knew what to expect from them," said Beallsville's Terry Jarrett. "We missed some shots that we usually make and our free throw shooting wasn't what we usually shot. But, hey, they're a great team and hopefully we'll see them down the road."

Beallsville, which entered the contest as the No. 2 seed and routed Bridgeport (80-59) in the semifinals, used a strong first-half showing by senior Savannah Burke to take a 15-12 advantage after one period.

When the 5-ft.-11 Burke banked home a basket at the 3:56 mark of the second period, Beallsville had increased its lead to 10, 27-17.

However, the top-seeded Lady Irish weren't about to give up as they turned up the full-court pressure defense a notch or two. The defensive pressure forced the Lady Blue Devils into several turnovers which led to easy baskets.

Seniors Sara Wamsley and Kylie Kidder ignited a 12-0 run that saw all five SJC starters score to put the designated hosts ahead, 29-27, with 21 seconds left in the opening half.

Wamsley started the run with an inside basket and Kelly Perzanowski scored on a layup after charting a steal. Kidder, who was plagued with foul trouble for the most part, followed up a missed shot and then converted a layup after stealing the ball. Natalie Perzanowski meshed a pair of free throws to knot the game, and Kristina Velkovich's inside basket gave the Green-and-White the lead.

Burke's two charity tosses evened the count and a strong inside move by Alyssa Headley put the Big Blue back on top, 31-29. After Beallsville had taken a 33-30 edge, Wamsley hit a foul shot and then cashed in a two-pointer with nine seconds remaining to forge a tie at the break.

"There was no sense of urgency at halftime," Kapral said. "There was no yelling or screaming. We knew that we hadn't played our best, and yet we were tied."

The two rivals, who could meet once again in the upcoming sectional tournament, traded points for most of the third period, but the Lady Irish took the lead for good when N. Perzanowski's second free at 3:27 snapped a 46-all deadlock.

St. John Central closed out the period on an

8-2 run to lead, 54-48, with eight minutes left to play.

A quick 6-2 burst to start the final chapter bumped the count to 10, 60-50, and the Lady Irish used some timely free throw shooting down the stretch for their third straight OVAC crown.

After Beallsville had pulled to within four, 64-60, N. Perzanowski meshed three charity tosses and Justene Delman converted both of her attempts.

"These girls are battle tested," Kapral continued. "They have been there before and have always risen to the top."

While most of the pre-game talk centered on how St. John was going to stop the 1-2 inside punch of the Lady Blue Devils' Burke and Headley.

Well, Wamsley and Velkovich held their own, and then some.

While Burke scored a game-high 27 and added 10 rebounds and Headley had 17 markers and a game-high 13 boards, the Lady Irish duo combined for 31 points and 23 caroms.

"Our post players really stepped up," the Lady Irish coach noted. "We knew their two girls inside are really good, but our kids stepped up to the challenge today."

"You've got to give credit to Beallsville," said Kapral. "They gave us their best shot and they are a very good team."

Wamsley had 25 points and 11 rebounds, while Velkovich added just six points, but pulled down a dozen missed shots. Kidder was charted with five steals, while N. Perzanowski added 17 points, four steals and four assists.

Tori Jarrett also reached double figures for the Lady Blue Devils with 11 points.

Beallsville turned the ball over 21 times, six more than St. John.

The two teams are back in action Saturday in Ohio Division IV Sectional Tournament action at Union Local High School. Beallsville tangles with Shadyside at 1 p.m., while St. John faces River at 7 p.m.

Boxscore:

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class A Championship
 ST. JOHN CENTRAL 71, BEALLSVILLE 65
 BEALLSVILLE (65) — Headley 7 3-4 17; Jarrett 4 1-2 11; Burke 9 9-14 27; Arnold 1 1-5 3; Lallathin 1 3-6 5; Fraley 0 0-0 0; Contos 1 0-0 2; Totals: 23-57 17-31 65. ST. JOHN CENTRAL (71) — N. Perzanowski 4 7-8 17; K. Perzanowski 3 0-0 6; Wamsley 10 5-8 25; Kidder 2 1-4 5; Velkovich 3 0-0 6; Delman 3 2-3 8; Jenkins 2 0-0 4; Totals: 27-77 15-23. Three-Point Field Goals: B — Jarrett 2; SJC — N. Perzanowski 2

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

TIGERS

Continued from page B1

"There were times Linsly had us and they battled back and it was just a great team victory.

"We were hoping it wouldn't go that far, but we figured it was going to come down to winning by just one point. We have a very good ballclub with a lot of kids that can score. We knew it was going to come down to who was going to be on top by one."

For Shadyside, it was one of those seniors — Jared Andes — that become the first hero in the history of the OVAC Boys' Basketball Championships.

With the game tied at 57-57 going into the third overtime, Linsly's Taylor Cecil got the scoring started with a bucket, but Jared Andes connected on a 3-pointer to put the Tigers (18-2) up one.

After a C.J. Goodwin bucket gave Linsly the lead back, Jared Andes again answered his counterpart with another 3-pointer.

Cody Campbell missed a jumper on the other end. Jared Andes recovered the ball and was sent to the line after a foul.

He knocked down the free throws to put Shadyside up four.

Linsly (11-7) cut the lead to one with a minute remaining after 3-pointer by Campbell.

Dylan Kimble was next up at line and despite stepping to the line only 15 times during the season, coolly converted both attempts to stretch the Tigers' lead to three with 46 seconds left.

Linsly's last-ditch effort failed as Campbell's 3-pointer

was long and Jared Andes iced the game with two free throws — going 4-for-4 from the foul line and 2-for-2 from the floor in the third overtime.

"He stepped it up at the end and other kids stepped it up throughout the game," Coach Andes said.

For the Cadets, it was another heartbreaking loss.

"We play tough teams," Linsly coach Mark Dodd said. "We play a schedule that we know games are going to go down to the wire. It builds character. I've been in (coaching) long enough to know that some years things go your way and you win by one or two and other years you just can't buy one, just can't get lucky."

"Next year, I hope I'm standing at the same podium and saying we won three or four in overtime and it was one of those years."

It didn't look like Linsly would put up much of a fight, trailing by 10 early. But the Cadets took their first lead midway into the fourth quarter on a bucket by Campbell and led by three points with 3 minutes left.

However, a turnover gave the Tigers a chance to tie the game and Jared Andes was the answer, connecting on a 3-pointer to even the score 44-44 with a minute to go.

Linsly did plenty of passing to hold for the last shot, but a 5-second violation with 8.4 seconds to go gave the ball to the Tigers with a chance to win.

"We never want to hold the ball," Dodd said. "We have a set where we see if we can get the corner or a slip in the back

door no matter whether it is the first dribble into that possession or whether it takes four or five."

Linsly had a foul to give and took it with .6 remaining on the clock.

Justin Andes somehow got behind the defense and caught the ball for a quick — and open — layup attempt, but the ball bounced off the rim and fell to the court.

"What we did was the opposite of when we played them at home," Ed Andes said. "We set them up for a 3, but this time we used the back screen and got the chance for the layup but it just didn't fall."

A pair of free throws accounted for all the scoring in the first overtime. Sam Cecil could have ended the game with free throws with 1.7 seconds remaining, but the senior center missed both shots.

The Cadets jumped out to a five-point lead in the second overtime, but the Tigers received big contributions by key players — four free throws by Jared Andes and two 3-pointers from Billy Merryman.

Trailing by one at 56-55, DeMarr Moulton had the ball stripped and Justin Andes went to the line. He made 1 of 2 to give Linsly a chance with 7.1 seconds left.

Goodwin drove to the hoop and connected on a layup at the buzzer, just getting the shot off before the clock hit triple zeroes to prolong the outcome another 4 minutes.

"I'd like to congratulate Shadyside on a well-played

game," Dodd said. "It was a great high school basketball game. The players played their butts off. There was heart, intensity, effort, desire, it was all there."

"It could equate to the Final Four in college basketball. It was a bunch of men playing their hearts out and that is what high school basketball is all about."

"The fans in the stands were treated (Saturday) morning. I hope they enjoy the rest of their Saturday, but I know they were treated to a special game from 10-11:30. We may have missed some foul shots, but there was a clutch 3 here or a drive here that showed the character of our team."

Shadyside went 18 of 21 (85 percent) from the free-throw line, compared to 9 of 23 (39 percent) from the Cadets.

The Tigers were led by Jared Andes with 25 points, followed by Merryman with 15, B.A. Holloway with 13, and Drew Kennon with 10.

Campbell matched Andes with game-high honors, while teammate Goodwin chipped in with 21 points and Moulton added 10.

OVAC Tournament Class A

Championship
Shadyside 69, Linsly 64, 3OT
L — Campbell 10-22 2-5 25, Moulton 4-10 2-4 10, T.Cecil 2-5 0-1 4, Goodwin 9-17 3-4 21, S.Cecil 1-4 2-6 4, Fahey 0-1 0-0 0, Milton 0-2 0-0 0, Hill 0-1 0-0 0, Slayton 0-0 0-2 0. Totals 26-62 9-23 64.
S — Holloway 3-10 6-6 13, Sadlowski 0-0 0-0 0, Ja.Andes 6-14 8-8 25, Kennon 5-7 0-1 10, Merryman 5-17 0-0 15, Ju.Andes 0-5 1-2 1, Butts 1-1 1-2 3, Kimble 0-2 2-2 2. Totals 20-56 18-21 69.
3-Point Goals: Campbell 3; Holloway, Ja.Andes 5, Merryman 5.
Linsly 10 9 14 11 2 11 7 — 64
Shadyside 12 8 14 10 2 11 12 — 69

OVAC Girls' Hoops Pairings Set

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

For the better part of the past two years, a committee of area basketball coaches, Rick DeLuca and OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak have met monthly, scripting the upcoming Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

The group met again Friday morning at OVAC headquarters in Bellaire, but this time it was for real. The pairings for the championship semifinals as well as the consolation pool games were put together.

"We've been working on this for two years, but we've been working with pencils, paper and numbers, so it's time to get ready to play some hoops," said DeLuca, the tournament director who's handled the OVAC standings for the last several years.

The top four teams in each class qualify for the championship part of the bracket and those semifinal games will be held Monday at the higher seed's home court. The teams that didn't qualify for the championship portion of the tournament had their two games scheduled for them by the OVAC.

Each team that opted to participate before the season was asked to leave two open dates because it was obviously unpredictable who was going to play in the championship round.

The schools did this with the understanding that the OVAC Committee would assign the remaining two games on the regular-season slate and each team would get a home and away game with travel and previous matchups considered.

"This is like the baby NCAA drawing,"

Rataiczak said. "I think this committee did a phenomenal job with the pairings and being as fair as possible. Some people might be critical of (the pairings), but when you have to assign 30 teams two games it's tough, so I am really happy with how it turned out."

Indian Creek, Martins Ferry, Steubenville Catholic and St. John Central earned the top seeds in the four classes, respectively, based on their regular-season averages. Each of the four will play host to a first-round game.

In Class 4-A, the Redskins will welcome fourth-seeded Brooke. The other semifinal pits second-seeded John Marshall against the third-seeded Edison Wildcats.

The Purple Riders of Martins Ferry High School — already winners of the Buckeye 8 Championship — will begin their quest for the OVAC title when rival St. Clairsville visits the Purple Palace at the newly opened Tolbert Gymnasium.

The other game in Class 3-A finds third-seeded Barnesville, which used a flurry of victories down the stretch to even crack the top four, traveling to meet Wheeling Central.

The race for the banner in 2-A should be extremely competitive. Top-seeded Steubenville Catholic will entertain fourth-seeded Frontier. The other matchup will serve as the third meeting of the campaign between Monroe Central, the two seed, and Buckeye Trail, the third seed. The Seminoles have already laid claim to the Pioneer Valley Conference Championship.

St. John Central comes in as the top seed in the tournament and owns a 16-1 mark. The Irish will meet fourth-seeded Valley in Bellaire on Monday night.

The other matchup in 1-A is the third meeting between second-seeded Beallsville and third-seeded Bridgeport. The Lady Blue Devils won both meetings in the regular season.

"I think we've got some great matchups coming into the semifinals," DeLuca said. "I think based on the teams in the semifinals no matter who wins, we're guaranteed four good games in the finals."

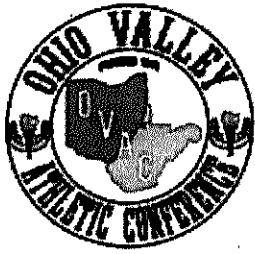
The four OVAC Championship games will be held Saturday, Feb. 2 at the Health and Physical Education Center on the campus of Ohio University-Eastern in St. Clairsville in three-hour windows, starting with the Class 1-A game at 10 a.m.

"It's going to be an exciting tournament," Rataiczak said. "I think it's a matter of whoever shows up to play on a given night."

The losers of their semifinal games won't lose out on games either. The consolation final will be played at the higher seed's court on Wednesday evening, but according to tournament officials, schools reserve the right to play those on Thursday along with the remainder of the games.

Notes

The cost of admission for the semifinal, pool and consolation games are set by the home school. However, the OVAC Championship Games will cost \$6 for adults and \$4 for students with OVAC passes being the only ones accepted for admission.



OVAC Basketball Championships



Fantastic Four-Seeds

Monarchs upend top-seeded Patriots, 67-58

By RICK THORP
Staff Writer

When John Marshall's game against Magnolia was postponed last Friday, Monarchs coach Bill Storm thought it was the best thing that could have happened to his team.

And it had nothing to do with the Blue Eagles.

"We were tired," he said. "We'd had three, three-game weeks in a row. I sent them home. We didn't even practice. All we did was lift.

"Then we came out (Monday) and had a great practice. I think we got our legs back."

The Monarchs certainly looked rejuvenated Tuesday night, as they controlled the final period in handing top-seeded Wheeling Park a 67-58 defeat in the semifinals of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championships at Wheeling Park High School.

The victory vaulted John Marshall into Saturday's Class AAAA championship game against Indian Creek, a 54-49 winner against Weir in Tuesday's other semifinal tilt.

John Marshall (11-6) against Indian Creek appears to be the match-up of choice in this first season for OVAC boys and girls tournaments. The Redskins defeated the Monarchs in last weekend's girls' title tilt.

"We told the players all along that we were not a reward for finishing first in the OVAC," Storm said inside a jubilant JM locker room.

"Our guys wanted to play them as we looked at the standings the past few weeks. It's funny. That's who they wanted to play. They got it. And it worked out well for them."

It was the second victory of the season for the Monarchs in three meetings against Park (13-4). The two teams could meet for a fourth time if John Marshall defeats Brooke in a sectional semifinal contest.

"They made some plays down the stretch and obviously got to the foul line more than we did," Patriots coach Michael Jebbia said.

John Marshall was 23 of 31 from the free-throw line, while Park was 11 of 16.

The contest was a nip and tuck affair through the first three quarters, with John Marshall clinging to a 42-41 lead after 24 minutes.

But with its first shot of the final quarter, John Marshall's Jeremy Hays buried a 3-point bucket from the left wing that gave the visitors a four-point lead and the momentum.

"He went in and knocked down that 3 and had an old-fashioned three-point play later in

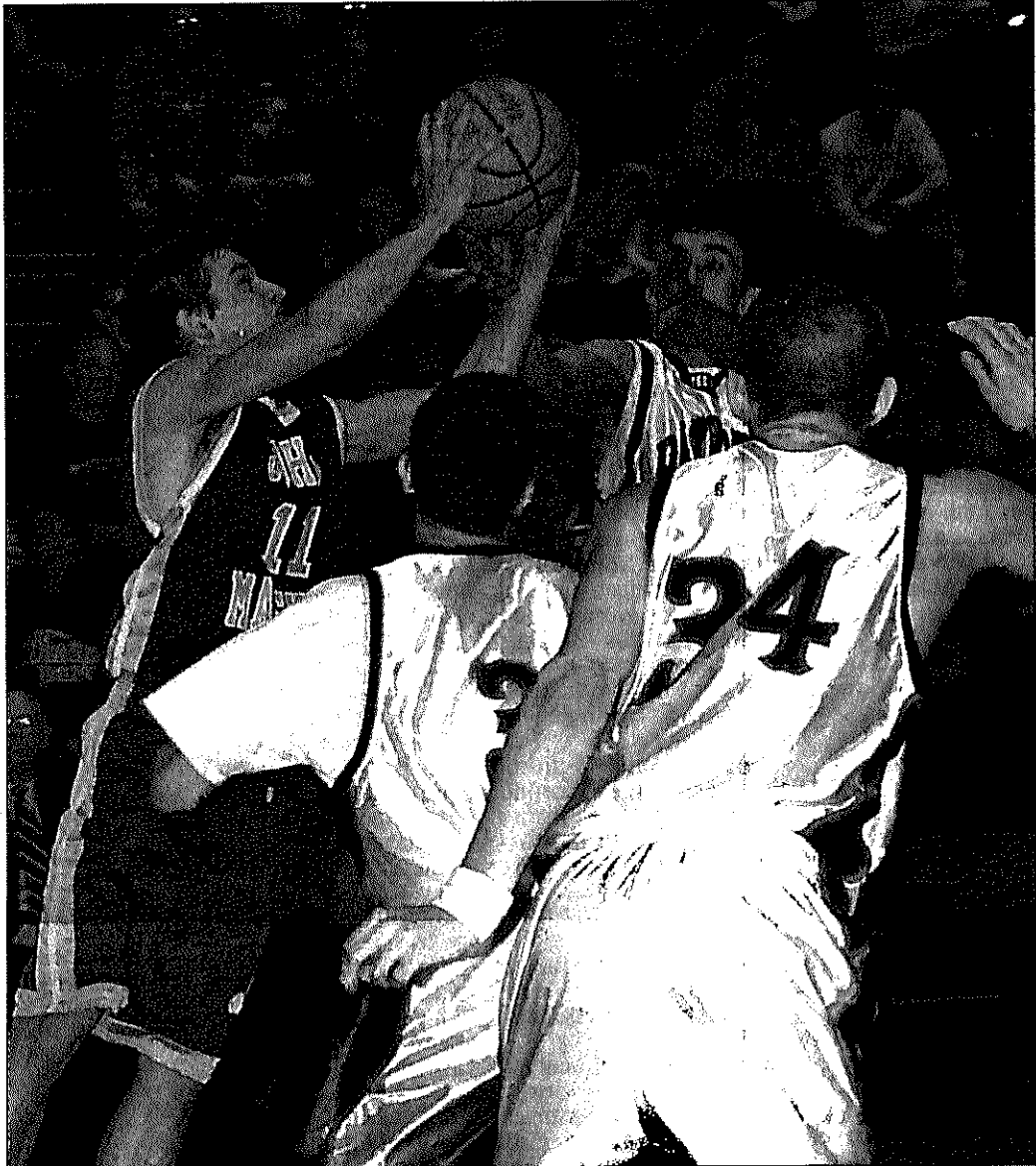


Photo by Brett Wysocki

John Marshall's Travis Whitfield (11) fights for the ball with Wheeling Park's Brad Guckert, while Patriots Mark Jarrett (34) and Bobby Wheeler (3) look on. View additional photos at cu.theintelligencer.net.

the quarter," Storm said of the moment he started to see the tide turning in his team's favor.

Hays' bucket brought the Marshall County crowd to their feet. And after Travis Whitfield made 1 of 2 free throws to make the score 46-41, the John Marshall fans had more to cheer about when Kylan Whipp scored his only bucket of the game to cap a 6-0 run and make the score 48-41.

Storm was pleased to see so many bench players provide key minutes. He was also

happy the players that were "sick" showed the effort they did.

"That's been the case all season," Storm said. "Everyone has contributed something. I'm just happy these kids were rewarded."

D'Jhae Jackson stemmed the tide with a free throw with 6:01 left that made the score 48-42.

It was just Jackson's third point of the game as he only played 9 minutes due to foul trouble.

Please See MONARCHS, Page 17

Martins Ferry's Tony Sabatino looks to get around the defense of Wheeling Central's Cody Koehler during action Tuesday night in Martins Ferry.

Photo by Mike Palmer



Knights Upset Purple Riders

By BUBBA KAPRAL
For the Intelligencer

Wheeling Central coach Mel Stephens was unsure his Maroon Knights were going to qualify for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championships.

The Knights slipped into the fourth-seed slot just ahead of Union Local in the pairings announced Sunday. Central made the most of that opportunity Tuesday night, ousting top-seeded and homestanding Martins Ferry by a 53-45 count at Tolbert Gymnasium.

As a result, the Maroon Knights improved to 10-6 and will take on St. Clairsville, a two-point winner against Magnolia in Tuesday's other 3-A semifinal, at 4 p.m. Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern for the conference

crown.

The Purple Riders, meanwhile, dropped to 14-5 in absorbing their initial loss in the Tolbert Gymnasium. Coach Jeff Sabatino's charges will play host to Magnolia in Friday night's consolation tilt.

"We were a little surprised when we got into the field," Stephens said. "We thought we were going to finish behind Union Local just out of the money."

"Our kids played extremely well. Ferry has a super team and has been playing very well. Coach Sab always prepares his team well. But we are excited to be playing for the title Saturday."

"The OVAC Championship Tournament is long overdue."

Please See KNIGHTS, Page 16