



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**ST. JOHN CENTRAL'S** Jonathan Marhefka follows through on his tee shot on the 16th tee during Tuesday's OVAC Tournament. Additional images may be viewed at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

## ● OVAC

Continued from Page C1

today."

The Colts will had some 12 hours to enjoy their conference title as they return to the links today in the final round of the East Central Ohio League Championship, which they led going into today's 18 holes.

"To win the OVAC is big for us," Pesuit explained. "We're especially pleased with the way we won it. Everyone contributed today on an extremely difficult course."

The Colts were led by Tyler Neff who missed last year's OVAC Tournament due to undisclosed reasons. The senior made amends in his final chance, posting a solid round of 79 to lead the way. Neff settled for second in the tournament and had a three-putt to end his round.

Trent Lasko was the second best Colt, posting a round of 80. He was followed by Nik Yakubik's 85 and Pesuit's son, Eli, rounded out the top four Colts with a round of 88.

"We're really happy to have shot 340 on this course when you consider how tough it was playing," Pesuit said.

Barnesville — which came into the tournament as one of the teams to keep an eye on after rolling to victory in last week's Bel-Roe Tournament — had similar problems with its normal number two player. The difference being the Shamrocks' third through fourth couldn't keep up with the Colts' other three.

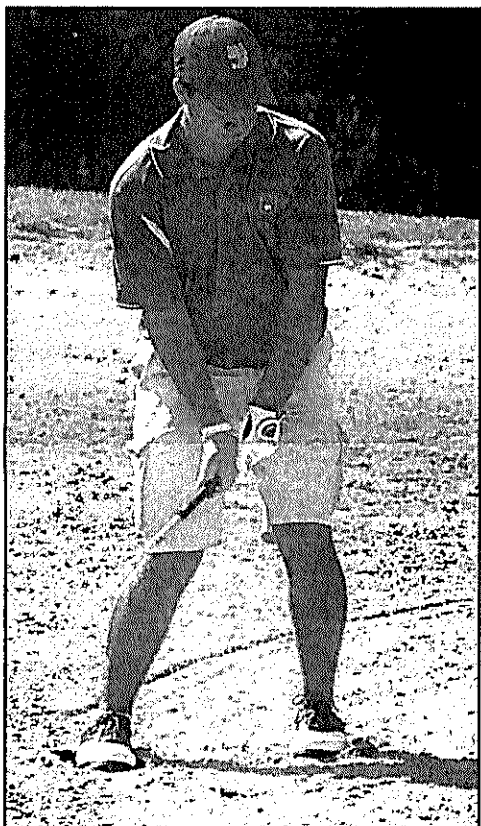
The Shamrocks were led by senior standout Bailey Warfield who took home his first OVAC Championship, firing a solid round of 78. Warfield's score looks especially good, considering the fact that he went out at 6-over 42.

"The front nine was really tough," Warfield said. "There were some tough pin placements, and my driver wasn't cooperating with me very well."

Warfield didn't even muster all-conference accolades a season ago despite posting a round of 82 in 2007.

"This feels really good," Warfield continues. "It's been long awaited that's for sure."

Overall, Warfield thought his mental game carried him more than anything he carried in his bag Tuesday.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Eric Wheeler chips out of the sand during Tuesday's OVAC Golf Championship.



Photo by Josh Strope

OVAC Class AAAA medallist Chase Wilson of Zanesville, center, is flanked Thursday by co-runner-ups Marshall Hone of Wheeling Park, left, and Jeff Ferda of Brooke. The Patriots won the team title.

# Patriots, Crusaders Win OVAC Crowns

Wheeling Park earns first conference title since 2002 season

By JOSH STROPE  
Staff Writer

Walking around Oglebay's Speidel Golf Course, you could hear the clamoring from the veterans of the course.

"This course will beat you up."  
"If you think you are good, this course will humble you."

"This course makes even the best golfers second guess themselves."

As the first scores rolled in, many were high but two stood out.

Zanesville's Chase Wilson posted a 1-over-par 72, while Wheeling Park's Marshall Hone was one shot back at 73.

Minutes later, among a midst of high scores, a 74 was posted belonging to Shayne Wilson of Wheeling Park.

All it took was one more reasonably low score for Wheeling Park to start feeling really good about its chances.

The next score from the Patriots — 83 from Eli Lambie, followed by an 86 from Jacob Carpenter.

When the team scores were totalled, it wasn't even close.

Wheeling Park claimed its first OVAC Class AAAA golf championship since 2002 on Thursday with a lopsided victory, topping second-place Brooke by 19 strokes.

"We are just overwhelmed,"

Wheeling Park first-year coach Don Headley said. "The young guys that we have. The freshman played well, the juniors played outstanding, Sammy (Hutchinson), my senior, held it together and really played well."

"The 18-hole matches we've played this year really helped us out. We've had 14 18-hole matches. Our kids are used to playing 18 holes. They don't give up after nine and they are pretty tough kids. It was a really great job by the guys."

The Patriots finished with a score of 316 to beat Brooke's 335.

Zanesville's Wilson's score of 72 held up to be the tournament medalist, the third time he's won the honor and second consecutive season.

Jeff Ferda from Brooke shared runner-up honors with Hone at 73.

"We played well," Hone said.

"What more can we ask for? The 3, 4, and 5 man played well."

"It feels good and we look forward to regionals. We have never been here

"The 18-hole matches we've played this year really helped us out. Our kids are used to playing 18 holes. They don't give up after nine and they are pretty tough kids."  
Park golf coach  
Don Headley

before so I don't know how to describe this."

Hone played the best nine holes of the day, carding a 35 on the back 9.

Despite being from nearly an hour and a half away from Oglebay, the Blue Devils have practically owned the course, and the tournament.

The Blue Devils have been overly impressive in recent seasons, winning the previous three tournaments without much of a struggle.

This time out, Zanesville finished in third place.

"This was one of our stepping stones at the beginning of the year," Headley said. "We wanted to play well here, we wanted to do well. It's our home course. They know the course and all they had to do was play like they play everyday here. I knew it would be very competitive and they really wanted this and they got it."

That home course finally paid off for the Patriots.

Headley had made it a point to get the kids as much practice as he could on the course that would not only serve as the host site of the OVAC Championship, but also the state championship.

"It's a small advantage," Headley said. "It's still a tournament and a tough tournament to win. The OVAC is usually pretty tough."

"Not to mention, the golf course can bite you at any moment. It's a tough golf course, but it's a fair golf course. If you hit the ball offline, hit it in the rough, you are going to pay for it. Luckily for us, my guys kept it in the fairway."

The course bit many players as number of scores in the 90s and 100s were posted.

Please See OVAC, Page 20

ST. JOHN CENTRAL'S Jonathan Marhefka follows through on his tee shot on the 16th tee during Tuesday's OVAC Tournament. Additional images may be viewed at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

## ● OVAC

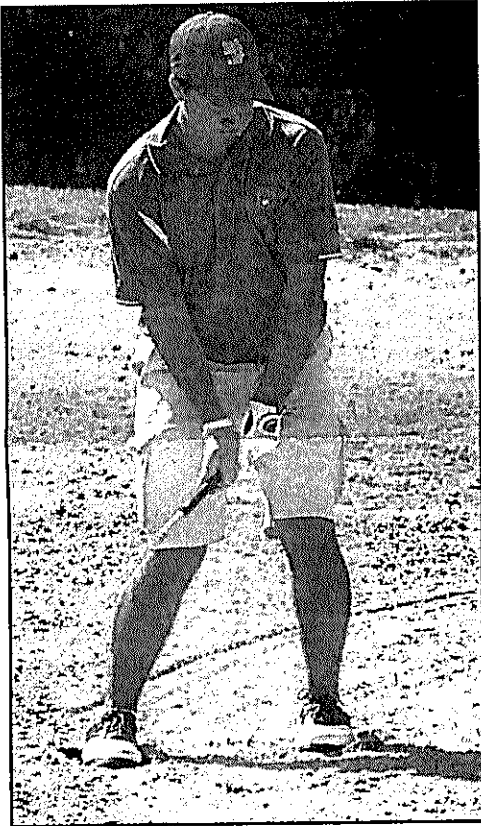
Continued from Page C1

today."

The Colts will had some 12 hours to enjoy their conference title as they return to the links today in the final round of the East Central Ohio League Championship, which they led going into today's 18 holes.

"To win the OVAC is big for us," Pesuit explained. "We're especially pleased with the way we won it. Everyone contributed today on an extremely difficult course."

The Colts were led by Tyler Neff who missed last year's O V A C Tournament due to undisclosed reasons. The senior made ammends in his final chance, posting a solid round of 79 to lead the way. Neff settled for second in the tournament and had a three-putt to end his round.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

**ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S** Eric Wheeler chips out of the sand during Tuesday's OVAC Golf Championship.

"We're really happy to have shot 340 on this course when you consider how tough it was playing," Pesuit said.

Barnesville — which came into the tournament as one of the teams to keep an eye on after rolling to victory in last week's Bel-Roe Tournament — had similar problems with its normal number two player. The difference being the Shamrocks' third through fourth couldn't keep up with the Colts' other three.

The Shamrocks were led by senior standout Bailey Warfield who took home his first OVAC Championship, firing a solid round of 78. Warfield's score looks especially good, considering the fact that he went out at 6-over 42.

"The front nine was really tough," Warfield said. "There were some tough pin placements, and my driver wasn't cooperating with me very well."

Warfield didn't even muster all-conference accolades a season ago despite posting a round of 82 in 2007.

"This feels really good," Warfield continues. "It's been long awaited that's for sure."

Overall, Warfield thought his mental game carried him more than anything he carried in his bag Tuesday.

"My game was off today," Warfield said. "I just sort of hung in there and made some putts on the back nine."

Barnesville's Chase Milburn garnered all-conference accolades as well with a round of 82.

Harrison Central's Adam Heaston was also a member of the all-OVAC squad after he fired a round of 84.

**IN CLASS 1-A,** Rosecrans once again flexed its muscle early in the tournament and carried it through.

Coach Steve Coyle's team posted a robust score of 295, which was 25 shots better than runner-up Toronto, which advanced to the state tournament a year ago.

The Bishops saw their entire squad break 80 for the round and senior standout Josh Agin showed he hasn't missed a beat since he was at Crispin last year.

Agin — who is bound for the University of Toledo on a golf scholarship — carded a 4-under round of 67, which was six shots ahead of his nearest competitor.

Rosecrans' Drew Eppley and Austin Lang fired rounds of 75 and 76, respectively to earn a spot on the all-conference team.

Weirton Madonna — which finished third in the team scoring with 321 points — was led by tournament runnerup Drew Gobleck. The Blue Dons' usual second man fired a round of 2-over 73. Madonna's Austin Pitchok also earned all-tournament thanks to a solid 76.

Toronto's Jordan Cooper rounded out the all-tournament team with a round of 74.

The courses of Crispin and Speidel will be alive with OVAC golf once again Thursday when the 2-A and 4-A squads battle on the aforementioned courses, respectively.

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

## SPORTS



Indian Creek's Vince Petrozzi hits out of a bunker during Thursday's OVAC action.

Photo by Scott McCloskey

## OVAC

(Continued from Page 19)

"The course played tough," Shayne Wilson said. "There were birdies out there, but there were a couple holes we had to lay up and just get the par."

"Coach Headley brought us up here the last two days to practice and we've been working hard, so I'm glad it paid off."

Added Lambie: "It's a tough course with a lot of trouble. I was glad I could help because our 1 and 2 man did a great job. We have a great team and it gives me confidence that I can help contribute at states if we make it."

Chase Wilson, Hone, Ferda, Shayne Wilson, Brooke's Trevor Barnhart (82) and East Liverpool's Jason Dickey (82) and John Auer (82) were named to the All-OVAC Team.

### Class AA

Class AA has been dominated by Linsly and Wheeling Central during the last five seasons.

The last time a team outside of the Friendly City won the OVAC Championship was in 2002 when Steubenville Central secured its second title and first since 1958 under former coach Joe Nolan.

The Crusaders didn't have to wait 64 years to win another one as they edged Fort Frye and Linsly to win the crown.

"It was a very big win for the kids and for our school," Steubenville Central coach Rocky Augustine said. "We started playing very good golf the last few weeks and really peaked at the right

time.

"We were down early after nine holes, but the kids hung in there. They kept plugging away and they come out with a victory. I'm proud of them."

Steubenville Central went to the turn down two strokes to Fort Frye.

Ryan Smith led the Crusaders with a 35 and Michael McDonald chipped in with a 36 as Steubenville Central's 311 was three strokes better than Fort Frye's 314.

McDonald (74) and Smith (75) were named to the All-OVAC Team along with medalist Daniel Pery of Fort Frye (72), Linsly's Vince Tennant (75), Monroe Central's Ryan Kuhn (76), and Central's Tom Pie (76).

"I can't describe how great it is to win the OVAC Championship," Augustine said. "It is one of our biggest goals. Our next goal is to win our sectional."

"I have a great team with two great seniors in Luke Mihalyo and Ryan Smith. They have been our anchors all year and have kept us in matches. Mike played a tremendous round. Anthony (Augustine) and Mitch (Morelli) hung in there and threw in some good scores. You can't ask for more."

Mihalyo finished with a 79, while Morelli had an 83.

Linsly, the defending Class AA champion, came in third with a 318. Wheeling Central, winner of three Class AA crowns in a row from 2004-06 before winning the Class AAA championship last season, saw its title run come to a close with a fourth-place finish.



**BARNESVILLE'S** Bailey Warfield eyes up a putt on the eighth green during the OVAC Golf Championship held Tuesday at Speidel's Jones' course at Oglebay Park. Additional images may be viewed at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

## OVAC Golf Championship Meadowbrook, Rosecrans win

• Barnesville's Warfield claims 3-A medalist honors with 78 at Speidel

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

The first two of some 60 OVAC championships were passed out Tuesday afternoon at Oglebay Park.

The annual golf championship for classes 1-A and 3-A were held at the Crispin Center and Speidel Golf Club, respectively with a couple of familiar faces hoisting the top prize.

Meadowbrook — which settled for second a year ago behind now 2-A member Wheeling Central — got back to its winning ways, reclaiming the title it last won in 2006, edging out Barnesville.

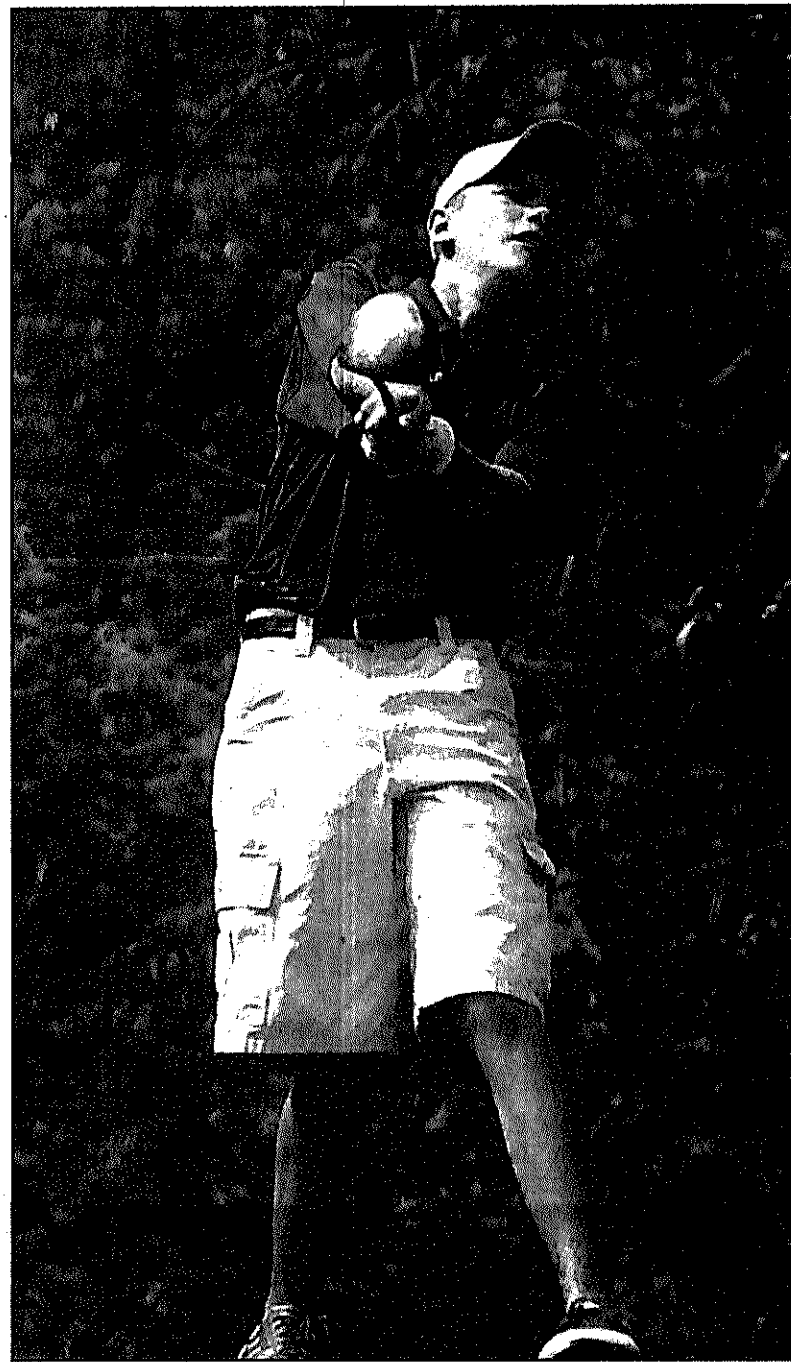
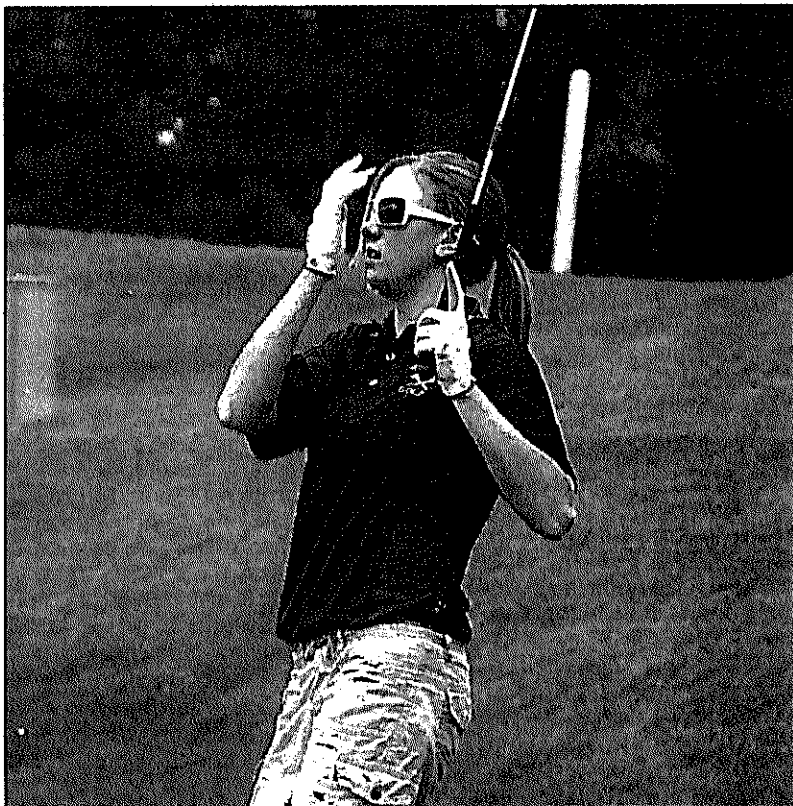
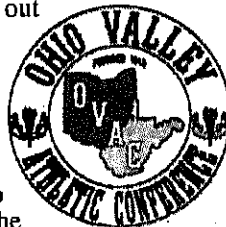
Meanwhile down the road a bit, Rosecrans — playing in the OVAC Tournament for just the second time — took the title for the second straight year, breezing past Toronto.

IN 3-A, the Colts of Coach Mel Pesuit knew what lied ahead when they made the trip into Speidel Tuesday morning seeing they had played the course earlier in the season in a dual match against Wheeling Park.

The practice round paid dividends as the Colts — who's usual second man struggled mightily — still managed to post a 332, which was 30 shots better than the Shamrocks.

"We were a true team today," Pesuit, who doubled as the tournament director, said after his team collected its hardware. "Our second man didn't play well, but our fourth and fifth guys really stepped it up for us

See, **OVAC**, Page C5



T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY

**ABOVE:** Beallsville's Daniel Blair follows through on his drive at Crispin Golf Course during Tuesday's OVAC Tournament at Oglebay Park.

**AT LEFT:** Martins Ferry's Brianne Lucas watches her tee shot on the 10th hole at Speidel soar down the fairway during Tuesday's OVAC Golf Championship.

# Patriots, Crusaders win OVAC golf titles

By JOSH STROPE  
For The Times Leader

Walking around Oglebay's Speidel Golf Course, you could hear the clamoring from the veterans of the course.

"This course will beat you up."

"If you think you are good, this course will humble you."

"This course makes even the best golfers second guess themselves."

As the first scores rolled in, many were high but two stood out.

Zanesville's Chase Wilson posted a 1-over-par 72, while Wheeling Park's Marshall Hone was one shot back at 73.

Minutes later, among a midst of high scores, a 74 was posted belonging to Shayne Wilson of Wheeling Park.

All it took was one more reasonably low score for Wheeling Park to start feeling really good about its chances.

The next score from the Patriots — 83 from Eli Lambie, followed by an 86 from Jacob Carpenter.

When the team scores were totalled, it wasn't even close.

Wheeling Park claimed its first OVAC Class AAAA golf

championship since 2002 on Thursday with a lopsided victory, topping second-place Brooke by 19 strokes.

"We are just overwhelmed," Wheeling Park said. "The young guys that we have. The freshman played well, the juniors played outstanding, Sammy (Hutchinson), my senior, held it together and really played well."

"The 18-hole matches we've played this year really helped us out. We've had 14 18-hole matches. Our kids are used to playing 18 holes. They don't give up after nine and they are pretty tough kids. It was a really great job by the guys."

The Patriots finished with a score of 316 to beat Brooke's 335.

Zanesville's Wilson's score of 72 held up to be the tournament medalist, the third time he's won the honor and second consecutive season.

Hone played the best nine holes of the day, carding a 35 on the back 9.

Despite being from nearly an hour and a half away from Oglebay, the Blue Devils have practically owned the course, and the tournament.

The Blue Devils have been overly impressive in recent

seasons, winning the previous three tournaments without much of a struggle.

That home course finally paid off for the Patriots.

Headley had made it a point to get the kids as much practice as he could on the course that would not only serve as the host site of the OVAC Championship, but also the state championship.

**Class AA**  
Class AA has been dominated by Linsly and Wheeling Central during the last five seasons.

The last time a team outside of the Friendly City won the OVAC Championship was in 2002 when Steubenville Central secured its second title and first since 1958 under former coach Joe Nolan.

The Crusaders didn't have to wait 64 years to win another one as they edged Fort Frye and Linsly to win the crown.

"It was a very big win for the kids and for our school," Steubenville Central coach Rocky Augustine said. "We started playing very good golf the last few weeks and really peaked at the right time."

"We were down early after nine holes, but the kids hung in there. They kept plugging away and they come out with a victory. I'm proud of

them."

Ryan Smith led the Crusaders with a 35 and Michael McDonald chipped in with a 36 as Steubenville Central's 311 was three strokes better than Fort Frye's 314.

McDonald (74) and Smith (75) were named to the All-OVAC Team along with medalist Daniel Perry of Fort Frye (72), Linsly's Vince Tennant (75), Monroe Central's Ryan Kuhn (76), and Wheeling Central's Tom Pie (76).

Linsly, the defending Class AA champions, came in third with a 318. Wheeling Central, winner of three Class AA championships in a row from 2004-06 before winning the Class AAA championship last season, saw its title run come to a close with a fourth-place finish.

## OVAC Golf

### CLASS 3-A

TEAM SCORES: Meadowbrook, 332; Barnesville, 362; Harrison Central, 377; St. Clairsville, 408; Oak Glen, 409; Magnolia, 414; Bellaire, 418; Tyler Consolidated, 427; Union Local, 429; Martins Ferry, 450.  
Individual Scores  
Meadowbrook — Neff, 79; Lasko, 80; Yakubik, 85; Pesult, 88.  
Barnesville — Warfield, 78; Milburn, 82; Amos, 100; Long, 102.  
Harrison Central — Haaston, 84; Hirauk, 89; Blachard, 100; Kasarda, 104.  
St. Clairsville — Wheeler, 93; Rauschenberg, 101; Hadsell, 103; Vass, 111.  
Oak Glen — Lascola, 98; Shenton, 101; Mazezka, 103; Davis, 107.  
Magnolia — Herrick, 101; Seavy, 102; Yost, 105; Taylor, 106.  
Bellaire — Baisel, 92; Blacker, 99; Southall, 109; Leonard, 118.  
Tyler Consolidated — Gaiser, 97; Garrison, 109; Wells, 110; LeMasters, 111.  
Union Local — Beal, 100; Jellison, 102; Fraley, 103; Lucas, 124.  
Martins Ferry — Ewing, 106; Wharton, 109; C. Lucas, 115; B. Lucas, 120.

## Fort Frye golf team deserved better at OVAC tournament

Fort Frye's golf team is scheduled to begin sectional tournament play at Willandale Golf Club in Sugar Creek at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

One of the other schools in that tourney will be Steubenville Central, which "technically" captured Thursday's Class AA Ohio Valley Athletic Conference crown at the Crispin Course at Oglebay Park in Wheeling (W.Va.).

The Dave McFerren-coached Cadets of Beverly were runner-up at Crispin, after initially believing at the finish they had secured the OVAC championship for the first time.

Unfortunately, though, Fort Frye didn't win it, because of a scorecard rule infraction — not of its making.

Here's what happened. After Cadet junior golfer



SPORTS  
TALK  
Ron Johnston

Tyler Walters shot a 78, the Linsly golfer who kept his card noticed that a score was not written on one of the holes. Walters informed the Linsly golfer — not once, but twice, according to McFerren — that he'd gotten a 5 on that hole.

If you've ever been at the finish of a prep golf tournament, it's mass confusion, and the golfers are signing scorecards, pretty much for the most part without looking at them very carefully.

Thinking that the Linsly

golfer had corrected the scorecard, Walters signed it. Problem was, the Linsly golfer apparently forgot to make the adjustment on the card, and as a result, Walters was disqualified.

That cost Fort Frye the crown. If Walters' score of 78 had been used by Fort Frye, the Cadets of Beverly would've won the tournament by a couple of strokes. "Tyler was devastated," McFerren said. "I mean, he played the round of his life."

The Fort Frye golfer's "only mistake" — if you want to call it that — was signing the card after believing the card had been corrected by a fellow player in his group. Mind you, this was not a professional golf tournament. So, this was an error that could've been

fixed on the spot, if any adult(s) had had the courage to step forward and done so. This is the issue as I see it has nothing to do with a high school golf rule, but rather of good sportmanship.

But in a win at any cost world, there was none, and as a result Steubenville Central's first-place hardware is "tainted."

Simply put, Steubenville Central benefitted from a Linsly golfer's mistake, which cost Fort Frye a title. If the Crusaders had any guts at all, they would have acknowledged the Cadets as the true champions.

That would have been an extraordinary act of good sportmanship. But...it never happened.

Fort Frye actually won the OVAC Class AA event on the course but not on the

scorecard. Even so, Walters and his Cadet teammates still should hold their heads high.

"Tyler trusted that kid," McFerren said. "But what bothers me is the Linsly coach never apologized to me or the team."

Now, that would've been another extraordinary act of good sportmanship.

"At least, we finished ahead of Linsly," McFerren said.

The Linsly golf coach was e-mailed and asked to comment on the incident at Crispin. As of Friday, I have not heard from him.

As for Fort Frye, all it can do is go forward, and focus on the sectional tournament.

Ron Johnston is the Marietta Times sports editor, and can be reached at 378-5441, or rjohnston@marietta-times.com.

CLASS 1-A  
TEAM SCORES: Zanesville Rosecrans, 295; Toronto, 320; Weirton Madonna, 321; Beallsville, 345; Bishop Donahue, 391; Conotton Valley, 400; Paden City, 418.  
Individual Scores  
Rosecrans — Aglin, 67; D. Eppley, 75; Lang, 76; G. Eppley, 77.  
Toronto — Cooper, 74; Wilson, 79; Radvansky, 79; Barcus, 88.  
Madonna — Gobleck, 73; Pitchok, 76; McCune, 84; McFadden, 88.  
Beallsville — Blair, 81; Clary, 86; Brewer, 88; Neiswanger, 90.  
Bishop Donahue — Swierkos, 80; Clegg, 96; Fallova, 101; Helfer, 114.  
Conotton Valley — Yosick, 91; Berg, 97; Galigher, 104; Griffiths, 108.  
Paden City — Thoburn, 99; Herrick, 102; Drain, 106; Yost, 111.  
St. John — Marhefka, 83; Sokolowski, 99; Sproul, 135.

# OVAC Golf Championships



OVAC GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS			
<b>Class AAA</b>			
<b>Team Scores</b>			
Meadowbrook, 332;	Barnesville, 362; Harrison Central, 377; St. Clairsville, 408; Oak Glen, 409; Magnolia, 414; Balls Blaine, 418; Tyler Consolidated, 427; Union Local, 428; Marina Ferry, 450.		
<b>Individual</b>			
Warfield, Barn	78	Neff, Mead	79
Lasko, Mead	80	Milburn, Barn	82
Heaton, HC	84	Yakubik, Mead	85
Pesuit, Mead	88	Hirak, HC	89
Balish, Bell	82	Wheeler, BJC	83
Geiser, TC	87	Lacople, DG	98
Blecker, Bell	98	Amos, Barn	100
Beal, UL	100	Blanchard, HC	100
Hernick, Meg	101	Rauschenberg, StC	101
Shanton, OG	101	Jellison, UL	102
Long, Barn	102	Seavy, Mag	102
Fraley, UL	103	Hadsell, StC	103
Mazack, DG	103	Kasarda, HC	104
Yost, Mag	105	Ewing, MF	106
Taylor, Mag	106	Davis, OG	107
Garrison, TC	109	Southall, Bell	108
Wharton, MF	109	Wells, TC	110
Lemasters, TC	111	Vase, StC	111
C.Lucas, MF	115	Leonard, Bell	118
B.Lucas, MF	120	Lucas, UL	124
<b>Class A</b>			
<b>Team Scores</b>			
Rosecrans, 295; Toronto, 320; Weirton Madonna, 321; Bealville, 345; Bishop Donahue, 391; Conotton Valley, 400; Paden City, 418.			
<b>Individual</b>			
Agin, ZR	67	Gobleck, WM	73
Cooper, Tor	74	D.Eppley, ZR	78
Lang, ZR	78	Pitchok, WM	78
G.Eppley, ZR	77	Radvenaky, Tor	79
Wilson, Tor	79	Swierkos, BD	80
Blair, Bell	81	Marhefka, SJC	83
McCune, WM	84	Clary, Bell	86
Bacus, Tor	88	Brower, Bell	88
McFadden, WM	88	Nelawonger, Bell	90
Yosick, CV	91	Clegg, BD	96
Berg, CV	97	Thoburn, PC	98
Sokolowski, SJC	99	Fallava, BD	101
Herrick, PC	102	Gallagher, CV	104
Drain, PC	106	Griffitha, CV	109
Heller, BD	114	Sprock, SJC	136

Photos by Seth Staskey

Left: Zanesville Rosecrans' Josh Agin takes a practice swing during action of the OVAC Class AAA/A Golf Championships on Monday in Wheeling. Center: Barnesville senior Bailey Warfield watches the follow through on a tee shot. Right: Harrison Central's Adam Heaton eyes up a putt.

## Colts Claim Title

### Meadowbrook wins AAA golf crown, Rosecrans takes A

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

The first two of 60 OVAC championships were passed out Tuesday afternoon at Oglebay Park.

The annual golf championship for classes 1-A and 3-A were held at the Crispin Center and Speidel Golf Club, respectively, with a couple of familiar faces hoisting the top prize.

Meadowbrook, which settled for second a season ago behind now AA member Wheeling Central, got back to its winning ways, reclaiming the title it last

won in 2006, edging out Barnesville.

Meanwhile down the road a bit, Rosecrans, playing in the OVAC Tournament for the second time, took the title for the second straight season, breezing past Toronto.

In Class AAA, Coach Mel Pesuit's Colts knew what lied ahead when they made the trip into Speidel on Tuesday morning, as they had played the course earlier in the season in a dual match against Wheeling Park.

The practice round paid dividends as the Colts, who's usual second man struggled mightily, still managed to post a 332, which was 30 shots better than the Shamrocks.

"We were a true team," Pesuit, who doubled as the tournament director, said after his team collected its hardware. "Our second man didn't play well, but

our fourth and fifth guys really stepped it up for us."

The Colts had 12 hours to enjoy their conference title as they return to the links today in the final round of the East Central Ohio League Championship, which they led going into the final 18 holes.

"To win the OVAC is big for us," Pesuit said. "We're especially pleased with the way we won it. Everyone contributed (Tuesday) on an extremely difficult course."

The Colts were led by Tyler Neff, who missed last season's OVAC Tournament because of undisclosed reasons. The senior made amends in his final chance, posting a solid round of 79. Neff settled for second in the tournament and had a three-putt to end his round.

Please See TITLE, Page 20

## Title

(Continued from Page 15)

Trent Lasko was the second-best Colt, posting a round of 80. He was followed by Nik Yakubik's 85 and Pesuit's son, Eli, rounded out the top four Colts with a round of 88.

"We're really happy to have shot 340 on this course when you consider how tough it was playing," Pesuit said.

Barnesville, which came into the tournament as one of the teams to keep an eye on, had similar problems with its normal No. 2 player. The difference being the Shamrocks' third through fourth players couldn't keep up with the Colts' other three.

The Shamrocks were led by senior standout Bailey Warfield who took home his first OVAC Championship, firing a solid round of 78. Warfield's score looks especially good, considering the fact he went out at 6-over-par 42.

"The front nine was really tough," Warfield said. "There were some tough pin placements, and my driver wasn't cooperating with me very well."

Warfield didn't even muster all-conference accolades a season ago despite posting a round of 82 in 2007.

"This feels really good," Warfield continued. "It's been long awaited that's for sure."

Overall, Warfield thought his mental game carried him more than anything he carried in his bag.

"My game was off today," Warfield said. "I just sort of hung in there and made some putts on the back nine."

Barnesville's Chase Milburn garnered all-conference accolades as well with a round of 82.

Harrison Central's Adam Heaton was also a member of the all-OVAC squad after he fired a round of 84.

In Class A, Rosecrans again flexed its muscle early in the tournament and carried it through.

Coach Steve Coyle's team posted a robust score of 295, which was 25 shots better than runner-up Toronto, which advanced to the state tournament a season ago.

The Bishops saw their entire squad break 80 for the round and senior standout Josh Agin showed he hasn't missed a beat since he was at Crispin last season.

Agin, who is bound for the University of Toledo on a golf scholarship, carded a 4-under round of 67, which was six shots ahead of his nearest competitor.

Rosecrans' Drew Eppley and Austin Lang fired rounds of 75 and 76, respectively, to earn spots on the all-conference team.

Weirton Madonna, which finished third in the team scoring with 321 points, was led by tournament runner-up Drew Gobleck. The Blue Dons' usual second man fired a round of 2-over 73. Madonna's Austin Pitchok also earned all-tournament thanks to a solid 76.

Toronto's Jordan Cooper rounded out the all-tournament team with a round of 74.

The courses of Crispin and Speidel will be alive with OVAC golf again Thursday when the AA and AAAA squads battle.