

SPORTS



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

ST. JOHN quarterback Jerry Manukin avoids pressure to make a pass during Saturday's game at Nelson Field against Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans.

Rosecrans runs wild vs. St. John

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

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An abrupt end at that. Zanesville Rosecrans (5-3) picked up a much-needed, 46-7, victory at sun-splashed Nelson Field as the Bishops played spoilers for the Irish (3-5) Homecoming.

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The Irish received a strong dose of Rosecran's senior tailback Jordan Dillon in the first half. The 6-ft.-1, 190-pounder lugged the leather — and a few Irish players — 20 times for 119 yards and three touchdowns as the visitors cruised to a 19-0 half-time advantage.

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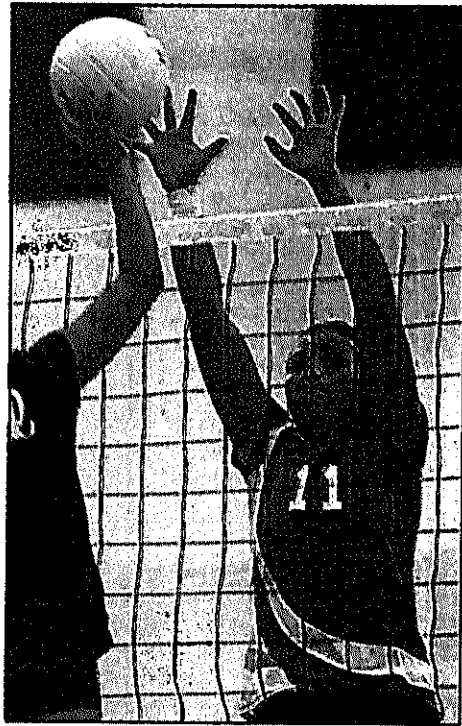
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"We've been doing that a little bit and it hasn't really bitten us," Holt said of the poor special teams' play. "But today it did. Hopefully we learned something from that, but when your offense can't move the ball past the 20, it's hard to punt it past the 50."

The third quarter didn't start any better than the first did as was picked off on the second play by Nick Skrobot, who returned it 38 yards to the two. Dillon blasted over the right side of his line for the touchdown and a 26-0 lead after he split the uprights with the point-after kick.

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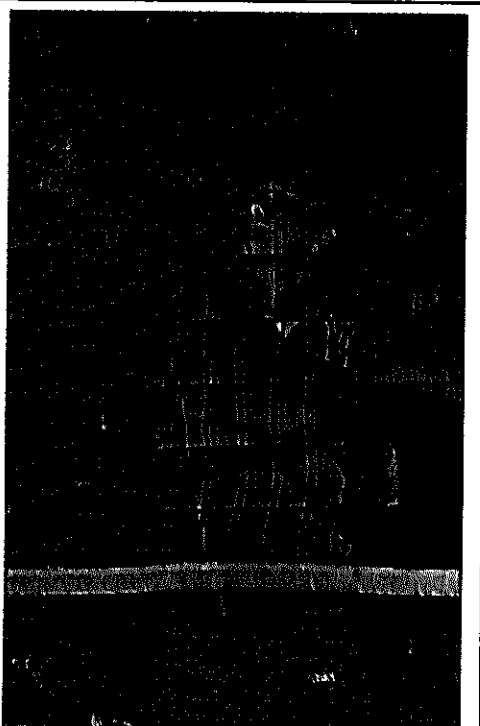
T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

MONROE CENTRAL'S Aleica Guiller goes up for a block during Saturday's 2-A OVAC title match at Union Local High School.



T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH

BEALLSVILLE CELEBRATES after winning the OVAC Class 1-A volleyball title for the second straight year. The Lady Devils topped Paden City.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Tessa Olexo returns a shot during Saturday evening's Class 3-A title match at Union Local.

NETTING TITLES

Beallsville wins second straight OVAC 1-A title

By **RICK DeLUCA**
Times Leader Sports Writer

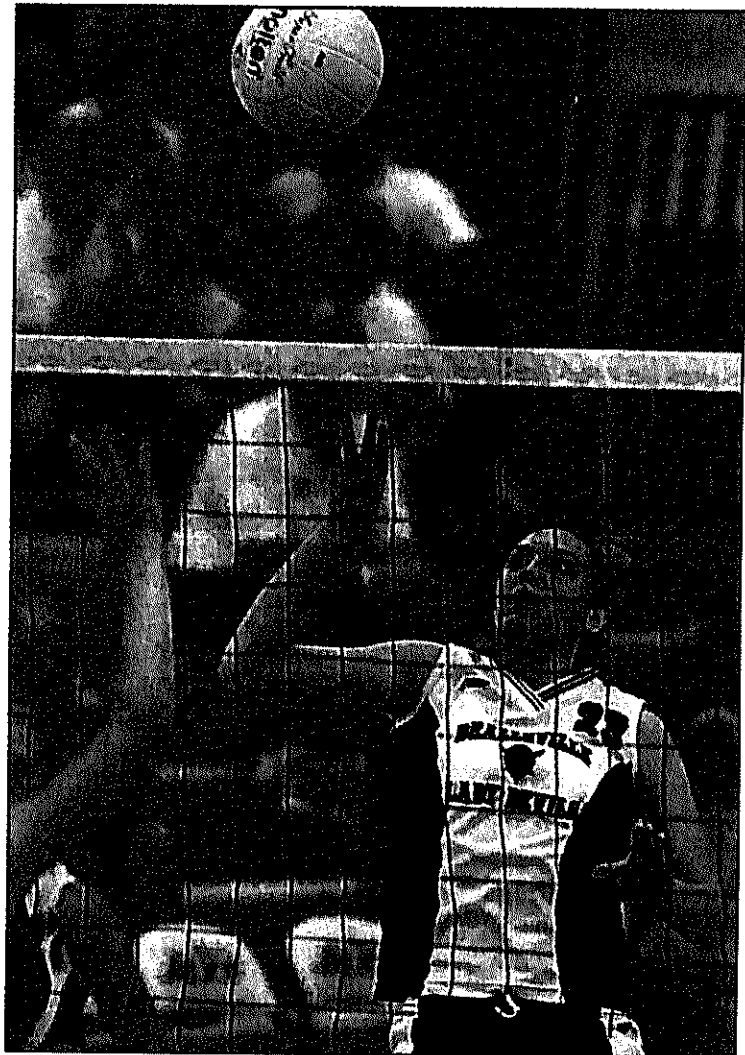
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Beallsville won its first OVAC title in 2002 and have now won three in a row for coach Patrick Wells. The Lady Devils also boosted their record to 19-3 on the season. Paden City, after finishing the OVAC regular season at 16-4, were OVAC champs in 2005 under current coach Fred King and won their first in 1993.

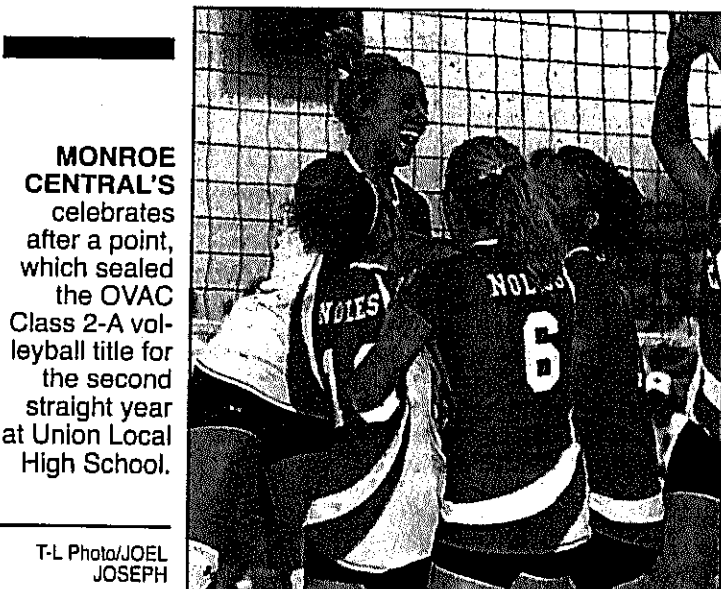
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See, 1-A, Page C3



BEALLSVILLE'S Alexis Kanzigg watches her return go over the net during Saturday's Class 1-A title match at Union Local High School. Additional images may be viewed at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/JOEL JOSEPH



MONROE CENTRAL'S celebrates after a point, which sealed the OVAC Class 2-A volleyball title for the second straight year at Union Local High School.

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Monroe Central wins third straight OVAC 2-A title

By **RICK DeLUCA**
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Buckeye Trail and Monroe Central are two schools that make trips to the championship finals of the OVAC Volleyball Playoffs routine.

A return to the OVAC Class 2-A finals was inevitable and the two met again Saturday at Union Local High School in Morristown with the Monroe Central picking up a fourth

over Trail.

Monroe coach Troy Baker guided his Lady Seminoles to a fourth straight title and pushed his season mark to 20-2 with the win. Baker's club defeated each of the qualifiers in the this year's 2-A semi-finals.

Trail coming in at 17-3, last won an OVAC title in 2004 and has been runnerup three times since.

"It's still great," Baker said about winning another OVAC





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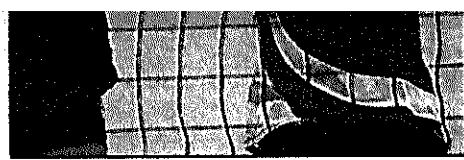
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See, **ROSECRANS**, Page C3



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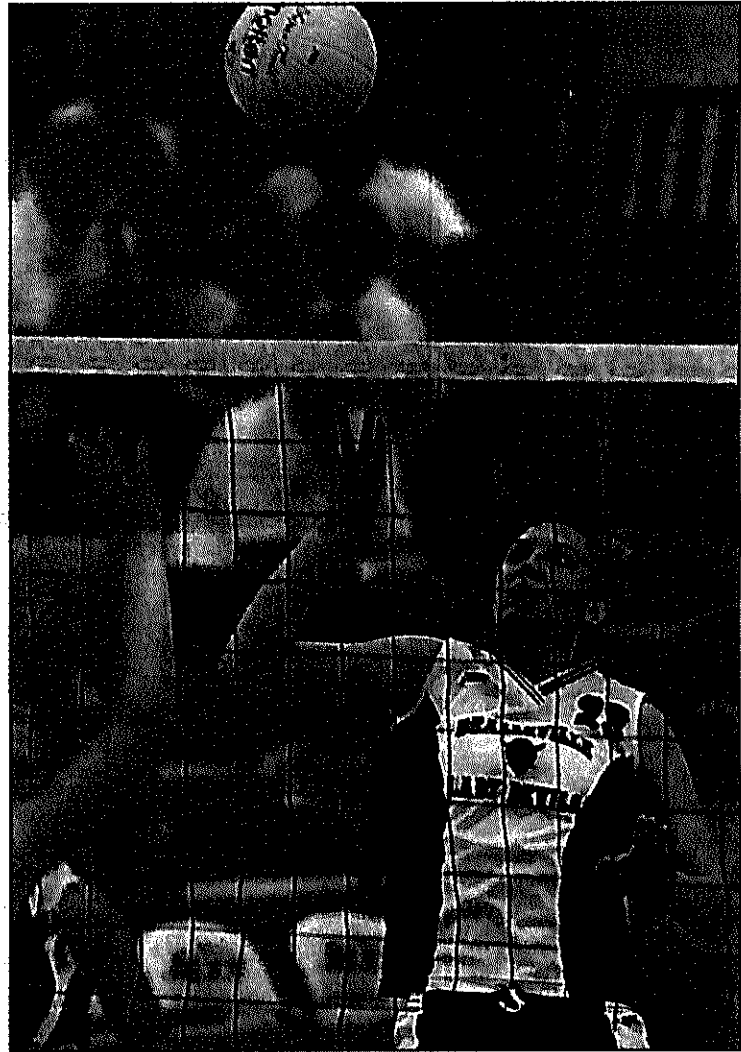
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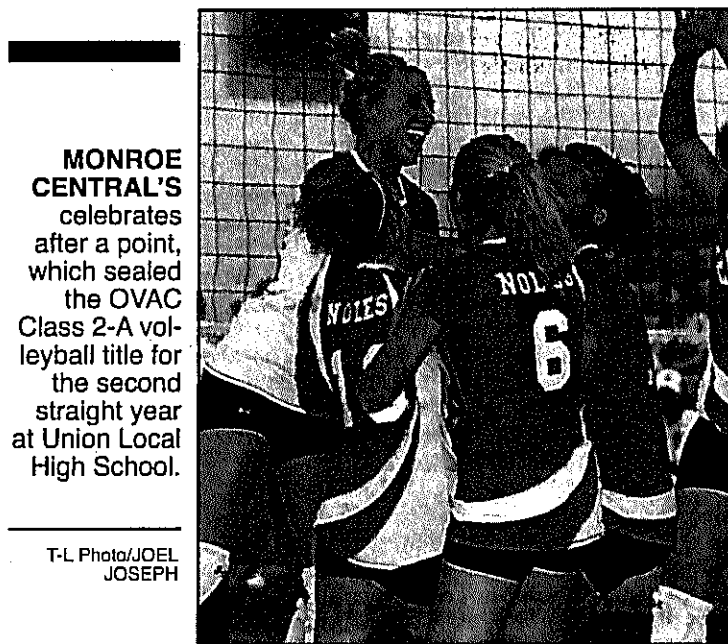
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A return to the OVAC Class 2-A finals was inevitable and the two met again Saturday at Union Local High School in Morristown with the Monroe Central picking up a fourth straight OVAC title with an impressive 25-10, 25-20 win

over Trail. Monroe coach Troy Baker guided his Lady Seminoles to a fourth straight title and pushed his season mark to 20-2 with the win. Baker's club defeated each of the qualifiers in the this year's 2-A semi-finals.

Trail coming in at 17-3, last won an OVAC title in 2004 and has been runnerup three times since.

"It's still great," Baker said about winning another OVAC crown. "It's just an honor to

See, **2-A**, Page C3

Special teams give Buckeyes 16-3 win

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Asked to describe his team's offense in one word, Ohio State coach Jim Tressel thought a minute and said, "hit and miss."

On a sloppy day for the No. 12 Buckeyes, even the coach had trouble narrowing down what was wrong.

Special teams and defense held up their ends of the bargain, though, with Malcolm Jenkins blocking a punt and Etienne Sabino returning it 20 yards for a touchdown to lead the way to a 16-3 victory over Purdue on Saturday.

"The offense came up and said, 'We owe you,'" Ohio State linebacker James Laurinaitis said.

The Boilermakers (2-4, 0-2) didn't get inside the Ohio State 30 until the final 30 seconds.

Freshman quarterback Terrelle Pryor had an erratic game and tailback Chris "Beanie" Wells totaled 94 yards on 22 carries for the Buckeyes (6-1, 3-0 Big Ten). Whether it was due to Purdue's defense or the Buckeyes' own missteps, nothing seemed to click on offense. Despite good field position, it only produced three field goals.

"We just looked bad," Pryor said. "That's the only way

See, **OSU**, Page C3



AFTER PICKING up a blocked punt by teammate Malcolm Jenkins, far right, Ohio State's Etienne Sabino (11) runs the ball in for a touchdown against Purdue in first quarter NCAA college football action in Columbus, Ohio on Saturday.

OSU suffers through hangover; defensive unit picks up slack

COLUMBUS — Maybe the Buckeyes were still hungover from that last-second win at Wisconsin one week earlier.

Whatever the case may be, their offense engaged in all-day funk here Saturday, leaving OSU's fate in the hands of its defense.

Jim Tressel expressed considerable concern after the 16-3 outcome — as well he should have. "I think everyone in (this room) realizes we have lots of work to do," Tressel revealed.

Not exactly what Scarlet and Gray fans were hoping to hear in week seven of a 12-game season.

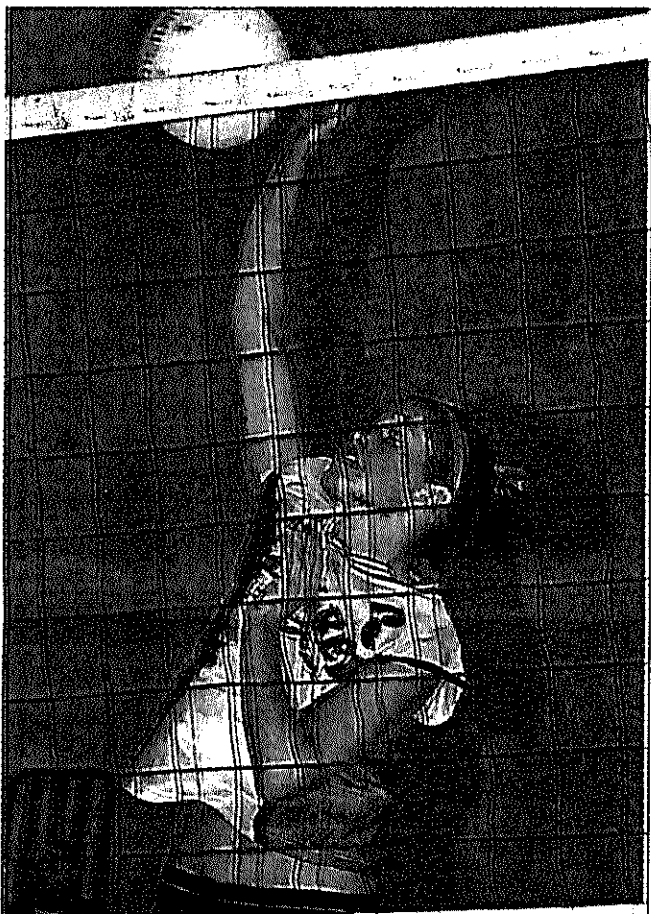
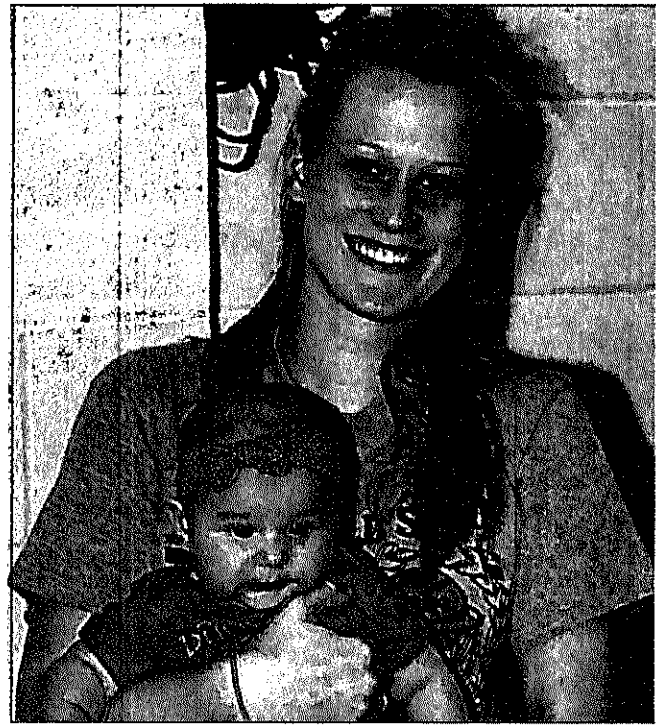
How much credit does Purdue get for its part in the proceedings? Some, perhaps. But Tressel has placed incredible trust in freshman quarterback



RICK GIBSON
Reality Check

See, **REALITY**, Page C3

OVAC EXTRA



TOP LEFT: St. Clairsville head coach Rebecca Hays and the Lady Red Devils display their OVAC 3-A championship trophy.

TOP RIGHT: Beallsville graduate Charity Street poses with her new-born child Jadya Miller.

AT LEFT: Bellaire senior Alyssa Ofat goes up for a spike during Saturday's OVAC Class 3-A title match at Union Local.

AT RIGHT: Volleyball official Paula Riehmiller checks out the action during Saturday's OVAC Tournament.

BELOW MIDDLE: Bellaire High principal Mike Sherwood watches the Lady Big Reds take part in Saturday's tournament.

BELOW RIGHT: St. Clairsville fan Christian Witchey takes in the action as the Lady Red Devils claimed the OVAC title.

BOTTOM LEFT: Monroe Central's Allison Kuhn retrieves a ball before the Lady Seminoles' OVAC 2-A title match.

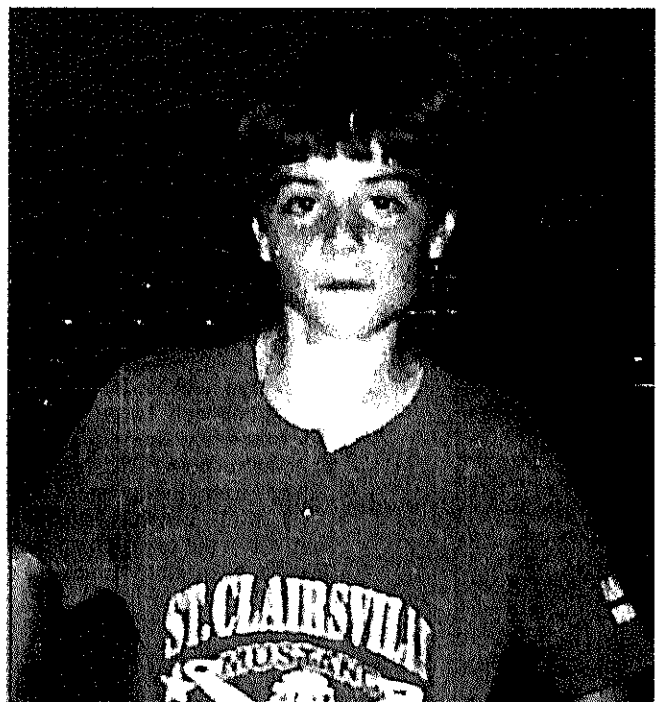
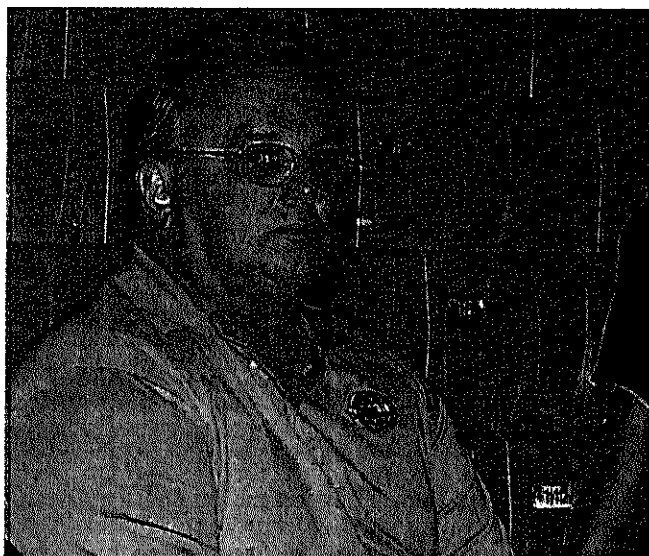
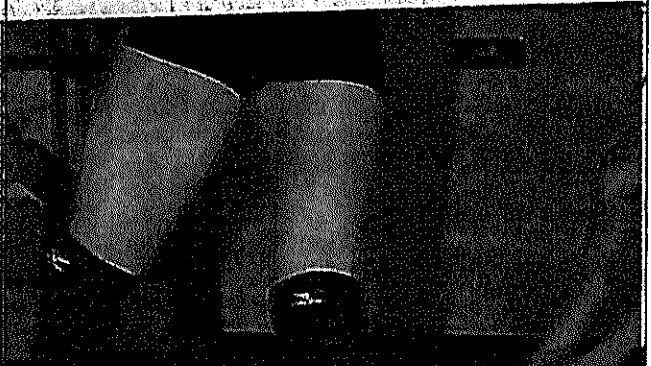
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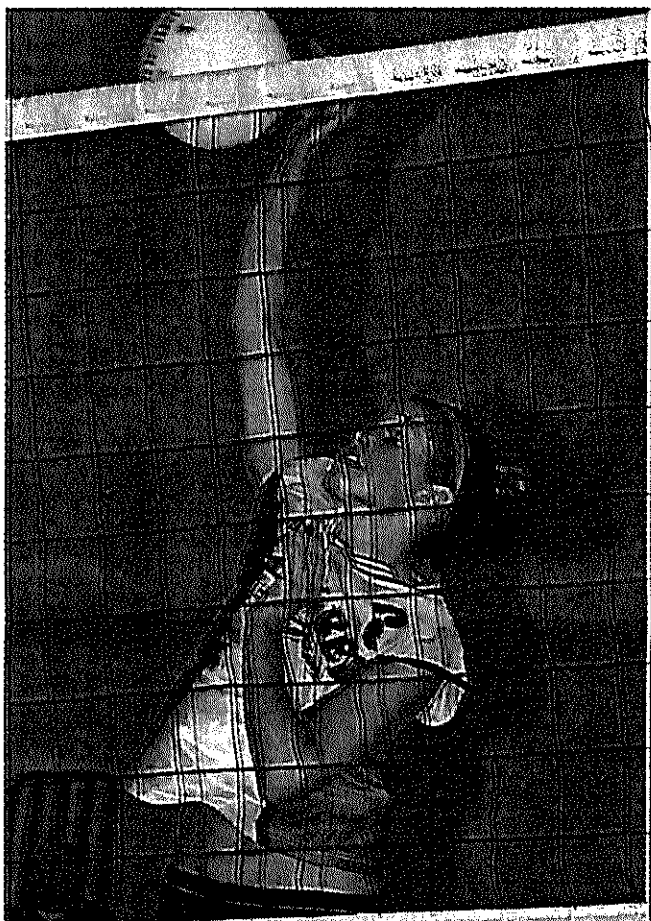
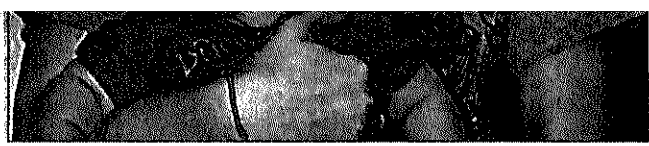
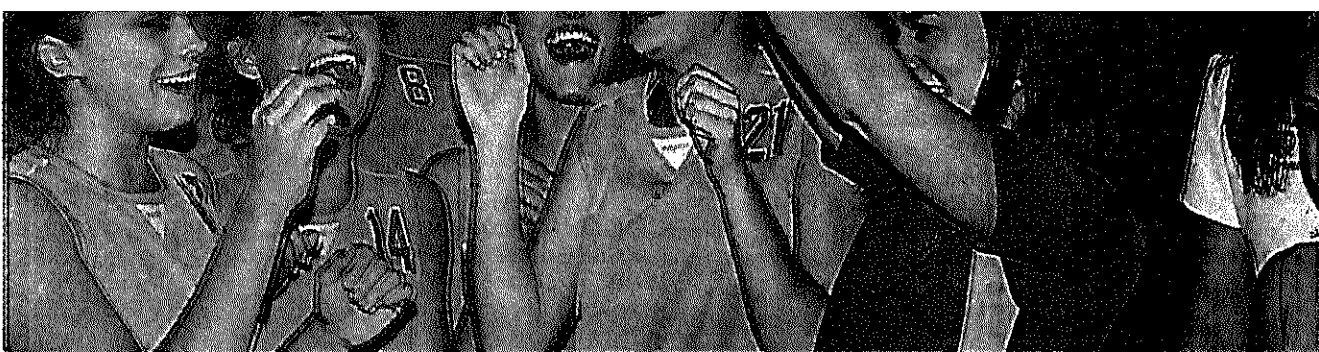
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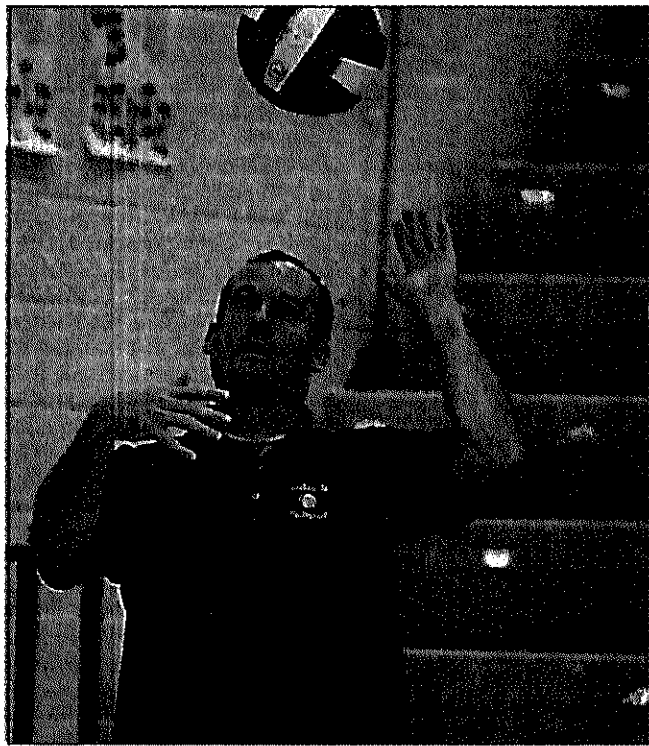
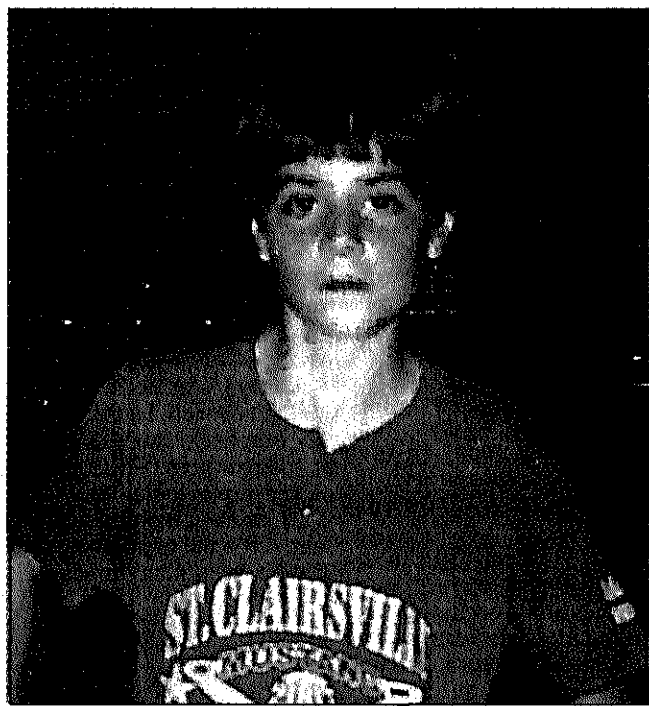
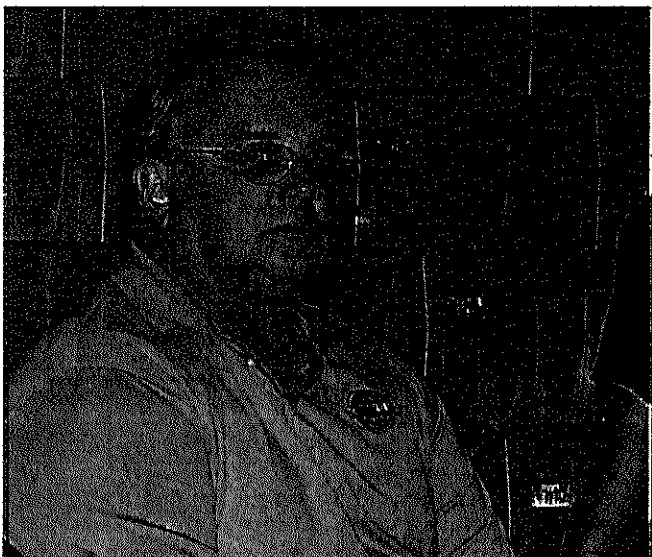
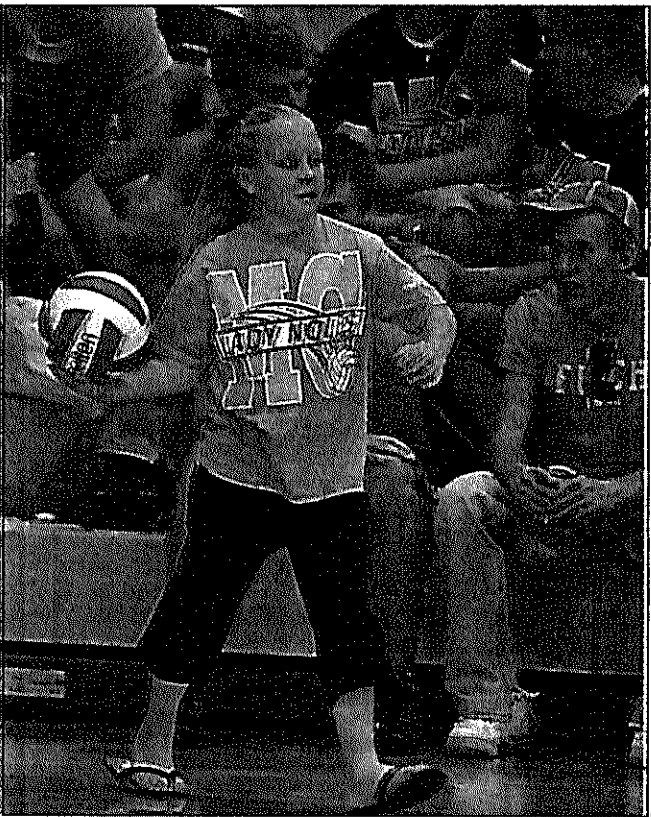
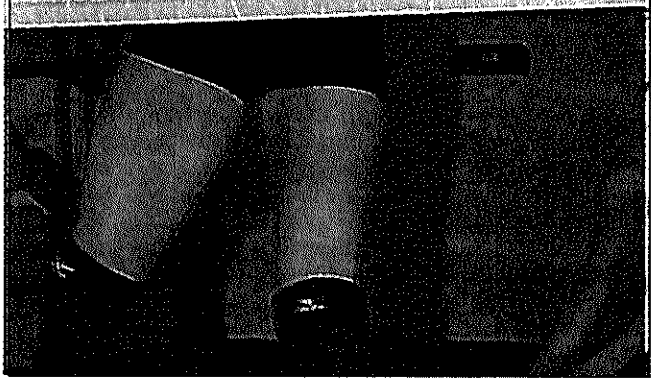
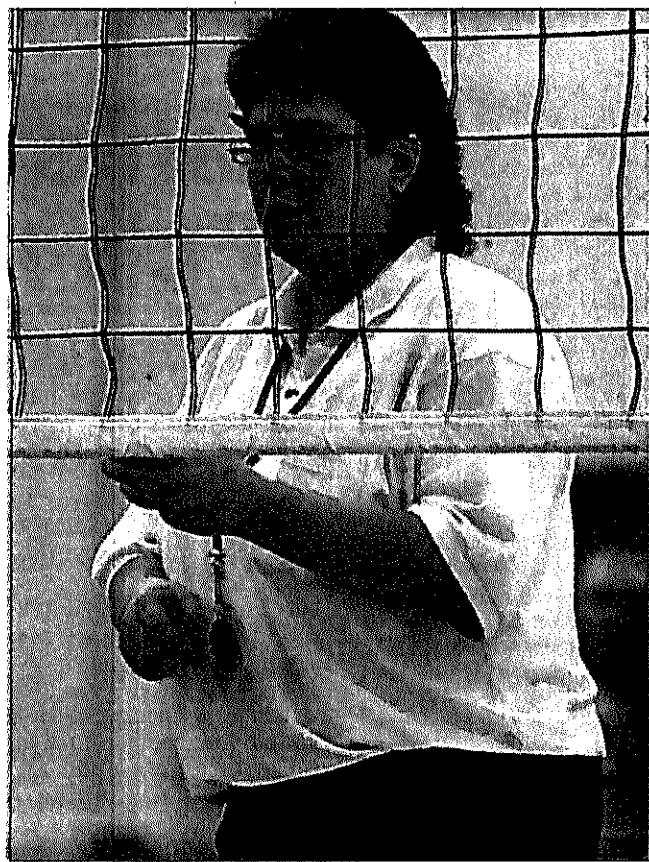
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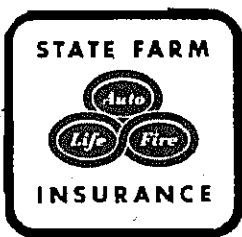
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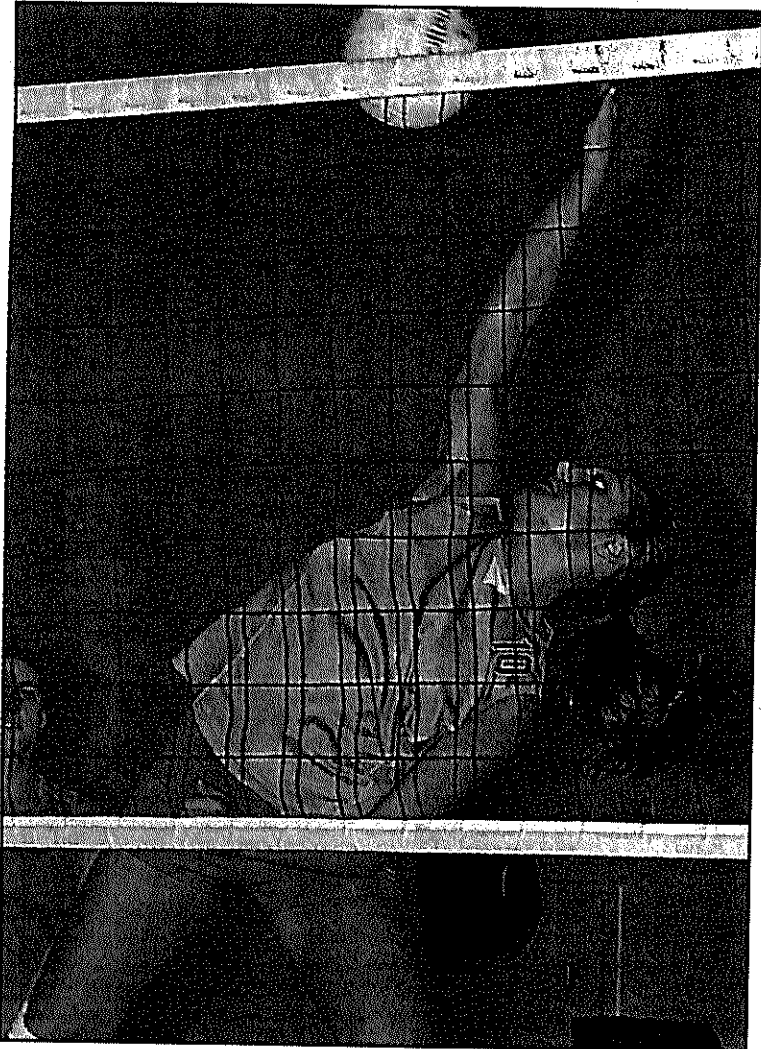
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● 1-A

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ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Monica Wakim goes up for a return of a shot during Saturday's OVAC Volleyball Final against Bellaire.

T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

St. Clairsville reclaims 3-A OVAC volleyball crown

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

St. Clairsville is back on top of the OVAC and no one is happier than head coach Rebecca Hays.

After missing out on winning a fifth straight title last year, the Lady Red Devils were forced to go the limit before stopping top-seeded Bellaire in three sets, 25-13, 23-25, 25-20 to win their fifth OVAC Class 3-A championship in six years at Union Local High School in Morristown Saturday night.

Bellaire, who last won an OVAC title in 1993, was looking to cap off a great comeback season with a win in the finals, but came up short. St. C and coach Hays had a streak of four straight from 2003 to 2006. The Lady Red Devils improved to 11-8 on the season.

"We're back. It feels good," an elated Hays said after the win. "That was a tough win. In the first game, my girls got a little comfortable and Bellaire came back and made us go to three."

"We have a very solid team defense, so when they other team hits it we just keep digging it up, digging it up and I think that just wears them down."

"It feels amazing, It feels great. This group deserves it," she added. "They have been working so hard. In the middle of the season we went a little flat, but we built ourselves back up and this is a good way to go into the sectional."

St. Clairsville's roster includes all underclassmen.

In the finals, St. C was paced by Alex Pokas with 23 digs, one ace and one kill, Monica Wakim with 13 kills and four blocks, Alex Holub with two kills, three blocks, three digs and 17 assists, Taylor Mick with three kills and six digs. Erica

Costine had six aces, five digs and nine assists, Emily Clark closed with four kills, five digs and two assists.

Bellaire was led by Alyssa Ofat with eight points, 10 kills, 26 spikes, Alex Wright with eight points, 19 assists and three spikes, Megan Green with 13 points, four aces, three kills and 16 spikes. Alecia Keyser had 14 points, three spikes and two digs. Spencer Porter added six points, nine spikes and 10 digs, and Madi Kinder closed with nine points, 15 spikes and two aces.

Both Bellaire and St. Clairsville needed just two sets to dispose of their opponents in the semi-finals. Bellaire had to battle back from a huge deficit in the opening set en route to a 25-22 win then held off Harrison Central in the second to win 26-24. St. Clairsville grabbed a straight set win stopping Martins Ferry, 25-17, 25-16.

In Bellaire's semi-final win, the Lady Reds were led by Alyssa Ofat with nine points, one ace, 13 kills, 34 spikes and 15 digs. Alex Wright had four points, eight spikes and 12 assists, Megan Griffith finished with 12 points, five kills and 15 spikes, Alecia Keyser had eight points, two spikes and three digs, Madi Kinder closed with 14 points, four aces, five kills and 15 spikes and Spencer Porter had four points, nine spikes and 11 digs.

Harrison Central was led by Kallie Telfer with three points, six kills, 11 spikes and 10 assists, Alli Doty with five points, three kills, 18 spikes and five digs, Kris Brandon with three kills and nine spikes. Megan Albaugh had four points, two aces, seven kills and 23 spikes, Loni Koch had six points and four digs, Kasey Bethel added eight points, seven kills, 20 spikes and nine blocks and Taylor Kenny had five spikes and two blocks.

that we needed to play a lot better to win this thing," Wells said after the win. "I think the only we took out of that game was that we served the ball well."

"We played flat against Bishop Donahue and I knew Paden City and St. John was going to be hustling and have a good warm-up game. We were ready and you can see that in our first game."

"I give the girls a lot of credit because they came back. They could have easily rolled over and quit after getting beat as bad as they did in the first set."

"It's been the story of our season. One night we go out and play great and the next you would think there are different girls on the floor."

Beallsville was led by Tori Jarrett in the win over Paden City with 11 points, four aces, 10 kills, four blocks and two digs. Kristin Lallathin had eight points, one ace and seven assists, Alexis Kanzigg added eight points, eight kills, three blocks and one dig and Stephanie Kanzigg had three points, one ace, six kills, four blocks and two digs. Rebecca Garlick had five points, three aces, 10 kills, five blocks and three digs and Cheyenne Moore had five digs and 13 assists.

Paden City was led by Alli Bertozzi with five points, two aces, 16 kills, four blocks and three digs while Amanda Sellers had 22 assists, Amanda Tallman had 15 points, two aces, six

kills and three digs. Amy Taman had four kills and two blocks. Kim Davis finished with three points and five digs, Shana Durant had three points and five digs, Amber Palmer had 10 points and 10 digs and Dominique Craft had seven points and five digs.

After being blitzed in the opening set, Beallsville had to rally again in the second after falling behind quickly at 5-1. With Kanzigg serving, the winners battled back to take a 6-5 lead and never fell behind in taking the second set.

In the third set, the Lady Devils had the knack for finding open spots on returns as they took command early and seemed to let up.

In the semi-finals, Beallsville stopped Bishop Donahue in two sets while being led by Tori Jarrett with 12 points, eight aces, two kills and one block, Rebecca Garlick added 11 points, five aces, five kills and two blocks, Alexis Kanzigg with one kill and two blocks, Stephanie Kanzigg with four kills and one block and Kristin Lallathin with seven points and two aces.

St. John Central was led by Monika Figura with nine points and two blocks, Justene Delman with one point, eight kills and three blocks, Brooke Baker with three points and two aces, AAndrea Lemasters and Elli Lemasters with three kills each.

● 2-A

Continued from Page C1

be here and an even greater one to win it four years in a row and have these seniors go out on top."

"I thought the girls played well today. We had some lapses, but I thought we served and received well, played good defense and that's what you have to do."

"The opening game that we played set the tone and that helped us and we were able to play looser."

Sam Kilburn, Aleisha Guiler and Karlie Davis lettered all four years for the Lady Seminoles and played in all four Monroe Central championship wins.

"It is quite an honor and I am very proud of them."

Monroe Central was paced individually by Alisha Guiler with two points, eight kills, three assists, and 10 digs. Karlie Davis had two points, nine kills and 15 digs, Kim Lafferre closed with four points, one kill and 14 assists, Justine LaFollette added six points, three kills and one block. Alex Kuhn had 17 points with six aces, two kills and 12 digs and Samabntha Kilburn had 16

digs and one point. Meagan Schumacher had two kills, two assists and one dig.

Buckeye Trail finished with Alexa Abrams contributing eight kills, three blocks and two digs and Emily McEndree adding four points, two aces. Chelsea Doult had two kills and three blocks, Laura Dunlap added two points, one ace, one kill and one block and Kaitlyn Wolfe had 11 assists and five digs.

After needing just two sets in the semi-finals to advance, Monroe Central jumped out to a quick 14-1 lead in the first set of the finals and wasn't threatened throughout the remainder of the set.

In the second set, the Lady Seminoles opened with a 3-0 lead, but saw the Lady Warriors rally to eventually take command by 8-4. With Alex Kuhn serving, the winners reeled off eight straight points resulting in a 12-8 lead. Trail managed keep things close, but Monroe remained strong on the defensive end and forced some Buckeye errors before clinching the title.

● Reality

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OVAC Volleyball Championships



Blue Devils Battle Back Against Cats

After dropping first set 11-25, Beallsville captures 1-A title

By RICK DeLUCA
For the News-Register

Beallsville and Paden City had squared off a couple times during the regular season with the Lady Blue Devils coming away the victor in each meeting. So on Saturday, Beallsville had the bull's eye on its back and the Wildcats were hoping they could shoot straight.

After being shocked in the first set, 25-11, the OVAC's two-time defending champions were put on notice by their coach that they had to respond and they did. Taking the second two sets by identical 25-20 scores, the Blue Devils added another OVAC Class 1-A crown at Morristown.

Beallsville won its first OVAC title in 2002 and has won three in a row for coach Patrick Wells. The Devils also boosted their record to 19-3.

Paden City, after finishing the OVAC regular season at 16-4, was OVAC champs in 2005 under current coach Fred King and won their first in 1993.

"After we played Bishop Donahue (in the semifinals), I told them that we needed to play a lot better to win this thing," Wells said. "I think the only we took out of that game was that we served the ball well."

"We played flat against Bishop Donahue and I knew Paden City and St. John were going to be hustling and have a good warm-up game. We were ready and you can see that in our first game."

"I give the girls a lot of credit because they came back. They could have easily rolled over and quit after getting beat as bad as they did in the first set."

"It's been the story of our season. One night we go out and play great and the next you would think there are different girls on the floor."

Beallsville was led by Tori Jarrett in the victory against Paden City with 11 points, four aces, 10 kills, four blocks and two digs. Kristin Lallathin had eight points, one ace and seven assists, Alexis Kanzigg added eight points, eight kills, three blocks and one dig and Stephanie Kanzigg had three points, one ace, six kills, four blocks and two digs. Rebecca Garlick had five points, three aces, 10 kills, five blocks and three digs and Cheyenne Moore had five digs and 13 assists.

Paden City was led by Alli Bertozzi with five points, two aces, 16 kills, four blocks and

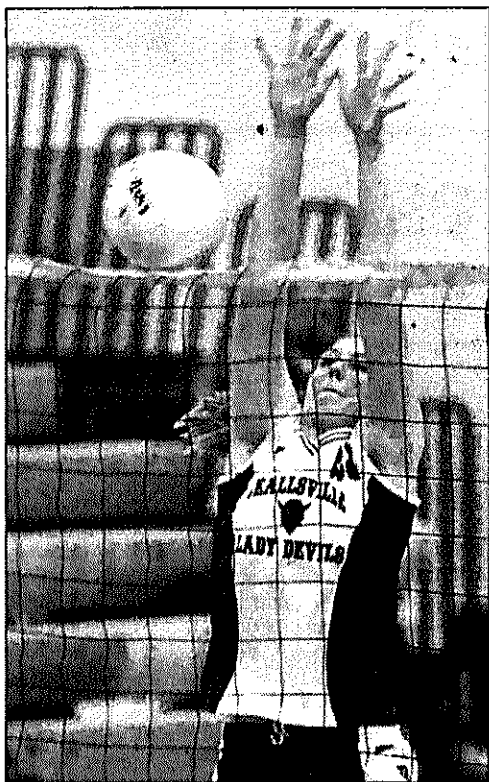


Photo by Joel Joseph
Beallsville's Alexis Kanzigg goes up for a block during the Class A finale Saturday.

CLASS A

three digs while Amanda Sellers had 22 assists, Amanda Tallman had 15 points, two aces, six kills and three digs. Amy Toman had four kills and two blocks, Kim Davis finished with three points and five digs, Shana Durant had three points and five digs, Amber Palmer had 10 points and 10 digs and Dominique Craft had seven points and five digs.

After being blitzed in the opening set, Beallsville had to rally again in the second after falling behind quickly at 5-1. With Kanzigg serving, the winners battled back to take a 6-5 lead and never fell behind in taking the second set.

In the third set, the Lady Devils had the knack for finding open spots on returns as they took command early and seemed to let up.

Beallsville advanced into the finals with a 25-10, 25-19 victory against Bishop Donahue while Paden City eliminated second-seeded St. John Central, 25-23, 25-15.

In the semifinals, Beallsville stopped Bishop Donahue in two sets while being led by Jarrett with 12 points, eight aces, two kills and one block. Bishop was paced by Sara Carpenter with nine points and three aces.

In the other semi-final, Paden City was led by Alli Bertozzi with 11 points, 12 kills, five blocks and four digs. Amanda Sellers added two points and 24 assists. St. John Central was led by Monika Figura with nine points and two blocks.

Noles Win Another Crown

Four in a row for Monroe Central in OVAC Class 2-A

By RICK DeLUCA
For the News-Register

Buckeye Trail and Monroe Central are two schools that make trips to the championship finals of the OVAC Volleyball Playoffs routine.

A return to the OVAC Class 2-A finals was inevitable and the two met again Saturday at Union Local with the Seminoles picking up a fourth straight OVAC title with an impressive 25-10, 25-20 victory against Buckeye Trail.

Monroe coach Troy Baker guided his Seminoles to a fourth straight title and pushed his season mark to 20-2 with the victory. Baker's club defeated each of the qualifiers in the this year's 2-A semifinals.

Trail coming in at 17-3, last won an OVAC title in 2004 and has been runner-up three times since.

"It's still great," Baker said about winning another OVAC crown. "It's just an honor to be here and an even greater one to win it four years in a row and have these seniors go out on top."

"I thought the girls played good. We had some lapses, but I thought we served and received well, played good defense and that's what you have to do."

"The opening game that we played set the tone and that helped us and we were able to play looser."

"I thought we played loose and the experience of these girls being here before helped us. There is no doubt that confidence plays a big part in this game and we had a lot of it (Saturday)."

Sam Kilburn, Aleisha Guiler and Karlie Davis lettered all four seasons for the Lady Seminoles and played

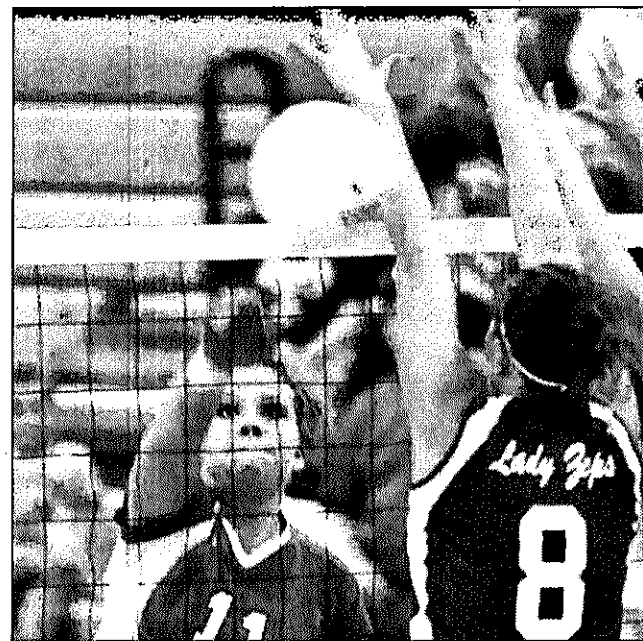


Photo by Joel Joseph
Monroe Central's Aleisha Guiler (11) hits through the block of Shenandoah's Casandra Mazgay (8).

in all four Monroe Central championship victories.

"It is quite an honor and I am very proud of them," Baker said.

Monroe Central was paced individually by Aleisha Guiler with two points, eight kills, three assists, and 10 digs.

Davis had two points, nine kills and 15 digs, Kim Lafferre closed with four points, one kill and 14 assists, Justine LaFollette added six points, three kills and one block. Alex Kuhn had 17 points with six aces, two kills and 12 digs and Kilburn had 16 digs and one point. Meagan Schumacher had two kills, two assists and one dig.

Buckeye Trail finished with Alexa Abrams contributing eight kills, three blocks and two digs and Emily McEndree adding four points, two aces. Chelsea Doult had two kills and three blocks, Laura Dunlap added two points, one ace, one kill and one block and Kaitlyn Wofe had

CLASS AA

11 assists and five digs.

After needing just two sets in the semifinals to advance, Monroe Central jumped out to a quick 14-1 lead in the first set of the finals and wasn't threatened throughout the remainder of the set.

In the second set, the Seminoles opened with a 3-0 lead, but saw the Warriors rally to eventually take command by 8-4.

With Alex Kuhn serving, the winners reeled off eight straight points resulting in a 12-8 lead.

Trail managed keep things close, but Monroe remained strong on the defensive end and forced some Buckeye errors before clinching the title.

Buckeye Trail advanced into the finals with a 25-6, 25-15 sweep of Caldwell while Monroe Central erased Shenandoah, 25-7, 25-15.

Red Devils are Back on Top

St. Clairsville has won five of last six Class 3-A crowns

By RICK DeLUCA
For the News-Register

St. Clairsville is back on top of the OVAC and no one is happier than coach Rebecca Hays.

After missing out on winning a fifth straight volleyball title last season, the Red Devils were forced to go the limit before stopping top-seeded Bellaire in three sets, 13-25, 23-25, 25-20 to win their fifth OVAC Class 3-A championship in six season Saturday at Morristown.

Bellaire, which last won an OVAC title in 1993, was looking to cap off a great comeback season with a victory in the finals, but came up short. The Red Devils improved to 11-8.

"We're back. It feels good," Hays said. "That was a tough win. In the first game, my girls got a little comfortable and Bellaire came back and made us go to three."

"We have a very solid team defense, so when they other team hits it we just keep digging it up, digging it up and I think that just wears them down."

"It feels amazing. It feels

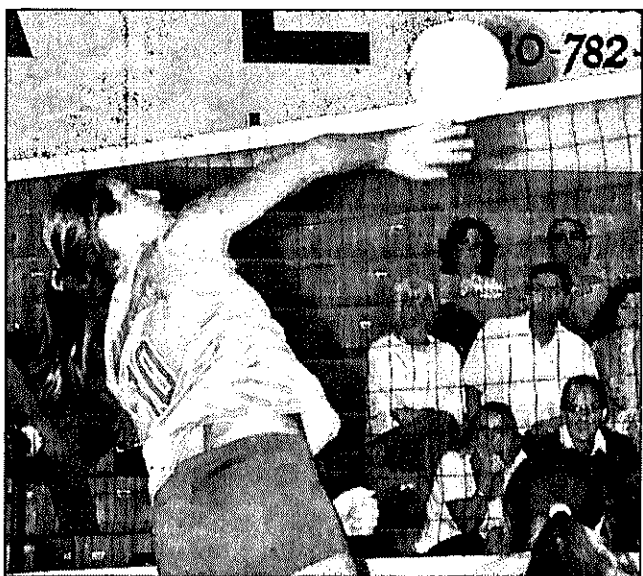


Photo by Seth Staskey
St. Clairsville's Monica Wakim (10) follows through on a spike during the OVAC Class AAA title match Saturday.

way to go into the sectional."

St. Clairsville's roster includes all underclassmen. In the finals, St. C was paced by Alex Pokas with 23 digs, one ace and one kill. Monica Wakim with 13 kills and four blocks, Alex Holub with two kills, three blocks, three digs and 17 assists, Taylor Mick with three kills and six digs, Erica Costine had six aces, five digs and nine assists, Emily Clark closed with four kills, five digs and two assists.

CLASS AAA

kills and 16 spikes. Alecia Keyser had 14 points, three spikes and two digs, Spencer Porter added six points, nine spikes and 10 digs, and Madi Kinder closed with nine points, 15 spikes and two aces.

Both Bellaire and St. Clairsville needed just two sets to dispose of their opponents in the semi-finals. Bellaire had to battle back from a huge deficit in the opening

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CLASS A

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"We have a very solid team defense, so when they other team hits it we just keep digging it up, digging it up and I think that just wears them down."

"It feels amazing. It feels great. This group deserves it."

"They have been working so hard. In the middle of the season we went a little flat, but we built ourselves back up and this is a good

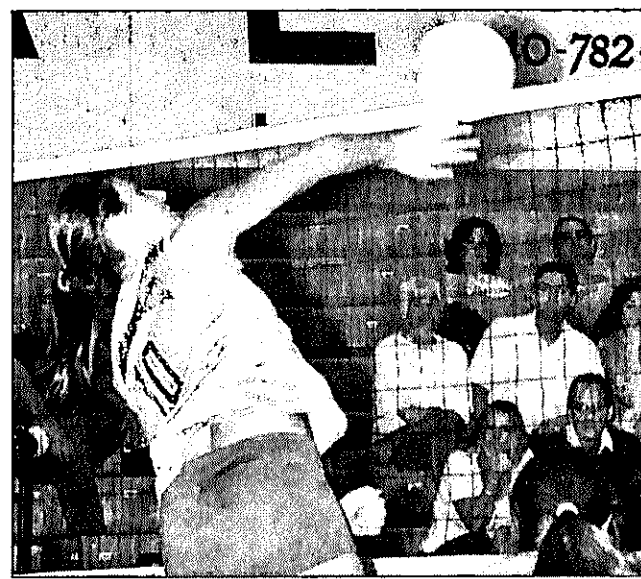


Photo by Seth Staskey

St. Clairsville's Monica Wakim (10) follows through on a spike during the OVAC Class AAA title match Saturday.

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In the finals, St. C was paced by Alex Pokas with 23 digs, one ace and one kill, Monica Wakim with 13 kills and four blocks, Alex Holub with two kills, three blocks, three digs and 17 assists, Taylor Mick with three kills and six digs, Erica Costine had six aces, five digs and nine assists, Emily Clark closed with four kills, five digs and two assists.

Bellaire was led by Alyssa Ofat with eight points, 10 kills, 26 spikes, Alex Wright with eight points, 19 assists and three spikes, Megan Green with 13 points, four aces, three

CLASS AAA

kills and 16 spikes. Alecia Keyser had 14 points, three spikes and two digs, Spencer Porter added six points, nine spikes and 10 digs, and Madi Kinder closed with nine points, 15 spikes and two aces.

Both Bellaire and St. Clairsville needed just two sets to dispose of their opponents in the semi-finals. Bellaire had to battle back from a huge deficit in the opening set en route to a 25-22 victory, then held off Harrison Central in the second to win 26-24. St. Clairsville grabbed a straight set victory stopping Martins Ferry, 25-17, 25-16.

Edison Holds Off Indian Creek

Cats need third set to put away rival Redskins in 4-A

By RICK DeLUCA
For the News-Register

Indian Creek was hoping to end a championship drought in the OVAC Volleyball Playoffs that stretched back to 2001 and Edison was looking for its third title since the start of the new millennium.

Creek and Edison are also both members of the Buckeye 8 and very close neighbors. On Saturday, they got even closer locking horns in the OVAC Class 4-A championship match at Union Local High School.

Typical of their matchups during the regular season, the two squads took their finals match to the wire with Edison taking the third set and the title, topping the Redskins, 26-24, 16-25, 25-19. The two teams split their matches during the season.

Edison, an OVAC champ in 2004 and 2000, swept third-seeded East Liverpool in the semifinal, 25-19, 25-13.

Indian Creek, who won five straight titles during a stretch that closed out in 2001, eliminated two-time defending champion Beaver Local in the semifinals, 28-26, 25-23.

"I think we kind of shot

CLASS AAAA

ourselves in the foot," a dejected Indian Creek coach Crystal Hammack said. "They got us rattled and we just didn't step up. We just could finish."

"It's part of volleyball, you're always going to make mistakes, you just have to step up and pick everyone else up."

"It's a battle to the end," Edison coach Chuck Woodward said. "You know that one or two plays are going to make the difference."

In the title match, Edison was paced by Kaitlin Blake with 11 points, six kills, 13 blocks and 13 spikes.

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Bump, Set, Spike

• OVAC volleyball champs to be crowned Saturday

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

It seems like just yesterday that the prep volleyball season was getting under way in gyms throughout the Ohio Valley.

Well, the start of the post-season is here with OVAC Volleyball Championships set for Saturday at Union Local High School in Morristown.

Of course, while the Ohio schools will start sectional play next week, the West Virginia schools will continue their regular season for a couple more weeks before the WVSSAC gets its post-season tournament in full swing.

Ohio Valley Athletic Conference schools will get their first taste of tournament action on Saturday when 16 teams, four from each class, will be battling in the day-long playoffs to determine the four OVAC class champions.

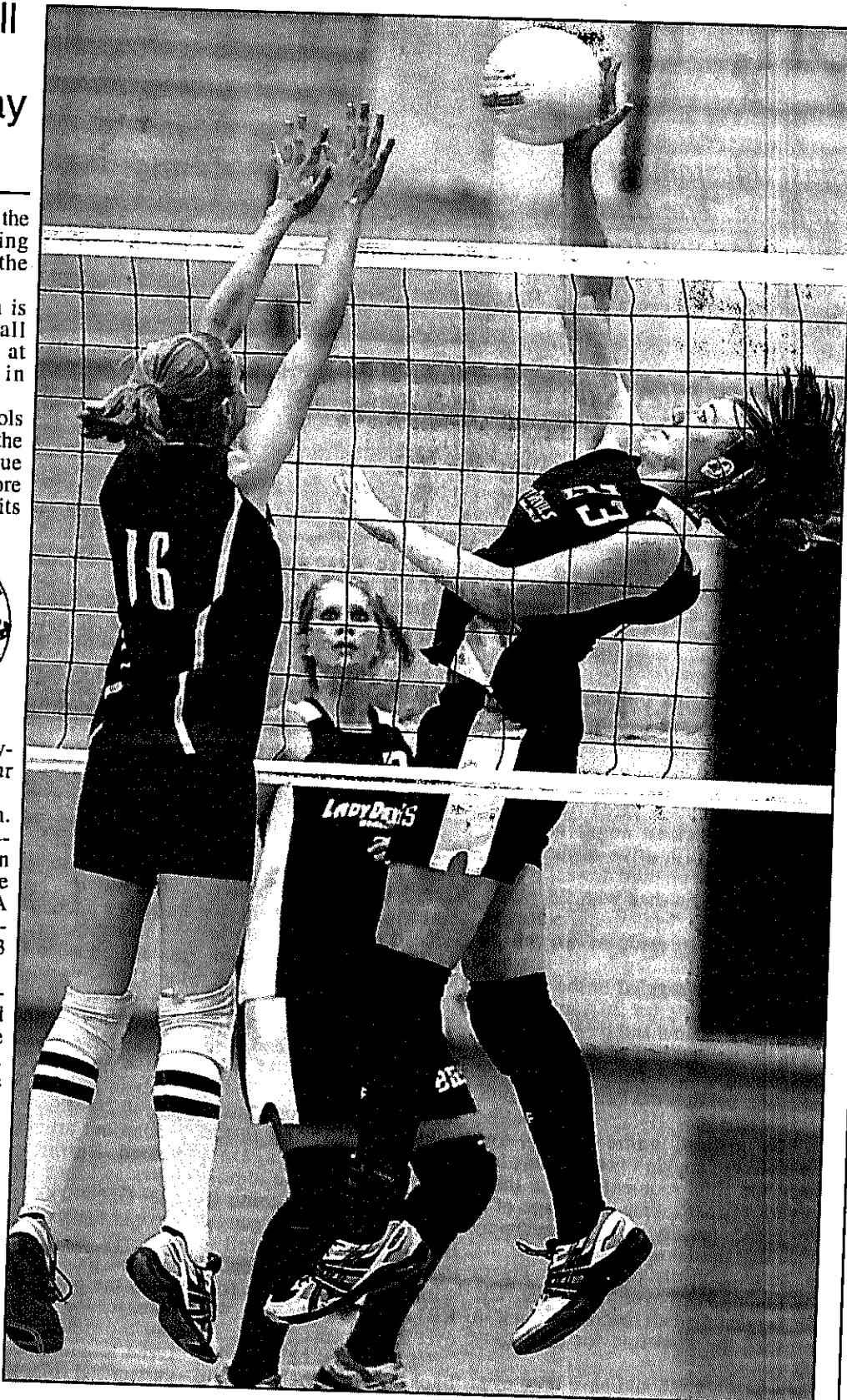
Action gets under way at 9 a.m. with the Class 4-A semi-finals. The 4-A championship match will begin approximately 15 minutes after the two semis are completed. The 4-A matchups will be followed by Class 1-A competition at noon, Class 2-A at 3 p.m. and Class 3-A at 6 p.m.

Competition during the regular season was intense at times in 2008 and the four qualifiers in each class were not determined until the final week. Additionally, there were some place finishes determined on the last day.

Play opens at 9 a.m. with Class 4-A top-seeded Indian Creek battling fourth-seeded and two-time defending champion Beaver Local on Court #1. On Court #2, second-seeded Edison plays #3 seeded East Liverpool. The Lady Potters are back in the OVAC tournament after spending a couple years as a member of a league based out of Columbiana County that caused a scheduling glitch that made East Liverpool ineligible.

Coach Crystal Hammack's Indian Creek squad grabbed the top-seed by edging Edison on the final day with a 15-3 record. Chuck Woodward's Lady Wildcats hold the second spot

See, OVAC, Page B6



BEALLSVILLE'S Alexis Kanzigg goes up for a spike against St. John's Brooke Baker during a match earlier this season. Kanzigg and the Lady Blue Devils will be one of the favorites in the OVAC Class 1-A Tournament, which is set for Saturday at Union Local High School. The Lady Devils are the two-time defending champions.

Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

with a 13-4 mark at the cut-off. East Liverpool, under veteran coach Bob Shansky, posted a 14-4 record and Walter Anchors' Lady Beavers, winners of the last two OVAC Class 4-A crowns, hold on to an 11-8 mark.

Indian Creek last won an OVAC title in 2001, the last in a string of five straight championships. Edison was the 4-A winner in 2004 after winning back in 2000. Beaver Local was the 4-A winner in 2007 and '06, taking the '07 crown after rallying from being one-point away from elimination. East Liverpool, one of the winningest programs in the conference captured the 2003 title under Shansky before taking a brief hiatus from championship competition.

At noon, the Class 1-A semi-finals get under way with top-seeded Beallsville taking on fourth-seeded Bishop Donahue on Court #1 and second-seeded St. John Central will take to the nets against third-seeded Paden City on Court #2. Beallsville is another two-time defending champion.

Coach Patrick Wells' Lady Devils come into Saturday's fray after posting a 15-2 mark during the regular season. St. John Central, coached by first-year mentor Donnie Murray, brings with them a 14-4 regular season mark. Fred King's talented Paden City squad was the winningest 1-A club and enters the tournament with a 16-4 mark. Christie Younger brings a 9-6 record team from Bishop Donahue.

Beallsville was the OVAC winner in 1-A the past two years and was also a winner in 2002. King last guided his Lady Wildcats to an OVAC crown in 2005, then their first win since 1993 when the OVAC awarded an Ohio and West Virginian champion. St. John Central was a champion in 1997. BD has not won an OVAC title in volleyball.

Same names, different year in Class 2-A where the field is comprised of PVC members who have all become common visitors to the OVAC playoffs. Starting with semi-finals at 3 p.m., top-seeded Monroe Central takes on fourth-seeded Shenandoah on Court #1 while second-seeded Buckeye Trail battles third-seeded Caldwell on Court #2. Those winners will battle for the crown approximately 15 minutes after their semis



T-L File Photos/MIKE PALMER

ABOVE: Bellaire head coach Kaye Sechrest has her Lady Big Reds as the top seed in Saturday's Class 3-A OVAC Tournament.

AT RIGHT: Monroe Central is in search of yet another OVAC volleyball title and senior Aleisha Guiller leads the way.

conclude.

Coach Troy Baker, who coached a rare double last year guiding the Monroe Central volleyball and basketball teams to OVAC titles, is looking for his fourth straight 2-A crown. He brings a Lady Seminole team to Morristown that owns a conference-best 16-2 record.

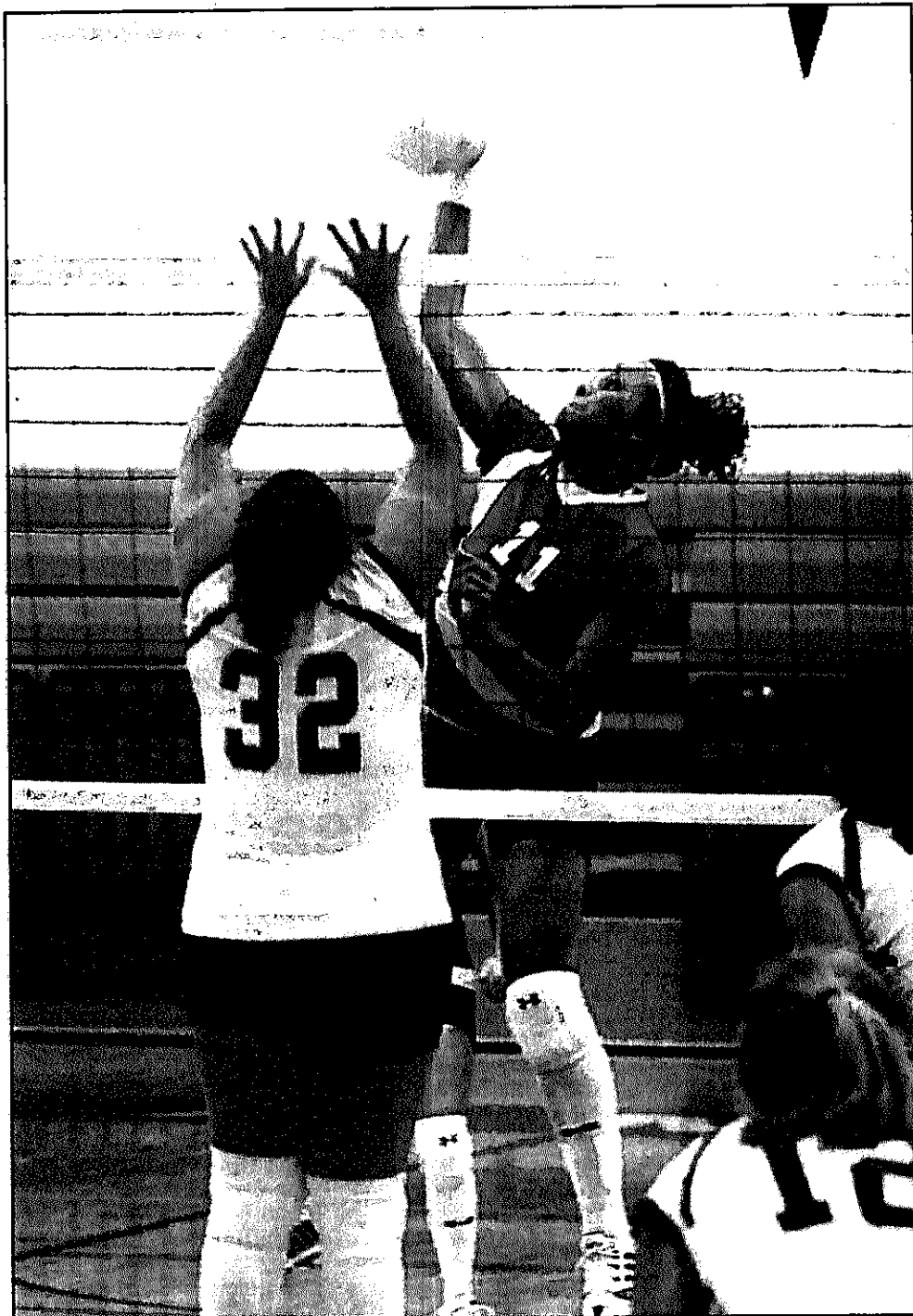
Jeff Beros is another of the OVAC's outstanding coaches that have a coaching record to match. He has his Trail Lady Warriors in the hunt for another conference crown. Trail comes in at 16-3 and last won an OVAC crown in 2004. Caldwell, coached by Natalie Kennedy, has knocked on the door in the past but has yet to give the school an OVAC net title.

The Lady Redskins come in with a 10-7 mark. Coach Colleen Kasper's Shenandoah team owns an 11-7 mark. Kasper coached the Lady Zepps to a title in

2002.

If there is a real comeback story in the conference this year, it comes out of Bellaire where Kaye Sechrest has turned that program around and has brought the Lady Big Reds in as the top seed. Sechrest's club will take on fourth-seeded Harrison Central in one Class 3-A semifinal starting at 6 p.m. on Court #1. Second-seeded St. Clairsville will take on another surprise qualifier in third seeded Martins Ferry on Court #2.

Bellaire, which saw its last OVAC title come in 1993 when the Lady Big Reds reeled off three straight championships under Marias Shipley, has rebounded nicely with Sechrest at the helm. The Lady Big Reds own an 11-6 record. Coach Rebecca Hays' St. Clairsville team brings a 9-8 mark into the conference playoffs while Kim Appollini's Lady Riders closed the conference



season at 7-9. Coach Ray Hibbs Harrison Central crew holds a 7-11 mark.

St. Clairsville and Hays have had considerable success in the OVAC playoffs. Hays' streak of three straight OVAC crowns ended last year. The Lady Red Devils won four straight titles from 2003 to 2006. Harrison Central and Martins Ferry will looking for their first OVAC volleyball titles.

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