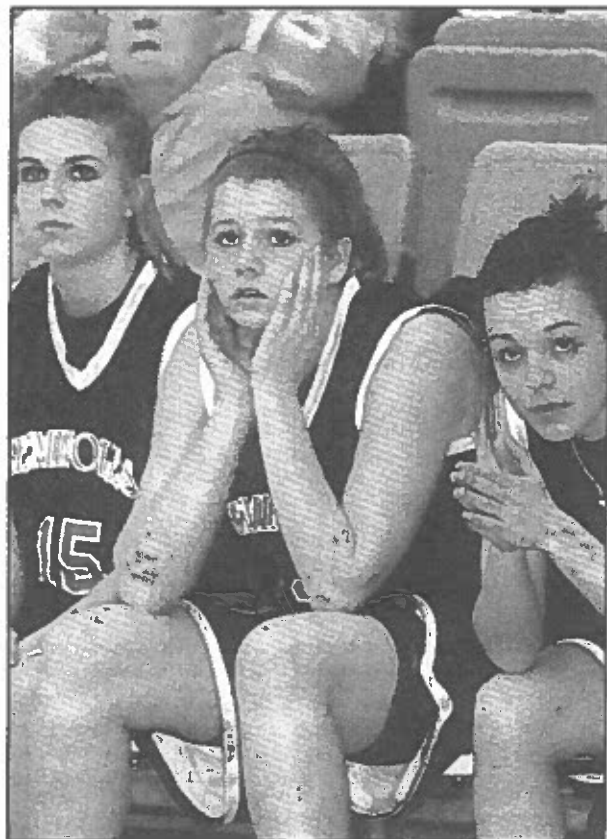


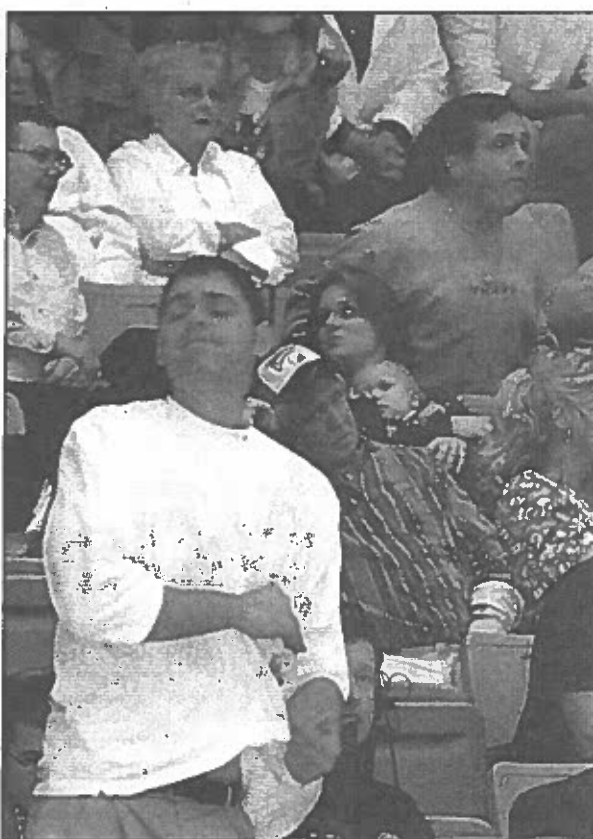
SPORTS

Sunday,
February 15, 2009



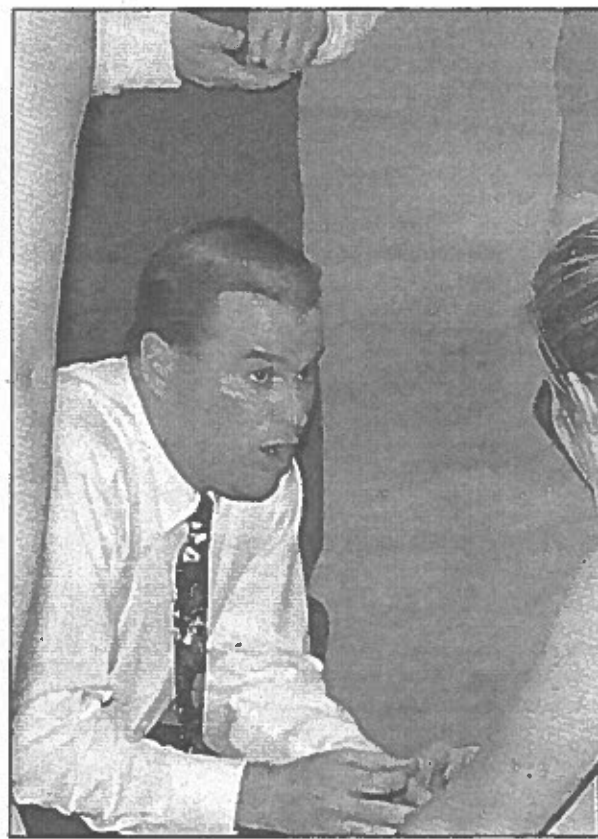
T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

MONROE CENTRAL team members watch intently as the final seconds tick off the clock in the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 2-A title game with Shadyside.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

MARTINS FERRY head coach Dave Reasbeck reacts as his Purple Riders rallied past St. Clairsville Saturday in the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3-A contest.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

BEALLSVILLE HEAD coach Terry Jarrett instructs his team during action in the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A championship game Saturday night. The Blue Devils won.

OVAC CHAMPS

Ferry girls complete sweep of St. C. to win Class 3-A title

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Redemption!
That's what the Martins Ferry girls' basketball team got Saturday afternoon at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

The Lady Purple Riders (14-4) rallied past Belmont County rival St. Clairsville by a 49-44 count in double overtime to claim the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3-A championship.

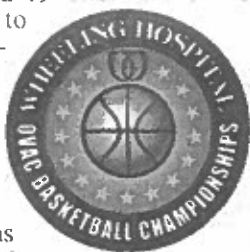
Martins Ferry advanced to last season's title tilt, only to fall to Barnesville.

"This is for everyone that has ever put up with me," said Martins Ferry head coach Dave Reasbeck. "I looked up in the stands and saw some girls that played for me before. This win is for all of them."

The two rivals were deadlocked at 42 after four quarters and one overtime session, but the Lady Purple broke a 44-all tie early in the second extra period by scoring the game's final five points.

"That was a great game," Reasbeck continued. "It's a shame that someone had to lose. Win or lose, I couldn't be any prouder of my girls. It was a great game to be involved with."

Senior Shae Moreland scored what proved to be the game-winning points with 2:05 remaining in the second OT. It would be the final two of her game-high 20



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

THE MARTINS Ferry girls basketball team captured the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3-A Championship Game Saturday afternoon. The Purple Riders defeated Belmont County rival St. Clairsville, 49-44, in double overtime. Team members are front row, from left: Chalana Chambliss, Courtney Coleman, Karlen Vinci, Allison Wright, Brianne Lucas and Shae Moreland. Middle row, from left: Kayla Sabatino, Shayla Outward and Mallory Pamphiliss. Back row, from left: assistant coach Rick Douglas, Reann Stobbs, Chelsea Lucas, Lacey Neavin, Courtney Frohnafel, head coach Dave Reasbeck and assistant coach Greg Harkness. *Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

See, **FERRY**, Page C3

Monroe Central defends Class 2-A title

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Monroe Central's Lady Seminoles have repeated as Wheeling Hospital OVAC champions.

Aleisha Guiler scored 15 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, sparking coach Troy Baker's team to a 50-42 victory over Shadyside Saturday morning at Ohio University-Eastern.

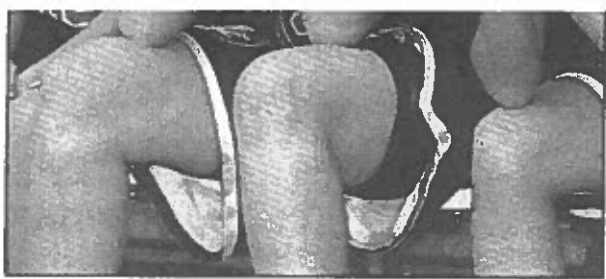
The Lady Noles defended their 2-A crown by pulling away from Tina Yates' Lady Tigers

'I'm especially pleased for our seniors.'

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MONROE CENTRAL'S Aleisha Guiler (12) makes a move to the basket against Shadyside's Kayla Stewart (22). The Seminoles won.



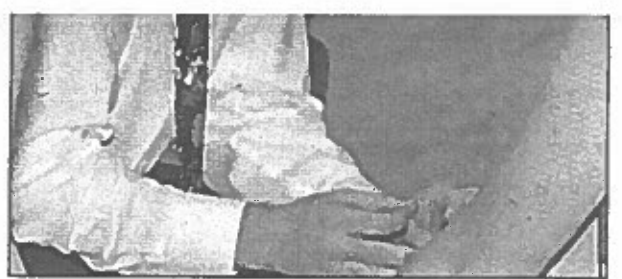
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T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

MARTINS FERRY head coach Dave Reasbeck reacts as his Purple Riders rallied past St. Clairsville Saturday in the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3-A contest.



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BEALLSVILLE HEAD coach Terry Jarrett instructs his team during action in the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A championship game Saturday night. The Blue Devils won.

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Monroe Central's Lady Seminoles have repeated as Wheeling Hospital OVAC champions.

Aleisha Guiler scored 15 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, sparking coach Troy Baker's team to a 50-42 victory over Shadyside, Saturday morning at Ohio University-Eastern.

The Lady Noles defended their 2-A crown by pulling away from Tina Yates' Lady Tigers with a decisive second half run.

"We had dropped two regular season games to Shadyside, so naturally, our girls were looking forward to this third meeting," Baker disclosed.

"I'm especially pleased for our seniors. (This second) OVAC title is a tribute to their hard work and dedication. And I can't say

'I'm especially pleased for our seniors.'

- Troy Baker

enough about Shadyside. They are a quality team in every respect."

While Guiler overcame a slow start to play a pivotal role in the outcome, a pair of Lady Noles' underclassmen also were difference

See, **MONROE**, Page C3



MONROE CENTRAL'S Aleisha Guiler (12) makes a move to the basket against Shadyside's Kayla Stewart (22). The Seminoles won, 50-42.

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

BEALLSVILLE'S BRANDI Contos (12) shoots for two points against the defense of Bishop Donahue's Chrissy Mucke (34) during Saturday night's Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A Championship Game.

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER



Beallsville hands Donahue first loss in 1-A for crown

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Under the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's old system for crowning basketball champion, the Bishop Donahue Bishops would have coasted to the title.

However, the games are now settled on the court and it was made clear to a large turnout at Ohio University Eastern Saturday evening that Beallsville is the premier team in Class 1-A.

The Lady Blue Devils shook off some early sluggishness and rolled to their fifth-ever conference title and first since 2005 by a 58-37 count in the nightcap of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.



"I am a fan of this tournament format whole heartedly," said an elated Beallsville head coach Terry Jarrett. "One of our goals was to get back to this point. We didn't get it done last year, but now it's nice that these girls have an OVAC title under their belts."

For the Lady Bishops, it's back to the drawing board to try to repair the psyches after they suffered their initial loss of the campaign.

"Second place isn't what we wanted, but I told our girls they've got nothing to hang their heads about," said Donahue head coach Paige Williams. "Not a lot of people expected us to be at this point." The Lady Bishops - who came into the

See, **BEALLSVILLE**, Page C3

● Ferry

Continued from Page C1

markers.

"She was a stud today," Reasbeck said of his 6-ft.-1 tower of power.

Moreland, who admitted that she didn't play one of her better games, said, "I did alright I guess. I just try and get the job done, and I guess I did."

"(Brooke) Cenkus is one of the best defenders that I've played against," she added. "They double-teamed me for awhile and then they quit. That's when I scored."

Moreland tallied at least four points in each quarter except for the first when she was scoreless.

"When she (Moreland) got the ball, she executed," said veteran St. Clairsville head coach Mickey Blatnik. "We were worried about (Courtney) Coleman and Courtney (Frohnapfel) and Moreland beat us."

St. Clairsville (11-8) grabbed the early lead and held the advantage until late in the third quarter when Frohnapfel tickled the twine with a trifecta from the right wing that pushed Martins Ferry ahead, 27-26. The Purple led 29-28 after three frames.

It appeared that the Purple Riders were headed for an easy victory as they led by six, 38-32, with 4:03 left after Karlen Vinci dropped in a trey from the left wing, but the Lady Red Devils didn't quit.

Senior Alessia Vivod, St. Clairsville's 1,000-point scorer, and junior Brooke Cenkus sparked a late rally by combining for eight points. It was Vivod's off-balance shot in the lane that knotted the count at 38 with 55 seconds to go.

Frohnapfel drove the lane as time was winding down, but her shot was off the mark and St. Clairsville rebounded to send the game to overtime.

"She (Frohnapfel) thought she ended the world when she missed that shot," recalled Reasbeck. "I told them nothing was hurt. We just needed to win the next four minutes."

Tied at 40, the Purple Gang took the lead on Moreland's basket with 50 ticks left, but the Red Devils countered with two

Vivod free throws at the 20-second mark to draw even once again.

And once again, Martins Ferry held for the final shot, but Coleman's three from the left corner was bounced off the rim and the game was headed to a second OT.

"I've got to give credit to my girls," Blatnik praised. "They made three great stops defensively down the stretch that allowed us to stay in the game."

"Offensively, when you play two overtimes it comes down to making baskets. We had our chances but couldn't convert at crucial times."

It was the third victory over St. Clairsville for Martins Ferry this season, but the prior two contests were blowouts.

"I knew coming in that this was going to be a tough game," said Reasbeck. "It's hard to beat a team three times in the same season, let alone a rival like St. C. Bad-coached teams don't make changes, but good-coached teams like St. C. do and that's what they did."

In addition to Moreland's 20 lightings, Frohnapfel added 11, Coleman and Vinci had seven each. Moreland also grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds as the winners held a slim, 27-26, edge off the glass.

Cenkus came off the bench to score a team-high 18 points for the Red Devils, while Vivod added 13 before fouling out late in the second OT. Cenkus also hauled down 10 rebounds.

The two teams were plagued with turnovers as St. Clairsville had three more at 21-18.

"We're going to celebrate like crazy until Monday," allowed Reasbeck. "Then we get back to work."

ST. CLAIRSVILLE (44) — Vivod 4 4-4 13; Slenski 1 0-0 2; Britton 1 0-0 3; Machovina 0 0-0 0; Moulder 2 0-0 4; Cenkus 5 8-11 18; Matkovich 0 0-0 0; Gordon 2 0-0 4; Totals: 15-37 12-15. **MARTINS FERRY (49)** — Vinci 2 2-2 7; Coleman 3 0-3 7; Chambliss 0 2-2 2; Frohnapfel 3 4-7 11; Moreland 9 2-4 20; Lucas 1 0-0 2; Neavin 0 0-0 0; Totals: 18-42 10-18.

Three-Point Goals: SC—2 (Vivod, Britton); MF—3 (Coleman, Vinci, Frohnapfel)



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

MONROE CENTRAL defended its Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AA Championship Saturday afternoon with a victory over Shadyside.

● Monroe

Continued from Page C1

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Shadyside, meanwhile, experienced what proved a fatal four minute stretch in the third period's waning moments. The drought carried over to the fourth panel's early stages.

"We had several unforced turnovers that really hurt," Yates related. "And give Monroe credit. They came up big on the boards when they had to."

Though the Noles had mounted an 11-point lead with six minutes to play, Shadyside gamely rallied, twice reducing its deficit to three points in the closing ticks.

The Orange & Black may well have gotten closer had not Monroe landed two critical offensive rebounds off missed foul shots.

"No question, those were huge," Baker observed. "What really mattered, though, are the seven foul shots we made (in the fourth quarter)."

Trailing 42-35, Shadyside sophomore Kelsey Holloway connected on a three-pointer, rallying the Tigers within four with 2:10 remaining.

Seconds later, veteran Kayla Stewart swished a foul shot and the Orange were down only three, 42-39 with 1:50 to play.

But Monroe senior Justine LaFollette came up big at the other end, draining a seven-foot jumper to make it a 44-39 issue.

Back came the Tigers with junior

guard Rebecca Haney nailing a put-back for a 44-41 lighting at 0:43.

Monroe answered, however, when senior Kim Lafferre made her only two points of the day a back-breaker for Shadyside.

Lafferre's two foul conversions upped the ante to 46-41. A Holloway free throw reduced it to 46-42.

LaFollette and senior ace Karlie Davis, however, drained two foul shots apiece to close it out.

"Of course, we're disappointed. The girls are hurting right now," Yates advised. "But I told them to look at the bigger picture. We're not finished yet."

Nor are the Lady Noles with both teams beginning sectional tournament play this week.

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● Beallsville

Continued from Page C1

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The Lady Devils were eventually able to get untracked somewhat in the period and made it a 13-7 reading after the opening period.

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Donahue made a brief run in the fourth, but Beallsville immediately embarked on a 10-0 spurt to ice the contest away.

Senior Brandy Contos scored 11 of her 15 points in the second half.

Headley — who has gone over the 1,000-point mark for her career already — scored 18 points and grabbed 14 rebounds. Alexis Kanzigg added 10 points and a game-high 16 rebounds to complete the double-double.

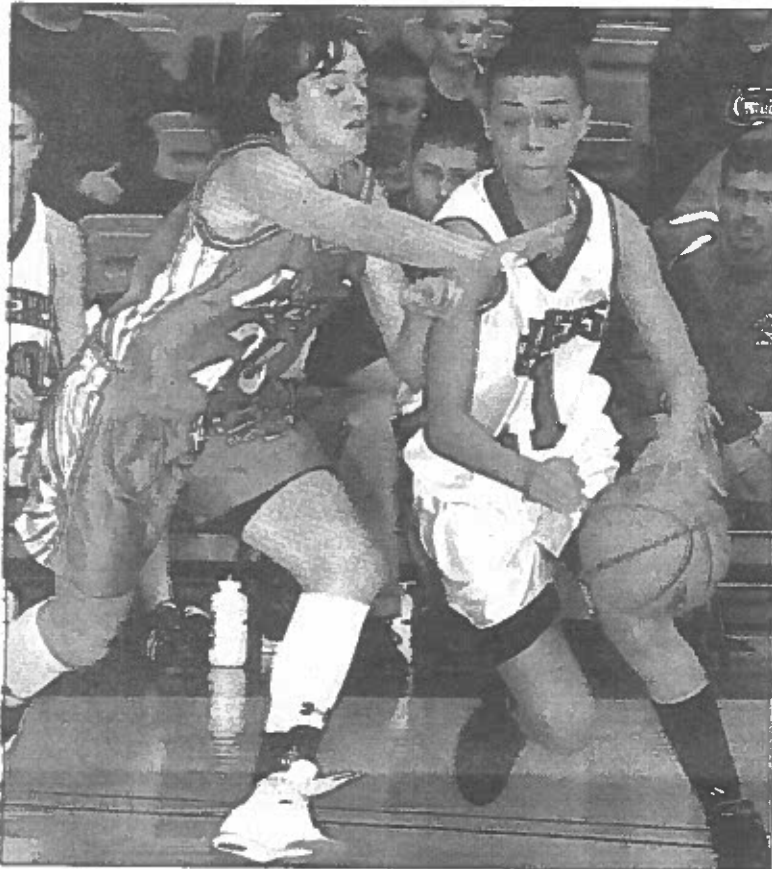
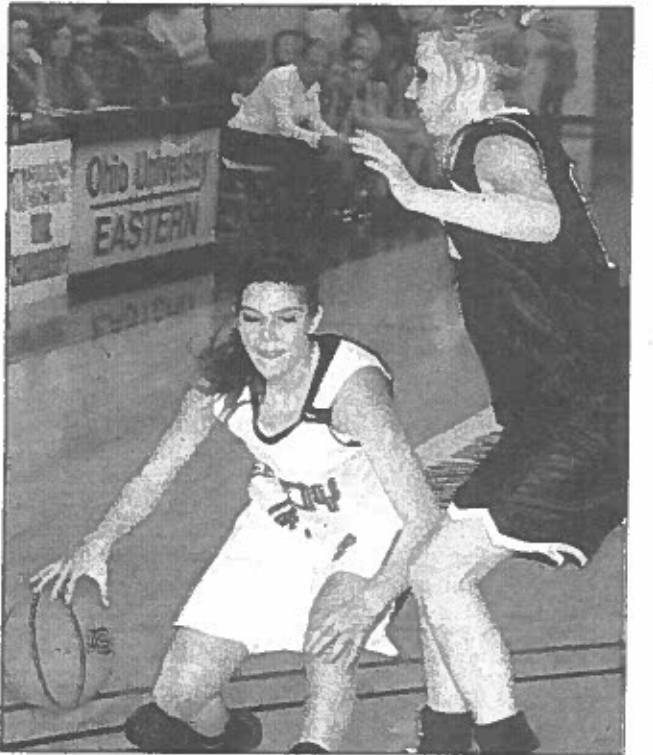
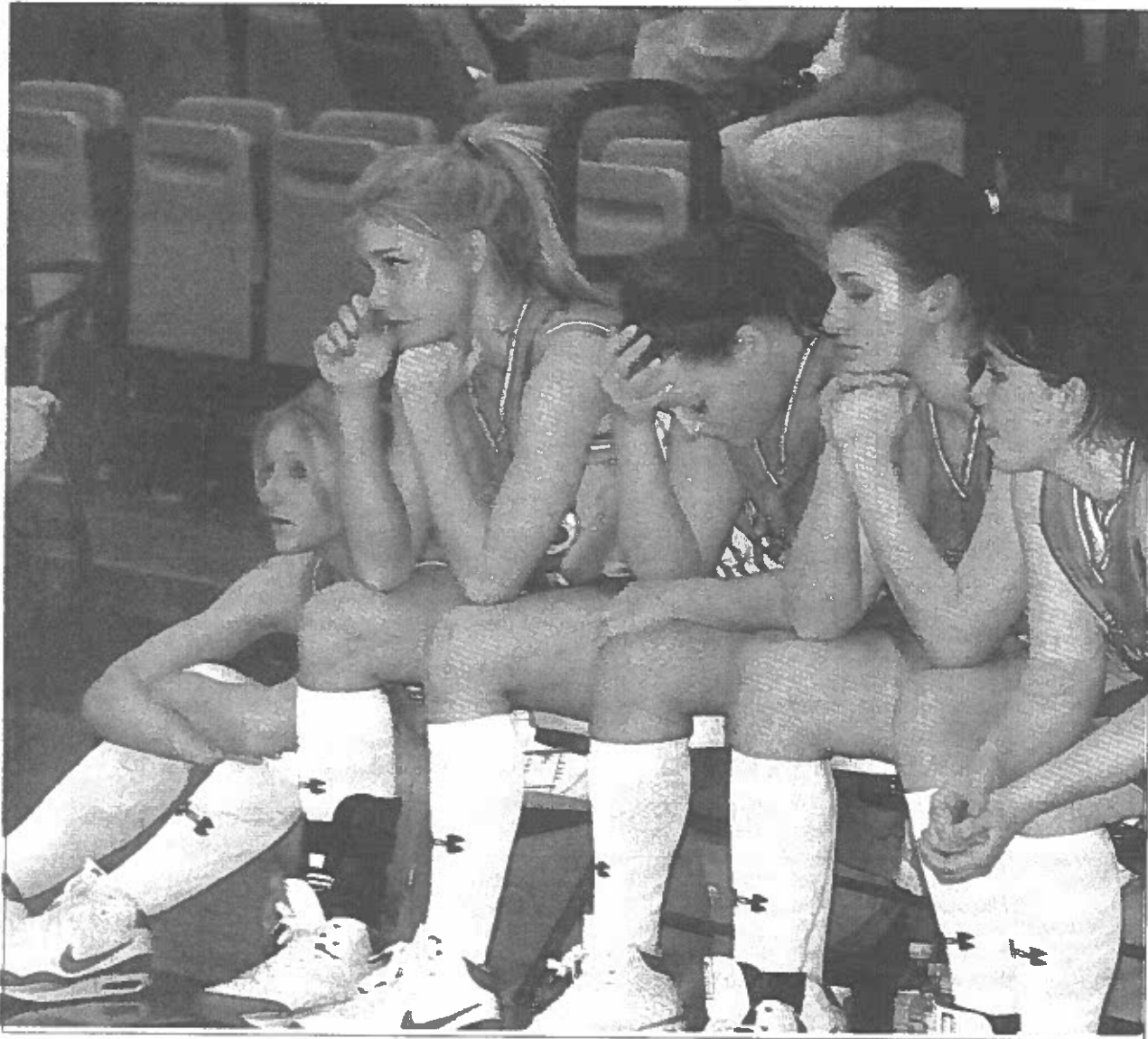
Donahue was led by Lacey Hampton who produced a double-double with 11 points and a like number of boards. Alexa Yurisko added 11 tallies.

Scoring:
BEALLSVILLE (58) — Headley 7, 4-6 18; Tavoletti 0, 0-0 0; Jarrett 2, 1-4 5; Campbell 0, 0-0 0; Contos 4, 7-10 15; Stephen 0, 0-0 0; Kanzigg 4, 2-7 10; Lallathin 1, 1-2 3; Bilyeu 0, 0-0 0; Secret 0, 0-0 0; Garlick 3, 1-2 7; Totals: 21, 16-31 58. **BISHOP DONAHUE (37)** — Blazer 0, 0-0 0; Barry 2, 1-2 5; Cook 0, 0-0 0; Hampton 4, 3-4 11; Smith 2, 0-1 4; Yurisko 3, 5-8 11; Noice 1, 0-0



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

BEALLSVILLE CAPTURED the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A Championship by defeating previously-undefeated Bishop Donahue Saturday night.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Members of the St. Clairsville girls' basketball team await the end of Saturday's Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3-A Championship game with Martins Ferry. The Purple Riders prevailed, 49-44, in double overtime.

- Beallsville's Brandy Contos (55) hauls in a rebound during the Blue Devils' 58-37 victory over Bishop Donahue in the Class A title tilt.

- Shadyside's Kelsey Holloway dribbles around a Monroe Central defender during the 2-A championship contest. The Seminoles won, 50-42.

CU

SEE YOU VIEW additional photos of this event at cu.timesleaderonline.com

- Monroe Central's Alex Kuhn (10) looks to pass against Shadyside.

- Shadyside's Jaclyn Johnson (12) shots over top of Monroe's Karlie Davis (20).

- St. Clairsville's Alessia Vivod (32) tries to split the defense of Martins Ferry's Karlen Vinci (left) and Lacey Neavin (23).

- Martins Ferry's Courtney Frohnapfel (13) is surrounded by St. Clairsville's Alessia Vivod (32) and Shelby Britton (22).

- Beallsville's Brandy Contos (55) scores two points.

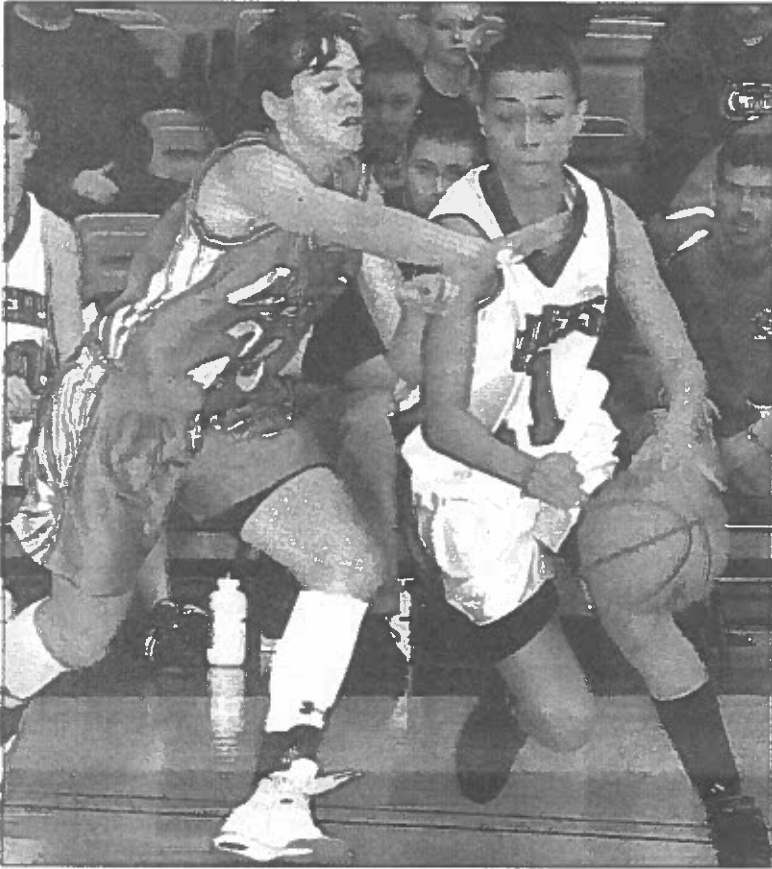
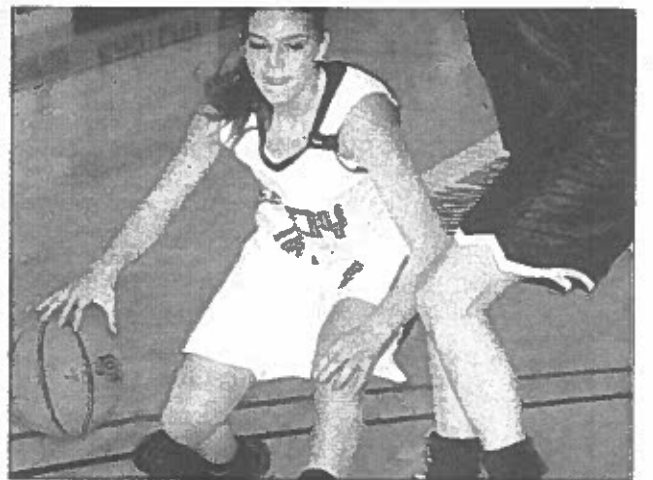
- Players from Shadyside and Monroe Central scramble for a loose ball.

- Shadyside's Kayla Stewart (left) and Karissa Brown (20) watch the end of their game with Monroe Central.

- Martins Ferry's Courtney Coleman (11) drives around St. Clairsville's Jesse Machovina.

BELOW: Beallsville's Tori Jarrett (left) dribbles by a Bishop Donahue defender.





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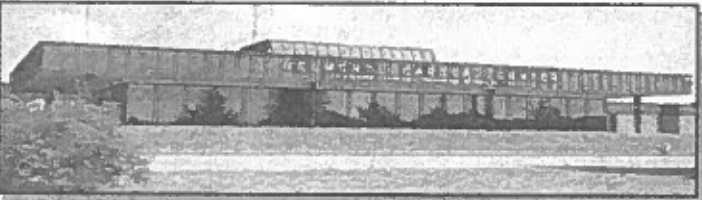
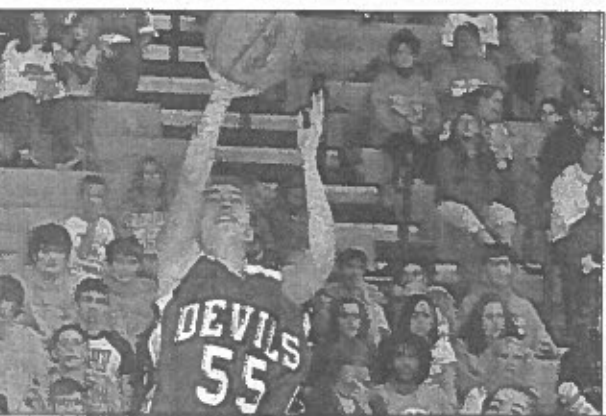
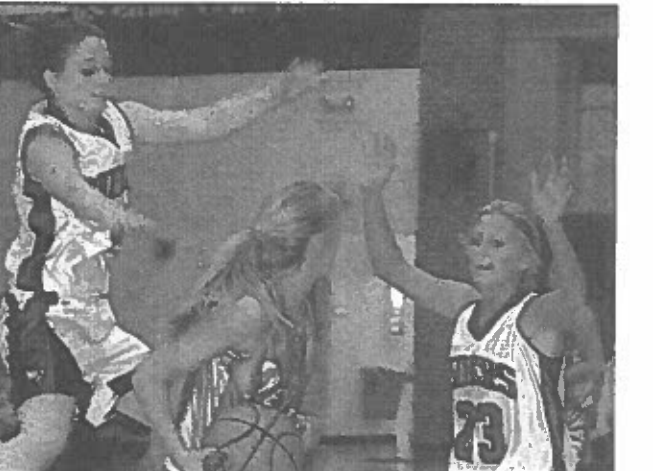
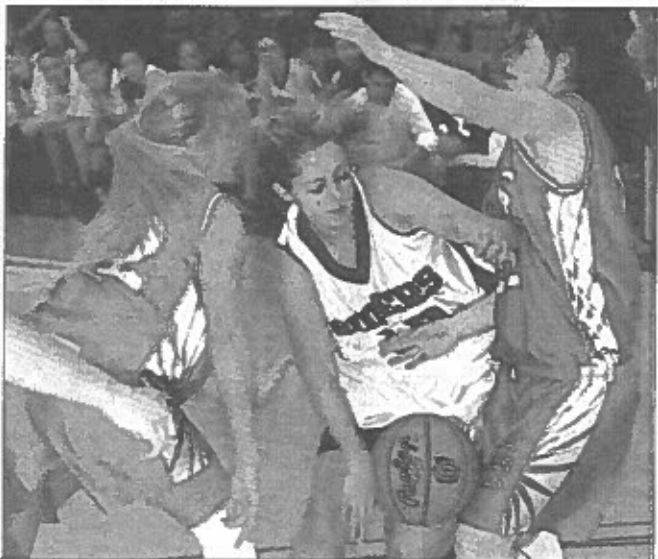
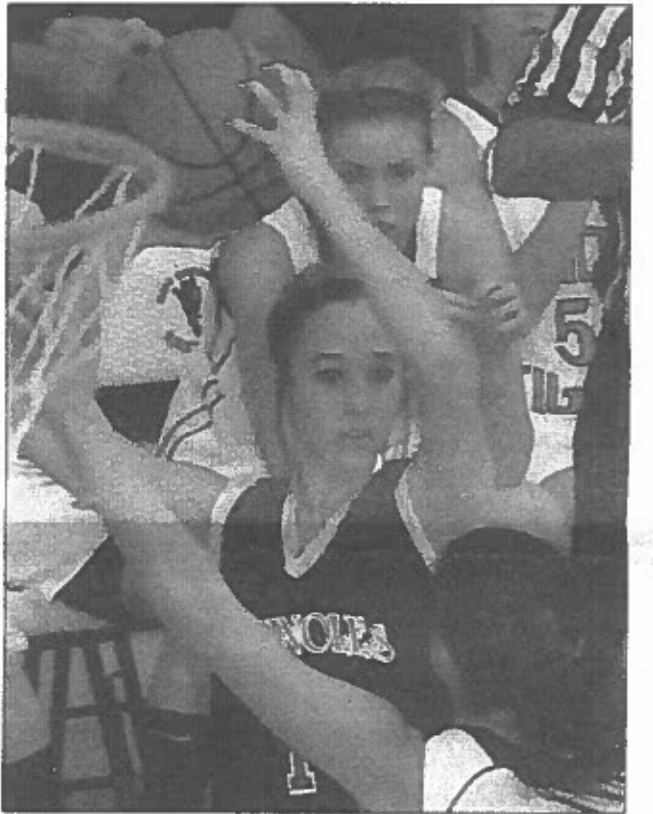
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BELOW: Beallsville's Tori Jarrett (left) dribbles by a Bishop Donahue defender.



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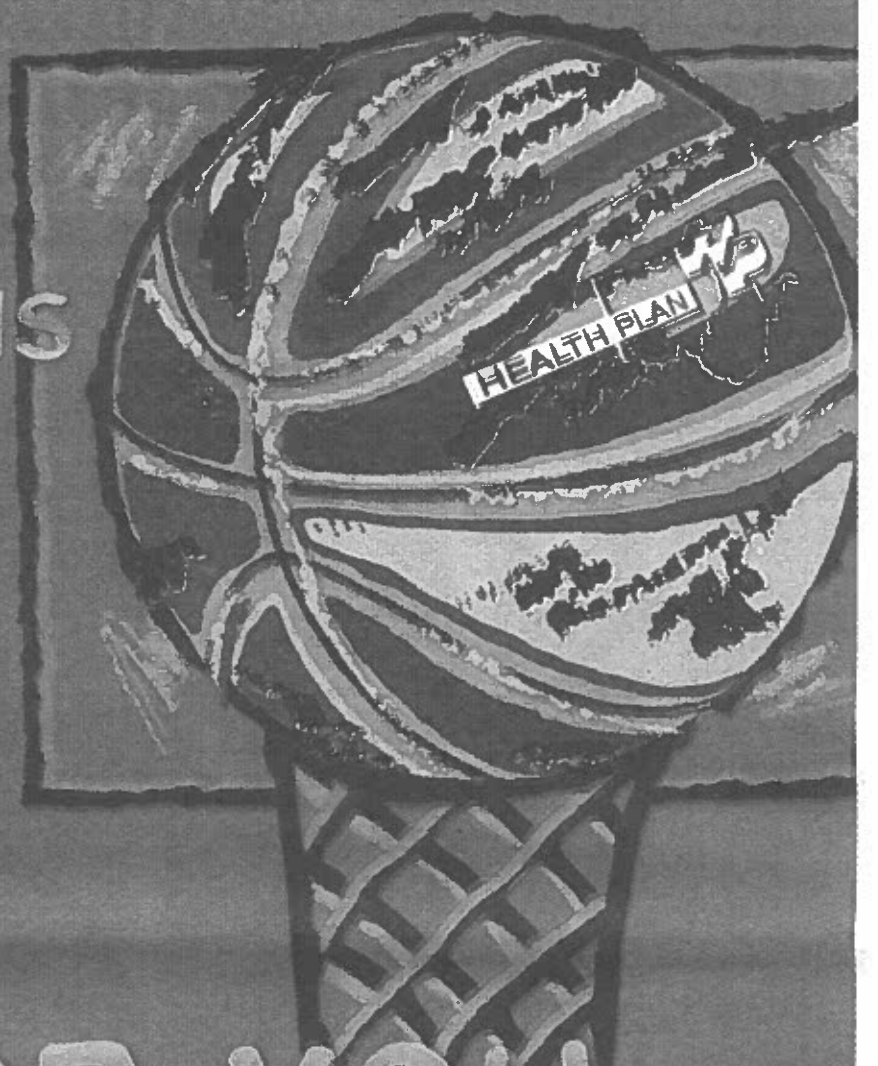
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Beallsville, Donahue to meet in 1-A

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

For the second consecutive season, the top two seeds will meet for the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A Championship.

Last year saw top-seeded St. John Central defeat arch-rival Beallsville, 71-65. This season has the No. 2 seeded Lady Blue Devils (15-3) tangling with the Ohio Valley's surprise team in No. 1 Bishop Donahue (20-0).

The two 'small school' powers will conclude Saturday's full day of basketball action at 7 p.m. inside Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

"We haven't played and I really don't know much about them," said Beallsville's Terry Jarrett of

MEET THE 1-A FINALISTS

BISHOP DONAHUE (20-0)		
	No.	Gr. Ht
Alexa Yurisko	30	12 5'5"
Chrissy Muccheck	34	12 5'10"
Maribeth Smith	25	12 5'4"
Ana Durdines	35	12 5'2"
Lindsay Cook	22	12 5'5"
Lacey Hampton	23	12 6'1"
Jenna Noice	33	11 5'10"
Taylor Barry	21	10 5'5"
Katie Blazer	15	10 5'7"
Kerstee Kleeh	44	10 5'10"
Head Coach: Paige Williams		
Assistant Coach: Jim Dailer		
BEALLSVILLE (15-3)		
	No.	Gr. Ht
Alyssa Headley	10	12 5'11"
Kristin Lallathin	24	12 5'7"
Brandy Contos	12	12 5'4"
Tori Jarrett	4	11 5'8"
Rebecca Garlick	55	11 5'7"
Alexis Kanzigg	20	11 5'11"
Jessica Campbell	11	10 5'6"
Stacia Secrest	34	10 5'7"
Paige Atkinson	22	10 5'5"
Samantha Stephen	13	10 5'6"
Alyssa Tavoletti	1	10 5'1"
Julie Bilyeu	32	9 5'11"
Head Coach: Terry Jarrett		
Assistant Coach: Rick Jarrett		

Saturday's opponent. "We've tried to get some information on them, to see

See, 1-A, Page 4



BISHOP DONAHUE LADY BISHOPS



Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2008-09 Bishop Donahue Girls Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Ana Durdines, Katie Blazer, Lindsay Cook, Taylore Barry and Cora DeFazio. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Jim Dailer, Maribeth Smith, Kerstee Kleeh, Chrissy Muccheck, Lacey Hampton, Jenna Noice, Alexa Yurisko and head coach Paige Williams

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ON THE COVER
Pictured are a key player from each of the eight teams. Top row, from left, are Karlen Vinci (Martins Ferry), Rebecca Garlick (Beallsville) and Lacey Hampton (Bishop Donahue). Second row, from left, are Karlie Davis (Monroe Central) and Ty Harris (Indian Creek). Bottom row, from left, are Brooke Cenkus (St. Clairsville), Laken Gibson (Shadyside) and Megan Antigo (Edison).
T-L Cover Design/Emily Dominici
Tab Design/Seth Staskey

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WHAT'S INSIDE
Class 2-A.....6
Class 3-A.....10
Class 4-A.....14

BEALLSVILLE'S Brandy Contos is one of the players to watch in the Class 1-A OVAC Championship Game Saturday when she and the Lady Blue Devils will meet Bishop Donahue.

File Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

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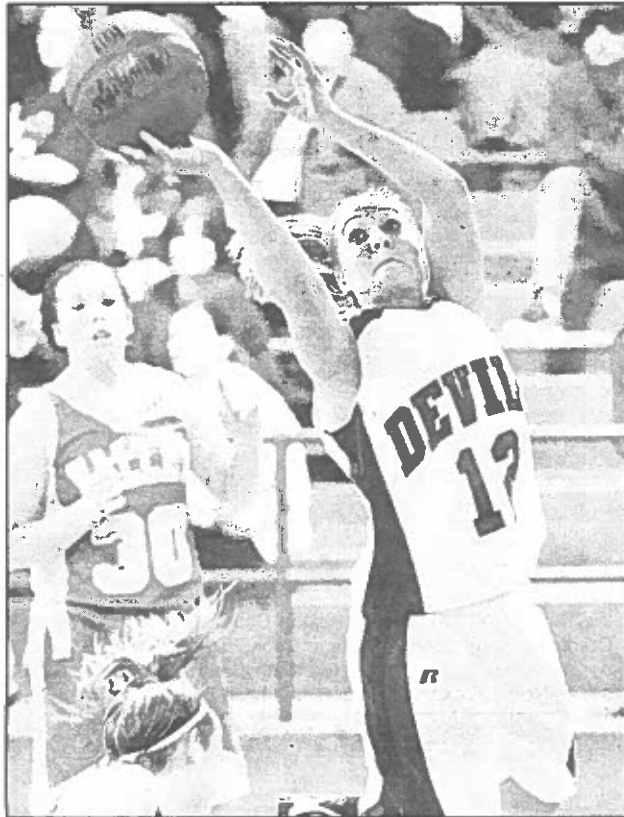
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● 1-A

Continued from Page 3

what we can learn about them." Jarrett said the fact that the Blue Devils and Bishops haven't met makes this matchup even that more unique.

"Playing St. John last year, we knew a lot about them because we had already played them twice," Jarrett added. "This year will be a little bit different, but they are in the same boat. We're just going to go out and play the game that we are capable of hopefully come out on the winning side this year."

On the other side of the court, the Bishops' undefeated run totally came out of the blue as head coach Paige Williams knew the team had the potential, but thought it might be a year away.

"I never expected that we could go 19-0, but I never thought it wasn't possible. Anything is possible with this team," said Williams, who took over for then-head coach Miki Maxwell who had to step down for personal reasons. "They have a lot of talent."

In advancing to the finals, Bishop Donahue knocked

off West Virginia rival Cameron on a last-second shot by leading scorer Alexis Yurisko. Meanwhile, Beallsville rolled past Valley as senior Alyssa Headley poured in a season-high 35 points.

It's the 5-ft.-11 Headley that has Williams worried.

"I'm hoping she's not going to be the nightmare that I'm thinking she's going to be," Williams said of the Blue Devils' leading scorer and rebounder. "They've got a lot more size than we are used to playing against and they are really talented."

Headley, who eclipsed the 1,000-point barrier earlier this season is averaging over 21 points a game. Also averaging double figures are 5-ft.-8 junior point guard Tori Jarrett (12.1) and 5-ft.-4 senior guard Brandy Contos (11.4). The remaining starters are junior forwards 5-ft.-7 Rebecca Garlick (9.5) and 5-ft.-11 Alexis Kanzigg (9.0). Kristen Lallathin, a 5-ft.-7 senior guard, adds depth and support off the bench.

"You couldn't ask for a better couple of players than Alyssa and Brandy," Jarrett

See, 1-A, Page 5

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● 1-A

Continued from Page 4

said. "We try to mix things up, and when we're on, we're a tough team to beat."

Jarrett said the experience of playing on the OUE floor a year ago will definitely help his team. "Any time you get on a floor that you've played on, it's a good thing. But we're up against a good team. You don't get to be 20-0 by chance. They're a good team and we've got to come out and play well."

According to Williams, Beallsville isn't an entirely unknown as the two teams scrimmaged each other prior to this season. However, that was a long time ago and without much preparation.

"Actually, we scrimmaged them earlier in the season, but unfortunately, we only had four or five practices in and three players injured at the time," Williams recalled. "We didn't get a real good look at them, but I know they are pretty talented."

The Bishops are led by the inside-outside duo of the aforementioned Yurisko and 6-ft.-1 junior center Lacey Hampton. The 5-ft.-5 Yurisko scores at an 18-point per game clip, while also leading the team in three-point goals (20), free throws made (132), free throws attempted (171), assists (104) and steals (59).

"She's definitely a major asset to our team," Williams said of the Bishops' go-to player. "She just leads the team in general."

Hampton averages 14.5 points and 6.8 rebounds a contest, while Chrissy Muecheck leads the Green-and-Gold with 9.8 rebounds a game and adds 8.1 points.

"Lacey and Chrissy work really well together down low," Williams added. "We're hoping that Chrissy can get rid of that mask she's been wearing to protect her nose so she can get her peripheral vision back."

Williams said that this won't be the first time that the Bishops have played on a floor the size of OUE's, so it shouldn't be a factor.

"We played at Wheeling Jesuit University in the Undo's Tournament over the holidays. We condition the girls pretty well and their theme with me is that they don't get tired, but I think they usually do in the fourth quarter. They just don't want me to think they are."

Bishop Donahue is also the only team from the West Virginia side of the Ohio River to be competing in the girls' event.

"We'll just try to play the best that we can," concluded Williams.



BEALLSVILLE LADY BLUE DEVILS



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

PICTURED IS the 2008-09 Beallsville Lady Blue Devils Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Alexis Kanzigg, Rebecca Garlick, Brandy Contos, manager Spencer Jarrett, Kristin Lallathin, Alyssa Headley and Tori Jarrett. Second row, from left, are assistant coach Rick Jarrett, Stacia Secrest, Samantha Stephen, Alyssa Tavoletti, manager Troy Hickman, Jessica Campbell, Paige Atkinson, Julie Bilyeu and head coach Terry Jarrett.



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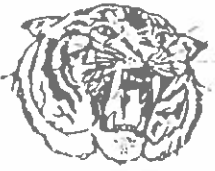
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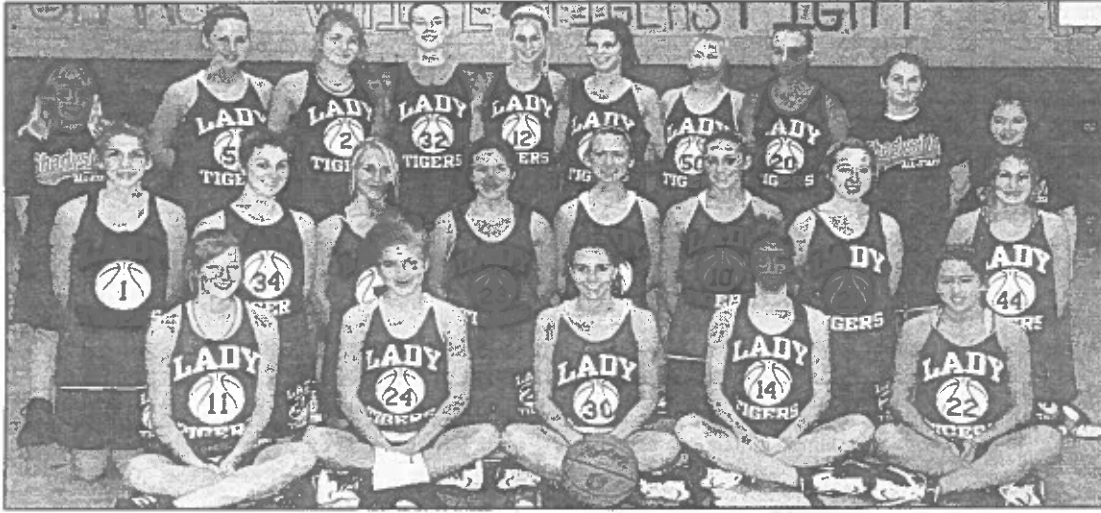
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SHADYSIDE LADY TIGERS



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

PICTURED IS the 2008-09 Shadyside Lady Tigers Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Kylee Gilham, Laken Gibson, Karissa Brown, Ashley Watson and Kayla Stewart. Second row, from left, are Lydia Mack, Jody Howell, Rebecca Haney, Cassie Littleton, Jillian Laslo, Jessica Tollett, Miranda O'Dell and Lauren Stevens. Back row, from left, are manager Sarah Schofield, Alexa Dorris, Brooke Meintel, Sarah Neavin, Jaclyn Johnson, Kelsey Holloway, Jennie Mullett, Amanda Paliswat, manager Lindsey Dunn, manager Destinee Craig. Absent were Aleksa Pielech and Emily Good.

Shadyside, Monroe meet for 2-A title

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

If Troy Baker and his Monroe Central quint are to successfully defend their Wheeling Hospital OVAC 2-A championship, the Lady Noles must solve Shadyside's Lady Tigers.

Twice during regular season play, Monroe dropped relatively close decisions to the Orange & Black, falling 46-43 at Skyvue and later 68-64 in Tiger Town.

Shadyside, under veteran coach Tina Yates, brings a 17-2 record into Saturday morning's 10:00 tipoff in the first of four championship games staged inside Ohio University-Eastern's 2,100-seat Health and Physical Education facility.

"Shadyside is a well-rounded team. We like to think we are as well," said Baker whose Lady Noles own a 15-3 ledger.

"They got us twice this season but our girls are really looking to this third matchup," Baker advised. "I think we'll come in well prepared, based on our

MEET THE 2-A FINALISTS

SHADYSIDE (17-2)

No.	Gr.	Ht.
Kelsey Holloway	4	10 5'7
Rebecca Haney	5	11 5'4
Jessica Tollett	10	9 5'6
Kylee Gilham	11	12 5'6
Jaclyn Johnson	12	11 5'11
Ashley Watson	14	12 5'6
Karissa Brown	20	12 5'7
Kayla Stewart	22	12 5'4
Laken Gibson	24	12 5'7
Cassie Littleton	30	11 5'5
Sarah Neavin	32	10 5'9
Brooke Meintel	34	9 5'7
Lauren Stevens	40	11 5'4
Alexa Dorris	42	9 5'6
Amanda Paliswat	50	11 5'6

Head Coach: Tina Yates
Assistant Coach: Clyde Yates
Assistant Coach: Jenna Johnson
Assistant Coach: Gloria Dorris

MONROE CENTRAL (15-3)

No.	Gr.	Ht.
Melissa Stimpert	3	10 5'5
Alex Kuhn	10	10 5'6
Aleisha Guiler	12	12 5'11
Christina Parden	13	11 5'9
Kim Lafferree	14	12 5'5
Olivia Guiler	15	12 5'5
Karlle Davis	20	12 5'8
Justine LaFollette	21	12 5'8
Ashley Miller	25	10 5'11
Chelsea Robinson	31	10 5'5
Whitney Marshall	33	10 5'10
Laken Zwick	41	10 5'6
Katie Parks	42	11 5'6

Head Coach: Troy Baker
Assistant Coach: Chris Kuhn

semifinal win the other night." Baker refers to third-seeded Monroe's hard-earned 63-58 road triumph

See, 2-A, Page 7

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2-A

Continued from Page 6

at Steubenville Central. That victory over the second-seeded Lady Crusaders nearly proved costly when Monroe senior ace Aleisha Guiler went crashing to the floor early-on.

"We had to play nearly the entire first quarter without her but our kids remained focused and got the job done," Baker observed.

The 5-11 Guiler returned to tally 16 points and Monroe went on to prevail.

"As far as I'm concerned Aleisha Guiler is as good a player as there is in this area," praised Yates. "And obviously, they have several talented players around her. We know beating them a third time won't be easy but our kids are ready and excited for the challenge."

Yates likes the makeup of her team. "It's been a great group to work with, mainly because the girls are so unselfish," she described.

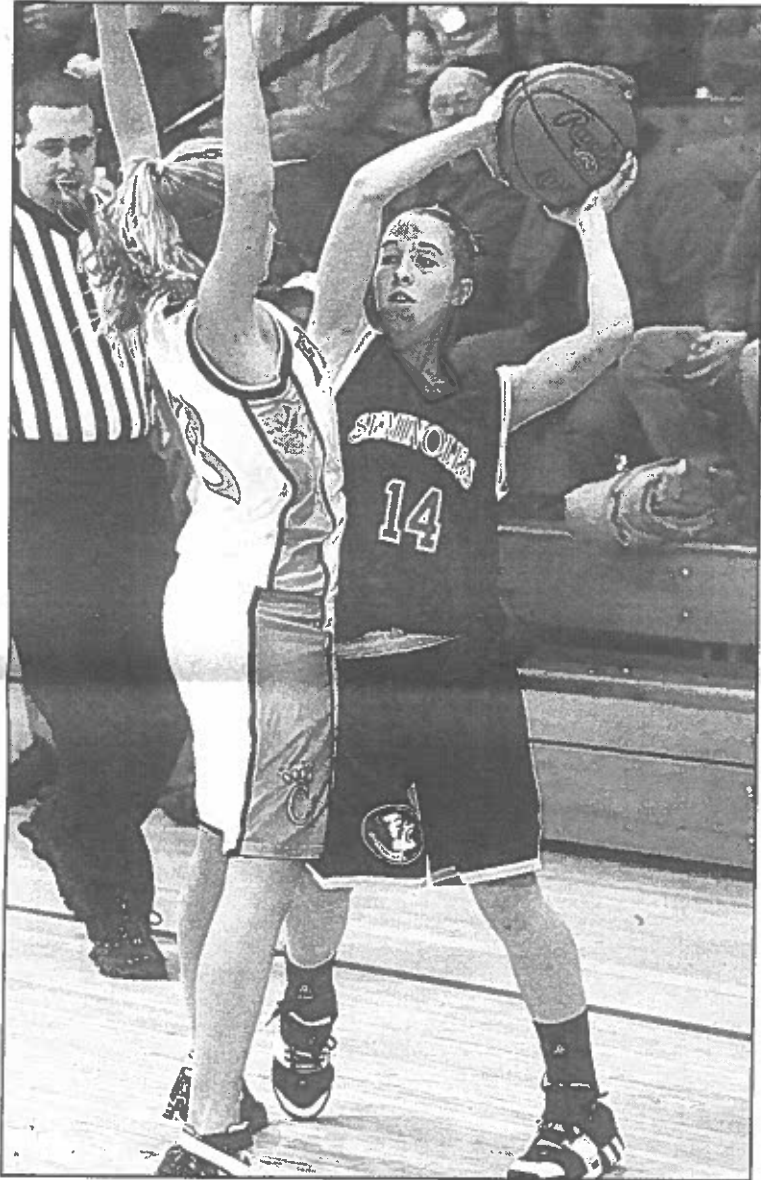
The key to a third decision over Monroe Central? "We need to box out, then rebound. I can't stress that enough," Yates advised.

Shadyside also features one of the valley's top guns in 5-7 senior Laken Gibson. A four-year regular, the versatile Gibson is a constant inside-outside threat, sporting a 15.7 ppg. average.

"Laken does a little of everything well," Yates described. "She's a very good three-point shooter but can also drive to the bucket." Gibson contributes seven rebounds and three assists per start.

The L.T.'s backcourt features another dandy in 5-4 senior Kayla Stewart, a seven-point ppg. performer. Stewart leads the team in steals.

"Kayla is a dependable player who understands the game and makes good on-court decisions," Yates described.



MONROE CENTRAL'S Kim Lafferee looks for somewhere to go with the ball in a game earlier this season. She and the Lady Seminoles will be in action Saturday against Shadyside in the Class 2-A final at OUE. The Lady Tigers swept the previous two meetings.

Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

Senior Karissa Brown is an experienced guard who is comfortable either as a starter or key reserve.

Shadyside's junior force is 5-11 Jaclyn Johnson who nets nine points per outing and six boards. "Jaclyn's an integral part of our makeup. We need to take advantage of her mobility," Yates observed.

The L.T.'s attack is greatly enhanced by 5-7 sophomore Kelsey Holloway, easily one of the valley's premier 10th grade performers.

Holloway runs the floor per game scorer, she is an extremely well. A 13 point- adept outside shooter with

See, 2-A, Page 8



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MONROE CENTRAL LADY SEMINOLES



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK
PICTURED IS the 2008-09 Monroe Central Lady Seminoles Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are assistant coach Chris Kuhn, Olivia Guiler, Karlie Davis, Aleisha Guiler, Justene LaFollette, Kim Lafferee and head coach Troy Baker. Back row, from left, are Alex Kuhn, Katie Parks, Melissa Stimpert, Whitney Marshall, Ashley Miller, Christina Parden, Laken Zwick and Chelsea Robinson.

● 2-A

Continued from Page 7

equal ability to do inside damage.

"Kelsey has enjoyed a solid sophomore season. She's a huge reason for our success," Yates points out.

The Tigers have at least three consistent contributors off the bench — led by the capable Ashley Watson, a 5-6 versatile senior.

Junior Rebecca Haney, at 5-4, provides outstanding depth in the backcourt. And Yates continues to speak highly of 5-9 sophomore Sarah Neavin who aids the Orange's inside attack.

Joining Yates on the Lady Tigers' bench are reliable assistants Clyde Yates, Jenna Johnson and Gloria Dorris.

Monroe's Guiler, meanwhile, is in the process of completing a stellar prep career with the Lady Noles.

The reigning Division III District Player of the Year, Guiler has compiled big-time norms of 21 (points) and 12 (rebounds) during an ultra-production senior campaign.

"Aleshia has truly been a pleasure to coach. She's really developed into a complete player," Baker related.

Monroe has a pair of dandy backcourt talents in

senior Karlie Davis and sophomore Alex Kuhn.

The 5-8 Davis is a relentless player and always-dangerous three-point threat. A three-year starter, Davis nets 13 points per start.

"Karlie possesses excellent court vision. She is a real student of the game," Baker notes.

The 5-6 Kuhn who made a positive impact as a freshman, has enjoyed a formidable sophomore season, resulting in a 13.8 point average. "Alex is great at creating shots. She's also a great finisher," Baker offered.

Though their offensive numbers are relatively modest, seniors Kim Lafferee and Justine LaFollette are major players.

"We haven't won 15 games if not for Kim and Justine's contributions," Baker explained. "They do the little things that often go unnoticed."

Much like the Shadeans, Monroe brings an impressive sophomore to the table.

The 5-10 Whitney Marshall has made occasional starts and more importantly, a definitive

See, 2-A, Page 9

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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 2-A - 10 a.m.; Class 3-A - 1 p.m.; Class 4-A - 4 p.m.; Class 1-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 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.

Fans are also advised to enter OUE from State Rt. 331 and the cost to park has been set at \$2. Obviously parking at the Health and Physical Education Center is limited, so fans are able to park in the Shannon Hall lot and a shuttle service provided by Whiteside's will run continually throughout the day.

Fans are also reminded that no noise makers or signs are to be brought to the game.

Each team will be presented their awards following the game. Individual medals will also be presented to the players and coaches.

The only types of passes that will be accepted are the OVAC passes and anyone with a pass is advised to enter through the pass gate.

Concessions and souvenir t-shirts will be available at OUE Saturday.



SHADYSIDE'S Kelsey Holloway jump stops in a game earlier this week. She and the Lady Tigers will go after the Class 2-A title at 10 a.m. Saturday against Monroe Central.

T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

Past OVAC Basketball Champions

Notation: West Virginia schools played in the fall. Ohio schools played in the winter.
 1976: Wheeling Park
 1977: Steubenville Central, Weirton Madonna
 1978: Wheeling Park, St. Clairsville, Fort Frye
 1979: Wheeling Park, Wheeling Central
 1980: Wheeling Park, Weirton Madonna, Martins

Ferry, Toronto.
 1981: John Marshall, Tyler County, St. Clairsville, Toronto, Bridgeport.
 1982: John Marshall, Tyler County, Steubenville Central, Bridgeport, Beallsville.
 1983: John Marshall, Tyler County, Steubenville Central, Wellsville, Buckeye West.

1984: John Marshall, Bishop Donahue, Steubenville Central, Buckeye Trail, Buckeye West.
 1985: John Marshall, Weirton Madonna, Steubenville, Wellsville, Bellaire St. John's.
 1986: Wheeling Park, Weirton Madonna, Martins Ferry, Wellsville, Buckeye West.
 1987: Brooke, Weirton Madonna, River, Wellsville, Buckeye West.
 1988: Brooke, Wheeling Central, Steubenville Central, River, Buckeye West.
 1989: Brooke, Wheeling Central, Buckeye Southwest, Steubenville Central, Bellaire St. John's.
 1990: Oak Glen, Wheeling Central, Bellaire, Union Local, Bellaire St. John's.
 1991: John Marshall, Weirton Madonna, Bellaire, Union Local, Bellaire St. John's.
 1992: Brooke, Weirton Madonna, Buckeye Local, Wellsville, Bellaire St. John's.
 1993: Brooke, Valley, Bellaire, Union Local, Beallsville.
 1994: John Marshall, Wheeling Central, Bellaire, Wellsville, Bellaire St. John's.
 1995: Steubenville, Wellsville, Bellaire St. John's.
 In the 1995-96 school year, both schools began

See, CHAMPS, Page 14

2-A

Continued from Page 8

impact in the middle.

Junior Christina Parden, at 5-9, is also counted on for key minutes off the Seminoles' bench.

"We're going to need a total team effort against Shadyside but our kids are capable," Baker described.

In addition to the Lady Tigers, Monroe's only other setback was inflicted by fellow Pioneer Valley Conference resident Caldwell.

"I've got to think playing in the highly-competitive PVC has helped us become a better team," Baker observed.

Baker is ably assisted by Chris Kuhn whose Lady Seminoles' jayvees suffered just one setback during the 2008-09 campaign.

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MARTINS FERRY LADY RIDERS



Photo Courtesy/BRIGGS PHOTOGRAPHY
 PICTURED IS the 2008-09 Martins Ferry Lady Riders Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Allison Wright, Chalana Chambliss, Shae Moreland, Breanne Lucas, Karlen Vinci and Courtney Coleman. Middle row, from left, are Shayla Outward, Kelsey Russell, Mallory Pamphilis, Lacey Neavin, Courtney Frohnapfel, Rachel Ferris and Kaci Rykowski. Back row, from left, are Brittley Hill, assistant coach Rick Douglas, Cassandra Reasbeck, Ashley Grall, head coach Dave Reasbeck, Donjonque Johnson, Kylie Clark, manager Pat Job, Chelsea Lucas and Reanna Stobbs.

Ferry, St. C. to meet for third time in 3-A final

• Lady Riders own victories in previous meetings

By **SETH STASKEY**
 Times Leader Sports Editor

There's a cliché in sports that says it's tough to beat a team three times.

Martins Ferry and St. Clairsville's girls basketball teams will have a chance to put that theory to a test Saturday in the second-annual Class 3-A championship game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC

Basketball Championship to be held at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

The 3-A matchup is the second of a quadruple header at OUE Saturday with tip slated for 1 p.m.

The Lady Purple Riders – the top seed in Class 3-A – advanced to their second consecutive title game by virtue of a 45-32 win over Harrison Central in

Monday's semifinal. St. Clairsville – which earned the second seed – dispatched Oak Glen in the opening round by a 53-42 count.

Martins Ferry was a member of the inaugural championship game a year ago, but it was a game that head coach Dave Reasbeck doesn't want to remember anytime soon. His Lady Riders were dealt a 50-33 setback by Barnesville.

"We're more mature than we were last year, but I don't see us taking anything from that game (in 2008) because it wasn't a very good experience," Reasbeck smiled. "We

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See, 3-A, Page 11

MEET THE 3-A FINALISTS

MARTINS FERRY (13-4)		
No.	Gr.	Ht.
Shayla Outward	3	10 5'3"
Kylie Clark	4	11 5'6"
Karlen Vinci	5	12 5'4"
Allison Wright	10	12 5'5"
Courtney Coleman	11	12 5'5"
Chalana Chambliss	12	12 5'4"
Courtney Frohnapfel	13	11 5'7"
Brianne Lucas	20	12 6'0"
Kaci Rykowski	21	9 5'4"
Mallory Pamphilis	22	11 5'9"
Lacey Neavin	23	11 5'4"
Shae Moreland	25	12 6'1"
Kayla Sabatino	31	10 5'3"
Chelsea Lucas	35	10 5'7"
Reanna Stobbs	42	10 5'11"
Head Coach: Dave Reasbeck		
Assist. Coach: Rick Douglas		
Assis. Coach: Greg Harkness		
ST. CLAIRSVILLE (11-7)		
No.	Gr.	Ht.
Laura Smith	4	11 5'2"
Jamie Matkovich	5	10 5'11"
Brooke Cenkus	11	11 5-10
Shinnae Spooner	12	12 5-7
Pallavi Goswami	13	12 5-5
Ashley Gordon	20	10 5-2
Shelby Britton	22	12 5-6
Jesse Machovina	23	9 5-7
Courtney Moulder	25	12 5-6
Chelsea Nemeti	30	11 5-10
Alessia Vivod	32	12 5-6
Sarah Slenski	40	10 5-9
Valerie Toothman	42	11 5-9
Head Coach: Mickey Blatnik		
Assist. Coach: Christa Truchan		
Assist. Coach: Rachel Slenski		

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● 3-A

Continued from Page 10

know what it's all about; we know what the atmosphere will be like and we'll probably change a few of the things we do pre-game to get ready."

St. Clairsville, meanwhile, was a part of the championship bracket last year, but was ousted by these Lady Riders in the semifinals.

"Our girls are very excited about being in this game," said St. C. head coach Mickey Blatnik. "We set this as one of our goals back in April when we started looking toward this season. We wanted to get to this point and then we'll see what happens."

The Lady Riders and Devils are probably a little more than familiar with one another, having already played twice this season as part of the Buckeye 8 schedule. Martins Ferry's won both meetings by decisive scores of 50-35 and 62-43.

"I said before the semifinals that it's a good thing when you play someone you're familiar with," Reasbeck said. "It goes both ways because St. Clairsville is very familiar with what we do, and we know they had some health problems last time, and I am expecting a good game."

Blatnik and Lady Devils are coming into Saturday as a healthy outfit and according to the coach, who surpassed the 300-victory

plateau earlier in the winter, they "are getting better."

"We've been playing pretty good basketball the last few weeks," Blatnik said. "We know Ferry likes to put pressure on you and make you stay out of your offense and then scores on your mistakes."

The Lady Riders are led by a trio of double-figure scorers. Senior Courtney Coleman leads the way for Ferry with a 16 points per game average. She's also one of Ferry's best defenders.

"Everyone talks about Coleman's scoring, but I have been most impressed with her defensive play," Reasbeck said. "She has really held some people in check this year."

One of the difference makers in the Lady Rider lineup is senior post Shae Moreland who uses her 6-ft-2 frame to her advantage. She's averaging 11.4 points a game to go along with nine rebounds and six blocks.

"Shae Moreland is definitely someone we're going to be aware of," Blatnik said. "She's hurt us both times we've played because she changes so many things inside."

Prior to the start of the season, Reasbeck went over his roster and pointed out junior Courtney Frohappfel as a player to watch. And she's done a lot this season to watch, averaging a shade over 11 points an outing.

See, 3-A, Page 12



ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Alessia Vivod is one of the players to watch in the Class 3-A title game as she and the Lady Red Devils meet top-seeded Martins Ferry at OUE in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

T-L File Photo/MIKE PALMER

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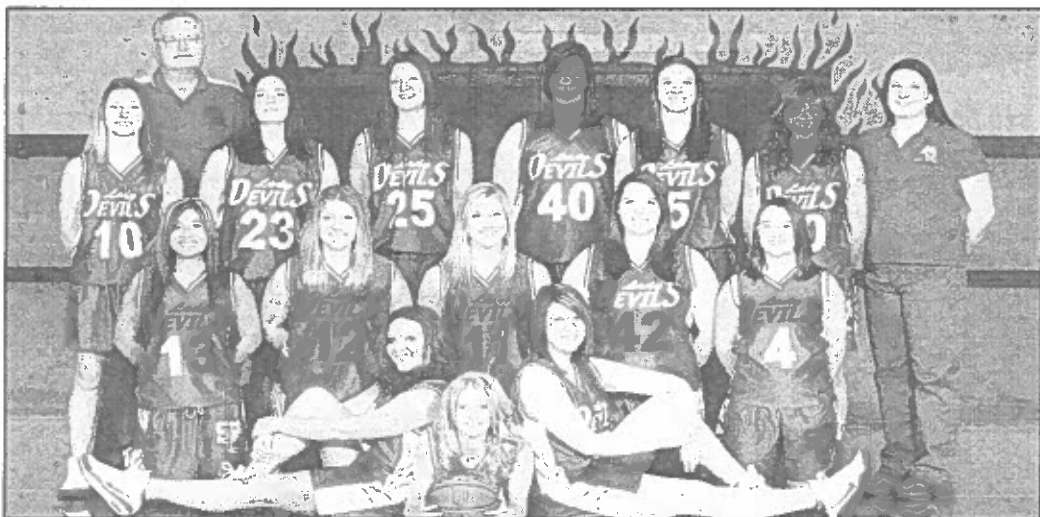
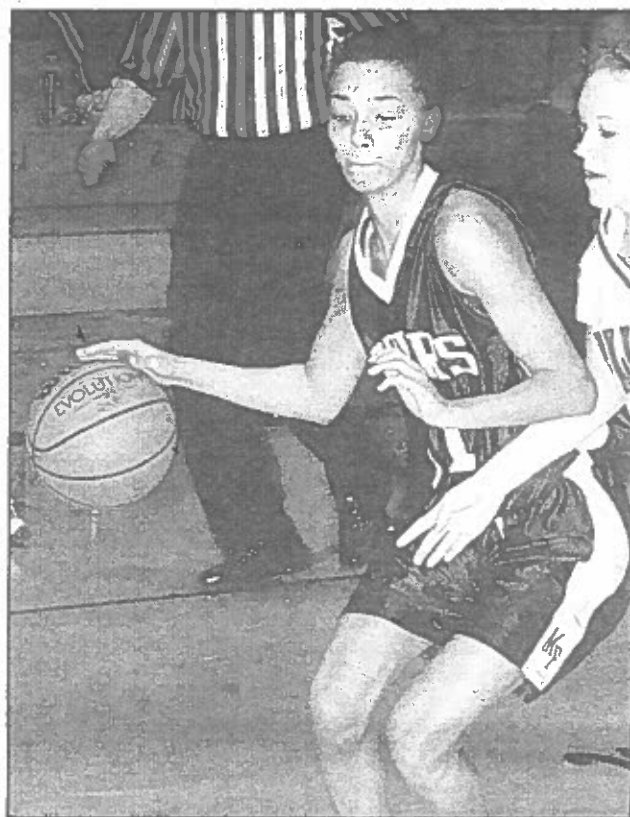


Photo Courtesy/SLAVIK'S PHOTOGRAPHY

PICTURED IS the 2008-09 St. Clairsville Lady Red Devils Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Shelby Britton, Alessia Vivod and Chelsea Nemeti. Second row, from left, are Pallavi Goswami, Shinnae Spooner, Brooke Cenkus, Valerie Toothman and Laura Smith. Back row, from left, are Crystal Myers, head coach Mickey Blatnik, Jesse Machovina, Courtney Moulder, Sarah Slenski, Jamie Matkovich, Ashley Gordon and assistant coach Rachel Slenski.



T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

MARTINS FERRY senior guard Courtney Coleman will be one of the players to watch in Saturday's Class 3-A championship game.

● 3-A

Continued from Page 11

Senior sharpshooter Karlen Vinci has come up big of late, hitting some big shots. For the season, she's averaging seven points a game. Junior Lacey Neavin is the fifth Ferry starter and is averaging three points a game. The top Ferry sub is See, 3-A, Page 13

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OVAC Girls Basketball Championship Records

OVAC BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP RECORDS -

WOMENS INDIVIDUAL MOST POINTS
 1A: 27, Savannah Burke, Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 24, Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 16, Allie Doan, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 16, Mikki Davis, Indian Creek, 2008

MOST FREE THROWS MADE
 1A: 9, Savannah Burke, Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 5, Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 7, Courtney Coleman, Martins Ferry, 2008
 4A: 9, Britana Kamarec, Indian Creek, 2008

BEST FREE THROW PERCENTAGE
 (5 attempts minimum)
 1A: 88% (7/8), Natalie Perzanowski, St. John, 2008
 2A: 100% (5/5), Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 88% (7/8), Courtney Coleman, Martins Ferry, 2008
 4A: 90% (9/10), Britana Kamarec, Indian Creek, 2008

MOST 2-POINT GOALS MADE
 1A: 9, Sara Wamsley, St. John, 2008
 Savannah Burke, Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 10, Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 7, Allie Doan, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 7, Hanna Gossett, John Marshall, 2008

BEST 2-POINT GOAL PERCENTAGE
 (5 attempts minimum)
 1A: 50% (7/14), Alyssa Headley, Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 71% (10/14), Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 56% (5/9), Leah Bettinger, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 70% (7/10), Hanna Gossett, John Marshall, 2008

MOST 3-POINT GOALS MADE
 1A: 2, Natalie Perzanowski, St. John, 2008
 Tori Jarrett, Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 5, Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 3, Lacey Neavin, Martins Ferry, 2008
 Megan Phillips, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 2, Mikki Davis, Indian Creek, 2008

BEST 3-POINT GOAL PERCENTAGE
 (4 attempts minimum)
 1A: 33% (2/6), Tori Jarrett, Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 71% (5/7), Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 75% (3/4), Lacey Neavin, Martins Ferry, 2008
 4A: 50% (2/4), Mikki Davis, Indian Creek, 2008

INDIVIDUAL MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS
 1A: 6, Kristina Velkovich, St. John, 2008
 2A: 2, Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, 2008
 Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
 Kelli Pechtal, Steub. Catholic, 2008
 3A: 7, Leah Bettinger, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 4, Aubrei Clegg, John Marshall, 2008

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS
 1A: 9, Sara Wamsley, St. John, 2008
 2A: 6, Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, 2008
 Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 8, Allie Doan, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 8, Aubrei Clegg, John Marshall, 2008

MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS
 1A: 13, Sara Wamsley, St. John, 2008
 2A: 8, Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, 2008
 Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 14, Leah Bettinger, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 12, Aubrei Clegg, John Marshall, 2008

MOST ASSISTS
 1A: 4, Natalie Perzanowski, St. John, 2008
 2A: 2, Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, 2008
 Ginny Petties, Steub. Catholic, 2008
 Emi'y Canello, Steub. Catholic, 2008
 3A: 3, Brittany Burch, Martins Ferry, 2008
 Courtney Frohnapef, Martins Ferry, 2008
 4A: 4, Ty Harris, Indian Creek, 2008

MOST STEALS
 1A: 5, Kylie Kidder, St. John, 2008
 2A: 5, Ginny Petties, Steub. Catholic, 2008
 3A: 4, Courtney Frohnapef, Martins Ferry, 2008
 4A: 4, Gabbi Davis, Indian Creek, 2008
 Ty Harris, Indian Creek, 2008

TEAM MOST POINTS
 1A: 71, St. John, 2008
 2A: 66, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 50, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 49, Indian Creek, 2008

MOST FREE THROWS MADE
 1A: 17, Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 12, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 9, Martins Ferry, 2008
 4A: 19, Indian Creek, 2008

BEST FREE THROW PERCENTAGE
 (10 attempts minimum)
 1A: 65% (15/23), St. John, 2008
 2A: 75% (12/16), Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 90% (9/10), Martins Ferry, 2008
 4A: 63% (19/30), Indian Creek, 2008

MOST 2-POINT GOALS MADE
 1A: 25, St. John, 2008
 2A: 18, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 16, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 14, John Marshall, 2008

BEST 2-POINT GOAL PERCENTAGE
 (20 attempts minimum)
 1A: 45% (21/47), Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 50% (18/36), Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 64% (16/25), Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 39% (14/36), John Marshall, 2008

MOST 3-POINT GOALS MADE
 1A: 2, St. John, 2008
 Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 6, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 6, Martins Ferry, 2008
 4A: 3, Indian Creek, 2008

BEST 3-POINT GOAL %
 (5 attempts minimum)
 1A: 20% (2/10), Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 50% (6/12), Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 56% (5/9), Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 27% (3/11), Indian Creek, 2008

MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS
 1A: 23, St. John, 2008
 2A: 8, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 10, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 13, John Marshall, 2008

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS
 1A: 26, Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 17, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 22, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 18, John Marshall, 2008

MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS
 1A: 47, St. John, 2008
 2A: 25, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 32, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 31, John Marshall

MOST ASSISTS
 1A: 8, St. John, 2008
 2A: 4, Monroe Central, 2008
 Steubenville Catholic, 2008
 3A: 8, Martins Ferry, 2008
 4A: 7, Indian Creek, 2008

MOST STEALS
 1A: 16, St. John, 2008
 2A: 12, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 12, Martins Ferry, 2008
 4A: 15, Indian Creek, 2008

3-A

Continued from Page 12

Brianne Lucas, Mallory Pamphillis and Chalana Chambliss are also key contributors at times for the Lady Riders.

The Lady Red Devils' offense is led by senior Alessia Vivod who recently went over the 1,000-point mark.

She's averaging 19 points a game and owns a season-high performance of 29 earlier this season vs. Union Local.

The other member of the Lady Devils' one-two punch is athletic junior Brooke Cenkus who averages a double-double with 14 points and 12 boards. Cenkus has been plagued at times by an ankle injury.

"I have been really impressed with Cenkus and we expect her to be full strength Saturday," Reasbeck said.

"We held Vivod to a field goal the last time we played, but we know she's going to score some, but we have to limit their other people."

Blatnik knows those two must serve as the catalysts

Saturday.

"We've got to do some things with other players to get those two free," Blatnik said. "We've worked on our other kids contributing and against Oak Glen we did that. Our kids are realizing that (Vivod) is going to see some junk defenses, so they have to step up."

Senior Shelby Britton has stepped up her play of late.

She's averaging eight points a game. Sophomore Ashley Gordon has been a key contributor with six points and six assists a contest. Senior Courtney Moulder starts on the low block, averaging six points and seven rebounds.

Freshman Jesse Machovina and sophomore Sarah Sienski have alternated in the fifth starting spot much of the second-half of the season, averaging six and eight points, respectively.

Sophomore Jamie Matkovich has come on of late, averaging double figures in her last five games.

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Champs

Continued from Page 14

competing at the same time.

1996: Weirton, Bellaire, Wellsville, Bellaire St. John's.
 1997: Wheeling Park, Martins Ferry, River, Conotton Valley
 1998: Wheeling Park, Bellaire, Wheeling Central, Shadyside.
 1999: Wheeling Park, Oak Glen, Fort Frye, Bellaire St. John's.
 2000: John Marshall, St. Clairsville, Fort Frye, Bellaire St. John's.
 2001: Wheeling Park, Oak Glen, Fort Frye, Bellaire St. John's.
 2002: John Marshall, Martins Ferry, Shadyside, Beallsville.
 2003: Edison, St. Clairsville, Caldwell, Shadyside.
 2004: Wheeling Park, Magnolia, River, Beallsville.
 2005: Brooke, St. Clairsville, Wheeling Central, Shadyside.
 2006: Steubenville, Bellaire, Shenandoah, Bellaire St. John's.
 2007: Steubenville, St. Clairsville, Buckeye Trail, Bellaire St. John's.
 2008: Indian Creek, Barnesville, Monroe Central, Bellaire St. John's.

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Creek seeks to defend 4-A title vs. Edison

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

Saturday afternoon's Wheeling Hospital OVAC 4-A title game matches neighboring eastern Ohio teams from Jefferson County.

Defending big school kingpin Indian Creek puts its unbeaten mark on the line against Edison's Lady Wildcats.

Coach Erin DeSantis' Lady Redskins twice upended Edison during regular season play. However, the Creek's veteran coach

stresses that was then. "The fact (Edison) went on the road and defeated a good John Marshall team (in the 4-A semifinals) speaks volumes about how they're playing right now," she remarked.

First-year Wildcats' Coach Tony Kovalesky acknowledges his club is making strides.

"We're probably playing our best basketball of the season. That's what you'd hope for," Kovalesky remarked.

"Having said that, we realize the challenge of

playing an outstanding and very well-balanced Creek team. But our girls appear motivated and they're excited about this opportunity."

Kovalesky isn't joking when he labels Indian Creek a balanced ball club.

"That's definitely one of our strengths," DeSantis confirms. "All five of our starters are averaging anywhere between nine and 12 points. Most of it has to do with work ethic and playing so well together on the floor."

Despite a roster devoid of a single senior, DeSantis

has her quint again playing at a high level.

To qualify for Saturday afternoon's 4:00 tipoff, the Creek was forced to hold off another rival — Steubenville Big Red — in a 56-54 semifinal conquest.

"That was a great test for our team against a quality Steubenville opponent," DeSantis noted.

Expect four juniors and a sophomore to take the floor in this much-anticipated big school confrontation.

Sisters Gabbi (5-5) and Mikki Davis (5-6) are an experienced, savvy pair

well-complemented in the backcourt by 5-5 junior Ty Harris.

Creek's inside production is sparked by 5-11 forward Meghan Billick and 5-10 sophomore Briana Kamarec.

Off the bench, 5-8 junior Chelsea Furda provides versatility and 5-5 sophomore Emily Mathieu is a capable shooter.

"We feel good about our first seven," DeSantis observed. "We have to be considered a little undersized and need to take advantage of our quickness."

Three additional juniors on the roster include: 5-8 guard Hannah Ross; 5-6 guard Miranda Nicholson; and 5-5 guard Allans Sida.

The sophomore class features 5-11 Mariah Guisto and 5-2 guard Brittany Vella.

A six-player freshman
See, 4-A, Page 15

MEET THE 4-A FINALISTS

INDIAN CREEK (19-0)		
	No.	Gr. Ht.
Chelsea Furda	3	11 5'8
Mikki Davis	10	11 5'6
Gabbi Davis	11	11 5'5
Allanna Sida	13	11 5'5
Miranda Nicholson	15	11 5'6
Hannah Ross	21	11 5'8
Ty Harris	32	11 5'5
Meghan Billick	43	11 5'11
Briana Kamarec	4	10 5'10
Emily Mathieu	12	10 5'5
Mariah Guisto	23	10 5'11
Brittany Vella	1	10 5'2
Head Coach: Erin DeSantis		
Assistant Coach: Gene Evans		
Assistant Coach: Ray Case		
EDISON (13-5)		
	No.	Gr. Ht.
Megan Antigo	13	12 5'7
Kaitlin Blake	30	12 5'9
Adrienne McEwen	22	12 5'9
Marah Noland	25	12 5'7
Amanda Bake	52	11 5'10
Danielle Busana	41	11 5'3
Meghan Potock	43	11 5'6
Kayla Richardson	10	11 5'0
Courtney Robinson	32	11 5'5
Sierra Woodward	31	11 5'6
Carissa Myler	15	10 5'10
Kasey DellaPenna	51	9 5'8
Kayla Prokopakis	33	9 5'8
Kristin Prokopakis	4	9 5'6
Savannah Snyder	1	9 5'7
Head Coach: Tony Kovalesky		
Assist. Coach: Chuck Woodward		

EDISON LADY WILDCATS

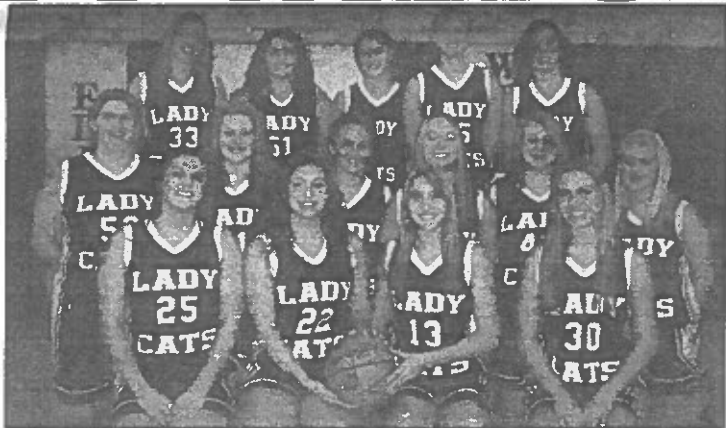


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2008-09 Edison Lady Wildcat Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Marah Noland, Adrienne McEwen, Megan Antigo and Kaitlin Bake. Middle row, from left, are Amanda Blake, Sierra Woodward, Danielle Busana, Courtney Robinson, Meghan Potock and Kayla Richardson. Back row, from left, are Kayla Prokopakis, Kasey Della Penna, Savannah Snyder, Carissa Myler and Kristin Prokopakis.



T-L File Photo/MIKE PALMER

INDIAN CREEK'S Ty Harris is one of the go-to players for the Lady Redskins who meet Edison for the Class 4-A title.

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GOOD LUCK LADY WILDCATS, COACH KOVALESKY & COACH WOODWARD AT THE OVAC FINALS FROM...

Edison High School Athletic Boosters

● 4-A

Continued from Page 14

contingent consists of forwards Megan Hukill (5-6); Meagan Anderson (5-5); Hillary Carney (5-8) and Amber Magnusen (5-5).

Ninth grade backcourt prospects are 5-6 Ashley Starr and 5-4 Kristen Riapos.

DeSantis' capable staff includes assistants Gene Evens and Ray Case.

Kovalesky, who compiled in excess of 400 junior varsity victories over a 30-year span, has a relatively well-rounded Lady Wildcat roster bolstered by four seniors and some talented underclassmen.

"We're pretty much a blue collar-type team," he remarked.

"Truthfully, these girls exceeded my expectations

this season."

Senior point guard Megan Antigo, at 5-7, is a two-year starter, averaging seven points and four assists per game.

Another 12th grader, 5-9 post Adrienne McEwen, nets some 10 points per start and is the Lady Cats' leading rebounder, bringing down six per game.

Edison's inside attack is

enhanced by 5-9 senior Kaitlin Blake, a force under the boards as well as a premier volleyball performer at the Richmond-based school.

Perhaps, the Lady Cats' 'X-factors' reside in the backcourt where freshman sisters Kristen and Kayla Prokapakis have been solid contributors.

The 5-8 Kayla is a 12

ppg. scorer with a season-high 24-point output against John Marshall on her resume.

Two inches shorter, though no less fearless, Kristen Prokapakis also adds 12 points per outing to the attack, including a 22-point regular season performance vs. Buckeye Local.

Senior Marah Noland (5-

7) contributed a six-point average while promising 5-10 sophomore Carissa Myler has displayed steady progress.

"I've just told the girls to go out there and leave everything on the floor against Creek. I really believe our kids are pumped to play them a third time."


Kovalesky is assisted by Chuck Woodward.

INDIAN CREEK LADY REDSKINS



Photo Courtesy/PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORGE PICTURED IS the 2008-09 Indian Creek Lady Redskins Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Gabbi Davis, Brittany Vella, Emily Mathieu, Alanna Sida, Ty Harris and Mikki Davis. Back row, from left, are head coach Erin DeSantis, Hannah Ross, Chelsea Furda, Mariah Giusto, Meghan Billick, Bri Kamarac, Miranda Nicholson, assistant coach Ray Case and assistant coach Gene Evens.

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GOOD LUCK OVAC GIRLS TEAMS!

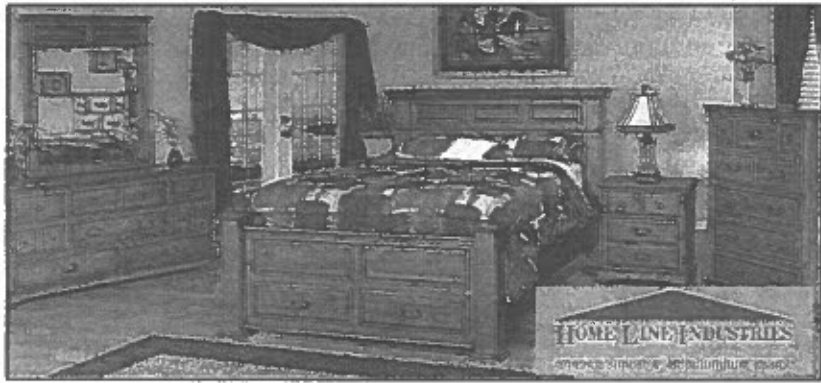


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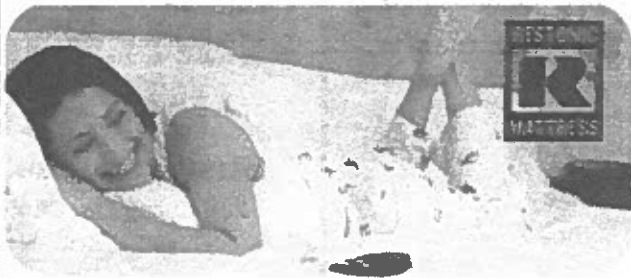
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Sunday News-Register

FEBRUARY 15, 2009

SPORTS

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Daytona 500/Page 5

Saturday's Scoreboard/Page 6

WHEELING HOSPITAL OVAC GIRLS' BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Redskins
Remain
PerfectIndian Creek endures a
tough test from EdisonBy MIKE MATHISON
For the News-Register

BELMONT — For 8 minutes it looked like the Edison girls' basketball team was going to get blown out of the gym at Ohio University-Eastern by rival Indian Creek.

The Redskins were running the floor at will, getting easy buckets inside by Meghan Billick and it appeared the Wildcats had no answers after they were down 25-8 through one period.

But, there were still 24 minutes to play.

Edison made a brilliant comeback and, after being down 46-34 with 4:52 left, trailed 48-45 thanks to an Adrienne McEwen jumper with 2:18 still to play.

Class AAAAA But, the Wildcats got no closer and the Redskins held on to their breath and dear life for a 53-48 victory Saturday in the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Basketball Tournament Class AAAAA title game.

The victory gave Indian Creek back-to-back OVAC trophies and moved its perfect mark to 19-0.

"If we didn't have that first quarter we wouldn't be standing here with the championship trophy," said Redskins coach Erin DeSantis, whose team has won 36 of its last 40 games. "We did some good things (Saturday). But, you have to give Edison credit for hanging in there and coming back."

"I don't think we did as good of a job mentally in the second half as we did in the first half."

What was a dream start for DeSantis, was a nightmare for Wildcats coach Tony Kovalesky.

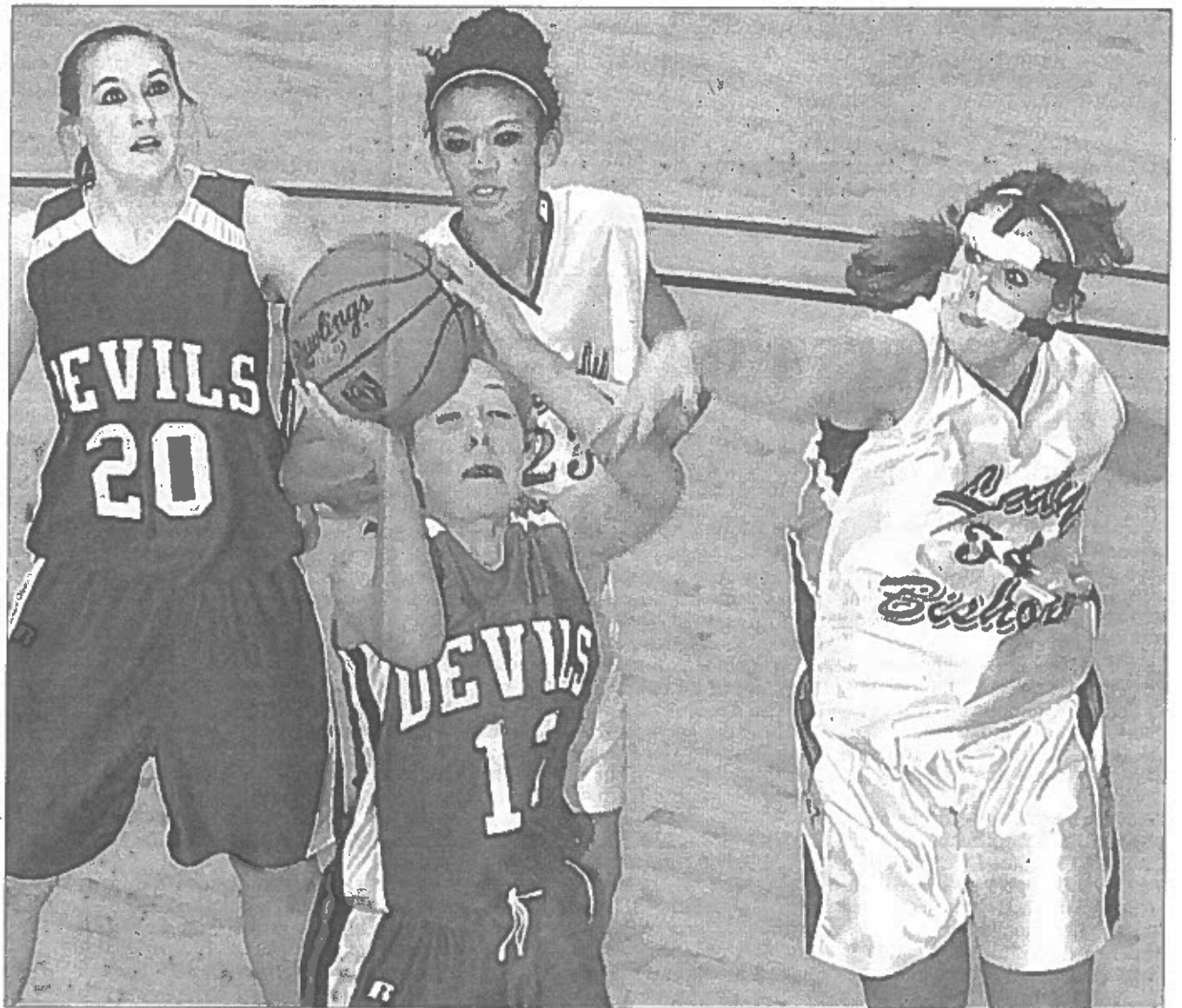
"I think their experience in having played in this game before was the difference in the first quarter," Kovalesky said. "They just came out ready to play. I think we were nervous, jittery."

"But, we won the second quarter, the third quarter and the fourth quarter. We just got too far behind in the first quarter. It seems like every time we play Indian Creek the total gets closer. It went from (losing by) 15 to 12 to five."

"Maybe the fourth time will be the charm. I think Erin would like to avoid that. But, I would like to play them more than anyone else."

A possible fourth meeting could occur in the Division-II sectional tournament at OUE in two weeks.

See, Redskins, Page B4



Beallsville's Brandi Contos (12) shoots during Saturday's game as she is surrounded by teammate Alexis Kanzigg (20) and Bishop Donahue's Lacey Hampton (23) and Chrissy MucHECK (34).

Photo by Mike Palmer

Devils Dominate

Donahue loses first
at hands of BeallsvilleBy TRACY WATSON
For The News-Register

BELMONT — Bishop Donahue's dream season may not have come to an end Saturday night on the campus of Ohio University-Eastern.

Unfortunately for Coach Paige Williams and her Bishops, hopes of an unbeaten campaign and a first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference tournament championship did.

Senior Alyssa Headley dropped in a game-high 18 points as Beallsville continually controlled the inside with second-chance points and the second-seeded Blue Devils ran away with a 58-37 verdict against previously unbeaten Bishop Don-

ahue in the OVAC Class A championship game.

The victory moves Coach Terry Jarrett's Beallsville squad to 16-3, but more importantly erases the memories of last season's loss to St. John Central in the conference title tilt.

"We felt that we should be back this year and it was a goal of ours," an elated Jarrett said. "These girls work so hard and play so well together and they deserve everything they get."

"This team is very unselfish and I think the big key to our success is doing the things we do in the summer and playing the bigger teams that we play."

For Williams' team, it is the first loss in 21 games, but it is not the end of the road.

Class A

"I told the girls not to hang their heads," she said. "They have been phenomenal to this point and there are a lot of people who didn't expect this kind of season from us."

"I am so very proud of these girls. Second place is not what we wanted, but we didn't even get here last year and it is better than nothing."

With nothing falling for the Devils early on, the Bishops jumped to a 9-0 advantage. But the designated guests finally got going and scored seven points in the final 2:16 to cut the deficit to 13-7.

That was a sign of things to come as Headley really heated up in the second quarter, as did Beallsville. Trailing 15-9 with 6:21 showing in the half, the Blue Devils went on a 14-1 tear before pulling into a 27-19 halftime upperhand.

See, Devils, Page B4

Martins Ferry Prevails in 2-OT Thriller

Moreland registers
20 against DevilsBy KIM NORTH
For the News-Register

BELMONT — The Martins Ferry girls' basketball team earned some redemption Saturday afternoon at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

The Purple Riders (14-4) rallied past Belmont County rival St. Clairsville by a 49-44 count in double overtime to claim the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class AAA championship.

Martins Ferry advanced to last season's title tilt, only to fall to Barnesville.

"This is for everyone that has ever put up with me," Martins Ferry coach Dave Reasbeck said. "I looked up in the stands and saw some girls that played for me before. This win is for all of them."

The two rivals were deadlocked at 42-42 after four quarters and one overtime session, but the Purple Riders broke a 44-44 tie early in the second extra period by scoring the game's final five points.

"That was a great game."

Class AAA

Reasbeck continued. "It's a shame that someone had to lose. Win or lose, I couldn't be any prouder of my girls. It was a great game to be involved with."

Senior Shae Moreland scored what proved to be the game-winning points with 2:05 remaining in the second OT. It was the final two of her game-high 20.

"She was a stud," Reasbeck said of his 6-foot-1 post player.

Moreland, who admitted she didn't play one of her better

games, said. "I did all right, I guess. I just try and get the job done, and I guess I did."

"(Brooke) Cenkus is one of the best defenders that I've played against," she added. "They double-teamed me for a while and then they quit. That's when I scored."

Moreland tallied at least four points in each quarter except for the first when she was scoreless.

"When she got the ball, she executed," veteran St. Clairsville coach Mickey Blatnik said.

See, Thriller, Page B4



Photo by Mike Palmer

Martins Ferry's Courtney Coleman, right, drives past St. Clairsville's Jesse Machovina on Saturday.

Second Half Surge Keys Seminoles' Repeat

Remain Perfect

Indian Creek endures a tough test from Edison

By MIKE MATHISON
For the News-Register

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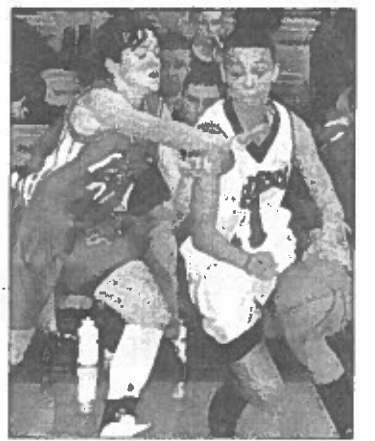


Photo by Mike Palmer

Martins Ferry's Courtney Coleman, right, drives past St. Clairsville's Jesse Machovina on Saturday.



Photo by Mike Palmer

Monroe Central's Aleisha Guiler, right, drives against Shadyside's Kayla Stewart on Saturday.

Second-Half Surge Keys Seminoles Repeat

Guiler scores 15 points against Shadyside

By RICH GIBSON
For the News-Register

BELMONT — Monroe Central has repeated as Wheeling Hospital OVAC champions.

Aleisha Guiler scored 15 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, sparking Coach Troy Baker's team to a 50-42 victory against Shadyside on Saturday morning at Ohio University-Eastern.

The Seminoles defended their Class AA crown by pulling away from Tina Yates' Tigers with a decisive second-half run.

"We had dropped two regular-season games to Shadyside, so naturally, our girls were looking forward to this third meeting," Baker said. "I'm especially pleased for our seniors. (This second) OVAC title is a tribute to their hard work and dedication.

"And I can't say enough about Shadyside. They are a quality team in every respect."

While Guiler overcame a slow start to play a pivotal role in the outcome, a pair of Monroe Central underclassmen also were difference-makers.

Sophomores Alex Kuhn (11

Class AA

points) and Whitney Marshall (10) helped show the way as the Seminoles won for a 16th time in 19 starts.

Shadyside, meanwhile, experienced what proved a fatal 4-minute stretch in the third quarter's waning moments. The drought carried over to the fourth's early stages.

"We had several unforced turnovers that really hurt," Yates said. "And give Monroe credit. They came up big on the boards when they had to."

Though the Noles had mounted an 11-point lead with 6 minutes to play, Shadyside gamely rallied, twice reducing its deficit to three points in the closing seconds.

The Tigers may well have gotten closer had Monroe not landed two critical offensive rebounds off missed foul shots.

"No question, those were huge," Baker said.

"What really mattered, though, are the seven foul shots we made (in the fourth quarter)."

See, Repeat, Page B4

Continued from page B1

Trailing 42-35, Shadyside sophomore Kelsey Holloway connected on a 3-pointer, rallying the Tigers within four with 2:10 remaining. Seconds later, veteran Kayla Stewart swished a foul shot and Shadyside was down three, 42-39 with 1:50 to play.

But Monroe Central senior Justine LaFollette came up big at the other end, draining a 7-foot jumper to make it a 44-39 issue.

Back came the Tigers with junior guard Rebecca Haney nailing a putback for a 44-41 count at 0:43. Monroe answered, however, when senior Kim Lafferre made her only two points, a back-breaker for Shadyside.

Lafferre's two foul shots upped the score to 46-41. A Holloway free throw reduced it to 46-42, but LaFollette and senior ace Karlie Davis, however, drained two foul shots apiece to close it out.

"Of course we're disappointed. The girls are hurting right now," Yates said. "But I told them to look at the bigger picture. We're not finished yet."

Nor are the Seminoles, with both teams beginning sectional tournament play this week.

DEVILS

Continued from page B1

Jarrett's determined bunch then opened the third on a 13-3 run that pushed the lead to 40-22. Overall, from the final second of the first quarter until the 2:44 mark of the third, Beallsville

outscored Donahue by a 35-9 margin, with most of the points coming in the paint.

The closest the Bishops got was 46-33 on an Alexa Yurisko conventional three-point with 4:09 to play. But that was followed by a 10:00 Blue Devils spurt that put the finishing touches on a championship victory.

"We had some nerves and jitters early on, but once we settled down we started playing our brand of basketball," Jarrett said. "I think the situation of being here last year played a part in that happening."

Not to take anything away from Bishop Donahue, but once we really got going I felt it was going to end up like it did. You have to give all the credit to these young ladies, they work so hard. I think that playing high-quality teams is also a big factor in getting to this point.

"We have a very balanced team and these girls honestly don't care who scores how many points."

While Headley finished with game-highs of 18 points and 13 rebounds,

Saturday's opening 16 minutes saw Shadyside take a 10-8 lead after one before the Noles came back to forge an 18-18 intermission deadlock.

"I think some nerves came into play (in the first half)," Baker said. "I don't know how many layups we missed. But our defense kept us in the game."

Both teams returned from the locker room and turned their level of play up a notch.

Kuhn was forced to the bench after picking up her fourth personal foul, but the Seminoles stayed the course.

"Losing Alex was big, I thought she carried us early," Baker said. "We made a concerted effort to pound the ball inside (in the second half) and that allowed us many more open looks."

Of which the superlative Guiler finished with an array of easy buckets.

"I've said it before, I don't think there's a more well-rounded player in the valley than Aleisha Guiler," Yates said. "She's a major force as a scorer, rebounder and defender."

The 5-foot-10 Marshall also excelled, netting eight of her 10 points following the break.

Brandi Contos chipped in with 15 points and Alexis Kanzigg contributed 10 points and 12 boards to complete the double-double.

Yurisko had a team-high 11 for the Bishops, but struggled with fouls and shooting all night. Junior Lacey Hampton tallied nine points 11 rebounds, but, seven of those points came in the first period.

"For most of the game we really just never got the offense going," Williams said. "That may be my fault because all season I have preached defense, defense, defense. We had some calls not go our way which helped get us into foul trouble also."

"We are always a very aggressive team and that is how you win championships. We play every game as aggressive as we can, but (Saturday) we didn't get some calls and it hurt us. We have been down in some games and had to comeback late, but (this) just wasn't our night. This team usually finds a way to win."

THRILLER

Continued from page B1

"We were worried about (Courtney) Coleman and Courtney (Frohnappel), and Moreland beat us."

St. Clairsville (11-8) grabbed the early lead and held the advantage until late in the third quarter when Frohnappel tickled the twine with a trifecta from the right wing that pushed Martins Ferry ahead, 27-26. The Purple Riders led 29-28 after three.

It appeared the Purple Riders were headed for an easy victory as they led by six, 38-32, with 4:03 left after Karlen Vinci dropped in a trey from the left wing, but the Red Devils didn't quit.

Senior Alessia Vivod, St. Clairsville's 1,000-point scorer, and junior Cenkus sparked a late rally by combining for eight points. It was Vivod's off-balance shot in the lane that knotted the count at 38-38 with 55 seconds to go.

Frohnappel drove the lane as time was winding down, but her shot was off the mark and St. Clairsville rebounded to send the game to overtime.

"She (Frohnappel) thought she ended the world when she missed that shot," recalled Reasbeck. "I told them nothing was hurt. We just needed to win the next 4 minutes."

Tied at 40-40, the Purple Riders took the lead on Moreland's basket with 50 seconds left, but the Red Devils countered with two Vivod free throws at the 20-second mark to draw even again.

And again, Martins Ferry held for the final shot, but Coleman's 3 from the left corner was bounced off the rim and the game was headed to a second OT.

"I've got to give credit to my girls," Blatnik praised. "They made three great stops defensively down the stretch that allowed us to stay in the game."

"Offensively, when you play two overtimes it comes down to making baskets. We had our chances but couldn't convert at crucial times."

It was the third victory against St. Clairsville for Martins Ferry this season, but the prior two contests were blowouts.

"I knew coming in that this was going to be a tough game," Reasbeck said. "It's hard to beat a team three times in the same season, let alone a rival like St.C. Bad-coached teams don't make changes, but good-coached teams like St.C. do and that's what they did."

In addition to Moreland's 20, Frohnappel added 11, and Coleman and Vinci had seven each. Moreland also grabbed a game-high 11 rebounds as the winners held a 27-26, edge off the glass.

Cenkus came off the bench to score a team-high 18 points for the Red Devils, while Vivod added 13 before fouling out late in the second OT. Cenkus also hauled down 10 rebounds.

The two teams were plagued with turnovers as St. Clairsville had three more at 21-18.

REDSKINS

Continued from page B1

They need to take of business in their games Feb. 23, but that will be no easy task.

Billick scored 12 of her game-high 16 points in the first quarter.

"That's what we wanted to do," DeSantis said. "I guess everyone felt confident with me," Billick said. "They kept feeding me the ball and I kept scoring."

Mikki Davis added 12 points and Ty Harris 11 for the Redskins, who do not have a senior on the team.

Kayla Prokopakis led Edison with 13 points. Kristin Prokopakis added 10. Megan Antigo nine and McEwen eight.

"It was all about who wanted it the most, that's what we said in the locker room," Harris said.

What didn't help Indian Creek was its 3-for-12 performance from the free-throw line in the final quarter. It finished 7-for-18 for the game.

Harris netted two free throws with 1:59 showing for a 50-45 lead.

No one scored again until Gabbi Davis made the second of two foul shots 59 seconds later.

Carissa Myler canned a pair at the line to make it 51-47 with 47.6 unplayed.

Bri Kamarec hit a short jumper with 31.6 to go for a 53-47 cushion.

"I don't think anything could prepare you for this if you've never been here before," Kovalesky said. "I wish every OVAC championship had this type of atmosphere."

"Both crowds were positive. It's the most exciting game we've been in this year."

- Wheeling, W.Va.

SPO

PREP BOX SCORES

BOYS	
OVAC Consolations	
Class AAAA	
Weir 75, East Liverpool 52	
E — Dickey 5 4-5 16, Leavell 4 0-0 8, Webb 2 2-2 6, English 2 0-0 6, Thompkins 1 3-3 5, Prentice 2 0-0 4, Kuhn 2 0-0 4, Blankenship 0 1-2 1, Beverly 0 2-2 2, Totals: 18 12 14 52, 3-pointers: Dickey 2, English 2.	
W — Campbell 8 0-0 16, Burns 5 0-0 12, Collett 5 2-2 12, Horstman 4 1-2 11, Lengyel 4 0-0 8, Jones 1 2 4, Perkins 1 2-2 4, Brogdon 1 0-0 3, Taffan 1 0-0 3, Cato 1 0-0 2, Totals: 31 7-8 75.	
3-Point Goals: Dickey 2, English 2, Burns 2, Horstman 2, Taffan, Brogdon.	
East Liverpool 2 18 10 22 — 52	
Weir 18 15 22 20 — 75	
Class AAA	
Magnolia 78, Oak Glen 61	
O — Rowland 4 10 3-3 12, Owings 8-23 2-6 19, Z.Mazeka 3-8 0-2 8, Barnhart 0-2 2-2 2, Travaglio 5-10 1-2 11, James 0-0 0-0 0, Ford 0-0 0-0 0, Poling 0-1 0-0 0; Shaderline 3-6 3-6 9; M.Mazeka 0-0 0-0 0, Totals: 23-60 11-21 61.	
M — J.Blatt 4-8 3-10 11; Robinson 1-5 1-2 3; Yost 4-9 0-0 8; Sapp 8-11 7-8 28; J.Rine 5-10 4-4 15; T.Keller 2-4 3-4 9; M.Rine 0-1 0-0 0; Herrick 0-0 0-0 0; Moore 1-3 1-2 4; Huggins 0-0 0-0 0; J.Keller 0-0 0-0 0; N.Blatt 0-0 0-0 0, Totals: 25-51 19-30 78.	
3-Pt. Goals: Z.Mazeka 2, Owings, Rowland, Sapp 5, T.Keller 2, Moore, J.Rine.	
Oak Glen 7 13 20 21 — 61	
Magnolia 25 16 14 23 — 78	
Class AA	
Shadyside 61, Shenandoah 55	
S — Rataiczak 8 1-4 17; Johnson 5 4-7 16; Farnsworth 5 1-2 14; Yniguez 2 1-2 6; Bates 1 0-0 2; Dimmerling 0 0-1 0, Totals: 21 7-16 55.	
Sha — Schuetz 9 1-1 22; Andes 5 0-0 15; Brooks 5 2-4 12; Butts 4 0-2 8; Cline 1 0-1 2; Emery 1 0-0 2; Brown 0 0-0 0, Totals: 25 3-8 61.	
3-Pt. Goals: Farnsworth 3, Johnson 2, Yniguez, Andes 5, Schuetz 5.	
Shenandoah 17 7 16 15 — 55	
Shadyside 16 16 17 12 — 61	
Class A	
Paden City 63, Cameron 37	
C — Marling 1-8 0-0 2; Adji-Andon 0-1 0-0 0; Andadora 1-1 0-0 2; Sears 0-1 0-0 0; Higginson 0-7 0-1 0; Scott 3-6 0 0 7; J.Koontz 2-8 0-0 4; Ward 5-11 1-3 11; Holmes 4-8 3-6 11; Cottrell 0-0 0-0 0, Totals: 16-51 4 10 37.	
PC — Blatt 1-1 2-2 4; Thoburn 8-13 0-0 20; Anderson 3-8 2-4 8; Yost 0-1 0-0 0; Cosper 0-3 4-4 4; Bennett 4-6 1-1 10; Bidwell 0-1 0-0 0; Wright 6-11 0-0 17; Hinkley 0-0 0-0 0; Still 0-0 0-0 0; Loy 0-0 0-0 0, Totals: 22-44 9-11 63.	
3-Point Goals: Scott; Wright 5, Thoburn 4, Bennett	
Cameron 8 10 10 9 — 37	
Paden City 19 15 11 18 — 63	
Toronto 65, Beallsville 59	
T — Gorman 0 3-3 3; Radkany 6 4-6 16; Zeigler 5 0-0 10; Wilson 6 0-3 12; Shimmel 5-1 3-11; Takacs 3 3-6 9; Ludewig 2 0-0 4, Totals: 27 11-21 65.	
B — Spence 0 0-0 0; Stephens 5 2-5 14; Mellinger 0 1-5 1; L.Lukas 1 4-4 6; Jackson 4 1-4 10; Darby 9 10-14 28, Totals: 19 18-32 59.	
3-Pt. Goals: Stephens 2, Jackson.	
Toronto 16 6 24 19 — 65	
Beallsville 16 9 18 16 — 59	
River 61, Weirton Madonna 30	
W — Ferguson 2 0-4 4; Perna 1 0-0 3; Capito 0 0-2 0; Magnone 2 1-2 6; Rokisky 0 0-0 0; Conti 2 0-2 6; Arlia 1 3-4 5; Pietranton 1 0-2 2; Greco 2 0-2 4, Totals: 11 4-18 30.	
R — T.Potts 2 0-0 5; Stewart 1 0-0 2; Dylan D.Potts 8 5-9 21; Stalder 1 0-0 2; Jeffers 5 7-10 17; Ramsier 0 1-2 1; Wax 0 2-2 2; J.Potts 3 3-5 9; Brown 1 0-0 2; Safreed 0 0-0 0; Caretti 0 0-0 0, Totals: 21 18-28 61.	
3-Pt. Goals: Perna, Magnone, Conti 2; T.Potts.	
Weirton Madonna 1 13 7 9 — 30	
River 14 13 19 15 — 61	
Linsly 57, Martins Ferry 52	
M — Nagel 0-1 0-0 0; Richetti 1-3 1-2 3; Roach 4-7 1-1 11; McGee 5-12 3-3 13; Saunders 0-0 0-0 0; Driver 5-11 0-0 12; Francis 1-7 3-4 5; Seum 0-0 0-0 0; Burruss 3-8 2-6 8, Totals: 18-49 10-16 57.	
L — Popic 2-8 2-2 6; Weimer 8-13 2-2 22; Milton 2-11 0-1 5; Fahey 4-6 0-0	

- Wheeling, W.Va.

Counsel / B4
Comics / B5

SPORTS

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

CLASS A

No. 1 Donahue 53, No. 4 Cameron 51
No. 2 Beallsville 78, No. 3 Valley 60
Championship
Saturday, 7 p.m. at OUE
No.1 Donahue vs. No. 2 Beallsville
Consolation
No.4 Cameron at No. 3 Valley

CLASS AA

No. 1 Shadyside 72, No. 4 Frontier 62
No. 3 Monroe 62, No. 2 Steub. CC 58
Championship
Saturday, 10 a.m. at OUE
No. 1 Shadyside vs. No. 3 Monroe
Consolation
No. 4 Frontier at No. 2 Steub. CC



CLASS AAA

No. 1 Ferry 45, No. 4 Harrison 32
No. 2 St. C. 53, No. 3 Oak Glen 42
Championship
Saturday, 1 p.m. at OUE
No. 1 Ferry vs. No. 2 St. Clairsville
Consolation
No. 4 Harrison at No. 3 Oak Glen

CLASS AAAA

No. 1 In. Creek 56, No. 4 Steub. 54
No. 3 Edison 70, No. 2 J. Marshall 50
Championship
Saturday, 4 p.m. at OUE
No. 1 Creek vs. No. 3 Edison
Consolation
No. 4 Steub. at No. 2 John Marsh.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

SHADYSIDE'S Rebecca Haney brings the ball down the floor during Monday's Class 2-A semifinal game.



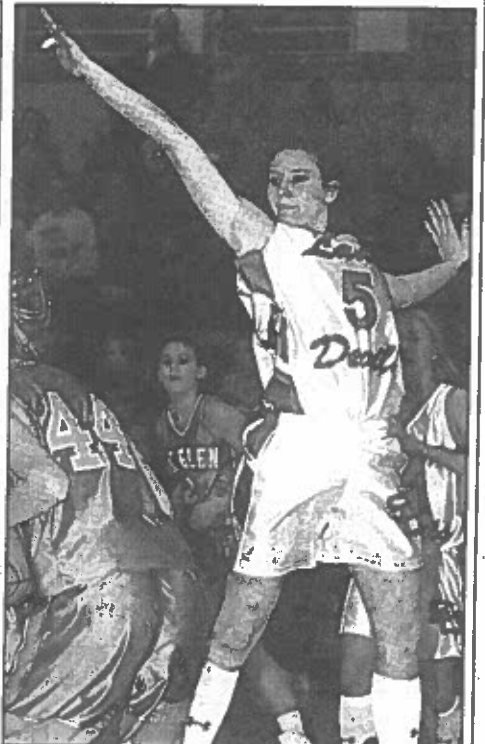
T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

HARRISON CENTRAL'S Madison Richards shoots over Ferry's Shae Moreland in a Class 3-A semifinal.



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

BEALLSVILLE'S Alyssa Headley goes up for a shot during Monday's Class A semifinal game.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Jamie Matkovich plays defense against Oak Glen during a Class 3-A semifinal game.

BOUND FOR OUE

Martins Ferry headed back to 3-A title game

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Martins Ferry earned a repeat trip to the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3-A Tournament championship game Monday night with a sluggish, 45-32, victory over scrappy Harrison Central at Tolbert Gymnasium.

However, according to head coach Dave Reasbeck, he's happy where his team is right now, but there's more to do.

"We're happy in getting there (to the championship game)," he said, "but our goal wasn't to get there, it was to win it. That's been our goal since we lost there last year."

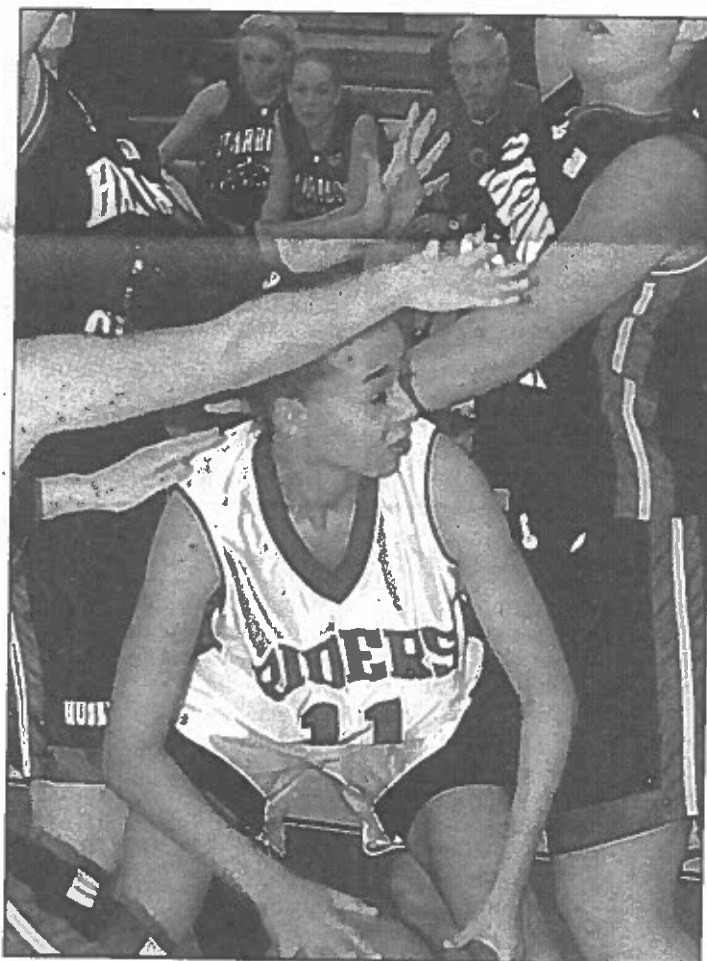
By virtue of their hard-fought victory, the top-seeded Lady Purple (13-4) will now meet Belmont County rival St. Clairsville Saturday at 1 p.m. at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center. The No. 2 seed Red Devils dispatched No. 3 Oak Glen, 53-42.

"We're not real happy with the way we played tonight," Reasbeck continued, "The excitement just wasn't there. Hopefully it's there Saturday. We just need to get back to where we were before the weather break because we were playing really well."

A pair of Karlen Vinci three balls staked the hosts to a 10-6 edge after one period and they led 19-16 with 2:26 left in the first half before going on an 8-0 spurt that pretty much sealed the deal.

"The same thing happened at our place in the regular season," recalled Harrison Central head coach Mark Kowalski. "The last two minutes of that first half just killed us."

Shae Morland, Ferry's force in the middle, domi-



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

MARTINS FERRY'S Courtney Coleman looks for someone to go as she's surrounded by a Harrison Central triple team during the Class 3-A semifinal game Monday evening. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Top-seeded Shadyside rolls by Frontier in 2-A

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Teams want to be playing their best at tournament time.

The tournament season got under way Monday evening with the opening round of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship and Class 2-A top seed Shadyside played awful well.

The Lady Tigers came out of the gates like a house afire and overcame some second-half sluggishness to score a 72-62 win over fourth-seeded Frontier to advance to Saturday's Class 2-A championship game against third-seeded Monroe Central, which dispatched Steubenville Central in Jefferson County.

"We came out ready to play (tonight)," said Shadyside head coach Tina Yates. "We got a big lead, got a little comfortable and then we got a little lacsidasical with the ball at times."

The Lady Tigers won't be able to afford any minutes of comfort against a Lady Seminoles squad, which they defeated twice during the season, but each time by narrow margins.

"Our kids are ready to take the next step," Yates admitted. "They've worked hard and they've earned this opportunity. It'll be a battle and a good game Saturday."

The Lady Tigers stormed out of the gate to an 11-2 lead thanks to the versatility of sophomore Kelsey Holloway and senior Laken Gibson before holding what seemed like a commanding 18-8 upperhand at the quarter break.

The lead swelled to as many as 16 in the second before the Lady Cougars went on an 12-4 spurt, slicing the margin to 30-22, but an Ashley Watson triple and an inside bucket from Sarah Neavin

See, **FERRY**, Page B2

Beallsville dispatches Valley in Class 1-A

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

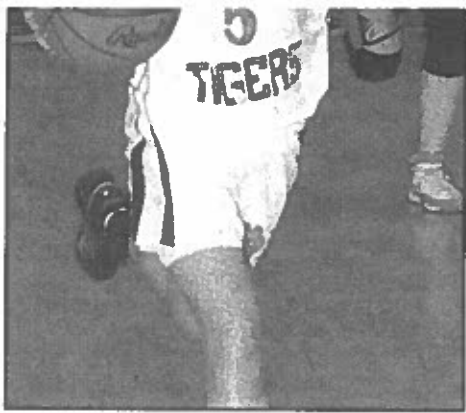
effort from a game, but overmatched Valley ball club Monday night as second-seeded Big Blue opened play in the Wheeling Hospital-sponsored

Big Blue has a scheduled regular season makeup encounter tonight at Newcomerstown.

"I know one thing. We're gonna

See, **SHADYSIDE**, Page B2





T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

SHADYSIDE'S Rebecca Haney brings the ball down the floor during Monday's Class 2-A semifinal game.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

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Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

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T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

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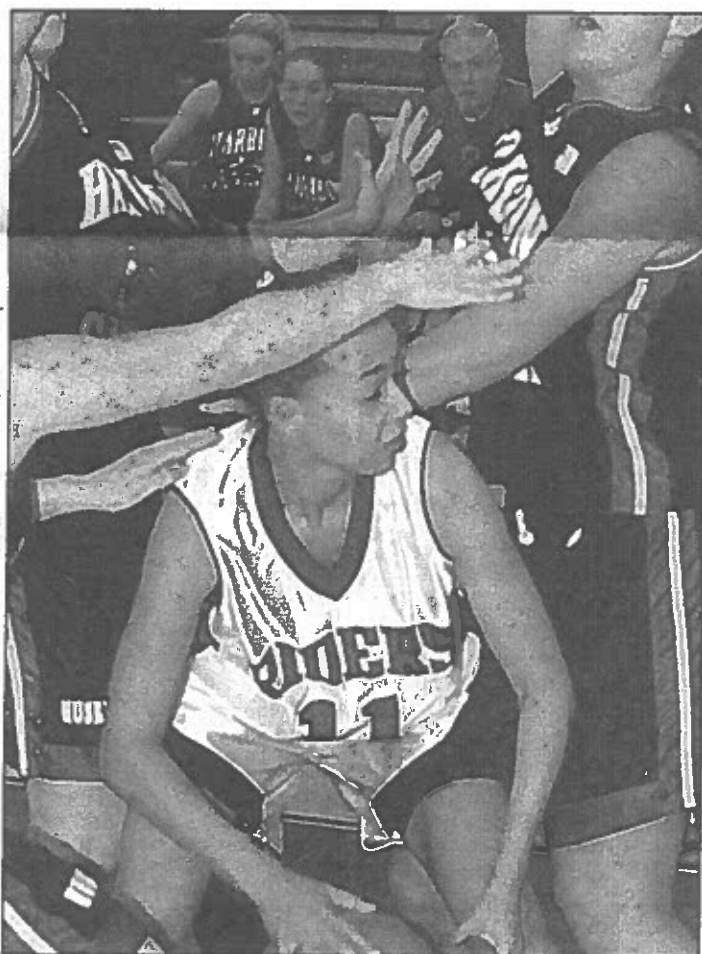
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See, **FERRY**, Page B2



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

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See, **SHADYSIDE**, Page B2

Beallsville dispatches Valley in Class 1-A

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

They've got some bigger fish to fry in Beallsville.

Coach Terry Jarrett's Lady Blue Devils have had their sights set on playing for an OVAC title since the team's first organized practice last fall.

Some three months later, the moment is drawing near.

Beallsville overcame a scrappy

effort from a game, but overmatched Valley ball club Monday night as second-seeded Big Blue opened play in the Wheeling Hospital-sponsored OVAC Tournament.

Senior Alyssa Headley made her final home court start a memorable one, scoring a season-high 35 points and landing 15 rebounds to spark a 78-60 Blue Devils' victory.

Before Jarrett's 14-3 quint can fully concentrate on Saturday's 1-A opponent, unbeaten Bishop Donahue,

Big Blue has a scheduled regular season makeup encounter tonight at Newcomerstown.

"I know one thing. We're gonna have to play a lot better defense if we want to keep playing much longer," a concerned Jarrett commented following Monday night's victory.

It took Beallsville until midway through the final period before Big Blue could take a deep breath against

See, **BEALLSVILLE**, Page B2

St. Clairsville punches ticket to 3-A title game

By **KIM APPOLLONI**
Times Leader Sports Writer

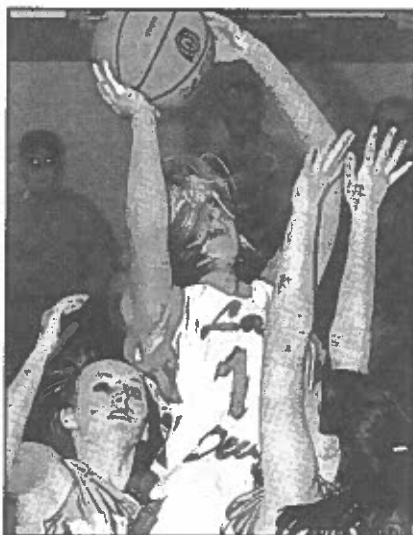
Homestanding St. Clairsville advanced to the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference 3-A Championship contest by defeating third-seeded Oak Glen, 53-42, Monday night in a game that was closer than the final score indicates. Coach Mickey Blatnik's crew used a 8-0 run late in the third

quarter to break open a two-point contest en route to Saturday's 1 p.m. championship tilt with Martins Ferry. Oak Glen boss Phil Rujak felt his team needed to shut down St. C senior standout Alessia Vivod if the Golden Bears had any chance of knocking off the Red Devils.

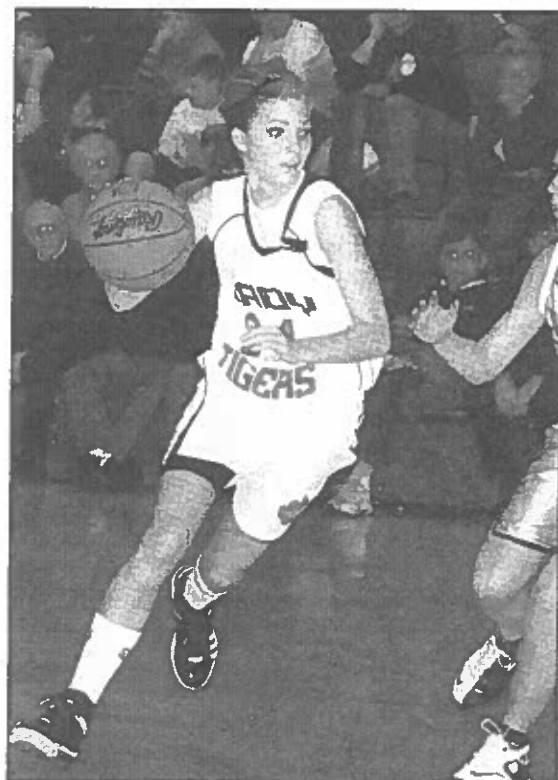
"They came to our place and just buried us," remarked

See, **ST. C.**, Page B2

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Brooke Cenkus goes up for a shot in traffic during Monday's Class 3-A semifinal against Oak Glen. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

SHADYSIDE'S Laken Gibson looks to penetrate the bucket against Frontier during Monday's Class 2-A semifinal. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Monroe girls oust Steubenville CC

By STEPHANIE ELVERD
For The Times Leader

STEUBENVILLE — Monroe Central will have a chance to make it two OVAC titles in a row after capturing a hard-fought 63-58 victory over homestanding Steubenville Central in the semifinals of the Class 2-A Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

The Lady Seminoles — who were forced to play some of the contest without the services of senior Aleisha Guiler who came crashing down after a rebound — used a late fourth-quarter rally to earn the victory over the homestanding Lady Crusaders.

"The girls are not used to to playing without Aleshia Guiler, and I'm sure not having her out on the court in the first quarter had a lot of do with it," Seminole coach Troy Baker said of Central's early lead.

The bad start could have been down right horrible due to the Guiler injury.

Though Guiler would only score two points in the second quarter, her return snapped her team back into the game. The Seminoles outscored Central, 20-9, in the period. Sophomore Whitney Marshall hauled down five boards and scored eight points. Alex Kuhn recorded nine points, including a three and the go-ahead bucket.

The Seminoles began to gain the edge in the closing minutes of the game. With 3:27 remaining, the visitors were up, 53-51. Catholic Central could get back within one of Monroe Central, but never led again.

With 28 ticks left, the Crusaders

trailed, 60-58. A timeout was called and a play was drawn up, but the Crusaders never got a chance to run it. Guiler came up with a steal, got the ball to LaFollette who was quickly fouled. She sank one of her free throws to keep the Seminoles up by three points with 12 seconds remaining.

Central moved the ball up court and Petties launched a 3-point attempt. It bounced off the rim and into the hands of the Seminoles' Katie Davis. Davis dumped the ball to Marshall who iced the win with a layup at the buzzer.

Marshall finished with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Kuhn claimed the Seminole game-high with 15 points. Guiler came up with 12 points in her three complete quarters of action. LaFollette added nine. Davis registered eight and Kim LaFere scored five.

For the Crusaders, Petties recorded nine rebounds to compliment her 17 points. Shaw's 22 points were coupled with eight boards. Petchal finished with seven points. Teramama chipped in five points. Sawon sank a 3-pointer and Emily Canella and Sarah Marrow finished with two points each.

The Seminoles, last season's Class AA champs, return to the final 10 a.m. Saturday at OUE opposite Shadyside, a 72-62 winner over Frontier.

"We had a long road trip up here and this was the first time our girls ever played in this gym. We didn't know what would happen. You just never know," Baker said. "We started out a little anxious. We had some

turnovers and did some things we don't typically do, but we hung in there."

Consolation Bracket Weir 41, Union Local 33

Kassi Robinson hit a trio of 3-pointers on her way to a team-high 13 points to help Weir (6-13) edge past Union Local. Sarah Minnich paced the Jets with 13 points.

Buckeye Local 56 Magnolia 45

Marissa Todoroff amassed 14 points and Lauren Hall added 13 as Buckeye Local raced past Magnolia (4-14).

Bridgeport 52 Fort Frye 48

Rachel Benda scored a game-high 29 points, including 7 of 8 at the free-throw line in the fourth quarter, and added 12 rebounds, five assists, three steals and two blocks as Bridgeport (7-9) downed Fort Frye (5-12).

River 48

Whg. Central 43, OT

Megan O'Neil scored 11 points while Alexa Isaly and Jordan Ramsey evenly divided 20 to help River finish off an overtime victory against homestanding Wheeling Central (7-13).

Wheeling Park 70

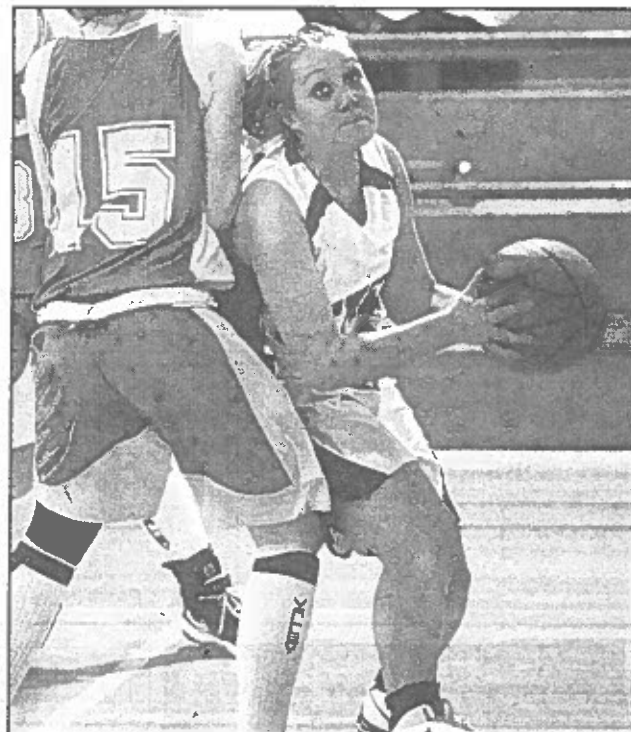
Barnesville 55

Heidi Hines pumped in 25 points and Megan Phillips had 14, but Barnesville (7-10) fell to Wheeling Park (7-11). Sarah Phillips added 10 for the Shamrocks.

St. John Central 50

Paden City 26

Ellie Lemasters and Justene Delman scored 14 and 12 points, respectively, as St. John Central routed Paden City.



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

BEALLSVILLE'S Brandy Contos pivots toward the bucket during Monday's Class A semifinal game against Valley. The Lady Devils prevailed.

● Beallsville

Continued from Page B1

a veteran Lumberjills' contingent which competed hard but could not match up under the boards.

"We made some silly mistakes and missed far too many buckets in close," Jarrett added. "Give Valley credit. They never backed down and made us play all four quarters."

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Beallsville then proceeded to finish it off with Headley and Alexis Kanzig doing major damage on the boards. In all, the winners grabbed 46 stray shots compared to 33 for Valley.

Lady Devils' senior Brandi Contos was equally outstanding, providing 15-point support. Jarrett tallied 12. Kanzig charted seven points and 14 boards. Kristen Lallathin scored six points off the bench.

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The Blue Devils and Bishop Donahue hook up for the 1-A title in Saturday's nightcap (7:00) of a day-long, four-game championship card at Ohio University-Eastern.

Beallsville was a 22-17 jayvee victor Monday evening.

SCORING: VALLEY (60) — Hayes, D. 0, 0-0 0; Morris 1, 0-0 2; Hayes, T. 1, 0-0 2; Shaw 2, 0-0 4; Ueltschy 2, 1-2 5; Kocher 5, 1-2 11; Guthrie 8, 0-0 17; Weber 9, 1-2 19. Totals — 28, 3-6. BEALLSVILLE (78) — Bilyeu 0, 1-2 1; Garlick 1, 0-0 2; Lallathin 3, 0-0 6; Kanzig 3, 1-2 7; Jarrett 5, 1-7 12; Contos 5, 4-6 15; Headley 12, 11-15 35. Totals — 29, 18-32.

Three-point goals. Valley — Guthrie. Beallsville — Contos, Jarrett.

● St. C.

Continued from Page B1

Rujak. "We didn't have an answer for (Alessia) Vivod the first time we played so we decided to go box-and-one to hold her down. I thought the strategy worked well, because Michaelene (Ayers) did not allow her to get one field goal."

Vivod kept her cool during the contest allowing her teammates to pick up the scoring slack. The saavy senior managed nine-of-10 from the charity stripe.

"I was pleased with the way Alessia responded to their defense," stated Blatnik. "She has seen it before, but tonight she didn't get frustrated and took her opportunities when they presented themselves. We had several players step up and Alessia played more of a distributor's role for us. This was a very close game and that's what you expect in an OVAC semi-final game."

The two clubs battled all evening. The Red Devils held a slim 12-9 edge after one quarter. Oak Glen junior guard Taylor White ran the floor and scored six tallies in the period. St. Clairsville struggled from the floor in the second stanza and lost the lead, but they battled back on the glass and pulled out a 22-20 advantage at intermission.

"At halftime we realized we needed to pound the ball inside because we were stronger down low than they were," Blatnik indicated.

The Red Devils got a little sloppy in the final frame allowing the Bears to crawl back late in the contest. With 2:43 to play in the game, White got free for a triple that pulled the visitors within two, 30-27. The Red Devils

Bridgeport boys notch key win

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

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Monday night at the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium, the Bulldogs looked like champions as they started strong and never looked back in a repeat 63-47 triumph over visiting Cameron.

"If that wasn't the best first quarter we've played this season, it was pretty close," said Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash, who watched his squad roll to a 22-7 advantage after one quarter. "We talked to the kids about starting fast, getting the lead on them and taking control of the game early and we did that."

The contest was a rematch of last Friday's meeting in Cameron where Bridgeport prevailed, 61-39. The Dragons (11-6) entered both games ranked No. 1 in the OVAC, while the Bulldogs (9-8) are battling for the fourth and final playoff spot.

"The kids know what is at stake."

● Shadyside

Cash added. "We don't try to drill it into them that we're the defending champions. We've said it a little but, but hopefully we come ready to play tomorrow (Tuesday night)."

Michael Carr scored seven of his 13 points in the first quarter as four of the five Bulldog starters found the scoring column. The hosts were also helped out by six Cameron turnovers.

Freshman Garrett Price led the Bulldogs in the second quarter as he tallied six of his game-high 16 points.

"Over the last couple of games, our younger kids are growing up a lot and Garrett is one of them," Cash remarked. "He played real well tonight, and he played really well Friday night."

The Bulldogs led 38-14 at the half and Cameron never got any closer than 15 in the second half.

Timmy Tracey came off the bench to score a baker's dozen for the Bulldogs.

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Continued from Page B1

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● Ferry

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Senior Courtney Coleman

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Three-Point Goals: F — Rinard, Allen, S — Stewart (2), Holloway, Watson.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

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In the JV game, Martins Ferry won, 21-12.

HARRISON CENTRAL (32) — Albaugh 1 0-0 2; Horn 0 0-2 0; Harrison 0 0-0 0; Wright 5 0-

points. Alex Kuhn recorded nine points, including a three and the go-ahead bucket.

The Seminoles began to gain the edge in the closing minutes of the game. With 3:27 remaining, the visitors were up, 53-51. Catholic Central could get back within one of Monroe Central, but never led again.

With 28 ticks left, the Crusaders

AA champs. return to the final 10 a.m. Saturday at OUE opposite Shadyside, a 72-62 winner over Frontier.

"We had a long road trip up here and this was the first time our girls ever played in this gym. We didn't know what would happen. You just never know," Baker said. "We started out a little anxious. We had some

and Megan Phillips had 14, but Barnesville (7-10) fell to Wheeling Park (7-11). Sarah Phillips added 10 for the Shamrocks.

St. John Central 50 Paden City 26

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The Bulldogs led 38-14 at the half and Cameron never got any closer than 15 in the second half.

Timmy Tracey came off the bench to score a baker's dozen for the Bulldogs.

"Timmy has been a spark off the bench in the last two weeks," added Cash. "He's played excellent. He's been patient and waited his chance and he's taken advantage of it."

Cameron was led by Jacob Koontz and Davey Holmes with 15 and 14 points, respectively

Carr pulled down a dozen rebounds as Bridgeport led 51-30 off the glass. Nate Maleski grabbed seven boards, as did Tracey. Carr also swatted away half-a-dozen shots and Price charted five steals. Justin Gregoric finished with four steals and five assists.

Bridgeport remains at home tonight as Paden City, the third-ranked team in Class A, visits. The girls' varsity-only contest begins at 6 p.m., to be followed by the boys.

There was no junior varsity game contested.

Scoring: CAMERON (47) — Marling 1 1-2 3; Scott 1 1-2 4; J. Koontz 7 1-4 15; Ward 2 0-1 4; Holmes 3 8-8 14; Adji-Andon 0 0-0 0; Sears 1 2-5 4; Higginson 0 1-2 1; W. Koontz 1 0-0 2; Cotrell 0 0-0 0; Totals: 16-46 14-24. BRIDGEPORT (63) — Price 7 2-2 16; Cash 1 0-0 3; Carr 6 1-2 13; Gregoric 1 2-4 5; Maleski 3 0-2 6; Tracey 6 0-0 13; Ch. Smelley 3 0-0 6; Cu. Smelley 0 1-2 1; Baker 0 0-0 0; Carlier 0 0-0 0; Totals: 27-60 6-12.

Three-Point Goals: C—Scott; B—Cash, Gregoric, Tracey
North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

● Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

made it a 35-22 reading at the intermission.

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● Ferry

Continued from Page B1

nated the second quarter as she netted eight of her dozen markers — including six in the spurt — in the period. She also had three rebounds and four blocks in the quarter.

"They've got that eraser inside there," Kowalski noted. "We told the girls to take it to her, but she held her own."

The hosts upped their

lead to 38-26 after three frames, but the Huskies (9-9) never quit and sliced the margin to eight, 38-30, with just over three minutes remaining to play.

That's when Vinci delivered the dagger in the heart as she nailed a three-pointer from the right corner that Harrison Central could never recover from.

"That shot really hurt,"

Kowalski said. "We tried to double off of her, but they've got a nice squad. They're a tough matchup for us."

Senior Courtney Coleman led Martins Ferry with a game-high 15 points, including a trio of treys in the third panel. Moreland finished with a dozen points, eight rebounds and nine blocked shots.

Kristen Wright and Madison Richards evenly divided 20 points for the Huskies. Heather May pulled down five rebounds.

Harrison Central only turned the ball over 12

times, three less than Martins Ferry.

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HARRISON CENTRAL (32) — Albaugh 1 0-0 2; Horn 0 0-0 0; Harrison 0 0-0 0; Wright 5 0-1 10; May 2 2-3 6; L. Koch 0 0-0 2; Thompson 0 0-0 0; Schultz 2 0-0 4; Richards 4 2-2 10; Totals: 14-39 4-10. MARTINS FERRY (45) — Coleman 5 2-2 15; Vinci 3 0-0 9; Moreland 5 2-3 12; Frohnappel 1 4-4 6; Neavin 1 0-0 3; Chambliss 0 0-0 0; B. Lucas 0 0-0 0; Wright 0 0-0 0; Clark 0 0-0 0; Pamphilis 0 0-0 0; C. Lucas 0 0-0 0; Totals: 15-31 8-9.

Three-Point Field Goals: MF—Vinci 3, Coleman 3, Neavin

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BIG BEN WAS BANGED UP

Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger says he played Super Bowl XLIII with two broken ribs/18

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WHEELING HOSPITAL OVAC GIRLS' BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Shadyside Gets Past Frontier

Tigers advance to face Seminoles on Saturday

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

SHADYSIDE — Teams want to be playing their best at tournament time.

The tournament season got under way Monday night with the opening round of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship and Class AA top seed Shadyside played awful well.

The Tigers came out of the gates like a house afire and overcame some second-half sluggishness to score a 72-62 victory against fourth-seeded Frontier to advance to Saturday's championship game against third-seeded Monroe Central, which dispatched Steubenville Catholic in Jefferson County.

"We came out ready to play (tonight)," Shadyside coach Tina Yates said. "We got a big lead, got a little comfortable and then we got a little lacedisical with the ball at times."

The Tigers won't be able to afford any minutes of comfort against a Seminoles squad they defeated twice during the season, but each time by narrow margins.

"Our kids are ready to take the next step," Yates said. "They've worked hard and they've earned this opportunity. It'll be a battle and a good game Saturday."

The Tigers stormed out of the gate to an 11-2 lead thanks to the versatility of sophomore Kelsey Holloway and senior Laken Gibson before holding what seemed like a commanding 18-8 upperhand at the quarter break.

The lead swelled to as many as 16 in the second before the Cougars went on a 12-4 spurt, slicing the margin to 30-22. But an Ashley Watson triple and an inside bucket from Sarah Neavin made it 35-22 at intermission.

Frontier, however, wouldn't go away. It scored 10 of the first 12 in the third quarter with Heather Booth netting six of those to make it a 37-32 contest.

After a quick timeout, the Tigers had gotten their wake-up call and responded with a 10-4 run to make it a 47-36 entering the fourth quarter. Jacklyn Johnson and Holloway combined to score 10 of the 12 Shadyside points.

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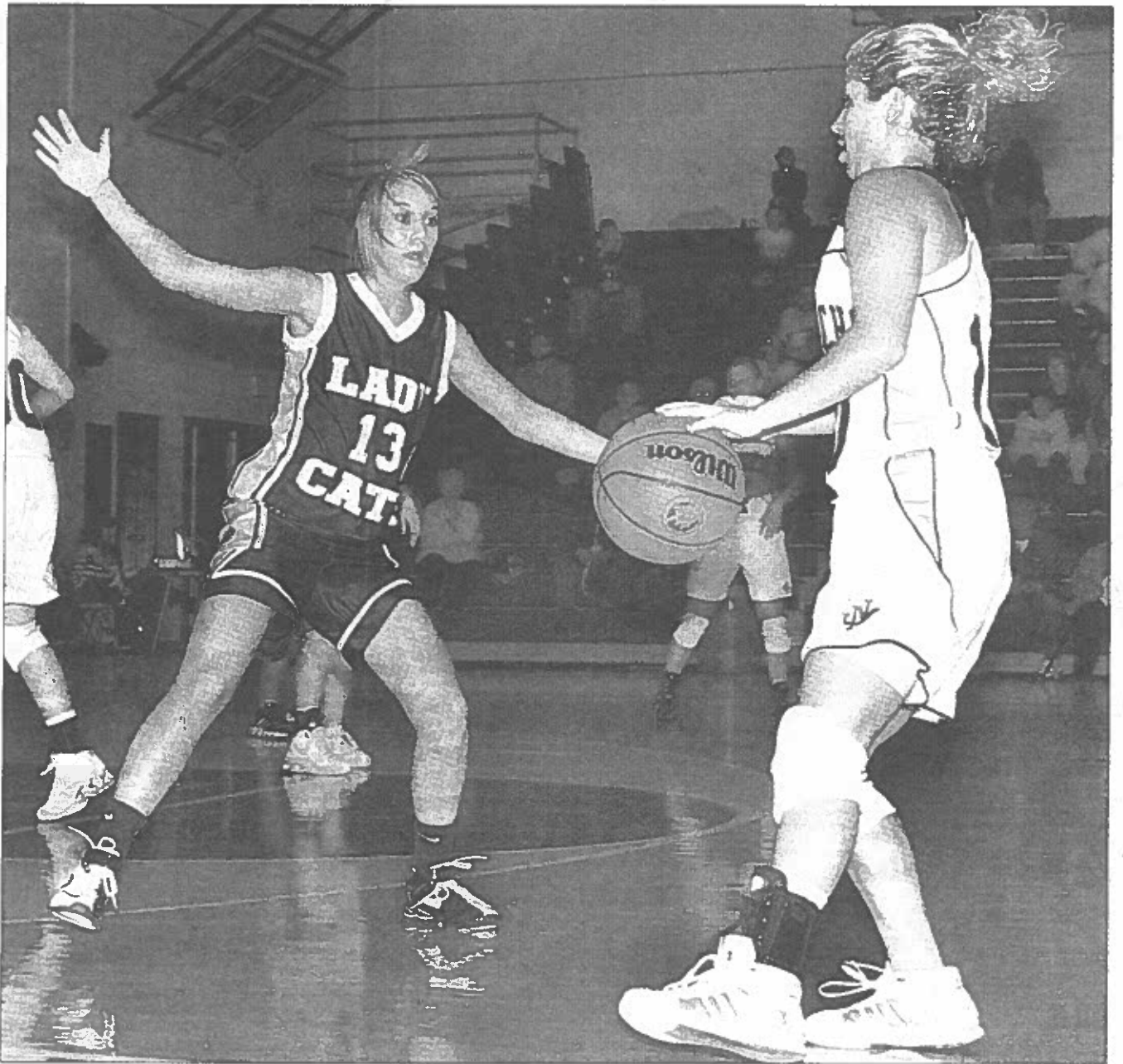


Photo by Jim Elliott

John Marshall's Hanna Gossett, right, runs the offense as Edison's Megan Antigo defends during Monday's OVAC Class AAAA semifinal game at John Marshall High School.

Cats Pounce

Hot-shooting Edison eliminates JM, 70-50

By JIM ELLIOTT
W.Va. Sports Editor

GLEN DALE — Edison girls' basketball coach Tony Kovalesky was only half-joking when he asked the referees if halftime was really necessary Monday night in an OVAC Class AAAA Tournament semifinal at John Marshall High School.

This was one party that needed no interruption.

The Wildcats shot 63 percent from the field and 70 percent from the free-throw line in a 47-point first half on their way to a 70-50 annihilation of the Monarchs.

"Their intensity was so good," John

Marshall coach Stan Blankenship noticed. "They just dominated from the get-go."

As a reward, third-seeded Edison will get a third crack at unbeaten Indian Creek, which won a 56-54 squeaker against Steubenville, in Saturday's final at OUE. Tip-off for that one is 4 p.m.

"We can't make mistakes," Kovalesky said. "We have to put two halves together."

First, the Wildcats had to get past John Marshall, something they couldn't do in the same spot a season ago. With Kayla Prokapakis, a freshman, and Morah Noland, a senior, controlling the low block against what is a bigger John Marshall team, they made it look easy.

"It's been something we've lived and died by all year long," Kovalesky said, while noting it was actually his assistant coach Chuckie Woodward

who keep noticing all the weak spots in the JM defense and calling the right play time after time. "We practice it, and practice it, and practice it. It's much easier for us to make shots in there."

When it was finished, Prokapakis had a game-best 24 points — 12 in each half — and was one of four double-figure scorers for the Wildcats.

Kayla's sister, Kristin, also a freshman, had 12. Megan Antigo wound up with 14, and Noland finished with 10.

"All five of their kids penetrated and posted up well," Blankenship said. "We did too, but we didn't take care of the ball, and we didn't get back on defense."

And the Monarchs didn't shoot anywhere near as well as the the Wildcats.

Please See CATS, Page 14

Indian Creek Edges Steubenville

Redskins remain undefeated with 56-54 triumph against Big Red

By MIKE MATHISON
For The Intelligencer

WINTERSVILLE — There are times when sporting events do not live up to the billing. Such was not the case Monday night at Indian Creek High School.

Steubenville Big Red took a trip to its neighbor's gym in the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Basketball Tournament semifinals and played a game that lived up to the billing.

The Redskins used a timely steal by junior point guard Ty Harris, which resulted in a three-point play, and some brilliant free-throw shooting to remain undefeated with a 56-54 victory against Big Red.

Indian Creek will look to defend its Class AAAA

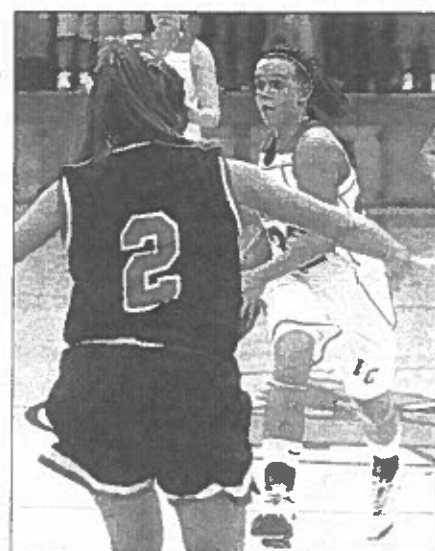
championship at 4 p.m. on Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern against rival Edison. The Wildcats defeated John Marshall, 70-50, in the other semifinal.

"What a great atmosphere," Redskins coach Erin DeSantis said. "That was fun. Looking back now that it's over and we won, that was really fun. We are both good teams and we pushed each other."

"I think we pushed each other to the limits. We had some mental breakdowns and they had some mental breakdowns. It just fell our way at the end. It could have gone the other way really easily."

"For 32 minutes that's the best we've played with emotion and intensity," Big Red coach Phil Casinelli said. "I couldn't be more proud of the girls, the whole team, the coaching staff, the people who went out and scouted for me."

Please See CREEK, Page 14



Indian Creek's Ty Harris drives against Steubenville's Jocelyn Pugh on Monday night.

Photo by Mike Mathison



WHEELING HOSPITAL
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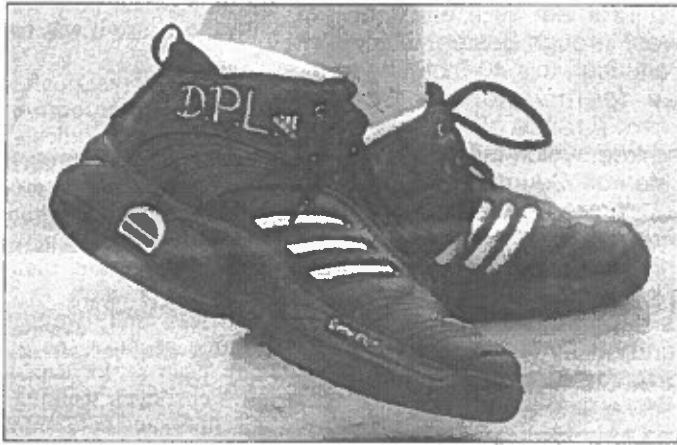


The Times Le

Friday, February 13, 2009

The Voice of Eastern Ohio

Playing with a purpose



• Lady Tigers
vie for title with
heavy hearts

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

ALL OF the teams which qualified for Saturday's Second Annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship had a tough road to hoe.

However, the Shadyside Lady Tigers' road involved more twists and turns than the usual 18 games, finishing in the top four of the Class 2-A standings and then winning a semi-final game.

And it's been a journey, which has been on-going since late July.

It was on July 28 when Shadyside junior-to-be Devron Lunsford -- a member of the Lady Tiger basketball team -- was involved in a serious motorcycle crash in the south end of the community.

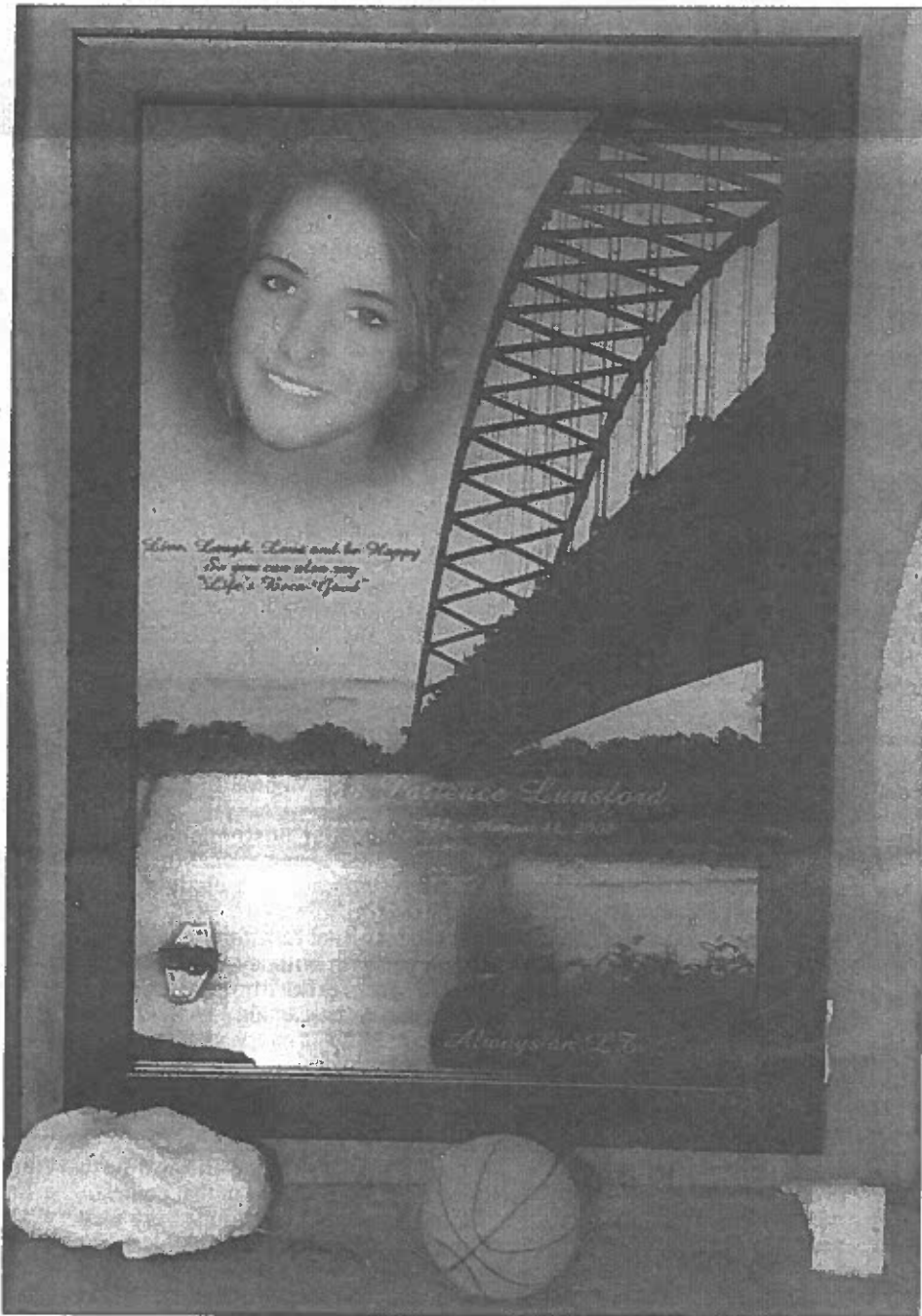
Earlier that evening, Lunsford was taking part in normal "LT" activities, including officiating a youth-league basketball game.

It was about a little more than hour after the summer league games had ended that Shadyside head coach Tina Yates received a phone call, informing her Lunsford had been involved in a serious accident.

"I was thinking wow, I had just had a great time with her on the basketball court, and now I am heading to the hospital," Yates said fighting back emotion.

The Lady Tigers -- who were already a close-knit group -- had taken the bonding process even further.

See, TIGERS, Page A2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
A POSTER remembering Devron Lunsford hangs in the locker room of the Shadyside Lady Tigers. In the top photo, Lunsford's initials are etched on each players' shoes. See images at cu.timesleaderonline.com.

● Tigers

Continued from Page A1

Players made countless hospital trips to visit and were in touch with Lunsford's family constantly, hoping they'd receive the best news possible.

However, on Aug. 16, basketball was the furthest thing from anyone's mind as the Lady Tigers learned that Lunsford's courageous fight had come to an end, which triggered another set of emotions.

The Lady Tigers went to the funeral home visitation as a squad, but Yates elected to have the players attend the service with their families.

"We wore the same shirts and went as a team and most of them had been there already or stayed there," Yates said "I just felt they would need their parents for the funeral because it was pretty tough to handle."

Just a few weeks after the services and with the entire community and more specifically the students and Lady Tigers still in the grieving process, it was back to school, which was by no means easy.

Going back to school was tough and then shortly into the new school year, open gyms resumed and then it was right into pre-season practice.

"It was really weird when we went to practice because she wasn't there," said Lady Tiger senior Karissa Brown. "It was just weird even walking through the halls (at school) and not seeing her."

"It was tough the rest of the summer and then when we went back to school we wanted her to be there, but she wasn't," sophomore Kelsey Holloway said.

From the time practices started and into the season, Yates has noticed her team has grown seemingly closer than they were for obvious reasons.

"I think this incident has molded our team together and really brought all of the girls closer together," Yates continued. "As a group, they've become closer together."

Brown -- another of Lunsford's closest friends -- feels as if the grieving process was definitely aided by the fact that the team is such a close-knit group.

"The fact that she was so close to all of us and we all had things we could share with each other really made it easier," Brown said.

Prior to the opening game of this season, the Lady Tigers had a ceremony in which each team member was presented with a heart keychain with the inscription "Dev." It was during that ceremony, that they formally announced the entire season would be dedicated to Lunsford's memory.

There have been some challenging moments during the season, which has seen Shadyside roll to a 17-2 record entering its game against Monroe Central at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Due to an earlier postponement, the Lady Tigers had a game on Jan. 24 at Shenandoah, which was a challenge on multiple levels.

That's the day that Lunsford would have celebrated her 17th birthday.

"We didn't talk about it," said Shadyside senior co-captain Laken Gibson who served as the primary spokesperson during a group interview. "We all had our own thoughts and then the way we had to come from behind we knew (Dev) was with us."

The Lady Tigers rallied in the fourth quarter for a 65-53 victory in that contest.

"I think these girls have done very well handling it," Yates said. "We think about her every day. I went into the lockerroom after (Shenandoah) and I could see every-

one was either crying or looking like they were ready to cry and I just told them 'I know it was tough, but you made it through.'"

The Lady Tigers have been in some tight games this season with tight situations and according to Gibson, they've realized their teammate was looking down favorably upon them.

"There have been times when I think during a game come on Dev, you've got to help us here," Gibson offered. "And, she's come through."

As the season nears an end, the Lady Tigers' memories won't ever fade by any means.

Lunsford's memory will forever live on in the Lady Tiger lockerroom, according to Yates. Her locker remains intact and has had a memorial poster that each player received early in the season hung inside. Her water bottle and even a pair of socks are still inside just as Lunsford left it in July after an open gym.

There was only one way the locker was going to be altered.

"I had no plans of touching it unless the girls said they just couldn't handle it," Yates explained. "Most of the girls were actually pretty outspoken about wanting the locker to stay and that was actually before I thought about it."

Every player -- who is eligible to drive and has a car -- has a decal of Lunsford's initials on her car or a special decal, which is a cross and has her initials plus birth date and the date of her passing.

Many of the players make frequent trips to the cemetery to visit the grave.

"Sometimes you just want to go by yourself, but there are other times when you want to go as a group (to the cemetery)," said junior Rebecca Haney who actually just visited the cemetery last week and had her car get stuck in the mud, making her late for a practice.

The Lady Tigers have worn a special uniform attachment on their left sleeve with the initials DPL, which it will wear again next year to commemorate Lunsford's senior season. Her initials are also on the coaching staff shirts.

Every player on the team has initials or a personal message written on her shoes.

To the members Lady Tigers' family, Lunsford was even more than a teammate. She was a friend who everyone had fun with.

"I remember riding in (Dev's) car and we went by this one-way street and she asked me once, 'have you ever driven down that street the other way, and I was like No Dev. and she told me, you should it's a rush,'" said Shadyside senior co-captain Laken Gibson.

All of the girls had a good laugh when they thought about the Lady Tiger parties they used to have and Lunsford would be making prank phone calls to people.

"She was the best at making prank calls," Gibson said.

It's experiences and memories like those that made adjectives such as carefree, care-less, fun, wild and crazy get shouted out when the Lady Tigers were asked for a description.

When the basketball season ends -- whenever that may be for Shadyside -- one thing for certain is Lunsford will always be a Lady Tiger and most importantly, she'll always be considered a close friend by the entire squad.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

High School Basketball



Photo by Sarah Clark

Wheeling Park's Erika Martin (12) battles for a loose ball with East Liverpool's Sam Irwin (42) while Sara Guthrie (14) looks on during their game Thursday at Wheeling Park High School.

A Grand Effort

Martin reaches 1,000 as Park beats Liverpool

By JIM ELLIOTT
W.Va. Sports Editor

One of the hardest-working girls' basketball players in the Ohio Valley had to do next to nothing to score her 1,000th career point.

Turns out, it was free.

Wheeling Park's Erika Martin, who bounced into Thursday's game against East Liverpool needing five points to reach a grand, hit a free throw with 4:49 remaining in the second quarter to accomplish the feat in what turned out to be a 60-45 victory against the Potters at Wheeling Park High School — the second part seemingly a bigger deal to Martin than the first.

"I wasn't even worried about my thousandth point. I was worried about winning," said Martin, who wasn't even aware that particular free throw was worth so much. She thought she needed seven points to reach the magical milestone.

While the Patriots (8-11) got off to a hot start — they made five of their first six shots, led 22-6 after the first quarter, and by as much as 25 with 1:48 left in the first half — Martin said her nerves were getting the best of her. That, and perhaps a pesky Brittany Tomaselli, who was assigned early on as the chaser in a box-and-1 defense that seemed to work when these teams met last month at East Liverpool.

With numerous friends and family members seated in what they called Section "E," Martin hit just 1 of 5 shots in the first quarter.

"I was very nervous," she admitted. "I kinda got down on myself, but I just kinda pulled myself out of it."

She has a shooter's mentality — putting up 13 more shots plus six free throws the rest of the way — which is why Lynn Ullom is counting the days until he can get her fitted for a West Liberty women's uniform. Martin, who actually is a defense-first thinker, wound up with a team-best 15 points for the Patriots, who claimed both of their games by 15 points inside the consolation portion of the OVAC Tournament.

"She's a gift to have for a coach," Wheeling Park coach Meredith Anderson said. "She comes out every single day in practice, works hard for 2 hours. She comes out every single game and works hard on both sides of the floor. She distributed the ball really well (Thursday), looking for teammates."

As Anderson noted, Martin had plenty of help in this one.

Please See GRAND, Page 18

JM Snaps Skid, Beats Steubenville

Monarchs take control in the fourth quarter

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

GLEN DALE — Breaking its three-game losing streak, John Marshall (11-7) took advantage of an 0-for-7 Steubenville shooting slump at the outset of the fourth quarter to hang on for a 37-32 victory in the consolation round of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAAA girls' basketball tournament Thursday night on the Monarchs' court.

After Steubenville tied things up for the final time at 23-23 on Brea Magnone's triple from the right wing, John Marshall took the lead to stay when Alexis Brinkman dropped in a pair of free throws with 3 seconds remaining in the third quarter.

The Monarchs then opened the fourth quarter with a one-handed putback off the glass from junior point guard Hanna Gossett. Two free throws by Alexis Montes put the hosts in front 29-23 at the 5:40 mark.

Both teams missed open opportunities until Catherine Pendergrast was on target with an inside jumper, trimming Big Red's deficit to four points. Ashley Deel restored the six-point John Marshall advantage only to see Tabitha Berryman come off the bench to score on the move after receiving a feed from Aundrea West. Less than a minute later, Berryman then was fouled going up for a shot and cashed both free throws, cutting the deficit to 31-29.

After Julie Young's spin move gave the John Marshall girls a four-point edge, Berryman was fouled with 2:02 remaining but managed to only hit 1 of 2 at the line, leaving Big Red trailing by 33-30.

Brinkman then came through with another clutch move, scoring from underneath and completing the conventional three-point play by knocking down the free throw. Trailing by six with less than a minute remaining, Steubenville's Aundrea West was off the mark on a 3-point try from deep in the right corner. Young cashed the back end of a two-shot foul to match the Monarchs' biggest lead at seven points. Steubenville managed just two more points the rest of way when West swished an elbow jumper with 27 ticks on the clock.

Please See JM, Page 19

OVAC
AAAA



37



32

Crusaders' Fall Continues With Loss to Cougars

Frontier upends Steub. Catholic

By **ASHLEY NEWMAN**
For The Intelligencer
STEUBENVILLE —

Heading into the latter stages of the season, it seemed as though everything was clicking for Steubenville Catholic Central.

Riding a nine-game win-nin streak, the Crusaders earned a No. 1 seed in the Dover sectional and expectations were high. However, the dream season has hit a rocky path. Thursday night, Steubenville Catholic fell to visiting Frontier, 51-44, in an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AA championship consolation game.

The loss marks the third consecutive defeat for the Crusaders.

Coach Kevin Barr could not hide his frustration.

"I think we are still down about the loss to Monroe Central. We could see it in practice. We have to regroup," he said. "We earned a No. 1 seed in Dover. We have to get the kids back to believing that they can win again."

"Right now, we have had three straight losses."

After the Crusaders took a

15-12 lead in the first quarter, things went downhill quickly for the home squad. Steubenville Catholic scored just four second-quarter points and Frontier took a 23-19 lead into the halftime break.

Things did not get much better in the second half. After pulling to within three points at the end of three quarters, Frontier controlled the fourth quarter, outscoring the home team 14-10 in the decisive period.

Frontier was led by Meagen Rinard with a game-high 18 points.

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championships Championship Consolations Class A

Valley 59, Cameron 48

CAMERON — Lesta Kocher notched 17 points and Dani Hayes checked in with 16 as Valley dropped Cameron (10-9). Aly Weber and Brittany Guthrie evenly divided 20 points.

The Dragons' Shelby Wood notched a team-high 16 points.

Consolation Pool Weir 53, Linsly 46

WHEELING — Nikki Robinson scored 16 points while Sarah Taflan and Kassi Robinson recorded 12 each to lift Weir to a victory against Linsly.

Whitney Young paced the Cadets (9-12) with 13 points. Brenna Burkhart added 10.

St. John Central 51 Weirton Madonna 43

BELLAIRE — Ellie Lemasters netted 19 points to lead three players in double figures to lift St. John Central (5-14) past Weirton Madonna (10-11). Justene Delman added 16 points for the Irish and Hailey DeCoy added 11.

Michaela Bragg paced the Blue Dons with 11 points.

Buckeye Trail 65 Bridgeport 32

OLD WASHINGTON — Julie Bates scored 15 of her 23 points in the first and added 11 rebounds as Buckeye Trail (11-9) handled Bridgeport (8-10). Alexa Abrams contributed 19 points for the Warriors and Courtney Frame had 16 points, seven rebounds and four assists.

Rachel Benda had 16 points, eight rebounds, three assists and three steals for the Bulldogs.

Shenandoah 57 Bellaire 44

BELLAIRE — Britany Farnsworth scored 20 points, grabbed 17 rebounds and blocked five shots as Shenandoah (8-12) toppled Bellaire (6-14), which was leading by six at halftime but

was outscored 18-0 in the third quarter. Jaymie Parks added 17 points for the Zeps.

Alyssa Ofat and Megan Kowalczyk paved the way for the Big Reds with 19 and 12 points, respectively.

Barnesville 48, River 46

HANNIBAL — Jessica Hunkler hit a 3-pointer with 17 seconds left and River missed on three chances to tie it in falling to Barnesville (8-10). Heidi Hines paced the Shamrocks with 16 points and 11 rebounds, while Mariah Miller added 11 points.

Leading the Pilots (9-10) was Jordan Ramsey with 14 points.

Regular Season Hundred 59

Clarks. Notre Dame 42

CLARKSBURG — Raven McDiffitt tossed in 16 points as Hundred (10-10) ran away from Clarksburg Notre Dame (3-17). Jordyn Gorby added 12 for the Hornets, and Nancy Cumberledge 11.

Conotton Valley 61 Kidron Christian 51

HOLMES, Ohio — Abby Gooding exploded for 32 points, 10 steals and eight rebounds to lead Conotton Valley (7-12) to a victory against Kidron Christian. Carly Gooding added 13 points for the Rockets.

Boys Hundred 70

Bishop Donahue 65

HUNDRED — Emery Smith pumped in 21 points and Corey Kimble chipped in with 19 as Hundred (10-5) topped OVAC Class A top seed Bishop Donahue (11-6). Dalton Kuhn netted 14 for the Hornets.

The Bishops' Nathan Fallova led all scorers with 26 points. He was backed by

Ryan Jones with 17 and Ray Barrows with 10.

Beallsville 61 St. John Central 41

BEALLSVILLE — Jordan Darby had 14 points and nine rebounds to lead Beallsville (5-12) to a victory against St. John Central. Brett Stephen added 12.

Leading the way for the Fighting Irish was Chase Russell with 22 points and 12 boards.

Grand

(Continued from Page 17)

Carly Slater forced East Liverpool coach Tony Tomaselli to change his strategy by nailing back-to-back 3-pointers to end the first quarter.

"That hurt, and we don't rebound, and we miss foul shots," said Tony Tomaselli, whose team was 10 of 24 from the free-throw line. "That balloons your lead right there."

Slater wound up with 10 points.

"We said when kids start taking those shots, it's going to pull them out of those defenses and force them to guard everybody," Anderson said.

Austyn Creighton came off the bench to score nine points and pull down 13 rebounds, as the Patriots got 25 points from their bench.

"The girls came ready to play," Anderson said. "We really focused in practice on all players on the floor looking for their scoring opportunities. And very early on, we took

advantage of that with Laura Stefanow (six first-half points) and Liz Scammel (10 points) and we just ran with it."

Run they did, particularly after they'd forced a turnover, where they picked 19 pockets in the first half, 24 for the game.

"That's been some of our trouble this year, the beginning of our games," Tony Tomaselli said. "We don't start off very well sometimes and it's killing us. We played right with them the second half, and we played right with them in the first game."

"But we didn't make some foul shots, we didn't rebound very well, and they wanted the ball more. They wanted it more than we did, there was no doubt about it. They played with more intensity than we did."

Tomaselli said he really didn't want to jump into a junk defense against the Patriots, citing the idea that his team had won back-to-back games playing a conventional, intense style. That's why he was so bummed when it didn't work.

"It backfired on us," he said. "We got out of position. My girls in that box are supposed to stay in their area and the one girl left twice and (Slater) hit two 3s on us."

McKenzie Davis was the 10th player to enter the game for the Potters, but she was the first to double figures, as she led the way with 14 points, all on mid-range jumpers and free throws. Brittany Tomaselli added 11 points.

SPORTS

Sunday, February 22,
2009Killer B's
propel UL
to 3-A title

They've been deemed the 'Killer Bs' Jordan Barbina, Joby Barr and Kyle Blackman — the three Union Local seniors — who were ushered into varsity basketball as freshmen and to put it gently, took some lumps.

People around the area were beginning to ask 'what have these guys ever done to warrant the hype'

Well, what they've done now is win the OVAC Class 3-A Championship in boys' basketball.



SETH STASKEY
From the
Press Box:

Thanks to a gritty effort and relentless determination, the Jets left the second annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship wearing gold medals and carrying the hardware after a 54-46 win over arch-rival St. Clairsville in front of more than 1,300 people at OUE.

"These three seniors deserve all of the credit they receive," said UL head coach Ben Porter.

The road to the OVAC Basketball Championship has been a long and winding road, but it's been a road that all three have thoroughly enjoyed and none will ever soon forget.

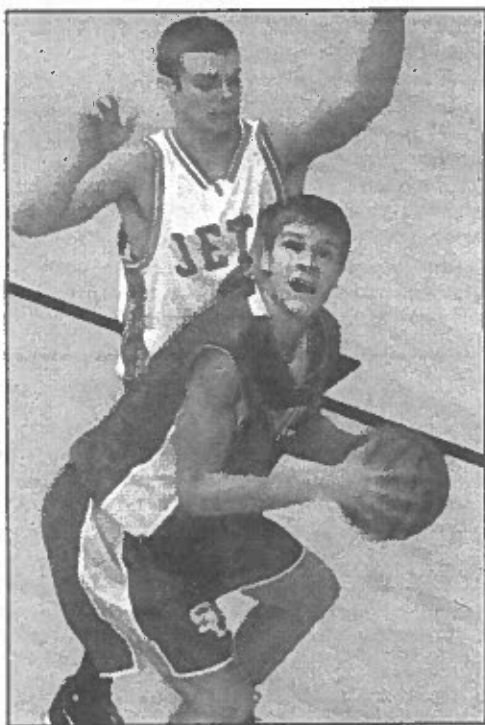
Barbina and Blackman have basically grown up together, attending New Covenant Academy together, dominating that circuit. They then shifted to Union Local for junior high where they met up with Barr.

Since then, the three have been inseparable whether it's playing basketball, football, video games or riding dirt bikes.

"Winning this title means a lot, but to share it with these other guys makes it even more special," said Barbina.

When the Killer Bs finally joined collective forces, they were a juggernaut in the junior high. People from all over the area were talking about this class.

See, **KILLER**, Page C2



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Phil Gross (4) looks for two points as Union Local's Brandon Nicoles defends.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

UNION LOCAL captured the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3-A Championship with an exciting, 54-46, triumph over Belmont County rival St. Clairsville Saturday afternoon at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

UL rallies past St. C.

• Barr, Barbina lead Jets
to Class 3-A Championship

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

St. Clairsville and Union Local are separated by less than 10 miles.

Saturday afternoon the two Class AAA rivals met in the middle at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center to decide the second annual Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference boys' Basketball Championship.

And, when the dust had settled, it was the top-seeded Jets (20-2) that would be taking the gold hardware back to Morristown thanks to a come-from-behind, 54-46, victory over the second-seeded Red Devils (12-8) before a raucous crowd of just over 1,300.

"This (championship) means a lot to us," said second-year Union Local head coach Ben Porter. "We had four goals when we started the season, and now we've accomplished three of them and the kids know what the fourth is. I couldn't be any more proud of these kids because they busted their butts to get here."

The Jets' 1-2 punch Joby Barr (24) and Jordan Barbina (22) matched St. Clairsville's total, but it was Union Local's free throw shooting down the stretch that made the difference.

Barr meshed six straight charity tosses in the final 46.2 seconds to help the Jets pull away from their rivals.

We shoot them every day in practice just like every other team," Porter said of the clutch free-throw shooting. "It's nothing special, but we stress to the kids to be mentally tough and focused when at the line, especially late in the game."

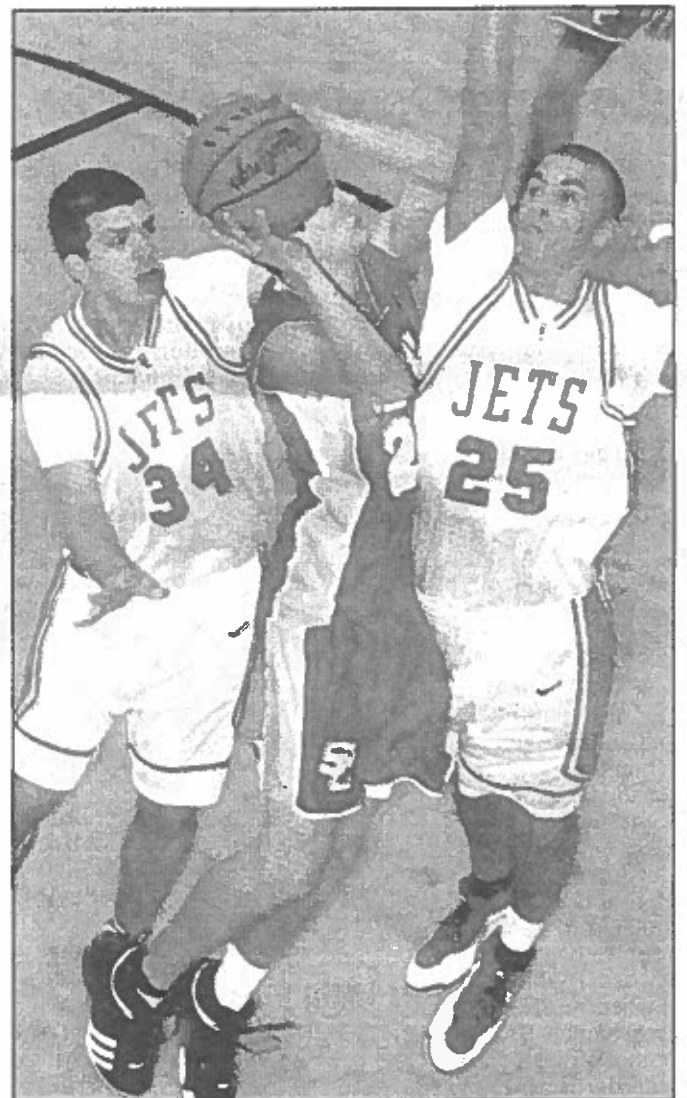
It seems that Barr to his coach's advice.

"Coach always tells us not to stress, just focus on making the shots," the 6-ft.-2 senior said. "I've been through pressure before. I know how to handle it."

And handle it he did. He scored 14 of his team-high total in the fourth quarter when UL had to rally from a 36-35 deficit entering the last frame.

"They had a couple of guys that made plays at the end of the game," said St. Clairsville head coach Kim Clifford, who was

See, **UL**, Page C2



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

UNION LOCAL'S Anthony Lucas (34) and Joby Barr (25) attempt to block the shot of St. Clairsville's Alex Thornburg (20) during Saturday's Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3-A Championship. Additional images can be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Bridgeport falls to Donahue in single-A title tilt

• Bulldogs can't defend crown

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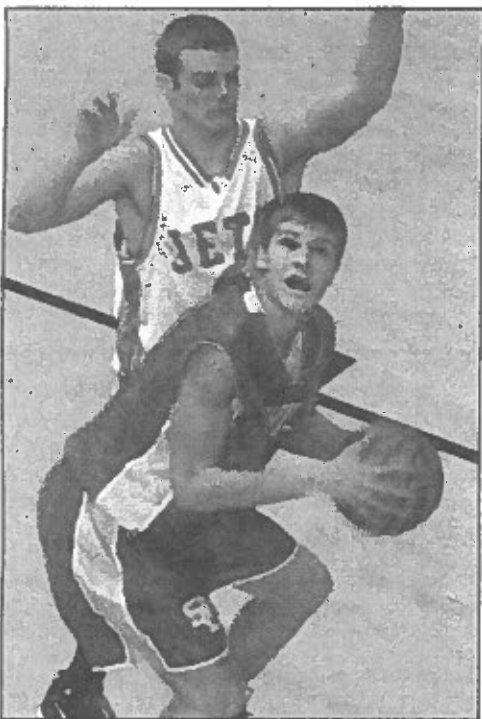
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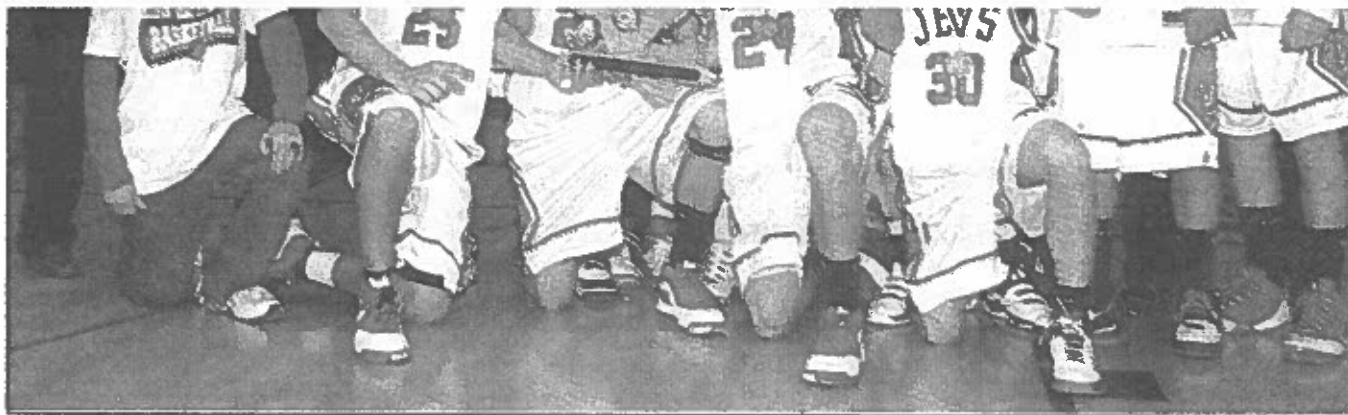
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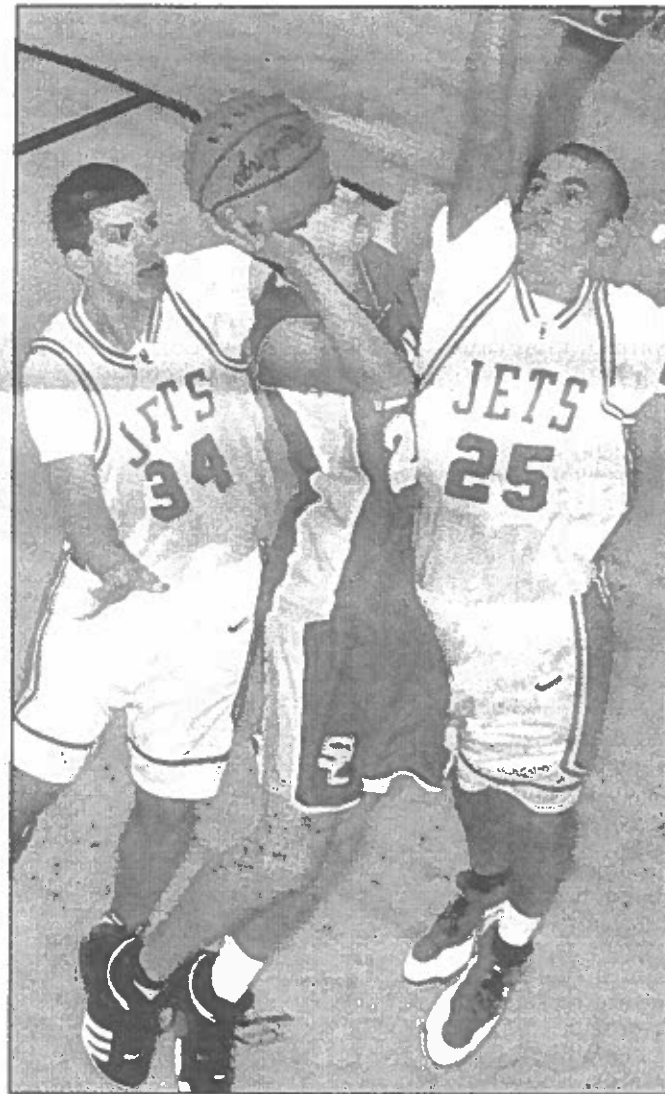
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Bridgeport falls to Donahue in single-A title tilt

• Bulldogs can't defend crown

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

It just wasn't meant to be for the Bridgeport Bulldogs.

After winning the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Tournament title a year ago, the Bulldogs literally had to scratch and claw their way to even make the Final Four in this year's event.

Winning eight of its final 11 games, Bridgeport appeared to have destiny on its side.

Bishop Donahue, seemingly, had other ideas.



The top-seeded Bishops posted a 50-42 victory in the nightcap of a basketball four-header at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center Saturday evening.

The title is the Bishops' first since 1989 and the fourth in the school's history.

"We can't make excuses," said Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash. "Our kids knew their backs were to the wall (to even qualify) the last two weeks, and our kids played hard, but Bishop Donahue made a few more plays than we did."

The Bulldogs were in total control with a 26-13 lead with a shade under four minutes to go in the first half.

However, Bishop Donahue's Ryan Jones wasn't going to let his team go quietly.

The guard -- who isn't one of the team's premier deep

See, **BRIDGEPORT**, Page C2



BRIDGEPORT'S NATE Malesky (33) goes up between Bishop Donahue defenders Ray Barrows, left, and Devin Overholt (40) during Saturday night's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class A Championship game. The Bishops won.

T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

● Bridgeport

Continued from Page C1

shooters -- buried treys on back-to-back trips, which awoke an otherwise stagnant Bishops' offense.

"The first one Ryan hit was very unexpected," smiled Bishop Donahue head coach Tom Wise. "Whenever you make one, your confidence just goes up. Thank goodness he hit those because they really ignited us."

The Bishops closed the half on a 12-0 run, which saw Bridgeport's commanding lead evaporate into a 26-25 margin at the intermission.

Inside player Ray Barrows also notched a pair of goals during the stretch.

"The biggest key to the game was the fact that we didn't lose our composure," Wise said. "To the kids' credit, they just continued to play and things went our way."

The Bishops continued the spurt into the third quarter, seizing control even further, scoring the first

five points of the third with Barrows and Jones again coming through.

The Bulldogs were outscored 13-6 in the period and stared at a 38-32 deficit entering the final chapter.

"Donahue really stepped up its defense in the second half," Cash said. "I take blame for their run in the second half because I should have probably called a timeout, but I was being a little too stubborn. I think we were still a little shell-shocked from the run in the first half and just never recovered."

Donahue's lead was at four at 42-38, but the Bishops promptly scored six in a row to push the cushion to 10 and then salted the game away at the charity stripe.

All told, the Bulldogs scored just 16 points in the second half.

"We made absolutely no adjustments (defensively) at halftime," Wise said.

"Bridgeport had some kids hit shots in the first half that we didn't think could shoot that way the entire game, so we just stuck with our game plan."

The Bishops were paced by the sophomore Jones who poured in 18 points. Barrows finished with 11 and solid senior point guard Nathan Fallova added 10.

The Bulldogs were led by Garrett Price who scored 10 points. Justin Gregoric was bottled up for the most part, finishing with nine.

Cash knew rebounding would be key coming into the game and he saw his team out-rebounded 38-27. Devin Overholt went for 10 rebounds. Michael Carr and Gregoric evenly split 10 boards to pace the Dogs.

Donahue overcame 18 turnovers, while Bridgeport was charted for 10 miscues.

Bridgeport -- now 11-9 -- will return to the court Thursday against River at Union Local in the Division IV sectional.

● UL

Continued from Page C1

relegated to accepting the runnerup trophy for the second consecutive season. "I give all the credit in the world to both teams for the way they played. Union Local was just a little better today."

The Jets led 10-7 after one period, but trailed 22-20 at the half as the Red Devils built a five-point margin, 22-17, with 1:11 remaining. Barbina knocked down a trio of free throws for the two-point deficit.

The third quarter saw the teams deadlocked six times and the lead change hands five times as the game went back-and-forth like a tennis match.

St. Clairsville's Phil Gross kept his team in the game by tallying eight of his game-high 27 markers in that third panel, including a free throw to give the designated visitors a slim, 36-35, edge with one quarter left to play.

Barr gave Union Local the lead for good, 46-44, at the 2:43 mark with a short jumper. Following a St. Clairsville turnover, Barr bumped the count to four, 48-44, when he softly kissed the ball off the glass.

The Red Devils wouldn't score again until Gross followed up a miss with just

over 30 ticks on the clock, but it was too little, too late.

"This is our first OVAC title in boys' basketball and it feels great," Porter added. "It's not about me, but about the kids and my coaching staff. These kids have raised the bar at UL to another level. They have laid the foundation for the future."

St. Clairsville won the battle of the boards, 34-28, as Gross landed nine and Allen Derosa had eight before fouling out late in the spirited contest. Kyle Blackman, the third member of UL's vaunted Killer B's, had a game-high 10 boards. Barbina finished with seven.

The Red Devils also turned the ball over five more times at 11-6.

Both teams return to the court this week for Division III sectional tournament action. Union Local meets OVAC rival Monroe Central Thursday at 7 p.m. at Meadowbrook High School in Byesville, while St. Clairsville squares off with Barnesville Saturday at 7 p.m. at the same site. Should both win, they would meet for a fourth time on March 7 for the right to advance to district play.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com

● Killer

Continued from Page C1

"We know what kind of expectations we've been under since the seventh grade," Barbina continued. "Everyone's kind of known who we were for a long time."

So then-head coach Rich Saffield made a decision to bring the trio to the high school level rather than play in the frosh league.

Barbina was immediately inserted into the starting lineup. Barr was the sixth man and Blackman saw action on the jayvee squad, but dressed varsity.

"These guys have been in the system for a long time," stressed UL head coach Ben Porter. "Coach Saff made the decision to bring them up, and I am glad he did because they've really matured into pretty good players."

Key words in that quote are matured into. The talent and skill level was evident, but physically, the Jets' youth were behind the eight-ball.

They finished that season with a 7-15 mark

After an off-season of working out and playing all summer long and being another year older, the Jets still only managed to win seven games.

With half of the B's prep careers in the hopper, all they had were 14 wins on their ledger and just one tournament victory. It was just unreal.

During the next off-season, the Jets' administration opted to non-renew Saffield

after he endured a lengthy illness.

In came Porter who instilled a hard-nosed approach.

The dividends weren't realized in year one as the Jets limped to an 11-10 record and didn't even qualify for the OVAC Tournament.

"This means a lot to us," Porter said. "We played hard in the summer and these seniors busted their butts."

With another summer of playing collectively, Barr put a lot of stock in the bonds that continued to grow as players. Not necessarily off the court because those had been on-going, but on the court.

"There were a few years where we just weren't bonding," Barr said. "When Jordan was starting and Kyle was playing jayvee it was like we weren't as one like we had been, but during our junior and senior years we just continued to come together and it's gotten us to where we are right now."

This year, the Three Amigos knew it was their last chance at glory and the quest even began during the fall when the Jets won 10 games and advanced to the second round of the playoffs with Barbina serving as the quarterback and Blackman and Barr as two of his prime receivers.

The Jets came soaring out of the gate and rolled past the Red Devils and

rolled right into 2009, but hit a little bit of a slump, falling to the Red Devils and Shadyside and knocking off Indian Creek in overtime.

"We came into the year wanting to be 20-0 obviously, but 18-2 and OVAC champions isn't bad," said Blackman.

But, the adversity seemingly did nothing but help the Jets grow and the senior trifecta once again realized what they had to do to take it to the next level.

"We knew coming into the season that we were going to get everyone's best shot," Barbina said. "I am proud of this team for how we've handled things this year to get this championship."

The adversity didn't go away in Saturday's final, but when St. Clairsville was surging they turned to whoelse? Barbina, Barr and Blackman.

The trio scored 50 of the Jets' 54 points.

"This was a total team effort," Blackman continued. "Brandon and Darby hit some big shots and they played great defense."

While the senior Bs get most of the attention, they've adopted two new members to their club. Brandon Nicholes and Darby Waller.

And with the goals still left on the table for the Jets, it's going to take a collective unit from everyone buzzing around the Morristown hive.

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championship Boxscores

Bishop Donahue 50, Bridgeport 42
BRIDGEPORT (42) -- Cash 1, 0-0 3; Ch. Smelley 3, 0-0 6; Cu. Smelley 0, 0-0 0; Price 5, 0-1 10; Tracey 1, 0-0 2; Car 4, 0-0 8; Gregoric 4, 0-1 9; Maleski 2, 0-2 4; Totals: 20, 0-4 42.
BISHOP DONAHUE (50) -- Whitfield 0, 0-0 0; Jones 6, 4-4 18; Barrows 7, 1-3 15; Fallova 4, 3-7 11; Schrupf 0, 0-0 0; Smith 0, 1-2 1; Overholt 2, 1-6 3; Totals: 19, 10-22 50.
Three-Point Goals: Bpt -- Cash, Gregoric. BD -- Jones (2).

Union Local 54, St. Clairsville 46
ST. CLAIRSVILLE (46) -- Jarvie 1 1-3 3; Derosa 2 2-2 6; Gross 12 1-3 27; Pata 2 0-0 4; Slavik 1 2-2 4; Kemo 0 0-2 0; Stevenson 1 0-0 2; Thornburg 0 0-0 0; Totals: 19-49 6-16.
UNION LOCAL (54) -- Barr 6 12-14 24; Barbina 7 7-11 22; Blackman 1 0-1 2; Nicholes 1 0-0 2; Waller 2 0-0 4; Jellison 0 0-1 0; Lucas 0 0-0 0; Totals: 17-41 19-26.
Three-Point Goals: STC -- Gross 2; UL -- Barbina

Wheeling Central 52, Fort Frye 41
WHEELING CENTRAL (52) -- Hood 4, 0-2 9; Long 3, 4-9 10; Sorge 4, 2-5 10; Gaphery 0, 0-0 0; Neidhardt 0, 0-0 0; Joseph 3, 2-2 8; Weishar 1, 4-4 7; Gordon 3, 0-2 6; Totals: 19, 12-24 52.
FORT FRYE (41) -- Stevens 5, 4-4 15; Bates 0, 0-0 0; Mincks 1, 2-2 4; Legraen 1, 0-0 2; Thieman 2, 5-6 9; Arnold 4, 0-0 11; Warren 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 13, 11-12 41.
Three-Point Goals: WC -- Hood, Weishar. FF -- Arnold (3), Stevens.

Wheeling Park 54, John Marshall 42
JOHN MARSHALL (42) -- Hays 2, 0-1 4; Whitfield 3, 0-7 6; Ju. Eikleberry 5, 0-0 10; Montes 3, 0-0 7; McClelland 0, 1-2 1; Coffield 2, 0-0 4; Defibaugh 4, 1-2 10; Totals: 19, 2-12 42.
WHEELING PARK (54) -- Black 1, 0-0 2; Hall 4, 5-7 13; Wheeler 0, 0-0 0; Griffin 1, 5-6 7; Simpson 0, 0-0 0; Jackson 4, 2-2 10; Goodwin 4, 1-2 9; O'Neal 4, 3-4 11; Vargo 1, 0-0 2; Totals: 19, 16-21 54.
Three-Point Goals: JM -- Montes, Defibaugh.

Wheeling Central captures 2-A title

When it comes to winning Ohio Valley Athletic Conference boys' basketball championships, absolutely nobody does it better than Wheeling Central.

Saturday morning's 52-41 victory against

once-beaten Fort Frye in the OVAC Class AA final played at the Ohio University-Eastern facility, was the Maroon Knights' fourth conference championship in row -- all under the direction of head coach

Mel Stephens -- and the school's 20th overall since the bi-state league was formed in 1943.

"Deciding it on the court is the best way to do it," Stephens said earlier in the week.

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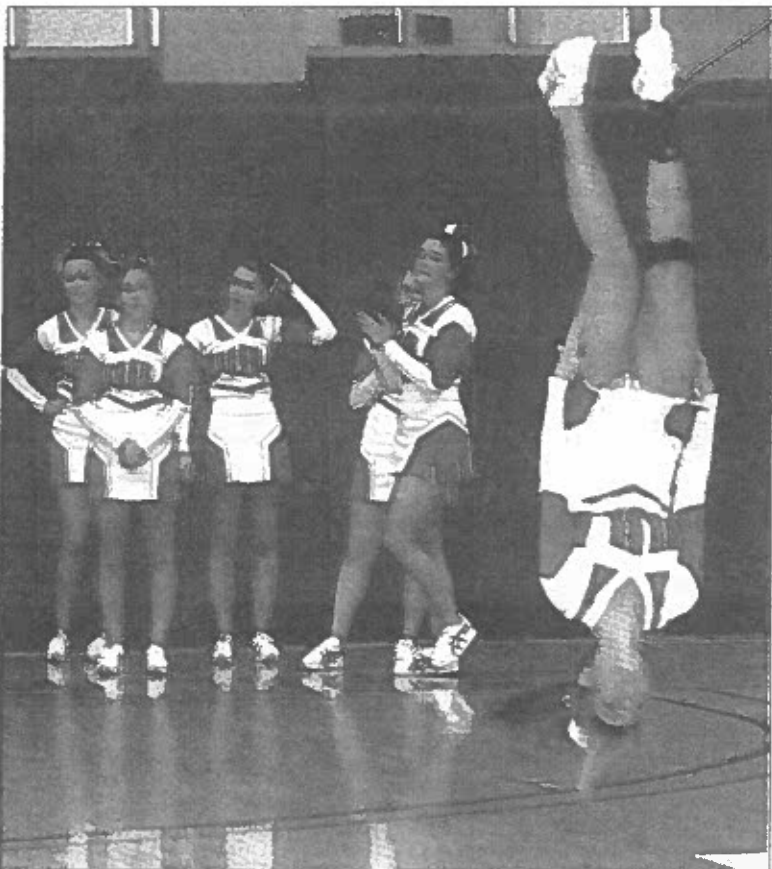
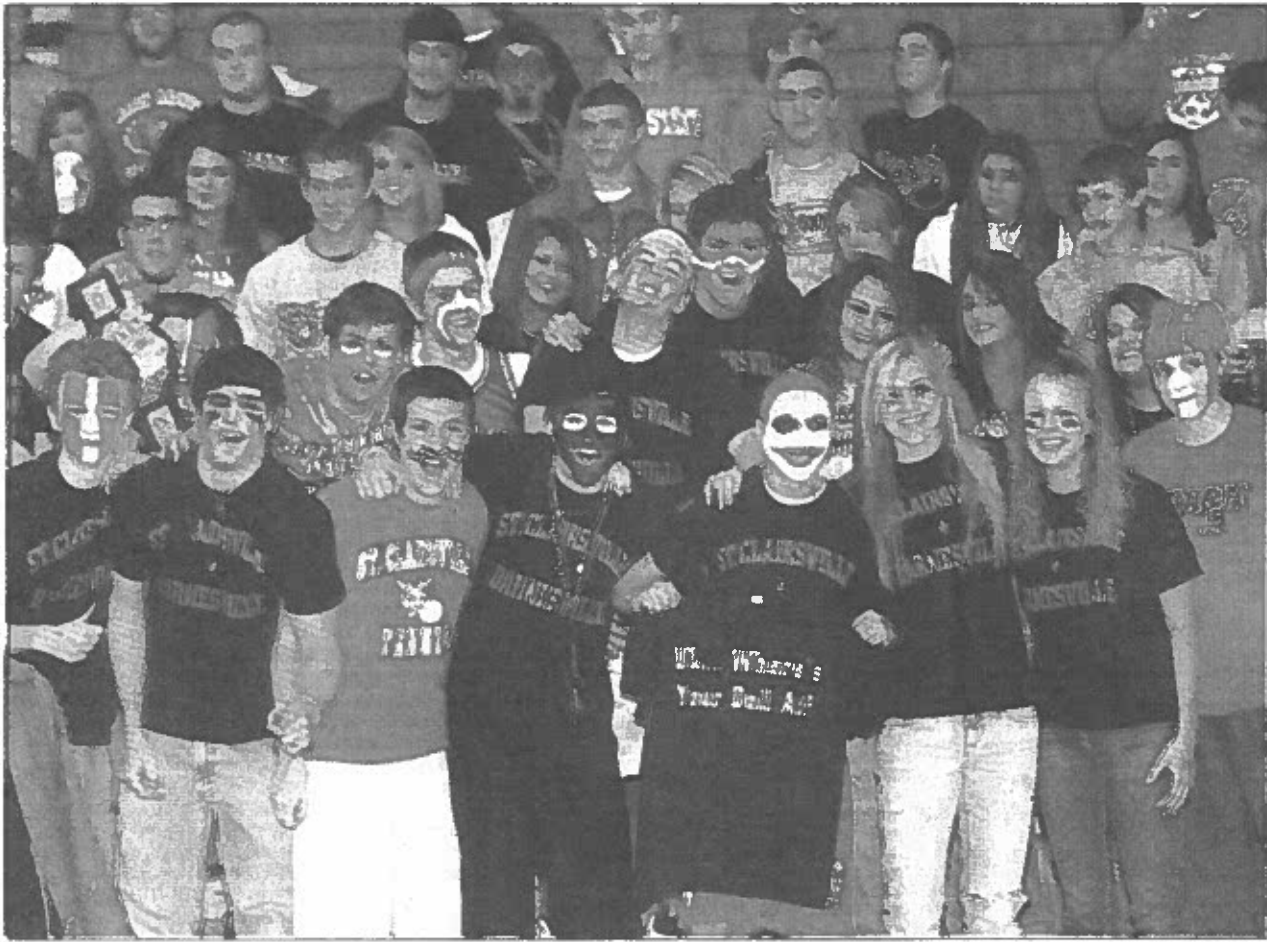
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EXAMPLE

A	B	R	A	H	A	M	L	I	N	C	O	L	N	Total
.22	.41	.36	.22	.19	.22	.11	.24	.03	.17	.46	.14	.24	.17	\$3.29

Just put your first and last name in the top row.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Fans of the St. Clairsville and Barnesville basketball teams joined forces to cheer on the Devils in Saturday's Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class 3-A Championship game against Union Local.

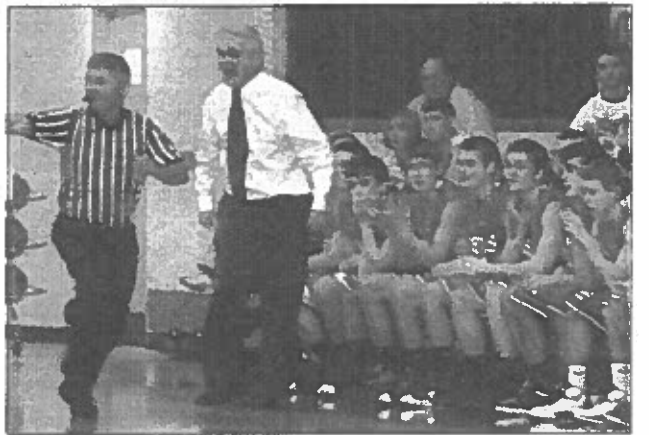
- Bridgeport coach Donnie Cash urges his team on in the Class A title game against Bishop Donahue.
- Jets' coach Ben Porter protests a call to an official.
- St. Clairsville's coach Kim Clifford yells instructions to his team.
- Bridgeport cheerleader Cassie Grandstaff roots on the Bulldogs.
- Union Local's Kyle Blackman in the post game interviews.

CU

SEE YOU VIEW additional photos of this event at cu.timesleaderonline.com

- Manning the food table in the courtesy room are Ron Sebring and Charles Isaly.

- Bridgeport fans, from left, Shayna Fischer, Beverly Reed and Mallory Fischer enjoy the ice cream.
- St Clairsville cheerleader Lauren Concula says a little prayer for the Devils as the last seconds

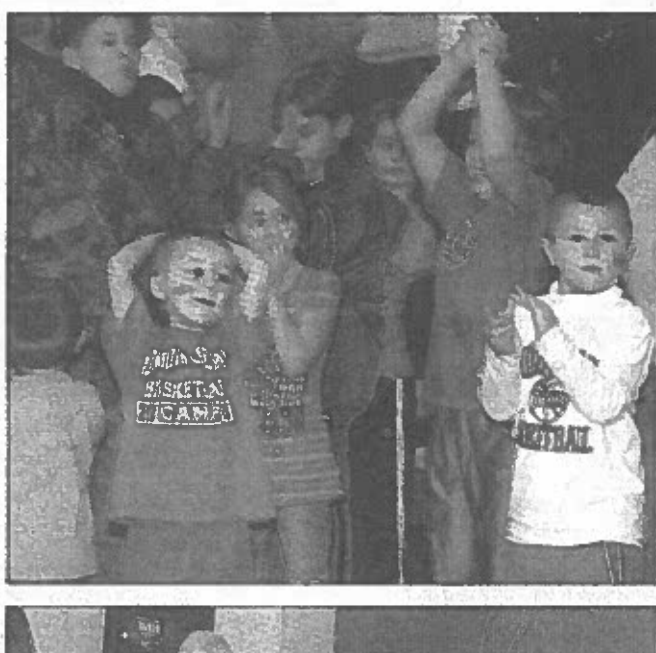
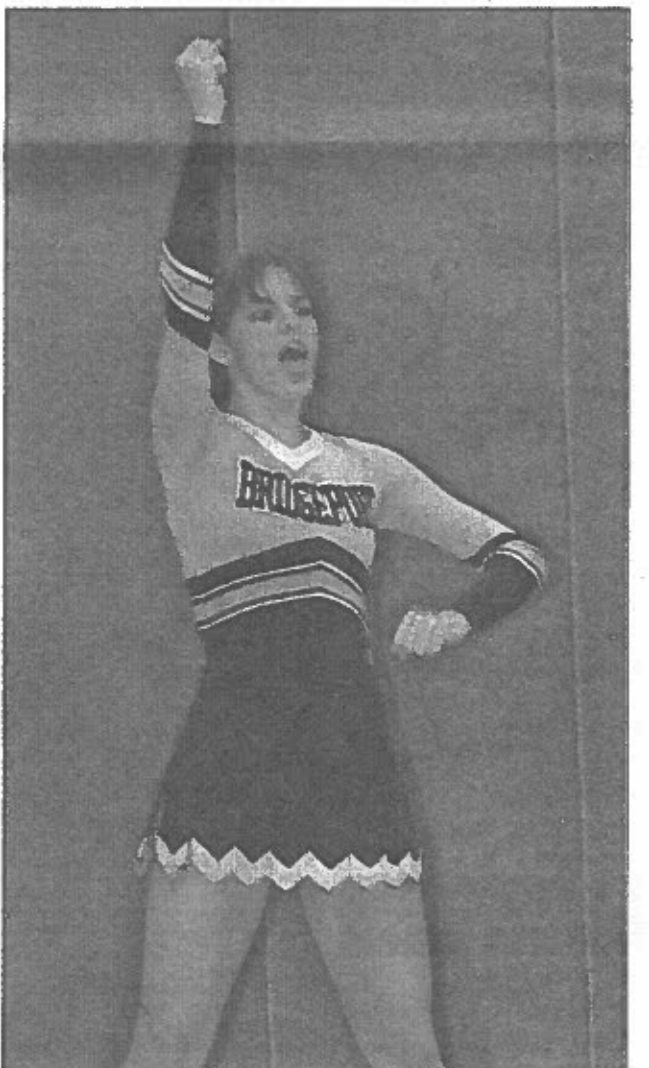


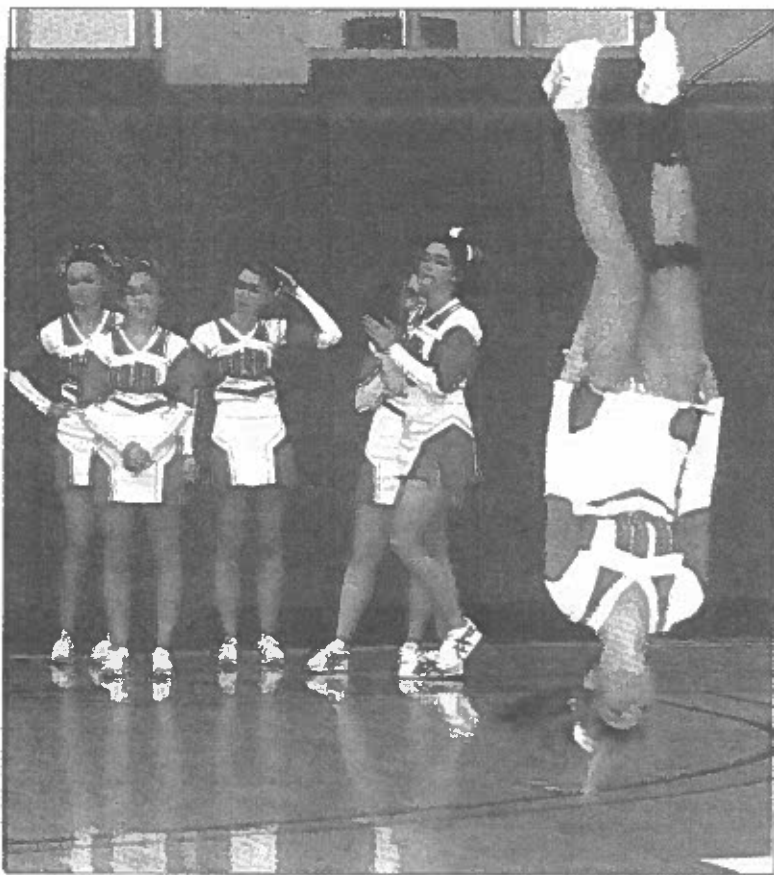
tick off the clock.

- Bellaire basketball stat team Brittany Rife, Cari Crozier, Jordan Robinson and Cierra Porter take a break from their duties at the OVAC championships.
- Union Local's Shelley Beal seems to hang suspended upside down as the Jets cheerleaders tumbled in the starters.

CENTER BELOW: Braden, Haley, Hannah and Jonathan Porter celebrate the Jets win.

T-L Photos/MIKE PALMER





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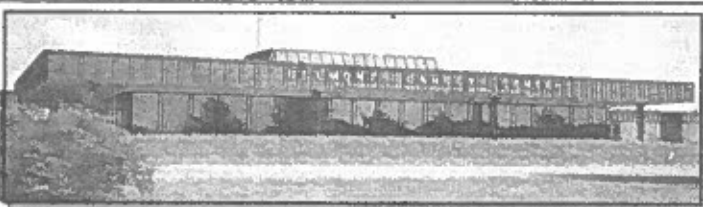
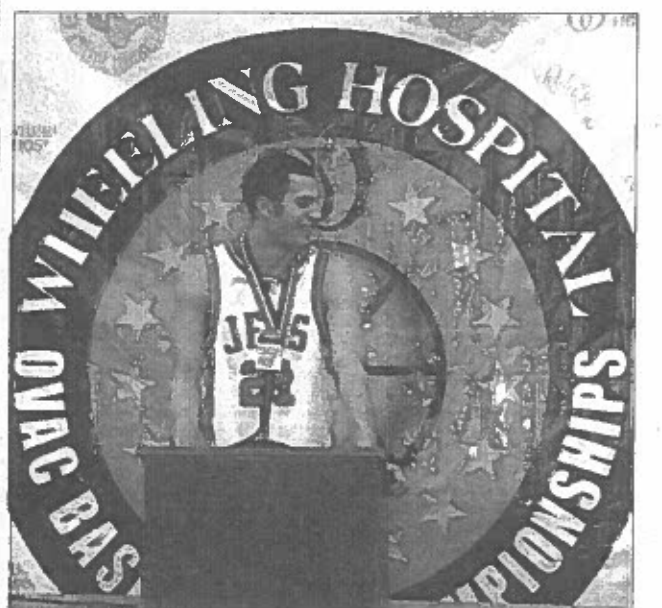
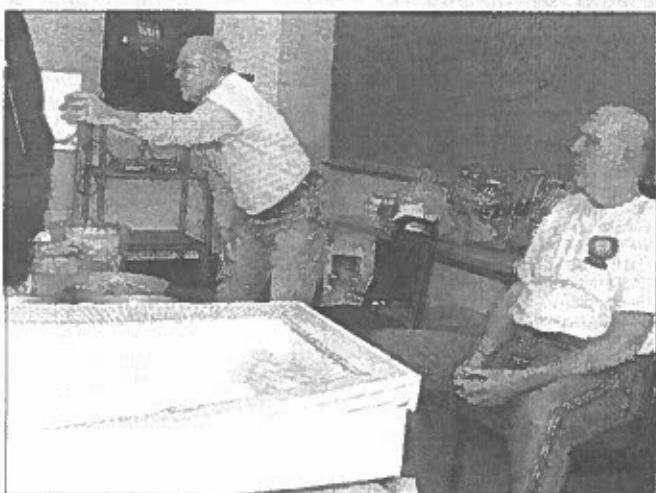
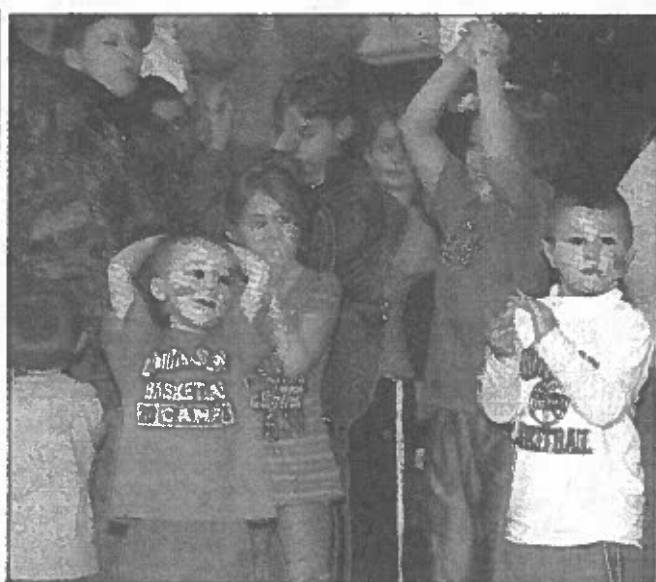
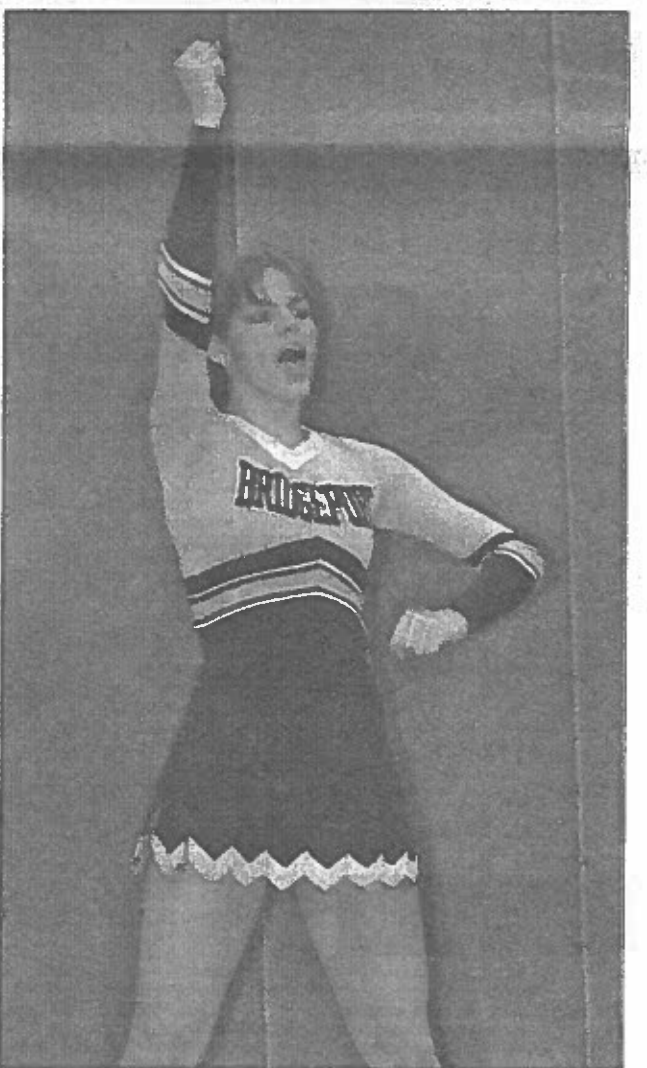
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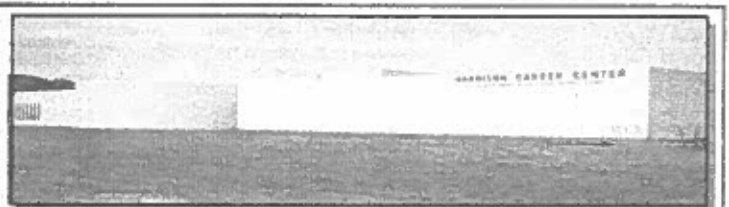


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SPORTS

CLASS A

No. 1 Donahue 60, No. 4 Cameron 53 OT
No. 2 Bridgeport 52, No. 3 Paden City 43
Championship
Saturday, 7 p.m. at OUE
No. 1 Donahue vs. No. 2 Bridgeport
Consolation
No. 4 Cameron at No. 3 Paden City

CLASS AA

No. 1 Fort Frye 60, No. 4 Shenandoah, 33
No. 2 Whg. CC 66, No. 3 Shadyside 62 2OT
Championship
Saturday, 10 a.m. at OUE
No. 1 Fort Frye vs. No. 2 Wheeling CC
Consolation
No. 4 Shenandoah at No. 3 Shadyside

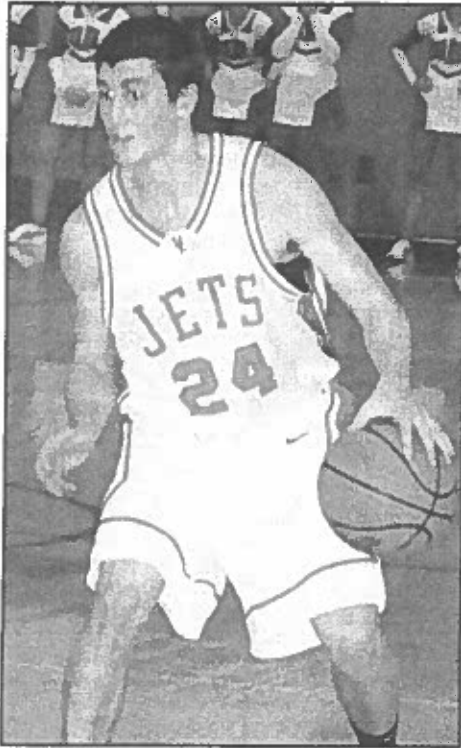


CLASS AAA

No. 1 Union Local 57, No. 4 Oak Glen 36
No. 2 St. C. 60, No. 3 Magnolia 55
Championship
Saturday, 1 p.m. at OUE
No. 1 Union Local vs. No. 2 St. C.
Consolation
No. 4 Oak Glen at No. 3 Magnolia

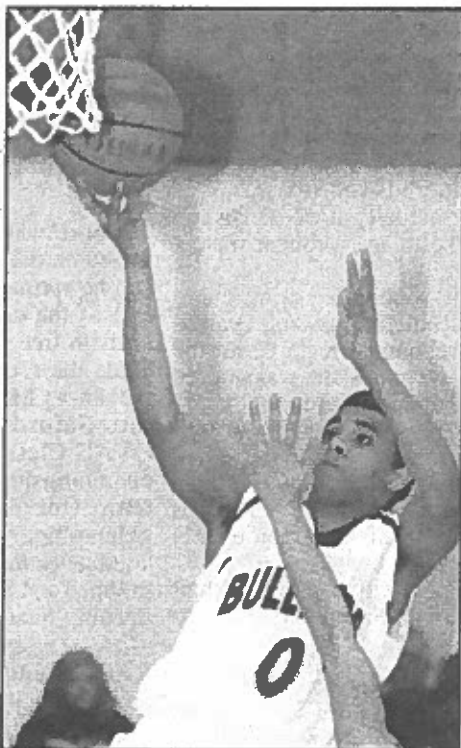
CLASS AAAA

No. 1 Park 93, No. 4 E. Liverpool 61
No. 2 J. Marshall 64, No. 3 Weir 63 OT
Championship
Saturday, 4 p.m. at OUE
No. 1 Park vs. No. 2 J. Marshall
Consolation
No. 4 Liverpool at No. 3 Weir



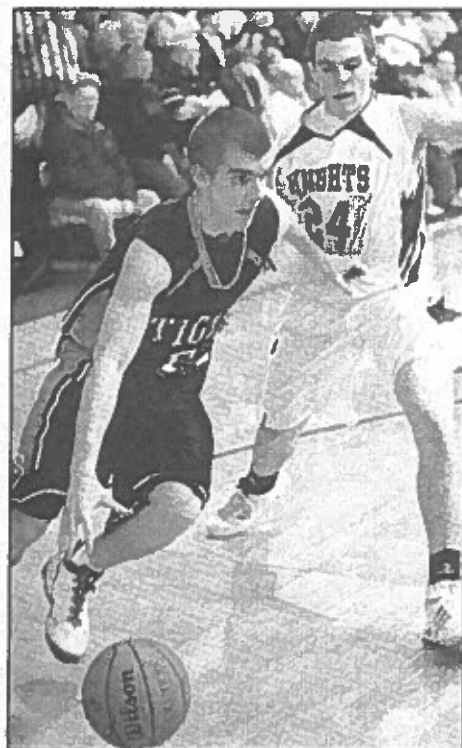
T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

UNION LOCAL'S Jordan Barbina brings the ball down the floor during Tuesday's Class 3-A OVAC semifinal.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

BRIDGEPORT'S Garrett Price goes up for a layup during Tuesday's Class 1-A semifinal vs. Paden City.



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

SHADYSIDE'S Justin Andes goes baseline against a Wheeling Central defender during Tuesday's 2-A semis.



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Dan Slavik looks to penetrate during Tuesday's 3-A semifinals against Magnolia.

BOUND FOR OUE

Top-seeded UL rolls to Class 3-A title game

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Union Local's Jets painted a defensive masterpiece Tuesday night at Morristown.

Now, head coach Ben Porter hopes his OVAC 3-A top-seeded quint has at least one more left in them.

UL make relatively quick work of No. 4 seed Oak Glen in a 57-36 semifinal decision before an enthusiastic turnout in the hangar.

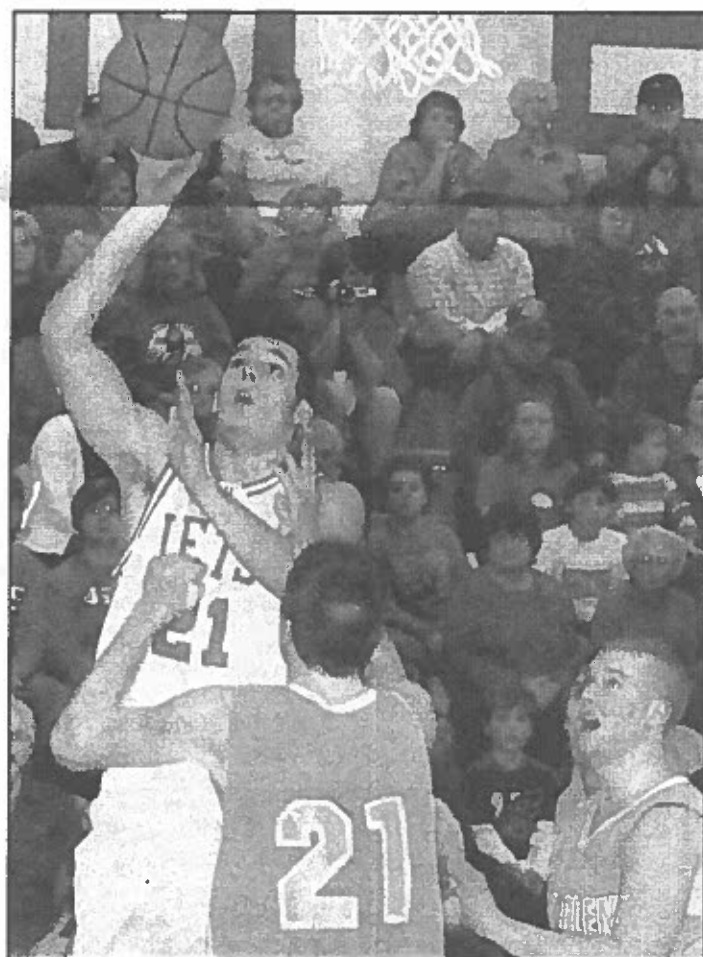
Coupled with St. Clairsville's Tuesday night triumph over Magnolia, the Jets and Red Devils will stage a rubber match in Saturday's Wheeling Hospital-sponsored championship event at Ohio University-Eastern.

Moments after his team's decisive victory, Porter stressed all attention had turned to rival St. Clairsville for Saturday's 1 p.m. tipoff.

"Obviously, we know a great deal about St. Clairsville and they know a great deal about us," Porter indicated. "It should be a great environment Saturday. We'll just let the kids go out and decide it. That's the way it should be."

Union Local extended a 13-7 advantage after one period to 29-17 at halftime against a game, but Oak Glen club sorely lacking for firepower.

"This (tournament) is a step in the right direction, but we're nowhere near where we want to be yet," noted veteran Bears' boss Vince Gilliam.



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

UNION LOCAL'S Kyle Blackman skies for a rebound against a pair of Oak Glen players during Tuesday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship semifinal in Morristown. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

See, UL, Page B2

St. Clairsville earns return trip in Class 3-A

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The last time the St. Clairsville Red Devils took the floor — prior to Tuesday's game — they used their tenacious defense to knock off Harrison Central.

However, during Tuesday's semifinal game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship it was the Red Devils' offense which stole the show.

The Red Devils buried nine triples and still had to hit crucial foul shots down the stretch to hold off a feisty Magnolia squad.

"I really hate to use cliches, but this really was a team effort," said a satisfied Kim Clifford. "Our guards came through for us, we got good minutes from our bench and we battled (Magnolia) inside."

The win puts the Red Devils in the Class 3-A title game for the second consecutive season. Last year, the Red Devils fell to Wheeling Central. This year's opponent will be a familiar one as they tangle with Union Local at 1 p.m. at OUE. The two Buckeye 8 rivals split their two regular-season meetings.

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See, ST. C., Page B2

Wheeling Central outlasts Shadyside in 2 OT

By **NICK BEDWAY**
For The Times Leader

In the first meeting between these two evenly matched schools, Shadyside pulled out a stunning one-point victory when Justin Andes was

from a 12-point, first-quarter deficit and finally prevailing 66-62 in yet another bizarre finish.

Central's Jordan Sorge, making his

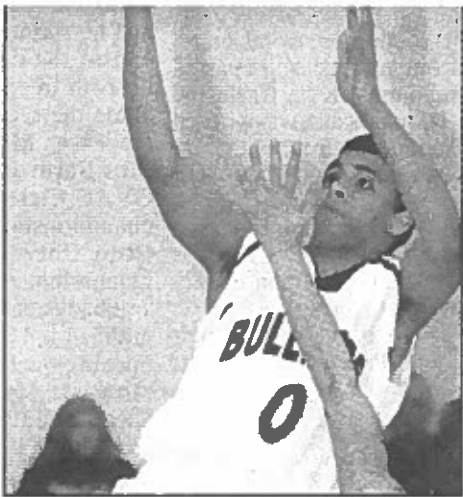
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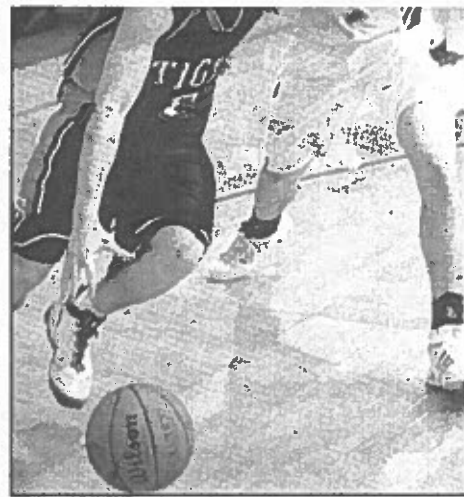
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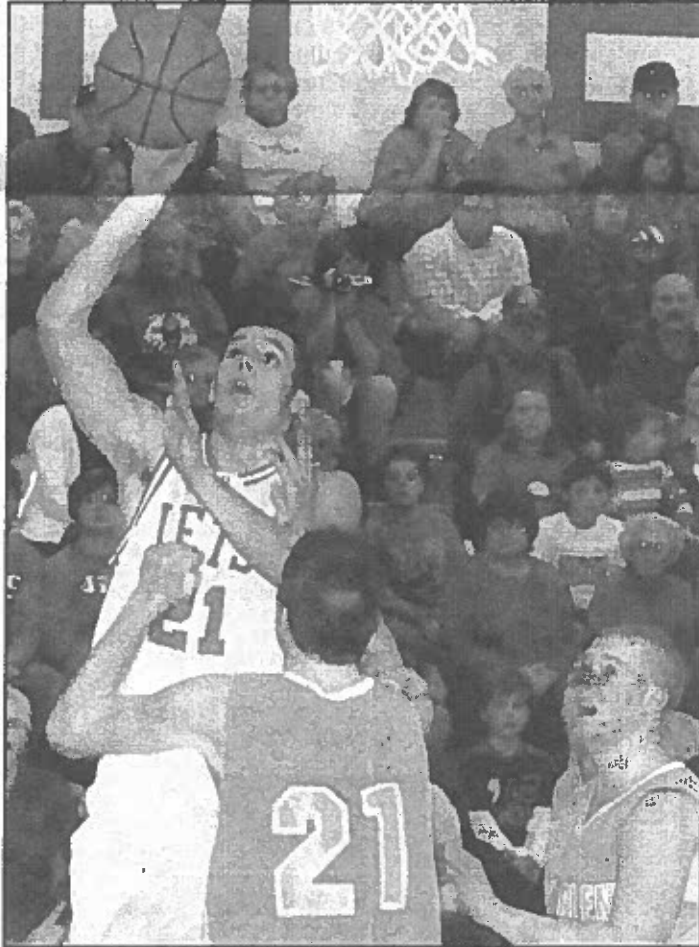
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See, **ST. C.**, Page B2

Wheeling Central outlasts Shadyside in 2 OT

By **NICK BEDWAY**
For The Times Leader

There would be no miracle finish this time for the Shadyside Tigers' boys' basketball team against Wheeling Central Catholic.

Although Coach Ed Andes' hustling club certainly had its chances to inflict a little *deja vu* on the Maroon Knights during Tuesday night's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AA semifinal contest.

In the first meeting between these two evenly matched schools, Shadyside pulled out a stunning one-point victory when Justin Andes was fouled while connecting on his game-tying 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Andes then dropped in the free throw to win it.

The rematch, also played in front of a big, excited crowd at the cozy Wheeling Central gymnasium, resulted in a tense, double-overtime sizzler with the Maroon Knights rallying

from a 12-point, first-quarter deficit and finally prevailing 66-62 in yet another bizarre finish.

Central's Jordan Sorge, making his second trip to the free-throw line in the second OT's final eight seconds, dropped in the back end of the double-bonus to put the hosts in front 64-61.

Andes, trying to duplicate his last-second effort from the December clash between the rivals, drove the ball just

See, **CENTRAL**, Page B2

Bridgeport seeks to defend Class A title

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

They're back and looking to make it back-to-back.

Bridgeport punched its return ticket to the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A championship game with a 52-43 victory over visiting Paden City Tuesday night before a boisterous crowd at the John

J. Havlicek Gymnasium in a Class A semifinal.

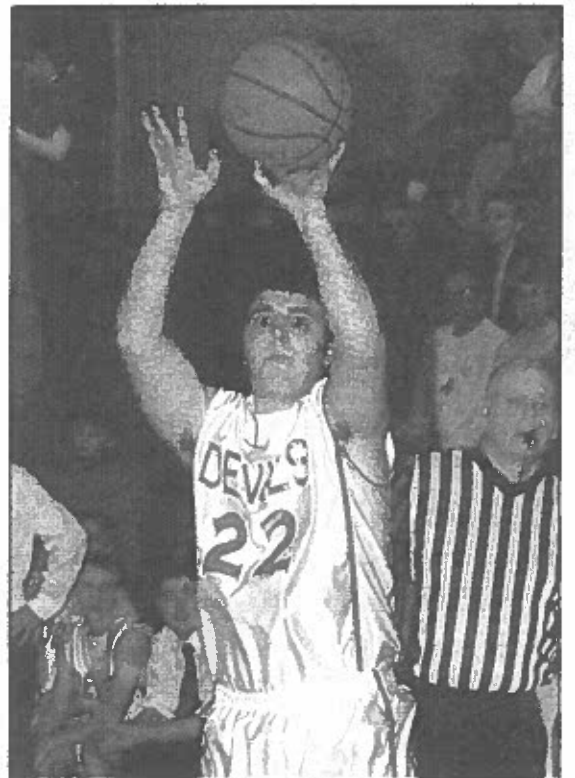
With the win, the Bulldogs (11-8) will now meet Bishop Donahue in Saturday's fourth title tilt at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Center. The Bishops outlasted Cameron, 60-53, in overtime in the other Class A semifinal.

"I asked my three seniors before the game to step up." See, **DOGS**, Page B2

BRIDGEPORT'S Michael Carr goes in for a shot against Paden City during Tuesday's Class A semifinal game. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Ryan Jarvie goes up for a shot during the first half of Tuesday's Class 3-A semifinal against Magnolia with official Jim Prati looking on. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

● Dogs

Continued from Page B1

said Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash. "I told them this was their last home game in this gym, so go out and give it your all.

"All three of them contributed in different ways," Cash continued. "Justin (Gregorcic) and Michael (Carr) didn't score much, but they didn't complain, and Kyle (Cash) did one heckuva job of playing defense on (Ricky) Wright. He completely shut him down."

The No. 3 seed Wildcats (12-9), who have now lost four straight, grabbed the early lead behind the hot outside shooting of junior Josh Bennett. The 6-footer knocked down a trio of three-point goals in the first quarter as the visitors led 13-12.

However, the momentum changed midway through the second quarter as Paden City gave up eight points — six on second-chance opportunities — as Bridgeport took the lead for good.

"We had six straight possessions where we gave them eight points," said a frustrated Paden City head coach Fred King. "That's a nine-point swing because we were up four and now we're down five at the half."

The second-seeded Bulldogs grabbed their first lead of the game when Mr. Instant Offense Timmy Tracey came off the bench and knocked down back-to-back shots from the left wing for a 20-19 advantage that the hosts would never relinquish. Jared Carlier and Carr would add easy inside buckets before the half as Bridgeport reeled off nine unanswered points for a 24-19 lead at the half.

"I don't know why I wasn't playing him more," Cash said of Tracey, who finished with 13 points and nailed a trio of long balls. "He was injured in the pre-season, but (assistant) coach Rick (Yourkovich) said play him, and he makes all the substitution calls, so he deserves a lot of credit."

A 13-5 scoring edge in the third stanza put the game out of reach for all intents and purposes as the bulge grew to a game-high 13, 37-43, after three quarters. The margin could have been bigger, but the Bulldogs misfired on all four of their free throw opportunities.

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'I'm so proud of these kids, especially my seniors who I've been pretty hard on this year, but the three seniors have responded and they deserve a lot of credit.'

— Donnie Cash

"I'm so proud of these kids, especially my three seniors who I've been pretty hard on this year," Cash added, "but the three seniors have responded and they deserve a lot of credit."

However, he said the mission isn't complete. "I read a coach's quote the other day that it wasn't his team's goal to get to the finals, it was their goal to win it. That's what our goal was, and now we've got a chance to defend our title."

When asked whether it mattered who his Bulldogs meet in the finals, Cash said, "actually it does. Bishop Donahue and us split, so I'd like to see a rubber match. But really, we'll play whomever."

Tracey's 13 was matched by sophomore point guard Garrett Price, who also dished out five assists, charted four steals and grabbed three rebounds. Kyle Cash, the coach's younger brother, tallied 10 points and was praised for his defensive effort. Carr landed 10 rebounds and blocked a trio of shots, while Gregorcic handed out four assists.

Wright did manage 11 points for Paden City, but nine of them came in the fourth quarter when the game was already decided. Bennett and Malakai Anderson evenly split 20 markers. Bennett had seven rebounds.

Both teams took great care of the basketball as their was a total of just 10 turnovers, with Paden City committing six.

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Three-Point Goals: PC — Wright 3, Bennett 3, Anderson; B — Cash 2, Tracey 3
North can be reached at
knorth@timesleaderonline.com

● UL

Continued from Page B1

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Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

● Central

Continued from Page B1

past the midcourt line, and while double-teamed, went up for a desperate 3-point heave at the basket. Although he never had a chance to make the basket, Andes got a reprieve when a foul was called against the Maroon Knights.

Just 1.5 seconds remained as Andes toed the foul line for the first of three shots that could have forced a third overtime had he made them all. The first was true while the second jumped off the rim. This left Andes with only an opportunity to try and miss the next shot in hopes he or one of his teammates could tip in the rebound. But he fired the ball too hard at the glass and it bounced away without drawing iron, awarding possession to Central.

Sorge was immediately fouled on the inbounds pass and he sprinted to the other end of the court where he hit both free throws to conclude the scoring and send the 14-4 Maroon Knights into Saturday's 10 a.m. OVAC Class AA Division championship game at the Ohio University-Eastern gymnasium.

Shadyside (13-5), which grabbed a 17-5 lead in the opening quarter against the slow-starting Maroon Knights and remained in front until just 4 minutes

remained in regulation, is usually deadly from the foul line. Last night, however, the Tigers netted 11 of 21 tries. In the fourth quarter, the Tigers missed the front end of two 1-and-1s, plus a double-bonus try and a chance for a conventional three-point play. They also came up empty on two-shot opportunity during the first overtime.

Coach Andes, while disappointed his team didn't take advantage of its foul-line opportunities, was pleased with the Tigers' effort and hustle.

"Now both teams know how it feels to lose a close game at the end," Andes said. "We beat them the first time here and (this) was their turn to win a close one. I thought both teams played very hard and fought right to the end."

Wheeling Central 66, Shadyside 62
SHADYSIDE (62) — Schuetz 5-17 2-3 14; Cline 1-2 0-0 2; Butts 6-7 2-5 14; Brown 5-8 2-2 12; O'Donnell 0-0 2-2 2; Andes 4-9 3-7 14; Brooks 2-8 0-2 4. Totals: 23-51 11-21. WHEELING CENTRAL (66) — Long 1-5 0-0 2; Sorge 7-15 5-8 20; Koehler 2-7 1-4 5; Joseph 3-7 2-2 8; Weishar 3-7 2-2 11; Hood 4-13 1-2 11; Ghaphery 0-0 0-0 0; Neidhardt 0-1 0-0 0; Gordon 3-5 3-4 9; Totals: 23-60 14-22.

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● St. C.

Continued from Page B1

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The Red Devils jumped out of the gate to a 16-13 lead in the first period. Fueling the attack was junior Dan Slavik who had one of his premier performances of the season. He meshed a pair of triples and eight total points in the first frame.

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Magnolia clawed to a 20-19 lead during the middle stages of the second period before St. C. closed the half with seven unanswered, making it a 26-19 reading at the break.

Senior standout Ryan Jarvie hit a trey to fuel that run. Senior Bo Kemo also hit a driving bucket to put the Devils back in front.

Again in the third quarter, Magnolia managed get the lead at 33-31 with a 11-4 run, but the Slavik and Jarvie duo again came through for the Devils. Slavik got a transition layup and then came off a high screen to knock down a triple from the top of the key. He then made a steal and left the ball ahead for Jarvie to lay in.

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Continued from Page B1

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

Girls' Semifinals — Mon., Feb. 9 — played on the home courts of the higher seeds
 Girls' Finals* — Sat., Feb. 14 — OUE — all games live on WKIX 1600AM/www.wkix.com

AA - 10:00am - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI# — Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7:00pm
 AAA - 1:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI — Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7:00pm
 AAAA - 4:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI — Thursday, Feb. 19 at 7:00pm
 A - 7:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI — Monday, Feb. 16 at 7:00pm

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 AAAA - 4:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI — Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7:00pm
 A - 7:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI — Monday, Feb. 23 at 7:00pm

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

FYI — Channel 10 in Wheeling / St. Clairsville, Channel 9 in Steubenville / Weirton

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Sunday News-Register

FEBRUARY 22, 2009

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Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championships

Title Was a Long Time Coming For Patriots



Photo by Mike Palmer

Bridgeport's Nate Maleski shoots between Donahue's Ray Barrows, left, and Devin Overholt.

Donahue Makes Its Mark

Bishops unseat reigning champion Bulldogs

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

BELMONT — It just wasn't meant to be for the Bridgeport Bulldogs.

Class A After winning the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Tournament title a season ago, the Bulldogs had to scratch and claw their way to even make the final four in this season's event.

Winning eight of its final 11, Bridgeport appeared to have destiny on its side.

Bishop Donahue had other ideas.

The top-seeded Bishops posted a 50-42 victory Saturday night in the nightcap of a basketball quadrupleheader at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

The title is the Bishops' first since 1989 and the fourth in the school's history.

"We can't make excuses," Bridgeport coach Donnie Cash said. "Our kids knew their backs were to the wall (to even qualify) the last two weeks, and our kids played hard, but Bishop Donahue made a few more plays than we did."

See Donahue, Page B2



Photo by Scott McCloskey

Wheeling Park's Bubby Goodwin splits the John Marshall defense of Andrew Montes, rear, and Casey Defibaugh on his way to the basket in Saturday's OVAC AAAA final.

Wheeling Park stops JM to capture first banner since 2000

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

BELMONT — How do you quell momentum?

How about by going 12 of 15 from the free-throw line in the final quarter?

Wheeling Park scored the uncontested points to put an end to a John Marshall surge and for the first time in eight years, the Patriots boys' basketball team will hang an OVAC Championship banner in its gymnasium.

Wheeling Park accomplished the task by beating rival John Marshall 54-42 on Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern, the third time it has defeated the rival Monarchs this season.

"We haven't won a title since 2000 and it means a little more now that it's settled on the court," Wheeling Park coach Michael Jebbia said. "I told the kids to not worry about our previous two games with John Marshall. We are fighting for a championship (Saturday) and we need 32 minutes."

"We handled some adversity as well. They were 2 of 8 from 3 and they hit both of them within a minute of each other. They tied it up but we were fine. We picked up the pressure the last 3, 4 minutes and the kids knocked free throws down."

"I want to thank our student body and fan base. There was a lot of faces out there and I think that picked our kids up a lot. It was a huge turnout and I want to thank them."

With Wheeling Park up eight late in the third quarter, John Marshall went on a run with a Justin Eikleberry basket and consecutive 3-pointers by Andrew Montes and Casey Defibaugh to tie the score at 34-34 heading into the fourth quarter.

See Patriots, Page B2

AAAA

"We haven't won a title since 2000 and it means a little more now that it's settled on the court."

Michael Jebbia



Wheeling Central's Jordan Sorge (12) dribbles by Fort Frye's Tyler Stevens on Saturday.

Photo by Scott McCloskey

Wheeling Central Claims Its Fourth Straight Crown

"This means a lot to us. We had four goals when we started the season, and now we've accomplished three of them. The kids know what the fourth is."

Union Local coach Ben Porter

Dominant 1-2 Punch Lifts Jets to a Championship

Barr, Barbina score as many as Devils' team

AAA

By KIM NORTH
For the News-Register
BELMONT — St. Clairsville and Union Local are separated by less than 10 miles.

Saturday afternoon the two Class AAA rivals met in the middle at Ohio University-

Clairsville's total, but it was Union Local's free-throw shooting down the stretch that made the difference.

Barr hit six straight at the line in the final 46.2 seconds to help the Jets pull away from their rivals.

"We shoot them every day in practice just like every other team," Porter said of the clutch free-throw shooting. "It's noth-

Bridgeport's Nate Maleski shoots between Donahue's Ray Barrows, left, and Devin Overholt.

Donahue Makes Its Mark

Bishops unseat reigning champion Bulldogs

By **SETH STASKEY**
For the News-Register
BELMONT — It just wasn't meant to be for the Bridgeport Bulldogs.

Class A After winning the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Tournament title a season ago, the Bulldogs had to scratch and claw their way to even make the final four in this season's event.

Winning eight of its final 11, Bridgeport appeared to have destiny on its side.

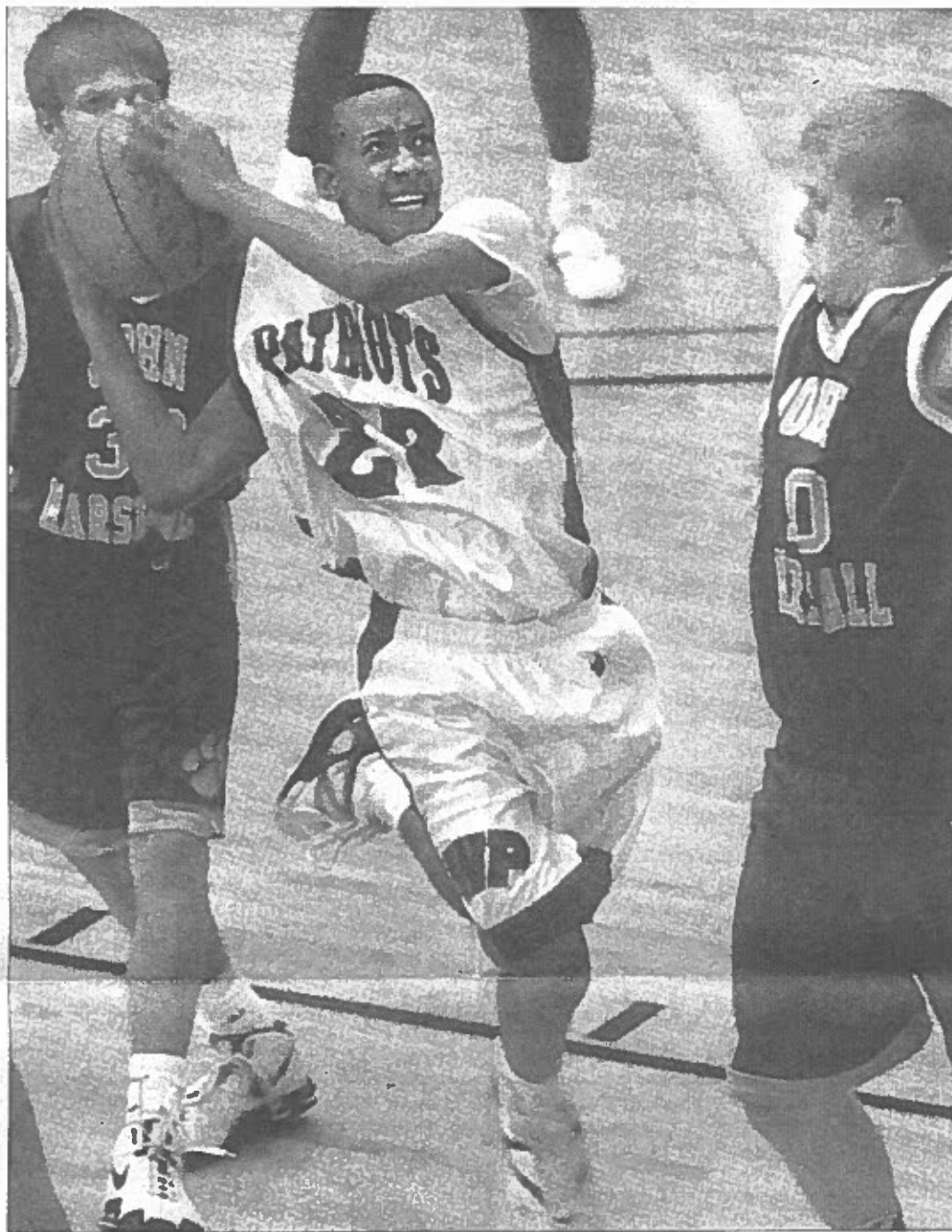
Bishop Donahue had other ideas.

The top-seeded Bishops posted a 50-42 victory Saturday night in the nightcap of a basketball quadrupleheader at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

The title is the Bishops' first since 1989 and the fourth in the school's history.

"We can't make excuses," Bridgeport coach Donnie Cash said. "Our kids knew their backs were to the wall (to even qualify) the last two weeks, and our kids played hard, but Bishop Donahue made a few more plays than we did."

See Donahue, Page B2



Wheeling Park's Bubby Goodwin splits the John Marshall defense of Andrew Montes, rear, and Casey Defibaugh on his way to the basket in Saturday's OVAC AAAA final.

Photo by Scott McCloskey

Staff Writer

BELMONT — How do you quell momentum?

How about by going 12 of 15 from the free-throw line in the final quarter?

Wheeling Park scored the uncontested points to put an end to a John Marshall surge and for the first time in eight years, the Patriots boys' basketball team will hang an OVAC Championship banner in its gymnasium.

Wheeling Park accomplished the task by beating rival John Marshall 54-42 on Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern, the third time it has defeated the rival Monarchs this season.

"We haven't won a title since 2000 and it means a little more now that it's settled on the court," Wheeling Park coach Michael Jebbia said. "I told the kids to not worry about our previous two games with John Marshall. We are fighting for a championship (Saturday) and we need 32 minutes."

"We handled some adversity as well. They were 2 of 8 from 3 and they hit both of them within a minute of each other. They tied it up but we were fine. We picked up the pressure the last 3, 4 minutes and the kids knocked free throws down."

"I want to thank our student body and fan base. There was a lot of faces out there and I think that picked our kids up a lot. It was a huge turnout and I want to thank them."

With Wheeling Park up eight late in the third quarter, John Marshall went on a run with a Justin Eikleberry basket and consecutive 3-pointers by Andrew Montes and Casey Defibaugh to tie the score at 34-34 heading into the fourth quarter.

AAAA

"We haven't won a title since 2000 and it means a little more now that it's settled on the court."

Michael Jebbia

See Patriots, Page B2



Wheeling Central's Jordan Sorge (12) dribbles by Fort Frye's Tyler Stevens on Saturday.

Photo by Scott McCloskey

Wheeling Central Claims Its Fourth Straight Crown

Maroon Knights muscle too much for the Cadets

By **NICK BEDWAY**
For the News-Register
BELMONT — When it comes to winning Ohio Valley Athletic Conference boys' basketball championships, absolutely nobody does it better than Wheeling Central.

Saturday morning's 52-41 victory against once-beaten Fort Frye in the OVAC Class AA final played at the Ohio University-Eastern facility, was the Maroon Knights' fourth conference championship in row — all under the direction of head coach Mel Stephens —

Class AA

and the school's 20th overall since the bi-state league was formed in 1943.

That's two more division titles than Bellaire, which has finished on top of the heap 18 times. The only other schools possessing double-figure OVAC pennants entering Saturday's play are Shadyside and Steubenville Big Red, with 12 each.

While Stephens is delighted his teams have emerged as champions the last four seasons, he believes the last two are even more special because they were won on the hardwood floor.

See Central, Page B2

"This means a lot to us. We had four goals when we started the season, and now we've accomplished three of them. The kids know what the fourth is."

Union Local coach Ben Porter

Dominant 1-2 Punch Lifts Jets to a Championship

Barr, Barbina score as many as Devils' team

AAA

By **KIM NORTH**
For the News-Register
BELMONT — St. Clairsville and Union Local are separated by less than 10 miles.

Saturday afternoon the two Class AAA rivals met in the middle at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center to decide the second annual Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference boys' basketball championship.

When the dust had settled, it was the top-seeded Jets (20-2) that took the gold hardware back to Morristown thanks to a come-from-behind, 54-46 victory against the second-seeded Red Devils (12-8) before a raucous crowd of a little more than 1,300.

"This means a lot to us," second-year Union Local coach Ben Porter said. "We had four goals when we started the season, and now we've accomplished three of them. The kids know what the fourth is. I couldn't be any more proud of these kids because they busted their butts to get here."

The Jets' 1-2 punch of Joby Barr (24) and Jordan Barbina (22) matched St.

Clairsville's total, but it was Union Local's free-throw shooting down the stretch that made the difference.

Barr hit six straight at the line in the final 46.2 seconds to help the Jets pull away from their rivals.

"We shoot them every day in practice just like every other team," Porter said of the clutch free-throw shooting. "It's nothing special, but we stress to the kids to be mentally tough and focused when at the line, especially late in the game."

It seems Barr took his coach's advice. "Coach always tells us not to stress, just focus on making the shots," the 6-foot-2 senior said. "I've been through pressure before. I know how to handle it."

And handle it he did. He scored 14 of his team-high total in the fourth quarter when UL had to rally from a 36-35 deficit entering the last frame.

"They had a couple of guys that made plays at the end of the game," said St. Clairsville coach Kim Clifford, who was relegated to accepting the runner-up trophy for the second consecutive season. "I give all the credit in the world to both teams for the way they played. Union Local was just a little better."

See Jets, Page B2

ON THE LINE

Today's Results:
Q. Will you remember George Kellas more as a sports broadcaster, radio personality, friend, or all the above?

Sports	12%
Radio	13%
Friend	3%
All	72%

Tomorrow's Poll:
Q. Will you watch the West Liberty at Wheeling Jesuit men's basketball game on TV?

Tell us what you think.
Register your answer at
www.theintelligencer.net
(The results of this poll are not scientific and represent only the opinions of Internet users who have chosen to participate.)

Continued from page B1

Defibaugh's 3-pointer banked in as time expired with the senior guard nearly falling into the scorer's table. His teammates picked him in the air and the momentum had clearly shifted the way of the Monarchs.

The teams traded baskets in the fourth quarter and with the score tied 40-40 with 3:02 on the clock, an errant pass on an inbounds play in Wheeling Park territory turned the game completely around.

Wheeling Park's Michael Griffin intercepted the pass and pushed it up the floor for an easy bucket by Marqez O'Neal to put the Patriots in front by two.

"The game's tied and we are taking it out on an out-of-bounds play," John Marshall coach Bill Storm said. "We take great pride in our special plays. We think we can score anytime and we spent all day (Friday) working on those plays."

"We lined up, didn't execute what we wanted to execute and threw it away. They went down and scored to get a two-point lead, then scored twice more after that for a six-point lead. Not executing an out-of-bounds play turned around and bit us."

After a Montes miss on the other end, O'Neal hit two free throws to double the lead.

Defibaugh then missed two shots before Richard Hall drove to the basket for a layup and six-point lead.

"I gave (Hall) a breather and my assistants were getting on me to get him back in," Jebbia said. "He steadies us out there. He is a leader and he dominates the boards. His drive was the key. He saw the read and went in and banked it in and I think that pretty much sealed the victory."

"The rest of the guys were great and have all scored at least 18 points or above at some point this year, so we share the wealth on offense and stick together on defense."

Hall led the Patriots with 13 points and 12 rebounds.

After John Marshall's Jeremy Hays missed a 3-pointer that would have cut the lead in half, Hall missed the front end of a 1-and-1, but D'Jhae Jackson picked up the rebound.

A foul to Griffin and his two successful free throws with 1

minute to go put the game seemingly out of reach.

Hall made three more free throws, Jackson connected on two, and Griffin hit another for the Patriots (14-5).

"We practice those a lot," Jebbia said. "Coach (Dave) Stahnke has them doing free throws twice a day, every day. We are shooting close to 69 percent and that is pretty good for a high school basketball team. These guys get to the line a lot."

It was something the Monarchs were miserable at, going 2-for-12, including 0-for-8 in the second quarter when the Patriots started their surge to go out in front.

"One team is 2-for-12 from the line, the other team is 16-for-21," Storm said. "You aren't going to win an OVAC championship like that. We didn't shoot the ball very well and we only had four offensive rebounds."

"We ran our sets and they ran their sets. Both teams were pretty well prepared and knew what to expect. (Saturday) I think both teams had good looks at the baskets."

"They made some shots even though we held them to 0-for-10 from 3, so it was a pretty good defensive effort. Early in the game we got killed on the boards and then a stretch in the second quarter when we missed all those free throws. To our credit we came back and had the game tied with 4 minutes to go."

"We have a lot of season left to play so I hope the bandwagon doesn't empty because of the loss. I would be disappointed if there was anything less than a full house when we play Morgantown in the sectional."

O'Neal added 11 points for Wheeling Park while Jackson chipped in with 10. John Marshall was paced by Eikleberry and Defibaugh, each with 10 points.

"Every team is different and we only have one senior out there," Jebbia said. "They get along and share the basketball. We have a quickness that maybe we haven't had the last two or three years. They work hard every day and this was one of our goals after getting beat last year in the semifinals. Our school has had a super year with 11 OVAC championships."

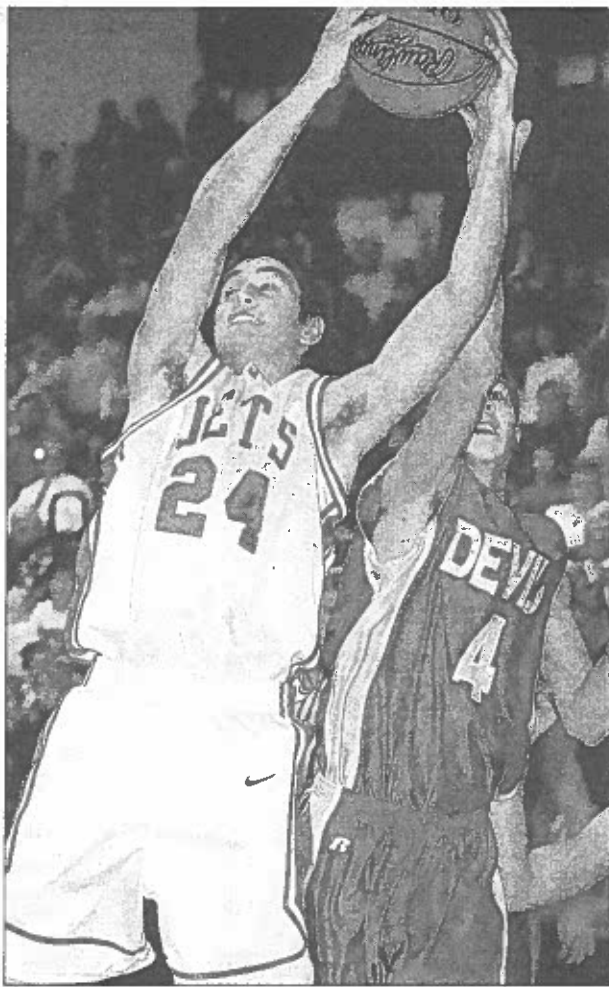


Photo by Mike Palmer

Union Local's Jordan Barbina (24) pulls down a rebound in front of St. Clairsville's Phil Gross during action of the OVAC Class AAA title game.

JETS

Continued from page B1

The Jets led 10-7 after one period, but trailed 22-20 at the half as the Red Devils built a five-point margin, 22-17, with 1:11 remaining. Barbina knocked down a trio of free throws for the two-point deficit.

The third quarter saw the teams deadlocked six times and the lead change hands five times as the game went back-and-forth like a tennis match.

St. Clairsville's Phil Gross kept his team in the game by tallying eight of his game-high 27 points in that third, including a free throw to give the designated visitors a 36-35 edge with one quarter left to play.

Barr gave Union Local the lead for good, 46-44, at the 2:43 mark with a short jumper. Following a St. Clairsville turnover, Barr bumped the count to four when he softly kissed the ball off the glass.

The Red Devils didn't score again until Gross followed up a miss with a little more than 30 seconds on the clock, but it was too little, too late.

"This is our first OVAC title in boys' basketball and it feels great," Porter added. "It's not about me, but about the kids and my coaching staff. These kids have raised the bar at UL to another level. They have laid the foundation for the future."

St. Clairsville won the battle of the boards, 34-28, as Gross landed nine and Allen Derosa had eight before fouling out late. Kyle Blackman, the third member of UL's vaunted Killer Bs, had a game-high 10 boards. Barbina finished with seven.

Continued from page B1

The Bulldogs were in control with a 26-13 lead with a shade under 4 minutes to go in the first half.

However, Bishop Donahue's Ryan Jones wasn't going to let his team go quietly.

The guard, who isn't one of the team's premier deep shooters, buried treys on back-to-back trips, which awoke an otherwise stagnant Bishops offense.

"The first one Ryan hit was very unexpected," Bishop Donahue coach Tom Wise said with a smile. "Whenever you make one, your confidence just goes up. Thank goodness he hit those because they really ignited us."

The Bishops closed the half on a 12-0 run, which saw Bridgeport's lead evaporate into a 26-25 margin at the intermission.

Inside player Ray Barrows also notched a pair of goals during the stretch.

"The biggest key to the game was the fact that we didn't lose our composure," Wise said. "To the kids' credit, they just continued to play and things went our way."

The Bishops continued the spurt into the third quarter, seizing control even further, scoring the first five points of the third with Barrows and Jones again coming through.

The Bulldogs were outscored 13-6 and stared at a 38-32 deficit entering the final quarter.

"Donahue really stepped up its defense in the second half," Cash said. "I take blame for their run in the first half because I should have probably called a timeout, but I was being a little too stubborn. I think we were still a little shell-shocked from the run in the first half and just never recovered."

Donahue's lead was at four at 42-38, but the Bishops promptly scored six in a row to push the cushion to 10 and then salted the game away at the free-throw line.

All told, the Bulldogs scored 16 points in the second half.

The Bishops were paced by the sophomore Jones who poured in 18 points. Barrows finished with 11 and solid senior point guard Nathan Fallova added 10.

The Bulldogs were led by Garrett Price who scored 10 points. Justin Gregorcic was bottled up for the most part, finishing with nine.

Cash knew rebounding would be key coming in and he saw his team out-rebounded 38-27. Devin Overholt went for 10 rebounds, Michael Carr and Gregorcic evenly split 10 rebounds to pace the Dogs.

Repella Keys WVU

MORGANTOWN — Liz Repella scored a career-best 34 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead West Virginia to a 90-75 victory against South Florida on Saturday night before 6,232 fans taking part in "Pink Zone" to raise awareness for breast cancer.

It was the third-largest crowd to witness a women's basketball game at the WVU Coliseum. Repella made 10 of 17 field goals and hit 9 of 10 from the line. Ashley Powell also established a career best with 19 points.

CENTRAL

Continued from page B1

"Deciding it on the court is the best way to do it," Stephens said earlier in the week after the Maroon Knights won a two-overtime thriller against Shady-side in the AA semifinals. "The best teams all get a fair chance to win it this way."

Although the AA final matching Fort Frye (18-2) and Wheeling Central (15-4) was a low-scoring affair, for the most part it was a well-played battle of two disciplined, fundamentally sound and highly successful programs.

The differences were that Central had the better of it defensively and the Maroon Knights' quickness on the both ends of the court proved superior.

"Central did a better job of executing than we did," Cadets coach Dan Liedtke said. "They definitely were the quickest team we played. I told our kids that when you play this team you have to be strong with the basketball."

"You can't play soft with the ball or they will take it off you."

Another key was the

Maroon Knights' physical play inside, featuring the physical play and leaping ability of rebounders Dan Gordon, Eli Joseph and Cody Koehler.

"They put their big bodies on us inside and we couldn't get through them," pointed out Brandt Thieman, the Cadets 6-4 senior forward.

An off-shooting performance helped doom Fort Frye's chances. The Cadets especially struggled from behind the 3-point line, where they were just 4 of 21 (19 percent).

They didn't connect on their first triple until 6-foot senior guard Jarrod Arnold drained one from the top of the circle just before the halftime buzzer, pulling the Cadets to within 25-19.

Fort Frye continued a 9-0 run to start the third quarter with its impressive 5-10 senior guard Tyler Stevens and Arnold hitting back-to-back 3-pointers to tie the score at 25-25.

However, Central responded with eight straight points and the Maroon Knights never looked back. Joseph banged

a shot off the glass from the baseline to give Central the lead to stay. Stephens rimmed out a 3-ball at the other end and Koehler grabbed the rebound and took it the other way for a layup.

Thieman flashed into the lane and hit a turnaround jumper to end the dry spell for the Cadets but the Maroon Knights later closed out the quarter with three straight baskets, the first coming on a lob pass to the Zach Hood on a break to the bucket. Long's backside stick-back and a follow shot by the 5-6 Hood, who rebounded his own missed shot.

The late spurt pushed Central's lead into double digits for the first time at 40-29 as the third quarter

came to a close. Fort Frye made its final run at the outset of the fourth quarter when Arnold broke free off a screen and swished a triple, followed by a Thieman two-pointer that trimmed the deficit back to six at 40-34.

"We have some good 3-point shooters but we don't emphasize 3s," Liedtke stressed. "Most of the time we want the ball to go inside."

Stephens and Arnold combined for most of the Cadets points, collecting 15 and 11, respectively.

Long and Sorge were the Maroon Knights' only double-digit scorers with 10 points each, while Hood fired in nine points, and Joseph, Jack Weishar and Gordon chipped in with 8, 7 and 6, respectively.

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From Bishop Donahue High School

Gorzelanny sharp in debut

• Lefty hurls two shutout innings, but Pirates lose 5-2 to Braves

By JOHN PERROTTO
For The Times Leader

BRADENTON, Fla. — As his disastrous 2008 season came to a close, Tom Gorzelanny said he could not wait for 2009 to begin so he could make amends.

The Pittsburgh Pirates left-hander got his first chance to do that Friday and pitched two scoreless innings in a 5-2 loss to the Atlanta Braves in an exhibition game at McKechnie Field. It was the Pirates' first loss of the Grapefruit League season in three tries.

"I felt good and I felt strong," Gorzelanny said. "Other than walking a couple of guys who I know I can get out, I'm happy about the way I pitched, especially for the first time out this spring."

Gorzelanny walked Brian McCann and Jeff Francoeur to start the second inning, but escaped trouble by getting Matt Diaz to ground into a double play and Freddy Freeman to ground out. That came after Gorzelanny pitched a 1-2-3 first inning.

Gorzelanny often let innings get out of hand last season when he went 6-9 with a 6.66 ERA in 21 starts. Thus, he was happy with the way he practiced damage control on Friday.

"The one thing I'm learning is that once you walk a guy or give up a hit, it's over and you've got to concentrate on getting the next hitter out," Gorzelanny said. "Getting upset in that situation doesn't do you any good. You've just to keep battling and concentrating on getting guys out."



Pirates manager John Russell also was happy with the way Gorzelanny has responded to pitching coach Joe Kerrigan's advice.

"Joe has really been stressing that you have to take it one pitch at a time and one batter at a time, and that's how Tom approached it today," Russell said.

Gorzelanny was assured of a spot in the starting rotation last spring, but is competing for a job this time year. He feels having to approach the exhibition games with a greater sense of urgency should be beneficial.

"I think it's good that I need to be sharp every time out," Gorzelanny said. "It's only going to help me get better prepared for the season."

GAME RECAP: Jason Davis gave up a run in the third inning, when he walked three of the seven batters he faced, to take the loss. Zach Duke allowed a solo home run to Greg Norton in his inning of work and Daniel McCutchen served up a two-run shot to Chipper Jones in his inning.

Dave Davidson, Donnie Veal and Chris Bootcheck all pitched one scoreless inning.

Neil Walker provided the offensive highlight with an RBI double in

the ninth inning. Second base prospect Shelby Ford went 1-for-2 and has a hit in all three games this spring.

INJURY UPDATE: Utility player Eric Hinske was a late scratch from the lineup because of a bruised left ribcage. Hinske was supposed to be the designated hitter, but was replaced by Pedro Alvarez, the Pirates' first-round draft pick last year. Alvarez was 1-for-3 with a walk.

Hinske was injured Wednesday when he crashed into the wall while chasing a fly ball in a game against Philadelphia. Hinske said the Pirates medical staff told him he would likely be held out of games for a week as a precaution.

Hinske played Thursday against the Boston Red Sox in Fort Myers, Fla., but felt discomfort Friday during batting practice.

"It's not a serious thing, but I felt it a little and any time you're dealing with something in the ribcage you've got to be careful," Hinske said. "It you don't let it heal right away, it's the type of thing that will linger all season."

Infielder Luis Cruz (strained hip flexor) took batting and fielding practice Friday and is penciled in to make his spring debut Monday against the Cincinnati Reds in Bradenton.

UP NEXT: The Pirates play the Houston Astros at 1:05 p.m. today in Kissimmee, Fla., with Paul Maholm starting against Brian Moehler. Also scheduled to pitch for the Pirates are Jeff Karstens, Matt Capps, Jesse Chavez and Craig Hansen.



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AP source: A-Rod to meet with MLB Sunday

NEW YORK (AP) — Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez is scheduled to meet with Major League Baseball officials on Sunday to discuss his admission that he used performance-enhancing drugs from 2001-03 while with Texas.

The timing of the meeting was disclosed Friday by a baseball official with

knowledge of the session who spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcement was made.

MLB wants to speak with Rodriguez about security issues involving a trainer from the Dominican Republic and the cousin the three-time MVP said injected him with a banned substance called "boli."

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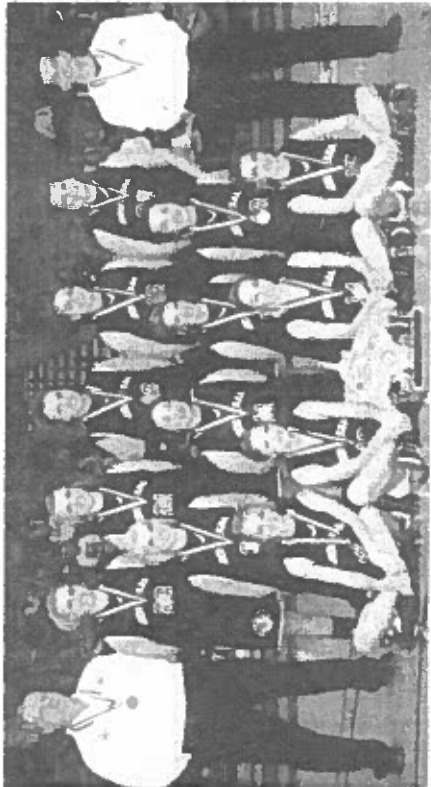
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Patriots Throttle Potters

Park will look to make it three straight against JM

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

In the semifinal round of the initial Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAAA boys' basketball tournament last season, top-seeded Wheeling Park fell victim to arch-rival John Marshall.

Not only did Coach Michael Jebbia's Patriots atone for that loss in Tuesday night's opening game of the 2009 event, they will get the opportunity to exact some revenge on the Monarchs in Saturday afternoon's Big-School championship game.

Junior Shaun Black paced five double-figure scorers with 21 points and Wheeling Park used a pivotal 10-0 run midway through the third quarter to pull away in powering to a 93-61 victory against a shell-shocked East Liverpool team at Wheeling Park High School.

The victory puts the Red-White-and-Blue in Saturday's 4 p.m. Class AAAA title tilt against John Marshall, which defeated Weir. It will be Coach Bill Storm's second trip to the final after falling to Indian Creek in last season's inaugural event.

Jebbia's 13-5 record squad has defeated the Monarchs twice already this season.

"We have not won an OVAC (boys' basketball) championship since 2000 and these kids realize that," Jebbia said. "I believe we will come ready to play on Saturday and I am sure it will be a good championship game."

While the first half of Tuesday night's contest turned into the Shaun Black show, the Patriots were unable to pull away as the Potters (9-10) kept fighting back. Park scored the initial 12 points of the game, but led just 18-11 after one.

A 7-2 run, all coming from Black, pushed the margin to 25-12 early in the second before a 9-0 East Liverpool rally cut the deficit to 25-21. Eventually, the hosts pulled into a 41-29 upperhand at the break.

With the score sitting at 51-38, the Patriots were about to put things away with a 10-0 spurt that consumed 1:19.—Michael Griffin, who finished with 16 points, nailed a trey just ahead of a pair of D'Jhae Jackson free throws.

Marquez O'Neal converted a steal 3 seconds before Jackson cashed in another Potters turnover.

Please See PATRIOTS, Page 15

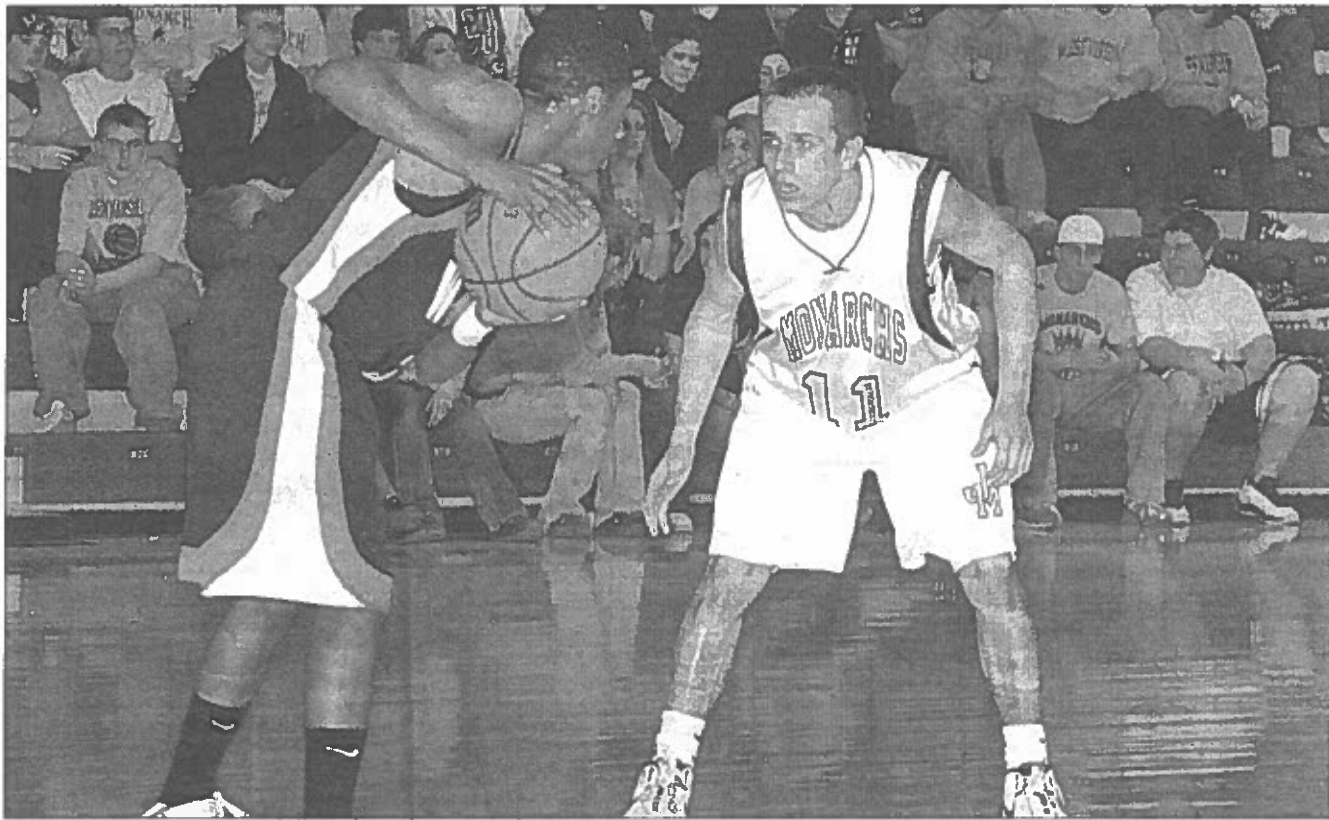


Photo by Josh Strobe

Weir's Shawn Burns, left, looks to drive on John Marshall's Travis Whitfield during Tuesday's OVAC Class AAAA semifinal in Moundsville. The Monarchs escaped with a 64-63 victory in overtime.

Overtime Thriller

Monarchs edge Red Riders boys, 64-63

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

MOUNDSVILLE — With 7 seconds left and the ball in their possession, the Weir Red Riders were looking to pull an upset of No. 2 seed John Marshall on Tuesday at the John Marshall Fieldhouse.

Casey Defibaugh and the Monarchs had other ideas.

Defibaugh stole the ball from Taylor Collett, drove to the basket and after being fouled made a free throw with a second left on the scoreboard as John Marshall advanced with a 64-63, overtime victory against Weir in the OVAC Boys' Basketball Tournament.

John Marshall, which lost in the title game last season to Indian Creek, meets

Class AAAA

Wheeling Park on Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern for the Class AAAA championship.

"I don't think anybody lost the game. I think we won it," John Marshall coach Bill Storm said. "Weir had a tremendous effort and it came down to who had the ball last. We were very fortunate. They came out shooting."

"We didn't get flustered in any situation and handled every situation well. We might have missed some shots or turned it over, but I thought we handled the game really well."

John Marshall had a couple chances to win it at the end of regulation.

With the score tied 61-61, the Monarchs (14-4) got the ball back with 42 seconds after a charging call on Weir's

Shawn Burns.

After Justin Eikleberry's shot was blocked by L.J. Campbell, Defibaugh was able to get the rebound and Storm called timeout with 7.7 seconds left. Out of that timeout, Defibaugh drove to the basket but lost control of the ball as time expired.

Both teams went cold in the overtime with missed layups, foul shots and errant passes.

Collett finally broke through with 40 seconds left with a driving layup to put Weir (11-7) up 63-61.

Danny McClelland answered for John Marshall on the ensuing possession to knot the score again.

While Weir had the ball and the possibility of holding for the last shot, John Marshall had one big advantage — fouls to give.

Please See THRILLER, Page 14

Treys The Difference For Devils

St. Clairsville hits nine in victory

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The last time St. Clairsville took the floor prior to Tuesday's game, it used a tenacious defense to knock off Harrison Central.

However, during Tuesday's semifinal game of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship, it was the Red Devils offense that stole the show.

St. Clairsville buried nine 3-pointers and still had to hit crucial foul shots down the stretch to hold off a feisty Magnolia squad.

"I really hate to use cliches, but this really was a team effort," a satisfied St.



Class AAA

Clairsville coach Kim Clifford said. "Our guards came through for us, we got good minutes from our bench and we battled (Magnolia) inside."

The victory puts the Red Devils in the Class AAA title game for the second consecutive season. Last season, they fell to Wheeling Central. This year's opponent will be a familiar one as they tangle with Union Local at 1 p.m. at OUE.

The two Buckeye 8 rivals split their two regular-season meetings.

Please See TREYS, Page 14

Central Tames Tigers

Wheeling Central holds off Shadyside in two overtimes

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

There would be no miracle finish this time for the Shadyside Tigers' boys' basketball team against Wheeling Central Catholic.

Although Coach Ed Andes' hustling club certainly had its chances to inflict a little deja vu on the Maroon Knights during Tuesday night's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AA semifinal contest.

In the first meeting between these two evenly matched schools, Shadyside pulled out a stunning one-point victory when Justin Andes was fouled while connecting on his game-tying 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Andes then dropped in the free throw to win it. The rematch, also played in front of a big, excited crowd at the cozy Wheeling Central gymnasium, resulted in a tense, double-overtime sizzler with the Maroon Knights rallying from a 12-point, first-quarter deficit and finally prevailing 66-62 in yet another bizarre finish.

Central's Jordan Sorge, making his second trip to the free-throw line in the second OT's final eight seconds, dropped in the back end of the dou-

Class AA

ble-bonus to put the hosts in front 64-61. Andes, trying to duplicate his last-second effort from the December clash between the rivals, drove the ball just past the midcourt line, and while double-teamed, went up for a desperate 3-point heave at the basket. Although he never had a chance to make the basket, Andes got a reprieve when a foul was called against the Maroon Knights.

Just 1.5 seconds remained as Andes toed the foul line for the first of three shots that could have forced a third overtime had he made them all. The first was true while the second jumped off the rim. This left Andes with only an opportunity to try and miss the next shot in hopes he or one of his teammates could tip in the rebound. But he fired the ball too hard at the glass and it bounced away without drawing iron, awarding possession to Central.

Sorge was immediately fouled on the inbounds pass and he sprinted to the other end of the court where he hit both free throws to conclude the scoring and send the 14-4 Maroon Knights into Saturday's 10 a.m. OVAC Class AA Division championship game at Ohio University-Eastern.

Please See CENTRAL, Page 14

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Please See CENTRAL, Page 14

For Puhalski, Accountability Starts With Him

Coach seeks to stem team's slide

By SHAWN RINE
Ohio Sports Editor

Wheeling Nailers coach Greg Puhalski admits his club is feeling the effects, both physically and mentally, of a four-game stretch last week in which each outcome went against it. While the team may be down, Puhalski is preaching accountability and starting with himself in doing

so.

"For the better part of half the year we were scoring a lot of goals," he said Tuesday at his press conference at River City Ale Works. "I think we were able to get away with some things because we were able to score three, four, five, six goals a night."

"The reality is, we're human beings and sometimes we try to get away with what we can."

"To some degree that's my fault for not making

"We've got all the motivation we need by where we sit in the standings."

Greg Puhalski

sure I've always been as diligent as we should be as a hockey team."

High-profile players like Tommy Goebel, Nick Johnson and Rob Sirianni moved on to the AHL some

time ago, and with them went a large portion of the Wheeling offense. Lately, the magic number has been two — as in the Nailers can't seem to score more than two goals.

Those numbers are going to have to rise if Wheeling plans to play in the postseason. Once the class of the league, the Nailers are fading quickly in the ECHL's North Division. Heading into play tonight, Wheeling has a tenuous hold on the fourth and final playoff spot, one point ahead of Trenton and two up on sixth-place Dayton.

"We could head into our weekend games and be out of a playoff position based on how Dayton and Tren-

ton do (tonight)," Puhalski said. "We've got all the motivation we need by where we sit in the standings."

To remain in the picture, the Nailers are going to have to tighten the screws. That means getting the puck deep, winning the battles along the wall, and forechecking and backchecking with an intensity they've rarely shown to this point.

See PUHALSKI, Page 15

ON THE LINE

Today's Results:

Q. Did NASCAR make a bad choice in shortening its biggest race?

Yes: 65%

No: 35%

Tomorrow's Poll:

Q. Will Terrell Owens play for the Dallas Cowboys next season?

Tell us what you think.

Register your answer at www.theintelligencer.net

(The results of this poll are not scientific and represent only the opinions of Internet users who have chosen to participate.)

LOCAL CARD

(All times 7:30 p.m. unless noted)
Today
HIGH SCHOOL
Boys' Basketball
Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championships
Consolation First Round
Caldwell at Valley
Buckeye Local at Brooke
Regular Season
Bishop Donahue at Hundred
Williamstown at Paden City
Girls' Basketball
Regular Season
Linsly at Bishop Donahue
Edison at St. Clairsville
Ohio
Division II Sectional (at OU Eastern)
Beaver Local vs. Meadowbrook, 6 p.m.
Buckeye Local vs. East Liverpool, 8 p.m.

SPORTS ON TV

Today
CYCLING
4 p.m.
VERSUS - Tour of California, stage 4, Merced to Clovis, Calif.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.
ESPN2 - Providence at Louisville
9:30 p.m.
ESPN2 - Oklahoma St. at Texas Tech
NBA BASKETBALL
8 p.m.
ESPN - Orlando at New Orleans
10:30 p.m.
ESPN - L.A. Lakers at Golden State

ECHL STANDINGS

Table with 10 columns: Team, W, L, OL, SL, Pts, GF, GA. Rows include American Conference (North and South Divisions), National Conference (Pacific and West Divisions).

AREA SCOREBOARD

Table with 10 columns: Game, W, L, OL, SL, Pts, GF, GA. Rows include BASKETBALL Boys, 8th Grade Pac-8 Championship, and 7th Grade Pac-8 Championship.

AREA NOTES
Beallsville Sectional Tickets Available
Beallsville High School will be selling advance tickets for the sectional boys' and girls' tournaments at the high school's athletics director's office.

PREP BASKETBALL BOX SCORES

Table of prep basketball scores under BOYS section, including games like Wheeling Hospital OVAC Tournament Semifinals, Wheeling Park 93, East Liverpool 61, etc.

Treys

(Continued from Page 13)

It's good for us to get the tournament feeling to help prepare for the sectional... We know (UL) is a quality team, and we're going to need another quality effort like we had at UL when we beat them... The Blue Eagles, meanwhile, will be at home Friday in the consolation bracket...

Thriller

(Continued from Page 13)

The Monarchs committed just two fouls in the second half and were able to play aggressive and not allow the Red Riders to get a good look at the basket... (We were) trying to clear out for Collett... Weir coach Mike Granato said... We were trying to bring him to the ball and they had two post guys out there...

Central

(Continued from Page 13)

We're excited about the opportunity to be playing for the championship again... Maroon Knights Coach Mel Stephens... The OVAC is doing the right thing by deciding it on the court... Shadyside (13-5), which grabbed a 17-5 lead in the opening quarter against the slow-starting Maroon Knights and remained in front until just 4 minutes remained in regulation...

STEUBENVILLE

T.J. DeChristopher notched 12 points and Shaq Petteva finished with nine as Steubenville (6-13) held off Indian Creek (7-12), in part because it hit 13 of its first 16 free throws in the fourth quarter... Luke Viltro's 12 points paced the Redskins... Weirton Madonna 64 Beallsville 50... WEIRTON - Connor Arlia cashed in 14 points to pace five players in double figures as Weirton Madonna (9-12) cruised past Beallsville thanks to a large third-quarter upperhand...

ECHL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE							
North Division							
W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA	
Johnstown	30	18	2	0	62	161	143
Cincinnati	28	19	2	3	61	192	184
Elmira	27	20	1	4	59	159	166
Wheeling	25	18	2	5	57	190	182
Trenton	26	19	2	2	56	154	145
Dayton	25	22	2	3	55	170	169
Reading	16	31	2	2	36	152	195

NATIONAL CONFERENCE							
Pacific Division							
W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA	
Ontario	27	19	3	1	58	132	138
Las Vegas	26	20	1	4	57	152	133
Stockton	24	23	3	2	53	158	173
Bakersfield	20	27	3	3	46	159	186
x-Fresno	18	10	1	1	38	82	82

NOTE: Two points are awarded for a win, one point for an overtime or shootout loss.

Tuesday's Game
Charlotte 4, Florida 0

Tonight's Games
Reading at Trenton
South Carolina at Dayton
Gwinnett at Mississippi
Bakersfield at Utah
Las Vegas at Idaho
Victoria at Ontario

Thursday's Games
Reading at Trenton
Bakersfield at Utah
Victoria at Ontario
Gwinnett at Mississippi
South Carolina at Dayton
Las Vegas at Idaho

AREA SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL		
Boys		
8th Grade		
Pac-8 Championship		
Triadelphia 36	Wheeling 31	
T — Pugh 18, Plummer 8; W — Brown 9, Gump 8.		
PAC-8 Consolation		
Sherrard 49	Moundsville 38	
S — Magers 17, Walker 12; M — McDonald 14.		
7th Grade		
Pac-8 Championship		
Triadelphia 44	Bridge Street 39	
T — Wallace 16, Robertson 10; B — Blackston 18.		

AREA NOTES
Beallsville Sectional Tickets Available
Beallsville High School will be selling advance tickets for the sectional boys' and girls' tournaments at the high school's athletics director's office. Pre-sale tickets are \$4 and tickets at the gate are \$6. The girls will play Caldwell Thursday at 8 p.m., and the boys will play Shadyside on Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Moundsville Girls Softball Association Sets Registration
The Moundsville Girls Softball Association will be conducting registration sessions for the 2009 season on the following dates: Friday (5-7 p.m.), Saturday (9 a.m. to Noon), Friday, Feb. 27 (5-7 p.m.) and Saturday, Feb. 28 (9 a.m. to Noon). All sessions will take place at Simpson United Methodist Church. The age cutoff is the child's age as of June 1. There will be teams for the Little Chicks League (ages 5-7), Pigtail League (ages 8-10) and Intermediate League (ages 11-14). There will be no Ponytail League as the Intermediate League has been extended to include 14-year-olds. Cost is \$15 per child or \$30 per family. For more information, call Joe Garcia at 845-9869 or 639-4183.

Moundsville Girls Softball Association Meeting
Moundsville Girls Softball Association will meet at 7 p.m. Friday at Simpson United Methodist Church. All coaches interested in becoming coaches must attend. Probable coach openings include one coach for Little Chicks (ages 5-7), one coach for Pigtail (ages 8-10) and two coaches for Intermediate (ages 11-14). For more information, call Joe Garcia at 845-9869 or 639-4183.

James O 0-0 0; Poling 0 0-0 0. Totals: 14 4-9 36.

U — Blackman 4 0-0 8; Waller 1 2-2 4; Barbina 7 6-9 24; Barr 4 5-6 13; Jellison 2 0-0 6; Lucas 1 0-0 2; Nicholes 0 0-0 0; Demarchi 0 0-0 0; Tobin 0 0-0 0; A. Barbina 0 0-0 0. Totals: 19 13-17 57.

3-Pt. Goals: Rowland 2, Owings, Z. Mazexka, J. Barbina 4, Jellison 2.

Oak Glen 7 10 4 15 — 36
Union Local 13 16 12 16 — 57

Class AA
Wheeling Central 66, Shadyside 62
S — Schuetz 5-17 2-3 14; Cline 1-2 0 0 2; Butts 6-7 2-5 14; Brown 5-8 2 2 12; O'Donnell 0-0 2 2 2; Andes 4-9 3-7 14; Brooks 2-8 0 2 4. Totals: 23 61 11-21 62.

W — Long 1-5 0-0 2; Sorge 7 15-5 8 20; Koehler 2 7 1 4 5; Joseph 3-7 2 2 8; Weishar 3-7 2-2 11; Hood 4-13 1 2 11; Ghaphery 0-0 0-0 0; Neidhardt 0 1 0-0 0; Gordona 3-5 3-4 9; Totals: 23 60 14 22 66.

3-Pt. Goals: Schuetz 2, Andes 3; Sorge, Weishar 3, Hood 2.

Shadyside 17 9 15 10 2 9 — 62
Whg. Cent. 5 13 19 14 2 13 — 66

Class A
Bridgeport 52, Paden City 43
P — Thoburn 2 3-4 7; Anderson 4 1-2 10; Cosper 2 1-2 5; Wright 4 0 0 11; Bennett 3 1 2 7; Loy 0 0-0 0. Totals: 15-42 6-10 43.

B — Price 6 1-7 13; Cash 3 2 5 10; Carr 3 1 2 7; Gregoric 0 1-2 1; Maleski 3 0-0 6; Tracey 5 0-0 13; Ch. Smiley 0 0-0 0; Carlier 1 0-0 2. Totals: 21-41 5-16 66.

Central

(Continued from Page 13)

“We’re excited about the opportunity to be playing for the championship again,” Maroon Knights Coach Mel Stephens. “The OVAC is doing the right thing by deciding it on the court.”

Shadyside (13-5), which grabbed a 17-5 lead in the opening quarter against the slow-starting Maroon Knights and remained in front until just 4 minutes remained in regulation, is usually deadly from the foul line. Last night, however, the Tigers netted 11 of 21 tries. In the fourth quarter, the Tigers missed the front end of two 1-and-1s, plus a double-bonus try and a chance for a conventional three-point play. They also came up empty on two-shot opportunity during the first overtime.

The Tigers then lost their top ball-handler and scorer when Nick Schuetz committed his fifth foul with 8.9 seconds remaining. He put his cousin, Wheeling Central’s Sorge, at the foul line and the junior guard made the first shot before missing the second. However, a high rebound off the glass resulted in Sorge winding up with the ball in his hands and being sent back to the foul line.

Shadyside Coach Ed Andes, while disappointed his team didn’t take advantage of its foul-line opportunities, was pleased with the Tigers’ effort and hus-

tle.

“Now both teams know how it feels to lose a close game at the end,” Andes said. “We beat them the first time here and (this) was their turn to win a close one. I thought both teams played very hard and fought right to the end.”

Sorge was the leading scorer with 20 points, followed by Jack Weishar and Zach Hood with 11 points each.

Consolation Pool
Frontier 58
Martins Ferry 39

MARTINS FERRY — Ben Huntsman tossed in 16 points and Frontier exploded for 25 points in the fourth quarter to rout Martins Ferry. Justin Ross added 15 points for the Cougars.

Leading the Purple Riders was Cody McGee with a game-high 18 points.

Barnesville 72
Edison 58

BARNESVILLE — Kody Skinner dropped in 20 points and pulled down 10 rebounds to lead Barnesville (12-7) to a victory against Edison (2-17). Colby MacMillan added 13 points and 10 assists for the Shamrocks, while Dalton Smith scored 18 points.

Also in double figures for Barnesville was Preston Doman with 10.

Cale McCoy’s and Dom Controguerra had 19 and 15 points, respectively, for the Wildcats.

Monroe Central 67
Bellaire 60

WOODSFIELD — Mikey Habig accumulated 22 points and 10 rebounds to spearhead Monroe Central (9-10) past Bellaire (8-11). Ryan Kuhn (18 points) and Derek-London Dierkes (12) also contributed for the Seminoles.

Ryan Feller had 24 points to pace the Big Reds, while Levi Crosier was close behind with 23.

Steubenville 53
Indian Creek 48

STEUBENVILLE — T.J. DeChristopher notched 12 points and Shaq Petteway finished with nine as Steubenville (6-13) held off Indian Creek (7-12), in part because it hit 13 of its first 16 free throws in the fourth quarter.

Luke Viltro’s 12 points paced the Redskins.

Weirton Madonna 64
Beallsville 50

WEIRTON — Connor Arlia cashed in 14 points to pace five players in double figures as Weirton Madonna (9-12) cruised past Beallsville thanks to a large third-quarter upperhand. Jarred Magnone added 13 for the Blue Dons and Anthony Perna 12, while Dante Greco and Chris Pietranton netted 10 points apiece.

Brett Stephen, Sam Jackson and Jordan Darby evenly divided 33 points for the Blue Devils.

Toronto 59
River 42

TORONTO — Derek Takacs erupted for 20 points and Joey Shimmel backed him with 13 as Toronto (9-10) ran past River. The Red Knights, who held a 20-point upperhand in the middle two quarters, also received 10 points from Noland Wilson.

Tyler Jeffers’ 20 points led the Pilots.

Rosecrans 73
Linsly 42

ZANESVILLE — Josh Agin scored 14 points and Zach Hill 13, while three others scored 10 or more as Rosecrans shot past Linsly (6-12). Matt Fahey’s 10 points paced the Cadets.

Steubenville Catholic 59
Harrison Central 40

STEUBENVILLE — Justin Teramana scored 15 points and Jordan Teramana added 14 as Steubenville Catholic (14-5) took down Harrison Central (5-14). Sean Harlan checked in with 12 for the Crusaders. Jordan Barker scored nine for the Huskies.

out of the gate to a 16-13 lead. Fueling the attack was junior Dan Slavik who had one of his premier performances of the season. He meshed a pair of 3-pointers and eight total points in the first.

“I was a little disappointed in our defense early in the game,” Clifford continued. “I just didn’t see the effort we’d been putting forth, but we got woke up a little bit.”

Magnolia clawed to a 20-19 lead during the middle stages of the second quarter before St.C. closed the half with seven

guard Andrew Robinson, was led by Jared Blatt who had 15 points and 14 rebounds.

Union Local 57
Oak Glen 36

MORRISTOWN — Jordan Barbina hit a trio of 3-pointers and finished with a game-high 24 points as Union Local (17-2) advanced to Saturday’s final with a victory against Oak Glen (9-9). Joby Barr added 13 points for the Jets.

Chance Rowland and Clay Owings evenly divided 20 for the Golden Bears.

Thriller

(Continued from Page 13)

The Monarchs committed just two fouls in the second half and were able to play aggressive and not allow the Red Riders to get a good look at the basket.

“(We were) trying to clear out for Collett,” Weir coach Mike Granato said. “We were trying to bring him to the ball and they had two post guys out there. We went to an extra guard to try and get some penetration. They did an excellent job denying the ball.”

John Marshall fouled Weir twice before Defibaugh was able to get the ball away from Collett. The senior guard then raced to the basket for a layup, but was fouled by Justin Horstman with 1 second on the clock.

Defibaugh sank his first free throw for the decisive point.

“Telling high-school kids (to foul) and having them execute it is sometimes two different things,” Storm said. “A lot of times you can get a shoving or holding that leads to a two-shot intentional foul. We executed that perfectly.”

“We got them in a trap and Casey was fortunate enough to steal it, knocked the free throw down, and intentionally missed the second. We did that perfect as well.”

Added Granato: “It was a great high school basketball game. It’s a shame somebody had to lose and unfortunately it was us. A break here or a break there and our kids might have come out on top.”

“My kids gave a valiant effort coming off the weekend we had against Magnolia.

“The kids really bounced back with a hard practice and we have to keep working hard to get better. When we were holding the ball there at the end, we knew they had fouls to give and I was hoping we could get that last shot off. I thought we did the things we needed to do.”

Weir jumped out early on John Marshall, leading by as many as 10 points

in first half. Down 33-29 at halftime, the Monarchs answered back, starting the final 16 minutes by streaking out to an 11-0 run.

The Monarchs led for most of the second half until Weir regained the lead at 56-55 on a Horstman 3-pointer at the 2:20 mark of the fourth quarter. The teams traded buckets the rest of the way. Andrew Montes scored a layup with 49 seconds to go for the final points of regulation.

“Give John Marshall a world of credit,” Granato said. “They played great team defense in the second half. We just have to take the positives from this game and understand this is the type of effort we need for 32 minutes every single, solitary game. We have to go in playing aggressive.”

“Burns was outstanding and our kids fed off of that. Campbell did an excellent job inside and all our kids played great team defense. When we go back and look at this game, we will see we lost to an exceptional John Marshall team. We lost to them by 20 early on in the year, but we are not into moral victories.”

For the Monarchs, it means another crack at their main rival. Wheeling Park has defeated John Marshall twice earlier this season.

“This is great for our program,” Storm said. “Who would have thought two years ago that John Marshall was going to be in the championship two years in a row? Last year, I think we were happy to be there. This year, we are going over to win it. We are familiar with it, familiar with the hoopla that goes with it. This is a tournament week. We go to Morgantown Thursday and we play Park Saturday and in two weeks, that could be the scenario again.”

Montes led the Monarchs with 20 points, followed by Eikleberry (16) and Travis Whitfield (11). Campbell scored 18 points for the Red Riders while Burns had 16 and Collett with 14.

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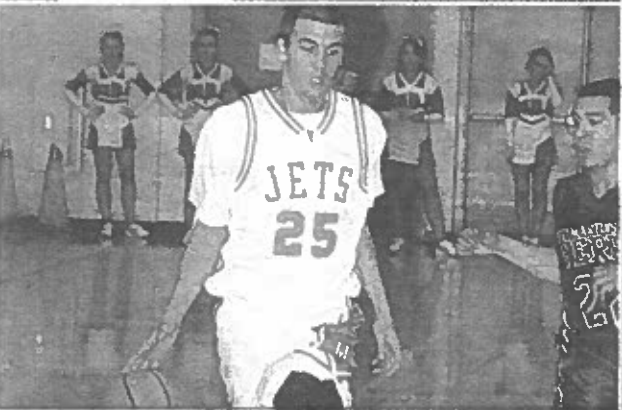
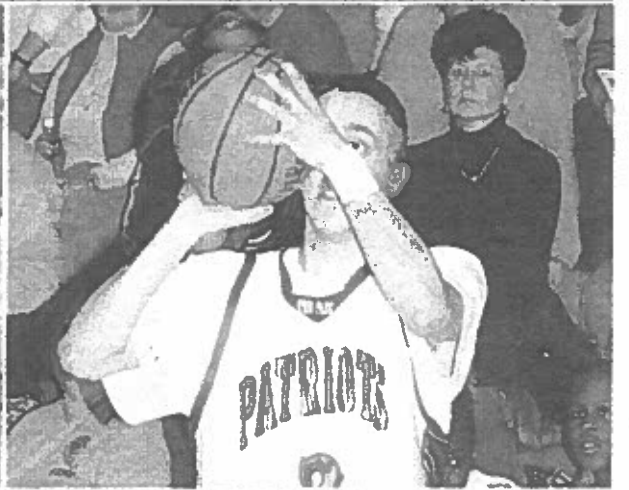
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Bridgeport, Donahue to meet in rubber match for 1-A title

• Bulldogs seek second straight OVAC Championship

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

The Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference boys' Class A Championship has come down to a best-of-3.

Top-seeded Bishop Donahue (12-8) and No. 2 seed Bridgeport (11-8) split their regular-season series, with each team winning on the other's home court.

The two 'small school' powers' rubber match will decide the single-A crown Saturday at 7 p.m. at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center with the winner taking home all the marbles — as well as the championship hardware.

The Bulldogs are the defending champions as they knocked off top-seeded Weirton Madonna by a 49-37 count.

"This is the matchup that I wanted because of that fact," Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash said of the regular season split.

"It's a little strange that

MEET THE 1-A FINALISTS

BISHOP DONAHUE (12-8)

No.	Gr.	Ht.
Nathan Fallova	20	12' 5"
Matt Schrupf	32	12' 6"
Ray Barrows	15	12' 6"
Andrew Smith	33	11' 6"
Andrew McCombs	23	11' 6"
Justin Otte	4	11' 5"
Ryan Jones	14	10' 5"
Jordan Angalich	2	10' 5"
Andrew Barrows	41	10' 6"
Adam Kudla	34	10' 5"
Devin Overholt	40	10' 6"
Ian Schau	42	10' 6"
Zach Whitfield	12	10' 6"
Garrett Yurisko	21	9' 5"

Head Coach: Tom Wise
Assistant Coaches: Shawn Martin, Don Gillis, Curt Mele.

BRIDGEPORT (11-8)

No.	Gr.	Ht.
Justin Gregorcic	24	12' 6"
Kyle Cash	1	12' 5"
Michael Carr	21	12' 6"
Nate Maleski	33	11' 6"
Dillon Lipperman	23	11' 6"
Timmy Tracey	11	11' 6"
C.J. Baker	2	11' 5"
Chris Smelley	3	10' 6"
Curt Smelley	5	10' 6"
Garrett Price	0	10' 6"
Jared Carlier	32	10' 5"
Cody Frey	10	9' 5"
Cole Smelley	15	9' 5"

Head Coach: Donnie Cash
Assistant Coach: Rick Yourkovich

both teams won on the other

team's home court," said veteran Bishop Donahue head coach Tom Wise. "It shouldn't happen like that, but it did."

The Bishops claimed the first encounter in thrilling fashion, prevailing 53-52 in double overtime at the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium. The Bulldogs countered with a 66-51 triumph in the second meeting in McMechen.

Bishop Donahue advanced to Saturday's title tilt with a hard-earned, 63-50, overtime decision over No. 4 seed Cameron Tuesday night, while Bridgeport ousted third-seeded Paden City, 52-43.

"We know their personnel, their strengths and their weaknesses," Wise continued. "And I'm sure they know the same about us."

Both coaches agree that the team that sticks to its game plan will most likely come out on top.

"If we execute and follow our game plan, we

should be alright," Wise added.

Cash said his team needs to control the boards like it did in its victory over the Green-and-Gold.

"We must get rebounds," he said. "They're a big team like us, but we've got to be able to control the boards."

In that first meeting, the Bulldogs were without the

See, 1-A, Page 4

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- Class 2-A.....8
- Class 3-A.....7
- Class 4-A.....16

ON THE COVER

Pictured is a key player from each of the eight teams. Top row, from left, Dan Slavik (St. Clairsville), Matt Schrupf (Donahue) and Bobby Wheeler (Park). Middle row, from left, are Casey Defibaugh (John Marshall) and Garrett Legrean (Fort Frye). Bottom row, from left, are Joby Barr (Union Local), Dan Gordon (Wheeling Central) and Justin Gregorcic (Bridgeport).

T-L Cover Design/Emily Dominici
Tab Design/Seth Staskey

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● 1-A

Continued from Page 3

services of 6-ft.-3 senior center Michael Carr, who leads the team with a 14.5 scoring average and nine rebounds a game.

"Michael definitely made a dif-

ference in the second game," recalled Cash. "I think he had something like 23 points and 14 rebounds. "When he wants to play, he's definitely a difference

maker."

In addition to Carr, the Bulldogs start two other seniors, a junior and a sophomore. The remaining senior starters are

guard Kyle Cash (5-ft.-9) and forward Justin Gregorcic (6-ft.). Power forward Nate Maleski (6-ft.-3) is the junior, while cat-quick point guard Garrett Price (6-ft.)

runs the offense as a 10th grader.

"Our seniors have done a tremendous job this season," Cash continued. "I've been pretty hard

See, 1-A, Page 5

BRIDGEPORT BULLDOGS



Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2008-09 Bridgeport Bulldogs Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Justin Gregorcic, Mike Carr and Kyle Cash. Middle row, from left, are Tre Lindsey, Curt Smelley, Garrett Price, Jared Carlier, Chris Smelley and J.J. Hennessey. Back row, from left, are head coach Donnie Cash, Jared Wallace, Dillon Lipperman, C.J. Baker, Timmy Tracey, Nate Maleski and assistant coach Rick Yourkovich.

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● 1-A

Continued from Page 4

on them all season, but they've responded to each challenge."

Cash, while not scoring much, is the Bulldogs' defensive specialist. He held high-scoring Ricky Wright of Paden City to zero points until the game was already decided Tuesday night, while Gregoric scores at a 11.2 clip. Both are also deadly three-point shooters.

Maleski, who was a first team all-state selection in football as an offensive lineman, uses his big body to box out for rebounds and for inside position on offense. He averages eight points and a like number of rebounds.

Price, who started out on the junior varsity squad, has taken over the point the last half of the season. He has performed well for a sophomore as he scored 13 points against Paden City.

His quick hands on defense lead to steals and layups.

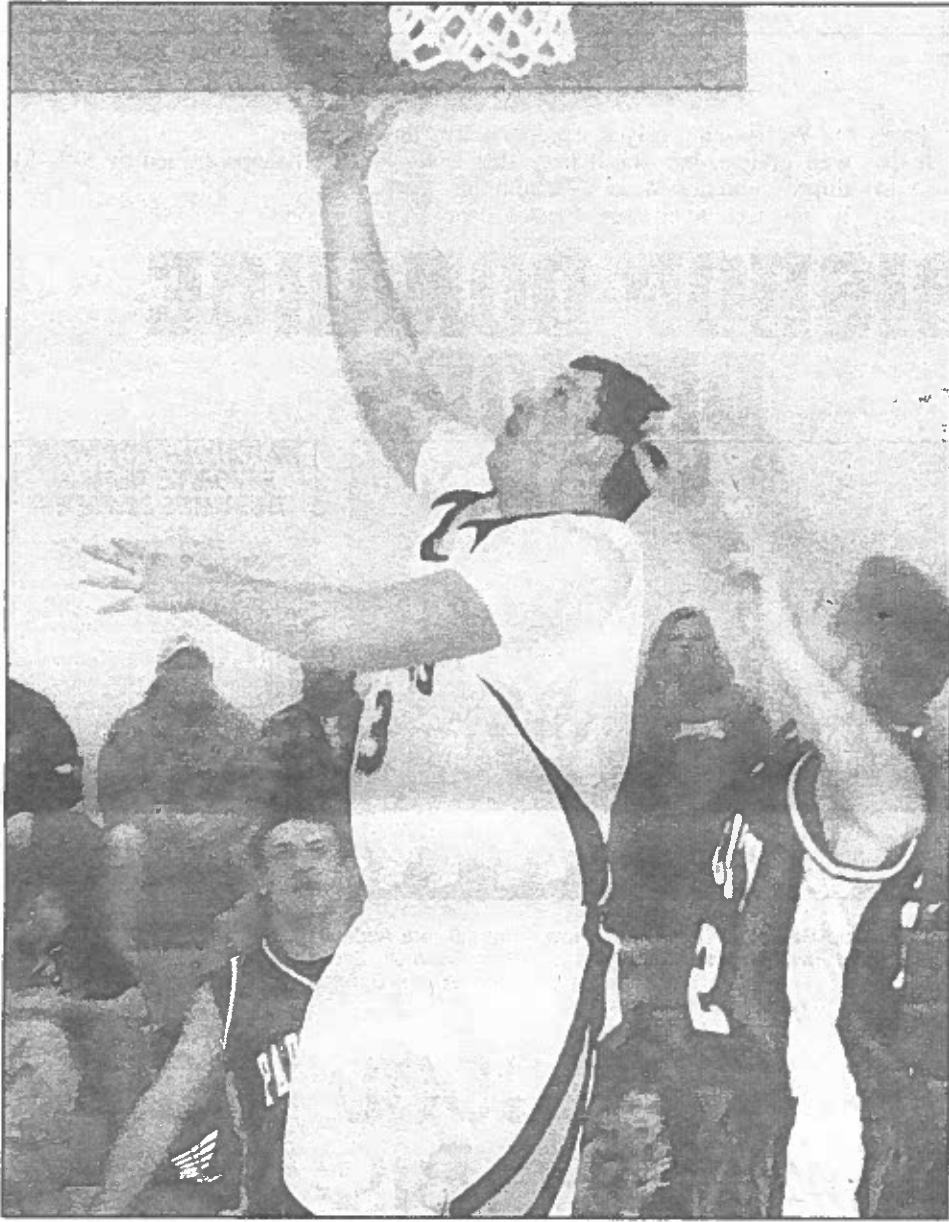
Bridgeport's bench has been helpful of late as 6-ft.-1 junior Timmy Tracey has become the Bulldogs Mr. Instant Offense. He tied Price for game scoring honors against Paden City.

"Our young guys have played terrific," Cash continued. "They've been tremendous down the stretch. Both Garrett and Timmy started on the junior varsity team that was undefeated until the final game. They've both been patient and waited for their time, and now they're making the most of it."

While Bridgeport has been streaking at the right time of the season — the Bulldogs have won eight of their last 11 outings — Paden City hasn't been as



See, 1-A, Page 6



BRIDGEPORT junior Nate Maleski goes up for a shot against Paden City during their regular-season meeting at the Havlicek Gymnasium in Lansing. Maleski and the Bulldogs will meet Bishop Donahue at 7 p.m. Saturday evening for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class 1-A championship.

T-L File Photo/MIKE PALMER

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● 1-A

Continued from Page 5

fortunate as the Wildcats have dropped six of their last nine games, including a 63-54 decision to Hundred Wednesday night.

"We haven't played exceptionally well of late, but you'll have that at times," admitted Wise. "We're a fairly balanced team that doesn't have

any superstars."

The Bishops are led by 5-ft.-11

See, 1-A, Page 9



BISHOP DONAHUE BISHOPS

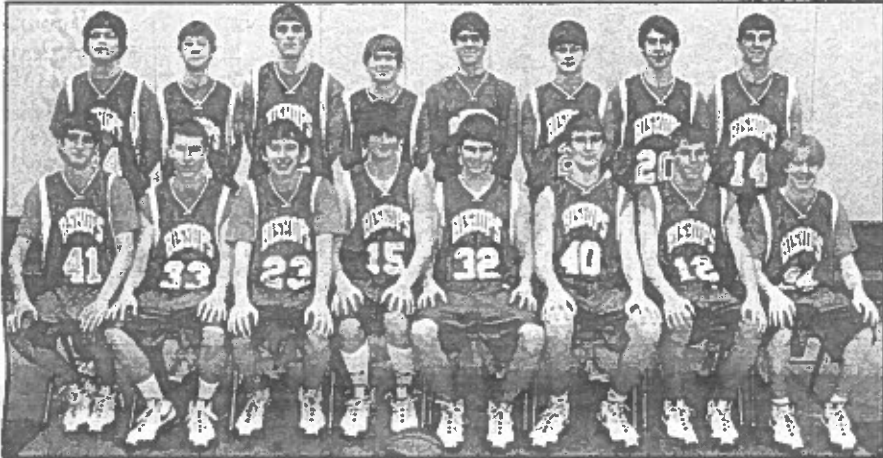


Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2008-09 Bishop Donahue Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Andrew Barrows, Andrew Smith, Andrew McCombs, Ray Barrows, Matt Schrupf, Devin Overholt, Zach Whitfield and Kyle Gillis. Back row, from left, are Adam Kudla, Justin Otte, Ian Schau, Garrett Yurisko, Chad Riedel, Jordan Angalich, Nathan Fallova and Ryan Jones.

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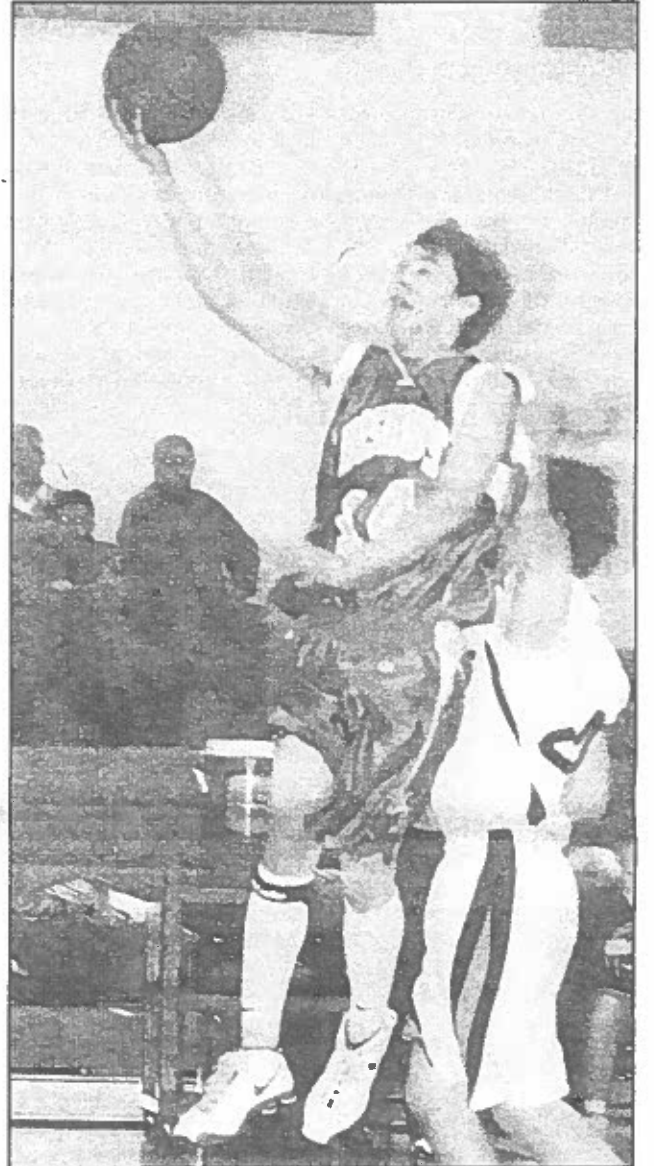
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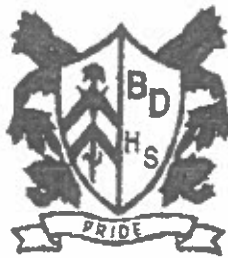
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T-L File Photo/MIKE PALMER

BISHOP DONAHUE'S Ryan Jones skies in for a layup against Bridgeport during their regular-season meeting. The two clubs will meet again Saturday for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

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OVAC Boys Basketball Championship Records

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

MOST POINTS

- 1A: 21, Chaz Lindsey, Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 25, Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 15, Cory McKittrick, Wheeling Central, 2008
- 4A: 18, Jim Wood, Indian Creek, 2008

MOST FREE THROWS MADE

- 1A: 8, Chaz Lindsey, Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 8, Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 7, Michael Bigelow, St. Clairsville, 2008
- 4A: 10, Jim Wood, Indian Creek, 2008

BEST FREE THROW %
(5 attempts minimum)

- 1A: 86% (6/7), Sal Conti, Weirton Madonna, 2008
- 2A: 100% (8/8), Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 88% (7/8), Michael Bigelow, St. Clairsville, 2008
- 4A: 91% (10/11), Jim Wood, Indian Creek, 2008

MOST 2-POINT GOALS MADE

- 1A: 6, Michael Bachie, Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 9, C. J. Goodwin, Linsly, 2008
- 3A: 5, Cory McKittrick, Wheeling Central, 2008
- 4A: 4, Jim Wood, Indian Creek, 2008

BEST 2-POINT GOAL %
(5 attempts minimum)

- 1A: 43% (6/14), Michael Bachie, Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 83% (5/6), Drew Kennon, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 80% (4/5), D'Onite Long, Wheeling Central, 2008
- 4A: 50% (4/8), Kenny Shepherd, John Marshall, 2008

MOST 3-POINT GOALS MADE

- 1A: 2, Justin Gregoric, Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 5, Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 1, Anthony Vincent, St. Clairsville, 2008
- 4A: 1, R. J. Roberts, Indian Creek, 2008

BEST 3-POINT GOAL %
(4 attempts minimum)

- 1A: 50% (2/4), Justin Gregoric, Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 45% (5/11), Jared Andes, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 25% (1/4), Dustin Hynes, St. Clairsville, 2008
- 4A: 25% (1/4), Jeremy Hayes, John Marshall, 2008

MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS

- 1A: 5, Michael Bachie, Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 4, Cody Campbell, Linsly, 2008
- 3A: 4, Michael Bigelow, St. Clairsville, 2008
- 4A: 2, Mike Smith, Indian Creek, 2008

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS

- 1A: 9, Corey Hirkala, Weirton Madonna, 2008
- 2A: 6, Cody Campbell, Linsly, 2008
- 3A: 5, Alex Peluchette, Wheeling Central, 2008
- 4A: 6, Mike Smith, Indian Creek, 2008

MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS

- 1A: 12, Corey Hirkala, Weirton Madonna, 2008
- 2A: 10, Cody Campbell, Linsly, 2008
- 3A: 7, Michael Bigelow, St. Clairsville, 2008
- 4A: 8, Mike Smith, Indian Creek, 2008

MOST ASSISTS

- 1A: 2, Sal Conti, Weirton Madonna, 2008
- 2A: 4, B. A. Holloway, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 1, Cody Koehler, Wheeling Central, 2008
- 4A: 2, Travis Whitfield, John Marshall, 2008

MOST STEALS

- 1A: 5, Chaz Lindsey, Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 4, C. J. Goodwin, Linsly, 2008
- 3A: 4, Michael Bigelow, St. Clairsville, 2008
- 4A: 2, Jim Wood, Indian Creek, 2008

TEAM RECORDS

MOST POINTS

- 1A: 49, Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 69, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 58, Wheeling Central, 2008
- 4A: 40, Indian Creek, 2008

MOST FREE THROWS MADE

- 1A: 12, Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 18, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 14, St. Clairsville, 2008
- 4A: 17, Indian Creek, 2008

BEST FREE THROW %
(10 attempts minimum)

- 1A: 67% (8/12), Weirton Madonna, 2008
- 2A: 86% (18/21), Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 78% (14/18), Wheeling Central, 2008
- 4A: 81% (17/21), Indian Creek, 2008

MOST 2-POINT GOALS MADE

- 1A: 14, Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 23, Linsly, 2008
- 3A: 19, Wheeling Central, 2008
- 4A: 10, Indian Creek, 2008

BEST 2-POINT GOAL %
(20 attempts minimum)

- 1A: 36% (14/39), Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 43% (23/54), Linsly, 2008
- 3A: 50% (19/38), Wheeling Central, 2008
- 4A: 41% (9/22), John Marshall, 2008

MOST 3-POINT GOALS MADE

- 1A: 3, Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 11, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 2, St. Clairsville, 2008
- 4A: 3, John Marshall, 2008

BEST 3-POINT GOAL %
(5 attempts minimum)

- 1A: 33% (3/9), Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 31% (11/36), Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 50% (2/4), Wheeling Central, 2008
- 4A: 16% (3/19), John Marshall, 2008

MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS

- 1A: 13, Weirton Madonna, 2008
- 2A: 9, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 14, St. Clairsville, 2008
- 4A: 7, John Marshall, 2008

MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS

- 1A: 19, Weirton Madonna, 2008
- 2A: 20, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 21, Wheeling Central, 2008
- 4A: 17, Indian Creek, 2008

OVAC BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP RECORDS - MENS

MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS

- 1A: 32, Weirton Madonna, 2008
- 2A: 29, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 27, Wheeling Central, 2008
- 4A: 23, Indian Creek, 2008

MOST ASSISTS

- 1A: 4, Weirton Madonna, 2008
- 2A: 10, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 1, St. Clairsville, 2008
- 4A: 4, John Marshall, 2008

MOST STEALS

- 1A: 12, Bridgeport, 2008
- 2A: 10, Shadyside, 2008
- 3A: 14, St. Clairsville, 2008

UL, St. C. seek first OVAC hoop title in 3-A Championship

• Each won road meeting during regular season

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Something's got to give Saturday afternoon when Union Local and St. Clairsville collide for the third time this season.

In many ways something's going to give.

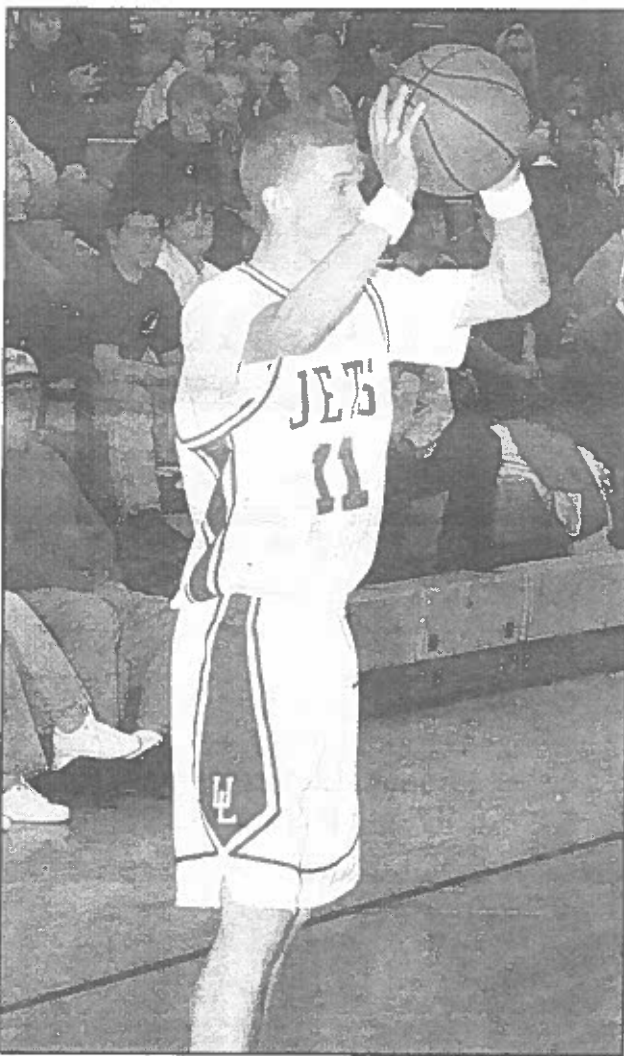
This marks the third time the two Belmont County rivals meet, having split the previous two meetings and maybe the most important break through for both teams is an opportunity to win the school's first-ever OVAC championship in boys basketball.

"We're happy to be here, but by no means are we satisfied," said UL head coach Ben Porter who's team is the top seed in the second-annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship. "Winning the OVAC championship was one of the goals we set early in the season and now we've got a chance to accomplish it."

The Jets are making their initial appearance in both the title game and the championship bracket. A year ago, UL was fifth in Class 3-A and fell into the consolation pool, having to make a trip to Shenandoah and host Steubenville.

If there's an experience factor to be had it goes the way of the Red Devils who fell in last year's Class 3-A title game, 58-50, to Wheeling Central, which nosed out the Jets for the fourth spot.

"We're elated to be back (in the championship game)," said St. C. head



T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

UNION LOCAL'S Darby Waller has been one of the Jets' best defenders this season. He and the Jets will meet St. Clairsville for the third time Saturday at 1 p.m. in the finals of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

coach Kim Clifford who achieved his 300th victory earlier in the campaign. "We've had a long journey with some ups and downs, but mostly ups. When you

get to this point, you know you're going to play someone good and UL's the top seed and we're glad to have another chance at them."

See, 3-A, Page 12

WHEELING CENTRAL MAROON KNIGHTS



Fort Frye, Wheeling Central to meet for Class 2-A crown

• Knights won 3-A title last year

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer



Photo Courtesy/CRESS/GILSON PHOTOGRAPHY
PICTURED IS the 2008-09 Wheeling Central Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are manager Cory Bryan, Tucker Wilkinson, Jack Weishar, Zack Hood, D'Onte Long, Jordan Sorge, Joe Neidhardt, Aldon Ghaphery and ball boy JC Maxwell. Back row, from left, are assistant coach John Moore, assistant coach Jim Nolte, Eli Joseph, Cody Koehler, Trey Zambito, McKenzie O'Brien, Dan Gordon, assistant coach Chris Stephens and head coach Mel Stephens.

Strangers when we meet. And so it goes regarding Saturday morning's Wheeling Hospital OVAC 2-A championship matchup between unfamiliar foes Fort Frye and Wheeling Central.

Considering 100 miles separate the two teams, it's hardly surprising competing coaches Mel Stephens (Wheeling Central Catholic) and Dan Liedtke (Fort Frye) were reluctant to offer scouting reports.

"Frankly, we don't know much about Fort Frye, but hopefully, we'll be a little better informed (before Saturday)," said the Maroon Knights' Stephens while hastily gathering info from various sources.

"Maybe it's just as well," countered Liedtke. "I think the kids from both teams are looking forward to playing an opponent they're not used to seeing."

Fort Frye is located in the community of Beverly, a relatively short drive north of Marietta. The 18-1 state-rated Cadets also compete in the highly-competitive

MEET THE 2-A FINALISTS

FORT FRYE (18-1)		
No.	Gr.	Ht.
Donald Hilverding	2	10 5'10
Tyler Stevens	3	12 5'10
Jarid Bates	5	11 6'3
Ryan Mincks	10	11 6'0
Garrett Legraen	12	10 6'3
Eddie Watson	20	10 5'11
Colt Skinner	21	10 5'10
Cory Gerber	22	11 5'11
Brandt Thieman	23	12 6'4
Jarrod Arnold	24	12 6'0
Matt Klinger	31	10 5'8
Isiah Warren	44	12 6'3
Head Coach: Dan Liedtke		
Assistant Coaches: John Bostic, Terry Huck, Matt Anderson, Troy Fogle		
WHEELING CENTRAL (14-4)		
No.	Gr.	Ht.
Zack Hood	3	11 5'6
D'Onte Long	11	12 5'10
Jordan Sorge	12	11 5'11
Aldon Ghaphery	13	11 5'10
Tucker Wilkinson	14	11 5'11
Marcus Clifford	22	10 5'9
Cody Koehler	24	12 6'4
McKenzie O'Brien	33	11 6'5
Joe Neidhardt	40	11 5'11
Eli Joseph	42	12 6'2
Jack Weishar	44	11 6'0
Dan Gordon	52	12 6'4
Head Coach: Mel Stephens		
Assistant Coaches: Jim Nolte, John Moore, Chris Stephens		

Pioneer Valley Conference of which they are 2009 champs.

"Our fans are pretty much unfamiliar with the OVAC, so this will be a new experience for most of them," Liedtke explained.

See, 2-A, Page 12

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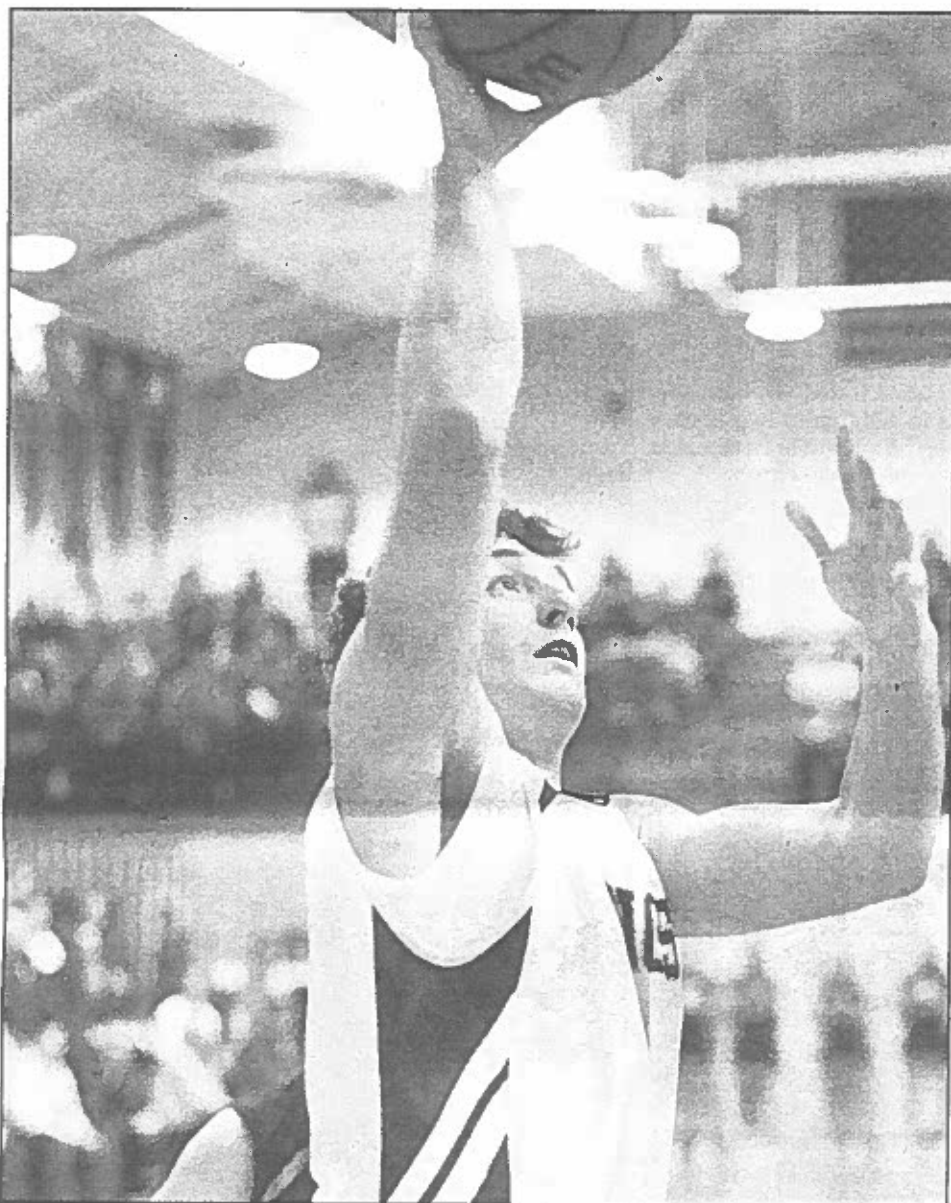
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WHEELING CENTRAL'S
Eli Joseph goes up for a shot against Shadyside during their Wheeling Hospital OVAC semifinal game Tuesday evening in downtown Wheeling. The Maroon Knights prevailed and will now meet Fort Frye in the Class 2-A title game at 10 a.m. Saturday morning.



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

● 2-A

Continued from Page 8

"Unless there are weather issues, we'll bring along a big following."

Central, meanwhile, captured last season's OVAC 3-A crown (knocking off St. Clairsville) before moving down one classification.

"We like to think we play a regular season schedule which prepares us for the postseason," Stephens understated.

Central is West Virginia's reigning Class A state champion. Additionally, under Stephens' adept leadership, the Knights have captured three state crowns over a five-season span.

On paper, fans appear in for a potential classic between a pair of evenly-matched ball clubs and programs with long histories of success.

Starting with the 2008-09 Maroon Knights who feature exceptional balance among their starting five.

"That's been our biggest strength," Stephens confirmed. "We're been fortunate to receive contributions from a number of different

people."

Seniors Cody Koehler, at 6-4, and 5-10 D'Onte Long returned as starters last fall along with a well-rounded cast of talented players.

Senior guard Jordan Sorge is averaging some 13 points per game on a team whose forte is spreading the wealth.

Long lends 10 ppg. support.

Central's remaining starters are no less capable in 6-2 senior Eli Joseph (8 ppg.) and 6-0 junior wing Jack Weishar.

Off the bench comes reliable and highly-productive 5-6 junior Zach Hood, an able 9 ppg. scorer along with 6-4 senior Dan Gordon.

"If might be a different guy (leading our scoring) on a given night. That's been really beneficial," Stephens observed.

The Knights' formidable schedule includes setbacks against the likes of well-schooled opponents John Marshall, Shadyside, St. Joseph's Prep and Charleston Catholic.

See, 2-A, Page 10



Past OVAC Basketball Champs

● 1-A

Continued from Page 6

sophomore Ryan Jones who scores at a 14.9 clip. Senior point guard Nathan Fallova adds 12.6 points and 6.1 assists, while 6-ft.-4 senior center Ray Barrows averages 9.7 points and 7.5 rebounds. The other two starters are Andrew Smith and Devin Overholt.



A -- Union	1953
AA -- Wheeling Central	
A -- Union	1954
AA -- Bellaire	
A -- Shadyside	1955
AA -- Moundsville	
A -- Shadyside	1956
AA -- Wheeling	
A -- St. John	1957
AA -- Tnadelpia	
A -- Powhatan	1958
AA -- Steubenville	
A -- Bethany	1959
AA -- Bridgeport	
AAA -- Wheeling Central	
A -- Cadiz	
AA -- Union	
AAA -- Wheeling Central	

See, CHAMPS, Page 15

FORMER OVAC CHAMPIONS	
1944	
A -- Warwood	
AA -- Martins Ferry	
1945	
A -- Warwood	
AA -- Linsly	
1946	
A -- Warwood	
AA -- Weir	
1947	
A -- Union	
AA -- Wellsburg	
1948	
A -- Union	
AA -- Wheeling Central	
1949	
A -- Union	
AA -- Wheeling Central	
1950	
A -- Union	
AA -- Wheeling Central	
1951	
A -- Magnolia	
AA -- Wheeling Central	
1952	

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● 2-A

Continued from Page 9

Central avenged a prior one-point loss to Shadyside, outlasting the Orange in a double-overtime thriller earlier this week in semifinal action.

Joining Stephens on the Maroon Knights' bench are assistants Jim Nolte, John Moore and Chris Stephens.

As impressive as Wheeling Central's resume reads, Fort Frye's storied history is equally legendary.

The Cadets' program, in its 51st year of existence, and has compiled 711 victories against just 409 losses.

Liedtke, meanwhile, is in his 24th season as varsity coach and owns a staggering 388 victories compared to just 150 setbacks.

His past Cadet teams have reached impressive heights, including an Ohio state

final four appearance in 1999.

Under Liedtke's direction, Fort Frye owns three district championships, 11 sectional titles and has captured 15 PVC and four OVAC league crowns.

The Cadets were unbeaten this season until sustaining their only setback, a 47-45 reversal to Waterford, an opponent they earlier defeated.

"This year's team is led by four outstanding seniors in addition to two juniors and a sophomore, all of whom have made integral contributions," Liedtke related.

Fort Frye possesses one of Ohio's finest Division III cagers in 6-4 senior Brandt Thieman. His team-leading 17.8 per game scoring average doesn't begin to tell the

See, 2-A, Page 11

FORT FRYE CADETS



Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2008-09 Fort Frye Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Donald Hilverding, Cory Gerber, Jarid Bates, Garrett Legraen, Ryan Mincks and Matt Klinger. Back row, from left, are coach John Bostic, Colton Skinner, Tyler Stevens, Brandt Thieman, head coach Dan Liedtke, Isiah Warren, Jarrod Arnold, Eddie Watson and coach Terry Huck

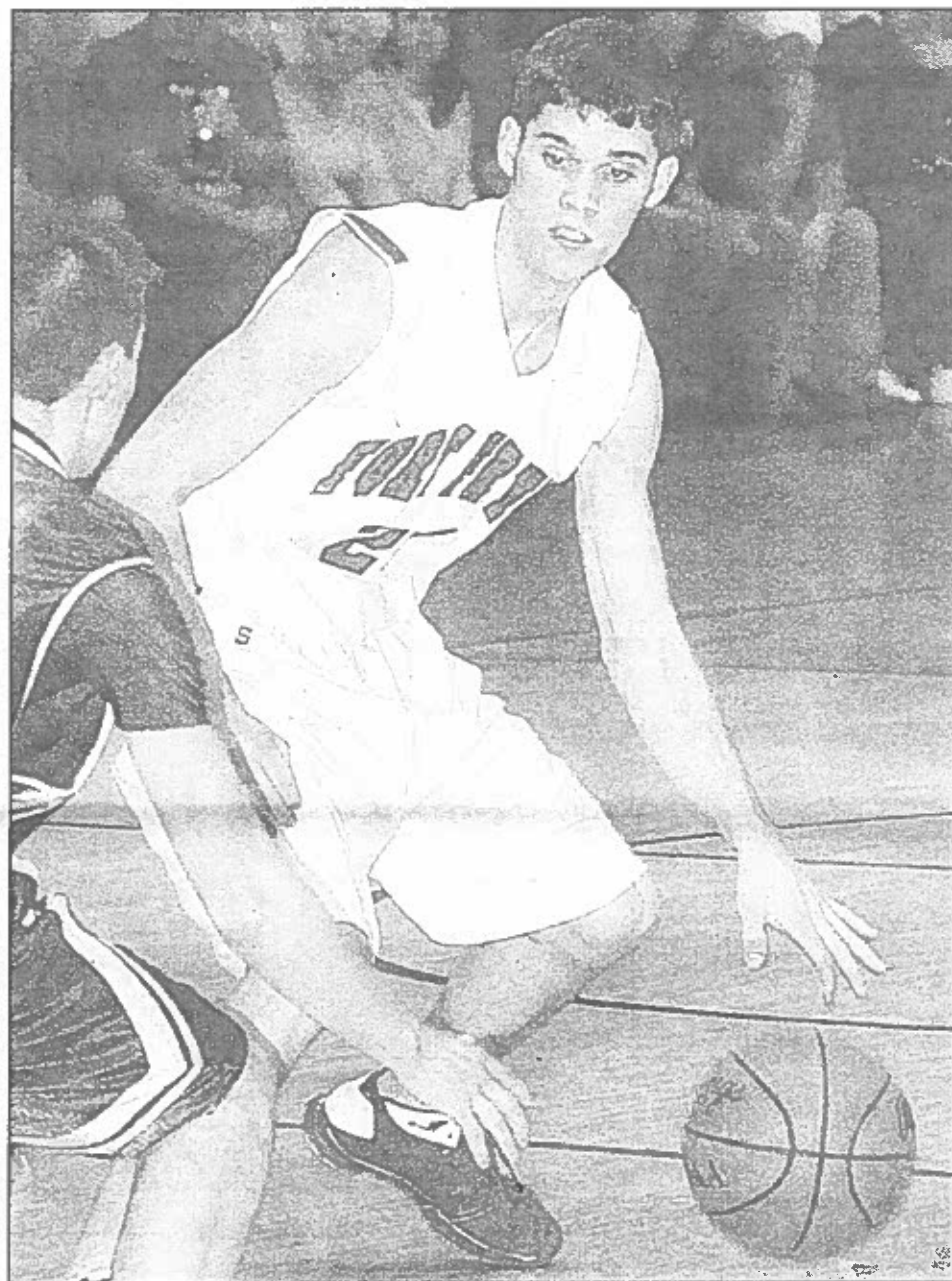


Photo Courtesy/MARIETTA TIMES

FORT FRYE standout Brandt Thieman looks for somewhere to go with the ball against Shenandoah during their OVAC semifinal game earlier this week. Thieman and the Cadets will make the trip to OUE to meet Wheeling Central in the Class 2-A Wheeling Hospital OVAC Championship Game at 10 a.m. Saturday.

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● 2-A

High School Boys Basketball

Continued from Page 10

story of his overall value.

"We've been fortunate to have a number of high-quality players come through our program. Brandt Thieman is certainly included in that group," Liedtke notes.

Nearby Bethany as well as Marietta College are among those vying for Thieman's services at the next level.

"Versatility is probably Brandt's finest asset," Liedtke points out. "He can play the point or move to any number of other key spots."

The Cadets have another rugged customer in 6-0 veteran guard Jarrod Arnold, netting just under 15 points per start.

Between them, Arnold (41) and Thieman (40) have combined for 81 three-point buckets.

Six-three forward Isiah Warren adds senior leadership as does 5-10 guard Tyler Stevens, scoring at 7 ppg.

Liedtke normally can mix and match regarding a fifth starter among 6-3 junior Jarid Bates; 6-0 junior Ryan Mincks; and athletic 6-3 sophomore Garrett Legraen.

Liedtke made the following assessment of prepping his team for an extended bus ride preceding an early (10:00) start.

"Well, it's a challenge, all right. We're planning on departing (school) at 6:30. But I'd like to think our kids will be ready at tipoff time," he reported.

Fort Frye advanced to Saturday's title game after knocking off PVC rival Shenandoah for a third time this season in a semifinal matchup earlier this week.

Liedtke has a capable staff of assistants at his disposal including John Bostic, Terry Huck, Matt Anderson and Troy Fogle.

(Through Feb. 15)
SCORING
(10 or more points/game)

Player, School	G	FG	FTM-FTA	PTS.	AVG.
1. Joby Barr, Union Local	17	105	95-149	312	18.4
2. Joe Collart, Buckeye Trail	16	89	58-93	265	16.6
3. Levi Crozier, Bellaire	17	107	50-67	278	16.4
4. Ryan Feller, Bellaire	17	99	76-108	274	16.1
5. Jordan Darby, Beallsville	16	107	40-82	256	16.0
6. Colby MacMillan, Barnesville	18	101	53-95	285	15.8
7. Justin Andes, Shadyside	17	95	23-33	262	15.4
8. Joe Rine, Buckeye Local	18	114	48-89	275	15.3
9. Nathan Butts, Shadyside	17	107	26-63	250	14.7
10. Michael Carr, Bridgeport	17	117	12-29	246	14.5
11. Jordan Barbina, Union Local	17	79	72-115	237	13.9
12. Nick Schuetz, Shadyside	17	74	67-78	233	13.7
13. Ryan Jarvie, St. Clairsville	18	81	61-102	245	13.6
14. Mikey Habig, Mon. Central	17	93	43-75	229	13.5
15. Chase Russell, St. John	18	85	71-120	241	13.4
16. Jordan Burress, Martins Ferry	18	90	54-94	234	13.0
17. Ty Kenny, Harrison Central	18	83	67-106	233	12.9
18. Zack Bonds, Buckeye Local	18	84	33-60	224	12.4
(tie) Kyle Jorris, Monroe Central	18	85	37-63	224	12.4
20. Dylan Potts, River	16	69	33-68	191	11.9
21. Cody Nelson, Buckeye Trail	18	83	36-52	202	11.3
22. Justin Gregorcic, Bridgeport	18	68	36-53	201	11.2
23. Kody Skinner, Barnesville	18	70	43-81	197	10.9
24. Michael Roach, Martins Ferry	18	55	47-69	191	10.6
25. Greg Strasser, Buckeye Trail	18	67	32-54	187	10.4
26. Dan Stavik, St. Clairsville	18	56	34-53	182	10.1
27. Brett Stephens, Beallsville	17	70	26-56	172	10.1

FREE THROW SHOOTING
(at least 70% with 2 att. per game)

Player, School	G	FTM-FTA	.PCT
1. Nick Scheutz, Shadyside	17	67-78	85.9
2. Phil Gross, St. Clairsville	16	27-35	77.1
3. Jared Davenport, Harr. Central	17	31-41	75.6
4. Levi Crozier, Bellaire	17	50-67	74.6
5. Ryan Feller, Bellaire	17	76-108	70.4

TEAM FREE THROW SHOOTING

Team	G	FTM-FTA	.PCT
1. Shadyside	17	182-259	70.3
2. Bellaire	18	218-312	69.9
3. Harrison Central	18	193-284	68.0
4. Buckeye Trail	18	192-306	62.7
5. Martins Ferry	18	236-384	61.5
(tie) Union Local	17	224-364	61.5
7. Monroe Central	18	178-296	60.1
8. St. Clairsville	16	186-328	56.7
9. Barnesville	18	199-359	55.4
10. Buckeye Local	18	154-279	55.2
11. Bridgeport	18	152-283	53.7
12. River	16	126-237	53.2
13. St. John	18	123-241	51.0
14. Beallsville	17	167-353	47.3

THREE-POINT FIELD GOALS
(20 or more)

Player, School	G	Total
1. Justin Andes, Shadyside	17	49
2. Dan Stavik, St. Clairsville	18	36
3. Michael Roach, Martins Ferry	18	34
4. Ryan Kuhn, Monroe Central	18	32
5. Colby MacMillan, Barnesville	18	30
6. Joe Collart, Buckeye Trail	16	29
(tie) Justin Gregorcic, Bridgeport	18	29
8. Zack Bonds, Buckeye Local	18	23
(tie) Ryan Jarvie, St. Clairsville	18	22
10. Allen Derosa, St. Clairsville	18	21
(tie) Greg Strasser, Buckeye Trail	18	21
12. Dylan Potts, River	16	20

-Compiled by Kim North from coaches/statisticians submittal after each game

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 2-A - 10 a.m.; Class 3-A - 1 p.m.; Class 4-A - 4 p.m.; Class 1-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 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.

Fans are also advised to enter OUE from State Rt. 331 and the cost to park has been set at \$2. Obviously parking at the Health and Physical Education Center is limited, so fans are able to park in the Shannon Hall lot and a shuttle service provided by Whiteside's will run continually throughout the day.

Fans are also reminded that no noise makers or signs are to be brought to the game.

Each team will be presented their awards following the game. Individual medals will also be presented to the players and coaches.

The only types of passes that will be accepted are the OVAC passes and anyone with a pass is advised to enter through the pass gate.

Concessions and souvenir t-shirts will be available at OUE Saturday.

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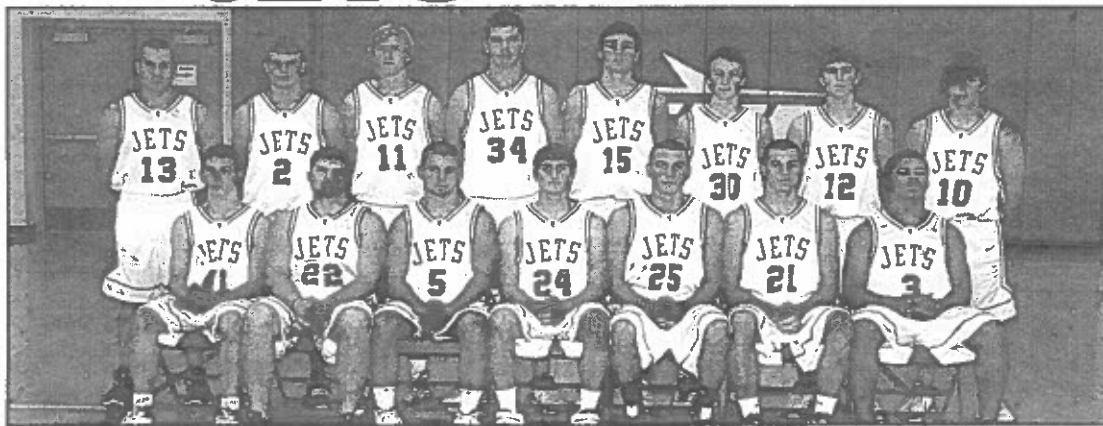


Photo Provided
 PICTURED IS the 2008-09 Union Local Jets Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Justin Thompson, Bo Olexo, Mark Thompson, Jordan Barbina, Joby Barr, Kyle Blackman and Marcellus Stradford. Back row, from left, are Kyle Jarrett, Brandon Nicholes, Darby Waller, Anthony Lucas, Kevin Valine, Myron Jellison, Adam Hisrich and Andrew Barbina.

● 3-A

Continued from Page 7

Before the third meeting could take place, each team had to take care of business in Tuesday's semi-final round. The Jets cruised past Oak Glen, while the Red Devils prevailed by a 55-50 count against Magnolia.

"I am really happy with how these kids have played," Clifford said. "This is a new group of kids, but they've kind of looked at the teams before them and just gone with the flow. They've played hard and played together, which is the big thing for us."

Union Local has put together back-to-back strong performances against the Golden Bears and Edison, respectively, some 10 days ago in Morristown. They also had to rally from as many as 19 down to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat on the road at Barnesville.

"Basketball is a funny game," Porter said. "So

See, 3-A, Page 13

MEET THE 3-A FINALISTS

UNION LOCAL (17-2)

Name	No.	Gr.	Ht.
Andrew Barbina	10	11	6'0"
Darby Waller	11	11	6'0"
Brandon Nicholes	2	11	6'0"
Paul Demarchi	5	10	5'10"
Ethan Tobin	14	10	5'10"
Kevin Valine	15	10	5'10"
Kyle Blackman	21	12	6'3"
Tyler McGary	3	9	5'10"
Jordan Barbina	24	12	6'0"
Joby Barr	25	12	6'2"
Myron Jellison	30	10	5'9"
Anthony Lucas	34	11	6'3"

Head Coach: Ben Porter
 Assistant Coaches: Mike Menges, Vaughn Butler, Jason Roscoe, Kerry McKeever.

ST. CLAIRSVILLE (12-7)

Name	No.	Gr.	Ht.
Matt Yudasz	3	10	6'0"
Phil Gross	4	12	6'2"
Kaz Pata	5	12	6'1"
Bo Kerno	10	12	5'11"
Tavin Stevenson	12	10	5'10"
Brandon Fieutem	14	11	5'10"
Alex Thornburg	20	11	6'3"
Mackenzie Koehler	21	10	6'1"
Ryan Jarvie	22	12	5'11"
Dan Slavik	24	11	6'0"
Allen Derosa	32	10	6'5"
Zak Stiles	34	10	6'0"

Head Coach: Kim Clifford
 Assistant Coaches: Ryan Clifford, Kevin Sacco.

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T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY
ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Phil Gross prepares to go up for a shot during the Red Devils' semifinal vs. Magnolia earlier in the week. Gross and the Red Devils will meet Union Local in the Class 3-A title game.

● 3-A

Continued from Page 12

much of it is based on confidence and the mental approach. I think our comeback against Barnesville showed that our kids can accomplish whatever they want when they are focused and determined."

The two teams each won on the other's home court, which was tough to do in the Buckeye 8. Union Local was a winner at St. Clairsville in the opening game of the season in December by a 55-38 count. St. Clairsville returned the favor by a 47-41 margin in the middle of January.

"I watched our last St. Clairsville game film the other day and we just didn't shoot the ball well because of the defense St. Clairsville played," Porter said. "It's

difficult to win against anyone - let alone St. Clairsville - when you shoot a low percentage."

The Red Devils' defense has been the story. It recently held Harrison Central to 20 points in a game and made life difficult for the aforementioned Blue Eagles with their full-court man pressure.

"St. Clairsville's playing really well defensively right now," Porter said. "They really take pride in that end of the floor and they are one of the strongest fundamentally sound teams we've

played all year."

When preparing for the Jets, Clifford is well aware of the fact that his team had better be sound once again defensively to contain the Jets' offensive weaponry.

"We had a real good effort defensively when we beat them, and we're going to need that again," Clifford pointed out. "We've got to play solid

defense and we've got to rebound."

The defensive game plan will center around Union Local's senior trifecta.

Unlike the Red Devils, the Jets weren't breaking in a new collection of players for the most part. They had three key returnees in Jordan Barbina, Joby Barr and Kyle Blackman.

"Not just in basketball, but those three kids have shaped Union Local athletics," Porter said. "They've raised the bar for future ath-



See 3-A, Page 14

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● 3-A

Continued from Page 13

letes here. Each of them does something different for us.”

The Jets’ trio of ‘Killer Bs’ leads the way on the offensive end.

Barr is the team’s leading scorer with a 18.2 points per game average. Barbina — who has come on of late after hitting a slump during the season —

checks in with a 14.8 average. Blackman, meanwhile, does a lot of the dirty work for the Jets. He’s averaging 6.7 points and nearly nine rebounds a contest.

“Ben’s done an excellent job of getting those kids to understand their roles,” Clifford offered. “They play good defense, but their three seniors understand

what it takes to win. They cause a multitude of problems because you’ve got to stop them in transi-

See, 3-A, Page 15



ST. CLAIRSVILLE RED DEVILS

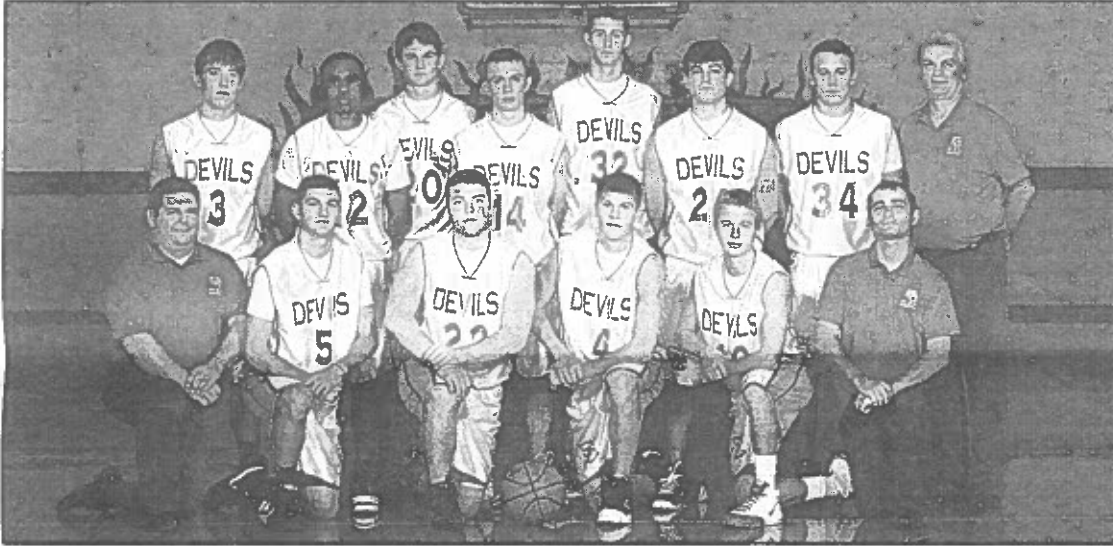


Photo Courtesy/SLAVIK PHOTOGRAPHY

PICTURED IS the 2008-09 St. Clairsville Red Devils Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are assistant coach Kevin Sacco, Kaz Pata, Ryan Jarvie, Phil Gross, Bo Kemo and assistant coach Ryan Clifford. Back row, from left, are Matt Yudasz, Tavin Stevenson, Alex Thornburg, Brandon Fieutem, Allen Derosa, Dan Slavik, Zak Stiles and head coach Kim Clifford.

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● 3-A

Continued from Page 14

tion. they can offensive rebound and Barbina makes a lot of things happen."

The Jets' starting lineup is rounded out by juniors Brandon Nicholes and Darby Waller who are lockdown defenders. The Jets aren't a deep basketball team with sophomore Myron Jellison and senior Anthony Lucas rounding out the top seven.

"A really big difference in our team has been our defense," Porter said. "We're holding teams to 45 points a game and we're

way ahead of where we've been in that regard. It's guys like Brandon and Darby who get that going by putting a lot of heat on the ball."

The Red Devils' offensive attack is led by a pair of double-digit scorers.

Senior Ryan Jarvie - who has a season-high of 32 points in a loss at Edison - is netting 13.7 points a game and leads the team with a 34 percent average from three-point land.

He's joined in the Devils' backcourt by junior

Dan Slavik who is averaging 10.7 points a game and has buried 41 triples on the season.

"Those two guys have done the job for us," Clifford said. "We've also had some silent heroes who've stepped up for us at times this year."

Sophomore Allen Derosa has had a strong campaign, averaging just under 10 points a game, while blocking 46 shots for the season.

Senior Phil Gross has also been strong this season.

averaging 7.6 points a game. Rounding out the starting lineup is senior Kaz Pata who scores nearly 4 points a game.

The Red Devils have also received solid production from the bench thanks to the likes of Alex Thornburg, Bo Kemo and Tavin Stevenson.

"They've got a lot of kids who are stepping up for them," Porter said. "St. Clairsville is playing with a lot of confidence right now and they've got several guys who hurt you."

● Champs

Continued from Page 9

- 1960
- A -- Cadiz
- AA -- Bridgeport
- AAA -- Steubenville
- 1961
- A -- Warren Consolidated
- AA -- Shadyside
- AAA -- Martins Ferry
- 1962
- A -- Warwood
- AA -- Shadyside
- AAA -- Weir
- 1963
- A -- Paden City, Powhatan
- AA -- Bridgeport
- AAA -- Wheeling Central
- 1964
- A -- Bishop Donahue
- AA -- Toronto
- AAA -- Weir
- 1965
- AA -- Shadyside
- AAA -- Tnadephia
- 1966
- A -- Woodsfield
- AA -- Bridgeport
- AAA -- Tnadephia
- 1967
- A -- Wayne Woodsfield
- AA -- Warwood
- AAA -- Bellaire
- 1968
- A -- Mt. Pleasant
- AA -- St. John
- AAA -- Tnadephia

- 1969
- A -- Bethany
- AA -- St. John
- AAA -- Ed Murphy

- 1970
- A -- Yorkville

See, CHAMPS, Page 19

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WHEELING PARK PATRIOTS

Wheeling Park, John Marshall to meet again for 4-A crown

• Patriots swept two earlier meetings

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

There wasn't much preparation needed for Wheeling Park and John Marshall's boys' basketball teams for their Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship Game.

It by no means wasn't because head coaches Michael Jebbia and Bill Storm don't value the game their teams will play in Saturday at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center at 4 p.m.

"We're really familiar with (Park), probably too familiar with them to be honest," Storm said during Wednesday's media day. "We play (Park) in the summer, we've played them twice in the regular season already and we could even play them again in the sectional. We know what each other's going to do."

The Patriots come into the game as the top seed. They easily dispatched East Liverpool in Tuesday's semifinal game by a 93-61 count to advance to the title game. The Monarchs, meanwhile, defended their home court, posting a 64-63 victory over Weir High in overtime in the semifinals.

"I was somewhat shocked by the final score (in our semifinal)," Jebbia said. "We were able to make some perimeter shots and we limited them to one shot and we got contributions from everyone, which is what we'll need again."

The Patriots own a 2-0 record against the Monarchs this season. They won at JM by a slim 40-36 count and then handled the Monarchs by a 70-52 count in January at the Palace on the Hill.

"Our kids know each other and they are all friends."

MEET THE 4-A FINALISTS

WHEELING PARK (13-5)

	No.	Gr.	Ht
Shaun Black	1	11	5'10
Richard Hall	2	11	6'3
Bobby Wheeler	3	12	6'1
Michael Griffin	4	11	6'0
Nathan Dolan	5	11	6'1
Reed Simpson	10	10	6'8
D'Jhae Jackson	22	12	5'11
Bubby Goodwin	23	10	5'11
Marquez O'Neal	32	10	6'3
Mark Kenamond	33	12	6'3
R.J. Vargo	34	12	6'3
Kevin Kuca	50	11	6'5
Head Coach: Michael Jebbia			
Assistant Coaches: Ron Gill, Dave Stahnke, Tony Marvin			

JOHN MARSHALL (14-4)

	No.	Gr.	Ht
Jeremy Hays	3	11	6'1
Brock Melko	4	12	5'9
Artie Lightner	5	11	6'1
Casey Defibaugh	10	12	5'10
Travis Whitfield	11	12	5'8
Chase Duckworth	12	12	6'3
Jason Eikleberry	22	12	6'2
Justin Eikleberry	23	12	6'3
Andrew Montes	32	12	6'2
Daniel McClelland	33	12	6'6
Cody Coffield	42	12	6'1
Justin Wade	44	9	6'4
Head Coach: Bill Storm			
Assistant Coaches: Mike Ferro, Casey Storm, Corey Murphy			



Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2008-09 Wheeling Park Patriots Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are R.J. Vargo, D'Jhae Jackson, Mark Kenamond and Bobby Wheeler. Middle row, from left, are Trainer Elaine Sambuco, Shaun Black, Michael Griffin, Nathan Dolan, Bubby Goodwin and Trainer Alissa Stefanow. Back row, from left, are Trainer Pete Chocalos, assistant coach Dave Stahnke, assistant coach Tony Marvin, Richard Hall, Reed Simpson, Kevin Kuca, Marquez O'Neal, head coach Michael Jebbia, and assistant coach Ron Gill.

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T-L File Photo
WHEELING PARK'S R.J. Vargo is surrounded by John Marshall's Casey Defibaugh (10) and Danny McClelland during a game earlier this season at Park. The Patriots and Monarchs will meet again Saturday at 4 p.m. at OUE's Health and Physical Education Center in St. Clairsville as part of the OVAC Championship.

● 4-A

Continued from Page 16

Jebbia said. "Sometimes, you play a team three or four times you know so much about them. We know (JM) has some very capable players, and I am expecting a good ball game."

The Monarchs were in the OVAC 4-A title game a year ago, falling to Indian Creek. Some four players are back from that squad. They took out the Patriots in the semifinals a year ago.

"We had some people who didn't even know where OUE was last year," Storm joked. "Our people don't go west of the mall too often, so being here again is definitely going to be a plus."

One change the Monarchs are making in their pre-game plan is opting against practicing at OUE beforehand. The Monarchs played at Morgantown Thursday in a make-up game and were scheduled to just have a light workout in Moundsville Friday.

"We're just going to go short at home Friday and I don't think coming over here to practice is all that necessary," Storm said.

The top-seeded Patriots

— who haven't won an OVAC banner since 2000 when Jebbia was a sophomore at West Liberty State College — implement a seven-man rotation and Jebbia's mixed his rotation.

Sophomore guard Bubby Goodwin is the team's catalyst. He's one of the most ballyhooed young players to come into the Patriots' program. He's averaging 14.7 points and four assists per game.

Senior D'Jhae Jackson is another go-to player for the Patriots with 14.1 points and four assists per game. He's also snaring six rebounds per contest.

Junior Richard Hall is one of the key Patriots on

the interior, leading the team in boards. He's gathered 9.1 rebounds to go along with his eight points a game this winter.

Junior guard Michael Griffin has been coming on of late for the Patriots. He's led them in scoring the last few games and for the season is averaging nearly eight points a contest. Sophomore post Marquez O'Neal has also come up big on the interior with 8.6 points and 6.1 rebounds a night.

"Their quickness gives us match-up problems," Storm said. "We're trying to find a weakness that we can exploit to get some penetration on, but right now Park is playing as well as any team around, so we know what kind of challenge we have ahead, but our kids are

See, 4-A, Page 18



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JOHN MARSHALL MONARCHS

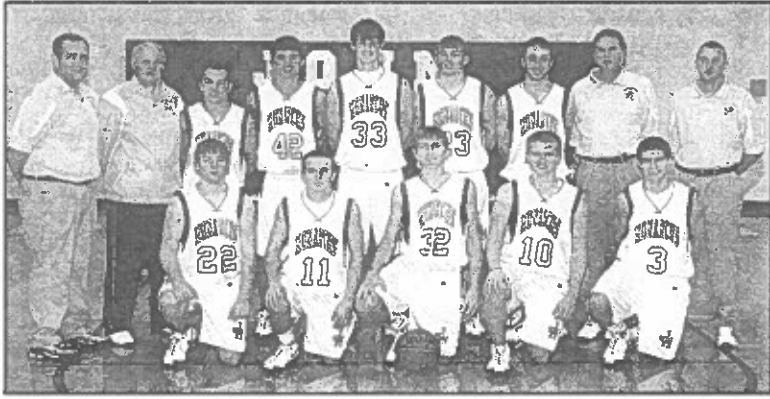


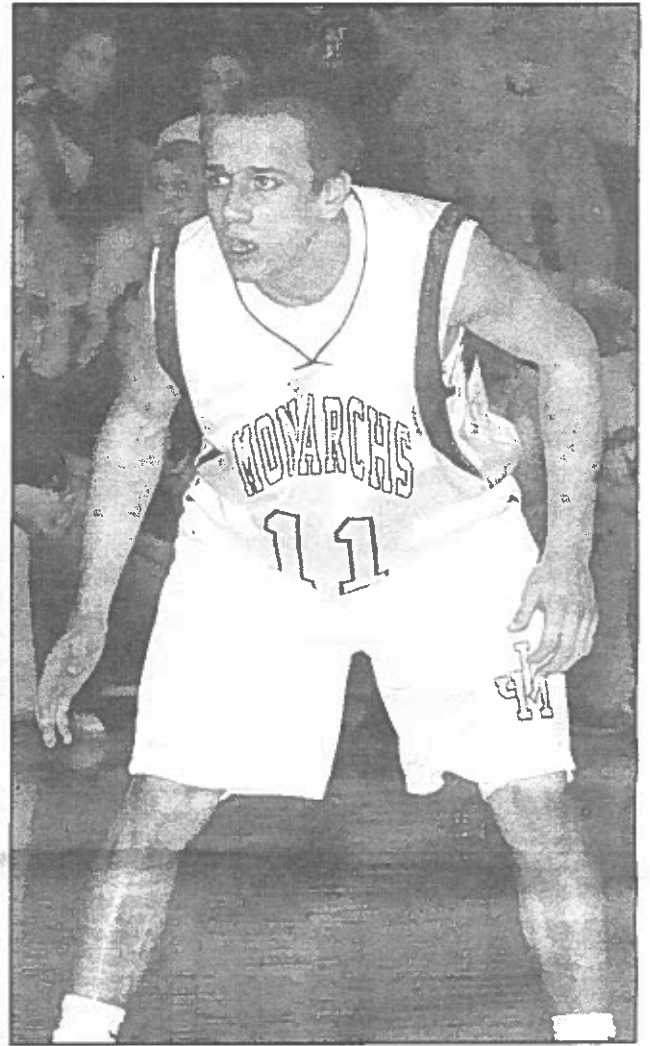
Photo Provided
 PICTURED IS the 2008-09 John Marshall Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Jason Eikleberry, Travis Whitfield, Andrew Montes, Casey Defibaugh and Jeremy Hays. Back row, from left, are assistant coach Corey Murphy, assistant coach Mike Ferro, Brock Melko, Cody Coffield, Danny McClelland, Justin Eikleberry, Chase Duckworth, head coach Bill Storm, and assistant coach Casey Storm.



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T-L File Photo

JOHN MARSHALL'S Travis Whitfield digs in defensively during the Monarchs' OVAC semifinal game against Weir earlier this week. Whitfield and the Monarchs will meet Wheeling Park for the Class 4-A OVAC Championship Saturday at 4 p.m.

● **4-A**

Continued from Page 17

looking forward to it."

Junior Shaun Black and senior R.J. Vargo round out the Pats' rotation with seven and three points a game, respectively.

"We try to set the tone for our offense with defense," Jebbia explained. "We've got good rebounders who can trigger our transition game. We've got good guards and we tell the kids to keep it balanced and share the basketball. We've got a team where it can be someone different every


night."

The Monarchs are led to the court each night by Jeremy Hays who's scoring 14 points a contest. He was relegated to the pine much of the semi-final game against Weir due to an eye injury, but should be full go for Saturday.

Senior Justin Eikleberry holds down the interior. The 6-ft-3 post is netting 12.1 points a game and just over five boards a contest.

Senior Andrew Montes

See, 4-A, Page 19



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● Champs —

Continued from Page 15

- AA -- Warren 1990
- AAA -- Steubenville 1971
- A -- Paden City
- AA -- Linsly
- AAA -- Steubenville 1972
- A -- Bishop Donahue
- AA -- Bridgeport
- AAA -- John Marshall 1973
- A -- Linsly
- AA -- River
- AAA -- Steub. CC 1974
- A -- Bridgeport
- AA -- Wheeling CC
- AAA -- Wheeling 1975
- A -- Paden City
- AA -- Wellsville
- AAA -- Steubenville 1976
- A -- Mingo
- AA -- Wellsville
- AAA -- Wheeling 1977
- A -- Weirton Madonna
- AA -- Wellsville
- AAA -- Buckeye South
- AAAA -- Park 1978
- A -- Buckeye Trail
- AA -- Shadyside
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- Cambridge 1979
- A -- Buckeye Trail
- AA -- Shadyside
- AAA -- Steub. CC
- AAAA -- Bellaire 1980
- A -- Buckeye Trail
- AA -- Mingo
- AAA -- Martins Ferry
- AAAA -- Steubenville 1981
- A -- Buckeye Trail
- AA -- Frontier
- AAA -- Buckeye South
- AAAA -- Steubenville 1982
- A -- Sistersville
- AA -- Buckeye Trail
- AA -- Wheeling CC
- AAAA -- Park 1983
- A -- Bishop Donahue
- AA -- Bridgeport
- AAA -- Wheeling Central
- AAAA -- Wintersville 1984
- A -- Weirton Madonna
- AA -- Wellsville
- AAA -- Steub. CC
- AAAA -- Wintersville 1985
- A -- Skyvue
- AA -- Wellsville
- AAA -- Wheeling CC
- AAAA -- Weir 1986
- A -- Skyvue
- AA -- Wellsville
- AAA -- Wheeling CC
- AAAA -- Steubenville 1987
- A -- Mingo
- AA -- Wheeling CC
- AAA -- Meadowbrook
- AAAA -- Brooke 1988
- A -- Shadyside
- AA -- Wellsville
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- Steubenville 1989
- A -- Bishop Donahue
- AA -- Wheeling CC
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- Brooke
- A -- Mingo 1990
- AA -- Wheeling CC
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- Steubenville 1991
- A -- Mingo
- AA -- Shenandoah
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- E. Liverpool 1992
- A -- Paden City
- AA -- Frontier
- AAA -- Toronto
- AAAA -- Cambridge 1993
- A -- Paden City
- AA -- Steubenville CC
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- Cambridge 1994
- A -- Paden City
- AA -- Buckeye Trail
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- E. Liverpool 1995
- A -- Weirton Madonna
- AA -- Buckeye Trail
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- E. Liverpool 1996
- A -- Weirton Madonna
- AA -- Wellsville
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- Zanesville 1997
- A -- Conotton Valley
- AA -- Shenandoah
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- Zanesville 1998
- A -- Weirton Madonna
- AA -- Linsly
- AAA -- Martins Ferry
- AAAA -- Park 1999
- A -- Frontier
- AA -- Fort Frye
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- E. Liverpool 2000
- A -- Shadyside
- AA -- Fort Frye
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- Cambridge 2001
- A -- Weirton Madonna
- AA -- Shenandoah
- AAA -- Indian Creek
- AAAA -- Zanesville 2002
- A -- Linsly
- AA -- Wheeling CC
- AAA -- Martins Ferry
- AAAA -- Zanesville 2003
- A -- Beallsville
- AA -- Fort Frye
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- Cambridge 2004
- A -- Frontier
- AA -- Fort Frye
- AAA -- Oak Glen
- AAAA -- Beaver Local 2005
- A -- Shadyside
- AA -- Buckeye Trail
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- Weir 2006
- A -- Shadyside
- AA -- Wheeling CC
- AAA -- Bellaire
- AAAA -- Weir 2007
- A -- Shadyside
- AA -- Wheeling CC
- AAA -- Harrison
- AAAA -- Steubenville 2008
- A -- Bridgeport
- AA -- Shadyside
- AAA -- Wheeling CC
- AAAA -- Indian Creek

OVAC Basketball Committee



PICTURED IS the OVAC Basketball Committee. Front row, from left, are director Rick DeLuca, Ron Smyth, Nikki Cain, Rick Isaley, Fred King and Mark Masloski. Back row, from left, are Ron White, Bubba Kapral, Chris Pack, OVAC Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak and George Vargo. Absent were Donnie Madzia and Phil Rujak.

T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

● 4-A

Continued from Page 19

— who shoots 32 percent from downtown — averages 10.4 points a game. Senior Travis Whitfield checks in with 9.8 points a game. Senior Danny McClelland adds a shade under seven points and six rebounds a game.

Senior Casey Defibaugh and senior Chase Duckworth are also key contributors. Defibaugh scores 8.6 points a game.

“Hays, Montes, Defibaugh, Whitfield are all very capable players,” Jebbia said. “They are dangerous and can shoot the ball well.”

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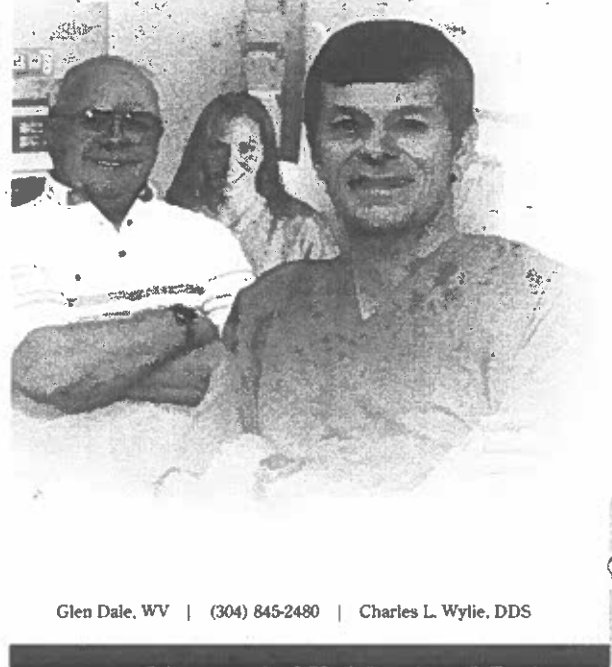
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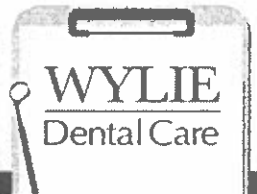


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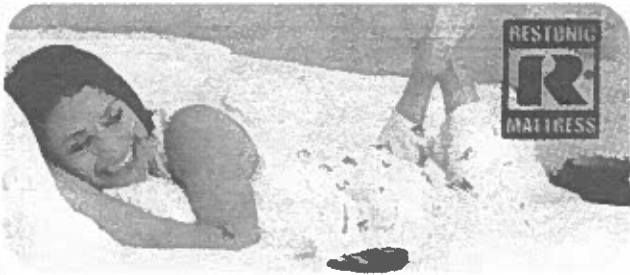
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OVAC Girls hoop tourney pairings set

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Qualifying into the top four of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship is a difficult task. Winning two more games and officially earning the championship banner is even tougher.

After nearly two-plus months of playing, battling snow and scoreboard watching, the brackets are officially set.

The basketball committee – with Rick DeLuca spearheading the charge – met early Tuesday morning at the OVAC office to establish the first-round games and also the consolation matchups for squads who didn't make the top four of their respective class.

The tournament opens Monday with semifinal games at higher seeds gyms and pool games. The consolation games and remaining pool games will be held Thursday evening, setting the stage for Feb. 14's OVAC Championship Games, which will be held at Ohio University-Eastern in St. Clairsville.

Earning top seeds in the tournament are: Indian Creek (4-A), Martins Ferry (3-A), Shadyside (2-A) and Bishop Donahue (1-A).

Here's a closer look at the classes:

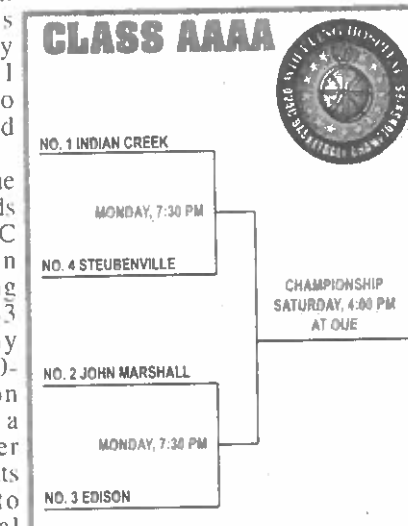
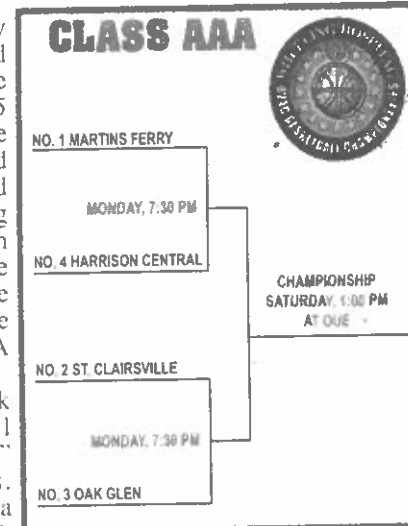
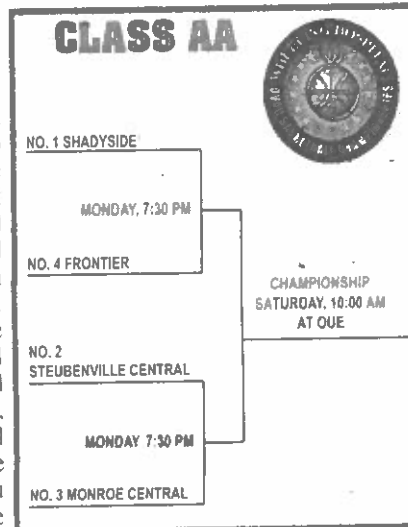
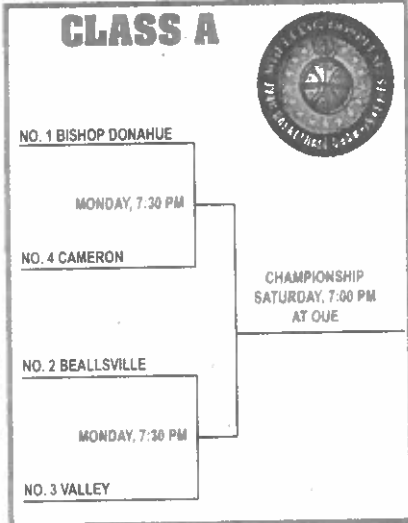
IN CLASS 4-A. Indian Creek is back in the mix trying to defend the title it won last year and this year enters as the top seed. The Lady Redskins qualified with a spotless 15-0 record.

"One of the goals our girls set was to get back to the finals (of the OVAC) because it was such a good experience," said Creek head coach Erin DeSantis. "These girls have been pretty well grounded and focused all year, but we're well aware that people want to knock you off when you're undefeated."

The Lady Redskins' reward is a home game against 10-5 Steubenville. The Lady Redskins and Lady Big Red don't meet during the regular season nor are they in the same half of the bracket for the upcoming OHSAA Sectional.

"Getting back to the finals will be no easy feat," said DeSantis. "Steubenville's a quality team with quality athletes who likes to play up-tempo, so I think it's going to be a good matchup."

The other game in Class 4-A finds defending OVAC runnerup John Marshall hosting Edison in the 2-3 game. The Lady Monarchs are 10-4 on the season and jumped into a home game after the Lady Wildcats (11-5) fell to Buckeye Local Monday evening.



IN CLASS 3-A. for the second straight season, the Lady Riders are on top of the standings at the cut-off date.

However, Dave Reasbeck's crew was upended in the 2008 championship game by Barnesville, which failed to qualify for this year's event.

The Lady Riders brought a large collection of players from the 2008 team back with the goal in mind of taking it one step further in this tournament.

"We came up short last year," Reasbeck said. "I really like how we've been playing and before we had our last break due to the weather we'd been playing really well. I like our chances going into this tournament."

One of the games the Lady Riders lost due to the weather was against Harrison Central. The Lady Huskies and Lady Riders will get their chance to meet for a second time since Harrison qualified in the fourth spot.

The Lady Riders are 11-4 on the season, while Harrison Central has lost three straight and own a 9-7 mark.

See, **OVAC**, Page B2

WHEELING HOSPITAL OVAC BOYS' TOURNAMENT

Championship Semifinals
(At Higher Seeds Court)
Tuesday

Class AAAAA

No. 1 Wheeling Park vs. No. 4 East Liverpool

No. 2 John Marshall vs. No. 3 Weir

Championship Game

Saturday, 4 p.m.

Class AAA

No. 1 Union Local vs. No. 4 Oak Glen

No. 2 St. Clairsville vs. No. 3 Magnolia

Championship Game

Saturday, 1 p.m.

Class AA

No. 1 Fort Frye vs. No. 4 Shenandoah

No. 2 Wheeling Central vs. No. 3 Shadyside

Championship Game

Saturday, 10 a.m.

Class A

No. 1 Bishop Donahue vs. No. 4 Cameron

No. 2 Bridgeport vs. No. 3 Paden City

Championship Game

Saturday, 7 p.m.

Patriots Earn A Top Seed

Jebbia: Our kids are looking forward to it

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

The quest to become Ohio Valley Athletic Conference boys' basketball champion is down to four teams in each class.

The Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship committee met early Wednesday morning at Ohio University Eastern — the site of the Feb. 21 championship games — to establish the championship brackets and consolation games for next week's event, which begins Tuesday.

All teams will be in action that day and remaining consolation games and losers of Tuesday's semifinal contests will all return to the floor Friday, setting the stage for Saturday's title games, which will run on the same time schedule as this weekend's girls event.

The order for the finals is Class AA (10 a.m.), AAA (1 p.m.), AAAAA (4 p.m.) and A (7 p.m.).

Wheeling Park, Union Local Fort Frye and Bishop Donahue garnered the top seeds in each of the four classes.

Here is a capsule look at each class:

Class AAAAA

Michael Jebbia's Patriots are back in the mix for the second straight season and will open tournament play at the Palace on the Hill for the second straight season when an up-and-coming East Liverpool squad visits.

The Patriots were bounced last year by fourth-seeded John Marshall and the Poters weren't eligible for the tournament because of a commitment to a league north of the area.

"The OVAC Tournament is a great addition and our kids are looking forward to it," Jebbia said. "Last year we had JM and they were by no means a typical fourth seed and we hope to fare a little better this year."

For the Patriots, it came down to Tuesday's victory against Morgantown.

"We would have still been at home, but our opponent would have obviously changed, so (Tuesday) was a big win for us," Jebbia continued. "We actually lost a home game this year, so it's nice to pick this one up and hopefully, we'll play well and be able to advance."

Coach Bill Storm's Monarchs are back in the fold after finishing second in the tournament a season ago, falling to Indian Creek in the finals. The Monarchs will play host to Weir High on Tuesday in the semifinals.

Class AAA

The Union Local Jets, who have been among the area's premier teams all winter, are the top seed with a 15-2 mark at the cutoff.

A season ago, the Jets were in the consolation bracket by mere percentage points to Wheeling Central, which went on to win the crown and has since moved down to Class AA.

OVAC

(Continued from Page 15)

"We've never won an OVAC title in (boys') basketball," UL coach Ben Porter said. "We're in position to change that, but we'll have to play well."

"We established this as one of our goals earlier in the season, along with the Buckeye 8, which we were fortunate enough to accomplish."

The Jets' reward for qualifying is a date with fourth-seeded Oak Glen.

"It's a challenge right now to gather some information on Oak Glen," Porter said. "Other than seeing their highlights on the news and reading scores in the paper, I haven't really followed them much."

The other semifinal in Class AAA finds a rematch of last season's semifinal in exactly the same venue. Second-seeded St. Clairsville, which lost in the title game to the Maroon Knights, will play host to Magnolia. The Blue Eagles' Tuesday night loss to the Maroon Knights coupled with St. C.'s victory at Indian Creek gave the Red Devils the boost into the No. 2 seed.

Class AA

Fort Frye garnered the top seed despite dropping its initial game of the season Tuesday to Waterford.

The Cadets, who were the top seed a season ago and dropped a heart-breaking defeat to Linsly in the semifinals, are back with their eyes firmly set on the prize.

"The 2-A class is probably the toughest of any division, in my opinion," Fort Frye coach Dan Liedtke said. "On any given night anyone can beat anyone. We're pleased to be back in the tournament as the top seed."

The Cadets' reward is their third meeting of the season with PVC rival Shenandoah. The two teams are also in the same half of the bracket in the Division III sectional tournament, meaning if the Zeps win one game in the sectional, a fourth meeting will occur.

"The chance that we could play (Shenandoah) four times is the one thing about the tournament I don't like, but that's the way it worked out," Liedtke said.

The other game in AA is a meeting of defending champions, Shadyside, the reigning OVAC champion after last season's thrilling double overtime victory against Linsly, will head to East Wheeling to meet the Maroon Knights in the 2-3 game.

Class A

The jockeying for position went up until the final ticks rolled off the clock in McMechen and Bridgeport on Tuesday evening.

In the end, the Bishop Donahue Bishops had claimed the top seed and the Bulldogs were the second seed thanks to victories against Cameron and Paden City, respectively.

However, the two teams that came out on the short end will get a chance at redemption as the pairings are exactly the same for next Tuesday.

"We were going to be happy with whoever we played as long as we were in the top two," Bishop Donahue coach Tom Wise said. "We were second most of the year in the standings, but we got some help and then beat Cameron and moved into the top spot and we're excited about it."

● OVAC

Continued from Page B1

"We know that Harrison Central plays hard and are as scrappy as heck," Reasbeck said. "We're familiar with them and for that reason we're glad to play them. I expect a scrappy game."

The other game in Class 3-A finds second-seeded St. Clairsville hosting third-seeded Oak Glen. The meeting will be the third between the two schools. The Lady Red Devils won the earlier meetings by scores of 48-44 and 73-44, respectively.

The Class 3-A championship game is scheduled for 1 p.m.

IN CLASS 2-A, Shadyside and Steubenville Central actually tied for the top seed with a 46.63 average, but the Lady Tigers were awarded the top seed by virtue of defeating the Lady Crusaders in their one meeting thus far.

Shadyside failed to qualify for the tournament a year ago, while Steubenville Central was an OVAC finalist, but fell to Monroe Central.

The Lady Tigers are 14-2 on the season and rebounded from a stunning loss at Linsly last Saturday to knock off River, which thrust them back into the top seed.

"The girls have been playing extremely well and it's a real good feeling to come from not being in the tournament last year to having earned the top seed," said Shadyside head coach Tina Yates. "We got re-focused (at Linsly) and I think we learned that we can't overlook anyone especially this late in the season."

The Lady Tigers will host fourth-seeded Frontier, which comes to the tournament with a 9-5 record and narrowly edged out Buckeye Trail.

"I saw (Frontier) play once," Yates said. "They've got a couple of athletic kids who can definitely score, so we'll have to come ready to play."

The Lady Crusaders (13-3) of Coach Kevin Barr will host the aforementioned Lady Seminoles (12-3) in a rematch of last year's title game.

The Class 2-A Championship game is slated for 10 a.m. on Feb. 14.

IN CLASS 1-A, undefeated Bishop Donahue earned the top seed. The Lady Bishops weren't in the field a year ago and this year will host Cameron (8-6) in the semifinals.

"Not making the cut last year was quite a disappointment," said acting B.D. head coach Paige Williams. "We've got a lot of confidence going into this year's tournament, but we have to be aware that as the number one seed everyone is gunning for us."

The game with the Lady Dragons will be one of three in a nine-day span for Bishop Donahue. The Lady Bishops just won a game with Cameron Monday evening.

"Cameron's a really good team and we just squeaked by (Monday)," Williams said. "We played together and that's been one of our biggest keys this year."

The other semifinal has 2008 finalist Beallsville hosting Valley. Both squads fell to St. John in last year's event.

The Class 1-A championship rounds out the day at OUE with tip off set for 7 p.m.

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

Boys OVAC pairings are announced

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The quest to become Ohio Valley Athletic Conference boys basketball champion is now down to four teams in each class.

The Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship committee met early Tuesday morning at Ohio University Eastern — the site of the Feb. 21 championship games — to establish the championship brackets and consolation games for next week's event, which begins Tuesday.



All teams will be in action Tuesday and remaining consolation games and losers of Tuesday's semifinal contests will all return to the floor Friday, setting the stage for Saturday's title games, which will run on the same time schedule as this weekend's girls event.

The order for the finals is 2-A (10 a.m.), 3-A (1 p.m.), 4-A (4 p.m.) and 1-A (7 p.m.).

Wheeling Park, Union Local Fort Frye and Bishop Donahue garnered the top seeds in each of the four classes.

Here is a capsule look at each class:

IN CLASS 4-A. Michael Jebbia's Patriots are back in the mix for the second straight season and will open tournament play at the Palace on the Hill for the second straight year when an up-and-coming East Liverpool squad visits.

The Patriots were bounced last year by fourth-seeded John Marshall and the Potters weren't eligible for the tournament due to a commitment to a league north of the area.

"The OVAC Tournament is a great addition and our kids are looking forward to it," Jebbia said. "Last year we had JM and they were by no means a typical fourth seed and we hope to fare a little better this year."

For the Patriots, it came down to Tuesday's win over Morgantown, which locked up the top spot.

"We would have still been at home, but our opponent would have obviously changed, so (Tuesday) was a big win for us," Jebbia continued. "We actually lost a home game this year, so it's nice to pick this one up and hopefully, we'll play well and be able to advance."

The aforementioned Monarchs of Coach Bill Storm are back in the fold after finishing second in the tournament a year ago, falling to Indian Creek in the finals. The Monarchs will host Weir High Tuesday in the semifinals.

IN CLASS 3-A, the Union Local Jets — who have

See, **BOYS**, Page B4

IN CLASS 1-A, the jockeying for position went up until the final ticks rolled off the clock in McMechen and Bridgeport Tuesday evening.

In the end, the Bishop Donahue Bishops had claimed the top seed and the Bulldogs were the second seed thanks to wins over Cameron and Paden City, respectively.

However, the two teams who came out on the short-end will get a chance at redemption as the pairings are exactly the same for next Tuesday.

"We were going to be happy with whoever we played as long as we were in the top two," said Bishop Donahue head coach Tom Wise. "We were second most of the year in the standings, but we got some help and then beat Cameron and moved into the top spot and we're excited about it."

● Boys

Continued from Page B1

been amongst the area's premier teams all winter — are the top seed with a solid 15-2 mark at the cutoff.

A year ago, the Jets were in the consolation bracket by mere percentage points to Wheeling Central, which went on to win the crown and has now moved down to Class 2-A.

"We've never won an OVAC title in (boys) basketball," said UL head coach Ben Porter. "We're in position to change that, but we'll have to play well. We established this as one of our goals earlier in the season along with the Buckeye 8, which we were fortunate enough to accomplish."

The Jets' reward for qualifying is a date with fourth-seeded Oak Glen.

"It's a challenge right now to gather some information on Oak Glen," Porter continued. "Other than seeing their highlights on the news and reading scores in the paper, I haven't really followed them much."

The other semifinal in Class 3-A finds a rematch of last year's semifinal in exactly the same venue. Second-seeded St. Clairsville — which lost in the title game to the aforementioned Maroon Knights — will host Magnolia. The Blue Eagles' Tuesday night loss to the Maroon Knights coupled with St. C.'s win at Indian Creek gave the Red Devils the boost into the second seed.

IN CLASS 2-A, Fort Frye garnered the top seed despite dropping its initial game of the season Tuesday to Waterford.

The Cadets — who were the top seed a year ago and dropped a heart-breaking defeat to Linsly in the semifinals — are back with their eyes firmly set on the prize.

"The 2-A class is probably the toughest of any division in my opinion," said Fort Frye head coach Dan Liedtke. "On any given night anyone can beat anyone. We're pleased to be back in the tournament as the top seed."

The Cadets' reward is their third meeting of the season with PVC rival Shenandoah. The two teams are also in the same half of the bracket in the Division III sectional tournament, meaning if the Zeps win one game in the sectional, a fourth meeting will occur.

"The chance that we could play (Shenandoah) four times is the one thing about the tournament I don't like, but that's the way it worked out," Liedtke offered.

The other game in 2-A is a meeting of defending champions, Shadyside — the reigning OVAC champion after last year's thrilling double overtime win over Linsly — will head to downtown Wheeling to meet the Maroon Knights in the 2-3 game.



Ohio University Eastern Campus



Wheeling Hospital - OVAC Basketball Championship Schedule / Media Coverage

At The Finals . . .

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

Girls' Finals

- AA - 10:00 am - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI # - Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7:00pm
- AAA - 1:00 pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Thursday, Feb. 19 at 7:00pm
- AAAA - 4:00 pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Friday, Feb. 20 at 7:00pm
- A - 7:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7:00pm

Boys' Finals - Sat., Feb. 21 - OUE - all games live on WKKX 1600 AM/www.wkcx.com

- AA - 10:00am - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7:00pm
- AAA - 1:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7:00pm
- AAAA - 4:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Friday, Feb. 27 at 7:00pm
- A - 7:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 7:00pm

FYI - Channel 10 in Wheeling / St. Clairsville; Channel 9 in Steubenville / Weirton

^ Replays of the Finals will also be available to be seen on Comcast's Video On Demand service beginning the Sunday after the respective finals.

OVAC CORPORATE PARTNERS:



Boys OVAC

WHEELING HOSPITAL OVAC BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
 Championship Semifinals
 Tuesday, Feb. 17
 (At Higher Seeds Court)
 Class 4-A
 No. 1 Wheeling Park vs. No. 4 East Liverpool
 No. 2 John Marshall vs. No. 3 Weir
 Championship Game
 Saturday, Feb. 21 4 p.m.
 Class 3-A
 No. 1 Union Local vs. No. 4 Oak Glen
 No. 2 St. Clairsville vs. No. 3 Magnolia
 Championship Game
 Saturday, Feb. 21 1 p.m.
 Class 2-A
 No. 1 Fort Frye vs. No. 4 Shenandoah
 No. 2 Wheeling Central vs. No. 3 Shadyside
 Championship Game
 Saturday, Feb. 21 10 a.m.
 Class 1-A
 No. 1 Bishop Donahue vs. No. 4 Cameron
 No. 2 Bridgeport vs. No. 3 Paden City
 Championship Game
 Saturday, Feb. 21 7 p.m.
 Tuesday Consolation Bracket
 Indian Creek at Steubenville
 Edison at Barnesville
 Bellaire at Monroe Central
 Frontier at Martins Ferry
 Harrison Central at Steubenville Central
 Linsly at Bishop Rosecrans
 River at Toronto
 Beallsville at Madonna
 St. John at Caldwell
 Wednesday, Feb. 18
 Caldwell at Valley
 Buckeye Local at Brooke
 Friday, Feb. 20
 Valley at St. John
 Steubenville at Bellaire
 Brooke at Edison
 Steubenville Central at Buckeye Local
 Barnesville at Indian Creek
 Martins Ferry at Linsly
 Monroe Central at Harrison
 Madonna at River
 Rosecrans at Frontier
 Toronto at Beallsville
 Losers of Tuesday's semifinals at highest remaining seed's court



Ohio University Eastern Campus



2009 Wheeling Hospital-OVAC Basketball Championships Schedule / Media Coverage

©Girls' Semifinals - Mon., Feb. 9 - played on the home courts of the higher seeds

©Girls' Finals^ - Sat., Feb. 14 - OUE - all games live on WKKX 1600AM/

www.wkcx.com

- o AA - 10:00am - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI # - Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 7:00pm
- o AAA - 1:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7:00pm
- o AAAA - 4:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Thursday, Feb. 19 at 7:00pm
- o A - 7:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Monday, Feb. 16 at 7:00pm

©Boys' Semifinals - Tues., Feb. 17 - played on the home courts of the higher seeds

©Boys' Finals^ - Sat., Feb. 21 - OUE - all games live on WKKX 1600AM/

www.wkcx.com

- o AA - 10:00am - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 7:00pm
- o AAA - 1:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7:00pm
- o AAAA - 4:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7:00pm
- o A - 7:00pm - Tape-Delay on Comcast FYI - Monday, Feb. 23 at 7:00pm

^ Replays of the Finals will also be available to be seen on Comcast's Video On Demand service beginning the Sunday after the respective finals.

FYI - Channel 9 in Wheeling / St. Clairsville; Channel 10 in Steubenville / Weirton

OVAC CORPORATE PARTNERS:



OVAC Girls Glance

OVAC TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP
 Semifinals
 CLASS 4-A
 #1 Indian Creek 56 #4 Steubenville 54
 #3 Edison 70 #2 John Marshall 50
 CLASS 3-A
 #1 Martins Ferry 45 #4 Harrison Central 32
 #2 St. Clairsville 53 #3 Oak Glen 42
 CLASS 2-A
 #1 Shadyside 72 #4 Frontier 62
 #3 Monroe Central 62 #2 Steubenville Central 58
 CLASS 1-A
 #1 Bishop Donahue 53 #4 Cameron 51
 #2 Beallsville 78 #3 Valley 60
 CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS
 Saturday
 All games played at OUE, highest seeded team designated as home team
 CLASS 2-A
 #1 Shadyside vs. #3 Monroe Central at 10 a.m.
 CLASS 3-A
 #1 Martins Ferry vs. #2 St. Clairsville at 1 p.m.
 CLASS 4-A
 #1 Indian Creek vs. #3 Edison at 4 p.m.
 CLASS 1-A
 #1 Bishop Donahue vs. #2 Beallsville at 7 p.m.
 CONSOLATION POOL
 FIRST ROUND
 Monday, February 9, 2009
 St. John Central 50 Paden City 26
 Bridgeport 52 Fort Frye 48
 River 48 Wheeling Central 43 at
 Buckeye Trail 47 Weirton Madonna 24
 Caldwell 51 Toronto 18
 Shenandoah 49 Linsly 41
 Buckeye Local 56 Magnolia 45
 Wheeling Park 70 Barnesville 55
 East Liverpool 53 Bellaire 37
 Weir 41 Union Local 33

Champion Creek Earns Top Seed

Ferry, Shadyside, Bishop Donahue also deemed No. 1s

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

BELLAIRE — Qualifying into the top four of the Wheeling Hopsital OVAC Basketball Championship is a difficult task.

Winning two more games and officially earning the banner is even tougher.

After nearly two-plus months of playing, battling snow and scoreboard watching, the brackets are officially set.

The basketball committee, with Rick DeLuca spearheading the charge, met early Tuesday morning at the OVAC office to establish the first-round games and also the consolation matchups for squads that didn't make the top four of their respective class.

The tournament opens Monday with semifinal games at higher seeds' gyms and pool games. The consolation games and remaining pool games will be held Thursday evening, setting the stage for the Feb. 14 OVAC championship games, which will be held at Ohio University-Eastern in St. Clairsville.

Earning top seeds in the tournament are: Indian Creek (AAAA), Martins Ferry (AAA), Shadyside (AA) and Bishop Donahue (A).

In Class AAAA, Indian Creek is back in the mix trying to defend the title it won last season and enters as the top seed. The Redskins qualified with a spotless 15-0 record.

The Redskins' reward is a home game against 10-5 Steubenville. The Redskins and Big Red don't meet during the regular season, nor are they in the same half of the bracket for the upcoming OHSAA Sectional.

The other game in this class finds defending OVAC runner-up John Marshall playing host to Edison in the 2-3 game. The Monarchs are 10-4 and jumped into a home game after the Wildcats (11-5) fell to Buckeye Local on Monday.

In Class AAA, for the second straight season, the Purple Riders are on top of the standings at the cut-off date. Dave Reasbeck's crew was upended in the 2008 championship game by Barnesville.

The Purple Riders brought a large collection of players from the 2008 team back with the goal in mind of taking it one step further in this tournament.

"We came up short last year," Reasbeck said. "I really like how we've been playing and before we had our last break due to the weather we'd been playing really well. I like our chances going into this tournament."

One of the games Martins Ferry lost to the weather was against Harrison Central. The Huskies and Riders will get their chance to meet for a second time since Harrison qualified in the fourth spot.

The other game in the class finds second-seeded St. Clairsville playing host to third-seeded Oak Glen. The meeting will be the third between the two schools. The Red Devils won the earlier meetings by scores of 48-44 and 73-44, respectively.

In Class AA, Shadyside and Steubenville Catholic tied for the top seed, but the Tigers were awarded the top seed by virtue of defeating the Crusaders in their only meeting.

Shadyside failed to qualify for the tournament a season ago, while Steubenville Catholic was an OVAC finalist, but fell to Monroe Central.

The Tigers are 14-2 and rebounded from a stunning loss at Linsly last Saturday to knock off River, which thrust them back into the top seed.

The Tigers will play host to fourth-seeded Frontier, which comes to the tournament with a 9-5 record and narrowly edged out Buckeye Trail.

The Crusaders (13-3) will entertain the Seminoles (12-3) in a rematch of last season's title game.

In Class A, undefeated Bishop Donahue earned the top seed. The Bishops weren't in the field a season ago, but will play host to Cameron (8-6) in the semifinals.

"Not making the cut last year was quite a disappointment," acting Donahue coach Paige Williams said. "We've got a lot of confidence going into this year's tournament, but we have to be aware that as the No. 1 seed everyone is gunning for us."

The other semifinal has 2008 finalist Beallsville playing host to Valley.

Red Devils Ousts Bears

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Brooke Cenkus netted 21 points and St. Clairsville connected on 18 of 24 free throws in dispatching Oak Glen, 53-42, Monday night in an OVAC Class AAA semifinal.

Jackie Matkovich added 11 points for the Red Devils.

Taylor White paced the Golden Bears with 13. Kiley King added 11.

Martins Ferry 45
Harrison Central 32

MARTINS FERRY — Courtney Coleman and Shae Moreland led the way with 15 and 12 points respectively, helping Martins Ferry advance with a victory against Harrison Central. Karlen Vinci hit a trio of 3-pointers for the Purple Riders.

Kristen Wright and Madison Richards evenly divided 10 points for the Huskies.

Class A
Bishop Donahue 53
Cameron 51

McMECHEN — Cameron's Shelby Wood knotted the score for the 12th and final time with 12 seconds remaining, and Bishop Donahue's Alexa Yurisko put home two of her game-high 19 points with 5 seconds left to lift the Bishops (19-0) into the final. Lacey Hampton added 16 points for the winners, and Chrissy Muechek had eight.

Wood paced the Dragons with an 18-point effort. Sunni Hartley drilled four 3-pointers on her way to 16 points.

Beallsville 78, Valley 60
BEALLSVILLE — Alyssa Headley erupted for 35 points and 14 rebounds as Beallsville (14-3) took it to Valley. Brandi Contos added 19 points for the Blue Devils.

Aly Weber and Brittany Guthrie scored 19 apiece to pace the Lumberjills. Lesta Kocher notched 11.

Consolation Bracket
Weir 41, Union Local 33

WEIRTON — Kassi Robinson hit a trio of 3-pointers on her way to a team-high 13 points to help Weir (6-13) edge past Union Local. Nikki Robinson added nine points for the Red Riders.

Sarah Minnich paced the Jets with 13 points.

Buckeye Local 56
Magnolia 45

NEW MARTINSVILLE — Marissa Todoroff amassed 14 points and

Lauren Hall added 13 as Buckeye Local raced past Magnolia (4-14). Ashley Becca netted 12 for the winners, and Nicole Cesario ended with 11 points.

Tincy Haught and Padyn Ludwig and led the Blue Eagles with 13 and 11 points, respectively.

Bridgeport 52
Fort Frye 48
BRIDGEPORT —

Rachel Benda scored a game-high 29 points, including 7 of 8 at the free-throw line in the fourth quarter, and added 12 rebounds, five assists, three steals and two blocks as Bridgeport (7-9) downed Fort Frye (5-12). The Bulldogs' Moriah Agnew added 13 points and seven rebounds, and an ill Cora Kalinowski registered eight points and eight assists.

Kaitlin Huck netted 11 points for the Cadets, and Lacy Huck and Sami Hanson contributed 10 each.

Shenadoah 49, Linsly 41
SARAHSVILLE — Sami Schott (six rebounds) scored 12 points and Jayme Parks added 11 as Shenadoah (6-12) used a second-quarter edge to its advantage to defeat Linsly. Britany Farnsworth added nine points and 10 boards.

Leading the way for the Cadets was Bre Burkhart with 16 points.

River 48
Whg. Central 43, OT

Megan O'Neil scored 11 points while Alexa Isaly and Jordan Ramsey evenly divided 20 to help River finish off an overtime victory against homestanding Wheeling Central (7-13).

The Maroon Knights' Kara DeSantis led all scorers with four 3-pointers and 17 points.

Buckeye Trail 47
Weir, Madonna 24

WEIRTON — Julie Bates and Chelsea Douth had 12 points each as Buckeye Trail outscored Weirton Madonna (9-11) in every quarter.

Isabella Anile led the Blue Dons with nine points.

Wheeling Park 70
Barnesville 55

BARNEVILLE — Heidi Hines pumped in 25 points and Megan Phillips had 14 as Barnesville (7-10) ran past Wheeling Park (7-11). Sarah Phillips added 10 for the Shamrocks.

Erika Martin's game-high 27 points paved the way for the Patriots. Carly



Slater hit four 3-pointers on her way to 14 points, and Lauren Stefanow netted 10.

St. John Central 50
Paden City 26

PADEN CITY — Ellie Lemasters and Justene Delman scored 14 and 12 points, respectively, as St. John Central routed Paden City.

Alli Bertozzi's 14 points paced the Wildcats.

Caldwell 51, Toronto 18

CALDWELL — Kristin Nau scorched the nets for 23 points as Caldwell (9-8) erupted for a 37-5 halftime lead en route to a rout of Toronto (2-13). Courtney Mackey added 11 points for the Redskins.

Meghan Bauman had seven points for the Red Knights.

Regular Season
Wellsville 58

Jackson Milton 41
WELLSVILLE — Mikayla Tipton hit seven field goals and finished with 21 points as Wellsville (7-11) knocked off Jackson Milton (0-18). Lindsey Koontz added 15 points for the Tigers, and P.J. Williams 12.

Rosecrans 55
Conotton Valley 46

BOWERSTON — Bailey Rittberger netted 16 points to lead three players in double figures as Zanesville Rosecrans toppled Conotton Valley (5-12). Also in double figures for the Bishops were Olivia Durant and Emily Wibbeler with 11 and 10, respectively.

Pacing the Rockets was Abby Gooding with 30 points and 10 rebounds. Carly Gooding added 10 points.

Hundred 51
West Greene 40

HUNDRED — Jordyn Gorby tossed in a game-high 18 points to lead three double-digit scorers, helping Hundred (9-9) get past West Greene. Also scoring 10 or more for the Hornets were Nancy Cumberledge (12) and Macy Woods (10).

Tyler Consolidated 50
Ritchie County 36

KIDWELL — Chelsea Musgrave scored 11 points and Tyler Consolidated led 17-7 after one and went on to knock off Ritchie County (3-16). Heather Suter added nine points for the Silver Knights.