for OVAC 'Coach of the Year' award

JIM ELLIOTT
FOR THE JEFFERSONIAN

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Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Top coaches

• St. John's Kapral, Wheeling Central's Stephens named OVAC's best mentors

By JIM ELLIOTT For The Times Leader

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St. John Central track and field coach Robert "Bubba" Kapral and Wheeling

Central boys' basketball coach Mel Stephens – both leaders of back-to-back state championship teams in their respective sports – shared the honor. The last time the OVAC had co-coaches of the year was 2007 when Oak Glen wrestling coach Larry Shaw and Steubenville football coach Reno Saccoccia shared it.

"You win it once, that's as good as it gets," said Kapral, last year's lone recipi-

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NAMED AS OVAC co-Coaches of the Year during Monday night's banquet were Robert "Bubba" Kapral, left. and Mel Stephens, right. Doug Huff, center, presented the awards.

Photo/JIM ELLIOTT collegiately under Pesuit.

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Neither did Stephens, who viewed the award as much more of a team honor than an individual one.

"I haven't made a shot in a long time," he said. "Those guys go out and do all the hard work. My staff does a great job of scouting and getting them ready. It's an honor that I accept, but I accept it on behalf of a lot of different people."

Also nominated were St. John Central cross country coach Jeremy Midei, who most certainly had Kapral's support, a point Kapral made during his acceptance speech, Monroe Central girls' basketball coach Troy Baker, and Meadowbrook golf coach Mel Pesuit.

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WEST DISCUSSES HEART AILMENT

Former West Virginia and Lakers star Jerry West has been dealing with atrial filbrillation for decades/18

The Intelligencer.

TUESDAY May 19, 2009

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Photo by Jim Elliott

Doug Huff, middle, retired sports editor of The Intelligencer is flanked by Wheeling News-Register/Bill Van Horne Co-Coach of the Year winners Robert "Bubba" Kapral of St. John Central, left, and Mel Stephens of Wheeling Central.

Kapral, Stephens Share **Coach of Year Honor**

Duo led teams to state crowns

By JIM ELLIOTT W.Va. Sports Editor

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