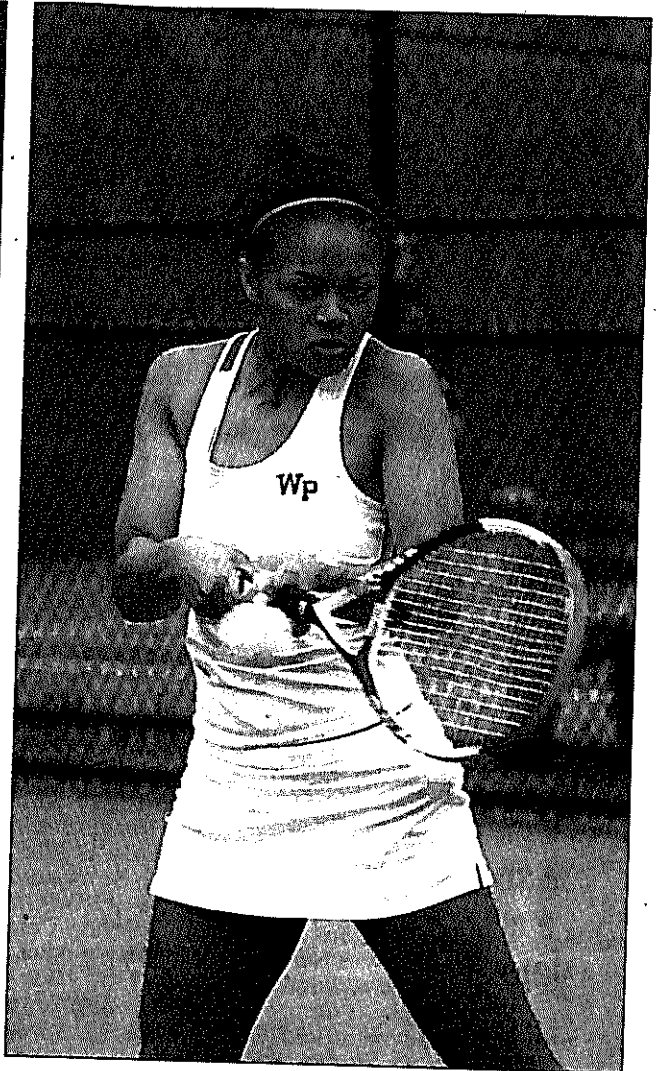
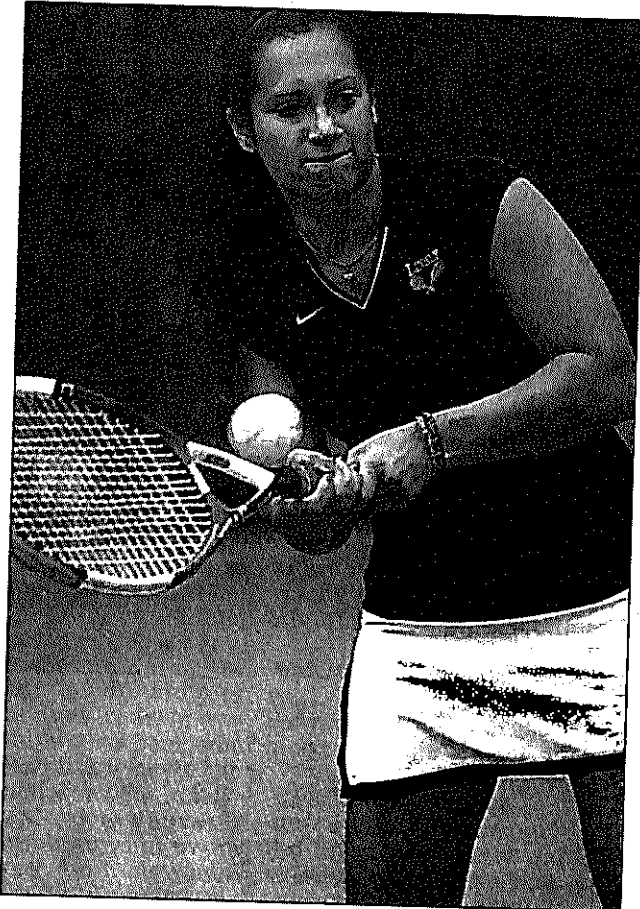


## OVAC GIRLS' TENNIS TOURNAMENT



Photos by Rick Thorp

Linsly's Ari Pollack, top, competes in the No. 4 singles final against Wheeling Park's Tiffany Waldrum, right, during the final day of the Girls' OVAC Tennis Championships at West Liberty State College. View additional photos at [cu.theintelligencer.net](http://cu.theintelligencer.net).

# Park Girls Claim Title

**Patriots have won 6 of last 7 OVAC tennis crowns**

By RICK THORP  
Staff Writer

WEST LIBERTY — It was a battle of Patriots on Wednesday afternoon on the hilltop.

Parkersburg South, in its first season in OVAC competition, arrived at West Liberty State College's Edgar Martin Tennis Complex ready to unseat Wheeling Park as the conference's girls' tennis champions.

But in the end, it was the Ohio County Patriots who repeated and gave the school its conference-leading

11th team championship of the 2008-09 school year.

It's Wheeling Park's 15th girls' tennis title — the most in league history — and its fifth in the last six seasons.

Both squads finished with the same amount of points, 21, but Wheeling Park took the title by virtue of having more individual champions.

Wheeling Central was third with 15 points, followed by John Marshall with 11, Linsly with 10, and Oak Glen with 6.

Park finished the two-day event with three individual winners (No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4 singles) and one doubles champion (No. 2). Meanwhile, Parkersburg South had one individual champion (No. 1 singles) and one doubles winner (No. 2).

"We have a very young team and I

think that, considering their ages, they performed pretty well," Wheeling Park coach Bronson Shanley said after getting a hug from former coach Leo Boissy, who led Park to seven OVAC titles.

"It's kind of joke, but I call him my dad," Shanley said laughing. "I was able to coach with Leo and I see him as my mentor. I think it's great that he comes back and really supports our kids. Our kids really look up to him."

C.J. Petrini, Alli Hone and Tiffany Waldrum picked up singles victories Wednesday, two days after Petrini and Hone joined forces for a doubles triumph.

Petrini, a freshman, defeated John Marshall's Christina Pauley, 8-0, in the No. 2 Singles final.

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## OVAC

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Hone, another rookie, topped Parkersburg South's Meredith Dushkoff in the No. 3 Singles final after Dushkoff retired.

Waldrum repeated as No. 4 Singles champ with an 8-4 victory against Linsly's Ari Pollack.

Parkersburg South's lone victory Wednesday was achieved by junior Kelsi Halbert, who downed Wheeling Central's Alex Greco, 8-4, in the No. 1 Singles final.

"Kelsi is an excellent competitor, she's very smart and she shows it out there on the court," South coach Marge Politz said. "We had a very good tournament. I'm proud of

all of my players."

It was the third straight appearance in the No. 1 Singles final for Greco, who won the event as a freshman and was runner-up last spring.

"Alex played really well and the girl from South (Halbert) is really good," Wheeling Central coach Peggy Dailer said. "But (Alex) will be back next season, believe me."

Overall, Dailer was pleased with her squad's finish and said the team is playing well heading into regionals.

"I'm a positive believer OVACs are great at preparing us for the post-season," she said.

Especially now that South has joined the fray.

"With South joining us

this season, they will definitely bring up the level of competition in the OVAC," Shanley said. "I think it will be good for the valley."

### Tournament

#### Notes

Pollack was presented the Carol Strasser Sportsmanship Award following the tournament. The winner is determined by coaches' vote. Strasser, who passed away a few years ago, headed the tournament for many years and was a major

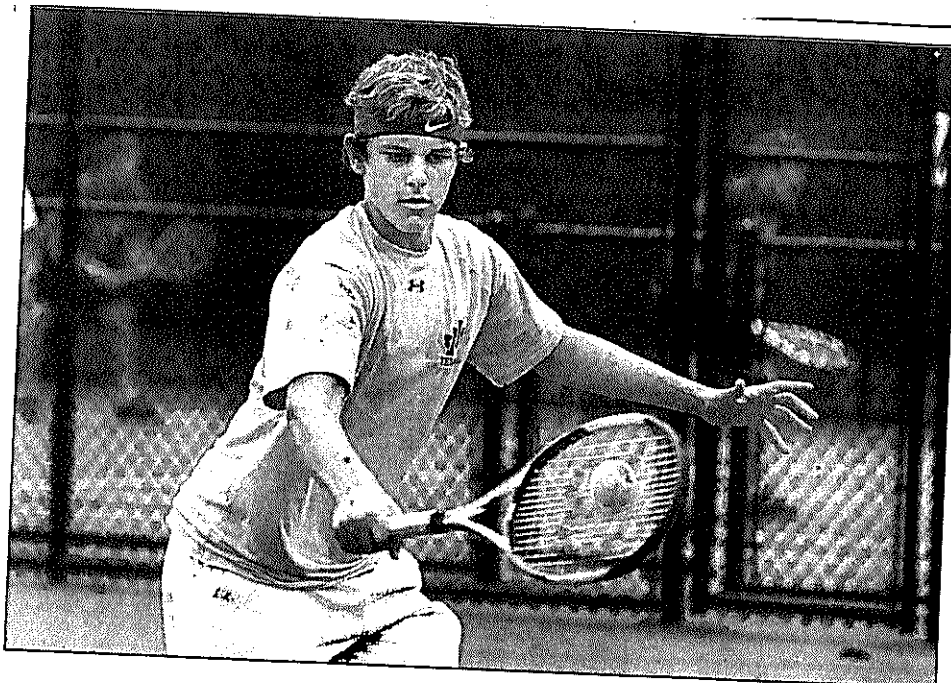
supporter of tennis in the Ohio Valley. ... Awards were presented to Monday's victorious doubles tandems - South's Halbert and Taylor Bush (No. 1), Park's Petrini and Hone (No. 2) and Linsly's Hannah Soloninka and Kelsey Fithen. ... Halbert, Park's Ali Prather, Linsly's Morgan McDermott, Greco, Petrini, Pauley and Hone earned All-Conference recognition. ... boys' singles action begins at 8:30 this morning.

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John Marshall's Michael Wiley backhands a ball during the doubles portion of the OVAC Boys' Tennis Championships on Tuesday at West Liberty. *View additional photos at [cu.theintelligencer.net](http://cu.theintelligencer.net).*

Photo by Scott McCloskey

## Linsly heads the field at OVAC Tournament

The second day of the 2009 OVAC Tennis Championships featured the boys' doubles divisions. Play began at West Liberty State College under sunny skies and then rain forced the semifinal and final matches to be played at the Wheeling Park Bubble.

After the first day of boys' competition, Linsly has the lead with 11 points, followed close behind by Wheeling Central with nine. Parkersburg South and Brooke each have four points and East Liverpool,

Steubenville and Zanesville have three points. Fourteen OVAC schools are competing for the boys' title. Play will resume at 8:30 a.m. Thursday morning at West Liberty.

### Boys' Doubles Finals

- No. 1 Doubles**  
James Long/Vince Tennant (Linsly) d. Spencer Tebay/Josh Wise (Parkersburg South) 11-9.
- No. 2 Doubles**  
Victor Greco/Jordan Sorge (Wheeling Central) d. Paresch Sovani/Mitchell Saludes (Linsly) 10-3.
- No. 3 Doubles**  
Randy Corblitt/Senai Tsafagiorgis (Linsly) d. Scott Dorsey/Neil McCormick (Wheeling Central) 11-10, 7-3 tiebreaker.

## South girls lead OVAC tennis

The 2009 OVAC Tennis Championships got under way today at West Liberty State College under very sunny skies. Today was ladies doubles day. After the first day of competition, Parkersburg South girls lead the tournament with 10 points, followed by Wheeling Park with 7, then Wheeling Central and John Marshall with 6 points, and Linsly close behind with 5 points. A total of 11 OVAC schools are competing for the championship. Girl's singles play will be contested on Wednesday to finish their competition.

#1 Doubles Champions Kelsie Halber/Taylor Bush of Parkersburg South defeated Alex Greco/Natalie Palmer of Wheeling Central 8-0 in the final.

#2 Doubles Champions C.J. Petrini/Alli Hone of Wheeling Park defeated Merideth DushKoff/Ali Hanlon of Parkersburg South 8-5 in the final.

#3 Doubles Champions Hannah Soloninka/Kelsey Fithen of Linsly defeated Amanda Dailey/Madison Dill of Parkersburg South 8-4.

The boys doubles version of the OVAC will begin tomorrow at 1:00p.m. at West Liberty State College.



Photo by Scott McCloskey

Brooke's Jaymee Potter returns during OVAC Tournament doubles action Monday at West Liberty. View additional photos at [cu.theintelligencer.net](http://cu.theintelligencer.net).

### Parkersburg South Takes Early Lead

The 2009 OVAC Tennis Championships began Monday with girls' doubles action under sunny skies at West Liberty State College. After the first day of competition, Parkersburg South leads the tournament with 10 points, followed by Wheeling Park with seven, and Wheeling Central and John Marshall with six each. Linsly is close behind with five points.

### OVAC TENNIS

**No. 1 Championship**  
Kelsie Halber-Taylor Bush (PS) d. Alex Greco-Natalie Palmer (WC), 8-0.

**No. 2 Championship**  
C.J. Petrini-Aili Hone (WP) d. Merideth DushKoff-Ali Hanlon (PS), 8-5.

**No. 3 Championship**  
Hannah Soloninka-Kelsey Fithen (Lin) d. Amanda Dailey-Madison Dill (PS), 8-4.

A total of 11 OVAC schools are competing for the championship. Girls' singles play will be contested Wednesday to finish the competition.