

SPORTS

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Tucker looking forward to homecoming with Ohio U.

Five years ago, Clay Tucker was preparing to embark the postseason of his final prep campaign at Martins Ferry High School.

That resulted in perfection and a Division III state championship.

Tucker's now embarking on his final few collegiate wrestling meets as a fifth-year senior captain at Ohio University.

"It's gone pretty quickly," Tucker said.

Tucker - who's scheduled to graduate in June with a degree in Health and Human Services along with Recreation Management - will be one of the featured wrestlers during Sunday's dual match with West Virginia University at the Health and Physical Education Center on the campus of Ohio University Eastern.

"I am really excited about wrestling at OUE," Tucker admitted. "It's really nice to have one of our last home duals so close to home."

Tucker is hoping a large crowd is on hand - not just because he's involved, but for the opportunity to see actual Division I wrestling.

"There aren't a lot of chances to see major college wrestling obviously (in the Ohio Valley)," Tucker said. "I hope a lot of people come out and see what it's all about because I think they'll enjoy it."

Tucker will wrestle in the 157-pound weight class against West Virginia's Kyle Eason, who's wrestled the last four Mountaineer matches at that weight.

"It's tough to get scouting reports on certain guys," Tucker said. "We try to prepare the best we can and look guys up on the Internet and just see what we can find and try to put together a game plan."

The former Purple Rider owns a solid 20-12 record this season, including an 8-5 mark in duals.

"I'm an averaged sized 157 pounder," Tucker admitted. "I'd be too small for 165 and there's no way I could get down to 149."

Tucker - who is ranked fourth in the MAC rankings in his weight class - has been in the Bobcats' starting lineup his entire career and much like his prep days, his battles with his weight were sometimes more challenging than the actual matches he wrestled.

"My career's gone pretty well," Tucker said. "I've had some ups and downs."

There are a lot of things I could pick out that I wasn't too happy with, but there are a lot of great things as well."

Entering this weekend's matches at Kent and against West Virginia, Tucker owns a 66-64 career record and a 20-12 mark on the season, which still includes trips to Central and Eastern Michigan before the Mid-American Conference Tournament back at Central Michigan.

"I want to win the MAC championship," Tucker said. "That's been my goal all season."

Wheeling Hospital-OVAC Girls Tournament



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

BEALLSVILLE GIRLS' basketball team poses with the Wheeling Hospital-OVAC Class 1-A Championship Trophy Saturday following its 32-31 victory over Bridgeport at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center. The title was the Lady Blue Devils second straight.

Beallsville repeats

• Lady Blue Devils hold off Bridgeport for Class A title, 32-31

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Saying Saturday afternoon's Class 1-A final in the third annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship wasn't a work of art is still a bit kind.

The Beallsville Lady Blue Devils didn't come to Ohio University Eastern Saturday afternoon looking to gain style points or impress anyone.

For the second straight season, the Lady Blue Devils make the trip back Monroe County with the OVAC title in their possession after holding off a

valiant come-back effort from rival Bridgeport to post a 32-31 victory and win the school's sixth conference title.

"I don't care if you win by one or 30, a victory is the most important part to me," said an ecstatic Terry Jarrett during the post-game press conference. "Give Bridgeport credit, they dictated the tempo on us, but we were able to make enough plays to get out of here with the OVAC Championship."

It almost appeared as if it wasn't meant to be for the Lady Blue Devils who capped a 14-6 regular season in the process entering Division IV sectional play against this same Bridgeport squad

Wednesday evening at Union Local.

"We knew it was going to be a dog fight if you will," Jarrett said. "We stressed to the girls all week they were going to be in for that."

According to Bridgeport head coach Ed Metz - who's got the unenviable task of picking his team's spirits back up after the tough setback - the Lady Bulldogs executed their defensive game plan to a tee.

"We wanted to slow it down and value every possession," Metz said. "We got down, made our run and really felt we had the game where we wanted it."

See, **BEALLSVILLE**, Page C2

St. C. rally falls short in 3-A game

• Edison pulls out 50-46 decision

By **RICH GIBSON**
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Too little, too late. The unfortunate fate of Bruce Stiles and his St. Clairsville Lady Red Devils in Saturday morning's Wheeling Hospital OVAC 3-A Girls' Championship Game.

The Red Devils made a dramatic comeback from a 16-point first half deficit. But an equally game Edison quit successfully withstood St. C.'s second half barrage to pull out a 50-46 victory at Ohio University-Eastern's athletic complex.

Stiles looked on in agony as his team struggled mightily out of the gate. St. C. found itself down 16-5 after one quarter and later trailed 21-5 before a timeout would prove effective.

"No question, we were rattled early. Maybe it was nerves," Stiles related. "We seemed to settle down

and finally go into an offensive flow."

The Lady Devils worked their way within 27-19 at halftime, then returned to play a solid third panel which pulled the Belmont County combine closer, 33 - 30 at the final stop.

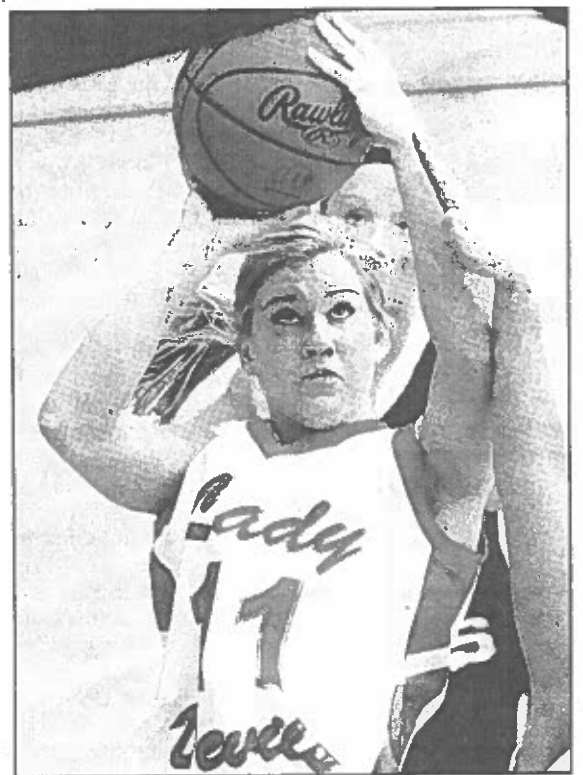
St. C. kept coming behind senior veteran Brooke Cenkus whose steal and coast to coast drive resulted in a 42-41 Red Devil upperhand with three minutes to play.

But Edison's Carissa Myler answered at the other end and the Lady Cats would not trail again.

"I was so proud of the way our girls withstood St. Clairsville's comeback. We knew they'd make a run," remarked Edison's Tony Kovalesky.

The Cats' second year head coach was especially pleased

See, **ST.C.**, Page C2



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Brooke Cenkus scores two of her team-high 19 points during Saturday's Wheeling Hospital-OVAC Class AAA Tournament game at OUE. The Red Devils lost, 50-46.

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Tucker finished third in the MAC a season ago and eventually was named the team's Most Valuable Player, which is an award voted on by his teammates.

Entering this season, Tucker was named one of the team captains, which is an honor and position he's not taken lightly.

"It was a really good feeling having my teammates pick me as a captain," Tucker said. "I've been working to become more of a vocal leader of the team and I really like the role. I've always had the same attitude and approach to wrestling, but now I've got to try to get the rest of the guys to follow along."

While Tucker says his approach and dedication to the sport of wrestling hasn't changed at all, the way he goes about his matches has changed drastically since his Riders' days.

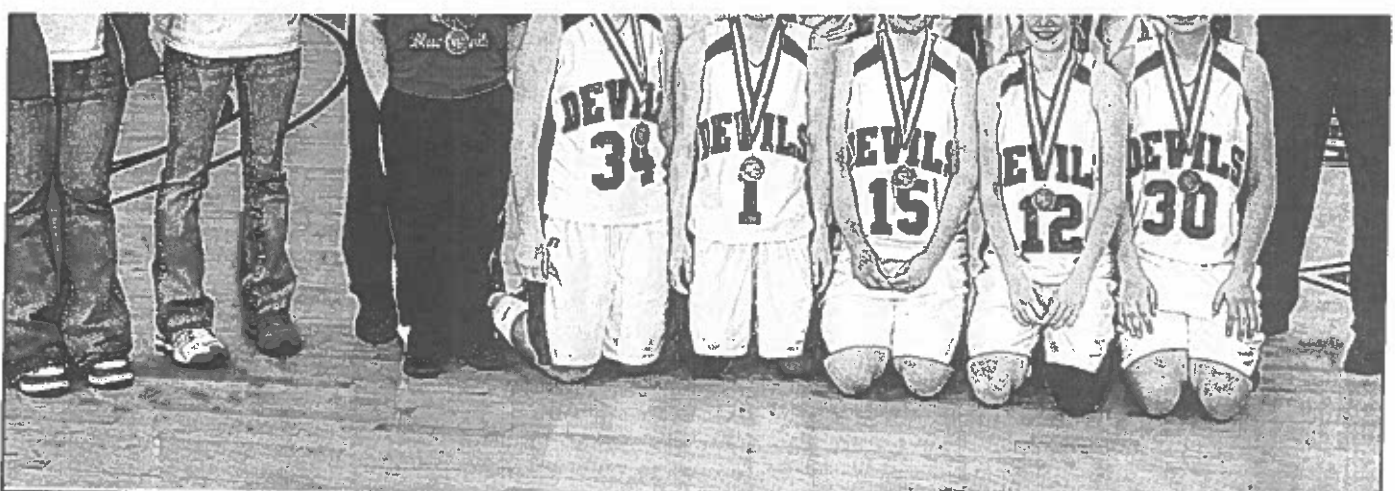
"I really didn't have much of a game plan when I went on the mat (in high school)," Tucker recalled. "I still really don't, but in college, you've got to put more into the mental preparation because it's such a huge mind game."

When Tucker arrived in Athens, he took the aforementioned red-shirt just to adapt to the collegiate wrestling style, which he thinks has paid dividends during his career.

See, TUCKER, Page C3



CLAY TUCKER



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

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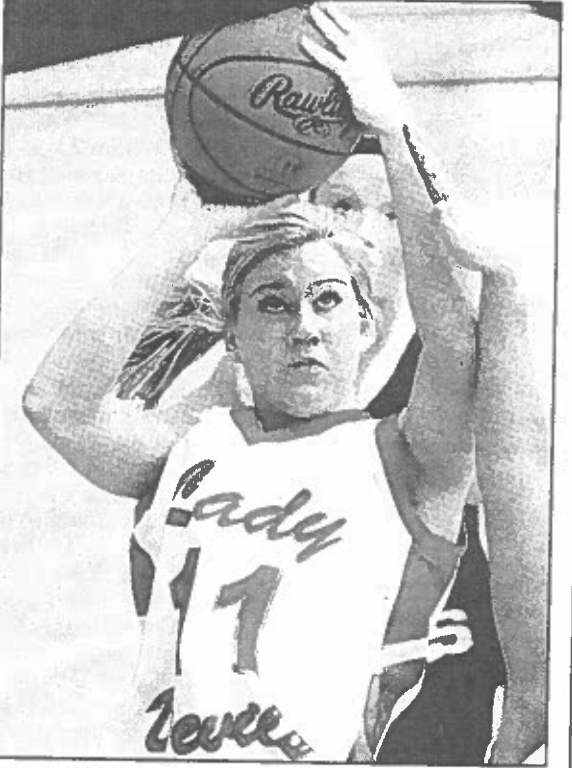
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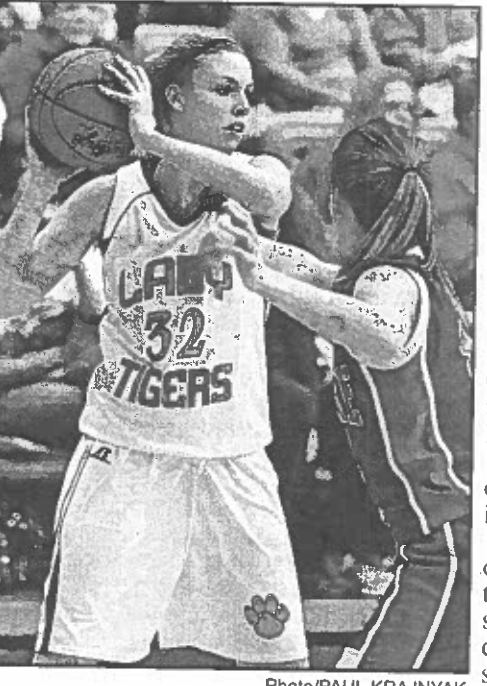
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Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

SHADYSIDE'S SARAH Neavin (32) looks for some room against a Fort Frye defender Saturday night in the Wheeling Hospital-OVAC Class 2-A title game. The Tigers lost, 40-36.

Shadyside drops 2-A tilt to Fort Frye

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Shadyside head coach Tina Yates was highly complimentary of the Fort Frye defense all week leading up to the Class 2-A championship game in the third annual Wheeling Hospital Girls Basketball Championship.

She came to post-game press conference Saturday evening even more impressed.

The Lady Tigers' high-octane offense, which was scoring at more than a 60-points per game clip, was stymied by the Fort Frye's man-to-man defense and for the second straight season saw their regular season end unkindly in the title game.

The Fort Frye Lady Cadets fought off a couple of late Shadyside spurts to pocket a 40-36 victory and also the 2-A OVAC title.

"Every aspect of their defense was spectacular," Yates said. "Whether it was on-the-ball, post or as soon as you catch it, they were all over us and we never got comfortable or into the flow of the game."

The Lady Cadets defense limited the Lady Tigers to 11-of-36 from two-point range and a chilling four-of-17 from beyond the arc.

Yates and the Lady Tigers must quickly put this game behind them seeing they take their now 17-2 mark into Ohio Division IV sectional play Thursday at Union Local against Frontier.

"We'll go back to the drawing board and keep plugging away," Yates said. "We can't stay down. This was definitely one of our goals and we came up short, but we've got more goals out there and we need to get focused on

See, SHADYSIDE, Page C2

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● Beallsville

Continued from Page C1

Beallsville appeared to be well on its way to salting the game away when it was up nine at 28-19 in the fourth quarter.

However, the Lady Blue Devils took some ill-advised shots, shot poorly from the foul line (1-5) in the fourth and Bridgeport got senior leader Rachel Benda going.

The Lady Bulldogs ignited their run when Ashley Grall tallied. Benda then inbounded off a Beallsville player's back, converted and was fouled and converted the conventional three-point play, making it 28-24.

Beallsville senior leader Tori Jarrett stopped the bleeding when she cashed a driving bucket, but senior Cassie Grandstaff — who had the task of guarding Jarrett much of the evening — meshed her lone goal of the contest to make it a 30-26 reading.

After an empty trip, Benda was true on a trey from the left wing with 1:19 to go in the contest. Another empty trip gave the Lady Dogs a chance to ahead. Benda drove into the lane and dumped it off to senior Moriah Agnew who tallied off the glass to put Bridgeport on top for the first time since it was 5-4 early in the second.

Neglecting to take a time out, Jarrett raced the ball up the floor, jump stopped in the lane and went up and kissed it home for what proved to be the game winner.

"I knew I had to take the shot," Tori Jarrett said. "Nothing against the girl guarding me, but I knew she couldn't defend me and I wanted the last shot."

Bridgeport got the ball down the court and turned it over, but Beallsville

called a timeout with 3.5 seconds to go. Bridgeport fouled with 2.8 seconds to go and the Lady Blue Devils missed the front end of the bonus.

The Lady Bulldogs rebounded and called a timeout, but they didn't get their desperation heave off before the horn.

"Obviously, this is a game you hate to see either team lose," Metz said. "I would be disappointed if our kids weren't disappointed. This was one of our goals. We fought back, showed a ton of heart and I think this will build character for us."

After an 11-all tie at the intermission, Beallsville was able to get the tempo more to its liking in the third and it was ignited by Jarrett who was hacked and banked home a triple from the left corner and converted the four-point play.

"That was a huge shot," Coach Jarrett said. "I have no idea how she banked it, but I am glad it did because that really gave us a lift."

From there, the Lady Blue Devils eventually outscored Bridgeport 16-6 in the third quarter.

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Jarrett finished the game with 14 points, while Benda led Bridgeport with 19 tallies in a battle of two of the premier small-school players in the Ohio Valley.

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Benda's production was complemented by Agnew who had five rebounds.

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BEALLSVILLE'S TORI Jarrett looks for room as Bridgeport's Cassie Grandstaff (11) and Tiffany Heckathorn (33) defend during Saturday afternoon's Wheeling Hospital-OVAC Class A girls' basketball championship game at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center. The Blue Devils defended their crown, 32-31.

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The Lady Blue Devils were guilty of 11 turnovers, while Bridgeport was charted for 13 giveaways.

Scoring:

BRIDGEPORT (31) — Grall 1, 0-0 2; Vavrock 0, 0-2 0; Grandstaff 1, 0-0 2; Benda 7, 4-6 19; Heckathorn 1, 0-2 3; Conaway 0, 0-0 0; Strauss 0, 0-0 0; Agnew 2, 1-4 5; Totals: 12, 5-14 31. BEALLSVILLE (32) — Jarrett 6, 1-3 14; Campbell 3, 0-0 8; Stephan 0, 0-0 0;

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Three-Point Goals: B — Benda, Heckathorn. Bea — Jarrett, Campbell (2).

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleader-online.com

St. Louis beats UD in double overtime, 68-65

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Cody Ellis hit a pair of 3-point shots in overtime to lead Saint Louis past Dayton 68-65 in double overtime on Saturday.

St. Louis (16-8, 7-3 Atlantic 10) stretched its winning streak to four games. The Billikens rallied from a double-digit deficit for the third time.

● St.C.

Continued from Page C1

Saturday's early tip appeared to have no effect on his team.

"I told the girls to get up at six and be ready to leave school at 7:30," Kovalesky smiled. "I know I was up at three in the morning (trying to go over a few things in my head). If this (title) is the result (of lost sleep) believe me, it was all worth it."

St. C. entered as the event's top seed at 16-3 and had split a pair of regular season encounters with the Wildcats.

"I think I'm more upset at our defensive breakdowns than anything else," Stiles exclaimed. "We did some good things defensively then didn't convert enough of their mistakes at our end."

The Lady Devils may well have prevailed if not for poor shooting at the foul line, particularly in the fourth quarter when they cashed just two-of-eight attempts.

"That's not like us."

Stiles continued. "The bottom line is we did not play nearly well enough today to call ourselves champions."

Complicating matters was the fact St. C. was without senior starter Jaelyn Dutton who was making a visit to Clemson University where she has signed to play Division I soccer.

"We really missed her, especially from a defensive standpoint," Stiles indicated.

St. C. would earn a final tie at 44 when Cenkus converted inside with 1:10 remaining. Edison's Savannah Snyder, though, answered with a baseline bucket at 0:57 and it was 46-44.

Lady Cat point guard Kristin Prokopakis would close it out in the ensuing ticks, converting three free throws.

"We're young and had three sophomores starting today," Kovalesky advised. "But after beating Weir (in the semifinals), we all said

as a team: 'Why not us? Why can't we win it all?'"

Kristen Prokopakis topped the Cats with 16 points. Myler posted a double-double, scoring 12 points and landing 11 rebounds.

Kayla Prokopakis provided 10-point support.

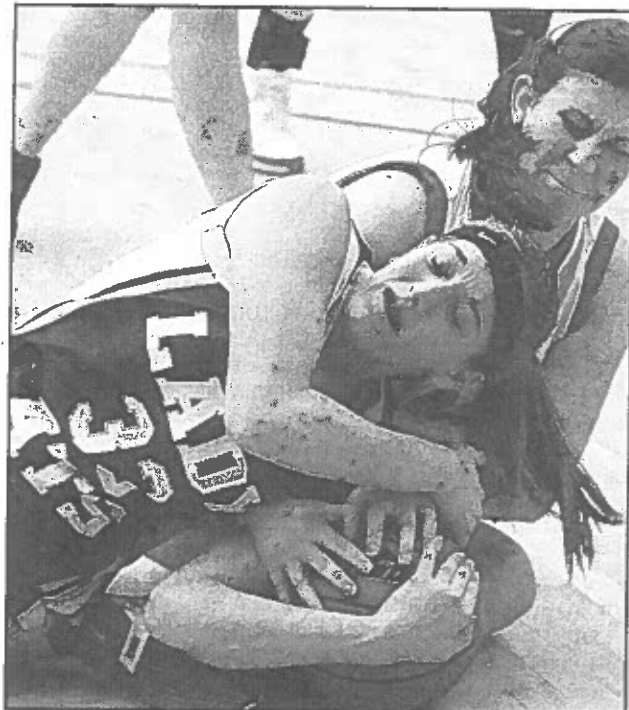
Cenkus excelled with a 19-point, 10-rebound performance. Sophomore Jesse Machovina tallied seven off the bench. Juniors Ashley Gordon and Sarah Slenski scored six apiece.

Edison shot 16 of 45 from the floor, totaled 32 rebounds and overcame 22 turnovers.

St. Clairsville converted 20-of-52 attempts. The Devils pulled in 30 boards and were charted for 18 giveaways.

Both teams came out of the scrap with identical 16-4 records.

EDISON (50) — Potock 0, 0-0 0; Robinson 1, 1-2 3; Snyder 3, 3-4 9; Prokopakis, Ka. 3, 4-8 10; Myler 6, 0-0 12; Prokopakis, Kr. 3, 7-9 16. Totals — 16, 15-23. ST. CLAIRSVILLE (46) — Nemeti



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Sarah Slenski battles with an Edison player for possession of a loose ball during Saturday morning's Wheeling Hospital-OVAC Class 3-A championship game at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

0, 0-0 0; Smith 1, 0-0 2; Perzanowski 1, 0-2 2; Matkovich 2, 0-0 4; Gordon 3, 0-0 6; Slenski 2, 2-6 6; Machovina 3, 1-1 7; Cenkus 8, 3-6 19. Totals — 20, 6-15.

Three-point goals. Edison — Kr. Prokopakis (3).

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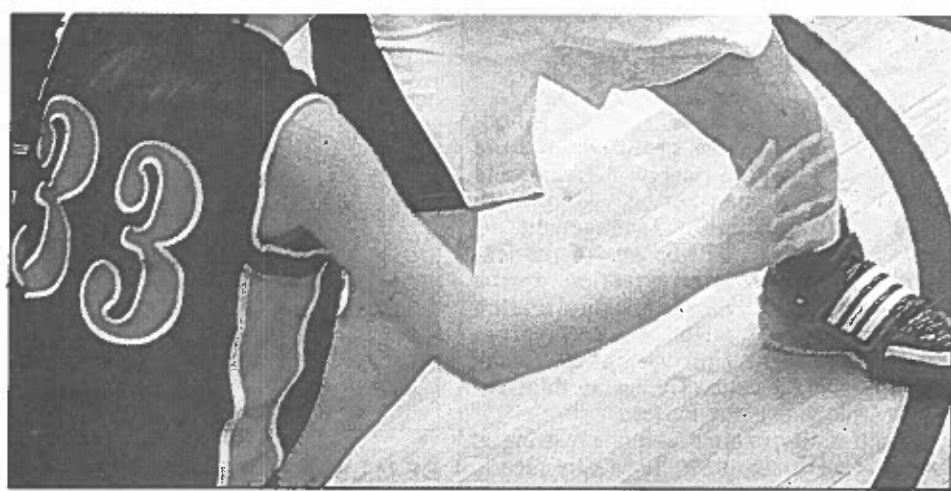
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"I told the girls to get up at six and be ready to leave school at 7:30," Kovalesky smiled. "I know I was up at three in the morning (trying to go over a few things in my head). If this (title) is the result (of lost sleep) believe me, it was all worth it."

St. C. entered as the event's top seed at 16-3 and had split a pair of regular season encounters with the Wildcats.

"I think I'm more upset at our defensive breakdowns than anything else," Stiles exclaimed. "We did some good things defensively then didn't convert enough of their mistakes at our end."

The Lady Devils may well have prevailed if not for poor shooting at the foul line, particularly in the fourth quarter when they cashed just two-of-eight attempts.

"That's not like us."

Stiles continued. "The bottom line is we did not play nearly well enough today to call ourselves champions."

Complicating matters was the fact St. C. was without senior starter Jaelyn Dutton who was making a visit to Clemson University where she has signed to play Division I soccer.

"We really missed her, especially from a defensive standpoint," Stiles indicated.

St. C. would earn a final tie at 44 when Cenkus converted inside with 1:10 remaining. Edison's Savannah Snyder, though, answered with a baseline bucket at 0:57 and it was 46-44.

Lady Cat point guard Kristin Prokopakis would close it out in the ensuing ticks, converting three free throws.

"We're young and had three sophomores starting today," Kovalesky advised. "But after beating Weir (in the semifinals), we all said

as a team: 'Why not us? Why can't we win it all?'"

Kristen Prokopakis topped the Cats with 16 points. Myler posted a double-double, scoring 12 points and landing 11 rebounds. Kayla Prokopakis provided 10-point support.

Cenkus excelled with a 19-point, 10-rebound performance. Sophomore Jesse Machovina tallied seven off the bench. Juniors Ashley Gordon and Sarah Slenski scored six apiece.

Edison shot 16 of 45 from the floor, totaled 32 rebounds and overcame 22 turnovers.

St. Clairsville converted 20-of-52 attempts. The Devils pulled in 30 boards and were charted for 18 giveaways.

Both teams came out of the scrap with identical 16-4 records.

EDISON (50) — Potock 0, 0-0 0; Robinson 1, 1-2 3; Snyder 3, 3-4 9; Prokopakis, Ka. 3, 4-8 10; Myler 6, 0-0 12; Prokopakis, Kr. 3, 7-9 16. Totals — 16, 15-23. ST. CLAIRSVILLE (46) — Nemeti



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Sarah Slenski battles with an Edison player for possession of a loose ball during Saturday morning's Wheeling Hospital-OVAC Class 3-A championship game at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

0, 0-0 0; Smith 1, 0-0 2; Perzanowski 1, 0-2 2; Matkovich 2, 0-0 4; Gordon 3, 0-0 6; Slenski 2, 2-6 6; Machovina 3, 1-1 7; Cenkus 8, 3-6 19. Totals — 20, 6-15.

Three-point goals. Edison — Kr. Prokopakis (3).

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleader-online.com

Shadyside

Continued from Page C1

those quickly."

Fort Frye, meanwhile, opens Division III tournament play the same evening at Cambridge against Union Local.

"Our girls have learned so much throughout the year," said a pleased Fort

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Frye head coach Dan Liedtke, who led the Cadet boys to the OVAC title game a year ago and fell to Wheeling Central. "We spend countless hours working on our defense. We're not real big and we're not real deep, so we don't press, but we play tough man defense in the halfcourt."

Fort Frye — behind the superb early play of talented frosh Taylor Buchanan — shot out to a 10-2 lead after one.

However, the Lady Tigers stormed back and eventually took the lead at 15-12 after a conventional three-point play by Brooke Meintel.

Fort Frye wasn't rattled. The Beverly-based outfit proceeded to score 11 points of its own in a row to end the half with a 23-15 edge.

"That run we made to

answer was huge," Liedtke pointed out. "Shadyside has all kinds of weapons and I was happy with how we played with a lot of composure and answered back."

Included in the run were back-to-back bonus goals from Ashley Okey, the Lady Cadets' lone senior contributor.

"My teammates were able to get me the ball at a place where I could shoot," Okey said. "I just tried to step up and I was able to make a couple of shots."

The margin remained eight into the final chapter and eventually grew to 10 during the fourth and was eventually slashed to six after Shadyside frosh Karli Bonar hit an inside goal.

However, Fort Frye was able to hold the Lady Tigers at bay by meshing six free throws down the stretch. Most of which came off the silky touch of

frosh Deedra Combs who finished with a game-high 16 points.

"Their freshmen are as good as advertised," Yates said. "We lost them a few times and they made us pay for it."

Bonar finished with 14 to pace the Lady Tigers. Meintel, meanwhile, completed yet another double-double with 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Shadyside held a slight 27-22 edge on the boards. Fort Frye's glasswork was paced by Combs who had eight boards.

The Lady Tigers were charted for 10 turnovers. The winners were able to overcome 19 miscues.

Scoring:
FORT FRYE (40) — Tornes 0, 0-0 0; La. Huck 1, 0-0 2; Okey 2, 1-3 7; Liedtke 1, 0-2 2; Buchanan 5, 2-3 13; Combs 5, 6-9 16; Le. Huck 0, 0-0 0; Baker 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 14, 9-17 40. SHADYSIDE (36) — Holloway 0, 0-0 0; Haney 1, 0-0



BROOKE MEINTEL

2; Tollett 0, 0-0 0; Johnson 1, 2-4 4; Bonar 5, 0-0 14; Meintel 5, 2-3 12; Holenka 1, 2-2 4; Neavin 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 13, 6-9 36.

Three-Point Goals: FF — Buchanan, Okey (2). S — Bonar (4)

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleader-online.com

Indian Creek Earns 3rd Consecutive AAAA Title

Redskins led 18-2 after first quarter



Photo by Mike Mathison

Indian Creek's Ty Harris (32) dribbles past the defense of Steubenville's Jaelyn Pugh (2) during the OVAC Class AAAA Championship Game.

By **ASHLEY NEWMAN**
For The News-Register
ST. CLAIRSVILLE — As the Indian Creek girls' basketball team huddled at center court around the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class AAAA championship trophy, a familiar scene unfolded.

After all, the OVAC title has become almost a rite of passage for these Redskins.

With a resounding 50-32 victory against Steubenville, Indian Creek earned its third consecutive conference championship in front of a packed arena at Ohio University Eastern, Saturday.

Indian Creek (16-4) coach Erin DeSantis pointed to her defense as the catalyst for such an impressive performance.

"We stressed defense all year, but I think (this) was probably our best defensive performance overall and as a team," she said. "We came out, stifled them and set the tone early."

Not only did the Redskins respond to their coach's plea to make a statement early, the victors built an insurmountable lead in the first 8 minutes.

Indian Creek (15-4) stormed out of the gates, as Mikki Davis scored nine of her game-high 17 points in the opening quarter.

Meanwhile, Big Red's offense had little to get excited about. On a night when they shot 21 percent from the field, the first

quarter horn sounded with the Redskins owning a commanding 18-2 lead.

"We wanted them to just relax," Big Red coach Phil Casinelli said. "We did discuss relaxing and just playing the game. But, I think that we weren't relaxed. We are a better shooting team than what we showed."

DeSantis believed that her team's ability to call upon its wealth of big-game experience was a factor at the start.

"The girls have matured and grown," she said. "They understand that you have to take care of the ball. At the beginning of the season, we would panic a little bit."

"Now that we are well-seasoned, we are ready to go."

That first-quarter explosion proved to be the difference in the game, as Big Red was unable to get the lead back under double-digits and it hovered around 20 for the remainder of the afternoon.

The Redskins controlled all aspects of the game, but DeSantis' focus going in was how well her team would attack the glass.

"I challenged the team, because while we have been solid all year on scoring and assists and free-throw shooting, the only area that we weren't excelling in was rebounds," she said. "So, we stressed rebounds and we challenged the team by letting them know that they have to box out."

"We did a great job of keeping them off of the

boards."

After a second quarter in which Big Red's offense seemed to get on track, Steubenville still trailed 30-12 at the half.

AunDrea West, who was coming off of a 40-point performance in the semifinals, was the focus of the Indian Creek defense.

"I tried to drive to the bucket and get my teammates some open, decent shots," West said. "But, things just didn't work out too well."

She finished with 12 points on 6 of 21 shooting.

After three quarters, the Redskins owned a 43-22

lead and the final 8 minutes was a time of celebration as both teams cleared their benches.

"It is a great atmosphere and a great event," Casinelli said. "We are happy to be a part of it. There are a lot of teams out there that don't get this opportunity to play in this kind of atmosphere. I hope they get something out of it, win or lose. We should be proud that we were able to get here and play in this game."

Along with Davis' 17 points, Meghan Billick chipped in with 14 points while Bri Kamarec had 12.

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Fort Frye Clamps Down On Shadyside in Class AA

Cadets hold high-powered Tigers to 36 points in loss

By **SETH STASKEY**
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Shadyside coach Tina Yates was highly complimentary of the Fort Frye defense all week leading up to the Class AA championship game in the Wheeling Hospital Girls' Basketball Championship.

She arrived at the postgame press conference Saturday evening even more impressed.

The Tigers' high-octane offense, which was scoring at more than a 60-points per game clip, was stymied by the Fort Frye's man-to-man defense, and for the second straight season saw their regular season end unkindly in the OVAC title game.

The Fort Frye Cadets fought off a couple of late Shadyside spurts to pocket a 40-36 victory and also the Class AA OVAC title.

"Every aspect of their defense was spectacular," Yates said. "Whether it was on-the-ball, post, or as soon as you catch it, they were all over us and we never got comfortable or into the flow of the game."

The Cadets defense limited the Tigers to 1 of 36 from two-point range and a chilling 4 of 17 from beyond the arc.

"Our girls have learned so much throughout the year," said Fort Frye coach Dan Jedtke, who led the Cadets boys to the OVAC title game a seasons ago and fell to Wheeling Central. "We spend countless hours working on our defense. We're not real big and we're not real deep, so we can't press, but we play tough man defense in the halfcourt."

Fort Frye, behind the superb early play of talented freshman Taylor Buchanan,

shot out to a 10-2 lead after the first quarter.

The Tigers stormed back and eventually took a lead at 15-12 after a conventional three-point play by Brooke Meintel.

Fort Frye wasn't rattled, as it proceeded to score 11 points of its own in a row to end the half with a 23-15 edge.

"That run we made to answer was huge," Liedtke pointed out. "Shadyside has all kinds of weapons, and I was happy with how we played with a lot of composure and answered back."

Included in the run were back-to-back bonus goals from Ashley Okey, the Cadets' lone senior contributor.

"My teammates were able to get me the ball at a place where I could shoot," Okey said. "I just tried to step up and I was able to make a couple of shots."

The margin remained eight into the final quarter before growing to 10 during the fourth and was eventually slashed to six after Shadyside frosh Karli Bonar hit an inside goal.

However, Fort Frye was able to hold the Tigers at bay by meshing six free throws down the stretch, most of which came off the silky touch of frosh Deedra Combs, who finished with a game-high 16 points.

"Their freshmen are as good as advertised," Yates said. "We lost them a few times and they made us pay for it."

Bonar finished with 14 to pace the Tigers. Meintel, meanwhile, completed yet another double-double with 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Shadyside held a slight 27-22 edge on the boards. Fort Frye's glasswork was paced by Combs who had eight boards.

The Tigers were charted for 10 turnovers. The winners were able to overcome 19 miscues.

LEADER - Sunday, February 14, 2010 - C6

Indian Creek three-peats

• Redskins defeat Big Red for OVAC Class 4-A title

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Been there, done that.

And while you're at it, make it a three-peat for Erin DeSantis and her Indian Creek Lady Redskins.

Playing with the poise and patience of a championship combine, the Lady Skins carved up neighboring rival and No. 1-seeded Steubenville Big Red in decisive fashion, 50-32, for the Wheeling Hospital OVAC 4-A title Saturday afternoon at Ohio University-Eastern.

Coach Phil Casinelli's 15-4 Big Red quint discovered itself in dire straits early on, falling hopelessly behind 18-2 after one period of play.

Although they played Creek on even terms for the game's duration, Big Red never made a serious bid to work its way back into contention.

"Obviously, we set the tone early," a pleased DeSantis remarked after Creek (16-4) earned its third consecutive big school trophy. "I think we've grown and really matured as a team this season."

Casinelli could do little more than confirm those notions. "We're a better team than what we showed today but give Indian Creek lots of credit for that," he offered. "They (Creek) played like a team that's been on this stage."

Big Red standout AunDrea West, coming off a 40-point explosion in a semifinal takeout of John Marshall, was never a factor Saturday. She finished with a team-leading 11 points while Big Red was struggling through 13-of-56 shooting.

"That had to be our best defensive effort of the season," DeSantis noted.

The Creek took a 30-12 lead to the lockerroom at half-time and led 41-22 after three panels.

Senior Mikki Davis delivered a clutch, 17-point performance for Creek. Inside ace Meghan Billick burned Big Red with a 14-point, 15-rebound output. Junior Bri Kamarec provided 12-point support.

Steubenville's Jocelyn Pugh backed West's production with eight markers.

Indian Creek shot 19 of 46 from the field and landed 31 rebounds. The Redskins overcame 14 turnovers. Big Red pulled down 30 boards and was guilty of 13 giveaways.

The same two teams will meet again in sectional tournament play later this month, also at OU-Eastern.

INDIAN CREEK (50) — Mathieu 0, 0-0 0; Furda 1, 0-2 2; Davis, G. 1, 0-0 2; Harris 1, 1-4 3; Kamarec 4, 3-4 12; Billick 5, 4-5 14; Davis, M. 7, 2-2 17. Totals — 19, 10-17. **ST. CLAIRSVILLE (32)** — Snyder 0, 0-0 0; Lawson 1, 0-0 2; Pendergrast 1, 0-0 2; Berryman 1, 0-0 2; Meyer 1, 1-2 3; Magnone 1, 0-0 3; Pugh 3, 0-0 8; West 5, 2-6 12. Totals — 13, 3-8.

Three-point goals. Indian Creek — M. Davis, Kamarec. Steubenville — Pugh (2), Magnone.

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

THE LINEUP

CLASS 3-A (Page 11)

St. Clairsville vs. Edison, 10 a.m.

CLASS 4-A (Page 14)

Steubenville vs. Indian Creek, 1 p.m.

CLASS 1-A (Page 3)

Beallsville vs. Bridgeport, 4 p.m.

CLASS 2-A (Page 6)

Shadyside vs. Fort Frye, 7 p.m..

ON THE COVER

REPRESENTATIVES OF all eight schools are pictured on the cover. Top row, from left, are Steubenville's AunDrea West, Bridgeport's Rachel Benda, Shadyside's Jaclyn Johnson and Edison's Kristen Prokopakis. Bottom row, from left, are Beallsville's Tori Jarrett, St. Clairsville's Kelly Perzanowski, Indian Creek's Ty Harris and Fort Frye's Deidra Combs.

Cover Design/EMILY DOMINICI
Tab Design/SETH STASKEY

Boosters free throw finals set

The finals of the inaugural OVAC Boosters Foul Shooting contest for girls will be contested during halftime of the respective games this weekend.

Competition began at the respective schools and then went to OUE a few weeks ago for the semi-final round and the last two standing in the respective age groups will compete for the championship. The contestants are as follows:

10 a.m.
Lauren Flannery, River
Deonna Hall, Cambridge

1 p.m.
Nina Crook, Bellaire
Caitlyn Kroll, Bridgeport

4 p.m.
Maclaine Murad, St. John
Landyn Ramsay, River

7 p.m.
Aryn McAfee, Bridgeport
Laken Ramsay, River

Past OVAC Girls Basketball Champions

2009 A - Beallsville AA - Monroe Central AAA - Martins Ferry AAAA - Indian Creek	2008 A - St. John Central AA - Monroe Central AAA - Bamesville AAAA - Indian Creek	2007 A - St. John Central AA - Buckeye Trail AAA - St. Clairsville AAAA - Steubenville	2006 A - St. John Central AA - Shenandoah AAA - Bellaire AAAA - Steubenville	2005 A - Shadyside AA - Wheeling Central AAA - St. Clairsville AAAA - Brooke	2004 A - Beallsville AA - River AAA - Magnolia AAAA - Wheeling Park	2003 A - Shadyside AA - Caldwell AAA - St. Clairsville AAAA - Edison	2002 A - Beallsville AA - Shadyside AAA - Martins Ferry AAAA - John Marshall	2001 A - St. John Central AA - Fort Frye AAA - Oak Glen	2000 AAAA - Wheeling Park A - St. John Central AA - Fort Frye AAA - St. Clairsville AAAA - John Marshall	1999 A - St. John Central AA - Fort Frye AAA - Oak Glen AAAA - Wheeling Park	1998 A - Shadyside AA - Wheeling Central AAA - Bellaire A - Wheeling Park	1997 A - Conotton Valley AA - River AAA - Martins Ferry AAAA - Wheeling Park	1996 A - St. John Central AA - Wellsville AAA - Bellaire AAAA - Weirton	1995 A - St. John Central AA - Wellsville AAA - Steubenville AAAA - Wheeling Park	1994 A - St. John Central AA - Wellsville AAA - Bellaire AAAA - Wheeling Central	1993 A - Beallsville AA - Union Local AAA - Bellaire AAAA - Valley	1992 AAA/AAAA - Brooke A - St. John Central	1991 A - St. John Central AA - Union Local AAA - Bellaire A/AA - Wheeling Central AAA/AAAA - Oak Glen	1990 A - St. John Central AA - Union Local AAA - Bellaire A/AA - Weirton Madonna AAA/AAAA - John Marshall	1989 A - Buckeye West AA - River AAA - Steubenville Central A/AA - Wheeling Central AAA/AAAA - Brooke	1988 A - Buckeye West AA - Wellsville AAA - River AAAA - Weirton Madonna	1987 A - Buckeye West AA - Wellsville AAA - River AAAA - Weirton Madonna	1986 A - Buckeye West AA - Wellsville AAA - Martins Ferry A/AA - Weirton Madonna AAA/AAAA - Wheeling Park	1985 A - St. John Central AA - Wellsville AAA/AAAA - Steubenville	1984 A - Weirton Madonna AAA/AAAA - John Marshall	1983 A - Buckeye West AA - Buckeye Trail AAA - Steubenville Central A/AA - Bishop Donahue AAA/AAAA - John Marshall	1982 A - Buckeye West AA - Wellsville AAA - Steubenville Central A/AA - Tyler County AAA/AAAA - John Marshall	1981 A - Beallsville AA - Bridgeport AAA - Steubenville Central A/AA - Tyler County AAA/AAAA - John Marshall	1980 A - Bridgeport AA - Toronto AAA - St. Clairsville A/AA - Tyler County AAA/AAAA - John Marshall	1979 A - Shadyside AA - Toronto AAA - Martins Ferry A/AA - Weirton Madonna AAA/AAAA - Wheeling Park	1978 A/AA - Wheeling Central AAA/AAAA - Wheeling Park	1977 A/AA - Fort Frye AAA/AAAA - Wheeling Park	1976 AAA/AAAA - Steub. Central/Weirton Madonna	1975 AAA - Wheeling Park
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Third round for Beallsville and Bridgeport

• Lady Blue Devils are defending champs; Lady Bulldogs making first appearance in title game

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

MEET THE 1-A FINALISTS

BRIDGEPORT (13-6)			BEALLSVILLE (13-6)		
No.	Gr.	Ht.	No.	Gr.	Ht.
Ashley Grall	5	10 5'7"	Alyssa Tavoletti	1	11 5'1"
Jenae Vavrock	10	11 5'6"	Tori Jarrett	4	12 5'6"
Cassie Grandstaff	11	12 5'7"	Mikaela Headley	10	09 5'6"
Rachel Benda	12	12 5'9"	Alie Campbell	12	09 5'6"
Kaitlyn Benda	20	12 5'7"	Madison Stephen	15	09 5'5"
Trisha Moore	21	10 5'6"	Alexis Kanzigg	20	12 5'11"
Tiffany Heckathorn	33	10 5'7"	Laura Lilius	22	12 5'11"
Jalynn Conaway	40	09 5'10"	Katey Kinney	30	09 5'11"
Jenna Strauss	44	11 5'6"	Julie Bilyeu	32	10 5'11"
Moriah Agnew	45	12 5'10"	Stacia Secrest	34	11 5'7"
Emily Lipperman	54	10 5'7"	Rebecca Garlick	55	12 5'7"
Brittany Higgenbotham	55	09 5'10"	Head Coach: Terry Jarrett		
Head Coach: Ed Metz			Assistant: Rick Jarrett		
Assistant: Jason Hanson					

The two combatants in the third annual Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A championship game are no strangers to one another.

Never have been. Never will be.

Top-seeded Beallsville (13-6) and second-seeded Bridgeport (13-6) have staged a home-and-home series over the years, and this season was no different. They will meet for the third time Saturday in a 4 p.m. tip at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

So far, Terry Jarrett's Lady Blue Devils have posted a pair of regular-season victories over Ed Metz and his Lady Bulldogs, and the two small schools will meet next week (Feb. 17) in the first round of the Division IV Sectional Tournament at Union Local High School in Morristown.

"We are very familiar with them just like they are very familiar with us," Metz said Tuesday as he watched his team practice. "There should be no secrets. We both know what the other is made of."

"We're definitely going to get our fill of them," Jarrett said of Bridgeport. "That's okay though. I know some people complain about that, but that's the way it works out sometimes."

"We know about each one of their players like they know about ours," Jarrett continued. "It all boils down to who takes care of the basketball."

Metz said while there is still work to be done, his team is ready for the challenge.

"The girls are very excit-

ed to be here (in the championship game)," he offered. "No disrespect to any of the other Class A teams, but we felt all along that they (Beallsville) were No. 1 and we were No. 2."

"I'm also happy for my three seniors," he continued. "They have worked very hard to get to this point."

This is the furthest that Bridgeport has advanced in the three-year event, but the Bulldogs did qualify as the No. 3 seed in the inaugural tournament in 2008. They were eliminated by No. 2 seed Beallsville.

"They (Beallsville) have to be the favorite," Metz allowed. "They've beaten us twice already."

Back in the first week of the season, Beallsville reeled off the first 18 points of the game, only to watch Bridgeport recover and eventually take a 1-point edge before pulling out a hard-earned, 47-45, triumph on Frank Baxter Court inside John J. Havlicek Gymnasium.

"We learned from that game that we can't quit," Metz said. "Even though we were down big early, the girls never gave up and that is what allowed us to rally and take the lead."

The second game, which was played in Monroe

County in late January, saw the Blue Devils holding a slim 19-18 lead at the half before exploding for a 72-43 decision.

"They just blitzed us in the second half," Metz recalled. "I called three timeouts in a 2-minute span, but it was a case of them doing everything right and us not. We just couldn't adjust."

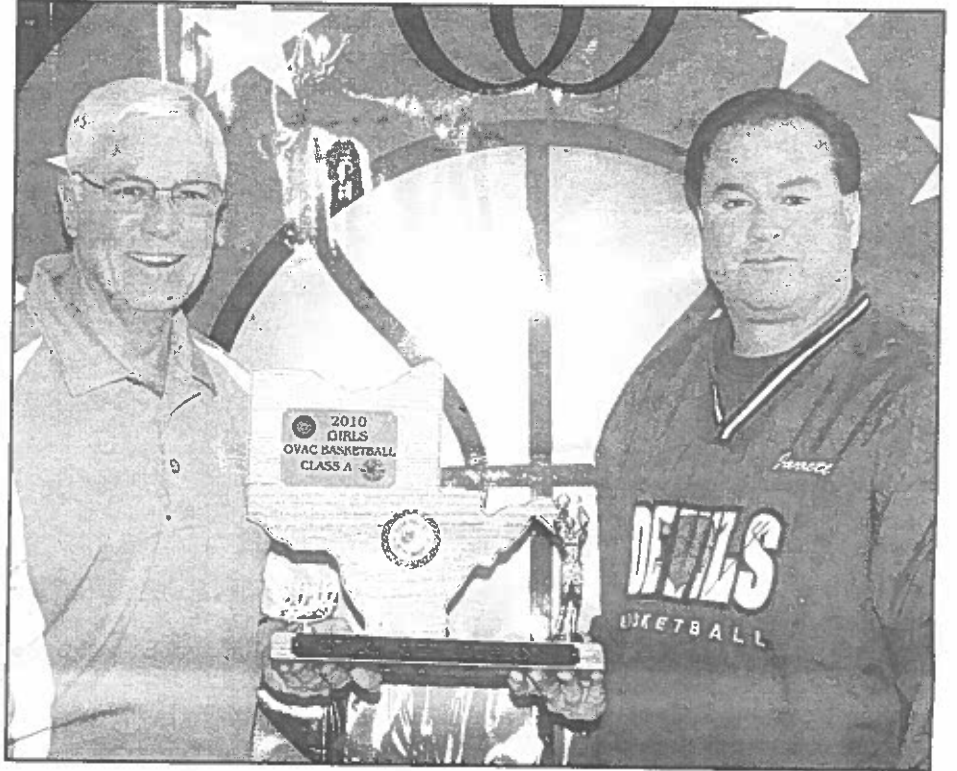
Despite owning the two wins over Saturday's opponent, Jarrett knows another win is not guaranteed.

"You never know what can happen on any given night," he said. "Different things happen throughout the game that dictates what happens."

The two teams are also led by, arguably, the best two Class A players in the Ohio Valley, and the top two scorers. Beallsville's top gun is senior guard Tori Jarrett, while Bridgeport's all-around threat is senior guard/forward Rachel Benda. Both are receiving numerous looks from colleges and are still sifting through the offers.

Benda averages a little less than 22 points (21.8) per outing, while also pulling down 11.7 rebounds. She has charted 95 assists, 78 steals and 42 blocked shots.

"This very well could



PICTURED ARE the competing coaches in 1-A. They are Bridgeport's Ed Metz (left) and Beallsville's Terry Jarrett (right). The 1-A game will tip at 4 p.m.

turn into a 1-on-1 game between the two," Metz said. "Rachel and Tori should off-set each other, so the role players are going to be a really big key."

Jarrett wouldn't go as far as agreeing about the 1-on-1 matchup.

"I don't know about that. It could develop into that, but you just never know. Each team has some other girls that are capable of stepping up."

Bridgeport starts, in addition to the 5-ft.-9 Benda, two seniors and a pair of juniors. The seniors are 5-ft.-10 center Moriah Agnew and 5-ft.-8 guard Cassie Grandstaff. The juniors include a pair of 5-ft-5 performers in forward Jenae Vavrock and guard Jenna Strauss.

"People like Jenae,

See, 1-A, Page 4

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

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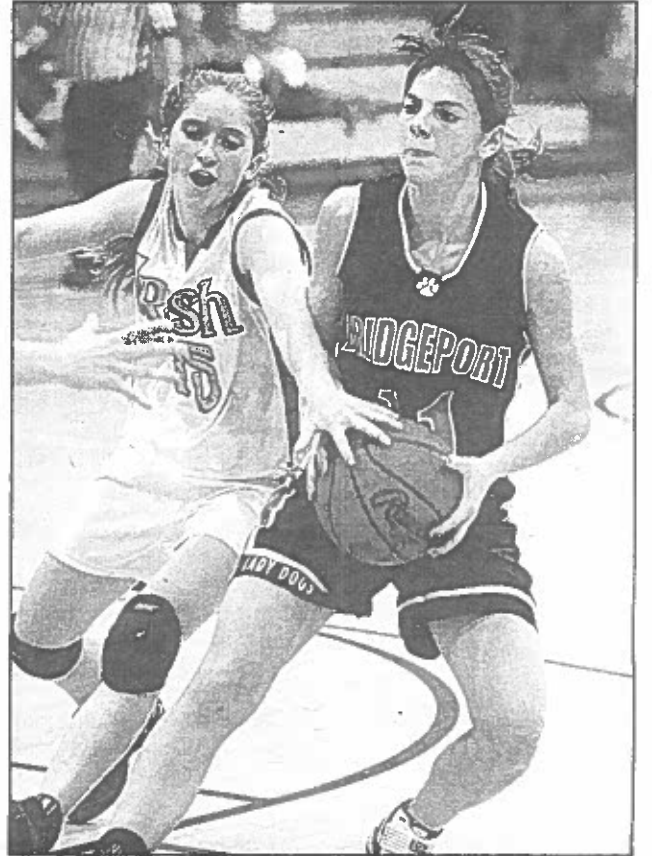


BRIDGEPORT BULLDOGS



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED IS the 2010 Bridgeport Lady Bulldogs Basketball Team. The Lady Bulldogs basketball team consists of: Ashley Grall, Jenae Vavrock, Cassie Grandstaff, Rachel Benda, Kaitlyn Benda, Trisha Moore, Tiffany Heckathorn, Jalynn Conaway, Jenna Strauss, Moriah Agnew, Emily Lipperman and Brittany Higgenbotham.



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

BRIDGEPORT'S Cassie Grandstaff is one of the solid contributors for the Lady Bulldogs this season. She and the Lady Bulldogs will meet Beallsville Saturday at 4 p.m. in the third annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship, which will be staged at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

● 1-A

Continued from Page 3

Cassie, Moriah and Jenna are going to have to step up their game a little," he continued. "They need to play with confidence because the game is going to be up-and-down. Then our players off the bench will have to give us a lift when they get in the game."

Agnew also averages a double-double with 13.7 points and 10 board a game. She also has a team-high 45 blocked shots. However, no other player is close to double figures in scoring.

As a team, Bridgeport averages 49 points and gives up 43.5. The Bulldogs grab 37.8 rebounds a contest to 33.5 for the opposi-

tion. They also turn the ball over an average of 14 times to 17.6 for the opponents.

"If we can keep the score in the 40s we've got a chance," Metz said. "We can't get into a run-and-gun with them because they are more athletic than we are."

Jarrett, meanwhile, would like to see the score a little higher.

"We would like to see some points on the board," he stressed. "But we have won some low-scoring games as well."

In addition to the 5-ft.-7 Jarrett, who scores more than 21 points a game, the Big Blue start two seniors, a

See. 1-A, Page 5

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Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

BEALLSVILLE'S Rebecca Garlick goes up for a layup during a game earlier in the season. She and the Lady Devils will meet Bridgeport Saturday at 4 p.m.

● 1-A

Continued from Page 4

junior and a sophomore. The seniors are 5-ft.-11 center Alexis Kanzigg and 5-ft.-7 forward Rebecca Garlick, while the junior is 5-ft.-6 guard Jessica Campbell. Julie Bilyeu, a 5-ft.-11 sophomore, rounds out the starting five.

Jarrett, like Benda, brings more to the court than scoring. She averages 8 rebounds, 5 steals and 5 assists a game. Kanzigg averages a double-double with 10 points and a dozen boards, while Garlick is near the 10-point mark.

"It will be a pleasure to coach against Terry," Metz said of his coaching counterpart. "I'm looking forward to it because his teams are always so well-schooled."

Beallsville advanced to the title tilt with a 61-37 whipping of No. 4 seeded Weirton Madonna, while Bridgeport was dispatching No. 3 Cameron, 66-41.

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com



BEALLSVILLE BLUE DEVILS



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK
PICTURED IS the 2010 Beallsville Lady Blue Devils Basketball Team. The Lady Blue Devils consist of: Tori Jarrett, Alexis Kanzigg; Laura Lilius, Rebecca Garlick, Alyssa Tavoletti, Stacia Secrest, Julie Bilyeu, Mikaela Headley, Alie Campbell, Madison Stephen and Katey Kinney. The Lady Blue Devils are coached by head coach Terry Jarrett and assistant coach Rick Jarrett.

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Shadyside, Fort Frye clash in 2-A

• Top-seeded Lady Tigers come in at 17-1; Second-seeded Lady Cadets boast 13-5 record

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

On paper it seems like a total contrast in styles.

On one side, you've got the Shadyside Lady Tigers who are looking to get out and go each and every possession, implementing a full-court press to dictate the tempo.

On the other side, you've got the Fort Frye Lady Cadets who don't want to play as quickly as the Lady Tigers and want to control the tempo using a patient half-court offense and smothering defense in the half-court.

So the question becomes: Which team is going to be able to play its style?

The answer will be provided Saturday evening (7 p.m.) in the Class 2-A final in the third annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball

MEET THE 2-A FINALISTS

SHADYSIDE (17-1)			FORT FRYE (13-5)		
	No.	Gr. Ht.		No.	Gr. Ht.
Kelsey Holloway	4	11 5'8"	Katie Tornes	03	11 5'2"
Rebecca Haney	5	12 5'3"	Sarah Biehl	04	10 5'0"
Jennie Mullett	10	12 5'5"	Lacey Huck	11	11 5'10"
Jessica Tollett	11	10 5'6"	Liz Dyar	12	11 5'6"
Jaclyn Johnson	12	12 5'10"	Ashley Okey	15	12 5'6"
Amanda Paliswat	20	12 5'7"	Sammi Hanson	23	11 5'10"
Karli Bonar	22	09 5'5"	Morgan Liedtke	24	09 5'6"
Brooke Meintel	24	10 5'10"	Taylor Buchanan	31	09 5'10"
Hayley Holenka	30	09 5'6"	Deidra Combs	32	09 5'9"
Sarah Neavin	32	11 5'11"	Leah Baker	42	11 5'7"
Kristen Fijalkowski	34	09 5'10"	Head Coach: Dan Liedtke		
Lauren Stevens	40	12 5'4"	Assistants: Terry Huck, Pat Lang, Cathy Borich, Troy Fogle		
Alexa Dorris	42	10 5'7"			
Head Coach: Tina Yates					
Assistants: Jenna Johnson, Gloria Dorris, Clyde Yates					

Championship, which will be held at Ohio University-Eastern.

"We want to take charge of what's going to happen in the game," said Shadyside head coach Tina Yates. "We've got to worry about ourselves and do the little things we're capable of doing, and I believe everything will fall into

place." Shadyside comes into the game with a 17-1 mark and knocked out Buckeye Trail, 43-40, to reach this point. The Lady Tigers are scheduled to open Ohio tournament play on Thursday against Frontier.

However, before the LT's begin looking toward



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the competing coaches in 2-A. They are Fort Frye's Dan Liedtke (left) and Shadyside's Tina Yates (right). The 2-A title game will tip off at 7 p.m.

See, 2-A, Page 7

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See, BOARD, Page 10

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GOOD LUCK TIGERS IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP!

● 2-A

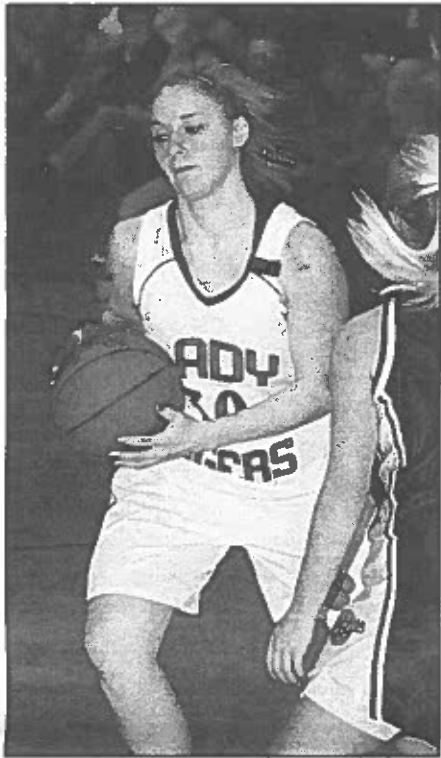
Continued from Page 6

a deep run into March, the OVAC title is one they've had their eye on for about 365 days.

"Our kids realize what happened last year," Yates said. "It was a team goal to get to this point and definitely one of our top priorities, but we know we've got to come to play for 32 minutes."

Fort Frye head coach Dan Liedtke guided the Cadet boys to the OVAC championship game a year ago before they fell to Wheeling Central in the Class 2-A title game. During the off-season, the girls' post came open and after much debate he applied.

However, after the encouragement of the Fort Frye administration, Liedtke decided to also remain at the helm of the boys program, which he developed into one of the area's elite.



SHADYSIDE freshman Hayley Holenka is one of several underclassmen helping to lead the way for the Lady Tigers who are 17-1.

T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

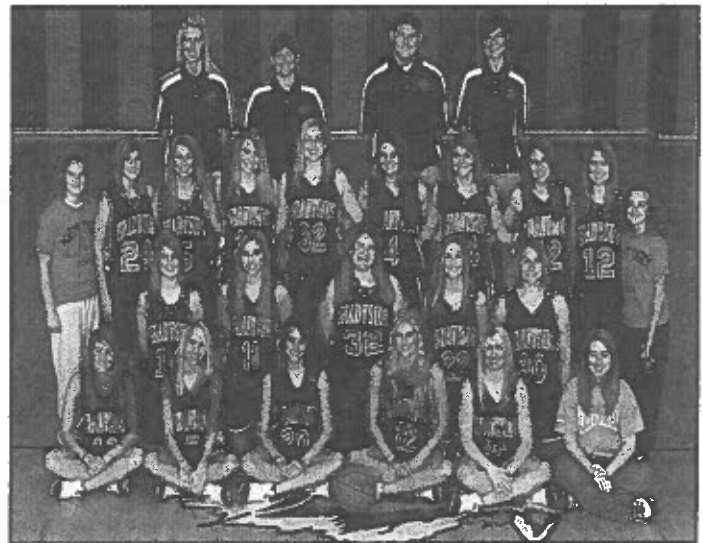
"I'm fortunate to have a very good staff for the boys and the girls," Liedtke said about coaching both squads. "We all just work together. I

See, 2-A, Page 10

OVAC Girls Basketball Championship Records

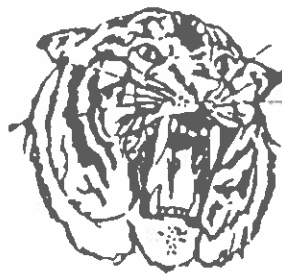
- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>INDIVIDUAL MOST POINTS
 1A: 27. Savannah Burke, Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 24. Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 20. Shae Moreland, Martins Ferry, 2009
 4A: 16. Meghan Billick, Indian Creek, 2009
 Mikki Davis, Indian Creek, 2008
 MOST FREE THROWS MADE
 1A: 9. Savannah Burke, Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 5. Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 8. Brooke Cenkus, St. Clairsville, 2009
 4A: 9. 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: 9. Shae Moreland, Martins Ferry, 2009
 4A: 8. Meghan Billick, Indian Creek, 2009
 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
 MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS
 1A: 7. Alexis Kanzog, Beallsville, 2009
 2A: 2. Laken Gibson, Shadyside, 2009
 Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, 2009
 Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2009
 Justine Lafollette, Mon. Cen., 2009
 Whitney Marshall, Mon. Cen., 2009
 Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, 2008
 Karlie Davis, Monroe Central, 2008
 Kelli Pechtal, Steub. Catholic, 2008
 3A: 7. Leah Bettinger, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 6. Kayla Prokopakis, Edison, 2009
 MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS
 1A: 10. Alyssa Headley, Beallsville, 2009
 2A: 9. Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, 2009
 3A: 8. Allie Doan, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 8. Aubrey Clegg, John Marshall, 2008
 MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS
 1A: 13. Alyssa Headley, Beallsville, 2009</p> | <p>Sara Wamsley, St. John, 2008
 2A: 11. Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, 2009
 3A: 14. Leah Bettinger, Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 12. Aubrey Clegg, John Marshall, 2008
 MOST ASSISTS
 1A: 4. Natalie Perzanowski, St. John, 2008
 2A: 2. Aleshia Guiler, Monroe Central, 2008
 Ginny Pettes, Steub. Catholic, 2008
 Emily Canela, Steub. Catholic, 2008
 3A: 3. Brittany Burch, Martins Ferry, 2008
 Courtney Frohnapef, Ferry, 2008
 4A: 4. Ty Hams, Indian Creek, 2008
 MOST STEALS
 1A: 5. Kyle Kidder, St. John, 2008
 2A: 5. Ginny Pettes, Steub. Catholic, 2008
 3A: 4. Courtney Coleman, Martins Ferry, 2009
 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: 53. Indian Creek, 2009
 MOST FREE THROWS MADE
 1A: 17. Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 13. Monroe Central, 2009
 3A: 12. St. Clairsville, 2009
 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: 71% (12/17), Edison, 2009
 MOST 2-POINT GOALS MADE
 1A: 25. St. John, 2008
 2A: 18. Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 16. Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 20. Indian Creek, 2009
 BEST 2-POINT GOAL %</p> | <p>(20 attempts minimum)
 1A: 45% (21/47), Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 50% (18/36), Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 64% (18/25), 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 PERCENTAGE
 (5 attempts minimum)
 1A: 20% (2/10), Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 50% (6/12), Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 56% (5/9), Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 40% (2/5), Indian Creek, 2009
 MOST OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS
 1A: 23. St. John, 2008
 2A: 8. Monroe Central, 2009, 2008
 3A: 10. Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 17. Edison, 2009
 MOST DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS
 1A: 26. Beallsville, 2008
 2A: 18. Monroe Central, 2009
 3A: 22. Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 18. Edison, 2009
 MOST TOTAL REBOUNDS
 1A: 47. St. John, 2008
 2A: 26. Monroe Central, 2009
 3A: 32. Barnesville, 2008
 4A: 35. Edison, 2009
 MOST ASSISTS
 1A: 8. St. John, 2008
 2A: 4. Monroe Central, 2009
 Monroe Central, 2008
 Steubenville Catholic, 2008
 3A: 8. Martins Ferry, 2008
 4A: 8. Edison, 2009
 MOST STEALS
 1A: 16. St. John, 2008
 2A: 12. Monroe Central, 2008
 3A: 12. Martins Ferry, 2008</p> |
|--|---|---|

SHADYSIDE TIGERS



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK
 PICTURED IS the 2010 Shadyside Lady Tigers Basketball Team. The Lady Tigers consist of: Kelsey Holloway, Rebecca Haney, Jennie Mullett, Jessica Tollett, Jaclyn Johnson, Amanda Paliswat, Karli Bonar, Brooke Meintel, Hayley Holenka, Sarah Neavin, Kristen Fijalkowski, Lauren Stevens and Alexa Dorris. The Lady Tigers are coached by head coach Tina Yates and assistant coaches Jenna Johnson, Gloria Dorris and Clyde Yates.

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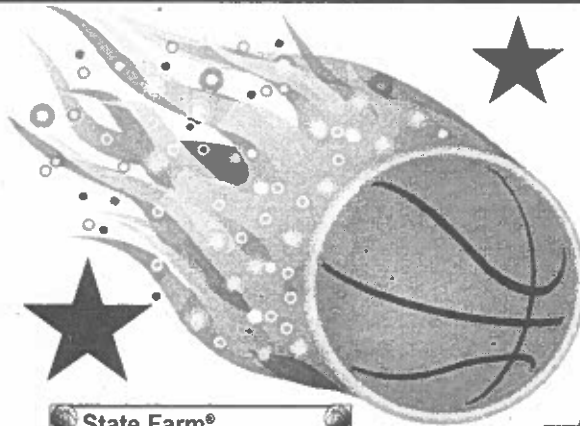
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● 2-A

Continued from Page 7

had worked with the group of younger girls and when the job came open I decided to apply. I questioned myself as to whether or not to continue to do the boys, but I just felt that I would see if I could both."

His Lady Cadets come to their inaugural OVAC title game with a 13-5 record, including three wins over two-time defending OVAC 2-A champion Monroe Central. The second victory wrapped up the Pioneer Valley Conference title and third advanced the Fort into the OVAC final.

"It's a good feeling to have reached this point."

Liedtke said. "Our girls have worked hard and have definitely accomplished a lot already. We've really earned our way to this point. The girls bought into our program, and I really couldn't have asked for more to this point."

Yates admits she's not seen the Lady Cadets in person, but she's been working the phones dilligently trying to acquire tapes and scouting reports for the Beverly-based outfit.

"I honeslty don't know that much about them," Yates said. "We're preparing like we have all season and we've just got to go out

there and play our game."

The Lady Tigers' game features a seven-person rotation and the aforementioned up-tempo style.

"We've developed a nice group and our bench has really given us good minutes," Yates said. "We just need everyone to be in sync (Saturday)."

Shadyside is led by its talented inside trio of senior Jaclyn Johnson, junior Sarah Neavin and sophomore Brooke Meintel.

"We've been able to scout Shadyside and we're impressed with how balanced they are," Liedtke said. "They are definitely

going to overmatch us with size, and it's not tough to figure out why their record is what it is."

Johnson is a versatile inside player. She's got the ability to score on the block and with a solid mid-range jumper All told, she's averaging 12.5 points per game to go along with seven rebounds a contest.

"At the start of the season, Jaclyn was more laid back, but as the season's moved along she's really wanting the ball in her hands when the game's on the line," Yates said.

Meintel is seemingly a nightly double-double for the Lady Tigers. She's averaging 10 points and more than 12 rebounds a contest. Neavin, meanwhile, averages a little more than nine points a game and six boards.

On the perimeter, the Lady Tigers boast one of the area's premier three-point shooters in freshman Karli Bonar. Included in her 11.7 points a game average, she's netted 49 bonus goals. Senior Rebecca Haney rounds out the starting lineup. She's the Lady Tigers' best defender and handles the ball well.

Junior Kelsey Holloway is still rounding back into form after a knee injury she suffered during last track season. She was on the shelf until a little more than a month ago. She averaged more than 13 points a game as a sophomore.

Also off the bench, Shadyside utilizes freshman



Photo Courtesy/MARIETTA TIMES

FORT FRYE'S Lacey Huck will be one of the Lady Cadets to watch in this weekend's Wheeling Hospital Girls Tournament.

Hayley Holenka and sophomore Jessica Tollett.

Fort Frye, meanwhile, also utilizes a seven-person rotation freely.

The lone senior the Cadets use is Ashley Okey who's also their leading scorer with 11 points a game. A pair of freshmen Deidra Combs and Taylor Buchanan both chip in nine points a game.

"We're a young team, but (Fort Frye) starts three freshmen and all are really talented," Yates said. "We've heard they play tenacious defense in the halfcourt."

Frosh Morgan Liedtke

— daughter of the head coach — averages seven points a game. Junior Lacey Huck rounds out the lineup for the Lady Cadets.

Coming off the bench, Fort Frye's received steady contributions from Leah Baker and Kaitlyn Huck.

"We're not a slow team, but we're not a fast team," Liedtke said. "We can actually play fast or slow, and we've been in games where teams press the entire game. We're a medium team. Our starters can shoot the ball well and all of our players have the green light. We work to get good shots."

Staskey can be reached at

FORT FRYE CADETS

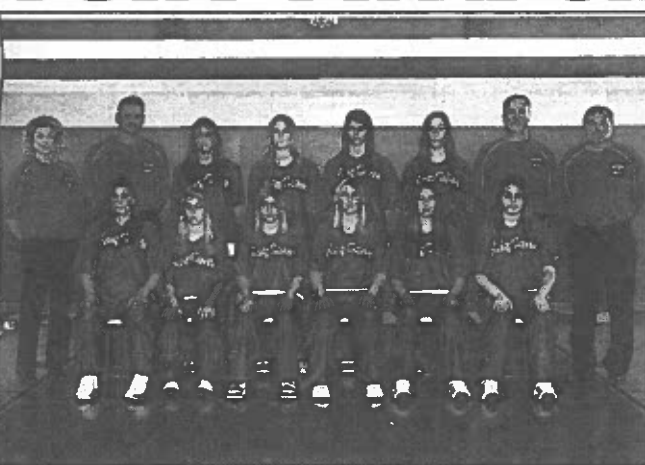


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PICTURED IS the 2010 Fort Frye Lady Cadets Basketball Team. The Lady Cadets consist of: Katie Tornes, Sarah Biehl, Lacey Huck, Liz Dyar, Ashley Okey, Sammi Hanson, Morgan Liedtke, Taylor Buchanan, Deidra Combs and Leah Baker. The Lady Cadets are coached by head coach Dan Liedtke and assistant coaches Terry Huck, Pat Lang, Cathy Borich and Troy Fogle.

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● Board

Continued from Page 6

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St. C., Edison meet in rubber match

• Each Buckeye 8 rival won on its home court during the regular season; Tip-off slated for 10

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

Something's gotta give. After splitting a pair of regular season encounters, Edison (15-4) and St. Clairsville (16-3) will not only break the deadlock, they'll decide who returns home with the Wheeling Hospital OVAC 3-A championship.

The top two seeded rivals meet Saturday morning (10:00) in the first of four title games staged at Ohio University-Eastern's spacious athletic facility located three miles west of St. Clairsville.

On paper, the 3-A matchup figures to be highly competitive with a distinct possibility of not being decided until the final minutes.

"It's probably coming down to the team that executes and limits mistakes," offered Lady Wildcats' coach Tony Kovalesky, whose club did little of either in an early season loss at St. Clairsville.

"That was easily one of our poorest performances of the season," Kovalesky related. "But we played much better in the rematch. We hope that effort carries over (for Saturday's game)."

St. C.'s first-year head coach Bruce Stiles painfully recalled the Lady Devils' 73-61 setback at Richmond. "Edison hurt us with strong interior play. We can't afford a repeat of that (Saturday)," he remarked.

Stiles notes his quint is coming off an impressive 67-50 3-A semi-final win earlier this week over Oak Glen. Trailing the Lady Bears 31-30 at halftime, St. C. responded in a big way after the break.

"That may have been our best half of basketball all

MEET THE 3-A FINALISTS

ST. CLAIRSVILLE (16-3)			EDISON (15-4)		
No.	Gr.	Ht.	No.	Gr.	Ht.
Laura Smith	4	12 5'3"	Savannah Snyder	1	10 5'7"
Jamie Matkovich	5	11 5'8"	Katie Davidson	3	09 5'5"
Jaclyn Dutton	10	12 5'6"	Kristin Prokopakis	4	10 5'6"
Brooke Cenkus	11	12 5'8"	Kyle Smith	5	09 5'5"
Sarah Slenski	12	11 5'11"	Molly McCoy	12	09 5'5"
Kelly Perzanowski	13	12 5'5"	Carissa Myler	15	11 5'10"
Ashley Gordon	20	11 5'6"	Kasey Dellapenna	20	10 5'6"
Jasmine Vincent	22	10 5'5"	Randi Clevenger	21	09 5'6"
Jesse Machovina	23	10 5'5"	Sierra Woodward	31	12 5'7"
Ashley DeNoble	25	11 5'6"	Courtney Robinson	32	12 5'5"
Chelsea Nemeti	30	12 5'9"	Kayla Prokopakis	33	10 5'9"
Valerie Toothman	42	12 5'10"	Danielle Busana	41	12 5'3"
Head Coach: Bruce Stiles			Meghan Potock	43	12 5'6"
Assistants: Alicia Freeman, Jennifer Cook			Amanda Bake	52	12 5'11"
			Head Coach: Tony Kovalesky		
			Assistants: Chuck Woodward, Leah Snyder, Tim Elson		

season," Stiles reported. "With us, it's fairly simple. We need to play our (up tempo) style. At the same time, we must be patient and protect the ball. At times, ball-handling mistakes have plagued us this season."

Stiles will send a well-balanced starting five to the floor Saturday, led by four-season mainstay Brooke

Cenkus, a 5-8 senior. "Brooke's the backbone of our team," Stiles explained. "She averages a double-double (10.5 points, 11.3 rebounds). Obviously, we need her on the floor."

St. C.'s inside attack is enhanced by 5-11 junior Sarah Slenski, a 10.3 ppg. scorer and reliable board-banger. "Sarah's an unsung

See, 3-A, Page 12



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the competing coaches in 3-A. They are St. Clairsville's Bruce Stiles (left) and Edison's Tony Kovalesky (right). The 3-A title game will tip off at 10 a.m.

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ST. CLAIRSVILLE RED DEVILS



Photo Courtesy/SLAVIK PHOTOGRAPHY
 PICTURED IS the 2010 St. Clairsville Lady Red Devils Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Chelsea Nemeti, Kelly Perzanowski and Brooke Cenkus. Middle row, from left, are assistant coach Alicia Freeman, Laura Smith, Ashley DeNoble, Valerie Toothman, Jaclyn Dutton and head coach Bruce Stiles. Back row, from left, are Jesse Machovena, Jasmine Vincent, Sarah Slenski, Jamie Matkovich and Ashley Gordon.

● 3-A

Continued from Page 11

hero (in the post)," Stiles described. "She's a very good finisher around the bucket."

Junior Jamie Matkovich is a versatile 5-9 swing player and a capable inside-outside scoring threat, sporting a 7-4 ppg norm.

In the Red Devils' backcourt, 5-6 junior Ashley Gordon has come on strong and is a fundamentally sound player whose 9.5 per game scoring average is proving deceptive. "Ashley goes to the basket with aggressiveness. Her confidence level seems to increase with each game," Stiles observed.

Athletic senior Kelly Perzanowski rounds out the starting five and is regarded as an adept defender.

Off the bench, Stiles has a solid player in 5-6 sopho-

more Jesse Machovina and a good perimeter shooting threat in 5-4 senior Laura Smith.

Stiles indicated senior starter Jaclyn Dutton is not available for Saturday's scrap. Dutton, a Division I soccer recruit at Clemson University, had a prior commitment at the South Carolina school.

EDISON will have no fewer than three sophomores in its starting lineup.

Kovalesky's club is led by the productive sister combo of Kayla and Kristin Prokopakis. Both were starters last season as freshmen.

"They possess excellent skills for the game. If you haven't seen them play, you wouldn't think they were sophomores," the Lady

See, 3-A, Page 13

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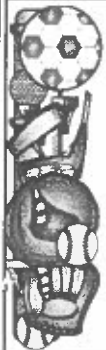
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● 3-A

Continued from Page 12
Cats' coach revealed.

Kayla Prokopakis, at 5-9, is already approaching 600 career points after topping the Cats her rookie campaign. "Kayla averages 16.4 but that's just one part of her game," Kovalesky stressed.

Twin sister Kristin is also a 'gamer' who combines savvy ball-handling skills with a soft shooting touch. "She's fundamentally sound and makes very few mistakes," Kovalesky noted.

Edison's inside game is greatly enhanced by 5-10 junior Carissa Myler, a 11.7 ppg. scorer who also lands over 11 rebounds per start.

"Carissa has been consistent and steady for us all season," Kovalesky explains. "She's definitely enjoyed a breakout season."

An injury has sidelined senior starter Sierra Woodward, a reliable contributor, out of action since going down in late January in a game against Buckeye Local.

Woodward's absence has opened a spot for former sixth player Savannah Snyder, a 5-7 sophomore, scoring a shade under seven points per outing. "Savannah was giving us valuable minutes off the

bench but she's adapted well to her role as a starter," Kovalesky offered.

Senior Courtney Robinson completes the Lady Cats' starting five. "She's a solid defender who'll guard our opponent's best shooter," Kovalesky said.

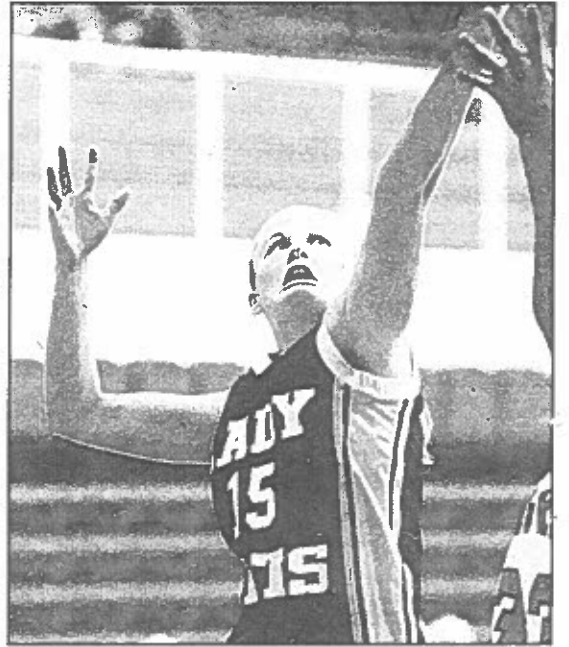
A pair of seniors add excellent depth. They are 5-6 Meghan Potock, a physical presence, and 5-3 Danielle Busana who provides backcourt assistance.

Edison amassed a season-high 81 points in an impressive semi-final victory over Weir High.

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com



AT LEFT: St. C.'s Brooke Cenkus goes up for a shot. She's the Lady Devils' leader on the interior.
AT RIGHT: Edison's Carissa Myler has come on of late to help the Lady Wildcats to the OVAC final.



Photos Courtesy/PAUL KRAJNYAK and MIKE MATHISON



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EDISON WILDCATS

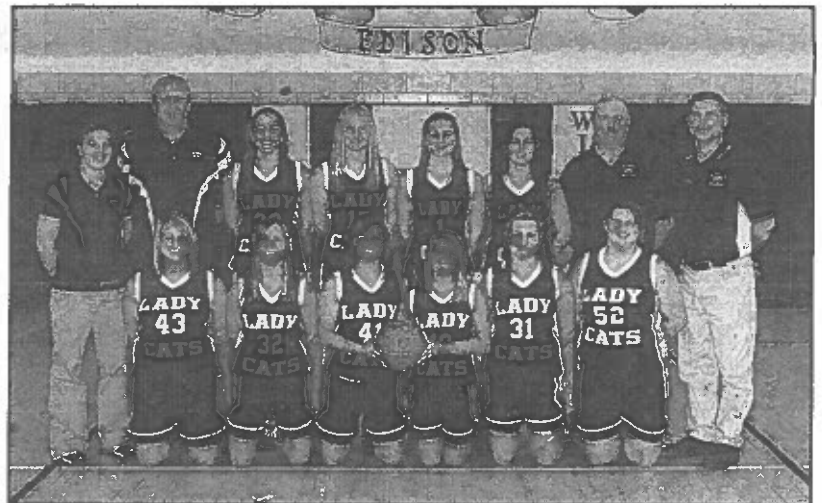


Photo Provided

PICTURED IS the 2010 Edison Lady Wildcats Basketball Team. The Lady Wildcats Basketball Team consists of: Amanda Blake, Danielle Busana, Meghan Potock, Courtney Robinson, Sierra Woodward, Carissa Myler, Kasey Dellapenna, Kayla Prokopakis, Kristin Prokopakis, Savannah Snyder, Randi Clevenger, Katie Davidson, Molly McCoy and Kylie Smith.

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Big Red, Creek collide in 4-A

• Lady Redskins seek third consecutive 4-A title; Steubenville making debut in championship

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

They're practically next door neighbors.

Which only adds to the intrigue of Saturday afternoon's Wheeling Hospital OVAC big school title

match between Steubenville and Indian Creek.

Top-seeded Big Red, 15-3 under head coach Phil Casinelli opposes the No. 2 seeded Lady Redskins (15-4) guided by veteran mentor Erin DeSantis.

Saturday's 1:00 tipoff

inside Ohio University Eastern's multi-purpose athletic facility, features several interesting story-lines between a pair of long-time rivals.

Ironically, Big Red and Creek did not meet during this regular season, though

there is undoubtedly plenty of mutual respect to go around.

"Most of the girls on both teams are familiar with each other, thus it's a pretty spirited rivalry," said DeSantis whose Redskins captured consecutive

OVAC 4-A titles the past two seasons.

Many of the major players on those Creek teams are now seniors. "This (senior) class has been so special. I can't imagine how it's going to be next season when they're not around," DeSantis observed.

The same holds true for Casinelli's quint which sends five seniors to the floor for Saturday's opening tip.

"We had some high expectations this season," he advised. "One of our goals was to be playing (in this) game. I think we've made it here mainly because of excellent team chemistry."

It doesn't hurt that Big Red floors one of the valley's most prolific scorers in 5-6 senior guard AunDrea West.

In last Monday's semifinal victory over John Marshall, the talented West

went off for 40 points in a 67-60 victory over the Monarchs.

"AunDrea's such a well-rounded player blessed with considerable offensive skills," Casinelli explained. "She has the ability to pull up and score from the perimeter or go inside and convert as well."

A 1,000 point career scorer, West is joined in the backcourt by 5-4 classmate Brea Magnone a 7.0 ppg. scorer with a good shooting touch. "Brea understands the game and generally makes good decisions," Casinelli related.

Complementing Big Red's backcourt is 5-5 senior Jocelyn Pugh, regarded as a solid defender and three-point shooting threat. "Jocelyn is a hard-nosed player...a real competitor," Casinelli notes.

Senior Tabatha

See, 4-A, Page 15

STEUBENVILLE BIG RED

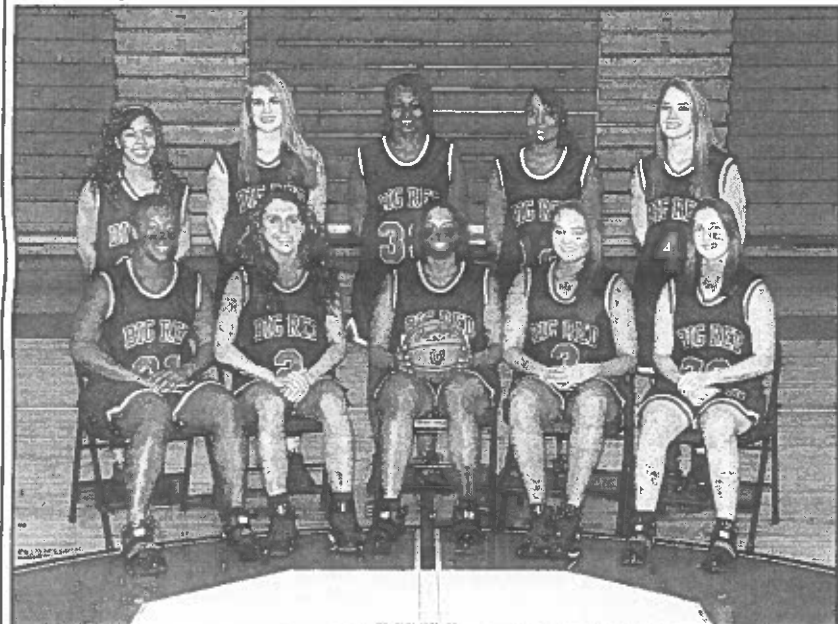


Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2010 Steubenville Lady Big Red Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are TT Snyder, Jocelyn Pugh, Aundrea West, Tabatha Berryman and Brea Magnone. Top row, from left, are Awtihana Smith, Nichole Gardner, Teryl Pendergrast, Quintaja Lawson and Hannah Meyer. Absent were Chelsey Evans, Breanna Perdue, Julia Stonbraker and Dana Poole. The Lady Big Red is coached by Phil Casinelli.



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T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

PICTURED ARE the competing coaches in 4-A. They are Steubenville's Phil Casinelli (left) and Indian Creek's Tony Kovalesky (right). The 4-A title game will tip off at 1 p.m.

● 4-A

Continued from Page 14

Berryman, at 5-8, is Big Red's tallest starter with steady norms of eight (points) and seven (rebounds). "Tabatha does most of the dirty work in the paint. She's a tireless worker," Casinelli remarked.

Steubenville's fifth starter is 5-6 junior Tiarra Snyder, a versatile player who's not afraid to mix it up under the bucket. "She's a strong young lady who's been a valuable contributor," her coach pointed out.

Casinelli receives good work off the bench from 5-8 junior Teryl Pendergrast, an inside aid who's logged important minutes.

Also in the rotation is 5-7 sophomore Hannah Meyer, regarded as a good post defender.

Two of Steubenville's three losses were inflicted by Wheeling Park. Big Red also suffered an overtime reversal to New Philadelphia.

THE CREEK has relied on exceptional scoring balance and solid defense enroute to play-

ing in its third consecutive OVAC title contest.

"We've played very solid at the defensive end a majority of the season," DeSantis advised. "Another asset has been our ball-handling ability and unselfishness. The girls are willing to spread the wealth and get the ball in the hands of an open shooter."

DeSantis will send four senior mainstays for the opening tip along with a more than capable junior.

That fact was borne out in Creek's 67-58 semifinal victory Monday over Wheeling Park when four Redskins registered double figure scoring.

Inside ace Meghan Billick has been rock solid for the Wintersville-based ball club. Billick has wheeled and dealt for nearly 13 points per contest and also leads the Lady Skins in rebounding.

"Meghan has enjoyed an outstanding senior season," DeSantis described.

Creek's three-guard attack includes a trio of talented players. Senior

Ty Harris scores nine points per outing and is regarded as a productive playmaker.

Twin sisters Gabbi and Mikki Davis have teamed to torment Creek opponents with steady consistency.

The 5-5 Mikki hoops some 10 points per start with 5-3 sister Gabbi netting nine per outing.

Creek's only non-senior starter is another

dandy in 5-10 junior Brianna Kamarec.

In the Creek's win over Park, Kamarec connected for a clutch, team-leading 19 points.

Off the bench, 5-7 senior Chelsea Furda has been a season-long spark. The same holds true for 5-5 junior Emily Mathieu who contributes valuable minutes.

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

MEET THE 4-A FINALISTS

INDIAN CREEK (15-4)			STEUBENVILLE (15-3)		
No.	Gr.	Ht.	No.	Gr.	Ht.
Brittany Vella	1	11 5'4	AunDrea West	00	12 5'7
Chelsea Furda	3	12 5'7	Jocelyn Pugh	02	12 5'4
Briana Kamarec	4	11 5'10	Tabatha Berryman	03	12 5'8
Mikki Davis	10	12 5'6	Hannah Meyer	04	10 5'7
Gabbi Davis	11	12 5'5	Quinntaja Lawson	12	11 5'5
Emily Mathieu	12	11 5'5	Nichole Gardner	20	11 5'7
Allana Sida	13	12 5'4	Tierra Snyder	21	12 5'7
Hannah Ross	21	12 5'6	Awtihana Smith	22	11 5'3
Mariah Giusto	23	11 5'10	Brea Magnone	23	12 5'3
Ty Harris	32	12 5'5	Julia Stonebreaker	24	09 5'7
Meghan Billick	43	12 5'11	Chelsey Evans	30	10 5'6
Head Coach: Erin DeSantis			Breanna Perdue	31	10 5'8
Assistants: Gene Evans, Ray Case, Jenna Clapham.			Teryl Pendergrast	33	11 5'7
			Head Coach: Phil Casinelli.		
			Assistants: Larry Carrocci, Gus DiMarzio, Brittany Airwyke.		

INDIAN CREEK REDSKINS

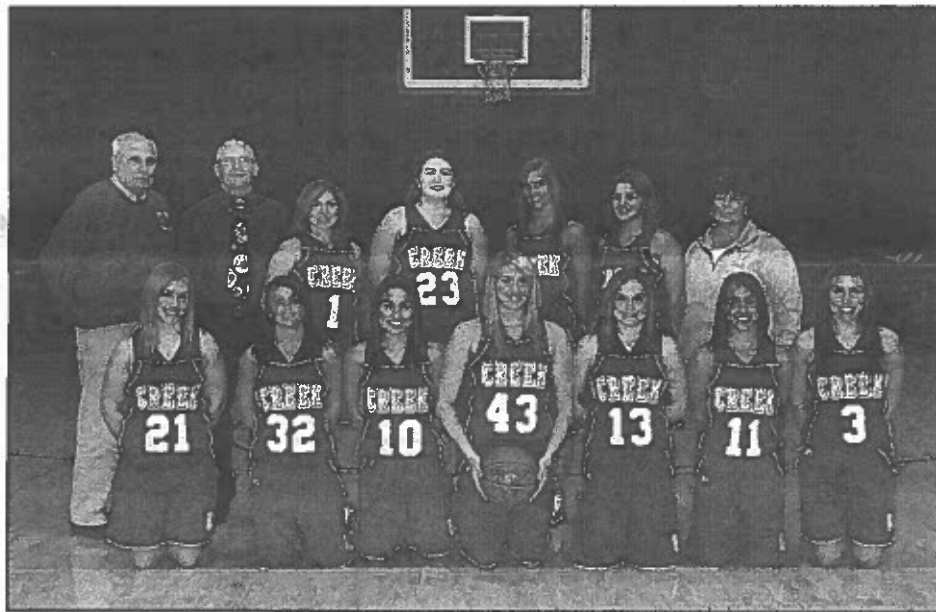


Photo Courtesy/ PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORGE PICTURED IS the 2010 Indian Creek Lady Redskins Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Hannah Ross, Ty Harris, Mikki Davis, Meghan Billick, Allana Sida, Gabbi Davis and Chelsea Furda. Middle row, from left, are assistant coach Gene Evans, assistant coach Ray Case, Brittany Vella, Mariah Giusto, Briana Kamarec, Emily Mathieu and head coach Erin DeSantis.



Photo Courtesy/MIKE MATHISON

INDIAN CREEK'S Miki Davis and the Lady Redskins will meet Steubenville for the first time this season during Saturday's OVAC 4-A title game at 1 p.m.

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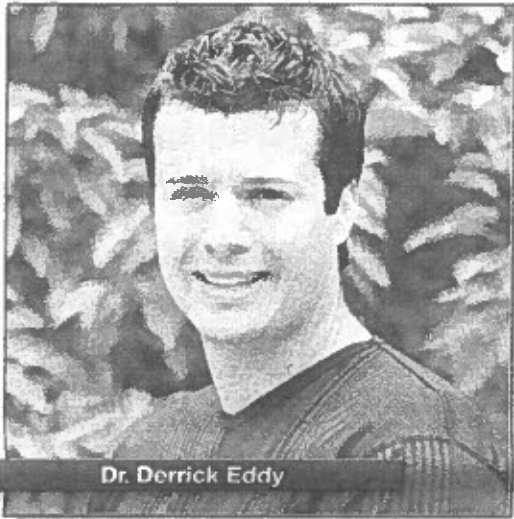
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SPORTS

Buckeye tabs Barsch as grid coach

By RICK DeLUCA
Times Leader Sports Writer

Buckeye Local finally has a new football coach.

After countless interviews and weeks of debating, the Buckeye Local Board of Education hired former Panther football assistant Anthony Barsch to the head coaching position during Monday night's session before a large turnout in the high school library in Connorville.

More than 20 candidates had

'It was certainly worth the wait.'
— Anthony Barsch

applied for the position, so after much debate and a 3-2 vote, Barsch was hired to replace highly-successful Ron Pabolish as the school's fifth football

since the inaugural 1992 season.

Barsch becomes the first head football coach at Buckeye Local who was a graduate of one of the original Buckeye consolidations. He is a 1985 graduate of Buckeye West High School where he was a starter at defensive tackle. Pabolish was a Dillonvale High grad.

After graduating from West, Barsch went on to a very successful grid career at Bethany College. He was a four-year starter at offensive

tackle for the Bison, graduating in 1989.

No longer a player, Barsch graduated from Bethany and received his first coaching opportunity at Berea, Kentucky Community School. Incidentally, that was the same school where former Barnesville High stand-out and Division I coach Larry Marmie got his start.

Coming to Berea, Barsch had to build a program that had dwindled in



ANTHONY BARSCH

See, BARSCH, Page B2

CLASS A
No. 1 Beallsville 61, No. 4 Madonna 37
No. 2 Bridgeport 66, No. 3 Cameron 41
Championship
Saturday, 4 p.m. at OUE
No. 1 Beallsville vs. No. 2 Bridgeport
Consolation
No. 4 Madonna at No. 3 Cameron

CLASS AA
No. 1 Shadyside 43, No. 4 Trail 30
No. 2 Fort Frye 46, No. 3 Monroe 41 OT
Championship
Saturday, 7 p.m. at OUE
No. 1 Shadyside vs. No. 2 Ft. Frye
Consolation
No. 4 Trail at No. 3 Monroe



CLASS AAA
No. 1 St. C. 67, No. 4 Oak Glen 50
No. 2 Edison 81, No. 3 Weir 49 42
Championship
Saturday, 10 a.m. at OUE
No. 1 St. Clairsville vs. No. 2 Edison
Consolation
No. 4 Oak Glen at No. 3 Weir

CLASS AAAA
No. 1 Steubenville 67, No. 4 J.M. 60
No. 2 Indian Creek 67, No. 3 Park 58
Championship
Saturday, 4 p.m. at OUE
No. 1 Steubenville vs. No. 2 Creek
Consolation
No. 4 J.M. at No. 3 Wheeling Park

THE PENNANT CHASE

St. Clairsville headed back to 3-A title game

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

The third time was not a charm for Phil Rujak and his Oak Glen Lady Bears.

After dropping a pair of closely contested regular season encounters against St. Clairsville, the Lady Bears returned to Belmont County seeking redemption in Monday night's Wheeling Hospital OVAC 3-A semifinal matchup.

For two quarters, Rujak's quint battled the hosts on even terms. In fact, behind junior ace Kiley King, Oak Glen took a 31-30 lead to the lockerroom.

But Bruce Stiles' Red Devils roared back, out-pointing the Bears 37-19, the final 16 minutes for a 67-50 victory.

"That's a real good Oak Glen team," praised Stiles afterwards. "We only beat them by four (at home) two weeks ago. We knew they'd come in here and be prepared."

Which was the case early-on Monday. King connected for 17 first half points, firing in a trio of three-point buckets to go with eight-of-eight shooting from the foul line.

St. C., though, turned the tables after halftime. The Lady Devils, playing perhaps their finest eight minutes of the season, poured in 24, third quarter points enroute to mounting a 54-44 upperhand.

Oak Glen was unable to counter, a result of six-of-20 second half shooting, including a one-of-seven showing in the final eight minutes when St. Clairsville pulled away.

"I don't recall us playing a better half of basket-

'I don't recall us playing a better half of basketball all season.'
— Bruce Stiles



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Jamie Matkovich looks to go up for a shot during the first half of Monday's game against Oak Glen. Also pictured for the Lady Devils is Sarah Slenski. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Top-seeded Shadyside gets by Trail in 2-A

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

Shadyside head coach Tina Yates wasn't at all happy or pleased with the way her Lady Tigers opened their postseason Monday evening in front of a large turnout on the home boards.

However, when it gets to be tournament time, the victory is the most cherished prize.

The Lady Tigers took home a hard-earned 43-30 victory over a scrappy Buckeye Trail squad in the Class AA semifinals of the third-annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

"We got a little reality check tonight," Yates said. "Trail had us well-scouted, knew what we were going to do and defensively they did a good job of stopping us."

Despite never seeming to be in any sort of rhythm or flow, the Lady Tigers (17-1) earned the right to play Saturday at Ohio University Eastern in the Class 2-A championship game at 7 p.m. against second-seeded Fort Frye, which ousted two-time defending champion Monroe Central, 46-41, in overtime in the other 2-A semifinal.

'We got a little reality check tonight.'
— Tina Yates

See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2



Beallsville dispatches Madonna in Class 1-A

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

Good basketball teams find ways to fend off opponents' runs.

Top-seeded Beallsville pulled away early and had an answer for every run that Weirton Madonna could put together Monday night in a 61-37 victory in the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A Tournament semifinals in Monroe County.

This will mark the Lady Blue Devils (13-6) third consecutive trip in as many years to the championship



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Beallsville's senior standout Tori Jarrett was honored in pre-game ceremonies for recently scoring her 1,000th career point. She didn't disappoint the huge throng that gathered in the tiny gymnasium as she tallied eight of her game-high 22 points in the first quarter when the hosts snapped a 6-all deadlock with a 9-1 run to end the period.

Jarrett swished a trey from the left wing, then stole the ball and went coast-to-coast for a layup that bumped the margin to 11-6. Rebecca Garlick

CLASS A
 No. 1 Beallsville 61, No. 4 Madonna 37
 No. 2 Bridgeport 66, No. 3 Cameron 41
Championship
 Saturday, 4 p.m. at OUE
 No. 1 Beallsville vs. No. 2 Bridgeport
Consolation
 No. 4 Madonna at No. 3 Cameron

CLASS AA
 No. 1 Shadyside 43, No. 4 Trail 30
 No. 2 Fort Frye 46, No. 3 Monroe 41 OT
Championship
 Saturday, 7 p.m. at OUE
 No. 1 Shadyside vs. No. 2 Ft. Frye
Consolation
 No. 4 Trail at No. 3 Monroe



CLASS AAA
 No. 1 St. C. 67, No. 4 Oak Glen 50
 No. 2 Edison 81, No. 3 Weir 49 42
Championship
 Saturday, 10 a.m. at OUE
 No. 1 St. Clairsville vs. No. 2 Edison
Consolation
 No. 4 Oak Glen at No. 3 Weir

CLASS AAAA
 No. 1 Steubenville 67, No. 4 J.M. 60
 No. 2 Indian Creek 67, No. 3 Park 58
Championship
 Saturday, 4 p.m. at OUE
 No. 1 Steubenville vs. No. 2 Creek
Consolation
 No. 4 J.M. at No. 3 Wheeling Park

THE PENNANT CHASE

St. Clairsville headed back to 3-A title game

By RICH GIBSON
 Times Leader Sports Writer

The third time was not a charm for Phil Rujak and his Oak Glen Lady Bears.

After dropping a pair of closely contested regular season encounters against St. Clairsville, the Lady Bears returned to Belmont County seeking redemption in Monday night's Wheeling Hospital OVAC 3-A semifinal matchup.

For two quarters, Rujak's quint battled the hosts on even terms. In fact, behind junior ace Kiley King, Oak Glen took a 31-30 lead to the lockerroom.

But Bruce Stiles' Red Devils roared back, outpointing the Bears 37-19, the final 16 minutes for a 67-50 victory.

"That's a real good Oak Glen team," praised Stiles afterwards. "We only beat them by four (at home) two weeks ago. We knew they'd come in here and be prepared."

Which was the case early-on Monday. King connected for 17 first half points, firing in a trio of three-point buckets to go with eight-of-eight shooting from the foul line.

St. C., though, turned the tables after halftime. The Lady Devils, playing perhaps their finest eight minutes of the season, poured in 24, third quarter points enroute to mounting a 54-44 upperhand.

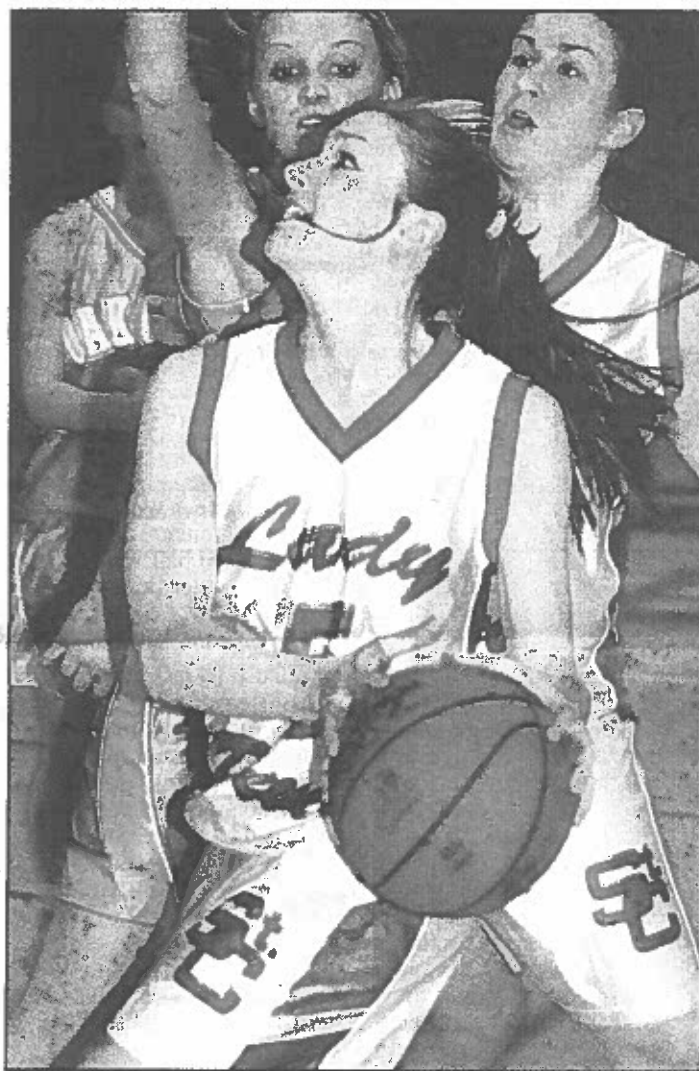
Oak Glen was unable to counter, a result of six-of-20 second half shooting, including a one-of-seven showing in the final eight minutes when St. Clairsville pulled away.

"I don't recall us playing a better half of basket-

'I don't recall us playing a better half of basketball all season.'

- Bruce Stiles

See, ST. C., Page B2



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER
ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Jamie Matkovich looks to go up for a shot during the first half of Monday's game against Oak Glen. Also pictured for the Lady Devils is Sarah Slenski. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

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'We got a little reality check tonight.'

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See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY
SHADYSIDE'S Jessica Tollett makes a move to the bucket during Monday's Class 2-A semifinal in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Tournament.

Beallsville dispatches Madonna in Class 1-A

By KIM NORTH
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This will mark the Lady Blue Devils (13-6) third consecutive trip in as many years to the championship game, where they will meet No. 2 seed Bridgeport, which defeated Cameron in last night's other semi. The Big Blue is 1-1 in previous title tilts, but they are the defending champions.

"We've got one more step," an elated Beallsville head coach Terry Jarrett said. "Let's hope we can get that final



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK
BEALLSVILLE'S Rebecca Garlick battles for a loose ball with Madonna's Stephanie Magnone.

one (win)."

Beallsville's senior standout Tori Jarrett was honored in pre-game ceremonies for recently scoring her 1,000th career point. She didn't disappoint the huge throng that gathered in the tiny gymnasium as she tallied eight of her game-high 22 points in the first quarter when the hosts snapped a 6-all deadlock with a 9-1 run to end the period.

Jarrett swished a trey from the left wing, then stole the ball and went coast-to-coast for a layup that bumped the margin to 11-6. Rebecca Garlick and Laura Lilius each added a bucket.

After building a 23-9 advantage early in the second quarter, Beallsville watched as Weirton Madonna whittled its way back into the contest a little at a time. Jen Nogay's trifecta in the closing seconds of the half made it 25-20, but Jarrett meshed 1-of-3 free

See, BEALLSVILLE, Page B2

Bridgeport punches ticket to 1-A title game

By KIM APPOLLONI
 Times Leader Sports Writer

Lately, Bridgeport head coach Ed Metz hasn't been satisfied with the way his Lady Bulldogs have been performing on the hardwood.

The gregarious mentor thus issued a challenge to his squad before Monday evening's OVAC opening round contest with Cameron at John Havlicek Gymnasium in Lansing.

Metz's point was well taken by his crew as they took apart the Dragons, 66-41. With the win, the

'I challenged (the girls) to take it upon themselves to raise their level of play.'

- Ed Metz

'Dogs improved to 13-6 and will face Beallsville on Saturday for a shot at the OVAC A championship

crown.

"I challenged (the girls) to take it upon themselves to raise their level of play and they proved to me and themselves that they are capable of playing at a high level," claimed Metz. "Rachel (Benda) and Moriah (Agnew) have been doing exactly what we have expected all season, but we needed a few other girls to step up and get involved. Tonight that happened."

Agnew dominated the inside. The 5'10 senior center was a defensive

See, DOGS, Page B2

BRIDGEPORT'S

Rachel Benda goes up for a shot in traffic during Monday's Class 1-A semifinal against Cameron. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

U.S. athletes start arriving

RICHMOND, British Columbia (AP) — Noelle Pikus-Pace gasped as she glanced around the hotel ballroom to see the mountains of boxes piled around and overflowing with red-white-and-blue U.S. Olympic gear.

"This is amazing," the skeleton racer said Monday, when she joined dozens of teammates in suburban Vancouver for team processing by the U.S. Olympic Committee.

"I just can't get the smile off my face," Pikus-Pace said, in between trying on different sweaters. "And I feel like I'm going to have it on for another 22 days."

Though the prospect of sorting through all the free clothes — sneakers and boots with red laces, T-shirts and turtle-necks —

provided by Ralph Lauren and Nike wasn't the incentive Pikus-Pace used to come back from a shattered leg that prevented her from competing at the 2006 Turin Games, this was a pleasant reward.

"It's been a long time. To get to this point is pretty incredible, and it's a little surreal still," she said, showing off the red and blue streaks she had colored into her blond hair.

"But I think little by little it's starting to kind of set in."

She's not the only one.

From the hulking members of U.S. men's bobsledding team to tiny pairs figure skater Amanda Evora, there's nothing like a free shopping spree to get into the Olympic mood.

Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

"I have no preference who we play," Yates said. "Getting to this point has been one of our goals all season. It's going to be a battle and we've got to come ready to play (Saturday). We feel like we didn't play to our full capabilities last year, and we're anxious to get back."

Before the Lady Tigers could even think about championship Saturday, saying they had their paws full would be an understatement.

"That's one of the first times all season we've not been able to dictate the tempo and you can see what (the game) looks like when that happens," Yates continued. "We've got to be better in all phases."

The Lady Warriors dictated the pace by mixing defenses, but basically a methodical zone had the Lady Tigers scratching their heads on the offensive end as the inside looks by Jacklyn Johnson, junior Sarah Neavin and sophomore Brooke Meintel weren't coming as easy as usual.

"We had a game plan and thought we played pretty well (defensively), but we just couldn't get anything to fall," said Trail head coach John Ferguson who watched his team dip to 8-10 on the season. "Shadyside forced us into some things and we couldn't get a lot going on offense."

The Lady Tigers held just a 9-7 lead after a period and in the second decided to take their bigs a little further from the bucket. Both Johnson and Neavin drained 15-footers in the period to extend the defense.

Johnson — the Lady Tigers' veteran — scored half of her 16 points in the second period in which the LTs extended their margin to 23-15 at the intermission.

"Jacklyn is becoming a very good sen-

ior role model for us," Yates said. "When the game's on the line, she's wanting the ball in her hands and she's coming up with some big defensive stops."

Shadyside took a 30-20 edge into the final chapter only to see the Lady Warriors make it a seven-point deficit early in the fourth, but talented freshman Hayley Holenka got a steal and bucket and sank a free throw to complete a three-point play, which pushed the margin back to 10 and Trail got no closer from that point on the remainder of the way.

"I thought that possession was the biggest of the game," Ferguson said. "We had the ball, down seven, ready to get on a run, but (Holenka) picked our pocket and made us pay. You can't turn the ball over in big games."

Johnson's scoring was complemented by senior Rebecca Haney, frosh Karlie Bonar and Holenka each of whom had six.

Trail, meanwhile, was paced by Julie Bates' 11. Courtney Frame added 10.

The Lady Warriors held a 32-22 edge on the boards. Neavin had seven caroms to pace Shadyside. Trail was charted for 19 turnovers, which was eight more than the winners.

Shadyside — which has a make-up game slated for Wednesday at John Marshall — was also victorious in the reserve game.

BUCKEYE TRAIL (30) — Warnock 0, 1-2 1; M. Abrams 1, 0-0 3; Wolff 0, 2-3 2; Sichina 0, 0-0 0; Frame 4, 2-3 10; Bates 5, 1-2 11; A. Abrams 1, 0-0 3; Totals: 11, 6-10 30. SHADYSIDE (43) — Haney 2, 2-2 6; Bonar 2, 0-0 6; Johnson 5, 6-9 16; Neavin 2, 0-0 4; Meintel 2, 1-4 5; Holloway 0, 0-2 0; Holenka 1, 4-5 6; Tollett 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 14, 13-24 43.

Three-Point Goals: BT — M. Abrams, A. Abrams, S — Bonar (2).

Dogs

Continued from Page B1

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Benda and company stretched their lead to 40-22 by intermission.

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Benda led all scorers with 25 tallies, 10 rebounds, six assists, two blocks and four swipes. Agnew notched a double-double. She tallied 24 and grabbed a game-high 15 rebounds. Grandstaff ended

St. C.

Continued from Page B1

ball all season," Stiles described. "We took care of the ball, were patient, and played solid defense."

Rujak, meanwhile, watched his team cough up a dozen second half turnovers. "We just were not focused (in the second half). I'm not real sure why," he remarked. "We did a lot of good things to get a lead at halftime, then came back out and didn't execute the way we're capable."

Following a prolific opening half, the talented King was limited to a single field goal in the second half. "Kiley's a special player," Rujak remarked. "She just didn't get as many open looks (after halftime). You have to credit St. Clairsville for much of that."

St. C. received an exceptional night's work from unsung junior Ashley Gordon who delivered a career-high 24 points. "That was a quiet 24. You hardly realize she's out there until you see the scorebook after the game," Rujak observed.

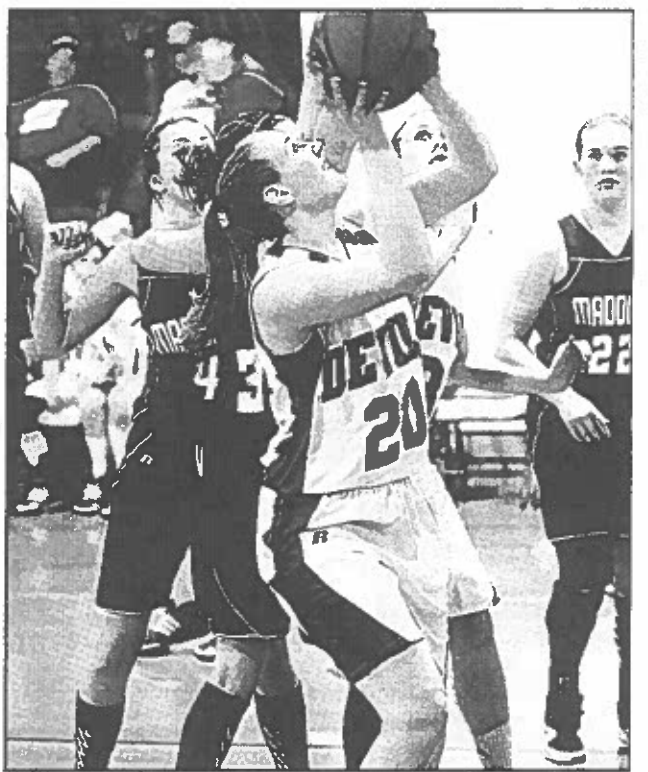
Lady Devils' senior Brooke Cenkus, a virtual non-factor after incurring three first half personals, returned with a vengeance, totaling 15 of her 16 counters following the break. Cenkus also landed 11 rebounds.

Junior Sarah Slenski was also clutch, contributing 13 points and six boards.

Scoring: OAK GLEN (50) — Ayers 0, 0-0 0; Webster 0, 0-0 0; Patterson 0, 0-0 0; Porter 0, 0-0 0; White 0, 1-2 1; Baird 1, 0-0 2; Burch 1, 2-2 4; McElhanev 4, 2-3 10; Eckleberry 4, 2-2 13; King 4, 8-8 20. Totals — 14-41, 15-17. ST. CLAIRSVILLE (67) — Toothman 0, 0-0 0; DeNoble 0, 0-0 0; Smith 0, 0-0 0; Nemeti 0, 0-0 0; Machovina 0, 2-2 2; Perzanowski 1, 0-0 2; Matkovich 2, 0-0 4; Dutton 3, 0-2 6; Slenski 6, 1-1 13; Cenkus 4, 8-10 16; Gordon 8, 8-11 24. Totals — 24-51, 19-26.

Three-point goals: Oak Glen — King (4), Eckleberry (3).

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

BEALLSVILLE'S Alexis Kanzigg goes up for a shot against Weirton Madonna Monday evening.

Beallsville

Continued from Page B1

throws with no time on the clock.

Baskets by Sara Lyons and Michaela Bragg got the fourth-seeded Blue Dons (11-8) to within three, 27-24, early in the third stanza, but the Blue Devils reeled off 12 of the next 14 points as the lead ballooned to a dozen, 38-26.

Weirton Madonna would never get closer than 10 the rest of the way.

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"Then, when we fell behind we had to take some chances on defense and they capitalized a couple of times," he added. "We played well in spurts, but there is no moral victory here ... a loss is a loss and it hurts, but I saw some good things that we can build upon. That's the good thing about basketball, you can't dwell on a loss because there's another game a day or so."

While Jarrett was knocking down a trio of trifectas and stepping to the foul line with regularity, senior front-liner Alexis Kanzigg charted a double-double with 14 points and a like number of rebounds. Lilius added seven points off the bench, while Garlick and Julie Bilyeu evenly split a dozen.

"Kanzigg was huge tonight," Coach Jarrett said. "She's a banger inside and she did a great job tonight. But we've got to continue getting the balance from the other girls. Tonight was a total team effort and when everyone contributes, we're going to be hard to beat."

Bragg and Lyons each scored eight points for Madonna. Stephanie Magnone had half-a-dozen off the bench.

Beallsville led 54-38 off the glass behind Kanzigg. Jarrett added nine rebounds, six steals and half-a-dozen assists.

"She had her usual all-around game, but it was a big night for her," Coach Jarrett said of his daughter, Tori. "She can play better."

Weirton Madonna won the JV game, 40-36.

Beallsville and Bridgeport will meet Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center at 4 p.m. for the single-A championship.

Scoring: WEIRTON MADONNA (37) — Anile 2 0-0 4; Bragg 3 2-3 8; Brancazio 1 0-0 2; Lyons 3 2-2 8; Nogay 1 2-4 5; Conner 1 1-2 4; Mazur 0 0-0 0; Yazbek 0 0-0 0; Gilson 0 0-0 0; Davis 0 0-0 0; Magnone 2 2-2 6; Totals: 13-59 37. BEALLSVILLE (61) — Jarrett 6 7-13 22; Campbell 1 0-0 2; Kanzigg 6 2-2 14; Bilyeu 3 0-0 6; Garlick 3 0-0 6; Tavoletti 0 0-0 0; Headley 0 0-0 0; Stephen 0 0-0 0; Lilius 3 1-2 7; Kinney 0 0-0 0; Secrest 0 0-0 0; Totals: 24-55 10-19.

Three-Point Goals: Weirton Madonna 2 (Nogay, Conner); Beallsville 3 (Jarrett 3).

Barsch

Continued from Page B1

the previous years to the point that Barsch coached in his first year with just 16 players.

"I had to practically go knock on doors those first few years just to get players out," Barsch said looking back. "It was a major rebuilding project."

Barsch coached for nine years in Berea. His last two teams qualified for the Kentucky state playoffs.

Upon leaving Berea, Barsch returned to the Ohio Valley where he worked with the OSU Extension office as an extension agent. From 1998 to 2000, he served as a agent in 4-H Youth Development.

Barsch joined the coaching staff and the Buckeye Local teaching staff in 2001. He taught his first year at the Buckeye North Middle School before moving to the high school where he currently teaches. Barsch has been a mainstay on the grid staff at Buckeye Local under coaches Groves and Pabolish, being a part of three playoff teams.

"I'm really happy that this process is finally over and I can get started with putting things together here," the new coach said. "The first thing I will be doing is meeting with the players and assembling my

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GRAND OPENING
DISCOVERY

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the contest with five rebounds, six assists and a pair of steals.

Wood was the lone Dragon in twin digits. She scored 14 tallies, grabbed seven boards, blocked two shots and had three steals.

The 'Dogs enjoyed a 29-of-56 night from the field. Cameron was 15-of-65. The hosts had eight turnovers compared to 14 for the invaders. Bridgeport held a 41-24 edge on the glass.

"We are excited to be playing in the championship game," stated Metz. Cameron did manage to capture the reserve tilt, 41-16.

Box Score:
BRIDGEPORT (66) - Grall 1, 0-0 3; Vavrock 3, 1-2 7; Grandstaff 0, 1-2 1; R. Benda 11, 3-7 25; K. Benda 1, 0-0 2; Strauss 1, 0-0 2; Agnew 11, 2-6 24; Lipperman 1, 0-0 2; Totals 29, 7-17. **CAMERON (41)** - Fisher 3, 0-1 8; Siburt 1, 1-2 3; Wade 2, 0-0 5; Hughes 2, 1-2 5; Wood 6, 2-2 14; Allen 0, 0-2 0; Richmond 1, 0-0 2; Marsh 0, 0-2 0; Trowbridge 2, 0-0 4; Totals - 15, 4-11. Three-point goals: Bridgeport (1) - Grall 1; Cameron (3) - Fisher 2; Wade 1.

● Beallsville

Continued from Page B1

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Scoring:
WEIRTON MADONNA (37) - Anile 2 0-0 4; Bragg 3 2-3 8; Brancazio 1 0-0 2; Lyons 3 2-2 8; Nogay 1 2-4 5; Conner 1 1-2 4; Mazur 0 0-0 0; Yazbek 0 0-0 0; Gilson 0 0-0 0; Davis 0 0-0 0; Magnone 2 2-2 6; Totals: 13-59 9-15. **BEALLSVILLE (61)** - Jarrett 6 7-13 22; Campbell 1 0-0 2; Kanzigg 6 2-2 14; Bilyeu 3 0-0 6; Garlick 3 0-0 6; Tavoletti 0 0-0 0; Headley 0 0-0 0; Stephen 0 0-0 0; Lilius 3 1-2 7; Kinney 0 0-0 0; Secret 0 0-0 0; Totals: 24-55 10-19. Three-Point Goals: Weirton Madonna 2 (Nogay, Conner); Beallsville 3 (Jarrett 3).

● Barsch

Continued from Page B1

the previous years to the point that Barsch coached in his first year with just 16 players.

"I had to practically go knock on doors those first few years just to get players out," Barsch said looking back. "It was a major rebuilding project."

Barsch coached for nine years in Berea. His last two teams qualified for the Kentucky state playoffs.

Upon leaving Berea, Barsch returned to the Ohio Valley where he worked with the OSU Extension office as an extension agent. From 1998 to 2000, he served as an agent in 4-H Youth Development.

"(Former Buckeye Local coach) Mike Groves gave me my first break in coaching when he ask me to join his staff here at Buckeye," Barsch pointed out. "I'm really appreciative of Mike for giving me my first opportunity to coach here."

Barsch joined the coaching staff and the Buckeye Local teaching staff in 2001. He taught his first year at the Buckeye North Middle School before moving to the high school where he currently teaches. Barsch has been a mainstay on the grid staff at Buckeye Local under coaches Groves and Pabolish, being a part of three playoff teams.

"I'm really happy that this process is finally over and I can get started with putting things together here," the new coach said. "The first thing I will be doing is meeting with the players and assembling my staff."

"I will start getting the boys together, get them started in the weight room and start laying out plans for next season."

Barsch mentioned that he plans to retain some of the Panther staff from a year ago and bring in a couple new faces to the coaching staff.

"It was certainly worth the wait," he added. "And it was great having the support of the superintendent and the staff. We have some really great kids here with some really great parents."

"I'm looking forward to keeping our program going in the right direction," he said. "I'm ready to move forward. It's early February and it's time get some plans in action. We will be fine."

Barsch lives in Mt. Pleasant with his wife Lisa and three sons, AJ, Logan and Mathew.

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Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Tournament

A Fitting Finale



Photo by Mike Mathison

John Marshall's Alexis Montes (40) moves with the basketball as Steubenville's Hannah Meyer defends.

West Nets Career-High

Big Red senior goes for 40 in eliminating JM

By STEPHANIE ELVERD
For The Intelligencer

STEUBENVILLE — Maybe Steubenville's AunDrea West wanted to save her career-high for a game that mattered a little more. If that was the case, then Monday's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference semifinal at the Crimson Center was just the setting she had been waiting for. The Steubenville senior standout, who has been pacing Big Red all season, took things a step further Monday by scoring 40 of Big Red's 67 total points in a 67-60 Class AAAA victory against John Marshall.

"AunDrea scoring 40 points was huge," Steubenville coach Phil Casinelli said. "She just had a great night, a career night, but I thought the key stat was the rebounds. We went after the ball and AunDrea attacked it. She had a lot of offensive rebounds on her way to her 40 points. She played the best game I've ever seen her play."

Top-seeded Steubenville pulled down 44 boards to No. 4 John Marshall's 20.

Please See WEST, Page 18



Photo by Mike Mathison

Wheeling Park's Emily Puskarich (40) drives to the hoop as Indian Creek's Ty Harris (32) closes in. Trailing the play is the Patriots' Julianne Forzano (10).

Creek seniors top Park in home-court swansong

By ASHLEY NEWMAN
For The Intelligencer

WINTERSVILLE — For the final time in what can only be described as illustrious high-school careers, the seven seniors on the Indian Creek girls basketball team took the floor at the Redskins' gymnasium.

Not only did the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AAAA semifinal game against Wheeling Park have sentimental significance for the hosts, but a victory would also move the Redskins one step closer to their goal of an OVAC championship.

In what was a nip-and-tuck battle between two of the valley's best, Indian Creek came up with some big defensive plays down the stretch and converted those opportunities into points during a 67-58 victory Monday at Indian Creek High School.

Indian Creek coach Erin DeSantis

would like her upperclassmen to savor this victory.

"It was nice to have these seniors leave this floor on that kind of note," she said. "That is something that they are going to remember."

The victory moved Indian Creek to 15-4 on the season and the seniors — Ty Harris, Gabbi Davis, Mikki Davis, Meghan Billick, Chelsea Furda, Hannah Ross and Allana Side — are a combined 52-9 during the past three seasons.

"They've had several goals and this tournament is certainly one of them," DeSantis explained. "Along the way the last several years, we've expected almost perfection out of them, because of what they have done in the past. There was always kind of a feeling that, if they didn't succeed, they were letting everybody down."

"They have to realize that they are

doing it for themselves. I appreciate the crowd here (Monday) and that was great. But, the bottom line is that they deserve the credit because they have worked hard to get where they are."

With the score tied 52-52 and just 3:36 to play, the team leaders for the Redskins certainly showed the accolades were well deserved. After Billick converted on 1 of 2 free throws to give Indian Creek a one-point advantage, Ty Harris broke free in transition after a Patriots turnover for a 55-52 lead with just 2 minutes to play.

Another Wheeling Park turnover turned into another transition basket as Bri Kamarec finished at the basket to give the hosts a 57-52 lead with 1:44 to play.

Please See FINALE, Page 15

Tigers Find Way to Win

Buckeye Trail gave top seed all it could handle

By SETH STASKEY
For The Intelligencer

SHADYSIDE — Shadyside coach Tina Yates wasn't at all happy or pleased with the way her Tigers opened their postseason Monday evening in front of a large turnout on the home boards.

However, when it gets to be tournament time, the victory is the most cherished prize.

The Tigers took home a hard-earned, 43-30 victory against a scrappy Buckeye Trail squad in the Class AA semifinals of the third annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls Basketball Championship.

"We got a little reality check," Yates said. "Trail had us well-scouted, knew what we were going to do and defensively they did a good job of stopping us."

Despite never seeming to be in any sort of rhythm or flow, the Tigers (17-1) earned the right to play Saturday at Ohio University Eastern in the Class AA championship game at 7

p.m. against No. 2 Fort Frye, which ousted two-time defending champion Monroe Central, 46-41, in overtime.

"I have no preference who we play," Yates said. "Getting to this point has been one of our goals all season. It's going to be a battle and we've got to come ready to play (Saturday). We feel like we didn't play to our full capabilities last year, and we're anxious to get back."

Before the Tigers could even think about championship Saturday, saying they had their paws full would be an understatement.

Please See TIGERS, Page 14



Shadyside's Rebecca Haney drives into the frontcourt against a Buckeye Trail's Alexa Abrams during Monday's Class AA semifinal game at Shadyside High School.

Photo by Seth Staskey

ON THE LINE

Today's Results:
Q. Was Drew Brees the right choice as Super Bowl Most Valuable Player?

Yes: 81%
No: 19%

Tomorrow's Poll:
Q. Will the New Orleans Saints repeat as Super Bowl champs?

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.)

West

(Continued from Page 13)

For Stan Blankenship's Monarchs, who came into the game averaging 40 rebounds per game, it was a situation as foreign as it was frustrating.

"John Marshall is a great basketball team and when you can rebound a John Marshall team, it's a good night," Casinelli said. "I can't say enough about Stan. He's a one of the winningest coaches in girls' basketball and it's an accomplishment to beat any team he's coaching."

"Beating a team like John Marshall is a big step for our program. We've been moving in a positive direction the last few seasons and this was another big move forward."

It also means a move forward in OVAC play. Big Red plays Indian Creek, a 67-58 winner against Wheeling Park in Monday's other semifinal, for the Class AAAA championship Saturday at OUE.

"Our girls really wanted to play for an OVAC championship and now they get that chance," said Casinelli, whose team dropped a heartbreaker to the Redskins in last year's OVAC tournament. "They really wanted this one and we're looking forward to Saturday."

Big Red started to stake claim to an OVAC finals appearance in the second quarter of Monday's game. After both teams scored 18 in the opening quarter, Big Red outdid the Monarchs, 19-9, in the second to lead, 37-27, at the half.

West, who scored 12

points in the first, dropped in six more, and Jocelyn Pugh added a pair of 3-pointers in the momentum-changing quarter.

John Marshall won the third quarter, 14-12, and the final quarter, 19-18, but could no closer than six points to Big Red in the second half.

Casinelli said it was a defeat to another West Virginia big school — Big Red lost a 65-54 decision at Wheeling Park on Jan. 27 — that kept his team ahead in Monday's semifinal.

"I think that loss to Wheeling Park helped us. We had the lead in that game too, but we couldn't keep it. In that game, we played staggered on offense," he said. "(Monday) we kept reminding the girls to look for good shots and we played much more poised than we did against Wheeling Park."

Kiley Howard led the Monarchs efforts with 19 points, including three 3-pointers and a 2 of 2 performance at the line in the fourth quarter.

West outdid Howard's late-game production by posting all of Big Red's fourth-quarter points.

"AunDrea played great, but I thought everyone contributed. Teryl Pendergrast played great at the post. Our post defense was another big key," Casinelli said. "Everybody stepped up in one or another. This was a team effort and a team win."

Pugh and John Marshall's Alexis Montes each scored 10 points.

Finale

(Continued from Page 13)

The 5-0 spurt forced Wheeling Park coach Meredith Anderson to use a timeout.

"I think that a lot of credit goes to Indian Creek," she said. "They were very well-prepared for us both defensively and offensively. They forced us into some turnovers and we just didn't take care of the lead when we had it down the stretch."

Coming out of the timeout, a Wheeling Park miss was followed by a Patriots foul. Indian Creek's Gabbi Davis made good at the free-throw line, stretching the lead to 59-52. Davis made a return trip to the line moments later after another Wheeling Park turnover and a foul. Davis was true once again and, suddenly, the Redskins' lead was nine with 1:29 to play.

"I could see the fire back in their eyes," DeSantis said. "Off and on during the season, I wasn't always sure that it was there. This is a good group of girls and they find a way to win. Basically, what has happened to us is that good teams find a way to win. We found that way this evening."

"We could have folded several times and there were moments where we didn't take really good care of the ball. It cost us many times and we came out in the third quarter and fell behind by five or six."

"So, I think that the girls dug deep and played with a lot of heart. I wouldn't trade them for the world."

Wheeling Park had the lead back down to five when two free throws by Liz Scammell was followed by a steal and layup by Austyn Creighton, but the Redskins proved golden at the free throw line in the final minute.

Kamarec and Harris scored four straight at the line and, as the final buzzer sounded, the Redskins had earned a spot in the OVAC final.

"We were 16-for-18 (in the fourth quarter)," DeSantis said. "That really helped. I knew that they were going to foul us, because that was the only way for them to get the ball back. Those free throws are crucial and that will make or break a game sometimes. If you don't make those, it is a whole different game."

Added Anderson: "We just didn't take care of the ball like we should have. Then, when we had to foul, they convert all of their free throws. That was really the story of the last two minutes of the ballgame. We didn't get some offensive rebounds when we needed to get some second looks and then they go and knock down their shots."

"So, all of the credit to Indian Creek. We always address losses as a learning experience. We have to work on what we have to do when we have a lead and what to do when we are down. This game will just help us prepare even more for tournament time here in a few weeks."

Tigers

(Continued from Page 13)

"That's one of the first times all season we've not been able to dictate the tempo and you can see what (the game) looks like when that happens," Yates said. "We've got to be better in all phases."

The Warriors (8-10) dictated the pace by mixing defenses, but basically a methodical zone had the Tigers scratching their heads on the offensive end. The inside looks by Jackson Johnson, junior Sarah Neavin and sophomore Brooke Meintel weren't coming as easy as usual.

"We had a game plan and thought we played pretty well (defensively), but we just couldn't get anything to fall," Buckeye Trail coach John Ferguson said. "Shadyside forced us to do some things and we couldn't get a lot going on offense."

The Tigers held a 9-7 lead after a quarter, and in the second decided to take their bigs a little further from the bucket. Both Johnson and Neavin lined 15-footers in the period to extend the offense.

Johnson scored half of her 16 points in the second period in which the Tigers extended their margin to 23-15 at the intermission.

"Jacklyn is becoming a very good senior role model for us," Yates said. "When the game's on the line, she's wanting the ball in her hands and she's coming up with some big defensive stops."

Shadyside took a 30-20 edge into the final quarter only to see the Warriors make it a seven-point deficit early in the fourth, but talented freshman Hayley Holenka got a steal and bucket and sank a free throw to complete a three-point play, which pushed the margin back to 10 and Trail got no closer from that point on the remainder of the way.

"I thought that possession was the biggest key of the game," Ferguson said. "We had the ball, down seven, ready to get on a run, but (Holenka) picked our pocket and made us pay. You can't turn the ball over in big games."

Buckeye Trail was paced by Julie Bates' 11. Courtney Frame added 10.

OVAC 2-A Champions



Photo: PAUL KRAJNYAK

THE SHADYSIDE Tigers claimed their fifth OVAC title in six years Saturday evening at the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championship. They are pictured here with their trophy following their 64-43 victory against Shenandoah.



Photo by Mike Mathison

Edison's Carissa Myler (15) puts up a shot against St. Clairsville in the OVAC Class AAA Championship Game Saturday.

Edison Holds Off St. C. Comeback

Early tipoff no problem for Kovalsky's team

By RICH GIBSON
For The News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Too little, too late. That was the fate of Bruce Stiles and his St. Clairsville Red Devils in Saturday morning's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class AAA Girls' Championship Game.

The Red Devils (16-4) made a dramatic comeback from a 16-point, first-half deficit. But an equally game Edison (16-4) group successfully withstood St. C.'s second-half barrage to pull out a 50-46 victory at Ohio University-Eastern's athletic complex.

Stiles looked on in agony as his team struggled mightily out of the gate. St. Clairsville found itself down 16-5 after one quarter and later trailed 21-5 before a timeout would prove effective.

"No question, we were rattled early. Maybe it was nerves," Stiles said. "We seemed to settle down and finally go into an offensive flow."

See, Edison, Page B2

Beallsville Wins Class A Title

Blue Devils top Bulldogs by one, claim 6th OVAC crown

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Saying Saturday afternoon's Class A Final in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Championship wasn't a work of art is still a bit kind.

The Beallsville Blue Devils didn't come to Ohio University Eastern on Saturday afternoon looking to gain style points or impress anyone.

For the second straight season, the Blue Devils make the trip back Monroe County with the OVAC title in their possession after holding off a valiant comeback effort from rival Bridgeport to post a 32-31 victory and win the school's sixth conference title.

See, Beallsville, Page B3



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

BEALLSVILLE'S Alexis Kanzigg goes up for a shot against Weirton Madonna Monday evening.

● Beallsville

Continued from Page B1

throws with no time on the clock.

Baskets by Sara Lyons and Michaela Bragg got the fourth-seeded Blue Dons (11-8) to within three, 27-24, early in the third stanza, but the Blue Devils reeled off 12 of the next 14 points as the lead ballooned to a dozen, 38-26.

Weirton Madonna would never get closer than 10 the rest of the way.

"They had an answer every time we made a run at them," Weirton Madonna head coach Don Ogden said. "We were able to press them some in the second quarter, but they made some good adjustments to that at the half."

"Then, when we fell behind we had to take some chances on defense and they capitalized a couple of times," he added. "We played well in spurts, but there is no moral victory here ... a loss is a loss and it hurts, but I saw some good things that we can build upon. That's the good thing about basketball, you can't dwell on a loss because there's another game a day or so."

While Jarrett was knocking down a trio of trifectas and stepping to the foul line with regularity, senior front-liner Alexis Kanzigg charted a double-double with 14 points and a like number of rebounds. Lilius added seven points off the bench, while Garlick and Julie Bilyeu evenly split a dozen.

"Kanzigg was huge tonight," Coach Jarrett said. "She's a banger inside and she did a great job tonight. But we've got to continue getting the balance from the other girls. Tonight was a total team effort and when everyone contributes, we're going to be hard to beat."

Bragg and Lyons each scored eight points for Madonna. Stephanie Magnone had half-a-dozen off the bench.

Beallsville led 54-38 off the glass behind Kanzigg. Jarrett added nine rebounds, six steals and half-a-dozen assists.

"She had her usual all-around game, but it was a big night for her," Coach Jarrett said of his daughter, Tori. "She can play better."

Weirton Madonna won the JV game, 40-36.

Beallsville and Bridgeport will meet Saturday at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center at 4 p.m. for the single-A championship.

Scoring:
WEIRTON MADONNA (37) — Anile 2 0-0 4; Bragg 3 2-3 8; Brancazio 1 0-0 2; Lyons 3 2-2 8; Nogay 1 2-4 5; Conner 1 1-2 4; Mazur 0 0-0 0; Yazbek 0 0-0 0; Gilson 0 0-0 0; Davis 0 0-0 0; Magnone 2 2-2 6; Totals: 13-59 9-15. BEALLSVILLE (61) — Jarrett 6 7-13 22; Campbell 1 0-0 2; Kanzigg 6 2-2 14; Bilyeu 3 0-0 6; Garlick 3 0-0 6; Tavoletti 0 0-0 0; Headley 0 0-0 0; Stephen 0 0-0 0; Lilius 3 1-2 7; Kinney 0 0-0 0; Secrest 0 0-0 0; Totals: 24-55 10-19.

Three-Point Goals: Weirton Madonna 2 (Nogay, Conner); Beallsville 3 (Jarrett 3).

Niko Otto, who finished with 10 tallies.

Stephens praised Sorge for his focus despite having a lot on his mind the last couple of days. Prior to the Bellaire game, the three-year Maroon Knights starter learned his grandfather had suffered a heart attack that resulted in a five-way bypass surgery.

"It's definitely been tough on Jordan but to his credit he came out and played well both nights. When that kid's on a roll, we are a different team," Stephens said.

OVAC Tournament Consolations
Linsly 69

Monroe Central 67
SKYVUE — Ben Weimer scored 17 points and Kane Boroski had 12 as Linsly outscored Monroe Central 17-11 in the fourth quarter en route to the victory.

Craig Kuhar added 11 points for the Cadets (9-8), while Emil Popicg had 11 points and nine assists. Akil Blount grabbed nine rebounds.

Shane Highman powered his way to 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Seminoles. Jimmy Baker nailed five 3-pointers on his way to 15 points, while Guiler Bettinger scored 13 points.

River 54
Buckeye Local 45
HANNIBAL — Tucker Brown scored agame-high 20 points as River downed Buckeye Local.

Dylan Potts added 16 points for the Pilots (7-12). Zach Bonds scored 17 points for the Panthers (6-11).

Weirton Madonna 62
Cameron 48
WEIRTON — Clay Rokisky scored 16 points as Weirton Madonna pulled away from Cameron.

Cole Cottrell paced the Dragons with nine points.
Brooke 70, Edison 44
WELLSBURG — Justin Sabo scored a game-high 25 points as Brooke won its first game of the season and kept Edison winless.

Shane Paesano added 18 points for the Bruins (1-16). Don Controguerra paced the Wildcats with 16 points, while Mark Smyth had 13 points.

Union Local 62
Beallsville 55
MORRISTOWN — A strong first quarter keyed Union Local's victory against Beallsville.

The Jets outscored the Blue Devils 23-13 during the opening quarter. Myron Jellison paced the Jets (8-11) with 24 points, while Darby Waller had 16 points.

Sam Jackson scored 17

points for the Blue Devils (8-11).

Steubenville 51
East Liverpool 48
STEUBENVILLE — Anthony Pierro's 3-pointer with 2.4 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter game Steubenville the victory against East Liverpool.

It was Pierro's only basket of the game.

DeMichael Johnson topped Big Red (8-9) with 14 points, while Dwight Macon had 12.

Andrew English paced the Potters (7-10), with Jason Dickey scoring 11 points.

Paden City 54
Toronto 51

PADEN CITY — Malakai Anderson had a solid night with 24 points, nine assists, five rebounds, two steals, and two blocked shots as Paden City downed Toronto.

Josh Bennett knocked down four 3-pointers for 12 points for Coach Fred King's Wildcats (4-13).

Joe Shimmel (14) and Nolan Wilson (13) led the Red Knights (6-11).

Valley 66, Hundred 55
HUNDRED — Valley clinched third place in Class A with a victory against Hundred.

Alex Henderson led all scorers with 19 points for the Lumberjacks, followed by Matthew Poling (17) and Ronald Morris (14).

Emery Smith paced the Hornets (9-7) with 17 points. Dalton Kuhn chipped in with 13 and Logan McDiffitt added 12.

Regular Season
Tyler Consolidated 41
Ritchie County 40

KIDWELL — Dustin Snider paced Tyler Consolidated with nine points as the Silver Knights edged Ritchie County by one point.

Buckeye Trail 69
Caldwell 40
OLD WASHINGTON — Bob Beros' 15 points paced Buckeye Trail in a battle against Caldwell.

Ethan Watson had 11 points for the Warriors (9-10) while George Strasser and Cody Nelson each had 10.

Dalton Warner netted 15 for the Redskins (2-16), followed by Jensen Croucher with 10.

Girls
OVAC Tournament Consolation

Class A
Paden City 45
Toronto 25

PADEN CITY — Alli Bertozzi scored 14 points and grabbed six boards as Paden City topped Toronto.

The Wildcats (2-15) outscored the Red Knights 30-8 during the middle two quarters.

happy and proud that we achieved that, but to be honest, we're not playing like a top seed of late, and we must play better if we're going to make it through this tournament because the three other teams are quality teams."

Two-time defending champion Indian Creek comes into the tournament with a 13-4 record and will host first-time qualifier Wheeling Park. Coach Meredith Anderson's Lady Patriots are currently 11-4 on the season and own a late-season win against Steubenville.

Indian Creek and Park didn't meet during the regular season.

IN CLASS 3-A, the St. Clairsville Lady Red Devils — who lost in last year's OVAC title game in overtime — raced out of the gate to 13-1 record and put a stranglehold on the top seed. They didn't relinquish it despite stubbing their toe late in the season at Indian Creek and Edison.

Coach Bruce Stiles' club is 15-3 on the season and will meet fourth-seeded Oak Glen for the third time. The Lady Red Devils prevailed twice against Coach Phil Rujak's Lady Bears by scores 48-36 in New Manchester and 58-54 last Saturday in Belmont County.

"Our girls have played well throughout the year," Stiles said. "However, seeds and regular season play don't mean a lot unless you win the next two games. We set this as a goal and now we've got to work to complete the goal."

In the other half of the 3-A bracket, 2009 4-A runnerup Edison is the second seed. The Lady Wildcats finished the regular season with a 13-5 record. Their reward is a home game against Weir, which owns an 11-5 mark.

Edison and Weir didn't meet prior to the cut-off date.

IN CLASS 2-A, the red-hot Lady Tigers of Shadyside (16-1) earned the top seed for the second consecutive season. However, Shadyside was knocked off in the title game a season ago by Monroe Central, which is back in the field seeking its third consecutive title.

"Having the top seed is nice, but we know we've got

to play well if we want to achieve the goal we set in the fall," said Shadyside head coach Tina Yates. "We realize what happened last year, and we've worked hard to get to this point to be able to back in the tournament, but on any given night anything can happen, so we've got to come ready to play. Seeds don't matter to us."

The Lady Tigers' reward is a date with Buckeye Trail, which qualified in the top four despite a sub .500 mark of 7-9.

In the other semifinal, it'll be the third meeting for second-seeded Fort Frye and the aforementioned Lady Seminoles. The Cadets own a 12-5 record, including a pair of wins against Monroe Central. Fort Frye was a 51-47 victor in December and a 46-26 winner some nine days ago in Graysville.

IN CLASS 1-A, Beallsville (11-6) earned the top seed and will seek its third consecutive appearance in the title game when it hosts fourth-seeded Weirton Madonna (9-7), which edged out St. John Central for the final spot in the title bracket.

"One of the goals we established in the fall was to be able to get into this tournament and hopefully be able to go back to OUE and defend our title," Jarrett said.

The Lady Blue Devils knocked off top-seeded Bishop Donahue in last season's championship game and lost to the aforementioned Lady Irish in the inaugural event.

"We've had moments this season where we've played well and moments where we haven't played as well," Jarrett said. "We seem to be playing well of late, so we hope we're able to continue that."

In the other semifinal, Bridgeport (11-5) will host Cameron (9-6). The teams are scheduled to meet for the second time this evening. Bridgeport won the first meeting by a 74-66 count in a game when senior standout Rachel Benda scored her season-high of 33 points.

TOURNAMENT NOTES

■ DURING THE semifinals and consolation rounds, jayvee games shall be contested. However, only a varsity game will be played during the finals at OUE.

■ FOR THE consolation game in the respective classes, it will be played at the higher seeds' home court if the top two or bottom two seeds both prevail. However, if, for example, a top seed and a third seed lose, the third seed will be at home on Thursday, and it would be the same format if the second seed and the fourth seed were to lose. The OVAC adjusted this format for this season.

■ THE FINALS of the OVAC Boosters Girls Free Throw Championship will also be contested during Saturday's finals.

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Edison Jumps Out to Fast Start

RICHMOND — Edison exploded to a 27-9 lead after the first quarter and cruised to an 81-49 victory against Weir in a Class AAA semifinal contest Monday night of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Tournament at Edison High School.

The Wildcats (14-5) will face top-seeded St. Clairsville for the championship Saturday.

The Red Riders trailed 47-23 at halftime.

Kayla Prokopakis powered the Edison attack with 30 points and 16 rebounds, while Carissa Myler recorded 20 points and 12 boards.

Edison overwhelmed Weir in the paint, outrebounding the Red Riders 46-19.

Kristin Prokopakis added 16 points for the Wildcats.

Shaquana Gray paced Weir (13-6) with 15 points.

Class AAA Semifinal
St. Clairsville 67
Oak Glen 50

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — St. Clairsville outscored Oak Glen 37-19 in the second half and went to defeat the Golden Bears in the third meeting of the season between the teams.

Ashley Gordon scored a career-high 24 points for the Red Devils (16-3).

Brooke Cenkus added 16 points and 11 rebounds for St. Clairsville, while Sarah Slenski scored 13



Photo by Mike Mathison

Edison's Kayla Prokopakis (33) prepares to throw a pass between Weir's Nikki Robinson (12) and Kassi Robinson (33) during Monday's OVAC semifinal.

points. Kiley King scored 17 of her team-high 20 points for the Golden Bears in the first half. Padyn Eckleberry added 13 points, while Emily McElhane had 10 points.

Class AA Semifinal
Fort Frye 46
Monroe Central 41, OT

BEVERLY — Diedra Combs scored 12 points and No. 2 seed Fort Frye held off No. 3 seed Monroe Central in overtime.

The Cadets will face No. 1 seed Shadyside for the title Saturday.

Lacey Huck added 11 points for Fort Frye (14-5). Alex Kuhn paced the

Seminoles (11-7), who led 16-14 at halftime, with a game-high 21 points. Whitney Marshall added 11 points.

Class A Semifinal
Beallsville 61
Weirton Madonna 37

BEALLSVILLE — Tori Jarrett had 22 points, nine rebounds, six assists and six steals as Beallsville rolled into the Class A championship game against Bridgeport with a big victory against Weirton Madonna.

Alexis Kanzigg added 14 points and 14 boards for the Blue Devils (13-6), the defending tournament champions.

Michaela Bragg topped the Blue Dons (11-8) with eight points and seven rebounds. Sara Lyons also had eight points.

Class A Semifinal
Bridgeport 66
Cameron 41

BRIDGEPORT — Rachel Benda had 25 points, 10 rebounds, six assists, two blocks and four steals to lead Bridgeport into the Class A championship game with a victory against Cameron.

Benda's teammate — Moriah Agnew — was right behind with 24 points and 15 rebounds.

Shelby Wood topped the Dragons with 14 points.

Consolation Games
Class AA
Wheeling Central 34
River 26

HANNIBAL — Wheeling Central outscored River 27-11 in the second half en route to the victory.

Cassie Sorge topped the Maroon Knights with 11 points.

Autumn Biesel topped the Pilots with nine points.

Regular Season
Cambridge 55
Coshocton 37

COSHOCTON — Molly Ritz scored 16 points, grabbed eight boards and made six steals as Cambridge remained perfect in ECOL play with a big victory against Coshocton.

Brandy Simpson added 10 points for the Bobcats (16-2 overall, 10-0 ECOL).

Autumn Bowman led the Redskins (4-13, 0-10) with 15 points, while Katy Johnson scored 12 points.

BOYS
Weirton Madonna 55
St. Marys 52

WEIRTON — Weirton Madonna outscored St. Marys 28-17 in the second and third quarters and erased an early 10-point deficit in edging the Blue Devils.

Clay Rokisky paced the Blue Dons with 18 points, while Connor Arlia had 14 points.

K.D. Arnett topped St. Marys with 16 points, with Dylan Brizendine adding 11 points.

● Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

"I have no preference who we play," Yates said. "Getting to this point has been one of our goals all season. It's going to be a battle and we've got to come ready to play (Saturday). We feel like we didn't play to our full capabilities last year, and we're anxious to get back."

Before the Lady Tigers could even think about championship Saturday, saying they had their paws full would be an understatement.

"That's one of the first times all season we've not been able to dictate the tempo and you can see what (the game) looks like when that happens," Yates continued. "We've got to be better in all phases."

The Lady Warriors dictated the pace by mixing defenses, but basically a methodical zone had the Lady Tigers scratching their heads on the offensive end as the inside looks by Jacklyn Johnson, junior Sarah Neavin and sophomore Brooke Meintel weren't coming as easy as usual.

"We had a game plan and thought we played pretty well (defensively), but we just couldn't get anything to fall," said Trail head coach John Ferguson who watched his team dip to 8-10 on the season. "Shadyside forced us into some things and we couldn't get a lot going on offense."

The Lady Tigers held just a 9-7 lead after a period and in the second decided to take their bigs a little further from the bucket. Both Johnson and Neavin drained 15-footers in the period to extend the defense.

Johnson — the Lady Tigers' veteran — scored half of her 16 points in the second period in which the LTs extended their margin to 23-15 at the intermission.

"Jacklyn is becoming a very good sen-

ior role model for us," Yates said. "When the game's on the line, she's wanting the ball in her hands and she's coming up with some big defensive stops."

Shadyside took a 30-20 edge into the final chapter only to see the Lady Warriors make it a seven-point deficit early in the fourth, but talented freshman Hayley Holenka got a steal and bucket and sank a free throw to complete a three-point play, which pushed the margin back to 10 and Trail got no closer from that point on the remainder of the way.

"I thought that possession was the biggest of the game," Ferguson said. "We had the ball, down seven, ready to get on a run, but (Holenka) picked our pocket and made us pay. You can't turn the ball over in big games."

Johnson's scoring was complemented by senior Rebecca Haney, frosh Karlie Bonar and Holenka each of whom had six.

Trail, meanwhile, was paced by Julie Bates' 11. Courtney Frame added 10.

The Lady Warriors held a 32-22 edge on the boards. Neavin had seven caroms to pace Shadyside. Trail was charted for 19 turnovers, which was eight more than the winners.

Shadyside — which has a make-up game slated for Wednesday at John Marshall — was also victorious in the reserve game.

BUCKEYE TRAIL (30) — Warnock 0, 1-2 1; M. Abrams 1, 0-0 3; Wolff 0, 2-3 2; Sichina 0, 0-0 0; Frame 4, 2-3 10; Bates 5, 1-2 11; A. Abrams 1, 0-0 3; Totals: 11, 6-10 30. SHADYSIDE (43) — Haney 2, 2-2 6; Bonar 2, 0-0 6; Johnson 5, 6-9 16; Neavin 2, 0-0 4; Meintel 2, 1-4 5; Holloway 0, 0-2 0; Holenka 1, 4-5 6; Tollett 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 14, 13-24 43.

Three-Point Goals: BT — M. Abrams, A. Abrams. S — Bonar (2).

opening man, the talented King was limited to a single field goal in the second half. "Kiley's a special player," Rujak remarked. "She just didn't get as many open looks (after halftime). You have to credit St. Clairsville for much of that."

St. C. received an exceptional night's work from unsung junior Ashley Gordon who delivered a career-high 24 points. "That was a quiet 24. You hardly realize she's out there until you see the scorebook after the game," Rujak observed.

Lady Devils' senior Brooke Cenkus, a virtual non-factor after incurring three first half personals, returned with a vengeance, totaling 15 of her 16 counters following the break. Cenkus also landed 11 rebounds.

Junior Sarah Slenski was also clutch, contributing 13 points and six boards.

Scoring:

OAK GLEN (50) — Ayers 0, 0-0 0; Webster 0, 0-0 0; Patterson 0, 0-0 0; Porter 0, 0-0 0; White 0, 1-2 1; Baird 1, 0-0 2; Burch 1, 2-2 4; McElhaney 4, 2-3 10; Eckleberry 4, 2-2 13; King 4, 8-8 20. Totals — 14-41, 15-17. ST. CLAIRSVILLE (67) — Toothman 0, 0-0 0; DeNoble 0, 0-0 0; Smith 0, 0-0 0; Nemeti 0, 0-0 0; Machovina 0, 2-2 2; Perzanowski 1, 0-0 2; Matkovich 2, 0-0 4; Dutton 3, 0-2 6; Slenski 6, 1-1 13; Cenkus 4, 8-10 16; Gordon 8, 8-11 24. Totals — 24-51, 19-26.

Three-point goals: Oak Glen — King (4), Eckleberry (3).

Gibson may be reached at rgibson@timesleaderonline.com

● Dogs

Continued from Page B1

force inside. She shut down the middle forcing Cameron to launch jumpers from deep. The shots just didn't find the range.

Metz elaborated, "I'm proud of the way Moriah responded. She has been sick and wasn't even able to go through our walk-around today. Tonight she sucked it up and played the best game of her career. She was very good at both

ends of the floor." Agnew had plenty of help as Benda was her typical dominating self. The flashy guard took the ball where she wanted and either scored, found an open player for an easy bucket, or drew the foul.

"You can't allow a player the caliber of Rachel Benda to take the ball to the lane as easy as she did," added Cameron's Mark

Witzberger. "She made everyone around her better."

The Lady Dogs jumped out to a 18-11 edge after one frame and never looked back. Benda scored 10 of her game high 25 in the frame. Agnew chipped in with six. Talented junior Shelby Wood kept the Marshall County contingent in the game with six points and three rebounds.

Benda and company stretched their lead to 40-22 by intermission.

"They went to a junk defense to start the second quarter and Janae (Vavrock) nailed two jumpers that spoiled that plan," smiled Metz. "Once she hit those jumpers, they had to stretch their defense and Rachel (Benda) was free to carve them up."

Benda led all scorers with 25 tallies, 10 rebounds, six assists, two blocks and four swipes. Agnew notched a double-double. She tallied 24 and grabbed a game-high 15 rebounds. Grandstaff ended

the contest with five rebounds, six assists and a pair of steals.

Wood was the lone Dragon in twin digits. She scored 14 tallies, grabbed seven boards, blocked two shots and had three steals.

The 'Dogs enjoyed a 29-of-56 night from the field. Cameron was 15-of-65. The hosts had eight turnovers compared to 14 for the invaders. Bridgeport held a 41-24 edge on the glass.

"We are excited to be playing in the championship game," stated Metz.

Cameron did manage to capture the reserve tilt, 41-16.

Box Score:

BRIDGEPORT (66) — Grall 1, 0-0 3; Vavrock 3, 1-2 7; Grandstaff 0, 1-2 1; R. Benda 11, 3-7 25; K. Benda 1, 0-0 2; Strauss 1, 0-0 2; Agnew 11, 2-6 24; Lipperman 1, 0-0 2; Totals 29, 7-17. CAMERON (41) — Fisher 3, 0-1 8; Siburt 1, 1-2 3; Wade 2, 0-0 5; Hughes 2, 1-2 5; Wood 6, 2-2 14; Allen 0, 0-2 0; Richmond 1, 0-0 2; Marsh 0, 0-2 0; Trowbridge 2, 0-0 4; Totals — 15, 4-11.

Three-point goals: Bridgeport (1) — Grall 1; Cameron (3) — Fisher 2; Wade 1.

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WHEELING HOSPITAL OVAC BOYS' BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Bulldogs Crush Bishops

Bridgeport avenges a 2009 finals defeat

By NICK BEDWAY
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Although Bridgeport defeated Bishop Donahue twice during the regular season, the Bulldogs still felt they had a score to settle entering Saturday afternoon's Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Conference Class A championship boys' basketball game on the Ohio University Eastern campus.

And settle it they did.

Racing out to an 18-4 lead in the opening quarter which saw Bridgeport (15-3) connect on eight of its first 11 shots. Coach Don Cash's Bulldogs never looked back on their way to a 60-39 victory.

The runaway triumph avenged last season's loss to the Bishops in the Class A finals and gave Bridgeport its second OVAC tournament crown in three years.

"Yes, there was a little bit of a revenge factor," Cash said. "I probably mentioned this game every day in practice. I felt we let one slip through our hands last year and we did not want to leave any doubt."

From the time Timmy Tracey drained a triple to open the scoring, Bridgeport appeared to be in complete control. Tre Lindsay then drove to the hoop for a deuce, followed by a Garrett Price runner that gave the Bulldogs a 7-0 advantage, forcing Bishop Donahue to use its first timeout just 3:03 into the game.

Justin Otte slipped into the lane and cashed a leaner to get the Bishops on the scoreboard, only to see the hot-shooting Bulldogs rack up the next nine points before Ian Schau ended this Donahue dry spell.

Price, Bridgeport's sparkling point guard whose dribble penetration and creativity gave the 2009 conference champions fits throughout the day, then wished a runner to push the advantage out to 14 points as the first quarter ended.

"My only worry was about getting off to a good start," Cash said. "We had only played one game in 16 days and practiced just a few times. When Tracey hit that opening 3, it took the pressure off us. From there, we executed our game plan very well."

Price led all scorers with 22 points, 14 coming in the first half. However, it was his ability to blow by the defense that drew praise from both Cash and Tom Wise, Bishop Donahue's bench strategist.

"Price makes everybody around him better," Cash said. "He's more of a slasher than a shooter. As the year has gone on he is finding more (open) people. When we can clear a lane for him with our screens, he is going get inside and score or feed someone else."

Wise pointed out that one of three things usually happens when Price is able to take the ball into the lane and all of them are bad for Bridgeport opponents. "When he gets one step on you, he can pull up for the shot, continue to the hole or drop it off to Maleski for a layup."

See, *Bulldogs*, Page B3

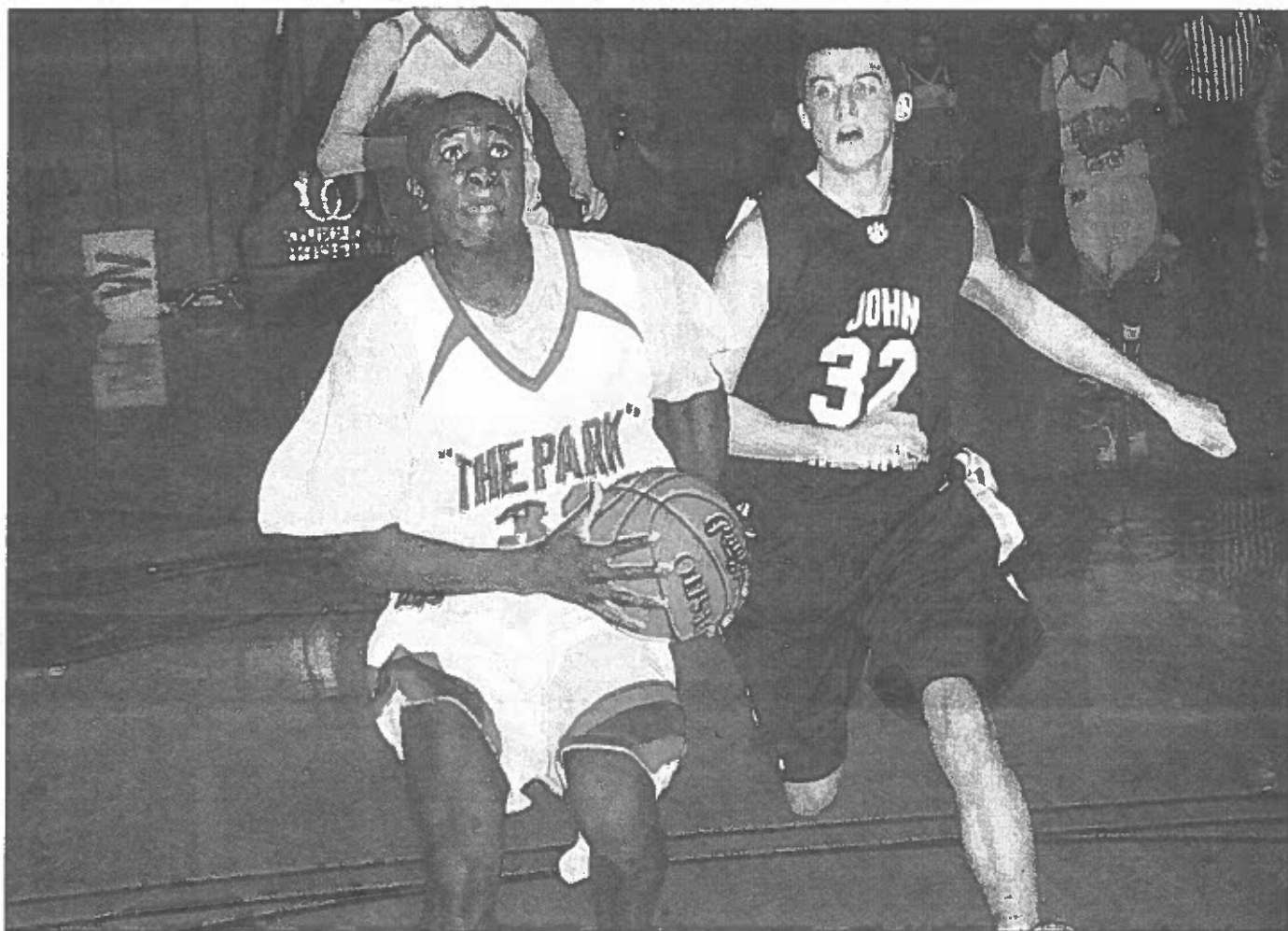


Photo by Shawn Rine
Wheeling Park's Marqez O'Neal goes in for a dunk as John Marshall's Luke Lavenski (32) trails during Saturday's game at OU Eastern. View additional photos at cu.news-register.net

Patriots Cruise

Shorthanded Park has little trouble with JM

By SHAWN RINE
Sports Editor

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — They say it is best to let a sleeping dog lie. Unfortunately for the John Marshall boys' basketball team, Logan did it no favors last weekend with a last-second victory against Wheeling Park.

In the two games since that defeat, including Saturday's Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class AAAA Final at Ohio University Eastern, the Patriots have been especially devastating, winning by an average of 40.5 points.

CLASS AAAA

Bubby Goodwin scored a game-high 21 points as Wheeling Park (15-2), despite missing three starters, held John Marshall (11-8) to 24-percent shooting on the way to capturing the school's first back-to-back titles by way of a 64-33 dismantling.

"We're down three starters, but these guys have logged so many minutes all year because we've tried to build a solid 10 guys," Wheeling Park coach Michael Jebbia said. "We didn't get here in 2008, and that kind of left a bad taste in our mouth."

"We set a goal to get here last year and this is our sixth OVAC title. But no

team has ever won back-to-back."

With Shaun Black out with a concussion and Richard Hall and Michael Griffin sitting because of a team rules violation, Wheeling Park simply plugged in the next athletic players off its bench. In this case that's Errin Baynes (five points, five rebounds, four assists), Vondel Bell (nine points, three steals and solid defense), Kevin Kuca (12 points, six boards) and Boo Lathon (four points, eight rebounds).

"You don't have to be a genius to see that they have a very athletic team, and we are kind of a slow, plodding team," John Marshall coach Bill Storm said. "Wheeling Park is by far the class off the OVAC this year in any division."

See, *Patriots*, Page B3

Weir Hands Magnolia Second Loss

Burns hits for 15 for Red Riders

By JOSH STROPE
Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — For all the regular-season battles and regional showdowns between Weir and Magnolia throughout the years, the two never battled for an OVAC Class AAA championship.

That changed this year when the Red Riders moved down from Class AAAA, writing a whole new chapter to one of the best rivalries in the Ohio Valley.

And just like all the other games, this one didn't disappoint.

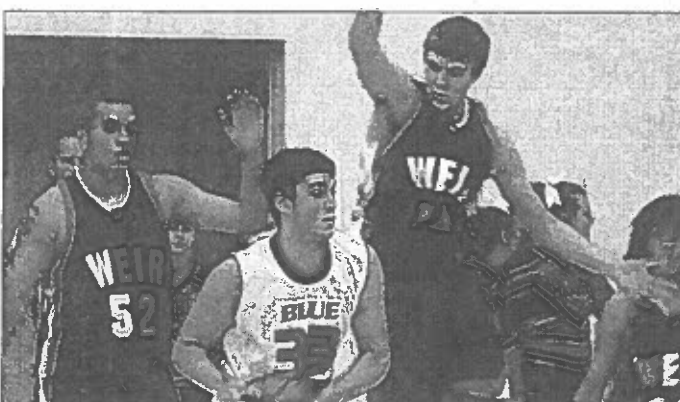


Photo by Josh Strobe
Magnolia's Jared Blatt (33) is defended by Weir's Anthony Cato (52) and Justin Horstman on Saturday.

Weir received 15 points from senior standout Shawn Burns and teammate L.J. Campbell had a solid morning underneath the basket with 14 points and nine rebounds as

CLASS AAA

the Red Riders defeated the Blue Eagles, 48-43, in the opening contest of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Tournament Championships on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

"What you had was two excellent basketball teams playing," Weir coach Mike Granato said. "The beautiful thing about this game is the competition aspect of it. You have two teams that respect each other, two coaches that respect each other. (Magnolia coach) Dave (Tallman) and I had talked during the week

See, *Weir*, Page B5

ON THE LINE

Today's Results:

Q. Is Tiger Woods' personal life really none of our business?

Yes: 82%

No: 18%

Tomorrow's Poll:

Q. Was the acquisition of Antawn Jamison good for the Cavaliers?

Tell us what you think.

Register your answer at www.news-register.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

and we were both just hoping that with the weather that we would be able to play.

"I want to thank (OVAC Executive Secretary) Tom (Rataiczak) and his committee for having this for us. It's a great way to settle the championship. The OVAC did a tremendous job with an extremely difficult week."

Like most teams in the valley, Weir and Magnolia didn't see much of the gym during the past few weeks because of the wintry weather.

For Magnolia (13-2), that gym must have been freezing because the Blue Eagles were ice cold.

Magnolia shot 12 percent from 3-point land, going 3 of 26.

"I thought we played extremely hard and we left it on the floor," Tallman said. "We went 3 for 26 behind the arc and you are not going to win any basketball games doing that."

"We are going to have to play ourselves back into shape. We have a great basketball team here. We hope to play Weir again and we are going to look forward to it."

Magnolia took a one-point lead into the second quarter, only to score seven more points before half-time. The Blue Eagles went 3 of 12, while Weir (14-3) went 7-for-14, keyed by two 3-pointers and eight points from Burns.

The Blue Eagles weren't going to go down without a fight and started the third quarter with the first eight points en route to an 11-4 run that tied the score at 31-31 on a Jared Blatt basket.

After Campbell put the Red Riders back on top on the ensuing possession, Burns stole the ball at mid-court and drove for an easy layup and then later hit a driving layup for the 37-31 lead.

"I came out and let the game come to me," Burns said. "I didn't try to force things and took what they gave me. I just tried to use my quickness to my advantage."

With the Magnolia shooting woes, Tallman went to his four-year stalwart Blatt to try and bring the Blue Eagles back. The battle between Blatt and Campbell was one of the highlights of the game.

"(Campbell's) big under there and he's strong," Blatt said. "It's a battle trying to get a rebound against him."

Added Granato: "They are two all-state players. They battle one another hard, they battle one another clean. Each one has a different strength to their game. Jared has been there for four years and has been excellent against us all four years so it was nice to see L.J. play that well. It shows how much L.J.'s progressed as a player."

"Justin and Shawn, having been there before, I think that our tournament experience really showed in our veterans. They took a deep breath because they knew we had been there before."

Mike Granato

With 2:38 remaining in the contest, Blatt rebounded a Matt Sapp miss and scored on the putback, plus the free throw after being fouled to bring Magnolia within two points at 41-39.

Blatt led the Blue Eagles with a game-high 19 points. Justin Horstman banked a shot high off the glass on the next Weir possession to stretch the lead to four points.

After a Magnolia turnover, Tallman elected to foul the Red Riders. The problem was that the Blue Eagles had committed just two infractions up until that point so getting to the bonus took almost 40 seconds off the clock.

It almost turned out to be a good move as Burns missed the front end of a one-and-one, but as Magnolia started the ball up the floor, Burns stole his fourth pass and drove to the basket. He missed the conversion but teammate Freddie Jones was there to put the ball back for the 45-39 lead with a minute to go.

Free throws from Burns and Early Brogdon down the stretch sealed Weir's first OVAC championship since 2006 and seventh overall.

"Our experience really helped us," Granato said. "Justin and Shawn, having been there before, I think that our tournament experience really showed in our veterans. They took a deep breath because they knew we had been there before. It was just time to buckle down, come out and execute and Shawn came up with a big steal."

"We really wanted to get it packed in and get a body on somebody. We played a lot more matchup zone than we did the first time (a 60-58 Blue Eagles victory Jan. 28) with the idea being that if we can be solid from 21 feet in, maybe we could block out a little better."

"The 3-point shot was important to us. The last time we played, we gave up 25 offensive rebounds and that led to 18 second-chance points. Our big thing was regardless of the 3-point shooting, we wanted to contest shooters and to get to the backboard."

River 45, Edison 33
RICHMOND — River kept Edison winless behind 17 points from Dylan Potts. Mark Smyth led the Wildcats with nine points.

Beallsville 69
WEIRTON MADONNA 63
BEALLSVILLE — Gra-

hamm Dauch led Beallsville with 19 points as Beallsville tripped up Weirton Madonna.

Sam Jackson added 11 points and Teryn Jarrett scored 10 for the Blue Devils (9-11).

Clay Rokisky netted 21 points for the Blue Dons (7-10), followed by Connor Arlia (17) and Chris Perna (10).

Steubenville 88
Brooke 70

STEUBENVILLE — DeMichael Johnson went for 25 points and Dwight Macon added 21 as Steubenville downed Brooke.

T.J. DeChristopher added 15 points for Big Red.

Shane Paesano paced the Bruins with 19 points, while Just Sabo added 18, Nick Breen scored 14, and Ryan Heaton netted 10.

Linsly 76
Western Reserve 64
HUDSON, Ohio — Linsly finished its season at 10-8 with a victory against Western Reserve.

Akil Blount led the way with 18 points for the Cadets, while Ben Weimer added 17, Emil Popicg with 13, and Jarrett Smith with 12.

Girls

W.Va. Class A
Sectionals

Cameron 44, Valley 43

CAMERON — Rachel Fisher scored 17 points, but none more crucial than two free throws with .3 seconds left as Cameron downed Valley to set up a Tuesday showdown against Bishop Donahue.

Shelby Wood netted 14 points for the Dragons (10-8).

Morgan Starkey and Britfany Guthrie paced the Lumberjills with 13 points.

Division III Sectional

West Muskingum 72

Martins Ferry 24

CAMBRIDGE — Top-seeded West Muskingum drilled Martins Ferry to end the Purple Riders' season.

Freshman Kylie Stalder led the Purple Riders with eight points.

Monroe Central 90

Bellaire 31

CAMBRIDGE — Laken Zwick paced Monroe Central with 22 points as Monroe Central topped Bellaire.

Alex Kuhn chipped in with 12 points and Whitney Marshall and Chelsie Roberts added 11.

Katie Fry netted 10 points to lead the Big Reds, which went 0-19 in Marci Bonar's first season at her alma mater.

PATRIOTS

Continued from page B1

"They've taken on all comers, and they've pounded all comers."

"Sometimes your best just isn't as good as the other guy's best."

The most-startling stat for the Monarchs — and there were many — was that they had almost as many turnovers (27) as points. Despite that, they found themselves in the game down 31-20 at the half as Logan Martin drilled the final of his three, second-quarter 3-pointers just before the horn.

Remember about waking that dog?

"The second quarter was kind of upsetting for us because we usually don't get careless with the ball like that," Jebbia said after the Patriots were guilty of eight of their 16 miscues. "We would make some nice

drives and then weren't going up strong or throwing it at a guy's feet. They outscored us by four there and hit a few 3s.

"But we came back with a lot of energy in the third quarter."

That's perhaps the understatement of the day.

Wheeling Park opened the third on a 17-2 run and the game was tucked nicely away.

Goodwin added eight steals, five rebounds and three assists as the Patriots grabbed a 43-21 upperhand off the glass.

Jeremy Hays was the lone Monarch in double figures with 11, but he only got off nine shots.

"The kids were really hurting last Saturday after the Logan loss, but no

goals were taken away from us in that game," Jebbia said. "It might have been a good motivator for the stretch here."

"Our goal coming in was to try to get the game going up and down, and to make Hays work a little bit."

"We realize he's a pretty good player and he's going to score a little bit, but we have some guys who can guard him."

Game Notes

The Patriots were called for a technical foul prior to the game for wearing the incorrect uniforms. They were supposed to wear their home whites, but opted for their alternate gray. ... Wheeling Park had four less offensive rebounds than the Monarchs had total.

BULLDOGS

Continued from page B1

Maleski, the Bulldogs' burly pivot who owns more than his share of space around the basket, finished the game with a double-double, which has been his norm this season. He tossed in 10 points and pulled down as many rebounds. Jared Carlier and Lindsay also netted 10 points each, giving the Bulldogs four scorers in double digits.

"It's been a different player leading our scoring almost every night," Cash said. "This is the most unselfish group I've coached at Bridgeport. They all get along, share the ball and don't care who gets the points as long as

we win."

While Bridgeport was torrid from the floor throughout the game, Bishop Donahue never got untracked, hitting only 15 of 58 shots. The Bulldogs connected on 26 of 48 shots.

"At the start of third quarter, we were only down 11 and we had five shots within 5 feet but we could not get the ball in the hole," Wise said.

The Bishops missed their first eight shots of the second half while Bridgeport scored nine straight points to take a 41-21 lead. Maleski laid the ball off the window to open the third

quarter and Lindsay banked in a triple from behind the circle at the top of the key. Carlier and Price followed with field goals before Schau connected on the front end of a two-shot foul for Bridgeport's first point of the quarter at the 2:35 mark. Donahue's first field goal of the second half was a Schau stickback with 1:50 on the clock.

Bridgeport entered the final 8 minutes with a 46-29 lead. The Bulldogs' biggest lead was the 21-point spread at the end of the contest.

Donahue (12-7) played without its most dependable baseline scorer. Senior

Andrew Smith was on crutches and unable to play after turning his ankle during Thursday night's OVAC semifinal victory against Hundred.

"Andrew's absence did hurt us. He attacks very well from the baseline and he's strong enough to go up and put the ball in the basket," Wise said.

Schau, who saw extended playing time off the Donahue bench, led his side in scoring with 10 points.

"I was pleased with the way our kids kept playing hard," Wise said. "We didn't quit. Ian came in and did a really nice job for us inside."

Tigers Still Perfect

By SETH STASKEY
For the News-Register

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — The Shadyside Tigers came into the 2009-10 season knowing they had a chance to be a special group.

The core of seven seniors have grown up together, played together and learned together.

Saturday evening on the floor of Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center, the Tigers once again became OVAC champions together and capped a brilliant and historical perfect regular season by virtue of a 64-43 victory against Shenandoah in the third annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championship.

"This is a very special group," Shadyside coach Ed Andes said, who along with winning his sixth OVAC title at the helm of the Tigers pocketed his 200th career victory. "This group has put in the time and worked for this and they've found a way to win."

The Tigers came to St. Clairsville knowing it would be in for a battle since Shenandoah has come the closest to knocking Shadyside off this season a few weeks ago in Shadyside. The Tigers hung on for a 46-43 victory.

"I think we might have shown our hand a little too much during the last meeting," Shenandoah coach Dan Schweiterman said. "Because we ran into a buzzsaw."

The Tigers are always looking to dictate the tempo, using the 94-foot floor to their advantage, they got the pace to their liking during the second quarter.

However, Shadyside received a lift at the end of the first quarter after the Zeps had tied the game at 11-11 when senior Nick Schuetz buried a beyond NBA range trey just inside the horn to make it 14-11 after one.

OVAC CLASS AA FINAL

"That shot really turned the momentum in (Shadyside's) favor," Schweiterman said.

The Tigers turned the three-point, first-quarter lead into a 13-point lead at the intermission at 30-17.

"We were finally able to get the tempo to our liking," Andes said. "For us to be successful against Shenandoah, we can't play in a half-court game. That's what happened to us in the home game, so we were able to turn the tempo to our favor and the kids got going."

The tempo continued to be with the Tigers in the third quarter.

Senior ace Dylan Kimble continued to play his tenacious man defense on one end and picked up the scoring load as Schuetz and leading-scorer Justin Andes were held primarily in check by the Zeps' triangle-and-two defense.

"We know teams are going to focus on Nick and Justin," Kimble said. "We just have to step it up when that happens. We like getting out and running and we're not worried about who scores."

Kimble and athletic post player Heath Brooks were the beneficiaries in the half-court. Kimble scored 11 points in the third quarter when the Tigers stretched their lead to 47-27 at the final stop.

Brooks, who's been hampered by foul trouble for much of the second half of the season, got going in the fourth, scoring eight of his 17 in the final quarter.

"I love the fact that we can win by 20 (plus) and Justin and Nick don't do all of the scoring," Andes said. "As long as we win, that's all that matters to me and the kids."

Shenandoah was led in the scoring column Dalton Doudna who had 13 points.

OVAC Pairings

WHEELING HOSPITAL OVAC
GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
Championship Semifinals
(Monday)

Class 4-A
1. Steubenville vs. 4. John Marshall
2. Indian Creek vs. 3. Wheeling Park

Class 3-A
1. St. Clairsville vs. 4. Oak Glen
2. Edison vs. 3. Weir

Class 2-A
1. Shadyside vs. 4. Buckeye Trail
2. Fort Frye vs. 3. Monroe Central

Class 1-A
1. Beallsville vs. 4. Weirton Madonna
2. Bridgeport vs. 3. Cameron

Consolation Tournament
Monday

Wheeling Central at River
Toronto at Paden City
Bishop Donahue at Hundred

Frontier at Valley
St. John at Steubenville Central
Shenandoah at Linsly

Harrison Central at Barnesville
Bellare at Brooke
Magnolia at Buckeye Local

East Liverpool at Martins Ferry
Wednesday
Brooke at Union Local

Thursday
Buckeye Local at East Liverpool
Union Local at Magnolia

Valley at Bellare
Martins Ferry at Shenandoah
Linsly at Harrison Central

River at Toronto
Hundred at St. John
Barnesville at Wheeling Central

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SPORTS

C

Sunday, February 21,
2010Shadyside's
Meintel back
in his comfort
zone at WSU

It's gone so quickly and so well that Michael Meintel can hardly believe he's already completed half of his college baseball career.

"It's gone really quickly," Meintel said during a phone interview. "You don't even realize it and now here it is my junior year already. You start playing baseball at such a young age, you never really notice how quickly the years go by."

The 2007 Shadyside High School graduate has been a consistent contributor for the past two seasons for Wright State University's baseball team.

However, after spending the 2009 campaign in the bullpen, Meintel is ready for a new challenge as the collegiate baseball season got under way for many schools this past Friday and Saturday.

Meintel made a decision during the off-season that he wanted to earn a spot in the Raiders' starting rotation after he worked almost strictly from the bullpen last season.

"I called my coach last summer and told him I wanted to have a chance to get back into the starting rotation," Meintel said.

He made 17 appearances out of the pen during the 2009 season and finished with a 2-3 record and a 3.74 earned run average with 29 strikeouts.

"I started some as a freshman, and the feeling is just different when you're a starting pitcher," Meintel explained. "I really missed that feeling."

Raiders' skipper Rob Cooper was a little surprised at the bluntness of Meintel, but respected his desire to reacquire the job he had as a true freshman.

"Coach Cooper told me it would be tough because we didn't really lose any pitching and we had some really good freshmen coming in," Meintel continued. "He said I would have an opportunity to win a spot, but it would be a tough thing to earn."

Meintel — a relentless competitor even dating back to his prep days under Gary Cunningham at Shadyside — didn't even have to think about it.

"I told him I was going to do it and I just worked as hard as I could during the off-season," Meintel said.

It was a phone call that's paid dividends.

Meintel and the Raiders loaded up a charter bus from chilly Fairborn Thursday morning and headed south to begin their season and the former Tiger all-Ohioan is in the rotation, but hasn't learned yet what day he'll make his season debut.

"We're not sure totally what the rotation is going to be," Meintel said. "I'm either going to go on the third or fourth game, but it depends on the team we're playing and how the matchups are. I probably won't find out until later in the week."

The Raiders — who won the Horizon League title last spring and advanced to the NCAA Tournament before being bounced by Texas during the opening weekend — have just one senior listed in their rotation, but Meintel knows that you never take anything for granted.

"When you're playing major college baseball, professional baseball or even high school baseball, you can lose your job after

See, MEINTEL, Page C2



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

MEMBERS OF the Bridgeport boys' basketball team pose with their medals and championship trophy after winning the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's Class A title Saturday afternoon over Bishop Donahue.

BULLDOGS GROWL

• Bridgeport wins Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class A title

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

Former Pittsburgh Pirates' radio and TV announcer Lanny Frattare coined a phrase during the Bucco's hey days "There was no doubt about it."

The same could be said about Saturday afternoon's Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A boys' basketball championship game.

Top-seeded Bridgeport (16-3) jumped out to a 7-0 lead and was never threatened in rolling past Bishop Donahue (12-7) by a 60-39 count inside Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center.

The championship was Donnie Cash's Bulldogs' second in the three-year existence of the event.

"We were just glad to be back in it," Cash said of the championship game. "We thought we let one slip away last year (a 60-52 setback to the Bishops), so there was a little bit of a revenge factor."

"The kids really played well today," Cash continued. "My worst fear was that we hadn't played only one game in 16 days, so I didn't know how we'd come out."

His fears were quickly put to rest.

Senior Timmy Tracey knocked down a trey to get the scoring started and Tre Lindsey scored on a layup. When Garrett Price laid the ball off the glass in transition, the Bulldogs had a 7-0 lead.

"We played great from the start," Cash allowed.

Bridgeport led 18-4 after one period as it shot the lights out of the basketball, going 8-of-11, including 2-of-3 behind the bonus arc.

"Give Bridgeport credit," said Bishop Donahue's Tom Wise. "They came out ready to play. That's why they have won this thing two out of three years."

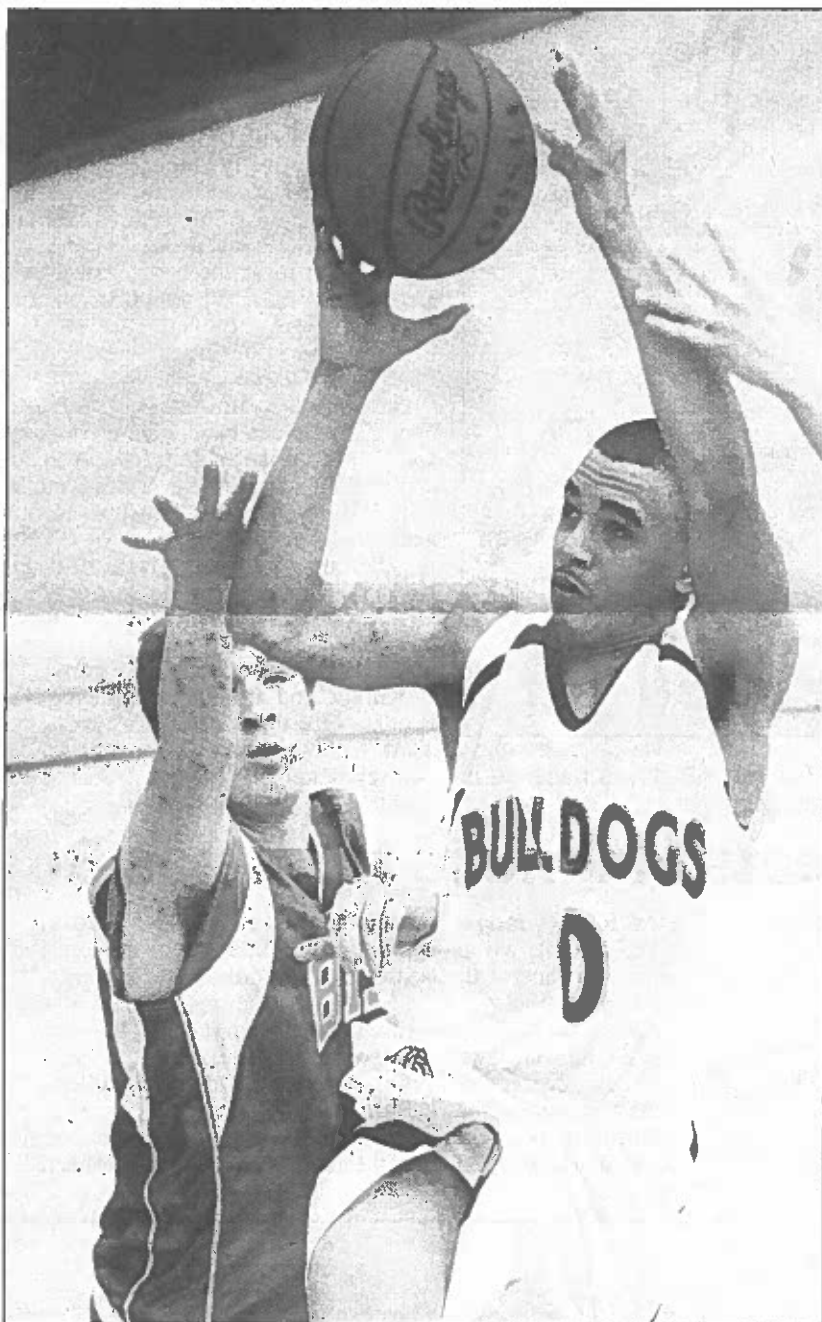
Price scored six of his game-high 22 points in the first frame, and then added eight in the second as the Bulldogs led 32-21 at the half.

"Early on we had trouble getting defensive stops and we shot terribly," Wise continued.

A 14-5 outburst to open the third quarter bumped the margin to 20, 46-26, as Jared Carlier came off the bench to score half of his 10 points.

"We're down 11 at the half and then we proceed to miss our first five shots and all of them were within five feet of the basket," Wise lamented.

See, BULLDOGS, Page C2



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

BRIDGEPORT'S GARRETT Price (0) drives to the basket past a Bishop Donahue defender Saturday afternoon at Ohio University-Eastern.

Shadyside zaps Zeps in 2-A

• Tigers remain unbeaten heading into tourney action

By SETH STASKEY
Times Leader Sports Editor

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See, MEINTEL, Page C2



T-L File Photo

FORMER SHADYSIDE standout Michael Meintel is ready for his junior year at Wright State. He's back in the rotation after spending last season in the bullpen.

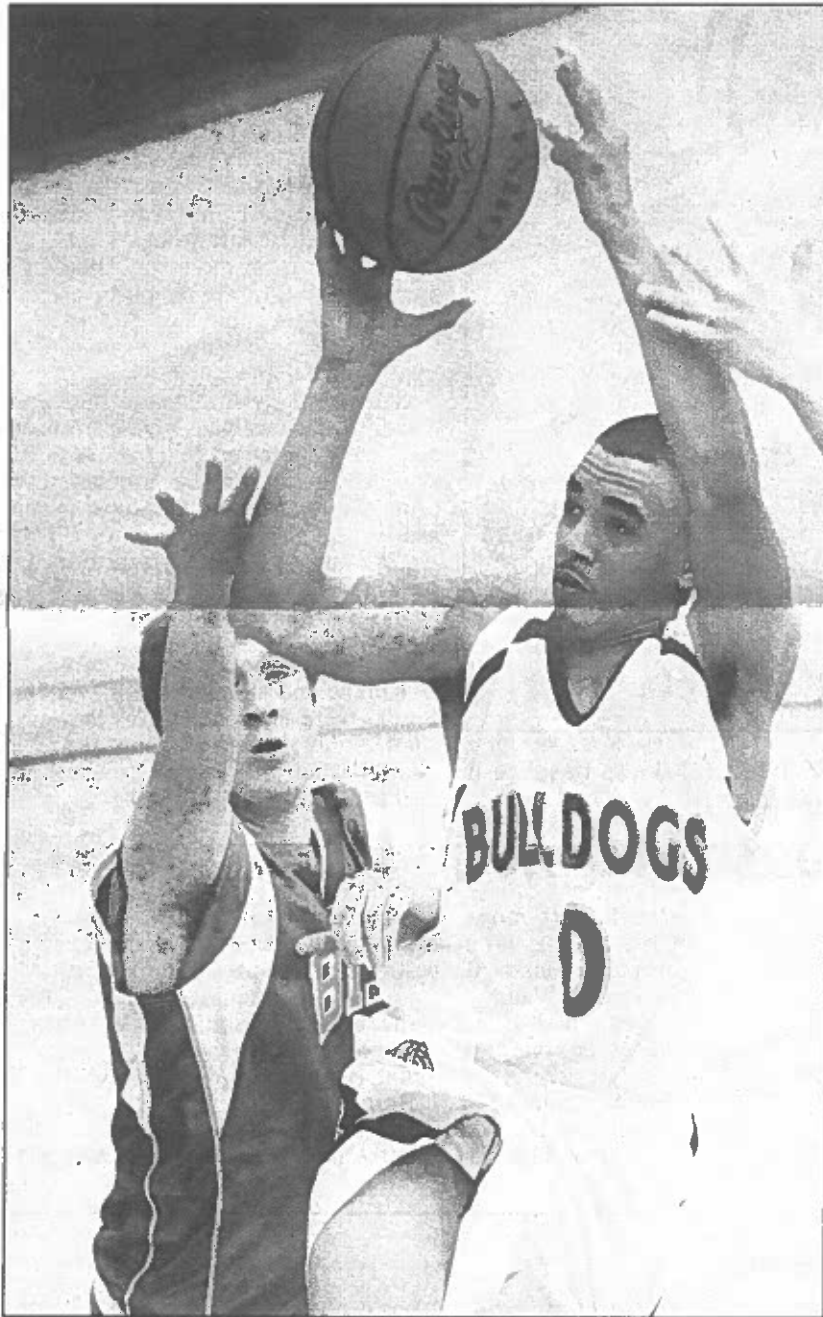


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See, BULLDOGS, Page C2

Shadyside zaps Zeps in 2-A

• Tigers remain unbeaten heading into tourney action

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

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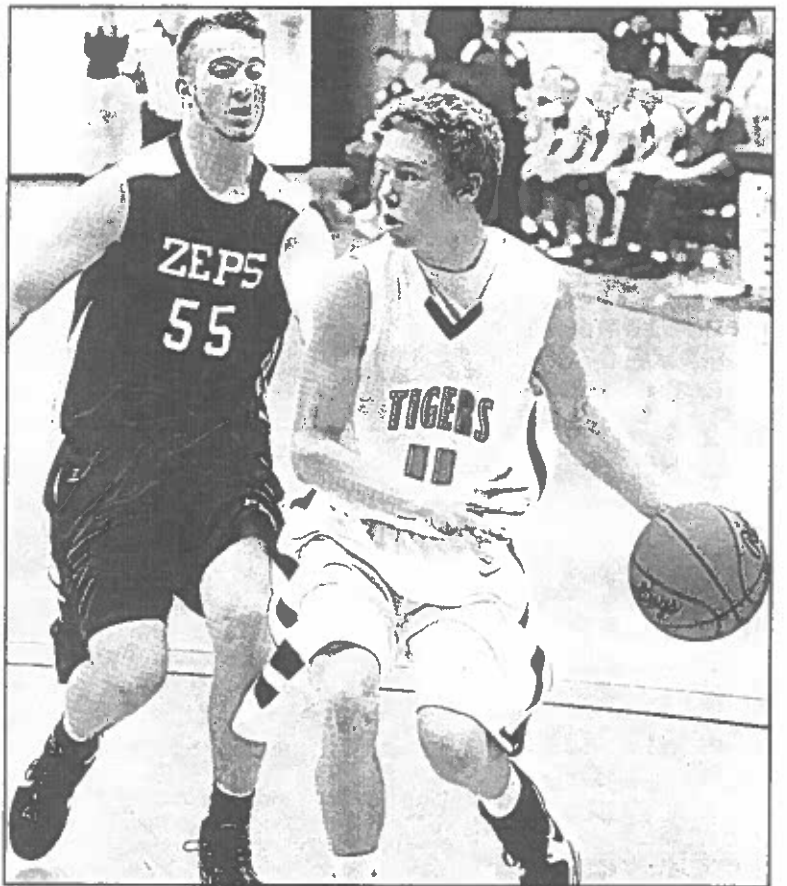
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The Tigers came to St. Clairsville knowing it would be in for a battle since Shenandoah has come the closest to knocking the Orange Crush off this season a few weeks ago in the Tigers' Den when the Tigers hung on for a 46-43 victory.

"I think we might have shown our hand a little too much during the last meeting," said Shenandoah head coach Dan Schweiterman, who's team fell to 13-6 on the season. "Because we ran into a buzzsaw tonight."

The Tigers are always looking to dictate the tempo, using the 94-foot floor to their advantage.

See, SHADYSIDE, Page C2



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

SHADYSIDE'S ELLIS Brown (11) dribbles past Shenandoah's Wes Rataiczak during action from the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Class AA boys' basketball tournament title tilt.

Auto Choice TIRE SPECIALS

P155/80R12	Cordovan Classic	\$41
P155/80R13	Primewell PS 850	\$41
P175/65R14	Kumho 758	\$49
P175/65R14	Triangle TR928	\$52
P175/70R13	Epic Touring	\$47
P185/60R14	Atlas Touring	\$49
P185/60R15	Mastercraft LSR	\$70
P185/65R14	Atlas Touring	\$52
P185/65R14	Diamondback 928	\$51
P185/65R15	Kumho 758	\$56
P185/65R15	Mastercraft Strategy	\$63
P185/70R14	Kumho 758	\$48
P185/70R14	Mastercraft Strategy	\$57
P185/75R14	Primewell 850	\$49
P195/60R15	General Altimax	\$62
P195/60R15	Epic Touring	\$55
P195/60R15	Diamondback 928	\$55
P195/60R15	Lexington ES335	\$56
P195/60R15	Mastercraft Strategy	\$63
P195/65R15	Atlas Touring	\$50
P195/65R15	Continental Contract	\$60
P195/65R15	General Altimax	\$67
P195/65R15	Lexington ES335	\$55
P195/70R14	Lexington ES335	\$55
P195/70R14	Triangle 928	\$57
P195/75R14	Primewell 850	\$57
P205/50R16	Zeon	\$79
P205/55R16	Diamondback 928	\$64
P205/55R16	Goodyear Eagle	\$82
P205/55R16	Mastercraft LSR	\$88
P205/60R16	Diamondback 918	\$63
P205/60R16	Goodyear Eagle LS	\$93
P205/65R15	Atlas Touring	\$55
P205/65R15	Lexington ES335	\$58
P205/65R15	Ron Radial 600	\$49
P205/65R15	Mastercraft Strategy	\$64
P205/70R15	Lexington ES335	\$58
P205/70R15	Mastercraft Strategy	\$69
P205/70R15	General Altimax	\$65
P205/75R14	Primewell PS850	\$59
P205/75R15	Mastercraft AWT	\$85
P205/75R15	Primewell PS850	\$59
P215/50R17	Mastercraft LSR	\$115
P215/55R16	Mastercraft LSR	\$97
P215/60R15	Diamondback 918	\$63
P215/60R15	Lexington ES335	\$62
P215/60R16	Fuzion HRI	\$69
P215/60R16	Mastercraft Strategy	\$75
P215/65R15	Kumho 716	\$59
P215/65R16	Atlas Touring	\$58
P215/65R16	Mastercraft Strategy	\$76
P215/70R15	General Altimax	\$73
P215/70R15	Diamondback 928	\$66
P215/70R15	Goodyear Integrity	\$69
P215/70R15	Lexington ES335	\$62
P215/70R15	Mastercraft Strategy	\$71
P215/70R16	General GS60	\$79
P215/70R16	Mastercraft HRT	\$93
P215/75R15	Diamondback 258	\$59
P215/75R15	Mastercraft AWT	\$85
P215/85R16	Mastercraft AWT	\$97
P225/50R16	Triangle 918	\$73
P225/50R16	Zeon	\$90
P225/50R17	Kumho KH25	\$99
P225/50R17	Mastercraft LSR	\$124
P225/55R16	Red Hawk	\$69
P225/55R17	Kumho KH16	\$99
P225/55R17	Mastercraft LSR	\$109
P225/60R16	Diamondback 918	\$66
P225/60R16	Goodyear Eagle RSA	\$79
P225/60R16	Lexington ES335	\$66
P225/60R16	Mastercraft LSR	\$90
P225/60R16	Mastercraft Strategy	\$79
P225/60R17	Uniroyal Tiger Paw	\$98
P225/60R17	Mastercraft LSR	\$110
P225/75R15	Primewell	\$67
P225/75R16	Goodyear Wrangler ST	\$83
P235/55R17	General Altimax	\$113
P235/55R17	Mastercraft LSR	\$117
P235/60R16	Mastercraft LSR	\$97
P235/60R17	Mastercraft LSR	\$99
P235/65R16	Mastercraft LSR	\$96
P235/65R17	Triangle 258	\$86
P235/70R15	Mastercraft HTR	\$95
P235/70R16	Goodyear Integrity	\$95
P235/70R16	Kumho Solus	\$85
P235/70R16	Mastercraft AT2	\$97
P235/70R16	Mastercraft AWT	\$99
P235/70R16	Mastercraft HTR	\$105
P235/75R15	Atlas Desperado	\$83
P235/75R15	Goodyear Wrangler	\$84
P235/75R15	Mastercraft HTR	\$91
P235/75R15	Triangle TR246	\$65
P235/75R15	Medalist All Terrain	\$79
P235/75R16	Mastercraft HTR	\$101
P245/65R17	Mastercraft AT2	\$119
P245/65R17	Mastercraft HTR	\$125
P245/65R17	Bridgestone Dueller HT	\$122
P245/70R16	BF Goodrich Open Trail	\$99
P245/70R16	Mastercraft HTR	\$105
P245/70R16	Mastercraft AWT	\$105
P245/70R17	Mastercraft HTR	\$113
P245/75R16	General Grabber AW	\$93
P245/75R16	Mastercraft HTR	\$102
P245/75R16	Mastercraft AT2	\$102
P255/70R16	Mastercraft AT2	\$110
P255/70R16	Mastercraft AWT	\$105
P255/70R16	Mastercraft HTR	\$105
P265/65R17	Mastercraft HTR	\$120
P265/70R16	Goodyear Wrangler RTS	\$125
P265/70R16	Mastercraft AT2	\$115
P265/70R16	Mastercraft HTR	\$120
P265/70R16	Desperado	\$105
P265/70R17	Bridgestone Dueller AT	\$118
P265/70R17	General Grabber HTS	\$122
P265/70R17	General Americrac	\$119
P265/70R17	Mastercraft HTR	\$112
P265/70R17	Goodyear Wrangler ATS OWL	\$118
P265/75R15	Mastercraft HTR	\$105
P265/75R16	Mastercraft AT2	\$105
P265/75R16	Mastercraft AWT	\$113
P265/75R16	Kumho Road Venture	\$112

● Bulldogs

Continued from Page C1

ed. "We just couldn't put the ball in the hole."

For the game, Donahue shot just 30 percent from the floor, compared to a sizzling 55 percent for Bridgeport.

"We shot the ball really good," Cash said.

Price would conclude his fine outing with half-a-dozen points in the fourth chapter. He would also chart three steals, five rebounds and two assists.

"The Price kid is so tough to defend," Wise said. "When he beats you off the dribble and gets penetration, he can either pull up and shoot it, pass it off or take it to the basket and finish."

Cash echoed Wise's sentiments. "Garrett is more of a slasher than a shooter, and he'll tell you that," said Cash.

Price, a cat-quick, athletic junior, said he tries to get his teammates involved.

"I don't really like to shoot a lot," he said. "I like to get the easier buckets and I was really getting some good screens from Nate (Maleski). We ran the screen-and-role pretty good."

In addition to Price's 22 points, three other Bulldogs reached double digits, those being Lindsey, Maleski and Carlier who all tallied 10 points each.

"Like I've said all season, these kids

don't care who scores the points, as long as we win." Cash added. "It's a different kid every game, it seems. This is the most unselfish group of kids that I've been around."

Ian Schau came off the bench to score a team-high 10 points for the Bishops.

Bridgeport trailed 29-25 off the glass as Devin Overholt had nine and Schau five. Maleski led the Bulldogs with 12.

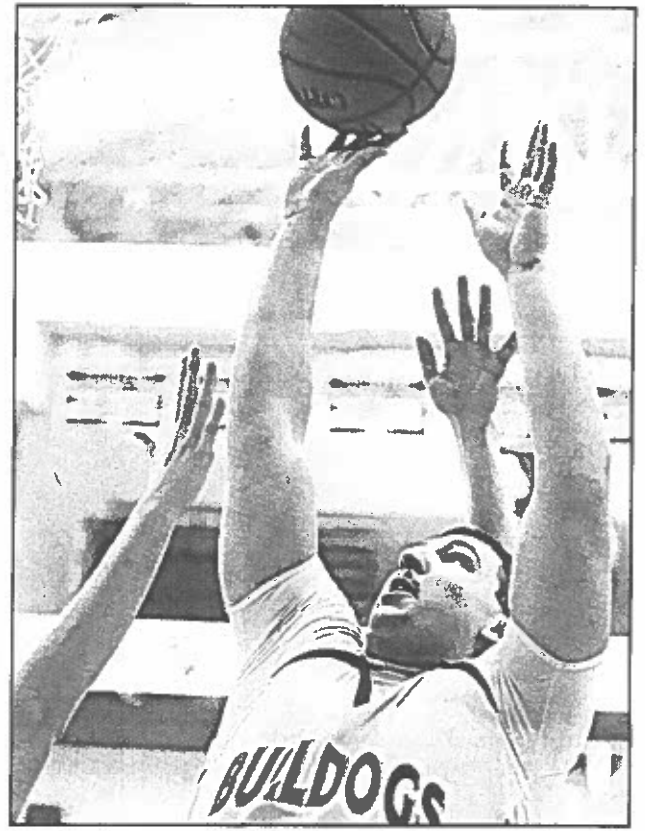
"We'll celebrate a little tonight, but we know we've got a tough game Tuesday in the sectional against Frontier," Cash said. "There is three pretty good teams in our half of the bracket."

That Bridgeport-Frontier game will be played at Union Local High School in Morristown and tips at 6 p.m.

Scoring:
BISHOP DONAHUE (39) — Jones 2 2-4 6; Whitfield 2 0-0 4; Otte 1 1-2 3; Clayton 1 0-0 2; Overholt 0 1-3 1; Riedel 2 1-1 5; Schau 4 2-3 10; Yurisko 1 1-2 3; Angalich 2 0-0 5; Totals: 15-54 8-15. BRIDGEPORT (60) — Price 10 2-2 22; Lindsey 4 0-1 10; Tracey 3 0-0 7; Cu. Smelley 0 0-0 ; Maleski 5 0-0 10; Carlier 4 0-0 10; Lipperman 0 0-0 0; Wallace 0 0-0 0; Co. Smelley 0 0-0 0; Hennessey 0 1-2 1; Bello 0 0-0 0; Frey 0 0-0 0; Totals: 26-47 3-5.

Three-Point Goals: Bishop Donahue 1 (Angalich); Bridgeport 5 (Lindsey 2, Carlier 2, Tracey)

North can be reached at knorth@timesleaderonline.com



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

BRIDGEPORT'S NATE Maleski goes up for two of his 10 points against Bishop Donahue Saturday afternoon.



Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK

SHADYSIDE'S NICK Schuetz (2) drives baseline in Shadyside's win Saturday night.

● Shadyside

Continued from Page C1

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Three-Point Goals: Shen — Doudna, Rataiczak, Farnsworth (2), Rich, Wise, Hurts, Shady — Schuetz (2).

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

Weir defeats Magnolia for Class 3-A championship

By JOSH STROPE
For The Times Leader

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And just like all the other games, this one didn't disappoint.

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ket with 14 points and nine rebounds as the Red Riders defeated the Blue Eagles, 48-43, in the opening contest of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Tournament Championships on Saturday at Ohio University Eastern.

"What you had was two excellent basketball teams playing," Weir

coach Mike Granato said. "The beautiful thing about this game is the competition aspect of it. You have two teams that respect each other, two coaches that respect each other. (Magnolia coach) Dave (Tallman) and I had talked during the week and we were both just hoping that with the weather that we would be able to play."

● Meintel

Continued from Page C1

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Meintel's by no means being arrogant. The 6-ft., 205 pounder spent the summer playing in the Great Lakes League for Licking Valley out of Newark.

"There was some really good competition in the league," Meintel said. "There were a lot of players from big schools like Big 10 and SEC schools and there were even some play-

more to pitching than throwing the fastball by people.

"The big changes are in the mental approach," Meintel said. "I am a lot more prepared (mentally) for this season than I was when I got here as a freshman and started some games. I really have a better understanding of pitching and what hitters are going to do."

Not only the mental approach to each hitter has changed, but Meintel must

"You can't have any mental lapses because mistakes happen when you do. You also have to have a short memory if you do make a mistake, but I am really looking forward to getting back out there."

While the mental approach is huge, a pitcher's stuff is almost as invaluable.

Meintel concedes that his fastball is still what he bases his pitching off of, but his change-up and slider have really improved.

Despite the change in duties, Meintel and the Raiders' goals remain the same.

"Last year was amazing," Meintel said. "We only lost four players and have 12 seniors on this team, so we want to take it at least a step further and anything short of winning the conference title would be a letdown."

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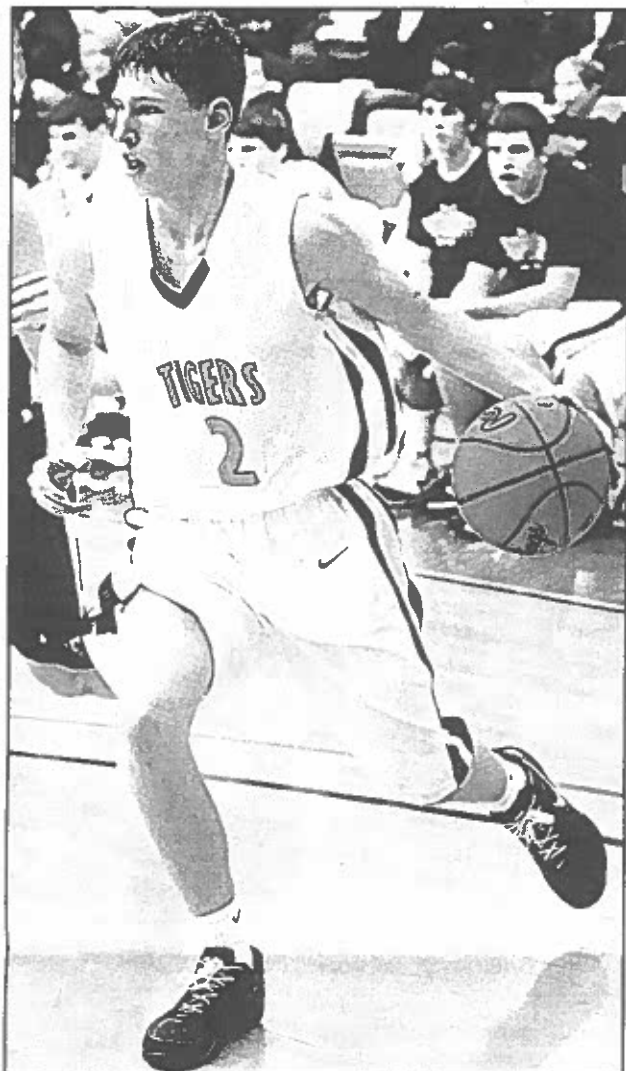
THE OHIO Valley Athletic Conference Basketball championships wrapped up Saturday and today the coaches will meet

P205/55R16	Diamondback 928	\$64
P205/55R16	Goodyear Eagle	\$82
P205/55R16	Mastercraft LSR	\$88
P205/60R16	Diamondback 918	\$63
P205/60R16	Goodyear Eagle LS	\$93
P205/65R15	Atlas Touring	\$55
P205/65R15	Lexington ES335	\$58
P205/65R15	Ron Radial 600	\$49
P205/65R15	Mastercraft Strategy	\$64
P205/70R15	Lexington ES335	\$58
P205/70R15	Mastercraft Strategy	\$69
P205/70R15	General Allimax	\$65
P205/75R14	Primewell PS850	\$59
P205/75R15	Mastercraft AWT	\$85
P205/75R15	Primewell PS850	\$59
P215/50R17	Mastercraft LSR	\$115
P215/55R16	Mastercraft LSR	\$97
P215/60R15	Diamondback 918	\$63
P215/60R15	Lexington ES335	\$62
P215/60R16	Fuzion HRI	\$69
P215/60R16	Mastercraft Strategy	\$75
P215/65R15	Kumho 716	\$59
P215/65R16	Atlas Touring	\$58
P215/65R16	Mastercraft Strategy	\$76
P215/70R15	General Allimax	\$73
P215/70R15	Diamondback 928	\$66
P215/70R15	Goodyear Integrity	\$69
P215/70R15	Lexington ES335	\$62
P215/70R15	Mastercraft Strategy	\$71
P215/70R16	General GS60	\$79
P215/70R16	Mastercraft HRT	\$93
P215/75R15	Diamondback 258	\$59
P215/75R15	Mastercraft AWT	\$85
P215/85R16	Mastercraft AWT	\$97
P225/50R16	Triangle 918	\$73
P225/50R16	Zeon	\$90
P225/50R17	Kumho KH25	\$99
P225/50R17	Mastercraft LSR	\$124
P225/55R16	Red Hawk	\$69
P225/55R17	Kumho KH16	\$99
P225/55R17	Mastercraft LSR	\$109
P225/60R16	Diamondback 918	\$66
P225/60R16	Goodyear Eagle RSA	\$79
P225/60R16	Lexington ES335	\$66
P225/60R16	Mastercraft LSR	\$90
P225/60R16	Mastercraft Strategy	\$79
P225/60R17	Uniroyal Tiger Paw	\$98
P225/60R17	Mastercraft LSR	\$110
P225/75R15	Primewell	\$67
P225/75R16	Goodyear Wrangler ST	\$83
P235/55R17	General Allimax	\$113
P235/55R17	Mastercraft LSR	\$117
P235/60R16	Mastercraft LSR	\$97
P235/60R17	Mastercraft LSR	\$99
P235/65R16	Mastercraft LSR	\$96
P235/65R17	Triangle 258	\$86
P235/70R15	Mastercraft HTR	\$95
P235/70R16	Goodyear Integrity	\$95
P235/70R16	Kumho Solus	\$85
P235/70R16	Mastercraft AT2	\$97
P235/70R16	Mastercraft AWT	\$99
P235/70R16	Mastercraft HTR	\$105
P235/75R15	Atlas Desperado	\$83
P235/75R15	Goodyear Wrangler	\$84
P235/75R15	Mastercraft HTR	\$91
P235/75R15	Triangle TR246	\$65
P235/75R15	Medalist All Terrain	\$79
P235/75R16	Mastercraft HTR	\$101
P245/65R17	Mastercraft AT2	\$119
P245/65R17	Mastercraft HTR	\$125
P245/65R17	Bridgestone Dueller HT	\$122
P245/70R16	BF Goodrich Open Trail	\$99
P245/70R16	Mastercraft HTR	\$105
P245/70R16	Mastercraft AWT	\$105
P245/70R17	Mastercraft HTR	\$113
P245/75R16	General Grabber AW	\$93
P245/75R16	Mastercraft HTR	\$102
P245/75R16	Mastercraft AT2	\$102
P255/70R16	Mastercraft AT2	\$110
P225/70R16	Mastercraft AWT	\$105
P255/70R16	Mastercraft HTR	\$105
P265/65R17	Mastercraft HTR	\$120
P265/70R16	Goodyear Wrangler RTS	\$125
P265/70R16	Mastercraft AT2	\$115
P265/70R16	Mastercraft HTR	\$120
P265/70R16	Desperado	\$105
P265/70R17	Bridgestone Dueller AT	\$118
P265/70R17	General Grabber HTS	\$112
P265/70R17	General Ameritrac	\$119
P265/70R17	Mastercraft HTR	\$112
P265/70R17	Goodyear Wrangler ATS OWL	\$118
P265/75R15	Mastercraft HTR	\$105
P265/75R16	Mastercraft ATZ	\$105
P265/75R16	Mastercraft AWT	\$112
P265/75R16	Kumho Road Venture	\$113
P265/75R16	Mastercraft HTR	\$106
P285/75R16	Mastercraft ATZ	\$138
31/10.50R15	Mastercraft AWT	\$110
31/10.50R15	Mastercraft HTR	\$113

those being Lindsey, Maleski and Carlier who all tallied 10 points each.

(Angalich); Bridgeport 5 (Lindsey 2, Carlier 2, Tracey)

BRIDGEPORT'S NATE Maleski goes up for two of his 10 points against Bishop Donahue Saturday afternoon.



SHADYSIDE'S NICK Schuetz (2) drives baseline in Shadyside's win Saturday night.

● Shadyside

Continued from Page C1

they got the pace to their liking during the second quarter.

However, Shadyside received a lift at the end of the first quarter after the Zeps had tied the game at 11 when senior Nick Schuetz buried a beyond NBA range trey just inside the horn to make it 14-11 after one.

"That shot really turned the momentum in (Shadyside's) favor," Schweiterman said.

The Tigers turned the three-point first-quarter lead into a 13-point lead at the intermission at 30-17.

"We were finally able to get the tempo to our liking," Andes said. "For us to be successful against Shenandoah, we can't play in a half-court game. That's what happened to us in the home game, so we were able to turn the tempo to our favor and the kids got going."

The tempo continued to be with the Tigers in the third quarter.

Senior ace Dylan Kimble continued to play his tenacious man defense on one end and picked up the scoring load as Schuetz and leading-scorer Justin Andes were held primarily in check by the Zeps' triangle-and-two defense.

"We know teams are going to focus on Nick and Justin," Kimble said. "We just have to step it up when that happens. We like getting out and running and we're not worried about who scores."

Kimble and athletic post player Heath Brooks were the beneficiaries in the half-court. Kimble scored 11 points in the third quarter when the Tigers stretched their lead to 47-27 at the final stop.

Brooks, who's been hampered by foul trouble for much of the second half of the season, got going in the fourth, scoring eight of his 17 in the final chapter.

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Meintel's by no means being arrogant. The 6-ft., 205 pounder spent the summer playing in the Great Lakes League for Licking Valley out of Newark.

"There was some really good competition in the league," Meintel said. "There were a lot of players from big schools like Big 10 and SEC schools and there were even some players from my own team, so it was a really good learning experience."

Meintel's always been a hard thrower. He was clocking in the low 90s at Shadyside, but obviously at the Division I level, there's

more to pitching than throwing the fastball by people.

"The big changes are in the mental approach," Meintel said. "I am a lot more prepared (mentally) for this season than I was when I got here as a freshman and started some games. I really have a better understanding of pitching and what hitters are going to do."

Not only the mental approach to each hitter has changed but Meintel must change his own approach because working in short relief is much different than being asked to go six or seven innings into a game as a starter.

"You've got to be into every inning," Meintel said.

"You can't have any mental lapses because mistakes happen when you do. You also have to have a short memory if you do make a mistake, but I am really looking forward to getting back out there."

While the mental approach is huge, a pitcher's stuff is almost as invaluable.

Meintel concedes that his fastball is still what he bases his pitching off of, but his change-up and slider have really improved.

"I'm throwing those pitches a lot shaper and throwing them for strikes consistently," Meintel said. "I have to be able to mix my pitches because everyone can sit back on your fastball."

Despite the change in duties, Meintel and the Raiders' goals remain the same.

"Last year was amazing," Meintel said. "We only lost four players and have 12 seniors on this team, so we want to take it at least a step further and anything short of winning the conference title would be a letdown."

SETH'S SCOOPS

THE OHIO Wrestling Hall of Fame is continuing to make major strides with Bridgeport native Bobby Douglas and current Bridgeport resident Wayne Price helping to guide the process, which hopes to have its first class inducted this summer. According to Price, the Ohio Hall will have three categories for entry, including lifetime service, Medal of Courage and Outstanding American.

Nominations are currently being accepted for the lifetime service, but a minimum of 20 years of

service to the sport of wrestling are required. Nominations can be sent to whof@yahoo.com.

Stay tuned for more information on the Ohio Wrestling Hall of Fame as well as other wrestling ventures in the Ohio Valley, which are expected to be released in the coming weeks.

THE OHIO Valley

Athletic Conference Basketball championships wrapped up Saturday and today the coaches will meet to select the rosters for the Samuel A. Mumley All-Star Game. The meeting will be held at Bellaire High School, starting at 2 p.m.

THE MANDATORY

OVAC softball coaches meeting slated for today has been postponed until Sunday, March 7.

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

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SPORTS

Friday,
February 19, 2010Shadyside
advances to
2-A title tilt• Kimble leads the way as
Tigers dispatch BarnesvilleBy KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

Dylan Kimble scored eight of his game-high 16 points in the third quarter when Shadyside needed them the most.

Clinging to a slim three-point lead, 29-26, at half-time over Barnesville, the Tigers (18-0) used Kimble's performance to spark a 17-6 third-quarter run that sealed a repeat victory over the Shamrocks by a 57-42 count in Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AA semifinal action in Tiger Town.

With the victory, the Orange advance to Saturday's championship contest against Shenandoah at 7 p.m. at Ohio University-Eastern. The Zeps, which have been beaten twice by Shadyside this season, defeated Steubenville Catholic last night to reach the finals.

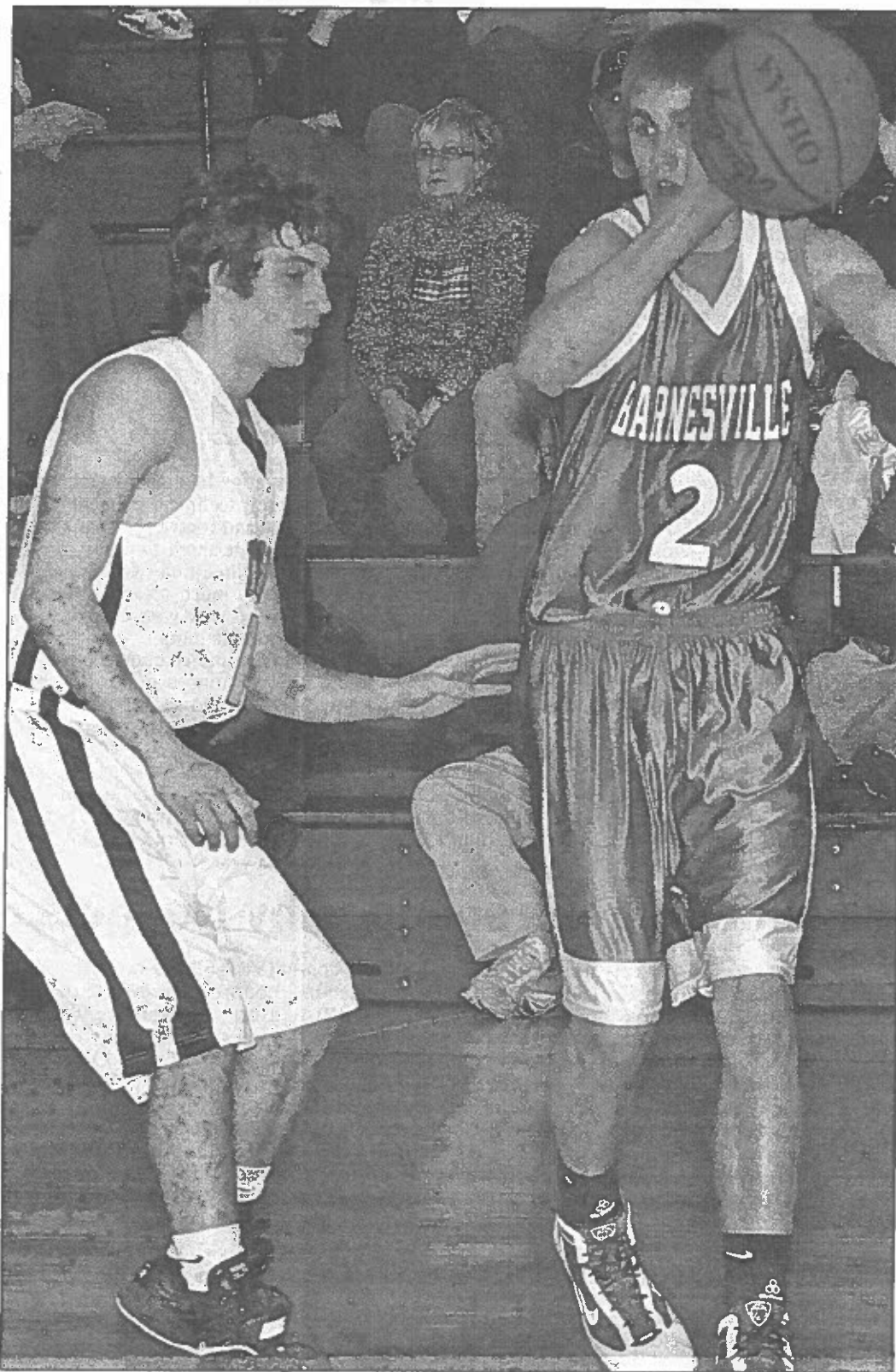
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However, that pace changed in the second half.

Shadyside picked it up on the defensive end, forcing the Shamrocks (10-8) into half-a-dozen turnovers, many of which resulted in easy layups for Kimble and Co.

"They (Barnesville) were playing some different defenses and Dylan was the man they were leaving open," Andes said. "He had to take the shots and he knocked a couple of them down."

See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2



SHADYSIDE'S
Dylan Kimble defends Barnesville's Dalton Smith during the Class 2-A semifinal as part of the Wheeling Hospital-OVAC Boys' Basketball Championships Thursday evening. Kimble led the Tigers to the title game with 16 points. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH



T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

BRIDGEPORT'S Curt Smelley gets ready to go up for a shot during the Bulldogs' Class 1-A semifinal victory in the Wheeling Hospital-OVAC Boys' Basketball Championship Thursday. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

Bridgeport advances to third
straight OVAC Class A final

• Bulldogs will meet Bishop Donahue at 4 p.m. Saturday at OUE

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

Two years ago, Bridgeport rolled past Valley Wetzel in the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference boys' Class A semifinals en route to winning the inaugural tournament championship.

Thursday night the same two teams matched up in the same type of contest — a Wheeling Hospital-OVAC Class A semi.

And the result was the same as the top-ranked Bulldogs (14-3) advanced to their third straight title tilt with a methodical, 72-55, triumph over the Lumberjacks (8-7) on Frank Baxter Court inside John J. Havlicek Gymnasium.

Bridgeport defeated top-seeded Weirton Madonna two seasons ago at Ohio University-Eastern's

Health and Physical Education Center. The Bulldogs will look for their second championship trophy in three years, with the opponent being Bishop Donahue, whom the Black-and-Blue lost to in last year's championship contest. The Bishops defeated Hundred last night.

"Yes. It would be nice for history to repeat itself," Cash said. "I told the kids that we must learn to bring our 'A' game every night. Last year we didn't and we got beat."

Saturday's 4 p.m. tip-off at OUE will be the third meeting of the season between the Bulldogs and the Bishops, with the Ohioans winning both previous contests by scores of 63-51 and 69-53.

Bridgeport, which has now won seven straight outings, jumped out to a 12-2 lead and led 16-13 after one quarter.

'I told the kids that we must bring our 'A' game every night.'

— Donnie Cash

CLASS ANo. 1 Bridgeport 72, No. 4 Valley 55
No. 2 Donahue, 59 No. 3 Hundred 48**Championship**

Saturday, 4 p.m., at OUE

No. 1 Bridgeport vs.
No. 2 Bishop Donahue**Consolation**

No. 4 Valley at No. 3 Hundred

"We hadn't played in 16 days," Cash allowed. "But I thought we did what we had to do to win."

A 23-11 scoring advantage in the second stanza blew the game wide open as normal starters Garrett Price (8) and Timmy Tracey (3) teamed for nearly half of the markers. Jared Carlier added five of his game-high 19 in the decisive frame, including a buzzer-beating trifecta that bumped the count to 39-24 at the half.

The Bulldogs didn't waste any time in extending their margin in the third quarter as a 16-8 spurt made it 55-32. The Lumberjacks, who have now lost five of six, got

See, BRIDGEPORT, Page B2

Dylan Kimble scored eight of his game-high 10 points in the third quarter when Shadyside needed them the most.

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See, SHADYSIDE, Page B2

CLASS AA

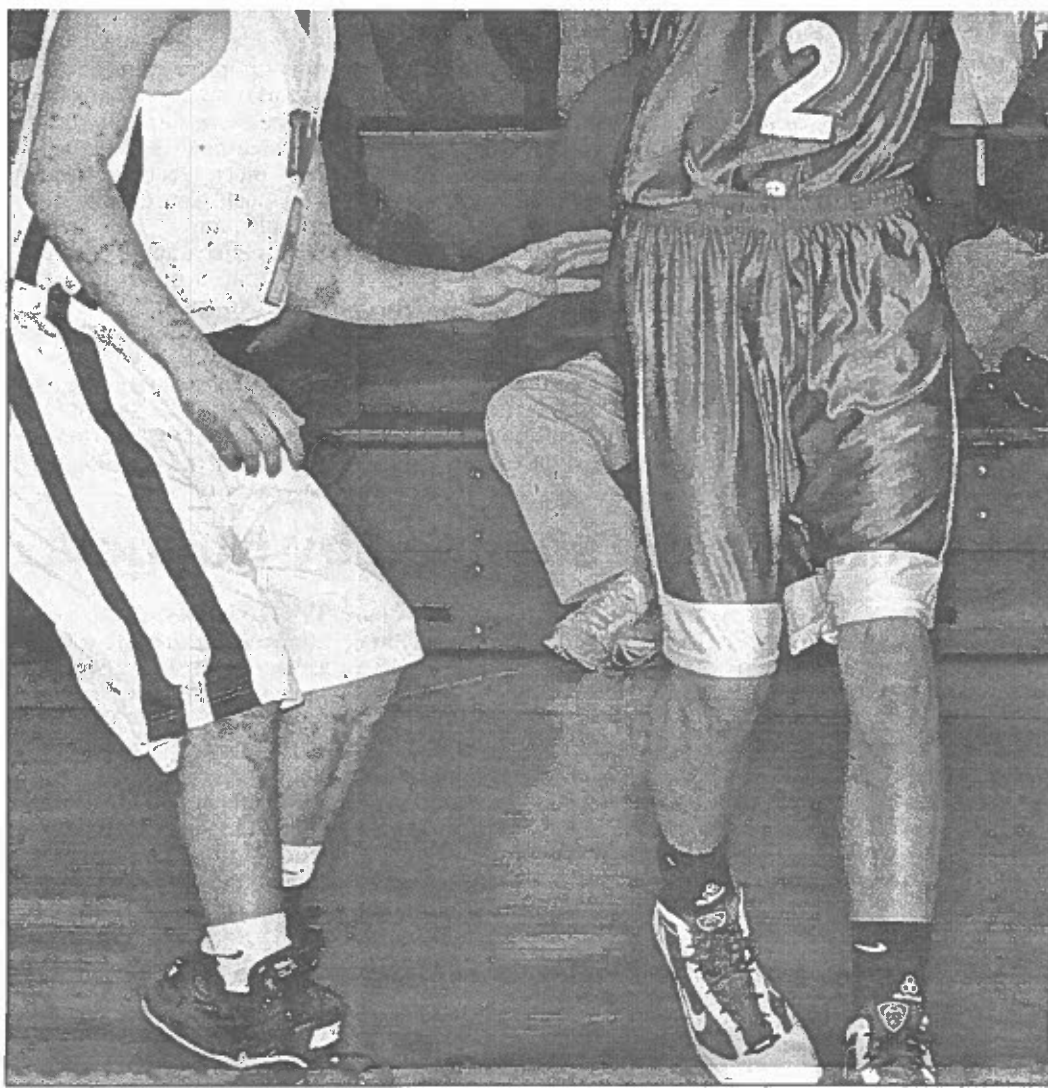
No. 1 Shadyside 57, No. 4 Barnesville 42
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The Bulldogs didn't waste any time in extending their margin in the third quarter as a 16-8 spurt made it 55-32. The Lumberjacks, who have now lost five of six, got

See, BRIDGEPORT, Page B2

Weir knocks off St. C. in Class 3-A semifinal

• Red Riders avenge earlier setback to advance

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

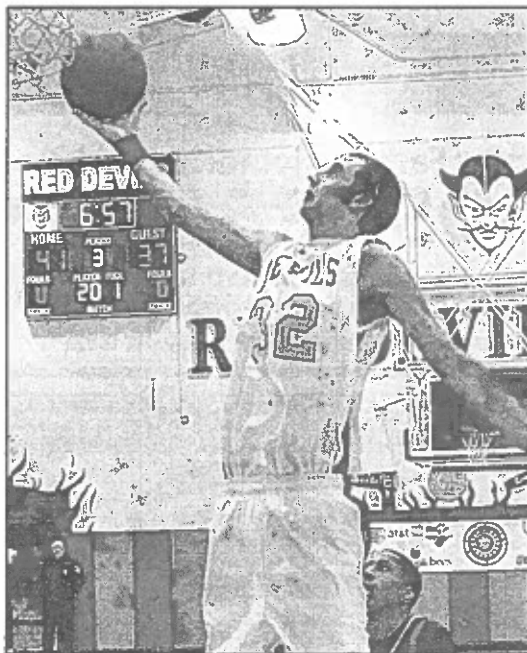
Following a 16-day layoff, Weir High's Mike Granato was naturally concerned preparing for Thursday night's Wheeling Hospital OVAC 3-A semifinal matchup at St. Clairsville.

"You always wonder how the kids are going to respond," he offered. "Sure, we were able to practice almost every day. But that's nothing like playing under game conditions."

Granato's Red Riders proceeded to come out smoking, burning the Red Devils for 28 first quarter points. Though they eventually returned to some semblance of normalcy, the Riders set an early tone enroute to earning a tense 67-65 victory.

By halftime, Kim Clifford's ball club had regrouped in a big way, recovering from an early double digit deficit to

See, ST. C., Page B2



Photo/JOHN POKAS

ST. CLAIRSVILLE'S Allen Derosa goes up for a shot in front of Weir's Shawn Burns Thursday night.

Magnolia takes out Harrison Central

By TRACY WATSON
For The Times Leader

NEW MARTINSVILLE — Magnolia's first two trips to the Wheeling Hospital-OVAC boys' basketball tournament resulted in semifinal losses to Head Coach Kim Clifford's St. Clairsville teams.

Thursday night the Blue Eagles took a little revenge on the Clifford clan as Coach Dave Tallman's No. 1 seeded squad took out Harrison Central and first-year mentor Justin Clifford.

Senior pivot Jared Blatt scored nine of his team-high 19 markers in the third period as Big Blue used a 23-9 rally to break open a close game and record a hard-fought 62-52 victory over the Huskies in an OVAC Class AAA semifinal contest at Magnolia High School.

The victory moves the 13-1 record Eagles into their first conference championship game at 10 a.m. Saturday morning against West Virginia sectional rival Weir High. Magnolia rallied late to defeat the Red Riders in Weirton earlier this season.

See, HARRISON, Page B2

USA's Lysacek wins figure skating gold

● Harrison

Continued from Page B1

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Evan Lysacek brought down the champion.

Lysacek became the first U.S. man to win the Olympic gold medal since Brian Boitano in 1988, shocking everyone — maybe even himself — by upsetting defending champion Evgeni Plushenko on Thursday night. Plushenko came out of retirement with the sole purpose of making a little history of his own with a second straight gold medal.

The last to skate. Plushenko held up both index fingers when he finished, as if to say, "Was there ever any question?" As it turned out, yes.

And it wasn't really that close.

When Plushenko's scores were posted, someone in the arena screamed, "Evan Lysacek has won the gold!" Backstage, surrounded by longtime coach Frank Carroll and pairs gold medalists Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo, Lysacek threw back his head in disbelief and utter elation.

"I could have stood up there for hours and thought about every moment of training that I was thinking, 'God, what if one day?'" Lysacek said. "And it kept me going and it pushed me."

The reigning world champion finished with a career-best 257.67, 1.31 ahead of the Russian, Daisuke Takahashi won the bronze, the first Japanese man to win a figure skating medal at the Olympic Games.

Johnny Weir was sixth and U.S. champ Jeremy Abbott rallied to finish ninth.

Lysacek, whose world title was the first by a U.S. man since 1996, looked almost dazed when he heard the first notes of the "Star-Spangled Banner." But as he watched the flag rise, he broke into a wide grin.

"I saw that American flag go up and I couldn't believe it was for me."



USA'S EVAN Lysacek reacts on the podium after winning the gold medal in the men's free program figure skating competition at the Olympics in Vancouver Thursday.

AP PHOTO

Lysacek said.

Someone handed him a U.S. flag as he left the medals podium to take on his victory lap, and he waved it a few times before twirling it above his head like a lasso. As he skated around the arena, he held a bouquet aloft in his right hand and clutched his gold medal in the left. No way anyone was going to take this away from him.

Especially not Plushenko.

Much had been made about of Plushenko's transition scores, the mark given for the steps connecting the elements, as well as his other component scores — think of the old artistic marks. But those didn't cost him the medal.

Lysacek edged Plushenko on the mark for their technical elements — jumps, spins and footwork. That's the score where the three-time Olympic medalist and three-time world champion has pretty much made his trademark. And Lysacek won despite not doing a quadruple jump.

"If the Olympic champion doesn't know how to jump a quad, I don't know," Plushenko said. "Now it's not men's figure skating, now it's dancing."

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CLEVELAND (AP) — George Karl called being on the court his sanctuary. Carmelo Anthony answered his coach's prayer.

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victory in overtime Thursday night in Karl's first game since revealing he has neck and throat cancer.

"I think he's happy," Anthony said of his coach. "This boosted his spirit up a lot. In the back of our mind, we know his situation. We're playing for him."

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James' triple-double came in front of Oscar Robertson, who averaged a triple-double during the

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Robertson and West captained the Americans' gold medal in 1960, while James and Anthony were the co-captains in 2008.

Bellaire's Vavrek scores 20, but Fairmont falls at WLU

Bellaire's Ashley Vavrek and her Fairmont State Lady Falcons were not up to the task Thursday night, dropping a 93-78 decision at West Liberty University.

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Lady Toppers' ace Tori Hansen fired in a game-leading 24 points and

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The victory elevated Lynn Ullom's quint to 15-8 overall and 11-7 in the WVC.

● St. C.

Continued from Page B1

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"We maintained our poise (after falling behind)," Granato added. "This is a huge win for us against a high-quality St. Clairsville team. Frankly, I don't know if there's a better atmosphere for high school basketball in the valley (than right here)."

Unlike the two team's only regular season meeting, also at St. C., Weir was the dominant team on the boards Thursday.

"That definitely wasn't the case the last time," Granato advised. "We knew we'd have to be strong inside tonight and our guys really responded."

Most notably 6-7 senior L.J. Campbell whose evening's output consisted of 23 points and 13

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"Shawn and L.J. were excellent but our other starters were also clutch," Granato indicated.

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Senior guard Justin Horstman hooped 11 points with classmate Early Brogdon contributing eight. Junior guard Fred Jones grabbed seven rebounds.

Monteroso's 19 points paced the 13-4 Red Devils while Slavik fired in 17.

Meanwhile, Justin Clifford's team will take on his father's Red Devils squad this evening at 7:30 p.m. in Cadiz in the consolation game.

Defense ruled the game early with the Huskies' (11-6) man pressure frustrating Magnolia. The Eagles needed a Jayson Keller deuce with eight seconds to go in the opening frame to force an 8-8 deadlock.

Harrison's third, and final, lead of the night came on a pair of Fletcher Watt charity tosses late in the half that made it 17-16. However, the hosts would manage to take a 22-20 edge to the break.

A 9-0 burst to open the third chapter, which capped a 15-3 overall run, was keyed by seven Blatt points and pushed the lead to 31-20 at 5:02. Big Blue would eventually lead 45-29 after three before enjoying its biggest lead of the game at 49-29 with 7:21 to play on another Blatt deuce.

The Huskies would manage to stay in the game with a 14-3 run midway through the third, but was never closer than 10.

"I can tell you that Justin Clifford's team did an outstanding job and played very hard for 32 minutes, but I am also very pleased with the effort of our kids," Tallman said.

Blatt finished with a double-double, adding 10 rebounds, while Josh Yost chipped in 13 markers and Andy Huggins had nine points and 11 caroms. Kyle Blanchard dropped in a game-high 22 for Harrison Central with Ben Palmer adding 18 off the bench.

The hosts grabbed a 39-25 edge off the glass and finished nearly 50 percent from the floor with a 24 of 50 showing. The Eagles were just 10 of 29 in the first half, but hit 14 of 21 tries in the second.

"We talked about keeping it a possession to possession game and our defense was doing that early on," Clifford said. "Early on we did a good job pressing the ball, but then we came out and didn't score for awhile in the third and I think that carried over to our defense and hurt us."

"You can't give up easy baskets to them, but the press does that sometimes and we got behind and it was do or die for us. Magnolia is a very good team and I think it was a tribute to them that they were able to score all their points in the paint in the first half."

For Magnolia, Saturday's matchup with Weir will be the second of four possible meetings with the Red Riders this season.

"It should be a great game and I am glad to see two West Virginia teams playing for the title," Tallman added.

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● Bridgeport

Continued from Page B1

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"I thought we played extremely well in the second and third quarters," Cash said. "We've practiced some, but that's not the same as game situations. As the game progressed, I thought we played better."

Once again Cash received balanced scoring from his well-rounded team. Carlier led everyone with 19, while Tracey knocked down a trio of triples for 13 points. Tre Lindsey and Price evenly divided 20 points. Nate Maleski chipped in nine.

"That's the way we've played all season," Cash added. "We have players that don't care who scores. All they care about is winning, and that's a good thing."

Matthew Poling led Valley Wetzel with 17 points, but 14 of those came after the game was out of reach. Alex Henderson chipped in 13.

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● Shadyside

Continued from Page B1

Barnesville could only muster six points in the period, with Dalton Smith scoring four.

In addition to Kimble's 16, senior Heath Brooks added 10. Nick Schuetz contributed nine, while Tyler Cline had eight. Bryson Stephen led Barnesville with 10 points. Smith and the Dornon's — Preston and Zach — evenly split 27.

Shenandoah defeated Steubenville Catholic 66-58 as Wes Rataiczak pumped in 21 points. Cody Farmer and Brett Farnsworth each had 15 for the Zepps.

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SPORTS SATURDAY

THE PULSE OF LOCAL SPORTS

OVAC's Varsity Board starting to make an impact on area

A lot of people play large roles in the success of the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference.

From Executive Secretary Tom Rataiczak to the members of the OVAC's Executive Board to the tournament directors, the list of contributors to the conference is almost endless.

All of the work is done for a simple reason. The student-athletes of the Ohio Valley are the main objective of the OVAC.

Having said that, it was two years ago when the executive board of the OVAC realized that while all of the work is for the kids, the kids' voices weren't being heard.



SETH STASKEY
From the Press Box:

So Rataiczak, then OVAC President Dr. Dianna Vargo and the rest of the board began formulating ideas of how to get the students involved away from the fields or courts.

After more than a year of planning and brainstorming, the membership of the OVAC received a letter announcing the formation of the Varsity Board, which takes two underclass members of each school, divides them into geographic groups and they then begin working on civic projects and formulating ideas for initiatives within the conference.

"There are a lot of amazing students and true leaders in our schools," said Vargo, the Varsity Board director. "Our hope is to be able to provide the students with a venue where they can grow and continue to be leaders when they leave high school."

The OVAC sought underclassmen for the board so there would never be a totally new group coming into the board and the older students could mentor the new members as the program grows.

"We want there to be a continuity and ownership, so the students are able to see their goals come to fruition," Vargo said.

The Varsity Board had its first formal meeting in September where it took part in an orientation and team-building exercises as well as heard a speech on sportsmanship from former Wheeling Park and West Virginia Mountaineer football player Zach Abraham.

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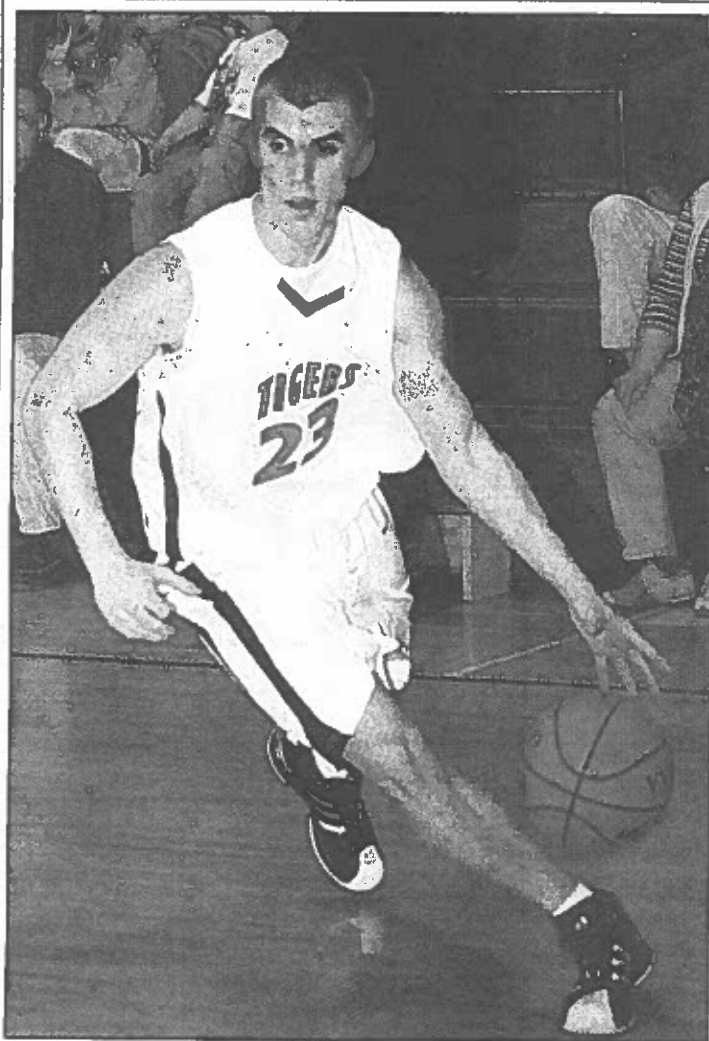
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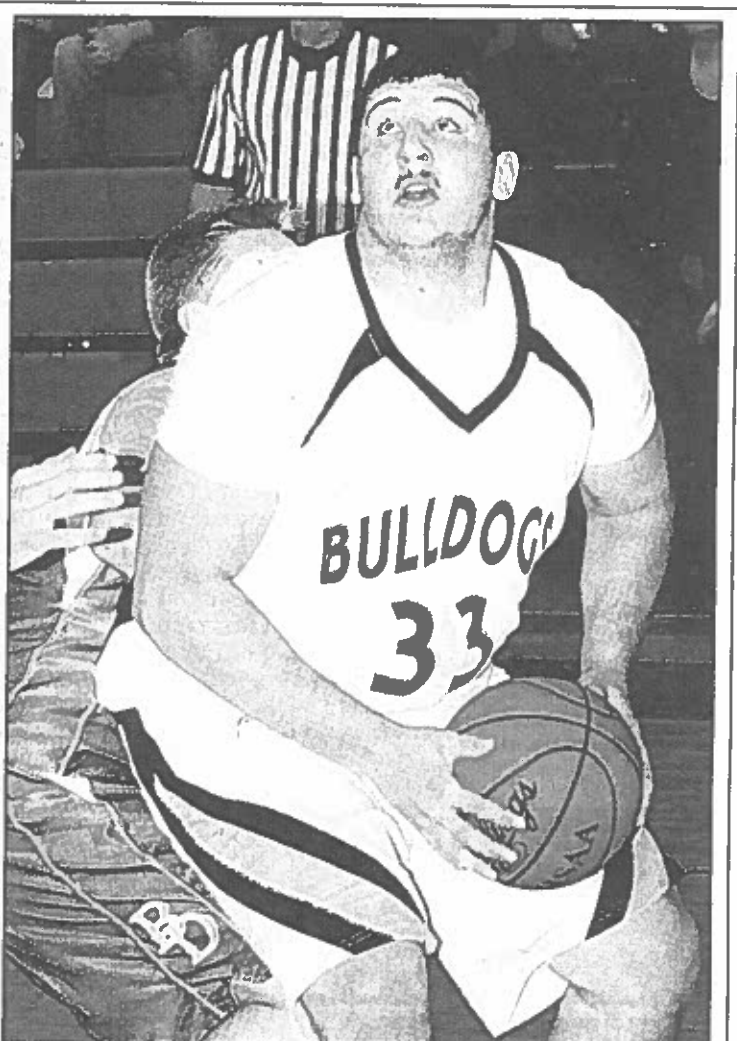
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T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

SHADYSIDE'S Justin Andes makes a move to the bucket during a game this season. Andes and the Tigers will play this evening at 7 against Shenandoah in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championship at Ohio University Eastern.



T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

BRIDGEPORT'S Nate Maleski makes a move into the lane during a game this season against Bishop Donahue. The two teams will clash again today at 4 p.m. with the OVAC Class 1-A title on the line at the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championship.

Championship Saturday

Bridgeport, Donahue clash in Class 1-A final today at OUE

By **KIM NORTH**
Times Leader Sports Writer

Only two teams have won the Wheeling Hospital-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A boys' basketball tournament title in its brief existence.

And those two small school rivals - No. 1 Bridgeport (14-3) and No. 2 Bishop Donahue (12-6) - will square off for the third annual championship today in a 4 p.m. tip inside Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center just west of St. Clairsville.

Two years ago, the second-seeded Bulldogs knocked off No. 1 Weirton Madonna for their title, while No. 2 Bishop Donahue upset the top-ranked Bulldogs last year, 50-42.

So far this season, Bridgeport head coach Donnie Cash's squad has captured both contests with the Bishops by scores of 63-51 and 69-53.

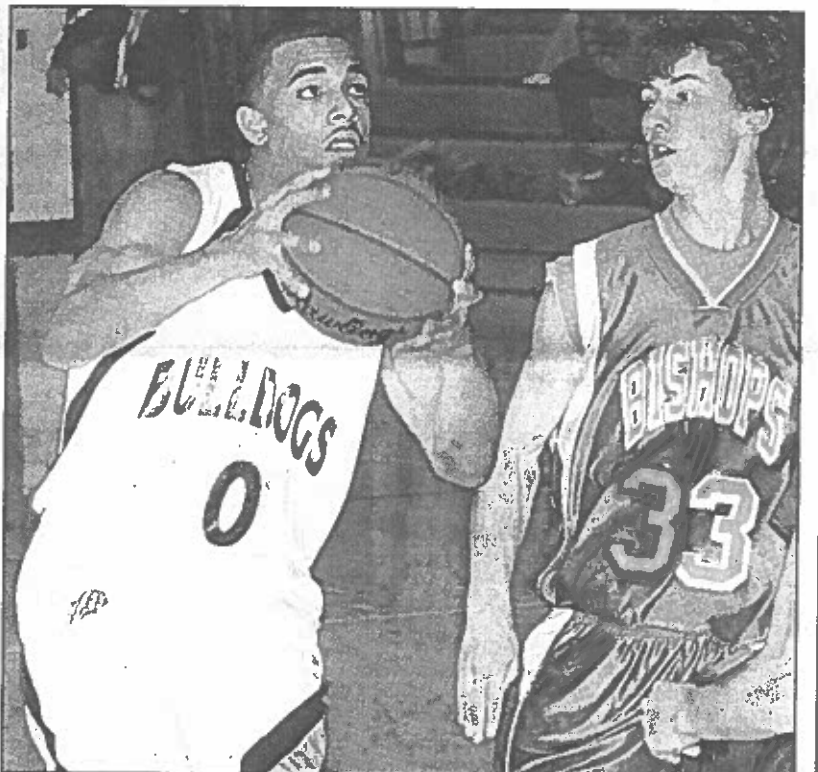
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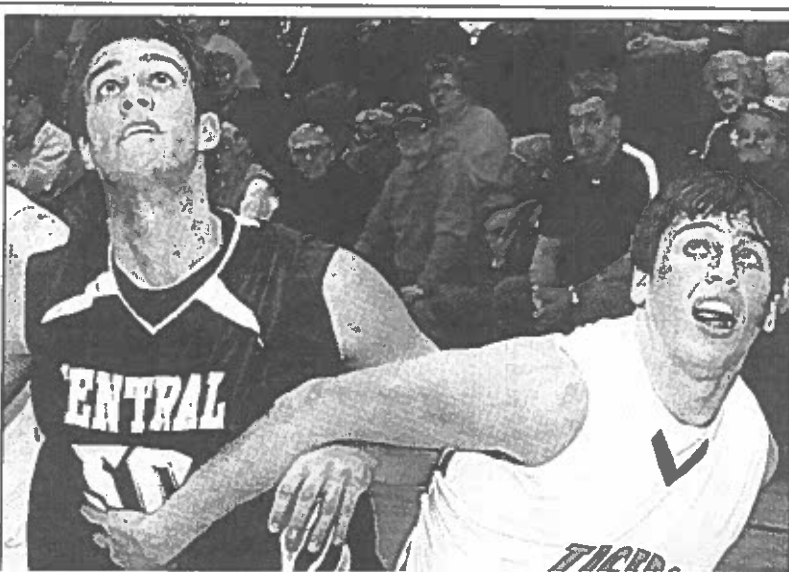
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See, 1-A, Page B2



T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

BRIDGEPORT'S Garrett Price comes down the lane against Bishop Donahue earlier in the season. Price and the Bulldogs will meet the Bishops again today for the OVAC Class 1-A title in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.



Shadyside, Shenandoah meet for third time in Class 2-A

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

There will be a new Wheeling Hospital OVAC 2-A champion crowned this evening.

Shadyside and Shenandoah, seeded first and second respectively, wrap up a full day of high caliber hoops' action in Ohio University-Eastern's spacious athletic facility when the 2-A title game tips off at 7 p.m.

It's a matchup of two of the valley's most respected cage programs, both under the adept leadership of veteran coaches.

The Tigers, guided by Ed Andes, have yet to taste defeat this season and bring in the only spotless slate (18-0) in today's tournament.

Shenandoah, meanwhile, is led by multi-successful mentor Don Schwaiblmair. His Zags are a 12-5 team.



WORK IS FOR THE KIDS, the kids' voices weren't being heard.

SETH STASKEY
From the Press Box:

So Rataiczak, then OVAC President Dr. Dianna Vargo and the rest of the board began formulating ideas of how to get the students involved away from the fields or courts.

After more than a year of planning and brainstorming, the membership of the OVAC received a letter announcing the formation of the Varsity Board, which takes two underclass members of each school, divides them into geographic groups and they then begin working on civic projects and formulating ideas for initiatives within the conference.

"There are a lot of amazing students and true leaders in our schools," said Vargo, the Varsity Board director. "Our hope is to be able to provide the students with a venue where they can grow and continue to be leaders when they leave high school."

The OVAC sought underclassmen for the board so there would never be a totally new group coming into the board and the older students could mentor the new members as the program grows.

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"The bell ringing was very successful," Vargo said. "The students did an excellent job of providing service to the community, and I think they enjoyed being able to give back. They were proud to represent their schools and the conference."

Along with being active in the OVAC, the students have used their work as a way to earn community service credit for certain clubs and graduation credits, according to Vargo.

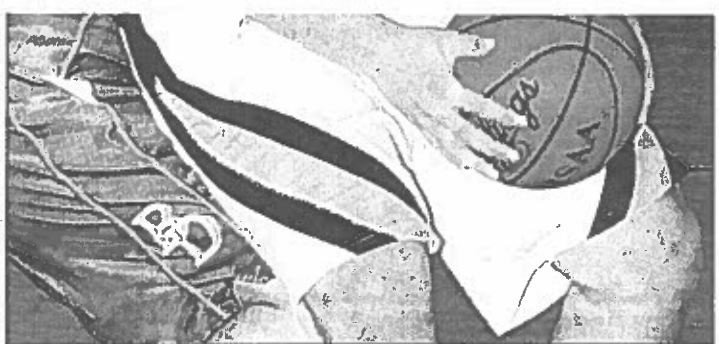
"We actually had one of the students approach us about that and ask if it would be possible," Vargo said. "So, we developed a form and we sign off that the students take back to their schools

See, OVAC, Page B4



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SHADYSIDE'S Justin Andes makes a move to the bucket during a game this season. Andes and the Tigers will play this evening at 7 against Shenandoah in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championship at Ohio University Eastern.



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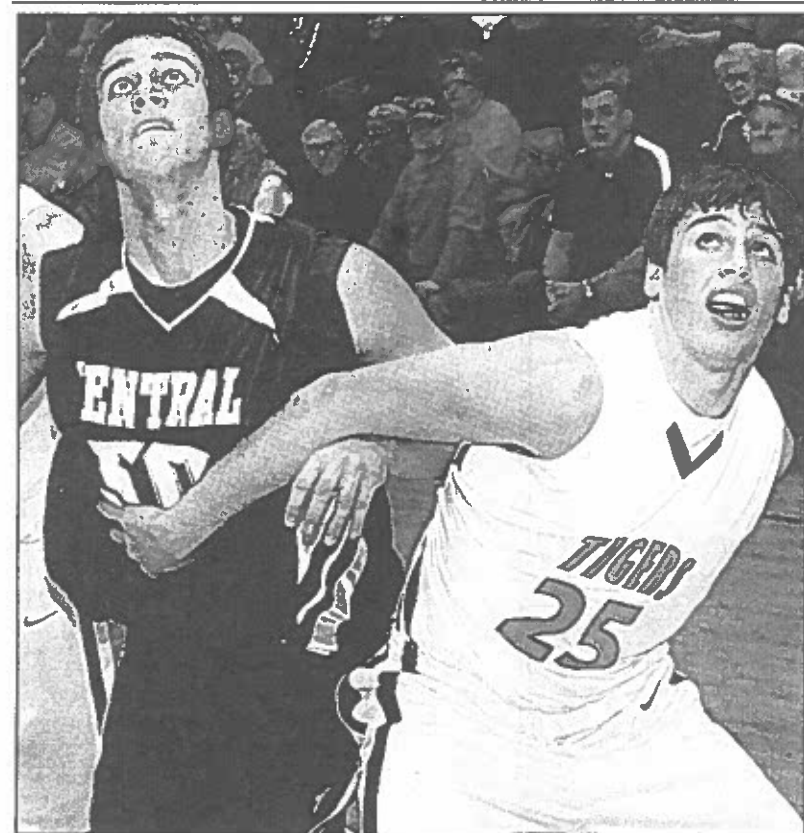
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See, 1-A, Page B2



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T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

SHADYSIDE'S Colby Emery is one of the key substitutes for the Tigers and will help lead them into this evening's Class 2-A championship game in the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

Shadyside, Shenandoah meet for third time in Class 2-A

By **RICH GIBSON**
Times Leader Sports Writer

There will be a new Wheeling Hospital OVAC 2-A champion crowned this evening.

Shadyside and Shenandoah, seeded first and second respectively, wrap up a full day of high caliber hoops' action in Ohio University-Eastern's spacious athletic facility when the 2-A title game tips off at 7 p.m.

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Shenandoah, meanwhile, is led by multi-successful mentor Dan Schweiterman. His Zeps own a 13-5 mark and have come on strong the second half of the season.

The Noble County quint advanced to tonight's championship game via a 66-58 home court victory against No. 3 seed Steubenville Central.

Shadyside punched its 2-A title ticket after surging past fourth-seeded Barnesville, 57-42, in Tiger Town.

The Tigers and Zeps are certainly no strangers on the hardwood having staged several home-and-home regular season battles.

Two of which occurred earlier this season, both resulting in victories by the Orange & Black.

Andes' quint was a decisive winner early on at Sarahsville before Shenandoah took Shadyside down to

See, 2-A, Page B3

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1-A

Continued from Page B1

Donahue made today's finals.

"We know they like to get out and run," he offered. "We need to get back on defense and stop the break. We didn't do a good job of that in our first game with them."

"They've got some kids that can play, but if we can slow it (the pace) down to a half-court game, I like our chances." Cash continued. "We just need to come out and play our game. I've told the kids that the first two games don't matter one bit. It's this game that everyone will remember."

Bridgeport advanced to its third straight title tilt with a convincing, 72-55, triumph over Valley in semifinal action Thursday night on Frank Baxter Court inside the John J. Havlicek Gymnasium.

Junior Jared Carlier

MEET THE 1-A FINALISTS

BRIDGEPORT (14-3)			BISHOP DONAHUE (12-6)		
No.	Gr.	Ht	No.	Gr.	Ht
Garrett Price	0	11' 6"	Jordan Angalich	2	11'
Cole Smelley	1	10' 6"	Justin Otte	4	12'
Chris Smelley	3	11' 6"	Zach Whitfield	12	11'
Tony Labres-Rossello	5	11' 6"	Ryan Jones	14	11'
Cody Frey	10	10' 5"	Chad Riedel	15	10'
Timmy Tracey	11	12' 6"	Garrett Yurisko	20	10'
Tre Lindsey	12	11' 5"	Robbie Clayton	21	11'
Ward Bello	13	12' 6"	Andrew McCombs	23	12'
J.J. Hennessey	20	11' 5"	Kyle Gillis	24	10'
Jared Carlier	23	11' 6"	Andrew Barrows	32	11'
Jarrold Wallace	32	12' 5"	Andrew Smith	33	12'
Nate Maleski	33	12' 6"	Adam Kudla	34	11'
Curt Smelley	34	11' 6"	Devin Overholt	40	11'
Dillon Lipperman	44	12' 6"	Ian Schau	42	11'
Head Coach: Donnie Cash			Head Coach: Tom Wise		
Assistant Coach: Rick Yourkovich, Anthony Reasbeck.			Assistant Coaches: Shawn Martin, Donnie Gillis, Curt Mele.		

scored a game-high 19 points to lead the Bulldogs into the finals. Senior Timmy Tracey came off the bench to add 13 markers, while the junior tandem of Tre Lindsey and Garrett Price evenly divided 20 lightings. Senior Nate Maleski chipped in nine points.

Maleski is also a force on the boards, averaging nearly 10 a game. Lindsey and

Price comprise an athletic, cat-quick defensive backcourt with Lindsey a three-point threat and Price a slasher. Tracey is also a threat from beyond the bonus arc.

"Nate is one of those kids that never complains," Cash continued. "He just goes out and plays his hardest every game."

Junior Curt Smelley only scores a little under five points an outing, but he grabs about the same number of rebounds while serving as the Bulldogs' lock-down defender.

"Jared had a good game against them (Donahue) the last time out," Cash said of a 20-point outburst. "He has learned his role and has done a good job for us."

The Bulldogs possess five players that average at least 9.4 points per game.



T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

BRIDGEPORT'S Tre Lindsey makes a move into the lane during a game earlier this season against Bishop Donahue. The two teams will clash again today at 4 p.m. with the OVAC Class 1-A title on the line at the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship.

Lindsey leads the way at 11.7, with Price at 10.9 and Maleski at 10.8. Tracey checks in at 9.9 and Carlier at 9.4.

"That has been one of our consistent points all season," Cash said of his balanced scoring. "I've said it all season, these kids don't care who scores. All they care about is winning, and that's a good thing."

"One night it might be Garrett and Tre. The next game it might be Nate and Timmy," he continued. "You just never know. So far, it's worked out well."

The versatility and athleticism of the Bulldogs

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"No doubt they are the most athletic team we play," he said. "They are very, very athletic. Price, Lindsey, Tracey and Smelley can all run, jump and are strong, while Maleski is a big body inside that has good fundamentals."

Meanwhile, Bishop Donahue downed Hundred, 59-48, in Thursday's other semi behind senior Andrew Smith's team-high 15 points, three over his average. However, Wise said that Smith's status is up in the air after he suffered a

sprained left ankle during the victory.

"He is getting it checked out right now," Wise said Friday afternoon. "We're not certain if he will be able to play."

Smith is one of the experienced players for Wise, the others being senior Justin Otte (5-ft.8); and juniors Ryan Jones (5-ft.-10), Zach Whitfield (6-ft.-3) and Devin Overholt (6-ft.-4). Overholt comes off the bench in favor of 6-ft. junior Robbie Clayton.

Jones leads the Bishops with 14 points a game, while several others are right around 9, according to Wise.

"Since we've played them quite a bit over the past two seasons, we think we've got some things that we can do against them," Wise continued. "In the second game at our place, it was a three-point game with two minutes left in the first half, and all of a sudden, they're up by 10 because of stupid turnover and the fact that we didn't shoot very well from the floor or the free throw line."

He said in order for his team to win, it must keep a close watch on Bridgeport's three-point shooters, while also denying Price the opportunity to penetrate into the middle of the defense.

"He (Price) absolutely killed us in the second game," Wise recalled. "He is so fast."

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T-L Photo/KIM NORTH
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BISHOP DONAHUE BISHOPS

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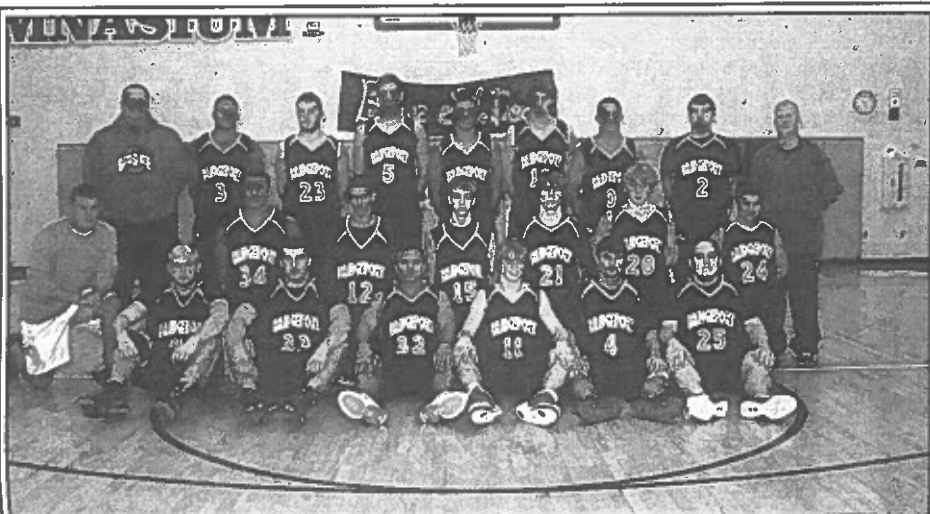
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**BISHOP DONAHUE
BISHOPS**



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2-A

Continued from Page B1

the wire in a second confrontation.

"We played at our pace (at Shenandoah) and played at their pace at home," Andes advised. "Obviously, we're a team which prefers an up-and-down style. We realize Shenandoah will attempt to dictate tempo, so our kids have to respond."

Schweiteman's Zeps were on the verge staging a potential upset at Shadyside before falling short, 46-43.

"Shadyside presents so many problems based on their personnel," Schweiteman remarked. "They're not undefeated by accident. We need to play like we're capable and try and come up with some kind of effective game plan defensively."

PERHAPS easier said than done vs. a potent Tigers' team led by four-season mainstay Justin Andes.

A 1,000 point career scorer at the Lincoln Ave. school, the 6-3 Andes is an unselfish, multi-skilled player who's netting 17 points per start.

"He sees the floor real well and is a capable passer as well as a consistent three-point shooter," his coach/father described.

Nick Schuetz, a 5-11 senior, fits well within the system. Also a dependable threat behind the arc, Schuetz scores at a 14 ppg. clip and is a savvy competitor.

Senior Dylan Kimble is a superb athlete who brings to the table both scoring (9.5 ppg.) and defensive skills. "There's a pretty good chance Dylan will be guarding our opponent's best player," Andes remarked.

Lanky senior Heath Brooks is a 6-3 inside presence with a soft touch around the bucket. "We need Heath to step up and play like he has for us all season," Andes noted of the 10.3 ppg. veteran.

Six-foot senior Tyler Cline rounds out the Orange starting five. An excellent role player, Cline is a capable scorer and rec-

MEET THE 2-A FINALISTS

SHADYSIDE (18-0)			SHENANDOAH (13-5)		
No.	Gr.	Ht	No.	Gr.	Ht
Nick Schuetz	2	12 5'11	Derek Miller	11	12 5'10
Tyler Cline	5	12 6'0	Dalton Doudna	13	12 5'10
Ellis Brown	11	11 5'11	Brett Farnsworth	15	11 6'0
Matt Duda	14	11 5'6	Justin Rich	21	11 5'10
Dylan Kimble	15	12 5'11	Brandon Starr	23	11 5'8
Patrick O'Donnell	20	12 6'2	Heath Watson	25	11 6'0
Dustin Jeffries	21	11 5'8	Marcus Wise	31	11 6'0
Justin Andes	23	12 6'3	Grant King	35	12 5'10
Colby Emery	25	12 6'0	Zach Fogle	43	12 5'8
Heath Brooks	33	12 6'3	Cody Farmer	51	12 6'0
Head Coach: Ed Andes			Wes Rataiczak	55	12 6'3
Assistants: John Beckett, Mike Schlanz			Head Coach: Dan Schweiteman		
			Assistants: Dave Easterling, Craig Sebring		

ognized as a solid defender.

The Tigers generally rely on a trio of bench contributors including 5-11 junior Ellis Brown; 6-1 senior Patrick O'Donnell; and 6-0 senior Colby Emery.

"All of our people off the bench have made major contributions," Andes declared. "First and foremost, we've enjoyed some success because the kids have played very well together as a unit."

SHENANDOAH figures to have four seniors on the floor at tipoff time, paced by 6-3 inside ace Wes Rataiczak, a three-year vet who boasts a team-leading 15.2 per game norm.

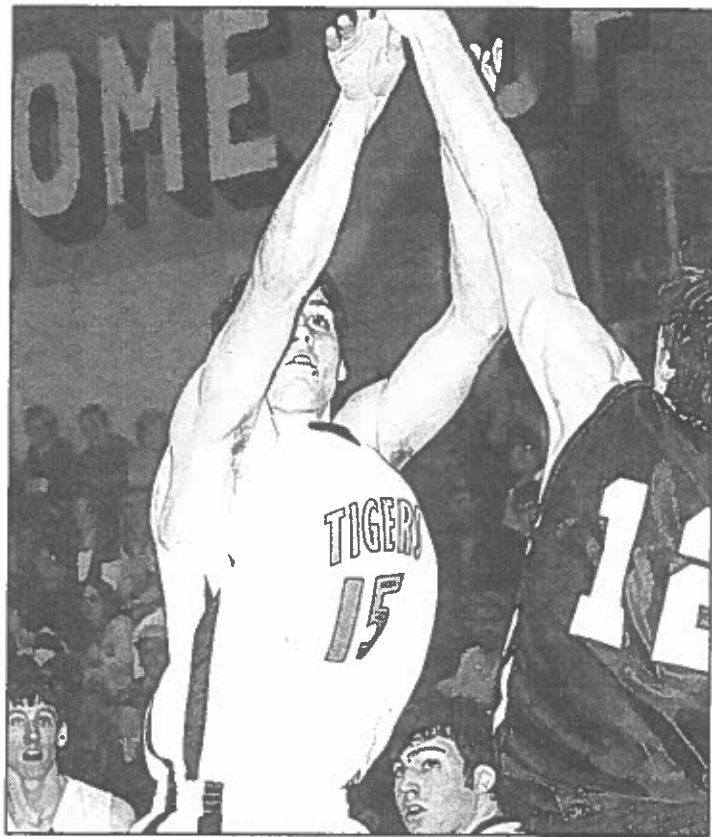
"Wes is most effective in the high post where he's generally fairly active," Schweiteman observed. "He's also a good passer who leads us in assists." Rataiczak is coming off a

26-point performance in the Zeps' semifinal takeout of Steubenville Central.

Schweiteman also speaks highly of 6-1 junior point guard Brett Farnsworth a capable ball-handler who nets just over 12 points per game.

"Brett turned into a huge surprise as the season progressed," the Zeps' coach noted. "We especially need

See, 2-A, Page 10



SHADYSIDE'S Dylan Kimble goes up for a shot during a game this season. Kimble was the go-to-guy for the Tigers during their semi-final victory over Barnesville this past Thursday. Kimble and the Tigers will meet Shenandoah this evening in the Class 2-A title game.

T-L File Photo/SETH STASKEY

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SHADYSIDE TIGERS

Photo/PAUL KRAJNYAK
PICTURED IS the 2009-10 Shadyside Tigers Basketball Team. The team consists of Nick Schuetz, Tyler Cline, Ellis Brown, Dylan Kimble, Patrick O'Donnell, Justin Andes, Colby Emery, Heath Brooks, Matt Duda, Dustin Jeffries, Matt McClurg, Branden Bowman, Rickv Jennings, Cody Akers and George Jackson. The

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SHENANDOAH ZEPS

kind of effective game plan defensively."

PERHAPS easier said than done vs. a potent Tigers' team led by four-season mainstay Justin Andes.

A 1,000 point career scorer at the Lincoln Ave. school, the 6-3 Andes is an unselfish, multi-skilled player who's netting 17 points per start.

"He sees the floor real well and is a capable passer as well as a consistent three-point shooter," his coach/father described.

Nick Schuetz, a 5-11 senior, fits well within the system. Also a dependable threat behind the arc, Schuetz scores at a 14 ppg. clip and is a savvy competitor.

Senior Dylan Kimble is a superb athlete who brings to the table both scoring (9.5 ppg.) and defensive skills. "There's a pretty good chance Dylan will be guarding our opponent's best player," Andes remarked.

Lanky senior Heath Brooks is a 6-3 inside presence with a soft touch around the bucket. "We need Heath to step up and play like he has for us all season," Andes noted of the 10.3 ppg. veteran.

Six-foot senior Tyler Cline rounds out the Orange starting five. An excellent role player, Cline is a capable scorer and rec-

success because the the kids have played very well together as a unit."

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STASKEY

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SHADYSIDE TIGERS

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GOOD LUCK TIGERS!

SHENANDOAH ZEPS

Photo Courtesy/ Ryan Pavlov
PICTURED IS the 2009-10 Shenandoah Zeps Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Brandon Starr, Dalton Doudna, Derek Miller, Cody Farmer, Wes Rataiczak, Zach Fogle, and Justin Rich. Second Row, from left, are Coach Easterling, Marcus Wise, Seth Thompson, Derek Leasure, Shane Crum, Heath Watson, Brett Farnsworth, Michael Leasure, Coach Sebring, and head coach Dan Schweiterman.

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Weir, Magnolia meet for 3-A hardware

• Top-seeded Blue Eagles own a regular season victory over the Red Riders

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

When it comes to the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship Game, Magnolia and Weir High are rookies.

However, when it comes to success, both programs are extremely seasoned.

Battling what seems like almost yearly for a trip to Charleston and the Class AA West Virginia state tournament, the two long-time rivals will clash with additional hardware on the line this morning at Ohio University Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center. Tip-off is slated for 10 a.m.

Weir High - playing in Class 3-A for the first time - advanced to the title game after going into a tough environment at St. Clairsville and pulling the upset over the second-seeded Red Devils by a 67-65, which denied the Devils a third straight trip to today's title game.

"Our goal was definitely to get to this game," Granato said after the semifinal victory. "We knew we'd have a tough game in the semifinals because St. Clairsville plays so well on its home floor, but our kids just kind of hung in there and now we know we've got to prepare for another

strong opponent." The top-seeded Blue Eagles finally avoided the Red Devils in the opening round of the conference tournament and punched their ticket to OUE's campus by virtue of a 62-52 victory over first-time entrant Harrison Central in the other semifinal.

"I'm happy for our seniors," said Tallman. "We're excited to be playing for the championship. We couldn't get to the title game the last two years for one reason or another, but our kids have really worked hard and overcame some tough circumstances."

The meeting with the Red Riders is the second of a possible four between the two West Virginia Double A powers. The two played in January and Weir High prevailed by a 60-58 count.

"Coach Granato and I are good friends and we've talked about going back to just one game during the regular season," Tallman said. "We're looking forward to playing them again and hopefully in the tournament."

The Blue Eagles are led by senior Jared Blatt, who Tallman calls an assistant coach on the floor. The 6-ft-5 Blatt is a bear on the interior, averaging 16 points and 11 rebounds per

MEET THE 3-A FINALISTS

WEIR (13-3)			MAGNOLIA (13-1)		
No.	Gr.	Ht.	No.	Gr.	Ht.
Shawn Burns	3	12 5'9	Traeh Kellery	1	11 5'10
Tyler Salko	5	11 5'10	Jayson Keller	2	10 6'0
Justin Horstman	14	12 6'0	Matt Sapp	3	11 6'0
Mike Drizake	20	10 5'9	Jordan Moore	5	11 6'1
Khristian Williams	22	11 6'1	Mark Winters	11	09 6'6
Fred Jones	24	11 5'9	Derek Anderson	12	12 6'1
Cody Mullens	30	11 6'0	Andy Huggins	13	12 6'4
Kyle Taylor	40	12 6'1	Jared Blatt	33	12 6'5
Paul Buffington	42	11 6'6	Josh Yost	34	12 6'5
Harley Mills	44	10 6'6	Nick Blatt	44	10 6'5
Early Brogdon	50	12 6'0	Head Coach: Dave Tallman		
Anthony Cato	52	12 6'6	Assistants: Mark Blair and Larry West.		
L.J. Campbell	54	12 6'8			
Head Coach: Mike Granato					
Assistants: Jason Angle, Mike Schockley, Jim Hortsman.					

game.

He's complemented by talented freshman Mark Winters who's averaging 16 points and just over eight boards a game for the Blue Eagles.

On the perimeter, the Blue Eagles are led by Matt Sapp who was thrust into action earlier in the year when ticketed point guard Jason Keller came down with a case of mono.

Manning down the center spot for the Eagles is Andy Huggins who averages nine points and a like number of rebounds per contest for the Eagles.

Josh Yost is a long, athletic combo guard at 6-ft-5. Tallman is impressed with his ability to shoot the ball.

Traeh Kellery is a solid perimeter shooter off the pine. Jordan Moore is another who provides depth

in the backcourt.

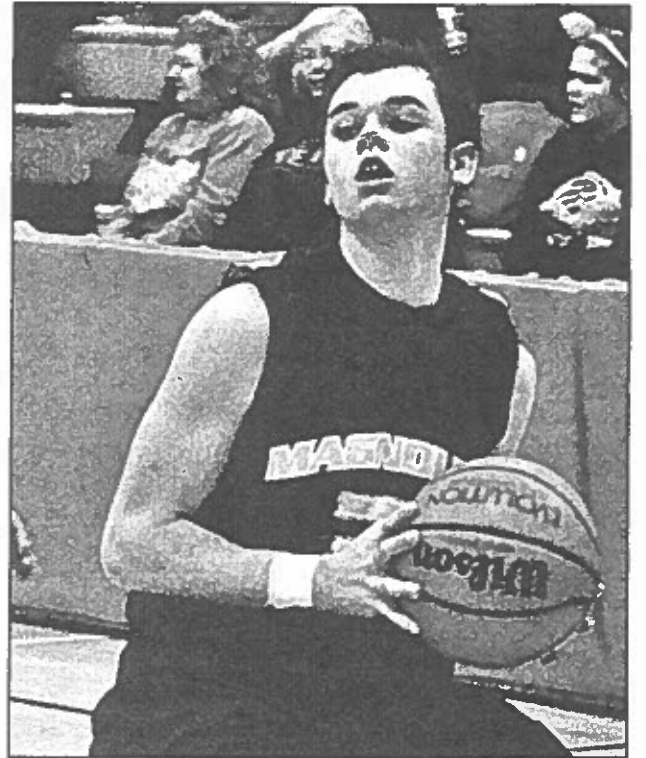
"We're pretty big and we're pretty athletic," Tallman said. "I really think playing in this kind of game and atmosphere will really help us down the road, and I am anxious to see how we respond to playing at 10 a.m."

Weir High is led by its solid inside-outside combination of 6-ft-8 senior L.J. Campbell who is a nightly double-double and a talented finisher at the rim.

Senior Shawn Burns is a lightning quick guard at 5-ft-9. He's an adapt perimeter shooter as evidenced by the five treys he hit in the first half against St. Clairsville Thursday night.

Senior Jason Horstman suits up on the perimeter and had 11 in the semifinals.

"Weir's size and length



Photo/MIKE MATHISON

MAGNOLIA'S Matt Sapp pulls up during the Blue Eagles' meeting earlier this season with Weir. The two squads will meet again today for the OVAC Class 3-A title.

altered a lot of our shots in the first meeting," Tallman said. "They are very athletic and they run the floor well. We're going to have to handle the ball well against them because they like to press."

Early Brogden starts on the interior along side of Campbell in the pivot. Fred

Jones runs the point. He's the Red Riders' catalyst and is a distributor of the basketball more than just a scorer.

"I am happy for our seniors and we're definitely excited to be at this point," Granato said.

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

OVAC

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used during the wrestling tournament held last month in Wheeling.

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possible."

Along with the champions in all of the sports and scholarship winners, the membership of the Varsity Board will be recognized during the OVAC's Banquet of Champions in May.

One shocking stat about the Varsity Board is the fact that not all of the schools take part. Of the 48 member schools, 43 are represented on the Varsity Board.

"I firmly believe that (the other schools) will jump on board," Vargo said. "There's probably some of the unknown factor involved, but we'll follow up with them and I'm sure that these schools will join and we'll do everything we can to help them."

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Central, Bo Decoy, St. John Central; Sam Duvall, Shadyside; Jillian Laslo, Shadyside; and Ian Mayles, Wheeling Central

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MAGNOLIA BLUE EAGLES



Photo Provided
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MAGNOLIA BLUE EAGLES

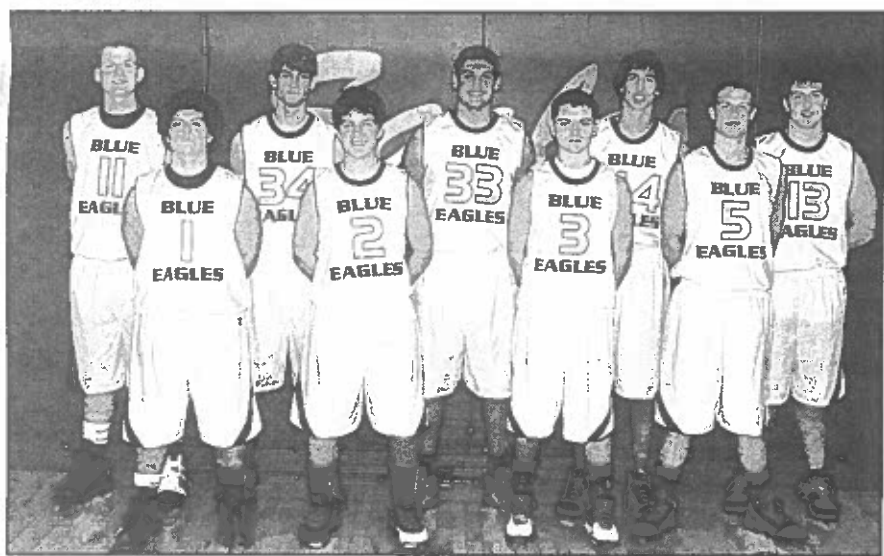


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WEIR RED RIDERS



Photo Provided
 PICTURED IS the 2009-10 Weir High Red Riders Basketball Team. The team consists of Shawn Burns, Tyler Salko, Justin Horstman, Mike Drizake, Christian Williams, Fred Jones, Cody Mullens, Kyle Taylor, Paul Buffington, Harley Mills, Early Brogden, Anthony Cato and L.J. Campbell.

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Familiar foes clash in 4-A final

• Wheeling Park, John Marshall meet for the third time today at 1 p.m.; Park seeking repeat

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

The Wheeling Park Patriots and John Marshall Monarchs have gotten to know each other quite well over the course of the last few years.

The most recent chapter of the rivalry will be formed this afternoon when the two squads square off once again with the championship of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Tournament on the line.

"We're excited to be back in the championship game," said Wheeling Park head coach Michael Jebbia. "We've played John Marshall twice, but it's the same as last year in that regard. However, it's a new day and a new game."

The Patriots were decisive winners over the Monarchs during the regular season, but don't think for a minute that Monarchs' head coach Bill Storm is letting that affect his preparation.

"We've improved as the year went along," Storm said. "We earned our way into the tournament and into the second seed, and we know we're going to have earn it Saturday if we're to win the championship."

Believe it or not, the Patriots are seeking the school's first repeat OVAC title. The Patriots own only five conference titles in the school's history, but over the course of time have played against top-notch competition and before the 2008 season, the title wasn't settled on the court.

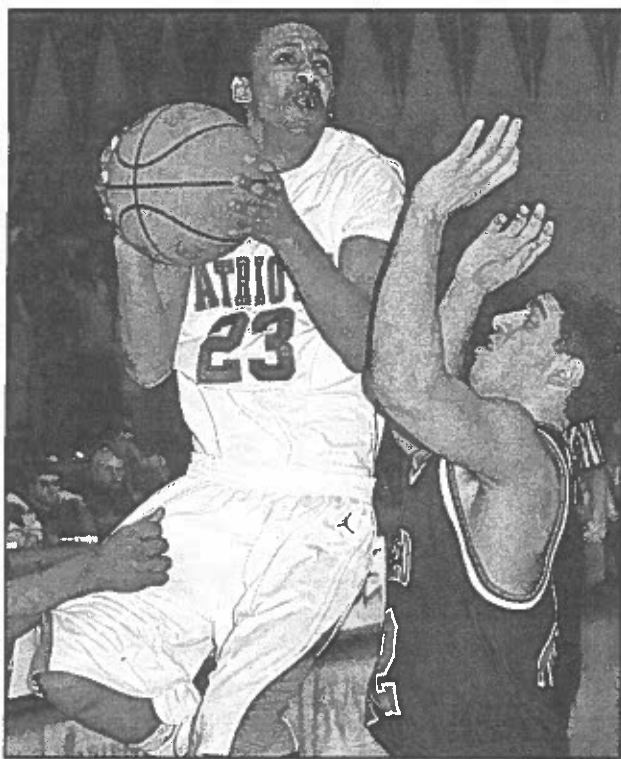
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Photo/JOSH STROPE

WHEELING PARK'S Bubby Goodwin will be one of the players to watch in today's Class 4-A final.

Getting a lot of people involved has been the story all season for the Patriots, who play upwards of nine or 10 guys.

"Our kids have accepted their roles and when they're called upon, they give everything they have," Jebbia said. "We've developed kids all year through a lot of different situations."

The Patriots are led by their one-two offensive punch of junior Bubby Goodwin and junior Marqez O'Neal who averaged 17.6 and 17.5 points a game, respectively.

However, O'Neal is questionable for today's game after sustaining a head injury in Wednesday's semifinal.

Senior Richard Hall — who signed a football scholarship to attend the University of Akron — does much of the yeoman's work on the interior. He averages more than 10 rebounds a game to go along with eight points.

Guard Shaun Black is another of the Patriots' go-to players. He's a talented deep shooter and chips in just under 10 points a game. Black and O'Neal both received five stitches following the semifinal after they collided with one another.

The remainder of the Patriots' rotation is comprised of Errin Baynes, Michael Griffin and Vondel Bell.

"We've got to be able to

guessing that when this was started three years ago, no one would have guessed John Marshall would have played in the first three games. We emphasize this tournament."

For the second consecutive season, the Monarchs reached the title game after surviving in overtime during the semi-final round. Last year, the Monarchs ousted Weir High, but this past Wednesday Steubenville was the victim by a 70-64 count.

"There was a stretch this season where I didn't think this game was possible because we were so mentally tired," Storm said. "We had a stretch where played 10 games in 18 days and that about killed us more than any time off killed us, but we are refreshed and everyone's in the same boat."

The Monarchs are led by talented senior Jeremy Hays who averages more than 20 points a game.

Sophomore Justin Wade and junior Luke Lavenski have come on of late and both are averaging just under 10 points a game on the interior.

The Martins — Logan and Luke — round out the Monarch lineup on the perimeter. Logan is the Monarchs' best three-point shooter, knocking down 42 percent of his tries from deep.

"We know John Marshall's other players

MEET THE 4-A FINALISTS

WHEELING PARK (14-2)			JOHN MARSHALL (11-7)		
No.	Gr.	Ht.	No.	Gr.	Ht.
Shaun Black	1	12 5'10	Logan Martin	10	11 5'10
Richard Hall	2	12 6'4	Luke Martin	11	11 5'10
Errin Baynes	3	10 6'1	Logan Patrick	12	11 5'9
Michael Griffin	4	12 6'0	Justin Wade	13	10 6'4
Nathan Dolan	5	12 6'2	Aaron Fonner	14	10 5'10
Michael Mauck	10	10 5'9	Artie Lightner	21	12 6'1
Vondel Bell	12	10 6'3	Casey Clutter	23	11 6'2
Bubby Goodwin	23	11 6'0	Tyler Brautigam	30	10 6'2
Marqez O'Neal	32	11 6'3	Jeremy Hays	31	12 6'2
Demetrius Lathon	33	10 6'1	Luke Lavenski	32	11 6'2
Reed Simpson	34	11 6'8	David Hummell III	55	10 6'4
Kevin Kuca	50	12 6'5	Head Coach: Bill Storm		
Head Coach: Michael Jebbia			Assistants: Casey Storm, Mike Ferro, Corey Murphy.		
Assistants: Ron Gill, Tony Marvin, Dave Stanke.					

have really gotten better around Hays," Jebbia said. "They're much better than they were on Jan. 22 when we played them. We've

done a good job of changing defenses throughout the year and I'm not sure they want to get out and run in a high possession game."

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**WHEELING PARK
PATRIOTS**



**JOHN MARSHALL
MONARCHS**

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The remainder of the Patriots' rotation is comprised of Errin Baynes, Michael Griffin and Vondel Bell.

"We've got to be able to

handle their pressure and score the basketball," Storm said. "They come at you in droves and can score quickly. They present us with some big-time match-up problems."

The Monarchs, meanwhile, are seeking their second OVAC title in school history and are at OUE for the third consecutive year. They lost to Indian Creek in 2008 and the Patriots last season.

"It's a big honor to be back in the championship game," Storm said. "I am

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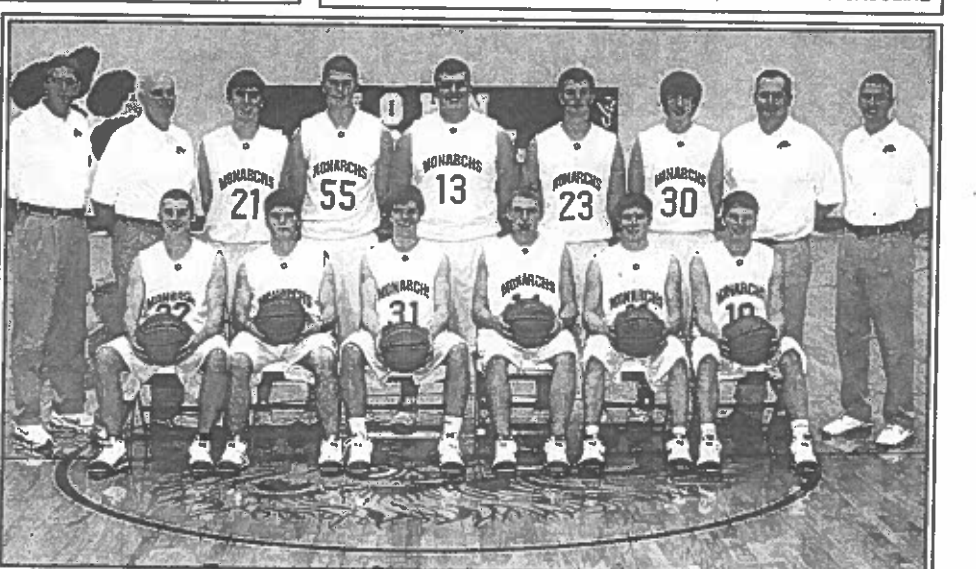
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JOHN MARSHALL MONARCHS

Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2009-2010 John Marshall Monarchs Basketball Team. Front row, from left, are Luke Lavenski, Logan Patrick, Jeremy Hays, Aaron Fonner, Luke Martin and Logan Martin. Back row, from left, are head coach Bill Storm, assistant coach Mike Ferro, Artie Lightner, David Hummel, Justin Wade, Casey Clutter, Tyler Brautigam, assistant coach Corey Murphy and assistant coach Casey Storm.

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WHEELING PARK PATRIOTS

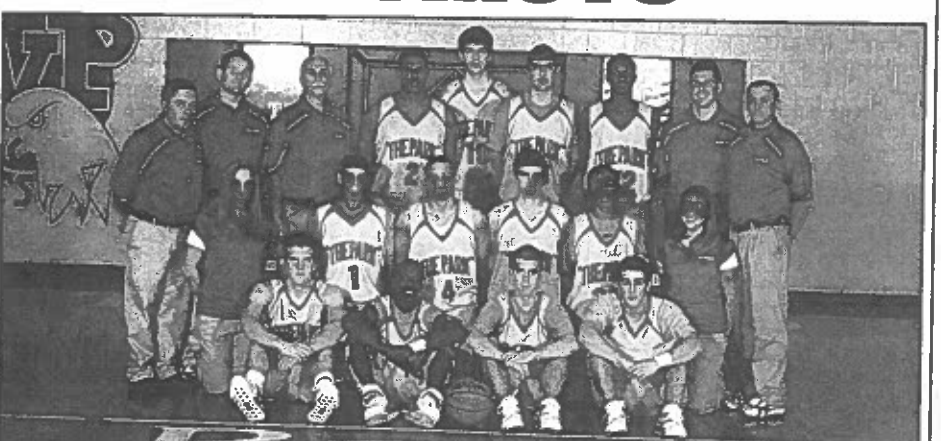


Photo Provided
PICTURED IS the 2010 Wheeling Park Basketball Team. The team consists of Shaun Black, Richard Hall, Errin Baynes, Michael Griffin, Nathan Dolan, Michael Mauck, Vondel Bell, Bubby Goodwin, Marqez O'Neal, Demetrius Lathon, Reed Simpson and Kevin Kuca. The Patriots are coached by Michael Jebbia.

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St. C. blitzes Harrison

• Red Devils take third place in OVAC Class 3-A tournament

By RICH GIBSON
Times Leader Sports Writer

It goes without saying St. Clairsville's Kim Clifford has mixed emotions regarding this three-peat.

Friday night at Cadiz, Clifford's Red Devils completed a three-game sweep of neighboring rival Harrison Central.

Which also meant it was the third consecutive victory for St. C.'s venerable mentor against his young son Justin, the Huskies' rookie coach.

While the previous two matchups were of the competitive variety, there was no such recurrence the third time around.

St. Clairsville mounted a 12-point halftime lead and went on to hammer the Huskies, 75-50, in a Wheeling Hospital OVAC 3-A consolation contest.

"I'm not saying this because I'm his father, but Justin has done a fantastic job with his program. I know a lot of other coaches who would agree with that," the Devils' cage boss related.

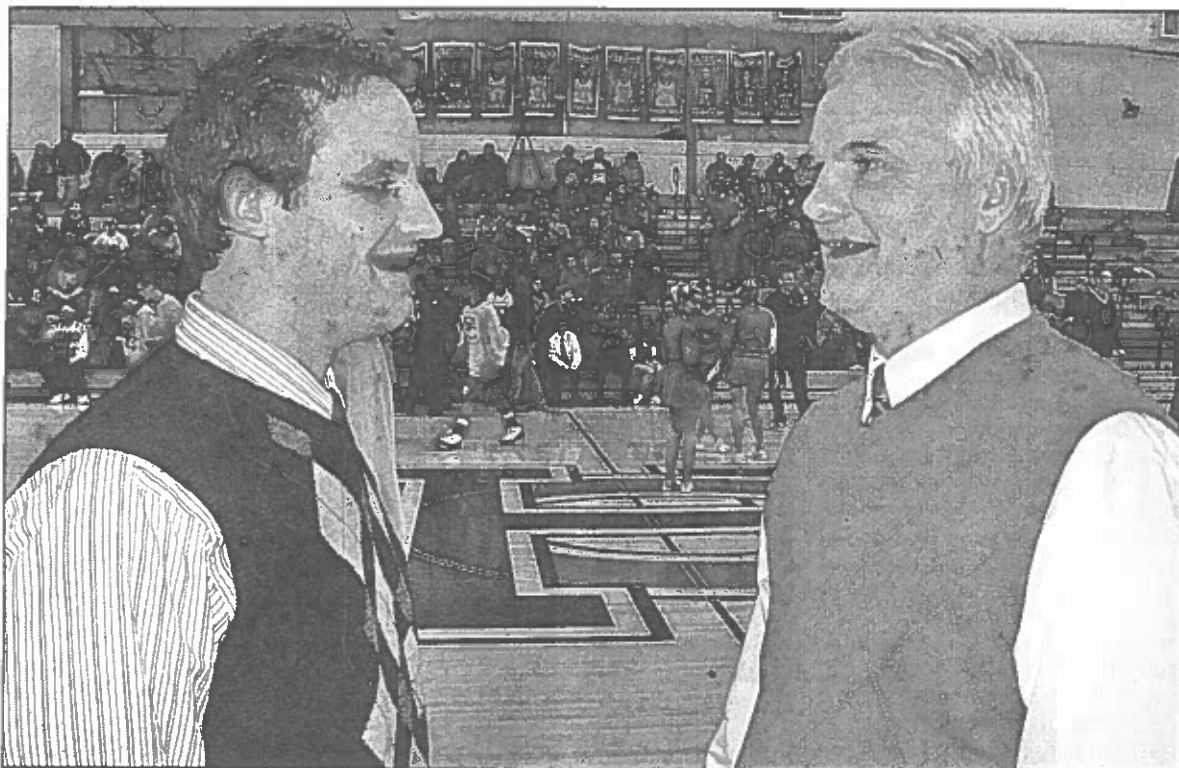
Though obviously appreciative of his father's comments, Justin Clifford was anything but pleased by his club's Friday performance.

"I don't know who that was (out there) playing tonight. It sure wasn't us," he exclaimed. "I told the kids we (once) had a pretty good thing going. But it doesn't feel like that right now."

The loss dropped Harrison to 12-7 with a sectional tournament appearance scheduled one week from tonight.

St. C., meanwhile, successfully rebounded from a hard-to-take two-point home court Thursday loss to Weir High.

"I was definitely concerned how we'd respond," the Red Devils' coach advised. "Following our previous losses, the kids have come out and played with a sense of urgency. I thought they did that



ST. CLAIRSVILLE head coach Kim Clifford (right) and his son Justin, who is the head coach of Harrison Central talk prior to the start of their third meeting Friday evening. Kim's Red Devils knocked off the Huskies for the third time this season.

T-L Photo/RICH GIBSON

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And the Devils did so minus freshman ace and leading scorer Dan Monteroso, sidelined with a foot injury and mild concussion.

"Dan's day-to-day and we're not taking any chances," Clifford explained.

Not surprisingly, veteran guard Dan Slavik stepped up to author an impressive 28-point performance. "Dan went out and did what you expect senior leaders to do," Clifford stated.

Junior Allen Derosa was also solid, posting a double-double consisting of 17 points and 10 rebounds. Senior Alex Thornburg donated eight points and junior Jared Clovis came off the bench to net nine markers.

St. Clairsville made frequent

visits to the foul line from where the Devils drained 29 of their 33 attempts.

Scoring 14 points apiece for Harrison were junior Kyle Blanchard and freshman Nick Pelegreen. Ben Palmer contributed seven.

The Saints shot a sizzling 19-of-36 from the floor, landed 26 rebounds and overcame 17 turnovers.

Harrison hooped 19-of-52 from the field. Blanchard nabbed six of his team's 23 rebounds. The hosts were guilty of 16 giveaways.

Improving to 14-4, St. Clairsville has a scheduled makeup contest Monday at the hilltop gym against Edison. No freshman game will be contested.

In Friday's jayvee matchup,

coach Kevin Sacco's Red Devils remained unbeaten following a 49-27 victory. Andy Thornburg (15) and Sam Vincenzo (12) paced the win.

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UL fights off Beallsville

By KIM NORTH
Times Leader Sports Writer

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Take Friday night's Beallsville at Union Local contest for instance. The two schools hadn't met on the hardwood since the early 1970s, according to reports.

The Jets are the Class 3-A defending champions that lost a whole bunch of scoring firepower to graduation. On the other hand, the Class A Blue Devils came to Morristown with nothing to lose.

Trailing by 14 points at the half, Beallsville didn't tuck its tail between its legs and head home. In fact, it was just the opposite.

The Blue Devils (8-11) reeled off 15 of the first 16 third-quarter points to pull even with the Jets (8-10) with 4:21 on the clock.

"We told the kids that they (Union Local) shot lights-out in the first half," explained veteran Beallsville head coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda of his halftime talk. "We told them to keep plugging away and things will start going our way, and they did."



BEALLSVILLE head coach Scooter Tolzda talks to his team during a timeout of Friday's game against Union Local in Morristown. The Jets prevailed by a 62-55 count.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

'We were kind of outmatched at times, but the kids kept fighting and fighting.'

— Scooter Tolzda

but the kids kept fighting and fighting.

"We're getting better and playing a game on this floor where we play our sectional will help some, but River is a good team that has given us trouble this season."

Porter was quick to praise the work of Waller.

"Darby really stepped up tonight. He finally played like he is capable of," he said.

Jellison led all scorers in the game with two dozen points. Waller added a career-high 16 lightings and also pulled down a game-high dozen rebounds as UL held a 39-27 edge off the glass.

Jackson paced a trio of Blue Devils in twin digits with 17 points. Jarrett finished with 12, while Dauch had 11. Baldrige had 10 rebounds.

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The Jets are the Class 3-A defending champions that lost a whole bunch of scoring firepower to graduation. On the other hand, the Class A Blue Devils came to Morristown with nothing to lose.

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The Blue Devils (8-11) reeled off 15 of the first 16 third-quarter points to pull even with the Jets (8-10) with 4:21 on the clock.

"We told the kids that they (Union Local) shot lights-out in the first half," explained veteran Beallsville head coach Lou "Scooter" Tolzda of his halftime talk. "We told them to keep plugging away and things will start going our way, and they did."

Freshman Teryn Jarrett ignited the comeback with two of his three trifectas in the period. Graham Dauch also contributed five points and Sam Jackson four.

"Leading by 14 we sure didn't do what we were supposed to do," Union Local head coach Ben Porter said. "We let them (Beallsville) come out and dictate the pace in the third quarter."

However, from that point on, Union Local tallied nine of the final 14 points of the period to take a 47-43 edge into the final chapter.

Eddie King's basket in the lane gave the Jets the lead for good at 40-38, and Myron Jellison followed with a drive that extended the margin to four, 42-38. Jarrett and Jellison exchanged treys before Jackson hit a bucket for the 4-point deficit with a quarter remaining.



BEALLSVILLE head coach Scooter Tolzda talks to his team during a timeout of Friday's game against Union Local in Morristown. The Jets prevailed by a 62-55 count.

T-L Photo/KIM NORTH

Union Local scored 8 of the first dozen points of the final frame to build a seemingly comfortable, 55-47, advantage with 2:39 left to play.

A basket by Jackson and a triple by Evan Nieswanger cut the deficit to 55-52, and after the Jets misfired on the front end of a bonus situation with 53.4 ticks left, it appeared as though the Blue Devils would have one last shot at tying the contest.

Enter Union Local senior Darby Waller. The 6-ft.-1 jumping jack got inside position and snatched the offensive rebound as precious seconds ticked off the clock.

Jellison meshed 1-of-2 free throws at the 38.7-second mark, and after a Beallsville miss, UL freshman Jacob Bailey nailed both of his charity tosses for a 58-52

lead.

Tyler Spence's bonus bomb kept the Blue Devils alive at 58-55 with 18 seconds showing, but Jellison, an 84-percent free throw shooter entering the game, calmly dropped in four straight for the final margin of victory.

"Myron hit some big shots for us down the stretch," Porter said. "Then with him at the foul line, we feel confident."

Tolzda said his young squad, which starts three sophomores and a pair of freshmen, can take some positives from the loss.

"The good start to the third quarter put us in a position to win, but not blocking out and a couple of turnovers really hurt us," he said. "The kids played hard though. We were kind of outmatched at times,

'We were kind of outmatched at times, but the kids kept fighting and fighting.'
— Scooter Tolzda

but the kids kept fighting and fighting.

"We're getting better and playing a game on this floor where we play our sectional will help some, but River is a good team that has given us trouble this season."

Porter was quick to praise the work of Waller.

"Darby really stepped up tonight. He finally played like he is capable of," he said.

Jellison led all scorers in the game with two dozen points. Waller added a career-high 16 lightings and also pulled down a game-high dozen rebounds as UL held a 39-27 edge off the glass.

Jackson paced a trio of Blue Devils in twin digits with 17 points. Jarrett finished with 12, while Dauch had 11. Baldrige had 10 rebounds.

Beallsville turned the ball over 16 times, five more than Union Local.

The Blue Devils avoided the sweep with a thrilling, 41-38, victory in the preliminary game. Nieswanger had 15 points, while Caleb Blackman had 18 for UL.

Beallsville hosts Weirton Madonna today in a 2 p.m. tip.

Varsity scoring:
BEALLSVILLE (55) — Spence 2 0-0 6; Jackson 7 1-3 17; Baldrige 1 0-0 2; Jarrett 4 0-0 12; Dauch 4 3-3 11; Heath 1 2-2 4; Nieswanger 1 0-0 3; Myers 0 0-0 0; Totals: 20-47 6-8. **UNION LOCAL (62)** — Jellison 6 7-8 24; Bailey 2 3-4 8; Lucas 3 0-1 7; McGary 2 0-0 5; Waller 7 2-7 16; King 1 0-2 2; Tobin 0 0-0 0; Totals: 21-48 12-22.

Three-Point Goals: Beallsville 9 (Jarrett 4, Spence 2, Jackson 2, Nieswanger); Union Local 8 (Jellison 5, Bailey, McGary, Lucas)

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River upends Buckeye

By MIKE PALMER
Times Leader Sports Writer

Mark Romick's River Pilots ran up a 16-point lead on Buckeye Local only to see it slip away in the third quarter Friday night at the R.L. Potts Gymnasium in Hannibal.

River, however, recovered and went on to pin a 54-45 setback on the Panthers.

The Pilots fell behind quickly as the confident Panther offense quickly took a 6-0 lead. Unfortunately for coach Gary Raber it would take the remainder of the half for his Panthers to equal that offensive output.

In the meantime, River had put together a pair of 14 point quarters and led its guests 28-13 at the intermission.

The Pilots continued to add to the deficit and had a 32-16 advantage early in the third frame. The dormant Buckeye Local offense suddenly came to life. Pouring it on for a 16-0 run that gave them a 22-8 outing in the third quarter.

Buckeye regained the lead when Justin Isinghood took a steal for a transition two and it was 34-33 in favor of the Panthers.

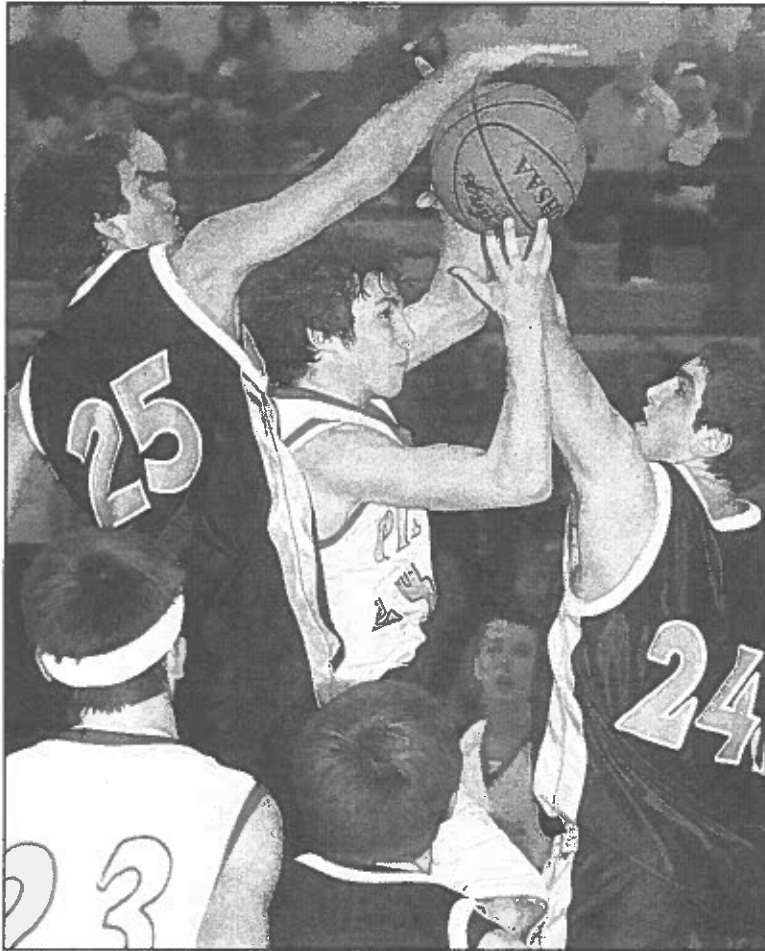
"We were down by 16 points but our energy was good," said coach Raber of his Panthers. "We worked hard, dug deep and came back to take a one point lead right before the end of the quarter, you can't ask for anything more than that."

"We knew they had some athletes and we gave up a lot of size," said Romick. "We made some mistakes, we had a lot of turnovers in that quarter and I think that was the difference."

River's buzzer beater tipped the scoreboard back in its favor.

The fourth quarter battle remained close as the Pilots would cling to a 40-38 lead midway through the quarter. River achieved bonus numbers first in the foul column and the final outcome would be decided at the charity stripe.

The Pilots were a nearly perfect



T-L Photo/MIKE PALMER

RIVER'S Tucker Brown soars to the bucket against Buckeye Local's Nick Piergallini and Joe Rine during Friday's consolation bracket of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Championship. Brown scored 20 points to fuel the Pilots' victory. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

14 of 15 as a team from the charity stripe in the fourth frame. In fact, senior Dylan Potts was a perfect 10 of 10 in the last period.

"This is exactly where you want to be at the end of the year," Romick added. "When it came down to the end of the game we were taking care of the ball and making our foul shots."

Tucker Brown led the Pilots with 20 points and was also a perfect 6-of-6 on penalty shots. Potts finished his double-double performance with 16 points and 11

rebounds.

River shot 35 percent from the floor making good on 17 of 49 attempts and 83 percent from the foul line netting 17 of 21 opportunities. The Pilots led off the boards with 27 rebounds compared to 25 for Buckeye Local.

Zach Bonds paced the Panthers with 17 points. Buckeye shot 39 percent making good on 16 of 41 action shots and shot 9 of 17 from the foul line.

River improves to 7-12 and travels to Edison for a make-up

'When it came down to the end of the game we were taking care of the ball and making our foul shots.'

- Mark Romick

game Saturday.

Buckeye Local (6-13) will host Brooke Monday night in Connorville with the JV tip off at 6 pm.

RIVER (54) - Brown 6, 6-6 20; Potts, D. 3, 10-10 16. Potts, J. 4, 1-2 9; Ramsier 2, 0-0 4; Wax 1, 0-0 3; Jeffers 1, 0-2 2; Stewart 0, 0-0 0; Haney 0' 0-0 0. Totals - 17, 17-20. **BUCKEYE LOCAL** (45) - Bonds 8, 0-3 17; Rine 3, 2-4 8; Maxwell 1, 4-6 6; Piergallini 2, 2-2 6; Masloski 1, 0-0 3; Isinghood 1, 0-0 2; Richardson 0, 0-0 0; Durbin 0, 0-0 0; Mains 0, 0-0 0. Totals - 17, 9-17.

Three-point goals. River - Brown (2), Wax. Buckeye Local - Bonds, Masloski.

Bode Miller leads US to silver, bronze in super-G

VANCOUVER. British Columbia (AP) - Two races, two medals. Bode Miller is putting together one heck of a Vancouver Olympics.

Miller picked up a silver in the super-G Friday to go with the bronze he won in the downhill.

Andrew Weibrecht surprisingly finished right behind Miller, plopping another medal onto the United States' growing pile.

The U.S. Alpine team already has won six medals, their most ever, and we're not even halfway done in the mountains.

"Our kids love to compete in the big show," said Bill Marolt, head of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association.

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Bellaire falls to Fort Frye

By MIKE HUGHES
Times Leader Sports Writer

Fort Frye rolled into Bellaire on Friday with an uncharacteristic 4-9 record and nearly a month's worth of time since the Cadets had played their previous game.

The lengthy layoff gave coach Dan Liedtke's team plenty of time to work on its shooting.

Fort Frye canned 10 3-pointers and shot better than 50 percent from the field in dispatching the Big Reds by a 63-54 count.

"That's one thing we hadn't been doing well is shooting," Liedtke said. "We hadn't played in four weeks and I guess we had a lot of time to practice shooting."

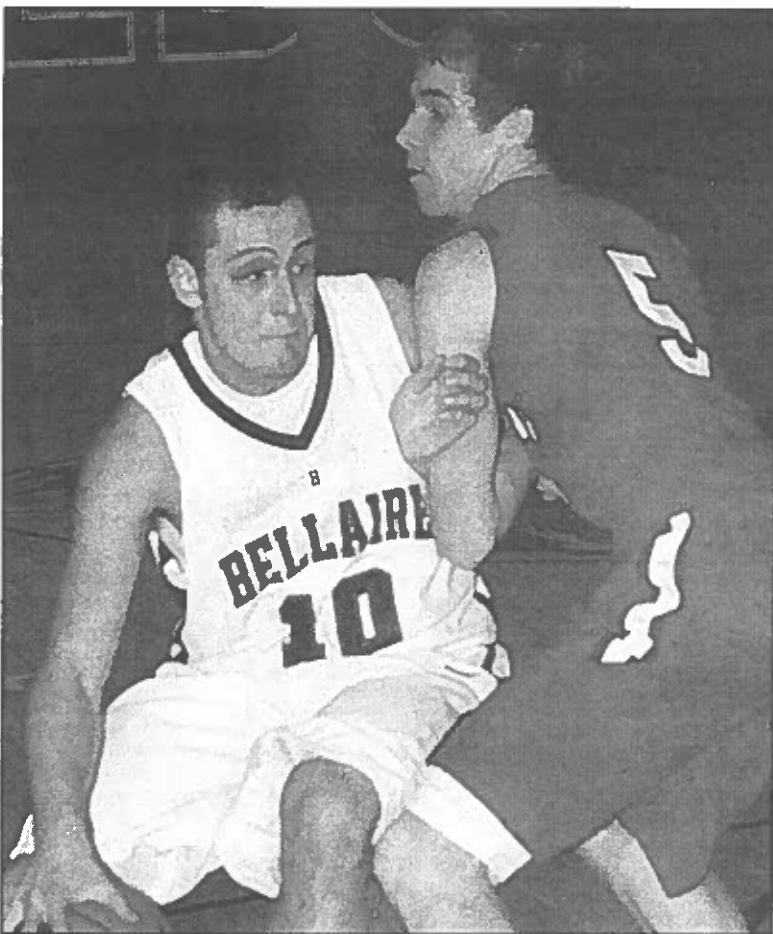
"I knew we had a better team than our record indicated and this here was the team that I expected to see to start the season."

The Cadets connected on 19 of 34 shots (percent) and finished 15 of 20 at the line.

The tough part for Bellaire in trying to defend Fort Frye was that it wasn't just one or two players doing the damage.

Four players scored in double figures for the visitors, led by Cory Gerber and Donald Hilverding, who totaled 14 points apiece.

Freshman Shon Smith narrowly



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

'...it's tough for us to survive when a team has 10 treys because we can't manufacture that many points.'

- Gene Ammirante

took the lead following the intermission.

A midcourt steal and lay-in from Ward put Bellaire up five at 37-32. But again, back came the Cadets on the strength of their perimeter shooting.

The Cadets took the lead for good on a pair of free throws from Legraen with less than a minute remaining in the third.

"We started a bit slow, but once we get into the flow of the game and adjusted to their speed and quickness, we were ok," Liedtke said.

Lagraen finished with 12 points for Fort Frye and Bates added 11. The two combined for 12 of the team's 23 rebounds.

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Bellaire falls to Fort Frye

By MIKE HUGHES
Times Leader Sports Writer

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"I knew we had a better team than our record indicated and this here was the team that I expected to see to start the season."

The Cadets connected on 19 of 34 shots (percent) and finished 15 of 20 at the line.

The tough part for Bellaire in trying to defend Fort Frye was that it wasn't just one or two players doing the damage.

Four players scored in double figures for the visitors, led by Cory Gerber and Donald Hilverding, who totaled 14 points apiece.

Freshman Shon Smith narrowly missed double figures, tallying seven points.

Fort Frye couldn't miss, but in Bellaire coach Gene Ammirante's estimation, his team wasn't making the effort defensively to get the Cadets untracked.

"I remember (the late) Skip Prosser, and he'd tell me his guys kept telling him they are hot," Ammirante said. "He'd tell them 'Son, it's up to you to make them not hot. If you get after them they won't be hot.'"

"And we weren't close enough to them. To their credit, they dropped a bundle of treys and it's tough for us to survive when a team has 10 treys because we can't manufacture that many points."

The Big Reds raced out to an early 11-3 lead on a running lay-up from junior Devin Ward.

A few minutes passed without



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

BELLAIRE'S Levi Crozier works into the post against Fort Frye's Jared Bates during Friday's game in the consolation round of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Consolation Round. Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com

scoring before Hilverding dialed up his second of four 3-pointers with 1:16 left. Slowly, but surely, Fort Frye began to find the range and started whittling away at the Bellaire lead.

A key series came with 1:36 left in the half and Bellaire clinging to a 27-25 lead.

Gerber hit the front end of a two-shot foul to cut the deficit to one but missed the second shot. Jared Bates quickly moved into position on the miss, grabbed the rebound and stuck the putback.

Following a Bellaire miss, the Cadets' Garrett Lagraen found himself at the line. Like Gerber, he

made the first but missed the second. Bates again grabbed the missed free throw and found Smith, who dropped a short jumper for a 31-27 Cadets' lead.

"Those two buckets of missed free throws were huge," Ammirante said. "That was a big turning point."

"I have to give credit to Fort Frye because they swung the ball from side to side and made us defend and really broke us down. And after they broke us down, they knocked in the shots they had to make."

Behind Ward, who finished with a game-high 22 points, Bellaire re-

'...it's tough for us to survive when a team has 10 treys because we can't manufacture that many points.'

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took the lead following the intermission.

A midcourt steal and lay-in from Ward put Bellaire up five at 37-32. But again, back came the Cadets on the strength of their perimeter shooting.

The Cadets took the lead for good on a pair of free throws from Legraen with less than a minute remaining in the third.

"We started a bit slow, but once we get into the flow of the game and adjusted to their speed and quickness, we were ok," Liedtke said.

Lagraen finished with 12 points for Fort Frye and Bates added 11. The two combined for 12 of the team's 23 rebounds.

Crozier and Kasey Tuttle backed Ward with 12 points apiece for the Big Reds, who were outrebounded 23-15.

Bellaire faces rival Martins Ferry on Tuesday in a first-round, Ohio Division III sectional contest at Byesville. The Reds and Riders split previous meetings this season, with the home team winning both games.

Varsity scoring:
FORT FRYE (63) - Hilverding 4 2-2 14; Bates 4 2-2 11; Mincks 0 0-0 0; Smith 3 0-1 7; Watson 2 0-0 5; Gerber 3 5-6 14; Legraen 3 6-9 12; Totals: 19-34 15-20 63. BELLAIRE (54) - Ward 7 6-6 22; Camsky 1 0-0 2; Crozier 5 0-0 12; Bobka 0 0-0 0; Tolliver 2 2-2 6; Tuttle 5 0-0 12; Blackman 0 0-0 0; Totals: 20-43 8-8 54.

Three-point Goals: F - Hilverding (4), Bates (1), Watson (1), Gerber (3), B - Ward (2), Crozier (2), Tuttle (2).

Hughes can be reached at mhughes@timesleaderonline.com



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Ferry holds off Oak Glen

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

Martins Ferry's seen plenty of tight games during the course of the boys basketball season.

However, unlike many of the others inside the Tolbert Gymnasium, the Riders came out on the positive side.

After watching a nine-point lead evaporate in the fourth quarter, the Purple Riders (6-11) demonstrated some resolve on both ends of the floor and pulled out a hard-earned 44-42 victory over Oak Glen in the consolation round of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Basketball Championship.

"We've lost three games identical to tonight," said Martins Ferry head coach Jeff Sabatino. "In each of those games we had a two-point lead and all we needed to do was get a stop."

It was definitely identical circumstances.

After the Golden Bears had outscored the Purple Riders 13-3 over the course of the first 7:30 of the fourth quarter, the Riders buckled down.

A stop on the defensive end and a few passes later, Martins Ferry found itself with a layup from point-blank range, but it didn't drop.

Oak Glen was fouled, but couldn't convert the front end of the bonus situation and the rebound fell into the Riders' hands.

Senior Cody McGee wheeled and dealed his way into the paint, drew Golden Bear defenders and shoved off classmate Jordan Burress.

"I was pleased tonight because in the other tight games we've been in, we didn't make a play down the stretch," Sabatino explained. "Tonight, we didn't play well down the stretch, but we made two outstanding plays to win the game."

After displaying a bevy of moves, Burress kissed home a shot with 1.32 seconds to go in the contest.

"Burress made an outstanding, difficult shot," Sabatino said. "He



T-L Photo/SETH STASKEY

MARTINS FERRY'S Jordan Burress pivots toward the basket against Oak Glen's Clay Owings during their OVAC consolation game Friday evening inside the Tolbert Gymnasium. *Additional images may be found at cu.timesleaderonline.com*

was determined. He used everything in the bag to be able to bank that baby home and he showed some good athleticism."

Oak Glen, however, wasn't finished especially when considering the fact that senior Clay Owings had already gone for 22 points in the game.

The Golden Bears rushed the ball up the floor after the Burress bucket and called with a timeout with a shade more than six seconds showing on the clock.

A chess match developed as

Sabatino called back-to-back timeouts trying to find the exact plan to keep the ball from Owings.

"We knew they were going to try to double (Owings)," said Oak Glen head coach Vince Gilliam. "The play was designed to hit the guy in the corner or a guy on the wing."

The ball was inbounded to Owings, but he was stripped by Josh Nagel and the ball bounced off McGee into the backcourt as the horn sounded.

"Clay's been carrying us all

'I thought this was a poorly officiated game.'

- Oak Glen head coach Vince Gilliam

year and he thinks he can make every shot," Gilliam said. "That's the kind of player you want on your team, but he's got to trust his teammates at times too."

Owings had 15 of his points in the first half and in the second half the Riders turned up the physicality of the game.

"I thought this was a poorly officiated game," Gilliam said. "Clay's been getting hammered and beat up all year, but if you say something to the officials, they get on the defensive and take it out on (Clay)."

Burress' scoring production neutralized Owings. The Riders' senior finished with 19 points. He was complemented by McGee who had 14 tallies. Senior Michael Roach buried three first-half bonus bombs en route to nine.

Oak Glen's Zack Mazezka added 10 for the Golden Bears.

Martins Ferry - which is unsure whether it will make up three snowed out games - opens sectional play Tuesday at Meadowbrook against Division III.

Oak Glen returns to regular season play with a three-game week against Madonna, Brooke and Toronto.

Scoring:
OAK GLEN (42) - Whittaker 0, 0-0 0; Stepec 2, 0-0 4; Owings 9, 3-5 22; M. Mazezka 0, 0-0 0; Z. Mazezka 4, 0-0 10; Barnhart 3, 0-0 6; James 0, 0-0 0; Hissam 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 18, 3-5 42.
MARTINS FERRY (44) - Roach 3, 0-0 9; Ricchetti 0, 0-0 0; Burress 9, 1-1 19; McGee 5, 4-6 14; Jones 0, 0-0 0; Nagel 0, 2-4 2; Schuster 0, 0-0 0; Murray 0, 0-0 0; Simmons 0, 0-0 0; Totals: 17, 7-11 44.

Three-Point Goals: OG - Owings, Mazezka (2). MF - Roach (3).

Staskey can be reached at sstaskey@timesleaderonline.com

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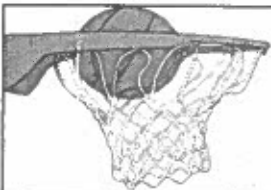
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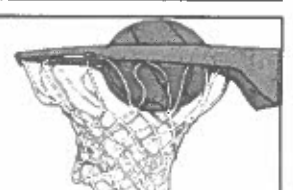
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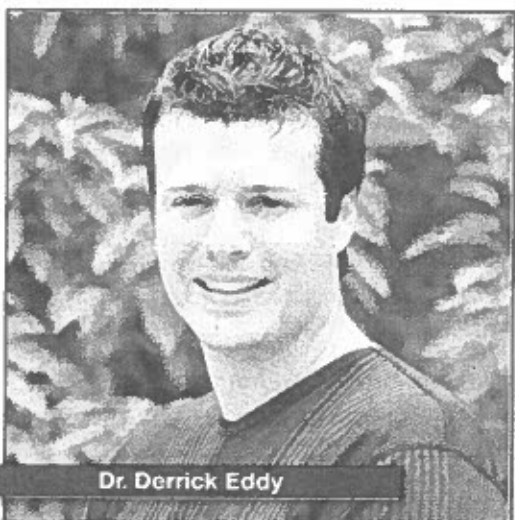


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Beallsville High School**

Backup goalie Niklas Backstrom pulled on his basecoat cap and took Kiprusoff's place in the net.

Things didn't go any better for him. Backstrom got beat twice on the first four shots he faced.

"We didn't expect that in a million years," U.S. defenseman Jack Johnson said. "I don't think anyone did, especially when you get down to the final four, but it happened for us and we're looking forward to Sunday."

It will be the first time since 1972 the U.S. men will play for Olympic gold on foreign soil.

Kiprusoff had only himself to blame for the start of his misery. The U.S. cleared its zone with a nudge of the puck that sent it sliding slowly into the Finnish end. Phil Kessel raced after it and forced Kiprusoff to come way out of his crease.

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critics no matter what you do. Make the best of it and be yourself - that's what I try to do. I've always been blue collar and a hard worker. That's what will get me to the show and keep me there."

Blue collar? That will work just fine.

pladews - ki@piratesreport.com

Hanrahan OK

BRADENTON, Fla. - One day after Pirates pitcher Joel Hanrahan was told the worst might be over for his troublesome right elbow, he looked and sounded like his old self again.

"I feel like a real person again," Hanrahan said on Friday afternoon.

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Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys' Basketball Tournament

Bishops Sting Hornets

Donahue moves on to defend Class A crown

By NICK BEDWAY
For The Intelligencer

MCMECHEN — Because of hazardous road conditions, the bus carrying the Hundred High School boys' basketball team to Thursday night's Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class A semifinal game against defending champion Bishop Donahue arrived one-half hour late to the Father Raymond Jablonske Memorial Gymnasium.

But that was only the beginning of a nightmarish evening for Coach Justin Balwanz's rusty Hornets as they converted 5 of 33 shots from the floor in the opening half while falling behind by a 32-14 score.

Hundred finally warmed up in the third quarter and rallied to within six points before the Bishops righted their ship and went on to win, 59-48.

The victory improved Bishop Donahue's overall record to 12-6 and sent the it into a 4 p.m. Saturday conference title game against Bridgeport at the Ohio University Eastern campus.

Both teams entered last night's clash having gone more than two weeks without playing a game. Hundred, which last played Feb. 2, was even worse off because Wetzel County rules do not allow athletic teams to even practice when school is cancelled.

Please See BISHOPS, Page 18

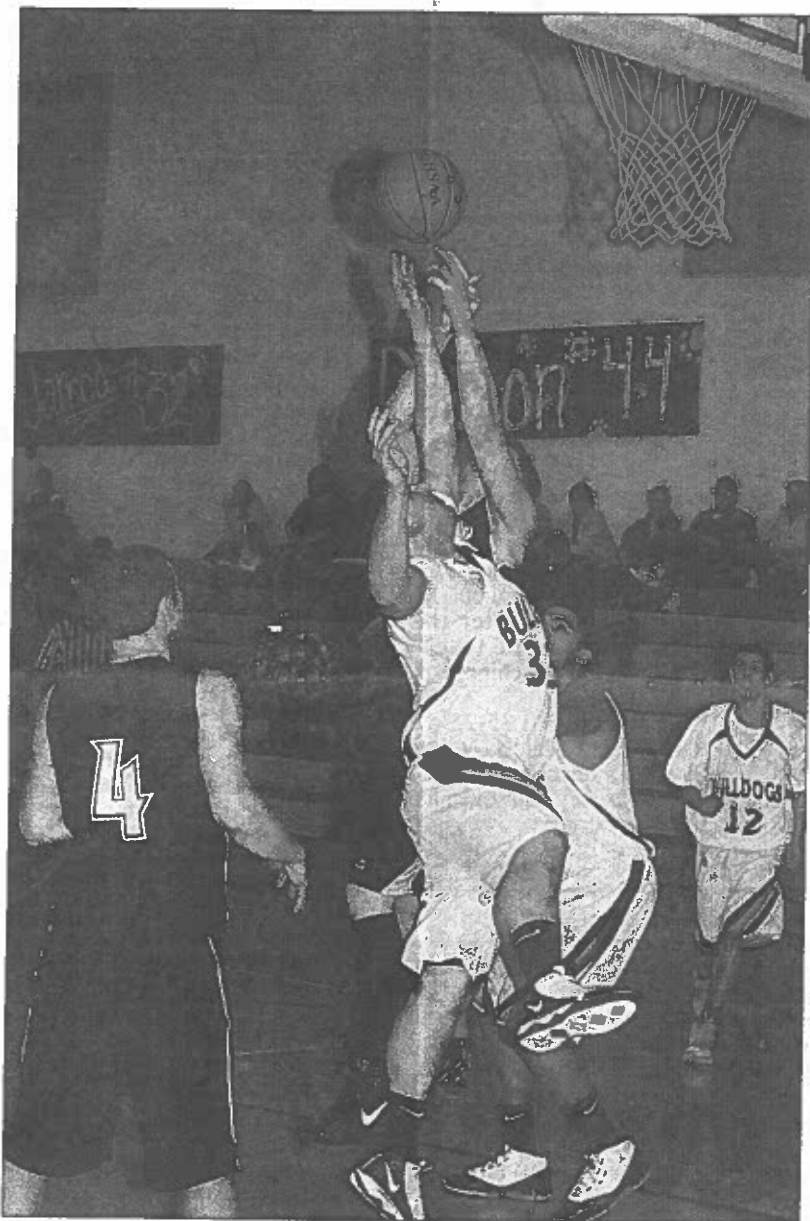


Photo by Kim North
Bridgeport's Nate Maleski (33) battles for a rebound. Looking on are teammates Trey Lindsey (12) and Valley's Ronald Morris (4).

Just Like Before

Bridgeport downs Valley in two of last three semis

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

BRIDGEPORT — Two years ago, Bridgeport rolled past Valley in the Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference boys' Class A semifinals en route to winning the inaugural tournament championship.

Thursday night the same two teams matched up in the same type of contest, and the result was the same as the top-ranked Bulldogs (14-3) advanced to their third straight title tilt with a methodical, 57-42 triumph against the Lumberjacks (8-7) on Frank Baxter Court inside John J. Havlicek Gymnasium.

Bridgeport defeated top-seeded Weirton Madonna two seasons ago at Ohio University-Eastern's Health and Physical Education Center. The Bulldogs will look for their second championship trophy in three years, with the opponent being Bishop Donahue, who the Black-and-Blue lost to in last year's championship contest. The Bishops defeated Hundred last night.

"Yes, it was nice for history to repeat itself," Cash said. "I told the kids that we must learn to bring our 'A' game every night. Last year we didn't and we got beat."

Please See BRIDGEPORT, Page 18

Tigers Remain Perfect

Kimble nets 16 in Shadyside victory

By KIM NORTH
For The Intelligencer

SHADYSIDE — Dylan Kimble scored eight of his game-high 16 points in the third quarter when Shadyside needed them the most.

Clinging to a three-point lead, 29-26, at halftime against Barnesville, the Tigers (18-0) used Kimble's performance to spark a 17-6 third-quarter run that sealed a repeat triumph against the Shamrocks, 57-42, in Wheeling Hospital Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Class AA semifinal action.

With the victory, the Tigers advance to Saturday's championship contest against Shenandoah at 7 p.m. at Ohio University-Eastern. The Zeps, who have been beaten twice by Shadyside this season, defeated



Photo by Kim North
Barnesville's Dalton Smith, front, tries to bring the ball up the floor while being guarded by Shadyside's Dylan Kimble on Thursday.

Steubenville Catholic to reach the finals.

"When you beat a team like we did just last week, they are going to come in here with the mindset that they have nothing to lose," Shadyside

coach Ed Andes said. "That's exactly what they did in the first half. They played a great game and played it at their pace."

Please See TIGERS, Page 20

Magnolia Breaks Through

Blue Eagles finally reach Class AAA title contest

By TRACY WATSON
For The Intelligencer

NEW MARTINSVILLE — Magnolia's first two trips to the OVAC Boys' Basketball Tournament resulted in semifinal losses to Kim Clifford's St. Clairsville teams.

Thursday night, the Blue Eagles took a little revenge on the Clifford family as top-seeded Magnolia took out Harrison Central and first-year mentor Justin Clifford.

Senior pivot Jared Blatt scored nine of his team-high 19 points in the third quarter, as the Blue Eagles used a 23-9 rally to break open a close game and record a hard-fought 62-52 victory against the Huskies in an OVAC Class AAA semifinal contest at Magnolia High School.

The victory moves the 13-1 Eagles into their first conference championship game at 10 a.m. Saturday against West Virginia sectional rival Weir.

Please See MAGNOLIA, Page 18

ON THE LINE

Today's Results:

Q. Was Baltimore's signing of Donte Stallworth a good move?

Yes: 45%

No: 55%

Tomorrow's Poll:

Q. Does the United State have a good chance to win a gold medal in men's hockey?

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.)

past the 15-minute mark.

But West Liberty's Barry Shetzer - coming off a career-high 40-point night at Seton Hill on Monday - hit a driving layup and then dropped in a deep 3-pointer to restore the Hilltoppers' double-digit lead at 53-40 and the rout was on.

field for the game, including 9 of 15 on 3-point attempts.

Ukwuoma added a team-best nine rebounds.

Women

West Liberty 93

Fairmont State 78

WEST LIBERTY - The West Liberty University women's basketball

man Kara DeSantis scored 15 points and pulled down nine rebounds, but Wheeling Jesuit was beaten by Seton Hill.

DeSantis was the only Cardinals player to score in double figures, though Chrissy Pavlik, Kourtney Booth, and Kim Mueller each had nine.

the age of Jose Tabata have become more audible in recent weeks, but if anyone doesn't believe the Pirates outfield prospect is 21 years old, then they're invited to his Barcelona, Venezuela, residence to check out the paperwork for themselves.

"I'm really 21 - that's it," Tabata confirmed with a wry smile before the start of workouts at Pirate City on Thursday morning. "If anybody wants to come to Venezuela to see my papers, then it's OK, you know? No problem."

On Aug. 12, 2004, Tabata signed with the New York Yankees as a free agent. The date was his 16th birthday, according to Major League Baseball records.

"Why somebody would talk about that, man, I don't know," Tabata said. "When I signed with the Yankees, they saw all my papers and everything was good, you know? I don't know why anyone would (doubt them now)."

As far as Tabata was concerned, he would be judged on his performance, not his birth certificate, anyway.

"Yeah, if you can play, that's all that matters," Tabata said.

Crash Course

The competition between veterans Ronny Cedeno, Bobby Crosby and Ramon Vazquez at the middle infield positions figures to be one to watch this spring.

Crosby took an early shift at second base, where he started five games for the Oakland Athletics last season. He also had 33 starts at third base.

Until last season, his seventh in the major leagues, Crosby had never played a position other than shortstop in his career.

"Wherever they tell me to go, I'll do it," Crosby said. "I'll be prepared to play there."

Crosby said improved footwork was his primary focus this spring.

"The field is completely opposite at second base and shortstop," Crosby said. "The biggest differences are around the base, the distance of the throws and how to turn double plays. At shortstop, you get a better look at the runner. At second base, you're blind to him, so you have to know how to move your feet there."

More Work

It's so near, so good for the Jeff Clement experiment.

Once again, Clement was peppered with several dozen ground balls in his bid to move from catcher to first base on a permanent basis.

"We'll see how he progresses," manager John Russell said. "We won't put a lot of pressure on him. We'll get him ready to compete in games then make evalu-

to miss start of season

BRADENTON, Fla. - The Pittsburgh Pirates expected a few setbacks along the way this season. What they couldn't have known was that one would take place before the first official pitch had been thrown this spring.

Thursday morning, only hours before the pitchers and catchers commenced workouts at Pirate City, it was revealed that relief pitcher Joel Hanrahan had a strained right elbow that likely would sideline him for at least the first month of the regular season.

Hanrahan is scheduled for an MRI examination Tuesday. If the test results warrant it, he will start a rehabilitation program at that time. As a precautionary measure, the 28-year-old right-hander will seek a second opinion from noted physician Dr. James Andrews in Birmingham, Ala., on Thursday.

After a review of MRI results last week, Hanrahan was advised to cease physical activity. At the same time, team physicians were unanimous that the troubled area involved no structural damage.

ations as we move forward. He has the tools to do it. So far, from what I've seen, I'm pleased with what he's able to do there."

At the plate, the position switch didn't appear to affect Clement in the least. By unofficial count, he was the team leader in line drives in batting practice. He left his mark on at least one vehicle in the parking lot behind the right-field fence.

"My swings feel really good right now," Clement said. "I worked hard to get my body in shape in the offseason, and this is the best that I've felt in pro ball."

Thumbs Up for Day 1

Russell is careful not to read much if anything into the early days of training camp, but he considered the first one to be "productive" just the same.

"All in all, I thought it went very well," Russell said. "The program is in place, which makes it even more smooth in terms of schedules and drills. People seem know where to go right now."

At this stage, Russell said health was first and foremost on his list.

"We tell the pitchers they won't make the club on the first day," Russell said. "The only thing that can happen is, they cannot make the team if they get hurt. Just get the body and arm going, and that's what we did."

Bridgeport

(Continued from Page 17)

Saturday's 4 p.m. tip-off at OUE will be the third meeting of the season between the Bulldogs and the Bishops, with Bridgeport winning both previous contests by scores of 63-51 and 69-53.

Bridgeport, which has won seven straight, jumped out to a 12-2 lead and led 16-13 after one quarter.

"We hadn't played in 16 days," Cash said. "But I thought we did what we had to do to win."

A 23-11 scoring advantage in the second quarter blew the game wide open as normal starters Garrett Price (eight) and Timmy Tracey (three) teamed for nearly half of the total. Jared Carlier added five of

his game-high 19 in the decisive frame, including a buzzer-beating trifecta that bumped the count to 39-24 at the half.

The Bulldogs didn't waste any time in extending their margin in the third quarter as a 16-8 spurt made it 55-32. The Lumberjacks, who have lost 5 of 6, got to within 59-41 after three periods, but the damage had already been done.

"I thought we played extremely well in the second and third quarters," Cash said. "We've practiced some, but that's not the same as game situations. As the game progressed, I thought we played better."

Again Cash received balanced scoring from his

well-rounded team. Carlier led everyone with 19, while Tracey knocked down a trio of triples for 13 points. Tre Lindsey and Price evenly divided 20 points. Nate Maleski chipped in nine.

"That's the way we've played all season," Cash added. "We have players that don't care who scores. All they care about is winning, and that's a good thing."

Matthew Poling led Valley with 17 points, but 14 of those came after the game was out of reach. Alex Henderson chipped in 13.

Bridgeport led 35-25 off the glass as Maleski wiped it clean a dozen times. Garrett Ueltschey had seven for the Lumberjacks.

Bishops

(Continued from Page 17)

Bishop Donahue's last game was Feb. 3, but Coach Tom Wise's players were able to get in a few practices during this span.

The long layoff couldn't have come at a worse time for either club. The Hornets had won 7 of 9 games, including a three-point victory on a buzzer-beating shot against the Bishops in their only previous meeting this season. Donahue also appeared to be getting things together with a pair of victories, including a hard-earned triumph against OVC Class AAA rival Oak Glen.

Whether the Bishops will be at full strength

tomorrow remains to be seen. Senior Andrew Smith sustained a sprained ankle during the third quarter just seconds after scoring the final three points of his team-high total of 15 with a slick move along the baseline that resulted in a hoop and harm opportunity.

When he dropped in the free throw, it restored the Bishops' double-digit lead to 41-31.

Just seconds after that play, a collision at the other end of the court resulted in Smith turning an ankle.

"We'll have to wait and see what happens with that ankle issue," Wise said. "We'll have a tough enough assignment against Bridgeport whether he plays or not. Andrew did a really nice job (Thursday)."

"He does a good job of penetrating the baseline and he's strong enough to take it up and score."

Also in double figures for the Bishops were Ryan Jones with 13 points and 6-foot-4 junior Devin Overholt, who came off the bench to contribute 11.

Dalton Kuhn's 17 points and Zach Phillips' 10 paced the Hundred offense. Despite their early shooting woes that saw starting guards Kuhn and Emery Smith combine to miss their first 13 attempts, the Hornets took a 4-0 lead at the outset on Logan McDiffitt's nice move inside and a stickback goal from Phillips.

The Bishops finally pulled ahead 8-7 at the close of the quarter when Andrew Smith grabbed a

rebound and scored.

Donahue then exploded to outscore the Hornets 24-7 in the second quarter to open its 18-point lead at halftime. Ryan Jones, who sat out much of the opening period after drawing two quick fouls, came back with five quick points, turning in a conventional three-point play after a steal at mid-court and adding another basket for a 13-7 lead.

After just making 3 of 18 shots in the first quarter, the Hornets managed to hit 2 of 15 during the next 8 minutes.

"I really think our defense contributed to some of their shooting problems," Wise said. "In the first half, every time they penetrated, we usually had two or three guys in their face and they had to kick it back out."

Hundred's big run saw Kuhn finally get untracked with a pair of 3-pointers and a two-point basket in the third quarter. The Hornets opened the second half with an 11-2 spurt to get within 34-28 and it was a 38-31 game when Smith hit his key 3-pointer.

The Bishops led 43-32 entering the final quarter but Hundred got no closer than nine points the rest of the way.

"We're looking forward to playing Bridgeport on Saturday," Wise said. "It's nice to be back in the finals and, hey, we're the defending champion until someone beats us. We'll figure out who's healthy and put together a game plan that gives us a chance to win the game."

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Tigers

(Continued from Page 17)

However, that pace changed in the second half.

Shadyside picked it up on the defensive end, forcing the Shamrocks (10-8) into a half-dozen turnovers, many of which resulted in easy layups for Kimble and Co.

"They (Barnesville) were playing some different defenses and Dylan was the man they were leaving open," Andes said. "He had to take the shots and he knocked a couple of them down."

Barnesville only mustered six points in the period, with Dalton Smith scoring four.

In addition to Kimble's 16, senior Heath Brooks added 10. Nick Schuetz contributed nine, while Tyler Cline had eight. Bryson Stephen led Barnesville with 10 points. Smith and the Dornon's - Preston and Zach - evenly split 27.

Shenandoah 66
Steubenville Catholic 58
SARAHSVILLE - Wes Rataiczak hit 14 of 16 free throws and wound up with 26 points, as he led Shenandoah past Steubenville Catholic.

Cody Farmer and Brett Farnsworth each added 15 points to lead the Zeps (13-5), who shot 59 percent from the floor in advancing to the Class AA title game.

Jordan Teramana scored 14 points to pace the Crusaders (9-6), who were limited to 34 percent shooting. Justin Teramana added 12 points and 12 rebounds, while Sean Harlan totaled 13 points.

Steubenville Catholic outrebounded Shenandoah, 33-31.

Class AAA
Weir 67, St. Clairsville 65
ST. CLAIRSVILLE - Shawn Burns hit five 3-pointers and wound up with 13 points, as he and L.J. Campbell (also with 23 points) led Weir Past St. Clairsville in into the

OVAC Class AAA title game.

Justin Horstman added 11 for the Red Riders.

Dan Monteroso's 19 points were tops for the Red Devils.

Consolation
Paden City 47, St. John 21
BELLAIRE - Josh Bennett scored 14 points to lead three players in double figures, helping Paden City (3-13) get the better of St. John.

Malakai Anderson added 13 points, eight assists, five rebounds and four steals for the Wildcats, while Zach Yost had 10 points and six steals. Taytan Hinkley contributed nine rebounds, while Taylor Still had six.

Tyler Curtain and Matt Van Dorn evenly divided 10 points for the Irish.

Wheeling Central 67
Bellaire 62

WHEELING - Jordan Sorge had 23 points as Wheeling Central (7-10) used a strong fourth quarter to knock off Bellaire (10-8).

Aldon Ghaphery and Zach Hood had nine points each for the Maroon Knights, while Brandon Ingram netted eight.

Levi Crozier paced the Big Reds with 23 points, and Devin Ward (16) and Derrick Tolliver (10) were also in double figures.

REGULAR SEASON
Indian Creek 38
Union Local 36

WINTERSVILLE - Cullen Desantis' buzzer-beating shot from underneath the basket gave Indian Creek a victory against Union Local.

Bryan Bowers hit a trio of 3-pointers and led the Redskins with 15 points, while Niko Otto added eight.

Myron Jellison led the Jets with 15 points, and Tyler McGary added nine.

GIRLS
Ohio Division II Sectional
St. Clairsville 62
Carrollton 59, OT

BELMONT - Brooke Cenkus had a game-high 23 points as St. Clairsville (16-4) avoided a monumental upset by knocking off Carrollton (4-14).

Ashley Gordon added 14 for the Red Devils, who scored nine points in the extra session. Sarah Slenski netted 10 points.

Division IV Sectional
Shadyside 61, Frontier 34
SHADYSIDE - Brooke Meintel led the way with 16 points as Shadyside (18-2) cruised to victory against Frontier (6-12).

The Tigers bolted to a 29-15 halftime advantage, thanks in part to a 12-point outing from Jaclyn Johnson.

Heather Booth paved the way for the Cougars with 10 points.

Beallsville 35
Bridgeport 34

MORRISTOWN - Rebecca Garlick scored 18 points as Beallsville (15-6) advanced to play Caldwell tonight by holding off a furious Bridgeport (13-8) rally.

Rachel Benda ended her fine career by leading the Bulldogs with 13 points.

Rosecrans 62, St. John 38
MORRISTOWN - Bailey Rittberger tossed in 16 points to lead three players in double figures as Zanesville Rosecrans (10-9) roughed up St. John Central (10-9).

Also in double figures for the Bishops were Olivia Durant (15) and Monica Westerheide (10).

Ellie Lemasters paced the Fighting Irish with a game-leading 19 points.

REGULAR SEASON
Steubenville 51
Oak Glen 44

STEBENVILLE - AunDrea West pumped in 25 points as Steubenville outscored Oak Glen 25-16 in the middle two quarters en route to victory.

The Golden Bears were led by Kiley King who scored 25 points to surpass 1,000 for her career.



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2010 Wheeling Hospital-OVAC Basketball Championships Schedule / Media Coverage

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AAA - Tuesday, February 16 at 8:00pm

AA - Wednesday, February 17 at 8:00pm

A - Thursday, February 18 at 8:00pm

Boys' Finals on Sat., Feb. 20 at OUE -

all games live on WKKX 1600 AM

AAA played at 10:00am * TV tape-delay on RTV9 on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 8:00pm

AAAA played at 1:00pm * TV tape-delay on RTV9 on Monday, Feb. 22 at 8:00pm

A played at 4:00pm * TV tape-delay on RTV9 on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 8:00pm

AA played at 7:00pm * TV tape-delay on RTV9 on Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 8:00pm

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SPORTS

Thursday,
February 11, 2010

OVAC boys pairings set

• Wheeling Park, Magnolia, Shadyside, Bridgeport pocket top seeds; Consolation matchups picked

By **SETH STASKEY**
Times Leader Sports Editor

With the Ohio Valley still digging out after its second bout with Mother Nature, the cut-off date for the third-annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship came and went. The standings became official Wednesday afternoon when the basketball tournament committee met at the OVAC office to finalize the championship semifinals and establish the consolation matchups.

The tournament opens Tuesday on the home courts of the higher seeds. The winners of the semi-final round will advance to Ohio University Eastern's campus on Saturday, Feb. 20 to play for the OVAC championship. The losers of Tuesday's consolation semifinals will play each other Friday evening on the home floor of the higher seed unless one of the two top seeds loses and then it will be on the lower seed's court to even out the home games.

Wheeling Park (4-A), Magnolia (3-A), Shadyside (2-A) and Bridgeport (1-A) pocketed the top seeds in their respective

classes. In 4-A, defending champion Wheeling Park is the favorite once again as the top seed. Coach Michael Jebbia's Patriots have posted a 12-1 record thus far, losing only to Logan in early January.

"Our goal is to get a lock on the top seed each year," said Park head coach Michael Jebbia. "We got in, got the home game and now our next goal is to win the OVAC. It's obviously been a tough week for everyone with the weather, but we're looking forward to getting back to playing very

soon." The Patriots will meet fourth-seeded East Liverpool Tuesday at the Palace. The Potters come to town with a 7-8 mark and have already been beaten by the Pats this season.

"We played East Liverpool (last year) in the semifinals, and we used to have a good rivalry with them," Jebbia said. "We don't know a whole lot about them and with no one playing we've obviously not had an opportunity to scout anyone."

John Marshall — which has come up short in the last two OVAC title games — See, **OVAC**, Page C2



OVAC

Continued from Page C1

is the second seed. Coach Bill Storm's Monarchs are 10-6 and will host an athletic Steubenville (7-7) squad Tuesday at the field-house in Moundsville.

In 3-A, Magnolia will welcome fourth-seeded and upstart Harrison Central, which is making its debut in the championship bracket of the tournament.

"We're thrilled to be the top seed in what we think is the toughest and most balanced class," said Magnolia head coach Dave Tallman, who guided his Eagles to the top four in 2008. "I feel the home court is a big advantage."

The Blue Eagles have posted a 12-1 record thus far and edged out St. Clairsville for the top seed. The Red Devils, meanwhile, will host Weir in a repeat matchup from a game earlier this season won by the Red Devils.

The meeting with the aforementioned Huskies (11-5) of rookie head coach Justin Clifford is the first in the history of the two schools.

"We've never played them and we're only famil-

Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship Semifinals Tuesday, Feb. 16	
Class 4-A	
1. Wheeling Park vs. 4. East Liverpool	2. John Marshall vs. 3. Steubenville
Class 3-A	
1. Magnolia vs. 4. Harrison Central	2. St. Clairsville vs. 3. Weir
Class 2-A	
1. Shadyside vs. 4. Barnesville	2. Shenandoah vs. 3. Steubenville Central
Class 1-A	
1. Bridgeport vs. 4. Valley	2. Bishop Donahue vs. 3. Hundred
Consolation Bracket Tuesday, Feb. 16	
Union Local at Fort Frye	
Brooke at Buckeye Local	
Indian Creek at Oak Glen	
River at Edison	
Bellaire at Wheeling Central	
Martins Ferry at Linsly	
Madonna at Beallsville	
St. John at Toronto	
Monroe Central at Cameron	
Wednesday, Feb. 17	
Paden City at St. John	
Friday, Feb. 19	
Wheeling Central at Indian Creek	
Buckeye Local at River	
Edison at Brooke	
Fort Frye at Bellaire	
Oak Glen at Martins Ferry	
Toronto at Paden City	
Cameron at Madonna	
Linsly at Monroe Central	
Beallsville at Union Local	

iar with them through our participation in the St. Clairsville summer league." Tallman added.

In Class 2-A, Shadyside is the lone team in the OVAC without a loss on its resume. Its 15-0 start earned the Tigers the top

seed and a date with Barnesville Tuesday evening, which qualified in the top four for the first time.

The Tigers — who won the inaugural title of this event in 2008 — were knocked off in last year's semifinal by eventual champion Wheeling Central.

"It's great to be in the top four and being able to play the first round at home is nice too. That's one of our goals every year," said Shadyside head coach Ed Andes.

The Tigers' date with the Shamrocks, who are 9-6, is scheduled to be their third in five days. The two teams are slated to square off this evening in Shadyside and then on Monday on the Shamrocks' boards before the OVAC.

The other semifinal in Class 2-A finds Shenandoah — which almost knocked off Shadyside last Tuesday — hosting Steubenville Central. The Zeps are 11-5 and the Crusaders are 9-6.

In Class 1-A, Bridgeport is once again the top seed in the tournament. The Bulldogs have been a part of all three tournaments and have advanced to OUE in the first two.

Head Coach Donnie Cash's Bulldogs (13-3) are the top seed this year for the first time. Their reward is a date with Valley Tuesday evening, which edged out Madonna for the final spot.

"We're happy and feel privileged to be back in the tournament," Cash said. "I think our kids have a bad taste in their mouths after last year and reaching this point was a goal, but we're not satisfied."

The other semifinal finds defending champion Bishop Donahue playing host to the OVAC's newest member Hundred. The Bishops qualified as the second seed with a 11-6 mark, while the Hornets are 9-5.

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OVAC Pairings Released

Park, Magnolia among
top seeds for tourney

By **SETH STASKEY**
For The Intelligencer

BELLAIRE — With the Ohio Valley still digging out after its second bout with Mother Nature, the cutoff date for the 3rd annual Wheeling Hospital OVAC Boys Basketball Championship came and went.

The standings became official Wednesday afternoon when the basketball tournament committee met at the OVAC office to finalize the championship semifinals and establish the consolation match-ups.

The tournament opens Tuesday on the home courts of the higher seeds. The winners of the semifinal round will advance to Ohio University Eastern's campus



Saturday, Feb. 20 to play for the OVAC championships. The losers of Tuesday's consolation semifinals will play each other Friday evening on the home floor of the higher seed unless one of the two top seeds loses and then it will be on the lower seed's court to even out the home games.

Wheeling Park (4-A), Magnolia (3-A), Shadyside (2-A) and Bridgeport (1-A) pocketed the top seeds in their respective classes.

In 4-A, defending champion Wheeling Park is the favorite once again as the top seed. Coach Michael Jebbia's Patriots have posted a 12-1 record thus far, losing only to Logan in early January.

"Our goal is to get a lock on the top seed each year," Jebbia said. "We got in, got the home game and now our next goal is to win the OVAC. It's obviously been a tough week for everyone with the weather, but we're looking forward to getting back to playing very soon."

The Patriots will meet fourth-seeded East Liverpool on Tuesday at the Palace. The Potters come to town with a 7-8 mark and have already been beaten by the Pats this season.

"We played East Liverpool (last year) in the semifinals, and we used to have a good rivalry with them," Jebbia said. "We don't know a whole lot about them and with no one playing, we've obviously not had an opportunity to scout anyone."

John Marshall, which has come up short in the last two OVAC title games, is the second seed. Coach Bill Storm's Monarchs are 10-6 and will play host to an athletic Steubenville (7-7) squad Tuesday at the John Marshall Fieldhouse.

In 3-A, Magnolia will welcome fourth-seeded and upstart Harrison Central, which is making its debut in the championship bracket of the tournament.

"We're thrilled to be the top seed in what we think is the toughest and most balanced class," said Magnolia coach Dave Tallman, who guided his Eagles to the top four in 2008. "I feel the home court is a big advantage."

The Blue Eagles have posted a 12-1 record thus far and edged out St. Clairsville for the top seed. The Red Devils, meanwhile, will play host to Weir in a repeat matchup from a game earlier this season won by the Red Devils.

The meeting with Clifford's Huskies is the first in the history of the two schools.

"We've never played them and we're only familiar with them through our participation in the St. Clairsville summer league," Tallman added. "I know Coach Clifford's done an excellent job with those kids. We've been able to

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OVAC

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gather some film on them and we're anxious to play (Tuesday)."

In Class 2-A, Shadyside is the lone team in the OVAC without a loss on its resume. Its 15-0 start earned the Tigers the top seed and a date with Barnesville Tuesday evening, which qualified in the top four for the first time.

The Tigers, who won the inaugural title of this event in 2008, were knocked off in last year's semifinal by eventual champion Wheeling Central.

"It's great to be in the top four and being able to play the first round at home is nice too," Shadyside coach Ed Andes said. "That's one of our goals every year."

The Tigers' date with the Shamrocks, who are 9-6, is scheduled to be their third in five days. The two teams were slated to square off Wednesday night in Shadyside and then on Monday on the Shamrocks' boards before the OVACs.

"Barnesville has a nice team with good size and decent guard play," Andes said. "We've got to come

ready to play for the rest of the season."

The other semifinal in Class 2-A finds Shenandoah, which almost knocked off Shadyside last Tuesday, hosting Steubenville Central. The Zeps are 11-5 and the Crusaders are 9-6.

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Monroe Central girls bounced in OT by Ft. Frye

BEVERLY — Diedra Combs scored 12 points and No. 2 seed Fort Frye held off No. 3 seed Monroe Central in overtime.

The Cadets will face No. 1 seed Shadyside for the title Saturday.

Lacey Huck added 11 points for Fort Frye (14-5). Alex Kuhn paced the Seminoles (11-7), who led 16-14 at halftime, with a game-high 21 points. Whitney Marshall added 11 points.

Class 3-A Semifinal

Edison 81, Weir 49

RICHMOND — Edison exploded to a 27-9 lead after the first quarter and cruised to an 81-49 victory against Weir in a Class AAA semifinal contest Monday night of the Wheeling Hospital OVAC Girls' Basketball Tournament at Edison High School.

The Wildcats (14-5) will face top-seeded St. Clairsville for the championship Saturday.

The Red Riders trailed 47-23 at halftime. Kayla Prokopakis powered the Edison attack with 30 points and 16 rebounds, while Carissa Myler recorded 20 points and 12 boards.

Edison overwhelmed Weir in the paint, outrebounding the Red Riders 46-19.

Kristin Prokopakis added 16 points for the Wildcats. Shaquana Gray paced Weir (13-6) with 15 points.

Consolation Games

Class AA

Wheeling Central 34, River 26

HANNIBAL — Wheeling Central outscored River 27-11 in the second half en route to the victory.

Cassie Sorge topped the Maroon Knights with 11 points.

Autumn Biesel topped the Pilots with nine points.

St. John 51, Steubenville Central 30
AT STEUBENVILLE. St. John won its fifth game in its last six starts with a 51-30 triumph over homestanding Steubenville Central.

The Lady Irish are now 11-8 and will host Hundred Thursday in a 7 p.m. start.

Junior ace Ellie LeMasters led SJC with 27 points and six blocked shots. Sophomore standout Rosa Young netted eight points while senior Kylee Caddell grabbed eight rebounds to go with four steals.

SJC, which also took the reserve contest, led 20-13 at intermission.

Senior center Anna Shaw netted 12 for the Lady Crusaders.