

OVAC BANQUET OF CHAMPIONS



Photo by Jim Elliott

Doug Huff, left, retired sports editor of The Intelligencer, presents the Wheeling News-Register Bill Van Horne OVAC Coach of the Year Award to Weirton Madonna High School football coach Bob Kramer, center, as Kramer's wife, Kathy, looks on. Kramer guided the Blue Dons to the 2009 West Virginia Class A football crown.

Best of the Best

Madonna's Kramer is named Bill Van Horne Coach of the Year

By JIM ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

WHEELING — The 2009-10 OVAC Coach of the Year planned to do a lot of things when he grew up.

Coaching was not one of them.

"I never thought about coaching," Weirton Madonna's Bob Kramer said. "Never in my life."

Kramer, announced Monday night as the winner of the 42nd annual News-Register Bill Van Horne OVAC Coach of the Year Award, was the son of an outdoorsman.

"He didn't know football," Kramer said of his father.

Neither did Bob until the sixth grade

when he first set aside the rod and reel and began to play other sports, including football. He played through high school but still hadn't thought about coaching it.

Then one day, as he was sitting in a club he belonged to after a softball game, a man walked in looking for some volunteers to help with a youth football team he was coaching — Aquinas in the old Parochial League in Steubenville.

Kramer agreed to help.

"That was almost 37 years ago," Kramer said.

When Aquinas' head coach stepped down, Kramer took over and coached those kids for 12 more years. When they did away with the Parochial League, Kramer coached the Junior Crusaders.

From there it was on to Toronto High School under Ron Paul, then to Weirton Madonna, then to Steubenville Central, then back to Madonna, where he was simply asked to save the fading football program from extinction.

He's done much more than that.

He's the school's all-team leader with 102 victories (in 12 seasons). He's coached three perfect regular seasons, six playoff teams, two state runner-up teams, and a state title team. His teams have also won three straight OVAC crowns.

Last December, he was named the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Man of the Year. He was named The Intelligencer's 2004 Coach of the Year, he was an OVAC Coach of the Year finalist in 2005, and he's been named the Mason Dixon Conference Coach of the Year four times.

With nearly 600 coaches in the OVAC, Monday's award is as big as it gets.

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The key to being a good coach, he says, is surrounding yourself with good

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SPORT



MADONNA head football coach Bob Kramer poses with his wife Kathy after he was named OVAC Coach of the Year for guiding his Blue Dons to an undefeated, 14-0, state championship season.

Photo/JIM ELLIOTT

Kramer named top coach

• Madonna football mentor lauded as 46th annual OVAC Coach of the Year

By JIM ELLIOTT
For The Times Leader

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The key to being a good coach, he says, is surrounding yourself with good assistants. And, he added, good athletes certainly help. Like the ones he had last season, when they went 14-0 and won it all.

"I can't say enough about my coaches and my players," Kramer said. "We had a great group of seniors. They knew what they wanted to accomplish. All I sort of did was guide them and put things together for them. I tried to figure out what was best for them.

"Our kids work hard at it, and they know what to do. It was just a real special group to coach. I've had some in the past that were the same way, but they weren't able to achieve what we were able to achieve this year."

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Hook, line, and sinker.

Best

(Cont. from Page 15)

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SPORTS

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OVAC Names 5 COY Nominees

42nd award will be given Monday

By SHAWN RINE
Sports Editor

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But when you consider there are more than 600 coaches at those schools, being named the top one in a given year must bring with it a tremendous sense of pride,

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The field has been whittled from more than 600 to just five, and the winner of the 42nd annual News-Register Bill Van Home OVAC Coach of the Year award will be honored during Monday night's OVAC Banquet of Champions at WesBanco Arena. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m.

Finalists for this year's award, in alphabetical order, are: Shadyside's Ed Andes, Brooke's Tom Bruney, Parkersburg's South's Paul Jackson, Weirton Madonna's Bob

Kramer, and St. Clairsville's Heidi Mooney.

Following are capsules on each.

ED ANDES, Shadyside boys' basketball: It was a ride to remember as he earned his 200th career victory in the Tigers' OVAC title-game victory against Shenandoah. Andes' club finished with a 25-1 record that included the school's first unbeaten regular season and three victories each against River, Zanesville Rosecrans, Barnesville and Shenadoah.

Shadyside won the school's first district title

since 1977 when Andes, now in his 12th season as coach, was the team's best player. Included in the remarkable run that ended with an Ohio Division IV regional final loss to Bedford St. Peter Chanel, was a rally from an 18-point halftime deficit against perennial power Hiland, and a victory against then-undefeated McDonald in the regional final.

All told, Andes has won six OVAC titles — two decided on the court — and has advanced to the district final five times.

See COY, Page B2



Ed Andes



Tom Bruney



Paul Jackson



Bob Kramer



Heidi Mooney

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were back on top where they belong. There were many bumps along the way, but Brooke finished a perfect 10-0 and entered the post-season as the No. 1 team in the state's biggest classification. Three victories later the Bruins were in the state championship game at Wheeling Island Stadium.

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PAUL JACKSON, Parkersburg South Wrestling: The new guy on the scene took no prisoners. A never-ending debate will be waged as to whether it's easier to be the hunter or the hunted, but upon arrival this year in the conference, Jackson's Patriots were immediately the latter.

They responded with a spotless (34-0) dual-meet record including victories at the Wheeling Park Duals, Meadowbrook Duals, and West Virginia Duals in the regular season. Parkersburg South ran away with the OVAC Overall and Class AAAA titles, and went on to capture Region One and state crowns.

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Madonna best 102 victories against just 32 losses, including three perfect regular seasons, six state playoff teams, a 12-5 post-season record, two state runner-up finishes in 2004 and 2008, and that state title — the school's second, and first since 1987. He has been named The Intelligencer's 2004 Coach of the Year, was an OVAC Coach of the Year finalist in 2005, the Mason Dixon Conference Coach of the Year four times, WTOV-TV Big 22 Class A Coach of the Year and River Valley League honoree the last two seasons.

In addition, Kramer coached W.Va. in the 2009 OVAC All-Star Game, has won the Carl R. Hammill Award, and was this year recognized as the Upper Ohio Valley Dapper Dan Man of the Year.

HEIDI MOONEY, St. Clairsville girls' cross country: As far as this sport is concerned, Mooney has pretty much been the gold standard. She led the Red Devils to an Ohio Division II state runner-up finish this season, which included regional and district championships, as well as OVAC Overall and Class AAA championships, and a Buckeye 8 crown.

St. Clairsville lost just once before the state meet, that being at the Boardman Invite, where truth be told the Red Devils were without key contributors due to ACT testing. Mooney coached three All-Ohioans this season in Kelly Perzanowski, Kate Hodgson, and Jamie Perzanowski.

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Coach of the year finalists set

• OVAC's top honor to be presented during Monday's Banquet of Champions

By **SHAWN RINE**
For The Times Leader

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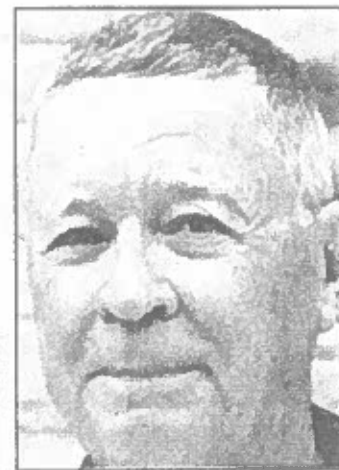
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Wells Scholarship winners named

Alyssa Wolfe of New Lexington High School and Haley Kolmerten of Ridgewood High School have been named the 2010 recipients of the John Wells Memorial Scholarship.

The two were chosen from 26 applicants for the \$1,000 scholarships, awarded each year by the Road Runner Fastpitch Organization, to two senior softball players who plan to attend college.

Players from Muskingum, Guemsey, Noble, Coshocton, Perry and Morgan counties are eligible for the scholarship, given in memory of John Wells, the long-time area softball player and volunteer pitching coach at Muskingum College who died suddenly pitching batting practice at the 2001 NCAA Division III World Series.

Previous winners include Heather Sayre (Caldwell), Erin Mozena (Tri-Valley), Emmy Ramsey (John Glenn), Monica Blanford (River View), Amanda Flowers (Sheridan), Angela Shurtz (Ridgewood), Kayla Bates (John Glenn), Megan Brothers (John Glenn), Sarah Butts (West Muskingum), Kelsey Tom (John Glenn), Samantha Crum (Shenandoah), Logan Hursey (John Glenn), Traci Alt (Buckeye Trail), Molly Scholl (John Glenn), Ashley Long (Philo) and Kinsi Tellep (Meadowbrook).

Members of the scholarship committee are Jane (Wells) Sherman, Rick Sherman, Ron Miller and Gene Bess.

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