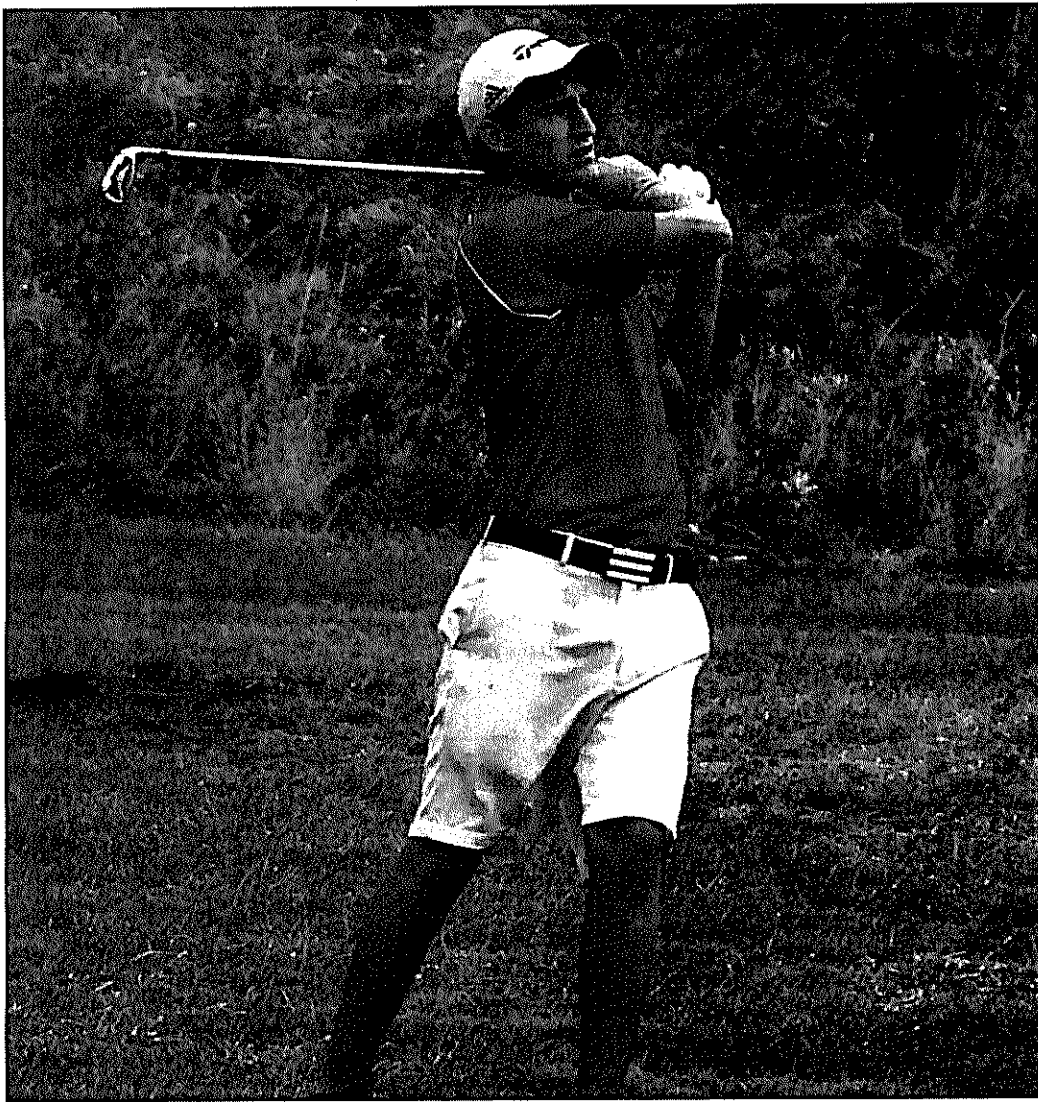


# SPORTS

## OVAC Golf Championship



### River Wax's Double-A OVAC field

• Pilots claim title, Wax finishes third

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

WHEELING — The conditions weren't by any means conducive for scoring. They were actually more conducive for ducks.

However, that didn't stop the River Pilots from putting forth solid round after solid round en route to the school's third OVAC Golf Championship on the soggy Crispin Golf Course at Oglebay Park Thursday afternoon.

The Pilots — who are 37-3 in league play this season — finished with a solid 321, which was just one shot better than fellow PVC member Fort Frye. Wheeling Central — which won the 2009 title — finished third with a score of 325.

"We knew it was going to be tight," said River High head coach and tournament director Bob Cain. "Wheeling Central is very familiar with this course, Fort Frye is one of our losses and we knew they'd be very tough."

Coming into the tournament, which was delayed an hour due to heavy rains, the Pilots

See, RIVER, Page B2



T-L Photos/SETH STASKEY

TOP: River's Zach Wax tracks his shot on the par 4, 11th hole at Oglebay Park's Crispin Course during Thursday's Class 2-A OVAC Golf Tournament. Wax shot a round of 77 to finish third in the tournament to help lead the Pilots to the team title.

INSET: Shadyside's Adam Stupak eyes up his line on a birdie putt on the par 4, 11th at Oglebay Park's Crispin Course. Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

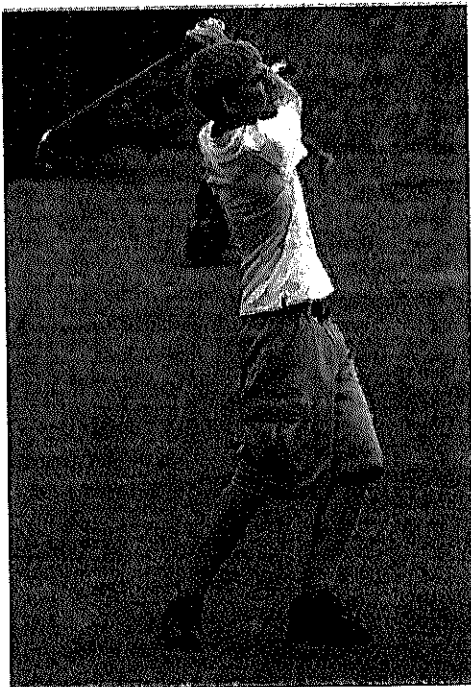


Photo by Seth Staskey

Wheeling Central's Shane Livingston hits an iron from the fairway on the Par-4, 11th at Oglebay's Crispin Course.

## Fittingly, River Claims 2A

Pilots edge Cadets on a rain-soaked Crispin course

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

WHEELING — The conditions weren't by any means conducive for scoring.

However, that didn't stop River from putting forth one solid round after another en route to the school's third OVAC Golf Championship on the soggy Crispin Golf Course at Oglebay Park on Thursday afternoon.

The Pilots, who are 37-3 in league play, finished with a 321, which was one shot better than Fort Frye. Wheeling Central, which won the 2009 title, finished third with a score of 325.

"We knew it was going to be tight," River coach and tournament director Bob Cain said. "Wheeling Central is very familiar with this course, Fort Frye is one of our losses, and we knew they'd be very tough."

Entering the tourney, which was delayed an hour because of heavy rains, the Pilots expected a low number from top player

"We knew it was going to be tight."

River coach Bob Cain

Zach Wax, who has been one of the best in the area this season. However, the senior posted a round of 77 with 38s on each side of the course. His score was good for third overall.

"I'd rather get a team championship over an individual championship any day," Wax said. "I thought I could go a lot lower, but my teammates really stepped up and helped the team out. That's what it takes."

Wax posted three birdies during his round, but was in consistent trouble on the back nine before he birdied two of the final three holes on the inward nine.

Teammate Austin Curtis finished with a round of 80, which was good enough for fourth overall and All-OVAC.

Please See RIVER, Page 20

Continued from Page B1

expected a low number from top player Zach Wax, who's been a mainstay all season.

However, the senior posted a round of 76 with 38s on each side of the course. His score was good for third overall.

"I'd rather get a team championship over an individual championship any day," Wax said inside the clubhouse. "I thought I could go a lot lower, but my teammates really stepped up and helped the team out. That's what it takes."

Wax posted three birdies during his round, but was in consistent trouble on the back nine before he birdied two of the final three holes on the inward nine.

"I am not a really good rain player," Wax admitted. "So with that, I suppose I played pretty well."

When Cain heard Wax's number from the round, he admitted to being a bit concerned.

"Wax started out with a bogey and then had a double bogey when it was raining hard," Cain said. "We thought Zach would need to shoot somewhere around even par and then everyone else somewhere around 80 to give us a chance."

However, the Pilots definitely picked up their teammate.

Austin Curtis finished with a round of 80, which was good enough for fourth overall and all-**OVAC**. Jesse Merckle posted a round of 83 and steady senior Samantha Knowlton rebounded from a seven on the first hole of the day by shooting the next round of 83, including a 38 on the backside.

"Samantha Knowlton really came through for us," Cain said. "Austin Curtis started on hole number 17 and had two double bogeys, so to finish only 4-over back there is pretty good."

As the scorecards were trickling back into the clubhouse it appeared as if the team title was a two-horse race between River and Central.

However, Fort Frye changed up on the field and played its top player in the fifth group and its fifth player in the top group. In essence, the Cadets were trying to strategically win the tournament.

It worked out for Zach Warren.

The senior, who earned all-**OVAC** a year ago, added the medalist title to his resume by shooting a 1-over 72. He recorded an eagle on the first hole after a chip-in and was off and running. All told, he sank three birdies.

"We were using a strategy that playing our fifth guy might slow down the other teams' top players," Warren said.

"It was pretty slow all day out there. When I made the turn and I heard what Wax shot, I thought at that time I had a pretty good chance."

Cain knows the numbers from not only his team, but the entire field would have been much lower if the weather had cooperated like it did for Tuesday's two tournaments.

All told, the course yielded just one eagle and only 25 birdies throughout the round and 12 players in the field swung the club at least 100 or more times.

Staubenville Central's Ryan Fischer finished second overall.

He posted a 76. Fort Frye's Evan Shilling rounded out the all-**OVAC** team, posting an 80.

Staskey can be reached at [ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:ssstaskey@timesleaderonline.com)

## RIVER

(Continued from Page 19)

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son ago, added the medalist title to his resume by shooting a 1-over-par 72. He recorded an eagle on the first hole after a chip-in. All told, he sank three birdies.

"We were using a strategy that playing our fifth guy might slow down the other teams' top players," Warren said. "It was pretty slow all day out there. When I made the turn and I heard what Wax shot, I thought at that time I had a pretty good chance."

Staubenville Catholic's Ryan Fischer finished second overall with a 76. Fort Frye's Evan Shilling rounded out the All-**OVAC** team by posting an 80.

# Madonna, St.C. **OVAC**

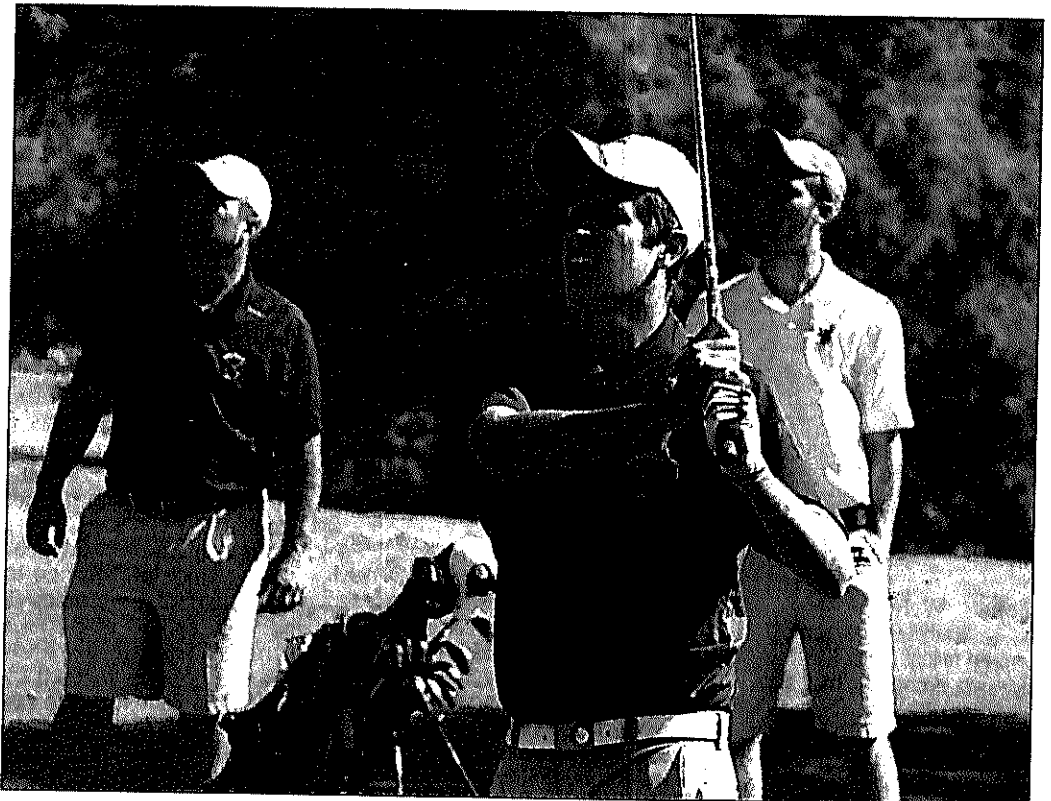


Photo by Seth Staskey

Andrew Gobleck of Weirton Madonna finished second in the **OVAC** Class 1A golf tournament after a three-hole playoff. This is his tee shot on the first playoff hole.

## Gobleck, Blue Dons take home another crown

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For The Intelligencer

**WHEELING** — There's a theme developing around the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's Class 1A Golf Tournament.

Weirton Madonna has established itself as the favorite and the individual title is bound to come down to a playoff.

Those were the cases again Tuesday at Oglebay Park's Crispin Course.

The Blue Dons captured their second straight, and third title in school history, by virtue of a solid score of 314. That was 11 better than runner-up Zanesville Rosecrans.

"The team title is always nice," Madonna coach T.J. Brancazio said. "All of our kids have worked hard on their game all year and the program is getting better and better. We've got two juniors and two freshmen in our top six, so we're happy with how things are going."

The Blue Dons were led by junior Andrew Gobleck who posted a round of 73. Nicklas Battista also earned a spot on the all-conference team with a 77.

Patrick McCune (78) and Ross Macaluso (86) rounded out the scoring for the Blue Dons.

"We started the season with two teams goals," Brancazio said. "We wanted to repeat here and win the state title. We want to carry this momentum into the state tournament."

The real drama came for the individual title. After Madonna's Gobleck and Rosecrans' Grant Eppley finished their rounds, the scores

**"We started the season with two team goals. We wanted to repeat here and win the state title."**  
T.J. Brancazio  
Weirton Madonna coach

were deadlocked at 73, meaning a one-hole playoff was necessary.

Gobleck was in a playoff last season, settling for second to Toronto's Nolan Wilson.

The playoff stretched three holes after neither player blinked until the 12th green.

It appeared as if Gobleck was going to win on the first playoff hole as he was 2 feet short of the cup for par, while Eppley came up short of the green and then his chip shot flew over the green into the short rough.

"I thought I had it on 10," Gobleck said. "I was kind in shock when he made that chip."

Eppley, a junior, proceeded to sink his chip shot with a 54-degree wedge.

Both players missed the fairway to the right on the 11th and eventually settled for bogey, but Gobleck had another chance to win.

Please See **MADONNA**, Page 18

## MADONNA

(Continued from Page 17)

His par putt just slid by the hole.

"I thought I had it again on 11," Gobleck admitted. "I thought I could have shot at least even or 1-under (par), so I am disappointed."

"I played a practice round here over the weekend and I shot 3-under, so it wasn't as good as I thought it could be."

After both players sank their bogey

tries, it was onto the par-5, 12th.

Eppley drilled his drive down the center of the fairway, while Gobleck was left off the tee. However, Gobleck proceeded to stick his approach shot within 15 feet of the hole, while Eppley's second shot was a few feet closer.

Putting first, Gobleck ran his ball 3 feet past the hole, while Eppley's try came up 3 feet short of eagle.

Gobleck admittedly pulled his head up on his birdie putt and pushed it right of the hole, leaving the door open for Eppley, who knocked home his birdie putt.

"I am disappointed for Andrew," Brancazio said.

"He'll battle back and hopefully he can get it next year. It might have got in his head a little bit. He's a great kid who works hard and nothing really bothers him

on the golf course."

While disappointed, Gobleck put things in perspective.

"The team title is more important to me than anything," he said. "I'd rather have that than anything for myself."

The remainder of the All-**OVAC** team was comprised of Conotton Valley's Tab Yosick (75), and Toronto's John-Michael Romney (76).

## SPORTS

## OVAC Golf Championship

## St. Clairsville claims first conference title since '97

• Devils' Myers medalist

By SETH STASKEY  
Times Leader Sports Editor

When it comes to winning OVAC Golf titles, no one has done it better than St. Clairsville.

However, the current batch of Red Devil players weren't even big enough to hold a club when the Red Devils hung their last OVAC Golf championship pennant in its gymnasium in 1997.

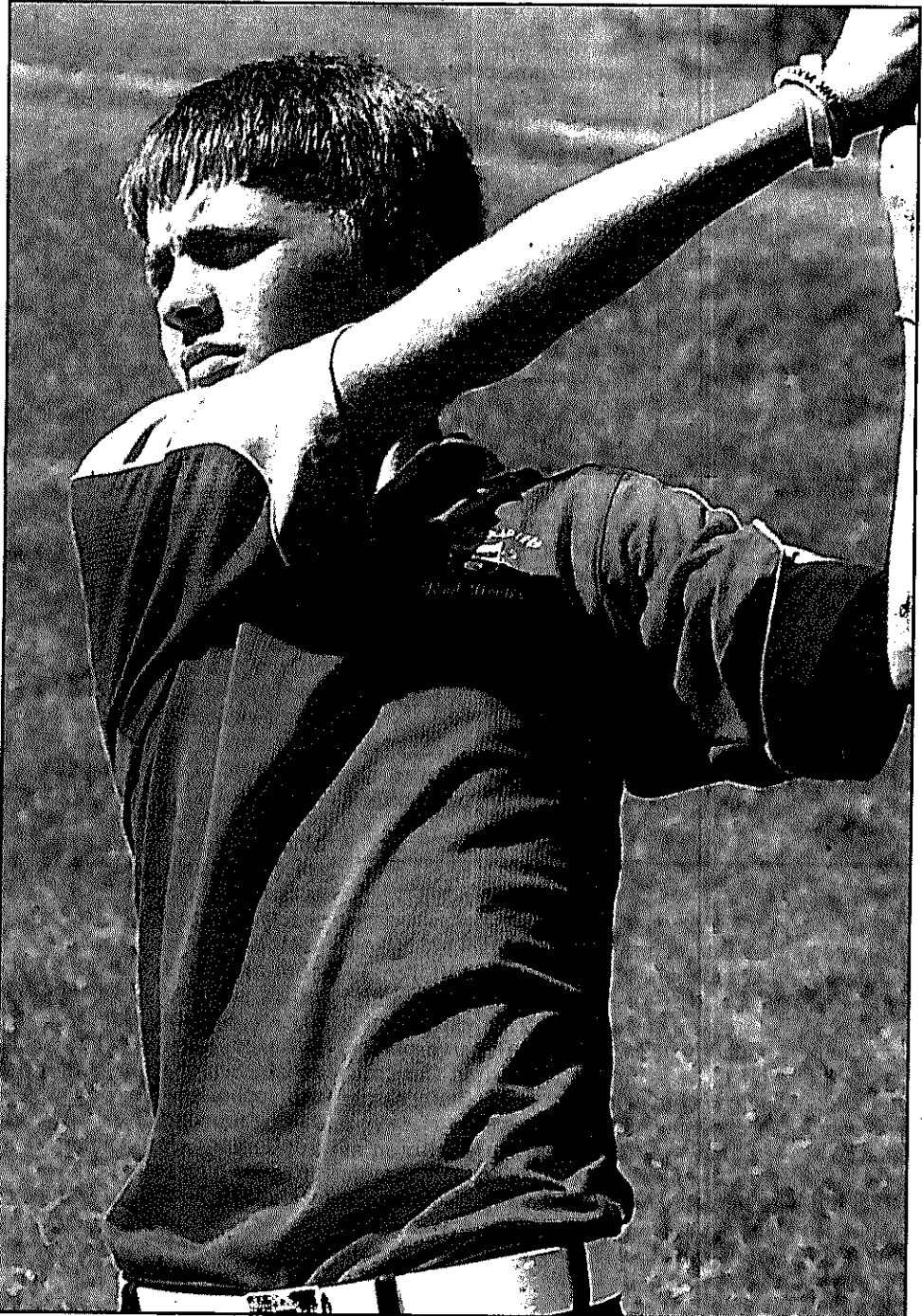
That was until Tuesday afternoon at the Robert Trent Jones Course at Oglebay Park's Speidel Golf Club.

St. Clairsville's sophomore-dominated club continued its strong season by adding the conference title to the Buckeye 8 title it won last Friday. However, the Red Devils weren't nearly as dominant in winning as many expected.

St. Clairsville, which now owns 21 OVAC golf titles, shot a 338, which was just three shots fewer than runnerup Union Local.

"It's a little bittersweet to be honest," said St. C. head coach Rick Oberdick. "Obviously, it's great to win an OVAC Championship since it's been so long since St. Clairsville had won one, but we didn't play as well as we could. When you're getting to the level and point of the season we are, you've got to be able to shoulder the responsibility and accept that."

The Red Devils are unblemished in league meets this season and were run-away winners in the 36-



**ABOVE:** St. Clairsville sophomore Caden Myers tees off on the tenth hole at the Robert Trent Jones Course at Oglebay Park's Speidel Golf Club during Tuesday's OVAC Golf Championship. Myers posted a round of 76 to win the medalist honors.

**INSET:** Union Local senior Myron Jellison eyes up a putt on the 8th green during the Class 3-A OVAC Tournament Tuesday. Jellison finished second in the tournament. Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

Continued from Page B1

LEADER - Sunday, September 12, 2010 - C4

# OVAC Golf Tourney opens Tuesday at Oglebay Park

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

The first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Championships of the new school year will be decided this week.

The conference's annual golf championships will tee off Tuesday morning at Oglebay Park. The 3-A and 1-A fields will play on the Speidel and Crispin courses, respectively.

The 4-A and 2-A tournaments will be held Thursday with the same courses being utilized for the bigger and smaller divisions.

Each tournament begins with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m.

The top five players in each class, including ties shall be awarded all-conference accolades.

Below is a capsule look at each division:

**IN CLASS 4-A**, Wheeling Park is the defending champion and appears to have a squad capable of winning again.

However, the Patriots, who've won the last two titles and eight in school history, will receive a stern test from the likes of Zanesville, Meadowbrook and Parkersburg South.



The Park Patriots are led by talented freshman Thadd Obecnny, who figures to be right in the mix for the medalist crown. He's averaging 72.5 for the season. Junior Eli Lambie has been solid once again with a 76 stroke average. Junior Jacob Carpenter is the Patriots' third man and he averages 79 strokes per round.

The aforementioned Colts of Coach Mel Pesuit own six OVAC golf titles, including the last two Class 3-A crowns.

Junior Matt Miller and senior Cole Pennington lead the Colts this season. Both have nine-hole averages in the high 30s.

South, meanwhile, comes to the OVAC Tournament with a record of 101-14 and won the Big 5 Tournament. Juniors Jordan McIntyre and Austin Root lead the way.

Stuebenville has also been impressive this season. Big Red is 15-3 on the season and are led by senior Joe Garay.

**IN CLASS 3-A**, a new champion is assured with the Colts moving up a class to take part in the large-school division.

St. Clairsville appears to be the favorite in the event. Coach Rick Oberdick's youthful Red Devils are a sparkling 24-0 in match play this season.

The Red Devils are led by sophomore Zach Keylor who is the defending OVAC champion. He blistered the Jones Course to a round of 75 a year ago.

Brice Holler, Adam Jeffries, Caden Myers and Jared Burghy round out the Red Devils' top five.

Martins Ferry has had a strong season this year under Joe Kosar's watchful eye. The Purple Riders have been led by sophomore Andrew Chlon this season.

Union Local's led into the tournament by senior standout Myron Jellison, who could seriously challenge for the all-conference team.

**IN CLASS 2-A**, Wheeling Central put the clamps on its 10th title in school history a year ago and appears to be one of the favorites to watch again this season.

The Maroon Knights are led by returning all-conference player Shane Livingston, who despite playing from the Knights' fifth spot a year ago, posted a sizzling round of 78 and had the tournament's lone eagle.

Fort Frye and River could all contend for the title.

The Pilots feature one of the players highly regarded this year in senior Zach Wax. Wax shot 1-over, 72 last year in the OVAC tournament to finish as runner-up medalist to Barnesville's Bailey Warfield.

Another player to keep an eye on this week is Shadyside's Adam Stupak, who's had an impressive season thus far.

Making its OVAC tournament debut this week will be Bridgeport. The Bulldogs revitalized their program this season. They're coached by former Wheeling Park player Ron Gill.

**IN CLASS 1-A**, Weirton Madonna is the defending champion after using a strong performance on the backside of the Crispin Course to edge past then two-time defending champion Zanesville Rosecrans.

The Blue Dons are led by returning all-conference player Andrew Gobleck. Others to keep an eye on are Pat McCune and Michael Rodgers.

Gobleck was the runner-up medalist in last year's tournament. He was edged out of the title by Toronto's Nolan Wilson in a playoff.

Other players to keep an eye on are Beallsville's Daniel Blair, Rosecrans' Grant Eppley and Toronto's Ollie Southern, Matt Barcus and John Mike Romney.

hole Buckeye 8 tournament, but their top usual players had off days by their standards.

However, Zach Keylor, who was the defending champion, and Brice Holler received a pick-me-up from classmate Caden Myers who played in the Red Devils' fourth spot.

Myers returned to the scoring area and was quite pleased when he realized the 76 he'd posted, including a sharp 1-over 37 on the back side was good enough to earn him medalist and keep the title in the Red Devils' family.

"I was consistent off the tee, made a lot of par putts on the back nine and my iron play was really good all day," Myers said. "Last year 75 was good enough to win, but I was just worried about posting a good score so we could win the (team) title."

Myers won the OVAC title and didn't record a birdie on his card. It consisted of 13 pars and five bogeys. He went out at 39, which was four strokes behind at the turn.

Oberdick knew Myers was capable of such a round, but the sophomore admitted his play hasn't been as strong this season, but he thinks it's coming together as the OHSA post-season draws near.

"I've not played that consistent," Myers said. "I've had a couple of good matches, but that's about it. I've never really been good at playing in tournaments, so this should definitely help me out."

The aforementioned Keylor finished third overall in the tournament with a round of 80. Adam Jeffries and Jared Burghy both checked in with rounds of 91 for the Red Devils.

Union Local, meanwhile, came basically from relative obscurity for the runner-up plaque.

The Jets received steady rounds from all four of its scorers. Each broke 90 on the challenging course, which featured fast greens.

Leading the way was senior standout Myron Jellison who finished second overall with a round of 79. Jellison was on fire for the first 10 holes of the tournament, playing them at 2-under.

However, he proceeded to run into trouble on the back side of the course. He played the next four holes in 9-over and finished with a 44 on the back.

"I hit the ball so well on the front nine and was so excited to get out and start the back nine," Jellison lamented. "I guess I got a little too excited. The first 10 holes I was light outs, hitting the ball well, putts were falling, but I had a few bad holes on the back and my head got out of the game and I struggled from there."

Martins Ferry, which has had a brilliant season this year under Joe Kosar, was led by sophomore Taylor Shane who finished fourth overall with an 81. He was joined on the all-OVAC squad by teammate Doug Robey who posted a 84.

The balance of the all-OVAC squad included Weir's Louie LeMasters (84), Magnolia's Garrett Emch and Tyler Myers (84) and Buckeye Trail's Jessi Roe (84).

The remainder of the OVAC Golf Championship will be contested Thursday at Oglebay Park. Class 2-A will compete on Crispin's layout, while the Jones Course will host Class 4-A.

Staskey can be reached at [staskey@timesleaderonline.com](mailto:staskey@timesleaderonline.com)

**CLASS 2-A**

(at Crispin, Par 71)  
TEAM SCORES: River, 321; Fort Frye, 322; Wheeling Central, 325; Steubenville Central, 343; Linsy, 351; Shadyside, 354; Barnesville, 381; Bridgeport, 389; Wealsville, 401.

Individual Scoring

1. Zach Warren (FF)	72
2. Ryan Fischer (SCC)	76
3. Zach Wax (River)	77
4. Austin Curtis (River)	80
5. Evan Shilling (FF)	80
6. Jesse Merkle (Riv)	81
6. Garrett LaBrosse (WC)	81
6. Mike Selak (WC)	81
6. Jake Fullerton (WC)	81
6. Marcus Saludes (Lins)	81
11. Adam Stupak (Shady)	82
11. Shane Stoehr (WC)	82
11. Shane Livingston	82
14. Samantha Knowlton (Riv)	83
15. Matt Marconi (Riv)	84
15. Chris Doty (Barnes)	84
17. Daniel Worthington (FF)	85
17. Tyler Shilling (FF)	85
19. Mitchell Morelli (SCC)	86
19. Derek Andraini (Lins)	86
21. George Jackson (Shady)	88
22. Jared Brooks (Shady)	89
22. Michael Mantrasca (SCC)	89
23. Ryan Kasper (Bpt)	90
23. Christian Kappo (Wells)	90
25. Neil Tennant (Lins)	91
26. Jordan Stokes (Wells)	92
26. Jason Bensus (SCC)	92
28. Nicole Gray (Lins)	93
29. Ian Anderl (Lins)	94
29. Nate Wehr (Barnes)	94
29. J.C. Weiss (Barnes)	94
32. Nathan Edgar (Shady)	95
32. Austin Uhl (Bpt)	95
32. John Kreiter (Bpt)	95
35. Adam Lyons (SCC)	100
36. David Kohl (MC)	103
37. Alysha Darrin (Shady)	105
38. Brennan Shilling (FF)	107
39. Michael Miller (Wells)	108
40. Zach Herink (Bpt)	109
40. Anthony Thompson (Barnes)	109
42. Travis Childers (Wells)	111
43. Cordell Bennett (Bpt)	112
44. Zach Leach (Barnes)	113
45. Jill Bergert (Wells)	118
46. Eric Smith (MC)	122
47. Briana Vernon (MC)	127

**CLASS 3-A**

St. Clairsville, 338; Union Local, 341; Martins Ferry, 349; Weir, 364; 5. Buckeye Trail, 371; 6. Magnolia, 372; 7. Edson, 374; 8. Harrison Central, 383; 9. Tyler Consolidated, 394; 10. Oak Glen, 416; 11. Bellaire, 438.

Individual Scores

1. Caden Myers (St. C.)	76
2. Myron Jellison (UL)	79
3. Zach Keylor (St. C.)	80
4. Taylor Shane (MF)	81
5. Garrett Emch (Mag)	84
5. Louie LeMasters (Weir)	84
5. Tyler Myers (Mag)	84
5. Doug Robey (MF)	84
5. Jessi Roe (BT)	84
10. Devin Burchill (Weir)	86
10. Trevor Mudrack (UL)	86
12. Drew Simmons (Mag)	87
12. Greg Staganl (Ed)	87
14. Josh Lucas (UL)	88
14. Cory Elerick (UL)	88
16. Andrew Chlon (MF)	89
17. Adam Jeffries (St. C.)	91
17. Jared Burghy (St. C.)	91
17. Chad Wickham (Ed)	91
20. Brice Holler (St. C.)	92
20. Austin Warehime (BT)	92
20. Corey Walls (TC)	92
23. Jake Blanchard (HC)	93
23. Dalton Walls (TC)	93
23. Austin Cusick (Bell)	93
26. Drew Horn (HC)	94
27. Chase Stuckey (MF)	95
28. Harley Mills (Weir)	96
28. Ryan Dowdell (Ed)	96
28. Matt Shanton (OG)	96
31. Justin Wilson (BT)	97
32. Patrick McDonald (Weir)	98
32. Jed Burge (BT)	98
32. Ryan Rose (HC)	98
32. Ian McIntosh (HC)	98
36. Joey Davis (OG)	99
37. Phillip Hill (Ed)	100
38. Swayde Carpenter (TC)	101
39. Richie Delbridge (UL)	102
40. Matt Adkins (BT)	103
41. Kaitlyn Bliss (MF)	105
42. Sean Fenske (Weir)	106
43. Tyler LeMaster (TC)	108
43. Ethan Garrison (TC)	108
43. Seth Clark (OG)	108
46. Brooks Strussion (Bell)	110
47. Taylor Kincaid (OG)	110
47. Justin Bailey (OG)	113
49. Trevor Custer (Ed)	114
50. Taylor Strussion (Bell)	115
51. Lindsey Dieffenbach (Mag)	117
52. Dylan Day (Bell)	120
53. Zach Rusen (HC)	123
54. Luke Dieffenbach (Mag)	130

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**OVAC GOLF**

**CLASS 1A**  
Weirton Madonna, 314; Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans, 325; 3. Toronto, 330; 4. Conotton Valley, 350; 5. Beallsville, 365; Morgantown Trinity, 372; Bishop Donahue, 437.

Individual Scores

1. Grant Eppley (ZR)*	73
2. Andrew Gobleck (Mad)	73
3. Tab Yosick (CV)	75
4. John-Michael Romney (Tor)	76
5. Nicklas Battista (Mad)	77
6. Patrick McCune (Mad)	77
6. Sam Austen (ZR)	78
8. Tyler Seltz (Trin)	78
9. Patrick Thomas (Trin)	79
10. Tyler Johnston (ZR)	81
11. Ollie Sutherin (Tor)	83
12. Matt Barcus (Tor)	84
13. Daniel Blair (Bealls)	85
14. Ross Malcaluso (Mad)	86
15. Trent McCoy (Tor)	87
16. Jacob Fraley (Bealls)	89
17. Trey Yosick (CV)	91
18. Kaleb Roush (ZR)	92
18. Nick Gallagher (CV)	92
18. Andy Cooper (CV)	92
21. Chris Clary (Bealls)	94
22. Justin Dietrich (Bealls)	94
23. John Helfer (BD)	105
24. Thomas Walls (Trin)	106
24. Julian Balles (Trin)	106
26. Nick Polsinelli (BD)	107
26. Wylie Koontz (BD)	107
28. Doug Shepherd (PC)	107
29. Eric Myers (BD)	118
30. Kyle Polswat (PC)	124
31. Sabrina Midcap (PC)	127

\*Won Individual Title on third playoff hole.

**OVAC Golf Tourney**

**CLASS 1-A**  
TEAM SCORES: Weirton Madonna, 3 Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans, 325; 3. Toront 330; 4. Conotton Valley, 350; 5. Beallsville, 3 Morgantown Trinity, 372; Bishop Donahue, 437.

Individual Scoring

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6. Patrick McCune (Mad)	77
6. Sam Austen (ZR)	78
8. Tyler Seltz (Trin)	78
9. Patrick Thomas (Trin)	79
10. Tyler Johnston (ZR)	81
11. Ollie Sutherin (Tor)	82
12. Matt Barcus (Tor)	83
13. Daniel Blair (Bealls)	84
14. Ross Malcaluso (Mad)	85
15. Trent McCoy (Tor)	86
16. Jacob Fraley (Bealls)	87
17. Trey Yosick (CV)	89
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\* Won Individual Title on third playoff hole

# OVAC Golf Championships

## Obecny, Patriots Earn A 3-Peat

Freshman marvels with his efforts in terrible conditions

By JIM ELLIOTT  
Staff Writer

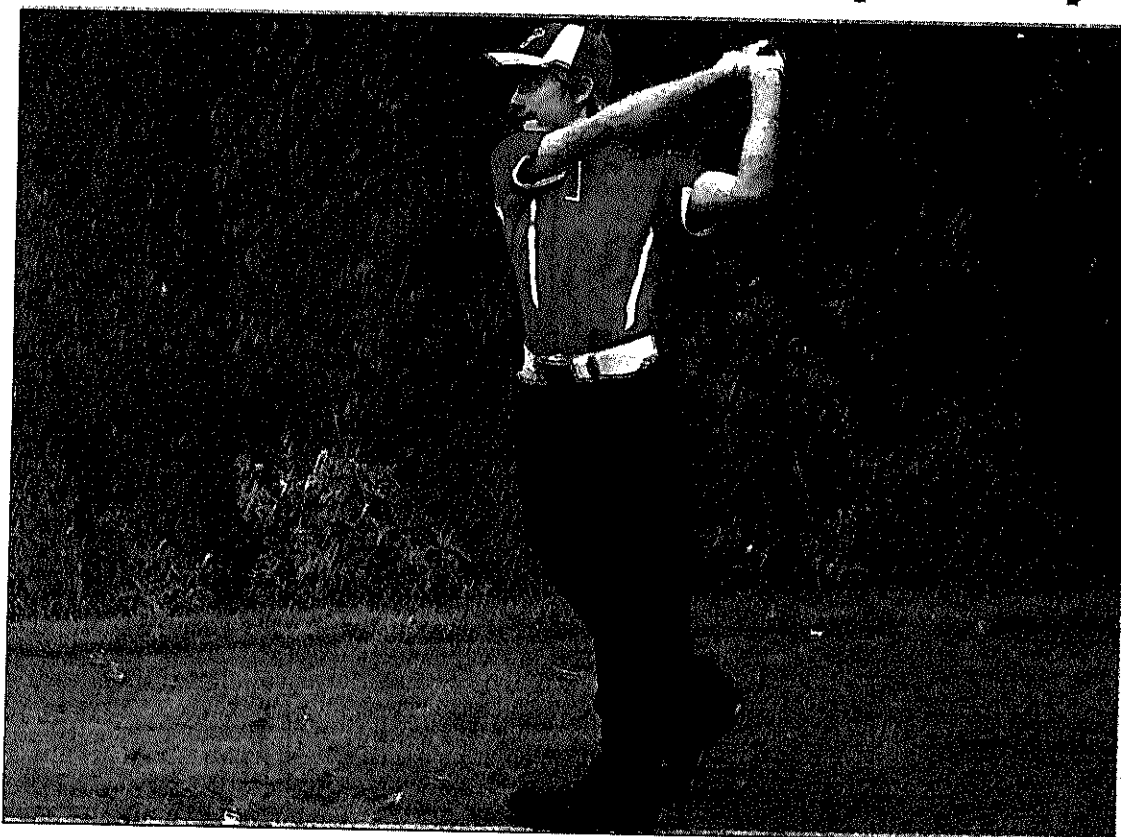


Photo by Jim Elliott

Wheeling Park freshman Thadd Obecny rips a drive into the wind during Thursday's OVAC Class 4A Golf Tournament at Oglebay Park. Obecny fired a 3-under-par 68 to win medalist honors.

were just absolutely brutal up here."

Obecny, now a nine-time medalist as a high schooler, laughed in the face of the fit-for-a-duck conditions, dropping back-to-back 10-foot putts on holes 3 and 4 to get comfortable, then continually centering fairways and greens the rest of the afternoon.

He was 2-under on the front and would have matched that on the back had he not lipped a 1-foot putt on 16.

"In these weather conditions, I thought maybe 75 would be low," said Parkersburg South coach Sherry Mor-

ris, whose team finished 29 strokes back of the Patriots in second place.

How did Obecny, who has yet to receive his first high school report card, do it?

"I don't know," he said. "I hit the ball really well. I haven't hit the ball this well in a few weeks."

Headley believes a lot of it comes from within. He's rarely seen anyone with Obecny's will to win.

"It's just incredible to see a kid step up and want to play golf like he does," Headley said. "Thadd's been doing a great job all year."

Though his score stood out by itself, Obecny wasn't alone in making sure the plaque stayed where it was.

Along with Carpenter's 76 and Lambie's 79 was Shane Winiesdorfer shooting a 90. There's a great story there as Winiesdorfer won a five-man playoff Wednesday night just to be among the team's top 5 for the OVACs.

"He deserved to be here," Headley said. "I was really happy for Shane."

South, which shot 342, was led by Jordan McIntyre's 82.

Please See OBECCNY, Page 20

### OVAC GOLF

Class 4	
Team Scores	
Wheeling Park 313, Parkersburg South 342, East Liverpool 345, Meadowbrook 345, Morgantown 361, Cambridge, University 369, John Marshall 368, Brooke 372, Steubenville 378, Buckeye Local 393, Indian Creek 433.	
Wheeling Park	
Thadd Obecny II	68
Eli Lambie	79
Jacob Carpenter	76
Shane Winiesdorfer	90
Geoff Lucas	98
Parkersburg South	
Jordan McIntyre	82
Austin Root	85
Trent McCutcheon	88
Anthony Cornell	87
Aaron Lamp	90
East Liverpool	
Jason Dickey	76
Blake Prince	84
Joey Cilone	92
Alex Watson	93
Jordan Crawford	93
Buckeye Local	
Jeff Bocca	82
Devin Kovalski	102
Tyler Moore	96
Brennan Czuchran	115
Ricky Sempkowski	113
Steubenville	
Joe Garay	101
Mike Petrides	84
Jordan Quinn	88
Mike Nodianos	107
Jacob McKittrick	105
Indian Creek	
Tim Newburn	87
Ethan Knight	112
Drew Sullivan	128
Jesse Rouse	115
Jon Davis	119
Cambridge	
Trevor Wilkinson	86
Austin Wilkinson	84
Skyler Roederer	95
Trey Black	101
Levi Parsons	98
Brooke	
Russell James	88
Trevor Barnhart	94
Ryan Brindley	98
Austin Schambach	92
Cody Dodd	100
John Marshall	
Robbie Tennant	90
Jake Hicks	84
Ryan Richmond	100
Olivia Blazer	95
Luke Och	105
Meadowbrook	
Matt Miller	81
Cole Pennington	80
Nate Francik	103
Joey Ferguson	93
Josh Haught	91
University	
Brian Capellini	91
Cody Higinbotham	88
John Matteny	98
Eric Wirth	95
Chris Orinick	95
Morgantown	
Eric Wyant	88
Evan Berryhill	91
Justin Miller	99
Hunter Woods	83
Tara Manson	108

## OBECCNY

(Continued from Page 19) a 313.

The Potters tied for third with Meadowbrook at 345, followed by Morgantown and Cambridge at 361, University and John Marshall at 369, Brooke at 372, Steubenville at 378, Buckeye Local at 393 and Indian Creek at 433.

Park, the favorite going into the tourney, won with

"We've been pretty strong all year," Headley said. "Happy being the front-runner. The kids respond to that well. They know they're pretty decent and they like to prove it."

Meadowbrook's Cole Pennington, who shot an 80, joined Obecny, Carpenter, Dickey, and Lambie on the all-tourney team.

## OVAC Golf Championships Teeing Up

First titles of 2010-11 will be handed out

By SETH STASKEY  
For The Intelligencer

The first Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Championships of the new school year will be decided this week.

The league's annual golf championships will tee off Tuesday morning at Oglebay Park. The Class 3A and A fields will play on the Speidel and Crispin courses, respectively.

The 4A and 2A tournaments will be held Thursday with the same

courses being utilized for the bigger and smaller divisions.

Each tournament begins with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m.

The top five players in each class, including ties, shall be awarded all-conference accolades.

IN CLASS 4A, Wheeling Park is the defending champion and appears to have a squad capable of winning again.

The Patriots, who've won the last two titles and eight in school history, will receive a stern test from the likes of Zanesville, Meadowbrook and Parkersburg South.

The Park Patriots are led by talent-

ed freshman Thadd Obecny, who figures to be right in the mix for the medalist crown. He's averaging 72.5 for the season. Junior Eli Lambie has been solid once again with a 76 stroke average. Junior Jacob Carpenter is the Patriots' third man and he averages 79 strokes per round.

Mel Pesuit's Colts own six OVAC golf titles, including the last two Class 3-A crowns.

Junior Matt Miller and senior Cole Pennington lead the Colts this season. Both have nine-hole averages in the high 30s.

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## OVAC

(Continued from Page 13)

South, meanwhile, comes to the OVAC Tournament with a record of 101-14 and won the Big 5 Tournament. Juniors Jordan McIntyre and Austin Root lead the way.

Steubenville has also been impressive this season. Big Red is 15-3 on the season and are led by senior Joe Garay.

IN CLASS 3A, a new champion is assured with the Colts moving up a class to take part in the large-school division.

St. Clairsville appears to

be the favorite in the event. Coach Rick Oberdick's youthful Red Devils are a sparkling 24-0 in match play this season.

The Red Devils are led by sophomore Zach Keylor, who is the defending OVAC champion. He blistered the Jones Course to a round of 75 a year ago.

Brice Holler, Adam Jeffries, Caden Myers and Jared Burghy round out the Red Devils' top five.

Martins Ferry has had a strong season this year under Joe Kosar's watchful eye. The Purple Riders

have been led by sophomore Andre Chlon this season.

Union Local's led into the tournament by senior stand-out Myron Jellison, who could seriously challenge for the all-conference team.

IN CLASS 2A, Wheeling Central put the clamps on its 10th title in school history a year ago and appears to be one of the favorites to watch again this season.

The Maroon Knights are led by returning all-conference player Shane Livingston, who despite play-

ing from the Knights' fifth spot a year ago, posted a sizzling round of 78 and had the tournament's lone eagle.

Fort Frye, Steubenville Central, which finished second a year ago, and River could all contend for the title.

The Pilots feature one of the players highly regarded this year in senior Zach Wax. Wax shot 1-over, 72 last year in the OVAC tournament to finish as runner-up medalist to Barnesville's Bailey Warfield.

Another player to keep

an eye on this week is Shadyside's Adam Stupak, who's had an impressive season thus far.

Making its OVAC tournament debut this week will be Bridgeport. The Bulldogs revitalized their program this season. They're coached by former Wheeling Park player Ron Gill.

IN CLASS A, Weirton Madonna is the defending champion after using a strong performance on the backside of the Crispin Course to edge past then two-time defending cham-

pion Zanesville Rosecrans.

The Blue Dons are led by returning all-conference player Andrew Gobleck. Others to keep an eye on are Pat McCune and Michael Rodgers.

Gobleck was the runner-up medalist in last year's tournament. He was edged out of the title by Toronto's Nolan Wilson in a playoff.

Other players to keep an eye on are Beallsville's Daniel Blair, Rosecrans' Grant Eppley and Toronto's Ollie Southern, Matt Barcus and John Mike Romney.



**BEALLSVILLE'S** Daniel Blair tees off on the 7th hole during Tuesday's OVAC Class 1-A Golf Championship held at Crispin at Oglebay Park. Additional images may be found at [cu.timesleaderonline.com](http://cu.timesleaderonline.com)

# Madonna goes back-to-back

By **SETH STASKEY**  
Times Leader Sports Editor

There's a theme developing around the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference's 1-A Golf Tournament.

Weirton Madonna has established itself as the favorite and the individual title is bound to come down to a playoff.

That was the case again Tuesday afternoon at Oglebay Park's Crispin Course.

The Blue Dons captured their second straight and third title in school history by virtue of a solid score of 314. That total was 11 better than runner-up Zanesville Rosecrans.

"The team title is always nice," said Madonna head coach T.J. Brancazio. "All of our kids have worked hard on their game all year and the program is getting better and better. We've got two juniors and two freshmen in our top six, so we're happy with how things are



See, 1-A, Page B2

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## 1-A

Continued from Page B1

going."

The Blue Dons were led by junior Andrew Gobleck who posted a round of 73. Nicklas Battista also earned a spot on the all-conference team by virtue of a round of 77.

Patrick McCune (78) and Ross Macaluso (86) rounded out the scoring for the Blue Dons.

"We started the season with two teams goals," Brancazio said. "We wanted to repeat here and win the state title. We want to carry this momentum into the state tournament."

The real drama of the afternoon came for the individual title.

After Madonna's Gobleck and Rosecrans' Grant Eppley finished their rounds the scores were deadlocked at 73, meaning a one-hole playoff was necessary.

Gobleck was in a playoff last year, settling for second to Toronto's Nolan Wilson. Unlike last season, Gobleck's latest playoff needed more than one hole.

The playoff stretched three holes after neither player would blink until the 12th green.

It appeared as if Gobleck was going to win his first OVAC title on the first playoff hole. Gobleck was just two feet short of the cup for par, while Eppley came up short of the green and then his chip shot flew over the green into the short rough.

"I thought I had it on 10," Gobleck said. "I was kind in shock when he made that chip."

Eppley — who is just a junior — proceeded to sink his chip shot with a 54-degree wedge.

Both players missed the fairway to the right on the 11th and eventually settled for bogey, but Gobleck had another chance to win, but his par putt just slid by the hole.

"I thought I had it again on 11, but I lipped that par putt," Gobleck admitted. "I thought I could have shot at least even or one under today, so I am disappointed. I played a practice round here over the weekend and I shot 3-under, so it wasn't as good as I thought it could be."

After both players sank their bogey tries, it was onto the par 5, 12th.

Eppley drilled his drive down the center of the burnt out fairway, while Gobleck was left off the tee. However, Gobleck proceeded to stick his approach shot within 15 feet of the hole, while Eppley's second shot was just a few feet closer.

Putting first, Gobleck ran his ball by some three feet, while Eppley's try came up three feet short of eagle.

Gobleck admittedly pulled his head up on his birdie putt and pushed it right of the hole, leaving the door open for Eppley, who knocked home his birdie putt.

While disappointed obviously, Gobleck put things in perspective.

"The team title is more important to me than anything," Gobleck admitted.

# Champs



Photo by Seth Staskey

Caden Myers posted a solid round of 76 to win the OVAC 3A individual title, and help St. Clairsville to a team crown.

## Led by No. 4 Myers, Red Devils get back to their winning ways

By **SETH STASKEY**  
For The Intelligencer

**WHEELING** — When it comes to winning OVAC Golf titles, no one has done it better than St. Clairsville.

However, the current batch of Red Devils wasn't even big enough to hold a club when the school hung its last OVAC Golf championship pennant in 1997.

That was until Tuesday at the Robert Trent Jones Course at Oglebay Park's Speidel Golf Club.

St. Clairsville's sophomore-dominated club continued its strong season by adding the conference title to the Buckeye 8 one it captured last Friday. However, the Red Devils weren't nearly as dominant in winning as many expected.

St. Clairsville, which owns 21 OVAC golf titles, shot a 338, which was three shots better than runner-up Union Local.

"It's a little bittersweet, to be honest," St. C. coach Rick Oberdick said. "Obviously, it's great to win an OVAC Championship since it's been so long since St. Clairsville had won one, but we didn't play as well as we could."

"When you're getting to the level and point of the season we are, you've got to be able to shoulder the responsibility and accept that."

The Red Devils are unblemished in league meets this season and were run-away winners in the 36-hole Buckeye 8 tournament, but their usual to players had off days by their standards.

However, Zach Keylor, who was the defending champion, and Brice Holler, received a pick-me-up from classmate Caden Myers who played in the Red Devils' fourth spot.

Myers returned to the scoring area and was quite pleased when he realized the 76 he'd posted, including a sharp, 1-over 37 on

Please See ST.C., Page 18

**CLASS 3-A**  
TEAM SCORES: St. Clairsville Local, 341; Martins Ferry, 349; Buckeye Trail, 371; 6. Magnolia, 374; 8. Harrison Central, 36 Consolidated, 394; 10. Oak Gl. Belkair, 438.

**Individual Scores**

1. Caden Myers (St. C.)	76
2. Myron Jefferson (UL)	77
3. Zach Keylor (St. C.)	77
4. Taylor Stone (MF)	77
5. Garrett Emch (Mag)	77
5. Louis LeMasters (Weir)	77
5. Tyler Myers (Mag)	77
5. Doug Robey (MF)	77
5. Jessi Roe (BT)	77
10. Devin Burchill (Weir)	78
10. Trevor Mudrack (UL)	78
12. Drew Simmons (Mag)	78
12. Greg Stagan (Ed)	78
14. Josh Lucas (UL)	78
14. Cory Elenick (UL)	78
16. Andrew Chion (MF)	78
17. Adam Jeffries (St. C.)	78
17. Jared Burghy (St. C.)	78
17. Chad Wickham (Ed)	78
20. Brice Holler (St. C.)	78
20. Austin Warehime (BT)	78
20. Corey Wells (TC)	78
23. Jake Blanchard (HC)	78
23. Dalton Wells (TC)	78
23. Austin Cusick (Bell)	78
26. Drew Horn (HC)	78
27. Chase Stuckey (MF)	78
28. Hanky Mads (Weir)	78
28. Ryan Dowdell (Ed)	78
28. Matt Shenton (OG)	78
31. Justin Wilson (BT)	78
32. Patrick McDonald (Weir)	78
32. Jed Burge (BT)	78
32. Ryan Rose (HC)	78
32. Ian McIntosh (HC)	78
36. Joey Davis (OG)	78
37. Philip Hill (Ed)	78
38. Swayda Carpenter (TC)	78
39. Piche Delbrige (UL)	78
40. Matt Atkins (BT)	78
41. Kaitlyn Bliss (MF)	78
42. Sean Fenske (Weir)	78
43. Tyler LeMaster (TC)	78
43. Ethan Garrison (TC)	78
43. Seth Clark (OG)	78
46. Brooke Strussion (Bell)	78
47. Taylor Kincaid (OG)	78
47. Justin Bailey (OG)	78
49. Trevor Custer (Ed)	78
50. Taylor Strussion (Bell)	78
51. Lindsey Dieffenbach (Mag)	78
52. Dylan Day (Bell)	78
53. Zach Rusen (HC)	78
54. Luke Dieffenbach (Mag)	78

# Whg. Park 3-peats in 4-A tournament

• Patriots' Obecnny ignores weather, blows away field with 3-under-par 68

By JIM ELLIOTT  
For The Times Leader

WHEELING — The wind blew the trees and leaves, and Wheeling Park freshman Thadd Obecnny blew away the field Thursday at the OVAC Class 4A golf championships with a jaw-dropping, 3-under-par 68, as he led the Patriots to their third consecutive league title at Oglebay's Robert Trent Jones course.

"Incredible," Wheeling Park coach Don Headley called the performance, which was not only the lone score in the 60s, but was one of only four under 80. Those were the 76s posted by the Patriots' Jacob Carpenter and East Liverpool's Jason Dickey, the defending 4A champ, and the 79 posted by Park's Eli Lambie.

There were 16 scores above 100.

"The wind's blowing 30 miles an hour," Headley said. "Holes where you normally hit 7 irons, you're hitting 4 and 5 irons. Your



OBECCNY

driver doesn't go 270 like it normally does, it goes 240-250. The conditions were just absolutely brutal up here."

Obecnny, now a nine-time medalist as a high schooler, laughed in the face of the fit-for-a-duck conditions, dropping back-to-back 10-foot putts on holes 3 and 4 to get comfortable, then continually centering fairways and greens the rest of the afternoon.

He was 2-under on the front and would have matched that on the back had he not lipped a 1-foot putt on 16.

"In these weather conditions, I thought maybe 75 would be low," said Parkersburg South coach Sherry Morris, whose team



**BROOKE'S AUSTIN**  
Schambach, background, and Buckeye Local's Brennan Czuchran weather the storm after teeing off on the first hole at the OVAC Class 4-A golf championships at Oglebay's Jones Course on Thursday.

Photo/JIM ELLIOTT

finished 29 strokes back of the Patriots in second place.

How did Obecnny, who has yet to receive his first high school report card, do it?

"I don't know," he said. "I hit the ball really well. I haven't hit the ball this well in a few weeks."

Headley believes a lot of it comes from within. He's rarely seen anyone with Obecnny's will to win.

"It's just incredible to see a kid step up and want to play golf like he does," Headley said. "Thadd's been doing a great job all year."

Though his score stood out by itself, Obecnny wasn't alone in making sure the plaque stayed where it was.

Along with Carpenter's 76 and Lambie's 79 was Shane Winiesdorfer shooting a 90. There's a great story there as Winiesdorfer won a five-man playoff Wednesday night just to be among the team's top 5 for the OVACs.

"He deserved to be here," Headley said. "I was really happy for Shane."

See, PARK, Page B2

## ● Park

Continued from Page B1

South, which shot 342, was led by Jordan McIntyre's 82. The Potters tied for third with Meadowbrook at 345, followed by Morgantown and Cambridge at 361, University and John Marshall at 369, Brooke at 372, Steubenville at 378, Buckeye Local at 393 and Indian Creek at 433.

Park, the favorite going into the tourney, won with

a 313.

"We've been pretty strong all year," Headley said. "Happy being the front-runner. The kids respond to that well. They know they're pretty decent and they like to prove it."

Meadowbrook's Cole Pennington, who shot an 80, joined Obecnny, Carpenter, Dickey, and Lambie on the all-tourney team.

Class 2A Team Scores	
River 321, Fort Frye 322, Wheeling Central 325, Steubenville Catholic 343, Linsly 351, Shadyside 354, Barnesville 381, Bridgeport 389, Wellsville 401.	
<b>River</b>	
Zack Wax	77
Jesse Merckle	81
Austin Curtis	80
Samantha Knowlton	83
Matt Marconi	84
<b>Fort Frye</b>	
Brannan Shilling	107
Evan Shilling	80
Daniel Worthington	85
Tyler Shilling	85
Zach Warren	72
<b>Wheeling Central</b>	
Shane Livingston	82
Garret LaBrosse	81
Mike Selak	81
Jake Fullerton	81
Shane Stoehr	82
<b>Steubenville Catholic</b>	
Mitchell Morrell	86
Ryan Fischer	76
Michael Manfresca	69
Jason Bensur	92
Adam Lyons	100
<b>Linsly</b>	
Derek Andreini	86
Marcus Saludes	81
Neil Tennant	91
Ian Anderl	94
Nicola Gray	93
<b>Shadyside</b>	
Adam Stupak	82
George Jackson	88
Jared Brooks	89
Nathan Edgar	95
Alysha Darrah	105
<b>Barnesville</b>	
Chris Doty	84
Nate Wehr	94
J.C. Weiss	94
Zach Leach	113
Anthony Thompson	109
<b>Bridgeport</b>	
Austin Uhl	95
John Kreiter	95
Ryan Kasper	90
Zach Harink	109
Cordell Bennett	112
<b>Wellsville</b>	
Jordan Stoakes	92
Christian Kapp	90
Michael Miller	108
Travis Childers	111
Jill Bargert	118
<b>Monroe Central</b>	
David Kehl	103
Eric Smith	122
Briana Vernon	127

4-A TEAM SCORES	
Wheeling Park 313, Parkersburg South 342, East Liverpool 345, Meadowbrook 345, Morgantown 361, Cambridge, University 369, John Marshall 369, Brooke 372, Steubenville 378, Buckeye Local 393, Indian Creek 433.	
<b>Wheeling Park</b>	
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Jason Dickey	76
Blake Prince	64
Joey Citone	92
Alex Watson	83
Jordan Crawford	93
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Jeff Becca	82
Devon Kovalski	102
Tyler Moore	98
Brennan Czuchran	115
Ricky Sempkowski	113
<b>Steubenville</b>	
Joe Garay	101
Mike Petrides	84
Jordan Quinn	88
Mike Nodiaros	107
Jacob McKittrick	105
<b>Indian Creek</b>	
Tim Newburn	87
Eathan Knight	112
Draw Sullivan	126
Jesse House	115
Jon Davis	119
<b>Cambridge</b>	
Trevor Wilkinson	86
Austin Wilkinson	84
Skyler Roederer	95
Trey Black	101
Levi Parsons	96
<b>Brooke</b>	
Russell James	88
Travor Barnhart	94
Ryan Brinkley	98
Austin Schambach	92
Cody Dodd	100
<b>John Marshall</b>	
Robbie Tennant	90
Jake Hicks	84
Ryan Richmond	100
Olivia Blazer	95
Luke Och	105
<b>Meadowbrook</b>	
Matt Miller	81
Cole Pennington	80
Nate French	103
Joey Ferguson	93
Josh Haught	91
<b>University</b>	
Brian Capellini	91
Cody Higinbotham	88
John Mattery	98
Eric Wirth	95
Chris Ormick	95
<b>Morgantown</b>	
Eric Wyant	88
Evan Berryhill	91
Justin Miller	99
Hunter Woods	83
Tara Manson	108